

A meeting of the **CABINET** will be held in the **CIVIC SUITE (LANCASTER/STIRLING ROOMS), PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON, PE29 3TN** on **TUESDAY, 20 JUNE 2023** at **7:00 PM** and you are requested to attend for the transaction of the following business:-

## **AGENDA**

### **APOLOGIES**

**1. MINUTES** (Pages 5 - 8)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 17th May 2023.

**Contact Officer: Democratic Services - (01480) 388169**

**2. MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

To receive from Members declarations as to disclosable pecuniary, other registerable and non-registerable interests in relation to any Agenda item. See Notes below.

**Contact Officer: Democratic Services - (01480) 388169**

**3. MARKET TOWNS PROGRAMME - SUMMER UPDATE** (Pages 9 - 36)

To receive an update on activity across the strands of the Market Towns Programme.

Executive Councillor: S Wakeford.

**Contact Officer: P Scott - (01480) 388486**

**4. MID TERM REVIEW OF HOUSING STRATEGY 2020-2025** (Pages 37 - 74)

To receive a report setting out the strategic direction for housing in Huntingdonshire for the next two years, which includes the housing priorities for the District together with an action plan that will recognise these priorities.

Executive Councillor: S Wakeford.

**Contact Officer: P Scott - (01480) 388486**

**5. FIRST HOMES POSITION STATEMENT (Pages 75 - 88)**

To receive a report providing information on First Homes and the Council's position when a development proposal includes this form of affordable housing.

Executive Councillor: S Wakeford.

**Contact Officer: P Scott - (01480) 388486**

**6. INDOOR AND BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY AND PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY (Pages 89 - 514)**

To receive a report on the Indoor and Built Sports Facilities Strategy and Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy.

Executive Councillor: S Taylor.

**Contact Officer: M Grey - (01480) 388244**

**7. OXFORD TO CAMBRIDGE PAN-REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP (Pages 515 - 522)**

To receive a report from the Managing Director (Interim) on the Oxford to Cambridge Pan-Regional Partnership.

Executive Councillor: S Conboy.

**Contact Officer: O Morley - (01480) 388103**

**8. CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT 2022/23 QUARTER 4 (Pages 523 - 596)**

To receive a report presenting details of delivery of the Corporate Plan 2022/23 and project delivery.

Executive Councillor: S Ferguson.

**Contact Officer: D Buckridge - (01480) 388065**

**9. FINANCE PERFORMANCE REPORT 2022/23 QUARTER 4 (Pages 597 - 626)**

To receive a report presenting details of the Council's projected financial performance for 2022/23.

Executive Councillor: B Mickelburgh.

**Contact Officer: K Sutton - (01480) 387072**

**10. TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN REPORT 2022/23** (Pages 627 - 654)

To receive an update on the Council's treasury management activity during 2022/23, including investment and borrowing activity and treasury performance.

Executive Councillor: B Mickelburgh.

**Contact Officer: O Colbert / S Russell-Surtees - (01480) 388067/388524**

**11. HINCHINGBROOKE COUNTRY PARK JOINT GROUP** (Pages 655 - 658)

To receive the Minutes of the Hinchingsbrooke Country Park Joint Group held on 21 April 2023.

Executive Councillor: S Taylor.

**Contact Officer: B Buddle - (01480) 388008**

13 day of June 2023

***Oliver Morley***

Head of Paid Service

**Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and other Registerable and Non-Registerable Interests.**

Further information on [Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and other Registerable and Non-Registerable Interests is available in the Council's Constitution](#)

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**Please contact Democratic Services, Tel No: (01480) 388169 / e-mail: Democratic.Services@huntingdonshire.gov.uk if you have a general query on any Agenda Item, wish to tender your apologies for absence from the meeting, or would like information on any decision taken by the Cabinet.**

Specific enquiries with regard to items on the Agenda should be directed towards the Contact Officer.

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting as observers except during consideration of confidential or exempt items of business.

Agenda and enclosures can be viewed on the [District Council's website](#).

### **Emergency Procedure**

In the event of the fire alarm being sounded and on the instruction of the Meeting Administrator, all attendees are requested to vacate the building via the closest emergency exit.

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Annual Meeting of the CABINET held in the CIVIC SUITE (LANCASTER/STIRLING ROOMS), PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON, PE29 3TN on Wednesday, 17 May 2023

PRESENT: Councillor S J Conboy – Chair.

Councillors L Davenport-Ray, S W Ferguson, M A Hassall, B A Mickelburgh, B M Pitt, T D Sanderson, S L Taylor and S Wakeford.

### 1 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18th April 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### 2 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

### 3 APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS

- a) that the executive responsibilities for the Municipal Year 2023/24 be allocated as follows:

Place	Councillor S J Conboy
Planning	Councillor T D Sanderson
Jobs, Economy & Housing	Councillor S Wakeford
Climate & Environment	Councillor L Davenport-Ray
Corporate & Shared Services	Councillor M A Hassall
Customer Services	Councillor S W Ferguson
Leisure, Waste & Street Scene	Councillor S L Taylor
Finance & Resources	Councillor B A Mickelburgh
Community & Health	Councillor B M Pitt

- b) that Executive Councillors be appointed to serve as ex-officio Members of the following:

Executive Councillor for Corporate & Shared Services	Employment Committee
Executive Councillor for Planning	Development Management Committee
Executive Councillor for Customer Services	Licensing and Protection/ Licensing Committee

**4 HINCHINGBROOKE COUNTRY PARK JOINT GROUP**

RESOLVED

that Councillors M L Beuttell, C A Lowe, D J Shaw and S L Taylor be appointed to serve on the Hinchingsbrooke Country Park Joint Group for the ensuing Municipal Year.

**5 LOCAL PLANS ADVISORY GROUP**

RESOLVED

that Councillors E R Butler, S J Corney, L Davenport-Ray, D B Dew, C M Gleadow, J Neish and T D Sanderson be appointed to serve on the Local Plans Advisory Group for the ensuing Municipal Year.

**6 MEMBER DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP**

RESOLVED

that Councillors T D Alban, M L Beuttell, S W Ferguson, P A Jordan, R Martin and T D Sanderson be appointed to serve on the Member Development Working Group for the ensuing Municipal Year.

**7 LONDON-LUTON AIRPORT WORKING GROUP**

RESOLVED

that Councillors S W Ferguson, N J Hunt and R J West be appointed to serve on the London-Luton Airport Working Group for the ensuing Municipal Year.

**8 SHARED SERVICES JOINT GROUP**

RESOLVED

that the Executive Councillor for Corporate & Shared Services be appointed to serve on the Shared Services Joint Group for the ensuing Municipal Year.

**9 TREASURY AND CAPITAL MANAGEMENT GROUP**

RESOLVED

to note that the Executive Leader, Deputy Executive Leader and Executive Councillor for Finance & Resources form the membership of the Treasury and Capital Management Group.

**10 HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL VENTURES LTD -  
SHAREHOLDER REPRESENTATIVE**

RESOLVED

that the Executive Councillor for Corporate & Shared Services be appointed as Huntingdonshire District Council Ventures Ltd – Shareholder Representative for the ensuing Municipal Year.

Chair

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**Public  
Key Decision - Yes**

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Title/Subject Matter:** Market Towns Programme – Spring Update 2022/2023

**Meeting/Date:** Cabinet  
20th June 2023

**Executive Portfolio:** Executive Councillor for Jobs, Economy & Housing

**Report by:** Regeneration and Housing Delivery Manager

**Ward(s) affected:** All wards.

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report provides the 2023/2024 Q1 update on the Market Towns Programme (MTP).

The MTP is an ambitious programme of economic led interventions to support Huntingdonshire's town centres recover from the Covid-19 Pandemic, whilst also looking forward to renewing and reshaping our town centres and high streets in a way that promotes growth, improves experiences, and ensures sustainability in the future.

The MTP is funded through a combination of external funding from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC), Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA), Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and National Highways. This update particularly highlights:

- Completion of final designs for the St Neots Market Square (Town Centre Improvements) and procurement of a contractor to deliver the scheme.
- Appointment of architects and technical advisers for the refurbishment of the Priory Centre, St Neots.
- Initiation of projects approved by the CPCA Board in March, concerning project delivery in St Neots, Huntingdon, and St Ives, in addition to the Ramsey Market Produce Hub project, funded via the Local Growth Fund.
- Completion of the Huntingdon, Ramsey, and St Ives masterplans.

### RECOMMENDATION UPDATE

Cabinet is asked to:

- Note progress regarding the projects (part of the Market Towns Programme) as highlighted above.

- 1.1 To provide an update on activity across the strands of the Market Town Programme.

## **UPDATE ON MARKET TOWNS PROGRAMME**

### **ST NEOTS PROGRAMME:**

#### **Town Centre Improvements (Transport Projects)**

- 2.1. The final detailed designs for the Town Centre Improvements were completed during April. Considerable work has been undertaken to refine and improve the proposals over the last few months, factoring in feedback from residents and local stakeholders as part of both online and in person engagement activities. The final designs, which detail all the proposed works, are included within this link: [Cabinet Submission](#)
- 2.2. The formal procurement process to appoint a contractor to undertake the scheme was commenced on the 2nd of May 2023, it will conclude during August 2023. A significant risk to the scheme has been a lack of interest from the market. As part of our early engagement, we have carried out market testing through the Eastern Highways Alliance Framework and have identified that a minimum of three contractors are expected to submit tenders. This is incredibly positive and will help to ensure a competitive and successful procurement process is completed.
- 2.3. Every effort has been taken to mitigate risks. We have, for example, taken additional time to consider technical and cost challenges prior to the procurement process being launched. This has also included market testing with local contractors, to better understand how the work could be better phased, and the cost implications or benefits of this. Whilst this has extended the scheme schedule slightly, commencing construction in early Autumn, as opposed to late Summer, this additional work will be beneficial to the project on cost and delivery timescales.
- 2.4. In terms of phasing and delivering the works within the Market Square, it is important that we ensure the operation of the Charter Market is maintained. This also includes other specialist Markets, for example, craft and farmers, and other events which are organised by St Neots Town Council. The Council is working with partners to maximise the operation of these Markets and events during the construction period and minimise disruption as far as possible.
- 2.5. To ensure that we can accommodate both the continued operation of the Market(s) whilst undertaking construction work, HDC will continue to liaise closely with the Charter rights owners (Rowley Estates) and the current leaseholder for the Charter Market rights (Wendy Fair).

#### **Town Centre Improvements Communications Plan**

- 2.6. As we approach the commencement of construction works on site, we are acutely aware of the need to communicate effectively and regularly with residents, businesses, and other stakeholders to minimise any disruption to daily life. The team will make sure that the HDC website is up to date with information on the project and our bi-monthly newsletter will focus updates on

this project. One specific area we are focusing on is tree replacement, as this is a very topical issue which has caused problems for similar schemes elsewhere in the country.

- 2.7.** The tree removal is a Cambridgeshire County Council led and funded activity, which would have been required irrespective of the Market Square improvements. The removal is due to faults in how the trees were originally planted, which has resulted in the tree roots damaging the surrounding paving and creating a safety hazard for pedestrians. The trees will be replaced by semi-mature trees on both sides of the Market Square, in greater numbers than currently. It is critically important that we communicate effectively with members of the public as to why the trees are being replaced. To this end, we are preparing a communications strategy specific to the Town Centre Improvements, which will be shared soon.
- 2.8.** It should be noted that we are also steering away from referring to these works as the “transport projects” as we have been, as we feel that this does not accurately reflect the final scope of the projects. As such, we have retitled this scheme “Town Centre Improvements,” and this term will be used for all future communications.

### **The Old Falcon Inn**

- 2.9.** The Old Falcon Inn is a Grade II listed building and holds a prominent position in the Market Square. It is under private ownership and has been vacant for almost 20 years. The current owner is keen on bringing the building back into active use and, after significant engagement from the Council, wishes to work with us towards this goal.
- 2.10.** Our end goal in providing this support to the owner is to ensure the building is brought back into active use. We have adapted our approach from acquiring the property into an enabling role. These activities are consistent with the original outcomes sought as part of our Future High Street fund application.

### **Priory Centre**

- 2.11.** The Priory Centre project objective is to deliver a much enhanced and financially sustainable multi-use community facility. The Council has recently undertaken a procurement process to appoint an architect-led multi-disciplinary team to develop proposals for the refurbishment and improvement of the Centre. The competition attracted 19 high quality tenders. Following a comprehensive assessment exercise, involving direct interviews, we have selected a preferred bidder.
- 2.12.** We are now currently following procurement processes, which includes a 10-day standstill process before we can formally appoint the contractor. Once the contract is active, the appointed contractor will also be responsible for project managing the implementation of any works resulting from the designs prepared, including the procurement of a building contractor.
- 2.13.** The Priory Centre enhancement project will be funded by the Future High Street Fund (FHSF) and an allocation of funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy. As with all projects funded through FHSF, we are required to complete spending by March 2024. Consequently, we will be seeking to rapidly deliver an

initial phase 1 of works by this point. These phase 1 works may include less intrusive construction activity, which could, for example, include measures to increase the energy efficiency of the building which is a known issue.

- 2.14.** There are no time restrictions placed on funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy. Further phases of work can therefore take place after March 2024. Whilst the schedule for completion will be dependent on the type and extent of work, which is subject to confirmation, we are currently forecasting completion of all works by Summer 2024.

### **St Neots CPCA Legacy funding (masterplan phase 1)**

- 2.15.** On the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023, the CPCA Board provided approval to HDC's Change Control request concerning new project proposals. These projects will be funded from the St Neots CPCA (legacy) masterplan phase 1 programme, which had an underspend of £260,000.

- 2.16.** The projects which were approved included:

- Development of a stage / entertainment area within the renewed Market Square, which can also provide a multi-use space, e.g., café seating.
- Public art within the town centre, to be developed as part of a local competition, managed by St Neots Town Council.
- Extension of wayfinding digital screens into St Neots (subject to confirmation overall programme proceeds).
- Co-retail space, providing an opportunity for the sale of products by local independent traders / product creators in a shared retail space.

- 2.17.** The full expenditure of £260,000 was reallocated to delivery of these projects. Work is now commencing on initiating these activities. Two of the four projects link to existing HDC led schemes; the stage area in St Neots Market Square and public art. The remaining two projects will be delivered directly by partners including St Neots Town Council and the St Neots Initiative. Work is now underway on initiating these activities. This includes the preparation of funding agreements with Project Partners and the approval of our own Grant Funding Agreement with the CPCA.

### **Huntingdon and St Ives funding allocation**

- 2.18.** In addition to the St Neots focused projects summarised above, approval was also provided by the CPCA Board in March to the Council's proposals concerning previously unallocated funding from the Accelerated Funding Programme. A total of £802,150 (including contingency) was confirmed for project delivery in Huntingdon and St Ives. The projects approved are:

- St Ives Broadway Cycle Link and Highways improvements
- Contribution to completion of the St Ives Bandstand community project
- Shop Front grant scheme in both Huntingdon and St Ives
- Expansion and improvement of the Cromwell Museum to improve visitor amenities and facilities
- A new Huntingdon Visitor Centre to promote the town centre, hosted within the Commemoration Hall.

**2.19.** Work is now progressing on initiating all these projects. We anticipate completion of the St Ives Band Stand by June 2023 and the Huntingdon Visitor Centre project by this coming Autumn 2023. The remaining projects will begin delivery in the next two months and will be completed in 2024/25.

## **Digital Wayfinding**

**2.20.** In 2021, the Council, working with Connecting Cambridgeshire, secured £200,000 of funding to deliver a digital (wayfinding) screen project. Up to five digital screens were to be located in Huntingdon, Ramsey, and St Ives town centres. The overall purpose of the Digital displays was to support wayfinding through technology, and to promote shopping, events, and heritage attractions in these areas. The broad objectives of the system were to:

- Enhance the overall image of our market town centres as destinations, creating positive experiences for all users;
- Increase the confidence to walk and explore by better connecting places keeping information simple;
- Provide a digital wayfinding and information system that is beneficial to all town centre stakeholders and businesses;
- Provide a flexible suite of signage products that can maintain movement and disclose information progressively;
- Grow the number of visitors at key attractions, increasing spending, providing a boost to the local economy;
- Improve urban realm, sense of community, pedestrian safety, health, and environment.
- Future proofed to incorporate interactive mapping solutions where appropriate

**2.21.** During 2022, a decision was taken by the Council, not to take the scheme forward at that point. This was primarily due to concerns and unanswered questions regarding how the system would be managed and maintained. As a result of this, the Council incurred abortive costs of £10,000 and the contract with the intended supplier was cancelled.

**2.22.** The funds allocated to the Council, however, were specific to delivering a Digital Information system. If we do not proceed, the funds are returned. Recent discussions with local partners have identified interest in the project and a willingness to partner or lead on management and maintenance. This would address one of the most significant concerns regarding the project in terms of responsibility for this beyond the initial three-year contract, for which funding would be provided via the CPCA grant funding.

**2.23.** The period in which management and maintenance costs are funded from the initial capital investment is important. A longer period will help to ensure the scheme is a success and reduce the revenue funding required. Consequently, should the project proceed, we will include a requirement within the tender documentation for maintenance and management to be increased to 5 years. This will also include an option for removal at the end of this period, should it not be possible to fund the operation of the system beyond this time.

**2.24.** Town centres continue to be affected by the impact of covid and the closure of businesses, notwithstanding the long-term trend in online shopping. This system may provide an additional tool with which to support their recovery. The technology used is highly adaptable. It can be integrated with other technologies

including smarter town sensors (which also form part of our Market Town Programme), in addition to personal technology such as mobile phones or other connected devices. It can also be integrated with HDC web services and those of other local government partners. Further information regarding the digital screen and possible uses is included within Appendix B.

- 2.25.** As part of our review of this project, we have also contacted other local authorities who have used similar digital screens and technology. This has included Haverhill Town Council, who have operated a similar system since 2018. Haverhill's digital screens are primarily used to promote their local town centre, including arts and cultural events as well as shops and services available in their area. We have also contacted East Cambridgeshire Council who are about to go live with a system in Ely.
- 2.26.** At the time of writing this report it has not yet been possible to arrange meetings with these two Councils, Officers will provide an update as soon as possible to enable a final decision to be made under delegated authority.

### **Smarter Towns**

- 2.27.** The Smarter Towns project continues to be rolled out. Gateway routers required to support smarter town sensors have now all been installed in our major Market Towns. The initial installation of flood sensors in the river Ouse has been successful and is providing up to the minute data on water levels.
- 2.28.** Whilst this project was originally due to close by March 2023, it has been extended with the permission of CPCA to the end of Q2, 2023/24. This extension will ensure the Council is able to draw down all funds allocated to the project to maximise the scheme's benefits. To this end, additional sensors which focus on air quality and surface water are currently being investigated, with trial sensors due to be rolled out. These sensors would again provide up to the minute data on air quality and surface water issues in key locations such as transport routes and town centres, with the ability to link to Council web services and digital systems such as the Digital Wayfinding system (if agreed).
- 2.29.** Other organisations have also begun to express an interest in the system. This includes Cambridgeshire Police, who we are liaising with the Council, Connecting Cambridgeshire and our supplier, concerning potential Police applications for our smarter towns network.

### **Ramsey Produce Hub**

- 2.30.** The Ramsey Market Produce Hub is a significant project for which we recently secured over £1.1M of funding for delivery. The project will deliver a facility within the Great Whyte area which will provide small independent traders and start up retailers with a low-cost base to operate from. This may include the sale of retail products and or a limited provision for food and refreshments. The project will be delivered alongside improvements to the public realm, for which an earlier allocation of funding totaling £0.3M was secured.
- 2.31.** We are undertaking a technical feasibility (engineering based) mini study to consider structural challenges and solutions relating to the proposed facility's location. Specifically, we wish to ensure before we progress detailed designs,

that the location is feasible. There are engineering and technical challenges to overcome concerning the proximity of the river culvert underneath the Great Whyte. This study will confirm the deliverability of a scheme in this location and will also inform more detailed design proposals to be subsequently developed.

- 2.32.** It should also be noted that we are reviewing the potential for alternative locations and/or facility types, should the original proposed facility location not be considered viable.
- 2.33.** A car parking capacity study is also being commissioned. This study will focus on the demand, capacity and potential reprovisioning of parking spaces removed to provide space for the Hub building in addition to wider car parking capacity requirements. The study will also consider how parking requirements may impact on concept proposals outlined within the Ramsey town centre masterplan.

### **Huntingdon, St Ives, and Ramsey Concept Masterplans**

- 2.34.** All town centre masterplans have now been finalised. Significant additional work has been undertaken to respond to feedback from local communities. Updates have been made to the documents to reflect specific feedback concerning proposals from residents, businesses, and Town Councils. Presentations summarising engagement feedback and masterplan updates have been provided to all three Town Councils, all of which have been well received.
- 2.35.** Over the coming weeks we will be seeking to publish and promote the documents and consider how we can best use the documents to maximise the potential benefits in each of the locations, including identifying external funding opportunities.
- 2.36.** The Council is also currently reviewing how the documents are presented and titled. The original aspiration for Huntingdon, Ramsey and St Ives was to provide a vision for these areas. It may be more appropriate going forward to consider these documents as Visions for each respective area, as opposed to masterplans. We feel that this change would also more accurately reflect the conceptual nature of the documents as opposed to 'masterplan,' which implies a more fixed approach.

### **Vibrant Communities**

- 2.37.** The Vibrant Communities scheme, funded from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), has commenced. A total of £155,000 was allocated to HDC; £135,000 is revenue and £20,000 is capital. The revenue funding is allocated to Town and Parish Councils based on population.
- 2.38.** Town and Parish Councils were invited to briefing meetings in February and were required to complete a simple proforma that outlined their proposed (revenue funded) activities. The deadline for draft plans was the 24th of March, and the deadline for final plans was 7<sup>th</sup> April. All 14 Councils have submitted proformas with activities that comply with the revenue funding criteria. A high-level summary of proposed activities can be viewed within appendix A. Each Council has now been issued with purchase orders amounting to their funding

allocation and delivery has commenced. The funding will be available for the remainder of the 2023/24 Financial year.

- 2.39.** Regarding the £20,000 capital funding, two projects were identified: the refurbishment of notice boards and transfer to a community interest company in St Neots and the purchase and installation of sound and event equipment for use in Huntingdon Town Centre by Huntingdon BID (Business Improvement District). Both projects will be completed by the end of May 2023.
- 2.40.** It should be noted that this project will move across to the UKSPF Programme and will not form part of the MTP and future reports going forward.



## FINANCE UPDATE:

- 3.1. The overall sources of confirmed funding for the MTP are shown below in Table 1. All funding identified below has been secured and is subject to contractual obligations and must be spent within the agreed guidelines and allocations only.

**Table 1: Overall MTP funding sources and status**

<b>Market Towns Regeneration</b>				
<b>Funding sources</b>	<b>£ Grant secured</b>	<b>£ Spend to date</b>	<b>£ Grant balance</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>St Neots Regeneration</b>				
Future High Street Funds (MHCLG (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government) (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government) now DLUHC)	£3,748,815	£1,242,699	£2,506,116	Progress on spending commitment and activity is reported to DLUHC quarterly.
HDC Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	£4,829,943	£0	£4,829,943	As per HDC cabinet decision. Schemes which have a mixture of funding sources inc CiL (Community Infrastructure Levy), will utilise time limited funds before CiL.
CPCA	£3,100,000	£145,764	£2,954,236	As per Funding Agreement (Dec '21). Expenditure has commenced; however, the majority of funds will be used in Q3 and Q4 2023/24.
National Highways	£3,493,218	£0	£3,493,218	Funding agreement finalised January 2023. Drawdown of funding from NH (National Highways) will be in three tranches, scheduled for December 2023, May 2024, and November 2024.
CPCA Masterplan phase 1 St Neots *	*£609,655	*£305,099	*£304,556	CPCA Board approval has been provided. Grant funding agreement has been executed and signed.

<b>St Neots Regeneration Sub-total</b>	£15,781,631	£1,693,562	£14,088,069	
<b>Huntingdon, St Ives &amp; Ramsey</b>				
CPCA Masterplans & Accelerated Funding	£2,759,256**	£1,957,106	£802,150	CPCA Board have now confirmed approval to rollover of funding of £802,150 into 2023/24 and 2024/25. A new Grant Funding Agreement has been provided to HDC.
<b>Sub-total</b>	£2,759,256**	£1,957,106	£802,150	
<b>Staff revenue (external) funding – in support of MTP programme</b>				
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	£221,000	£0	£221,000	Funding confirmed. Expenditure profiled for Q3/Q4 in 2023/24.
<b>Sub-total</b>	£221,000	£0	£221,000	
<b>Ramsey Market Produce / Retail Hub</b>				
Local Growth Fund (CPCA)	£1,153,525	£0	£1,153,525	Funding awarded December 2022. Expenditure will commence once proposals for capital works are finalised.
<b>Sub total</b>	£1,153,525	£0	£1,153,525	
<b>PROGRAMME TOTAL</b>	£19,915,412**	£3,650,668	£16,264,744	

\*This programme was previously managed separately and has now been incorporated into the MTP.

\*\*This figure excludes £240,744 of CPCA (Accelerated Project) funds which were not required for delivery towards projects which have been successfully delivered. Approval to roll over these funds or develop new proposals was not permitted by CPCA. The total (funding source) figure has therefore been adjusted to reflect this position.

- 4.1. The Panel discussed the Market Towns Programme – Summer Update Report at its meeting on 7th June 2023.
- 4.2. In response to concerns from Councillor Gardener, the Panel heard that a communications plan was being developed to ensure St Neots residents were proactively communicated with regarding the planned works to trees in the Market Square. Councillor Harvey's suggestion of using the old wood as part of the planning art projects for the areas was noted. Following a question from Councillor Jennings, the Panel were advised that the County Council would be making a contribution towards the cost of the removal of the trees and that there was a working assumption that the replacement trees would remain their liability.
- 4.3. Following a question from Councillor Pickering, the Panel were advised that plans were progressing in respect of the Old Falcon property and that more detail would be brought to a future report.
- 4.4. In response to questions from Councillor Martin around capital funding in section 2.39 of the report, the Panel heard that the two projects were chosen due to the timescales and availability of funding available.
- 4.5. Following an observation from Councillor Wells, who praised the amended terminology from Masterplan, the Panel heard that the aim was to clear up confusion surrounding the terminology and to allow for clarity moving forward.
- 4.6. The Panel heard, in response to a question from Councillor Martin, that all funding opportunities would be maximised and that delays in procurement were due to ensuring both material cost and availability resulting in a deliverable scheme. The Panel were further assured that the Council would benefit from the Eastern Highways Alliance Framework ensuring deliverability.
- 4.7. Councillor Blackwell expressed concerns over the continuation of the Digital Wayfinding project, following which , the Panel were assured that this project and the installed machines would continue to be monitored with an exit strategy contingency should this prove necessary. The Panel were further assured that whilst decisions could be made on this project outside of the democratic meeting cycle, the Cabinet would, where feasible, seek to loop the Panel in to the decision.
- 4.8. Following the discussion, the Panel were informed that their comments would be added to the Cabinet report in order for Cabinet to make a decision on the recommendations.

## **5. KEY IMPACTS/RISKS**

- 5.1 There are several risks associated with delivering an ambitious programme of this size and complexity, the notable risks are:

### **5.1.1. Budget management risk**

The projects that sit within the MTP are at various stages and therefore, as work progresses to detailed level, cost reliability and accuracy increases, the level of risk is more certain. We will continue to review the individual projects' viability and programme impacts, identifying any areas of risk, as the scheme progresses. The construction industry has seen materials and labour costs significantly increase in cost over the past 18 months. Inflation continues to increase. Therefore, as we move from design into delivery any decisions on proposed options will require agreement that they can be funded within the approved Market Towns programme budget. Mitigation: We will continue monitoring the programme funding profile and anticipated spending against budgets, updating to Cabinet quarterly. We have also sought to engage with Contractors as part of an early-stage pre-procurement process to assess 'buildability' and a sense check of construction costs based on current market activity. The MTP team continue to provide regular updates to funding bodies, briefing them on estimated costings, risks, issues, and inter-dependencies.

### **5.1.2. Programme Timescales risk**

This is an ambitious programme of delivery, with the funding for St Neots of £3.748m from the FHSF required to be spent by March 2024. The CPCA funding of £3.1m also has a deadline of March 2024, they recognise the strategic importance of this programme, and it is anticipated there will be some flexibility in the delivery timescales. National Highways have also indicated that they expect funding of £3.49m within the 2024/25 fiscal year. Mitigation: The detailed programme plan covering feasibility, design, and delivery phases, will be continually reviewed ensuring focus remains on hitting funding milestones, claim dates and delivery milestones. The MTP team continue to provide regular updates to funding bodies, briefing them on progress, risks, issues, and inter-dependencies.

### **5.1.3. Programme Resources risk**

The MTP requires different skills, expertise, and external technical support at various stages of project delivery. The programme itself has multiple projects which must be managed simultaneously identifying all interdependences across the programme. There is significant internal and external stakeholder management and detailed consultation with partners and resident/ business groups. This could result in competing priorities across organisations that will require careful consideration. Mitigation: As part of the project, a detailed resources plan and communications strategy with stakeholders has been developed to ensure the management of expectations and information being shared promptly. The HDC's website is regularly updated with the progress across the core programme sites, more time is being invested in engaging stakeholders, a greater presence on social media and revamping of the newsletter.

### **5.1.4. Reputational Risk**

The MTP is a high priority for the Council, so monthly reporting, governance and timely decision-making are critical to ensure the programme is successfully delivered. Mitigation: The programme governance and reporting lines will be continually monitored to ensure that the key programme milestones are managed and achieved. A full MTP programme risk register is in place along with individual project risk registers. Given the size and complexity of the MTP

it features on the Council's Strategic Risk register, along with the mitigating actions.

## **6. LINK TO CORPORATE PLAN 2022-2026**

- 6.1. The delivery of the MTP is aligned with the principles and key objectives of the Corporate Plan which sets out the Council's objectives.

## **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1. The Council, based on previously successful funding bids and Cabinet decisions, has entered into and received several grant agreements (for approval) with associated delivery and outputs frameworks, in the current quarter. All Funding Agreements and contracts are subject to review by the HDC legal team and senior officers and members as appropriate. Project Officers will continue to engage with legal advisers as necessary.
- 7.2. This programme will require ongoing legal input to support the further development of project options and scheme delivery, this will include the Ramsey Market Produce Hall, Old Falcon Inn, and Priory Centre, in addition to grant funding agreements for several projects, which are current under review. Other areas include future land and property advice relating for example to leasehold acquisitions and may be required should there be any contractual disputes. Noting there are none currently within the programme.

## **8. EQUALITIES**

- 8.1. <sup>[OBJ]</sup>The Council has a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.
- 8.2. Good planning and effective regeneration can improve environments and opportunities for communities experiencing disadvantage. Planning which does not engage with or consider the needs of local communities is unlikely to improve their life chances and may further entrench area-based disadvantage.

## **9. ENVIRONMENTAL**

- 9.1 The Council has a duty to ensure we continue to promote an environmentally positive recovery in Huntingdonshire following the impacts of COVID 19. We also have a duty to deliver sustainable place making. In December 2021, the Council adopted a core set of environmental principles. In October 2022, the Council passed a Cost of Living and Climate Change motion that recognises that the current cost of living and climate crises require joint attention to support the wellbeing of residents and businesses. In February 2022 Council formally recognised the Climate Crisis and Ecological Emergency, adopted the Council's Climate Strategy underlining the organisations commitment to:

- setting a positive example through its actions to be a net carbon zero Council by 2040
  - an enabler supporting action within our communities and across our partners
  - an encourager to those that live, work, and visit Huntingdonshire to take climate action and reduce carbon emissions
- 9.2.** OBJThe Council has direct control of only a tiny proportion of all the carbon emissions within Huntingdonshire, but we can adopt a key role to influence the district, demonstrating good practice whilst setting policies and strategies to influence businesses and communities to tackle climate change whilst enabling sustainable living and growth. These principles are embedded within the MTP.

## **10. APPENDICES**

### **Appendix A:**

A summary of the proposed projects from each Town and Parish Council, as part of the (UKSPF) Vibrant Communities programme, in addition to the total funding allocation to each area.

<b>Council</b>	<b>Summary of Projects</b>	<b>Total Spend</b>
Brampton	Summer Fayre	£5,000
	Christmas Fayre	
	Coronation Picnic	
Buckden	Village events to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles	£5,000
	Village Fete	
	Buckden Scarecrow Festival	
	Christmas lights and market	
Fenstanton	Public picnic to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles	£5,000
Kimbolton	Street Party to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles	£5,000
Little Paxton	Village adventure days in Little Paxton playing field	£5,000
Somersham	Coronation picnic-in-the-park	£5,000
	Christmas lights switch-on	
Warboys	Remembrance Sunday service	£5,000
	Christmas light switch-on	
	Coronation fete & Big Help Out (volunteering activities)	
	Feast Week (funfair, street market, live bands, competitions)	
Godmanchester	Christmas Market	£10,000
	Craft market	
	Summer Porch Museum event	
	Promotional activities for 5 local halls	
	Coronation planting project	
Ramsey	Great Whyte dines out	£10,000
	Great Whyte clean-up event	
	Stage events on the Great Whyte	
	Promotional activities for heritage sites, clubs, bus tours, and local clubs & businesses	
	Cultural events (art exhibitions, antiques roadshow, outdoor cinema)	
Sawtry	Picnic-in-the-Park' Coronation celebration	£10,000
	Cultural events (outdoor cinema, live performances, workshops)	
Yaxley	Christmas promotional activities for local businesses	£10,000
	Arts and Cultural events in Middletons Recreation Ground	
	First Aid Training for residents & local volunteers	

	Calendar photography competition (competition where 12 winning photos will be used to create a Yaxley Calendar that will be sold locally with the proceeds going back into the club for the following years competition)	
	Vintage festival	
Huntingdon	Town Centre Environmental Summer Decorations	£20,000
	Town Centre Summer Evening Markets	
	Outdoor Summer Performances	
St Ives	Farmer's Market birthday celebrations and Harvest festival celebrations	£20,000
	Multicultural Day Inclusive Celebration Event Warners Park	
	Breaking of the fast Ramadan corn exchange	
	Comedy Fringe – Corn Exchange with performances throughout the day	
	Norris Museum Exhibition for Landmark Archaeology Finding opening day	
	King's Coronation	
	Heritage Open Day	
	Snowman festival	
Bandstand opening event		
St Neots	Family theatre sessions at St Neots Museum	£20,000
	Day of music on the Square - St Neots Museum	
	Tug of War sporting event	
	Summer Saturday morning activities on the Market Square	
	Serious Bake-Off event	
	St Neots festival	
	Enhanced Christmas experience	
	St Neots Christmas Farm and Craft Markets	

## Appendix B

Attached.



## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Report to Cabinet (FHSF (Future High Street Fund)) 13th February 2020 can be found [here](#)

Report to Cabinet (FHSF) 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020 - EXEMPT

Report to Cabinet (Market Towns Accelerated Programme) 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020 can be found [here](#)

Report to Cabinet (FHSF) 23<sup>rd</sup>. February 2021 can be found [here](#)

Market Towns Programme Spring 2022 Update to Cabinet, 17 March 2022 can be found [here](#)

Market Towns Programme Summer 2022 Update to Cabinet June 2022 can be found [here](#)

Market Towns Programme Autumn 2022 Update to Cabinet September 2022 can be found [here](#)

Market Towns Programme Winter 2022 Update to Cabinet December 2022 can be found [here](#)

Market Towns Programme Spring 2023 Update to Cabinet March 2023 can be found [here](#)

## **CONTACT OFFICER**

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# Digital Wayfinding

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Huntingdon, St Neots, St Ives and Ramsey town centres

# Digital wayfinding in Huntingdonshire

- In 2021, HDC, working with Connecting Cambridgeshire, secured £200,000 of funding to deliver a digital wayfinding project.
- The system was to be located in Huntingdon, Ramsey and St Ives town centres.
- The overall purpose of the Digital displays was to support wayfinding through technology, and to promote shopping, events and heritage attractions in these areas.



# What were the wider project objectives?



Enhance the overall image of our market town centres as destinations, creating positive experiences for all users;



Increase the confidence to walk and explore by better connecting places keeping information simple;



Provide a digital wayfinding and information system that is beneficial to all town centre stakeholders and businesses;



Provide a flexible suite of signage products that can maintain movement and disclose information progressively;



Grow the number of visitors at key attractions, increasing spending, providing a boost to the local economy;



Improve urban realm, sense of community, pedestrian safety, health and environment.



Future proofed to incorporate interactive mapping solutions where appropriate

# How did the system proposed for use, support wayfinding?

- Real time 3d mapping oriented in the users point of view
- Local business and activities highlighted
- Shortest route until destination and management of traffic flow
- Multi floor and multi building routes
- Connected information displayed on the visual display map
- Users would also receive route and information by QR code or SMS
- The system can include audience recognition technology, to deliver targeted advertising, promotion of local activities and personalised information



# What were the broader benefits of this digital system?

- This is an information system that can be updated in real time with data tailored to local areas. The displays can include public transport schedules, local events, business information, maps and information for visitors.
- The screens could be used to promote local businesses and attractions through either paid for or free advertisement for the purpose of supporting the local economy.
- Local government authorities and agencies can use the displays to provide information about public services or, for example, to remind people to vote.
- The technology is adaptable and can be used to connect with people through their own phones and or social media. We can also make use of the smarter town's Lorowan network, currently being rolled out to display immediate data on a wide variety of information sources. This could include parking capacity, air quality or even public safety information from the Police, who are keen on partnering with HDC.
- Digital wayfinding could also help to underpin and support broader project delivery as part of the Market Town's programme through a more direct connection with local businesses and service providers. The system would be able to dovetail with other improvements such as the renewal of St Neots Market Square.



# What happened to the project?

- During 2022, a decision was taken by members, not to take the scheme forward.
- This was primarily due to concerns and unanswered questions regarding how the system would be managed and maintained.
- As a result of this, HDC incurred abortive costs of £10,000 and the contract with the intended supplier was cancelled.







# Digital wayfinding now. Why reconsider?

- The funds allocated to HDC were specific to delivering a Digital Information system. If we do not proceed, the funds are returned.
- CPCA have confirmed that the funds are still available for project delivery if HDC decides to reactivate the initiative, based on the original objectives and outputs.
- Recent discussions with local partners, has identified local interest in the project and a willingness to partner or lead on management and maintenance. This would address one of the most significant concerns regarding the project.
- Connecting Cambridgeshire have also confirmed that they would be willing to re-engage with HDC and help to support project delivery.
- Town centres continue to be affected by the impact of covid and the closure of businesses, not withstanding the long term trend to online shopping. This system provides an additional tool with which to support their recovery. It is a virtual signpost that will inform and direct town centre visitors to services or retail.
- Whilst the original programme did not include all of our major Market Town's, utilising unspent funds awarded from CPCA in a separate programme, we are able to extend the scheme benefits also to St Neots.



## Scheme costs, management & maintenance

- Funding of £200,000 was previously allocated specifically to providing Digital Wayfinding system in Huntingdonshire.
- Subject to HDC deciding to progress this project, a further £50,000 is available to extend the scheme to St Neots. This part of the scheme would be delivered in tandem to the Market Square renewal scheme.
- Based on the previous preferred supplier's tender, 60% of the project budget is likely to be allocated to supply of the system, including management and updates for a period of three years. The remaining 40% was allocated for installation and civil engineering works. Whilst future tenders may differ in value, we would not expect this to change by a significant margin.
- Digital screens located in similar areas elsewhere, have been used to generate advertising and this may be an option to support operation by partners beyond the initial three year period.

# What is the proposition?

- Discussions with other Local Authorities to understand the benefits of the system to the Community and their experience.
- If the project is re-initiated working with Connecting Cambridgeshire to develop an updated tender process to identify a project partner and supplier.
- HDC would seek to deliver displays systems in each of our major market towns as part of this process.
- Each display system would be managed and maintained locally by our partners. The Town Councils and Huntingdon BID have already expressed an interest in taking on this role.
- The project would **not** require ongoing revenue support from HDC and may in fact be used to generate funding from advertising to support operation by our local partners.
- The systems would be in place by the end of the current financial year. After which they will be regularly monitored for use and value generated to the local areas in which they are based.



# Questions

**Public**  
**Key Decision - Yes**

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Title/Subject Matter:** Mid Term Review of Housing Strategy 2020 - 2025

**Meeting/Date:** Cabinet  
20th June 2023

**Executive Portfolio:** Cllr S. Wakeford, Executive Councillor for Jobs, Economy & Housing

**Report by:** Regeneration and Housing Delivery Manager

**Ward(s) affected:** All

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### **Executive Summary:**

Huntingdonshire Housing Strategy 2020-2025 was adopted by the Council in October 2020 and was last reviewed in December 2021. The document, which was developed in 2020, following thorough review and consultation upon housing issues in the district, sets out a comprehensive strategy for the Council to focus on its strategic role to meet a broad range of housing objectives.

Since the original Housing Strategy was published there has been a considerable amount of energy and commitment invested in implementing the strategy and achieving the objectives in the action plan, that were set at the time. In developing the five year strategy we recognised that we would need to take stock of progress, any changes in legislation and market forces and we would therefore need to carry out a mid-term review and refresh.

This report provides an opportunity to recognise the work that has been undertaken and also align the strategy with the Corporate Plan and Place Strategy, in addition, there are a number of other significant policy areas which need to be factored into our thinking and activity over the next two years.

### **Recommendation(s):**

Cabinet is requested to:

- Note the contents of this report and;
- Agree to the Mid Term Review of the Housing Strategy and Action Plan.

## **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To set out the strategic direction for housing in Huntingdonshire for the next two years.
- 1.2 To highlight the housing priorities for the District and how these will be achieved by the Council directly and through working in partnership with others under the Do, Enable Influence model of action of the Corporate Plan
- 1.3 To set out an action plan for the strategy that recognises the housing priorities.

## **BACKGROUND**

- 1.4 Huntingdonshire Housing Strategy was adopted in October 2020 and runs until 2025, it was last reviewed in December 2021. The refresh of the Strategy is a Corporate Plan action.to be complete in the next two months..
- 1.5 The current housing strategy was developed to deliver the priorities agreed in the Council's Corporate Plan, at the time, and to identify and agree actions to take forward the three key overarching themes of:

- New homes to meet the needs of Huntingdonshire now and in the future
- Homes to enable people in Huntingdonshire to live independent and healthy lives
- Working in Partnership to achieve shared objectives

Under these themes there were a total of 32 objectives in the original action plan.

- 1.6 The review will prioritise alignment of the housing strategy with the Corporate Plan and Place Strategy ensuring that actions will allow the required adjustment as much as possible with the strategic ambitions outlined. In addition, there are a number of other significant policy areas which need to be factored into our thinking and activity over the next two years, these are covered in the review.
- 1.7 Since the original Housing Strategy was published there has been a considerable amount of energy and commitment invested in implementing the strategy and achieving 53% of the objectives in the action plan, that were set at the time. When the five year strategy was developed the Council recognised that we would need to take stock of progress and any changes in legislation.
- 1.8 This review will provide an overview of these main achievements and update on the key results of the 2021 Housing Needs of Specific Groups Report, 2021 Census Data and the Diamond Affordability analysis and identify significant policy areas which need to be considered over the next two years prior to the completion of a new Housing Strategy including the

role housing plays in determining good health and quality of life for our residents.

- 1.9 It will also examine the external constraints affecting our ability to succeed and the positive things that can help us achieve our strategic aspirations and sets out a new set of actions for the remaining life of the strategy and beyond.

### **COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY**

- 2.1 The Panel discussed the Mid Term Review Housing Strategy 2020-2025 Report at its meeting on 7th June 2023.
- 2.2 In response to a question from Councillor Gardener on whether agricultural workers would be included within the definition of key workers, the Panel heard that there is a suggestion that this term maybe replaced with Essential Workers by Government in the future, the Council would expect this type of demand to be identified as part of Housing Needs Surveys in local parishes the Council would then use opportunities to meet that demand, within existing policy in the Local Plan.
- 2.3 Following a question from Councillor Pickering, it was acknowledged that whilst an ongoing issue of under occupation of social housing exists, it is a sensitive issue. The Panel were assured that the Council would continue to work in partnership with Social Landlords to manage the situation as proactively as possible in line with tenancies of those residents affected.
- 2.4 In response to a question from Councillor Harvey regarding Disabled Facilities Grants, the Panel heard that a piece of work would be planned to review and assess the current need and anticipated growth in this area.
- 2.5 Following the discussion, the Panel were informed that their comments would be added to the Cabinet report in order for Cabinet to make a decision on the recommendations.

### **KEY IMPACTS / RISKS**

- 3.1 The Council could choose to solely update the existing Housing Strategy Action Plan and report back purely on our achievements against the 32 objectives, however this would risk the Council not being able to acknowledge the changes identified in the review.

### **LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN OBJECTIVES**

- 4.1 The completion of a Mid Term Review of the Housing Strategy aligns to Huntingdonshire District Council's Corporate Plan under the Priority – "In creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations", under the outcome of Improving Housing.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Senior Officers across the Council have reviewed The Housing Strategy Mid-Term Review and their comments have been included in the

document.

### **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There will be no additional resource implications, in implementing this Strategy, activities relating directly to HDC will be undertaken by existing teams and partnerships are already established to enable other actions to be developed.

### **HEALTH IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Within the Health and Wellbeing Integrated Care Strategy, there is a priority of, *“Reducing poverty through better housing, employment and skills”* This review identifies the links across this strategy and the Housing Strategy.

### **ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 In February 2023 the Council formally approved the Council’s Climate Strategy this recognises that the current cost of living and climate crises require joint attention to support the wellbeing of residents and businesses. In passing this motion, the council committed to not only the delivery of a Climate Strategy but also that in making decisions it will wherever possible seek to contribute to positive environmental and social benefits. The delivery of good quality, secure accommodation for residents supports this ambition.

### **EQUALITIES**

- 9.1 The Council has a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.
- 9.2 Understanding the need for housing in HDC helps support this duty.

## **Appendix 1**

Mid Term Review of the Housing Strategy 2020-2025

### **CONTACT OFFICER**

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# **HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **HOUSING STRATEGY 2020-2025**

### **MID TERM REVIEW**

**JUNE 2023**

## INTRODUCTION

Huntingdonshire Housing Strategy 2020-2025 was adopted in October 2020 and was last reviewed in December 2021. The document, which was developed in 2020, following thorough review and consultation upon housing issues in the district, sets out a comprehensive strategy for the Council to focus on its strategic role to meet a broad range of housing objectives. The original document had three priorities:

1. New homes to meet the needs of Huntingdonshire now and in the future
2. Homes to enable people in Huntingdonshire to live independent and healthy lives
3. Working in Partnership to achieve shared objectives

These priorities formed an action plan listing a total of thirty-two objectives. The full document can be found on Huntingdonshire District Council website.

## HOUSING STRATEGY REVIEW AND REFRESH JUNE 2023

Since the original Housing Strategy was published there has been a considerable amount of energy and commitment invested in implementing the strategy and achieving 53% of the objectives in the action plan, that were set at the time. In developing the five year strategy we recognised that we would need to take stock of progress, any changes in legislation and market forces and we would therefore need to carry out a mid-term review and refresh.

This refresh document will:

- Provide an update on the new Corporate Plan and Huntingdonshire Futures (Place Strategy)
- Provide an overview of the main achievements since the strategy came into operation.
- Provide an update on the key results of the 2021 Housing Needs of Specific Groups Report, 2021 Census Data and the Diamond Affordability analysis
- Identify significant policy areas which need to be considered over the next two years prior to the completion of a new Housing Strategy including the role housing plays in determining good health and quality of life for our residents
- Examine the external constraints affecting our ability to succeed and the positive things that can help us achieve our strategic aspirations
- Sets out a new set of actions for the remaining life of the strategy and beyond

Consultation:

The principles and the area of focus for this review have been shared with a range of partners, stakeholders, and internal teams; the purpose of this engagement was to:

- Influence and inform the mid term review of the Housing Strategy

- Review the areas of focus and the set of principles
- Re-set actions for the remaining life of the Strategy

We asked for views based on some key questions:

- Are the Strategic Housing Priorities relevant
- Are there any new additional priorities that we should address
- Are the objectives clear for the remaining life of the strategy.

## COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN AND HUNTINGDONSHIRE FUTURES

### Corporate Plan

The Councils Corporate Plan sets out the Council's priorities for 2023/4 and beyond.

These priorities, shaped by local people and viewed through a green lens are:

- Priority 1 – Improving quality of life for local people; helping people in crisis; keeping people out of crisis
- Priority 2 – Creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations

While not mentioned explicitly as part of priority 1, the impact of housing on the quality of life, well-being and health of our residents cannot be understated. For example, it is broadly accepted that good access to quality healthcare accounts for only 10 to 20% of mental and physical health outcomes, the rest being determined by a diverse range of social, economic, and environmental factors. Housing is a key component of the latter.

As we seek to support those in crisis and keep people out of crisis, we will work to deliver services and work with partners through our 'Do, Enable, Influence' model of action. While some of this may be specific (e.g., homelessness prevention), other work should take more of a much broader approach, being framed by the wider determinants model but using housing as a point of intervention and interaction with our residents and therefore as an opportunity to offer support and enable them to live happier, healthier lives. Such approaches are set out in more detail in the Action Plan section of our Corporate Plan.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's Health and Wellbeing and Integrated Care Strategy sets out the collective ambitions of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care System, which comprises a range of organisations that have an interest in the health, care, and wellbeing of people across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The strategy sets out four priority areas for action, the third of which is: *Reducing poverty through better housing*,

*employment and skills*". The work we undertake alongside with our ICS system partners in delivering the actions that result from this priority will contribute positively to the achievement of our own priority outcomes for Huntingdonshire.

Priority 2 of our corporate plan - Creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations has a specific housing aspect to it:

*"We want everyone to live in a safe, high-quality home regardless of health, stage of life, family structure, income and tenure type. Homes should be energy efficient and allow people to live healthy and prosperous lives. New homes should be zero carbon ready and encourage sustainable travel."*

The Council recognises that we cannot do this alone and has therefore identified key actions that will be delivered by the Council and working with partners and stakeholders as part of our enabling and influencing role as follows:

<b>Priority:</b>	<b>Creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations</b>
<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Improving Housing</b>
HDC Action (doing)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete Mid Term Review of the Housing Strategy. The Housing Strategy was completed in 2020, this review will enable us to take into account recent studies of need and Census data.</li> <li>2. Adopt First Homes Policy. Until the update of the Local Plan is completed it is necessary to complete a position statement on First Homes.</li> <li>3. Adopt new Tenancy Strategy to support people to live healthy and independent lives.</li> <li>4. Maximise use of Council owned sites to deliver housing, for example working with the Longhurst Group.</li> </ol>
HDC Enabling Others	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintain the level of new housing delivery, that meets the needs of Huntingdonshire residents, including the type of home and tenure (open market and social housing).</li> <li>2. Work in partnership to look at best practice and funding to improve housing conditions, including retrofit programmes in social and private housing.</li> </ol>
HDC Influencing Others	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work with Registered Providers to improve conditions in existing accommodation through regeneration schemes.</li> <li>2. Work with Health and Social Care Providers to explore future models of housing, support and care enabling people to live independently for longer.</li> </ol>

#### Huntingdonshire Futures

Huntingdonshire Futures is a statement of shared aspirations for the future that seeks to improve the lives of all our residents, communities and businesses.

It is the culmination of many months of engagement with residents, partners, elected representatives and other stakeholders to deliver a brighter future for Huntingdonshire via five outcomes; Pride in Place, Environment Innovation, Inclusive Economy, Health Embedded and Travel Transformed.

Huntingdonshire Futures will guide future strategy and policy developments and investment decisions by the Council and partners, enabling more effective delivery of integrated interventions that better serve the current and future needs of residents, communities and businesses.

The adoption of Huntingdonshire Futures is a significant milestone that underlines the Council's commitment to working differently with partners and stakeholders to better deliver our shared ambitions and outcomes, being an enabler supporting action within our communities and across our partners and influencing the actions of others. Housing would form part of Pride in Place.

### ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE THE STRATEGY CAME INTO OPERATION

The achievements that we have made over the life of the housing strategy have been due to the strong partnership support and involvement from:

- Our Registered Providers
- Close working between Planning and Strategic Housing
- Close working with Housing Needs and Homelessness
- Cambridgeshire Acre
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
- Homes England

#### Achievements

- Annual Delivery of new homes as set out in the Council's Annual Monitoring Report
- Delivery of 1,041 Affordable Homes since 2020/2021
- Strong performance on achieving 40% affordable housing on eligible sites and few challenges on viability
- Completion of one scheme housing keyworkers with a further scheme ongoing during 23/24
- Completion of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment known as "Housing Needs of Specific Groups" by G L Hearn, a cross council report for the Cambridge sub region to inform plan-making
- A pipeline of Rural Exception sites
- Entering into contract with Longhurst to deliver affordable housing on Council owned sites
- Adoption of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Review and Strategy

- Completion of a revised lettings policy
- Continuation of the Rough Sleeping outreach project
- Completion of the Housing Options for Older People booklet
- Continue to actively take part in Regional and Sub- Regional meetings on Housing Strategy, Planning and Enabling, including Housing Board, Strategic Housing Group, Cambridgeshire, and West Suffolk Enablers.
- Continue to financially support the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Housing Co-Ordinator
- Continue to financially support Cambridgeshire Acre
- Continue to financially support Age UK in the delivery of the Handyperson Service

### HOUSING NEEDS OF SPECIFIC GROUPS GL HEARN 2021

The Housing Needs of Specific Groups study was completed in October 2021. It addressed the geographical area of Cambridge sub region which also included West Suffolk; it relates to Huntingdonshire in the context of the study area and nationally. Since this study was completed, we have also had the outcome of the 2021 Census and Affordability data which is mentioned further on in this review, where appropriate we will use the most up to date data in projection of need.

#### Demographic Baseline

The total population of Huntingdonshire was 178,000 persons as of mid-2019. Since 1991 the population has grown by 21% with an average annual growth rate of 0.7%. There is a total of 77,860 dwellings across Huntingdonshire as of 31st March 2020. Since 2001 Huntingdonshire's population change has been predominantly driven by natural change (births minus deaths) and internal migration.

In comparison to the Housing Market Area (HMA) average, in 2019 Huntingdonshire has a slightly higher proportion of people aged 50-74 years old (31.9%) but a relatively lower proportion of people in the very oldest cohorts (85+) (2.5%).

#### Market Signals

The median house price in Huntingdonshire is £275,000. This is 20% above the national average of £230,000 and 3% below the regional average. Between 2009 and 2019, Huntingdonshire has seen an increase in median house prices of 53.4% compared to 27.6% nationally, and 42.5% regionally.

Median rental prices within the private rented sector across Huntingdonshire are £765 per calendar month. This is above the national equivalents of £695, but below the regional equivalent of £795. Huntingdonshire has a median workplace-based affordability ratio of 9.31 compared to 9.47 for the East of England and 7.83 nationally.

Between 2001 and 2011 Huntingdonshire saw the proportion of residents living in over-occupied properties increase by 32.1%. This is a smaller growth than the national (32.3%) and regional (35.6%) equivalents.

### Local Housing Need and Population Growth

We are expecting household growth of 733 per annum over the period 2020-2030 across Huntingdonshire. The affordability ratio for Huntingdonshire is 9.3 (2019). Using a prescribed formula, the local affordability ratio results in an uplift of 33%, this increases the need by 243 to 976 dwellings per annum.

Therefore, given this uplift Huntingdonshire's housing need is 976 dwellings per annum. We are therefore expecting an additional 36,209 people in Huntingdonshire District over the period 2020-2040.

### Affordable Housing Need

The analysis shows that 404 households per annum will require affordable housing to rent between 2020 and 2040. This equates to around 41% of the overall need although such a calculation should be treated with caution as it contains an element of double counting i.e. both include newly forming households.

Based purely on affordability around 72% should be social rent and 28% affordable rent. The study did not recommend that the Council have a rigid policy for the split between social and affordable rent housing on this basis alone. The analysis shows that both tenures of homes are likely to be required in all areas.

There is a requirement in current planning policy for at least 10% of all new homes on major sites to be affordable home ownership properties unless it would significantly prejudice the ability to meet the identified affordable housing needs of specific groups. Given the relative scale of need for affordable housing to rent (404 per annum) compared to affordable home ownership (26 per annum), it is therefore reasonable to for us to consider no more than 10% of all housing (on major sites) to be affordable home ownership.

Given that affordable housing delivery may be curtailed by viability this will need to be considered on a scheme by scheme basis. Shared Ownership (due to its low deposit requirement) and Discount Market Sale housing are the most appropriate low-cost home ownership products as these will reach the widest and lowest-earning population base.

## Housing Mix

The following mix of homes size by tenure is suggested by this study as a strategic mix for Huntingdonshire for the 2020-2040 period.

Size	Market	Affordable Homes to Buy	Affordable Homes to Rent
1 bedroom	0-10%	15-25%	30-40%
2 bedroom	20-30%	35-45%	35-45%
3 bedroom	40-50%	25-35%	15-25%
4 bedroom	20-30%	5-15%	0-10%

In applying the mix to individual development sites, the policies should be flexible enough to have regard to the nature of the site and character of the area, and to upto-date evidence of need (such as the housing register) as well as the existing mix and turnover of properties at the local level. The study also suggested that we should monitor the mix of housing delivered and respond accordingly so that the strategic mix requirements are closely met.

## Older and disabled people

There is projected to be a 95% increase in the population aged 75 and over 2020-2040 across Huntingdonshire. Based on prevalence rates and the identified population growth of those aged 75 and over the study identified the following shortfall in specialist housing for older people by 2040 as follows:

Type	Tenure	Huntingdonshire
Housing with support	Rented	194
Housing with support	Leasehold	1,533
Housing with care	Rented	371
Housing with care	Leasehold	635
Care Bedspaces	-	1,803

This need reflects the requirements of individual people for self-contained units and bedspaces within an institutional setting. The number of older people with dementia is expected to increase by 102.5% from 2020 to 2040. There is also an 85.4% increase projected for those with mobility problems over the same period.

There is a current (502) and projected (1,360) need for about 1,862 wheelchair user dwellings to 2040 across Huntingdonshire. This equates to 9.50% of the total Local Housing Need. Where viability permits, we should seek to deliver 100% of new homes as M4(2) compliant and at least 10% of new market homes and 25% of new affordable homes as being M4(3) compliant to meet the identified need.



### Student Accommodation

No requirement has been identified for student accommodation in Huntingdonshire. But any development being proposed which relates to purpose built student accommodation should be judged on its merits alongside an assessment of local demand. The developer should also demonstrate an agreement with a higher education provider.

### People who rent their homes in the private sector

Demand for Private Rented Sector (PRS) housing increased by 106% in Huntingdonshire over the 2001 to 2011 period. Also, the tenure is likely to provide a route to affordable housing given that the number of households in PRS claiming Housing Benefit in Huntingdonshire is 738 in 2019.

The study does not place a specific estimate on the demand for PRS in Huntingdonshire. This is because decisions on the part of individual households to buy or rent a home in the open market are dependent on several factors which means that demand can fluctuate over time (for example the availability of government schemes such as the recent Help to Buy).

Institutional Build to Rent investment and development has thus far been typically focused in larger urban areas. Therefore, it is unlikely that Huntingdonshire will see a substantial interest in this type of development. However, where build to rent is being proposed, the policy position should be supportive, subject to the location and characteristics of the site in question and the proportion of units for affordable private rent being provided (seeking a minimum of 20%).

### Self-build and custom-build housing

The Council is required to permit plots for new custom and self-build homes for every new entry on its custom and self-build register within three years of the end of each base period. An indication of the scale of this need is taken from the current register and suggests that Huntingdonshire should permit 3 self-build plots annually.

### Service Families

There was an identified demand for 1 and 2 bedroom rental accommodation for military service personnel. The majority of the demand will be located in close proximity to the base. While this should not result in a need for a specific policy for military accommodation such developments should be supported as long as can demonstrate a local demand and have approval from the MOD to deliver such housing.

### 2021 CENSUS DATA

Following the Census on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021 the data has now been published on housing including the types of accommodation people live in, whether they own or rent their home, the type of heating in their home and whether they have access to private transport options (car or van). The data that follows

provides the data for Huntingdonshire and how these compare to other areas and to 2011 estimates, it is not always possible to provide like for like data between the Census 2021 and 2011 as some questions or the data set are not the same, where this happens the data is caveated.

### Accommodation type

On Census Day in 2021, 88.0% (67,656) of households lived in a house or bungalow, 11.2% (8,627) lived in a flat, maisonette or apartment and 0.8% (595) lived in a caravan, or other mobile or temporary structure across Huntingdonshire.

The number of households living in a flat, maisonette, apartment, caravan or other temporary mobile temporary structure increased from 7,277 in 2011 to 9,222 in 2021 this is a 14.3% increase.

The table below shows how the numbers and percentages of homes by accommodation type compared to our local authority neighbours, the East of England and England.

Location	Number and percentage lived in House or Bungalow		Number and percentage lived in Flat, maisonette or apartment including caravans or other mobile temp structures	
	2011	2021	2011	2021
England	17,235,610 (78.1%)	18,128,595 (77.4%)	4,749,803 (21.5%)	5,307,490 (22.6%)
East of England	2,017,702 (83.3%)	2,150,834 (81.8%)	401,675 (16.6%)	477,948 (18.2%)
Cambridgeshire	218,075 (86.8%)	236,693 (85.3%)	32,551 (13.0%)	40,941 (14.7%)
Peterborough	62,110 (83.9%)	69,770 (82.5%)	11,848 (16.0%)	14,763 (17.5%)
Cambridge	31,612 (67.7%)	34,021 (64.8%)	14,590 (31.2%)	18,451 (35.2%)
East Cambs	31,860 (92.0%)	33,871 (91.0%)	2,742 (7.9%)	3,333 (9.0%)
Fenland	36,838 (90.7%)	39,657 (90.0%)	3,734 (9.2%)	4,424 (10.0%)
<b>Huntingdonshire</b>	<b>62,036 (89.5%)</b>	<b>67,656 (88.0%)</b>	<b>7,277 (10.5%)</b>	<b>9,222 (12.0%)</b>
South Cambs	55,729 (92.5%)	61,488 (91.8%)	4,208 (7.0%)	5,507 (8.2%)

In 2021, there were 76,880 households in Huntingdonshire (178,376 residents). The number of households has increased by 11% since 2011.

More detailed data showed the proportions of households living in different types of houses or bungalow including:

- 23,248 households (30.2% of all households) were in semi-detached properties, the same proportion in 2011 but with an increase in numbers (30.2%, 20,929)
- 30,548 (39.7%) were in detached properties, which is a smaller proportion but an increase in numbers from 2011 (40.4%, 28,013)

- 13,860 (18.0%) were in terraced properties, which is also a smaller proportion but an increase in numbers from 2011 (18.9%, 13,094)

Data from the Census 2021 shows that the proportion of different accommodation types is relatively similar across our local authority neighbours. The biggest exception is Cambridge; more than one in three households in Cambridge lived in a flat, maisonette or apartment (35.0%, 18,372). This is considerably higher than East Cambridgeshire, Fenland, Huntingdonshire, South Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (varying from 7.8% in East Cambridgeshire to 16.8% in Peterborough).

### Housing Tenure

In 2021, 70.3%, (54,074) of households in Huntingdonshire owned the accommodation they lived in, 29.6% (22,783) rented their accommodation and 23 households (0%) lived rent free.

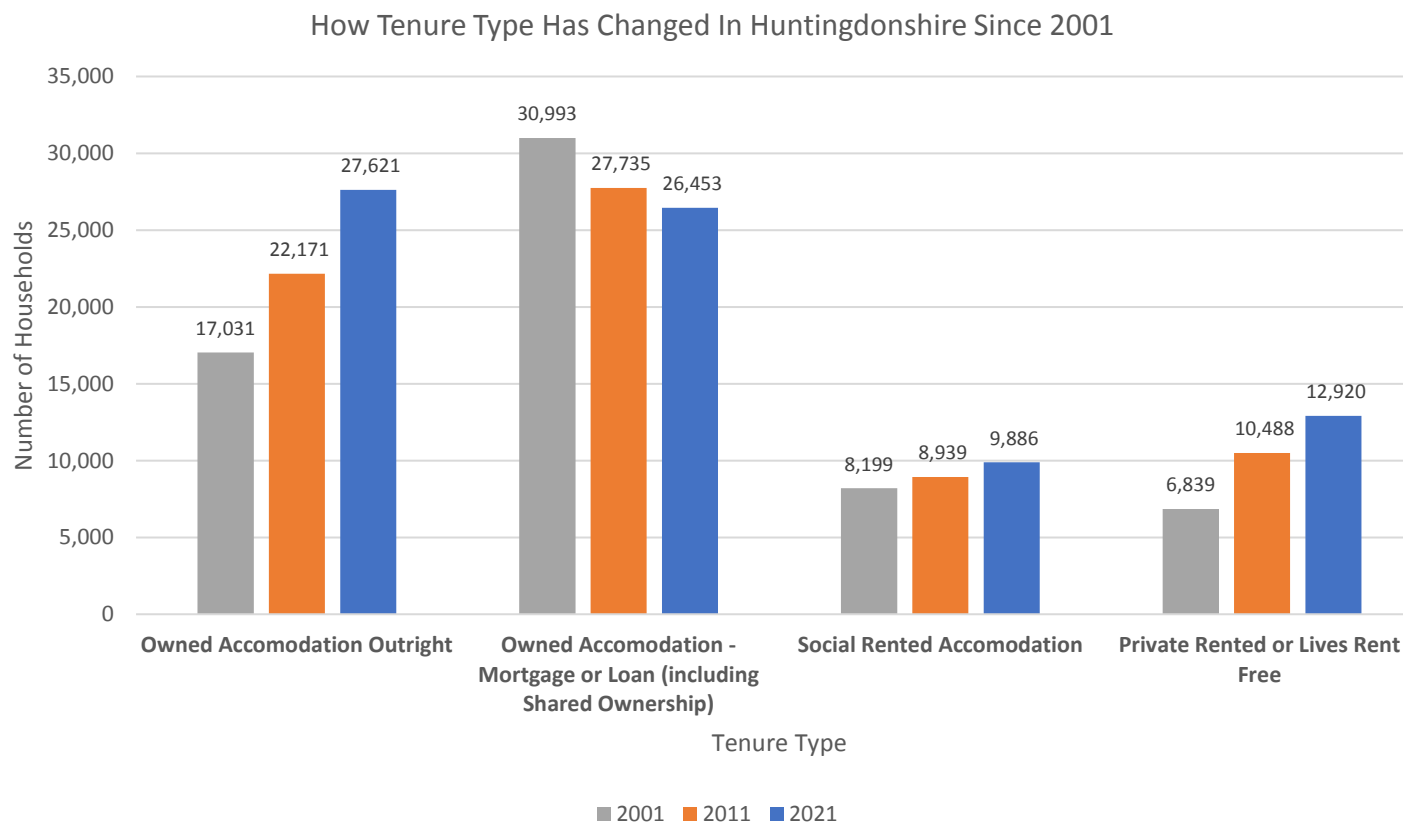
Households that rent their accommodation were asked what type of landlord owns or manages it. As in the 2011 Census, there is evidence of people incorrectly identifying their type of landlord between two of the response options. Over 1,800 residents chose the option Council or Local Authority, Huntingdonshire have not had any stock for 20 years since the stock transfer therefore this has been combined with Housing Association data.

The census data on tenure in Huntingdonshire shows:

- a decrease in the proportion of households that owned their accommodation, to 70.3%, 54,074 in 2021 (from 72.0%, 49,906, in 2011)
- an increase in the proportion of households that rented their accommodation, to 29.6%, 22,783, in 2021 (from 27.0%, 18,709, in 2011)
- a decrease in the proportion of households that lived rent free, to 0 %, 23, in 2021 (from 1%, 718, in 2011)

The data on accommodation ownership (the percentage of households who owned their accommodation outright or with a mortgage, loan or shared ownership) and renting can be broken down further to show that:

- 35.9% of households (27,621) owned the accommodation they lived in outright, an increase from 32.0% (22,171) in 2011
- 34.4% (26,453) owned their accommodation with a mortgage or loan or shared ownership, which is a smaller proportion than in 2011 (40.0%, 27,735)
- 16.8% (12,897) rented their accommodation privately, up from 14.1% (9,770) in 2011
- 12.9% (9,886) were in the social rented sector, for example through a housing association; this is the same proportion compared to 2011 but is an increase in numbers (12.9%, 8,939)



The percentage of those who owned their home outright in Huntingdonshire (35.9%) was higher than the national (32.5%), regional (34.6%) and Cambridgeshire County (34.2%) averages and was similar to rates in South Cambridgeshire, East Cambridgeshire and Fenland districts.

Over a third of owned accommodation (26,453 households) in the district were those with mortgages, loans or part of Shared Ownership (34.4%), which is higher than the national (29.8%), regional (31.6%) and Cambridgeshire County (31.1%) averages.

Huntingdonshire had a lower proportion of households that rented privately (16.8%) or in the social rented sector (12.9%) compared to national (20.5% private, 17.1% social), regional (18.2% private, 15.5% social) and Cambridgeshire County (19.3% private, 15.2% social) averages.

The number of households in Huntingdonshire that were living rent free in March 2021 fell from 718 in 2011 to just 23 in 2021. This mirrors decreases seen in other neighbouring local authorities such as East Cambridgeshire (down to 10 in 2021 from 869 in 2011) and Fenland (down to 19 in 2021 from 584 in 2011).

### Number of Bedrooms

The data show that the proportion of households in Huntingdonshire with one, two and four or more bedrooms increased across the decade from 2011 to 2021, whereas the proportion with three bedrooms decreased:

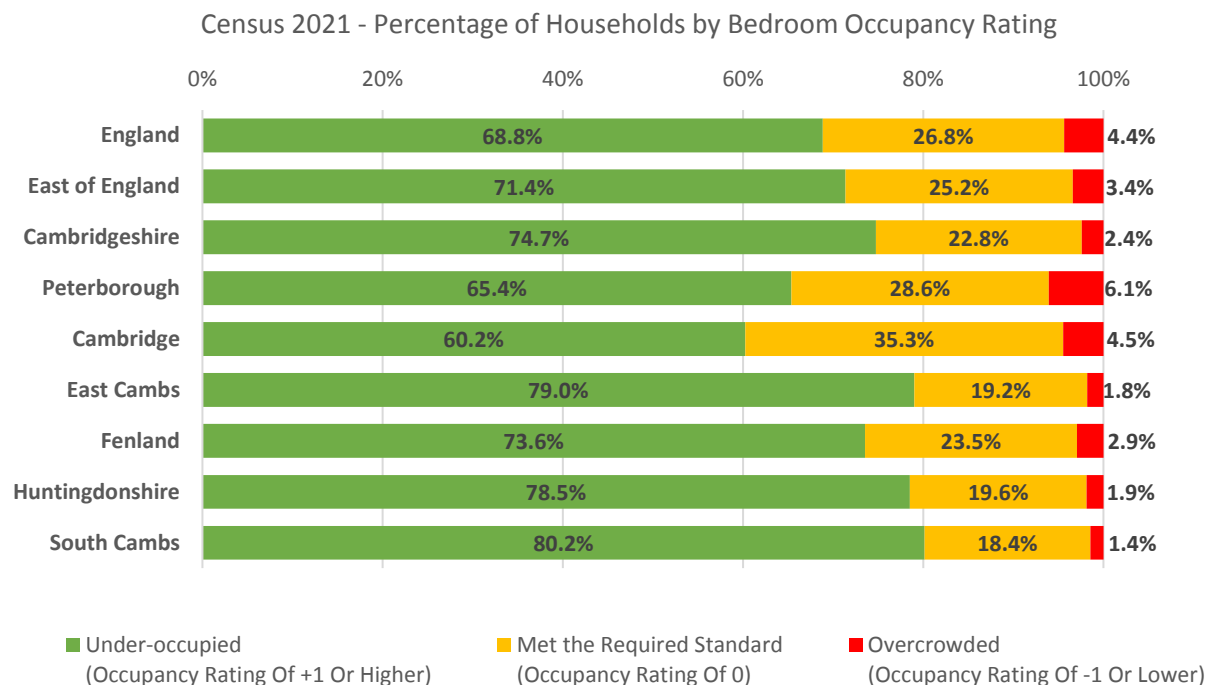
- 8.0% (6,160) of households had one bedroom (up from 7.6%, 5,302 in 2011)
- 21.6% (16,616) had two bedrooms (up from 21.4%, 14,842 in 2011)
- 39.6% (30,420) had three bedrooms (down from 41.3%, 28,602 in 2011)
- 30.8% (23,684) had four or more bedrooms (up from 29.7%, 20,587 in 2011)

The percentage of households in Huntingdonshire with one bedroom (8.0%) was lower than England (11.6%), Eastern region (10.7%) and county (9.7%) estimates. Whereas the percentage of households in the district that had four or more bedrooms in 2021 (30.8%) was higher than in England (21.1%), the Eastern region (23.9%), Cambridgeshire (28.2%) and most of our local authority neighbours. Only South Cambridgeshire had a higher proportion of households in this category than Huntingdonshire (35.6%).

### Overcrowding and under-occupancy

In Huntingdonshire, a smaller proportion of occupied households had fewer bedrooms than required in 2021 (1.9%, 1,432) compared with 2011 (2.3%, 1,594). 19.6% (15,090) had the required number of bedrooms, which is slightly higher than estimated at 2011 (19.3%), and the remaining 78.5% (60,359) of occupied households had more bedrooms than required, which is similar to results from 2011 (78.4%).

The proportion of occupied households with fewer bedrooms than required in Huntingdonshire (1.9%, 1,432) was lower than it was in England (4.4%, 1.02 million), in the Eastern region (3.4%, 89,764) and in Cambridgeshire (2.4%, 6,714).



The proportion of under-occupied households that had more bedrooms than required in Huntingdonshire was slightly higher in 2021 when compared to 2011, an increase from 78.4% (54,346 households) to 78.5% (60,359 households) in 2021. This is similar to the change reported nationally in this category, with the England average up from 68.7% in 2011 to 68.8% in 2021. The only other local area to see an increase in the proportion of households that had more bedrooms than required was East Cambridgeshire, up from 78.4% in 2011 to 79.0% in 2021.

### Central Heating

The vast majority of occupied households across Huntingdonshire reported that they had central heating in 2021 (99%, 76,094). However, 1.0% (787) had no central heating.

The most common types of central heating among occupied households in Huntingdonshire were mains gas only (73.6%, 56,557), two or more types of central heating (not including renewable energy; 7.9%, 6,068), electric only (7.2%, 5,546) and oil only (6.9, 5,307).

We can reasonably compare data on households in Huntingdonshire without central heating (the number has fallen by over 500 from 1,292 in 2011 to 787 in 2021, and the proportion has fallen from 1.9% to 1.0%), with gas only central heating (fallen from 77% to 74.7%) and with oil central heating (fallen from 8.5% to 6.9%). The proportion of the district's households with two or more types of central heating has also changed, more than doubling from 3.9% in 2011 to 8.6% in 2021.

### Renewable energy

For the first time, Census 2021 recorded whether a household's central heating used renewable energy sources. Overall, 1.3% of occupied households in Huntingdonshire (984) used at least one renewable energy source. A total of 0.7% (511) reported using renewable energy alongside another type of central heating, and the remaining 0.6% (473) used only renewable energy sources.

Huntingdonshire's proportion of households using at least one renewable energy source (1.3%) was higher than the national average (0.9%) but lower than the levels reported in all other districts within Cambridgeshire.

## DIAMOND AFFORDABILITY ANALYSIS

In 2022, a range of data was collated to help visualize how housing markets work across Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and West Suffolk; in terms of household incomes, weekly housing cost, pay scales for local workers, and the supply of dwellings. At the time that most of this work was taking place Census 2011 data was used as the full suite of 2021 data was not available at the time of publication. This work can be updated with 2021 data when all the detail has been released.

### Income

The diamond-o-gram uses income data to create a visual chart enabling us to look at the households on different broad income levels, and to compare the diamond graphic to other data. The primary aim is to compare annual income distribution to annualized housing costs.

# THE DIAMOND-O-GRAM

USE THE CACI INCOME DATA TO SHOW HOW MANY HOUSEHOLDS FALL INTO EACH £5,000 INCOME BAND

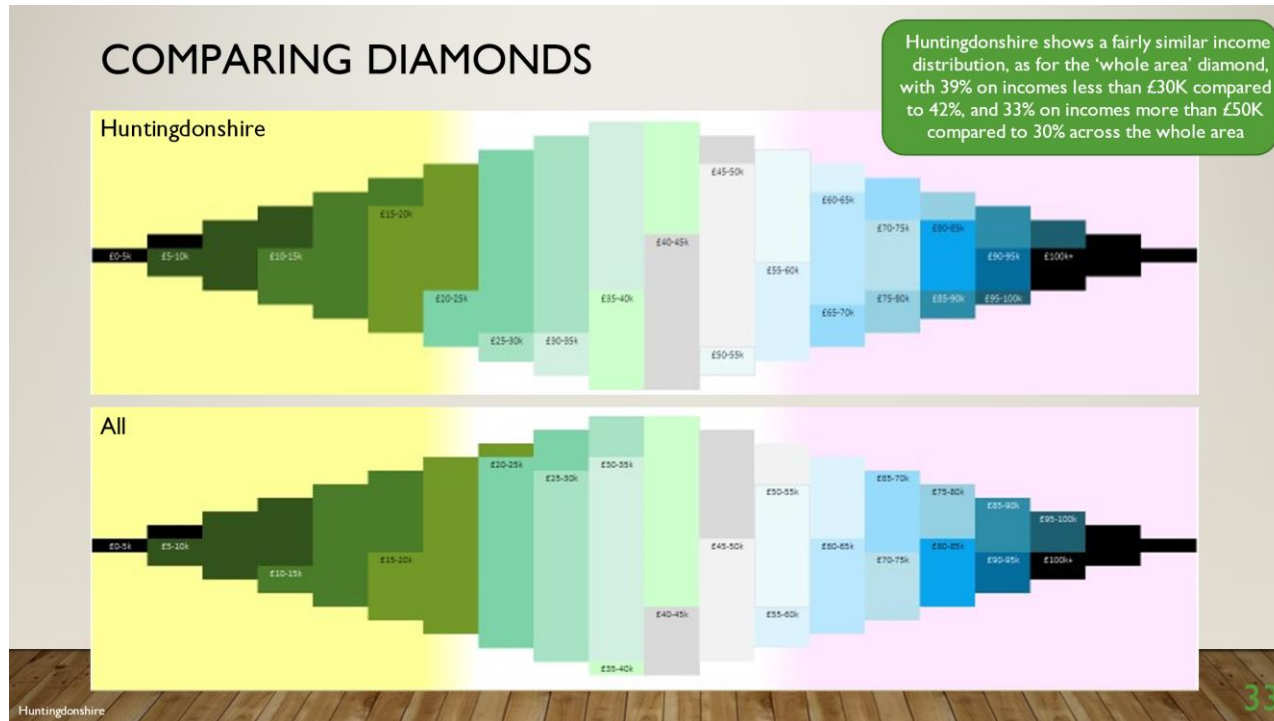


Income distribution for Huntingdonshire:

- a similar spread of households on incomes up to £20K
- more on incomes higher than £20K

compared to the whole study area (labelled "all" in the graph below).





Change in income between 2016/17 and 2020/21:

- The number of households on incomes of less than £15K has fallen slightly.
- The number on incomes above £15K has increased or held steady.
- The number on more than £100K has decreased significantly across the study area

### Housing costs

Huntingdonshire housing costs tend to fall towards the middle of the cost range for the study area. East Cambs, Huntingdonshire and West Suffolk housing costs consistently form a group towards the middle of the study area values. Cambridge & South Cambs see the highest, while Fenland & Peterborough see the lowest housing costs, compared to the rest of the study area.

## MINIMUM INCOME NEEDED IF HOUSING TAKES UP 35%



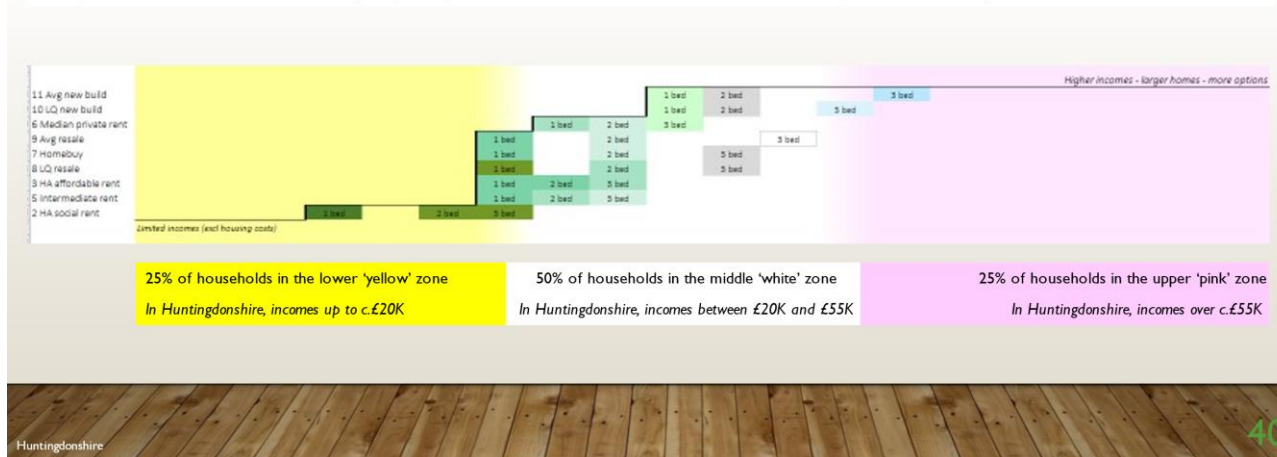
In Huntingdonshire we see:

- There is a fairly small amount of affordable / social rented dwellings at c.13%. Affordable / social rented is the main option for lower income households, starting around £10-15K
- Private rented makes up 16% of dwellings in Huntingdonshire. Private rented requires a slightly higher income than ownership and Homebuy, at £25-30K
- Intermediate rent could provide useful dwelling supply in Huntingdonshire, but for smaller homes, need a similar income to Homebuy or resales. 2 and 3 beds slightly more affordable - so worth considering factors such as access (deposits), mobility (shorter term commitment than purchase) and availability
- Income required for smaller Homebuy is lower than for private rented, and similar to ownership. Lower deposits than traditional ownership may prove very useful, alongside flexibility to purchase a higher share in time.

- Ownership dominates the dwelling supply at 69%. Income needed for smaller home purchase and for Homebuy starts around £20-25K reaching up to £45-50K.
- 1 bed new build requires higher income levels than other tenures in Huntingdonshire, starting at £35-40K.

## INTRODUCING “THE STAIRCASE”

- The staircase is built using the boxes provided on the slide titled “Minimum income needed if housing takes up 35%”.
- The boxes are arranged to form a staircase with the lowest income needed for 1 beds forming the first step. The rows are arranged so next step up is the tenure requiring a little more income. Some tenures need roughly the same income, so these steps are “taller”. In other places there is a gap in the incomes needed between tenures leads to a long “tread” on our staircase. A tall step demonstrates a number of products at the same income level, a long step indicates a gap between incomes needed.
- 1, 2 and 3+ beds in each tenure group are presented on this staircase. On the next slide, the sizes are separated out.



In Huntingdonshire:

1 bedroom homes

- The income needed for 1 bed HA social rents require a relatively low income.
- There is a big gap between the income needed for HA social rent at 35% affordability, and all other tenures.
- Private rent requires the next highest income, with new build requiring the highest incomes of all 1 beds

## 2 bedroom homes

- For 2 bedrooms a number of tenures require a similar income level but there is more of a “spread” of incomes needed than for 1 beds.
- Income required for a 2 bedroom starts with HA social rents then a gap before the step for affordable rents and intermediate rents. Homebuy, resales and private rents requires more income.
- New build comes in needing the highest income for a 2 bedroom, higher than Homebuy, rented and resales.

## 3 bedroom homes

- For 3 beds, different tenures require different income levels making the 3 bed staircase “flatter” and broader.
- Housing Association social rent forms the first step, then almost every tenure finds itself on a separate “step” meaning they each require a different income; there is a spread of housing costs.
- Not unusually, new build forms the two top steps

## CHANGES IN POLICY AND LEGISLATION

### Local Plan

In January 2023 the Council agreed to commence work on a new Local Plan to replace Huntingdonshire’s current Local Plan to 2036. Analysis of the current Local Plan against requirements of the 2021 version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and other recent national legislation was undertaken and this indicated that key elements of the current Local Plan did not fully align with up-to-date national policy and increased the risk, for decision making, of policies being deemed out of date (NPPF 2021, paragraph 11). It is also recognised that a new Local Plan needs to reflect ambitions of the Joint Administration including the emerging Place Strategy and emerging Climate Strategy.

The purpose of the Local Plan is to provide a framework for sustainable development within Huntingdonshire including the identification of land for development to deliver the homes, employment and services needed and to set out local policies against which decisions on all planning applications are made. The Local Plan is the main basis for making planning decisions. Planning decisions should be in accordance with the Development Plan, including the Local Plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Huntingdonshire’s Local Plan to 2036 (HLP2036) was adopted on 15th May 2019. It was prepared under the NPPF 2012. It identifies sufficient land for 20,100 new homes an average of 804 each year, this target has been exceeded during the life of the plan:

Year	Number of Homes Delivered
2018/2019	1067
2019/2020	1011
2020/2021	1083
2021/2022	1055

We will continue to work with Planning teams to maximise the delivery of new homes within the district to meet housing need and work with them on the new Local Plan at relevant stages.

### National Planning Policy Framework

The government is committed to levelling up across the country, building more homes to increase home ownership, empowering communities to make better places, restoring local pride and regenerating towns and cities. The February 2022 Levelling Up White Paper reiterated the government's commitment to making improvements to the planning system to achieve this, by giving communities a stronger say over where homes are built and what they look like. The Government believe that The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill which is before Parliament will put the foundations in place for delivering this by creating a genuinely plan-led system with a stronger voice for communities. It will ensure greater provision of community infrastructure by developers, mandate that beautiful new development meets clear design standards that reflect community views, and enhance protections for our precious environmental and heritage assets.

The aim of this Bill is to put communities at the heart of the planning system, offering communities beautiful homes and new neighbourhoods that they will welcome and a greater say in what is built and where. To do this Government believe that there needs to be changes to national policy and guidance, regulations and wider support for local authorities, communities and applicants. The consultation on this Bill closed in March 2023, it is therefore not practical to make any changes to the Council's approach until there are legislative changes adopted by Government.

### First Homes

On 24 May 2021, the Government published a Written Ministerial Statement (WMS) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) setting out national planning policy for a new affordable housing product called First Homes (FH). The WMS and PPG set out the potential for First Homes to be provided through the planning system for all applications from 28 December 2021.

First Homes are a form of discounted market sale housing and fall within the definition of affordable housing contained in National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) unlike the Help to Buy initiative which was outside of the definition of affordable housing. The documents referred to above suggest

First Homes could be provided and comprise at least 25% of all affordable housing units delivered by developers as part of planning obligations (Section 106 Agreements).

First Homes are specific discounted market sale housing and should be considered to meet the definition of ‘affordable housing’ for planning purposes they:

- a) must be discounted by a minimum of 30% against the market value;
- b) are sold to a person or persons meeting the First Homes eligibility criteria (as set out in the PPG);
- c) will have a restriction registered on the title at first sale by HM Land Registry to ensure this discount (as a percentage of current market value) and certain other restrictions are passed on at each subsequent title transfer; and,
- d) after the discount has been applied, the first sale must be at a price no higher than £250,000.

The Council has an adopted Local Plan to 2036, guidance received from the DLUHC advised that where there is an adopted Local Plan, Council’s would not need to consider the First Homes Product until the plan is reviewed, however, the Council, feels that it is sensible to provide guidance on how it will treat applications that include the First Home Product. We have therefore completed a separate First Homes Position Statement which protects rented provision on qualifying sites but also advises developers that we believe that shared ownership remains the more affordable option for those applicants who aspire to home ownership.

At the present time we do not believe that this will have a significant impact to the housing market in Huntingdonshire but the Council’s position on First Homes will be reviewed again as part of the next Housing Strategy and through the Local Plan review.

### **Renters Reform Bill**

The Renters Reform Bill will be introduced to Parliament in May 23, it is too early to say how this may impact private renting in Huntingdonshire and indeed the numbers of homeless applicants through no fault evictions. The headline change in the legislation is the removal of no-fault evictions known as Section 21 evictions, which is considered to be a leading driver of homelessness. The Bill will take approximately 18 months to go through parliament and it is likely therefore that we will be clearer on the changes when the Housing Strategy is revised.

The proposed legislation also suggests other changes including:

- A legal right for tenants to request a pet in their home, Landlords must consider the request and “cannot unreasonably refuse”
- Landlords will be unable to have blanket bans on renting to tenants in receipt of benefits or with children
- Improve the quality of rental homes by introducing a “decent homes standard” with the aim of reducing the number of non-decent homes by 2030

- Councils will be given greater powers to tackle rogue landlords and a new ombudsman will be set up to resolve disputes between landlords and tenants.
- Tenants in social housing will also benefit from major reforms to the sector. The Social Housing Regulation Bill will make all registered social housing providers subject to a new regulatory regime, with failing social landlords facing unlimited fines if they fail to meet the standards expected of them, this aims to address the problems many renters face in living in damp, unsafe and cold homes and led to improved conditions.

It is hoped that this legislation once adopted will support the Council's Corporate Plan ambitions to improve the quality of housing in Huntingdonshire.

### Health and Wellbeing Integrated Care Strategy

Within the Health and Wellbeing Integrated Care Strategy, Priority 3 looks at:

*"Reducing poverty through better housing, employment and skills"*

It is known that poverty limits life chances, health and wellbeing, and has a much wider societal impact beyond the individuals who are personally affected. This priority focuses on reducing poverty through improving skills, better employment and better housing although reducing poverty is much broader than just these aspects.

The interaction between housing and poverty is two-way; poverty limits people's housing choices, often resulting in living in poor quality housing as that is all that is affordable or available. However, housing also affects the risk or severity of poverty; expensive housing reduces the financial resource for other life essentials, poor quality housing is likely to require considerably greater spend of limited incomes on heating, and poor quality or insecure housing also affects wellbeing and physical health which in turn can limit educational or employment outcomes.

Stable, secure, and good housing can have huge benefits not just to health but to the wider life chances. For example, housing with adequate space not only improves personal privacy reducing depression, anxiety and stress but also gives children room to play, a good night's sleep and provides sufficient study space enabling better achievement. The issue of poverty is being exacerbated by the cost-of-living crisis. The 'Let's Talk - your health and care' campaign that was launched on 7 October 2022 to inform the Health and Wellbeing Integrated Care Strategy has identified that 45.8% of the respondents (1051/2292) felt that the cost of living crisis was impacting their health and wellbeing; key themes were the cost of heating and not having the heating on, having to cut down or purchase cheaper versions of food, the costs of transport to key services such as hospital appointments, reducing activities and increasing feelings of isolation

Although fewer homes nationally are classed as non-decent compared with 10 years ago; overcrowding and affordability problems have increased in recent years and are likely to worsen given the cost-of-living crisis. The Covid-19 pandemic has also highlighted the direct health implications of housing with the

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Covid Impact Assessment showing that deprivation, including poor housing conditions such as overcrowding, and high density were associated with greater spread of COVID 19. The economic fallout from the pandemic and the current cost of living crisis is likely to lead to an increase in evictions, a lack of housing security and increased over-crowding.

It is estimated to cost the NHS some £1.4bn per year to treat those people who are affected by poor housing conditions. The most common extreme hazards likely to be found in the home are those relating to cold and home accidents. These are, generally, not expensive to rectify or avoid compared with the long-term cost to the health services and society if they are ignored. Such hazards are particularly harmful to the most vulnerable, especially older people and families with young children. This was particularly highlighted recently in the case of Awaab Ishak, who died at two years old as a direct result of mould in his family home resulting in DLUHC highlighting some of the commitments needed to tackle poor housing standards. This links back to the “Renters Reform Bill mentioned earlier in this document.

Tackling poor housing is complicated and will require more cross sector working. The pattern of tenure and ownership shows that only a very small proportion (16.3%) of housing is under the direct control of partners, the vast majority of housing in Cambridgeshire is either private rented or owner occupied.

### **Climate Strategy.**

In February 23 HDC formally recognised a Climate Crisis and Ecological emergency in Huntingdonshire and adopted a Climate Strategy that sets out the priorities to achieve the commitment of net zero carbon council by 2040, these priorities and actions are captured in an Action Plan, which aims to influence communities and businesses in the district to share, contribute and work towards this objective.

The Action Plan list actions in high, medium and low priority, this relates to the impact and therefore the importance in reducing Council’s Carbon emissions. For housing there are two medium priorities with a target date of Feb 2027 they are:

- Engage with key Registered Providers to give tenants information that encourages them to reduce their carbon emissions
- Provide Housing Association Landlords with information / advice on energy saving to support their tenants

### **Keyworker Housing**

The original Housing Strategy identified there was a need for housing for keyworkers, this has only increased in the last few years; the recent consultation on National Planning Policy is suggesting a reclassification of keyworkers to essential workers.



The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care System (ICS) has indicated that there is a growing need for housing to recruit and retain staff. They are intending to complete a Housing Needs Survey of their workforce in early summer 2023 and as part of this work hosted an engagement session on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023 with partners from across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. They are aiming to understand the housing pressures of their workforce and the link between housing and their recruitment / retention difficulties. Other public sector employers have also identified housing as a key pressure for staff. It is expected that the outcome of this survey will be known in the Autumn of 2023.

The ICS accommodation project aims to address the accommodation challenges in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (C&P) in the following way:

1. Understand and identify the housing and accommodation need of its staff.
2. Consider what opportunities and options there could be across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to support key worker accommodation and underpin a sustainable staffing model for the future.

In HDC we have completed a scheme at Alconbury with Rentplus, which delivered a total of 22 homes, a mixture of one and two bedroom apartments, whilst the scheme was not originally conceived as a keyworker scheme all properties were allocated to keyworkers and all properties were occupied by September 2022.

A further scheme is also underway with Mangpm also in Alconbury where a total of 75 homes, a mixture of one, two, three and four bedroom homes have been identified for keyworkers. At the present time a total of 28 units have been completed with a further 47 expected this year.

### **Council Owned Sites and the Delivery of new homes.**

The original strategy identified the potential use of Council own surplus land for the delivery of new affordable housing. Since the original strategy was completed HDC successfully tendered, appointed and entered into a contract with a delivery partner – Longhurst for nine council sites across the district. The first of these sites is now subject of a planning application.

This review will need to consider whether there are any further sites that could be used for the delivery of affordable housing and indeed what type of approach the Council would take.

### **LA Housing Fund for Afghan and Ukrainian families**

In December 2022, the Government made a total of £500m available to Local Authorities (LA's) to assist with providing accommodation for families in the UK under the Homes for Ukraine scheme and for Afghan families who are still in Bridging Hotels; they expect this funding to deliver 4000 additional homes.

The funding is expected to alleviate possible homelessness pressures that may arise from some households being asked to leave their host's accommodation and provide more suitable housing for Afghan families living in bridging accommodation.

Department of Levelling Up, Home and Communities (DLUHC) assumes that most of the delivery will be via stock acquisition, although LA's will have the flexibility to choose their delivery route. This could include refurbishment or conversion of existing buildings, acquiring new build properties, building new homes or passing on the funding to enable Registered Provider (RP) delivery. There is an expectation that properties will be delivered by November 2023.

HDC have been allocated £2,052,000 in funding to deliver a minimum of 19 homes for Ukrainian families (this is known as the main element) and £428,058 in funding to deliver 2 larger four bedroom (plus) homes (this is known as the bridging element).

The Council has recently signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the DLUHC and are working with Stonewater Housing Association to deliver the project, by the Government's deadline.

### **National asylum dispersal policy and any impact this may have on the housing market**

Under the National Asylum and Dispersal policy Government are asking Council's to advise them of areas that would be suitable to house asylum seekers. For HDC a high proportion of the area is rural and therefore not connected to the towns through safe footpaths, public transport etc, but due to this, property is generally cheaper in these areas and is therefore more likely to be attractive to Government departments. Subject to the number of properties acquired for this purpose it could have an impact on the local housing market, especially as we understand that these homes are acquired on a guaranteed rent model through the increase of private rental prices across the district impacting other people looking for housing.

### **Private Rented Sector and Empty Homes**

Although the percentage of empty homes usually sits at 0.1% of total housing stock, where properties are empty on long term basis, they can negatively impact the area and the community they are in. HDC will be assessing the level of empty homes in the district as part of our general operational activities through carrying out roadside assessment of the condition of any long term vacant homes. These will then be RAG rated the basis of condition from minimal work required right through to extremely poor condition. This will enable us to understand the extent of the problem within HDC and whether we need to give consideration to resourcing this activity.

After the untimely death of Awaab Ishak, who died at two years old as a direct result of mould in his family home the Government contacted all Local Authorities and asked them to respond regarding the housing standards in Private Rented Properties in their area. Officers in HDC Environmental Health Team, who are responsible for the enforcement of these matters have been made aware of the direction to have particular regard to high scoring (band D and E) category 2 damp and mould hazards, as outlined in the guidance 'Housing health and safety rating system (HHSRS) enforcement guidance'.

As a response to the Governments letter, we need to review the information that is available to tenants of private rented properties to ensure it is up to date and comprehensive and clearly covers damp and mould. We are also need to provide advice to all residents regarding the importance of both heating and ventilation as a way of reducing the risk of damp and mould.

### **Rough sleeping updates due from DLUHC?**

It is necessary to consider whether we are achieving our objectives in the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy and to take on board updates from DLUHC as the Government reviews and publishes its updated strategy to end rough sleeping.

### **Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)**

There was a recommendation in the original Housing Strategy to look at the increased spend on DFG, this work has not yet been carried out. The existing 'Cambridgeshire Housing Adaptations and Repairs Policy' dates from 2019, this is currently under review, this mid term review will need to take into account the findings of this review and incorporate them. It is anticipated that there will be a spend of £2 million in this financial year 23/24 on DFG's. In carrying out this review it will also be important to link up with the Better Care Fund policy framework on DFG.

### **Constraints affecting our ability to succeed**

In reviewing and refreshing the housing strategy we have considered the major challenges that the Council and its partners continue to face when addressing the key strategic priorities. These challenges have been used as the basis in reviewing and reformulating strategic actions for the remaining life of the strategy and beyond.

Although constantly changing at the mid-term review, key challenges are listed below:

- Addressing the shortage of affordable housing
- Improving the quality of all housing
- Addressing homelessness
- Assisting vulnerable groups to live independently.
- The current economic situation and the rising cost of living, this will have an impact on homelessness, but also the ability for RP's to deliver new affordable housing.

### Opportunities that could help us achieve our objectives

In reviewing the strategic priorities opportunities such as:

- New Government legislation looking to improve housing conditions in rented homes through Renters Reform
- NPPF looking to streamline the planning service and make it more transparent and consistent, enabling greater clarity on the requirement of affordable housing
- Review of the Home Improvement Agency
- Working alongside partners to bring greater clarity on the need for specialist housing
- Making best use of Council resources including land and funding
- Working alongside our Registered Provider partners to deliver new affordable homes

## REFERENCES

[Housing Strategy 2020 -2025 \(huntingdonshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/housing-strategy-2020-2025)

[Housing Strategy Action Plan 2020-2021 \(huntingdonshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/housing-strategy-action-plan-2020-2021)

[Local Plan Update - Huntingdonshire.gov.uk](https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/local-plan-update)

[Climate Strategy](#)

[Climate Action Plan](#)

[Levelling Up White Paper](#)

[National Planning Policy Framework - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/national-planning-policy-framework)

[Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill \(the Bill\)](#)

[Guide to the Renters \(Reform\) Bill - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/bills-2021/guide-to-the-renters-reform-bill)

### NEW SET OF ACTIONS FOR THE REMAINING LIFE OF THE STRATEGY AND BEYOND

The following Housing Strategy Action Plan replaces the action plan originally set back in October 2020 of which 53% of actions have been achieved by May 2023.

The new action plan includes a number of the original actions that are ongoing or not yet achieved and a set of new actions that have been developed from the mid-term review and consultation process.

During the mid-term review consultation process we asked our partners and stakeholders to identify any additional priorities that may have emerged since our original Housing Strategy and these have been incorporated into the new action plan.

### HOUSING STRATEGY ACTION PLAN – REVIEW / REFRESH STAGE – JUNE 2023

This Action plan will have two key priorities, where agreed actions will reinforce the areas of activity in this review and align with the Corporate Plan objectives,

#### Priority One - New homes to meet the needs of Huntingdonshire now and in the future including homes that are energy efficient

	Action	Lead Service	Timeframe	Comments	RAG Rating
P1.1	Annual Achievement of Housing Delivery Targets	Planning	Yearly in Dec	Information obtained from the Annual Monitoring Report	
P1.2	Annual Achievement of New Affordable Homes	Housing	Yearly in March	Monitored through the Council's Performance Monitoring Process	
P1.3	Explore further options for Key Worker Housing	Housing	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working with Keyworker Employers identify the level of need in the District</li> <li>Identify further opportunities for keyworker housing schemes following identified demand</li> </ul>	
P1.4	Support the development of Rural Exception sites led or supported by the community	Housing	Ongoing	As and when opportunities occur in rural areas support the community to bring forward sites following identified demand for housing	

P1.5	Ensure Good Design of New Homes	Planning / Housing	Dec 2024	Consider new legislation and the potential of a new Housing Design Guide linked to the New Local Plan	
P1.6	Engage with Registered Providers to give tenants information that encourages them to reduce their carbon emissions	Environmental Health	2023/2024	Advice booklet to be completed that can be shared with RP's	
P1.7	Provide Housing Association Landlords with information / advice on energy saving to support their tenants	Environmental Health	2023/2024	Information to be shared with RP's	
P1.8	Work with Government including DLUHC and Homes England to explore opportunities for investment in new homes	Housing	Ongoing	Regular engagement with DLUHC and Homes England to ensure opportunities for investment is achieved in HDC	
P1.9	Review remaining Council owned sites that could deliver new affordable housing	Housing and Estates	2023/2024	Further review of Council owned sites needs to be undertaken, any sites not considered suitable could support P1.10 below	
P1.10	Promote self-build opportunities and consider the use of Council owned assets not suitable for affordable housing delivery at scale	Housing and Estates	2023/2024	As above	
P1.11	Encourage the use of Modern Methods of Construction in new developments	Housing	2023/2024	Explore with partners through a survey to enable an understanding of the use of MMC currently, explore the barriers to this use and look to work with developers and RP's to bring forward more sites using this construction method	
P1.12	Understand RP's current work on Climate Change and support them on Climate Change initiatives.	Housing/ Climate Co-Ordinator	2023 - 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify RP current activity on Climate Change</li> <li>Look at best examples in the sector eg Home Upgrade Grant 2 and Eco 4 flex.</li> <li>Support funding opportunities</li> </ul>	

### Priority Two - High Quality Homes to enable people in Huntingdonshire to live independent and healthy lives

	Action	Lead Service	Timeframe	Comments	RAG Rating
P2.1	Work with Health and Social Care in relation to specialist housing with future models of care and support	Housing	2023-2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include M4 (2) and M4 (3) provision.</li> <li>• Older Persons Provision</li> <li>• Accommodation for Learning Disability, Mental Health, Autism etc.</li> </ul>	
P2.2	Work with partners to deliver the Health and Wellbeing Strategy	Departments across HDC	2023-2025	Continue to work with partners on this strategy and update regularly on progress and reviews to current HDC service changes as appropriate	
P2.3	Introduce the changes brought about through Renters Reform Bill 23	Housing and Environmental Health	December 2024 (onwards)	Following parliament deliberations look at how this impacts Housing Delivery in HDC	
P2.3	Review the success of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy	Housing	2023/2024		
P2.4	Review the outcomes of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and implement policy and process changes relevant for HDC.	Communities and Housing	2023/2024		
P2.5	Review the delivery of DFG's and the reasons for the high spend	Housing / Communities	2023/24	Need to work with the HIA and partners to consider the increased budget spend	
P2.6	Deliver our Corporate Plan commitment to run a pilot with new movers to the area to support positive outcomes.	Communities	2023/24	Using new housing as an opportunity to support positive outcomes from residents' first arrival in Huntingdonshire. To build the learning into the refresh of Huntingdonshire's Corporate Strategy.	
P2.7	To ensure housing providers are central to the financial vulnerability programme which reviews the way we support residents in need across a range of local providers.	Communities	2023 / 2024	Seeking to develop more holistic support which address root caused and prevent issues escalating.	



P2.8	To host a RP conference to seek to build shared alignment across development, environmental delivery and social support for tenants	Housing / Communities	2023/2024		
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**Public**  
**Key Decision - Yes**

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Title/Subject Matter:** First Homes Position Statement

**Meeting/Date:** Cabinet  
20th June 2023

**Executive Portfolio:** Cllr S. Wakeford, Executive Councillor for Jobs, Economy & Housing

**Report by:** Regeneration and Housing Delivery Manager

**Ward(s) affected:** All

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### **Executive Summary:**

This report provides detail on First Homes affordable housing product and the Council's position when a development proposal includes this form of affordable tenure.

### **Recommendation(s):**

Cabinet is requested to:

- Note the contents of this report and;
- Agree the First Homes Position Statement.

## **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide information on First Homes and the Council's position when a development proposal includes this form of affordable housing.

## **BACKGROUND**

- 1.2 On the 24 May 2021, the Government published a Written Ministerial Statement (WMS) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) setting out national planning policy for a new affordable housing product called First Homes.
- 1.3 This Interim Planning Policy Statement, the WMS and PPG set out the potential for First Homes to be provided through the planning system from 28 June 2021, before becoming a requirement for all planning applications from 28 December 2021.
- 1.4 First Homes are a form of discounted market sale housing and fall within the definition of affordable housing contained in appendix A of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). These documents suggest First Homes could be provided and comprise at least 25% of all affordable housing units delivered by developers as part of planning obligations (Section 106 Agreements).
- 1.5 First Homes are specific discounted market sale housing and should be considered to meet the definition of 'affordable housing' for planning purposes. Specifically, First Homes are discounted market sale units which:
  - a) must be discounted by a minimum of 30% against the market value;
  - b) are sold to a person or persons meeting the First Homes eligibility criteria (as set out in the PPG);
  - c) on their first sale, will have a restriction registered on the title at HM Land Registry to ensure this discount (as a percentage of current market value) and certain other restrictions are passed on at each subsequent title transfer; and,
  - d) after the discount has been applied, the first sale must be at a price no higher than £250,000.
- 1.6 The WMS and PPG identify a range of additional local criteria that can be applied to First Homes. Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) are intending to use additional local criteria to support the delivery of rented accommodation in the District following the publication of the G L Hearn Housing Needs of Specific Groups Report (HNSG) in October 2021, which identified the high requirement for rented housing in the district.
- 1.7 The WMS and PPG also allows local authorities to apply local connection criteria to First Homes without the need to provide supporting evidence. This is because First Homes are intended to allow people to get on the housing ladder in their local area. The local connection criteria that will

apply to First Homes sold in Huntingdonshire is set out in the First Homes Position Statement in Appendix 1. The local connection criteria will apply via a Section 106 Agreement upon the first and every successive sale of a First Homes, although the criteria will be lifted after three months from when the home is first marketed if the home has not been reserved or sold. If a suitable buyer has not reserved a home after 3 months, the eligibility criteria (including income caps) will revert to the national criteria set out in the PPG, to widen the consumer base.

- 1.8 The Council's adopted planning policy for affordable housing in Huntingdonshire is set out in Section 7 Strengthening Communities of the Local Plan to 2036, specifically, Policy LP 24 Affordable Housing Provision.
- 1.9 The Council has received guidance from DLUHC that states that where is an adopted Local Plan, Council's would not need to consider the First Homes Product until the plan is reviewed. However, they have also advised that they feel that it would be sensible to provide guidance on how the Council will treat applications that include the First Home Product.
- 1.10 In Huntingdonshire's Local Plan to 2036 the policy requires that 70% of all affordable housing should be of rented tenure (social or affordable). To assist with viability, specific proportions of social rent and affordable rent are not set out within this percentage. The remaining 30% should be for "other affordable tenures", usually the Shared Ownership product.
- 1.11 In considering the Council's approach to First Homes Officers have referred to the independently assessed HNSG research which considers need in a local (Huntingdonshire) context, it states that the national target is not appropriate as there is a high demand for rented housing in the district.
- 1.12 Therefore, where developers include First Homes as part of the requirement to deliver affordable housing, the Council will on an exceptional basis consider delivering a proportion of First Homes as part of its "other affordable tenures"; there would still be a preference for other affordable tenures to be Shared Ownership for affordability reasons.
- 1.13 The tenure requested/preferred would therefore remain as LP24 (and as below) since the HNSG justifies this approach:  
  
70% Social or Affordable Rent  
30% Other Affordable Tenures (including exceptionally, First Homes)
- 1.14 This tenure split (above) when combined with a 60% market housing requirement (as set out in Local Plan policy LP 24 Affordable Housing provision) would result in 10% of the total housing tenure mix being available for affordable home ownership. Therefore, any proposed development that applies Local Plan Policy LP 24 alongside the affordable housing tenure split (above) will meet the requirements of paragraph 65 of the NPPF 2021, which asks that at least 10% of the total number of homes on major development sites should be available for affordable home ownership.

## **COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY**

- 2.1 The Panel discussed the First Homes Statement Report at its meeting on 7th June 2023.
- 2.2 Following a question from Councillor Pickering, the Panel heard that self-employed residents would be classified the same as employed residents in respect of meeting employment within the district criteria.
- 2.3 Councillor Blackwell expressed concerns that by including siblings within the criteria, the scheme would be subject to abuse. The Panel were advised that a sibling connection had been retained within the scheme in line with LGA guidance however the could be reflected upon.
- 2.4 The Panel were assured, following a question from Councillor Howell, that once identified as a First Home, a restriction would be placed with the Land Registry to ensure that this status remained in perpetuity.
- 2.5 It was clarified to the Panel, following a question from Councillor Harvey, that the reference to a connection with older children within the report was not intended to exclude a connection with younger children.
- 2.6 In response to a question from Councillor Martin, it was confirmed to the Panel that those who are employees of a Huntingdonshire business but that work from home, would satisfy the employment connection.
- 2.7 Following the discussion, the Panel were informed that their comments would be added to the Cabinet report in order for Cabinet to make a decision on the recommendations.

## **KEY IMPACTS / RISKS**

- 3.1 The Council could choose not to establish a position statement in relation to First Homes, however it is prudent for the Council to confirm how we would treat this form of Affordable Housing on any sites brought forward by Developers prior to the review of the Local Plan.

## **LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN OBJECTIVES**

- 4.1 The completion of a First Homes Position Statement aligns to Huntingdonshire District Council's Corporate Plan under the Priority – "In creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations", under the outcome of Improving Housing.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The Council has sought guidance from DLUHC, and this position statement has been reviewed by senior officers in housing and planning.

## **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There will be no additional resource implications, Planning Applications

that include an element of First Homes will be treated in the same way as applications that include an element of affordable housing.

### **HEALTH IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Within the Health and Wellbeing Integrated Care Strategy, there is a priority of, *“Reducing poverty through better housing, employment and skills”* This Policy Statement looks to protect the delivery of social and affordable rented housing in the district, whilst also looking to deliver low cost home ownership options to those residents who can afford and aspire to home ownership.

### **ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 In February 2023 the Council formally approved the Council’s Climate Strategy this recognises that the current cost of living and climate crises require joint attention to support the wellbeing of residents and businesses. In passing this motion, the council committed to not only the delivery of a Climate Strategy but also that in making decisions it will wherever possible seek to contribute to positive environmental and social benefits. The delivery of good quality, secure accommodation for residents supports this ambition.

### **EQUALITIES**

- 9.1 The Council has a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.
- 9.2 Good housing, including the protection of rented housing is likely to improve residents life chances, including health and wellbeing.

## **Appendix 1**

First Homes Position Statement

### **CONTACT OFFICER**

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# First Homes Position Statement May 2023

**This position statement should only be used when a development proposal includes reference to First Homes as part of affordable housing provision. If a development proposal does not refer to First Homes the original affordable housing split can be applied as per LP 24 Affordable Housing Provision.**

**The Council has an adopted Local Plan to 2036, guidance received from the DLUHC advised that where there is an adopted Local Plan, Council's would not need to consider the First Homes Product until the plan is reviewed. The Council, however, feels that it is sensible to provide guidance on how HDC will treat applications that include the First Home Product.**

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## 1. Introduction

On 24 May 2021, the Government published a Written Ministerial Statement (WMS)<sup>1</sup> and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)<sup>2</sup> setting out national planning policy for a new affordable housing product called First Homes. This revised Interim Planning Policy Statement, the WMS and PPG set out the potential for First Homes to be provided through the planning system from 28 June 2021, before becoming a requirement for planning applications from 28 December 2021.

First Homes are a form of discounted market sale housing and fall within the definition of affordable housing contained in appendix A of the National Planning Policy Framework<sup>3</sup> (NPPF). The documents referred to above suggest First Homes could be provided and comprise at least 25% of all affordable housing units delivered by developers as part of planning obligations (Section 106 Agreements).

This interim planning policy statement should only be used when a development includes a proposal to provide First Homes as a part of the affordable housing provision.

## 2. What are First Homes?

From 28 June 2021, First Homes are specific discounted market sale housing and should be considered to meet the definition of 'affordable housing' for planning purposes. Specifically, First Homes are discounted market sale units which:

- a) must be discounted by a minimum of 30% against the market value;
- b) are sold to a person or persons meeting the First Homes eligibility criteria (as set out in the PPG);
- c) on their first sale, will have a restriction registered on the title at HM Land Registry to ensure this discount (as a percentage of current market value) and certain other restrictions are passed on at each subsequent title transfer; and,
- d) after the discount has been applied, the first sale must be at a price no higher than £250,000.

The WMS and PPG identify a range of additional local criteria that can be applied to First Homes. Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) are intending to use additional local criteria to support the delivery of rented accommodation in the District following the publication of the G L Hearn Housing Needs of Specific Groups Report in October 2021, which identified the high requirement for rented housing in the district.

The WMS and PPG also allows local authorities to apply local connection criteria to First Homes without the need to provide supporting evidence. This is because First Homes are intended to allow people to get on the housing ladder in their local area. The local connection criteria that will apply to First Homes sold in Huntingdonshire is set out in Appendix 1. The local connection criteria will apply via a Section 106 Agreement upon the first and every successive sale of a First Homes, although the criteria will be lifted after three months from when the home is first marketed if the home has not been reserved or sold. If a suitable buyer has not reserved a home after 3 months, the eligibility criteria (including income caps) will revert to the national criteria set out in the PPG, to widen the consumer base.

<sup>1</sup> <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2021-05-24/hlws48>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/first-homes>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework>

<sup>4</sup> [link to GLHEarn needed Housing Needs of Specific Groups](#)

### 3 What does this mean for affordable housing planning policy in Huntingdonshire?

**The Council’s adopted planning policy for affordable housing in Huntingdonshire is set out in Section 7 Strengthening Communities of the Local Plan to 2036. Specifically, Policy LP 24 Affordable Housing Provision states:**

“In order to assist in meeting the identified local need for additional affordable homes, a proposal which includes housing development will be required to provide a range of affordable housing types, sizes and tenures. These should be appropriate to meet the requirements of the local community taking into account the latest evidence from the Housing Register. The affordable housing provision may include specialist or supported housing where an identified need exists, the Cambridge sub-region Strategic Housing Market Assessment and other local sources. The affordable housing provision may include specialist or supported housing where an identified need exists.

A proposal will be supported where:

- a. it delivers a target of 40% affordable housing on a site where 11 homes or 1,001m<sup>2</sup> residential floorspace (gross internal area) or more are proposed<sup>(16)</sup>;
- b. it provides approximately 70% of the new affordable housing units as social or affordable rented properties with the balance made up of other affordable tenures;
- c. affordable housing is dispersed across the development in small clusters of dwellings; and
- d. it ensures that the appearance of affordable housing units is externally indistinguishable from that of open market housing.

Where it can be demonstrated that the target is not viable due to specific site conditions or other material considerations affecting development of the site an alternative dwelling or tenure mix or a lower level of provision may be supported. Preference will be given to amending the tenure mix; only if this is still demonstrated not to be viable will consideration be given to reducing the affordable housing requirement.

A development viability assessment may be required to support an alternative mix or level of affordable housing provision. In exceptional circumstances it may be appropriate to accept off-site provision and/or commuted payments where this would offer an equivalent or enhanced provision of affordable housing.”

The SHLAA has been superseded by the GL Hearn Report which was completed in October 2021

**The Council has an adopted Local Plan to 2036, guidance received from the DLUHC advised that where there is an adopted Local Plan, Council’s would not need to consider the First Homes Product until the plan is reviewed.**

The Council, however, feels that it is sensible to provide guidance on how HDC will treat applications that include the First Home Product.

Additionally, Policy LP 25 Housing Mix confirms that a proposal for major scale development that includes housing will be supported where it provides a mix of sizes, types and tenures which help achieve sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities. The Strategic Housing Market Assessment was replaced with the G L Hearn Report for the “Housing Needs of Specific Groups (HNSG)” in October 2021 and should therefore be used in (a) below.

A proposal should set out how it responds to the evidence and guidance provided by:

- a. the Cambridge sub-region Strategic Housing Market Assessment;
- b. the Peterborough Strategic Housing Market Assessment where applicable;
- c. the Council's Housing Strategy and Tenancy Strategy;
- d. local assessments of housing need and demand; and
- e. other local housing and demographic studies and strategies.

In Huntingdonshire’s Local Plan to 2036 the policy requires that 70% of all affordable housing should be of rented tenure (social or affordable). To assist with viability specific proportions of social rent and affordable rent are not set out within this percentage. The remaining 30% should be for other affordable tenures, for which we usually seek Shared Ownership.

In considering the Council’s position in respect of First Homes it is necessary to refer to the independently assessed HNSG which considers need in a local (Huntingdonshire) context, it states that national targets such as 25% are not appropriate but that provision should be guided by HNSG

*‘Affordable Housing Need: Key Messages (continued) Page 137*

- *Given the need to address the housing needs of other groups, the Councils that are able to present suitable evidence could seek to provide less than 10% of the total number of homes to be for affordable home ownership.*
- *Ultimately the choice will be for the Councils to make and in doing so they should consider a wide range of factors including local priority (dealing with acute need or promoting home-ownership) and the viability of different products.*
- *If the Councils do seek to provide 10% or more of housing as affordable home ownership (the default figure suggested in the NPPF), then it is suggested that Shared Ownership is the most appropriate option. This is due to the lower deposit requirements and lower overall costs (given that the rent would also be subsidised).*
- *Where other forms of affordable home ownership are provided (e.g. Starter Homes or discounted market), the Councils should set prices that are equivalent to the midpoint between that needed to access the PRS and the equivalent for sale home. This could result in greater than 20% discounts from Open Market Value for some types/sizes of home.*
- *The analysis of First Homes suggests that with a 30% discount these will be a suitable tenure of affordable home in Fenland, Huntingdonshire and West Suffolk. In Cambridge, East Cambridgeshire and South Cambridgeshire a discount greater than 30% would be required’.*

The evidence above justifies that Shared Ownership is the most appropriate option for affordable home ownership. It can cater for a much wider income group rather than just those able to afford housing at 70% of market values. Additionally, recent changes have made Shared Ownership even

more flexible with people able to acquire 10% tranches (changing from the previous 25%). The consequences of considering 25% First Homes would also produce an imbalance of tenures which would require a significant reduction in the proportion of rented homes.

Therefore where developers wish to include First Homes as part of the requirement to deliver affordable housing, the Council could on an exceptional basis however, consider delivering a proportion of First Homes as part of its “other affordable tenures”. There would still be a preference for other affordable tenures to be Shared Ownership for the reasons set out herein. The tenure requested/preferred would therefore remain as LP24 (and as below) since the HNSG which has since been produced, still justifies this approach

### **70% Social or Affordable Rent**

### **30% Other Affordable Tenures (including exceptionally, First Homes)**

This tenure split (above) when combined with a 60% market housing requirement (as set out in Local Plan policy LP 24 Affordable Housing provision) would result in 10% of the total housing tenure mix being available for affordable home ownership. Therefore, any proposed development that applies Local Plan Policy LP 24 alongside the affordable housing tenure split (above) will meet the requirements of paragraph 65 of the NPPF 2021, which asks that at least 10% of the total number of homes on major development sites should be available for affordable home ownership.

Exemptions to the 10% requirement will be made where the site or proposed development:

- a) Provides solely Build to Rent homes;
- b) Provides specialist accommodation for a group of people with specific needs (such as purpose built accommodation for the elderly or students);
- c) Is proposed to be developed by people who wish to build or commission their own homes; or (i.e. self- or custom-build housing)
- d) Is exclusively for affordable housing or is a First Homes Exception Site (see below for further details)

The exceptional reasons may be to do with specific site circumstances, where it may assist viability or if (specific to the location) additional evidence is produced which may justify First Homes and still overall, produce an affordable housing proposals addressing relevant housing need in the correct proportions.

### **4 Exception Sites**

The WMS and PPG introduced a First Homes Exception Sites policy in place of the pre-existing national Entry-Level Exception Sites policy. Full details of the First Homes Exception Sites policy can be found in the WMS and PPG and are not repeated here.

From 28 June 2021, the Council will consider planning applications for the development of First Homes Exception Sites in accordance with the WMS and PPG.

We have considered the scale of development and the need evidenced in the (HNSG) Housing Needs of Specific Groups (see extract from page 137 above). We conclude it would be appropriate to adopt the thresholds suggested in NPPF for Entry Level Exception sites. Government indicates this would be appropriate for such exception sites and First Homes in not dissimilar to Entry Level. As can be seen, HNSG indicates that, for affordable home ownership (which includes First Homes) shared ownership is more appropriate.

In addition, developments on Exception Sites can be a scarce resource. The WMS suggests other tenures could be included in a First Homes development and (as the Council has elected), local connection criteria can apply. It is therefore considered essential, for any exception site (including First Homes Exception sites) to address local need where possible. The Council will prioritise local need (of the appropriate tenure) ahead of First Homes. If for example, local need is identified for rented and shared ownership housing the Council would seek to provide those but additional First Home units could be incorporated if scale of development permits.

## **5. Community Infrastructure Levy and planning obligations**

Developers of First Homes are able to apply for and obtain an exemption from the requirement to pay the Council's Community Infrastructure Levy. This is because First Homes are a form of affordable housing. For details of how to apply for an exemption, see: [Community infrastructure levy \(CIL\) - CIL reliefs and exemptions](#) – Huntingdonshire District Council.

However, applicants for developments that comprise or include First Homes (or any other affordable housing products) are expected to enter into planning obligations with the Council to mitigate the impacts of the developments.

## Appendix A

### Local connection criteria for First Homes built in Huntingdonshire

To demonstrate a local connection (defined in Part VII of the Housing Act 1996), applicants for First Homes that are built in Huntingdonshire will:

- Normally be resident in Huntingdonshire. Local Government Association guidelines define this as having resided in the area for six of the last twelve months, or three out of the last five years, where residence has been out of choice. Huntingdonshire District Council intends to vary this definition and require applicants to have been resident in the area for the past twelve months or three out of the last five years. In line with the Housing and Regeneration Act (2008) service personnel who have been based and living in Huntingdonshire will be considered to have local connection with Huntingdonshire; or
- Work in Huntingdonshire. The Local Government Association guidelines define this as employment other than of a casual nature. For the purposes of this policy this will be defined as having had permanent work with a minimum of a 16 hour contract per week for the previous 6 months, and without a break in the period of employment for more than three months. In Huntingdonshire this will also apply to self employed people; or
- Have family connections in Huntingdonshire. Reflecting the Local Government Association guidelines this is normally defined as the applicant, or a member of their household has parents, adult children or brothers or sisters who have been resident in Huntingdonshire for at least the last 5 years. In addition to this, consideration will also be given to people who have young children living in the area where they have access/joint custody arrangements. Only in exceptional circumstances would the residence of relatives other than those listed above be taken to establish a local connection, but the circumstances may be sufficient, and all cases will be considered individually; or
- Have special circumstances for moving to Huntingdonshire: because of particular special needs. Some applicants should be assessed as having a local connection to Huntingdonshire because of a particular need to move to Huntingdonshire. For example, this may be because they have a specific medical condition and the only/most appropriate treatment available is or they have care responsibilities. Members of the Armed Forces, the divorced or separated spouse or civil partner of a member of the Armed Forces, the spouse or civil partner of a deceased member of the Armed Forces (if their death was caused wholly or partly by their service) or veterans within five years of leaving the Armed Forces will be exempt from these local connection criteria.

The local connection criteria will be applied every time a First Home is marketed but will be lifted after three months to revert to National criteria as set out in the PPG if the home is not sold or reserved.



**Public**  
**Key Decision - Yes**

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Title/Subject Matter:** Indoor and Built Sports Facilities Strategy and Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy

**Meeting/Date:** Cabinet – 20/06/23

**Executive Portfolio:** Cllr Simone Taylor

**Report by:** Martin Grey, Sports Development Manager

**Ward(s) affected:** All Wards

---

### **Executive Summary:**

The purpose of the report is to present the new Indoor and Built Sports Facilities Strategy (IBF) and Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS) 2022 - 2043 for adoption by Huntingdonshire District Council.

This strategic piece of work started back in February 2022 following a tender process in December 2021.

Endorsed by Sport England the strategies provide a comprehensive review and assessment of facilities and pitches and provide strategic recommendations in line with population growth forecasts contained in the Local Plan. The strategies will provide the evidence base to develop the right facility mix across Huntingdonshire and maximise financial funding across this area. These strategies are to be utilised by partners and providers to benefit and enable the leisure and sporting landscape across Huntingdonshire as a whole and are not solely a HDC document.

The strategies will support the upcoming HDC Local Plan review and support the new HDC Place Strategy and Climate Strategy.

### **Recommendation(s):**

- To endorse and agree the Indoor and Built Sports Facilities Strategy and Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy 2022 - 2043
- To recognise the strategic recommendations as set out within the strategies. See Appendix 2 and 4 as detailed in section 11.

## **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT & CONTEXT TO FINDINGS**

- 1.1 To provide an overview to the Council on the overall outcomes and aims of the identified strategies highlighting the importance of the independent assessment of the provision needs of Huntingdonshire.
- 1.2 To provide clear and transparent recommendations to enable HDC and partners to make informed decisions ensuring that sport and physical activity facilities have the right combination of amenities, are located in the right places, to help ensure that the maximum number of local people can be engaged in meaningful physical activity.
- 1.3 To showcase the strategic importance of the existing leisure and sporting facilities and to ensure HDC and partners have a concise, robust and comprehensive evidence base in-line with Sport England guidance which can be utilised to support the review of the Local Plan, Place Strategy and Climate Strategy.
- 1.4 To suggest a forward plan (listed within section 5.0 Actions) that will encompass a priority list of works supported by a capital investment plan.
- 1.5 It is highly unlikely that any local authority will ever have its full provision of facilities needs met, due to the changing nature of demand and the cost of meeting all needs. However, a clear gap analysis, such as this ensures that every penny spent can be spent effectively and opportunities for external funding maximised.
- 1.6 National challenges for the sport and leisure sector in terms of affordability of leisure provision and closures, should be taken into consideration when consider the district leisure requirements.

## **2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY?**

- 2.1 Sport England's aim in working with the planning system is to help provide active environments that maximise opportunities for sport and physical activity for all, enabling the already active to be more so and the inactive to become active. This is supported by the Sport England planning objectives of Protect, Enhance, Provide.
- 2.2 Endorsed strategies for both Indoor and outdoor sports facilities will support delivery at a local level and provide the needs assessments and strategic recommendations to act upon.
- 2.3 HDC has not had an accredited Sport England strategy done since 2008 (Playing Pitch). We have undertaken some internal work but was not accredited by Sport England or covering cross boarder activity and use. A Sport England endorsed strategy is the gold standard for assessment of sports facilities. Its commissioning is a commitment to a robust evidence base to support and enable improved sporting facilities for Huntingdonshire residents.

- 2.4 The strategies will provide evidence for community clubs, external partners and housing developers to enhance sporting and leisure facilities on place-based evidence.

### **3. COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY**

- 3.1 The Panel discussed the Indoor and Built Sports Facilities Strategy Report at its meeting on 8th June 2023.
- 3.2 Following a question from Councillor Alban, the Panel heard that in house assessments had been undertaken in recent years and were available on the Council's website. The Panel were also advised that the work undertaken on the assessment being considered had cost in the region of £37,000, however this assessment has been endorsed by Sport England and will help the Council make informed decisions across many of its services such as Planning. By creating the independent and verified report, ensured a robust report which would support these decisions.
- 3.3 In response to a question from Councillor Bywater, the Panel were advised that independent sports clubs and external partners could use the report to apply for available funding across the leisure sector. In particular it was mentioned that the Leisure team were in contact with the operators of the Sawtry swimming pool and would support them with their funding bid to Sport England.
- 3.4 The Panel also heard, following a further question from Councillor Bywater, that Outdoor Gyms would be added to the Action Plan which would be developed following the approval of the report. Councillor Lowe added an observation that, in her experience, some Parish Councils had purchased outdoor gym equipment and located this within the park facilities that they maintain.
- 3.5 The Panel were advised that a future review of the One Leisure swimming pools would be undertaken and that this would include the supporting operational plant for energy efficiency purposes. This review will aim to align with the Council's Climate Strategy.
- 3.6 Councillor Shaw observed that the report made mention of facilities outside of the district within a 30 minute radius, and enquired where the 30 minutes was measured from. The Panel were advised that this detail would be sought and reported back at a future date.
- 3.7 Councillor Alban expressed concern surrounding the discrepancies that the Panel had observed within the report considering the cost. The Panel were advised that the consultants had been very supportive and would feed this back to them.
- 3.8 Councillor Shaw drew attention to what appeared to be conflicting information surrounding the number of Badminton courts at Hinchingsbrooke, the Panel were advised that this would be checked and the findings reported back to the Panel.

- 3.9 The Panel heard, following an enquiry from Councillor Alban, that the Athletics track at the One Leisure St Ives Outdoor Centre once again had England Athletics accreditation. The officer advised that the industry had recognised national issues within these type of facilities and had revised their accreditation criteria accordingly. The Panel were also advised that although the infield space within the track was used for athletics, it can also be used for mini soccer outside of the athletics season.
- 3.10 In response to concerns from Councillor Alban relating to the promotion of the Courts For Kids scheme at One Leisure centres, the Panel were advised that the scheme was still available and that the promotional schedule would be communicated to Councillors.
- 3.11 The Panel were advised that running clubs were consulted during the formation of the report, however the officers would check how non track based running clubs had been referenced in the report with the consultants.
- 3.12 In response to a further question from Councillor Shaw, the Panel were advised that whilst a full audit had been undertaken of parish, community and village halls, further input would be sought from those facilities to ensure that availability details be included, allowing for other groups to get the full benefit of the report and therefore utilise the report to subsequently apply for their own funding if required.
- 3.13 Following the discussion, the Panel were informed that their comments would be added to the Cabinet report in order for Cabinet to make a decision on the recommendations.

#### **4. KEY IMPACTS**

- 4.1 The key impact of adopting the IBF Strategy and PPOSS is to provide clear evidence based documents to detail the current requirements and what is needed in line with future growth to support sport and physical activity across the District.
- 4.2 The strategies will impact future developments to support onsite and offsite provision in line with the Supplementary Planning Document (HDC) and in managing negotiations by providing clear evidence of need.
- 4.3 The adoption and publication of these strategies will allow HDC, Sports Clubs, external partners and housing developers an opportunity to update existing facilities and invest in new resources which will allow a greater provision of sporting facilities which will support increased participation in physical activity, and to enable and influence others to do the same.

#### **5. WHAT ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN**

- 5.1 Following the approval and adoption of these strategies the following actions will be undertaken by senior officers following the Do, Enable, Influence approach outlined in our Corporate Plan:

- 5.2 These new strategies will be made available on the HDC website and used to support future negotiations with sports clubs, partners and developers.
- 5.3 HDC will review and utilise the actions within the IBF Strategy and PPOSS to clearly identify a priority list for capital investment, either directly or by identification of external Capital pots that can be accessed.
- 5.4 Finalise and present a capital investment plan for the development of existing facilities and creation of new assets to support physical activity and commercial revenue generation.

## **6. LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN**

- 6.1 Corporate Plan Priority 1 – Improving quality of life for local people. Better and improved facilities meeting requirements will support resident's well-being.
- 6.2 Corporate Plan Priority 2 – Creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations. With an outlook through to 2043 for sports and Leisure facilities the strategies will support the needs for the next 20 years and beyond.

## **7. CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 The Consultants KKP carried out consultation with National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs), Sport England, Parish and Town Councils, private providers and Sports Clubs.
- 7.2 A working group was set up including HDC staff from Sports Development, Leisure and Planning as well as NGBs representatives.

## **8. HEALTH IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 The strategies support health and wellbeing both physically and mentally by outlining required facilities and playing surfaces to provide opportunities for people to be active in many forms through a variety of facilities both indoors and outdoors across the District.

## **9. ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 Continue with the Authority's energy efficiency programme across all sites. All Local Authority owned leisure sites currently have an energy efficiency plan and have benefited from Salix Finance funding to improve facilities. Each facility will require regular investment, to ensure they remain as energy efficient as possible, in line with the Council's carbon neutral target. Future investment should focus on plant maintenance, lighting and energy sources.
- 9.2 Through the strategies support local community groups, sports clubs and private facilities to become more energy efficient.

## **10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS**

- 10.1 To support opportunities to improve facilities across the district.
- 10.2 To allow officers to present a comprehensive priority action list based upon the strategies to Cabinet including a capital investment plan.
- 10.3 Development and presentation of the capital investment plan for approval and delivery of new facilities and assets.

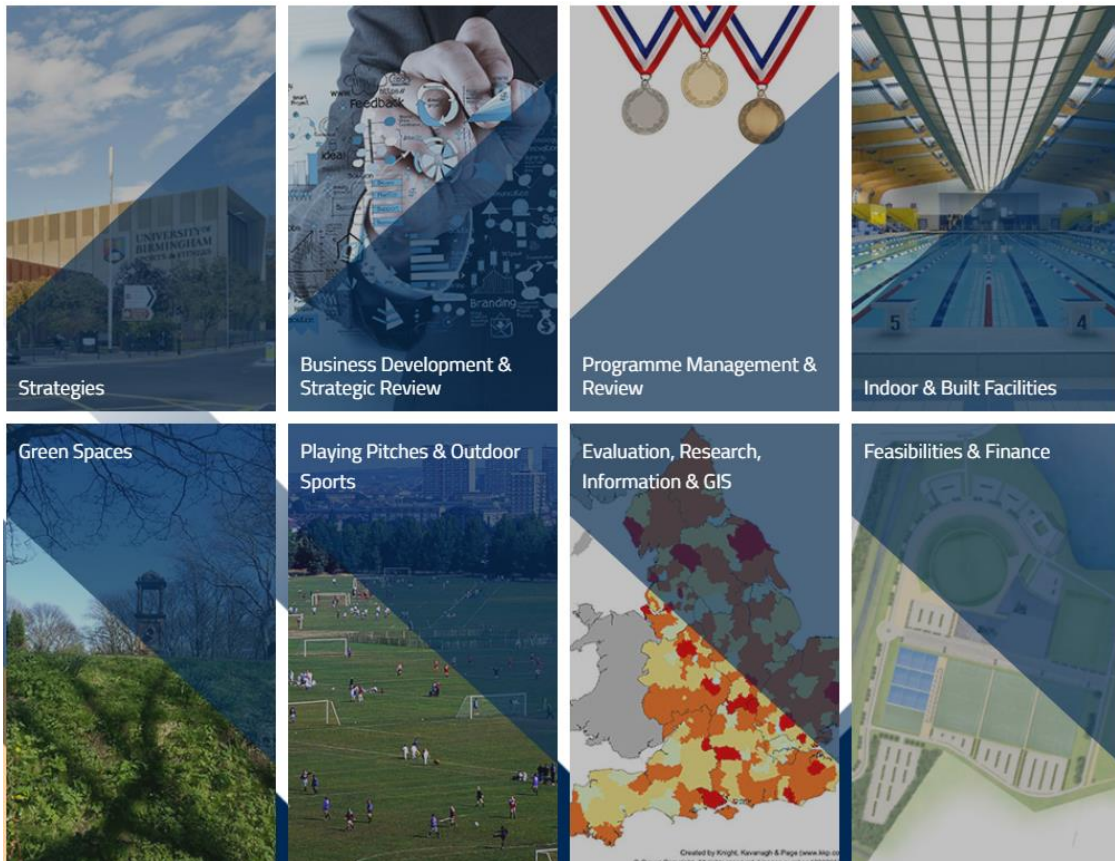
## **11. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED**

- Appendix 1 - Indoor and Built Sports Facilities Needs Assessment
- Appendix 2 - Indoor and Built Sports Facilities Strategy
- Appendix 3 - Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Assessment Report
- Appendix 4 - Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy and Action Plan

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# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES



## NEEDS ASSESSMENT: NOVEMBER 2022

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

**Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd**  
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MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

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Report origination	Paul Barrett	29 June 2022
Quality control	John Eady	1 July 2022
Client comments		
Final approval		



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# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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### SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) was appointed by Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) to produce its Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and Built Facility Strategy (BFS) 2022-2043. This is the BSF; its stated objectives are to:

- ◀ Compile a robust, up to date audit of built facilities across Huntingdonshire and assess the quantity, quality, accessibility and availability of provision.
- ◀ Evaluate required levels of built facilities now and up to 2043 based on the principles of 'Protect, Enhance and Provide' taking account of the bespoke needs of Huntingdonshire's communities.
- ◀ Provide the Council with a comprehensive evidence base to highlight current facility shortfalls and identify where future investment is required.
- ◀ Due to the significant housing growth planned in the Authority, this Strategy will support HDC to secure developer contributions and ensure that Sport England's Built Facility Calculator and bespoke calculator/standards where necessary - are informed by local evidence.

This report is a detailed assessment of current provision of indoor and built sports facilities located within Huntingdonshire, identifying needs (demand) and gaps (deficiencies in provision). The BFS thus:

- ◀ Incorporates a robust up to date needs assessment which supports the Council and meets the requirements of the amended National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- ◀ Reflects and addresses the needs and demands of the local population that will grow in line with the changes defined by the emerging Plan.
- ◀ Should underpin action by HDC and key stakeholders with regard to potential joint investment in sport and physical activity facilities.

#### 1.2: Scope of the project

This report provides a facility breakdown of what exists in the Authority, its condition, location, availability and overall quality. It considers demand for facilities based on population distribution, planned growth and takes into consideration health and economic deprivation. The facilities/sports covered include, sports halls (and associated indoor sports), swimming pools, health and fitness, squash, gymnastics, indoor tennis, indoor bowls and community centres. In delivering this report KKP has:

- ◀ Individually audited identified sports halls (conventional i.e., 3+ court halls) swimming pools (minimum size 160m<sup>2</sup>), health and fitness facilities (including, within reason, dance studios) and the wider range of facilities identified above.
- ◀ Analysed supply and demand to identify gaps and opportunities to improve provision.
- ◀ Sought to identify the extent to which delivery of leisure facilities is undertaken with full reference to the corporate strategies of the Council and other relevant strategic influences.
- ◀ Identified areas of good practice and opportunities to drive up participation levels.

The audit was conducted in February 2022.

Specific deficiencies and surpluses are identified to inform the provision required. The specific objectives of the audit and assessment are to:

- ◀ Review relevant HDC strategies, plans, reports and corporate objectives.
- ◀ Review the local, regional and national strategic context.

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

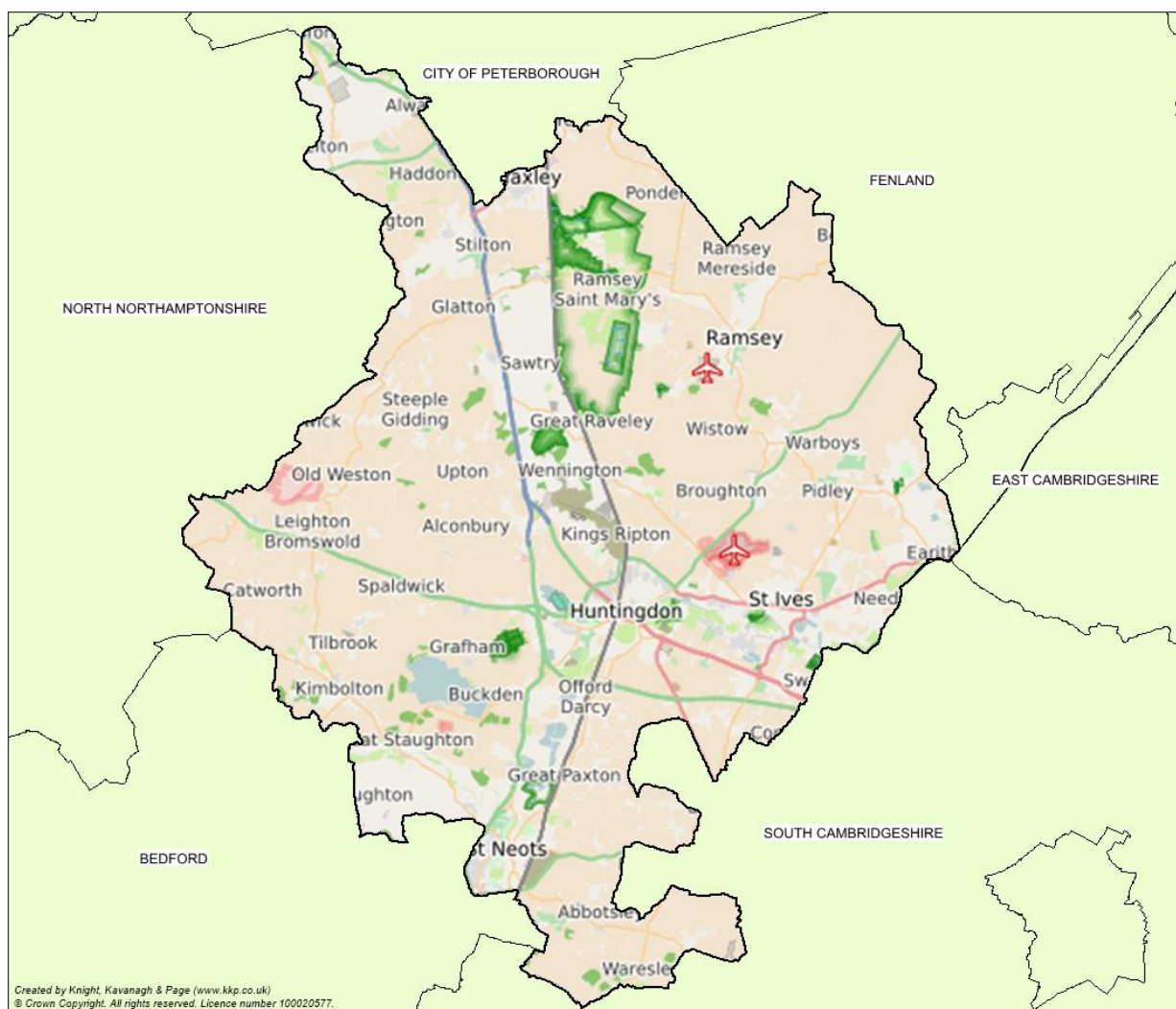
- ◆ Present the scale of known local housing growth.
- ◆ Analyse the demographics of the local population at present and in the future (up to 2043).
- ◆ Audit indoor facilities provided by public, private, voluntary and education sectors.
- ◆ Consider potential participation rates and model likely demand.
- ◆ Analyse the balance between supply of, and demand for, sports facilities plus identification of potential under and over-provision – now and in the future.
- ◆ Identify key issues to address in the future provision of indoor sports facilities.

This process applied reflects Sport England's Guide; Assessing Needs and Opportunities for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities (ANOG) methodology and accords with the most up-to-date version of the NPPF and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).

### 1.3: Background

Huntingdonshire is situated approximately 100km (62 miles) north of London. It has strong relationships with Cambridge to the east, Peterborough to the north and Bedford to the south-west. These provide employment, shopping, leisure and health services to complement those available within the District.

Figure 1.1: Main towns and transport links – Huntingdonshire Council



# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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Huntingdonshire benefits from excellent strategic transport links. The East Coast mainline railway bisects the District with stations in Huntingdon and St Neots. Highway linkages are also good. East-west linkages are provided by the A428 and the A14 which facilitates access west, to the Midlands and east, to Europe via the East Coast ports. The A1 provides north-south links southwards to London and north to towns across the East Midlands.

Huntingdonshire's main settlements are located in the Ouse Valley corridor which runs through the central area of the of the District. These include, Huntingdon, St Neots and St Ives. There are three key settlements in the north of the Authority; Yaxley, Sawtry and Ramsey.

### 1.4: Report structure

The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) in a report entitled '*Strategic Planning: Effective Co-operation for Planning Across Boundaries (2015)*' puts the case for strategic planning based on six general principles:

- ◀ Have focus.
- ◀ Be genuinely strategic.
- ◀ Be spatial.
- ◀ Be collaborative.
- ◀ Have strong leadership and
- ◀ Be accountable to local electorates.

In the preparation of this report, KKP has paid due regard to these strategic principles and it is, as a consequence, structured as follows:

- ◀ Section 2 - background policy, population profile and demographic characteristics.
- ◀ Section 3 - description of methodology employed to assess indoor provision.
- ◀ Section 4 - assessment of sports hall provision.
- ◀ Section 5 - assessment of swimming pool provision.
- ◀ Section 6 - assessment of health and fitness provision.
- ◀ Section 7 - assessment of squash.
- ◀ Section 8 - assessment of gymnastics.
- ◀ Section 9- assessment of indoor bowls,
- ◀ Section 10 - assessment of indoor tennis.
- ◀ Section 11- assessment of village halls/community centres.
- ◀ Section 12 – strategic recommendations

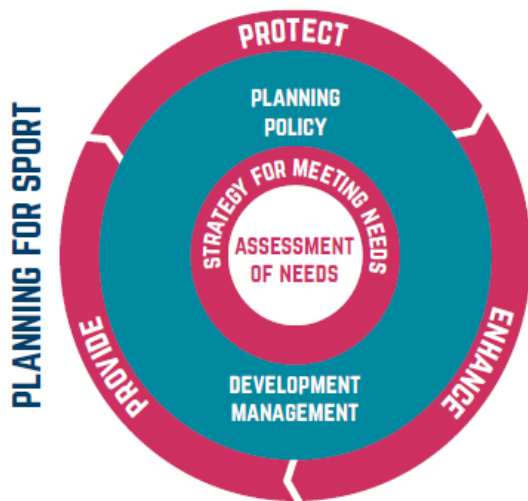
# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## SECTION 2: BACKGROUND

### 2.1: National context

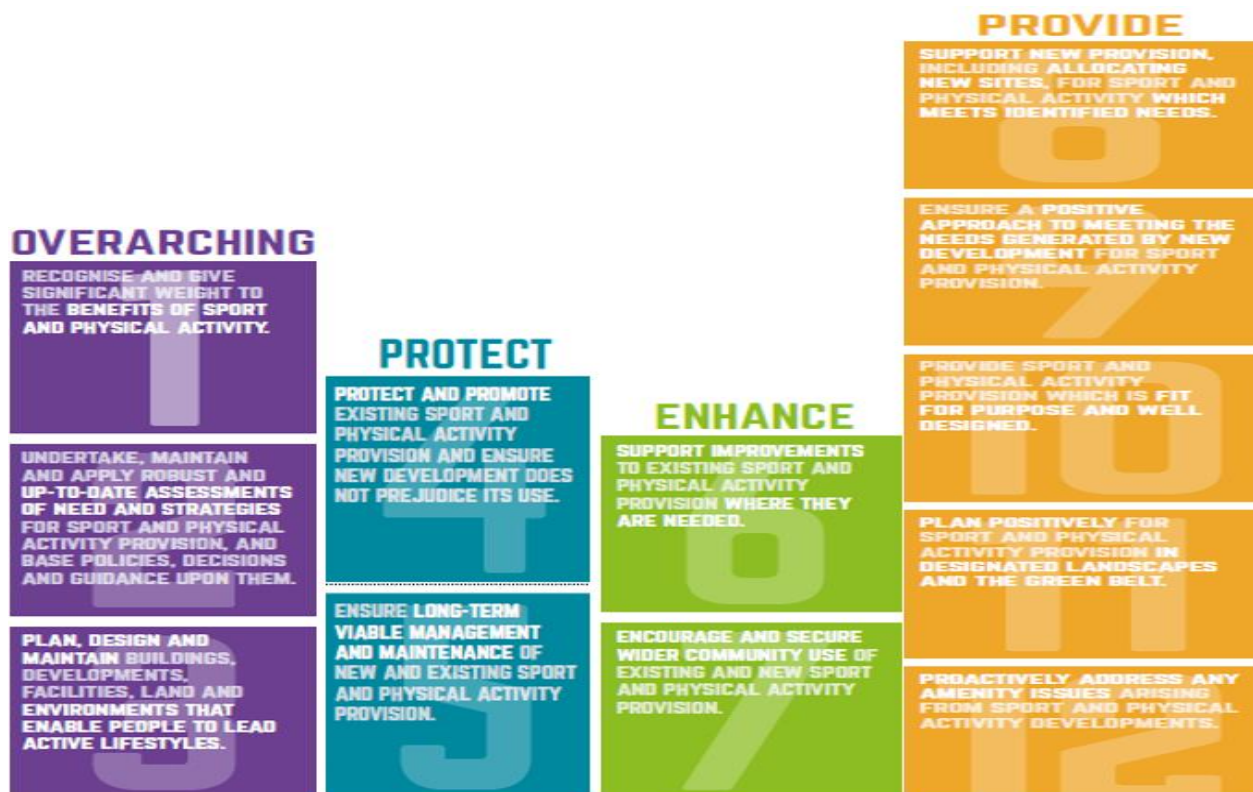
Sport England aims to ensure positive planning for sport, enabling the right facilities to be provided in the right places, based on up-to-date assessment of needs for all levels of sport and all sectors of the community. This assessment report has been produced for Huntingdonshire District Council applying the principles and tools identified in Sport England’s ANOG guidance.

Figure 2.1: The Sport England Planning for Sport Model



Assessment of need is core to planning for sporting provision. It is underpinned by 12 planning-for-sport principles which help the planning system to contribute to sustainable development by fulfilling the key role of the NPPF in creating strong, vibrant and healthy communities. Applying them ensures that the planning system plans positively to enable and support healthy lifestyles, delivers community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs, and provides opportunity for all to experience the benefits that taking part in sport and physical activity brings. They apply to all areas of the planning system and to planning at local authority and neighbourhood levels. As such they are of relevance to all involved in, or looking to engage with, the planning system.

Figure 2.2: Sport England’s 12 planning principles



# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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### ***Sport England: Uniting the Movement 2021***

Sport and physical activity have a big role to play in improving the physical and mental health of the nation, supporting the economy, reconnecting communities and rebuilding a stronger society for all following the global pandemic. Reflecting this, Sport England's most recent strategy, Uniting the Movement is its 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity.

It sets out its aims to tackle the inequalities that it states are long seen in sport and physical activity making the point that 'providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity, has never been more important'. The three key Strategy objectives are:

**1**

Advocating for movement, sport and physical activity

**2**

Joining forces on five big issues

**3**

Creating the catalysts for change

As well as being an advocate for sport and physical activity, through the building of evidence and partnership development, the Strategy identifies five 'big issues' upon which people and communities need to address by working together. They are described as the major challenges to England being an active nation over the next decade as well as being the greatest opportunities to make a lasting difference. Each is designated as a building block that, on its own, would make a difference, but together, could change things profoundly. The issues are:

- ◀ ***Recover and reinvent:*** Recovering from the biggest crisis in a generation and reinventing as a vibrant, relevant and sustainable network of organisations providing sport and physical activity opportunities that meet the needs of different people.
- ◀ ***Connecting communities:*** Focusing on sport and physical activity's ability to make better places to live and bring people together.
- ◀ ***Positive experiences for children and young people:*** Unrelenting focus on positive experiences for all children and young people as the foundations for a long and healthy life.
- ◀ ***Connecting with health and wellbeing:*** Strengthening the connections between sport, physical activity, health and wellbeing, so more people can feel the benefits of, and advocate for, an active life.
- ◀ ***Active environments:*** Creating and protecting the places and spaces that make it easier for people to be active.

To address these, the right conditions for change need to be created: across people, organisations and partnerships to help convert plans and ideas. This will include a range of actions, including development of effective investment models and applying innovation and digital technology to ensure sport and physical activity are more accessible.

The specific impact of the Strategy will be captured via funded programmes, interventions made, and partnerships forged. For each specific area of action, key performance indicators will be developed to help evidence the overall progress being made by all those involved in supporting sport and physical activity.

### **Sport England - Understanding the impact of Covid-19 (January 2021)**

Sport England's analysis shows the effects of the Pandemic on physical activity levels. Activity levels for adults had been increasing until coronavirus restrictions were introduced in March 2020. This led to unprecedented drops in activity during the first few weeks of full lockdown between mid-March and mid-May 2020. The proportion of the population classed as active dropped by 7.1% (meaning that there were just over 3 million fewer active adults).

Some audiences found it harder to be active before Covid-19 and are still re-establishing their activity habits. Inequalities between different groups have persisted over the period of the Pandemic. Those who have found it hardest to stay active included:

- ◀ People with long-term health conditions/disabilities.
- ◀ People from lower socio-economic groups.
- ◀ Women aged 16–34-year-olds and 55 years and above.
- ◀ Black adults, Asian adults and adults from other ethnic groups

The proportion of children and young people reporting that they were active during mid-May to late July 2021 (the summer term) fell by 2.3%, with just over 100,000 fewer children meeting the recommended level of activity compared to the same period 12 months earlier. The impact was greater for some groups than others. Whilst all groups have been impacted in terms of activity levels, girls fared far better than boys, whilst those from black and mixed backgrounds saw noticeable drops in activity levels.

Sporting activities saw large decreases with over a million fewer children and young people (16.3%) reporting they took part in swimming and team sports in the last week\* compared to the same period 12 months earlier. Walking, cycling and fitness all saw large increases in the numbers reporting they took part in the last week compared to the same period 12 months earlier. 1.6 million more children and young people went for a walk (22.0%) or did fitness activities (22.1%), whilst 1.4 million more cycled for fun or fitness (+18.4%).

In addition, lack of disposable income may lead to a reduction in sports sector spend and can have an impact upon the take-up of activities which cater for children and young people as well as adults. Uncertain employment and financial circumstances mean that greater numbers of people will be looking for affordable and flexible opportunities to stay active. Fewer people will be in a position to make an ongoing financial commitment to participate.

### **Social and economic value of community sport and physical activity in England 2020**

Sport England has brought together evidence on the contribution of community sport and physical activity to the five outcomes identified in the Government's strategy Sporting Future. These are physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing, individual development, social and community development, and economic development.

Its aim was to assess the evidence base with a view to demonstrating the contribution of community sport and physical activity to the outcomes. Building on this foundation and other previous work, Sport England quantified the social and economic impact of community sport and physical activity. There are two complementary parts to the research. Part one measures the social impact (including physical and mental health) of sport and physical activity while part two measures the economic importance.

The findings reveal that community sport and physical activity brings an annual contribution of £85.5 billion to the country (in 2018 prices) through social and economic benefits.



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Its social value – including physical and mental health, wellbeing, individual and community development – is more than £72 billion, provided via routes such as a healthier population, consumer expenditure, greater work productivity, improved education attainment, reduced crime and stronger communities. It also generates more than £13bn in economic value. The economic value includes more than 285,000 jobs within the community sport and physical activity sector.

Together, both parts enable Sport England to demonstrate the contribution of sport and physical activity to the five government outcomes. The research revealed that the combined social and economic value of taking part (participating and volunteering) in community sport and physical activity in England in 2017/18 was £85.5bn. When measured against the £21.85 billion costs of engagement and providing sport and physical activity opportunities, for every £1 spent on community sport and physical activity, a return on investment (ROI) of £3.91 was created for individuals and society in 2017/18.

### ***Chief Medical Officer Physical Activity Guidelines 2019***

This report updated the 2011 physical activity guidelines issued by the four Chief Medical Officers (CMOs) of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The UK CMOs drew upon global evidence to present guidelines for different age groups, covering the volume, duration, frequency and type of physical activity required across the life course to achieve health benefits.

Since 2011, the evidence to support the health benefits of regular physical activity for all groups has become more compelling. In children and young people, regular physical activity is associated with improved learning and attainment, better mental health and cardiovascular fitness, also contributing to healthy weight status. In adults, there is strong evidence to demonstrate the protective effect on physical activity on a range of many chronic conditions including coronary heart disease, obesity and type 2 diabetes, mental health problems and social isolation. Regular physical activity can deliver cost savings for the health and care system and has wider social benefits for individuals and communities.

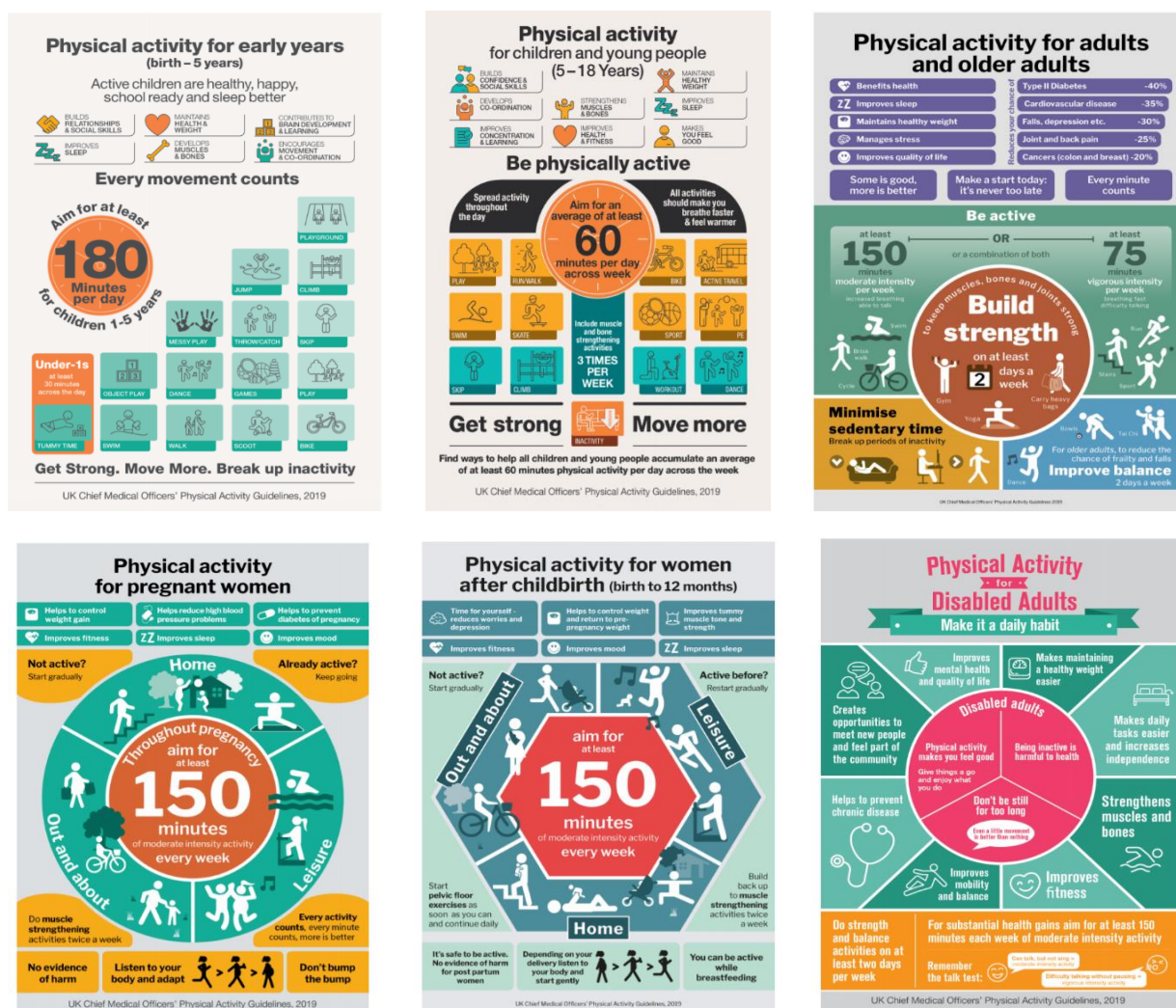
The key factors for each age group are as follows:

- ◀ *Under-5s*: This is broken down into infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers. Pre-schoolers and toddlers should spend at least 180 minutes (3 hours) per day in a variety of different exercises, whereas infants should be physically active several times every day in a variety of ways, including interactive floor-based activities.
- ◀ *Children and young people (5-18 years)*: Children and young people should engage in moderate-to-vigorous intensity physical activity for an average of at least 60 minutes per day across the week.
- ◀ *Adults (19-64 years)*: For good physical and mental health, adults should aim to be physically active every day. This could be 150 minutes of moderate exercise, 75 minutes of vigorous exercise or even shorter durations of very vigorous intensity activity, or a combination of moderate, vigorous and very vigorous intensity activity.
- ◀ *Older adults (65+)*: Older adults should participate in daily physical activity to gain health benefits, including maintenance of good physical and mental health, wellbeing, and social functioning. Each week older adults should aim to accumulate 150 minutes (two and a half hours) of moderate intensity aerobic activity.

It notes the emerging evidence base for the health benefits of performing very vigorous intensity activity performed in short bouts interspersed with periods of rest or recovery (high intensity interval exercise, HIIT). This interval exercise has clinically meaningful effects on fitness, body weight and insulin resistance and is incorporated in recommendations for adults.

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Figure 2.3: Physical activity guidelines



It, thus, emphasises the importance of regular activity for people of all ages. It presents additional guidance on being active during pregnancy, after giving birth, and for disabled adults. The new guidelines are consistent with previous ones, introducing some new elements and allowing flexibility in achieving recommended physical activity levels for each age group.

## Investment in school sport

The School Sport and Activity Action Plan (July 2019) sets out the Government’s commitment to ensuring that children and young people have access to at least 60 minutes of sport and physical activity per day, with a recommendation of 30 minutes of this delivered during the school day (in line with the Chief Medical Officers guidelines which recommend an average of at least 60 minutes per day across the week). It has three overarching ambitions - that:

- ▶ All children and young people take part in at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day.
- ▶ Children and young people have the opportunity to realise developmental, character-building experiences through sport, competition and active pursuits.
- ▶ All sport/physical activity provision for children and young people is designed around the principles of physical literacy, focuses on fun and enjoyment and aims to reach the least active.

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The PE and sport premium can help primary schools to achieve this aim, providing primary schools with £320m of government funding to make additional and sustainable improvements to the quality of the PE, physical activity and sport offered through their core budgets. It is allocated directly to schools, so they have the flexibility to use it in the way that they think works best for their pupils.

In 2021 the Department for Education announced a £10.1 million funding package to help more schools open their facilities to the public once the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic is over. The funding, which will be administered by Sport England and distributed via the Active Partnership Network will help schools deliver extra-curricular activities and open their facilities outside of the school day during evenings, weekends and school holidays.

### ***Revised National Planning Policy Framework 2021***

The NPPF sets out planning policies for England. It details how these changes are expected to be applied to the planning system. It also provides a framework for local people and their councils to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities. It states that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It identifies the need to focus on three themes of economic, social, environmentally sustainable development:

A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making, the NPPF states that local plans should meet objectively assessed needs. It is clear about sport's role delivering sustainable communities through promoting health and well-being. Sport England, working within the provisions of the NPPF, wishes to see local planning policy protect, enhance and provide for sports facilities based on robust and up-to-date assessments of need, as well as helping to realise the wider benefits that participation in sport can bring.

The *promoting healthy and safe communities* theme identifies that planning policies should be based on robust, up-to-date assessment of need for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs, quantitative/qualitative deficiencies and surpluses should be identified and used to inform provision requirements in an area.

### ***Cost pressures affecting the leisure industry***

Insight produced by the [Local Government Association](#) suggests that Councils continue to face substantial inflationary, COVID-19 related, and demand led pressures which are affecting their ability to efficiently operate leisure provision. This comes alongside the steep increase of living costs to households.

Whilst during 2022, the leisure sector recovery following Covid -19 restrictions has gained momentum, rising utility costs and the recent cost of living pressures on households is likely to adversely impact consumer confidence, throughput, and participation rates. Councils and leisure operators are therefore being required to address and review existing management arrangements and options to ensure the viability of the sector.

Leisure providers (both inhouse and externally commissioned) are being adversely and disproportionately affected because leisure centres have high energy demands, especially for those facilities with swimming pools. Energy costs are typically a leisure operator's second highest cost after staffing costs. This is further exacerbated because the leisure estate is ageing and energy inefficient, with research showing two-thirds of public swimming pools

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and sports halls are in need of replacing or refurbishment, and ageing assets are contributing up to 40 per cent of some councils' direct carbon emissions.

LGA suggest that, in tackling the challenges presented by the current energy crisis, Councils should aim to pursue a partnership focused approach and consider solutions which may contribute to wider public health, decarbonisation, and levelling up and economic outcomes. This could include the following measures:

- ◀ Regular monthly meetings with leisure operator to review and monitor utility costs.
- ◀ Encourage leisure operators to be open and transparent about the true cost of utilities.
- ◀ Explore potential for flexibility in contractual arrangements and operating parameters: i.e. pool temperature / building temperature / reviewing pricing
- ◀ Review non-viable/low priority contractual requirements
- ◀ Consider using any management fee to stabilise utilities and stabilise providers to ensure service continuity.
- ◀ Consider renegotiating the repayment terms of loans to enable providers to defer COVID repayments to later years when they are more stable.
- ◀ Work with the operator to include leisure projects as part of decarbonisation projects and/or council investment in energy saving projects.

### ***Environmental Sustainability***

UK Government produced its net zero strategy 'Build Back Greener' in October 2021. This sets out how it intends the UK to meet its target for decarbonisation by 2050. It focuses on interventions such as:

- A fully decarbonised power system by 2035 with all electricity coming from 'low carbon sources'
- Improved efficiency of heating for homes and buildings, aiming for all new heating appliances to be based on low carbon technologies, such as electric heat pumps or hydrogen boilers.
- Low carbon fuel supply – by scaling up the production of low carbon alternatives including hydrogen and biofuels.

HDC's net zero carbon commitment is set out in its Climate Strategy and Action Plan. It aims to make the Council a net-zero carbon authority by 2040.

[Sport England](#) report that <sup>1</sup>climate change and the increased occurrence of extreme weather that it brings are already affecting sports facilities, meaning that the sector needs to build greater resilience to this very real threat.

They propose that a wide range of issues should be considered when approaching project development to and the resultant environmental impact of, say a new swimming pool development. Applying determine whether to refurbish an existing building with its carbon already embodied or to build anew<sup>2</sup>. Establishing a sustainability strategy early on Sport England suggest some key principles as part of a 'pathway to sustainability' and net zero carbon in respect of building design and operation.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2021-01/Environmental%20Sustainability%20check%20list.pdf?VersionId=7XfZPDhHKoKHpfKqk165MMWdxwCmYsPO>

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- ◀ **Reduce energy consumption** as the first measure to reduce carbon emissions and energy costs.
- ◀ **Change behaviour**, eliminate energy waste and operate energy control systems more effectively at no extra cost.
- ◀ **Passive design** - Building orientation and placement on site is critical to achieving net zero targets Harness a site's natural resources to benefit cross ventilation, natural lighting, solar gain, shelter or shading.
- ◀ **Fabric efficiency** Maximise the building fabric and glazing performance.
- ◀ **Minimise initial energy demand** to reduce demand on plant and technologies incorporated.
- ◀ **Efficient systems** Invest in appropriate energy-efficient products including heating, ventilation, fittings, controls, sensors, heat pumps and recovery systems
- ◀ **On-site renewables** Incorporate low and zero carbon (LZC) technologies to produce energy on site.
- ◀ **Off-site renewables** Only use energy providers who use renewable energy .

### ***Summary of national context***

Multiple challenges are currently impacting on the national policy context for physical activity and sport in the UK. Activity habits are continuing to be affected by rates of recovery from the Pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis, meanwhile rising utilities costs are imposing serious financial constraints on the operation of leisure facilities.

Local Authorities need to consider how sport and physical activity can be better positioned as a key driver in influencing wider corporate outcomes such as the reduction of health inequalities. This can be achieved through working more effectively with 'whole system' partners such as those in the NHS at neighbourhood level, whilst employing the skills within the physical activity sector to better connect people with opportunities to participate.

Ensuring an adequate supply of sustainable facilities to support this is also key and may require a radical re-shaping of facility stock in some areas given the age and low energy efficiency of certain facilities, particularly swimming pools. The evidence base provided within this report is intended to help HDC in making such decisions on an informed basis.

### **2.2: Local context**

#### ***Huntingdonshire's Local Plan to 2036***

The Spatial Vision set out in the Local Plan is to ensure, that by 2036, *"Huntingdonshire's physical environment will support the health and wellbeing of all its residents by:*

- ◀ Supporting a diverse, thriving economy
- ◀ Providing sufficient infrastructure to support healthy communities
- ◀ Meeting the needs of a changing population
- ◀ Working with our climate, landscape and heritage

One of the Local Plan's objectives is to provide for adequate infrastructure to meet the needs of new growth and facilitate active, cohesive communities and sustainable lifestyles complemented by another which seeks to ensure inclusive and accessible provision for community needs including sports, play and open space. The Plan also acknowledges the need to provide

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adequate leisure provision to rural communities, ensuring facilities are in keeping with the character of the population they will serve.

### ***Huntingdonshire Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 – 2028***

Huntingdonshire's Sustainable Community Strategy shows how the Council will build a better future for Huntingdonshire. It combines; key district, regional and sub-regional strategies, specifically the Local Development Framework. The long-term vision is to ensure current and future generations can:

- ◀ Make the most of opportunities that come from living in a growing and developing District;
- ◀ Enjoy the benefits of continued economic success;
- ◀ Access suitable homes, jobs, services, shops, culture and leisure opportunities;
- ◀ Maintain the special character of our market towns, villages and countryside; and
- ◀ Live in an environment that is safe and protected from the effects of climate change and where valuable natural resources are used wisely.

To ensure that residents can access leisure opportunities, the Authority is committed to providing sufficient quality and quantity of indoor and outdoor sporting infrastructure which supports all residents. This includes supporting emerging communities, such as the one at Alconbury Wield.

### ***Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020-24***

The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough covers the following authorities: City of Peterborough, Huntingdonshire, East Cambridgeshire, South Cambridgeshire and the City of Cambridge. Its four key priorities are;

- ◀ Priority 1: Develop places that support health and wellbeing
- ◀ Priority 2: Help children achieve the best start in life
- ◀ Priority 3: Staying healthy throughout life
- ◀ Priority 4: Provide quality health and social care

To ensure there are places that support health and wellbeing, Board members will work with the Authority's One Leisure team to ensure that Huntingdonshire's leisure and community centres are maintained to the highest of standards and activity programmes and health referral programmes are accessible to all.

### ***Living Sport***

Living Sport is one of the 43 Active Partnerships in England. It covers the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area. Its vision is to improve health and wellbeing by supporting people to get active. This will be achieved through its latest strategy themes, for the period 2020-2025:

- ◀ Advocating and influencing local strategic agendas for sport and physical activity.
- ◀ Using insight and market research to improve the promotion of activity to engage a wider audience.
- ◀ Supporting organisations delivering activity to operate effectively, with a focus on developing their workforce.
- ◀ Achieving sustainable funding with partners to address our identified needs.

Over the past 12 months, Living Sport has been proactive in getting sports clubs back up and running following the Pandemic. Consequently, through the Communities Emergency Fund it

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has been responsible for distributing over £400,000 to local clubs. This funding was aimed at facility improvements and to support workforce development.

### **Strategic leisure centres in the Authority**

HDC manages the majority of key leisure centres in the Authority via its in-house operator; One Leisure. However, landownership which sites are located on, varies.

*Table 2.1: Breakdown of land and facility ownership per site*

Site	Land ownership	Facility ownership	Usage
One Leisure Ramsey	Abbey College/Abbey Foundation	Huntingdonshire DC	Man. agreement
One Leisure Huntingdon (Wetside)	Cam Academy Trust	Huntingdonshire DC	None
One Leisure Huntingdon (Dryside)	Huntingdonshire DC	Huntingdonshire DC	None
One Leisure St Neots	Astrea Academy Trust	Huntingdonshire DC	Man. agreement
One Leisure St Ives Indoor	Astrea Academy Trust	Huntingdonshire DC	Man. agreement
One Leisure St Ives Outdoor	Cambridgeshire County Council/HDC	Huntingdonshire DC	None

Academy trusts own the land upon which four centres are located. Three of the four have management agreements in place enabling the school to access facilities. Only One Leisure Ramsey and One Leisure St Ives are used by the adjacent school during the day. Ernulf Academy has its own sports hall and does not use One Leisure St Neots' indoor facilities.

### **Summary of local policy**

The Authority is committed to ensuring that current and future populations have good physical activity opportunities, reside within strong communities, and are supported by a successful and sustainable economy. To ensure residents have good physical activity opportunities the Authority has pledged to provide high quality sport and leisure facilities.

### **2.3: Demographic profile**

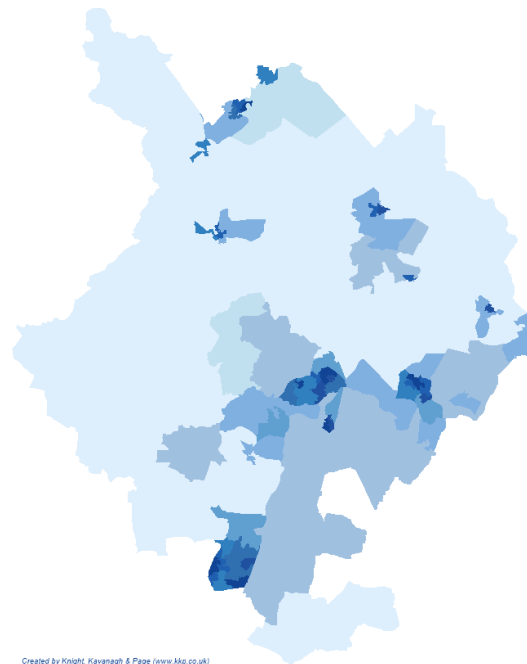
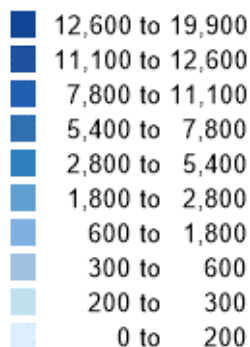
**Population and distribution** (*Data source: 2020 Mid-Year Estimate, ONS*): The total population of Huntingdonshire is 178,985 (males:89,158 and females: 89,827). Population density is focused around the south and central areas of the Authority, particularly in the towns of Huntingdon and St Neots. In the north, population density is greatest in the settlements of St Ives, Sawtry and in Ramsey. The rest of the Authority is predominantly rural.

*Figure 2.4: Huntingdonshire population density: 2020 MYE, ONS*

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## Huntingdonshire

Population density per square mile



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Figure 2.5: Comparative age/sex pyramid and Huntingdonshire population density: 2020 MYE, ONS

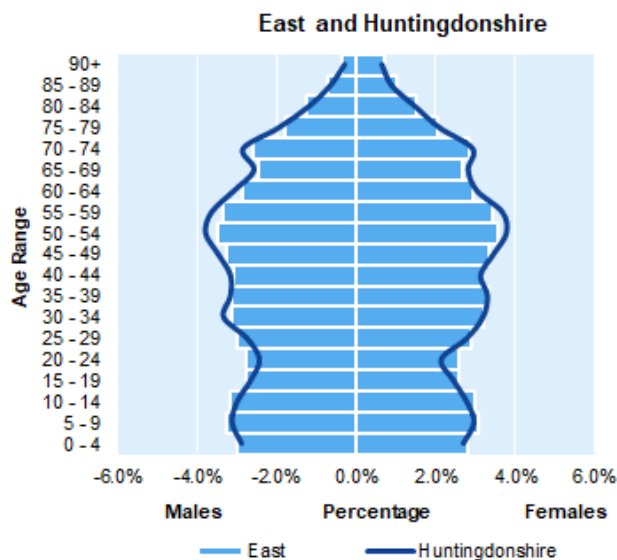


Figure 2.5 illustrates the population’s age and gender composition whilst comparing it to the region.

There is a lower proportion of 15-29 year olds in the Authority when comparing it to the region (Huntingdonshire - 15.2%, East - 16.6%). There are, however, more in the age groups from 45-64 (Huntingdonshire - 27.8%, East - 26.2%).

**Ethnicity:** (Data source: 2011 census of population, ONS): Huntingdonshire’s ethnicity differs compared to England as a whole. According to the 2011 Census of population, the largest proportion (94.8%) of the local population classified their ethnicity as White; this is higher than the comparative England rate of 85.4%. The next largest population group (by self classification) is Asian, at 2.5% this is lower than the national equivalent (7.8%).

**Income and dependency** (Data source: NOMIS (2019): The median figure for full-time earnings (2021) in Huntingdonshire is £30,638; the comparative rate for the East is £32,687 (+6.7%) and for Great Britain is £31,881 (+4.1%). In March 2022 there were 2,545 people in



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Huntingdonshire claiming out of work benefits ; this represents an increase of 55.2% when compared to March 2020 (1,640).

**Deprivation** (Data source: 2020 indices of deprivation, DCLG): Huntingdonshire experiences very low levels of deprivation. 4.7% of the Authority's population live in areas covered by the country's three most deprived cohorts (national average: c.30%). Conversely, 52.5% live in the three least deprived groupings. This compares to a 'norm' of c.30%. Areas of high deprivation are focused, generally, in the north east (Ramsey) and the town of Huntingdon.

Figure 2.6: Index of multiple deprivation

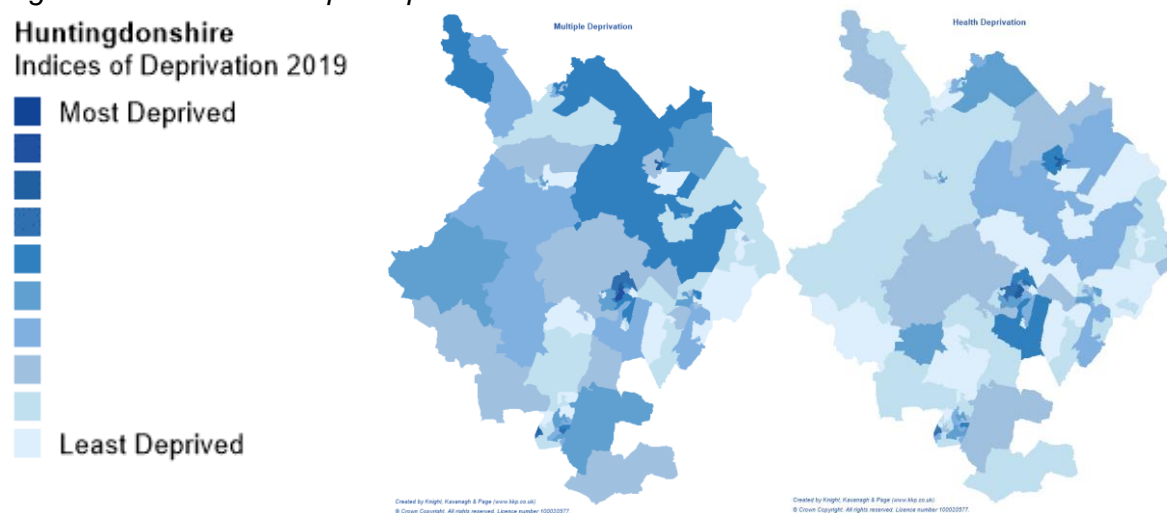


Table 2.2: Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) and health deprivation in Huntingdonshire

IMD cumulative norm		Multiple deprivation			Health deprivation		
		Population in band	Percent of population		Population in band	Percent of population	
Most deprived	10.0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0	0.0%	0.0%
	20.0	3,456	2.0%	2.0%	0	0.0%	0.0%
	30.0	4,781	2.7%	4.7%	5,115	2.9%	2.9%
	40.0	6,420	3.7%	8.4%	6,165	3.5%	6.5%
	50.0	24,764	14.2%	22.6%	9,767	5.6%	12.1%
	60.0	24,155	13.9%	36.5%	18,984	10.9%	23.0%
Least deprived	70.0	19,238	11.0%	47.5%	30,108	17.3%	40.3%
	80.0	26,883	15.4%	63.0%	29,123	16.7%	57.0%
	90.0	36,713	21.1%	84.1%	45,583	26.2%	83.2%
	100.0	27,780	15.9%	100.0%	29,345	16.8%	100.0%

A similar pattern, to that seen for multiple deprivation, is seen in relation to health; 2.9% falls within the areas covered by the three most deprived cohorts (national average; c.30%). Conversely, 59.7% live in the three least deprived groupings compared to a 'norm' of c.30%.

**Car ownership- (Data source: 2011 Census):** According to the 2011 census, 86.4% of households have at least one car or van and 45.6% have two or more vehicles. This is above the England national average which is that 70.9% of households have at least one vehicle.

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**Health data** (Data sources: ONS births and deaths, NCMP<sup>3</sup> and NOO<sup>4</sup>): In keeping with patterns seen alongside lower levels of health deprivation, life expectancy in Huntingdonshire is higher than the national figure; the male rate is currently 81.4 compared to 79.6 for England, and the female equivalent is 84.4 compared to 83.2 nationally.

**Weight and obesity:** Obesity is widely recognised to be associated with health problems such as type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer. At a national level, the resulting NHS costs attributable to overweight and obesity are projected to reach £9.7 billion by 2050, with wider costs to society estimated to reach £49.9 billion per year. These factors combine to make the prevention of obesity a major public health challenge. Adult rates of being either overweight or obese in Huntingdonshire are slightly below national but above regional rates. However, child rates are below both national and regional rates.

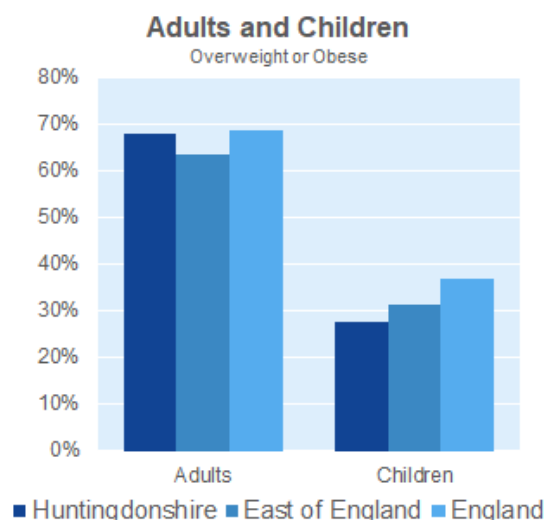
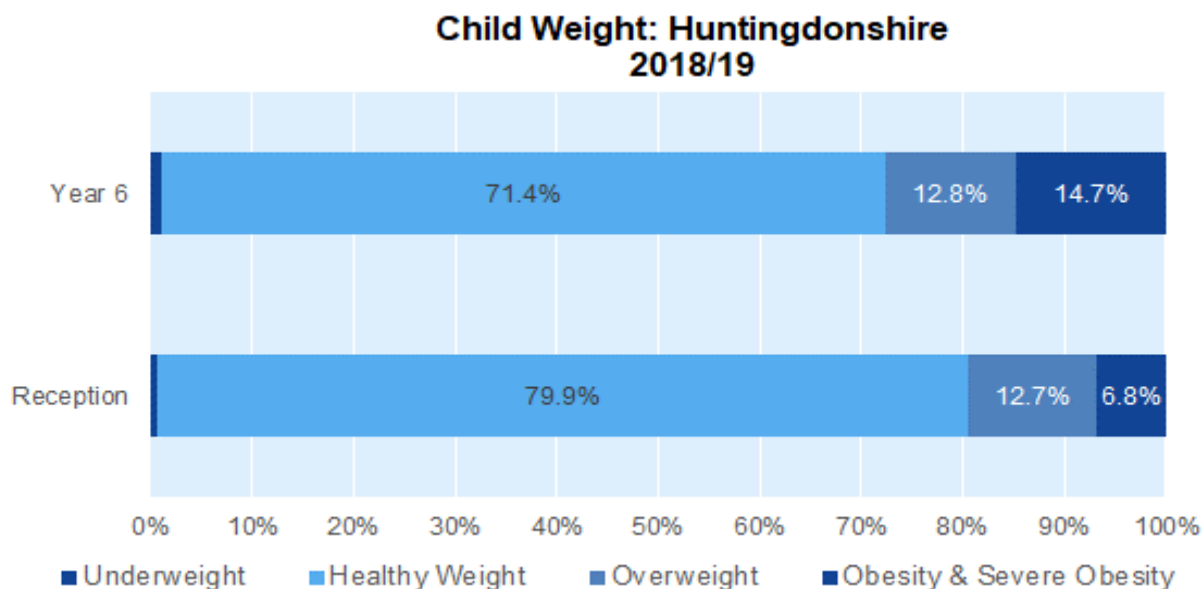


Figure 2.7: Child weight – reception and year 6



In common with many other areas, child obesity rates increase significantly between the ages of 4 and 11. 6.8% of children in Huntingdonshire are obese in their reception year at school and 12.7% are overweight; by Year 6 these figures rise to 14.7% obese and 12.8% overweight. In total, by Year 6, more than one quarter (27.5%) are either overweight or obese.

Huntingdonshire falls within the boundaries of one Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG): NHS Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG (Cambridge, City Of Peterborough, East Cambridgeshire, East Northamptonshire, Fenland, Huntingdonshire, North Hertfordshire, South Cambridgeshire) which includes all of Huntingdonshire's population. The total annual cost to the

<sup>3</sup> National Child Measurement Program

<sup>4</sup> National Obesity Observatory

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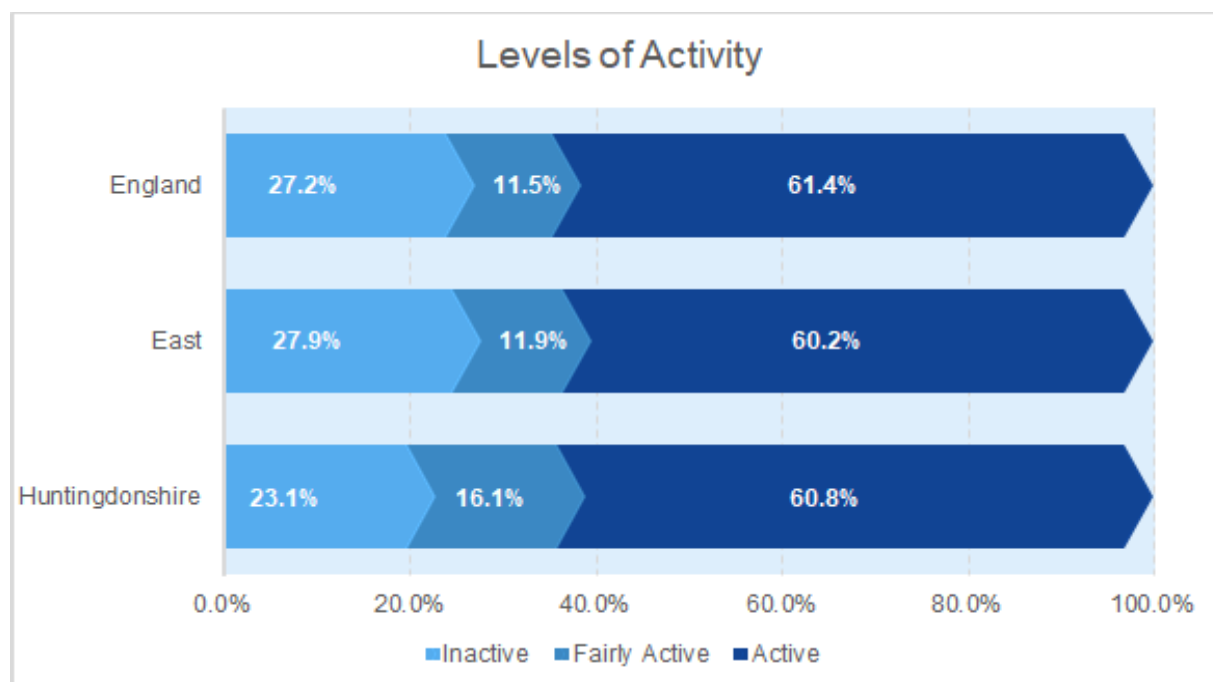
NHS of physical inactivity for the CCGs that Huntingdonshire falls within is estimated at £7,129,249.

When compared to regional and national costs per 100,000, the total costs for the CCGs (£807,050) are 0.1% above the national average (£806,244) and 02.4% below the regional average (£827,050). It should also be noted that in addition to the NHS costs there are also significant costs to industry in terms of days of productivity lost due to back pain etc. These have also been costed in CBI reports and are of similar magnitude to NHS costs.

## Sport England: Active Lives Survey (ALS) 2019/2020

This is based on 16+ year olds taking part in walking, cycling, fitness, dance and other sporting activity (excluding gardening). Huntingdonshire has similar activity levels to both the whole of England and to the region. 60.8% of the population is active which slightly lower than the national average (61.4%), however, is slightly higher than the regional average (60.2%).

Figure 2.8: levels of activity and most popular sports and physical activities

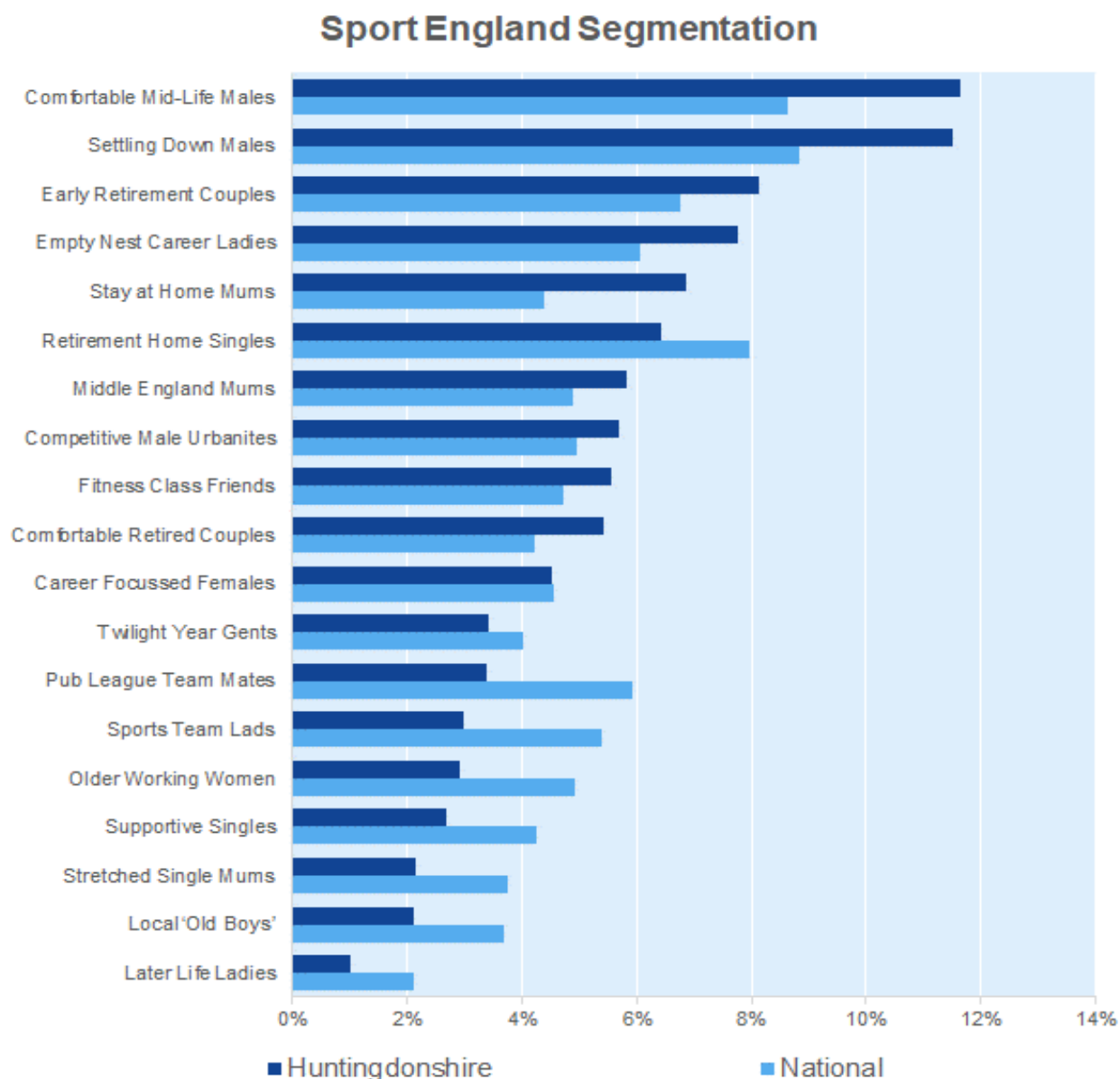


## Sporting segmentation *(Data source: Market segmentation, Sport England)*

Sport England classifies the adult population in 19 market segments to provide insight into the sporting behaviours. Huntingdonshire profile has 'Comfortable Mid-Life Males' as the largest segment of the adult population at 11.63% (15,375) compared to a national average of 8.65%. This is closely followed by 'Settling Down Males' (11.50%) and 'Early Retirement Couples' (8.15%).

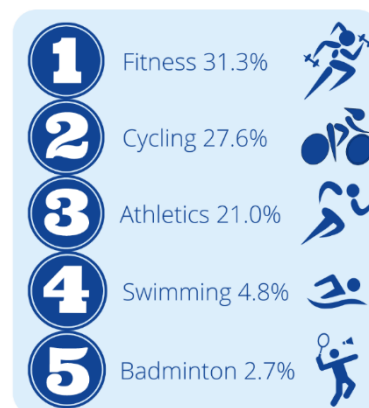
# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Figure 2.9: SE segmentation – Huntingdonshire compared to England



### The most popular sports and physical activities:

The Active Lives Survey also makes it possible to identify the top five participation sports within Huntingdonshire. As with many other areas, fitness and cycling are among the most popular activities and are known to cut across age groups and gender; in Huntingdonshire just under a third of adults take part in fitness activities, on average, at least twice a month. The next most popular activity is cycling which 27.6% of adults do on a relatively regular basis.



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**Mosaic** (Data source: 2020 Mosaic analysis, Experian)

This is a similar consumer segmentation product. The prevalence of the top five classifications is evident in as much as they represent over two thirds (69.7%) of the population compared to a national equivalent rate of 4 in 10 (40.6%). The largest segment is Rural Reality which has more than double the national rate.

Table 2.3: Mosaic – main population segments in Huntingdonshire

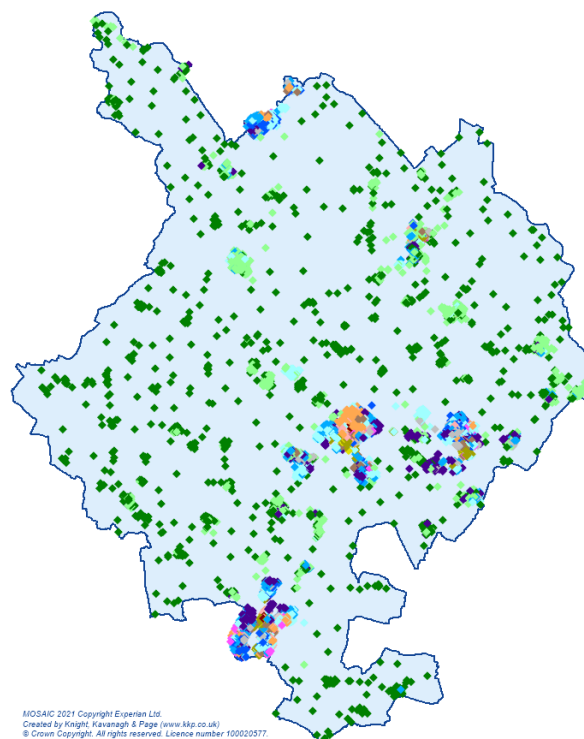
Mosaic group description	Huntingdonshire		National %
	#	%	
1 - Rural Reality	35,319	19.3%	6.9%
2 - Aspiring Homemakers	32,119	17.6%	10.4%
3 - Country Living	25,218	13.8%	7.2%
4 - Domestic Success	20,177	11.0%	9.0%
5 - Prestige Positions	14,567	8.0%	7.1%

Figure 2.10: Mosaic segments in Huntingdonshire




**Huntingdonshire**  
Mosaic groups 2021

- ◆ City Prosperity
- ◆ Prestige Positions
- ◆ Country Living
- ◆ Rural Reality
- ◆ Senior Security
- ◆ Suburban Stability
- ◆ Domestic Success
- ◆ Aspiring Homemakers
- ◆ Family Basics
- ◆ Transient Renters
- ◆ Municipal Tenants
- ◆ Vintage Value
- ◆ Modest Traditions
- ◆ Urban Cohesion
- ◆ Rental Hubs

Table 2.3:  
Dominant Mosaic  
profiles in  
Huntingdonshire



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<b>Rural Reality</b>		People who live in rural communities and generally own their relatively low cost homes. Their moderate incomes come mostly from employment with local firms or from running their own small business.
<b>Aspiring Homemakers</b>		Younger households who have, often, only recently set up home. They usually own their homes in private suburbs, which they have chosen to fit their budget.
<b>Country Living</b>		Well-off homeowners who live in the countryside often beyond easy commuting reach of towns and cities. Some are landowners or farmers, others run small businesses from home, some are retired and others commute to professional jobs.

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### Population projections

The most recent ONS projections indicate a rise of 7.8% in Huntingdonshire's population (+71,626) over the 25 years from 2018 to 2043. Several key points are outlined below

- ◆ The number of 0-15 year olds, falls by -1,888 (-5.8%) over the first half of the projection (to 2030).
- ◆ The number of 16-24 year olds will rise by +1.5% in the first period (+224) followed by a decline of -8.3% (-1,298) in the second period.
- ◆ There is a continuous increase in the numbers of persons aged 65+ and a need to consider varying sports offers for this age group.

Table 2.4: Huntingdonshire - ONS projected population (2018 to 2043)

Age (years)	Number			Age structure %			Change 2018 – 2043		
	2018	2030	2043	2018	2030	2043	2018	2030	2043
0-15	32,686	30,798	30,878	18.4%	16.7%	16.2%	100.0%	94.2%	94.5%
16-24	15,420	15,644	14,346	8.7%	8.5%	7.5%	100.0%	101.5%	93.0%
25-34	21,993	20,457	22,826	12.4%	11.1%	11.9%	100.0%	93.0%	103.8%
35-44	22,442	23,965	22,299	12.7%	13.0%	11.7%	100.0%	106.8%	99.4%
45-54	26,759	24,146	24,814	15.1%	13.1%	13.0%	100.0%	90.2%	92.7%
55-64	22,843	25,317	24,903	12.9%	13.7%	13.0%	100.0%	110.8%	109.0%
65+	35,209	44,372	51,106	19.9%	24.0%	26.7%	100.0%	126.0%	145.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>177,352</b>	<b>184,699</b>	<b>191,170</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>104.1%</b>	<b>107.8%</b>

### Huntingdonshire housing growth

As presented above, Huntingdonshire's population is set to increase by 7.8%. To support this increase, several key housing growth sites are planned. This will be developed through a wide mix of housing types and sizes, with a strong need for smaller homes due to the high proportion of single person households. The growth areas are as follows:

**Alconbury Wield-** A former RAF site located to the north of Huntingdon has been handed over by the government for development. It is proposed that the site will accommodate 5,000 new houses which should be completed by 2040, mainly focusing on family style properties. Work has already commenced, with a target of 200-250 houses being built per annum. In addition, the site will have a new secondary school which will have a community available 4-court sports hall. It is anticipated that the school (Alconbury Educational Hub) will open September 2023. A new community centre plus a health and fitness facility is also proposed as part of the development.

**St Neots Eastern Expansion-** Land to the east of St Neots has been given planning permission for c.4,000 new dwellings. Figure 2.11 illustrates the proposed area with the development split in to two areas. The southern area, Wintringham Park, has already started and will consist of 2,800 new dwellings. The northern area, known as Loves Farm 2, will consist of 1,000 new dwellings. There are no additional sports facilities proposed as part of this development.

**Ermine Street Development-** it is proposed to develop 1,400 new homes to the north of Huntingdon alongside the A141, however, this is still subject to planning approval due to traffic concerns on the A141 and connection challenges into Huntingdon.

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Figure 2.11: Location of the St Neots Eastern Expansion



## ***Summary of the demographic profile and population projections***

Huntingdonshire's population is estimated to increase by 7.8% until 2043 largely driven by large areas of housing growth, as identified above.

It is therefore important to ensure there is a suite of leisure facilities to complement the growing population along with the appropriate programming. For example, swimming pools and sports halls will need to be able to meet the needs of the growing population, underpinned by appropriate programming and elements such as sufficient swimming lesson capacity. In addition, facilities will also need to be able to support other demographic cohorts, such as the 65+ age group with appropriate daytime activities.

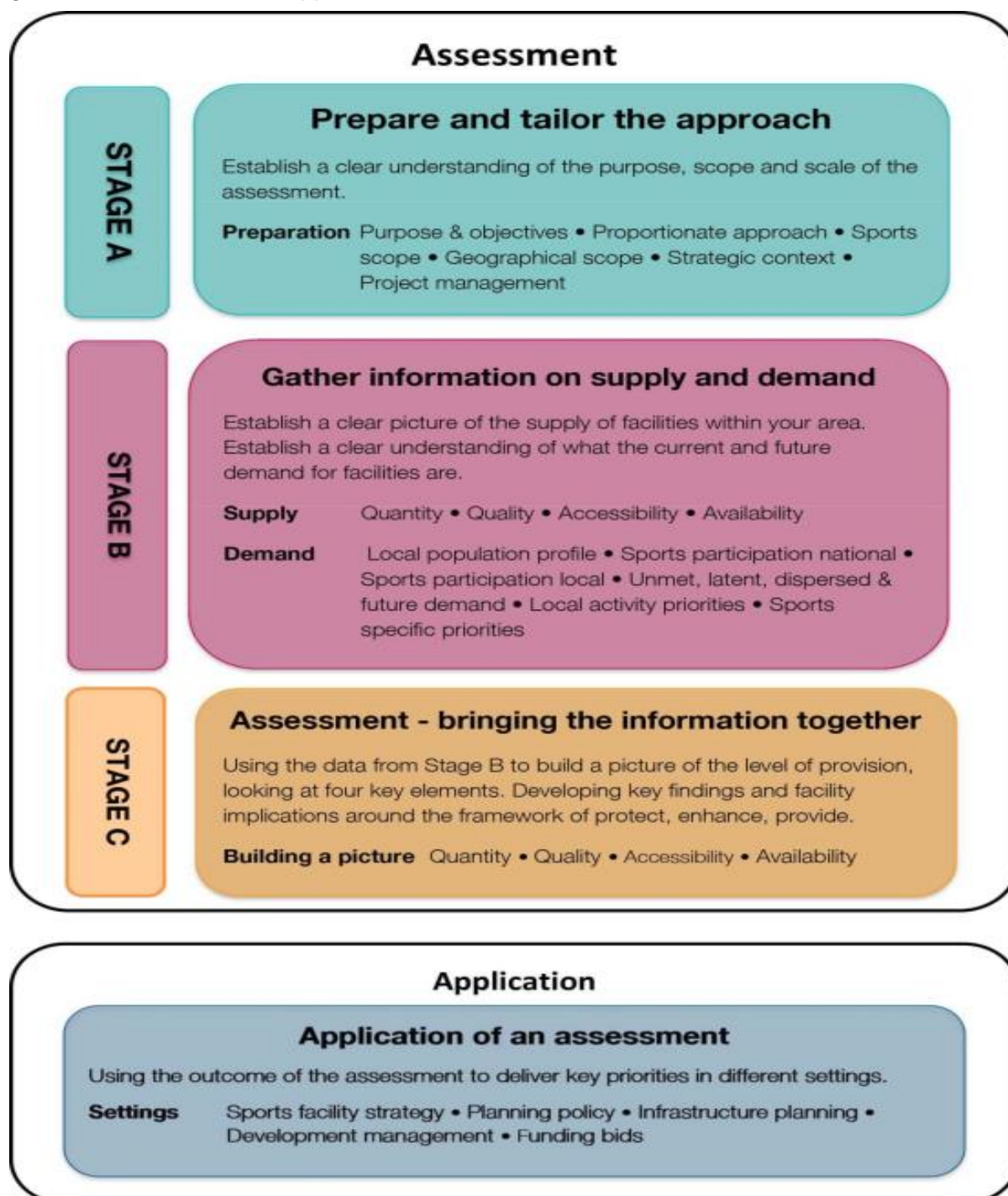
# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## SECTION 3: INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

### 3.1: Methodology

The assessment of provision is based on Sport England's ANOG for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities.

Figure 3.1: Recommended approach





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This is the recommended approach to undertaking a robust assessment of need for indoor and outdoor sports facilities. It has produced to help (local authorities) meet the requirements of the Government's NPPF, which states that:

'Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.' (NPPF, Paragraph 96).

Provision assessment involves analysis of quality, quantity, accessibility and availability for the identified facility types (e.g., sports halls and swimming pools). Each venue is considered on a 'like for like' basis within its own facility type, to enable it to be assessed for adequacy.

Demand background, data and consultation is variable, depending upon levels of consultation garnered. In some instances, national data is available whilst in others, it is possible to drill down and get some very detailed local information. This is evident within the demand section. The report considers the distribution of and interrelationship between facility types in the Authority and provides a clear indication of areas of high demand. It will identify where there is potential to provide improved and/or additional facilities to meet this demand and to, where appropriate, protect or rationalise the current stock.

### 3.2: Site visits

Active Places Power (APP) is used to provide baseline data to identify facilities in the study area. Site visits to key indoor facilities, those operated by other partners and the voluntary sector were undertaken February 2022. Where a physical visit was not possible a telephone consultation with the facility/site manager was undertaken. Via the audit and informal interviews with facility managers this report identifies 'relevance' and 'condition' describing (e.g.):

- ◀ Facility and scale.
- ◀ Usage/local market.
- ◀ Ownership, management and access arrangements (plus, where available, facility owner aspirations).
- ◀ Management, programming, catchments, user groups, gaps.
- ◀ Location (urban/rural), access and accessibility.
- ◀ Condition, maintenance, existing improvement plans, facility 'investment status' (lifespan in the short, medium and long term).
- ◀ Existing/ planned adjacent facilities.

The assessment captures quantity and quality data on a site-by-site basis and feeds directly into the main database allowing information to be stored and analysed. Quality assessments ratings are based on non-technical visual assessments. These consider facility age and condition. Surfaces, tiles and walls, line markings and safety equipment are considered and problem areas such as mould, damage, leaks etc., are noted. The condition of fixtures, fittings and equipment is recorded.

Maintenance and facility 'wear and tear' is considered as is compliant with the Equality Act, although this is not studied in detail for the purposes of this report. When all data is collated, key facility elements are rated according to the following categories.

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## INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Table 3.1: Quality ratings of indoor sports facilities using ANOG

Quality rating	Description
<b>Good</b>	Facility is new (less than 10 years old) or recently invested in, up to date, clean, well maintained and presented. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are new or relatively new with little if any wear and tear. They are well-lit with a modern feel. Ancillary facilities are new or well maintained, fit for purpose, modern and attractive.
<b>Above average</b>	Facility is in reasonable condition and is well maintained and presented. May be older but it is fit for purpose and safe. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are in an acceptable condition but may show some signs of wear and tear. Ancillary facilities are good quality, but potentially showing signs of age and some wear and tear.
<b>Below average</b>	Facility is older and showing signs of age/poor quality. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces show signs of wear and tear. It is usable, but quality could be improved. The facility is not as attractive to customers and does not meet current expectations. Ancillary facilities are deteriorating, reasonable quality, but usable.
<b>Poor</b>	The facility is old and outdated. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are aged, worn and/or damaged. The facility is barely usable and at times may have to be taken out of commission. The facility is unattractive to customers and does not meet basic expectations. Ancillary facilities are low quality and unattractive to use.

### Energy efficiency

In order to assist Councils in understanding required steps to improve the energy efficiency of key leisure assets, KKP undertakes a 'health check' of main Council operated or contracted stock. As per the wider ANOG quality assessment, it provides an overall 'traffic light' rating in respect of the following criteria:

- ◀ Current age of facilities.
- ◀ Level of recent investment in swimming pool plant.
- ◀ Current pool heating method (i.e. Gas boiler or alternative).
- ◀ Level of planned investment in energy efficiency measures.

Assessment ratings are taken into consideration in the accompanying facility strategy which will detail measures which will contribute towards the Councils net zero commitments.

### Catchment areas

Applying catchments areas for different provision types enables identification of areas currently not served. These vary from person to person, day to day, hour to hour. This problem is overcome by accepting the concept of 'effective catchment'; the distance travelled by around 75-80% of users (used in the Sport England Facilities Planning Model - FPM). Sport England data indicates that most people will travel up to 20 minutes to access sports facilities. This, coupled with KKP's experience of working in/with leisure facilities and use of local data enables identification of catchment areas for sports facilities as follows.

Table 3.2: Facility catchment areas

Facility type	Identified catchment area by urban/rural
Sport halls	20-minute walk/ 20 minutes' drive
Swimming pools	20-minute walk/ 20 minutes' drive
Health and fitness	20-minute walk/ 20 minutes' drive
Squash courts	20 minutes' drive

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<b>Facility type</b>	<b>Identified catchment area by urban/rural</b>
Indoor bowls centre	30-minute drive
Dedicated gymnastics centre	30 minutes' drive
Indoor tennis centre	30-minute drive
Village halls/community centres	800m -10 minute walk

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## SECTION 4: SPORTS HALLS

Indoor multi-purpose sports halls are prime sports facilities for community sport. They provide venues which accommodate a range of sport and recreational activities. The standard method for measuring sports halls is the number of badminton courts contained within the floor area.

Sports halls are generally considered to be of greatest value if they are of at least three badminton court size with sufficient height to allow games such as badminton to be played. It should be noted, however, that a 4-court sports hall provides greater flexibility as it can accommodate major indoor team sports such as football (5-a-side and training), basketball and netball. It also has sufficient length to accommodate indoor cricket nets and indoor athletics; as such they tend to offer greater sports development flexibility than the 3-court counterpart.

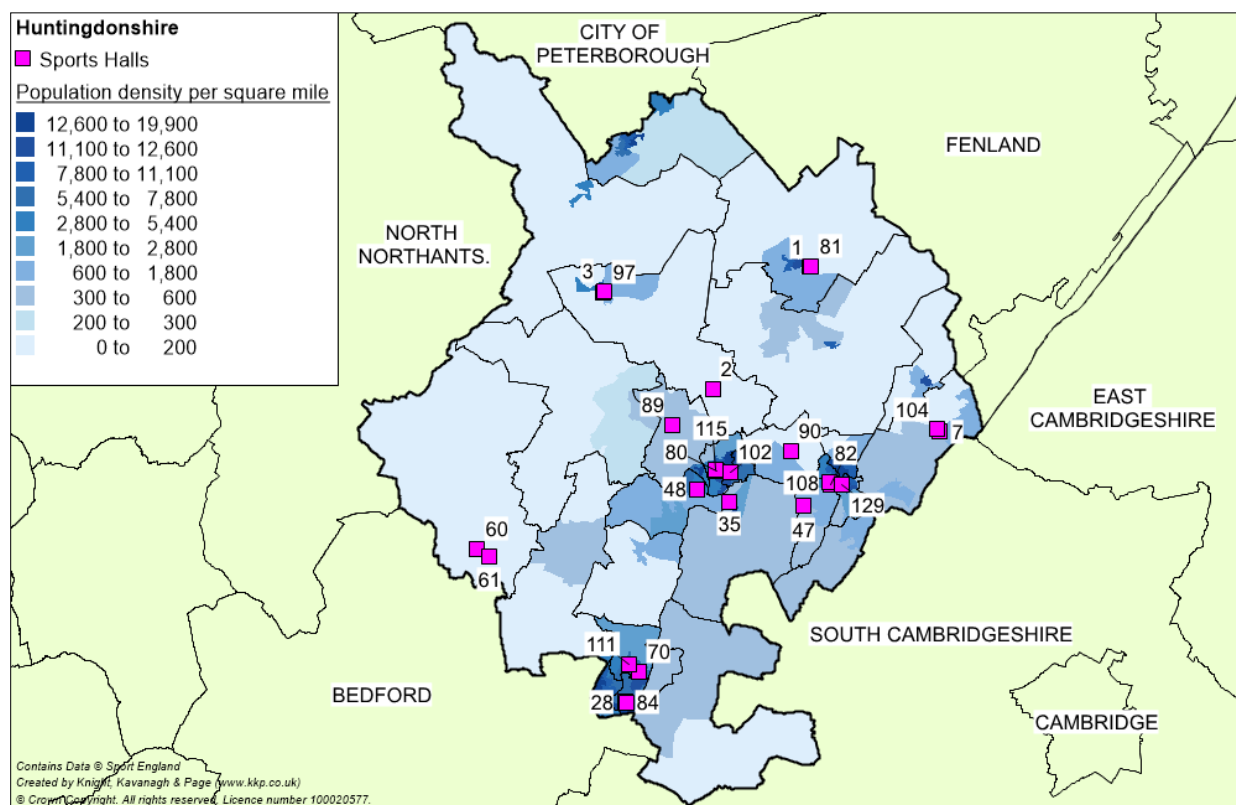
Larger halls, for example those with six or eight courts, can accommodate higher level training and/or competition and meet day to day need. They also provide an option for more than one pitch/court increasing flexibility for both training and competition and hosting of indoor central venue leagues for sports such as netball. This assessment covers all 3+ court facilities in Huntingdonshire. Halls that function as specialist venues (e.g., dance studios) are excluded.

### 4.1: Supply

#### Quantity

There are 30 sports halls of **all sizes** listed on Active Places. These accommodate 60 badminton courts. They are generally located the District's key settlements, with the majority located in the town of Huntingdon. Some venues have more than one activity/sports hall.

Figure 4.1: All sports / activity halls in Huntingdonshire– all sizes



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Table 4.1: All sports halls in Huntingdonshire

Map ID	Site name	Crts	Map ID	Site name	Crts
1	Abbey College	1	70	Longsands Academy	4
2	Abbots Ripton Cricket Club	1	80	One Leisure Huntingdon	3
3	Academy Leisure Sawtry	3	81	One Leisure Ramsey	3
7	Bluntisham Village Hall & Recreation	1	82	One Leisure St Ives	6
28	Ernulf Academy	4	82	One Leisure St Ives	1
28	Ernulf Academy	1	84	One Leisure St Neots	4
35	Godmanchester Comm. Academy	0	89	RAF Alconbury	2
47	Hemingford Pavilion	0	90	RAF Wyton	6
47	Hemingford Pavilion	0	97	Sawtry Village Academy	0
48	Hinchingbrooke School	1	102	Spring Common Academy	1
48	Hinchingbrooke School	4	104	St Helen'S Primary School	1
60	Kimbolton Prep School	1	108	St Ivo Academy	1
61	Kimbolton School	5	111	St Neots Regional Table Tennis Centre	0
70	Longsands Academy	1	115	St Peters School	3
70	Longsands Academy	1	115	St Peters School	1

(0 court halls identified in Active Places but not considered large enough to accommodate 1 badminton court)

Table 4.1 indicates that 18 sites have two or fewer badminton courts. While often appropriate for mat sports, exercise to music and similar provision, small halls limit the range of recreational and sporting activity that larger halls can enable. Some venues have more than one activity/sports hall on site. Table 4.2 identifies those (from the APP list) excluded from the audit and assessment due to size (i.e., they have fewer than three marked badminton courts).

Table 4.2: Sports halls with fewer than 3 badminton courts (excluded from supply due to size)

ID	Site name	Cts	ID	Site name	Cts
<b>No marked courts</b>					
35	Godmanchester Community Academy	0	97	Sawtry Village Academy	0
47	Hemingford Pavilion	0	111	St Neots Regional Table Tennis	0
47	Hemingford Pavilion	0			
<b>One marked court</b>					
1	Abbey College	1	70	Longsands Academy	1
2	Abbots Ripton Cricket Club	1	70	Longsands Academy	1
7	Bluntisham Village Hall & Recreation	1	82	Spring Common Academy	1
28	Ernulf Academy	1	102	St Helen'S Primary School	1
48	Hinchingbrooke School	1	104	St Ivo Academy	1
60	Kimbolton Prep School	1			
<b>Two marked court</b>					
89	RAF Alconbury	2			

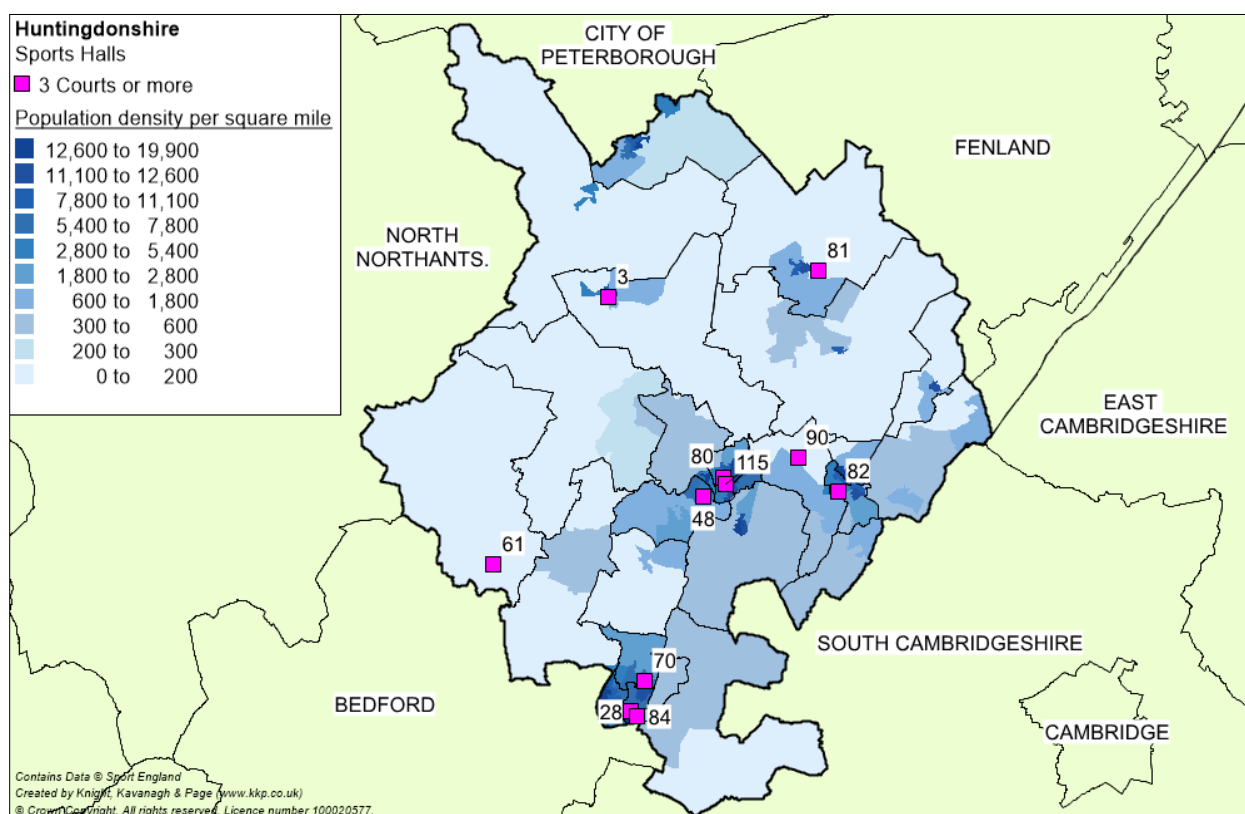
The remaining 11 have three or more marked badminton courts. As with the overall distribution of halls, the majority are located within the main five settlements of the Authority.

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Table 4.3: Sports halls with 3+ badminton courts

ID	Site	Cts	ID	Site	Cts
3	Academy Leisure Sawtry	3	70	Longsands Academy	4
80	One Leisure Huntingdon	3	84	One Leisure St Neots	5
81	One Leisure Ramsey	3	61	Kimbolton School	5
115	St Peters School	3	82	One Leisure St Ives	6
28	Ernulf Academy	4	90	RAF Wyton	6
48	Hinchingbrooke School	4	<b>Total</b>		<b>46</b>

Figure 4.2: Sports halls with 3+ courts in Huntingdonshire



The largest sites are at One Leisure St Ives and RAF Wyton (both have six courts). The sports hall at Kimbolton School has five. The remainder have four courts. The breakdown of all the sites are as follows:

- ◀ Four 3-court hall
- ◀ Four 4-court halls
- ◀ One 5-court hall
- ◀ Two 6 -court hall

### Facility quality

All bar one of the 3+ court sports halls were subject to a non-technical quality assessment. No access was obtained at RAF Wyton This is an MoD site and for security reasons, access was not permitted.

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

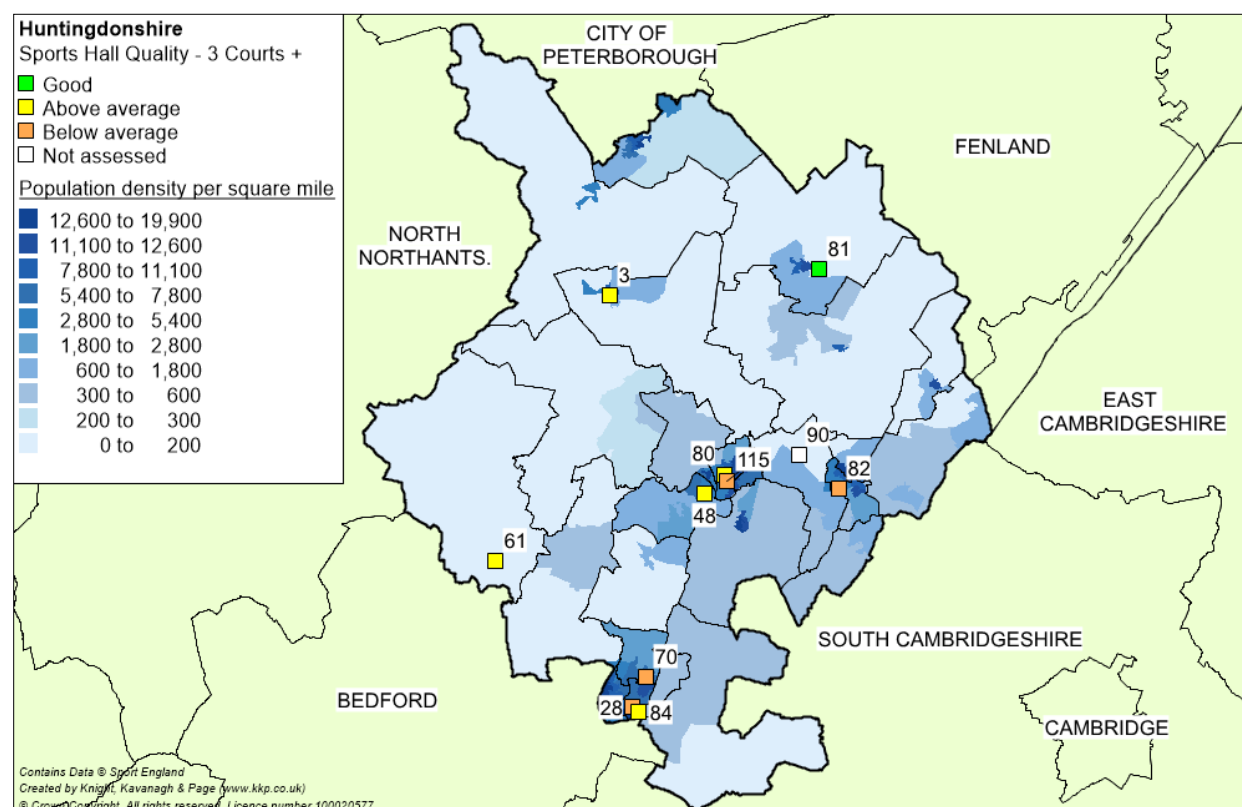
Table 4.4: listing of 3+ court sports halls with quality assessment – Huntingdonshire

Map ID	Site name	Courts	Assessment condition	
			Court	Changing
3	Academy Leisure Sawtry	3	Above average	Above average
28	Ernulf Academy	4	Below average	Below average
48	Hinchingbrooke School	4	Above average	Above average
61	Kimbolton School	5	Above average	Above average
70	Longsands Academy	4	Below average	Below average
80	One Leisure Huntingdon	3	Above average	Above average
81	One Leisure Ramsey	3	Good	Above average
82	One Leisure St Ives	6	Below average	Above average
84	One Leisure St Neots	4	Above average	Above average
90	RAF Wyton	6	Not assessed	Not assessed
115	St Peters School	3	Below average	Below average

Table 4.5: Summary of non-technical assessments

Good	Above average	Below average	Poor	Not assessed
1	5	4	0	1

Figure 4.3: Sports halls with 3+ courts in Huntingdonshire by condition



There is one good quality sports hall (3 courts), five are above average (15 courts in total), four are below average (17 courts in total) and one (6-court) hall was not assessed.

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Consultation indicated that facility age aligned to lack of investment is the primary reason where facilities were rated as below average. For example, St Peters School was built in 1990, has accommodated heavy usage and not benefitted from any investment since it was built. This has, unsurprisingly, led to deterioration. The scenario for Ernulf Academy is comparable. It was built in 1996 and has received no significant investment since.

Table 4.6: Year of construction and refurbishment of sports halls

Map ID	Site name	Crts	Year opened	Year of refurb	Years since open/refurb
3	Academy Leisure Sawtry	3	1985	-	37
28	Ernulf Academy	4	1986	-	36
48	Hinchingbrooke School	4	2015	-	7
61	Kimbolton School	5	1952	2013	9
70	Longsands Academy	4	1961	1995	27
80	One Leisure Huntingdon	3	1992	2003	20
81	One Leisure Ramsey	3	1990	2022	0
82	One Leisure St Ives	6	1974	2004	19
84	One Leisure St Neots	4	1990	N/A	36
90	RAF Wyton	6	N/A	N/A	
115	St Peters	3	1990	N/A	32

### Accessibility

Sports hall accessibility is influenced by how far people are willing and able to travel to/from them. Walk and drive-time catchments are applied to determine facility accessibility to different communities for sites which are available to hire. The normal (industry) standard is a 20-minute walk time (one-mile radial catchment) for an urban area and a 20-minute drive time for a rural area. As Huntingdonshire is typically considered to be a rural area, both a 20-minute walk and 20-minute drive time are assessed.

The following sites have been removed from the analysis for the following reasons:

- ✦ Kimbolton School is a private boarding school. It does allow community use, however, this is on a limited basis, when students are not on campus, and has, thus, been removed from this analysis.
- ✦ RAF Wyton is a MOD site and site access is restricted to military personnel only.

Analysis of 20-minute walk time data reveals the following.

- ✦ 73,084 of residents live within one mile of a sports hall (40% of the total population).
- ✦ 8,237 people (4.7 % of the population) live in areas of higher deprivation.
- ✦ Of these, most (6,715; 81.9%) live within a one-mile radial catchment of a sports hall.



# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Figure 4.4: All community available sports halls with 3+ courts relative to IMD

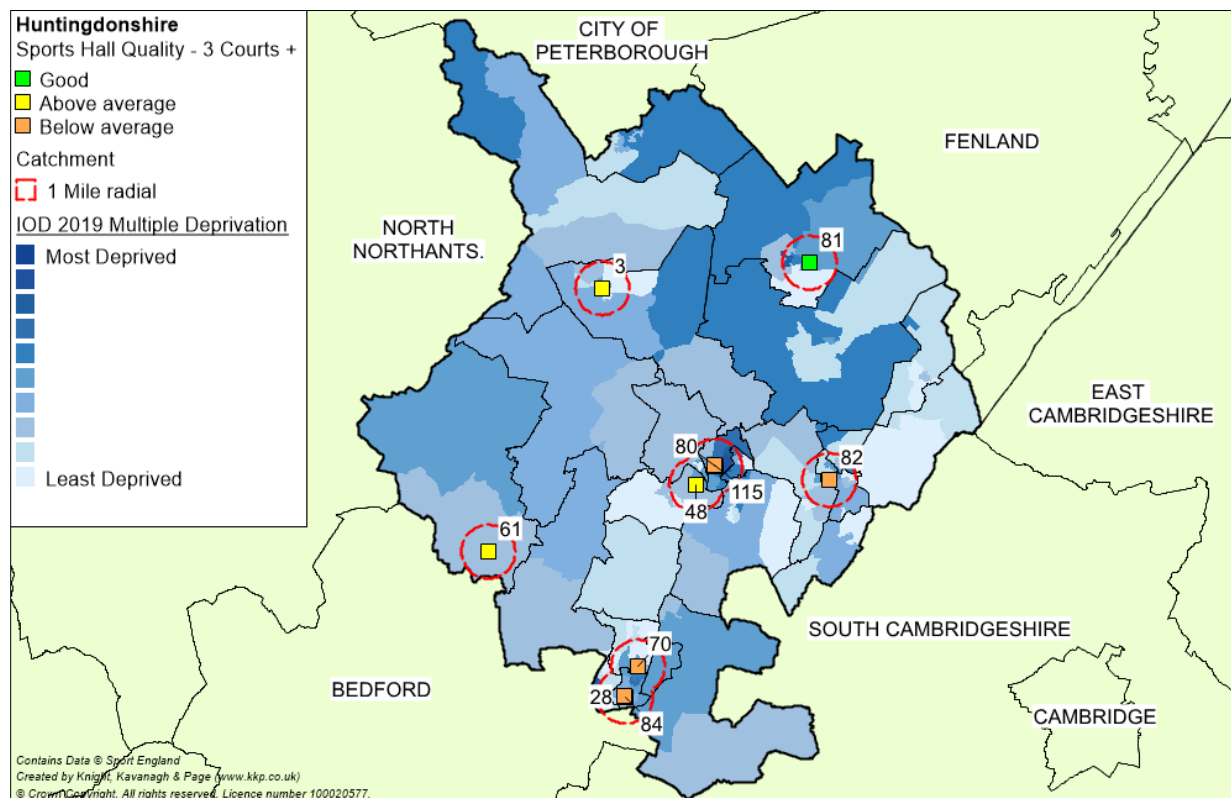


Table 4.7: Accessibility of sports halls with 3+ courts

IMD 10% bands	Huntingdonshire		Sports halls (excluding private use) minimum 3 courts+ catchment populations by IMD			
	Persons	Population %	Persons inside catchment	Population inside (%)	Persons outside catchment	Population outside (%)
0 - 10	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
10.1 - 20	3,456	2.0%	3,456	2.0%	0	0.0%
20.1 - 30	4,781	2.7%	3,259	1.9%	1,522	0.9%
30.1 - 40	6,420	3.7%	3,835	2.2%	2,585	1.5%
40.1 - 50	24,764	14.2%	8,499	4.9%	16,265	9.3%
50.1 - 60	24,155	13.9%	15,770	9.1%	8,385	4.8%
60.1 - 70	19,238	11.0%	6,862	3.9%	12,376	7.1%
70.1 - 80	26,883	15.4%	8,647	5.0%	18,236	10.5%
80.1 - 90	36,713	21.1%	12,648	7.3%	24,065	13.8%
90.1 - 100	27,780	16.0%	6,681	3.8%	21,099	12.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>174,190</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>69,657</b>	<b>40.0%</b>	<b>104,533</b>	<b>60.0%</b>

Residents living in more deprived localities are statistically less likely to participate in sport than those from more affluent areas. Reasons for this include cost and access. Although Huntingdonshire has low levels of IMD (4.7%) most residents of these areas (81.5%) live within a mile of a community accessible sports hall, which would suggest that sports halls are well placed to serve them.

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As fewer than half of residents reside with a mile of a community accessible sports hall and the Authority is predominantly rural by nature, it is also worth considering those who live away from the major urban areas by applying a 20-minute drive catchment from community available sports halls. As displayed below, over 98% of Huntingdonshire’s population resides within a 20-minute drive of a publicly accessible sports hall with 3+ badminton courts (or a hall of equivalent dimensions) within the District boundary. As the Authority has a high level of car ownership, access from those living in rural areas wishing to access sports halls is considered to be good, as the majority fall within the 20-minute drive time catchment.

### **Availability**

The majority of halls in Huntingdonshire are community available, bar the two listed above. Levels of access, however, vary considerably.. Five sites offer pay and play access but only two offer daytime plus evening use. These are the two One Leisure sites (Huntingdon and St Neots). The sports halls at Academy Leisure Sawtry, St Ives and Ramsey all offer pay and play access, however, is only available during evenings/weekends as these are dual use facilities with the adjacent schools. The remainder, all on educational establishments, are accessible solely via advance block bookings.

### **Facility management**

The Authority owns five of the key leisure sites, and manages four, under its One Leisure branding. These are located at the four key settlements sites; Huntingdon, Ramsey, St Neots and St Ives. Academy Leisure Sawtry is managed by Meridian Trust, which also manages the adjoining school. School and college sports halls are owned and managed by several academy trusts. A full list is shown in the table below.

*Table 4.8: Management and ownership of sports hall facilities*

Site	Management	Ownership
Academy Leisure Sawtry	In house	Meridian Trust
Ernulf Academy	In house	Astrea Academy Trust
Hinchingbrooke School	In House	Hinchingbrooke Foundation
Longsands Academy	In house	Astrea Academy Trust
One Leisure Huntingdon	HDC	HDC
One Leisure Ramsey	HDC	HDC
One Leisure St Ives	HDC	HDC
One Leisure St Neots	HDC	HDC
St Peters School	In house	Cam Academy Trust

### **Daytime availability and used capacity**

As described above, daytime availability is limited to the two One Leisure sites. The remainder solely offer evening and weekend bookings. Table 4.9 details levels of community use available at each venue. Figures are calculated based either upon booking sheets from the respective sites or on consultation. Data collected relates to current utilisation at all sites in February 2022.

All sites support mainstream sports, such as netball, indoor football and badminton. The majority (particularly school sites) also have outdoor artificial grass pitches (3G or sand dressed). Some clubs hire whole school sites to accommodate training demand, with younger age groups using the sports hall and older players playing outdoors. For example, at Hinchingbrooke School, St

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Ivo FC hires the sand dressed pitch for its older age groups and the sports hall for younger players.

Consultation indicates that the majority of bookings have returned to normal following the Pandemic, with most sites reporting high levels of utilisation. To demonstrate this, the audit calculated the used capacity of each sports hall. This is the percentage of available community use hours used. For example, the 100 hours available at One Leisure Huntingdon are used for 80 hours (80%) of the time whereas Longsands Academy is available for 25 hours per week and is operating at 50% of used capacity (12.5 hours used).

Table 4.9: Opening hours and activities in sports halls Huntingdonshire

Community use hours		KKP Ref	Site	Total courts	Main sports played	Used capacity
1 - 40	25.0	70	Longsands Academy	6 1	Basketball, netball, indoor cricket, model flying club, martial arts	50%
	36.0	115	St Peters School*	4	Martial arts	40%
40+	48.0	81	One Leisure Ramsey	3	Indoor football, badminton, Walking netball, martial arts	80%
	58	3	Academy Leisure Sawtry	3	Indoor cricket, netball, badminton.	60%
	52.0	48	Hinchingbrooke School	4 1	Badminton, indoor football, netball, basketball.	100%
	100	80	One Leisure Huntingdon	3	Badminton, indoor cricket, martial arts, twirling, basketball, table tennis.	80%
	54	82	One Leisure St Ives	6 1	Badminton, martial arts, indoor football, roller skating	80%
	106.25	84	One Leisure St Neots	4	Indoor roller skating, Badminton, racquet ball	80%

(\*St Peters School re-opened for community use as of February 2022).

There is significant demand for sports halls in Huntingdonshire. Five sites report having limited or no spare capacity. These include Hinchingbrooke School and the leisure centres in Ramsey, Huntingdon, St Ives and St Neots. At the time of the audit, St Peters School had just re-opened to the community. It reported significantly lower utilisation levels. It is hoped that pre-Pandemic block bookings will return as, before lockdown, its sports hall was popular, operating at capacity. Longsands Academy does not open at weekends. Subsequently, it only has 25 hours of availability. It reports staffing issues to be the cause of this.

Ernulf Academy was not available for community use at the time of the audit, however, the School's stance on this has since changed, and is now open to block bookings. The School is not included in the table above, as KKP has not been able to ascertain current usage data for the site.

Table 4.10: Used capacity of sports halls (peak hours only)

Used capacity	Site
40-60%	St Peters School
	Longsands Academy
	Academy Leisure Sawtry

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Used capacity	Site
*80%-100%	One Leisure St Neots
	One Leisure Ramsey
	Hinchingbrooke School
	One Leisure Huntingdon
	One Leisure St Ives

(\*80% -Sport England's guidance threshold - this is considered to be a "comfortably full" sports hall)

### Future changes and developments

As mentioned earlier, there is a new secondary school planned as part of the Alconbury Weald development, which will have a 4-court sports hall on site. It is anticipated that this will be community available.

Huntingdon Town Council has expressed a desire to build a new indoor facility in the Town Centre. It currently has £1 million from developer contributions to invest and is currently looking at potential sites. Ideally it would like to develop an indoor netball facility, as there are no such dedicated facility in the Authority with clubs currently traveling to Cambridge to access an indoor hall.

### Neighbouring facilities

Accessibility is influenced by facilities located outside Huntingdonshire. A total of nine (minimum 3+ court) sports halls are located within two miles (indicative of how far people may travel) of Huntingdonshire's boundary, with over half located to the north of the District, in the Authority of Peterborough. There are two in Fenland, one in south Cambridgeshire and one in North Northants. The largest, located in Peterborough, is Bushfield Leisure Centre, which has an 8-court hall. Cromwell Community College has two halls on one site, with a total of seven courts.

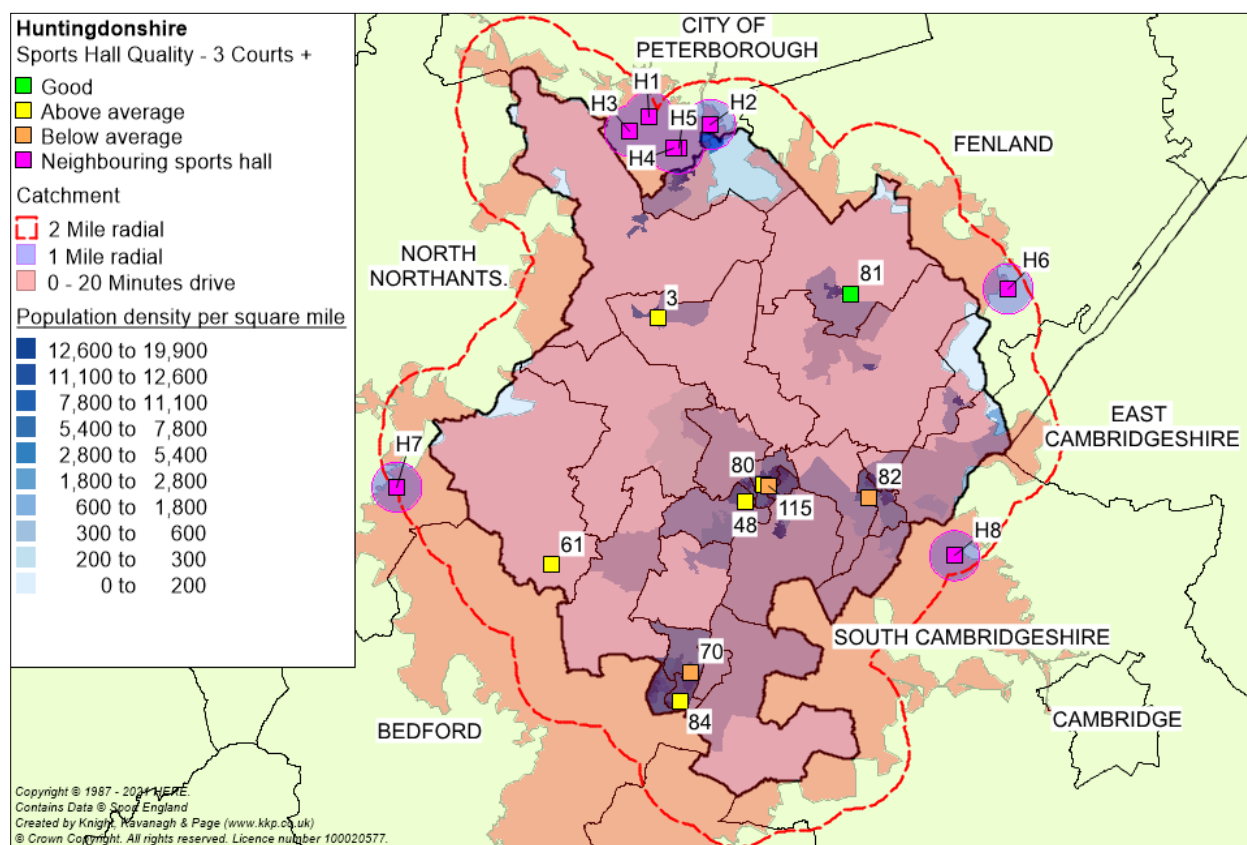
Table 4.12: Neighbouring 3+ court sports halls (excluding private use)

ID	Site name	Courts	Access type	Local Authority
H1	Nene Park Academy	4	Sports Club / CA	Peterborough
H2	Stanground Sports Centre	2 x 4	Pay and Play	Peterborough
H3	Bushfield Leisure Centre	8	Pay and Play	Peterborough
H4	Hampton Leisure Centre	3	Pay and Play	Peterborough
H5	Hampton Gardens School	4	Sports Club / CA	Peterborough
H6	Cromwell Community College	3	Sports Club / CA	Fenland
H6	Cromwell Community College	4	Sports Club / CA	Fenland
H7	Manor Sport & Leisure Ltd	4	Sports Club / CA	North Northants.
H8	Swavesey Village College Sports	4	Sports Club / CA	South Cambridgeshire

NB: Sports Club / CA = Sports Club / Community Association use

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Figure 4.6: 3+ sports halls within two miles of Huntingdonshire



## 4.2: Demand

### Facilities planning model (FPM)

A national run (2022) FPM report for Huntingdonshire sports halls has been provided by Sport England to support this assessment. Its headline findings are summarised below:

#### Supply.

- ◆ In terms of the overall supply and demand balance in Huntingdonshire, the resident population generates demand for a minimum of 50.2 courts compared with a current available supply of 42.4 courts, giving a negative supply/demand balance of 7.8 courts. This is roughly equivalent of two 4-court sports halls.
- ◆ Huntingdonshire has an ageing stock of sports halls. The average age of venues is 36 years. The oldest venue is Longsands Academy. One Leisure St Ives, which opened in 1974 and was modernised in 2004, is the oldest public leisure centre.

Table 4.13: Demand findings from the FPM

Element	FPM 2022
Total demand	50.2 courts
Satisfied demand (%)	89.4%
Satisfied demand retained within Huntingdonshire	80.8%
Satisfied demand exported	19.2%

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Levels of unmet demand	5.3%
% of unmet demand (residents living outside hall catchment; as opposed to no capacity).	76.9%
Used capacity	95.3%

### *Demand*

- ◀ Table 4.13 indicates that 89.4% of demand is satisfied. This indicates that the sports halls are in the right places for the majority of residents.
- ◀ Average used capacity is calculated across all sites to be 95.3%. The FPM considers 80% of used capacity for sports halls to be the point where the facility starts to become uncomfortably busy.
- ◀ FPM modelled findings are that only two sites were below the 80% threshold of used capacity. These were Academy Leisure Sawtry and Kimbolton School. The remainder (seven sites) operate at 100% capacity. This slightly differs from the KKP audit, however, the FPM does not account for facilities re-opening following the Pandemic.
- ◀ 11% of the demand from Huntingdonshire residents is not met. This is the equivalent of five courts. Unmet demand is highest in Huntingdon, St Neots and St Ives. Certain educational sites, such as Longsands Academy, are only available for 25 hrs a week, if this is opened at weekends, it could alleviate some of this unmet demand.

### **Consultation**

National Governing Bodies (NGBs) and active clubs have been consulted to ascertain and understand current use, participation trends and needs and challenges of sports hall facilities in the area.

### **Badminton England**

Badminton England (BE) is the NGB for badminton. Its latest strategy, Discover Badminton 2017-2025 presents a vision for the sport to become one of the nation's most popular and to consistently win medals at world, Olympic and Paralympic levels. To achieve this, it has identified three key objectives:

- ◀ Grow grassroots participation.
- ◀ Create a system that identifies and develops player potential to deliver consistent world class performers.
- ◀ Built financial resilience to become a well governed organisation and demonstrate compliance with the UK governance code.

It applies a specific strategy model to assess court quality and sufficiency by local authority.

### *Overall statistics*

#### *Badminton participation statistics*

- ◀ 1.21% of adults (68.61%; male and 31.39%; female) have played badminton at least twice in the last 28 days<sup>5</sup>. This equates to **1,700 regular adult players**.

<sup>5</sup> ALS states that people that have participated at least twice in the last 28 days. For modelling purposes, it is assumed that they participate every week

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- 6.00%<sup>6</sup> of juniors<sup>Error! Bookmark not defined.</sup> have played badminton at least twice in the last 28 days. This equates to **587 regular junior players**.
- It is estimated that 9.54% of adults have played badminton at least once in the last 12 months. This equates to **11,900 occasional adult players**<sup>7</sup> (8.33% latent demand).

### Demand

- The presumption is that **regular adult players** play once per week for one hour and that their average need is for 3 adults per court. This equates to a weekly requirement for **567 court hours** (current demand).
- The presumption is that **regular junior players** play once per week for 45 minutes and that their average need is for 4 players per court. This equates to a weekly requirement for **111 court hours** (current demand).
- The presumption is that **occasional adult players** play four times per annum for one hour and that their average need is for 3 adults per court. This requires **306 court hours** (latent demand).
- To service all badminton demand there is a need for **984 court hours** per week.
- Projected increase in regular demand in 2030 is **64 court hours**.

### Supply

- There are 11 (3+court) sports halls containing 47 courts in Huntingdonshire.
- Two hall(s) are for private use only; thus 36 courts are available for badminton.
- The total number of court hours per week (3+ court sports halls) available in Huntingdonshire during stated peak time is **1,286**<sup>8</sup>
- 44.44%<sup>9</sup> of badminton courts in Huntingdonshire meet the Badminton England quality threshold (above average/good) which equates to **645** court hours<sup>10</sup>.
- There is a need for **152.56%** of the **645** good quality peak time court hours, available each week, to service current and latent badminton demand.
- Additional court hours required per week in 2030 are **64**.

KKP's needs assessment differs from the findings of the BE model. While BE assumes that there are nine available halls, KKP's assessment identifies eight. This is because the KKP audit does not include the hall at Kimbolton School. This would further reduce the number of hours available for badminton within the Authority.

Lower than average badminton participation rates are thus set against higher levels of general participation. Three affiliated clubs with over 100 members suggests a decent badminton infrastructure. Fewer than half of the facilities meet the BE quality threshold. Improvements to infrastructure is required to help drive badminton participation.

The three affiliated badminton clubs in Huntingdonshire are:

- St Ives Badminton Club
- St Neots Badminton Club
- Sawtry Badminton Club

### Club consultation

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<sup>6</sup> ALS states that 6.0% of juniors nationally (14-15 year olds) have played at least twice in the last 28 days. For modelling purposes this has been extended to include 11-13 year olds.

<sup>7</sup> Occasional players equates to all players minus regular players

<sup>8</sup> Peak time hours are defined as; Monday – Friday 17:00-22:00, Saturday 09:30-17:00, Sunday 09:00-14:30 & 17:00-19:30

<sup>9</sup> National figure: 75.0%

<sup>10</sup> Assumes that all courts of all standards available during all peak hours.

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*St Ives Badminton club* – has 20 members and runs one session per week at St Ives Leisure Centre. Members are affiliated to BE enabling it to compete in leagues within Huntingdonshire and Peterborough. Its key challenge is to recruit more coaches so it can deliver sessions for juniors, as it solely focuses on seniors currently.

*St Neots Badminton Club* - currently has 17 members and hires two courts at St Neots Leisure Centre every Saturday to deliver its club session. It is currently rebuilding membership numbers following the Pandemic and hopes to double this over the next six months. It would like to see more competitive leagues in Cambridgeshire. Currently there is only one league, which does not suit all members, in terms of match times and venues. This is an action for the county board. It reports having a good relationship with One Leisure.

*Sawtry Badminton Club* - is a popular social/competitive badminton club based at Academy Leisure Sawtry. It trains twice a week, and it currently has 40 members. It competes in the Hunts and Peterborough Badminton League, in which it has men's, women's, mixed and junior representation. The key challenge for the club is to increase both membership and the number of coaches.

There are also several social clubs within the Authority, including Hemingford and Huntingdon badminton clubs. Both mainly cater for members aged over 60 who play mainly for fun. Neither affiliates to Badminton England and they use smaller village halls/community buildings.

#### **Netball**

England Netball's latest strategy, *Your Game, Your Way*, aims to establish it as a top performing, financially sustainable NGB that promotes 'Netball for Life' and develops more world class athletes. The four key stated priorities are:

- ◀ Grow participation in the game by an average of 10,000 participants per annum.
- ◀ Deliver a 1st class member and participant experience.
- ◀ Establish England as the number one team in the World
- ◀ Lead an effective and progressive infrastructure enabling all involved in the netball experience to collaborate as one team aligned behind one dream.

England Netball reports that netball is growing fast nationally with a recent YouGov report it commissioned reporting that the 2019 World Cup inspired 160,000 adult women to take up the sport and a 1000% increase in visits to its online netball session finder at the end of the World Cup, compared to the two weeks prior. In addition, 71% of clubs reported more people had shown an interest in playing netball than before the tournament started.

Most netball in Huntingdonshire is played at an outdoor venue location, St Ivo School which has six floodlit outdoor courts. The site accommodates training demand for three clubs and England Netball also delivers both Back to Netball and Walking Netball sessions at the site. The three clubs which use the site are Icons, Hawks and Warboys. Icons also uses St Ives Sports hall for winter training one night a week during the winter months.

Consultation indicated that all three clubs would like to see a central venue league with an indoor facility being created in the Authority. They feel that should something be built, there would be an increase in demand for the sport within the Authority. Currently, clubs have to travel to Netherhall School in Cambridge to compete. Cambridgeshire County Premier League is hosted at the Netherhall site.



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### 4.3: Future demand and Sports Facilities Calculator (SFC)

The SFC helps local authorities to quantify additional demand for community sports facilities generated by new growth populations, development and regeneration areas. It is used to estimate facility needs for whole area populations but is not used to assess strategic gap analysis as it has no spatial dimension and does not take account of:

- ◀ Facility location compared to demand.
- ◀ Capacity and availability of facilities – opening hours.
- ◀ Cross boundary movement of demand.
- ◀ Travel networks and topography.
- ◀ Attractiveness of facilities.

The new hall included with the new school at Alconbury Weald will help accommodate current and future demand.

Table 4.13: Sport England Sports Facility Calculator

	Population 2018 ONS	Population estimate (2043)
<b>ONS population projections</b>	177,352	191,170
<b>Population increase</b>	-	13,818
<b>Facilities to meet additional demand</b>	-	+3.88 courts or 0.97 sports halls
<b>Estimated cost</b>	-	£2,435,716

Calculations assume that the current sports hall stock remains available for community use and the quality remains the same. A projected increase in population will lead to an increase in demand for sports hall space in Huntingdonshire. The SFC indicates a requirement for an additional hall (one 4-court hall) up to 2043 (estimated cost: £2,435,716).

### 4.4: Summary of key facts and issues

Facility type	Sports halls	
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
<b>Quantity</b>	Huntingdonshire has 30 sports halls of all sizes (60 courts) Of eleven 3+ court sports halls, nine are community available (totalling 37 courts). A new sports 4-court hall is to be built as part the Alconbury Weald development.	The FPM indicates a current shortfall for five badminton courts, based on current supply/demand. Population growth will also generate additional demand for a further four courts (by 2043).
<b>Quality</b>	Of Huntingdonshire's 3+ court halls, one is rated good, three above average, and four below average. One was unassessed.	Investment in the below average/ poor sports halls to ensure that they meet modern user expectations - and to increase supply.
<b>Accessibility</b>	42% of the population lives within one mile (20 minutes' walk) of a sports hall. 81.5% of residents in high IMD areas live within one mile of a sports hall. Nine (4+ court) sports halls are located within two miles of Huntingdonshire. Main settlements all have sports halls.	Although car ownership is good, residents in rural areas without access to their own transport may struggle to access certain facilities. It is important to ensure there is good public transport links to key leisure facilities from these communities in rural areas.

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Facility type	Sports halls	
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
	98% of the population lives within a 20-minute drive of a 3+ court hall.	
<b>Availability</b> (Management and usage)	All but two halls are available for community use. Of the nine community-available five are operating at capacity and only three have any significant spare capacity – and, of these, St Peters will probably reach capacity once all its bookings return. Data at Emulf Academy was not available as part of the audit.	Sports hall utilisation is high. Community use at key schools needs to increase.  The new school at Alconbury Wield will help alleviate capacity issues.
<b>Summary</b>	HDC has a good spread of sports halls, which serve key settlements. The four 3+ court halls rated above average/good include Huntingdon, St Neots and Ramsey. The FPM calculates current unmet demand of five badminton courts. Most education sites are below average. Sports hall accessibility is good. 98% of residents live within a 20-minute drive. Utilisation is high, with several sites operating above the 80% capacity threshold. Options to address this could be to increase availability at key school sites.	

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### SECTION 5: SWIMMING POOLS

A swimming pool is defined as an “enclosed area of water, specifically maintained for all forms of water-based sport and recreation”. It includes indoor and outdoor pools, freeform leisure pools and specific diving tanks used for general swimming, teaching, training and diving. Many small pools are used solely for recreational swimming and will not necessarily need to strictly follow the NGB recommendations. It is, however, generally recommended that standard dimensions are used to allow appropriate levels of competition and training and to help meet safety standards. Relatively few pools need to be designed to full competition standards or include spectator facilities.

Training for competition, low-level synchronised swimming, and water polo can all take place in a 25m pool. With modest spectator seating, pools can also accommodate competitive events in these activities. Diving from boards, advanced synchronised swimming and more advanced sub-aqua training require deeper water. These can all be accommodated in one pool tank, which ideally should be in addition to the main pool.

The NGB responsible for administering diving, swimming, synchronised swimming and water polo in England is Swim England.

The 2019 State of the UK Swimming Industry Report reveals that the UK swimming industry has not changed significantly in the previous 12 months although. 26 swimming pool sites have opened and 27 have closed. Nuffield and GLL remain the UK’s leading private and public operators (by number of sites with a pool). GLL operates 146 swimming centres, while Nuffield has 111 clubs with a pool. The 2019 report shows that 84% of the UK population live within two miles of one of the 3,170 swimming pool sites. As mentioned previously the Covid-19 Pandemic has had a big nationwide impact on swimming pool provision, with many sites being closed due to social distancing restrictions for a significant portion of 2020.

#### 5.1: Supply

This assessment is mostly concerned with larger pools available for community use (no membership base criteria restricting access). Those less than 160m<sup>2</sup> (e.g., 20m x 4 lanes) water space and/or located at private member clubs are deemed to offer limited value in relation to community use and delivery of outcomes related to health and deprivation. It is recognised that smaller pools do offer learning/teaching sessions, but they are, for modelling/needs assessment purposes, deemed unable to offer a full swim programme and, thus, eliminated from the supply evaluation, when considering accessibility and availability later in this section.

#### Quantity

The audit including all pools irrespective of size and access identifies 13 swimming pools at 13 sites. None has an additional learner/trainer pool. All key areas of population are served by a pool; the largest facility is located at Kimbolton School, which has a 5 x 25m pool.

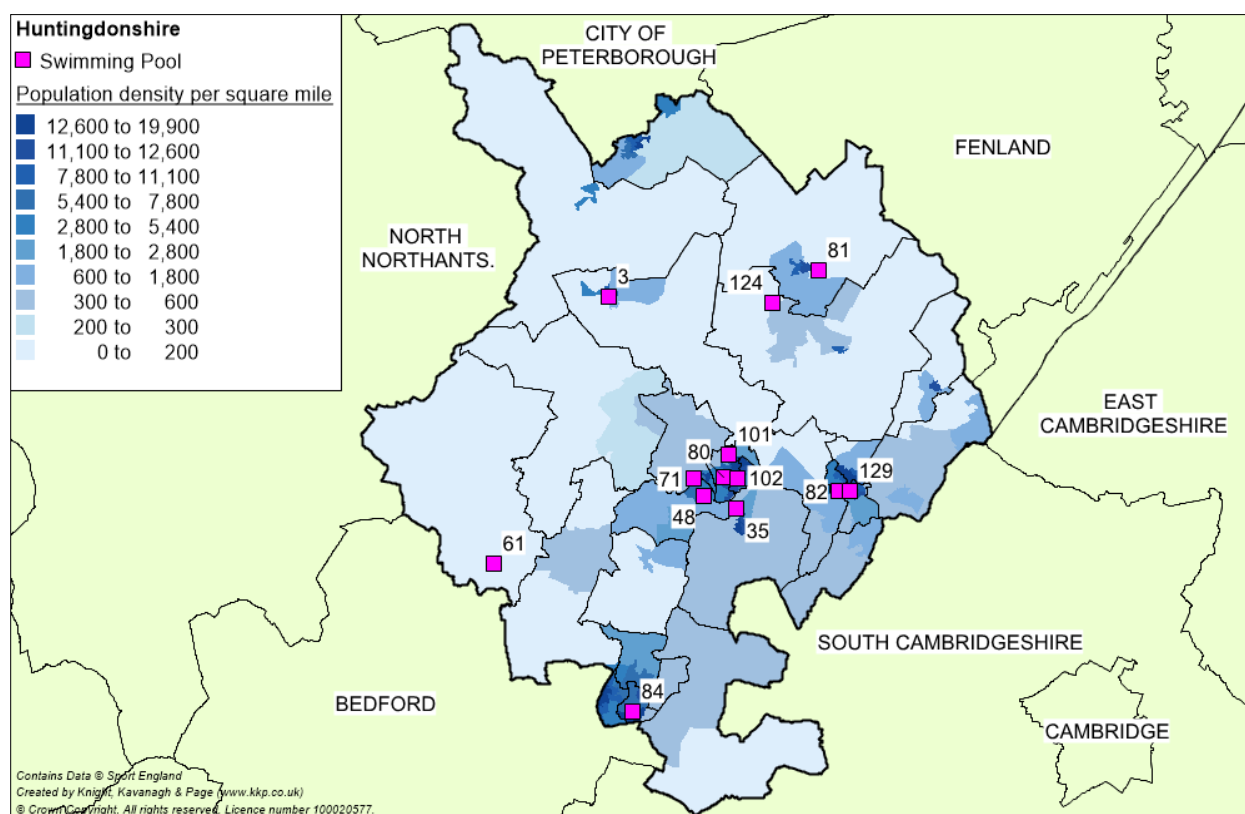
Table 5.1: All swimming pools in Huntingdonshire.

Map	Site name	Facility type	Lanes/length	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )
3	Academy Leisure Sawtry	Main/General	4 x 20m	160
35	Godmanchester Community Academy	Main/General	4 x 16m	142
48	Hinchingbrooke School	Main/General	4 x 25m	200
61	Kimbolton School	Main/General	5 x 25m	250
71	Marriott Leisure Club	Main/General	0 x 15m	113

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80	One Leisure Huntingdon	Main/General	4 x 25m	250
81	One Leisure Ramsey	Main/General	4 x 20m	200
82	One Leisure St Ives	Main/General	4 x 25m	225
84	One Leisure St Neots	Main/General	4 x 25m	225
101	Sports Direct Fitness	Main/General	0 x 15m	101
102	Spring Common Academy	Leisure Pool	0 x 8m	40
124	Upwood Primary Academy	Learner/Teaching	0 x 12m	72
129	Westfield Junior School	Lido	0 x 13m	104

Figure 5.1: All swimming pools in Huntingdonshire



## Quality

KKP completed non-technical visual assessments at main swimming pools. This encompasses assessment of changing provision as this also significant in influencing and attracting users.

Table 5.2: Quality of swimming pools (more than 160m<sup>2</sup> in size) in Huntingdonshire

30 year old	Site name	Lanes/Length	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Condition	
				Pool	Changing
3	Academy Leisure Sawtry	4 x 20m	160	Above average	Above average
48	Hinchingbrooke School	4 x 25m	200	Below average	Above average
61	Kimbolton School*	5 x 25m	250	Above average	Above average
80	One Leisure Huntingdon	4 x 25m	250	Below average	Good
81	One Leisure Ramsey	4 x 20m	200	Below average	Above average
82	One Leisure St Ives	4 x 25m	225	Below average	Good
84	One Leisure St Neots	4 x 25m	225	Above average	Above average

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Swimming pools in Huntingdonshire are of variable quality. Three of the four One Leisure sites were rated below average with only the pool at St Neots rated above average. Quality ratings generally reflect facilities age. All are 30+ years old, with St Ives being the oldest, built in 1974. All have had some form of investment since particularly focusing on the changing provision, however, the original pool tanks are still in situ. The most recent upgrade was the changing provision at St Ives, in 2021.

The remaining sites are rated as above average. It must be noted, however, that a site visit was not gained at Kimbolton School, and a quality rating was provided by the school facilities manager via virtual meeting.

Swimming facilities at Academy Leisure (Sawtry) are at imminent risk of closure (by the end of 2022). HDC are at the time of writing in discussion with the Meridian academy Trust who operate the facility regarding the facilities' future, with the recent energy cost increase being cited as a key contributing factor.

### Energy efficiency of pools

Of the main leisure sites in Huntingdonshire, four of the five (Huntingdon, St Neots, Sawtry, St Ives) have 'average' ratings in respect of energy efficiency. This reflects that whilst these are older, and contain standard gas fired boiler they nevertheless have energy efficiency plans in place, with funding to deliver projects supported through SALIX funding (interest-free Government funding to the public sector to improve energy efficiency, reduce carbon emissions and lower energy bills). This has delivered solar roof panels, improved boilers and pumps, LED lights, and cavity wall insulation. Each of these sites also have decarbonisation reports which identify future potential energy efficiency measures including an assessment of the potential for ground source heat pumps.

Ramsey leisure centre has, in addition to the above measures undergone a full decarbonisation programme including installation of an air source heat pump, which is reflected in its 'good' energy efficiency rating.

Table 5.3: Energy rating score

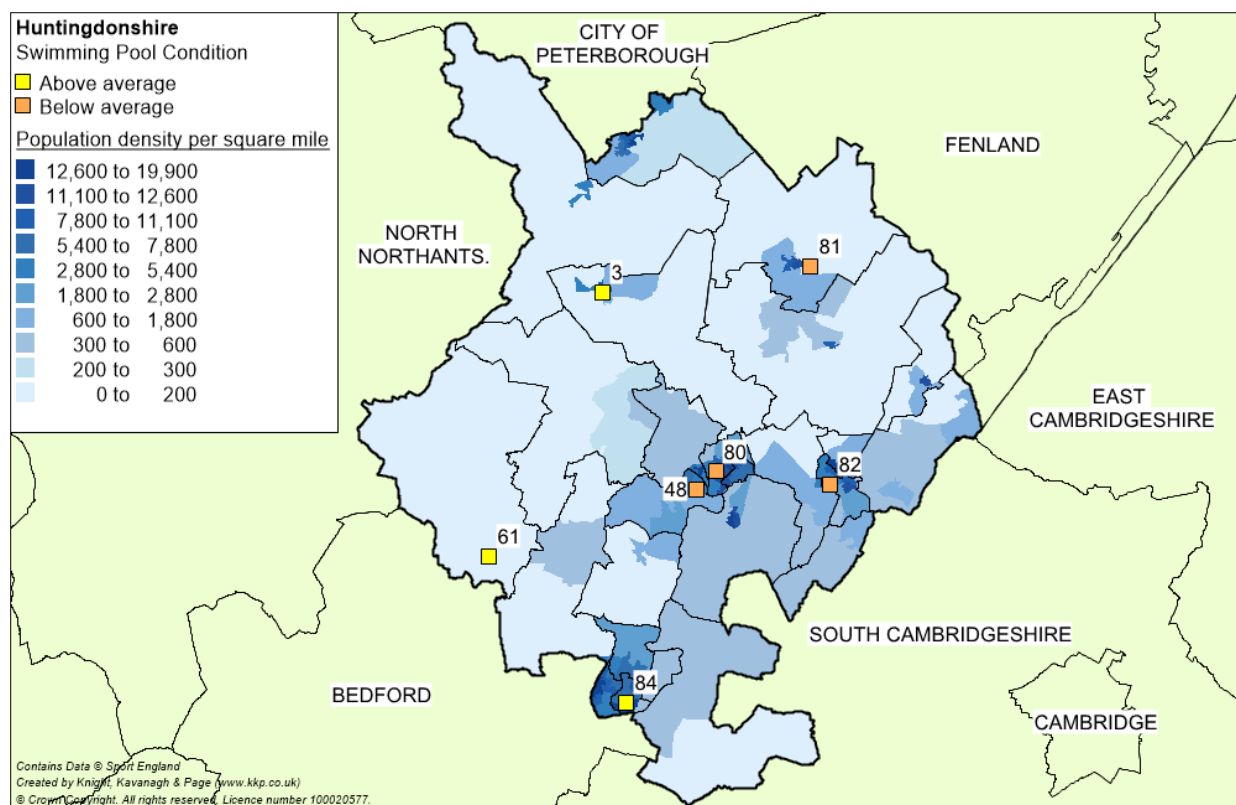
Site	Energy efficiency rating
Huntingdon Leisure centre	Average
St Neots Leisure Centre	Average
Sawtry Leisure Centre	Average
Ramsey Leisure Centre	Good
St Ives Leisure Centre	Average

Table 5.4: Age of swimming pools and refurbishment dates (where applicable)

Site	Year opened	Refurbishment	Age (years) since refurbishment
Academy Leisure Sawtry	1994	n/a	28
Hinchingbrooke School	1975	2012	10
Kimbolton School	2000	n/a	22
One Leisure Huntingdon	1981	2018	4
One Leisure Ramsey	1990	2019	3
One Leisure St Ives	1974	2021	1
One Leisure St Neots	1986	2020	2

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Figure 5.2: Quality of 160m<sup>2</sup>+ swimming pools in Huntingdonshire



## Availability of swimming pools

Swimming pool availability differs dependent upon ownership and/or management. The majority offer some form of community access.

Five, including all four One Leisure sites, offer pay and play sites during peak periods (early mornings/lunchtimes/evenings). Hinchingsbrooke School is available on a block booked basis after 16.00 and at weekends. These slots are taken up by a number of swim schools.

Kimbolton School has very limited number of slots available for external users, and allows five hours a week for club use/swim school hire. St Neots S wans uses the pool twice a week. During summer periods, when the School's boarding pupils are not on campus, it does offer pay and play swimming, however, this is not regular.

Table 5.5: Access policy of swimming pools

Site	Access policy
Academy Leisure Sawtry	Pay and play
Hinchingsbrooke School	Block bookings
Kimbolton School	Block bookings
One Leisure Huntingdon	Pay and play
One Leisure Ramsey	Pay and play
One Leisure St Ives	Pay and play
One Leisure St Neots	Pay and play

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## Accessibility

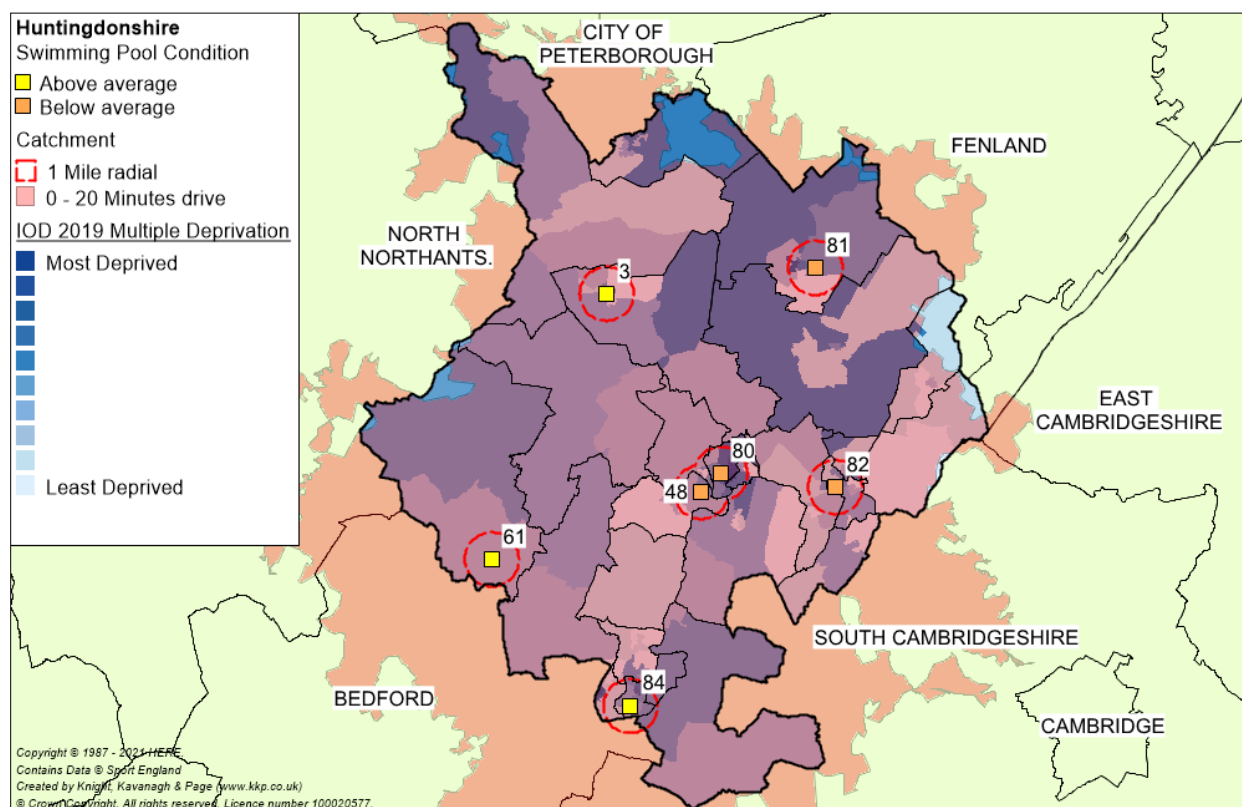
Swimming pool accessibility is influenced by physical (i.e., built environment). Appropriate walk and drive-time catchments are applied to determine accessibility to communities. Normal acceptable standard is 20-minutes' walk time (1-mile radial catchment) for an urban area and a 20-minutes' drive time for a rural area. This enables analysis of the adequacy of coverage and helps identify areas currently not serviced by existing provision. Both standards are applied in this report.

Figure 5.3 and Table 5.5 illustrate the walk-time based accessibility of all swimming pools (over 160m<sup>2</sup> which offer some form of public use) in Huntingdonshire. Just over one third (34.9%) of the population lives within one mile of a swimming pool in the Authority. Of the 8,237 people living in areas of higher deprivation in Huntingdonshire (i.e., those in the 30% most deprived areas nationally), 6,711 (81.4%) live within a one-mile radial catchment of a swimming pool.

In terms of accessibility to pay and play sites, the number of people who live within a mile of such a facility is 32.8%. This proportion rises to 81.5% when considering residents living in areas of higher deprivation; this indicates a good level of accessibility to this portion of the population. Areas not served are predominantly non-residential, these include the areas along the Peterborough border.

Although just under half of the overall population is located within a one-mile radial catchment of a pay and play pool, drive time catchment modelling suggests that 98% of Huntingdonshire's population lives within a 20-minute drive of these five pay and play sites. With the Authority having above average levels of car ownership, the audit assumes that the majority of people from rural areas do have good access to swimming pools.

Figure 5.3: Pools of 160m<sup>2</sup>+ by quality on IMD with 1-mile catchment and a 20 minute drive.



## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Table 5.6: Accessibility of swimming pools in Huntingdonshire

IMD 10% bands	Huntingdonshire		Swimming pools, minimum 160m <sup>2</sup> 1 mile catchment populations by IMD			
	Persons	Population %	Persons inside catchment	Population inside (%)	Persons outside catchment	Population outside (%)
0 - 10	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
10.1 - 20	3,456	2.0%	3,456	2.0%	0	0.0%
20.1 - 30	4,781	2.7%	3,255	1.9%	1,526	0.9%
30.1 - 40	6,420	3.7%	3,497	2.0%	2,923	1.7%
40.1 - 50	24,764	14.2%	8,019	4.6%	16,745	9.6%
50.1 - 60	24,155	13.9%	12,411	7.1%	11,744	6.7%
60.1 - 70	19,238	11.0%	5,515	3.2%	13,723	7.9%
70.1 - 80	26,883	15.4%	8,629	5.0%	18,254	10.5%
80.1 - 90	36,713	21.1%	11,264	6.5%	25,449	14.6%
90.1 - 100	27,780	16.0%	4,796	2.8%	22,984	13.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>174,190</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>60,842</b>	<b>34.9%</b>	<b>113,348</b>	<b>65.1%</b>

### Facilities in neighbouring authorities

It is also important to know what facilities are within easy reach of the Authority; these can influence resident's choice in terms of access and convenience. Six pools are located within two miles of the border, four of which offer pay and play availability. The other two require users to be a member of a sports club, or to be a registered member to use these facilities.

Five of these are located in the Peterborough authority. These include the largest which is the Regional Pool & Athletics Arena and the Peterborough Lido which is an 8-lane x 50m pool, however, this is seasonal and only open during the summer months.



# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Figure 5.5: Swimming pools located within two miles of Huntingdonshire authority

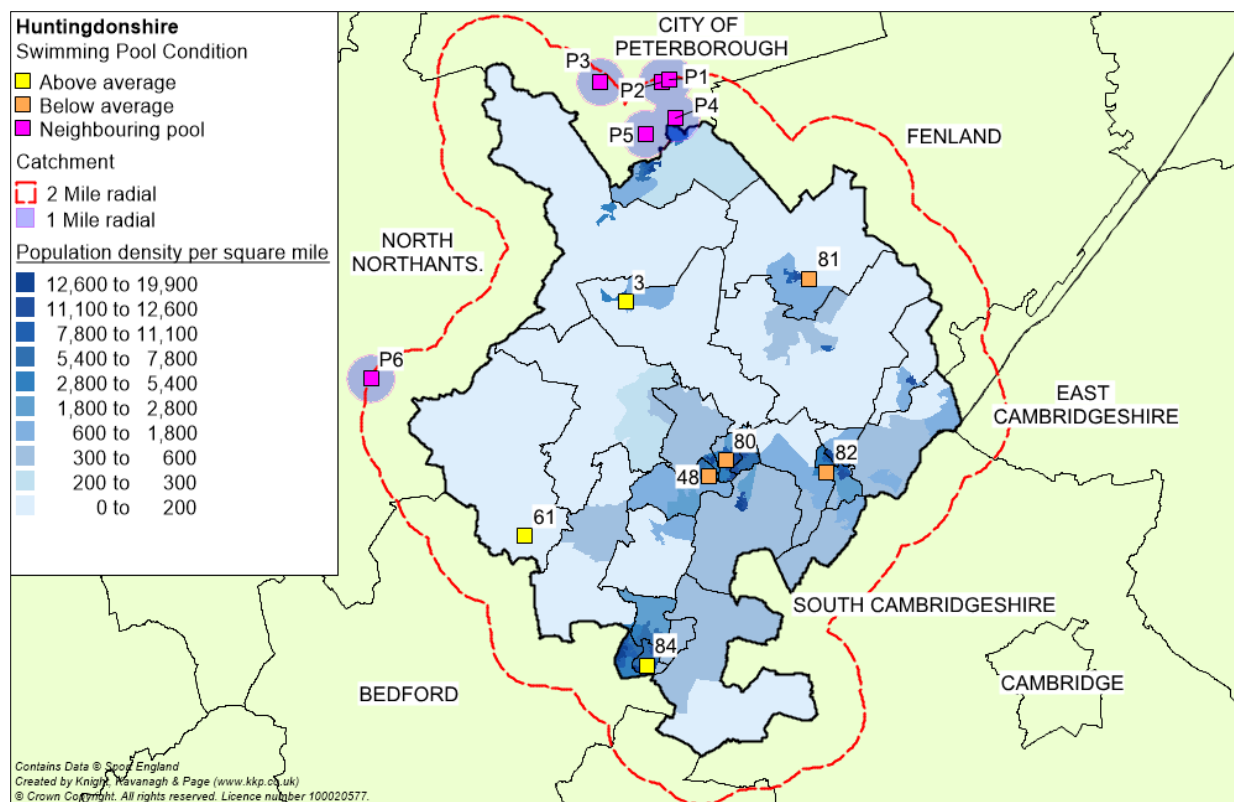


Table 5.7: Neighbouring community available pools within 2-miles of Huntingdonshire

ID	Active Places site name	Pool type	Lanes / length	Access type	Authority
P1	Regional Pool	Main/general	6 x 25m	Pay and play	Peterborough
P2	Peterborough Lido	Lido	8 x 50m	Pay and play	Peterborough
P3	David Lloyd	Main/general	5 x 25m	Reg. membership	Peterborough
P4	Stanground Sports Centre	Main/general	6 x 25m	Pay and play	Peterborough
P5	Vivacity Premier Fitness	Main/general	6 x 25m	Reg. membership	Peterborough
P6	The Nene Centre	Main/general	5 x 25m	Pay and play	N. Northants

Source: Active Places Power 12/03/2022

## Sport England Facilities Planning Model (FPM)

This provides an overview of current levels of provision of swimming pools in Huntingdonshire ; based on data from the Facility Planning National Run; June 2022. Its findings are:

### Supply

- 1,108m<sup>2</sup> of water space is available for community use in the weekly peak period..
- Average pool age is 36 years although there is a good track record of modernisation. Five have been modernised in the last 15 years, including four of the One Leisure sites.

### Demand

- The resident population of Huntingdonshire in 2022 generates demand for 1,923m<sup>2</sup> of water. This compares to the available supply of 1,108m<sup>2</sup> and results in a negative supply demand balance of 815m<sup>2</sup>.

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- Although there is a negative supply demand balance, Huntingdonshire's demand can be met by the supply accessible to its residents. Satisfied demand is very high, with most demand being retained within the District.
- Unmet demand is quite low (13.5%) and is dispersed across the District. However, pools are estimated to be very full at peak times - considerably above the Sport England comfort level of usage (70%) in the weekly peak period.

Table 5.8: FPM demand findings

Element	FPM 2022
Total demand	1,923m <sup>2</sup>
Satisfied demand	86.5%
Satisfied demand retained within Huntingdonshire	80.5%
Satisfied demand exported	19.5%
Levels of unmet demand	13.5%
% of unmet demand due to residents outside pool catchment (as opposed to no capacity)	60.8%
Used capacity	89.1%

### 5.2: Demand

Swim England's latest strategic plan (May 2020), which supersedes *Towards a Nation Swimming: a Strategic Plan for Swimming in England 2017-21*, aims to create a happier, healthier and more successful nation through swimming. To achieve this, several strategic objectives are set - to:

- Provide strong leadership and be the recognised authority for swimming.
- Substantially increase the number of people able to swim.
- Significantly grow the number and diversity of people enjoying and benefitting from regular swimming.
- Create a world leading talent system for all disciplines.
- Deliver a high quality, diverse and motivated workforce within swimming.
- Strengthening organisational sustainability for future generations.

The following Swim England affiliated clubs are based in the Authority:

- Piranhas Swimming Club- Huntingdon.
- St Neots Swans.
- St Ives Swimming Club.

Swim England states that there is a significant deficit of water provision, equating to 701 m<sup>2</sup>. This is equivalent to c. 13 lanes in a 25m pool. For comparison, a 6 lane x 25m pool would equate to 325m<sup>2</sup>. Unmet demand is largely located in the south and southeast of the District. The NGB also notes that some stock is aged, and therefore provision for refurbishments and replacement is required in the short term. It must be noted that Swim England uses a different water calculation model but both data sets identify a shortage of water supply in the Authority.

#### Club consultation

*Huntingdon Swimming Club (Piranhas Swim Club)* – is based at the One Leisure Pool in the town. It uses the pool everyday between 06.00-07.00 and 20.00-21.00 during the week. It currently has 130 members providing opportunity for junior and masters swimming. It states that

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the pool is tired in quality and that air handling unit is inadequate. Should it be replaced, it would like to see a 6 x 25m pool with integrated dry room, so the Club can also focus on land training.

*St Ives Swimming Club* - has over 160 members along with a waiting list of 80. It focuses on junior swimming and uses the One Leisure pool at St Ives everyday apart from Tuesday. It reports having a good relationship with the leisure operator. It would like to have a good quality competition pool in the Authority. It has to travel to either Corby, or Luton in order to access a strategic 50m competition pool. Ideally, it would like to see a competition pool (6-8 lane 25m) being built within the Authority, which has adequate competition seating.

*St Neots Swans*- is based mainly at the One Leisure site at St Neots, however, it also has training time at both Kimbolton School and Trinity Leisure in Bedford Authority. Whilst it is grateful to have access to a variety of different pools, it would like to focus its activity at one site, ideally at the pool at St Neots. In order for this to happen, the pool needs to be increased in capacity due to the current high level of demand.

**Leisure operators** – consultation was undertaken with One Leisure which manages the four strategic sites. It reports that swimming lessons are very popular with each site currently operating between 85-90%. Since the end of Pandemic restrictions, there has been a sizable increase in demand for lessons, with lessons at St Neots seeing the largest rise. Moving forward, the key challenge will be to ensure demand is matched with supply, particularly as the population continues to grow in the key growth areas (Huntingdon and St Neots).

It must also be noted that the pool at Hinchingsbrooke School is also well used during evenings/weekends. It accommodates a number of swim schools which use the pool, and the School reports that there is limited spare capacity for additional bookings.

### 5.3: Sport England's Facilities Calculator (SFC)

This assists local planning authorities to quantify additional demand for community sports facilities generated by new growth populations, development and regeneration areas. It can be used to estimate facility needs for whole area (Authority) populations but should not be applied for strategic gap analysis as it has no spatial dimension and does not take account of:

- ◀ Facility location compared to demand.
- ◀ Capacity and availability of facilities – opening hours.
- ◀ Cross boundary movement of demand.
- ◀ Travel networks and topography.
- ◀ Attractiveness of facilities.

Table 5.9: Sport England Sports facilities calculator – swimming pools

Factor	Population 2018	Population estimate 2043
ONS population projections	177,352	191,170
Population increase	-	13,818
Facilities to meet change in demand	-	0.70 swimming pools
Cost		£2,674,489

The SFC calculates that projected population increases in the Authority will create an increase in required pool capacity of 0.7 (4 lane x 25m) swimming pools at a cost of £2,674,489. This is the equivalent of three lanes in a 25m pool.

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Calculations indicate an increased demand for water space to accommodate future population growth. This anticipated growth, coupled with the current shortfall and high levels of demand, will result in additional capacity being required.

### 5.4: Summary of key facts and issues

Facility type	Swimming pools	
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
<b>Quantity</b>	<p>There 13 operational pools on 13 sites available in Huntingdonshire. Seven are equal or greater than 160m<sup>2</sup> in size.</p> <p>The swimming pool at Sawtry is at risk of closure, with HDC being in negotiation with the academy trust regarding its future.</p>	<p>Pool used capacity at certain sites, based on current swimming lesson availability, club consultation and FPM figures, is high. As the population grows there will be a need for additional pool capacity. SFC calculations confirm need for an additional 0.7 pools based on population growth to 2043.</p> <p>Should Sawtry close, this would put increased pressure on the existing sites. Particularly Huntingdon and Ramsey.</p>
<b>Quality</b>	<p>More than half of all pools are rated as below average including the One Leisure sites at Huntingdon, Ramsey and St Ives</p>	<p>The age and condition of these facilities means that there is a need to either extensively upgrade or replace them in the relatively near future.</p>
<b>Accessibility</b>	<p>34.1% of the population lives within one-mile of the six pay and play access sites.</p> <p>81.4% of those living in areas of higher deprivation live within a one-mile catchment of a pool.</p> <p>98% of residents live within a 20 minute drive of a pay and play pool.</p>	<p>Although levels of car ownership are high, residents in rural areas without access to their own vehicle may struggle to access certain facilities and ensuring there are improved public transport links to key leisure facilities may be required.</p>
<b>Availability (Management &amp; usage)</b>	<p>Five pools offer pay and play serving key settlements in Huntingdonshire. Two school pools are also available on a block bookings basis.</p>	<p>Consultation and the FPM indicate that pools across Huntingdonshire are operating at near to capacity. With the anticipated population growth through the key housing developments, there is a need to identify possible options to increase capacity either through expansion of current facilities or the creation of a new facility.</p>
<b>Summary</b>	<p>There are seven pools equal or greater than 160m<sup>2</sup> in size, which serve the major settlements in Huntingdonshire. Four of the seven are rated below average, including three of the One Leisure pools.</p> <p>Despite the majority of key sites being rated below average, pool capacity is currently high, with the majority of sites operating above the Sport England comfort level of usage (70%). To address the quality and capacity issues, along with the anticipated population growth, there is a strategic need to increase pool capacity. Options include increasing the number of lanes or adding a learner/training pool at certain sites. This will ensure clubs can continue to grow and One Leisure can deliver a successful learn to swim programme.</p>	

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Facility type	Swimming pools	
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
	Sawtry swimming pool is currently at risk of closing (by the end of the 2022 calendar year). Should this facility close, it will put additional pressure on Huntington and Ramsey, which are currently busy.	

### SECTION 6: HEALTH AND FITNESS SUITES

For the purposes of assessment, health and fitness suites are normally defined as venues with 20 stations or more. A station is a piece of static fitness equipment; larger health and fitness centres with more stations are generally able to make a more attractive offer to both members and casual users. They provide a valuable way to assist people of all ages, ethnicities and abilities to introduce physical exercise into their daily lives with the obvious concomitant benefits to health, fitness and wellbeing.

The current state of the UK fitness industry is complex with a variety of providers. Key providers are; private sector operators (ranging from low-cost operators to the high-end market) and the operators of public sector facilities. The publicly owned facilities can be managed by companies and/or Trusts (such as GLL and Everyone Active, for example) on behalf of the local authority or are managed inhouse, by the local authority itself. Other providers include schools, trusts and/or charities.

Prior to the pandemic, the UK health and fitness industry was enjoying a strong period of growth. It had more gyms, more members and a greater market value than ever before. Data up to the 12-month period ending March 2019, demonstrated an estimated increase of 4.7% in the number of members, 2.9% in the number of facilities and 4.2% in market value. Pure Gym and GLL remained the UK's leading operators (by number of gyms and members).

According to the State of the UK Fitness Industry Report (2019) there were 7,239 fitness facilities in the UK, up from 7,038 in 2018. Total industry membership was up 5.0% to 10.4 million which means that one in seven people in the UK is a member of a gym. The total market value is estimated at £5.1 billion, up 4.1% on 2018. The UK penetration rate is at 15.6%, which is an increase of 0.7% from the previous year.

During 2020, and in the midst of social distancing restrictions (following an average 4-5 month period of enforced closure), many health and fitness providers were achieving a maximum figure of 40-50% of normal attendance. In the case of local authority contracted facilities, remobilisation following the relaxation of restrictions is likely to require a negotiated package of financial support from the local authority.

The impact of the pandemic on the sector continued well into 2021 in terms of enforced facility closure and residual social distancing restrictions. Many providers have responded by designing a variety of online classes as a means of retaining member loyalty and engagement.

The State of the Fitness Industry Report UK for 2022 found the market to be in remarkably good shape considering the disruptions of the previous two years, with overall results showing some key metrics to be running at the same levels as 2018 and some at 2019 levels, when the industry was having a 'golden moment', with record results in all areas.

Memberships decreased by 4.7 per cent from 10.4 million in 2019 to 9.9m (9,890,985) in 2022 and market value was down by 4.3 per cent from £5.1 billion in 2019. The industry's present status takes it back to around 2018 value levels.

The penetration rate dropped back one percentage point to 14.6 per cent after passing the 15 per cent barrier for the first time back in 2019.

The research does not count consumer health club activity using aggregators, such as Classpass and Hussle and it's not clear how much consumer activity in the market has

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migrated to these services since the last report was published in 2019 or how much this might have impacted results had it been counted.

Since the previous 2019 report, 631 clubs have closed, however, 455 new facilities have opened, meaning the overall number of sites has only dropped 2.43 per cent from 7,239 in 2019 to 7,063 in 2022, a difference of 176.

Half of the closed businesses failed in the first year of the pandemic, meaning the rate of losses slowed considerably after these early casualties, although the timing of the research means that post-rent moratorium closures will not have been counted.

### 6.1: Supply

#### Quantity

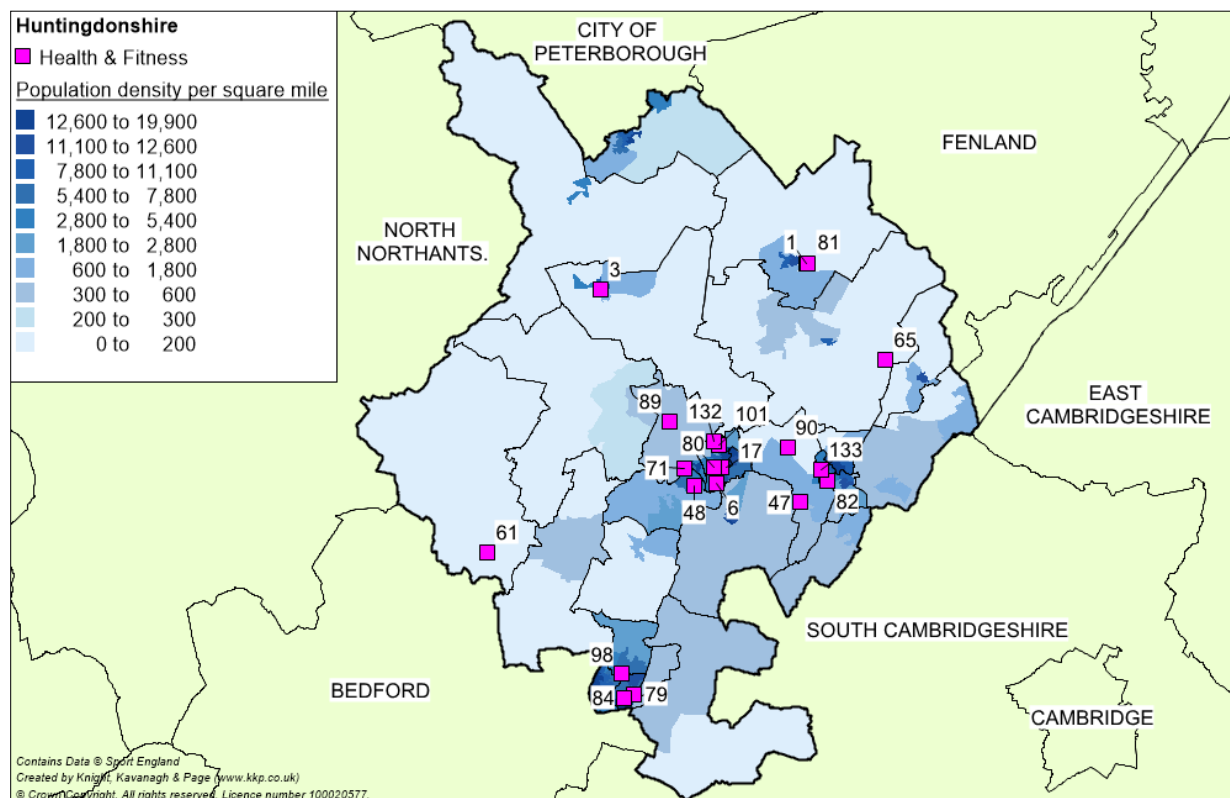
As is illustrated in Figure 6.1 and listed in Table 6.1, there are 20 health and fitness suites in Huntingdonshire with a total of 1,172 stations. All key areas of populations are served by a health and fitness provision with the majority located in and around the Huntingdon area.

*Table 6.1: All health and fitness gyms in Huntingdonshire*

ID	Site name	Stns	ID	Site name	Stns
1	Abbey College	15	80	One Leisure Huntingdon	85
3	Academy Leisure Sawtry	20	81	One Leisure Ramsey	40
6	Anytime Fitness (Huntingdon)	200	82	One Leisure St Ives	120
17	Cambridge Regional College	22	84	One Leisure St Neots	120
47	Hemingford Pavilion	15	89	RAF Alconbury	100
48	Hinchingbrooke School	30	90	RAF Wyton	72
61	Kimbolton School	10	98	Snap Fitness (St Neots)	66
65	Lakeside Lodge Country Club	35	101	Sports Direct Fitness (	60
71	Marriott Leisure Club (Huntingdon)	30	132	The Gym Group	50
79	Old School Strength & Conditioning	40	133	St Ives Training Shed	50
<b>Total</b>					<b>1172</b>

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Figure 6.1: All health and fitness facilities in Huntingdonshire on population density



Fitness facilities with fewer than 20+ stations are typically not assessed/considered although they can play a role in servicing small sections of the community.

## Quality

All health and fitness sites received a non-technical quality assessment. All sites are rated either good or above average, with no sites rated either below average or poor.

Table 6.2: Health & fitness suites with 20+ stations on population density by condition

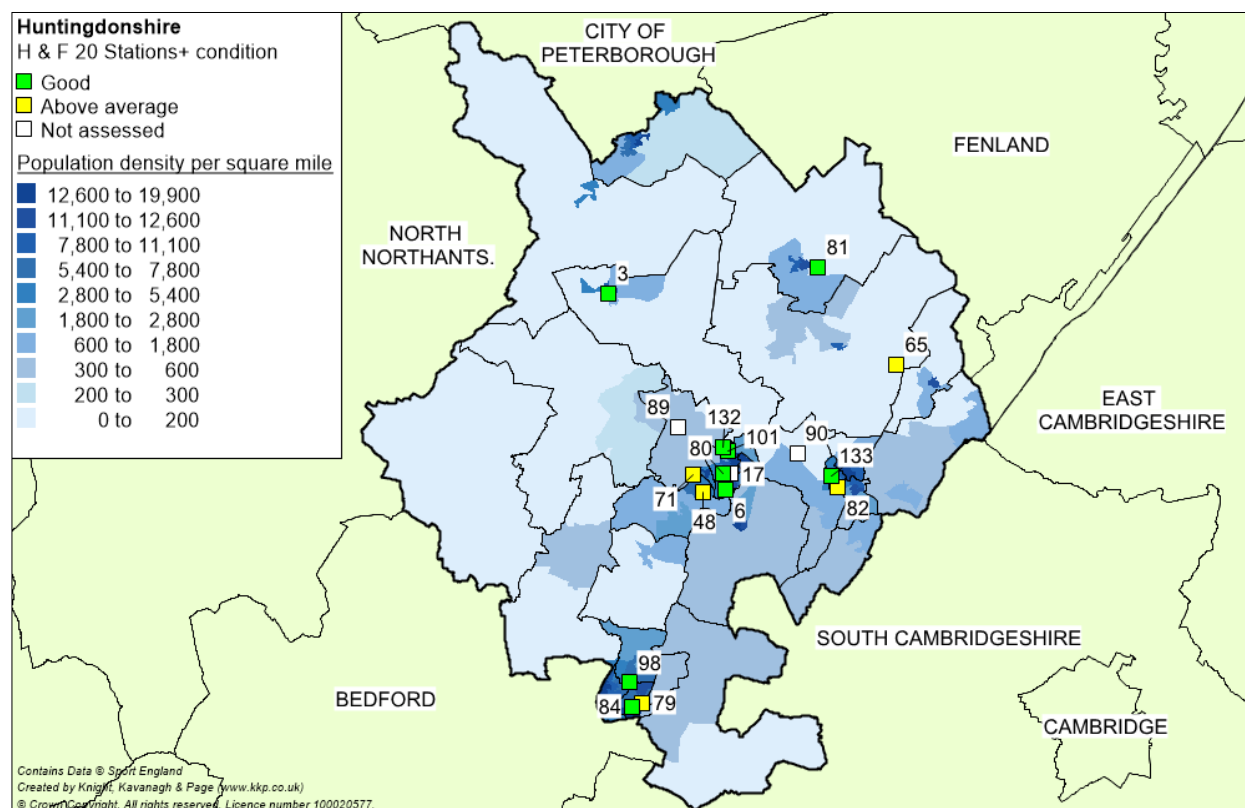
ID	Site name	Stations	Condition
3	Academy Leisure Sawtry	20	Good
6	Anytime Fitness (Huntingdon)	200	Good
48	Hinchingbrooke School	30	Above average
65	Lakeside Lodge Golf & Country Club	35	Above average
71	Marriott Leisure Club (Huntingdon)	30	Above average
79	Old School Strength & Conditioning	40	Above average
80	One Leisure Huntingdon	65	Good
80	One Leisure Huntingdon	20	Good
81	One Leisure Ramsey	40	Good
82	One Leisure St Ives	120	Good
84	One Leisure St Neots	120	Good
98	Snap Fitness (St Neots)	66	Good
101	Sports Direct Fitness (Huntingdon)	60	Good
132	The Gym Group	50	Good
133	St Ives Training Shed	50	Good



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ID	Site name	Stations	Condition
<b>Total</b>		<b>946</b>	

Figure 6.2: Health and fitness suites with 20+ stations on population density by condition



## Accessibility

The Sport England classification of access type defines registered membership use facilities as being publicly available. For health and fitness suites, this generally means payment of a monthly membership fee which can vary considerably. Private operators do not have a contractual obligation to, for example, offer exercise referral nor do they necessarily actively target hard to reach groups. It is also acknowledged that some memberships are expensive while others are cheaper than those offered by public sector venues. There is little doubt that the various private operators can take pressure off the more available public facilities.

As with pools and sports halls, appropriate walk and drive-time accessibility standards are applied to health and fitness suites to determine provision deficiencies or surpluses. The normal acceptable standard for an urban area is a one-mile radial (20-minute walk) and a 20-minutes' drive time for a rural area. 44.5% of Huntingdonshire's population lives within one-mile of a health and fitness facility with 20+ stations. Of those which reside in areas of high deprivation (4.1%), 86.1% live within a mile of a fitness facility which would suggest that these facilities are well placed.

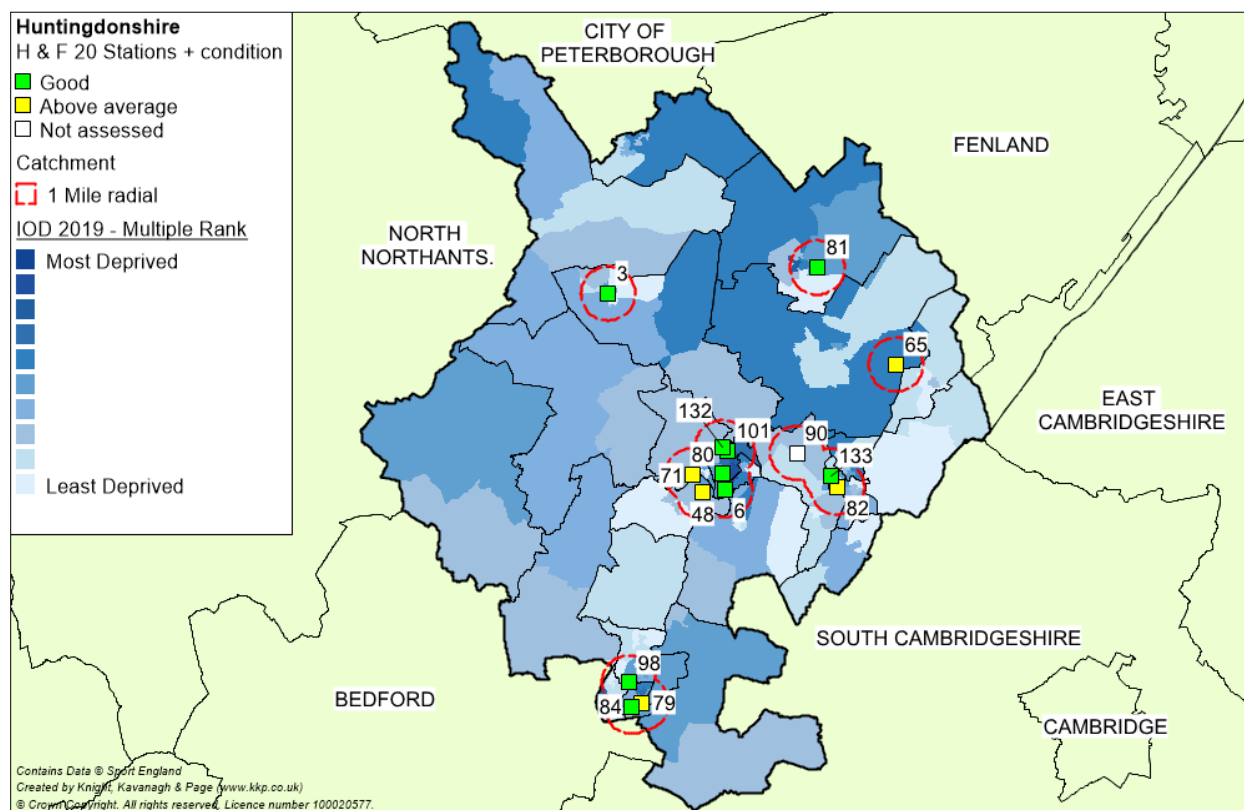
Drive time catchment modelling suggests that over 98% of Huntingdonshire's population lives within a 20-minute drive of a health and fitness facility, as displayed in Figure 6.4. There are small provisional gaps in the north, however, the majority of these residents will have access to facilities in the Authority of Peterborough.

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Table 6.3: IMD (2019 populations): health and fitness 20+ stations; one mile radial catchment

IMD 10% bands	Huntingdonshire		Health & Fitness, 20 stations or more Catchment populations by IMD			
	Persons	Population %	Persons inside catchment	Population inside (%)	Persons outside catchment	Population outside (%)
0 - 10	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
10.1 - 20	3,456	2.0%	3,456	2.0%	0	0.0%
20.1 - 30	4,781	2.7%	3,637	2.1%	1,144	0.7%
30.1 - 40	6,420	3.7%	5,247	3.0%	1,173	0.7%
40.1 - 50	24,764	14.2%	10,431	6.0%	14,333	8.2%
50.1 - 60	24,155	13.9%	15,721	9.0%	8,434	4.8%
60.1 - 70	19,238	11.0%	6,840	3.9%	12,398	7.1%
70.1 - 80	26,883	15.4%	9,409	5.4%	17,474	10.0%
80.1 - 90	36,713	21.1%	14,941	8.6%	21,772	12.5%
90.1 - 100	27,780	16.0%	7,787	4.5%	19,993	11.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>174,190</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>77,469</b>	<b>44.5%</b>	<b>96,721</b>	<b>55.5%</b>

Figure 6.3: Health and fitness suites with a one-mile radial catchment on IMD



Facilities in neighbouring areas

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As with swimming and sports halls, users of health and fitness facilities do not just use facilities within their own authority, consequently, those with two miles of the border are considered within the analysis.

There are 17 health and fitness facilities located close to the Huntingdonshire boundary, with the majority (12) located to the north of the Authority in Peterborough. These include the two largest facilities; Anytime Fitness (200 stations) and Vivacity Premier Fitness (150 stations). There is one in Fenland, two in East Northants, one in South Cambs and one in Bedford.

The majority of sites require a registered membership to enter, however, five are accessible on a pay and play basis, including three in the Authority of Peterborough.

Figure 6.4: All health and fitness suites including those within a one-mile radial catchment of the Huntingdonshire boundary. (Includes 20-minute drive catchment for residents in the Authority)

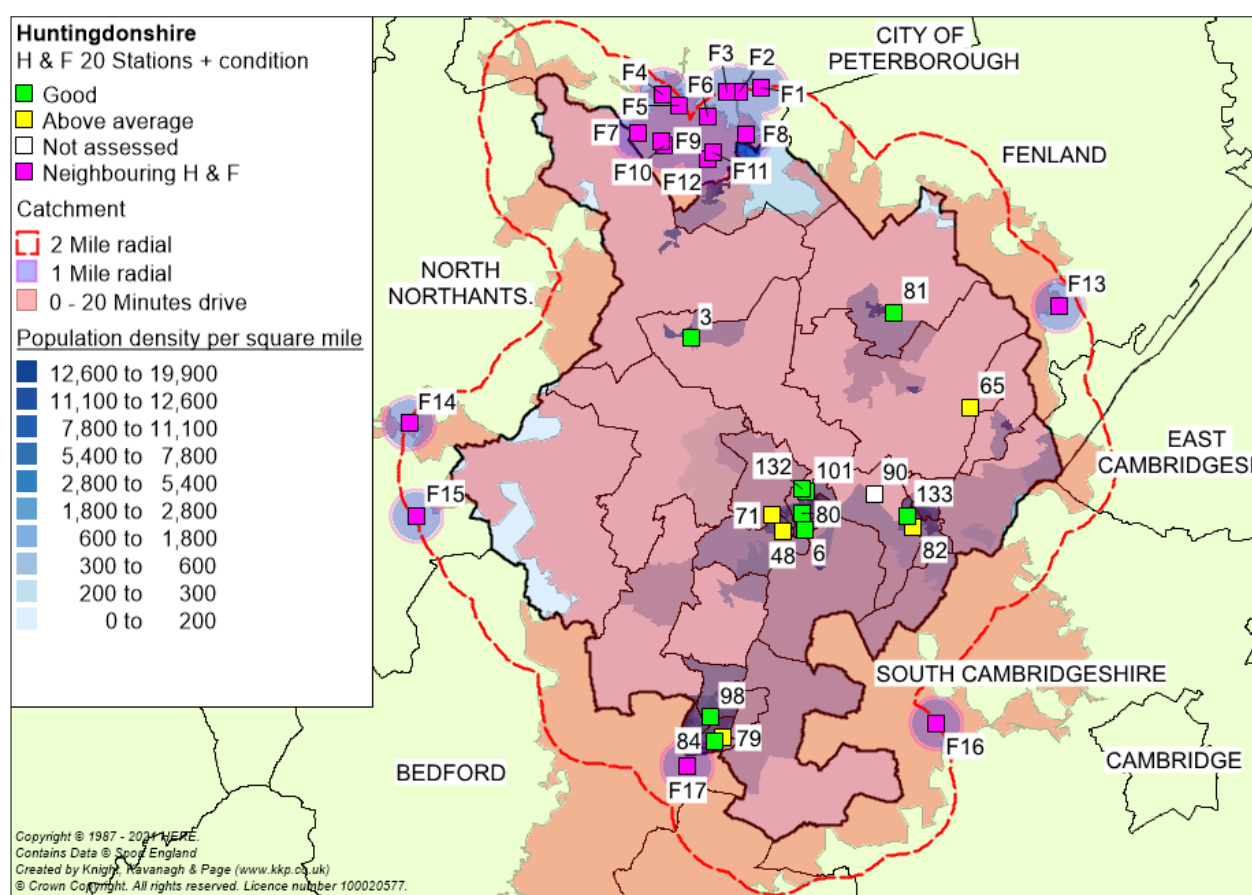


Table 6.4: Community available health and fitness (20+ stations) within 2 miles of boundary

ID	Active Places site name	Stations	Access type	Authority
F1	Fengate Gym	90	Reg. membership	Peterborough
F2	Regional Pool & Athletics Arena	85	Pay and play	Peterborough
F3	The Fitness Zone For Women	33	Reg. membership	Peterborough
F4	David Lloyd	120	Reg. membership	Peterborough
F5	Club Motivation	30	Reg. membership	Peterborough
F6	Definition Gym	80	Reg. membership	Peterborough
F7	Marriott Leisure Club	23	Reg. membership	Peterborough

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ID	Active Places site name	Stations	Access type	Authority
F8	Stanground Sports Centre	27	Pay and play	Peterborough
F9	Bushfield Leisure Centre	50	Pay and play	Peterborough
F10	Anytime Fitness	200	Reg. membership	Peterborough
F11	Vivacity Premier Fitness	150	Reg. membership	Peterborough
F12	Hampton Leisure Centre	50	Pay and play	Peterborough
F13	Chatteris Leisure Centre	50	Reg. membership	Fenland
F14	The Nene Centre	69	Pay and play	East Northants.
F15	Manor Sport And Leisure Ltd	25	Reg. membership	East Northants.
F16	The Cambridge Belfry	21	Reg. membership	South Cambs.
F17	Wyboston Lakes Health & Leisure Club	69	Reg. membership	Bedford

Source: Active Places Power 25/03/2022

### Availability and programming

Sport England's classification of access type defines registered membership use facilities as publicly available. This generally means a monthly membership fee, the cost of which can vary considerably. It is acknowledged that memberships which might be considered expensive offer access to different market segments and can ease pressure on more available facilities (i.e., those with cheaper membership options).

In the Authority, six health and fitness facilities offer pay and play availability with the remainder requiring a membership. All areas of major population have access to a pay and play facility.

Table 6.5: Health and fitness gyms (20+ stations) access policy

ID	Site name	Stations	Access type
3	Academy Leisure Sawtry	20	Pay and play
6	Anytime Fitness (Huntingdon)	200	Registered membership
48	Hinchingbrooke School	30	Registered membership
65	Lakeside Lodge Golf & Country Club	35	Registered membership
71	Marriott Leisure Club (Huntingdon)	30	Registered membership
79	Old School Strength & Conditioning	40	Pay and play
80	One Leisure Huntingdon	85	Pay and play
81	One Leisure Ramsey	40	Pay and play
82	One Leisure St Ives	120	Pay and play
84	One Leisure St Neots	120	Pay and play
98	Snap Fitness (St Neots)	66	Registered membership
101	Sports Direct Fitness (Huntingdon)	60	Registered membership
132	The Gym Group	50	Registered membership
133	One Leisure St Ives Training Shed	50	Pay and play

Seven health and fitness venues in Huntingdonshire offer pay and play access including all One Leisure managed venues, along with Old School Strength and Conditioning. Cost to access the pay and play facilities at the One Leisure sites are £7.20 per session (or £5.20 at Ramsey Leisure Centre). Annual price memberships vary significantly, with the most expensive facility being the Academy Leisure Sawtry (based on 12-month direct debit price).

The Council provides an exercise referral scheme across all its One Leisure sites. This offers any resident of Huntingdonshire, over 16 years old, who is referred by a health professional, a

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discounted leisure membership to help in rehabilitation and prevention of certain medical conditions, such as heart issues or cancer recurrence. The scheme is run by HDC's Active Lifestyles Team.

Table 6.6: Pricing structure of health and fitness facilities in Huntingdonshire

Venue	Pay & play	Annual	12-month DD (pcm)	Activities membership price includes
Academy Leisure Sawtry	£8.00	£360	£36.00	Gym only
Anytime Fitness (Huntingdon)	-	£269.50	£26.95	Free Fitness Consultation Partner Discounts
Hinchingbrooke School	-	£250.00	£25.00	
Lakeside Lodge Golf & Country Club	-	-	£25.00	-
Marriott Leisure Club (Huntingdon)	-	-	£51.00	Access to the pool and spa facilities
Old School Strength & Conditioning	£5.40	-	£33.00	Small group sessions (Bootcamp style)
One Leisure Huntingdon*	£7.20	£349.00	£33.99	Only includes gym access
One Leisure Ramsey*	£5.20	£299.00	£28.99	Only includes gym access
One Leisure St Ives*	£7.20	£349.00	£33.99	Only includes gym access
One Leisure St Neots*	£7.20	£349.00	£33.99	Only includes gym access
One Leisure St Ives Training Shed*	£7.20	£349.00	£33.99	Only includes gym access
Snap Fitness (St Neots)	-	-	£29.50	
Sports Direct Fitness (Huntingdon)	-	£239.88	£19.99	Access to gym & swim & access to all clubs
The Gym Group			£21.98	Includes free classes

(\*facility also offers GP referral scheme)

### 6.2: Demand

Health and fitness via exercising in a gym or class environment is a highly popular form of exercise, appealing to men and women across a range of age groups. To identify the adequacy of provision quantity a demand calculation based upon the assumption that 'UK penetration rates' will increase slightly in the future is applied. Population increases are also factored in to enable a calculation of whether current supply will meet future demand.

Based upon UK penetration rates current need is for 1,241 stations in Huntingdonshire. This will grow to 1,422 by 2043, taking account of a comfort factor (particularly at peak times).

Table 6.7: UK penetration rates; health/fitness in Huntingdonshire (ONS Data)

	Current (2018)	Future (2043)
Adult population (16+ years)	177,352	191,170
UK penetration rate	16%	17%
Number of potential members	28,376	32,499
Number of visits per week (1.75/member)	49,659	56,873
% of visits in peak time	65	65
No. of visits in peak time (equated to no. of stations required i.e., no. of visits/39 weeks*65%)	828	948
<b>Number of stations (with comfort factor applied)</b>	<b>1241</b>	<b>1422</b>

(Model applies 1.75 visits/week by members and 65% usage for 39 weeks of the year. (Figures rounded up/down)

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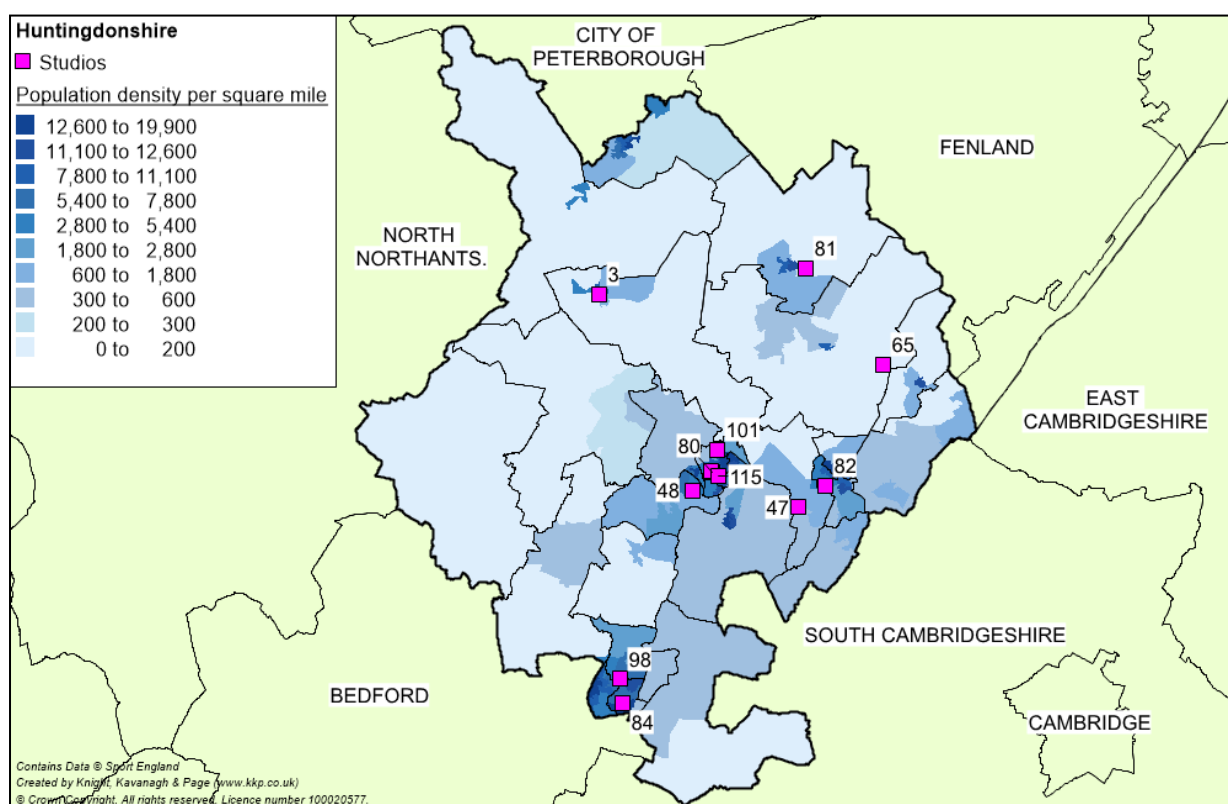
When comparing community available stations currently available (940) and accounting for the comfort factor, there is a current shortfall of c. 300 stations. This is generally alleviated, particularly for residents living in the north, via facilities located in Peterborough. There will, however, need to be an increase in provision to match both current and future demand, particularly in relation to the proposed population increase in housing growth. The projected future shortfall is calculated to be c.500 stations.

### 6.3: Dance studios

Dance studios are an important element of the wider health, fitness and conditioning market. There has been an increase in the number of people accessing fitness classes as identified in increased UK penetration rates. Activity types offered also vary from low impact classes such as Pilates and yoga to dance, step, boxercise and Zumba. It is worth noting that dance classes/clubs are key users of studio spaces throughout the country.

The audit identified 17 studios in Huntingdonshire. All are either rated good or above average, with only the two studio rooms at St Peters School rated below average. Nine are available for pay and play activities, three via membership of a sports club/association, and the remainder require a membership to access.

Figure 6.5: Dance studios in Huntingdonshire



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Table 6.8: Table of studios in Huntingdonshire

ID	Site name	Access	Condition
3	Academy Leisure Sawtry	Registered Membership	Above average
47	Hemingford Pavilion	Pay and Play	Above average
48	Hinchingbrooke School	Sports Club / CA	Above average
65	Lakeside Lodge Golf And Country Club	Pay and Play	Above average
80	One Leisure Huntingdon	Pay and Play	Above average
80	One Leisure Huntingdon	Pay and Play	Good
81	One Leisure Ramsey	Pay and Play	Good
82	One Leisure St Ives	Pay and Play	Above average
82	One Leisure St Ives	Pay and Play	Above average
82	One Leisure St Ives	Pay and Play	Above average
84	One Leisure St Neots	Pay and Play	Above average
84	One Leisure St Neots	Pay and Play	Above average
98	Snap Fitness	Registered Membership	Good
98	Snap Fitness	Registered Membership	Good
101	Sports Direct Fitness	Registered Membership	Above average
101	Sports Direct Fitness	Registered Membership	Above average
115	St Peters School	Sports Club / CA	Below average
115	St Peters School	Sports Club / CA	Below average

### 6.4: Summary of key facts and issues

Facility type	Health & fitness	
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
<b>Quantity</b>	There are 20 health and fitness sites in Huntingdonshire, 15 with 20+ stations. These provide a total of 946 stations. There are 17 studios. Of the 17 gyms in neighbouring areas, five offer pay and play access.	There is a current and future deficit in provision. The current shortfall is c.300 which will rise through population growth to c.500 by 2043.
<b>Quality</b>	All facilities are rated either good or above average.	There is a need to maintain the quality of gyms rated good/above average.
<b>Accessibility</b>	All main population areas have health and fitness facilities; 44% of the population lives within one-mile of a gym. 86.1% of those which live in higher deprivation reside within one mile of a gym. 98% of residents live within a 20 minute drive of a facility.	Accessibility to health and fitness provision is good; there is a need to ensure that people living in rural communities without vehicle ownership are supported.
<b>Availability</b> (Management and usage)	There are six publicly accessible pay and play health and fitness facilities with 20+ stations in Huntingdonshire. The remainder require some form of membership to access.	A key need is to ensure that gyms cater for the full range of market segments and that residents from hard-to-reach groups can afford them

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Facility type	Health & fitness	
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
<b>Summary</b>	<p>Fitness and dance studio facilities offer potential to increase physical activity in the wider population. The challenge for the Authority is to address the current and future shortfall. This could be done, at least in part, via the replacement and/or redevelopment of existing Council facilities.</p> <p>Provision quality is generally good, and it can be assumed that facilities are well placed, as nearly all of the population (98%) live within a 20 minute drive of a facility.</p>	



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### SECTION 7: SQUASH

England Squash is the NGB responsible for the sport. Its latest Strategy (2021 – 2025) *Squash in a Changing World* aims to grow the game in England from 2021 onwards through a thriving, diverse and growing community. To achieve this, it has identified a number of objectives:

- ◀ Create a world-class workforce- Inspire and train a community of world-class coaches, referees and volunteers at every level - to drive up participation and increase engagement in the game.
- ◀ Sustain world-leading pathways and programmes- Sustain world-leading talent pathways and programmes for high-performing players who achieve success on the global stage and inspire others to realise their potential.
- ◀ Enhance the visibility and appeal of squash- Spearhead new and creative ways to enhance the visibility and appeal of squash at local, national and international levels, including the pursuit of Olympic inclusion.
- ◀ Provide leadership for the game- Provide leadership for the game nationally and internationally, including addressing the climate and ecological crisis.

The ratio of courts per population in Huntingdonshire is 1:19,705 which is below the England Squash target of 1:10,000 thus, in its view there is a shortfall in provision. It must be noted that this figure does not include the courts at Kimbolton School or the RAF bases.

#### 7.1 Supply

There are 17 squash courts in Huntingdonshire at seven sites: with Hemingford Pavilion offering the most courts (four). Three sites are not accessible. Kimbolton School does not hire its courts to the public, and the four courts at both RAF bases are for military personnel only.

Of the community available sites, two offer pay and play access; One Leisure Huntingdon and St Neots. The remaining two squash venues are accessible via a sports club membership. Hemingford Pavilion is a private sports club where an annual membership is required to access the site. The court at Norwood Playing Field is owned by the Parish Council, and players have to pay a small annual subscription to Somersham Sports Association to play there. St Ives Outdoor Centre did have four courts but closed in 2019 to become a functional training facility.

#### Quality

The courts at the One Leisure sites at Huntingdon and St Neots are rated good. Hemingford Pavilion is also rated good. Norwood Playing Field's court was inaccessible as part of the audit.

Table 7.2: Quality of squash courts in Huntingdonshire

ID	Site name	Courts	Condition	Access type
47	Hemingford Pavilion	4	Good	Sports Club / CA
61	Kimbolton School	2	Above average	Private use
76	Norwood Playing Field*	1	Not assessed	Sports Club / CA
80	One Leisure Huntingdon	2	Good	Pay and Play
84	One Leisure St Neots	2	Good	Pay and Play
89	RAF Alconbury	1	Not assessed	Private use
90	RAF Wyton	3	Not assessed	Private use
<b>Total</b>		<b>17</b>		

(Source: Active Places Power 26/05/2022)

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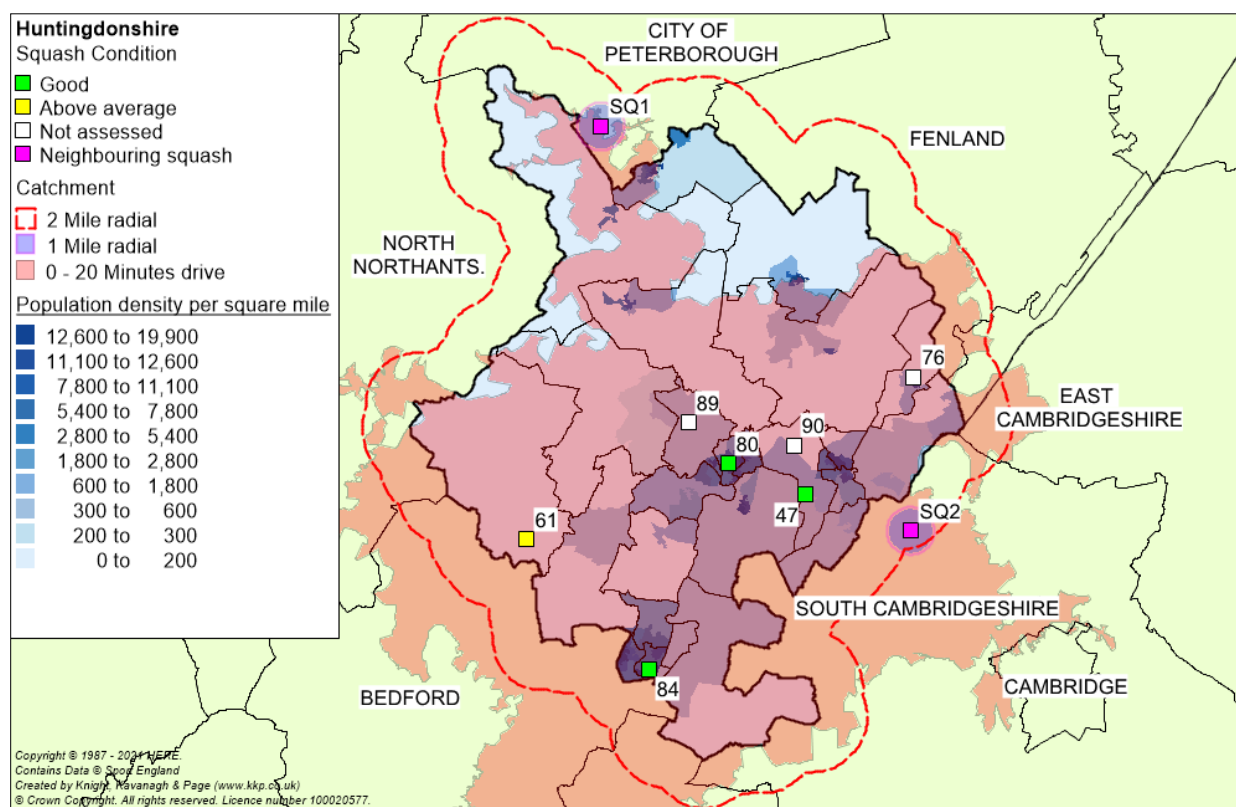
Drive time catchment modelling calculates that the majority (92.56%) of the Huntingdonshire population resides within a 20-minute drive of a community available squash court. There are provisional gaps in the north, however, residents in these gaps will be able to access Bushfield Leisure Centre (Peterborough Authority), which has two pay and play accessible courts.

Table 7.2: Squash facilities within 2 miles of Huntingdonshire boundary

Map ID	Site name	Courts	Access type	Authority
SQ1	Bushfield Leisure Centre	2	Pay and Play	Peterborough
SQ2	Swavesey Village College	3	Sports Club / CA	South

(Source: Active Places Power 26/05/2022)

Figure 7.1: Squash courts in Huntingdonshire plus those within 2 miles of the boundary. Map also includes a 20min drive time catchment for residents within the Authority



## 7.2: Demand

There are two affiliated England Squash clubs in Huntingdonshire. St Ivo Racquets Club is based at Huntingdon Leisure Centre and Hunts County Squash Club is located at Hemingford Pavilion. Consultation was undertaken with both clubs.

*St Ivo Racquets Club* is located at Huntingdon Leisure Centre in the site's newly refurbished courts. It currently has 30 members, with all members affiliated to England Squash. It was formerly based at the St Ives Outdoor Centre (which had four courts) before they closed. Ideally, it would like to return to St Ives, however, it currently has a good relationship with One Leisure and is happy at the current site.

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*Hunts County Squash Club* - is one of the sports clubs under the Hemingford Pavilion umbrella. It has four courts, two of which are glass backed and two standard. One of the glass-backed is a 'show court' with seating and can host competitions. Consequently, it recently hosted the U23 England champs.

The Club has 200 members, with the majority playing in the Cambs Squash League. Its main challenge is to retain and grow membership, as it is located in a rural part of the Authority.

*One Leisure* - Consultation with One Leisure states that demand for squash is moderate currently, and there has been a bookings decline since centres re-opened following the Pandemic. Demand for squash, across both sites, is generally between 17.00 - 20.00 (midweek) and Saturday & Sunday mornings, however, there is still spare capacity at both during peak periods. Huntingdon is more popular than St Neots, mainly due to St Ivo Racquets Club being located at the site.

### 7.3: Summary of key facts and issues

Facility type	Squash	
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
<b>Quantity</b>	There are four community available facilities in Huntingdonshire, offering nine courts in total.	England Squash calculates that there is shortfall of c.8 courts based on its ratio target of 1 court per 10,000 population.
<b>Quality</b>	All community available sites, which were assessed, are rated as good. Access to Norwood Playing Field's court was not granted at the time of the assessment.	There is a need to maintain the quality of the community available facilities.
<b>Accessibility</b>	Drive time catchment modelling calculates that the majority of Huntingdonshire's population lives within a 20-minute drive of a community available squash court within the Authority.  There are two facilities within two miles of the Authority boundary.	
<b>Availability</b> (Management and usage)	Two facilities offer pay and play access; Huntingdon and St Neots. Both have two courts.	
<b>Summary</b>	There are nine community available squash courts at four sites, all rated above average quality. Two sites offer pay and play access. Although England Squash states that there is a shortfall of provision, consultation suggests that there is currently spare capacity at both pay and play sites. One option to address the shortfall could be to work with Kimbolton School to persuade it to open its courts to one of the clubs and/or the community.	

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### SECTION 8: GYMNASTICS

British Gymnastics (BG) is currently producing its latest development framework. The previous Framework 2017-2021 identifies three key priorities, to:

- ◀ Diversify sources of revenue to develop and grow the provision of gymnastics.
- ◀ Build the capacity and grow the demand in gymnastics.
- ◀ Raise the profile and increase the appeal of gymnastics.

Its facility development priorities (for the period 2017 - 2021) are to:

- ◀ Support increased capacity within gymnastics through clubs, leisure providers and other delivery providers.
- ◀ Guide funding investment through the United Kingdom from BG, home country sports councils, local authorities, and other potential funders.
- ◀ Maintain/improve the quality of facilities and equipment within existing delivery partners.
- ◀ Develop insight, understanding and direction of how facility developments can contribute towards other BG strategic priorities.

Participation in gymnastics is reportedly increasing rapidly. BG membership increased at c. 12% per year between 2013-17. The emphasis for this strategy period is on using gymnastics as a foundation sport for 5- to 11-year-olds. Across the country, BG reports extensive demand for more gymnastics opportunity and many clubs report having long waiting lists.

One million people are estimated to be on waiting lists for gymnastics (Freshminds Latent Demand Research, 2017). This research also suggests that a further 1.9 million would like to participate but are not currently on a waiting list. A key part of BG's strategy to increase participation is to support clubs moving into their own dedicated facility, offering more time and space for classes. There is a definite trend for gymnastics clubs to do this.

There are also initiatives for older people funded by Sport England, such as, Love to Move focused on dementia patients.

#### 8.1: Supply

There are four dedicated gymnastics venue in Huntingdonshire. Huntingdon Gymnastics Club gym hall is the oldest, built in 1982, with an extension added in 2013. The main gym hall is owned by the Council but the Club has a 90-year lease. The extension is owned and managed by the Club itself. The other three are all located in industrial units. Rotations Trampoline Club and Twisters Gymnastics Club serve the south of the Authority, whereas Meridian Gymnastics Club serves the north.

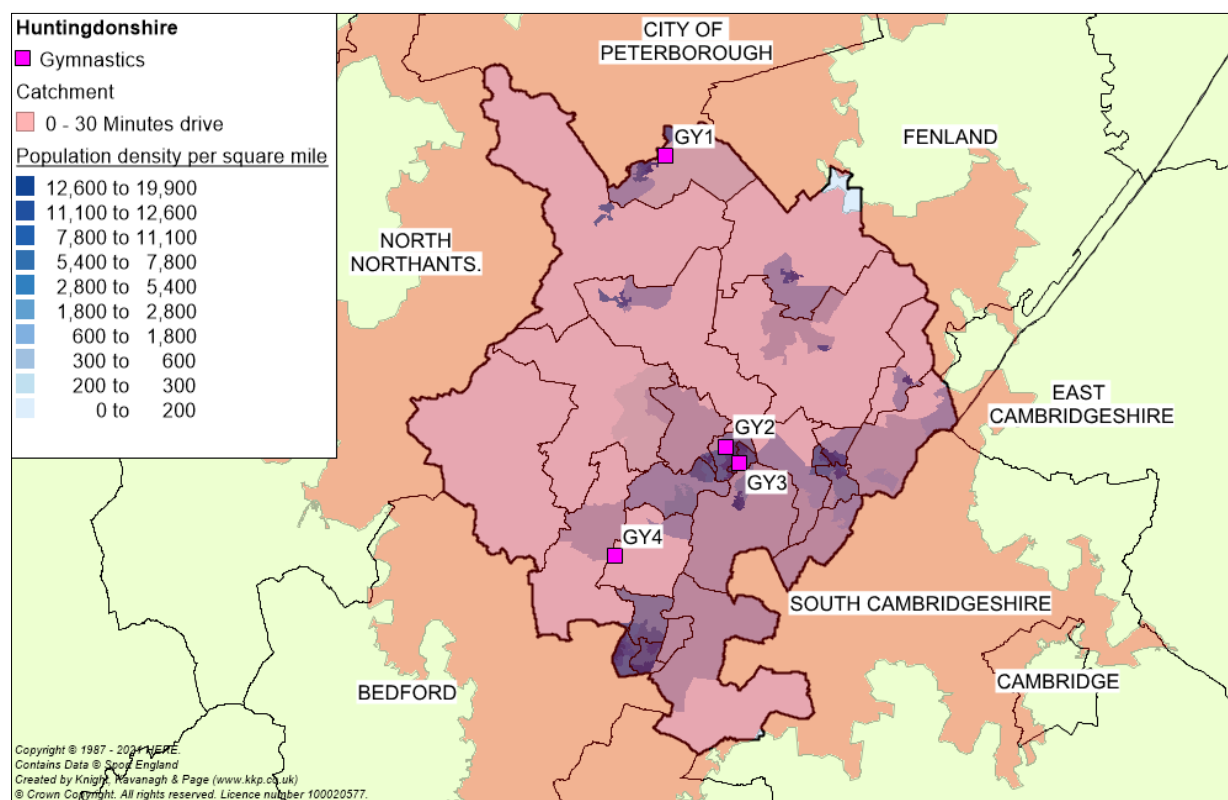
Site assessments were undertaken at Huntingdon Gymnastics Club and Rotations Trampoline Club. Due to the age of the building, Huntingdon Gymnastics Club was rated as below average, and Rotations Trampoline Club was rated as above average.

*Table 8.1: Dedicated gymnastics centres in Huntingdonshire*

Map ID	Site name
GY1	Meridian Gymnastics Club
GY2	Rotations Trampoline Club
GY3	Huntingdon Gymnastics Club
GY4	Twisters Gymnastics Club

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Table 8.2: Gymnastics centres in the authority and within 30 minutes' drive time



## 8.2: Demand

BG reports that participation in gymnastics in the Southeast region rose from 11,000 to 32,000 between 2014 and 2020. The emphasis for 2017 – 2021 was on using gymnastics as a foundation sport for 5–11-year-olds but BG’s new development framework, when published, will presents its plans for the next five years.

BG states that there is substantial demand for more gymnastics opportunities; with clubs reporting having waiting lists which restrict access to gymnastic activities due to lack of time within dedicated and non-dedicated facilities. A key component of BG’s strategy is to increase participation to support clubs, leisure providers and other partners moving into their own dedicated facilities, offering more time and space for classes.

BG provides products, programmes and expert assistance to support local delivery; gymnastic activities which are successfully driving membership growth and retention across the country.

There are five BG affiliated clubs in the Authority:

- ◀ Huntingdon Gymnastics Club
- ◀ Twisters Gymnastics Club
- ◀ Rotations Trampoline Club
- ◀ Amy’s Acro
- ◀ Meridian Gymnastics Club

Four of the five operate out of designated facilities, with only Amy’s Acro the anomaly. It delivers sessions out of three local primary schools. BG reports that both Meridian Gymnastics Club and Huntingdon Gymnastics Club are registered in the NGB’s facility project list.

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Meridian Gymnastics Club operates from a dedicated facility in Yaxley and are looking to expand to a larger new build in the same area. It may apply for a Club Capital grant for project finance. Huntingdon Gymnastics Club has a plan to expand their current site in 2022/2023 after a period of consolidation post covid.

Three of the five clubs responded to a request for consultation. Meriden and Twisters did not.

*Huntingdon Gymnastics Club* - has 1,400 members along with a waiting list of 400 currently. It has produced several Olympic gymnasts including Louis Smith who won a medal in the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. Its key challenge is to upgrade the main gymnastics hall. This section of the building is over 40 years old, and the Club is currently applying for grants to assist with the upgrade. As highlighted above, it also has a long-term ambition to expand its facility, and is currently in discussions with BG about layout and funding for a potential expansion.

*Rotations Trampoline Club* - currently has 250 members along with a small waiting list. It is currently located in an industrial unit in Huntingdon for which it has a long-term lease (12 years remaining). It requires new equipment and is currently raising funds for this. It is also recruiting additional coaches and volunteers as certain staff have recently left.

*Amy's Acro* - is a small locally based club offering beginner gymnastics sessions to children aged 3-11. It currently has c.300 members, and it delivers sessions at three primary schools; Thorndown Primary School, Brampton Village Primary School and St Anne's Primary School (Godmanchester). It would like its own dedicated facility, which will allow it to expand and offer more variety. It struggles with equipment storage, which is very limited at its current venues. It also reports a waiting list at two of the three venues.

### 8.3: Summary of key facts and issues

Facility type	Gymnastics	
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
<b>Quantity</b>	There are four dedicated gymnastics facility in the Authority (one is specific to trampolining).	Huntingdon Gymnastics Club is looking at expanding its current facility and Meridian Gymnastics Club is currently seeking a larger premises.
<b>Quality</b>	Huntingdon Gymnastics Club is rated below average, and Rotations Gymnastics Club above average. No site visit was gained at Twisters or Meridian Gymnastics Club.	The first phase of the building (at Huntingdon Gymnastics) is over 40 years old and need s improvement to maintain the quality.
<b>Accessibility</b>	All residents in Huntingdonshire reside within a 30 minute drive of a dedicated gymnastics facility.	
<b>Availability</b> (Management & usage)	Consultation indicated that all three clubs are at capacity.	As well as increasing club facility capacity there is a need to increase the coaching and volunteer workforce to assist clubs to reduce current waiting lists.
<b>Summary</b>	There are four dedicated gymnastics facilities in Huntingdonshire. Demand for all clubs is high, with limited spare capacity for new members. Huntingdon and Meridian are on BG's facility project list. Huntingdon wishes to upgrade its facility and Meridian wishes to move to larger premises.	

### SECTION 9: INDOOR BOWLS

The five forms of bowls that are played indoors (flat/level green, crown green, long mat, short mat and carpet mat) each require a different venue and each format of the game has a different technical specification for their indoor facility.

Indoor flat / level green bowls is played on a purpose-built indoor green which complies with the Laws of the sport of Bowls. The NGB is EIBA (English Indoor Bowling Association). It requires a standard bowling green; a flat area 31-40 metres long divided into playing areas called rinks. The number of these varies, depending on the width of the green.

Crown Green bowls requires a standard crown green, artificial grass (carpeted) area of approximately 38m square which is crowned i.e. higher in the centre than round the perimeter. Indoor crown greens are relatively rare – substantially less common than those provided for flat green bowls. The NGB is the British Crown Green Bowling Association.

Carpet bowls is played on a rectangular carpet (13.7 x 1.8m) that is rolled out. It can be accommodated in any indoor space large enough to accommodate the mats which come in different lengths. It tends to be played at a recreational level. The NGB is the English Carpet Bowls Association.

Short mat bowls is typically played in sports halls, parish council rooms, outdoor bowls club pavilions; on indoor flat green bowls club greens. The NGB is the English Short Mat Bowling Association. Long mat bowls is played on a rolled carpet typically laid on a sports hall floor. There are no ditches in this game. It is typically found in areas of low flat-green supply and/or where Crown Green bowls is played outdoors. There is no NGB for this version of the game.

An indoor bowling centre typically comprises a single flat green with a number of rinks and ancillary accommodation such as changing rooms, lounge/bar, viewing area, kitchen, office/meeting rooms and stores plus designated car parking. The size of ancillary accommodation varies according to the number of rinks available. A successful indoor bowls centre requires a combination of the right location, design, and financial and general management. Sport England<sup>11</sup> guidelines on catchment for indoor bowls centres are set out to be interpreted in the light of local circumstances:

- ◀ Assume the majority of users live locally and not travel more than 30 minutes.
- ◀ Assume that 90% of users will travel by car, with the remainder by foot.
- ◀ As a guide, calculate demand on the basis of one rink per 14,000-17,000 total population.
- ◀ The number of rinks required can be related to the estimated number of members, assume 80-100 members per rink.

The stated priorities of EIBA are:

- ◀ Recruitment of participants.
- ◀ Retention of participants.
- ◀ Clubs obtaining “Clubmark Accreditation”.
- ◀ Retention and improvement of facilities.
- ◀ New indoor facilities in areas of low-supply and high-demand.

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<sup>11</sup> Sport England Design Guidance Note Indoor Bowls 2005

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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### *EIBA Outline Plan 2021 - 2024*

The EIBA plan is focused on: *recruit and retain 45+* and *recruit and retain 70+*. Both markets require growth. The idea is that people aged 45+ need new versions/formats of the game to play and the 70+ will wish to continue with current formats. Its focus areas are:

- ◀ Facilities: build, improve, retain.
- ◀ Youth and the family.
- ◀ Women – increase participation and retention.
- ◀ Disability.
- ◀ Competitions.
- ◀ Internationals.
- ◀ Promotion.
- ◀ Commercial partnerships.

The “Recruit and Retain Strategy” is to concentrate on encouraging and supporting clubs to increase participation and improve the experience of all participants. Its objectives include:

- ◀ Growing participation across the adult population in local communities. Targeted work to increase female participation.
- ◀ Growing participation in the 12-18 age range as part of the EIBA Development Pathway.
- ◀ The provision of an excellent sporting experience for new and existing participants.
- ◀ A growth in Indoor Bowls participation by people who have disabilities.

Running alongside this is the Sport England funded development work provided jointly by the Indoor NGB (EIBA); Outdoor NGB (Bowls England) and the “Bowls Development Alliance” (BDA). Each NGB has two directors on the Board of BDA.

The Sport England funding for the 2021-2024 period, focuses on the delivery of:

- ◀ **Club Development Programme:** supports clubs across the country where they have identified greatest need.
- ◀ **Play Bowls Package Scheme:** supports clubs with their recruitment.
- ◀ **Coach Bowls:** providing qualifications for coaches and developing the best tutor workforce to deliver these qualifications across the whole sport including BE, EIBA, British Crown Green BA and English Short Mat BA
- ◀ **Facilities:** providing funding support for BE and EIBA to research the facility requirements of their clubs.

Alongside these core objectives the BDA works with key partners on:

- ◀ **Safeguarding:** ensuring the sport is safe for everyone to play by working across all five National Governing Bodies (NGBs) [BE, EIBA, British Crown Green BA, English Short Mat BA and English Bowling Federation] to have policies and processes in place. Training is also available to support the network of Club Safeguarding Officers.
- ◀ **Disability:** the BDA works in partnership with Disability Bowls England, Activity Alliance, BE and the EIBA to ensure everyone regardless of disability can access the sport of bowls.
- ◀ **Women Can:** the BDA are driving a campaign alongside BE and the EIBA to encourage more women to play bowls, coach bowls and volunteer in bowls.
- ◀ **Equality & Diversity:** the BDA, BE and the EIBA are all striving to ensure the sport of bowls is as diverse as it can be.



# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## 9.1: Supply

There are two indoor facilities in Huntingdonshire, Huntingdon and St Neots Indoor Bowls Club. Both clubs are located in old facilities which requires investment to bring them up to current standards. Consequently, both are rated below average.

There are two others facilities, not in the Authority, which fall within a 30 minute drive time catchment for residents. These are Bedford Borough Indoor Bowling Club and Kempston Park Indoor Bowls Club, both located in the Bedford authority.

Figure 9.1: Indoor bowls facilities within 30 minutes' drive time of Huntingdonshire

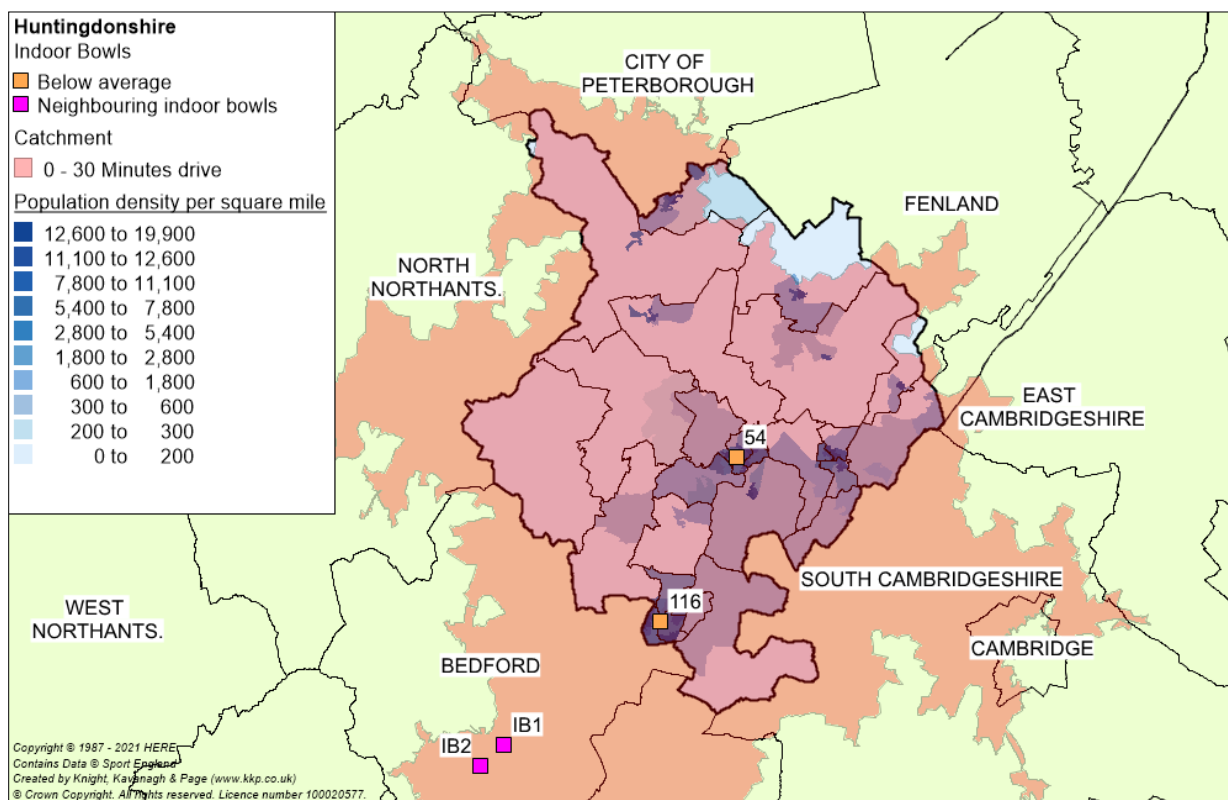


Table 9.1: Indoor bowls facilities in Huntingdonshire

ID	Site name	Rinks	Access type	Condition
54	Huntingdon Indoor Bowls Club	6	Sports Club / CA	Below average
116	St. Neots & District Indoor Bowls	8	Sports Club / CA	Below average

Table 9.2: Indoor bowls facilities outside a 30 minute drive of Huntingdonshire

ID	Site name	Rinks	Access type	Authority
IB1	Bedford Borough Indoor	6	Sports Club / CA	Bedford
IB2	Kempston Park Indoor Bowls	8	Sports Club / CA	Bedford

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## INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

### Accessibility

Drive time catchment modelling suggests that the majority (98%) of Huntingdonshire's population lives within a 30-minutes' drive of the two facilities.

### Availability

Both facilities are members-based clubs, with a committee and trustees. Individuals have to pay an annual subscription to access the facility. Neither site offers pay and play access.

### 9.2: Demand

The EIBA states that the number of rinks required per facility can be related to the estimated number of 80-100 members per rink. Based on 2021 members, both Huntingdonshire clubs operate on a 58 members/rink ratio so both have spare capacity at their respective sites. EIBA notes that both were adversely affected by the Pandemic, with membership numbers falling. For example, St Neots, in 2019 operated on a ratio of 70/1 compared to its current ratio.

*Huntingdon Indoor Bowls Club* - is located in a dedicated facility which has six rinks. The building is owned by the Council, with the Club having five years left on a 25-year lease. The building is over 35 years old and is beginning to show its age. It requires investment to bring it up to the required standard and the Club is currently raising funds to upgrade it. A second challenge is to increase the membership base. It currently has 350 members, however, this figure was 600 before the Pandemic. It is currently delivering promotional sessions aid this recovery.

*St Neots Indoor Bowls Club* - currently has c.450 members, 100 fewer than 2018. It was built in 1975, with a small refurbishment in 2000. Although functional, it will need to be upgraded in the short term, however, no plans or funding are in place. A key challenge is bringing membership numbers back pre-pandemic levels. It is currently running promotional activity to seek to do this. It has a strong youth section which it is also keen to increase.

### 9.3: Summary

Facility type	Indoor bowls	
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	There are two indoor bowls facility in Huntingdonshire.	Both Clubs have spare capacity.
Quality	Both facilities are rated below average in quality.	Work with them to source funds to upgrade their facilities.
Accessibility	The majority of residents live within 30 minutes' drive of an indoor bowls facility. Two facilities in neighbouring authorities are within a 30-minute drive-time of the Authority.	
Availability (Management and usage)	Both facilities are club run and require a membership to access. There is no pay and play opportunity in the Authority.	There is a need to consider how to enable pay and play opportunity at the two clubs.
Summary	Both venues are rated below average quality and need investment in the long term. The majority of residents live within a 30-minute drive of a facility. Both clubs have spare capacity and the focus should be on increasing membership and improving the quality of each venue.	

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

### SECTION 10: INDOOR TENNIS

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the NGB for all tennis provision within the UK. It administers the sport at national and regional level. One of its key objectives is to get more people playing tennis more often. To achieve this, through its most recent Investment Framework (Vision 2019 – 2023), prioritises will be given to the following sites:

- ◀ New and existing indoor tennis centres
- ◀ Park tennis
- ◀ Tennis clubs
- ◀ Schools and other educational establishments

This will be supported through the following key funding objectives:

- ◀ Funding through interest free loans.
- ◀ Investing in venues that have a proven record of increasing participation.
- ◀ Investing where there is thorough community engagement.
- ◀ Support venues that encourage participation growth.
- ◀ Target investment that is demand led.
- ◀ Invest in venues that are financially sustainable.
- ◀ Support venues that have successfully sourced partnership funding.

Central to any investment will be the provision of a sustainable business case.

This section considers indoor tennis facilities provision in the Huntingdonshire and the surrounding authorities. It uses two terms to describe indoor building types:

*Traditional* - A permanent structure made of traditional materials using traditional construction techniques. This commonly takes the form of steel or timber portal frame spanning the full length of the court (including run backs) clad in a material to suit local conditions e.g. metal cladding, brickwork or timber boarding.

*Non-traditional* - A permanent or non-permanent structure made of non-traditional materials using non-traditional construction techniques. Three types of structure fall into this category:

- ◀ Air supported structures (air halls).
- ◀ Framed fabric structures.
- ◀ Tensile structures.

The LTA has identified 72 target locations for new community indoor tennis venues in England. The nearest locations to Huntingdonshire will be a new dedicated site in West Cambridge.

#### 10.1: Supply

The one indoor facility in the Authority is Huntingdon Tennis Club. It has four outdoor courts and three indoor; supported by an air dome. Indoor courts are acrylic and rated as above average.

*Table 10.1: Indoor tennis facilities within Huntingdon Tennis Centre*

ID	Site name	Courts	Access type	Condition
55	Huntingdon Tennis Centre	3	Pay & Play	Above average

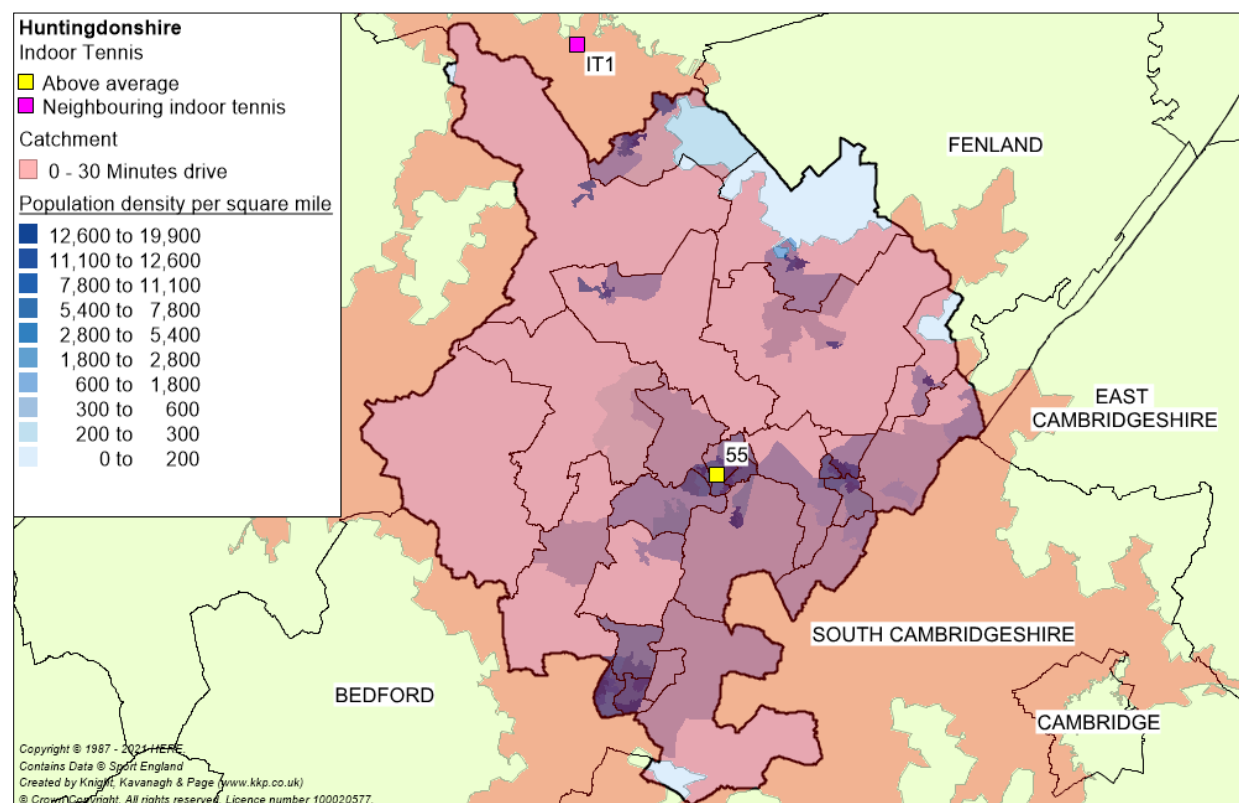
# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Table 10.2: Indoor tennis centres within 30 minutes drive-time of the Huntingdon facility

ID	Site name	Courts	Access type	Local authority
IT1	David Lloyd (Peterborough)	4	Registered Membership	Peterborough

(Source: Active Places Power 26/05/2021)

Figure 10.1: Indoor tennis within 30 minutes' drive time of Huntingdon Tennis Centre



## Accessibility

Drive time catchment modelling suggests that almost 98% of Huntingdonshire's population is within a 30-minute drive of the indoor tennis courts at the Huntingdon Tennis Centre. There are small provisional gaps in the north, however, residents in the north will be able to access the indoor facility in Peterborough (David Lloyd Centre).

## Availability

Huntingdon Tennis Club is available through registered membership (currently £240 for a year). It does not offer pay and play opportunity.

## 10.2: Demand

The LTA recently set out its revised strategic approach to target key national focus areas, ultimately to grow participation. Future investment in facilities will be based on detailed analysis of potential demand throughout the UK. It has identified 96 priority target areas for development of new indoor courts in the UK of which Huntingdonshire is *not* one.

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Demand for indoor tennis in Huntingdonshire is currently catered for through the listed tennis club. There are no current plans to develop a pay and play centre in the Authority, however, the current draft PPS will calculate future demand for outdoor tennis and should future demand exceed supply, there may be potential for an indoor facility in the future.

*Huntingdon Tennis Club* - owns and manages its site. It currently has 300 members and reports having no maintenance issues. The key challenge is to increase membership, which took a fall during Covid. Its target is c.500 which would bring it back up to 2019 levels.

### 10.3: Summary of key facts and issues

Facility type	Indoor tennis	
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
<b>Quantity</b>	There is one indoor centre in the Authority, Huntingdon Tennis Club, and one facility in Peterborough.	
<b>Quality</b>	The quality of the Huntingdon Tennis Club is above average. The quality of facilities in neighbouring authorities was not assessed.	
<b>Accessibility</b>	The majority of residents live within a 30 minutes' drive time of Huntingdon Tennis Centre.	
<b>Availability</b> (Management & usage)	The availability of Huntingdon Tennis Club is via a registered membership- there are no pay and play opportunities at the site nor within a 30 minute drive of the Huntingdon Tennis Club.	
<b>Summary</b>	The one indoor tennis facility in the Authority is accessible via registered membership. There are no pay and play facilities in or near the Authority. It is important to ensure that membership prices at Huntingdon Tennis Club are accessible to all.	

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

### SECTION 11: VILLAGE/COMMUNITY HALLS

#### 11.1: Introduction

Village halls and community centres are important recreational facilities, especially in rural areas that, in some instances, may lack access to purpose-built sports facilities. They are usually multi-functional, providing places for meetings, socialising and for sports and recreational clubs and activities. In some parishes, a church hall or a sports pavilion can also serve a range of functions depending on its size.

#### 4.1: Supply of village/community halls

The audit identified a total of 68 village/community halls in the Authority. There appears to be a good spread from north to south serving all population centres. A cross selection of halls were visited as part of the audit, which ascertained ownership, management details as well as activity type at the sites. A total of eight was audited.

*Table 11.1: All village/community buildings in Huntingdonshire*

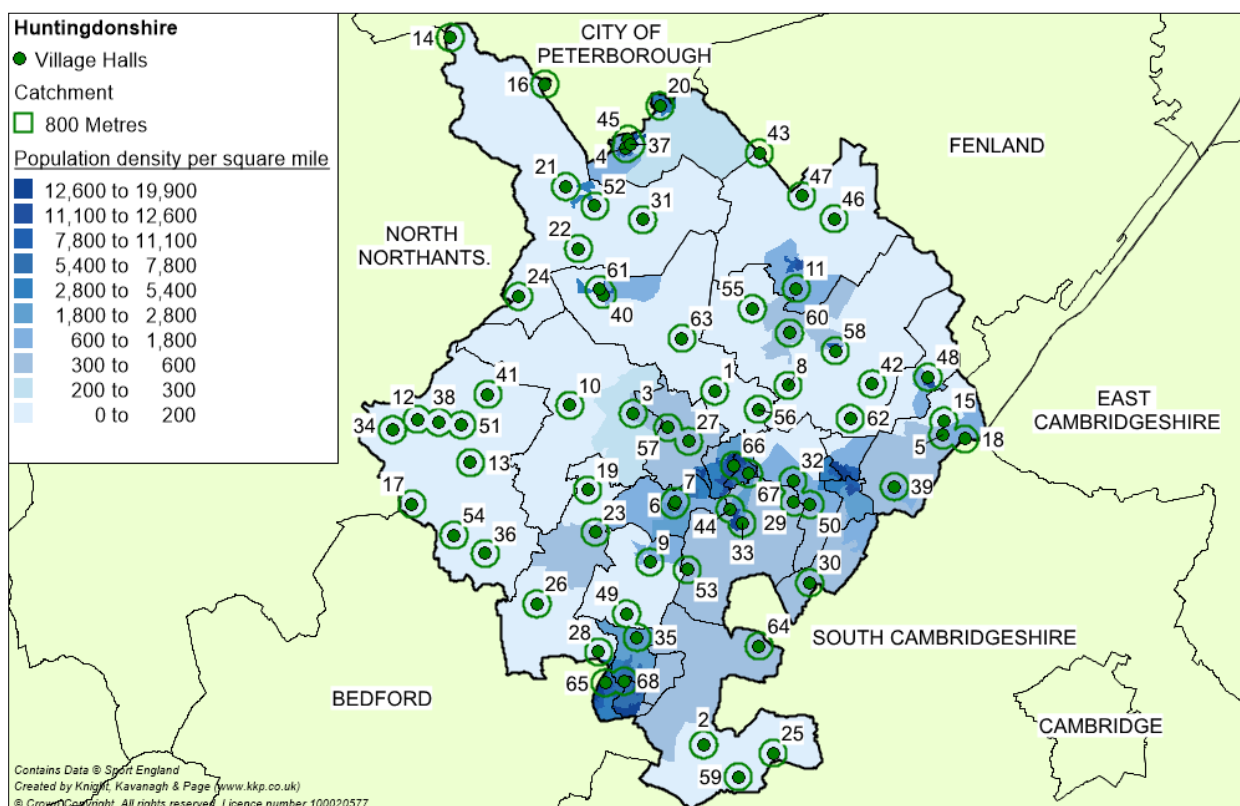
ID	Village hall	ID	Village hall
1	Abbots Ripton Village Hall	35	Little Paxton Village Hall
2	Abbotsley Village Hall	36	Mandeville Hall
3	Alconbury Hall	37	Middleons Road Pavilion
4	Austin Hall	38	Molesworth Village Hall
5	Bluntisham Village Hall	39	Needingworth Village Hall
6	Brampton Community Centre	40	Old School Hall
7	Brampton Memorial Centre	41	Old Weston Village Hall
8	Broughton Village Hall	42	Pidley Community Centre
9	Buckden Village Hall (Millennium Community Centre)	43	Pondersbridge Village Hall
10	Buckworth Cricket Clubhouse	44	Queen Elizabeth School
11	Bury Village Hall	45	Queen's Park Pavilion
12	Bythorn Village Hall	46	Ramsey Forty-Foot Village Hall
13	Catworth Village Hall	47	Ramsey Mereside Village Hall
14	Christie Hall	48	Somersham Victory Hall
15	Colne Village Hall	49	Southoe Village Hall
16	Colonel Dane Memorial Hall	50	St James' Parish Centre
17	Covington Village Hall	51	St Leonards Hall
18	Earith Village Hall	52	Stilton Pavilion
19	Ellington Village Hall	53	The Offords Village Hall
20	Farcet Village Hall	54	Tilbrook Village Hall
21	Folksworth Village Hall	55	Upwood & the Raveleys Hall
22	Glatton Village Hall	56	Kings Ripton Village Hall
23	Grafham Village Hall	57	Little Stukeley Village Hall
24	Great Gidding Village Hall	58	Warboys Parish Centre
25	Great Gransden Reading Rooms	59	Waresley Village Hall
26	Great Staughton Village Hall	60	Wistow Village Hall

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

ID	Village hall	ID	Village hall
27	Great Stukeley Village Hall	61	Womens Institute Hall
28	Hail Weston Village Hall	62	Woodhurst Village Hall
29	Hemingford Abbots Village Hall	63	Woodwalton Village Hall
30	Hilton Village Hall	64	Yelling Village Hall
31	Holme Village Hall	65	Eaton Community Centre
32	Houghton and Wyton Memorial Hall	66	The Coneygear Centre
33	Judith's Field Pavilion	67	Hartford Village Hall
34	Keyston Village Hall	68	The Priory Centre

Radial catchment modelling estimates that just under a third of Huntingdonshire's population (28.49%) lives within 800 metres walk of a village hall. These facilities have potential to offer different types of physical activity which are relevant to the local communities which they serve. Drive time catchment modelling confirms that essentially the whole (99.7%) of the population lives within a 10-minute drive time of a village/community hall.

Figure 11.1: Village/community halls in Huntingdonshire with 800m radial catchment



## Availability

Day to day management of facilities vary. Some are managed by someone in a paid role, generally a parish clerk, however, the majority are managed by community volunteers. Many buildings offer facilities to the local community at the key times when they are needed i.e., daytime and evening. Activities tend to reflect the needs of the local community.

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

### 4.2 Demand

As mentioned earlier, a cross section of sites were visited as part of the audit. A management/ownership breakdown of those sites, along with the type of activities delivered at each venue.

Table 11.2: Site visit consultation summary

Village hall	Ownership	Management	Activities
Offord Village	Church	Parish Council	Line dancing, boxercise, Pilates, t-dance sessions, short mat bowls.
Great Stoughton	Parish Council	Parish Council	Carpet bowls, badminton, yoga, Pilates.
Yaxley (Public Hall)	Parish Council	Parish Council	Zumba, yoga, keep fit and karate
Buckden Village Hall	Parish Council	Local Trust	Pilates, Zumba and yoga.
Needingworth	Parish Council	Parish Council	Pilates. tai chi, yoga, line dancing
Abbots Ripton	Parish Council	Parish Council	Badminton, table tennis, Yoga, tai chi.
Great Stukeley	Parish Council	Parish Council	Martial arts, badminton, jazzercise, craft club
Coneygear Centre	Town Council	Town Council	Martial arts, yoga, dancing, coffee mornings.

Audit research suggests that demand for village halls and community centre space is returning following the Pandemic. All sites were badly affected, however, since summer 2021, groups/organisations have returned, and most sites are operating at pre-Pandemic utilisation rates.

The majority audited reported some spare capacity, partially during the day and at weekends, however, there was limited capacity during the evenings. Great Stukeley Village Hall, for example, has at least one booking per night, with spare capacity on a Friday and at weekends.

Most sites have one large hall with some having an extra room for community meetings/smaller activity classes. Activities delivered are highly dependent upon the size and the number of rooms on offer. All sites generally offer mat sports, with the larger sites offering badminton/dance sessions.

### 4.3 Summary of key facts and issues

Facility type	Village halls	
Elements	Assessment finding	Specific facility needs
<b>Quantity</b>	There are 68 village/community halls in Huntingdonshire generally located near key settlements. All key settlements are served by a community facility.	Consider potential requirement for village halls/multi-purpose facilities in new housing developments, consider how these facilities fit within the wider recreational/sporting mix.
<b>Quality</b>	No quality rating was undertaken for the sites visited, however, the majority were well maintained with limited maintenance issues reported.	
<b>Accessibility</b>	28.4% of the population lives within 800m and 99.7% within a 10-minute drive of a community centre/village hall.	
<b>Availability (Management and usage)</b>	Management varies between different sites, but broadly speaking the majority are owned and managed by parish/town councils.	Support the work of hall management to secure external funding, improve volunteer skills and enhance the quality and effectiveness of facility



## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Facility type	Village halls	
Elements	Assessment finding	Specific facility needs
	<p>Activities range between halls but are considered to broadly reflect local need. The Pandemic affected all sites, however, most have returned to pre pandemic utilisation.</p>	<p>management, promotion, programming, and finance.</p>
<p><b>Summary</b></p>	<p>There are 68 village/community halls in Huntingdonshire accessible to the majority of the population (within a 10-minute drive). Most sites report no quality issues and offered a range of activities.</p> <p>Venue utilisation is returning to pre pandemic levels. Most sites still have some mid-week and weekend availability, however, as the Authority continues to move out of the pandemic, it is hoped that these will be taken up.</p> <p>Consider potential additional demand produced from new housing developments and whether this demand can be accommodated at existing facilities or new provision is required.</p>	

### SECTION 12: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The principal challenge for HDC is to ensure it has sufficient leisure provision to accommodate the growth in population anticipated by 2043. Key growth areas are Alconbury Wield and St Neots Eastern Expansion. Based on this, the following key strategic recommendations will be developed further in the strategy which will follow this Draft Needs Assessment. Key specific points to consider.

- ◀ Sawtry Swimming Pool is currently at risk of closure, with increased energy costs being cited as a key contributory factor. HDC should continue to work with Meridian academy trust to identify a potential solution, given the facilities key role in meeting swimming lesson demand in the Authority.
- ◀ HDC and partners should consider how to increase sports hall capacity across the District. Short term options include working with sites which offer limited community availability or are currently closed to the community. Medium term, the new secondary school at Alconbury Wield, will also increase capacity. In the longer term an option could be to consider developing a sports hub on land owned by St Peters School (to the rear of Huntingdon Leisure Centre) in line with Huntingdon Town Councils ambition to develop an indoor facility to support netball.
- ◀ HDC and partners need to consider how address providing addition swimming pool capacity over the period of the strategy. In line with the proposed housing growth areas, options could include the expansion of either Huntingdon, St Neots or St Ives swimming pools. This could, for example involve adding teaching pools at one or more sites. The expansion of Huntingdon could link in with the suggested upgrade of the St Peters site, as mentioned above.
- ◀ Two gymnastics clubs are either looking at upgrading their current facilities or moving to a new larger site. Both Huntingdon GC and Meridian are on the NGB's facility project list. HDC needs to work with BG and the respective clubs to ensure that their future facility requirements are met.
- ◀ Both indoor bowls facilities are rated below average. Although the sites are still functional, they will require long term investment to enable them to support their respective local communities. HDC needs to work with both the EIBA and the respective clubs to identify potential funding sources to support future facility upgrades.
- ◀ Community Centres/village halls play a key role in supporting their respective local communities with a range of activities. HDC should undertake a full audit of such facilities and then work with respective parish/town councils to identify required support for potential upgrades/maintenance issues. HDC should also develop a community volunteer training program to ensure that the operation of these facilities continue to fully support their local communities.



## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

# INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY STRATEGY

NOVEMBER 2022

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

**Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd**  
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6543

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Final approval		

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# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL SPORTS FACILITIES – STRATEGY

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## PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Huntingdonshire Indoor and Built Strategy for the period 2022 – 2043. Recommendations are drawn from the Huntingdonshire Needs Assessment Report April 2022.

Both the Assessment Report and the Strategy are in accordance with Sport England’s ANOG (Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance - for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities). They have been produced by specialist sport and leisure consultancy, Knight Kavanagh and Page (KKP) in consultation with HDC (Huntingdonshire District Council), One Leisure, Sport England, national governing bodies of sport (NGBs), local sports clubs and key stakeholders.

### 1.1 Purpose

The overall aim of the indoor sports strategy is to enable HDC to make informed decisions to ensure that sport and physical activity facilities with an appropriate combination of amenities are located in the right places to ensure that the maximum number of local people take part in regular, meaningful physical activity. HDC has an aspiration and need to consider its facilities planning, particularly in the context of the changing economic landscape (post Covid-19 pandemic), its need to support a diverse community and its demographic profile (e.g., the rise in the number and proportion of older people) in the area.

The focus of this Strategy is to provide clear direction to all partners so that together they can plan and develop the more modern, efficient and sustainable range of community-based leisure, physical activity and sport facilities that Huntingdonshire’s residents require.

It provides a concise, robust, comprehensive and up-to-date evidence base in line with Huntingdonshire’s current Local Plan and sets out a strategic, action plan-based approach to the enhancement of existing, and creation of new, sporting provision.

This will ensure that residents have the option to be physically active and healthier, and where appropriate develop their physical, sporting, health and wellbeing ambitions within their local community. This report is one component of a wider suite of strategies which also includes the Authority’s Playing Pitch Strategy.

### 1.2 National strategic context

#### ***Sport England: Uniting the Movement 2021***

Sport and physical activity has a key role in improving the physical and mental health of the nation, supporting the economy, reconnecting communities and rebuilding a stronger society for all following the global pandemic. Reflecting this, Sport England’s 10-year strategy vision to transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity sets out to tackle the inequalities that it states are long seen and makes the point that ‘providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity, has never been more important’. The three key Strategy objectives are:

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
Advocating for movement, sport and physical activity	Joining forces on five big issues	Creating the catalysts for change

As well as being an advocate for sport and physical activity, via the building of evidence and partnership development, the Strategy identifies five big issues which people and communities need to address by working together. Described as the major challenges to England being an active nation over the next decade and the greatest opportunities to make

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL SPORTS FACILITIES – STRATEGY

a lasting difference, each is designated as a building block that, on its own, would make a difference. However, the content is that delivered together they could change things profoundly. The issues are:

- ◀ Recover and reinvent: Recovering from the biggest crisis in a generation and reinventing as a vibrant, relevant and sustainable network of organisations providing sport and physical activity opportunities that meet the needs of different people.
- ◀ Connecting communities: Focusing on sport and physical activity's ability to make better places to live and bring people together.
- ◀ Positive experiences for children and young people: Unrelenting focus on positive experiences for all children and young people as the foundations for a long and healthy life.
- ◀ Connecting with health and wellbeing: Strengthening the connections between sport, physical activity, health and wellbeing, so more people can feel the benefits of, and advocate for, an active life.
- ◀ Active environments: Creating and protecting the places and spaces that make it easier for people to be active.

To address these five issues, the right conditions for change need to be created: across people, organisations and partnerships to help convert plans and ideas. This will include a range of actions, including development of effective investment models and applying innovation and digital technology to ensure sport and physical activity are more accessible.

The impact of Uniting the Movement 2021 will be captured via funded programmes, interventions made, and partnerships forged. For each specific area of action, key performance indicators will be developed to help evidence the overall progress being made by all those involved in supporting sport and physical activity.

## **Sport England - Understanding the impact of Covid-19 January 2021**

Activity levels for adults were reportedly increasing until coronavirus restrictions were introduced in March 2020. This led to unprecedented falls in activity levels during the first few weeks of full lockdown (mid-March to mid-May 2020). The proportion of the population classed as active dropped by 7% (meaning that there were just over 3 million fewer active adults).

Some audiences found it harder to be active pre-Covid and are finding it hard now. Inequalities between different groups have persisted since lockdown restrictions began in March. Those who have found it hardest to stay active include:

- ◀ People with long-term health conditions/disabilities.
- ◀ People from lower socio-economic groups.
- ◀ Women aged 16–34-year-olds and 55 years and above.
- ◀ Adults from Black, Asian and other ethnic groups.

The proportion of children and young people reporting being active during mid-May to late July 2020 (the summer term) fell by 2.3%, with just over 100,000 fewer children meeting recommended levels of activity compared to the same period 12 months earlier. Whilst all groups were impacted in terms of activity levels, girls fared far better than boys, whilst those from black and mixed backgrounds saw a noticeable decline in activity levels.

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL SPORTS FACILITIES – STRATEGY

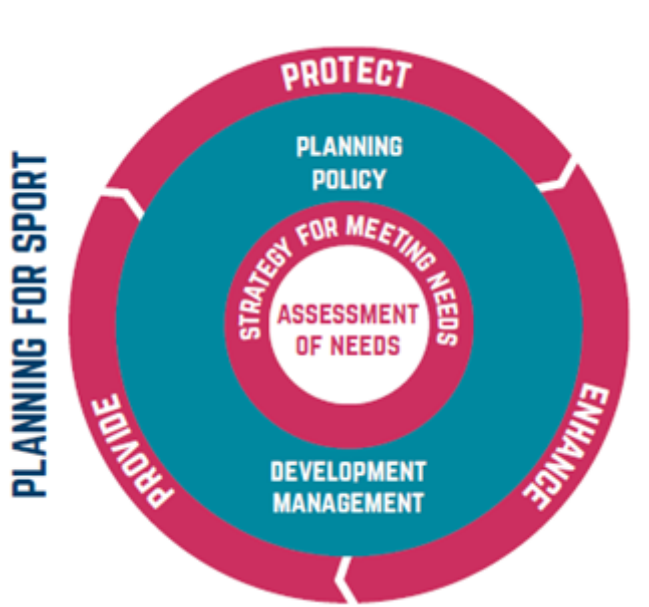
Sporting activity saw large decreases with over one million fewer children and young people (16.3%) reporting having taken part in swimming and team sports in the last week\* compared to the same period 12 months earlier. Walking, cycling and fitness achieved large increases in the numbers reporting that they took part in the last week compared to the same period 12 months earlier. 1.6 million more children and young people went for a walk (+22%) or did fitness activities (+22%), whilst 1.4 million more cycled for fun or fitness (+19%).

Lack of disposable income can cause a reduction in sports sector spend and have a negative impact upon take-up of activities which cater for children and young people as well as adults. Uncertain employment and financial circumstances mean that greater numbers of people will be looking for affordable, flexible opportunities to stay active and fewer people will be in a position to make an ongoing financial commitment to participate.

## ***Sport England’s planning aim***

Sport England aims to ensure positive planning for sport, enabling the right facilities to be provided in the right places, based on an up-to-date assessment of needs for all levels of sport and all sectors of the community. As noted earlier, this assessment report was produced for the WBC applying the principles and tools identified in Sport England’s ANOG guidance.

*Figure 1.1: The Sport England Planning for Sport Model*



Assessment of need is core to planning for sporting provision. It is underpinned by 12 planning-for-sport principles which help the planning system to contribute to sustainable development by fulfilling the key role of the NPPF in creating strong, vibrant and healthy communities. Applying them ensures that the planning system plans positively to enable and support healthy lifestyles, delivers community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs, and provides opportunity for all to experience the benefits that taking part in sport and physical activity brings. They apply to all areas of the planning system and to planning at local authority and neighbourhood levels.

As such they are of relevance to all involved in, or looking to engage with, the planning system.



# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL SPORTS FACILITIES – STRATEGY

Table 1.1: Sport England planning objectives

Protect	Enhance	Provide
To protect the right opportunities in the right places.	To enhance opportunities through better use of existing provision	To provide new opportunities to meet the needs of current and future generations.
Existing provision should be protected unless an assessment has demonstrated there is an excess of the provision and the specific buildings or land are surplus to requirements; or the loss would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the former or current use.	The use of existing provision should be optimised, for example, through quality, access and management improvements supported by appropriate ancillary facilities.	Appropriate new provision that meets needs and encourages people to play sport and be physically active should be provided by adapting existing places and through new development.

Figure 1.2: Sport England’s 12 planning principles



# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL SPORTS FACILITIES – STRATEGY

## PART 2: LOCAL AREA CONTEXT

### 2.1 Local strategic context

Huntingdonshire is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of its residents and understands the relationship between physical activity and health and wellbeing. It underpins this commitment in its Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Plan. It also recognises the importance of working in partnership with other agencies to deliver opportunity especially due to the geographic, demographic and cultural challenges encountered across the Borough.

#### ***Huntingdonshire's Local Plan to 2036***

The Spatial Vision set out in the Local Plan is to ensure, that by 2036, *“Huntingdonshire's physical environment will support the health and wellbeing of all its residents by:*

- ◀ Supporting a diverse, thriving economy.
- ◀ Providing sufficient infrastructure to support healthy communities.
- ◀ Meeting the needs of a changing population.
- ◀ Working with our climate, landscape and heritage.

One of the Local Plan's objectives is to provide for adequate infrastructure to meet the needs of new growth and facilitate active, cohesive communities and sustainable lifestyles complemented by another which seeks to ensure inclusive and accessible provision for community needs including sports, play and open space. The Plan also acknowledges the need to provide adequate leisure provision to rural communities, ensuring facilities are in keeping with the character of the population they will serve.

#### ***Huntingdonshire Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 – 2028***

Huntingdonshire's Sustainable Community Strategy shows how the Council will build a better future for Huntingdonshire. It combines; key district, regional and sub-regional strategies, specifically the Local Development Framework. The long-term vision is to ensure current and future generations can:

Make the most of opportunities that come from living in a growing and developing District;  
Enjoy the benefits of continued economic success;  
Access suitable homes, jobs, services, shops, culture and leisure opportunities;  
Maintain the special character of our market towns, villages and countryside; and  
Live in an environment that is safe and protected from the effects of climate change and where valuable natural resources are used wisely.

To ensure that residents can access leisure opportunities, the Authority is committed to providing sufficient quality and quantity of indoor and outdoor sporting infrastructure which supports all residents. This includes supporting emerging communities, such as the one at Alconbury Wild.

#### ***Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020-24***

The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough covers the following authorities: City of Peterborough, Huntingdonshire, East Cambridgeshire, South Cambridgeshire and the City of Cambridge.

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL SPORTS FACILITIES – STRATEGY

Its four key priorities are;

- ◀ Priority 1: Develop places that support health and wellbeing.
- ◀ Priority 2: Help children achieve the best start in life.
- ◀ Priority 3: Staying healthy throughout life.
- ◀ Priority 4: Provide quality health and social care.

To ensure there are ‘places that support health and wellbeing’ Board members are committed to working with the Authority’s One Leisure team to ensure that Huntingdonshire’s leisure and community centres are maintained to the highest of standards and offer activity and health referral programmes which are accessible to all.

## **Living Sport**

Living Sport is one of the 43 active partnerships in England. It covers the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area. Its vision is to improve health and wellbeing by supporting people to get active. Its intention is that this will be achieved under the auspices of its latest strategy themes, for the period 2020-2025 by:

- ◀ Advocating and influencing local strategic agendas for sport and physical activity.
- ◀ Using insight and market research to improve the promotion of activity to engage a wider audience.
- ◀ Supporting organisations delivering activity to operate effectively, with a focus on developing their workforce.
- ◀ Achieving sustainable funding with partners to address our identified needs.

Over the past 12 months, Living Sport has been proactive in getting sports clubs back up and running following the Pandemic. Consequently, through the Communities Emergency Fund it has been responsible for distributing over £400,000 to local clubs. The aims of the funding are facility improvements and support for workforce development.

## **Strategic leisure centres in the Authority**

HDC manages the majority of key leisure centres in the Authority via its in-house operator; One Leisure. However, landownership which sites are located on, varies.

*Table 2.1: Breakdown of land and facility ownership per site*

Site	Land ownership	Facility ownership	Usage
One Leisure Ramsey	Abbey College/Abbey Foundation	Huntingdonshire DC	Man. agreement
One Leisure Huntingdon (Wetside)	Cam Academy Trust	Huntingdonshire DC	None
One Leisure Huntingdon (Dryside)	Huntingdonshire DC	Huntingdonshire DC	None
One Leisure St Neots	Astrea Academy Trust	Huntingdonshire DC	Man. agreement
One Leisure St Ives Indoor	Astrea Academy Trust	Huntingdonshire DC	Man. agreement
One Leisure St Ives Outdoor	Cambridgeshire County Council/HDC	Huntingdonshire DC	None

Academy trusts own the land upon which four centres are located. Three of the four have management agreements in place enabling the school to access facilities. Only One Leisure

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Ramsey and One Leisure St Ives are used by the adjacent school during the day. Ernulf Academy has its own sports hall and does not use One Leisure St Neots' indoor facilities.

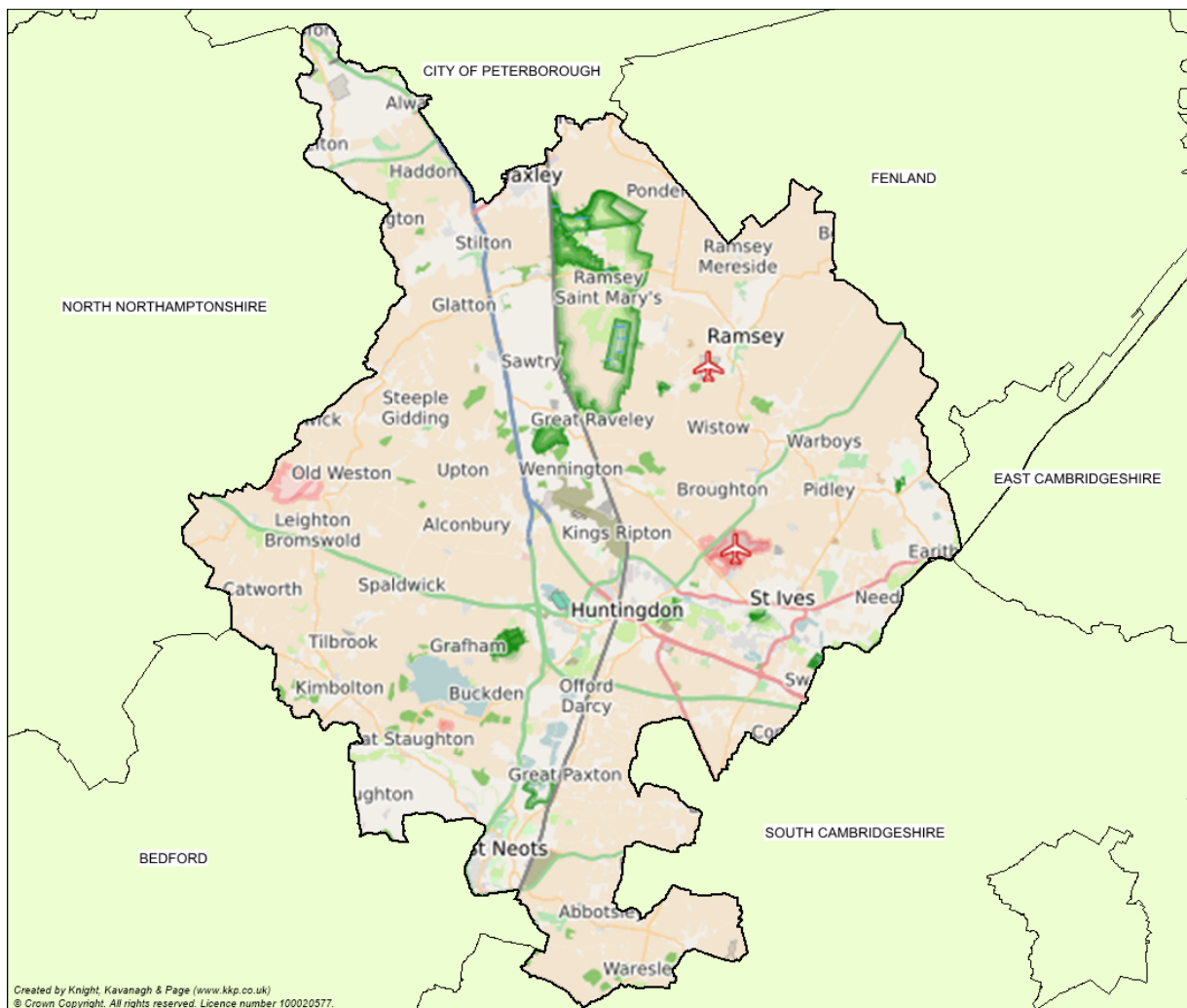
## Summary of local policy

The Authority is committed to ensuring that current and future populations have good physical activity opportunities, reside within strong communities, and are supported by a successful and sustainable economy. To ensure this it has pledged to provide high quality sport and leisure facilities.

## 2.2 About Huntingdonshire

Huntingdonshire is situated approximately 100km (62 miles) north of London. It has strong relationships with Cambridge to the east, Peterborough to the north and Bedford to the south-west. These provide employment, shopping, leisure and health services to complement those available within the District.

Figure 1.1: Main towns and transport links – Huntingdonshire Council



**Population and distribution** (Data source: 2020 Mid-Year Estimate, ONS): The total population of Huntingdonshire is 178,985 (males:89,158 and females: 89,827). Population density is focused around the south and central areas of the Authority, particularly in the towns

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of Huntingdon and St Neots. In the north, population density is greatest in the settlements of St Ives, Sawtry and in Ramsey. The rest of the Authority is predominantly rural.

**Ethnicity:** (Data source: 2011 census of population, ONS): Huntingdonshire’s ethnicity differs compared to England as a whole. According to the 2011 Census, the largest proportion (94.8%) of the local population classified their ethnicity as White; this is higher than the comparative England rate of 85.4%. The next largest population group (by self classification) is Asian, at 2.5% this is lower than the national equivalent (7.8%).

**Deprivation** (Data source: 2020 indices of deprivation, DCLG): Huntingdonshire experiences very low levels of deprivation. 4.7% of the Authority’s population live in areas covered by the country’s three most deprived cohorts (national average: c.30%). Conversely, 52.5% live in the three least deprived groupings. This compares to a ‘norm’ of c.30%. Areas of high deprivation are focused, generally, in the northeast (Ramsey) and the town of Huntingdon.

**Health data** (Data sources: ONS births and deaths, NCMP<sup>1</sup> and NOO<sup>2</sup>): In keeping with patterns seen alongside lower levels of health deprivation, life expectancy in Huntingdonshire is higher than the national figure; the male rate is currently 81.4 compared to 79.6 for England, and the female equivalent is 84.4 compared to 83.2 nationally.

**Weight and obesity** - Adult obesity rates are similar to those for the whole of England but above regional averages. Childhood obesity rates are below both regional and national averages.

	Adult obesity rates	Child obesity rates
Huntingdonshire	68.4%	28.1%
East of England	63.7%	32.4%
England	68.5%	36.7%

**Active Lives Survey (ALS) 2020/21** - the percentage of Huntingdonshire’s population considered to be inactive is 23.1%. This is below both the regional (27.9%) and national (27.2%) averages. It has comparable levels of those classed as active (60.8%) when compared to the regional (60.2%) and national (61.4%) averages.

## Population projections

The most recent ONS projections indicate a rise of 7.8% in Huntingdonshire’s population (+71,626) over the 25 years from 2018 to 2043. Several key points are outlined below

- ◀ The number of 0-15 year olds, falls by -1,888 (-5.8%) over the first half of the projection (to 2030).
- ◀ The number of 16-24 year olds will rise by +1.5% in the first period (+224) followed by a decline of -8.3% (-1,298) in the second period.
- ◀ There is a continuous increase in the numbers of persons aged 65+ and a need to consider varying sports offers for this age group.

### 2.3: Huntingdonshire housing growth

1 National Child Measurement Program  
2 National Obesity Observatory

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL SPORTS FACILITIES – STRATEGY

As presented above, Huntingdonshire's population is set to increase by 7.8%. To support this increase, several key housing growth sites are planned. This will be developed through a wide mix of housing types and sizes, with a strong need for smaller homes due to the high proportion of single person households.

The growth areas are as follows:

- ◀ *Alconbury Weald* - it is proposed that this site will accommodate 5,000 new houses. It is scheduled for completion by 2040. It will also incorporate a new secondary school with a community available 4-court sports hall. It is anticipated that the school (Alconbury Educational Hub) will open in September 2023.
- ◀ *St Neots Eastern Expansion* - land to the east of St Neots has been given planning permission for c.4,000 new dwellings.
- ◀ *Ermine Street Development* - it is proposed to develop 1,400 new homes to the north of Huntingdon alongside the A141, however, this is still subject to planning approval due to traffic concerns on the A141 and connection challenges into Huntingdon.

## **Summary of the demographic profile**

It is estimated that Huntingdonshire's population will increase by 7.8% until 2043 largely driven by large areas of housing growth, as identified above.

It is important to ensure there is a suite of leisure facilities to cater for rising population numbers along with the appropriate programming. For example, swimming pools and sports halls will need to be able to cater for the increased demand, underpinned by appropriate programming and ensuring that they can provide sufficient swimming lesson capacity. In addition, facilities will also need to be able to support other demographic cohorts, such as the 65+ age group with appropriate daytime activities.

## **2.4 Planning policy**

### ***National Planning Policy Framework 2019 (NPPF)***

This sets out planning policies for England detailing how they are expected to be applied to the planning system. It provides a framework to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities. The stated purpose of the planning system is to contribute to achievement of sustainable development (paragraphs 7-9). It establishes that the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social, and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that local plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

Paragraph 96 asserts that access to a network of high-quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for health and well-being and that planning policies should be based on robust, up-to-date assessments of need for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific need and quantitative and qualitative deficiencies and surpluses in local areas should also be evaluated and this information used to inform what provision is required in an area. As a prerequisite paragraph 97 of the NPPF states that existing open space, sports and recreation sites, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown the site to be surplus to requirements; or
- ◀ The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL SPORTS FACILITIES – STRATEGY

- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

It is, essential that Huntingdonshire as the local planning authority, retains oversight of all potential facility developments. This includes policies and potential supplementary planning documents setting out the approach to securing sport and recreational facilities through new housing development. It includes the Council's approach to ensuring that community use of new facilities is agreed at the outset to ensure that they contribute to its wider sport and physical activity aspirations and those of its partners. This is pivotal to ongoing strategy delivery.

### ***National Planning Practice Guidance (MHCLG)***

This is a web-based resource which brings together planning guidance on various topics into one place. It was launched in March 2014 and adds further context to the NPPF. It is intended that the two documents should be read together. When considering how local planning authorities and developers assess the needs for sports and recreation facilities the guidance states that authorities and developers may refer to Sport England guidance.

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL SPORTS FACILITIES – STRATEGY

## PART 3: NEEDS ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

### 3.1 General findings

The principal challenge for HDC and its partners is to ensure it has sufficient, high quality, leisure provision to accommodate the growth in population anticipated by 2043.

The projected increase in the size of the population (8%) and key demographic segments within this (particularly those aged 65+), mean that the key issues for the District are whether its capacity is sufficient to accommodate this increase in demand and whether future programmes of use match residents needs.

As noted above, the major growth areas are Alconbury Weald (estimated increase in dwellings of c. 5,000) and St Neots (c.4,000 new dwellings). The new secondary school (plus a health and fitness offer) proposed as part of the Alconbury Weald development will increase sports hall capacity and health and fitness provision in the area but there are no plans to increase swimming pool capacity. No additional facility proposals are linked to the St Neots area development.

### 3.2: What do we know about facilities and activities in Huntingdonshire

#### *Sports halls*

Taking sports halls of all sizes into account, there are 30 sites providing 60 badminton courts in the district. Those with two or fewer courts are limited as to the range and scale of recreational and sporting activity they provide; there are 11 sites with 3+ badminton courts.

Of the 3+ badminton court halls, the largest (St Ives Leisure Centre) has 6-courts, Kimbolton School and St Neots have five courts and the remainder (apart from St Peter, Academy Leisure Sawtry, One Leisure Huntingdon, One Leisure Ramsey) all have four. The majority of halls are rated as above average or good quality, with only four rated below average. Those rated below average are St Peters School, One Leisure St Ives, Longsands Academy and Ernulf Academy.

Most halls offer community access. One site does not offer community access; RAF Wyton. The community access offer varies at Kimbolton School as it is a boarding school. It is only available during holiday periods. Consequently, this site has been removed from the analysis.

In terms of the overall supply and demand balance in Huntingdonshire, the FPM calculates that the resident population generates demand for a minimum of 50.2 courts compared with a current available supply of 42.4 courts, giving a negative supply/demand balance of 7.8 courts. This is roughly equivalent to two 4-court sports halls.

This modelled high demand is reflected by consultation findings. Five sites are operating above the Sport England threshold of 80% occupancy during peak periods. The sites with spare capacity are St Peters School, Longsands Academy and Academy Leisure Sawtry.

The current shortfall will be addressed, to some extent by the new secondary school, however, according to Sport England's Sports Facility Calculator (SFC), planned population growth will create the need for an additional 4-court hall. This would suggest that two further 4-court sports halls, in addition to the one at Alconbury Weald, are required by 2043.



# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL SPORTS FACILITIES – STRATEGY

## Swimming pools

There are 13 operational swimming pools on 13 sites in Huntingdonshire, seven of which are equal or greater than 160m<sup>2</sup> in size. The largest (a 5-lane 25m pool) is at Kimbolton School. The remainder all have 4 lanes and vary between 20-25m in length. All seven are classed as community available, with five accessible via pay and play. These are; One Leisure Huntingdon, One Leisure Ramsey, One Leisure St Ives, One Leisure St Neots and Academy Leisure Sawtry. All five sites serve key areas of population.

Kimbolton School does offer opportunities for community access on a block booking basis, however, this is limited to some evenings and weekends only. During holiday periods, it also opens the pool up for pay and play opportunity. For these reasons, this study classifies it as being community available and it is included in the relevant assessments.

Table 3.1: Quality of swimming pools (160m<sup>2</sup>) in Huntingdonshire

ID	Site name	Lanes/length	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Condition	
				Pool	Changing
3	Academy Leisure Sawtry	4 x 20m	160	Above average	Above average
48	Hinchingbrooke School	4 x 25m	200	Below average	Above average
61	Kimbolton School*	5 x 25m	250	Above average	Above average
80	One Leisure Huntingdon	4 x 25m	250	Below average	Good
81	One Leisure Ramsey	4 x 20m	200	Below average	Above average
82	One Leisure St Ives	4 x 25m	225	Below average	Good
84	One Leisure St Neots	4 x 25m	225	Above average	Above average

Quality is mixed, with four of the seven listed as being in below average condition. Three of the five pay and play sites fall into this category. Ratings are mainly due to facility age and the lack of significant investment. St Ives, Ramsey and Huntingdon all over 30 years old.

When taking into account FPM calculations, there is a supply/demand deficit of 815m<sup>2</sup>. To put this into context one 6-lane x 25m pool equates to 325m<sup>2</sup>. This deficit will be further exacerbated as a result of upcoming population growth.

Current swimming participation across all One Leisure sites is strong. This is best measured through swimming lesson participation. Each site is reportedly operating at between 85-90% of overall capacity, with the leisure operator concerned as to future capacity in relation to the proposed housing growth.

Due to the quality of the majority of community available pools and the significant shortfall in capacity, there is a need to identify where capacity can be increased whilst also looking at improving pool quality. Due to the age of certain facilities, and the need to develop environmentally efficient venues, this Strategy considers a combination of options, including development of a new energy efficient facility whilst also upgrading current provision. Huntingdonshire does not have a flagship competition pool to provide a venue for swimming clubs galas and competitions and any new development should also consider this.

Consultation indicates that Sawtry Swimming Pool will close on a temporary basis at the end of the calendar year in 2022. The current operator has cited financial pressures including increased utilities costs as the primary why the pool is having to close. There is no confirmed

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL SPORTS FACILITIES – STRATEGY

date as to when the site will re-open. It should be noted that the gym and sports hall will be unaffected.

## *Health and fitness suites*

There are 15 health and fitness suites (with over 20 stations) in Huntingdonshire, with a total of 946 stations. All facilities are rated either good or above average. There are seven gyms located nearby in neighbouring authorities, two of which have 100+ stations.

All main population areas have health and fitness facilities and 46% of the population resides within one mile of a gym. 86.1% of people living in higher deprivation are within one mile of a gym. 98% of residents live within a 20-minute drive of a facility.

There are seven publicly accessible pay and play health and fitness facilities with 20+ stations in Huntingdonshire. The remainder require some form of membership to access. An exercise referral scheme is available at all One Leisure sites. This offers district residents referred by a health professional, a discounted leisure membership to help with rehabilitation and/or prevention of certain medical conditions, such as heart disease or cancer recurrence.

Based on current UK penetration rates, there is a current shortfall of c. 300 stations in Huntingdonshire. This will, based upon projected population increases rise to c.500 stations by 2043. The challenge for the Authority is to address this current and future shortfall. This could be achieved, at least in part, via the replacement and/or redevelopment of existing One Leisure sites or absorbed (in part) by the private sector.

## *Gymnastics*

There are five dedicated gymnastics clubs in Huntingdonshire, four of which have dedicated facilities. The five clubs are as follows: Huntingdon Gymnastics Club, Twisters Gymnastics Club, Rotations Trampolining Club, Meridian Gymnastics Club and Amy's Acro. The latter is the only club without its own dedicated facility - it uses a series of primary schools throughout the Authority.

Of the five clubs, Huntingdon and Meridian are on British Gymnastics' facility project list. Huntingdon GC wishes to upgrade its main gymnastics hall (as its over 40 years old) and Meridian GC has ambitions to move to a larger premises.

## *Indoor bowls*

There are two dedicated indoor bowls facilities, supporting two clubs. They are located in Huntingdon and St Neots. Both venues are rated as being of below average quality and will need investment in the medium to long term.

Both are club run and require a membership to access. There is no pay and play opportunity for bowls in the Authority. Consultation indicates that both clubs have spare capacity and the focus should be on increasing membership and improving the quality of each venue.

## *Indoor tennis*

The one indoor tennis provision in the Authority is Huntingdon Tennis Club. There is a facility venue within a 30-minute drive of the district. Huntingdon Tennis Club is accessible via advance booking (pay and play) or registered membership and is of above average quality.

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL SPORTS FACILITIES – STRATEGY

## *Squash*

There are nine community available squash courts at four sites, all rated above average quality. Two sites offer pay and play access; the One Leisure centres in Huntingdon and St Neots.

Although England Squash states that there is a shortfall of provision (of eight courts), consultation suggests that there is currently spare capacity at both pay and play sites. One option to address the England Squash calculated shortfall could be to work with Kimbolton School to persuade it to open its courts to one of the clubs and/or the community.

## *Village halls/community centres*

The audit identified 68 village halls in Huntingdonshire. There appears to be a good spread from north to south serving all key population centres. Consultation indicates that venue utilisation is returning to pre-Pandemic levels. Most sites (which were audited) still have some mid-week and weekend availability, however, as the Authority continues to emerge from lockdown, it is hoped that these will be taken up.

## **Summary**

The KKP audit, along with the FPM, identifies a current shortfall in sports halls, fitness provision and swimming pools. The pool capacity shortfall (700-800m<sup>2</sup>) is particularly significant.

The shortfall in swimming capacity is a major concern, as this will hinder swimming development for all demographics. This includes learning to swim for younger generations, swimming club expansion along with general fitness for all casual swimmers. The key areas where demand is not met are currently around Huntingdon and St Neots.

Whilst the new secondary school (as part of the Alconbury Weald development) will address some of the sports hall shortfall, there is no current plans to address swimming pool capacity. The Authority should consider a combination of options, including developing a new facility, alongside upgrading others. Any development at One Leisure sites should also consider addressing the present (300 station) shortage of fitness provision.

Consideration should also be given to re-negotiating existing community use agreements on One Leisure sites to improve overall available community hours, particularly if the HDC intend to invest in these facilities in the future.

Huntingdon Town Council has ambitions to develop a multi-sport indoor facility in the town. This would address any future sports hall shortfall in provision in this locality. The Town Council would like this facility to focus on netball.

As well as the main facility types, the two indoor bowls centres will need to be upgraded in the medium to long term. Both are popular and to ensure that they continue to provide for the communities they serve they will need support (and possibly funding) to ensure they can be attractive.

Two of the gymnastics clubs in the Authority are either seeking to upgrade their facility or move to a bigger site. Again, both will require support as part of this process.

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL SPORTS FACILITIES – STRATEGY

## PART 4: VISION AND STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS ACTION PLAN

This is Huntingdonshire’s vision for sport and leisure provision for the period 2022-2043. It builds upon the conclusions identified in the Built Facilities Needs Assessment Report. It confirms that the Authority’s sports halls, swimming pools and health and fitness suites are generally well positioned in relation to areas of population, however, there is undersupply across all three, particularly in relation to swimming capacity. The challenge, therefore, is to increase capacity and quality, to support Huntingdonshire’s growing population.

The proposed headline aim is, thus that HDC will:

*Create and maintain high quality, sustainable sport and leisure facilities which meet current and future community need, help increase participation and tackle health and age-related issues providing accessible, inclusive activities for Huntingdonshire’s residents as part of an active lifestyle.*

### 4.2 Key strategic recommendations

Below lists the strategic facility drivers for Huntingdonshire. It is important in respect of any future facility development, that these consider the Authority’s 2040 carbon neutral target. This includes ensuring that its buildings reduce carbon emissions through better use of materials plus the use of renewable heat sources.

#### ***Sustain and increase swimming pool supply across the Authority***

There is a short term need to protect provision under threat of closure at Sawtry. In the medium / long term (given the likely resourcing requirements) HDC should consider how it can grow swimming pool capacity across the District whilst improving the overall quality and energy efficiency of facilities. The following key actions should be taken :

- ◀ In the short term (0-6 months) and respect of Sawtry pool, it is recommended that HDC and other local partners continues to engage and offer support to the Meridian Academy Trust in order that a sustainable financial plan can be found to secure the pools short term future. This could include support in helping the Meridian Trust access funding, grants, or developing an enduring customer base to ensure the centre is sustainable, recognising the loss to the community if Meridian are unable to achieve this. **(PROTECT)**
- ◀ In the medium (3-5 yrs) term the swimming pools at both St Neots and St Ives require investment. It is suggested that both pool tanks are upgraded along with the pool surrounds to ensure that they offer the requisite quality level. It is suggested that they remain as ‘local pools’ catering for the towns in which they are located. **(ENHANCE)**
- ◀ HDC should in the medium / long term (5-10 yrs) consider options for the replacement of Huntingdon Swimming Pool. New facilities should have sufficient capacity and flexibility to deliver a significant proportion of the District’s swimming lesson programme and support swimming clubs with galas and key competitions. Existing squash and health & fitness provision should be replaced on a like for like basis. **(ENHANCE / PROVIDE)**
- ◀ In support of the above, HDC should undertake a bespoke FPM run to consider potential changes in provision, the impact of population growth, and location scenarios including replacing/redeveloping the One Leisure Huntingdon on its existing site and alternative

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL SPORTS FACILITIES – STRATEGY

locations taking into account large housing growth sites in the vicinity of Huntingdon and its surrounds such as Alconbury Weald. **(ENHANCE/PROVIDE)**

## ***Increasing sports hall provision and capacity***

Even allowing for the new sports hall at Alconbury Weald. needs assessment demand calculations indicate that two further 4-court sports halls are required in the district by 2043. In this regard, consultation identified that Huntingdon Town Council would like to consider the feasibility of developing a dedicated indoor facility to support several key sports.

- ◀ In the short / medium term HDC should continue to work with the town council to identify potential sites for a new sports hall facility in Huntingdon in partnership with relevant National Governing Bodies. **(PROVIDE)**

## ***Renegotiate management agreements with academy trusts prior to any future investment***

Four key leisure sites are located on land owned by academy trusts. They include St Ives and St Neots leisure centres where the management agreements are designed to balance school and community use. Prior to any future HDC investment in these sites the management agreements should be reviewed to ensure that the nature and form of the long term community use arrangements at these sites are optimised **(ENHANCE)**

## ***Support Meridian Gymnastics and Huntingdon Gymnastics clubs with their facility aspirations***

HDC should work with both clubs and British Gymnastics to ascertain what the specific facilities required and support them to work towards achieving their objectives. For example, Meridian is looking to acquire a large venue, such as an industrial unit, to be its base and accommodate its activities and programmes. HDC should support with the Club to seek an appropriate site and also (if required), consider a change of use for a specific building. **(ENHANCE/PROVIDE)**

## ***Work with St Neots and Huntingdon Indoor Bowling venues to support with possible facility upgrades***

Both indoor bowling venues in the Authority (St Neots and Huntingdon) require long term investment. HDC should enter into a partnership with the local clubs and the EIBA to identify what facility upgrades will be required in the short/medium term and to identify possible sources of funding to help deliver these upgrades. **(ENHANCE)**

## ***Address the future shortfall of fitness provision in the Authority (PROVIDE)***

There is currently a shortfall of c. 300 stations in Huntingdonshire which will increase by c.500 stations by 2043. In the short term, the Local Authority should look at increasing (where possible) the provision at current sites as part of any refurbishment/redevelopment. Medium to longer term and in relation to potential investment Huntingdon, this should incorporate substantial health and fitness provision as part of any facility mix.

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL SPORTS FACILITIES – STRATEGY

### ***Secure appropriate developer contributions to support leisure provision. (ENHANCE / PROVIDE)***

HDC should ensure that Local Plan policy ringfences developer contributions to support creation of new, and/or the refurbishment and redevelopment of existing, community sports facilities. It is important that the Local Authority develops a series of policies to calculate facility requirements based on the number of additional residents generated as a result of the net increase in dwellings.

### ***Continue with the Authority's energy efficiency programme across all sites (ENHANCE)***

All Local Authority owned leisure sites currently have an energy efficiency plan and have benefited from Salix Finance funding to improve facilities. Each facility will require regular investment, to ensure they remain as energy efficient as possible, in line with the Council's carbon neutral target. Future investment should focus on plant maintenance, lighting and energy sources.

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL SPORTS FACILITIES –STRATEGY

## 4.3 Indoor and built facilities strategy action plan

Taking into account the needs assessments related to specific facilities and sports, the demographic make-up, current vision of the Council and associated organisations, plus Sport England’s Planning for Sport guidance which encourages *Protection*, *Enhancement* and *Provision* of new facilities, actions in respect of each of Huntingdonshire’s key facilities are identified below. This action plan is based on a short (0-2 years), medium (3-5 years) and long term (5-10 years) timeframe.

### 4.3.1: Management and programming

Strategic objective	Recommendation	Action	Timescale	Responsibility	Importance
Drive major facility investment <b>Protect/Enhance Provide</b>	See site by site recommendations below	Actions identified on a site-by-site basis.	Short	HDC	High
<b>Provide</b> Sustain and increase swimming pool supply across the Authority	Protect facilities at Sawtry leisure centre	HDC along with other partners, to continue to engage and offer support to the Meridian Academy Trust in order that a sustainable financial plan can be found to secure the pools short term future.	Short	HDC Meridian Academy Trust	High
	Improve facilities at St Neots and St Ives	HDC to Upgrade the pools at St Neots and St Ives with new tanks, plant equipment and pool surrounds.	Medium	HDC, One Leisure	Medium
	Replacement of Huntingdon Leisure Centre	Undertake a study to investigate possible sites for new leisure provision in Huntingdon, including the commissioning of a bespoke FPM pools study.	Medium / Long	HDC, One Leisure, Sport England	High

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL SPORTS FACILITIES –STRATEGY

Strategic objective	Recommendation	Action	Time scale	Responsibility	Importance
Increase sports hall capacity  <b>Provide</b>	Assess the feasibility of developing (and if appropriate develop) a new multi-sport indoor venue in Huntingdon.	Jointly (HTC and HDC) commission a feasibility study to assess the potential to create a large multi sport in Huntingdon, in partnership with the Town Council.	Short / medium	HDC HTC	High
Address the future shortfall of fitness provision in the Authority  <b>Provide</b>	Investigate opportunities to increase the supply of health and fitness provision where available.	Assess options to increase the scale/quality at certain sites of fitness provision at HDC managed sites - via the delivery of upgrades as part of the refurbishment/redevelopment of existing sites. When investing in school sites assess where feasible include fitness in refurbishment/extension work.	Medium	HDC Academy trusts & individual schools	Medium
Review and update the Authority's Supplementary Planning Guidance to ensure appropriate developer contributions can be secured for indoor leisure provision  <b>Provide</b>	The LDF Developer Contributions SPD, currently only covers outdoor sport provision. This needs to be updated to incorporate indoor provision too.	HDC to review its suite of Supplementary Planning Document's (SPD) in order to include a mechanism to secure contributions towards indoor sports facilities.	Short	HDC	High
Improve/safeguard access & management agreements at key sites.  <b>Enhance</b>	Review management agreements at One Leisure sites where the freehold is managed by academy trusts.	Work with the academy trusts upon whose sites leisure centres are located to embed and futureproof strong community use agreements particularly at those sites where potential capital investment is being considered.	Short	HDC Academy trusts	High



## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL SPORTS FACILITIES –STRATEGY

Strategic objective	Recommendation	Action	Time scale	Responsibility	Importance
Improve gymnastics facility provision in the district. <b>Enhance</b>	Support Meridian and Huntingdon gymnastics clubs with their facility requirements	Work with clubs and British Gymnastics to gauge facility requirements and develop an investment plan around this. Certain elements of these action plan will require support from HDC, including possible funding bids.	Medium	HDC Gymnastics clubs British Gymnastics	High
Improve the quality of indoor bowls facilities in the district. <b>Enhance</b>	Assess opportunities to upgrade both indoor bowling facilities and work with both clubs to source funds to enable this.	Support clubs to undertake condition surveys and to apply for grants/funding to support building upgrades.	Medium	Indoor bowling clubs HDC EIBA	Medium
Planning <b>Protect/Enhance Provide</b>	Recognise the importance of this study – act upon recommendations made.	To adopt the Strategy as an evidence base document supporting the Local Plan and development management decisions.	Medium	Planning & Leisure Team	High
Carbon neutral programme <b>Enhance</b>	Continue with the energy efficiency plans across all Local Authority owned sites.	Each site has an energy efficiency plan, as part of the Council's target to be carbon neutral by 2040. The Council needs to continue upgrading facilities, as and when funding/opportunities arises.	Short	HDC	High
<b>Monitor and review</b>	Keep this Strategy relevant and up to date.	Complete a light touch annual strategy review. Deliver a full progress review within 5 years of adoption.	Medium	HDC	High

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL SPORTS FACILITIES –STRATEGY

## 4.3.2: Facility specific actions

Facility	Management	Overview	Action	Lead agency	Timescale (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)
Huntingdon Leisure Centre	HDC	<p>Strategic facility in for Huntingdon, split over two sites.</p> <p>The dry site is the newer facility. It has an above average 3-court sports hall, large fitness facility and two above average quality studios.</p> <p>At the second site, the (4-lane x 25m) swimming pool is rated below average quality which its two squash courts are rated good.</p>	<p>Decommission the existing swimming facility and replace it with a new facility for the town.</p> <p>This should incorporate flexible swimming provision i.e. main pool and learner facility. The new facility should preserve/replace existing squash courts and extend the health and fitness provision to c.100 stations.</p> <p>Initial work should look at commissioning a feasibility study (including FPM analysis) to assess potential locations and develop a more detailed specification, consider appropriate management options and produce an indicative business plan for the new provision.</p>	HDC	Medium / Long	High
St Neots Leisure Centre	HDC	<p>This is the main leisure facility in St Neots. It comprises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 4 x25m swimming pool.</li> <li>- 4 court sports hall..</li> <li>- 2 squash courts.</li> <li>- 120 station fitness facility.</li> <li>- 2 studios</li> </ul> <p>All elements rated good/above average quality.</p>	<p>Explore funding opportunities to upgrade the pool and ensure that it is environmentally sustainable moving forward –to include installing a new swimming pool tank plus new pool surrounds, plant and equipment..</p>	HDC	Medium	High

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL SPORTS FACILITIES –STRATEGY

Facility	Management	Overview	Action	Lead agency	Timescale (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)
St Ives Leisure Centre	HDC	<p>Main centre for St Ives, comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 4x25m swimming pool</li> <li>- 6-court sports hall</li> <li>- 120 station fitness provision</li> <li>- 2 studios</li> </ul> <p>The sports hall is used by St Ivo Academy during the day.</p> <p>The sports hall and swimming pool are both rated below average. Health and fitness facility is rated as good. The two studios are rated as above average.</p>	<p>Explore funding opportunities to upgrade the pool (with new tank, surrounds, plant &amp; equipment) and sports hall (new floor and improved lighting).</p> <p>Sports hall will also need to be upgraded, with potential new hall surface.</p> <p>Work with the academy provider to negotiate future appropriate available community hours linked to any investment.</p>	HDC	Short	High
Ramsey Leisure Centre	HDC	<p>Council run facility serving the north of the Authority. It has a 3-court sports hall (rated good), 4-lane x 20m swimming pool (rated below average) and good rated 40 station fitness provision.</p> <p>The adjacent school (Abbey College) has daytime access to the sports hall.</p>	<p>Explore funding opportunities to upgrade the pool. Investment will need to focus on a new tank plus an upgrade of pool surrounds.</p> <p>The Council also has ambitions to create studio space by upgrading unused areas of the centre.</p>	HDC	Medium	High
Sawtry Leisure Centre	Meridian Trust	<p>This leisure centre serves the Sawtry area. It comprises a 4-lane x 20m pool, 3-court sports hall, a 20-station fitness facility and one above average studio.</p> <p>The sports hall, studio and swimming provision are rated above average. Fitness provision is rated good.</p> <p>The sports hall is used by the adjacent school during the day.</p>	<p>HDC and other local partners should continue to engage and offer support to the Meridian Academy Trust in order that a sustainable financial plan can be found, thus securing the pools short term future.</p>	HDC Meridian Trust	Short	High

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL SPORTS FACILITIES –STRATEGY

Facility	Management	Overview	Action	Lead agency	Timescale (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)
Ernulf Academy	Astrea Academy Trust	School has a below average condition 4-court hall.	Support the School to secure funding to upgrade the sports hall.	HDC Astrea Academy Trust One Leisure	Medium	Medium
Hinching-brooke School	Hinchingbrooke Foundation Academy Trust	Popular site for community sport, with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An above average 4-court sports hall</li> <li>- A below average condition 4 lane x 25m swimming pool.</li> </ul> The pool is well used by clubs/learn to swim schools and the School also hires out its 3G/grass provision.	Support school to secure funding to upgrade the swimming pool; a new pool tank/surrounds will be required.	Hinchingbrooke Foundation HDC	Medium	High
Kimbolton School	Kimbolton School	Private boarding school which has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 5-lane x 25m pool (above average)</li> <li>- 4 court sports hall (above average)</li> <li>- Two squash courts (above average).</li> </ul> The pool is available on a block booking basis for evening use but the sports hall and squash courts are mainly used by the school. There is some flexibility during holiday periods when students are off campus.	Work with the School to explore options to increase levels of regular weekday evening community use, particularly for the swimming pool and sports hall.	Kimbolton School HDC Living Partnership	Medium	Medium
Longsands Academy	Astrea Academy Trust	The school has a below average, under-utilised 4-court sports hall. Sports accommodated include basketball, netball, indoor cricket and martial arts It presently has 50% spare capacity.	Support the school to secure funding to upgrade the hall and concurrently work it to increase utilisation.	Astrea Academy Trust HDC	Medium	Medium

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL SPORTS FACILITIES –STRATEGY

Facility	Management	Overview	Action	Lead agency	Timescale (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)
St Peters School	Cam Academy Trust	It has a 3-court sports hall which is rated below average. Community use is limited due to hall quality and school use pressures. The absence of specific funds is currently hindering the upgrade of the sports facility.	Commission a feasibility study to explore the partnership-based option to develop a multi-sport facility on the site – with a particular view to it being a netball venue. Use the feasibility to assess management options and prepare an outline business plan.	Cam Academy Trust HDC HTC England Netball	Short	High
Huntingdon Indoor Bowls Club	Huntingdon Indoor Bowls Club	6-rink indoor bowls facility rated below average	Work with the Club to deliver a condition appraisal of the facility and identify grants/ funding to support an upgrade.	Club HDC EIBA	Medium	Medium
St. Neots & District Indoor Bowls Club	St. Neots & District Indoor Bowls Club	8-rink indoor bowls facility rated as below average.	Work with the Club to deliver a condition appraisal of the facility and then identify grants/funding to support upgrades.	Club HDC EIBA	Medium	Medium
Hemingford Pavilion	Hemingford Pavilion	High quality membership-based squash facility with four good quality squash courts – part of a multi sports club.	Support the Club (when required) to maintain quality of their squash courts.	Club/HDC England Squash	Low	Low
Huntingdon Gymnastics Club	Huntingdon Gymnastics Club	Dedicated facility; large gymnastics hall and smaller matted area. The building is 40+ years old and needs upgrading. The Club is on British Gymnastics' facility project upgrade list.	Identify the financial support required to upgrade its current facility.	Club HD /BG	Medium	High
Meridian Gymnastics Club	Meridian Gymnastics Club	The facility was not audited. It is understood to be a dedicated facility in the north of the Authority, on the border with Peterborough. It is on the facility project upgrade list.	Explore site options to assist the club to find a larger premises.	Club HDC BG	Medium	High
Twisters Gymnastics Club	Twisters Gymnastics Club	The facility was not audited. It is believed to have a dedicated facility in the west of the Authority	Engage with the Club to identify its needs/key challenges.	Club HDC	Low	Low

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL SPORTS FACILITIES –STRATEGY

Facility	Management	Overview	Action	Lead agency	Timescale (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)
Rotations Trampoline Club	Rotations Trampoline Club	Above average dedicated facility located in Huntingdon.	Support the Club (when required) to maintain quality of its gymnastics facility.	Club HDC BG	Low	Low
Huntingdon Tennis Centre	Huntingdon Tennis Centre	Above average 3-court acrylic indoor air dome. Part of a larger site which also has three outdoor courts.	Support the Club (when required) to maintain facility quality.	Centre HDC LTA/HTC	Low	Low
Village halls/ community centres	Various parish and town councils	(Normally small) venues which support the needs of their local community. Of the sites audit, the majority were in good condition and were well used.	Undertake a comprehensive audit to gain full understanding of community facilities and identify whether any sites require support to upgrade/expand. Work with certain site operators to encourage them to meet additional demand in rurally isolated areas.	HDC Parish/town councils	Medium	Medium
Other commercial fitness gyms	Commercial	There are several commercially operated facilities in the area.	Continue to monitor use and assess the extent to which these complement each other and other activity in the District. Ensure that any facility development complements and do not compete with HDC owned/managed venues.	HDC	Long	Low

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES: DRAFT STRATEGY

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### **PART 5: MONITORING AND REVIEW**

This Strategy identifies the investment and actions required to deliver and maintain a high-quality built facilities infrastructure for Huntingdonshire for the period up until 2043.

It is important that the Strategy is (and is treated as) a live document and is used in a practical manner to prioritise investment, develop key work programmes and partnerships, guide planning gain investment and ensure that built sports facilities are a vital component contributing to the quality of life of Huntingdonshire's residents.

Strategy production is just the start of the process and there is a requirement for all partners to engage in ongoing dialogue and review to ensure that a considered perspective and approach is maintained throughout its life.

It is important for Huntingdonshire to adopt a 3-5 year action plan based on Strategy recommendations and for the delivery of these to be monitored and reviewed preferably annually. To this end, it is recommended that an annual report be produced to assess progress being made on delivery of Strategy recommendations.

The process should not only review progress against the action plan but identify actual/ potential changes in supply and demand. The basis for this is that the Strategy is as much about how facilities are used as it is about ensuring that local infrastructure is of a good quality.

In particular the review should include:

- ◀ Review of annual progress on recommendations made in the 3-5 year action plan; taking account of any changes required to the priority of each action (e.g. the relevance of some may increase/decrease following implementation of others).
- ◀ Learning and sharing lessons absorbed throughout the period.
- ◀ Taking account of other new facilities which come on stream in or adjacent to (or which will impact residents of) the Authority.
- ◀ Review of specific changes in the use of key sites (e.g., sport specific specialisms, changes in number of community available hours, opening times etc.).
- ◀ Any specific changes in demand at particular facilities and/or from clubs in the area (e.g., reduction or increase in club numbers, reaction to new housing growth etc.).
- ◀ Considering new sports/activities and/or formats of traditional sports that may emerge.
- ◀ Any other new or emerging issues and opportunities.

The outcome of the review will be to develop a new annual and medium-term action plan for indoor and built sports facilities in and across the Huntingdonshire authority area.

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# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

**OCTOBER 2022**

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

**Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd**  
Company No: 9145032 (England)

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

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Cert Num: 6543-QMS-001

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

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# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

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### ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
ANOG	Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance
BC	Bowls Club
CC	Cricket Club
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
GMA	Grounds Maintenance Association
GPMF	Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund
HC	Hockey Club
HDC	Huntingdonshire District Council
HFA	Huntingdonshire Football Association
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
LMS	Last Man Stands
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NTP	Non turf pitch
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PPOSS	Playing Pitch Strategy and Outdoor Sport Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
S106	Section 106 Agreement
TGR	Team Generation Rate
TC	Tennis Club
U	Under

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

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### PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

#### 1.1: Introduction

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) was appointed by Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) to undertake an assessment of all formal playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities across the authority to assist it to strategically plan for the future.

This is the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) Assessment Report for Huntingdonshire. It presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch and other outdoor sports in accordance with Sport England's Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy (2013) and Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (2014) (ANOG) used for other outdoor sport facilities. Both guidance documents detail a stepped approach that, for pitch sports, is separated into five distinct stages, with similar stages set out in ANOG:

- ◀ Stage A: Preparation
  - ◀ Step 1: Clarify why the PPOSS is being developed
  - ◀ Step 2: Set up the management arrangements
  - ◀ Step 3: Tailor the approach
- ◀ Stage B: Information Gathering
  - ◀ Step 4: Develop an audit of playing pitches
  - ◀ Step 5: Develop a picture of demand
- ◀ Stage C: Assessment
  - ◀ Step 6: Understand how each site is being used
  - ◀ Step 7: Develop the current picture of provision
  - ◀ Step 8: Carry out scenario testing
- ◀ Stage D: Key Findings & Issues
  - ◀ Step 9: Identify key findings & issues
  - ◀ Step 10: Check and challenge key findings & issues
- ◀ Stage E: Strategy Development & Implementation
  - ◀ Step 11: Develop conclusions & recommendations
  - ◀ Step 12: Develop an action & implementation plan
  - ◀ Step 13: Adopt, monitor and review the PPOSS

Stages A to C are covered in this report, with Stage D and Stage E covered in the subsequent strategy document. This Assessment and subsequent Strategy will run to 2036, in line with the new Local Plan subject to annual monitoring and review taking place. If no review has taken place in three years from the date of the baseline data being collated then the PPOSS will no longer be considered up to date or robust.

#### 1.2: Local context

##### ***Huntingdonshire Local Plan (2036)***

Huntingdonshire District Council has prepared a local plan that sets out how much growth there should be in the District in coming years (housing, jobs and associated infrastructure) and where it should take place. The Huntingdonshire District Local Plan 2036 was adopted by Full Council on 15 May 2019.

The Council intends to start a review of the Local Plan in 2023. This is in line with the need to complete a review of the Local no later than five years after the date of adoption to decide whether the plan needs to be updated.

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

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The proposed updated Local Plan will cover a period beyond 2036 but the extent will be determined through the initial public engagement. The plan update will secure levels of growth that accord with government policy and any growth deals that have been agreed. The strategic expansion locations of Alconbury Weald and St Neots East will continue to deliver well into the plan period for the updated Local Plan and will be complemented by new development allocations.

### ***Huntingdonshire District Council Corporate Plan (2022/23)<sup>1</sup>***

Huntingdonshire District Council's corporate Plan 2022/23 is an interim plan for the start of the administration and sets out the Council's objectives and key actions. The objectives are:

- Tackling climate change and caring for the environment
- Enhancing employment opportunities and supporting businesses
- Supporting the needs of residents
- Improving the housing situation
- Strengthening our communities

Provision of open spaces and leisure facilities to meet residents' physical and mental health is addressed under the third objective and provision of green spaces, play area and community buildings is addressed under the final objective.

### **1.3 Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach**

#### ***Management arrangements***

A project team from the Council has worked with KKP to ensure that all relevant information is readily available and to support the consultants as necessary to ensure that project stages and milestones are delivered on time, and to the required quality standard to meet Sport England guidance.

Further to this, a Steering Group is and will continue to be responsible for the direction of the PPS from a strategic perspective and for supporting, checking and challenging the work of the project team. The Steering Group is made up of representatives from Huntingdonshire District Council, Sport England and National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs).

It will be important for the Steering Group to continue once the PPOSS has been finalised for several reasons, including a continuing responsibility to:

- ◀ Be a champion for playing pitch provision in the area and promote the value and importance of the PPOSS.
- ◀ Ensure implementation of the PPOSS's recommendations and action plan.
- ◀ Monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the PPOSS.
- ◀ Ensure that the PPS is kept up to date and refreshed.

#### ***Why the PPOSS is being developed***

The rationale for undertaking this study is to update current levels of provision within Huntingdonshire across the public, private, education, voluntary and commercial sectors and to compare this with current and likely future levels of demand.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/media/1390/corporate-plan.pdf>

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

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One of the core planning principles of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. Paragraph 98 discusses the importance of access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation that can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

Paragraph 98 discusses assessments, the ‘importance of access to a network of high-quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity’. Paragraph 99 addresses protection of existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land and sets out the limited circumstances in which building on them may be permitted. Paragraphs 101 and 102 also promote the identification of important green spaces by local communities and the protection of these facilities. Such spaces may include playing fields.

This PPOSS will act as a further evidence base and will update the existing evidence to take account of changes in provision, planned development and the local needs of the community and changes to planning policy context. This may provide opportunities to develop new playing pitches or improve the quality of existing playing pitches in Huntingdonshire in response to housing developments that create additional demand for pitches (as well as the accompanying ancillary offer) by use of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator<sup>2</sup>. Where possible, this will be aligned to existing community sport clubs in Huntingdonshire which play an integral part in providing sport and physical activities to the local community.

### Scope

The following are the key outdoor sports in Huntingdonshire and as such are included within the scope:

- ◀ Football (including 3G artificial grass pitches)
- ◀ Rugby Union
- ◀ Rugby League
- ◀ Hockey (artificial grass pitches)
- ◀ Cricket
- ◀ Athletics
- ◀ Outdoor Tennis
- ◀ Outdoor Netball
- ◀ Outdoor Lawn Bowls
- ◀ Outdoor Gym equipment / Trim Trails
- ◀ Multi Use Games Areas (MUGA)

It should be noted that for the non-pitch sports, (i.e. tennis, athletics, bowls and netball) included within the scope of this study, the supply and demand principles of Sport England Guidance: Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities (ANOG) are followed to ensure the process is compliant with the NPPF. Please note that although this is less prescriptive than the PPS Guidance, the same approach is applied to provide a full supply and demand assessment for each sport.

Further, there is also no prescriptive method of producing a supply and demand assessment for informal sports. Therefore, a more ‘light touch’ approach will be provided for these facilities which will be identified and mapped as part of the audit and usage/demand will be investigated through consultation with community groups and users.

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<sup>2</sup><https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport/playing-pitch-calculator>

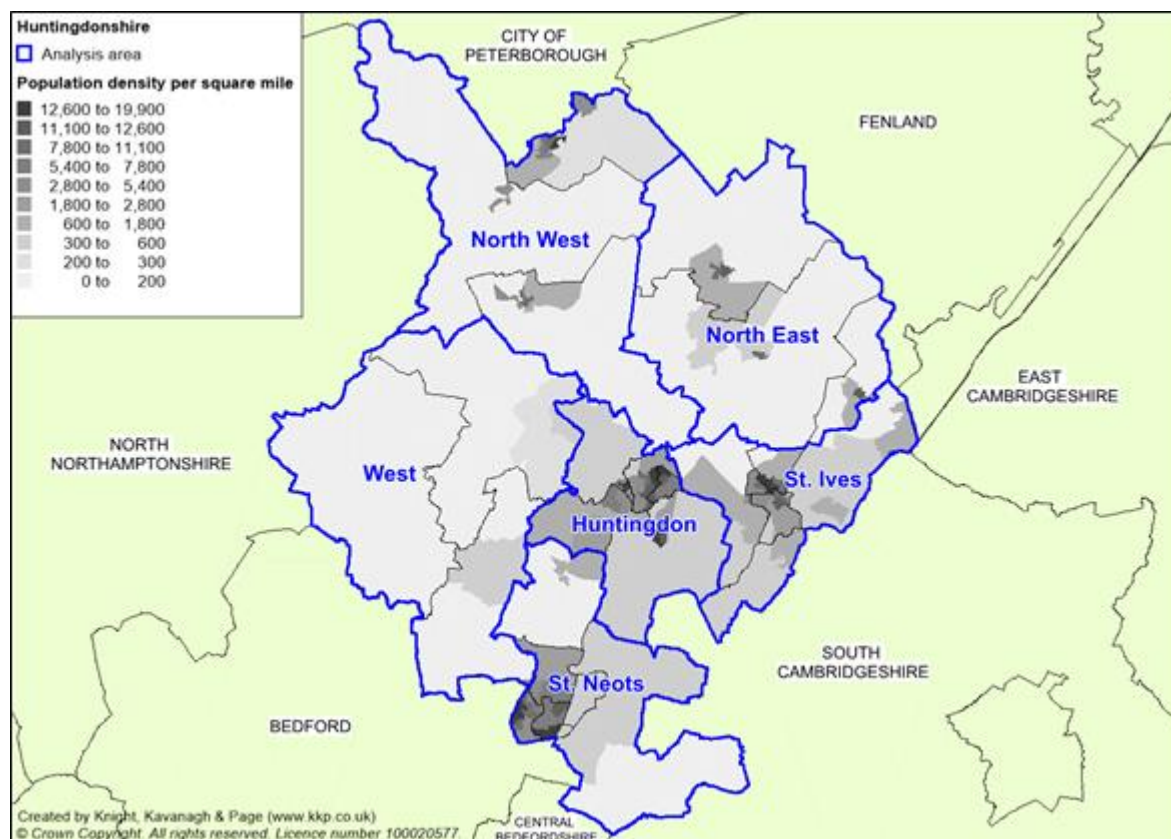
# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

## Study area

The study area comprises the whole of Huntingdonshire District Council's administrative area. Due to its size, Huntingdonshire is broken into smaller subsections known as analysis areas. It is accepted that sports catchment areas do not naturally fall into defined administrative areas and that needs to be taken into account when assessing current and future provision for pitch sports. However, analysis areas are used for reporting purposes to aim to create localised assessments of supply vs demand modelling. The six identified for Huntingdonshire are as follows:

- ◀ Huntingdon
- ◀ North East
- ◀ North West
- ◀ St Ives
- ◀ St Neots
- ◀ West

Figure 1: Huntingdonshire analysis area split



# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 1.1: Analysis areas by ward

Analysis area	Ward
Huntingdon	Brampton
	Godmanchester & Hemingford Abbots
	Huntingdon East
	Huntingdon North
	The Stukeleys
North East	Ramsey
	Somersham
	Warboys
North West	Sawtry
	Stilton, Folksworth & Washingley
	Yaxley
St. Neots	Buckden
	Great Paxton
	St. Neots East
	St. Neots Eatons
	St. Neots Eynesbury
	St. Neots Priory Park & Little Paxton
St. Ives	Fenstanton
	Hemingford Grey & Houghton
	Holywell-cum-Needingworth
	St. Ives East
	St. Ives South
	St. Ives West
West	Alconbury
	Great Staughton
	Kimbolton

### 1.4 Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision

A clear picture of supply and demand for outdoor sports facilities in Huntingdonshire needs to be provided to include an accurate assessment of quantity and quality. This is achieved through consultation with key stakeholders to ensure that they inform the subsequent strategy. It informs current demand, adequacy, usage, future demand and strategies for maintenance and investment for outdoor sports facilities.

#### ***Gather supply information and views – an audit of playing pitches***

Sport England's PPS guidance uses the following definitions of a playing pitch and playing field. These definitions are set out by the Government in the 2015 'Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order'.<sup>3</sup>

- ◀ ***Playing pitch*** – a delineated area which together with any run off area, is of 0.2ha or more, and is used for association football, rugby, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, rounders, baseball, softball, American football, Australian football, Gaelic football, shinty, hurling, polo or cycle polo.
- ◀ ***Playing field*** – the whole of a site which encompasses at least one playing pitch.

<sup>3</sup> [www.sportengland.org](http://www.sportengland.org)>Facilities and Planning> Planning Applications



# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

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Although the statutory definition of a pitch is one that meets a minimum size of 0.2ha, this PPOSS takes into account smaller size pitches that contribute to the supply side, for example, a site containing a mini 5v5 football pitch. This PPOSS counts individual grass pitches (as a delineated area) as the basic unit of supply. The definition of a playing pitch also includes artificial grass pitches (AGPs).

As far as possible the Assessment Report aims to capture all of the outdoor sports facilities within Huntingdonshire; however, there may be instances, for example, on school sites or private sites where access was not possible and has led to omissions within the report. Where pitches have not been recorded within the report they remain as pitches and for planning purposes continue to be so. Furthermore, exclusions of a pitch do not mean that it is not required from a supply and demand point of view.

### *Quantity*

Where known, all outdoor sports facilities are included irrespective of ownership, management and use. Sites were initially identified using Sport England's Active Places web based database, with the Council and NGBs supporting the process by checking and updating this initial data. This was also verified against club information supplied by local leagues.

For each site, the following details were recorded in the project database (which will be supplied upon completion of the project as an electronic file):

- ◀ Site name, address (including postcode) and location
- ◀ Ownership and management type
- ◀ Security of tenure
- ◀ Total number, type and quality of outdoor sports facilities

### *Accessibility*

Not all outdoor sports facilities offer the same level of access to the community. The ownership and accessibility of provision also influences actual availability for community use. Each site is assigned a level of community use as follows:

- ◀ **Community use** - facilities in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) recorded as being available for hire and currently in use by teams playing in community leagues.
- ◀ **Available but unused** - facilities that are available for hire but are not currently used by teams which play in community leagues; this most often applies to school sites but can also apply to sites which are expensive to hire.
- ◀ **No community use** - facilities which as a matter of policy or practice are not available for hire or used by teams playing in community leagues. This should include professional club pitches along with some semi-professional club pitches, where play is restricted to the first or second team.
- ◀ **Disused** – provision that is not being used at all by any users and is not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as 'lapsed sites'.

### *Quality*

The capacity of provision to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by their quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of provision affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of a sport. In extreme circumstances it can result in a facility being unable to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times.

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

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It is not just the quality itself which has an effect on its capacity but also the quality, standard and range of ancillary facilities. The quality of both the outdoor sports facility and ancillary facilities will determine whether provision is able to contribute to meeting demand from various groups and for different levels and types of play.

The quality of all outdoor sports facilities identified in the audit and the ancillary facilities supporting them are assessed regardless of ownership, management or availability. Along with capturing any details specific to the individual facilities and sites, a quality rating is also recorded within the audit for each. These ratings are used to help estimate the capacity to accommodate competitive and other play within the supply and demand assessment.

In addition to undertaking non-technical assessments (using the templates provided within the guidance and as determined by NGBs), users and providers were also consulted on the quality and in some instances the quality rating was adjusted to reflect this.

### ***Gather demand information and views***

Presenting an accurate picture of current demand for outdoor sports facilities (i.e. recording how and when provision is used) is important when undertaking a supply and demand assessment.

Demand for outdoor sports facilities in Huntingdonshire tends to fall within the following categories:

- ◀ Organised competitive play
- ◀ Organised training
- ◀ Informal play

Current and future demand for outdoor sports facilities is presented on a sport by sport basis within the relevant sections of this report.

In addition, unmet, latent, imported and exported demand for provision is also identified within each section. Unmet demand is known to currently exist but is unable to access sports facilities; latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better quality provision. Exported and imported demand refers to those sports users who are playing outside of their local authority of choice.

A variety of consultation methods were used to collate such demand information. Firstly, face to face consultation was carried out with key clubs from each sport, thus allowing for the collection of detailed demand information and an exploration of key issues to be interrogated and more accurately assessed. For all remaining clubs, an online survey (converted to postal if required) was utilised.

Local sports development officers, county associations and regional governing body officers advised which of the clubs to include in the face to face consultation and Sport England was also included within the consultation process prior to the project commencing. Issues identified by clubs returning questionnaires were followed up by telephone or face to face interviews. As key providers and users of outdoor sports facilities, educational establishments were also consulted. This involved face to face meetings with secondary schools and colleges and an online survey being sent to primary schools.

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### ***Future demand***

Alongside current demand, it is important for a PPOSS to assess whether the future demand for playing pitches can be met. Using ONS population projections, as well as likely participation growth informed through consultation, an estimate can be made of the likely future demand for playing pitches.

Team generation rates are used to provide an indication of how many people it may take to generate a team (by gender and age group) in order to help estimate the change in demand for pitch sports that may arise from any population change. Future demand for pitches is calculated by adding the percentage increases to the population increases in each analysis area. This figure is then applied to the team generation rates and is presented on a sport by sport basis.

Other information sources that were used to help identify future demand, especially for non-pitch sports (where team generation rates are not applicable) include:

- ◀ Recent trends in the participation.
- ◀ The nature of the current and likely future population and their propensity to participate.
- ◀ Feedback from clubs on their plans to develop additional teams/attract additional members.
- ◀ Any local and NGB specific sports development targets (e.g. increase in participation).

### ***Population growth***

The current resident population in Huntingdonshire is 178,985 (2019 MYE). By 2036 (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand, in line with the Local Plan Review) Huntingdonshire's population is projected to increase to 187,442<sup>4</sup> representing an increase of 8,437 (or equivalent to a percentage increase of 4.7%) according to ONS data.

## **1.5 Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views**

Supply and demand information gathered is used to assess the adequacy of playing pitch provision in Huntingdonshire. It focuses on how much use each site could potentially accommodate (on an area by area basis) compared to how much use is currently taking place.

### ***Understand the situation at individual sites***

Qualitative pitch ratings are linked to a pitch capacity rating derived from NGB guidance and tailored to suit a local area. The quality and use of each pitch is assessed against the recommended pitch capacity to indicate how many match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket) a pitch could accommodate. This is compared to the number of matches actually taking place and categorised as follows, to identify:

Potential spare capacity: Play is below the level the site could sustain.	
At capacity: Play is at a level the site can sustain.	
Overused: Play exceeds the level the site can sustain.	

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<sup>4</sup> Source: ONS 2018-based projections 2018-2043.

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

As a guide, the FA, RFU and the ECB have set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its quality.

*Table 1.3: Capacity of playing pitches*

Sport	Pitch type	No. of match equivalent sessions		
		Good	Standard	Poor
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season	60 per season	0 per season

For tennis, the capacity of courts is determined by membership levels rather than through matches. The LTA suggests that a floodlit hard court can accommodate a membership of up to 60 members, whereas a non-floodlit hard court can accommodate a membership of up to 40 members. This varies for other court types (e.g. grass).

For all remaining non-pitch sports (such as netball) there is no nationally recognised capacity recommendations set out by NGBs. Instead, potential capacity is evaluated on a site by site basis following consultation and site assessments.

### ***Develop the current picture of provision***

Once capacity is determined on a site by site basis, actual spare capacity is calculated on an area by area basis via further interrogation of temporal demand. Although this may have been identified, it does not necessarily mean that there is surplus provision. For example, spare capacity may not be available when it is needed or the site may be retained as a 'strategic reserve' to enable pitch rotation to reduce wear and tear.

Capacity ratings assist in the identification of sites for improvement/development, rationalisation, decommissioning and disposal.

### ***Identify the key findings and issues***

By completing Steps 1-5 it is possible to identify several findings and issues relating to the supply, demand and adequacy of outdoor sports provision in Huntingdonshire. This report seeks to identify and present the key findings and issues prior to development of the Strategy and Action Plan for Huntingdonshire.

### ***Develop the future picture of provision (scenario testing)***

Modelling scenarios to assess whether existing provision can cater for unmet, latent, exported and future demand is made after the capacity analysis. This will also include, for example, removing sites with unsecured community use to demonstrate the impact this would have if these sites were to be decommissioned in the future.

The scenario testing generally occurs in the Strategy report that proceeds this document and therefore does not form part of the Assessment Report.

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### PART 2: FOOTBALL

#### 2.1: Introduction

The organisation responsible for the development of football in Huntingdonshire is Huntingdonshire County FA. It is also responsible for the administration, in terms of discipline, rules and regulations, cup competitions and representative matches, development of clubs and facilities, volunteers, referees, coaching courses and delivering national football schemes.

This section of the report focuses on the supply and demand for grass football pitches. Part Three captures supply and demand for third generation pitches (3G pitches) which are the preferred AGP (artificial grass pitch) surface type for football. In the future it is anticipated that there will be a growing demand for the use of 3G pitches for competitive football fixtures, especially to accommodate mini and youth football.

#### ***Huntingdonshire Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP)***

To support in delivery of both the current and superseding FA National Game Strategy (NGS), the FA commissioned a nationwide consultancy project which was completed (in 2020). Each plan is unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation.

The LFFP is strategically aligned to the National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS); a 10-year plan to change the landscape of football facilities in England. The NFFS represents a major funding commitment from the national funding partners (the FA, Premier League, DCMS and the Football Foundation) to inform and direct an estimated one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next ten years.

Each LFFP draws on the PPS findings (where present and current) regarding the formal and affiliated game, to also include strategic priorities for investment across small sided football (recreational and informal including indoors). The LFFP also incorporates consultation with groups outside of formal football, as well as under-represented communities. This includes those which may be key partners with regards to football for behavioural change and groups which may be key drivers of FA NGS priorities around participation in the likes of women and girls' football, disability football and futsal.

The LFFP is a 'live' document that can be updated following the completion of a PPS, if required, as an up-to-date supply and demand assessment may present findings and recommendations that need to be incorporated. LFFPs identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding. As such, around 90% of all national football investment through the funding partners will be identified via LFFPs.

It is important to recognise that the LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment; it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Consequently, it cannot be used in place of a PPS and is not an accepted evidence base for site change of use or disposal. The Huntingdonshire LFFP will therefore need updating following the production of the PPS once completed.

The LFFP for Huntingdonshire was produced in 2019 and identifies 15 sites as key for football and possible future investment. The Strategy & Action Plan report will test whether the PPOSS supports these projects and to what degree the LFFP requires updating to reflect the findings of the PPOSS.

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## Consultation

Football clubs based in the District were invited to partake in consultation to inform this study. Consultation was undertaken through a mixture of face to face, virtual, telephone and via online surveys. Clubs selected for face to face consultation were selected by Huntingdonshire County FA.

Consultation (either through survey or face to face interview) represents an 93% team response rate and 84% club response rate. The results are used to inform key issues within this section of the report. The following clubs were consulted via a face to face meeting, a virtual meeting or telephone call:

- ✦ Alconbury/ Alconbury Colts FC
- ✦ Buckden FC
- ✦ Eunice Huntingdon FC
- ✦ Fenstanton/ Fenstanton Youth FC
- ✦ Godmanchester Rovers/ Godmanchester Town FC
- ✦ Gransden Youth FC
- ✦ Prioory Parkside Colts FC
- ✦ Ramsey Colts FD
- ✦ Sawtry/ Sawtry Colts FC
- ✦ St Neots Town Youth FC
- ✦ Warboys Town/ Warboys Colts FC

## 2.2: Supply

The audit identifies a total of 164 grass football pitches within Huntingdonshire across 58 sites. Of these, 150 pitches across 50 sites are identified as being available for community use. All 14 unavailable pitches are located at educational or MOD sites.

Most available pitches in the District are in the St Neots Area (39 pitches - 26% of available pitches), followed by the St Ives Area (31 pitches - 21%) and then the Huntingdon Area (30 pitches - 20%). The Northwest and North East areas both have 21 pitches (14% of available pitches), whilst the West Analysis Area has the least amount of provision with eight pitches identified (5%).

Table 2.1: Summary of grass football pitches available for community use

Analysis area	Available for community use					Totals
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Huntingdon	15	3	6	4	2	<b>30</b>
North East	8	3	3	4	3	<b>21</b>
North West	8	2	4	5	2	<b>21</b>
St. Ives	15	4	5	5	2	<b>31</b>
St. Neots	8	5	11	8	7	<b>39</b>
West	4	2	1	1	-	<b>8</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>150</b>

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

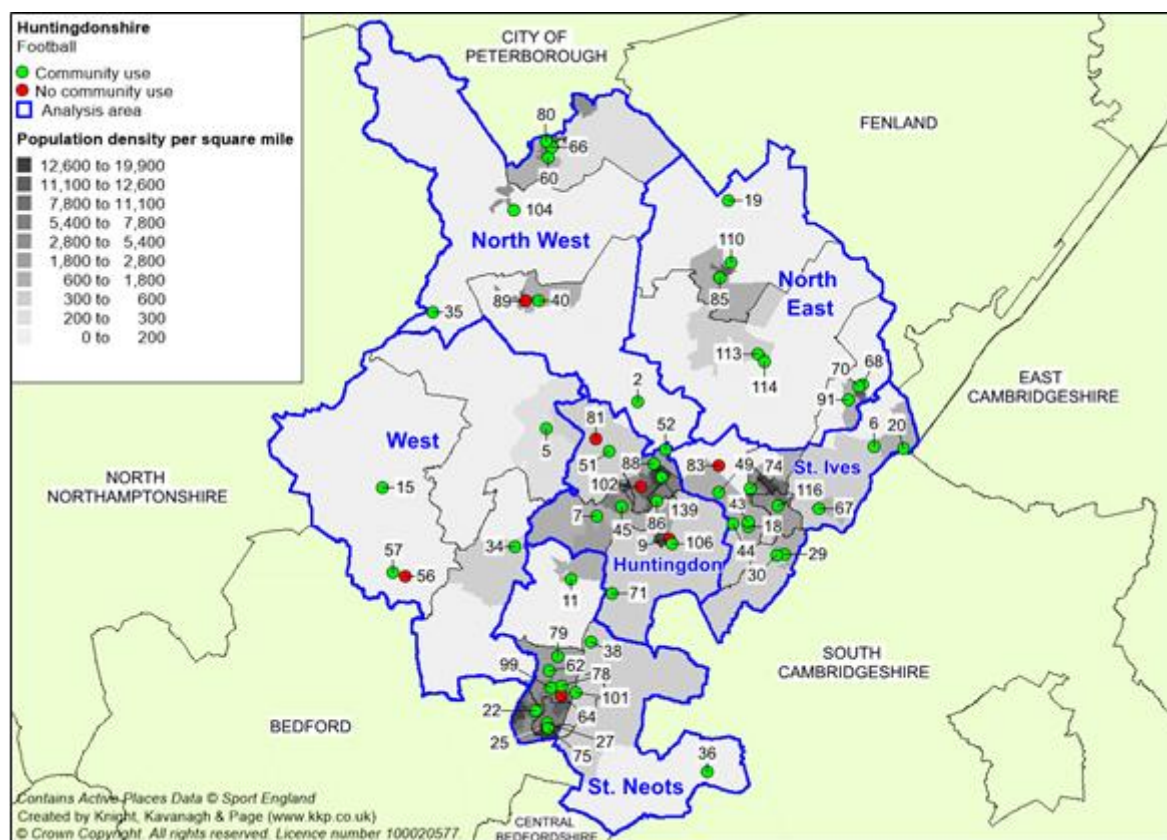
Most available pitches across Huntingdonshire (58 pitches - 39%) are adult size which is, in part, due to youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches. This is not ideal for youth players at U13-U16 level and is not in line with the FA Youth Review. Just 19 available pitches in Huntingdonshire are youth 11v11 sized, representing 13% of the available supply relative to the proportion of youth 11v11 teams which equates to 24% (91 teams) of all demand.

In accordance with the FA Youth Review, U17 and U18 teams can play on adult pitches, with the FA's recommended pitch size being 100 x 64 metres compared to 91 x 55 metres for U15 and U16 teams and 82 x 50 metres for U13 and U14 teams. Please refer to the table below for more detail relating to pitch sizes for each format of play.

Table 2.2: FA recommended pitch sizes

Format	Age group	Recommended pitch size (metres)
Adult	U17+	100 x 64
Youth 11v11	U15-U16	91 x 55
	U13-U14	82 x 50
Youth 9v9	U11-U12	73 x 46
Mini 7v7	U9-U10	55 x 37
Mini 5v5	U7-U8	37 x 27

Figure 2.1: Grass football pitches in Huntingdonshire by community use availability



Please refer to Table 2.17 for a key to the map.

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### ***Unmarked pitches***

Unmarked pitches are playing field sites which have previously been marked with formal football pitches but are not currently being used at all by any users and are not available for community hire either.

Hail Weston Playing Fields has previously had a formally marked football pitch. In recent years the site has undergone some development, with an informal pitch of mini 7v7 size currently having no markings, however goal posts are installed.

Great Staughton Playing Field has previously had formally marked football pitches onsite (1 x adult and 1x youth 9v9). Although both sets of goalposts remain, satellite evidence suggests both pitches have had no formal line markings for several years.

In the past, Hilton Village Hall has had a formal pitch marked out onsite. At present grass is maintained and goalposts are installed for informal football use.

Riverside Park has in the past also accommodated formal football pitches. The site has had up to two adult pitches, however pitches have not been marked for a number of years, with most football teams using the site relocating to Sapley Park Playing Fields.

### ***Disused sites***

Disused sites are those which have previously been marked with pitches but are not currently being used at all by any users and are not available for community hire either.

No sites have been identified as being disused within the District.

### ***Future supply***

As part of the Alconbury Weald development it is likely that natural turf football pitches will be developed. At present the size, quantity and exact location within the development is yet to be determined, although it is known that some pitches will be within an educational site.

St Neots Town Youth FC currently access St Neots Rugby Club and Sidney Banks Memorial Field for its match play demand. At present neither of these facilities have ancillary provision. The Club see neither site as long-term options as a home venue and aspires to develop its own enclosed site in the future. The site would like to incorporate a number of grass pitches and also aspires to have a 3G pitch within the development. At present the Club is in discussion with the District Council around being an anchor club for the pitches to be provided as part of the Loves Farm East development.

Brampton Park is currently having two pitches developed. There will be one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch. The pitches are currently waiting for sign off, when judged to be at a standard required for formal play.

### ***Pitch quality***

The quality of football pitches across Huntingdonshire has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by the FA), PitchPower technical assessment reports and user consultation, to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard



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### ◀ Poor

Pitch quality primarily influences the carrying capacity of a site; often pitches lack the drainage and maintenance necessary to sustain levels of use.

Pitches that receive little to no ongoing repair or post-season remedial work are likely to be assessed as poor, therefore limiting the number of games they can accommodate each week without it having a detrimental effect on quality.

Conversely, well maintained pitches that are tended to regularly are likely to be of a higher standard and capable of taking several matches without a significant reduction in surface quality.

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows: Good (>80%), Standard (50-80%), Poor (<50%). The final quality ratings assigned to the sites also take into account the user quality ratings gathered from consultation.

The table below summarises the quality of pitches that are available for community use in Huntingdonshire. In total, 35 pitches are rated as good quality, 51 as standard quality and 64 as poor quality.

Table 2.3: Pitch quality assessments (community use pitches)

Analysis area	Adult pitches			Youth pitches			Mini pitches		
	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor
Huntingdon	2	8	5	1	6	2	1	3	2
North East	2	2	4	5	-	1	4	-	3
North West	1	5	2	2	2	2	3	3	1
St. Ives	4	6	5	-	8	1	1	3	3
St. Neots	3	-	5	4	-	12	2	-	13
West	-	3	1	-	2	1	-	-	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>23</b>

The remaining poor quality pitches are located at the following sites:

Table 2.4: Poor Quality Pitch Locations

Site ID	Site Name	Town/ Settlement
2	Abbots Ripton Cricket Club	Huntingdon
5	Alconbury Sports and Social Club	Huntingdon
6	Bluntisham Village Hall & Recreation Ground	Bluntisham
11	Buckden Recreation Ground	Buckden
18	Daintree Green	Huntingdon
19	Drovers Close	Ramsey Mereside
20	Earith Recreational Field	Earith
30	Fenstanton Football Club	Fenstanton
35	Great Gidding Recreation Ground	Great Gidding
36	Great Gransden Sports And Recreation Ground	Sandy
38	Great Paxton Recreation Ground	Great Paxton
51	Hyl - Great Stukeley Field	Huntingdon
52	Jubilee Park	Huntingdon
60	Leading Drove (Yaxley FC)	Yaxley
62	Little Paxton Hub	Little Paxton
68	Millennium Sports Pavilion	Huntingdon
70	Norwood Playing Field	Somersham
71	Offord D'Arcy Football Pitch	St Neots
78	Priory Park	St Neots

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Site ID	Site Name	Town/ Settlement
79	Queen Elizabeth II Recreation Ground (Little Paxton)	Little Paxton
86	Riverside Park (Huntingdon)	Huntingdon
99	St Neots Rugby Club	St Neots
106	The David Wilson Homes Ground	Godmanchester
113	Warboys Community Primary School	Huntingdon
114	Warboys Sports Field	Huntingdon
116	Warners Park	St Ives
139	Coneygear Park	Huntingdon
140	Sidney Banks Memorial Field	St Neots

Specific comments relating to the pitch conditions at individual sites are detailed in the table below. These are either taken from club consultation or from site assessments undertaken by KKP.

Table 2.5: Summary of pitch quality comments from consultation

Site ID	Site name	Town/ Settlement	Club name	Comments
5	Alconbury Sports and Social Club	Huntingdon	Alconbury FC/ Alconbury Colts FC	The pitches onsite are uneven and can become very wet during the winter months. Due to close proximity of pitches on the back field all three cannot be utilised at one time.
36	Great Gransden Sports and Recreation Ground	Sandy	Gransden Youth FC	There are significant drainage issues across mini 7v7 and youth 9v9 pitches. Both of which are accessed as poor quality. Mini 7v7 has had some form of drains along the brook surrounding the site, however drainage has not improved the problem.
74	One Leisure St Ives Outdoor	St Ives	St Ives Rangers FC	Pitches are of standard quality, however, have been a part of the grass pitch maintenance fund since the end of the 2021 season. The pitches have continued to improve in quality since being a part of the fund.
78	Priory Park	St Neots	Priory Parkside Colts FC	The Club reports the goalmouths on all pitches are heavily worn. It suggests that slight rotation of the pitches in order to rest high traffic areas would help to improve quality of pitches.
105	The David Wilson Homes Ground	St Neots	Godmanchester Rovers FC/ Godmanchester Town FC	Main first team pitch is uneven and drains poorly, previously earmarked for the development of a 3G pitch, however plans have now changed with the 3G to be developed on the back pitches. The Club plans to resurface the main first team pitch.

There are also several good quality pitches, with the following sites having at least one good quality pitch, of which four sites are part of the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund (GPMF):

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- ◀ Eaton Sports Ground (GPMF)
- ◀ Eynesbury Rovers Football Club (GPMF)
- ◀ Greenfields
- ◀ Jubilee Park (GPMF)
- ◀ Mill Field
- ◀ St Neots Town Football Club
- ◀ Tom Jones Memorial Fields (GPMF)
- ◀ Warboys Sports Field

### *Grass Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP)*

With quality of grass pitches becoming one of the biggest influences on participation in football, the FA has made it a priority to work towards improving quality of grass pitches across the country. This has resulted in the creation of the Football Foundation Grass Pitch Improvement Programme. As part of this, grass pitches identified as having quality issues undergo a pitch inspection from a member of the Grounds Management Association (GMA, formerly Institute of Groundsmanship).

### *PitchPower Assessment Tool*

The football funding partners (Premier League, The FA, Sport England, and Department for Culture, Media and Sport) are increasing efforts to improve the quality of grass pitches in England with the launch of the PitchPower app. Launched in 2020 alongside the Football Foundation Pitch Preparation Fund, The app is a new digital self-assessment tool to allow reports and recommendations to be made more quickly and easily once submitted for review by GMA regional pitch advisors.

The tool across mobile app and desktop is open to access by all providers, for example clubs, schools and local authorities. Following a PitchPower Assessment Report, organisations can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches.

The PitchPower assessments use the new five step Performance Quality Standard rating system developed by the Grounds Management Association (GMA), with the Football Foundation and Sport England agreeing alignment with the capacity guidance within the existing PPS guidance. Alignment was agreed as follows:

*Table 2.6: Equivalent PPS quality rating for pitch Performance Quality Standard ratings.*

<b>PQS Rating</b>	<b>PPS Quality Rating</b>
Poor	Poor
Basic	Standard
Good	Good
Advanced	
High	

The following clubs have received an existing PitchPower report, the equivalent PPOSS Quality Ratings for which have been accepted and applied within the PPOSS audit and analysis.

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Table 2.7: Summary of PitchPower assessment scores

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	PitchPower PQS rating	Equivalent PPS quality	Comments
22	Eaton Sports Ground	St. Neots	Adult - Good	Good	Pitch is reported to have good percentage of desirable grass and excellent overall grass coverage. No weed population.
38	Great Paxton Recreation Ground	St. Neots	Adult - Poor	Poor	Drainage is an ongoing issue; however, the Club do not currently have a basic programme of maintenance in place. High percentage of weed coverage and worn ground in high traffic areas.
40	Greenfields	North West	Adult, youth 11v11, youth 9v9, mini 7v7 & 2x mini 5v5 – Good	Good	Pitch is reported to have good percentage of desirable grass and excellent overall grass coverage.
52	Jubilee Park	Huntingdon	2x Adult, 1x Youth 9v9, 1x Mini 5v5 - Good	Good	Some weed coverage and worn ground in high traffic areas.
			1x Adult - Basic	Standard	
			1x Adult, 1x Mini 7v7 - Poor	Poor	
57	Kimbolton Town Colts FC	West	Youth 11v11 - Basic	Standard	Grass height too short. Grass coverage is at below 71% and the main reason for a basic score with no weed coverage, reasonable root depth and poor root density.
114	Warboys Sports Field	North East	Youth 9v9 - Advanced	Good	Minimal weed coverage and worn ground in high traffic areas. Reasonable root depth and poor root density.
			Youth 11v11, Mini 7v7 - Poor	Poor	

Eligible clubs and organisations can also utilise the report as an evidence base to acquire potential funding streams, for example, to obtain the required maintenance equipment, such as through the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund.

Furthermore, the Football Foundation also launched a new Groundskeeping Community online platform in 2019 which provides a resource of expert advice for grounds staff, enabling them to connect with peers, discover new tips and tricks and share advice on best industry practice. Users can seek guidance from the GMA regional pitch advisors, which are available to answer questions and update members on changes to industry standards.

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## *Football Foundation Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund<sup>5</sup>*

Following a Grass Pitch Assessment Report, clubs can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches. Clubs can also utilise the report as an evidence base to acquire potential funding streams to obtain the relevant maintenance equipment.

Once a Grass Pitch Assessment Report has been produced for the site, clubs are then eligible to apply for funding through the Football Foundation through the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund (GPMF), a fund offering six-year tapered grants to help clubs enhance or sustain the quality of their grass pitches. The fund is a key part of the Football Foundation's Grass Pitch Improvement Programme - an ambition to deliver 20,000 quality grass pitches by 2030. If a site is categorised as 'poor' or 'basic' then clubs can apply for funding to enhance pitch quality, whilst clubs with good or standard quality pitches can also apply for a lower level of funding to sustain quality.

All applicants must have the required security of tenure and have received a PitchPower Pitch Assessment Report, with the fund currently open to football clubs, leagues, National League System Clubs at Steps 1-6 and charities (with an annual turnover of under £500,000). Local authorities are not currently eligible applicants, however clubs, leagues and charitable organisations using local authority sites can apply provided they have security of tenure.

Although local authorities are not presently eligible for the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund, the Football Foundation is currently exploring other options and ways in which it can support local authorities to improve Council managed provision. It is presently inviting expressions of interest from local authorities across the Country to be part of a pilot programme for investment into pitches currently owned and managed in-house by local authorities.

Several clubs/sites in Huntingdonshire have recently been awarded funding from the Football Foundation to improve the quality of pitches by helping to cover the costs of aeration, chain harrowing, fertilising, flail mowing, grass cutting, line marking, over seeding, turfing, weed kill and vertical decompaction.

The following sites are currently receiving funding as part of the GPMF:

*Table 2.8: Sites part of the Football Foundation GPMF*

Site ID	Site Name	Town/ Settlement
7	Brampton Memorial Playing Field (Brampton Spartans FC)	Huntingdon
22	Eaton Sports Ground (Eaton Socon FC)	St Neots
27	Eynesbury Rovers Football Club	St Neots
44	Hemingford Pavilion (Hemingford United FC)	Hemingford Grey
52	Jubilee Park (Huntingdon Town FC)	Huntingdon
74	One Leisure St Ives Outdoor (St Ives Rangers FC)	St Ives
104	Stilton Village Playing Fields (Stilton United/Colts FC)	Peterborough
106	The David Wilson Homes Ground (Godmanchester Rovers/Town FC)	Godmanchester
110	Tom Jones Memorial Fields (Ramsey Colts FD)	Ramsey

In addition, there are several clubs which are currently in the process of submitting applications for the next batch of GPMF.

<sup>5</sup> <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/grant/grass-pitch-maintenance-fund>

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All these sites have received a PitchPower app technical assessment, with a programme of recommendations set out by a GMA Pitch Advisor on advised works required to improve pitch quality.

### **Overmarked pitches**

Overmarking of pitches is when smaller pitches are marked within a larger pitch and sharing the same area, with youth 9v9 pitches often marked into the middle of adult pitches or mini pitches marked onto adult or youth pitches. Some are regularly subject to youth and mini play followed by adult and youth play.

This sustained and intense use over short periods of time can impact on pitch quality and allows little time for the surface to rest and recover. Use of smaller pitches marked within larger pitches typically causes focused and specific wear due to the high traffic on certain overlapping areas such as the middle third of adult pitches.

Overmarking of football pitches occurs at Greenfields (two mini 5v5 pitches on one mini 7v7 pitch) and Stilton Village Playing Fields (one youth 9v9 pitch within one adult pitch).

Several sites also accommodate a mix of sports, a common example being cricket and football where football pitches are marked either onto a section of the outfield area or where a cricket square is located in between football pitches for use during the summer.

The growing regularity of significantly wet weather over winter months is frequently causing football seasons to be extended further into the summer months and may cause clashes with summer sports such as cricket that usually run through the football off season. This may be with regards to the actual playing pitches which overlap or the supply of changing facilities which may not be enough to serve teams playing both sports simultaneously.

The following sites have both football and cricket pitch provision which share playing field areas:

*Table 2.9: Multi-sport sites sharing playing field with Cricket*

Site ID	Site Name	Town/ Settlement
5	Alconbury Sports and Social Club	Huntingdon
7	Brampton Memorial Playing Field	Huntingdon
11	Buckden Recreation Ground	Buckden
40	Greenfields	Sawtry
49	Houghton and Wyton Playing Field	Houghton
79	Queen Elizabeth II Recreation Ground (Little Paxton)	Little Paxton
85	Ramsey Cricket Club	Huntingdon
114	Warboys Sports Field	Huntingdon

It is not uncommon for pitches to be dually used for more than one grass pitch sport; particularly at schools where the curriculum may be structured in a way that the pitches are used for one sport for several weeks followed by another within the same season. This is most common with football and rugby union within schools.

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### Ancillary facilities

The quality of ancillary facilities across Huntingdonshire has been rated via a combination of site visits and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

Ancillary facility ratings are primarily influenced by the type of amenities which are available on a site accompanied by their quality, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, showering provision, car parking, dedicated official and spectator facilities and boundary fencing.

The table below identifies the findings for football sites that are actively utilised for football across Huntingdonshire.

Table 2.10: Summary of ancillary facility quality at football sites available for community use

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Ancillary facility quality
2	Abbots Ripton Cricket Club	North West	Poor
5	Alconbury Sports and Social Club	West	Standard
6	Bluntisham Village Hall & Recreation Ground	St. Ives	Poor
7	Brampton Memorial Playing Field	Huntingdon	Good
11	Buckden Recreation Ground	St. Neots	Poor
15	Catworth Playing Field	West	Good
18	Daintree Green	St. Ives	No provision
19	Drovers Close	North East	Poor
20	Earith Recreational Field	St. Ives	Poor
22	Eaton Sports Ground	St. Neots	Standard
27	Eynesbury Rovers Football Club	St. Neots	Standard
29	Fenstanton & Hilton Primary School	St. Ives	Standard
30	Fenstanton Football Club	St. Ives	Poor
34	Grafham Recreation Ground	West	Poor
35	Great Gidding Recreation Ground	North West	No provision
36	Great Gransden Sports And Recreation Ground	St. Neots	No provision
38	Great Paxton Recreation Ground	St. Neots	Standard
40	Greenfields	North West	Poor
43	Hemingford Grey Primary School	St. Ives	No provision
44	Hemingford Pavilion	St. Ives	Poor
45	Hinchingbrooke School	Huntingdon	Good
49	Houghton and Wyton Playing Field	St. Ives	Standard
51	Hyl - Great Stukeley Field	Huntingdon	No provision
52	Jubilee Park	Huntingdon	Standard
57	Kimbolton Town Colts FC	West	Standard
60	Leading Drove (Yaxley FC)	North West	Good
62	Little Paxton Hub	St. Neots	Good
66	Middletons Road Recreational Ground	North West	Standard
67	Mill Field	St. Ives	Good
68	Millennium Sports Pavilion	North East	Poor
70	Norwood Playing Field	North East	Poor

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Ancillary facility quality
71	Offord D'Arcy Football Pitch	Huntingdon	No provision
74	One Leisure St Ives Outdoor	St. Ives	Standard
78	Priory Park	St. Neots	Good
79	Queen Elizabeth II Recreation Ground (Little Paxton)	St. Neots	Poor
80	Queens Park (Yaxley)	North West	Good
85	Ramsey Cricket Club	North East	Standard
86	Riverside Park (Huntingdon)	Huntingdon	Standard
88	Sapley Park Playing Fields	Huntingdon	Standard
91	Somersham Town Football Club	North East	Standard
99	St Neots Rugby Club	St. Neots	No provision
101	St Neots Town Football Club	St. Neots	Standard
104	Stilton Village Playing Fields	North West	Good
106	The David Wilson Homes Ground	Huntingdon	Good
110	Tom Jones Memorial Fields	North East	Good
113	Warboys Community Primary School	North East	No provision
114	Warboys Sports Field	North East	Poor
116	Warners Park	St. Ives	No provision
139	Coneygear Park	Huntingdon	Good
140	Sidney Banks Memorial Field	St. Neots	Standard

Of the 50 sites that are actively used for community football, 12 sites (24%) are serviced by good quality ancillary facilities, 16 sites (32%) by standard quality ancillary facilities and 14 (28%) by poor quality ancillary facilities. The remaining nine sites (18%) are not serviced by onsite clubhouse/changing room provision.

St Neots Town FC reports that its ancillary provision at St Neots Town Football Club is currently not suitable to support women's and girl's football. This is due to lack of privacy changing and no dedicated women's changing rooms meaning that there is a constant safeguarding issue for this demographic of user. It aspires to renovate the changing block to provide these facilities and support future women's and girls' teams.

Fenstanton FC/Youth reports that its current clubhouse/changing block at Fenstanton Football Club is inadequate to service its current teams and is of a poor quality. The adult teams are the only teams to access the facilities on a regular basis, the Club also reports that match officials' rooms are non-DDA compliant. The Club has drawn up plans to develop a new pavilion onsite, the building would include four changing rooms with contained shower and toilets, officials' rooms, storage, public toilets, function room and kitchen.

Eaton Socon FC reports that its ancillary provision at Eaton Socon Sports Ground is of standard quality. It suggests that the facilities are outdated and require updating and investment in the near future. In addition, both Alconbury FC/Colts and Buckden FC/Juniors aspires to refurbish the ancillary provision at their respective sites.

Stilton Colts United FC reports a lack of storage on its site at Stilton Village Playing Fields. In recent years its goalposts and nets have been vandalised and the Club believes that additional storage space help to combat this issue.

Middletons Road Recreation Ground has two adult pitches onsite, however, only has two changing rooms to service these. Therefore, only one pitch can be used at a time has there are not enough changing rooms to service both pitches.



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Eynesbury Rovers FC highlights a lack of female specific changing and officials' provision at Eynesbury Rovers Football Club which subsequently leads to female users making use of its committee room, which has neither shower or toilet facilities.

Eunice Huntingdon FC use changing rooms at Sapley Park Playing Fields as storage onsite. The Club then must empty changing rooms before match days. The Club has had discussions with Huntingdonshire District Council around placing a storage container onsite to store the club's equipment.

Sawtry Parish Council is currently overseeing the update of the pavilion at Greenfields. The Clubhouse has become out of date in recent years and both the football and cricket sections of the sports club have voiced their concerns. The Parish Council is currently drafting plans for the development, with views to complete the upgrade in the next two years.

Warboys Town FC reports that due to the recent success of its men's first team, which as of the 2022/23 season will compete within a Regional Feeder League, there is a need to upgrade the changing facilities in order to meet regulations if the team is to progress further up the National League System (NLS). This upgrade would include, bigger changing rooms, with a clear access route to the playing surface. The Club highlights that this may require the development of a new permanent structure alongside the social club onsite, however at present it is exploring an extension to the existing changing rooms. The Club also aspires to develop the sports lighting on the first team pitch by installing LED lights.

### ***Management and security of tenure***

Tenure of sites in Huntingdonshire is generally secure, i.e. through freehold, long-term lease or a guarantee that pitches will continue to be provided over the next three years through formal rent agreement from the District Council, parish council's or private land owners.

All community available sites which are classified as having unsecure tenure are located at schools. This is due to schools, academies and universities being able to state their own policies and therefore more likely to restrict levels of community use. This may be due to schools wanting to protect pitch quality for curricular or extracurricular activities or not having the resources available to open up their site for community access.

Of the 50 sites identified as being available for community use, most are within parish/town council management (20 sites - 40%), whilst an additional ten sites (20%) are under management from community organisations which are generally parish council sports field management trusts which manage sports facilities on behalf of parish/town councils. In total 12 sites (24%) are within sports club management, four (8%) are within District Council management, four sites (8%) are within educational management.

Though in some cases operated through annual rental agreements, use of local authority and parish/town council grass football pitch provision is considered to offer secure tenure as part of a maintained recreation and leisure offer.

All school pitches are considered to have unsecure tenure as there are no identified community use agreements in place.

### ***National League System***

The football pyramid consists of a hierarchal format with the highest tier being the Premier League (Tier 1), the leagues below are professional reaching to League Two. These are governed by the Premier League or the English Football League (EFL).

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Below this, sits the National League (Tier 5/Step 1). This league in recent years (2020) has been recognised as professional alongside the tier below (Tier 5/Step 2). All leagues below this are recognised as semi-professional or amateur.

The National League comprises of seven steps, with various leagues at each level and more leagues lower down the pyramid than at the top. The system has a hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the levels, allowing even the smallest club the theoretical possibility of rising to the top of the system.

Clubs within the step system (Tier 5 and below) must adhere to ground requirements set out by the FA<sup>6</sup>. The higher the level of football being played the higher the requirements. Clubs cannot progress into the league above if the ground requirements do not meet the correct specifications. Ground grading assesses grounds from A to H, with 'A' being the requirements for Step 1 clubs.

Of clubs in Huntingdonshire playing within the NLS, St Ives Town FC plays at the highest level at Step 3 in the Southern League - Premier Division Central. The Club plays in the St Ives Analysis Area at St Ives Town Football Club (3G stadia pitch).

There are two clubs playing at Step 4, St Neots Town FC in the Southern League - Division One Central and Yaxley FC in the Northern Premier League - Division One Midlands. St Neots Town FC plays at St Neots Town Football Club in the St Neots Analysis Area, whilst Yaxley FC plays at Leading Drove (3G stadia pitch), in the North West Analysis Area.

Two clubs play at Step 5 with both Eynesbury Rovers FC and Godmanchester Rovers FC competing in the United Counties League - Premier Division South. Eynesbury Rovers FC plays at Eynesbury Rovers Football Club in the St Neots Analysis Area and Godmanchester Rovers FC plays at The David Wilson Homes Ground in the Huntingdon Analysis Area.

Huntingdon Town FC plays at Step 6 of the NLS in the Eastern Counties Football League - Division One North. The Club plays at Jubilee Park in the Huntingdon Analysis Area.

There has been a restructure of the NLS, with Step 7 repositioned as Regional Feeder Leagues to the NLS to be more aligned to the County FA network as the highest level of regional/local football. Presently, five clubs within Huntingdonshire compete at this level. Clubs competing in regional feeder leagues still have some ground grading requirements but generally require high levels of investment to bring grounds up to an adequate standard for Step 6 football in the event of a promotion. Typically, this would include sports lighting a main pitch, improving changing rooms and providing specific entrances and turnstiles for spectators.

Clubs at Step 7 (Regional Feeder Leagues) remain eligible to access grant funding through the Premier League Stadium Fund (PLSF), whilst continuing to be able to apply for funding through the Football Foundation (where there is wider community use beyond NLS play). Clubs will retain access to cup competitions, but the restructure will help to establish a clear and consistent process for clubs coming in at Step 6 and will allow County FAs to develop local pyramid structures.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.thefa.com/get-involved/player/ground-grading>

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Table 2.11: Summary of teams playing within the football pyramid structure

Team	League	Level
St Ives Town FC	Southern League - Premier Division Central	Step 3
St Neots Town FC	Southern League - Division One Central	Step 4
Yaxley FC	Northern Premier League - Division One Midlands	Step 4
Eynesbury Rovers FC	United Counties Football League - Premier South	Step 5
Godmanchester Rovers FC	United Counties Football League - Premier South	Step 5
Huntingdon Town FC	Eastern Counties Football League - Division One North	Step 6
Eynesbury United FC	Spartan South Midlands Football League - Division Two	Regional feeder
Eaton Socon FC	Cambridgeshire County League - Premier Division	Regional feeder
Hemingfords United FC	Cambridgeshire County League - Premier Division	Regional feeder
Somersham Town FC	Cambridgeshire County League - Premier Division	Regional feeder
Stilton United FC	Peterborough & District Football League - Premier Division	Regional feeder

### Women's National League System

Correspondingly there is a Women's National League System (WNLS) like the adult men's which provides structure to the women's game. This is based on seven tiers with the top tier being the FA Women's Super League (WSL).

Although women's clubs are still required to meet ground requirements set out by the FA, these differ from the men's National League System. Ratings range from grade A to C, each with differing minimum requirements.

In 2017, the FA announced plans to restructure the women's league for the highest performers in the football pyramid. The changes were implemented from the start of the 2018-19 season and saw the top league, FA WSL, expand from ten clubs to 14 and the creation of a new national league established at tier three for a maximum of 12 teams. Cambridge United Women FC imports demand into the District and plays at the highest level, Tier 4 in the FA Women's National League – Division One South East at St Neots Town Football Club.

St Ives Town Women's FC plays at Tier 5 within the Eastern Region Women's Football League – Premier Division. It plays its matches at St Ives Town Football Club (3G stadia pitch). The only other team that's plays with the Women's NLS is Cardea Ladies FC which plays within the S-Tech Cambridgeshire Women's and Girls County Football League – Division One. The team, however, exports most of its demand to Nene Valley Community Centre (Peterborough), whilst also accessing the 3G stadia pitch at Leading Drove on an ad-hoc basis.

### 2.3: Demand

A total of 380 teams from 66 affiliated clubs are identified as playing matches on football pitches within Huntingdonshire.

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Table 2.12: Summary of all football team demand playing competitive football in Huntingdonshire

Age group	No. of teams
Adult Men's (18-45)	81
Adult Women's (18-45)	7
Youth Boys (12-17)	103
Youth Girls (12-17)	11
Youth Boys (10-11)	53
Youth Girls (10-11)	5
Mini Mixed (8-9)	57
Mini Mixed (6-7)	63
<b>Total</b>	<b>380</b>

Football in the District is played predominately in the St Neots Area. In comparison, the West Analysis Area which has just nine teams. The table below summaries teams across each of the analysis areas.

Table 2.13: Summary of competitive teams playing affiliation football matches in Huntingdonshire

Analysis area	No. of teams					
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Huntingdon	24	27	10	9	16	<b>86</b>
North East	6	10	7	8	7	<b>38</b>
North West	19	15	3	7	9	<b>53</b>
St. Ives	17	31	17	16	12	<b>93</b>
St. Neots	19	29	19	15	19	<b>101</b>
West	3	2	2	2	-	<b>9</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>380</b>

### **Women's and girls' demand**

There are currently seven women's teams and 16 dedicated girls' teams playing youth football in Huntingdonshire. There are also seven mini soccer teams which play as all girls' teams.

Women's and girls' teams typically play locally in the Eastern Region Women's Football League, S-Tech Cambridgeshire Women's and Girls County Football League and The FA Women's National League Division One South East on a home and away match basis. Key clubs and organisations presently fielding female teams include Huntingdon Girls FC, Ramsey Colts FD, St Ives Rangers Colts FC and St Ives Town FC

The FA currently has a drive to increase women's and girls' participation by as part of its Inspiring Positive Change Strategy. As such, it is imperative that sufficient facilities become suitable for female access, particularly in relation to toilets and appropriate changing facilities.

Currently Sawtry FC, Godmanchester Town FC and Priory Parkside FC all run Wildcat sessions at their respective sites.

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### ***Training***

Access to affordable training facilities with sports lighting is a key issue for most clubs in Huntingdonshire, particularly those with many youth and mini teams. Most clubs responding to consultation report demand for additional training facilities, with 62% specifically stating a need for increased use of 3G pitches.

### ***Latent and unmet demand***

Latent demand is demand which is perceived to exist but is not presently realised, whereas unmet demand is demand which is known to exist but similarly is not able to be realised, in this case due to lack of access to or poor quality of facilities.

No clubs identify operating waiting lists that they cannot establish as new teams due to a lack of facility access, nor do they specifically report incidences of operating squad numbers over recommended guidelines at any age groups for similar reasons. Therefore, there is not considered to be unmet demand.

No clubs explicitly identify any latent demand, indicative that most are generally confident that any additional teams can be accommodated on existing sites/pitches, whether that be in Huntingdonshire or neighbouring authority areas. However, some clubs believe that there could be more interest in joining their club if better facilities were available.

### ***Exported and imported demand***

Exported demand refers to Huntingdonshire based teams that are currently accessing pitches outside of the local authority for their home fixtures, for adult and older youth age groups this is normally because pitch requirements cannot be met, which is usually because of pitch supply, in some cases quality issues or stipulated league requirements for access to certain facilities.

Likewise, imported demand is demand from neighbouring local authorities accessing pitches into the District to play competitive matches.

At present it is known that two teams export demand outside of the District. Kimbolton Town Colts U10's currently exported demand to Dalton Hall and Playing Fields (Bedford), whilst Cardea Ladies FC exports demand to Nene Valley Community Centre (Peterborough).

At present there are six teams from four clubs which import demand into the District. Cambridge United Women's FC import both its Women's First Team and Development teams to St Neots Town Football Club.

Cambridge Fire & Rescue Service Football Team imports demand to Leading Drove, and Cambs Police FC imports one men's team to Leading Drove and another to Queens Park. In addition, Peterborough Rangers FC imports its men's first team to Queens Park.

### ***Future demand***

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through club growth aspirations or using population forecasts.

### ***Population change***

Team generation rates (TGRs) are used to calculate the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (2036) based on population growth.

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On this basis, it is predicted that there will be an increase of two adult men's teams across Huntingdonshire.

Table 2.14: Team generation rates

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams (2036)	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population <sup>7</sup>
Adult Mens (18-45)	29,249	81	361	30,137	83	2
Adult Womens (18-45)	28,743	7	4106	27,938	7	0
Youth Boys (12-17)	6,191	103	60	5,949	99	0
Youth Girls (12-17)	5,650	11	514	5,618	11	0
Youth Boys (10-11)	2,194	53	41	1,926	47	0
Youth Girls (10-11)	2,078	5	416	1,867	5	0
Mini Mixed (8-9)	4,358	57	76	3,810	50	0
Mini Mixed (6-7)	4,412	63	70	3,829	55	0

### Participation increases

Of responding clubs, 15 highlight plans to increase the number of teams they provide over the coming years, totalling a requirement for 17 match equivalent sessions per week across different pitch types.

Clubs in the Huntingdon Analysis Area represent most of the aspirational growth with six match equivalent per week across the various pitch types. The North West Analysis Area has no aspirational future demand.

Most future demand will be for youth 11v11 and mini 5v5 pitches, with clubs collectively aspiring to develop nine more mini 5v5 teams and nine more youth 11v11 teams, equating to 4.5 match equivalent sessions per week on each pitch type. Clubs report aspirations to create eight additional youth adult teams, requiring an additional four match equivalent sessions per week. Clubs report the least level of aspirational growth for mini 7v7 pitches, with an additional 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

The subsequent Stage D Strategy & Action Plan Report includes Housing Growth Scenarios which will estimate the additional demand for football arising from housing development using the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator.

Table 2.15: Summary of future growth aspirations reported by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Number of teams	Gender	Match equivalent sessions	Pitch type
Alconbury Colts FC	West	1	Mixed	0.5	Mini 5v5
St Ives Town FC	St Ives	1	Men's	0.5	Adult
		1	Women's	0.5	Adult
		1	Boys	0.5	Youth 11v11
		1	Boys	0.5	Youth 9v9

<sup>7</sup> Figures rounded down accordingly to the nearest whole team

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Club	Analysis area	Number of teams	Gender	Match equivalent sessions	Pitch type
		1	Mixed	0.5	Mini 5v5
Kimbolton Town Colts FC	West	1	Men's	0.5	Adult
		1	Women's	0.5	Adult
		1	Boys	0.5	Youth 11v11
		1	Girls	0.5	Youth 11v11
Godmanchester Rovers Youth FC	Huntingdon	1	Boys	0.5	Youth 11v11
		1	Boys	0.5	Youth 9v9
		1	Girls	0.5	Youth 11v11
		1	Girls	0.5	Youth 9v9
		1	Mixed	0.5	Mini 5v5
Needingworth United FC	St Ives	1	Men's	0.5	Adult
Huntingdon Town Rowdies FC	Huntingdon	1	Mixed	0.5	Mini 7v7
		1	Mixed	0.5	Mini 5v5
Great Paxton Colts FC	St Neots	1	Boys	0.5	Youth 11v11
		1	Boys	0.5	Youth 9v9
		1	Mixed	0.5	Mini 5v5
Huntingdon Town FC	Huntingdon	1	Men's	0.5	Adult
		1	Women's	0.5	Adult
Needingworth Colts FC	St Ives	1	Mixed	0.5	Mini 5v5
Ramsey Colts FD	North East	1	Boys	0.5	Youth 11v11
Huntingdon Girls FC	Huntingdon	1	Girls	0.5	Youth 11v11
		1	Girls	0.5	Youth 9v9
		1	Mixed	0.5	Mini 5v5
Hemingford Colts FC	St Ives	1	Mixed	0.5	Mini 5v5
Buckden Juniors FC	St Neots	1	Mixed	0.5	Mini 7v7
		1	Mixed	0.5	Mini 5v5
Eynesbury United FC	St Neots	1	Men's	0.5	Adult
Warboys Colts FC	North East	1	Boys	0.5	Youth 11v11
		1	Mixed	0.5	Mini 7v7
<b>Total</b>		<b>34</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>-</b>

The total future demand expressed by clubs amounts to 17 match equivalent sessions. It is expressed in all analysis areas apart from the Northwest Analysis Area and for all pitch types.

Table 2.16: Summary of future demand expressed by clubs

Analysis area	Future demand (match equivalent sessions)					
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Huntingdon	1	1.5	1.5	0.5	1.5	<b>6</b>
North East	-	1	-	0.5	-	<b>1.5</b>
North West	-	-	-	-	-	<b>0</b>
St. Ives	1.5	0.5	0.5	-	1.5	<b>4</b>
St. Neots	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	1	<b>3</b>
West	1	1	-	-	0.5	<b>2.5</b>
<b>Huntingdonshire</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>17</b>

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

## *Future demand summary*

Future demand carried through to the supply and demand analysis is based on club growth aspirations, due to there being no increase in teams within individual analysis areas from team generation rates.

Future demand taken forward into the supply and demand analysis equates to 17 match equivalent sessions per week.

## **2.4: Capacity analysis**

The capacity for pitches to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affect the playing experience and people's enjoyment. In extreme circumstances, it can result in the inability of a pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off peak times.

As a guide, The FA has set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without it adversely affecting its quality. Taking into consideration the guidelines on capacity, the following ratings were used in the Huntingdonshire:

Adult pitches		Youth pitches		Mini pitches	
Pitch quality	Matches per week	Pitch quality	Matches per week	Pitch quality	Matches per week
Good	3	Good	4	Good	6
Standard	2	Standard	2	Standard	4
Poor	1	Poor	1	Poor	2

Table 2.17 overleaf applies the above pitch ratings against the actual level of weekly play recorded to determine a capacity rating as follows:

<b>Potential capacity</b>	Play is below the level the site could sustain
<b>At capacity</b>	Play matches the level the site can sustain
<b>Overplayed</b>	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain

## ***Match equivalent sessions per week***

Pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected. As the main usage of pitches is likely to be for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions but may for example include training sessions and informal use.

## ***Education sites***

To account for curricular/extra-curricular use of education pitches it is likely that the carrying capacity at such sites will need to be adjusted. The only time this would not happen is when a school does not use its pitches at all and the sole use is community use. The adjustment is typically dependent on the amount of play carried out, the number of pitches onsite and whether there is access to an onsite AGP.

In some cases, where there is no identified community use, there is little capacity to accommodate further play. Internal usage often exceeds recommended pitch capacity, which is further exacerbated by basic maintenance regimes that may not extend beyond grass cutting and line marking.



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Table 2.17 shows community usage of available pitches. Where not overplayed because of community use, school sites are considered to have no spare capacity to accommodate further usage based on assumed curricular and extracurricular activity.

For school sites which are available for community use but that currently do not have any external hirers, one match equivalent session per week, per pitch has been accredited to indicate use for curricular and extracurricular activity as opposed to them being completely unused.

As mentioned earlier, all education sites are classified as having unsecure tenure as no schools through consultation report having a community use agreement in place.

### **Peak time**

Spare capacity can only be considered as actual spare capacity if pitches are available at peak time. In Huntingdonshire, peak time for adult pitches is Saturday afternoon, whereas it is Saturday morning for all youth 11v11, youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches.

In the table overleaf, please note that, on occasions, spare capacity in the peak period is identified despite the pitch being played to capacity or overplayed or more spare capacity is identified in the peak period than what exists overall.

This is because most of the use on those particular pitches occurs outside of the peak period, therefore the identified spare capacity at peak time should not be utilised over and above overall capacity unless quality improvements are made that increases overall capacity.

A pitch is only said to have 'actual spare capacity' if it is available for community use and available at the peak time for that format of play. Any pitch not meeting this criterion is therefore not considered to have additional capacity, although it may have capacity outside of peak time.

There may also be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

Pitches that are of a poor quality are not deemed to have actual spare capacity due to the already low carrying capacity of the pitches. Any identified spare capacity should be retained to relieve the pitches of use, which in turn will aid the improvement of pitch quality. Furthermore, any pitches with unsecured tenure are not considered to have actual spare capacity as no further play should be encouraged on such sites given that future access cannot be guaranteed.

The way spare capacity is represented in Table 2.17 is as follows:

Spare capacity per week (examples)	Explanation of capacity balance
1	Highlighted in green with a number denotes that the pitches have potential spare capacity across the week.
0	Highlighted in orange with a zero, this indicates the pitch is played to capacity.

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1	Highlighted in red with a number denotes that the pitches are overplayed and have no spare capacity across the week. This includes at peak time, despite any availability at peak time which may exist.
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## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 2.17: Grass football pitch capacity analysis

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use availability	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play <sup>8</sup>	Carrying capacity <sup>9</sup>	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
<b>Huntingdon Area</b>														
7	Brampton Memorial Playing Field	Huntingdon	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	3	2	1	1	Pitch is overplayed by one MES per week.
						Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	2	4	2	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
						Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	3	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
						Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
9	Bridge Academy	Huntingdon	No	Education	<b>Unsecure</b>	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Not available for community use.
45	Hinchingbrooke School	Huntingdon	Yes	Education	<b>Unsecure</b>	Adult		2	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	1.5	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
						Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	4	2	2	-	Pitch is overplayed by two MES per week.
						Youth	(9v9)	2	Standard	2.5	4	1.5	-	Pitches are played to capacity at peak time.
51	Hyl - Great Stukeley Field	Huntingdon	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	0	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
52	Jubilee Park	Huntingdon	Yes	Town Council	Secure	Adult		1 <sup>10</sup>	Good	1	3	2	-	Discount spare capacity to protect step pitch quality.
						Adult		1	Good	6	6	0	1	Pitch is played to capacity.
						Adult		1	Poor					
						Adult		1	Standard					
						Mini	(5v5)	1	Good	2.5	6	3.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
						Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
						Youth	(9v9)	1	Good	0.5	4	3.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
71	Offord D'Arcy Football Pitch	Huntingdon	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	0	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
81	RAF Alconbury	Huntingdon	No	MOD	<b>Unsecure</b>	Adult		1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Not available for community use.
86	Riverside Park (Huntingdon)	Huntingdon	Yes	Town Council	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	0	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
88	Sapley Park Playing Fields	Huntingdon	Yes	Town Council	Secure	Adult		4	Standard	3	8	5	2	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
						Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	0	4	4	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
						Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
102	St Peters School	Huntingdon	No	Education	<b>Unsecure</b>	Youth	(11v11)	2	Standard	2	4	2	2	Not available for community use.
						Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Not available for community use.
106	The David Wilson Homes Ground	Huntingdon	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	2	1	1	-	Pitch is overplayed by one MES per week.
						Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	2.5	2	0.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 MES per week.
						Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	3	2	1	-	Pitch is overplayed by one MES per week.
						Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	2	1	1	-	Pitch is overplayed by one MES per week.
139	Coneygear Park	Huntingdon	Yes	Town Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	2	1	1	-	Pitch is overplayed by one MES per week.
<b>North East Area</b>														
19	Drovers Close	North East	Yes	Community Organisation	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	0	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
68	Millennium Sports Pavilion	North East	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		2	Poor	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
						Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1.5	2	0.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.

<sup>8</sup> Match equivalent sessions per week

<sup>9</sup> Match equivalent sessions per week, based on pitch quality - the FA recommends a maximum number of match equivalent sessions to be accommodate per pitch type. Please refer to Section 2.4 for the full breakdown.

<sup>10</sup> Huntingdon Town FC Step pitch

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use availability	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play <sup>8</sup>	Carrying capacity <sup>9</sup>	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
70	Norwood Playing Field	North East	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	0	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
85	Ramsey Cricket Club	North East	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	1	2	1	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
91	Somersham Town Football Club	North East	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	1	2	1	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
110	Tom Jones Memorial Fields	North East	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Adult		1	Good	1	3	2	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
						Mini	(5v5)	2	Good	2	12	10	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
						Mini	(7v7)	2	Good	2.5	12	9.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
						Youth	(11v11)	2	Good	2.5	8	5.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
						Youth	(9v9)	2	Good	3	8	5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
113	Warboys Community Primary School	North East	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
114	Warboys Sports Field	North East	Yes	Community Organisation	Secure	Adult		1	Good	1.5	3	1.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
						Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	1	2	1	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
						Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	1	1	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
						Youth	(9v9)	1	Good	0.5	4	3.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
<b>North West Area</b>														
2	Abbots Ripton Cricket Club	North West	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
35	Great Gidding Recreation Ground	North West	Yes	Community Organisation	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	0	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
						Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	0	2	2	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
40	Greenfields	North West	Yes	Community Organisation	Secure	Adult		1	Good	1.5	3	1.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
						Mini	(5v5)	2	Good	1.5	12	10.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
						Mini	(7v7)	1	Good	2	6	4	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
						Youth	(11v11)	1	Good	2	4	2	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
						Youth	(9v9)	1	Good	1	4	3	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
60	Leading Drove (Yaxley FC)	North West	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	3	1	2	-	Pitch is overplayed by two MES per week.
						Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	0	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
66	Middletons Road Recreational Ground	North West	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		2	Standard	2.5	4	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
80	Queens Park (Yaxley)	North West	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		2	Standard	3	4	1	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
						Mini	(7v7)	2	Standard	1.5	8	6.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
						Youth	(9v9)	2	Standard	0	4	4	2	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
89	Sawtry Village Academy	North West	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Standard	1	4	3	2	Not available for community use.
104	Stilton Village Playing Fields	North West	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	3.5	2	1.5	0.5	Pitch is overplayed by 1.5 MES per week.
						Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	0	4	4	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
<b>St Ives Area</b>														
6	Bluntisham Village Hall & Recreation Ground	St Ives	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 MES per week.
						Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	3	2	1	-	Pitch is overplayed by one MES per week.
						Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	1	1	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
18	Daintree Green	St Ives	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	1	1	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use availability	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play <sup>8</sup>	Carrying capacity <sup>9</sup>	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
20	Earith Recreational Field	St Ives	Yes	Trust	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	0	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
29	Fenstanton & Hilton Primary School	St Ives	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
30	Fenstanton Football Club	St Ives	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	1	1	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
						Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
						Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1.5	2	0.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
						Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
43	Hemingford Grey Primary School	St Ives	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
44	Hemingford Pavilion	St Ives	Yes	Community Organisation	Secure	Adult		2	Standard	2	4	2	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
49	Houghton and Wyton Playing Field	St Ives	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	2	2	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
67	Mill Field	St Ives	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		4	Good	3	12	9	3.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
						Mini	(7v7)	1	Good	1	6	5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
74	One Leisure St Ives Outdoor	St Ives	Yes	District Council	Secure	Adult		3	Standard	1	6	5	2.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
						Mini	(7v7)	2	Standard	2.5	8	5.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
						Youth	(11v11)	2	Standard	8	4	4	-	Pitches are overplayed by four MES per week.
						Youth	(9v9)	4	Standard	5	8	3	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
83	RAF Wyton	St Ives	No	MOD	Unsecure	Adult		1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Not available for community use.
116	Warners Park	St Ives	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	0	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
<b>St Neots Area</b>														
11	Buckden Recreation Ground	St Neots	Yes	Trust	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	0.5	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 MES per week.
						Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	3	2	1	-	Pitch is overplayed by one MES per week.
						Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	2	2	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
						Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	1	1	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
22	Eaton Sports Ground	St Neots	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Adult		1	Good	2	3	1	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
25	Ernulf Academy	St Neots	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Standard	1	4	3	2	Not available for community use.
27	Eynesbury Rovers Football Club	St Neots	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Adult		1	Good	2.5	3	0.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
						Mini	(5v5)	1	Good	1.5	6	4.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
						Mini	(7v7)	1	Good	0.5	6	5.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
						Youth	(11v11)	2	Good	3.5	8	4.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
						Youth	(9v9)	2	Good	2	8	6	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
36	Great Gransden Sports And Recreation Ground	St Neots	Yes	Community Organisation	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	1	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 MES per week.
						Mini	(5v5)	2	Poor	0.5	4	3.5	1.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
						Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
						Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
38	Great Paxton Recreation Ground	St Neots	Yes	Community Organisation	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	2.5	1	1.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 1.5 MES per week.

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use availability	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play <sup>8</sup>	Carrying capacity <sup>9</sup>	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
62	Little Paxton Hub	St Neots	Yes	Community Organisation	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
						Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
64	Longsands Academy	St Neots	No	Education	<b>Unsecure</b>	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Not available for community use.
78	Priory Park	St Neots	Yes	District Council	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	1	1	0	0.5	Pitch is played to capacity.
						Mini	(5v5)	2	Poor	1.5	4	2.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
						Mini	(7v7)	2	Poor	1.5	4	2.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
						Youth	(11v11)	2	Poor	2	2	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
						Youth	(9v9)	3	Poor	3.5	3	0.5	-	Pitches are overplayed by 0.5 MES per week.
79	Queen Elizabeth II Recreation Ground (Little Paxton)	St Neots	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	0	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
99	St Neots Rugby Club	St Neots	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	1.5	2	0.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
						Mini	(7v7)	2	Poor	1.5	4	2.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
						Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 MES per week.
						Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	1	1	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
101	St Neots Town Football Club	St Neots	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Adult		1	Good	2.5	3	0.5	0.5	Discount spare capacity to protect step pitch quality.
140	Sidney Banks Memorial Field	St Neots	Yes	District Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Poor	0.5	2	1.5	1.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
<b>West Analysis Area</b>														
5	Alconbury Sports and Social Club	West	Yes	Community Organisation	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
						Adult		1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
						Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
						Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
15	Catworth Playing Field	West	Yes	Community Organisation	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
						Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	0	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
34	Grafham Recreation Ground	West	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	0	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
56	Kimbolton School	West	No	Education	<b>Unsecure</b>	Adult		2	Standard	2	4	2	2	Not available for community use.
						Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Not available for community use.
57	Kimbolton Town Colts FC	West	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS ASSESSMENT REPORT

### **Actual spare capacity**

To determine 'actual spare capacity', each site with 'potential capacity identified in Table 2.17 has been reviewed. A pitch is only said to have 'actual spare capacity' if it is available for community use and available at the peak time for that format of the game. Any pitch not meeting this criterion has consequently been discounted.

There may also be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for several regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

Pitches that are of a poor quality are not deemed to have actual spare capacity due to their already low carrying capacity. Any identified spare capacity should be retained to relieve the pitches of use, which in turn, will aid the improvement of pitch quality.

Unless security of tenure is confirmed as being secured through a community use agreement during consultation with the operator, school sites that state they are currently available for community use but are unused are not considered to have actual spare capacity as they do not offer secure community use for clubs and as such use could be terminated at any time.

The table below identifies actual spare capacity by site and pitch type across Huntingdonshire. It totals 22 match equivalent sessions and is identified across 33 pitches at 17 sites.

*Table 2.18: Summary of overplay of grass football pitches*

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match sessions)
5	Alconbury Sports and Social Club	West	Adult	1	0.5
15	Catworth Playing Field	West	Adult	1	1
			Youth 11v11	1	1
27	Eynesbury Rovers Football Club	St Neots	Mini 7v7	1	0.5
34	Grafham Recreation Ground	West	Adult	1	1
40	Greenfields	North West	Mini 5v5	2	0.5
44	Hemingford Pavilion	St Ives	Adult	2	1
52	Jubilee Park	Huntingdon	Youth 9v9	1	0.5
66	Middletons Road Recreational Ground	North West	Adult	2	1
67	Mill Field	St Ives	Adult	4	3.5
74	One Leisure St Ives Outdoor	St Ives	Adult	3	2.5
80	Queens Park (Yaxley)	North West	Adult	2	1
			Mini 7v7	2	0.5
			Youth 9v9	2	2
88	Sapley Park Playing Fields	Huntingdon	Adult	4	2
			Mini 7v7	1	1
104	Stilton Village Playing Fields	North West	Mini 7v7	1	1

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match sessions)
110	Tom Jones Memorial Fields	North East	Adult	1	1
114	Warboys Sports Field	North East	Youth 9v9	1	0.5
<b>Total</b>					<b>22</b>

Most actual spare capacity is identified on adult pitches, although some is also identified on youth pitches. Most actual spare capacity is in the St Ives Area, with a total of seven match equivalent sessions per week across nine pitches at three sites.

Table 2.19: Summary of actual spare capacity on grass football pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match equivalent sessions per week)					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Huntingdon	2	-	0.5	1	-	3.5
North East	1	-	0.5	-	-	1.5
North West	2	-	2	1.5	0.5	6
St. Ives	7	-	-	-	-	7
St. Neots	-	-	-	0.5	-	0.5
West	2.5	1	-	-	-	3.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>22</b>

There is actual spare capacity in the North West Analysis Area of six match equivalent sessions per week, across 11 pitches at four sites. There is actual spare capacity in the Huntingdon Analysis Area of 3.5 match equivalent sessions per week, across six pitches at two sites. There is actual spare capacity in the West Analysis Area of 3.5 match equivalent sessions per week, across eight pitches across three sites. There is actual spare capacity in the North East Analysis Area of 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week, across two pitches across two sites. There is actual spare capacity in the St Neots Analysis Area of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week, across one pitch on one site.

### Overplay

Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it can sustain (which can often be due to the low carrying capacity caused by poor quality).

In total, 21 pitches across 13 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 21 match equivalent sessions per week. See Table 2.17.

Table 2.20: Summary of overplay of grass football pitches

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match sessions)
6	Bluntisham Village Hall & Recreation Ground	St Ives	Adult	1	0.5
			Mini 7v7	1	1
7	Brampton Memorial Playing Field	Huntingdon	Adult	1	1
11	Buckden Recreation Ground	St Neots	Adult	1	0.5
			Mini 5v5	1	1
36	Great Gransden Sports And Recreation Ground	St Neots	Adult	1	0.5



# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match sessions)
38	Great Paxton Recreation Ground	St Neots	Adult	1	1.5
45	Hinchingbrooke School	Huntingdon	Youth 11v11	1	2
60	Leading Drove (Yaxley FC)	North West	Adult	1	2
74	One Leisure St Ives Outdoor	St Ives	Youth 11v11	2	4
78	Priory Park	St Neots	Youth 9v9	3	0.5
99	St Neots Rugby Club	St Neots	Youth 11v11	1	0.5
104	Stilton Village Playing Fields	North West	Adult	1	1.5
106	The David Wilson Homes Ground	Huntingdon	Adult	1	1
			Mini 7v7	1	0.5
			Youth 11v11	1	1
			Youth 9v9	1	1
139	Coneygear Park	Huntingdon	Youth 9v9	1	1
<b>Total</b>					<b>21</b>

When considered by analysis area, most overplay is within the Huntingdon Area with 7.5 match equivalent sessions per week, closely followed by the St Ives Area with 5.5 match equivalent sessions per week. The St Neots Area has 4.5 match equivalent sessions per week, whilst the North West Area has 3.5 match equivalent session per week. The North East and West analysis areas have no overplay.

Table 2.21: Summary of actual spare capacity on grass football pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match equivalent sessions per week)					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Huntingdon	2	3	2	0.5	-	7.5
North East	-	-	-	-	-	0
North West	3.5	-	-	-	-	3.5
St. Ives	0.5	4	-	1	-	5.5
St. Neots	2.5	0.5	0.5	-	1	4.5
West	-	-	-	-	-	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21</b>

Overplay is mostly on adult pitches (8.5 match equivalent sessions per week) with some on youth 11v11 (7.5 match equivalent sessions per week) and youth 9v9 pitches (2.5 match equivalent sessions per week).

Most overplay on sites is generated from the substantial levels of demand accessing limited pitch stock. However, all overplayed pitches are assessed as either standard or poor quality.

## 2.5: Supply and demand analysis

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS ASSESSMENT REPORT

Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify current demand (i.e. spare capacity taking away overplay and any future demand) in each of the analysis areas for each pitch type, based on match equivalent sessions.

Future demand is based on club growth aspirations.

No demand is considered to be exported for genuine reasons, with all exporting teams not stating they wish to return to play within the District. Therefore, no exported demand has been factored into the analysis below.

### Adult pitches

Table 2.22: Supply and demand balance of adult pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (MES)	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Huntingdon	2	2	0	1	1
North East	1	-	1	-	1
North West	2	3.5	1.5	-	1.5
St. Ives	7	0.5	6.5	1.5	5
St. Neots	-	2.5	2.5	0.5	3
West	2.5	-	2.5	1	1.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>

There is sufficient current capacity for adult pitches to meet current demand, with an overall six match equivalent sessions of spare capacity. However, the Huntingdon Area is played to capacity. Whilst there is current overplay in the North West and St Neots analysis areas.

When considering future demand, shortfalls appear in the Huntingdon Area of one match equivalent sessions per week each week. Overall, at a Districtwide level there is sufficient supply to cater for future demand with a total of two match equivalent sessions of spare capacity per week.

### Youth 11v11 pitches

Table 2.23: Supply and demand balance of youth 11v11 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (MES)	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Huntingdon	-	3	3	1.5	4.5
North East	-	-	0	1	1
North West	-	-	0	-	0
St. Ives	-	4	4	0.5	4.5
St. Neots	-	0.5	0.5	0.5	1
West	1	-	1	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>11</b>

There is insufficient current capacity for youth 11v11 pitches to meet current demand, with overplay totalling 6.5 match equivalent sessions per week. However, the West Analysis Area has spare capacity of one match equivalent session.

When considering future demand, shortfalls appear in the North East Analysis Area. Whilst future demand cancels out the spare capacity in the West Analysis Area. Overall, at a

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Districtwide level there is insufficient supply to cater for future demand with overplay totalling 11 match equivalent sessions per week.

### Youth 9v9 pitches

Table 2.24: Supply and demand balance of youth 9v9 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (MES)	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Huntingdon	0.5	2	1.5	1.5	3
North East	0.5	-	0.5	-	0.5
North West	2	-	2	-	2
St. Ives	-	-	0	0.5	0.5
St. Neots	-	0.5	0.5	0.5	1
West	-	-	0	-	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2</b>

There is sufficient current capacity for youth 9v9 pitches at a Districtwide level to meet current demand, with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity per week. However, the St Ives and West analysis areas are currently played to capacity. Whilst there is current overplay in the Huntingdon and St Neots analysis areas.

When accounting for future demand, there is insufficient capacity to meet predicted demand across the District, with a shortfall of two match equivalent sessions per week. Further shortfalls become evident in the St Ives Analysis Area of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

### Mini 7v7 pitch analysis

Table 2.25: Supply and demand balance of mini 7v7 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (MES)	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Huntingdon	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0
North East	-	-	0	0.5	0.5
North West	1.5	-	1.5	-	1.5
St. Ives	-	1	1	-	1
St. Neots	0.5	-	0.5	0.5	0
West	-	-	0	-	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>0</b>

There is sufficient current capacity for mini 7v7 pitches at a Districtwide level to meet current demand, with 1.5 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity per week. However, the North East and West analysis areas are currently played to capacity and a short shortfall is apparent in the St Ives Analysis Area. Future demand utilises existing capacity and a small shortfall is expected to emerge in the North East Analysis Area

### Mini 5v5 pitch analysis

Table 2.26: Supply and demand balance of mini 5v5 pitches

Analysis area		Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)
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## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS ASSESSMENT REPORT

	Actual spare capacity (MES)	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Huntingdon	-	-	0	1.5	1.5
North East	-	-	0	-	0
North West	0.5	-	0.5	-	0.5
St. Ives	-	-	0	1.5	1.5
St. Neots	-	1	1	1	2
West	-	-	0	0.5	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>5</b>

There is insufficient current capacity for mini 5v5 pitches to meet current demand, with overplay totalling 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. However, overplay only currently exists in the St Neots Area, whilst the North West Analysis Area currently has spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent session.

When considering future demand, further shortfalls appear in the Huntingdon, St Ives and West analysis areas, with the spare capacity in the North West Area remaining. Overall, at a Districtwide level there is insufficient supply to cater for future demand with overplay totalling five match equivalent sessions per week.

### 2.6: Conclusion

In conclusion, at a Districtwide level capacity of grass football pitches can sufficiently meet demand for adult, youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 football activity, with insufficient capacity to cater for youth 11v11 and mini 5v5 football activity. Future demand is expected to put further pressure on the supply of pitches and consequently new shortfalls are expected to emerge on youth 9v9 pitches, whilst Mini 7v7 pitches would be played to capacity.

Table 2.27: Summary of supply and demand analysis for grass football pitches

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Adult	14.5	8.5	6	4	2
Youth 11v11	1	7.5	6.5	4.5	11
Youth 9v9	3	2.5	0.5	2.5	2
Mini 7v7	3	1.5	1.5	1.5	0
Mini 5v5	0.5	1	0.5	4.5	5

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### Summary - football

- Capacity of grass football pitches can sufficiently meet current demand for adult, youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 football activity, with insufficient capacity to cater for youth 11v11 and mini 5v5 football activity.
- Future demand is expected to put further pressure on the supply of pitches and consequently new shortfalls are expected to emerge on youth 9v9 pitches, whilst Mini 7v7 pitches would be played to capacity.

### Supply

- The audit identifies a total of 164 grass football pitches within Huntingdonshire across 58 sites. Of these, 150 pitches across 50 sites are identified as being available for community use. All 14 unavailable pitches are located at educational or MOD sites.
- Of the 150 available pitches in the District 39 are in the St Neots Analysis Area (26%), followed by the St Ives Analysis Area (31 pitches, 21%) and the Huntingdon Analysis Area (30 pitches, 20%). The West Analysis Area has the fewest available pitches (eight pitches, 5%).

### Quality

- Of the 150 football pitches available for community use, most (64 pitches – 43%) are rated as poor quality. There are 35 pitches (23%) rated as good quality and 51 pitches (34%) rated as standard quality.
- Of the 50 sites that are actively used for community football, 10 sites (20%) are serviced by good quality ancillary facilities, 15 sites (30%) by standard quality ancillary facilities and 16 (32%) by poor quality ancillary facilities. The remaining nine sites (18%) are not serviced by onsite clubhouse/changing room provision.

### Demand

- There are 380 teams identified as playing football in the District. This is made up of 81 adult men's, seven adult women's, 156 youth boys', 16 youth girls' and 120 mini soccer teams.
- There are two teams exporting demand outside of the District. Whilst, there are six teams which currently import demand into the District.
- Future club growth aspirations and participation targets total 34 potential new teams, resulting in additional capacity requirement (in match equivalent sessions per week) of four for adult pitches, 4.5 for youth 11v11 pitches, 2.5 for youth 9v9 pitches, 1.5 for mini 7v7 pitches and 4.5 for mini 5v5 pitches.

### Capacity

- There are 33 pitches across 17 sites identified as having actual spare capacity, totalling 22 match equivalent sessions per week, most (14.5) on adult pitches.
- In total 21 pitches across 13 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 21 match equivalent sessions per week.
- At a Districtwide level there currently capacity shortfalls on youth 11v11 and mini 5v5. Increases in future demand would lead to Districtwide capacity shortfalls for youth 9v9 pitches, whilst mini 7v7 pitches would be played to capacity.

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### PART 3: THIRD GENERATION TURF (3G) PITCHES

#### 3.1: Introduction

Third generation (3G) artificial grass pitches utilise longer fibres with a combination of rubber and sand infill to offer heightened performance. They are predominately used for football training but can also be used for football, rugby union or league matches dependent upon having a shock pad, performance standard test and appropriate certification.

Competitive football can take place on 3G pitches that have been performance standard tested and approved by the FA for inclusion on the Football Foundation Pitch Register<sup>11</sup>. As such, a growing number of 3G pitches are now used for competitive match play (subject to increased levels of certification dependent on the competition level) as well as for training purposes. Football training and small sided football activity does take place on hockey suitable artificial grass pitches (please refer to Part 7: Hockey) but is not the preferred option.

World Rugby produced the 'Performance Specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby'<sup>12</sup>, more commonly known as 'Regulation 22' that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union. The artificial surface standards identified in Regulation 22 allows matches to be played on surfaces that meet the standard, meaning full contact activity, including tackling, rucking, mauling and lineouts, can take place.

The specification includes a rigorous test programme that assesses ball/surface interaction and player/surface interaction and has been modified to align the standard with that of FIFA. Any 3G pitch used for any form of competitive rugby union must comply with this specification and must be tested every two years to retain compliance.

England Hockey's Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy (updated June 2018) advises that 3G pitches should not be used for hockey matches or training and that they can only be used for lower level hockey (introductory level) as a last resort when no sand based or water based artificial grass pitches are available.

Table 3.1: Artificial grass pitch suitability and compliancy

Surface	Category	Comments
<b>Preferred football surfaces</b>		
3G Rubber crumb	Long pile (60mm with shock pad)	Rugby surface – must comply with World Rugby type 22 and/or RFL Community Standard, requires a minimum of 60mm pile.
3G Rubber crumb	Medium pile (55-60mm)	Preferred football surface. Suitable for non-contact rugby union/league practice or play.
3G Rubber crumb	Short pile (40mm)	Acceptable surface for some competitive football.
<b>Hockey compliant surfaces</b>		
AGP	GEN 2	Low level competitive hockey and football training.
AGP	Sand filled	Competitive hockey and football training.
AGP	Sand dressed	Preferred hockey surface and suitable for football training.
AGP	Water based	Preferred hockey surface and suitable for football training if irrigated.

<sup>11</sup> <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/3g-pitch-register>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.world.rugby/handbook/regulations/reg-22/>

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Many test contractors are able to offer reduced rates through efficiency savings to carry out multiple performance tests in the same session, therefore providers seeking 3G pitch compliancy for a number of sports would be recommended to consider this opportunity.

### 3.2: Current provision

A full size 3G pitch is considered by the FA to measure at least 100 x 64 metres (106 x 70 metres including run offs); however, for the purposes of this report, all pitches measuring over 100 x 60 metres (inclusive of run offs) are considered to be full size due to the amount of demand they can accommodate.

On the above basis, there are seven full size 3G pitches provided in Huntingdonshire across seven sites, all of which are available for community use. There are also six small sided pitches located within the area, of which two are unavailable for community use. A breakdown of the supply is below.

Table 3.2: 3G pitch supply summary

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Community use?	Pitch size	Surface type	Number of pitches	Sports lighting?
<b>Full size pitches</b>							
45	Hinchingbrooke School	Huntingdon	Yes	106 x 85m	Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm)	1	Yes
60	Leading Drove (Yaxley FC)	North West	Yes	100 x 60m	Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm)	1	Yes
73	One Leisure Ramsey	North East	Yes	100 x 60m	Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm)	1	Yes
74	One Leisure St Ives Outdoor	St. Ives	Yes	100 x 60m	Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm)	1	Yes
75	One Leisure St Neots	St. Neots	Yes	101 x 65m	Long Pile 3G (65mm) with shock pad	1	Yes
96	St Ives Town Football Club	St. Ives	Yes	105 x 70m	Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm)	1	Yes
101	St Neots Town Football Club	St. Neots	Yes	107 x 69m	Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm)	1	Yes
<b>Small sized pitches</b>							
5	Alconbury Sports and Social Club	West	Yes	40 x 20m	Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm)	1	Yes
46	HMP Littlehey	West	No	60 x 40m	Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm)	2	No
66	Middletons Road Recreational Ground	North West	Yes	50 x 37m	Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm)	1	Yes
72	One Leisure Huntingdon	Huntingdon	Yes	37 x 24m	Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm)	2	Yes

Except for the two small sided 3G pitches at HMP Littlehey, all pitches are available for community use and provide opportunities for local sports club to train and play competitive matches.

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### ***Future provision***

The Huntingdonshire LFFP identifies five full size 3G pitch projects and one small sided 3G pitch project with the aim of satisfying midweek training demand for all football clubs in Huntingdonshire. Of these six projects, one has recently been completed at St Ives Town Football Club.

One of these projects is the potential conversion of an existing small sided hockey suitable AGP. This is based at One Leisure St Neots and it's suitability for conversion will be determined in the Artificial Grass Pitches section of this report.

The LFFP analysis is less detailed than that of the PPOSS and therefore the broad geographical remit of the LFFP does not align to the specific analysis area breakdown used within the PPOSS.

Given that the LFFP is a live document informed by an up-to-date PPOSS, the LFFP may need to be re-assessed following the findings and recommendations of this study. Any significant changes in demand since the LFFP was produced is likely to result in 3G pitch shortfalls increasing or decreasing, as determined later in this section of the report, meaning additions or alterations may be required. The potential projects in the LFFP are listed overleaf.

- ◀ Potential Huntingdonshire LFFP projects:
  - ◀ Alconbury Weald Development
  - ◀ The David Wilson Homes Ground (Godmanchester Rovers/Town FC)
  - ◀ One Leisure St Neots (small sided 7v7 size)
  - ◀ Huntingdon Area (Huntingdon Town Council and Huntingdon Town FC proposed operators of sports village site within the Huntingdon Area)
  - ◀ Academy Leisure Sawtry

Of the above projects, two at The David Wilson Homes Ground and Academy Leisure Sawtry are currently being progressed.

### ***Alconbury Weald***

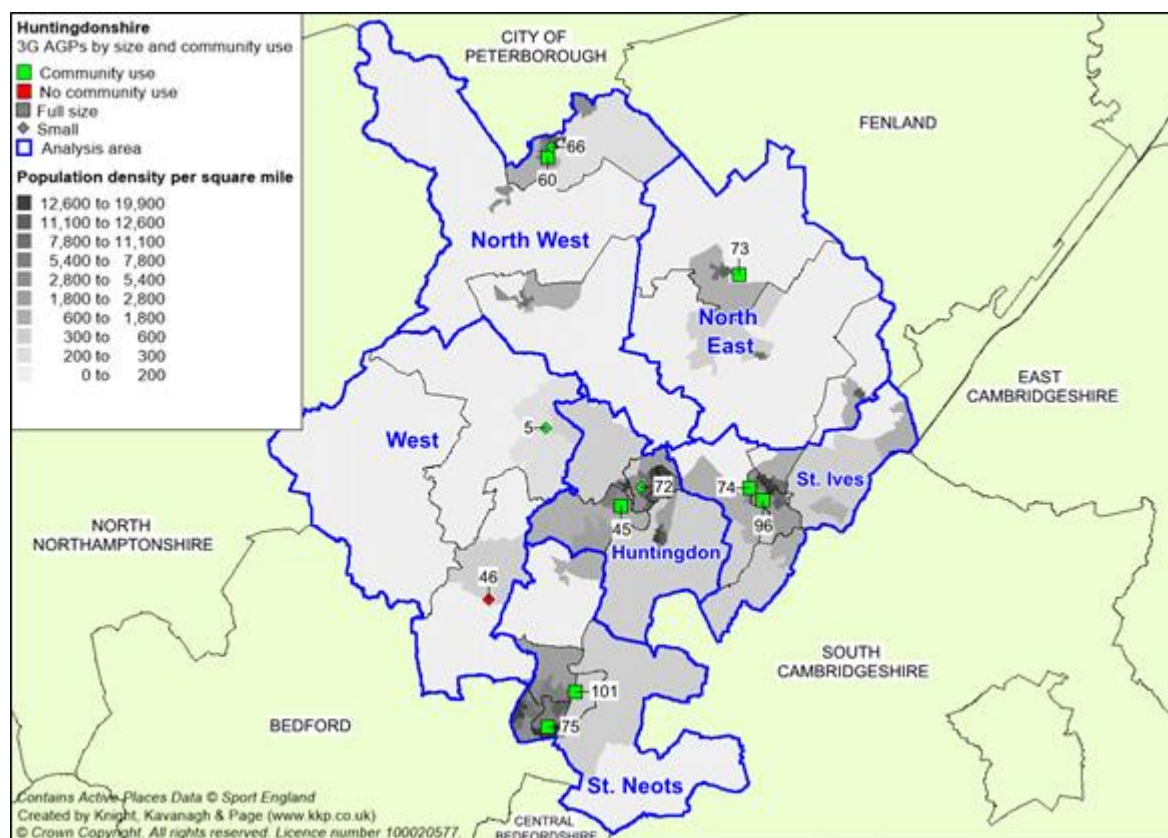
As part of the Alconbury Weald development it is proposed and agreed that an artificial grass pitch will be developed as part of the secondary school development. At present it has not been agreed whether this surface will be an 3G pitch or a hockey suitable AGP. It should also be noted that as stated above the FF also identified Alconbury Weald as a site for a new built 3G pitch with sports lighting as part of the LFFP.

Figure 3.1 overleaf identifies all 3G pitches servicing Huntingdonshire. For a key to the map, see Table 3.2.



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Figure 3.1: 3G pitches servicing Huntingdonshire



## FA Pitch Register

In order for competitive matches to be played on 3G pitches, the pitch should be FIFA or IMS tested and approved and added to the FA Pitch Register, which can be found at:

Table 3.3: 3G pitch supply summary

Site ID	Site	Pitch type	Accreditation type	Test expiry
45	Hinchingbrooke School	Full size	FA Approved (Expiring soon)	31/05/2023
60	Leading Drove (Yaxley FC)	Full size	FIFA Approved (Expiring soon)	31/05/2023
73	One Leisure Ramsey	Full size	FIFA Approved	31/05/2025
74	One Leisure St Ives Outdoor	Full size	FA Approved	31/05/2024
75	One Leisure St Neots	Full size	FIFA Approved	31/05/2025
96	St Ives Town Football Club	Full size	FIFA Approved (Expiring soon)	31/05/2023
101	St Neots Town Football Club	Full size	FA Approved	31/05/2025

Of the existing stock of pitches which offer community use, all are on the FA Register for match play. However, it should be noted that three of the seven 3G pitches (Hinchingbrooke School, Leading Drove and St Ives Town Football Club) are nearing the end of their accreditation, with both expiring at the end of May 2023. These pitches need to be tested and re-registered on the FA Pitch Register prior to accommodating formal match play.

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### **Management**

Of the seven full size 3G pitches available for community use, the District Council and individual sports clubs manage three pitches each, whilst the remaining pitch at Hinchingsbrooke School is managed inhouse by the School.

### **World Rugby compliant pitches**

To enable 3G pitches to host competitive rugby union matches or contact training sessions, World Rugby has developed the Rugby Turf Performance Specification. This is to ensure that the surfaces replicate the playing qualities of good quality grass pitches, provide a playing environment that will not increase the risk of injury and are of an adequate durability.

The specification includes a rigorous test programme that assesses ball/surface interaction and player/surface interaction and has been modified to align the standard with that of FIFA. Any 3G pitch used for any form of competitive rugby must comply with this specification and must be tested every two years to retain compliance.

The 3G pitch at One Leisure St Neots has a WR compliant shockpad and has been tested and on the WR Reg 22 register. Therefore, the pitch is able to support contact rugby union activity.

### **Quality**

Depending on use, it is considered that the carpet of an AGP usually lasts for approximately ten years and it is the age of the surface, combined with maintenance levels, which most commonly affects quality. It is therefore recommended that sinking funds be put into place by providers to enable long-term sustainability, ongoing repairs and future refurbishment beyond this period.

Taking the above into account, the quality of third generation artificial grass pitches across Huntingdonshire have been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by the FA) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows; Good (>80%), Standard (60-79%), Poor (<60%). The quality ratings assigned to the sites also consider the user quality ratings gathered from consultation.

In Huntingdonshire there are five (71%) full size pitches rated as good quality and two (29%) full sized pitches rated as standard, no full size 3G pitches in the District are rated as poor quality, all full sized pitches are available for community use. All six of the small sized 3G pitches are rated as standard quality, two of which located at HMP Littlehey are unavailable for community use.

The table below outlines the quality of all 3G pitches within the District.

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Table 3.4: Age and quality of 3G pitches in Huntingdonshire

Site ID	Site	Management	Number of pitches	Year installed (resurfaced)	Quality
<b>Full sized pitches</b>					
45	Hinchingbrooke School	Education	1	1995 (2019)	Standard
60	Leading Drove (Yaxley FC)	Sports club	1	2016	Good
73	One Leisure Ramsey	District Council	1	2021	Good
74	One Leisure St Ives Outdoor	District Council	1	2011	Standard
75	One Leisure St Neots	District Council	1	2020	Good
96	St Ives Town Football Club	Sports club	1	2021	Good
101	St Neots Town Football Club	Sports club	1	2008 (2018)	Good
<b>Small sized pitches</b>					
5	Alconbury Sports and Social Club	Community Organisation	1	2009	Standard
46	HMP Littlehey	Private	2	2012	Standard
66	Middletons Road Recreational Ground	Parish Council	1	1992 (2016)	Standard
72	One Leisure Huntingdon	District Council	2	2000 (2009)	Standard

### 3.3: Demand

The full size 3G pitches currently available for community use in Huntingdonshire are all reported to be operating at or close to capacity at peak times, especially during winter months when grass pitches cannot be used for training or recreational demand (due to a lack of sports lighting). This applies not only to midweek capacity but also to weekend capacity on account of many being FA approved to host competitive matches.

Currently, it is considered that most of the community-based activity on 3G pitches is football related, with just one other sport session identified as utilising artificial provision which is by St Ives RUFC at One Leisure Ramsey, this pitch has no WR compliant shockpad and therefore, the sessions is expected to be a fitness/skills session to take away pressure on the clubs pitches during the winter months. Most of the capacity is being taken up by clubs for training and match play purposes, although there is also a strong presence of recreational football activity taking place (e.g., via unaffiliated groups).

Across the Country there are also often small-sided commercial leagues operating on 3G provision. This applies in Huntingdonshire, where Leisure Leagues operate at One Leisure Ramsey, One Leisure St Ives Outdoor and One Leisure St Neots.

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### Availability and usage of full size 3G pitches

The following table summarises the availability of full size AGPs for community use in Huntingdonshire. In addition, it records the availability of provision within the peak period. Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours a week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00). This 34 hour represents the peak period of usage (Midweek for training and Weekend for competitive fixtures).

Table 3.7: Summary of full size 3G pitch availability and use

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Sports lighting	Quality <sup>13</sup>	Total number of hours available for community use during peak period	Midweek					Weekend				
						Affiliated Football usage	Affiliated Rugby usage <sup>14</sup>	Other sports club usage	Informal / Recreational <sup>15</sup>	Spare capacity	Affiliated football usage	Affiliated rugby usage	Other sports club usage	Informal / Recreational <sup>12</sup>	Spare capacity
45	Hinchingbrooke School	Huntingdon	Yes	Standard	Weekdays: 18 hours Weekends: 16 hours Total: 34 hours	74%	0%	0%	0%	26%	13%	0%	0%	0%	87%
60	Leading Drove (Yaxley FC)	North West	Yes	Good	Weekdays: 18 hours Weekends: 16 hours Total: 34 hours	81%	0%	0%	6%	13%	81%	0%	0%	0%	19%
73	One Leisure Ramsey	North East	Yes	Good	Weekdays: 18 hours Weekends: 16 hours Total: 34 hours	61%	3%	0%	4%	32%	13%	0%	0%	0%	87%
74	One Leisure St Ives Outdoor	St. Ives	Yes	Good	Weekdays: 18 hours Weekends: 16 hours Total: 34 hours	75%	0%	1%	6%	18%	38%	0%	0%	0%	62%
75	One Leisure St Neots	St. Neots	Yes	Standard	Weekdays: 18 hours Weekends: 16 hours Total: 34 hours	65%	0%	0%	10%	25%	13%	0%	0%	0%	87%
96	St Ives Town Football Club	St. Ives	Yes	Good	Weekdays: 18 hours Weekends: 16 hours Total: 34 hours	71%	0%	0%	11%	18%	48%	0%	0%	5%	47%
101	St Neots Town Football Club	St. Neots	Yes	Good	Weekdays: 18 hours Weekends: 16 hours Total: 34 hours	83%	0%	0%	0%	17%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%

As seen in the table above, the majority of the 3G pitches have spare capacity on weekends. The One Leisure sites and Hinchingbrooke School see little demand for use over the weekends for match play, with most clubs opting for grass pitch use at their respective home sites. It should be noted that although these pitches are considered to have spare capacity on weekends, all sites reported that during winter a number of clubs make last minute bookings if and when grass pitches become unusable due to weather conditions.

#### Spare capacity summary

Through consultation with pitch providers it is reported that during the week, most pitches have limited spare capacity between the hours of 6pm-9pm Monday-Thursday and 6pm-7pm on Fridays. They suggest the majority of pitches spare capacity falls within the 5pm-6pm time slots throughout the week. These timeslots are generally considered to be unattractive and go unused due to close proximity to players and parents of junior players finishing work around this time. Therefore, when clubs come to book training sessions the 5pm-6pm timeslot is not a chosen timeslot and therefore is very rarely booked.

On weekends there is very little use of 3G pitches outside of club environments. St Neots Town FC make use of its 3G pitch at its home site for junior matches throughout both Saturday and Sunday, whilst due to cost difference between grass and 3G pitches, clubs choose to make use of grass pitches instead of accessing the One Leisure and School sites. However, it should be noted that when weather determines a number of clubs make last minute bookings to allow for fixtures to be fulfilled when grass pitches are unplayable.

<sup>13</sup> Quality is assessed via a combination of non-technical assessments carried out by KKP but also take account of user views and opinions.

<sup>15</sup> Recreation usage includes demand from leisure football leagues, Active Communities and other similar organisations.

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

## Football

The FA considers high quality 3G pitches as an essential tool in promoting coach and player development. The pitches can support intensive use and as such are great assets for football use. Primarily, such facilities have been installed for social use and training, however, they are increasingly used for competition, which The FA wholly supports.

### Training demand

Getting access to good quality, affordable training facilities is a problem for many clubs throughout the country. In the winter months, midweek training is only possible at facilities with sports lighting, with 3G provision preferred by the FA and most clubs.

In Huntingdonshire, 62% of clubs that responded to consultation explicitly report that they require additional access to 3G provision, which represents a high proportion of unmet demand, representing a total of 261 teams. Some of these are training on 3G pitches but do not have capacity for all of their teams, or do not have access at preferred times. Others are not training on 3G pitches at all and are instead using sand-based pitches or indoor sports halls despite these not being their preferred surfaces.

Table 3.7: Unmet demand for 3G pitches (training purposes)

Club	Number of teams	Analysis Area	Need for more/better training facilities
Eunice Huntingdon FC	5	Huntingdon	✓
Godmanchester Rovers FC	4	Huntingdon	✓
Godmanchester Rovers Youth FC	17	Huntingdon	✓
Godmanchester Town Youth FC	15	Huntingdon	✓
Huntingdon Girls FC	4	Huntingdon	✓
Huntingdon Town FC	7	Huntingdon	✓
Huntingdon Town Rowdies FC	12	Huntingdon	✓
<b>Total number of teams</b>	<b>64</b>		
Ramsey Colts FD	18	North East	✓
Warboy Colts FC	7	North East	✓
Warboys Town FC	2	North East	✓
<b>Total number of teams</b>	<b>27</b>		
Sawtry Colts FC	14	North West	✓
Sawtry FC	2	North West	✓
Yaxley Falcons FC	3	North West	✓
<b>Total number of teams</b>	<b>19</b>		
Fenstanton FC	2	St Ives	✓
Fenstanton Youth FC	10	St Ives	✓
Hemingford Colts FC	7	St Ives	✓
Houghton & Wyton FC	4	St Ives	✓
Needingworth United FC	1	St Ives	✓
St Ives Rangers Colts FC	33	St Ives	✓
St Ives Rangers FC	2	St Ives	✓
<b>Total number of teams</b>	<b>59</b>		
Buckden JFC	14	St Neots	✓
Eaton Socon FC	5	St Neots	✓
Eynesbury Rovers FC	4	St Neots	✓

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Club	Number of teams	Analysis Area	Need for more/better training facilities
Eynesbury Rovers Youth FC	15	St Neots	✓
Eynesbury United FC	1	St Neots	✓
Great Paxton Colts FC	3	St Neots	✓
Little Paxton Colts FC	3	St Neots	✓
Priory Parkside Colts FC	17	St Neots	✓
St Neots Town FC	14	St Neots	✓
St Neots Town Youth FC	13	St Neots	✓
<b>Total number of teams</b>	<b>89</b>		
Kimbolton Town Colts FC	3	West	✓
<b>Total number of teams</b>	<b>3</b>		

The FA's long-term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England the opportunity to train once per week on a 3G surface with sports lighting, together with priority access for every English Accredited Club through a partnership agreement. As such, it has established a model to calculate the required number of pitches to meet demand, with one full size pitch being required to service every 38 teams within a local authority. This is based on peak time access being Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings (Mondays and Fridays are discounted as it is considered that teams do not want to train in such close proximity to a weekend match, and it also allows for other forms of access such as for commercial leagues and recreational play).

Using the above and based on 380 currently playing on football pitches in Huntingdonshire, there is a potential need for ten full size 3G pitches. As such this results in an overall shortfall of three full size 3G pitches.

*Table 3.7: Current training demand for 3G pitches in Huntingdonshire (based on 38 teams per pitch)*

Current number of teams	3G requirement	Current number of 3G pitches	Current shortfall
380	10	7	3

When considering future demand for an additional 34 teams (based on future demand expressed by clubs), there is demand for 11 full size pitches, which increases the shortfall of 3G pitches further to four full size 3G pitches.

*Table 3.8: Future training demand for 3G pitches in Huntingdonshire (based on 38 teams per pitch)*

Future number of teams	3G requirement	Current number of 3G pitches	Future shortfall
414	11 (10.89)	7	4

Alternatively, the tables below consider the number of 3G pitches required if every team was to remain training within the respective analysis area that they play in. This not only identifies where the needs exist across Huntingdonshire, but it can also be used to guide which areas should be targeted for new provision.

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

*Table 3.9: Current demand for full size 3G pitch equivalents for affiliated football team training – Huntingdonshire based teams*

Analysis area	Current number of teams	Current requirement	Current number of available full size 3G pitches	Current shortfall
Huntingdon	86	2 (2.26)	1	1
North East	38	1	1	-
North West	53	1 (1.39)	1	-
St. Ives	93	2 (2.45)	2	-
St. Neots	101	3 (2.66)	2	1
West	9	0 (0.23)	0	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>

This shows that there is a shortfall within the Huntingdon, St Ives and the St Neots analysis areas, whereas demand is being met in the North East, North West, St Ives and West analysis areas.

When accounting for future demand, the potential shortfalls are projected to increase in the Huntingdon Analysis Area, whilst a new shortfall becomes evident in the St Ives Analysis Area. Demand remains satisfied in the North East, North West and West analysis areas.

*Table 3.10: Future demand for 3G pitches for affiliated football team training – Huntingdonshire based teams*

Analysis area	Future number of teams	Future requirement	Future number of available full size 3G pitches	Future shortfall
Huntingdon	98	3 (2.58)	1	2
North East	41	1 (1.07)	1	-
North West	53	1 (1.39)	1	-
St. Ives	101	3 (2.66)	2	1
St. Neots	107	3 (2.82)	2	1
West	14	0 (0.37)	0	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>

When considering future demand, the overall shortfall increases to a total shortfall of four full size pitch equivalents.

### *Football match play demand*

Improving grass pitch quality is one way to increase the capacity at sites but given the cost of doing such work and the continued maintenance required (and associated costs), alternatives need to be considered that can offer a more sustainable model for the future of football. The substitute to grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches for competitive matches, providing that the pitch is FA approved, has sports lighting, is available for community use during the peak period and the location does not have an impact on other pitch sports.

The forthcoming Strategy & Action Plan will explore scenarios for the 3G pitch requirement for competitive match play with a focus on accommodating both mini and youth football.

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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## ***Rugby union***

As mentioned previously, there is only one WR compliant 3G pitch within Huntingdonshire at One Leisure St Neots. As the pitch is not large enough nor marked for senior rugby union, the pitch is only able to support contact rugby union training or match play for mini teams.

At present the only known use of a 3G pitch for rugby union is at One Leisure Ramsey. St Ives RUFC access the pitch for an hour during the week to protect its grass pitches and training area. The pitch is non WR compliant and there no contact rugby union training should be taking place.

## ***Other sports***

No other sports clubs/users are presently identified as accessing the existing stock of 3G pitches in Huntingdonshire (outside of some school activity). Furthermore, with limited demand identified in the Authority, and with limited presence of other relevant sports, no demand for access has been uncovered.

## **3.4: Conclusion**

In conclusion, there is an insufficient supply of full size 3G pitches to meet current and anticipated future football training demand based on the FA training model. As such, it is determined that an increase in provision is required, with future provision best placed in the Huntingdon, St Ives and St Neots analysis areas.

In total, the current shortfall equates to a need to develop an additional two full size 3G pitch equivalents. As already mentioned, there are plans to build a new 3G pitch at The David Wilson Homes Ground (Huntingdon) which would satisfy current local demand within the Huntingdon Analysis Area. In addition, the LFFP also identifies an additional 3G within the Huntingdon Analysis Area with Huntingdon Town Council and Huntingdon Town FC managing a sports village site, this development would satisfy both current and future demand within the Huntingdon Analysis Area.

The locations to which additional 3G pitches are required within the St Neots and St Ives analysis areas will be explored in the following Stage D: Strategy and Action Plan Report.

To ensure the current supply and any future supply is of a good enough standard to accommodate demand, providers are encouraged to put sinking funds in place to ensure long-term sustainability. This will allow for re-surfacing to take place when required and will ensure that FA certification remains in place.

### **Summary- 3G pitches**

- ◀ **There is insufficient supply of full size 3G pitches to meet current and anticipated future demand in Huntingdonshire based on the FA training scenario for football.**
- ◀ **There is a quantitative shortfall and additional two full size 3G pitches are required.**

### **Supply**

- ◀ There are currently seven full size 3G pitches provided in Huntingdonshire across seven sites, all of which are available for community use.
- ◀ There are also six small sided pitches located within the area, of which two are unavailable for community use.
- ◀ All 3G pitches are FA or FIFA registered and permitted for use for football match play.
- ◀ Of the existing stock of full size 3G pitches which offer community use, all are on the FA Register for match play. However, it should be noted that two of the seven 3G pitches (Leading Drove and St Ives Town Football Club) are nearing the end of their accreditation, with all expiring at the end of May 2023.



## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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- ◀ There is a good level of accessibility within the peak period and no identified restrictions on availability other than capacity.

### **Quality**

- ◀ In Huntingdonshire there are five (71%) full size pitches rated as good quality and two (29%) full sized pitches rated as standard, no full size 3G pitches in the District are rated as poor quality. All six of the small sized 3G pitches are rated as standard quality.

### **Demand and capacity**

- ◀ The FA training ratio estimates that there is a theoretical requirement for at least two additional new 3G pitches with sports lighting for affiliated football to meet current demand, increasing to a potential need for four in future.
- ◀ The demand for additional new 3G pitch provision with sports lighting is split between the Huntingdon and St Neots analysis areas with a requirement for one pitch in each.

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

## PART 4: CRICKET PITCHES

### 4.1: Introduction

Cricket East (CE) serves as the main governing and representative body for cricket across Huntingdonshire. Working closely with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), it is responsible for the management and development of every form of recreational cricket for men, women and children within the District. It is currently working with the ECB on delivering its Inspiring Generations Strategy which has been live since 2020.

#### **Consultation**

There are 20 cricket clubs playing in Huntingdonshire. Through survey responses, a total club response rate of 80% has been achieved as shown below.

*Table 4.1: Summary of cricket club consultation*

<b>Club name</b>	<b>Response</b>
Alconbury CC	Yes
Bluntisham CC	Yes
Brampton CC	No
Buckden CC	Yes
Eaton Socon CC	Yes
Falcon XI CC	Yes
Godmanchester Town CC	Yes
Hemingford Park CC	No
Holme CC	No
Houghton and Wyton CC	Yes
Huntingdon & District CC	Yes
Kimbolton CC	Yes
LGR XI CC	Yes
Little Paxton CC	Yes
Needingworth CC	No
Ramsey CC	Yes
Sawtry CC	Yes
St Ives & Warboys CC	Yes
Upwood CC	Yes
Waresley CC	Yes

#### **County Facilities Strategy (CFS)**

In 2022, to build upon the ECB's Inspiring Generations Strategy, the ECB has started the process of producing County Facilities Strategies (CFS). A CFS will be produced by each individual county cricket board and will be unique to its geographical area as well as being diverse in its representation.

The CFS will be a 'long-term' plan with county boards ensuring the Strategy provides a ten-year view of facility needs. Like a PPS, the county cricket boards will establish key stakeholders (clubs, leagues, county sports partnerships, county pitch advisors & Sport England etc) within its locality to consult during the development of the Strategy.

Each county cricket board will utilise up to date PPS within its locality to support the development of the CFS, utilising the PPS findings as a 'high-quality' evidence base.

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The CFS will look at a range of facilities which support cricket across its region, with the ECB setting out guidelines to ensure that the following facilities are considered throughout the development of the CFS:

### *Types of facility*

- ◀ “Traditional” outdoor facilities
  - ◀ Pitches and Outfields
  - ◀ Pavilions
  - ◀ Practice
  
- ◀ “Non-traditional” facilities
  - ◀ Multi Use Games Areas
  - ◀ Tapeball/softball spaces
  - ◀ Courts or cages
  
- ◀ Indoor facilities
  - ◀ Practice (multi use halls)
  - ◀ Performance (cricket specific)
  - ◀ Matchplay (6 or 8 a side)

Each CFS will be used to shape investment decisions and priorities, particularly how each county cricket board will use the devolved budget within the County Grants Fund and prioritise larger scale strategic projects.

Notwithstanding the above, it is important to recognise that the CFS is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment; it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Consequently, it cannot be used in place of a PPS and is not an accepted evidence base for development proposals that need to be judged against the NPPF and Sport England’s Playing Field Policy.

### **4.2: Supply**

There are 21 grass wicket squares in Huntingdonshire located across 20 sites, of which, 19 are available for community use.

The St Ives analysis areas have the most available natural turf provision with five squares (26%), the North East and Huntingdon analysis areas each have four squares (21%), whilst the St Neots Analysis Area has three (16%) available squares. The West Analysis Area has two (11%) community available squares with the North West Analysis Area having the least amount of available provision with one square (6%).

### ***Non-turf pitches (NTPs)***

The ECB highlights that non-turf pitches (NTPs) which follow its TS6 guidance on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play and are considered to have carrying capacity of 60 match equivalent sessions per season, although this may include training sessions via the use of mobile nets.

However, not all local leagues permit use of NTPs for match play and nationally those which do typically allow use for lower level of competition or within lower divisions.

In Huntingdonshire, there is seven NTPs which accompanies a grass wicket square, as well as 12 standalone NTPs.

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 4.2: Summary of NTPs in Huntingdonshire

Site ID	Site name	Available for community use?	Analysis area	Number of NTPs	Position
1	Abbey College	No	North East	1	Standalone
4	Alconbury Weald Cricket Pitch	Yes	Huntingdon	1	Square
5	Alconbury Sports and Social Club	Yes	West	1	Square
7	Brampton Memorial Playing Field	Yes	Huntingdon	1	Square
25	Ernulf Academy	No	St. Neots	1	Standalone
45	Hinchingbrooke School	No	Huntingdon	2	Standalone
49	Houghton and Wyton Playing Field	Yes	St. Ives	1	Square
55	Kimbolton Prep School	No	West	2	Standalone
56	Kimbolton School	No	West	1	Standalone
64	Longsands Academy	No	St. Neots	1	Standalone
66	Middletons Road Recreational Ground	Yes	North West	1	Standalone
67	Mill Field	Yes	St. Ives	1	Square
79	Queen Elizabeth II Recreation Ground (Little Paxton)	Yes	St. Neots	1	Standalone
85	Ramsey Cricket Club	Yes	North East	1	Square
97	St Ivo Academy	No	St. Ives	1	Standalone
102	St Peters School	No	Huntingdon	1	Standalone
114	Warboys Sports Field	Yes	North East	1	Square

## *Ball strike*

Where there is either new cricket provision being put in place, or more commonly a development which may prejudice the use of the cricket facility, there is a requirement for a full ball strike risk assessment to be undertaken and appropriate mitigation put in place as part of the development. As such, the ECB recommends that the clubs and organisations seek to have a ball strike risk assessment undertaken; further information can be provided by the ECB.

It has been highlighted by HDC and CE that the grass square at Alconbury Weald Cricket Pitch has issues with ballstrike. A ballstrike assessment was undertaken by Labosport which has identified that of the nine wickets, only seven are appropriate for senior cricket. Both end wickets fall within ballstrike restrictions and therefore can only cater for junior cricket demand. At present this has not been an issue as only junior cricket has taken place in 2022, however with Sawtry CC currently undergoing an asset transfer, it is planned that senior cricket will take place onsite in 2023.

## *Disused sites*

Yelling Cricket Club is currently a disused site. Yelling CC has not competed in the 2022 cricket season, having been active in 2021 playing home matches at Yelling Cricket Club. The site accommodates a six wicket grass square. The Club has not competed in 2022, with players travelling to other nearby clubs to take part in cricket activity. The Club has made no statements around re-instating cricket.

## *Disused provision*

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Abbots Ripton Cricket Club previously accommodated a seven wicket grass square. Abbots Ripton CC left the site and has now merged with Hemingford Park CC and play at Hemingford Pavilion. The square is still protected onsite, however, there is currently no demand for its use. The site is still actively used for football and therefore the site is not disused.

Similarly, Millennium Sports Pavilion (Somersham) has previously accommodated a grass wicket square consisting of nine wickets. The site is still utilised for football but has not been used for cricket since 2017.

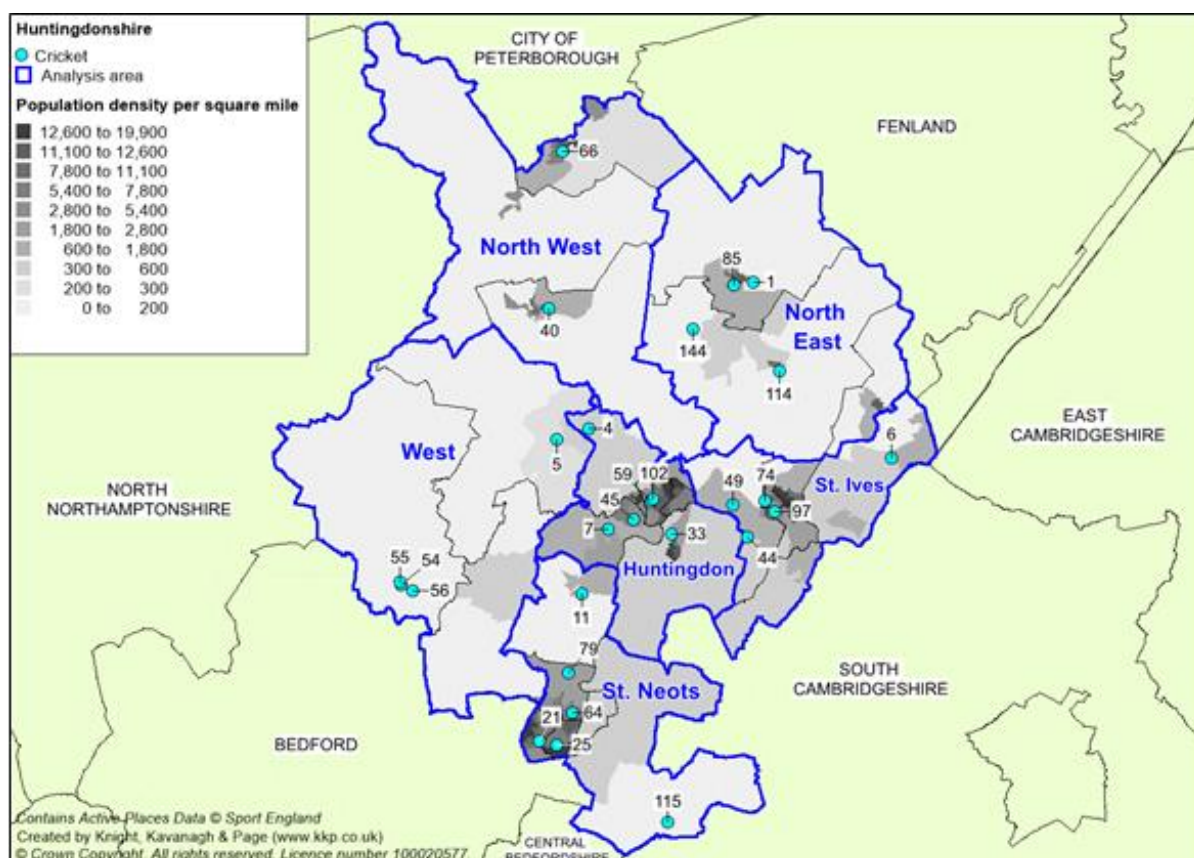
Fenstanton Football Club previously had a six wicket grass square onsite. However, the pitch has not been in use since *circa* 2008 and is now marked for football and used actively by Fenstanton FC.

In addition, there also used to be an additional grass wicket square which consisted of eight grass wickets. The square was maintained onsite until *circa* 2018. Elton Cricket Club previously accommodated a six wicket grass cricket square, satellite evidence suggests that the site ceased maintenance between 2009-2016.

Great Staughton Playing Fields and Grafham Recreation Ground both previously accommodated five wicket squares. However, the sites have not be maintained nor used for cricket since 2017.

The map below shows the location of all cricket squares currently servicing Huntingdonshire. For a key to the map, see Table 4.4.

Figure 4.1: Summary of grass cricket squares in Huntingdonshire



## Security of tenure

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A site is considered to offer unsecure tenure if access to the cricket provision onsite is not guaranteed to be retained over the next three years. The table below identifies tenure arrangements for all affiliated clubs.

Most clubs in Huntingdonshire are considered to have secure tenure at their home venues through either ownership (four clubs), long-term leasehold (four clubs), annual rent agreements from HDC/Parish Council (three clubs) and Sports Field Trusts (three clubs) or Pending asset transfer (one club). There are currently three unknown agreements at Brampton Memorial Playing Field (Brampton CC), Mill Field (Needingworth CC) and Hemingford Pavilion (Hemingford Park CC) due to no response to club survey.

*Table 4.3: Summary of known security of tenure for Huntingdonshire cricket clubs*

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Club/league	Arrangement	Tenure
4	Alconbury Weald Cricket Pitch	Huntingdon	Sawtry CC	Pending Asset Transfer	Secure
5	Alconbury Sports and Social Club	West	Alconbury CC	Freehold	Secure
6	Bluntisham Village Hall & Recreation Ground	St. Ives	Bluntisham CC	Annual Rent Agreement from Parish Council	Secure
11	Buckden Recreation Ground	St. Neots	Buckden CC	Annual Rent Agreement from Village Hall Trust	Secure
21	Eaton Socon Cricket Club	St. Neots	Eaton Socon CC	Freehold	Secure
33	Godmanchester Town Cricket Club	Huntingdon	Godmanchester Town CC	Long term lease agreement	Secure
40	Greenfields	North West	Sawtry CC	Rented from Sports Association	Secure
49	Houghton and Wyton Playing Field	St. Ives	Houghton & Wyton CC	Annual Rent Agreement from Parish Council	Secure
54	Kimbolton Cricket Club	West	Kimbolton CC	Freehold	Secure
59	King George V Playing Fields (St Peters Road)	Huntingdon	Huntingdon & District CC	Long term lease agreement	Secure
74	One Leisure St Ives Outdoor	St. Ives	St Ives & Warboys CC	Rented from One Leisure (Huntingdonshire District Council)	Secure
85	Ramsey Cricket Club	North East	Ramsey CC	Freehold	Secure
114	Warboys Sports Field	North East	St Ives & Warboys CC	Rented from Sports Fields Trust	Secure
115	Waresley Cricket Club	St. Neots	Waresley CC	Long term lease agreement	Secure
144	Upwood Cricket Club	North East	Upwood CC	Long term lease agreement	Secure

### **Pitch quality**

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The quality of cricket pitches has been rated via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments<sup>16</sup> as determined by the ECB) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows; Good (>80%), Standard (50-79%), Poor (<49%).

Maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of cricket; if the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and can, in some instances, become dangerous. As an example, if a square is poor quality, a ball can bounce erratically on a wicket and become a danger to nearby players.

All grass cricket squares within Huntingdonshire receive a quality rating based on a combination of non-technical assessments and club consultation. Of the 19 squares available for community use, ten squares are rated as standard quality and nine squares are rated as good quality, there are no poor quality available squares in the District.

*Table 4.4: Quality ratings for grass wicket squares (all pitches)*

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Availability for community use?	No. of squares	Square quality
4	Alconbury Weald Cricket Pitch	Huntingdon	Yes	1	Standard
5	Alconbury Sports and Social Club	West	Yes	1	Standard
6	Bluntisham Village Hall & Recreation Ground	St. Ives	Yes	1	Good
7	Brampton Memorial Playing Field	Huntingdon	Yes	1	Standard
11	Buckden Recreation Ground	St. Neots	Yes	1	Standard
21	Eaton Socon Cricket Club	St. Neots	Yes	1	Good
33	Godmanchester Town Cricket Club	Huntingdon	Yes	1	Good
40	Greenfields	North West	Yes	1	Standard
44	Hemingford Pavilion	St. Ives	Yes	1	Standard
49	Houghton and Wyton Playing Field	St. Ives	Yes	1	Standard
54	Kimbolton Cricket Club	West	Yes	1	Good
55	Kimbolton Prep School	West	No	1	Good
56	Kimbolton School	West	No	1	Good
59	King George V Playing Fields (St Peters Road)	Huntingdon	Yes	1	Standard
67	Mill Field	St. Ives	Yes	1	Standard
74	One Leisure St Ives Outdoor	St. Ives	Yes	1	Good
85	Ramsey Cricket Club	North East	Yes	1	Good

<sup>16</sup> See Appendix Two for non-technical assessment criteria for cricket squares

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## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Availability for community use?	No. of squares	Square quality
114	Warboys Sports Field	North East	Yes	1	Good
115	Waresley Cricket Club	St. Neots	Yes	1	Standard
144	Upwood Cricket Club	North East	Yes	2	Good

At present

### *Performance Quality Standards*

To obtain a full technical assessment of wickets and pitches, the ECB recommends a Performance Quality Standard (PQS) assessment to determine whether a cricket square meets the Performance Quality Standards which are benchmarked by the Grounds Management Association (GMA). There are three categories of measurement that relate to the overall quality of the square: structural quality, presentational quality and playing quality. Once a square has been assessed it is given a quality rating, as shown below.

*Table 4.5: Performance Quality Standard assessment ratings*

Quality rating	Details
Premier (High)	Where the surface is intended for Premier League play, with those within the top quartile capable of holding national counties and 1st class one day matches. May include some of the better schools and university pitches.
Club (Standard)	A Club pitch suitable for league, school and junior cricket.
Basic	An acceptable level suitable for recreational cricket and where the surface is designed and maintained within tight financial limitations such as local authorities.
Unsuitable	This is where the surface is deemed unfit or unsafe for play.

Clubs can contact the ECB to arrange for a Grounds Management Association (GMA) pitch advisor to undertake a Performance Quality Standard assessment. Clubs can choose from three different reports (comprehensive/mini/verbal) that vary in cost. A fully comprehensive report includes soil testing and guidance on machinery and corrective procedures, a mini report includes guidance on machinery and corrective procedures and a verbal report is a spoken version of a mini report.

### **Ancillary facilities**

The extent of ancillary facilities required differs between times of play. For example, senior teams playing at weekends typically need to access clubhouse and kitchen facilities to provide teas, whereas this is often not required for junior and short format senior matches, where the need is more for access to suitable changing and/or toilet facilities.

Quality and access to required match day and preparatory facilities across the District is varied, with clubs playing at privately managed or sports club sites generally better served than those playing at community managed provision.

Ancillary facility rating is primarily influenced by the type and quality of amenities which are available on a site, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, showering provision, car parking, dedicated umpire, spectator facilities and boundary fencing. Provision of high quality ancillary facilities is a key aspect of the ECB's Inspiring Generations Strategy, to meet the expectations of the core participation base as well as key growth markets such as women and girls, South Asian and BAME communities and All Stars and Dynamos cricket (detailed later in the section).



## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

The audit of ancillary facilities at available grass pitch cricket sites determines that five squares (26%) are accompanied by good quality provision, seven squares (37%) accompanied by standard quality provision and seven squares (37%) having poor quality supporting ancillary provision.

Table 4.6: Changing room quality (at sites with used natural turf squares)

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of squares	Quality
4	Alconbury Weald Cricket Pitch	Huntingdon	1	Good
5	Alconbury Sports and Social Club	West	1	Standard
6	Bluntisham Village Hall & Recreation Ground	St. Ives	1	Good
7	Brampton Memorial Playing Field	Huntingdon	1	Good
11	Buckden Recreation Ground	St. Neots	1	Poor
21	Eaton Socon Cricket Club	St. Neots	1	Standard
33	Godmanchester Town Cricket Club	Huntingdon	1	Standard
40	Greenfields	North West	1	Poor
44	Hemingford Pavilion	St. Ives	1	Poor
49	Houghton and Wyton Playing Field	St. Ives	1	Standard
54	Kimbolton Cricket Club	West	1	Standard
59	King George V Playing Fields (St Peters Road)	Huntingdon	1	Poor
67	Mill Field	St. Ives	1	Good
74	One Leisure St Ives Outdoor	St. Ives	1	Standard
85	Ramsey Cricket Club	North East	1	Good
114	Warboys Sports Field	North East	1	Poor
115	Waresley Cricket Club	St. Neots	1	Standard
144	Upwood Cricket Club	North East	2	Poor

Sawtry Parish Council is currently overseeing the update of the pavilion at Greenfields. The clubhouse has become out of date in recent years and both the football and cricket sections of the sports club have voiced their concerns. The Parish Council is currently drafting plans for the development, with views to complete the upgrade in the next two years.

Table 4.7: Poor quality changing room comments

Site ID	Site	Comments
11	Buckden Recreation Ground	Buckden CC and Buckden FC aspire to complete a refurbishment of the changing facilities on site.
40	Greenfields	Sawtry Parish Council is currently developing plans for the development of the pavilion onsite, with views to complete the upgrade in the next two years.
44	Hemingford Pavilion	Facilities are outdated and require small scale updates to improve.
59	King George V Playing Fields (St Peters Road)	Huntingdon & District CC reports that all aspects of the ancillary provision onsite is poor quality. There is a need for a full update of the clubhouse/pavilion.
114	Warboys Sports Field	The facilities require an upgrade, due to the changing facilities being too small. The facilities are planned for an upgrade due to Warboys FC requiring to improvements to cater for progression up the NLS.
144	Upwood Cricket Club	Upwood CC reports that the changing room and toilet facilities in clubhouse are of a poor quality, there is a

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Comments
		need to make improvements to these to ensure that the quality of facilities is increased.

### **Training facilities**

Access to cricket nets is important, particularly for pre-season/winter training. Clubs access both indoor and outdoor provision before the season commences. During the cricket season, outdoor training provision supplies most of the use.

There are several club/community available sites which do not have dedicated fixed net provision. In this case the club's generally make use of mobile nets, these are used for practice utilising both/either of an NTP or grass practise wickets on the respective squares.

*Table 4.8: Summary of current fixed net training facilities*

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Training facility	Quality
6	Bluntisham Village Hall & Recreation Ground	St. Ives	2x lane facility	Good
21	Eaton Socon Cricket Club	St. Neots	2x lane facility	Good
33	Godmanchester Town Cricket Club	Huntingdon	2x lane facility	Standard
39	Great Staughton Playing Fields	West	1x lane facility	Poor
49	Houghton and Wyton Playing Field	St. Ives	2x lane facility	Poor
54	Kimbolton Cricket Club	West	2x lane facility	Standard
59	King George V Playing Fields (St Peters Road)	Huntingdon	2x lane facility	Poor
67	Mill Field	St. Ives	2x lane facility	Standard
74	One Leisure St Ives Outdoor	St. Ives	3x lane facility	Standard
85	Ramsey Cricket Club	North East	2x lane facility	Good
114	Warboys Sports Field	North East	2x lane facility	Standard
115	Waresley Cricket Club	St. Neots	2x lane facility	Standard
144	Upwood Cricket Club	North East	2x lane facility	Good

Houghton & Wyton CC reports that its current fixed net facility at Houghton and Wyton Playing Field is aging having been built in 2003. The Club has submitted a grant application for nets groundwork with investment required in the matting due to the quality due to age and holes which are starting to form due to heavy use.

Kimbolton CC currently has a two net facility of standard quality. It suggests that it has demand for more and aspires to have additional net facilities installed onsite.

In addition, a further seven clubs (St Ives & Warboys CC, Buckden CC, Huntingdon & District CC, Upwood CC, Eaton Socon CC, Little Paxton CC, Falcon XI CC) identified through consultation that they have demand for additional training facilities. However, the seven clubs did not identify exactly what they require, it is likely that facilities such as mobile nets would be required for clubs which already has fixed net facilities.

### **4.3: Demand**

Traditionally, the English cricket season runs between late march and early/mid-September each year. There are 20 cricket clubs playing in affiliated leagues in Huntingdonshire.

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Across the 20 clubs there are 109 teams which access pitch provision in Huntingdonshire, made up of 47 senior men's, one senior women's, 60 junior boy's teams and one junior girls' team.

Table 4.9: Summary of competitive cricket club demand

Club name	Analysis area	No. of competitive teams			
		Senior men	Senior women	Junior boys	Junior girls
Alconbury CC	West	-	-	3	-
Bluntisham CC	St. Ives	3	-	1	-
Brampton CC	Huntingdon	1	-	-	-
Buckden CC	St. Neots	3	-	1	-
Eaton Socon CC	St. Neots	4	-	6	-
Falcon XI CC	North West	3	-	-	-
Godmanchester Town CC	Huntingdon	3	-	6	-
Hemingford Park CC	St. Ives	2	-	4	-
Holme CC	North West	2	-	-	-
Houghton and Wyton CC	St. Ives	1	-	2	-
Huntingdon & District CC	Huntingdon	3	-	1	-
Kimbolton CC	West	3	-	7	-
LGR XI CC	Huntingdon	1	-	-	-
Little Paxton CC	St. Neots	1	-	3	-
Needingworth CC	St Ives	2	-	-	-
Ramsey CC	North East	3	-	4	-
Sawtry CC	North West	2	-	4	-
St Ives & Warboys CC	North East/St Ives	5	-	6	-
Upwood CC	North East	3	-	6	-
Waresley CC	St. Neots	2	1	6	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>47</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>1</b>

The largest club playing in the District is St Ives & Warboys CC which has a total of 11 teams.

Most teams play in St Neots Analysis Area which accommodates 28 teams (26%), whilst the North West Analysis Area accommodates the least number of teams with 10 (9%).

LGR XI CC plays a small number of its home matches at King George V Playing Fields (St Peters Road). It also accesses venues outside of the District in Peterborough for all its other matches throughout the season. The Club is considered nomadic having no permanent home ground. Although when playing within the District the Club is based at King George V Playing Fields (St Peters Road), this site is home for Huntingdon & District CC which accommodates two Saturday teams, which rules out any expansion of teams within the District at this site for LGR XI CC, which currently uses the site on the small number of Saturdays Huntingdon & District CC does not access the site. The Club has recently been in contact with HDC around the potential of the developing an NTP onsite at Sapley Park Playing Fields, this would support both training and match play. It also suggests that in the future it would aspire to have a grass square onsite.

Table 4.10: Summary of competitive cricket teams by analysis area

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Analysis area	Number of teams				
	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys'	Junior girls'	Total
Huntingdon	8	-	7	-	15
North East	9	-	13	-	22
North West	6	-	4	-	10
St. Ives	10	-	10	-	20
St. Neots	10	1	16	1	28
West	4	-	10	-	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>109</b>

In addition to affiliated competitive demand, some clubs operate ECB initiatives such as All Stars, Dynamos and Softball cricket as detailed below.

### *All Stars cricket*

In partnership with the ECB and Chance to Shine cricket clubs in Huntingdonshire can register to become an ECB All Stars Cricket Centre. Once registered, a club can deliver the programme which aims to introduce cricket to children aged from five to eight. Subsequently, this may lead to increased interest and demand for junior cricket at clubs. The programme seeks to achieve the following aims:

- ◀ Increase cricket activity for five to eight year olds in the school and club environment
- ◀ Develop consistency of message in both settings to aid transition
- ◀ Improve generic movement skills for children, using cricket as the vehicle
- ◀ Make it easier for new volunteers to support and deliver in the club environment
- ◀ Use fun small sided games to enthuse new children and volunteers to follow and play the game.

### *Dynamos cricket*

A key development area for the ECB in delivering on the outcomes of 'Inspiring Generations' will be the Dynamos programme for 8-11 year olds which originally aimed to launch in 2020. It plans on building on the significant growth of the All Stars Cricket programme for 5-8 year olds and will develop the pathway to retain juniors progressing from All Stars into Dynamos.

Where All Stars seeks to engage children in cricket activity and learning the skills, Dynamos seeks to engage children in learning how to play, introducing a modified soft ball format as competitive progression with a view to eventual transition through to hardball cricket. The programme will be strongly linked to The Hundred.

### *Softball cricket*

Softball is an ECB initiative aimed at women and girls to increase participation in cricket as a sport. The aim of softball cricket sections is enjoyment and participation, without pads, a hardball, a heavy bat and limited rules. Sessions are played on the outfield and follow a festival format with each session running for a maximum of two and half hours, shorter than traditional formats. Huntingdonshire CC reports running women's softball cricket.

### *Summary*

It should be noted that All Stars, Dynamos and Softball cricket generally takes place on the cricket outfields rather than the actual squares. Although this does not impact the carrying capacity of the square it does influence the accessibility of the squares as whilst the outfield

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is in use the main square cannot be used to accommodate fixtures. Therefore, this may limit the potential spare capacity whilst these activities are taking place, generally on midweek evenings or Sunday mornings.

The table below summarises sites and clubs which are involved in All Stars and Dynamos and the participation figures for 2022.

Table 4.11: Summary of Huntingdonshire All Stars and Dynamos participation

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Club/organisation	All Stars	2022 sign ups	Dynamos	2022 sign ups
6	Bluntisham Village Hall & Recreation Ground	St. Ives	Bluntisham CC	✓	25	-	0
21	Eaton Socon Cricket Club	St. Neots	Eaton Socon CC	✓	40	-	0
33	Godmanchester Town Cricket Club	Huntingdon	Godmanchester Town CC	✓	32	✓	32
40	Greenfields	North West	Sawtry CC	✓	<i>Unknown</i>	-	0
49	Houghton and Wyton Playing Field	St Ives	Houghton & Wyton CC	✓	33	✓	33
54	Kimbolton Cricket Club	West	Kimbolton CC	✓	40	✓	20
79	Queen Elizabeth II Recreation Ground (Little Paxton)	St Neots	Little Paxton CC	✓	15	-	0
114	Warboys Sports Field	North East	St Ives & Warboys CC	✓	20	-	0
115	Waresley Cricket Club	St Neots	Waresley CC	✓	40	-	0
<b>Total</b>				<b>All Stars</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>Dynamos</b>	<b>85</b>

### **Additional users**

In addition to club demand, Huntingdonshire CCC (men's & women's), Huntingdonshire Cricket Board Age Groups and Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Overs 60s/70s make use of multiple sites across the District. The sites are namely, Ramsey Cricket Club, Upwood cricket Club, Waresley Cricket Club, Houghton and Wyton Playing Field, Eaton Socon Cricket Club, Buckden Recreation Ground, Godmanchester Town Cricket Club and Alconbury Sports and Social Club.

This supplementary demand has been factored into the supply and demand analysis which follows.

### **Imported demand**

Imported demand refers to teams that are currently accessing pitches for home fixtures within the District however are based in neighbouring authorities, in this case to meet facility needs which are not able to be met due to insufficient quality or access.

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At present just one Club AK XI CC historically a Nomadic club based in Peterborough access Alconbury Sports and Social Club for nine Saturday fixtures.

### **Exported demand**

Exported demand refers to teams that are currently accessing pitches for home fixtures outside of the District, in this case to meet facility needs which are not able to be met due to insufficient quality or access.

There is no recorded exported demand for cricket in Huntingdonshire.

### **Latent/unmet demand**

Latent demand is demand which is perceived to exist but is not presently realised, whereas unmet demand is demand which is known to exist but similarly is not able to be realised, in this case due to lack of access to or poor quality of facilities.

There is no recorded latent or unmet demand for cricket in Huntingdonshire.

### **Future demand**

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and using population forecasts.

#### *Population forecasts*

Team generation rates (TGRs) are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (2036) based on population growth.

*Table 4.12: Team generation rates based on population growth (2036)*

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate <sup>17</sup>	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams (2036)	Additional teams generated from increased population
Senior Mens (18-55)	42,407	47	1:902	42,721	47	0
Senior Womens (18-55)	41,912	1	1:41912	40,509	1	0
Junior Boys (7-18)	12,678	60	1:211	11,784	56	0
Junior Girls (7-18)	11,890	1	1:11890	11,255	1	0

When team generation rates are applied across Huntingdonshire, based exclusively on population change there is no forecasted growth across the authority. Although there is some increase across the formats, there is no full team predicated with the increase expected to join existing squads.

It is likely that increases in participation at other age groups will join part of existing squads at established clubs.

It is important to acknowledge that whilst team generation rates project team growth as a factor of population and existing teams, there are plans and strategies to increase the number of teams at some formats beyond what current trends suggest, due to a desire to change such

<sup>17</sup> TGR figures are rounded to the lowest whole number, i.e. the nearest whole team.

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trends. For example, TGRs do not take into consideration the aforementioned ECB initiatives such as All Stars, Dynamos or Women's Softball. These are all likely to contribute to growth above levels shown through team generation rates.

The ECB has also recently announced new five-year media rights deals, from 2020-2024. The new deals include a continuation of the ECB relationship with Sky Sports, now extending beyond broadcasting as a genuine partnership to secure significant investment and commitment to increase participation and drive engagement. The new deals also include a return to free to air television for live cricket, with the BBC to show coverage of some international and domestic matches.

Such context may result in increased future demand. Significant investment in participation and increased free to air media coverage could see future demand increase to levels in excess of those anticipated through the PPOSS and the impact should therefore be reviewed over coming years.

### *Participation increases*

Of the responding clubs, eight indicate aspirations to increase levels of participation through the creation of new teams.

Sawtry CC aspires to add an additional senior Saturday men's, senior women's and junior boys' team. The Club currently share its pitch at Greenfields on Saturday with Falcon XI CC Second Eleven, which suggests that if Sawtry CC add a second team on a Saturday then Falcon XI CC would have to relocate. However, with Sawtry CC currently going through the asset transfer of the pitch at Alconbury Weald Cricket Pitch this would allow Falcon XI CC to have exclusive use of Greenfields.

Huntingdon & District CC aspires to add a senior Saturday men's and senior women's team. The Club currently has two senior Saturday teams and therefore if it adds another team on a Saturday it would have to find an alternative home ground for this team.

Upwood CC aspires to develop a women's and girls' section. The Club plans on adding a senior women's and a junior girls' team as a base for the project, with plans to further develop the section in the coming years.

Houghton & Wyton CC aspires to add additional teams at senior women's and junior girls. The Club is looking to continue its growth, with an emphasis on women's and girls' cricket.

Kimbolton CC has an extensive junior section, with multiple teams across teams from U9-U15. The Club aspires to add an additional junior team at Under 17s to continue the growth and bridge the gap further from junior to senior cricket.

Eaton Socon CC is one of the larger clubs in the District, operating teams across senior men's and junior boys' formats. The Club aspires to add an additional senior Saturday men's team and states that it has the membership to facilitate this, however, finding a ground to play Saturday home matches at is the current issue.

Little Paxton CC continues to look to grow both its senior and junior section. It is looking to add an additional senior Saturday men's team and one junior boys' team in the near future. Its NTP at Queen Elizabeth II Recreation Ground (Little Paxton), has capacity to cater for demand for both additional teams.

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Ramsey CC looks to add additional teams at all formats. It is looking to add one senior Saturday men's teams and one junior boys' team, whilst it aspires to establish a women's and girls' section, starting with a senior women's team.

### *Future demand summary*

As population growth, does not identify a full team when broken down by analysis area, the future demand total is taken from club aspirational demand. This equates to four senior men's teams, five senior women's teams, five junior boys' teams and six junior girls' teams.

All these clubs have demand for use of grass squares, with a further senior men's team and junior boys' team at Little Paxton CC playing on an NTP at its home site at Queen Elizabeth II Recreation Ground (Little Paxton).

Together, significant investment in participation and increased free to air media coverage could see future demand increase to levels in excess of those anticipated through the PPOSS and the impact should therefore be reviewed over coming years.

### **Peak time demand**

An analysis of match play identifies peak time demand for cricket across three distinct time periods which are Saturdays, Sundays and Midweek (Monday to Friday).

Saturday is classified as peak time for senior men's cricket across Huntingdonshire where, at present, 31 teams play.

However, Sunday also accommodates for both senior men's cricket and senior women's match play whether this is hardball or softball and some junior matches. On Sunday's there is demand for ten men's senior and one senior women's team. Whilst junior teams generally access pitches on Sunday mornings, this does not affect the availability of squares for senior cricket which is played in the afternoon. In Huntingdonshire, there are 21 junior teams reported to have demand on Sunday mornings.

Midweek is when most junior matches are played, as well as all club training and ECB initiatives All Stars and Dynamos cricket typically take place. In total there is 40 junior teams and six senior midweek teams which have demand for midweek play.

### **4.4: Capacity analysis**

Capacity analysis for cricket is measured on a seasonal rather than a weekly basis. This is due to playability (as only one match is generally played per pitch per day at weekends or weekday evening) and because wickets are rotated throughout the season to reduce wear and tear and to allow for repair.

The capacity of a square to accommodate matches is driven by the number and quality of wickets. This section of the report presents the current pitch stock available for cricket and illustrates the number of competitive matches per season per square. For good quality squares, capacity is considered to be five matches per wicket per season, whilst for a standard quality square, capacity is four matches per wicket per season. For poor quality squares, no capacity is considered to exist as such provision is not safe for play.

The number of matches played by each team has been derived from consultation with the clubs. Where consultation was not possible, the assumption has been made that all senior teams play ten home matches per year and all junior teams play five matches per year depending on their age and level of competition.



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The above is used to allocate capacity ratings as follows:

<b>Potential capacity</b>	Play is below the level the site could sustain
<b>At capacity</b>	Play matches the level the site can sustain
<b>Overplayed</b>	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain

Please note that non-turf wickets have been discounted from the table overleaf. No non-turf wicket squares are recorded as accommodating more than 60 matches per season, therefore, all non-turf wickets are considered to have spare capacity. This translates to actual spare capacity for junior cricket as peak time is midweek, whereby non-turf wickets are more commonly used and matches can be played on a variety of days.

The capacity analysis assumes that all clubs rotate their wickets evenly. However, this may not be the case at all sites, with central wickets potentially used more commonly than outer wickets that are closer to a boundary, especially for senior matches. The idea is to showcase what the capacity is or could be if best practice is followed for the whole square, rather than doing it on a wicket-by-wicket basis.

### ***Spare capacity***

The table below explains the difference between the potential spare capacity referenced in Table 4:14 in the final three columns (Saturday, Sunday and Midweek).

*Table 4.13: Spare capacity examples*

<b>Potential spare capacity in peak period (examples)</b>	<b>Explanation of spare capacity</b>
<b>No</b>	Means the pitch is played to capacity within this peak period and therefore cannot accommodate any further demand.
<b>Yes</b>	Not highlighted, it means there is spare capacity to accommodate further demand within this designated peak period however this is discounted due to the pitch already being in full use at the time, played to capacity or being overplayed so it cannot accommodate any additional demand.
<b>Yes</b>	Highlighted in green, it means there is actual available spare capacity within this peak period which can be utilised.

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Table 4.14: Capacity of natural turf cricket squares (available for community use)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Users	Security of tenure	No. of squares	Pitch quality	No. of grass wickets	Match equivalent sessions per season			Potential spare capacity/ availability for Saturday cricket	Potential spare capacity/ availability for Sunday cricket	Potential spare capacity/ availability for midweek cricket
								Capacity	Current use	Capacity balance			
4	Alconbury Weald Cricket Pitch	Huntingdon	Sawtry CC	Secure	1	Standard	9	36	18	18	Yes	Yes	Yes
5	Alconbury Sports and Social Club	West	Alconbury CC Falcon XI CC	Secure	1	Standard	9	36	31 <sup>18</sup>	5	No	Yes	Yes
6	Bluntisham Village Hall & Recreation Ground	St. Ives	Bluntisham CC	Secure	1	Good	14	70	24	46	No	Yes	Yes
7	Brampton Memorial Playing Field	Huntingdon	Brampton CC	Secure	1	Standard	7	28	7	21	Yes	Yes	Yes
11	Buckden Recreation Ground	St. Neots	Buckden CC Huntingdonshire/Cambridgeshire CCC	Secure	1	Standard	9	36	26 <sup>19</sup>	10	No	Yes	Yes
21	Eaton Socon Cricket Club	St. Neots	Eaton Socon CC Huntingdonshire/Cambridgeshire CCC	Secure	1	Good	14	70	64 <sup>20</sup>	6	No	Yes	Yes
33	Godmanchester Town Cricket Club	Huntingdon	Godmanchester Town CC Huntingdonshire/Cambridgeshire CCC	Secure	1	Good	12	60	54 <sup>21</sup>	6	No	Yes	Yes
40	Greenfields	North West	Sawtry CC Falcon XI CC	Secure	1	Standard	11	44	26	18	No	Yes	Yes
44	Hemingford Pavilion	St. Ives	Hemingford Park CC	Secure	1	Standard	9	36	23	13	Yes	Yes	Yes
49	Houghton and Wyton Playing Field	St. Ives	Houghton & Wyton CC	Secure	1	Standard	6	24	18 <sup>22</sup>	6	Yes	Yes	Yes
54	Kimbolton Cricket Club	West	Kimbolton CC	Secure	1	Good	13	68	65	3	No	Yes	Yes
59	King George V Playing Fields (St Peters Road)	Huntingdon	Huntingdon & District CC	Secure	1	Standard	14	56	27	29	No	Yes	Yes
67	Mill Field	St Ives	Needingworth CC	Secure	1	Standard	8	17	32	15	No	Yes	Yes
74	One Leisure St Ives Outdoor	St. Ives	St Ives and Warboys CC	Secure	1	Good	14	70	31	39	No	Yes	Yes
85	Ramsey Cricket Club	North East	Ramsey CC Huntingdonshire/Cambridgeshire CCC	Secure	1	Good	10	50	59 <sup>23</sup>	9	No	Yes	Yes
114	Warboys Sports Field	North East	St Ives and Warboys CC	Secure	1	Good	11	55	28	27	No	Yes	Yes
115	Waresley Cricket Club	St. Neots	Waresley CC Huntingdonshire/Cambridgeshire CCC	Secure	1	Standard	14	56	62 <sup>24</sup>	6	No	Yes	Yes
144	Upwood Cricket Club	North East	Upwood CC Huntingdonshire/Cambridgeshire CCC	Secure	1	Good	7	35	33 <sup>25</sup>	2	No	Yes	Yes
					1		5 (Junior square)	25	32	7	-	-	Yes

<sup>18</sup> One MES added for use by Huntingdonshire/Cambridgeshire CCC

<sup>19</sup> Two MES added for use by Huntingdonshire/Cambridgeshire CCC

<sup>20</sup> Four MES added for use by Huntingdonshire/Cambridgeshire CCC

<sup>21</sup> One MES added for use by Huntingdonshire/Cambridgeshire CCC

<sup>22</sup> Two MES added for use by Huntingdonshire/Cambridgeshire CCC

<sup>23</sup> 12 MES added for use by Huntingdonshire/Cambridgeshire CCC

<sup>24</sup> Four MES added for use by Huntingdonshire/Cambridgeshire CCC

<sup>25</sup> Eight MES added for use by Huntingdonshire/Cambridgeshire CCC

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## ***Saturday cricket spare capacity***

A square is only considered to have actual spare capacity if it is available for further usage. For senior men's cricket, peak time is Saturday as this is when most demand exists. As only one match can be played on each square per day, only two Saturday teams can be assigned to play home matches on one square (based on matches being played on an alternate home and away basis). As such, if a square has two Saturday teams already playing home fixtures on it, no actual spare capacity is perceived to exist for additional senior usage. If one or no teams are playing on a square on a Saturday, and it has overall capacity, actual spare capacity for senior demand is generally identified.

Notwithstanding the above, there may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as actual spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular training sessions, or to protect the quality of the site. As such, no sites that are over, at, or close to capacity are considered to have actual spare capacity. In Huntingdonshire Saturday teams playing at a higher standard play around 11-12 home fixtures per season, whilst the smaller village clubs play around 7-8 home fixtures per season. This totals an average of ten matches per season and therefore, a square will be deemed to actual spare capacity if it meets all requirements and has 10 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity.

There is actual spare capacity to accommodate additional match play demand on Saturdays in Huntingdonshire as detailed below in Table 4.14.

*Table 4.15: Sites with actual spare capacity to accommodate senior Saturday cricket*

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Squares	Actual spare capacity	No of teams which could be accommodated
4	Alconbury Weald Cricket Pitch	Huntingdon	1	10	1
7	Brampton Memorial Playing Field	Huntingdon	1	10	1
44	Hemingford Pavilion	St. Ives	1	10	1
<b>Total</b>			<b>3</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>3</b>

## ***Sunday cricket - spare capacity***

Like Saturday cricket, a square on a Sunday is only considered to have actual spare capacity if it is available for further usage. As only one match can be played on each square per day, only two Sunday teams can be assigned to play home matches on one square (based on matches being played on an alternate home and away basis). As such, if a square has two Sunday teams already playing home fixtures on it, no actual spare capacity is perceived to exist for additional senior usage. If one or no teams are playing on a square on a Sunday, and it has overall capacity of 10 match equivalent sessions or more, actual spare capacity for senior demand is generally identified.

Access to the square on a Sunday can be influenced by women and girls' softball activity on the outfield, meaning the square cannot be used whilst the outfield is in use.

There is actual spare capacity to accommodate additional match play demand on Sundays in Huntingdonshire as detailed below in Table 4.16.

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Table 4.16: Sites with actual spare capacity to accommodate senior Sunday cricket

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Squares	Actual spare capacity	No of teams which could be accommodated
4	Alconbury Weald Cricket Pitch	Huntingdon	1	10	1
6	Bluntisham Village Hall & Recreation Ground	St. Ives	1	20	2
7	Brampton Memorial Playing Field	Huntingdon	1	20	2
11	Buckden Recreation Ground	St. Neots	1	10	1
40	Greenfields	North West	1	10	1
44	Hemingford Pavilion	St. Ives	1	10	1
59	King George V Playing Fields (St Peters Road)	Huntingdon	1	10	1
67	Mill Field	St Ives	1	10	1
74	One Leisure St Ives Outdoor	St. Ives	1	20	2
114	Warboys Sports Field	North East	1	10	1
<b>Total</b>			<b>10</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>13</b>

### **Midweek cricket - spare capacity**

For midweek cricket, most squares with spare capacity have actual spare capacity for an increase in demand. This is because usually most of the demand is from junior matches which are generally played during midweek, where matches can be spread across numerous days, meaning capacity is not limited to two teams. Moreover, the presence of junior wickets at certain sites, as well as NTPs, provide further capacity that is generally not available to senior demand.

For a square to have actual spare capacity for junior cricket, it must not be poor quality, have secure tenure, not be overplayed and have at least five match equivalent sessions per season of spare capacity, the average number of home matches an additional junior team would play.

Furthermore, a square is not considered to have capacity for an increase in demand if it is already used by six midweek teams or more, as availability is then assumed to be limited. On average, clubs are able to play junior fixtures on three nights per week, with other nights reserved for other activity such as square remediation/preparation, training activity or All Stars and Dynamos cricket Activity.

There is actual spare capacity to accommodate additional match play demand during the midweek for Junior cricket in Huntingdonshire as detailed below in Table 4.17.

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Table 4.17: Sites with actual spare capacity to accommodate junior midweek cricket

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Squares	Actual spare capacity	No of teams which could be accommodated
4	Alconbury Weald Cricket Pitch	Huntingdon	1	5	1
5	Alconbury Sports and Social Club	West	1	5	1
6	Bluntisham Village Hall & Recreation Ground	St. Ives	1	5	1
7	Brampton Memorial Playing Field	Huntingdon	1	5	1
11	Buckden Recreation Ground	St. Neots	1	5	1
21	Eaton Socon Cricket Club	St. Neots	1	5	1
33	Godmanchester Town Cricket Club	Huntingdon	1	5	1
40	Greenfields	North West	1	5	1
44	Hemingford Pavilion	St. Ives	1	5	1
49	Houghton and Wyton Playing Field	St. Ives	1	5	1
59	King George V Playing Fields (St Peters Road)	Huntingdon	1	5	1
67	Mill Field	St Ives	1	5	1
74	One Leisure St Ives Outdoor	St. Ives	1	5	1
114	Warboys Sports Field	North East	1	5	1
<b>Total</b>			<b>14</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>14</b>

### Overplay

There are four sites in Huntingdonshire overplayed for senior cricket by a total of 25 match equivalent sessions per season. Of the five analysis areas, there is currently overplay in the West, North East and St Neots analysis areas. The North East Analysis Area has the most overplay (16 match equivalent sessions per season).

Three of the squares with overplay are good quality and are overplayed due to high levels of use. Whilst Waresley Cricket Club is standard quality and increase in quality would help to alleviate the overplay.

Table 4.18: Summary of overplay

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Number of squares	Overplay (matches per season)
54	Kimbolton Cricket Club	West	1	3
85	Ramsey Cricket Club	North East	1	9
115	Waresley Cricket Club	St. Neots	1	6
144	Upwood Cricket Club	North East	1 (Junior square)	7
<b>Total</b>			<b>4</b>	<b>25</b>

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## 4.5: Supply and demand analysis

### **Saturday cricket - capacity balance**

The following tables look at actual spare capacity against overplay.

Actual spare capacity is converted from squares to match equivalent sessions per season, calculated by using the average number of home matches played per season by senior teams (10) multiplied by the number of additional teams that can be fielded at peak time (one team per 0.5 squares that are available).

The entirety of spare capacity available at each site is not used as this number of matches may not be able to be accommodated at peak time (the maximum amount of spare capacity that can be accommodated on one square at peak time is 20 match equivalent sessions).

*Table 4.19: Capacity balance of grass cricket squares for Saturday cricket*

Analysis area	Demand (match sessions per season)				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Huntingdon	20	-	20	10	10
North East	-	9	9	10	19
North West	-	-	0	10	10
St. Ives	10	-	10	-	10
St. Neots	-	6	6	10	16
West	-	3	3	-	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>28</b>

There is currently actual spare capacity of 12 match equivalent sessions per season across Huntingdonshire. However, there are current shortfalls in the North East, West and St Neots analysis areas.

When future demand is added, there is an overall shortfall across Huntingdonshire of 28 match equivalent sessions per season. With future demand, shortfalls become evident in the North West Analysis Area with shortfalls in the North East and St Neots analysis areas worsening.

### **Sunday cricket - capacity balance**

Actual spare capacity is converted from squares to match equivalent sessions per season. This is calculated by using the average number of home matches played per season by senior Sunday teams (10) multiplied by the number of additional teams that can be fielded at peak time (one team per 0.5 squares that are available).

The entirety of spare capacity available at each site is not used as this number of matches may not be able to be accommodated at peak time (the maximum amount of spare capacity that can be accommodated on one square on Sunday afternoons is 20 match equivalent sessions).

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Table 4.20: Capacity balance of grass cricket squares for Sunday cricket

Analysis area	Demand (match sessions per season)				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Huntingdon	40	-	40	10	30
North East	10	9	1	20	19
North West	10	-	10	10	0
St. Ives	60	-	60	10	50
St. Neots	10	6	4	-	4
West	-	3	3	-	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>62</b>

There is currently actual spare capacity of 112 match equivalent sessions per season across Huntingdonshire. There are current shortfalls in the West Analysis Area.

When future demand is added, actual spare capacity remains across Huntingdonshire with 62 match equivalent sessions available. However, future demand in the North East Analysis Area would produce a shortfall in this analysis area, whilst future demand in the North West Analysis Area would make pitches played to capacity.

### Midweek cricket (junior) - capacity balance

Actual spare capacity is converted from squares to match equivalent sessions per season. This is calculated by using the average number of home matches played per season by junior teams (five) multiplied by the number of additional teams that can be fielded at peak time (one team per 0.5 squares that are available).

Table 4.21: Capacity balance of grass cricket squares for midweek junior cricket (junior wickets)

Analysis area	Demand (match sessions per season)				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Huntingdon	20	-	20	-	20
North East	5	16	11	10	21
North West	5	-	5	5	0
St. Ives	25	-	25	5	20
St. Neots	10	6	4	5	1
West	5	3	2	5	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>15</b>

There is currently actual spare capacity of 45 match equivalent sessions per season across Huntingdonshire. However, there is a current shortfall in the North East Analysis Area.

When future demand is added, there remains actual spare capacity of 15 match equivalent sessions per season. With future demand, shortfalls becoming evident in the St Neots and West analysis areas with shortfalls in the North East Analysis Area worsening.

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## 4.6: Conclusion

Overall, there is currently sufficient capacity of natural turf cricket squares to meet current demand for club cricket at a District wide level.

*Table 4.22: Capacity balance of grass cricket squares summary*

Analysis area	Demand (match sessions per season)				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Saturday	30	18	12	40	28
Sunday	130	18	112	50	62
Midweek	70	25	45	30	15

When future demand is accounted for there are shortfalls for senior Saturday cricket. There would remain sufficient capacity for senior Sunday cricket and junior midweek cricket.



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### Summary – Cricket

- ◀ Overall, there is currently sufficient capacity of natural turf cricket squares to meet current demand for club cricket at a District wide level.
- ◀ When future demand is accounted for there are shortfalls for both senior Saturday cricket. Whilst there remains sufficient capacity for senior Sunday cricket and Midweek.

### Supply

- ◀ There are 21 grass wicket squares in Huntingdonshire located across 20 sites, of which, 19 are available for community use.
- ◀ In Huntingdonshire, there is seven NTPs which accompanies a grass wicket square, as well as 12 standalone NTPs.
- ◀ The majority of clubs in Huntingdonshire are considered to have secure tenure at their home venues through either ownership (four clubs), long-term leasehold (four clubs), annual rent agreements from HDC/Parish Council Sports Field Trusts (four clubs) or Pending asset transfer (one club).
- ◀ Of the 19 squares available for community use, nine grass squares are rated as good quality (47%) and ten are rated as standard quality (55%), there are no poor quality available squares in the District.

### Demand

- ◀ Across the 20 clubs there are 109 teams which access pitch provision in Huntingdonshire, made up of 47 senior men's, one senior women's, 60 junior boy's teams and one junior girls' team.
- ◀ In addition to club demand, Huntingdonshire County Cricket Club, Huntingdonshire Cricket Board Age Groups and Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Overs 60s/70s make use of multiple sites across the District. The sites are namely, Ramsey Cricket Club, Upwood cricket Club, Waresley Cricket Club, Houghton and Wyton Playing Field, Eaton Socon Cricket Club, Buckden Recreation Ground, Godmanchester Town Cricket Club and Alconbury Sports and Social Club.
- ◀ Future demand was taken from club aspirational demand. This equates to four senior men's teams, five senior women's teams, five junior boys' teams and six junior girls' teams. All these clubs have demand for use of grass squares, with a further senior men's team and junior boys' team at Little Paxton CC playing on an NTP at its home site at Queen Elizabeth II Recreation Ground (Little Paxton).

### Capacity

- ◀ There is actual spare capacity to accommodate additional match play demand on Saturdays in Huntingdonshire at Alconbury Weald Cricket Pitch, Brampton Memorial Playing Field and Hemingford Pavilion.
- ◀ There is actual spare capacity to accommodate additional match play demand on Sundays in Huntingdonshire at Alconbury Weald Cricket Pitch, Alconbury Sports and Social Club, Brampton Memorial Playing Field, Buckden Recreation Ground, Mill Field, Greenfields, Hemingford Pavilion, King George V Playing Fields (St Peters Road), One Leisure St Ives Outdoor and Warboys Sports Field.
- ◀ There is actual spare capacity at Alconbury Weald Cricket Pitch, Alconbury Sports and Social Club, Brampton Memorial Playing Field, Buckden Recreation Ground, Eaton Socon Cricket Club, Godmanchester Town Cricket Club, Greenfields, Mill Field, Hemingford Pavilion, King George V Playing Fields (St Peters Road), One Leisure St Ives Outdoor and Warboys Sports Field to accommodate additional use during the week for midweek cricket.
- ◀ There are four sites in Huntingdonshire considered to be overplayed by a total of 25 match equivalent sessions per season.

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## PART 5: RUGBY UNION PITCHES

### 5.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is the national governing body for rugby union. It is split into six areas across the Country with a workforce team that covers development, coaching, governance and competitions, Huntingdonshire falls into the midlands region. A full-time development officer is responsible for Huntingdonshire (as part of the wider region) and works closely with all clubs to maximise their potential. This work involves developing club structures, working towards the RFU accreditation (Clubmark) and the development of school-club structures.

The rugby union playing season operates from September to May.

#### **Consultation**

There are three rugby union clubs based in Huntingdonshire, all of which were responsive to consultation attempts. Consultation was undertaken via a mix of face to face meeting and telephone calls.

*Table 5.1: Summary of consultation*

Club name	Responded?
Huntingdon & District RFC	Yes
St Ives RUFC	Yes
St Neots RUFC	Yes

#### **Peterborough RUFC**

Peterborough RUFC is located just north of the Huntingdonshire District border. Due to close proximity to the Huntingdonshire border and lack of formal rugby club settings in the North of Huntingdonshire it is likely, although unquantifiable to what extent, that residents from the North West and North East analysis areas travel across the border to play for Peterborough RUFC. Details of this club have not been included within this study as to what extent it accommodates for Huntingdonshire residents is unknown.

### 5.2: Supply

There is a total of 16 rugby union pitches identified in Huntingdonshire. Of these, 13 are available for community use. Which total 9 senior pitches, one junior pitch and three mini pitches. All unavailable pitches are located at education and MOD sites.

*Table 5.2: Supply of rugby union pitches by analysis area*

Analysis area	Number of pitches	% of provision
Huntingdon	4	25%
North East	-	0%
North West	-	0%
St. Ives	4	25%
St. Neots	8	50%
West	-	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>100%</b>

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Most provision is in the St Neots Analysis Area where a total of eight pitches are identified (this includes pitches which are unavailable for community use) which represents 50% of overall provision. There is no rugby union provision located in either the North West, North East or West analysis areas.

A site by site breakdown of identified provision can be found in the table below.

*Table 5.3: Supply of rugby union pitches*

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Community accessible?	No. of senior pitches	No. of junior pitches	No. of mini pitches
45	Hinchingbrooke School	Huntingdon	Yes	1	-	-
50	Huntingdon and District RFC	Huntingdon	Yes	3	-	-
64	Longsands Academy	St. Neots	No	1	1	-
83	RAF Wyton	St. Ives	No	1	-	-
95	St Ives Rugby Union Football Club	St. Ives	Yes	3	-	-
99	St Neots Rugby Club	St. Neots	Yes	2	1	3

Traditionally, mini and junior rugby takes place on over marked senior pitches and this largely the case across Huntingdonshire with mini and junior teams from most clubs accessing senior pitches for both training and competitive matches, apart from at St Neots Rugby Club where dedicated mini pitches are marked.

The audit only identifies dedicated, line marked pitches. For rugby union pitch dimension sizes please see the table below.

*Table 5.4: Pitch dimensions*

Team type (ages)	Team reference	Maximum pitch dimensions (metres) <sup>26</sup>
Under 8	Mini	45 x 22
Under 9	Mini	60 x 30
Under 10	Mini	60 x 35
Under 11	Mini	60 x 43
Under 12	Mini	60 x 43
Under 13	Junior	90 x 60 (60 x 43 for girls)
Under 14-16	Junior	100 x 70 <sup>27</sup>
Under 17+	Senior	100 x 70

### **Future supply**

Huntingdon & District RFC is exploring opportunities to relocate from its current home site at Huntingdon & District RFC (based at Huntingdon Race Course) to within the Alconbury Weald development. The agreement which the Club currently has at Huntingdon & District RFC, is that of a rental agreement with Huntingdon Race Course and therefore it has no security of tenure on the site, relocating within the Alconbury Weald Development would give the Club secure tenure, enabling it to develop facilities in line with the growth of the Club.

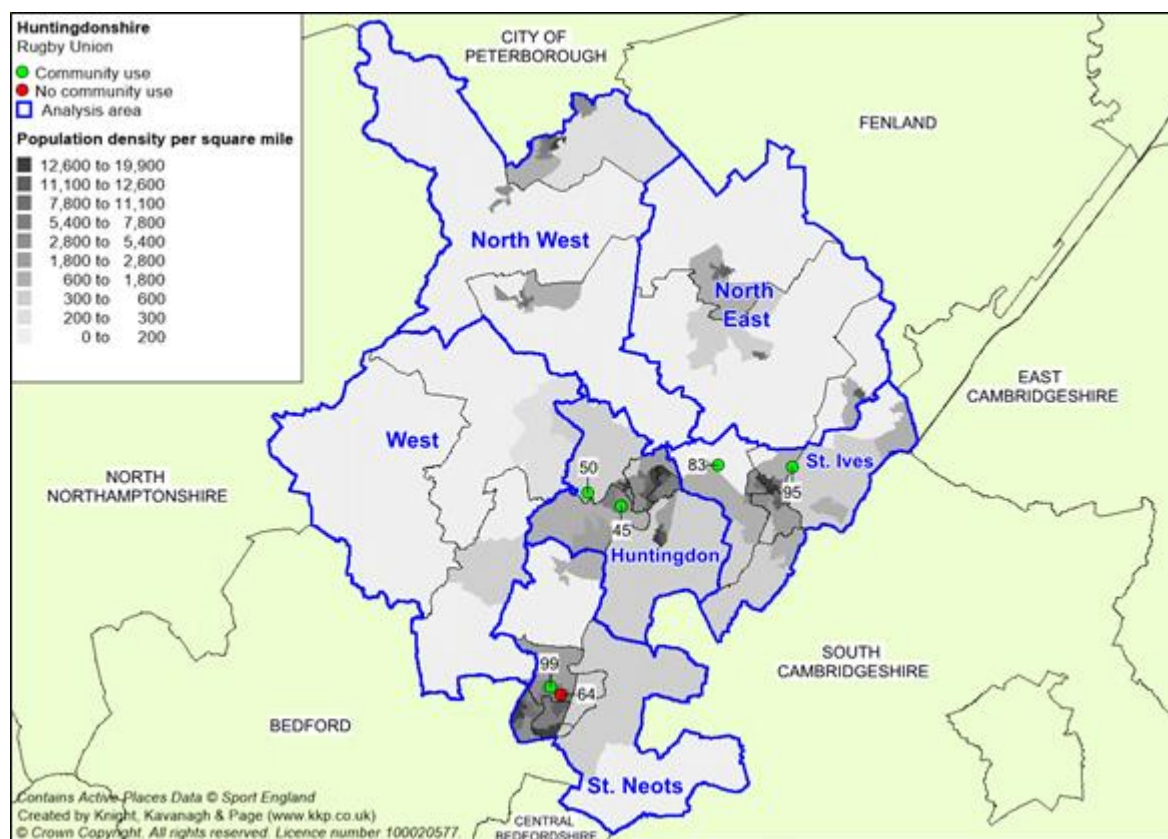
<sup>26</sup> Recommended run off area for all pitch types requires five metres each way and a minimum in-goal length of six metres.

<sup>27</sup> Minimum dimensions of 94 x 68 metres are acceptable.

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The exact supply of new provision at Alconbury Weald or whether the sports pitches onsite will be rugby union are currently undecided however the Club and RFU are in talks with the developers.

Figure 5.1: Rugby union pitches (community use only)



## Security of tenure

Security of tenure refers to the rights of occupation on playing field and infrastructure. Clubs and stakeholders are generally fall into the bracket of owner-occupier, tenant or licensee. The table below identifies the current tenure position of each rugby union club based on information collated during consultation.

Table 5.5: Rugby union clubs security of tenure

Club	Tenure arrangement	Secure?
Huntingdon & District RFC	Rental agreement of site from Huntingdon Racecourse/Jockey Club.	No
St Ives RUFC	50 year lease from private landowner signed in 2019.	Yes
St Neots RUFC	40 year lease from common right committee signed in 2013.	Yes

Huntingdonshire & District RFC rents pitch provision on a per season basis from Huntingdon Racecourse/Jockey Club which currently owns the pitches and clubhouse.

Whilst unlikely to occur, theoretically the Club could be asked to vacate the site in the future with little notice at the discretion of Huntingdon Racecourse/Jockey Club.

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St Ives RUFC has recently renewed its lease on its home site from a private landowner for 50 years, which sees the current agreement conclude in 2069. The Club is considered to have secure tenure.

St Neots RUFC recently signed a 40 year lease which back dated to 2013, with it having a long-term lease until 2053. The Club is considered to have secure tenure.

### **Pitch quality**

The quality of rugby pitches has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by RFU) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

The methodology for assessing rugby pitch quality looks at two key elements: the maintenance programme and the level of drainage on each pitch. An overall quality based on both drainage and maintenance can then be generated. The agreed rating for each pitch type also represents actions required to improve pitch quality. A breakdown of actions required based on the ratings can be seen below:

*Table 5.6: Definition of maintenance categories*

Category	Definition
M0	Action is significant improvements to maintenance programme
M1	Action is minor improvements to maintenance programme
M2	Action is no improvements to maintenance programme

*Table 5.6: Definition of drainage categories*

Category	Definition
D0	Action is pipe drainage system is needed on pitch
D1	Action is pipe drainage is needed on pitch
D2	Action is slit drainage is needed on pitch
D3	No action is needed on pitch drainage

*Table 5.7: Quality ratings based on maintenance and drainage scores*

		Maintenance		
		Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)
Drainage	Natural Inadequate (D0)	Poor	Poor	Standard
	Natural Adequate (D1)	Poor	Standard	Good
	Pipe Drained (D2)	Standard	Standard	Good
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	Standard	Good	Good

The figures are based upon a pipe drained system at 5m centres that has been installed in the last eight years and a slit drained system at 1m centres that has been installed in the last five years.

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Based on the above criteria, there are eight standard quality and five poor quality pitches at sites which are available for community use. Of these, all poor quality pitches are located at either club or school sites which through consultation were identified as receiving basic maintenance.

Pitches which are unavailable at Longsands Academy (these are identified in Table 4.2) are both poor quality. Local schools have intensive rugby union programmes and pitches are maintained to high standards to ensure each pitch has a high capacity for student demand.

Please refer to Table 5.8 overleaf for a breakdown of pitch quality.

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Table 5.8: Site quality ratings at rugby union sites

Site ID	Site name	Club	Analysis area	Number of grass pitches	Community Use	Sports lighting	Pitch type	Non-technical assessment score	Quality rating
45	Hinchingbrooke School	-	Huntingdon	1	Yes	No	Senior	M0/D1	Poor
50	Huntingdon and District RFC	Huntingdon & District RFC	Huntingdon	3	Yes	No	Senior	M0/D1	Poor
64	Longsands Academy	-	St. Neots	2	No	No	Senior	M0/D1	Poor
83	RAF Wyton	-	St. Ives	1	No	No	Senior	M1/D1	Standard
95	St Ives Rugby Union Football Club	St Ives RUFC	St. Ives	1	Yes	Yes	Senior	M1/D2	Standard
				1		No		M1/D1	
				1				M1/D0	Poor
99	St Neots Rugby Club	St Neots RUFC	St. Neots	2	Yes	No	Senior	M1/D1	Standard
				1			Junior		
				3			Mini		

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### **Ancillary facilities**

The term ancillary facility relates to built facility infrastructures at sites. Typically, this includes (but is not limited to) clubhouses, changing rooms, showers, carparking and toilet facilities.

The table below summarises the position of each rugby club which was responsive to consultation. It highlights current issues and long term requirements.

*Table 5.9: Ancillary provision feedback*

<b>Site</b>	<b>Club</b>	<b>Ancillary position</b>
Huntingdon and District RFC	Huntingdon & District RFC	Ancillary provision has recently undergone internal development due to effects from recent flooding. The facilities cannot currently cater for any women and girls' demand. If the Club does not relocate to the Alconbury Weald development, it plans to establish a long-term lease on its current site and develop a purpose built clubhouse on stilts and built into the banking at the further part of the site away from the river.
St Ives Rugby Union Football Club	St Ives RUFC	No issues raised with ancillary provision during consultation, with all ancillary facilities considered to be of good quality.
St Neots Rugby Club	St Neots RUFC	Consultation states the on-site facilities at the site are of standard quality. The Club highlights that the facilities are outdated and need an update. It aspires to redevelop the clubhouse improving the kitchen and changing facilities, whilst also updating and improving disabled access.

### **Sports lighting**

Of the 14 community available pitches, only one has sports lighting at St Ives Rugby Union Football Club. It should be noted, however, that both St Neots Rugby Club and St Ives Rugby Union Football Club both have dedicated training areas with sports lighting, which support the majority of both clubs training throughout the week.

Huntingdon & District RFC has portable sports lighting which is able to light up small areas for training throughout the week, however due to being a renting tenant on its site is unable to explore the opportunity to have full sports lighting on one of its pitches.

St Neots RUFC reports that it aspires to develop additional sports lighting at St Neots Rugby Club on its training area to extend this space for midweek training demand.

### **5.3: Demand**

Demand for rugby pitches in Huntingdonshire tends to fall within the categories of organised competitive play and organised training.

The rugby union playing season operates from September to May.

### **Competitive play**

There are three rugby union clubs in Huntingdonshire which in total generate demand equating to 43 teams. As a breakdown, this consists of eight senior men's teams, one senior women's



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team, three colts' boys' team, 10 junior boys' teams, three junior girls' teams and 18 mini teams.

A table summarising club demand is below.

*Table 5.10: Demand summary*

Club	Senior men's	Senior women's	Colt boys (U17/U18)	Colt girls (U17/U18)	Junior boys U16-U13)	Junior girls (U16-U13)	Minis (U12-U6)
Huntingdon & District RFC	3	-	-	-	4	-	6
St Ives RUFC	3	-	1	-	2	2	6
St Neots RUFC	2	1	2	-	4	1	6

### **Training demand**

Throughout the Country, many rugby teams train at their home ground on match pitches. As a result, usage is concentrated which reduces the capacity for match play on these pitches and means they are more likely to be overplayed. A key factor in determining the extent of training on match pitches is the presence of sports lighting. However, locally, training on match pitches only takes place at St Ives RUFC as the remaining clubs have dedicated training areas.

Full details of each of the clubs training schedules are detailed in the table below.

*Table 5.11: Training demand summary*

Club	Midweek training requirements	Match equivalent sessions (MES)
Huntingdon & District RFC	Two training sessions per week for a total of 2.5 hours predominantly made up of player from 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> senior teams. Training sessions mixed between second and third senior pitch, with use of portable sports lighting Junior training on junior and mini pitches onsite on second and third pitches on Sunday mornings.	2 MES per week (Senior training)
St Ives RUFC	Two training sessions per week predominantly made up of player from 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> senior teams. Training sessions take place across main pitch with sports lighting and small training area with sports lighting. Junior training based across all pitches (including training pitch) apart from main pitch onsite.	2 MES per week (Senior training)
St Neots RUFC	Two training sessions per week predominantly made up of player from 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> senior teams. All sessions on training pitch with sports lighting on site. Junior training on Junior and Mini pitches onsite on Sunday mornings.	2 MES per week (Senior training)

### **World Rugby compliant pitches**

To enable 3G pitches to accommodate competitive rugby union matches, World Rugby has developed the Rugby Turf Performance Specification.

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This is to ensure that the surfaces replicate the playing qualities of good quality grass pitches, provide a playing environment that will not increase the risk of injury and are of an adequate durability.

The specification includes a rigorous test programme that assesses ball/surface interaction and player/surface interaction and has been modified to align the standard with that of FIFA. Any 3G pitch used for any form of competitive rugby must comply with this specification and must be tested every two years to retain compliance.

There is one 3G pitch at One Leisure St Neots with a shock pad, which has been tested and is currently on the WR Reg 22 register, with the compliance due for retesting in April 2024.

### ***Use of artificial pitches***

Nationally, clubs identify the use of 3G pitches for training as a method of protecting the match pitches and providing a high quality surface for full contact practice. Competitive play continues to take place on grass pitches for the most part, with ad hoc use of 3G pitches for fixtures in the case of unsuitable pitches due to waterlogging or frost. Further detail on use of 3G pitches can be found in Part 3: Third Generation Artificial Pitches.

As mentioned, there is one 3G pitches in Huntingdonshire, which is WR Compliant. This is based at One Leisure St Neots. The pitch is actively used to support midweek training for football clubs and recreational football, with no present use for Rugby Union. However, it is highlighted through consultation that St Ives RUFC use the non-WR compliant pitch at One Leisure Ramsey for one hour a week from 7-8pm on Thursdays throughout the winter months, to protect its grass pitches. The training is non-contact with no contact rugby permitted on this surface.

### ***Touch rugby***

To actively encourage participation in rugby union clubs may provide alternative offers to traditional club competition. Touch rugby is one possible format which clubs can use; touch rugby is non-contact rugby sessions, during which participants compete in teams to score tries, following similar laws to traditional rugby union formats. Clubs, schools or community organisation can establish their own touch rugby sessions or can become hosts of Touch Union rugby sessions.

Touch Union rugby are 90 minutes long and combine music, fitness and rugby skills. Sessions are mixed in terms of gender, ability and age and is based on touch rugby being a social activity. There are presently no Touch Union sessions in Huntingdonshire, with the closest session being run from Cambridge University RFC (Cambridge).

### ***Walking rugby***

Walking rugby is a slower game of touch rugby that is accessible for disability groups and older participants, generally aged 55 years and above. The game is less physical than traditional rugby, but the general aim remains the same, with passing and scoring laws applying; and tackling involves a two-handed touch to the waist or below. Sessions for over 55's are an opportunity for participants to become physically active and for others to re-engage with rugby at a less strenuous pace. At present there is just one formal walking rugby session at St Neots Rugby Club on Tuesday evenings from 6-7pm.

### ***Exported/imported demand***

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Exported demand refers to existing demand which is transferred outside of the study area; whilst imported demand refers to any demand from neighbouring local authorities that accesses facilities in Huntingdonshire due to a lack of available facilities in other local authorities where such team or club is based.

At present, there is no imported demand into Huntingdonshire. There is no formally recognised exported demand out of the District, however it is likely that individuals from the North West and North East analysis areas cross the border into Peterborough to make use of facilities at Peterborough RUFC. This is mainly due to the close proximity to the boundary, with the three Huntingdonshire clubs being based further south within the District.

### ***Unmet/latent demand***

Unmet demand is existing demand at clubs which is not able to access sufficient supply of pitches for match play or training. It is usually expressed, for example, where a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch or where a league or club operates a waiting list. Consultation did not highlight any potential unmet demand.

Latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. Due to lack of ancillary facilities at Huntingdon and District RFC, the Club reports being unable to facilitate a women's and girls' section, with aspirations to establish a women's and two junior girls' teams once facilities allow in the future.

### ***Future demand***

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and using population forecasts.

#### *Participation increases*

Clubs were asked if they aspire to increase the current number of teams they provide. Of the responsive clubs, all had future demand aspirations. This equates to one senior men's team, one senior women's team (St Neots RUFC) and one junior girls' teams (St Ives RUFC). Although Huntingdon & District RFC aspires to establish women's and girl's teams these have currently been quantified as unmet demand due to the Club being unable to cater for the demand due to lack of female facilities.

#### *Population increases*

Team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth (2036).

*Table 5.12: Team generation rates (2036)*

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Mens (19-45)	28,319	8	3540	29,121	8	0
Senior Womens (19-45)	27,825	1	27825	27,007	1	0
Junior Boys (13-18)	6,064	13	466	6,003	13	0
Junior Girls (13-18)	5,597	3	1866	5,611	3	0

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Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Mini Mixed (7-12)	12,907	18	717	11,425	16	0

Based on future projections, there is not a forecasted growth at any specific age range locally in Huntingdonshire. It is important to note that population growth is exclusively applied to current team numbers and does not account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as coaching activity within schools linking to local clubs or specific RFU targets, such as women's and girls' participation.

The RFU is focused on actively exploring opportunities to assist with the transition between late junior years and senior rugby with a specific focus on growing the senior game with the addition of adult teams (both men's and women's). This area has a strategic focus from the RFU and is being facilitated by encouraging casual play and midweek senior matches, along with Touch Union and cross pitch 7s. The RFU recognises the traditional reduction in participation numbers at this time and it is hoped that by addressing the decrease and offering alternative match times then clubs may be able to retain a larger number of players.

### *Future demand summary*

On balance, there is not anticipated to be any future growth in the number of rugby union teams provided in through population growth, therefore, future growth is based upon the club aspirational growth which equates to one senior men's team, one senior women's and one junior girls team.

The Strategy Report will contain a housing growth scenario that will estimate the additional demand for rugby union arising from housing development.

### **5.4: Capacity analysis**

The capacity for pitches to regularly accommodate competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of playing rugby. In extreme circumstances, it can result in the inability of a pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times.

To enable an accurate supply and demand assessment of rugby pitches, the following assumptions are applied to site by site analysis:

- ◀ All sites that are used for competitive rugby matches (regardless of whether this is secured community use) are included on the supply side
- ◀ Use of school pitches by schools increases demand by one match equivalent session, unless school activity levels are known
- ◀ All competitive play is on senior sized pitches (except for where mini pitches are provided).
- ◀ From Under 13 upwards, teams play 15 v15 and use a full pitch
- ◀ Mini teams (Under 6-Under 12) play on half of a senior pitch i.e. two teams per senior pitch or a dedicated mini pitch
- ◀ For senior and youth teams the current level of play per week is set at 0.5 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis (assumes half of matches will be played away)

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- ◀ For mini teams playing on a senior pitch, play per week is set at 0.25 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis and playing across half of one senior pitch
- ◀ Senior men's rugby generally takes place on Saturday afternoons
- ◀ Senior women's rugby generally takes place on Sunday afternoons
- ◀ Junior rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings
- ◀ Mini rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings
- ◀ Training that takes place on club pitches is reflected by the addition of match equivalent sessions per week to current usage levels

As a guide, the RFU has set a standard number of matches that each pitch should be able to accommodate, set out below.

Table 5.13: Summary of rugby pitch carrying capacity

	Match equivalent sessions per week		
	Maintenance score		
Drainage score	M0 - Poor	M1 - Adequate	M2 - Good
D0 - Natural Inadequate	0.5	1.5	2
D1 - Natural Adequate or Pipe Drained	1.5	2	3
D2 - Pipe Drained	1.75	2.5	3.25
D3 - Pipe and Slit Drained	2	3	3.5

Carrying capacity is based upon a basic assessment of the drainage system and maintenance programme ascertained through a combination of the quality assessment and consultation. This guide, however, is only a very general measure of potential pitch capacity. It does not account for specific circumstances at time of use and it assumes average rainfall and an appropriate end of season rest and renovation programme.

Table 5.14: Key to capacity balance

Capacity balance in peak period (examples)	Explanation of capacity balance
1	Highlighted in green with a number denotes that the pitches have potential spare capacity.
0	Highlighted in orange with a zero, this indicates the pitch is played to capacity over the course of the week.
1	Highlighted in red with a number denotes that the pitches are overplayed and have no spare capacity across the week. This includes at peak time, despite any availability at peak time which may exist.

### Peak times for pitch use

To fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established. Peak time for men's rugby union matches is Saturday afternoons. Peak time for mini and junior activity is Sunday mornings, with most play taking place on senior pitches. Peak time for women's rugby union matches is Sunday afternoons.

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Table 5.15: Capacity table for rugby union pitches

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Security of tenure	Number of pitches	Pitch type	Non-tech score	Quality rating	Sports lighting	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch Capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Comments	
45	Hinchingbrooke School	Huntingdon	Yes - unused	Unsecure	1	Senior	M0/D1	Poor	No	1	1.5	0.5	Pitch has potential spare capacity.	
50	Huntingdon and District RFC	Huntingdon	Yes	Unsecure	1 <sup>28</sup>	Senior	M0/D1	Poor	No (portable sports lights used for training)	1.5	1.5	0	Pitch is played to capacity. This is from competitive match play demand from Huntingdon & District RFC.	
					2					7.5	3	4.5	Pitch is overplayed by 4.5 match equivalent sessions. This is from training and junior match play demand from Huntingdon & District RFC.	
64	Longsands Academy	St. Neots	No	Unsecure	2	Senior	M0/D1	Poor	No	1	3	2	Pitch is unavailable for community use.	
83	RAF Wyton	St. Ives	No	Unsecure	1	Senior	M1/D1	Standard	No	1	2	1	Pitch is unavailable for community use.	
95	St Ives Rugby Union Football Club	St. Ives	Yes	Secure	1	Senior	M1/D2	Standard	Yes	3	2.5	0.5	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions. This is from competitive match and training demand from St Ives RUFC.	
					1		M1/D1			No	3	2	1	Pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent sessions. This is from competitive match and training demand from St Ives RUFC.
					1		M1/D0			Poor	2.5	1.5	1	Pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent sessions. This is from competitive match and training demand from St Ives RUFC.
99	St Neots Rugby Club	St. Neots	Yes	Secure	2	Senior	M1/D1	Standard	No	4.5	4	0.5	Pitches are overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions. This is from competitive and training demand from St Neots RUFC.	
					1					Junior	2.5	2	0.5	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions. This is from competitive and training demand from St Neots RUFC.
					3					Mini	3	6	3	Pitch has potential spare capacity.

<sup>28</sup> Main 1<sup>st</sup> team pitch

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### **Actual spare capacity**

The next step is to ascertain whether or not any identified 'potential capacity' can be deemed 'actual capacity'. There may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

Although two sites have some potential spare capacity (two match sessions per week), any team which was to play at Hinchingsbrooke School would be considered to have unsecure tenure and therefore any potential spare capacity has been discounted. Whilst the three mini pitches at St Neots Rugby Club are currently played to capacity at peak time (Sunday mornings) and cannot support any further teams.

*Table 5.16: Actual spare capacity at rugby union grass pitch sites*

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Number of pitches	Pitch type	Pitch quality	Capacity balance	Actual spare capacity
45	Hinchingsbrooke School	Huntingdon	1	Senior	M0 / D1 (Poor)	1	-
99	St Neots Rugby Club	St. Neots	3	Mini	M1 / D1 (Standard)	3	-

### **Overplay**

There are eight pitches overplayed across three sites by a total of eight match equivalent sessions per week. Overplay is due to both limited carrying capacity of poor quality pitches and high levels of demand for rugby union activity. There is concentrated use of grass pitches with sports lighting for training, with these pitches receiving additional use to others because their sports lighting facilitates greater accessible hours for training use.

*Table 5.17: Summary of overplay at rugby union grass pitch sites*

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Number of pitches	Pitch type	Pitch quality	Capacity balance
50	Huntingdon and District RFC	Huntingdon	2	Senior	M0 / D1 (Poor)	4.5
95	St Ives Rugby Union Football Club	St. Ives	3	Senior	1x M1/D2 1x M1/D1 (Standard) 1x M1/D0 (Poor)	2.5
99	St Neots Rugby Club	St. Neots	2	Senior	M1/D1 (Standard)	0.5
			1	Junior		0.5

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## 5.4: Supply and demand analysis

### Senior rugby union pitches

Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify the overall spare capacity in each of the analysis areas for senior rugby union pitches based on match equivalent sessions per week.

Future demand totals one senior men's team at St Neots RUFC in the St Neots Analysis Area at peak time on Saturday afternoons and one junior girls' team at St Ives RUFC in the St Ives Analysis Area. Unmet demand for junior girls' rugby at Huntingdon & District RFC on Sunday mornings of two teams has also been included.

Table 5.18: Summary of supply and demand balance on senior rugby union pitches (Saturdays PM peak time)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity <sup>29</sup>	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Huntingdon	-	4.5	4.5	-	4.5
North East	-	0	0	-	0
North West	-	0	0	-	0
St. Ives	-	2.5	2.5	-	2.5
St. Neots	-	0.5	0.5	0.5	1
West	-	0	0	-	0
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>7</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>8</b>

Overall, there is a current shortfall of 7.5 match equivalent sessions per week on senior rugby union pitches to meet current demand. This is further exacerbated when considering future demand, resulting in a future shortfall of eight match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 5.18: Summary of supply and demand balance on senior rugby union pitches (Sunday peak time AM)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity <sup>30</sup>	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future/unmet demand	Future total
Huntingdon	-	4.5	4.5	1	5.5
North East	-	0	0	-	0
North West	-	0	0	-	0
St. Ives	-	2.5	2.5	0.5	3
St. Neots	-	0.5	0.5	0.5	1
West	-	0	0	-	0
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>7.5</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9.5</b>

Overall, there is a current shortfall of 7.5 match equivalent sessions per week on senior rugby union pitches to meet current demand. This is further exacerbated when considering future and unmet demand for women's and junior rugby, resulting in a future shortfall of 9.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

<sup>29</sup> In match equivalent sessions per week

<sup>30</sup> In match equivalent sessions per week



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### *Mini rugby union pitches*

At present in Huntingdonshire the three mini pitches at St Neots Rugby Club have potential spare capacity, however, are played to capacity at peak time. Current demand can be met; however, any future demand would be unable to be catered for on dedicated mini pitches.

Therefore, it is likely that any future demand on for mini rugby across the District is likely to be catered for on senior rugby union pitches, which would see further shortfalls across this pitch type.

### **5.5: Conclusions**

Overall, based on the supply and demand analysis it is evident that there is an insufficient supply of provision in Huntingdonshire to accommodate for both current and anticipated future levels of demand for rugby union.

The priority for rugby union in Huntingdonshire is to ensure maintenance programmes are enhanced across club settings to improve quality of pitches to alleviate the overplay across senior pitches.

### Summary – Rugby union

- ◀ There is an insufficient supply of provision in Huntingdonshire to accommodate for both current and anticipated future levels of demand for rugby union.
- ◀ The priority for rugby union in Huntingdonshire is to ensure maintenance programmes are enhanced across club settings to improve quality of pitches to alleviate the overplay across senior pitches.

### Supply

- ◀ There is a total of 16 rugby union pitches identified in Huntingdonshire. Of these, 13 are available for community use. Which total 9 senior pitches, one junior pitch and three mini pitches. All unavailable pitches are located at education and MOD sites.
- ◀ There is one 3G pitch at One Leisure St Neots which is on the WR compliant register. St Ives RUFC make use of the non-WR compliant 3G pitch at One Leisure Ramsey for non contact training.
- ◀ All sites used by rugby union clubs in the District are managed by the respective rugby union clubs. St Ives RUFC and St Neots RUFC have long-term lease agreements at their respective sites. Whilst Huntingdon & District RFC FC has a rental agreement from Huntingdon Racecourse/Jockey Club on its site, therefore the club is considered to have unsecure tenure.

### Quality

- ◀ Most available rugby union pitches (eight of 13 pitches – 62%) are rated as standard quality. Whilst five (38%) are of poor quality. No pitches in the District are rated as good quality.
- ◀ All available pitches are reported to have adequate natural drainage, with no issues with general drainage of pitches.

### Demand

- ◀ There are three affiliated rugby union clubs based and playing within the District, identified as fielding a total of 43 affiliated teams.
- ◀ Community club training typically takes place on grass pitch provision with sports lighting, with some use of the non-World Rugby compliant 3G pitch at One Leisure Ramsey.
- ◀ Future demand from club growth aspirations is considered to amount to two teams (one senior men's, one junior girls'), requiring additional match play capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week on senior pitches and 0.5 match equivalent session per week on junior/senior pitches. This increase in demand may also require increased capacity for training on pitches with sports lighting.

### Capacity

- ◀ None of the five available pitches are considered to have any actual spare capacity to accommodate additional demand.
- ◀ There are eight pitches overplayed across three sites by a total of eight match equivalent sessions per week.

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### PART 6: HOCKEY

#### 6.1: Introduction

Hockey in England is governed by England Hockey (EH) and is administered locally by the Huntingdonshire Hockey Association. Competitive league hockey matches and training can only be played on sand filled, sand dressed or water based artificial grass pitches (AGPs). Although competitive, adult and junior club training cannot take place on third generation turf pitches (3G), 40mm pitches may be suitable at introductory level, such as school curriculum low level hockey. EH's Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy details suitability of surface type for varying levels of hockey, as shown below.

Table 6.1: England Hockey guidelines on artificial surface types suitable for hockey

Category	Surface	Playing Level	Playing Level
England Hockey Category 1	Water surface approved within the FIH Global/National Parameters	<b>Essential</b> International Hockey - Training and matches	<b>Desirable</b> Domestic National Premier competition Higher levels of EH Player Pathway Performance Centres and upwards England
England Hockey Category 2	Sand dressed surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	<b>Essential</b> Domestic National Premier competition Higher levels of player pathway: Academy Centres and Upwards	<b>Desirable</b> All adult and junior League Hockey Intermediate or advanced School Hockey EH competitions for clubs and schools (excluding domestic national league)
England Hockey Category 3	Sand based surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	<b>Essential</b> All adult and junior club training and league Hockey EH competitions for clubs and schools Intermediate or advanced schools hockey	<b>Desirable</b>
England Hockey Category 4	All 3G surfaces	<b>Essential</b> None	<b>Desirable</b> Lower level hockey (Introductory level) when no category 1-3 surface is available.

In addition to the above pitch types England Hockey reports it is currently trialling a different multi-sport surface in order to better accommodate lower levels of hockey demand and other sports such as netball and tennis. The surface type known as Gen 2<sup>31</sup> is a versatile surface that will ensure sports do not need to compromise on the playing experience. It will be a sand dressed synthetic turf with a compatible shock pad. The concept is designed to provide facilities, including schools, with a dynamic surface which reduces the amount of space required and utilised provision to full potential.

<sup>31</sup> <http://www.englishockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2596&sectionTitle=Gen+2+Playing+Surface>

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For senior teams, a full size pitch for competitive matches must measure at least 91.4 x 55 metres excluding surrounding run off areas which must be a minimum of two metres at the sides & three metres at the ends. England Hockey preference is for four metre side and five metre end run offs, with a preferred overall area of 101.4 x 63 metres though a minimum overall area of 97.4 x 59 metres is accepted.

It is considered that a hockey pitch can accommodate a maximum of four matches on one day (peak time) provided that the pitch has sports lighting. Training is generally midweek and requires access to a pitch and sports lights.

### **Club consultation**

There are three hockey clubs in Huntingdonshire; Huntingdon Hockey Club, St Ives Hockey Club and St Neots Hockey Club. Of the three clubs, two responded to consultation request, resulting in a 67% response rate.

*Table 6.2: Summary of consultation*

Club name	Responded?
Huntingdon Hockey Club	Yes
St Ives Hockey Club	Yes
St Neots Hockey Club	No

It should be noted that Huntingdon HC is currently exporting demand to Northstowe Secondary College (South Cambridgeshire) due to being unable to gain access to a suitable AGP in the District. The Club was consulted with to understand its current position and whether it plans to relocate back into Huntingdonshire.

### **6.2: Supply**

There is a total of five hockey suitable artificial grass pitches in Huntingdonshire located across four sites, only two of which are available for community use. There are also four small sided pitches identified across four sites, similarly to full size pitches only two of the pitches are available for community use.

*Table 6.3: Summary of full size hockey suitable AGPs*

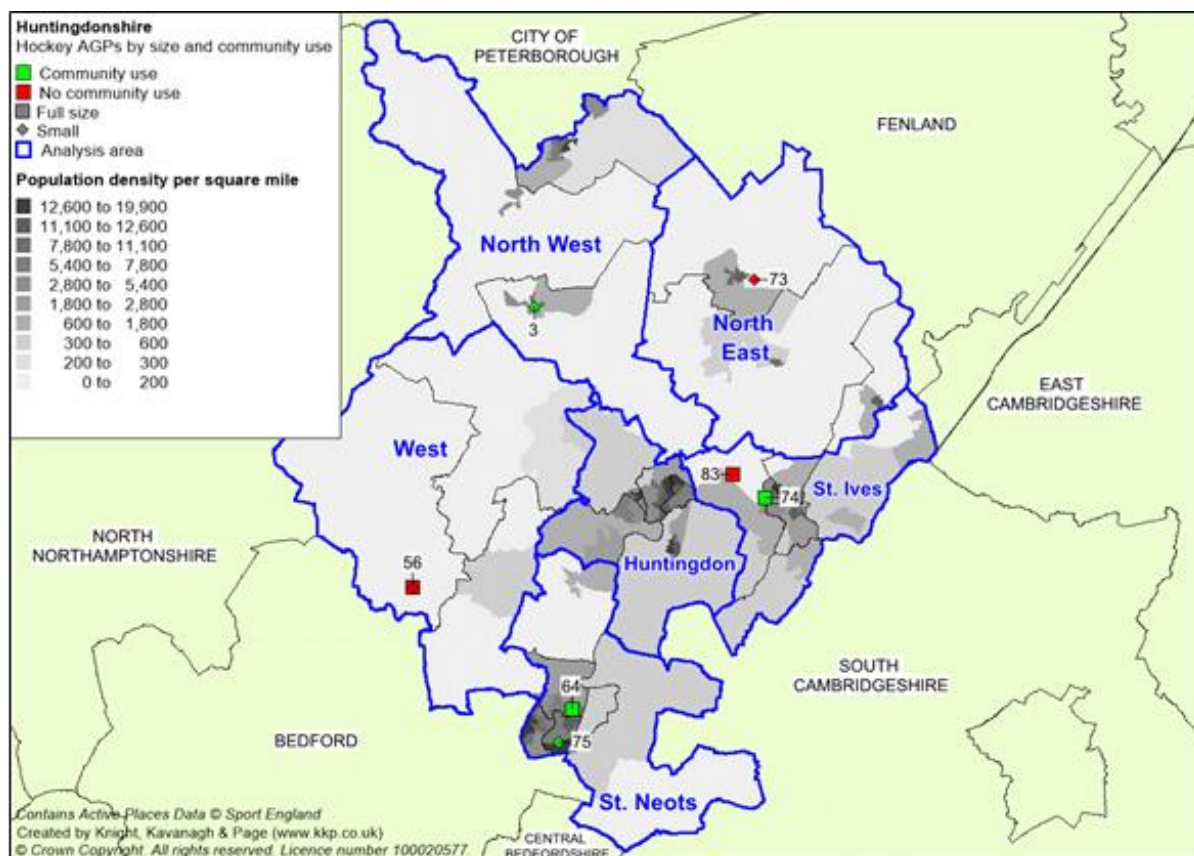
Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use	Size (metres)	Sports lighting	Number of pitches
56	Kimbolton School	West	No	97 x 60m	Yes	1
			No	100 x 60m	No	1
64	Longsands Academy	St. Neots	Yes	100 x 60m	Yes	1
74	One Leisure St Ives Outdoor	St. Ives	Yes	100 x 60m	Yes	1
83	RAF Wyton	St. Ives	No	100 x 60m	Yes	1

*Table 6.4: Summary of small sided hockey suitable AGPs*

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use	Size (metres)	Sports lighting	Number of pitches
1	Abbey College	North East	No	50 x 35m	Yes	1
3	Academy Leisure Sawtry	North West	Yes	48 x 35m	Yes	1
56	Kimbolton School	West	No	61 x 32m	No	1
75	One Leisure St Neots	St. Neots	Yes	48 x 35m	Yes	1

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Figure 6.1: Location of AGPs in Huntingdonshire



## Future supply

As part of the Alconbury Weald development it is proposed that an artificial grass pitch will be developed as part of the secondary school development. At present it has not been agreed whether this surface will be a hockey suitable AGP or 3G surface. In addition to the above St Peter's School has also engaged in conversation with EH around the potential of developing a full size sand based AGP onsite. However, EH suggests that at present the School does not have enough funds to support this development.

## Management and security of tenure

Of the two community available full size hockey suitable AGPs, the pitch at St Ives Outdoor is operated via the Council's leisure provider, One Leisure. Whilst the pitch at Longsands Academy is managed internally by the respective school.

Of the three pitches unavailable for community use two are located at Kimbolton School and are managed inhouse by the School, whilst the pitch at RAF Wyton is within an MOD site and therefore managed by the MOD.

St Ives HC has security of tenure as the pitch is within the Huntingdonshire One Leisure sports pitch portfolio and therefore the clubs use of this pitch is considered to be secure.

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St Neots HC is considered to have unsecure tenure on the AGP at Longsands Academy due to the pitch being managed inhouse by the School. This is due to schools, academies and universities being able to state their own policies and therefore more likely to restrict levels of community use. This may be due to schools wanting to protect pitch quality for curricular or extracurricular activities or not having the resources available to open us their site for community access.

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### Availability

The table below summarises usage levels of the full size AGP provision in Huntingdonshire based on booking sheets supplied by the operators. This is compared against availability at peak time, using Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM). This applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours per week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00). This totals 18 hours midweek and 16 hours on a weekend.

Table 6.5: Availability and usage across full size AGPs across Huntingdonshire

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Hockey club users	Availability	Midweek availability of pitch based on FPM (hours)	Weekend availability of pitch based on FPM (hours)	Total hockey usage (%)	Total football / other usage (%)	Total spare (%)
64	Longsands Academy	St. Neots	St Neots HC	Mon to Fri – 09:00 to 21:00 Sat / Sun – 09:00 – 17:00	18/18	16/16	30%	50%	20%
74	One Leisure St Ives Outdoor	St. Ives	St Ives HC	Mon to Fri – 09:00 to 21:00 Sat / Sun – 09:00 – 17:00	18/18	16/16	51%	16%	33%

### Spare capacity summary

Through consultation with pitch providers, it is reported that during the week, most pitches have limited spare capacity between the hours of 6pm-9pm Monday-Thursday and 6pm-7pm on Fridays. They suggest the majority of the spare capacity falls within the 5pm-6pm time slots throughout the week. These timeslots are generally considered to be unattractive and go unused due to close proximity to players and parents of junior players finishing work around this time. Therefore, when clubs come to book training sessions the 5pm-6pm timeslot is not a chosen timeslot and therefore is very rarely booked.

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It should be noted that the usage referenced in the table above relates to the community use period and excludes school usage outside of the periods of community availability. As seen, there are two key hockey sites in Huntingdonshire, based on levels of demand, which are Longsands Academy and One Leisure St Ives Outdoor. Each of these sites also accommodates levels of football/other usage. In particular, the football/other usage at Longsands Academy overshadows the hockey demand on the site.

### Quality

Taking the above into account, the quality of hockey suitable artificial grass pitches have been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by EH) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows; Good (>80%), Standard (60-79%), Poor (<60%). The quality ratings assigned to the sites also consider the user quality ratings gathered from consultation.

In addition, depending on use, it is considered that the carpet of an artificial grass pitch usually lasts for approximately ten years, and it is the age of the surface, combined with maintenance levels, which most commonly affects quality. The table below summarises the quality of artificial grass pitches in Huntingdonshire.

Table 6.6: Summary of quality

Site ID	Site name	Surface type	Users	Quality rating	Built (resurfaced)
56	Kimbolton School	Sand Dressed	-	Good	2009
		Sand Filled	-	Standard	1985 (2006)
64	Longsands Academy	Sand Dressed	St Neots HC	Standard	2011
74	One Leisure St Ives Outdoor	Sand Filled	St Ives HC	Standard	1991 (2006)
83	RAF Wyton	Sand Dressed	-	Standard	2013

There are five full size AGPs within Huntingdonshire, of which, four are standard quality and one is good quality. One pitch at Kimbolton School is good quality however is not available for community use. The pitch at One Leisure St Ives Outdoor is currently of standard quality, however, due to not being resurfaced in around 16 years is coming to the end of its lifespan and its quality has begun to deteriorate. St Ives HC reports that the surface is worsening and is close to being of a poor quality. Huntingdonshire District Council reports that it plans to resurface the pitch in the summer of 2023 in time for the start of the 2023/24 hockey season.

### Ancillary facilities

The term ancillary facility relates to built facility infrastructures at sites. Typically, this includes (but is not limited to) clubhouses, changing rooms, showers, car parking and toilet facilities.



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St Ives HC reports that the general state of its clubhouse and changing facilities at One Leisure St Ives Outdoor are of a sufficient quality to service existing demand to the site. It notes that despite currently being sufficient, there is a need improve or replace the current dugouts on the pitch side as it reports them to be deteriorating in quality. In addition, the Club suggests that it needs additional storage onsite, which could be provided in the form of a metal container.

St Neots HC plays out of Longsands Academy, although the School provides changing facilities it has no specific social areas for after match social activities which are required (such as providing after match teas). The Club is likely to go off site to provide this at a local pub/social setting.

### 6.3: Demand

The three clubs classed as being from Huntingdonshire accommodating 40 teams: 12 men's teams, 11 women's teams, 16 dedicated junior team and one mixed team.

The table below examines each club's participation figures for the 2019/20 season for all Category One and Category Two players. These are the participants that must access hockey suitable AGPs for their demand. These figures have been used in order to give the most accurate representation of levels of demand in Huntingdonshire given that 2020/21 and 2021/22 affiliation data has been affected by the Covid 19 Pandemic.

Table 6.6: England Hockey affiliation figures 2019/20 (Category One and Two)

Name of club	Senior men (17-55)	Senior women (17-55)	Junior boys (14-16)	Junior girls (14-16)	Junior boys (11-13)	Junior girls (11-13)	Mini mixed (5-10)	Total
Huntingdon Hockey Club	-	30	-	-	-	-	-	30
St Ives Hockey Club	92	66	17	31	34	24	64	328
St Neots Hockey Club	73	63	20	31	16	38	32	273
<b>Total</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>631</b>
	Senior men's teams	Senior women's teams	Junior	Mixed	Total			
Huntingdon Hockey Club	-	1	-	-	1			
St Ives Hockey Club	6	5	6	1	18			
St Neots Hockey Club	6	5	10	-	21			
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>40</b>			

As mentioned, Huntingdon HC has been included in the demand table above as most of their participation is derived from within the Authority despite playing their competitive fixtures outside of Huntingdonshire. More details surrounding the Club will be provided in the 'Exported demand' section below.

### Future demand

Growing participation is the number one aim within EH's strategic plan and key drivers include working with clubs, universities and schools, regional and local leagues, developing opportunities for over 40s and delivering a quality programme of competition. Growth in participation will not only come from the traditional 11 a side game but from the informal, recreational ways to play hockey such as small sided hockey, which can be played at any time during the week or at weekends.

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Though there remains a desire from EH to increase participation within the club/league based game, not all future demand may be realised entirely as new formalised teams playing at peak time. Some clubs may decide to offer pay and play opportunities to participants or offer small sided formats such in a bid to increase participation and club memberships by providing a different hockey offer.

Increased demand from new participants will lead to a requirement for increased capacity on available artificial grass pitches at peak time, but also midweek and on Sundays to deliver other formats of hockey activity. At present, it is not necessarily clear as to what format this may take or when it is likely to take place, however, it is clear that there will be a requirement for access to increased capacity on artificial grass pitches across the area. This should be considered when assessing demand for artificial grass pitches in the future, as not only will they be needed for peak match play times and midweek training to accommodate increased participation within the formalised hockey environment, but also throughout the week and at non-peak times to offer wider opportunities for play.

Unlike other pitch sports, England Hockey do not use team generation rates to determine future demand. England Hockey likes to understand growth by participation, rather than dedicated teams. As such, team generation rates have not been used to calculate future growth in Huntingdonshire.

During consultation, Huntingdon HC reports that it has plans to relocate back within the District. As part of this it aspires to re-establish a junior section and introduce a senior men's section. At present, this is all aspirational and requires firstly the Club finding a home site within the District.

St Ives HC aspires to increase its demand, it plans to add an additional men's and women's team. Whilst it is also looking to further increase its junior section through the addition of a junior boys and a junior girls' team.

### *Hockey Heroes*

Hockey Heroes is a six-week hockey programme aimed at beginners (children aged five to eight) that not only focuses on helping children develop some physical hockey skills such as dribbling, passing and goal scoring, but also places as much emphasis on character development including teamwork, communication, perseverance and respect.

There are currently no Hockey Heroes courses operating in Huntingdonshire with the nearest being located at Northampton HC (West Northamptonshire).

### *Back to Hockey*

Back to Hockey sessions are fun, social and informal and are aimed at people who either have not played for a number of years or that are looking to play for the first time. They are generally hosted by clubs, with EH providing guidance on how to deliver the programme. Benefits of clubs being involved include:

- ◀ More members
- ◀ More casual players
- ◀ Additional income
- ◀ Extra publicity
- ◀ New volunteers

Similar to Hockey Heroes, there are no current Back to Hockey sessions available in Huntingdonshire. The nearest being located at Bourne Deeping HC (Peterborough).

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### ***Latent demand***

Latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision.

At present, Huntingdon HC reports latent demand, this is due to suggesting that if the Club are able to relocate back within Huntingdonshire, that it would be able to increase its teams as players would no longer have to travel outside the District.

### ***Imported demand***

Imported demand refers to any demand from neighbouring local authorities that accesses facilities within Huntingdonshire due to a lack of available facilities in other local authorities where such team or club is based.

There is currently no known imported demand into the District.

### ***Exported demand***

Exported demand refers to teams that are currently accessing provision for home fixtures outside of Huntingdonshire, despite being from within the Authority.

Huntingdon HC currently exports demand to Northstowe Secondary College (South Cambridgeshire). At present the Club currently runs one women's team and reports in previous years has lost a second women's team, which it mainly suggests is due to travelling outside the District.

The Club has had discussions with England Hockey and the Council around the potential to relocate back to the District, within the Alconbury Weald development. As part of the development there is to be an artificial turf pitch installed at the school site. However, the surface of the pitch is yet to be decided as to whether it will be a hockey suitable AGP or a 3G surface, in addition, it has also had discussions around relocating to St Peter's School, if the School was to develop a full size AGP onsite. The Club suggests that if/when it relocates to the District it has plans to increase its teams, across the women's, men's and junior section.

### ***Peak time demand***

For matches, most of the senior hockey activity in Huntingdonshire takes place on a Saturday, whereas most junior activity occurs on a Sunday. For training, peak time is midweek evenings, although preference is generally given for Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

## **6.4: Supply and demand analysis**

### ***Match play***

The PPOSS Guidance suggests that a floodlit pitch is able to accommodate four match equivalent sessions on a Saturday. With teams playing on a home and away format, this equates to one AGP being able to cater for eight 'home' teams. One team requires 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week on its 'home' AGP.

In total, there are 22 senior teams from clubs based within Huntingdonshire. This does not include demand from Huntingdon HC, which as a reminder operate one senior women's team.

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Analysis of programming information at One Leisure St Ives and Longsands Academy indicates that there is no spare capacity on Saturday to accommodate additional match play demand within the District.

*Table 6.6: Capacity balance of AGPs for hockey match play*

Match equivalent sessions		
Peak time capacity	Current demand	Capacity balance
8	11	3

With 22 senior teams currently playing Saturday league matches, 11 from St Ives HC and 11 St Neots HC there is a requirement for three full size hockey suitable artificial grass pitches (rounded up from 2.75).

Based on the existing supply, there is a shortfall of provision, equating to one full size pitch. This pitch could be used as both an overspill facility for existing clubs, but also a permanent home venue for Huntingdonshire HC, if it is to relocate back into the area in the future. The pitches located at Kimbolton School, and RAF Wyton do not contribute to meeting this shortfall based on provision being unable for community use.

### *Future demand impact*

Future demand aspirations which are expressed by the clubs would exacerbate the current shortfalls across the District. This therefore means that the aspirations from clubs are unlikely to be achievable with the current stock of available pitches. If the aspirations were to be achieved it is likely that the teams would be exporting this demand out of District to access suitable provision.

### **Sunday – junior matches and training**

For junior hockey matches, the demand and subsequent need for pitches is less than it is for senior hockey. This is because younger age groups can play on half a pitch (meaning two fixtures can take place at one time) and because there are also significantly fewer junior teams in the District than there are senior teams, with competitive opportunities less frequent in the form of occasional tournaments and the greater need being for access for training.

Junior training and matches take place on Sundays at both One Leisure St Ives Outdoor and Longsands Academy. Analysis of programming information at both sites indicates that there is spare capacity on Sundays as a number of junior training sessions take place during the week, and therefore there is capacity for further use on Sundays.

Therefore, at present it is considered that there is sufficient supply to cater for current junior demand on Sundays. As most of the junior training takes place during the week, any further growth across junior hockey, is considered to have sufficient supply and should take place on Sundays.

### **Midweek – senior and junior hockey training**

St Ives HC currently utilise One Leisure St Ives Outdoor from Monday-Wednesday for over six hours. All other bookings on the pitch are for football, which is likewise during the week at Longsands Academy.

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Across the District a lot of spare capacity falls between the 5-6pm timeslot, like previously stated this is considered an unattractive timeslot. As the AGP's across the District are also accessed for affiliated football training, there is very little spare capacity between 6pm-9pm throughout the week. Taking this into consideration, it is considered that pitches are played to capacity during the week and cannot support further growth for hockey training demand.

### **5.5: Conclusion**

The supply of hockey suitable AGPs in Huntingdonshire is insufficient to meet, future and exported demand for peak time Saturday hockey. Junior hockey can continue to be accommodated and there is likely to be a club specific need from all clubs to gain greater access to AGPs midweek to accommodate existing, and any future demand which is established.

#### *Converting hockey suitable artificial grass pitches to third generation artificial grass pitches*

Since the introduction of third generation artificial grass pitches and given their popularity for football, providers have seen this as a way of replacing their tired sand-based carpet and generating money from hiring out a third generation artificial grass pitch to football clubs and commercial football providers. This has come at the expense of hockey, with players now travelling further distances to gain access to a suitable pitch and many teams being displaced from their preferred geographical area.

Due to its impact on hockey, it is appropriate to ensure that sufficient sand-based artificial grass pitches are retained for the playing development of hockey. To that end, a change of surface will require a planning application and, as part of that, the applicants will have to show that there is sufficient provision available for hockey in the locality. Advice from Sport England and EH should therefore be sought prior to any planning application being submitted.

Due to the insufficient capacity at present to cater for current and future demand for senior hockey all current hockey suitable AGPs should be protected.

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### Summary - Hockey

- Supply of hockey suitable AGPs in Huntingdonshire is insufficient to meet, future and exported demand for peak time Saturday hockey.
- Junior hockey can continue to be accommodated and there is likely to be a club specific need from all clubs to gain greater access to AGPs midweek to accommodate existing, and any future demand which is established.
- Due to the insufficient capacity at present to cater for current and future demand for senior hockey all current hockey suitable AGP's should be protected.

### Supply

- There is a total of five hockey suitable artificial grass pitches in Huntingdonshire located across four sites, only two of which are available for community use. There are also four small sided pitches identified across four sites, similarly to full size pitches only two of the pitches are available for community use.
- Of the two community available full size hockey suitable AGPs, the pitch at One Leisure St Ives Outdoor is operated via the Council's leisure provider, One Leisure. Whilst the pitch at Longsands Academy is managed internally by the School.

### Quality

- There are five full size AGPs within Huntingdonshire, of which, four are standard quality and one is good quality. One pitch at Kimbolton School is good quality however is not available for community use.
- The pitch at One Leisure St Ives Outdoor is currently of standard quality, however, due to not being resurfaced in around 16 years is coming to the end of its lifespan and its quality has begun to deteriorate. Huntingdonshire District Council reports that it plans to resurface the pitch in the summer of 2023 in time for the start of the 2023/24 hockey season.

### Demand

- The three clubs classed as being from Huntingdonshire accommodating 40 teams: 12 men's teams, 11 women's teams, 16 dedicated junior team and one mixed team.
- Huntingdon HC currently exports demand to Northstowe Secondary College (South Cambridgeshire).
- There is use of both hockey suitable AGPs for other activities, mainly for formal football training or small sided/recreational use for football.

### Capacity

- Analysis of programming information at One Leisure St Ives and Longsands Academy indicates that there is no spare capacity on Saturday to accommodate additional match play demand within the District.
- There is very little spare capacity between 6pm-9pm throughout the week. Taking this into consideration, it is considered that pitches are played to capacity during the week and cannot support further growth for hockey training demand.
- There is a requirement for three full size AGPs with sports lighting to meet current and future demand for hockey matches and training in the District.

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## PART 7: BOWLING GREENS

### 7.1: Introduction

All bowling greens in Huntingdonshire are flat greens. Flat green bowls is governed nationally by Bowls England (BE), whilst Huntingdonshire Bowls (HB) oversees flat green bowls locally. A typical season running in the summer from May until September.

#### Consultation

There are 18 bowling clubs playing in Huntingdonshire. Through online survey and telephone consultation, a total club response rate of 83% (15 of 18 clubs) was achieved.

Table 7.1: Summary of consultation

Club name	Analysis area	Response
Brampton BC	Huntingdon	Yes
Broadway BC (Yaxley)	North West	No
Buckden BC	St. Neots	Yes
Eaton Socon BC	St. Neots	Yes
Eynesbury BC	St. Neots	Yes
Fenstanton BC	St. Ives	Yes
Gransden & District BC	St. Neots	Yes
Hemingfords BC	St. Ives	Yes
Holywell-Cum-Needingworth BC	St. Ives	Yes
Houghton & Wyton BC	St. Ives	Yes
Huntingdon BC	Huntingdon	Yes
Ramsey BC	North East	Yes
Royal Oak BC	Huntingdon	Yes
Sawtry And District BC	North West	Yes
Somersham Town BC	North East	Yes
Warboys White Hart BC	North East	No
St Ives BC	St. Ives	Yes
St Neots	St Neots	No

### 7.2: Supply

There are 18 bowling greens in Huntingdonshire located across 18 sites. All sites are single green sites.

Table 7.2: Summary of community available greens by analysis area

Analysis area	Number of flat greens
Huntingdon	3
North East	3
North West	2
St. Ives	5
St. Neots	5
West	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>

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The St Ives and St Neots analysis areas both have the most greens with five each, whilst three greens are in each of the Huntingdon and North East analysis areas, whilst there are two greens in the North West Analysis Area. The West Analysis Area has no bowling greens.

Table 7.3: Breakdown of bowling greens in Huntingdonshire

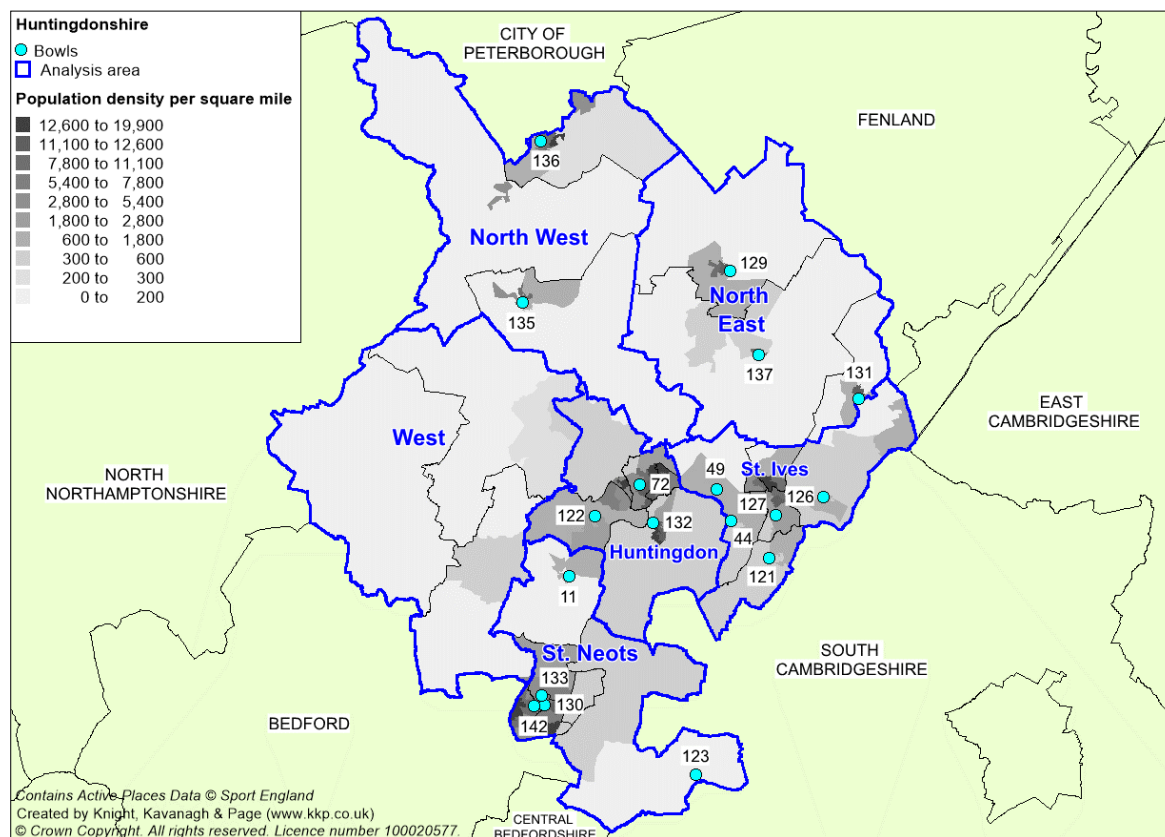
Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Users	Management
11	Buckden Recreation Ground	St. Neots	Buckden BC	Trust
44	Hemingford Pavilion	St. Ives	Hemingfords BC	Community Organisation
49	Houghton And Wyton Playing Field	St. Ives	Houghton & Wyton BC	Local Authority
59	King George V Playing Fields (St Peters Road)	Huntingdon	Huntingdon BC	Local Authority
121	Fenstanton BC	St. Ives	Fenstanton BC	Sports club
122	Brampton Bowls Club	Huntingdon	Brampton BC	Sports club
123	Great Gransden Bowls & Tennis	St. Neots	Gransden & District BC	Sports club
126	Needingworth Village Hall	St. Ives	Holywell-Cum-Needingworth BC	Sports club
127	Priory Road Bowling Green	St. Ives	St Ives BC	Sports club
129	Ramsey Golf & Bowls Club	North East	Ramsey BC	Sports club
130	Eynesbury Bowling Club	St. Neots	Eynesbury BC	Sports club
131	Somersham Town BC	North East	Somersham Town BC	Sports club
132	Royal Oak	Huntingdon	Royal Oak Bowls Club	Sports club
133	St Neots Lawn Tennis Club (& Bowls)	St. Neots	St Neots BC	Sports club
135	The Bell	North West	Sawtry & District BC	Private
136	The Farmers	North West	Broadway BC (Yaxley)	Private
137	The White Hart	North East	Warboys White Hart BC	Private
142	Eaton Socon Bowls Club	St. Neots	Eaton Socon BC	Sports club

Figure 7.1 below highlights the location of all outdoor bowling greens in Huntingdonshire. For a key to the map, see Table 7.3.



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Figure 7.1: Location of bowling greens in Huntingdonshire



## Ownership/management

Of the active greens, seven are owned and managed by the respective sport club on site, seven are managed by the either HDC or parish councils and one is owned by a private landlord and managed by their user club. Due to no response to club survey or phone calls the ownership and management at St Neots Lawn Tennis Club (& bowls) is currently unknown.

The ownership and management of sites in Huntingdonshire can be seen below in Table 7.4.

Table 7.4: Ownership and management agreements of bowls sites in Huntingdonshire

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Users	Agreement
11	Buckden Recreation Ground	St. Neots	Buckden BC	Lease agreement from Buckden Village Hall Trust of 25 years which expires in 2046
44	Hemingford Pavilion	St. Ives	Hemingfords BC	Freehold
49	Houghton And Wyton Playing Field	St. Ives	Houghton & Wyton BC	Annual rent agreement from Parish Council
59	King George V Playing Fields (St Peters Road)	Huntingdon	Huntingdon BC	Lease agreement from Huntingdon Town Council which expires in 2028.
121	Fenstanton BC	St. Ives	Fenstanton BC	Freehold

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Users	Agreement
122	Brampton Bowls Club	Huntingdon	Brampton BC	Freehold
123	Great Gransden Bowls & Tennis	St. Neots	Gransden & District BC	Lease agreement from Parish Council of 25 year which expires in 2025
126	Needingworth Village Hall	St. Ives	Holywell-Cum-Needingworth BC	Lease agreement from Parish Council of 25 year which expires in 2043
127	Priory Road Bowling Green	St. Ives	St Ives BC	Freehold
129	Ramsey Golf & Bowls Club	North East	Ramsey BC	Freehold
130	Eynesbury Bowling Club	St. Neots	Eynesbury BC	Lease agreement from HDC which expires in 2028.
131	Somersham Town BC	North East	Somersham Town BC	Freehold
132	Royal Oak	Huntingdon	Royal Oak BC	Annual rent agreement from private landlord
135	The Bell	North West	Sawtry & District BC	Freehold
136	The Farmers	North West	Broadway BC (Yaxley)	Lease agreement from Brewery which owns sites.
137	The White Hart	North East	Warboys White Hart BC	Lease agreement from Brewery which owns sites.
142	Eaton Socon Bowls Club	St. Neots	Eaton Socon BC	Lease agreement from HDC of 25 years which expires 2025

Both Gransden & District BC and Eaton Socon BC have short term lease agreements at Great Gransden Bowls & Tennis Club and Eaton Socon Bowls Club respectively both agreements run until 2025. Due to the short term agreements, both sites are considered to have unsecure tenure and work should be supported to ensure both clubs are able to secure extensions to these agreements.

### Quality

Following a non-technical assessment of greens in Huntingdonshire and cross referencing the findings against club consultation, most greens (16 or 89%) are rated as good quality, with one green rated as standard quality and one green rated as poor quality.

Table 7.5: Summary of bowling green quality

Site ID	Site name	Type of green	Number of greens	Quality of green
11	Buckden Recreation Ground	Flat	1	Good
44	Hemingford Pavilion	Flat	1	Good
49	Houghton And Wyton Playing Field	Flat	1	Good

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Site ID	Site name	Type of green	Number of greens	Quality of green
59	King George V Playing Fields (St Peters Road)	Flat	1	Good
121	Fenstanton BC	Flat	1	Standard
122	Brampton Bowls Club	Flat	1	Good
123	Great Gransden Bowls & Tennis	Flat	1	Poor
126	Needingworth Village Hall	Flat	1	Good
127	Priory Road Bowling Green	Flat	1	Good
129	Ramsey Golf & Bowls Club	Flat	1	Good
130	Eynesbury Bowling Club	Flat	1	Good
131	Somersham Town BC	Flat	1	Good
132	Royal Oak	Flat	1	Good
133	St Neots Lawn Tennis Club (& Bowls)	Flat	1	Good
135	The Bell	Flat	1	Good
136	The Farmers	Flat	1	Good
137	The White Hart	Flat	1	Good
142	Eaton Socon Bowls Club	Flat	1	Good

Even though most greens across Huntingdonshire are good quality, they still require substantial levels of dedicated maintenance to sustain this standard. Therefore, clubs need to be given continued support, where necessary.

A green is considered good quality if it has a high percentage of grass coverage, an even playing surface and limited signs of wear and tear on surrounding ditches/boarding and hard standing areas. In addition, there must be little to no evidence of litter, dog fouling, leaves and inappropriate usage of the green.

The green at Great Gransden Bowls & Tennis is assessed as poor quality. This is due to issues with unevenness of the green which has also had an effect on the drainage. There has also been issues with the length of grass at times during the season. The Club suggests that it requires more up to date machinery in order to successfully undertake the work required. In addition, it reports that both the ditches/boardings and the greens surrounding walkway are not up to standard and require some attention to help improve the overall quality of green facilities.

The green at Fenstanton BC is assessed at standard quality, this is mainly due to areas of the green experiencing some wear and tear. In order to rectify this the green requires additional maintenance to ensure that grass growth across the green can cater for the volume of demand which it currently accommodates for.

Huntingdon BC has issues with its green at King George V Playing Fields (St Peters Road), where it identifies that a couple of its rinks are currently out of use due them being worn and compact, this has led to the grass on them not growing properly and leaving them unusable. The Club has plans to rectify this over the 2022/23 winter.

All other greens are assessed as good quality with no issues identified.

### **Ancillary facilities**

Most clubs have access to some form of clubhouse/pavilion on site or through an adjoining public house. The quality of these ranges from purpose-built, good quality brick pavilions to basic wooden huts and shelters. It is important to recognise the importance of ancillary

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provision to bowling clubs as, if the facilities onsite are of suitable quantity/quality and meet players' needs, this can sustain membership levels. This is acknowledged by BE as it offers potential grants for clubs looking to making ancillary improvements.

Of the 18 bowls sites in Huntingdonshire, nine (50%) are accompanied by good quality ancillary provision, eight (44%) by standard quality provision and one (6%) by poor quality provision at The White Hart.

*Table 7.6: Summary of ancillary facility quality at bowls sites*

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Club self-accessed quality
11	Buckden Recreation Ground	St. Neots	Good
44	Hemingford Pavilion	St. Ives	Standard
49	Houghton And Wyton Playing Field	St. Ives	Standard
59	King George V Playing Fields (St Peters Road)	Huntingdon	Good
121	Fenstanton BC	St. Ives	Standard
122	Brampton Bowls Club	Huntingdon	Good
123	Great Gransden Bowls & Tennis	St. Neots	Standard
126	Needingworth Village Hall	St. Ives	Good
127	Priory Road Bowling Green	St. Ives	Good
129	Ramsey Golf & Bowls Club	North East	Good
130	Eynesbury Bowling Club	St. Neots	Standard
131	Somersham Town BC	North East	Standard
132	Royal Oak	Huntingdon	Standard
133	St Neots Lawn Tennis Club (& Bowls)	St. Neots	Good
135	The Bell	North West	Good
136	The Farmers	North West	Good
137	The White Hart	North East	Poor
142	Eaton Socon Bowls Club	St. Neots	Standard

St Ives BC states that its clubhouse facility at Priory Road Bowling Green requires an update in its electrics and heating systems. It has recently applied for funding for this (Through both Sport England and the Mike George Fund). The Club was unsuccessful in these applications and therefore cannot complete projects due to lack of funds.

Holywell-Cum-Needingworth BC has plans to extend its clubhouse but at the moment does not have the required funds. It states that it currently cannot find any funding which it qualifies for in order to complete the project.

The kitchen facilities at Somersham Town BC are currently outdated and the Club has plans to refurbish the facility. It has received funding for this and plans to complete the project in the coming months.

Eynesbury BC is currently exploring the opportunity to extend its lease onsite at Eynesbury Bowling Club which expires in 2028. The Club suggests no plans can be progressed prior to this being extended. Once, the Club gets an extension on the lease it has plans to update the clubhouse with work planned to make significant improvements, on the social and changing areas.

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Similarly, Eaton Socon BC requires an extension to its lease which expires in 2025. The Club also aspires for remedial work to be done on its clubhouse; however, this has been put on hold until the lease extension is secured.

No other clubs highlighted specific issues or plans for their ancillary provision onsite.

### **Sports lighting**

A total of four (22%) of the 18 operational greens in Huntingdonshire are serviced by sports lighting. This means that opportunities for access for training and matches during evenings outside of the summer months is around the average.

### **7.3: Demand**

#### **Current demand**

There are 18 bowling clubs playing in Huntingdonshire. Where known, membership of these clubs totals 918, broken down by club in the table below. Three clubs did not respond to consultation requests and therefore the membership of, St Neots BC, Broadway Yaxley BC and Warboys White Hart BC are unknown.

*Table 7.7: Membership for bowls clubs across Huntingdonshire*

<b>Club name</b>	<b>Current membership</b>
Brampton BC	50
Buckden BC	44
Eaton Socon BC	83
Eynesbury BC	57
Fenstanton BC	54
Gransden & District BC	29
Hemingfords BC	80
Holywell-Cum-Needingworth BC	70
Houghton & Wyton BC	59
Huntingdon BC	40
Ramsey BC	75
Royal Oak BC	36
Sawtry and District BC	71
Somersham Town BC	74
St Ives BC	96
<b>Total</b>	<b>918</b>

The largest club is St Ives BC, with 96 members, followed by Eaton Socon BC with 83 members. The smallest club is Gransden & District BC with 29 members.

#### **Future demand**

BE is actively working to negate the stereotype that bowls is a sport is for the older generation. As such, it is taking active steps at a County and National level to encourage younger players. The future growth for the sport is therefore in a state of flux due to the growing professionalism of the NGB.

Of responding clubs, 13 clubs (87%) highlight aspirations to increase membership.



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Table 7.8: Future demand aspirations

Club	Site name	Analysis Area	Future demand aspiration	Method to increase membership
St Ives BC	Priory Road Bowling Green	St. Ives	20	Recruiting prior to the season, offering additional coaching for new members.
Holywell-Cum-Needlingworth BC	Needlingworth Village Hall	St. Ives	20	Primary school affiliation, offering session for children on Thursday afternoons.
Sawtry and District BC	The Bell	North West	30	Open day, with additional coaching. Links with local schools.
Hemingfords BC	Hemingford Pavilion	St. Ives	15	Local marketing, coaching for new members. Links with local schools.
Gransden & District BC	Great Gransden Bowls & Tennis	St. Neots	6	Open day and local marketing.
Ramsey BC	Ramsey Golf & Bowls Club	North East	6	Local marketing, coaching for new members. Links with local schools.
Houghton & Wyton BC	Houghton And Wyton Playing Field	St. Ives	8	Social media advertisement. Coaching for new members. Primary school affiliation, offering session for children on Thursday afternoons.

Eaton Socon BC, Eynesbury BC, Fenstanton BC, Huntingdon BC, Royal Oak BC and Somersham Town BC also report wanting to increase its membership, however, does not specify by what quantity. In total the future demand across the seven clubs equates to 105 new members.

For bowls it is more appropriate to consider population changes for persons aged 65 and over. Office of National Statistics population projections (2018-2043), identify that the number of persons aged 65 and over living in Huntingdonshire is likely to increase continuously from 35,209 in 2018 to 49,819 in 2038, representing an increase of 41.5%. Due to this age band being the most likely to play bowls, it can be said that demand for bowling greens in Huntingdonshire is likely to increase slightly in the future or at least remain static.

### **Latent demand**

Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool<sup>32</sup> enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in bowls but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 283 people who would like to participate in the sport within Huntingdonshire.

As seen in the table below in comparison to its neighbouring local authorities, Huntingdonshire has a reasonably similar amount of latent demand for bowls to the neighbouring authorities.

Table 7.9: Latent demand for bowls in Huntingdonshire and neighbouring local authorities

<sup>32</sup> See Appendix 2

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Neighbouring Local Authority	Latent demand for bowls
Bedford	251
Central Bedfordshire	412
City of Peterborough	273
East Cambridgeshire	158
Fenland	183
<b>Huntingdonshire</b>	<b>283</b>
South Cambridgeshire	241

Notwithstanding this, none of the bowling clubs in Huntingdonshire are reported as operating at capacity, with all clubs willing to accept new members. As such, it is considered that anyone within Huntingdonshire who would like to start participating, could do so at the clubs and greens already in existence.

### 7.4: Supply and demand analysis

The capacity of a bowling green is very much dependent on the leagues and the day that they operate. A green may have no spare capacity on an afternoon or evening when a popular league operates but may be unused for the rest of the week. However, in many cases, greens are used during the afternoons by Club members who bowl socially, with access a potential issue during peak times if membership is particularly high.

Bowling clubs are generally considered viable if they have the appropriate level of membership to sustain their bowling green and accompanying ancillary facilities. Therefore, clubs that have lower levels of participation in comparison to the remaining clubs within Huntingdonshire may have issues maintaining their provision.

At present no clubs indicate through consultation that they are operating below or close to 20 members, which the BE identifies as a number required to ensure that a green is sustainable. The Club with the least membership is Gransden & District BC with 29 members, it should be closely monitored to ensure membership figures do not decrease to a level where they cannot effectively maintain green and ancillary provision quality.

Conversely, those clubs which have a substantial level of demand also need to be monitored to ensure they have the appropriate quantity and quality of provision. BE identifies that clubs operating with a membership of over 60 members per green could have capacity issues. Seven clubs indicate that they are operating with memberships of 60 or above. The clubs are:

- ✦ Eaton Socon BC (83 members)
- ✦ Hemingfords BC (80 members)
- ✦ Holywell-Cum-Needlingworth BC (70 members)
- ✦ Ramsey BC (75 members)
- ✦ Sawtry and District BC (71 members)
- ✦ Somersham Town BC (74 members)
- ✦ St Ives BC (96 members)

All remaining clubs are considered to be adequately catered for and sustainable, taking into account both current and future demand. Emphasis in this regard should therefore be on supporting clubs with aspirations to improve their sites as this will likely improve the capacity for the provision to accommodate increased levels of demand.



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### 7.5: Conclusion

There is currently sufficient capacity for flat bowling greens to meet both current and future demand in Huntingdonshire.

Gransden & District BC may require future support to ensure that they remain viable despite a low membership base.

Conversely, Eaton Socon BC, Hemingfords BC, Holywell-Cum-Needlingworth BC, Ramsey BC, Sawtry & District BC, Somersham Town BC and St Ives BC are operating at or above recommended capacity levels and therefore need to be monitored to ensure that supply remains adequate. Although BE identifies that clubs with memberships exceeding 60 members could have capacity issues, this is purely a guideline and not a specified capacity threshold. At present, no clubs report specific issues with membership or capacity on greens. However, there may be a need for clubs exceeding 60 members to access a second green elsewhere to meet demand in future.

Of the 15 responding clubs 13 highlight aspirations to increase membership. As 87% of responding clubs are willing to accept new members, it is considered that any future and latent demand can be accommodated at clubs and greens already in existence.

#### **Bowls summary**

- ◀ **There is currently sufficient capacity for flat bowling greens to meet both current and future demand in Huntingdonshire.**

#### **Bowls – supply**

- ◀ There are 18 bowling greens in Huntingdonshire located across 18 sites. All sites are single green sites.
- ◀ Of the active greens, seven are owned and managed by user clubs, seven are managed by the either HDC or parish councils and one is owned by a private landlord and managed by their user clubs.
- ◀ Gransden & District BC currently have a lease agreement onsite at Great Gransden Bowls & Tennis Club until 2025. The Club will require an extension on this lease to secure continued use of the green, and should be support where possible to ensure this is completed.
- ◀ Most greens (16 or 89%) are rated as good quality, with one green rated as standard quality and one green rated as poor quality.
- ◀ A total of four (22%) of the 18 operational greens in Huntingdonshire are serviced by sports lighting.

#### **Bowls – demand**

- ◀ There are 18 bowling clubs playing in Huntingdonshire, with known membership totalling 918 members.
- ◀ Of responding clubs, 13 clubs (87%) highlight aspirations to increase membership.

#### **Bowls – capacity**

- ◀ Eaton Socon BC, Hemingfords BC, Holywell-Cum-Needlingworth BC, Ramsey BC, Sawtry and District BC, Somersham Town BC and St Ives BC are operating at or above recommended capacity levels, with usage needing to be monitored to ensure that supply remains adequate.

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

### PART 8: ATHLETICS TRACKS

#### 8.1: Introduction

As a Governing Body, UK Athletics is responsible for developing and implementing the rules and regulations of athletics, including everything from anti-doping, health and safety, facilities, and welfare, to training and education for coaches and officials as well as permitting and licensing.

Locally, the sport is governed through England Athletics, which is the development and membership body for athletics and running clubs in England. It has a National Head of Clubs and Participation as well as a team of five club support managers across the Country, with one of these covering activities in Huntingdonshire as part of the Midland region.

#### **Consultation**

Huntingdonshire Athletic Club is the sole athletics club in the District. It was consulted via telephone to inform this section of the Report.

#### 8.2: Supply

In Huntingdonshire, there are two purpose-built outdoor athletics tracks. Both tracks are 400-metre tracks located at One Leisure St Ives Outdoor (St Ives Analysis Area) and RAF Alconbury (Huntingdon Analysis Area).

*Table 8.1: Summary of outdoor athletics tracks in Huntingdonshire*

Site ID	Site	Analysis Area	Track length	No. of lanes	Sports lighting	Available for community use?
74	One Leisure St Ives Outdoor	St. Ives	400m	6	Yes	Yes
81	RAF Alconbury	Huntingdon	400m	6	Yes	No

#### *Future developments*

England Athletics is currently exploring three alternative approaches in designing new athletics provision. Traditional 400m athletic tracks are becoming increasingly problematic to sustain and refurbish with any new facilities generally considered impractical due to cost and the amount of land required for such a development.

These three designs, outlined below, present alternative approaches to athletics provision as to offer more affordable and feasible means of creating athletics tracks. It should be noted England Athletics has development each of these with the German manufacturer 'Polytan' which help design each type of facility.

#### *Compact Track*

The first of the three alternative designs is a 'compact track' featuring a 60m sprint straight with an accompanying jump lane and shot put space. This provision is the smallest of the three and is installed at sites with limited available land.

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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### *Mini Track*

A 'mini track' features a 140m four lane oval track with a six lane 60m sprint, as well as accompanying shot put and jumping provision. An advantage to a mini track design is it leaves a large space in the centre of the oval track to be used for either various field events such as long jump/ triple jump, or alternatively it can be used for other sports such as football pitches or an outdoor gym. Mini track sites also feature a new design of shot put practice areas in which it flattens a natural slope and athletes throw into a hill allowing for the put to roll back to the participant thus reducing time spent retrieving the put after each throw.

### *Active Track*

Finally, an 'active track' is a synthetic loop with no fixed shape or distance (similar to a formula one circuit), in which a track is drawn to fit its natural surroundings such as an existing park or school field. This is installed at sites where a 400m oval would not be feasible as it allows for adaptations to the shape in order to suit land in its current state.

Although noted considered to be an affordable solution, Polytan has also developed a smart track in which magnetic integrated timing gates are built into the surface intermittently as to enable sports and exercise analysis to take place with much greater ease and precision. The athlete downloads an accompanying 'smart run' app which is then tracked by the magnetic sensors built into the track allowing for split speed analysis to take place without the need for cameras or wires. This allows for the removal of any set up time for analysts whilst also enabling several athletes to be examined simultaneously. As the magnets are embedded within the track it is also vandalism safe and will outlast the lifespan of a brand new athletics track. The installation of such provision reportedly increases the price to roughly £1.35m for a brand new 400m 'smart track.'

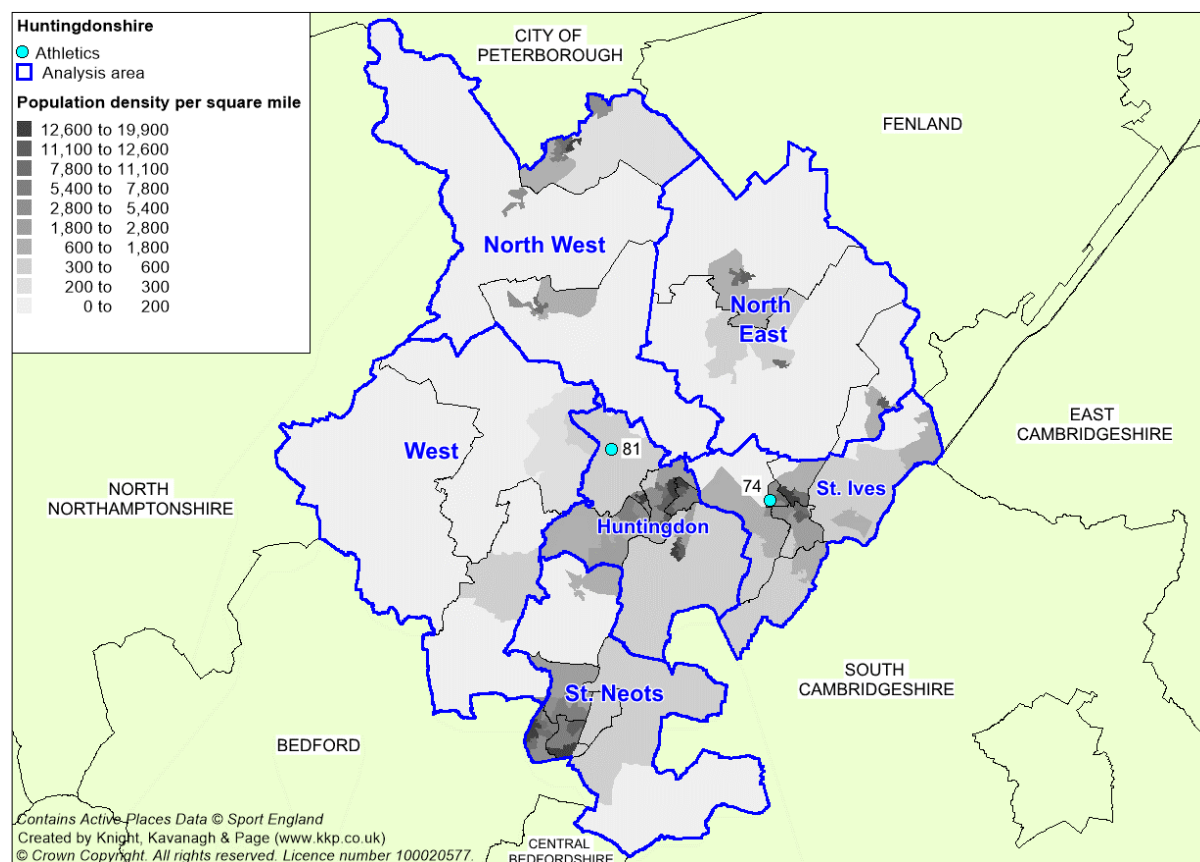
All abovementioned options will be considered within the Strategy & Action Plan as potential methods to reduce any evident shortfalls of provision (if identified within this assessment).

England Athletics is not pursuing investment into the development of new 400 metre athletics tracks, focus is instead on the retention of existing 400 metre facilities, quality and accreditation of these facilities and sustainability and viability of the sites and operating models.

Figure 8.1 overleaf identifies the location of tracks in the District.

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Figure 8.1: Location of athletics tracks in Huntingdonshire



## Management

There are two 400 metre tracks in the District, one of which is owned by HDC and overseen by One Leisure on its behalf. At present all clubs accessing tracks pay an annual rent. The second track is unavailable for community use and is located in the MOD base at RAF Alconbury.

## Quality

The quality of athletics provision across Huntingdonshire has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by the England Athletics) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows: Good (>80%), Standard (50-80%), Poor (<50%). The final quality ratings assigned to the sites also take into account the user quality ratings gathered from consultation.

Maintaining track court quality is an important aspect of athletics and therefore the non-technical assessment assesses several factors which evidence court quality.

The criteria for the non-technical assessment consists of; court surface grip underfoot, damage to the track surface, line markings, track edging, disability access, adequate landing areas, quality of the throwing areas, throwing cages, take off boards. For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix Two.

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

The two athletics track in Huntingdonshire at are both rated as standard quality.

Table 8.2: Summary of athletics track quality

Site ID	Site	Analysis Area	Community use	Year built	Year refurbished	Track surface	Track quality
74	One Leisure St Ives Outdoor	St. Ives	Yes	1991	2002	Polymeric	Standard
81	RAF Alconbury	Huntingdon	No	1985	2006	Polymeric	Standard

Huntingdonshire AC has a meeting with the One Leisure Management team onsite at One Leisure St Ives Outdoor. The Club has been tasked to gain quotes for inspection of the track, field and sports lights. It reports that the track is wearing and is coming to the end of its life. It suggests that if the track does not meet requirements for a three year competition license, then the track will need a full replacement.

### TrackMark<sup>33</sup>

TrackMark is UK Athletics' quality assurance scheme for outdoor track and field athletics facilities. A venue that achieves TrackMark is recognised by UK Athletics as having well managed, compliant facilities that are accessible to participants of all abilities. From 2021, venues that actively choose not to pursue accreditation are not eligible to apply for a competition licence at any level.

The track at One Leisure St Ives Outdoor is currently working towards TrackMark status, although the cage on site is considered non-compliant.

### Sports lighting

The tracks at both One Leisure St Ives Outdoor and RAF Alconbury are currently supported with sports lighting.

### Ancillary facilities

The ancillary provision support athletics use at One Leisure St Ives Outdoor is of standard quality, Huntingdonshire AC reports that although the current supporting ancillary provision is sufficient, it suggests that it does need some updating and maintaining to improve quality.

## 8.3: Demand

### Club demand

Within the District there is one track and field club which accesses a formal athletics track. Membership of this club equates to 362 in total. The table below summaries club membership.

Table 8.3: Summary of track and field club membership

Name of club	Home site	Number of members			
		Senior male	Senior female	Juniors	Total
Huntingdonshire AC	One Leisure St Ives Outdoor	127	65	160	352

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.uka.org.uk/about/what-we-do/facilities/>

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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Huntingdonshire AC offers training sessions three times a week at One Leisure St Ives Outdoor Centre, with training groups taking part in one or two session per week.

### **Other demand**

#### *Run Together*

Run Together is an official England Athletics recreational running project which aims to get the whole nation running. Its aim is to provide fun, friendly, supportive, and inclusive running opportunities for everyone, regardless of ability and availability. It believes that running is more fun and easier to become part of a lifestyle when shared with others.

A key focus for England Athletics is increasing demand for participation in initiatives such as Run Together, meaning this could be further targeted moving forward, especially given the number of other clubs that could be involved. There are a number of groups across Huntingdonshire which are part of this programme.

#### *Parkrun*

Parkrun is a series of 5k runs held on Saturday mornings in areas of open space around the UK, with 1,063 events now operating across the Country. They are open to all, free, and are safe and easy to take part in. Runners must first register online to access a printed barcode which gives them access to all Parkrun events.

*Table 8.4: Summary of Park Runs/Junior Park Runs in Huntingdonshire*

<b>Location</b>	<b>Post code</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Number of events</b>	<b>Average attendance</b>
Hinchingbrooke Country Park	PE29 6XZ	Park Run	413	250
Pocket Park	PE19 2SA	Park Run	149	182
Riverside Park	PE19 7HD	Junior Run	95	58
Jubilee Park	PE28 2NR	Junior Run	202	67

#### *Couch to 5k*

Couch to 5k is a national health initiative promoted by the National Health Service (NHS) to encourage absolute beginners get into running as part of establishing and maintaining an active and healthy lifestyle including regular exercise.

The plan consists of three runs per week and a day of rest in between, with a different schedule for each of the nine weeks to completion. It starts with a mix of running and walking, to gradually build up fitness and stamina, to create realistic expectations and a sense of achievability to encourage participants to stick with it. The end goal of the plan is for the participant to be able to run 5k.

Through the Couch to 5k plan the NHS particularly promotes the health benefits of running and regular exercise which underpin the initiative, such as improved heart and lung health, weight loss and possible increases in bone density which can help protect against bone diseases such as osteoporosis. This also includes mental benefits of running through goal setting and challenge setting, which can help boost confidence and self-belief. Furthermore, running regularly has been linked to combating depression.

It is believed that an increase in people running through the Couch to 5k plan may increase interest and possibly have a knock-on effect of leading to increased demand at running groups and clubs as people may wish to continue develop their running further.

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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## ***Latent/unmet demand***

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in athletics but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies significant latent demand amounting to 3,890 people within Huntingdonshire.

## ***Future demand***

Huntingdonshire AC does not currently operate a waiting list for new members. It suggests that although it is not actively recruiting members, it is open to any new members which wish to join the Club.

In addition, England Athletics also believes that demand is likely to increase in the future, particularly for initiatives such as Parkrun, although to what extent is difficult to quantify.

## **8.4: Conclusion**

In conclusion, there is sufficient supply of traditional athletics facilities (400m track) in Huntingdonshire to meet current and future demand for athletics. However, there are potential qualitative issues at One Leisure St Ives Outdoor, with the track coming to the end of its life. If the Club is to continue at the same level of performance output that it currently operates, the loss of a competition venue would be detrimental to the Club's ability to retain its membership across the board. This would then leave the District without a 400m competition track and would see athletes having to export its demand outside of Huntingdonshire to access such a venue.

Support should also be given to activities being provided by the various running groups in Huntingdonshire outside of track and field clubs, as well as the events/programmes that are being held such as Parkrun and Couch to 5k, in support of wider health and wellbeing agendas and to signpost activity into clubs.

### **Athletics summary**

- ◀ **In conclusion, there is sufficient supply of traditional athletics facilities (400m track) in Huntingdonshire to meet current and future demand for athletics.**
- ◀ **However, there are qualitative issues at One Leisure St Ives Outdoor, with the track coming to the end of its life, If the Club is to continue at the same level of performance output that it currently operates, the loss of a competition venue would be detrimental to the Club's ability to retain its membership.**

### **Supply**

- ◀ In Huntingdonshire, there are two purpose-built outdoor athletics tracks. Only one of which is available for community use at One Leisure St Ives Outdoor, with the unavailable track being located within RAF Alconbury.
- ◀ There is one 400 metre track which is owned by Huntingdonshire District Council and overseen by One Leisure on its behalf. At present all clubs accessing tracks pay an annual rent.

### **Quality**

- ◀ The one available athletics track in Huntingdonshire at One Leisure St Ives Outdoor is rated as standard quality.

### **Demand**

- ◀ Within the District there is one track and field club which accesses the athletics track at One Leisure St Ives Outdoor. Membership of the Club currently equates to 352 in total.

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

### PART 9: TENNIS COURTS

#### 9.1 Introduction

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the organisation responsible for the governance of tennis and administers the sport locally across Huntingdonshire. It has recently restructured its strategic approach to target several national focus areas, with a priority on developing the sport at park sites.

#### Consultation

Consultation was undertaken with the LTA, whilst the affiliated clubs were consulted with via survey or telephone call. Of the eight identified affiliated tennis clubs four responded to consultation requests, representing a 50% club response rate. Unresponsive clubs were contacted by both KKP and the LTA on several occasions, however, both organisations were unsuccessful in obtaining a response.

There is currently one unaffiliated club Great Staughton & District Tennis Club which is based at Great Staughton Playing Fields and was contacted to take part in the consultation, however, there was no response from the Club.

Table 9.1: Summary of consultation response

Club name	Response received
Buckden Tennis Club	Yes
Gransdens TC	No
Great Staughton & District Tennis Club ( <i>Unaffiliated</i> )	No
Hemingfords LTC	No
Houghton and Wyton TC	Yes
Huntingdon TC	Yes
Needingworth TC	Yes
Ramsey TC	No
St. Neots TC	No

#### 9.2 Supply

There is a total of 74 tennis courts identified in Huntingdonshire across 21 sites. Of these courts, 48 are identified as being available for community use, whilst 26 are identified as being unavailable.

Table 9.2: Summary of the number of outdoor courts by analysis area

Analysis area	Number of courts available for community use	Number of courts unavailable for community use	Number of total courts
Huntingdon	10	5	15
North East	8	3	11
North West	-	-	0
St. Ives	10	6	16
St. Neots	17	4	21
West	3	8	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>74</b>



# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Figure 9.1: Location of tennis courts in Huntingdonshire

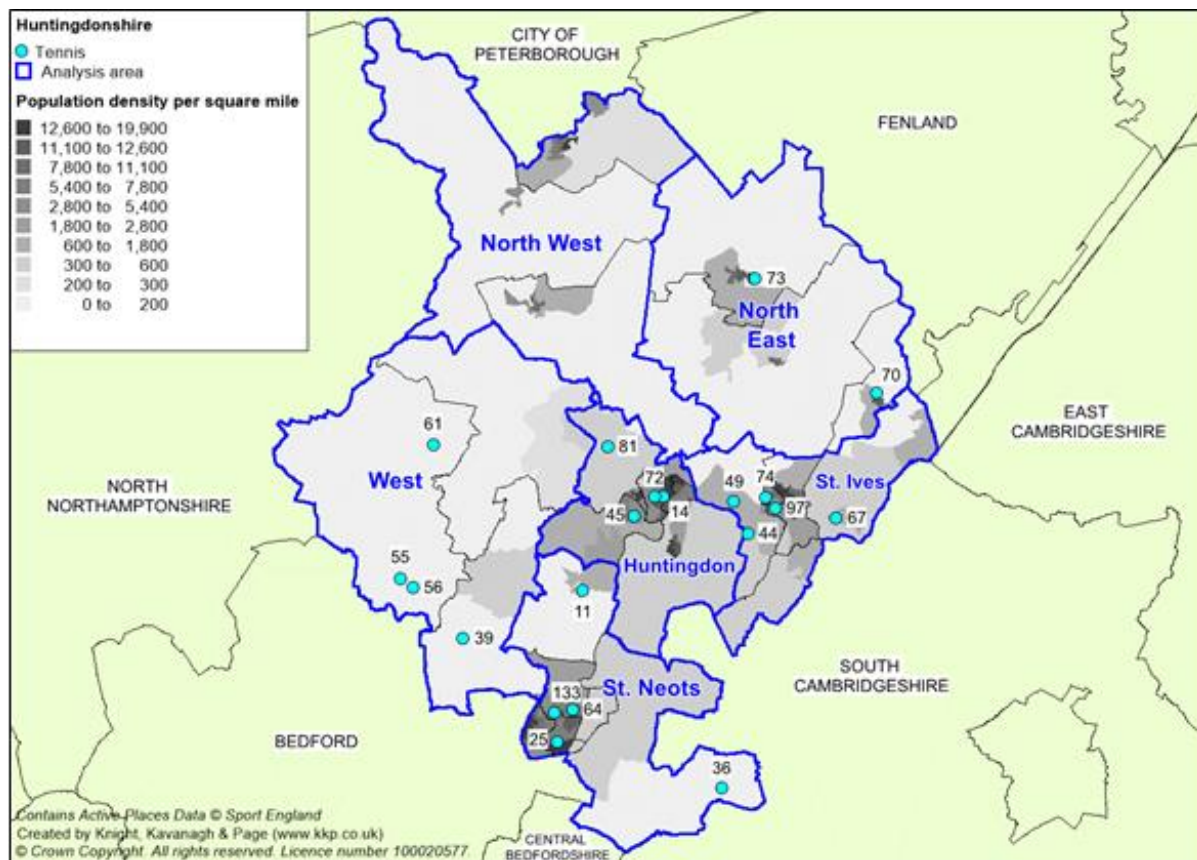


Figure 9.1 shows the location of all courts currently servicing Huntingdonshire. For a key to the map, see Table 9.3.

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 9.3: Breakdown of outdoor tennis courts in Huntingdonshire

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Available community use?	No. of courts	Sports lighting?	Court type	Court quality
1	Abbey College	North East	Education	No	3	No	Macadam	Good
11	Buckden Recreation Ground	St. Neots	Trust	Yes	4	Yes	Macadam	Good
14	Cambridge Regional College, Huntingdon Campus	Huntingdon	Education	No	2	No	Macadam	Standard
25	Ernulf Academy	St. Neots	District Council	Yes	6	Yes	Macadam	Standard
36	Great Gransden Sports And Recreation Ground	St. Neots	Community Organisation	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam	Good
39	Great Staughton Playing Fields	West	Community Organisation	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Poor
44	Hemingford Pavilion	St. Ives	Community Organisation	Yes	3	No	Artificial turf	Good
45	Hinchingbrooke School	Huntingdon	Education	Yes	3	No	Artificial turf	Poor
49	Houghton and Wyton Playing Field	St. Ives	Parish Council	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Standard
55	Kimbolton Prep School	West	Education	No	3	No	Macadam	Good
56	Kimbolton School	West	Education	No	5	No	Macadam	Standard
59	King George V Playing Fields (St Peters Road)	Huntingdon	Sports Club	Yes	1	Yes	Macadam	Good
					3	Yes	Artificial turf	
					3 (Indoor air dome)	Yes	Acrylic	
61	Leighton Playing Field	West	Parish Council	Yes	1	No	Artificial turf	Poor
64	Longsands Academy	St. Neots	Education	No	4	No	Macadam	Standard
70	Norwood Playing Field	North East	Parish Council	Yes	2	Yes	Macadam	Poor
74	One Leisure St Ives Outdoor	St. Ives	District Council	Yes	2	Yes	Macadam	Poor
81	RAF Alconbury	Huntingdon	MOD	No	3	No	Macadam	Good
97	St Ivo Academy	St. Ives	Education	No	3	No	Macadam	Standard
					3	Yes		
126	Needingworth Village Hall	St. Ives	Parish Council	Yes	2	Yes	Macadam	Good

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Available community use?	No. of courts	Sports lighting?	Court type	Court quality
					1	No	Macadam	
133	St Neots Lawn Tennis Club (& bowls)	St. Neots	Sports club	Yes	4	Yes	Macadam	Good
168	Ramsey Tennis Club	North East	Sports club	Yes	2	Yes	Macadam	Good
					2	No	Artificial turf	Standard
					2	No	Macadam	

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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### ***Disused provision***

There is one macadam court which is disused at Warboys Parish Centre. The Court has been disused for a number of years and leaves the site as a whole disused for sport.

### ***Future investment***

In October 2021, the Government and the LTA announced a package of £30 million for investment and improvements for public tennis courts. The Government are to put in £22 million whilst the LTA invest £8.4 million into the package. The investment is to be made into public tennis courts which are currently accessed as poor quality or unplayable, to bring the courts back to a quality that will benefit the local community.

### ***LTA Quick Access Loan Scheme***

The LTA's facility loan scheme provides interest free loans from £25,000 up to £250,000. The funding stream will prioritise investment into low cost indoor structures and floodlights to enable communities to grow participation by accessing all year round facilities. The objectives of the fund are:

- ◀ To provide indoor or courts with sports lighting for year round playing facilities to encourage community accessible play all year
- ◀ Enhance facilities to create better playing environments to encourage play all year (link to 'what we will fund')
- ◀ Retain and increase the number of participants at the venue
- ◀ Offer and increase both non-member pay and play usage and coaching opportunities
- ◀ Grow the numbers of adults and juniors on the coaching programme
- ◀ Provide online booking through ClubSpark with courts available through LTA Rally.

### ***LTA's Park Capital Funding Scheme***

The LTA's ambition is to drive participation across park tennis sites as well as ensuring the future sustainability of these facilities. Subsequently, they have committed capital funds to pay for the refurbishment of public park courts but will also assist and advise on the implementation of sustainable operating models for each facility, to ensure courts are both affordable and utilised.

### ***Renovation fund<sup>64</sup>***

The LTA has secured a £22 million investment fund to be put into public tennis courts across Britain, together with an £8.5 million investment from the LTA. This will see thousands of public park tennis courts that are in poor or unplayable condition improved for the benefit of local communities.

The LTA's ambition is to drive participation across park tennis sites, as well as ensuring the future sustainability of these facilities. As well as paying for the refurbishment of public park courts, the new investment will also pay for the implementation of sustainable operating models for the facilities, with specialist programmes and support to ensure courts are both affordable and utilised.

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<sup>34</sup><https://www.gov.uk/government/news/30-million-package-to-refurbish-4500-public-tennis-courts-in-deprived-parts-of-uk-announced>

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

### Court type

Most outdoor tennis courts in Huntingdonshire have a macadam surface, with 59 of the 74 courts (80% of all courts) of this type. Of the 48 community available courts, most are macadam surfaces (33 courts, 69%).

Table 9.4: Summary of tennis court types across Huntingdonshire

Court type	No. available for community use	No. unavailable for community use	Total number of courts
Artificial turf	12	-	12
Macadam	33	26	59
Acrylic (Indoor air dome)	3	-	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>74</b>

### Quality

The quality of tennis courts across Huntingdonshire has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows: Good (>80%), Standard (70-80%), Poor (<70%).

Maintaining high court quality is an important aspect of tennis and therefore the non-technical assessment assesses several factors which evidence court quality. The criteria for the non-technical assessment consists of; court surface grip underfoot, damage to a court surface, line markings, evidence of moss/lichen, slope of courts, disability access, fencing and courts being of an appropriate size for competitive tennis. For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix Two.

Just under half of courts in Huntingdonshire are rated as good quality (35 courts or 47%), 29 are rated as standard quality (39%) and ten are assessed as poor quality (14%).

Of the 48 community available courts, 26 are rated as good quality (54%), 12 are rated standard (25%) and ten as poor quality (21%).

Table 8.5: Quality of outdoor tennis courts

Availability for community use	Court quality		
	Good	Standard	Poor
Available	26	12	10
Unavailable	9	17	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>10</b>

Refer to Table 8.3 for court quality at individual sites.

Community available courts are rated as poor quality at Great Staughton Playing Fields, Leighton Playing Field, Norwood Playing Field, One Leisure St Ives Outdoor and Hinchbrook School.

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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The courts at Great Staughton Playing Fields, Leighton Playing Field and Norwood Playing Field are at a park sites and receive relatively lower levels of ongoing maintenance and investment than club tennis environments, these sites are also more prone to informal use outside of tennis (i.e. for informal football). Whilst the remaining courts are located within educational and leisure centre sites and are actively used for both tennis and other sports.

Improving park courts is a national priority for the LTA. Suitable sites that cater for high levels of recreational demand or that have the potential to do so should therefore be of focus. This is especially the case if the provision is serviced (or could be serviced) by changing facilities, a café and floodlighting, whereby a sustainable tennis programme could be supported, although this is not a necessity, especially in more rural areas.

The courts at One Leisure St Ives Outdoor are poor quality due to the moss and loose gravel across the courts. The courts are heavily used for both netball and tennis throughout the year, this are similar to the courts at Hinchingsbrooke School which are used for both curricular and extra curricular activity and therefore experience more wear and tear than exclusive tennis courts. It should be noted that these courts are due for resurfacing in January/February 2023.

### ***Overmarking of courts***

Tennis courts, particularly within schools, are often overmarked by netball, basketball and/or football courts as shared use spaces. Courts which are overmarked tend to receive higher levels of use which can be detrimental to quality over time, as well as creating capacity issues if there is community demand from more than one sport.

All school sites within Huntingdonshire are overmarked by courts for other sports, especially that of netball court markings. In addition, Leighton Playing Field is overmarked by football, whilst the courts at Norwood Playing Field, King George V Playing Fields (St Peters Road) and One Leisure St Ives Outdoor are all overmarked by netball.

### ***Sports lighting***

Courts with sports lighting can facilitate use throughout the year and are identified by the LTA as being a key priority for growing participation nationally. The LTA reports that courts with sports lighting allow for a 35% increase in available court time on an annual basis relative to those with are not lit.

In total, 41 of the 74 tennis courts in Huntingdonshire are serviced by sports lighting, representing 55% of all court provision.

Most courts with operational sports lighting are available for community use, with 26 of the 48 community available courts have sports lighting, representing 54% of available provision

Houghton and Wyton TC reports it currently has demand to develop sports lighting on one of its existing courts at Houghton and Wyton Playing Field. It reports that this would enable longer use of the courts throughout the darker months of the year and therefore, could help to grow membership.

Needingworth TC has three courts at Needingworth Village Hall, of these, two have sports lighting. The Club aspires to install sports lights on the third court, which will enable it to increase usage of this court and offer additional sessions for junior coaching, helping its aim to grow the junior section.

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

### **Ancillary provision**

Huntingdon TC reports that the current electricity cost to continue the operation of both its indoor and outdoor courts on site at King George V Playing Fields (St Peters Road) are significantly increasing. The Club has worries about how it will cover the costs, with it starting to put plans in place to make its clubhouse and electricity use more efficient. It has plans to develop its courts through developing solar panels and through changing sports lighting to LED bulbs. To help enable these developments it has applied for grants and capital funding with the applications still ongoing.

Buckden TC has plans to develop its clubhouse, it currently has issues with the roof leaking. The Club has had costings for the re-design of the clubhouse as it plans to change and add facilities. The Club wishes to add a larger social room, and this would require extension onto the current building. It should be stated that this is currently aspirational and it needs to secure funding before engaging relevant parties to start the process of developing the facilities.

Needingworth TC reports that in recent years it has submitted proposals to the Parish Council to develop a new pavilion at Needingworth Village Hall. The Club has had all proposals rejected by the Parish Council over the last three years. It states that it requires a new pavilion to ensure that there are sufficient and suitable facilities to develop its junior section and allow the Club to offer more junior coaching.

### **Management**

Most courts (26 courts, 35% of all courts) are within education ownership. There are 17 courts (20% of all courts) managed by Sports Clubs, eight courts managed by each of HDC, parish councils and community organisations (11% of all courts).

*Table 9.6: Outdoor tennis courts by management type*

Availability for community use	Number of courts							
	Sports Club	Parish Council	District Council	Trust	MOD	Education	Community Organisation	Total
Available	17	8	8	4	-	3	8	48
Unavailable	-	-	-	-	3	23	-	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>74</b>

### **Security of tenure**

A site is considered to offer unsecure tenure if the tennis provision is not guaranteed to be retained or access for the club is not confirmed over the next three years.

Huntingdon LTC currently lease its site off the District Council. It reports that it currently has a number of years left on this agreement.

Houghton & Wyton TC currently has a formal rental agreement on its site Houghton and Wyton Playing Field with the Parish Council.

Buckden TC has a lease for its courts and site at Buckden Recreation Ground, from the Buckden Village Hall Trust, which is due to expire in 2034. The Club plans to monitor the lease and engage the relevant parties to extend the lease when required.

Needingworth TC has freehold ownership of its site at Needingworth Village Hall. The remaining clubs in Huntingdonshire did not respond to consultation requests after numerous attempts. Therefore, the other agreements on sites across the District are unknown.

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

## 9.3 Demand

### **Club tennis**

There is eight LTA affiliated tennis club in Huntingdonshire, the known membership totals 1,417 members. The exact breakdown of the club's membership is shown in the table below.

Table 9.7: Summary of tennis club membership

Name of club	Sites used	Number of members		
		Seniors	Juniors	Total
Buckden TC	Buckden Recreation Ground	75	120	<b>195</b>
Gransdens TC	Great Gransden Sports And Recreation Ground	63	37	<b>100</b>
Hemingfords LTC	Hemingford Pavilion	137	107	<b>244</b>
Houghton and Wyton TC	Houghton and Wyton Playing Field	60	20	<b>80</b>
Huntingdon TC	King George V Playing Fields (St Peters Road)	168	133	<b>301</b>
Needingworth TC	Needingworth Village Hall	105	75	<b>180</b>
Ramsey TC	Ramsey Tennis Club	42	46	<b>88</b>
St Neots TC	St Neots Lawn Tennis Club (& bowls)	163	66	<b>229</b>
<b>Total</b>		813	604	<b>1,417</b>

The unaffiliated club (Great Staughton & District Tennis Club) were also contacted for consultation however, they did not response to requests via both email and phone call. It should be noted that Great Staughton & District Tennis Club is also likely to host a number of members.

### **Future demand**

Buckden TC suggests that it has been losing its senior members in recent years, although at the same time its junior membership has increased significantly. The Club expresses a desire to re-establish a stronger senior membership through engagement with the local community.

Houghton and Wyton TC and Needingworth TC both report a desire to increase their senior and junior membership in the coming years. The Club's report wanting to increase by *circa* 20-40 members.

Huntingdon TC reports that it has aspirations for a high increase in both its senior and junior membership. It has set itself high targets as it suggests without an increase in membership it may struggle to cover the costs of its energy bills, which are due to rise. The Club suggests it aspires to increase its membership by around 100-150 members, it should be stated that this is a very unlikely target and is purely aspirational by the Club.

### **Unmet demand**

Unmet demand is demand which is known to exist but similarly is not able to be realised, in this case due to lack of access to or poor quality of facilities. This is often represented in the form of a waiting list.

### **Latent demand**



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The LTA has undertaken modelling work in conjunction with Periscope Data as part of a Digital Participation Project. The findings inform LTA decisions around investment into the gate access technology in park sites. The LTA has committed to improving access to park venues by agreeing to grant fund the installation of gate access systems across the country in locations that will make it easier for people to find and book a court.

The modelling has helped explore penetration of park sites across the Country and has identified sites with a high level of penetration and potential local demand. The model uses a ten minute drive time catchment area and identifies sites within areas of high demand, based demographic, population and LTA tennis segmentation data.

The six tennis segments and their representation within existing LTA membership in Huntingdonshire are:

- ◀ **Tennis Titan (10%)** - Frequent players & tennis club members for whom tennis is their main sport and key.
- ◀ **Tennis Troupers (15%)** – Often club members, largely family-oriented, middle-aged players for whom tennis is a hobby; interested in playing with teams to partnering with their kids in the summer.
- ◀ **Seasonal Spinners (3%)** – Largely young women, they play sport in general for athletic reasons (often being gym-goers and joggers), and enjoy their tennis a lot, though tennis is very intertwined with friends and being social.
- ◀ **Wimbledon Warriors (2%)** - Largely young men who are keen athletes, they like tennis and want to play more, though are often held back by other factors.
- ◀ **Social Butterflies (3%)** - Infrequent, younger and less experienced players for whom tennis is an occasional fun summer activity.
- ◀ **Senior Stalwarts (60%)** - An older group of players for whom tennis is a social habit and they play with a regular group as a way of keeping social and enjoyable gentle exercise.

A further 6% are considered to be within demographics which do not match a tennis profile.

Senior Stalwarts have the greatest representation within current LTA affiliated membership, this segment is individuals which use tennis as a social habit as a way of keeping social and getting regular exercise.

### ***Informal tennis***

The LTA has developed a package of support for local authorities to grow the use of tennis courts by removing key barriers to participation. The three products are ClubSpark, Rally and Gate Access, which are further detailed below.

It is believed by many of the schools that a lack of demand is a direct result of quality issues and/or a lack of floodlighting, as well as other courts being available for free. This results in the community being less likely to pay a hire charge for their provision.

#### *ClubSpark – Improving the booking process*

ClubSpark is a flexible and simple venue management platform with multiple products and applications to help venues, local authorities and coaches manage their sport. ClubSpark is a tool that is offered for free as part of LTA venue registration and allows administrators to manage all functions at their venue(s), including:

- ◀ Managed website - create and manage a mobile friendly website tailored to LA/club requirements to promote events and activities.
- ◀ Managed coaching – set up coaching lessons and courses online.

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- ◀ Membership management - improve membership engagement by making it easier for the venue and for members to pay, renew and keep in touch (includes online payments, direct debits and the monitoring of revenue streams; membership modules can also be used to take season ticket payments for venues operating a non-traditional annual facility fee).
- ◀ Organise payments - set the way payments are taken, whether it's immediate pay and play, or bookable as part of a membership package
- ◀ Court bookings – reduced administration for managing bookings; give staff, coaches, members and the general public access to book and pay for courts, classes or other resources online.
- ◀ Scheduling - set unique booking and price rules to suit the venue and enable lights to switch on/off automatically when linked to the LTA Premium Gate Access system.
- ◀ Book and pay remotely - customers can make bookings and payments for a venue anytime, anywhere via the real-time booking app.
- ◀ Reporting - ClubSpark allows administrators to view reports highlighting income, court usage, revenue and number of members and season ticket holders; this allows for identification of trends and patterns and evidence to demonstrate participation levels and impact.

### *RALLY*

Rally is an aggregator that collects all booking and coaching information via ClubSpark pages and displays it for participants in one easy to view page. It allows players to search for venues close to them and provides booking options, removing the barriers of not knowing where courts are or how to book.

Rally provides a helpful customer journey, with a personal profile to review and manage bookings, and helpful reminders. Courts can be set to book for free of charge or at a fee agreed by the provider.

Based on the LTA's recent Parks Tennis Brochure (Making Your Courts Work for You)<sup>35</sup> there are now 1,124 venues on Rally. Of these two are in Huntingdonshire at King George V Playing Fields (St Peters Road) and Needingworth Village Hall.

### *Smart Access*

The LTA has developed two Smart Access gate systems that work in association with ClubSpark to secure courts and to allow access to booked customers only. Members of the public can book a court online (making payment if required) and receive a four digit access code via email to enter using a courtside keypad. The gate access system then allows entry for the time booked if a correct code is entered.

There are two gate options available: SmartAccess Premium and SmartAccess Lite. The demands and needs of users plus the setup of the venue determines the most appropriate system for each site.

Nationally, the LTA has supported the installation of 177 gate access systems within the last two years. Furthermore, it states that sites with Gate Access installations:

- ◀ Attracted 65,751 unique players
- ◀ Led to 791,226 court bookings
- ◀ Generated £1.5 million of income

There are currently no sites with Gate Access in Huntingdonshire.

### ***Additional demand***

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<sup>35</sup> <https://www.lta.org.uk/globalassets/venue/resources/park-tennis-making-your-courts-work.pdf>

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The LTA operates various tennis initiatives across the Country which result in some courts receiving additional demand. Furthermore, there are other formats away from traditional tennis that can result in increased usage. These are all detailed below.

### *Local Tennis Leagues*

Recreational Tennis leagues are less formal in comparison to established club play, offering greater flexibility and an opportunity for all abilities to engage in competition at local venues. The leagues are available to all aged 18 years and above and are run by an organisation called Local Tennis Leagues, which is owned by the LTA. Players are organised into mixed sex leagues of eight based on similar ability levels, with matches arranged between the two players at whatever time and court is agreed. The flexibility of play is conducive to the use of park sites which are typically more easily accessible.

There are no Local Tennis League specific to Huntingdonshire.

### *LTA Youth Programme*

The LTA coordinate courses for children aged 4 - 18, consisting of fun games and dynamic training. Specialist coaches make sure every child has the best start to their tennis journey in a safe and inclusive environment. Sessions cater to all abilities.

Youth stages:

- ◀ Blue Stage (Age 4-6)
- ◀ Red Stage (Age 6-8)
- ◀ Orange Stage (Age 8-9)
- ◀ Green Stage (Age 9-10)
- ◀ Yellow Stage (Age 10+)

Key points:

- ◀ There are assigned ages to each stage, but this only serves as a guide.
- ◀ Young people want to play in groups and with their friends, and so whatever stage they start at, all kids will see progression.
- ◀ In every LTA Youth stage, young people will be active, having fun and developing skills

### *LTA Youth Start<sup>36</sup>*

LTA Youth Start<sup>37</sup> is a six week coaching offer for children that have never played tennis before and is identified as a priority by the LTA. For £29.99 (Plus £5 postage & packaging), kids get six weeks coaching by an LTA Accredited coach, along with a free racket, pack of balls and personalised t-shirt so that they can continue playing.

There is currently one venue, King George V Playing Fields (Huntingdon TC) which operates the programme.

### *Tennis for Free*

Tennis for Free<sup>38</sup> is a community sports charity that work in partnership with the LTA. The charity delivers free, fully inclusive weekly coaching sessions for all ages and abilities in local

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<sup>36</sup> <https://www.lta.org.uk/play-compete/lta-youth/start/>

<sup>37</sup> <https://ClubSpark.lta.org.uk/tennisforkids>

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.tennisforfree.com/index.php>

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communities across the UK, especially those in low income areas. Tennis For Free offer a package for local authorities and court operators that includes financial support for local LTA Accredited coaches to deliver the sessions, tennis equipment for attendees and coaches and promotional support. Sessions are typically delivered across three courts, although the charity have recently launched 'Tennis for Free Lite', to unlock the large number of two court community venues that could benefit from the offer. Through its offer it aims to:

- ◀ Reinvigorate under-used public facilities
- ◀ Make tennis a sport for all
- ◀ Make tennis more financially accessible in the UK
- ◀ Improve the physical and mental wellbeing of local communities through tennis.

### *Padel*

One of the LTAs key strategies is to find new ways to grow participation and Padel is an innovative format of tennis that is fun, flexible, easy to play and extremely sociable. Padel is played mainly in a doubles format on an enclosed court about a third of the size of a tennis court and can be played in groups of mixed ages and abilities, as it is not power dominant. The rules are broadly the same as tennis, although you serve under-arm and the walls are used as part of the game with the ball allowed to bounce off them.

One of the fastest growing sports across Europe, Padel has gained increasing popularity over recent years, with over six million people currently playing in Spain.

Padel has been integrated into the LTA and is recognised as a format of tennis. This has provided a platform to facilitate the growth of the sport, with tennis venues throughout Great Britain exploring the potential opportunities it can bring to a facility.

There are currently no padel tennis courts within Huntingdonshire

### **9.4: Supply and demand analysis**

#### *Club tennis*

The LTA suggests that a hard court with no sports lighting can accommodate 40 members whereas a hard court with sports lighting can accommodate 60 members. Indoor courts can accommodate 200 members with air domed courts being able to host 100. It should be noted that these figures relate to LTA viability guidelines for clubs and are not the maximum capacity. The figure relates to what most clubs, based on the level of provision, would find sustainable.

Based on known club membership figures, there is sufficient capacity at three of the four responding club sites.

Needingworth TC currently has 180 members, its three courts (two with sports lighting) have a capacity of 160 members. This highlights that the club is currently operating at 20 members above its recommended capacity. The club aspires to develop sports lighting on the one court without, this would alleviate the current capacity imbalance.

Both Huntingdon TC and Buckden TC has capacity to grow its membership, by 239 and 45 members respectively. Whilst Houghton & Wyton TC currently are at capacity. Whilst Huntingdon TC and Buckden TC have capacity to accommodate its aspirations for future growth in membership, the aspirations for Houghton & Wyton TC would see its courts become marginally oversubscribed. As Needingworth TC is currently oversubscribed any further membership growth would see this exacerbated. It should be noted that even if plans to develop sports lights on the unlit court were successful, the courts would still be played to

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capacity with its current membership. Therefore, further growth to its membership, would again see the courts become oversubscribed.

It should be noted that although no membership data is known for the unaffiliated club, Great Staughton & District TC, its site at Great Staughton Playing Fields has a theoretical capacity to host 80 members. Due to the nature of unaffiliated clubs generally having lower membership, it is likely that the Club is within this capacity, with space for additional members.

All other clubs membership were gathered through LTA membership data however, these figures are likely not 100% accurate. However, these membership numbers suggests that the courts at Hemingford Pavilion are over capacity by 124 members with its courts having capacity for 120 members. Although this isn't guaranteed to be 100% accurate the membership numbers for Hemingfords LTC is likely to be above the recommended capacity on its courts at Hemingford Pavilion.

### *Non-club settings*

There are no known shortfalls for non-club tennis courts, instead opportunities to develop participation and growth through different participation offers within new tennis markets. Much of the club based membership in the District is from senior age players. There is opportunity to increase participation through non-club environments with the right offer.

### **9.5: Conclusion**

In conclusion, capacity for both club and non-club tennis courts can meet current and future demand at the majority of tennis club sites, only Needingworth and Hemongfords TC currently have capacity issues. However, Needingworth TC aspires to develop additional sports lighting onsite which would remove these current issues. It is likely that future demand could be accommodated at Huntingon TC and Buckden BC, whilst Houghton & Wyton TC would see its courts become over capacity if club future aspirations were realised. Similarly, Needingworth TC would see its courts remain over capacity if future aspirations were realised, this is regardless of the development of additional sports lights onsite.

Court quality and provision of sports lighting is generally good at club sites, though there is a case to explore potential to provide additional sports lighting increase capacity.

The quality of park and publicly accessible sites is not as high and there is scope to improve both the quality of provision and accessibility for the public tennis market, to provide an alternative participation offer to engage other sections of the LTA market segmentation.

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### **Tennis summary**

- ◀ **In conclusion, capacity for both club and non-club tennis courts can meet current and future demand at the majority of tennis club sites.**
- ◀ **Only Needingworth and Hemingfords TC currently have capacity issues. However, Needingworth TC aspires to develop additional sports lighting onsite which remove these issues.**

### **Supply**

- ◀ There is a total of 74 tennis courts identified in Huntingdonshire across 21 sites. Of these courts, 48 are identified as being available for community use, whilst 26 are identified as being unavailable.
- ◀ There is one macadam court which is disused at Warboys Parish Centre. The Court has been disused for a number of years and leaves the site as a whole disused for sport.
- ◀ Most outdoor tennis courts in Huntingdonshire have a macadam surface, with 59 of the 74 courts (80% of all courts) of this type. Of the 48 community available courts, most are macadam surfaces (33 courts, 69%).

### **Quality**

- ◀ Just under half of courts in Huntingdonshire are rated as good quality (35 courts or 47%), 29 are rated as standard quality (39%) and ten are accessed as poor quality (14%). Of the 48 community available courts, 26 are rated as good quality (54%), 12 are rated standard (25%) and ten as poor quality (21%).
- ◀ Community available courts are rated as poor quality at Great Staughton Playing Fields, Leighton Playing Field, Norwood Playing Field, One Leisure St Ives Outdoor, Hinchingsbrooke School.
- ◀ In total, 35 of the 74 tennis courts in Huntingdonshire are serviced by sports lighting, representing 47% of all court provision.
- ◀ Most courts (26 courts, 35% of all courts) are within education ownership. There are 17 courts (23% of all courts) managed by Sports Clubs, eight courts managed by each of HDC, parish councils and community organisations (11% of all courts).

### **Capacity**

- ◀ There is eight LTA affiliated tennis club in Huntingdonshire, the known membership totals 756 members.

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## PART 10: NETBALL COURTS

### 10.1: Introduction

England Netball (EN) is the governing body with overall responsibility for ensuring the effective governance of the sport.

Whilst often played indoors, nationally, EN reports that the challenge is that the supply of outdoor netball courts is generally not of a good enough standard for use by the community, whilst accessibility can also be problematic.

#### **Consultation**

Information for netball was gathered through online research along with consultation with England Netball to inform this section of the Report.

### 10.2 Supply

There are 40 outdoor netball courts identified in Huntingdonshire across 16 sites, of which, 12 are available for community use across five sites. Most provision is in the St Neots Analysis Area with a total of 14 (35%) courts identified. This is followed by the St Ives Analysis Area with 13 (33%) courts, Huntingdon with eight (20%) courts, North West with three (8%) courts and West with just two (5%) courts. The North East Analysis Area has no netball court provision.

Figure 10.1: Location of netball courts in Huntingdonshire

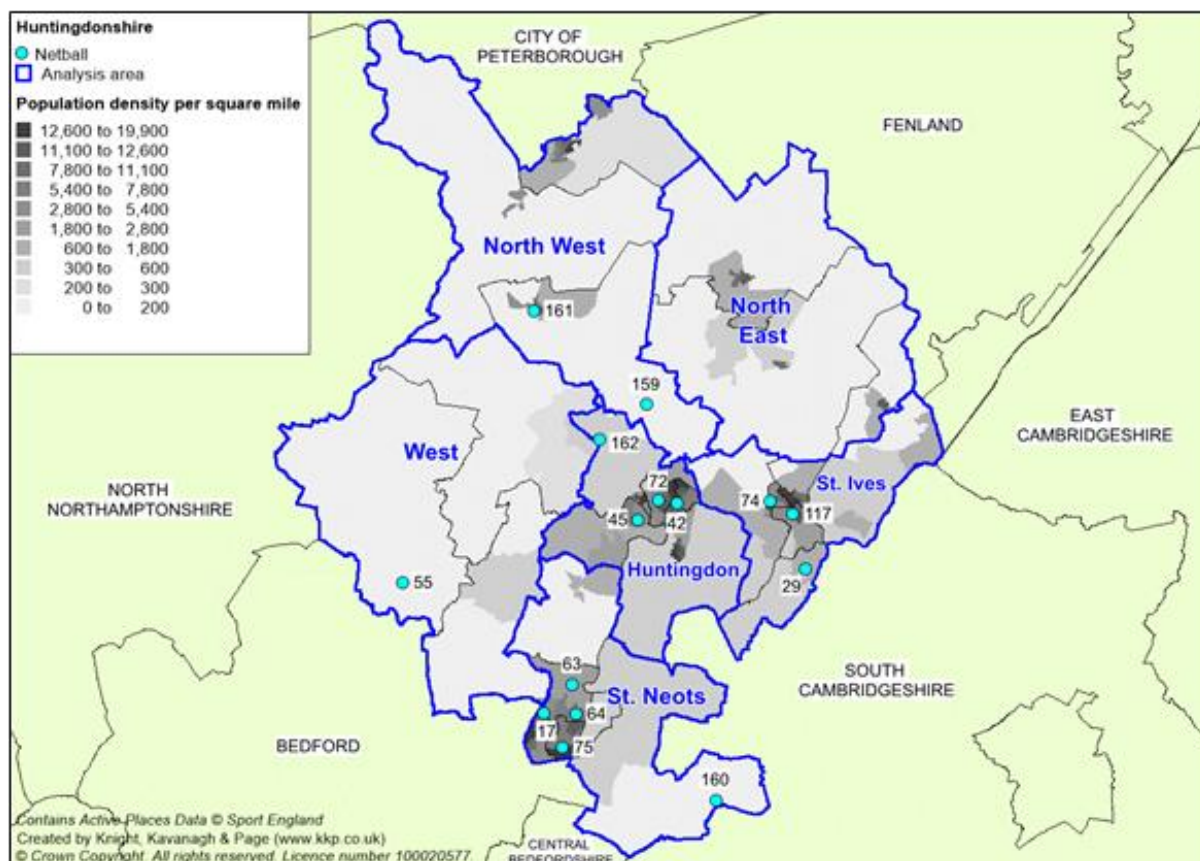


Figure 10.1 shows the location of all courts currently servicing Huntingdonshire. For a key to the map, see Table 10.1.

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Table 10.1: Summary of outdoor netball court provision

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Number of courts	Surface type	Sports lighting	Quality
17	Crosshall Junior School	St. Neots	No	2	Macadam	No	Standard
24	Ermine Street Church Academy	Huntingdon	Yes	2	Macadam	No	Good
25	Ernulf Academy	St. Neots	Yes	3	Macadam	Yes	Standard
29	Fenstanton & Hilton Primary School	St. Ives	No	3	Macadam	No	Standard
42	Hartford Junior School	Huntingdon	No	1	Macadam	No	Standard
45	Hinchingbrooke School	Huntingdon	Yes	4	Macadam	No	Good
56	Kimbolton School	West	No	2	Macadam	No	Poor
63	Little Paxton Primary School	St. Neots	No	1	Macadam	No	Good
64	Longsands Academy	St. Neots	No	4	Macadam	No	Good
				3			Poor
72	One Leisure Huntingdon	Huntingdon	Yes	1	Macadam	Yes	Good
74	One Leisure St Ives Outdoor	St. Ives	Yes	2	Macadam	Yes	Poor
97	St Ivo Academy	St. Ives	No	3	Macadam	No	Standard
				3		Yes	
117	Westfield Junior School	St. Ives	No	2	Macadam	No	Standard
159	Abbots Ripton Primary C of E	North West	No	1	Macadam	No	Standard
160	Barnabas Oley Primary School	St. Neots	No	1	Macadam	No	Standard
161	Sawtry Junior Academy	North West	No	2	Macadam	No	Poor



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### **Management**

Although not uncommon across the Country, most of the netball provision within the District are located on educational sites. This creates a particular issue surrounding community availability where there is often limited or reduced community access. As identified above only 12 courts (35%) are available for community use.

Of the 12 community available courts, six of the courts are located at One Leisure managed sites, with the remaining six courts located at Hinchingsbrooke School (four courts) and Ermine Street Church Academy (two courts).

### **Quality**

The quality of netball courts across Huntingdonshire has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows: Good (>80%), Standard (70-80%), Poor (<70%).

Maintaining high court quality is an important aspect of netball and therefore the non-technical assessment assesses several factors which evidence court quality. The criteria for the non-technical assessment consists of; court surface grip underfoot, damage to a court surface, line markings, evidence of moss/lichen, slope of courts, disability access, fencing and courts being of an appropriate size for competitive netball.

As seen in Table 9.1 most courts (19 or 48%) are rated as standard quality, whilst 12 (30%) courts are rated as good quality. The remaining nine courts (22%) are rated as poor quality with significant issues surrounding grip, court markings and evidence of moss/lichen.

Of the 12 community available courts, seven (58%) are good quality, three (25%) are standard quality and two (17%) at One Leisure St Ives Outdoor are poor quality, it should be noted that these courts are due for resurfacing in January/February 2023.

Additionally, it should be noted that only nine courts are accompanied by sports lighting. Six of these are located at the three sites widely available for community use, at the three One Leisure sites, with three at St Ivo Academy.

### **Overmarking of courts**

Netball courts, particularly within schools, are often overmarked by tennis basketball and/or football courts as shared use spaces. Courts which are overmarked tend to receive higher levels of use which can be detrimental to quality over time, as well as creating capacity issues if there is community demand from more than one sport.

Hinchingsbrooke School, Kimbolton Prep School, Little Paxton Primary School, Longsands Academy, One Leisure Huntingdon, One Leisure St Ives Outdoor, One Leisure St Neots, St Ivo Academy and Ermine Street Church Academy all have netball courts overmarked for other sports, particularly that of tennis.

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### *Court type*

All of the outdoor netball courts in Huntingdonshire have a macadam surface. The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels. To ensure courts can continue to be used beyond this time frame, it is recommended that a sinking fund is put into place for eventual refurbishment.

### **10.2 Demand**

#### *Club demand*

England Netball identifies nine clubs as playing within the District and as identified below.

*Table 10.2: Summary of tennis club membership*

<b>Name of club</b>	<b>Sites used</b>
Hinchingbrooke Harriers NC	Hinchingbrooke School
RAF Wyton NC	RAF Wyton
Alconbury Weald NC	Ermine Street Church Academy
Hawks NC	One Leisure St Ives Outdoor
Cyclone NC	Longsands Academy
St Neots NC	Longsands Academy
Sawtry Kites NC	Sawtry Junior Academy
Warboys Witches NC	One Leisure St Ives Outdoor
Icons NC	One Leisure St Ives Outdoor

Clubs in the District play within multiple leagues across Cambridgeshire and the surrounding areas. The Clubs listed in Table 9.2 play across, the Bedford & District Netball League, Heritage Netball League, Cambridge & District Netball League, Cambridge County Premier League, Huntingdon & Peterborough Netball League and the Fenland Netball League.

#### *Other demand*

In November 2021, England Netball launched a new 10-year 'Adventure Strategy' the strategy is a purpose-led ambition for the game, to build on the momentum the sport has seen in recent years. The strategy outlines the intention to:

- ◀ Accelerate the development and growth of the game at every level, from grassroots to the elite
- ◀ Elevate the visibility of the sport
- ◀ Lead a movement to impact lives on and beyond the court

The Strategy look at achieving its goals by engaging with and delivering netball for female communities, England Netball pledges to understand, support and nurture women and girls more deeply at every life stage, at every age. In order to do this, it delivers four participation programmes to engage women in the sport:

- ◀ Back to Netball
- ◀ Bee Netball
- ◀ Netball Now
- ◀ Walking Netball

Back to Netball is a fun and friendly re-introduction to the sport. More than 110,000 participants have rediscovered their love for the game through

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Back to Netball and realised the many benefits of getting involved. It is targeted at participants of all ages and levels of experience but sessions will be specifically designed to cater for those who have not played for an extended period.

At present there is one session of Back to Netball run at Ermine Street Church Academy on Tuesday evenings 7pm-8pm.

The Bee Netball programme for young children, whilst supporting teens and young women to stay in the game to keep them physically active and in the game for life, based around friendship, inclusion, fair play and playing together. Transforming netball for children and young people is a strategic priority to protect the future of the sport.

At present there are no outdoor venues which run Bee Netball sessions in Huntingdonshire.

Netball Now is a simple and comfortable way to play netball. It is not a coached session or a competition led by regulations and scores recorded. It is simply a session where players turn up, pay a small fee and play netball. At present, there are no venues in Huntingdonshire which run Netball Now.

Walking Netball is a slower version of the game; it is netball, but at a walking pace the sessions have been designed so that anyone can play it regardless of age or fitness level. From those who have dropped out of the sport due to serious injury to those who believed they had hung up their netball trainers many years ago. At present, One Leisure Ramsey, One Leisure Huntingdon and One Leisure St Neots all operate outdoor walking netball sessions.

### *Latent demand*

Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in netball but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 527 people who would like to participate in the sport within Huntingdonshire.

As seen in the table below in comparison to its neighbouring local authorities, Huntingdonshire has a reasonably similar amount of latent demand for netball to neighbouring authorities, siting close to both Bedford and the City of Peterborough.

*Table 10.3: Latent demand for netball in Huntingdonshire and neighbouring local authorities*

Neighbouring Local Authority	Latent demand for netball
Bedford	513
Central Bedfordshire	790
City of Peterborough	520
East Cambridgeshire	266
Fenland	270
<b>Huntingdonshire</b>	<b>527</b>
South Cambridgeshire	445

### **10.3: Conclusion**

In conclusion, there is an insufficient supply of outdoor netball courts to service the District. This is due to a low supply of available community available courts and a mixed quality offer. When reviewing provision by individual analysis areas, residents in St Ives, North East and West have access to no provision or a poor quality offer, whilst St Neots is catered for by three standard quality courts. Consequently, there are no opportunities within these settlements for competitive or recreational netball offers to be established (i.e. back to netball). This position is exacerbated

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when reviewing provision by ownership and management type where there is a reliance on the education sector to provide the better quality courts in the District which although are available for community use, are less well advertised and known to be accessible.

It is known that most competitive play occurs outside of the District on a central venue basis and as such from a competitive point of view there is a limited need for outdoor courts. However, from a recreational perspective, the supply is inadequate and is likely to be preventative for alternate opportunities to emerge and grow, such as Netball Now.

### **Netball summary**

- ◀ **In conclusion, there is an insufficient supply of outdoor netball courts to service the District. This is due to a low supply of available community available courts and a mixed quality offer.**
- ◀ **When reviewing provision by individual analysis areas, residents in St Ives, North East and West have access to no provision or a poor quality offer, whilst St Neots is catered for by three standard quality courts.**

### **Supply**

- ◀ There are 40 outdoor netball courts identified in Huntingdonshire across 16 sites, of which, 12 are available for community use across five sites.
- ◀ Most provision is in the St Neots Analysis Area with a total of 14 (35%) courts identified. This is followed by the St Ives Analysis Area with 13 (33%) courts, Huntingdon with eight (20%) courts, North West with three (8%) courts and West with just two (5%) courts. The North East Analysis Area has no netball court provision.
- ◀ Although not uncommon across the Country, netball provision within the District is located on current educational sites.

### **Quality**

- ◀ Most courts (19 or 48%) are rated as standard quality, whilst 12 (30%) courts are rated as good quality. The remaining nine courts (22%) are rated as poor quality
- ◀ Of the 12 community available courts, seven (58%) are good quality, three (25%) are standard quality and two (17%) at One Leisure St Ives Outdoor are poor quality.
- ◀ Only six courts are accompanied by sports lighting these are located at the three sites widely available for community use, at the three One Leisure sites.
- ◀ All of the outdoor netball courts in Huntingdonshire have a macadam surface.

### **Demand**

- ◀ England Netball identifies nine clubs within the District.
- ◀ Clubs in the District play within multiple leagues across Cambridgeshire and the surrounding areas. The Club's play within the Bedford & District Netball League, Heritage Netball League, Cambridge & District Netball League, Cambridge County Premier League, Huntingdon & Peterborough Netball League and the Fenland Netball League.
- ◀ Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool identifies latent demand of 527 people who would like to participate in the sport within Huntingdonshire.

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### PART 11: RUGBY LEAGUE PITCHES

#### 11.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football League (RFL) is the governing body for rugby league in England. It administers the England national rugby league team, the Challenge Cup, Super League and the championships which form the professional and semi-professional structure of the game in the UK.

Most community club rugby league is now played through the summer season (from February to October). However, rugby league is considered as a winter season sport within schools, colleges and universities and therefore pitch provision for matches and training is required through the winter months.

Consultation with St Ives Roosters RLFC was undertaken to inform this section of the report.

#### 11.2: Supply

There is currently no rugby league provision in Huntingdonshire. Rugby union pitches at St Ives Rugby Union Football Club and One Leisure St Ives Outdoor were previously used for rugby league activity.

#### 11.3: Demand

The District was previously home to St Ives Roosters RLFC which most recently operated at St Ives Rugby Union Football Club as a dual club with the rugby union club onsite. During consultation it was expressed that the Club was last active in the 2019 season, however, no activity took place in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Club held an online social media presence until March 2021 and planned to continue its engagement in the RFL leagues, however, it states that due to the leagues struggling for referees it made the decision to pause activity. It has not resumed activity for the 2022 season, however, remains hopeful of activity resuming for the 2023 season.

At present, there are two active clubs which have activity close to Huntingdonshire these are Bedford Tigers RLFC and Cambridge Pride RLFC.

It is likely that players from St Ives Roosters will travel to both club's due to there being no active rugby league activity in Huntingdonshire.

Bedford Tigers RLFC states it accesses Bedford Athletic Rugby Club over summer months on a rolling yearly license with the Club. The Club has six satellite participation schemes in which it delivers summer RFL sessions, those being located at Emerson Valley RUFC (Milton Keynes), Bedford Athletic RUFC (Bedford), Amptill RUFC and Dunstable RUFC (Central Bedfordshire) and Stockwood Park RUFC and Luton RFU (Luton).

Cambridge Pride RLFC accesses Shelford Rugby Club over the summer months for its activity. The Club trains at the site on Wednesday evenings from 7pm-8.30pm weekly, whilst it also accesses the site for match days on Saturday afternoons. The Club is a newly formed Club for 2022.

#### 11.4: Conclusion

Although there are no current active teams in the District, the demand levels for activity has not decreased. St Ives Roosters RLFC has plans to re-instate activity for the 2023 season at St Ives Rugby Union Football Club, as it hopes previously issues with referees in the league

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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have been resolved. At present, players which cannot access activity in the District, do so by travelling to Bedford and South Cambridgeshire.

### **Summary – Rugby League**

- ◀ **Although there is no current active teams in the District, the demand levels for activity has not decreased.**

### **Supply**

- ◀ There is a currently no dedicated rugby league pitches. Pitches were previously accommodated at St Ives Rugby Union Football Club.

### **Demand**

- ◀ There is one dormant club in the District, St Ives Roosters RLFC, which has paused activity due to issues with referees in the respective league. The Club is looking to re-instate activity for the 2023 season.
- ◀ At present, players which wish to participate in rugby league activity, do so by travelling to the neighbouring borough of Bedford and South Cambridgeshire.

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

## PART 12: OTHER OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES

### 12.1: Outdoor gyms

Similar to interior gyms found in leisure centres, outdoor gyms can be found in public spaces providing users with a selection of equipment they can use to exercise for free. The types of equipment found at these sites often vary between a mixture of cardiovascular and strength based equipment which is designed for ease of use for most potential users.

#### Supply

In total, 18 outdoor gym facilities are identified in Huntingdonshire. The North East and Huntingdon analysis areas have the most amount of provision with five (28%) outdoor gym facilities each. Whilst the West Analysis Area have three (17%) outdoor gyms each. The North West and St Ives analysis areas accommodate two (11%) outdoor gyms. The St Neots Analysis Area has the least number of outdoor gyms with one (6%).

A full breakdown of provision is in Table 12.1.

Figure 12.1: Outdoor gym supply

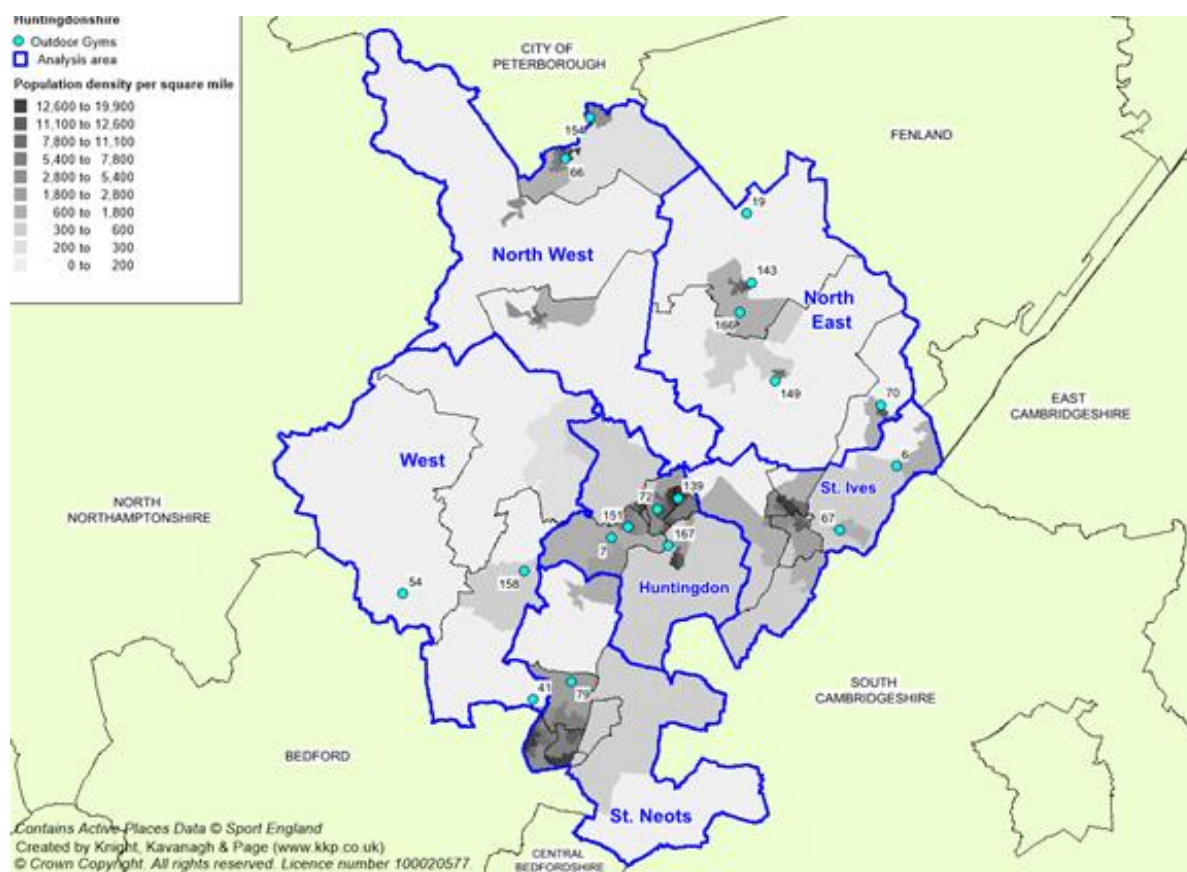


Table 12.1: Outdoor gym locations

Site ID	Site	Town/Settlement	Analysis area	Ownership
6	Bluntisham Village Hall & Recreation Ground	Bluntisham	St. Ives	Parish Council
7	Brampton Memorial Playing Field	Huntingdon	Huntingdon	Parish Council

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Site ID	Site	Town/Settlement	Analysis area	Ownership
19	Drovers Close	Ramsey Mereside	North East	Community Organisation
41	Hail Weston Playing Fields	St Neots	West	Parish Council
54	Kimbolton Cricket Club	Kimbolton	West	Sports Club
66	Middletons Road Recreational Ground	Peterborough	North West	Parish Council
70	Norwood Playing Field	Somersham	North East	Parish Council
72	One Leisure Huntingdon	Huntingdon	Huntingdon	District Council
79	Queen Elizabeth II Recreation Ground (Little Paxton)	Little Paxton	St. Neots	Parish Council
126	Needingworth Village Hall	Needingworth	St. Ives	Parish Council
139	Coneygear Park	Huntingdon	Huntingdon	Town Council
143	Ramsey Outdoor Gym	Ramsey	North East	Parish Council
149	Adam Lyons Playground	Warboys	North East	Parish Council
151	Hinchingbrooke Country Park	Huntingdon	Huntingdon	Town Council
154	Hadaway Field, Farcet	Farcet	North West	Parish Council
158	Grafham Play Area	Grafham	West	Parish Council
166	Bury Village Hall	Bury	North East	Parish Council
167	Godmanchester Queens Walk Play Area	Godmanchester	Huntingdon	Town Council

### Conclusion

There is no prescriptive methodology for assessing need for outdoor gyms. These facilities are generally built to provide for localised communities on a town/village basis and it is unlikely people will travel significant distances to access the facilities. As such, any area with a modest to large population without provision could be considered to have a need for this.

Based on the identified locations of existing outdoor gyms, it is apparent that Huntingdon has reasonable access to provision. However, it can also be seen that in the highly populated settlements in St Ives and St Neots there is limited access, with provision within the relevant analysis areas, but outside of the population centres. Moving away from the urbanised areas of the authority the facility spread reduces aligned to lower population, which is to be expected. The only potential location identified where is a potential gap in provision is in Sawtry.

### 12.2: Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs)

#### Introduction

MUGAs are a reference to any sport or games areas which are often used for social and recreational sport in the community and are generally categorised into typologies, as seen in the table below. To qualify as a MUGA, a facility should be minimum of a five-a-side football pitch (two tennis courts) in size and be marked out for at least three sports.

Table 12.2: Types of MUGAs

Type	Surface	Characteristics	Preferred sports
Type One	Open textured porous macadam	Used for ball rebound sports. Suitable for wheelchair sports.	Tennis and netball.
Type Two			
Type Three	Polymeric surface over macadam		



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Type	Surface	Characteristics	Preferred sports
Type Four	Polymeric surface over macadam base	Due to their greater shock absorbency and lower surface friction, these areas are not recommended for tennis or netball.	Football, basketball and recreational activity
Type Five	Sand based or third generation turf (3G)	Shockpad and either heavily doused with water before play or filled or dressed with sand or rubber crumb.	Formalised sports including hockey, football, American football, lacrosse and rugby.

### Supply

Across Huntingdonshire there are a total of 22 MUGAs with most of this provision located within the Huntingdon Analysis Area with six MUGAs (27%), followed by West and St Neots analysis areas with five MUGAs (23%) each. Whilst the St Ives, North West and North East analysis areas all have two (9%) MUGAs.

In addition, but not included within the community available supply is one good quality MUGA at Wyton on the Hill, the court is located within the boundaries of RAF Wyton and therefore is only available for authorised personal living within the base.

*Table 12.3: Summary of MUGAs and basketball courts in Huntingdonshire*

Analysis area	Number of MUGAs
Huntingdon	6
North East	2
North West	2
St. Ives	2
St. Neots	5
West	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 12.4: Summary of provision

Site ID	Site	Town/Settlement	Analysis area	Number of courts	Surface type	Sports lighting?	Quality
7	Brampton Memorial Playing Field	Huntingdon	Huntingdon	1	Type One/Two	Yes	Standard
15	Catworth Playing Field	Catworth	West	1	Type Five	Yes	Standard
19	Drovers Close	Ramsey Mereside	North East	1	Type One/Two	No	Poor
20	Earith Recreational Field	Earith	St. Ives	1	Type One/Two	No	Poor
34	Grafham Recreation Ground	Grafham	West	1	Type Five	Yes	Good
41	Hail Weston Playing Fields	St Neots	West	1 (Half MUGA)	Type One/Two	No	Standard
53	Judith's Field Recreation Centre	Huntingdon	Huntingdon	1	Type One/Two	Yes	Standard
66	Middletons Road Recreational Ground	Peterborough	North West	1	Type One/Two	Yes	Poor
71	Offord D'Arcy Football Pitch	St Neots	Huntingdon	1	Type One/Two	No	Poor
79	Queen Elizabeth II Recreation Ground (Little Paxton)	Little Paxton	St. Neots	1	Type One/Two	Yes	Standard
120	Ellington Recreation Ground	Ellington	West	1	Type One/Two	No	Poor
123	Great Gransden Bowls & Tennis	Great Gransden	St. Neots	1	Type One/Two	No	Good
126	Needingworth Village Hall	Needingworth	St. Ives	1	Type One/Two	No	Standard
139	Coneygear Park	Huntingdon	Huntingdon	1	Type One/Two	No	Poor
141	Loves Farm MUGA	St Neots	St. Neots	1	Type One/Two	No	Poor
147	Molesworth MUGA	Molesworth	West	1	Type Five	No	Standard
150	Sallowbush Road MUGA	Huntingdon	Huntingdon	1	Type One/Two	No	Poor
152	Stukeley Meadows Trim Trail	Huntingdon	Huntingdon	1	Type One/Two	No	Poor
156	Southoe MUGA	Southoe	St. Neots	1	Type One/Two	No	Poor
163	Farm Close MUGA	Upwood	North East	1	Type One/Two	No	Standard
164	Duck Lane	St Neots	St Neots	1	Type One/Two	No	Standard
165	Swynford Road	Huntingdon	North West	1	Type One/Two	No	Good

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### **Future developments**

#### *Football Foundation PlayZones Programme*

The Football Foundation, using investment from the Premier League, The FA and the Government via Sport England has released a new (2022) capital investment programme called the PlayZones Programme. This programme aims to engage with local communities across the Country to create outstanding sports and activity spaces and tackle inequalities in participation. The priority groups for the funding are:

- ◀ Lower socio-economic groups
- ◀ Disabled people with people with long term health conditions
- ◀ Women and girls
- ◀ Ethnically diverse communities

More details surrounding the aims and outcomes for the project and the requirements/stages for application can be found at: <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/playzones-programme>

In partnership with The FF, in the future the Council suggests it may look to progress a number of innovative multi use games facilities through the FF Playzone Programme. Insight from this work should be used to inform future versions of the LFFP.

In the previous Huntingdonshire LFFP, there was just one site identified for development of a MUGA. This was to develop a MUGA alongside the 3G project within the Alconbury Weald development.

### **Management**

Of the 22 MUGAs across Huntingdonshire, all the courts are managed by either parish, HDC or town councils. All the MUGAs are available as open access meaning they do not need to be booked. Anecdotal evidence suggests that all MUGAs are well used in the summer months for activities such as informal football, however, can be prone to vandalism.

### **Quality**

The quality of MUGAs across Huntingdonshire has been assessed via a combination of site visits, undertaken in July 2022, using non-technical assessments to apply quality ratings as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows: Good (>80%), Standard (50-80%), Poor (<50%).

In total across Huntingdonshire, three MUGAs are assessed as good quality, whilst nine are assessed as standard quality and ten are assessed as poor quality with significant issues surrounding grip, court markings and evidence of moss/lichen. The good quality MUGAs are located at Grafham Recreation Ground, Great Gransden Bowls & Tennis and Swynford Road.

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Table 12.5: Summary of MUGA and basketball court quality in Huntingdonshire

Analysis area	Good	Standard	Poor
Huntingdon	-	2	4
North East	-	1	1
North West	1	-	1
St. Ives	-	1	1
St. Neots	1	2	2
West	1	3	1
<b>MUGA total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>

## Sports lighting

The presence of sports lighting is considered to encourage more demand as it enables evening use all year round. However, it is also acknowledged that it can also encourage higher levels unofficial use resulting in increased anti-social behaviour, vandalism and littering. There are six (27%) community available MUGAs with sports lighting in Huntingdonshire.

## Demand

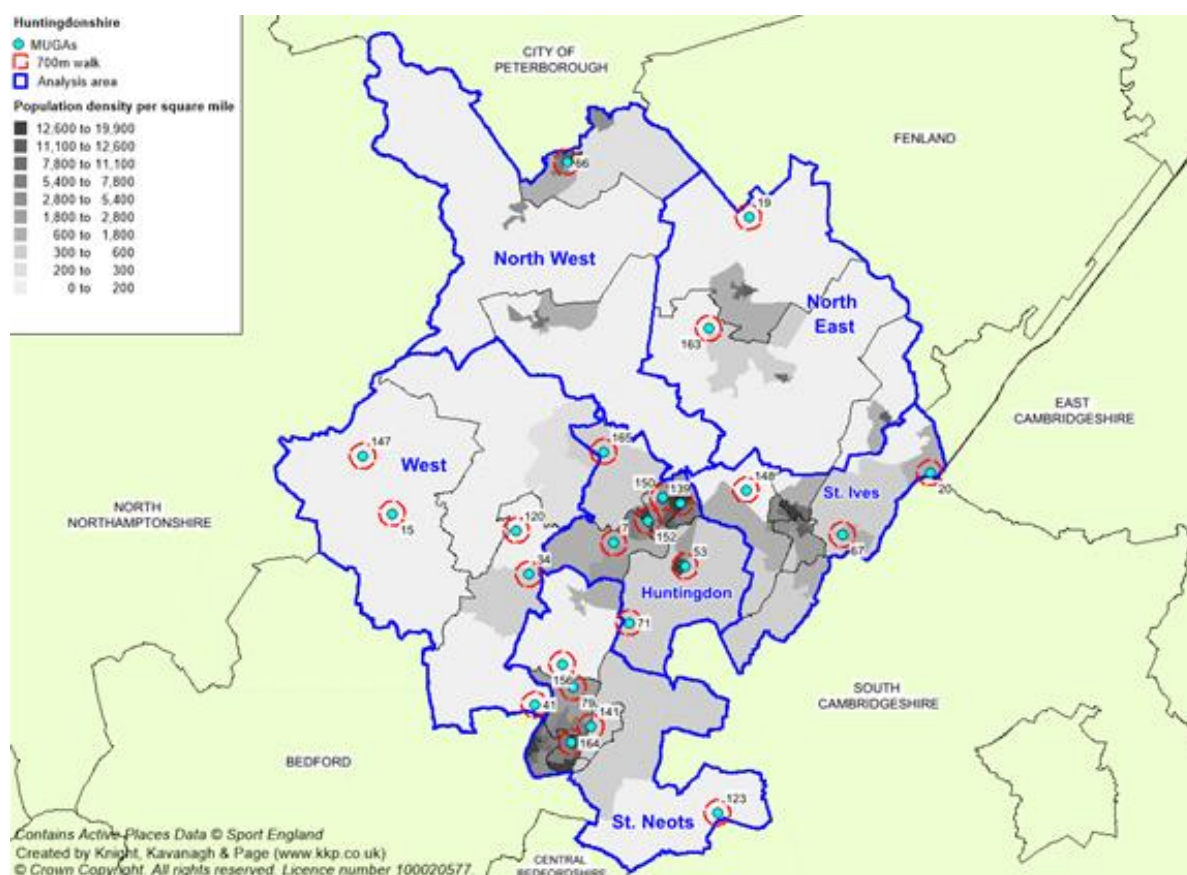
In order to analyse the catchment for MUGA facilities in the District, a standards based approach has been taken from the Fields in Trust guidance<sup>39</sup>, unlike all other sections of this report, which take a non-standards based approach. The catchment guidance for MUGAs is set at 700m walking distance.

Taking this into consideration a total of 76% of the District's population (or 130,934 people) has no MUGA facility within the 700m metre catchment. The map can be seen in Figure 11.2.1.

Figure 11.2: Coverage of MUGAs across all analysis area

<sup>39</sup><https://www.fieldsintrust.org/Upload/file/guidance/Guidance-for-Outdoor-Sport-and-Play-England.pdf>

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Analysis suggests that only the Huntingdon Analysis Area has over 50% of the population within a 700 metre walking distance to a MUGA, with the St Neots Analysis Area having 28% of the population within a 700m walking distance. All the remaining analysis areas have less than 20% of the population within a 700 metre walking distance to a MUGA.

Table 12.6: Summary of MUGA population coverage in Huntingdonshire

Analysis area	MYE 2020	Population within 700m walk of a MUGA		Population NOT within 700m walk of a MUGA	
North West	24,284	4,701	19.4%	19,583	80.6%
North East	21,205	520	2.5%	20,685	97.5%
West	10,204	969	9.5%	9,235	90.5%
St. Neots	41,438	11,572	27.9%	29,866	72.1%
Huntingdon	40,543	20,721	51.1%	19,822	48.9%
St. Ives	34,466	2,723	7.9%	31,743	92.1%
<b>Huntingdonshire</b>	<b>172,140</b>	<b>41,206</b>	<b>23.9%</b>	<b>130,934</b>	<b>76.1%</b>

## Conclusion

The Huntingdon Analysis Area is the best well served analysis area for multi-use games areas, with the St Neots Analysis Area the next best covered. All other analysis areas have 80% of its population catchments not within a 700m walking catchment. This being said, providing new multi-use games areas in these settlement areas should only be seen as a priority if sufficient opportunities for use present themselves and an aligned programme of use is produced to make provision sustainable.

## 12.3: Trim trails

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Trim trails are typically designed as children’s obstacle courses, comprising of multiple pieces of wooden equipment to provide a fun and physical activity. The design of trim trails differs across the Country and there is not a standardised design of provision with this varying from facility to facility.

Normally, a trim trail will comprise of several of the items listed below.

- ◀ Balance beams
- ◀ Balance challenges
- ◀ Chin-up bars
- ◀ Challenge nets
- ◀ Dip bars
- ◀ Duck and dive
- ◀ Jungle bars
- ◀ Leapfrog posts
- ◀ Log passes
- ◀ Log stairs
- ◀ Log steps
- ◀ Log strides
- ◀ Log weaves
- ◀ Split balance bars
- ◀ Overhead ladder bars
- ◀ Rope traverses
- ◀ Shuffle bars
- ◀ Spinning log balance bars
- ◀ Step and jump posts
- ◀ Twisty challenges
- ◀ Tyre pass
- ◀ Tyre steppers
- ◀ Wobbly bridges
- ◀ Wobbly planks

### Supply

A total of ten trim trails are identified across the District. Three of these (30%) are based in Huntingdon, three in the West, two in St Neots (20%) and one located in both the St Ives and North East analysis areas. There is no provision in the North West Analysis Area.

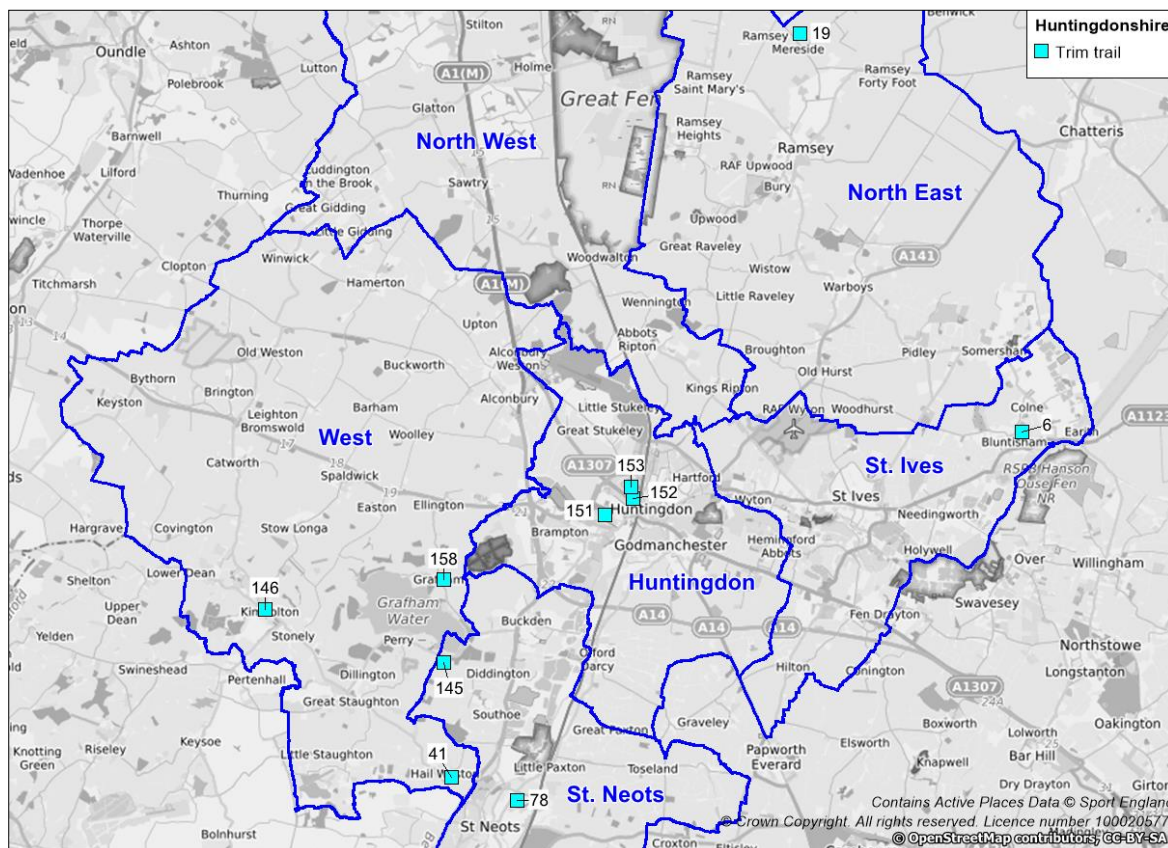
Table 12.7: Supply of trim trails in Huntingdonshire

PPS ID	Site	Analysis area
6	Bluntisham Village Hall & Recreation Ground	St. Ives
19	Drovers Close	North East
41	Hail Weston Playing Fields	West
78	Priory Park	St. Neots
145	Plummer Park	St. Neots
146	Kimbolton Village Hall	West
151	Hinchingbrooke Country Park	Huntingdon
152	Stukeley Meadows Trim Trail	Huntingdon
153	Stanton Butt Trim Trail	Huntingdon
158	Grafham Play Area	West

Figure 12.3 overleaf shows the location of provision across the District.

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Figure 12.3: Location of trim trails in Huntingdonshire



## Quality

There is no prescriptive methodology for assessing trim trail quality. In broad terms, quality is relative to the safety of provision for users, particularly children. During KKP non-technical audits, no safety issues were identified and therefore quality across existing provision is satisfactory.

## Demand

There is no formal methodology for assessing demand for trim trails.

## Conclusion

As there is no methodology to assess need, the requirement for provision should be considered by individual parish councils/landowners for the need of localised populations within popular open space environments.

### Summary – Other outdoor sports

#### Supply

- ◀ There are 15 outdoor gyms, with at least one provided in each analysis area.
- ◀ There are 22 multi-use games areas with at least one provided in each analysis area.
- ◀ There are ten trim trails, none are located in the North West Analysis Area.

#### Demand

- ◀ As demand for all three of the above facility types is typical informal, there is no recorded use of these facilities.

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### APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT

The following section outlines a series of national, regional and local policies pertaining to the study and which will have an important influence on the Strategy.

#### National context

The following section outlines a series of national, regional and local policies pertaining to the study and which will have an important influence on the Strategy.

The provision of high quality and accessible community outdoor sports facilities at a local level is a key requirement for achieving the targets set out by the Government and Sport England. It is vital that this strategy is cognisant of and works towards these targets in addition to local priorities and plans.

#### ***Department of Media Culture and Sport Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation (2015)***

The Government published its strategy for sport in December 2015. This strategy confirms the recognition and understanding that sport makes a positive difference through broader means and that it will help the sector to deliver five simple but fundamental outcomes: physical health, mental health, individual development, social and community development and economic development. In order to measure its success in producing outputs which accord with these aims it has also adopted a series of 23 performance indicators under nine key headings, as follows:

- ◀ More people taking part in sport and physical activity.
- ◀ More people volunteering in sport.
- ◀ More people experiencing live sport.
- ◀ Maximising international sporting success.
- ◀ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◀ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◀ A more productive sport sector.
- ◀ A more financially and organisationally sustainable sport sector.
- ◀ A more responsible sport sector.

#### ***Sport England Uniting the Movement: Our 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport (2021-2031)***

Sport and physical activity makes people happier and healthier, and movement is the lens through which we can make that happen. It does the same thing for our communities, with life-changing, sustainable benefits that have huge economic and social value. That's why Sport England wants sport and physical activity to be recognised as essential to help overcome these national challenges.

The Strategy recognises the need to invest in sport and physical activity through NGBs, other sports bodies and local sports clubs, organisations and community groups to increase engagement for different groups as part of our core purpose. It states that there is now a need to go further in promoting movement in general as the means to unlock sport and activity for some people.



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### *Tackling inequalities*

There are deep-rooted inequalities in sport and physical activity, which means that there are people who feel excluded from being active because the right options and opportunities aren't there. These inequalities are at the very core of the Uniting the Movement.

Sport England plans on having a laser focus on tackling inequalities in all that it does, because providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity is vitally important.

### **National Planning Policy Framework (2021)**

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out planning policies for England. It details how these changes are expected to be applied to the planning system. It also provides a framework for local people and their councils to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

The NPPF states the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It identifies that the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

The 'promoting healthy communities' theme identifies that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficiencies or surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite the NPPF states existing open space, sports and recreation buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown that the open space, buildings or land is surplus to requirements.
- ◀ The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location.
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

In order for planning policies to be 'sound' local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities.

### **The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28)**

The Football Association's (FA) National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS) provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a ten-year period.

The Strategy sets out shared aims and objectives it aims to deliver on in conjunction with The Premier League, Sport England and the Government, to be delivered with support of the Football Foundation.

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These stakeholders have clearly identified the aspirations for football to contribute directly to nationally important social and health priorities. Alongside this, the strategy is clear that traditional, affiliated football remains an important priority and a core component of the game, whilst recognising and supporting the more informal environments used for the community and recreational game.

Its vision is: *“Within 10 years we aim to deliver great football facilities, wherever they are needed”*

£1.3 billion has been spent by football and Government since 2000 to enhance existing football facilities and build new ones. However, more is needed if football and Government’s shared objectives for participation, individual well-being and community cohesion are to be achieved. Nationally, direct investment will be increased – initially to £69 million per annum from football and Government (a 15% increase on recent years).

The NFFS investment priorities can be broadly grouped into six areas, recognising the need to grow the game, support existing players and better understand the different football environments:

- ◀ **Improve 20,000 Natural Turf pitches**, with a focus on addressing drop off due to a poor playing experience;
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 3G AGP ‘equivalents’** (mix of full size and small sided provision, including MUGAs - small sided facilities are likely to have a key role in smaller / rural communities and encouraging multi-sport offers), enhancing the quality of playing experience and supporting a sustainable approach to grass roots provision;
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 changing pavilions/clubhouses**, linked to multi-pitch or hub sites, supporting growth (particularly in women and girls football), sustainability and providing a facility infrastructure to underpin investment in coaching, officials and football development;
- ◀ **Support access to flexible indoor spaces**, including equipment and court markings, to support growth in futsal, walking football and to support the education and skills outcomes, exploiting opportunities for football to positively impact on personal and social outcomes for young people in particular;
- ◀ **Refurbish existing stock to maintain current provision**, recognising the need to address historic under-investment and issues with refurbishment of existing facilities;
- ◀ **Support testing of technology and innovation**, building on customer insight to deliver hubs for innovation, testing and development of the game.

### ***Time for Change: The FA Strategy (2020-2024)***

The new FA strategy aims to take the FA and English football forward with bold leadership and ambitious targets to build on the progress of the last four years. It identifies six Game Changer objectives and eight Serve the Game objectives which demonstrate its determination to substantially change the fabric of the game and address key societal issues.

The Game Changer objectives are:

- ◀ Win a major tournament
- ◀ Serve two million + through a transformed digital platform
- ◀ Equal opportunities for every girl
- ◀ Deliver 5,000 quality pitches
- ◀ A game free from discrimination
- ◀ Maximise the appeal and revenue of the FA cups and Women’s Super League

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These are underpinned by its eight Serve the Game objectives, which are:

- ◀ Trusted, progressive regulation and administration
- ◀ Safe and inclusive football pathways and environment
- ◀ Personalised and connected learning experiences
- ◀ Maximum investment into the game
- ◀ Diverse, high performance workforce and inclusive culture
- ◀ World class venues and events
- ◀ Strong reputation and clear brand identity
- ◀ Technology enabled and insight driven

### ***The FA: National Game Strategy (2018-2021)***

The FA launched its National Game Strategy in July 2018 which aims to inspire a life-long journey in football for all. To achieve this, the strategy will focus on five key aspects of the game:

- ◀ A high quality introduction to football
- ◀ Developing clubs and leagues
- ◀ Embrace all formats of football and engage all participants
- ◀ Recruit, develop and support the workforce
- ◀ Develop sustainable facilities

Through these five pillars, The FA's objectives are to:

- ◀ Increase the number of male affiliated and recreational players by 10%.
- ◀ Double the number of female affiliated and recreational players via a growth of 75%.
- ◀ Increase the number of disability affiliated and recreational players by 30%.
- ◀ Ensure affiliated Futsal is available across the country in order to increase the number of Futsal affiliated and recreational players.

The sustainable football facilities should provide support to an agreed portfolio of priority projects that meet National Football Facility Strategy (NFFS) investment priorities.

### ***England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Inspiring Generations (2020-2024)***

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic plan in 2019. The strategic plan aims to connect communities and improve lives by inspiring people to discover and share their passion for cricket

The plan sets out six important priorities and activities, these are:

- ◀ ***Grow and nurture the core***
  - ◀ Create an infrastructure investment fund for First Class County Clubs (FCCs)
  - ◀ Introduce a new Community Investment Funding for FCCs and County Cricket Boards (CCBs)
  - ◀ Invest in club facilities
  - ◀ Develop the role of National Counties Cricket
  - ◀ Further invest in County Competitions
- ◀ ***Inspire through elite teams***
  - ◀ Increase investment in the county talent pathway
  - ◀ Incentivise the counties to develop England Players
  - ◀ Drive the performance system through technology and innovation
  - ◀ Create heroes and connect them with a new generation of fans

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### ◀ **Make cricket accessible**

- ◀ Broaden crickets appeal through the New Competition
- ◀ Create a new digital community for cricket
- ◀ Install non-traditional playing facilities in urban areas
- ◀ Continue to deliver South Asian Action Plans
- ◀ Launch a new participation product, linked to the New Competition

### ◀ **Engage children and young people**

- ◀ Double cricket participation in primary schools
- ◀ Deliver a compelling and coordinated recreational playing offer from age five upwards
- ◀ Develop our safeguarding to promote safe spaces for children and young people

### ◀ **Transform women's and girls' cricket**

- ◀ Grow the base through participation and facilities investment
- ◀ Launch centres of excellence and a new elite domestic structure
- ◀ Invest in girls' county age group cricket
- ◀ Deliver a girls' secondary school programme

### ◀ **Support our communities**

- ◀ Double the number of volunteers in the game
- ◀ Create a game-wide approach to Trust and Foundations through the cricket network
- ◀ Develop a new wave of officials and community coaches
- ◀ Increase participation in disability cricket

### **The Rugby Football Union Strategy 2021 Onwards**

Through the strategy, the RFU aims to enrich lives, introduce more people to rugby union and develop the sport for future generations. The goal is to achieve this by strengthening and uniting rugby union in England and producing consistently winning England teams.

Eight key strategic priorities are identified with all investment decisions aligned to these. The strategy also outlines the RFU's core activities which form the backbone of its business operations and services to the game.

The priorities include four 'Game Objectives' and four 'Driving Objectives' as detailed below.

#### Game Objectives:

- ◀ Enjoyment – enable positive player experiences on and off the field
- ◀ Winning England – create the best possible high-performance system for England Rugby
- ◀ Welfare – enhance player welfare to protect and support the wellbeing of players
- ◀ Flourishing rugby communities – support clubs to sustain and grow themselves and to reflect society

#### Driving Objectives:

- ◀ Diversity & Inclusion – drive rugby union in England to reflect the diversity of society
- ◀ Understand – build a deep understanding of players, volunteers and fans to shape the future of the game
- ◀ Connect – connect with and grow the rugby community and create exceptional experiences
- ◀ Commercial and operational excellence – ensure a sustainable and efficient business model delivered by an inspired workforce

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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### ***England Hockey Strategy***

England Hockey's Facilities Strategy can be found [here](#).

**Vision:** For every hockey club in England to have appropriate and sustainable facilities that provide excellent experiences for players.

**Mission:** More, Better, Happier Players with access to appropriate and sustainable facilities

The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

- 1. PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision**
  - There are currently over 800 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities) across the country. It is important to retain the current provision where appropriate to ensure that hockey is maintained across the country.
- 2. IMPROVE: To improve the existing facilities stock (physically and administratively)**
  - The current facilities stock is ageing and there needs to be strategic investment into refurbishing the pitches and ancillary facilities. England Hockey works to provide more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers & education around owning an asset.
- 3. DEVELOP: To strategically build new hockey facilities where there is an identified need and ability to deliver and maintain. This might include consolidating hockey provision in a local area where appropriate.**

England Hockey has identified key areas across the country where there is a lack of suitable hockey provision and there is a need for additional pitches, suitable for hockey. There is an identified demand for multi pitches in the right places to consolidate hockey and allow clubs to have all of their provision catered for at one site.

### ***The Rugby Football League Facility Strategy***

The RFL's Facilities Strategy was published in 2011. The following themes have been prioritised:

- ◀ Clean, Dry, Safe & Playable
- ◀ Sustainable clubs
- ◀ Environmental Sustainability
- ◀ Geographical Spread
- ◀ Non-club Facilities

The RFL Facilities Trust website [www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk](http://www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk) provides further information on:

- ◀ The RFL Community Facility Strategy
- ◀ Clean, Dry, Safe and Playable Programme
- ◀ Pitch Size Guidance
- ◀ The RFL Performance Standard for Artificial Grass Pitches
- ◀ Club guidance on the Annual Preparation and Maintenance of the Rugby League Pitch

Further to the 2011 Strategy detail on the following specific programmes of particular relevance to pitches and facility planning are listed below and can be found via the trust link (see above):

- ◀ The RFL Pitch Improvement Programme 2013 – 2017
- ◀ Clean, Dry and Safe programmes 2013 - 2017

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## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS ASSESSMENT REPORT

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### ***Rugby League World Cup 'Inspired by 2021' Legacy Programme***

The Rugby League World Cup 2021 will develop a £10 million legacy programme with funds driven into local clubs and community projects. The government investment, delivered by Sport England, is part of RLWC 2021's ambitious plan to grow the sport and make it more visible, engaging and welcoming to current and potential participants.

The funding will be split into large transformational community projects, such as changing room improvements and new artificial grass pitches with the remaining funding used for smaller scale initiatives such as supplying new kit and equipment to promote club and community development.

The investment will focus on the following four key areas:

- ◀ Creating welcoming environments
- ◀ Encouraging participation growth
- ◀ Building community engagement
- ◀ Cultivating further investment

### ***British Tennis Strategy (2019)***

The new LTA Strategy includes seven strategies relating to three objectives which are built around the following vision and mission:

**Vision:** tennis opened up

**Mission:** to grow tennis by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable

#### *Objectives*

- ◀ Increase the number of fans on our database from [623,602] to [1,000,000] by 2023.
- ◀ More people playing more often:
  - Increase the number of adults playing tennis each year from [7.7% (4,018,600)] of the population to [8.5% (4,420,460)], and the frequency of adults playing tennis twice a month from [1.9% (858,700)] of the population to [2.2% (1,000,000)] by 2023.
- ◀ Increase the number of children playing once a week from 550,000 to 700,000 (7.9% to 10% of the population) by 2023.
- ◀ Enable 5 new players to break into the top 100 by 2023 and inspire the tennis audience.

#### *Strategies*

1. Visibility - Broaden relevance and increase visibility of tennis all year round to build engagement and participation with fans and players.
2. Innovation - Innovate in the delivery of tennis to widen its appeal.
3. Investment - Support community facilities and schools to increase the opportunities to play
4. Accessibility - Make the customer journey to playing tennis easier and more accessible for anyone
5. Engagement - Engage and collaborate with everyone involved in delivering tennis in Britain, particularly coaches and volunteers to attract and maintain more people in the game.
6. Performance - Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.
7. Leadership - Lead tennis in Britain to the highest standard so it is a safe, welcoming, well-run sport.

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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### ***Bowls England: Strategic Plan 2014-2017***

Although the Plan is out of date, it remains the most up to date available. Bowls England will provide strong leadership and work with its stakeholders to support the development of the sport of bowls in England for this and future generations.

The overall vision of Bowls England is to:

- ◀ Promote the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
- ◀ Recruit new participants to the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
- ◀ Retain current and future participants within the sport of flat green bowls.

In order to ensure that this vision is achieved, ten key performance targets have been created, which will underpin the work of Bowls England up until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

- ◀ 115,000 individual affiliated members.
- ◀ 1,500 registered coaches.
- ◀ Increase total National Championship entries by 10%.
- ◀ Increase total national competition entries by 10%.
- ◀ Medal places achieved in 50% of events at the 2016 World Championships.
- ◀ 35 county development plans in place and operational.
- ◀ County development officer appointed by each county association.
- ◀ National membership scheme implemented with 100% uptake by county associations.
- ◀ Secure administrative base for 1st April 2017.
- ◀ Commercial income to increase by 20%.

Despite a recent fall in affiliated members, and a decline in entries into National Championships over the last five years, Bowls England believes that these aims will be attained by following core values. The intention is to:

- ◀ Be progressive.
- ◀ Offer opportunities to participate at national and international level.
- ◀ Work to raise the profile of the sport in support of recruitment and retention.
- ◀ Lead the sport.
- ◀ Support clubs and county associations.

### ***England Netball - Your Game, Your Way 2013-17***

Even though this Plan is out of date, England Netball remains committed to its '10-1-1' mission, vision and values that form the fundamentals for its strategic planning for the future for the sport and business. To facilitate the successful achievement of Netball 10:1:1 and Goal 4, England Netball will:

- ◀ Accelerate the participation growth by extending our market penetration and reach through the activation of a range of existing and new participant-focused products and programmes that access new and targeted markets.
- ◀ Increase the level of long-term participant retention through targeting programmes at known points of attrition and easy transition through the market segments, supported by an infrastructure that reflects the participant needs and improves their netball experience.
- ◀ Build a sustainable performance pathway and system built on the principles of purposeful practice and appropriate quality athlete coach contact time.
- ◀ Develop sustainable revenue streams through the commercialisation of a portfolio of products and programmes and increasing membership sales. This will also include the creation of cost efficiencies and improved value for money through innovative partnerships and collaborations in all aspects of the business.

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS ASSESSMENT REPORT

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- ◀ Establish high standards of leadership and governance that protect the game and its people and facilitates the on-going growth and transformation of the sport.

### ***England Athletics Strategic Plan – Athletics & Running: for everyone, forever – 2017 and beyond***

This plan sets out England Athletics' mission, vision and strategic priorities that will direct how they work as an organisation during the coming years: what they do and how they will do it.

**Vision:** Make athletics and running the most inclusive and popular sport in England, led by a network of progressive clubs and organisations and supported by a sustainable, respected and trusted governing body.

For England Athletics to achieve this vision, they will focus on three values:

- Pride – taking pride in their work and demonstrating to athletes that they recognise the importance of their role in bettering athletics.
- Integrity – demonstrate integrity to earn respect and to build effective partnerships.
- Inclusivity – promote inclusivity in all their actions.

**Mission:** To grow opportunities for everyone to experience athletics and running, to enable them to reach their full potential.

In order to achieve their mission, England Athletics will have three strategic priorities.

1. To expand the capacity of the sport by supporting and developing its volunteers and other workforce. The target is to achieve a 6% increase every year of licensed leaders, coaches and officials.
2. To sustain and increase participation and performance levels in our sport. To achieve this, England Athletics' current targets are to increase the number of club registered athletes from (149,000 to 172,000), engage 135,000 people through the RunTogether programme and to increase athlete performance levels across all events and disciplines by 1% every year.
3. To influence participation in the wider athletics market. Their target here is to increase the number of regular athletes or runners by at least one million.

### ***England Athletics Facility Strategy (2018 – 2025)***

The purpose of this document is to set out our long term vision for athletics facilities in England. Facilities form a vital component of the overall England Athletics strategy.

The development, protection and enhancement of facilities will support our strategic plan and help England Athletics contribute to the delivery of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's Sporting Futures: A New Strategy for Sport and Sport England's strategy Towards an Active Nation. Appropriate facilities help to attract and inspire new participants and provide the foundation and focus for a significant proportion of the England Athletics family.

The England Athletics Strategic Plan notes that the sport increasingly needs to become financially sustainable and that a business-like and innovative approach is a vital component of its future success. Facilities are fundamental, but they are also expensive to create and to maintain. The sport therefore faces a significant challenge to develop, improve and maintain facilities, most of which are currently operated and funded by third parties.



## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS ASSESSMENT REPORT

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This strategy sets out a challenge to all those involved with the delivery of the sport to be innovative and business like in the operation and development of facilities at a time of financial challenge, as it aims “To create an innovative and inspiring network of sustainable athletic facilities, with the capacity to meet both current and future demand across England”.

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# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

DECEMBER 2022

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

**Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd**  
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Cert Num: 6543-QMS-001

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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## ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
CE	Cricket East
CFA	County Football Association
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
DCMS	Department for Culture, Media and Sport
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FF	Football Foundation
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GMA	Grounds Management Association
HC	Hockey Club
HDC	Huntingdonshire District Council
HFA	Huntingdonshire Football Association
IOG	Institute of Groundsmanship
JFC	Junior Football Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LFFP	Local Football Facilities Plan
MOD	Ministry of Defence
NFFS	National Football Facilities Strategy
NGB	National Governing Body
NHS	National Health Service
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PPOSS	Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sports Strategy
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
S106	Section 106
TC	Tennis Club
U	Under

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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### PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS) for Huntingdonshire District Council. Building upon the preceding Assessment Report, it provides a clear, strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing outdoor sports facilities and accompanying ancillary provision.

The Strategy is capable of:

- ◀ Providing planning guidance to assess development proposals affecting outdoor sports facilities and, as appropriate, directing contributions secured through development.
- ◀ Informing the protection and provision of outdoor sports facilities.
- ◀ Informing land use decisions in respect of future use of existing outdoor sports areas and areas capable of accommodating provision.
- ◀ Providing a strategic framework for the provision and management of provision.
- ◀ Supporting external funding bids and maximising support for outdoor sports facilities.
- ◀ Providing the basis for ongoing monitoring and review of the use, distribution, function, quality and accessibility of outdoor sports facilities.

It is delivered in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Guidance (for playing pitch sports) and Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (for "non-pitch" sports). Sport England's PPS Guidance details a 13-stepped approach, separated into five distinct sections:

- ◀ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach (1)
- ◀ Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision (2 & 3)
- ◀ Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views (4, 5 & 6)
- ◀ Stage D: Develop the strategy (7 & 8)
- ◀ Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date (9 & 10)

Stage D is covered in this report, with stages A-C evidenced in the Assessment Report and Stage E ongoing once the work has been adopted. The lifespan of a PPOSS is considered to be three years, although this can be increased if it is kept up to date.

The PPOSS forms one part of a wider, inter-related strategy for sports and recreation that also includes an Indoor Facilities Strategy. The relationship between the strategies must be noted as some sports covered by the PPOSS also use indoor facilities for matches or training as well as open space areas for informal use.

#### ***Agreed scope***

The following are the key outdoor sports (and associated facilities, including artificial surfaces) in Huntingdonshire PPOSS and as such are included within the scope:

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| ◀ Football (including third generation (3G) artificial grass pitches) | ◀ Athletics                         |
| ◀ Rugby union   | ◀ Outdoor tennis                    |
| ◀ Rugby league  | ◀ Outdoor netball                   |
| ◀ Hockey (artificial grass pitches AGPs)                              | ◀ Outdoor lawn bowls                |
| ◀ Cricket   | ◀ Outdoor gym equipment/Trim trails |
|   | ◀ Multi Use Games Areas (MUGA)      |

Further to the above, there is also a need to recognise the role of informal recreational space (and informal outdoor sport activity) in meeting the changing demands of local communities and links to the current Huntingdonshire Open Spaces Assessment.

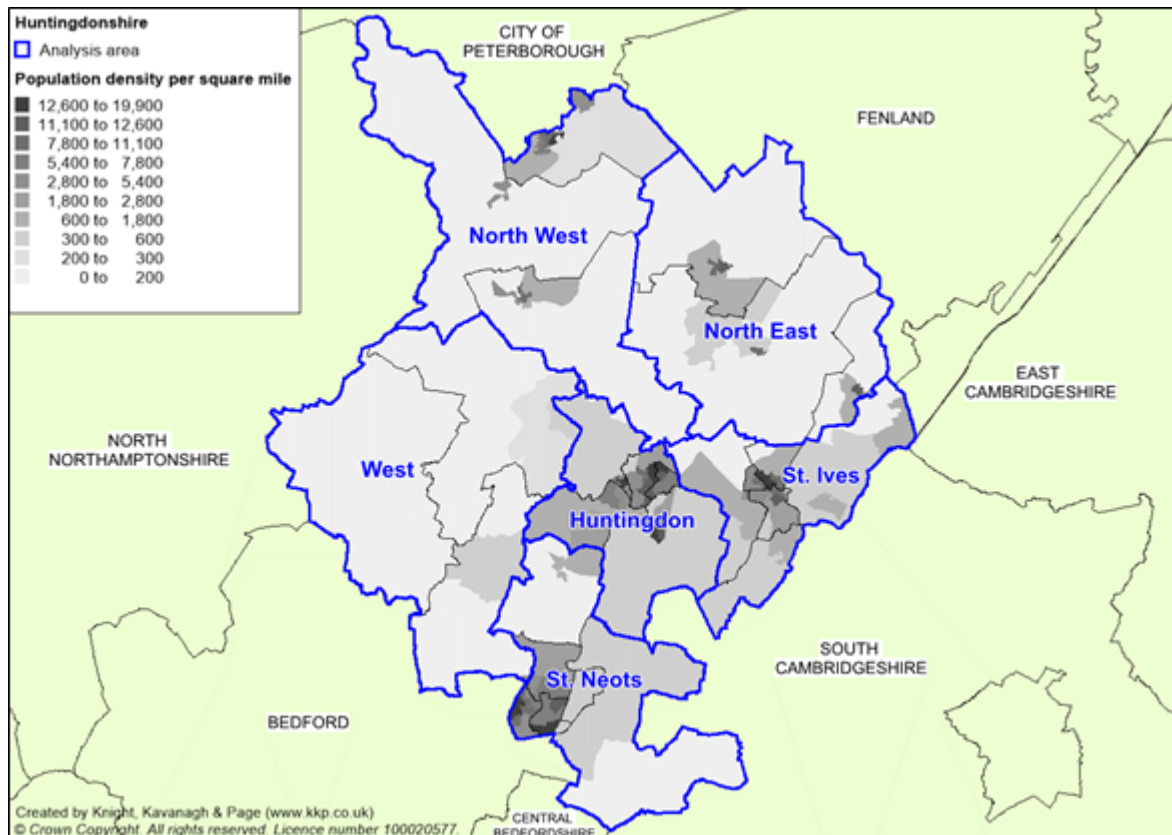
# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

## Study area

The study area comprises the whole of Huntingdonshire District Council's administrative area. Due to its size, Huntingdonshire is broken into smaller subsections known as analysis areas. It is accepted that sports catchment areas do not naturally fall into defined administrative areas and that needs to be taken into account when assessing current and future provision for pitch sports. However, analysis areas are used for reporting purposes to aim to create localised assessments of supply vs demand modelling. The six identified for Huntingdonshire are as follows:

- ◀ Huntingdon
- ◀ North East
- ◀ North West
- ◀ St Ives
- ◀ St Neots
- ◀ West

Figure 1: Huntingdonshire analysis area split



Cross boundary and cross authority issues are also explored to determine the level of imported and exported demand, recognising, for example, that people travel to and make use of strategic facilities irrespective of administrative boundaries.

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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### 1.1: Structure

The Strategy has been developed from research and analysis of playing pitch and outdoor sports provision and usage within Huntingdonshire to provide:

- ◀ A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of facilities.
- ◀ A number of aims to help deliver the recommendations and actions.
- ◀ A series of sport-by-sport recommendations which provide a strategic framework for sport led improvements to provision.
- ◀ A range of sport-by-sport and local authority wide scenarios to help inform policy recommendations and prioritisation of actions.
- ◀ A series of strategic recommendations which provide a framework for the improvement, maintenance, development and, if applicable, the rationalisation of playing pitches.
- ◀ A prioritised area-by-area action plan to address key issues.

The recommendations made in this strategy should be translated into local plan policy so that there is a mechanism to support delivery and secure provision and investment into provision where the opportunity arises. It also recommends numerous priority projects for Huntingdonshire that should be implemented over the course of its lifespan. These are outlined to provide a framework for improvement, with potential partners and possible sources of external funding identified in light of limited council resources.

There is a need to sustain and build key partnerships between the Council, NGBs, Sport England, parish/town councils, education providers, leisure contractors, maintenance contractors, community clubs and private landowners to maintain and improve relevant provision. In these instances, the potential for the Council to take a strategic lead can be limited (except in terms of Section 106 agreements and developer contributions). This document therefore provides clarity with regard to the way forward and will allow organisations to focus on the key issues and objectives that they can directly influence and achieve.

### 1.2: Context

#### Why the strategy is being developed

Huntingdonshire District Council is commissioning the development of a PPOSS to help inform the future priorities for pitch and outdoor sport provision in the district and to help plan for future needs arising from an increasing population. The Strategy will cover the whole local authority boundary of Huntingdonshire. It will be an integral supporting document towards the current Local Plan to 2036 and form an evidence base for the forthcoming Local Plan review scheduled to start in 2022.

The PPOSS will assist the Council in its delivery of several key priorities. It will:

- ◀ Aid implementation of current planning policy and serve as the evidence base for preparation of the next Local Plan 2036.
- ◀ Provide information to assist with the provision of new outdoor sports provision or improvements to existing spaces. (For example, this may include new types of pitches required or facilities such as changing rooms and pavilion buildings to allow increased use of a site).
- ◀ Provide information to assist with the provision of new built facilities or improvements to existing facilities.
- ◀ Developing a priority list of deliverable projects which will help to meet any current deficiencies; provide for future demands and feed into wider infrastructure planning work.



# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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- ◀ Provide information to assist with asset management of the council owned playing fields and associated facilities.
- ◀ Provide an up to date audit of facilities available and quality assessment of facilities available to assist the public and sporting groups to access sporting facilities.
- ◀ Provide evidence to help secure internal and external funding including s106 contributions and CIL funding.
- ◀ Inform sports development, physical activity and public health and wellbeing agendas.

### ***National context***

Concern at national government level over the loss of playing fields prompted the development of localised playing pitch assessments and strategies which identify current and future requirements for playing fields. Developing a strategic approach to the analysis of playing pitch supply and demand is necessary to:

- ◀ Protect playing pitches against development pressures in, and around, urban areas.
- ◀ Identify pitch (natural grass and artificial) supply and demand issues in relation to predicated population changes.
- ◀ Address 'demand' pressures created as a result of specific sports development pressures e.g. growth of mini soccer and wider use of artificial grass pitches.
- ◀ Address budget pressures and public-sector cuts.

The Huntingdonshire PPOSS will provide an evidence base for planning decisions and funding bids and will ensure that this evidence is sound, robust and capable of being scrutinised through examination whilst meeting the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

One of the core planning principles of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. Section 8 of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities, with paragraph 98 discussing the importance of access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation that can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

Paragraph 99 discusses assessments and the protection of "existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields". Paragraphs 100 and 102 also promote the identification of important green spaces by local communities and the protection of these facilities. Such spaces may include playing fields and outdoor sport facilities.

### **1.3: Headline findings**

The table below highlights the quantitative headline findings identified for all main pitch sports included in the preceding Assessment Report. MES stands for match equivalent sessions and has been used as the comparable unit for natural grass pitches. Converting both the amount of play a site can accommodate (it's carrying capacity) and how much play takes place there (its current use) into the same unit of demand enables a comparison to be undertaken.

Pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected. As the main usage of pitches is for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions.

Based on how they tend to be played, this unit for football and rugby union pitches relates to a typical week within the season for each sport.

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

For cricket pitches it is appropriate to look at the number of match equivalent sessions over the course of a season. How much play a cricket pitch can accommodate is primarily determined by the number and quality of wickets on a pitch. Only one match is generally played per pitch per day. However, play is rotated across the wickets to reduce wear and allow for repair. Each wicket is able to accommodate a certain amount of play per season as opposed to a week.

The PPOSS guidance does not advocate the conversion of MES to pitches as there is not always a case for providing pitches to meet the demand/shortfalls expressed. For example, improving the quality of pitches can also increase the capacity of existing pitches to accommodate such demand. For qualitative findings and site-specific findings, please see Part 4: Sport Specific Recommendations and Scenarios, and Part 6: Action Plan.

For artificial surfaces, how much play can be accommodated is primarily determined by availability, rather than how much play it can accommodate before its quality is adversely affected as with natural grass pitches. Therefore, hours in the peak period is used as the comparable unit. For the other non-pitch sports (i.e. tennis, bowls etc) capacity is in accordance with Paragraph B13 of the ANOG guidance.

Table 1.1: Quantitative headline findings

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Future supply/ demand balance (2036)
<b>Football – grass pitches</b>			
Huntingdonshire	Adult	Spare capacity of 6 match equivalent session	Spare capacity of 2 match equivalent session
	Youth 11v11	<b>Shortfall of 6.5 match equivalent sessions</b>	<b>Shortfall of 11 match equivalent sessions</b>
	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent session	<b>Shortfall of 2 match equivalent sessions</b>
	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent session	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>
	Mini 5v5	<b>Shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions</b>	<b>Shortfall of 5 match equivalent sessions</b>
<b>Football – 3G pitches</b>			
Huntingdonshire	Full size	<b>Insufficient supply. Shortfalls in the Huntingdon and St Neots Analysis Areas.</b>	<b>Insufficient supply. Shortfalls in the Huntingdon (x2), St Ives and St Neots Analysis Area.</b>
<b>Cricket</b>			
Huntingdonshire	Senior (Saturday)	Spare capacity of 12 match equivalent sessions a season	<b>Shortfall of 28 match equivalent sessions a season</b>
	Senior (Sunday)	Spare capacity of 112 match equivalent sessions a season	Spare capacity of 62 match equivalent sessions a season
	Junior (midweek)	Spare capacity of 45 match equivalent sessions a season	Spare capacity of 15 match equivalent sessions a season
<b>Rugby union</b>			
Huntingdonshire	Senior	<b>Shortfall of 7.5 match equivalent sessions</b>	<b>Shortfall of 9.5 match equivalent sessions</b>

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Future supply/ demand balance (2036)
<b>Rugby league</b>			
Huntingdonshire	Senior	<i>No active teams, however, demand exists in St Ives.</i>	<i>No active teams, however, demand exists in St Ives. Need to offer access to rugby union pitches for rugby league use through summer if/when demand is reinstated.</i>
<b>Hockey</b>			
Huntingdonshire	Full size	Insufficient quantity	Insufficient quantity

For non-pitch sports, quantitative shortfalls can be more difficult to determine, with capacity guidance differing and with focus often away from formal club activity. The current and future picture for each sport is therefore instead summarised in the table below.

Table 1.2: Quantitative headline findings (non-pitch sports)

Sport	Current picture	Future picture (2036)
Tennis	Capacity for both club and non-club tennis courts can be meet current and future demand at the majority of tennis club sites, only Needingworth TC currently has capacity issues.	Capacity for both club and non-club tennis courts can be meet current and future demand at most tennis club sites, only Needingworth TC currently has capacity issues.
Netball	<b>Insufficient supply of outdoor netball courts to service the District.</b>	<b>Insufficient supply of outdoor netball courts to service the District.</b>
Bowls	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>
Athletics	<i>Sufficient quantity however quality issues</i>	<i>Sufficient quantity however quality issues</i>
MUGAs	<b>Shortfalls outside of the Huntingdon Analysis Area</b>	<b>Shortfalls outside of the Huntingdon Analysis Area</b>
Other sports	<i>Generally sufficient quantity</i>	<i>Generally sufficient quantity</i>

## Conclusions

The existing position for most sports is that there is a mixture of shortfalls, spare capacity and sufficient capacity, the future position shows the exacerbation of current shortfalls and the creation of shortfalls for some sports and in some areas where demand is currently being met. The current shortfalls identified are for youth 11v11 and mini 5v5 football pitches, 3G pitches, senior rugby union pitches, hockey AGPs, netball courts and MUGAs.

Where demand is being met, this does not equate to a surplus of provision, with any spare capacity instead considered a potential solution to overcoming shortfalls. As such, there is a clear need to protect all existing provision until all demand is met, or there is a requirement to replace provision to an equal or better quantity and quality before it is lost, in line with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy. In addition, there remain some area and site specific issues that need resolving despite no overall capacity issues, such as those relating to quality and security of tenure.

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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Where shortfalls are present, for the most part, they can be met by better utilising current provision, such as through improving quality, installing additional floodlighting, improving ancillary facilities and enabling access to existing unused provision, such as at unavailable school sites.

Notwithstanding the above, there is a shortfall of 3G pitches and hockey AGPs that can only be met through increased provision. With resources to improve the quality of grass pitches being limited, an increase in 3G provision could also help to reduce grass pitch shortfalls through the transfer of play, which in turn can aid pitch quality improvements.

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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## PART 2: VISION

### 2.1: Vision

A vision has been drafted for the PPOSS which reflects the ambition of the Council and its partners in delivering opportunities for its residents to have appropriate access to good quality sport and recreational facilities which meet both the current and future needs of residents.

*“To create and maintain high quality, sustainable leisure and sports facilities which meet community need, increase participation, help tackle health and age issues and provide accessible, inclusive activities for Huntingdonshire residents as part of an active lifestyle.”*

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

## PART 3: AIMS

The following overarching aims are based on the three Sport England objectives (see Figure 1.2 below). It is recommended that they are adopted by the Council and its partners to enable it to achieve the overall vision of the PPOSS as well as Sport England's planning objectives. Strategy delivery is the responsibility of, and relies upon, all stakeholders.

### AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities where it is needed for meeting current and future needs

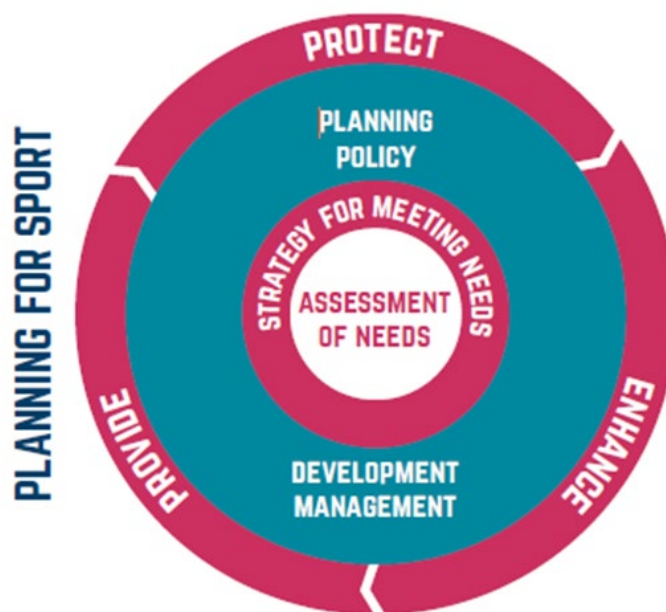
### AIM 2

To **enhance** playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities through improving quality and management of sites

### AIM 3

To **provide** new playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities where there is current or future demand to do so

Figure 1: Sport England objectives



Source: Sport England, Planning for Sport Guidance (2019)

### PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to help develop the recommendations/actions and to understand their potential impact, a number of relevant scenario questions are tested against the key issues in this section for each relevant sport. This then informs sport specific recommendations.

#### Football pitches

##### *Assessment Report summary*

- ◀ **Capacity of grass football pitches can sufficiently meet current demand for adult, youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 football activity, with insufficient capacity to cater for youth 11v11 and mini 5v5 football activity.**
- ◀ **Future demand is expected to put further pressure on the supply of pitches and consequently new shortfalls are expected to emerge on youth 9v9 pitches, whilst Mini 7v7 pitches would be played to capacity.**

##### **Supply**

- ◀ The audit identifies a total of 164 grass football pitches within Huntingdonshire across 58 sites. Of these, 150 pitches across 50 sites are identified as being available for community use. All 14 unavailable pitches are located at educational or MOD sites.
- ◀ Of the 150 available pitches in the District 39 are in the St Neots Analysis Area (26%), followed by the St Ives Analysis Area (31 pitches, 21%) and the Huntingdon Analysis Area (30 pitches, 20%). The West Analysis Area has the fewest available pitches (eight pitches, 5%).

##### **Quality**

- ◀ Of the 150 football pitches available for community use, most (64 pitches – 43%) are rated as poor quality. There are 35 pitches (23%) rated as good quality and 51 pitches (34%) rated as standard quality.
- ◀ Of the 50 sites that are actively used for community football, 10 sites (20%) are serviced by good quality ancillary facilities, 15 sites (30%) by standard quality ancillary facilities and 16 (32%) by poor quality ancillary facilities. The remaining nine sites (18%) are not serviced by onsite clubhouse/changing room provision.

##### **Demand**

- ◀ There are 380 teams identified as playing football in the District. This is made up of 81 adult men's, seven adult women's, 156 youth boys', 16 youth girls' and 120 mini soccer teams.
- ◀ There are two teams exporting demand outside of the District. Whilst there are six teams which currently import demand into the District.
- ◀ Future club growth aspirations and participation targets total 34 potential new teams, resulting in additional capacity requirement (in match equivalent sessions per week) of four for adult pitches, 4.5 for youth 11v11 pitches, 2.5 for youth 9v9 pitches, 1.5 for mini 7v7 pitches and 4.5 for mini 5v5 pitches.

##### **Capacity**

- ◀ There are 33 pitches across 17 sites identified as having actual spare capacity, totalling 22 match equivalent sessions per week, most (14.5) on adult pitches.
- ◀ In total 21 pitches across 13 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 21 match equivalent sessions per week.
- ◀ At a Districtwide level there currently capacity shortfalls on youth 11v11 and mini 5v5. Increases in future demand would lead to Districtwide capacity shortfalls for youth 9v9 pitches, whilst mini 7v7 pitches would be played to capacity.

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

## Scenarios

### *Improving pitch quality at overplayed sites*

In total, there are 21 pitches overplayed in Huntingdonshire across 13 sites by a combined amount of 21 match equivalent sessions. Improving quality of such provision will increase capacity across the sites and therefore reduce both current and future shortfalls.

To illustrate the above, Table 4.1 highlights that the majority of current levels of overplay would be alleviated, apart from at Stilton Village Playing Fields, if quality improved to good at each site. As a reminder, the capacity rating for each type and quality rating is:

Adult pitches		Youth pitches		Mini pitches	
Pitch quality	Matches per week	Pitch quality	Matches per week	Pitch quality	Matches per week
Good	3	Good	4	Good	6
Standard	2	Standard	2	Standard	4
Poor	1	Poor	1	Poor	2



## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 4.1: Overplay if all pitches were good quality

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current Capacity rating <sup>1</sup>	Good quality capacity rating <sup>2</sup>
6	Bluntisham Village Hall & Recreation Ground	St Ives	Adult	1	Poor	0.5	1.5
			Mini 7v7	1		1	3
7	Brampton Memorial Playing Field	Huntingdon	Adult	1	Standard	1	0
11	Buckden Recreation Ground	St Neots	Adult	1	Poor	0.5	1.5
			Mini 5v5	1		1	3
36	Great Gransden Sports And Recreation Ground	St Neots	Adult	1	Poor	0.5	1.5
38	Great Paxton Recreation Ground	St Neots	Adult	1	Poor	1.5	0.5
45	Hinchingbrooke School	Huntingdon	Youth 11v11	1	Standard	2	0
60	Leading Drove	North West	Adult	1	Poor	2	0
74	One Leisure St Ives Outdoor	St Ives	Youth 11v11	2	Standard	4	0
78	Priory Park	St Neots	Youth 9v9	3	Poor	0.5	8.5
99	St Neots Rugby Club	St Neots	Youth 11v11	1	Poor	0.5	2.5
104	Stilton Village Playing Fields	North West	Adult	1	Standard	1.5	0.5
106	The David Wilson Homes Ground	Huntingdon	Adult	1	Poor	1	0
			Mini 7v7	1		0.5	3.5
			Youth 11v11	1	Standard	1	1
			Youth 9v9	1	Poor	1	2
139	Coneygear Park	Huntingdon	Youth 9v9	1	Poor	1	2

<sup>1</sup> Match equivalent sessions

<sup>2</sup> Match equivalent sessions

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

As seen, only the adult pitch at Stilton Village Playing Fields would remain overplayed. In comparison the adult pitch overplayed at Brampton Memorial Playing Field, youth 11v11 pitch at Hinchingsbrooke School, adult pitch at Leading Drove, youth 11v11 pitches at One Leisure St Ives Outdoor and adult pitch at The David Wilson Homes Ground would remove overplay, however, would still be played to capacity.

Carrying out the improvements would not only improve capacity at the relevant sites, but also improve the capacity balance overall across Huntingdonshire. In fact, no overall pitch shortfalls would be evident, with current shortfalls for youth 11v11 and mini 5v5 alleviated.

Table 4.2: Impact of improving pitch quality on overall supply and demand

<b>Summary of current supply and demand</b>					
Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult	14.5	8.5	6	4	2
Youth 11v11	1	7.5	6.5	4.5	11
Youth 9v9	3	2.5	0.5	2.5	2
Mini 7v7	3	1.5	1.5	1.5	0
Mini 5v5	0.5	1	0.5	4.5	5
<b>Summary of current supply and demand if overplayed provision were to be improved</b>					
Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult	16	0.5	15.5	4	11.5
Youth 11v11	1	0	1	4.5	3.5
Youth 9v9	3	0	3	2.5	0.5
Mini 7v7	3	0	3	1.5	1.5
Mini 5v5	0.5	0	0.5	4.5	4

In addition, there are currently 21 match equivalent sessions per week of spare capacity discounted (aggregated from all pitch types) due to poor quality. Improving pitch quality at these sites would provide and increase overall actual spare capacity, which can be used to accommodate demand from the remaining overplayed sites as well as future demand.

Notwithstanding the above, given the costs of improving pitch quality, alternatives also need to be considered that can offer a more sustainable model for the future of football. The alternative to grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches for competitive matches. Not only can this alleviate overplay of grass pitches, but it can also aid quality improvements through the transfer of play and therefore reduced use.

### Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP)

#### Pitch improvements

As improving the quality of all overplayed sites may not be feasible from an investment point of view, an alternative approach is to focus on improving strategic sites. To that end, the Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) identifies four sites for grass pitch improvements that are considered to be in need of investment and that are key for football across Huntingdonshire. The table overleaf identifies what the impact would be on the supply and demand balance of pitches at these sites if quality was improved to a good quality.

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 4.3: Impact of LFFP quality improvements

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Quality	Current capacity rating	Good capacity rating
45	Hinchingsbrooke School	Huntingdon	Adult	2	Standard	3.5	5.5
			Youth 11v11	1	Standard	2	0
			Youth 9v9	2	Standard	1.5	5.5
52	Jubilee Park	Huntingdon	Adult	1	Poor	0	2
			Adult	1	Standard	0	1
			Mini 7v7	1	Poor	1.5	5.5
74	One Leisure St Ives Outdoor	St Ives	Adult	3	Standard	5	8
			Mini 7v7	2	Standard	5.5	9.5
			Youth 11v11	2	Standard	4	0
			Youth 9v9	4	Standard	3	11
78	Priory Park	St Neots	Adult	1	Poor	0	2
			Mini 5v5	2	Poor	2.5	10.5
			Mini 7v7	2	Poor	2.5	10.5
			Youth 11v11	2	Poor	0	2
			Youth 9v9	3	Poor	0.5	7.5
88	Sapley Park Playing Fields	Huntingdon	Adult	4	Standard	5	9
			Mini 7v7	1	Standard	4	6
			Youth 9v9	1	Standard	0.5	2.5
106	The David Wilson Homes Ground	Huntingdon	Adult	1	Poor	1	0
			Mini 7v7	1	Poor	0.5	3.5
			Youth 11v11	1	Standard	1	1
			Youth 9v9	1	Poor	1	2
<b>Total</b>						<b>24.5</b>	<b>104.5</b>

Improving quality as set out in the table above would create 80 match equivalent sessions of additional potential capacity per week and create 4.5 additional match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity per week. In addition, all those pitches that are currently overplayed would have the overplay alleviated.

The impact the improvements would have on the overall supply and demand balance is shown in the following table.

Table 4.4: Impact on current supply and demand balance if quality improved at LFFP sites

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Current total	Potential total
Adult	6	10
Youth 11v11	6.5	0.5
Youth 9v9	0.5	2
Mini 7v7	1.5	3
Mini 5v5	0.5	0

Overall shortfalls on all pitches would be alleviated.

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 4.5: Impact on future supply and demand if quality improved at LFFP sites

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Current total	Potential total
Adult	2	6
Youth 11v11	11	4
Youth 9v9	2	0.5
Mini 7v7	0	1.5
Mini 5v5	5	4.5

When factoring in future demand, there will still be levels of overplay on youth 11v11, youth 9v9 and mini 5v5 pitch types.

As the LFFP is a live document to be informed by an up-to-date PPS, it is recommended that the priority list is updated on the back of this study to account for changes in demand since the project was completed. To help guide this process, the table below comments on whether the PPS provides evidence to support the inclusion of the sites currently featured.

Table 4.6: Assessing LFFP priority list (grass pitch improvements)

Site ID	Site name	Comments	LFFP update recommendation
45	Hinchingbrooke School	Key site that is standard quality	Retain for improvement
52	Jubilee Park	Key site that is poor/standard quality	Retain for improvement
74	One Leisure St Ives Outdoor	Key site that is standard quality	Retain for improvement
78	Priory Park	Key site that is poor quality	Retain for improvement
88	Sapley Park Playing Fields	Key site that is standard quality	Retain for improvement
106	The David Wilson Homes Ground (Godmanchester Rovers FC)	Key site that is poor/standard quality. Strategic site planned for 3G development.	Explore the need for pitch improvements on all pitches due to planned development of full size 3G on site.

In addition to the above, additions to the plan should also be sought given the quality issues and shortfalls evidenced across Huntingdonshire. In that regard, the following sites should be considered given the number of pitches supplied and the quality/overplay issues identified:

- ✦ Alconbury Sports and Social Club (four pitches)
- ✦ Bluntisham Village Hall & Recreation Ground (three pitches)
- ✦ Buckden Recreation Ground (four pitches)
- ✦ Fenstanton Football Club (four pitches)
- ✦ Great Gransden Sports and Recreation Ground (five pitches)

Of the sites above, Alconbury Sports and Social Club, Bluntisham Village Hall & Recreation Ground and Buckden Recreation Ground, are all multisport pitch sites, with Cricket pitches currently located onsite.

PitchPower can be used as a further tool to identify the suitability of these sites to be added to the project list and the level of investment required.

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

### Ancillary provision improvements

As part of the LFFP a priority project list is produced for ancillary provision. The table below looks at poor quality ancillary provision and the current sites on the LFFP ancillary facilities priority list.

Table 4.7: Ancillary provision improvement priority

Site ID	Site name	Ancillary facility quality	No. of teams	No. of pitches on site	Multi-sport?	Comments
2	Abbots Ripton Cricket Club	Poor	1	1	No (Disused cricket pitch)	Not recommended for refurbishment due to lack of teams accessing site.
6	Bluntisham Village Hall & Recreation Ground	Poor	11	3	Yes	Explore the opportunity to develop/refurbish ancillary provision. Look to add to the LFFP priority project list.
11	Buckden Recreation Ground	Poor	15	4	Yes	Explore the opportunity to develop/refurbish ancillary provision. Look to add to the LFFP priority project list.
19	Drovers Close	Poor	0	1	No	Not recommended for refurbishment due to lack of teams accessing site.
20	Earith Recreational Field	Poor	0	1	No	Not recommended for refurbishment due to lack of teams accessing site.
30	Fenstanton Football Club	Poor	9	4	No	Explore the opportunity to develop/refurbish ancillary provision. Retain on the LFFP priority list.
34	Grafham Recreation Ground	Poor	0	1	No	Not recommended for refurbishment due to lack of teams accessing site.
40	Greenfields	Poor	16	6	Yes	Explore the opportunity to develop/refurbish ancillary provision. Retain on the LFFP priority list.
44	Hemingford Pavilion	Poor	4	2	Yes	Not recommended for refurbishment due to lack of teams accessing site.
68	Millennium Sports Pavilion	Poor	5	3	No (Disused cricket pitch)	Not recommended for refurbishment due to lack of teams accessing site.
70	Norwood Playing Field	Poor	0	1	No	Not recommended for refurbishment due to lack of teams accessing site.
79	Queen Elizabeth II Recreation Ground (Little Paxton)	Poor	0	1	Yes	Not recommended for refurbishment due to lack of teams accessing site.

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Site ID	Site name	Ancillary facility quality	No. of teams	No. of pitches on site	Multi-sport?	Comments
114	Warboys Sports Field	Poor	8	4	Yes	Explore the opportunity to develop/refurbish ancillary provision. Facility has potential to require development, if adult team progresses to NLS (due to ground grading requirements). Look to add to the LFFP priority project list.
66	Middletons Road Recreational Ground	Standard	5	2	Yes	Remove from LFFP priority project list due to number of teams accessing site.
78	Priory Park	Good	19	10	No	Project completed.
88	Sapley Park Playing Fields	Standard	9	6	No	Explore the opportunity to develop/refurbish ancillary provision. Retain on the LFFP priority list.
-	Alconbury Weald Development	N/A	-	-	-	Explore the opportunity to develop ancillary provision onsite to support new supply of pitches. Retain on the LFFP priority list.

### Providing security of tenure

Currently, four match equivalent sessions per week are played on unsecured pitches throughout Huntingdonshire. If these pitches were to fall out of use, shortfalls would be exacerbated on mini 5v5 pitches, whilst a current shortfall would be created for youth 9v9 pitches.

Table 4.8: Supply and demand balance without unsecure sites

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
	Current total	Unsecure usage	Potential total	Future demand	Potential future total
Adult	6	0.5	5.5	4	1.5
Youth 11v11	6.5	-	6.5	4.5	11
Youth 9v9	0.5	1.5	1	2.5	3.5
Mini 7v7	1.5	0.5	1	1.5	0.5
Mini 5v5	0.5	1.5	2	4.5	6.5

A total list of unsecure sites with community use are outlined below for reference:

- ✦ Hinchingsbrooke School
- ✦ Warboys Community Primary School
- ✦ Fenstanton & Hilton Primary School
- ✦ Hemingford Grey Primary School

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

All of the unsecured use is located at educational sites. Where there is external investment on school sites e.g. by an NGB or Sport England, there are opportunities to secure use as part of the funding agreement. This also applies to new schools or for existing schools seeking a change to provision as, via planning consent, the Council can seek to establish community use agreement.

### *Securing access to currently unavailable sites*

There are currently 14 grass pitches unavailable for community use at:

- ◀ Bridge Academy
- ◀ Ernulf Academy
- ◀ Kimbolton School
- ◀ Longsands Academy
- ◀ RAF Alconbury
- ◀ RAF Wyton
- ◀ Sawtry Village Academy
- ◀ St Peters School

By securing access to sites accommodating this provision, spare capacity would significantly increase on adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches. Future demand would see adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches with spare capacity.

*Table 4.9: Supply and demand balance including unavailable sites*

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
	Current total	Unavailable usage	Potential total	Future demand	Potential future total
Adult	6	8	14	4	10
Youth 11v11	6.5	14	7.5	4.5	3
Youth 9v9	0.5	4	4.5	2.5	2
Mini 7v7	1.5	-	1.5	1.5	0
Mini 5v5	0.5	-	0.5	4.5	0.5

As with unsecured sites, most sites not currently offering community use are school sites. As accessing all school sites is considered improbable, initial focus should be on schools offering a large number of pitches, or pitch types that currently have shortfalls.

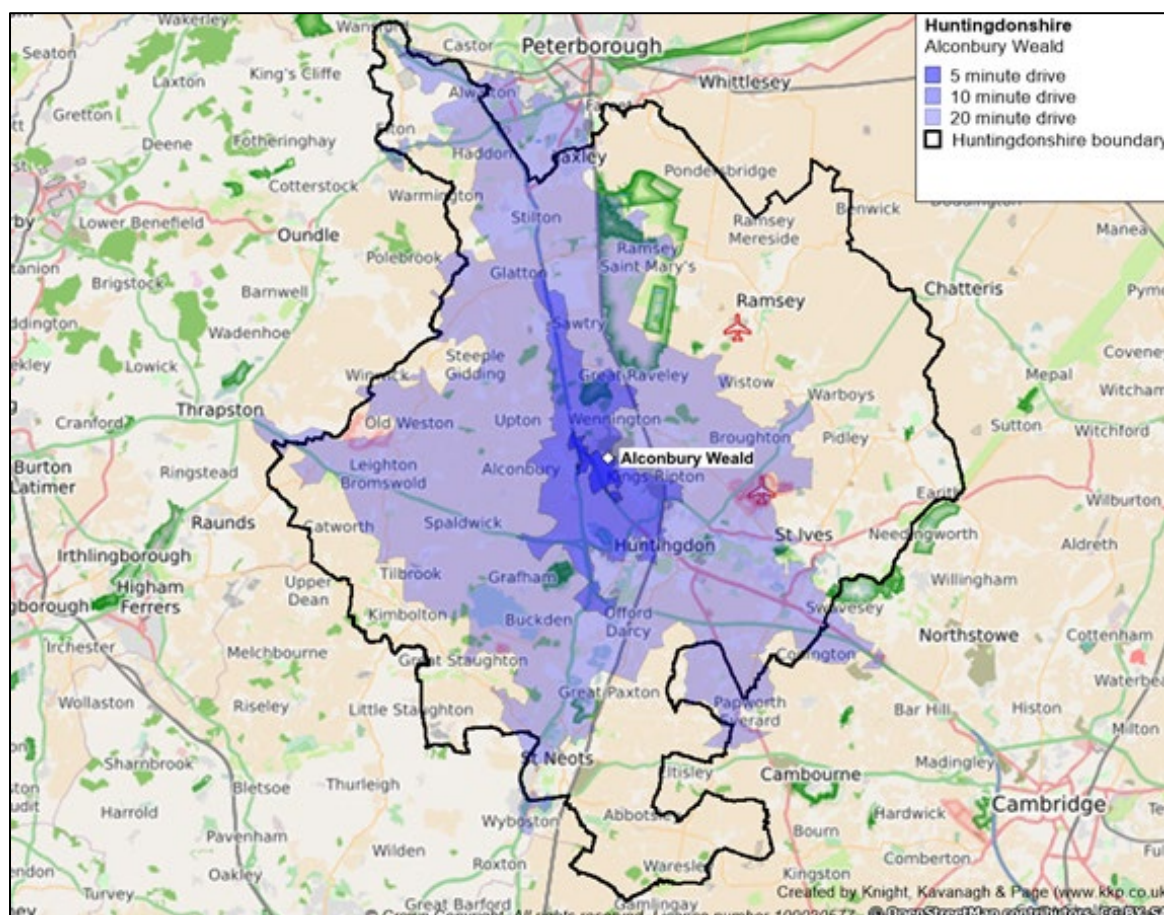
### *Alconbury Weald Development*

As part of the Alconbury Weald Development, a school site will be developed. The facility mix of the site is still yet to be fully determined, but it is expected that there will be an artificial grass pitch and grass pitches provided.

To help identify clubs which may be best fit to access the site as anchor clubs the below map was drawn, the map shows a drive time catchment from the Alconbury Weald Development.

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Figure 4.1: Alconbury Weald drive time catchments



There are ten clubs which fall within the ten minute drive time catchment:

- ◆ Stukeley Meadows Youth (One team)
- ◆ Alconbury (Two teams)
- ◆ Alconbury Colts (Three teams)
- ◆ Brampton (Four teams)
- ◆ Brampton Spartans (11 teams)
- ◆ Sawtry (Two teams)
- ◆ Sawtry Colts (14 teams)
- ◆ Eunice Huntingdon (Five teams)
- ◆ Huntingdon Rangers (Two teams)
- ◆ Huntingdon United (Two teams)

Of these clubs Brampton/Brampton Spartans and Sawtry/Sawtry Colts are the junior and senior sections of the same Clubs and as such are also the largest two clubs having 15 teams and 16 teams respectively. This totals a combined 31 teams.

Both clubs currently operate their own sites at Brampton Memorial Playing Field (Brampton/Brampton Spartans) and Greenfields (Sawtry/Sawtry Colts). These sites have capacity challenges during peak periods. Brampton Memorial Playing Fields has one overplayed adult pitch, whilst its mini 5v5, mini 7v7 and youth 11v11 pitches are played to capacity at peak time. Similarly, the adult pitch, mini 7v7, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches at Greenfields are also played to capacity at peak time.



## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

As the School site at Alconbury Weald would also be used for curricular activity, the pitch sizes best placed on this site would be of youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 sizes (as to meet curricular demand). As both club sites are played to capacity at peak time for these pitch types, the school could have a pitch mix of both youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 sizes.

Of the Brampton/Brampton Spartans and Sawtry/Sawtry Colts 31 teams, 11 (seven youth 11v11 and four youth 9v9) require these pitch sizes. The School could therefore provide either a new home base or secondary option for these clubs. This is in addition to satisfying regular community demand.

In addition, the current position of grass football pitches in Huntingdonshire seen in Table 4.10 identifies that youth 11v11 pitches are currently the only pitch type which is heavily overplayed. As such, an increase in this provision would be beneficial to not only suggested clubs, but potentially others in the District and work to reducing the known shortfall.

Table 4.10: Summary of supply and demand analysis for grass football pitches

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Adult	14.5	8.5	6	4	2
Youth 11v11	1	7.5	6.5	4.5	11
Youth 9v9	3	2.5	0.5	2.5	2
Mini 7v7	3	1.5	1.5	1.5	0
Mini 5v5	0.5	1	0.5	4.5	5

### Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of pitches (unless replacement provision is agreed upon and provided).
- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and assessed as poor or standard quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain use and improve quality.
- ◀ Use the LFFP as a guide to determine suitable sites for grass pitch investment and update the priority projects within it following this study.
- ◀ Utilise the Football Foundation's PitchPower app to assist in the improvement and ongoing maintenance of provision.
- ◀ Work to accommodate exported and future demand at sites which are not operating at capacity, sites previously utilised for football demand or at sites which are not currently available for community use.
- ◀ Provide security of tenure for clubs using unsecure sites through community use agreements and support negotiation with private landowners and schools to secure appropriate access (e.g., via a community use agreement or lease arrangement).
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so and where it can benefit the wider footballing offer.
- ◀ Where appropriate, develop partnerships and/or lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded clubs to manage their own sites.
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◀ Where a housing development is not of a size to justify on-site football provision, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site football provision, focus on the creation of multi-pitch sites that reduce existing shortfalls, with accompanying clubhouse provision included given that single pitch sites without appropriate ancillary facilities can be unsustainable.

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

## 3G pitches

### Assessment Report summary

- ◀ There is insufficient supply of full size 3G pitches to meet current and anticipated future demand in Huntingdonshire based on the FA training scenario for football.
- ◀ There is a quantitative shortfall and an additional two full size 3G pitches are required.

#### Supply

- ◀ There are currently seven full size 3G pitches provided in Huntingdonshire across seven sites, all of which are available for community use.
- ◀ There are also six small sided pitches located within the area, of which two are unavailable for community use.
- ◀ All 3G pitches are FA or FIFA registered and permitted for use for football match play.
- ◀ Of the existing stock of full size 3G pitches which offer community use, all are on the FA Register for match play. However, it should be noted that three of the seven 3G pitches (Leading Drove, St Ives Town Football Club and Hinchingsbrooke School) are nearing the end of their accreditation, with all expiring at the end of May 2023.
- ◀ There is a good level of accessibility within the peak period and no identified restrictions on availability other than capacity.

#### Quality

- ◀ In Huntingdonshire there are five (71%) full size pitches rated as good quality and two (29%) full sized pitches rated as standard, no full size 3G pitches in the District are rated as poor quality. All six of the small sized 3G pitches are rated as standard quality.

#### Demand and capacity

- ◀ The FA training ratio estimates that there is a theoretical requirement for at least two additional new 3G pitches with sports lighting for affiliated football to meet current demand, increasing to a potential need for four in future.
- ◀ The demand for additional new 3G pitch provision with sports lighting is split between the Huntingdon and St Neots analysis areas with a requirement for one pitch in each.

## Scenarios

### Accommodating football training demand

To satisfy current football training demand (based on the FA's model of one full size 3G pitch being able to cater for 38 teams) there is a need for three full size 3G pitches in Huntingdonshire.

Table 4.11: Current demand for 3G pitches in Huntingdonshire (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Current number of teams	3G requirement	Current number of 3G pitches	Current shortfall
380	10	7	3

When considering future demand for an additional 34 teams (based on future demand expressed by clubs), there is demand for 11 full size pitches, which increases the shortfall of 3G pitches further to four full size 3G pitches.

Table 4.12: Future demand for 3G pitches in Huntingdonshire (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Future number of teams	3G requirement	Current number of 3G pitches	Future shortfall
414	11 (10.89)	7	4

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Alternatively, the tables below consider the number of 3G pitches required if every team was to remain training within the respective analysis area that they play in. This not only identifies where the needs exist across Huntingdonshire, but it can also be used to guide which areas should be targeted for new provision.

Table 4.13: Current demand for 3G pitches in Huntingdonshire by analysis area

Analysis area	Current number of teams	Current requirement	Current number of available full size 3G pitches	Current shortfall
Huntingdon	86	2 (2.26)	1	1
North East	38	1	1	-
North West	53	1 (1.39)	1	-
St. Ives	93	2 (2.45)	2	-
St. Neots	101	3 (2.66)	2	1
West	9	0 (0.23)	0	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>

This shows that there is a shortfall within the Huntingdon and the St Neots analysis areas, whereas demand is being met in the North East, North West, St Ives and West analysis areas.

When accounting for future demand, the potential shortfalls are projected to increase in the Huntingdon Analysis Area, whilst a new shortfall becomes evident in the St Ives Analysis Area. Demand remains satisfied in the North East, North West and West analysis areas.

Table 4.14: Future demand for 3G pitches in Huntingdonshire by analysis area

Analysis area	Future number of teams	Current requirement	Current number of available full size 3G pitches	Future shortfall
Huntingdon	98	3 (2.58)	1	2
North East	41	1 (1.07)	1	-
North West	53	1 (1.39)	1	-
St. Ives	101	3 (2.66)	2	1
St. Neots	107	3 (2.82)	2	1
West	14	0 (0.37)	0	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>

When considering future demand, the overall shortfall increases to a total shortfall of four full size pitch equivalents.

### Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP)

The LFFP for Huntingdonshire identifies the following for potential 3G pitch development:

- ◆ Alconbury Weald (Huntingdon Analysis Area) - New (full size)
- ◆ St Ives Town (St Ives Analysis Area) - New (full size) **now complete**
- ◆ The David Wilson Homes Ground (Huntingdon Analysis Area) - New (full size) **Final plan submission July 2023**
- ◆ One Leisure St Neots (St Neots Analysis Area) - New (small sided 7v7)
- ◆ Huntingdon (Huntingdon Analysis Area) - New (full size)
- ◆ Academy Leisure Sawtry (North West Analysis Area) - New (full size) **Final plan submission April 2023**

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

As the LFFP is a live document to be informed by an up-to-date PPOSS, the priority project list should be revisited following this study and updated/amended based on the findings, if necessary. To help further guide this process, the table below identifies what impact delivering the current projects would have on existing shortfalls.

*Table 4.15: Impact of delivering current LFFP 3G projects*

Analysis area	Current 3G requirement	Current number of 3G pitches	Current shortfall	No. of proposed pitches	Shortfall if delivered
Huntingdon	2	1	1	3	Surplus (2)
North East	1	1	0	0	0
North West	1	1	0	1	Surplus (1)
St. Ives	2	2	0	0	0
St. Neots	3	2	1	0	1
West	0	0	0	0	0

If the pitches at Alconbury Weald and The David Wilson Homes Ground are established the overall shortfall would reduce from two pitches zero pitches, with the specific shortfall in the Huntingdon Analysis Area alleviated, however there would remain a shortfall in the St Neots Analysis Area.

It should be noted that if future demand is realised it would increase the requirement, however the proposed pitches in the Huntingdon Analysis Area would cater for this. However, there would be a requirement for an additional pitch in the St Ives Analysis Area.

As the LFFP does not identify pitches within either area there is a need to explore additional options for the development of 3G pitches in the St Neots and St Ives analysis areas. Below are a few options to consider:

#### St Neots:

- ◀ Eynesbury Rovers FC
- ◀ Eaton Sports Ground
- ◀ Longsands Academy
- ◀ Loves Farm East Development

#### St Ives:

- ◀ One Leisure St Ives Outdoor (2<sup>nd</sup> 3G onsite)
- ◀ St Ivo Academy

#### *Moving mini football match play demand to 3G pitches*

Moving mini football match play to 3G pitches is supported by the FA.

An approach to consider is the transfer of all mini football to 3G provision. As such, the table below tests a scenario to enable all mini 5v5 and mini 7v7 football to transfer to 3G pitches based on a programme of play at current peak time (Sunday AM).

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 4.16: Moving all mini matches to 3G pitches

Time	AGP	Total games/teams
9.30am – 10.30am	4 x 5v5	4/8
10.30am – 11.30am	2 x 7v7	2/4
11.30am – 12.30pm	2 x 7v7	2/4
12.30pm – 1.30pm	2 x 7v7	2/4

Based on the above programming and separate start times for the formats, the overall need is for eight full size 3G pitches to accommodate all current mini match play demand. This is calculated based on 63 teams playing 5v5 football and 57 teams playing 7v7 football. As such, it is considered that to be able to transfer mini football onto 3G pitches, there is a need for the development of one additional full size 3G, with a current supply of seven pitches.

This approach is dependent on the programming of mini football being coordinated in such a way which allows for a full programme of use on either a Saturday or Sunday morning. Given the makeup of play in the District and the traditional home vs away approach for play, it is unlikely that this approach for full 3G use will ever be in place. However, pitches should be considered for this sort of activity when being provided as it does typically provide a more environment friendly facility for younger children.

### *World Rugby compliant 3G pitches*

World Rugby produced the ‘performance specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby’, more commonly known as ‘Regulation 22’ that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union. There is currently one World Rugby compliant 3G pitch in Huntingdonshire at One Leisure St Neots, however no clubs currently access the pitch for contact rugby. Currently St Ives RUFC access One Leisure Ramsey 3G (non-WR compliant) for training, it is recommended that the Club and clubs such as Huntingdon & District and St Neots RUFC are encouraged and enabled to by the site to make use of the pitch for contact rugby training.

The pitch should be protected and if clubs start to utilise the pitch it should continue to be tested for WR compliance to ensure availability for use is secured. At present there is no requirement for anymore additional WR compliant 3G pitches in the District.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect current stock of 3G pitches.
- ◀ Develop additional 3G pitches to alleviate identified shortfalls.
- ◀ Explore and identify sites in the St Neots and St Ives analysis areas for 3G pitches to alleviate identified shortfalls.
- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA/RFU recommended dimensions and quality performance standards to meet performance testing criteria.
- ◀ Ensure all 3G providers have a sinking fund in place for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Ensure that all existing and new pitches that are on the FA register are re-tested every three years to sustain certification.
- ◀ Ensure that the existing World Rugby compliant pitch at One Leisure St Neots is re-tested every two years to sustain certification.
- ◀ Encourage more match play demand to transfer to 3G pitches, where possible, particularly from for mini football.
- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches with external funding have community use agreements in place and seek to use this to also tie in access to grass pitch and other sporting provision, where relevant.

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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### Cricket

#### Assessment Report summary

##### Summary – Cricket

- Overall, there is currently sufficient capacity of natural turf cricket squares to meet current demand for club cricket at a District wide level.
- When future demand is accounted for there are shortfalls for both senior Saturday and junior midweek cricket. Whilst there remains sufficient capacity for senior Sunday cricket.

##### Supply

- There are 20 grass wicket squares in Huntingdonshire located across 19 sites, of which, 18 are available for community use.
- In Huntingdonshire, there is six NTPs which accompanies a grass wicket square, as well as 12 standalone NTPs.
- The majority of clubs in Huntingdonshire are considered to have secure tenure at their home venues through either ownership (four clubs), long-term leasehold (four clubs), annual rent agreements from HDC/Parish Council Sports Field Trusts (four clubs) or Pending asset transfer (one club).
- Of the 18 squares available for community use, nine grass squares are rated as good quality (50%) and nine are rated as standard quality (50%), there are no poor quality available squares in the District.

##### Demand

- Across the 19 clubs there are 105 teams which access pitch provision in Huntingdonshire, made up of 43 senior men's, one senior women's, 60 junior boy's teams and one junior girls' team.
- In addition to club demand, Huntingdonshire County Cricket Club, Huntingdonshire Cricket Board Age Groups and Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Overs 60s/70s make use of multiple sites across the District. The sites are namely, Ramsey Cricket Club, Upwood cricket Club, Waresley Cricket Club, Houghton and Wyton Playing Field, Eaton Socon Cricket Club, Buckden Recreation Ground, Godmanchester Town Cricket Club and Alconbury Sports and Social Club.
- Future demand was taken from club aspirational demand. This equates to four senior men's teams, five senior women's teams, five junior boys' teams and six junior girls' teams. All these clubs have demand for use of grass squares, with a further senior men's team and junior boys' team at Little Paxton CC playing on an NTP at its home site at Queen Elizabeth II Recreation Ground (Little Paxton).

##### Capacity

- There is actual spare capacity to accommodate additional match play demand on Saturdays in Huntingdonshire at Alconbury Weald Cricket Pitch, Brampton Memorial Playing Field and Hemingford Pavilion.
- There is actual spare capacity to accommodate additional match play demand on Sundays in Huntingdonshire at Alconbury Weald Cricket Pitch, Alconbury Sports and Social Club, Brampton Memorial Playing Field, Buckden Recreation Ground, Mill Field, Greenfields, Hemingford Pavilion, King George V Playing Fields (St Peters Road), One Leisure St Ives Outdoor and Warboys Sports Field.
- There is actual spare capacity at Alconbury Weald Cricket Pitch, Alconbury Sports and Social Club, Brampton Memorial Playing Field, Buckden Recreation Ground, Eaton Socon Cricket Club, Godmanchester Town Cricket Club, Greenfields, Mill Field, Hemingford Pavilion, King George V Playing Fields (St Peters Road), One Leisure St Ives Outdoor and Warboys Sports Field to accommodate additional use during the week for midweek cricket.
- There are four sites in Huntingdonshire considered to be overplayed by a total of 25 match equivalent sessions per season.

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

## Scenarios

### Addressing overplay

Although a regular, sufficient maintenance regime can sustain good quality sites with minimal levels of overplay (e.g. at Kimbolton Cricket Club, Ramsey Cricket Club and Upwood Cricket Club (junior square)), a reduction in play is recommended to ensure that there is no detrimental effect on quality over time.

Table 4.17: Summary of overplay

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Number of squares	Overplay (matches per season)
54	Kimbolton Cricket Club	West	1	3
85	Ramsey Cricket Club	North East	1	9
115	Waresley Cricket Club	St. Neots	1	6
144	Upwood Cricket Club	North East	1 (Junior square)	7
<b>Total</b>			<b>4</b>	<b>25</b>

Improving quality is one way to increase capacity, albeit many of the overplayed sites in Huntingdonshire are already good quality. The exception to this is the square at Waresley Cricket Club which has a standard quality square and is currently overplayed by six match equivalent sessions a season.

Table 4.18: Overplay if square quality was improved to good quality

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of squares	No. of wickets	Quality	Current capacity rating	Good capacity rating
115	Waresley Cricket Club	St. Neots	1	14	Standard	6	8

As seen in the table above, improving the quality of the square at Waresley Cricket Club would alleviate identified overplay and create a small level of spare capacity, which can be theoretically used to accommodate any increases of demand at the site.

To fully alleviate overplay at Kimbolton Cricket Club and Upwood Cricket Club (junior square), the best solution would be to install a NTP in situ as this would allow for the transfer of junior demand away from the grass wickets. Neither of these sites are currently serviced by such provision. However, the overplayed square at Ramsey Cricket Club is currently serviced by an NTP, the Club should look to alleviate pressure of the square by making use of this for junior fixtures.

As a caveat, whilst the inclusion of NTPs for the management of fixtures would alleviate overplay issues, usage is subject to league rules and minimum pitch specifications. Furthermore, this should not lead to undue pressure being placed on clubs and volunteers using the sites to install self-funded NTPs.

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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Although not readily available within grassroots cricket, there may be potential in the future to address overplay through the installation of hybrid wicket/s on competitive senior squares. The ECB has been working with SIS Pitches on the installation of hybrid cricket wickets at county cricket clubs (2019) and more recently recreational squares such as Perry Hall Park in Birmingham (2021) and Didsbury Cricket Club in Manchester (2022). Due to already good standing provision at Kimbolton Cricket Club, and Upwood Cricket Club (junior square), along with Ramsey Cricket Club which already has an NTP installed, there is scope to potentially explore the opportunity to install hybrid wickets in the future.

A hybrid wicket combines natural turf grass with less the 5% of uniquely engineered, soft polyethylene yarn, which has already been used to improve golf tees, tennis courts and pitch surrounds. These wickets are to offer a greater capacity in addition to reducing time on repair works with a faster recovery time. Reports found that hybrid wickets improve surface stability, reduced wear, reduced bowler foot holes and significantly extended hours of playing time.

Ideally, once these become more readily available for community cricket clubs and have gone through the required testing, they could act as a way to increase levels of playing capacity on overplay squares. This would be particularly beneficial for those sites which are limited on space and cannot create additional wickets due to restrictions things such as boundary length or ball strike.

Although it is difficult at this stage to understand what impact hybrid wickets could have on each site's capacity, it is suggested that it could potentially alleviate all the overplay on both junior and senior wickets. This is based on the assumption that more senior demand can take place on the hybrid wickets allowing for the outer senior wickets to be used/converted for junior demand.

### *Impact of club aspirational demand on future site by site supply and demand*

Future demand reported by club aspirations through participation increases is considered more aspirational, and it is unlikely that it will all be achieved. This scenario explores the impact that the clubs aspirational demand would have if all the future demand was realised.

The total future demand expressed by clubs is broken down club by club in Table 4.19, the future demand from club aspirations amounts to 20 teams (four senior Saturday men's teams, five senior women's teams, five junior boys' teams and six junior girls' teams.).



## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 4.19: Potential team increases identified by clubs

Analysis area	Club	Age group	Aspirational future demand (Number of teams)	Day	Capacity balance <sup>3</sup>	Match equivalent sessions required to accommodate future demand	Actual spare capacity at home site
Huntingdon	Huntingdon & District CC	Senior Men's	1	Saturday	29	10	No
		Senior Women's	1	Sunday		10	Yes
North East	Upwood CC	Senior Women's	1	Sunday	2	10	No
		Junior Girls	1	Midweek	7	5	No
North East	Ramsey CC	Senior Men's	1	Saturday	9	10	No
		Junior Boys	1	Midweek		5	No
North West	Sawtry CC	Senior Men's	1	Saturday	18	10	No
		Senior Women's	1	Sunday		10	Yes
		Junior Boys	1	Midweek		5	Yes
St Ives	Houghton & Wyton CC	Senior Women's	1	Sunday	6	10	No
		Junior Girls	1	Midweek		5	Yes
St Neots	Eaton Socon CC	Senior Men's	1	Saturday	6	10	No
West	Kimbolton CC	Junior Boys	1	Midweek	3	5	No

Huntingdon & District CC has spare capacity on its square; however, it does not have capacity to host an additional senior Saturday men's team. The Club currently has two Saturday men's teams and therefore, in order to cater for an additional senior Saturday men's team, it needs to look at an alternative facility to cater for this team.

Upwood CC has potential spare capacity onsite, however, due to volume of current demand both the main and junior square, the site does not have enough spare capacity to cater for a further senior women's and junior girls' team without the main square becoming overplayed whilst the junior square would have the overplay exacerbated. The square is currently considered good quality, therefore there is a need to explore other options (e.g. NTPs or hybrids wickets) to cater for this future aspirational demand. Similarly, the square at Ramsey CC is currently overplayed, with the square also being a good quality, therefore there is again a need to explore other options to cater for this future demand.

<sup>3</sup> Match equivalent sessions per season  
December 2022

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Sawtry CC currently shares its home ground with Falcons XI CC on Saturdays. As at present the square does not have capacity to cater for an additional senior Saturday men’s team. However, the Club is currently in the process of relocating to the Alconbury Weald Cricket Pitch, this would allow both its current Saturday team and a further Saturday team to be catered for. This would then allow Falcons XI CC to have exclusive use of Greenfields.

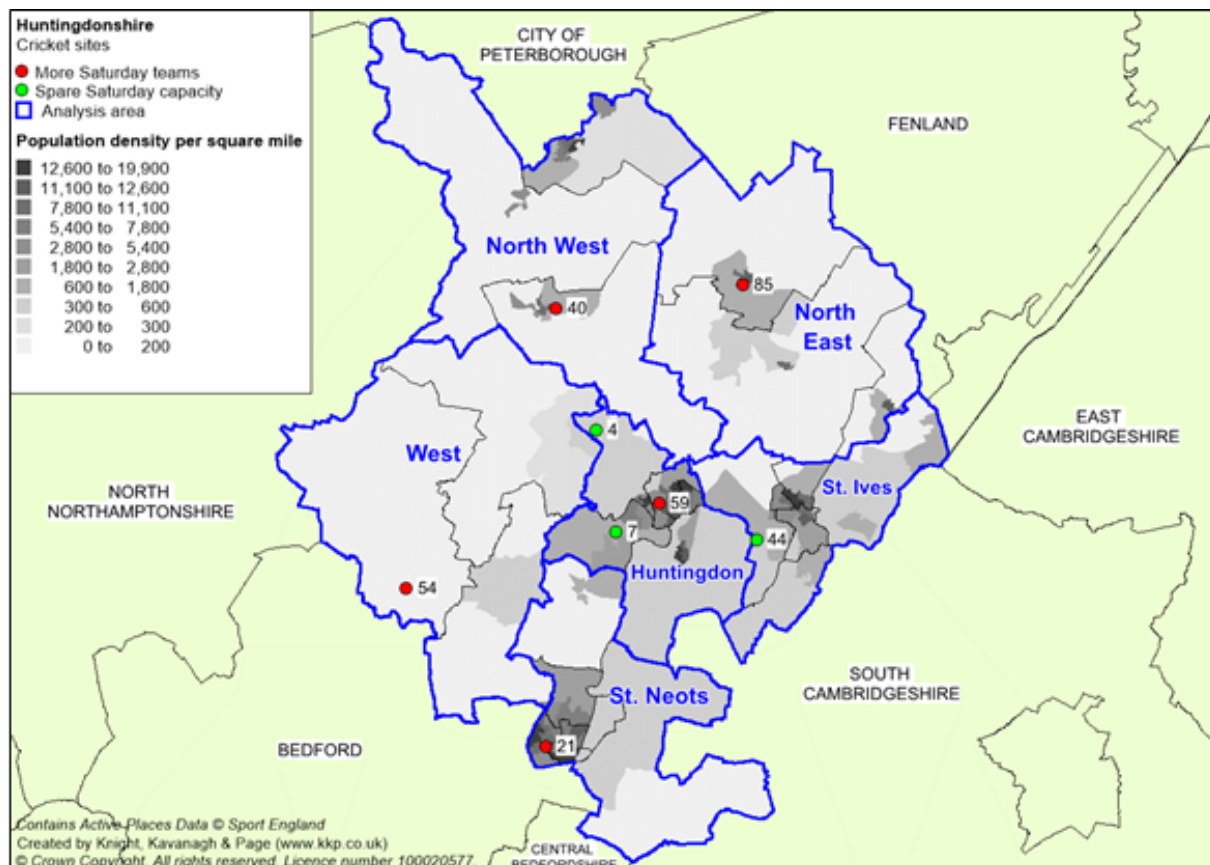
Houghton & Wyton CC has potential spare capacity to accommodate a future senior Saturday men’s team. However, at present the square does not have enough spare capacity to cater for a further senior Saturday men’s team without the square becoming overplayed. As the square is currently of a standard quality there is a scope to increase the quality of the square, increasing the quality would see capacity balance of the square increase from six match equivalent sessions per season to 12. As the required amount of match equivalent sessions per season for a senior Saturday men’s team is ten, an improvement in quality would see the square offer actual spare capacity and be able to cater for the club’s future demand.

Eaton Socon CC does not have capacity on its current square to host an additional senior Saturday men’s team. The Club currently has two Saturday men’s teams and therefore, in order to cater for an additional senior Saturday men’s team, it needs to look at an alternative facility to cater for this team.

Kimbolton CC does not have capacity on its current square to host an additional junior boys’ team. Its square is currently marginally overplayed, whilst it is a good quality and therefore there is no scope for qualitative improvements. In order to have capacity to cater for this future demand there is a need to explore alternative options (e.g NTPs or hybrids wickets) onsite.

The map below identifies the current clubs which aspire to have additional Saturday teams and also identifies those sites which offer spare capacity on Saturdays.

Figure 4.2: Saturday spare capacity for additional teams



## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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As can be seen on the map the sites with actual spare capacity are those within the Huntingdon and St Ives Analysis Area. With Huntingdon & District CC aspiring to have additional teams this map shows that the closest site with actual spare capacity is Brampton Memorial Playing Field.

Like previously mentioned Sawtry CC will be relocating to Alconbury Weald Cricket Pitch (Site Four) for the 2023 season and this therefore will allow Greenfields (Site 40) to offer actual spare capacity rather than the Alconbury Weald Cricket Pitch (Site Four). All other teams aspiring to add additional teams will require extensive travel time to access sites with actual spare capacity. Therefore, there is a need to explore the opportunity to either bring back to use disused sites/provision or develop dedicated pitches for these clubs with future aspirations.

### *Disused cricket sites / provision*

There are number of sites in Huntingdonshire which are solely disused sites (a site which has no active sports pitches onsite) or disused cricket provision, these sites are still active with sports pitches however they used to accommodate a grass cricket square. These are summarised below:

### *Disused sites*

Yelling Cricket Club is currently a disused site. Yelling CC has not competed in the 2022 cricket season, having been active in 2021 playing home matches at Yelling Cricket Club. The site accommodates a six wicket grass square. The Club has not competed in 2022, with players travelling to other nearby clubs to take part in cricket activity. The Club has made no statements around re-instating cricket.

The site agreement is unknown however due to the site ceasing maintenance recently the pitch is likely in a position to be brought back to use relatively easily and quickly. Of the teams currently aspiring for an additional Saturday team, Eaton Socon CC is located within the same analysis area and has no existing space at its home site. From Eaton Socon Cricket Club to Yelling Cricket Club the seven mile journey has a travel time of *circa* 15 minutes. Although this travel time isn't ideal, the Yelling Cricket Club site could offer a second site for Eaton Socon CC to continue its expansion.

### *Disused provision*

- ◆ Abbots Ripton Cricket Club (North West Analysis Area) – PE28 2PF
- ◆ Millennium Sports Pavilion (North East Analysis Area) – PE28 3JS
- ◆ Fenstanton Football Club (St Ives Analysis Area) – PE28 9JH

Although these three sites are currently not used for cricket the sites accommodate football. At present there is no specific need to make efforts to reinstate but they should be acknowledged as having the potential to provide for growth in the future. It is recommended that they are retained as strategic reserve in order to potentially provide additional capacity for future growth or alternatively venues to increase recreational demand.

Of these three sites with disused provision, the Millennium Sports Pavilion has potential to cater for additional demand for Ramsey CC. The site is located in the same analysis area and is a nine mile journey and around a 20 minute travel time from Ramsey CC's home ground. This drive time is further than would be ideal however it is the closest site to Ramsey CC which could offer availability.

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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It should be noted that although reinstating cricket facilities and utilising disused sites/provision in principle could be an option to support further growth from clubs. Due to the travel time and distance, along with the time and equipment needed for dedicated maintenance this may not be an option that a club wishes to explore.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of cricket squares.
- ◀ Work with clubs and grounds staff to review quality issues on squares to ensure appropriate quality is achieved at sites assessed as standard and sustained at sites assessed as good.
- ◀ Look to retain strategic reserve sites in order to allow for potential future growth of both community club and recreational cricket.
- ◀ Address overplay via quality improvements and the installation of NTPs/Hybrid wickets as well as through greater utilisation of the NTPs already in place.
- ◀ Ensure clubs can realise future growth plans and continue to monitor increases in demand to ensure additional teams can be fielded.
- ◀ Improve the ancillary facilities, particularly those which have expressed issues and development plans and those of a standard/poor quality.
- ◀ Consider options to increase and improve stock of suitable practice facilities, first and foremost focusing on Houghton and Wyton Playing Field, Kimbolton Cricket Club and King George V Playing Fields (St Peters Road).
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site cricket provision, ensure that any proposals for new squares will attract adequate demand.
- ◀ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site cricket provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.
- ◀ Ensure that any developments nearby to existing cricket sites do not prejudice the use of the provision (e.g. through ball-strike issues).

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

### Rugby union

#### Assessment Report summary

- There is an insufficient supply of provision in Huntingdonshire to accommodate for both current and anticipated future levels of demand for rugby union.
- The priority for rugby union in Huntingdonshire is to ensure maintenance programmes are enhanced across club settings to improve quality of pitches to alleviate the overplay across senior pitches.

#### Supply

- There is a total of 16 rugby union pitches identified in Huntingdonshire. Of these, 13 are available for community use. Which total 9 senior pitches, one junior pitch and three mini pitches. All unavailable pitches are located at education and MOD sites.
- There is one 3G pitch at One Leisure St Neots which is on the WR compliant register. St Ives RUFC make use of the non-WR compliant 3G pitch at One Leisure Ramsey for non contact training.
- All sites used by rugby union clubs in the District are managed by the respective rugby union clubs. St Ives RUFC and St Neots RUFC have long-term lease agreements at their respective sites. Whilst Huntingdon & District RFC FC has a rental agreement from Huntingdon Racecourse/Jockey Club on its site, therefore the club is considered to have unsecure tenure.

#### Quality

- Most available rugby union pitches (eight of 13 pitches – 62%) are rated as standard quality. Whilst five (38%) are of poor quality. No pitches in the District are rated as good quality.
- All available pitches are reported to have adequate natural drainage, with no issues with general drainage of pitches.

#### Demand

- There are three affiliated rugby union clubs based and playing within the District, identified as fielding a total of 43 affiliated teams.
- Community club training typically takes place on grass pitch provision with sports lighting, with some use of the non-World Rugby compliant 3G pitch at One Leisure Ramsey.
- Future demand from club growth aspirations is considered to amount to two teams (one senior men's, one junior girls'), requiring additional match play capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week on senior pitches and 0.5 match equivalent session per week on junior/senior pitches. This increase in demand may also require increased capacity for training on pitches with sports lighting.

#### Capacity

- None of the five available pitches are considered to have any actual spare capacity to accommodate additional demand.
- There are eight pitches overplayed across three sites by a total of eight match equivalent sessions per week.

### Scenarios

#### Improving pitch quality

Three community club sites in Huntingdonshire are overplayed. This translates to each site accommodating more demand than it should be accommodating, relative to the facility stock on each site. The scenarios below look at the impact of improvements to senior pitches at each of the sites through enhancing the existing maintenance regimes and through the installation of drainage solutions.

As a guide, the RFU has set a standard number of matches that each pitch should be able to accommodate, set out below.

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 4.20: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments

		Maintenance		
		Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)
Drainage	Natural Inadequate (D0)	0.5	1.5	2
	Natural Adequate or Pipe Drained (D1)	1.5	2	3
	Pipe Drained (D2)	1.75	2.5	3.25
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	2	3	3.5

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 4.21: Rugby union supply vs demand balance (sites which are overplayed)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Security of tenure	No. of pitches	Technical score	Quality*	Sports lighting	MES per week	Pitch capacity (MES per week)	Capacity rating (MES per week)
50	Huntingdon and District RFC	Huntingdon	Yes	Unsecure	1 <sup>4</sup>	M0/D1	Poor	No (portable lights for training)	1.5	1.5	0
					2				7.5	3	4.5
95	St Ives Rugby Union Football Club	St. Ives	Yes	Secure	1	M1/D2	Standard	Yes	3	2.5	0.5
					1	M1/D1	Poor	No	3	2	1
					1	M1/D0		2.5	1.5	1	
99	St Neots Rugby Club	St. Neots	Yes	Secure	2	M1/D1	Standard	No	4.5	4	0.5
					1 (Junior)				2.5	2	0.5
					3 (Mini)				3	6	3

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 4.22: Improvements to existing maintenance regimes to reduce overplay by one increment

Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Technical score	Quality*	Floodlit?	MES per week	Pitch capacity (MES per week)	Capacity rating (MES per week)	Improved technical maintenance score	Improved quality rating	Theoretical capacity rating (MES per week)
50	Huntingdon and District RFC	1 <sup>5</sup>	M0/D1	Poor	No (portable sports lights used for training)	1.5	1.5	0	M1/D1	Standard	0.5
		2				7.5	3	4.5			3.5
95	St Ives Rugby Union Football Club	1	M1/D2	Standard	Yes	3	2.5	0.5	M2/D2	Good	0.75
		1	M1/D1	Poor	No	3	2	1	M2/D1	Good	0
		1	M1/D0			2.5	1.5	1	M2/D0	Good	0.5
99	St Neots Rugby Club	2	M1/D1	Standard	No	4.5	4	0.5	M2/D1	Good	1.5
		1 (Junior)				2.5	2	0.5		Good	0.5
		3 (Mini)				3	6	3		Good	6

The table above includes a one increment increase on the maintenance on pitches, undertaking these improvements will have an impact on capacity. The main 1<sup>st</sup> XV pitch at Huntingdon and District RFC is currently at capacity and will see a small level of spare capacity generated, whilst the remaining two pitches onsite will see overplay shortened from 4.5 MES to 3.5 MES per week.

Of the three senior pitches at St Ives Rugby Union Football Club, two pitches will have overplay alleviated with the sports lit pitch seeing a small generation of spare capacity, whilst the overplay on the third pitch will be shortened from one MES to 0.5 MES per week.

The two senior pitches at St Neots Rugby Club will have their overplayed alleviated, whilst also creating spare capacity. Similarly, the junior pitch will have its overplayed alleviated, with a small amount of spare capacity produced. The three mini pitches which currently offer spare capacity will see the spare capacity significantly increased.

<sup>5</sup> Main 1<sup>st</sup> team pitch  
December 2022



# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 4.23: Improving on site drainage solutions to a D2 rating

Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Technical score	Quality*	Floodlit?	MES per week	Pitch capacity (MES per week)	Capacity rating (MES per week)	Improved technical drainage score	Improved quality rating	Theoretical capacity rating (MES per week)
50	Huntingdon and District RFC	1 <sup>6</sup>	M0/D1	Poor	No (portable sports lights used for training)	1.5	1.5	0	M0/D2	Poor	0.25
		2				7.5	3	4.5			4
95	St Ives Rugby Union Football Club	1	M1/D2	Standard	<i>No improvement required to reach D2</i>						
		1	M1/D1	Poor	No	3	2	1	M1/D2	Standard	0.5
		1	M1/D0			2.5	1.5	1			0
99	St Neots Rugby Club	2	M1/D1	Standard	No	4.5	4	0.5	M1/D2	Standard	0.5
		1 (Junior)				2.5	2	0.5			0
		3 (Mini)				3	6	3			4.5

The table above illustrates that the impact of improving the drainage solutions at all sites to a D2 rating. This would alleviate overplay off one pitches at St Ives Rugby Union Football Club whilst reducing the overplay on another. The remaining pitch already has drainage of D2 quality.

The improvements would have a similar impact as maintenance improvements for Huntingdon and District RFC with the same level of overplay reduction and some level capacity created.

Improving the drainage systems in place on the overplayed pitches at St Ives Rugby Union Football Club would see the junior pitch's overplay alleviated and two senior pitches with additional capacity created of 0.5 MES per week. The Mini pitches onsite would have its spare capacity increased.

<sup>6</sup> Main 1<sup>st</sup> team pitch  
December 2022

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 4.24: Improving maintenance and drainage

Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Technical score	Quality*	Floodlit?	MES per week	Pitch capacity (MES per week)	Capacity rating (MES per week)	Improved technical drainage score	Improved quality rating	Theoretical capacity rating (MES per week)
50	Huntingdon and District RFC	17	M0/D1	Poor	No (portable sports lights used for training)	1.5	1.5	0	M2/D3	Good	2
		2				7.5	3	4.5			0.5
95	St Ives Rugby Union Football Club	1	M1/D2	Standard	Yes	3	2.5	0.5	M2/D3	Good	0.5
		1	M1/D1	Poor	No	3	2	1			0.5
		1	M1/D0		2.5	1.5	1	1			
99	St Neots Rugby Club	2	M1/D1	Standard	No	4.5	4	0.5	M2/D3	Good	2.5
		1 (Junior)				2.5	2	0.5			1
		3 (Mini)				3	6	3			7.5

The above two tables show a slight improvement, to both the maintenance and drainage on rugby pitches. This table examines the improvement of both maintenance and drainage to the maximum M2/D3 rating. Across Huntingdonshire all pitches which are currently overplayed and at capacity would have spare capacity created apart from two senior pitches.

Two senior pitches at Huntingdon & District RFC would remain overplayed this is due to the high volume of training and match demand on the pitches which are mainly utilised for training demand. However, the pitches would see overplay significantly reduced from 4.5 MES to 0.5 MES per week., this level of overplay is considered to be manageable.

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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### *Huntingdon and District RFC Alconbury Weald Relocation*

Huntingdon & District RFC is exploring opportunities to relocate from its current home site at Huntingdon Racecourse to within the Alconbury Weald development. The Club wishes to relocate for a number of seasons however the two main reasons are that it currently has an annual rental agreement on its current site and as such has no security of tenure. Relocating within the Alconbury Weald Development would give the Club secure tenure, enabling it to develop facilities in line with its growth. Secondly, the Club wishes to develop a women's and girls however at present the ancillary provision cannot support this and the Club has no current-way of developing these facilities as it has no lease onsite.

The exact facility mix of new provision at Alconbury Weald is still to be determined, however, the Club and RFU are in talks with the developers to look to bring a coordinated approach to the development.

At present, the Club's home site currently has three senior pitches which are of a poor quality. One pitch is the main First XV pitch which is used predominantly for matches and is currently played to capacity. The remaining two pitches are used for junior and senior training along with matches for the juniors and vet's teams. There is a need to improve the quality and install purpose-built drainage on the site. As seen in Table 4.23, this would create spare capacity on the First XV pitch, however, the remaining two pitches would remain overplayed.

The site does not currently have permanent sports lighting with portable sports lighting used for training throughout the winter. It should also be noted that site as a whole the site is located on a flood zone and in recent years has flooded. This caused significant damage to the clubhouse onsite.

With the above being said, due to the unsecure tenure of the site and the fact that the site is located on a flood zone, it is very unlikely that improvements to drainage would be sanctioned. In addition, an improved maintenance regime for the site would require significant investment into machinery and resources, again due to the site location and unsecure tenure, it is unlikely that the Club would be able to obtain this. Furthermore, with its future aspiration/unmet demand and with a view to increasing demand through the investment into women's and girls' rugby (two junior girls teams requiring one MES per week in total), any further demand would see the three pitches at M2/D3 quality become further overplayed.,

The site does not currently have permanent sports lighting with portable sports lighting used for training throughout the winter. It should also be noted that site as a whole the site is located on a flood zone and in recent years has flooded. This caused significant damage to the clubhouse onsite.

If an opportunity relocate to Alconbury Weald was available, it is important to understand what exact facility mix would be required to accommodate existing demand, as well as any potential for additional growth.

To ascertain a facility mix (using the PPOSS as a methodological guideline), it is important to note the Club's own ability to maintain provision within its own capabilities. It is likely that it would be able to maintain provision to an M1 quality whilst purpose built drainage on pitches could be provided to a D3 quality, this M1/D3 mix would offer capacity of three MES per week per pitch.

Therefore, if the same quantity of provision was to be supplied to a M1/D3 quality on a like for like basis as its current site, there would remain an insufficient supply of provision to cater for its needs. This is evidenced below.

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 4.25: Potential facility supply vs demand at Alconbury Weald Development

Site name	No. of pitches	Potential technical score	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Potential pitch capacity (sessions per week)	Potential capacity rating
Alconbury Weald Development	1 <sup>8</sup>	M1/D3 (Standard)	1.5	3	1.5
	2		7.5	6	1.5

As shortfalls would remain with the same amount of provision as provided on a like for like basis, there is a need to explore different options of the facility mix for the Alconbury Weald development.

In order, to cater for both current and future demand see potential facility mixes in table below which would be able to satisfy demand.

Table 4.26: Potential facility mix at Alconbury Weald Development (minimum specification)

Options	Facility mix
Option One	Four senior pitches of M1/D3 quality. Of which two pitches to be fully sports lit to support winter midweek training and junior demand. Two remaining senior pitches do not theoretically require sports lighting.
Option Two	Three senior pitches of M1/D3 quality and one dedicated training area of M1/D3 quality. One senior pitch to be fully sports lit alongside the dedicated training area.

The above two options provide the minimum facility threshold which would enable demand to be accommodated on site, incorporating both existing and any future growth in women's and girls. Where feasible, further options should be considered for pitch space and sports lighting to provide the best club offer possible.

Note for ancillary provision (clubhouse and changing rooms) it is expected that provision would be provided for to the appropriate RFU technical standards with enough self-contained changing rooms which can enable to growth of women's and girls' rugby. Appropriate car parking levels will also need to be established as part of the wider design of the site.

### World Rugby compliant 3G pitches

World Rugby produced the 'performance specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22' that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union. There is currently one World Rugby compliant 3G pitch in Huntingdonshire at One Leisure St Neots, however no clubs currently access the pitch for contact rugby. Currently St Ives RUFC access One Leisure Ramsey 3G (non-WR compliant) for training, it is recommended that the Club and clubs such as Huntingdon & District and St Neots RUFC are encouraged and enabled to by the site to make use of the pitch for contact rugby training. The pitch should be protected and if clubs start to utilise the pitch it should continue to be tested for WR compliance to ensure availability for use is secured.

At present there is no requirement for anymore additional WR compliant 3G pitches in the District.

<sup>8</sup> Main 1<sup>st</sup> team pitch

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of rugby union pitches and areas used for rugby union activity.
- ◀ Improve pitch quality at all sites used by clubs through improved maintenance and/or the installation of drainage systems, particularly at sites containing overplayed pitches.
- ◀ Explore long term the potential relocation of Huntingdon & District RFC to the Alconbury Weald Development.
- ◀ Support clubs in taking part in the GMA pitch advisory service to explore technical requirements to help pitch improvement.
- ◀ Support all clubs with their aspirations to improve their ancillary facilities.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site rugby provision, ensure that any proposals for new pitches will attract adequate demand.
- ◀ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site rugby provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.

### **Hockey pitches**

#### **Assessment Report summary**

- ◀ **Supply of hockey suitable AGPs in Huntingdonshire is insufficient to meet, future and exported demand for peak time Saturday hockey.**
- ◀ **Junior hockey can continue to be accommodated and there is likely to be a club specific need from all clubs to gain greater access to AGPs midweek to accommodate existing, and any future demand which is established.**
- ◀ **Due to the insufficient capacity at present to cater for current and future demand for senior hockey all current hockey suitable AGP's should be protected.**

#### **Supply**

- ◀ There is a total of five hockey suitable artificial grass pitches in Huntingdonshire located across four sites, only two of which are available for community use. There are also four small sided pitches identified across four sites, similarly to full size pitches only two of the pitches are available for community use.
- ◀ Of the two community available full size hockey suitable AGPs, the pitch at One Leisure St Ives Outdoor is operated via the Council's leisure provider, One Leisure. Whilst the pitch at Longsands Academy is managed internally by the School.

#### **Quality**

- ◀ There are five full size AGPs within Huntingdonshire, of which, four are standard quality and one is good quality. One pitch at Kimbolton School is good quality however is not available for community use.
- ◀ The pitch at One Leisure St Ives Outdoor is currently of standard quality, however, due to not being resurfaced in around 16 years is coming to the end of its lifespan and its quality has begun to deteriorate. Huntingdonshire District Council reports that it plans to resurface the pitch in the summer of 2023 in time for the start of the 2023/24 hockey season.

#### **Demand**

- ◀ The three clubs classed as being from Huntingdonshire accommodating 40 teams: 12 men's teams, 11 women's teams, 16 dedicated junior team and one mixed team.
- ◀ Huntingdon HC currently exports demand to North Stowe Secondary School (South Cambridgeshire).
- ◀ There is use of both hockey suitable AGPs for other activities, mainly for formal football training or small sided/recreational use for football.

#### **Capacity**

- ◀ Analysis of programming information at One Leisure St Ives and Longsands Academy indicates that there is no spare capacity on Saturday to accommodate additional match play demand within the District.  
There is a requirement for three full size AGPs with sports lighting to meet current and future demand for hockey matches and training in the District.

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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### **Scenarios**

#### *Protecting sand-based AGPs*

The two AGPs currently in use for hockey should be protected as hockey suitable unless replacement provision is provided within the locality and agreed with England Hockey (for reference any replacement provision would need to be built and full community accessible before the feasibility of developing a pitch could be considered). This is because it is considered unfeasible for demand, whether this is community club demand or curricular/extracurricular demand, to be amalgamated onto fewer pitches given the nature of Huntingdonshire and long drive-time distances between provision.

For clarity, this means that the pitches at the following sites require protection:

- ◀ Longsands Academy
- ◀ One Leisure St Ives Outdoor

There is a need to protect the above provision in order to accommodate current levels of demand in addition to provide capacity for future/latent demand.

#### *Quality improvements*

Following on from the above, in order to protect the provision, there is a clear need for improvements to be made regarding the quality of pitch and/or ancillary facilities (Clubhouse/changing rooms/floodlights etc) particularly at those sites used for community hockey such as Longsands Academy (St Neots HC) and One Leisure St Ives Outdoor (St Ives HC).

If these enhancements do not take place and the facilities become unusable due to their poor quality both St Neots HC and St Ives HC would need to find alternative provision for their demand. Based on the geographical location of the remaining pitch provision in Huntingdonshire, it is deemed that the aforementioned clubs would not be able to relocate to another facility most likely outside of the District, resulting in a significant chance of them folding.

Potential options to help fund such an endeavour should be explored, including but not limited to, potential monies from planning (Section 106), match funding from grant opportunities (England Hockey / Sport England) and contributions from site owners (One Leisure / Schools / PFI contractors).

#### *Security of tenure / accessibility*

Another key issue for hockey in Huntingdonshire is the of security of tenure for St Neots HC. It is considered to have unsecure tenure on the AGP at Longsands Academy due to the pitch being managed inhouse by the School. The lack of secure access means the Club is not guaranteed to be able to use the provision at its preferred time periods. This is due to schools, academies and universities being able to state their own policies and therefore more likely to restrict levels of community use. This may be due to schools wanting to protect pitch quality for curricular or extracurricular activities or not having the resources available to open us their site for community access.

The lack of security and secured accessibility to the pitch in order to host matches is impacting the potential growth of hockey resulting in substantial levels of latent demand.

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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As a result, in order to protect current levels of demand, and allow for the growth of the sport, efforts should be made to secure dedicated club usage (training and match play) at the Longsands Academy for St Neots HC.

### *Huntingdon HC Relocation*

Huntingdon HC is currently exporting demand to North Stowe School (South Cambridgeshire) due to being unable to gain access to a suitable AGP in the District. The Club has one senior women's team and aspires to relocate its demand back into the District.

As part of the Alconbury Weald development it is proposed that an artificial grass pitch will be developed as part of the secondary school development. At present it has not been agreed whether this surface will be a hockey suitable AGP or 3G pitch. In addition to the above St Peter's School has also engaged in conversation with EH around the potential of developing a full size sand based AGP onsite. However, EH suggests that at present the school does not have enough funds to support this development.

Huntingdon HC has been involved in both conversations for potential developments of a full size sand based AGP in the District. However, the Alconbury Weald Development is a strategic priority for a 3G pitch development for football activity and it is recommended that it remains as such. One team at Huntingdon HC does not consist of enough demand to support the development of a sand-based surface. Whilst there is likely to be growth at the Club, it is unlikely be sufficient to warrant a sand based AGP being provided.

Although, there is not sufficient demand from Huntingdon HC to support the development of a sand-based AGP, a multi-sport surface could be explored on the School site within Alconbury Weald. This would offer multi-sport opportunities in the locality, whilst being able to offer suitable surface for the hockey club for both matches and training demand.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ As a minimum, protect the two community available full size hockey suitable pitches in Huntingdonshire.
- ◀ As a priority refurbish the pitches at Longsands Academy and One Leisure St Ives Outdoor exploring options for economies of scale and potential funding partnerships.
- ◀ Explore the opportunity to develop a full size sand based AGP at St Peters School, Alconbury Weald School Development or similar sites identified by England Hockey and/or HDC.
- ◀ Encourage providers to have sinking funds in place at all sites to ensure long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Look to explore options to stop the unsolicited conversion of artificial grass surfaces including, but not limited to, the removal of permitted development rights.
- ◀ Pursue long-term security of tenure for clubs through community use agreements. In conjunction look to develop the management and accessibility of provision to ensure its accessibility based on club requirements in order to allow demand to grow.
- ◀ Ensure that no 3G pitch conversions take place that are detrimental to hockey and revisit hockey demand if and when a conversion is proposed to ensure that the pitch in question is not required.
- ◀ Ensure any new 3G pitch developments do not make sand-based provision in the locality unsustainable following the transfer of football activity.

### Rugby league

#### *Assessment Report summary*

- ◀ **Although there is no current active teams in the District, the demand levels for activity has not decreased.**

#### **Supply**

- ◀ There is a currently no dedicated rugby league pitches. Pitches were previously accommodated at St Ives Rugby Union Football Club.

#### **Demand**

- ◀ There is one dormant club in the District, St Ives Roosters RLFC, which has paused activity due to issues with referees in the respective league. The Club is looking to re-instate activity for the 2023 season.
- ◀ At present, players which wish to participate in rugby league activity, do so by travelling to the neighbouring borough of Bedford.

### **Scenarios**

#### *Accommodating St Ives Roosters RLFC*

The District was previously home to St Ives Roosters RLFC which most recently operated at St Ives Rugby Union Football Club as a dual club with the rugby union club onsite. During consultation it was expressed that the Club was last active in the 2019 season, however, no activity took place in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Club held an online social media presence until March 2021 and planned to continue its engagement in the RFL leagues, however, it states that due to the leagues struggling for referees it made the decision to pause activity. It has not resumed activity for the 2022 season, however, remains hopeful of activity resuming for the 2023 season.

The Club plans to reinstate its activity as of the 2023 season and has signified a desire to return its demand to St Ives Rugby Union Football Club. However, the site is already overplayed across all three of its senior pitches. It is likely that the Club will generate a need for one match equivalent session per week for training and match demand. Therefore, to cater for this demand, there is a need to increase the pitch quality to maximum of M2/D3 which will then create two match equivalent sessions per week across the three pitches as seen in Table 4.27 see overleaf.



## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 4.27: Rugby union supply vs demand balance at St Ives Rugby Union Football Club

Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Technical score	Quality*	Floodlit?	MES per week	Pitch capacity (MES per week)	Capacity rating	Improved technical drainage score	Improved quality rating	Theoretical capacity rating (MES per week)
95	St Ives Rugby Union Football Club	1	M1/D2	Standard	Yes	3	2.5	0.5	M2/D3	Good	0.5
		1	M1/D1		No	3	2	1			0.5
		1	M1/D0	Poor		2.5	1.5	1			1

It is unlikely that the improvement would be made to pitches to this extent, with all other improvements unable to cater for St Ives Roosters RLFC demand. Therefore, it is recommended that if/when the Club reinstates demand that alternative provision is explored. Although there is a need for a level of improvement, school sites at Hinchingsbrooke School and Longsands Academy could offer the Club access to pitches. Hinchingsbrooke School is currently unused, however, the wider site is available for community use for several different sports. In comparison, Longsands Academy doesn't offer community use for the rugby union pitch, however, the site in general offers community use for its sand based AGP and other sports onsite, therefore, it is possible that the pitch could become available for community use if discussions were held with the School and Club.

Further to the above, One Leisure St Ives Outdoor Centre previously had Rugby league pitches marked onsite. Therefore, in the future if required there could be potential to again reinstate this facility on the site.

### World Rugby compliant 3G pitches

World Rugby produced the 'performance specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22' that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union. There is currently one World Rugby compliant 3G pitch in Huntingdonshire at One Leisure St Neots, however no clubs currently access the pitch for contact rugby. Currently St Ives RUFC access One Leisure Ramsey 3G (non-WR compliant) for training, it is recommended that the Club and clubs such as Huntingdon & District and St Neots RUFC are encouraged and enabled to by the site to make use of the pitch for contact rugby training. The pitch should be protected and if clubs start to utilise the pitch it should continue to be tested for WR compliance to ensure availability for use is secured.

At present there is no requirement for anymore additional WR compliant 3G pitches in the District.

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of rugby union pitches and areas used for rugby union activity, with an aim to make use of rugby union provision to support rugby league activity.
- ◀ Support St Ives Roosters RLFC in reinstating demand, through ensuring the Club has access to secure provision.
- ◀ Explore the opportunity to access Hinchingsbrooke School or Longsands Academy for St Ives Roosters RLFC reinstated demand.
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site rugby provision, ensure that any proposals for new pitches will attract adequate demand.
- ◀ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site rugby provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.

### **Tennis courts**

#### **Assessment Report summary**

- ◀ **In conclusion, capacity for both club and non-club tennis courts can be meet current and future demand at the majority of tennis club sites.**
- ◀ **Only Needingworth and Hemingfords TC currently have capacity issues. However, Needingworth TC aspires to develop additional sports lighting onsite which remove these issues.**

#### **Supply**

- ◀ There is a total of 74 tennis courts identified in Huntingdonshire across 21 sites. Of these courts, 48 are identified as being available for community use, whilst 26 are identified as being unavailable.
- ◀ There is one macadam court which is disused at Warboys Parish Centre. The Court has been disused for a number of years and leaves the site as a whole disused for sport.
- ◀ Most outdoor tennis courts in Huntingdonshire have a macadam surface, with 59 of the 74 courts (80% of all courts) of this type. Of the 48 community available courts, most are macadam surfaces (33 courts, 69%).

#### **Quality**

- ◀ Just under half of courts in Huntingdonshire are rated as good quality (35 courts or 47%), 29 are rated as standard quality (39%) and ten are accessed as poor quality (14%). Of the 48 community available courts, 26 are rated as good quality (54%), 12 are rated standard (25%) and ten as poor quality (21%).
- ◀ Community available courts are rated as poor quality at Great Staughton Playing Fields, Leighton Playing Field, Norwood Playing Field, One Leisure St Ives Outdoor, Hinchingsbrooke School.
- ◀ In total, 35 of the 74 tennis courts in Huntingdonshire are serviced by sports lighting, representing 47% of all court provision.
- ◀ Most courts (26 courts, 35% of all courts) are within education ownership. There are 17 courts (23% of all courts) managed by Sports Clubs, eight courts managed by each of HDC, parish councils and community organisations (11% of all courts).

#### **Capacity**

- ◀ There is eight LTA affiliated tennis club in Huntingdonshire, the known membership totals 756 members.

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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### **Scenarios**

#### *Increasing casual pay and play*

In October 2021, the Government and the LTA announced a package of £30 million for investment and improvements for public tennis courts. The Government is to put £22 million whilst the LTA invest £8.4 million into the package. The investment is to be made into public tennis courts which are currently accessed as poor or unplayable quality, the investment will be to bring the courts back to a quality that will benefit the local community.

Using the above funding the LTA has developed a package of support for LAs to grow the use of park tennis courts by removing key barriers to participation. The three products are ClubSpark, Rally and Gate Access and can be used individually or in combination. The products are used to provide a remote booking and access system.

Instead of providing free access, some local authorities are now securing their courts as per a membership scheme that allows members access through the use of a fob system following payment of a small yearly fee. Not only does this deter unofficial use of courts but it also allows official use to be tracked, thus providing data on how well and how often courts are being accessed. In addition, it provides income generation that can go towards ongoing maintenance of the courts.

One Leisure St Ives Outdoor and Ernulf Academy (connected to One Leisure St Neots) are currently sites in Huntingdonshire which should be explored for investment. These sites have been identified as non-club sites, which could be developed through the LTA investment to provide more pay and play facilities in the District. This is due to being located at One Leisure's sites and therefore the infrastructure for maintenance and accessibility is readily available.

The courts at One Leisure St Ives Outdoor are poor quality and in need of improvement whilst installing a Gate Access system and setting up the site on LTA Smart Access would improve its Pay and Play offer. Likewise, Ernulf Academy, would require both Gate Access to be installed and an access system set up for the site, whilst the four courts onsite are currently standard quality, and therefore there is scope to make improvements to these courts to improve them to a good quality. Again, this would upgrade the sites pay and play offer and across Huntingdonshire as a whole.

#### *Accommodating current and future demand*

The LTA suggests that a hard court without sports lighting can accommodate 40 members whereas a hard court with sports lighting can accommodate 60 members. For air domed courts, membership of 100 is considered applicable and permanent indoor courts can accommodate 200 members.

It should be noted that the abovementioned figures relate to LTA viability guidelines for clubs and are not the maximum capacity. The figure relates to what most clubs, based on the level of provision, would find sustainable. As grass courts are only available for 12 weeks of the year they are not included in membership numbers.

The table overleaf identifies the capacity balance at all sites currently used by clubs, taking into account both current demand and future demand

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 4.28: Capacity analysis (club courts)

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Club users	Current demand (members)	Future demand (members)	No. of courts	Sports lighting?	Capacity (members)	Current capacity balance (members)	Future capacity balance (members)
11	Buckden Recreation Ground	St. Neots	Buckden Tennis Club	195	20	4	Yes	240	45	25
36	Great Grandsden Sports And Recreation Ground	St. Neots	Gransdens TC	100	-	3	Yes	180	80	80
44	Hemingford Pavilion	St. Ives	Hemingfords LTC	244	-	3	No	120	124	124
49	Houghton and Wyton Playing Field	St. Ives	Houghton and Wyton TC	80	20	2	No	80	0	20
59	King George V Playing Fields (St Peters Road)	Huntingdon	Huntingdon TC	301	100	4	Yes	440	139	39
						3 <sup>9</sup>	Yes			
126	Needingworth Village Hall	St. Ives	Needingworth TC	180	20	2	Yes	160	20	40
						1	No			
133	St Neots Lawn Tennis Club (& bowls)	St. Neots	St. Neots TC	229	-	4	Yes	240	11	11
168	Ramsey Tennis Club	North East	Ramsey TC	88	-	2	Yes	280	192	192
						4	No			

As evidenced in the table above, where membership is known, Needingworth Village Hall and Hemingford Pavilion are likely to be operating over capacity. It should be noted that Houghton and Wyton Playing Field is operating at capacity and may need further capacity to accommodate any future growth. Both Buckden Recreation Ground and King George V Playing Fields (St Peters Road) have likely spare capacity even accounting for future demand.

With the above being said, Houghton and Wyton Playing Field (x2), Hemingford Pavilion (x3) and Needingworth Village Hall (x1) have courts with no sports lighting. If sports lighting were to be developed at Houghton and Wyton Playing Field, this would create additional capacity for 40 members and would enable Houghton and Wyton TC's future demand aspirations to be catered for. In comparison, if the one court at Needingworth Village Hall had sports lighting installed, overplay would be alleviated and the site would be played to capacity. However, any future demand from the Club's would again leave the courts oversubscribed. If the three courts at Hemingford Pavilion were to have sports lighting installed this would still leave the courts likely oversubscribed by 64 members.

<sup>9</sup> Indoor air dome courts  
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It is recommended that assistance is given, where possible, to Houghton and Wyton TC and Needingworth TC to support development of sports lighting, to help cater for both clubs current and future demand.

### *Housing growth scenarios*

It should be noted that later in the report in Part 7: Housing Growth Scenarios, the PPOSS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sport based on population forecasts to 2036 using the Sport England Development Pitch Calculator.

This is only for the pitch sports of football, hockey, rugby union and cricket and does not include calculations for sports such as tennis as there is no current guidance established on these sports. However, it is still recommended that tennis is acknowledged as part of this process especially as part of any large scale developments where there may be substantial enough increase in population for tennis courts.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of courts.
- ◀ Improve court quality at sites assessed as poor or standard quality and sustain quality at sites assessed as good, especially at sites in use by clubs or that are well used for recreational demand.
- ◀ Linked to the above, improve park courts as a priority to create year-round recreational tennis options to meet local demand.
- ◀ Explore options to further improve the recreational tennis offer via utilisation of technology provided by the LTA to support the customer journey and through investment into facilities and accompanying ancillary provision.
- ◀ Ensure sinking funds are put into place by providers for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Install additional sports lighting at club-based venues, particularly at sites operating above the capacity guidance.
- ◀ Improve ancillary provision at club sites, where it is required.
- ◀ Consider allocating developer contributions to improve the quality and accessibility of tennis provision on a case-by-case basis.

### Netball courts

#### *Assessment Report summary*

- ◀ In conclusion, there is an insufficient supply of outdoor netball courts to service the District. This is due to a low supply of available community available courts and a mixed quality offer.
- ◀ When reviewing provision by individual analysis areas, residents in St Ives, North East and West have access to no provision or a poor quality offer, whilst St Neots is catered for by three standard quality courts.

#### **Supply**

- ◀ There are 34 outdoor netball courts identified in Huntingdonshire across 15 sites, of which, 12 are available for community use across five sites.
- ◀ Most provision is in the St Neots Analysis Area with a total of 14 (41%) courts identified. This is followed by the St Ives Analysis Area with seven (21%) courts, Huntingdon with six (18%) courts, North West with five (15%) courts and West with just two (6%) courts. The North East Analysis Area has no netball court provision.
- ◀ Although not uncommon across the Country, netball provision within the District is located on current educational sites.

#### **Quality**

- ◀ Most courts (13 or 38%) are rated as standard quality, whilst 12 (35%) courts are rated as good quality. The remaining nine courts (26%) are rated as poor quality Burnley Netball League.
- ◀ Of the 12 community available courts, seven (58%) are good quality, three (25%) are standard quality and two (17%) at One Leisure St Ives Outdoor are poor quality.
- ◀ Only six courts are accompanied by sports lighting these are located at the three sites widely available for community use, at the three One Leisure sites.
- ◀ All of the outdoor netball courts in Huntingdonshire have a macadam surface.

#### **Demand**

- ◀ England Netball identifies nine clubs within the District.
- ◀ Clubs in the District play within multiple leagues across Cambridgeshire and the surrounding areas. The Club's play within the Bedford & District Netball League, Heritage Netball League, Cambridge & District Netball League, Cambridge County Premier League, Huntingdon & Peterborough Netball League and the Fenland Netball League.
- ◀ Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool identifies latent demand of 527 people who would like to participate in the sport within Huntingdonshire.

### **Scenarios**

#### *Future access to provision of netball courts*

Currently, there is an insufficient supply of outdoor netball courts to service the District. This is due to a low supply of available community available courts and a mixed quality offer. When reviewing provision by individual analysis areas, residents in St Ives, North East and West have access to no provision or a poor quality offer, whilst St Neots is catered for by three standard quality courts. Consequently, there are no opportunities within these settlements for competitive or recreational netball offers to be established (i.e. back to netball). This position is exacerbated when reviewing provision by ownership and management type where there is a reliance on the education sector to provide the better quality courts in the District which although are available for community use, are less well advertised and known to be accessible.

It is known that most competitive play occurs outside of the District on a central venue basis and as such from a competitive point of view there is a limited need for outdoor courts. However, from a recreational perspective, the supply is inadequate and is likely to be preventative for alternate opportunities to emerge and grow, such as Netball Now.

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Therefore it should be explored to further gain access to educational sites within the analysis areas currently not catered for. In addition, the quality of courts across the District is in need of improving. Finally, with no courts either available or unavailable in the North East Analysis Area signifies that there is a potential need to develop a small offer to ensure that have access to facilities.

### *Housing growth scenarios*

It should be noted that later in the report in Part 7: Housing Growth Scenarios, the PPOSS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sport based on population forecasts to 2036 using the Sport England Development Pitch Calculator.

This is only for the pitch sports of football, hockey, rugby union and cricket and does not include calculations for sports such as netball as there is no current guidance established on these sports. However, it is still recommended that netball is acknowledged as part of this process especially as part of any large scale developments where there may be substantial enough increase in population for netball courts.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of courts.
- ◀ Improve court quality at sites assessed as poor or standard quality and sustain quality at sites assessed as good, especially at sites in use by clubs and for England Netball initiatives.
- ◀ Explore the opportunity to gain access to current educational sites which do not offer community use to broaden the community available facilities across Huntingdonshire, specifically in the in St Ives, North East and West analysis areas.
- ◀ Consider establishing additional floodlighting at club-based venues or at venues that could attract netball demand following installation.
- ◀ Consider allocating developer contributions to improve the quality and accessibility of netball provision on a case-by-case basis.

### Bowling greens

#### *Assessment Report summary*

- ◀ **There is currently sufficient capacity for flat bowling greens to meet both current and future demand in Huntingdonshire.**

#### **Bowls – supply**

- ◀ There are 18 bowling greens in Huntingdonshire located across 18 sites. All sites are single green sites.
- ◀ Of the active greens, seven are owned and managed by user clubs, seven are managed by the either HDC or parish councils and one is owned by a private landlord and managed by their user clubs.
- ◀ Gransden & District BC currently have a lease agreement onsite at Great Gransden Bowls & Tennis Club until 2025. The Club will require an extension on this lease to secure continued use of the green and should be support where possible to ensure this is completed.
- ◀ Most greens (16 or 89%) are rated as good quality, with one green rated as standard quality and one green rated as poor quality.
- ◀ A total of four (22%) of the 18 operational greens in Huntingdonshire are serviced by sports lighting.

#### **Bowls – demand**

- ◀ There are 18 bowling clubs playing in Huntingdonshire, with known membership totalling 918 members.
- ◀ Of responding clubs, 13 clubs (87%) highlight aspirations to increase membership.

#### **Bowls – capacity**

- ◀ Eaton Socon BC, Hemingfords BC, Holywell-Cum-Needlingworth BC, Ramsey BC, Sawtry and District BC, Somersham Town BC and St Ives BC are operating at or above recommended capacity levels, with usage needing to be monitored to ensure that supply remains adequate.

### **Scenarios**

#### *Accommodating current and future demand*

Bowls England does not have any specific guidance on bowling green capacity, stating that it can vary from site-to-site and from club-to-club. However, as a guide, it states that any green operating with a membership of close to or over 60 may need additional resource to ensure that it is meeting its required level of demand. Seven clubs are currently operating above this threshold in Huntingdonshire, as follows:

- ◀ Eaton Socon BC (83 members)
- ◀ Hemingfords BC (80 members)
- ◀ Holywell-Cum-Needlingworth BC (70 members)
- ◀ Ramsey BC (75 members)
- ◀ Sawtry and District BC (71 members)
- ◀ Somersham Town BC (74 members)
- ◀ St Ives BC (96 members)

Of these, no clubs currently reports any capacity issues, with St Ives BC, Holywell-Cum-Needlingworth BC, Sawtry and District BC, Hemingfords BC and Ramsey BC all expressing an aspiration to further increase their memberships. All seven clubs should be closely monitored to ensure that their greens do not become oversubscribed.



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### *Club sustainability*

Bowls England suggests that clubs operating with a membership of below and around 20 could be unsustainable. In Huntingdonshire, there is currently no teams operating around this threshold. Gransden & District BC has the lowest membership of 29 members.

Concerns would be alleviated for Gransden & District BC if their future demand aspirations were fulfilled, with support therefore required to enable such growth.

All clubs should be monitored to ensure they remain sustainable.

### *Housing growth scenarios*

It should be noted that later in the report in Part 7: Housing Growth Scenarios, the PPOSS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sport based on population forecasts to 2036 using the Sport England Development Pitch Calculator.

This is only for the pitch sports of football, hockey, rugby union and cricket and does not include calculations for sports such as bowls as there is no current guidance established on these sports. However, it is still recommended that bowls is acknowledged as part of this process especially as part of any large scale developments where there may be substantial enough increase in population for bowling greens.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of greens that are in use.
- ◀ Improve green quality at sites assessed as standard quality and sustain quality at sites assessed as good.
- ◀ Seek to improve ancillary facility quality where it is necessary.
- ◀ Improve security of tenure for Gransden & District BC and Eaton Socon BC
- ◀ Support Eaton Socon BC, Hemingfords BC, Holywell-Cum-Needingworth BC, Ramsey BC, Sawtry and District BC, Somersham Town BC, St Ives BC to ensure demand continues to be met, given high levels of membership.
- ◀ Ensure greens at Gransden & District BC remain sustainable and support club users to increase membership.
- ◀ Mitigate any permanent loss of greens at disused sites through replacement provision or through appropriate enhancements to other facilities.
- ◀ Consider allocating developer contributions to improve the quality and accessibility of bowling green provision on a case-by-case basis.

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## Athletics facilities

### Assessment Report summary

- ◀ In conclusion, there is sufficient supply of traditional athletics facilities (400m track) in Huntingdonshire to meet current and future demand for athletics.
- ◀ However, there are qualitative issues at One Leisure St Ives Outdoor, with the track coming to the end of its life, if the Club is to continue at the same level of performance output that it currently operates, the loss of a competition venue would be detrimental to the Club's ability to retain its membership.

#### Supply

- ◀ In Huntingdonshire, there are two purpose-built outdoor athletics tracks. Only one of which is available for community use at One Leisure St Ives Outdoor, with the unavailable track being located within RAF Alconbury.
- ◀ There is one 400 metre track which is owned by Huntingdonshire District Council and overseen by One Leisure on its behalf. At present all clubs accessing tracks pay an annual rent.

#### Quality

- ◀ The one available athletics track in Huntingdonshire at One Leisure St Ives Outdoor is rated as standard quality.

#### Demand

- ◀ Within the City there is one track and field club which accesses the athletics track at One Leisure St Ives Outdoor. Membership of the Club currently equates to 352 in total.

## Scenarios

### Track refurbishment (One Leisure St Ives Outdoor)

Given the standard quality and the fact the track is wearing and coming to the end of its life, there is a need to monitor and inspect the track to ensure that it can meet requirements for a competition track. Huntingdonshire AC is currently gaining quotes to have inspection of the track to gain its competition license having been tasked by One Leisure, if the track does not pass, the Club reports there will be a need for a full replacement of the track.

The Club reports that if the track passes it will gain a three-year license. However due to the wearing track it suggests that it is very unlikely that it would pass in three years' time, therefore suggests that a full track replacement will be required in 2025 if the Club was to gain a license in 2022.

### Housing growth scenarios

It should be noted that later in the report in Part 7: Housing Growth Scenarios, the PPOSS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sport based on population forecasts to 2036 using the Sport England Development Pitch Calculator.

This is only for the pitch sports of football, hockey, rugby union and cricket and does not include calculations for sports such as athletics as there is no current guidance established on these sports. However, it is still recommended that athletics is acknowledged as part of this process especially as part of any large scale developments where there may be substantial enough increase in population for athletics provision.

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### **Recommendations**

- ◀ As a priority look to refurbish the athletic tracks at One Leisure St Ives Outdoor and ensure the provision is protected to accommodate current and future athletics demand.
- ◀ Support clubs, running groups, events and England Athletics initiatives such as Park Run and pursue increased participation, where possible.
- ◀ Consider allocating developer contributions to improve the quality and accessibility of athletics provision on a case-by-case basis.

### **Other sports**

#### **Assessment Report summary**

##### **Summary – Other outdoor sports**

###### **Supply**

- ◀ There are 15 outdoor gyms, with at least one provided in each analysis area.
- ◀ There are 18 multi-use games areas with at least one provided in each analysis area.
- ◀ There are ten trim trails, none are located in the North West Analysis Area.

###### **Demand**

- ◀ As demand for all three of the above facility types is typical informal, there is no recorded use of these facilities.

### **Scenarios**

#### *Housing growth scenarios*

It should be noted that later in the report in Part 7: Housing Growth Scenarios, the PPOSS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sport based on population forecasts to 2036 using the Sport England Development Pitch Calculator.

This is only for the pitch sports of football, hockey, rugby union and cricket and does not include calculations for other outdoor sports as there are no current guidance established on these sports. However, it is still recommended that other sports are acknowledged as part of this process especially as part of any large scale developments where there may be substantial enough increase in population for other sports.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Look to improve the quality of MUGAs across the District and work with relevant stakeholders to establishing new provision where appropriate.
- ◀ Provision of MUGAs is recommended within new major housing developments and should be considered within rural communities where formal pitches may not be deliverable.
- ◀ Consider allocating developer contributions to improve the quality and accessibility of MUGAs on a case-by-case basis.
- ◀ Monitor and improve outdoor gyms and trim trails across the District.
- ◀ Ensure that settlements and analysis areas have sufficient supply of outdoor gyms and trim trails.

### PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The strategic recommendations for the Strategy have been developed via the combination of information gathered during consultation, site visits and analysis which culminated in the production of the Assessment Report, as well as key drivers identified for the study. They reflect overarching and common areas to be addressed, which apply across outdoor sports facilities and may not be specific to just one sport.

#### OBJECTIVE 1

To **protect** the existing supply of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities where it is needed for meeting current and future needs

#### Recommendations:

- a. Ensure, through the use of the PPOSS, that playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.
- b. Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.
- c. Maximise community use of education facilities where needed.

#### **Recommendation (a) – Ensure, through the use of the PPOSS, that playing pitches and outdoor sport facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.**

The PPOSS Assessment shows that all currently used outdoor sports sites require protection and therefore cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because shortfalls would occur both now and, in the future, if they were lost. Consideration should also be given to the protection of underused and poor quality sites from development or replacement as they may offer potential to meet shortfalls, particularly for football and rugby, in the future.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Paragraph 99 states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- ◀ The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.

Should outdoor sports facilities be taken out of use for any reason (e.g. Council budget restraints), land should ideally be retained so that it can be brought back into use in the future.

Although there are some identified shortfalls of match equivalent sessions i.e. for rugby union and football pitches, most demand is currently being met and most shortfalls are likely able to be addressed through quality improvements. However, qualitative improvements should be secured as a sports development initiative and should not be used to mitigate the loss of playing field arising from a non-sport development. It is therefore, not recommended as a priority to identify 'new' sites for provision.

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The PPOSS should be used to help inform Development Management decisions that affect existing or new outdoor sports and ancillary facilities. All applications are assessed by the Local Planning Authority on a case by case basis taking into account site specific factors. In addition, Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications that affect or prejudice the use of playing fields and will use the PPOSS to help assess that planning application against its Playing Fields Policy<sup>10</sup>.

Sport England's Playing Fields Policy exception E1 only allows for development of disused playing fields if a Playing Pitch Strategy (in this case PPOSS) shows a clear excess in the quantity of playing pitch provision at present and in the future across all playing pitch sport types and sizes.

### *Policy Exception E1:*

'A carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs has demonstrated to the satisfaction of Sport England that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport'.

Where the PPOSS cannot demonstrate that the site, or part of a site, is clearly surplus to requirements then replacement of the site, or part of a site, will be required to comply with the remaining Sport England policy exceptions.

### *Policy Exception E2*

'The proposed development is for ancillary facilities supporting the principal use of the site as a playing field and does not affect the quantity and quality of playing pitches or otherwise adversely affect their use'.

### *Policy Exception E3*

'The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming part of a playing pitch and does not:

- ◀ Reduce the size of any playing pitch.
- ◀ Result in the inability to use any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins and run-off areas).
- ◀ Reduce the sporting capacity of the playing field to accommodate playing pitches or the capability to rotate or reposition playing pitches to maintain quality.
- ◀ Result in the loss of other sporting provision or ancillary facilities on the site.
- ◀ Prejudice the use of any remaining areas of playing field on the site'.

### *Policy Exception E4:*

'The playing field or fields to be lost as a result of the proposed development would be replaced, prior to the commencement of development, by a new playing field site or sites:

- ◀ of equivalent or better quality and
- ◀ of equivalent or greater quantity;
- ◀ in a suitable location and;
- ◀ subject to equivalent or better management arrangements.

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<sup>10</sup>[Link to Sport England Playing Fields Policy](#)

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### *Policy Exception E5*

'The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor facility for sport, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss, or prejudice of use, of the area of playing field'.

### *Disused sites*

Disused sites will also be considered in accordance with Sport England's policy exceptions. They provide a potential solution to reducing any identified shortfalls for football and rugby union. A disused site is a site where pitches were once, but are no longer, marked out and remain undeveloped.

Any disused playing fields are included within the Action Plan together with a recommendation in relation to potentially bringing the site back into use or to mitigate the loss on a replacement site to address the shortfalls identified.

### **Recommendation (b) – Secure tenure and access to sites through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.**

A number of school, commercial and private sites are being used in Huntingdonshire for competitive play, predominantly for football. In some cases, use of pitches has been classified as secure; however, use is not necessarily formalised, meaning relevant organisations should seek to establish appropriate community use agreements, including access to changing provision where required/available. This is especially the case for sites that have unsecured community use despite receiving high levels of use.

For unsecure sites, NGBs, Sport England and other appropriate bodies such as Living Sport and the Football Foundation can often help to negotiate and engage with providers where the local authority may not have direct influence. This is particularly the case at sites that have received funding from these bodies or are going to receive funding in the future as community access can be a condition of the agreement.

In the context of the Comprehensive Spending Review, which announced public spending cuts, it is increasingly important for the Council to work with voluntary sector organisations to enable them to take greater levels of ownership and support the wider development and maintenance of facilities. To facilitate this, where practical, it should support and enable clubs to generate sufficient funds, providing that this is to the benefit of sport.

The Council as well as parish and town councils should further explore opportunities where security of tenure could be granted via long-term lease agreements (a minimum of 25 years is often recommended by Sport England and NGBs) so that clubs are in a position to apply for external funding. This is particularly the case at poor quality, low value local authority sites, possibly with inadequate or no ancillary facilities, so that quality can subsequently be improved and sites developed.

Local sports clubs with or entering into lease agreements should be supported by partners to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work. For example, such clubs should be encouraged to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate income via their facilities.

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All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)<sup>11</sup>. They should also be encouraged to work with partners locally, such as volunteer support agencies and local businesses.

For clubs with lease arrangements already in place, these should be reviewed when fewer than 25 years remain on existing agreements to secure extensions, thus improving security of tenure and helping them to attract funding for site developments, if it is required. Any club with less than 25 years remaining on an agreement is unlikely to gain any external funding (unless the agreement has been recently entered into).

Each club interested in leasing a council site should be required to meet service and/or strategic recommendations. An additional set of criteria should also be considered, which takes into account club quality, aligned to its long-term development objectives and sustainability, as seen in the table below.

*Table 5.1: Recommended criteria for lease of council sport sites to clubs/organisations*

Club	Site
<p>Use of Club Matters, a Sport England self-assessment tool.</p> <p>Clubs commit to meeting demonstrable local demand and show pro-active commitment to developing school-club links.</p> <p>Clubs are sustainable, both in a financial sense and via their internal management structures in relation to recruitment and retention policy.</p> <p>Ideally, clubs should have already identified (and received an agreement in principle) any match funding required for initial capital investment identified.</p> <p>Clubs have processes in place to ensure capacity to maintain sites to the existing, or better, standards.</p>	<p>Sites should be those identified as 'Local Sites' (recommendation d) for new clubs (i.e. not those with a Authority-wide significance) but that offer development potential.</p> <p>For established clubs which have proven success in terms of self-management 'Key Centres' are also appropriate.</p> <p>As a priority, sites should acquire capital investment to improve.</p> <p>Sites should be leased with the intention that investment can be sourced to contribute towards improvement of the site.</p>

The Council could also establish a series of core outcomes to derive from clubs taking on a lease arrangement to ensure that the most appropriate clubs are assigned to sites. For examples, outcomes may include:

- ◀ Increasing participation.
- ◀ Supporting the development of coaches and volunteers.
- ◀ Commitment to quality standards.
- ◀ Improvements (where required) to facilities, or as a minimum retaining existing standards.

In addition, clubs should be made fully aware of the associated responsibilities/liabilities when considering leases of multi-use public playing fields. It is important in these instances that the site remains available for other purposes or for other users.

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits>

### **Recommendation (c) - Maximise community use of education facilities where needed**

To maximise community use a more coherent, structured relationship with schools is recommended. The ability to access good facilities within the local community is vital to any sports organisation, yet many clubs struggle to find good quality places to play and train. In Huntingdonshire, pricing policies at facilities can be a barrier to access at some education sites but physical access, poor quality and resistance from schools to open up provision is also an issue, especially at some private schools and academies.

A large number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the schools and local clubs, as well helping to reduce identified shortfalls. It is, however, common for school provision not to be fully maximised for community use, even on established community use sites.

In some instances, facilities are unavailable for community use due to poor quality and therefore remedial works will be required before it can be established. The low carrying capacity of these facilities sometimes leads to them being played to capacity or overplayed simply due to curricular and extra-curricular use, meaning they cannot accommodate any additional use by the community.

As a priority, community use options should be explored at large schools offering numerous pitches, such as Ernulf Academy. Securing access to such sites will significantly reduce shortfalls throughout the analysis areas that they are based within.

Although there are a growing number of academies over which the Council has little or no control, it is still important to understand the significance of such sites and attempt to work with the schools where there are opportunities for community use. In addition, relevant NGBs have a role to play in supporting the Council to deliver upon this recommendation and communicating with schools where necessary to address shortfalls in provision.

Where new schools are provided in major new residential developments, they should be designed to facilitate community access, with opportunities for meeting the community's outdoor sports needs explored at the outset to maximise the potential for facility provision to be made within the developments, if appropriate. An example of this is ensuring the provision of youth 11v11 and/or mini 5v5 grass football pitches, given current shortfalls and their suitability for the playing format of students.

As detailed earlier, NGBs, Living Sport and Sport England can often help to negotiate and engage with schools where the local authority may have limited direct influence. This is particularly the case at sites that have received funding from the relevant bodies or are going to receive funding in the future as community access can be a condition of the funding agreement.



### **OBJECTIVE 2**

To enhance playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities through improving quality and management of sites

#### **Recommendations:**

- d. Improve quality
- e. Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to the management and improvement of sites.
- f. Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding.
- g. Secure developer contributions.

#### ***Recommendation (d) – Improve quality***

There are several ways in which it is possible to increase pitch quality and these are explored below.

#### ***Ground Maintenance Association (GMA) Pitch Advisory Service***

With quality of grass pitches becoming one of the biggest influences on participation, the Pitch Advisory Service (PAS, formerly the Grounds and Natural Turf Improvement Programme) was launched in 2014 and is funded by the GMA and its partners; the Football Foundation, Sport England, FA, ECB, RFU and RFL.

Its aim is to raise the standards of sports surfaces as well as the understanding of sports turf management practices among grassroots clubs across England and Wales. The PAS provides an enhanced network of support and expertise available to those maintaining natural turf pitches, particularly at a local level.

The service can be utilised by grassroots clubs, organisations and local authorities with the simple aim of improving the quality of grass pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide members of the programme with advice/practical solutions via a report which will also identify the key enhanced maintenance works required along with machinery requirements.

For football, Pitch providers are encouraged to complete a self-assessment of pitches using the Football Foundation PitchPower tool, whilst for other sports a site visit in person may be undertaken by a GMA Pitch Advisor.

In relation to cricket specifically, maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of the sport. If the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and, in some instances, become dangerous. The ECB recommends full technical assessments of wickets and pitches available through a Performance Quality Standard (PQS) assessment. The Performance Quality Standard Assessment assesses a cricket square to ascertain whether it meets the standards that are benchmarked by the Ground Management Association.

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### *Football Foundation Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund (GPMF)*

Eligible clubs and organisations can also utilise the report as an evidence base to acquire potential funding streams, for example, to obtain the required maintenance equipment. If a PitchPower assessment categorises pitches as 'poor' or 'basic' they are then eligible to apply for Grass Pitch Funding through the Football Foundation through the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund<sup>12</sup>, a fund offering six-year tapered grants to help clubs enhance or sustain the quality of their grass pitches. The fund is a key part of the Football Foundation's Grass Pitch Improvement Programme - an ambition to deliver 20,000 quality grass pitches by 2030. Clubs with good or standard quality pitches can also apply for a lower level of funding.

All applicants must have the required security of tenure and have received a PitchPower Pitch Assessment Report, with the fund currently open to football clubs, leagues, National League System Clubs at Steps 1-6 and charities (with an annual turnover of under £500,000). Local authorities are not currently eligible applicants, however, clubs, leagues and charitable organisations using local authority sites can apply provided they have security of tenure.

The Council is not presently eligible to access the GPMF as an applicant, however, can undertake technical assessment of pitches using the PitchPower app. Opportunities to access the fund to support presently Council managed sites include establishment of a service level agreement with a resident club for maintenance responsibilities, or transfer of long-term management to the club/organisation through leasehold or CAT, both enabling the club/organisation to apply to the fund.

Furthermore, the Football Foundation also launched a new Groundskeeping Community online platform in 2019 which provides a resource of expert advice for grounds staff, enabling them to connect with peers, discover new tips and tricks and share advice on best industry practice. Users can seek guidance from the GMA regional pitch advisors, who are available to answer questions and update members on changes to industry standards.

### **Addressing quality issues**

Where facilities are assessed as standard or poor quality and/or overplayed, maintenance regimes should be reviewed and, where possible, improved to ensure that what is being done is of an appropriate standard to sustain/improve pitch quality. Ensuring continuance of existing maintenance of good quality sites is also essential.

It is also important to note the impact the weather has on quality. The worse the weather, the poorer facilities tend to become, especially if there is no dedicated drainage system in place or if existing drainage systems are inadequate or have become compromised or poorly maintained. This also means that quality can vary, year on year, dependent upon the weather and levels of rainfall.

Based upon an achievable target using existing quality scoring to provide a baseline, a standard should be used to identify deficiencies and investment should be focused on those sites which fail to meet the proposed quality standard (using the site audit database as provided in electronic format). The Strategy approach to outdoor sports facilities achieving these standards should be to enhance quality and therefore the planning system should seek to protect them.

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<sup>12</sup> <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/grant/grass-pitch-maintenance-fund>

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## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

For the purposes of quality assessments, the PPOSS refers to outdoor sports facilities and ancillary facilities separately as being of ‘Good’, ‘Standard’ or ‘Poor’ quality. For example, some good quality sites have poor quality elements and vice versa (e.g. a good quality pitch may be serviced by poor quality changing facilities).

Good quality refers to pitches that have, for example, good grass cover, an even surface, are free from vandalism and litter. For rugby union, a good quality pitch is also pipe and/or slit drained. In terms of ancillary facilities, good quality refers to access for disabled people, sufficient provision for referees, juniors/women/girls and appropriate provision of showers, toilets and car parking.

Standard quality refers to pitches that have, for example, adequate grass cover, minimal signs of wear and tear and goalposts may be secure but in need of minor repair. For rugby union, drainage is natural but adequate. In terms of ancillary facilities, standard quality refers to adequately sized changing rooms, storage provision and provision of toilets.

Poor quality refers to provision with, for example, inadequate grass cover, uneven surfaces and poor drainage. For rugby, pitches will have inadequate natural drainage. In terms of ancillary facilities, poor quality refers to inappropriate changing rooms with no showers, no running water and/or old, dated interiors. If a poor quality site receives little or no usage that is not to say that no improvement is needed, it may instead be the case that it receives no demand because of its quality, thus an improvement in said quality will attract demand to the site, potentially from overplayed standard or good quality sites.

Without appropriate, fit for purpose ancillary facilities, good quality pitches may be underutilised. Changing facilities form the most essential part of this offer and therefore key sites should be given priority for improvement. Also, key sites without a suitable offer may not be able to establish or grow participation in key sport development areas with specific requirements, such as disability or women and girls’ sport.

To prioritise investment into key sites it is recommended that the steering group works up a list of criteria, relevant to Huntingdonshire, to provide a steer on future investment.

### **Addressing overplay**

In order to improve the overall quality of the outdoor facility stock; it is necessary to ensure that provision is not overplayed beyond recommended carrying capacity. This is determined by assessing quality (via a non-technical site assessment) and allocating a match limit to each (daily for hockey, weekly for football and rugby union and seasonal for cricket), as shown in the preceding Assessment Report.

The FA, RFU, ECB and EH all recommend a number of matches that their respective pitches should take based on quality, as seen in the table below. For other grass pitch sports, no guidelines are set by the NGBs although it can be assumed that a similar trend should be followed.

*Table 5.2: Carrying capacity of pitches*

Sport	Pitch type	No. of matches		
		Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Sport	Pitch type	No. of matches		
		Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Rugby union	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Rugby league	Senior pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season	60 per season	0 per season
Hockey	Sand/water based AGP	4 per day	4 per day	N/A

For non-pitch sports, capacity is not linked to the number of matches taking place but rather the number of members (and other users) attracted to a site. For example, for tennis, a hard court is said to have capacity for 60 members if it is serviced by sports lighting, whereas a non-lit has court has capacity for 40 members (this varies for grass courts).

It is imperative to engage with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity. Where overplay is identified, play should be encouraged, where possible, to be transferred to alternative venues that are not operating at capacity, or quality, where possible, should be improved to increase capacity to appropriate levels. Where play is transferred, this may include transferring play to 3G pitches or to sites not currently available for community use but which may be in the future.

For cricket, an increase in NTPs is key to alleviating overplay as this allows for the transfer of junior demand from grass wickets. It also does not require any additional playing pitch space as NTPs can be installed in situ with existing squares.

For rugby union and tennis, additional sports lighting will reduce levels of overplay at club sites as it will allow clubs to spread demand across a greater number of pitches/courts or, in the case of rugby union, unmarked areas. If permanent sports lighting is not possible, portable sports lighting is an alternative.

As mentioned earlier, there are also sites that are poor quality but are not overplayed. These should not be overlooked as often poor quality sites have less demand than others but demand could increase if the quality was improved. It does, however, work both ways as potential improvements may make sites more attractive and therefore more popular, which in the long run can lead again to them becoming poor quality pitches if not properly maintained.

### *Improving changing provision*

There is a need to address changing provision at some sites in Huntingdonshire (these are detailed in the Action Plan). As previously mentioned, without appropriate, fit for purpose ancillary facilities, good quality pitches may be underutilised. Changing facilities form the most essential part of this offer and therefore key sites should be given priority for improvement.

### **Recommendation (e) – Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to the management and improvement of sites**

To allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach, the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities. Please refer to Part 6: Action Plan for the proposed hierarchy.

### **Recommendation (f) – Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding**

Partners, led by the Council, should ensure that appropriate funding secured for improved sports provision is directed to areas of need, underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities as well as accompanying ancillary facilities.

In order to address community needs, to target priority areas and to reduce duplication of provision, there should be a coordinated approach to strategic investment. In delivering this recommendation the Council should maintain a regular dialogue with local partners and through the PPOSS Steering Group.

Although some investment in new provision will not be made by the Council directly, it is important that the Steering Group seeks to direct and lead a strategic and co-ordinated approach to facility development by education sites, NGBs, sports clubs and the commercial sector. This is to address community needs whilst avoiding duplication of provision.

One of sport's greatest contributions is its positive impact on public health and it is therefore important to lever in investment from other sectors such as, for example, health and wellbeing. Sport and physical activity can have a profound effect on peoples' lives, and plays a crucial role in improving community cohesion, educational attainment and self-confidence.

### **Recommendation (g) –Secure developer contributions**

It is important that this strategy informs policies and supplementary planning documents by setting out the approach to securing sport and recreational facilities through new housing development.

For playing pitches, it is recommended the Council use Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator as a tool for helping to determine the additional demand for pitches and to estimate the likely developer contribution required linking to sites within the locality. This should form part of the Council working with Sport England to develop a process and guidance for obtaining developer contributions.

The calculator uses the current number of teams by sports pitch type contained within the Assessment Report and calculates the percentage within each age group that play that sport. That percentage is then applied to the population growth. The additional teams likely to be generated are then converted into match equivalent sessions and associated pitch requirements in the peak period, with the associated costs (both for providing the pitch/facility and for its life cycle) then given. The calculator splits the requirement into peak time demand for natural turf pitches, training demand for artificial grass pitches, and the number of new changing rooms required.

The PPOSS should be used to help determine the likely impact of a new development on demand and the capacity of existing sites in the area, and whether there is a need for improvements to increase capacity of existing provision or if new provision is required. Where a development is located within access of existing high-quality provision, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further provision or improvement to existing provision, as additional demand arising from the development is likely to result in increased usage (which can result in overplay or quality deterioration).

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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Where it is determined that new provision is required to accompany a development, priority should be placed on providing facilities that contribute towards alleviating existing shortfalls within the locality. To determine what supply of provision is provided, it is imperative that the PPOSS findings are taken into consideration and that for particularly large developments consultation takes place with the relevant NGBs and Sport England. This is due to the importance of ensuring that the stock of facilities provided is correct to avoid provision becoming unsustainable and unused. The preference is for multi-pitch and potentially multi-sport sites to be developed, supported by a clubhouse and adequate parking facilities which consider the potential for future AGP development. This is because single-pitch facilities are more likely to become under-used (or unused), unviable and unsustainable.

It is recognised that consultation cannot take place with NGBs for every development due to resource restrictions. Instead, it is recommended that such discussions take place within PPOSS Steering Group meetings, which should take place regularly following adoption of the study as part of the ongoing monitoring and evaluation process. It is recommended that these take place every 6-12 months and inform the annual review/update (see Part 8 for further information).

The guidance should form the basis for negotiation with developers to secure contributions to include provision and/or enhancement of appropriate provision and subsequent maintenance. S106 contributions could also be used to improve the condition and of the pitches in order to increase pitch capacity to accommodate more matches.

Sport England recommends that a number of objectives should be implemented to enable the above to be delivered:

- ◀ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a S106 agreement or equivalent must be completed that should specify, when applied, the amount that will be linked to Sport England's Building Cost Information Service from the date of the permission and timing of the contribution/s to be made.
- ◀ Contributions should also be secured towards the first ten years of maintenance on new pitches (lifecycle costs), the cost of which is indicated by the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator. NGBs and Sport England can provide further and up to date information on the associated costs.
- ◀ External funding should be sought/secured to achieve maximum benefit from the investment into appropriate facility enhancement, alongside other open space provision, and its subsequent maintenance.
- ◀ Where new provision is provided, appropriate changing rooms and associated car parking should be located on site.
- ◀ All new or improved outdoor sports facilities on school sites should be subject to community use agreements.

For further information, please see Part 7 of this report.

### OBJECTIVE 3

To provide new playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities where there is current or future demand to do so

#### Recommendations:

- h. Identify opportunities to increase add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand.
- i. Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current pitch stock.

#### **Recommendation (h) - Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand**

The Steering Group should use and regularly update the Action Plan within this Strategy for improvements to the Council's own facility stock whilst recognising the need to support partners. The Action Plan lists improvements to be made to each site focused upon both qualitative and quantitative improvements as appropriate for each area.

Although there are identified shortfalls, most current and future demand is currently being met and most shortfalls can be addressed via quality improvements and/or improved access to sites that are presently used minimally or currently unavailable. Adding to the current stock, particularly in the short term, is therefore not recommended as a priority, except in the case of 3G pitches, entry level athletics facilities and NTPs where there is a need, where there is significant housing growth, or where new schools are proposed.

For new schools, there is an opportunity to combine the building of a school to the development of a new multi-sport site that will be of a benefit to a school as well as the wider community via a community use agreement.

Any new provision, whether that be at a school or as a result of housing growth, should also consider the Council's wider sporting need. This means that the focus should not solely be on outdoor sports facilities but also provision for wider recreational activity.

#### **Recommendation (i) - Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock**

The Council and its partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the preceding Assessment Report and the sport-by-sport specific recommendations (Part 4) as well as the following Action Plan (Part 6).

It is important that the current levels of provision are protected, maintained and enhanced to secure provision now and in the future. Maximising use of existing facilities through a combination of the following will help to reduce shortfalls and accommodate future demand:

- ◀ Improving quality in order to improve the capacity to accommodate more demand.
- ◀ Transferring demand from overplayed sites to sites with spare capacity.
- ◀ The re-designation of facilities e.g. converting an unused facility (or facility type) for one sport to instead cater for another sport (or another pitch type).
- ◀ Securing long-term access at school sites including those currently unavailable for community use.
- ◀ Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage.

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Unmet demand, changes in sport participation and trends and proposed housing growth should also be recognised and factored into future facility planning. Assuming that an increase in participation and housing growth occurs, it will impact on the future need for certain types of sports provision.



# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

### PART 6: ACTION PLAN

The site-by-site action plan seeks to address key issues identified in the preceding Assessment Report. It provides recommendations based on current levels of usage, quality and future demand, as well as the potential of each site for enhancement. It is separated by analysis area and includes information pertaining to the sub sections below.

#### **Site hierarchy**

The Council should make it a high priority to work with NGBs and other partners to comprise a priority list of actions based on local priorities, NGB priorities and available funding. As stated in Recommendation (e), to allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach, the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities.

The identification of sites is based on their strategic importance in an Authority-wide context i.e., they accommodate the majority of demand, or the recommended action has the greatest impact on addressing shortfalls identified either on a sport-by-sport basis or across the Council area as a whole.

*Table 6.1: Tiered site criteria*

Criteria	Hub sites	Key centres	Local sites
Site location	Strategically located in the Authority. Priority sites for NGBs.	Strategically located within the analysis area.	Serves the local community.
Site layout	Accommodates three or more grass pitches, generally including provision of an AGP (or with the potential).	Accommodates two or more grass pitches.	Accommodates one or two pitches.
Type of sport	Multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision.	Generally single sport provision but may cater for two.
Management	Management control allows for wide community use, i.e., through the local authority, a leisure operator or a school with a community use agreement.	Management control generally allows for wide community use but may include sites that are owned or leased by clubs/other organisations.	Management control can be via the local authority, schools, clubs and other providers.
Maintenance regime	Maintenance regime aligns or could align with NGB guidelines.	Maintenance regime aligns or could align with NGB guidelines.	Standard maintenance regime or an in-house maintenance contract.
Ancillary facilities	Good quality ancillary facilities on site (or potential), with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches; may include wider social/function facilities.	Good quality ancillary facility on site (or potential), with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Limited or no changing room access on site.

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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**Hub sites** are of Authority wide importance where users are willing to travel to access the range and high quality of facilities offered and are likely to be multi-sport. These have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment.

**Key centres** are more community focused, although some are still likely to service a wider analysis area (or slightly wider); however, there may be more of a focus on a specific sport i.e., a dedicated site.

It is considered that some financial investment may be necessary to improve the facilities at both hub sites and key sites. This could be to improve the provision, create additional provision (e.g., a 3G pitch) or to enhance the ancillary facilities in terms of access, flexibility (i.e., single-sex changing if necessary) and quality as well as ensuring that they meet the rules and regulations of local competitions.

**Local sites** refer to those sites offering minimal provision or that are of minimal value to the wider community. Primarily they are sites with one pitch/facility or a low number of pitches/facilities that service just one or two sports (e.g., bowling green sites).

For local authority sites local sites, consideration should be given, on a site-by-site basis, to the feasibility of a club taking on a long-term lease (if not already present), in order that external funding can be sought. Such sites will require some level of investment, either to the outdoor sport facilities or ancillary facilities and is it anticipated that one of the conditions of offering a hire/lease is that the Club would be in a position to source external funding to improve/extend the provision.

Other sites considered in this tier may be primary school sites or secondary school sites that are not widely used by the community or that do not offer community availability.

### **Partners**

The column indicating partners refers to the main organisations that the Council would look to work with to support delivery of the actions.

Given the extent of potential actions, it is reasonable to assume that partners will not necessarily be able to support all the actions identified but where the action is a priority and resource is available the partner will endeavour to assist.

As all sites sit within the local authority area, the Council is considered to be a partner for each identified action (as the column indicates partners for the Council) and is therefore not included. However, it is acknowledged that it will take on more of a leading role for some specific sites and some specific actions (e.g., at council venues).

### **Priority**

Although hub sites are mostly likely to have a **high** priority actions, as they have wide importance, these have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the key issues identified in the assessment. Therefore, some key centres and local sites are also identified as having a high priority level. It is these projects/sites which should generally, if possible, be addressed within the short term (1-2 years).

The majority of key centres have **medium** priority actions. These have analysis area importance and are identified on the basis of the impact that they will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment, although not to the same extent as high priority actions.

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## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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The **low** priority actions tend to be for single pitch or single sport sites and often club or education sites with local specific importance but that may also contribute to addressing the issues identified in the assessment for specific users. Whilst low priority, there may be opportunities to action some of the recommendations made against such sites relatively quickly e.g., through S106 funding.

### **Costs**

The strategic actions have also been ranked as low, medium or high based on cost. The brackets are:

- ◀ (L) -Low - less than £50k
- ◀ (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k
- ◀ (H) -High £250k and above

These are based on Sport England's estimated facility costs which can be found at:  
[Link to Sport England Cost Guidance](#)

### **Timescales**

The Action Plan has been created to be delivered over a ten-year period and the information within the Assessment Report, Strategy and Action Plan will require updating as developments occur. The indicative timescales relate to delivery times and are not priority based:

- ◀ (S) -Short (1-2 years)
- ◀ (M) - Medium (3-5 years)
- ◀ (L) - Long (6+ years)

### **Aim**

Each action seeks to meet at least one of the three Sport England aims of the Strategy; **Enhance, Provide, Protect.**

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

## HUNTINGDON ANALYSIS AREA

### Summary

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2036)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES <sup>[1]</sup>	Future capacity total in MES
Football (grass pitches)	Huntingdon	Adult	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>	<b>Shortfall of 1 match equivalent sessions</b>
		Youth 11v11	<b>Shortfall of 3 match equivalent sessions</b>	<b>Shortfall of 4.5 match equivalent sessions</b>
		Youth 9v9	<b>Shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions</b>	<b>Shortfall of 3 match equivalent sessions</b>
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent session	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>
		Mini 5v5	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>	<b>Shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions</b>
	Huntingdonshire	Adult	Spare capacity of 6 match equivalent session	Spare capacity of 2 match equivalent session
		Youth 11v11	<b>Shortfall of 6.5 match equivalent sessions</b>	<b>Shortfall of 11 match equivalent sessions</b>
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent session	<b>Shortfall of 2 match equivalent sessions</b>
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent session	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>
		Mini 5v5	<b>Shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions</b>	<b>Shortfall of 5 match equivalent sessions</b>
3G	Huntingdonshire	Full size, floodlit	<b>Insufficient supply. Shortfalls in the Huntingdon and St Neots Analysis Areas.</b>	<b>Insufficient supply. Shortfalls in the Huntingdon (x2), St Ives and St Neots Analysis Area.</b>
Cricket	Huntingdon	Saturday	Spare capacity of 20 match equivalent sessions a season	Spare capacity of 10 match equivalent sessions a season
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 40 match equivalent sessions a season	Spare capacity of 30 match equivalent sessions a season
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 20 match equivalent sessions a season	Spare capacity of 20 match equivalent sessions a season
	Huntingdonshire	Saturday	Spare capacity of 12 match equivalent sessions a season	<b>Shortfall of 28 match equivalent sessions a season</b>
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 112 match equivalent sessions a season	Spare capacity of 62 match equivalent sessions a season

<sup>[1]</sup> MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2036)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES <sup>[1]</sup>	Future capacity total in MES
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 45 match equivalent sessions a season	Spare capacity of 15 match equivalent sessions a season
Rugby union	Huntingdon	Senior	<b>Shortfall of 4.5 match equivalent sessions</b>	<b>Shortfall of 5.5 match equivalent sessions</b>
	Huntingdonshire	Senior	<b>Shortfall of 7.5 match equivalent sessions</b>	<b>Shortfall of 9.5 match equivalent sessions</b>
Rugby league	Huntingdonshire	Provision	<b>No active teams, however, demand exists in St Ives.</b>	<b>No active teams, however, demand exists in St Ives. Need to offer access to rugby union pitches for rugby league use through summer if/when demand is reinstated.</b>
Hockey	Huntingdonshire	Full size, floodlit	<b>Insufficient quantity</b>	<b>Insufficient quantity</b>
Tennis	Huntingdonshire	Courts	Capacity for both club and non-club tennis courts can be meet current and future demand at the majority of tennis club sites, only Needingworth TC currently has capacity issues.	Capacity for both club and non-club tennis courts can be meet current and future demand at the majority of tennis club sites, only Needingworth TC currently has capacity issues.
Netball	Huntingdonshire	Courts	<b>Insufficient supply of outdoor netball courts to service the District.</b>	<b>Insufficient supply of outdoor netball courts to service the District.</b>
Bowls	Huntingdonshire	Greens	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>
Athletics	Huntingdonshire	Provision	<i>Sufficient quantity however quality issues</i>	<i>Sufficient quantity however quality issues</i>
MUGAs	Huntingdonshire	Provision	<b>Shortfalls outside of the Huntingdon Analysis Area</b>	<b>Shortfalls outside of the Huntingdon Analysis Area</b>
Other sports	Huntingdonshire	Provision	<i>Generally sufficient quantity</i>	<i>Generally sufficient quantity</i>

**HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
4	Alconbury Weald Cricket Pitch	PE28 4LT	Cricket	Council	One standard quality square which consists of 11 grass wickets and one NTP. Ancillary provision of good quality. Square has spare capacity of 26 MES per season. With actual spare capacity to accommodate further teams on Saturday, Sunday and Midweek. Sawtry CC is currently working with HDC to complete the Asset Transfer of the site.	Look to improve square quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to complete asset transfer of the site to Sawtry CC.	Council CE ECB	Local	L-M	M	L	Protect Enhance Provide
7	Brampton Memorial Playing Field	PE28 4TB	Football	Council	One adult, one youth 11v11, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch all of standard quality. Ancillary provision of good quality. Site is currently part of the GPMF. Adult pitch is currently overplayed by one MES per week. Youth 11v11 pitch has spare capacity of 0.5 MES per week. Mini 7v7 pitch has spare capacity of three MES per week. Mini 5v5 pitch spare capacity of two MES per week. Although the youth 11v11, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches have spare capacity, all are played to capacity at peak time.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Continue to utilise GPMF to ensure improvements to pitches are made through a dedicated and specific maintenance programme.	Council HFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
7	Brampton Memorial Playing Field	PE28 4TB	Cricket	Council	One standard quality square which consists of seven grass wickets and one NTP. Ancillary provision of good quality. Square has spare capacity of 21 MES per season. With actual spare capacity to accommodate further teams on Saturday, Sunday and Midweek.	Look to improve square quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Council CE ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
7	Brampton Memorial Playing Field	PE28 4TB	MUGA	Council	One standard quality MUGA with sports lighting.	Look to improve court quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
7	Brampton Memorial Playing Field	PE28 4TB	Outdoor gym	Council	One outdoor gym.	Look to maintain and improve quality where required.	Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
9	Bridge Academy	PE29 2NL	Football	Education	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitches, unavailable for community use.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance for school use.	School HFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
14	Cambridge Regional College, Huntingdon Campus	PE29 1BL	Tennis	Education	Two standard quality macadam courts with no sports lighting. Unavailable for community use.	Look to improve court quality with enhanced levels of maintenance for school use.	School LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
24	Ermine Street Church Academy	PE28 4XG	Netball	Education	Two good quality macadam netball courts with no sports lighting available for community use.	Sustain court quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect

**HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL  
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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
33	Godmanchester Town Cricket Club	PE29 2BN	Cricket	Sport Club	One good quality square which consists of 12 grass wickets. Ancillary provision of standard quality. Square has spare capacity of six MES per season. With actual spare capacity Midweek to cater for an additional team. Two lane fixed net facility of standard quality.	Sustain square quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite. Monitor net facility to ensure quality is sustained and facilities are developed/replaced when required.	Sports club CE ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
42	Hartford Junior School	PE29 1UL	Netball	Education	One standard quality macadam netball court, with no sports lighting. Unavailable for community use.	Look to improve court quality with enhanced levels of maintenance for school use.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
45	Hinchingbrooke School	PE29 3BN	Football	Education	Two adult, one youth 11v11 and two youth 9v9 pitches all of standard quality. Ancillary provision of good quality. Site is considered to offer unsecure tenure. Adult pitches have spare capacity of 3.5 MES per week. Pitches do have potential actual spare capacity, however this is discounted due to unsecure tenure. Youth 11v11 pitch is overplayed by two MES per week. Youth 9v9 pitches has spare capacity of 1.5 MES per week, however they are played to capacity at peak time.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Look to secure community use, through secure tenure through community use agreements.	School HFA FF	Key centre	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
45	Hinchingbrooke School	PE29 3BN	3G	Education	One standard quality full size (106x85m) 3G pitch with sports lighting and available for community use. Pitch is on the FA Pitch Register, with the accreditation expiring in 31/05/2023. Pitch has spare capacity of 26% during the week and spare capacity of 87% on the weekends.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Ensure pitch is on the 3G Register and is retested for compliance so that it can support use for competitive match play and is renewed when required. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time (as per Football Foundation Terms & Conditions), for repair and resurfacing when necessary. Explore the opportunity to make use of weekend spare capacity for competitive match demand.	School HFA FF	Key centre	M	M-L	M-H	Protect Enhance
45	Hinchingbrooke School	PE29 3BN	Cricket	Education	Two standalone standard quality NTP's, unavailable for community use.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance for continued school use.	School CE ECB	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

**HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
45	Hinchingbrooke School	PE29 3BN	Rugby union	Education	One senior rugby union pitch of M0/D1 (poor) quality. Available for community use, however pitch is currently unused.  Site is considered to offer unsecure tenure.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity use pitch for rugby league from St Ives Rooster RLFC if required. Look to secure community use, through secure tenure through community use agreements.	School RFU RFL	Key centre	L-M	M	L	Protect Enhance
45	Hinchingbrooke School	PE29 3BN	Tennis	Education	Three poor quality artificial turf tennis courts, with no sports lighting and available for community use.	Look to improve court quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	School LTA	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
45	Hinchingbrooke School	PE29 3BN	Netball	Education	Four good quality macadam netball courts with no sports lighting and available for community use. Overmarked on tennis courts.	Sustain court quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	School EN	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect
50	Huntingdon and District RFC	PE28 4NL	Rugby union	Sport Club	Three senior rugby union pitches of M0/D1 (poor) quality. Pitches are supported by portable sports lighting. Huntingdon & District RFC has rental agreement onsite, which offers unsecure tenure. Site is located on flood zone. Main 1 <sup>st</sup> XV pitch is currently played to capacity, whilst remaining two pitches are overplayed to a total of 4.5 MES per week. Ancillary provision has recently undergone internal development due to effects from recent flooding. Ancillary provision does not support women's and girls' demand. The Club is currently exploring the opportunity to relocate to the Alconbury Weald development. However, if this does not go ahead the Club has plans to develop a new clubhouse onsite, to cater for women's and girls' an on stilts away from the flood zone.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance/ drainage improvement if the Club does not relocate and it gains security of tenure onsite. If Huntingdon & District RFC do not relocate offsite to the Alconbury Weald development, explore the opportunity to secure tenure onsite and develop new ancillary provision.	Sports club RFU	Local	M-H	S-M	M-H	Protect Enhance Provide
51	Hyl - Great Stukeley Field	PE28 4AH	Football	Parish Council	One adult pitch of poor quality. Pitch has no support ancillary provision. Adult pitch is unused and currently has spare capacity of one MES per week, however due to poor pitch quality this spare capacity has been discounted.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Once pitch quality is improved look to make use of actual spare capacity available at peak time. Explore the opportunity to develop dedicated ancillary provision onsite if required.	Parish Council HFA FF	Local	L	L	L-M	Protect Enhance Provide



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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
52	Jubilee Park	PE28 2NR	Football	Council	Two adult pitches of good quality (one being a Step pitch), one adult pitch of standard quality and one adult pitch of poor quality. In addition, the site has one youth 9v9 pitch of good quality, one mini 7v7 pitch of poor quality and one mini 5v5 pitch of good quality. Ancillary provision of standard quality. Site is a part of the GPMF. Step Adult pitch has spare capacity of two MES per week, with actual spare capacity discounted to protect quality for Step use. Remaining adult pitches are played to capacity, with one MES of potential actual spare capacity. Youth 9v9 pitch has spare capacity of 3.5 MES per week, with 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity at peak time. Mini 7v7 pitch has spare capacity of 1.5 MES per week, with potential actual spare capacity, which is discounted due to poor pitch quality. Mini 5v5 pitch has spare capacity of 3.5 MES per week, however pitch is played to capacity at peak time.	Look to improve and sustain pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Continue to utilise GPMF to ensure improvements to pitches are made through a dedicated and specific maintenance programme. Once pitch quality is improved look to make use of actual spare capacity available at peak time if required. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite.	Council HFA FF	Local	M	M	L-M	Protect Enhance
53	Judith's Field Recreation Centre	PE29 2WB	MUGA	Council	One standard quality MUGA with sports lighting.	Look to improve court quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
59	King George V Playing Fields (St Peters Road)	PE29 7DA	Cricket	Council	One square of standard quality which consists of 14 grass wickets. Ancillary provision of poor quality. Square has spare capacity of 29 MES per season. With actual spare capacity to accommodate further teams on Sunday and Midweek. Huntingdon & District CC reports there is a need for a full update of the clubhouse/pavilion. Two lane fixed net facility of poor quality.	Look to improve square quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite. Explore the opportunity to replace fixed net provision.	Council CE ECB	Key centre	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
59	King George V Playing Fields (St Peters Road)	PE29 7DA	Bowls	Council	One good quality flat green with no sports lighting. Ancillary provision of good quality. Huntingdon BC identifies that a couple of its rinks are currently out of use due them being worn and compact, this has led to the grass on them not growing properly and leaving them unusable.	Sustain green quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Ensure that required work is undertaken on the rinks which are currently compacted to ensure quality is restored.	Council BE	Hub site	M-H	S-M	L-M	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
59	King George V Playing Fields (St Peters Road)	PE29 7DA	Tennis	Council	One macadam, three artificial turf and three indoor air dome acrylic courts all of good quality with sports lighting. Huntingdon TC has plans to develop its courts through developing solar panels and through changing sports lighting to LED bulbs, to cut electricity costs.	Sustain court quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to develop solar panels and change sports lighting to LED bulbs.	Council LTA	Hub site	M	M	L-M	Protect Enhance Provide
71	Offord D'Arcy Football Pitch	PE19 5WA	Football	Parish Council	One adult pitch of poor quality. Pitch has no support ancillary provision. Adult pitch is unused and currently has spare capacity of one MES per week, however due to poor pitch quality this spare capacity has been discounted.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Once pitch quality is improved look to make use of actual spare capacity available at peak time. Explore the opportunity to develop dedicated ancillary provision onsite if required.	Parish Council HFA FF	Local	L	L	L-M	Protect Enhance Provide
71	Offord D'Arcy Football Pitch	PE19 5WA	MUGA	Parish Council	One poor quality MUGA with no sports lighting.	Look to improve court quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
72	One Leisure Huntingdon	PE29 7DA	3G	Council	Two small sided (37x24m) 3G pitches of standard quality, with sports lighting and available for community use.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time (as per Football Foundation Terms & Conditions), for repair and resurfacing when necessary. Explore the opportunity to make use of weekend spare capacity for competitive match demand.	Council HFA FF	Hub site	L	L	M	Protect Enhance
72	One Leisure Huntingdon	PE29 7DA	Netball	Council	One good quality macadam netball court with sports lighting and available for community use. Overmarked on tennis courts.	Sustain court quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	Council EN	Hub site	L	L	L	Protect
72	One Leisure Huntingdon	PE29 7DA	Outdoor gym	Council	One outdoor gym.	Look to maintain and improve quality where required.	Council	Hub site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
81	RAF Alconbury	PE28 4DA	Football	MOD	One adult pitch of standard quality, unavailable for community use.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance for MOD use.	MOD HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
81	RAF Alconbury	PE28 4DA	Athletics	MOD	One standard quality six lane 400m athletics track with sports lighting.	Look to improve track quality with enhanced levels of maintenance for MOD use.	MOD EA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
81	RAF Alconbury	PE28 4DA	Tennis	MOD	Three good quality macadam courts with no sports lighting, unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality with appropriate levels of maintenance for MOD use.	MOD LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
86	Riverside Park (Huntingdon)	PE29 3RP	Football	Council	The site has in the past accommodated formal football pitches. The site has had up to two adult pitches, however pitches have not been marked for a number of years, with most football teams using the site relocating to Sapley Park Playing Fields.	Protect the site in accordance with Sport England and NPPF guidelines and explore potential future options for the pitches.	Council HFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
88	Sapley Park Playing Fields	PE28 2NT	Football	Council	Four adult, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch all of standard quality. Ancillary provision of standard quality. Adult pitches have spare capacity of five MES per week, with actual spare capacity at peak time of two MES. The Youth 9v9 pitch has spare capacity of 0.5 MES per week, however the pitch is played to capacity at peak time. The Mini 7v7 pitch has spare capacity of four MES per week, with actual spare capacity of one MES at peak time. Eunice Huntingdon FC aspires to have a storage container on the site, to store its club equipment.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite. Explore the feasibility to place a storage container onsite for Eunice Huntingdon FC to allow the Club space for additional storage for its club equipment onsite.	Council HFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
102	St Peters School	PE29 7DD	Football	Education	Two youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch of standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance for school use.	School HFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
102	St Peters School	PE29 7DD	Cricket	Education	One poor quality standalone NTP.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance for school use. Explore the opportunity to replace NTP for school use.	School CE ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
102	St Peters School	PE29 7DD	Hockey AGP	Education	Huntingdon HC currently export demand and aspire to bring demand back into the District. St Peter's School has previously expressed interest in developing a full size sand based AGP onsite, and is identified as a potential solution to accommodate Huntingdon HC.	Explore the feasibility to develop a full size sand AGP onsite. Ensure that any development that takes place has an approach programme of use to ensure sustainability of the pitch from both school and community use. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time for repair and resurfacing when necessary.	School EH	Local	M	L-M	H	Provide
106	The David Wilson Homes Ground	PE29 2LQ	Football	Sports Club	One adult (step pitch), one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch of poor quality and one youth 11v11 pitch of standard quality. Ancillary provision of good quality. Site is a part of the GPMF. Adult pitch is overplayed by one MES per week. Youth 11v11 is overplayed by one MES per week. Youth 9v9 is overplayed by one MES per week. Mini 7v7 is overplayed by 0.5 MES per week. Main first team pitch is uneven and drains poorly, Godmanchester Rovers FC plans to resurface this pitch.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Continue to utilise GPMF to ensure improvements to pitches are made through a dedicated and specific maintenance programme. Ensure resurfacing of Step pitch takes place to improve quality and ensure pitch quality is up to a standard capable of catering for NLS football.	Sports Club HFA FF	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
106	The David Wilson Homes Ground	PE29 2LQ	3G	Sports Club	Site has been identified in the LFFP as a priority site for the development of a full size 3G pitch. Initially, the main first team pitch was to be the location of the 3G pitch, however after deliberation it was agreed that the back pitches was a more suitable location, this is likely to lead to the loss of the youth 11v11 and mini 7v7 pitch onsite. The project and development is currently progressing.	In line with LFFP and PPOSS findings explore the feasibility of creating a full size 3G pitch on the site. Ensure pitch is on the 3G Register and is retested for compliance so that it can support use for competitive match play and is renewed when required. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time (as per Football Foundation Terms & Conditions), for repair and resurfacing when necessary.	Sports Club HFA FF	Local	M-H	S-M	H	Provide
122	Brampton Bowls Club	PE28 4TH	Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality flat green with no sports lighting. Ancillary provision of good quality.	Sustain green quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	Sports Club BE	Local	L	L	L	Protect
132	Royal Oak	PE29 2JE	Bowls	Private	One good quality flat green with no sports lighting. Ancillary provision of standard quality.	Sustain green quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite.	Sports Club BE	Local	L	L	L	Protect
139	Coneygear Park	PE29 1TD	Football	Council	One youth 9v9 pitch of poor quality. Ancillary provision of good quality. Youth 9v9 pitch is overplayed by one MES per week.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Council HFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
139	Coneygear Park	PE29 1TD	Outdoor gym	Council	One outdoor gym.	Look to maintain and improve quality where required.	Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
139	Coneygear Park	PE29 1TD	MUGA	Council	One poor quality MUGA with no sports lighting.	Look to improve court quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
150	Sallowbush Road MUGA	PE29 7DL	MUGA	Council	One poor quality MUGA with no sports lighting.	Look to improve court quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
151	Hinchingbrooke Country Park	PE29 6DB	Outdoor gym	Council	One outdoor gym.	Look to maintain and improve quality where required.	Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
151	Hinchingbrooke Country Park	PE29 6DB	Trim trail	Council	One trim trail.	Look to maintain and improve quality where required.	Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
152	Stukeley Meadows Trim Trail	PE29 6EW	Trim trail	Council	One trim trail.	Look to maintain and improve quality where required.	Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
152	Stukeley Meadows Trim Trail	PE29 6EW	MUGA	Council	One poor quality MUGA with no sports lighting.	Look to improve court quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
153	Stanton Butt Trim Trail	PE29 6XE	Trim trail	Council	One trim trail.	Look to maintain and improve quality where required.	Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
167	Godmanchester Queens Walk Play Area	PE29 2BA	Outdoor gym	Council	One outdoor gym.	Look to maintain and improve quality where required.	Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
169	Brampton Park	PE28 4QQ	Football	Council	One youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch currently being developed. The pitches are currently waiting for sign off, when judged to be at a standard required for formal play.	Look to maintain and improve quality where required.	Council HFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
169	Brampton Park	PE28 4QQ	Tennis	Council	Two brand new tennis courts developed. Courts not officially open for use, waiting for sign off.	Sustain court quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	Council LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
169	Brampton Park	PE28 4QQ	MUGA	Council	One brand new MUGA developed. Court is not officially open for use, waiting for sign off.	Sustain court quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

## NORTH EAST ANALYSIS AREA

### Summary

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2036)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES <sup>[1]</sup>	Future capacity total in MES
Football (grass pitches)	North East	Adult	Spare capacity of 1 match equivalent session	Spare capacity of 1 match equivalent session
		Youth 11v11	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>	<b>Shortfall of 1 match equivalent sessions</b>
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent session	Spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent session
		Mini 7v7	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>	<b>Shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions</b>
		Mini 5v5	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>
	Huntingdonshire	Adult	Spare capacity of 6 match equivalent session	Spare capacity of 2 match equivalent session
		Youth 11v11	<b>Shortfall of 6.5 match equivalent sessions</b>	<b>Shortfall of 11 match equivalent sessions</b>
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent session	<b>Shortfall of 2 match equivalent sessions</b>
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent session	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>
		Mini 5v5	<b>Shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions</b>	<b>Shortfall of 5 match equivalent sessions</b>
3G	Huntingdonshire	Full size, floodlit	<b>Insufficient supply. Shortfalls in the Huntingdon and St Neots Analysis Areas.</b>	<b>Insufficient supply. Shortfalls in the Huntingdon (x2), St Ives and St Neots Analysis Area.</b>
Cricket	North East	Saturday	<b>Shortfall of 9 match equivalent sessions a season</b>	<b>Shortfall of 19 match equivalent sessions a season</b>
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 1 match equivalent sessions a season	<b>Shortfall of 19 match equivalent sessions a season</b>
		Midweek	<b>Shortfall of 11 match equivalent sessions a season</b>	<b>Shortfall of 21 match equivalent sessions a season</b>
	Huntingdonshire	Saturday	Spare capacity of 12 match equivalent sessions a season	<b>Shortfall of 28 match equivalent sessions a season</b>

<sup>[1]</sup> MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

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Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2036)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES <sup>[1]</sup>	Future capacity total in MES
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 112 match equivalent sessions a season	Spare capacity of 62 match equivalent sessions a season
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 45 match equivalent sessions a season	Spare capacity of 15 match equivalent sessions a season
Rugby union	North East	Senior	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>
	Huntingdonshire	Senior	<b>Shortfall of 7.5 match equivalent sessions</b>	<b>Shortfall of 9.5 match equivalent sessions</b>
Rugby league	Huntingdonshire	Provision	<b>No active teams, however, demand exists in St Ives.</b>	<b>No active teams, however, demand exists in St Ives. Need to offer access to rugby union pitches for rugby league use through summer if/when demand is reinstated.</b>
Hockey	Huntingdonshire	Full size, floodlit	<b>Insufficient quantity</b>	<b>Insufficient quantity</b>
Tennis	Huntingdonshire	Courts	Capacity for both club and non-club tennis courts can be meet current and future demand at the majority of tennis club sites, only Needingworth TC currently has capacity issues.	Capacity for both club and non-club tennis courts can be meet current and future demand at the majority of tennis club sites, only Needingworth TC currently has capacity issues.
Netball	Huntingdonshire	Courts	<b>Insufficient supply of outdoor netball courts to service the District.</b>	<b>Insufficient supply of outdoor netball courts to service the District.</b>
Bowls	Huntingdonshire	Greens	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>
Athletics	Huntingdonshire	Provision	<i>Sufficient quantity however quality issues</i>	<i>Sufficient quantity however quality issues</i>
MUGAs	Huntingdonshire	Provision	<b>Shortfalls outside of the Huntingdon Analysis Area</b>	<b>Shortfalls outside of the Huntingdon Analysis Area</b>
Other sports	Huntingdonshire	Provision	<i>Generally sufficient quantity</i>	<i>Generally sufficient quantity</i>

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
1	Abbey College	PE26 1DG	Cricket	Education	One standard quality standalone NTP, unavailable for community use.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance for continued school use.	School CE ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
1	Abbey College	PE26 1DP	Hockey AGP	Council	One standard quality small sided (50x35m) sand based AGP pitch, with sports lighting. Unavailable for community use.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance for continued school use.	School EH	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
19	Drovers Close	PE26 2TX	Football	Community Organisation	One adult pitch of poor quality. Ancillary provision of poor quality. Adult pitch is unused and currently has spare capacity of one MES per week, however due to poor pitch quality this spare capacity has been discounted.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Once pitch quality is improved look to make use of actual spare capacity available at peak time. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite.	Community Organisation HFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
19	Drovers Close	PE26 2TX	Outdoor gym	Community Organisation	One outdoor gym.	Look to maintain and improve quality where required.	Community Organisation	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
19	Drovers Close	PE26 2TX	Trim trail	Community Organisation	One trim trail.	Look to maintain and improve quality where required.	Community Organisation	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
19	Drovers Close	PE26 2TX	MUGA	Community Organisation	One poor quality MUGA with no sports lighting.	Look to improve court quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Community Organisation	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
68	Millennium Sports Pavilion	PE28 3JS	Football	Parish Council	Two adult and one mini 7v7 pitches of poor quality. Ancillary provision of poor quality. Adult pitches have spare capacity of one MES per week, with actual spare capacity of one MES, however this is discounted due to poor pitch quality. Mini 7v7 pitch has spare capacity of 0.5 MES per week, however it is played to capacity at peak time.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Once pitch quality is improved look to make use of actual spare capacity available at peak time. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite.	Parish Council HFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
68	Millennium Sports Pavilion	PE28 3JS	Cricket	Parish Council	Previously accommodated a grass wicket square consisting of nine wickets. The site is still utilised for football but has not been used for cricket since 2017.	Protect the site in accordance with Sport England and NPPF guidelines and explore potential future options for the pitches.	Parish Council CE ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
70	Norwood Playing Field	PE28 3HE	Football	Parish Council	One adult pitch of poor quality. Ancillary provision of poor quality. Adult pitch is unused and currently has spare capacity of one MES per week, however due to poor pitch quality this spare capacity has been discounted.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Once pitch quality is improved look to make use of actual spare capacity available at peak time. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite.	Parish Council HFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
70	Norwood Playing Field	PE28 3HE	Tennis	Parish Council	Two poor quality macadam courts with sports lighting.	Look to improve court quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Parish Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
70	Norwood Playing Field	PE28 3HE	Outdoor gym	Parish Council	One outdoor gym.	Look to maintain and improve quality where required.	Parish Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance



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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
73	One Leisure Ramsey	PE26 1DP	3G	Council	One good quality full size (100x60m) 3G pitch, with sports lighting and available for community use. Pitch is on the FA Pitch Register. The pitch has 32% spare capacity midweek and 87% spare capacity on weekends.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time (as per Football Foundation Terms & Conditions), for repair and resurfacing when necessary. Explore the opportunity to make use of weekend spare capacity for competitive match demand.	Council HFA FF	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect
85	Ramsey Cricket Club	PE26 1BG	Football	Sport Club	One standard quality adult pitch. Ancillary provision of standard quality. Adult pitch has spare capacity of one MES per week, however, pitch is played to capacity at peak time.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite.	Sports Club HFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
85	Ramsey Cricket Club	PE26 1BG	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality square which consists of ten grass wickets and one NTP. Ancillary provision of good quality. Square is overplayed by nine MES per season. Two lane fixed net facility of good quality.	Sustain square quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	Sports Club CE ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
91	Somersham Town Football Club	PE28 3EN	Football	Sport Club	One standard quality adult pitch. Ancillary provision of standard quality. Adult pitch has spare capacity of one MES per week, however, pitch is played to capacity at peak time.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Sports Club HFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
110	Tom Jones Memorial Fields	PE26 1EF	Football	Sport Club	One adult, two youth 11v11, two youth 9v9m two mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches all of good quality. Ancillary provision of good quality. Site is part of the GPMF. All pitches are played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Continue to utilise GPMF to ensure improvements to pitches are sustained through a dedicated and specific maintenance programme.	Sports Club HFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
113	Warboys Community Primary School	PE28 2RX	Football	Education	One mini 7v7 pitch of poor quality. No dedicated ancillary provision onsite. Mini 7v7 pitch has spare capacity of 1.5 MES per week, however this is discounted due to poor pitch quality.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to develop dedicated ancillary provision onsite if required.	School HFA FF	Local	L	L	L-M	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
114	Warboys Sports Field	PE28 2TN	Football	Community Organisation	One adult (with sports lighting) and one youth 9v9 pitch of good quality. One youth 11v11 and one mini 5v5 pitch of poor quality. Ancillary provision of poor quality. Youth pitches have minimal actual spare capacity and all others are played to capacity. Warboys Town FC highlights there is a need to upgrade the changing facilities in order to meet regulations if the team is to progress further up the National League System (NLS). This upgrade would include, bigger changing rooms, with a clear access route to the playing surface. The Club highlights that this may require the development of a new permanent structure alongside the social club onsite.	Look to sustain and improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite. Explore the feasibility of developing required ancillary provision to support Warboys Town FC progress up the NLS.	Community organisation HFA FF	Local	M	M	L-M	Protect Enhance Provide
114	Warboys Sports Field	PE28 2TN	Cricket	Community Organisation	One good quality square which consists of 11 grass wickets and one NTP. Ancillary provision of poor quality. The football club onsite plans to develop ancillary provision, the facilities would be available for the cricket club onsite. Square has actual spare capacity of 27 MES per season, with actual spare capacity to cater for additional demand on Sundays and midweek. Two lane fixed net facility of standard quality.	Sustain square quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision.	Community Organisation CE ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
129	Ramsey Golf & Bowls Club	PE26 1DD	Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality flat green with no sports lighting. Ancillary provision of good quality. Ramsey BC is currently operating above the recommended membership.	Sustain green quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Monitor Ramsey BC membership to ensure that the clubs demand can be met.	Sports Club BE	Local	L	L	L	Protect
131	Somersham Town BC	PE28 3JA	Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality flat green with no sports lighting. Ancillary provision of standard quality. The kitchen facilities onsite are currently outdated and the Club has plans to refurbish the facility. It has received funding for this and plans to complete the project in late 2022.	Sustain green quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision. Monitor Ramsey BC membership to ensure that the clubs demand can be met.	Sports Club BE	Local	L	M	L-M	Protect Enhance

**HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
					Somersham Town BC is currently operating above the recommended membership.							
137	The White Hart	PE28 2TA	Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality flat green with no sports lighting. Ancillary provision of poor quality.	Sustain green quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision	Sports Club BE	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
143	Ramsey Outdoor Gym	PE26 1EW	Outdoor gym	Council	One outdoor gym.	Look to maintain and improve quality where required.	Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
144	Upwood Cricket Club	PE26 2QQ	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality square which consists of seven grass wickets and one good quality junior square which consist of five grass wickets. Ancillary provision of poor quality. Main square has no actual spare capacity to cater for additional demand. Junior square is overplayed by seven MES per season. Two lane fixed net facility of good quality.	Sustain square quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision.	Sports Club CE ECB	Local	M	M	L-M	Protect Enhance
149	Adam Lyons Playground	PE28 2RJ	Outdoor gym	Council	One outdoor gym.	Look to maintain and improve quality where required.	Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
163	Farm Close MUGA	PE26 2QB	MUGA	Council	One standard quality MUGA with no sports lighting.	Look to improve court quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
166	Bury Village Hall	PE26 2LH	Outdoor gym	Council	One outdoor gym.	Look to maintain and improve quality where required.	Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
168	Ramsey Tennis Club	PE26 1DP	Tennis	Sports Club	Two macadam courts of good quality with sports lighting. Two artificial turf and two macadam courts of standard quality with no sports lighting.	Look to improve and sustain court quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Sports Club LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

## NORTH WEST ANALYSIS AREA

### Summary

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2036)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES <sup>[1]</sup>	Future capacity total in MES
Football (grass pitches)	North West	Adult	<b>Shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions</b>	<b>Shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions</b>
		Youth 11v11	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 2 match equivalent session	Spare capacity of 2 match equivalent session
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent session	Spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent session
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent session	Spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent session
	Huntingdonshire	Adult	Spare capacity of 6 match equivalent session	Spare capacity of 2 match equivalent session
		Youth 11v11	<b>Shortfall of 6.5 match equivalent sessions</b>	<b>Shortfall of 11 match equivalent sessions</b>
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent session	<b>Shortfall of 2 match equivalent sessions</b>
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent session	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>
		Mini 5v5	<b>Shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions</b>	<b>Shortfall of 5 match equivalent sessions</b>
3G	Huntingdonshire	Full size, floodlit	<b>Insufficient supply. Shortfalls in the Huntingdon and St Neots Analysis Areas.</b>	<b>Insufficient supply. Shortfalls in the Huntingdon (x2), St Ives and St Neots Analysis Area.</b>
Cricket	North West	Saturday	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>	<b>Shortfall of 10 match equivalent sessions a season</b>
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 10 match equivalent sessions a season	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 5 match equivalent sessions a season	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>
	Huntingdonshire	Saturday	Spare capacity of 12 match equivalent sessions a season	<b>Shortfall of 28 match equivalent sessions a season</b>

<sup>[1]</sup> MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2036)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES <sup>[1]</sup>	Future capacity total in MES
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 112 match equivalent sessions a season	Spare capacity of 62 match equivalent sessions a season
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 45 match equivalent sessions a season	Spare capacity of 15 match equivalent sessions a season
Rugby union	North West	Senior	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>
	Huntingdonshire	Senior	<b>Shortfall of 7.5 match equivalent sessions</b>	<b>Shortfall of 9.5 match equivalent sessions</b>
Rugby league	Huntingdonshire	Provision	<b>No active teams, however, demand exists in St Ives.</b>	<b>No active teams, however, demand exists in St Ives. Need to offer access to rugby union pitches for rugby league use through summer if/when demand is reinstated.</b>
Hockey	Huntingdonshire	Full size, floodlit	<b>Insufficient quantity</b>	<b>Insufficient quantity</b>
Tennis	Huntingdonshire	Courts	Capacity for both club and non-club tennis courts can be meet current and future demand at the majority of tennis club sites, only Needingworth TC currently has capacity issues.	Capacity for both club and non-club tennis courts can be meet current and future demand at the majority of tennis club sites, only Needingworth TC currently has capacity issues.
Netball	Huntingdonshire	Courts	<b>Insufficient supply of outdoor netball courts to service the District.</b>	<b>Insufficient supply of outdoor netball courts to service the District.</b>
Bowls	Huntingdonshire	Greens	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>
Athletics	Huntingdonshire	Provision	<i>Sufficient quantity however quality issues</i>	<i>Sufficient quantity however quality issues</i>
MUGAs	Huntingdonshire	Provision	<b>Shortfalls outside of the Huntingdon Analysis Area</b>	<b>Shortfalls outside of the Huntingdon Analysis Area</b>
Other sports	Huntingdonshire	Provision	<i>Generally sufficient quantity</i>	<i>Generally sufficient quantity</i>

**HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
2	Abbots Ripton Cricket Club	PE28 2PF	Football	Parish Council	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch. Ancillary provision of poor quality. Actual spare capacity is discounted due to poor pitch quality.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Once pitch quality is improved look to make use of actual spare capacity available at peak time. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite.	Parish Council HFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
2	Abbots Ripton Cricket Club	PE28 2PF	Cricket	Parish Council	Previously accommodated a seven wicket grass square. Abbots Ripton CC left the site and has now merged with Hemingford Park CC and play at Hemingford Pavilion. The square is still protected onsite, however, there is currently no demand for its use. The site is still actively used for football and therefore the site is not disused.	Protect the site in accordance with Sport England and NPPF guidelines and explore potential future options for the pitches.	Parish Council CE ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
3	Academy Leisure Sawtry	PE28 5UY	Hockey AGP	Education	One poor quality small sized (48x35m) sand based AGP with sports lighting and available for community use.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to resurface pitch.	School EH	Local	L	L	L-M	Protect Enhance
3	Academy Leisure Sawtry	PE28 5UY	3G	Education	Site has been identified in the LFFP as a priority site for the development of a full size 3G pitch. At present the development of this pitch is currently progressing.	In line with LFFP and PPOSS findings explore the feasibility of creating a full size 3G pitch on the site. Ensure pitch is on the 3G Register and is retested for compliance so that it can support use for competitive match play and is renewed when required. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time (as per Football Foundation Terms & Conditions), for repair and resurfacing when necessary.	Sports Club HFA FF	Local	M-H	S-M	H	Provide
23	Elton Cricket Club (Closed)	PE8 6RU	Cricket	Sport Club	Previously accommodated a six wicket grass cricket square, satellite evidence suggests that the site ceased maintenance between 2009-2016. The Club is looking to re-establish the facility.	Protect the site in accordance with Sport England and NPPF guidelines and explore potential future options for the pitches. Explore opportunity to reinstate provision onsite, if required.	Parish Council CE ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Provide
35	Great Gidding Recreation Ground	PE28 5PB	Football	Community Organisation	One adult and one mini 7v7 pitch of poor quality. No dedicated ancillary provision onsite. Both pitches are currently unused and actual spare capacity is discounted due to poor pitch quality.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Once pitch quality is improved look to make use of actual spare capacity available at peak time. Explore the opportunity to develop dedicated ancillary provision onsite if required.	Community Organisation HFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

**HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
40	Greenfields	PE28 5XN	Football	Community Organisation	One adult, one youth 11v11, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches all of good quality. Ancillary provision of poor quality. Mini 5v5 pitches have actual spare capacity of 0.5 MES at peak time. All other pitches played to capacity.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to develop and improve the ancillary provision onsite supporting the Sawtry Parish Council in its clubhouse project.	Community Organisation HFA FF	Key centre	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
40	Greenfields	PE28 5XN	Cricket	Community Organisation	One square of standard quality which consists of 11 grass wickets. Ancillary provision of poor quality. Square has spare capacity of 18 MES per season, with actual spare capacity to accommodate further teams on Sunday and Midweek. Sawtry Parish Council is currently overseeing the update of the pavilion and is drafting plans for the development, with views to complete the upgrade in the next two years.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to develop and improve the ancillary provision onsite supporting the Sawtry Parish Council in its clubhouse project.	Community Organisation CE ECB	Key centre	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
60	Leading Drove	PE7 3NA	Football	Sport Club	One adult and one youth 9v9 pitch of poor quality. Ancillary provision of good quality. Adult pitch is overplayed by two MES per week. Youth 9v9 pitch has spare capacity of one MES per week, which is potential actual spare capacity, however this is discounted due to poor pitch quality.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Once pitch quality is improved look to make use of actual spare capacity available at peak time.	Sports Club HFA FF	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
60	Leading Drove	PE7 3NA	3G	Sports Club	One good quality full size (100x60m) 3G pitch, with sports lighting and available for community use. Pitch is on the FA Pitch Register, with the accreditation expiring in the 31/05/2023. Pitch has spare capacity of 13% during the week and spare capacity of 19% on the weekends.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Ensure pitch is on the 3G Register and is retested for compliance so that it can support use for competitive match play and is renewed when required. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time (as per Football Foundation Terms & Conditions), for repair and resurfacing when necessary.	Sports Club HFA FF	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
66	Middletons Road Recreational Ground	PE7 3LR	Football	Parish Council	Two adult pitches of standard quality. Ancillary provision of standard quality. Adult pitches have spare capacity of 1.5 MES per week, with actual spare capacity of one MES at peak time.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite.	Parish Council HFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

**HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
66	Middletons Road Recreational Ground	PE7 3LR	3G	Parish Council	One standard quality small sided (50x37m) 3G pitch with sports lighting and available for community use.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time (as per Football Foundation Terms & Conditions), for repair and resurfacing when necessary.	Parish Council HFA FF		L	L	L	Protect Enhance
66	Middletons Road Recreational Ground	PE7 3LR	Cricket	Parish Council	One standard quality standalone NTP.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Parish Council CE, ECB		L	L	L	Protect Enhance
66	Middletons Road Recreational Ground	PE7 3LR	Outdoor gym	Parish Council	One outdoor gym.	Look to maintain and improve quality where required.	Parish Council		L	L	L	Protect Enhance
66	Middletons Road Recreational Ground	PE7 3LR	MUGA	Parish Council	One poor quality MUGA with sports lighting.	Look to improve court quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Parish Council		L	L	L	Protect Enhance
80	Queens Park (Yaxley)	PE7 3LX	Football	Parish Council	Two adult, two youth 9v9 and two mini 7v7 pitches all of standard quality. Ancillary provision of good quality. Adult pitches have spare capacity of one MES per week which is actual spare capacity at peak time. Youth 9v9 pitches have spare capacity of four MES per week with two MES of actual spare capacity at peak time. Mini 7v7 pitches have spare capacity of 6.5 MES per week, with actual spare capacity of 0.5 MES at peak time.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to make use of actual spare capacity that the site offers if required.	Parish Council HFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
89	Sawtry Village Academy	PE28 5TQ	Football	Education	Two standard quality youth 11v11 pitches, unavailable for community use.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance for school use.	School HFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
104	Stilton Village Playing Fields	PE7 3RA	Football	Parish Council	One adult and one mini 7v7 pitch of standard quality. Ancillary provision of good quality. Adult pitch is overplayed by 1.5 MES per week. Mini 7v7 pitch which is unused and has four MES of spare capacity per week, with one MES of actual spare capacity at peak time. Stilton Colts United FC reports a lack of storage onsite. In recent years its goalposts and nets have been vandalised and the Club believes that additional storage space help to combat this issue.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to make use of actual spare capacity that the site offers if required. Explore the feasibility to place additional storage onsite for Stilton Colts United FC to allow the Club space for additional storage for its club equipment onsite.	Parish Council HFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
135	The Bell	PE28 5UY	Bowls	Private	One good quality flat green with no sports lighting. Ancillary provision of good quality. Sawtry & District BC is currently operating above the recommended membership.	Sustain green quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Monitor Sawtry & District BC membership to ensure that the clubs demand can be met.	Private BE	Local	L	L	L	Protect



**HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
136	The Farmers	PE7 3NT	Bowls	Private	One good quality flat green with no sports lighting. Ancillary provision of good quality.	Sustain green quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	Private BE	Local	L	L	L	Protect
154	Hadaway Field, Farcet	PE7 3AJ	Outdoor gym	Parish Council	One outdoor gym.	Look to maintain and improve quality where required.	Parish Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
159	Abbots Ripton Primary C of E	PE28 2LT	Netball	Education	One standard quality macadam netball court with no sports lighting, unavailable for community use.	Look to improve court quality with enhanced levels of maintenance for continued school use.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
161	Sawtry Junior Academy	PE28 5SH	Netball	Education	Two poor quality macadam netball courts with no sports lighting, unavailable for community use.	Look to improve court quality with enhanced levels of maintenance for continued school use.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
165	Swynford Road	PE28 4XH	MUGA	Council	One good quality MUGA with no sports lighting.	Sustain court quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

## ST IVES ANALYSIS AREA

### Summary

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2036)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES <sup>[1]</sup>	Future capacity total in MES
Football (grass pitches)	St Ives	Spare capacity of 6.5 match equivalent session	Spare capacity of 5 match equivalent session	Spare capacity of 6.5 match equivalent session
		<b>Shortfall of 4 match equivalent sessions</b>	<b>Shortfall of 4.5 match equivalent sessions</b>	<b>Shortfall of 4 match equivalent sessions</b>
		<i>Sufficient quantity</i>	<b>Shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions</b>	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>
		<b>Shortfall of 1 match equivalent session</b>	<b>Shortfall of 1 match equivalent sessions</b>	<b>Shortfall of 1 match equivalent session</b>
		<i>Sufficient quantity</i>	<b>Shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions</b>	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>
	Huntingdonshire	Adult	Spare capacity of 6 match equivalent session	Spare capacity of 2 match equivalent session
		Youth 11v11	<b>Shortfall of 6.5 match equivalent sessions</b>	<b>Shortfall of 11 match equivalent sessions</b>
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent session	<b>Shortfall of 2 match equivalent sessions</b>
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent session	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>
		Mini 5v5	<b>Shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions</b>	<b>Shortfall of 5 match equivalent sessions</b>
3G	Huntingdonshire	Full size, floodlit	<b>Insufficient supply. Shortfalls in the Huntingdon and St Neots Analysis Areas.</b>	<b>Insufficient supply. Shortfalls in the Huntingdon (x2), St Ives and St Neots Analysis Area.</b>
Cricket	St Ives	Saturday	Spare capacity of 10 match equivalent sessions a season	Spare capacity of 10 match equivalent sessions a season
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 60 match equivalent sessions a season	Spare capacity of 50 match equivalent sessions a season
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 25 match equivalent sessions a season	Spare capacity of 20 match equivalent sessions a season

<sup>[1]</sup> MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2036)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES <sup>[1]</sup>	Future capacity total in MES
	Huntingdonshire	Saturday	Spare capacity of 12 match equivalent sessions a season	<b>Shortfall of 28 match equivalent sessions a season</b>
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 112 match equivalent sessions a season	Spare capacity of 62 match equivalent sessions a season
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 45 match equivalent sessions a season	Spare capacity of 15 match equivalent sessions a season
Rugby union	St Ives	Senior	<b>Shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions</b>	<b>Shortfall of 3 match equivalent sessions</b>
	Huntingdonshire	Senior	<b>Shortfall of 7.5 match equivalent sessions</b>	<b>Shortfall of 9.5 match equivalent sessions</b>
Rugby league	Huntingdonshire	Provision	<i>No active teams, however, demand exists in St Ives.</i>	<i>No active teams, however, demand exists in St Ives. Need to offer access to rugby union pitches for rugby league use through summer if/when demand is reinstated.</i>
Hockey	Huntingdonshire	Full size, floodlit	<b>Insufficient quantity</b>	<b>Insufficient quantity</b>
Tennis	Huntingdonshire	Courts	Capacity for both club and non-club tennis courts can be meet current and future demand at the majority of tennis club sites, only Needingworth TC currently has capacity issues.	Capacity for both club and non-club tennis courts can be meet current and future demand at the majority of tennis club sites, only Needingworth TC currently has capacity issues.
Netball	Huntingdonshire	Courts	<b>Insufficient supply of outdoor netball courts to service the District.</b>	<b>Insufficient supply of outdoor netball courts to service the District.</b>
Bowls	Huntingdonshire	Greens	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>
Athletics	Huntingdonshire	Provision	<i>Sufficient quantity however quality issues</i>	<i>Sufficient quantity however quality issues</i>
MUGAs	Huntingdonshire	Provision	<b>Shortfalls outside of the Huntingdon Analysis Area</b>	<b>Shortfalls outside of the Huntingdon Analysis Area</b>

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2036)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES <sup>[1]</sup>	Future capacity total in MES
Other sports	Huntingdonshire	Provision	<i>Generally sufficient quantity</i>	<i>Generally sufficient quantity</i>

**HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
6	Bluntisham Village Hall & Recreation Ground	PE28 3LR	Football	Parish Council	One adult, one youth 11v11 and one mini 7v7 all of poor quality. Ancillary provision of poor quality. Adult pitch is overplayed by 0.5 MES per week. Youth 11v11 pitch is played to capacity. Mini 7v7 pitch is overplayed by one MES per week.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite.	Parish Council HFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
6	Bluntisham Village Hall & Recreation Ground	PE28 3LR	Cricket	Parish Council	One square of good quality, which consists of 14 grass wickets. Ancillary provision of good quality. Square has spare capacity of 46 MES per season, with actual spare capacity to accommodate further teams on Sunday and Midweek. Two lane fixed net facility of good quality.	Sustain square quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	Parish Council CE ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
6	Bluntisham Village Hall & Recreation Ground	PE28 3LR	Trim trail	Parish Council	One trim trail.	Look to maintain and improve quality where required.	Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
6	Bluntisham Village Hall & Recreation Ground	PE28 3LR	Outdoor gym	Parish Council	One outdoor gym.	Look to maintain and improve quality where required.	Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
18	Daintree Green	PE28 9DZ	Football	Sport Club	One adult pitch of poor quality. No dedicated ancillary provision. Adult pitch is played to capacity.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to develop dedicated ancillary provision onsite if required	Parish Council HFA FF	Local	L	L	L-M	Protect Enhance
20	Earith Recreational Field	PE28 3QP	Football	Trust	One adult pitch of poor quality. Ancillary provision of poor quality. Adult pitch is unused it currently has spare capacity of one MES per week which is actual spare capacity however this is discounted due to poor pitch quality.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Once pitch quality is improved look to make use of actual spare capacity available at peak time. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite.	Trust HFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
20	Earith Recreational Field	PE28 3QP	MUGA	Trust	One poor quality MUGA with no sports lighting.	Look to improve court quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Trust	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
29	Fenstanton & Hilton Primary School	PE28 9JR	Football	Education	One youth 9v9 pitch of standard quality. Available for community use. Ancillary provision of standard quality. Site offers unsecure tenure for Fenstanton FC. Youth 9v9 pitch has spare capacity of 0.5 MES per week, however pitch is played to capacity at peak time.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite. Look to secure tenure for Fenstanton FC through community use agreement.	School HFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

**HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
30	Fenstanton Football Club	PE28 9JH	Football	Sport Club	One adult, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch all of poor quality. One youth 11v11 pitch of standard quality. Ancillary provision of poor quality. Mini 5v5 pitch has actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality. All other pitches are played to capacity. Fenstanton FC/Youth has drawn up plans to develop a new pavilion onsite, the building would include four changing rooms with contained shower and toilets, officials' rooms, storage, public toilets, function room and kitchen.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Once pitch quality is improved look to make use of actual spare capacity available at peak time. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite. Explore the feasibility to develop new ancillary provision onsite.	Sport Club HFA FF	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
30	Fenstanton Football Club	PE28 9JH	Cricket	Sports Club	Previously had a six wicket grass square onsite. However, the pitch has not been in use since circa 2008 and is now marked for football and used actively by Fenstanton FC.	Protect the site in accordance with Sport England and NPPF guidelines and explore potential future options for the pitches.	Sports Club CE ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
43	Hemingford Grey Primary School	PE28 9DU		Education	One mini 5v5 pitch of standard quality. Available for community use. Ancillary provision of standard quality. Site offers unsecure tenure for Hemingford Colts FC. Mini 5v5 pitch has spare capacity of 2.5 MES per week, however, pitch is played to capacity at peak time.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite. Look to secure tenure for Hemingford Colts FC through community use agreement.	School HFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
44	Hemingford Pavilion	PE28 9DL	Football	Community Organisation	Two adult pitches of standard quality. Ancillary provision of poor quality. Adult pitches have spare capacity of two MES per week, with actual spare capacity at peak time of one MES.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite.	Community Organisation HFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
44	Hemingford Pavilion	PE28 9DL	Cricket	Community Organisation	One square of standard quality which consists of nine grass wickets. Ancillary provision of poor quality. Square has spare capacity of 13 MES per season. There is actual spare capacity to accommodate further teams on Saturday, Sunday and Midweek.	Look to improve square quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite.	Community Organisation CE ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
44	Hemingford Pavilion	PE28 9DL	Bowls	Community Organisation	One good quality flat green with no sports lighting. Ancillary provision of standard quality.	Sustain green quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite.	Community Organisation BE	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

**HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
44	Hemingford Pavilion	PE28 9DL	Tennis	Community Organisation	Three good quality artificial turf courts with no sports lighting and available for community use.	Sustain court quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	Community Organisation LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
49	Houghton and Wyton Playing Field	PE28 2BJ	Football	Parish Council	One standard quality adult pitch. Ancillary provision of standard quality. Pitch is played to capacity.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite.	Parish Council HFA FF	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
49	Houghton and Wyton Playing Field	PE28 2BJ	Cricket	Parish Council	One square of standard quality which consists of six wickets and one NTP. Ancillary provision of standard quality. Square has spare capacity of six MES per season. The square has actual spare capacity to accommodate further teams Midweek. Whilst, it has potential actual spare capacity to accommodate further Saturday and Sunday teams however, due to lack of MES the actual spare capacity is discounted. Two lane fixed net facility of poor quality. A grant application has been submitted for nets groundwork with investment required in the matting due to the quality due to age and holes which are starting to form due to heavy use.	Look to improve square quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite. Once square quality is improved look to make use of actual spare capacity available at peak time. Look to improve or resurface fixed net facility.	Parish Council CE ECB	Key centre	L	L	L-M	Protect Enhance
49	Houghton and Wyton Playing Field	PE28 2BJ	Bowls	Parish Council	One good quality flat green with no sports lighting. Ancillary provision of standard quality.	Sustain green quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite.	Parish Council BE	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
49	Houghton and Wyton Playing Field	PE28 2BJ	Tennis	Parish Council	Two standard quality macadam courts with no sports lighting. Houghton and Wyton TC reports it currently has demand to develop sports lighting on one of its existing courts onsite. With the courts currently at capacity due to club members.	Look to improve court quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to develop sports lighting onsite.	Parish Council LTA	Key centre	L	M-L	L-M	Protect Enhance Provide
67	Mill Field	PE27 4TF	Football	Parish Council	Four adult and one mini 7v7 pitch all of good quality. Ancillary provision of good quality. Adult pitches have actual spare capacity of 3.5 MES at peak time. Mini 7v7 is played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to utilise actual spare capacity on adult pitches if required.	Parish Council HFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
67	Mill Field	PE27 4TF	Cricket	Parish Council	One square of Standard quality which consist of eight wickets and one NTP. Ancillary provision of good quality. Square has spare capacity of 15 MES per season. With actual spare capacity to accommodate further teams on Sundays and Midweek. Two lane fixed net facility of standard quality.	Look to improve square quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Parish Council CE ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
74	One Leisure St Ives Outdoor	PE27 6SJ	Football	Council	Three adult, two youth 11v11, four youth 9v9 and two mini 7v7 pitches all of standard quality. Ancillary provision of standard quality. Pitches are a part of the GPMF. Adult pitches have spare capacity of five MES per week, with actual spare capacity of 3.5 MES at peak time. Youth 11v11 pitches are overplayed by four MES per week. Youth 9v9 pitches have spare capacity of three MES per week and mini 7v7 pitches have spare capacity of 5.5 MES per week, both pitch types are plated to capacity at peak time.	Look to improve and sustain pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Continue to utilise GPMF to ensure improvements to pitches are made through a dedicated and specific maintenance programme. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite.	Council HFA FF	Hub site	M	M	L-M	Protect Enhance
74	One Leisure St Ives Outdoor	PE27 6SJ	3G	Council	One standard quality full size (100x60m) 3G pitch with sports lighting and available for community use. Pitch is on the FA 3G pitch register. Pitch has spare capacity of 18% during the week and spare capacity of 62% on the weekends. The site has been identified as a potential location for a second 3G pitch, to help cater for shortfalls of 3G pitches in St Ives.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Ensure pitch is on the 3G Register and is retested for compliance so that it can support use for competitive match play and is renewed when required. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time (as per Football Foundation Terms & Conditions), for repair and resurfacing when necessary. Explore the opportunity to develop a second 3G pitch onsite to cater for future shortfalls in St Ives. Explore the opportunity to make use of weekend spare capacity for competitive match demand.	Sports Club	Hub site	M-H	S-M	M-H	Protect Enhance Provide



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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
74	One Leisure St Ives Outdoor	PE27 6SJ	Cricket	Council	One square of good quality which consist of 14 wickets. Ancillary provision of standard quality. Square has spare capacity of 39 MES per season. With actual spare capacity to accommodate further teams on Sundays and Midweek. Three lane fixed net facility of standard quality.	Sustain square quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite. Look to improve or resurface fixed net facility when required.	Council CE ECB	Hub site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
74	One Leisure St Ives Outdoor	PE27 6SJ	Hockey AGP	Council	One standard quality full size (100x60m) sand based AGP, with sports lighting and available for community use. The pitch has spare capacity of 33%. The pitch is due for resurfacing with it being close to the end of its lifespan and close to becoming poor quality. There are plans to resurface the pitch, however no date has been set.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to resurface the pitch as soon as possible to ensure the surface does not become unplayable.	Council EH	Hub site	H	S-M	M-H	Protect Enhance
74	One Leisure St Ives Outdoor	PE27 6SJ	Athletics	Council	One standard quality six lane 400m polymeric athletics track with sports lighting and available for community use. Huntingdonshire AC has been tasked to gain quotes for inspection of the track, field and sports lights. It reports that the track is wearing and is coming to the end of its life. It suggests that if the track does not meet requirements for a three year competition license, then the track will need a full replacement.	Look to improve track quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to resurface the track if/when the track is ready to ensure that the track meets requirements to get a competition license.	Council EA	Hub site	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
74	One Leisure St Ives Outdoor	PE27 6SJ	Tennis	Council	Two poor quality macadam courts with sports lighting. The courts are due to be resurfaced in January/February 2023.	Look to improve court quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Ensure courts are resurfaced and maintained to a good quality.	Council LTA	Hub site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
74	One Leisure St Ives Outdoor	PE27 6SJ	Netball	Council	Two poor quality macadam netball courts with sports lighting. Overmarked on tennis courts. The courts are due to be resurfaced in January/February 2023.	Look to improve court quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Ensure courts are resurfaced and maintained to a good quality.	Council EN	Hub site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
83	RAF Wyton	PE28 2EA	Football	MOD	One adult pitch of standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance for MOD use.	MOD HFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
83	RAF Wyton	PE28 2EA	Rugby union	MOD	One senior rugby union pitch of M1/D1 (standard) quality. Unavailable for community use.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance for MOD use.	MOD RFU	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
83	RAF Wyton	PE28 2EA	Hockey AGP	MOD	One standard quality full size (100x60m) sand based AGP with sports lighting unavailable for community use.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance for MOD use.	MOD EH	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
95	St Ives Rugby Union Football Club	PE27 3LY	Rugby union	Sports Club	One senior rugby union pitch of M1/D2 (standard) quality (with sports lighting), one senior pitch of M1/D1 (standard) quality and one senior pitch of M1/D0 (poor) quality. Ancillary provision of good quality. M1/D2 senior pitch is overplayed by 0.5 MES per week. Whilst both the M1/D1 and M1/D0 pitches are overplayed by one MES per week. The senior pitches onsite previously have been marked in the summer for rugby league.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance/ drainage improvement. Explore the opportunity to utilise the senior pitches for rugby league if required in the future.	Sports Club RFU	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
96	St Ives Town Football Club	PE27 6DT	3G	Sport Club	One good quality full size (105x70m) 3G stadia pitch, with sports lighting and available for community use. Pitch is on the FA Pitch Register, with the accreditation expiring in the 31/05/2023. Pitch has spare capacity of 18% during the week and spare capacity of 53% on the weekends.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Ensure pitch is on the 3G Register and is retested for compliance so that it can support use for competitive match play and is renewed when required. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time (as per Football Foundation Terms & Conditions), for repair and resurfacing when necessary. Explore the opportunity to make use of weekend spare capacity for competitive match demand.	Sports Club HFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
97	St Ivo Academy	PE27 6RR	Cricket	Education	One poor quality standalone NTP, unavailable for community use.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance for continued use.	School CE ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
97	St Ivo Academy	PE27 6RR	Tennis	Education	Six standard quality macadam courts, three with sports lighting three without sports lighting. Unavailable for community use.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance for continued use.	School LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
116	Warners Park	PE27 5JR	Football	Parish Council	One adult pitch of poor quality. Pitch has no support ancillary provision. Adult pitch is unused and currently has spare capacity of one MES per week, however due to poor pitch quality this spare capacity has been discounted.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Once pitch quality is improved look to make use of actual spare capacity available at peak time. Explore the opportunity to develop dedicated ancillary provision onsite if required.	Parish Council HFA FF	Local	L	L	L-M	Protect Enhance Provide

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
117	Westfield Junior School	PE27 5RG	Netball	Education	Two standard quality macadam netball courts, with no sports lighting, unavailable for community use.	Look to improve court quality with enhanced levels of maintenance for continued school use.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
121	Fenstanton BC	PE28 9JG	Bowls	Sports Club	One standard quality flat green with no sports lighting. Ancillary provision of standard quality.	Look to improve green quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite.	Sports Club BE	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
126	Needingworth Village Hall	PE27 4TU	Bowls	Parish Council	One good quality flat green with no sports lighting. Ancillary provision of good quality.	Sustain green quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	Parish Council BE	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect
126	Needingworth Village Hall	PE27 4TU	Tennis	Parish Council	Three good quality macadam courts, two with sports lighting one without sports lighting. Needingworth TC aspires to install sports lights on the third court. Needingworth TC reports that in recent years it has submitted proposals to the Parish Council to develop a new pavilion. However, the Parish Council has not granted permission for the development.	Sustain court quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to develop sports lighting on third court. Explore the feasibility to develop a new clubhouse for Needingworth TC onsite. Working with the Parish Council to gain permission.	Parish Council LTA	Key centre	M	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
126	Needingworth Village Hall	PE27 4TU	MUGA	Parish Council	One standard quality MUGA with no sports lighting.	Look to improve court quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Parish Council	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
126	Needingworth Village Hall	PE27 4TU	Outdoor gym	Parish Council	One outdoor gym.	Look to maintain and improve quality where required.	Parish Council	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
127	Priory Road Bowling Green	PE27 5GA	Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality flat green with no sports lighting. Ancillary provision of good quality. St Ives BC reports a need for the electrics and heating systems to be updated in the clubhouse.	Sustain green quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to upgrade the electrics and heating systems in the clubhouse.	Parish Council BE	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
148	Wyton on the Hill MUGA	PE28 2EX	MUGA	MOD	One MUGA onsite within the RAF Wyton base.	Improve and sustain court quality with enhanced levels of maintenance for continued MOD use.	MOD	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

## ST NEOTS ANALYSIS AREA

### Summary

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2036)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES <sup>[1]</sup>	Future capacity total in MES
Football (grass pitches)	St Neots	Adult	<b>Shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions</b>	<b>Shortfall of 3 match equivalent sessions</b>
		Youth 11v11	<b>Shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent session</b>	<b>Shortfall of 1 match equivalent session</b>
		Youth 9v9	<b>Shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent session</b>	<b>Shortfall of 1 match equivalent session</b>
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent session	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>
		Mini 5v5	<b>Shortfall of 1 match equivalent session</b>	<b>Shortfall of 2 match equivalent session</b>
	Huntingdonshire	Adult	Spare capacity of 6 match equivalent session	Spare capacity of 2 match equivalent session
		Youth 11v11	<b>Shortfall of 6.5 match equivalent sessions</b>	<b>Shortfall of 11 match equivalent sessions</b>
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent session	<b>Shortfall of 2 match equivalent sessions</b>
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent session	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>
		Mini 5v5	<b>Shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions</b>	<b>Shortfall of 5 match equivalent sessions</b>
3G	Huntingdonshire	Full size, floodlit	<b>Insufficient supply. Shortfalls in the Huntingdon and St Neots Analysis Areas.</b>	<b>Insufficient supply. Shortfalls in the Huntingdon (x2), St Ives and St Neots Analysis Area.</b>
Cricket	St Neots	Saturday	<b>Shortfall of 6 match equivalent sessions a season</b>	<b>Shortfall of 16 match equivalent sessions a season</b>
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 4 match equivalent sessions a season	Spare capacity of 4 match equivalent sessions a season
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 4 match equivalent sessions a season	<b>Shortfall of 1 match equivalent sessions a season</b>
	Huntingdonshire	Saturday	Spare capacity of 12 match equivalent sessions a season	<b>Shortfall of 28 match equivalent sessions a season</b>
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 112 match equivalent sessions a season	Spare capacity of 62 match equivalent sessions a season

<sup>[1]</sup> MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

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Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2036)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES <sup>[1]</sup>	Future capacity total in MES
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 45 match equivalent sessions a season	Spare capacity of 15 match equivalent sessions a season
Rugby union	St Neots	Senior	<b>Shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions</b>	<b>Shortfall of 1 match equivalent sessions</b>
	Huntingdonshire	Senior	<b>Shortfall of 7.5 match equivalent sessions</b>	<b>Shortfall of 9.5 match equivalent sessions</b>
Rugby league	Huntingdonshire	Provision	<b>No active teams, however, demand exists in St Ives.</b>	<b>No active teams, however, demand exists in St Ives. Need to offer access to rugby union pitches for rugby league use through summer if/when demand is reinstated.</b>
Hockey	Huntingdonshire	Full size, floodlit	<b>Insufficient quantity</b>	<b>Insufficient quantity</b>
Tennis	Huntingdonshire	Courts	Capacity for both club and non-club tennis courts can be meet current and future demand at the majority of tennis club sites, only Needingworth TC currently has capacity issues.	Capacity for both club and non-club tennis courts can be meet current and future demand at the majority of tennis club sites, only Needingworth TC currently has capacity issues.
Netball	Huntingdonshire	Courts	<b>Insufficient supply of outdoor netball courts to service the District.</b>	<b>Insufficient supply of outdoor netball courts to service the District.</b>
Bowls	Huntingdonshire	Greens	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>
Athletics	Huntingdonshire	Provision	<i>Sufficient quantity however quality issues</i>	<i>Sufficient quantity however quality issues</i>
MUGAs	Huntingdonshire	Provision	<b>Shortfalls outside of the Huntingdon Analysis Area</b>	<b>Shortfalls outside of the Huntingdon Analysis Area</b>
Other sports	Huntingdonshire	Provision	<i>Generally sufficient quantity</i>	<i>Generally sufficient quantity</i>

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
11	Buckden Recreation Ground	PE19 5UY	Football	Trust	One adult, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch all of poor quality. Ancillary provision of poor quality. Adult pitch is overplayed by 0.5 MES per week. Mini 5v5 pitch is overplayed by one MES per week. Both youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitches are played to capacity. Buckden JFC aspires to refurbish and improve ancillary provision onsite.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite.	Trust HFA FF	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
11	Buckden Recreation Ground	PE19 5UY	Cricket	Trust	One square of standard quality which consist of nine wickets. Ancillary provision of poor quality. Square has spare capacity of ten MES per season. With actual spare capacity to accommodate further teams on Sundays and Midweek.	Look to improve square quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite.	Trust CE ECB	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
11	Buckden Recreation Ground	PE19 5UY	Bowls	Trust	One good quality flat green with no sports lighting. Ancillary provision of good quality.	Sustain green quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	Trust BE	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect
11	Buckden Recreation Ground	PE19 5UY	Tennis	Trust	Four good quality macadam courts with sports lighting available for community use. Buckden TC has had costings for the re-design of the clubhouse as it plans to change and add facilities. The Club wishes to add a larger social room and extension of clubhouse. The Club suggests this is aspirational and needs to secure funding.	Sustain court quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to extend and improve ancillary provision onsite.	Trust LTA	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
17	Crosshall Junior School	PE19 7GG	Netball	Education	Two standard quality macadam netball courts with no sports lighting, unavailable for community use.	Look to improve court quality with enhanced levels of maintenance for continued school use.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
21	Eaton Socon Cricket Club	PE19 8HY	Cricket	Sport Club	One square of good quality which consists of 14 grass wickets. Ancillary provision of standard quality. Square has spare capacity of six MES per season. With actual spare capacity to accommodate further teams Midweek. Two lane fixed net facility of good quality.	Sustain square quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite.	Sports Club CE ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
22	Eaton Sports Ground	PE19 7AU	Football	Sport Club	One good quality adult pitch. Ancillary provision of standard quality. Site is a part of the GPMF. Adult pitch has spare capacity of one MES per week, however, is played to capacity at peak time. Eaton Socon FC has plans to update and improve its ancillary provision.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Continue to utilise GPMF to ensure improvements to pitches are sustained through a dedicated and specific maintenance programme. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite.	Sports Club HFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
25	Ernulf Academy	PE19 2SH	Football	Education	Two standard quality youth 11v11 pitches. Unavailable for community use.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance for continued school use.	School HFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
25	Ernulf Academy	PE19 2SH	Cricket	Education	One poor quality standalone NTP. Unavailable for community use	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance for continued school use.	School CE ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
25	Ernulf Academy	PE19 2SH	Tennis	Council/Education	Six standard quality macadam tennis courts with sports lighting and available for community use. Managed by the One Leisure St Neots team.	Look to improve court quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Council Education LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
25	Ernulf Academy	PE19 2SH	Netball	Council/Education	Three standard quality macadam netball courts with sports lighting and available for community use. Overmarked on tennis courts. Managed by the One Leisure St Neots team.	Look to improve court quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Council Education EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
27	Eynesbury Rovers Football Club	PE19 2SF	Football	Sports Club	One adult (Step pitch), two youth 11v11, two youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch all of good quality. Ancillary provision of standard quality. Site is a part of the GPMF. Mini 7v7 pitches have actual spare capacity of 0.5 MES at peak time. All other pitches are played to capacity. Eynesbury Rovers FC highlights a need to modernise its clubhouse including a need for specific women's and girls' facilities.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Continue to utilise GPMF to ensure improvements to pitches are sustained through a dedicated and specific maintenance programme. Explore the opportunity to develop ancillary provision onsite, including dedicated women's and girls' facilities.	Sports Club HFA FF	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
36	Great Gransden Sports And Recreation Ground	SG19 3BG	Football	Community Organisation	One adult, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches all of poor quality. No dedicated ancillary provision onsite. Adult pitch is overplayed by 0.5 MES per week. Youth 9v9 pitch has spare capacity of 0.5 MES per week, mini 7v7 pitch has spare capacity of 1.5 MES per week, mini 5v5 pitches have spare capacity of 3.5 MES per week, all these pitches have actual spare capacity, however, are discounted due to poor pitch quality.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Once pitch quality is improved look to make use of actual spare capacity available at peak time. Explore the opportunity to develop dedicated ancillary provision onsite.	Community Organisation HFA FF	Key centre	L	L	L-M	Protect Enhance Provide

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36	Great Gransden Sports And Recreation Ground	SG19 3BG	Tennis	Community Organisation	Three good quality macadam courts, with sports lighting and available for community use.	Sustain court quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	Community Organisation LTA	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect
38	Great Paxton Recreation Ground	PE19 6RF	Football	Community Organisation	One adult pitch of poor quality. Ancillary provision of standard quality. Adult pitch is overplayed by 1.5 MES per week.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite.	Community Organisation HFA FF		L	L	L	Protect Enhance
62	Little Paxton Hub	PE19 6QY	Football	Community Organisation	One youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch of poor quality. Ancillary provision of good quality. Youth 9v9 pitch has spare capacity of 0.5 MES, which is also actual spare capacity, however this is discounted due to poor pitch quality.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Once pitch quality is improved look to make use of actual spare capacity available at peak time.	Community Organisation HFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
63	Little Paxton Primary School	PE19 6NG	Netball	Education	One good quality macadam netball court. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
64	Longsands Academy	PE19 1LQ	Football	Education	One standard quality adult pitch. Unavailable for community use.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance for continued school use.	School HFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
64	Longsands Academy	PE19 1LQ	Cricket	Education	One standard quality standalone NTP. Unavailable for community use.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance for continued school use.	School CE ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
64	Longsands Academy	PE19 1LQ	Rugby union	Education	Two senior rugby union pitches of M0/D1 (poor) quality. Unavailable for community use.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance for continued school use.	School RFU	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
64	Longsands Academy	PE19 1LQ	Hockey AGP	Education	One standard quality full size (100x60m) sand based AGP with sports lighting and available for community use. Pitch has spare capacity of 20%. St Neots HC is considered to have unsecure tenure onsite.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Look to secure tenure onsite for St Neots HC through community use agreement.	Council EH	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
64	Longsands Academy	PE19 1LQ	Tennis	Education	Four standard quality macadam courts with no sports lighting and unavailable for community use.	Look to improve court quality with enhanced levels of maintenance for continued school use.	School LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
64	Longsands Academy	PE19 1LQ	Netball	Education	Four good quality and three poor quality macadam netball courts, with no sports lighting and unavailable for community use.	Look to improve court quality with enhanced levels of maintenance for continued school use.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance



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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
75	One Leisure St Neots	PE19 2SA	3G	Council	One good quality full size (101x65m) 3G pitch with sports lighting and available for community use. The pitch has a shock pad. Pitch is on the FA Pitch Register and is WR compliant. Pitch has spare capacity of 25% during the week and spare capacity of 87% on the weekends.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Ensure pitch is on the 3G Register and is retested for compliance so that it can support use for competitive match play and is renewed when required. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time (as per Football Foundation Terms & Conditions), for repair and resurfacing when necessary. Explore the opportunity to make use of weekend spare capacity for competitive match demand.	Council HFA FF	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
75	One Leisure St Neots	PE19 2SA	Hockey AGP	Council	One standard quality small sized (48x35m) sand based AGP, with sports lighting and available for community use. Pitch has been identified in the LFFP for development to a small sized 3G pitch.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to develop pitch into 3G surface. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time (as per Football Foundation Terms & Conditions), for repair and resurfacing when necessary.	Council EH HFA FF	Key centre	M	M	M-H	Protect Enhance Provide
78	Priory Park	PE19 1LN	Football	Council	One adult, two youth 11v11, three youth 9v9, two mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches all of poor quality. Ancillary provision of good quality. Adult pitch is played to capacity. Youth 11v11 pitches are played to capacity. Youth 9v9 pitches are overplayed. Mini pitches have actual spare capacity at peak time discounted due to poor pitch quality.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Once pitch quality is improved look to make use of actual spare capacity available at peak time.	Council HFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
79	Queen Elizabeth II Recreation Ground (Little Paxton)	PE19 6EY	Football	Parish Council	One adult pitch of poor quality. Ancillary provision of poor quality. Adult pitch is unused and currently has spare capacity of one MES per week, however due to poor pitch quality this spare capacity has been discounted.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Once pitch quality is improved look to make use of actual spare capacity available at peak time. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite.	Parish Council HFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
79	Queen Elizabeth II Recreation Ground (Little Paxton)	PE19 6EY	Cricket	Parish Council	One good quality standalone NTP.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	Parish Council CE ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
79	Queen Elizabeth II Recreation Ground (Little Paxton)	PE19 6EY	Outdoor gym	Parish Council	One outdoor gym.	Look to maintain and improve quality where required.	Parish Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

**HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL  
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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
79	Queen Elizabeth II Recreation Ground (Little Paxton)	PE19 6EY	MUGA	Parish Council	One standard quality MUGA with sports lighting.	Look to improve court quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Parish Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
99	St Neots Rugby Club	PE19 1RU	Football	Sport Club	One youth 11v11, one youth 9v9, two mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 all of poor quality. No dedicated ancillary provision servicing football provision. Pitches are mix of overplayed, played to capacity and minimal spare capacity which is discounted due to poor quality. St Neots Town Youth FC currently accesses the site, however it has plans to move off site to a development within Loves Farm East.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Once pitch quality is improved look to make use of actual spare capacity available at peak time. Explore the opportunity to develop dedicated ancillary provision onsite. Support St Neots Town Youth FC in accessing and developing a new site at Loves Farm East.	Sports Club HFA FF	Key centre	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
99	St Neots Rugby Club	PE19 1RU	Rugby union	Sports Club	Two senior, one junior and three mini rugby union pitches all of M1/D1 (standard) quality. Ancillary provision of standard quality. Senior and junior pitches are overplayed. Mini pitches are played to capacity at peak time. St Neots RUFC aspires to redevelop the clubhouse improving the kitchen and changing facilities, whilst also updating and improving disabled access. St Neots RUFC aspires to develop additional sports lighting on training pitch to support midweek training demand.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance/drainage improvement. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite. Explore the opportunity to develop additional sports lighting onsite.	Sports Club RFU	Key centre	L-M	M	L-M	Protect Enhance
101	St Neots Town Football Club	PE19 6SL	Football	Sports Club	One good quality adult pitch (Step pitch with sports lighting). Ancillary provision of standard quality. Adult pitch has spare capacity of 0.5 MES per week, it has potential spare capacity at peak time, however this is discounted to protect step pitch quality. St Neots Town FC reports that its current ancillary facilities does not offer any dedicated women's and girls' facilities.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to develop ancillary provision onsite, with the redevelopment of the changing block to include women's and girls' changing facilities.	Sports Club HFA FF	Key centre	M	S-M	M	Protect Enhance Provide

**HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL  
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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
101	St Neots Town Football Club	PE19 6SL	3G	Sports Club	One good quality full size (107x69m) 3G pitch, with sports lighting and available for community use. Pitch is on the FA 3G pitch register. Pitch has spare capacity of 17% during the week and is played to capacity on weekends.	Sustain pitch quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Ensure pitch is on the 3G Register and is retested for compliance so that it can support use for competitive match play and is renewed when required. Ensure the provider has in place a mechanism for future sustainability, such as a sinking fund formed over time (as per Football Foundation Terms & Conditions), for repair and resurfacing when necessary.	Sports Club HFA FF	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect
115	Waresley Cricket Club	SG19 3BS	Cricket	Sports Club	One square of standard quality which consists of 14 wickets. Ancillary provision of standard quality. Square is overplayed by six MES per season. Square improvements would create actual spare capacity to accommodate an additional midweek team.	Look to improve square quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite. Once square quality is improved look to make use of actual spare capacity if required.	Sports Club CE ECB	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
123	Great Gransden Bowls & Tennis	SG19 3PF	Bowls	Sports Club	One poor quality flat green with no sports lighting. Ancillary provision of standard quality. Gransden & District BC lease of the site expires in 2025.	Look to improve green quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite. Look to secure the future of the site for Gransden & District BC through extension to the lease.	Sports Club BE	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
123	Great Gransden Bowls & Tennis	SG19 3PF	MUGA	Sports Club	One good quality MUGA with no sports lighting.	Sustain court quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	Sports Club	Local	L	L	L	Protect
130	Eynesbury Bowling Club	PE19 2XQ	Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality green with no sports lighting. Ancillary provision of standard quality.	Look to improve green quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite. Look to secure the future of the site for Gransden & District BC through extension to the lease.	Sports Club BE	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
133	St Neots Lawn Tennis Club (& bowls)	PE19 1AP	Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality green with sports lighting. Ancillary provision of good quality.	Sustain green quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	Sports Club BE	Local	L	L	L	Protect
			Tennis		Four good quality macadam court with sports lighting and available for community use.	Sustain court quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	Sports Club LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
140	Sidney Banks Memorial Field	PE19 2GA	Football	Council	Two youth 9v9 pitches of poor quality. Ancillary provision of standard quality. Youth 9v9 pitches have spare capacity of 1.5 MES, with actual spare capacity at peak time, however this is discounted due to poor pitch quality.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite.	Council HFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
141	Loves Farm MUGA	PE19 6SL	MUGA	Council	One poor quality MUGA with no sports lighting.	Look to improve court quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
142	Eaton Socon Bowls Club	PE19 7SB	Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality flat green with no sports lighting. Ancillary provision of standard quality. Eaton Socon BC lease of the site expires in 2025.	Sustain green quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite. Look to secure the future of the site for Eaton Socon BC through extension to the lease.	Sports Club BE	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
145	Plummer Park	PE28 0BN	Trim trail	Council	One trim trail.	Look to maintain and improve quality where required.	Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
156	Southoe MUGA	PE19 5YE	MUGA	Council	One poor quality MUGA with no sports lighting.	Look to improve court quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
157	Yelling Cricket Club	PE19 6SD	Cricket	Sports Club	Previously accommodated a six-wicket grass square. The Club has not competed in 2022, with players travelling to other nearby clubs to take part in cricket activity. The Club has made no statements around re-instating cricket.	Protect the site in accordance with Sport England and NPPF guidelines and explore potential future options for the pitches.	Sports Club CE ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
160	Barnabas Oley Primary School	SG19 3AE	Netball	Education	One standard quality macadam netball court with no sports lighting. Unavailable for community use.	Look to improve court quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
164	Duck Lane	PE19 2DA	MUGA	Council	One standard quality MUGA with no sports lighting.	Look to improve court quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

## WEST ANALYSIS AREA

### Summary

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2036)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES <sup>[1]</sup>	Future capacity total in MES
Football (grass pitches)	West	Adult	Spare capacity of 2.5 match equivalent session	Spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent session
		Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 1 match equivalent session	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>
		Youth 9v9	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>
		Mini 7v7	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>
		Mini 5v5	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>	<b>Shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent session</b>
	Huntingdonshire	Adult	Spare capacity of 6 match equivalent session	Spare capacity of 2 match equivalent session
		Youth 11v11	<b>Shortfall of 6.5 match equivalent sessions</b>	<b>Shortfall of 11 match equivalent sessions</b>
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent session	<b>Shortfall of 2 match equivalent sessions</b>
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent session	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>
		Mini 5v5	<b>Shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions</b>	<b>Shortfall of 5 match equivalent sessions</b>
3G	Huntingdonshire	Full size, floodlit	<b>Insufficient supply. Shortfalls in the Huntingdon and St Neots Analysis Areas.</b>	<b>Insufficient supply. Shortfalls in the Huntingdon (x2), St Ives and St Neots Analysis Area.</b>
Cricket	West	Saturday	<b>Shortfall of 3 match equivalent sessions a season</b>	<b>Shortfall of 3 match equivalent sessions a season</b>
		Sunday	<b>Shortfall of 3 match equivalent sessions a season</b>	<b>Shortfall of 3 match equivalent sessions a season</b>
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 2 match equivalent sessions a season	<b>Shortfall of 3 match equivalent sessions a season</b>
	Huntingdonshire	Saturday	Spare capacity of 12 match equivalent sessions a season	<b>Shortfall of 28 match equivalent sessions a season</b>
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 112 match equivalent sessions a season	Spare capacity of 62 match equivalent sessions a season

<sup>[1]</sup> MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2036)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES <sup>[1]</sup>	Future capacity total in MES
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 45 match equivalent sessions a season	Spare capacity of 15 match equivalent sessions a season
Rugby union	West	Senior	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>
	Huntingdonshire	Senior	<b>Shortfall of 7.5 match equivalent sessions</b>	<b>Shortfall of 9.5 match equivalent sessions</b>
Rugby league	Huntingdonshire	Provision	<b>No active teams, however, demand exists in St Ives.</b>	<b>No active teams, however, demand exists in St Ives. Need to offer access to rugby union pitches for rugby league use through summer if/when demand is reinstated.</b>
Hockey	Huntingdonshire	Full size, floodlit	<b>Insufficient quantity</b>	<b>Insufficient quantity</b>
Tennis	Huntingdonshire	Courts	Capacity for both club and non-club tennis courts can be meet current and future demand at the majority of tennis club sites, only Needingworth TC currently has capacity issues.	Capacity for both club and non-club tennis courts can be meet current and future demand at the majority of tennis club sites, only Needingworth TC currently has capacity issues.
Netball	Huntingdonshire	Courts	<b>Insufficient supply of outdoor netball courts to service the District.</b>	<b>Insufficient supply of outdoor netball courts to service the District.</b>
Bowls	Huntingdonshire	Greens	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>	<i>Sufficient quantity</i>
Athletics	Huntingdonshire	Provision	<i>Sufficient quantity however quality issues</i>	<i>Sufficient quantity however quality issues</i>
MUGAs	Huntingdonshire	Provision	<b>Shortfalls outside of the Huntingdon Analysis Area</b>	<b>Shortfalls outside of the Huntingdon Analysis Area</b>
Other sports	Huntingdonshire	Provision	<i>Generally sufficient quantity</i>	<i>Generally sufficient quantity</i>

**HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL  
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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
5	Alconbury Sports and Social Club	PE28 4EX	Football	Community Organisation	One adult of standard quality. One adult, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 all of poor quality. Ancillary provision of standard quality. Actual spare capacity on adult and youth pitches discounted due to poor pitch quality. Mini 7v7 pitch is played to capacity at peak time.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Once pitch quality is improved look to make use of actual spare capacity available at peak time. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite.	Community Organisation HFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
5	Alconbury Sports and Social Club	PE28 4EX	3G	Community Organisation	One standard quality small sized (40x20m) 3G pitch with sports lighting and available for community use.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Community Organisation HFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
5	Alconbury Sports and Social Club	PE28 4EX	Cricket	Community Organisation	One square of standard quality, which consists of nine wickets and one NTP. Ancillary provision of standard quality. Square has spare capacity of five MES per season. With actual spare capacity to accommodate further teams Midweek.	Look to improve square quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite.	Community Organisation CE ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
15	Catworth Playing Field	PE28 0PE	Football	Community Organisation	One adult and one youth 11v11 of standard quality. Ancillary provision of good quality. Adult pitch has spare capacity of 1.5 MES per week, with actual spare capacity of one MES at peak time. Youth 11v11 pitch is unused and offers spare capacity of two MES per week, actual spare capacity of one MES at peak time.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite. Look to make use of actual spare capacity if required.	Community Organisation HFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
15	Catworth Playing Field	PE28 0PE	MUGA	Community Organisation	One standard quality MUGA with sports lighting.	Look to improve court quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Community Organisation	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
34	Grafham Recreation Ground	PE28 0GA	Football	Parish Council	One adult pitch of standard quality. Ancillary provision of poor quality. Adult pitch is unused, with spare capacity of two MES per week, with actual spare capacity of one MES at peak time.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite. Look to make use of actual spare capacity if required.	Parish Council HFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
34	Grafham Recreation Ground	PE28 0GA	Cricket	Parish Council	Previously accommodated a five wicket squares. However, the site has not been maintained nor used for cricket since 2017.	Protect the site in accordance with Sport England and NPPF guidelines and explore potential future options for the pitches.	Parish Council CE ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
34	Grafham Recreation Ground	PE28 0GA	MUGA	Parish Council	One good quality MUGA with sports lighting.	Sustain court quality with appropriate levels of maintenance.	Parish Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect
39	Great Staughton Playing Fields	PE19 5BG	Cricket	Community Organisation	Previously accommodated a five wicket squares. However, the site has not been maintained nor used for cricket since 2017.  One lane fixed net facility of poor quality.	Protect the site in accordance with Sport England and NPPF guidelines and explore potential future options for the pitches. Look to improve fixed net facility.	Community Organisation CE ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

**HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL  
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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
39	Great Staughton Playing Fields	PE19 5BG	Tennis	Community Organisation	Two poor quality macadam courts with no sports lighting, available for community use.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Community Organisation LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
41	Hail Weston Playing Fields	PE19 5JT	Football	Council	Previously had a formally marked football pitch. In recent years the site has undergone some development, with an informal pitch of mini 7v7 size currently having no markings, however goal posts are installed.	Protect the site in accordance with Sport England and NPPF guidelines and explore potential future options for the pitches. Look to improve fixed net facility.	Council HFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
41	Hail Weston Playing Fields	PE19 5JT	Outdoor gym	Council	One outdoor gym.	Look to maintain and improve quality where required.	Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
41	Hail Weston Playing Fields	PE19 5JT	MUGA	Council	One standard quality half size MUGA, with no sports lighting.	Look to improve court quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
41	Hail Weston Playing Fields	PE19 5JT	Trim trail	Council	One trim trail.	Look to maintain and improve quality where required.	Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
46	HMP Littlehey	PE28 0SS	3G	Government	Two standard quality small size (60x40m) 3G pitches with no sports lighting, unavailable for community use.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Government HFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
54	Kimbolton Cricket Club	PE28 0HR	Cricket	Sport Club	One square of good quality which consists of 13 wickets. Ancillary provision of standard quality. Square is overplayed by three MES per season. Two lane fixed net facility of standard quality. Kimbolton CC aspires to have additional net facility onsite.	Sustain square quality with appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite. Explore the opportunity to develop additional fixed net facilities onsite.	Sports Club CE EC	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
54	Kimbolton Cricket Club	PE28 0HR	Outdoor gym	Sports Club	One outdoor gym.	Look to maintain and improve quality where required.	Sports Club	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
55	Kimbolton Prep School	PE28 0JJ	Cricket	Education	One square of good quality which consists of eight wickets. Two good quality standalone NTPs. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain square quality with appropriate levels of maintenance for continued school use.	School CE ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
55	Kimbolton Prep School	PE28 0JJ	Tennis	Education	Three good quality macadam courts with no sports lighting, unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality with appropriate levels of maintenance for continued school use.	School LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
56	Kimbolton School	PE28 0EA	Football	Education	Two adult and one youth 9v9 pitch of standard quality. Unavailable for community use.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance for continued school use.	School HFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
56	Kimbolton School	PE28 0EA	Cricket	Education	One square of good quality which consists of 11 wickets. One good quality standalone NTPs. Unavailable for community use.	Sustain square quality with appropriate levels of maintenance for continued school use.	School CE ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
56	Kimbolton School	PE28 0EA	Hockey AGP	Education	One good quality full size (97x60m) sand based AGP with sports lighting. One standard quality full size (100x60m) sand based AGP with no sports lighting. One good quality small size (61x32m) sand based AGP with no sports lighting.	Sustain and improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance for continued school use.	School EH	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance



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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
					All are unavailable for community use.							
56	Kimbolton School	PE28 0EA	Tennis	Education	Five standard quality macadam courts with no sports lighting unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality with appropriate levels of maintenance for continued school use.	School LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
56	Kimbolton School	PE28 0EA	Netball	Education	Two poor quality macadam netball courts with no sports lighting and unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality with appropriate levels of maintenance for continued school use.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
57	Kimbolton Town Colts FC	PE28 0HR	Football	Sport Club	One youth 11v11 pitch of standard quality. Ancillary provision of standard quality. Youth 11v11 pitch has spare capacity of 0.5 MES per week, however it is played to capacity at peak time.	Look to improve pitch quality with enhanced levels of maintenance. Explore the opportunity to improve ancillary provision onsite.	Sports Club HFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
61	Leighton Playing Field	PE28 5AW	Tennis	Parish Council	One poor quality artificial turf court with no sports lighting, available for community use.	Look to improve court quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Parish Council LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
120	Ellington Recreation Ground	PE28 0AJ	MUGA	Council	One poor quality half size MUGA, with no sports lighting.	Look to improve court quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
146	Kimbolton Village Hall	PE28 0HW	Trim trail	Council	One trim trail.	Look to maintain and improve quality where required.	Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
147	Molesworth MUGA	PE28 0QD	MUGA	Council	One standard quality half size MUGA, with no sports lighting.	Look to improve court quality with enhanced levels of maintenance.	Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
158	Grafham Play Area	PE28 0GD	Outdoor gym	Council	One outdoor gym.	Look to maintain and improve quality where required.	Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
158	Grafham Play Area	PE28 0GD	Trim trail	Council	One trim trail.	Look to maintain and improve quality where required.	Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

## PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

The PPOSS provides an estimate of future demand based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2036 (in line with the local plan for Huntingdonshire). For pitch sports, the Playing Pitch Calculator adds to this, updating the likely demand generated based on housing increases and converting this demand into match equivalent sessions and the potential number of pitches required. This is achieved by taking the current population and team generation rates identified in the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth. It then gives the associated costs that may be required to accommodate the increased demand.

There is an expectation from Sport England that the Calculator should be used as a guide by local authorities with a robust PPOSS in place to determine demand increases and to secure developer contributions. As such, the scenarios below provide examples, based on proposed housing growth in East Suffolk, to better show how the Playing Pitch Calculator works and to help understand the potential additional demand for pitch sports that may be generated from housing growth in the District. This is in addition to potential associated costs.

The scenario below is provided as a guide to show the potential additional demand for pitch sports that could be generated from housing growth in Huntingdonshire over the Local Plan period thus showing how the calculator works and what it provides.

### ◀ **Scenario 1:** ONS growth forecast over the Local Plan period (8,457 residents)

The demand is shown in match equivalent sessions per week for most sports, except for cricket, where match equivalent sessions are by season. Training demand is expressed in either hours or match equivalent sessions. Where expressed in hours, it is expected that demand will be to either a 3G pitch (to accommodate football demand) or an AGP (to accommodate hockey demand). Where expressed in match equivalent sessions, it is expected training will take place on floodlit grass pitches.

### **Scenario 1: Population growth over the Local Plan period**

*Table 7.1: Likely demand for pitch sports generated from population growth (8,457 residents)*

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport	
	Match equivalent sessions	Training demand
Adult football	1.91 per week	16.51 hours
Youth football	3.74 per week	
Mini soccer	2.61 per week	
Rugby union	0.66 per week	0.76 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0.00 per week	0.00 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.50 per week	1.50 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.37 per week	0.35 hours
Cricket	42.50 per season	N/A

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

The table below translates estimated demand into new pitch provision with associated capital and lifecycle costs (based on Sport England's Facility Cost Guidance). The total capital cost for accommodating the growth in demand equates to £1,452,977 for pitches and £2,250,357 for changing rooms. This is in addition to lifecycle costs of £210,178 per annum.

*Table 7.2: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision*

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches			Changing rooms	
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost	Lifecycle Cost (per annum)	Number	Capital cost
Adult football	1.91	£191,176	£40,338	3.82	£659,557
Youth football	3.74	£299,118	£62,815	4.96	£854,924
Mini soccer	2.61	£65,131	£13,678	N/A	N/A
Rugby union	0.66	£92,749	£19,848	1.32	£228,561
Rugby league	0	£0	£0	0	£0
Cricket	0.91	£268,748	£54,287	1.82	£314,298
Sand based AGPs	0.12	£103,701	£3,215	0.25	£43,105
3G	0.43	£432,353	£15,997	0.87	£149,911

The findings of this scenario and the PPC need to be adjudged against the findings of the PPOSS to look at utilisation of existing spare capacity and the impact of improving existing provision before further provision is provided.

### **PART 8: DELIVER THE STRATEGY AND KEEP IT ROBUST AND UP TO DATE**

#### ***Delivery***

The PPOSS seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across Huntingdonshire. By addressing the issues identified in the Assessment Report and using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of Huntingdonshire can be satisfied. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies how best to resolve this in the future.

It is important that this document is used in a practical manner, is engaged with partners and encourages partnerships to be developed and maintained to ensure that outdoor sports facilities are regarded as a vital aspect of community life and which contribute to the achievement of Council priorities. The Strategy should therefore be regarded as part of the planning process, with the success of study and the benefits that are gained from it being dependent upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a strategic approach. Each member of the steering group should take the lead to ensure the PPOSS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence.

To help ensure that the PPOSS is well used, it should be regarded as the key document within the study area, guiding the improvement and protection of playing pitch and outdoor sports provision. It needs to be the document people regularly turn to for information on the how current demand is being met and what actions are required to improve the situation and meet future demand, as well as when development proposals come forward or when funding bids are made. For this to be achieved, the Steering Group needs to have a clear understanding of how the PPOSS can be applied and therefore delivered.

The process of completing the PPOSS will hopefully have already resulted in a number of benefits that will help with its application and delivery. These may include enhanced partnership working across different agendas and organisations, pooling of resources along with strengthening relationships and understanding between different stakeholders and between members of the Steering Group and the sporting community. The drivers behind the PPOSS and the work to develop the recommendations and action plan will have also highlighted, and helped the Steering Group to understand, the key areas to which it can be applied and how it can be delivered.

#### ***Monitoring and updating***

Once the PPOSS is complete, it is advised that the Steering Group is kept together, with twice-yearly meetings recommended and often encouraged by Sport England and the NGBs. The purpose of these meetings is to:

- ◀ Act as a focal point for promoting the value and importance of the PPOSS and provision in the area.
- ◀ Monitor, evaluate and review progress with the delivery of the recommendations and action plan.
- ◀ Share lessons learnt from how the PPOSS has been used and how it has been applied to a variety of circumstances.
- ◀ Ensure the PPOSS is used effectively to input into any new opportunities to secure improved provision and influence relevant programmes and initiatives.
- ◀ Maintain links between all relevant parties with an interest provision in the area.
- ◀ Review the need to update the PPOSS along with the supply and demand information and assessment work on which it is based.

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Alongside regular steering group meetings, a good way to keep the strategy up to date and maintain relationships is to also hold sport specific meetings with the NGBs and other relevant parties. These should look to update the key supply and demand information, if necessary amend the assessment work, track progress with implementing the recommendations and action plan and highlight any new issues and opportunities.

The meetings could be timed to fit with the annual affiliation process undertaken by the NGBs, which would help to capture any changes in the number and nature of sports clubs in the area. Other information that is already collected on a regular basis such as pitch booking records for local authority and other sites could also be fed in.

As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPOS being signed off, then Sport England and the NGBs would consider it and the information on which it is based to be out of date. The nature of the supply and in particular the demand for provision is likely to change year-on-year; therefore, without any form of review and update, it would be difficult to make the case that the supply and demand information and assessment work is sufficiently robust.


A review should not be regarded as a particularly resource intensive task. However, it should highlight:

- ◀ How the delivery of the recommendations and action plan has progressed and any changes required to the priority afforded to each action (e.g. the priority of some may increase following the delivery of others).
- ◀ How the PPOSS has been applied and the lessons learnt.
- ◀ Any changes to particularly important sites and/or clubs in the area (e.g. the most used or high quality sites for a particular sport) and other supply and demand information, what this may mean for the overall assessment work and the key findings and issues
- ◀ Any development of a specific sport or particular format of a sport
- ◀ Any new or emerging issues and opportunities.

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## Checklist

To help ensure the PPOSS is delivered and is kept robust and up to date, the steering group can refer to the new methodology Stage E Checklist: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date: <http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-and-guidance/playing-pitch-strategy-guidance/>

Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date	Tick 	
	Yes	Requires Attention
<b>Step 9: Apply &amp; deliver the strategy</b>		
1. Are steering group members clear on how the PPS can be applied across a range of relevant areas?		
2. Is each member of the steering group committed to taking the lead to help ensure the PPS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence?		
3. Has a process been put in place to ensure regular monitoring of how the recommendations and action plan are being delivered and the PPS is being applied?		
<b>Step 10: Keep the strategy robust &amp; up to date</b>		
1. Has a process been put in place to ensure the PPS is kept robust and up to date?		
2. Does the process involve an annual update of the PPS?		
3. Is the steering group to be maintained and is it clear of its on-going role?		
4. Is regular liaison with the NGBs and other parties planned?		
5. Has all the supply and demand information been collated and presented in a format (i.e. single document that can be filtered accordingly) that will help people to review it and highlight any changes?		
6. Have any changes made to the Active Places Power data been fed back to Sport England?		

### APPENDIX ONE: SPORTING CONTEXT

The following section outlines a series of national, regional and local policies pertaining to the study and which will have an important influence on the Strategy.

#### National context

The provision of high quality and accessible community outdoor sports facilities at a local level is a key requirement for achieving the targets set out by the Government and Sport England. It is vital that this strategy is cognisant of and works towards these targets in addition to local priorities and plans.

#### ***Department of Media Culture and Sport Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation (2015)***

The Government published its strategy for sport in December 2015. This strategy confirms the recognition and understanding that sport makes a positive difference through broader means and that it will help the sector to deliver five simple but fundamental outcomes: physical health, mental health, individual development, social and community development and economic development. In order to measure its success in producing outputs which accord with these aims it has also adopted a series of 23 performance indicators under nine key headings, as follows:

- ◀ More people taking part in sport and physical activity.
- ◀ More people volunteering in sport.
- ◀ More people experiencing live sport.
- ◀ Maximising international sporting success.
- ◀ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◀ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◀ A more productive sport sector.
- ◀ A more financially and organisationally sustainable sport sector.
- ◀ A more responsible sport sector.

#### ***Sport England: Uniting the Movement 2021***

Sport and physical activity has a big role to play in improving the physical and mental health of the nation, supporting the economy, reconnecting communities and rebuilding a stronger society for all. From this notion, Sport England has recently released its new strategy, Uniting the Movement, its 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity.

It seeks to tackle the inequalities long seen in sport and physical activity. Providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity, has never been more important.

There are three key objectives to the Strategy:

- ◀ Advocating for movement, sport and physical activity.
- ◀ Joining forces on five big issues
- ◀ Creating the catalyst for change

In particular, the five big issues are identified where the greatest potential is seen for preventing and tackling inequalities in sport and physical activity. Each one is a building block that, on its own, would make a difference, but together, could change things profoundly:

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**Recover and reinvent:** Recovering from the biggest crisis in a generation and reinventing as a vibrant, relevant and sustainable network of organisations providing sport and physical activity opportunities that meet the needs of different people.

**Connecting communities:** Focusing on sport and physical activity's ability to make better places to live and bring people together.

**Positive experiences for children and young people:** Unrelenting focus on positive experiences for all children and young people as the foundations for a long and healthy life.

**Connecting with health and wellbeing:** Strengthening the connections between sport, physical activity, health and wellbeing, so more people can feel the benefits of, and advocate for, an active life.

**Active environments:** Creating and protecting the places and spaces that make it easier for people to be active.

The specific impact of the Strategy will be captured through programmes funded, interventions made, and partnerships forged. For each specific area of action, a set of key performance indicators will be developed. This hybrid approach will help evidence the overall progress being made by all those involved in supporting sport and physical activity.

### **National Planning Policy Framework (2019)**

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out planning policies for England. It details how these changes are expected to be applied to the planning system. It also provides a framework for local people and their councils to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

The NPPF states the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It identifies that the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

The 'promoting healthy communities' theme identifies that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficiencies or surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite the NPPF states existing open space, sports and recreation buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown that the open space, buildings or land is surplus to requirements.
- ◀ The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location.
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

In order for planning policies to be 'sound' local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities.



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### ***The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28)***

The Football Association's (FA) National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS) provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a ten-year period.

The Strategy sets out shared aims and objectives it aims to deliver on in conjunction with The Premier League, Sport England and the Government, to be delivered with support of the Football Foundation.

These stakeholders have clearly identified the aspirations for football to contribute directly to nationally important social and health priorities. Alongside this, the strategy is clear that traditional, affiliated football remains an important priority and a core component of the game, whilst recognising and supporting the more informal environments used for the community and recreational game.

Its vision is: *"Within 10 years we aim to deliver great football facilities, wherever they are needed"*

£1.3 billion has been spent by football and Government since 2000 to enhance existing football facilities and build new ones. However, more is needed if football and Government's shared objectives for participation, individual well-being and community cohesion are to be achieved. Nationally, direct investment will be increased – initially to £69 million per annum from football and Government (a 15% increase on recent years).

The NFFS investment priorities can be broadly grouped into six areas, recognising the need to grow the game, support existing players and better understand the different football environments:

- ◀ **Improve 20,000 Natural Turf pitches**, with a focus on addressing drop off due to a poor playing experience;
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 3G AGP 'equivalents'** (mix of full size and small sided provision, including MUGAs - small sided facilities are likely to have a key role in smaller / rural communities and encouraging multi-sport offers), enhancing the quality of playing experience and supporting a sustainable approach to grass roots provision;
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 changing pavilions/clubhouses**, linked to multi-pitch or hub sites, supporting growth (particularly in women and girls football), sustainability and providing a facility infrastructure to underpin investment in coaching, officials and football development;
- ◀ **Support access to flexible indoor spaces**, including equipment and court markings, to support growth in futsal, walking football and to support the education and skills outcomes, exploiting opportunities for football to positively impact on personal and social outcomes for young people in particular;
- ◀ **Refurbish existing stock to maintain current provision**, recognising the need to address historic under-investment and issues with refurbishment of existing facilities;
- ◀ **Support testing of technology and innovation**, building on customer insight to deliver hubs for innovation, testing and development of the game.

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### ***The FA: National Game Strategy (2018-2021)***

The FA launched its new National Game Strategy in July 2018 which aims to inspire a life-long journey in football for all. To achieve this, the strategy will focus on five key aspects of the game:

- ◀ A high quality introduction to football
- ◀ Developing clubs and leagues
- ◀ Embrace all formats of football and engage all participants
- ◀ Recruit, develop and support the workforce
- ◀ Develop sustainable facilities

Through these five pillars, The FA's objectives are to:

- ◀ Increase the number of male affiliated and recreational players by 10%.
- ◀ Double the number of female affiliated and recreational players via a growth of 75%.
- ◀ Increase the number of disability affiliated and recreational players by 30%.
- ◀ Ensure affiliated Futsal is available across the country in order to increase the number of Futsal affiliated and recreational players.

The sustainable football facilities should provide support to an agreed portfolio of priority projects that meet National Football Facility Strategy (NFFS) investment priorities.

### ***England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Inspiring Generations (2020-2024)***

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic plan in 2019. The strategic plan aims to connect communities and improve lives by inspiring people to discover and share their passion for cricket

The plan sets out six important priorities and activities, these are:

- ◀ ***Grow and nurture the core***
  - ◀ Create an infrastructure investment fund for First Class County Clubs (FCCs)
  - ◀ Introduce a new Community Investment Funding for FCCs and County Cricket Boards (CCBs)
  - ◀ Invest in club facilities
  - ◀ Develop the role of National Counties Cricket
  - ◀ Further invest in County Competitions
- ◀ ***Inspire through elite teams***
  - ◀ Increase investment in the county talent pathway
  - ◀ Incentivise the counties to develop England Players
  - ◀ Drive the performance system through technology and innovation
  - ◀ Create heroes and connect them with a new generation of fans
- ◀ ***Make cricket accessible***
  - ◀ Broaden crickets appeal through the New Competition
  - ◀ Create a new digital community for cricket
  - ◀ Install non-traditional playing facilities in urban areas
  - ◀ Continue to deliver South Asian Action Plans
  - ◀ Launch a new participation product, linked to the New Competition
- ◀ ***Engage children and young people***
  - ◀ Double cricket participation in primary schools
  - ◀ Deliver a compelling and coordinated recreational playing offer from age five upwards
  - ◀ Develop our safeguarding to promote safe spaces for children and young people

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- ◀ **Transform women's and girls' cricket**
  - ◀ Grow the base through participation and facilities investment
  - ◀ Launch centres of excellence and a new elite domestic structure
  - ◀ Invest in girls' county age group cricket
  - ◀ Deliver a girls' secondary school programme
- ◀ **Support our communities**
  - ◀ Double the number of volunteers in the game
  - ◀ Create a game-wide approach to Trust and Foundations through the cricket network
  - ◀ Develop a new wave of officials and community coaches
  - ◀ Increase participation in disability cricket

### ***The Rugby Football Union Strategic Plan (2017-2021)***

The RFU has released its new strategic vision for rugby in England. The strategy is based on four main elements which are; Protect, Engage, Grow and Win. It covers all elements of rugby union ranging from elite rugby to grassroots, although the general relevancy to the PPS is centred around growing the game.

The RFU exists to promote and develop rugby union in England and ensure the long-term sustainability of clubs by growing player numbers and retaining them across all age groups. Responding to wider market influences, work will continue on developing new ways to take part in all forms of the game, without comprising the sports traditions. This will ensure a lasting legacy from elite success by attracting new players and encouraging current male and female adult players to play.

The four key aims to ensure long term sustainability are to:

- ◀ Improve player transition from age grade to adult 15-a-side rugby
- ◀ Expand places to play through Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs)
- ◀ Engage new communities in rugby
- ◀ Create a community 7's offering

### ***England Hockey (EH) - A Nation Where Hockey Matters 2013***

The vision is for England to be a 'Nation Where Hockey Matters'.

We know that delivering success on the international stage stimulates the nation's pride in their hockey team and, with the right events in place, we will attract interest from spectators, sponsors and broadcasters alike. The visibility that comes from our success and our occasions will inspire young people and adults to follow in the footsteps of their heroes and, if the right opportunities are there to meet their needs, they will play hockey and enjoy wonderful experiences.

Underpinning all this is the infrastructure which makes our sport function. We know the importance of our volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and facilities. The more inspirational our people can be, the more progressive we can be and the more befitting our facilities can be, the more we will achieve for our sport. EH will enable this to happen and we are passionate about our role within the sport. We will lead, support, counsel, focus and motivate the Hockey Nation and work tirelessly towards our vision.

As a governing body, we want to have a recognisable presence to participants of the game, be that through club or association website or their communications, or through the work of the many outstanding coaches in our game, so that players understand that their club is part of a wider team working together to a common goal.

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The core objectives are as follows:

- ◀ Grow our Participation
- ◀ Deliver International Success
- ◀ Increase our Visibility
- ◀ Enhance our Infrastructure
- ◀ For EH to be proud and respected custodians of the sport

### *Club participation*

Our club market is well structured and clubs are required to affiliate to EH to play in community leagues. As a result only relatively few occasional teams lie outside our affiliation structure. Schools and Universities are the other two areas where significant hockey is played.

Hockey is clearly benefiting from a double Olympic legacy. After Great Britain's women won bronze in front of a home crowd in London in 2012 the numbers of young girls playing the sport doubled and a historic gold in Rio 2016 saw more than 10,000 players promptly joining clubs. These triumphs have inspired the nation to get active and play hockey. Thanks to the outstanding work of the network of clubs across the country, EH has seen unprecedented growth at both ends of the age range. There has been an 80% increase in the number of boys and girls in clubs, as well as a 54% increase in players over the age of 46.

Hockey clubs have reaped the rewards of the improved profile of the sport, focussing on a link with schools to provide excellent opportunities for young players. Programmes such as Quick sticks – a small-sided version of hockey for 7-11 year olds – in Primary Schools have been hugely successful in allowing new players to take part in the sport from an early age. The growth in the sport since the eve of London 2012 has been seen across the country, examples being a 110% increase in under 16s club participation in London, and a 111% growth in the North West in the same age bracket.

### ***Rugby Football League Strategic Plan 2015 – 2021***

The RFL's most recent strategy aims to establish rugby league as "a growing sport, available throughout the country, that is recognised as providing positive experience for all participants and spectators, in environments that are welcoming, inclusive, vibrant, safe and comfortable - encouraging people to return again and again, featuring:

- ◀ Financially viable and sustainable professional clubs creating stable employment opportunities, showcasing local, national and international playing talent, and leading the sport's development - and making a difference - in their own communities;
- ◀ Welcoming community clubs, putting players first, offering recreational enjoyment for children and adults alike in a safe and inclusive environment;
- ◀ A central organisation that stands out for excellence, innovation, mutual respect, integrity and inclusion that understands its role in servicing the wider sport;
- ◀ A sports that lives its values in all its decisions and actions.

This vision is underpinned by 13 core principles, including:

- ◀ **An integrated whole sport.** Each constituent part of the sport will have a responsibility to ensure the good health of the entire game;
- ◀ **Return on investment.** Investment will be targeted to ensure the sustainability of member clubs, and growth in the number and quality of players thus seeking an effective return for the game;

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- ◀ **Financial parameters.** Financial distributions will be undertaken to ensure the whole of the game will move forward together;
- ◀ **Geographic expansion.** Geographic expansion of the sport should be carried out in a proportionate and sustainable manner.

### ***Rugby League World Cup ‘Inspired by 2022’ Legacy Programme***

The Rugby League World Cup 2022 will develop a £10 million legacy programme with funds driven into local clubs and community projects. The government investment, delivered by Sport England, is part of RLWC 2021’s ambitious plan to grow the sport and make it more visible, engaging and welcoming to current and potential participants.

The funding will be split into large transformational community projects, such as changing room improvements and new artificial grass pitches with the remaining funding used for smaller scale initiatives such as supplying new kit and equipment to promote club and community development. The investment will focus on the following four key areas:

- ◀ Creating welcoming environments
- ◀ Encouraging participation growth
- ◀ Building community engagement
- ◀ Cultivating further investment

### ***England Hockey Strategy***

EH’s Facilities Strategy can be found [here](#).

**Vision:** For every hockey club in England to have appropriate and sustainable facilities that provide excellent experiences for players.

**Mission:** More, Better, Happier Players with access to appropriate and sustainable facilities

The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

- ◀ **PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision**
  - There are currently over 800 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities) across the country. It is important to retain the current provision where appropriate to ensure that hockey is maintained across the country.
- ◀ **IMPROVE: To improve the existing facilities stock (physically and administratively)**
  - The current facilities stock is ageing and there needs to be strategic investment into refurbishing the pitches and ancillary facilities. EH works to provide more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers & education around owning an asset.
- ◀ **DEVELOP: To strategically build new hockey facilities where there is an identified need and ability to deliver and maintain. This might include consolidating hockey provision in a local area where appropriate.**

EH has identified key areas across the country where there is a lack of suitable hockey provision and there is a need for additional pitches, suitable for hockey. There is an identified

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demand for multi pitches in the right places to consolidate hockey and allow clubs to have all of their provision catered for at one site.

### ***LTA Facilities Investment Strategy – Vision for the 2020 and beyond***

The LTA has developed a programme of action based on seven core strategies. These are:

- ◀ Visibility – Broaden relevance and increase visibility of tennis all year round to build engagement and participation with fans and players.
- ◀ Innovation – Innovate in the delivery of tennis to widen its appeal.
- ◀ Investment – Support community facilities and schools to increase the opportunities to play.
- ◀ Accessibility – Make the customer journey to playing tennis easier and more accessible for anyone.
- ◀ Engagement – Engage and collaborate with everyone involved in delivering tennis in Britain, particularly coaches and volunteers, to attract and maintain more people in the game.
- ◀ Performance – Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.
- ◀ Leadership – Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.

The LTA Facilities Investment Framework sets out how it intends to deliver the investment to support community accessible tennis facilities. The focus will be on:

- ◀ New and existing indoor tennis centres
- ◀ Park tennis
- ◀ Tennis clubs
- ◀ Schools and other educational establishments

The key principles of the framework are to:

- ◀ Help fund projects through interest free loans.
- ◀ Invest in venues that have a proven record of increasing participation.
- ◀ Invest where there is thorough community engagement.
- ◀ Support venues that encourage participation growth.
- ◀ Targeted investment that is demand-led.
- ◀ Support venues that have successfully sourced partnership funding.

### ***England Netball - Your Game, Your Way 2013-17***

Even though this Plan is out of date, England Netball remains committed to its '10-1-1' mission, vision and values that form the fundamentals for its strategic planning for the future for the sport and business.

To facilitate the successful achievement of Netball 10:1:1 and Goal 4, England Netball will:

- ◀ Accelerate the participation growth by extending our market penetration and reach through the activation of a range of existing and new participant-focused products and programmes that access new and targeted markets.
- ◀ Increase the level of long-term participant retention through targeting programmes at known points of attrition and easy transition through the market segments, supported by an infrastructure that reflects the participant needs and improves their netball experience.

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- ◀ Build a sustainable performance pathway and system built on the principles of purposeful practice and appropriate quality athlete coach contact time.
- ◀ Develop sustainable revenue streams through the commercialisation of a portfolio of products and programmes and increasing membership sales. This will also include the creation of cost efficiencies and improved value for money through innovative partnerships and collaborations in all aspects of the business.
- ◀ Establish high standards of leadership and governance that protect the game and its people and facilitates the on-going growth and transformation of the NGB and sport.

### ***Bowls England: Fit for the Future (2021-2026)***

Bowls England's new Strategy; 'Fit For The Future' frames an exciting course for the sport. The five-year plan has been designed with the ultimate goal of getting more people playing & enjoying bowls. It sets out its vision for the sport, how it plans to achieve its objectives and what success looks like in 2026. The priorities that will get it to the target of 1 million bowls experiences per year by 2026 are:

- ◀ Building the brand of bowls by increasing focus on international & top domestic bowls, and utilizing opportunities such as Birmingham 2022 to achieve larger media coverage;
- ◀ Ensuring the sport is truly accessible to all by offering different formats of the game which suit all time constraints, as well as driving more people to clubs in new ways;
- ◀ Creating positive playing experiences for everyone who steps on the green, both for casual and competitive players, as well as growing our events calendar and introducing a Performance Pathway
- ◀ Putting volunteers first, as the lifeblood of our sport, by increasing our support for clubs in order to empower them to thrive;
- ◀ Leading the sport with purpose by developing our Governance structures, diversifying our revenue streams, and work collaboratively with all the sport's key stakeholders.

### ***England Athletics Strategic Plan – Athletics & Running: for everyone, forever – 2017 and beyond***

This plan sets out England Athletics' mission, vision and strategic priorities that will direct how they work as an organisation during the coming years: what they do and how they will do it.

**Vision:** Make athletics and running the most inclusive and popular sport in England, led by a network of progressive clubs and organisations and supported by a sustainable, respected and trusted governing body.

For England Athletics to achieve this vision, they will focus on three values:

- Pride – taking pride in their work and demonstrating to athletes that they recognise the importance of their role in bettering athletics.
- Integrity – demonstrate integrity to earn respect and to build effective partnerships.
- Inclusivity – promote inclusivity in all their actions.

**Mission:** To grow opportunities for everyone to experience athletics and running, to enable them to reach their full potential.

In order to achieve their mission, England Athletics will have three strategic priorities.

1. To expand the capacity of the sport by supporting and developing its volunteers and other workforce. The target is to achieve a 6% increase every year of licensed leaders, coaches and officials.

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2. To sustain and increase participation and performance levels in our sport. To achieve this, England Athletics' current targets are to increase the number of club registered athletes from (149,000 to 172,000), engage 135,000 people through the RunTogether programme and to increase athlete performance levels across all events and disciplines by 1% every year.
3. To influence participation in the wider athletics market. Their target here is to increase the number of regular athletes or runners by at least one million.

### ***England Athletics Facility Strategy (2018 – 2025)***

The purpose of this document is to set out our long term vision for athletics facilities in England. Facilities form a vital component of the overall England Athletics strategy.

The development, protection and enhancement of facilities will support our strategic plan and help England Athletics contribute to the delivery of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's Sporting Futures: A New Strategy for Sport and Sport England's strategy Towards an Active Nation. Appropriate facilities help to attract and inspire new participants and provide the foundation and focus for a significant proportion of the England Athletics family.

The England Athletics Strategic Plan notes that the sport increasingly needs to become financially sustainable and that a business-like and innovative approach is a vital component of its future success. Facilities are fundamental, but they are also expensive to create and to maintain. The sport therefore faces a significant challenge to develop, improve and maintain facilities, most of which are currently operated and funded by third parties.

This strategy sets out a challenge to all those involved with the delivery of the sport to be innovative and business like in the operation and development of facilities at a time of financial challenge, as it aims "To create an innovative and inspiring network of sustainable athletic facilities, with the capacity to meet both current and future demand across England".



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## APPENDIX TWO: GLOSSARY

**Exported/imported demand** generally relates to play by teams or other users of playing pitches from within the study area (i.e. from residents of the study area) which takes place outside of the area. This may be due to issues with the provision of pitches and ancillary facilities in the study area, just reflective of how the sports are played (e.g. at a central venue for the wider area) or due to the most convenient site for the respective users just falling outside of the local authority/study area.

**Unmet demand** is demand that is known to exist but unable to be accommodated on current supply of pitches. This could be in the form of a team with access to a pitch for matches but nowhere to train or vice versa. This could also be due to the poor quality and therefore limited capacity of pitches in the area and/or a lack of provision and ancillary facilities which meet a certain standard of play/league requirement. League secretaries may be aware of some unmet demand as they may have declined applications from teams wishing to enter their competitions due to a lack of pitch provision which in turn is hindering the growth of the league.

**Latent demand** is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. This could include feedback from a sports club who may feel that they could set up and run an additional team if they had access to better provision.

**Future demand** is an informed estimate made of the likely future demand for pitches in the study area. This is generally based on the most appropriate current and future population projections for the relevant age and gender groupings for each sport. Key trends, local objectives and targets and consultation also inform this figure.

**Casual use** or other use could take place on natural grass pitches or AGPs and include:

- ◀ Regular play from non-sports club sources (e.g. companies, schools, fitness classes)
- ◀ Infrequent informal/friendly matches
- ◀ Informal training sessions
- ◀ More casual forms of a particular sport organised by sports clubs or other parties
- ◀ Significant public use and informal play, particularly where pitches are located in parks/recreation grounds.

**Carrying capacity** is the amount of play a site can regularly accommodate (in the relevant comparable unit) for community use without adversely affecting its quality and use. This is typically outlined by the NGB.

**Overplay** is when a pitch is used over the amount that the carrying capacity will allow, (i.e. more than the site can accommodate). Pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected.

**Spare capacity** is the amount of additional play that a pitch could potentially accommodate in addition to current activity. There may be reasons why this potential to accommodate additional play should not automatically be regarded as actual spare capacity, for example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below its carrying capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of friendly matches and training activity. This needs to be investigated before the capacity is deemed **actual spare capacity**.

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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**Match equivalent sessions** is an appropriate comparable unit for pitch usage. For football, rugby union and rugby league, pitches should relate to a typical week within the season and one match = one match equivalent session if it occurs every week or 0.5 match equivalent sessions if it occurs every other week (i.e. reflecting home and away fixtures). For cricket pitches it is appropriate to look at the number of match equivalent sessions over the course of a season and one match = one match equivalent session.

**Public**  
**Key Decision - Yes**

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Title/Subject Matter:** Oxford to Cambridge Pan-Regional Partnership

**Meeting/Date:** Cabinet – 20/06/23  
Council – 19/07/23

**Executive Portfolio:** Cllr Sarah Conboy, Executive Leader

**Report by:** Oliver Morley, Interim Managing Director

**Ward(s) affected:** All

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### **Executive Summary:**

The Oxford to Cambridge Partnership (OCP) is a collaboration amongst willing Local Authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships and universities from across the Oxfordshire to Cambridgeshire region. The OCP is not a formal committee in Local Government terms but as a condition of gaining Government support and funding, it is required to have the following:

- a constitution which includes clarity on governance, membership, openness and transparency, which sits as part of a wider performance and assurance framework which covers financial and risk management.
- a committed work programme which builds on the OCP's consensus in terms of priorities, objectives and expected outcomes. As part of the governance arrangements there needs to be a representative Board from across the OCP including an Independent Chair.

### **Recommendation(s):**

That Cabinet RECOMMEND to Council

(a) that Huntingdonshire District Council join the Oxford to Cambridge Partnership (OCP) as it becomes formally recognised and funded by Government as a Pan-Regional Partnership (PRP);

(b) that the Executive Leader be appointed as the Council's representative on the OCP; and

(c) that the Executive Leader, in conjunction with the Managing Director/Corporate Director (Place), be provided with powers of appointment and delegation.

## **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 Proposals for a locally led partnership for the Oxford to Cambridge region have been formally approved by government. The OCP's role will be to champion the region as a world leader in research and innovation in hi-tech, high-performance technology and manufacturing, acting to achieve environmentally sustainable and inclusive growth. It will strengthen cross-boundary collaboration among its partners to focus on tackling the issues that matter to the people who live and work in the region.

The OCP's initial programme is to:

- a. Develop a set of propositions to attract international investment and profile the region on a global stage; and
- b. Continue the work underway to embed shared Environmental Principles.

The Secretary of State Rt Hon Michael Gove MP has confirmed support following a proposal submitted to government by leaders from local councils, local enterprise partnerships, the Arc Universities Group and the area's transport body, England's Economic Heartland. Backing for the Pan-Regional Partnership unlocks access to up to £2.5m government funding for the partnership, with £500k in-year to support activity to deliver an Investment Prospectus & Atlas, a significant Environment Programme (1. Nature Recovery Strategy Support, 2. Minerals and Waste Restoration Environmental Gain and 3. Regional Energy and Water strategy scoping), and a Data Observatory and Innovation Network.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 On 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023, Secretary of State Rt Hon. Michael Gove MP endorsed the proposition to set up a Pan-Regional Partnership for the Oxford to Cambridge geography. Letter attached as Appendix 1.

The overall purpose of the OCP will be to champion the Oxford to Cambridge region as a world leader of innovation and business, acting on shared interests in delivering environmentally sustainable economic growth that brings benefits to communities now and in future.

The OCP will strengthen cross-boundary collaboration so that joint working is locally led and focused on the issues that matter to people who live and work in the region. The OCP will define the outcomes it seeks to achieve but it does not have delegated authority or any formal or legal decision-making powers from any of its partner members.

Currently, the priorities of the partnership are focused on supporting delivery of clean, green and inclusive economic growth as well as delivering increased environmental gain and benefit from this growth for our communities now and in the future.

Government endorsement of the partnership unlocks the opportunity of up to £2.5m for the remainder of the current Spending Review period (to 2024/25).

### **3. GOVERNANCE**

- 3.1 A Shadow Board is in place to oversee an initial partnership programme and agree governance and funding arrangements. The Shadow Board will be in place until the initial conditions and milestones have been met (ie, constitution in place, Independent Chair selected). It is anticipated the Board will meet outside of shadow form by June 2023.

Members of the Shadow Board are:

- Cllr Barry Wood, Leader of Cherwell District Council sitting as Interim Chair of the Shadow Board.
- Cllr Susan Brown, Leader of Oxford City Council, representing the Future Oxfordshire Partnership as current Chair.
- Cllr Pete Marland, Leader of Milton Keynes City Council, representing the Central Area Growth Board as current Co-Chair.
- Cllr Richard Wenham, Leader of Central Bedfordshire Council, representing the Central Area Growth Board as current Co-Chair.
- Cllr Anna Smith, Leader of Cambridge City Council and Deputy Major, representing the Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority.
- Professor Alistair Fitt, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Oxford Brookes University, representing the Arc Universities Group as current
- Cllr Bridget Smith, Leader of South Cambs District Council sitting as interim Chair of the Environment Sub-Group.
- To be confirmed, representative from England's Economic Heartland.

- 3.2 Once fully operational there will be three main layers to the governance model: an overarching Plenary group which includes all partners which will meet at least annually; a main Board which will oversee governance, work programme delivery and communications; Sub-Groups which are themed groups (currently economy and environment) which focus on specific project delivery. All groups will be supported by a small operational team as well as an Accountable Body.

- 3.3 The Oxford to Cambridge Partnership Board will succeed the Shadow Board to oversee the work and operations of the Partnership, as agreed by its members. Representation on this Board will include:

- An independent Chair.
- One Chair from each of the member Growth Boards or equivalent sub-regional groups (plus an additional Co-Chair from the Central Area Growth Board).
- One Chair representing each of the Board's Programme Sub-Groups.
- One Chair each from the main constituent stakeholder groups: one on behalf of all Local Enterprise Partnerships, one on behalf of the

Arc Universities Group, and one from England's Economic Heartland

- A minimum of two independent stakeholders (NEDs) as selected by the Board.
- Senior Government representatives (whilst the Board is in receipt of core government funding).

3.4 The details regarding representatives and nominations to roles will be addressed over the coming months.

#### **4. COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY**

4.1 The Panel considered the Oxford to Cambridge Partnership Report at its meeting on 8th June 2023.

4.2 Councillor Kerr enquired on the differences between this proposal and the previous OxCamb Arc, following which, the Panel heard the previous group was no longer in existence. The Panel were reassured that the new proposal was a lot leaner, which a much clearer focus on the environmental benefits for the area.

4.3 In response to a question from Councillor Alban, the Panel heard that whilst the Council did not expect to have representatives on every board, the opportunity for Hunts to have a strong voice would remain. The Panel were assured that recent concerns expressed by Bedfordshire residents were linked to an East-West Rail project, and not linked with this proposal which would seek strong community engagement.

4.4 Councillor Shaw observed a £10,000 commitment for the coming year and enquired what this would look like in the future. The Panel heard that whilst this was still unknown, the Council would be able to monitor the benefits of the Partnership and an exit strategy would be in place without financial penalty should it be required.

4.5 Following a query from Councillor Kerr about what benefits Council involvement in the Partnership would bring, the Panel heard that this would be monitored in relation to the twin priorities of economic growth and environmental benefit, involvement within the Partnership would allow the Council to be part of the conversation, and thus allow for input and influence as part of that.

4.6 In response to an enquiry from Councillor Bywater regarding anticipated timescales, the Panel heard that draft versions were in development with the expectation of being concluded by the Autumn. As part of the action planning and progress forward, the Panel would be kept updated.

4.7 Following the discussion, the Panel were informed that their comments would be added to the Cabinet report in order for Cabinet to make a decision on the recommendations.

## **5. CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 The option of not being part of the OCP has been considered, it would offer a small financial and capacity saving at the expense of the opportunity to positively influence collaboration across this geography and access to additional funding. Given the limited financial outlay and risk associated with membership, alongside the close alignment with priorities, it is therefore recommended that we join the partnership, and seek to maximise the opportunities for the communities of Huntingdonshire.

## **6. FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The OCP currently has transition funding of £250,000 from Government with access to a further £250,000 this year plus local partner contributions. This money is being committed to support the transition programme of delivery, recruitment of the Chair and to support a small transition team until the PRP is formally set up.
- 6.2 There is commitment from Government for access to a further £2,500,00 over the next two financial years, subject to business case being agreed. As part of accessing this funding local contributions are required, both in officer time and in cash contributions. This financial year's contribution was £10,000 (23/24). This contribution has been provided for within the Council's 2023/34 proposed budget.

## **7. ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The priorities of the OCP are focused on supporting delivery of clean, green and inclusive economic growth as well as delivering increased environmental gain and benefits from this growth for our communities now and in the future. The implications of supporting the OCP would be to benefit from a wider strategic approach to delivery of its sustainable climate impact-reducing priorities.

## **8. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS**

- 8.1 Huntingdonshire District Council supports partnership working locally, across Huntingdonshire and beyond where there are real benefits to be achieved through potentially more efficient working, effective delivery at scale as well as access to additional funding and strength in working with and influencing central government.
- 8.2 The objectives of the OCP align closely with those laid out within the Council's Corporate Plan 2023 - 2028, and offer the prospect of significant additional impact, particularly in relation to Priority 2 - Creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations and its three outcomes: Improving housing; Forward-thinking economic growth; Lowering carbon emissions. Offering the prospect of reinforcing network activity and additional external money to support this activity.

- 8.3 The Oxford to Cambridge region is an area of economic success and will continue to be so. It has been the consistent view of the Council to try its best to positively influence that growth and seek the greatest benefits for our communities. By working with other sector partners, as well as key stakeholders who directly influence that economic growth but who also seek to gain benefits for our local natural environment, we can benefit from sharing best practice, learning and also engage directly with those who have the most influence on our places and people.

For these reasons it is recommended that the Council continues to not only remain as a local partner, but to actively engage and where beneficial to the district, to lead wider partnership activity. Should priorities change the Council can take a decision to withdraw from the partnership in the future.

## **9. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED**

Appendix 1 – 230118 – SoS to Cllr Barry Wood

## **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

### **CONTACT OFFICER**

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Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing & Communities

**Rt Hon Michael Gove MP**

*Secretary of State for Levelling up Housing &  
Communities*

*Minister for Intergovernmental Relations*

2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

Cllr Barry Wood  
Leader  
Cherwell District Council  
Bodicote House, White Post Road  
Bodicote, Banbury  
Oxfordshire  
OX15 4AA

18 January 2023

Dear Cllr Wood,

Thank you for your letter dated 31 October setting out the Oxford-Cambridge Arc Leadership Group's proposal for formally establishing a pan-regional partnership as your preferred model for regional collaboration from the Levelling Up White Paper.

I understand that the Group has worked to agree these arrangements over many months, and I would like to thank you and your members for the dedication you have shown in pursuing the right tools to deliver for the communities you serve.

I welcome these proposals and the initial priorities for the partnership, recognising that realising the region's economic potential will be supported by a strong regional brand that can compete for investment on the global stage. By bringing together public and private sector partners under independent leadership in the pursuit of sustainable growth, I believe the partnership will be well placed to shape and deliver on the economic vision for the region.

I also recognise your continued focus on the environment and sustainability. The 25-year Environment Plan remains central to this Government's ambitions to leave our environment in a better state than we found it and I welcome your continued collaboration with Defra and the Environment Agency to test and embed its principles across the region.

I am therefore pleased to confirm my support for the establishment of an Oxford to Cambridge Pan-Regional Partnership by 31 March 2023. Subject to annual business cases, I am prepared to support your partnership with up to £2.5 million in total over the remainder of this Spending Review period.

Thank you again for your continued collaboration across the region and I look forward to hearing about your work and how it is delivering for your communities.

**Rt Hon Michael Gove MP**

Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities

Minister for Intergovernmental Relations

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**Public**  
**Key Decision - No**

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

<b>Title/Subject Matter:</b>	Corporate Performance Report, 2022/23 Quarter 4
<b>Meeting/Date:</b>	Cabinet, 20 June 2023
<b>Executive Portfolio:</b>	Councillor Stephen Ferguson, Executive Councillor for Customer Services
<b>Report by:</b>	Business Intelligence & Performance Manager Performance and Data Analyst
<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	All

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### **Executive Summary:**

The purpose of this report is to brief Members on 2022/23 results for Key Actions and Corporate Indicators listed in the Council's Corporate Plan 2022/23 and progress on current projects being undertaken.

Key Actions, Corporate Indicators and targets are as included in the Corporate Plan 2022/23, as approved by Council on 20 July 2022.

The report outlines the improvements the Council has made over the last 12 months in terms of better delivery and progress on our key actions compared to last year. There has also generally been improved performance for Corporate Indicators where results can be compared to the previous year.

### **Recommendations:**

The Cabinet is invited to consider and comment on progress made against the Key Actions and Corporate Indicators in the Corporate Plan and current projects, as summarised in Appendix A and detailed in Appendices B, C and D.

## 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present details of delivery of the Corporate Plan 2022/23 and project delivery.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council's Corporate Plan 2022/23 was approved at the Council meeting on 20 July 2022 and is a transitional, interim plan at the start of the new four-year administrative term. The performance data in this report and its appendices relates to the indicators and actions selected for 2022/23 as set out in the Corporate Plan 2022/23. The information in the summary at **Appendix A** summarises performance for Key Actions and Corporate Indicators and the performance report at **Appendix B** details the year end results.
- 2.2 This is the final report on the Key Actions and Corporate Indicators in the Corporate Plan 2022/23 as a new Corporate Plan was approved by Council in March 2023. Future Corporate Performance reports will focus on progress against the operational performance measures and actions set for 2023/24 in the new Corporate Plan. Targets for the operational performance measures are due to be discussed at the Overview and Scrutiny (Performance & Growth) Panel meeting on 7 June 2023.
- 2.3 As recommended by the Project Management Select Committee, updates for projects based on latest approved end dates are included at **Appendix D**. Across all programmes there were ten projects open at the end of 2022/23.

## 3. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

- 3.1 Members of the Overview and Scrutiny (Performance and Growth) Panel have an important role in the Council's Performance Management Framework and a process of regular review of performance data has been established. The focus is on the strategic priorities and associated objectives to enable Scrutiny to maintain a strategic overview. Their comments on performance at year end will be shared with Cabinet following the Overview and Scrutiny meeting on 7 June 2023.
- 3.2 Progress against Corporate Plan objectives is reported quarterly. The report at **Appendix B** includes details of all Key Actions and Corporate Indicators at the end of Quarter 4. Results for Corporate Indicators have also been represented in graphs at **Appendix C**, with results shown for each month of the year where possible. **Appendix D** provides information about projects, including the purpose of the project and commentary from the project managers as to the current status of each project.
- 3.3 Performance data has been collected in accordance with standardised procedures.
- 3.4 The following table summarises progress in delivering Key Actions for 2022/23:

Status of Key Actions	Number	Percentage
Green (on track)	21	78%
Amber (within acceptable variance)	6	22%
Red (behind schedule)	0	0%
Awaiting progress update	0	0%
Not applicable	0	

Most key actions were on track at the year end, and none were significantly behind schedule. Not all key actions were scheduled to complete in 2022/23 as some are ongoing activities or multi-year tasks. There were 15 key actions that were due to complete by the end of March and 13 of these were completed. The two not completed were both strategies that have been rescheduled to allow for prior completion of related work such as the adoption of the Place Strategy. Where actions were not due to complete last year, significant progress has been made in most cases.

Highlighted actions which have seen positive progress in 2022/23 include:

- KA 2. The Climate Strategy and associated Action Plan were produced in 2022 and adopted at the February 2023 Council meeting following engagement with Councillors and other stakeholders, including young adults.
- KA 6. Legacy funding of £260k for St Neots and £802k Unallocated Funding has been secured from the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority to support market town regeneration projects in Huntingdon and St Ives. This additional money will fund new projects including public realm improvements in St Ives, an extension to the Cromwell Museum in Huntingdon and a shop front scheme in both towns. The St Neots Legacy project will include a public art programme and the design and development of a stage / entertainment area within the new Market Square.
- KA 9. An audit on the impact of our current Social Value procurement policy was completed in February 2023, which has been used to inform a range of future actions including the review of the Council's Social Value Policy and Framework.
- KA 10. A new Invest in Huntingdonshire website and Made in Huntingdonshire campaign was launched in 2022/23 to promote inward investment and the local manufacturing industry.
- KA 15. During 2022/23 we have continued to provide financial assistance to people on low incomes and paid out a further £230k to give additional assistance with rental costs via Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs). This is higher than the £212k we reported for 2021/22 due to more government funding being allocated.
- KA 16. The Resident Advice and Information Team helped residents in need to secure a total of £33,935 in vouchers from the Household Support Fund during Quarter 4. £78,534 was awarded over the whole of 2022/23, more than double the £35,860 awarded in the previous year.
- KA 17. Cabinet agreed to a full update to the adopted Local Plan in January, with progress since then including further papers endorsed by Cabinet to allow consultation to commence on the Local Development Scheme, Draft Settlement Hierarchy methodology, Draft Land Availability Assessment Methodology and the Call for Sites.
- KA 20. The Place Strategy, Huntingdonshire Futures, was approved by Councillors at Full Council in March. The programme of engagement included a range of consultation exercises and events to ensure the views of residents, business, other stakeholders and Members helped to shape the strategy. This new strategy sets out a long-term shared vision for the district to 2050, creating a framework for a new approach to partnership working in Huntingdonshire.
- KA 22. Great Gransden's Neighbourhood Plan was made in March 2023 and preparation started for a joint neighbourhood plan for The Giddings, Hamerton and Winwick.
- KA 24. In recognition of the impacts of the cost of living crisis on some residents, the Community Chest fund launched an application process for Warm Hubs in October 2022. Applications were welcomed from voluntary and community groups and Town

and Parish Councils who wished to provide a safe, warm space to residents across the district who may have been struggling to afford to stay warm at home. £7,170 was awarded to warm spaces applicants between October and March. Other grants remained available during this period, with a total of £7,250 awarded to all successful applicants (including warm spaces) in Quarter 4 alone.

- KA 26. Collaboration has taken place with at least 75 different organisations in 2022/23 across sports and physical activity, which is an increase from around 50 in 2021/22. Working with new partners (such as charities, voluntary and health sectors) has resulted in more external funding and inward investment into sports facilities and physical activities for the residents of Huntingdonshire, increasing opportunities for residents to live a healthier life. New partnership working arrangements developed in the year have also seen new opportunities evolve, such as the St Neots Primary Care Network commissioning services from the Active Lifestyles service for the first time.

There are six key actions that have been given an Amber status. These actions were generally either delivered later in 2022/23 than originally scheduled or are now expected to be delivered in 2023/24.

- KA 1 related to declaring a Climate Emergency by Autumn 2022. Although a Cost of Living and Climate Change motion was agreed at Council in October, the Climate Crisis and Ecological Emergency was not formally recognised until February 2023 when this was declared and the Climate Change Strategy adopted.
- KA 3 has an overall status of Amber at the year end due to the Hinchingsbrooke Country Park investment programme of works being delayed until 2024, following delays in external suppliers providing supporting surveys required for the formal planning applications. The Riverside Walks scheme is progressing with planning permission now approved. This scheme will deliver LED lighting, benches and new signage within Riverside Park in St Neots.
- The commentary for KA 5 shows that work on the Market Towns Programme is progressing, with Detailed Designs for St Neots Transport Projects now completed and work with the owner of the Old Falcon continuing. There was a delay to the completion of Masterplans due to St Ives Town Council postponing a meeting to update them on changes following the consultation. The Transport Projects in St Neots were also delayed due to the decision to undertake additional work upfront on the Detailed Designs and cost analysis, which will be beneficial for going to market and when work commences on site.
- A review of the Economic Growth Strategy (KA 7) has been rescheduled to 2023/24 to allow it to be informed by the Place Strategy approved at the end of 2022/23 and to ensure alignment with the development of the Local Plan.
- KA 19 (Design and implement strategies to use Council assets to support the delivery of affordable homes) has an Amber status due to the Warboys application requiring revised designs and further consultation prior to planning permission being sought. If approved, this will result in additional affordable housing in the district.
- The Amber status for KA 21 is due to a decision to reschedule the refresh of the Community Strategy for 2023/24 to allow for the inclusion of other relevant work, such as the Place Strategy and other projects focused on our communities.

3.5 Final outturn results for 2022/23 Corporate Indicators are shown in the following table:

<b>Corporate Indicator results</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Green (achieved)</b>	15	60%
<b>Amber (within acceptable variance)</b>	6	24%
<b>Red (below acceptable variance)</b>	4	16%
<b>Awaiting progress update</b>	0	0%
<b>Not applicable (annual/data unavailable/ targets TBC)</b>	5	

Services met or exceeded the majority of their targets in 2022/23. Highlights include the following results:

- PI 2. Monitoring and managing work schedules resulted in 97% of sampled areas being reported as clean or predominantly clean when inspected during 2022/23. This is slightly higher than the 96% recorded for performance in 2021/22.
- PI 12. Less than one in every 2,000 bins was missed in 2022/23, which is 21% lower than in 2021/22.
- PI 14. The number of attendances at One Leisure Active Lifestyles programmes increased by 23% in 2022/23 when compared to results in 2021/22. Nearly 48,500 attendances were recorded this year and disability activities performed well in Quarter 4 to recover to meet the original end of year target.
- PI 15. A strong performance in the number of One Leisure admissions continued throughout March, driven by the increase in general swimming and the re-opening of bowling and funzone areas. The total number of admissions was over 200,000 higher than in 2021/22 (up by over 20%).
- PI 17. Four preventative campaigns were undertaken in 2022/23, including targeted support for people to return to work such as raising awareness of available funding.
- PI 22 & 24. The percentage of major planning applications processed on target was higher than results reported for 2021/22 (86.9% in 2022/23, 81% in 2021/22) despite a recent focus on reducing the number of longstanding backlog cases. A higher proportion of household extension applications were also processed on target compared to the previous year (90.7% in 2022/23, 81% in 2021/22). This improved performance was despite resource challenges due to vacancies within the service.

Indicators where services were below their targets but within acceptable variance (Amber) include the following:

- PI 13. The average number of days to process new claims for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support increased to 24.4 by the end of Quarter 4, following a challenging year for assessments as we are left with more complex cases taking longer to assess, while more straightforward assessments are now dealt with under Universal Credit by the DWP. External factors such as postal strikes have also contributed by causing the delay of supporting evidence being received.
- PI 19. There were 456 new affordable homes delivered in 2022/23, which exceeds the number recorded in 2021/22 (311) and is the highest number reported for this measure in the last ten years (the previous maximum was 440 delivered in 2019/20). Performance was reported as below the target, which was based on higher numbers previously being forecast by our local Registered Providers. The affordable homes forecast but not completed in 2022/23 are delayed rather than lost and are expected to be delivered in 2023/24.
- PI 27. While we completed 72% more food safety inspections than in 2021/22 and expect to have met the requirements of the Food Standards Agency's recovery plan,

with all category A, B and C premises being inspected, we did not meet the higher local target set by our Environmental Health team for 2022/23.

The four Red indicators with performance below acceptable variance were:

- PI 1. Less garden waste was generated and collected through the summer months due to the hot and dry summer conditions. This contributed to a lower percentage of household waste being reused, recycled or composted (56% in 2022/23 compared to 58.5% in 2021/22). However, the amount of dry recycling tonnage has been consistent with previous years.
- PI 23. A below target proportion of minor planning applications were processed on time, as an expected consequence of focused work to determine older applications and reduce the backlog. Performance has improved (77.3% in 2022/23) when compared to results in 2021/22 (63%).
- PI 26. The number of accredited community and voluntary sector groups within Huntingdonshire under the 'Good to Go' scheme was lower than the target (four reported in 2022/23 against a target of 20). It is acknowledged that changes to the scheme moving forward will be necessary.
- PI 28. There were no 'Aspirations High' initiatives delivered within identified primary schools in 2022/23, against a target of six for the year. This was due to challenges for both schools focused on other work and for the Community team, which was required to prioritise other unplanned work such as supporting communities entering the UK from Ukraine and Afghanistan. The work stream led by The Cam Academy is now in place with key projects and dates agreed with identified schools to deliver this work in 2023/24.

For those indicators where it was possible to compare with the previous year, performance was better in 2022/23 for 13 out of 17 (76.5%). Of the four where performance did not improve compared to 2021/22, three were affected by unavoidable external factors:

- PI 1. The reduction of the amount of garden waste collected through the summer months due to the hot and dry summer conditions contributed to a lower percentage of household waste being reused, recycled or composted (56% in 2022/23 compared to 58.5% in 2021/22). However, the amount of dry recycling tonnage has been consistent with previous years.
- PI 10. The number of apprenticeship starts in the district is not within the Council's control so this can be considered as a contextual measure rather than a District Council performance indicator. As the data currently available is for a part-year only, actual performance for 2022/23 may turn out to be better than it appears now.
- PI 13. Time taken to process new claims for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support was affected by external factors such as postal strikes, which contributed by causing the delay of supporting evidence being received, and the increased proportion of complex Housing Benefit cases remaining as a result of more straightforward assessments being dealt with under Universal Credit by the DWP.
- There was also a reduction in the proportion of the council's spend with local suppliers. Further work is needed to understand the reasons for this once Finance have completed work relating to end of year financial processes.



3.6 The status of corporate projects at the end of March is shown in the following table.

Corporate project status	Number	Percentage
Green (progress on track)	4	40%
Amber (progress behind schedule, project may be recoverable)	5	50%
Red (significantly behind schedule, serious risks/issues)	1	10%
Pending closure	0	

Details of all projects can be found in **Appendix D**. This project report shows there were ten projects being delivered across service areas in Quarter 4. Their current statuses are displayed as a RAG status, which gives an insight as to where the projects are at in terms of delivering against the plan and milestones set. Four projects have been scored as being on target (Green), five were given an Amber status because performance was reported as below the target level but within acceptable variance and one project (Hinchingsbrooke Country Park) was given a Red status due to delays in external suppliers providing supporting surveys required for the formal planning applications.

#### 4. COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANELS

- 4.1 The Panel considered the Corporate Performance Report Q4 2022/23 at its meeting on 7th June 2023.
- 4.2 Following a question from Councillor Jennings on the lack of set targets on some performance indicators and status indicators, the Panel heard that the team were aware of some discrepancies within the report, however this would be addressed and the changes to the reports in 23/24 would resolve this issue for the future. For every measure in the new corporate plan there would be a target and intervention level set.
- 4.3 In response to a question from Councillor Pickering, the Panel heard that the measures for garden waste would be improved as it was acknowledged that could be affected by the weather, especially with the impacts of climate change. This would include a more appropriate target for the 'percentage of waste that is recycled' and the inclusion of a 'weight of waste collected per household' to ensure that not only was waste recycled but the efforts to reduce waste overall could be tracked by Officers and Members.
- 4.4 Councillor Gleadow observed the improvement shown within the planning service and praised the team for this achievement.
- 4.5 Following the discussion, the Panel were informed that their comments would be added to the Cabinet report in order for Cabinet to make a decision on the recommendations.

#### 5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The Cabinet is invited to consider and comment on progress made against Key Actions and Corporate Indicators in the Corporate Plan and current projects, as summarised in **Appendix A** and detailed in **Appendices B and C**.

## 6. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

**Appendix A** – Corporate Performance Summary, Quarter 4, 2022/23

**Appendix B** – Corporate Plan Performance Report, Quarter 4, 2022/23

**Appendix C** – Corporate Indicator Graphs, 2022/23

**Appendix D** – Project Performance, March 2023

## CONTACT OFFICERS

### **Corporate Plan Performance Monitoring (Appendices A, B and C)**

Daniel Buckridge, Business Intelligence and Performance Manager, email

[daniel.buckridge@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:daniel.buckridge@huntingdonshire.gov.uk)

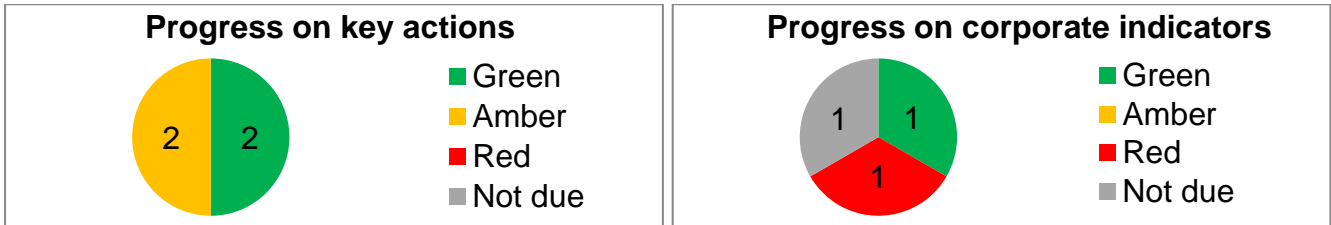
Emma Charter, Performance and Data Analyst, email [emma.charter@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:emma.charter@huntingdonshire.gov.uk)

### **Project Performance (Appendix D)**

Liz Smith, Chief Delivery Officer, email [liz.smith@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:liz.smith@huntingdonshire.gov.uk)

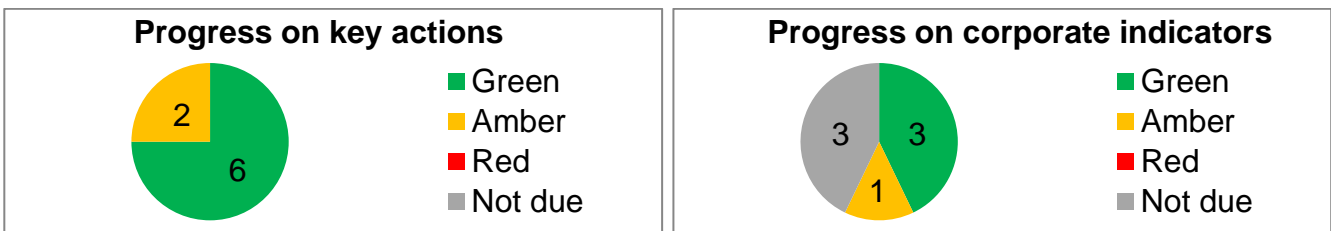
**Corporate Performance Summary Quarter 4, 2022/23**

**Tackling Climate Change and Caring For The Environment**



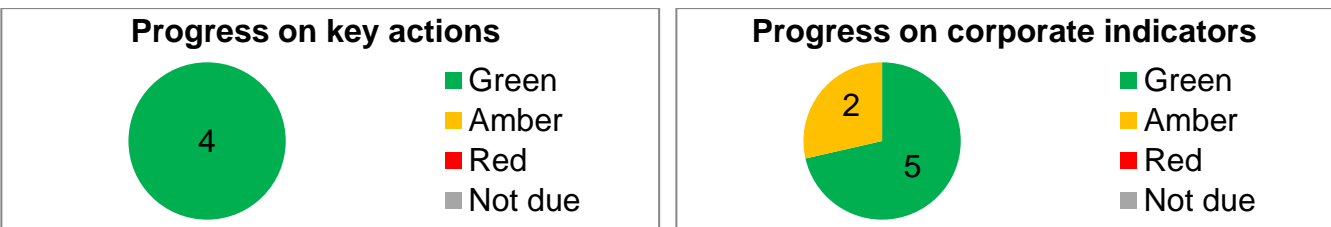
Highlights include the adoption of the Climate Strategy and associated Action Plan by Council following engagement with Councillors and other stakeholders, including young adults.

**Enhancing Employment Opportunities and Supporting Businesses**



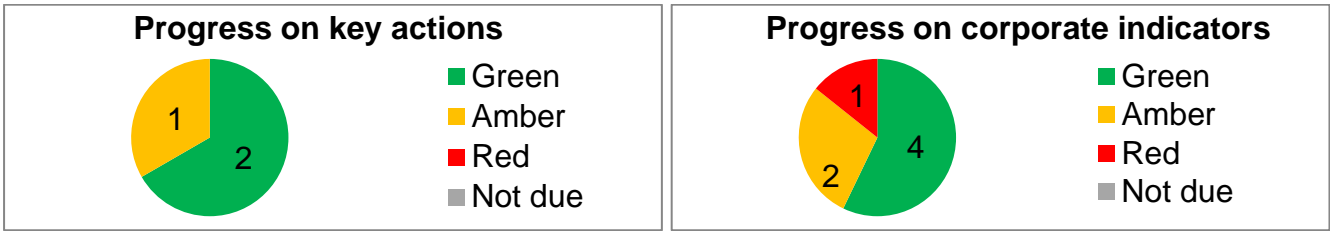
Highlights include the approval of legacy funding of £260k for St Neots and £802k Unallocated Funding from the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority to support regeneration projects for our market towns.

**Supporting Our Residents Needs**



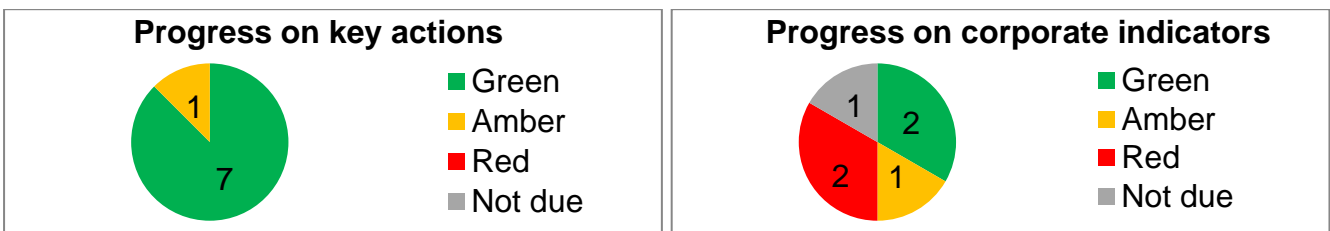
Highlights include a strong performance by the Operations Team, missing less than one in every 2,000 bins in 2022/23, which is 21% lower than in 2021/22 despite the increasing number of households in the district.

## Improving Housing Provision



Highlights include a significant increase in the number of new affordable homes delivered in 2022/23 (456) compared to the number delivered the previous year (311 in 2021/22).

## Strengthening Our Communities



Highlights include collaboration with a range of stakeholders and partners to develop new health/physical activity events in the district during 2022/23, including new classes in Hail Weston and Sawtry, new care home sessions at Hardwick Dene and a new Let's Get Moving session in St Neots. New sessions were also provided by the Active Lifestyles Team at Kings Ripton Court supported housing and at the St Ives Dementia Cafe.

## STRATEGIC THEME – TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE AND CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Period January to March 2023

## Summary of progress for Key Actions

<b>G</b>	Progress is on track	<b>A</b>	Progress is within acceptable variance	<b>R</b>	Progress is behind schedule	?	Awaiting progress update	n/a	Not applicable to state progress
	2		2		0		0		0

*Target dates do not necessarily reflect the final completion date. The date given may reflect the next milestone to be reached.*

## Summary of progress for Corporate Indicators

<b>G</b>	Performance is on track	<b>A</b>	Performance is within acceptable variance	<b>R</b>	Performance is below acceptable variance	?	Awaiting performance update	n/a	Not applicable to assess performance
	1		0		1		0		1

**Huntingdonshire must proactively tackle the climate crisis and ecological emergency.**

**We will act upon this by:**

- **declaring a climate emergency to help focus minds and urgently implementing a Climate Action Plan**
- **designing council policies that enable cutting of emissions and provide positive examples for businesses and residents**
- **considering environmental impact in all policy-making and our stewardship of council assets and resources**
- **ensuring our updated Local Plan reflects the priorities outlined in our Climate Action Plan**

Status	Key Actions for 2022/23	Target date	Portfolio Holder	Head of Service	Progress Update
A	KA 1. Declare a climate emergency	Autumn 2022	Cllr Lara Davenport-Ray	Neil Sloper	Complete - The Council agreed a Cost of Living and Climate Change motion on 12 October 2022, recognising that the current cost of living and climate crises require joint attention to support the wellbeing of residents and businesses. This action is now complete as a Climate Crisis and Ecological Emergency was formally recognised at the Council meeting in February 2023, with the Council's Climate Strategy also adopted at the same meeting.
G	KA 2. Develop, adopt and deliver a Climate Strategy informed by resident and stakeholder engagement	February 2023	Cllr Lara Davenport-Ray	Neil Sloper	Complete - The Climate Strategy and associated Action Plan was adopted at the February 2023 Council meeting. The strategy and action plan were drafted alongside service leads following councillor and stakeholder engagement in August-September 2022, along with engagement with Anglia Ruskin University to involve young adults.
A	KA 3. Deliver investment programmes at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park (HCP) and Riverside Parks in Huntingdon and St Neots	HCP completion spring 2024 St Neots summer 2023	Cllr Simone Taylor	Neil Sloper	<p>St Neots Riverside Walks - Planning permission for site wide scheme approved. Change Request to assign Community Infrastructure Levy to pathway delivery pending Cabinet approval. If approved, procurement and works in 2023 to commence scheme.</p> <p>HCP - Planning pre-application completed and informing formal planning application, due to be submitted Spring 2023. Two months behind due to delays in external suppliers providing required supporting surveys. Estimated works now from January 2024.</p>

Status	Key Actions for 2022/23	Target date	Portfolio Holder	Head of Service	Progress Update
<b>G</b>	KA 4. Protect and increase biodiversity within our parks and open spaces	Completion spring 2024	Cllr Lara Davenport-Ray	Neil Sloper	Council site audits concluded and proposal for priority sites in preparation. Pathfinder grant scheme being prepared. Signed grant agreement and carried forward pending from CPCA. Initial phase of green recovery project (training and delivery of biodiversity enhancements) nearer completion at HCP. Bids awaited from Operations for equipment to support changed management of verges to benefit wildlife.

### Corporate Performance and Contextual Indicators

#### Key to status

<b>G</b>	Performance is on track	<b>A</b>	Performance is within acceptable variance	<b>R</b>	Performance is below acceptable variance	<b>?</b>	Awaiting performance update	<b>n/a</b>	Not applicable to assess performance
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Performance Indicator	Full Year 2021/22 Performance	Annual 2022/23 Target	Outturn 2022/23 Performance	Outturn 2022/23 Status
PI 1. Percentage of household waste reused/ recycled/ composted (cumulative year to date) Aim to maximise	58.5%	60.0%	56.0%	<b>R</b>

Comments: (Operations) As reported previously, less garden waste was generated and collected through the summer months due to the hot and dry summer conditions. This contributed to a lower percentage of household waste being reused, recycled or composted compared to the previous year. However, the amount of dry recycling tonnage has been consistent with previous years.

Performance Indicator	Full Year 2021/22 Performance	Annual 2022/23 Target	Outturn 2022/23 Performance	Outturn 2022/23 Status
PI 2. Percentage of sampled areas which are clean or predominantly clean of litter, detritus, graffiti, flyposting, or weed accumulations (cumulative year to date)  Aim to maximise	96%	80%	97%	<b>G</b>

Comments: (Operations) Continued monitoring and work scheduling continues to deliver above target scores, with outturn performance slightly improved on 2021/22.

Performance Indicator	Full Year 2021/22 Performance	Annual 2022/23 Target	Outturn 2022/23 Performance	Outturn 2022/23 Status
PI 3. Carbon emissions from HDC service delivery (note: reporting is likely to be annual only)  Aim to minimise	N/a	TBC	N/a	<b>N/a</b>

Comments: (Climate Strategy) HDC carbon emissions baselined in 2019 as part of Climate Strategy. Baseline = 3.671 tCO<sub>2</sub>e. A linear trajectory with annual target levels of tCO<sub>2</sub>e has been set, with performance to be calculated annually after the end of the financial year as it can only be worked out after final billing for all energy and fuel consumed.



## STRATEGIC THEME – ENHANCING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND SUPPORTING BUSINESSES

Period January to March 2023

### Summary of progress for Key Actions

G	Progress is on track	A	Progress is within acceptable variance	R	Progress is behind schedule	?	Awaiting progress update	n/a	Not applicable to state progress
	6		2		0		0		0

*Target dates do not necessarily reflect the final completion date. The date given may reflect the next milestone to be reached.*

### Summary of progress for Corporate Indicators

G	Performance is on track	A	Performance is within acceptable variance	R	Performance is below acceptable variance	?	Awaiting performance update	n/a	Not applicable to assess performance
	3		1		0		0		3

#### **WE WILL:**

**Promote Huntingdonshire as a location for investment in high-tech, highly-skilled and green economic opportunities and jobs, within environmental limits.**

**Support local businesses with the council's purchasing power.**

**Rejuvenate our economy in the wake of the pandemic, by:**

- **engaging with businesses to understand their future needs and aspirations**
- **matching workspace to the needs of our residents and businesses**
- **supporting provision of high-speed broadband and mobile phone coverage across the district**
- **supporting residents to access employment and skills advice and provision**

Status	Key Actions for 2022/23	Target date	Portfolio Holder	Head of Service	Progress Update
A	KA 5. Deliver the Market Towns Programme, including the St Neots Future High Streets Fund, accelerated delivery projects and masterplanning in Huntingdon, Ramsey and St Ives	September 2024	Cllr Sam Wakeford	Pam Scott	<p>Detailed Designs for St Neots Transport Projects has been completed. This has caused a slight delay from previous reports as we believe that doing additional work upfront will be beneficial for when we are on site. Soft Market Testing as part of the procurement exercise has begun using the Eastern Highways Alliance Framework. We aim to commence formal procurement by the end of April, with a start on site expected in the Autumn. The Priory Centre Tender is out and over 20 companies have shown interest. The deadline for returns is 24th April (extended due to Easter) and the evaluation panel includes the Town Council. Work with the owner of the Old Falcon continues and is positive. We are still intending to use the funding as explained in the previous quarter. The remaining Accelerated Projects - Smarter Towns should complete by the end of April. The Civic Hub in Ramsey (a fully novated project to the Town Council) has been delayed and will now complete in June '23 and the Wayfinding project is currently being explored with a delegated decision expected in April '23.</p> <p>In March, the CPCA approved recommendations for St Neots Legacy Funding and unallocated spend for Huntingdon and St Ives, with projects to commence during April and May '23. Meetings with Huntingdon and Ramsey town councils took place in March in relation to Masterplans. St Ives cancelled our attendance in March which has led to a slight delay in their completion but officers are due to attend April's meeting. The Amber status therefore relates to the Masterplan delay and Transport Projects in St Neots.</p>

Status	Key Actions for 2022/23	Target date	Portfolio Holder	Head of Service	Progress Update
G	KA 6. Explore external funding opportunities to deliver agreed masterplan and wider priorities	Ongoing	Cllr Sam Wakeford	Pam Scott	<p>Officers continue to explore funding opportunities for regeneration projects for the four towns and wider benefits for the district. At the CPCA meeting on 22nd March, the projects for the legacy funding in St Neots £260,000 and the Unallocated Funding £802,000 were approved and therefore this funding has been secured for HDC.</p> <p>The projects supported by both these pots of funding are new projects. The £802k had to be ringfenced to Huntingdon and St Ives and the new projects are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broadway Cycle Link and Public Realm Improvements (St Ives)</li> <li>• Bandstand (St Ives)</li> <li>• Visual Merchandising /Shop Front Scheme (St Ives and Huntingdon)</li> <li>• Cromwell Museum Extension (Huntingdon)</li> <li>• Town Centre Information Centre (Huntingdon)</li> </ul> <p>New projects funded by St Neots Legacy funds are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public art programme</li> <li>• Design and development of a stage / entertainment area within the new Market Square</li> <li>• Digital Information Service (Wayfinding) – if the wider scheme is supported</li> <li>• Co-retail scheme</li> </ul>
A	KA 7. Review Huntingdonshire's 2020-25 Economic Growth Strategy	Starting in Q4	Cllr Sam Wakeford	Nykki Rogers	Work to scope the refresh of the Huntingdonshire Economic Growth Strategy is now planned for 2023/24 to allow it to be informed by the Huntingdonshire Future Place Strategy (approved at the end of March) and to ensure alignment with the development of the Local Plan.

Status	Key Actions for 2022/23	Target date	Portfolio Holder	Head of Service	Progress Update
G	KA 8. Work with partners to promote business support and business start up programmes and grant schemes	Ongoing	Cllr Sam Wakeford	Nykki Rogers	Ongoing support is provided as business as usual. The team has been focussing on UK Shared Prosperity and market readiness for the four support programmes.
G	KA 9. Audit the impact of our current Social Value procurement policy and commit to actions to improve its impact	March 2023	Cllr Martin Hassall	Sarah Youthed	An internal audit of Social Value in procurement was completed in February. Actions committed to as a result of the audit include a review of the Council's Social Value Policy and Framework document. This is included as an action in the 2023/24 Corporate Plan, as is development of our procurement rules to further embed social and environmental value.
G	KA 10. Launch new Invest in Huntingdonshire (IIH) and Made in Huntingdonshire campaign (MiH), establish an inward investment baseline	IIH website w/c 25/7/22 Campaign ongoing	Cllr Sam Wakeford	Nykki Rogers	Complete. Website and campaign launched in Quarter 3.
G	KA 11. Work with partners to support the provision of careers advice, technical and vocational learning including apprenticeships	Ongoing workstream	Cllr Sam Wakeford	Nykki Rogers	Ongoing support is provided as business as usual. The team have been focussing on ensuring businesses are participating in the Local Skills Implementation consultation for future provision.
G	KA 12. Work with partners to support the provision of high-speed broadband and better mobile phone coverage across the district	Ongoing	Cllr Sarah Conboy	Neil Sloper	Continued work with Connected Cambridgeshire, including the preparation for the re-tender of public Wi-Fi provision and options to extend into further community hubs. District digital view now completed to enable a local digital strategy to be developed.  Training delivered to the planning team to support even better processing of applications for mobile coverage in 2023.

## Corporate Performance and Contextual Indicators

### Key to status

<b>G</b>	Performance is on track	<b>A</b>	Performance is within acceptable variance	<b>R</b>	Performance is below acceptable variance	<b>?</b>	Awaiting performance update	<b>n/a</b>	Not applicable to assess performance
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Performance Indicator	Full Year 2021/22 Performance	Annual 2022/23 Target	Outturn 2022/23 Performance	Outturn 2022/23 Status
PI 4. Net change in number of local businesses (cumulative year to date) Aim to maximise	36	N/a	276	<b>N/a</b>

Comments: (Economic Development) In the final quarter of the year, strong enterprise growth was observed across the creative, construction, health, property and retail sectors. More than half of the start-ups were incorporated in the urban buffer areas, places on the edge of town locations. For the entire year, in comparison to the 12 months previous, over 7.5 times more companies were added to the active business base; an indication of a bounce-back in the post pandemic period.

Performance Indicator	Full Year 2021/22 Performance	Annual 2022/23 Target	Outturn 2022/23 Performance	Outturn 2022/23 Status
PI 5. Footfall in town centres (Rolling 12 month weekly average, combined total for market towns) Aim to maximise	230,522	N/a	263,370	<b>G</b>

Comments: (Economic Development) Footfall figures were favourable in the February half-term week, whilst two spikes were observed in St Ives. However, counts remain marginally below 2019 results (where recorded) as household budgets continue to be squeezed.

Performance Indicator	Full Year 2021/22 Performance	Annual 2022/23 Target	Outturn 2022/23 Performance	Outturn 2022/23 Status
PI 6. Proportion of council spend with suppliers from the local area (cumulative year to date)  Aim to maximise	8.5%	TBC	6.5%	<b>N/a</b>

Comments: (Procurement) Local spend was down on 2021/22, however work to explore the data further to understand the reasons behind this was not completed so no target was set to assess this against. The indicator is calculated based on spend with local suppliers where the supplier postcode in our accounts system is based in Huntingdonshire so accuracy depends on accuracy of the postcodes recorded. Spend with companies located in Huntingdonshire but with a supplier postcode outside the area is not counted as 'local' even where there may be a local branch so this may be an undercount. Payments on purchase cards are not yet included. Further analysis is needed to identify what proportion of each spend type is local and where there is little or no opportunity to increase 'local' spend (e.g. energy suppliers, HGV manufacturers) to inform target setting.

Performance Indicator	Full Year 2021/22 Performance	Annual 2022/23 Target	Outturn 2022/23 Performance	Outturn 2022/23 Status
PI 7. Percentage of residential and business premises with super-fast fixed broadband coverage (latest figure available, not published every quarter)  Aim to maximise	97% (January 2022)	Increase	97.1% (January 2023)	<b>G</b>

Comments: According to the latest Connected Nations Report published by Ofcom in May 2023 (from a snapshot taken in January 2023), 83,192 residential and business premises had access to download speeds of at least 30Mbit/second (Superfast Broadband).

Performance Indicator	Full Year 2021/22 Performance	Annual 2022/23 Target	Outturn 2022/23 Performance	Outturn 2022/23 Status
PI 8. Percentage of residential and business premises with indoor 4G mobile coverage from at	90.4% (January 2022)	TBC	90.85% (January 2023)	<b>G</b>

least three operators (latest figure available, not published every quarter)				
Aim to maximise				

Comments: According to the latest Connected Nations Report published by Ofcom in May 2023 (from a snapshot taken in January 2023), 73.38% of premises had indoor 4G coverage from all four operators and a further 17.47% had coverage from three operators. The latest results indicate higher coverage compared to previous results.

Performance Indicator	Full Year 2021/22 Performance	Annual 2022/23 Target	Outturn 2022/23 Performance	Outturn 2022/23 Status
PI 9. Employment Rate (latest estimate available, previous quarter)	77.4% (December 2021)	N/a	82.8% (December 2022)	<b>N/a</b>
Aim to maximise				

Comments: (Economic Development) The latest figure published in April relates to the period from January to December 2022. While the figures listed are published as official national statistics, the limited sample size of the underlying survey at district level means that the 5.4% increase shown does not represent a statistically significant difference so the status is therefore listed as 'not applicable' rather than 'Green'.

Performance Indicator	Full Year 2021/22 Performance	Annual 2022/23 Target	Outturn 2022/23 Performance	Outturn 2022/23 Status
PI 10. No of Huntingdonshire Apprenticeship starts (cumulative academic year to date)	600 (part-year figure reported at March 2022, final total was 1,000)	Higher than 2021/22	560	<b>A</b>
Aim to maximise				

Comments: This part-year (August to January) result for 2022/23 compares to 600 reported at the same stage for 2021/22, a 6.7% fall. The Department for Education has reported a 4.1% reduction in starts nationally compared to the same period last year. The final total for 2022/23 will not be available until November 2023.

## STRATEGIC THEME – SUPPORTING OUR RESIDENTS NEEDS

Period January to March 2023

### Summary of progress for Key Actions

G	Progress is on track	A	Progress is within acceptable variance	R	Progress is behind schedule	?	Awaiting progress update	n/a	Not applicable to state progress
	4		0		0		0		0

*Target dates do not necessarily reflect the final completion date. The date given may reflect the next milestone to be reached.*

### Summary of progress for Corporate Indicators

G	Performance is on track	A	Performance is within acceptable variance	R	Performance is below acceptable variance	?	Awaiting performance update	n/a	Not applicable to assess performance
	5		2		0		0		0

**We are committed to ensuring that Huntingdonshire residents have the highest possible quality of life.**

**Residents face a growing affordability challenge for life's basic necessities. To help mitigate the cost of living crisis, we will use universal access to basic services as a guiding principle.**

**All residents deserve:**

- **somewhere warm and safe to live**
- **a healthy diet**
- **opportunities to improve their skills, access employment and improve household income**
- **open spaces and leisure facilities to support their physical and mental health**
- **access to the digital and transport infrastructure needed for modern life**



**We are committed to working with partners to do all we can to deliver this.**

**We will take a positive and proactive approach to:**

- **joining up services for the benefit of residents by working with the new integrated care system, other public bodies and the third sector**
- **ensuring that Huntingdonshire is an inclusive district for all residents**
- **working to ensure that more of the wealth created in our local communities should stay in our local communities**

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Status	Key Actions for 2022/23	Target date	Portfolio Holder	Head of Service	Progress Update
G	KA 13. Continue to improve digital access to council services	Ongoing	Cllr Stephen Ferguson	Michelle Greet	There is an ongoing review of opportunities to improve digital access to council services. We have seen an increase in completed e-forms from 75K in 2021 to 78K in 2022. Working with Digital, we continue to improve and release new e-forms such as the 'Request to View Planning Microfiche' e-form which streamlines the process.
G	KA 14. To develop our understanding of customer and resident needs and use this to enable us to better support our residents in a way that makes sense to them	Ongoing	Cllr Stephen Ferguson	Michelle Greet	Storm telephone system will enable us to get customer feedback to ensure we are supporting customers in the best possible way.
G	KA 15. To continue to provide financial assistance to people on low incomes to pay their rent and Council Tax	March 2023	Cllr Stephen Ferguson	Katie Kelly	The Energy Bills Rebate Scheme ceased at the end of November with circa £9.5m paid to over 61k households in the district to give assistance with the rise in utility bills.  At the end of March 2023, Housing Benefit of £24.7m and Council Tax Support of £7.3m had been paid to help with rental and Council Tax costs respectively. A further £230k had been paid to give additional assistance with rental costs via Discretionary Housing Payments.

Status	Key Actions for 2022/23	Target date	Portfolio Holder	Head of Service	Progress Update
<b>G</b>	KA 16. Identify and support residents at risk of situations escalating into crisis, including a review of contracts for the provision of public advice and support for the voluntary and community sector to ensure this is done in the most effective and convenient way	March 2023	Cllr Ben Pitt	Claudia Deeth	<p>The Resident Advice Team have had 790 contacts during quarter 4, this being 176 more than the previous quarter. The majority of the contacts relate to requests for support with food and finance but there has also been an increase in the number of residents requiring assistance with their mental health.</p> <p>The largest number of referrals to the team came from Customer Services and the team helped residents secure a total of £33,935 in vouchers from the Household Support Fund during Q4. £78,534 was awarded over the whole of 2022/23, more than double the £35,860 awarded in the previous year. A priority for the team is how willing residents are to engage with support services. More residents are engaging positively following contact with the team than not.</p>

## Corporate Performance and Contextual Indicators

### Key to status

<b>G</b>	Performance is on track	<b>A</b>	Performance is within acceptable variance	<b>R</b>	Performance is below acceptable variance	?	Awaiting performance update	<b>n/a</b>	Not applicable to assess performance
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Performance Indicator	Full Year 2021/22 Performance	Annual 2022/23 Target	Outturn 2022/23 Performance	Outturn 2022/23 Status
PI 11. Number of active customer portal accounts (accessed within the last 12 months) (latest figure available) Aim to maximise	N/a	Increase throughout 2022/23 (first calculated at 34,355 in May)	30,804	<b>A</b>

Comments: (Customer Services) The number of new accounts created each month has dropped off from around 2K a month in 2021 to 1.5k a month in 2022. The requirement to setup accounts as part of COVID business grant claims would be a factor. The majority of customers complete e-forms as a guest, they are not required to setup accounts to access most services. The total number of completed e-forms has increased by 3K in 2022 compared to 2021, so the e-form platform is being well used.

Performance Indicator	Full Year 2021/22 Performance	Annual 2022/23 Target	Outturn 2022/23 Performance	Outturn 2022/23 Status
PI 12. Number of missed bins (cumulative year to date)  Aim to minimise	3,520	5,994	2,768	G

Comments: (Operations) Fewer than 3,000 bins were missed out of over 6m scheduled collections in 2022/23. This is equivalent to less than one in every 2,000 bins being missed (under 0.05%). The total number missed was 21% lower than in 2021/22 despite an increase in the number of households in the district.

Performance Indicator	Full Year 2021/22 Performance	Annual 2022/23 Target	Outturn 2022/23 Performance	Outturn 2022/23 Status
PI 13. Average number of days to process new claims for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support (cumulative year to date)  Aim to minimise	21.5	22.0	24.4	A

Comments: (Revenues & Benefits) Actual performance for March was 24.1 days, but the final outturn is 24.4 days. This has been a challenging year for assessment, with postal strikes adding to delays in receiving supporting evidence. LAs are also being left with more complex cases which take longer to assess, while more straightforward assessments for Housing Costs are now dealt with under Universal Credit by the DWP. These are all factors in the final outturn result.

Performance Indicator	Full Year 2021/22 Performance	Annual 2022/23 Target	Outturn 2022/23 Performance	Outturn 2022/23 Status
PI 14. Number of attendances at One Leisure Active Lifestyles programmes (cumulative year to date)  Aim to maximise	39,397	45,000	48,430	G

Comments: (Active Lifestyles) The Active Health side of the team have seen an average of 3,500 attendances per month in Q4 compared to 2,700 in Q1 (a 30% increase). Two very successful Active for Health cohorts ran at Huntingdon and St Ives. One participant lost 3 stone and 5lbs in the 12 weeks and is now swimming and running regularly. Disability activities performed well in Q4 to recover to meet end of year original target with Special Choices Day Care session particularly successful. Young people's activities continued to perform well, in particular the Huntingdon Home Schooling session which has increased to two sessions per week due to demand.

Performance Indicator	Full Year 2021/22 Performance	Annual 2022/23 Target	Outturn 2022/23 Performance	Outturn 2022/23 Status
PI 15. Number of One Leisure Facilities admissions – swimming, Impressions, fitness classes, sports hall and pitches (excluding Burgess Hall and school admissions (cumulative year to date)  Aim to maximise	1,082,193	1,235,600	1,299,902	G

Comments: (One Leisure) The strong Q4 admissions continued throughout March with One Leisure exceeding admissions targets by over 64K admissions. The only activity areas not to meet admissions targets were gym (96%) and fitness class (98%) usage. As these are monitored by the swipe access system, and St Ives and Huntingdon have experienced significant IT issues with gate access to these areas, it could be assumed that these would have also met targets.

General swimming was a stand out overperforming area (11.5% up on target) and the re-opening of bowling and funzone areas (not planned at the start of the year) also contributed an additional 20K admissions.

Performance Indicator	Full Year 2021/22 Performance	Annual 2022/23 Target	Outturn 2022/23 Performance	Outturn 2022/23 Status
PI 16. Number of residents at risk of 'crisis' proactively supported (cumulative year to date)  Aim to minimise	N/a	N/a	2,236	<b>G</b>

Comments: (Community) There has been an increase in the number of resident contacts during Q4, with residents requiring assistance predominantly with food and finances. The team have secured in excess of £33k from the Household Support Fund to provide vouchers to individuals and families needing additional help. Engagement following referral to other services continues to be good, with more residents engaging than not.

Performance Indicator	Full Year 2021/22 Performance	Annual 2022/23 Target	Outturn 2022/23 Performance	Outturn 2022/23 Status
PI 17. Number of preventative campaigns or initiatives undertaken (cumulative year to date)  Aim to minimise	N/a	4	4	<b>G</b>

Comments: (Community) Most recent campaign was targeted at supporting people to return to work through awareness raising of help available such as funding for suitable clothing, transport, training opportunities. Our future plans to work with our communities feature strongly in the Corporate Plan for 23/24 with a focus on helping to prevent crisis.

**STRATEGIC THEME – IMPROVING HOUSING PROVISION**

Period January to March 2023

**Summary of progress for Key Actions**

<b>G</b>	Progress is on track	<b>A</b>	Progress is within acceptable variance	<b>R</b>	Progress is behind schedule	<b>?</b>	Awaiting progress update	<b>n/a</b>	Not applicable to state progress
<b>2</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>	

*Target dates do not necessarily reflect the final completion date. The date given may reflect the next milestone to be reached.*

**Summary of progress for Corporate Indicators**

<b>G</b>	Performance is on track	<b>A</b>	Performance is within acceptable variance	<b>R</b>	Performance is below acceptable variance	<b>?</b>	Awaiting performance update	<b>n/a</b>	Not applicable to assess performance
<b>4</b>		<b>2</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>	

**We will undertake a review of affordable housing.**

**We will start the review of the Local Plan and associated strategies and policies. Delivery of affordable homes, quality of the built environment, creating healthy spaces and communities, available sustainable public transport, and embedding digital connectivity will all be important considerations.**

**This review will also include an examination of the suitability of new housing developments with respect to:**

- **protecting and enhancing the local environment**
- **protecting the character of a local area**
- **sustainable construction practices**
- **building homes to high environmental standards**
- **potential work locations for new residents**
- **available sustainable public transport and active travel options**
- **appropriate infrastructure**

**We will also:**

- **encourage new building developments that accommodate a range of specialist housing**
- **work closely with towns and parishes to widen knowledge around the Community Infrastructure Levy and how local communities can access these funds**

Status	Key Actions for 2022/23	Target date	Portfolio Holder	Head of Service	Progress Update
<b>G</b>	KA 17. Commence an update of the Local Plan. This should ensure that local planning policies include a focus on sustainability of new developments, achieving the right mix of housing sizes, types and tenures to meet the needs of residents, the quality of the built environment, creating healthy spaces and communities, public transport and digital connectivity	May 2024	Cllr Tom Sanderson	Clara Kerr	Cabinet agreed to a full update to the adopted Local Plan in January. Further papers endorsed by Cabinet in March to allow consultation to commence on the Local Development Scheme, Draft Settlement Hierarchy methodology, Draft Land Availability Assessment Methodology and the Call for Sites.
<b>G</b>	KA 18. Maintain a five year housing land supply (5YHLS) and ensure that the Housing Delivery Test in the National Planning Policy Framework is met	October 2022	Cllr Tom Sanderson	Clara Kerr	Produced annually. Annual Monitoring Report 21/22 published October 2022. HDC has a 5.75 year housing land supply.
<b>A</b>	KA 19. Design and implement strategies to use Council assets to support the delivery of affordable homes	Ongoing	Cllr Sam Wakeford	Pam Scott	<p>Revised designs have been received for the Warboys site (as part of the nine sites that form the contract with Longhurst), these designs have been out to consultation but the application remains contentious with approximately 400 objections to the application including the Parish Council.</p> <p>Due to the way that the contract is structured, Longhurst will not submit other schemes for planning until they receive a positive planning permission on</p>

Status	Key Actions for 2022/23	Target date	Portfolio Holder	Head of Service	Progress Update
					<p>this site. In March, a supplemental agreement was signed to update the contract with Longhurst.</p> <p>Alongside this package of sites, officers are exploring the use of one other HDC-owned site with Places for People to look to bring forward some sites to help homeless applicants in the area using a modern methods of construction (MMC) approach.</p>

### Corporate Performance and Contextual Indicators

#### Key to status

<b>G</b>	Performance is on track	<b>A</b>	Performance is within acceptable variance	<b>R</b>	Performance is below acceptable variance	<b>?</b>	Awaiting performance update	<b>n/a</b>	Not applicable to assess performance
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Performance Indicator	Full Year 2021/22 Performance	Annual 2022/23 Target	Outturn 2022/23 Performance	Outturn 2022/23 Status
PI 18. Net change in number of homes with a Council Tax banding (cumulative year to date)  Aim to maximise	1,023	No Target Set Defer to AMR	1,099	<b>G</b>

Comments: (Planning) There were an additional 1,099 homes with a Council Tax banding on 29 March 2023 than recorded at 31 March 2022. The net number of dwellings completed in the previous year (2021/22) was confirmed as 1,055 in the last Annual Monitoring Report.



Performance Indicator	Full Year 2021/22 Performance	Annual 2022/23 Target	Outturn 2022/23 Performance	Outturn 2022/23 Status
PI 19. Number of new affordable homes delivered (cumulative year to date)  Aim to maximise	311	570	456	A

Comments: (Regeneration & Housing Delivery) Consistent with previous reporting, this year our Registered Provider partners have suffered from issues such as cost of material and labour. This made forecasting and delivery difficult to estimate and some developments have suffered delay. However, there was a significant increase in the number of homes completed compared to the previous year (311) and the number was the highest reported for this measure in the last ten years. None of the affordable homes not delivered in 2022/23 are lost but have slipped into next year. Development programmes are in any event often subject to change so initial targets should to some degree be regarded as indicative.

Performance Indicator	Full Year 2021/22 Performance	Annual 2022/23 Target	Outturn 2022/23 Performance	Outturn 2022/23 Status
PI 20. Number of homelessness preventions achieved (cumulative year to date)  Aim to maximise	493	530	448	A

Comments: (Housing Needs & Resources) Opportunities for early intervention at the stage where homelessness is threatened have reduced this year. This has been most notable in areas such as notices served on private sector tenants as we are seeing more instances where the tenancy can not be saved, for example where landlords wish to sell the property. Although this has led to a reduction in successful outcomes at the 'prevention duty' stage, we are seeing earlier interventions that achieve a successful outcome. As these are prior to the triggering of a formal prevention or relief duty, they are not reflected in this performance indicator. We have achieved a further 35 successful outcomes in this way on top of the figures shown here giving a total of 483 successful outcomes to the end of March. A further metric linked to this is the number of households in temporary accommodation at any one time. Increases in this number would highlight that missed earlier interventions were possibly leading to more households going into temporary accommodation. We are seeing a slight reduction in the number of households in temporary accommodation and so a lower number of preventions is not leading to more households going into this type of accommodation.

Performance Indicator	Full Year 2021/22 Performance	Annual 2022/23 Target	Outturn 2022/23 Performance	Outturn 2022/23 Status
PI 21. The amount of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding committed for infrastructure development (cumulative year to date)  Aim to maximise	£2,156,320	No Target Set	£7,215,929.20	G

Comments: (Planning) There have been two CIL funding rounds held this financial year. A total of £7,215,929.20 was allocated through the funding rounds and emergency applications - this does not include any funds which are facilitated with spend for "neighbourhood proportion" elements in non-parished areas. The allocated spend in this year includes a substantial allocation to a new health facility linked to growth at the largest Strategic Expansion Location in the district.

A government consultation was launched in March 2023 on the future of CIL and the potential introduction of a replacement Infrastructure Levy. The Council has also agreed a review of the governance arrangements for CIL will take place during 2023/24.

Performance Indicator	Full Year 2021/22 Performance	Annual 2022/23 Target	Outturn 2022/23 Performance	Outturn 2022/23 Status
PI 22. Percentage of planning applications processed on target – major (within 13 weeks or agreed extended period) (cumulative year to date)  Aim to maximise	81%	86%	87%	G

Comments: (Planning)  $53/61 = 86.9\%$ . Performance in March was  $5/6 = 83.3\%$ . This, coupled with 4 going out of time in February, has brought down the figure but overall performance for the year was within target and was higher than achieved in 2021/22. The last 2 months have seen decision making for long standing backlog cases which resulted in the reduction of applications determined within target.

Performance Indicator	Full Year 2021/22 Performance	Annual 2022/23 Target	Outturn 2022/23 Performance	Outturn 2022/23 Status
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PI 23. Percentage of planning applications processed on target – minor (within 8 weeks or agreed extended period) (cumulative year to date)	63%	84%	77%	R
Aim to maximise				

Comments: (Planning) 248/321 = 77.3%. Performance in March was 22/36 = 61.1%. As work continues to determine backlog applications, there has been an expected consequence of reduction in performance against this measure while reducing the number of applications on hand. However, performance improved significantly compared to the 63% achieved in 2021/22.

Performance Indicator	Full Year 2021/22 Performance	Annual 2022/23 Target	Outturn 2022/23 Performance	Outturn 2022/23 Status
PI 24. Percentage of planning applications processed on target – household extensions (within 8 weeks or agreed extended period) (cumulative year to date)	81%	81%	91%	G
Aim to maximise				

Comments: (Planning) 652/719 = 90.7%. Performance in March was 51/54 = 94.4%. Performance in March on householder applications continued to be strong and recovered from a small dip in February as officers work with applicants to deliver applications within agreed timescales. The year end result was also higher than achieved in 2021/22.

## STRATEGIC THEME – STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITIES

Period January to March 2023

### Summary of progress for Key Actions

G	Progress is on track	A	Progress is within acceptable variance	R	Progress is behind schedule	?	Awaiting progress update	n/a	Not applicable to state progress
	7		1		0		0		0

*Target dates do not necessarily reflect the final completion date. The date given may reflect the next milestone to be reached.*

### Summary of progress for Corporate Indicators

G	Performance is on track	A	Performance is within acceptable variance	R	Performance is below acceptable variance	?	Awaiting performance update	n/a	Not applicable to assess performance
	2		1		2		0		1

#### We will:

- continue to work with accredited community organisations to ensure our services fulfil local needs, and are delivered in the way that best builds community and resident capacity
- enable communities to develop and maintain Neighbourhood Plans that reflect the needs and aspirations of those living there
- continue to develop local employment and skills pathways building on the work of our local jobs clubs pilot
- work with police and communities to help people feel safe where they live
- support local people to take action to improve their area including through 'seed funding' projects with community grants

In managing the council's assets and using its resources, we will consider the social and economic impacts upon local communities, as well as financial implications for the council. We will explore every opportunity to build capacity and empower communities to take ownership and meet residents' need.

We want our communities to be great places to live and work. We will explore all opportunities to increase the provision of green spaces, play areas, youth activities and community buildings.

We will work toward our long-term ambition to be the most active District in Cambridgeshire.

Status	Key Actions for 2022/23	Target date	Portfolio Holder	Head of Service	Progress Update
G	KA 20. Develop, adopt and deliver a Place Strategy informed by resident and stakeholder engagement	Q4 2022/23	Cllr Sarah Conboy	Neil Sloper	Complete - The Place Strategy, Huntingdonshire Futures, was approved by Councillors at Full Council on March 29th. Input from Members and officers helped shape the strategy to ensure the views of residents, businesses and stakeholders were included as we set out a brighter future for Huntingdonshire to 2050. The next steps will be to work with our partners and stakeholders to bring the strategy to life. The Huntingdonshire Futures strategy can be found at <a href="http://www.huntingdonshirefutures.net">www.huntingdonshirefutures.net</a> .
A	KA 21. Commence development of a refreshed Community Strategy informed by our resident engagement activity and our current Community Strategy	Q3 2022/23	Cllr Ben Pitt	Claudia Deeth	The refresh is now planned for 2023/24 to allow for the inclusion of other relevant work. We have introduced a number of projects in year and we will integrate them into our thinking.  In addition the Place Strategy has opened up a number of new avenues that we want to bring into a new Community Strategy. This will feature in the outcome statements in the Corporate Plan for 23/24.
G	KA 22. Support community planning by providing advice to Towns and Parish Councils seeking to develop or update Neighbourhood Plans	Ongoing	Cllr Tom Sanderson	Clara Kerr	Great Gransden Neighbourhood Plan was made at Council on 29th March. The Giddings, Hamerton and Winwick have commenced preparation of a joint neighbourhood plan. The Stukeleys continue to prepare their neighbourhood plan, which is

Status	Key Actions for 2022/23	Target date	Portfolio Holder	Head of Service	Progress Update
					anticipated to be taken to April's Cabinet with a recommendation to proceed to referendum.
G	KA 23. Deliver the CCG funded Community activity project with and through community groups, to better meet and build local capability	March 2023	Cllr Ben Pitt	Liz Smith	On track - all project proposals received by deadline date and approved. Baseline data to track impact of work being collected. Project to transition into financial vulnerability programme in Q1 23/24.
G	KA 24. Fund and award Community Chest Grants to local community groups, and support the work of local voluntary organisations	March 2023	Cllr Ben Pitt	Claudia Deeth	The panel has continued to meet on a fortnightly basis to consider applications, with bids to support Warm Spaces welcomed from October. A total of £7,250 was awarded to successful applicants during Q4 alone. Following a review, a refresh of the criteria has been completed and applications will be accepted in 2023/24 that help meet the Council's objectives.
G	KA 25. Work with our Communities to co-ordinate support for Ukrainian refugees moving to the area, including Homes for Ukraine sponsors and their guests	March 2023	Cllr Ben Pitt	Claudia Deeth	We are seeing fewer people arrive from Ukraine. Over the last quarter, it has been on average 1-5 people/week. The main area of focus has been assisting guests to 'move on' into their own privately rented accommodation or support guests where the guest/host relationship has broken down. We have appointed a housing officer to support hosts and guests and help ensure that suitable and affordable properties can be sourced.
G	KA 26. Work in partnership to provide greater leisure and health opportunities at Community, Sports Club or within formal Leisure to enable more people to be more active, more often	March 2023	Cllr Ben Pitt / Cllr Simone Taylor	Gregg Holland	At least 75 separate organisations worked with through the whole of 2022/23 across sports and physical activity. Work developed in the year has seen St Neots Primary Care Network commission services from Active Lifestyles for the first time. Many of the Recognised Organisations funded through the Health Inequalities funding from the Integrated Care

Status	Key Actions for 2022/23	Target date	Portfolio Holder	Head of Service	Progress Update
					System (ICS) have commissioned both the sports and health teams to deliver work requested by their communities in the consultations they carried out. Over 20 partners and colleagues across the sector have registered as Trusted Partners for the Concessionary Scheme, which had 831 subscriptions allocated at the end of March. The playing pitch and leisure built facilities strategies are nearing completion and the contribution of partners and stakeholders has been very worthwhile and valuable in shaping the strategy for future years. It will be going to Cabinet in June for sign off.
<b>G</b>	KA 27. Play an active role in the development of the Integrated Care Partnership to ensure that health delivery contributes to local objectives around enhanced Quality of Life	March 2023	Cllr Ben Pitt	Liz Smith	Huntingdon/A1 Integrated Neighbourhood Board established by the ICS Integrated Neighbourhoods Programme Manager along with St Neots Integrated Neighbourhood Board. Four meetings delivered and attended by HDC representatives to identify local Primary Care Network priorities and how partners can contribute to making improvements to residents' health.

## Corporate Performance and Contextual Indicators

### Key to status

<b>G</b>	Performance is on track	<b>A</b>	Performance is within acceptable variance	<b>R</b>	Performance is below acceptable variance	?	Awaiting performance update	<b>n/a</b>	Not applicable to assess performance
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Performance Indicator	Full Year 2021/22 Performance	Annual 2022/23 Target	Outturn 2022/23 Performance	Outturn 2022/23 Status
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PI 25. Number of hours worked by volunteers Aim to maximise	N/a	N/a	N/a	<b>N/a</b>
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Comments: (Community) Unfortunately this has not progressed as we had hoped and we are not yet in a position to report on this. Hunts Forum have committed to work with us over the next 12 months to re-model the voluntary sector contract and part of this will be the requirement to measure hours of volunteering.

Performance Indicator	Full Year 2021/22 Performance	Annual 2022/23 Target	Outturn 2022/23 Performance	Outturn 2022/23 Status
PI 26. Number of accredited community and voluntary sector groups within Hunts under the 'Good to Go' or other scheme (latest position at end of quarter) Aim to maximise	N/a	20	4	<b>R</b>

Comments: (Community) The value of the Good to Go scheme continues to be under review and is being considered as part of the recommissioning process. We understand that for groups to want to be part of the scheme, there must be a benefit to them hence there is a possibility changes to the scheme moving forward will be necessary. We will seek to work with Community Groups on designing any future schemes to ensure the balance between assurance on accreditation is balanced against the level of risk.

Performance Indicator	Full Year 2021/22 Performance	Annual 2022/23 Target	Outturn 2022/23 Performance	Outturn 2022/23 Status
PI 27. The number of programmed food safety inspections undertaken (cumulative year to date) Aim to maximise	391	864 plus potential 100 new businesses	674	<b>A</b>

Comments: (Community) We have not met our target for 2022/23 although we expect to have met the requirements of the Food Standards Agency recovery plan with all category A, B and C premises being inspected. The data required for the FSA return is currently being prepared which will confirm this.



It is noted that the target for 2022/23 was much higher than a 'normal' year due to inspections being suspended during the pandemic and therefore nearly all premises becoming overdue an inspection. Standards in many food premises have declined due to inspections being overdue which has meant inspections are taking longer which has impacted on the number of inspections completed.

Performance Indicator	Full Year 2021/22 Performance	Annual 2022/23 Target	Outturn 2022/23 Performance	Outturn 2022/23 Status
PI 28. Number of 'Aspirations High' initiatives delivered within identified primary schools (cumulative year to date)  Aim to maximise	N/a	6	0	R

Comments: (Community) There were challenges with this work in 23/24. Schools were focused on other work (the return to normal post-pandemic) and the resources at HDC, who were scheduled to pick this work up, had to prioritise work to support unplanned, but important, work with communities entering the UK from Ukraine and Afghanistan. This work stream led by The Cam Academy is now in place with key projects and dates with identified schools.

Performance Indicator	Full Year 2021/22 Performance	Annual 2022/23 Target	Outturn 2022/23 Performance	Outturn 2022/23 Status
PI 29. Number of local health/physical activity events developed (cumulative year to date)  Aim to maximise	N/a	100	105	G

Comments: (Active Lifestyles) Two new Active for Health cohorts, new classes in Hail Weston and Sawtry, new care home session at Hardwick Dene and new Let's Get Moving in St Neots with St Neots Primary Care Network. Work commenced with Huntingdon Community Group as part of the Health Inequalities funding with an after school club at Thongsley School. New sessions with Kings Ripton Court supported housing and St Ives Dementia Cafe. Grow Wild commissioned some bespoke PEDALS (adapted bikes) sessions. Plus the additional home schooling session in Huntingdon.

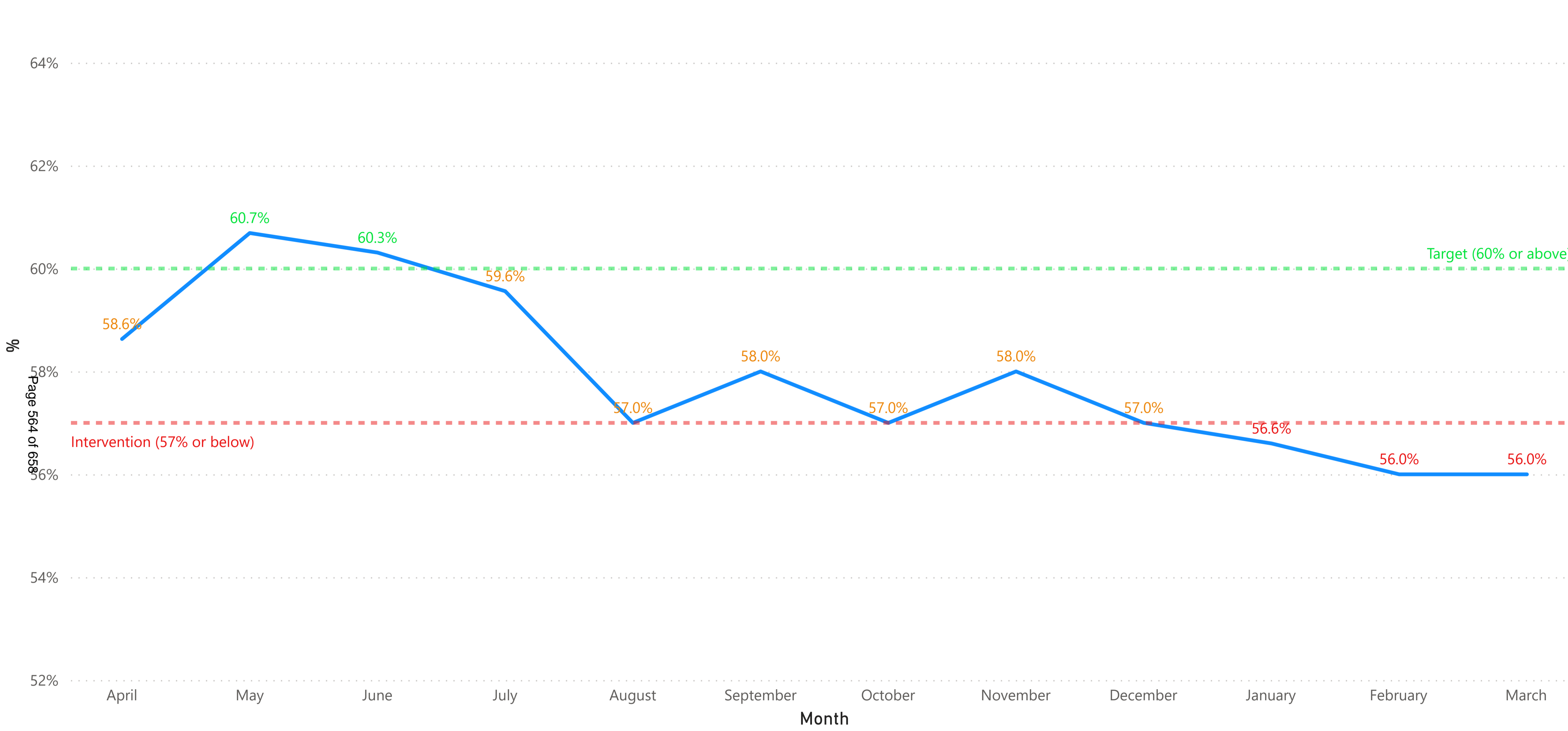
Performance Indicator	Full Year 2021/22 Performance	Annual 2022/23 Target	Outturn 2022/23	Outturn 2022/23 Status
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			Performance	
PI 30. Number of people supported by local jobs clubs (cumulative year to date)	N/a	No target set	170	G
Aim to maximise				

Comments: (Community) The job clubs continue to operate via the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) on Oxmoor, Ramsey and Brampton, with 55 residents accessing the job clubs during Q4. It is recognised that the model requires a review to ensure those needing the support know how and where to access it as the offer is not being utilised to the best of its ability. Recognising that childcare is the biggest barrier to employment, we are working with primary schools on Oxmoor to introduce a heavily subsidised, externally funded offer. It is hoped that if benefits can be demonstrated, this will be duplicated elsewhere.

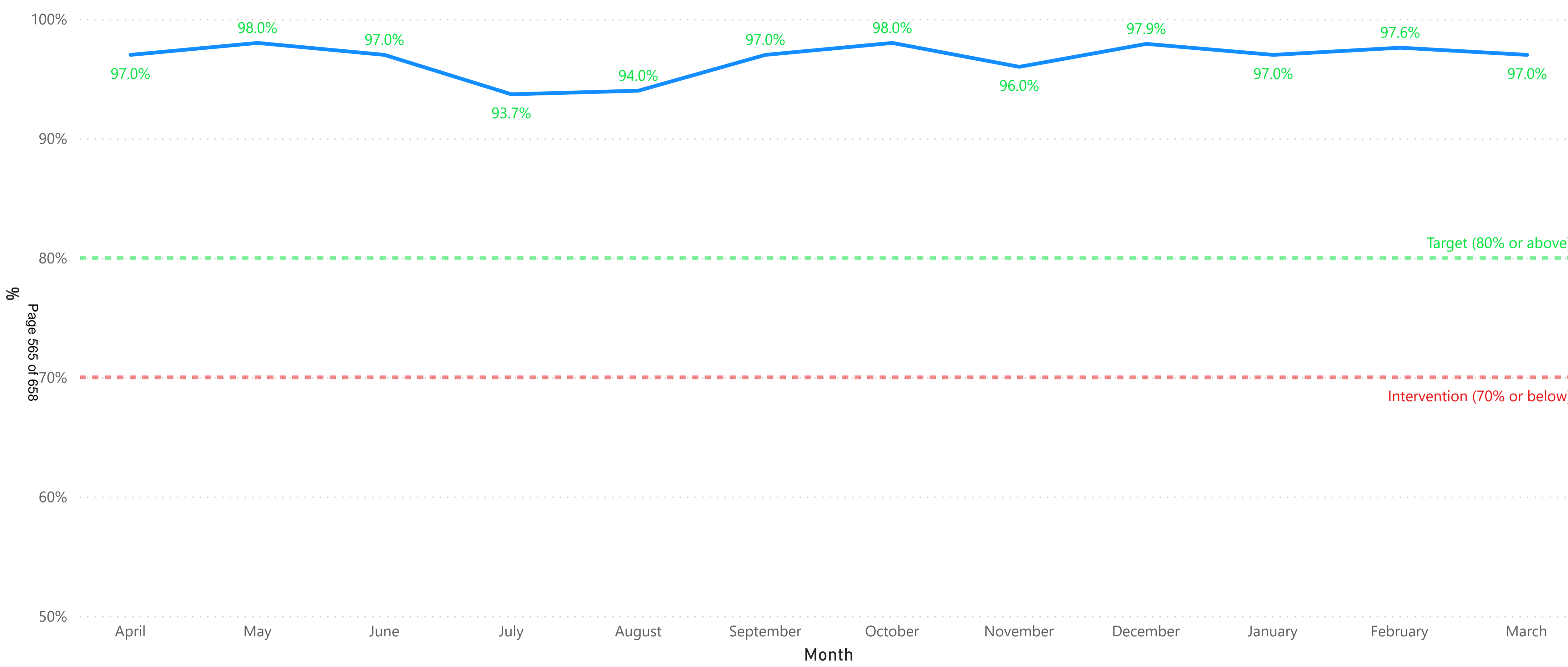
## Corporate Indicator Graphs 2022/23

Percentage of household waste reused/ recycled/composted (cumulative year to date) Aim to maximise



Latest commentary from service: As reported previously, less garden waste was generated and collected through the summer months due to the hot and dry summer conditions. This contributed to a lower percentage of household waste being reused, recycled or composted compared to the previous year. However, the amount of dry recycling tonnage has been consistent with previous years.

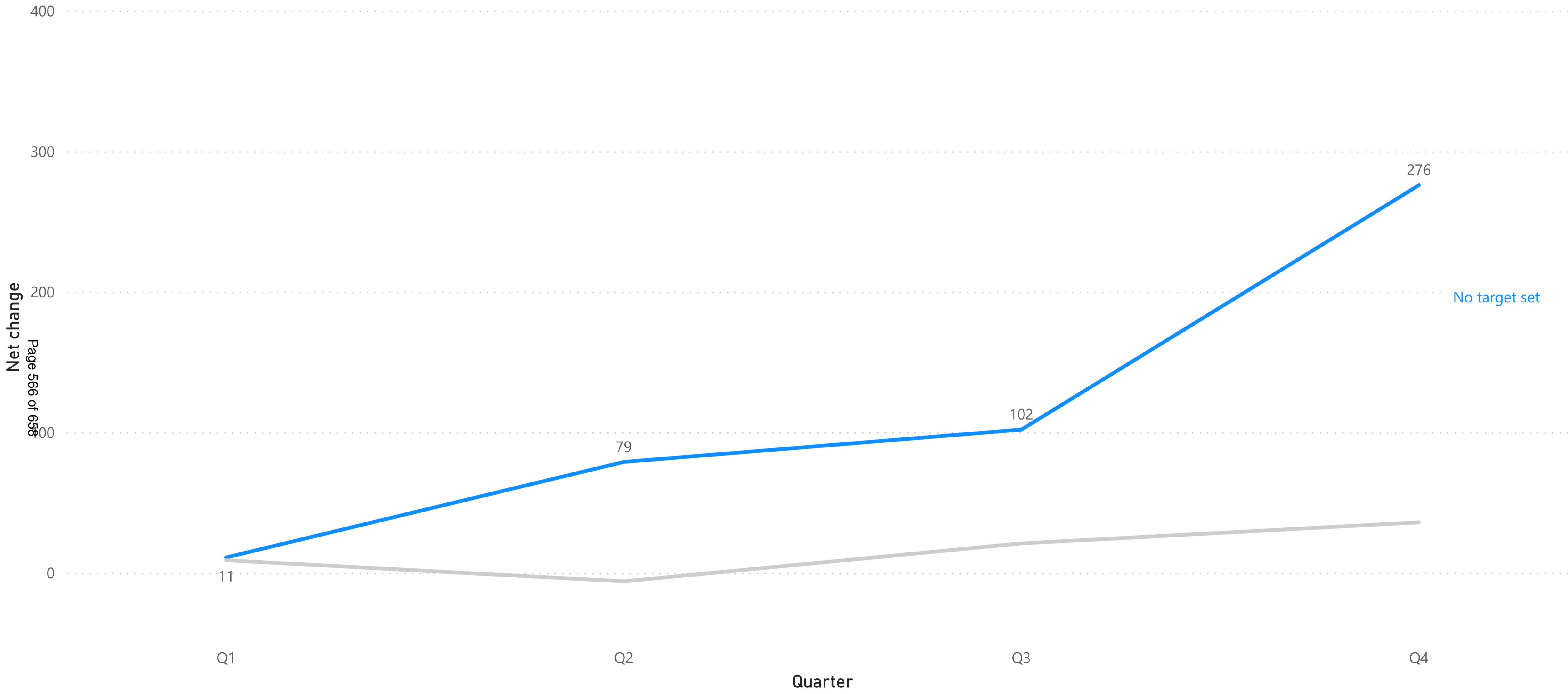
Percentage of sampled areas which are clean or predominantly clean of litter, detritus, graffiti, flyposting, or weed accumulations (cumulative year to date) Aim to maximise



Latest commentary from service: Continued monitoring and work scheduling continues to deliver above target scores, with outturn performance slightly improved on 2021/22.

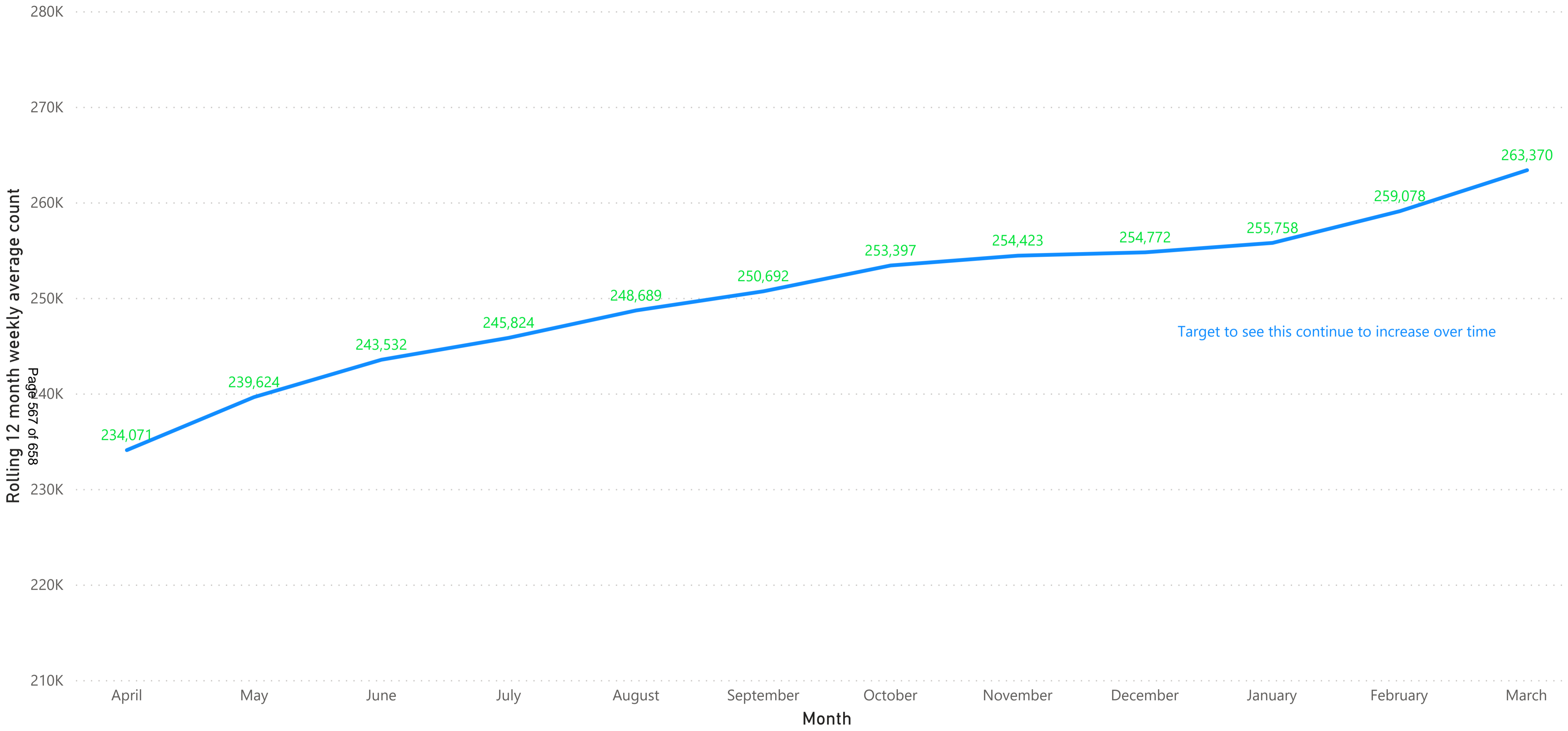
# Net change in number of local businesses (cumulative year to date) Aim to maximise

● 22/23 Net change in number of local businesses ● 21/22 Net change in number of local businesses



In the final quarter of the year, strong enterprise growth was observed across the creative, construction, health, property and retail sectors. More than half of the start-ups were incorporated in the urban buffer areas, places on the edge of town locations. For the entire year, in comparison to the 12 months previous, over 7.5 times more companies were added to the active business base; an indication of a bounce-back in the post pandemic period.

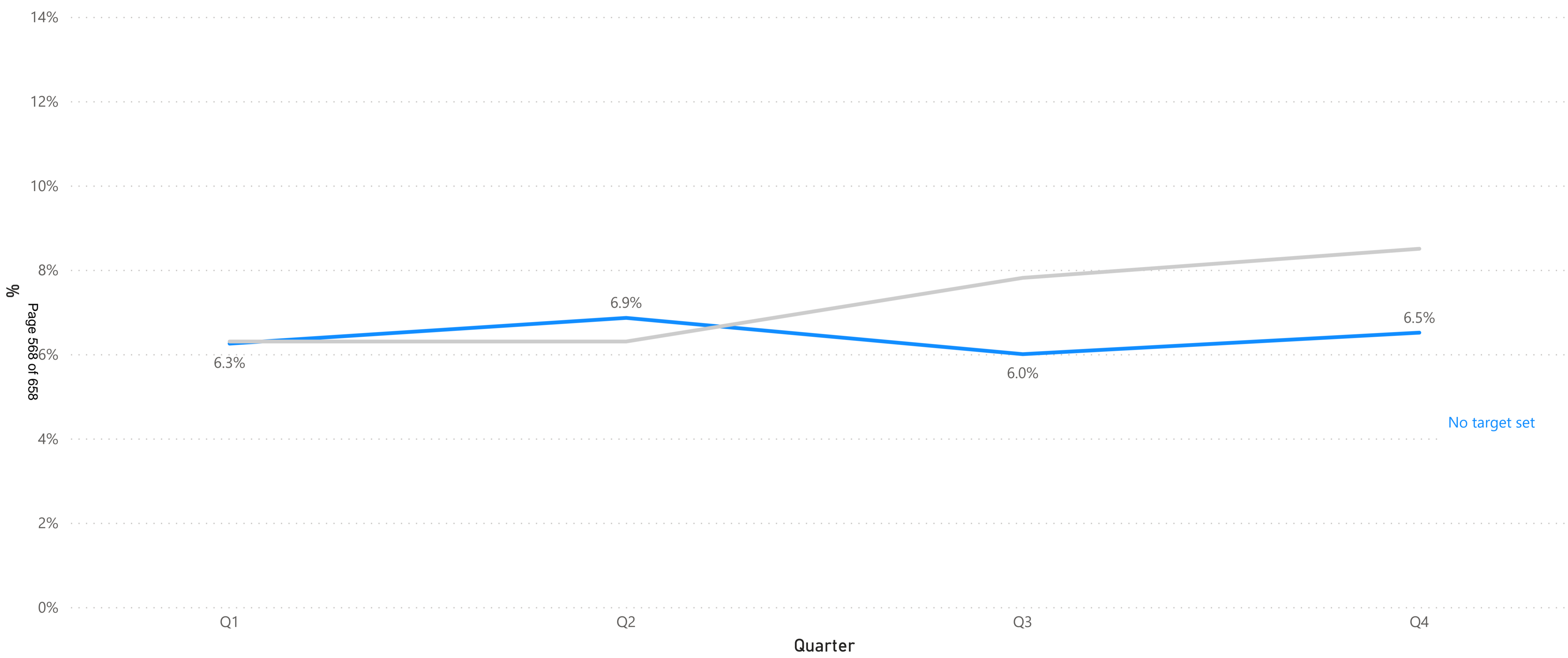
# Footfall in town centres (Rolling 12 month weekly average, combined total for 4 market towns) Aim to maximise



Latest commentary from service: Footfall figures were favourable in the February half-term week, whilst two spikes were observed in St Ives. However, counts remain marginally below 2019 results (where recorded) as household budgets continue to be squeezed.

# Proportion of council spend with suppliers from the local area (cumulative year to date) Aim to maximise

● 22/23 Proportion of council spend with suppliers from the local area (cumulative year to date) ● 21/22 Proportion of council spend with suppliers from the local area (cumulative year to date)



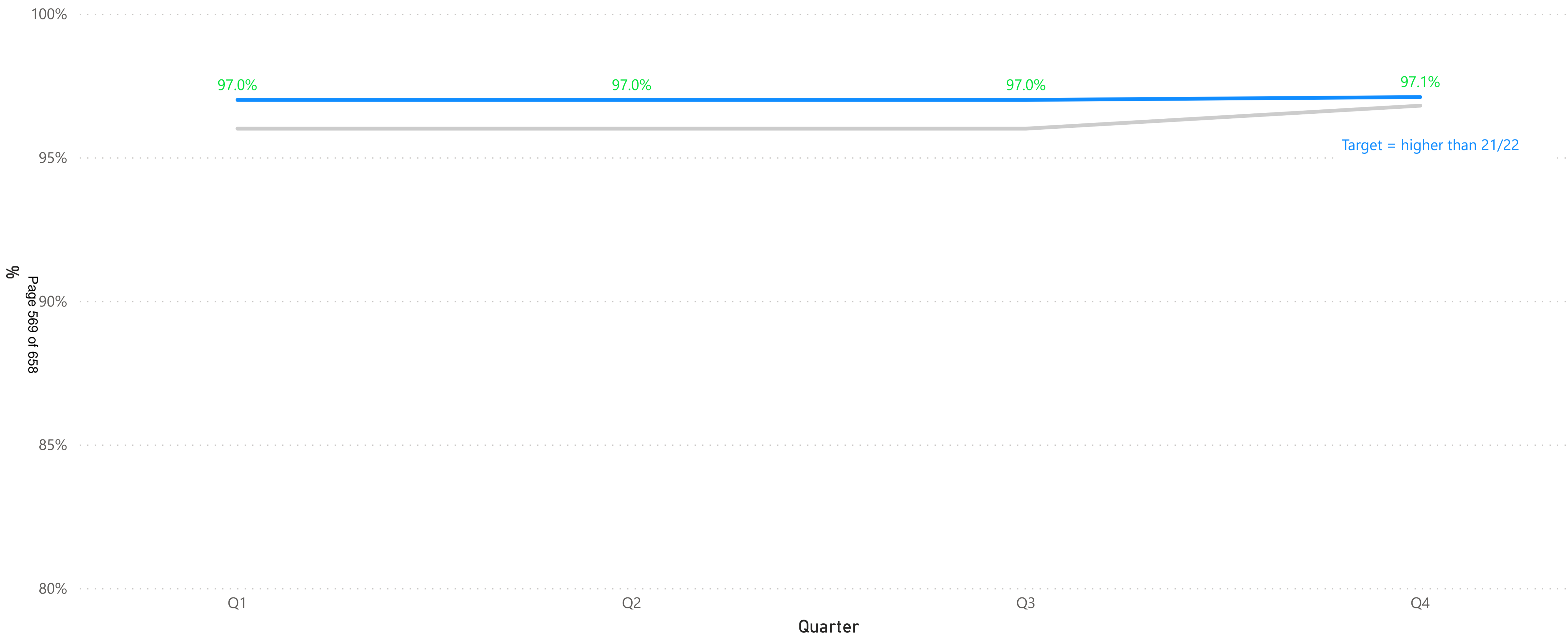
No target set

Local spend was down on 2021/22, however work to explore the data further to understand the reasons behind this was not completed so no target was set to assess this against. The indicator is calculated based on spend with local suppliers where the supplier postcode in our accounts system is based in Huntingdonshire so accuracy depends on accuracy of the postcodes recorded. Spend with companies located in Huntingdonshire but with a supplier postcode outside the area is not counted as 'local' even where there may be a local branch so this may be an undercount. Payments on purchase cards are not yet included. Further analysis is needed to identify what proportion of each spend type is local and where there is little or no opportunity to increase 'local' spend (e.g. energy suppliers, HGV manufacturers) to inform target setting.



# Percentage of residential and business premises with super-fast fixed broadband coverage (latest figure available, not every quarter) Aim to maximise

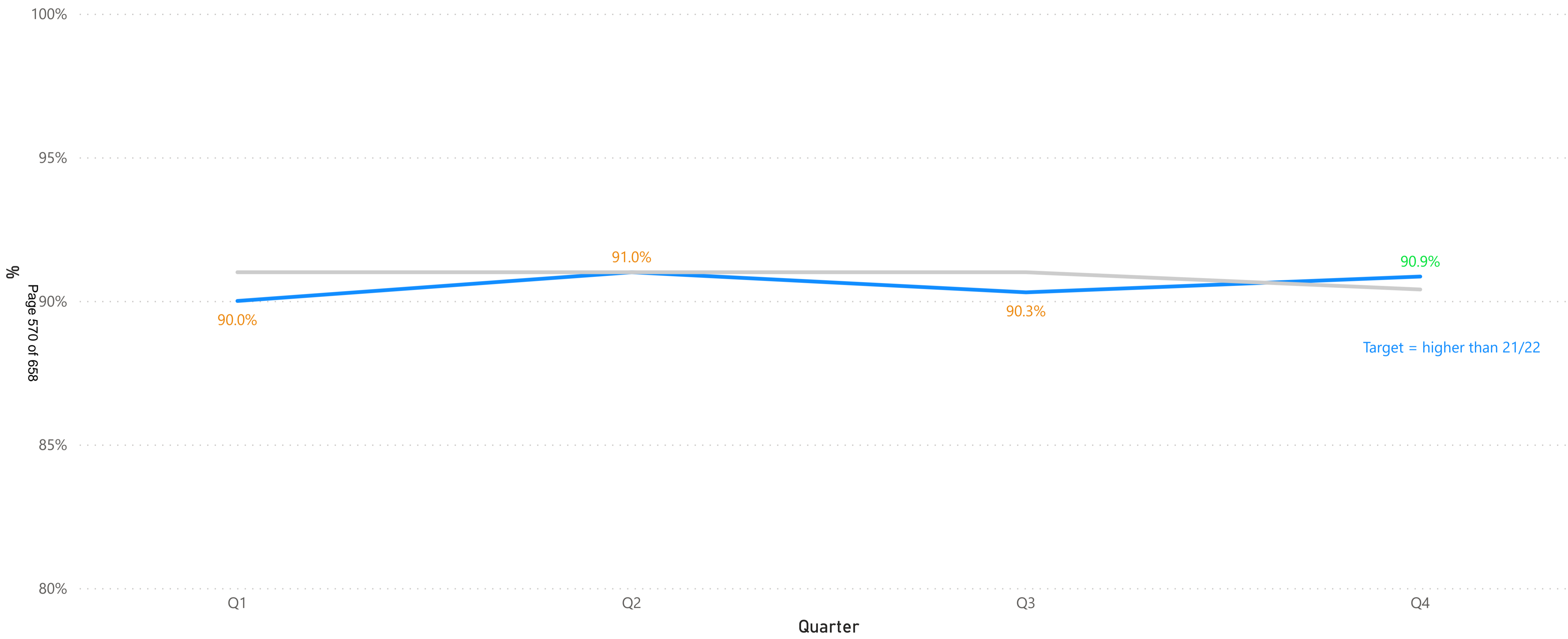
● 22/23 ● 21/22



According to the latest Connected Nations Report published by Ofcom in May 2023 (from a snapshot taken in January 2023), 83,192 residential and business premises had access to download speeds of at least 30Mbit/second (Superfast Broadband).

Percentage of residential and business premises with indoor 4G mobile coverage from at least 3 operators (latest figure available, not every quarter) Aim to maximise

● 22/23 ● 21/22

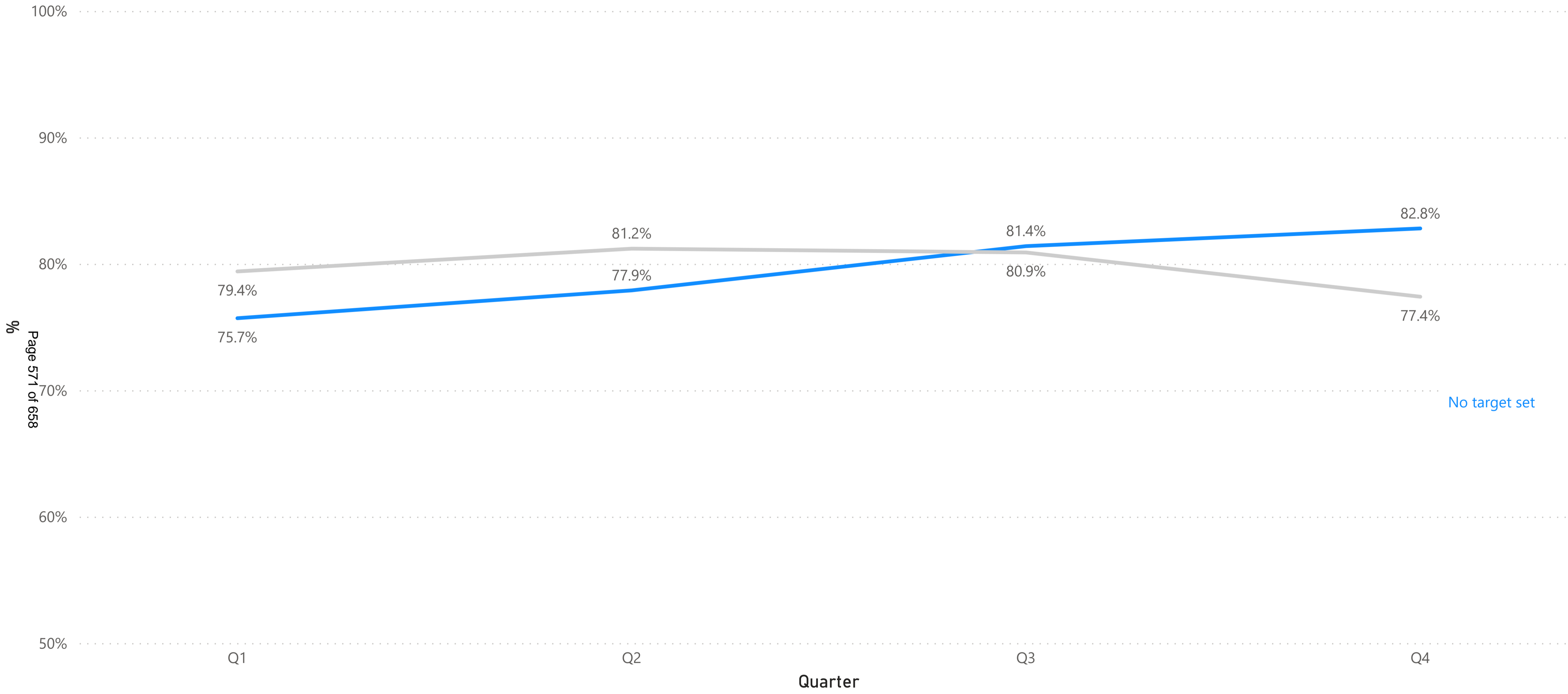


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According to the latest Connected Nations Report published by Ofcom in May 2023 (from a snapshot taken in January 2023), 73.38% of premises had indoor 4G coverage from all four operators and a further 17.47% had coverage from three operators. The latest results indicate higher coverage compared to previous results.

# Employment Rate (latest estimate available for previous quarter) Aim to maximise

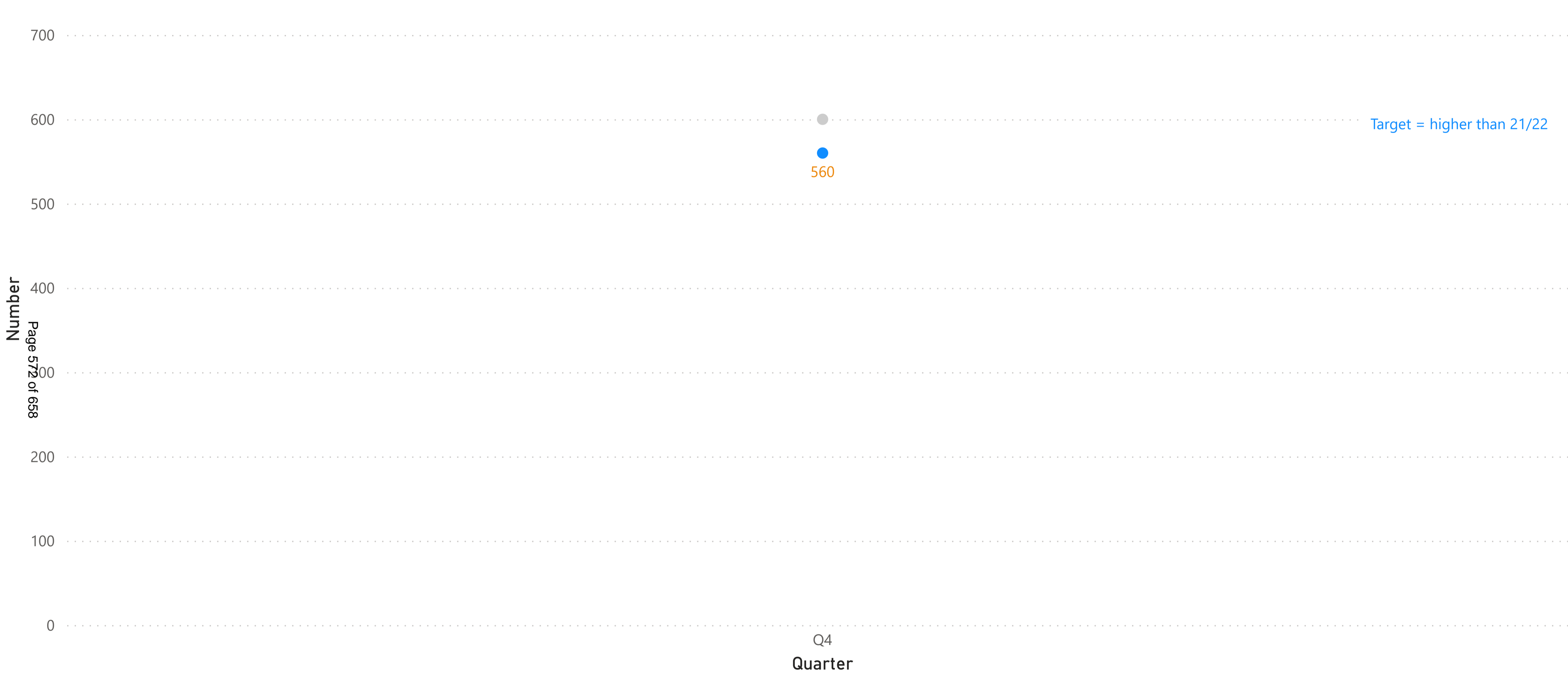
● 22/23 Employment rate (latest estimate available, previous quarter) ● 21/22 Employment rate (latest estimate available, previous quarter)



The latest figure published in April relates to the period from January to December 2022. While the figures listed are published as official national statistics, the limited sample size of the underlying survey at district level means that the 5.4% increase shown compared to 2021 does not represent a statistically significant difference so the status is therefore listed as 'not applicable' rather than 'Green'.

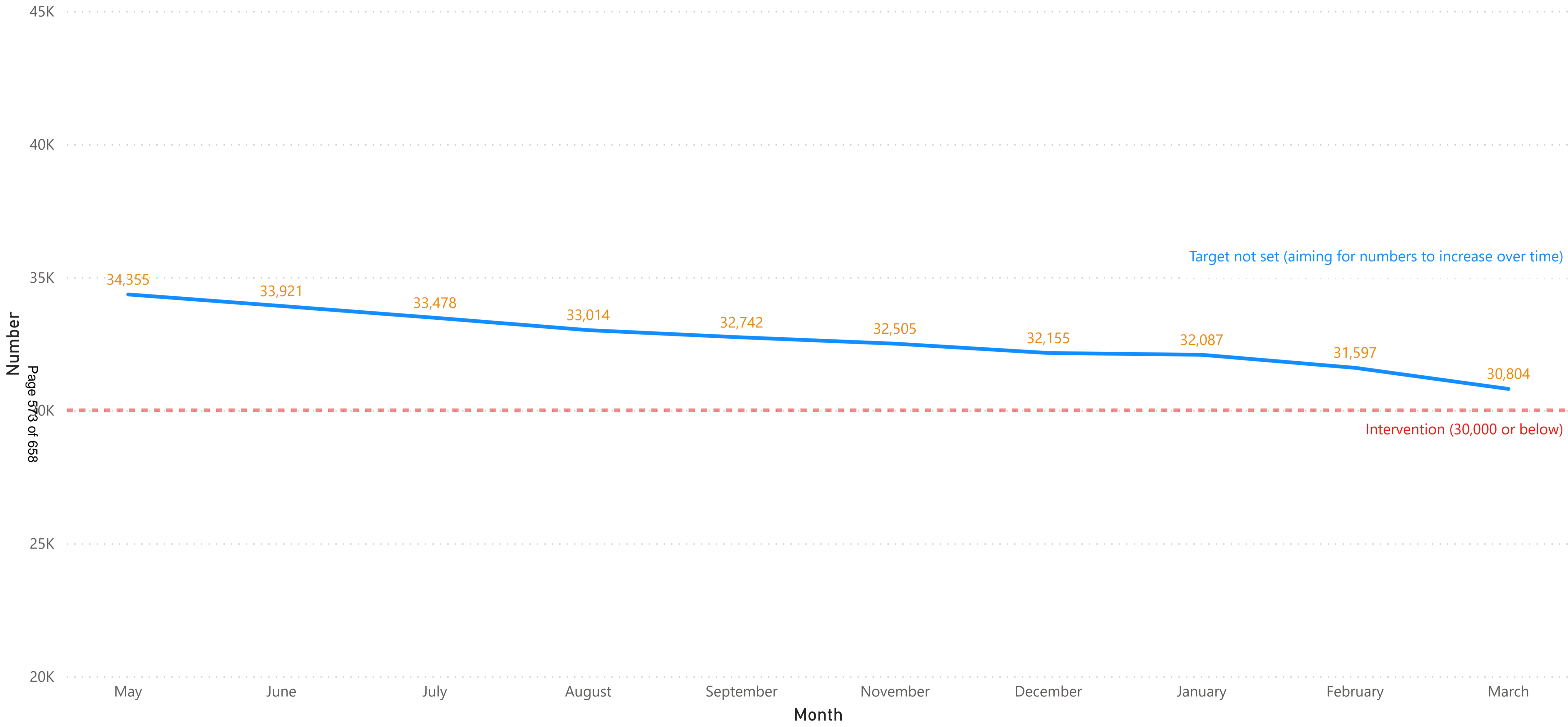
# Number of Huntingdonshire Apprentices starts (part year) Aim to maximise

● 22/23 Number of Huntingdonshire Apprenticeship starts (part academic year) ● 21/22 Number of Huntingdonshire Apprenticeship starts (part academic year)



This part-year (August to January) result for 2022/23 compares to 600 reported at the same stage for 2021/22, a 6.7% fall. The Department for Education has reported a 4.1% reduction in starts nationally compared to the same period last year. The final total for 2022/23 will not be available until November 2023.

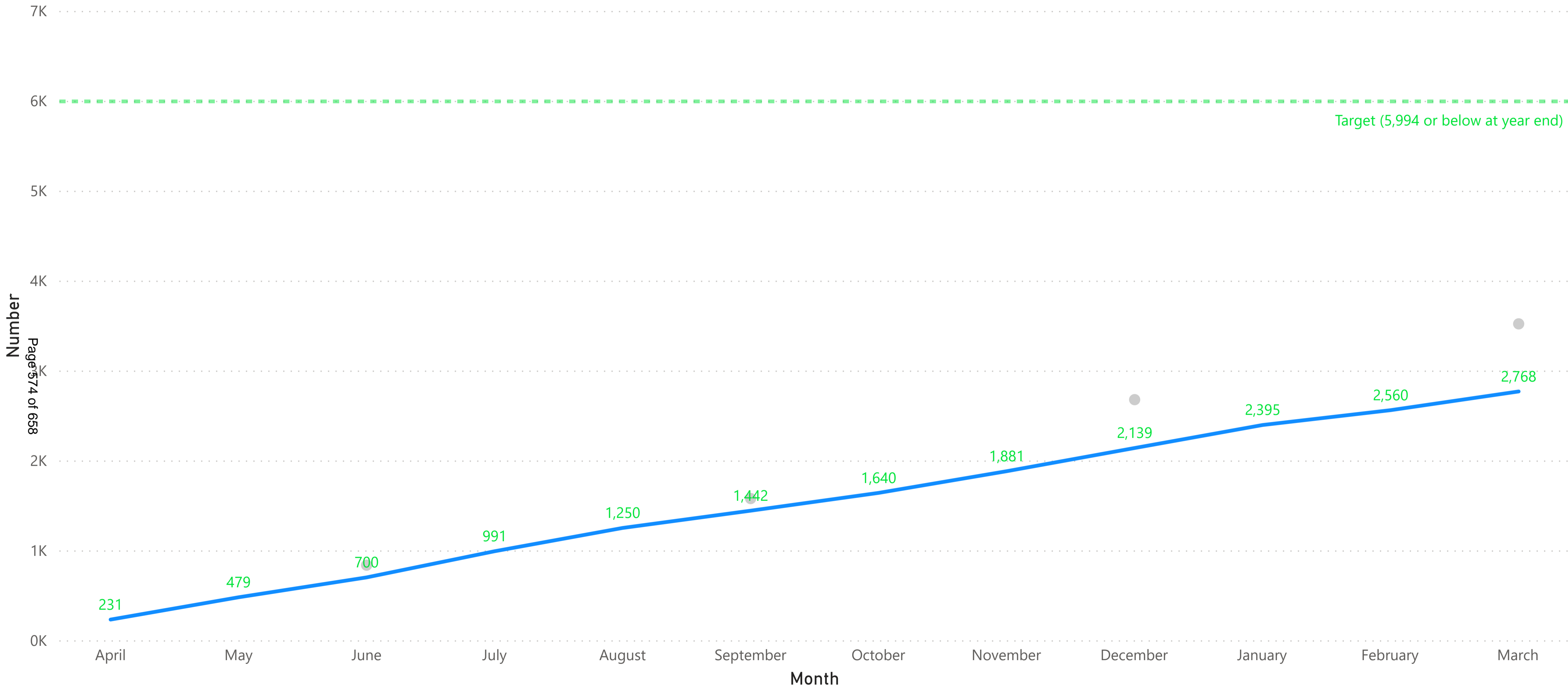
Number of active customer portal accounts(accessed within the last 12 months) (Rolling 12 month figure to latest date) Aim to maximise



Latest commentary from service: The number of new accounts created each month has dropped off from around 2K a month in 2021 to 1.5k a month in 2022. The requirement to setup accounts as part of COVID business grant claims would be a factor. The majority of customers complete e-forms as a guest, they are not required to setup accounts to access most services. The total number of completed e-forms has increased by 3K in 2022 compared to 2021, so the e-form platform is being well used.

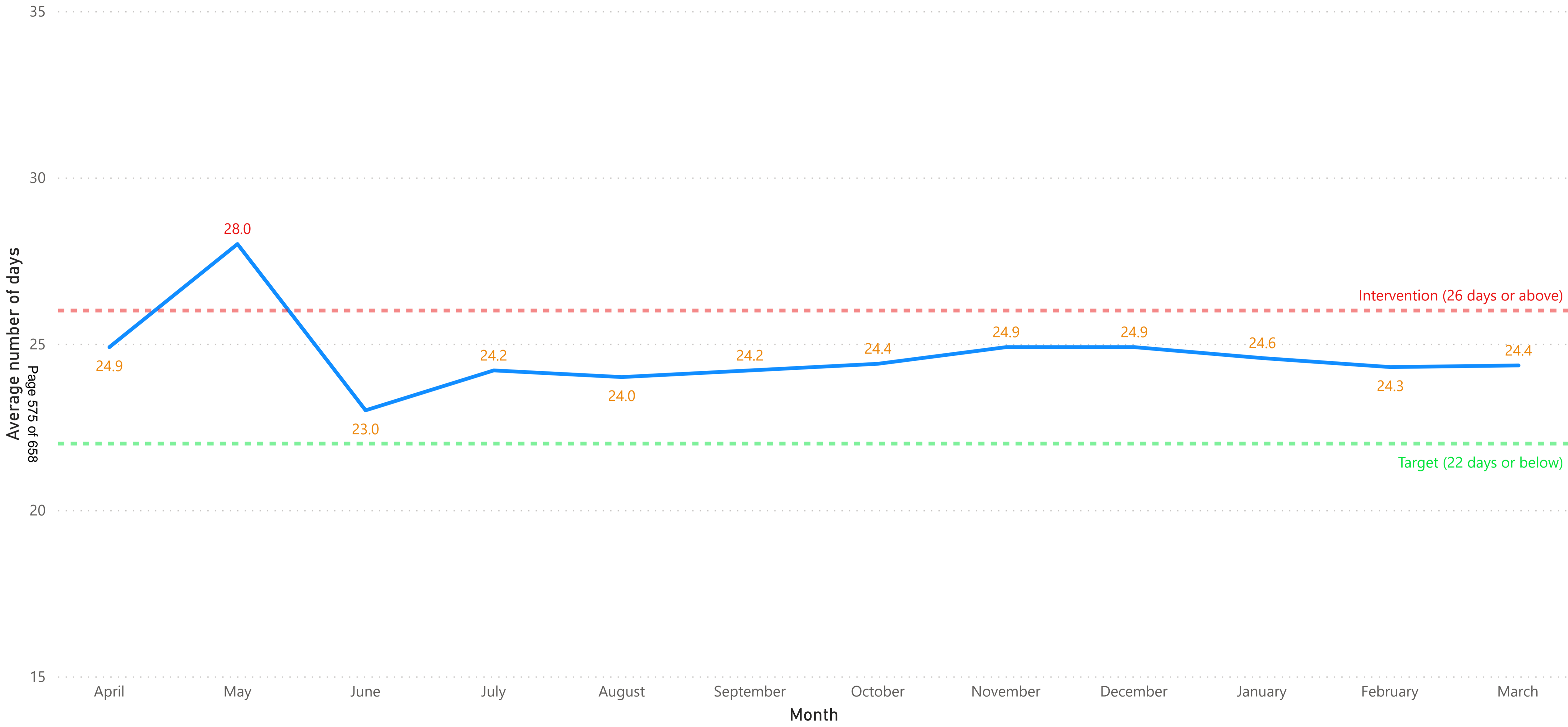
# Number of missed bins (cumulative year to date) Aim to minimise

● 2022/23 Number of missed bins ● 2021/22 Number of missed bins



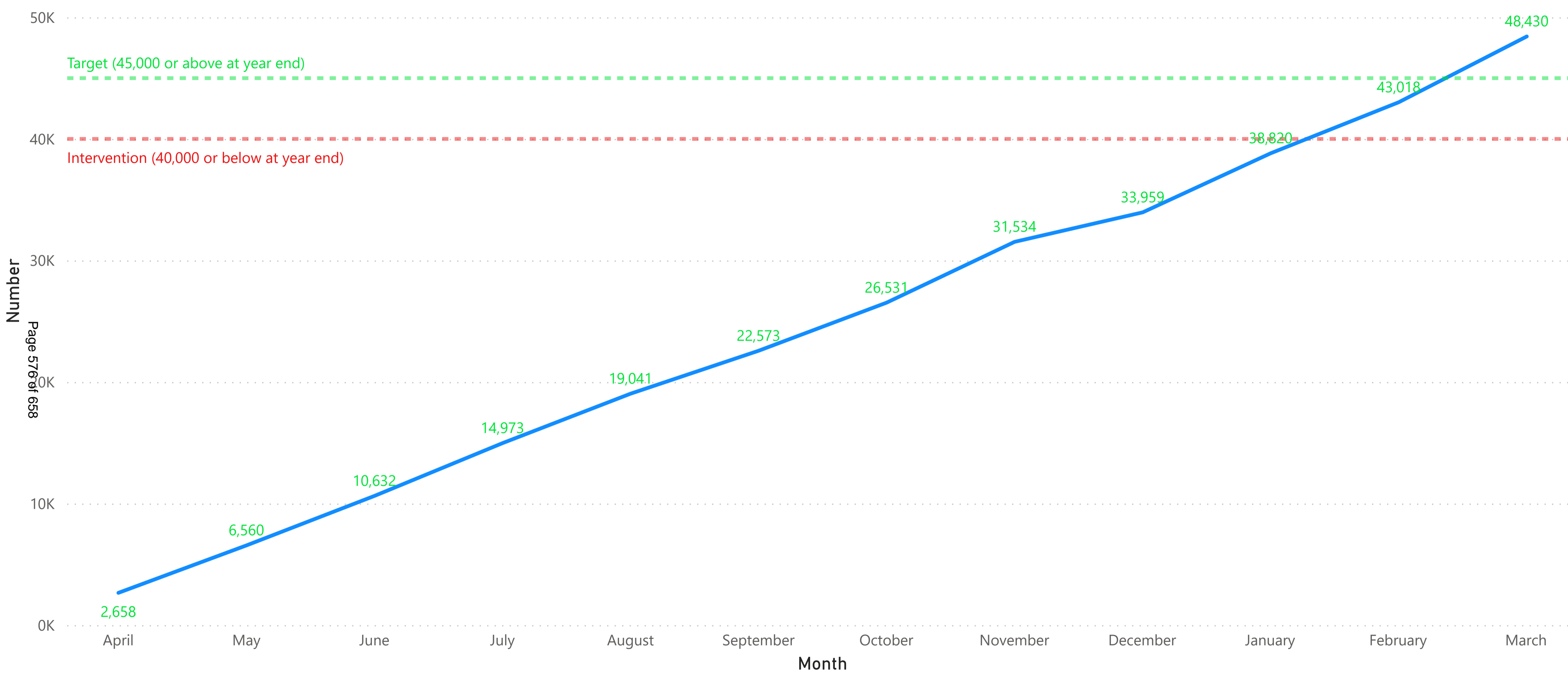
Latest commentary from service: Fewer than 3,000 bins were missed out of over 6m scheduled collections in 2022/23. This is equivalent to less than one in every 2,000 bins being missed (under 0.05%). The total number missed was 21% lower than in 2021/22 despite an increase in the number of households in the district.

Average number of days to process new claims for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support (cumulative year to date) Aim to minimise



Latest commentary from service: Actual performance for March was 24.1 days, but the final outturn is 24.4 days. This has been a challenging year for assessment, with postal strikes adding to delays in receiving supporting evidence. LAs are also being left with more complex cases which take longer to assess, while more straightforward assessments for Housing Costs are now dealt with under Universal Credit by the DWP. These are all factors in the final outturn result.

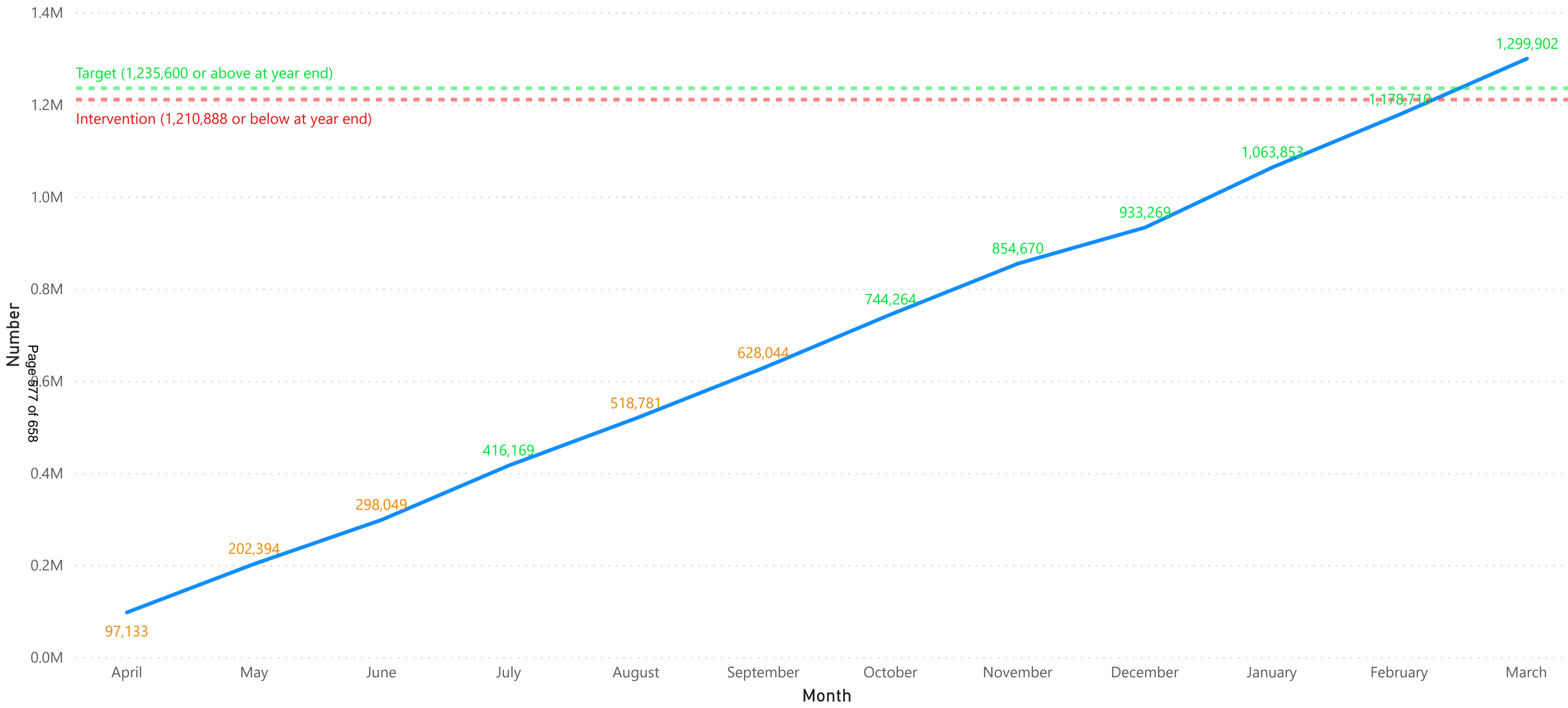
# Number of attendances at One Leisure Active Lifestyles programmes (cumulative year to date) Aim to maximise



Latest commentary from service: The Active Health side of the team have seen an average of 3,500 attendances per month in Q4 compared to 2,700 in Q1 (a 30% increase). Two very successful Active for Health cohorts ran at Huntingdon and St Ives. One participant lost 3 stone and 5lbs in the 12 weeks and is now swimming and running regularly. Disability activities performed well in Q4 to recover to meet end of year original target with Special Choices Day Care session particularly successful. Young people's activities continued to perform well, in particular the Huntingdon Home Schooling session which has increased to two sessions per week due to demand.



Number of One Leisure Facilities admissions –swimming, Impressions, fitness classes, sports hall and pitches (excluding Burgess Hall and school admissions) (cumulative year to date) Aim to maximise

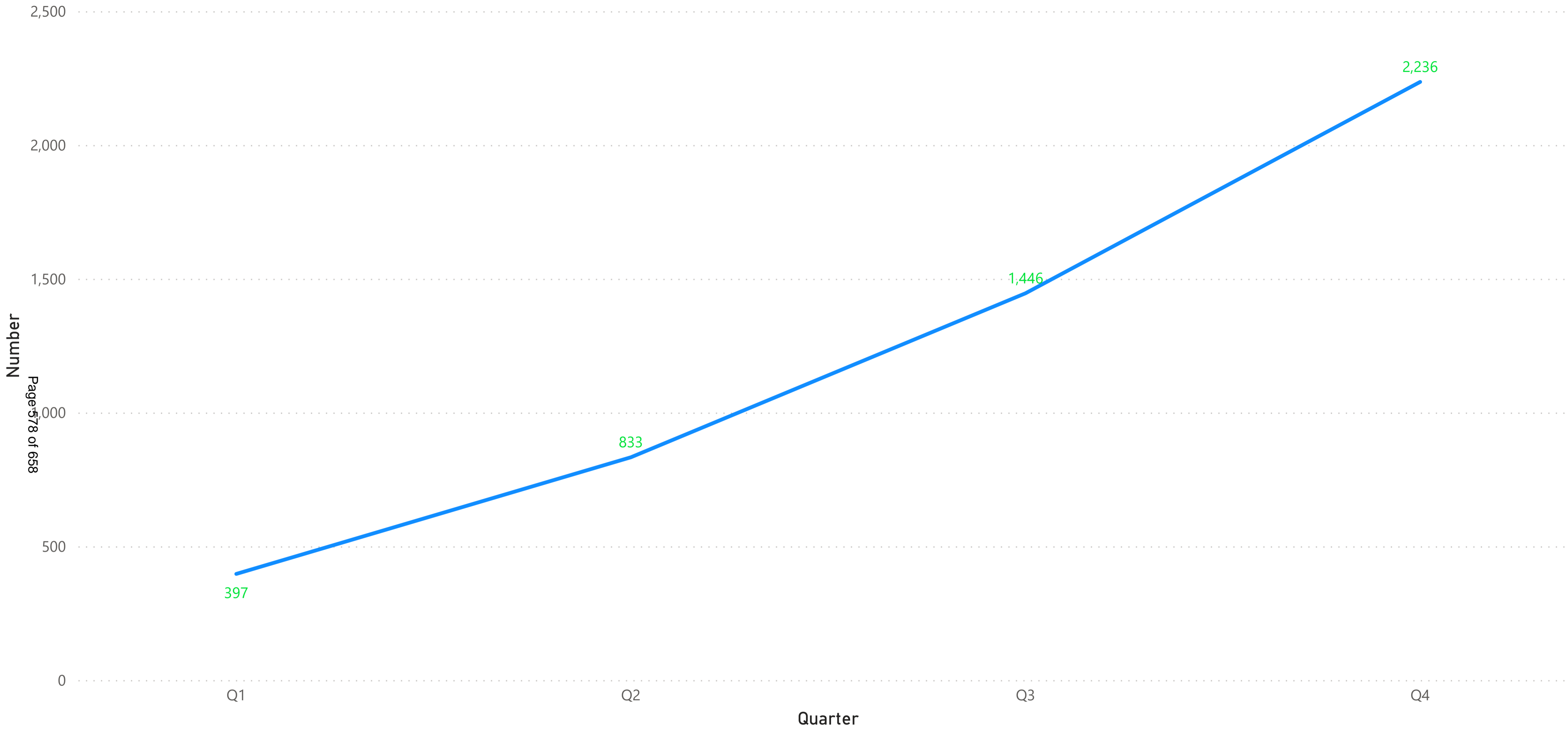


Latest commentary from service: The strong Q4 admissions continued throughout March with One Leisure exceeding admissions targets by over 64K admissions.

The only activity areas not to meet admissions targets were gym (96%) and fitness class (98%) usage. As these are monitored by the swipe access system, and St Ives and Huntingdon have experienced significant IT issues with gate access to these areas, it could be assumed that these would have also met targets.

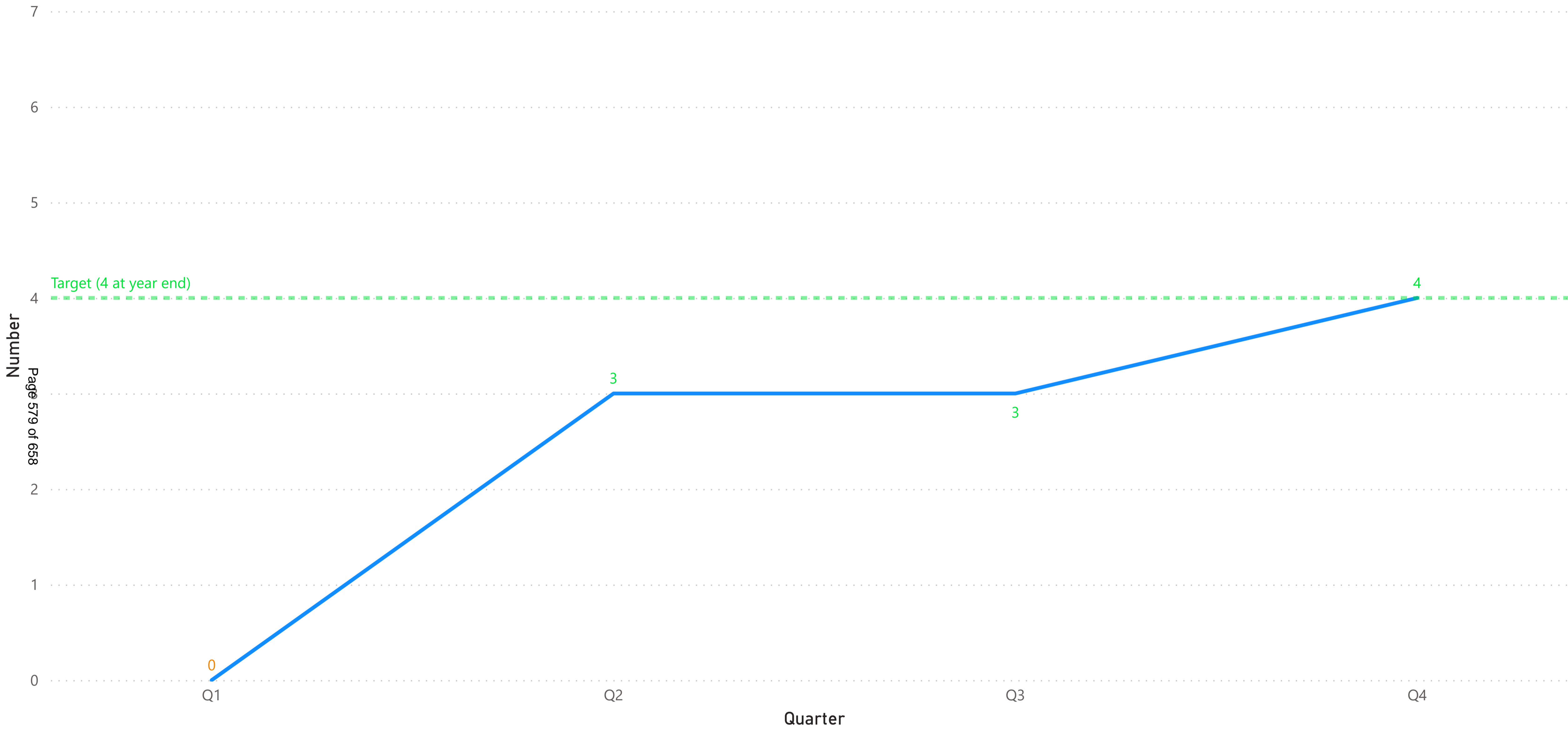
General swimming was a stand out overperforming area (11.5% up on target) and the re-opening of bowling and funzone areas (not planned at the start of the year) also contributed an additional 20K admissions.

Number of residents at risk of 'crisis' proactively supported (cumulative year to date) Aim to maximise



There has been an increase in the number of resident contacts during Q4, with residents requiring assistance predominantly with food and finances. The team have secured in excess of £33k from the Household Support Fund to provide vouchers to individuals and families needing additional help. Engagement following referral to other services continues to be good, with more residents engaging than not.

Number of preventative campaigns or initiatives undertaken (cumulative year to date)

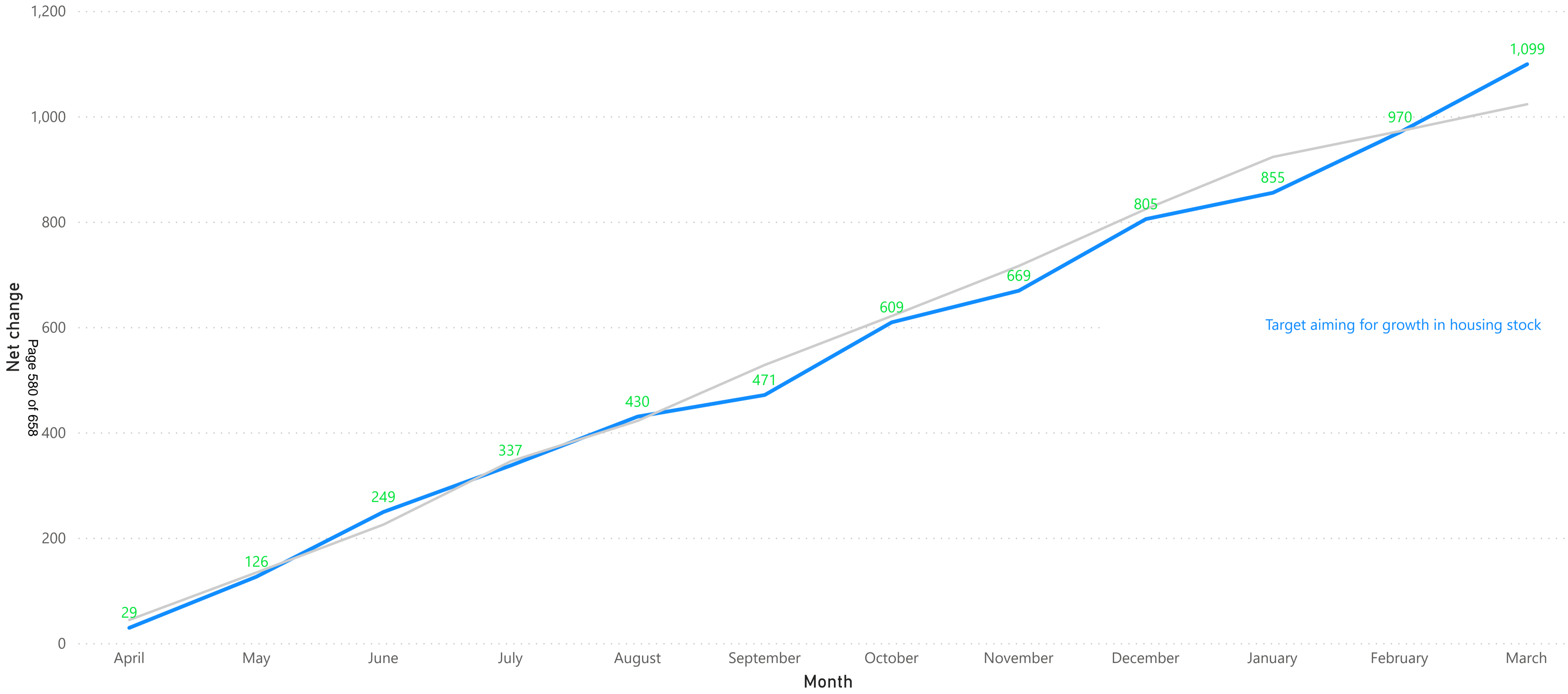


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Most recent campaign was targeted at supporting people to return to work through awareness raising of help available such as funding for suitable clothing, transport, training opportunities.  
Our future plans to work with our communities feature stongly in the Corporate Plan for 23/24 with a focus on helping to prevent crisis.

**Net change in number of homes with a Council Tax banding (cumulative year to date) Aim to maximise**

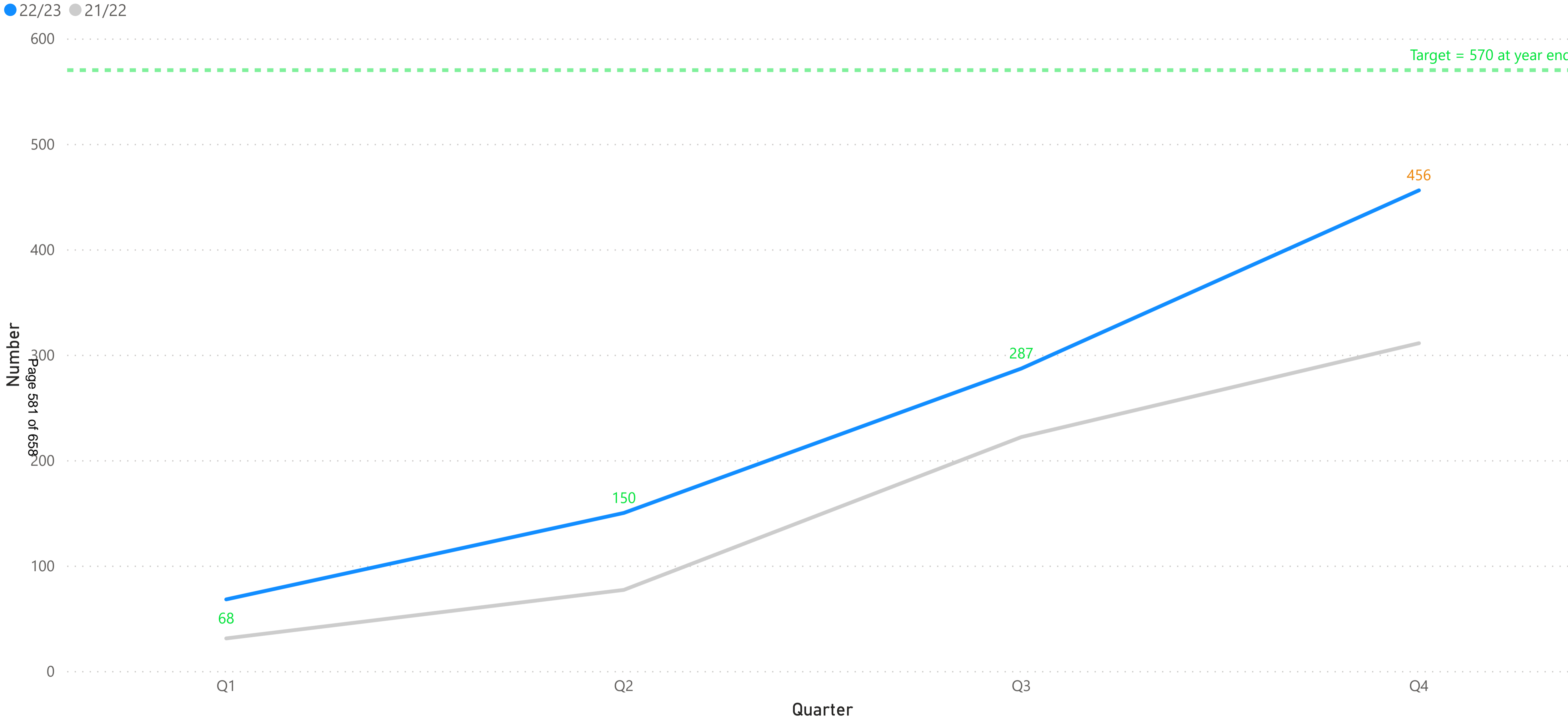
● 2022/23 Net change in number of homes with a Council Tax banding ● 2021/22 Net change in number of homes with a Council Tax banding



Net change  
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Latest commentary from service: There were an additional 1,099 homes with a Council Tax banding on 29 March 2023 than recorded at 31 March 2022. The net number of dwellings completed in the previous year (2021/22) was confirmed as 1,055 in the last Annual Monitoring Report.

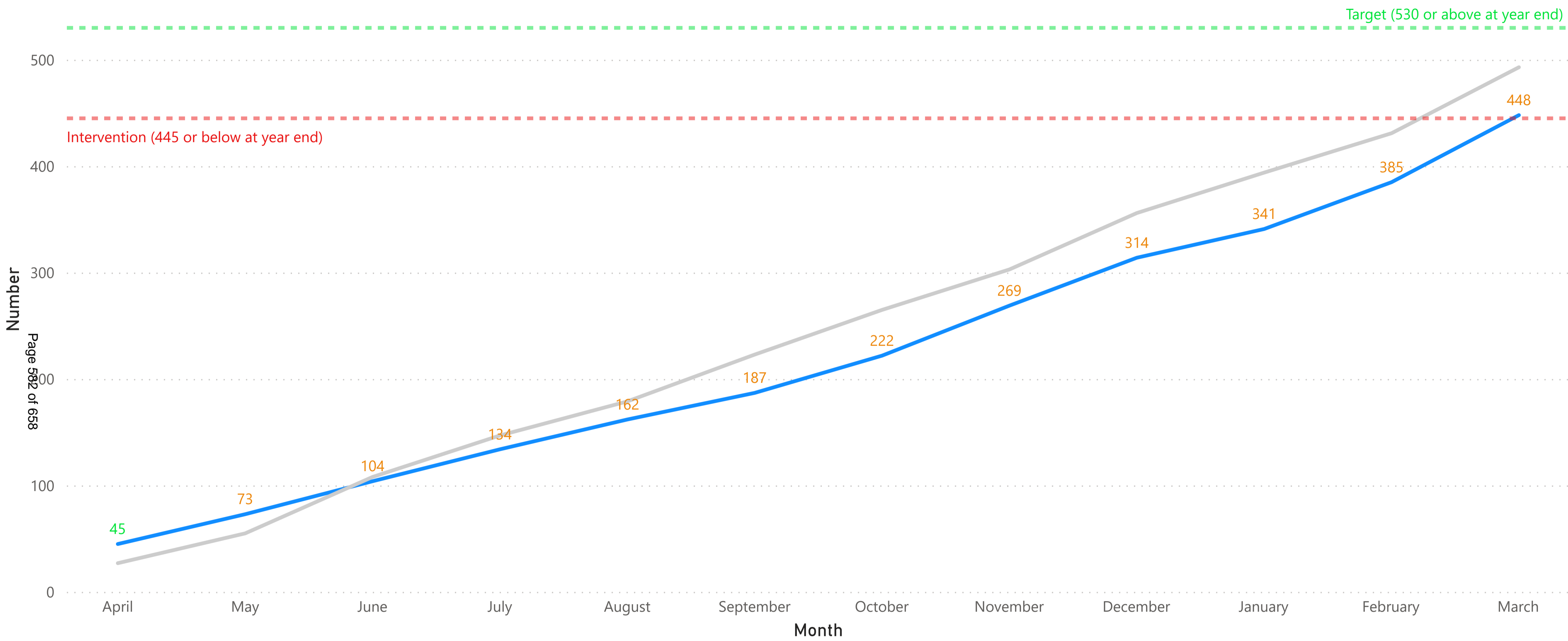
# Number of new affordable homes delivered (cumulative year to date) Aim to maximise



Consistent with previous reporting, this year our Registered Provider partners have suffered from issues such as cost of material and labour. This made forecasting and delivery difficult to estimate and some developments have suffered delay. However, a significant number of homes (456, compared to 311 last year) have been completed and none of those delayed are lost but have slipped into next year. Development programmes are in any event often subject to change so initial targets should to some degree be regarded as indicative.

# Number of homelessness preventions achieved (cumulative year to date) Aim to maximise

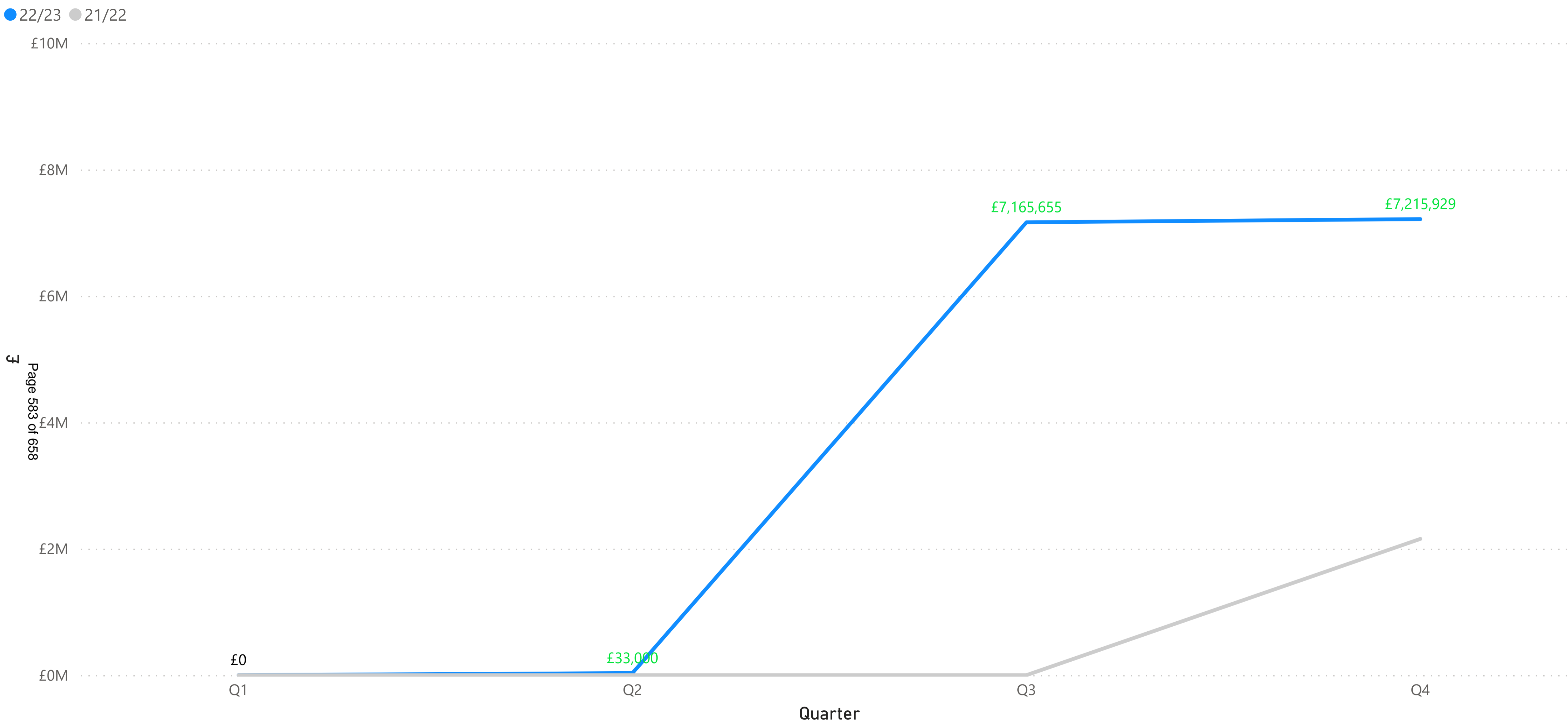
● 2022/23 homelessness preventions ● 2021/22 homelessness preventions



Latest commentary from service: Opportunities for early intervention at the stage where homelessness is threatened have reduced this year. This has been most notable in areas such as notices served on private sector tenants as we are seeing more instances where the tenancy can not be saved, for example where landlords wish to sell the property. Although this has led to a reduction in successful outcomes at the 'prevention duty' stage, we are seeing earlier interventions that achieve a successful outcome. As these are prior to the triggering of a formal prevention or relief duty, they are not reflected in this performance indicator. We have achieved a further 35 successful outcomes in this way on top of the figures shown here giving a total of 483 successful outcomes to the end of March.

A further metric linked to this is the number of households in temporary accommodation at any one time. Increases in this number would highlight that missed earlier interventions were possibly leading to more households going into temporary accommodation. We are seeing a slight reduction in the number of households in temporary accommodation and so a lower number of preventions is not leading to more households going into this type of accommodation.

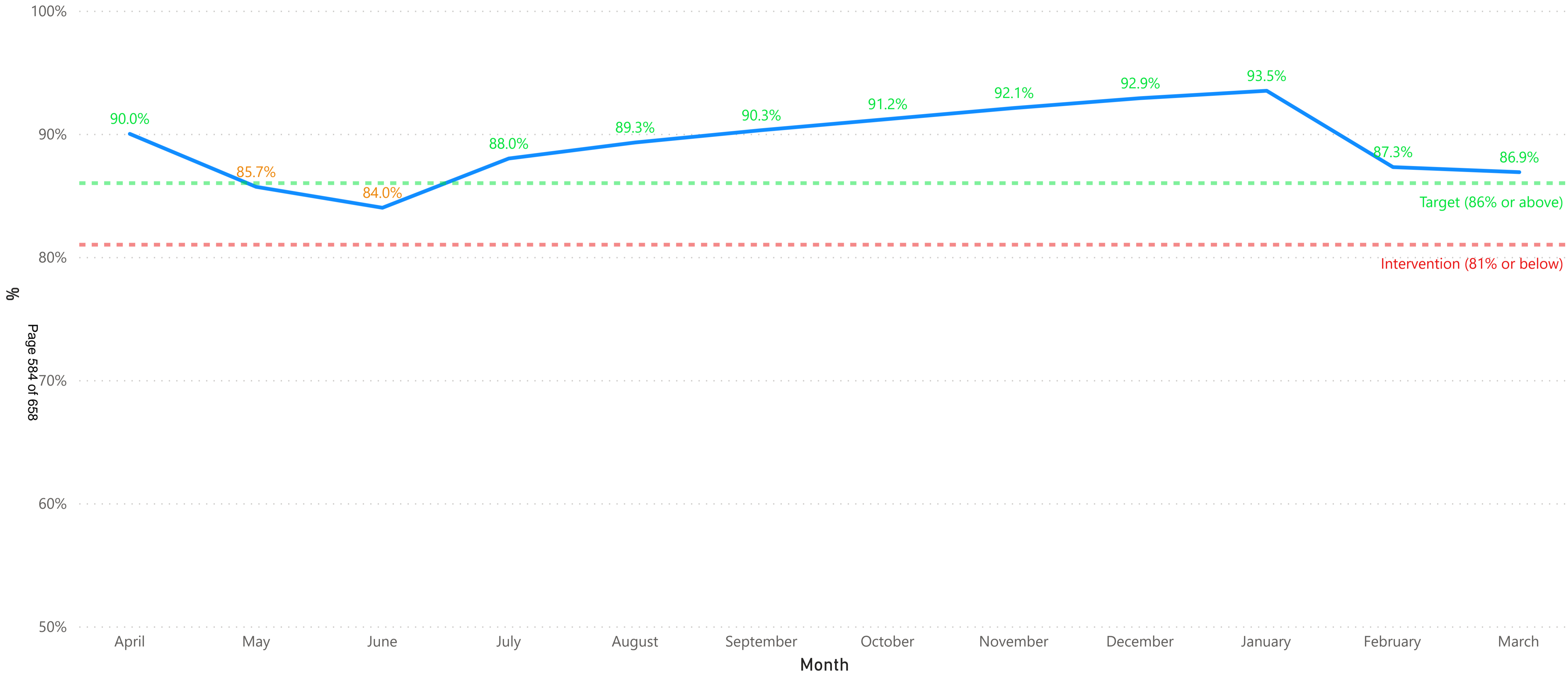
The amount of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding committed for infrastructure development (cumulative year to date)



There have been two CIL funding rounds held this financial year. A total of £7,215,929.20 was allocated through the funding rounds and emergency applications - this does not include any funds which are facilitated with spend for "neighbourhood proportion" elements in non-parished areas. The allocated spend in this year includes a substantial allocation to a new health facility linked to growth at the largest Strategic Expansion Location in the district.

A government consultation was launched in March 2023 on the future of CIL and the potential introduction of a replacement Infrastructure Levy. The Council has also agreed a review of the governance arrangements for CIL will take place during 2023/24.

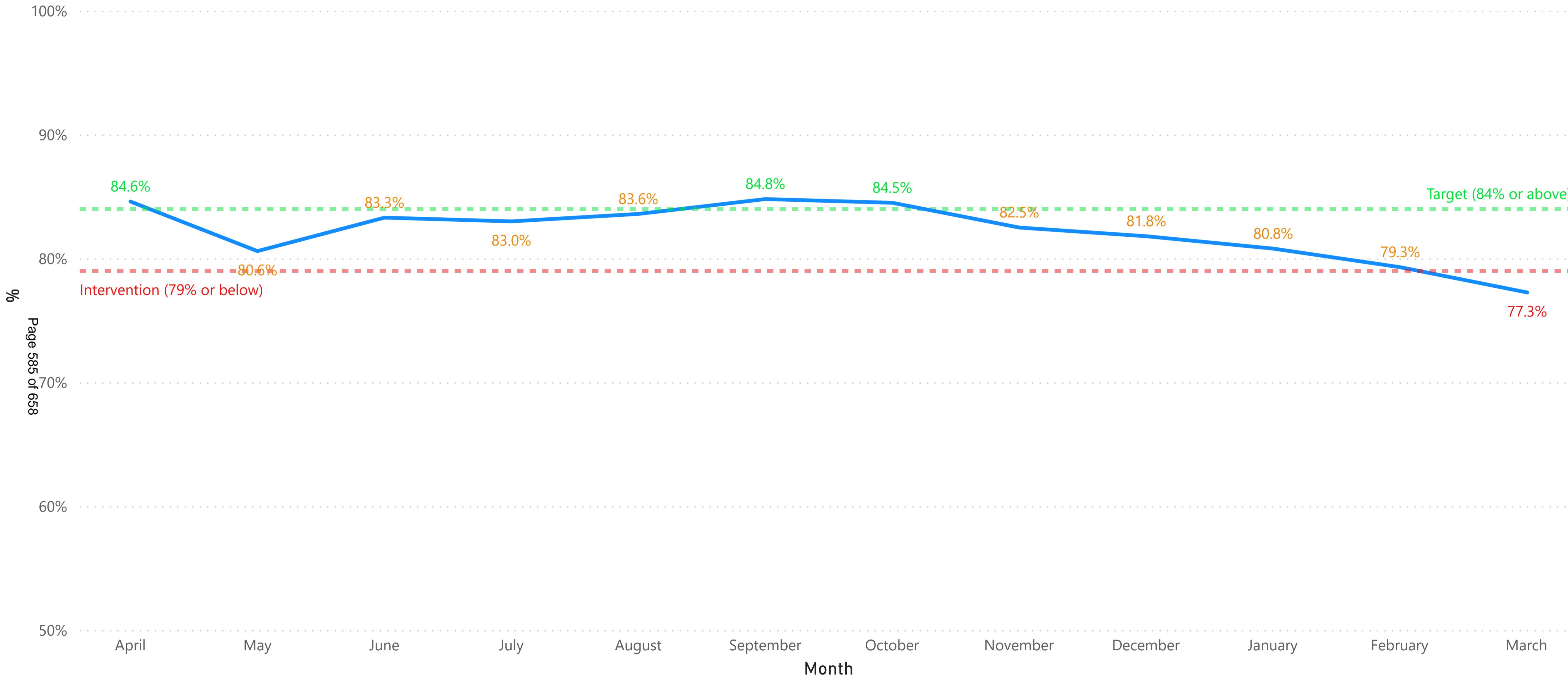
Percentage of planning applications processed on target – major (within 13 weeks or agreed extended period) (cumulative year to date) Aim to maximise



Latest commentary from service: 53/61 = 86.9%. Performance in March was 5/6 = 83.3%. This, coupled with 4 going out of time in February, has brought down the figure but overall performance for the year was within target and was higher than achieved in 2021/22. The last 2 months have seen decision making for long standing backlog cases which resulted in the reduction of applications determined within target.

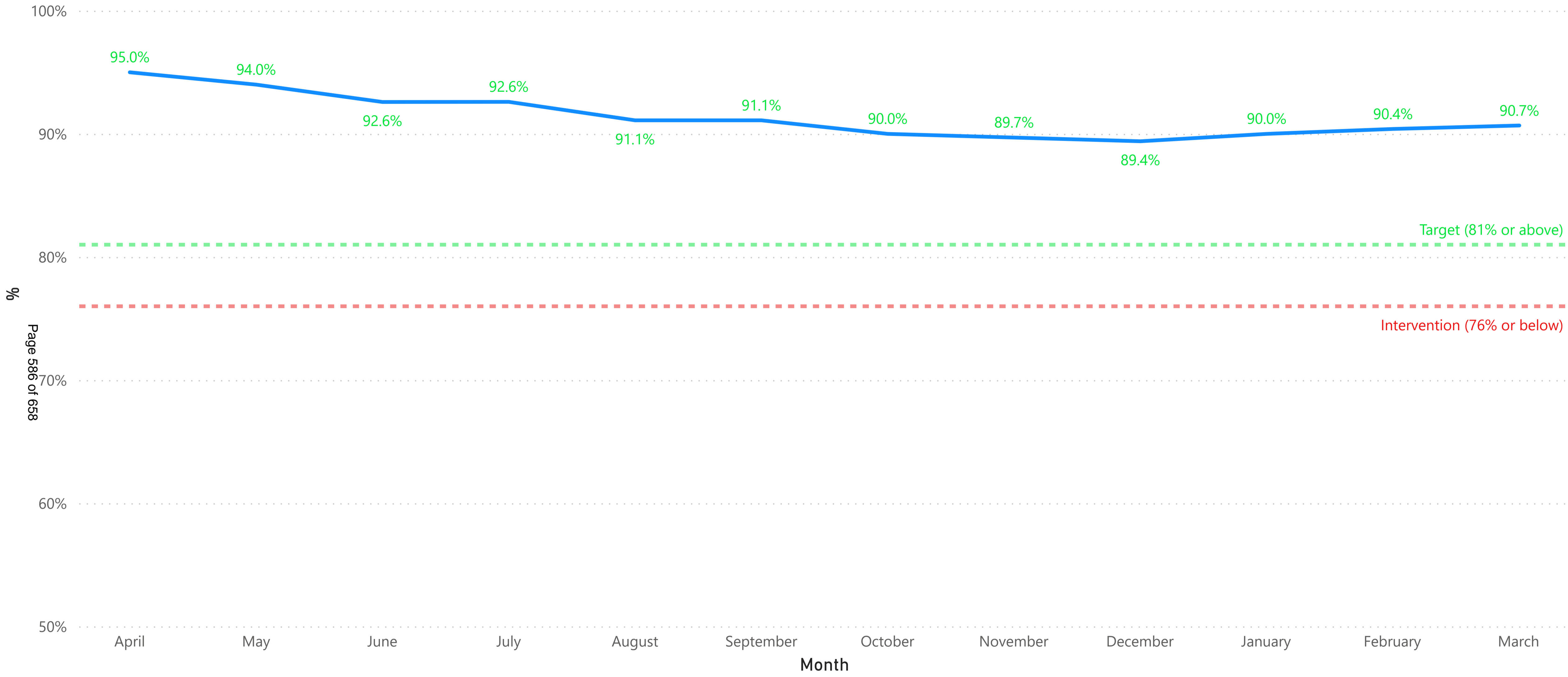


Percentage of planning applications processed on target – minor (within 8 weeks or agreed extended period) (cumulative year to date) Aim to maximise



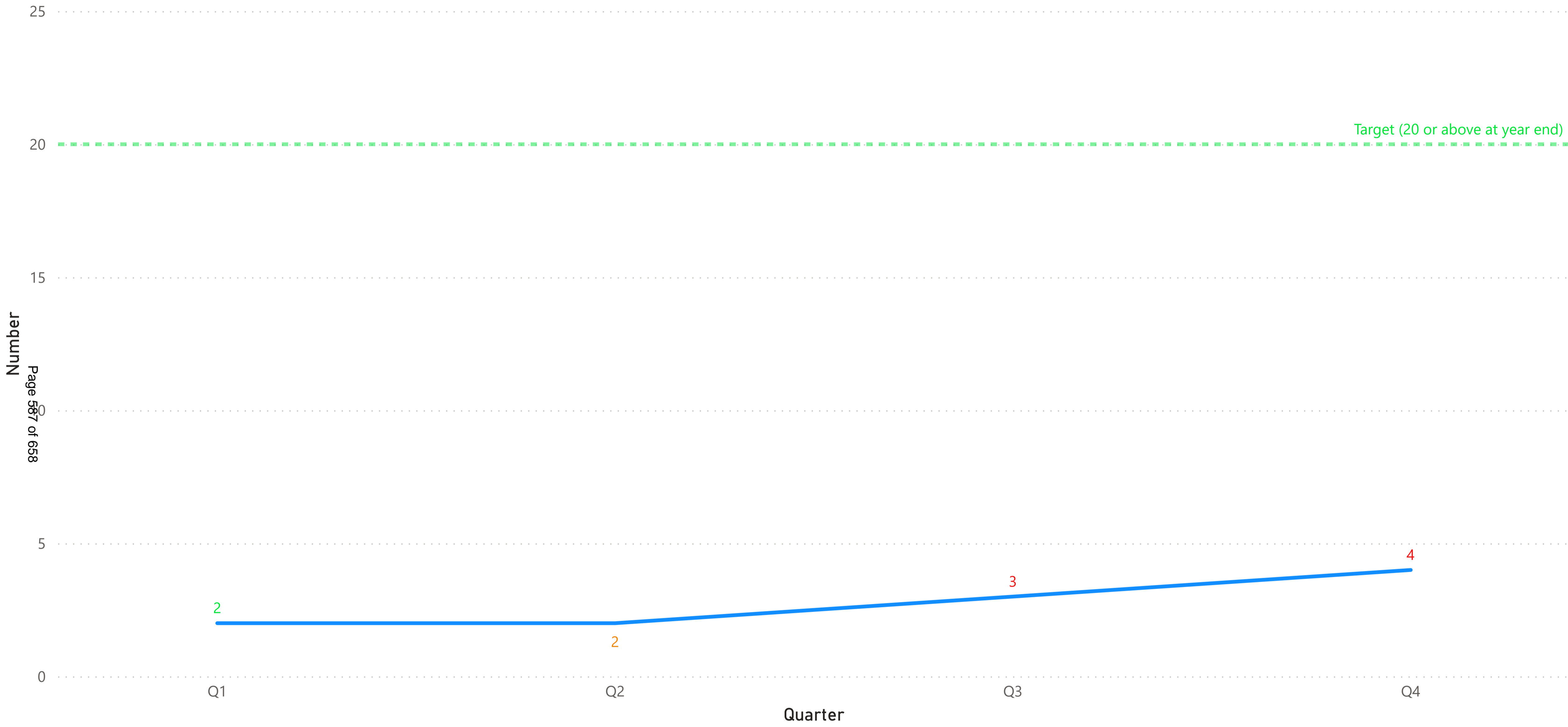
Latest commentary from service: 248/321 = 77.3%. Performance in March was 22/36 = 61.1%. As work continues to determine backlog applications, there has been an expected consequence of reduction in performance against this measure while reducing the number of applications on hand. However, performance improved significantly compared to the 63% achieved in 2021/22.

Percentage of planning applications processed on target – household extensions (within 8 weeks or agreed extended period) (cumulative year to date) Aim to maximise



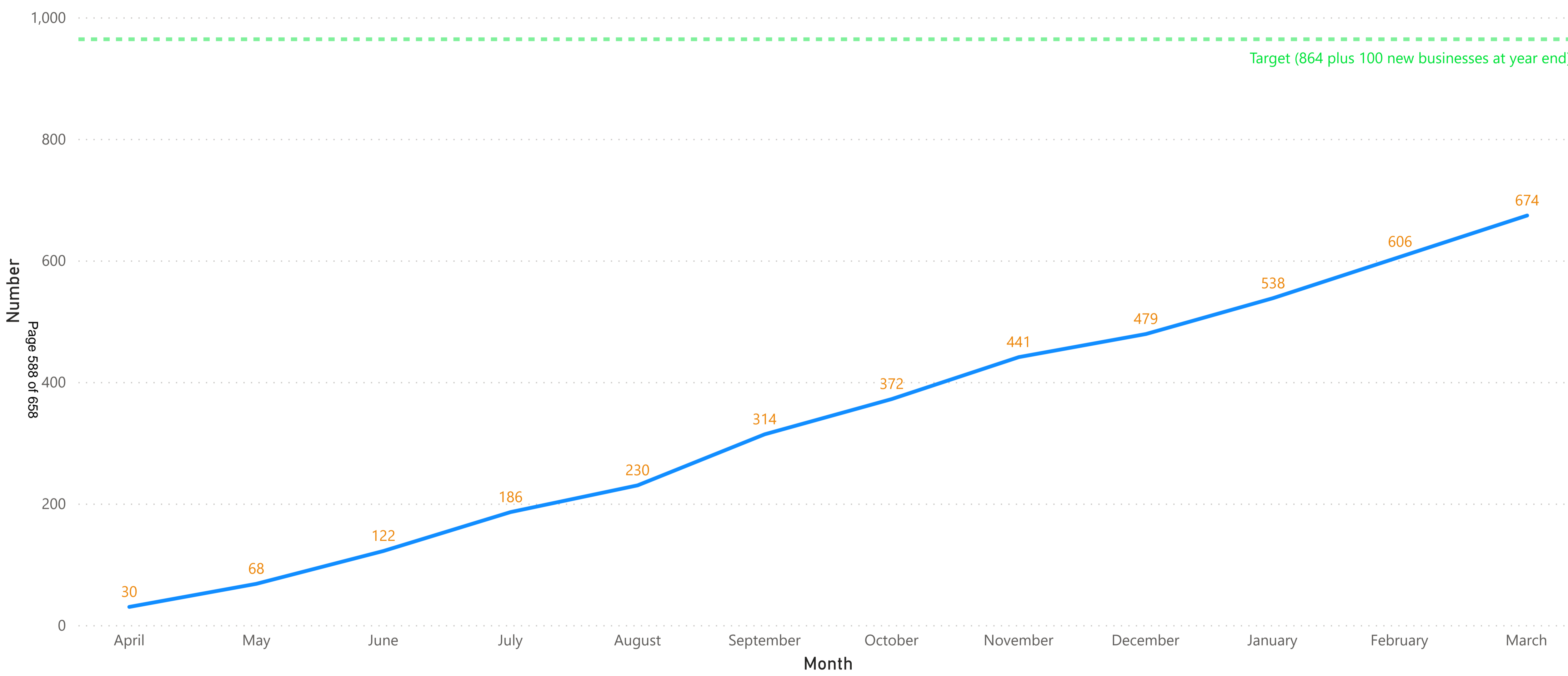
Latest commentary from service: 652/719 = 90.7%. Performance in March was 51/54 = 94.4%. Performance in March on householder applications continued to be strong and recovered from a small dip in February as officers work with applicants to deliver applications within agreed timescales. The year end result was also higher than the 81% achieved in 2021/22.

Number of accredited community and voluntary sector groups within Hunts under the 'Good to Go' or other scheme (latest position at end of quarter)



The value of the Good to Go scheme continues to be under review and is being considered as part of the recommissioning process. We understand that for groups to want to be part of the scheme, there must be a benefit to them hence there is a possibility changes to the scheme moving forward will be necessary. We will seek to work with Community Groups on designing any future schemes to ensure the balance between assurance on accreditation is balanced against the level of risk.

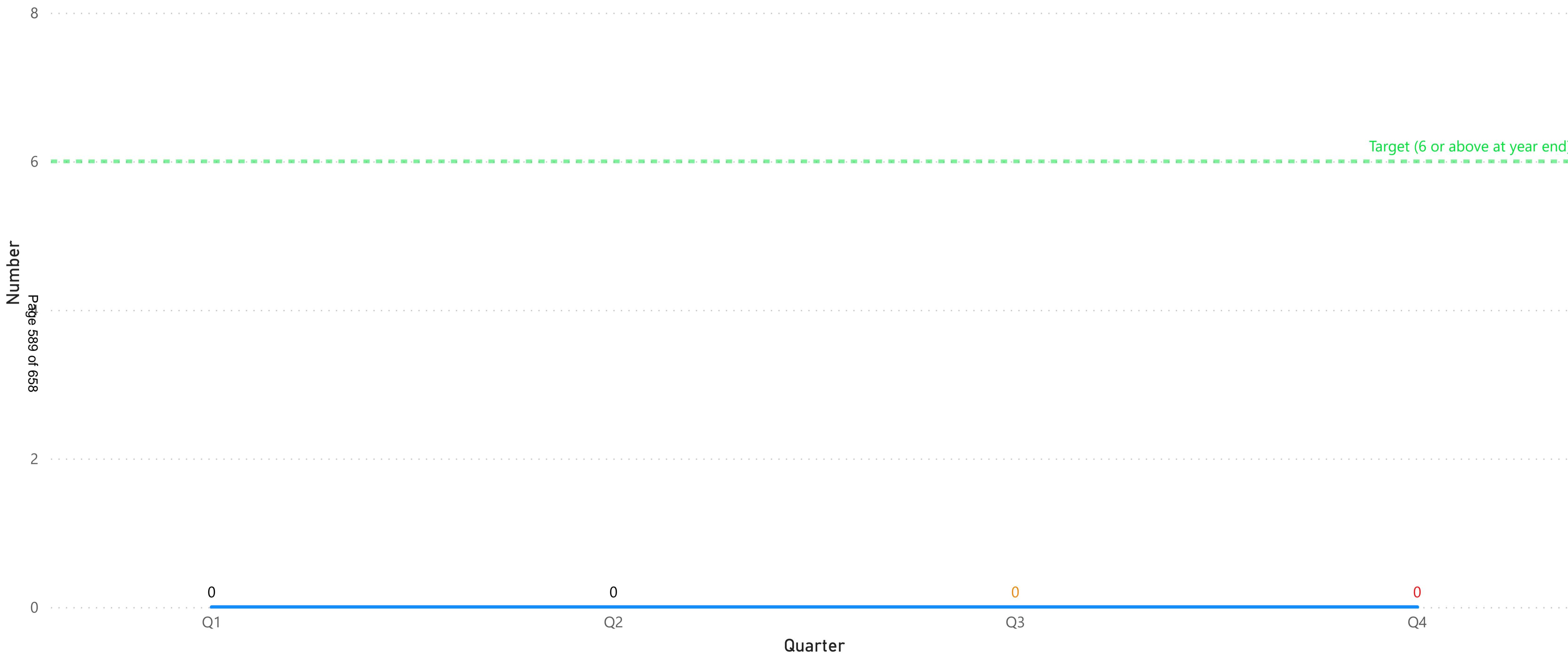
# The number of programmed food safety inspections undertaken (cumulative year to date) Aim to maximise



Latest commentary from service: We have not met our target for 2022/23 although we expect to have met the requirements of the Food Standards Agency recovery plan, with all category A, B and C premises being inspected. The data required for the FSA return is currently being prepared which will confirm this.

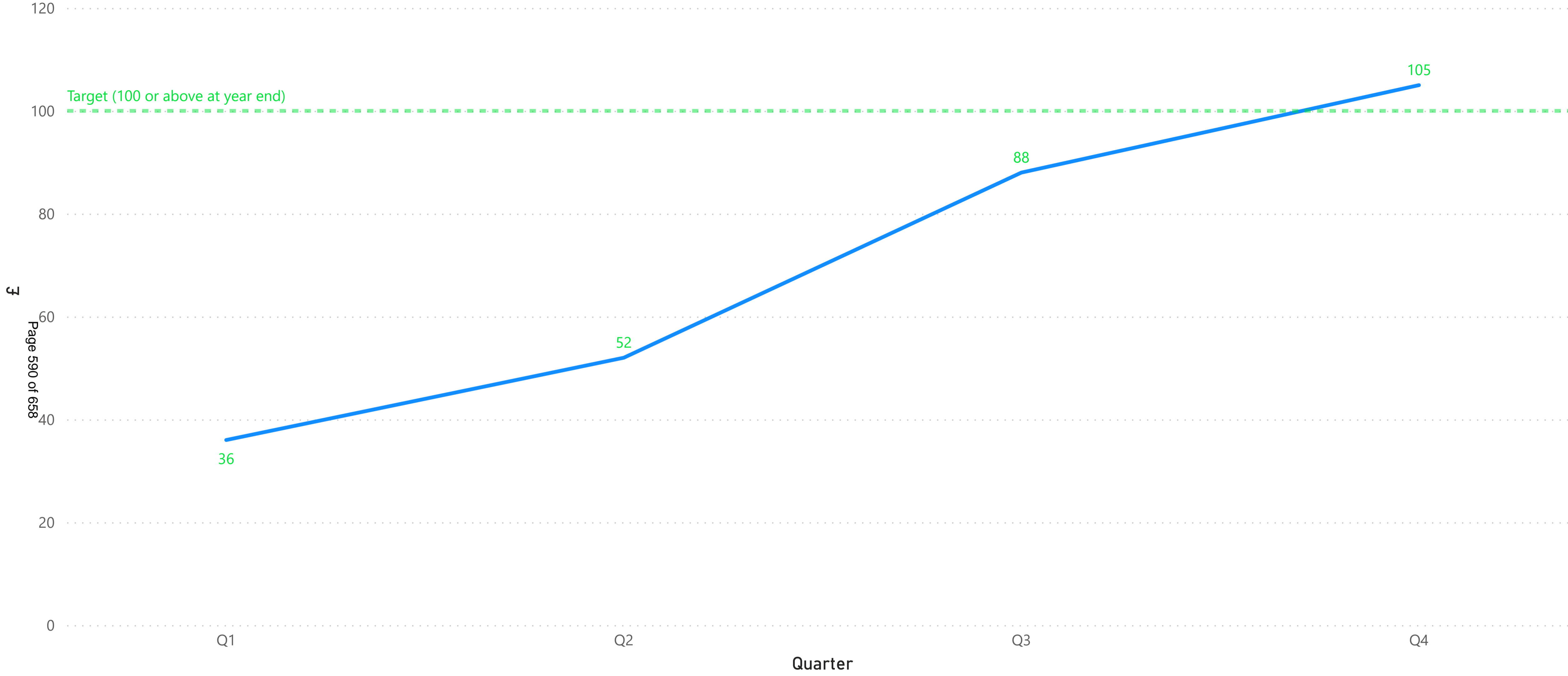
It is noted that the target for 2022/23 was much higher than a 'normal' year due to inspections being suspended during the pandemic and therefore nearly all premises becoming overdue an inspection. Standards in many food premises have declined due to inspections being overdue which has meant inspections are taking longer which has impacted on the number of inspections completed.

# Number of 'Aspirations High' initiatives delivered within identified primary schools (cumulative year to date)



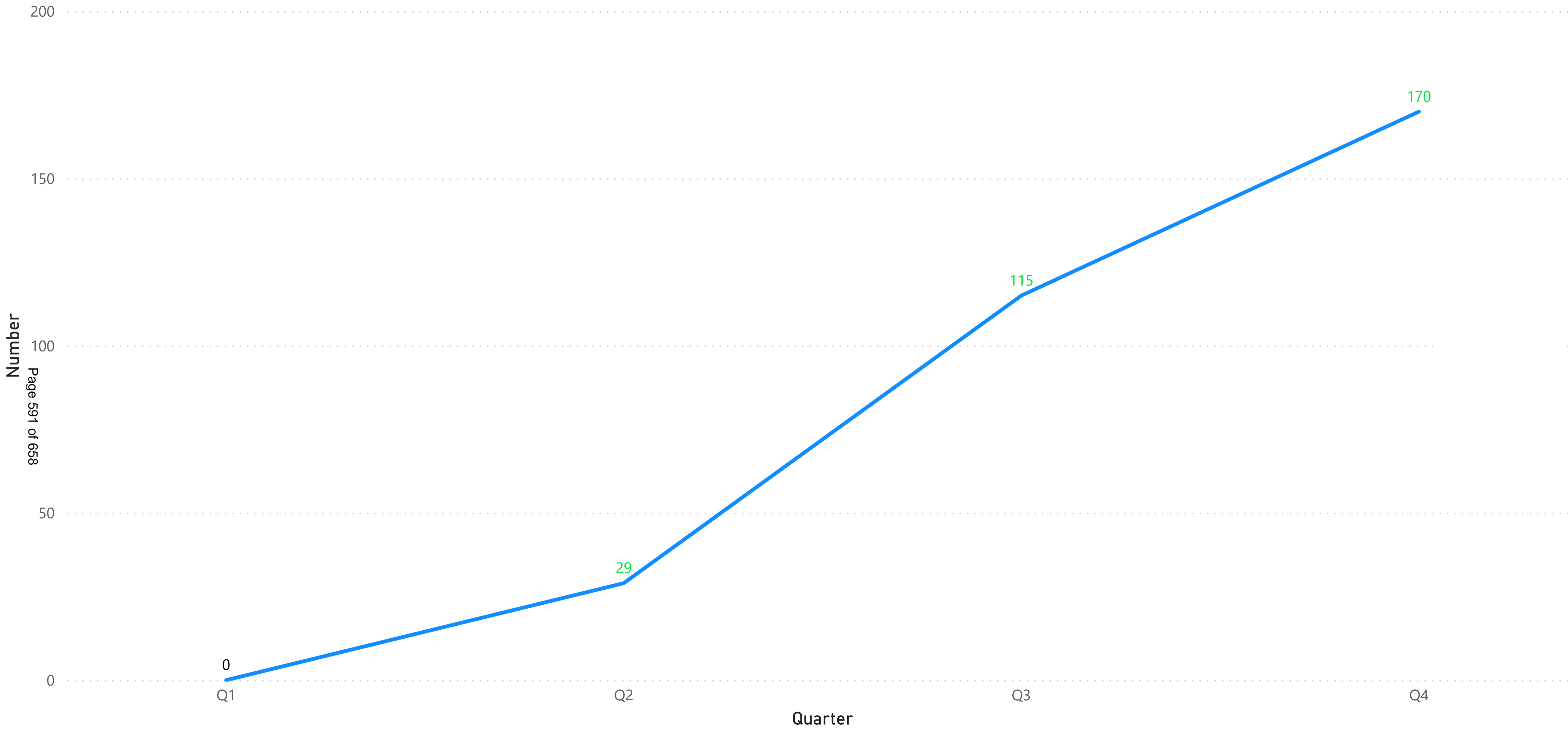
Latest commentary from service: There were challenges with this work in 23/24. Schools were focused on other work (the return to normal post-pandemic) and the resources at HDC, who were scheduled to pick this work up, had to prioritise work to support unplanned, but important, work with communities entering the UK from Ukraine and Afghanistan. This work stream led by The Cam Academy is now in place with key projects and dates with identified schools.

# Number of local health/physical activity events developed (cumulative year to date)



Two new Active for Health cohorts, new classes in Hail Weston and Sawtry, new care home session at Hardwick Dene, and new Lets Get Moving in St Neots with St Neots Primary Care Network. Work commenced with Huntingdon Community Group as part of the Health Inequalities funding with an after school club at Thongsley School. New sessions with Kings Ripton Court supported housing and St Ives Dementia Cafe. Grow Wild commissioned some bespoke PEDALS (adapted bikes) sessions. Plus the additional home schooling session in Huntingdon.

# Number of people supported by local jobs clubs (cumulative year to date)



The job clubs continue to operate via DWP, on Oxmoor, Ramsey and Brampton. There have been 55 residents who have accessed the job clubs during Q4. It is recognised that the model requires a review to ensure those needing the support know how and where to access it as the offer is not being utilised to the best of its ability. Recognising that childcare is the biggest barrier to employment, we are working with primary schools on Oxmoor to introduce a heavily subsidised, externally funded offer. It is hoped that if benefits can be demonstrated, this will be duplicated elsewhere.

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# Appendix D Status report: project and programmes portfolio

Nathaniel Murphy (PMO)

Liz Smith (CDO)



# Status of In-flight projects/programmes

- 10 in-flight approved projects/programmes across HDC
- 1 **Strategic** (Market Towns Programme) and 9 **Organisational**

## March 2023:

- 4 are scored **GREEN** as the project is on track against the original plan (Civil Parking Enforcement, Health Inequalities, EBSS, Warm Spaces)
- 5 are **AMBER** (Affordable Housing, Biodiversity for all, Communities services improvement programme, HR system, Market Towns Programme)
- 1 is **RED** (HCP)

# Market Towns Programme

Project	Status last month (Feb-23)	Status this month (Mar-23)	Commentary/ return to green
Ramsey Great Whyte Civic and Business Hub ( <b>Accelerated</b> )			Completion delayed to June 2023. Delays in responses from building control, defects in the build which have required rectification and delays to materials and supplies.
Smarter Towns ( <b>Accelerated</b> )			On track against plan
Wayfinding / Digital screens ( <b>Accelerated</b> )			<p>Scheme has effectively not yet recommenced. Revised specification is yet to be produced and/or approved.</p> <p>Reluctance amongst key members who do not support project objectives.</p> <p>Resolution for future management is not identified / agreed - informal progress has been made with potential partners.</p> <p>Current position and recommendations for project re-initiation to be prepared and submitted to the Board for review.</p>
Old Falcon			<p><b>Client Side Project Group</b> - An internal client side team will be drawn together building additional capacity and expertise within the Council to support the project design development, planning application process and listed building consent.</p> <p><b>Cabinet Approval</b> – Cabinet agreed to proceed with entering into a Development agreement in Part II report taken in March 2023.</p>
Priory Centre			Due to allocation spending deadline March 2024 and an agreed design has to be actioned with a construction schedule and contractor in place - work is progressing.
Ramsey Great Whyte Pedestrianisation and Produce Hub			Potential issues concerning weight restrictions - further investigation is required to confirm the project is deliverable in this location.
St Neots Town Centre Transport Programme			National Highways funding has not been secured as funding agreement has not been signed
Vibrant Communities			On track against plan

# Project / programmes overview

Project / Programme	SLT sponsor	Status last month (Feb-23)	Status this month (Mar-23)	Commentary/ return to green
Affordable Housing	Corporate Director - Place			Issues raised by planners regarding Station Road at Warboys has halted a scheme to be delivered. Work cannot commence until the site receives planning permission - Now working with planning departments to achieve a successful permission.
Biodiversity for all	Assistant Director Strategic Insight and Delivery			AMBER for this month due to progress being slower than planned on the grant scheme and confirming the funding agreement. Waiting for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority to return with the signed grant agreement and confirmation of the funds that can be carried over.
Civil Parking Enforcement	Assistant Director Strategic Insight and Delivery			On track against plan
Communities services improvement programme	Chief Operating Officer			Only able to implement improvements in food hygiene due to lack of capacity, Further service improvements unable to progress due to delay in system (Tascomi) development – Escalation required
Energy Bill Support Scheme (incl Additional funding scheme)	Chief Operating Officer			On track against plan
Health Inequalities	Corporate Director - People			On track against plan
Hinchingbrooke Country Park	Assistant Director Strategic Insight and Delivery			Schedule delays have been escalated to Neil Sloper and there are now weekly project check ins to help manage the project.
HR System	Corporate Director - People			Remaining piece of work to be completed is behind (system update to resolve outstanding work) then this will be closed.
Warm Spaces	Corporate Director - People			On track against plan

**Public**  
**Key Decision - No**

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Title/Subject Matter:** Finance Performance Report 2022/23 Outturn – Provisional

**Meeting/Date:** Cabinet, 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023

**Executive Portfolio:** Executive Councillor for Finance & Resources

**Report by:** Director of Finance & Corporate Resources

**Ward(s) affected:** All

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### **Executive Summary:**

This report sets out the provisional financial outturn for financial year 2022/23 for revenue and capital

### **Revenue**

The outturn is an underspend of £476k, after contributions to and from earmarked reserves, when compared to the approved budget and an improvement to the Q3 forecast outturn of £642k.

### **Capital**

The outturn is an underspend of £31,704k, including re-phasing of works to future years of £18,342k.

### **Recommendation:**

The Committee is

### **RECOMMENDED**

- to consider and comment on the financial performance for the financial year 2022/23, as detailed in Appendix 1 and summarised in paragraph 3.2.
- to consider and comment on the capital financial performance for the financial year 2022/23, as detailed in Appendix 1 and summarised in paragraph 3.3.

## **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

**1.1** To present details of the Council's projected financial performance for 2022/23.

- Revenue outturn underspend of £476k when compared to the approved budget.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

**2.1** The budget and MTFs for 2022/23 approved in February 2022, assumed a net expenditure budget of £21,514k.

**2.2** The detailed analysis of the 2022/23 outturn as at 31 March 2023 is attached at Appendix 1.

## **3. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**

### **3.1 Financial Performance Headlines**

The outturn position for the current financial year, and the impact of variations on future years, will be incorporated within the MTFs.

**Revenue** The approved Budget of £21,514k plus authorised carry forwards of £110k gave a revised current budget of £21,404k. The outturn was £20,928k which was an underspend of £476k.

**Capital** The approved Budget of £12,776k plus the re-phasing of £26,898k and in year external funding of £2,225k gave a revised total Capital Programme of £41,899k. The outturn is £10,195k. Following re-phasing of the budget to 2023/24 of £18,342 there was an in-year underspend of £13,362k.

**MTFS** The MTFs was updated as part of the 2023/24 Budget setting process. and will be revisited as part of the 2024/25 Budget setting process. The revision of the MTFs will include 2022/23 outturn variations and others occurring or foreseen in 2023/24 that have an impact on future years.

### **3.2 Summary Revenue Variances by Service**

The table below shows the total variances for each Service and the main reasons where variances are greater than £50,000.

Head of Service	Current Budget £'000s	Outturn £'000s	Over/ (Under) spend £000	Comments
Chief Operating Officer	5,140	5,272	132	Savings within the Communities Service (Business Team, Community Team, Licensing), Customer Services & Printing, offset by increased temporary accommodation costs not met by DWP contribution to Housing Benefit payments. There was also a timing adjustment, linked to the 2021/22 accounts close, which negatively impacted the year's results.
Chief Planning Officer	402	346	(56)	Additional priority income plus staff savings
Corporate Leadership	1,201	1,356	155	Costs associated with Place Strategy plus recruitment costs
Director of Finance & Resources	6,860	5,882	(978)	More interest receivable and lower interest payable, and savings from vacant posts plus increased income from Land Charges
Economic Development	198	188	(10)	
Housing Manager	187	189	2	
Head of ICT	2,604	2,812	208	Digital Team funding partnership change
Head of Leisure & Health	(25)	450	475	Reduced income at Impressions, classes, Training Shed and indoor sports. Increased expenditure on employees and utilities. Income better than expected for swimming, ten pin bowling and at the Burgess Hall.
Head of Operations	4,917	4,374	(543)	CCTV reduced income offset by vacant posts in Street Cleansing and new income streams in Waste.
Programme Delivery	73	41	(32)	
Strategic Insight & Delivery	(153)	18	171	Lower income from on-street charging due to changes made by Cambridgeshire County Council, Market income reduced as they recover from COVID and have had reduced offer. Savings due to vacant posts.
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,404</b>	<b>20,928</b>	<b>(476)</b>	

Further analysis of the revenue variance and service commentary is in Appendix 1. This provides the variances by service and where the variances are greater than +/- £10,000 comments have been provided by the budget managers/Head of Services.

### 3.3 Capital Programme

The approved gross Capital Programme for 2022/23 is £12,776k. Schemes totalling £26,898k from 2021/22 have been rephased to 2022/23, plus external funding of £2,225k gives the total gross capital programme for 2022/23 of £41,899k.

The Capital Programme is forecast to have an underspend of £31,704k; £18,342k will be re-phased to future years.

The table below shows the total variances for each Service and the main reasons where variances are greater than £50,000.

Head of Service	Current Budget £000	Outturn £000	Budget Re-Phased to 2022/23 £000	Over/ (Under) Spend £000	Comments
Chief Operating Officer	61	32	0	(29)	
Chief Planning Officer	1,100	4,610	206	3,716	Contribution towards the A14 has been made in full, rather than instalments as budgeted
Corporate Leadership	13,138	954	12,256	72	To be funded by UKSPF & CPCA
Director of Finance & Resources	17,826	153	1,039	16,634	Huntingdon redevelopment project has been cancelled
Housing Manager	1,800	2,018	0	218	Catch up of delayed works due to Covid
Head of ICT	732	193	387	(152)	Only a proportion of devices bought for testing and initial rollout
Head of Leisure & Health	770	630	133	(8)	
Head of Operations	2,515	1,241	1,075	(201)	Underspend on completed projects
Strategic Insight & Delivery	3,957	364	3,246	(347)	Underspend on completed projects
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,899</b>	<b>10,195</b>	<b>18,342</b>	<b>(13,362)</b>	

### 3.4 Finance Dashboard

The outturn for 2022/23 also looks at the collection rates for Council Tax and NDR, together with the working ages caseload for Council Tax Support Scheme. In the financial year the Council exceeded its performance targets for collection rates, a significant achievement given the recovery from the Covid pandemic and the ongoing impacts of the wider economy. The details are shown in Appendix 1.

In summary, the Council Tax and NDR collection rates are slightly higher than 2021/22 rates.



#### 4. UPDATE ON THE COMMERCIAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY

- 4.1 The Commercial Investment Strategy (CIS) was approved by Cabinet in September 2015 and the CIS Business Plan in December 2015. The implementation of the CIS is seen as a key means by which the Council can generate income to assist it in meeting the forecast gap in the revenue budget.
- 4.2 The outturn for 2022/23 before movements to earmarked reserves for the CIS is:

CIS Investments	Budget £000	Outturn £000	Over/ (Under) Spend £000
<b>Cash Investments</b>			
CCLA Property Fund	(162)	(159)	3
<b>Total Cash Investments</b>	<b>(162)</b>	<b>(159)</b>	3
Property Rental Income	(4,696)	(5,363)	(667)
MRP	581	583	2
<b>Net Direct Property Income</b>	<b>(4,115)</b>	<b>(4,780)</b>	(665)
Management Charge	100	0	(100)
<b>Total Property Investments</b>	<b>(4,015)</b>	<b>(4,780)</b>	<b>(765)</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>(4,177)</b>	<b>(4,939)</b>	<b>(762)</b>

#### 5. COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

- 5.1 The Panel discussed the Finance Performance Report 2022-23 Quarter 4 at its meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023.
- 5.2 Following a question from Councillor Harvey on the reduction seen by CCTV in section 3.2, the Panel heard that this was due to additional variable income that was not achievable.
- 5.3 The Panel heard, following a further question from Councillor Harvey, that the A14 Contribution, early repayment, in 3.3 had been researched and it was felt that the option taken held the most benefit for the Council.
- 5.4 Councillor Jennings praised a very comprehensive report but enquired about an expected utilities saving at One Leisure St Neots. The Panel were advised that the detail would be checked and confirmed back to the Panel.
- 5.5 Councillor Blackwell expressed concerns over Council Tax arrears mentioned within the report, the Panel were advised that work would continue to recover these arrears and that this would be monitored.

- 5.6** Following a question from Councillor Harvey, the Panel heard that some long term vacancies had been removed from the MTFS where there were no plans to recruit.
- 5.7** The Panel heard, following a question from Councillor Gardener, that fleet maintenance was ongoing in line with the Climate Strategy, with great success, with the aim to maintain current fleet rather than invest in new vehicles.
- 5.8** Following the discussion, the Panel were informed that their comments would be added to the Cabinet report in order for Cabinet to make a decision on the recommendations.

**6. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED**

Appendix 1 – HDC Financial Performance Suite FY 2022-23 Outturn

**CONTACT OFFICER**

Karen Sutton – Director of Finance and Corporate Resources  
karen.sutton@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

## Financial Performance Monitoring Suite March 2023 – Quarter 4

### Executive summary

This report sets out the financial outturn for financial year 2022/23 for revenue and capital. The headlines are:

#### Revenue

The outturn is an underspend of £476k, after contributions to and from earmarked reserves, when compared to the approved budget and an improvement to the Q3 forecast outturn of £642k.

This favourable outturn position, compared to the approved budget is, in the main, a result of:

#### Underspends

Corporate Finance	£0.592m	Increased interest receipts and reduced interest payments
Waste Management	£0.513m	Additional income from bulky waste, recycling credits, and recycling gate fees are generating income rather than being a cost
Development Management	£0.218m	Income from re-launched pre-application service, plus service Improvements
Risk & Control	£0.150m	Insurance renewal rates lower than anticipated
Facilities Management	£0.148m	Additional rent from office lettings
Customer Services	£0.129m	Salary savings
Democratic and Elections	£0.115m	More income from elections and land charges, less expenditure on members allowances
Licensing	£0.114m	Salary savings offset by reduced income
Parks & Open Spaces	£0.085m	Salary savings
Planning Policy	£0.083m	Additional priority & CIL income

#### Overspends

Housing Benefits	£0.553m	Temporary accommodation costs not met by Housing Benefit payments plus accounting adjustments relating to 2021/22 which have impacted 2022/23
Leisure and Health	£0.457m	Increased costs due to electricity and minimum wage expenditure, and lower membership income
ICT	£0.208m	Change in allocation of digital team between partners
Covid Recovery	£0.193m	Covid activity
Directors	£0.161m	Place strategy and recruitment costs
Car Parks – On Street	£0.132m	Lower income due to CCC changes to on street parking

## Capital

The outturn is an underspend of £31,704k, including re-phasing of works to future years of £18,342k.

The budget to be re-phased includes:

- £12,257k – phasing of the Markets Towns Programme to future years as whole life costs were included in the original budget
- £2,706k – works at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park were delayed due to Covid and localised flooding which has had an on-going impact
- £564k – extending the life of the existing fleet to maximise value for money
- £500k – the enhancements to commercial properties have been delayed due to the change of Strategic Property Manager
- £421k – St Neots Riverside programme of works has now commenced, with the majority of spend expected during 2023/24

# Service Grouping Summary

## Service Commentary

The following table provides the variances by service and where variances are greater than +/- £10,000 comments have been provided by the budget managers/Head of Service.

Head of Service	Current Budget £'000s	Q3 Forecast £'000s	Provisional Outturn £'000	Contribution	Revised Outturn £'000s	Over/(Under) Spend Against Budget		Over/(Under) Spend Against Forecast		Actual Spend £'000s	Actual Income £'000s
				to/(from) reserves £'000		£'000	%	£'000	%		
Chief Operating Officer	5,140	5,020	5,227	45	5,272	132	+2.6	252	+5.0	42,575	(37,303)
Chief Planning Officer	402	673	141	205	346	(56)	-13.9	(327)	-48.6	2,597	(2,251)
Corporate Leadership	1,201	1,196	869	487	1,356	155	+12.8	160	+13.4	1,356	0
Director of Finance & Resources	6,860	6,199	4,283	1,599	5,882	(978)	-14.3	(661)	-5.1	14,242	(8,360)
Economic Development	198	200	188	0	188	(10)	-5.1	(12)	-6.0	199	(11)
Housing Manager	187	199	277	(88)	189	2	+1.1	(10)	-5.0	341	(152)
Head of ICT	2,604	2,810	2,374	438	2,812	208	+8.0	2	+0.1	8,328	(5,516)
Head of Leisure & Health	(25)	703	454	(4)	450	475	+1,900.0	(253)	-36.0	5,897	(5,447)
Head of Operations	4,917	4,517	4,280	94	4,374	(543)	-11.1	(143)	-3.2	7,627	(3,253)
Programme Delivery	73	63	41	0	41	(32)	-43.8	(22)	-34.9	41	0
Strategic Insight & Delivery	(153)	(10)	(40)	58	18	171	+111.8	28	+280.0	3,252	(3,234)
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,404</b>	<b>21,570</b>	<b>18,094</b>	<b>2,834</b>	<b>20,928</b>	<b>(476)</b>	<b>-2.2</b>	<b>(642)</b>	<b>-3.0</b>	<b>86,455</b>	<b>(65,527)</b>

# Service Grouping Summary

Head of Service	Service Grouping	Budget	Q3 Forecast	Provisional Outturn	Contribution to/(from) reserves	Revised Provisional Outturn	Over/Under) Spend Against Budget		Comment on Variance to Budget
		£	£	£	£	£	£	%	
Chief Operating Officer	Building Control	152,540	159,553	105,859	0	105,859	(46,681)	-30.6	3C Building Control Head of Service was only part time as they moved to a new role. Also more external income generated than expected which reduced contribution needed from partners.
Chief Operating Officer	Business Team	279,496	254,846	253,978	0	253,978	(25,518)	-9.1	Vacant post in the team which has, in future years, been amended to remove underspend.
Chief Operating Officer	Chief Operating Officer	108,229	123,492	102,663	0	102,663	(5,566)	-5.1	
Chief Operating Officer	Closed Churchyards	(13,000)	0	306	0	306	13,306	102.4	Income from this initiative is not achievable; and was withdraw in the MTFs submission.
Chief Operating Officer	Community Team	549,538	516,612	597,996	(80,897)	517,099	(32,439)	-5.9	Staffing issues (long term sick) within the team have impacted on staff costs. This has been resolved by internal appointments. Grant funding has also been received for Homes for Ukraine to support over 370 guests (net nil spend as we use this funding) and Domestic Abuse and Asylum Seekers, supporting circa 100 people within the District.
Rca Chief Operating Officer	Council Tax Support	(115,000)	(129,089)	(124,087)	0	(124,087)	(9,087)	-7.9	
Chief Operating Officer	Customer Services	979,276	889,164	850,059	0	850,059	(129,217)	-13.2	Vacancies have been held open following the introduction of the portal and new telephony system and Officers have been reviewing the job descriptions of the technical roles within the service to ensure we are recruiting for the correct skills to support the service. This has

# Service Grouping Summary

Head of Service	Service Grouping	Budget	Q3 Forecast	Provisional Outturn	Contribution to/(from) reserves	Revised Provisional Outturn	Over/Under) Spend Against Budget		Comment on Variance to Budget
		£	£	£	£	£	£	%	
									taken time and delayed recruitment to a technical vacancy, which has impacted the service but was the right thing to do.
Chief Operating Officer	Document Centre	250,993	183,865	185,473	0	185,473	(65,520)	-26.1	Printing section has been closed and hybrid mail outsourced. This created a saving and 3 posts had been budgeted for in 22/23 in error. These have now been removed in the 23/24 MTFS approved by Council.
Chief Operating Officer	Emergency Planning	30,692	27,704	28,054	0	28,054	(2,638)	-8.6	
Chief Operating Officer	Environmental Health Admin	120,139	126,430	124,754	6,612	131,366	11,227	9.3	Long term sick increased urgency of recruiting to post earlier than budgeted to ensure service provision was maintained.
Chief Operating Officer	Environmental Protection Team	364,224	331,974	347,943	0	347,943	(16,281)	-4.5	Income from the Government's COVID fund is allocated here, hence current underspend. Under active monitoring by Officers. Vacant EH Officer post following internal promotion and difficulty in recruiting meaning alternative arrangements are being made to address resource gap.
Chief Operating Officer	Housing Benefits	1,554,017	1,802,995	2,106,818	0	2,106,818	552,801	35.6	Employees: temporary vacancies in establishment are being covered by a small number of contractors due to high on-going levels of work. Benefit & Transfer Payments: expenditure is offset by subsidy from DWP, although there is an impact from increased temporary accommodation costs that are not met by the funding given by the DWP. Supplies and services: Issues with costings for hybrid mail plus one-off set up costs with new supplier.

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# Service Grouping Summary

Head of Service	Service Grouping	Budget	Q3 Forecast	Provisional Outturn	Contribution to/(from) reserves	Revised Provisional Outturn	Over/Under) Spend Against Budget		Comment on Variance to Budget
		£	£	£	£	£	£	%	
Chief Operating Officer	Housing Miscellaneous	28,712	9,078	(2,337)	0	(2,337)	(31,049)	-108.1	Increased ground rents (£10k) and management fee (£5k) to cover increased costs, neither of which were budgeted for, plus salary savings (£5k). Water charge £13k less than budgeted due to revised estimate received in March.
Chief Operating Officer	Housing Needs	1,141,989	1,106,038	1,051,121	118,899	1,170,020	28,031	2.5	DLUHC made a further allocation of Homelessness Prevention Grant to councils in December. We received £106k which is in addition to the £227k received earlier in the year. As a ringfenced grant the underspend has been transferred to a reserve, this is £119k. £50k difference on B&B Costs & Recovery, main factor is block bookings for TA units necessary to ensure we do not lose units to other LA's, if vacant no recovery of costs increasing the gap. Rental Deposit Scheme (RDS) payments reduced by £25k, but recovery was similar to spend, whereas there is an excess budget for spend on RDS payments.
Chief Operating Officer	Licencing	(60,818)	(146,929)	(175,135)	0	(175,135)	(114,317)	-188.0	There is a reduction in taxi licencing income. the majority of this is due to a reduction of income as a result of the covid recovery. Staffing underspend, with amendments made to the structure to provide an ongoing saving to the Service in the MTFs.
Chief Operating Officer	Local Tax Collection	(230,770)	(236,154)	(226,587)	0	(226,587)	4,183	1.8	
Chief Planning Officer	Development Management	(296,243)	46,514	(282,599)	20,000	(262,599)	33,644	11.4	Changes in accrual estimates resulting from large Strategic planning applications submitted in Q4. Cost of agency staff for vacant posts and



# Service Grouping Summary

Head of Service	Service Grouping	Budget	Q3 Forecast	Provisional Outturn	Contribution to/(from) reserves	Revised Provisional Outturn	Over/Under) Spend Against Budget		Comment on Variance to Budget
		£	£	£	£	£	£	%	
									backlog. Pre-application Service re-commenced Oct 22. Programme of Service Improvement Plan underway.
Chief Planning Officer	Planning Policy	674,211	608,217	406,084	185,495	591,579	(82,632)	-12.3	Additional priority income x 2 - £24k, CIL £43.9K better than budget, 17k saving on staff costs; £6k PPA not budgeted for; £4k saving on biodiversity action plan; A428 DCO costs (£20K) not budgeted for .
Chief Planning Officer	Public Transport	24,000	18,012	18,010	0	18,010	(5,990)	-25.0	
Corporate Leadership	Directors	1,035,191	1,029,766	696,549	500,000	1,196,549	161,358	15.6	Place Strategy costs £131k, plus Director recruitment costs £20k and MailChimp bulk email services £7k
Corporate Leadership	Executive Support & Business Planning	165,403	166,487	172,114	(12,993)	159,121	(6,282)	-3.8	
Director of Finance & Resources	Commercial Estates	(2,959,599)	(3,155,088)	(4,009,952)	990,194	(3,019,758)	(60,159)	-2.0	Salary saving on vacant posts during the year as well as recently vacant strategic manager role and savings from maintenance budgets
Director of Finance & Resources	Corporate Finance	5,355,530	4,935,570	3,984,189	779,658	4,763,847	(591,683)	-11.0	Higher interest rates from increase in Bank of England base rate meant increased income from short term investments plus lower interest on PWLB loan due to early repayment
Director of Finance & Resources	Democratic & Elections	928,428	823,879	983,716	(170,541)	813,175	(115,253)	-12.4	More income generated than budgeted for land charges. Underspend on Members' Special Duty Allowances. Income from parish council recharges for elections in May 2022.
Director of Finance & Resources	Energy & Sustainability Management	54,992	10,987	42,309	0	42,309	(12,683)	-23.1	Savings from the Energy and Sustainability Manager role being vacant for part of the year

# Service Grouping Summary

Head of Service	Service Grouping	Budget	Q3 Forecast	Provisional Outturn	Contribution to/(from) reserves	Revised Provisional Outturn	Over/Under) Spend Against Budget		Comment on Variance to Budget
		£	£	£	£	£	£	%	
Director of Finance & Resources	Facilities Management	854,764	827,297	706,703	0	706,703	(148,061)	-17.3	Additional income generated letting out part of 2nd floor Pathfinder House to CPCA from rental and service charge income. Business rates payable for various HDC sites happened to lower than was budgeted for in 22/23. Savings were also made as the facilities manager role became vacant part way through the year and wasn't filled
Director of Finance & Resources	Finance	720,585	689,002	688,830	0	688,830	(31,755)	-4.4	Salary savings from a vacant post
Director of Finance & Resources	Head of Resources	104,518	88,903	92,221	0	92,221	(12,297)	-11.8	Savings due to the vacant director post being filled part way through the year
Director of Finance & Resources	Human Resources	599,408	631,462	601,299	0	601,299	1,891	0.3	
Director of Finance & Resources	Legal	223,940	188,043	185,802	0	185,802	(38,138)	-17.0	Savings from a reduction in HDC usage in the legal shared service
Director of Finance & Resources	Public Conveniences	0	976	1,195	0	1,195	1,195	0.0	
Director of Finance & Resources	Risk Management	131,206	148,067	117,406	0	117,406	(13,800)	-10.5	Underspend is due to audit fees not being spent as contract was delayed (£22k). Part of underspend was offset due maternity leave cover +£9k
Director of Finance & Resources	Risk & Control	846,705	851,372	697,091	0	697,091	(149,614)	-17.7	Underspend due to renewal rates being better than what was anticipated

# Service Grouping Summary

Head of Service	Service Grouping	Budget	Q3 Forecast	Provisional Outturn	Contribution to/(from) reserves	Revised Provisional Outturn	Over/Under) Spend Against Budget		Comment on Variance to Budget
		£	£	£	£	£	£	%	
Director of Finance & Resources	Covid Recovery	0	158,502	192,584	0	192,584	192,584	0.0	Known overspend due to Covid activity
Economic Development	Economic Development	198,252	199,573	187,651	0	187,651	(10,601)	-5.3	There were staff savings owing to leavers and starters during the year. The service made cost savings on existing supplies and contracts. In addition, income was received in relation to market towns footfall cameras which had not been forecast. Furthermore, an unplanned cost of providing a BID ballot service for Huntingdon occurred in the year owing to the existing 5-year term concluding in 2022 and requiring a new ballot for a further 5 year term.
Housing Manager	Market Towns	0	0	85,738	(87,515)	(1,777)	(1,777)	2.1	
Housing Manager	Housing Strategy	186,980	198,507	190,893	0	190,893	3,913	0.0	
Head of ICT	ICT Shared Service	2,604,140	2,809,738	2,373,513	438,331	2,811,844	207,704	8.0	Following analysis carried out during the last quarter, the changes to the way in which the digital team funding is allocated is not yet reflected in the original budget figures.
Head of Leisure & Health	One Leisure Facilities	(176,863)	530,784	255,194	25,000	280,194	457,057	258.4	See separate sheets

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# Service Grouping Summary

Head of Service	Service Grouping	Budget	Q3 Forecast	Provisional Outturn	Contribution to/(from) reserves	Revised Provisional Outturn	Over/Under) Spend Against Budget		Comment on Variance to Budget
		£	£	£	£	£	£	%	
Head of Leisure & Health	One Leisure Active Lifestyles	151,457	171,741	198,823	(28,810)	170,013	18,556	12.3	Variance is due to the following key reasons: a. Predominantly due to sports development not meeting their revenue targets versus the budget which is mainly due to slower recovery for specific disability sessions post COVID-19 and this has duly affected revenue. b. The original sports development budgetary targets set were not consistent with actual usage and this has caused an issue between the correlation of actual activity and revenue generated for each session.
Head of Operations	CCTV	(114,393)	(115,437)	(110,057)	0	(110,057)	4,336	3.8	
Head of Operations	CCTV Shared Service	243,826	277,102	253,902	0	253,902	10,076	4.1	At the beginning of the year we were experiencing some long term sick issues which had an impact on staff salaries however income was expected to come via the incoming projects that were to be delivered and this would have counteract the overspend and break even or deliver an underspend but not as much income came through to due to project delays by 3rd parties.
Head of Operations	Fleet Management	317,275	312,089	260,596	0	260,596	(56,679)	-17.9	2 vacancies within the workshop, but one of the posts is being covered agency staff which is costing HDC than the permanent role. The role not being covered by agency has been removed from future budgets starting in 23/24.
Head of Operations	Green Spaces	641,178	639,570	729,026	(105,521)	623,505	(17,673)	-2.8	Extra income above budget and a saving on contactors has resulted in an underspend on Grounds maintenance and Aboricultural Services.

# Service Grouping Summary

Head of Service	Service Grouping	Budget	Q3 Forecast	Provisional Outturn	Contribution to/(from) reserves	Revised Provisional Outturn	Over/Under) Spend Against Budget		Comment on Variance to Budget
		£	£	£	£	£	£	%	
Head of Operations	Head of Operations	90,257	165,713	170,078	0	170,078	79,821	88.4	Too much was accrued in relation to the high street fund, so when we received reimbursement from central government it didn't cover those costs. These are one off exceptional costs so will not impact future years
Head of Operations	Street Cleansing	867,885	830,101	816,707	0	816,707	(51,178)	-5.9	Street Cleansing were tasked with making a 10% budget saving, this has been achieved by Deletion of 3 posts along with removal of stand pipe licences have led to an underspend of £51k.
Head of Operations	Waste Management	2,871,194	2,407,913	2,159,339	199,317	2,358,656	(512,538)	-17.9	Additional income generated through bulky waste collections, house clearance etc, Reduced recycling re processing cost through our MRF contract due to a buoyant market, gate fees movement from negative to positive position meaning we were paid to have our material reprocessed at the start of the financial year, though part way through the year this flipped. In addition, increased income from recycling credit income due to increased recycling material tonnages.
Programme Delivery Manager	Programme Delivery	72,937	63,124	41,291	0	41,291	(31,646)	-43.4	Saving from vacant programme delivery manager post
Strategic Insight & Delivery	Car Park - On Street	(131,724)	29	175	0	175	131,899	100.1	Lower income due to CCC changes to on-street parking. This income is not HDC as is paid back to CCC. Historic issue with budget, financial correction to recognise repayment to CCC in place.

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# Service Grouping Summary

Head of Service	Service Grouping	Budget	Q3 Forecast	Provisional Outturn	Contribution to/(from) reserves	Revised Provisional Outturn	Over/Under) Spend Against Budget		Comment on Variance to Budget
		£	£	£	£	£	£	%	
Strategic Insight & Delivery	Car Parks - Off Street	(1,070,361)	(1,157,503)	(1,137,453)	37,967	(1,099,486)	(29,125)	-2.7	Income recovery slightly ahead of budgeted position. Some required remedial works unable to be completed (£20k), carried forward into 23/24 budget.
Strategic Insight & Delivery	Countryside	248,166	281,619	239,829	44,741	284,570	36,404	14.7	In 2019 a bid was approved which included the capital investment in Paxton Pits to add growth to the parks. There was an assumption that with this capital investment there would be a increase in income. The investment (and cost) is reliant on a third party development which is not expected in the near future.
Strategic Insight & Delivery	Markets	(38,346)	40,108	33,124	0	33,124	71,470	186.4	Post Covid market recovery to 70% capacity. Huntingdon Wednesday Market was not viable but reintroduced 29 March 2023 and work to expand trading offer across markets underway.
Strategic Insight & Delivery	Parks and Open Spaces	541,810	490,522	433,476	23,611	457,087	(84,723)	-15.6	Savings in salary are due to a Climate Support Officer Role being recruited to support creation of Climate Strategy- Part time and at a lower grade than the Climate co-ordinator role established in budget to ensure Climate Action plan progressed. The Co-ordinator role will be recruited in Q1 23/24.
Strategic Insight & Delivery	Strategic Insight & Delivery	99,360	136,552	144,953	0	144,953	45,593	45.9	Transition to establish new service grouping - this overspend is offset by savings in the Head of Operations post, and Waste Strategy cost centre.
Strategic Insight & Delivery	Transformation	198,256	198,255	246,208	(47,942)	198,266	10	0.0	

## **One Leisure Facilities Comments**

### **St Ives Outdoor Centre**

1. The original budget for St Ives Outdoor was £121k and the actual year end position was £224k a negative variance of £102k
2. Over £130k of this variance was attributed to sales performance at the Training Shed directly related to memberships. The Training Shed has now been taken back in house w.e.f 1.4.23 under One Leisure management.
3. There was £25k expenditure saving which was related to the capital expenditure sinking fund for the 3g pitch. We were able to remove £25k from the end of year forecast as we already had sufficient funds (£250k) in the sinking fund for pitch replacement

### **Leisure Centres Corporate**

1. Overall the leisure centre corporate support team saw an overall underspend of £34k. This underspend in costs has been used to support new costs across the set-up and implementation of the new membership and sales process and system.
2. In addition to this there was a direct overspend of £4k on payroll costs through the cover for maternity leave in One Leisure Direct that had not been originally budgeted.

### **One Leisure Corporate Management**

1. As stated above the leisure centre corporate saving of £34k offsets the overspend seen in leisure corporate management of £73k
2. The overall position therefore is £39k and this is broken down through an unbudgeted salary cost for the Training & Compliance Officer (£30k) + other on-costs related to this contracted position.

### **St Neots Leisure Centre**

1. St Neots shows a £28k positive end of year variance versus a budget of £347k
2. Therefore, the true P&L position is +£6k for 2022-2023 and this can be explained as follows:
  - a. Improvements in income of £15k related to casual swimming and dry side activities
  - b. Employees overspend of £50k of which £40k is attributed to mis-coding of General Management salary
  - c. There was an overspend of £23k on operating costs within site and centre for replacement equipment costs
  - d. Buildings & premises shows an overall saving of £60k which is made up of utility savings (£50k) and business rates (£10k)

### **Huntingdon Leisure Centre**

1. Overall Huntingdon Leisure Centre was budgeted to make a surplus of £128k and delivered £54k therefore had a negative P&L of £74k
2. This can be summarised as follows:
  - a. Overall income was worse by £90k versus budget and the main issue for income performance was memberships which was off budget by £120k. This is through very challenging budgets but mainly attributed to higher levels of competition seen in Anytime Fitness and Gym Group
  - b. Within expenditure there was a saving of £14k in buildings overall in the year but this was offset by an overspend in staffing of £14k.

### **St Ives Leisure Centre**

St Ives Leisure Centre had a budgeted surplus position of £375k but their actual out turn was £231k with a movement of £143k

- a. Overall the income for the year is £100k worse than budget and the reasons for this are around fitness activities (£210k) and £60k on indoor sports and hospitality
- b. These have been balanced off through improvements in swimming £120k and ten pin bowling £50k
- c. In terms of expenditure there was an overspend on employees of £62k and £47k of this is around the mis-coding of the general management salary. In addition there was a further overspend in building of £6k which was a mitigated position between an overspend on utilities and underspend on business rates.

### **Ramsey Leisure Centre**

Overall Ramsey Leisure Centre were planned to make a small deficit of £3k but their end of year actual performance was £134k meaning a deficit position of £131k. This was due to the following reasons:

- a. Overall income was worse by £37k and this was attributed to fitness activities (£73k) which was offset by casual swimming of £46k
- b. The expenditure was £94k worse than budget and this is related to the following:
- c. electricity overspend of £50k due to the decarbonisation and increase in electricity wholesale prices
- d. The business rates were £50k worse than budget as the centre was re-rated following the completion and opening of the new 3g Football pitch at the centre



## **CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

The approved gross Capital Programme for 2022/23 is £12,776k. Schemes totalling £26,898k from 2021/22 have been rephased to 2022/23, plus external funding of £2,225k gives the total gross capital programme for 2022/23 of £41,899k.

The Capital Programme is forecast to have an underspend of £31,704k; £18,342k will be re-phased to future years.

The table below shows the capital programme by scheme with proposed re-phasing, expenditure to date and forecast outturn.

The legacy of the Covid-19 pandemic may continue to affect delivery of some projects in terms of capacity of resources and the uncertainty within the economic landscape for investments into property.

# Capital Project Expenditure Summary

Department	Description	Lead Officer	Original Budget £000	Latest Budget* £000	Actual Spend £000	Over/(Under) Spend £000	Budget C/Fwd £000	Comment on Variance
Corporate Resources	Oak Tree Remedial	Ian Lademan		35,000	28,517	(6,483)		
Corporate Resources	Health and Safety Measures	Ian Lademan		50,500	0	(50,500)	50,500	To be rephased the underspend has resulted from the Strategic Property Manager vacancy.
Corporate Resources	Energy Efficiency Measures	Ian Lademan	10,000	84,480	3,125	(81,355)	81,355	To be rephased the underspend has resulted from the Strategic Property Manager vacancy.
Corporate Resources	Estates Roof Replacements	Ian Lademan		130,000	0	(130,000)	130,000	To be rephased the underspend has resulted from the Strategic Property Manager vacancy.
Corporate Resources	Reletting Enhancements	Ian Lademan	250,000	500,000	0	(500,000)	500,000	To be rephased the underspend has resulted from the Strategic Property Manager vacancy.
Corporate Resources	Reletting Incentives	Ian Lademan		150,000	0	(150,000)	150,000	To be rephased the underspend has resulted from the Strategic Property Manager vacancy.
Corporate Resources	Sites for SMEs	Ian Lademan		32,760	26,359	(6,402)	6,402	
Corporate Resources	Bridge Place	Karen Sutton		301,470	23,489	(277,981)		Project cancelled
Corporate Resources	Company Shares	Karen Sutton		100,000	0	(100,000)	100,000	Subsidiary dormant in 2022/23
Corporate Resources	Huntingdon Redevelopment	Karen Sutton	7,595,000	16,095,000	0	(16,095,000)		Project cancelled
Corporate Resources	Building Efficiency	Julian Leeming			16,638	16,638		
Corporate Resources	Retrofit Buildings	Julian Leeming		226,220	0	(226,220)		
Corporate Resources	Lighting Loves Farm	Karen Sutton		200	358	158		

# Capital Project Expenditure Summary

Department	Description	Lead Officer	Original Budget £000	Latest Budget* £000	Actual Spend £000	Over/(Under) Spend £000	Budget C/Fwd £000	Comment on Variance
Corporate Resources	Upgrade/Replace Public Toilets	Matt Raby		88,980	78,632	(10,348)	10,348	Works not yet full complete
Corporate Resources	VAT Partial Exemption Costs	Sharon Russell-Surtees	21,000	21,000	0	(21,000)		Not required due to change in VAT rules relating to exempt income and expenditure
Corporate Resources	Payments Software PFH - BMS	Sharon Russell-Surtees		10,500	0	(10,500)	10,500	A review of website software that will make the payment website more flexible including making it easier to add miscellaneous charges. The review has been delayed by the decision on whether to extend the contract of the current supplier.
Chief Operating Officer	Printing Equipment	Andy Lusha		16,000		(16,000)		No longer needed as printing now provided by external supplier.
Chief Operating Officer	Replacement Scanners	Andy Lusha		25,000	16,837	(8,163)		Project complete.
Chief Operating Officer	Environmental Health Software	Claudia Deeth		20,000	15,100	(4,900)		Project complete
Chief Operating Officer	MHP Electrical Works	Claudia Deeth		0	285	285		
Chief Planning Officer	Community Infrastructure Levy	Claire Burton		0	921,937	921,937		Funded from CIL reserve
Chief Planning Officer	Conservation Projects	Julie Ayre	47,000	94,000		(94,000)		This project is revenue expenditure so a new bid for a revenue budget will made for 2023/24.
Chief Planning Officer	A14 Upgrade	Clara Kerr	200,000	800,000	3,688,400	2,888,400		Budget was for contributions to be made over 25 years, agreement was reached to make payment as a discounted, single lump.
Chief Planning Officer	Housing Company	Clara Kerr	0	206,000		(206,000)	206,000	Delayed spend and may be that project will not go ahead at all.
Leisure & Health	OL Condition Survey	Paul France	285,000	551,290	488,732	(62,559)	62,559	The carry over for the condition survey relates to the late procurement of mechanical machinery at St Ives Outdoor

# Capital Project Expenditure Summary

Department	Description	Lead Officer	Original Budget £000	Latest Budget* £000	Actual Spend £000	Over/(Under) Spend £000	Budget C/Fwd £000	Comment on Variance
								Centre and the redecoration of the fitness rooms of the same facility based upon the transfer from a different contractor. (Training Shed)
Leisure & Health	One Leisure Ramsey 3G	Paul France		96,040	25,816	(70,224)	70,224	The car park element of the project wasn't completed in 22/23 and therefore budget is required in 23/24
Leisure & Health	OL St Ives Changing Rooms	Paul France		12,680		(12,680)		Not rephased. This is retention which has been accrued.
Leisure & Health	OL CCTV Upgrade	Paul France		110,200	114,899	4,699		
Corporate Director Place	St Neots Bridge	Pamela Scott				0		Market Town Programme ongoing remaining budget to be rephased
Corporate Director Place	High Street Improvements	Pamela Scott			722,512	722,512	(722,512)	Market Town Programme ongoing remaining budget to be rephased
Corporate Director Place	Market Square	Pamela Scott				0		Market Town Programme ongoing remaining budget to be rephased
Corporate Director Place	Priory Quarter	Pamela Scott				0		Market Town Programme ongoing remaining budget to be rephased
Corporate Director Place	Priory Centre	Pamela Scott			29,181	29,181	(29,181)	Market Town Programme ongoing remaining budget to be rephased
Corporate Director Place	Market Town Programme	Pamela Scott	675,000	675,000		(675,000)	675,000	Market Town Programme ongoing remaining budget to be rephased
Corporate Director Place	Market Town Ramsey	Pamela Scott			20,000	20,000	(20,000)	Market Town Programme ongoing remaining budget to be rephased
Corporate Director Place	Market Town St Ives	Pamela Scott			20,000	20,000	(20,000)	Market Town Programme ongoing remaining budget to be rephased
Corporate Director Place	Market Town Huntingdon	Pamela Scott			20,000	20,000	(20,000)	Market Town Programme ongoing remaining budget to be rephased
Corporate Director Place	Old Falcon	Pamela Scott			50,020	50,020	(50,020)	Market Town Programme ongoing remaining budget to be rephased
Corporate Director Place	Market Towns	Pamela Scott				0		Market Town Programme ongoing remaining budget to be rephased

# Capital Project Expenditure Summary

Department	Description	Lead Officer	Original Budget £000	Latest Budget* £000	Actual Spend £000	Over/(Under) Spend £000	Budget C/Fwd £000	Comment on Variance
Corporate Director Place	Future High Streets	Pamela Scott		12,172,000		(12,172,000)	12,172,000	Market Town Programme ongoing remaining budget to be rephased
Corporate Director Place	Wayfinding and Information	Pamela Scott		200,000		(200,000)	200,000	Market Town Programme ongoing remaining budget to be rephased
Corporate Director Place	Smarter Towns	Jasellia Williams		91,000	19,650	(71,350)	71,350	Market Town Programme ongoing remaining budget to be rephased
Corporate Director Place	UKSPF				11,556	11,556		Funded by UKSPF
Corporate Director Place	Footfall Cameras - St lves				40,035	40,035		Funded by CPCA
Corporate Director Place	Footfall Cameras - St Neots				17,550	17,550		Funded by CPCA
Corporate Director Place	Footfall Cameras - Ramsey				3,699	3,699		Funded by CPCA
Operations	Wheeled Bins	Andrew Rogan	254,000	254,000	163,031	(90,969)		
Operations	Vehicle and Plant	Andrew Rogan	1,139,000	1,477,700	914,149	(563,551)	563,551	Extending the life of the assets and pushing them out as long as possible to maximise value for money
Operations	Godmanchester Mill Weir	Andrew Rogan		248,000	138,960	(109,040)		This project is now complete.
Operations	Lone Worker Software	Eddy Gardner		20,000		(20,000)	20,000	The project plan is still being finalised
Operations	District Signs	Matthew Chudley		70,000		(70,000)	70,000	This project is under review.
Operations	St Neots Riverside	Matthew Chudley		445,000	24,187	(420,813)	420,813	This project is underway and is to be rephased
Strategic Insight & Delivery	Parking Strategy	George McDowell		147,630		(147,630)	147,630	Subject to change control submission to Treasury and Capital committee
Strategic Insight & Delivery	Civil Parking Enforcement	George McDowell		217,000		(217,000)	217,000	There are plans to spend the budget but the project is not at that stage due to approved 12 month delay in delivery (CPE commencement October 2024)

# Capital Project Expenditure Summary

Department	Description	Lead Officer	Original Budget £000	Latest Budget* £000	Actual Spend £000	Over/(Under) Spend £000	Budget C/Fwd £000	Comment on Variance
Strategic Insight & Delivery	Bicycle Kitchen	George McDowell		15,000		(15,000)		Project complete
Strategic Insight & Delivery	Market Trader Pop-Ups	George McDowell		17,120		(17,120)		Project complete
Strategic Insight & Delivery	Play Equipment	Helen Lack	30,000	30,000	25,998	(4,002)	4,002	Equipment manufacture delay
Strategic Insight & Delivery	Secure Cycle Storage	George McDowell		148,070		(148,070)	148,070	This project is completed, the underspend as reported to Market Towns Program due to changes in specification as CCTV option no longer needed as it would not be supported within the revenue.
Strategic Insight & Delivery	Priory Park Mains Power	Helen Lack		15,000		(15,000)	15,000	Site investigations mean that a change request had to be submitted so project will fall into next year
Strategic Insight & Delivery	Operations Back Office	Helen Lack		0	13,309	13,309		Old invoice payment delayed.
Strategic Insight & Delivery	Park Fencing	Helen Lack	13,000	13,000	12,884	(116)		
Strategic Insight & Delivery	St Ives Park	Helen Lack		80,000		(80,000)	80,000	Pending signing off lease before works can be started
Strategic Insight & Delivery	Parklets	Helen Lack		159,570	25,468	(134,102)		Project complete
Strategic Insight & Delivery	Solar Benches	Helen Lack		45,510		(45,510)	1,192	Project nearly completed, outstanding invoice.
Strategic Insight & Delivery	Covered Benches	Helen Lack		0	9,119	9,119	5,125	Project nearly completed, outstanding invoice.
Strategic Insight & Delivery	Town Walks	Helen Lack		15,470		(15,470)		Project complete
Strategic Insight & Delivery	Places to Dwell	Helen Lack		0		0		
Strategic Insight & Delivery	Moore's Walk Improvements	Helen Lack	20,000	20,000		(20,000)	20,000	To be linked with the future high street project
Strategic Insight & Delivery	Hinchingbrooke Country Park	Judith Arnold		2,983,624	277,509	(2,706,115)	2,706,115	Delays with external surveys and the submission of the planning application,

# Capital Project Expenditure Summary

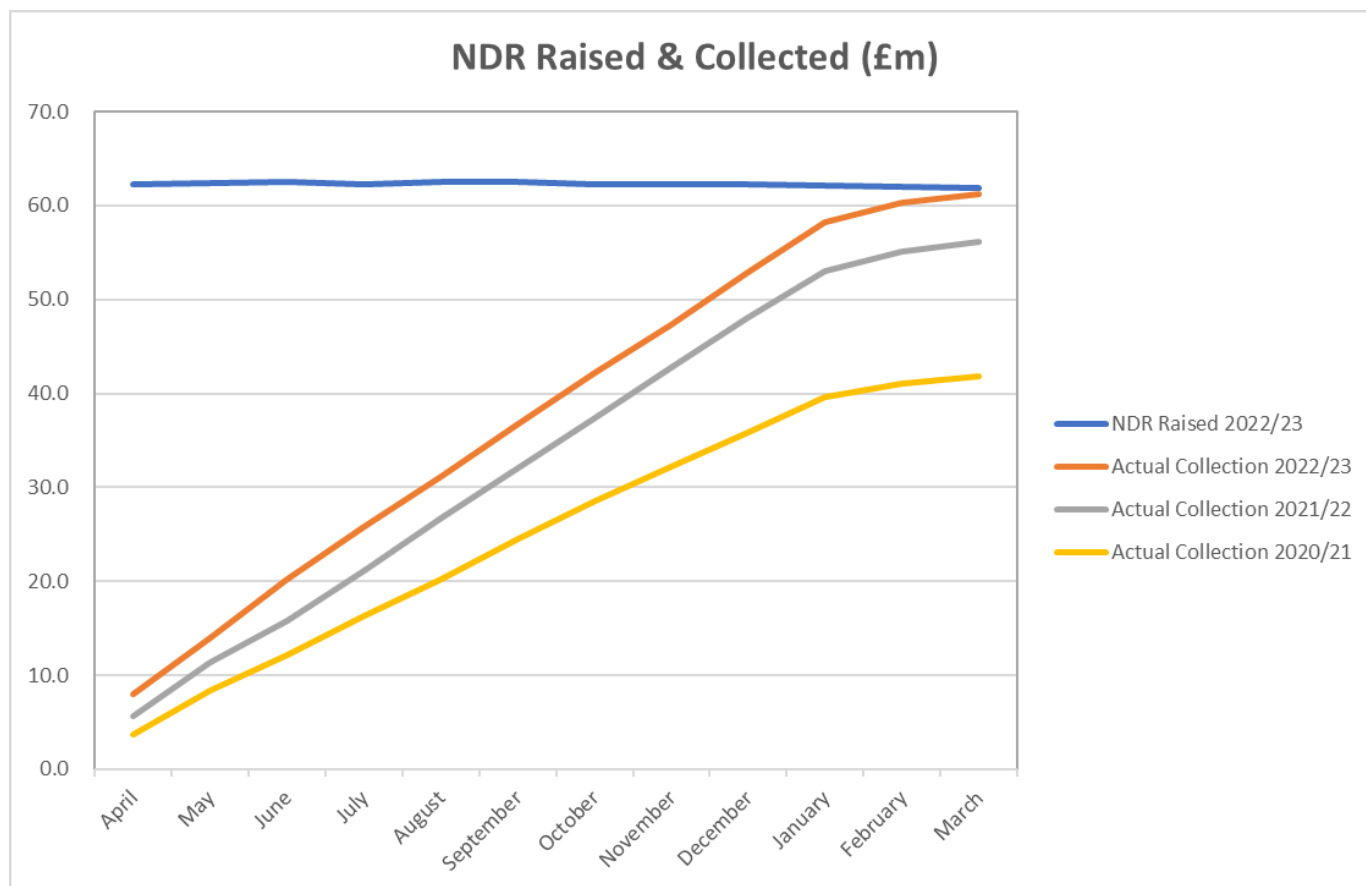
Department	Description	Lead Officer	Original Budget £000	Latest Budget* £000	Actual Spend £000	Over/(Under) Spend £000	Budget C/Fwd £000	Comment on Variance
								the application is now expected to be submitted in June 2024
Strategic Insight & Delivery	Voice Bots	Dan Buckridge		34,000		(34,000)	34,000	Rephase to 2023/24, to fund a project to provide the ability to answer customer queries without human intervention, to be in place by the end of the year if research shows this is viable.
Strategic Insight & Delivery	Data Warehouse	Dan Buckridge		16,000		(16,000)	16,000	To be rephased for further development of the data warehouse and integration of more e-forms to enable collation and analysis of information from the customer portal.
ICT	Hardware Replacement	Paul Ashbridge	130,000	130,000	32,541	(97,459)		Budget bid added to 23/24 already, so rephase is not needed. Underspend is due to only purchasing proportion of devices for testing and initial rollout.
ICT	Mobile Phone Hardware Replacement	Paul Ashbridge		65,000	31,049	(33,951)		Project now complete. Saving made on project due to shared resource being utilised for all 3 partners.
ICT	Telephony Replacements	Paul Ashbridge	8,000	154,010	86,129	(67,881)	67,881	Rephase into 23/24 - budget will likely fund HDCs proportion of the Telephony Reporting Solution that is currently under requirement gathering.
ICT	Shared Data Centre - Data Centre Expansion	Paul Ashbridge		39,000	33,044	(5,956)	5,956	Rephase into 23/24
ICT	Information @ Work	Paul Ashbridge	20,000	20,000		(20,000)		Project cancelled
ICT	Datacentre Racks	Paul Ashbridge	244,000	244,000		(244,000)	244,000	Rephase into 23/24 – This was not spent due to not all partners providing for funds FY22/23. All funding now in place.
ICT	SQL Server 2012	Paul Ashbridge	20,000	20,000	10,360	(9,640)	9,640	Rephase into 23/24 - Work ongoing, deadline for completion October 2023

# Capital Project Expenditure Summary

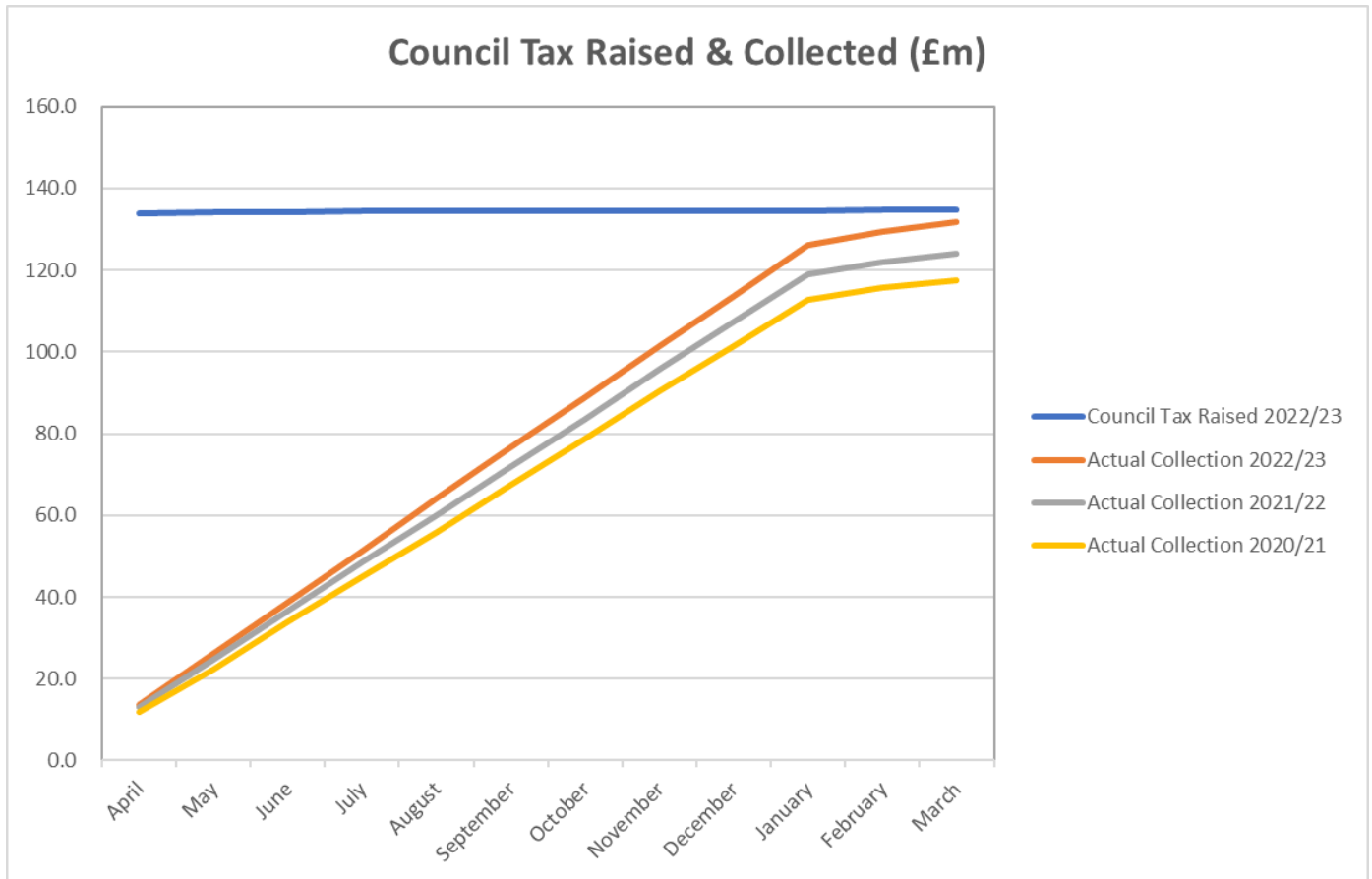
Department	Description	Lead Officer	Original Budget £000	Latest Budget* £000	Actual Spend £000	Over/(Under) Spend £000	Budget C/Fwd £000	Comment on Variance
ICT	AV Equipment	Paul Ashbridge	15,000	60,000	146	(59,854)	59,854	Rephase into 23/24 – The suppliers have undertaken site visits and are drawing up remediation solutions.
Housing	Disabled Facilities Grants	Claudia Deeth	1,800,000	1,800,000	2,017,662	217,662		Works catch-up after Covid delayed works in 2020/21 and 2021/22.
	Adjustment for accrual credits				(23,936)	23,936		
			<b>12,776,000</b>	<b>41,899,024</b>	<b>10,194,966</b>	<b>(31,704,088)</b>	<b>18,342,284</b>	



## Financial Dashboard



The NDR graph above shows the total amount of NDR bills raised in 2022/23 and the actual receipts received up to the end of March. The Council tax graph below provides the same analysis.



### Outstanding Miscellaneous Debt Overdue for Payment

The level of miscellaneous debt outstanding at 31 March 2023 remains high at £7.163m (31 March 2022, £3.906m). Of this, £6.172m relates to invoices less than 30 days old.

Over 90% of the debt is made up as follows:

Department	Amount Owed £m
3C Share Services	5.226
Operations	0.569
Commercial Estates	0.417
Housing	0.471

Bad debt provision of £611k has been provided to reflect what is at risk of non-payment in 2023/24.

**Public**  
**Key Decision - No**

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Title:** Treasury Management Outturn Report 2022/23

**Meeting/Date:** Cabinet – 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023

**Executive Portfolio:** Strategic Resources: Councillor B A Mickelburgh  
(Executive Councillor for Finance & Resources)

**Report by:** Chief Finance Officer

**Ward(s) affected:** All Wards

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### **Executive Summary:**

Best practice and prescribed treasury management guidance requires Members to be kept up to date in respect of treasury management activity for the first half of the year, including investment and borrowing activity and treasury performance.

The Council's 2022/23 Treasury Management Strategy was approved by the Council on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022 and this report sets out the treasury performance for period between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

### **The main purpose of Treasury Management is to.**

- Ensure the Council has sufficient cash to meet its day to day obligations.
- Invest surplus funds in a manner that balances low risk of default by the borrower with a fair rate of interest.
- Borrow when necessary to fund capital expenditure, including borrowing in anticipation of need when rates are low.

### **The key market Treasury Management issues during 2022/23 influencing the Council's decision-making were.**

- During the second half of the year investment interest rates have increased substantially and were nearly 4% by the year end. Whilst good for investing some signs of stress were showing, including as a result of the increased interest rates and inflation, the failure of several regional banks in the US. As a result the council increased use of the Debt Management Office for deposits in preference to single counterparties and Money Market Funds, the DMO being less risky and more recently

increasingly competitive on rates.

- The Bank of England Bank Rate was at 0.75% at the start of the financial year and had increased to 4.25% by March 2023.
- Market rates increased substantially during the year, with the council's weighted average interest rate increasing from 0.82% as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 to 3.85% as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

**The Council's responses to the key issues were.**

- When the Council has surplus funds, these will primarily be invested on a short-term basis, in bank deposit accounts and money market funds and the Debt Management Office.
- Where possible to take a higher return without sacrificing liquidity.
- When borrowing the Council will use the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB), which offers low fixed rate borrowing, based on gilt yields over a long period.
- Where economic conditions are forecast to deteriorate it is vital to monitor financial institutions credit rating, and credit default swap rates (the cost to insure lending). This information is provided by the Council's treasury adviser – Link Group.

**The Council's Commercial Investment Strategy (CIS)**

The Commercial Investment Strategy commenced in 2015/16. Indicators relating to the investments are shown in **Appendix A section 3.4** and in **table 16**.

These investments generated £1.3m of investment income for the Council in 2022/23 after taking account of direct costs. The breakdown of the property's portfolio is shown in **Table 8** and the proportion of the investment income in relation to gross service expenditure, in **Table 9 of Appendix A**.

**Recommendation(s):**

The Cabinet is recommended to

- Comment on the treasury management performance for 2022/23 and to recommend the report to Council for consideration.

## **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update councillors on the Council's treasury management activity during 2022/23, including investment and borrowing activity and treasury performance.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 It is regarded as best practice and prescribed treasury management practice, that Members are kept up to date with treasury management activity.
- 2.2 The Council approved the 2022/23 Treasury Management Strategy at its meeting on 23rd February 2022.
- 2.3 All treasury management activity undertaken during 2022/23 complied with the CIPFA Code of Practice and relevant legislative provisions.
- 2.4 The investment strategy is to invest any surplus funds in a manner that balances low risk of default by the borrower with a fair rate of interest. The Council's borrowing strategy permits borrowing for cash flow purposes and funding current and future capital expenditure over whatever periods are in the Council's best interests.

## **3. ANALYSIS**

### **Economic Review**

- 3.1 An economic review of the year has been provided by our Treasury Management advisors, Link Group and is attached with an analysis of the local context implications in **Appendix A section 2.0**.

### **Performance of Council Funds**

- 3.2 The treasury management transactions undertaken during 2022/23 and the details of the investments and loans held as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 are shown in detail in **Appendix A section 3.0 to 3.2**.

### **Risk Management**

- 3.3 The Council's primary objectives for the management of its investment are to give priority to the security and liquidity (how quickly cash can be accessed) of its funds before seeking the best rate of return. For more details see **Appendix A section 3.3**.

### **Non-Treasury Investments**

- 3.5 The definition of investments in CIPFA's revised Treasury Management Code now covers all the financial assets of the Council as well as other non-financial assets which the Council holds primarily for financial return. The full details of these investments can be found on **Section**

### 3.4 of Appendix A.

## 4. COMPLIANCE

- 4.1 Compliance with specific investment and debt limits are indicated in **table 10** and **11** of **Appendix A**.

## 5. TREASURY MANAGEMENT INDICATORS

- 5.1 The Council measures and manages its exposure to treasury management risks using indicators which are details in the **Appendix A section 5.0**.

## 6. COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

- 6.1 The Panel discussed the Treasury Management Outturn Report 2022-23 Report at its meeting on 7th June 2023.
- 6.2 Following a question from Councillor Pickering, the Panel heard that the increase in the overall property value of the Rowley Centre St Neots was due to the unit occupied by Cineworld now returning to full rent (valuations are based on rent yield), from the reduced rent during the COVID pandemic.
- 6.3 In response to a question from Councillor Jennings, it was confirmed to the Panel that all borrowing was on fixed rate terms, the majority is borrowed from the Public Works Loans Board, in addition there is a small loan from Salix Ltd at fixed 0% interest.
- 6.4 The Panel heard, following an observation by Councillor Blackwell, that an inconsistency in the report relating to People for Places in section 3.1 would be corrected to Places for People.
- 6.5 In response to a question from Councillor Harvey, the Panel heard that the reduction in property value of the existing portfolio shown in Table 8 was due to a decrease in rent and estimated future yield at two locations which impacts on the property value, it was also advised that new valuers had been appointed which had resulted in some valuation changes.
- 6.6 Following the discussion, the Panel were informed that their comments would be added to the Cabinet report in order for Cabinet to make a decision on the recommendations.

## **List of Appendices;**

### **Appendix A**

- Economic review (source: Link Group)
- Borrowing and Investment as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023
- Risk Management
- Non-treasury Investments
- Treasury Management Indicators

### **Appendix B**


- Capital Prudential Indicators

### **Appendix C**


- Glossary

## **CONTACT OFFICERS**

Oliver Colbert, Financial and Treasury Accountant

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Sharon Russell-Surtees, Chief Finance Officer

 01480 388524

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## Treasury Management Outturn Performance Review

### 1.0 Introduction

The Council adopted the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's *Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice* (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Council to approve treasury management semi-annual and annual reports.

The Council's treasury management strategy for 2022/23 was approved at a meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022. The Council does borrow and invest substantial sums of money and is therefore exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of risk remain central to the Council's treasury management strategy.

Treasury risk management at the Authority is conducted within the framework of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Authority to approve a treasury management strategy before the start of each financial year and, as a minimum, a semi-annual and annual treasury outturn report.

The Prudential Code includes a requirement for local authorities to provide a Capital Strategy, a summary document approved by full Council covering capital expenditure and financing, treasury management and non-treasury investments. The Authority's Capital Strategy, complying with CIPFA's requirement, was approved by full Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022.

### 2.0 External Context

#### 2.1 The UK Economy

*(This commentary has been provided by Link Group, the council's new treasury advisors from March 2023)*

Against a backdrop of stubborn inflationary pressures, the easing of Covid restrictions in most developed economies, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and a range of different UK Government policies, it is no surprise that UK interest rates have been volatile right across the curve, from Bank Rate through to 50-year gilt yields, for all of 2022/23.

Market commentators' misplaced optimism around inflation has been the root cause of the rout in the bond markets with, for example, UK, EZ and US 10-year yields all rising by over 200bps in 2022. The table below provides a snapshot of the

conundrum facing central banks: inflation is elevated but labour markets are extraordinarily tight, making it an issue of fine judgment as to how far monetary policy needs to tighten.

Table 1: Economic Indicators

	<b>UK</b>	<b>Eurozone</b>	<b>US</b>
<b>Bank Rate</b>	4.25%	3%	4.75%-5%
<b>GDP</b>	+0.1%q/q Q4 (4.1%/y/y)	+0.1%q/q Q4 (1.9%/y/y)	2.6% Q4 Annualised
<b>Inflation</b>	10.4%/y/y (Feb)	6.9%/y/y (Mar)	6.0%/y/y (Feb)
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	3.7% (Jan)	6.6% (Feb)	3.6% (Feb)

Quarter 2 of 2022 saw UK GDP deliver growth of +0.1% quarter/quarter, but this was quickly reversed in the third quarter, albeit some of the fall in GDP can be placed at the foot of the extra Bank Holiday in the wake of the Queen’s passing. Quarter 4 GDP was positive at 0.1% quarter/quarter. Most recently, January saw a 0.3% month/month increase in GDP as the number of strikes reduced compared to December. In addition, the resilience in activity at the end of 2022 was, in part, due to a 1.3% quarter/quarter rise in real household disposable incomes. A big part of that reflected the £5.7bn payments received by households from the government under the Energy Bills Support Scheme.

Nevertheless, CPI inflation picked up to what should be a peak reading of 11.1% in October, although hopes for significant falls from this level will very much rest on the movements in the gas and electricity markets, as well as the supply-side factors impacting food prices. On balance, most commentators expect the CPI measure of inflation to drop back towards 4% by the end of 2023. As of February 2023, CPI was 10.4%.

The UK unemployment rate fell through 2022 to a 48-year low of 3.6%, and this despite a net migration increase of around 500k. The fact remains, however, that with many economic participants registered as long-term sick, the UK labour force shrunk by around 500k in the year to June. Without an increase in the labour force participation rate, it is hard to see how the UK economy will be able to grow its way to prosperity, and with average wage increases running at over 6% the MPC will be concerned that wage inflation will prove just as sticky as major supply-side shocks to food (up 18.3% year/year in February 2023) and energy that have endured since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine on 22 February 2022.

Bank Rate increased steadily throughout 2022/23, starting at 0.75% and finishing at 4.25%.

In the interim, following a Conservative Party leadership contest, Liz Truss became Prime Minister for a tumultuous seven weeks that ran through September and October. Put simply, the markets did not like the unfunded tax-cutting and heavy spending policies put forward by her Chancellor, Kwasi Kwarteng, and their reign lasted barely seven weeks before being replaced by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Chancellor Jeremy Hunt. Their Autumn Statement of the 17th of November gave rise to a net £55bn fiscal tightening, although much of the “heavy lifting” has been

left for the next Parliament to deliver. However, the markets liked what they heard, and UK gilt yields have reversed the increases seen under the previous tenants of No10/11 Downing Street, although they remain elevated in line with developed economies generally.

As noted above, GDP has been tepid throughout 2022/23, although the most recent composite Purchasing Manager Indices for the UK, US, EZ and China have all surprised to the upside, registering survey scores just above 50 (below suggests economies are contracting, and above suggests expansion). Whether that means a shallow recession, or worse, will be avoided is still unclear. Ultimately, the MPC will want to see material evidence of a reduction in inflationary pressures and a loosening in labour markets. Realistically, that is an unlikely outcome without unemployment rising and wage settlements falling from their current levels. At present, the bigger rise in employment kept the ILO unemployment rate unchanged at 3.7% in January. Also, while the number of job vacancies fell for the ninth consecutive month in February, they remained around 40% above pre-pandemic levels.

Our economic analysts, Capital Economics, expect real GDP to contract by around 0.2% quarter/quarter in Quarter 1 and forecast a recession this year involving a 1.0% peak-to-trough fall in real GDP.

The £ has remained resilient of late, recovering from a record low of \$1.035, on the Monday following the Truss government's "fiscal event", to \$1.23. Notwithstanding the £'s better run of late, 2023 is likely to see a housing correction of some magnitude as fixed-rate mortgages have moved above 4.5% and affordability has been squeezed despite proposed Stamp Duty cuts remaining in place.

## **2.2 Equity Markets**

As for equity markets, the FTSE 100 started 2023 strongly, rising to a record high of 8,014 on 20th February, as resilient data and falling inflation boosted earnings. But global equities fell sharply after concerns over the health of the global banking system emerged early in March.

The fall in the FTSE 100 was bigger than the drop in the US S&P 500. Indeed, at around 7,600 now, the FTSE is 5.2% below its record high on 20th February, while the S&P 500 is only 1.9% lower over the same period. That's despite UK banks having been less exposed and equity prices in the UK's financial sector not falling as far. It may be due to the smaller decline in UK interest rate expectations and bond yields, which raise the discounted value of future earnings, compared to the US.

## **2.3 Global**

**USA.** The flurry of comments from Federal Reserve (Fed) officials over recent months suggest there is still an underlying hawkish theme to their outlook for interest rates. Markets are pricing in a further interest rate increases of 25-50bps, on top of the current interest rate range of 4.75% - 5%.

In addition, the Fed is expected to continue to run down its balance sheet once the on-going concerns about some elements of niche banking provision are in the rear-view mirror.

As for inflation, it is currently at c6% but with the economy expected to weaken during 2023, and wage data already falling back, there is the prospect that should the economy slide into a recession of any kind there will be scope for rates to be cut at the backend of 2023 or shortly after.

**EU.** Although the Euro-zone inflation rate has fallen below 7%, the ECB will still be mindful that it has further work to do to dampen inflation expectations and it seems destined to raise rates to 4% in order to do so. Like the UK, growth has remained more robust than anticipated but a recession in 2023 is still seen as likely by most commentators.

## 2.4 Regulatory changes

### IFRS 9 Fair Value of Assets

Following the consultation undertaken by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) on IFRS 9, the Government has extended the mandatory statutory override for local authorities to reverse out all unrealised fair value movements resulting from pooled investment funds to 31st March 2025. Local authorities are required to disclose the net impact of the unrealised fair value movements in a separate unusable reserve throughout the duration of the override in order for the Government to keep the override under review and to maintain a form of transparency. This regulation applies to the CCLA Property Fund.

### IFRS 16 Leases

IFRS16 which will have the effect of bringing currently off-balance sheet leased assets onto the balance sheet, has been delayed until 2024/25.

## 3.0 Local Context

On 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, the Council had net investing of £21.16m arising from its revenue income and capital income and expenditure. The underlying need to borrow for capital purposes is measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), while usable reserves and working capital are the underlying resources available for investment. These factors are summarised in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Balance Sheet Summary

	31.3.23 Actual £m
General Fund CFR	72.3
Less: *Other debt liabilities	(0.5)
<b>Total CFR</b>	<b>71.8</b>
External borrowing	(34.4)

Internal borrowing	(17.8)
Balance Sheet Resources <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	(74.9)
<b>Investments</b>	<b>(55.3)</b>

<sup>(1)</sup>Includes debtors, stock, cash, reserves, less overdraft, creditors, provisions, long term liabilities, unusable reserves.

<sup>(2)</sup>This is an estimate as the actual figure is not yet available.

The Council pursued its strategy of keeping borrowing and investments below their underlying levels, sometimes known as internal borrowing, to reduce risk and keep interest costs low.

The treasury management position as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 and the change during the year is shown in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Treasury Management Summary

	<b>30.3.22 Balance £m</b>	<b>Movement £m</b>	<b>31.3.23 Balance £m</b>	<b>31.3.23 Rate %<sup>(1)</sup></b>
Long-term borrowing	38.92	(4.56) <sup>(2)</sup>	34.36	2.83
Short-term borrowing	0.00	0.00	0.00	
<b>Total borrowing</b>	<b>38.92</b>	<b>(4.56)</b>	<b>34.36</b>	<b>2.83</b>
Long-term investments	4.00	0.00	4.00	3.98
Short-term investments	21.00	19.00	40.00 <sup>(3)</sup>	3.96
Cash and cash equivalents	28.07	(16.55)	11.52	3.78
<b>Total investments</b>	<b>53.07</b>	<b>2.45<sup>(4)</sup></b>	<b>55.52</b>	<b>3.92</b>
<b>Net Investing</b>	<b>(14.15)</b>	<b>(7.01)</b>	<b>(21.16)</b>	

<sup>(1)</sup> Weighted average

<sup>(2)</sup>The borrowing from PWLB to fund loan to Places for People has been repaid, as Places for People repaid the loan to them.

<sup>(3)</sup>This does not include loans to local organisations, as these are not considered investments. This is DMO deposits.

<sup>(4)</sup>This is a net movement, investments made were £398.89m and investments returned £396.44m.

The movement in borrowing is as a result of Places for People repaying the loan from the council in full on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022, the borrowing from PWLB used to finance the loan was repaid on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022 (see table 4). In addition there has been a move away from use of MMFs and deposits (cash and cash equivalent) to DMO (Short-term investments), in anticipation of potential market stresses.

### 3.1 Borrowing Strategy during the period

At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, the Council held £34.36m of loans, a decrease of £4.56m from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. The main decrease resulted from the council repaying PWLB borrowing related to the Places for People loan. Outstanding loans on 31<sup>st</sup> March are summarised in Table 4 below.

Table 4: Borrowing Position

	30.3.22 Balance £m	Net Movement £m	31.3.23 Balance £m	31.3.23 Weighted Average Rate %	31.3.23 Weighted Average Maturity (years)
Public Works Loan Board	38.88	(4.54)	34.34	2.83%	21.4
Salix	0.04	(0.02)	0.02	0.00%	2.9
Short-term	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.0
<b>Total borrowing</b>	<b>38.92</b>	<b>(4.56)</b>	<b>34.36</b>	<b>2.83%</b>	<b>21.4</b>

<sup>(1)</sup>There has been no short-term borrowing in 2022/23

The Council's chief objective when borrowing has been to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing low interest costs and achieving cost certainty over the period for which funds are required, with flexibility to renegotiate loans should the Council's long-term plans change being a secondary objective.

With short-term interest rates remaining much lower than long-term rates, the Council considered it to be more cost effective in the near term to use internal resources or short-term loans instead. The Council had not used short-term loans facility so far in this financial year.

Although it was anticipated that the Council's CFR would increase due to the capital programme. However some schemes have been delayed, and also schemes that have gone ahead have been funded by grants, with the result that no new loans have been taken out.

Table 5: Loan Schedule

Long-dated Loans borrowed	PWLB Reference	Amount £	Rate %	Period (Years)
PWLB 1	495152	5,000,000	3.91	34.75
PWLB 2	495153	5,000,000	3.90	35.75
PWLB 3	502463	83,196	2.24	0.35
PWLB 12	506436	5,000,000	2.78	14.52
PWLB 13	508696	7,291,685	2.49	15.96
PWLB 15	509389	11,963,000	2.18	16.25
Salix		26,320	0.00	2.89
<b>Total borrowing</b>		<b>34,364,201</b>	<b>2.83</b>	<b>21.41</b>

The Council's borrowing decisions are not predicated on any one outcome for interest rates and a balanced portfolio of short- and long-term borrowing was maintained.

### 3.2 Treasury Investment Activity

The Council holds significant invested funds, representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves held. The investment position is shown in table 6 below.

Table 6: Treasury Investment Position

The weighted average interest rate for the investment portfolio up to 31.03.2023 was 3.85% (31.03.2022 0.82%).

	30.3.22 Balance £	Net Movement £m	31.3.23 Balance £m	31.3.23 Weighted Income Return <sup>(1,2)</sup> %	31.3.23 Weighted Average Maturity days
Banks & building societies (unsecured)	5,067,000	(3,946,000)	1,121,000	0.10%	1
Government (incl. local authorities) <sup>(4)</sup>	21,000,000	19,000,000	40,000,000	3.96%	22
Money Market Funds	23,000,000	(12,600,000)	10,400,000	3.68%	1
Loans to other organisation	6,975,200	(4,895,200)	2,080,000	4.24% <sup>(3)</sup>	1,936
Other Pooled Funds					
- <i>Property funds</i>	4,000,000	0	4,000,000	3.98%	>365
<b>Total investments</b>	<b>60,042,200</b>	<b>(2,441,200)</b>	<b>57,601,000</b>	<b>3.85%</b>	

<sup>(1)</sup>Weighted Income return is based on the rate of return and the investments held as at 31/03/2023.

<sup>(2)</sup>Returns as at 31/03/2022, Banks and Building Societies 0.01%, Government 0.32%, MMFs 0.44%, Loans 2.54%, Property Fund 3.62%.

<sup>(3)</sup>This includes the annual average rate for the Urban and Civic loan, 4.28%, which is a variable (monthly) rate.

<sup>(4)</sup>The balance as at 30/03/22 is £17m DMO and £4m Thurrock, as at 31/03/2023 the balance is all DMO at £40m.

### 3.3 Risk Management

Both the CIPFA Code and government guidance require the Council to invest its funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its treasury investments before seeking the optimum rate of return, or yield. The Council's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income.

Given the increasing risk and low returns from short-term unsecured bank investments, the Council has maintained a diversified portfolio of asset classes as shown in table 6 above.

The progression of risk and return metrics are shown in Table 7 below.

**Table 7: Investment Benchmarking – Treasury investments managed in-house**

	<b>Portfolio Risk Score<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>Average Credit Rating</b>	<b>Weighted Average Maturity (days)</b>	<b>Rate of Return</b>
				<b>%</b>
30.09.2022	n/a	AA-	15	0.82
31.03.2023	1.04	AA	17	3.92

<sup>(1)</sup>This is a new measure from Link, will be used as a comparative from the next report, it works on a scale of 1 to 7, with 7 highest risk.

£4.0m of the Council's investments are held in externally managed strategic pooled property funds – CCLA Property Fund where short-term security and liquidity are lesser considerations, and the objectives instead are regular revenue income and long-term price stability. This fund generated a total return of £159,012 (3.98%), for period of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 which is used to support services in year.

Because these funds have no defined maturity date, but are available for withdrawal after a notice period, their performance and continued suitability in meeting the Council's investment objectives are regularly reviewed. Strategic fund investments are made in the knowledge that capital values will move both up and down on months, quarters and even years; but with the confidence that over a three- to five-year period total returns will exceed cash interest rates. In light of their performance over the medium-term and the Council's latest cash flow forecasts, investment in these funds has been maintained.



### 3.4 Non-Treasury Investments

The definition of investments in CIPFA's revised Treasury Management Code now covers all the financial assets of the Council as well as other non-financial assets which the Authority holds primarily for financial return. This is replicated in DLUHC's Investment Guidance, in which the definition of investments is further broadened to also include all such assets held partially for a financial return.

The Authority also held £70.8m of such investments in:

- directly owned property £70.7m
- shareholding in subsidiaries £0.1m (not yet active)

Table 8: Property held for investment purposes in £'000

Property	Actual <sup>(1)</sup>	31.3.2023 Actual <sup>(1)</sup>	
	31 <sup>st</sup> Mar 2022	Gains or (losses)	Value in accounts
Existing Portfolio	33,603	(3,337)	30,266
Unit 8 Stonehill	2,150	331	2,481
80 Wilbury Way	1,775	98	1,873
Shawlands Retail Park	5,523	532	6,055
1400 & 1500 Parkway, Fareham	4,150	(113)	4,037
Units 21a, 21b,23a,b,c Little End Road, St Neots	3,290	31	3,321
Rowley Centre, St Neots	3,303	3,148	6,451
Tri-link, Wakefield	14,200	548	14,748
Alms Close	1,522	(75)	1,447
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>69,516</b>	<b>1,162</b>	<b>70,679</b>

<sup>(1)</sup>The valuations are still subject to review and audit

These investments generated £5.36m (2021/22 £4.85m) of investment income for the Authority for 2022/23, an increase of 10% on 2021/22. This is a yield of 7.58% (2021/22 6.98%), maintaining a yield above treasury investments.

The Authority is dependent on profit generating investment activity to achieve a balanced revenue budget. The table below shows the extent to which the expenditure planned to meet the service delivery objectives and/or place making role of the Authority is dependent on achieving the expected net profit from investments over the lifecycle of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

Table 9: Proportionality of Investments in £'000

	<b>2021/22 Actual £000s</b>	<b>2022/23 Actual £000s</b>	<b>2022/23 Budget £000s</b>	<b>2023/24 Budget £000s</b>	<b>2024/25 Budget £000s</b>
Gross service expenditure	87,203	79,968 <sup>(1)</sup>	64,256	79,968	75,040
Net Investment income;					
Commercial Property	1,776	4,018	2,930	2,595	3,122
Service Investments	295	258	276	242	240
Proportion	2.38%	5.35%	4.99%	3.55%	4.48%

<sup>(1)</sup>The forecast has been used as the actual is not yet available.

### **3.5 ESG**

Two products have been identified as possible investment opportunities for the council, that take into account ESG factors. Standard Chartered Bank offer a Sustainable Fixed Term Deposit, this deposit is linked to sustainable assets, and is referenced to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, funds are used to address issues such as climate change, health and education. The deposits have third party verification and the framework is reviewed annually.

The second potential product is the Barclays Green Deposit, a notice account. The funds are used for a range of products aimed at the transition to a lower carbon economy. The deposits are linked with Barclays' Green Bond Purchasing Programme, which covers projects including energy efficiency, renewable energy, green transport, sustainable food, and greenhouse gas emissions.

Both products are under review and the aim is to look at investing once the volatility in the market linked to US bank failures has passed, since both products will be linked to a single counterparty.

### **3.6 Business Continuity**

In order to maintain the level of knowledge within the council relating to treasury, one of the finance business partners has undertaken to increase his knowledge of the treasury function. As a result of this he attended the initial meeting, in March, with the council's new treasury advisors (Link Group), and is booked on a CIPFA course Introduction to Treasury Management. He will also be involved in the update to the treasury management practices process notes.

## 4.0 Compliance

The Chief Finance Officer (s151 officer) reports that all treasury management activities undertaken during the financial year complied fully with the CIPFA Code of Practice and the Council's approved Treasury Management Strategy. Compliance with specific investment limits is demonstrated in table 9 below.

Compliance with the authorised limit and operational boundary for external debt is demonstrated in table 10 below.

Table 10: Debt Limits

	31.3.23 Actual £m	2022/23 Operational Boundary £m	2022/23 Authorised Limit £m	Complied?
General	10.02	70.00	80.00	Yes
Service Loans	0.083	15.00	20.00	Yes
CIS	24.26	30.00	35.00	Yes
<b>Total debt</b>	<b>34.36</b>	<b>115.00</b>	<b>135.00</b>	

Since the operational boundary is a management tool for in-year monitoring it is not significant if the operational boundary is breached on occasions due to variations in cash flow, and this is not counted as a compliance failure. Total debt was below the operational boundary all through the quarter.

Table 11: Investment Limits

	31.3.23 Actual £m	2022/23 Limit £m	Complied?
<b>Deposit Accounts</b>			
NatWest <sup>(1)</sup>	1.12	22.00	Yes
Barclays	0.001	4.00	Yes
<b>Government and LAs</b>			
Debt Management Office (DMO) - HMG	40.00	unlimited	Yes
<b>Money Market Funds</b>			
Aberdeen Liquidity Fund	1.50	4.00	Yes
BlackRock Institutional sterling liquidity Fund	1.50	4.00	Yes
CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund	1.50	4.00	Yes
Federated Short Term Prime Fund	1.40	4.00	Yes

HSBC	1.55	4.00	Yes
Insight Liquidity Funds	0.85	4.00	Yes
Invesco	1.20	4.00	Yes
Legal & General Sterling Liquidity Fund	0.90	4.00	Yes
<b>Total</b>	<b>51.52</b>		
<b>Long-term Investments</b>			
CCLA Property Fund	4.00	5.00	Yes

<sup>(1)</sup>This is the council's transactional bank, therefore the limit was higher than other counterparties, the limit has been reduced to £4m in 2023/24

## 5.0 Treasury Management Indicators

The Council measures and manages its exposures to treasury management risks using the following indicators.

### Security

The Council has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to credit risk by monitoring the value-weighted average credit rating of its investment portfolio. This is calculated by applying a score to each investment (AAA=1, AA+=2, etc.) and taking the arithmetic average, weighted by the size of each investment. Unrated investments are assigned a score based on their perceived risk.

Table 12: Credit Ratings<sup>(1)</sup>

	31.3.23 Actual	2022/23 Target	Complied?
Portfolio average credit rating	AA	A-	Yes

<sup>(1)</sup>Credit ratings (Fitch, investment grade) are in descending order AAA, AA+, AA, AA-,A+,A-,BBB+,BBB,BBB-.

### Liquidity

The Council has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to liquidity risk by monitoring the amount of cash available to meet unexpected payments within a rolling three-month period, without additional borrowing.

Table 13: Cash Availability

	30.3.23 Actual £m	2022/23 Target £m	Complied?
Total cash available within 3 months	51.52	10	Yes

### Interest Rate Exposures

This indicator is set to control the Council's exposure to interest rate risk. The upper limits on the one-year revenue impact of a 1% rise or fall in interest were:

Table 14: Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk indicator	31.3.23 Actual	2022/23 Limit	Complied?
Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% <u>rise</u> in interest rates	£375,656 (Net Income)	£600,000 (Expenditure)	Yes
Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% <u>fall</u> in interest rates	£375,656 (Net Expenditure)	£600,000 (Expenditure)	Yes

The impact of a change in interest rates is calculated on the assumption that maturing loans and investments will be replaced at the same amount. The total interest earned in 2022/23 was £1.3m (2021/22 £0.3m) and total interest paid £1.0m (2021/22 £1.1m).

### Maturity Structure of Borrowing

This indicator is set to control the Council's exposure to refinancing risk. The upper and lower limits on the maturity structure of all borrowing were:

Table 15: Borrowing Maturity

Borrowing Maturing	31.3.23 Actual	Upper Limit	Lower Limit	Complied?
Under 12 months	0.2%	80%	0%	Yes
12 months and within 24 months	0.0%	80%	0%	Yes
2 years and within 5 years	0.1%	80%	0%	Yes

5 years and within 10 years	0.0%	100%	0%	Yes
10 years and within 20 years	70.6%	100%	0%	Yes
20 years and above	29.1%	100%	0%	Yes
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>			

### Other Indicators - CIS

The council has adopted voluntary indicators for the Commercial Investment Strategy properties.

Table 16: Other Indicators

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>2022/23 Forecast</b>	<b>2022/23 Actual</b>
Interest Cover Ratio	2.3	2.3
Loan to Value Ratio	128.3%	106.0%
Gross Rent Multiplier	15.1	14.4

### Capital Prudential Indicators

Capital expenditure is where the Council spends money on assets, such as property or vehicles that will be used for more than one year. This includes spending on assets owned by other bodies, loans and grants to other bodies enabling them to buy assets. The Council has some limited discretion on what counts as capital expenditure, for example assets costing below £10,000 are not capitalised and are charged to revenue in year.

The summary of the capital expenditure is shown in the Table 1 below, further detail is available in the capital section of the Finance Performance Report 2022/23.

Table 1: Summary of Capital Expenditure in £000s

	<b>2022/23 Original Budget £000s</b>	<b>2022/23 Current Budget £000s</b>	<b>2022/23 Outturn £000s</b>
Property, Plant and Equipment	11,397	23,583	2,165
Investment Properties	1,178	984	3
Intangible Assets	84	513	60
REFCUS	10,136	15,446	7,441
Infrastructure	20	283	139
Assets Under Construction	0	0	387
Community	443	684	0
Loan	206	306	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,464</b>	<b>41,899</b>	<b>10,195</b>

The major variations (out of a total of £31.7m) between the current budget and the outturn include;

- Huntingdon Redevelopment -£16.1m
- Market Towns Programme -£12.3m
- Hinchingsbrooke Country Park Redevelopment -£2.7m
- Estates and Facilities -£1.1m
- Bridge Place Car Park -£0.3m
- ICT projects -£0.5m
- Vehicles and Plant -£0.6m
- Leisure -£0.2m
- St Neots Riverside -£0.4m
- Car Parking -£0.4m
- Operations Projects -£0.6m

- CIL Contributions (Grant Funded) +£0.9m
- A14 Contribution early payment +£2.9m
- Disabled Facilities Grants +£0.2m

Full details of the variances are included in the Capital Outturn report.

All capital expenditure must be financed, either from external sources (government grants and other contributions), the Council's own resources (revenue, reserves and capital receipts) or debt (borrowing and leasing).

Table 2: Summary of Capital financing in £000s

	<b>2022/23 Original Budget £000s</b>	<b>2022/23 Current Budget £000s</b>	<b>2022/23 Outturn £000s</b>
Capital Receipts	984	984	662
Capital Grants and Contributions	17,042	33,811	5,095
Minimum Revenue Provision	2,800	2,800	2,556
Internal Borrowing	2,638	4,304	1,882
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,464</b>	<b>41,899</b>	<b>10,195</b>

Debt is only temporary source of finance since loans and leases must be repaid, and this is therefore replaced over time by other financing, usually from revenue which is known as minimum revenue provision (MRP).

Table 3: Summary of Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)

	<b>2022/23 Original Budget £000s</b>	<b>2022/23 Current Budget £000s</b>	<b>2022/23 Outturn £000s</b>
Opening CFR	70,378	70,378	70,378
Net expenditure	2,638	4,304	1,882
<b>Closing CFR</b>	<b>73,016</b>	<b>74,682</b>	<b>72,260</b>

Note the 2022/23 budget is set before the 2021/22 outturn is known, and as a result underspends in 2021/22 are not taken into account in the CFR balance.

When a capital asset is no longer needed, it may be sold so that the proceeds known as capital receipts can be spent on new assets or to repay debt. Repayments of capital grants, loan and investments from third parties also generate capital receipts.



Table 4: Summary of the capital receipts

	<b>2022/23 Original Budget £000s</b>	<b>2022/23 Current Budget £000s</b>	<b>2021/22 Outturn £000s</b>
Asset sales	250	0	0
Housing clawback	450	450	452
Loan Repayments	284	68	209
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>984</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>662</b>
Places for People Loan Repayment <sup>(1)</sup>			<b>4,467</b>
<b>Total</b>			

<sup>(1)</sup> Held in the capital receipts reserve for future use.

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**GLOSSARY****Bail in Risk**

Bail in risk arises from the failure of a bank. Bond-holders or investors in the bank would be expected to suffer losses on their investments, as opposed to the bank being bailed out by government.

**Bank Equity Buffer**

The mandatory capital that financial institutions are required to hold, in order to provide a cushion against financial downturns, to ensure the institution can continue to meet its liquidity requirements.

**Bank Stress Tests**

Tests carried out by the European Central Bank on 51 banks across the EU. The tests put banks under a number of scenarios and analyse how the bank's capital holds up under each of the scenarios. The scenarios include, a sharp rise in bond yields, a low growth environment, rising debt, and adverse action in the unregulated financial sector.

**Bonds**

A bond is a form of loan, the holder of the bond is entitled to a fixed rate of interest (coupon) at fixed intervals. The bond has a fixed life and can be traded.

**Call Account**

A bank account that offers a rate of return and the funds are available to withdraw on a daily basis.

**Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)**

The CFR is a measure of the capital expenditure incurred historically, but has yet to be financed; by for example capital receipts or grants funding. The current CFR balance is therefore financed by external borrowing, and internal borrowing (i.e. use of working capital on the balance sheet – creditors, cash etc)

**Collar (Money Market Fund)**

The fund "collar" forms part of the valuation mechanism for the fund. LVNAV funds allow investors to purchase and redeem shares at a constant NAV calculated to 2 decimal places, i.e. £1.00. This is achieved by the fund using amortised cost for valuation purposes, subject to the variation against the marked-to-market NAV being no greater than 20 basis points (0.2%). (This compares to current Prime CNAV funds which round to 50 basis points, or 0.5%, of the NAV.)

**Counterparty**

Another organisation with which the Council has entered into a financial transaction with, for example, invested with or borrowed from.

**Credit Default Swaps (CDS)**

A financial agreement that the seller of the CDS will compensate the buyer in the event of a loan default. The seller insures the buyer against a loan defaulting.

**Credit Ratings**

A credit rating is the evaluation of a credit risk of a debtor, and predicting their ability to pay back the debt. The rating represents an evaluation of a credit rating agency of the qualitative and quantitative information, this result in a score, denoted usually by the letters A to D and including +/-.

**ECB**

The European Central Bank, one of the institutions that makes up the EU. Its main function is to maintain price stability across the Eurozone.

**ESG**

Environmental, society, and governance investing, makes reference to a set of standards for an organisation's behaviour, that can be used by a socially aware investor to make investment decisions. Environmental factors include how an organisation safeguards the environment, social criteria look at how the organisation manages its relationships with the community, employees, suppliers, and customers, and governance deals with leadership, internal controls and audits.

**Federal Reserve (Fed)**

The central bank of the United States.

**Gilts**

Bonds issued by the Government.

**Link Group**

The council's treasury advisors, who took over from Arlingclose in March 2023.

**Liquidity**

The degree to which an asset can be bought or sold quickly.

**LVNAV Money Market Fund**

Low volatility net asset value. The fund will have at least 10% of its assets maturing on a daily basis and at least 30% of assets maturing on a weekly basis.

**Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)**

An amount set aside from revenue to repay debt.

**Money Market Funds**

An open ended mutual fund that invests in short-term debt securities. A deposit will earn a rate of interest, whilst maintaining the net asset value of the investment. Deposits are generally available for withdrawal on the day.

**Public Works Loans Board (PWLB)**

The PWLB is an agency of the Treasury, it lends to public bodies at fixed rates for periods up to 50 years. Interest rates are determined by gilt yields.

**REFCUS**

Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute. Expenditure which would normally be considered revenue expenditure, but has been statutorily

defined as capital expenditure, including the giving of a loan, grant or other financial assistance to any person, whether for use by that person or by a third party, towards expenditure which would, if incurred by the authority, be capital expenditure. Or expenditure incurred on the acquisition, production or construction of assets for use by, or disposal to, a person other than the local authority which would be capital expenditure if those assets were acquired, produced or constructed for use by the local authority.

**SONIA**

Sterling overnight index average interest rate. On each London business day, SONIA is measured as the trimmed mean, rounded to four decimal places, of interest rates paid on eligible sterling denominated deposit transactions.

**Transactional Banking**

Use of a bank for day to day banking requirement, e.g. provision of current accounts, deposit accounts and on-line banking.

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## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the HINCHINGBROOKE COUNTRY PARK JOINT GROUP held in Countryside Centre, Hinchingbrooke Country Park, Brampton Road, Huntingdon, PE29 6DB on Friday, 21 April 2023.

PRESENT: Councillor M L Beuttell – Chair.

Councillors K Billington, C Lowe,  
D L Mickelburgh and S L Taylor.

### 8. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14th October 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### 9. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

### 10. SENIOR RANGER'S REPORT

The Group received and noted the contents of the Senior Ranger's report (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) and a PowerPoint presentation on park activities for the period November 2022 to March 2023. In doing so, comment was made as follows:

#### **Staffing and Volunteers**

Following the conclusion of the KickStart scheme, the Group heard that recruitment was underway to ensure that the valuable nature of this additional workforce be maintained. The Group also heard that the Park was currently benefitting from two apprenticeships.

It was advised that the team had had a productive winter and had ensured seasonal work across the parks was completed within planned timescales.

The Group heard that this year would mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Park Run at the Park with the longstanding successful nature of this event and the benefits it brings to the local community being noted.

The growing support from volunteers, particularly for seasonal events at the Park was praised.

## **Café**

The Ranger advised that the alternative options worked up for the café during the COVID pandemic, such as the Grab and Go range, had proved very popular. A recent appointment in the café to fill a vacancy will help the Café develop long term refreshment options catering for all Park visitors.

## **Events**

Popularity of events at the Park continues to grow and diversify with 2022 seeing the inaugural Santa's Grotto for dogs which had proved very popular.

## **Investment Project**

The anticipated timescales for the project were shared with the Group. It was hoped that the planning application would be submitted by May 2023 with a view to construction beginning in 2024. It was advised that queries over the swing had been investigated and that overall a positive response to the consultation had been received to date. It was further advised that the electricity supply details were pending a ground condition survey and would be updated following the outcome of that.

The Group heard that it was intended to keep the Park open during the works with diversions in place where appropriate. It was also advised that a food trailer had been acquired to allow for a refreshment option to be available throughout the duration of the works, and with a view to forming a second refreshment option for visitors in the long term.

The consultation responses had shown that there was not a huge appetite for gender neutral toilet facilities at the Park, therefore the plan would be adapted to allow for segregated facilities in addition to a gender neutral facility.

## **Climate**

The redevelopment will provide an opportunity for the team to illustrate the changes that the works would make to the buildings EPC rating with the positive introduction of solar panels and air source heat pumps alongside water recycling. The Group were advised that a biodiversity statement would be developed and shared in due course.

## **Finance**

The Group heard that the good footfall over the previous year had benefitted the Park however the costs of utilities and supplies had also increased in line with the national economy.



Following a question from Councillor Taylor, the Group were advised that the financial details were still being adjusted as the figures available at the time of publication were provisional.

It was advised to the Group, following a further question from Councillor Taylor, that there were no current plans to fill the long term vacancy, rather a new staffing model was being introduced with a switch to fixed term rather than variable hours contracts to allow for better time and budget management. Furthermore, the Group heard that the recruitment for a Commercial Manager had been paused in line with the revised timescales of the planned development.

In response to a question from Councillor Taylor, the Group were reassured that the recent acquisition of the food trailer would allow for better opportunities for the Park. It would be able to run in conjunction with the existing café, cover alternative locations within the Park and allow opportunity to increase the offer and capacity for customers. It would also allow opportunity for the site to capitalise on events within the Park rather than relying on external suppliers. The Group were assured that all relevant licenses and health and safety checks would be obtained in line with Council policies.

Following a question from Councillor Beuttell, the Group heard that the new benches introduced around the Park were made of recycled plastic. These benches were chosen for their durability and the use of recycled plastic meant less landfill waste.

#### **11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Group is due to be held on 14th July 2023. The Group requested a tour of Hinchingsbrooke Country Park to coincide with this meeting.

Chair

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