

# Taunton Deane Borough Council

**Executive – 2 December 2009**

## **The future provision of Sport Facilities in Taunton Deane**

**Please note:**

**The Facilities Sports Strategy has been compiled by Ploszajski Lynch Consulting Ltd on behalf of Taunton Deane Borough Council.**

### **Report of Strategy Officer**

(This matter is the responsibility of Executive Councillor Richard Lees)

#### **Executive Summary**

Attached to this report is the Sport Facilities Strategy. The Strategy assess the quality, quantity and accessibility of all sports facilities provision in Taunton Deane, identifies and provides polices to address any current and future gaps in provision for each type of sports facility as well as a coordinated and consistent approach to the managing and planning of future built sports facilities provision.

The Executive is asked to review the report and support the vision, aims, objectives and action plan.

The Executive is asked to approve for the Sport Facilities Strategy to go out to wider consultation which will enable it to be considered for adoption as a Supplementary Planning Document.

The Executive is asked to accept the Strategy as a technical document to be weighed in the decision making process for the determination of development proposals.

The Executive is asked to delegate to the Portfolio Holder for Sports, Parks and Leisure approval of minor amendments to the Sport Facilities Strategy resulting from the wider consultation and outcomes of the Action Plan as they develop

## **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To provide a summary of the research work undertaken to ensure adequate Sport Facilities provision for Taunton residents and visitors in the future.

- 1.2 To provide the committee with the information to enable them to support the Strategy, agree for it to go wider consultation and accept it as a technical document for decision making in determining development proposals.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 The Sports Facilities Strategy (SFS) was commissioned by the Strategy Unit in July 2009. Ploszajski Lynch Consulting Ltd were appointed to undertake the work.
- 2.2 The SFS for Taunton Deane has three key elements. Firstly it assesses the quality, quantity and accessibility of all sports facilities provision in the Borough. Secondly it identifies and provides policies to address any current and future gaps in provision for each type of sports facility. Thirdly it provides a coordinated and consistent approach to the managing and planning future built sports facilities provision which enables resources to be directed to areas of priority and to plan for appropriate levels of leisure facilities in connection with new developments.
- 2.3 The SFS will guide plan-making and will be used as part of the Local Development Framework (LDF) evidence base; and may ultimately become a Supplementary Planning Document which will develop the current approach to calculating Leisure facilities requirements arising from new developments.
- 2.4 In the course of its production the SFS it has been subject to consultation with key stakeholders, the County Sports Partnership (SASP) sports clubs and national governing bodies. However to become part of the LDF it is necessary to consult more widely on the document to make it more robust to challenge. The consultation process would include a number of statutory consultees and other stakeholders; such as Sport England, RTPi, RIBA, Home Builders Federation, Housing Corporation, Design for Homes, National governing bodies for sport, Institute of Sport, Parks and Leisure, Institute of Sport and Recreation Management, Fitness Industry Association, DCMS, DCLG, Equalities and Human Rights Commission, County Council, SWRA, sports pitch users, Parish Councils, and construction companies that are active in our area.
- 2.5 For wider consultation we would publish the intention to consult and give details of how to access the Strategy (Summary Document) and consultation document.

## **3. Policy Context**

### **3.1 National**

Whilst there is no current primary legislation that specifically requires the preparation of a Sports Facilities Strategy, Planning Policy Guidance 17 Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (PPG 17 July 2002) makes clear that local authorities should undertake audits of existing open space, sports and recreation facilities, robust assessments of existing and future needs, and set local provision standards.

Section 13 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires the Council to keep under review the matters which may be expected to affect the development of its area or the planning of its development.

Planning Policy Statement 12 (paragraph 4.8) requires that Local Development Documents must be based on a robust and credible evidence base. Policies should be founded on a thorough understanding of the needs of the area. For this purpose the Council should prepare and maintain an up to date information base on key aspects of the social, economic and environmental characteristics of their area, to enable the preparation of a sound spatial plan meeting the objectives for sustainable development.

Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 makes provision for developer contributions in association with new developments and Circular 05/05 clarifies the requirements for such contributions. This includes a requirement for contributions to be appropriate to the impact of the development. To this end it is necessary to establish standards of provision for leisure based on robust evidence. The report provides such an evidence base.

### 3.2 **Local**

There is much local policy which aspires to achieve well-being outcomes for the community which the Council is charged with delivering. The Sports Facilities Strategy could deliver on these benefits if managed and developed appropriately for example:

- The **Sustainable Community Strategy** for Taunton Deane has as part of its vision; to increase the number of people taking regular exercise and increase the number of “free to use” youth facilities such as Multi Use Games Areas.

Priority 9 - To Promote and enable healthy lifestyles.<sup>1</sup>

- The **Corporate Strategy** Aim 4 – Healthy Living; Objective 14 is to promote healthy living and the participation in sports, art, culture and volunteering. To get More People, More Active, More Often.<sup>2</sup>
- **Comprehensive Area Assessment and Local Area Agreement.** Performance indicators which contribute to these two monitoring programs include:

National Indicator 8 - Adult participation in 30 minutes, moderate intensity sport.

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<sup>1</sup> Pg 26, Taunton Deane Sustainable Community Strategy 2007-2017

<sup>2</sup> Pg 6, 21 and 22, Taunton Deane Corporate Strategy 2009-2011

National Indicator 121 - mortality rate from all circulatory diseases at ages under 75

- **PCT Strategic Framework for Improving Health** and staying healthy aims to reduce obesity promote physical activity across all ages.<sup>3</sup>
- The **Local Development Framework** is an opportunity to allocate new land for Built Sports Facilities as well as levy a charge on developments which aren't big enough to provide new sites within the developments, which could go some way to providing capital investment in improving existing allotment sites.

#### **4. Implications**

##### **4.1 Key Decision**

Approval of the Taunton Deane SFS to go out to wider consultation and acceptance of the Strategy as a technical document, is a key decision that will inform the preparation of policy and will be weighed in the decision making process for the determination of development proposals that may affect a significant number of Taunton Deane residents.

##### **4.2 Policy**

It is clear from national legislation that local authorities are required to provide robust and credible evidence base of need and set local provision standards to address future sports facilities provision. This enables the Council to plan and make provision for future sports facilities through developer contributions, partnership working and national funding streams.

##### **4.3 Corporate Objectives and Council Priorities**

Approval of Taunton Deane's SFS for further consultation is working towards production of Taunton Deane's Local Development Framework which is a Council priority; as well as meeting its Corporate Objectives on Health and Well-being.

The Strategy has at its core policies for best practice management of its leisure facilities estate including policies around accessibility, safety, enhancement, facility provision, engagement and education, all of which are contributing to the Sustainable Community Strategy objectives.

##### **4.4 Local Development Framework/Supplementary Planning Documents**

The intention is to develop the SFS into a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) as part of Taunton Deane's LDF. This will involve using the current evidence base and relevant policy elements in addition to supplementary information to meet the planning requirements of an SPD. The supplementary

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<sup>3</sup> Strategic Framework for Improving Health in Somerset 2009/10– 2013/14, published by Somerset Primary Care Trust October 2008

information would include; a section outlining the Purpose of the SPD, Monitoring and review arrangements, a section outlining the specific Planning Policy context and a planning definition of Leisure facilities. The Built Facilities need and supply section would need to be further developed in relation to negotiating provision. Generic planning policies, including design issues, and policies on the application of developer contributions would also be defined in the SPD.

#### 4.5 **Financial**

The policies developed within the strategy are supported by an action plan. This will require investment in improving leisure facilities and a re-allocation of existing resources to deliver on the priorities identified by the Strategy. Sources of funding are identified by the strategy, part of which will arise from existing and future developer contributions, national and regional initiatives. It is recognised that future funding streams are impossible to predict or quantify.

#### 4.6 **Human Rights**

It is considered that none of the four decisions will conflict with the Council's Obligations under the Human Rights Act (1998)

#### 4.7 **Property**

The SFS will deliver a co-ordinated and consistent approach to managing and planning leisure facilities provision which enables resources to be directed to areas of priority and to plan for appropriate levels of facilities in connection with new developments. The report encompasses site audits of all Taunton Deane's key sports facilities assets and identifies where they have greater potential and where improvements are desirable or necessary. Specifically the Strategy supports the proposals already submitted to the Council relating to the future provision of swimming in Taunton Deane.

#### 4.8 **Risk Management**

Better and more proactive management of the Council's Leisure facilities will help reduce the likelihood of financial claims against the Council arising from any injury sustained by staff or members of the public being successful.

The policy will be the subject of an Equality Impact Assessment reducing the likelihood of any unintended discrimination arising from the management of built sports facilities and consequently reducing the council's exposure to claims based on discrimination.

A managed approach to Leisure facilities will enable a healthier lifestyle, proper management of risk through physical activity and overall well being.

#### 4.9 **Community Safety**

The SFS contains policies around maintaining local facilities and reducing anti social behaviour, focusing on providing positive alternative activity for young people, skills development and engagement in sport.

## **5. Equalities Impact Assessment**

- 5.1 This report has been written considering the positive and negative impacts on the six following equalities groups – Disability, Race, Faith, Gender, Sexual Orientation and Age.
- 5.2 The Built Sports Facilities report will have its own Equalities Impact Assessment and will help identify equalities issues that will need to be considered. This is being undertaken 24<sup>th</sup> November and will be circulated prior to the Executive meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

## **6. Groups Consulted**

- 6.1 As part of the process of producing the Taunton Deane SFS the following consultations have been taken into account,
- a focus group took place with the key stakeholders
  - a review of the draft documentation by Sport England, Somerset Leisure Partnership, Tone Leisure and TDBC officers
  - advice was taken from Sport England

Planning Policy and Development Management have been consulted at various stages of its production and their comments incorporated into this draft, Economic Development, Estates, Property, Policy and Performance have all been consulted.

## **7. Time-scale**

- 7.1 Following Executive the SFS would go to wider consultation in January. Approval of the provision standards would see them come into effect immediately to be weighed in the decision making process for the determination of development proposals.

## **8. Justification**

- 8.1 The Strategy is needed to ensure that resources are directed in a way that delivers on all the above matters and which contributes to the delivery of key Council and Sustainable Community Strategy outcomes.

## **9. Community Scrutiny Recommendations**

- 9.1 Crossover of facility provision – i.e. combine multi-use games areas with tennis courts. Acknowledged and referenced in the revised document.
- 9.2 Village Halls – Clearly state the TDBC policy of improvement of existing facilities in the first instance followed by provision of new. Acknowledged and referenced in the revised document.
- 9.3 Youth facilities/BMX – this is not mentioned in the strategy. This is picked up in the Green Space Strategy.
- 9.4 Regional and National Sports Facility Requirements – Could the strategy identify any opportunities. The Sports Facilities Strategy is aimed at local community facilities. Opportunities for the Borough to have National and Regional centres would be an Economic Development responsibility.
- 9.5 Standards are Aspirational – The Sports Facilities Strategy is based on identified local need using nationally recognised best practice.
- 9.6 Can developers afford the costs of new provision – Having the Sports Facilities Strategy provides upfront information to developers of identified need and Section 106 requirements. Advanced knowledge of any charges enables developers to factor the costs into their budgets.

## **10. Recommendations**

- 10.1 The Executive is asked to review the report and support the vision, aims, objectives and action plan.
- 10.2 The Executive is asked to approve for the draft Taunton Deane Built Sport Facilities Strategy to go out to wider consultation which will enable it to be considered for adoption as a Supplementary Planning Document.
- 10.3 The Executive is asked to accept the Strategy as a technical document to be weighed in the decision making process for the determination of development proposals.
- 10.4 The Executive is asked to delegate to the Portfolio Holder for Sports, Parks and Leisure approval of minor amendments to the Strategy resulting from the wider consultation and outcomes of the Action Plan as they develop



## **11. Further Information**

- 11.1 The Sports Facilities Strategy will be posted on the Member's Portal along with the Equalities Impact Assessment.
- 11.2 Strategy Officer contact details: Ann Rhodes - [a.rhodes@tauntondeane.gov.uk](mailto:a.rhodes@tauntondeane.gov.uk)

**TAUNTON DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
***SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

***SUBMISSION TO EXECUTIVE***

**NOVEMBER 2009**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### **The vision, aims and objectives of the strategy**

1) **Vision:** The vision for the Taunton Deane Sports Facilities Strategy is:

*‘to enhance the quality of life of existing residents, new communities and visitors to Taunton Deane, by developing, promoting and enabling the provision of high quality, environmentally sustainable sports facilities’.*

2) **Aims:** The aims of the strategy are to:

- a) Assess the quality quantity and accessibility of sports facilities provision in Taunton Deane.
- b) Identify any current and future gaps in provision.
- c) Propose ways of meeting any identified shortfalls.

3) **Objectives:** The objectives of the strategy are to:

- a) Evaluate the strategic context for sports facility provision in Taunton Deane, to identify the role that it might play in meeting both sporting and wider agendas.
- b) Analyse provision using a methodology that is compliant with the Government’s Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17) ‘Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation’ (2002).
- c) Generate evidence-based local planning standards for each type of sports facility, to enable the adequacy of current and future provision to be met.
- d) Apply the standards to identify deficiencies in the number, quality, location and accessibility of facilities.
- e) Produce an action plan that identifies how, when, where and by whom any shortfalls will be met.

### **What the strategy covers**

4) The scope of the strategy includes the following types of sports facility, owned and managed by public, private and voluntary sector operators, with and without general community access and taking account of any provision in neighbouring areas with catchments that overlap the boundaries of Taunton Deane.

- Sports halls
- Athletics tracks
- Indoor bowls facilities
- Indoor tennis courts
- Squash courts
- Health and fitness facilities
- Village and community halls
- Swimming pools
- Synthetic turf pitches
- Outdoor bowls facilities
- Outdoor tennis courts
- Golf courses
- Multi-use games areas
- Grass pitches

## **About the district**

- 5) ***Age structure:*** The average age of a Taunton Deane resident is 41 and 20% of the Borough's population is aged 65 and over. This will inflate relative demand for facilities providing for activities that are suitable for older people. According to Sport England's Market Segmentation data; this includes sports such as swimming, bowls, tennis, golf and keep fit.
- 6) ***The urban/rural split:*** 70% of the borough's population lives in urban areas (principally Taunton and Wellington) which make these centres the obvious location for sports facility provision to maximise accessibility. However, the remainder of the population lives at relatively low density in rural settlements, creating a challenge to deliver appropriately scaled local facilities to minimise the need to travel on what are already congested local roads.
- 7) ***Population growth:*** Significant local population growth associated with new housing developments (around 50,140 people by 2026) will substantially inflate demand for sports facilities (and other local services). However, the housing will be concentrated on the fringes of Taunton and Wellington and therefore most sports facility provision will be required in the same areas. Should the Council adopted the Community Infrastructure Levy in addition to Section 106 it will provide an opportunity to attract financial contributions from the developers to fund facilities that will demonstrably meet the needs of the new residents.
- 8) ***The local economy:*** The relatively low wage local economy will reduce the amount of disposable income available for discretionary spending on activities such as sport and leisure and may therefore depress demand levels.
- 9) ***Health:*** Conversely, the positive health indices locally suggest that demand for sport is likely to be higher than might otherwise be expected given the local demography.
- 10) ***Sports participation:*** Overall rates of regular participation in sport and physical activity are lower than the regional and national averages and actually fell by 1.2% between 2006 and 2008. However, volunteering levels are very buoyant and this is reflected in higher than average levels of involvement in formally coached, competitive club-based sport.
- 11) ***Views on local provision:*** Levels of satisfaction with local sports provision are well above the regional and national average, which suggests that residents are largely content with the quantity and quality of current facilities.

## **The role of sport in meeting local priorities**

- 12) ***The Community Strategy:*** The specific policy commitments in the Community Strategy are reflected in this document, in particular the role that sport can play in contributing to wider agendas such as community cohesion, economic regeneration, sense of place and quality of life.
- 13) ***The Corporate Strategy:*** Sport and physical activity can play an important role in delivering against wider Council priorities. The Corporate Strategy includes the following specific actions that are in turn reflected in this document:
  - a) Consider options for delivering new opportunities for swimming in Taunton Deane, including the construction of a new 25m pool in Taunton.
  - b) Promote physical activity for the elderly.
- 14) ***The Local Plan:*** Whilst current planning policies are generally supportive of retaining existing provision, they are compromised by the absence of standards of provision for all types of sports facilities and a related assessment of current and future needs. The strong emphasis within planning policy on locating provision in places where it will maximise accessibility and minimising car borne journeys will need to be reflected in proposals for new sports facilities.
- 15) ***The built sports facilities assessment:*** The 2007 assessment provides a helpful evidence base upon which further strategic planning can be based, however more work is needed to establish robust per capita standards of provision and to apply these to identify current and future shortfalls.
- 16) ***The sports strategy:*** Since the rationale for providing sports facilities is to support programmes of activity, the Council's sport and physical activities strategy has an important bearing on the facilities assessment in this document.
- 17) ***The playing pitch strategy:*** The pitch strategy identifies deficiencies in a number of types of playing pitches, which will be reflected in the standards set in the sports facilities strategy.
- 18) ***The green infrastructure strategy:*** The wider role that pitches and outdoor sports facilities play in the green infrastructure network is acknowledged in this document, particularly where notional surpluses in provision may imply that there is a case for disposal.

### **The role of sport in meeting wider priorities**

- 19) ***The regional cultural strategy:*** The strategy contains some general aims for cultural provision, which are reflected in this document.
- 20) ***The regional cultural infrastructure strategy:*** The strategic importance of Taunton as a 'Strategically Significant City and Town' (SSCT) and a 'Planning Area for Culture' (PAC) is acknowledged in this document.
- 21) ***The Regional Spatial Strategy:*** The needs of the extra 51,140 residents that will arise as a result of the housing allocation for Taunton Deane are assessed in this document, along with a basis for calculating developer contributions.

- 22) **PPG17:** PPG17 and its companion document provide a sound and defensible methodological basis for undertaking the local assessment of sports facilities needs.
- 23) **The DCMS Strategy:** Whilst the Government's strategy principally defines the roles that national agencies will play in co-ordinating the delivery of sporting opportunities, its target increases in participation will have a profound effect on demand for the sports facilities that will be required to sustain the additional users.
- 24) **The Sport England Strategy:** Sport England's strategy provides a policy template within which to interpret local sporting need and priorities. It will guide the external funding priorities upon which some local facilities developments may depend.

### **What we've got**

25) **Quantitative analysis:** In Taunton Deane:

- a) Per capita rates of provision at Borough level are better than all the neighbouring local authorities for sports halls, swimming pools, synthetic turf pitches, synthetic athletics tracks, indoor tennis and health and fitness facilities.
- b) The per capita rates are close to the best of the neighbouring areas for indoor bowling greens and golf courses, but are the poorest of the comparators for outdoor bowling greens.
- c) Sub-area analysis of the more local scale facilities reveals some geographical anomalies in levels of provision, particularly for MUGAs.

26) **Qualitative analysis:** In Taunton Deane:

- a) The overall quality of provision is particularly poor for swimming pools.
- b) The quality of facility provision in the borough is higher than all the comparator local authorities for sports halls, synthetic turf pitches, outdoor tennis courts, golf courses, health and fitness facilities and MUGAs. The quality is poorer than all the comparator areas for swimming pools and squash courts.

### **Identifying what we need**

27) The proposed local standards are as follows, along with the evidence base that justifies each individual component:

<b><i>Facility</i></b>	<b><i>Proposed Standard</i></b>	<b><i>Justification</i></b>
Sports halls	One four-badminton court sports hall (33m x 18m x 7.6m) per 7,500 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing levels of provision equate to one sports hall per 7,407 people - <i>Quantitative audit</i> (2009).</li> <li>• Usage levels at sports halls are at 52% of available capacity, so there is significant spare capacity at present. - <i>Facilities Planning Model</i> (2009).</li> <li>• 97% of sports hall demand in Taunton Deane is currently being met by supply, so current levels of provision are about right. - <i>Facilities Planning Model</i> (2009).</li> </ul>
	Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all facilities are rated as 'good'.	60% of the sports halls assessed are currently rated as 'good'. - <i>Built Facilities Needs Assessment</i> (2007).
	The whole population within 15 minutes walk or drive of the closest hall.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The catchment area for a 4-court sports hall is 15 minutes, based upon local usage patterns. <i>Built Facilities Needs Assessment</i> (TDBC, 2007).</li> <li>• The whole population of Taunton Deane lives within 20 minutes driving time of at least one sports hall. - <i>Facilities Planning Model</i> (2009).</li> </ul>

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Proposed Standard</b>	<b>Justification</b>
Swimming pools	One 25m indoor swimming pool per 20,000 people (16.25 sq.m. per 1,000 people).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing levels of provision equate to one indoor pool per 18,617 people - <i>Quantitative audit</i> (2009).</li> <li>Usage levels at swimming pools are at 63% of available capacity, so there is some spare capacity at present. - <i>Facilities Planning Model</i> (2009).</li> <li>96% of swimming pool demand in Taunton Deane is currently being met by supply, so current levels of provision are about right. - <i>Facilities Planning Model</i> (2009).</li> </ul>
	Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all facilities are rated as 'good'.	None of the swimming pools assessed is currently rated as 'good'. - <i>Built Facilities Needs Assessment</i> (2007).
	The whole population within 15 minutes walk or drive of the closest pool.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The catchment area for a swimming pool is 15 minutes, based upon local usage patterns. <i>Built Facilities Needs Assessment</i> (TDBC, 2007).</li> <li>99% of the population of Taunton Deane lives within 20 minutes driving time of at least one swimming pool. - <i>Facilities Planning Model</i> (2009).</li> </ul>
Athletics tracks	One 400m synthetic track per 250,000 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UK Athletics recommends one 6-lane track per 250,000 people. - <i>Athletics Facilities Strategy for the UK</i> (2007).</li> <li>With no provision in surrounding districts, the Taunton track serves a wider than borough catchment and therefore attracts additional external users. - <i>Quantitative audit</i> (2009).</li> </ul>
	All aspects of the track and its ancillary facilities should be rated as 'good'.	All aspects of the track and its ancillary facilities are currently rated as 'good'. - <i>Built Facilities Needs Assessment</i> (2007).
	The whole population within 30 minutes walk or drive of the nearest track.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The catchment area for the current athletics track is 30 minutes, based upon local usage patterns. - <i>Built Facilities Needs Assessment</i> (2007).</li> <li>UK Athletics recommends one 6-lane 400m synthetic athletics track within 20 minutes drive time (20 minutes walk in urban areas) - <i>Athletics Facilities Strategy for the UK</i> (2006).</li> </ul>
Synthetic Turf Pitches	One full-sized floodlit synthetic turf pitch (100m x 60m) per 20,000 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing levels of provision equate to one synthetic pitch per 15,871 people - <i>Quantitative audit</i> (2009).</li> <li>There is surplus capacity at several of the current pitches. - <i>Built Facilities Needs Assessment</i> (2007).</li> <li>Per capita levels of provision in Taunton Deane are more than double those in all the neighbouring local authorities. - <i>Quantitative audit</i> (2009).</li> </ul>
	All aspects of all pitches and their ancillary facilities should be rated as 'good'.	Five of the seven pitches (71%) are currently rated as 'good'. - <i>Built Facilities Needs Assessment</i> (2007).
	The whole population within 20 minutes walk or drive of the nearest synthetic pitch.	The catchment area for synthetic turf pitches is 20 minutes, based upon local usage patterns. - <i>Built Facilities Needs Assessment</i> (2007).



<b>Facility</b>	<b>Proposed Standard</b>	<b>Justification</b>
Indoor Bowling Greens	One indoor bowling rink per 11,000 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing levels of provision equate to one indoor rink per 11,100 people - <i>Quantitative audit</i> (2009).</li> <li>The English Indoor Bowling Association advocates one indoor rink per 14,000 - 17,000 people. - <i>Indoor Bowls Design Guidance Note</i> (2005).</li> </ul>
	All aspects of all indoor bowls facilities should be rated as 'good'.	The overall quality of all the existing indoor bowls facilities is currently rated as 'good'. - <i>Built Facilities Needs Assessment</i> (2007).
	The whole population within 20 minutes walk or drive of the nearest green.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The catchment area for indoor bowls facilities is 20 minutes, based upon local usage patterns. - <i>Built Facilities Needs Assessment</i> (2007).</li> <li>The majority of facility users will live locally and travel not more than 20 minutes. - <i>Indoor Bowls Design Guidance</i> (2005)</li> </ul>
Outdoor bowling greens	One six-rink outdoor bowling green per 37,000 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing levels of provision equate to one green per 37,033 people - <i>Quantitative audit</i> (2009).</li> <li>The current demand for outdoor bowls can be met by the existing clubs. - <i>Built Facilities Needs Assessment</i> (2007).</li> </ul>
	All aspects of all greens and their ancillary facilities should be rated as 'good'.	All three outdoor bowling greens are currently rated as 'good'. - <i>Built Facilities Needs Assessment</i> (2007).
	The whole population within 20 minutes walk or drive of the nearest green.	The catchment area for indoor bowls facilities is 20 minutes, based upon local usage patterns. - <i>Built Facilities Needs Assessment</i> (2007).
Indoor tennis courts	One indoor tennis court per 20,000 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing levels of provision equate to one court per 18,517 people. - <i>Quantitative audit</i> (2009).</li> <li>With no provision in surrounding districts, the Taunton courts serves a wider than borough catchment and therefore attracts additional external users. - <i>Quantitative audit</i> (2009).</li> </ul>
	All aspects of the indoor courts and their ancillary facilities should be rated as 'good'.	All aspects of the existing courts and their ancillary facilities are currently rated as 'good'. - <i>Built Facilities Needs Assessment</i> (2007).
	The whole population within 30 minutes walk or drive of the nearest courts.	The catchment area for indoor tennis courts is 30 minutes, based upon local usage patterns. <i>Built Facilities Needs Assessment</i> (2007).
Outdoor tennis courts	One outdoor tennis court per 1,500 people.	Existing levels of provision equate to one court per 1,522 people. - <i>Quantitative audit</i> (2009).
	Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all facilities are rated as 'good'.	47 of the 71 outdoor courts (65%) are currently in 'good' condition. - <i>Built Facilities Needs Assessment</i> (2007).
	The whole population within 10 minutes walk or drive of the nearest court.	The catchment area for outdoor tennis courts is 10 minutes, based upon local usage patterns. - <i>Built Facilities Needs Assessment</i> (2007).
Squash courts	One squash court per 7,500 people.	Existing levels of provision equate to one court per 7,407 people - <i>Quantitative audit</i> .
	Quality improvements to ensure that all aspects of all facilities are rated as 'good'.	Four of the seven squash facilities (57%) are currently rated as 'good'. - <i>Built Facilities Needs Assessment</i> (2007).
	The whole population within 15 minutes walk or drive of the nearest court.	The catchment area for squash courts is 15 minutes, based upon local usage patterns. <i>Built Facilities Needs Assessment</i> (2007).

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Proposed Standard</b>	<b>Justification</b>
Golf courses	One 18-hole golf course per 25,000 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing levels of provision equate to one 18-hole course per 24,689 people - <i>Quantitative audit</i> (2009).</li> <li>The English Golf Union states that 'supply of golf courses currently exceeds demand, with membership vacancies at the majority of golf clubs. Nevertheless, it is important to note that participation rates are still rising'. Current levels of provision are therefore a reasonable basis for setting standards - <i>Golf Development Strategic Plan 2004-2014</i>' (EGU, 2004)</li> </ul>
	All aspects of the courses and their ancillary facilities should be rated as 'good'.	All the facilities assessed are currently rated as 'good'. - <i>Built Facilities Needs Assessment</i> (2007).
	The whole population within 20 minutes walk or drive of the nearest course.	The catchment area for golf courses is 20 minutes, based upon local usage patterns. <i>Built Facilities Needs Assessment</i> (2007).
Health and fitness	One health and fitness facility with 50 stations per 8,000 people.	Existing levels of provision equate to one facility per 7,936 people and one fitness station per 187 people - <i>Quantitative audit</i> (2009).
	Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all facilities are rated as 'good'.	11 of the 14 facilities assessed (79%) are currently rated as 'good'. - <i>Built Facilities Needs Assessment</i> (2007).
	The whole population within 20 minutes walk or drive of the nearest facility	The catchment area for health and fitness facilities is 15 minutes, based upon local usage patterns. <i>Built Facilities Needs Assessment</i> (2007).
Community and village halls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A main hall with toilets and kitchen for catchments of up to 1,495 people.</li> <li>A main hall, toilets, kitchen and a meeting/activity room for catchments of 1,495 to 2,149 people.</li> <li>A main hall, toilets, kitchen and two meeting/activity rooms for catchments of 2,150 or more people.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is the adopted standard in TDBC's adopted Policy for Community Halls. <i>TDBC Planning Obligations SPD</i> (2008)</li> <li>Existing levels of provision equate to one hall per 2,415 people. - <i>Quantitative audit</i> (2009).</li> </ul>
	Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all halls are rated as 'good'.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is no detailed qualitative data on halls, but only half are capable of accommodating recreational badminton and few have changing facilities. - <i>Built Facilities Needs Assessment</i> (2007).</li> <li>32% of halls have no disabled access. - <i>Built Facilities Needs Assessment</i> (2007).</li> </ul>
	The whole population within 10 minutes walk or drive of the nearest facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The catchment area for community and village halls is 10 minutes, based upon local usage patterns. <i>Built Facilities Needs Assessment</i> (2007).</li> <li>The local catchment for a community or village hall is one mile. <i>Research into the Provision of Community Halls in Taunton Deane</i> (2008).</li> </ul>
	All new/extended halls to comply with Sport England recommended dimensions (18m x 10m x 6.1m).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only half the existing halls are capable of accommodating recreational badminton and few have changing facilities. - <i>Built Facilities Needs Assessment</i> (2007).</li> <li>Sport England has identified that a hall with dimensions of 18m x 10m x 6.1m (equivalent to one badminton court) is capable of accommodating a range of indoor sports to recreational standard. - <i>Village and Community Halls Design Guidance</i> (2005).</li> </ul>

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Proposed Standard</b>	<b>Justification</b>
MUGAs	One MUGA per 5,000 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing levels of provision equate to one MUGA per 11,110 people - <i>Quantitative audit</i> (2009).</li> <li>Several areas of the Borough are currently unserved by MUGAs. - <i>'Built Facilities Needs Assessment'</i> (2007).</li> <li>The whole population should be within 480m straight line distance of a MUGA. <i>'Greenspace Strategy'</i> (forthcoming).</li> </ul>
	Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all facilities are rated as 'good'.	Five of the MUGAs are in 'good' condition (50%), two are 'fair' (25%), whilst the remaining two (25%) are 'poor'. - <i>'Built Facilities Needs Assessment'</i> (2007).
	The whole population within 480m straight line distance of the nearest facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The catchment area for MUGAs is 10 minutes, based upon local usage patterns. <i>'Built Facilities Needs Assessment'</i> (2007).</li> <li>The whole population should be within 480m straight line distance of a MUGA. <i>'Greenspace Strategy'</i> (forthcoming).</li> </ul>
Adult football pitches	One adult pitch per 2,300 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing levels of provision equate to one pitch per 2,020 people. - <i>Quantitative audit</i> (2009).</li> <li>The Playing Pitch Model indicates a current surplus of 25.6 pitches at the peak period, suggesting that 30 of the current 55 adult pitches are required to cater for existing demand levels. - <i>'Playing Pitch Strategy'</i> (2009).</li> </ul>
	Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all pitches are rated as 'good'.	There is no detailed qualitative data on individual pitches, but all should endeavour to achieve a 'good' quality rating, including changing provision. - <i>'Built Facilities Needs Assessment'</i> (2007).
	The whole population within 10 minutes walk or drive of the nearest pitch.	The catchment area for adult football pitches is 10 minutes, based upon local usage patterns. - <i>'Built Facilities Needs Assessment'</i> (2007).
Junior football pitches	One junior pitch per 2,000 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing levels of provision equate to one pitch per 2,584 people. - <i>Quantitative audit</i> (2009).</li> <li>The Playing Pitch Model indicates a current deficit of 12.1 pitches at the peak period, suggesting that 55 junior pitches are required to cater for existing demand levels, compared with the current 43. - <i>'Playing Pitch Strategy'</i> (2009).</li> </ul>
	Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all pitches are rated as 'good'.	There is no detailed qualitative data on individual pitches, but all should endeavour to achieve a 'good' quality rating, including changing provision. - <i>'Built Facilities Needs Assessment'</i> (2007).
	The whole population within 15 minutes walk or drive of the nearest pitch.	The catchment area for junior football pitches is 15 minutes, based upon local usage patterns. - <i>'Built Facilities Needs Assessment'</i> (2007).
Mini-soccer pitches	One mini-soccer pitch per 8,000 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing levels of provision equate to one pitch per 6,944 people. - <i>Quantitative audit</i> (2009).</li> <li>The Playing Pitch Model indicates a current surplus of 5 pitches at the peak period, suggesting that 11 of the current 16 mini-soccer pitches are required to cater for existing demand levels. - <i>'Playing Pitch Strategy'</i> (2009).</li> </ul>
	Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all pitches are rated as 'good'.	There is no detailed qualitative data on individual pitches, but all should endeavour to achieve a 'good' quality rating, including changing provision. - <i>'Built Facilities Needs Assessment'</i> (2007).
	The whole population within 15 minutes walk or drive of the nearest pitch.	The catchment area for mini-soccer pitches is 15 minutes, based upon local usage patterns. - <i>'Built Facilities Needs Assessment'</i> (2007).

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Proposed Standard</b>	<b>Justification</b>
Cricket pitches	One cricket pitch per 2,700 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing levels of provision equate to one pitch per 2,710 people. - <i>Quantitative audit</i> (2009).</li> <li>The Playing Pitch Model indicates a current deficit of 0.9 pitches at the peak period, suggesting that 48 cricket pitches are required to cater for existing demand levels, compared with the current 47. - <i>Playing Pitch Strategy</i> (2009).</li> </ul>
	Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all pitches are rated as 'good'.	There is no detailed qualitative data on individual pitches, but all should endeavour to achieve a 'good' quality rating, including changing provision. - <i>Built Facilities Needs Assessment</i> (2007).
	The whole population within 15 minutes walk or drive of the nearest pitch.	The catchment area for cricket pitches is 15 minutes, based upon local usage patterns. - <i>Built Facilities Needs Assessment</i> (2007).
Rugby pitches	One rugby pitch per 5,500 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing levels of provision equate to one pitch per 3,968 people. - <i>Quantitative audit</i> (2009).</li> <li>The Playing Pitch Model indicates a current surplus of 7.5 adult pitches at the peak period, suggesting that 20 of the 27 current rugby pitches are required to cater for existing demand levels. - <i>Playing Pitch Strategy</i> (2009).</li> </ul>
	Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all pitches are rated as 'good'.	There is no detailed qualitative data on individual pitches, but all should endeavour to achieve a 'good' quality rating, including changing provision. - <i>Built Facilities Needs Assessment</i> (2007).
	The whole population within 20 minutes walk or drive of the nearest pitch.	The catchment area for rugby pitches is 20 minutes, based upon local usage patterns. - <i>Built Facilities Needs Assessment</i> (2007).

### **Our current requirements**

28) The table below shows the results of applying the above standards in Taunton Deane:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Standard of provision</i>	<i>Population served</i>	<i>Population under-provided</i>	<i>Deficiency in provision</i>
Sports halls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One four-badminton court sports hall per 7,500 people.</li> <li>• Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all facilities are rated as 'good'.</li> <li>• The whole population within 15 minutes walk or drive of the closest hall.</li> </ul>	111,100	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No current quantitative deficiency.</li> <li>• Qualitative improvements at Wellington Sports Centre.</li> </ul>
Swimming pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One 25m indoor swimming pool per 20,000 people.</li> <li>• Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all facilities are rated as 'good'.</li> <li>• The whole population within 15 minutes walk or drive of the closest pool.</li> </ul>	111,100	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No current quantitative deficiency</li> <li>• Qualitative improvements at Taunton Pool, St. James Street Baths and Wellington Sports Centre.</li> </ul>
Athletics tracks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One 400m synthetic track per 250,000 people.</li> <li>• All aspects of the track and its ancillary facilities should be rated as 'good'.</li> <li>• The whole population within 30 minutes walk or drive of the nearest track.</li> </ul>	111,100	0	No current deficiency.

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Standard of provision</i>	<i>Population served</i>	<i>Population under-provided</i>	<i>Deficiency in provision</i>
Synthetic turf pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One full-sized floodlit synthetic turf pitch per 20,000 people.</li> <li>• All aspects of all pitches and their ancillary facilities should be rated as 'good'.</li> <li>• The whole population within 20 minutes walk or drive of the nearest pitch.</li> </ul>	111,100	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No current quantitative deficiency.</li> <li>• Qualitative improvements at Taunton School.</li> </ul>
Indoor bowling greens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One indoor bowling rink per 11,000 people.</li> <li>• All aspects of all pitches and their ancillary facilities should be rated as 'good'.</li> <li>• The whole population within 20 minutes walk or drive of the nearest indoor green.</li> </ul>	111,100	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No current quantitative deficiency.</li> <li>• Disabled access improvements at Taunton BC.</li> </ul>
Outdoor bowling greens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One outdoor bowling rink per 37,000 people.</li> <li>• All aspects of all pitches and their ancillary facilities should be rated as 'good'.</li> <li>• The whole population within 20 minutes walk or drive of the nearest indoor green.</li> </ul>	111,100	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No current quantitative deficiency.</li> <li>• Disabled access improvements at Taunton BC.</li> </ul>
Indoor tennis courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One indoor tennis court per 20,000 people.</li> <li>• All aspects of the indoor courts and their ancillary facilities should be rated as 'good'.</li> <li>• The whole population within 30 minutes walk or drive of the nearest courts.</li> </ul>	111,100	0	No current deficiency.
Outdoor tennis courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One outdoor tennis court per 1,800 people.</li> <li>• Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all facilities are rated as 'good'.</li> <li>• The whole population within 10 minutes walk or drive of the nearest courts.</li> </ul>	107,500	3,600	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two new courts with full community access in Bishop's Lydeard and one in Milverton.</li> <li>• Qualitative improvements to the 24 courts currently rated as 'fair' or worse.</li> <li>• Floodlight courts at Wellington LTC.</li> </ul>
Squash courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One squash court per 7,500 people.</li> <li>• Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all facilities are rated as 'good'.</li> <li>• The whole population within 15 minutes walk or drive of the nearest courts.</li> </ul>	111,100	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No current quantitative deficiency.</li> <li>• Qualitative improvements at most existing facilities.</li> </ul>
Golf courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One 18-hole golf course per 25,000 people.</li> <li>• Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all facilities are rated as 'good'.</li> <li>• The whole population within 20 minutes walk or drive of the nearest course.</li> </ul>	111,100	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No current quantitative deficiency.</li> <li>• Qualitative improvements at all existing facilities.</li> </ul>
Health and fitness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One health and fitness facility with 50 stations per 8,000 people.</li> <li>• Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all facilities are rated as 'good'.</li> <li>• The whole population within 15 minutes walk or drive of the nearest facility.</li> </ul>	111,100	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No current quantitative deficiency.</li> <li>• No current qualitative deficiency.</li> </ul>

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Standard of provision</i>	<i>Population served</i>	<i>Population under-provided</i>	<i>Deficiency in provision</i>
Multi-Use Games Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One MUGA per 5,000 people.</li> <li>• Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all facilities are rated as 'good'.</li> <li>• The whole population within 480m straight line distance of the nearest MUGA.</li> </ul>	50,000	61,100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 new floodlit MUGAs (one in Blackdown Hills, two in Quantocks, five in Taunton, three in Wellington and one in West Deane and Brendons).</li> <li>• Qualitative improvements to the five MUGAs rated as 'fair' or worse.</li> <li>• Floodlight the six MUGAs without lights.</li> </ul>
Community and Village Halls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A main hall with toilets and kitchen for catchments of up to 1,495 people.</li> <li>• A main hall, toilets, kitchen and a meeting/activity room for catchments of 1,495 to 2,149 people.</li> <li>• A main hall, toilets, kitchen and two meeting/activity rooms for catchments of 2,150 or more people.</li> <li>• Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all facilities are rated as 'good'.</li> <li>• The whole population within 10 minutes walk or drive of the nearest hall.</li> <li>• All new/extended halls to comply with Sport England recommended dimensions.</li> </ul>	111,100	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No current quantitative deficiency.</li> <li>• Qualitative improvements at most existing facilities, in particular disabled access.</li> </ul>
Adult football pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One pitch per 2,300 people.</li> <li>• Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all pitches are rated as 'good'.</li> <li>• The whole population within 10 minutes walk or drive of the nearest pitch.</li> </ul>	111,100	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No current quantitative deficiency.</li> <li>• Qualitative improvements at most existing pitches, in particular changing facilities.</li> </ul>
Junior football pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One pitch per 2,000 people.</li> <li>• Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all pitches are rated as 'good'.</li> <li>• The whole population within 15 minutes walk or drive of the nearest pitch.</li> </ul>	87,100	24,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 new junior football pitches (two in Blackdown, one in Quantock, five in Taunton and four in Wellington).</li> <li>• Qualitative improvements at most existing pitches, in particular changing facilities.</li> </ul>

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Standard of provision</i>	<i>Population served</i>	<i>Population under-provided</i>	<i>Deficiency in provision</i>
Mini-soccer pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One pitch per 8,000 people.</li> <li>• Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all pitches are rated as 'good'.</li> <li>• The whole population within 15 minutes walk or drive of the nearest pitch.</li> </ul>	111,100	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No current quantitative deficiency.</li> <li>• Qualitative improvements at most existing pitches, in particular changing facilities.</li> </ul>
Cricket pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One pitch per 2,700 people.</li> <li>• Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all pitches are rated as 'good'.</li> <li>• The whole population within 10 minutes walk or drive of the nearest pitch.</li> </ul>	108,400	2,700	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One new cricket pitch in Taunton.</li> <li>• Qualitative improvements at most existing pitches, in particular changing facilities.</li> </ul>
Rugby pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One pitch per 5,500 people.</li> <li>• Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all pitches are rated as 'good'.</li> <li>• The whole population within 10 minutes walk or drive of the nearest pitch.</li> </ul>	111,100	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No current quantitative deficiency.</li> <li>• Qualitative improvements at most existing pitches, in particular changing facilities.</li> </ul>

### **Our future requirements**

29) The table below sets out the additional facility needs identified by applying the local standards, based upon the combined effects of population and participation increases:

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Provision in 2009</i>	<i>Needs in 2009</i>	<i>Extra facilities based on 2026 population</i>	<i>Extra facilities based on 2026 participation</i>	<i>Total needs in 2026</i>
Sports halls	15	15	7	4	26
Swimming pools	6	6	2	1.5	9.5
Athletics tracks	1	1	0	0	1
Synthetic turf pitches	7	7	2	1	10
Indoor bowling green rinks	10	10	4	2	16
Outdoor bowling greens	3	3	1	1	5
Indoor tennis courts	6	6	2	1	9
Outdoor tennis courts	73	75	28	17	120
Squash courts	16	16	7	4	27
Golf courses	4.5	4.5	2	1	7.5
Health and fitness	13	13	6	3	22
Multi-Use Games Areas	10	22	10	5	37
Community and Village Halls	46	46	0*	0*	46*
Adult football pitches	55	30	22	11	63
Junior football pitches	43	55	25	14	94
Mini-soccer pitches	16	11	4	3	18
Cricket pitches	41	42	19	10	71
Rugby pitches	28	21	9	5	35

\* TDBC policy is to improve and expand existing halls where possible to meet additional demand and only where no suitable opportunities exist for upgrading, to seek to encourage new provision.



## Options for providing the facilities we need

30) An action plan for meeting current deficiencies identified in this strategy is as follows:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Current assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Options for meeting deficiency</i>
Sports halls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No current quantitative deficiency.</li> <li>• Qualitative improvements needed at Wellington Sports Centre.</li> </ul>	Refurbish the main hall, 'dry' changing facilities and disabled access at Wellington Sports Centre.
Swimming pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No current quantitative deficiency.</li> <li>• Qualitative improvements needed at Taunton Pool, St. James Street Baths and Wellington Leisure Centre.</li> </ul>	Examine options for achieving qualitative improvements at the three public pools, including the feasibility of providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new pool in Taunton to replace the existing facilities at Taunton Pool and St. James Street Baths.</li> <li>• Dedicated wet and dry changing facilities and spectator provision at Wellington Sports Centre.</li> </ul>
Athletics tracks	No current deficiency.	No action required
Synthetic turf pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No current quantitative deficiency.</li> <li>• Qualitative improvements needed at Taunton School.</li> </ul>	Resurface the pitch at Taunton School.
Indoor bowls greens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No current quantitative deficiency.</li> <li>• Disabled access issues at Taunton BC.</li> </ul>	Improve disabled access at Taunton Bowls Club.
Outdoor bowls greens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No current quantitative deficiency.</li> <li>• Disabled access issues at Taunton BC</li> </ul>	Improve disabled access at Taunton Bowls Club.
Indoor tennis courts	No current deficiency.	No action required
Outdoor tennis courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two new courts with full community access in Bishop's Lydeard and one in Milverton.</li> <li>• Qualitative improvements to the 24 courts currently rated as 'fair' or worse.</li> <li>• Floodlight courts at Wellington LTC.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine options for providing two new courts with full community access in Bishop's Lydeard and one in Milverton.</li> <li>• Phased programme of qualitative improvements to the 24 courts currently rated as 'fair' or worse.</li> <li>• Support Wellington LTC in its current funding application to the LTA for floodlights.</li> </ul>
Squash courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No current quantitative deficiency.</li> <li>• Qualitative improvements at three existing facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Qualitative improvements at courts at Kings College, Queen's College and Taunton School.</li> <li>• Improve disabled access at the Wyvern Club.</li> </ul>
Golf courses	No current deficiency.	No action required
Multi-Use Games Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 new floodlit MUGAs (one in Blackdown Hills, two in Quantocks, five in Taunton, three in Wellington and one in West Deane and Brendons).</li> <li>• Qualitative improvements to the five MUGAs rated as 'fair' or worse.</li> <li>• Floodlight the six MUGAs without lights.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine options for providing new floodlit MUGAs in areas of identified deficiencies.</li> <li>• Qualitative improvements at the Blackthorn Gardens, Civil Service Club, Comeytrove, St. Andrew's and the YMCA MUGAs.</li> <li>• Provision of floodlights at Blackthorn Gardens, Comeytrove, Hatch Beauchamp, Taunton Green, St. Andrew's and Victoria Park MUGAs.</li> </ul>
Health and fitness	No current deficiency.	No action required

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Current assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Options for meeting deficiency</i>
Community and Village Halls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No current quantitative deficiency.</li> <li>• Qualitative improvements at most existing facilities, in particular disabled access.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake an audit of current capacity to accommodate sports activities.</li> <li>• Phased programme of improvements to facilitate sports usage (e.g. lighting, floor surface improvements, extensions etc.).</li> </ul>
Adult football pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No current quantitative deficiency.</li> <li>• Qualitative improvements at most existing pitches, in particular changing facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake an audit of changing facilities at pitch sites.</li> <li>• Phased programme of improvements.</li> </ul>
Junior football pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 new junior football pitches (two in Blackdown, one in Quantock, five in Taunton and four in Wellington).</li> <li>• Qualitative improvements at most existing pitches, in particular changing facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine options for providing new junior football pitches in areas of identified deficiencies.</li> <li>• Undertake an audit of changing facilities at pitch sites.</li> <li>• Phased programme of improvements.</li> </ul>
Mini-soccer pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No current quantitative deficiency.</li> <li>• Qualitative improvements at most existing pitches, in particular changing facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake an audit of changing facilities at pitch sites.</li> <li>• Phased programme of improvements.</li> </ul>
Cricket pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One cricket pitch in Taunton.</li> <li>• Qualitative improvements at most existing pitches, in particular changing facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine options for providing a new cricket pitch in Taunton.</li> <li>• Undertake an audit of changing facilities at pitch sites.</li> <li>• Phased programme of improvements.</li> </ul>
Rugby pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No current quantitative deficiency.</li> <li>• Qualitative improvements at most existing pitches, in particular changing facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake an audit of changing facilities at pitch sites.</li> <li>• Phased programme of improvements.</li> </ul>

### **Policy options**

31) ***Patterns of facility provision:*** A hierarchical approach to facilities provision will work best in Taunton Deane, with a limited number of ‘hub centres’ (principally in Taunton and Wellington), involving larger built facilities and specialist facilities like swimming pools and indoor tennis centres at central or nodal points, underpinned by a network of smaller facilities like tennis courts and multi-use games areas at geographically dispersed sites, offering local participation opportunities.

32) ***Options for meeting the shortfalls:*** A number of options are available for meeting the identified deficiencies in facility provision, including:

- a) ***New provision:*** This can be achieved by providing entirely new facilities in appropriate locations, extending existing facilities where feasible, disposing of surplus facilities to reinvest the capital receipt in new provision and incorporating sports facilities into new community provision and housing developments.
- b) ***Upgrading and refurbishing:*** Upgrading and refurbishing existing facility provision would meet some of the qualitative deficiencies identified. The types of upgrade that would be most beneficial include community and village halls and changing provision at many playing pitch sites.

- c) **Improved capacity:** Facility upgrades described above are one means of improving capacity, but other possibilities include providing floodlights for outdoor facilities, to extend the period in which they can be used, drainage improvements to grass pitches, to enable them to accommodate more play, with fewer postponed fixtures and providing facilities like a creche to improve the capacity of a facility to cater for families with young children.
  - d) **Integrated provision:** In some instances, the facility deficiencies identified for individual sports could be met through adapted or integrated facility provision. One example is MUGAs and tennis courts, because MUGAs can include tennis court markings, combined provision would reduce identified deficiencies in tennis courts with a multi-sport facility that would also cater for the needs of other activities.
  - e) **Dual use of education facilities:** A number of schools in Taunton Deane already allow external community use of their sports facilities, although in many instances there is no formal Community Use Agreement to secure this. Negotiating community access to education facilities offers an attractive means of securing additional capacity and whilst the Building Schools for the Future programme is not scheduled to be implemented in the borough in the immediate future, in the medium term scope exists for improving facilities to enable them better to deliver the objectives of School Sport Partnerships and the Extended Schools agenda.
- 33) **External funding options:** Whilst some local funding may be available to help with the costs of meeting deficiencies, the majority of the money is likely to need to be raised from external sources. These include Sport England, the governing bodies of sport, the Building Schools for the Future programme and the Football Foundation.
- 34) **Developer contributions:** Developer contributions involve the provision of funding by housing developers, as a contribution to the facilities and services that the inhabitants of new residential developments will need. The introduction of Development Plan Documents (DPDs) under the new Local Development Framework system for planning will enable the Council to develop a basis for formalising such arrangements and this strategy will form a key part of the evidence base.

### **Delivery partners**

- 35) **Introduction:** A wide range of organisations will play a part in implementing the Sports Facilities Strategy. Their roles are summarised below:
- a) **Taunton Deane Borough Council:** The Council is likely to play the lead role in co-ordinating the development of the larger, more strategic facilities, using its statutory planning powers where necessary.
  - b) **Parish councils:** Parish councils will continue to be major providers of more local scale facilities in the rural areas of the borough, such as pitches, tennis courts and MUGAs.
  - c) **Schools:** Several state and independent schools in the borough already provide facilities which are used by the local community to various degrees. However, scope exists to extend such use, particularly through the facility improvements envisaged under the Building Schools for the Future programme.

- d) ***Sports clubs:*** The 'Active People' survey demonstrates the vibrancy of the voluntary sector in Taunton Deane, with higher than average levels of volunteering and involvement in formally coached, competitive club-based sport. Local sports clubs own and manage a number of key facilities in the borough and the voluntary sector will continue to be a significant provider in the future.
- e) ***Tone Leisure:*** Is a leisure trust with charitable status that operates the Council's main leisure facilities and provides sports development services. Tone Leisure will be a key partner both in providing community leisure facilities and driving up local rates of participation in sport and physical activity.
- f) ***Commercial organisations:*** The commercial sector is the main provider of health and fitness facilities in the borough and many of these facilities contain swimming pools which provide a valuable supplement to the public pools. Whilst private sector membership fees may be prohibitive for lower income groups in the community, commercial provision is still a significant provider of opportunities to participate in sport.
- g) ***Partnership arrangements:*** Partnership arrangements involving combinations of any of the above providers will help to share the costs of provision, management and maintenance of additional greenspace provision.

### **Reviewing progress**

- 36) Because sport is a rapidly changing environment and to ensure that the proposals in the strategy continue to address local needs and wider strategic priorities, the situation should be reviewed regularly. This should involve:
- a) An annual review of progress towards action plan targets.
  - b) A five-yearly review of the overall strategic approach.