
TITLE: EAST CAMBS INDOOR SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Committee: Commercial Services

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[P164]

1.0 ISSUE

1.1 A District wide indoor sports facility strategy and action plan.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 Members are recommended to:-

- (i) endorse the key findings of the needs assessment and recommendations within the Action Plan
- (ii) task the Sport and Health Development Service Review group to consider the skills and technical expertise required to deliver the action plan. Recommendations to be included within the Stage 2 service report to be presented to Commercial Services Committee on 3rd March 2015
- (iii) instruct the Corporate Unit Manager to include indoor sports facility projects within the District (where it is demonstrated that investment would increase participation and sustainability), as part of the current public consultation for the amended CIL Regulation 123 list, for consideration at full council in February 2015
- (iv) recommend to Council that the Indoor Sports Facility Needs Assessment and Strategy and related action plan should form part of the evidence base for a future Local Plan Review, and review of the Council's Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 The Sports Consultancy (TSC) were appointed by the Council in July 2014, to complete an audit and assessment of indoor sports facilities, and to use this assessment to produce an indoor sports facility strategy and action plan for East Cambridgeshire.

3.2 The work was commissioned to provide a clear overall picture across East Cambridgeshire of the quantity and quality of indoor sports provision, and to compliment work assessing the feasibility and options for a new indoor leisure centre planned for Ely. It has enabled the Council to ensure that planning for the new leisure centre is strongly evidenced and driven by the findings of a full strategic assessment of indoor facility needs across the District.

- 3.3 A steering group was formed comprising representatives from East Cambridgeshire District Council and Sport England (see Appendix 1). This steering group was responsible for establishing the brief and for providing check and challenge of the strategy during its development.
- 3.4 The Council's brief required TSC to look at the supply/demand, accessibility, age, quality, size, community use, opening hours and type of management for the following indoor facility types:
- Indoor swimming pools
 - Sports halls
 - Health and fitness suites
 - Indoor bowls
 - Squash courts
 - Activity studios
 - Indoor tennis courts.
- 3.5 The work was informed by detailed Facility Planning Modelling (FPM) data, individual facility audits; and consultation with a number of key stakeholders including National Governing Bodies, existing indoor leisure facilities and sports clubs.
- 4.0 OPTIONS AND ISSUES
- 4.1 The strategy identifies a shortfall in the supply of swimming water space; studio space and the number of health and fitness stations. These shortfalls cannot be met by programming changes, or by increasing access to existing facility provision, and can only be addressed by new provision.
- 4.2 There is a need to look at the distribution of demand for sports hall provision across individual facilities, to address the high levels of capacity use at peak times at some, and to make better use of identified spare capacity at others.
- 4.3 The strategy highlights that only 19% of indoor sports facilities assessed achieved an 'excellent' quality rating. If Newmarket Leisure Centre is removed from the assessment, then only 6% of facilities located within East Cambs would achieve an excellent rating. The percentage of the adult population in the district that are satisfied with sports provision in their local area has decreased in the last 5 years, from 71% in 2009/10 to 62% in 2012/13. Many indoor leisure facilities in East Cambridgeshire are over 30 years old and refurbishment and redevelopment have not been able to keep pace with customer expectations and changing demands.
- 4.4 The strategy and action plan acknowledge that the District Council is only one stakeholder in providing indoor sports facilities, and that all partners involved in indoor sports provision need to work together to take the strategy through to implementation.
- 5.0 ARGUMENTS AND CONCLUSIONS
- 5.1 The strategy and action plan reinforce the need for the development of new indoor sports facilities in Ely to address shortfalls in swimming, studio and health and

fitness provision up to 2026. The Council is progressing the development of a new indoor leisure facility in Ely as a corporate priority.

- 5.2 A new District leisure centre will not however, address the issues relating to the quality of provision within the existing indoor sports facilities and decreasing satisfaction levels. There has been a history of under investment in the majority of indoor leisure facilities, and most of the leisure Trusts do not generate sufficient surpluses, or have sufficient reserves, to drive a refurbishment and redevelopment programme. There is a need to develop costed, strategic facility priorities that focus on driving up participation and improving the viability of centres. These priorities should be incorporated into the Community Infrastructure Levy priority setting process at a Parish and District level.
- 5.3 There is a need to look at options around the management arrangements of existing facilities, to see if there are any alternative arrangements that could improve viability through, for example, cross subsidisation, or attracting third party capital investment. The Council should facilitate joint working to look at opportunities that could come from facilities working more collaboratively in future, and the management arrangements that might need to be in place to support this.
- 5.4 The District Council has a key role to play in facilitating the work needed to take the indoor sports facility strategy through to implementation. Both 5.2 and 5.3 are significant pieces of work requiring additional skills and resources within the Community and Leisure Services Team to deliver, and need to be considered by the Stage 2 service review report for Sport and Health Development Services.
- 5.5 The Indoor Sports Facility Needs Assessment and Strategy and related action plan should form part of the evidence base for a future Local Plan Review, and review of the Council's Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 The financial implications arising from recommendation (ii) will be considered within the Stage 2 service review report for Sport and Health Development services to be presented to Commercial Services Committee on 3rd March 2015.
- 6.2 An Equality Impact Assessment is not required at this stage.

7.0 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Steering Group Membership

Appendix 2 – Indoor Sports facility Strategy and Action Plan

<u>Background Documents</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Officer</u>
Corporate Governance and Finance Committee 6 November 2014 Agenda Item No. 11	Room FF103 The Grange Ely	Allison Conder Principal Leisure and Community Services Officer (01353) 665555 E-mail: allison.conder@eastcambs.gov.uk

Appendix 1 – Feasibility and Options Appraisal Study Steering Group Members

Attendees
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1 INDOOR SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 The purpose of this strategy is to provide an indoor sports facility strategy document and a prioritised and timeline action plan for East Cambridgeshire, which incorporates the key findings from the needs assessment. It includes a long-term view to 2026, and makes recommendations to inform the preparation of planning policies as part of the next local plan review.

1.1.2 The strategy will form part of the evidence base for providing indoor sports facilities, in conjunction with the District Council's Local Plan and will be referenced as a basis for securing external investment, either from developer contributions, government grants or other sources. It will also ensure that as and when funding is available, investment decisions affecting the local sports infrastructure of the district are co-ordinated and planned by the Council and its partners, with reference to strategic need and the needs assessment work included in this document.

1.2 Developing the strategy

1.2.1 This strategy has been developed using a number of sports facility planning tools and a wide ranging consultation with relevant stakeholders.

1.2.2 A steering group was formed comprising representatives from East Cambridgeshire District Council and Sport England. This steering group was responsible for establishing the brief and for the check and challenge of the strategy during its development.

1.2.3 Recommended facility planning tools were applied including Sport England's Active Places, Active People, Sports Facility Calculator and Market Segmentation data. The strategy is also informed by detailed analysis of the results of Sport England Facility Planning Model for Sports Hall and Swimming Pool. These reports were commissioned specifically for this purpose.

1.2.4 Consultation was conducted with over 60 individuals and organisations, including facility users, clubs, facility operators, council officers and National Governing Bodies of Sport.

1.2.5 A comprehensive audit of provision in the District was completed alongside relevant facility managers during July and September 2014. The audit provides a snapshot of the situation at that time and sites were reviewed on a like for like basis on their ability to provide for any increase in participation. A range of elements including accessibility, service provision, catchment (travel time) and affordability were assessed. Facilities were also graded dependant on their catchment and composition as strategic facilities, district wide facilities or local facilities.

1.2.6 Consultation and research is fundamental to the validity of the strategy and key stakeholders and partners were consulted in addition to a comprehensive audit of facilities. Findings of the consultation and research were taken into account when developing the action plan in this strategy. This clearly identified three key drivers for the strategy. These are summarised in the following paragraphs.

Driver 1 – Population growth

- 1.2.7 East Cambridgeshire is a predominantly rural district that covers an area of 655km² and has a population of 84,200¹. The population has increased significantly in recent years and growth is expected to continue to increase to 103,700 by 2026².
- 1.2.8 We understand that the Council will make provision for 9,400 new homes through a range of developments. There are significant new land allocations proposed on the edge of main settlements, including Ely, Soham and Littleport.
- 1.2.9 New sport and leisure provision is planned in Ely and Littleport to cater for the growing population in Ely (and district as a whole) and a new secondary school is planned in Littleport.

Driver 2 – Increasing participation

- 1.2.10 People in East Cambridgeshire are less physically active than the regional and national averages, which incurs additional health care costs of just over £1.3 million³ due to inactivity. East Cambridgeshire's involvement in volunteering, club membership, tuition, competition and organised sport has increased over the last 5 years. The three largest market segments of the population in East Cambridgeshire typically participate in keep fit/gym, swimming and cycling. However, the percentage of the adult population in the district that are satisfied with sports provision in their local area has decreased in the last 5 years.

Driver 3 – The supply of facilities meets the demand

- 1.2.11 The supply and demand assessment is key in determining whether the District currently has sufficient provision to account for future changes in population. It also takes into account the spread of provision and enables identification of communities not served by an appropriate indoor facility.
- 1.2.12 This assessment helps determine whether current capacity is meeting current demand and whether there is a surplus or a shortfall. It also identifies the areas of over or undersupply relative to demand. Findings from the supply and demand assessment, identified in the audit and assessment report, have been summarised at the beginning of each facility type section in the following action plan.

¹ Census (2011)

² Cambridgeshire County Council; Population, Housing and Employment Forecasts (2013)

³ British Heart Foundation, 2009/10

1.3 Objectives

- 1.3.1 The strategy will help the leisure stakeholders by delivering the following key objectives:

Objective 1 – Protect and maintain strategically important existing facilities

- 1.3.2 To protect and maintain strategically important existing sports facilities and sites allocated for sport and access to them by the community. Maximise the use of existing assets by improving the quality of existing facilities, where necessary.

Objective 2 – Improve access to meet demand

- 1.3.3 To continue to develop and secure the community use of sport facilities on education sites. To improve accessibility to sports facilities, in order to encourage greater participation by all sectors of the community.

Objective 3 – Effective and sustainable programming

- 1.3.4 To manage and programme facilities effectively and sustainably. To continue to promote partnership working to enable greater use of existing sports facilities and the sharing of skills, expertise, resources and facilities.

Objective 4 – Provide new facilities

- 1.3.5 To continue to ensure that new facilities are provided to meet projected demand from increases in population and participation, and changes in participation patterns. Address existing deficits and unmet demand in sports facility provision which will increase as a result of future population growth in the district.

Objective 5 – Improve viability of facilities

- 1.3.6 To improve viability of facilities through considering different management options.

Objective 6 – Utilise strategically valuable sites and maximise revenue generation

- 1.3.7 To utilise use of strategically valuable facilities through investigation of options to maximise revenue generation from facilities.

Objective 7 – Improve co-ordination of delivery between stakeholders

- 1.3.8 To improve the coordination of delivery between leisure stakeholders by raising knowledge level and facilitating the development of partnerships between County Council, town and parish Councils, facility operators, clubs, clubs, NGBs, CSP, schools, colleges and other commercial providers.

Objective 8 – Inform planning policy and decisions as part of the next local plan review

- 1.3.9 To use the strategy and action plan to make recommendations to inform the preparation of planning policies as part of the next local plan review.

1.4 Action Plan

- 1.4.1 The findings from the needs assessment identify the future facility needs. The action plan below has been developed to address the identified needs of each facility type and which of the eight key objectives each action meets.
- 1.4.2 The Action Plan below contains recommendations by facility type, under strategic priorities (which link to the objectives set out above). The priorities are set out under the following headings:
- General Strategic Priorities
 - Swimming Pool Priorities
 - Sports Hall Priorities
 - Health and Fitness Priorities
 - Indoor Bowls, Squash Court, Studio and Indoor Tennis Priorities.
- 1.4.3 This strategy and action plan has been commissioned on behalf of all leisure stakeholders in the District but cannot be delivered by the Council alone. The Council is only one stakeholder in the District and all partners involved in indoor sports provision, whether public, private or voluntary will need to work together to take the strategy through to implementation. The relevant stakeholders have been identified in the Action Plan, which include; Cambridgeshire County Council, town and parish councils, schools and colleges, sports clubs, facility operators, National Governing Bodies of Sport, County Sport Partnership and other commercial providers. These have been identified in the Action Plan, as well as a recommended timescale for when the actions are to be completed. The timescales allocated are short (1 to 2 years) medium (3 to 5 years) and long (5 to 10 years) term priorities.

General Strategic Priorities

Strategic Priorities	Action Required	Objectives reached	Implementing partners	Timescale
Resist the loss of any strategically valuable sports facilities that are available for community use or could contribute to meeting future community needs, unless replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location	Policy and site allocations to be progressed through Local Plan Review (completed in next 2-3 years) Site allocations as part of the Local Review	1, 4 and 8	ECDC Facility operators	Ongoing
Utilise strategically valuable sites and investigate options to maximise revenue generation from facilities	Work with leisure stakeholders to better understand operation of strategically valuable facilities, in order to investigate options to maximise revenue generation from existing facilities	5, 6, 7	ECDC Facility operators	Short
Consider management options for improving viability of existing facilities	Consider further options for management of existing facilities in the district, with the aim of improving viability	5	ECDC Facility operators	Short
Progress with proposals for new district-wide leisure centre in Ely	Provide support to ensure development, which is currently at the inception stage, meet the needs of the district. Also consider further the potential amounts of investment required at these sites	4	ECDC	Short
Contribute to proposals for new school with community sports facilities in Littleport	Support parties involved with development of school sports facilities to ensure community accessibility	4	County Council Littleport Leisure Trust Parish Council	Short/ medium
Protect and enhance community use of sports facilities on educational sites, where required	Promote partnership working between schools, Council and other facility operators in the district to develop community use	2	ECDC Schools and colleges	Short
Ensure that sports facility charges are reasonable in terms of affordability to residents, and are comparable with similar facilities elsewhere	To keep sports facility charges under review and benchmark against nearest neighbour authorities	2 and 3	Facility operators	Short

Develop partnerships working between Council departments, health agencies, facility operators, schools and colleges, NGBs, and local sports clubs to expand the range of affordable and accessible opportunities for both residents and visitors to East Cambridgeshire.	Establish a Key Stakeholder Group (based on that formed for this Strategy) to take the strategy forward.	1, 2, 3, 4 and 7	ECDC Key Stakeholder Group	Short and ongoing
Improve coordination of delivery between stakeholders by facilitating more joined up management of the existing facilities in the district.	The Council to facilitate more collective working, which includes joint marketing and promotion of facilities, possibly with one operators taking a lead.	2, 3, 5 and 7	ECDC Key Stakeholder Group	Short and ongoing
Ensure, as far as possible, that any new sports facilities provided as part of future educational provision in East Cambridgeshire are designed for curricular, extra-curricular, community and sports development use and made available for community use out of school hours.	Statement to be included within Local Plan, with appropriate policy, if possible, so it can be carried through into decisions on development. Check if the proposed school sports facilities in Littleport have appropriate external lighting, car parking and changing facilities to enable community use.	2 and 4	ECDC County Council	Short
Ensure that all new housing development contributes towards the development and enhancement of sports facilities to meet identified needs, priority being given to projects identified in this Strategy.	Develop costed facility priorities and incorporate these into the Community Infrastructure Levy.	4 and 8	ECDC	Ongoing
Explore opportunities for collaborative work between East Cambridgeshire and AC Leisure (Newmarket Leisure Centre) to maximise cross-boundary usage.	Maintain and develop relationship with AC Leisure.	1 and 7	ECDC AC Leisure	Ongoing

Swimming Pool Priorities

- 1.4.4 The audit and assessment report identified current demand for swimming exceeds existing supply of pools in East Cambridgeshire. Although correctly located in the District, the pools (both current and planned) must be programmed effectively to cater for usage by clubs and community. The planned new leisure centre of 8 lane 25 metre pool and learner pool in Ely will meet demand identified by the FPM assessment to 2026.

Strategic Priorities	Action Required	Objectives reached	Implementing partners	Timescale
Progress proposals for the development of a new Leisure Centre in Ely to address unmet demand for swimming facilities across the district.	The following should be considered as a minimum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 lane 25m swimming pool and learner pool. 	4	ECDC	Short
Encourage more schools to use swimming pools during the day	Review pricing of schools' use of swimming pools	2	ECDC Facility operators	Ongoing
Work with operators of swimming pools at school sites to increase community use	Support St Andrew's Primary School and Bottisham Village College Sports Centre to offer swimming to community at peak times.	2	ECDC St Andrew's Primary School Bottisham Village College Sports Centre	Short/medium
Support quality improvements/upgrades at existing swimming pool sites where this would lead to increased community use, improve access (on school sites) and make facilities more attractive to users.	Support Bottisham Village College Sports Centre with quality improvements and upgrades which lead to retaining/increasing community use. This pool is a valuable strategic facility that should be retained in the future.	1	ECDC Bottisham Village College Sports Centre	Medium
Work with local swimming clubs to ensure they have sufficient time and space to aid development of their club	Support key clubs City of Ely Amateur Swimming Club and Ely Tri Club which both report insufficient pool space for training and competitions	3 and 4	ECDC Facility operators City of Ely Amateur Swimming Club Ely Tri Club	Medium

Sports Hall Priorities

- 1.4.5 The audit and assessment work highlighted the need to maintain quality and accessibility of all sites in the District is key to retaining sufficient supply to meet demand. The overall supply of sports halls is sufficient to meet demand up to 2026, however the distribution of demand across individual venues needs addressing with reports of very high levels of capacity used at peak times. Liaising with operators to understand where and when spare capacity is available is required to distribute peak time usage effectively.

Strategic Priorities	Action Required	Objectives reached	Implementing partners	Timescale
Support quality improvements/upgrades at existing sports hall sites where this would lead to increased community use, improve access (on school sites) and make facilities more attractive to users.	Provide support to operators of The Ellesmere Centre and Bottisham Village College Sports Centre which have identified the need to refurbish sports hall floors.	1	The Ellesmere Centre Bottisham Village College Sports Centre	Medium
Ensure that future programming of, and quality improvements to, sports halls address the capacity issues of sports halls at peak times.	<p>Work with operators of Paradise Centre, Ely College, Ross Peers Sports Centre, Burwell Sports Centre, Littleport Leisure Centre and The Ellesmere Centre which were identified by Sport England's Facilities Planning Model and club consultation as having capacity issues at peak times.</p> <p>Support local clubs that state insufficient sports hall space, this includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ely Victoria Badminton Club and Mature and Active East Cambridgeshire at The Paradise Centre Burwell Table Tennis Club at Burwell Community Sports Centre and Ely College Bury Roller Hockey Club at Ross Peers Sports Centre Ely Roller Skating Club at Littleport Leisure Centre Ellesmere Table Tennis Club at The Ellesmere Centre Witchford Basketball Club at Witchford Village College 	1, 2, 3, 4 and 7	ECDC Facility operators identified Sports clubs identified	Short/ Medium

Consider measures to utilise spare capacity at specific sports hall sites, especially school sites at peak times.	Begin dialogue with the following schools to accommodate more club use at peak times: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soham Village College • Witchford Village College 	2 and 7	ECDC Soham Village College Witchford Village College	Short
Investigate further the needs for new sports hall provision in association with strategic housing growth areas	Once growth areas are confirmed through the Local Plan process, the need for sports halls should be further assessed.	4 and 8	ECDC	Ongoing
Continue to contribute to the development of provision at new school in Littleport	Feasibility work carried out in 2014 identified the need for a 4 court main sports hall and a two court activity hall	4	ECDC County Council Littleport Leisure Trust Parish Council	Short
Progress with plans to development sports hall provision at the new leisure centre in Ely	Current plans identify a 4 court sports hall as part of the development of the new leisure centre	4	ECDC	Short

Health and Fitness Suite Priorities

- 1.4.6 Overall there are enough health and fitness suites to meet demand. However this includes education sites, which tend to be less accessible at peak times and smaller provision. When considering larger (20+ station) suites that are more accessible at peak times, there is a current undersupply of 28 stations which increases to 138 stations in 2026. Improve accessibility to school suites at peak times and progress with planned development in Ely to meet demand.

Strategic Priorities	Action Required	Objectives reached	Implementing partners	Timescale
Improvement and promotion of facilities on school sites in order to widen community access	Priority school sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ely College • Bottisham Village College Sports Centre • Witchford Village College 	2 and 7	ECDC Schools identified	Short

Progress with proposals to development a Health and Fitness Suite at the new leisure centre in Ely	Current plans include the development of a 120 station health and fitness suite.	4	ECDC	Short
Address any impact on other facilities that are within close proximity to that of the new leisure centre in Ely.	The Paradise Centre, Atrium Club and Witchford Village College are located in or near to Ely and therefore may be affected by current plans for new health and fitness suite at district wide leisure centre.	6	ECDC	Medium
Continue to support the County Council with the development of a Health and Fitness Suite in Littleport	Latest feasibility work identified the need for a Health and Fitness Suite with 40 stations in Littleport	4	ECDC County Council	Short
Health and fitness provision should be provided in conjunction with new housing developments.	Main areas for development, as identified in the Local Plan are Ely, Littleport and Soham	4 and 8	ECDC	Ongoing

Indoor Bowls Priorities

- 1.4.7 The audit and assessment work identified the need to retain and maintain current supply of indoor bowls provision. Based on current population Sport England's Sports Facility Calculator for indoor bowls facilities identifies a demand for 5.81 rinks. The future demand for indoor bowls facilities in East Cambridgeshire is 7.6 rinks. Therefore, with the current supply of 10 rinks, both current and future demand for indoor bowls facilities in the District is met and there is no need for further provision.

Squash Court Priorities

- 1.4.8 The demand for squash is falling, across the country and district, resulting in unused capacity at peak times. Operators may wish to use space for more popular/revenue generating activities e.g. dance/aerobic classes, extension of H&F suite. Therefore must help to redirect users of facilities that may be lost following redevelopment. There is no need for additional squash facilities in the District.

Studio Priorities

- 1.4.9 The assessment also evidenced the need to support operators to retain, maintain and increase studio provision (where appropriate) in the District in order to meet growing demand. There is increasing demand for activities such as keep fit/gym, spinning and exercise and fitness classes, identified by both consultation with operators and Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool.

Indoor Tennis Priorities

1.4.10 There are no indoor tennis courts in East Cambridgeshire. The majority of residents in the District live within a 20 minute drive time of indoor tennis courts located in neighbouring local authorities. Newmarket Lawn Tennis Club, Huntingdon Tennis Club, Hills Road Sports and Tennis Club in Cambridge and David Lloyd in Cambridge.

Strategic Priorities	Action Required	Objectives reached	Implementing partners	Timescale
Retain existing indoor bowls facilities and seek to maximise utilisation of the spaces for alternative uses during summer months, to aid income generation.	Support Ely Bowls Club and operators of Ross Peers Sports Centre to retain and maintain current level of provision. Work with operators, particularly Ross Peers Sports Centre, to generate revenue from other uses of hall during summer months.	6	ECDC Ely Bowls Club Ross Peers Sports Centre	Ongoing
Redirect users of any lost squash courts users to other nearby facilities	Work with Ely Squash Club, The Ellesmere Centre, Ross Peers Sports Centre and The Paradise Centre to promote the use of squash courts. Work more closely with Ely Squash Club, which is likely to see an increase in interest from potential users due to development of new district-wide leisure centre nearby.	3 and 7	ECDC England Squash and Racketball Operators and club identified	Medium/ long
Address the falling participation in squash	Work with England Squash and Racketball and Ely Squash Club to promote the sport in the district	3	ECDC England Squash and Racketball Ely Squash Club	Ongoing
Support operators wishing to provide studios to meet growing demand	Liaise with all operators to identify any specific plans for developing/refurbishing studio provision	4	ECDC	Ongoing
Continue to progress with plans for studio provision at the new leisure centre in Ely	Current plans include two studios in the new leisure centre. Continue to progress with development	4	ECDC	Short
Continue to support County Council with the development of a studio in Littleport	Latest feasibility work recommended a studio be included in the new provision in Littleport.	4	ECDC County Council	Short

1.5 Delivery of the Strategy

1.5.1 The delivery of this strategy is dependent upon the formation of close working partnerships to collectively enhance the operation and provision of indoor sports facilities in East Cambridgeshire. It is clear that the development of a new district-wide leisure centre in Ely is required to increase the supply of certain facilities in order to meet both current and future demand. Any leisure facility infrastructure across East Cambridgeshire will be, to a large extent, reliant on capital funding. The current financial climate has placed pressure on the finances of all facility operators including local authorities, and previous major national funding programmes are no longer available.

1.5.2 The council will seek to work with others to use the indoor leisure assets in the District innovatively and a multi-agency approach is required to address the facility requirements in the strategy. The main funding delivery mechanisms for East Cambridgeshire District Council and others in delivering the strategy are:

- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 developer contributions
- Council funding: capital funding allocated to deliver facilities within the council's ownership, and potentially the use of capital receipts from the sale of existing assets.
- Commercial sector funding: limited potential for investment from commercial leisure operators such as those who provide health and fitness centres.
- Capital Grant funding: From schools and national agencies such as Sport England
- Third party funding: Financing capital through the forecast operational surplus and finance packages as part of the leisure management procurement process or construction contracts.

1.6 Housing Growth

1.6.1 The District Council's emerging Local Plan (up to 2031) identifies there will be sufficient overall supply of land to meet the district's housing requirement of 8,500 – 9,500 dwellings. The latest projections (as at February 2013) indicate that an estimated 9,400 additional dwellings could come forward between 2012 and 2031 (representing an annual rate of 495 dwellings). It is estimated that approximately 5,900 of these dwellings will be on new allocations, mainly on the edge of existing towns and villages. There are also significant new land allocations proposed on the edge of Ely, Soham and Littleport.

1.6.2 In planning for growth the District Council must ensure that its policy for indoor sports facilities seeks to provide priorities for new and improved indoor leisure facilities to be provided in East Cambridgeshire, together with that required in association with new development. Where applicable, particularly on large developments, on-site provision of indoor leisure facilities will be required. On smaller developments, however, the provision of on-site indoor leisure facilities is unlikely to be required in which case developer contributions would be sought towards the facility requirements identified in the Action Plan.

1.7 Developer Contributions

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 Planning Obligations

- 1.7.1 The latest legislation covering Section 106 developer contributions states that local authorities will only be able to pool a maximum of 5 secured S106 contributions to fund one specific infrastructure project. Projects which relied upon funding from a wide number of tariff-based Planning Obligation contributions will instead need to be secured via the new CIL. S106 agreements will largely be used to secure new or improved infrastructure which is either site-specific or immediately related to the development, e.g. affordable housing, children's play facilities, community centre.
- 1.7.2 East Cambridgeshire District Council has adopted CIL and is seeking to secure and administer funding through CIL. Therefore the continued development of a robust needs and evidence base in terms of providing further detail and options for delivery is required. CIL will be a limited resource, and there will be many calls upon this resource to deliver a wide range of infrastructure needs. It is therefore important that clear information is available to enable decision-makers to make informed choices when allocating these resources at the local level, using resources as efficiently and as effectively as possible when addressing local infrastructure needs arising from development. This strategy and action plan will provide East Cambridgeshire District Council with this evidence base to maximise the contribution of future CIL funding to the delivery of leisure infrastructure.

1.8 Monitoring and Review

- 1.8.1 This strategy has been produced to enable the development of indoor sports facilities within East Cambridgeshire to be provided for in a planned and co-ordinated way that meets the needs of the local population and addresses areas that could have the greatest future demand.
- 1.8.2 The strategy is based on the current known and planned facilities, but it will need to be reviewed periodically, particularly when there are significant changes in facility provision. The progress against the plan should be reviewed on an annual basis and the strategy and action plan should be updated if there are any significant changes in order to ensure that the strategy requirements keep pace with changes in facility provision and the amount of growth planned for East Cambridgeshire.
- 1.8.3 A key component of the process of delivering the action plan is the establishment of a Key Stakeholder Group, which should be set up by the Council to facilitate the implementation of the action plan.

DRAFT

2 PROPOSED LOCAL STANDARDS/LEVELS OF PROVISION

2.1 Approach and rationale

2.1.1 To identify the local standards for indoor sports facilities for East Cambridgeshire District, we have reviewed the existing standards for indoor provision (based upon an area per 1,000 people) and made recommendations for developing new proposed standards for provision.

2.1.2 A range of methodologies have been used in order to provide a robust process and calculations, supported by Sport England, which have then been refined and adjusted to meet the specific circumstances of each area and facility type within the East Cambridgeshire District, including:

- proposed and possible new housing development in terms of population growth, geographical location and potential impact on needs and demand for community and district wide indoor sports facilities;
- planned developments of replacement or new indoor sports provision in East Cambridgeshire;
- impacts on facilities from cross-boundary use between neighbouring authorities;
- the Indoor Facilities Audit, visits and consultations with officers of the council and other leisure stakeholders;
- information on size and location of the indoor facilities and their facility mix, levels and types of use, the quality of provision and their value as an amenity to the community.

2.2 Future local standards/levels of provision

2.2.1 The table below translates the future standard per 1,000 population into the number of facilities required commensurate with projected population growth to 2026. As previously identified in this study, the population of East Cambridgeshire in 2011 was 84,200⁴ and it is projected to be 103,700⁵ by 2026.

2.2.2 The table divides each facility type and provides information and recommendations in the table columns which are defined as:

- Column 1 – Existing standards gathered from East Cambridgeshire Sports Facilities and Play Areas Assessment (2005).
- Column 2 – The total amount of current provision (2014).
- Column 3 – The total amount of current provision divided by current population (84,200) and applied per 1,000 population.
- Column 4 – Known planned developments up to 2026 have been included here. These include development of new school sports facilities in Littleport and a district-wide leisure centre in Ely. Please note,

⁴ Census (2011)

⁵ Cambridgeshire County Council; Population, Housing and Employment Forecasts (2013)

findings in table below assume that The Paradise Centre will continue to operate, but the existing Littleport Leisure Centre will close.

- Column 5 – The total amount of future provision (2026).
- Column 6 – Future provision based on anticipated future level of provision divided by projected population (103,700) and applied per 1,000 population.
- Column 7 – The additional provision required (above known planned developments) to meet demand at 2026. This has been identified from needs assessment work using a variety of Sport England research tools and consultation with facility operators (shown in Section 4 of Needs Assessment report).
- Column 8 – Future standards of provision per 1,000 population.

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Table 1: Existing standards and future levels of indoor provision

Sports Facility	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Existing standards per 1,000 population (2005)	Current provision total	Current provision per 1,000 population (2011=84,200)	Planned developments up to 2026	Future provision total	Future provision per 1,000 population (2026=103,700)	Additional provision required to meet demand (2026)	Future standards of provision per 1,000 population
Swimming pools <i>lane swimming with community access</i>	9.29m ² @ 2021 (6.2m ² @ 2005 ⁶)	775m ²	9.20m ²	Increase of 242m ² ⁷	1,017m ²	9.81 m ²	No additional provision required – demand is met	9.81 m ²
Sports halls <i>4+ court halls with community access</i>	0.26 courts @ 2021 (0.28 courts @ 2005)	30 courts	0.36 courts	Increase of 4 courts	34 courts	0.33 courts	No additional provision required – supply exceeds demand	0.33 courts
Health and Fitness Suites <i>20+ stations with community access</i>	Not available	225 stations	2.67 stations	Increase of 130 stations ⁸	355 stations	3.42 stations	8 stations are required to meet demand ⁹	3.50 stations
Indoor Bowls Rinks <i>with community access</i>	Not available	10 rinks	0.12 rinks	No planned developments	10 rinks	0.10 rinks	No additional provision required – supply exceeds demand	0.10 rinks
Squash Courts <i>with community access</i>	Not available	12 courts	0.14 courts	Decrease of 1 court	11 courts	0.11 courts	No additional provision required – supply exceeds demand	0.11 courts
Studios <i>with community access</i>	Not available	11 studios	0.13 studios	Increase of 2 studios	13 studios	0.13 studios	2 studios are required to meet demand ¹⁰	0.14 studios
Indoor Tennis Courts <i>all courts</i>	Not available	0 courts	0 courts	No planned developments	0 courts	0 courts	No provision required	0 courts

⁶ Findings of assessment in 2005 does not include Newmarket Leisure Centre as this was built in 2009

⁷ Sport England's FPM identified unmet demand of 242m². New leisure centre in Ely will include 8 lane 25m pool (442m²) to account for loss of 4 lane 25m pool (200m²) at Paradise Pools.

⁸ Based on 120 stations at new leisure centre in Ely and a net increase of 10 stations in Littleport.

⁹ Derived from findings of work in Section 4.12 of Needs Assessment report

¹⁰ Derived from findings of work in Section 4.24 of Needs Assessment report

2.3 Summary of findings

- 2.3.1 It is anticipated that there will be a surplus of sports halls, indoor bowls rinks and squash courts in the District by 2026. It is also expected that demand will be met for swimming pools in the District by 2026. Therefore, no further provision is required for these facility types up to 2026.
- 2.3.2 The planned development of a health and fitness and multi-purpose studios in Ely reduces the shortfall of provision. It is anticipated that there will be a shortfall of 8 health and fitness stations and 2 studios in the District by 2026. The future standards of provision per 1,000 population for these facility types addresses these shortfalls up to 2026.
- 2.3.3 Future standards of provision (column 8) show the standards of provision per 1,000 population in 2026. These future standards take account of the projected population growth and any known planned developments. Should any further increase/decrease in levels of provision (i.e. closure of a site or development of a new site) then these future standards should be updated.