

**Essex Sports Facilities Strategy  
(2007 – 2020)**

**Final Report**

**By**

**Strategic Leisure Limited**

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# GLOSSARY

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# SECTION I - ESSEX - SETTING THE CONTEXT

## Introduction

- 1.1 In 1964, there was only one sports hall in Great Britain, in Harlow. Now the local sports centre has become as much a part of the fabric of community life as the local bank, school or doctor's surgery.
- 1.2 The aim of this Strategy is to ensure that opportunities for sport are afforded through the planned provision, design and management of a full range of facilities. The Essex Facilities Strategy is one of six County Sports Facility Strategies developed in the East of England; it sits underneath 'Creating Active Places', the Sports Facility Strategy for the East of England, and above local district and borough sports facility strategies. This hierarchy provides an overall strategic context for the current and future provision of sports facility at county and local level. The Essex Facilities Strategy should be used by local authorities and key partners to help inform the level and nature of provision that is required; critically, it should also assist in planning for provision cross boundary. District and borough sports facility strategies will need to reflect the county strategy, but provide a more detailed analysis of facility requirements, in terms of type, location, partners and specifically resources.
- 1.3 This Essex Facilities Strategy, forms part of "Building a Winning Future Together in Essex: A Strategy for Sport". It examines the topic of facility provision which is identified in Action Plan 3 – "Improving and expanding the sport and physical activity infrastructure" and is a priority for attention.

*"If there is no vault landing area then it stands to reason there will be no pole vaulting" (Geoff Dyson)*

- 1.4 Most forms of sport and physical activity require some sort of facility or resource to accommodate the activity concerned. The facility or resource may be a simple footpath or bridleway to allow walking and riding to take place or it may be an extensive built facility such as a leisure centre or swimming pool. In this Strategy attention is focused upon formal sports and activities which require buildings. Even though attention is focused on more formal sports and activities the term facility can encompass a wide range of buildings and developments from large sports centres, swimming pools and ice rinks, through to multi-sport buildings such as village halls and school sports halls and outdoor provision such as athletics tracks.
- 1.5 The needs of individuals and the requirements of sports governing bodies are constantly altering and adapting but there is clearly a need for a minimum level of both multi-purpose and specialist facilities located in the right places and available at the right times to enable athletes to participate in the activity of their choice. Although the facility is only one element in the infrastructure of sport (other elements include coaching, motivation), it is obviously a key factor and without the other elements would be unable to focus. The provision of suitable, accessible and readily available sports facilities underpin sports participation and physical activity and help to deliver the range of social and economic benefits that can be attributed to a physically active community.

## Context for the Essex Facilities Strategy

- 1.6 The County of Essex is located to the South East of the East Region and comprises Essex County Council, 12 District Borough Council's and 2 Unitary Authorities.
- 1.7 sportessex the Essex County Sports Partnership is at the heart of the delivery system for community sport and connects national policy makers (DCMS and Sport England) and the Eastern Regional Sports Board to local deliverers (clubs, coaches and volunteers) and guides investment. sportessex works closely with the emerging Community Sport Networks to unite the partners with an interest in sport and physical activity at a local level.
- 1.8 Community Sport Networks (CSNs) are a key component of the Delivery System for sport and in many areas networks are already in existence.
- 1.9 The core functions of the locally coordinated networks are:
- Increasing participation in sport and physical activity
  - Widening access to opportunities
  - To bring together and align partners existing priorities and targets within one joined up local vision and relevant action plans based on the needs of local communities.
- 1.10 The key characteristics of Community Sports Networks are:
- Generally co-terminus with a Local Authority boundary
  - Linked to Local Strategic Partnership

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- Membership of key local stakeholders
- Finding a balance between strategy and delivery
- Identifying a clear vision with tangible outcomes
- Embrace all the activity providers from public, private and voluntary sectors
- Reducing waste and duplication through sharing resource and knowledge

1.11 The roles and responsibilities of Community Sport Networks are:

- Act as the local voice for sport and physical activity
- Support and assist in the creation and development of sporting pathways
- Successfully coordinate opportunities for sport and recreational physical activity in the local population by providing effective leadership
- Increase the infrastructure capacity of the local professional and voluntary sector, both paid and unpaid
- With regard to investment into interventions and actions there is an expectation that Community Sport Networks will make better use of existing resources which partners bring to the table and will aim to identify new resources from other sources. CSN partners will need to ensure new and existing resources are used for activities which support the overall aims and objectives of the CSN, minimising duplication and maximising cost effectiveness.

1.12 The Eastern Regional Sports Board ensures that all investments and interventions made through the Community Investment Fund support the development of a single and coherent system for community sport. It is likely that such investments will be identified and supported through sportessex and the Community Sports Network in Essex.

1.13 The overall population growth in the East of England and Essex is referenced in 'Creating Active Places'; the regional sports facilities strategy is modelled on mid 2005 year estimates from NOMIS, as these were the most up to date figures available at the time. Since the publication of 'Creating Active Places', sub national population data (2004-based) has been published (October 2007) by the Government Actuary Department (GAD).

1.14 The Essex Facilities Strategy is modelled on this most recent population data (as advised by the Office of National Statistics (ONS)), which explains the variance in the figures used for Essex in the regional and County strategies. In addition the Essex Facilities Strategy runs until 2020 where by 'Creating Active Places' runs to 2016.

1.15 Given that population figures may change at a local level as a result of new housing development, and significant growth areas, detailed population assessments, which account for inward and outward migration, birth rates, housing growth etc should be included in local district or borough sports facility strategies, to ensure that accurate levels of demand (current and future) can be assessed.

1.16 At a local level, and specifically where there is a significant growth area e.g. Thurrock, Colchester, Basildon, local population data, developed as part of the overall future planning process e.g. Integrated Development Plan (IDP) data, may be more appropriate to utilise in modelling future supply, to ensure the full impact of increased demand is assessed.

1.17 The table below looks at ONS 2001 data and population projections for the Essex area to 2020. The table shows a net increase of some 169,550 people (10.5%) between 2001 and 2020. Some individual authorities will have a significant influx of new residents, in particular: Braintree (31,643), Colchester (17,066), Thurrock (22,572), Tendring (28,055) and Maldon (11,204).

Table 1 - Population Projections for Essex, Southend and Thurrock

Area Name	2001 Population (Source: Census 2001)	2020 Population ( Source: (2004 - based sub national population data (GAD 2007))	Net Increase of Population
Basildon	165,647	180,300	14,653
Braintree	132,154	163,600	31,446
Brentwood	68,509	75,900	7,391
Castle Point	86,604	92,500	5,896
Chelmsford	157,083	178,000	20,917
Colchester	155,834	194,700	38,866

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Area Name	2001 Population (Source: Census 2001)	2020 Population ( Source: (2004 - based sub national population data (GAD 2007))	Net Increase of Population
Epping Forest	120,845	130,000	9,155
Harlow	78,728	78,900	172
Maldon	59,396	70,100	10,704
Rochford	78,462	86,600	8,138
Tendring	138,545	169,600	31,055
Uttlesford	68,958	74,900	5,942
Southend on Sea	160,257	166,000	5,743
Thurrock	143,128	163,200	20,072
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,614,150</b>	<b>1,824,300</b>	<b>210,150</b>

(The County Strategy includes an overview of existing population data, given that figures may change at local level as a result of new housing development, and significant growth areas, detailed population assessments are included in local district or borough sports facility strategies)

- 1.18 The East of England Plan and Regional Spatial Strategy identify the scale of development and growth in the East of England to 2021 and has recently been the subject of an Examination in Public. The subsequent Inspectors report suggests that 123,500 new homes should be provided within Essex in the period to 2021. However, the Secretary of State proposed changes issued during December 2006 suggest that this would be increased to 127,000 new homes. It remains to be seen what the final figure will be.
- 1.19 The increase in the population will impact on the demand for community sports facilities and supports the need for investment in existing poor quality facilities and the development of new provision, where appropriate. Population growth also links into Building Schools for the Future as new schools will need to be provided to meet the increased numbers of school age residents, who will also have demands for access to sports facilities for curriculum and community use.
- 1.20 For example, it is estimated that 16,000 new homes are expected in Harlow between 2007 and 2020. Harlow's Regeneration department forecast population to be in the region of 110,000 by 2020. It must be emphasised that 'supply and demand' calculations are revisited when considering the approval of major housing growth and that planning standards for sports halls and swimming pools are adopted by local authorities and utilised for developer contributions towards new sports facilities.
- 1.21 The East of England Regional Assembly's Spatial Strategy sets out the draft regional strategy for planning and development in the East of England. The key relevant objectives in the Regional Spatial Strategy are:
- Improving social inclusion and access to employment and services and leisure and tourist facilities among those who are disadvantaged
  - Delivering more integrated patterns of land use, movement activity and development including employment and housing
  - Making more use of previously developed land and existing buildings, and using land more efficiently in meeting future development needs
  - Meeting the region's identified housing needs and in particular providing sufficient affordable housing
- 1.22 As well as these objectives the Regional Spatial Strategy identifies the key centres on which development and change will be focused – Basildon, Chelmsford, Colchester, Harlow, Southend on Sea and Thurrock. Parts of Essex also fall within the Government's Sustainable Communities national growth areas (Thames Gateway and London – Peterborough)
- 1.23 The facilities per 1000 population calculations demonstrate the current level of provision of specific types of facilities in Essex and its district/boroughs, and the level of additional provision of each facility type that is required to maintain current standards of provision per 1000 population, if this is the identified policy objective.

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Table 2 - Facilities per 1000 Population 2005 and 2020

	Current level of Facilities per 1000 population (2005 population)	Additional Facilities required per 1000 population to maintain 2005 level of provision in 2020.
SPORTS HALLS (calculated as courts, based on minimum 4 badminton court size)	0.46 courts	50 (i.e. 50 additional courts required for the additional population in the county; this equates to 8 additional 4 court sports halls in the county)
SWIMMING POOLS (calculated on the basis of minimum 4 lane x 25m pool, which equates to 212 sq m)	12.07 sq m of water space	1800.62 sq metres (i.e. 1800.62 sq m of additional water space for the additional population in the county; this equates to 8.5 4 lane x 25m pools )
HEALTH AND FITNESS (based on facilities with 20 plus stations)	4.07 fitness stations	604 fitness stations (i.e. an additional 604 fitness stations for the additional population in the county)
ATPs	0.04 of a full size ATP	7.2 (i.e. an additional 7.2 of a full size ATP for the additional population in the county)
ATHLETICS TRACKS (8 LANE)	0.01 of an 8 lane track	0.07(i.e. an additional 0.07 of an 8 lane track for the additional population in the county)
GOLF COURSES (18 HOLE)	0.60 holes	7.53 holes (i.e. an additional 7.53 holes for the additional population in the county)
INDOOR BOWLS (Facilities with more than 3 rinks)	0.05 rinks	11.18 rinks (i.e. for the additional population in the county, 11.18 indoor rinks are required)
INDOOR TENNIS COURTS	0.031 courts	0.39 courts (i.e. 0.39 indoor courts required for the additional population in the county)
ICE RINKS	0.0001 rinks	0.0077 rinks (0.007 rinks required for the additional population in the county)
SQUASH COURTS	0.011 courts	0.14 courts (i.e. 0.14 courts required for the additional population in the county)
SKI SLOPES	0.0006 slopes	0.01 slopes (i.e. 0.01 slopes required for the additional population in the county)

- 1.24 On the basis of the above, it is clear that to maintain current levels of facility provision per 1000 population there is a need for additional sports facility provision. This is evident just to meet the growth in population, without factoring in increases in participation levels.

### Active People

- 1.25 The Active People Survey (December 2006) shows that across the East of England region the percentage of adults (i.e. 16+) participating in sport or physical activity at least 3 times per week is 20.5%, compared to the national average of 21%.
- 1.26 From the above it is clear that many adults are already active; however, the activity rate in Essex is lower than the average for England, with the exception of the 35 - 54 age groups.
- 1.27 The target in the East of England is to get a further 34,000 adults undertaking 3 x 30 minutes of sport and physical activity across the region per annum, and to increase this year on year by 1% to 203, 668 adults by 2012. On an annual basis this means 707 adults need to become active to this level in each of the region's 48 local authorities, including the 14 districts and unitary authorities in Essex.

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- 1.28 It is important to stress that providing facilities will not automatically result in increased participation; however, the lack of accessible facilities may impact on an individual's ability to take part in activities and therefore their ability to stay in sport. There is a need for more research and detailed assessment of the link between increasing participation and facility provision, in order to evidence the nature of the relationship and support the case for specific investment. For example in coastal areas it may be worthwhile increasing walking development along beaches than providing new facilities.
- 1.29 It is however important to note that the "Taking Part Survey" (May 07 DCMS Report) identifies that respondents do not consider a lack of facilities to be the main barriers to participation in sport and physical activity; rather, it is a lack of interest or time.

### The Need

- 1.30 "Creating Active Places" Sports Facilities for the East of England is the Regional Strategy. The Essex Sports Facilities Strategy has emerged from the work carried out on the Regional Strategy. "Creating Active Places" identifies that Essex is similar to many other counties in the Eastern Region; Essex has a current stock of sport and leisure facilities which are not of the appropriate quality to address current community needs. Facilities have suffered from a lack of long term investment and are also inaccessible or unwelcoming for some potential users. However, the quality issue is being addressed by a number of local authorities who have plans to improve their facility stock; the county also lacks facilities capable of staging or supporting major sporting events and fit for purpose provision to support some performance athletes.
- 1.31 This Strategy raises awareness of and reflects the following:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Building a Winning Future Together In Essex – A Strategy For Sport"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• proposed development of the Mountain Biking Course in the Weald Country Park, Brentwood, to provide a competition venue for the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• need for a prioritised framework across the county to facilitate co-ordinated investment in ageing sports facilities which are unfit for purpose</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• current variation in provision of, and access to, community sports facilities across the county and the impact of this in terms of increasing participation</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• national priority to tackle growing obesity levels, for all ages, including children, with a target of raising participation levels in sport and physical activity by 1% per annum</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sport England strategic planning tools as Active Places Power and the Sports Facility Calculator and the development of the Sport England national sports facilities database (Active Places), and how they can be used to identify local facility needs</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• emergence of some major sports facilities proposals in the county</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• opportunities for involvement in sport and physical activity which have a critical role to play in the development and sustainability of Essex communities, given sport's intrinsic value in breaking down barriers, ensuring inclusion, and improving health</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• objective to make England an active and successful sporting nation, by providing opportunities for people to start, stay and succeed in sport at every level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• general need for improved and innovative strategic planning for facilities in the county, to ensure optimum benefits can be achieved through the changes in both planning and education agendas e.g. Building Schools for the Future</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• need to improve social inclusion through maximising community access to facilities, meet Comprehensive Area Assessments (CAA) that will supercede Comprehensive Performance Assessments (CPA) in 2009 and Local Area Agreement (LAA) Targets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• potential opportunities for Essex as a consequence of the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games e.g. hosting of preparation and training camps and a legacy of supporting volunteers, increasing physical activity and sports participation levels, cycling development, improving sports performance, culture and festivals, tourism, winning 2012 games related and other public sector supply contracts; (Action Plan Essex Legacy From The 2012 Games 2007 - 2012)</li> </ul>

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- 1.32 There will inevitably be different influences and drivers for Essex. For example, the capital and revenue funds available locally and local priorities, the sport performance/governing body dimension, along with the multi sport and health agenda, the education and physical education agenda and the voluntary sector and the private sector are all driving forces in the development of facilities.
- 1.33 The Essex Sports Facilities Strategy will be driven by a number of important factors at a local level which clearly identify the need for a prioritised and strategic framework for future sports facility provision. These factors include the need to improve health and address the growing obesity issue, particularly in young people, the need to increase participation, population growth, implementation of the education agenda (Building Schools for the Future (BSF), Public Service Agreement 1 (PSA1), Extended Schools), the network of School Sports Partnerships in the County and critically the need for a prioritised strategic framework to inform and guide the future provision of sports facilities over the next 13 years to ensure that the needs of both a growing population and increased numbers of participants can be met.
- 1.34 This framework underpins the Vision for future facility provision in Essex through identification of local facility needs, and provides the basis for multi-agency partnerships to shape, implement and deliver the Strategy. The identified priorities for future sports facility provision should also be reflected in Sustainable Community Strategies (to reflect the guidance in the Government White Paper), and Local Area Agreements (LAAs), at a local authority level, to ensure the overall Vision is joined up and implemented strategically.
- 1.35 Obesity in Essex is a major issue. According to surveys, 43% of the population of Essex are overweight, compared to a national survey of circa 39%. This is reflected in the LAA, which includes 'reducing the number of obese adults and halt the increase in obesity in children 5 – 10 years' as a priority. A key action identified in the LAA is to meet this priority by promoting physical activity through play and recreation for children. The Essex County Council Local Area Agreement is still being negotiated.
- 1.36 Consultation regarding the Essex Community Strategy highlighted that the aspiration for Essex is to bring together and strengthen communities to create a sense of pride, confidence and safety. Reducing anti-social behaviour was identified as the most important priority. Sport and Physical activity has a recognised role to play in strengthening community cohesion and reducing crime and anti social behaviour.
- 1.37 It is important to emphasise that Essex County Council, Southend and Thurrock Unitary Councils and the Essex Councils' Community Strategies and Local Strategic Partnerships should, and must, be influenced by the Community Sports Networks across Essex to include the benefits that sport can bring to the community and increasing participation in sport and physical activity.
- 1.38 Facilities alone are not the answer to increasing participation, and the associated development work must be integral in ensuring the maximum possible use and impact of existing and new sports facilities, and thereby value for money for any investment. This is particularly relevant in relation to the strategic context behind such investment – improving quality of life, increasing participation in sport and physical activity and sustainable development.
- 1.39 Local Authorities need to consider the private sector facilities, mainly health and fitness, when planning new facilities and there is a need to assess how accessible the private facilities are to local communities and what programmes of activity they offer.
- 1.40 Local authorities have a key role to play in influencing future provision of sports facilities through negotiating accessibility, implementing management specifications, and facilitating partnerships; their role is not simply about direct delivery of sports facilities. It is also ensuring that facilities are 'fit for purpose', meet the Discrimination Act and provide for club as well as community needs.
- 1.41 The Essex Sports Facilities Strategy cannot be all things to all people and therefore aims to set guiding principles and values with some objective judgments on the future options for partners to consider in the short, medium and long term.

### The Vision

- 1.42 The vision for the Essex Sports Facilities Strategy is:

*“Building a Winning future together in Essex”*

- 1.43 This vision is underpinned by the following Objectives:

- Continue the drive for high quality, well maintained and highly utilised facilities
- Demonstrate strategic need, both current and future, to inform provision

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- Meet the challenge of projected growth (particularly in the Thames Gateway area, Chelmsford and Colchester)
- Increase participation countywide by 1% per annum for those aged 16+
- Ensure provision of appropriate resources for young people, physical education and school sport
- Develop countywide capacity of clubs, coaches and volunteers to facilitate participation at grass roots and performance levels
- Develop innovative partnerships for delivery which maximise available resources for investment and the development of community, specialist and performance sports facilities
- Use sport as a focus for community development and capacity building, ensuring the role of sport and physical activity, and its contribution to health, quality of life, individual and collective development is recognised within communities

1.44 Provision of a hierarchy of facilities:

- **Sub Regional** – Facilities that serve the whole county e.g. 50m pool, 8 court badminton halls and above, and indoor tennis centres
- **District** – Facilities that serve a whole district/borough but whose catchment area may also cover parts of another district/borough.
- **Local/Neighbourhood** – Facilities that serve the rural areas and specific urban areas; (as a minimum all villages should have access to a dry indoor facility within the village that can cater for recreational activities for different age groups to participate in (keep fit, yoga, martial arts etc.). All persons living in rural areas should be no further than 20 minutes drive time from a larger leisure facility and swimming pool open to the community. In urban areas, all persons should be within 20 minutes walking time of a larger leisure centre and a swimming pool open to the community.

1.45 The role of sports development is crucial to achieving the above vision for Essex. It is essential to ensure that sports development need is a key determinant in assessing the demand for facility provision - both community and sports specific.

### Scope of the Essex Sports Facilities Strategy

1.46 The Essex Facilities Strategy is a 13 year strategy from 2007 to 2020; this timescale is 4 years more than that of 'Creating Active Places' the regional sports facilities strategy but reflects the time scales of other Essex Sports Partnership Strategies. However, the population base for the Essex Facilities Strategy is slightly different to that assessed in the regional sports facilities strategy, because more up to date data was available to inform the Essex Facilities Strategy. The supply and demand modelling in the Essex Facilities Strategy is based on 2004 sub national population data, published in October 2007 by the Government Actuary Department (GAD). This latest population data reflects more accurately the impact of the growth in population across the region, which is likely to increase demand for provision of community sports facilities.

1.47 The scope of the audit and subsequent Essex Sports Facilities Strategy follows the scope of the "Creating Active Places – Sports Facility Strategy for the East of England and covers the following facility types:

Table 3 – Scope of the Essex Sports Facilities Strategy

Sports Halls (all sizes i.e. 4 courts and above, 3 courts and below)	Golf Courses (minimum 18 holes)
Swimming Pools (all water space- 25m, and all other laned pools except Lidos)	Health and Fitness Suites (minimum 20 stations)
Synthetic Turf Pitches (minimum ¾ size, i.e. 75mx48m)	Indoor Bowls (minimum 4 rinks)
Athletics Tracks (minimum 6 lane synthetic track)	Ski Slopes
Indoor Tennis (minimum 2 courts)	Ice rinks
Stadia (professional football,/ rugby)	
Regional analysis of outputs from national 'Active Places Power Plus'(formerly the Facilities Planning Model)	
Clubs and Facilities identified on the Amateur Rowing Association, British Canoe Union, RYA and British Ski web sites.	

N.B Grass pitches and training facilities (existing and proposed) are not covered in depth by the scope of this Strategy; these facilities are the subject of NGB Facility Strategies, and/or local authority Playing Pitch Strategies.

1.48 The identification (or lack) of Playing Pitch and Open Spaces Strategies and their ongoing review should be made relevant to Rugby Union, Cricket, Hockey, Bowls and Tennis as well. It is sometimes perceived that, Playing Pitch Strategies are identified as an issue solely for Football. Playing pitch provision is integral to the case being made for sports facility provision against a growing population County wide. This is a key element in the work and strategies of local authorities and CSNs in the delivery of increased and sustainable participation. MUGAs are not considered as part of this strategy. Many golf facilities are less than 18 hole courses (9 holes, driving ranges etc) for the purpose of this strategy only 18 hole courses have been considered.

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- 1.49 The Essex Sports Facilities Strategy considers existing and planned facilities incorporating:
- Local Authority Leisure Centres
  - Voluntary sector sports clubs
  - Private sector facilities
  - Essex County Council PFI funded school improvements and NOF funded facilities
  - Secondary schools that are being re-built or re-furnished under the Building Schools for the Future programme
  - HE/FE facilities
  - Facilities which will support participation at the community level
  - Other facilities that are of countywide significance
- 1.50 The Essex Sports Facilities Strategy acknowledges that the more detailed level of demand modelling can only be carried out for specified facility types. A wider facility range is required to take into account the outdoors focused facilities that are already an integral part of sports participation rates and future opportunities in Essex such as water sports (water ski lakes, canoeing and sailing clubs). A separate Strategy "Strategic Planning of Water Sport and Recreation in the East of England" is due to be completed in March 2008. The Essex Sports Facilities Strategy will have to consider any recommendations from the above Strategy in due course.
- 1.51 The management of sports facilities influences the way in which a facility is programmed, its opening hours and how available it is to the community; local authorities have a critical role when developing specifications for the management of facilities which provide for community use, particularly in relation to programming, and the balance of use by clubs, schools and the general community. Sports halls are used for badminton, basketball, indoor football, gymnastics, keep fit and aerobics, volleyball and in some cases, martial arts and judo (if appropriate matting is laid temporarily); these sports compete with each other for programming time and also access for pay and play usage and club use, so management specifications need to be clear about the balance between both sporting activities, and club/individual use. It is also vital to include development time in programming, particularly for minority sports and those with large numbers of participation, who need to participate initially at a beginners' level.
- 1.52 It is important to recognise that the challenges relating to programming facilities can also be impacted on by the level of subsidy provided to the operator by the local authority; reducing the subsidy level imposes a bottom line approach on the contractor, who will need to focus on the bottom line and programme income generating activities, as opposed to a sports development led approach which focuses on increasing individual participation, for the health, social, and personal benefits derived from sport and physical activity. Local authorities thus have a huge responsibility in their management specifications to balance income generation with social objectives and to ensure the operator delivers accordingly.
- 1.53 It is also important to recognise that some participation is supply led e.g. roller hockey, or basketball; if facilities are programmed to offer such activities, individuals will be attracted to participate. Such participation also needs to be balanced with club and demand led community participation e.g. swimming, badminton, within facilities.
- 1.54 Some extreme sports or non-traditional activities can also be accommodated in sports halls, or multi-purpose rooms. Increasingly, however, these activities need specialist facility provision e.g. BMX, mountain biking, skateboarding. The provision of such facilities is an important consideration, given their popularity, and is therefore included in this Essex Facilities Strategy. The needs of other sports such as boxing, judo etc also need to be appropriately addressed, given their high participation levels in some areas of the county. Ideally these sports need space where mats and other equipment can be permanently set up, to facilitate training, general participation and competitive use.
- 1.55 Water sports such as rowing and canoeing have access issues to water ways that need to be overcome.
- 1.56 The Essex Sports Facilities Strategy covers the following sports specific provision at county level, reflecting Sport England priority and Olympic sports:

Table 4 - Sports covered by the Essex Sports Facilities Strategy

*Archery	Cycling	Gymnastics	*Modern Pentathlon	Squash	*Wrestling
Athletics	Cricket	*Handball	Netball	Swimming	Other Water Sports
Badminton	Equestrian	Hockey	Rowing	Table Tennis	
Basketball	Fencing	Ice Skating/Hockey	Rugby Union	Triathlon	
Boxing	Football	Indoor Tennis	Sailing	Volleyball	
Canoeing	Golf	Martial Arts	*Shooting	*Weightlifting	

\*Based on consultation and assessment the Strategy has not identified any significant facility issues within the County relating to these sports.

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### **Essex Sports Facilities Strategy - the Challenges and Issues**

- 1.57 A number of significant issues, challenges and opportunities have been identified through the development of the Essex Sports Facilities Strategy. These issues and challenges provide a framework for the development of the Strategy and reflect the range of questions that providers, partners and funders need to consider as part of the strategic planning process for new and improved sports facility provision at county level.
- 1.58 The significant issues and challenges are discussed in more detail through the analysis of both community and sports specific facility provision, whilst the options for addressing the challenges are set out in the delivery section of this Strategy.

## SECTION I – SETTING THE CONTEXT

The Challenge	Issues to be Considered
<p>Providing the appropriate number of Quality, Fit for Purpose Facilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How is it best to tackle both the quantity and quality of existing facility provision in the county?               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Swimming pools and sports halls in the county built in the late 1960s and early 1970s</li> <li>➢ Existing facilities which are not 'fit for purpose' and/or are unavailable for community access</li> <li>➢ Existing facilities which are inaccessible/inappropriate for community use, due to poor infrastructure, location, or lack of a formal community use agreement</li> <li>➢ The variances in existing levels, type, distribution and quality of facility provision</li> <li>➢ The need for investment in existing facility stock</li> </ul> </li> <li>• What is the most effective way to provide for current demand, the planned growth, and increases in participation?</li> <li>• What is the best way to tackle accessibility in practical terms in both rural and urban areas, where population density varies?</li> <li>• What are the priorities for both community and sport specific facility provision and how can capacity and availability/accessibility for all sports facilities be maximised?</li> <li>• What are the local priorities and need?; given the non-statutory status of sport and leisure in local authorities, delivery of this service (facilities, sport development, capital and revenue resources) may have to compete for resources with statutory provision at local level, and therefore it may be challenging to reflect regional and national priorities for provision; use of CPA/BV119 may be useful in assessing local need</li> <li>• How can the sporting community ensure that new facility provision is 'fit for purpose', and that existing provision meets this criterion, including appropriate provision for people with a disability, and delivery of the requirements of the management specification, as intended by the local authority? (Reference the Quirk Report 2006)</li> <li>• How can the sporting community make sure that there is equality of access for all sports to available facilities across the county?</li> <li>• What is the best way to manage access to existing facilities, particularly on school sites, where opening hours have been significantly reduced as a consequence of health and safety policies?</li> </ul>
<p>What resources are needed to provide facilities, and from where could they be sourced?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can the identified investment in facility provision across the County be resourced?</li> <li>• How can planning challenges e.g. the regional and local planning frameworks and the potential for funding linked to the growth agenda be optimised?</li> <li>• How can the resources for short and longer term maintenance, refurbishment and new development be identified, given the non-statutory function of sport and leisure in local authorities?</li> <li>• How can funding contributions be maximised through S106 and planning gain?</li> <li>• Which organisations will take the lead in the delivery of the Essex Sports Facilities Strategy, and what resources might the Strategy attract, in both rural and urban areas?</li> </ul>
<p>What is the best way to ensure provision for performance athletes, training and competition?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the most appropriate approach to maintain and where appropriate enhance existing, as well as develop new, sport specific provision, to improve facilities for training and competition and as a consequence retain elite athletes in the County?</li> <li>• How can the opportunities and challenges presented by the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games be appropriately quantified? E.g. lack of future funding, lack of skills to build non-specific facilities</li> </ul>

## SECTION I – SETTING THE CONTEXT

The Challenge	Issues to be Considered
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the best way to reduce the current export of some performance athletes from the county, due to a lack of some sport specific training facilities (and in some cases access to appropriate support services)?</li> <li>• Is there a need to develop one central venue for performance sport?</li> </ul>
<p>What partnerships may be able to help deliver the appropriate number of quality, fit for purpose facilities?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who should be involved in developing partnerships for delivery?</li> <li>• How can the voluntary sector best be engaged in the future development of the facility network? E.g. facilities provided by the YMCA, other agencies</li> <li>• What is the role of education and specifically the Building Schools for the Future Programme, the Extended Schools Initiative and dual-use provision, and achieving PSA1 and how can these initiatives link into both facility development and sport development?</li> <li>• How can we ensure the potential opportunities through BSF are maximised for sports facilities at a local level, given that implementation for BSF is over a lengthy period of time?</li> <li>• How can the development and implementation of innovative delivery partnerships best be facilitated?</li> <li>• How can cross boundary partnership working be developed?</li> <li>• How can we best work with the HE/FE sector, given the significant proposals across the County for new sports facility development?</li> <li>• What is the most effective means of building capacity across the sport and physical activity sector?</li> <li>• How can the growing trend for provision of workplace fitness gyms be optimised?</li> <li>• How can we ensure the resources (facilities and volunteers) of the voluntary sector are used most effectively, and are sustainable; what is the role of sports development and how can these resources help to increase participation?</li> <li>• How can resources in the commercial sector contribute effectively to the facilities network?</li> </ul>

1.53 Whilst the above may appear an overwhelming list of issues and challenges, it is intended to illustrate the context in which sports future facility provision needs to be planned, given the outcomes it is intended to deliver, and the agendas to which sports facility provision can contribute.

## **SECTION II – ESSEX OVERVIEW AND IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY REQUIREMENTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AND NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY**

### **Essex Summary**

- 2.1 Essex comprises a mixture of urban areas, villages and town and urban fringe as classified by Rural and Urban Classification 2004 and the Indices of Deprivation 2004. A higher percentage of the authorities within Essex are more densely populated than the national average (380) and regional averages (284). Uttlesford (108) and Maldon (168) are the most sparsely populated in the County.
- 2.2 In the context of urban and rural issues, East England Development Agency's observations are:
- Urban areas experience the most deprivation whilst town and fringe areas experience the least
  - Village town and fringe areas have lower levels of health problems and people with disabilities and crime rates than urban areas
  - Urban areas have the highest levels of education deprivation, experiencing a lack of attainment among young people and children and fewer qualifications among working age adults
  - Villages experience the worst accessibility to housing and key services

### **Essex Demographic Profile**

#### **Deprivation**

- 2.3 Essex is as diverse in its levels of deprivation as it is in its split between urban and rural areas containing some of the top 10 most and least deprived Wards and Super Output Areas in the country. The main pockets of deprivation are cited in urban areas including: central Southend, south and west Thurrock, Basildon, Harlow, and Tendring. There are other individual areas in Chelmsford, Colchester, Braintree, Rochford and Epping Forest.
- 2.4 It is also important to consider that the demographic make up of the area as key demographic and socio-economic characteristics are known to influence demand characteristics. The most recent population data on which the Essex Facilities Strategy is based is the 2004 -based sub national data, published by the Government Actuary Department (GAD) in October 2007.
- 2.5 The Essex Facilities Strategy includes an overview of existing population data; given that figures may change at a local level as a result of new housing development, and significant growth areas, detailed population assessments are included in local district or borough sports facility strategies. The Essex Facilities Strategy is modelled on 2004 sub national population data, published in October 2007 by the GAD. At a local level, and specifically where there is a significant growth area, more local population data, developed as part of the overall future planning process may be more appropriate to utilise in modelling future supply, to ensure the full impact of increased demand is assessed.
- 2.6 Certain age-groups are known to register higher participation rates in a number of sport and leisure activities; deprived communities often experience issues relating to accessing services and opportunities; cultural backgrounds may result in some passive and active recreation pursuits being favored over others; car ownership levels can impact on the range of facilities that can be accessed.
- 2.7 In Essex 20.26% or 1 in every 5 of the residents are under 16 and 18.96% are above pensionable age. With the exception of Thurrock which has a higher percentage of residents aged less than 16 (2% over the regional average of 19.6%) and a lower percentage above pension age, a further 1 in every 5 people is of pensionable age. The age structure of the population of Essex is similar to that of the East Region but with a slightly higher percentage of people of pension age in a number of areas particularly Southend (regional average of 19.4%) People's propensity to participate in sport and physical activity varies according to age and the provision for young people and people of retirement age should be considered in moving forward to ensure that a culture of participation is nurtured and maintained amongst the young and a greater degree of independence and well being amongst the population of those reaching pensionable age.

#### **Ethnicity**

- 2.8 Whilst the percentage of the population from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups has risen steadily across the UK over the past few decades, the East Region has fewer residents (8.5%) from these communities than national averages (13%) but is ranked 5th highest of the 9 regions of England.

## **SECTION II – ESSEX OVERVIEW AND IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY REQUIREMENTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AND NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY**

- 2.9 94.2% of the total population of Essex is from white British or other groups. This indicates that only 5.8% 93,647 one in every 17 people within the population is from BME groups. Of the local authority areas, 5 are in the top 20 in the region, including the urban areas of Epping Forest (ranked 14th at 8.8%), Harlow (ranked 17th at 8.3%), Brentwood (ranked 18th at 7.3%), Thurrock (ranked 19th at 7.2%) and Colchester (ranked 20th at 7.1%). At the other end of the spectrum, Rochford, Tendring and Maldon (mostly more rural areas) are ranked within the 10 authorities with the lowest proportion of BME groups in the region (ranked 8th, 9th and 10th respectively).
- 2.10 Of the BME group's resident in Essex, the groups with the largest prominence are Indian (0.62%), Chinese (0.36%), White and Black Caribbean (0.29%), White and Asian (0.29%), Black African (0.27%) and Bangladeshi (0.16%). Sport England's Equity Index demonstrates that people from BME groups are less likely to participate in sport and physical activity.
- 2.11 From work carried out by the Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation It is known particularly in Thurrock that there has been an increase in ethnicity as the regeneration of Thurrock takes place.

### **Health**

- 2.12 The life expectancy of the area's residents is of a similar standard to the average for the Region and higher than the national average (76.8 years for men and 80.9 years for women as compared with regional averages of 77.6 and 81.6 respectively). There are three local authorities whose residents have a lower life expectancy than regional averages these are Tendring, Thurrock and Harlow.
- 2.13 The Health Profile (2006) produced by the Public Health Observatories, say that roughly 1 in every 4 people of adult age in Essex smoke, 1 in 6 are binge drinkers and 1 in 5 people are obese, an average of only 1 in 5 people eats a healthy diet. In 2006 51,540 people (4%) of the population had diabetes, 831 (0.62%) received mental health treatment and 6,254 (0.5%) people died prematurely of cancer.

### **Essex Sporting Profile – Overview**

- 2.14 The Essex Sports Facilities Strategy identifies the need for future resources in existing, new and replacement facilities in the county; in order to be clear about the priorities for the future, it is important to understand the current levels and nature of provision across the County.
- 2.15 Existing built facility provision is clustered around urban centres; there is more limited built facility provision in the north and extreme south east of the county.
- 2.16 A key priority is the need for investment in existing facilities - refurbishment, Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) requirements, and improved quality for sports halls, swimming pools, health and fitness, ATPs.
- 2.17 Many existing facilities were built in the late 1960s/early 1970s, and therefore a key priority is the need for investment in existing facilities - refurbishment, DDA requirements, and improved quality for sports halls, swimming pools, health and fitness, Synthetic Turf Pitches (STPs).
- 2.18 Essex has a lower number of pools built/refurbished before 1975 (10.06%) than the national average (13.32%). In comparison, 58.58% of all existing swimming pools in Essex were built or refurbished post 1996, as compared to the national average of 55.85% (Source Sport England, Active Places data, November 2006). This means just under 40% of all existing pools in Essex were built or refurbished before 1996; this means that overall, Essex has a stock of better quality pool facilities than some other counties in the East of England. 17.16% of all sports halls in Essex have been built or refurbished before 1975; this is higher than the national figure of 15.61%. Similarly, 55.22% of existing sports hall facilities have been built/refurbished since 1996; this is much higher than the national average of 49.46 %.( Source Sport England, Active Places data, November 2006).

### **Sports Halls**

- 2.19 According to the Active Places Power + (APP+) assessment, across the East Region and in five of the six counties the total capacity for sports halls is greater than total demand. The total capacity for sports halls in the East of England is 320,400 visits. The total demand for sports halls is 253,200 visits (79% of total capacity).

## **SECTION II – ESSEX OVERVIEW AND IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY REQUIREMENTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AND NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY**

- 2.20 The level of utilised capacity for sports halls across Essex is 80.5% compared with 81% across the East of England. Overall, Essex currently has a good balance of sports hall supply and demand. There are pockets of unmet demand in Tendring (Clacton), Colchester, and Southend. In all cases this unmet demand equates to less than one 4 court badminton sports hall.
- 2.21 Using the Sport England Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) it is estimated that total supply = 688 badminton courts of which 520 are supplied by 4+ court halls. Calculation of accessibility identifies that only 267 are accessible for pay and play usage.
- 2.22 SFC calculations show a current demand for 464 courts and a demand of 502 courts in 2020. SFC calculations therefore show that existing levels of provision (520 4+ court halls) are sufficient to meet current and future demand. The issue is that the current facilities are actually not all accessible for community pay and play;
- 2.23 **This deficit could be addressed most effectively by negotiating more access to the existing sports hall supply, or by ensuring appropriate access through e.g. Building Schools for the Future (BSF) investment. New facilities would also be an option, but unless these replace outdated facilities there would be a need to require more capital investment than re-negotiation of access arrangements.**

### **Swimming Pools**

- 2.24 According to the Active Places Power Plus assessment, there is a greater supply of water space in Essex than the level of water space needed to meet the current demand for swimming. The level of utilised capacity for swimming across the East of England is 59.1% and within all counties in the Region it is below the 70% level of utilised capacity, which is the level at which the “pools full” sign is hung out. In Essex the level of utilised capacity for swimming is 60.6%.
- 2.25 **Overall, Essex has a reasonable balance of supply and demand for swimming pools (third best in region) but just below the Regional average. There are pockets of unmet demand, however e.g. Colchester. This is substantiated by a study specially commissioned by Colchester Borough Council and University of Essex from Sport England to identify future water space needs which was completed in 2007.**
- 2.26 Using the Sports Facility Calculator, total water supply = 19,866m<sup>2</sup> of which 11,063m<sup>2</sup> is supplied by laned pools of minimum length 25m. Calculation of accessibility identifies that only 8,299m<sup>2</sup> are accessible for pay and play usage. SFC calculations show a current demand for 16,662m<sup>2</sup> and a demand for 17,514m<sup>2</sup> in 2020.
- 2.27 This situation suggests that there is currently sufficient total water space to meet current and future demand. This assessment does not however reflect the fact that of the total water space only 11,063sq m is actually of a minimum 25m length (needed for training, lane swimming etc), and of this only 8,299 sq m is actually accessible for pay and play access. On this basis, there is a deficit in current provision of 8,363 sq m, which increases to 9,215 sq m by 2020. Given that current facility provision levels are below the current level of demand, and the need to address the growth agenda it is clear that there is a need for additional access to swimming pools in Essex. It is appropriate to consider addressing the accessibility deficit through re-negotiation of existing access arrangements, given that there are existing facilities which cannot be fully utilised by the community.
- 2.28 It is realised at a local level that demand for swimming pools is not met, particularly for some groups and this should be addressed through opening up swimming pools that are not currently accessible.
- 2.29 **Health and Fitness** – total supply = 6692 stations supplied by facilities with a minimum of 20 stations. Calculation of accessibility reveals only 3053 are accessible for pay and play usage. Demand modelling calculations show a current demand for 5569 stations and a demand of 5855 by 2020. There are actually sufficient facilities of 20+ stations to meet both current and future demand; the issue is one of accessibility, as only 3053 stations are actually accessible for pay and play usage - a deficit on current demand of - 2534 stations. The most effective approach to addressing the accessibility issue is to negotiate additional access at existing facilities, wherever possible.
- 2.30 There is significant commercial fitness provision in Essex which offsets the identified accessibility deficiencies to some extent; given that some more affluent communities will choose to afford this type of provision.

### **Sports Facilities Catchment Areas**

- 2.31 Appendix 5 includes maps showing all the facility types covered by the Essex Sports Facilities Strategy, together with their catchment areas, based on a 20 minute drive time, for illustrative purposes.

## ***SECTION II – ESSEX OVERVIEW AND IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY REQUIREMENTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AND NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY***

- 2.32 Maps 2 - 11 show all the identified facilities of each type in the county, reflecting the parameters of the Strategy e.g. 4 badminton court halls and above, 4 lane x 25m swimming pools and above, 20 station fitness suites and above etc.
- 2.33 A 20 minute catchment area is then shown for each facility, which provides an overview of accessibility across the county. The critical issue is that the catchment area 'gaps' identified are the minimum likely, given that many of the facilities mapped are actually not available for pay and play access (See Section III).
- 2.34 When considering the county as a whole and looking at all facilities (Map 1), it is clear that there is a more concentrated distribution of facilities in the South. In the north of the county the majority of the facilities are clustered around major settlements.
- 2.35 The distribution of sports halls is similar to the overall pattern (Map 2); however there are some small deficiencies in the far north and far east of the county. It is worth noting here that this map does not take into account facilities in neighbouring authorities, so there is a good chance that the deficiencies in the north will be addressed by this. The east of the county borders the sea.
- 2.36 The distribution of swimming pools (Map 3) shows some deficiencies in the east of the county and the north. Again, the deficiencies in the north may well be addressed by the neighbouring authority. Other than that the spread of swimming pools is good across the county.
- 2.37 Health and fitness facilities (Map 4) are well spread across the county and again, there are small deficiencies in the North and East of the county.
- 2.38 Artificial Turf Pitches (Map 5) are spread well throughout the county; there are small deficiencies in the north and east of the county and there is also a small area in the west of the county which is not covered by the catchments. This is not necessarily sport specific but where possible football, rugby and hockey should work in partnership to provide facilities.
- 2.39 The main distribution of athletics facilities (Map 6) is in the south of the county. There are some areas in the east and north of the county where there is no available provision within a driving catchment.
- 2.40 There is a more concentrated distribution of golf facilities (Map 7) across the south of the county. There is a large area in the west of the county where no provision is accessible. Again it should be noted that provision in the neighbouring authority should account for this. The provision gaps in the east also may be addressed in this way.
- 2.41 There is one Ice Rink (Map 8) facility in the county which is situated fairly centrally.
- 2.42 The distribution of indoor bowls facilities (Map 9) is spread well, mostly around the outskirts of the county. There are several slightly northern and central areas where there is little or no indoor bowls provision and thus there are deficiencies.
- 2.43 Indoor tennis provision (Map 10) is almost exclusively across the south of the county. There are some facilities in the north east of the county, but otherwise there are large areas of the county where there is no provision, notably across the west, north and central area.
- 2.44 There is one Ski Slope (Map 11) in the county, which is located in the south west of the county.

## **SECTION II – ESSEX OVERVIEW AND IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY REQUIREMENTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AND NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY**

### **Essex Sporting Profile – Districts/Borough's**

#### **Basildon District Council**

##### **District Description**

- 2.45 Basildon District Council lies in the southern part of Essex, 30 miles east of London. The southern part of the District (including the town of Basildon itself) is included within the Thames Gateway South Essex Partnership, which was created in 2001 to improve the overall prosperity and economic development of the area. Covering 42.5 square miles the district includes the towns of Basildon, Billericay and Wickford and there are other significant urban areas in Pitsea and Laindon. There are regeneration master plans in existence for both Basildon and Wickford town centres.
- 2.46 The town of Basildon was created during the postwar New Town expansion by the establishment of the Basildon Development Corporation and the town was set out on green principles.
- 2.47 A high proportion of the district's residents commute to London and Southend for employment.
- 2.48 Basildon has a high proportion of young people amongst its population and a lower proportion of its population is above pensionable age compared to the rest of Essex. The educational achievements of pupils in Basildon are constantly lower for all levels. Recorded crime is higher in Basildon than the rest of Essex. The health of residents in Basildon is poorer compared with the rest of Essex and according to the 2004 Index of Deprivation, Basildon is relatively deprived compared to other local authority areas. It ranks as the 12th most deprived area out of 48 local authorities in the East of England.

##### **Local Area Sport and Active Recreation Profile 16+ Active People Survey Key Points**

- 17.6% of Basildon residents participate in moderate intensity activity (sport and recreation activity) on at least 3 occasions of 30 minutes per week, compared to the regional average 20.5% and England average 21.00%
  - Less than one in six people in Basildon engaged in regular sport or active recreation, significantly lower than the Regional and England figure.
  - Only one in seven women in Basildon participate in sport or active recreation three times a week, this was significantly lower than the Regional and England figures.
  - There is a significant drop off rate for sport and active recreation in Basildon as residents get older; however this trend is applied to many other areas.
  - More than half of Basildon residents (54.7%) reported not taking part in any sport or active recreation in the last month.
  - 66.80% of people in Basildon were satisfied with their local sports provision.
  - Zero participation in sports and active recreation was higher in the lower socio-economic groups (5-8) when compared to the higher economic groups (1-4).
  - Nearly one in three people in Basildon were a member of a club, a slightly higher proportion than the Region and England figures.
  - 28.2% of white people in Basildon are members of a sports club while only 19.4% of non white people are.
  - 7.6% of people in Basildon with a limiting disability take part in sport three times a week for thirty minutes.
- 2.49 When asked for the main reason that had prevented people with a limiting disability participating in sport, the top three answers were health limitations (74%); lack of time (5%); and lack of money (5%). A lack of local facilities to play sport was cited by 3% of respondents.

##### **Basildon Sports Facilities**

##### **Local Authority Sports Facility Provision**

- 2.50 The Council operates and manages 4 sports and leisure centres at Pitsea, Eversley, Markhams Chase and Basildon College (the latter being a dual use facility) and three public swimming pools at Gloucester Park, Pitsea Pool and Wickford Pool. Billericay Pool which, after a previous closure, has been reopened and is operated by DFW Leisure. The Council works closely with the Deanes School which is a Specialist Sports College with significant facilities including an indoor tennis centre. However this school is in Thundersley in neighbouring Castle Point.

## **SECTION II – ESSEX OVERVIEW AND IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY REQUIREMENTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AND NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY**

- 2.51 There is an 8 lane synthetic athletics facility at Gloucester Park which was refurbished in 2001 and the Council operates an 18 hole golf course at Basildon Golf Course. In addition the Council operates two STPs one at Gloucester Park and another at West Billericay Community Association.
- 2.52 The Council is currently updating the 2005 Playing Pitch Strategy which is being prepared for adoption in 2008. There is also a separate Barleylands Playing Pitch Strategy which is being prepared to guide the future of the Barleylands Playing Fields complex. See Paragraph 2.73

### **Education Sports Facility Provision**

- 2.53 There are a number of school sites with sports halls i.e. Woodlands School, James Hornsby High School, Chalvedon Sports Centre, Beauchamps School, Barstable School and Mayflower High School. Bromfords School, Wickford and Billericay School provide for basketball outside of school hours.
- 2.54 There are STP's at James Hornsby School and Beauchamps School.
- 2.55 Secondary schools in Basildon town are in wave 4 of BSF (with the rest of the district in waves 5 – 6). Essex County Council's first two Academies are at Barstable and Chalvedon High Schools in Basildon, both these schools are to be developed before the BSF programme is implemented.

### **Other Sports Facility Provision**

- The Burstead Golf Club is an 18 hole golf course refurbished in 2006.
- There are 2 gymnastic clubs in Basildon the Carousel School of Gymnastics and South Essex Gymnastics Club
- There are 5 commercial health and fitness operators in Basildon – Aquila Health and Fitness Centre, Club Kingswood, David Lloyd, Fitness First.
- The David Lloyd Club provides a swimming pool, 8 indoor tennis courts and 6 badminton courts.

### **Planned Proposed Facilities – Consultation Local Authority**

- 2.56 Basildon is scheduled to develop a Community Sports Network (CSN). The Council is keen to progress the development of the CSN to assist in shaping the final project brief for the Basildon Sports Village.
- 2.57 There is a major new facility planned for the town to replace current leisure provision in Gloucester Park. Basildon Sports Village will be a facility of sub regional significance, providing wet and dry facilities and potentially including a 50m swimming pool. The development will be funded largely through asset realisation. South Essex Gymnastics Club has the potential to be of Regional significance and will be relocated to the Basildon Sports Village when the facility is complete. Other proposed facilities at the Gloucester Park Sports Village include, 8 court sports hall, health and fitness gym, athletics track and grandstand, synthetic turf pitch, netball courts and rugby, football and cricket pitches.
- 2.58 Basildon District Council is pursuing a rationalisation strategy in Basildon involving closing the existing Gloucester Park swimming pool, Markham Chase Leisure Centre and the South Essex Gymnastics facility. These facilities will be replaced by a sports hub and spoke model of a sporting village at Gloucester Park (hub) and outlying leisure centres (spokes) and Barley Lands Playing Pitch Complex.
- 2.59 There is a proposal to improve Basildon Golf Club.

### **National Governing Body Consultation Requirements for Proposed Facilities**

#### **Cricket**

- 2.60 Urgent need for indoor cricket facilities one potential facility would be the proposed new development at Gloucester Park. Basildon Sports Village. (Future Strategic Plan)

## ***SECTION II – ESSEX OVERVIEW AND IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY REQUIREMENTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AND NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY***

### **Cycling**

- 2.61 Identified a need to upgrade existing BMX tracks at Gloucester Park and there is a lack of off road cycling facilities. (Future Strategic Plan)

### **Football**

- 2.62 Basildon has a Playing Pitch Strategy currently being updated and is seeking to develop the Barleylands Playing Pitch complex.
- 2.63 There are plans for an ATP at Woodlands School probably part of BSF
- 2.64 Wickford Town Football Club is a big club working with a developer to provide possible land swap for ATP, 15 pitches and club house. (Future Essex FA Development Plan)

### **Netball**

- 2.65 Netball is working closely with the Council to ensure that the Basildon Sports Village facility will be suitable for National Netball events. (Aspirational)

### **Rugby**

- 2.66 Basildon RFC is in negotiation regarding site location in association with 4 other sports clubs at Gloucester Park. (Future Strategic Plan)

### **Swimming**

- 2.67 Although water polo and synchronized swimming occur in general pools there are no pools in the County or Region that meet the requirements for top end training competition. It is hoped that any new 50m pool would take into account the requirements of water polo – 30m x 20m with a depth of 2m and synchronized swimming 50m pool with a depth of 2.5m. (Strategic Plan)

## **SECTION II – ESSEX OVERVIEW AND IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY REQUIREMENTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AND NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY**

### **Braintree District Council**

#### **District Description**

2.68 Braintree is in north Essex and includes the towns of Braintree, Halstead and Witham. Just over half the population of the district lives in these three towns. Although predominantly a rural district beyond the main market towns, its location along the 'investment corridor' between London and the ports of Harwich, Felixstowe and Ipswich means that there are significant plans for further development of the area. Braintree District is traversed by the A120 linking London, Stansted Airport and the ports of Felixstowe, Harwich and Ipswich. The A131 crosses the District north/south linking into Suffolk. There are direct rail links from Witham to London Liverpool Street with a connecting service to Braintree.

#### **Local Area Sport and Active Recreation Profile 16+ Active People Survey Key Points**

- 20.9% of Braintree residents participate in moderate intensity activity (sport and recreation activity) on at least 3 occasions of 30 minutes per week. Compared to the Regional average 20.5% and England average 21.00%.
- One in five people in Braintree engaged in regular sport or active recreation, almost the same as the regional and England figure.
- Regular participation decreased threefold in Braintree between 16 - 34 and those aged over 55.
- 71.10% of people in Braintree were satisfied with their local sports provision.
- Zero participation in sports and active recreation was higher in the lower socio-economic groups (5-8) when compared to the higher socio-economic groups (1-4).
- 26.70% people in Braintree were a member of a club. A slightly higher proportion than the Region and England figures.
- 26.8% of white people in Braintree are members of a sports club while only 25.9% of non white people are
- 9.7% of people in Braintree with a limiting disability take part in sport three times a week for thirty minutes.

2.69 When asked for the main reason that had prevented people with a limiting disability participating in sport, the top three answers were health limitations (74%); lack of time (5%); and lack of money (5%). A lack of local facilities to play sport was cited by 3% of respondents

#### **Braintree Sports Facilities**

##### **Local Authority Sports Facility Provision**

2.70 The operation of the Council's sports facilities is performed under contract by DC Leisure Limited. They currently operate 5 facilities, including 4 dual use facilities on school sites. The three market towns benefit from swimming provision, although the pool in Witham is subject to an options appraisal for its replacement or modernisation. The Riverside Swimming Pool has health and fitness facilities.

##### **Education Sport Facility Provision**

2.71 The 8 lane athletics facility is provided at Braintree Leisure Centre. There are sports hall facilities at Braintree Leisure Centre, Notley Sports Centre, and Halstead Leisure Centre. In addition there are sports halls at The Rickstones School, Gosfield School, Alec Hunters Humanities College and Braintree College

##### **Other Sport Facility Provision**

2.72 There are 7 commercially operated 18 hole golf courses in Braintree i.e. Benton Hall Golf Club, Braintree Golf Club, Colne Valley Golf Club, Gosfield Lake Golf Club, Rivenhall Oaks Golf Club, The Essex Golf and Country Club and The Notleys Golf Club.

2.73 Unex Towerlands provides a sports hall.

2.74 Health and fitness facilities are provided commercially at Benton Hall Golf and Country Club, Complete Health and Fitness, Halstead Fitness Studio, Kilowen Health and Fitness club, Prested Hall Hotel and Sports club, The Essex Golf and Country Club, Woodlands Health and Fitness Club and Xpect Health and Fitness.

2.75 Indoor tennis facilities provided by the use of an air hall are available at the Essex Golf and Country Club.

## **SECTION II – ESSEX OVERVIEW AND IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY REQUIREMENTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AND NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY**

### **Planned Proposed Facilities – Consultation with Local Authorities**

- 2.76 Improvements and planned developments include developments at Halstead Leisure Centre and a new Synthetic Turf Pitch at Witham, which has recently opened. The new Braintree Swimming Centre is due to open in autumn 2007. It will be based at Freeport, Braintree. The facilities comprise of a main 25 metre 8 lane competition pool with spectator seating for 300 people, a leisure pool and an adjoining teaching pool. Braintree Canoe Polo club hope to use this facility once it is open.
- 2.77 A working group has been established to look at applying to the Football Foundation for funding for an ATP at the Discovery Centre, Braintree.
- 2.78 Due to the largely rural nature of the District, a number of smaller facilities are important in ensuring that residents have full access to sporting opportunity. For example, the promotion of skate parks in the market towns and larger villages forms a part of the overall cultural strategy and features in the Community Plan for Braintree.
- 2.79 On paper there may be enough facilities but the age of the stock and whether it is fit for purpose needs to be considered.
- 2.80 Braintree has also submitted a preparation training camp application for the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics.

### **National Governing Body Consultation Requirements for Proposed Facilities**

#### **Cycling**

- 2.81 Identified a need to upgrade the existing BMX track and there is a lack of off road cycling facilities. (Future Strategic Plan)

#### **Football**

- 2.82 Braintree has a green spaces strategy that will cover outdoor sports; this is currently being prepared for adoption in June 2008.
- 2.83 Potential for a 60 x 40 Third Generation ATP at Great Notley Discovery Centre. (Future Essex FA Facility Development Plan)

#### **Squash**

- 2.84 Ongoing discussion with facilities in Braintree to provide glass back courts to facilitate competitive events. (Aspirational)

## **SECTION II – ESSEX OVERVIEW AND IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY REQUIREMENTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AND NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY**

### **Brentwood Borough Council**

#### **Borough Description**

2.85 Brentwood is in southwest Essex and borders some metropolitan boroughs of London. It is therefore well linked by rail and road to London (18 miles away). This encourages a high level of commuting into the city, but also to other centres such as Basildon and Chelmsford. Brentwood is generally considered an affluent area with a strong economic base in the service sectors. Educational achievement is higher than the rest of Essex with recorded crime lower.

#### **Local Area Sport and Active Recreation Profile 16+ Active People Survey Key Points**

- 22.70% of Brentwood residents participate in moderate intensity activity (sport and recreation activity) on at least 3 occasions of 30 minutes per week. Compared to the Regional average 20.5% and England average 21.00%.
- Almost one in four people in Brentwood engaged in regular sport or active recreation, almost the same as the Regional and England figure.
- 75.90% of people in Brentwood were satisfied with their local sports provision.
- Zero participation in sports and active recreation was higher in the lower socio-economic groups (5-8) when compared to the higher socio-economic groups (1-4).
- One third of respondents in Brentwood were a member of a Sports Club. More than the Regional figures.
- 34.2% of white people in Brentwood are members of a sports club while only 21.9% of non white people are
- 7.70% of people in Brentwood with a limiting disability take part in sport three times a week for thirty minutes.

2.86 When asked for the main reason that had prevented people with a limiting disability participating in sport, the top three answers were health limitations (74%); lack of time (5%); and lack of money (5%). A lack of local facilities to play sport was cited by 3% of respondents

#### **Brentwood Sports Facilities**

##### **Local Authority Sports Facility Provision**

2.87 The Council operates its primary leisure facility, the Brentwood International Centre, through the Brentwood Leisure Trust. The Brentwood Centre will require a large investment in the next 5 -10 years. To ensure continued operation there are also new sports hall facilities at the Anglo-European School in Ingatestone which was funded through the New Opportunities for PE and Sport Programme Fund. The Local Authority operates Hartswood Golf Club.

##### **Education Sports Facilities**

2.88 There are a number of schools with sports hall provision in Brentwood, Brentwood County High School, St Martins School, Brentwood School, Shenfield and Sawyers Hall College of Science and Technology. Health and Fitness is provided at Brentwood and Shenfield Schools. STP's are provided at Brentwood School and Sawyers Hal College of Science and Technology. There is a swimming pool at Brentwood School

##### **Other Sports Facilities**

2.89 There are 7 commercially operated 18 hole golf courses in Brentwood, Bentley Golf Club, Dunton Hills (2 x 18 hole courses), Stapleford Abbots (2 x 18 hole golf courses), Thorndon Park Golf Club and Wealdon Park Golf Club.

2.90 Commercial health and fitness clubs are provided at Ashwells Sports and Country Club, Dragons Health Club, Esporta and Springhealth Leisure Club. Esporta also provides for swimming.

2.91 A 7 rink indoor bowls facility is provided at Stoneyhill Bowls Club, Esporta provides for indoor tennis and the Brentwood Park Ski and Snowboard Centre provides ski slopes.

## **SECTION II – ESSEX OVERVIEW AND IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY REQUIREMENTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AND NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY**

### **Planned Proposed Sports Facilities – Consultation with Local Authority**

2.92 Leisure and culture form a key strand of the Local Community Strategy 2004-2009. This identifies the need for accessible and available leisure facilities, particularly for young people, as a key strand of future work. Brentwood Sports Council is a key partner identified in the Community Strategy, and key priorities for sport and physical activity include:

- **Examining ways of making leisure facilities more affordable by:**
  - Investigating the possibility of a Brentwood Leisure Card
  - Researching policies on concessionary charges
  - Looking at pricing structures for community halls
  - Potentially reducing prices of hire of Brentwood Centre for local groups

2.93 The Brentwood Youth Project has proposals for a Sports Hall focusing on boxing and other martial arts provision.

2.94 The Recoil Trampoline Club wish to build a Centre of Excellence with a focus on disability trampolining.

2.95 There are discussions being held to redevelop the Brentwood Centre. This would also provide sport facilities for basketball and events.

### **National Governing Body Consultation Requirements for Proposed Facilities**

#### **Athletics**

2.96 Brentwood is seen as a key area to develop athletic facilities. (Regional NGB aspirational)

#### **Basketball**

2.97 Development of the Brentwood Leisure Centre site is key to national and international facilities for basketball. In addition facilities may be developed at Shenfield School for community use and a league venue. (Aspirational)

#### **Cricket**

2.98 There is a need for an indoor cricket facility in the Brentwood area; there are clubs with thriving youth sections that need to access quality facilities. (Future Strategic Plan)

#### **Fencing**

2.99 Brentwood School has been identified as a facility to provide specialist training facilities in the future. (Aspirational)

#### **Football**

2.100 An assessment of Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities is currently being prepared for Brentwood BC which will include indoor and outdoor sports.

2.101 Brentwood is identified as an area with a chronic lack of pitches and training facilities and has the largest participation in the county.

2.102 Sawyers Hall College are trying to build a second Third Generation ATP, Shenfield School has been identified as a possible future facility for an ATP and the Brentwood Centre would be considered for a 60 x 40 3G pitches. (Future Essex FA Facilities Plan)

#### **Rugby**

2.103 There is a project planned to move Brentwood RUFC clubhouse alongside the development of the golf course in line with local authority objectives and Olympic plans. (Future RUFC Strategic Plan)

## **SECTION II – ESSEX OVERVIEW AND IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY REQUIREMENTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AND NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY**

### **Castle Point Borough Council**

#### **Borough Description**

- 2.104 The Borough of Castle Point situated on the coastline of south east Essex on the northern side of the Thames Estuary has an area of 17.3 square miles and a population of approximately 86,000. Castle Point forms part of the Thames Gateway South Essex Partnership. Urban areas comprise Benfleet, Thundersley, Hadleigh, and Canvey Island.
- 2.105 The Borough is bordered by other Thames Gateway areas including Southend on Sea, Basildon and Rochford, and the residents of the three areas share many facilities. Castle Point is unique geographically, in that it comprises two separate land areas – the mainland in the north and Canvey Island to the south.
- 2.106 Transport links are good, in common with the other areas of south Essex, with train and road access to central London and the M25.
- 2.107 75% of residents leave the area to work in London or the neighbouring areas of Basildon and Southend.

#### **Local Area Sport and Active Recreation Profile 16+Active Peoples Survey Key Points**

- 18.30% of Castle Point residents participate in moderate intensity activity (sport and recreation activity) on at least 3 occasions of 30 minutes per week. Compared to the Regional average 20.5% and England average 21.00%.
  - Less than one in five people in Castle Point engaged in regular sport or active recreation, less than the Regional and England figure.
  - There was a significant drop-off rate for sport and active recreation in Castle Point as residents got older.
  - 72.90% of people in Castle Point were satisfied with their local sports provision.
  - Zero participation in sports and active recreation was higher in the lower socio-economic groups (5-8) when compared to the higher socio-economic groups (1-4).
  - 26.10% of people in Castle Point were a member of a club, a slightly higher proportion than the Region and England figures.
  - 6.0% of people in Castle Point with a limiting disability take part in sport three times a week for thirty minutes.
- 2.108 When asked for the main reason that had prevented people with a limiting disability participating in sport, the top three answers were health limitations (74%); lack of time (5%); and lack of money (5%). A lack of local facilities to play sport was cited by 3% of respondents.

#### **Castle Point Sports Facilities**

##### **Local Authority Sports Facility Provision**

- 2.109 Castle Point has 2 municipal leisure centres providing wet and dry provision, a number of community halls, a golf course and a number of parks, pitches and open spaces. Runnymede Pool provides for swimming, Waterside Farm Sports centre provides a 6 lane athletics facility, sports hall, health and fitness, STP and swimming pool. The local authority operates a golf course at Castle Point Golf Club.
- 2.110 Sport features most prominently in the 'Having Fun' strand of Castle Point's Community Plan. The Local Strategic Partnership has committed to achieving the following outcomes:
- Establish the activities young people want.
  - Better sign posting of clubs and voluntary groups
  - Establish Castle Point as 'A Place for Recreation, Socialising and Relaxation'
  - Sustainable transport – a cycle network through the District.
- 2.111 The leisure centres were built in the 1970s and have suffered from a lack of investment in repairs and maintenance with recent condition surveys revealing a need to invest over £3million to return them to an appropriate standard to meet the needs of the Borough's residents.
- 2.112 A draft Castle Point Sports Facilities Strategy (July 2007) has been produced. The site of Waterside Farm is viewed as an important strategic location in the Borough and there is therefore a wish to see continued leisure provision at the Waterside Farm site, albeit that this provision could be reduced from current levels and could involve integration with other non - sporting facilities.

## ***SECTION II – ESSEX OVERVIEW AND IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY REQUIREMENTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AND NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY***

- 2.113 The existing facility at Waterside Farm has a range of condition- related problems, in particular with the swimming pool. As a result, it is envisaged that continued leisure provision at the site will involve either a significant refurbishment and/or new build.
- 2.114 Officers and members recognised real opportunities to adopt a joint approach with the South East Essex PCT to create an integrated facility within the Borough.
- 2.115 There is also a perception that additional benefits would be gained by providing some form of leisure provision within the centre of Canvey Island.
- 2.116 The Castle Point Sports Facilities Strategy identified the following recommendations and way forward:
- **That the Council recognises the significance of sport and leisure provision and the contribution that an effective coordinated leisure strategy could make to the Council's broader objectives**
  - **That, in respect of facilities, the Council adopts the following core strategy:**
    - To retain Runnymede Swimming Pool
    - To consider further pool provision at Waterside Farm Sports Centre
    - To develop a new integrated "healthy living centre" (comprising dry sports facilities and specific PCT facilities) on the Waterside Farm site.
  - **That the Council works closely with the local education authority:**
    - To explore means by which greater access to school sports facilities by the general community is secured
    - To consider the possibility of developing dual use swimming pool facilities on a school site in canvey island as part of the building schools for the future scheme.
  - **That the Council engages actively with neighbouring local authorities (and, in particular, Southend on Sea Borough Council) with a view to identifying opportunities for joint provision and/or improved access by Castle Point residents to sports and leisure activities beyond the boundaries of the local authority**
- 2.117 A consultation process is currently underway with customers, neighbourhoods, citizens panel members, partners and young people being invited to have an input into future leisure provision.

### **Education Sports Facilities**

- 2.118 Castle Point is covered by the School Sports Partnership based at the Deanes School which is a Specialist Sports College in Thundersley which boasts strong facilities including 3 indoor tennis courts, sports hall, and health and fitness. SEEVIC College has health and fitness and a sports hall, Appleton School has a sports hall and The King John School has a sports hall and STP.
- 2.119 Secondary schools in Canvey Island are in wave 4 of BSF (and the rest of the district is in waves 5-6) – this will mean the closure of Furtherwick Park School. Castle View School is being relocated to Furtherwick Park School site.

### **Other Sports Facilities**

- 2.120 There is a commercial golf club at Boyce Hill Golf and Country Club, Virgin Active Gym and Island Gym provide commercial health and fitness facilities and a swimming pool is provided by Virgin Active.

### **National Governing Body Consultation Requirements for Proposed Facilities**

#### **Athletics**

- 2.121 Canvey Island is seen as a key area for the refurbishment of athletics facilities (possible facility development with BSF. (Regional NGB Aspirational)

#### **Cycling**

- 2.122 New International Mountain Bike Centre to be provided at Hadleigh Farm for London 2012 Olympic Games. (Strategic Plan)

## **SECTION II – ESSEX OVERVIEW AND IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY REQUIREMENTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AND NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY**

### **Football**

- 2.123 Castle Point has an Open Space Appraisal (2006) covering outdoor sport. This not a full Playing Pitch Strategy.
- 2.124 There is a proposal for an ATP at SEEVIC College, Benfleet. (Future Essex FA Facilities Plan)

### **Rowing**

- 2.125 Environment Land adjacent to Benfleet Tidal Flood Barrier – Lower Thames Rowing Club is hoping to gain a lease on this site and develop this for rowing. Two other sites are considered as good for coastal rowing. These are the disused Occidental Oil Refinery construction jetty in Holehaven Creek and Thorney Bay, Canvey seafront. (Aspirational)

### **Chelmsford Borough Council**

#### **Borough Description**

- 2.126 The Borough of Chelmsford is in mid Essex and also comprises the urban areas of South Woodham Ferrers, Springfield and Great Baddow. Chelmsford has good communication links and is therefore the focus of government, leisure and business in Essex. It has a direct rail service to London Liverpool Street and access to the motorway network via the A12 to the M25 and M11. The town itself therefore experiences a high level of out-commuting to London.
- 2.127 The Borough has below average levels of deprivation across the majority of indicators and is one of the least deprived districts in Essex. Levels of crime are lower than other areas and general health and life expectancy is better in Chelmsford than in Essex as a whole. As the county town for Essex, it is home to many of Essex County Council's key services.

#### **Local Area Sport and Active Recreation Profile 16+ Active People Survey Key Points**

- 20.9% of Chelmsford residents participate in moderate intensity activity (sport and recreation activity) on at least 3 occasions of 30 minutes per week. Compared to the Regional average 20.5% and England average 21.00%.
  - One in five people in Chelmsford are engaged in regular sport or active recreation, almost the same as the Regional and England figure.
  - One in three respondents in Chelmsford aged 16 – 34 took part in sport or active recreation three times a week, for residents aged 35 to 54 this dropped to one in five people and only one in seven people aged over 55 participated this regularly.
  - 75.50% of people in Chelmsford were satisfied with their local sports provision.
  - Zero participation in sports and active recreation was higher in the lower socio-economic groups (5-8) when compared to the higher socio-economic groups (1-4).
  - 30.70% of people in Chelmsford were a member of a club.
  - 30.70% of white people in Chelmsford are members of a sports club while only 30.10% of non white people are
  - 6.90% of people in Chelmsford with a limiting disability take part in sport three times a week for thirty minutes.
- 2.128 When asked for the main reason that had prevented people with a limiting disability participating in sport, the top three answers were health limitations (74%); lack of time (5%); and lack of money (5%). A lack of local facilities to play sport was cited by 3% of respondents.

### **Chelmsford Sports Facilities**

#### **Local Authority and Borough Sports Facility Provision**

- 2.129 The Council has an up-to-date sports assessment and sports strategy and has been very successful in attracting external and local funding to improve the provision of sports facilities in recent years. The Borough has achieved markedly higher levels of Sport England Lottery Funds (£7,6m) for new capital developments than other parts of Essex. This is almost twice as much as any other district in Essex.
- 2.130 Chelmsford Borough Council operates the Chelmsford Sports and Athletics Centre (potential London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games preparation camp), Riverside Ice and Leisure Centre (the only ice rink in Essex), South Woodham Ferrers

## **SECTION II – ESSEX OVERVIEW AND IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY REQUIREMENTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AND NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY**

Leisure Centre (dual-use) and Dovedale Sports Centre (dual-use). These facilities provide a strong complement of strategic facilities across the Borough. The Council's facilities are currently managed in house and over 300 staff are employed in leisure services.

2.131 Chelmer Park has water based and a separate sand based STP.

2.132 Chelmsford has an Indoor Sports and Recreational Facilities Assessment (2005) and a Playing Pitch Strategy (2005)

### **Education Sports Facilities**

2.133 The Council works widely across the education sector, with links through the dual use centres (including Dovedale Sports Centre at Chelmsford College and William de Ferrers Sports College at South Woodham Ferrers Leisure Centre) and with the School Sports Partnership based at Great Baddow Specialist Sports College. The Sports College in particular has very strong links to local community sports clubs and initiatives and has a sports hall.

2.134 In addition there are sports halls provided at Anglia Ruskin University Sports Centre, Boswells School, and New Hall School. New Hall School also has swimming pool provision.

2.135 STP's are provided at Chelmsford County High School for Girls, New Hall School and at William de Ferrers School.

### **Other Sport Facilities**

2.136 Chelmsford has strong structures in place for club sport. There are high profile clubs in football (Chelmsford City FC are based at the Chelmsford Sport and Athletics Centre and have a good community development programme) and hockey (Chelmsford Hockey Club field teams in the national leagues and are the regional development club for England Hockey). Essex County Cricket Club's Ford County Ground is based in the centre of the town, and the Council is committed to the future development of the club at its current location. This will provide regionally significant facilities for cricket development and wider community use and there is great potential for participation in cricket to be driven further by this opportunity. The Chelmsford Chieftains Ice Hockey Club play in the English Premier Hockey League at Riverside.

2.137 There are 4 commercial golf clubs with 18 holes, Channels Golf Club, Chelmsford Golf Club, Crondon Park Golf Club and Hylands Golf Complex.

2.138 Chelmsford has an extensive range of commercial health and fitness operators, including Cannons, Virgin Active, Fitness First, Springhealth and Club Woodham. There are also high class health and spa facilities at Pontlands Park and Greenwoods in Stock.

2.139 There is an indoor bowls facility at Falcon Indoor Bowls Club.

### **Planned Proposed Sports Facilities**

2.140 The local authority has further development plans for the redevelopment of the Dovedale Sports Centre (likely within 3-5 years) and the complete redevelopment of the Riverside Centre. This multi-million pound project will be procured with a development partner and the new leisure facilities will include swimming pools, sports hall, various other leisure and sporting facilities and an ice arena with a full size rink 60x30m rink and fixed seating for 2000+ spectators. This will create a National Ice Skating Association (NISA) Centre of Excellence in the Eastern Region and will create the potential for larger scale ice competitions and events. Furthermore it will be possible to cover the ice to reach a capacity of 4000-4500 for other large sporting and cultural events including large scale pop concerts. A venue of such scale is not currently available in the Region.

2.141 In addition to the above the following have been identified

- The development of additional football pitches at South Woodham Ferrers (with assistance from the Football Foundation.)
- Potential sport specific facility or a community sports hub site in NE Chelmsford (growth point of 4000 new homes)
- Chelmsford County High School for Girls investigating building a centre of excellence for netball
- Essex County Cricket Club redevelopment
- Great Leighs Equestrian centre / Racecourse
- Lack of indoor tennis provision identified
- Chelmsford Sport and Athletics Centre investigating provision of a Sports Therapy centre with private partner

## **SECTION II – ESSEX OVERVIEW AND IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY REQUIREMENTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AND NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY**

- Lack of 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Astroturf pitch in the Borough identified; possibly location at Chelmsford Sport and Athletics Centre / Melbourne Park in conjunction with Chelmsford City FC.

- 2.142 In addition to the above there is a consortium of clubs looking at a proposal to develop a Chelmsford Sports Park at Little Baddow. It is proposed that this facility would include facilities for rowing, canoeing and triathlon amongst other sports activities. This facility will be dependent on the extraction of gravel from the site and planning permission from Essex County Council and Chelmsford Borough Council. The Eastern Region Amateur Rowing Association would support this facility in principle (not with funding) as this would compliment other facilities' such as Peterborough and the planned Cambridge Lakes.
- 2.143 Chelmsford Borough Council as part of its Local Development Framework is pioneering an innovative use of planning gain. A 'Standard Charge' arrangement whereby a charge per dwelling is levied on house builders to fund priorities based on a Strategic, Community and local level including provision of Leisure, cultural and sporting facilities would be introduced.

### **National Governing Body Consultation Requirements for Proposed Facilities**

#### **Canoeing**

- 2.144 Chelmsford Canoe Club are presently undertaking a new build project this is on the redevelopment site roughly where the club is already on the new waterway being built between Springfield Basin and the River Chelmer. (Strategic Plan)

#### **Cricket**

- 2.145 The development of the County Ground in Chelmsford and provision of a new six lane indoor cricket school. (Future Strategic Plan)

#### **Basketball**

- 2.146 Basketball would like to further develop focus facilities in the Great Baddow area in conjunction with Baddow Eagles as they are an accredited and club mark club. (Aspirational)

#### **Equestrian**

- 2.147 The opening of the Great Leighs Race Course is imminent (2007/08). (Strategic Plan)

#### **Football**

- 2.148 Chelmsford has a Playing Pitch Strategy and is seeking to meet the identified shortfall in pitches in South Woodham Ferrers with support from the Football Foundation.
- 2.149 There is a lack of playing and training facilities for a high participation area and exploring potential for a 3rd generation STP on the Chelmsford Sport and Athletics Centre site. (Future Essex FA Facilities Plan and Playing Pitch Strategy)
- 2.150 There is an ATP at New Hall School which the public cannot use.

#### **Ice Skating**

- 2.151 Re – development of the Riverside Ice and Leisure Centre with plans to provide an ice arena with a full size 60 x 30m rink and fixed seating for 2000 spectators will create a National Ice Skating Association (NISA) Centre of Excellence in the Eastern Region and will create the potential for larger scale ice competitions and events. (Chelmsford Strategic Plan)

#### **Netball**

- 2.152 Chelmsford County High School for Girls is investigating building a 4 court sports hall for netball and outside courts and offer the facility as a centre of excellence. (Aspirational but possibly will happen)

#### **Rugby**

## **SECTION II – ESSEX OVERVIEW AND IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY REQUIREMENTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AND NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY**

- 2.153 Chelmsford Rugby Club is potentially being viewed as the centre for the School of Rugby in Essex. This site has received significant investment. As a potential School of Rugby site access to an IRB 22 compliant 3G pitch would be considered an advantage. (Future RUFC Strategic Plan)

### **Table Tennis**

- 2.154 Chelmsford Table Tennis Club (formerly Baddow Village TTC); the club and league are keen to have a purpose built centre or at least a centre which meets the requirements for table tennis. (Aspirational)

### **Tennis**

- 2.155 Tennis would be keen to develop an indoor tennis facility in Chelmsford (Aspirational)

### **Swimming**

- 2.156 A concern for the ASA is the apparent proposed loss of diving facilities within the county. Over a number of years a number of diving facilities have been lost in the county, with now only two remaining. Whilst the strategy highlights that one of these should be updated and full diving provision made which meets identified need, the development of the Riverside Leisure Centre indicates a potential loss of diving facilities. Given travel and access issues the ASA considers that the enhanced provision will not in any way offset this loss.
- 2.157 With the recent developments in diving from all aspects (introduction of synchro diving in competitions, links with gymnastics, provision of school testing visits to identify and engage young people into the sport, flip n fun to widen the availability of diving and introduction of all disciplines into the National Plan for Teaching Swimming) the loss of any facilities will discourage the development of the sport and athletes and hinder work to increase participation, particularly as the activity is one that appeals to a wide cross section of the community and those that do not always consider themselves sporty.

## **Colchester Borough Council**

### **Borough Description**

- 2.158 Colchester is in north Essex, and comprises a large area including the towns of West Mersea, Tiptree, Wivenhoe and Colchester itself. The Borough is included in the Haven Gateway Partnership Area. The Partnership tends to concentrate its work on maintaining and improving access to the Region and economic benefits provided by the key ports of Felixstowe, Harwich International, Ipswich and Mistley (which do not lie in the Colchester Borough area). The town itself is located at the intersection of the A12 and A120, providing direct access to London Stansted as well as the listed ports and the M25 motorway.
- 2.159 Colchester is heavily influenced by its rich historic past – being the oldest recorded town in England and rich in cultural history. As a result of this, the Borough Council and its partners work hard to maximise the promotion of the town's cultural attractions.
- The town contains one of the largest Army Garrisons in Europe, providing 5,000 jobs directly. There are plans to further develop and regenerate the areas around the Garrison, which include the development of new sporting facilities. This will guarantee a significant army presence in the town for at least the next 35 years.
  - The University of Essex is located in Colchester, boasting an impressive academic offer as well as a number of key sports facilities available to the wider community.

### **Local Area Sport and Active Recreation Profile 16+ Active People Survey Key Points**

- 22.9% of Colchester residents participate in moderate intensity activity (sport and recreation activity) on at least 3 occasions of 30 minutes per week. Compared to the Regional average 20.5% and England average 21.00%.
- More than one in five people in Colchester engaged in regular sport or active recreation, almost the same as the Regional and England figure.
- Residents aged 35 to 54 had a significantly higher level of participation than the Region.
- 71.50% of people in Colchester were satisfied with their local sports provision.
- Zero participation in sports and active recreation was higher in the lower socio-economic groups (5-8) when compared to the higher socio-economic groups (1-4).
- 27.9% of people in Colchester were a member of a club; a slightly higher proportion than the Region and England figures.

## ***SECTION II – ESSEX OVERVIEW AND IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY REQUIREMENTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AND NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY***

- 28.3% of white people in Colchester are members of a sports club while only 18.9% of non white people are
- 15.0% of people in Colchester with a limiting disability take part in sport three times a week for thirty minutes.

2.160 When asked for the main reason that had prevented people with a limiting disability participating in sport, the top three answers were health limitations (74%); lack of time (5%); and lack of money (5%). A lack of local facilities to play sport was cited by 3% of respondents.

### **Colchester Sports Facilities**

#### **Local Authority Sports Facility Provision**

2.161 Leisure Facilities are operated in-house, with Colchester Leisure World being the major facility in the town. Colchester Leisure World contains a fitness pool, learner pool, leisure pool, sports hall, activity hall, and event hall with 1,200 capacity (Charter Hall), 4 squash courts, artificial turf pitch, fitness centre and Aqua Springs day spa with beauty therapy treatments.

2.162 Colchester Borough Council (CBC) also operates joint use facilities in the Borough with the Thurstable School and Sports College (Tiptree Community Sports Centre) and with the Gilbert School (Highwoods Community Sports Centre) and operates the West End Tennis Centre (22 courts including 12 grass and 6 floodlit courts).

2.163 CBC also manage outdoor sports provision at the following sports grounds: -

- Mill Road Sports Ground (the home of Colchester Rugby Football Club)
- Mile End Sports Ground
- Old Heath Recreation Ground
- Shrub End Sports Ground
- King George V Playing Field, Lexden

#### **Other Sports Facilities**

2.164 Community use of indoor and outdoor sports provision has been secured by the Borough Council at: -

- Sir Charles Lucas School Sports Centre
- University of Essex Sports Centre
- Facilities at Colchester Garrison including an 8-lane synthetic athletics track, an artificial turf hockey pitch and various grass pitches.
- Football pitches, a Bowls Green and a clubhouse at Warriors Rest, Tiptree
- Pitches, tennis courts and a clubhouse at Broad Lane, Wivenhoe (the home of Wivenhoe Town FC)

2.165 Other sports facilities include: the MICA Centre on Mersea Island; a network of Multi Use Games Areas and skate parks at various locations; the Ormiston Centre and Stanway Rovers FC.

#### **Education**

2.166 In addition to the formal arrangements at the 2 joint use sports centre sites and formal community use agreements identified above, there is also sports hall provision, available to the community, at: -

- Philip Morant School and Sixth Form College
- St Benedict's College
- St Helena School
- Stanway School
- Thomas, Lord Audley School
- Colchester Institute

#### **Sports specific facilities**

## **SECTION II – ESSEX OVERVIEW AND IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY REQUIREMENTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AND NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY**

- 2.167 Existing specialist sport provision includes: - Colchester School of Gymnastics (situated on land owned by CBC), Rollerworld – competition standard, indoor roller skating rink, Indikart – indoor karting centre, SD Martial Arts Centre, there is a Women's and Girls Football Academy based at Shrub End Community and Sports Centre (owned by CBC and leased to Colchester United Community Sports Trust), Colchester Indoor Bowls Centre (situated on land owned by CBC), and Tenpin – 24 lane, tenpin bowling centre (situated on land owned by CBC). Highwoods Sports Centre acts as a netball centre with the provision of 9 floodlit netball courts. 8 lane synthetic athletics track at the Garrison, Floodlit, artificial Hockey pitch at the Garrison. West End Tennis Centre. Mersea Outdoors – outdoor pursuits centres. Bowls greens at various locations including at Old Heath Sports Ground and Castle Park 2 Orienteering courses for juniors at Tiptree Heath.
- 2.168 Building work has commenced on Colchester United's 10,000 all seater community stadium to the north of the town at Cuckoo Farm. The stadium will not only provide the new modern home for Colchester United but it will also provide benefits for the wider community. The aim is to create a community stadium that will be the foundation for an exciting range of community, sporting and social activities for all of the residents of Colchester and the surrounding areas as well as the new home for Colchester United Football Club.

### **Artificial Turf Pitches**

- 2.169 There are 5 full size, floodlit, artificial turf pitches in the Borough, all with significant community use: - Sand dressed multi sport pitch at Leisure World, sand dressed multi sport pitch at the University of Essex, deep filled sand hockey pitch at the Garrison, rubber crumb football pitch at Tiptree Sports Centre and rubber crumb football pitch at Shrub End Community and Sports Centre.

### **Private Health and Fitness Provision**

- 2.170 There are a number of commercial health and fitness centres situated in the Borough including: -

- Aerobic Mad
- Arena Sports and Leisure Club
- Atlantis Health and Beauty
  
- Bannatynes Health Club
- Fitness First
- Hamilton's Fitness Centre
- Hercules Body Building and Weight Training Club
- LA Fitness
- Lexden Squash and Fitness
- Spirit Health and Fitness Club
- Topnotch Health Club

### **Golf Courses**

- 2.171 There are 3 golf courses in the Borough, all owned and operated privately: - Colchester Golf Club, Lexden Wood Golf Club (open to non-members) and Birch Grove Golf Club (open to non-members).

### **Planned Proposed Sports Facilities**

- 2.172 Colchester Borough Council produces a Borough Development Plan for Sport in Colchester in consultation with the local community. The Development Plan identifies the vision for developing sport in the Borough – “Working together we will provide high quality, affordable and accessible sporting provision in Colchester so that residents and visitors have the opportunity to take part in their chosen activity”. The Plan is due to be updated by the end of March 2008.
- 2.173 The model identified for sports facilities in the Borough is the provision of a number of strategically placed, multi-sport, pay and play centres, complemented by a series of sport specific specialist facilities throughout the Borough.
- 2.174 The following sports provision is planned or underway; a stadium for Colchester United Football Club is being constructed in 2007/08, with community use secured in some of the facilities. Planning permission has been received for a Multi Use Games Area in St Anne's ward. A swimming pool and other sports provision is currently under construction as part of the redevelopment of Colchester Garrison. Long term community use of these facilities has been secured.

## **SECTION II – ESSEX OVERVIEW AND IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY REQUIREMENTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AND NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY**

- 2.175 The following sports provision has been identified as key ambitions in the Borough in order to meet the needs of the community and to deliver the strategy effectively: - indoor tennis provision, improved site infrastructure and changing / social facilities at West End Sports Ground, improved fitness facilities and changing facilities at Highwoods Sports Centre, indoor cricket provision, a clubhouse and indoor training centre at Abbey Field to complement the existing athletics track and hockey pitch provision, badminton centre, swimming pool at the University of Essex, extension of the Colchester School of Gymnastics, provision of more football pitches, including the extension of Mile End Sports Ground, access to more sports hall space at peak times, indoor wheeled play provision, table tennis centre, and additional Multi Use Games Areas strategically located throughout the Borough (Old Heath, Wivenhoe, and Mersea).

### **National Governing Body Consultation Requirements for Proposed Facilities**

#### **Cricket**

- 2.176 There is a need for a facility to a minimum TS3 standard in Colchester, this will support the development work of local cricket clubs, but more important the district trials and squad coaching. (Future Strategic Plan)

#### **Football**

- 2.177 Colchester has recently prepared an open space and sports study covering indoor and outdoor sport which was approved in November 2007.

#### **Gymnastics**

- 2.178 Colchester Gymnastics Club needs to expand its current facility provision. (Aspirational)

#### **Hockey**

- 2.179 Need provision of a two pitch site – (Future Strategic Plan)

#### **Squash**

- 2.180 There is a need for glass back courts to facilitate competitive events. (Aspirational)

#### **Tennis**

- 2.181 Tennis would be keen to develop an indoor tennis facility in Colchester (Aspirational)

#### **Swimming**

- 2.182 When considering swimming provision water polo and synchronized swimming should be considered; there are no pools in the Region that meet the requirements for top end training and competition. It is hoped that any new 50m pool would take into account the requirements of water polo – 30m x 20m with a depth of 2m and synchronized swimming 50m pool with a depth of 2.5m.

### **Epping Forest District Council**

#### **District Description**

- 2.183 The district of Epping Forest is in south west Essex bordering outer London. The District is a mix of rural Market Towns comprising Waltham Abbey, Epping, Ongar and the urban populations of Chigwell, Loughton and Buckhurst Hill. It is set in the Metropolitan Green Belt and as a result of the protection offered to local countryside that this provides, there is no main focal point for the District, with no central shopping and commercial area. The Council estimate that up to 40% of the population travel outside the district during the working week.

## **SECTION II – ESSEX OVERVIEW AND IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY REQUIREMENTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AND NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY**

2.184 The District has good access to the M25 and M11. London Underground's Central Line provides good access to Central London and adjacent London Boroughs. There are underground stations to London from Epping, Theydon Bois, Debden, Loughton, Buckhurst Hill and Chigwell.

### **Local Area Sport and Active Recreation Profile 16+ Active Peoples Survey Key Points**

2.185 20.9% of Epping Forest residents participate in moderate intensity activity (sport and recreation activity) on at least 3 occasions of 30 minutes per week. Compared to the Regional average 20.5% and England average 21.0%.

2.186 One in five people in Epping Forest engaged in regular sport or active recreation, almost the same as the Regional and England figure.

- There was almost a threefold decrease in participation as residents got older.
- 69% of people in Epping Forest were satisfied with their local sports provision. This is lower than the Region and England.
- Zero participation in sports and active recreation was higher in the lower socio-economic groups (5-8) when compared to the higher socio-economic groups (1-4).
- 31.80% of people in Epping Forest were a member of a club.
- 31.80% of white people in Epping Forest are members of a sports club while 31% of non white people are
- 8.60% of people in Epping Forest with a limiting disability take part in sport three times a week for thirty minutes.

2.187 When asked for the main reason that had prevented people with a limiting disability participating in sport, the top three answers were health limitations (74%); lack of time (5%); and lack of money (5%). A lack of local facilities to play sport was cited by 3% of respondents.

### **Epping Forest Sports Facilities**

#### **Local Authority Sports Facility Provision**

2.188 The Council has a portfolio of 5 main leisure centres split across the district – 2 dry side centres, two swimming pools with health and fitness facilities and one 'wet and dry' centre. The Council has previously been very successful in attracting lottery funding – significantly more so than other areas in Essex, and was able to complete the construction of a new leisure centre in Loughton with the assistance of £2 million of Sport England Lottery Funding. A new multi sport development valued at £1.2 million is currently planned at Ongar, which will provide a new sports pavilion and third generation synthetic turf pitch. There is a grass athletics track at Loughton, with an all weather training area planned.

2.189 The Council's leisure facilities are managed through a contract with SLM Community Leisure Trust (a private contractor who has established a Trust to operate the leisure contracts in Epping Forest and other areas). The Trust works with the Council's sports development team to deliver initiatives and programmes and has also committed £1.35m in capital improvements to facilities in the district over their 7-year contract period.

#### **Education Sports Facilities**

2.190 Sports Halls are provided at Debden Park High School, St Johns Church of England School and Epping Forest College. In addition there are STP's provided at Debden Park High School, water based and sand based STP at Roding Sports Centre.

2.191 Sports Halls are provided at Debden Park High School, St Johns Church of England School and Epping Forest College. In addition there are STP's provided at Debden Park High School, water based and sand based STP at Roding Sports Centre. Davenant Foundation School has a Sports College status and is committed to playing a full part in the wider community.

#### **Other Sports Facilities**

2.192 The Council has close links with Tottenham Hotspur Football Club, and has entered into formal arrangements to deliver community football schemes across the district. The club, who have training facilities in Chigwell, although not based in the district, have strong links and can offer valuable programmes which play a significant role in the delivery of community sport in Epping Forest. There are also a number of other sport specific centres in the district, including the Epping Forest Gym Centre. The Connaught Lawn Tennis Club is located just over the border in the London Borough of Waltham Forest.

## ***SECTION II – ESSEX OVERVIEW AND IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY REQUIREMENTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AND NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY***

- 2.193 There are 8 18 hole golf courses Abridge Golf and Country Club, Blake's Golf Club, Nazeing Golf Club, North Weald Golf Club, The Epping Golf Course, Theydon Bois Golf Club, Toot Hill Golf Club and Woolston Manor Golf Club.
- 2.194 Commercial health clubs include Esporta, David Lloyd Club, Virgin Active Health Club, and North Weald Health and Leisure Club. David Lloyd also provides for indoor tennis, bowls and swimming.

### **Planned Proposed Sports Facilities - Consultation with Local Authority**

- 2.195 Lambourne End Outdoor Education Centre in Epping Forest has proposals to develop a water ski/water sports lake. This needs to be discussed with the British Water Ski Organisation.
- 2.196 The possible relocation of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic venue for white water will bring the facility closer to Waltham Abbey. The facility will still be in Hertfordshire but could move six miles further south closer to Waltham Abbey. This will bring more potential for sports development and participation in canoeing to Epping Forest residents.
- 2.197 There is a new private sector football academy recently constructed in Loughton (former Bank of England Sports Ground) this facility has natural turf pitches, five – a – side all weather pitches and a special needs pitch. This site is called the Football Academy and has tennis and boxing facilities as well as football.
- 2.198 There is a proposal for an indoor tennis centre at Old Chigwellians Sports Club in Chigwell. This is proposed to become the head quarters of the British Girls Team. Outline planning permission has been granted for relocating St John's School in Epping which is expected to provide a new 4 court sports hall and full size STP.
- 2.199 There are proposals for a junior golf academy at North Weald Golf Club.

### **National Governing Body Consultation Requirements for Proposed Facilities**

#### **Football**

- 2.200 Epping Forest's Playing Pitch Strategy was completed and adopted in September 2007..
- 2.201 There is a possible site in Ongar proposed as a multi sports hub, which will have a full size ATP. (Future Essex FA Development Plan)

#### **Harlow Council**

#### **Borough Description**

- 2.202 Harlow is a small District in West Essex, on the border with Hertfordshire. It is a planned new town built in response to chronic housing shortages in the London and South East in the early post war era. The town is characterised by sustainable, local developments, which were intended to combine residential living space, employment areas and green spaces. The town's housing stock was constructed primarily between 1950-1980 and Harlow has the second highest proportion of Council-owned housing in England.
- 2.203 Harlow is located on the M11 corridor and therefore has easy access to London and Cambridge – it is equal distance between these two cities. Stansted Airport is 10 miles from the town, and provides an employment focus for the population as a result. There is direct train service to London Liverpool Street, 25 minutes away.
- 2.204 The District is relatively deprived compared to other areas in Essex and the East of England Region.

### **Local Area Sport and Active Recreation Profile 16+ Active Peoples Survey Key Points**

- 18.5% of Harlow residents participate in moderate intensity activity (sport and recreation activity) on at least 3 occasions of 30 minutes per week. Compared to the Regional average 20.5% and England average 21.00%.
- One in five people in Harlow engaged in regular sport or active recreation, almost the same as the regional and England figure.
- Regular participation decreased threefold in Harlow between 16 -34 and those aged over 55.
- 70.40% of people in Harlow were satisfied with their local sports provision.

## **SECTION II – ESSEX OVERVIEW AND IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY REQUIREMENTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AND NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY**

- Zero participation is high, with one third of 16 – 34 inactive and three quarters of people 55+ reported zero participation. Zero participation in sports and active recreation was higher in the lower socio-economic groups (5-8) when compared to the higher socio-economic groups (1-4).
- 27.2% of people in Harlow were a member of a club; a slightly higher proportion than the Region and England figures.
- 27.9% of white people in Harlow are members of a sports club while only 18.7% of non white people are
- 8.5% of people in Harlow with a limiting disability take part in sport three times a week for thirty minutes.

2.205 When asked for the main reason that had prevented people with a limiting disability participating in sport, the top three answers were health limitations (74%); lack of time (5%); and lack of money (5%). A lack of local facilities to play sport was cited by 3% of respondents.

### **Harlow Sports Facilities**

#### **Local Authority Sports Facility Provision**

2.206 The Council's Main sports centre is the property of Harlow and District Sports Trust, which was established in 1965 as one of the earliest examples of such a set up in England.

2.207 The Trust's main development project at present is the Harlow Gateway, which will relocate the current sports centre to allow the construction of up to 590 flats and houses. The Harlow Gateway Scheme is being funded largely through Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) (£11m) and a partnership consisting of Harlow Council, Harlow and District Sports Trust, English Partnerships and EEDA. The existing swimming pool managed by the Council is also locating to the new site. The new facility is currently being built on the site of Harlow College and that it will be managed by Harlow and District Sports Trust once operational. The project will also include a new stadium for Harlow Town Football Club, primarily to support their ambition for promotion to the Football Conference.

2.208 The new Community Sports Centre will provide an 8 court sports hall, an eight lane 25m swimming pool, learner trainer pool, a health and fitness club, 3 dance/fitness studios, health and beauty suite, spa pool,, physiotherapy, consultation rooms for GP referrals and cardiac rehabilitation, day care nursery, science alive an educational science and technical area and café bar.. It will act as a hub for new facilities elsewhere in the town. The Council has also been successful in channelling Section 106 funding into improvements to leisure facilities at Passmore's School and Latton Bush.

#### **Education Sports Facilities**

2.209 Mark Hall School has also emerged as a key venue and deliverer of sport in the town. It also benefits from the Gateway project, with a new 8 lane county standard athletics track and associated changing facilities. The school has also benefited from Active England funding towards the development of its sports facilities. Mark Hall School is a Specialist Sports College and hosts the Harlow School Sports Partnership. The Council works closely with the school to deliver a number of its programmes directed at young people. There is a 3rd generation turf pitch and fitness gym on the site as well.

2.210 Other schools with sports halls include: St Marks West Essex Catholic School, Brays Grove School, Burnt Mill Comprehensive School, Passmore's School and St Nicholas School. Mark Hall School and Passmore's School have STP's. The Passmore's STP is dedicated to hockey.

2.211 Stewards Secondary School has a small swimming pool and will be having a MUGA predominantly dedicated to netball in the future. Burnt Mill School and Brays Grove School have small swimming pools.

#### **Other Sports Facilities**

2.212 The Batts Centre is a Regional Centre of Excellence for table tennis with the English Table Tennis Association holding an elite training session at the centre one day a week. The Batts Centre is also a 3 badminton court facility managed by volunteers and available for the whole community to use.

2.213 There is one 18 hole golf course Canons Brook Golf Club and Tye Green Indoor Bowls Club provides for indoor bowls and has outdoor facilities.

## **SECTION II – ESSEX OVERVIEW AND IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY REQUIREMENTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AND NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY**

2.214 In addition there is Harlow Boxing Club, Harlow Rugby Club, 3 cricket clubs, Harlow Town FC which is a new facility recently open and Essex County Outdoor Education Centre is called Harlow Outdoors – Centre for Outdoor Learning – canoeing, mountain bikes, orienteering and climbing, Sumner’s Recreation Centre, is a 3 court size facility, run by a local community association, Harlow Tennis Club and Harlow Outdoor Bowls and petanque – Griffin Bowls Club.

2.215 Commercial Health and fitness facilities include Body Active Gym, Esporta Health and Fitness, Inn Action Health and Fitness and the New Frontiers Leisure Club.

### **Planned and Proposed Facilities – Local Authority Consultation**

2.216 Harlow 2020 is the local Strategic Partnership, which puts the development of sport and leisure facilities at the heart of its overall plans for the regeneration of Harlow. Consultation on the Community Strategy suggested that many residents of the town wanted to see better provision for non-traditional activities, such as rock climbing, ice skating and skateboarding (all mentioned specifically in the Strategy). The skate park has been approved and work has started on this facility. Essex County Council Outdoor Education Centre has approval for an indoor climbing barn and Harlow Tennis Club has plans for an indoor tennis centre.

2.217 A group of land owners in Harlow have formed the HALO Development Trust Association. HALO aims to take full advantage of Harlow’s internationally strategic location utilising gravel extraction and landfill sites immediately to the north of the town centre. HALO wish to enhance the landscape potential of the land with new educational and sports initiatives, within a diverse, vibrant, and socially responsible community, where being oxygen positive is the target, not just carbon neutral.

2.218 The land concerned with HALO consists of some 1000 acres of land connected by 2km of river directly to the North of Harlow; the land has been extensively quarried over the time period that Harlow was built.

2.219 The land benefits from about 20 acres of lakes, 2km of river and some attractive woodland.

2.220 There have been many proposals, for example, from Ropemakers 25,000 houses to the “Stop Harlow North’s Gilston Park”. It is HALO’s aim to take as many views as possible to drive this project from the community upwards. Some ideas to date that include sport are:

- Olympic training facilities for rowing, equestrian and cycling
- Extreme sports facilities, for example, skateboarding, mountain biking, mini bikes, motor cross

2.221 Mark Hall School Harlow has an aspiration in becoming a high performance centre for athletics. This would need to be considered in the round and what impact this would have on the Chelmsford Regional Athletics Facility. One of the activeharlow CIF projects involves making Mark Hall School s a centre of excellence for Wheelchair Athletics in Harlow.

### **National Governing Body Consultation Requirements for Proposed Facilities**

#### **Cricket**

2.222 There is a need for an indoor centre to TS3 standard in Harlow; this would support cricket activity at Harlow CC and Harlow Town CC. There is also a need for a quality centre to support district trials and district squad coaching. (Future Strategic Plan)

#### **Football**

2.223 Harlow has a Playing Pitch Strategy which is part of the Open Space Study 2004. The Playing Pitch Strategy is about to be reviewed.

2.224 Burton Mill School has a proposal for a 5-a-side facility that has planning permission and the school are currently investigating alternative ways of funding the scheme so that it can be managed as a community facility. (Future Essex FA Development Plan)

#### **Rowing**

2.225 Would like to see the development of rowing on the HALCO lakes in Harlow. (Aspirational)

#### **Rugby**

## **SECTION II – ESSEX OVERVIEW AND IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY REQUIREMENTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AND NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY**

- 2.226 There is a planned relocation of Harlow RUFC to incorporate a new 3G pitch and additional grass pitches. Delivery date of this project is uncertain as it is proposed to finance this through a partnership with a land developer in conjunction with the sale of the existing site. (Future Strategic Plan)

### **Maldon District Council**

#### **District Description**

- 2.227 Maldon District is in the east of Essex; urban areas include the town of Maldon, Heybridge, Burnham-on-Crouch, Southminster and Tollesbury. The area is characterised by its 60 mile coastline, and maritime activities continue to play a key role in its leisure attractions and tourism. The coast also offers opportunities for outdoor recreation including walking, cycling, fishing and golf.
- 2.228 Maldon has a relatively small population compared to other districts in Essex, but is expected to have one of the largest increase in residents between now and 2020. There is a relatively low ethnic minority population, and the majority of residents are based in small villages.
- 2.229 The main A414 links Maldon to Chelmsford and the A12, and provides a link to the motorway network. There is a direct rail link to London Liverpool Street from the south of the District. Stansted Airport and the seaports of Harwich and Felixstowe are within reach.
- 2.230 Maldon is a relatively affluent area compared to other parts of Essex. However, educational attainment is much lower than the Essex average, transport for accessing public services is a challenge owing to the largely rural nature of the District, and Maldon East Ward is considered to be in the top 25% of the most deprived wards in the country. This is the most significant 'pocket' of deprivation in the District.

#### **Local Area Sport and Active Recreation Profile 16+ Active Peoples Survey Key Points**

- 21% of Maldon residents participate in moderate intensity activity (sport and recreation activity) on at least 3 occasions of 30 minutes per week. Compared to the Regional average 20.5% and England average 21.00%.
  - One in five people in Maldon engaged in regular sport or active recreation, almost the same as the Regional and England figure.
  - Nearly half of Maldon residents (46.6%) reported they had not taken part in any sport or active recreation in the last 28 days, with two thirds of people over 55 years reporting that they had not participated at all.
  - 68.70% of people in Maldon were satisfied with their local sports provision. This is lower than the Regional and England average
  - Zero participation in sports and active recreation was higher in the lower socio-economic groups (5-8) when compared to the higher socio-economic groups (1-4).
  - 28% of people in Maldon were a member of a club.
  - 27.7% of white people in Maldon are members of a sports club while only 41.3% of non white people are
  - 6.20% of people in Maldon with a limiting disability take part in sport three times a week for thirty minutes.
- 2.231 When asked for the main reason that had prevented people with a limiting disability participating in sport, the top three answers were health limitations (74%); lack of time (5%); and lack of money (5%). A lack of local facilities to play sport was cited by 3% of respondents.

### **Maldon Sports Facilities**

#### **Local Authority Sports Facility Provision**

- 2.232 The Council manages its leisure facilities through a contract with Leisure Connection. There are two sports centres in the main urban centres of Maldon and Burnham-on-Crouch. The Council has a number of other facility developments planned; the most significant of which is the provision of new outdoor facilities and changing adjacent to the Blackwater Leisure Centre in Maldon. An STP is provided at Maldon Town Football and Social Club.

### **Education Sports Facilities**

## ***SECTION II – ESSEX OVERVIEW AND IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY REQUIREMENTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AND NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY***

2.233 The Council works closely with local schools, in particular Plume School and St Peter's High School in Burnham where the local School Sports Partnership is based. Both of these schools open their facilities for community use and are important venues for community programmes.

### **Other Sports Facilities**

2.234 There are seven 18 hole golf courses Burnham on Crouch Golf Club Ltd, Five Lakes Hotel Golf and Country Club x 2, Forrester's Park Golf Club, Three Rivers Golf and Country Club x 2 and Warren Golf Club.

2.235 Commercial health and fitness is provided at Five Lakes Hotel Golf and Country Club, Park Drive Squash and Fitness Club and Three Rivers Golf and Country Club. In addition Five Lakes Golf and Country Club provide 2 indoor tennis courts.

2.236 Indoor bowls is provided at Jacks Centre Indoor Bowls Club.

2.237 Maldon also has two RYA Sailing Clubs in the District.

### **Planned and Proposed Sports Facilities – Consultation with Local Authorities**

2.238 Future possible developments include:

- A feasibility study on the development/replacement of leisure facilities in Burnham-on-Crouch.
- A review of the provision of a Synthetic Turf Pitch with a possibility of a new 3<sup>rd</sup> generation pitch at the Plume School, Maldon.

### **National Governing Body Consultation Requirements for Proposed Facilities**

#### **Football**

2.239 Maldon are currently preparing a Green Spaces Strategy which will include outdoor sport – due to be adopted mid 2008.

#### **Rochford District Council**

##### **District Description**

2.240 The District of Rochford is situated within a peninsula between the Rivers Thames and Crouch in South Essex, and is bordered to the South by Southend on Sea. It forms part of the Thames Gateway South Essex Partnership Area. There are large sections of coastline and attractive countryside in the District. The primary urban areas are Rochford, Hockley and Rayleigh.

2.241 Rail and road links are similar to the rest of the South Essex area, with access to the M25 and London Liverpool Street from the District.

2.242 Rochford is a relatively affluent area. Population growth has been relatively low in the last 20 years but the overall population is likely to increase by 10% between now and 2020. The District is reasonably affluent and has a high socio-economic profile, high housing value, high educational achievement and a high standard of living. There are a few small pockets of relative deprivation – the most deprived wards are Foulness, Great Wakering East and Rochford Roche. The area has low recorded rates of crime in comparison to other parts of Essex.

##### **Local Area Sport and Active Recreation Profile 16+ Active Peoples Survey Key Points**

- 19.9% of Rochford residents participate in moderate intensity activity (sport and recreation activity) on at least 3 occasions of 30 minutes per week. Compared to the Regional average 20.5% and England average 21.00%.
- One in five people in Rochford engaged in regular sport or active recreation, almost the same as the Regional and England figures.
- One in three people in Rochford aged 16 – 34 years took part in sport or physical activity three times a week, this dropped to only one in eleven people aged 55 years or over.
- Zero participation in sports and active recreation was higher in the lower socio-economic groups (5-8) when compared to the higher socio-economic groups (1-4).
- 74.70% of people in Rochford were satisfied with their local sports provision.

## **SECTION II – ESSEX OVERVIEW AND IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY REQUIREMENTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AND NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY**

- 27.60% of people in Rochford were a member of a club. Slightly higher proportion than the Region and England figures.
- 27.9% of white people in Rochford are members of a sports club while only 12.7% of non white people are
- 10.5% of people in Rochford with a limiting disability take part in sport three times a week for thirty minutes.

2.243 When asked for the main reason that had prevented people with a limiting disability participating in sport, the top three answers were health limitations (74%); lack of time (5%); and lack of money (5%). A lack of local facilities to play sport was cited by 3% of respondents.

### **Rochford Sports Facilities**

#### **Local Authority Sports Facility Provision**

2.244 The Council's leisure facilities are currently run under a 20 year management contract with Virgin Active and have benefited from recent capital investment and revenue funded posts (1 for sport based at the Council) for the duration of the contract to 2022.

2.245 The facilities include Clements Hall Leisure Centre and a smaller centre at Great Wakering. A new leisure centre in Rayleigh, on the former site of Park School, opened in May 2006 which includes the following provision:

- New Gym facility.
- 4 court Sports Hall
- Outdoor multi use games area
- Indoor bowls hall with 4 full size competition rinks
- Bar-Café overlooking the bowls hall
- Two glass back squash courts
- Crèche

2.246 These facility developments have helped create a culture of private fitness centres within a local authority pricing structure and the Council are justifiably proud of the facilities they can offer to local residents.

2.247 However, the proximity of other districts in the Thames Gateway South Essex area means that many residents participate in sport and physical activity outside the District within which they live and this is reflected in Rochford.

#### **Education Sports Facilities**

2.248 Rochford is covered by the School Sport Partnership based at the Deanes Specialist Sports College in Thundersley which boasts strong facilities including 3 indoor tennis courts. The school itself is in Castle Point and therefore the Partnership works across the surrounding Districts in South Essex.

2.249 Greensward College sports facilities offer a Sports hall and health and fitness, as does King Edmund School. King Edmund School also has a STP. Fitzwimarc School and Sweyne Park School have sports halls. The secondary schools in Rochford are in Wave 5 – 6 of BSF

#### **Other Sports Facilities**

2.250 There are 4 18 hole golf courses in Rochford Ballard's Gore Golf Club, Hanover Golf and Country Club x 2 and Rochford Hundred Golf Club.

2.251 Commercial health and fitness facilities include the Athenaeum Club, Cully's Access to Fitness and Fungi Fitness. The Athenaeum Club also offers swimming pool provision.

#### **Planned and Proposed Sports Facilities – Local Authority Consultation**

2.252 There are proposals for an 18 hole championship golf course and golfing academy at Ballard's Golf Club.

#### **National Governing Body Consultation Requirements for Proposed Facilities**

#### **Football**

## **SECTION II – ESSEX OVERVIEW AND IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY REQUIREMENTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AND NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY**

2.253 Rochford has a Playing Pitch Strategy – an update of the 2002 playing pitch assessment is due to start in 2008.

### **Rugby**

2.254 Rochford Hundred RUFC is being considered as a potential centre/satellite of excellence for the County. (Future Strategic Plan)

### **Tendring District Council**

#### **District Description**

2.255 Tendring is in north east Essex, a mix of coastal towns and inland villages. The population is based mainly in 6 coastal towns, the main centre being Clacton-on-Sea. The area is renowned for its sandy beaches and traditional coastal resorts.

2.256 The major route through the District is the A120, from Harwich to the A12 which links to the M25 and then to the national motorway network. Stansted Airport is about one hour's drive away via the A12 and A120. There is a direct rail link from the District to London Liverpool Street.

2.257 Tendring District Council is part of the Haven Gateway Partnership which is intended to maximise the economic and regenerative benefits of the key strategic ports which exist in Tendring and neighbouring Districts.

2.258 Tendring is notably more deprived in many indicators than the rest of Essex – 6 wards in Clacton and Harwich feature in the top 25% most deprived wards in the country. Golf Green Ward in Clacton is the most deprived ward in Essex and Tendring is the most deprived District in Essex.

#### **Local Area Sport and Active Recreation Profile 16+ Active Peoples Survey Key Points**

- 16.2% of Tendring residents participate in moderate intensity activity (sport and recreation activity) on at least 3 occasions of 30 minutes per week. Compared to the Regional average 20.5% and England average 21.00%.
- One in six people in Tendring engaged in regular sport or active recreation, significantly lower than the regional and England figure.
- Participation across all age frequencies is low when compared to regional and England averages. Zero participation is exceptionally high, particularly amongst the 55+ age groups.
- 69.30% of people in Tendring were satisfied with their local sports provision.
- Zero participation in sports and active recreation was higher in the lower socio-economic groups (5-8) when compared to the higher socio-economic groups (1-4).
- 22.30% of people in Tendring were a member of a club.
- 5.50% of people in Tendring with a limiting disability take part in sport three times a week for thirty minutes.

#### **Tendring Sports Facilities**

2.259 The Council manages and operates 4 leisure centres and/or swimming pools 3 joint use sports centres and seasonal facilities including Brightlingsea Open Air Swimming Pool. The Council's main sports facilities are Clacton Leisure Centre (sports hall, health and fitness suite, swimming pool, activity hall and STP), Dovercourt Swimming Pool with STP and Frinton and Walton Swimming Pool as well as 8 recreation grounds across the district. The three joint use Sports Centres are Brightlingsea sports hall, activity hall, fitness, squash courts and STP), Harwich (sports hall and squash courts and Manningtree (sports hall, activity hall and fitness).

#### **Education Sports Facilities**

2.260 In addition to the three joint use sports centres operated by Tendring District Council in partnership with the schools at Colne Community School (Brightlingsea), the Harwich School and Manningtree High School other that have sports halls are Bishops Park College, Colbaynes High School, and Tendring Technology College. Manningtree High School also provides for swimming.

2.261 STP's are provided at Bishops Park College, Clacton and Colne Community School, Brightlingsea.

#### **Other Sports Facilities**

## **SECTION II – ESSEX OVERVIEW AND IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY REQUIREMENTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AND NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY**

- 2.262 There are private 18 hole golf courses at Frinton Golf Club and Clacton Golf Club. Commercial health and fitness is provided at Ardleigh Hall Leisure, Busybody's Fitness Ltd, the Gallery Fitness Club, and the Studio.
- 2.263 There are indoor bowls facilities at Clacton Indoor Bowls Club and Harwich and District Indoor Bowls Centre and The Columbine Centre in Walton.

### **Planned and Proposed Sports Facilities – Local Authority Consultation**

- 2.264 The £3 million refurbishment of Clacton Leisure Centre will be completed in February 2008 and there is a Multi Use Games Area being provided as part of a regeneration programme.
- 2.265 The Council has identified basketball as a sport for development and is attempting to develop clubs in Clacton.

### **National Governing Body Consultation Requirements for Proposed Facilities**

#### **Athletics**

- 2.266 Tendring is recognised as a key area for athletics facilities to be provided. (Regional NGB Aspiration).

#### **Cricket**

- 2.267 There is a proposed indoor cricket facility to be provided at Tendring Technology College. (Future Strategic Plan)

#### **Football**

- 2.268 Tendring are preparing an updated PPG17 compliant study to cover indoor and outdoor sports which is due to ready by mid 2008

#### **Rugby**

- 2.269 Brightlingsea Rugby Football Club and the Sports College are planning to develop a RFU Model Venue 1 site with the focus on the development of a 14 changing room pavilion. (Future Strategic Plan)

### **Southend on Sea Borough Council**

#### **Borough Description**

- 2.270 Southend on Sea, in South Essex, is part of the largest urban conurbation in the East of England. It forms part of the Thames Gateway South Essex Partnership area. Southend is one of two unitary authorities in South Essex (Thurrock being the other) and therefore the Council has extended responsibilities which are the domain of the County Council in other districts of the county. Southend is situated on seven miles of sea and foreshore and also comprises 568 hectares of parkland and open space and 697 hectares of green belt land. The area is surrounded by the Rivers Roach and Thames and the North Sea, which remains one of the most important tidal ways in the UK and one of the busiest water recreation areas in England.
- 2.271 There are two direct railway lines to London's Liverpool Street and Fenchurch Street termini, and access to other parts of London and the UK can be made via the M25 motorway, which is about 30 minutes drive time from the Borough.
- 2.272 As well as boasting the longest pleasure pier in the world, Southend attracts 5.4 million visitors a year by virtue, in part, of it being the closest seaside town and resort to London.
- 2.273 Southend has significant areas of deprivation and disadvantage concentrated in the wards covering the town centre and central seafront areas.
- 2.274 A quarter of the area is considered to be amongst the most disadvantaged in the country in at least one domain of the 2004 Index of Multiple Deprivation, whilst nearly half of the area is considered to be within the 20% most disadvantaged in the Region.

### **Local Area Sport and Active Recreation Profile 16+ Active People Survey Key Points**

## **SECTION II – ESSEX OVERVIEW AND IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY REQUIREMENTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AND NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY**

- 21% of Southend residents participate in moderate intensity activity (sport and recreation activity) on at least 3 occasions of 30 minutes per week. Compared to the Regional average 20.5% and England average 21.00%.
- One in five people in Southend engaged in regular sport or active recreation, almost the same as the Regional and England figure.
- One in three people in Southend aged 16 – 34 years reported they had not taken part in any sport or active recreation in the last 28 days; this is more than doubled to seven out of ten people aged 55 and over.
- 72.80% of people in Southend were satisfied with their local sports provision.
- Zero participation in sports and active recreation was higher in the lower socio-economic groups (5-8) when compared to the higher socio-economic groups (1-4).
- 29.3% of people in Southend were a member of a club; a slightly higher proportion than the Region and England figures.
- 29.3% of white people in Southend are members of a sports club while 28.8% of non white people are
- 7.30% of people in Southend with a limiting disability take part in sport three times a week for thirty minutes.

2.275 When asked for the main reason that had prevented people with a limiting disability participating in sport, the top three answers were health limitations (74%); lack of time (5%); and lack of money (5%). A lack of local facilities to play sport was cited by 3% of respondents.

### **Southend on Sea Sports Facilities**

#### **Local Authority Sports Facility Provision**

2.276 The Council operates 5 leisure centres, including 3 pools. The leisure centres are operated by Creating Leisure Limited, a hybrid Leisure Trust established in 2003 specifically for the operation and development of leisure in Southend. The company employs 250 staff and has received Quest accreditation at each of the facilities. Creating Leisure is a Not for Profit Distributing Organisation (NPDO) and has more opportunities to raise funds.

2.277 There is an 8 lane synthetic athletics track provided at the Southend Leisure and Tennis Centre. The Local Authority provides an 18 hole golf course at Belfairs Park Golf Club and an STP at Warners Bridge Park.

#### **Education Sports Facilities**

2.278 School sports halls are provided at Alleyn Court School, Belfairs High School, Cecil Jones High School, Southend High School for Boys, Southend High School for Girls, St Bernard's High School, St Thomas Moor High School, The Eastwood School, The Thorpe Bay School, West Cliff High School for Girls and the West Cliff High School for Boys. STP's are provided at Belfairs High School, St Thomas Moor High School and Chase Sports and Fitness Centre.

2.279 Belfairs High School is a single school pathfinder in the BSF programme and Thorpe Bay School is to be developed to provide the Futures Community College.

#### **Other Sports Facilities**

2.280 There is one commercial 18 hole golf course Thorpe Hall Golf Course. Commercial health and fitness is provided by David Lloyd Club (also a sports hall and swimming pool), Fitness First Health Club, LA Fitness, The Academy Fitness and Westcliff Health Club.

2.281 Indoor bowls is provided at Essex County Indoor Bowls Club and there are 4 indoor tennis courts at the Southend Leisure and Country Club.

#### **Planned and Proposed Sports Facilities – Local Authority Consultation**

2.282 Warriors Swim Centre is situated in the centre of Southend. The facility was built in the sixties and is coming to the end of its useful life. Southend on Sea Borough Council has aspirations to build a 25m 8 lane swimming pool with world class diving facilities located at Southend Leisure and Tennis Centre. Outline planning permission has been given and options for funding are being investigated.

2.283 Southend Marine Activities Centre (SMAC) caters for a range of water sports and received funding through the New Opportunities for PE and Sport programme to improve facilities and extend use by local schools. SMAC is currently not running at full capacity and new courses are to be introduced including corporate team building. Water sports are prominent across the Borough and there

## **SECTION II – ESSEX OVERVIEW AND IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY REQUIREMENTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AND NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY**

are a number of notable sailing clubs along the foreshore that attract approximately 7000 members. The sea and foreshore represent important assets for the town.

- 2.284 There are advanced plans to construct a new stadium for Southend United Football Club at Fossett's Farm in the east of the Borough which will improve facilities for the delivery of the football club's community programmes.
- 2.285 South East Essex College operate a number of sports-related courses and have recently entered into a partnership with the University of Essex to explore the delivery of additional higher education courses and early plans have been developed for a new university campus in the town centre.
- 2.286 There is a commercial 5-a-side complex and full size ATP proposed for Chase High School. New 4 court sports hall is currently being built on Southend High School for Girls site which will be open for community use.

### **National Governing Body Consultation Requirements for Proposed Facilities**

#### **Athletics**

- 2.287 Support required for Southend High School in building a 60m outdoor straight. (Regional NGB Aspirational).

#### **Basketball**

- 2.288 Basketball would like to further develop focus facilities where Southend Swift Basketball Club play as they are an accredited and club mark club. (Aspirational)

#### **Cycling**

- 2.289 Need to up grade BMX facilities at Cecil Jones Ground, Southend. (Future Strategic Plan)

#### **Football**

- 2.290 It has not been identified if Southend on Sea has a Playing Pitch Strategy.
- 2.291 Football area of large growth will require additional playing pitches and STP's (Future Essex FA Facilities Plan)

#### **Rowing**

- 2.292 Two sites have been identified as possible future facilities at Coal Yard, Victoria Wharf, Leigh on Sea and Sea Kings Boatyard Old Leigh. (Aspirational)

#### **Rugby**

- 2.293 Southend RUFC is the most senior club in the county. There is currently an issue with pitch capacity. There is tired sand ATP on the site not owned by the club and there is a need for the club to upgrade its stadia. (Future Strategic Plan)

#### **Swimming**

- 2.294 The ASA support the development of the diving facilities at Southend but would also like other activities such as synchro and water polo to be considered as part of the Warrior Swimming Pool redevelopment. (Aspirational)

#### **Table Tennis**

- 2.295 The Southend League committee are keen for a centre for table tennis; there are three strong junior clubs which all operate out of separate venues and the clubs are finding it difficult to expand. (Aspirational)

## **SECTION II – ESSEX OVERVIEW AND IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY REQUIREMENTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AND NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY**

### **Thurrock Council**

#### **Borough Description**

- 2.296 Thurrock is a Unitary Authority located in the south of Essex. It is part of the Thames Gateway South Essex Partnership Area which was created in 2001 to improve the prosperity of the South Essex area. Thurrock is on the north bank of the River Thames and its history and economy are largely influenced by this geography. The primary urban areas are Thurrock, Tilbury, Purfleet and South Ockendon. The Council area borders the London Borough of Havering to the west.
- 2.297 There is good access to London via the A13 and M25, and train services run throughout the area on the London-Tilbury-Southend Line.
- 2.298 The area has been previously dominated by oil refineries, power stations and ports owing to its river location and proximity to London. However, in the last 20 years the local economy has diversified, in large part due to the opening of the Lakeside Shopping Centre in 1990.
- 2.299 Thurrock is a relatively deprived area. Grays is the main urban area in Thurrock. Thurrock has high rates of recorded crime and lower than average educational attainment. The wards of Tilbury Riverside and Tilbury St Chad's are recognised within the top 10% most deprived wards in the country.
- 2.300 Thurrock is a focal point in the Thames Gateway area and Thurrock Council is only one of several providers of sports and recreational facilities for community use in Thurrock. Thurrock Council and Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation have an important strategic role to play and should adopt an enabling role and facilitate access to provision on education sites and potentially those provided by the private, commercial, professional and voluntary sectors. Adopting this approach will enable Thurrock Council and TTGDC to focus on the development and retention of a number of quality facilities. Other sectors will then contribute to the overall range and level of facilities in Thurrock through complementary provision, for the benefit of existing residents, new residents and visitors.

#### **Local Area Sport and Active Recreation Profile 16+ Active Peoples Survey Key Points**

- 16.6% of Thurrock residents participate in moderate intensity activity (sport and recreation activity) on at least 3 occasions of 30 minutes per week, compared to the Regional average 20.5% and England average 21.00%.
  - One in six people in Thurrock engaged in regular sport or active recreation, significantly less than the Regional and England figure.
  - One in four people aged 16 – 34 years took part in sport or active recreation, for residents aged 35 – 54 years this accounted for one in five people and one in thirteen of those aged over 55 years and over.
  - 65.3% of people in Thurrock were satisfied with their local sports provision.
  - Zero participation in sports and active recreation was higher in the lower socio-economic groups (5-8) when compared to the higher socio-economic groups (1-4).
  - 23.40% of people in Thurrock were a member of a club. Slightly higher proportion than the Region and England figures.
  - 23.8% of white people in Thurrock are members of a sports club while 19.7% of non white people are
  - 9.7% of people in Thurrock with a limiting disability take part in sport three times a week for thirty minutes.
- 2.301 When asked for the main reason that had prevented people with a limiting disability participating in sport, the top three answers were health limitations (74%); lack of time (5%); and lack of money (5%). A lack of local facilities to play sport was cited by 3% of respondents.

#### **Thurrock Sports Facilities**

##### **Local Authority Sports Facility Provision**

- 2.302 The Community Strategy for Thurrock is called Shaping Thurrock and sets out the vision for the area to 2023. The document notes some interesting facts about how sport and physical activity is undertaken by Thurrock's residents. It notes that 16,000 of the area's population work in London and some of these delay their journey home after work in order to use leisure and cultural facilities in the capital. 40% of local people use the Council's leisure facilities and 68% use the parks and open spaces available.

## **SECTION II – ESSEX OVERVIEW AND IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY REQUIREMENTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AND NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY**

- 2.303 The Community Strategy sets some targets which are specific to sport and physical activity:
- Increase the capacity of our communities to develop their own sports and physical activity projects by providing support and training
  - Increase by 10 per cent the number of people participating in sport and active recreation
  - Develop Impulse Leisure Trust's 'fitness for health scheme' by increasing the take up and retention of users
  - Roll out the implementation of the nationwide Schools Sports Co-ordinators programme to all Thurrock schools
  - Build links between schools and voluntary sports clubs to share resources and widen opportunities for both pupils and club members to take part in new sports activities
- 2.304 The Local Area Agreement in Thurrock has a stretch target 2007/2008 – 2009/2010 to increase participation in sport and physical activity across Thurrock by 2% per annum over the next 3 years.
- 2.305 The Council's indoor leisure facilities are managed and operated by Impulse Leisure Limited (formerly Thurrock Community Leisure). 4 facilities including 2 leisure centres, the Civic Hall and Belhus Park (including an 18 hole golf course) fall under this management regime. The management of parks and open spaces are currently within the realm of Neighbourhood Services in the Council but these are likely to be transferred to the Leisure Services team with the intention that the quality of sporting opportunities and facilities available at these sites will improve. The Council is also part of the Partnership charged with making the Thames Gateway Green Grid a reality.

### **Education Sports Facilities**

- 2.306 The Thurrock School Sport Partnership is managed and co-ordinated by William Edwards School (a designated Specialist Sports College). There are sports hall facilities at Gable Hall School, Grays Grammar School, The Gateway Community College, Palmers Sixth Form College, and The Ockenden School.
- 2.307 There are pre BSF developments of schools taking place in Thurrock through the Private Finance Initiative at Gateway College and possibly Aveley and Ockenden Schools.

### **Other Sports Facilities**

- 2.308 There is a 7 lane athletics track at Thurrock Athletics Stadium. There are commercial Golf Clubs at Orsett Golf Club, St Cleres Golf Club, Langdon Hills Golf Club, Top Meadow Golf Club and Mardyke Golf Club.
- 2.309 Commercial fitness facilities include Banantynes Health and Racquet Club (also provides a sports hall), Musclemania, Oasis Health and Fitness Club, Tilbury Slender You (Ladies Only) and Village Health and Leisure Centre.
- 2.310 There is an indoor bowls facility at Tilbury Community Indoor Bowls Club.

### **Planned Proposed Sports Facilities – Local Authority Consultation**

- 2.311 Thurrock Council and its partner Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation are currently undertaking a Sport and Active Recreation Strategy for Thurrock.
- 2.312 The purpose of the study is to prepare a strategy for the development of the existing and new sports and active leisure facilities in Thurrock over the next 10 years. It includes an assessment of current facilities and the need for a programme that will encourage and promote sports participation and a healthier lifestyle. The study will build on previous research and will specifically address the opportunities and potential generated by the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympics Games.
- 2.313 The study will be used to direct future resources to ensure that Thurrock has up to date, accessible and inviting sports facilities for both the existing population and the predicted growth in new residents and employees.
- 2.314 The recommendations of the draft strategy include:
- A hierarchy of facilities based on four facility types, Borough Wide, Area Wide, Community Facilities and Specialist Facilities.

## **SECTION II – ESSEX OVERVIEW AND IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY REQUIREMENTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AND NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY**

- The facility hierarchy is also underpinned by four Sports Development principles and values:
  - Health, social inclusion and increasing participation by 1% per annum
  - Young people and support for physical education and school sport
  - Development of clubs, coaches and volunteers
  - Performance and excellence
- Aim to provide a network of good quality, appropriately specified sports hall facilities, which are accessible by the respective local communities providing opportunities for performance competition as well as casual use. A programme of upgrading provision with new sports halls should be implemented on a hierarchical basis
- Programming of dual use facilities needs to be more streamlined to ensure that both school and community can make the best use of the time available.
- There is an opportunity for Thurrock Council and Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation to work together to provide a rationalised but enhanced sports infrastructure through Secondary School Developments in Thurrock and Building Schools for the Future.
- Carry out a full feasibility study for the development of the following:
  - Sports hall provision in Purfleet
  - A new 25m 8 lane pool at Belhus Park to replace the existing swimming pool
  - Feasibility study into the provision of a Sports Village/hub at Blackshots and Belhus Park to look at incorporating new football stadiums at both sites, 8 court sports hall at William Edwards Specialist Sport College, indoor bowls facility at Blackshots and a martial arts facility at either Belhus Park or Blackshots Sports Village/Hub.

### **National Governing Body Consultation Requirements for Proposed Facilities**

#### **Cricket**

- 2.315 There is a lack of quality indoor cricket provision in Thurrock. Grays School is used but the standards are not very good. If Basildon Sports Village provides indoor cricket then Thurrock becomes less of a priority as Basildon is in close proximity to Thurrock. (Future Strategic Strategy)

#### **Football**

- 2.316 Thurrock has a Playing Pitch Strategy (2000)
- 2.317 Three proposed sites have been identified for ATPs – Lakeside, Belhus and Blackshots. (Future Essex FA Facilities Strategy)
- 2.318 Discussions are continuing regarding the relocation of Grays Athletic FC and a new football complex is proposed at Thurrock FC's site.

#### **Rugby**

- 2.319 Thurrock RUFC is the No 3 club in Essex. The site is a major training venue in the county and the club have received CCDP funding. Thames Rugby Club is adjacent to Thurrock Rugby Club. (Future Strategic Plan)

### **Uttlesford District Council**

#### **District Description**

- 2.320 The District has 68,958 residents in an area equal to half the size of greater London. In the south west of the District lies Stansted Airport, the fastest growing airport in Europe. The M11 motorway runs through the west of the District and the mainline rail service from Cambridge to Liverpool Street Station, London calls at five locations within the District.
- 2.321 The District's proximity to urban centres such as Cambridge and London and the excellent inter city rail and motorway links mean that Uttlesford has a large commuter base. However the district does have a strong local economy made up mainly of small businesses. Whilst agriculture is very important to the economy, there are thriving industrial estates throughout the District.

### **Local Area Sport and Active Recreation Profile 16+ Active Peoples Survey Key Points**

## **SECTION II – ESSEX OVERVIEW AND IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY REQUIREMENTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AND NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY**

- 23.10% of Uttlesford residents participate in moderate intensity activity (sport and recreation activity) on at least 3 occasions of 30 minutes per week. Compared to the Regional average 20.5% and England average 21.00%.
- One in four people in Uttlesford engaged in regular sport or active recreation, a significantly higher rate than the Regional and England figure.
- Uttlesford had the highest rate of people participating in sport or physical activity amongst the 16 – 34 year olds.
- 69.8% of people in Uttlesford were satisfied with their local sports provision.
- Zero participation in sports and active recreation was higher in the lower socio-economic groups (5-8) when compared to the higher socio-economic groups (1-4).
- 28.4% of people in Uttlesford were a member of a club, a slightly higher proportion than the region and England figures.
- 28.5% of white people in Uttlesford are members of a sports club while only 21.2% of non white people are
- 5.8% of people in Uttlesford with a limiting disability take part in sport three times a week for thirty minutes.

2.322 When asked for the main reason that had prevented people with a limiting disability participating in sport, the top three answers were health limitations (74%); lack of time (5%); and lack of money (5%). A lack of local facilities to play sport was cited by 3% of respondents.

### **Local Authority Sports Facility Provision**

2.323 Uttlesford District Council (UDC) currently provides three indoor sports and leisure centres in the District:

- Lord Butler Fitness and Leisure Centre, Saffron Walden
- Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre, Stansted
- Great Dunmow Leisure Centre, Dunmow

2.324 All three centres are managed on behalf of UDC under a PFI Leisure Contract, by Leisure Connection Limited. Two of the centres are dual-use sites. Stansted Mountfitchet and Great Dunmow opened in October 2003; they are used by school pupils during the school day and are available to the community during the evenings, weekends and at specified times during the school day.

### **Education Sports Facilities**

2.325 UDC indoor sports facility provision is complemented through sports facility provision at, Dame Bradbury School sports hall, Felsted School sports hall and swimming pool, plus facilities at the private schools including the Friends School, Saffron Walden. The County High School, Saffron Walden also has a purpose-built sports hall which is available for community use, largely by sports clubs. There is also a sports hall at Newport Free Grammar School.

2.326 STP's are provided at the County High School, Felsted School, Great Dunmow Leisure Centre and Newport Free Grammar School.

### **Other Sports Facilities**

2.327 There is also some commercial sector provision in the District, predominantly health and fitness facilities Pace Health and Fitness Club and Wilbur's Fitness Gym. In addition to the health and fitness provision, there are two golf clubs, one in Saffron Walden and the Elsenham Golf Centre.

2.328 The Turpin Indoor Bowls Facility, Saffron Walden is owned by the Council but leased to a private company to manage.

2.329 In terms of other sports provision, there is currently no athletics track in the district.

### **Planned Proposed Sports Facilities**

2.330 Investigation underway on the possibility of an athletics track and another swimming pool

### **National Governing Body Consultation Requirements for Proposed Facilities**

#### **Athletics**

2.331 Uttlesford is regarded as an area that requires athletics facilities. (Regional NGB Aspirational)

## **SECTION II – ESSEX OVERVIEW AND IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY REQUIREMENTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AND NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY**

### **Football**

2.332 Uttlesford are currently preparing a Playing Pitch Strategy

2.333 Uttlesford is an area of expansion and will require additional pitches and training facilities. (Future Essex FA Facilities Plan)

### **Rugby**

2.334 Saffron Walden Rugby Football Club is planning a RFU Model Venue 2 site with 4 new changing rooms. (Future Strategy Plan)

### **National Governing Body Consultation Planned and Aspirational Facilities – General to Essex**

2.335 The following is information supplied by NGB's but cannot be specific to a certain area but is general to Essex.

### **Athletics**

2.336 UKA strategy 'Athletics Facilities – Planning and Delivery 2007 – 2012' identifies the Eastern Region as being well served for facilities at all levels – with the exception of a priority need for a 'Regional Indoor Centre' Cambridge is identified as the likely preferred venue

2.337 It should also be noted that the new National Regional Facility at Lea Valley, although not accessible from the North of the Eastern Region, is well placed in relation to Essex.

2.338 The following are additional requirements the Regional NGB would like to see happen in Essex:

- Synthetic surface laid to sports halls that will take a 6 mm spike (alongside floor space and fittings for pole vault and high jump and markings for hurdles) should be encouraged where BSF projects are in the pipeline.
- Support to ensure upgrade and technical specifications to throws cages and pole vault beds across all the respective existing tracks will be key during the next year given the technical changes coming into play in 2008
- Integration of accessible equipment particularly at major sites where athletics may be able to establish strategic disability clubs will also be key.
- Indoor facilities could be provided by use of air structures to cover facilities in winter months.
- **Badminton**
  - Permanent venue in each county for training and competition; north Essex has a particular shortfall. All new community centres/village halls should include 1 or 2 badminton courts with correct hall height, lighting and size. (Aspirational)
- **Basketball**
  - It is possible that BSF may be a key for English Basketball to work with CCDF if new monies are received in April 2008. (Aspirational)
- **Canoeing – (Aspirational)**
  - Canoeing in Essex relies on the use of natural waterways and rivers to be made accessible.
  - Launching areas need to be provided around the coastline
  - Adequate boat storage needs to be provided at clubs and centres
  - Suitable launch points are needed for racing craft on the waterways
  - Good quality coaching facilities need to be established and maintained, lecture room, video playback, whiteboard, video, camera etc.
  - All paddlesport sites must be disability friendly
- **Cricket – (Strategic Facility Plan)**
  - Essex County Cricket Board are currently compiling a Facility Plan that will address all areas of the Player Pathway for cricket in Essex, including fine turf (which the Generic Essex Facility Strategy does not) to indoor provision. ECCB will have this Facilities Plan, and its priorities, finalized by end of January 2008, which will be regularly reviewed and steer investment decisions into cricket in Essex."

## **SECTION II – ESSEX OVERVIEW AND IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY REQUIREMENTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AND NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY**

- **Cycling – (Future Cycling Strategy)**
  - There is a lack of off road facilities.
  - There is a need to work with the BCF to provide a specific Cycling Strategy for Essex, Thurrock and Southend
- **Football (Future Essex FA Facilities Plan)**
  - Essex Football Association will be preparing a 4 year County plan from July 2008 – 2012 and this will include priorities for facility development.
- **Gymnastics – (Aspirational)**
  - There is a need to improve/provide new facilities to facilitate the development of gymnastics across the county has been identified as a priority. Improving club facilities will provide better access to quality facilities for training and development of participants.
- **Hockey – (Will be part of Strategic Plan)**
  - The model for hockey is to provide a pitch with good access, social facilities and changing facilities all on the same site preferably on a schools site.
  - 2 pitch sites and ancillary facilities are required at Loughton, and Colchester.
  - Essex will have 3 local player development centres and a central academy in the future.
- **Martial Arts – (Aspirational)**
  - Permanent mats/dojos are needed across the county
- **Netball - (Aspirational)**
  - Need for additional indoor courts to correct specification across the county and a Centre of Excellence at Chelmsford County High School. In addition discussions are continuing to ensure that the Basildon Sports Village is suitable for National Netball Events.
- **Rowing – (Aspirational)**
  - Rowing facilities required in the Uttlesford to Thurrock corridor (where developers are putting in drainage lakes for new residential development, the opportunity should be taken to identify whether such lakes could also provide a resource for rowing, training and recreational).
  - There are only a small number of clubs in Essex. The county lacks clubs with rooms suitable for use as a learning environment.
  - There are no current facilities in the County for adaptive rowing, which has now become a Paralympic Sport.
  - Coastal rowing clubs are seeking ideal sites.
  - There are needs for clubs to have facilities for people with disabilities, changing facilities, access to water, suitable boats and equipment and club houses.
- **Royal Yachting Association (Strategic Plan)**
  - Key facilities of the future will enable and encourage one or more of the following:
    - The wide spread of accessible sites across the county which allow active participation for all
    - Increased participation by young people at all levels
    - The reduction of youngsters learning the sport
    - Development of pay and play facilities on a public/commercial basis as well as at club level.
    - Development of shared facilities to encourage greater use and widen access
    - Support of the growth of small powerboats and personal watercraft, including training so that they may be handled safely in waters which can be busy and tidal.
    - Safe harbours and quiet anchorages for cruising boats, especially visitors
    - Onshore support for recreational water use, e.g. car parking, public transport, toilets and showers and secure storage.
    - There is a need to increase facilities for people with disabilities in the county.
- **Rugby Union – (Strategic Plan)**
  - The Essex RFU club facility audit and plan underpins the higher objectives of the RFU NFS through the identification of facility needs on an ongoing basis. The identification of these facility needs and potential projects at a local level will be integrated into local authority plans and CSN objectives. There is an identified need for facilities funding at levels outside of the remit of this strategy and the Essex RFU facility plan outlines these in line with the objectives of the RFU NFS. As such, not all Rugby clubs have been identified within the Essex Sports Facilities Strategy 2007 - 2020 and clubs such as

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Thames RFC and South Woodham Ferrers, both contributing strongly to the RFU, CSP and CSN agendas would not be identified in this current high level strategy although having identified facility funding requirements."

- Wheelchair Rugby - the GB Wheelchair Rugby Development Unit are keen to identify a site in Essex where wheelchair rugby could be developed. This would have a bearing upon suitable provision of 4 court sports hall in the county.
- With reference to Model Venue 3 standard clubs within the Strategy, the RFU National Facilities Strategy (NFS) is currently being reviewed and publication of the new document is imminent. The new RFU NFS is likely to have very similar themes, with the one potential major change being in the grading of National League grounds and facilities to approved standards. These standards are currently being negotiated with FDR and NCA and it is an aspiration that National League clubs would have the infrastructure of a Model Venue 3 club.
- The RFU are actively engaging in the BSF programme where appropriate programmes can be aligned and would seek to maintain this dialogue at all levels.

### ● **Swimming (Aspirational)**

- The ASA fully supports the Southend pool, including full diving facility, that is currently being planned as well as the Basildon 50m pool. From sports specific view point The ASA are fully behind both of these as meet the needs to provide training and competition requirements for the county and the region, to both support the retention of top athletes and the potential to attract events into the county and the region.
- Although Water Polo and Synchronised Swimming occur in 'general' pools there are none in the county or the region that meet the requirements for top end training/competition. Water Polo requires 30mx20m with a depth of 2m. They would normally use 50m pools for this. Synchronised Swimming uses 50m pools but require a depth of 2.5m. In terms of developing these sports it is necessary that new builds take these sports into consideration.
- One aspect is a worry and that is the apparent proposed loss of diving facilities within the county under this strategy. The county over a number of years has lost a number of diving facilities, with now only 2 remaining. Whilst the strategy identifies for one of these to be updated and full diving provision made which meets and identified need. The development within Chelmsford indicates a potential loss of diving facilities. Given travel and access issues it can not be considered that the enhanced provision in any way will offset this loss.

### ● **Volleyball – (Aspirational)**

- Require Indoor Halls (37m x 28m) - all population centres; outdoor permanent posts on beaches - north Essex;

### ● **Water Skiing – (Aspirational)**

- There should be one cable tow site per 1 million population or within 1 hours drive. A water area of 360m x 110m is essential to provide both community access and talent development for both tournament and wakeboard and ideally should be sited near to an urban conurbation.

2.339 Projects should be supported that will deliver sports facilities in the county suitable for competition and training where gaps have been identified by relative national governing bodies, in order to encourage the retention of performance athletes living and training within the county. Facilities that can serve more than one sport at a performance level will be particularly welcome. The Strategy analysis highlights significant needs for a number of sports requiring sports hall provision; these include badminton, basketball, netball and volleyball. Such facilities should, where possible, be made available for wider community use in order to contribute to the need to raise general participation levels and to help make such facilities sustainable in the long term. In addition, there is a need to develop generic specialist support services, e.g. medical, strength and conditioning, rehabilitation etc, as part of specialist sports facility provision.

## **Disability Sport**

2.340 The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) was passed in 1995. In order to give service providers the time to make changes, the legislation has been phased in over three stages:

- Since 2 December 1996 it has been unlawful for sports facilities and clubs to treat disabled people less favourably for a reason related to their disability;
- Since 1 October 1999 sports facilities and clubs have had to make "reasonable adjustments" for disabled people, such as providing extra help or making changes to the way they provide their services; and
- From 1 October 2004 sports facilities and clubs may have to make other "reasonable adjustments" in relation to the physical features of their premises to overcome physical barriers to access.

2.341 Sportsex has achieved the 'Equality Standard: A Framework for Sport' Foundation Level and is committed to achieving the Preliminary Level. The Equality Standard is a mechanism for improving access and increasing participation and involvement in sport

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and physical activity from under-represented individuals, groups and communities, especially women and girls, ethnic minority groups and disabled people. The standard will assist the organisation in developing equality-proofed policies, structures and processes and will allow for performance to be assessed, ensuring continuous improvement in equality.

2.342 Sportsex is providing a platform for sports equality and diversity across the county within the public, private and voluntary sectors. However, as The Equality Standard: A Framework for Sport points out, supportive noises are not enough on their own.

### **Active People Survey (2006)**

2.343 People with disabilities were asked for the main reason that had prevented participation in sport, the top three answers were: health limitations 74%; lack of time (5%). A lack of local facilities to play sport was only cited by 3% of respondents.

2.344 The main barriers to participation are:

- Health limitations
- Inaccessible facilities
- Information not available in different formats
- Discriminatory attitudes
- Lack of training and awareness – people may need advice as to what sports are accessible to them or require a coach that understands their disability
- Lack of time
- Lack of money

2.345 How can these barriers be addressed?

- Consider fonts and sizes used for people with visual impairments or learning disabilities
- Use images in publicity which show disabled people taking part in different sports – not just basketball
- Facilities need to be totally accessible, this means not just in the entrance but also showers and access to the bar
- Encourage clubs to take the "A Club for All" workshop
- Encourage coaches to take part in 'Equity in Your Coaching' or 'How to Coach Disabled People in Sport' workshops

2.346 The 'East Region Disability Sport Research Project - Essex Report 2004' identified the following:

- There is a lack of opportunities for young disabled people to participate in sport either in extra curricular or competitive sport
- Links between mainstream clubs and special schools were weak in the majority of cases
- There were no linkages between young people and sports clubs in the area in which they lived
- Access to competitive sports was limited due to distance, suitable opposition and lack of numbers to make up teams.
- Areas of concerns to sports clubs were accessible facilities, training, competitive opportunities and disability awareness
- Clubs do not often feel that disability sport is their responsibility. They lack resources, worry about effect on their clubs, lack of awareness of what disability is.
- The uptake of Sports Coach UK courses has been far higher than the remainder of the eastern region.
- Local Disability organisations are not always involved in the sporting networks locally.
- There are five Disability Sports Forums in Essex. These are in Chelmsford, Tendring, Maldon, a joint forum which services Castle Point, Rochford and Southend and Epping Forest.
- Disability sport delivered through sports development networks is patchy

2.347 Where dedicated resources have been allocated to encourage disabled people to take part in sport it has been successful. However these projects are short term and should be looked at being mainstreamed.

2.348 In the main local authority leisure provision across Essex is located within the main centres of population. Due to the rural nature of some parts of the county this means that people living outside these centres may have considerable distances to travel to access sports facilities.

2.349 There is a lack of information about clubs that are accessible to people with disabilities and the 2004 report stated that resources should be concentrated in Canvey Island, Basildon, Witham, Colchester and Chelmsford where there are more young people with disabilities.

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### **Inclusive Fitness Initiative**

- 2.350 Following on from research in 1998, a pilot programme was set up by the English Federation of Disability Sports (EFDS), designed to make fitness facilities more accessible to disabled users.
- 2.351 The Inclusive Fitness Initiative (IFI) has been in operation since 2001, receiving in total £6million from the Sport England Lottery Fund. The IFI operates around five key principles:
- Accessible facilities
  - Inclusive fitness equipment
  - Staff with appropriate training and skills
  - Appropriate, inclusive marketing strategies
  - The development of alternative inclusive sporting opportunities
  - The combination of these elements ensures that the IFI creates not only accessible facilities, but inclusive environments.
- 2.352 There are five IFI Leisure Centre's in Essex these are:
- Brentwood Centre (Brentwood)
  - Clacton Leisure Centre (Tendring)
  - Halstead Leisure Centre (Halstead)
  - Impulse Leisure, Blackshots (Grays Thurrock)
  - Riverside Ice and Leisure (Chelmsford)
- 2.353 The research in 2004 identified that facilities should be developed in Canvey Island (Castle Point), Basildon, Witham, and Colchester. Any new sports developments or refurbishments in these areas should consider IFI centres in the future.

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### Community Sports Facilities - Future Priorities Sports Halls, Swimming Pools, Health and Fitness and Artificial Turf Pitches.

2.354 Essex there is an overwhelming need to invest in the current stock of community sports facilities. If this is not possible, then it is a priority to invest in replacement provision; areas of population growth will require new facility provision, and particularly where it proves impossible to open up existing facilities for community use. Specific requirements for community sports facilities are summarised in the table below on a local authority basis:

**Table XXX** - Local Authority Sports Facility Needs (based on current and future population, and participation increase of 5% to 2020)

LOCAL AUTHORITY	IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY INVESTMENT REQUIREMENTS taken from supply and demand modelling Appendix 3.
Basildon	<p><b>Sports Halls</b></p> <p>Basildon has a current identified supply of 60 courts. It is estimated that currently only 30 of these are accessible. There is a requirement for increased access to community sports facilities on school sites, particularly out of school hours. By 2020 there is an identified need (Sports Facility Calculator) for 51.95 courts and with a rise of 5% participation this rises to 54.55 courts. Current supply is sufficient but the supply needs to be accessible and of a good quality.</p> <p><b>Swimming Pools</b></p> <p>Basildon has a current identified supply of 22,1453 sq m of swimming pool water space. It is estimated that currently only 1236 sq m is accessible.</p> <p>There is a requirement for increased access to community swimming facilities on school sites, particularly out of school hours. By 2020 there is an identified need for 1874.38 m sq and with a rise of 5% participation this rises to 1968.10. Current supply is sufficient but needs to be accessible and of a good quality.</p> <p><b>Fitness Stations</b></p> <p>Basildon has a current identified supply of 800 fitness stations. It is estimated that currently only 296 of these are accessible.</p> <p>By 2020 there is an identified need for 610 fitness stations.</p> <p><b>Artificial Turf Pitches</b></p> <p>There are 4 identified ATPs in Basildon if you take 1 per 25,000 of population or 1 per 50 teams (354 teams source FA 2006/07) this equates to a need for 7.</p>

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LOCAL AUTHORITY	IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY INVESTMENT REQUIREMENTS taken from supply and demand modelling Appendix 3.
Braintree	<p><b>Sports Halls</b></p> <p>Braintree has a current identified supply of 54 courts. It is estimated that currently only 23 of these are accessible. There is a requirement for increased access to community sports facilities on school sites, particularly out of school hours. By 2020 there is an identified need (Sports Facility Calculator) for 46.39 courts and with a rise of 5% participation this rises to 48.71 courts. Current supply is sufficient but the supply needs to be accessible and of a good quality.</p> <p><b>Swimming Pools</b></p> <p>Braintree has a current identified supply of 1609.5 m sq of swimming pool water space. It is estimated that currently only 754 m sq is accessible.</p> <p>There is a requirement for increased access to community swimming facilities on school sites, particularly out of school hours. By 2020 there is an identified need for 1679.70 m sq and with a rise of 5% participation this rises to 1763.68. Current supply is sufficient but needs to be accessible and of a good quality.</p> <p><b>Fitness Stations</b></p> <p>Braintree has a current identified supply of 611 fitness stations. It is estimated that currently only 295 of these are accessible.</p> <p>By 2020 there is an identified need for 554 fitness stations.</p> <p><b>Artificial Turf Pitches</b></p> <p>There are 3 identified ATPs in Braintree if you take 1 per 25,000 of population or 1 per 50 teams (281 teams source FA 2006/07) this equates to a need for 6 ATPs by 2020 this rises to 7.</p>
Brentwood	<p><b>Sports Halls</b></p> <p>Brentwood has a current identified supply of 51 courts. It is estimated that currently only 16 of these are accessible. There is a requirement for increased access to community sports facilities on school sites, particularly out of school hours. By 2020 there is an identified need (Sports Facility Calculator) for 20.93 courts and with a rise of 5% participation this rises to 21.97 courts. Current supply is sufficient but the supply needs to be accessible and of a good quality.</p> <p><b>Swimming Pools</b></p> <p>Brentwood has a current identified supply of 1376.5 m sq of swimming pool water space. It is estimated that currently only 487 m sq is accessible.</p> <p>There is a requirement for increased access to community swimming facilities on school sites, particularly out of school hours. By 2020 there is an identified need for 751.63 m sq and with a rise of 5% participation this rises to 789.22. Current supply is sufficient but needs to be accessible and of a good quality.</p>

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LOCAL AUTHORITY	IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY INVESTMENT REQUIREMENTS taken from supply and demand modelling Appendix 3.
	<p><b>Fitness Stations</b></p> <p>Brentwood has a current identified supply of 377 fitness stations. It is estimated that currently only 151 of these are accessible.</p> <p>By 2020 there is an identified need for 257 fitness stations.</p> <p><b>Artificial Turf Pitches</b></p> <p>There are 2 identified ATPs in Brentwood if you take 1 per 25,000 of population this requires 3 ATPs by 2020 but if you take 1 per 50 teams (210 teams source FA 2006/07) this equates to a need for 4 ATPs.</p>
Castle Point	<p><b>Sports Halls</b></p> <p>Castle Point has a current identified supply of 28 courts. It is estimated that currently only 10 of these are accessible. There is a requirement for increased access to community sports facilities on school sites, particularly out of school hours. By 2020 there is an identified need (Sports Facility Calculator) for 25.51 courts and with a rise of 5% participation this rises to 26.79 courts. Current supply is sufficient but the supply needs to be accessible and of a good quality.</p> <p><b>Swimming Pools</b></p> <p>Castle Point has a current identified supply of 1325 m sq of swimming pool water space. It is estimated that currently only 709 m sq is accessible.</p> <p>There is a requirement for increased access to community swimming facilities on school sites, particularly out of school hours. By 2020 there is an identified need for 919.13 m sq and with a rise of 5% participation this rises to 965.09. Current supply is sufficient but needs to be accessible and of a good quality.</p> <p><b>Fitness Stations</b></p> <p>Castle Point has a current identified supply of 514 fitness stations. It is estimated that currently only 226 of these are accessible.</p> <p>By 2020 there is an identified need for 313 fitness stations.</p> <p><b>Artificial Turf Pitches</b></p> <p>There are 2 identified ATPs in Castle Point if you take 1 per 25,000 of population there is a need for 4 by 2020 on the current number of teams 1 per 50 teams (191 teams source FA 2006/07) this equates to a need for 4.</p>

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LOCAL AUTHORITY	IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY INVESTMENT REQUIREMENTS taken from supply and demand modelling Appendix 3.
Chelmsford	<p><b>Sports Halls</b></p> <p>Chelmsford has a current identified supply of 71 courts. It is estimated that currently only 25 of these are accessible. There is a requirement for increased access to community sports facilities on school sites, particularly out of school hours. By 2020 there is an identified need (Sports Facility Calculator) for 50.97 courts and with a rise of 5% participation this rises to 53.52 courts. Current supply is sufficient but the supply needs to be accessible and of a good quality.</p> <p><b>Swimming Pools</b></p> <p>Chelmsford has a current identified supply of 2716.5 m sq of swimming pool water space. It is estimated that currently only 565 m sq is accessible. There is a requirement for increased access to community swimming facilities on school sites, particularly out of school hours. By 2020 there is an identified need for 1829.70 m sq and with a rise of 5% participation this rises to 11921.18. Current supply is sufficient but needs to be accessible and of a good quality.</p> <p><b>Fitness Stations</b></p> <p>Chelmsford has a current identified supply of 507 fitness stations. It is estimated that currently only 231 of these are accessible.</p> <p>By 2020 there is an identified need for 602 fitness stations.</p> <p><b>Artificial Turf Pitches</b></p> <p>There are 5 identified ATPs in Chelmsford if you take 1 per 25,000 of population this requires 7 ATPs. If you look at the number of teams at 1 per 50 teams (397 teams source FA 2006/07) this equates to a need for 8.</p>
Colchester	<p><b>Sports Halls</b></p> <p>Colchester has a current identified supply of 69 courts. It is estimated that currently only 24 of these are accessible. There is a requirement for increased access to community sports facilities on school sites, particularly out of school hours. By 2020 there is an identified need (Sports Facility Calculator) for 56.43 courts and with a rise of 5% participation this rises to 59.25 courts. Current supply is sufficient but the supply needs to be accessible and of a good quality.</p> <p><b>Swimming Pools</b></p> <p>Colchester has a current identified supply of 886.9 m sq of swimming pool water space. It is estimated that currently only 313 m sq is accessible.</p> <p>There is a requirement for increased access to community swimming facilities on school sites, particularly out of school hours. By 2020 there is an identified need for 2002.52 m sq and with a rise of 5% participation this rises to 2102.64. Current supply is insufficient to meet the needs now and in the future. As a minimum a new 25m pool is required but needs to be identified as part of a local strategy.</p>

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LOCAL AUTHORITY	IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY INVESTMENT REQUIREMENTS taken from supply and demand modelling Appendix 3.
	<p><b>Fitness Stations</b></p> <p>Colchester has a current identified supply of 791 fitness stations. It is estimated that currently only 270 of these are accessible.</p> <p>By 2020 there is an identified need for 659 fitness stations.</p> <p><b>Artificial Turf Pitches</b></p> <p>There are 5 identified ATPs in Colchester if you take 1 per 25,000 of population for 2020 or 1 per 50 teams (354 teams source FA 2006/07) this equates to a need for 8.</p>
Epping Forest	<p><b>Sports Halls</b></p> <p>Epping Forest has a current identified supply of 50 courts. It is estimated that currently only 24 of these are accessible. There is a requirement for increased access to community sports facilities on school sites, particularly out of school hours. By 2020 there is an identified need (Sports Facility Calculator) for 36.38 courts and with a rise of 5% participation this rises to 38.2 courts. Current supply is sufficient but the supply needs to be accessible and of a good quality.</p> <p><b>Swimming Pools</b></p> <p>Epping Forest has a current identified supply of 1895.5 m sq of swimming pool water space. It is estimated that currently only 897 m sq is accessible.</p> <p>There is a requirement for increased access to community swimming facilities on school sites, particularly out of school hours. By 2020 there is an identified need for 1312.33 m sq and with a rise of 5% participation this rises to 1377.95. Current supply is sufficient but needs to be accessible and of a good quality.</p> <p><b>Fitness Stations</b></p> <p>Epping Forest has a current identified supply of 526 fitness stations. It is estimated that currently only 296 of these are accessible.</p> <p>By 2020 there is an identified need for 440 fitness stations.</p> <p><b>Artificial Turf Pitches</b></p> <p>There are 4 identified ATPs in Epping Forest if you take 1 per 25,000 of population or 1 per 50 teams (269 teams source FA 2006/07) this equates to a need for 5.</p>
Harlow	<p><b>Sports Halls</b></p> <p>Harlow has a current identified supply of 47 courts. It is estimated that currently only 21 of these are accessible. There is a requirement for increased access to community sports facilities on school sites, particularly out of school hours.</p>

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LOCAL AUTHORITY	IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY INVESTMENT REQUIREMENTS taken from supply and demand modelling Appendix 3.
	<p>By 2020 there is an identified need (Sports Facility Calculator) for 23.2 courts and with a rise of 5% participation this rises to 24.36 courts. Current supply is sufficient but the supply needs to be accessible and of a good quality.</p> <p><b>Swimming Pools</b></p> <p>Harlow has a current identified supply of 1026 m sq of swimming pool water space. It is estimated that currently only 320 m sq is accessible.</p> <p>There is a requirement for increased access to community swimming facilities on school sites, particularly out of school hours. By 2020 there is an identified need for 830.26 m sq and with a rise of 5% participation this rises to 871.78. Current supply is sufficient but needs to be accessible and of a good quality.</p> <p><b>Fitness Stations</b></p> <p>Harlow has a current identified supply of 320 fitness stations. It is estimated that currently only 156 of these are accessible.</p> <p>By 2020 there is an identified need for 267 fitness stations.</p> <p><b>Artificial Turf Pitches</b></p> <p>There are 2 identified ATPs in Harlow if you take 1 per 25,000 of population or 1 per 50 teams (157 teams source FA 2006/07) this equates to a need for 3.</p>
Maldon	<p><b>Sports Halls</b></p> <p>Maldon has a current identified supply of 24 courts. It is estimated that currently only 12 of these are accessible.</p> <p>There is a requirement for increased access to community sports facilities on school sites, particularly out of school hours. By 2020 there is an identified need (Sports Facility Calculator) for 19.46 courts and with a rise of 5% participation this rises to 20.43 courts. Current supply is sufficient but the supply needs to be accessible and of a good quality.</p> <p><b>Swimming Pools</b></p> <p>Maldon has a current identified supply of 0 m sq of swimming pool water space as the water space is measured by 25m pools. However Maldon does have 550m sq of leisure pool water space and 32 m sq of teaching pool water space.</p> <p>There is a requirement for increased access to community swimming 25m laned facilities. By 2020 there is an identified need for 707.68 m sq and with a rise of 5% participation this rises to 743.07 m sq. It needs to be identified by a local strategy if additional swimming pool water space is required in Maldon or if neighbouring local authority swimming facilities can meet this additional demand.</p>

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LOCAL AUTHORITY	IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY INVESTMENT REQUIREMENTS taken from supply and demand modelling Appendix 3.
	<p><b>Fitness Stations</b></p> <p>Maldon has a current identified supply of 190 fitness stations. It is estimated that currently only 110 of these are accessible.</p> <p>By 2020 there is an identified need for 237 fitness stations.</p> <p><b>Artificial Turf Pitches</b></p> <p>There is 1 identified ATP in Maldon if you take 1 per 25,000 of population or 1 per 50 teams (158 teams source FA 2006/07) this equates to a need for 3.</p>
Rochford	<p><b>Sports Halls</b></p> <p>Rochford has a current identified supply of 36 courts. It is estimated that currently only 17 of these are accessible. There is a requirement for increased access to community sports facilities on school sites, particularly out of school hours. By 2020 there is an identified need (Sports Facility Calculator) for 23.99 courts and with a rise of 5% participation this rises to 25.91 courts. Current supply is sufficient but the supply needs to be accessible and of a good quality.</p> <p><b>Swimming Pools</b></p> <p>Rochford has a current identified supply of 994.5 m sq of swimming pool water space. It is estimated that currently only 276 m sq is accessible.</p> <p>There is a requirement for increased access to community swimming facilities on school sites, particularly out of school hours. By 2020 there is an identified need for 865.53 m sq and with a rise of 5% participation this rises to 908.80 m sq. Current supply is sufficient but needs to be accessible and of a good quality.</p> <p><b>Fitness Stations</b></p> <p>Rochford has a current identified supply of 319 fitness stations. It is estimated that currently only 160 of these are accessible.</p> <p>By 2020 there is an identified need for 293 fitness stations.</p> <p><b>Artificial Turf Pitches</b></p> <p>There is 1 identified ATP in Rochford if you take 1 per 25,000 of population by 2020 there will be a need for 3 ATPs however if you look at teams 1 per 50 teams (237 teams source FA 2006/07) this equates to a need for nearly 5.</p>

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LOCAL AUTHORITY	IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY INVESTMENT REQUIREMENTS taken from supply and demand modelling Appendix 3.
Southend on Sea	<p><b>Sports Halls</b></p> <p>Southend on Sea has a current identified supply of 69 courts. It is estimated that currently only 22 of these are accessible. There is a requirement for increased access to community sports facilities on school sites, particularly out of school hours. By 2020 there is an identified need (Sports Facility Calculator) for 45.96 courts and with a rise of 5% participation this rises to 48.25 courts. Current supply is sufficient but the supply needs to be accessible and of a good quality.</p> <p><b>Swimming Pools</b></p> <p>Southend on Sea has a current identified supply of 1461.5 m sq of swimming pool water space. It is estimated that currently only 785 m sq is accessible.</p> <p>There is a requirement for increased access to community swimming facilities on school sites, particularly out of school hours. By 2020 there is an identified need for 1649.82 m sq and with a rise of 5% participation this rises to 1732.31. Current supply is insufficient to meet the current and future demands. As a minimum a new 25m pool will be required. but needs to be identified as part of a local strategy.</p> <p><b>Fitness Stations</b></p> <p>Southend on Sea has a current identified supply of 511 fitness stations. It is estimated that currently only 249 of these are accessible.</p> <p>By 2020 there is an identified need for 562 fitness stations.</p> <p><b>Artificial Turf Pitches</b></p> <p>There are 4 identified ATPs in Southend on Sea if you take 1 per 25,000 of population there is a need for 7 by 2020 or 1 per 50 teams (382 teams source FA 2006/07) this equates to a need for nearly 8.</p>
Tendring	<p><b>Sports Halls</b></p> <p>Tendring has a current identified supply of 41 courts. It is estimated that currently only 18 of these are accessible. There is a requirement for increased access to community sports facilities on school sites, particularly out of school hours. By 2020 there is an identified need (Sports Facility Calculator) for 43.7 courts and with a rise of 5% participation this rises to 45.88 courts. Current supply is insufficient for the future but can probably be met by new build facilities through Education PFI but these facilities need to be open for community use.</p> <p><b>Swimming Pools</b></p> <p>Tendring has a current identified supply of 1381.25 m sq of swimming pool water space. It is estimated that currently only 865 m sq is accessible (There are Holiday Parks that also provide swimming facilities)</p>

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LOCAL AUTHORITY	IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY INVESTMENT REQUIREMENTS taken from supply and demand modelling Appendix 3.
	<p>There is a requirement for increased access to community swimming facilities on school sites, particularly out of school hours. By 2020 there is an identified need for 1550.72 m sq and with a rise of 5% participation this rises to 1628.26 Current supply is insufficient for future needs. As a minimum a 25m pool will be required but needs to be identified as part of a local strategy or agreement of use from Holiday Parks may be a cost effective way to provide swimming pools for general public use.</p> <p><b>Fitness Stations</b></p> <p>Tendring has a current identified supply of 321 fitness stations. All of these are accessible.</p> <p>By 2020 there is an identified need for 574 fitness stations.</p> <p><b>Artificial Turf Pitches</b></p> <p>There are 4 identified ATPs in Tendring if you take 1 per 25,000 of population or 1 per 50 teams (314 teams source FA 2006/07) this equates to a need for 7.</p>
Thurrock	<p><b>Sports Halls</b></p> <p>Thurrock has a current identified supply of 54 courts. It is estimated that currently only 15 of these are accessible. There is a requirement for increased access to community sports facilities on school sites, particularly out of school hours. By 2020 there is an identified need (Sports Facility Calculator) for 47.95 courts and with a rise of 5% participation this rises to 50.35 courts. Current supply is sufficient but the supply needs to be accessible and of a good quality.</p> <p><b>Swimming Pools</b></p> <p>Thurrock has a current identified supply of 1713.12 m sq of swimming pool water space. It is estimated that currently only 829 m sq is accessible.</p> <p>There is a requirement for increased access to community swimming facilities on school sites, particularly out of school hours. By 2020 there is an identified need for 1733.26 m sq and with a rise of 5% participation this rises to 1819.92. Current supply is insufficient to meet future needs. There is a minimum requirement for a 25m pool but needs to be identified as part of a local strategy.</p> <p><b>Fitness Stations</b></p> <p>Thurrock has a current identified supply of 683 fitness stations. It is estimated that currently only 379 of these are accessible.</p> <p>By 2020 there is an identified need for 552 fitness stations.</p>

## SECTION II – ESSEX OVERVIEW AND IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY REQUIREMENTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AND NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY

LOCAL AUTHORITY	IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY INVESTMENT REQUIREMENTS taken from supply and demand modelling Appendix 3.
	<p><b>Artificial Turf Pitches</b></p> <p>There are 3 identified ATPs in Thurrock if you take 1 per 25,000 of population or 1 per 50 teams (354 teams source FA 2006/07) this equates to a need for 7.</p>
Uttlesford	<p><b>Sports Halls</b></p> <p>Uttlesford has a current identified supply of 34 courts. It is estimated that currently only 14 of these are accessible. There is a requirement for increased access to community sports facilities on school sites, particularly out of school hours. By 2020 there is an identified need (Sports Facility Calculator) for 20.83 courts and with a rise of 5% participation this rises to 21.87 courts. Current supply is sufficient but the supply needs to be accessible and of a good quality.</p> <p><b>Swimming Pools</b></p> <p>Uttlesford has a current identified supply of 1265.5 m sq of swimming pool water space. It is estimated that currently only 382 m sq is accessible.</p> <p>There is a requirement for increased access to community swimming facilities on school sites, particularly out of school hours. By 2020 there is an identified need for 756.05 m sq and with a rise of 5% participation this rises to 793.86 m sq. Current supply is sufficient but needs to be accessible and of a good quality.</p> <p><b>Fitness Stations</b></p> <p>Uttlesford has a current identified supply of 289 fitness stations. It is estimated that currently only 132 of these are accessible.</p> <p>By 2020 there is an identified need for 253 fitness stations.</p> <p><b>Artificial Turf Pitches</b></p> <p>There are 4 identified ATPs in Uttlesford if you take 1 per 25,000 of population or 1 per 50 teams (143 teams source FA 2006/07) this equates to a need for 3.</p>

- 2.355 This investment may not mean additional provision; there may be opportunities to open up access to existing school facilities (private and state schools), or to refurbish and extend existing sports facilities. Rationalisation of provision and replacement with fewer better quality facilities, whilst reducing facility quantity, may actually have a greater impact on increasing participation, and be more sustainable to operate, because the facilities will be fit for purpose. However, if existing facilities are unfit for purpose, or cannot be opened up for community use, there will be a need to develop replacement facility provision. Where this cannot be achieved in growth areas, there will be a need to develop additional facilities to meet demand.
- 2.356 In order to meet participation increases there will be a need for additional facilities; the issue is whether the additional provision can be delivered through existing provision, by improving quality, and/or opening up facilities, or whether in the event of these not being achievable, there is a need to construct new facilities.

## ***SECTION II – ESSEX OVERVIEW AND IDENTIFIED SPORTS FACILITY REQUIREMENTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AND NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY***

- 2.357 There are other questions with regard to increasing participation. In coastal areas such as Tendring, Maldon and Southend on Sea should more emphasis be placed on walking and cycling, for example along the coast? This identifies the need for local authority strategies to decide how best to deal with their own facility and increase in participation issues through a local Sports Facility and Physical Activity Strategy.

## SECTION III – PRIORITIES, RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN

### Delivering the Essex Sports Facilities Strategy

- 3.1 Delivering the Strategy priorities will need to be achieved through a number of delivery mechanisms, given the current climate for funding for sport and leisure provision. As a non-statutory service in local authorities, there is generally little capital, and diminishing revenue funding to facilitate investment in existing provision, let alone new facility development, particularly when such provision may not be the main political priority. Even where rationalisation of provision occurs, revenue savings are not always invested back into leisure provision. Equally, there are fewer formal grant aiding opportunities to use external funding for major sports and leisure facility provision. Available opportunities need to be maximised, and used creatively, to deliver funding partnerships, which break the mould of traditional funding for sports facilities. This means genuinely optimising links with education, health, regeneration, economic development and other cultural partners and contributing to their agendas through investment in sport. Opportunities for capital investment into sports facilities also need to be maximised through the planning framework, whether through S106, or planning tariffs. Private sector investment offers another potential source of investment for sport at a local and regional level. These delivery mechanisms are explored in more detail below.
- 3.2 The successful delivery of improved and new facilities is also dependent on their management and operation. For community provision, operational management and programming, irrespective of whether it is private, voluntary or public sector, must embrace the principles of sport development, to contribute to increased participation, raise the level and extent of coaching, and ensure that pathways for participation are available at all levels, to support both grass roots and performance participants.
- 3.3 Having identified the priorities for future facility provision in Essex, and the recommendations for their development, the following paragraphs provide information on a range of options for funding and delivering the future provision of community and sports specific/performance facility provision. This section is designed to assist in addressing the key challenge of 'What resources are needed to provide for facilities, and where can they come from?'

### Developing a District/Borough Sports Facility Strategy

- 3.4 The development of a clear and prioritised local sports facility strategy is critical to underpin strategic planning, internal and external investment, links to S106 and the planning agenda resource allocation, increasing participation, partnerships for provision and the development of Local Standards for provision. This document should set out the priorities at local level, based on a robust assessment of existing provision, its quality, quantity and accessibility proposals for new provision, and options for improving/extending existing facilities. To 'make this local case' the following should be undertaken:
- Analysis of the local context e.g. what are the key priorities and how can sports facilities contribute to achievement of objectives?
  - Analysis of the local population data, and specifically future population statistics, to ensure identified needs reflect the planning framework. In particular the future population projections used for supply and demand modelling for sports facility provision need to reflect issues such as inward and outward migration, housing growth, the percentage of the existing population that is likely to occupy some of the new homes (in the East of England currently (based on 2005 research), roughly a third of all new housing is likely to be occupied by existing residents as the number of one person households grow, and immigrants are housed), the impact of new settlements on the boundary of local authorities, cross boundary planning, ageing communities, etc
  - Audit current provision - quality, quantity and accessibility (who is providing what, where, and how; what is its quality? How accessible is it?)
  - Map current provision
  - Consultation with key partners and stakeholders to identify their current and future needs; this will also need to reflect opportunities and options for provision e.g. impact of major event, investment through BSF
  - Supply and demand modelling based on Sport England strategic planning tools e.g. Active Places Power, APPP+, and SFC
  - Map catchment areas for existing facility provision
  - Identify priorities for current and future provision - sport specific facilities, community sports facilities, by type and area
  - Assess implications of other planned/ proposed provision and how this might address identified priorities
  - Develop options for the way forward, including funding and partnerships
  - Develop recommendations
  - Produce strategy and action plan to guide its implementation e.g. following production of the strategy, there may be a need for more detailed feasibility studies on specific facility developments, or it may be appropriate to consider future options for operational management and delivery

## SECTION III – PRIORITIES, RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN

### Internal investment

#### Local Authority Capital

3.5 Assuming investment in sport and leisure is a priority at a local level, the most cost-effective means of funding either refurbishment or new build is through internal capital; this could be achieved through either the Capital Programme, or through Prudential Borrowing. In order to ensure funding through either of these options, there are a number of critical factors which should be in place:

- An up to date, comprehensive and relevant Sports Facilities/PPG 17/ or Sport and Recreation Strategy, which clearly sets out the priorities and timescale for investment. This document should clearly reflect, and link to national priorities for example increasing participation, plus the Regional Facilities Strategy, in terms of investment priorities
- A realistic appraisal of areas of low participation, and the appropriate nature and level of investment to address this; the priority could be new facility development, or provision of access e.g. transport provision, to a nearby facility, which offers a greater range of participative opportunities, or increased sport development resources/partnerships to facilitate involvement in sport and physical activity
- Clear identification of sport, physical activity and leisure provision as a Corporate priority
- Identified local partnerships and 'buy-in' for example primary care trust, education, other stakeholders, including potentially the commercial sector
- Member commitment, as a result of ongoing advocacy and consultation, demonstrating the contribution of sport and physical activity at a local level/the outcomes which will benefit local communities
- Sufficient revenue resources to sustain investment in the longer term
- Appropriate sport development resources and partnerships to facilitate increased participation across the community, resulting in greater usage and therefore income generation
- If Prudential Borrowing is the preferred option, the Local Authority will need to develop a robust business case, demonstrating that it has the resources to meet the repayments over the lifecycle of the project/loan

#### External investment

3.6 Whilst there are several options for securing external investment in the provision of sports and leisure facilities, none of the existing funds have significant capital, and all have very defined criteria. To secure external funding there will also be a requirement for some level of match funding; this is only likely to be achieved if those factors described in relation to Local Authority capital are also in place. Attracting external funding depends more and more on a creative approach to development and delivery, frequently matched by innovative partnerships. Potential external funding sources to support this Essex Sports Facilities Strategy may be:

- Foundation for Sports and the Arts (FSA)
- Football Foundation (FA Sports Villages)
- Possibly the new Sport England Sport Village Model (Community Sport Hubs)
- Sport England Community Investment Fund
- The Big Lottery
- Sports Lottery Fund

#### Partnerships

3.7 There are a number of potential partnership models which could be developed to deliver the identified facility priorities for the county. The choice of partnership model will depend on the specific local context for each development, including the outcomes to be achieved.

3.8 Future partnerships could involve greater co-operation with the commercial or voluntary sectors over access to facilities e.g. use during defined times in areas where there is no publicly accessible provision. In Derby, the local authority brokered an access arrangement for young people to fitness facilities with one of the major commercial providers in the City. There may also be potential for direct investment into sport by the private sector e.g. sponsorship/benefactor support, as has been achieved in the arts, but this needs to be further explored in relation to a specific facility development. In Leeds direct private sector funding was levered into a small MUGA project on a school site, as the facility development provided the opportunity to provide a purpose built car park, which could also cater for local businesses.

## **SECTION III – PRIORITIES, RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN**

- 3.9 Given the large numbers of commuters in Essex, which comprise a sizeable chunk of the working population, there may be potential to develop innovative partnerships to assist in keeping them active. Possible options could include working with the train companies to provide better facilities for storing bicycles at stations, providing fitness facilities close to stations e.g. the new private sector fitness facility close to St Pancras station, London, provision of gyms on trains and/or at work, supported by appropriate changing facilities.

### **Public/Private Partnerships (PPP)**

- 3.10 This option involves a partnership between the public and private sectors, usually in relation to a design, build, fund and operate (DBFO) contract or a design, build and maintain (DBM). The local authority will need to define the specification for both the building and the operation, and procure a partner through a competitive process. Under this scenario the private sector capital is in effect a loan which is repaid through a management fee, over a contract period of typically 15 years.

### **Private Finance Initiatives (PFI)**

- 3.11 The PFI is similar to a PPP in that it involves a partnership between the private and public sector, but there are also fundamental differences. One of these is that part of the funding derives from Central Government 'credits'. These 'credits' need to be applied for, and in the case of sport and leisure are limited.
- 3.12 The credits are paid annually over the lifecycle of the project, usually 25 years, in the form of a unitary payment. PFI arrangements are usually DBFO contracts and require 'off-balance sheet' treatment of assets, and significant risk transfer in construction and operation.

### **Building Schools for the Future (BSF)**

- 3.13 BSF will enable every local authority to transform their secondary school estate. It aims to change the educational experience for pupils and teachers and to increase opportunities for life-long learning for the wider community. BSF is the Government's single biggest investment programme for secondary education; its aim is to realise the re-development of all secondary schools in England.
- 3.14 Commenced in 2005, the Programme aims to have re-developed at least one school in the greatest need of investment in every English local authority by 2011; the remainder of the investment covers all local authorities in waves (up to 15), over the next 10-15 years. By 2016, at least three schools in every local authority will have been remodelled, to provide the opportunity for students to learn in a 21st century environment. Worth £2.2 billion in 2005/06, BSF is an innovative way of bringing together Government and local authority funding, which also facilitates integration of other potential funding streams and types of facility provision. The funding is designed to support the transformation of education through the provision of 21st century learning environments which engage and inspire young people, their teachers and the wider community. The value of sport as a tool with which to address both educational targets and community challenges is well-evidenced. If sport is to maximise this value, and increasingly meet the demands made, then appropriate facilities will be required from which to deliver. BSF thus offers the sport and PE sector a unique opportunity to benefit through an integrated approach to an assessment of need and identification of facility provision required in each geographical area.
- 3.15 BSF is crucially important for future provision of sport and leisure facilities provision, given the fact that it offers potential for development of a critical mass of provision on one site, which could be accessed for both curriculum and community benefit. Potentially, the Programme also offers the opportunity to strategically co-ordinate future provision (in terms of both assets and management), and to ensure it is sustainable. This approach will require early dialogue between those responsible for community sports and leisure facilities, children and young people's services at a local level, in relation to strategic priorities for facility provision, to ensure that the potential opportunities can be optimised for the overall benefit of the community. BSF encourages linking up identified funding with health, leisure and social services wherever possible, to encourage the creation of facilities for the whole community.
- 3.16 The BSF Programme through BB98, sets out a minimum level of sports facility provision required to deliver the curriculum (4 court sports hall, dance studio, MUGA 75m X 45 m, ¾ size; whilst BSF funding allocations do not include money for new swimming pools, the DCFS (Department for Children, Families and Schools) do allow existing pools to be refurbished within the Programme. This is the type of local facility priority which needs to be identified through a partnership between education and leisure services; options could include refurbishing an existing pool, or developing a new facility using additional capital funding, particularly where the new school site is adjacent to an ageing local authority facility, where there is an identified need for additional provision, or where the school campus will incorporate primary, secondary, and potentially SEN (Special Educational Needs) provision.

## SECTION III – PRIORITIES, RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN

- 3.17 It is crucial that the provision of sports facilities as part of new/re-modelled schools reflects the ethos of the BSF 'transformation'. Sports facilities should be flexible, innovative and diverse, to provide increased choice of activity and involvement. They should also be practical e.g. much more storage space, and facilitate year round indoor use to address the winter weather issues in the UK. Wherever possible, IT should be part of the PE and Sport provision, to facilitate effective use of available space, and increase the opportunities for a range of activities.
- 3.18 BSF is a key opportunity to address some identified facility priorities, given that the programme is still to be rolled out in Essex, with the first local authority involvement being in Basildon, Castle Point, and Rochford.
- 3.19 The information below sets out indicative information about where each of the BSF projects submitted by the authorities may first receive Building Schools for the Future investment. This information should be used bearing in mind the guidance in section 4 of Building Schools for the Future: Prioritisation and Forward Planning Information (DfES, November 2004), particularly paragraph 44 reproduced below. It may be shared with others, on condition that its indicative nature is made clear.

Wave	Area
B	South Essex and Special Schools
C	West Essex and Special Schools
D	Thurrock Secondary Schools
E	Central Essex
E	North Essex
E	Southend Schools

A = waves 1-3, B = waves 4-6, C = waves 7-9, D = waves 10-12, E = waves 13-15

Source: [http://www.bsf.gov.uk/documents/LA\\_Project\\_by\\_Wave.xls](http://www.bsf.gov.uk/documents/LA_Project_by_Wave.xls)

### Swimming Pools and BSF

- 3.20 The potential to link future provision of fit for purpose swimming pools with the BSF Programme is a possible opportunity to be further investigated, given that such facilities would be used for both curriculum and community and therefore offer a more operationally effective solution than a stand alone facility. The critical point is that if there is capital investment going into sports facilities on a school site to deliver the curriculum, there is potential for this to deliver wider community benefits and act as a catalyst for additional investment and/or the development of a critical mass of sports facilities, addressing both community and curriculum need, based on a strategic approach to provision. There may also be an option to consider provision of hydrotherapy pools in such a development to provide for the needs of those with a disability, (specifically linked to Special Educational Needs Schools/Centres).
- 3.21 This approach could assist in addressing the poor level of delivery of swimming lessons at KS2 across the county; the provision of a swimming pool on, (or adjacent to), an education campus providing for secondary, primary and SEN needs, could provide a model for future partnership and delivery between leisure and education services. Such an approach could be effective in both rural and urban areas, and would also assist in addressing the identified issue of ageing facilities, unfit for purpose, which are frequently found on existing education sites. Sharing capital and revenue resources to provide such facilities could offer a practical way of meeting both curriculum and community needs.
- 3.22 It is critical that early discussion of local priorities for sports facility investment are discussed with education services, to identify how the building of new schools with a standard curriculum requirement for sports facility provision can contribute effectively to local needs, through creative use of available resources. Local priorities for sports facility development/improvement should include community, sport specific and voluntary provision, as it may be that a partnership between a local club and a school can also deliver increased participation through better quality, fit for purpose facilities. Joined-up thinking within local authorities is imperative to realise the potential of BSF in terms of local provision; strategic assessment of community facilities needs and the options provided through BSF proposals, provides the basis for an approach which is likely to involve funding streams from BSF, capital programme money for sport, and possible other sources. Using BSF as a vehicle is a sustainable approach to the future development of community sports facilities, given that they will provide for curricular, extra-curricular and community use.
- 3.23 Given the proposed investment in Essex through BSF, there exists a significant opportunity to establish such an approach to future sports facilities provision, which could then be rolled out across the county. This has started through the current existence of an Essex County Council BSF Sports Group being established.

## **SECTION III – PRIORITIES, RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN**

### **Planning Across Boundaries and across Sport**

- 3.24 Placed with the need to refurbish or replace existing provision, or provide new facilities, a further option for local authorities to consider seriously is 'planning across boundaries'. Challenging previously held views that local authorities provide facilities only within their boundaries, this option is driven by a recognition of a strategic need for provision to meet community needs, which can be delivered most effectively (funding, development and management) through a cross-boundary partnership. There also needs to be early engagement with NGB's who can offer guidance on needs and potential investment.

### **Public Sector Partnerships**

- 3.25 Further potential delivery mechanism for facility provision is public sector partnerships, often working across non-traditional areas of delivery. It is important that Leisure and planning work together to develop facility assessments and strategies at an early stage of the Local Development Framework preparation as this is essential to support Local Development Framework policies and Supplementary Planning Documents. A Local Authority may develop a partnership with for example a local PCT and the Youth Service, through an initiative targeting young people. Based on this, there may be the opportunity to develop such a relationship to identify partnership funding for facility provision, as long as the findings clearly demonstrate contribution to the priority aims and objectives of the partner public sector agency (ies). This approach may include the opportunity to link into for example Government Office for The East of England – Area Based Initiatives, or the funding programmes of the PCT, Education, the Youth Service, or Regeneration Programmes.

### **Unitary and District Level Strategies**

- 3.26 There is an explicit need for Unitary and District Council's to have a Sports Facility Strategy and to regularly up date this Strategy. It will be essential for delivering the recommendations of the Essex Sports Facilities Strategy at the local level. The benefit of a Sports Facility Strategy, for example, is Strategic planning, asset management, CPA and informs the BSF process and growth.

### **Dual Use**

- 3.27 A further example of public sector partnerships is dual-use, based on joint working between leisure and education departments. Dual Use has a long tradition in parts of Essex. The development of dual-use facilities is key in terms of accessibility for both rural and urban communities, but it is important that facilities are 'fit for purpose' i.e. appropriate design and quality. Future development of dual-use facilities will link to BSF, which specifies, e.g. a 4 badminton court hall.
- 3.28 Further Education often has under used facilities or has access to Learning Skills Council funding for facilities. For example discussions should continue with for example, Thurrock and Basildon Colleges and SEEVIC.

### **Planning Framework**

#### **Section 106 (S106)/Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD)**

- 3.29 Ensuring that this important source of both capital and revenue funding for sports facility provision contributes strategically and effectively within the emerging planning framework, requires a number of key factors to be established:
- Early and meaningful dialogue within local authorities between leisure and planning officers to ensure understanding of the nature and location of local facility investment needs, the level of capital contribution required, and the mechanisms for this to be achieved, over a specified timescale
  - Production of strategic evidence to support the S106/SPD
  - Clear corporate prioritisation so that investment levels for sports facilities compete equitable with statutory provision
  - Development of a consistent approach at both a local, and potentially at county and Regional levels, to securing S106 monies for sports facilities, and to integrating sports facilities needs into the planning framework, so that they can be considered equitably alongside statutory provision
  - Increased two-way communication between planning and leisure officers
  - Involvement of leisure officers in drafting SPD, and engagement with planners in developing strategic analysis of current and future sports facilities provision

## **SECTION III – PRIORITIES, RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN**

- 3.30 Essex County Council in May 2007 has produced a guide to developer contributions and mentions that the Districts must implement their own Planning Obligations Guidance Documents to encourage developers to fund capital and revenue costs for future sport and recreation facilities. Southend on Sea and Thurrock are considering their own guidance documents as part of their Local Development Framework.
- 3.31 Chelmsford Borough Council as part of its Local Development Framework is pioneering a 'Standard Charge' arrangement whereby a charge per dwelling is levied on house builders to fund priorities based on a strategic, community and local level including provision of leisure, cultural and sporting facilities. Due to the lifespan of this Strategy this innovative use of planning gain should be considered.

### **Growth Area Funding**

- 3.32 Given the proposed growth agenda e.g. Thames Gateway South Essex and the Haven Gateway, there is potential to attract capital funding contributions towards new and refurbished sports facility provision and specifically in the areas where there will be major growth.
- 3.33 The Growth Fund builds on the experience of the Growth Areas' Fund and the Growth Points Fund to provide a new way in which to fund growth which will better serve the needs of local areas. Instead of funding individual projects from April 2008, the Growth Fund will provide unringfenced block funding to local authorities and partnerships based on an assessment of their Programmes of Development. As an unringfenced grant, with the exception of reflecting the split between capital and revenue there will be no grant conditions about how or when it is spent. It will be for local authorities to prioritise how the funding is used in their area. Performance will be monitored through the indicators in the Local Government Performance Framework.

### **Summary**

- 3.34 The above delivery mechanisms are not mutually exclusive, and there are a growing number of examples where one or more options have been used together to deliver sport and leisure facilities.
- 3.35 Given the assessment and analysis in Section 11, it is clear that there are a number of priority recommendations for both sport specific and community sports future facility provision at regional and sub-regional level.
- 3.36 In addition to the specific facility priorities, there is a need to develop guiding principles for investing in provision, to ensure that the identified outcomes i.e. increased participation, meeting growth area demand, improving the current stock of facilities where they are not fit for purpose, can be achieved.
- 3.37 This following focuses on establishing the priorities for future facility development, plus the principles for future provision, and the parameters for investment.

### **Community Sports Facilities**

#### **Community Sports Provision – Multi -Sport Hubs**

- 3.38 Wherever possible, community sports facilities should be grouped together to form a sports 'hub' or 'village' environment, as this model will generate increased levels of participation and offer a wide range of opportunity. Such a facility will also be more economically sustainable and should also be linked where possible to other community facilities such as a doctor's surgery, crèche etc. It may also be possible to develop cross boundary partnerships to develop and sustain such 'hub' provision, particularly where a number of local clubs, or a local authority and a number of sport specific clubs work together to provide for both community participation and athlete training and development.

#### **Community Stadia**

- 3.39 Wherever possible, support should be given to opportunities to provide community stadia which also enhance opportunities for community participation e.g., Harlow Town FC, Southend Stadium, Chelmsford Sport and Athletics Centre and Colchester Community Stadium.

## SECTION III – PRIORITIES, RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN

### Commercial Provision

- 3.40 The Strategy identifies the contribution that the commercial sector can make in terms of meeting the sports facility needs of communities, with particular regard to facilities for indoor tennis, health and fitness and 5-a-side football. Where such provision is provided Community Use Agreements should be obtained which make the facilities available for under-represented groups who otherwise would find it difficult to access these facilities. The proposed Chelmsford Community Sports Park will require commercial funding and planning permission if it is to succeed.

### Urban Regeneration

- 3.41 There needs to be support for the delivery of new community or sport specific sports facilities through major urban regeneration schemes, or through the delivery of strategic new housing areas associated with the Essex growth areas.

### Rural Provision

- 3.42 Access to facilities in rural areas needs to be improved, wherever possible, to facilitate increased participation, and deliver the benefits of participation such as health improvement, community development and social inclusion. Provision of locally accessible facilities e.g. (MUGAs, mobile gym etc) can help to address such issues.

### Approach to Future Community Sports Facility Provision

#### Areas of Low Participation

- 3.43 There are some areas in Essex with low participation across all age groups, as identified in the Active People Survey (2006). These areas are: Basildon, Tendring and Thurrock. Several of these areas will all see significant growth in population over the next 10 years; an increase in population, some of whom will already be active participants, may assist in increasing participation levels, as there will be demand for increased access to both facilities and services. Given the considerable growth that will happen around these areas, there is significant potential to attract funding (developer contributions) for investment in new and existing sports facilities.
- 3.44 Some of these areas are also those with identified need for additional provision e.g. Tendring and Thurrock, which suggests some correlation between participation rates and lack of provision. A wider issue suggested by the above is the quality of, or accessibility to, existing provision, given the findings of the Sports Facility Calculator for this Strategy. The nature of the existing provision may also be an issue in relation to e.g. participation by both younger and older people, and re-enforces the findings of consultation for this Strategy which highlights the need for more informal facilities/provision in rural areas, facilities designed to address the needs of older people (the overall [population of the region is ageing), plus non-traditional activities for younger people.
- 3.45 In summarising the above priority investment needs, it is important to be clear that:
- Investment in future sports facility provision is not about additional provision alone; there may also be opportunities to open up access to existing education facilities (private and state schools), or to refurbish and extend existing sports facilities. Rationalisation of provision and replacement with fewer better quality facilities, whilst reducing facility quantity, may actually have a greater impact on increasing participation, and be more sustainable to operate, because the facilities will be fit for purpose. If existing facilities are unfit for purpose, or cannot be opened up for community use, there will, however, be a need to develop replacement facility provision. Where this cannot be achieved in growth areas, there will be a need to develop additional facilities to meet demand.
  - There will be a need for additional facilities in order to meet participation increases; the issue is whether the additional provision can be delivered through existing provision, by improving quality, and/or opening up facilities, or whether in the event of these not being achievable, there is a need to construct new facilities.
- 3.46 Given the above, it is a priority to invest in the facilities in the areas with low participation, to address issues of quality, fit for purpose and accessibility.
- There is significant building work going on across the County, which is reflected in the District/Borough overviews, and will provide some means of addressing identified deficiencies in provision.

## ***SECTION III – PRIORITIES, RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN***

- The NGBs are clear about the facility needs in the County for their sport, and have articulated these needs at County, District and Borough level.
- There is a need for significant investment in the current facility stock.
- If population growth is combined with increased demand this results in a need for significant investment in facility provision in the County.
- The identified needs in terms of sports halls and pools is complicated by the fact that many school sites have facilities which are not as accessible as they could be for the local community. Therefore the need for additional provision is not just about new build; it is also about opening up pay and play access to existing facility provision. This approach then needs to link to rationalisation, investment and new build.
- There is not always a good link between the perceived facility needs of local authorities, those of NGBs and those of the voluntary sector; given that the strategy identifies the priority facility needs for the County, these issues should be addressed through its implementation.
- There remains a need for more detailed work at District/Borough level to deal with population movement and planning of provision into the future.

### **General Recommendations:**

#### **Recommendation 1 – Invest in Existing Facility Stock**

- Investment in current facility stock is critical in both the short and longer term. There is a need to maintain existing levels of facility provision (facilities per 1000 population) to 2020, even if the facilities are provided through alternative access arrangements/replacement facilities, to:
  - Maintain existing levels of facility provision (facilities per 1000 population) to 2020, even if the facilities are provided through alternative access arrangements/replacement facilities.
  - Ensure investment in existing facilities is a corporate priority, and that revenue and capital resources reflect this adequately
  - Ensure all refurbishments address issues of quality and fit for purpose to improve overall facility stock e.g. floodlighting for outdoor courts, pitches and tracks,
  - Ensure appropriate level of resources allocated for maintenance of both existing and new facility provision
  - Continued provision of high quality fine turf and outdoor club practice facilities
  - Continued access to indoor facilities to support the projected growth in school club links and club participation and membership

#### **Recommendation 2 – Develop New Facility Provision**

- Develop new facility provision to enable:
  - Replacement/rationalisation of ageing and poorly located facilities
  - Modernisation of provision to provide more cost effective and therefore operationally sustainable facilities
  - Improved quality to attract and retain increased participation
  - Strategic planning for future provision, to optimise available resources, and where possible plan across boundaries, which may mean taking challenging decisions about current and future facility location
  - Provision of fit for purpose provision, meeting the needs of the overall population e.g. appropriate size to meet usage requirements, floodlighting for outdoor tracks, pitches and courts,
  - Spectator involvement and participation in a variety of sports
  - Developing an integrated facility providing for both community and sport specific needs
  - Providing new facilities in alternative locations which best meet the needs of existing and new communities
  - Development of appropriate programming approaches to meet locally identified need

## **SECTION III – PRIORITIES, RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN**

### **Recommendation 3 – Address Unmet Demand**

- To address existing unmet demand will require:
  - Provision of increased access to community use health and fitness facilities
  - Provision of additional ATPs, particularly on education sites where they can deliver both curriculum and community needs
  - Investigate alternative options for facility access, for example private schools, education sites, HE/FE, neighbouring authorities
  - Management specifications including a focus on social objectives, implemented through appropriate programming of facilities, and application of realistic pricing policies

### **Recommendation 4 - Negotiate increased Accessibility/Availability to Existing Facilities**

- To address identified issues of accessibility to, and availability of, existing sports facilities for community use will require negotiation with a range of providers to facilitate extended access/availability, or at minimum, establish some access/availability for community use.

### **Recommendation 5 - Resourcing and Funding of future Sports Facilities Provision**

#### **Building Schools for the Future (BSF)**

- The opportunities presented for sports facilities development through implementation of BSF in Essex are significant, but will require the following approach:
  - Develop a countywide (Greater Essex) approach to Academy programmes (Basildon) and pre BSF PFI capital programme developments (Thurrock)
  - Develop a countywide (Essex County Council, Thurrock and Southend can learn from each others approach) approach to the integrated provision of community sports facilities alongside BSF, linked to Extended Schools, and where possible, development of dual-use provision
  - Continue and ensure there is an understanding at local level of the need for early dialogue between education and leisure i.e. County and District/Borough
  - Continue and ensure priorities for sports facilities provision at a local level are identified to facilitate strategic integration into initial BSF discussions
  - Continue to identify how education investment can contribute to the delivery of local priorities for sports facility provision, particularly swimming pools (Castle Point)
  - Continue to ensure that BSF sports facilities have an appropriate Community Use Agreement, to maximise access for the local community
  - In identifying the need for current and future sports facility provision, and how this might be integrated into the BSF process, it is critical to maximise opportunities for planning across boundaries, given that community catchment areas do not always reflect local authority boundaries

### **Recommendation 6 – Work in Partnership**

- Partnership approaches and ways of working are critical for future provision of sports facilities, but require development at local level:
  - Ensure internal communication between leisure and planning at a local level
  - Ensure communication between leisure and education at a local level
  - Actively seek to establish innovative partnerships to support and facilitate specific facility developments eg co-location of provision to create Community Sports Hubs
  - Actively seek to develop and establish long term partnerships with the commercial sector, to realise increased investment in community sports facilities e.g. Community Sport Hubs
  - Actively seek to develop long term partnerships with the HE/FE sector, particularly in relation to major, or sport specific facility development

### **Recommendation 7 – Utilise the Planning Framework**

- The future provision of sports facilities requires a specific approach within the planning framework:
  - Ensure internal communication between leisure and planning at local level
  - Integrate local needs for sport and leisure into S106 priorities

## SECTION III – PRIORITIES, RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN

- Ensure local priorities for sport and leisure are included in developing Supplementary Planning Documents and the Local Development Framework policies
- Develop innovative policy frameworks facilitating planning gain contributions to sports facilities provision
- Develop local standards for sports facilities provision, indoor and outdoor, to inform planning policy

### Recommendation 8 – Retain Performance Sport and Performance Athletes in the County

- Projects should be supported that will deliver sports facilities in the county suitable for competition and training where gaps have been identified by relative national governing bodies, in order to encourage the retention of performance athletes living and training within the county. Facilities that can serve more than one sport at a performance level will be particularly welcome. The Strategy analysis highlights significant needs for a number of sports requiring sports hall provision; these include badminton, basketball, netball and volleyball. Such facilities should, where possible, be made available for wider community use in order to contribute to the need to raise general participation levels and to help make such facilities sustainable in the long term. In addition, there is a need to develop generic specialist support services, e.g. medical, strength and conditioning, rehabilitation etc, as part of specialist sports facility provision.
  - Encouraging performance athletes to train in the county requires investment in the sport specific infrastructure:
    - Development of a 50m pool, providing for training and the performance pathway, from club level and above - Basildon,
    - Work with NGBs and Local Authorities to develop the identified sport specific priorities for Essex
    - Enhanced/replacement sports hall facilities; where rationalisation of two existing poor quality facilities is possible, consideration should be given to the development of an eight badminton court facility, which would provide indoor facilities for badminton, basketball, netball, and volleyball - training and competition
    - Additional ATPs - 2 pitch sites, plus additional facilities on education sites; 3rd generation facilities catering for football and rugby training
    - Athletics - additional training facilities such as J tracks provided through BSF.
    - Cricket - Indoor Centre
    - Cycling – development of the Mountain Biking Facility Hadleigh Farm, Castle Point. Refurbishment of existing facilities and provision of off road facilities
    - Canoeing – develop created water sites from housing developments if water resources are large enough
    - Equestrian - new and improved facilities
    - Fencing - refurbishment of Brentwood School facilities
    - Ice Skating – Chelmsford Riverside is the only ice rink in the county, aim to be National Ice Skating Association (NISA) centre of excellence in the Eastern Region.
    - Martial Arts – refurbishment of Brentwood School facilities
    - Netball – centre of excellence at Chelmsford County High School
    - Gymnastics - Improved facilities for training and competition
    - Rowing - New facilities - training and competition
    - Squash – New facilities – training and competition
    - It is important to point out that provision for diving facilities in the County is limited both in terms of quality and quantity. There are currently existing facilities at Chelmsford, Riverside Centre which is to be redeveloped; the diving facilities here could be replaced by the proposed international standard diving centre at Southend. Clearly the ASA would like to retain diving facilities in Chelmsford but this may not be an option.

### Recommendation 9 - Harness the benefits of the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games

- One of the key objectives of the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, for both the government nationally and in the Essex Legacy Action Plan is to increase sports participation rates across the population. There is also a great interest in securing a tangible legacy from the Games. This opens the potential to build an argument for the public sector to release funding to support the new build of sports facilities in order to provide for increased sports participation rates and to create a physical legacy from the Games that all members of the public can utilise and enjoy beyond 2012. Creation of a new fund with these objectives would have a positive potential.
  - Delivering the greatest maximum benefits of the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games requires a number of key actions associated with facility provision:
    - Prioritise development of sports facilities that will contribute to the provision for both elite athletes and increased community participation in the county

## SECTION III – PRIORITIES, RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN

- Use the inspirational elements of the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games to unlock additional funding sources to finance the building of sports facilities that will support increased sports participation rates across the county
- Develop an Essex Sports Events Strategy that utilises the unique sports facility assets in the county to increase inward investment and bring economic benefits and is aligned to the emerging Essex Tourism Strategy
- Ensure the provision of a permanent mountain biking course in Hadleigh Farm, Castle Point that will cater for all levels of usage from informal recreation through to additional international competitions in the lead up to and beyond 2012.
- Take advantage of the white water facility development in the Lea Valley Regional Park to ensure both that Epping benefits at a local level and Essex gains from using the facility as a county performance centre. In future contribute to a wider perspective through the development of the elements of the park that are situated in Essex.

- 3.22 Develop the Essex 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Legacy Action Plans to develop inward investment, opportunities for sports tourism, and opportunities to generate economic benefits for the county.
- 3.23 Brentwood International Sports Centre is included in the proposals by LOCOG to be a facility used as a training venue during the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Initially handball was the sport that was proposed but it is understood that this may well change as the number of teams competing in each event (and therefore the requirement for training facilities) is clarified in the immediate run up to the Games.
- 3.24 There are 41 potential opportunities to host Pre Games Training Camps in Essex from the submission made to LOCOG by various consortia within the County. The aspiration is for at least some of these to be included in the LOCOG brochure to be launched at the Beijing Games in August 2008, but Essex will also investigate additional marketing opportunities within the County.
- 3.25 At the same time as harnessing the benefits the perceived threats also need to be considered especially in the south of the Eastern Region, for example, lack of future funding and opportunities for new facilities due to the proximity to Stratford and the potential increase in building inflation and lack of skills to build non-Olympic facilities in the approach to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

### Recommendation 10 - Sports Clubs Security of Tenure

- 3.26 As part of facility development in the voluntary sector, and to ensure the maintenance of opportunities for participation through local sports clubs, there is a need to address the existing difficulties faced by clubs over security of tenure. This is critical to facilitate external funding applications, but also to ensure continuity of development and participative opportunity, and to support the ongoing development of school/club links etc. There is potential to link security of tenure to club accreditation schemes, which in itself will also assist in improving the quality and consistency of club delivery and opportunities for participation.

### Recommendation 11 - Major Sports Events

- Where possible to develop facilities that can help bring major sports events to the county should be supported, in line with an Events Strategy for the county to be developed; it will however be critical to ensure that such facilities deliver true legacy in terms of increased and sustainable community participation, as well as providing for the opportunity to see the very best compete in the county.
  - Examples of this type of facility are the proposed 50m pool at Basildon and the Riverside Ice Arena (also capable of hosting large scale regional sporting and cultural events) at Chelmsford.
    - This will need to be supported by the appropriate high performance support services

### Action Plan

- 3.27 The key agencies for delivering this strategy are Essex Local Authorities, National Governing Bodies, The Essex Association of Culture and Leisure Officers Group, Essex NGB Forum, BSF PE and Sport Stakeholder Group.

Action	Responsibility
District and Unitary Authorities Prepare Local Facility Strategies and are regularly updated	Essex Local Authorities
The identified priorities for future sports facility provision should also be reflected in Sustainable	Essex Local Authorities

## SECTION III – PRIORITIES, RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN

Action	Responsibility
Community Strategies (to reflect the guidance in the Government White Paper), and Local Area Agreements (LAAs), at a local authority level, to ensure the overall Vision is joined up and implemented strategically.	
Recommendation 1 – Invest in Existing Facility Stock – See 3.45	Essex Local Authorities/Private Sector/ Education Sector/NGBs/Voluntary Sector/Football Foundation/Sport England
Recommendation 2 – Develop New Facility Provision – See 3.46	Essex Local Authorities/Private Sector/Education/NGB's/Voluntary Sector/Football Foundation/Sport England
Recommendation 3 – Address Unmet Demand – See 3.47	Essex Local Authorities/Private Sector/Education/NGB's/Voluntary Sector/Football Foundation/Sport England
Recommendation 4 - Negotiate increased Accessibility/Availability to Existing Facilities – See 3.48	Essex Local Authorities/Private Sector/Education/NGB's/Voluntary Sector/Football Foundation/Sport England
Recommendation 5 - Resourcing and Funding of future Sports Facilities Provision – See 3.49  Building Schools for the Future (BSF)	BSF PE and Sport Stakeholder Group working with District authorities and NGBs working with Essex County Council to coordinate district and NGB local strategies.  Southend Leisure working with the LEA and NGB's to co ordinate delivery of required sports facilities  Thurrock Leisure and Thurrock Thames Gateway working with the LEA and NGB's to co-ordinate delivery of required sports facilities
Recommendation 6 – Work in Partnership – See 3.50	Essex Local Authorities/Private Sector/Education/NGB's/Voluntary Sector/Football Foundation/Sport England
Recommendation 7 – Utilise the Planning Framework – See 3.51	Essex Local Authorities
Recommendation 8 – Retain Performance Sport and Performance Athletes in the County – see 3.52 – 3.53	Essex Local Authorities/Education/NGB's/Voluntary Sector/Football Foundation/Sport England
Recommendation 9 - Harness the benefits of the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games See 3.54 - 3.59	Essex Local Authorities/Private Sector/Education/NGB's/Voluntary Sector
Recommendation 10 - Sports Clubs Security of Tenure – See 3.60	Essex Local Authorities/Voluntary Sector
Recommendation 11 - Major Sports Events see 3.61 – 3.62	sportessex
Co-ordination and monitoring of Essex Sports Facilities Strategy	Essex Association of Cultural and Leisure Officers

### ***SECTION III – PRIORITIES, RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN***

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
Future information supplied to EALCO on NGB Governing Body needs	Essex NGB Forum
Playing Pitch Strategies in place and regularly updated	Essex Local Authorities
'Supply and demand' calculations are revisited when considering the approval of major housing growth and that planning standards for sports halls and swimming pools are adopted by local authorities and utilised for developer contributions towards new sports facilities.	Essex Local Authorities/sportsex