



NORWICH BUILT FACILITIES ASSESSMENT OF NEED AND STRATEGY 2022 – 2038



FINAL ASSESSMENT

SEPTEMBER 2022

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Appendices

Appendix A – Strategic Document Review;

Appendix B – Greater Norwich Demographic Insight Report;

Appendix C – Sports Hall FPM Report; and

Appendix D – Swimming Pool FPM Report.



The Greater Norwich Physical Activity & Sport Strategy 2022-38 was jointly funded by the Greater Norwich Growth Board and Sport England. Sport England's support is gratefully acknowledged.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In December 2013, Norfolk County Council ('Norfolk CC'), Norwich City Council ('NCC'), South Norfolk Council ('SNC') and Broadland District Council ('BDC') together with the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership signed a City Deal with government, adopting shared growth targets and forming a voluntary partnership.
- 1.2 The area known as Greater Norwich is now overseen by two separate partnership boards; the Greater Norwich Development Partnership ('GNDP'), who oversee the development of the emerging Greater Norwich Local Plan, and the Greater Norwich Growth Board ('GNGB'), who oversee the strategic delivery of infrastructure that is required to support the planned growth.
- 1.3 FMG Consulting Ltd ('FMG') was commissioned by the GNGB to undertake the Greater Norwich Physical Activity and Sports Strategy ('PASS') and associated Action Plan. This report, the 'Norwich Built Facilities Assessment of Need and Strategy 2022 – 2038' ('needs assessment') is required to assess the current and future need for a range of community indoor sport and leisure facilities, and provide an evidence base, which underpins the Greater Norwich PASS.
- 1.4 The aim is to develop a clear strategy for providing effective and sustainable sport and physical activity infrastructure for local communities up to 2038 and support the planned growth within the GNLP.
- 1.5 Following the development of the individual needs assessments for South Norfolk, Broadland and Norwich, an overarching GNGB Action Plan has been developed. This considers the three individual needs assessments and Action Plans and provides a joint Action Plan for built facilities in Greater Norwich.

Vision, Mission and Aims of the Built Facilities Strategy (BFS)

- 1.6 A vision, mission and aim for the strategy has been created, and this sets out what the BFS is trying to be achieve and why. It will cover the period 2022 to 2038.

Vision

“To enhance the health, well-being, and quality of life of our residents, by creating opportunities for and inspiring people to become more active.”

Mission

“To provide high quality built facility sports provision, to meet current need and future demand”.

Aims

1.7 The BFS will also follow the three overarching aims recommended by Sport England, which are:

1. **Protect** existing built facility provision up to 2038;
2. **Enhance** built facility provision by improving the quality and management of facilities; and
3. **Provide** new built facility provision where there is demand.

Scope of the Work

1.8 This needs assessment has been developed in line with Sport England's published guidance for developing a local assessment of need and evidence base for indoor sports and recreational facilities. This guidance is entitled 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance' ('ANOG', [view the ANOG Guidance here](#)).

1.9 This report provides a quantitative and qualitative audit assessment of the following facility types (in line with ANOG):

- Swimming pools;
- Sports halls;
- Health and fitness;
- Indoor tennis centres;
- Indoor bowls centres;
- Squash courts;
- Athletics;
- Cycling;
- Gymnastics;
- Boxing; and
- Community Halls.

Structure of the Needs Assessment

1.10 The structure of the needs assessment is as follows:

- Section 2 – Background and Context;
- Section 3 – Assessment Approach and Methodology;
- Section 4 – Sports Halls;
- Section 5 – Swimming Pools;
- Section 6 – Health and Fitness;
- Section 7 – Indoor Tennis Centres;
- Section 8 – Indoor Bowls Centres;
- Section 9 – Squash Courts;
- Section 10 – Other Built Facilities; and
- Section 11 – Action Plan.

2. National and Local Context

Introduction

2.1 In this section, we have summarised the national and local context for Norwich.

National Context

Sport England - Uniting the Movement ([Click here for Uniting the Movement](#))

2.2 This 10-year strategy was published in 2021 and is Sport England's vision to transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity. It is the result of an 18-month consultation period with a wide range of partners and stakeholders who have helped to shape Uniting the Movement.

2.3 There is a recognition that more investment into sport and physical activity is needed through National Governing Bodies (NGBs), sports clubs, other organisations, and community groups.

2.4 It aims to remove existing barriers to sport and has three key objectives.

1. Advocation for movement, sport and physical activity;
2. Joining forces on 5 big issues:
 - Recover and reinvent;
 - Connecting communities;
 - Positive experiences for children and young people;
 - Connecting with health and wellbeing;
 - Active environments; and
3. Creating the catalyst for change.

2.5 NGBs also have their own strategy documents that set out their sport's national strategic priorities. An overview of these has been provided in Appendix A of this report.

Local Context

Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP) ([Click Here for Regulation 19 Publication](#))

- 2.6 The emerging GNLP (Regulation 19) identifies where growth is needed during 2018 to 2038, with Government targets leading to around 49,500 new homes being required. It also provides up to date policies to guide developments and meet Government requirements set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.
- 2.7 There are a number of policies within the GNLP that are relevant to the BFS. An overview has been provided in Table 2.1 below.

Table 2.1 – Greater Norwich Local Plan Overview

Policy	Overview
<p>Policy 1</p> <p>The Sustainable Growth Strategy</p>	<p>Policy 1 sets out the broad strategic approach. It provides the context for subsequent more detailed strategic locational, thematic and site policies within the plan. Sustainable development and inclusive growth are supported by delivery of the following, between 2018 and 2038:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To meet the need for around 40,550 new homes, provision is made for a minimum of 49,492 new homes; • To aid delivery of 33,000 additional jobs and support key economic sectors, around 360 hectares of employment land is allocated, and employment opportunities are promoted at the local level; • Supporting infrastructure will be provided in line with policies 2 and 4; and • Environmental protection and enhancement measures including further improvements to the green infrastructure network will be delivered. <p>Housing growth is distributed in line with the following settlement hierarchy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Norwich urban area, which consists of Norwich and the built-up parts of the fringe parishes of Colney, Costessey, Cringleford, Drayton, Easton, Hellesdon, Old Catton, Sprowston, Taverham, Thorpe St. Andrew, Trowse and the remainder of the Growth Triangle; 2. The main towns, which are Aylsham, Diss (including part of Roydon), Long Stratton, Harleston and Wymondham;

Policy	Overview
	<p>3. The key service centres, which are Acle, Blofield, Brundall, Hethersett, Hingham, Loddon/ Chedgrave, Poringland/ Framingham Earl, Reepham and Wroxham; and</p> <p>4. Village clusters which cover the remainder of the GNLP area.</p> <p>The strategy distributes around 74% of the growth in the “Strategic Growth Area”. This area includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main Cambridge to Norwich Tech Corridor area, including Norwich, the North East Growth Triangle, the remainder of the Norwich Fringe, Hethersett and Wymondham; • All the key strategic employment areas in the plan; • All but one of the strategic scale housing growth locations (the exception is Long Stratton); • High quality public transport, road and cycling infrastructure (both existing and planned); and • The great majority of brownfield sites in the area.
<p>Policy 2 Sustainable Communities</p>	<p>Development must be high quality, contributing to delivering inclusive growth in mixed, resilient and sustainable communities, to enhance the environment, and to mitigating and adapting to climate change, assisting in meeting national greenhouse gas emissions targets.</p> <p>This includes ensuring safe, convenient and sustainable access to on site and local services and facilities including schools, health care, shops, recreation/ leisure/ community/ faith facilities and libraries.</p>
<p>Policy 7.1 The Norwich Urban Area including the Fringe Parishes</p>	<p>Norwich and the fringe parishes will be the area’s major focus for jobs, homes and service development to enhance its regional centre role and to promote major regeneration, the growth of strategic and smaller scale extensions and redevelopment to support neighbourhood renewal.</p> <p>The area will provide 30,500 additional homes and sites for a significant increase in jobs, including around 257 hectares of undeveloped land allocated for employment use.</p> <p>The City Centre - Norwich City centre’s strategic role as key driver for the Greater Norwich economy will be strengthened. Development in the City centre will provide a high density mix of employment, housing, leisure and other uses.</p>

Policy	Overview
	<p>The City centre’s leisure cultural and entertainment offer will be supported and expanded. Development of new leisure and cultural facilities, hotels and other visitor accommodation to strengthen the city centre’s role as a visitor and cultural destination will be accepted in accessible locations well related to centres of activity and transport hubs.</p> <p>Leisure uses, including uses supporting the early evening economy, will be accepted within the defined city centre leisure area.</p> <p>East Norwich – The area has the potential in the long-term to create a new sustainable urban quarter for Norwich, to act as a catalyst for additional regeneration in neighbouring urban areas and to contribute significantly to growth of the Greater Norwich economy.</p> <p>Elsewhere in the urban area - The area contains substantial communities located in residential areas with the benefits of being accessible to the services, facilities and employment that are located here and in the City centre. It will also account for almost half of the housing growth. This will also include planned growth at the UEA.</p>

2021 Greater Norwich Infrastructure Plan (GNIP) ([Click here for the Greater Norwich Infrastructure Plan 2021](#))

- 2.8 The GNIP concentrates on the key infrastructure requirements that support the major growth locations. It does not seek to review or prioritise agreed infrastructure, but instead it is a means of refreshing and managing the strategic programme, keeping it up to date and fit for purpose.
- 2.9 From a BFS perspective, the plan seeks to support:
- Projects that improve the quality and capacity of sports facilities;
 - Projects that encourage adoption of healthier lifestyles through individual and community participation in sport and physical activity;
 - Projects that support the delivery of the playing pitch and built facilities strategies; and
 - Projects that have an identified management strategy which provides financial sustainability in the long term.

The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018-22 ([Click here for the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018-22](#))

- 2.10 This is a joint strategy between Norfolk and Waveney Health and Wellbeing Board. In Norfolk, it is estimated that 68,700 people live in the most deprived areas of England. The difference in the life expectancy gap between those living in the most deprived and the least deprived areas is about 7 years for men and 4.5 years for women.
- 2.11 People living in deprivation are more likely to experience violence, crime and accidents, despite Norfolk having a low overall crime rate.
- 2.12 People living in the 20% most deprived areas are more likely to smoke, have an unhealthy diet and be less active.
- 2.13 The strategy identifies the following relevant priorities:
- **Prioritising Prevention:**
 - Creating healthy environments for children and young people to thrive in resilient, safe families;
 - Delivering appropriate early help services before crises occur; and
 - Helping people to look after themselves and make healthier lifestyle changes.
 - **Tackling Inequalities in Communities:**
 - Identifying and ensuring access to services for those most vulnerable;
 - Promoting healthy relationships in families and communities; and
 - Helping people out of poverty, particularly hidden rural poverty.

Norwich City Council - Corporate Plan 2022 – 2026 ([Click here for Norwich City Council Corporate Plan](#))

- 2.14 The plan outlines how the council will function over a three-year period. It states the council's vision, mission and priorities, outlining what they will do and how they will do it.
- 2.15 There are five aims identified within the plan, these are:
- People live independently and well in a diverse and safe City;
 - Norwich is a sustainable and healthy City;
 - Norwich has the infrastructure and housing it needs to be a successful City;

- The City has an inclusive economy in which residents have equal opportunity to flourish; and
- Norwich City Council is in good shape to serve the City.

Norwich 2040 City Vision ([Click here for Norwich 2040 City Vision](#))

2.16 The document sets out the vision for Norwich covering five key themes. These are to create:

- a creative City;
- a fair City;
- a liveable City;
- a connected City; and
- a dynamic City.

Summary of Norwich Demographics

2.17 The full demographic insight report can be found in Appendix B to this report, the 'Greater Norwich Demographic Insight Report'. The key findings for Norwich from this report have been summarised below:

- The 2020 Office of National Statistics (ONS) Mid-Year Estimates projects Norwich to have a population of 142,177 people in 2018, an estimated growth of 7.3% since the 2011 census (132,512);
- The population of Norwich is younger than average. There is a higher-than-average working age population in Norwich, with those aged between 16-64 representing 68% of the population (England average 62%). This is dominated by the 15–34-year-olds that make up 37% of the population compared to 25% nationally;
- Residents from ethnic minority groups living in Norwich are below the national averages, but higher than other parts of Norfolk;
- Unemployment rates are higher than the national averages;
- Employment and socio-economic data paints a mixed picture with a high number of both professional occupations as well as a high number of people in in low skilled or unskilled jobs (high number of people in social grade DE which have semi-skilled & unskilled manual occupations, unemployed and lowest grade occupations). This needs to be considered in terms of availability of disposable income available for leisure spend, with opposite ends of the economic spectrum existing in close proximity within the city;

- 67% of households own at least one car or van which is lower than the national average of 74%, which indicates less reliance on vehicles in Norwich and more emphasis on active travel or public transport methods;
- Index of Multiple Deprivation data from 2019 (IMD 2019) has ranked Norwich 61st out of 317 local authorities, meaning the City is in the 20% most deprived in England. There are areas of high deprivation in Norwich, with 21% of the population living in the top 10% most deprived neighbourhoods in the country, over 1 in 5 people. Areas of high deprivation include the central, north west (areas such as North Earlham) and south such as Lakenham;
- General health is in line with national averages, with obesity in adults just below the national and regional average but there are issues with residents suffering from cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and child obesity; and
- Sport England Active Lives data from November 2019/ 20 details an above average number of people participating in 150 minutes or more exercise per week.

Population Growth by 2038

- 2.18 Significant population growth as a result of new housing provision is expected in Greater Norwich, as highlighted by the GNLP. The ONS Population Projections are based on considering only the mortality and death rates within the City, and therefore does not consider wider housing growth and the impact on populations.
- 2.19 To understand the potential impact on built facilities in the future, we have projected the population growth for Norwich and considered the impact and profile of the housing growth. Assumptions have been made on an occupancy basis of the projected housing allocations (in line with ONS and Council recommendations) on a year-by-year basis. This has been agreed with each Greater Norwich local authority, in order to provide the population data required for this detailed built facilities needs assessment.
- 2.20 Overall, the methodology considers the number of houses needed to meet the natural population growth from the ONS projects, as well as the additional population projections as a result of the proposed growth from housing. The full report and assumptions can be found in Appendix B of this report.
- 2.21 Figure 2.1 below details the wider Greater Norwich housing growth and Figure 2.2 focuses on housing growth in Norwich

Figure 2.1 – Housing Growth in Greater Norwich

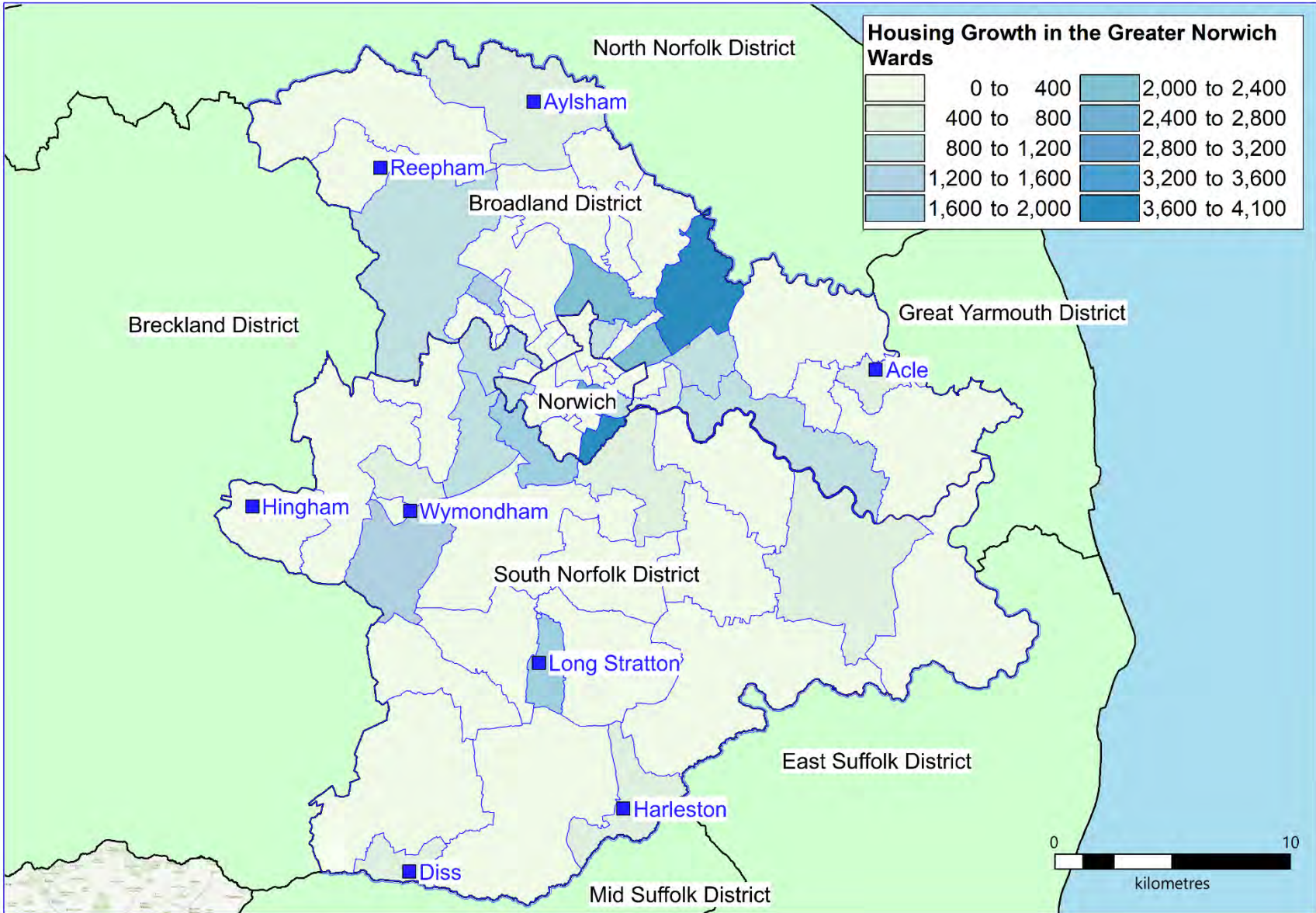
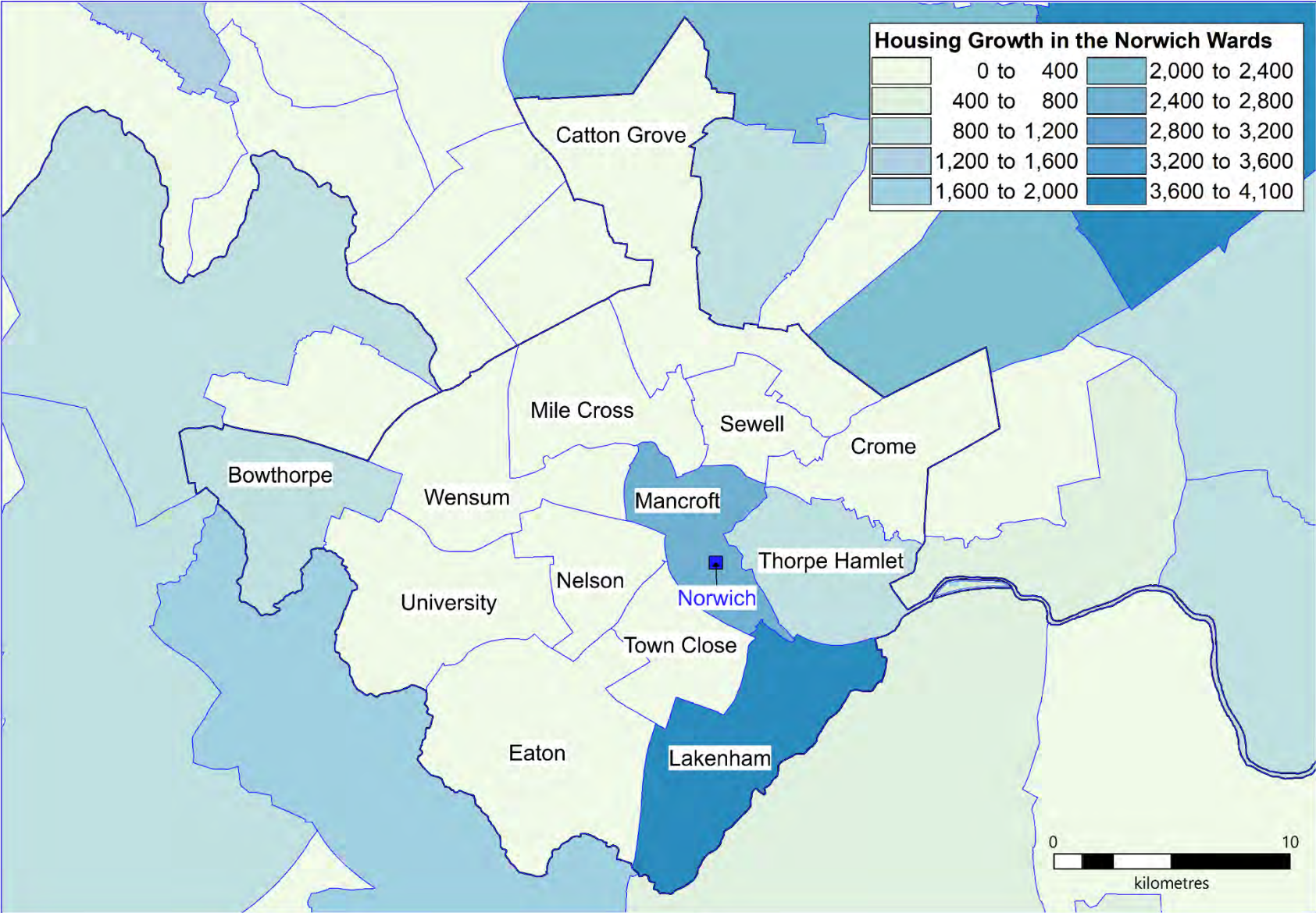


Figure 2.2 – Housing Growth in Norwich



2.22 Table 2.2 below details the estimated population growth in Norwich between 2018 and 2038 in 4-year gaps; 2018, 2022, 2026, 2030, 2034 and 2038. Overall, the population has been projected to increase from circa 142,000 in 2018, to 168,000 by 2038. This is an increase of circa 26,000 people or 18%. Of note, whilst the older population will significantly grow above 65 years old, the majority of growth is from those aged 15-44 years old (49%).

Table 2.2 – Population Growth with Housing Growth in Norwich

Ages	2018	2022	2026	2030	2034	2038	Difference	Difference %
0-4	7,385	7,217	7,343	7,670	8,102	8,564	1,179	16.0%
5-9	7,764	7,434	6,905	6,977	7,215	7,497	- 267	-3.4%
10-14	7,270	7,556	7,431	6,900	6,871	7,031	- 239	-3.3%
15-19	9,627	10,071	11,360	11,968	11,491	11,103	1,476	15.3%
20-24	18,128	18,599	19,551	22,117	23,241	22,756	4,628	25.5%
25-29	13,636	13,400	13,576	13,694	15,362	16,635	2,999	22.0%
30-34	10,890	11,319	11,593	11,683	11,486	12,648	1,758	16.1%
35-39	9,517	9,506	9,828	10,287	10,212	9,919	402	4.2%
40-44	7,544	8,007	8,256	8,585	8,985	8,941	1,397	18.5%
45-49	7,632	7,188	7,440	8,037	8,329	8,616	984	12.9%
50-54	7,938	7,896	7,375	7,236	7,986	8,247	309	3.9%
55-59	7,298	7,620	7,871	7,591	7,145	7,957	659	9.0%
60-64	6,179	6,565	7,334	7,816	7,644	7,009	830	13.4%
65-69	5,616	5,644	6,179	7,040	7,638	7,560	1,944	34.6%
70-74	5,494	5,333	5,259	5,706	6,543	7,173	1,679	30.6%
75-79	4,039	4,700	5,229	4,952	5,259	5,982	1,943	48.1%
80-84	2,961	3,037	3,551	4,416	4,252	4,472	1,511	51.0%
85+	3,259	3,332	3,589	4,171	5,209	5,722	2,463	75.6%
Total	142,177	144,424	149,668	156,846	162,972	167,831	25,654	18.0%

Sub-Analysis Areas

- 2.23 Importantly, to help inform this needs assessment further, it is also key to understand where the growth will happen and how it will impact on built facilities within that area.
- 2.24 For the purpose of this work, the area of Norwich has been broken down into Sub-Analysis Areas. Sub-Analysis Areas provide a more localised assessment of supply and demand issues within the City by grouping wards geographically.
- 2.25 The following Sub-Analysis Areas have been agreed for Norwich in Table 2.3 below.

Table 2.3 – Norwich Sub-Analysis Areas

North	South	East	West
Catton Grove	Eaton	Crome	Wensum
Mile Cross	Lakenham	Thorpe Hamlet	Bowthorpe
Sewell	Town Close	Mancroft	University
N/A	N/A	N/A	Nelson

- 2.26 The Sub-Analysis Areas are represented in this needs assessment by the following colours:
- North – Red;
 - South – Blue.
 - East – Green; and
 - West – Orange.
- 2.27 Tables 2.4-2.7 below show the estimated population growth in the Analysis Areas.

Table 2.4 - North Analysis Area Population Growth

Ages	2018	2022	2026	2030	2034	2038	Difference	Difference %
0-4	2,058	1,994	2,007	2,029	2,076	2,142	84	4.1%
5-9	2,094	1,991	1,829	1,794	1,804	1,836	- 258	-12.3%
10-14	1,864	1,926	1,874	1,694	1,638	1,641	- 223	-12.0%
15-19	1,736	1,834	2,030	2,053	1,911	1,826	90	5.2%
20-24	2,461	2,511	2,592	2,862	2,978	2,884	423	17.2%
25-29	3,086	2,989	2,981	2,902	3,180	3,382	296	9.6%
30-34	2,950	3,022	3,052	2,968	2,843	3,067	117	4.0%
35-39	2,645	2,608	2,659	2,694	2,606	2,478	- 167	-6.3%
40-44	1,939	2,032	2,067	2,083	2,123	2,069	130	6.7%
45-49	1,989	1,855	1,895	1,985	2,001	2,027	38	1.9%
50-54	1,945	1,916	1,766	1,683	1,805	1,828	- 117	-6.0%
55-59	1,788	1,848	1,886	1,762	1,617	1,762	- 26	-1.5%
60-64	1,339	1,409	1,554	1,600	1,520	1,365	26	1.9%
65-69	1,185	1,180	1,279	1,408	1,485	1,438	253	21.3%
70-74	1,097	1,057	1,030	1,079	1,200	1,287	190	17.3%
75-79	773	889	986	897	925	1,030	257	33.3%
80-84	511	519	600	717	674	695	184	36.0%
85+	473	477	509	571	693	733	260	55.0%
Total	31,933	32,056	32,596	32,779	33,080	33,488	1,555	4.9%

- 2.28 Population in the North Analysis Area is expected to increase from circa 32,000 in 2018 to circa 33,000 in 2038, an increase of circa 1,500 people. or 5%.
- 2.29 There are no significant areas of growth in the North Analysis Area.

Table 2.5 - East Analysis Area Population Growth

Ages	2018	2022	2026	2030	2034	2038	Difference	Difference %
0-4	1,471	1,483	1,536	1,626	1,696	1,774	303	20.6%
5-9	1,500	1,471	1,386	1,418	1,456	1,498	- 2	-0.1%
10-14	1,267	1,344	1,333	1,245	1,229	1,242	- 25	-2.0%
15-19	1,431	1,555	1,810	1,983	1,905	1,820	389	27.2%
20-24	3,062	3,302	3,603	4,309	4,575	4,483	1,421	46.4%
25-29	3,499	3,573	3,726	3,864	4,309	4,661	1,162	33.2%
30-34	2,825	3,045	3,207	3,328	3,251	3,561	736	26.1%
35-39	2,306	2,388	2,533	2,717	2,679	2,589	283	12.3%
40-44	1,779	1,956	2,062	2,187	2,271	2,247	468	26.3%
45-49	1,701	1,653	1,754	1,930	1,987	2,040	339	19.9%
50-54	1,778	1,824	1,744	1,758	1,923	1,970	192	10.8%
55-59	1,664	1,790	1,887	1,854	1,733	1,912	248	14.9%
60-64	1,519	1,665	1,902	2,069	2,009	1,826	307	20.2%
65-69	1,237	1,287	1,450	1,699	1,831	1,798	561	45.4%
70-74	1,224	1,225	1,239	1,378	1,567	1,701	477	38.9%
75-79	1,015	1,217	1,378	1,346	1,422	1,602	587	57.9%
80-84	811	855	1,016	1,298	1,233	1,279	468	57.7%
85+	862	906	997	1,179	1,448	1,561	699	81.1%
Total	30,951	32,539	34,564	37,188	38,523	39,564	8,613	27.8%

2.30 Population in the East Analysis Area is expected to increase from circa 31,000 in 2018 to circa 40,000 in 2038, an increase of circa 9,000 people, or 28%.

2.31 The main areas of growth are Thorpe Hamlet and Mancroft.

Table 2.6 - West Analysis Area Population Growth

Ages	2018	2022	2026	2030	2034	2038	Difference	Difference %
0-4	2,302	2,234	2,278	2,343	2,399	2,485	183	7.9%
5-9	2,581	2,463	2,295	2,293	2,308	2,359	- 222	-8.6%
10-14	2,554	2,648	2,615	2,400	2,324	2,337	- 217	-8.5%
15-19	4,926	5,063	5,719	5,977	5,663	5,392	466	9.5%
20-24	10,007	10,142	10,625	11,800	12,201	11,853	1,846	18.4%
25-29	4,709	4,572	4,603	4,568	5,023	5,348	639	13.6%
30-34	3,139	3,230	3,286	3,249	3,118	3,382	243	7.7%
35-39	2,698	2,670	2,755	2,836	2,746	2,622	- 76	-2.8%
40-44	2,232	2,349	2,421	2,481	2,531	2,476	244	10.9%
45-49	2,242	2,096	2,171	2,311	2,333	2,372	130	5.8%
50-54	2,393	2,361	2,203	2,121	2,284	2,318	- 75	-3.1%
55-59	2,082	2,159	2,232	2,122	1,942	2,126	44	2.1%
60-64	1,739	1,832	2,046	2,148	2,048	1,848	109	6.2%
65-69	1,674	1,668	1,820	2,040	2,158	2,103	429	25.6%
70-74	1,533	1,477	1,456	1,552	1,729	1,858	325	21.2%
75-79	1,018	1,178	1,313	1,217	1,256	1,405	387	38.0%
80-84	750	763	891	1,085	1,016	1,051	301	40.1%
85+	738	748	805	912	1,101	1,184	446	60.4%
Total	49,317	49,654	51,533	53,455	54,181	54,519	5,202	10.5%

2.32 Population in the West Analysis Area is expected to increase from circa 49,000 in 2018 to circa 55,000 in 2038, an increase of circa 6,000 people, or 11%.

2.33 The main area of growth is Bowthorpe.

Table 2.7 - South Analysis Area Population Growth

Ages	2018	2022	2026	2030	2034	2038	Difference	Difference %
0-4	1,554	1,505	1,523	1,673	1,931	2,164	610	39.3%
5-9	1,589	1,509	1,395	1,472	1,646	1,804	215	13.5%
10-14	1,585	1,638	1,609	1,562	1,679	1,811	226	14.3%
15-19	1,534	1,619	1,801	1,956	2,013	2,065	531	34.6%
20-24	2,598	2,644	2,731	3,145	3,487	3,537	939	36.1%
25-29	2,342	2,267	2,267	2,360	2,851	3,244	902	38.5%
30-34	1,976	2,022	2,048	2,138	2,274	2,638	662	33.5%
35-39	1,868	1,841	1,880	2,040	2,182	2,230	362	19.4%
40-44	1,594	1,670	1,706	1,834	2,061	2,149	555	34.8%
45-49	1,700	1,583	1,621	1,811	2,008	2,177	477	28.0%
50-54	1,822	1,795	1,662	1,674	1,973	2,130	308	16.9%
55-59	1,764	1,823	1,865	1,854	1,852	2,156	392	22.2%
60-64	1,582	1,660	1,832	1,999	2,067	1,970	388	24.5%
65-69	1,520	1,509	1,629	1,893	2,165	2,222	702	46.2%
70-74	1,640	1,574	1,533	1,696	2,048	2,328	688	41.9%
75-79	1,233	1,415	1,552	1,492	1,656	1,944	711	57.7%
80-84	889	900	1,044	1,317	1,329	1,447	558	62.8%
85+	1,186	1,200	1,278	1,509	1,966	2,244	1,058	89.2%
Total	29,976	30,174	30,975	33,424	37,188	40,261	10,285	34.3%

2.34 Population in the South Analysis Area is expected to increase from circa 30,000 in 2018 to circa 40,000 in 2038, an increase of circa 10,000 people, or 34%.

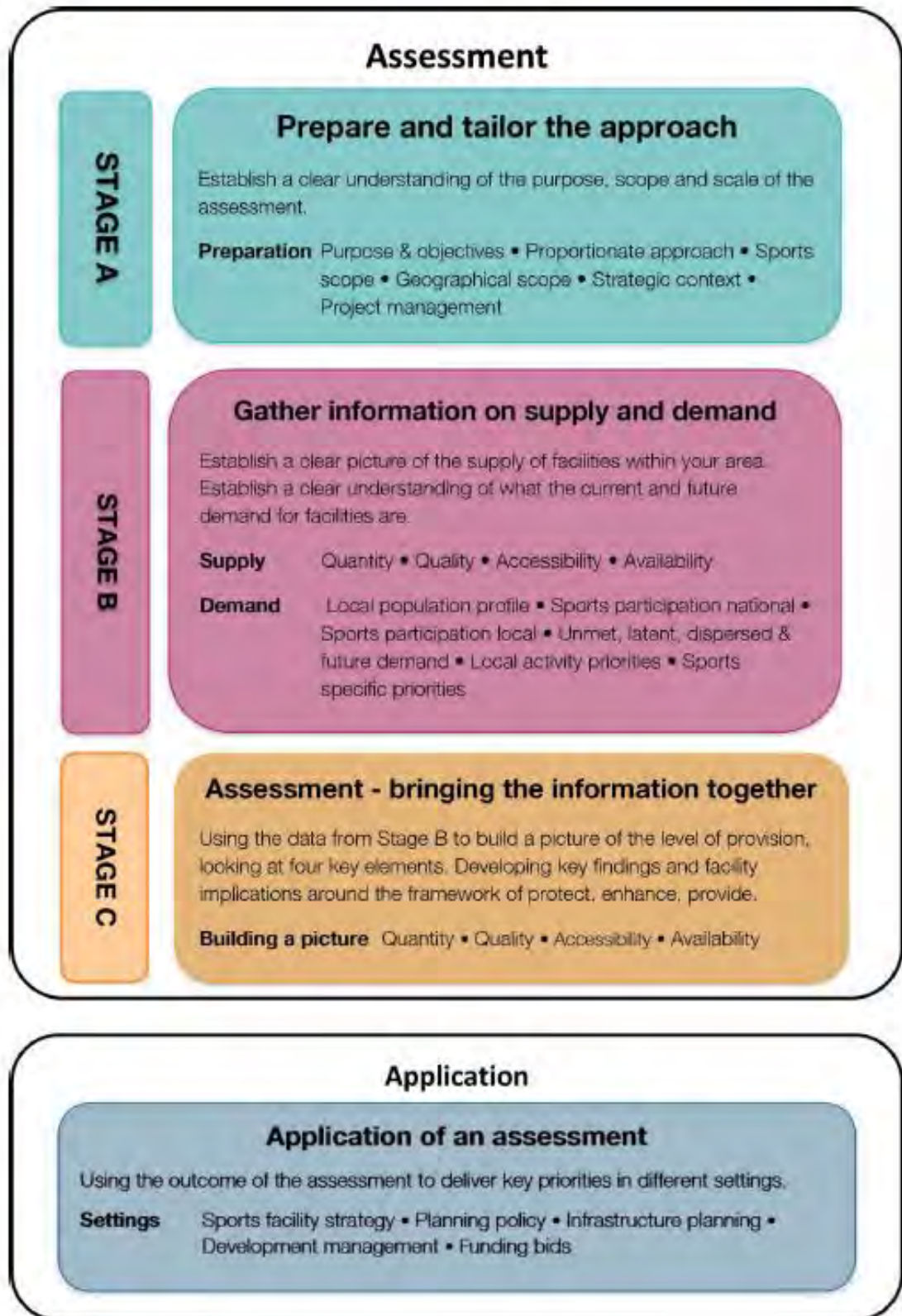
2.35 The main area of growth is Lakenham.

3. Assessment Approach and Methodology

Introduction

- 3.1 The Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (ANOG) is aligned with the first National Planning Policy Framework, which was published in 2012.
- 3.2 ANOG is intended to provide detailed guidance to local authorities on how to develop a local evidence base for all types of indoor and outdoor sport and recreational facilities (Paragraphs 73 and 74 of the 2012 guidance).
- 3.3 ANOG has four stages of work identified and these are shown in Figure 3.1 overleaf. The work for this needs assessment has followed the ANOG stages. The assessment for each of the facility types follows the same ANOG sequence of **Quantity, Quality, Accessibility and Availability**.
- 3.4 It should be noted that there are many alternative places and ways to be physically active, some of which fall outside the scope of ANOG. However, these are addressed through a combination of other strategies, which should all be viewed holistically, when considering the issue of how to help people become more active.
- 3.5 These strategies include, but not limited to, the Greater Norwich PASS, the Playing Pitch Strategies, the Joint Core Strategy for Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk, Parks and Open Spaces Strategies and the Joint Norfolk Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- 3.6 The recommendations from the three BFS's for Norwich, Broadland and South Norfolk will feed into a Greater Norwich BFS Action Plan, which will provide a key evidence base for the Greater Norwich PASS.

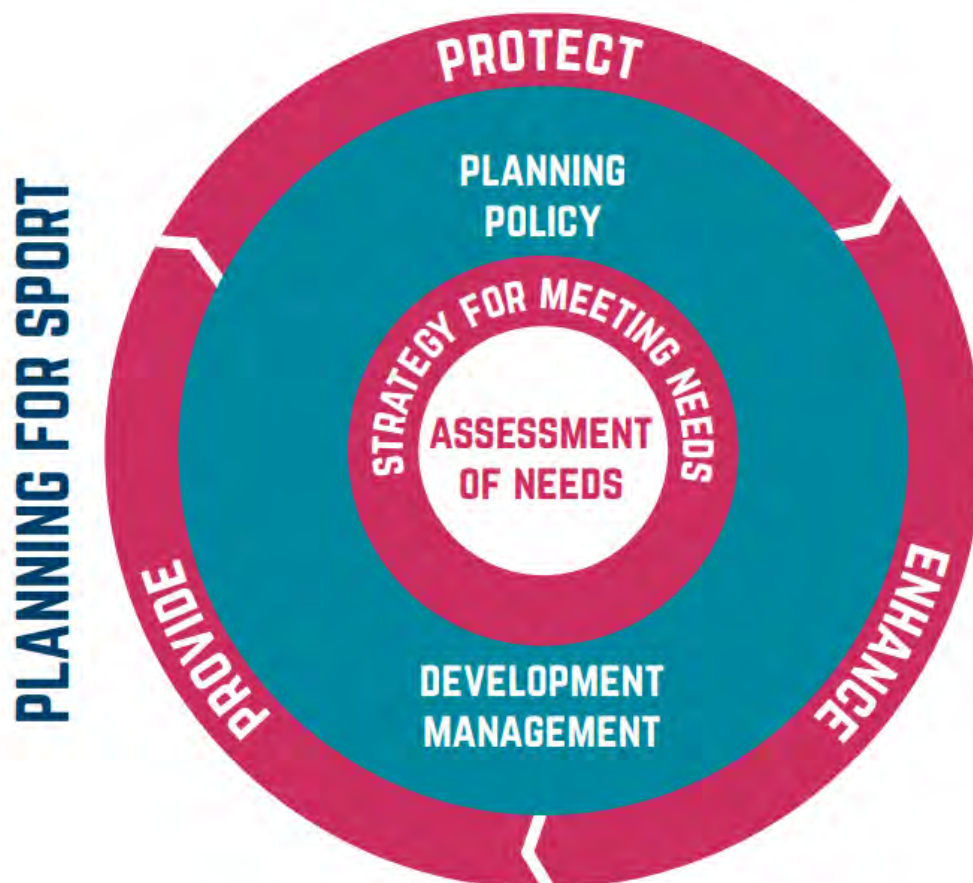
Figure 3.1 - Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance Sport England 2014



3.7 The Sport England ANOG guidance advises that findings from the needs assessment should be set out in the following terms for future recommendations:

- **Protect** - an evidence base which can inform policy formulation and seeks to protect existing facilities, where there is an identified current need and projected future need for community use;
- **Enhance** - an evidence base which can inform policy and seeks to enhance the provision of existing facilities, where there is an identified current and projected future need and the most effective way to meet this need is by improvement to what already exists. This could be by improving facilities, expertise and/or personnel, or enhancing existing provision; and
- **Provide** - an evidence base which can inform policy and lead to provision of new facilities, where there is an identified need now and in the future. It has been agreed that the most cost and sports effective way to meet this need, is by provision of new facilities.

Figure 3.2 – ANOG Approach



Sport England Data

- 3.8 There are three key Sport England data sets that have utilised in this needs assessment.

Sport England Facilities Planning Model (FPM)

- 3.9 The FPM helps to assess the strategic provision of community sports facilities. It has been developed as a means of:
- Assessing the requirements for different types of community sports facilities on a local, regional or national scale;
 - Helping local authorities to determine an adequate level of sports facility provision, in order to meet their local needs; and
 - Testing ‘what if’ scenarios in provision and changes in demand. This includes testing the impact of opening, relocating and closing facilities, and any impact population changes would have on the needs of the sports facilities.
- 3.10 In its simplest form, the model seeks to assess whether the capacity of existing facilities for a particular sport are capable of meeting local demand for sports halls and swimming pools.
- 3.11 The FPM shares many of the same attributes as other spatial planning models, such as retail modelling. In order to estimate the level of sports facility provision in an area, the FPM compares the number of facilities (supply), by the demand for that facility the local population will produce.
- 3.12 The FPM then combines these two elements and shows how much of the demand is being met and not met. It also suggests how much supply is being used and not used, while also considering how far people are prepared to travel to a facility.

Calculating the Capacity of Sports Halls – Hall Space in Courts (HSC)

- 3.13 The capacity of sports halls is calculated by each sports hall site having a capacity in Visits Per Week in the Peak Period (VPWPP). In order for this capacity to be meaningful, these visits are converted into the equivalent of main sports hall courts and referred to as ‘Hall Space in Courts’ (HSC).
- 3.14 This ‘court’ figure is often mistakenly read as being the same as the number of ‘marked badminton courts’ included in the Sport England Active Places data. However, for clarity, this is not the same and it is recognised that there will usually be a difference between this figure and the number of ‘marked badminton courts’ in Active Places.

3.15 The reason for this difference is because the HSC is the 'badminton court' equivalent of all the main and activity halls capacity; this is calculated based on sports hall size (area) and whether it is the main sports hall or a secondary (activity) hall. This gives a more accurate reflection of the overall capacity of the sports halls than simply using the 'marked badminton courts' figure. This is due to two reasons:

- In calculating the capacity of sports halls, the model uses a different 'At-One-Time' (AOT) parameter for main sports halls and for activity halls. Activity halls have a greater AOT capacity than main sports halls. Marked badminton courts can sometimes not properly reflect the size of the actual main sports hall. For example, a sports hall may be marked out with 4 badminton courts, when it has space for 3 courts. As the model uses the 'badminton courts' as a unit of size, it is important that the sports hall's capacity is included as a 3 'badminton court unit' rather than a 4 'badminton court unit'; and
- The model calculates the capacity of the sports hall as VPWPP, and then uses this unit of capacity to compare with demand, which is also calculated as VPWPP. It is often difficult to visualise how much sports hall space there is when expressed as VPWPP. To make things more meaningful, this capacity in VPWPP is converted back into 'main sports hall court equivalents' and is noted in the output table as 'Hall Space in Courts'.

Sport England Sports Facility Calculator (SFC)

3.16 The SFC is a planning tool which helps to estimate the amount of demand for key community sports facilities, created by a given population.

3.17 The SFC looks at demand for facilities and does not consider any existing supply. The SFC should not be used for strategic gap analysis, due to the fact it does not consider facility locations, capacity and availability etc. For these reasons, total demand figures generated by the SFC should not simply be compared with facilities within the same area.

3.18 However, the SFC does help with quantifying the demand side of the facility provision equation. It helps to answer questions such as, "How much additional demand for sports hall courts will the population of a new development generate, and what would be the cost be to meet this new demand at today's values?".

Sport England Active Lives Data

3.19 Sport England's Active Lives Adult Survey focuses on people aged 16 and over, while their Active Lives Children and Young People Survey looks at the activity levels of children aged 5-16.

3.20 For the Adult Survey, the overall sample size is around 175,000 people for each survey. Their minimum annual sample size for each English local authority is 500 residents, though some key areas will involve surveying a larger number of people.

- 3.21 Data is published in April for the mid-November to mid-November full year results (e.g. November 2021/22) and October for the mid-May to mid-May interim results each year (e.g. May 2020/21). The survey will take place during this time period and will ask the same questions, for example, 'have you participated in swimming at least twice in the past 28 days?'
- 3.22 In this report, we have focused on participation levels at least twice in the past 28 days. This is measured as the equivalent of 30 minutes or more activity at least twice in the last 28 days. Each session must last at least 10 minutes and be of at least 'moderate' intensity. An individual can reach the minimum threshold by a combination of two 30-minute sessions across the last 28 days or by six 10-minute sessions, for example. This is measured for all activities including sports, fitness, dance, cycling and walking (including for travel).
- 3.23 For the Children and Young People Survey, schools are randomly selected and arrange for up to three mixed ability classes in up to three randomly chosen year groups, to complete an online survey. The survey has a different design for Years 1-2, Years 3-6 and Years 7-11, to ensure suitability for each age group.

Consultation

- 3.24 As part of the evidence base development, consultation sessions and surveys were carried with various key stakeholders:
- **National Governing Bodies (NGBs)** – consultation sessions were undertaken with relevant NGBs to understand their current views on quantity, quality, accessibility and availability of the current provision. These discussions also helped identify the current and future demand and highlighted by any key clubs using facilities in the City;
 - **Built Facility Sports Clubs** – this was a survey of Greater Norwich sports clubs to establish their views about supply of current facilities, quality of facilities, accessibility and their views on current and future demand for the needs of their club;
 - **Local Authority and Operators** – consultation sessions were held with NCC, as key owners and operators of community sport and recreation facilities in the City. In addition, Places Leisure were consulted as a key operator of Riverside Leisure Centre; and
 - **Education Providers** – consultation sessions and surveys were completed by schools and education providers in Norwich, to establish their policy towards community use, the types of community use and identify any opportunities to increase community provision and meet the needs for curriculum use.

Monitoring and Review

- 3.25 The BFS identifies the investment and actions required to protect, enhance and provide high-quality built facilities infrastructure for Norwich and the Greater Norwich area up until 2038. For Norwich, the action plan can be found in Section 11 in this report.
- 3.26 Further to this, the Greater Norwich BFS Action Plan has been developed following the development of the three individual needs assessments and will enable the GNGB and the Local Authorities to prioritise investment across the Greater Norwich area and work in partnership to deliver this. It will also support any related investment coming through the Community Infrastructure Levy ('CIL').
- 3.27 Each individual BFS is based on current and planned facilities in each Local Authority and there will be a need to periodically review the recommendation and actions, especially when there are changes in the facility provision both within Norwich and in the surrounding local authorities.
- 3.28 It will be important for the key partners to continue to monitor the Action Plan and review it on an annual basis. For Greater Norwich, the Sport and Physical Activity Working Group will be important to oversee delivery of the PASS, BFS and PPS.
- 3.29 The annual review process should include the following as a minimum:
- A review of annual progress on the recommendations, considering any changes to the priority of each action (e.g. the priority of a recommendation may change following the delivery of others);
 - Lessons learnt throughout the year;
 - New facilities that may have been developed and the subsequent impact on the recommendations and Action Plan;
 - Any specific changes of use of key sites in the City (e.g. sport specific specialisms of sites, changes in availability, etc.);
 - Any specific changes in demand at facilities and/ or clubs in the area (e.g. reduction or increase in club membership, impact of new housing growth, changes to the profile of the housing delivery;
 - New formats of traditional sports that may need to be considered; and
 - Any new or emerging issues and opportunities.

4. Sports Halls

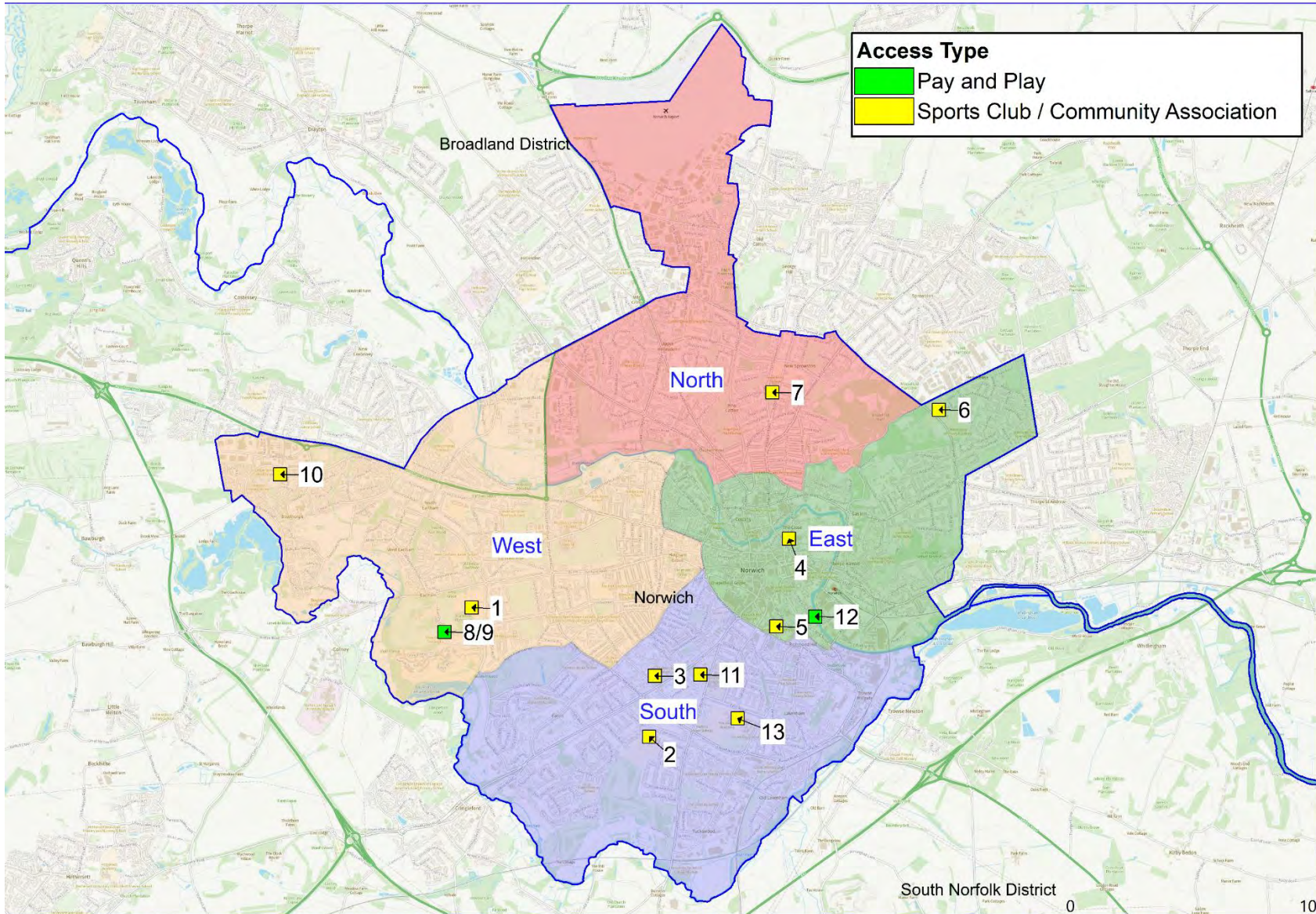
Introduction

- 4.1 Indoor sports halls are often one of the key sports facilities, allowing for various community sports and physical activity. These facilities are often suitable to allow participation in a wide range of sport and recreational activities.
- 4.2 This needs assessment uses the FPM assessment of sports halls, which was produced on behalf of Sport England for Norwich in 2020. It was commissioned by NCC in order to provide a current assessment of sports hall provision and provide an evidence base for the supply, demand, and access to sports halls in 2020 (to note, 2020 was the latest Sport England data set available at the time of commission). In order to understand the potential future demand for facilities, the FPM was used as a base, along with population projections and the SFC. This helped to identify future need up to 2038.
- 4.3 The standard methodology for measuring provision of sports halls is the number of badminton courts contained within the floor area. Sports halls are generally considered to be of greatest value if they are at least 3 badminton courts in size, coupled with sufficient height. Only sports halls of at least 3 badminton court size are included in the FPM assessment. The exception to this is where smaller sports halls (or activity halls) are on the same site as a sports hall with at least 3 courts, and so these are included within the assessment. Please also note the methodology of calculating sports hall courts, which is detailed in Section 3 of this needs assessment.
- 4.4 A 4-court sports hall provides greater flexibility and allows more activities to take place, such as basketball, football, netball and indoor cricket. Larger halls (5 badminton court size and above) can also accommodate higher level training and/or competition sport, as well as meeting day to day need more effectively.
- 4.5 The data and findings from the FPM study are reviewed in this needs assessment. This has been presented to ensure it follows the same structure and sequence of reporting as the other facility types in the BFS and is therefore consistent in applying the ANOG methodology. This report presents the strategic City-wide findings taken from the FPM study.
- 4.6 The full FPM report can be found in Appendix B. The key findings from the supply, demand and access assessment are set out below and are described in full under each ANOG heading.

Quantity

- 4.7 There are 17 individual sports halls, located at 12 sites within Norwich. The total supply of sports halls in Norwich equates to 64 badminton courts, of which 56 badminton courts are available for community use in the peak period. Aggregated across the 12 sites, there are 8 badminton courts unavailable for community use, representing 12.5% of the total supply.
- 4.8 Of the 12 sports hall sites (13 sports halls) in Norwich, 11 are educational sites and 1 site is owned by a charitable association. There are no local authority owned sports halls.
- 4.9 There are 8 individual 4 badminton court sports halls, out of the total 17 sports halls across Norwich. There is also a 5-court sports hall at Wensum Sports Centre, an 8-court sports hall and 12-court sports hall at UEA Sportspark (UEA). This size of the sports halls can accommodate all indoor hall sports at the community level of participation.
- 4.10 Map 4.1 below details the locations of the sites with at least one sports hall of at least 3 badminton court size.

Map 4.1 – Sports Hall Locations in Norwich



Site ID	Site Name	Site ID	Site Name
1	City Academy Norwich	8	Sportspark
2	City Of Norwich School	9	Sportspark
3	Norwich High School For Girls	10	St Michaels V.A. Junior School
4	Norwich School	11	Town Close School
5	Notre Dame High School	12	Wensum Sports Centre
6	Open Academy	13	The Hewett Academy
7	Sewell Park Academy	N/A	N/A

Quality

- 4.11 The average age of the sports hall sites is 35 years. The oldest facility is the City of Norwich School sports hall which opened in 1970, and the most recent is The Hewett Academy sports hall which opened in 2018.
- 4.12 3 of the 4 sports hall sites which opened before 2000 have been modernised, with the exception of City of Norwich School sports hall, therefore demonstrating a good track record of modernisation.

Site Visits and Survey Responses

- 4.13 Site visits took place at the following key sports hall facilities in Norwich; City of Norwich School, Norwich High School for Girls. Sewell Park Academy, Sportspark, and The Hewett Academy. Surveys were also sent out to clubs/ organisations and education providers, to seek additional feedback on the quality of the sports halls.
- 4.14 When considering information gathered from both visits and through the consultation, the quality of facilities was in general regarded to be in adequate to good quality, albeit with isolated improvements identified. For example, specific issues have been raised with the roof leaking and the need to improve lighting at City Academy Norwich, the need to reseal the floor at City of Norwich School and the improvement of changing rooms at the Open Academy.
- 4.15 The Hewett Academy sports hall is the newest facility and is in excellent condition, with high quality changing facilities.

Demand for Sports Halls in 2022

Accessibility

- 4.16 Map 4.1 shows the geographical locations of the sports halls in Norwich. In total, there is 1 sports hall located in the North Analysis Area (red), 4 of the sports halls (3 sites) are located in the West Analysis Area (orange), 4 sports halls are located in the East Analysis Area (green) with 4 sports halls located in the South Analysis Area (blue). This outlines a fairly good geographical spread of facilities in Norwich, albeit there maybe pressure on the north due to the lack of public sports hall facilities in Broadland.
- 4.17 All 11 educational sports halls provide community use with at least 22 hours available in the weekly peak period, whilst 6 sports halls have over 30 hours available. This confirms that there is a commitment to community use across the educational sites.
- 4.18 A total of 94% of demand for sports halls by Norwich residents is met. Of the satisfied demand, 85% is retained within the City and 15% is exported out of the City. This is a very high level of retained demand and reflects the compact nature of the City's land area, the accessibility of the sports hall locations and that Norwich residents are choosing to participate at sports halls located within the City.
- 4.19 Unmet demand is 6.4% of the total demand, which equates to 2.8 badminton courts. Unmet demand is dispersed in very low values across the City and there is not a location with high unmet demand identified.

Availability

- 4.20 All 11 of the educational sports halls provide community use. The lowest number of community hours (22 hours) is still quite high for a sports hall, and this confirms that there is a commitment to community use across the educational sites in Norwich.
- 4.21 As a Norwich average, the estimated used capacity of sports halls is 76% in the weekly peak period. This would increase to 89% if the 8-court sports hall at UEA Sportspark is only used for gymnastics. This is 4% below the Sport England benchmark, which states sports halls are comfortably full at 80% capacity during peak times.
- 4.22 Table 4.1 below details the used capacity of each of the sports hall sites contained within the FPM report (colours reflect the Analysis Areas).

Table 4.1 - Percentage of Used Capacity at Norwich Sports Halls (2020)

Name of Facility	% of Capacity Used
City Academy Norwich	75%
City Of Norwich School	39%
Norwich High School For Girls	94%
Norwich School	100%
Notre Dame High School	94%
Open Academy	100%
Sewell Park Academy	100%
Sportspark	57%
Sportspark	95%
St Michaels V.A. Junior School	71%
Town Close School	95%
Wensum Sports Centre	100%
The Hewett Academy	92%

Consultation

4.23 Consultation with the following stakeholders was carried out to support the development of the evidence base:

- National Governing Bodies;
- Built Facility Sports Clubs; and
- Education Providers.

National Governing Bodies

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and Norfolk Cricket Board (NCB)

4.24 A detailed consultation session was undertaken with the ECB and the NCB.

- 4.25 Consultation with the NCB has identified that there is a lack of quality indoor facilities for both the NCB talent pathways and for club training sessions. Currently, there is a need to roll out matting across various sites in order to allow indoor cricket, and when combined with access issues (due to the irregularity of the booking requirements, e.g. winter months only), this can create significant barriers for indoor cricket access. Often, new sports hall sites will also include sprung flooring, which is then not suitable for indoor cricket.
- 4.26 Cricket clubs tend to have to travel to find a suitable facility and there is a clear demand for sports halls that can cater for indoor cricket. Many sports hall facilities also do not include dedicated flooring for cricket training. The NCB are keen to find a facility to work in partnership with and develop it as a regional facility.
- 4.27 There has been significant growth in women's and girls' cricket in Norfolk, with 23 clubs now operating a female section (circa 25% of clubs).
- 4.28 Norwich School is the only facility that is suitable for indoor cricket without the need to roll out matting. The facility is used by the school and the community, although there is an issue with availability of parking. Several clubs also use UEA Sportspark for their training, but block booking can be difficult due to the demand at the site for other activities and the seasonality of indoor cricket usage.

England Netball

- 4.29 England Netball provided a profile of netball participation within Norwich and highlighted facilities where netball can be played. They also explained their strategic objectives and associated participation programmes. This was followed by a detailed consultation session.
- 4.30 The majority of netball is undertaken in Norwich, with the UEA Sportspark a key facility for indoor and outdoor usage.
- 4.31 England Netball estimate 80% of netball is played on education sites. The impact of the pandemic and more restricted access has meant some clubs across England have now lost their facilities. A key priority for England Netball is to now secure access for clubs in the future and try to influence access policy.
- 4.32 All of Norwich's indoor courts are on education sites (13 courts) and this does equate to an oversupply despite potential access challenges.
- 4.33 Despite this, Norwich United are looking for their own facility as they currently are reliant on the UEA for training and match provision. They are a club with a strong volunteering network with various programmes targeting women and girls as well as men's and mixed teams. However, if they were to find a new facility, England Netball would be keen for other clubs to continue to use the UEA as a training or match facility as the UEA is the current outdoor league facility and key to netball participation in Norfolk.

- 4.34 Often facilities are not the issue, but rather the access to the sites. In addition, the floor space required for a dedicated netball training and match facility exceeds the Sport England guidance and this is often not available for netball clubs. A dedicated performance centre in Norwich would be desirable to suit the local needs, but it is accepted this will be difficult in current climates to deliver a facility.
- 4.35 Similar to trends across the country, the majority of match play is also undertaken on outdoor courts, with indoor facilities being used for training, after being appropriately risk assessed.

Badminton England

- 4.36 Badminton England provided a profile of badminton participation within Norwich and highlighted facilities where badminton can be played. They also explained their strategic objectives and associated participation. This was followed by a detailed consultation session.
- 4.37 Badminton England data shows a slight oversupply of badminton courts, with unmet demand of 0.3 badminton courts (lower than the average of 0.7 badminton courts). This is expected to remain similar by 2030 (unmet demand of 0.4 badminton courts).
- 4.38 Consultation with Badminton England identified that badminton is often played in sports halls on education sites. During the pandemic, there has been issues with accessibility, because some providers did not, or could not, re-open their sports halls. A 50% recovery in badminton participation was estimated in Autumn 2021 nationally, although this is expected to keep rising, following the resumption of the normal operation of sports halls.
- 4.39 Badminton England identified that affiliated clubs play across various locations in the City, with City of Norwich School, Notre Dame High School and Wensum Sports Centre the notable sites that do not have clubs. Despite this, Wensum Sports Centre is a hub for badminton, with a full-time coach and junior and senior play, but the roof is regarded as low for badminton. UEA also host No Strings badminton sessions as an introductory pathway into the sport.
- 4.40 An ideal model for Badminton England is 2/ 3 clubs using 1 sports hall. This then allows for block bookings for badminton (this is currently being piloted by Badminton England).

Basketball England

- 4.41 Basketball England provided a profile of basketball participation within Norwich and highlighted facilities where basketball can be played. They also explained their strategic objectives and associated participation programmes.

- 4.42 Basketball did not highlight any issues with sports halls that negatively impact the development of basketball. There are 6 basketball clubs within Norwich, with an estimated total of 192 members living in the City and a total of 296 members at the clubs. By 2029, it is expected that an additional 28 players will be playing basketball.
- 4.43 The largest club is Norwich City Basketball Club with 101 members (senior and youth mixed gender) located at Notre Dame High School, followed by Norfolk Iceni basketball Club with 81 members (youth and senior female club) located at The Open Academy. UEA Basketball Club also has 61 members at UEA Sportspark (senior male and female). Norwich Vipers are based at City Academy Norwich, Norfolk Chinese Community Association at UEA and Reepham Rapiers at Wensum Sports Centre are all smaller clubs offering club provision.
- 4.44 According to Basketball England, there appears to be a small undersupply of basketball visits per week, hours per week and courts per week both now and likely in the future.

Sports Clubs

- 4.45 The survey had responses from 6 clubs who use 5 facilities, with 1 cricket club, 1 goalball team, 2 badminton club/association, 1 athletics club and 1 basketball club. In general, the clubs that responded use various sites across Norwich.
- 4.46 Most users will hire the sports hall for a few hours per week for their various activities, with a seasonal requirement for cricket. In general, the clubs regard the facilities as average to good quality, although some improvements are required such as lighting, flooring and changing rooms.
- 4.47 The COVID-19 Pandemic has generally impacted clubs in terms of participation, finances and also impacted access to sites due to closures, restrictions on capacity and operational decisions e.g. use of sports halls for fitness classes so facilities could adhere to social distancing requirements.
- 4.48 From the respondents, Norfolk Iceni Basketball Club are a key hirer in the area with 10 hours at the Open Academy and ad hoc usage at the UEA. They require additional time but due to a lack of capacity at sites, they cannot book this currently.
- 4.49 Norfolk Badminton, who also hire in South Norfolk are also a hirer in Norwich at UEA, whilst the North Norfolk Junior Badminton Association hires Sewell Park Academy for 3 hours a week. Amongst some of the respondents, it has been raised that due to the lack of facilities in Broadland, there is a requirement to use Norwich facilities as an alternative. This puts additional pressure on Norwich's facilities.
- 4.50 The overall impression is of a sports club sector which is "getting by" and is being forced to be imaginative in how they find appropriate facilities to establish a club base.

Education Providers

- 4.51 There were 4 schools that responded to the survey; City Academy Norwich, City of Norwich School, Open Academy and The Hewett Academy, whilst consultation was undertaken on site visits at City of Norwich School, Sewell Park Academy, UEA Sportspark and The Hewett Academy.
- 4.52 Table 4.2 details the key findings from the education providers.

Table 4.2 – Summary of Consultation with Education Providers

Facility	Key Findings
City Academy Norwich	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15+ hours a week available to the community; • No spare capacity at the site, would like to have another sports hall at the school to meet demand; • Some issues with the roof leaking.
City of Norwich School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 court sports hall in good condition – school are considering resealing the floor in the near future; • 15+ hours a week available to the community; • Spare capacity is available at the site; • National Tennis Association (NTA) may use for some activities in the future (new tennis courts opening up at the school operated by the NTA); • Changing rooms available that are school changing during the day; • Available 7 days a week via an online booking system.
Open Academy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15+ hours a week available to the community; • No spare capacity at the site; • Regarded as good quality by the school with no issues.
Sewell Park Academy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Floor is an old hard floor but was refurbished 2 years ago so now in a good condition; • Pre the COVID-19 Pandemic, the sports hall was filled at near to capacity. Strategy is to hire to various user groups with reduced focus on football usage; • Ancillary gymnasium also available to hire – in good condition and was refurbed circa 3 years ago after a roof leak.
The Hewett Academy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15+ hours a week available to the community, although barriers to providing community access due to the curriculum requirements and planning permission agreements that the site is not to current open on Sunday's; • Sports hall has spare capacity; • Hall is in very good condition – flooring and ceiling; and

Facility	Key Findings
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="534 362 1422 465">School would like to increase usage when the sports hall is brought back in house, possible through a Service Level Agreement with a club.

4.53 Consultation supported the conclusion of the FPM, confirming that community access was prevalent across the sites, with all of the facilities offering 15 hours or more of community use during evenings and weekends.

4.54 In general, the respondents also believe the quality of sports halls in Norwich is good. There were various activities being undertaken at the sports halls including basketball, badminton, Korfbal, cricket, fitness classes, martial arts, skating and non-sporting activities.

University of East Anglia

4.55 UEA is a significant stakeholder in providing sports hall space in Norwich with 20 of the overall 64 courts, just under a third of the supply. Consultation with the UEA has outlined that they continue to want to provide community access to the site, with 80% of the sites usage in the peak times. The site is now 22 years old but is in good condition and they continue to maintain and improve the facility mix.

4.56 In contrast to the findings of the FPM, they state they are very stretched for indoor sports hall space, needing to provide a programme balance for both the community and students. They also have formal sport links with a National League Basketball team and Norfolk United Netball, as well as various local clubs and student clubs.

Norwich Community Sports Foundation (Norwich CSF)

4.57 Norwich CSF is Norwich City Football Club's official charity partner, helping thousands of people every year achieve their goals through sport, supporting some of the most disadvantaged, disabled and talented people across Norfolk.

4.58 Norwich CSF recently opened their community hub called The Nest. This is located in Horsford in Broadland, near to Norwich International Airport. Norwich CSF also operate from Carrow Park in Norwich, which is next to Carrow Road Stadium.

4.59 As a result, the facilities, programmes and initiatives delivered by Norwich CSF have a focus on residents from around the entire Greater Norwich area.

4.60 The Nest's facilities currently include outdoor football pitches and a clubhouse building with indoor multi-purpose rooms, catering and event spaces. The site currently has planning permission for a 5-court sports hall, which would be available for community use alongside Norwich CSF's projects and programmes.

4.61 There is expected to be a focus on cricket and netball, with possible links to Norwich United Netball Club and the Norfolk Cricket Board (whose headquarters

are located within close proximity). As a result, Norwich CSF are revisiting their plans, to assess whether there is demand and viability for an 8-court sports hall.

- 4.62 Whilst The Nest is located in Broadland, due to the location, it would be a significant importer of demand from Norwich residents and therefore should be considered in the needs assessment.

Sports Halls by 2038

- 4.63 Using the baseline FPM model from 2020, this section will assess the future strategic supply and demand for sports halls, up to 2038.
- 4.64 This analysis will assist NCC to plan and assess what sports hall provision may be required, in order to meet the projected changes in demand. If applicable, the assessment will identify if there is a need to provide additional sports halls to meet projected demand and if so, at what scale.

Quantity

- 4.65 Consultation with NCC and local key stakeholders has identified there are no projects currently planned to be developed of 3 badminton courts or larger in Norwich.
- 4.66 Only The Nest facility located close to the boundary in Broadland has been flagged by consultees. (Norwich CSF have planning permission for a 5-badminton court hall which they would like to increase to an 8-court hall). It is thought that currently both these options are not deemed viable, due to large capital funding gaps.

Quality

- 4.67 Sports halls will continue to age and not be replaced. The last sports hall to be built was The Hewett Academy in 2018 and will therefore be 20 years old by 2038. Most of the sports halls in Norwich will be at the end of their life span (30-40 years represents the average age of a sports hall), with UEA Sportspark, Town Close School, Open Academy and City Academy Norwich all 25-38 years old.
- 4.68 There is also potential that sites will have closed down due to their age. This relates to City of Norwich, which was built in 1970, Notre Dame which was built in 1984 and refurbished in 2013, Sewell Park Academy which was built in 1996 and refurbished in 2011 and Wensum Sports Centre which was built in 1975 and refurbished in 2012.

Demand for Sports Halls by 2038

Accessibility

- 4.69 In terms of access to sports halls, taking into account travelling both by car or by foot, when population growth between 2022-2038 is also considered, there will be no change in the number of sports halls that are not accessible. This is because the main pockets of housing growth will be concentrated close to existing sites.

Availability

- 4.70 As detailed by the population growth in Section 3, 48% of the population increases will be in the 45 years and above age group (12,000 of the 25,000 people). This equates to a total of 37% in the 45+ age group, an increase from 35% in 2018 (FPM uses the 2018 ONS projections). So, whilst the number of people is expected to increase across all age groups, there will be a greater increase in people under 44 years old (13,000 additional people) than 44+ years age group.
- 4.71 The age range with the highest propensity to participate in sport and physical activity within sports halls is in the 15 – 44-year age range and this is expected to increase by 13,000 people, or 49% of the overall population increases. Overall, this will see a static amount of the population in this age range in 2022 and 2038 at 49%, but due to the significant growth it actually increases by 13,000 people in total.
- 4.72 As a result, it is expected that the population growth will exceed the impact of the ageing population and result in additional demand for sports halls in the City.
- 4.73 Table 4.3 below outlines the impact of the population growth in Norwich on the supply per 1,000 people and Table 4.4 compares the 2038 supply per 1,000 people to the FPM run in 2020.
- 4.74 As the FPM uses HSC (see Section 3), we have focused on sports halls with 3 courts or more only, to help analyse the future demand.

Table 4.3 – Supply of Badminton Courts per 10,000 People in Norwich

Total Supply	Norwich FPM Run	Norwich 2038	West Analysis Area 2038	East Analysis Area 2038	South Analysis Area 2038	North Analysis Area 2038
Number of sites	12	12	3	4	4	1
Number of badminton courts	64	64	27	17	16	4
Population	143,134	167,831	54,519	39,564	40,261	33,488
Badminton Courts per 10,000	4.5	3.8	5.0	4.3	4.0	1.2

Table 4.4 – Compared to 2021 FPM Run

Total Supply – Badminton Courts per 10,000	FPM Run	2038
Norwich	4.5	3.8
West Analysis Area	5.5	5.0
East Analysis Area	5.5	4.3
South Analysis Area	5.3	4.0
North Analysis Area	1.3	1.2

4.75 Based on information available, we have estimated that the supply of sports halls has remained the same in 2038, so the findings of the total supply of sports halls remains unchanged in this analysis. The key headlines are:

- the average number of badminton courts across Norwich per 10,000 reduces by circa 0.7 courts per 10,000 people by 2038 as a result of the population increase;
- there is a reduction in the number of people per badminton court in all of the analysis areas;
- despite this, most analysis areas continue to remain well catered for despite the larger populations but will begin to face pressure especially in the East Analysis Area where the population is expected to grow in the Broadland growth triangle; and

- the North Analysis Area appears to continue be under supplied based on a theoretical supply and demand balance, with only 1 sports hall at Sewell Park Academy. Growth is expected to the north of the City close to the Broadland border, and this will continue to put pressure and demand on facilities in Norwich.

Sport England Sports Facility Calculator (SFC)

4.76 Table 4.5 shows the findings from the SFC for the projected additional population growth for sports halls in the City.

Table 4.5 – SFC Need for Norwich

Total Supply	Norwich 2038	West Analysis Area 2038	East Analysis Area 2038	South Analysis Area 2038	North Analysis Area 2038
Population increase between 2018 - 2038	25,654	5,202	8,613	10,285	1,555
Badminton Courts	7.74	1.57	2.60	3.10	0.47
Halls	1.94	0.39	0.65	0.78	0.12
Visits per Week in a Peak Period (vpwpp)	2280	462	765	914	138

4.77 With Norwich being a densely populated area, housing growth is limited across the City. Overall, the SFC has stated there is a need for up to two 4 court halls by 2038. However, there is no one area that has significant demand identified, with the most demand occurring from the South Analysis Area with circa 3 courts. This suggests similar to the 2020 FPM findings that there are no significant areas of unmet demand across the City.

- West Analysis Area:
 - UEA is a significant stakeholder in providing sports hall space in Norwich with 20 of the courts, or circa 75%;
 - As highlighted in the FPM run for 2020, the sites are fairly full, including the UEA reporting higher usage at their two halls than calculated in the FPM report;

- This area is subject to a small amount of growth, but it does not warrant an additional hall unless the UEA reduce community access to their site.
- East Analysis Area:
 - There is demand for up to 3 badminton courts in this analysis area, however, when considering the wider picture, the 4 sites are already very full according to the FPM run in 2020;
 - Significant housing growth is expected on the border with Broadland, creating additional demand for the facilities. There is also expected to be significant housing growth (circa 4,000) in the East Norwich Regeneration area, south and east of Carrow Road Stadium. This is located partially within the East Analysis Area;
 - With the age of Wensum Sports Centre and Notre Dame School, there is potential that by 2038 the stock may have reduced.
- South Analysis Area:
 - The SFC highlights that this area has the greatest theoretical demand due to the largest population growth with up to 3 badminton courts. Growth is expected around the East Norwich Regeneration area, south and east of Carrow Road Stadium. This is located partially within the South Analysis Area;
 - With the exception of City of Norwich School, the sports halls in this area are above 90% capacity, indicating high demand for usage before any growth in population. The lower used capacity is most likely due to its age.
- North Analysis Area:
 - This equates to the lowest growth and demand in the area, but this does not consider the wider population growth on the Broadland border; and
 - Sewell Park Academy is the only facility in the North Analysis Area, and it is estimated in the 2020 FPM run that the sports hall is at capacity. With the increased demand, it is likely that this will continue to have a high used capacity.

What does this mean for Sports Halls in Norwich?

- 4.78 The key point to be taken from this assessment for Norwich is that demand for sports halls can be met by the accessible supply currently available. However, this can change dependent on the policy of the educational owners to community use.

- 4.79 There is quite a close balance between demand and supply, with the accessible supply in Norwich being the equivalent of 56-badminton courts in the weekly peak period, and the actual demand being 43-badminton courts. A reduction in supply would create a much closer balance between supply and demand.
- 4.80 While there are no NCC owned sports halls, UEA Sportspark is a very large facility with a 12-badminton court hall and an 8-badminton court hall. It provides all indoor hall sports at recreational level, sports club development and is also a competition facility. Therefore, there is need to safeguard the facility which is providing extensive community use and access.
- 4.81 The average estimated used capacity of the Norwich sports halls is high at 76% in the weekly peak period. This provides working headroom of four percentage points before the Sport England sports halls comfort level of 80% of capacity used in the weekly peak period is reached. Again, it illustrates that any reduction in capacity, such as excluding the UEA Sportspark 8-court hall, will push the average used capacity higher to 89% and this may discourage participation.
- 4.82 Norwich also has a compact land area, and the sports hall catchments overlap. This makes the sports halls very accessible for Norwich residents, hence 85% of the 93% satisfied demand for Norwich being retained within the City. The Norwich sports halls are also very accessible to residents in both Broadland and South Norfolk, and 36% of the used capacity of the Norwich sports halls is imported. This is a major reason why the sports halls have the estimated 76% of capacity used in the weekly peak period.
- 4.83 The average age of the sports halls at 35 years is slightly misleading, as 8 of the sites have opened since 2000, with the most recent site being The Hewett Academy opened in 2018. Furthermore, 3 of the 4 sports hall sites which opened before 2000 have been modernised; the exception to this is the City of Norwich School sports hall which opened in 1970.
- 4.84 It is difficult to identify the most important sites in terms of locations and meeting demand because the City is so compact, the catchment areas overlap, and demand is all within a small land area. Therefore, in terms of the sites which have the best offer in terms of scale, and therefore can provide for a wider programme of use, are The Hewett Academy (also the most modern sports hall with 3 individual sports halls) and City Academy Norwich.
- 4.85 In terms of projected population growth, the major new residential sites will be in Broadland and South Norfolk, given the compact land area of Norwich. However, as demonstrated by the imported demand levels, sports halls located in Norwich are also accessible to residents in these neighbouring local authorities. Therefore, the future strategic planning should be across boundaries to identify the most beneficial locations for the residents of Greater Norwich.

- 4.86 Analysis of future demand details that there are no significant areas within Norwich that identify specific need for additional sports hall provision, but due to the impact of the wider growth areas across the City and in neighbouring local authorities, we believe there is need to provide additional sports hall space in the north of the City or south of Broadland.
- 4.87 Norwich CSF have a desire to build an 8-badminton court sports hall at The Nest and this will help meet demand from Broadland and Norwich. However, with the level of community access currently unknown, there may still be need for additional provision to cater for the demand arising from the population growth in both authorities.
- 4.88 Broadland is the ideal location for additional provision compared to the densely populated areas of Norwich but will remain accessible for some Norwich residents. Importantly, in addition to saturating the extra demand generated from growth, any new sports halls in Broadland would mean that less demand is exported to Norwich, meaning that more time can become available for Norwich residents in Norwich sports halls. However, Norwich should not be ruled out if an appropriate opportunity is available.
- 4.89 Furthermore, consultation detailed that there were various activities identified for hire across the current sports hall provision. This potentially suggests two themes; firstly, that there are various demanded sports and activities in Norwich which as a City location is more likely than its rural counterparts and secondly, that there is a potential lack of space to hire within the City that makes sports hall space appealing for all groups. As a result, a hirer may be using the space for non-sporting activity, reducing the access for clubs and organisations.
- 4.90 More flexible multi-purpose indoor spaces would enable many of the activities to be moved, freeing up additional sports hall space for more traditional activities such as martial arts, dance, fitness and other non-sporting activities.

Recommendations for Norwich– Sports Halls

- Across Norwich, most of the demand can be met by the accessible supply of sports halls. However, there are three recommendations across Norwich for the future:
 1. Protect the existing sports hall stock, maintaining the accessible supply for residents;
 2. The need to modernise the educational sports hall sites; and
 3. Consider the projected population growth and the impact this could have on increasing demand for sports halls.
- For any sites where NCC does not currently have secure community use agreements with educational providers, it should consider putting these in place to protect the supply for community use;
- In the future, there will be an increasing need to modernise the post-2000 sports halls as none of these have been modernised to date. As the post-2000 stock of sports halls age and need updating, as a starting point, NCC should consider partnerships of investment, in return for securing community access. This will ensure the future of educational sports halls, before taking into consideration demand from any future population growth by 2038;
- If the 8-court sports hall proposed at The Nest (in Broadland) is not delivered or there is a lack of community access available, there will be a need for an additional 4-court sports hall to be located in the south of Broadland or the north of Norwich to cater for the additional demand of both populations. This could be either as part of a new leisure facility or an education site.

5. Swimming Pools

Introduction

- 5.1 A swimming pool can host various water-based activities in the form of indoor and outdoor pools, freeform leisure pools and specific diving tanks. A pool can be used for general lane swimming, teaching, training, diving, water polo and synchronised activities as well as being used for informal leisure and recreational activities.
- 5.2 This needs assessment uses the FPM assessment of swimming pools, which was produced on behalf of Sport England for Norwich in 2020. It was commissioned by NCC in order to provide a current assessment of swimming pool water provision and provide an evidence base for the supply, demand, and access to swimming pools in 2020 (to note, 2020 was the latest Sport England data set available at the time of commission). In order to understand the potential future demand for facilities up to 2038, the FPM was used as a base, along with population projections and the SFC.
- 5.3 The standard methodology for measuring swimming pools is the total m² of water space. The assessment incorporates all operational indoor pools available for community use that are over 20m in length, or which have a total area of 160 m² of water, whichever is the lower.
- 5.4 The data, and findings from the FPM study are reviewed in this needs assessment and are presented to ensure it follows the same structure and sequence of reporting for the other facility types in the BFS and is therefore consistent in applying the ANOG and methodology. This report presents the strategic City-wide findings from the FPM study.
- 5.5 The full FPM report can be found in Appendix C of this report. The key findings from the supply, demand and access assessment are set out below and are described in full under each ANOG heading.

Quantity

- 5.6 In 2020, there were 7 individual swimming pools, located at 6 sites in Norwich. Only 1 site is a public leisure centre, making the local authority a minority provider of pools in the City. There are 4 educational pools and 1 commercial pool (this is UEA Sportspark, but it does provide full community use through membership of the centre).
- 5.7 The water space available for community use is 1,957m² of water in the weekly peak period (for context, a 25m x 10m 4-lane pool is 250m² of water).

- 5.8 The local authority public swimming pool site is Riverside Leisure Centre (opened in 2003), which has a 25m x 14m 6-lane main pool and a teaching/learner pool of 15m x 8m. UEA Sportspark swimming pool (opened in 2000 and modernised in 2008) is a 50m x 17m eight-lane pool.
- 5.9 The three other educational swimming pool sites are:
- Norwich High School for Girls (opened in 2000 and modernised in 2006) which has a 25m x 10m 4-lane pool. It provides a learn to swim school and is available for community hire;
 - The Hewett Academy pool (opened in 1960 and modernised in 2006) is a 25m x 10m five-lane pool. The pool is used by four local swimming pool clubs and also operates a learn to swim school; and
 - Town Close School, which is the smallest swimming pool in Norwich (opened in 2000). It has a 20m x 8m four-lane pool and is available for hire.
- 5.10 There is 1 commercial swimming pool, Nuffield Health (Norwich) (opened in 2001). It operates a membership system for recreational swimming by local residents.
- 5.11 Map 5.1 below shows the locations of the sites with at least 160m² of pool water or 20m in length, as per the FPM guidelines.

Site ID	Site Name
1	Norwich High School For Girls
2	Nuffield Health (Norwich)
3	Riverside Leisure Centre (Norwich)
4	Sportspark
5	Town Close School
6	The Hewett Academy

Quality

- 5.12 In total, 5 out of the 6 pool sites in Norwich have opened since 2000, with 2 of sites having been modernised.

Site Visits and Survey Responses

- 5.13 Site visits took place at the following key swimming pool facilities in Norwich; Riverside Leisure Centre, UEA Sportspark and The Hewett Academy. Surveys were also sent out to clubs and organisations and education providers to provide additional feedback on the quality of the sites.
- 5.14 Riverside Leisure Centre is in good condition, especially considering it is 19 years old. The pool and surrounds are in excellent condition, although there is need for refurbishment of the wet changing rooms.
- 5.15 UEA Sportspark was built in 2000 is also in good condition in both pool, surrounds and changing. The site had essential maintenance undertaken in 2021 to the pool tank.
- 5.16 Riverside Leisure Centre and Sportspark are used by City of Norwich, and they believe both are of good quality, but there have been maintenance issues at Sportspark previously. Norfolk County ASA also identified Sportspark as a good quality facility.
- 5.17 The Hewett Academy is average in terms of quality. The pool tank is of good quality, but investment is needed on the building. It's not a traditional swimming pool building, and the building developed over time to provide indoor provision. The changing rooms are of adequate quality. New boilers were installed in 2021 but the school cannot lease the building as it is not energy efficient and cannot receive an energy certificate. It is estimated 6m³ of water lost per week from the pool, and therefore energy costs are high. Previously, it was earmarked by NCC for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) investment to improve the building and roof, but this was not undertaken by the school.

- 5.18 Norwich Swans also uses the pool and regard it as average due to an issue with the roof. City of Norwich Swimming Club also regard the site as average for this reason, as well as issues with air pumps, tiling and changing rooms.
- 5.19 Norwich Swans also uses the Norwich High School for Girls pool and state that this is of good quality.

Demand for Swimming Pools in 2022

Accessibility

- 5.20 Norwich has a very compact land area and therefore the catchment areas of the swimming pools overlap, making them very accessible to Norwich residents. The catchment areas also extend into Broadland and South Norfolk, making them accessible to residents of these two authorities which results in high levels of imported demand to the Norwich pool sites.
- 5.21 In terms of geographical locations, Map 5.1 shows that 1 swimming pool is located in the West Analysis Area (orange), 3 swimming pools in the South Analysis Area (blue) and 2 swimming pools in the East Analysis Area (green). There are no swimming pools in the North Analysis Area (red).
- 5.22 Of the satisfied demand, 94% is retained within the City; this means that there is a high correlation between the locations of Norwich swimming pools and demand. Over 9 out of 10 visits to a swimming pool located in Norwich are by a Norwich resident. In comparison, retained demand in Broadland and South Norfolk is 46% and 51% respectively.
- 5.23 Unmet demand is only 8% of total demand, which equates to 120m² of water (less than half the size of a 25m x 10m 4-lane swimming pool). Of the total unmet demand, 90% is from unmet demand located outside the catchment area of a pool and 10% is from lack of swimming pool capacity. Unmet demand outside a catchment will always exist because it is not possible to achieve complete spatial coverage whereby all areas of a local authority are inside catchment for residents without access to a car, even in a local authority such as Norwich with a small land area.
- 5.24 Overall, there is not a sufficient cluster of unmet demand in any one location to consider increasing swimming pool provision in order to improve accessibility for residents.

Availability

- 5.25 As a Norwich average, the estimated used capacity of swimming pools is 85% in the weekly peak period. Riverside Leisure Centre has a used capacity at peak times of 100% and UEA Sportspark of 84% (UEA Sportspark is not a local authority leisure centre, but it does provide all the activities described, albeit by membership of the centre).

- 5.26 Imported demand is a major contributory reason for the high used capacity of Norwich pools, accounting for 45% of capacity used in the weekly peak period. Norwich is a net importer of 6,069 visits per week in the peak period. To put into context, imported demand is more than one and a half times the capacity of Riverside Leisure Centre, which provides 4,073 visits in the weekly peak period.
- 5.27 Table 5.1 overleaf shows the used capacity of each of the swimming pools included in the FPM run.

Table 5.1 - Percentage Used Capacity of Norwich Swimming Pools (2020)

Name of Facility	% of Capacity Used
Norwich High School For Girls	100%
Nuffield Health (Norwich)	57%
Riverside Leisure Centre (Norwich)	100%
Sportspark	84%
Town Close School	55%
The Hewett Academy	100%

Consultation

- 5.28 Consultation with the following stakeholders was carried out to support the development of the evidence base:
- National Governing Bodies;
 - Built Facility Sports Clubs;
 - Local Authority and Operators; and
 - Education Providers.

National Governing Bodies

Swim England

- 5.29 In general, Swim England are concerned about the future of pools, many of which are an ageing stock – ‘Decade in Decline’ [report can be viewed here](#). Swim England have estimated up to 40% of swimming pools are likely to be lost by 2040.

- 5.30 In Norwich, there will be more demand in the future due to the population. The new homes will be additional pressure on the site. Clubs will be key in understanding their needs and usage, as well as the local operators. Other swimming activities such as water polo, diving and artistic swimming should also be considered.
- 5.31 Swim England stated that Riverside Leisure Centre is a well operated site. There are no known plans regarding building new facilities in surrounding local authorities – most local authorities are focussing on their existing stock, rather than considering a new facility.
- 5.32 The following key clubs in Table 5.2 have been identified in the Greater Norwich area. It should be noted that clubs will travel to a pool that suits their needs and so this table identifies all clubs in the Greater Norwich area.

Table 5.2 – Key Clubs in Greater Norwich

Club	Details
City of Norwich Swimming Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Para Swimming (to Olympic level), competitive swimming, masters, open water; • 411 members.
Diss Otters SC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competitive swimming, masters (to Regional level); • 150 members.
East Anglian Swallow Tail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masters (National level), • 93 members.
Loddon White Dolphin SC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competitive swimming (county level), • 426 members.
Norwich Swan SC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competitive swimming, masters (regional level); • 512 members.
Norwich Synchro Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artistic swimming (county level); • 70 members.
Norwich Water Polo Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water polo (regional level); • 37 members.

- 5.33 Located outside of the Greater Norwich area but should be considered are Great Yarmouth SC (competitive swimming to national level occasionally with 327 members) and North Norfolk Vikings SC (competitive swimming, masters to regional level with 156 members).

- 5.34 The artistic swimming and water polo clubs need deep water pools (a minimum of 2m) to train to a good standard. There are not any diving clubs or activity provided in Norwich or Norfolk, so Norfolk in general is lacking for this sport.

Local Authority and Operators

- 5.35 Riverside Leisure Centre is the only NCC owned site as is operated by Places Leisure, with the contract ending in 2024. The building is 19 years old but in good condition, albeit the footprint is tight, meaning the site can be very busy at peak times.
- 5.36 In Autumn 2021, there were 700 members in the swimming membership, although this was 800-850 pre-covid. Swimming lessons emerged from lockdown stronger than previous levels, with 800 children compared to 700.
- 5.37 Riverside Leisure Centre also is a key facilitator of Key Stage 2 swimming programmes, with 12 schools using the facility for their children. Key Stage 2 swimming is also supported by the smaller pools across Norwich that do not meet the FPM criteria but form an important part of the swimming provision in Norwich.
- 5.38 Places Leisure believe there is demand for additional swimming pool water and were required to turn down schools in September 2021 due to a lack of capacity. The East Norwich Development is expected to impact the site even further (c4,000 new homes) and the current site may not be able to cater for additional users.

Built Facility Sports Clubs

- 5.39 Survey responses were received from 4 of the key clubs / organisations in Norwich across five sites; Norwich Swans (Hewett Academy, Norwich High School for Girls), City of Norwich Swimming Club (Hewett Academy, Riverside Leisure Centre and UEA Sportspark), Norwich Synchro Club (Hewett) and Norfolk County ASA (UEA Sportspark).
- 5.40 Norwich Swans is a large club with 1,000 members. They hire Hewett Academy for 9 hours per week and Norwich High School for Girls for 8 hours per week. They would like more time in the pool to meet the needs of the members. They believe there is a lack of 'peak' training time as the public or learn to swim lessons have priority to access peak times.
- 5.41 City of Norwich Swimming Club has 1,800 members. They hire Hewett Academy for 9.5 hours per week, Riverside Leisure Centre for 7 hours per week and UEA Sportspark for 28 hours per week. The club needs more time in the pool but there is no capacity. They need more pool time at multiple facilities due to volume of swimmers as there are too many swimmers and not enough pools in Norfolk.

- 5.42 Particularly, the club need pools between 4pm - 7pm for younger swimmers to train and to provide Learn to Swim options at appropriate hours. The club believe that as there are not enough pools and this impacts on programming abilities for the current operators. For example, there is not enough time in the pools for those between Learn to Swim and squads ages, e.g. junior 8–12-year swimmers.
- 5.43 The club believe Greater Norwich needs an 8-lane x 25m swimming pool for competitive swimmers and public swimmers with an 18m teaching pool to hold lessons alongside club and public swimming.
- 5.44 In terms of the impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on the City of Norwich Swimming Club, pool closures and changes in best practice meant that they suffered financially with loss of members and loss of pool time. Many pools failed to re-open or would only take on single customers. The club moved to online training, with costs internally for qualifications, software and equipment, and had to reduce fees whilst still paying for coaches. They lost a huge amount of money as a club.
- 5.45 Norfolk County ASA also uses Sportspark for a total of 20 hours per week, but do not require any additional time. Norwich Synchro Club has 40 members and uses Hewett Academy.
- 5.46 In general, it appears that there is a significant need for additional swimming pool time, especially for Norwich's two largest clubs; City of Norwich Swimming Club and Norwich Swans. The clubs are required to hire whatever pool water is available across the Greater Norwich area, however, swimming pools are still often not available for hire due to all sites being well used, especially in peak periods.
- 5.47 There is a clear programming issue that means it's difficult for operators to balance the programme of casual and membership swimming, clubs and learn to swim. Often, clubs will require similar times to the peak times for operators e.g. weekday evenings, and this results in a lack of demand in peak periods.
- 5.48 There is a suggestion that there is also a limited amount of Learn to Swim water available. If this was more accessible, operators could utilise this for their lesson programmes and unlock capacity in the main swimming tanks for clubs.
- 5.49 Finally, despite issues with a lack of capacity across Norwich, the public leisure centre provision (and the UEA Sportspark) appears to be a key part of the jigsaw, with education providers providing additional usage.

Education Providers

- 5.50 Of the 3 schools that have pool provision that meets the FPM criteria, only The Hewett Academy provided a response to the education survey.

- 5.51 They stated that their pool is available for over 15 hours of community use per week in evenings and weekends. The pool is hired to Little Fish Swimming School who operate the site and hire it out to local clubs and the community for block bookings. The school are responsible for premises costs such as utilities and maintenance.
- 5.52 City Academy Norwich also returned a survey, but their pool does not meet the Sport England criteria at a size of 85m². Despite this, it is hired out to the community and is available for over 15 hours per week.
- 5.53 NCC has identified that several schools are key providers for national curriculum learn to swim activities for their school and surrounding schools in their catchment. The pools are not always large enough to meet the FPM criteria but still provide a key service for local children. In Norwich, the schools swimming pools that provide this include:
- City Academy;
 - Colman Junior School;
 - Heartsease Primary Academy;
 - Hewett Academy;
 - Nelson Infant School;
 - Norwich High School for Girls;
 - Recreation Road First School; and
 - Town Close School.

University of East Anglia

- 5.54 The site has a 50m pool with moveable floor. There is a boom that splits it into 2 x 25m pools to increase the flexibility in programming.
- 5.55 They do not have a large swimming school, so focus is on casual and club swimming. City of Norwich Swimming Club use the site as a key club.
- 5.56 UEA would be interested in constructing a learner pool at the facility to increase learn to swim capabilities, but it is likely this would require financial support from a third party.

Swimming Pools by 2038

- 5.57 Using the baseline FPM model from 2020, this section will assess the future strategic supply and demand of swimming pools up to 2038.

- 5.58 This will assist NCC to plan and assess what changes might need to be made in swimming pool provision, in order to meet the projected demand. If applicable, it will identify if there is a need to provide additional pool water to meet projected demand and at what scale.

Quantity

- 5.59 Consultation with NCC and local key stakeholders has identified there are no projects currently planned to be developed. Consideration for an additional pool has been investigated previously in the Mile Cross area (North Analysis Area), but it did not progress past feasibility stages.

Quality

- 5.60 All of the remaining pools are likely to be operational by 2038, albeit refurbishment is likely to be needed, but they would be expected to be near the end of their life.
- 5.61 The exception to this is The Hewett Academy, which was built in 1960 and is already suffering from significant structural issues of the roof and surrounding building.

Demand for Swimming Pools by 2038

Accessibility

- 5.62 In terms of access to swimming pools, taking into account travelling both by car and by foot, when the population growth between 2022-2038 is also considered, there will be no change in the number of swimming pools that are not accessible. This is because the main pockets of housing growth will be concentrated close to existing sites.
- 5.63 In the FPM run, the data identified that Norwich was a key retainer of demand, with a large majority of the demand kept within the City. However, if new facilities are developed outside of the City boundary, and the quality of the pools decrease in Norwich, it is likely that Norwich would start to export demand to other Local Authorities.

Availability

- 5.64 As detailed by the population growth in Section 3, 48% of the population increases will be in the 45 years and above age group (12,000 of the 25,000 people). This equates to a total of 37% in the 45+ age group, an increase from 35% in 2018 (FPM uses the 2018 ONS projections). So, whilst the number of people is expected to increase across all age groups, there will be a greater increase in people under 44 years old (13,000 additional people) than the 44+ years age group.

- 5.65 The age range with the highest propensity to participate in sport and physical activity in swimming pools is in the 15 – 44-year age range and this is expected to increase by 13,000 people, or 49% of the overall population increases. Overall, this will see a static amount of the population in this age range in 2022 and 2038 at 49%, but due to the significant growth the number of people actually increases by 13,000 people in total.
- 5.66 As a result, there will be an ageing population, but one that grows in numbers across all age groups. This means there will be more demand on facilities within the City and wider Greater Norwich area.
- 5.67 Table 5.3 below outlines the impact of the population growth in Norwich on the supply per 1,000 people and Table 5.4 overleaf compares the 2038 supply per 1,000 people to the FPM run in 2020.

Table 5.3 – Supply of Water Space per 1,000 Population in Norwich

Total Supply	Norwich FPM Run	Norwich 2038	West Analysis Area 2038	East Analysis Area 2038	South Analysis Area 2038	North Analysis Area 2038
Number of sites	6	6	1	2	3	0
Pool water (m2)	2,230	2,230	850	720	660	0
Population	143,134	167,831	54,519	39,564	40,261	33,488
Water space (m2) per 1,000	16	13	16	18	16	0

Table 5.4 – Compared to 2021 FPM Run

Total Supply – Water Space per 1,000	FPM Run	2038
Norwich	16	13
West Analysis Area	17	16
East Analysis Area	23	18
South Analysis Area	22	16
North Analysis Area	0	0

5.68 As set out above, there are no changes in the supply of swimming pool water. The key headlines are:

- The water space across Norwich reduces by circa 3m² per 1,000 people by 2038 as a result of the population increase;
- There is still no water space in the North Analysis Area;
- There is a reduction in the number of people per water the remaining Analysis Areas, but this is in line with the City average; and
- The East and South Analysis areas are well catered for in 2022, but this reduces below the East Analysis Area by 2038 due to the growth in the east and south of the City.

Sport England Sports Facility Calculator (SFC)

5.69 Table 5.5 below shows the findings from the SFC for the projected additional population growth for swimming pools in the City.

Table 5.5 – SFC Need for Norwich

Total Supply	Norwich 2038	West Analysis Area 2038	East Analysis Area 2038	South Analysis Area 2038	North Analysis Area 2038
Population increase between 2018 - 2038	25,654	5,202	8,613	10,285	1,555
Water Space (m²)	274	55	92	110	17
Lanes	5.2	1.0	1.7	2.1	0.4
Pools	1.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.1
Visits per Week in a Peak Period (vpwpp)	1,663	337	558	667	101

5.70 Overall, the SFC has stated there is a need for up to c275m² of pool water or the equivalent to 5 lanes by 2038:

- West Analysis Area:
 - UEA Sportspark is located in the West Analysis Area, and this provides the largest single water space. The pool is already above the comfort threshold in the 2020 FPM run, but the analysis has detailed there will be limited increase in demand by 2038 with only 55m² or 1 lane of pool water.
- East Analysis Area:
 - NCC's only site, Riverside Leisure Centre, and Nuffield Health, a private membership facility, are located in this area. The Riverside Leisure Centre is projected to be at full capacity with no flexibility available in the programming;
 - The SFC has highlighted that there will be additional demand in the East Analysis Area, totalling up to 2 lanes or 92m².
- South Analysis Area
 - The South Analysis Area has 3 swimming pools, but they are all on education sites and have limited community access outside of school hours, with the Hewett Academy and Norwich High School for Girls already at full capacity according to the FPM. The South Analysis Area is subject to the largest population growth, and this results in demand of up to 2 lanes (110m²):
 - When combined with the East Analysis area, this totals demand close to a 4 lane 25m swimming pool when based on the SFC in isolation. This also does not cater for how full the current pools are, of which 4 out of 6 swimming pools are above the Sport England threshold of 70% capacity.
- North Analysis Area:
 - This equates to the lowest growth and demand in the area, but this does not consider the wider population growth on the Broadland border; and
 - There are currently no facilities located in the area and therefore, the 33,000 people living in the North Analysis Area by 2038 will be required to continue to travel across the City or to neighbouring local authorities to access a swimming pool.

What does this mean for Swimming Pools in Norwich?

5.71 The key point to be taken from the needs assessment is that most of the Norwich's demand can be met by the swimming pools in Norwich. However, the pool sites are very busy, especially Riverside Leisure Centre and UEA Sportspark.

- 5.72 Norwich has a very compact land area; therefore, the catchment areas of the swimming pool sites overlap, making them very accessible to Norwich residents. The catchment areas also extend into Broadland and South Norfolk, making them accessible to residents there and resulting in high levels of imported demand to the Norwich pool sites.
- 5.73 Norwich meets its own residents' demand for swimming pools, and pool locations are very accessible to the Norwich population. Furthermore, unmet demand is low and there is no hotspot location of high unmet demand.
- 5.74 Of concern though is how full the swimming pools are, with most sites being above the Sport England comfort level for pools at 70% of capacity used in the weekly peak period. Of the 7 swimming pool sites in Norwich, Riverside Leisure Centre is the only public leisure centre providing full access for residents for all the swimming activities of learn to swim, casual recreational swimming, lane and fitness swimming and swimming development by clubs. The 'draw effect' for all these types of use contributes to this pool site having an estimated 100% of capacity used in the weekly peak period.
- 5.75 UEA Sportspark is not a local authority leisure centre but does provide all the activities described above. Therefore it also has the 'draw effect', however, access is through a low-cost casual membership of the centre. Its estimated used capacity is 85% in the weekly peak period.
- 5.76 The programme of use at the 3 other educational sites is a combination of learn to swim and swimming club use, including The Hewett Academy pool site where 4 clubs use the pool. This is possibly testament to the management of the pool, as it is the oldest site in the City (opened in 1960 and modernised in 2006). It may also reflect a lack of available pool time at the other centres.
- 5.77 There is very limited scope to increase community use at the pool sites because 4 of the 6 swimming pools have an estimated used capacity over 80% in the weekly peak period. Scope exists at Nuffield Health as only 57% of capacity is used here, but this facility provides recreational swimming through centre membership only.
- 5.78 The Hewett Academy has an estimated 55% of pool capacity used in the weekly peak period but given the age and condition of the site, accommodating more use appears unlikely. Also, the activities provided are swimming club development and learn to swim, and not public recreational swimming.
- 5.79 Broadland does not have any public leisure centres, and the two South Norfolk public swimming pool sites are not located close to the Norwich boundary. This creates another 'draw effect' for residents in these authorities who live within the drive time catchment of the Norwich pools. This is compounded by 92% of all visits to swimming pools by Broadland residents being by car; this figure is 90% for South Norfolk residents. Collectively this means that, at 45%, a high proportion of the used capacity of Norwich pools is imported.

- 5.80 The theme of this strategic overview is that there are few swimming pool sites accessible for all swimming activities, All pool sites, except for The Hewett Academy, have very high estimated used capacity at peak times.
- 5.81 The FPM identified that the report should be verified with operators and if deemed busy to answer the question of whether more swimming pool sites in Norwich that provide for all swimming activities are required. Consultation with facility operators and clubs has emphasised the point that the pools are very busy and that there is limited spare capacity available. Often, there is a clash at peak periods for the various activities; learn to swim, casual swimming and club swimming are all desired at similar times. Due to the lack of water space, this results in compromises or a reduction in time available for clubs or operators for various activities.
- 5.82 Alongside these recommendations is the need to retain and, if possible, modernise The Hewett Academy swimming pool, as it provides swimming club development and learn to swim activities. If this site were to close on grounds of age and condition, it would place more demand on the other pool sites for these programmes and, realistically, this is likely to be only Riverside Leisure Centre.
- 5.83 The FPM states the NCC should factor in the demand for swimming pools from population growth and residential development, and where this demand is located. Whilst unmet demand is currently very low, when looking ahead, population growth is likely to increase the demand for swimming. The facilities are already very busy, with 4 of the 6 sites operating above the 70% Sport England threshold, and this is only going to increase with the housing growth both in Norwich and from South Norfolk and Broadland (growth is very close to the Norwich boundary meaning Norwich facilities are often more accessible).
- 5.84 The assessment for 2038 has detailed that across the South and East Analysis Areas, there is potential demand for up to 4 lanes by 2038, and this is assuming that the Hewett Academy pool is still operational by the end of this time period. If this was to be lost, there would be further demand pressures in the south and east of the City. If the demand is not met through new provision, we would expect Norwich to start to export demand, albeit there are limited facilities in neighbouring local authorities to achieve this. As a result, this may mean that some of the population may not have access to swimming pools in the future.
- 5.85 A facility in the north of the City would meet the needs of both Broadland and Norwich residents, and this should be considered in any strategic planning. There is significant growth expected in the Broadland Growth Triangle and this will result in additional demand for pool water space in this area.

Recommendations for Norwich – Swimming Pools

- Across Norwich, most of the demand can currently be met by the accessible supply of swimming pools in 2022. However, the sites are already very busy, and this has been verified by facility operators and clubs. Therefore, in looking to the future there are three recommendations across Norwich:
 1. the need to modernise the swimming pool sites;
 2. the need to increase the access to education sites; and
 3. the need to assess the projected population growth and the impact on increasing demand for swimming pools.
- There is a short to medium term requirement to provide additional water space on the Norwich / Broadland border due to the considerable housing growth in the area (see Broadland Needs Assessment). Currently, there are no facilities located in the north of the city. By developing provision in this area, this will provide access for the residents living in the north of the City and will help to reduce some of the pressure on the City's remaining facilities, including Riverside Leisure Centre and UEA, both key community facilities;
- By 2038, there will also be need for a community swimming pool on the Norwich / South Norfolk border to cater for the additional demand developing because of planned housing growth. The current facilities at Riverside Leisure Centre and UEA are very busy, and when combined with the planned growth in south and east Norwich (up to 4 lanes) and the north of South Norfolk (see South Norfolk Needs Assessment), this will generate additional demand that warrants additional pool provision. This is also assuming that The Hewett Academy pool will remain operational. Loss of this site would further increase demand on the public leisure sites especially for learn to swim and club swimming, of which research has highlighted the difficulties for users to access additional programme time;
- NCC should consider supporting the short to medium term future of the Hewett Academy pool as this is an important learn to swim and club site. However, the tipping point of investing in the modernisation of the pool or closure and re- provision due to the age and condition of the pool needs to be assessed; and
- Whilst not meeting the FPM criteria, many of the small swimming pools in Norwich are key providers for Key Stage 2 and learn to swim programmes. NCC should consider supporting these swimming pools through capital investment, funding applications and development.

6. Health and Fitness

Introduction

- 6.1 Sport England defines health and fitness provision as facilities that provide both cardiovascular and strength training equipment. Health and fitness exclude spaces/ studios for aerobics and dance activities. The assessment below is an audit and accessibility assessment for health and fitness provision in Norwich.
- 6.2 Market trends across the UK have changed in recent years, which may have resulted in an increase in the sector. As well as increased access to sites that offer strength and conditioning, functional fitness, and sessions such as CrossFit, there has been an increased importance and need for flexible spaces to accommodate classes, which are becoming an increasingly popular aspect of health and fitness provision.
- 6.3 The size of health and fitness facilities are measured using the stations provided. A station is a piece of static fitness equipment and larger health and fitness centres with more stations, are generally able to provide a more attractive offer to users. In general, a station is the equivalent of 4-5m² of space (5m² meets the Inclusive Fitness Initiative). As trends change, often space is an important factor, rather than the physical piece of equipment, but for the purpose of this assessment, we will assess the number of stations per site.

Quantity

- 6.4 According to Sport England's Active Places Power database ([link](#)), there are 20 health and fitness facilities in Norwich in 2022 and they provide a total of 1,627 health and fitness stations. Across the 20 sites, there is an average of 81 stations per facilities.
- 6.5 The largest health and fitness sites are the 3 Pure Gym sites in the City with 220 stations; Pure Gym (Norwich Aylsham Road), Pure Gym (Norwich Castle Mall) and Pure Gym (Norwich Riverside). The Gym (Norwich Hall Road) also has 219 stations. These are commercial low-cost providers.
- 6.6 In total, there are 8 facilities with over 100 stations, with NCC's Riverside Leisure Centre (100 stations) and the UEA Sportspark (125 stations) providing two sites with public access i.e. monthly or annual memberships are not required. Nuffield Health (Norwich) and The Gym (Norwich City) are the remaining facilities with over 100 stations.
- 6.7 Details of all the health and fitness centres in Norwich are set out in Table 6.1 and Map 6.1 below.

Map 6.1 – Norwich Health and Fitness Facilities

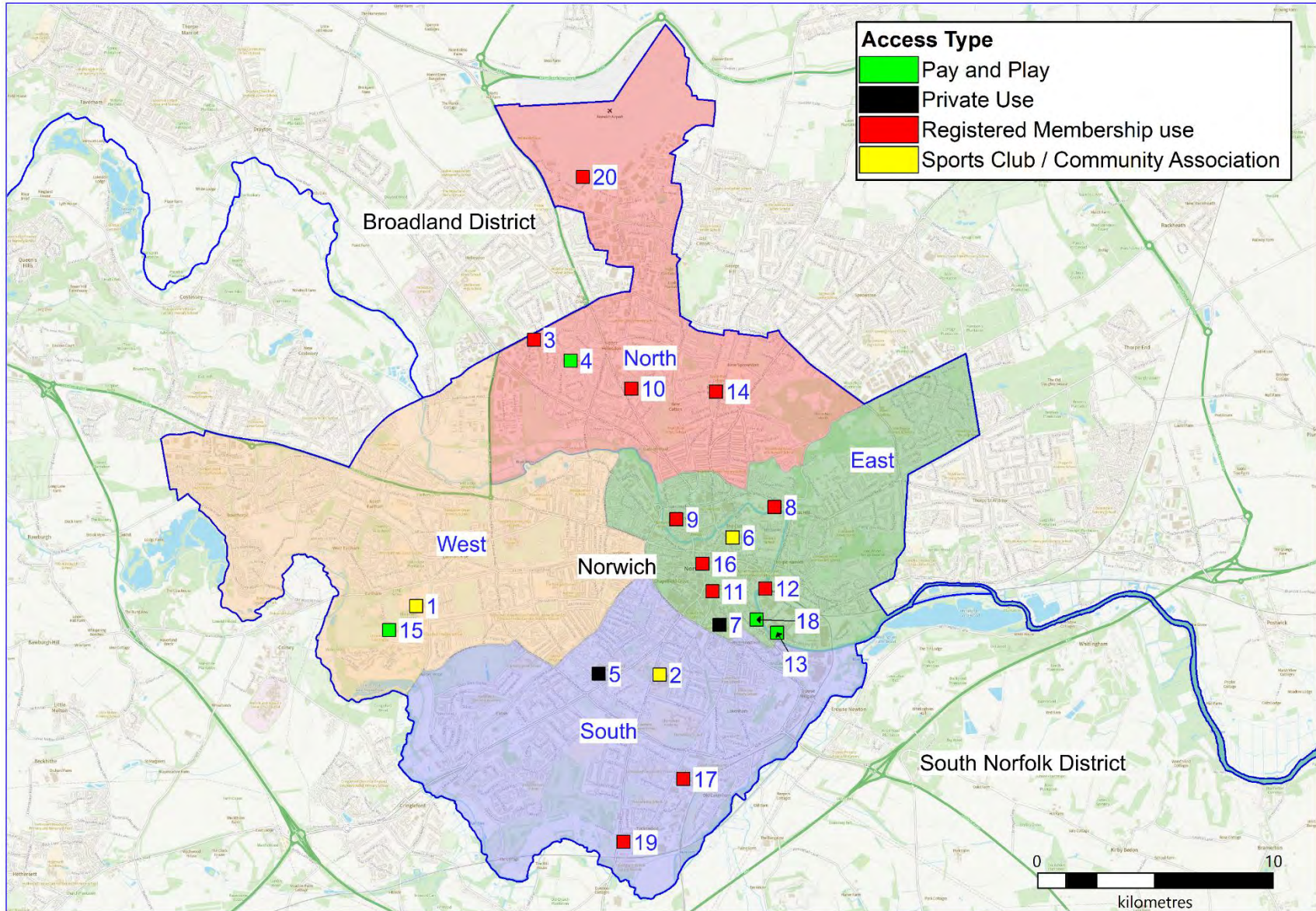


Table 6.1 – Supply of Health and Fitness Stations in Norwich

Number	Site Name	Stations	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type
1	City Academy Norwich	21	Sports Club / Community Association	Academies	School/ College/ University (in house)
2	City College Norwich	30	Sports Club / Community Association	Sixth Form Centres	School/ College/ University (in house)
3	Feel Good Health Club (Mercure Norwich Hotel)	10	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management
4	Norman Centre	40	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Local Authority (in house)
5	Norwich High School For Girls	8	Private Use	Other Independent School	School/ College/ University (in house)
6	Norwich School	18	Sports Club / Community Association	Other Independent School	School/ College/ University (in house)
7	Notre Dame High School (Norwich)	9	Private Use	Voluntary Aided School	Other
8	Nuffield Health (Norwich)	105	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management
9	Phoenix Gym	57	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management
10	Pure Gym (Norwich Aylsham Road)	220	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management
11	Pure Gym (Norwich Castle Mall)	220	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management

Number	Site Name	Stations	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type
12	Pure Gym (Norwich Riverside)	220	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management
13	Riverside Leisure Centre (Norwich)	100	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Not for Profit Organisation
14	Sewell Park Academy	21	Registered Membership use	Community school	School/ College/ University (in house)
15	Sportspark At UEA	125	Pay and Play	Higher Education Institutions	School/ College/ University (in house)
16	The Gym (Norwich City)	125	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management
17	The Gym (Norwich Hall Road)	219	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management
18	Wensum Sports Centre	25	Pay and Play	Community Organisation	Community Organisation
19	Youfit (Norwich)	23	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management
20	Youfit (Norwich)	31	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management

Facilities per 1,000 population

- 6.8 A benchmark measure used in the assessment of a facility type is facilities per 1,000 population. A manual calculation of the pro rata provision of health and fitness for Norwich and including the neighbouring local authorities in the region is set out in Table 6.2 below.

Table 6.2 – Norwich Facilities per 1,000 Population

Total Supply	Population 2022	Health and Fitness Facilities	Stations	Stations per 1000 population
Norwich	144,424	20	1,627	11.3
South Norfolk	149,371	16	766	5.1
Broadland	133,378	6	316	2.4
Breckland	144,592	13	633	4.4
Great Yarmouth	100,794	14	701	7.0
North Norfolk	107,051	12	347	3.2
Mid Suffolk	105,724	12	654	6.2

- 6.9 Based on this measure, it shows that Norwich has the highest supply of stations when compared with other neighbouring local authorities in the region. As a City, this is not surprising with dense population across a low land area, with many residents remaining in the City rather than travelling to neighbouring local authorities. For context, the median is South Norfolk is 5.1 stations per 1,000 and Norwich has the most provision in the region.

Quality

- 6.10 In terms of age, 12 facilities opened before the year 2000 with 8 facilities opening between 2000 and 2019. The oldest facility is the Norman Centre which opened in 1976 and the most recent facilities to open were the 2 Pure Gyms; Norwich Aylsham Road and Norwich Castle Mall. Most of the stations were opened after the year 2000, with 1,436 stations out of the total 1,627 stations (88%) as the market for health and fitness grew.
- 6.11 In total, 8 of the facilities have been refurbished, with all refurbishments taking place since 2006. The latest was Nuffield Health (Norwich) which was in 2019.

- 6.12 NCC has 2 facilities; Riverside Leisure Centre (operated by Places for People) and the Norman Centre (operated in house). Riverside Leisure Centre is of excellent quality and is a very well used site. NCC and Places Leisure continue to invest into the health and fitness facility and studio provision to ensure it remains of high quality with the significant competition in the City. The Norman Centre provides a community gym and is of average quality. There are limitations in the facility due to its age and condition.
- 6.13 Table 6.3 below outlines the year the facility was built and the refurbishment dates if applicable.

Table 6.3 – Age of Norwich Health and Fitness Facilities

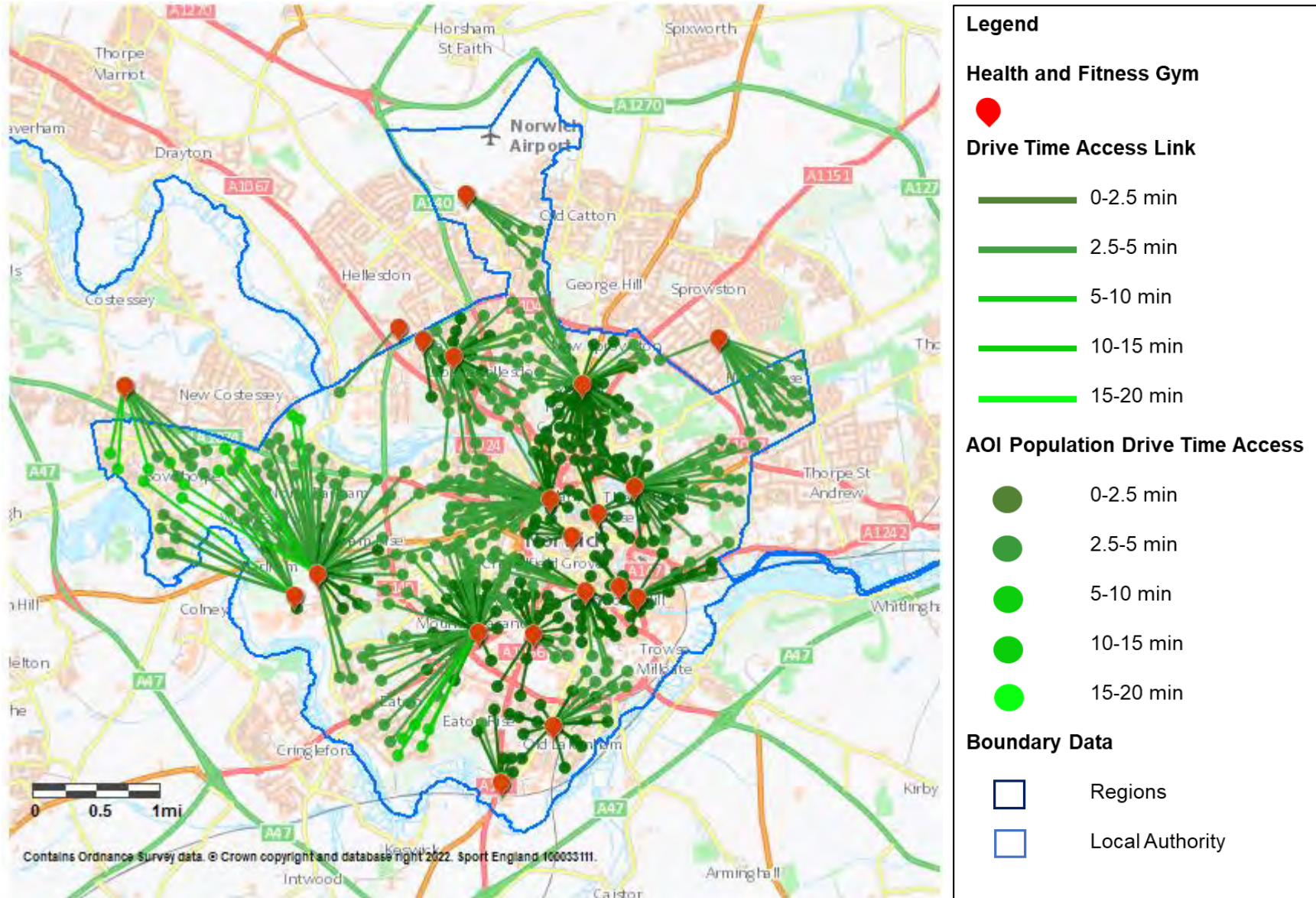
Number	Site Name	Stations	Year Built	Year Refurbished
1	City Academy Norwich	21	2012	n/a
2	City College Norwich	30	2016	n/a
3	Feel Good Health Club (Mercure Norwich Hotel)	10	1991	n/a
4	Norman Centre	40	1976	2014
5	Norwich High School For Girls	8	2000	n/a
6	Norwich School	18	2001	n/a
7	Notre Dame High School (Norwich)	9	1984	n/a
8	Nuffield Health (Norwich)	105	2001	2019
9	Phoenix Gym	57	1996	2006
10	Pure Gym (Norwich Aylsham Road)	220	2019	n/a
11	Pure Gym (Norwich Castle Mall)	220	2019	n/a
12	Pure Gym (Norwich Riverside)	220	2001	2018
13	Riverside Leisure Centre (Norwich)	100	2003	2014
14	Sewell Park Academy	21	1996	n/a
15	Sportspark At UEA	125	2000	2014
16	The Gym (Norwich City)	125	2012	n/a

Number	Site Name	Stations	Year Built	Year Refurbished
17	The Gym (Norwich Hall Road)	219	2016	n/a
18	Wensum Sports Centre	25	2013	n/a
19	Youfit (Norwich)	23	1986	2018
20	Youfit (Norwich)	31	1990	2014

Accessibility

- 6.14 In terms of accessibility, 99% of stations (1,610) are available either on a pay and play, membership or sports club / community association access.
- 6.15 The Area Access Report (from Active Places Power) helps determine the accessibility of specified sport facilities (type and sub type) for a defined population and defined travel catchment. The data shows the population with access to health and fitness centres within a 20-minute drive time of the facilities.
- 6.16 In total, Map 6.2 estimates the facilities in Norwich and the surrounding local authorities reach 143,000 people, of which 134,000 are located within Norwich (i.e. 9,000 are in neighbouring local authorities). As a result, 93% of the Norwich population has access to a health and fitness facility within a 20-minute drive time, although this also does not consider any access policies/ restrictions.

Map 6.2 – Access to Health and Fitness Facilities in Norwich (20 Minutes)



Availability

- 6.17 There are 2 public leisure facilities with a health and fitness facility; Riverside Leisure Centre (Places Leisure) and the Norman Centre (in house). They have a total of 140 stations, which is 9% of the total supply of stations. The average number of stations on local authority sites is 70 stations, although Riverside Leisure Centre is the key public facility for health and fitness.
- 6.18 Wensum Sports Centre is a pay and play facility owned by a community organisation and there are 25 stations. In addition, UEA Sportspark is classed as an educational facility and this totals 125 stations, despite access to the community being available. If both are to be considered as part of the 'public' supply, this would total 290 stations or a higher 18% of provision.
- 6.19 In total, when including the Sportspark, there are 7 educational facilities, and they range from 8 stations at Norwich High School for Girls to 125 stations at the Sportspark. In total, there are 232 stations and an average size of 33 stations, although significantly inflated by the Sportspark with the next largest education facility totalling 30 stations at City College Norwich. The education facilities represent 14% of the total number of health and fitness stations located in the Norwich.
- 6.20 The market is dominated by commercial operators and there are 10 commercial health and fitness facilities. They have a total of 1,230 stations, which is 76% of the total number of stations in Norwich. The average size of the commercial facilities is 123 stations, although they range in scale from Feel Good Health Club with 10 stations to the Pure Gyms with 220 stations. This highlights that the Norwich market has been demand led by the commercial operators and NCC will not have significant control over the programming and pricing policies, apart from the facilities at Riverside Leisure Centre and the Norman Centre.

Consultation

- 6.21 Consultation with the following stakeholders was carried out to support the development of the evidence base:
- Local Authority and Operators; and
 - Education Providers.

Local Authority and Operators

- 6.22 NCC and Places Leisure have both identified that the Riverside Leisure Centre site is very busy, and they would be open to expanding the facility if it was viable. Usage of the gym and studio spaces are very well utilised, with an average of 90% utilisation for classes before the COVID-19 Pandemic. There is 1 main studio and 1 cycling studio (circa 12-15 bikes) with around 80 classes per week at the facility.

- 6.23 In Autumn 2021, the facility had circa 1,900 members, but was as high as 2,700 pre COVID-19 Pandemic. The gym and studio were refurbished in 2019 with the dry changing refurbished in 2018, and there are plans to upgrade the spinning studio in the near future.
- 6.24 There is strong competition from the commercial providers in the area with 3 Pure Gyms, 2 Gym Groups, Nuffield Health, David Lloyd and 2 Bannatyne facilities.
- 6.25 The Norman Centre facility is operated in house and was previously 2 squash courts. There are around 190 members on Direct Debit memberships, but they have over 1,000 registered members to the health and fitness facility. This outlines the importance of pay and play access to this facility, with most users coming from the immediate catchment.

Education Providers

University of East Anglia

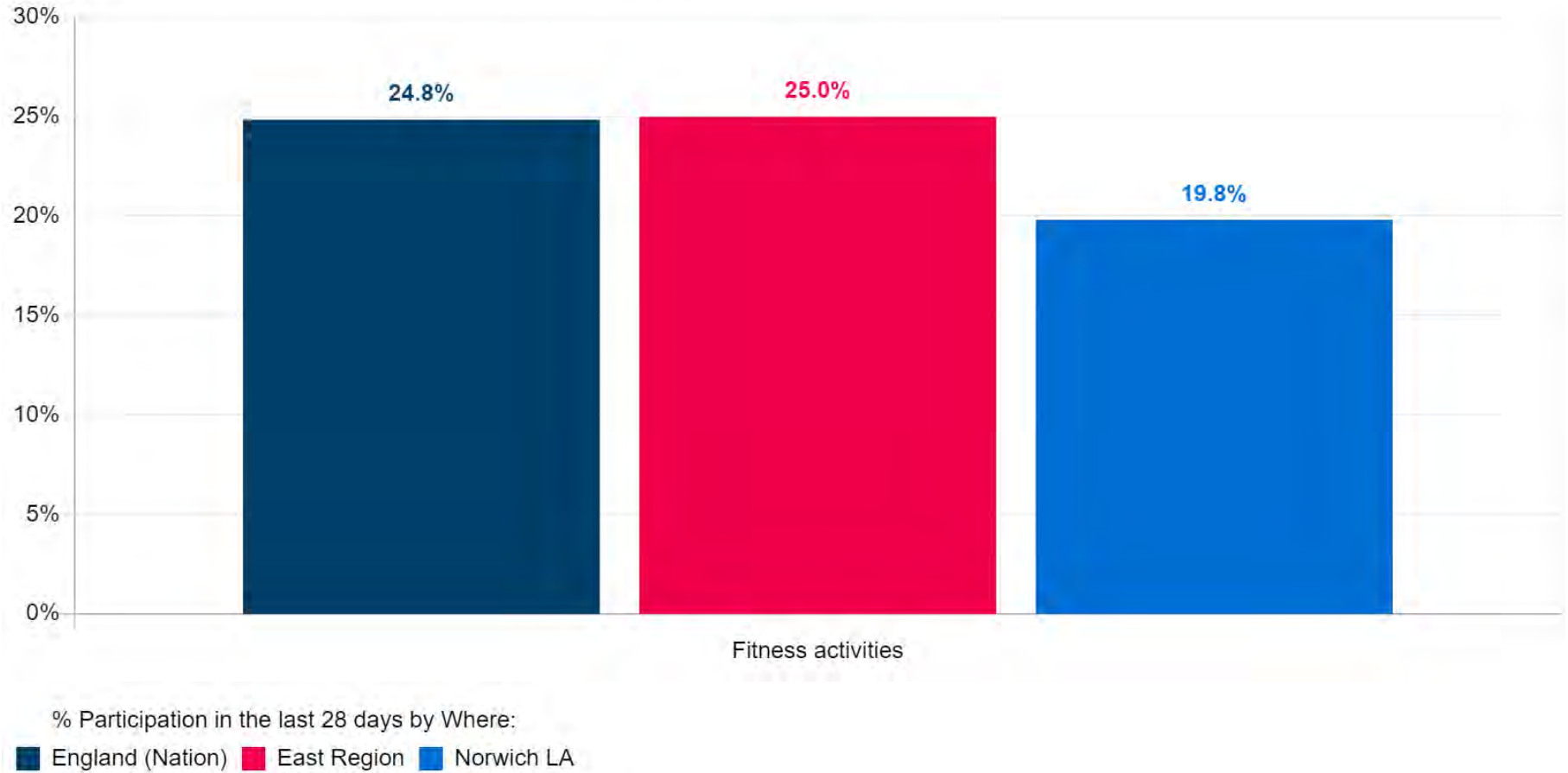
- 6.26 The UEA has a large 120 station gym which is very well used but is due to be refurbished in the near future. The site was previously extended to cater for demand and the UEA will be looking to update to the latest market trends.
- 6.27 In general, the membership fluctuates due to a large number of students being members, but it is very busy facility. They are currently using squash court space for additional fitness space post COVID-19 Pandemic, but this is not expected to become a permanent change.

Demand for Health and Fitness in 2022

- 6.28 This demand assessment has been based on data that has been collected before and during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Pandemic had a significant impact on the health and fitness industry, with many key operators reporting a recovery of only circa 70-80% of previous member numbers.
- 6.29 This could be attributed to various factors, including but not limited to; residents finding alternative methods of fitness (e.g. home exercise), health issues that may have resulted in them no longer being able to attend and existing dormant memberships being cancelled during lockdown. However, the market is projecting that there will be a gradual return to a steadier state and this assessment has been based on this assumption.
- 6.30 Figure 6.1 shows that the current level of participation in Norwich is 19.8%. This is lower than the regional (25.0%) and national (24.8%) averages for fitness activities.
- 6.31 In adults, this would equate to 24,200 of the Norwich population participating in fitness activities at least twice a month (based on the population of circa 122,000 people aged 15 years and over).

Figure 6.1 - Fitness Activity Participation at least twice in the last 28 days

Participation in the last 28 days : At least twice in the last 28 days by activity
May 20-21

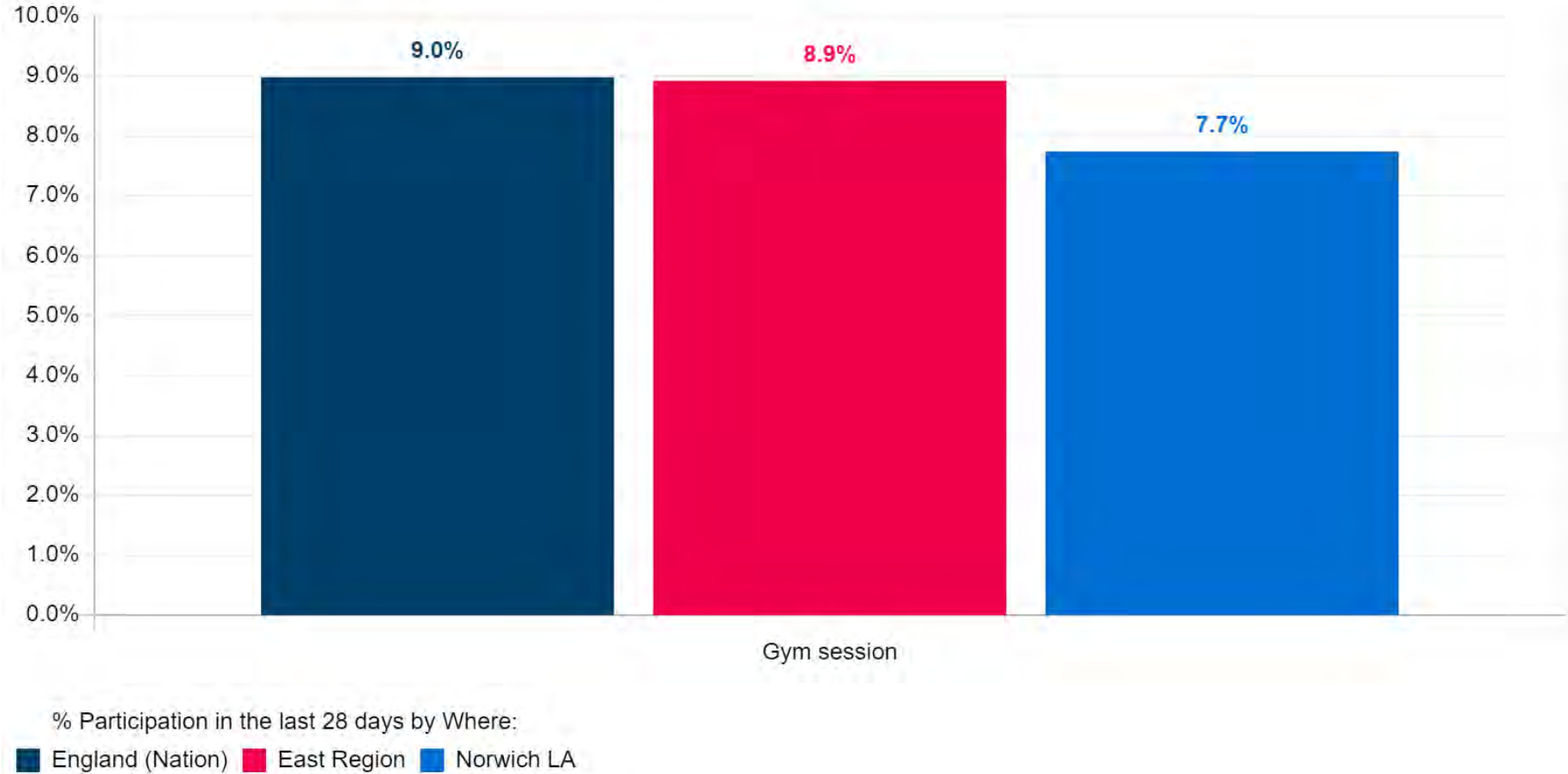


6.32 Participation can cover any type of fitness activity, so below narrows this down to only include formal fitness activities that can be undertaken in a health and fitness facility. Figures 6.2 and 6.3 detail the number of people in Norwich participating in a gym session or fitness class, at least twice every 28 days.

Figure 6.2 - Gym Session Participation at least twice in the last 28 days

Participation in the last 28 days : At least twice in the last 28 days by activity

Nov 19-20

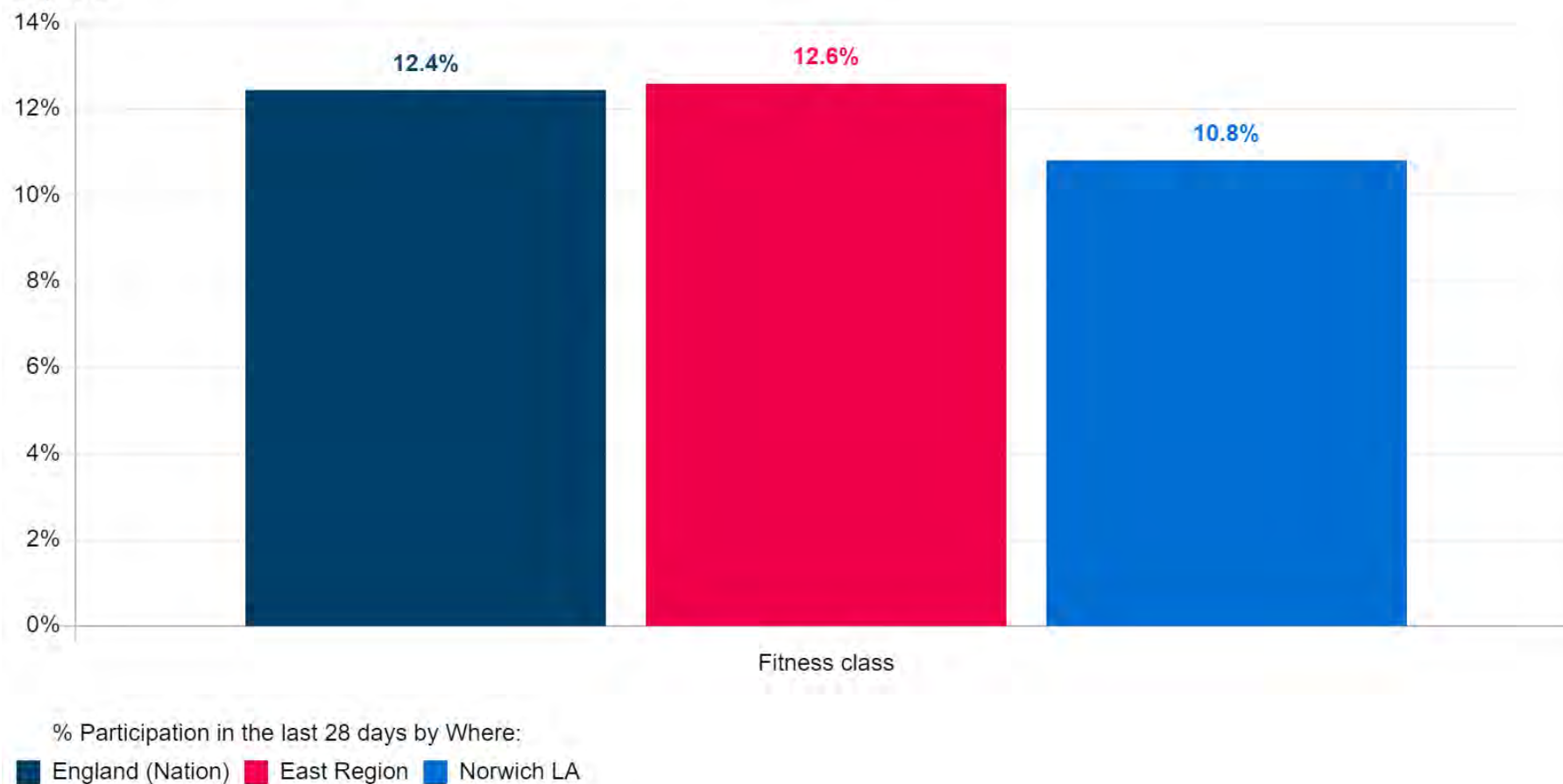


6.33 Norwich is below average for gym session participation, with 7.7% of the population participating. This compares to 8.9% regionally and 9% nationally (latest data is November 2019/ 20). It should be noted that this has decreased from the peak in November 2016/ 17 data of 12.7%. Based on the adult population, this equates to 9,400 people participating in gym sessions in the City at least twice a month.

6.34 Figure 6.3 shows that fitness class participation is lower than average also in Norwich, with 10.8% of the population participating twice every 28 days (latest data is May 2020/ 21). This is lower than the regional (12.6%) and England (12.4%) averages. This has decreased from previous data, with a peak of 15.2% (May 18/19 data). Based on the adult population, this equates to 13,200 people participating in fitness class sessions in Norwich.

Figure 6.3 - Fitness Class Participation at least twice in the last 28 days

Participation in the last 28 days : At least twice in the last 28 days by activity
May 20-21



- 6.35 In total, it is estimated that there are circa 9,000-13,500 people in Norwich participating in either a gym session or health and fitness class at least twice every 28 days. It is likely a high proportion of this group will be a member of a facility in order to access the gym or class. Low-cost budget gyms can offer memberships for as little as £15-£20 per month, which often includes classes and gym access.
- 6.36 The Leisure Database Company (TLDC) are a leading provider in analysing demand for health and fitness through latent demand reports. Many of the country's leading leisure operators will use the TLDC to provide an accurate assessment on the level of demand for a fitness facility.
- 6.37 The TLDC produce a 'State of the UK Fitness Industry Report' every year. In 2019 (pre COVID-19 Pandemic), the report stated that the industry has continued to grow to a total penetration rate of 15.6%, equating to 1 in 7 people being a member of a gym. This is higher than the Active Lives data for gym sessions or class sessions in Norwich which totalled between 8-15% people participating at least twice every 28 days.
- 6.38 If we are to apply this 15.6% to the population of 122,000 that are 15 years and over, this equates to 19,000 people being a member of a gym. It should be noted that this was pre COVID-19 Pandemic, and the market is currently not operating at these levels. This also does not consider people using facilities in the neighbouring local authorities or near to their workplace.
- 6.39 This data has also been considered in more depth for each of the Analysis Areas. Table 6.4 details the demand across the various geographical areas.

Table 6.4 – Supply and Demand Balance in Analysis Areas

Total Supply	Norwich 2022	West Analysis Area 2022	East Analysis Area 2022	South Analysis Area 2022	North Analysis Area 2022
Total Supply of Stations	1,610	146	870	272	322
Population (15 years and above)	122,200	42,300	28,300	25,500	26,100
Maximum Membership Demand from Population	19,100	6,600	4,400	4,000	4,100
Equivalent Demand in Stations (25 members per station)	764	264	176	160	164
Theoretical Supply and Demand Balance	846	-118	694	112	158
Adjusted Total Capacity of Health and Fitness	53,600	4,900	29,500	9,000	10,200
Adjusted Total Supply of Stations (based on 25 members per station)	2,144	196	1,180	360	408
Adjusted Supply and Demand Balance (25 members per station)	1,380	-68	1,004	200	244

6.40 Table 6.4 above shows that there is theoretical demand for up to 19,100 people being a gym member in Norwich. If we are then to apply an industry average of 25 members per station to 19,100 users, this would identify demand for 764 stations to meet the maximum membership demand. Therefore, based on the supply of 1,610 available stations, this identifies a very large surplus of 846 stations in Norwich, with the East Analysis Area showing the largest surplus in the City (694 stations).

- 6.41 Many large commercial operators will be able to accommodate up to 35 members per station due to the size of the gym, opening hours and studio space, and so this will increase the capacity of gyms across Norwich, subsequently increasing the surplus of stations available.
- 6.42 If we were to assume the 8 large health and fitness facilities (70 stations or more) could accommodate up to 35 members per station, this equates to increased capacity from 1,334 of the 1,610 stations (83%). The 8 facilities with 1,334 stations catering for 35 members per station would be able to accommodate up to 47,000 members, with the remaining 276 stations catering for 25 members per station, totalling 6,900 members. This would mean total capacity for 53,600 across the City (from 40,300).
- 6.43 If we are to equate this adjusted supply back to an industry number of stations (based on 25 members per station), this totals a theoretical supply of 2,144 stations. As a result, once the additional capacity is considered, there appears to be over supply of stations in Norwich, totalling 1,380, albeit there is still a possible undersupply in the West Analysis Area. Despite this, due the small land area of Norwich, residents will be able to travel across the City within 20 minutes of their household to use a facility and there are projected surpluses available at these sites.
- 6.44 It also appears that the commercial sector has entered into the City and flooded the market with facilities. Whilst they may attract a significant amount of the demand due to the low-cost membership, in theory there is capacity for additional members. However, it is likely that the facilities in Norwich are catering for a large proportion of the Broadland and South Norfolk demand, especially for those living close to the boundary. This means that the facilities in Norwich are likely to import significant amounts of fitness demand.
- 6.45 We also understand from Places Leisure the Riverside Leisure Centre is also very busy, but with the membership offer including a swimming pool, it creates a differentiation in the membership offer to Pure Gym and other local low-cost providers.

Demand for Health and Fitness by 2038

- 6.46 In terms of future demand, and assuming supply remains the same as in 2022, the 2038 population is expected to increase to circa 168,000 people. Of these 168,000 people, 145,000 will be 15 years and older. The data has also been considered in more depth for each of the Analysis Areas for 2038, Table 6.5 details the demand across the various geographical areas.

Table 6.5 – Supply and Demand Balance in Analysis Areas in 2038

Total Supply	Norwich 2038	West Analysis Area 2038	East Analysis Area 2038	South Analysis Area 2038	North Analysis Area 2038
Total Supply of Stations	1,610	146	870	272	322
Population (15 years and above)	144,800	47,300	35,100	34,500	27,900
Maximum Membership Demand from Population	22,600	7,400	5,500	5,400	4,300
Equivalent Demand in Stations (25 members per station)	904	296	220	216	172
Theoretical Supply and Demand Balance	706	-150	650	56	150
Adjusted Total Capacity of Health and Fitness	53,600	4,900	29,500	9,000	10,200
Adjusted Total Supply of Stations (based on 25 members per station)	2,144	196	1,180	360	408
Adjusted Supply and Demand Balance (25 members per station)	1,240	-100	960	144	236

- 6.47 Using the same methodology and metrics as the 2022 assessment, this would identify demand for 22,600 people or a need for 904 stations, based on 25 members per station. This would result in a surplus of 706 stations in 2038.
- 6.48 However, when the adjusted total supply of stations of 2,144 is applied, this results in a larger surplus of 1,240 stations across Norwich (to note, population growth has decreased the surplus of stations by 140 stations between 2022 and 2038). The West Analysis Area remains in deficit, but supply remains much higher than the remaining Analysis Areas.

What does this mean for Health and Fitness in Norwich?

- 6.49 The assessment highlights that the current level of health and fitness supply exceeds demand for Norwich in both 2022 and 2038. With the emergence of many large commercial operators, there has been a saturation of the market and if the current supply is maintained, it would be sufficient for the growth in Norwich and Broadland.
- 6.50 There is a very high level of publicly access facilities (99%), but there is a high reliance on commercial facilities (75%) that will be market driven. With the market being driven by the commercial sector, the security of their presence is not ensured between now and 2038, with providers able to leave the market at any point, and this should continue to be monitored to NCC.
- 6.51 The 2 local authority leisure sites only total 9% of all stations, although this does increase to 16% if you include the UEA Sportspark and Wensum Sports Centre which offer 'public' facilities. However, this details there is a lack of influence on the market from publicly accessible facilities. Despite this, a USP that both Riverside Leisure Centre and Sportspark possess is the membership offer is linked to swimming that many of the commercial providers cannot provide.
- 6.52 Analysis undertaken in the Broadland Needs Assessment has highlighted that there is a significant deficit of stations. There are only 6 facilities in Broadland, which all are located close to the Norwich border. All but one site is a commercial facility (97% of stations), and it is dominated by the Bannatyne Health Club facility (155 stations, 49% of all stations). As a result, it appears that provision has been developed in Norwich that can support both the City and demand from Broadland from residents living close to the City.
- 6.53 In general, due to the supply availability, any additional gym provision should be market driven by the sector. Health and fitness can be an integral part of a multi-use site as in the case of public sector provision, or it can be a free-standing low-cost health and fitness centre located in City centres to capture a distinct market and location (e.g. Pure Gyms). Health and fitness is very susceptible to fluctuating changes in participation, driven by disposable levels of income, the supply of facilities available, lifestyle choices and a seasonal variation in participation. Other facility types, such as swimming pools, normally have more balanced participation trends.
- 6.54 With all this considered, future gym provision is likely to be very market driven. For the public sector, it is often an integral part of provision, especially for facilities that include swimming pools and sports halls. The reason for this is to provide more critical mass at a leisure facility and improve the core business case. This is outlined in both the performance of Riverside Leisure Centre and UEA Sportspark and therefore any additional pool provision should be complemented with health and fitness facilities.

Recommendations for Norwich – Health and Fitness

- Given the findings on current and future supply and demand, the recommendations are as follows:
 1. For the commercial sector sites to meet the projected increases in demand;
 2. Should NCC decide to re-furbish or replace any existing public leisure centre, with a swimming pool, and studio provision then the need and scale of the gym provision should be assessed as part of the feasibility at that time. As an outline the benchmark provision could be a minimum 75-100 station facility; and
 3. Provision of any new additional public leisure centres should also consider the inclusion of a health and fitness gym and studio provision.
- The current supply of health and fitness stations exceeds the current and future demand across Norwich. Population growth by 2038 will result in additional demand on the fitness facilities, but there is currently enough supply to cater for the demand. However, there will be a requirement to protect the current public leisure facilities, both NCC and UEA, and modernise the current facilities to meet the latest current market trends;
- Future gym provision is very market driven. Development of facilities should be market led in terms of opportunities in the various locations; and
- Having adequate public health and fitness provision is important and often helps strengthen the business case and feasibility of wider leisure infrastructure projects. This should be considered when developing new projects.

7. Indoor Tennis Centres

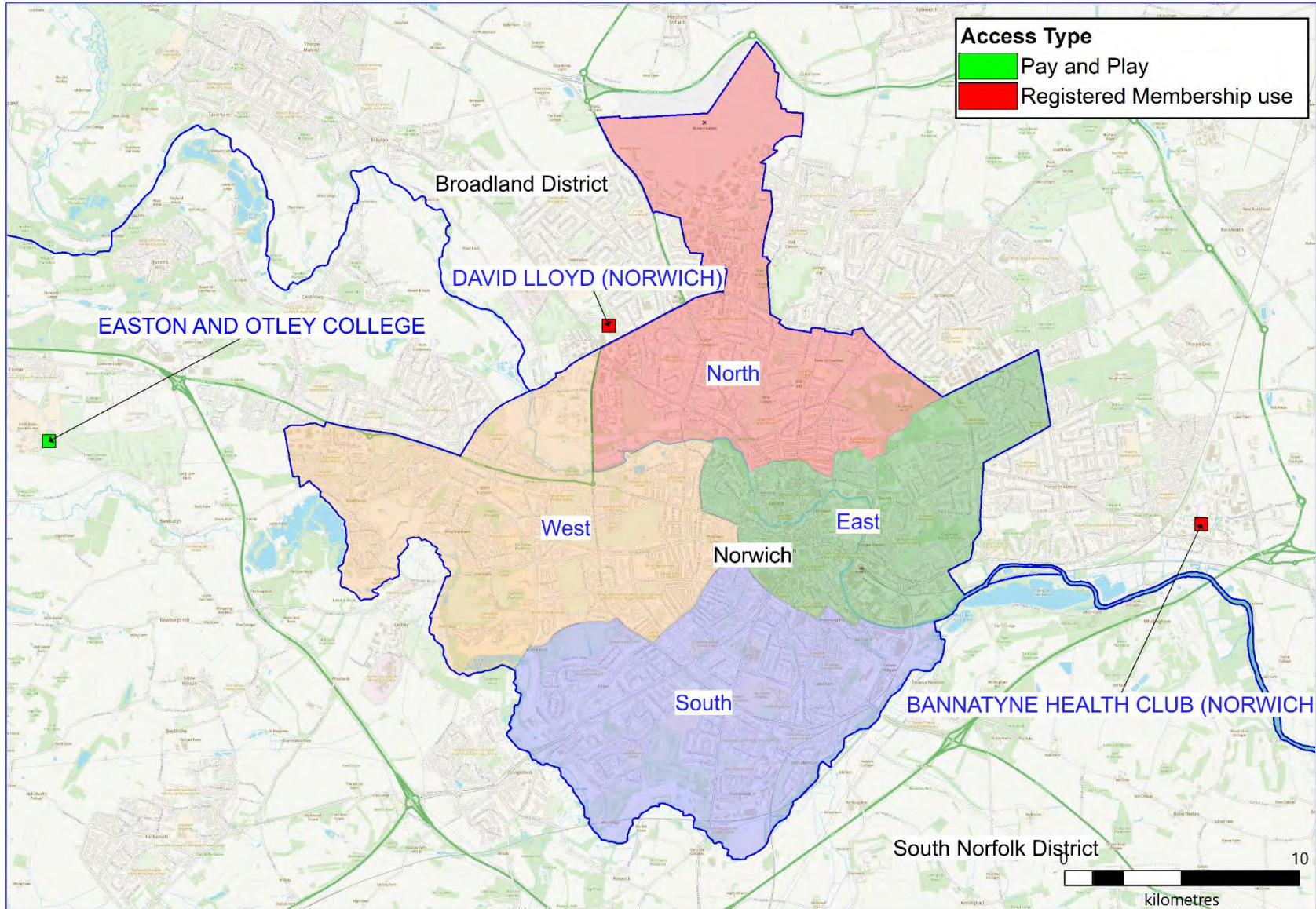
Introduction

- 7.1 The indoor tennis centre assessment includes three types of indoor tennis centres. All three can either be temporary or permanent structures, depending on where they are located and for how much of the year they are needed:
- **Airhalls**, more commonly known as bubbles, are relatively inexpensive and efficient to construct. Air structures usually comprise single or multi-layered fabric, which are erected and supported using air pressure, provided by substantial air blowers, which are also used to ventilate and control the climate within the bubble;
 - **Traditional fabric frame** structures comprise a steel, aluminium or wood framework, with a fabric similar to that used on air structures, stretched tightly over the framework. An inner lining is often used in places where the climate is variable, to help retain the heat in winter and resist it in summer. The structures have sloped walls, as they need to be able to cope with modest snow falls and high winds. Fabric frame structures are modular and usually cover between one and four courts. However, they can be designed to cover as many courts as needed; and
 - **Steel** is the most common material used to construct the frame of an indoor tennis centre. Steel buildings cost more to construct than air or fabric framed structure but will offer better insulation and therefore provide savings on the overall running costs. A steel framed building can last up to 65 years.

Quantity

- 7.2 There are no indoor tennis centres in Norwich. For context, Broadland has 10 indoor tennis courts, whilst there are 8 indoor tennis courts in South Norfolk.
- 7.3 Map 7.1 below outlines the closest supply to Norwich.

Map 7.1 – Neighbouring Provision of Indoor Tennis Centres



Facilities per 1,000 population

- 7.4 A benchmark measure used in the assessment of a facility type is facilities per 1,000 population. Using data from Active Places Power, the supply of indoor tennis courts for Norwich and the neighbouring local authorities in the region are set out in Table 7.1 below.
- 7.5 There are no facilities within Norwich so when compared to other local authorities within the East and England, Norwich is unprovided for regarding indoor tennis courts. However, with the dense land area, it is likely to not be achievable to develop a facility in the City, hence the location of facilities in neighbouring local authorities close to the border.

Table 7.1 – Norwich Facilities per 1,000 Population

Total Supply	Population 2022	Sites	Indoor Tennis Courts	Courts per 1000 population
Norwich	144,424	0	0	0.00
South Norfolk	149,371	1	8	0.05
Broadland	133,378	2	10	0.08
Breckland	144,592	0	0	0.00
Great Yarmouth	100,794	0	0	0.00
North Norfolk	107,051	0	0	0.00
Mid Suffolk	105,724	0	0	0.00
East Region	6,346,769	41	214	0.03
England	57,282,105	309	1,431	0.03

Quality

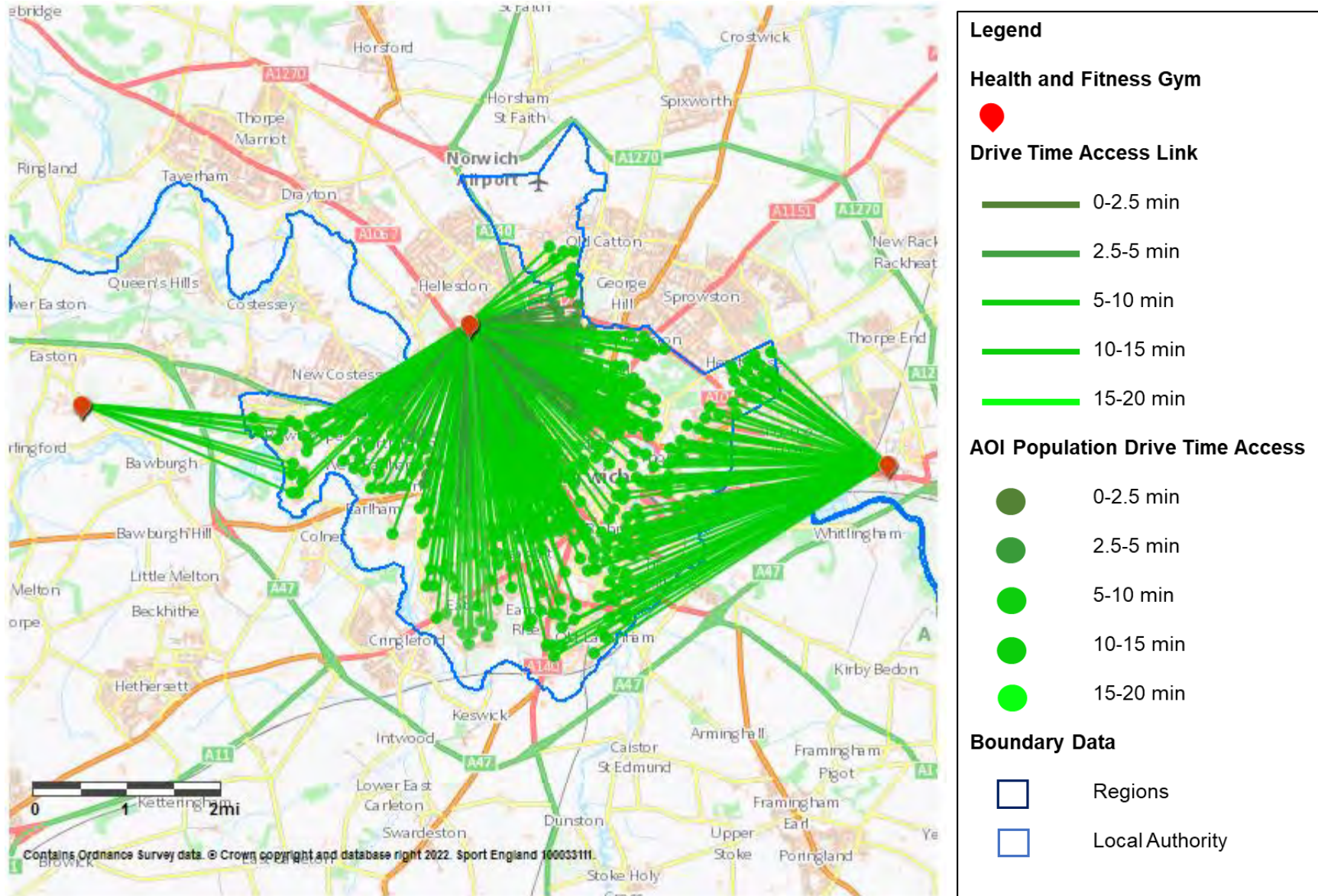
- 7.6 There are no indoor tennis centres in Norwich.

Accessibility

- 7.7 Map 7.1 shows that whilst there are no facilities in Norwich, there are facilities located in South Norfolk and Broadland located geographically close to their border with Norwich. This provides access for residents in all three Greater Norwich local authorities.

- 7.8 As highlighted in Table 7.1, the location of indoor tennis courts tends to be near to larger settlements and although not located within the City boundary, the courts are accessible to Norwich residents. Facilities may attract users from much further afield than the City and 20-minute catchment.
- 7.9 The catchment area of an indoor tennis centre for regular participation is defined by the Lawn Tennis Association as 20 minutes' drive time.
- 7.10 The Area Access Report (from Active Places Power) helps determine the accessibility of specified sport facilities (type and sub type) for a defined population and defined travel catchment. The data shows the population with access to indoor tennis centres within a 20-minute drive time of the facilities.
- 7.11 In total, Map 7.2 estimates the facilities in Norwich and the surrounding local authorities reach 143,000 but this is all located outside of the City due to no provision. Despite this, the Norwich population has access to an indoor tennis centre within a 20-minute drive time, although this does not consider access policies.
- 7.12 Map 7.2 below details the access findings for Norwich.

Map 7.2 – Access to Indoor Tennis Centres in Norwich (20 Minutes)



Availability

7.13 There are no indoor tennis centres in Norwich.

Consultation

7.14 Consultation with the following stakeholders was carried out to support the development of the evidence base:

- National Governing Bodies;
- Local Authority and Operators; and
- Education Providers.

National Governing Bodies

Lawn Tennis Association (LTA)

7.15 To establish target locations for future community indoor tennis centres, the LTA have modelled data from existing successful Community Indoor Tennis Centre's (CITC's). This helped to identify the demographic type, volume and catchment size of a successful CITC. This modelling was applied across England, Scotland and Wales to establish the areas of potential demand. The key metrics established are:

- A target location must demonstrate a minimum threshold population of 70,000 within a 20-minute drive. Of this population, at least 12,500 must identify as having an interest in playing tennis. Please note this drive time extends to 30 minutes for rural areas; and
- Filtered for competition within the catchment in order to prioritise the addressing of indoor tennis provision gaps.

7.16 This methodology has enabled the LTA to identify 72 target locations for new indoor tennis facilities in England, 12 in Wales and 12 in Scotland.

7.17 The LTA have identified 'East Norwich' as a priority; however, LTA have indicated that south of Norwich could be preferred (between Ipswich Road and Newmarket Road), within the ring road, located in Norwich or South Norfolk. There is a need for more indoor tennis courts in the Greater Norwich area based on the levels of demand identified. There are limits on the current number of indoor tennis courts available to the community, due to the remaining courts being commercially operated on a membership basis (e.g. David Lloyd and Bannatyne in Broadland).

7.18 Easton and Otley College is a community indoor facility located in South Norfolk, but due to the geography, it's a key facility for Norwich too.

- 7.19 The LTA are flexible in their approach to providing another facility as partnership is key, both NCC and the UEA are obvious key partners. Historically, the LTA have held conversations with the UEA due to the range of facilities available, including outdoor courts, but a development has not occurred.
- 7.20 If an indoor facility was provided at an existing site, UEA would be the sensible option for the LTA due to its links with education and a community accessible leisure centre already being operated (general template for an indoor facility now includes gym, studios, café, outdoor courts etc). East Anglia Tennis and Squash Club is the largest club in Greater Norwich (located in Norwich) and historically had discussions for indoor tennis courts but improvement of their outdoor courts the current priority and not covered courts.
- 7.21 Padel courts could also be an option for any facility as there is no padel in the City. People travel all over Greater Norwich for Parks Tennis so similar would be expected for padel and indoor tennis.
- 7.22 There is also an opportunity for tennis providers and local authorities to continue to create partnerships with the National Tennis Association (NTA) in Greater Norwich, a local operator who run coaching programmes at Easton and Otley College and Parks tennis sites in Norfolk.
- 7.23 There are no priority projects in the pipeline in the surrounding local authorities of Lowestoft, Great Yarmouth and West Norfolk. The LTA have stated that even if facilities in these locations were also priorities, it would not impact usage on another facility in Greater Norwich.

Local Authority and Operators

National Tennis Association (NTA)

- 7.24 The NTA are a key local operator of 70 facilities across Norfolk and currently manage programmes at Easton and Otley College, as well as operate and run programmes at Park Tennis locations.
- 7.25 The NTA are interested in creating a partnership with the LTA to deliver an indoor tennis centre. They have had initial discussions with The Hewett Academy (in Norwich) regarding provision of a centre on the school site, linked to the outdoor tennis courts.
- 7.26 They are looking to deliver a mass participation model which can also include other facilities such as health and fitness.
- 7.27 In terms of the facilities currently available, the NTA have outlined that Easton and Otley College is focused on a performance programme, whilst the facilities in Broadland (David Lloyd and Bannatyne) have barriers to accessibility.

Education Providers

- 7.28 The Hewett Academy are interested in enhancing their facilities and an indoor tennis centre is one option they are considering. Their current grass court provision is expensive to maintain, and they are not available all year around (including no floodlighting).
- 7.29 Initial discussions have taken place with the NTA around possible developments of the facilities, but these are at an early stage.

Demand for Indoor Tennis Centres in 2022

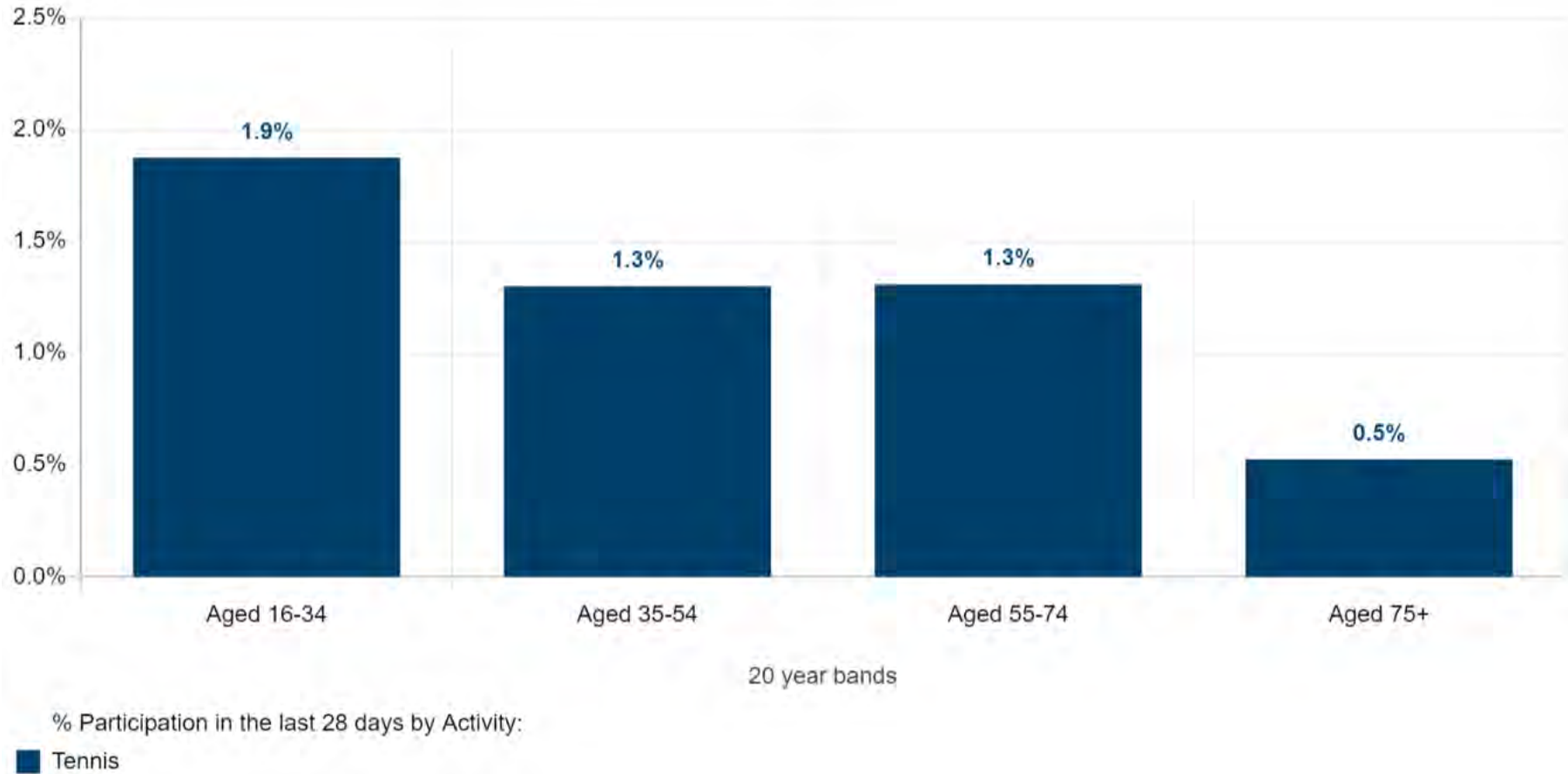
- 7.30 There is not one consistent source/ methodology to calculate the demand for indoor tennis. There is also very little data on the age profile of indoor tennis players. Nationally, Sport England's Active Lives Survey, has detailed that 1.4% of people participate at least twice in the last 28 days. Figure 7.1 below details the age breakdown of the participants.

Figure 7.1 – Age Breakdown of Tennis Participation in England

Participation in the last 28 days : At least twice in the last 28 days by activity

Age

May 20-21

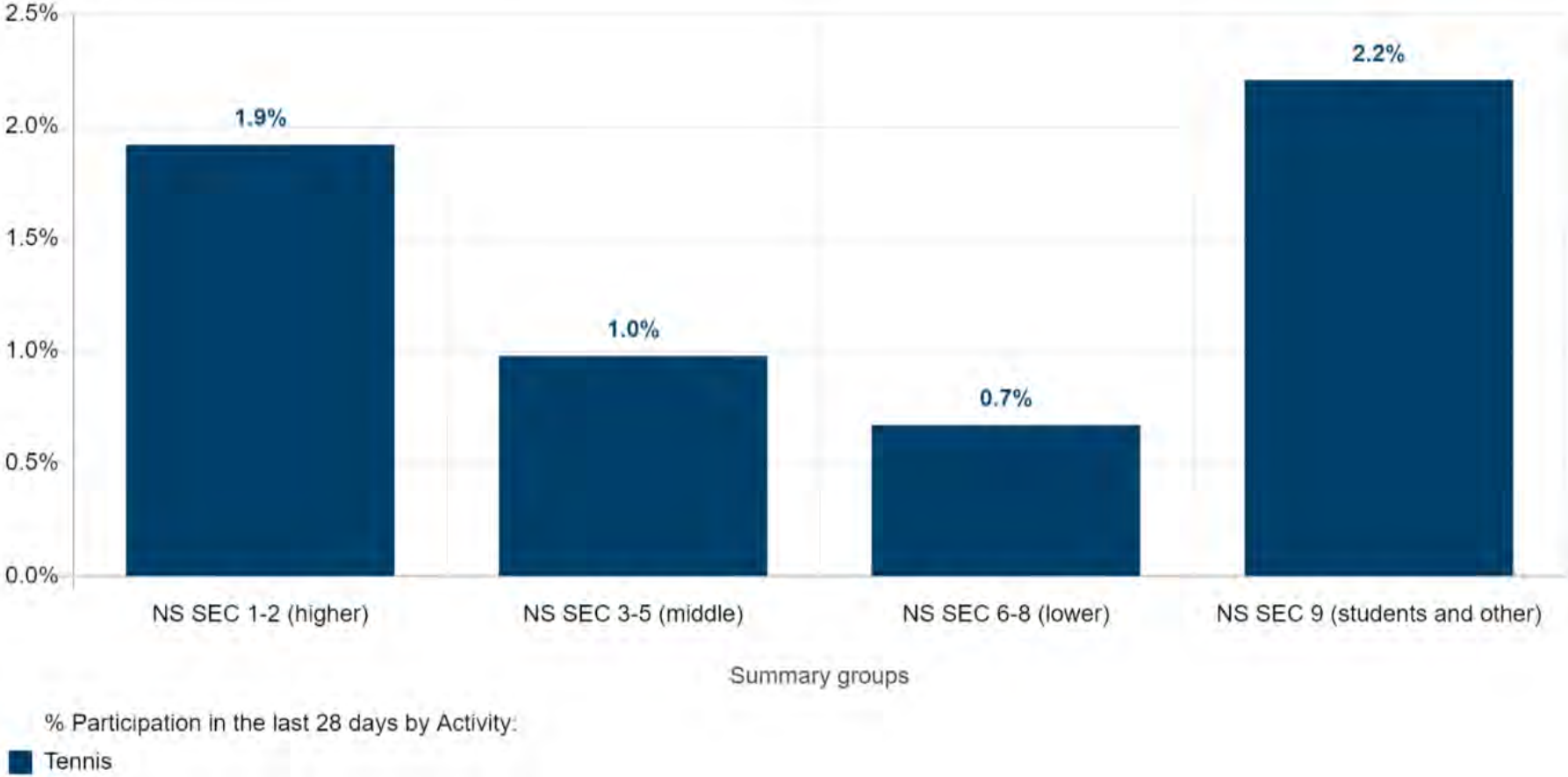


7.31 The most popular age group and the only group above the national average is the 16-43 years old group, although it does still have good levels of participation for people up to 74 years old.

7.32 In terms of socio-economic status of players, Figure 7.2 details the findings nationally.

Figure 7.2 – Social Status of Participation in England

Participation in the last 28 days : At least twice in the last 28 days by activity
Social status
May 20-21



- 7.33 The measure used is a National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification (NS-SEC) measure derived using the self-coded method from the ONS Socio-Economic Classification guidance ([click here for more information](#)). This assigns people aged 16-74 to a classification using information collected about employment status (self-employed or employed), the size of organisation and supervisory roles. People are then asked to place themselves in one of eight occupational groups. From this, a five class NS-SEC measure can be derived.
- 7.34 There is a trend that people from higher socio-economic backgrounds are more likely to participate in tennis and this figure is 1.9% (compared to 1.4% nationally). Despite this, highest participation is from NS-SEC 9 which is students and other, which are likely to be of the younger generation, which has already been highlighted as prominent age groups in Norwich.
- 7.35 Active Lives has outlined that there were 1.2% of participants aged 16 years and over taking part in Tennis at least twice per month in the East Region in 2020/21, with 1.2% participating in Norfolk (in 2019/20). Data is not available on a City level. Nationally, 1.4% of people participate in tennis according to Active Lives.
- 7.36 In terms of children and young people, Active Lives has detailed that 3.2% have participated in tennis in the last week, which is lower than the East (6.8%) and England (6.3%)
- In terms of historical data around tennis participation, the following stats are key:
 - The LTA previously outlined that 5m adults play tennis at least once a year with 35% (circa 1.75m) playing once a month;
 - During the pandemic, outdoor tennis was one of the first sports that was first allowed to return, and this has led to significant growth in participation. In October 2021, the LTA reported that tennis participation had grown by 8%, despite the long periods of lockdown;
 - The LTA also stated that circa 67,000 juniors under the age of 16 compete regularly in tennis;
 - Pre pandemic, the most popular places to play were parks (33%), education facilities (20%), clubs (19%) and other (28%, e.g. David Lloyd, leisure centres etc.);
 - Of the 23,000 tennis courts in the UK, 55% are located at club sites, 31% at parks and 14% at other locations (Universities, schools, leisure centres etc.);
 - 1 in 3 courts are floodlit but only 1 in 7 are community based. Therefore, this will increase demand for indoor provision in areas where community courts are not floodlit; and

- Only 1 in 4 people are unaware of tennis courts near to their house with 50% believing outdoor park courts are not up to the required standards.
- 7.37 If we were to apply data from the region, Sport England data suggests 1.2% of the adult population of Norfolk play tennis. Applying this to the 2022 population for Norwich, this presents a market opportunity of up to 1,464 adults.
- 7.38 If we were also to apply the 8% growth as identified post COVID-19 Pandemic, this would increase to circa 1,581 adults playing at least twice a month (122,000 adult population). In terms of juniors, based on 3.2% playing once a week, this totals 704 children playing at least once a week (22,000 junior population 15 years and under).
- 7.39 As a result, it is estimated there is potential for up to 2,285 users playing at least twice a month, or a minimum of 74,000 visits per annum.
- 7.40 This number of potential players would equate to provision of 11 indoor tennis courts based on the LTA measure of 1 indoor tennis court equating to 200 players. This is a deficit of 11 indoor tennis courts.

Demand for Indoor Tennis Centres by 2038

- 7.41 Assuming the provision remains the same as 2022 and using the same metrics as 2022, the adult population of 145,000 would total a market opportunity for 1,740 adults, with the population under 15 years totalling a market opportunity for 736 children.
- 7.42 This would equate to a total participation of 2,476 residents playing at least twice a month, or 80,000 visits a year. Based on the same metric of 1 indoor tennis court equating to 200 players, this will total demand by 2038 of 12 tennis courts, an increase of 1 tennis court from 2022.

What does this mean for Indoor Tennis in Norwich?

- 7.43 The needs assessment has highlighted that there are currently no indoor tennis courts in Norwich. Despite this, the facilities located outside of the City are accessible to the residents of Norwich, albeit only 45% of the indoor tennis courts are available on a pay and play basis. However, the LTA recommend a 20-minute drive time of at least 75,000 people and sites are often located close to population centres.
- 7.44 Easton and Otley College (South Norfolk) is regarded as a busy facility, but it will not be accessible to all due to capacity issues, programming demands and pricing policy. In addition, David Lloyd and Bannatyne Health Club (Broadland) are both membership facilities, with limited access.

7.45 For indoor tennis, the Greater Norwich area should be considered together and it's important to understand the provision and demand in both South Norfolk and Broadland alongside these findings. Table 7.2 details the overall supply and demand position for Greater Norwich.

Table 7.2 – Supply and Demand Balance in Greater Norwich

Greater Norwich Courts	2022 Supply	2022 Demand	Supply and Demand Balance in 2022	2038 Supply	2038 Demand	Supply and Demand Balance in 2038
Broadland	10	11	-1	10	13	-3
Norwich	0	11	-11	0	12	-12
South Norfolk	8	12	-4	8	14	-6
Total Courts	18	34	-16	18	39	-21

7.46 The table demonstrates that there is a significant deficit of indoor tennis courts across Greater Norwich, substantially impacted by the lack of provision in Norwich. In total, there is a deficit of 16 indoor tennis courts in 2022, increasing to 21 indoor tennis courts by 2038. This is the equivalent of over 5 x 4 tennis indoor tennis court halls.

7.47 Providing this level of provision to meet the full demand is unlikely to be financially viable, but that there is a clear need for an additional facility both now and in the future within Greater Norwich. Due to the commercial operation of the courts in Broadland, the additional provision should be a CITC, with access for the wider tennis network on a pay and play basis.

7.48 Further to this, the LTA have already undertaken their own detailed analysis and highlighted that the east of Norwich, or the south of Norwich, are their priority locations for a potential new CITC, complementing the current provision across Greater Norwich. The NTA have also expressed interest in developing a facility, further emphasising the need for additional provision in Greater Norwich.

Recommendations for Norwich – Indoor Tennis Centres

- Given the findings on current and future supply and demand for indoor tennis courts, the recommendations are as follows:
 1. Develop a 4-6 indoor CITC in the Greater Norwich area; and
 2. Consider the covering of outdoor courts with an air hall if demand continues to arise from the Greater Norwich area.
- The needs assessment has identified there is a significant deficit in courts across Greater Norwich and this is expected to increase by 2038. Despite there being provision of indoor tennis courts, not all the courts are accessible to the community, with 56% of the courts being under commercial management with a registered membership access policy;
- Further to this, the key local stakeholders (local authorities, LTA, NTA and UEA) should work together to identify the preferred development opportunities.

8. Indoors Bowls Centres

Introduction

- 8.1 Indoor bowls is played in a similar way to lawn bowls and although there are slight differences between the two, it is essentially an indoor version of the outdoor game. The length of a rectangular green is still between 31-40 metres; however, the width of a green varies from as little as 8 metres (enough for one rink) to as much as 60 metres or more. The width of a rink for indoor play must be a minimum of 4.6 metres.
- 8.2 Indoor bowls centres are purpose built, bespoke facilities and the game is completely different to short and long mat bowls, which is played on a rectangular carpet (15m x 2m) that is rolled out. Short and long mat bowls can be accommodated in any indoor space large enough to fit the carpet and tends to be played at a recreational level.
- 8.3 For the purpose of this assessment, the data will be focused on dedicated indoor bowls centres.

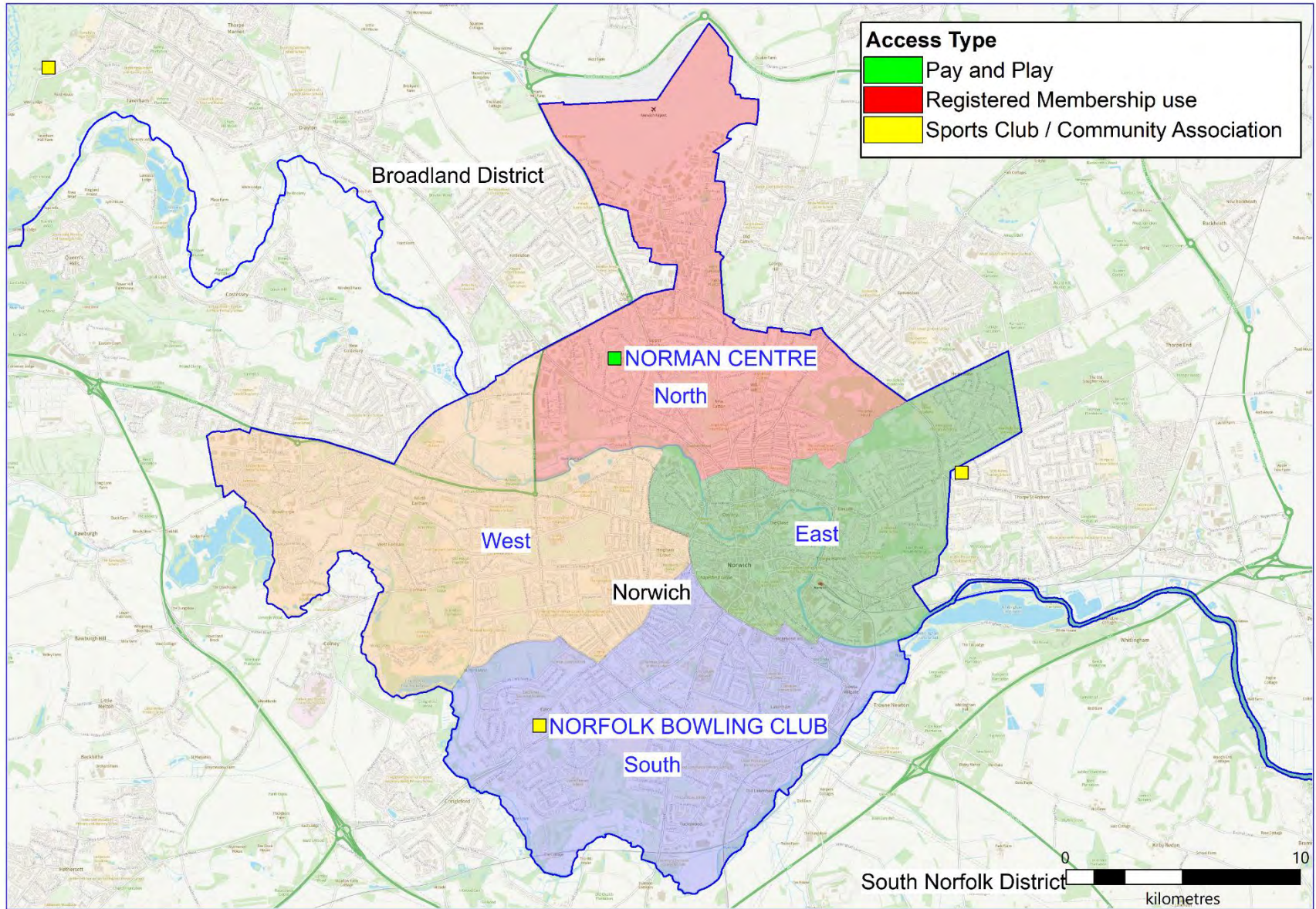
Quantity

- 8.4 There are 2 indoor bowls centres in Norwich, providing a total of 11 rinks. The largest facility is Norfolk Bowling Club which has 7 rinks, whilst the Norman Centre has 4 rinks. NCC own and manage the Norman Centre facility.
- 8.5 Table 8.1 and Map 8.1 outlines the details of the supply in the City.

Table 8.1 – Supply of Indoor Bowls Centres in Norwich

Site Name	Rinks	Area	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type
Norfolk Bowling Club	7	1,080	Sports Club / Community Association	Sports Club	Sport Club
Norman Centre	4	648	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Local Authority (in house)

Map 8.1 – Norwich Indoor Bowls Centres



Facilities per 1,000 population

- 8.6 A benchmark measure used in the assessment of a facility type is facilities per 1,000 population. Using data from Active Places Power, the provision of indoor bowls rinks for Norwich and the neighbouring local authorities is set out in Table 8.2 below.
- 8.7 It shows that based on this measure, Norwich has an adequate supply of indoor bowls rinks, compared to other local authorities within the region and England.
- 8.8 The 0.08 rinks per 1,000 population is slightly below the median of 0.11 rinks per 1,000 population for the neighbouring local authorities but is above both the regional and national averages.

Table 8.2 – Norwich Facilities per 1,000 Population

Total Supply	Population 2022	Sites	Rinks	Rinks per 1000 population
Norwich	144,424	2	11	0.08
South Norfolk	149,371	4	16	0.11
Broadland	133,378	3	18	0.14
Breckland	144,592	2	10	0.07
Great Yarmouth	100,794	1	14	0.14
North Norfolk	107,051	1	4	0.04
Mid Suffolk	105,724	3	14	0.13
East Region	6,346,769	66	346	0.05
England	57,282,105	308	1,645	0.03

Quality

- 8.9 A quality assessment has been undertaken using data from Active Places Power of the date of construction and whether the facility has been refurbished, which is a useful proxy for quality.
- 8.10 Table 8.3 shows details the age of the current indoor bowls centres in Norwich.

Table 8.3 – Supply of Indoor Bowls Centres in Norwich

Site Name	Rinks	Year Built	Year Refurbished
Norfolk Bowling Club	11	1968	2011
Norman Centre	4	1984	2008

- 8.11 The data details that the Norfolk Bowling Club was built in 1968 and is 54 years old, whilst the Norman Centre was built in 1984 and is 38 years old. It is not possible to be definitive about quality and condition of Norfolk Bowling Club, but it is likely that the centres are in good quality, despite their age and usage levels.
- 8.12 Indoor bowls rinks are required to regularly replace and stretch their carpet, so the carpet is often maintained to a high standard. All the rinks have been refurbished and continue to be updated on an ad-hoc basis, but it is likely that due to the ages, there will be structural improvements required.

Site Visits and Survey Responses

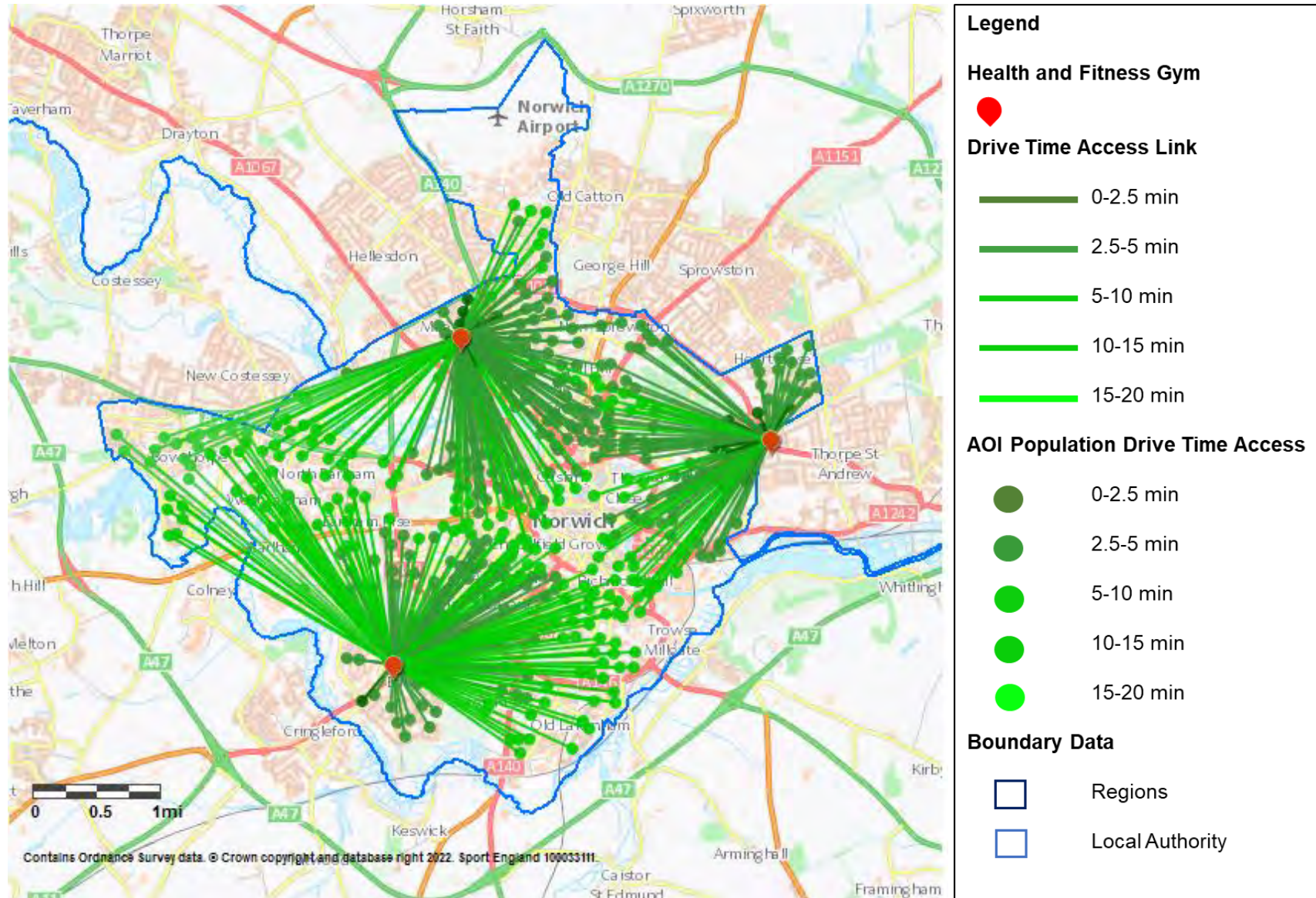
- 8.13 A site visit was undertaken to the Norman Centre. The 4 rinks and ancillary facilities were of adequate to good quality, although there are some wider issues around the rest of the building due to its age.

Accessibility

- 8.14 Map 8.1 shows that the facilities are geographically spread out across the City, with 1 facility in the North Analysis Area (Norman Centre) and 1 in the South Analysis Area (Norfolk Bowling Club).
- 8.15 Due to the location of the 2 facilities, it is likely they will also import demand from neighbouring local authorities outside of the Greater Norwich area. The catchment area of an indoor bowls centre for regular participation is defined by the English Indoor Bowling Association (EIBA) as 20 minutes' drive time.
- 8.16 The Area Access Report (from Active Places Power) helps determine the accessibility of specified sport facilities (type and sub type) for a defined population and defined travel catchment.

8.17 The Area Access Report data from Active Places Power shows the population with access to indoor bowls centres within a 20-minute drive time of the sites. In total, Map 8.2 estimates the facilities in Norwich and the surrounding local authorities reach 143,000 people, of which 122,000 are located within Norwich (i.e. 31,000 are in neighbouring local authorities). As a result, 78% of the Norwich population have access to an indoor bowls centre within a 20-minute drive time, although this also does not consider access policies. Map 8.2 below details the access findings for Norwich.

Map 8.2 – Access to Indoor Bowls Centres in Norwich (20 Minutes)



- 8.18 Due to the geographical location of the facilities, the areas of Norwich without access are very limited. It will always be unrealistic to provide access to the whole of the City and that is reflective of the population figure that the facilities meet (77%). Also, the facilities located on the edge of the boundary (see Map 8.1) will also meet some of the demand.
- 8.19 Norfolk Bowling Club has the greatest reach of the Norwich facilities, meeting 43% of the population within the 20-minute drive time range. In addition, the Norman Centre meets 36% of the demand with the remaining demand from the County Arts Club (in Broadland).

Availability

- 8.20 The Norman Centre is a local authority operated facility and can be accessed on a pay and play basis, as well as through the resident club membership. Whilst under local authority control, the current site does require improvements and the security of the site is unknown.
- 8.21 The Norfolk Bowling Club is sports club, and the indoor bowls programme of use is managed by the resident clubs and there is no pay and play access. All of the clubs offer a membership to the club, but social and friendly play is available through this option.

Consultation

- 8.22 Consultation with the NGB took place in order to support the development of the evidence base.

National Governing Bodies

English Indoor Bowling Association (EIBA)

- 8.23 The EIBA state that when you have determined the general location for your facility, the catchment area should be defined and assessed. The following guidelines on catchment for indoor bowls centres must be interpreted in the light of local circumstances:
- Assume the majority of users will live locally and not travel more than 20 minutes;
 - Assume 90% of users will travel by car, with the remainder by foot;
 - As a guide, demand is calculated as one rink per 14,000-17,000 of total population;
 - A 6-rink green, therefore, is required for a population of 85,000-100,000. This will be dependent upon the population profile of your area; and

- The number of rinks required can be related to the estimated number of members: assume 80-100 members per rink.

8.24 In addition, the EIBA are currently reviewing the market analysis guidance as they feel that additional criteria / parameters are now appropriate:

- Travel time – consider an extension to 30 minutes. EIBA anticipate that there will be regional variations, depending upon the current provision of Indoor Bowls sites;
- Means of travel – EIBA consider that the provision of “public transport” will be relevant in some parts of the country, especially the rural areas; and
- Members per rink ratio – this figure is still relevant, but the EIBA also need to factor in “spare rink capacity” for each session played, bearing in mind that the older population are not keen on travelling in the dark.

8.25 Norfolk Bowling Club is located at the Norfolk Bowling Club. The outdoor pavilion and all grounds owned by a Limited Company linked to the club, with the indoor clubhouse owned by another Limited Company linked to the club. All Directors are Club Members. The club has social membership access and are affiliated to Men’s and Women’s County League. Security of tenure is protected at the site.

8.26 There has been some loss of sites from surrounding local authorities including Rossi’s in North Walsham and Marina Centre in Great Yarmouth as a result of the pandemic.

8.27 Table 8.4 below details the level of membership at the three affiliated clubs, pre COVID-19 Pandemic and during the pandemic up to December 2020.

Table 8.4 – Membership Levels at Affiliated Clubs

Site Name	December 2019	Members per Rink 2019	December 2020 (Covid)	Members per Rink 2020
Norfolk Bowling Club	388	55	328	47

8.28 Membership in 2019 (pre pandemic) was healthy at the club, albeit there was spare capacity at the sites (based on 80-100 people per rink). Unlike other clubs in Greater Norwich, the membership pre covid remained fairly static (384 in 2017 and 392 in 2018). Furthermore, as a result of the pandemic, and despite the impact on health and confidence, this has only slightly reduced the member by circa 60 members.

8.29 The sport is popular with the over 50’s so with an ageing population, growth is possible. However, the EIBA state the onus is on the club to promote their facility.

- 8.30 There has been no identification of the need to refurbish sites across Norwich for the EIBA. However, money available has a large impact on this and limited funding is available to clubs.
- 8.31 Overall, the EIBA do not believe there are any significant gaps in provision, and many users will drive further than 20 minutes if required. However, due to the age of many participants, this is normally only in daylight hours.

Demand for Indoor Bowls Centres in 2022

- 8.32 The Active Lives data for once-a-week participation at least twice every 28 days for indoor and outdoor bowls shows that participation has declined in the last 6 years.
- 8.33 National rates have fallen from 0.8% in 2015/16 down to 0.2% in the latest 2020/21 data. This has followed a similar trend in the East Region (fallen from 1.1% in November 2015/16 to 0.2% in May 2020/21) as well as in Norfolk (fallen from 1.6% in November 2015/16, peaking at 2.2% in May 2017/18 and reducing again to 1.1% in May 2019/20).

Sport England Study on Indoor Bowls Participation 2013

- 8.34 In 2013, Sport England undertook a national indoor bowls facility assessment and this study set out participation rates for indoor bowls for a range of age bands and both genders. This provides more detailed information on the profile of participation than the Active People Survey. However, the two sources have a different basis and so cannot be compared.
- 8.35 The findings based on Sport England research is set out in Table 8.5 below. The highest rates of participation for both genders are in the 65+ age ranges. Perhaps surprisingly though, is that participation is highest in the 75+ age group. Up until age 64, participation is below 1% of the adult population for females and is 1% for males.

Table 8.5 - Participation Rates in Indoor Bowls by Age and Gender

Age Range (Years)	0 – 15 (%)	16-49 (%)	50-59(%)	60-64(%)	65-74(%)	75-79(%)
Male participation rate	0.00	0.09	0.49	1.03	2.84	4.01
Female participation rate	0.00	0.06	0.27	0.93	2.11	2.61

- 8.36 It is possible to apply these participation rates to the Norwich population for indoor bowls, for both genders, so as to identify the numbers of potential bowlers.
- 8.37 Table 8.6 overleaf identifies the male for male participation in indoor bowls in 2022, Table 8.7 identifies the female participation in indoor bowls in 2022 and Table 8.8 summarises the total participation projected for 2022.

Table 8.6 – Norwich Male Participation in 2022

Male Age Range (Years)	0 – 15 (%)	16-49 (%)	50-59(%)	60-64(%)	65-74(%)	75-79(%)	Total Male Bowls Population
Norwich Population 2022	22,207	78,090	15,516	6,565	10,977	4,700	138,055
Percentage of Population Male	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%
Male Population	11,104	39,045	7,758	3,283	5,489	2,350	69,029
Males Indoor Bowls Participation Rate	0.00	0.09	0.49	1.03	2.84	4.01	N/A
Norwich Male Population Participating in Indoor Bowls	0	35	38	34	156	94	357

Table 8.7 - Norwich Female Participation in 2022

Female Age Range (Years)	0 – 15 (%)	16-49 (%)	50-59(%)	60-64(%)	65-74(%)	75-79(%)	Total Female Bowls Population
Norwich Population 2022	22,207	78,090	15,516	6,565	10,977	4,700	139,295
Percentage of Population Female	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%
Female Population	11,104	39,045	7,758	3,283	5,489	2,350	69,029
Females Indoor Bowls Participation Rate	0.00	0.06	0.27	0.93	2.11	2.61	N/A
Norwich Female Population Participating in Indoor Bowls	0	23	21	31	116	61	252

Table 8.8 – Bowls Participation in 2022

Age Range (Years)	0 – 15 (%)	16-49 (%)	50-59(%)	60-64(%)	65-74(%)	75-79(%)	Total Bowls Population
Male Participation	0	35	38	34	156	94	357
Female Participation	0	23	21	31	116	61	252
Total Participation	0	58	59	65	272	155	609

8.38 The advantage of this assessment is that it allows Sport England participation rates to be applied to the male and female population in 2022 and for the 6 age bands. It provides a more informed view of the potential demand for indoor bowls by the Norwich population.

8.39 The key findings here are:

- The overall total potential indoor bowls population is 609 people in 2022, across all age bands from 16 – 79 years;
- At an assumed per rink capacity of 100 bowlers per rink, this equates to between 6 and 7 rinks in 2022;
- The age band with the highest participation is the 65 – 74 age band for both females and males with 156 male bowlers and 116 female bowlers;
- Participation in the 65 – 74 age band is higher than the combined 16 – 64 age range for females and males. This reinforces both the narrow age range and significance of the age band with the highest participation; and
- The footnote to these findings is that it assumes the England wide participation rates for indoor bowls identified by Sport England does apply in Norwich, but it is the best guide possible to identify the potential indoor bowls population and level of demand.

8.40 As a result, there is a current theoretical surplus of 4 rinks in Norwich.

Demand for Indoor Bowls Centres by 2038

8.41 Assuming the provision remains the same as 2022 and using the same metrics as 2022, Tables 8.9-8.11 outline the impact of the population growth on demand for indoor bowls centres.

Table 8.9 – Norwich Male Participation in 2038

Male Age Range (Years)	0 – 15 (%)	16-49 (%)	50-59(%)	60-64(%)	65-74(%)	75-79(%)	Total Male Bowls Population
Norwich Population 2038	23,092	90,618	16,203	7,009	14,733	5,982	157,637
Percentage of Population Male	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%
Male Population	11,546	45,309	8,102	3,505	7,367	2,991	78,820
Males Indoor Bowls Participation Rate	0.00	0.09	0.49	1.03	2.84	4.01	N/A
Norwich Male Population Participating in Indoor Bowls	0	41	40	36	209	120	446

Table 8.10 – Norwich Female Participation in 2038

Female Age Range (Years)	0 – 15 (%)	16-49 (%)	50-59(%)	60-64(%)	65-74(%)	75-79(%)	Total Female Bowls Population
Norwich Population 2022	23,092	90,618	16,203	7,009	14,733	5,982	157,637
Percentage of Population Female	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%
Female Population	11,546	45,309	8,102	3,505	7,367	2,991	78,820
Females Indoor Bowls Participation Rate	0.00	0.06	0.27	0.93	2.11	2.61	N/A
Norwich Female Population Participating in Indoor Bowls	0	27	22	33	155	78	315

Table 8.11 – Bowls Participation in 2038

Age Range (Years)	0 – 15 (%)	16-49 (%)	50-59(%)	60-64(%)	65-74(%)	75-79(%)	Total Bowls Population
Male Participation	0	41	40	36	209	120	446
Female Participation	0	27	22	33	155	78	315
Total Participation	0	68	62	69	364	198	761

8.42 The key findings here are:

- The overall total potential indoor bowls population is 761 people in 2038, across all age bands from 16 – 79 years. This is an increase of 152 people from 609 in 2022;
- At an assumed per rink capacity of 100 bowlers per rink, this equates to between 7 and 8 rinks in 2038;
- The age band with the highest participation is the 65 – 74 age band for both females and males with 209 male bowlers and 155 female bowlers; and
- Participation in the 65 – 74 age band is higher than the combined 16 – 64 age range for females and males. This reinforces both the narrow age range and significance of the age band with the highest participation.

8.43 As a result, there is a projected theoretical surplus of 3 rinks in the City by 2038, decreasing from the surplus of 4 rinks in 2022.

What does this mean for Indoor Bowls in Norwich?

8.44 The needs assessment has highlighted that there are currently 11 indoor bowls rinks, all of which are affiliated to the EIBA. NCC are the owners and operators of the Norman Centre which totals 4 rinks, or 36% of the total supply.

8.45 The facilities are geographically spread across the City and are accessible for circa 77% of the Norwich population.

8.46 One key issue is the age of the stock. Norfolk Bowling Club was built in 1964 and the Norman Centre was built in 1984. As a result of the age of the buildings, there will be a continuing and increasing need to maintain and modernise the buildings, with a need to invest in the long term.

8.47 Indoor bowls centres along with swimming pools, are the most important facility type for people aged over 60. There are contrasting directions, (1) the sport is losing popularity and participation has declined in recent years at most indoor centres across England but (2) the percentage of the population in the 60 – 75 age range is increasing in Norwich (as well as the growing population) and there is the potential to increase participation based on demographic change.

8.48 Also, indoor bowls offers a lot of scope to increase physical activity through health and well-being programmes. There is the potential to increase physical activity and turn the casual players into participating in the real thing.

- 8.49 The assessment has outlined that the current provision of indoor bowls centres and the number of rinks is adequate for the demand in 2022 and 2038. This totals a surplus of 4 rinks in 2022 and 3 rinks in 2038. This is supported by previous EIBA data and consultation that states there are no gaps in provision and with sites having spare capacity available.
- 8.50 The future of the Norman Centre will have a significant impact on the provision of indoor bowls centres in Norwich. As the only pay and play facility, if this is ever removed from the provision, the City would be reliant on the Norfolk Bowling Club and facilities in Broadland and South Norfolk. There is spare capacity at Norfolk Bowling Club that is likely to be able to cater for current and future demand, but it may not be accessible for all.

Recommendations for Norwich – Indoor Bowls Centres

- The needs assessment has identified there is an appropriate level of provision to cater for demand both now and in the future, with capacity available at Norfolk Bowling Club, the only affiliated site. Therefore, given the findings on current supply, accessibility, current demand and projected future demand by 2038, the recommendation is to protect and enhance the current provision, where possible;
- Of concern is the age of the buildings. It is suggested NCC, and the Greater Norwich authorities work with the EIBA and clubs to assist the clubs in capital grant applications;
- If Norfolk Bowling Club should close for any reason, there may be a need to re-provide an indoor bowls centre, depending on the number of members at the facility. This facility provides a significant proportion of the supply and is a key provider for indoor bowls in Norwich; and
- In terms of the future of the Norman Centre, if this site was lost by 2038, spare capacity is available at Norfolk Bowling Club and surrounding facilities to cater for the membership, but there may be a need to support participants in finding an alternative location, including increasing community access at Norfolk Bowling Club.

9. Squash Courts

Introduction

- 9.1 Squash is a racket and ball sport played in a 4-walled court. The players alternate in striking the ball with their rackets onto the playable surfaces of the 4walls of the court. The standard court size is suitable for 2 players and totals a rectangle of 9.75m x 6.4m or 62m².

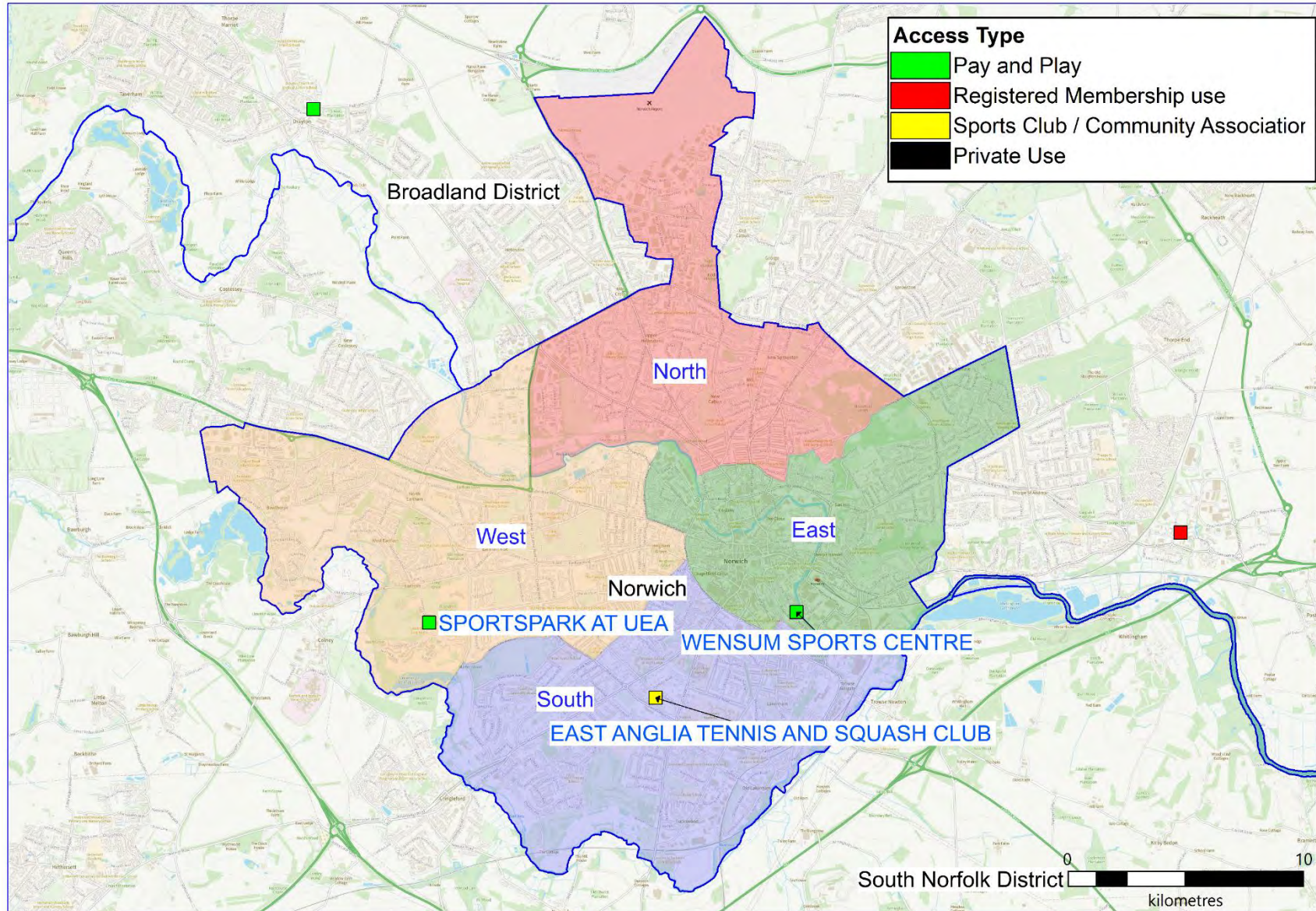
Quantity

- 9.2 There are a total of 12 courts across 3 sites. The largest facilities are East Anglia Tennis and Squash Club with 5 courts (with 1 glass backed court) and UEA Sportspark with 5 courts, whilst there are 2 courts at Wensum Sports Centre.
- 9.3 There are no NCC owned or managed squash courts.
- 9.4 Table 9.1 and Map 9.1 outlines the details of the supply in the City.

Table 9.1 – Supply of Squash Courts in Norwich

Site Name	Total Courts	Glass Backed	Double Courts	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type
East Anglia Tennis And Squash Club	5	1	No	Sports Club / Community Association	Sports Club	Sport Club
Sportspark At UEA	5	5	Yes	Pay and Play	Higher Education Institutions	School/ College/ University (in house)
Wensum Sports Centre	2	0	No	Pay and Play	Community Organisation	Community Organisation

Map 9.1 – Norwich Squash Courts



Facilities per 1,000 population

- 9.5 A benchmark measure used in the assessment of a facility type is facilities per 1,000 population. Using data from Active Places Power, the provision of squash courts for Norwich and the neighbouring local authorities is set out in Table 9.2 below.
- 9.6 It shows that based on this measure Norwich has a similar supply of squash courts, compared to other local authorities within the region and England. The 0.08 courts per 1,000 population is in line with the regional average and slightly above the national average. For context, the median is 0.07 courts per 1,000 population for the neighbouring local authorities.

Table 9.2 – Norwich Facilities per 1,000 Population

Total Supply	Population 2022	Sites	Courts	Courts per 1000 population
Norwich	144,424	3	12	0.08
South Norfolk	149,371	5	10	0.07
Broadland	133,378	2	4	0.03
Breckland	144,592	3	6	0.04
Great Yarmouth	100,794	2	5	0.05
North Norfolk	107,051	3	7	0.07
Mid Suffolk	105,724	3	9	0.09
East Region	6,346,769	192	488	0.08
England	57,282,105	1,458	3,821	0.07

Quality

- 9.7 A quality assessment has been undertaken using data from Active Places Power using the date of construction and whether the facility has been refurbished, which is a useful proxy for quality.
- 9.8 Table 9.3 overleaf details the age of the current squash courts in Norwich.

Table 9.3 – Supply of Squash Courts in Norwich

Site Name	Courts	Year Built	Year Refurbished
East Anglia Tennis And Squash Club	5	1970	2017
Sportspark At UEA	5	2000	n/a
Wensum Sports Centre	2	1975	2015

- 9.9 The data details that the facilities were all built during various decades, with the oldest East Anglia Tennis and Squash Club in 1970 and the latest in 2000 at UEA Sportspark.
- 9.10 It is not possible to be definitive about quality and condition, but it is likely that the centres are in adequate to good quality, despite some of the facilities age and usage levels. The table also details that the 2 older sites have been refurbished in the last 7 years which is positive for quality of the courts.

Site Visits and Survey Responses

- 9.11 A site visit was undertaken to UEA Sportspark. The quality of the facilities was excellent with spectator seating for the glass backed courts.

Accessibility

- 9.12 Map 9.1, the facilities are located across the City with the exception of the North Analysis Area, although there are facilities in Broadland close to the border. Due to the location of all 3 facilities, it is likely they will also import demand from neighbouring local authorities.
- 9.13 The Area Access Report (from Active Places Power) helps determine the accessibility of specified sport facilities (type and sub type) for a defined population and defined travel catchment.
- 9.14 The Area Access Report data from Active Places Power shows the population with access to squash courts within a 20-minute drive time of the sites. In total, Map 9.2 estimates the facilities in Norwich and the surrounding local authorities reaches 143,000 people, of which 132,000 are located within Norwich (i.e. 11,000 are in neighbouring local authorities). As a result, 92% of the Norwich population have access to a squash court within a 20-minute drive time, although this also does not consider access policies.
- 9.15 Map 9.2 below details the access findings for Norwich.

- 9.16 Due to the geographical location of the sites, the areas of Norwich without access are very limited. It will always be unrealistic to provide access to the whole of the City but up to 92% of the population can access squash courts from inside or outside the City boundary.
- 9.17 For Norwich, access is mainly from the City's facilities with 31% of the 143,000 with access to East Anglia Tennis and Squash Club, 24% at UEA Sportspark and 38% at Wensum Sports Centre.

Availability

- 9.18 Both the UEA Sportspark and Wensum Sports Centre are available on a pay and play basis, totalling 7 courts. As a result, 58% of the courts are available for public access.

Consultation

- 9.19 Consultation with the following stakeholders was carried out to support the development of the evidence base:

- National Governing Bodies; and
- Local Authority and Operators.

National Governing Bodies

England Squash

- 9.20 England Squash provided a profile of squash supply and demand for Norwich and Greater Norwich.
- 9.21 There has been investment made into the local County Association and Regional Forum, who have in turn worked closely with local clubs, schools and leisure centres in the county.
- 9.22 In comparison to other counties, the need for investment makes Greater Norwich a key area for future delivery and squash participation. The specific demographic within the local area also lends itself to squash participation and target markets for the sport.
- 9.23 There is an average spread of facilities across the Greater Norwich area, the large population means that there needs to be a wide spread of courts to meet the needs of the local population. As such, it is imperative the existing sites are well-maintained. There are currently 55 sites within a 50-mile radius of Greater Norwich and 13 sites within a 20-mile radius of Greater Norwich.

- 9.24 England Squash identify that there is a need for 1 court per 10,000 people and the Squash England data states there are 10,454 people per court in Norwich (based on their population data). They state that more investment is required into new and existing facilities to ensure this figure is maintained.
- 9.25 There are some facilities able to host performance sessions or large-scale competition facilities. Any 3 court facilities can deliver festivals, team squash, junior coaching and 'Copper' events (local junior competitions that form the first level of the England Squash Talent pathway). The expansion of the number of courts in existing and new sites would play a significant role in hosting more large-scale events.

Local Authority and Operators

- 9.26 UEA Sportspark has 5 courts, however, 2 courts are being used for multi-purpose activities, with strength and conditioning equipment in the courts in Autumn 2021. This was due to social distancing requirements for the health and fitness gym as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic, but it is not expected to remain a permanent solution.

Demand for Squash Courts in 2022 and 2038

- 9.27 The Active Lives data for participation for squash at least twice every 28 days on shows that participation has declined in the last 6 years.
- 9.28 National rates have fallen from 1.1% in 2015/16 down to 0.4% in the latest 2020/21 data. This has followed a similar downward trend in the East Region where participation was estimated at 1.0% in November 2015/16, down to 0.4% in November 2019/20.
- 9.29 England Squash state that there should be 1 court per 10,000 people. Table 9.4 below details the demand for squash provision in Norwich in both 2022 and 2038.

Table 9.4 – Demand for Squash Courts in 2022 and 2038

Demand	2022	2038
Population (15 years and above)	122,000	145,000
Squash Court per Population	10,000	10,000
Demand for Courts	12	15
Supply	12	12
Supply and Demand Balance	0	-3

What does this mean for Squash Courts in Norwich?

- 9.30 The needs assessment has highlighted that there are currently 12 squash courts across 3 sites. The courts are located across the City and provide access to a significant proportion of the City's population (92%).
- 9.31 In total, 58% of courts (7 courts) are available on a pay and play basis. One key issue is the age of the stock at Wensum Sports Centre and East Anglia Tennis and Squash Club, but the facilities have both been refurbished in the last 7 years.
- 9.32 The theoretical demand and supply analysis shows there is balance in supply and demand in 2022, but there is projected to be a small deficit of 3 courts in 2038. It should be noted that this is assuming that the UEA provides access to all 5 courts in the future, otherwise there would be a change to a small deficit of 2 courts in 2022 and 5 courts in 2038 (UEA removed squash court provision in the Covid-19 pandemic to cater for group exercise classes).
- 9.33 Considering the drop in participation of the sport, the drive to build new facilities has been limited in the last 20 years, even as the population has grown. The current sites have also indicated there is capacity available, with UEA Sportspark reducing their provision to provide for other activities.
- 9.34 The biggest challenge is projecting the level of squash participation in the future. It has declined nationally for several years and appeals most to committed players who started participating in the squash boom and have continued playing. Participation by younger age groups is low, and squash does not appear to be a sport which appeals to them.
- 9.35 From a NCC perspective, given the declining rates of squash participation, provision would have to build up participation from a zero base. Considering there are no local authority facilities, then even with a minimum supply of 2 courts, it looks to be very challenging to achieve this purpose. As a result, NCC should be a facilitator of squash courts rather than a provider. The UEA Sportspark provides a similar publicly accessible facility that caters for pay and play access and therefore they are an important partner for squash provision in Norwich. However, there will also be a continuing and increasing need to maintain and modernise the buildings to keep the current provision available for use.

Recommendations for Norwich – Squash Courts

- The needs assessment has identified there is a deficit of provision to cater for demand in the future, with a balance in the current levels of demand. Therefore, given the findings on current supply, accessibility, current demand and the projected future demand, the recommendation is to protect and enhance the current provision where possible;
- The current level of participation means that unless significant local demand is identified, additional squash court provision would not be recommended. Instead, focus should be on increasing accessibility and usage of current courts;
- Of concern is the age of the buildings. It is suggested NCC, and the Greater Norwich authorities work with the current facilities to assist the clubs in capital grant applications;
- If squash courts should close, then there may be a need to re-provide depending on the level of membership and usage at the centres, and the location of the centre which closes; and
- There is a clear need to continue to work with the UEA to ensure squash provision is accessible to the population. This should include engagement over current and future development plans to enhance any publicly accessible courts.

10. Other Built Facilities

Introduction

10.1. In this section, we will assess the need for the following facilities both in 2022 and 2038:

- Athletics (Table 10.1);
- Gymnastics (Table 10.2);
- Boxing (Table 10.3);
- Cycling (Table 10.4); and
- Village Halls and Community Centres (Map 10.1 and Table 10.5)

Table 10.1 – Athletics Needs Assessment

ANOG Area	Overview
Quantity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is 1 athletics track in Norwich. UEA Sportspark has an 8 lane synthetic tracks with an 8 lane straight; • The facility is floodlit and has the following facilities: long jump, triple jump, high jump, pole vault, throwing cage (hammer and discus), javelin and shot put.
Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The facility is England Athletics inspected and accredited and is regarded as high quality; • A site visit confirmed that the facility is in excellent condition and is supported by the City of Norwich Athletics Club; • The facility was built in 2000 but remains well maintained. This is supported by the City of Norwich AC who state the facility is of very good quality.
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The track can be hired by the community and clubs and is also available on a pay and play basis. It is home to City of Norwich Athletics Club and UEA Athletics Club; • Due to the compact land area of Norwich, the facility will be available to a very high proportion of the residents. England Athletics have stated that users will now travel to 400m tracks where required (see consultation section).
Availability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The facility is available to hire for clubs and organisations as well as general pay and play access. The facility is also hired for competitions.
Consultation	<p>England Athletics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UEA is a key facility for Norfolk including for competitions. The track is in very good condition and has been inspected and accredited by England Athletics; • The closest other facility in the area is Great Yarmouth at Wellesley Recreation Ground which has undergone significant regeneration in recent years and includes an all-weather athletics track; • There is a lack of indoor facilities in the East Region;

ANOG Area	Overview
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall, there are enough tracks to service demand levels, so focus is on keeping these and plugging any gaps with compact athletics facilities. Tracks are not always financially viable and in general, users will travel to 400m tracks so providing compact facilities will allow for community provision. This is in line with UK Athletics and England Athletics strategic position; • The compact athletics concept is intended fill any gaps in provision by providing training facilities in places where there is insufficient demand, funding or land to accommodate a full-size track. A compact athletics facility can take a number of forms, but often provides a strip of synthetic track plus some capacity for jumps and throws, enabling core athletic skills to be taught, enjoyed and developed; • England Athletics are also now exploring further considerations such as 200m mini tracks with throwing areas and running and cycling loops. Examples recently include a synthetic track loop with 100m straight, a 2km running and cycling loop and a mini 200m tracks with multi-use areas and throwing areas. <p>City of Norwich AC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Norwich Athletics Club responded to the club survey. The club has 700 members and hires the UEA Sportspark for 20 hours a week, but do not require any additional time at this time; • The club state that exclusive club times would enable the club to advance and make sessions safer as they currently are required to share with public access. As it is the only track, there can be issues with bookings. <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hewett Academy has identified that they would be interested in an athletics track as part of their desire to expand their leisure provision to support the school and the community. The site has previously marked out a grass athletics track, and they have significant amounts of land that they are considering what is more viable for the future of the site.

ANOG Area	Overview
Demand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport England Active Lives data outlines that 0.2% of people in the East Region participate at least twice in the last 28 days. This is in line with the national average. No data is available on a county or City level; • In terms of children and young people, Active Lives data outlines that 1.5% of children participate at least once a week outside of school hours; • There are 122,000 people aged 15 years and above in 2022. Based on the participation rate, this equates to 244 people in Norwich participating in athletics on a regular basis. There are 22,000 people aged under 15 years in 2022. Based on the participation rate, this equates to 330 children in Norwich; • Overall, this equates to an estimated demand of circa 575 residents participating in athletics in 2022; and • In terms of the future population, there are 145,000 people aged 15 years and above, with 23,000 people under 15 years old. Applying the same participation rates, this equates to demand of 290 adults and 345 children and young people, totalling an estimated circa 635 people participating regularly by 2038. This is a 10% increase in the number of participants.
Summary and Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UEA Sportspark is a key community and competition facility in Norwich, and provides for the wider populations of Greater Norwich and beyond. The facility has both track and field facilities and is England Athletics accredited. • The facility is accessible to the community on a pay and play basis, as well as meeting the needs of the UEA Athletics Club and the City of Norwich Club. • England Athletics understand that 400m tracks are not necessarily viable, and their strategic direction in the East is to protect the current sites, with community compact athletics facilities being required to fill any gaps in provision. • For Norwich, there is currently demand for 575 regular participants, and this will significantly increase by circa 10% to 635 regular participants. • Whilst the demand is expected to expand, we believe the current facilities are appropriate for the City. Any additional provision should be focused around either compact athletics facilities or informal traffic free provision.

ANOG Area	Overview
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="584 284 1989 391">• Informal running tracks (in combination with cycling) allow for formal and informal participation in athletics and running. This could be as part of a school facility, park setting or a new housing development. This will also allow NCC to support its policies on health and wellbeing.<li data-bbox="584 411 2056 518">• However, there is a clear need to protect and enhance the UEA Sportspark 400m track between now and 2038, with the possible need to re-provide if the facility was lost as a key community and competition provision.

Table 10.2 – Gymnastics Needs Assessment

ANOG Area	Overview
Quantity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 3 dedicated facilities in Norwich at The Hewett Academy, home to Spring Gymnastics, Norwich Gymnastics Club and UEA Sportspark (this facility is not affiliated with British Gymnastics); • In addition, Avian Dance Studios is home to Jolly Gymnastics.
Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring Gymnastics facility is of good quality, and they have a full-size floor with equipment, although ancillary facilities such as toilets and changing are limited; • Norwich Gymnastics Club is used for county competitions and British Gymnastics coaching courses; • UEA Sportspark has a dedicated facility that is also of good quality. The facility was added onto the site in 2011 and includes Olympic standard equipment.
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring Gymnastics is a large club and is located in the south of the City. The UEA Sportspark is located to the west of the City. With the compact land space, it means both facilities are accessible for the majority of the population; • Norwich Gymnastics Club is located close to the Broadland border in Heartsease, and therefore, it will meet the needs of both Norwich and Broadland residents; • In addition, there are also various clubs and facilities located in South Norfolk (most notably Deer House Park) and Broadland (Norwich Gymnastics Club) that can export demand from Norwich.
Availability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gymnastics is a coached sport and therefore most sessions are run under the supervision of a coach. This means that sessions are often programmed, and casual usage of a site is limited. As a result, in general these facilities are not accessible to individuals other than club members or those in a gymnastic class, given the nature of the sport; • UEA Sportspark currently operate the facility themselves with the gymnastics club, coaching / lessons all part of their programming. This allows them to provide casual fees per session, but they are all programmed sessions with booking recommended. A membership is also available; • Spring Gymnastics is a membership club which requires members to join;

ANOG Area	Overview
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Therefore, users are required to either join a club or facility to participate and pay a session fee or membership fee. Some clubs also have waiting lists which can impact availability.
Consultation	<p>British Gymnastics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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; There is a demand for more gymnastics opportunities and clubs report waiting lists in the UK. The total number of people estimated to be on waiting lists for gymnastics is 1 million (Freshminds Latent Demand Research, 2017). Furthermore, this research also shows that a further 1.9 million would like to participate but are not currently on a waiting list; A key part of British Gymnastics' strategy to increase participation is to support clubs moving into their own dedicated facility, offering more time and space for classes. There is a definite trend for gymnastics clubs to move into their own dedicated facilities. Approximately 30 clubs moved into their own spaces last year and British Gymnastics expects this trend to continue and for an increased number of clubs to move their activities to dedicated spaces/facilities. Participation in gymnastics is increasing rapidly. British Gymnastics membership reached 390,500 in 2017 having been increasing at about 12% per year over 2013-17. The emphasis for 2017–2021 will be using gymnastics as a foundation sport for 5- to 11-year-olds. British Gymnastics have seen an increase in the East region of 12,400 to 20,100 in the years 2014 to 2020; Key Clubs in Greater Norwich include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dragons Trampoline Club – Easton and Otley College / Long Stratton Leisure Centre (Non-dedicated colleges); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40 participants in 2020/21; Located in South Norfolk; Easton Gymnastics Club - Deer Park House (Dedicated facility); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 915 participants in 2020/21; Located in South Norfolk;

ANOG Area	Overview
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Long Stratton Gymnastics Club - Deer Park House (Dedicated facility); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 76 participants in 2020/21; o Located in South Norfolk; - Norwich Gymnastics Club - Norwich Gymnastics Club (Dedicated facility); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 724 participants in 2020/21; o Located in Norwich; - Mulbarton Gymnastics Club - Mulbarton Village Hall (Non-dedicated facility) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 239 participants in 2020/21; o Located in South Norfolk; - Framtastics Gymnastics Club - Framingham Earl Sports Centre (Non-dedicated facility); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 97 participants in 2020/21; o Located in South Norfolk; - Spring Gymnastic Community Club - Hewett Academy (Dedicated facility) / Long Stratton Leisure Centre (Non-dedicated facility); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 988 participants in 2020/21; o Located in Norwich and South Norfolk; - Jolly Gymnastics - Avian Dance Studios (Non-dedicated facility); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 101 participants in 2020/21; o Located in Norwich; - UEA Sportspark Gymnastic Club - UEA Sportspark (Dedicated facility) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Number of participants in 2020/21 is not available to British Gymnastics; o Located in Norwich.

ANOG Area	Overview
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring Gymnastics Community Club operate from a dedicated site on the Hewett Academy site and non-dedicated leisure centre in Long Stratton. The club have previously shown an interest in developing an additional dedicated site and are registered on British Gymnastics facility project list. They have shown strong growth in recent years from 192 in 2014 to 1266 in 2019 (although had reduced to c900 members in 2021 during the pandemic); • Chermond Gymnastics in Norwich have struggled with their dedicated facility during the Covid-19 Pandemic, and British Gymnastics understand they may have downsized in order to be financially stable or lost their facility. They have circa 50 members; • In neighbouring Breckland, The Norfolk Academy of Gymnastics have in the past shown an interest in increasing their space via an extension. They have their own purpose-built facility; • UEA Gymnastics Club is not registered with British Gymnastics and so membership is unknown; • There are various clubs already at a dedicated facility in Great Norwich which is positive for participation. <p>Spring Gymnastics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently located at The Hewett Academy every weekday evening and weekend, including a pre-school for children, with sessions run at the sports hall at Long Stratton Leisure Centre; • The facility at The Hewett Academy is purpose built and they are 7 years into a 10-year lease. The facility is of good quality, and they have a full-size floor with equipment, although ancillary facilities such as toilets and changing are limited; • Ideally, they need a larger facility to amalgamate the sessions at The Hewett Academy and Long Stratton Leisure Centre.
Demand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport England Active Lives data outlines that 0.2% of people in the East Region participate at least twice in the last 28 days. This is in line with the national average. No data is available on a county or City level;

ANOG Area	Overview
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In terms of children and young people, Active Lives data outlines that 17.0% of children participate in gymnastics, trampolining or cheerleading at least once a week outside of school hours in Norfolk. This is lower than the East Region (22.4%) and England (22.9%); • There are 122,000 people aged 15 years and above in 2022. Based on the participation rate, this equates to 240 people in Norwich participating in gymnastics on a regular basis. There are 22,000 people aged under 15 years in 2022. Based on the participation rate, this equates to 3,750 children in Norwich. Overall, this equates to an estimated demand of circa 3,990 residents participating in gymnastics in 2022; and • In terms of the future population, there are 145,000 people aged 15 years and above, with 23,000 people under 15 years old. Applying the same participation rates, this equates to demand of 290 adults and 3,900 children and young people, totalling an estimated circa 4,190 people participating regularly by 2038.
Summary and Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 3 dedicated gymnastics facilities in Norwich. UEA Sportspark is not an affiliated site, but operates coaching for members and non-members, whilst Spring Gymnastics Club located at The Hewett Academy is the largest club in Greater Norwich. In addition, neighbouring local authorities are home to dedicated facilities that supports gymnastic provision across Norwich. • As a result, gymnastics facilities are accessible to most of Norwich's population, albeit usage is normally through membership, booking or signing up to a programme rather than casual participation. • Analysis has detailed that participation could increase from 3,990 residents in 2022 to 4,190 by 2038 as the population in the City grows. British Gymnastics highlighted that the Greater Norwich area already has a good supply of dedicated facilities. As a result, we would recommend that support in Norwich is focused on ensuring the current facilities are protected and enhanced where required. • If any clubs continue to grow, most notably Spring Gymnastics, support in finding suitable facilities to meet their current and future growth should be a priority.

Table 10.3 – Boxing Needs Assessment

ANOG Area	Overview
Quantity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 3 England Boxing affiliated clubs in Norwich, and they are located at 3 boxing dedicated gyms; • Norwich ABC are located at Kickstop Gym which is a boxing, martial arts and gym facility in the north west of the City near Hellesdon. The facilities are available on a programme basis, with a membership required to participate; • Norwich Broadside Warriors Boxing Club is based in an industrial unit to the west of the City; • Norwich Lads ABC is a dedicated boxing gym located in the south of the City.
Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The facilities are all dedicated boxing gyms with associated equipment.
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a club or facility located in the north west, west and south of the City. With the compact land space, the majority of the population will have access to a boxing club in the City.
Availability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kick Stop Gym is open on weekdays, but the boxing is programmed when the club hire the premises; • The Norwich Broadside Warriors Boxing Club is open 2 nights a week to members; • Norwich Lads ABC also opens 2 nights a week and sessions are on a pay and play basis.
Consultation	<p>England Boxing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Around 40% of all boxing clubs are located in deprived areas of the country; • There can be issues with moving clubs geographically to find new premises due to accessibility for members, but if there is a lack of options available, the need to move location may exceed the case to stay; • Clubs will understand their own areas, users etc on the ground and this is key for England Boxing to understand their demographic. Often, the club reputation or the people involved will be the draw to users rather than the facilities;

ANOG Area	Overview
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditionally, users will travel to use a gym. Boxers are used to travelling the UK for fights and this rolls into the training regimes; • Most boxing clubs will operate their own building due to programme requirements; • Norwich City ABC are looking for a new facility. They are a key club with up to 150 members, with an important regional and female pathway programme.
Demand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport England Active Lives data outlines that 0.5% of people in the East Region participate at least twice in the last 28 days. This is in line with the national average. No data is available on a county or City level. • In terms of children and young people, Active Lives data outlines that 3.6% of children participate boxing at least once a week outside of school hours in Norfolk. This is lower than the East Region (4.7%) and England (5.7%); • There are 122,000 people aged 15 years and above in 2022. Based on the participation rate, this equates to 610 people in Norwich participating in boxing on a regular basis. There are 22,000 people aged under 15 years in 2022. Based on the participation rate, this equates to 790 children in Norwich. Overall, this equates to an estimated demand of circa 1,400 residents participating in boxing in 2022; and • In terms of the future population, there are 145,000 people aged 15 years and above, with 23,000 people under 15 years old. Applying the same participation rates, this equates to demand of 725 adults and 830 children and young people, totalling an estimated circa 1,555 people participating regularly by 2038.
Summary and Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 3 clubs located in Norwich based at 3 different sites. Of the 3 clubs, 2 clubs own their own site. • Analysis has detailed that participation could increase from 1,520 residents in 2022 to 1,825 by 2038 as the population in the City grows. • As a result of the findings, we would not recommend providing any new provision of boxing facilities in Norwich unless there is specific demand from a new club, or there is a requirement to support expansion or relocation of one of the Norwich clubs.

Table 10.4 – Cycling Needs Assessment

ANOG Area	Overview
Introduction to Traffic Free Cycling Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to access to the roads and cycleways, cycling can be undertaken in dedicated traffic free facilities, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Closed Road Circuits – purpose-built traffic free circuit, often at least 1 mile (1.6km) long that provides a road cycling experience for people of all ages and abilities; – Indoor Velodromes – An indoor arena for track cycling, featuring steeply banked oval tracks, consisting of two 180-degree circular bends connected by two straights; – Outdoor Velodromes – An outdoor track for track cycling, featuring steeply banked oval tracks, consisting of two 180-degree circular bends connected by two straights; – Cycle Speedway – Cycle speedway is a form of bicycle racing on short oval dirt tracks, usually outdoors, occasionally indoors, typically 70–90m long; – BMX Race Tracks – A single lap track with up to 8 gates with various jumps and rollers. A BMX bike is required on the track; – Pump Tracks – A pump track is a circuit of rollers, banked turns and features designed to be ridden completely by riders "pumping", generating momentum by up and down body movements, instead of pedalling or pushing. It was originally designed for the mountain bike and BMX scene, but concrete constructions can also be used by skateboard, scooters and is also accessible to wheelchairs; – Mountain Bike Trails – Purpose built mountain bike trails that are waymarked and graded by skill level; – Learn to Ride Areas – tarmac spaces that are flexible and can be used for coaching of cycling activities, mainly aimed at young children.
Quantity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 4 facilities located in Norwich: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Eaton Park – Cycle Speedway Track – 92m; – Harford Park – Cycle Speedway Track – 73m;

ANOG Area	Overview
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sloughbottom Park – BMX Race Track – 6-person gate, 4 straights, 3 turns – 251m. • The Woodrow Pilling Park BMX Pump Track is no longer in use.
Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eaton Park Cycle Speedway Track was built in 2015; • Harford Park Cycle Speedway Track was built in 1999 but has not been refurbished; • The facilities are fenced and not available for ad-hoc usage which will help with maintaining the facility; • Sloughbottom Park BMX Race Track was built in 2005 but has not been refurbished. The facility is concrete which is hard resisting. According to British Cycling, the track is in good condition and the club help to maintain the facility in order to keep in good condition; • There are no ancillary facilities such as changing rooms to the track, but there are plans for developments at the site linked to a new 3G Artificial Grass Pitch. The current pavilion is old and requires updating. Public toilets are currently available.
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the compact land area of Norwich, the majority of residents will have access to a Cycle Speedway or BMX Track; • The Sloughbottom Park BMX Track is the only facility within Norfolk, with the closest facilities of similar quality located in Ipswich (Landseer Park) and Peterborough (Orton Park); • The closest traffic free dedicated hub facility is located in Colchester at the Colchester Sports Park. The facility is a 1-mile (1.6km) floodlit closed road circuit, the largest in the East of England, with a BMX pump track and Learn to Ride area.
Availability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both Cycle Speedway Tracks are open to public and owned by NCC; • Norwich Cycle Speedway Club uses both sites but is based at the Harford Park track. They hold regular coaching and taster sessions and team and individual competitions throughout the season (March-October); • The BMX track at Sloughbottom Park is open to the general public free of charge all year round;

ANOG Area	Overview
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Norwich Flyers BMX Club is based at the track, and they hold regular training sessions and local/regional competitions.
Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> British Cycling identified that there are various types of cycling available from road cycling to closed circuits to BMX tracks. This can be provided on a free and accessible basis e.g. road cycling, through to paid provision on traffic free sites e.g. closed road circuits. As a result, cycling does not always happen in confined environments or facilities; Eaton Park and Harford Park are the primary speedway cycle tracks in Norwich, alongside Spixworth Village Hall Playing Fields (Broadland) and Hethersett Memorial Playing Fields (South Norfolk). Fencing is around the sites which means they are self-contained. The two main speedway clubs are Hethersett Hawks and Norwich Cycle Speedway. Between these 4 tracks, there is coaching, and leagues being undertaken all summer; Sloughbottom Park BMX Track is NCC owned and operated, with Norwich Flyers BMX Club based at the site. The club has permission from NCC to hold events; There are various clubs in the area, but they are not all facility based e.g. road cycling clubs; A closed road circuit track in Greater Norwich would be a desired facility for British Cycling and they have previously considered plans in the area, similar to Colchester; Often clubs are focused on adult provision, so in line with the British Cycling Strategy, there is need to increase access to children and young people, making the sport more diverse. Therefore, traffic free spaces are important for meeting this strategic need. Users will often travel to use a dedicated facility for up to 90 minutes.
Demand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sport England Active Lives data outlines the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 26.8% of adults participate in all cycling activities in Norwich at least twice every 28 days. This is higher than Norfolk (22.1%), East Region (20.5%) and England (18.2%); Of these, 22.0% participate in cycling at least twice every 28 days for leisure and sport which again is higher than Norfolk (20.1%), East Region (18.7%) and England (16.4%);

ANOG Area	Overview
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In terms of specific activities, 3.3% in Norfolk participate in road cycling or racing twice every 28 days (lower than the East Region of 3.5% but higher than the England average of 3.2%). In addition, nationally, 0.1% participate in BMX activities; - In terms of children and young people, Active Lives data outlines that 26.7% of children participate at least once a week outside of school hours in Norfolk. This is higher than the East region (25.6%) and England (24.1%). Of these, 21.4% participate for fun or fitness (higher than the East and England at 20.9%). • There are 122,000 people aged 15 years and above in 2022 and using the rate for participating in leisure and sport, this equates to circa 26,800 participating in Norwich on a regular basis. There are 22,000 people aged under 15 years in 2022. Based on the participation rate for children undertaking cycling at least once a week for fun or fitness, this equates to 4,700 children in Norwich. Overall, this equates to an estimated demand of circa 31,500 people participating in cycling; and • In terms of the future population, there are 145,000 people aged 15 years and above, with 23,000 people under 15 years old. Applying the same participation rates, this equates to demand of 31,900 adults and 4,900 children and young people, totalling an estimated circa 36,800 people participating regularly by 2038.
Summary and Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 2 cycling speedway track and 1 BMX Race Track in Norwich. The facilities are available and accessible to the community with all 3 sites being NCC owned. • Cycling is a very popular sport in Norwich, with over 1 in 5 people participating in cycling for sport and leisure reasons. There are no set demand models for cycling, and since it can be undertaken in informal locations e.g. roads, there is not always a requirement to provide dedicated facilities. • Despite this, the British Cycling strategy has identified that there is a need to have somewhere local and traffic-free to ride as being key for children and young people to get access to the sport, and for their families supporting their riding. This has been supported by the consultation with British Cycling and have indicated a traffic free facility would be desirable in the Greater Norwich area. As a result, focus should also be on providing traffic free provision. • It is likely that due to the land space required, it may be located outside of the City boundary. However, access for those who live in the City will be important.

Community Halls

10.2. We have separated community halls into 3 categories:

- Community Centres - a building or group of buildings for a community's educational and recreational activities;
- Village Halls – a village hall is a building or group of buildings which is owned by a local government council e.g. Parish Council or independent trustees and is run for the benefit of the local community;
- Youth Centres – a building or group of buildings where young people can meet and participate in a variety of activities.

Quantity

10.3. In total there are 26 community halls in Norwich (some are identified as multi-functional):

- Community Centre – 25; and
- Village Hall / Community Centre – 1.
- Table 10.5 and Map 10.1 below detail the list of community halls and the location across the City.

Map 10.1 – Location of Community Halls in Norwich

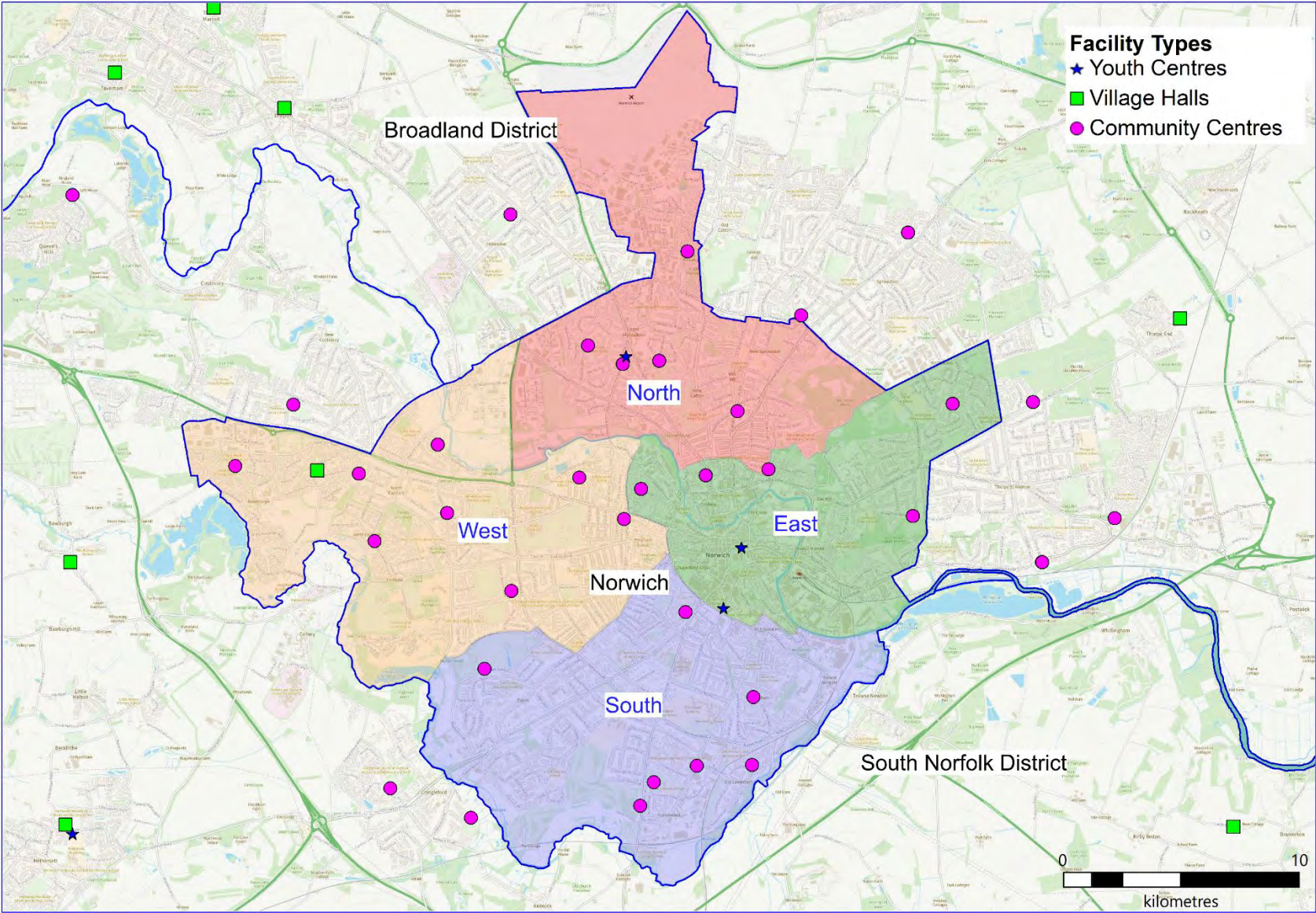


Table 10.5 – List of Community Halls in Norwich

Community Hall	Type	Community Hall	Type
Marlpit Community Centre	Community Centre	West Earlham Community Centre	Community Centre
Silver Road Community Centre Norwich	Community Centre	St. Augustine's Church Hall	Community Centre
Greenfield	Community Centre	Cadge Road Community Centre	Community Centre
Chapel Break Community Centre	Community Centre	Belvedere Community Centre	Community Centre
Catton Grove Community Centre	Community Centre	Eaton Park Community Centre	Community Centre
Norman Centre	Community Centre	The Chapel	Community Centre
Mile Cross Phoenix Childrens Project	Community Centre	Jubilee Community Centre	Community Centre
Pilling Park Community Centre	Community Centre	Harford Community Centre	Community Centre
Wensum Community Centre	Community Centre	Old Lakenham Community Centre	Community Centre
Christ Church Centre	Community Centre	Clover Hill Village Hall	Village Hall / Community Centre
Frere Road Community Centre	Community Centre	The Phoenix Centre	Youth Centre
Fourways Centre	Community Centre	ACF City Of Norwich Troop	Youth Centre
Russell Street Community Centre	Community Centre	N/A	N/A

Quality

- 10.4. No data was collected regarding the quality of the sites. They continue to be operational which suggests they are used by the community.

Accessibility

- 10.5. As detailed by Map 10.1 and Table 10.5, there is a significant provision of community halls across the City. As a City location which is more urban, community centres dominate the community hall landscape. As a result, there are no parishes, so village hall provision is limited to 1 facility.
- 10.6. Overall, there appears to be good levels of access for Norwich residents, spread across the City location.

Availability

- 10.7. All facilities are available to the community.

Summary and Recommendations

- 10.8. There are no demand models for community halls. In the case of a City location, they are important recreational facilities to fill gaps that cannot be provided by the NCC's leisure sites. They are used for various multi-functional activities including health and fitness, meetings, functions and events.
- 10.9. As highlighted in the sports hall section, there is a clear need for additional sports hall and multi-purpose space between 2022 and 2038, with NCC currently providing no local authority sports hall provision. There is a reliance on education sites and therefore these facilities can play a key role in providing complementary provision for sport and physical activity at these times in addition to evenings and weekends.
- 10.10. There is a clear need for these facilities within Norwich and they should continue to be protected and enhanced where possible, however, there is a need for the facilities to remain sustainable. Consideration for community hall provision should also be included in new housing developments where leisure and multi-purpose spaces have not already been provided.

11. Action Plans

Table 11.1 - Sports Hall

Heading	Recommended Action	Rationale	Timescale	Lead organisation and partners	Importance
PROTECT	<p>SH 1</p> <p>Protect the existing supply of sports halls on local authority and educational sites. Review the community use hours and influence the access policy where possible.</p>	<p>The key element to be taken from this report is that most of Norwich’s demand can be met by the accessible supply of sports halls in 2022. However, none of the sports hall sites are under local authority control, with only 1 site not located at an education facility.</p> <p>In addition, the location/catchment area/scale of UEA Sportspark is considered to attract demand from all 3 Greater Norwich authorities which means there is “draw effect”, and this has a significant impact on supply.</p> <p>The average estimated used capacity of the Norwich sports halls is high at 76% in the weekly peak period. It illustrates that any reduction in capacity, such as excluding the UEA Sportspark 8-court hall, will push the average used capacity higher to 89% and this may discourage participation as sites are too busy (above the Sport England threshold of 80%).</p>	Ongoing	All	High

Heading	Recommended Action	Rationale	Timescale	Lead organisation and partners	Importance
		<p>Demand is also expected to grow as part of the housing growth and therefore all the current stock should be maintained as a minimum.</p> <p>Reviewing community use hours at education sites will ensure that demand can be met before the construction of any new provision. NCC should work with all 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>			
ENHANCE	<p>SH 2</p> <p>Support improvements at existing sports hall sites where this would lead to increased capacity; improved quality of facilities and greater flexibility of use; and improved viability for community use.</p>	<p>The average age of the sports halls at 35 years is slightly misleading, as 8 of the sites have opened since 2000, with the most recent site being The Hewett Academy, which opened in 2018. Furthermore, 3 of the 4 sports hall sites opened before 2000 have since been modernised; the exception to this is the City of Norwich School sports hall, which opened in 1970.</p> <p>However, in the future, there will be an increasing need to modernise the post-2000 sports halls as none of these have been modernised to date.</p> <p>As the post-2000 stock of sports halls age and need updating, a partnership programme of investment in modernisation could be made in return for committed community access through a community use agreement.</p>	By 2027	All	Medium

Heading	Recommended Action	Rationale	Timescale	Lead organisation and partners	Importance
		<p>The priority locations based on the needs assessment are City of Norwich School, Notre Dame High School, and Wensum Sports Centre.</p> <p>NCC should engage with UEA Sportspark regarding their current and future development proposals. The sports halls at the Sportspark are important to the overall portfolio of facilities in Norwich, especially as there are no local authority owned facilities with pay and play access.</p>			
PROVIDE	<p>SH 3</p> <p>Consider re-provision of some existing facilities, based on age and condition, or consider the building of new sports halls to replace the existing stock.</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>Detailed feasibility studies are required to determine what possible options there are to replace facilities with enhanced provision, depending on age, condition, and site opportunities.</p> <p>This should be undertaken on a site-by-site basis but based on the need to retain the existing stock, if there were opportunities to fund re-provision and replace the sports hall in the current locations, this should be investigated by NCC, education providers and key stakeholders.</p>	Ongoing	All	Medium

Heading	Recommended Action	Rationale	Timescale	Lead organisation and partners	Importance
PROVIDE	<p>SH 4</p> <p>Provision of a new 4 badminton court sports hall on the Norwich / Broadland border.</p>	<p>The needs assessment for Broadland has highlighted that there is significant growth expected, especially in the Growth Triangle area. Whilst there is some capacity at Sprowston Community Academy and Thorpe St Andrew School (both Broadland), Sewell Park Academy in the north of Norwich is regarded as at full capacity. All of these sites are ageing and will likely reduce in attractiveness by 2030.</p> <p>The preference for a new sports hall would be within Broadland to support the vast housing growth in Sprowston and Rackheath, but opportunities within Norwich should not be ruled out either. A new sports hall should be co-located and integrated with either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new leisure facility to meet the needs of Broadland and Norwich residents; or, • a new secondary school development, to maximise the use of the sports hall in off peak hours. <p>A detailed feasibility study would be required to confirm the demand, including undertaking bespoke FPM runs. If it was to be delivered as part of a new leisure facility, it would meet the needs of both Broadland and Norwich residents, and therefore should be of joint interest for the wider Greater Norwich community.</p>	By 2030	NCC / BDC	High

Heading	Recommended Action	Rationale	Timescale	Lead organisation and partners	Importance
		<p>If provided on an education site, a Joint Use Agreement setting out the type of use and a full programme of community use should be agreed as an integral part of the project development and progressed through the planning process. Ideally this should be integrated with the proposed co-ordinated management of community use across all school sites.</p>			
PROVIDE	<p>SH 5 Consider the provision of large multi-purpose spaces as part of new sports and leisure developments.</p>	<p>Consideration of large flexible multi-purpose space rather than sports halls should be included in any new sports and leisure development.</p> <p>This may enable transfer of some activities from sports halls e.g. martial arts, dance etc into multi-purpose spaces. This in turn, will free up potential programme time for traditional sports hall activities and reduce stress on the current stock.</p>	Ongoing	All	Medium

Table 11.2 - Swimming Pools

	Recommended Action	Rationale	Timescale	Lead organisation and partners	Importance
PROTECT	SP 1 Protect the existing supply of swimming pools on local authority and educational sites and influence access policy for community use, where possible.	<p>The key element to be taken from this report is that most of Norwich’s demand can be met by the accessible supply of swimming pools in 2022, although 4 of the 6 sites are operating at above average capacity for comfort, including the two sites that offer all swimming activities; Riverside Leisure Centre and UEA Sportspark. There is some spare capacity available at education sites, but this is often limited to club and learn to swim hire.</p> <p>The City is importing a significant amount of demand from Broadland and South Norfolk, as well as retaining a high percentage of demand from Norwich residents.</p> <p>There is a need to continue to protect the current stock and also retain the scale of pool water as a minimum. NCC has also identified that several schools are key providers. These facilities are used for national curriculum learn to swim activities, not just in that school, but also for surrounding schools in their catchment. The pools are not always large enough to meet the FPM criteria but still provide a key service for local children.</p>	Ongoing	All	High

	Recommended Action	Rationale	Timescale	Lead organisation and partners	Importance
		<p>In Norwich, the key schools swimming pools include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Academy; • Colman Junior School; • Heartsease Primary Academy; • Hewett Academy; • Nelson Infant School; • Norwich High School for Girls; • Recreation Road First School; and • Town Close School. <p>These pools should continue to be protected where possible.</p> <p>Reviewing community use hours at education sites will ensure that demand can be met before the construction of any new provision.</p> <p>There is a need to work with existing schools to understand the actual level and type of use for clubs at their sites. If there is more scope for school pools to absorb more club use and release capacity at the public pools for other swimming activities, this should be investigated to understand the most viable option.</p>			

	Recommended Action	Rationale	Timescale	Lead organisation and partners	Importance
		<p>The planned housing growth will be in stages, and therefore there will be staggered growth as the houses are built and this will increase the demand on the sites gradually.</p> <p>There is a tipping point/judgment call as to whether protection of the existing sites and enhancement of the existing provision can create the overall supply and demand balance. This is based on the age, condition, and the amount of access available to the pools to understand if there is a cost/sports effective case for re-provision of some existing pools. The margins and judgment are fine and up to date condition surveys are required to make the assessment.</p>			

	Recommended Action	Rationale	Timescale	Lead organisation and partners	Importance
ENHANCE	SP 2 Support improvements at existing swimming pool sites, where this would lead to increased capacity; improved quality of facilities and greater flexibility and improved viability for community use.	<p>Most of the stock was built after 2000 and there will be continued need to improve the quality of the facilities by 2038.</p> <p>Up to date condition surveys are required, in order to understand the balance between modernisation and realistic scope for re-provision. The key point is that the current supply level should be maintained, with consideration made to increasing provision where possible.</p> <p>It is not possible to identify the capital costs of any major modernisation of an existing swimming pool because it is site and project specific and requires a full condition survey.</p> <p>The schools are usually responsive to local needs and managed community use. However, with more schools becoming Academy's, there is a reduction in the security of community use. It will be important to work closely with schools, to understand their current and future plans for their swimming pools.</p> <p>Support and work with individual schools to understand their commitment to retention and enhancement of school-based swimming pool is required.</p>	By 2030	All	High

	Recommended Action	Rationale	Timescale	Lead organisation and partners	Importance
		<p>Hewett Academy pool was built in 1960 but is indispensable to the Norwich swimming pool stock. It is used by various clubs and operates learn to swim from the site. It is operated at a loss to the school, and it is likely the school will have limited capital funds to meet the needs of a full refurbishment of the scale required e.g. new roof or building surrounds. If the pool was to close because it is no longer fit for purpose, the overall supply and demand balance for pools across Norwich could not be met both now and in the future.</p> <p>There is a tipping point/judgment call as to whether protection of the existing sites and enhancement of the existing provision can create the overall supply and demand balance. This is based on the age, condition, and the amount of access available to the pools to understand if there is a cost/sports effective case for re-provision of some existing pools. The margins and judgment are fine and up to date condition surveys are required to make the assessment.</p> <p>The Hewett Academy illustrates the fragile supply and demand balance and reliance on a school pool to meet much of the Norwich swimming clubs use and provide for learn to swim programmes.</p>			

	Recommended Action	Rationale	Timescale	Lead organisation and partners	Importance
		It should be assessed via a feasibility study whether it is more cost/sports effective to modernise the Hewett School pool to make it for purpose for the next 16 years or finding the capital cost to replace a 25metre x 4 lane pool.			
PROVIDE	SP 3 Provision of a new public swimming pool, located on the Norwich / Broadland border.	<p>The needs assessment has highlighted that there is significant growth expected in Broadland, especially in the Growth Triangle area. There is currently no provision in the north of Norwich or in the south of Broadland.</p> <p>There is clear evidence for a new public pool, as part of the wider housing developments (see Broadland Needs Assessment). As the housing growth for this area is mainly focused on Broadland land, the Sprowston or Rackheath areas of Broadland are the priority location for new swimming pool provision.</p> <p>A new swimming pool in this area should be co-located and integrated with a new leisure facility, to meet the needs of Broadland and Norwich residents. Norwich land should not be ruled out if an appropriate site is identified.</p> <p>Areas of the north of the City has pockets of deprivation, and there may be a reluctance to travel to a facility outside of the City. As a result, a detailed feasibility study would be required to confirm the demand and location, including undertaking bespoke FPM runs.</p>	By 2027	NCC / BDC	High

	Recommended Action	Rationale	Timescale	Lead organisation and partners	Importance
		If it was to be delivered through a new local authority leisure facility, it would meet the needs of both the Broadland and Norwich residents, and therefore whilst on either NCC land, it should be of joint interest to the broader Greater Norwich community.			
PROVIDE	SP 4 Consider provision of a new community swimming pool on the Norwich / South Norfolk border.	<p>Depending on the delivery of housing by 2038 and the ability to secure increased community access to the educational sites, there is possible scope to provide a small public swimming pool on the Norwich / South Norfolk border.</p> <p>There is going to be growing demand in South Norfolk, especially in Wymondham and the north of South Norfolk, and when combined with the developments in the East of Norwich, there is demand for an additional small community pool.</p> <p>Any new pool provision should be a community-based pool catering for all swimming disciplines and activities, so a 25m x 4 lane pool and with a learner/teaching pool as a minimum.</p> <p>The priority location for a new pool is City centre, based on increasing accessibility, but could be located near the East Norwich housing development as the area is expanding into South Norfolk. A detailed feasibility study would be required to confirm the demand, including undertaking bespoke FPM runs.</p>	By 2038	All	Low

	Recommended Action	Rationale	Timescale	Lead organisation and partners	Importance
		<p>We would advise that this is provided as a small community hub e.g. fitness and swimming pool as part of a housing development and it should not be on an educational site. This will ensure the facility is always available and could potentially be integrated within the housing developments.</p> <p>This could be delivered as a NCC facility or through a commercial provider, with agreed community access.</p>			
PROVIDE	<p>SP 5</p> <p>Due to their age and condition, consider re-provision of some existing facilities. Consider feasibility of providing new swimming pools to replace the existing stock.</p>	<p>It is difficult to assess the stage at which re-provision of existing swimming pools is required based on their age, condition and the costs/benefits of modernisation and extension of the existing buildings, set alongside re-provision.</p> <p>The assessment has estimated that the existing pool stock is heavily used and nearly at capacity, and usage is expected to increase up to 2038. This will impact further on the condition of the pools. This could create a case for re-provision of an existing pool, if the cost benefit is that new provision is deemed a more effective solution than modernisation of the existing pool.</p> <p>This particularly applies to The Hewett Academy. It should be assessed via a feasibility study whether it is more cost/sports effective to modernise the here and to make it fit for purpose for the next 16 years, or re-build it.</p>	Ongoing	All	Medium

	Recommended Action	Rationale	Timescale	Lead organisation and partners	Importance
		Any proposals from existing providers to increase water space should be looked at favourably, provided community use agreements could be put in place.			

Table 11.3 - Health and Fitness

	Recommended Action	Rationale	Timescale	Lead organisation and partners	Importance
PROTECT	HF 1 Protect the existing supply of local authority public leisure centre health and fitness facilities and work with UEA to protect the health and fitness facility at the Sportspark.	<p>Riverside Leisure Centre is an excellent facility and provides an important proportion of the provision in the City, especially with the link to the swimming pools, creating a different offer to various competitors in the City. The commercial sector is focused on fitness gym and studio provision.</p> <p>NCC should also work with UEA Sportspark to ensure that the health and fitness facilities remain accessible to the public. The facility offers publicly accessible health and fitness space, similar to local authority provision, and is a key facility in the provision of fitness space in Norwich, especially considering the low amount of publicly access stations.</p> <p>There is a need to continue to protect the current stock at Riverside Leisure Centre and UEA Sportspark and retain the scale as a minimum.</p>	Ongoing	NCC / UEA	High

	Recommended Action	Rationale	Timescale	Lead organisation and partners	Importance
ENHANCE	HF 2 Support improvements at existing local authority public leisure centre sites and UEA Sportspark where this would lead to increased capacity; improved quality of facilities and greater flexibility of use; and improved viability for community use.	<p>Refurbishment has taken place at Riverside Leisure Centre, but with the site being busy, there is a need to continue to monitor the facilities and ensure they are up to date with current market trends, in both design and equipment.</p> <p>The key point is the current supply is required both now, and in the future. NCC should continue to monitor performance of the site e.g. memberships, to ensure the current facilities are providing for the residents of Norwich and meeting the current market trends.</p> <p>Considerations to increase or improve the health and fitness space should be considered, including through gym and studio space.</p> <p>NCC should also work with the UEA and undertake engagement over current and future development plans to enhance any publicly accessible health and fitness space.</p>	By 2025	NCC / UEA	Medium

	Recommended Action	Rationale	Timescale	Lead organisation and partners	Importance
PROVIDE	HF 3 Provision of new local authority provision on the Norwich / Broadland border.	<p>Given the findings on current supply, accessibility, current demand and projected future demand, the recommendation is that there is no need to develop another specific health and fitness facility unless a strong local catchment latent demand can be evidenced on a site-by-site basis.</p> <p>However, should NCC decide to build a public leisure centre, with a swimming pool, on the Broadland / Norwich border, then a health and fitness offer should also be included.</p> <p>The scale of the health and fitness provision should be assessed as part of the feasibility – at that time. Current trends for exercise support the need to ensure that any future NCC leisure centres provide a health and fitness space of at least 75–100 stations, in order to cross-subsidise a wet side offer.</p>	By 2027	NCC / BDC	High
PROVIDE	HF 4 Provision of new local authority provision on the Norwich / South Norfolk border.	<p>Given the findings on current supply, accessibility, current demand and projected future demand, the recommendation is that there is no need to develop another specific health and fitness facility unless a strong local catchment latent demand can be evidenced on a site-by-site basis.</p> <p>Depending on the delivery of the planned housing by 2038, and the ability to secure increased community access to the education sites, there is possible scope to provide a small community pool on the Norwich / South Norfolk border.</p>	By 2038	All	Low

	Recommended Action	Rationale	Timescale	Lead organisation and partners	Importance
		<p>We would advise that this is provided as a small community hub e.g. fitness and swimming pool as part of a housing development and it should not be on an education site. This will ensure the facility is always available and could potentially be integrated within the housing developments.</p> <p>Should NCC decide to provide a public leisure centre, with a swimming pool, on the Norwich / South Norfolk border, then there is need to include health and fitness. The scale of the gym provision should be assessed as part of the feasibility at that time. Current trends for exercise support the need to ensure that any future NCC developed leisure centres provide a health and fitness space of a minimum 75–100 stations in size in order to cross-subsidise the wet side offer.</p> <p>This could be delivered as a NCC facility or through a commercial provider, with agreed community access.</p>			

	Recommended Action	Rationale	Timescale	Lead organisation and partners	Importance
PROVIDE	HF 5 Consider re-provision of Riverside Leisure Centre or UEA based on age and condition or provide new health and fitness facilities to replace the existing stock.	<p>Between now and 2038, NCC or the UEA should consider re-provision of their existing facilities if age or condition becomes a factor at any of their NCC owned sites.</p> <p>Should NCC decide to re-furbish or replace any existing public leisure centre, with a swimming pool, and studio provision then the need and scale of the gym provision should be assessed as part of the feasibility at that time. As an outline the benchmark provision could be a minimum 75 - 100 station facility.</p> <p>It is difficult to assess the stage at which re-provision of existing health and fitness is required based on age, condition and the costs/ benefits of modernisation and extension of the existing buildings, set alongside re-provision. This should be monitored on an individual basis and be formed from condition surveys undertaken.</p>	Ongoing	NCC / UEA	Low

Table 11.4 - Indoor Tennis Centres

	Recommended Action	Rationale	Timescale	Lead organisation and partners	Importance
PROTECT	No Action.	There are no indoor tennis centres in Norwich so there are no centres to protect or retain and enhance.	N/A	N/A	N/A
ENHANCE	No Action.	There are no indoor tennis centres in Norwich so there are no centres to protect or retain and enhance.	N/A	N/A	N/A
PROVIDE	ITC 1 Provision of new 4-6 court Community Indoor Tennis Centre (CITC) in Greater Norwich.	<p>Given the findings on current supply, accessibility, and the current and projected future demand, the recommendation is to develop a 4-6 court CITC facility with associated ancillary facilities. Based on the needs assessment, this should be located either:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On land east of Norwich (Broadland), to support the Broadland Growth Triangle; 2. On land south of Norwich (South Norfolk). 3. The Hewett Academy land (Norwich), in connection with the outdoor courts. 4. UEA Sportspark (Norwich). <p>If a new public leisure centre is located on the Norwich / Broadland border as per the recommendations, the CITC could be included within the facility mix.</p> <p>A detailed feasibility study would be required to confirm the demand, working with key stakeholders including the LTA, NTA and the UEA.</p>	By 2030	SNC/NCC/ BDC / National Tennis Association / LTA / UEA	High

	Recommended Action	Rationale	Timescale	Lead organisation and partners	Importance
PROVIDE	ITC 2 Support current clubs and facility owners to improve their existing sites.	<p>Given the findings on current supply, accessibility, and the projected future demand, there is a significant deficit of indoor courts both now and in the future.</p> <p>Provision of up to 5 x 4 court halls is not commercially viable and therefore current clubs and facility owners should be supported in the development of improvement projects, especially the development of air halls on current all-weather outdoor tennis courts.</p> <p>On the basis that indoor tennis is an important activity in Greater Norwich, there is a need to be supportive of the development and improvement of the existing stock from commercial operators, including increasing provision.</p>	By 2038	All	Medium

Table 11.5 - Indoor Bowls Centres

	Recommended Action	Rationale	Timescale	Lead organisation and partners	Importance
PROTECT	IBC 1 Protect the existing supply of Indoor Bowls Centres.	<p>The needs assessment has highlighted that there is a surplus of indoor bowls rinks both now and by 2038. There is a total of 11 rinks across 2 facilities.</p> <p>The 2 current facilities allow access for a large majority of the population and will also meet the needs of surrounding local authorities. The Norman Centre is a NCC facility that has 4 rinks. This allows open access as well as club provision.</p> <p>There is a need to protect the current provision of indoor bowls centres in the short term. However, the future of the Norman Centre may impact the future of provision and it will need to be considered in the overall sustainability of the entire site.</p> <p>There is a need to maintain a watching brief on the level of participation/membership of the indoor bowls centres. Any proposals to reduce the supply of centres should be reviewed and the rationale for the reduction, as the long-term assessment is that indoor bowls is an important facility type that matches the Norwich sports participation profile now and more so in the future.</p>	Ongoing	NCC	Medium

	Recommended Action	Rationale	Timescale	Lead organisation and partners	Importance
ENHANCE	IBC 2 Support improvements at Indoor Bowls Centres where this would lead to increased capacity; improved quality of facilities and greater flexibility of use.	<p>There will be a continuing and increasing need to maintain and modernise the indoor bowls centres in Norwich. The Norfolk Bowling Club facility is over 50 years old, with the Norman Centre 38 years old, and they will likely need to be modernised between now and 2038.</p> <p>If Norfolk Bowling Club should close for any reason, there may be a need to re-provide an indoor bowls centre, depending on the number of members at the facility. This facility provides a significant proportion of the supply and is a key provider for indoor bowls in Norwich.</p> <p>Depending on the future of the Norman Centre, if this facility was lost by 2038, spare capacity is available at Norfolk Bowling Club and surrounding facilities, but there may be a need to support participants in finding an alternative location, including increasing community access to the facility. This may be undertaken by supporting the club in any capital improvements in return for secure community use.</p> <p>There will be a continuing and increasing need to maintain and modernise the buildings or consider re-provision based on a feasibility study of the cost/benefits of enhancement and refurbishment, set alongside re-provision. There is need to retain and enhance the overall level of supply if possible.</p>	By 2027	NCC	Medium

	Recommended Action	Rationale	Timescale	Lead organisation and partners	Importance
		<p>NCC and the Greater Norwich authorities should work with the EIBA and clubs, to assist with capital grant applications.</p> <p>Any proposals to reduce the supply of indoor bowls centres should be reviewed and the rationale for the reduction evidenced. This for the same reasons that indoor bowls is an important facility type that matches Norwich and sports participation profile now and more so in the future.</p> <p>Due to several factors, participation and membership of indoor bowls clubs fluctuates. Therefore, any potential consideration to close a centre because of declining membership should be considered longer-term.</p>			
PROVIDE	No Action.	There is no requirement to provide any additional indoor bowls centres, including under local authority ownership and management.	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 11.6 - Squash Courts

	Recommended Action	Rationale	Timescale	Lead organisation and partners	Importance
PROTECT	SC 1 Protect the existing supply of squash courts.	<p>The needs assessment has highlighted that there is a theoretical deficit in 2038 once the population has grown, although the current supply is appropriate (if all the UEA courts are available for hire). Information and feedback from facilities indicates that there is capacity available, with the UEA reducing their current provision of courts post pandemic.</p> <p>There are no NCC owned or operated facilities, although UEA Sportspark offers a very similar offer to a local authority facility with pay and play access.</p> <p>There is a need to protect the current supply of squash courts, working in partnership with operators. Any proposals to reduce the supply of courts should be reviewed, along with the rationale for the reduction.</p>	Ongoing	NCC / UEA	Medium

	Recommended Action	Rationale	Timescale	Lead organisation and partners	Importance
ENHANCE	SC 2 Support improvements at sites with squash courts where this would lead to increased capacity; improved quality of facilities; and greater flexibility of use.	<p>There will be a continuing and increasing need to maintain and modernise squash courts in Norwich. No new squash courts have been built since 2000 and the oldest facility is now 52 years old. Whilst most sites are maintained to a good quality, they will likely need to be modernised between now and 2038.</p> <p>It is also important to support the development and improvement of existing squash facilities. Any proposals to improve the courts, increase the number of courts or provide new provision should be supported to meet the demand deficit identified.</p> <p>NCC and the Greater Norwich authorities should work with England Squash and clubs to assist with capital grant applications.</p> <p>If a facility should close, then there may be a need to re-provide, depending on the current membership numbers and the actual location of the centre which closes.</p> <p>There is also a clear need to continue to work with the UEA to ensure squash provision is accessible to the population. The current facility is important for squash provision in the City and there should be engagement over current and future development plans to enhance any publicly accessible courts remain in the City.</p>	By 2027	NCC / UEA	Medium

	Recommended Action	Rationale	Timescale	Lead organisation and partners	Importance
PROVIDE	No Action.	<p>There is no requirement to provide any squash courts, including under local authority ownership and management. This is despite the deficit of courts in the future.</p> <p>This is because participation in the sport has significantly reduced in the last 20 years. Any new provision should be driven by the commercial sector, rather than the local authority.</p>	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 11.7 - Other Built Facilities

	Facility Type	Recommended Action	Rationale	Timescale	Lead organisation and partners	Importance
PROTECT	Athletics	A1 Protect the current athletics track at UEA Sportspark.	<p>In partnership with the UEA, there is a need to protect the current facility at the UEA Sportspark. The only other 400m tracks in Norfolk are in Great Yarmouth and King's Lynn.</p> <p>There will be growing demand for athletics as a result of the housing growth, and the current facility is key for community and competitive need.</p> <p>Any proposals to remove the facility should be reviewed and the rationale for the reduction.</p>	Ongoing	NCC / UEA	High
PROTECT	Cycling	C1 Protect the current cycling facilities located in Norwich.	<p>NCC currently own and manage all 3 cycling facilities in the City. There will be a need, alongside key stakeholders including British Cycling, Norwich Flyers BMX and Norwich Cycle Speedway Club to work together and protect the current facilities.</p> <p>The Sloughbottom Park BMX Track is the only BMX Track within Norfolk, with the closest facilities of similar quality located in Ipswich (Landseer Park) and Peterborough (Orton Park).</p>	Ongoing	NCC	High

	Facility Type	Recommended Action	Rationale	Timescale	Lead organisation and partners	Importance
			Any proposals to remove the facility should be reviewed and the rationale for the reduction clearly evidenced.			
PROTECT	Gymnastics	G1 Work in partnership to support gymnastic provision across Norwich.	<p>Spring Gymnastics (at The Hewett Academy), Norwich Gymnastics Club and UEA Sportspark are all dedicated facilities that are key to provision of gymnastics in the City.</p> <p>NCC should look to work in partnership with both sites to continue to protect gymnastics in Norwich.</p> <p>The UEA Sportspark provides an Olympic standard equipment and engagement should continue to be undertaken with UEA to understand current and future development plans for gymnastics at the site.</p> <p>The facility also provides an open access policy, similar to a public leisure centre and this should be supported.</p>	Ongoing	NCC / UEA / Spring Gymnastics	High

	Facility Type	Recommended Action	Rationale	Timescale	Lead organisation and partners	Importance
PROTECT	Boxing	B1 Work in partnership to support boxing facilities in Norwich.	<p>There are 3 clubs located across 3 facilities in the City, and there is a need to work in partnership to protect the facilities.</p> <p>There will be a growing demand as a result of the population growth, and this will put added pressure on the current facilities.</p>	Ongoing	All	Medium
PROTECT	Community Halls	CH1 Work in partnership to protect the provision of community halls and promote greater usage.	<p>Community halls provide important flexible multi-functional spaces for communities.</p> <p>NCC currently provides no local authority sports halls and there is a heavy reliance on education sites. As a result, these facilities play a key role in providing complementary provision for sport and physical activity at these times in addition to evenings and weekends.</p> <p>NCC should look to increase awareness and promote usage of community halls within the local communities. There should be consideration to improving available information, such as directories and websites that provide information on the hire, capacity and contact details for community halls.</p>	Ongoing	All	Medium

	Facility Type	Recommended Action	Rationale	Timescale	Lead organisation and partners	Importance
			The halls should be protected by key stakeholders, provided they are financially sustainable facilities and widely beneficial for the community.			
ENHANCE	Athletics	A2 Support improvements for UEA Sportspark where this would lead to increase capacity; improved quality and greater flexibility of use.	<p>There will be a continuing and increasing need to maintain and modernise the facility at UEA Sportspark. NCC, UEA and the Greater Norwich authorities should work with England Athletics and the 2 resident clubs to assist in capital grant applications.</p> <p>If UEA Sportspark was to close or it was not fit for repair, there will be a need to re-provide a facility in Norwich. The facility is key for athletics in the Greater Norwich and Norfolk area.</p> <p>If provided on an education site, 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>	Ongoing	NCC / UEA	Medium

	Facility Type	Recommended Action	Rationale	Timescale	Lead organisation and partners	Importance
ENHANCE	Cycling	C2 Support improvements to the cycling facilities in Norwich. Re-provision should be considered if the facilities cannot be replaced due to age and condition.	<p>There will be a continuing and increasing need to maintain and modernise the cycling facilities. Of note, the Sloughbottom Park BMX Track is the only facility in Norfolk that allows for BMX competition and therefore it is a regional facility of note.</p> <p>NCC should work with key stakeholders, including clubs and funding partners, to identify potential funding streams to enable improvement works to be carried out.</p> <p>If the facilities are no longer fit for purpose, consideration should be given to re-provision.</p>	Ongoing	All	Medium

	Facility Type	Recommended Action	Rationale	Timescale	Lead organisation and partners	Importance
ENHANCE	Gymnastics	G2 Support improvements at existing sites where this would lead to increased capacity; improved quality of facilities and greater flexibility of use; and improved viability for community use.	<p>It is expected that participation of gymnastics will grow in Norwich between 2022 and 2038. NCC should work with key stakeholders, clubs and funding partners to identify potential funding avenues to continue to ensure the facilities can be enhanced.</p> <p>Spring Gymnastics is the largest club in Greater Norwich and may require support in increasing the capacity of their facility or finding an alternative location. The club is key to gymnastics in the City (and surrounding local authorities) and therefore the club should be supported in their development, alongside British Gymnastics and other key stakeholders.</p> <p>If the facilities are no longer fit for purpose, consideration in re-providing a dedicated facility should be undertaken.</p>	Ongoing	All	Medium

	Facility Type	Recommended Action	Rationale	Timescale	Lead organisation and partners	Importance
ENHANCE	Boxing	B2 Support improvements at existing sites where this would lead to increased capacity; improved quality of facilities and offer greater flexibility of use; and improved viability for community use.	<p>It is expected that participation of boxing will grow in Norwich between 2022 and 2038.</p> <p>NCC should work with key stakeholders, clubs and funding partners to identify potential funding avenues to continue to ensure the facilities can be enhanced.</p> <p>If the facilities are no longer fit for purpose, consideration in re-providing the facilities should be undertaken.</p>	Ongoing	All	Medium
ENHANCE	Community Halls	CH2 Support improvements at existing community hall sites.	Key stakeholders including NCC, and operators, should consider making improvements to existing community hall facilities, ensuring they continue to meet the needs of residents, both now and in the future.	Ongoing	All	Medium

	Facility Type	Recommended Action	Rationale	Timescale	Lead organisation and partners	Importance
			<p>The programme and usage of facilities should continue to be monitored, alongside any appropriate community consultation, to ensure the facility is being used sustainably.</p> <p>NCC should work with key stakeholders, including clubs and funding partners, to identify potential funding streams, which will allow improvement works to be carried out.</p> <p>If the facilities are no longer fit for purpose, consideration should be given to re-provision.</p>			
PROVIDE	Athletics	A3 Consider providing a compact athletics facility in Norwich and/ or traffic-free running and cycling tracks in Norwich.	<p>There is no requirement to provide any additional formal athletics tracks including under local authority ownership and management.</p> <p>With the urban nature of Norwich, there is also potential to provide either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A compact athletics facility at a school or education site; and/ or • Informal traffic-free provision. 	Ongoing	NCC	Medium

	Facility Type	Recommended Action	Rationale	Timescale	Lead organisation and partners	Importance
			<p>The Hewett Academy has identified their interest in using their site for athletics. We would not recommend a 400m track, but consideration for a compact athletics facility available to the community should be investigated, working in partnership with England Athletics.</p> <p>In addition, focus should also be on providing traffic-free provision. Informal running tracks (in combination with cycling) allow for formal and informal athletics and running participation.</p> <p>This could be developed as part of a school facility, park setting or a new housing development. This would also contribute to NCC's aims around improving the health and wellbeing of residents. Previous examples can include a running straight as part of the track and can be used for links for events such as Parkrun.</p>			

	Facility Type	Recommended Action	Rationale	Timescale	Lead organisation and partners	Importance
PROVIDE	Cycling	C3 Consider providing traffic-free running and cycling tracks in Norwich, including consideration for a regional closed road circuit in the Greater Norwich area.	<p>Linked to the requirements for informal athletics provision, consideration should be given to providing traffic-free provision. Informal running tracks (in combination with cycling) allow for formal and informal participation in athletics, running and cycling.</p> <p>There should also be consideration to inclusion of free-access facilities, such as pump tracks, as part of any open space proposals within new housing developments.</p> <p>In consultation with British Cycling and the local cycling network, NCC and key stakeholders should explore the opportunity to provide a regional traffic free closed road circuit.</p> <p>This facility could also encompass other cycling activities, such as BMX tracks, mountain biking and learn to ride areas.</p> <p>There are no other facilities like this in the Greater Norwich or Norfolk area, with Colchester being the closest.</p>	Ongoing	All	Low

	Facility Type	Recommended Action	Rationale	Timescale	Lead organisation and partners	Importance
			<p>Any facility should also be linked with developments of improving cycling networks around the Greater Norwich area. Access from dedicated cycling networks will increase the accessibility of the facility.</p> <p>It is likely that due to the land space required, it may be located outside of the City boundary. However, access for those who live in the City will be important.</p>			
PROVIDE	Gymnastics	No Action.	There is no requirement or evidenced need to provide an additional dedicated gymnastics facility in Norwich.	N/A	N/A	N/A
PROVIDE	Boxing	B 3 Consider supporting the re-location of clubs in Norwich to enhance expansion.	<p>NCC along with key stakeholders including England Boxing should support where appropriate the boxing clubs if they require help in finding a new facility.</p> <p>England Boxing have identified that Norwich City ABC are looking for their own dedicated facility as they are currently required to hire Kick Stop gym which limits their potential to expand.</p>	Ongoing	All	Low

	Facility Type	Recommended Action	Rationale	Timescale	Lead organisation and partners	Importance
PROVIDE	Community Halls	No Action.	Due to the compact land scale of Norwich, we believe the current facilities are all accessible for residents and any new leisure provision will provide significant flexible spaces, with the current halls should be protected an enhanced,	N/A	N/A	N/A