



North
Northamptonshire
Council

Leisure Facilities Strategy

2024-2041

Executive Summary

Contents

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Strategic Policy and Context Review	6
3.	Housing Growth	7
4.	Developer Contributions	7
5.	Understanding North Northamptonshire	8
6.	Consultation and Engagement	9
7.	Current Plans to Improve Indoor Facilities	10
8.	Facility Audit	11
9.	Key recommendations	13
10.	Leisure Facilities Strategy Action Plan	20
Figure 1 - Active Communities Framework		3
Figure 2 – Sport England Planning Objectives		6
Figure 4 – Place Based Insight		8
Figure 5 – Parish and Town Council Consultation Key Findings		11
Map 1 – Leisure Facilities in North Northamptonshire		4
Map 2 – North Northamptonshire deprivation map		
Table 1 – Leisure Facilities		
Table 2 – Housing Developments		
Table 3 – NGB and Sports Club Responses		9
Table 4 – Main Leisure Facility Quality Audit		12
Table 5 – Key Recommendations		13
Table 6 – Leisure Facilities Strategy Action Plan		20

1. Introduction

1.1 North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) requires a Leisure Facilities Strategy (LFS) for North Northamptonshire that will sit as part of the overarching Active Communities Framework to provide a strategic framework for how sport, physical activity and leisure meets the needs of local communities.



Figure 1 - Active Communities Framework

1.2 One of the key drivers for developing the new Leisure Facilities Strategy is to improve the health and wellbeing of residents within North Northamptonshire by planning for the appropriate facilities to meet the needs of the increasing population. This will help achieve the Council’s vision for North Northamptonshire:

1.3. ‘A place where everyone has the best opportunities and quality of life.’

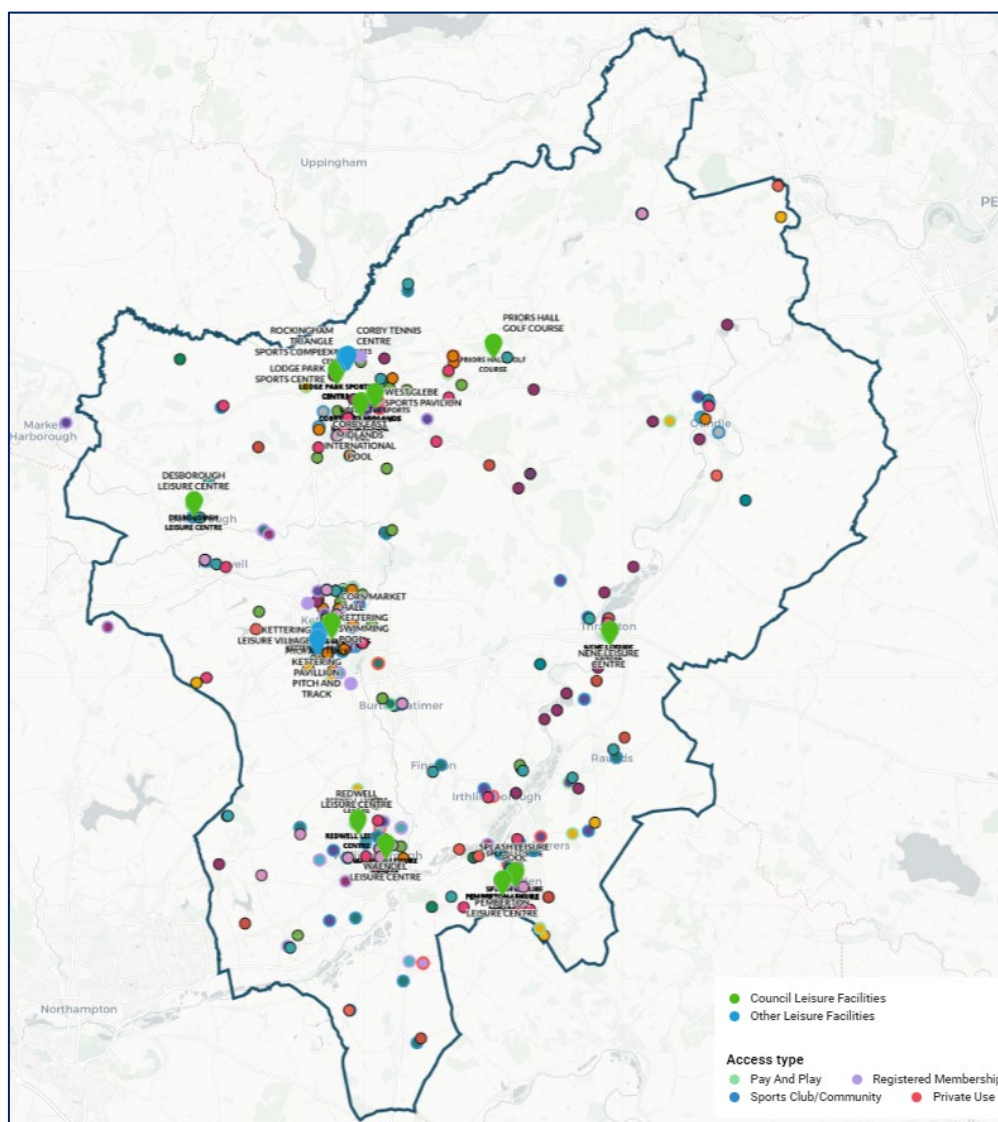
1.4. This Leisure Facilities Strategy covers the sports and facilities shown in table 1.

Table 1 - Leisure Facility Strategy - Scope

Leisure	Type of activity
Swimming pools	Pools including competition/leisure pool (including education sites identifying public access) diving, scuba diving, water polo
Sports halls	Badminton, squash courts, volleyball, indoor tennis, table tennis, netball, climbing, archery, futsal, dance
Other indoor sports facilities	Gym, health and fitness, gymnastics, indoor bowls, combat and martial arts, cycling, Urban Action Sports (including BMX/Skateboard, Scooters etc) athletics, boxing, futsal, indoor football, netball
Other outdoor sports facilities	Golf courses, bowling greens, tennis courts (free casual courts and tennis clubs or operated by a third party e.g. Passing Shots), athletics tracks and facilities, basketball, skateboard parks, treetop climbs, archery, netball, Urban Sports (including BMX, Road, link with Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans), rowing, kayaking/canoeing, sailing, equestrian activity, volleyball, archery, futsal, shooting
Countryside and natural resources	Facilities and land for a range of sports and leisure pursuits including cycling (including BMX, on-road), rowing, canoeing, equestrian, sailing, kayaking, climbing, fishing as well as accessible, high-quality opportunities for informal recreation and leisure events, and community events

1.5. Map 1 overleaf shows all the different leisure facilities by type of activity available in North Northamptonshire. The mapping link is [North-Northamptonshire-Facilities Mapping](#).

Map 1 – Leisure Facilities in North Northamptonshire



Type of leisure facility
Activity Halls
Archery
Athletics
Bowls
Climbing
Combat and Martial Arts
Cycling
Dance
Equestrian
Fisheries
Gliding
Golf
Gymnastics
Health and Fitness
Netball
Shooting
Skate Parks
Sports Hall
Squash Courts
Studios
Swimming Pools
Table Tennis
Tennis
Volleyball
Watersports

1.6. The Leisure Facilities Strategy also takes into consideration the green infrastructure (GI) and Greenways of North Northamptonshire. The Council recognises that many outdoor facilities are assets nestled within North Northamptonshire's green infrastructure alongside more informal opportunities for leisure and recreation like walking, cycling, green gyms as well as equestrian activities, wild swimming, and other water pursuits.

2. Strategic Policy and Context Review

2.1 There are a number of key national and local strategies, policies, plans and guidance which inform and influence the development of indoor sports facilities need assessments.

2.2 The relationship is three way, firstly other policy, plans, programmes, and strategies (PPPS) should inform the development of the LFS. Secondly, they should support the delivery of the LFS and thirdly the LFS should help deliver the aims, purpose, and objectives of the PPPS.

2.3 A detailed assessment of national and local strategies was completed, demonstrating the impact on the LFS.

2.4 Sport England's Role

2.4.1 Sport England aims to improve the quality, access, and management of sports facilities as well as investing in new facilities to meet unmet demand.

2.4.2 Sport England requires local authorities to have an up-to date assessment of sports facility needs and an associated strategy including a recommendation that the evidence base is reviewed every five years. This strategy contributes to that requirement.

2.5 Sport England Planning for Sport Guidance

2.5.1 Sport England sets out guidance [Planning for Sport Guidance | Sport England](#) on how the planning system can help to provide opportunities for all to take part in sport and be physically active. There are three objectives:

- PROTECT - To protect the right opportunities in the right places.
- ENHANCE - To enhance opportunities through better use of existing provision.
- PROVIDE - To provide new opportunities to meet the needs of current and future generations

Figure 2 – Sport England Planning Objectives



3. Housing Growth

3.1 All developments, especially housing, will generate some form of need for sport and physical activity provision. The planning system should take a proactive approach to meeting these needs.

3.2 Housing growth is planned for seven Garden Communities¹ which are expected to provide a combined total of in excess of 25,000 dwellings. These are referenced in table 2.

Table 2 - Planned Housing Developments

Five consented	Two in the planning stages
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hanwood Park, Kettering• Priors Hall/Weldon Park, Corby• Corby West,• Stanton Cross, Wellingborough• Glenville Park, Wellingborough	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rushden East and,• Tresham Garden Village

3.3 Overall, in the 2021-41 period, based on the delivery of 1,874 dwellings per annum, it is projected that North Northamptonshire will experience an increase in population of 17% (59,900) compared with a 13% increase (46,200) in the 2018-based subnational population projections (SNPP), so an additional 13,700 people.

3.4 Most of the difference is accounted for by a projected uplift in the number of people aged 16-64 but the increase in older persons is projected as the most significant. This projection has an important implication for the LFS. Firstly, there are likely to be more people living and working in North Northamptonshire than the ONS projections suggest meaning a greater demand on leisure and sports facilities and secondly, the aging population. Programming and the provision and design of new facilities ought to consider age factors when being planned for delivery.

4. Developer Contributions

4.1 Where development creates an extra demand on infrastructure and the infrastructure is necessary for the development to go ahead then contributions will be expected through a section 106 agreement.

4.2 It is the Council's ambition that the North Northamptonshire Local Plan will set out an area wide, formulaic approach using the Leisure Strategy to inform its development. The evidence will sit alongside the suite of approaches in the Local Plan used to secure developer contributions to ensure costs to developers are fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development and have due regard to viability.

5. Understanding North Northamptonshire

5.1 To understand the socio demographic context of North Northamptonshire and the needs of the future population a review of the authority's demographic, health, physical activity profile was undertaken. Figure 4 sets out the context and characteristics of North Northamptonshire to help understand the local area and priorities.

5.2 As a large unitary authority there are significant demographic differences across the Council area. Northamptonshire Integrated Care Partnership (ICP), alongside North Northamptonshire Council, developed seven Local Area Partnerships (LAPs) in North Northamptonshire that recognise the different needs of each locality.

5.3 The data includes the Community Needs Index which is an indicator that looks at social and cultural factors that can contribute to poorer life outcomes. It was developed to help identify those areas that were experiencing poor community and civic infrastructure, relative isolation and low levels of participation in community life.

5.4 With Sport England's Place Partner funding announced in 2023, the focus for future funding will be based on areas of greatest need to drive equal access to physical activity and sporting opportunities. It is, therefore, important to understand the community need across North Northamptonshire and where programmes and services need to be focused.

Figure 3 – Place Based Insights

North Northamptonshire

Demographics	Physical Activity	Health
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population of council area census 2021 is circa 359,500 Council area predicted to increase to 413,907 by 2041, a 16.9% increase Across whole council area slightly higher numbers of children aged 1 -15 and people aged over 65 years Apart from Corby with higher numbers of children and lower than average 65+ population 5% higher than national average East Northamptonshire North (rural) 65+ population 5% higher than national average Low proportion of ethnic minority residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult participation in physical activity is lower than national average whereas it is slightly higher for children and young people Corby has a significantly higher rate of physical inactivity Adult cycling and walking for travel lower than England average and higher car ownership Children and young people have lower walking to get to school or other places levels but higher cycling than England average 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obesity and overweight levels lower for year 6 children than national average apart from Corby and Kettering urban Higher obesity and overweight adults overall than regional and national average 15.5% in 20% most deprived neighbourhoods. Corby and Wellingborough have areas of high deprivation Corby and Wellingborough Urban areas with worse health and demographic statistics than national average, with Kettering (urban and rural) close behind Higher than average community needs index score overall than England average. Kettering areas have highest community needs scores, closely followed by Corby.

6. Consultation and Engagement

6.1. As part of the Leisure Facilities Needs Assessment engagement with National Governing Bodies (NGBs), sports clubs, schools and town/parish councils took place to obtain their local knowledge and overview of supply and demand, the current and future needs along with their priorities for the local area. The number of responses was:

- NGBs – 19
- Sports Clubs – 41
- Schools – 21
- Parish councils – 25
- Town councils - 5

6.2. An overview of how the NGB responses compared to the sports clubs feedback is shown below.

Table 3 – NGB and Sports Club Key Findings

NGB Key Findings	Club Key Findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of existing venues is a priority for all NGBs. • Priority to protect the two athletics tracks in Corby and Kettering • Opening the athletics track at Oundle School to the community to increase accessibility to athletics in East Northants • No requirement for additional bowls facilities but should protect existing assets. • Opportunity to extend existing partnership with The Angling Trust to other Country Parks • Lack of indoor golf facilities in the area, but no requirement for additional courses • Investment in new and refurbished swimming pools should be considered across North Northants • Opportunity for Padel courts in north Northants • Limited funding available from NGB's – some of the larger NGB's such as the LTA have access to funding for new developments. • KLV is a critical site for the development of volleyball and is the home of the NGB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 41 responses covering a variety of sports including (but not limited to) swimming, netball, cycling, tennis, gymnastics, sailing, urban sports and badminton. • 63% rated the facility they use most as 'good'. • 70% of clubs had been successful in securing funding. • Wide range of clubs delivering sports from grass roots to national competition level • A large proportion of clubs have volunteer support. • All of the cricket clubs that responded stated there is a need for more indoor cricket nets. • 57% of clubs are expecting their membership to increase over the next five years. • Kettering Pool highlighted as a venue in need of improvement and highlighted the need for a learner pool to support learn to swim and progress to club level. • Increased communication and involvement in decisions around changes of use at community or school facilities would help clubs prepare and plan for the future
Key Barriers Identified	Key Barriers Identified
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of rent/rates • Poor quality facilities • Accessibility to facilities – competition with other sports to book venues. • Securing long term leases for dedicated venues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of facilities/equipment • Disability access • Accessibility to facilities • Cost of hire • Availability of space

7. Current Plans to Improve Indoor Facilities

7.1. The school's consultation identified that the following three schools have current plans to improve their indoor sports facilities:

- Gretton Primary School – Add court lines.
- Ringstead CE Primary – Refurbishment of the school hall
- Weavers Academy – Update changing facilities to make them a better standard.

7.2. Henry Chichele Primary School stated that to improve any current facilities they would need a new building.

7.3. The schools below would like to modernise or develop their sports hall facilities:

- Ringstead CE Primary – refurbishment of school hall
- Weavers Academy – update/replace changing facilities.
- Whitefriars Primary School – a sports hall with badminton/basketball court
- Huxlow Academy – improved sports hall size

7.4. Planning applications have been submitted for:

- **Prince William School** (East Northamptonshire) - planning consent for a 34.5m x 20m four-court sports hall was approved on 7 October 2022. A planning condition is to provide for community use. The timescale for delivery of the project to be determined.
- **Earls Barton Sports Association** (Wellingborough) - planning application submitted August 2022 for provision of a 34.5m x 20m 4-courts sports hall at Northampton Road Earls Barton. The application has not been determined.

8. Facility Audit

Figure 4 – Parish and Town Council Consultation Key Findings

Responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six town councils • 25 parish councils
Facility Ownership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 42% of town and parish councils that responded own the outdoor facilities in their town/parish
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 58% reported residents cannot easily access places to be physically active, exercise or play sports • 89% stated they do not have marked cycling routes in their town or parish
Improvements to increase accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved public transport links (88%) • Better and/or safer cycling routes (47%)
Encouragement factors for increased use of outdoor spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better/easier access • Improved public transport • More information available on activities
Additional Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 88% believe their town or parish would benefit from additional indoor or outdoor facilities

8.1. Parish and Town Council Consultation - 25 parish councils and six town councils responded to the consultation. Key findings are outlined in figure 5.

8.2. Less than half of those that responded own the outdoor facilities in their town/parish council so do not have overall responsibility for these facilities.

8.3 The consultation work helped to inform which leisure facilities are available, who is using them and any feedback on improvements that can be made to encourage more residents to participate in physical activity.

8.4. Continuing to look at leisure provision in North Northamptonshire, a facility quality audit of the main leisure facilities was undertaken, which covered.

- Quality – How good are they? Age date of refurbishment. General condition and is it fit for purpose?
- Accessibility – Location, walking, cycling routes catchments.
- Availability - Programming and sports development policy initiatives. Pay and Play use, sports clubs only, private use, registered membership only use. Cost of use, patterns of use, hours of use, does design limit use by specific users e.g. disability users.
- Identify any forthcoming closures or enhancements which are planned which is shown overleaf.

8.5. The facilities were rated from one to five. Those facilities considered level one are likely to require investment to improve them. The score factors in the level of condition survey work required. Over the next five years investment into the facilities will be important to retain or improve their current rating.

Table 4 – Main Leisure Facility Quality Audit

Site - Council Leisure Facilities	Rating
Corby East Midlands International Pool	5
Lodge Park Sports Centre	3
Priors Hall Golf Course	3
The Nene Centre	4
Splash Leisure Pool	2
Pemberton Centre	2
Kettering Swimming Pool	1
Desborough Leisure Centre	4
Kettering Leisure Village	3
Waendel Leisure Centre	5
Redwell Leisure Centre	2

Site - Education Facilities	Quality
Brooke Weston Academy	4
Corby Business Academy	3
Kingswood Secondary Academy	4
Ferrers School	3
Manor Sports and Leisure Ltd	3
Oundle School Sports Centre	5
Bishop Stopford School	3
Kettering Buccleuch Academy	4
Montsaye Academy	4
Southfield School	4
Tresham College	4
Sir Christopher Hatton Academy	0
Weavers Leisure Centre	0
Wellingborough School	0
Wollaston School	1
Weldon Village Academy	5

9. Key Recommendations

9.1 An analysis for each sport in the scope was undertaken which included: accessing the number of facilities (supply), types of activities that take place, the location and accessibility including drive time catchment, quality of dedicated facilities, NGB, sports club and school consultation findings, future considerations, unmet demand and in the case of sports halls and swimming pools FPM key findings.

9.2 To inform the Indoor Sports Facilities Needs Assessment, the Sport England Facility Planning Models (FPM) were run in December 2022, for sports halls and swimming pools. These studies are a quantitative, accessibility and spatial assessment of the supply, demand, and access.

9.3 Key recommendations from the report are provided in the tables below.

Ref Number	Activity / Facility	Recommendation	Enhance, Protect, Provide
R1	Sports Halls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council to work with education providers to increase access to existing sports halls with secured community use agreements. • Consider increasing scale of a public leisure sports hall if a centre is replaced. Based on these findings the focus should be on the Corby and Kettering sub areas. • Consider new housing developments and whether sports hall provision included in plans. • Future of KLV is an important consideration / risk as largest supply of sports halls in the area. • Need to ensure aging stock is refurbished. • Work with Weldon Academy, Corby to secure community use agreement for new sports hall. • Consider utilising sports hall at neighbourhood centre sites. 	PROTECT, PROVIDE AND ENHANCE
R2	Community Halls / Village Halls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council should work with education providers to increase community access to sports halls, with increased secured community access provided through formal community use agreements. • With the majority of sports halls based within educational sites, it is also worth looking at community spaces (particularly in areas of greatest unmet demand) where physical activities, which don't require a high sports hall ceiling, can take place e.g. yoga, Pilates and martial arts. This would free up space for activities that require larger and higher ceiling sports courts e.g. basketball, netball, volleyball, and badminton 	PROTECT, PROVIDE AND ENHANCE

Ref Number	Activity / Facility	Recommendation	Enhance, Protect, Provide
R3	Swimming Pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Across North Northamptonshire there are sufficient swimming pool sites to meet the projected demand to 2041 Water space in Kettering needs to increase Given age/condition of Kettering pool option to replace current pool in good location FPM findings support a 25m x 17m eight-lane pool (425 sqm of water) and a 12m x 10m learner pool. This provides 545 sqm of water and could accommodate the projected demand to 2041 Splash Leisure Pool – used capacity 86% in 2022, 93% in 2041. No need to provide more water space but to programme activities across individual pools to maximise use at peak times. Waendel Leisure Centre – used capacity 100% in both years. Increase peak hours from 50-52.5 hours. 	PROTECT, PROVIDE AND ENHANCE
R4	Health & Fitness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is the potential for growth in the fitness membership base of 2,930 additional members (not including KLV), the majority of these are expected to be achieved across Pemberton Leisure Centre and Corby International Pool Both Corby International Pool and Kettering Swimming Pool are operating at just over 30 members per station, which is at the higher end of industry benchmarks. In order to avoid capacity issues, layout of equipment, programming and extension opportunities should be considered. However, before provision of additional fitness facilities are agreed in the future there needs to be a full needs/business case justification undertaken. 	PROVIDE AND PROTECT
R5	Studios	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The demand is around health and fitness classes, and, in this instance, they should be considered within new builds or refurbishments to ensure sports hall activities are not occupied by fitness classes and sports halls can provide space for the groups and clubs that require the size of the hall e.g. basketball, volleyball and netball etc. Flexible studio space across any new builds or refurbishments will support the wider fitness offer and membership base but also to provide other services such as wellbeing initiatives, community groups etc 	PROVIDE AND PROTECT
R6	Athletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain UKA TrackMark accreditation at Rockingham Triangle (Corby) – track resurfacing required within five to seven years. Maintain UKA TrackMark accreditation at Kettering Athletic Track Achieve UKA TrackMark accreditation at Oundle School Explore the opportunity to open up the athletics facility at Oundle School for club/community use to meet demand in the northeast. Another area of demand is in the Rushden area. Consider embedding community focused, recreational ActiveTrack(s) (walk, jog, run, cycle loops) in this area, potentially as part of any existing/new areas of housing (Rushden East). 	PROTECT, PROVIDE, ENHANCE

Ref Number	Activity / Facility	Recommendation	Enhance, Protect, Provide
R7	Badminton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Badminton England's highlighted in their consultation response that they are currently seeking opportunities for more indoor facilities within Northamptonshire to enable coaches to deliver more sessions and for evening availability for clubs. Badminton England would like to expand the 'No Strings Badminton' offer a national participation programme offering low-cost, fun 'pay and play sessions' but have issues around accessing facilities due to time slots. Any funding is held centrally as an NGB, as part of the development fund See Sports Hall recommendations 	PROTECT
R8	Basketball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tresham College, Kettering is an important venue for providing basketball provision in North Northamptonshire, continue to support this club. See Sports Hall recommendations 	PROTECT
R9	Bowling	<p>Indoor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> England Indoor Bowling Association stated that there is a sufficient supply of indoor facilities to meet the current and future demand and there are no barriers that affect the NGB clubs within the NNC area making full use of the facilities. <p>Outdoor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the previous PPS it identified there was spare capacity in East Northants, no increase in demand in Corby but overplay at Wellingborough & Irchester bowls club and in Kettering area at Geddington Sports Ground. Consequently, there is not sufficient demand for additional facilities, however protecting current provision and improving quality of greens will be important for clubs to maintain or increase membership and participation and support Bowls England priorities. 	PROTECT
R10	Gymnastics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dialogue is established with Kettering Gymnastics Club and British Gymnastics to further explore the potential of facilitating club-led development of additional gymnastics facilities to increase their capacity and capability. Support other clubs in securing dedicated premises through any planning processes 	PROTECT, ENHANCE
R11	Netball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Local Plan should protect all netball courts across North Northamptonshire Council for community use. Any courts proposed to be lost should be replaced with at least equivalent provision in terms of quantity and quality. Protecting and enhancing current outdoor provision - ensuring courts are well maintained. North Northamptonshire Council and England Netball to work together to promote England Netball participation programmes in North Northamptonshire including Back to Netball, Walking Netball, Netball now and Bee Netball When developing new Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) in the future, ensure that netball courts are marked on all MUGAs to promote expansion of the game. See Sports Hall recommendations 	PROVIDE, PROTECT, ENHANCE

Ref Number	Activity / Facility	Recommendation	Enhance, Protect, Provide
R12	Squash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing provision should be maintained and protected, however any future changes to squash provision (increase or decrease) should be subject to a feasibility assessment. When considering refurbishment or replacement squash courts, England Squash recommend the ASB Movable Side Wall. With this innovation, a squash court becomes a flexible, multiuse area providing an answer to challenges around off-peak usage. 	PROTECT
R13	Tennis	<p>Indoor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Lawn Tennis Association identified Wellingborough as a strategic location for a community indoor tennis centre. Enter a dialogue with the LTA to support a collaborative approach with local partners to provide an increased number of tennis courts to those areas with demand (Wellingborough & Kettering) <p>Outdoor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor tennis courts to be maintained and protected to ensure they are sustainable and available for community use. Enter a dialogue with the LTA to identify potential areas to introduce padel tennis courts as currently no courts in North Northamptonshire 	PROTECT, ENHANCE, PROVIDE
R14	Boxing, Combat & Martial Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on engagement and mapping of provision the existing facilities are considered to be sufficient to meet demand However, the Council should support any club developments/initiatives e.g. through supporting funding applications, promotion etc. particularly in areas of deprivation where rates of inactivity are high 	PROTECT, ENHANCE
R15	Climbing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A feasibility study would help determine if there is potential to add indoor climbing as part of a facility mix in and around Corby. Protect existing facilities 	PROTECT

Ref Number	Activity / Facility	Recommendation	Enhance, Protect, Provide
R16	Cycling (indoor & outdoor)	<p>Indoor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no demand for an indoor cycling facility within North Northamptonshire. <p>Outdoor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the consultation with British Cycling, they highlighted that they are keen to work with volunteers to support and develop new and existing cycling clubs and events in the region. This can be in any cycling discipline e.g. Cycle Speedway. Cycle infrastructure should be considered at planning stage of any new housing developments and if leisure centres redeveloped e.g. cycle network to connect the leisure centre and safe cycle storage. British Cycling is keen to develop the grassroots of cycling in a safe and control environment such as at Community cycling hubs, which include pump tracks and learn to ride areas. Consider community cycling hubs in future developments. 	PROVIDE, PROTECT
R17	Dance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Northamptonshire Council to continue working in partnership with schools where sports facilities or dance studios are provided for community or club use. 	PROTECT, PROVIDE
R18	Dodgeball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is sufficient sports hall space to meet the demands of Dodgeball. See Sports Hall recommendations 	PROTECT
R19	Indoor Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is not sufficient demand for a bespoke indoor cricket facility, however any new sports hall developments should consider indoor cricket provision as part of the facility mix, subject to a feasibility assessment 	PROTECT
R20	Golf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no need for additional outdoor courses, but opportunities should be explored to improve the mix of facilities in the authority and offer more entry level style facilities for those who are new to the game, placing particular focus on driving ranges and shorter length courses of which there currently appears to be a relatively low level of supply Any future development of golf facilities could consider indoor golf equipment such as simulator venues, swing studios and indoor adventure golf courses 	PROVIDE, PROTECT, ENHANCE
R21	Indoor Football / Futsal	<p>Indoor Football</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no identified need for specific indoor football venues in North Northamptonshire <p>Futsal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Northamptonshire FA to support existing futsal activities in the area. See Sports Hall recommendations 	PROTECT, ENHANCE
R22	Lacrosse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no demand for indoor or outdoor lacrosse facilities in North Northamptonshire 	NO DEMAND

Ref Number	Activity / Facility	Recommendation	Enhance, Protect, Provide
R33	Table Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council to start a dialogue with Table Tennis England about future provision of outdoor table tennis tables in schools and public places such as parks. • Opportunity to work with Table Tennis England to roll out the Ping! In the community programme at community events • Potential to include outdoor tables in new housing developments 	PROTECT, PROVIDE
R34	Urban Sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is already a world class urban sports facility (Adrenaline Alley) therefore no demand for additional indoor facilities, however maintenance of this venue is important to maintain quality of provision. • There are 19 outdoor skateparks in North Northamptonshire. Protect and maintain these outdoor facilities. • As part of the new housing developments consider including a skatepark and/or pump tracks in the outdoor facility plans 	PROTECT, PROVIDE
R35	Volleyball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kettering Leisure Village is of significant importance to Volleyball nationally and locally. Protect the number of volleyball courts available. • Given England Volleyball is based in Kettering this presents an opportunity for volleyball in North Northamptonshire • See Sports Hall recommendations 	PROVIDE, PROTECT
R36	Archery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council to continue dialogue with Archery GB to provide equity of access and protect shared sports facilities, or community use areas 	PROTECT
R37	Equestrian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equestrian clubs have been established to meet demand. • Facility development is managed by clubs, riding schools and yards. • Council to continue to maintain bridleways in authority area 	NO ACTION REQUIRED
R38	Fishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue partnership working with the Angling Trust to support programme of angling events. • Protect existing angling provision within the authority area 	PROTECT, PROVIDE
R39	Shooting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shooting / Rifle clubs have been established to meet demand. • Protect indoor and outdoor ranges 	PROTECT
R40	Triathlon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tri clubs in the area have access to the facilities they require. • Protect the clubs access and the facilities they use – Corby International Pool, Corby Athletics Track, Oundle School and Sywell Country Park Open water. • Create a dialogue with the clubs to keep them information about greenway and cycle route developments for them to use 	PROTECT
R41	Watersports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watersports clubs have been established to meet demand for the relevant watersports 	PROTECT

Ref Number	Activity / Facility	Recommendation	Enhance, Protect, Provide
R42	Community Use Agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Northamptonshire Council to work in partnership with schools where sports facilities are provided for community or club use. • There is a requirement for formal community use agreements to be in place at existing sites or future school development sites. • This is needed to ensure continued community / sports club use of these sites. If this does not occur there will be additional pressure for provision of sports halls for community use in the North Northamptonshire Council area 	PROVIDE AND PROTECT
R43	Developer Contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where appropriate, North Northamptonshire Council and its partners seek to secure developer contributions from strategic developments that could contribute towards the development of strategic facilities, additional and safe walking, running and cycling routes, and, where possible, to open up other informal, multipurpose places and spaces where people can be active • The Council should develop a detailed approach to securing developer contributions to support the emerging local plan e.g. through a Planning Obligations SPD • Sport England's CIL & Planning Obligations Advice Note (or the future Developer Contributions guidance that will supersede it) https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/community-infrastructure-levy-and-planning-obligations-advice-note-nov-2018.pdf?PmR9OYIbVat6HfqmmvtKurJ6o1M3d4Z provides a step by step guide to assist the Council to use the findings of the strategy to secure financial contribution from developers • The use of Sport England's Sports Facility Calculator should specifically be referenced with assisting to identify demand for and financial contributions towards halls and pools 	PROVIDE AND PROTECT
R44	Feasibility Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any Council investment for future facility development should be subject to a feasibility study to ensure it is financially viable 	

10. Leisure Facilities Strategy Action Plan

10.1 The leisure facilities strategy action plan is provided in the tables below.

Key: timeframe (short – 0-2 years, medium – 2-4 years, long – 5 years +)

Priority Level: 1 = high, 5 = low

Table 6 – Leisure Facilities Strategy Action Plan

Centre/Area	Action	Ownership	Recommendation met through this action	Detail	Priority Level	Timescales
Kettering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replacement of Kettering Swimming Pool to include a new 8 lane 25m pool and additional learner pool (minimum 10m x 12m), to also include new fitness and flexible community/studio space. Develop existing feasibility work to RIBA Stage ½ including site options analysis 		R3, R4, R5, R33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased water space required in Kettering. Poor condition of existing swimming pool FPM findings support additional learner pool. Fitness at high-capacity levels, new fitness facilities will support membership growth and latent demand projections. Flexible studio space will support wider membership offer as well as health and community programming. Potential for offsite developer contributions towards replacement facilities 	1	Medium

Centre/Area	Action	Ownership	Recommendation met through this action	Detail	Priority Level	Timescales
Desborough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure Desborough Leisure Centre facilities meet needs of the local community through allocated S106 funding and sports hall floor is replaced 		R1, R7, R33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Known issue with cracked sports hall floor that needs addressing. Ensure sports hall is of a high quality. Utilise known funding allocations to improve facilities. Potential to consider other activity space to reduce pressure on sports hall. Opportunity to create better health and wellbeing facilities to support strategic outcomes 	1	Medium
Rushden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review options to improve the leisure offer in Rushden including investigation of the existing two sites or replacing existing facilities on one site. Commission initial feasibility study to understand facility mix, site options and potential revenue/capital impact 		R1, R3, R4, R5, R7, R21, R34	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current quality score at Splash leisure Centre and Pemberton is low. Financially more efficient to operate one centre. Significant condition survey works required at both Splash and Pemberton FPM run identified high used capacity by 2041 (93% at Splash Leisure Pool) East Northamptonshire Local Football Facilities Plan (2020) highlighted Pemberton as potential indoor facility to develop futsal, with improved sports hall floor and markings. Latent demand highest at Pemberton Leisure Centre 	2	Medium

Centre/Area	Action	Ownership	Recommendation met through this action	Detail	Priority Level	Timescales
Lodge Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve community space at Lodge Park Sports Centre • Progress initial feasibility work 		R2, R5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce pressure on sports hall usage by increasing flexible community space for physical activity and health programmes. • Condition survey works required. • Lodge Park in Sport England Place expansion area – Sport England support feasibility work 	1	Short
Corby International Pool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure ongoing development of the fitness/gym provision at Corby International Pool and Lodge Park Sports Centre 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support retention of members • Support sales of new memberships • Enable the sites to remain competitive against the private sector. • Maximise the income and profit potential from these areas 	1	Medium
Redwell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add additional studio/community space to Redwell Leisure Centre • • Progress initial feasibility work 		R2, R4, R5, R12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce pressure on sports hall usage by increasing flexible community space for physical activity and health programmes. • Centre currently has no studio space. • Additional space will protect squash provision. • Condition survey works required. • Located close to Queensway – a Sport England Place expansion identified area - Sport England support feasibility work 	1	Short

Centre/Area	Action	Ownership	Recommendation met through this action	Detail	Priority Level	Timescales
Corby Golf Course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve indoor offer, explore driving range opportunity and ensure delivery of ongoing maintenance and improvements to course. • Undertake feasibility to understand potential demand for improved indoor facilities and financial impact of indoor and course improvements 		R20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure lease prior to completing feasibility work. • Improve the current mix of facilities in the Council area. • Offer more entry level facilities e.g. driving ranges and shorter length courses. • Consider indoor equipment such as simulators and swing studios. • Course condition survey highlighted a number of essential works. • Ensure long term sustainability 	3	Medium
Rockingham Park Pavilion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Options appraisal for Rockingham Park Pavilion to confirm the future of the facility including investment and management options 		R33, R2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community venue for local residents • Lack of investment historically – significant issues such as damp, tree root damage, leaking roof • Ensure future sustainability of the site 	2	Short
Northampton Road Pavilion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Options appraisal for Northampton Road Pavilion to identify maintenance requirements, investment opportunities and future management options 		R33, R2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The site is well-used by Kettering Tennis Club and a martial art group. • The site is in need of improvement. • Lies in the area for the Kettering Station Masterplan, which would displace the facilities if it progressed. However funding has not been identified therefore the existing facilities need to be considered should the masterplan not progress. 	2	Medium

Centre/Area	Action	Ownership	Recommendation met through this action	Detail	Priority Level	Timescales
Swanspool Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feasibility study for Swanspool Gardens Tennis Courts to understand the investment required to bring the tennis courts back into use and support discussions on the option of leasing the pavilion and park to the Wellingborough Town Council 		R33, R2, R13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tennis courts are out of use due to tree root damage making them unsafe. Previously, were very popular with the local community. Only public tennis courts in Wellingborough Council awarded £50k from LTA and are seeking approval for match funding from NNC to resurface courts, install new fencing and online booking system to get these courts back into use for next summer 	2	Short
Kettering Leisure Village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure ongoing access to KLV arena sports facilities 		R1, R12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Importance of KLV sports hall to overall provision in the Council area Kettering has the highest demand for sports hall use. Complications and restrictions from existing lease agreement, however KLV is a key strategic site for sports provision 	1	Short
Oundle School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend community access to athletics facilities at Oundle School Extend consultation with England Athletics and the school to understand the opportunity for increased community use. 		R32, R6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community access to athletics facilities to meet demand in the northeast. Kettering athletics track respray needed in the next 5-6 years 	3	Medium

Centre/Area	Action	Ownership	Recommendation met through this action	Detail	Priority Level	Timescales
All Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing capital replacement/maintenance programme for Council's leisure portfolio, including equipment replacement (e.g. gym equipment) • • Develop a 10 year lifecycle plan for each centre 		R1, R3, R12, R13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing condition survey works identified at all venues. • Quality and customer experience critical to increased usage, participation in physical activity and financial sustainability. • Investigate energy efficiency opportunities and subsequent savings – support reduced carbon objectives. • Currently there is no plan in place, resulting in the service being reactive rather than a planned approach 	1	Short
All Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing capital replacement/maintenance programme for Council's pavilions and other venues, including any equipment. • • Develop a 10 year lifecycle plan for each venue 		R1, R3, R12, R13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing condition survey works identified at all venues. • Quality and customer experience critical to increased usage, participation in physical activity and financial sustainability. • Investigate energy efficiency opportunities and subsequent savings – support reduced carbon objectives. • Currently there is no plan in place, resulting in the service being reactive rather than a planned approach 	1	Short

Centre/Area	Action	Ownership	Recommendation met through this action	Detail	Priority Level	Timescales
Council-wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Secondary Schools across NN to improve community use agreements where the LFS has identified a shortfall in provision 		R32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal community use agreements to be required as part of any new school developments. Access to school facilities required to ease pressure on other Councils sites and meet future demand for facilities such as sports halls. 	1	Short
Council-wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify opportunities for the provision of outdoor table tennis tables in public places and new housing developments 		R23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority for the national Governing Body Increase accessibility to local communities. Improve Park/public space provision 	5	Long
Council-wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Council owned and managed fisheries and extend angling events at other country parks 		R28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong NGB presence in the area, keen to support the Council with the development of existing sites. Competitions held on the River Nene and England Youth Fly Fishing training and competitions held in North Northants Increase use of outdoor/open spaces 	5	Long
Council-wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to secure S106 funding for on and off-site contributions, utilising the Sports Facility Calculator to identify funding requirements 		R33	Secure additional funding Improve quality of facility provision Improve sustainability of facilities	1	Ongoing
Council-wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater working between Planning, Public health, and Leisure departments to ensure local infrastructure is supported 		R32, R33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any new developments support wider outcomes of health and physical activity. Integrate active environments at the planning stage of developments 	1	Ongoing

Centre/Area	Action	Ownership	Recommendation met through this action	Detail	Priority Level	Timescales
Council-wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a programme of engagement and Consultation with NGB's Sports Club Network 		R7, R10, R11, R14, R16, R17, R21, R25, R26, R28, R30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand local need and demand. Refresh and update any changes in local provision throughout the strategy period 	3	Medium

Disclaimer

Although the information in this report has been prepared in good faith, with the best intentions, on the basis of professional research and information made available to us at the time of the study, it is not possible to guarantee the financial estimates or forecasts contained within this report.

Max Associates cannot be held liable to any party for any direct or indirect losses, financial or otherwise, associated with any information provided within this report. We have relied in a number of areas on information provided by the client and have not undertaken additional independent verification of this data.