



# **SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES STRATEGY**

## **ROCHFORD STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN**

### **NOVEMBER 2018**

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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## **INTRODUCTION**

This is the Rochford Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy and Action Plan 2018-2037. It sits within the wider South Essex Framework which includes Basildon, Castle Point, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock Councils for the same period of time. The strategy recommendations are Rochford specific and are based on the Council's Needs Assessment report, researched and prepared between August 2017 – March 2018 by specialist sport and leisure consultancy, Knight Kavanagh and Page Ltd (KKP). It has been prepared in accordance with Sport England's ANOG (Assessing Needs and Opportunities for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities) guidance and in consultation with the Council, Essex County Council, Active Essex, Sport England, national governing bodies of sport, local sports clubs and key stakeholders.

Rochford has an aspiration, and need, to consider its facilities planning particularly in the context of an ageing stock of leisure facilities; different management arrangements, future growth needs; and the changing economic and demographic profile of the District.

### ***Purpose***

The purpose of this Strategy Framework is to:

- ◀ Provide clear direction and strategic vision to all partners so that together they can plan and develop a more modern, efficient and sustainable range of community based sport and leisure facilities that Rochford requires.
- ◀ Present the objectives, priorities and recommendations for Rochford which will inform policy, planning and investment.
- ◀ Provide a deliverable action plan based on the vision, objectives and priorities.

This will ensure residents have the opportunity to be physically active and healthier and where appropriate develop their sporting ambitions within their local community.

The consultant team is grateful to Rochford officers and all other stakeholders for their contribution, experience and knowledge in the development of this Strategy and Action Plan.

### ***Partners***

This is a plan for Rochford. It does, however, sit within a strategic framework for the wider South Essex sub-region. This report is predicated upon wider partners such as local authorities, Active Essex, Essex County Council, national governing bodies of sport and local clubs accepting and taking responsibility for different aspects of its implementation. The partnership approach to Strategy delivery is necessary to make best use of the assets and resources available to drive the development of sport and physical activity across Rochford, in particular, and the wider South Essex sub-region.

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## ***Local context***

Rochford is a District Council within the County of Essex. It is bordered by the local authorities of Southend-on-Sea, Castle Point, Basildon, Chelmsford and the River Crouch. The Authority consists of two main towns; Rayleigh and Rochford, which are supported by a number of settlements, including Hockley, Hawkwell, Ashingdon, Great Wakering, Canewdon and Hullbridge. The two key rivers in the Authority are the River Roach, which originates in the Rayleigh Hills and flows east and the River Crouch, which creates a natural border between Rochford and the Local Authority of Maldon.

The strategic roads within the Authority include the A129 and the A1245. The A129 provides a link between Rayleigh and towns in Castle Point and the A1245 connects the Authority to key towns in Chelmsford. The A127 and A130, form the primary east/west and north/south routes through the district (albeit only small sections actually fall within the district). The A127 provides key road links to Southend, Basildon and London; and the A130 provides key road links to Chelmsford and north Essex. Rayleigh, Hockley, Rochford and London Southend Airport all have railway stations, on the London Liverpool Street to Southend Victoria line.

Rochford experiences significantly lower levels of deprivation compared to other parts of the country with 4.0% of the District's population falling within areas covered by the country's three most deprived cohorts compared to a national average of 30%. Conversely, nearly two thirds of the population (63.7%) live in the three least deprived groupings in the country, which is significantly above the national average (30%). The analysis demonstrates that people living in the east of the Authority are more deprived in relation to access to services than those in the west. Health deprivation is minimal in Rochford: Only a small amount of Rochford's population (1.8%) falls within the areas covered by the three most deprived cohorts

The total population of the District is 85,670 (2016 mid-year estimate) with a slightly higher percentage of females to males (52%:48% respectively). The most recent ONS projections indicate a rise of 13.4% in Rochford's population (+11,371) over the 25 years from 2014 to 2039. In contrast, there is predicted to be a decline in the number of 16-24 year olds, -9.5% in the first period (-836) followed by growth back to -1.5% (-132) in the second period.

There is a continuous increase in the numbers of persons aged 65+ and a need to consider varying sports offers for this age group. This represents an increase of +22.9% (+4,335) in the first period continuing to rise to +51.9% (+9,809) between 2014 and 2039. While the age group represented 22.3% of Rochford's population in 2014 it is projected to be 29.9% of the total by 2039.

Rochford's ethnic composition does not reflect that of England as a whole. According to the 2011 Census of population, the largest proportion (97.2%) of the local population classified their ethnicity as White; this is significantly higher than the comparative England rate of 85.4%. The next largest population group (by self-classification) is Asian, at 1.1% which is lower than the national equivalent (7.8%).

Rochford's Local Development Framework Allocations Plan identifies that during the period 2006-2021, there is a requirement to build 3,790 dwellings at an approximate average of 250 dwellings per year. Between 2021 and 20205, the District is required to continue at the same development rate.

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Active Lives data, indicates that levels of inactivity and activity are commensurate with both regional and national rates. In common with many other areas, gym and swimming are among the most popular activities and are known to cut across age groups and gender. Nearly one in seven adults, in Rochford, goes to the gym at least once a month, with nearly one in eight adults going swimming.

This Strategy needs to be considered within the wider South Essex sub-region. It is noted that a partnership approach is needed to produce the best quality facilities which are efficient to manage and to ensure that facilities are protected and/or enhanced via new development (in line with national planning policy). It thus looks to address a range of fundamental challenges; and assesses how sports facilities can be used to meet the needs of, or associated with:

- ◀ A changing population, which is economically stable but one which has an age profile increasingly dominated by older age groups.
- ◀ The limited accessibility of facilities, especially during the day time, because the majority of sports halls, in particular, are located on school sites.
- ◀ Health partners' ambitions to address physical inactivity and obesity levels.
- ◀ A growing and active 'grey market' which is time rich, especially during the day.

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## RESEARCH FINDINGS

The following is an overview of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats identified in Rochford within the Needs Assessment 2018.

### Strengths

- ◀ Rayleigh Leisure Centre is a good quality facility. Satisfied demand for sports halls in Rochford is high (94.4%).
- ◀ Nearly all (98.5%) of RDC residents reside within a 20 minute drive time of a publicly accessible sports hall.
- ◀ Over half of the population (53.2%) live within 20 minutes walk time of a swimming pool and nine in ten residents (92%) live within 20 minutes' drive of a swimming pool.
- ◀ Basketball and badminton are strong sports with talented athlete performance pathways in place. There is also a strong swimming lesson programme in the District with utilisation of smaller pools a key feature.
- ◀ There appears to be enough swimming pool space for current demand within the District as well as a wide range of health and fitness opportunities with different membership prices.
- ◀ Rochford hosts a good quality indoor bowls facility which has a club with 300+ members.
- ◀ Sailing is a popular sport with several sailing clubs located in the District. The Up River Yacht Club is especially strong with 600+ members. It is in the process of becoming an RYA training centre.
- ◀ Table tennis is popular in the County with the District hosting two strong clubs.
- ◀ There are a range of village halls/community centres which offer different and local opportunities for residents to take part in sport and physical activity sessions, making them accessible to the local population and those in rural areas without personal transport.
- ◀ Fusion Lifestyle (operator at Clements Hall Leisure Centre and Rayleigh Sports Centre) currently has a National agreement to work in partnership to improve badminton provision across its sites meaning greater demand on court time and usage.
- ◀ Active Rochford and Active Essex have a variety of programmes for increasing participation in sports and health and wellbeing activities.

### Weaknesses

- ◀ Great Wakering Sports Centre is considered poor quality and Greensward Academy is deteriorating, requiring urgent and significant investment before it becomes unusable.
- ◀ Clements Hall Leisure Centre is almost 40 years old and requires significant investment on both wet and dry facilities, including changing rooms, to ensure it remains fit for purpose as a modern, relevant sports facility.
- ◀ RDC has limited influence over the programming of facilities, particularly in schools.
- ◀ There is no venue which delivers regular casual opportunities for sailing and water sports in the District, so all activity is now delivered through member clubs.
- ◀ Indoor tennis is not accessible to juniors in the District as the indoor tennis facility is adult only. It is an expensive sports facility (in comparison with other tennis facilities in the area) requiring both a registration fee and an annual membership. This makes it inaccessible to certain sections of the community.

### Opportunities

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- ◀ To work in partnership with Greensward Academy to improve the condition of its sports facilities in agreement for long term community access to the facilities.
- ◀ To invest in Clements Hall to improve the quality for the local population.
- ◀ Average used capacity of sports halls as a District is 43.4% of capacity in peak period and swimming pools is 50%, which indicates a capacity to expand the sport, health and wellbeing offer in the area.
- ◀ To drive up participation in swimming given that Market segmentation indicates a latent demand of 8,728 people (13.5%) that would like to participate in swimming.
- ◀ Rochford is a priority area for the Royal Yachting Association.

## Threats

- ◀ The increasing financial constraints within which RDC has to work.
- ◀ The rising age profile of the population is likely to lead to increased demand for facilities during peak periods and during the day (when education stock is generally inaccessible).
- ◀ Community access at Greensward Academy may be revoked due to its current condition and health and safety concerns.
- ◀ Approximately 57% of swims demanded in Rochford are met by facilities in neighbouring authorities. This is potentially a major risk to long term swimming access unless planning across boundaries forms part of the future dialogue.
- ◀ There is sufficient supply of health and fitness to meet the current and future demand; a watching brief should be kept to prevent market saturation, which could jeopardise business.
- ◀ There is increasing siltation of certain estuaries affecting sailing clubs.
- ◀ The limited influence that RDC has on educational sporting facilities and not achieving maximum benefit from them in terms of wider health and wellbeing.
- ◀ Lack of information sharing between leisure providers will lead to reduced understanding of who is using what and when. Long term planning of and investment in specific facilities can, therefore, be undermined

## Summary

In summary RDC in partnership with key partners needs to:

- ◀ Improve the basis of strategic work across a range of agencies including Public Health and Active Rochford to ensure that real progress is made in respect of all aspects of increasing physical activity and sport.
- ◀ Ensure that RDC owned facilities make a progressively greater (and measured) contribution to the needs of all residents and are fully accessible to all the District's communities through targeted initiatives, facilities, programming and training.
- ◀ Work with neighbouring authorities and the other swimming pool operators in Rochford to ensure future demand for swimming can be accommodated.
- ◀ Improve the quality of its own swimming offer.
- ◀ Improve the breadth, depth and quality of performance management data collected (and shared) and the associated analysis of facility usage to inform future marketing, promotion, programming and pricing etc.
- ◀ Ensure that all school sports facilities continue to accommodate for community use.
- ◀ Coordinate community access to, and the programming and pricing of, facilities (including schools) across the District within the public estate.
- ◀ Support other developments (via planning, developer contributions and officer expertise) which may assist in increasing sport and physical activity within the wider community.

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- ◀ Continue to work with local sports clubs to ensure facilities and workforce development programmes continue to meet the needs of all clubs
- ◀ Identify ongoing investment, maintenance and refurbishment requirements to protect and improve existing sports facilities
- ◀

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## VISION AND OBJECTIVES

### Vision

***“To create a district that puts the health and well-being of its residents at its heart; enabling and empowering its communities to become healthier and more active by providing greater opportunities for recreation and exercise, better facilities and a higher standard for sports and leisure provision, from grassroots to elite”***

This builds upon the conclusions identified in the Assessment Report (April 2018) and Sport England’s recently released five-year strategy ‘Towards an Active Nation’, which aims to target the 28% of people who do less than 30 minutes of exercise each week and focuses on the least active groups; typically, women, the disabled and people from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

This strategy provides a framework within which a clear, coherent way forward for the management and delivery of leisure and sports facilities in Rochford can be identified. The primary focus is to enable residents to gain access to leisure facilities of which they can be proud of. It is also vital to ensure that facilities support sport and physical activity programmes that lead to increases in regular participation, taking account of the projected changes in age profile of the population in the District up until 2037.

### Facility hierarchy and core principles

The site-by-site action plan which follow this section seeks to address key issues identified in the preceding Assessment Report. It provides recommendations based on current levels of usage, quality and future demand, as well as the potential of each site for enhancement. It should be reviewed in the light of staff and financial resources in order to prioritise support for strategically significant provision and provision that other providers are less likely to make.

In order to complete this, there is a need to clarify the sports facility provision within a hierarchy (identified below). This will enable Rochford to establish specific venues with distinct roles and functions; the extent to which they carry differing levels of community importance, operational weight and related staffing.

It is important that facilities have a defined function from a user perspective. The hierarchy identified below considers whether facilities are Regional, District-wide and/or key community facilities. As such programmes of activity can be orchestrated to deliver physical activity geared to extended participation (hubs and spokes approach) and improving health whilst key neighbourhood facilities offer accredited clubs opportunities to develop their sports.

Broad principles are illustrated in Figure 1 overleaf, whilst key principles are as shown in Table 1.

It is worth noting that facilities identified to service very localised (and in particular rural) areas, are often valuable assets for a specific local area or community offering either a range of recreation/participation opportunities or, in some instances, offering beginner to performance opportunities.

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Figure 1 Facility hierarchy – core principles



Table 1: Proposed facility hierarchy – site designation and definition

Designation	Role and function
Level 1: Regional or sub-regional facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides a regional or sub-regional significant facility which is the primary performance venue for a single or select number of priority sports.</li> <li>A venue with the potential to host sub-regional, county, district-wide and local events.</li> <li>Provides a wide a range of opportunities for residents and visitors to participate in sport and physical activity, contributing significantly to the quality of life of residents across the whole of the District.</li> <li>Provides/programmes opportunities for local people to try new activities, develop their skills and progress to a higher performance level.</li> <li>Is a core venue for training and development of teachers, coaches, volunteers, officials and others in key sports.</li> </ul>
Level 2: Community Leisure facilities which service the District or local town population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to quality of life of residents in the local community served and/or district and provide a range of opportunities to participate in sport and physical activity.</li> <li>Generally, a combination of stand-alone community facilities and sports facilities on school sites (where this is the primary facility within the locality).</li> <li>Is a venue with potential to host district-wide, community/ local events</li> <li>Provides a base for the provision of opportunity (delivered by a range of providers) for local people to develop their skills and try new activities.</li> <li>One of several core venues offering health/fitness provision and activity across the District.</li> <li>Core venue accommodating the District's Learn to Swim programmes (where a pool is incorporated).</li> </ul>

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Designation	Role and function
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides options for a range of sports organisations to participate, compete and develop skill within their chosen activity.</li> <li>• Supports voluntary sports sector to cater for club activity and raise standards in respect of coaching, coach education, administration and volunteer development in chosen sport.</li> <li>• Facility use should reflect the demographic profile of the local community.</li> <li>• If applicable, increases/ improves quality of PE and school sport opportunity for young people attending the school at which it is based.</li> </ul>
Level 3: Community accessible schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where within the vicinity of a 'community sports facility' it should complement the programming and opportunities offered to the local community.</li> <li>• Contributes to quality of life of the neighbourhood, accommodating a range of opportunities to participate in sport and physical activity.</li> <li>• Either stand-alone smaller dry-side community facilities or sports facilities on school sites which operate within a lettings policy.</li> <li>• Provides opportunities for range of sports organisations to participate, train and compete in their chosen activity.</li> <li>• Facility use to reflect demographic profile of the local community.</li> </ul>
Level 4: Local facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tend to be stand-alone small dry-side community/ sports facilities which operate independently.</li> <li>• Contributes to quality of life of residents within the locality providing a limited range of opportunities to participate in sport and physical activity.</li> <li>• Provides opportunities – often for just for one or two dedicated sports organisations to participate, train and compete (e.g. boxing, martial arts).</li> <li>• Programming generally appeals to a specific demographic e.g. young people or faith groups.</li> </ul>

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## Strategic objectives

The above vision is based upon a clear, achievable framework of strategic objectives to **protect, enhance and provide** and are summarised below.

### Strategic Objective 1:

**Protect** the current stock of facilities in order to meet the sport and physical activity needs of the local residents, by introducing a hierarchy of use with defined roles and functions for different facility types which will be supported by appropriate investment.

RDC needs to protect its current stock of facilities especially Clements Hall Leisure Centre given that it is over 40 years of age. Other leisure facility stock which will need investment include Greensward Academy and Great Wakering Sports Centre (which hosts the Samantha Boyd Dance School) in particular. RDC and partners will consider how to ensure that the district network of leisure and sports facilities works to maximum benefit and that, where possible, each facility performs a specific role and function in order to maintain and drive increases in participation in sport and physical activity and contribute to wider community health and wellbeing.

### Strategic Objective 2:

**Enhance** the district-wide approach to programming and management at all sites with a view to improving sports development aspirations and increasing physical activity outcomes, based on identified strategic need

In delivering the above RDC needs to consider how it will work with partners to:

- ◀ Ensure that the current stock of facilities (which has a proven need), remains open and accessible to the general public.
- ◀ Work through the Council's own management and other partners to develop a process that brings together as many operators of local sports facilities as possible.
- ◀ Develop an agreed approach and a Rochford definition of community use which all partners sign up to and agree to implement. This will recognise the importance of well programmed community use attracting people from older age groups into facilities.

In delivering this RDC and partners will need to consider the following:

- ◀ How partners might engineer a holistic approach to strategic programming across sites, including smaller but strategically placed community/village halls in order to increase and improve provision.
- ◀ How (reflecting the community use standard cited above) relationships are developed and maintained with schools across the District.
- ◀ The latest addendum (2017) to the South Essex Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2008) calculates that Rochford requires between 331-361 dwellings per year over the period from 2014-2037. This will lead to increased demand for sport and physical activity in the District.
- ◀ The development of strategic plans that take account of the increasing demand from the ageing population will affect facilities in the area and how those facilities in the more rural locations can be accessed.

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## **Strategic Objective 3:**

***Provide** a coherent range of good quality, accessible facilities reflecting the hierarchy and serving key current and future communities across Rochford*

The following section identifies major investment requirements over the life of this Strategy. It describes what is needed in order to 'protect', 'enhance' and 'provide' sport and leisure facilities for the residents of Rochford and enable the Council to meet its wider objectives. It firstly considers Clements Hall Leisure Centre and Rayleigh Leisure Centres as key facilities in the District.

*Clements Hall Leisure Centre* is a key facility in the District offering a 7-court hall and a 2- court hall, an 8 lane 25m pool and a teaching/learner pool. This is the only swimming pool facility in the area that offers community use with access available during the day. It hosts an above average 120 station health and fitness facility. The facility is also identified as a priority site by Badminton England. The centre has six squash courts and has the capacity to offer a strong squash programme. It is over 40 years old, is rated below average and is in need of significant investment to modernise it and improve the overall quality.

*Rayleigh Leisure Centre* has the only indoor bowls facility in Rochford (4 rinks). The Centre also has a health and fitness suite, two squash courts and a four courts sports hall. The centre has a strong health and fitness offer. Demand on the centre is likely to increase in the future with the planned housing developments within close proximity to the centre.

RDC needs to consider developing an investment strategy in order that it can continue to invest in Clements Hall Leisure Centre, in particular, or consider developing a new facility within the area within the lifetime of the Strategy. There is also a need to invest in Greensward to ensure that the sports facilities remain operational and compliant in terms of health and safety in the short term as closure of the facilities or a reduction in community use would be detrimental to both the school and the community.

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## MONITORING AND REVIEW

The Indoor and Built Facilities Strategy identifies the investment and actions required to deliver and maintain a high quality built facilities infrastructure for Rochford.

It is important that the Strategy is a live document and is used in a practical manner to prioritise investment, develop key work programmes and partnerships, guide planning gain investment and ensure that built sports facilities are a vital component which contribute to the quality of life in Rochford.

Its production should be regarded as the start of the strategic planning process with a requirement for all partners to engage in ongoing dialogue and review in order to ensure that a strategic approach is adopted throughout its life.

It will be important for Rochford District Council and its partners to develop a short (1-3 years), medium (3 – 5 years) and long term (up to 10 years) action plan based around the Strategy and for this to be monitored and reviewed on an annual basis. This process should not only be reviewed against a current action plan, it should also identify potential changes to supply and demand for facilities across the authorities. This is predicated upon the assumption that the Strategy is as much about how facilities are used as it relates to ensuring that the physical infrastructure is maintained and is of a good quality.

In particular the annual review process should include:

- ◀ A review of annual progress on the recommendations; taking into account any changes required to the priority of each action (e.g. the priority of some may increase following the delivery of others).
- ◀ Lessons learnt throughout the year.
- ◀ New facilities that may need to be taken into account.
- ◀ Any specific changes of use of key sites in the District (e.g. sport specific specialisms of sites, changes in availability, etc.).
- ◀ Any specific changes in demand at particular facilities and/or clubs in the area (e.g. reduction or increase in club numbers, new housing growth *etc.*).
- ◀ New formats of traditional sports that may need to be taken account of.
- ◀ Any new or emerging issues and opportunities.

The outcome of the review will be to develop a new annual and medium term action plan for indoor and built sports facilities across the District and feed into the wider South Essex Strategy.

## Funding to implement the strategy

The Strategy has not addressed in detail how proposals and recommendations will be funded. An informed (and committed) combination mix of sources and solutions will be required to deliver the vision and ambitions of the strategy. These are likely to include:

- ◀ Judicious multi-partner revenue contributions at a level that can be justified and that will allow some form of longer term sustainability.
- ◀ Further development and implementation of individual districts' developer contributions process associated with the development of urban extensions.
- ◀ Use of capital receipts from land disposal, where applicable.

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- ◀ Asset rationalisation and use of revenue saving and/or future liabilities to pay back borrowing aligned to capital investment in other sites.
- ◀ Prudential borrowing where an 'invest to save' justification can be made, particularly for longer-term proposals which may be considered in light of any future borrowing strategy.
- ◀ External funding sources aligned to specific facilities and/or sports (e.g. Sport England funding, other charitable grant awards and funding streams).

Third party borrowing where a suitable, robust business case exists (although this will be more expensive than prudential borrowing).

### ***Developer contributions***

For any application warranting a developer contribution Appendix 1 sets out a toolkit (process) which should be followed in order to help inform the potential needs a new housing development may require and/or should look to consider, with regard to indoor and built facilities

### **Links to Rochford's Business Plan 2016-2020**

As identified and amplified in detail in the Rochford Indoor and built facilities Needs Assessment the Rochford Business Plan 2016-2020 sets out the high level priorities that the Council will work towards. It suggest that residents will be at the heart of everything it does and its priorities are:

- ◀ Become financially self sufficient
- ◀ Early intervention
- ◀ Maximising assets
- ◀ Enabling communities.

The actions identified below will continue to support these and other key objectives of the Council.

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### ACTION PLAN

#### Management and programming

The following actions are relative to the overall management and programming of key facilities in Rochford. All actions identified below should take account of accessibility issues (hearing, visual and wheelchair access). Short term- 1-2 years; medium 3-5 years; Long term 5-10 years.

Strategic objective	Recommendation	Action	Timescale	Responsibility	Importance
District wide programming  <b>Enhance</b>	Ensure holistic approach to programming across all facilities leading to improved access for all sections of the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Consider current programming across the District</li> <li>◀ Define the role of each facility within the wider community use offer across District.</li> <li>◀ Develop a site by site action plan for improving programming across the District.</li> </ul>	Short	Schools, leisure centres & village halls / community centres	High
Community use agreements  <b>Enhance</b>	Maintain the availability of the current stock of sports halls to the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Taking account of the currently good levels of community use of facilities, consider if community use agreements can be secured to further embed these policies across the school estate.</li> </ul>	Medium	Schools	Medium
Sports halls  <b>Enhance</b>	Improving access to facilities during the day time given the current reliance on educational facilities for indoor activity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ On a site by site basis consider whether there are appropriate solutions to extending day time access including working with schools to accommodate community based organisations.</li> </ul>	Short	Schools	Medium
Swimming pools  <b>Enhance</b>	Continue to invest in the current stock of facilities and ensure programming reflects the needs of the resident population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Strategically programme water time for all residents to ensure the public have sufficient access the pools at peak times.</li> <li>◀ Work with the swimming clubs on pools programming to maximise their (efficient) access to pool time.</li> </ul>	Short	RDC, Leisure Operator, Public Health, Swim England	Medium

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Strategic objective	Recommendation	Action	Timescale	Responsibility	Importance
Health and Fitness <b>Enhance</b>	Ensure that the provision of health and fitness facilities are appropriate to an ageing population in the District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When reviewing Council owned leisure centres/ and equipment, ensure excellent accessibility and consider changing age profile of those likely to use the facilities in the future.</li> </ul>	Medium	RDC, Places for People.	Low
Indoor Tennis <b>Enhance</b>	Consideration of how the private leisure operator can extend the service to juniors and harder to reach groups in the District.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with the private tennis operator to consider if it will extend its programme/ accessibility to younger people, in particular.</li> </ul>	Long	RDC, Active Essex LTA	Medium
Indoor Bowls <b>Protect and Enhance</b>	Continue to invest in the current facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support facility management to drive up participation and maintain the quality facility and programme offer</li> </ul>	Long	RDC, centre management, English Indoor Bowling Association	Medium
Sailing and water sports <b>Enhance</b>	Support the growth of water sports in the area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with the NGB (as the RYA identifies Rochford as a priority area) to consider partnership working to drive increases in participation in clubs.</li> <li>Work with clubs to develop a pathway for introducing new members to the different sailing activities.</li> <li>Support facility enhancements and developments to meet the needs of the clubs as they grow.</li> </ul>	Medium	RDC, NGB, Clubs	Medium
Incorporating local facilities into the broader activity portfolio	Many of the village halls and community centres identified in Rochford do not offer sport or physical activity opportunity to the local community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify a project coordinator to lead on this element of work.</li> <li>Review Level 4 facilities to see which are realistically able to offer physical activity in the</li> </ul>	Medium	RDC, Active Rochford, Public Health, Leisure Operator	Medium

## SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES ROCHFORD STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Strategic objective	Recommendation	Action	Timescale	Responsibility	Importance
<b>Protect and Enhance</b>	Develop an improved understanding of the importance of Level 4 facilities with regard to the physical activity offer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>context of scale, configuration, management arrangements and existing commitments.</li> <li>Identify improvements to Level 4 facilities (ensuring that they are fit for purpose).</li> </ul>			
<b>Planning</b> <b>Protect, Enhance, and Provide</b>	To recognise the importance of this study and ensure recommendations are acted upon.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To adopt the recommendations in this Study and ensure that they are encapsulated in planning policy documents (Local Plans) and other relevant RDC strategies where appropriate.</li> <li>Develop priorities to assist RDC to identify developments that could be funded through developer contributions, CIL and other sources of funding.</li> </ul>	Medium	Planning & Leisure Team	High
<b>Monitor and review</b>	Keeping the Facilities Strategy relevant and up to date.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete a light touch review of the study annually.</li> <li>Undertake a complete review within 5 years of its implementation.</li> </ul>	Medium	RDC	High

## SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES ROCHFORD STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

### ACTION PLAN

The following actions relative to each of the District’s key facilities is identified below:

Facility, level and objective	Management	Overview and Challenges	Actions	Lead Agency	Timescale (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)
Greensward Academy Level 2  <b>Protect</b>	Academy trust- In house	Opened in 1999, this 5-court sports hall and a 3-lane x 19m swimming pool are both in need of investment. There are a number of outdoor facilities at this site also in need of investment. There is significant community use at the site. Community access is unsecured and access may be revoked in the near future.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ The sports hall needs urgent investment to improve its quality as well as ensuring it is health and safety compliant.</li> <li>◀ Investment is also required for the swimming pool.</li> <li>◀ Community use needs to be secured for the future so the community can continue the use of the Academy’s facilities.</li> <li>◀ Consider long term investment solutions for this facility.</li> </ul>	Greensward Academy	Short	High
King Edmund Business & Enterprise School Level 2 <b>Protect and Enhance</b>	Foundation School- In house	The 4-court sports hall was opened in 1997 and refurbished in 2005 and is above average. It is, however, used for exams, which reduces the amount of time it is available for community use. The hall is used by ABC Futsal Academy.  The School also has a 3-lane 18m pool which was built in 1997 and refurbished in 2009. The pool quality is above average however, the changing facilities are below average. The pool is available for community use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ The School should take measures to ensure that the hall is maintained to retain its currently quality.</li> <li>◀ Community use should continue to be maximised. This is the only site in the area accommodating Futsal.</li> <li>◀ Community access to the pool should be retained with the priority to maintain its quality.</li> <li>◀ An investment strategy is required to enable the School to continue to maintain and, where</li> </ul>	King Edmund Business and Enterprise School	Medium	Medium

## SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES ROCHFORD STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Facility, level and objective	Management	Overview and Challenges	Actions	Lead Agency	Timescale (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)
			possible, improve the standard of facilities.			
Rayleigh Leisure Centre Level 2  <b>Protect and Enhance</b>	Local Authority- Fusion Lifestyle	Rayleigh Leisure Centre has a 4-court sports hall built in 2006 (good quality), 42 station gym, 2-glass backed squash courts and hosts the only indoor bowls facility in Rochford (4-rinks). The facility has extensive community use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Priority should be given to maintaining the quality of current facilities.</li> <li>◀ The Leisure centre should continue to maximise community use of the facilities.</li> </ul>	RDC, Leisure Operator	Medium	High
Sweyne Park School Level 2  <b>Protect</b>	Rayleigh School Trust-	Built in 1999, Sweyne Park School has a 4-court sports hall which is below average. This hall offers between 20 and 40 hours of community use per week to a variety of sports clubs. The School also has a 4m x 19m swimming pool which is above average, however, the changing facilities are below average. This pool was built in 1999 and refurbished in 2007.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Ensure quality of the hall is improved by appropriate investment.</li> <li>◀ Maintain the quality of the pool and levels of community access.</li> </ul>	Rayleigh School Trust	Medium	Medium
Athenaeum Club Ltd Level 2  <b>Enhance</b>	Commercially owned - Athenaeum Club Ltd	This club requires £110 membership per month for use of the facilities. It has a 44-station gym which is above average. It also has a 25mx12m swimming pool.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Explore the potential for developing a community use agreement, for the use of indoor tennis especially by young people</li> </ul>	RDC Athenaeum Club Ltd	Medium	Medium

## SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES ROCHFORD STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Facility, level and objective	Management	Overview and Challenges	Actions	Lead Agency	Timescale (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)
<p>Clements Hall Leisure Centre Level 1</p> <p><b>Protect and/or Provide</b></p>	Local Authority-Fusion Lifestyle	<p>This is a significant facility with two sports halls (opened in 1979) a 7-court hall and a 2-court hall. The main sports hall, refurbished in 2010, is below average. The leisure centre has been identified as a key strategic site by Badminton England.</p> <p>The site also has an 8-lane 25m pool and 12m x 7m learner pool. These are also considered to be below average in quality. This is the only pool in the District that offers community use at both peak and off peak times.</p> <p>There is also a 120-station fitness gym and 6 squash courts which are both above average quality.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Identify an investment strategy that brings the facility up to a higher standard of quality.</li> <li>◀ Continue to maximise community use and plan programmes around the requirements of residents, taking account of the increasingly important health and wellbeing agenda.</li> <li>◀ Consider how to maximise income with a view to re-investment and ongoing refurbishment and upgrade of the facilities ensuring that they are fit for purpose.</li> <li>◀ Work with Badminton England to develop badminton programmes for all sections of the community.</li> <li>◀ Priorities should be made to improve and maintain the quality of the health and fitness offer.</li> <li>◀ Consider how the facility can develop a strong squash offer or alternatively (if not achievable) consider alternative leisure uses for the area. .</li> </ul>	RDC	Medium	High

## SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES ROCHFORD STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Facility, level and objective	Management	Overview and Challenges	Actions	Lead Agency	Timescale (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)
Fitzwimarc School Level 3  <b>Protect</b>	Academy- In house	The School has three sports halls: one 5-court sports hall and two 1-court sports halls. The 5-court hall was built in 1997 and is below average quality. All three halls are available for community use with the community using them for between 20 and 40 hours a week.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Consider different investment options so that the facilities can be upgraded and continue to maximise community use throughout the week with a view to signing a binding community use agreement</li> </ul>	School/Trust	Medium	Medium
Samantha Boyd School of Dance (Formerly Great Wakering) Level 3 <b>Protect</b>	Local Authority- Private Sports Club	This facility is owned by the local authority and run by private sports club. The 3-court sports hall is in poor quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Consider different options for investment into the facility.</li> <li>◀ Continue to support the Dance School in its development.</li> </ul>	RDC/Dance School	Medium	Medium

## SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES ROCHFORD STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

### Sport by sport action plan

Sport	Challenges	Recommended actions	Lead agency	Timescale (S/M/L)	Objective
Table Tennis	The key challenge for the clubs is to increase membership numbers, particularly focusing on growth of junior and recreational players.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clubs to develop a workforce development plan to ensure they have the skills and capacity to allow the clubs to grow and provide recreational and competitive opportunities in the area.</li> <li>Regular evaluation of hall programming at the leisure centres and other halls to ensure recreational table tennis is available.</li> </ul>	RDC/ Fusion Lifestyle/ Essex County Table Tennis Association/ clubs	Medium	Enhance
Swimming	Ensure the needs of the Club as well as community users are satisfied via effective programming and pricing within the Authority's pools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain dialogue between the Local Authority, Swim England, different user groups and Swimming Club to ensure that users' needs are considered in the context of the wider swimming programme.</li> </ul>	RDC/ Fusion Lifestyle/ Swim England	Medium	Enhance
Badminton	<p>Continue to maintain Clements Hall as a strategic badminton site with the delivery of No Strings sessions for the wider community.</p> <p>Consider who is going to take the lead on developing badminton.</p> <p>Ensure recreational badminton is available and growing at other sports halls in the authority.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fusion Lifestyle to further develop the partnership with Badminton England to improve badminton provision in the area.</li> <li>Develop a workforce development plan the County Badminton Association and local recreational players to ensure local development of the skills and capacity to allow for future growth.</li> <li>Regular evaluation of sports hall programming at Clements Hall and other sports halls to ensure badminton opportunities are available in addition to the No Strings sessions.</li> </ul>	Fusion Lifestyle/ Essex County Badminton Association/ clubs	Medium	Enhance
Futsal	<p>To establish the sport in the area and grow the sport.</p> <p>To ensure that the sport has access to facilities with appropriate makings and are sufficient in size.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a workforce development plan with the Club to ensure it will develop the skills and capacity to allow for future growth.</li> </ul>	RDC/ Fusion Lifestyle/ FA/ Club	Medium	Enhance

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Sport	Challenges	Recommended actions	Lead agency	Timescale (S/M/L)	Objective
Basketball	Ensure enough coaches and volunteers are available for the continued development of basketball. Access to the sports hall sites are maintained for the basketball clubs. To maintain recreational delivery through satellite and hub clubs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Develop a workforce development plan with the Clubs and continue to drive up participation in the sport.</li> <li>◀ Regular evaluation of programming at all sports halls across Rochford to ensure there is capacity to support regular participatory sessions.</li> <li>◀ Identify potential funding opportunities to support recreational sessions within the Authority.</li> </ul>	Basketball England/ RDC/ clubs	Medium	Enhance
Squash	To maintain Clements Hall as a strategic site and offer a quality squash programme through the six courts available at the site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Work with England Squash and offer a strong, quality programme for squash and racketball participation both competitively and recreationally.</li> <li>◀ Develop a workforce plan for squash to ensure continuity of the programme</li> </ul>	Fusion Lifestyle/ England Squash/ RDC/ Clubs/ Leagues	Medium	Enhance
Indoor Bowls	To continue to grow the membership at the club to ensure the facility is sustainable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ To continue to work in partnership with Fusion Lifestyle to further enhance and develop the club to increase membership and income in order to sustain the facility in the future.</li> </ul>	Club/Fusion Lifestyle/ RDC	Medium	Enhance
Sailing	The key challenge for the clubs is to increase membership numbers, particularly focusing on junior members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Develop and maintain effective relationships between Schools, RYA and local clubs to ensure participatory programmes delivered by the clubs are publicised and supported.</li> </ul>	Sailing clubs, RYA, RDC	Medium	Enhance
Indoor Tennis	The main challenge is the only facility in the area is restricted to adults and at a high cost.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Explore the opportunity to enable access to the facility for young people.</li> </ul>	Athenaeum Club Ltd , RDC	Short	Enhance
Gymnastics & Trampoline	The main challenge is to increase the workforce to enable the sport to grow.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Clubs (gymnastics and trampolining) to develop and coordinate resources to increase the workforce to enable the sport to grow and drive up participation.</li> </ul>	Clubs, British Gymnastics, Fusion Lifestyle, RDC	Short	Enhance

# SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES ROCHFORD STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

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## Appendix 1: Planning gain contribution toolkit

### Introduction

The purpose of this toolkit is to ensure that planning gain contribution sought from an individual development is based on a tailored approach, using the robust evidence bases provided as part of the South Essex Overarching Strategy and Action Plan for indoor and built sports facilities. This will help to clearly justify the needs arising from the development and how they are to be met.

It provides a step by step guide which should be used by those stakeholders which are directly involved in negotiating developer contributions either local authority case officers or housing developers/planning consultants acting on their behalf.

The following processes should be followed in order to inform the potential additional demand that a new housing development generates. This sets out the process for indoor and built sports facilities.

There is also a checklist summary for the process which should be completed as evidence of working through each step. In terms of social sustainability, a series of questions to explore are provided with possible options to consider.

For all developments (regardless of size) developer contributions should be sought towards social, sport and open space facilities. Where a development may be considered too small to provide a contribution, consideration should be given to where a number of small developments may have a cumulative impact on the community infrastructure and refer to local planning policy.

In instances where a development may fall within two or more local authorities it is recommended that the demand from the more urban area or locally reflective area are applied in calculating the requirements. This is in order to reflect the on the ground use of provision in the context of its setting. If provision is to be provided on the outskirts of an urban settlement and therefore is to act as an extension of that settlement, it is justifiable to utilise the demand/standards most appropriate.

The suite of evidence documents making up the Overarching Strategy and Action Plan includes:

- ◀ Basildon Needs Assessment Report
- ◀ Basildon Sports Strategy
- ◀ Castle Point Needs Assessment Report
- ◀ Castle Point Sports Strategy
- ◀ Rochford Needs Assessment Report
- ◀ Rochford Sports Strategy
- ◀ Southend Needs Assessment Report
- ◀ Southend Sports Strategy

# SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES ROCHFORD STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

## Process

Step 1	Determine the key indoor sports facility requirement resulting from the development	Navigation
	<p>The key tools to assess this are provided within Sport England's Sports Facility Calculator which is accessed via the Active Places Power website.  <a href="https://www.activeplacespower.com/">https://www.activeplacespower.com/</a></p> <p>This will enable you to determine the demand for sports halls, swimming pools and indoor bowls facilities that the new population from a development generates.</p>	<p>Access to the calculator is restricted and requires a username and password to be set up.</p>

The individual local authorities IBF strategies provide an estimate of future demand for key indoor sports facilities based on population forecasts as a result of key housing growth areas. This key demand is translated into units of badminton courts, swimming pool lanes and indoor bowls rinks.

As the exact number of units are identified from specific housing developments then the Council will need to apply the household occupancy rate to this to determine the total population.

$$\text{Number of dwellings} \times \text{household occupancy rate}^1 = \text{associated population}$$

This is the population that is applied within the Sports Facilities Calculator (SFC) to determine the additional provision that is required to meet the additional demand.

The SFC is a modelling tool designed to assist local planning authorities to quantify how much additional demand is generated by increasing populations and new housing areas. The model has no spatial qualities or dimension and can only be used to estimate the facility needs for whole area populations. The model makes no reference to:

- ◀ Location of existing facilities compared to demand.
- ◀ Capacity and availability of facilities (i.e. opening hours, how well they are used)
- ◀ Cross boundary movements of demand.
- ◀ Travel networks and topography.
- ◀ The attractiveness of the existing facility network.

The SFC uses information that Sport England has gathered on who uses facilities and applies this to the population profile of the local area. This ensures that the calculations take on board the population profile (e.g. age, gender, etc) of the local area.

The SFC then turns this estimation of demand (visits per week) into the equivalent amount of facility which is needed to meet these visits. For swimming pools it uses 25m lane equivalents and for sports halls it uses the number of badminton courts.

Registration is required to access Active Places Power (APP) and therefore the SFC. If you are not already registered, you can register for free via the link under the login button on the APP homepage.

Please note the SFC is one tool and should not be used on its own to determine the need for sports facilities from a single development.

<sup>1</sup> National occupancy rate of 2.3 persons per household is used

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<b>Step 2</b>	<b>Determine the other indoor sports and community facilities required as a result of the development</b>	<b>Navigation</b>
	Use the Indoor Built Facilities Strategy to identify level of need that may be generated from new development(s) for indoor sporting provision not included within the SFC. This should also extend to community centre facilities within the area.	Indoor and built facilities strategy

There is no clear calculation of the requirements for other indoor sports provision and community centre facilities (not covered by SFC) as a result of a new housing development. In this instance, the Indoor and Built Sports Facilities Strategy should be used to determine the need for additional facilities within the area. This should take into account the requirement for other dedicated sports facilities if the Strategy identifies this. For example, in Southend there is a recognised need for more sports hall space and as such, a contribution towards this may be seen as a priority.

The Assessment Report (within the specific sections of the report) should identify the need for other provision within the area. This will be as a result of the consultation with specific clubs and organisations, facility operators and national governing bodies of sport. It will also take account of the size, scale and quality of existing provision in order to inform this. The type of facilities identified within the Assessment report is determined by the scope of the study which the Council commissions.

This will also be informed by how busy existing facilities are. As an example, if an existing leisure centre (adjacent to the new housing development) is fully programmed with high demand for space, it is unrealistic to expect this facility to accommodate the demand generated from the new development. Therefore, additional provision will be required.

<b>Step 3</b>	<b>Demonstrate an understanding of what else the development generates demand for</b>	<b>Navigation</b>
	Consideration also needs to be given to the other infrastructure that will be generated as a result of the development. As an example, this could include primary and secondary schools, health centres, library, etc. The key focus here is to determine where there may be duplication of facilities and where there may be opportunities for shared provision.	Consultation with other council services, partners and developers

In reality it will take a significantly large development to generate the requirement for a new stand-alone wet and dry leisure centre. Therefore, it is important to identify where other provision may be required as a result of the development in order to determine if this could replace or supplement the need to provide sports facilities or community facilities.

A key example of this is the requirement for primary and secondary school provision as a result of the development. A primary school will require a multi-purpose indoor hall, playground and playing field space to deliver its national curriculum requirements for PE. A secondary school will require at least a four court sports hall and playing field space in order to deliver its national curriculum requirements for PE.

## SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES ROCHFORD STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Therefore, further investigation should be undertaken to identify if the opportunity exists to ensure that community use of the school sports facilities can be guaranteed, thus minimising the potential duplication of facilities. In this instance the 'contribution' associated with the increased demand for sports facilities could be used to enhance the school provision to ensure it was appropriate for community use (e.g. extend fitness facilities, community access arrangements, etc.).

In relation to other service (e.g. library, health centre, etc) there is a need to consider how these could be co-located with alongside sports and community facilities, thus creating a community hub. This is a key driver for sports facilities in attracting users that might not otherwise use these types of facilities.

The financial, social and sporting benefits which can be achieved through development of strategic sites (also known as hub sites) are significant. Sport England provides further guidance on the development of community sports hubs at:

<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/>

Step 4	<b>Consider if there are existing facilities within close proximity that could be enhanced or extended to accommodate increased demand.</b>	Navigation
	Further investigation is required to determine if there is an existing facility that is close enough to the development site which, if extended /refurbished / remodelled could accommodate the increased demand generated from the new development.	Facility mapping within the Sports Facilities Assessment Report

Detailed analysis of facilities within the vicinity of the new development should be undertaken to assess the suitability of these facilities to accommodate the increased demand generated from the development. As an example the following information should be pulled together in order to determine if this is an appropriate solution to accommodate the increased demand:

Is the facility close enough to the development to accommodate the increased demand?

The quality of the facility.....does it need investment?

Is there capacity to accommodate increased demand....how well used is the facility?

Are there any restrictions in access to the facility?

Are there plans in place to maintain or refurbish the facility?

What type of activities are accommodated within the facility?

Are the current management arrangements appropriate to accommodate changes or increased demand at the facility?

Are there opportunities to co-locate other services alongside or within the facility?

In addition to the above it will also be important to assess the potential impact of the additional demand on clubs and organisations within the vicinity. As an example, some clubs and organisations may already be at capacity; therefore, there may be no capacity to accommodate increased demand within the existing infrastructure.

Step 5	<b>Consider the design principles for new provision</b>	Navigation
	The exact nature and location of provision associated with either onsite or off-site developments should be fully determined in partnership with leisure and community specialists (e.g. NGBs, local authority, advisers, etc.) and community groups themselves.	<a href="https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/">https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/</a>

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It is important to ensure that the design of new or extended facilities is in line with the needs of local clubs and organisations as well as relevant design guidance. It will be important that any design reflects best practice design guidance taking into account all the key considerations which will be relevant to each facility. As an example this will include aspects such as: health and safety, safeguarding, storage, sport specific design features, etc.).

Where an extension or refurbishment of an existing facility takes place it will be important to ensure that the local community is involved in that design. It will also be important to ensure that continuity of provision is also considered as clubs and organisations will need alternative accommodation during the construction period associated with a refurbishment or extension. This is important in ensuring these organisations continue to exist in the longer term.

The development of community hubs is a key focus for many organisations as the benefits derived from the co-location of facilities is often greater than from stand-alone facilities. Therefore, there is a need for developers and stakeholders to consider how different facilities may 'fit' together. As an example, this could include the following facilities which may be required as part of a development:

- ◀ Indoor and outdoor sports facilities
- ◀ Primary and Secondary schools
- ◀ Health centres and GP surgeries
- ◀ Library
- ◀ Early years provision.
- ◀ Community centre
- ◀ Children's play areas
- ◀ Allotments and community growing areas
- ◀ Local retail centres

The master plan for new developments need to consider the strategic location of facilities and the clustering and co-location of facilities in order to maximise the benefit for the local community.

There is also a need to ensure that the location of outdoor sports pitches and ancillary facilities are appropriately located in the context of indoor sports provision (if also being provided onsite) to ensure a cohesive approach to the whole sporting offer.

Step 6	Strategic pooling of financial contributions to deliver new provision	Navigation
	Consideration needs to be given to the multiple developments across the local authority or a combination of local authorities in order to determine if the combined increased demand is sufficient to warrant a contribution to a strategic leisure development.	Wider housing growth strategies.

If authorities consider each housing growth area in isolation then it is unlikely that there will be sufficient demand generated from a single development to warrant a new stand-alone leisure provision, especially swimming pools

As such the council needs to consider how the cluster of housing developments within the local authority boundary, or relevant cross border area should make a contribution to strategic sport

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and leisure facilities. As discussed previously, this may be to provide new provision or to enhance existing in order that it can accommodate increased demand.

This in turn requires the Council and developer to consider the wider housing growth within the area which may also include that within a neighbouring authority. Where the combined increased demand generates the requirement for a strategic facility this should be pooled via developer contributions to a strategic development. However, it should be noted that the contribution may go towards a facility which is outside of the local authority boundary but reflects how people will live their lives within that specific development. A key example of this is in Southend where residents within the Rochford boundary will gravitate to Southend rather than using facilities within the authority's boundary.

In order to calculate the contribution from each housing development into a strategic leisure facility fund the Council should use the Sport England Sports Facilities Calculator. Using the population growth and process identified from stage 1 this will provide a basis for negotiation with developers on the contribution from each development.

<https://www.activeplacespower.com/>

<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>

### Checklist summary

Prompt	Evidence	Navigation
<b>Step 1:</b> <i>Determine the indoor sports facility requirement resulting from the development</i>		<a href="https://www.activeplacespower.com/">https://www.activeplacespower.com/</a>
<b>Step 2:</b> <i>Determine the other indoor sports and community facilities are required as a result of the development</i>		Indoor and built facilities strategy
<b>Step 3:</b> <i>Demonstrate an understanding of what else the development generates demand for</i>		Consultation with other council services, partners and developers)
<b>Step 4:</b> <i>Consider if there are existing facilities within close proximity that could be enhanced or extended to accommodate increased demand.</i>		Facility mapping within the Sports Facilities Assessment Report
<b>Step 5:</b> <i>Consider the design principles for new provision</i>		Consultation <a href="https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/">https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/</a>
<b>Step 6:</b> <i>Strategic pooling of financial contributions to deliver new provision</i>		<a href="https://www.activeplacespower.com/">https://www.activeplacespower.com/</a> <a href="https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/">https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/</a>