

# EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Indoor Sports Facilities Needs Assessment, Strategy and Action Plan

15 January 2015

## DOCUMENT CONTROL

### Amendment History

Version No.	Date	Author	Comments
3	15/01/2015	T Wintgens	Final report

### Sign-off List

Name	Date	Comments
Tom Pinnington	15/01/2015	Approved for issue

### Distribution List

Name	Organisation	Date
Martin Grey	East Cambridgeshire District Council	15/01/2015
Allison Conder	East Cambridgeshire District Council	15/01/2015
Steering Group Members	East Cambridgeshire District Council and Sport England	15/01/2015

**CONTENTS**

- 1 INTRODUCTION.....1**

  - 1.1 Introduction.....1
  - 1.2 Project Brief.....1
  - 1.3 Methodology and Approach.....1

- 2 BACKGROUND AND POLICY REVIEW .....3**

  - 2.1 Introduction.....3
  - 2.2 National Context.....3
  - 2.3 Local Policy Context .....5
  - 2.4 Demographic Profile .....7
  - 2.5 Sport England Market Segmentation .....10
  - 2.6 Sports Participation .....12
  - 2.7 Summary .....13

- 3 AUDIT OF FACILITY SUPPLY .....14**

  - 3.1 Introduction.....14
  - 3.2 Catchment areas .....15
  - 3.3 Supply and Demand Analysis .....15
  - 3.4 Supply of Facilities.....16
  - 3.5 Comparators.....17

- 4 NEEDS ASSESSMENT, SURPLUSES AND SHORTFALLS IN FACILITY PROVISION18**

  - 4.1 Introduction.....18
  - 4.2 Swimming Pools.....18
  - 4.3 Supply .....18
  - 4.4 Demand.....22
  - 4.5 Summary .....25
  - 4.6 Sports Halls .....26
  - 4.7 Supply .....26
  - 4.8 Demand.....30
  - 4.9 Summary .....32
  - 4.10 Health and Fitness Suites.....34
  - 4.11 Supply .....34
  - 4.12 Demand.....37
  - 4.13 Summary .....37
  - 4.14 Indoor Bowls.....39
  - 4.15 Supply .....39
  - 4.16 Demand.....41
  - 4.17 Summary .....41
  - 4.18 Squash Courts.....43
  - 4.19 Supply .....43
  - 4.20 Demand.....45
  - 4.21 Summary .....46
  - 4.22 Studios .....48
  - 4.23 Supply .....48
  - 4.24 Demand.....51
  - 4.25 Summary .....51
  - 4.26 Indoor tennis.....52
  - 4.27 Supply .....52
  - 4.28 Demand.....54
  - 4.29 Summary .....54

<b>5</b>	<b>INDOOR SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN .....</b>	<b>55</b>
5.1	Introduction.....	55
5.2	Developing the strategy .....	55
5.3	Objectives.....	57
5.4	Action Plan .....	58
5.5	Delivery of the Strategy .....	67
5.6	Housing Growth.....	67
5.7	Developer Contributions .....	68
5.8	Monitoring and Review .....	68
<b>6</b>	<b>PROPOSED LOCAL STANDARDS/LEVELS OF PROVISION .....</b>	<b>69</b>
6.1	Approach and Rationale .....	69
6.2	Future Local Standards/Levels of Provision.....	69
6.3	Summary of Findings.....	72

## **APPENDICES**

### **APPENDIX 1: AUDIT FINDINGS**

### **APPENDIX 2: SPORT ENGLAND FACILITIES PLANNING MODEL RESULTS**

### **APPENDIX 3: LIST OF CONSULTEES**

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 The Sports Consultancy was appointed in July 2014 to complete an audit and assessment of indoor sports facilities and to produce an indoor sports facility strategy and action plan for East Cambridgeshire.

### 1.2 Project Brief

1.2.1 The project brief required that the indoor sports facility assessment should look at the age, quality, size, accessibility, community use, opening hours and type of management of each existing facility. In doing so, the assessment considers the following questions:

- What is the overall picture across East Cambridgeshire in terms of the quantity of indoor sports provision?
- What is the overall picture across East Cambridgeshire in terms of the quality, accessibility and sustainability of indoor sports provision?
- Which geographical areas have poor access to indoor sports facilities?
- Level of informal and formal community use and security of community access to educational sites
- A review of the existing standards for indoor provision (based upon an area per 1,000 people) and recommendations for developing new proposed standards for provision.

1.2.2 The assessment identifies and assesses the provision of the indoor sports facilities listed below:

- Indoor swimming pools
- Sports halls
- Health and fitness suites
- Indoor bowls
- Squash courts
- Activity studios
- Indoor tennis courts.

1.2.3 The assessment has been prepared in accordance with Sport England's guidelines (Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance December - 2013) to reflect current best practice for the provision of indoor sports facilities.

### 1.3 Methodology and Approach

1.3.1 The audit and assessment methodology included the following stages of work:

**Stage 1 Project initiation**

**Stage 2 A review of policy review of relevant strategic background documentation** - analysis of existing and emerging local planning policies for indoor sport facility provision in East Cambridgeshire; the recommendations for the local plan policy Draft Local Plan and the forthcoming Local Plan Review in terms of protection, enhancement and provision of facilities.

**Stage 3 Audit of local provision** - A desktop review of the existing facility supply in the area using data made available by Sport England, via Active Places

- Power, to establish the current level of provision within the district including the range of facilities, age, management type and accessibility
- Stage 4 Identifying local needs** - Consultation with key stakeholders (e.g. leisure centre trusts, schools, County, local sports clubs and national governing bodies) and use Sport England's strategic planning tools such as the Facilities Planning Model and Active Places Power, to complete a robust assessment of the demand for indoor sports facilities
- Stage 5 Using the outputs from stages 3 and 4, identification of surpluses, shortfalls, issues and recommendations** to help ensure that existing and future of indoor sports facility needs are met across the District. This stage must identify opportunities for improving existing indoor facilities in terms of their quality, quantity, physical and social accessibility, community access to school sites and current maintenance and management.
- Stage 6 Production of an indoor sports facility strategy document and a prioritised and timeline action plan** for East Cambridgeshire which incorporates the key findings from each of the stage reports listed above. The final strategy will take a long-term view to 2026, and must make recommendations to inform the preparation of planning policies as part of the forthcoming local plan review.

1.3.2 The findings in this report are based on data collected from a range of sources including:

- Published policy and strategy documents
- Sport England tools including:
  - The Facility Planning Model
  - Active Places Power website
  - Active People Survey
  - Market Segmentation
  - Sports Facility Calculator.
- Stakeholder consultation including:
  - Council officers
  - Sport England
  - Facility operators
  - Relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport
  - County Sport Partnership
  - User clubs
  - Neighbouring local authorities.
- Site visits.

1.3.3 This document contains the findings from the audit and assessment of indoor sports facilities and the strategy and action plan.

## 2 BACKGROUND AND POLICY REVIEW

### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 This section contains a review of local and national policies and other information, which is of significance in the development of the needs assessment, strategy and action plan. This includes consideration of the following:

- National policy context
- Local policy context
- Demographic profile
- Sport England market segmentation
- Sports participation trends.

2.1.2 The key issues arising from the policies and information reviewed have been summarised in the following pages. A summary of the key findings is provided at the end of the section.

### 2.2 National Context

#### **Sport England: Creating A Sporting Habit for Life (2012-2017)**

2.2.1 In 2017, five years after the London Olympic and Paralympic Games, Sport England aspires to transform sport in England so that it is a habit for life for more people and a regular choice for the majority. The strategy will:

- See more people starting and keeping a sporting habit for life
- Create more opportunities for young people
- Nurture and develop talent
- Provide the right facilities in the right places
- Support local authorities and unlock funding
- Ensure real opportunities for communities.

2.2.2 By 2017, Sport England will have:

- Invested around £500 million in 46 national governing bodies of sport to help them increase the number of people who play their sports and improve how they support their talented athletes
- Offered every secondary school in England a community sport club on its site with a direct link to one or more sports
- Helped secondary schools open up their sports facilities for local community use
- Provided at least 150 further education colleges with a full-time sports professional
- Given three-quarters of university students aged 18-24 the chance to take up a new sport or continue playing sport while they study
- Encouraged 2,000 young people on the margins of society to take part in sport to help them gain new life skills
- Established enhanced England Talent Pathways in at least 30 sports to ensure young people fulfil their potential.
- Invested £265 million into facilities for the most popular sports, building on the success of Places People Play, our London 2012 legacy programme
- Invested £10 million in projects targeting disabled people

- 2.2.3 Sport England will achieve these aims by strategically investing over £1 billion of Exchequer and National Lottery funding.

#### **Sport England Youth and Community Strategy (2012 – 2017)**

- 2.2.4 Launched in January 2012, it sets out how Sport England will invest over one billion pounds of National Lottery and Exchequer funding during the five year plan period. The investment is to be used to create a lasting community sport legacy by growing sports participation at the grassroots level following the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- 2.2.5 The aim by 2017 is to ensure that playing sport is a lifelong habit for more people and a regular choice for the majority. A specific target is to increase the number of 14 to 25 year olds playing sport. To accomplish these aims the strategy sets out a number of outcomes:
- 4,000 secondary schools in England to be offered an “on-site” community sport club with a direct link to one or more NGBs, depending on local clubs in a school’s area.
  - County Sports Partnerships to be given new resources to create effective links locally between schools and sport in the community.
  - All secondary schools, who wish to do so, will be supported to open up, or keep open, their sports facilities for local community use and at least a third of these will receive additional funding to make this happen.
  - At least 150 further educational colleges will benefit from a full time sports professional who will act as a College Sport Maker.
  - Three quarters of university students aged 18-24 will get the chance to take up a new sport or continue playing a sport they played at school or college.
  - Building on the success of the Places People Play, a further £100 million will be invested in facilities for the most popular sports.
  - A minimum of 30 sports will have enhanced England Talent Pathways to ensure young people and others fulfil their potential.

#### **National Planning Policy Framework (2012)**

- 2.2.6 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out planning policies for England. It details how these changes are expected to be applied to the planning system. It also provides a framework for local people and their councils to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities. It states that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It identifies the need to focus on three themes of sustainable development:
- Economic.
  - Social.
  - Environmental.

- 2.2.7 A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.
- 2.2.8 The “promoting healthy communities” theme identifies that planning policies should be based on robust, up-to-date assessments of need for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative and qualitative deficiencies and surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

### **Investment in School Sport (2013)**

- 2.2.9 In March 2013 the Government announced its funding for school sport (Sport Premium) which sees £150 million per annum invested over the next two years. This will be made up of funding from various Government departments including Department for Education (£80m), the Department of Health (£60m) and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (£10m). The Government’s strategy sees funds go directly into the hands of primary school head teachers for them to spend on sport.
- 2.2.10 Schools will be measured by Ofsted on how well they use their Sport Premium to improve the quality and breadth of PE and sporting provision, including increasing participation in PE and sport so that all pupils develop healthy lifestyles and reach the performance levels they are capable of.

## **2.3 Local Policy Context**

### **Sport and Physical Activity Strategy (2013 – 2017)**

- 2.3.1 East Cambridgeshire District Council has developed a Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2013 – 2017. The strategic vision is:
- 2.3.2 “Create, develop and sustain Sport and Physical Activity Services which support East Cambridgeshire to be a more active and healthier place, and build on the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Legacy.”
- 2.3.3 The vision will be delivered via the three strategic priorities:
- Priority One: Increase sport and physical activity participation through specific and targeted services.
  - Priority Two: Reduce the number of community preventable health diseases which are prioritised by the health and Wellbeing Partnership.
  - Priority Three: Sustain and increase standards of physical buildings, partnerships, third sector organisations and volunteers.

### **New Leisure Facilities – Assessment of Need and Options Appraisal (2008)**

- 2.3.4 The most recent assessment of need for new leisure facilities was carried out in 2008. Through a supply and demand assessment, this work found:
- The need to address the current and future deficit of accessible water space for swimming, specifically competition sized water space i.e. 25m (ideally) 8 lane swimming pool with separate learner pool
  - There is an identified under supply of courts/sports halls in the District. A six court hall would be recommended.

- There is potential to significantly increase the number of health and fitness facilities in the public sector. A 80/100 station facility would be proposed.
- There is a need for associated ancillary provision alongside the main facilities highlighted above e.g. studio, health suite, offices etc.

### **East Cambridgeshire Emerging Local Plan (2014 – 2031)**

- 2.3.5 East Cambridgeshire's emerging Local Plan identifies that provision of community facilities, including sport and recreational facilities, is vital to maintaining the quality of life in local centres and boosting the social and economic vitality of the community as a whole.
- 2.3.6 Looking at recent trends and the issues facing the economy and the public sector over the Plan period, a concern for the district will be the loss of existing community facilities. Although loss of community facilities is more likely to be an issue in the villages (where there is a limited range of services) the loss of facilities in market towns can also have an adverse effect on the local community, even where the facility is not the last one in the settlement. The impact on people without access to a car and in areas served poorly by public transport can be particularly acute. In support of the strategic policies, the Plan seeks to prevent the loss of services and facilities unless there are exceptional reasons to justify it.

### **Policy ELY 10: Leisure allocation, land at Downham Road (2012)**

- 2.3.7 There is an identified need for a larger public swimming pool and sports centre within Ely to cater for the increased population in the District. The existing Paradise Pool is reaching the end of its life and is in need of replacement, however, there is insufficient space on the site to deliver the size of facility that is now required for the District. Following a thorough process of assessment, evaluation and consultation, it was concluded that the new leisure centre would be best located on land adjacent to Ely Rugby Club at Downham Road (north-west of, and on the outskirts, of Ely).
- 2.3.8 Planning permission was granted in 2010 for a new district-wide leisure centre, providing public sport and wet/dry leisure facilities including a main pool, studio pool and splash pool, fitness suite and flexible sports hall that could also host occasional concerts or events. The proposals will allow the delivery of a new and much needed facility within the short-term whilst avoiding disruption to services on the existing Paradise site.

### **Ely Leisure Centre Options Appraisal and Feasibility Study (2014)**

- 2.3.9 The Sports Consultancy and AFLS&P Architects were appointed by East Cambridge District Council (the Council) in June 2014, to complete a feasibility and options appraisal study for a new leisure centre, proposed for Downham Road in Ely. The outputs from the study will be used by the Council as the basis of decisions on whether, and how best, to proceed with the development of a new leisure centre.
- 2.3.10 The results of the options appraisal and feasibility study have identified a potential option to take forward. This option will transform the quality and range of sport and leisure provision for the community in Ely and the wider catchment of East Cambridgeshire District Council.
- 2.3.11 Having completed the initial needs analysis, and identified the facility needs, a number of options were developed to appraise. The aim was to identify options which meet the

identified needs, to a lesser or greater extent, and to test the financial implications, in particular, the affordability of them.

2.3.12 Based on these findings, the Council decided in November 2014 to opt for the following facilities:

- 8 lane 25m pool and separate learner pool with moveable floor
- 4 court sports hall
- 120 station health and fitness and free weight area
- 2 interlinked multi-purpose studios, social space & seating capacity.
- Full size artificial grass pitch.

2.3.13 It was recommended that the Council progresses the project with the completion of a detailed feasibility study in line with RIBA Stage C. Indicative timescales show that the new district wide leisure centre would be due to open at the end of 2016.

#### **Littleport Sports and Leisure Study (2014)**

2.3.14 The purpose of this study was to review the type and number of sporting facilities required to support both the educational and community needs of Littleport and the surrounding area. This was addressed through consideration of guidance from the Department of Education and analysis of the facility supply and demand balance, based on a desktop study and consultation with stakeholders. The operation of the existing Littleport Leisure Community Centre was also reviewed.

2.3.15 The work is related to the planned opening (September 2016) of a new four-form entry secondary academy (ages 11 to 16) and one-form entry primary academy to be run by the Greenwood Dale Foundation Trust. Cambridgeshire County Council will deliver the capital project. Under the current proposals a new sports centre will be built on the Academy site designed for both education and community use, access would be provided through the existing Leisure Centre site.

2.3.16 The Report recommends the development of a new, combined sports centre to serve education and community needs. The key elements of the facility mix would be; four badminton court sports hall, secondary sports hall sized to accommodate two badminton courts, dance/activity studio, health and fitness suite (40 stations), bar and social facilities and changing facilities.

## **2.4 Demographic Profile**

2.4.1 The demographic profile of the District has been reviewed to provide further context in terms of the catchment population and the key factors influencing facility needs.

### **Population**

2.4.2 East Cambridgeshire is a predominantly rural district that covers an area of 655km<sup>2</sup> and has a population of 84,200<sup>1</sup>. The population has increased significantly in recent years and growth is expected to continue.

2.4.3 There are three main settlements including the cathedral city of Ely and the market towns of Soham and Littleport. Together, these comprise 47%<sup>2</sup> of the district's population, with the remaining population spread between around 50 villages. In the

---

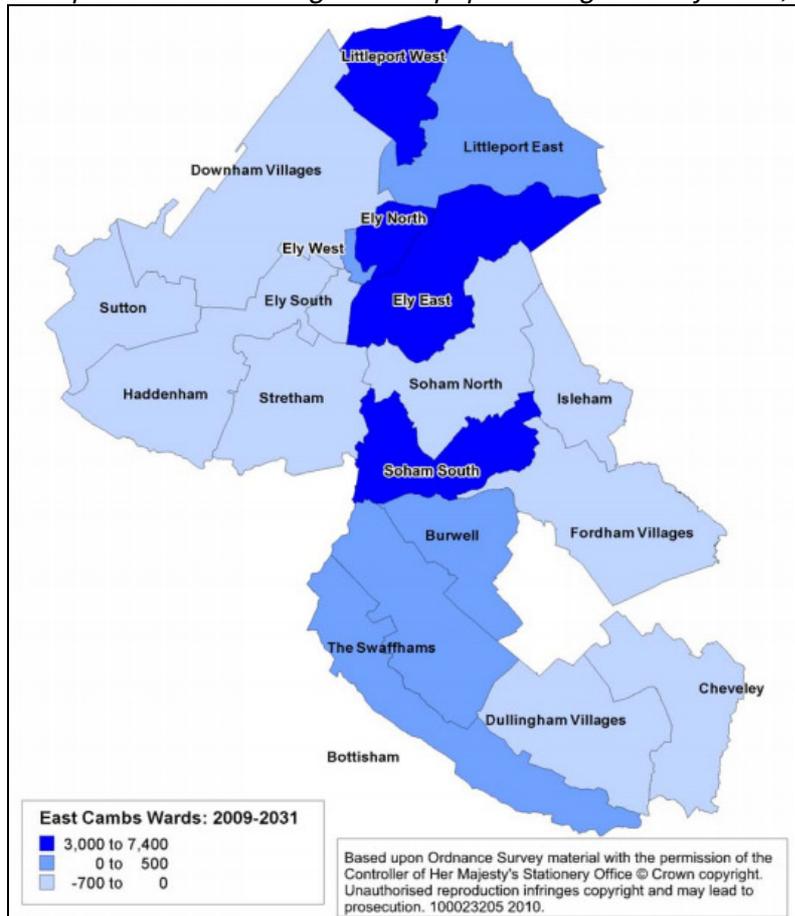
<sup>1</sup> Census (2011)

years up to 2031 the population in East Cambridgeshire is forecast to increase by 26,000 to 110,200<sup>3</sup> (103,700 by 2026).

2.4.4 As Figure 1 below shows, most of that growth is forecast to occur in the following areas, shaded dark blue where the major housing development areas have been identified:

- Ely East (35% of total growth)
- Ely North (16% of total)
- Soham South (23% of total)
- Littleport West (22% of total)<sup>4</sup>.

Figure 1: Map of East Cambridgeshire's population growth by ward, 2009-2031



(Source: Ordnance Survey, 2009)

## Health

2.4.5 The health of people in East Cambridgeshire is generally better than the England average. Deprivation is lower than average<sup>5</sup>, however there are 44,600 overweight adults in East Cambridgeshire, which is a higher rate than the national average. Table 1 below shows the breakdown of overweight levels in adults and children.

<sup>2</sup> East Cambridgeshire Local Plan (2013)

<sup>3</sup> Cambridgeshire County Council; Population, Housing and Employment Forecasts (2013)

<sup>4</sup> East Cambridgeshire; Annual demographic and socio-economic report (2011)

<sup>5</sup> Public Health England (2014)

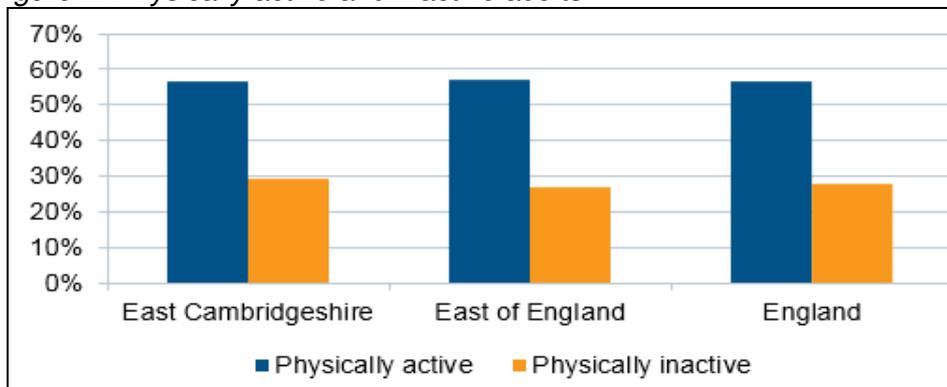
*Table 1: Overweight levels in adults and children*

Geography	Overweight Adults	
	No. (000s)	Rate
East Cambridgeshire	44.6	65.0%
East of England	3,109.6	65.1%
England	27,135.4	63.8%

(Source: Public Health England: Year 2012/13)

- 2.4.6 Nevertheless there are 38,800 physically active people in East Cambridgeshire. This is a rate of 56.6%, which is lower than in the East of England (57.1%) and in England as a whole (56.6%). There are 20,000 physically inactive people in East Cambridgeshire, which at a rate of 29.2% is higher than the region (26.9%) and across the country (27.9%).

*Figure 2: Physically active and inactive adults*



(Source: Public Health England, 2012)

- 2.4.7 Figure 2 shows that people in East Cambridgeshire are less physically active than the regional and national averages.
- 2.4.8 The health costs of physical inactivity in East Cambridgeshire, based on most recent information, was just over £1.3 million (British Heart Foundation, 2009/10). The highest cost was £681,480 for treatment of coronary heart disease. However, cost per 100,000 population was lower than the regional and national averages.

*Table 2: Health costs of physical inactivity*

Disease category	East Cambridgeshire	East of England	England
Cancer lower GI e.g. bowel cancer	£86,347	£5,853,928	£67,816,189
Breast Cancer	£87,681	£5,755,887	£60,357,887
Diabetes	£309,829	£19,484,702	£190,660,420
Coronary heart disease	£681,480	£60,186,615	£491,095,943
Cerebrovascular disease e.g. stroke	£143,396	£11,718,678	£134,359,285
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>£1,308,734</b>	<b>£102,999,810</b>	<b>£944,289,723</b>
<b>Cost per 100,000 population</b>	<b>£1,572,149</b>	<b>£1,785,966</b>	<b>£1,817,285</b>

(Source: Sport England commissioned data from British Heart Foundation)

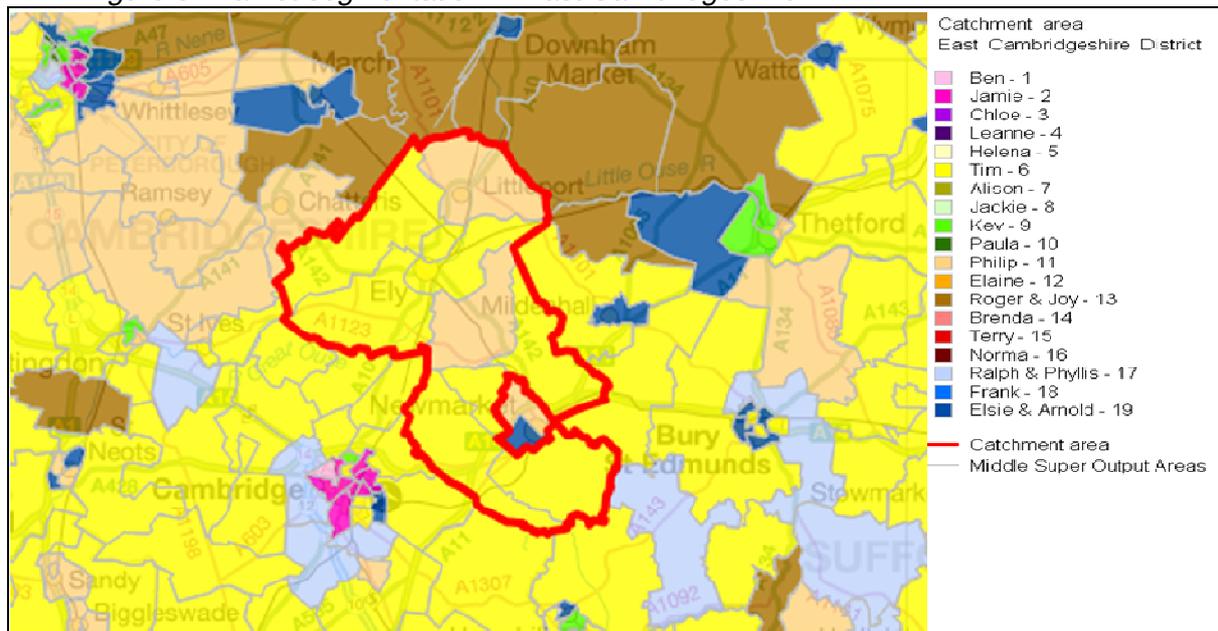
## 2.5 Sport England Market Segmentation

- 2.5.1 To help better understand attitudes, motivations and perceived barriers to participation, Sport England has developed a segmentation model with 19 ‘sporting’ segments. Each has a distinct sporting behaviour and attitude.
- 2.5.2 Knowing which segment is most dominant in the local population is important as it can help direct provision and programming. For example, whilst the needs of smaller segments should not be ignored, it is useful for East Cambridgeshire District Council to understand which sports are enjoyed by the largest proportion(s) of the population. Segmentation also enables partners to make tailored interventions, communicate effectively with target market(s) and better understand participation in the context of life stage.

### Dominant market segmentation in East Cambridgeshire by population

- 2.5.3 Figure 3 below illustrates that Tim (as depicted by the yellow coloured areas) is the market segment with the greatest coverage in East Cambridgeshire. “Tim” account for 12.8% of the East Cambridgeshire population and is defined as: settling down males – sporty male professionals (aged 26-45), buying a house and settling down with partner. This means that, of the 19 segments, the greatest proportion would benefit from initiatives that appeal to “Tim”; sports such as cycling, keep kit/gym and swimming.

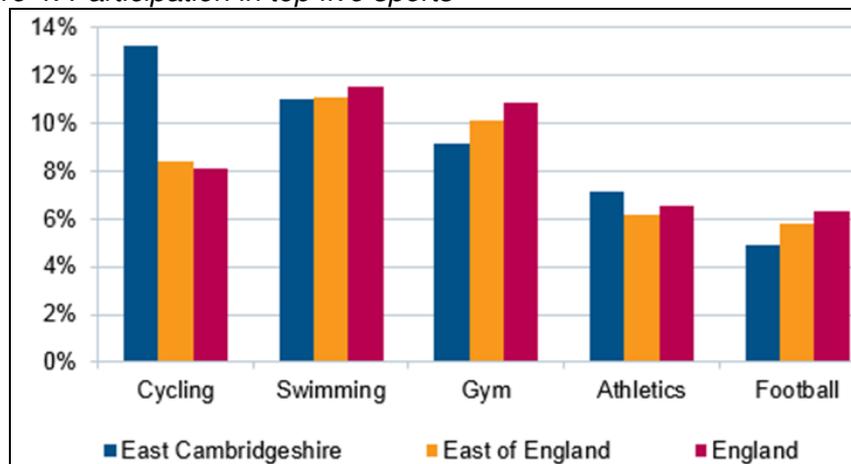
Figure 3: Market segmentation in East Cambridgeshire



(Source: Sport England Market Segmentation Tool)

- 2.5.4 The second and third largest market segments of the population in East Cambridgeshire are “Philip” (10.6%) and “Roger and Joy” (9.8%). “Philips are described as comfortable mid-life males (aged 46-55), sporty males with older children and more time for themselves. “Roger and Joys” are early retirement couples/ free-time couples nearing the end of their careers (aged 56-65). Typically, “Philips” and “Roger and Joys” also participate in sports such as keep fit/gym, swimming and cycling.
- 2.5.5 Figure 4 below shows the top five sports participated in within East Cambridgeshire. The results are from Sport England’s Active People Survey (2012/13) and compare against the region and the country.
- 2.5.6 The most popular sport in East Cambridgeshire is Cycling which, at a rate of 13.3%, is considerably higher than the region (8.4%) and the country (8.1%) rates of participation. The second and third most popular sports – Swimming and Gym – are the only indoor sports within the top five, however participation is lower than regional and national rates at 11% and 9.2% respectively.

*Figure 4: Participation in top five sports*



(Source: Active People Survey 7, 2012/13)

- 2.5.7 Sport England’s Key Performance Indicators (KPI) show data on East Cambridgeshire’s involvement in volunteering, club membership, tuition, competition, organised sport and satisfaction with local sport.

*Table 3: Key Performance Indicators (KPI)*

Indicator	East Cambridgeshire		East of England		England	
	2009/10	2012/13	2009/10	2012/13	2009/10	2012/13
KPI2 - Proportion of the Adult Population volunteering at least one hour a week	5.8%	11.0%	4.8%	6.8%	4.5%	6.0%
KPI3 - Club Membership in the last 4 weeks	22.4%	22.6%	24.3%	22.2%	23.9%	21.0%
KPI4 - Received tuition / coaching in last 12 mths	16.8%	19.5%	18.3%	16.7%	17.5%	15.8%
KPI5 - Took part in organised competition in last 12 months	16.2%	21.8%	15.3%	13.6%	14.4%	11.2%
KPI6 - Satisfaction with local provision	71.5%	62.2%	70.2%	62.5%	69.0%	60.3%

(Source: Active People Survey, Year: 2009/10-2012/13)

- 2.5.8 During the period of 2009/10 to 2012/13 the majority of KPIs in East Cambridgeshire improved. Particularly the proportion of adults volunteering, which increased by 90%

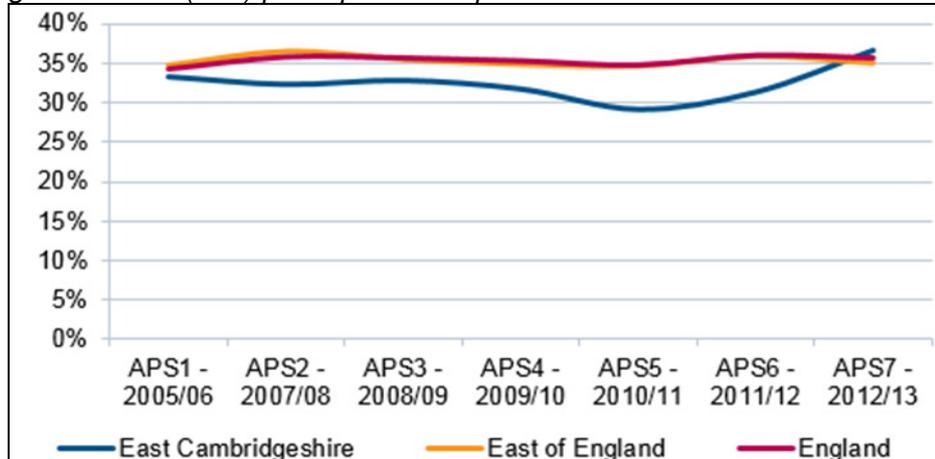
over the period. Club memberships, received tuition/coaching and taking part in organised competition also improved, which is contrary to regional and national trends.

2.5.9 Satisfaction with local provision is the only KPI in East Cambridgeshire that decreased over the period, however this downward trend is mirrored across the region and the country.

## 2.6 Sports Participation

2.6.1 From the period 2005/06 to 2012/13, the adult (16+) participation in sport of at least once a week has changed markedly in East Cambridgeshire. In 2012/13 the participation rate in sport was 37.8% in East Cambridgeshire, which was higher than in the East of England (36.1%) and England (36.7%), however since 2005/06 the participation rate has been consistently lower in East Cambridgeshire than in the region and the country.

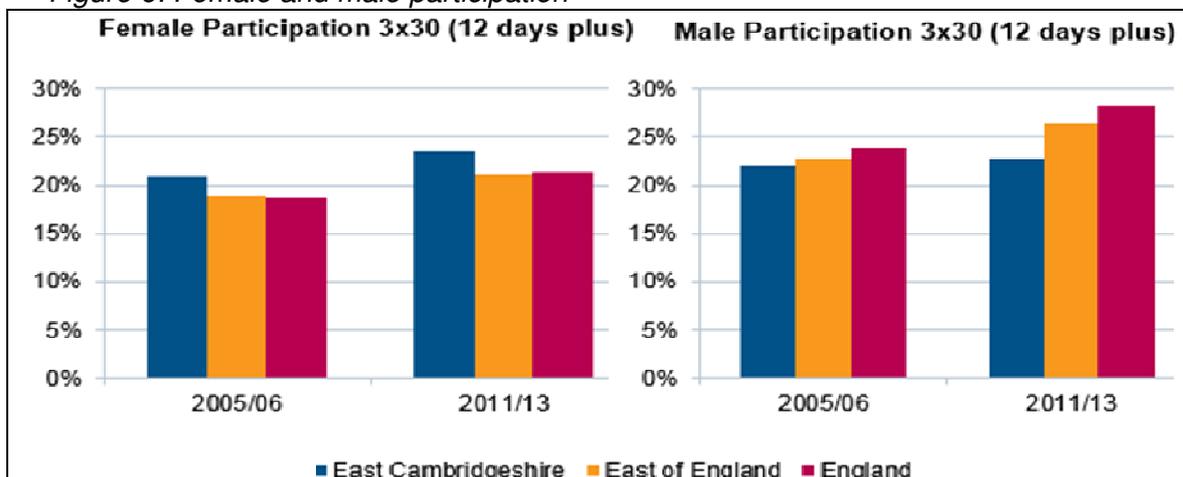
Figure 5: Adult (16+) participation in sport at least once a week – 2005/06 to 2012/13



(Source: Active People Survey, Year: 2005/06 (APS1), to 2012/13 (APS7))

2.6.2 More frequent adult participation in sport in East Cambridgeshire is also below regional and national averages. At least three times (30 minute sessions) a week in East Cambridgeshire was lower in 2011/13 (23.2%) than in East of England (23.8%) and in England (28.3%). When split into gender, female participation in sport of 3 x 30 minutes a week is better than the region and country, however male participation of this frequency is lower in East Cambridgeshire than in the region and the country.

Figure 6: Female and male participation



(Source: Active People Survey, Year: 2012/13 (APS7))

## 2.7 Summary

2.7.1 The following key points have been identified through the background and policy review:

- New sport and leisure provision is planned in Ely and Littleport to cater for growing population in Ely (and district as a whole) and a new school planned in Littleport.
- People in East Cambridgeshire are less physically active than the regional and national averages, the health care costs for which are just over £1.3 million (British Heart Foundation, 2009/10).
- The three largest market segments of the population in East Cambridgeshire typically participate in keep fit/gym, swimming and cycling.
- East Cambridgeshire's involvement in volunteering, club membership, tuition, competition and organised sport has increased over the last 5 years. However, satisfaction with local sport provision has decreased.
- Frequent female adult participation in sport in East Cambridgeshire is higher than male adult participation in sport.

### 3 AUDIT OF FACILITY SUPPLY

#### 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The audit of facility supply includes an assessment of the following indoor facilities:

- Indoor swimming pools
- Sports halls
- Health and fitness suites
- Indoor bowls
- Squash courts
- Activity studios
- Indoor tennis courts.

3.1.2 It included analysis of the quality, quantity and accessibility for each facility type.

#### **Assessment of supply**

3.1.3 Where possible, audits and assessments have been undertaken in the presence of management staff from the facilities. This is of considerable value as it not only enables access to be gained to all aspects of facilities, but also allows more detailed in-situ discussion of issues such as customer perspectives, quality, maintenance etc. This is essential as the audit is a 'snapshot' visit in time and there is a risk, dependent upon the time of day/year, that it may not wholly reflect general user experience.

3.1.4 Site visits were undertaken to the following facilities, operated by a range of organisations. A summary of the results of the audit for each facility is attached in Appendix 1. These include the following information:

- Facility and scale.
- Ownership, management and access arrangements (plus, where available, facility owner aspirations).
- Location, access and accessibility.
- Condition, maintenance and existing improvement plans.

3.1.5 This enables identification of the potential of each facility and informs roles to be developed for each; or, as applicable, provide justification for rationalisation

#### **Assessment of demand**

3.1.6 When assessing facility provision against demand, key issues such as population and participation growth are taken into account. The present intention is that East Cambridgeshire District Council will make provision for 9,400 new homes through a range of developments.

3.1.7 Table 4 below summarises how and where housing is likely to be delivered in East Cambridgeshire over the Local Plan period (up to 2031). It identifies there will be sufficient overall supply of land to meet the district's housing requirement of 8,500 – 9,500 dwellings. The latest projections (as at February 2013) indicate that an estimated 9,400 additional dwellings could come forward between 2012 and 2031 (representing an annual rate of 495 dwellings). It is estimated that approximately 5,900

of these dwellings will be on new allocations, mainly on the edge of existing towns and villages. Table 4 also shows that there are significant new land allocations proposed on the edge of Ely, Soham and Littleport.

*Table 4: Summary of estimated housing supply 2012-2031*

Location	Outstanding commitments	Large potential sites	Small windfall sites	Specific rural sites	Allocations	Total
<b>Market towns</b>	<b>1152</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>5216</b>	<b>7006</b>
Ely	174	62	85	19	3564	3904
Soham	382	26	145	-	1102	1655
Littleport	596	209	92	-	550	1447
<b>Villages</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>1884</b>
<b>In the countryside</b>	-	-	<b>510</b>	-	-	<b>510</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1374</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>1433</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>5900</b>	<b>9400</b>

(Source: East Cambridgeshire District Council Local Plan Pre-submission version, February 2013)

- 3.1.8 Demand has been assessed utilising available Sport England tools (i.e. Facilities Planning Model, Active Places, Active People Survey and Sports Facility Calculator) to help gauge strategic provision of community sports facilities. It evaluates the requirements for different types of community sports facilities on a national, regional and local scale and helps to determine where sports facility provision is adequate to meet local needs providing an assessment of current and future requirements. Where possible provision required to accommodate potential population and participation increases has been forecasted.
- 3.1.9 Demand analysis is supplemented by data collected during site visits and stakeholder consultation. This enables key local issues to be taken into account, e.g. where local demand is particularly high and additional provision is required. Consultation conducted with a range of stakeholders to gain a comprehensive understanding of key issues.

### **3.2 Catchment areas**

- 3.2.1 Catchment areas for different types of facilities provide a tool for identifying areas currently not served by existing indoor sports facilities. It is recognised that catchment areas vary from person to person, day to day, hour to hour. Therefore, Sport England accept a catchment which is defined as the distance travelled by around 75-80% of users.
- 3.2.2 Sport England determines that differences in rural and urban catchments are reflected within an agreed walk or drive time catchment. The normal acceptable standard would be to apply a 20-minute walk time (1 mile radial catchment) for an urban area and a 20 minute drive time for a rural area. However, despite having some urban areas, East Cambridgeshire is predominantly rural, with users of all facilities coming from surrounding towns and villages. Therefore, when looking at catchments a 20 minute drive time has been applied to all facilities in East Cambridgeshire.

### **3.3 Supply and Demand Analysis**

- 3.3.1 The supply and demand assessment is key in determining whether the District currently has sufficient provision to account for future changes in population. It also takes into account the spread of provision and enables identification of communities not served by an indoor facility.
- 3.3.2 It is necessary to assess the current capacity across the District and potential demand (based on population and participation trends). This helps determine whether current

capacity is meeting current demand and whether there is a surplus or a shortfall. It also identifies the areas of over or undersupply relative to demand.

### 3.4 Supply of Facilities

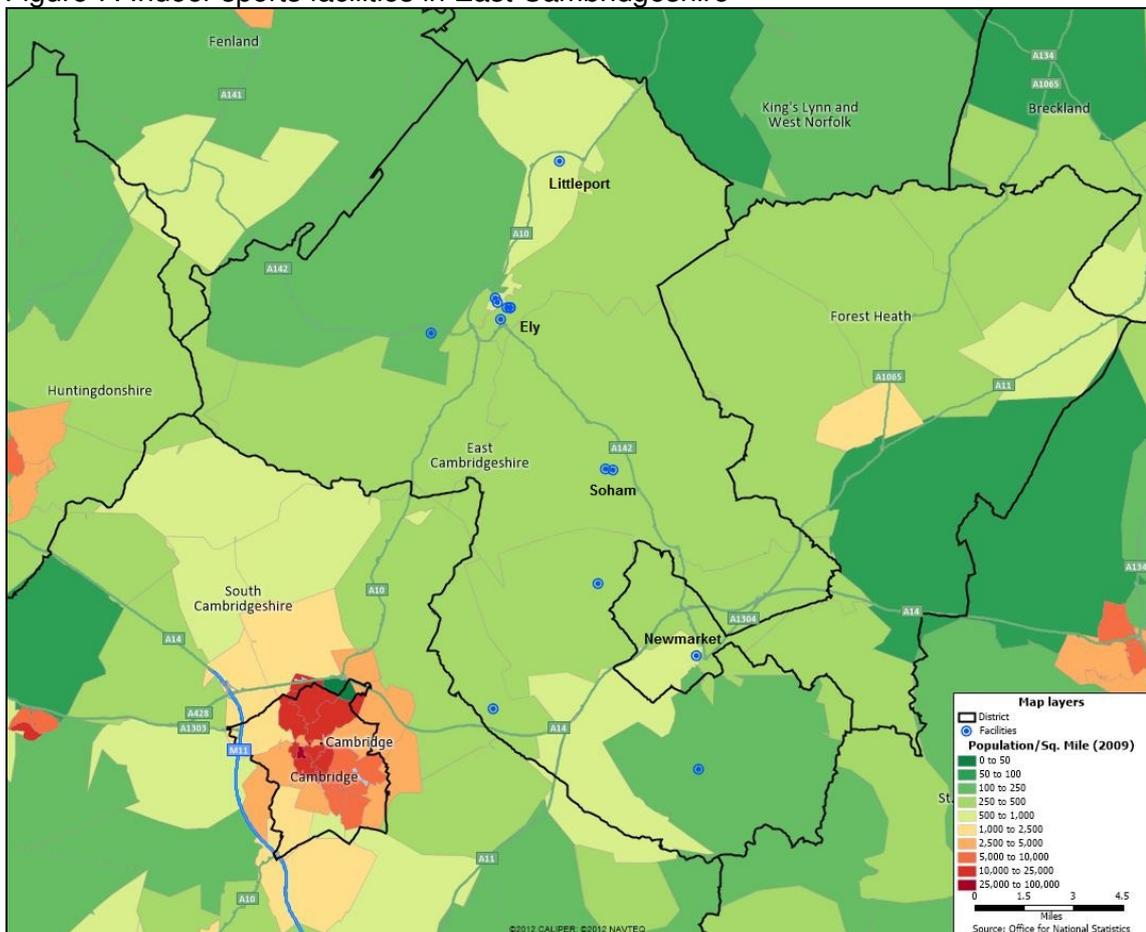
3.4.1 There is a total supply of facilities in East Cambridgeshire District Council of 48. Table 5 below shows the number of each type of facility covered in this needs assessment. Newmarket Leisure Centre is located within close proximity to East Cambridgeshire and has been included within this study as it's catchment of users includes residents of East Cambridgeshire.

*Table 5: Total number of facilities serving East Cambridgeshire residents*

Facility Type	East Cambridgeshire	Newmarket LC	Total
Swimming Pools	5	2	7
Sports Halls	18	2	20
Health and Fitness Suites	8	1	9
Indoor Bowls	2	0	2
Squash Courts	8	4	12
Studios	7	3	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>60</b>

(Source: Active Places Power, Jan 2014)

#### 3.4.2 Figure 7: Indoor sports facilities in East Cambridgeshire



3.4.3 The map above shows that the majority of indoor sports facilities in East Cambridgeshire are located in the largest populated areas of Ely, Littleport, Soham and Newmarket (located in Forest Heath).

### 3.5 Comparators

3.5.1 The 'Nearest Neighbour' model was developed by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) to aid local authorities in comparative and benchmarking exercises. It is widely used across both central and local government. The model uses a number of variables to calculate statistical similarity between local authorities. Examples of these variables include population, unemployment rates, tax base per head of population, council tax bands and mortality ratios.

3.5.2 Table 6 shows the number and type of facilities in East Cambridgeshire compared to that of the 'Nearest Neighbour' authorities. It demonstrates that there are varying levels of supply in these areas; from 37 to 63, amongst which East Cambridgeshire features in the middle with 48. The District has the joint lowest number of facilities for swimming and health and fitness. However, East Cambridgeshire has the joint highest number of facilities for indoor bowls and the highest number of squash courts (three more than anywhere else).

*Table 6: Total number of facilities compared with nearest neighbours*

Facilities	East Cambridgeshire	Forest of Dean	Mid Devon	Mid Suffolk	Babergh
Swimming Pool	5	5	6	9	7
Health & Fitness Suite	8	11	8	11	13
Sports Hall	18	10	13	27	22
Indoor Bowls	2	0	2	2	1
Squash Courts	8	5	4	4	4
Studio	7	6	6	9	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>16+ Population (000s)</b>	<b>68.6</b>	<b>66.1</b>	<b>59.9</b>	<b>79.1</b>	<b>69.9</b>

(Source: Active Places Power, Year: Jan 2014, Measure: Number of sporting facilities)

## **4 NEEDS ASSESSMENT, SURPLUSES AND SHORTFALLS IN FACILITY PROVISION**

### **4.1 Introduction**

4.1.1 This section contains a summary of the findings from the needs assessment work. Each facility type is reviewed in turn with information provided on various factors relating to supply and demand for facilities. The key findings are provided for each facility.

### **4.2 Swimming Pools**

4.2.1 Defined as an “enclosed area of water, specifically maintained for all forms of water based sport and recreation, this covers indoor pools and specific diving tanks used for swimming, teaching, training and diving” (Sport England Active Places).

### **4.3 Supply**

#### **Quantity**

4.3.1 There are four swimming pools located on three sites in East Cambridgeshire. There are also two swimming pools located at Newmarket Leisure Centre. Kings School in Ely has a lido which is an outdoor facility and is temporarily closed, therefore it is not included in this assessment. St Andrew’s Primary School in Soham is currently constructing a small pool for use by the school, however it is not included in this assessment as it is not large enough to accommodate significant community use.

4.3.2 Three pools (at Bottisham Village College and Newmarket Leisure Centre) are located on school sites, one (Atrium Club) is commercially owned and four pools (at Paradise Pools and Newmarket LC) are local authority owned. Although the pools in East Cambridgeshire were built in 1996 or before, refurbishment works have been carried out on all the pools in the last 11 years.

4.3.3 Figure 8: Swimming pools in East Cambridgeshire

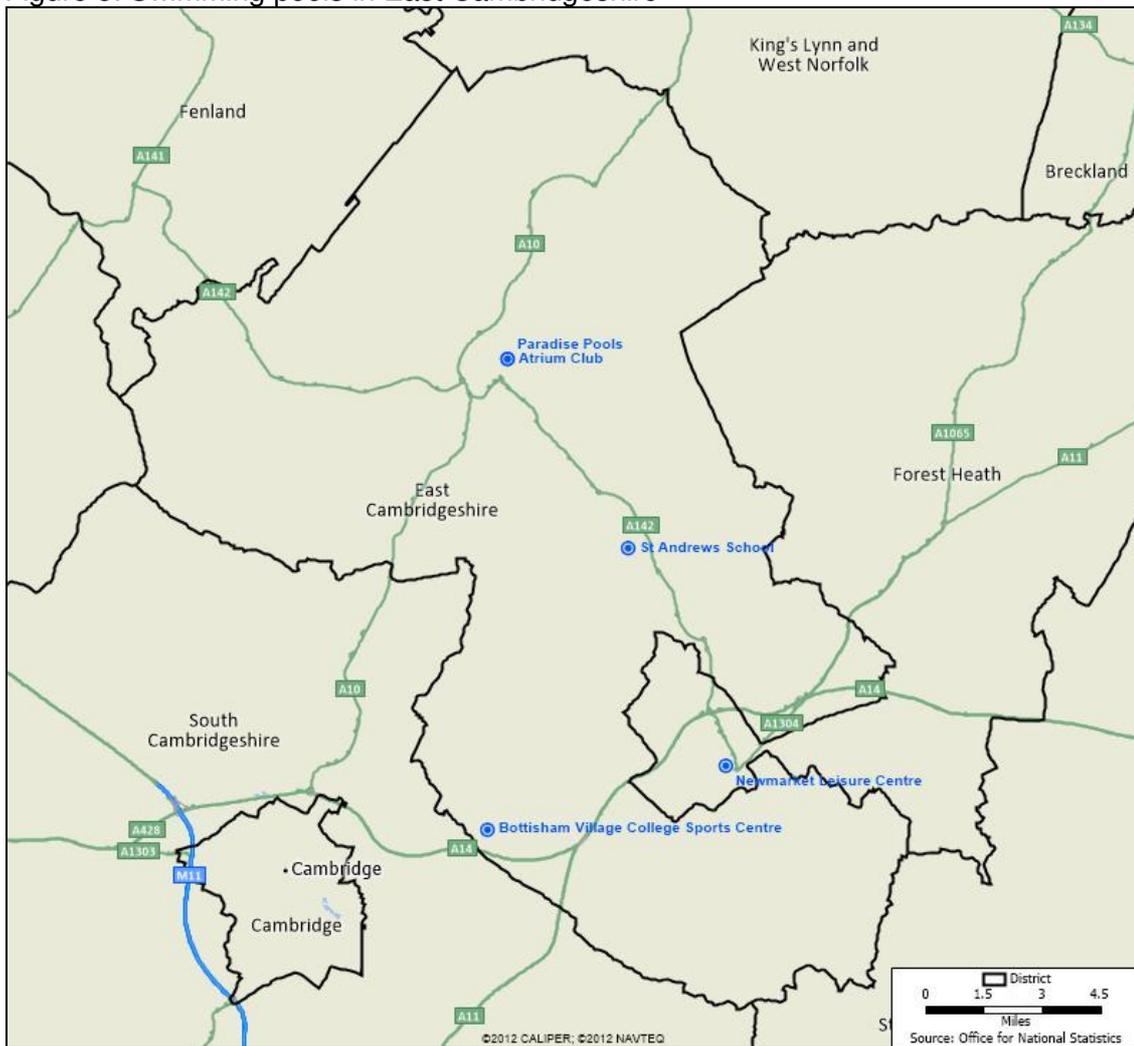


Table 7: Swimming pool supply information

Facility	Pool Type	Number of Lanes	Ownership Type	Management Type	Quality
Paradise Pools	Main/General	4	Local Authority	Commercial Management	Good
	Leisure Pool	0	Local Authority	Commercial Management	Good
Atrium Club (Ely)	Leisure Pool	0	Commercial	Commercial Management	Good
Bottisham Village College Sports Centre	Main/General	4	Community School	Academy	Adequate
Newmarket Leisure Centre	Main/General	6	Community School	Trust	Excellent
	Learner/Teaching/Training	0			Excellent

---

### **Planned developments**

- 4.3.4 As identified earlier in this report, East Cambridgeshire District Council secured planning permission in 2010 for a new district-wide leisure centre. Consultation with council officers has identified that an 8 lane 25 metre swimming pool and a leisure pool is likely to replace the existing Paradise Pool, thus increasing swimming pool space in the District. However, it should be noted that the feasibility study for a new wet and dry leisure centre in Ely is still at an early stage of feasibility.
- 4.3.5 St Andrew's Primary School in Soham is currently constructing a 13 by 8 metre swimming pool. Although it is not large enough to be included in this study, it will offer valuable water space for predominantly school use. Community usage may be limited due to its size.

### **Quality**

- 4.3.6 Swimming pools were assessed via a non-technical visual assessment which provides an indication of quality from a user perspective. It is important to note that this does not consider significant infrastructure issues such as plant and machinery, boilers, roofing and glazing. Facilities in the District are assessed to be in either an adequate, good or excellent condition. Newmarket Leisure Centre was built in 2009 and is of the highest quality. The quality of the pool provision in the District suggests good levels of management and maintenance because the stock is, on average, thirty years old.

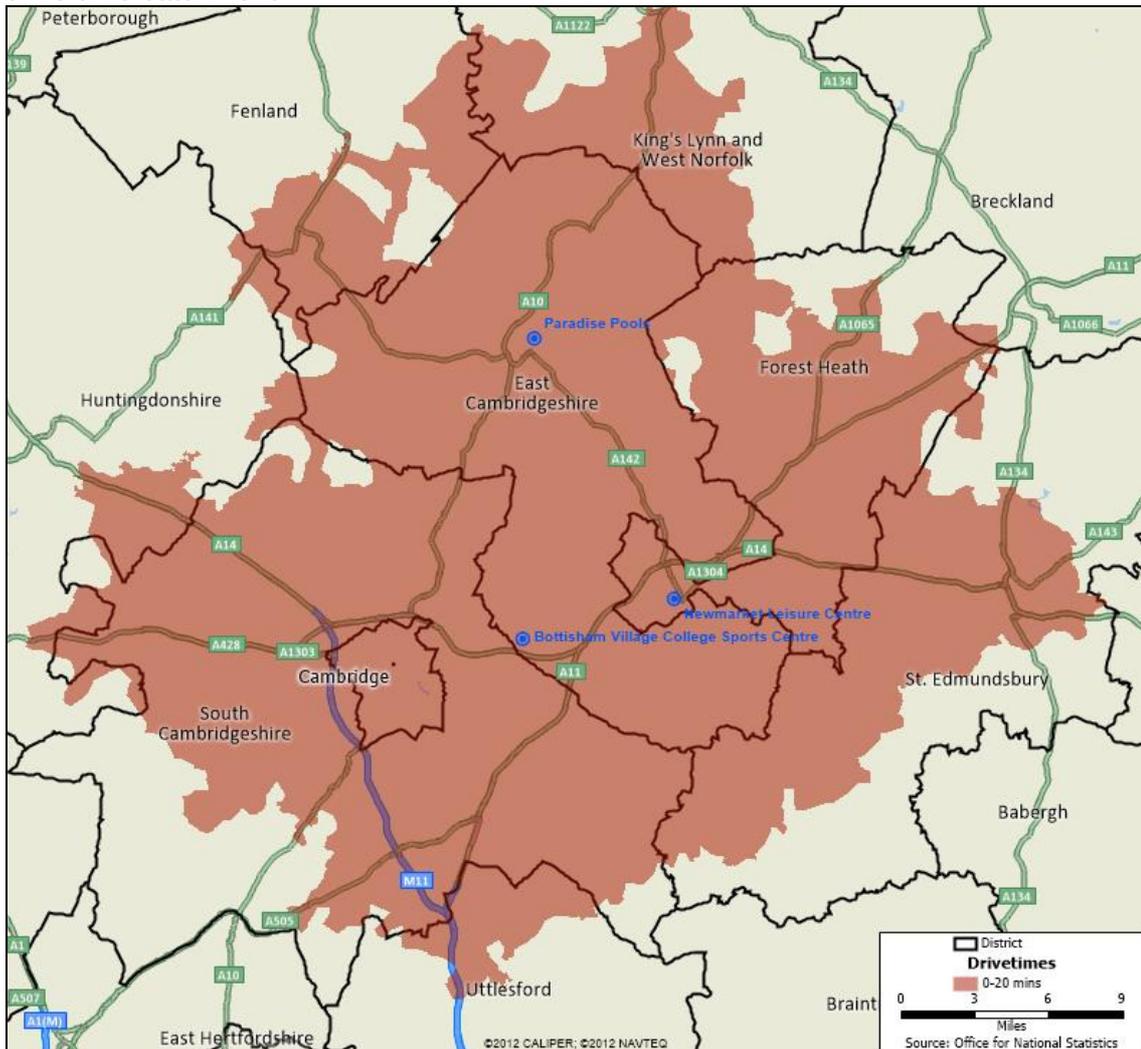
### **Accessibility**

- 4.3.7 This section covers the accessibility of facilities in relation to both the physical (i.e. built environment) and human (i.e. management of entry to facilities) elements.

### **Physical**

- 4.3.8 Appropriate drive time accessibility standards can be applied to swimming pools to determine deficiencies in provision. Although the Paradise Pools and Newmarket LC are located in urban areas, users from surrounding towns and villages will travel by car and public transport to use the only community accessible pools in that area of the District. Moreover, the pool at Bottisham Village College has a rural catchment and therefore it is suggested that a 20 minute drive time is appropriate.
- 4.3.9 Catchment mapping, based on an amalgamated 20 minute drive time has been adopted to analyse the adequacy of coverage of swimming pool provision across the East Cambridgeshire District; it also helps to identify areas currently not served by existing swimming pools.

4.3.10 Figure 9: Community Accessible Swimming pools in East Cambridgeshire; 20 minutes' drive time catchment



4.3.11 The map shows that the largest populated areas in the District are within a 20 minute drive time of a community accessible swimming pool (i.e., Paradise Pools, Newmarket Leisure Centre and Bottisham Village College). There are some very small 'pockets' of gaps in provision in the west of the District, however these areas are extremely rural with no main settlements. The pools are located in the north and the south of the District which, as these areas are the most densely populated, suggests the pools are located correctly in order to meet demand.

## Human

4.3.12 An important consideration in examining provision of swimming pools in East Cambridgeshire is access and use. Access to the Atrium Club pool is restricted by membership schemes, which are price sensitive and can be outside the price range of lower income households. The remaining pools in the District are available for pay and play access; Paradise Pools, Newmarket LC and Bottisham Village College.

## 4.4 Demand

4.4.1 Sport England's Facility Planning Model (FPM) provides an assessment on the provision for swimming in 2014 and 2026 for East Cambridgeshire District Council and the wider study area including authorities which border East Cambridgeshire, such as Forest Heath District where Newmarket Leisure Centre is located.

4.4.2 The purposes of the FPM assessment are to assess:

- the extent to which the existing supply of swimming pools meets current levels of demand from the resident population in 2014;
- the extent to which changes in the projected population growth between 2014 and 2026 in East Cambridgeshire and the wider study area has on the projected demand for swimming and supply of pools in 2026; and
- to provide a hard evidence base and key findings which can be addressed in a wider East Cambridgeshire sports facilities strategy.

### Overall Assessment

4.4.3 The overall assessment for both years is that the demand for swimming pools exceeds supply in both years. The total demand for swimming by East Cambridgeshire residents is for 947 sq metres (15 lane 25 metre) of water in 2014 and which increases to 1,067 sq metres (17 lane 25 metre) of water by 2026, based on the projected increase in population of 14.9% between the two years. This increases the total demand for swimming by 12.5% between 2014 and 2026.

4.4.4 Therefore, demand for swimming pools exceeds supply and the unmet demand is 277 sq metres (4.5 lane 25 metre) of water in 2014 and 397 sq metres (6 lane 25 metre) of water by 2026. This is a large gap and it equates to 41% of the total East Cambridgeshire waterspace in 2014 and 59% in 2026.

4.4.5 When supply and demand is assessed on the basis of where the East Cambridgeshire demand is located and the location of the swimming pools and the drive time catchment areas, then unmet demand does reduce. This is because the catchment area of swimming pools extends across local authority boundaries and some of the East Cambridgeshire demand is located closer to a pool outside the authority (i.e. Newmarket Leisure Centre) than inside.

4.4.6 Based on the catchment area of pools and where demand is located East Cambridgeshire is exporting more of its residents demand for swimming than it is importing demand from outside the authority. The export/import dimension reduces the unmet demand for swimming in East Cambridgeshire to 166 sq metres (2.6 lane 25 metre) of waterspace in 2014 and 242 sq metres (4 lane 25 metre) of waterspace in 2026. This represents 14% of the East Cambridgeshire total waterspace in 2014 and 36% in 2026, still a sizeable difference.

### How full are the swimming pools?

4.4.7 The estimated used capacity is 81% of total capacity in both years. The Sport England benchmark of pools being "comfortably full" is 70% of their total capacity being used in the weekly peak period. So based on the Sport England benchmark the East Cambridgeshire pool sites are 11% above the pools full comfort level in both 2014 and 2026.

- 4.4.8 The used capacity at each pool site does vary considerably and in 2014 is an estimated 97% of pool capacity used at the Paradise Pools site and 54% at the Bottisham Village College site. In 2026 the percentages are 100% and 49% respectively. (Note the percentage for both sites do not reflect the district wide average because of the impact of the import and export of demand).

#### **Does East Cambridgeshire have enough waterspace?**

- 4.4.9 Based on the FPM supply and demand assessment the answer appears no. To put this question into a wider context the benchmark and comparator of waterspace per 1,000 population for the District and the other authorities has been applied. This assessment shows East Cambridgeshire is at the lower end of provision in comparison with its study area neighbours and considerably below the England wide average. The figures for 2014 and 2026 are set out below in Table 8.

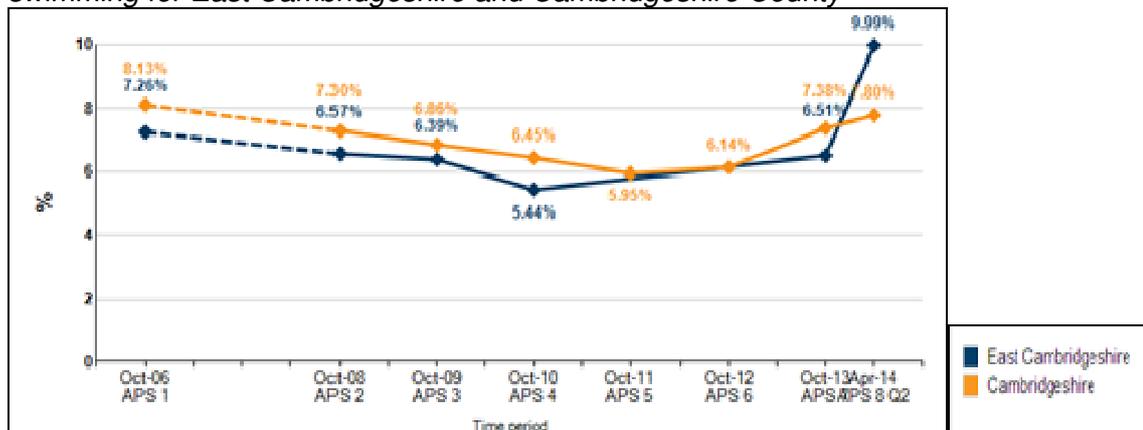
*Table 8: Waterspace per 1,000 population for East Cambridgeshire and all authorities in 2014*

Name of authority/pool sites/year	East Cambridgeshire	Fenland	Forest Heath	Huntingdon shire	Kings Lynn & West Norfolk	South Cambridge shire	England
Number of pool sites	2	3	2	7	5	2	2,187
Waterspace per 1,000 population sq m water <b>2014</b>	7.4	9.9	9.8	8.7	9.8	2.6	12.6
Waterspace per 1,000 population sq m water <b>2016</b>	6.5	9.3	8.5	8	9.2	2.3	12.3

(Source: Sport England FPM)

- 4.4.10 The FPM assessment is based on the current rates and frequencies of swimming participation applied to the East Cambridgeshire population and in the other authorities. This rate and frequency of swimming participation is assumed not to change between 2014 and 2026 in all authorities. Evidently if participation goes up or down it will influence the key FPM assessment finding that demand for swimming is greater than supply in both 2014 and 2026 in East Cambridgeshire.
- 4.4.11 To better understand potential future changes in demand for swimming, Sport England's Active People Survey data for periods covering October 2006 – April 2014 were reviewed. The findings are set out in Figure 10 below for East Cambridgeshire (blue line) and for comparison purposes the findings for Cambridgeshire County (yellow line) are also included.

Figure 10: Active People Survey 1 – 8. Rate of adult once a week participation in swimming for East Cambridgeshire and Cambridgeshire County



(Source: Sport England FPM)

- 4.4.12 The rate of participation for both authorities has tracked a similar pattern but the fluctuations in East Cambridgeshire are more marked. For both authorities the once a week participation rate decreased between October 2006 – October 2010 (for the County it decreased for one more year to October 2011). Since 2010 and 2011 the rate of once week participation has increased and for East Cambridgeshire the rate in April 2014 is 2.7% higher than it was in October 2006 (9.9% April 2014 and 7.26% in October 2006).
- 4.4.13 The District Council is best placed to understand these findings and to assess whether a sustained rate of increase in swimming participation will be maintained over the period 2014 – 2026. However the indications are of an upward trend in adult swimming participation. If this continues it will create an even bigger gap in the difference between demand and supply, based on the FPM assessment for 2014 and 2026 for East Cambridgeshire.
- 4.4.14 As previously highlighted in this section of the report, it is likely that the Paradise Pools will be replaced with new, larger provision at Downham Road on the outskirts of Ely. This is likely to see an increase in provision from a 4 lane 25m pool and learner pool to an 8 lane 25m pool and learner pool, which is an increase of 250 sq metres of water.
- 4.4.15 This new development will reduce the unmet demand identified by the FPM assessment to zero up to 2026.

### Consultation

- 4.4.16 In addition to the theoretical modelling undertaken above consultation was undertaken to determine local qualitative issues in relation to the swimming pools in the District. This highlighted that facilities are adequate but are starting to appear dated. The Amateur Swimming Association's (ASA) opinion is that, given the presence of the pool at Bottisham Village College in the south of East Cambridgeshire, swimming's aspirations for indoor facility developments should centre on Ely. With only one, ageing, publicly accessible swimming pool serving a growing population, the ASA sees the need for a new facility to be built in Ely. A centre with a 6 lane 25 metre pool combined with a learner pool would provide the flexibility to deliver a balanced programme capable of meeting the participation, swimming lessons and club usage demands of a growing population.

## Club Consultation

- 4.4.17 City of Ely Amateur Swimming Club is the largest swimming club in East Cambridgeshire (112 members) and it currently bases itself at Paradise Pools. Due to considerable demand for junior, adult and disabled swimming training and competitions, the Club cannot be accommodated at Paradise Pools and it has to hire other pools outside of the District to host its league commitments at considerable cost.
- 4.4.18 Paradise Pools is too small to hold galas, the Club requires 6 lanes with spectator seating, as well as extra space for lane swimming to help with junior waiting list and training for competitive adult swimming.
- 4.4.19 Ely Tri Club (73 members) also uses Paradise Pools and reports a growing demand for junior and adult swimming sessions. The Club is currently at capacity and requires additional pool space in order to meet current and future demand.

## 4.5 Summary

- There are four swimming pools located on three sites in East Cambridgeshire. There are also two swimming pools located at Newmarket Leisure Centre.
- The quality of the community pool provision (two good, one adequate) in the District suggests good levels of management and maintenance because the stock is, on average, thirty years old.
- The largest populated areas in the District are within a 20 minute drive time of a community accessible swimming pool. There are 'pockets' of gaps in provision in the west of the District, however the number of residents in this area is small and therefore the pools are located correctly in order to meet demand.
- Swimming demand is assessed to exceed supply in 2014 and the impact of population growth has on further increasing demand over supply up to 2026.
- Exported demand to Newmarket LC reduces the unmet demand for swimming in East Cambridgeshire to 166 sq metres of waterspace (2.6 lane 25 metre) in 2014 and 242 sq metres of waterspace (4 lane 25 metre) in 2026.
- The estimated used capacity is 81% of total capacity in 2014 and 2026, which is above 70% comfort level. There are also indications are of an upward trend in adult swimming participation in East Cambridgeshire.
- Both City of Ely Amateur Swimming Club and Ely Tri Club require additional pool space to meet both current and expected future demand for junior, adult and disability swimming, for training and competitions.
- The planned new leisure centre in Ely will reduce the unmet demand identified by the FPM assessment to zero up to 2026.

### *Implications for Strategy*

- 4.5.1 Demand for swimming exceeds supply of pools. Although correctly located in the District, the pools (both current and planned) must be programmed effectively to cater for usage by clubs and community.
- 4.5.2 The planned new leisure centre in Ely will reduce the unmet demand identified by the FPM assessment to zero up to 2026.

## **4.6 Sports Halls**

- 4.6.1 Indoor multi-sports halls are defined as areas where a range of sport and recreational activities are carried out and include specifically designed sports halls, such as leisure centres and school sports halls.
- 4.6.2 This assessment considers all sports hall facilities in East Cambridgeshire, including halls that comprise at least one badminton court or less. However, a 4-court sports hall provides greater flexibility in that it can accommodate major indoor team sports such as football (5-a-side and training), volleyball, basketball and netball. It also provides sufficient run-up space to accommodate indoor cricket nets and to undertake indoor athletics. Many 4 court sports halls also have a dividing net which enable them to be subdivided into separate areas for use, for example, for circuit training, table tennis or martial arts activities. As such, a 4-court sports hall has greater sports development value and flexibility than its 3-court or less counterpart.

## **4.7 Supply**

### **Quantity**

- 4.7.1 There are 11 sites in East Cambridgeshire (including Newmarket Leisure Centre) with sport hall provision, eight of which boast a 4-court (or more) sports hall. The management of these sites varies across the District (commercial, community organisation and trust), however the majority (55%) are managed by the school or college on which the hall is situated. Ely College Sports Hall was built in 2003 but the remaining halls were all built before 2000. Some halls have been recently refurbished, with new floors installed at Littleport, Ellesmere and Paradise Centre in the last six years.

4.7.2 Figure 11: Sports halls in East Cambridgeshire

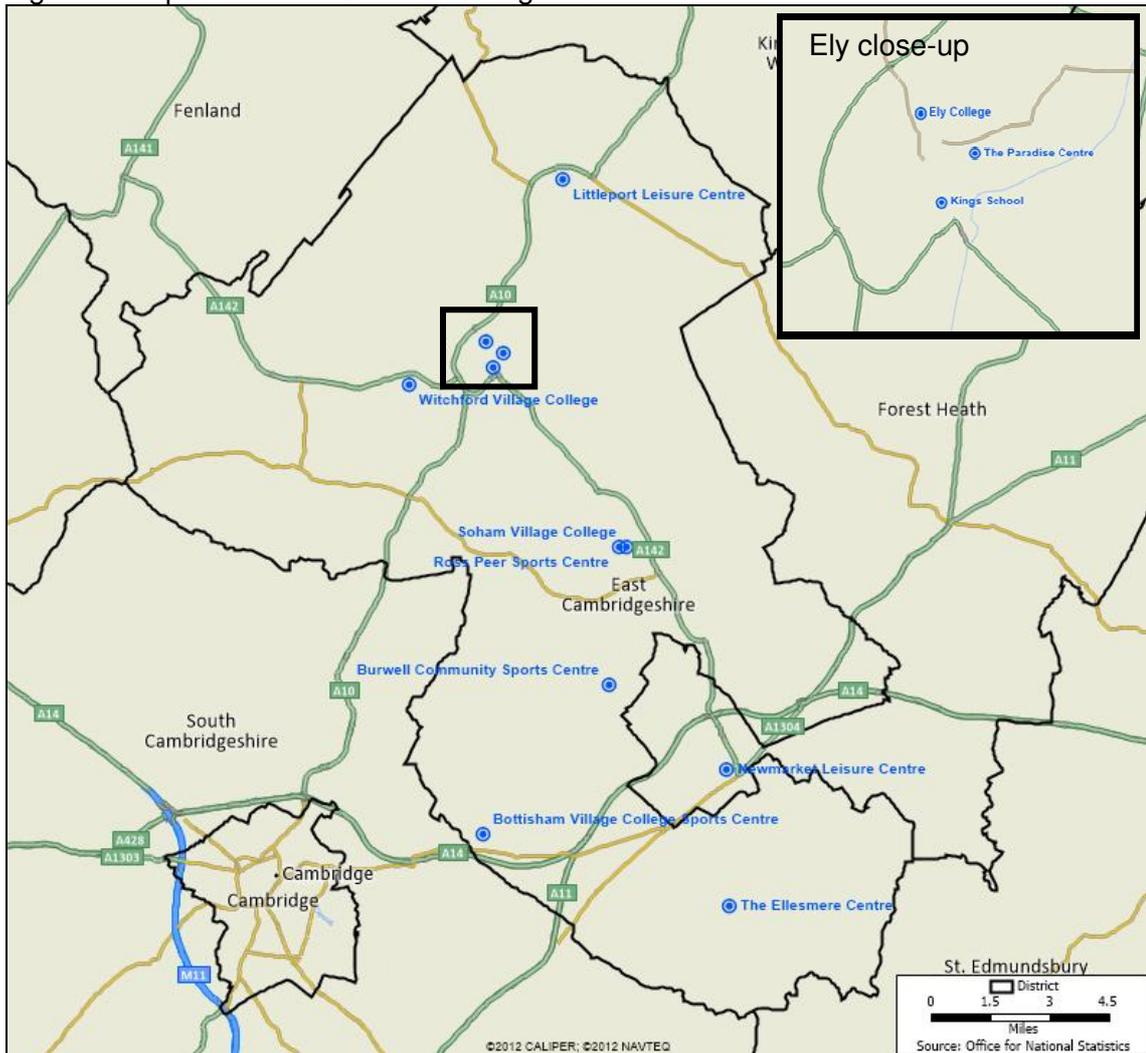


Table 9: Sports hall supply information

Facility	Hall Type	Number of courts	Ownership Type	Management Type	Quality
Burwell Community Sports Centre Ltd	Main	4	Community Organisation	Trust	Good
Soham Village College	Activity Hall	1	Foundation School	Academy	Poor
	Activity Hall	1	Foundation School	Academy	Poor
Ely College	Main	4	Academies	Academy	Good
	Activity Hall	1	Academies	Academy	Poor
The Ellesmere Centre	Activity Hall	1	Community Organisation	Community Organisation	Excellent
	Activity Hall	0	Community Organisation	Community Organisation	Adequate
Bottisham Village College Sports Centre	Main	4	Community School	Academy	Adequate
	Activity Hall	1	Community School	Academy	Good
Kings School Ely	Main	4	Other Independent School	School	Not Assessed

Littleport Leisure Centre	Main	5	Community Organisation	Community Organisation	Good
	Activity Hall	0	Commercial	Commercial Management	Adequate
Witchford Village College	Main	3	Community School	School/College	Adequate
	Activity Hall	2	Community School	School/College	Adequate
Ross Peers Sports Centre	Main	5	Community Organisation	Community Organisation	Adequate
	Activity Hall	0	Community Organisation	Community Organisation	Adequate
The Paradise Centre	Main	4	Leased from the Local Authority	Trust	Excellent
Newmarket Leisure Centre	Main	4	Community School	Trust	Good
	Activity Hall	1			Excellent

### Quality

- 4.7.3 As with swimming pools, and other sites in the assessment, non-technical visual assessment were carried out and, in the main, sports hall provision in East Cambridgeshire is of either adequate condition (37%) or good condition (26%). There are three (16%) excellent quality sports halls servicing the District, which are at The Ellesmere Centre (new floor fitted recently), The Paradise Centre (new floor fitted in 2011) and Newmarket Leisure Centre (built in 2009). It is worth noting that although Littleport had a new floor installed in 2012, the heating system is poor. There are poor quality sports halls at Ely College and Soham Village College (16%). Access to Kings School could not be gained and therefore was not assessed.
- 4.7.4 Of the eight 4-court sports halls servicing the District, two (25%) are of excellent quality (Newmarket Leisure Centre and The Paradise Centre), three (37.5%) are of good quality (Burwell Community Sports Centre, Ely College, and Littleport Leisure Centre) and two (25%) are of adequate quality (Bottisham Village College and Ross Peers Sports Centre). The other 4-court sports hall is at Kings School, which according to Active Places was last refurbished in 2003 suggesting adequate quality.

### Planned developments

- 4.7.5 Several potential developments are being discussed or planned in the District at various stages from initial review through to feasibility studies and plans. These include:

Facility	Planned developments
East Cambridgeshire district-wide leisure centre	4 courts (new development)
Littleport Leisure Centre	4 court hall planned. Additional secondary hall planned which will accommodate two courts.
Witchford Village College	Extend main hall from 3 courts to 4 courts in order to accommodate basketball matches
The Ellesmere Centre	Refurbish activity hall floor
Bottisham Village College Sports Centre	Main hall floor needs replacing in 1-2 years

- 4.7.6 Sports hall operators in Ellesmere and Bottisham are planning to refurbish the existing sports hall floors in the near future. East Cambridgeshire District Council are progressing with plans to develop a four court sports hall within its new district-wide

leisure centre on the outskirts of Ely. Witchford Village College has aspirations of extending its existing sports hall in order to accommodate more sports/clubs, particularly East Cambs Warriors Basketball Club, which requires a full-size basketball court to train and host matches on. Littleport Leisure Centre plans to develop a 4 court hall and develop an additional two court secondary hall. There are currently 45 courts servicing East Cambridgeshire and the new development and extension would see an increase of six courts to 51 courts.

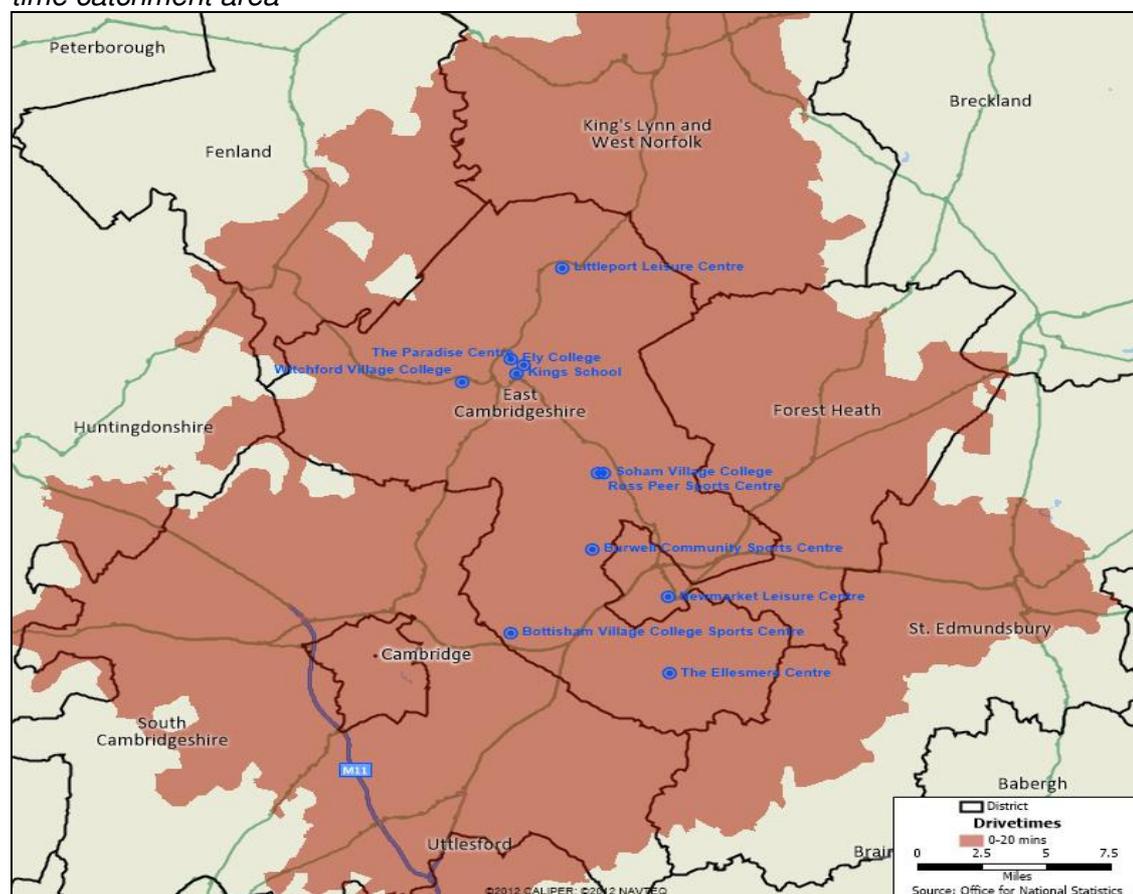
### Accessibility

- 4.7.7 This section considers the accessibility of facilities in relation to both the physical (i.e. built environment) and human (i.e. management of entry to facilities) elements.

### Physical

- 4.7.8 Appropriate drive time accessibility standards can be applied to sports hall provision to determine deficiencies in provision. Sport England's FPM says that car travel is the chosen mode of travel to sports halls and in 2014 the estimate is that 89% of all visits to sports halls are by car. Travel to sports halls by walking accounts for just under 8% of all visits, whilst travel by public transport is just under 3% of all visits. A 20 minute drive time has been applied to community accessible 4+ court sports halls in East Cambridgeshire. This enables identification of key areas not currently serviced by existing sports halls.

Figure 12: Map to show access to 4+ court sports halls based on a 20 minute drive time catchment area



- 4.7.9 Figure 12 shows that the majority of the East Cambridgeshire population live within 20 minutes' drive time of a community accessible 4+ court sports hall. Like with swimming

pools, there are small 'pockets' of gaps in provision in the west of the District. However, these areas are extremely rural with no settlements.

- 4.7.10 Sport England's FPM has provided further analysis of the coverage of sports hall provision, it says that 3% of the East Cambridgeshire population live within a 20 minute drive time of one sports hall. A further 3% live within the 20 minute drive time catchment area of 2 sports halls. The remaining 94% of the East Cambridgeshire population live within the drive time catchment area of 2+ and up to 10 sports halls. Some residents have access to between 10 – 20 sports halls based on the drive time catchment area.

### **Human**

- 4.7.11 Most sports hall facilities (this section also includes those classified as activity halls) in the District are available for community use offering either pay and play or sports club / community association access policy (i.e. regular block bookings). Kings School is the only sports hall that is not accessible by the community. According to Active Places data, eight of the 11 sites with sport hall provision are accessible by 'pay and play' and two sites (Soham Village College and Ely College) are accessible by 'Sports Club / Community Association' (i.e. regular block bookings).

## **4.8 Demand**

- 4.8.1 Analysis of demand for sports halls in East Cambridgeshire is based on the findings from Sport England's FPM assessment of the supply and demand for sports halls. The assessment is based on the provision for sports halls in East Cambridgeshire District and the local authorities which share a boundary with East Cambridgeshire.
- 4.8.2 The assessment includes a 2014 baseline assessment of supply and demand for sports halls. It then assesses supply and demand for sports halls based on the projected growth in population up to 2026, plus the impact of the ageing core resident population over the next 12 years.
- 4.8.3 The purpose of the FPM assessment is to understand:
- how supply, demand and access to sports halls changes between 2014 and 2026 based on population change;
  - to assess if there is an overall surplus or deficit in sports hall provision, with the scale and location of either;
  - to assess how accessible sports halls are. This is based on travel patterns to sports halls, their location, catchment area and the distribution of demand across East Cambridgeshire and the wider study area; and
  - to identify if there are any hot spots of unmet demand.

### **Overall Assessment**

The overall assessment is that in both 2014 and 2026 the supply of sports halls is greater than demand. The FPM identifies an increase in the East Cambridgeshire population, which increases the total demand for sports halls by 11.4%, but the supply of sports halls is unchanged between the two years.

- 4.8.4 With this change in demand, the used capacity of the sports halls increases by 8% from 54.6% in 2014 to 62.6% in 2026. This is well within the Sport England threshold level

for when a sports hall is “comfortably full”. Sport England sets this assessment at 80% of the capacity of a sports hall being used in the weekly peak period.

- 4.8.5 The projected increase in population and knock on increases in demand for sports halls can be met by the existing supply of sports halls. The assessment is that by 2026 there is still 17% of sports hall supply that is not used. This is before the Sport England halls full comfort level of 80% is reached. So the main finding from the FPM assessment is that there is a sufficient supply of sports halls and in the right locations to meet the demand up to 2026 (and beyond).
- 4.8.6 The caveat to this finding is that any increase in hall sports participation is going to increase used capacity. However it is unlikely to absorb the 17% of headroom of spare capacity before the sports halls reach the Sport England “halls full comfort level” of 80% of capacity used.

### **Distribution of demand across sports hall venues**

- 4.8.7 The overall supply, demand and used capacity does however have to be tempered by the findings on the distribution of demand. The authority wide average of the East Cambridgeshire sports halls being an estimated 62.6% full by 2026 does differ at individual venues.
- 4.8.8 By 2026 there are four venues which have a much higher estimated used capacity, these being: The Paradise Centre at 100% of capacity used (same in 2014); Burwell Community Sports Centre an estimated 94% of used capacity used in 2026 (83% in 2014); and Ross Peers Sports Centre with 80% of capacity used (71% in 2014). In addition, by 2026 Ely College is estimated to have a used capacity of 86% and which is a 20% increase over the 2014 estimate of 66%.
- 4.8.9 So whilst across the authority there is an estimated used capacity which provides for a good level of spare headroom of 17% of capacity, the estimated distribution of demand across venues is creating highs and lows in how full each individual sports hall is estimated to be.

### **Unmet demand**

- 4.8.10 The unmet demand for sports halls which is created by these four venues being very full (in effect demand which would like to access these venues but cannot because of lack of supply and there is no alternative venue in the same catchment area) is only 1.5 badminton courts (rounded) across the District. So unmet demand from lack of sports hall capacity is not an issue, it is the distribution of demand across existing sports hall venues.
- 4.8.11 The estimated used and unused capacity for each of the East Cambridgeshire sites in both 2014 and 2026 is set out overleaf in Table 9.

*Table 10: Level of used and unused capacity of sports hall in East Cambridgeshire 2014 and 2026*

Name of facility	FPM Courts	% of Capacity used 2014	% of capacity not used 2014	% of Capacity used 2026	% Capacity not used 2026 not used 2026
East Cambridgeshire	29	55%	45%	63%	37%
Bottisham Village College Sports Centre	4	28%	72%	30%	70%
Burwell Sports Centre	4	83%	17%	94%	6%
Ely College	4	66%	34%	86%	14%
Littleport Leisure Centre	5	20%	80%	28%	72%
Ross Peers Sports Centre	5	71%	29%	80%	20%
The Paradise Centre	4	100%	0%	100%	0%
Witchford Village College	3	74%	26%	76%	24%

- 4.8.12 The highest level of used capacity at peak times in 2026 is at Burwell Sports Centre, Ross Peers Sports Centre, The Paradise Centre and Ely College. The latter two of which are located in Ely. The planned development of a community accessible 4 court sports hall as part of district-wide leisure centre on the outskirts of Ely will alleviate the high levels of used capacity at peak times.

### Club Consultation

- 4.8.13 Consultation with users and clubs in East Cambridgeshire supports the findings of the FPM. Ely Victoria Badminton Club (45 members) currently use The Paradise Centre, however the Club requires more courts as it has reached the maximum number for the courts available. Mature and Active East Cambridgeshire (45 members) also does not have enough court space available at The Paradise Centre to meet its needs. Burwell Community Sports Centre and Ely College is used by Burwell Table Tennis Club (15 members), which reports that it does not have sufficient time and space in the hall to meet its needs. Bury Roller Hockey Club (20 members) uses Ross Peers Sports Centre and it says that the hall is not large enough to accommodate its needs.
- 4.8.14 Consultation with users and clubs has also revealed issues with availability of hall space at Littleport Leisure Centre and The Ellesmere Centre. Ely Roller Skating Club (42 members) find it hard to book a time due to Saturday events hosted at Littleport Leisure Centre and Ellesmere Table Tennis Club, which use The Ellesmere Centre, report that if it had more time and space available in the hall than it would be able to run more teams.

## 4.9 Summary

- There are 19 sports halls spread across 11 sites in East Cambridgeshire and Newmarket. The majority of sports halls are of either adequate condition (37%) or good condition (26%). Of the eight 4-court sports halls servicing the District, the majority (37.5%) are of good quality.
- Sports hall operators in Ellesmere and Bottisham are planning to refurbish the existing sports hall floors in the near future. East Cambridgeshire District Council are progressing with plans to develop a four court sports hall within its new district-wide leisure centre on the outskirts of Ely. Littleport Leisure Centre intend to develop a four court hall and a two court secondary hall.

- There are no significant gaps in provision based on 20 minutes' drive time catchment of 4+ court sports halls.
- The assessment is that the overall supply of sports halls is sufficient to meet demand in 2014 and up to 2026.
- However, the distribution of demand across individual venues (as reported by the FPM) is creating high and lows in that four of the 11 sports hall venues have an estimated very high level of capacity used at peak times. Club consultation has also revealed issues with availability of hall space at The Ellesmere Centre and Littleport Leisure Centre.
- Two of these four sites identified by the FPM are located in Ely and therefore the planned district-wide leisure centre with a 4-court sports hall on the outskirts of Ely will alleviate this high level of capacity used at peak times.

#### *Implication for Strategy*

- 4.9.1 Maintain quality and accessibility of all sites in the District is key. Liaising with operators to understand where and when spare capacity is available is required to distribute peak time usage effectively.

## 4.10 Health and Fitness Suites

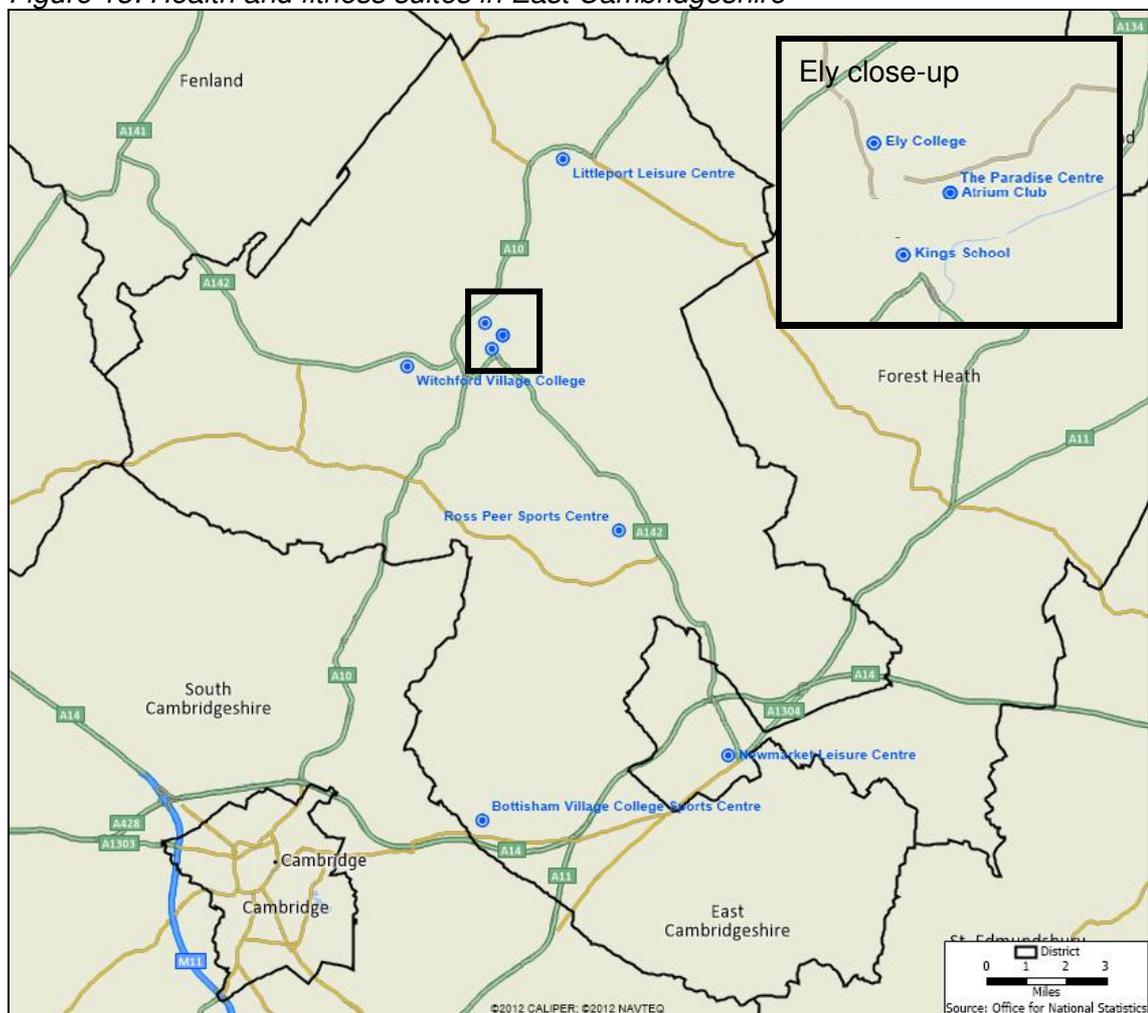
4.10.1 Health and fitness facilities of significance are normally defined by virtue of working to a minimum of 20 stations, although some smaller health and fitness suites are included in this assessment.

## 4.11 Supply

### Quantity

4.11.1 There are eight sites in East Cambridgeshire that include a health and fitness suite. Newmarket Leisure Centre also has one health and fitness suite. The majority (56%) of these sites are located at educational establishments and the remainder are located at sports centres (33%) and at a private membership club (11%). The largest suite is at The Paradise Centre which, accommodates 75 stations. The smallest sites are at Ely College (10 stations) and Witchford Village College (15 stations).

*Figure 13: Health and fitness suites in East Cambridgeshire*



*Table 11: Supply information for health and fitness suites*

Facility	Number of Stations	Ownership Type	Management Type	Quality
Ely College	10	Academies	Academy	Poor
Atrium Club (Ely)	40	Commercial	Commercial Management	Good
Bottisham Village College Sports Centre	24	Community School	Academy	Good
Kings School Ely	27	Independent School	School	Not Assessed
Littleport Leisure Centre	30	Community Organisation	Community Organisation	Good
Witchford Village College	15	Community School	School/College	Good
Ross Peers Sports Centre	28	Community Organisation	Community Organisation	Adequate
Newmarket Leisure Centre	68	Community School	Trust	Excellent
The Paradise Centre	75	Leased from the Local Authority	Trust	Cardio Room - Good
				Weights Room - Good

### Planned developments

- 4.11.2 Through consultation with council officers and findings from recent feasibility work, there are potential developments to expand the health and fitness offer in Ely and Littleport.

Facility	Planned development (stations)
East Cambridgeshire district-wide leisure centre	120 (new development)
New school and community sports centre in Littleport	40 (currently has 30)

- 4.11.3 There are currently 317 health and fitness stations serving East Cambridgeshire. Facility managers and council officers have identified planned developments at two sites in the coming years, which could see an increase of 130 health and fitness stations on current provision.

### Quality

- 4.11.4 Non-technical visual assessments were carried out. Generally, health and fitness suite provision in East Cambridgeshire is of good quality. Health and fitness suites tend to have high usage, and are important revenue generating areas, therefore investment in updating user space and equipment is important. Recent investment has been made by Bottisham Village College (2008), Littleport Leisure Centre (2009) and The Paradise Centre (2009). Ross Peers Sports Centre is of adequate quality, which has not been refurbished since 2004, and Ely College fitness centre is of poor quality as it has not been refurbished in recent years.
- 4.11.5 As previously stated, access to Kings School was not possible, however Active Places states the health and fitness suite was built in 2006.

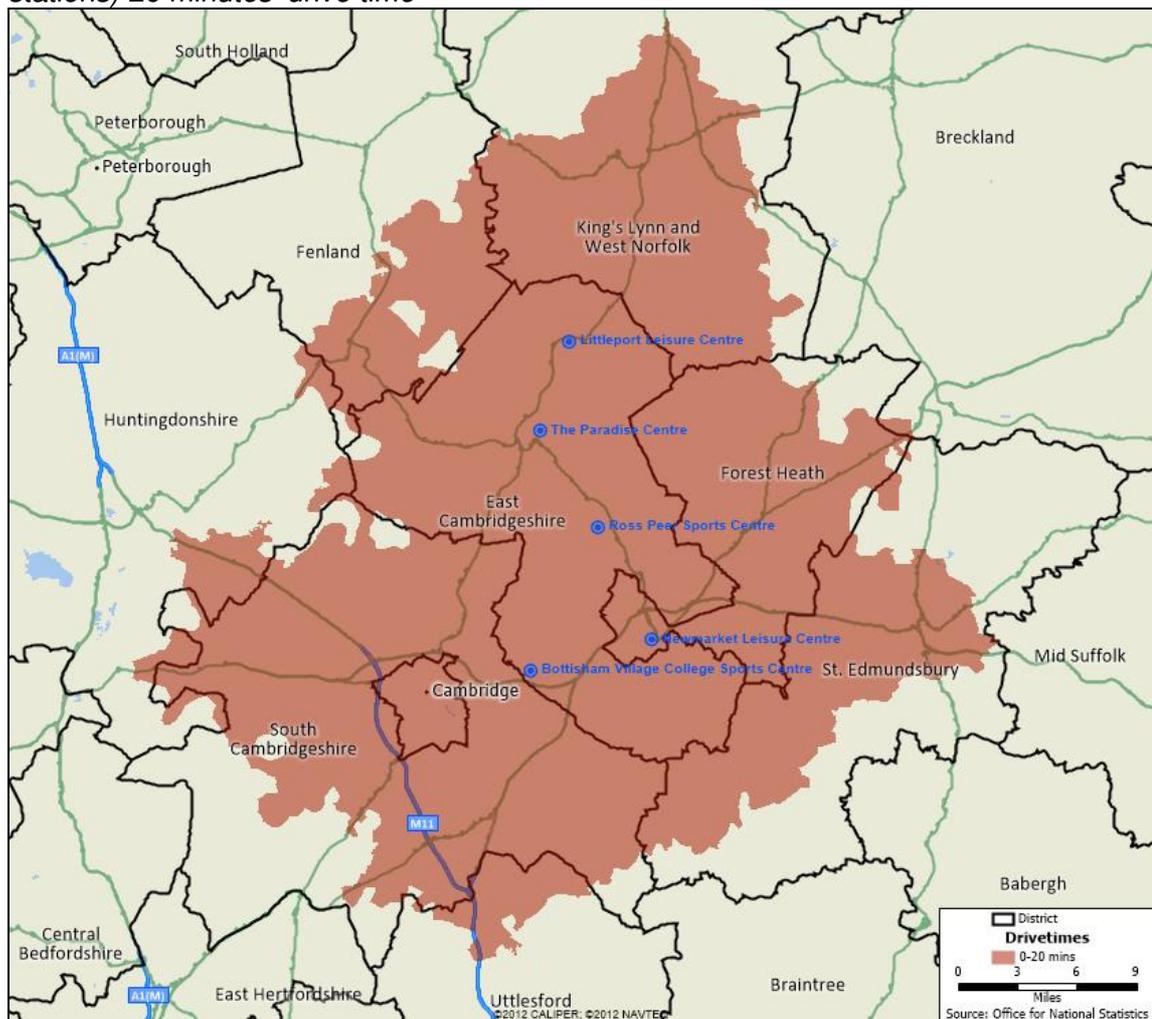
## Accessibility

- 4.11.6 This section covers the accessibility of facilities in relation to both the physical (i.e. built environment) and human (i.e. management of entry to facilities) elements.

### Physical

- 4.11.7 Appropriate drive time accessibility standards can be applied to health and fitness suites to determine deficiencies in provision. Although the majority (five of nine) health and fitness suites are located in Ely or Newmarket, users from surrounding towns and villages will travel by car and public transport to use the community accessible health fitness suites in that area of the District. Moreover, the remaining sites have a rural catchment and therefore it is suggested that a 20 minute drive time is appropriate.
- 4.11.8 Catchment mapping, based on an amalgamated 20 minute drive time has been adopted to analyse the adequacy of coverage of health and fitness provision across the East Cambridgeshire District; it also helps to identify areas currently not served by existing health and fitness suites.

*Figure 14: Community Accessible Health & Fitness Suites in East Cambridgeshire (20+ stations) 20 minutes' drive time*



- 4.11.9 The map shows that there are only small gaps in provision in the west of the District. These areas are extremely rural and therefore the largest populated areas in the

District are within a 20 minute drive time of a community accessible health and fitness suite with 20+ stations.

## Human

4.11.10 An important consideration in examining provision of health and fitness suites in East Cambridgeshire is access and use. Access to The Atrium Club is restricted by membership schemes, which are price sensitive and can be outside the price range of lower income households. The health and fitness suites located at school sites have limited accessibility during school hours, however during peak times (mornings and evenings) these suites are made available for community use. The smaller school suites (Ely College - 10 stations, and Witchford College - 15 stations) are considered too small for significant community use, which is supported by consultation with operators who say the majority of usage is from pupils and staff. Kings School, although large enough, is also not accessible for community use.

## 4.12 Demand

4.12.1 To identify the adequacy of the quantity of provision, a demand calculation based on an assumption that 'UK penetration rates' will increase slightly in the future is applied. In addition, population increases are factored in to enable a calculation of whether current supply will meet future demand.

Facility	Current (2011)	Future (2026)
Adult Population	84,200	103,700
UK Penetration Rate	12%	14%
Number of potential members	10,104	14,518
Number of visits per week (1.5/member)	15,156	21,777
% of visits in peak time	65	65
No. of visits in peak time (equivalent to no. of stations required i.e. no. of visits/39 weeks*65%)	253	363
Number of stations in District	317 stations	447 stations
Number of community accessible (20+) stations in District	225 stations	355 stations
Oversupply/(undersupply) of provision	(28) stations	(8) stations

4.12.2 When looking at community accessible (i.e. pay and play, non-school) facilities with more than 20 stations, there is a current (2011) undersupply of 28 stations, which with the projected population growth in the District results in an undersupply of 138 stations by 2026. The planned new provision at the new district-wide leisure centre in Ely (120 stations) and potential development in Littleport (increase of 10 stations) would reduce the undersupply to 8 stations in 2026.

## 4.13 Summary

- There are eight sites in East Cambridgeshire that include a health and fitness suite. Newmarket Leisure Centre also has one health and fitness suite.
- The majority (56%) of health and fitness suites are located on educational establishments. The quality of suites is generally good.
- All but a few small rural areas in the west of the District have access to a 20+ station health and fitness suite within a 20 minute drive time.

- There is a current undersupply of larger (20+ station) suites that are more accessible at peak times of 28 stations, which increases to 138 stations in 2026.
- The planned new provision at the new district-wide leisure centre in Ely (120 stations) and potential development in Littleport (increase of 10 stations) would reduce the undersupply to 8 stations in 2026.

*Implication for Strategy*

- 4.13.1 Provide support where necessary for new developments of health and fitness provision. Liaise with schools to help improve accessibility to suites at peak times.

## 4.14 Indoor Bowls

4.14.1 An indoor bowls facility is defined as a purpose built bowls centre or dedicated bowls area within a sports facility. It does not include short mat bowls areas, which are temporarily laid out in multipurpose halls.

## 4.15 Supply

### Quantity

4.15.1 There are two indoor bowls facilities in East Cambridgeshire. City of Ely Indoor Bowls Club is the largest (six rinks) and is a club owned and managed facility. The facility was built in 1972 but according to Active Places was refurbished in 2004, and from consultation with club members, has recently had a new roof fitted. The other indoor bowls facility in East Cambridgeshire is at Ross Peers Sports Centre (four rinks), which was built in 1994 but has recently undergone refurbishment of its changing facilities.

Figure 15: Map of Indoor Bowls Facilities in East Cambridgeshire



Table 12: Supply information for Indoor Bowls in East Cambridgeshire

Facility	Number of Rinks	Ownership Type	Management Type	Quality
City Of Ely Indoor Bowls Club	6	Sports Club	Sport Club	Good
Ross Peers Sports Centre	4	Community Organisation	Community Organisation	Excellent

## Quality

- 4.15.2 A non-technical site assessment of Ross Peers Sports Centre was undertaken and the condition of the facility deemed excellent. The newly refurbished changing facilities are dedicated to users of the bowls hall, despite the facility adjoining a multi-sport centre, which together with mainly seasonal (winter) use only, has kept the indoor bowls facility in excellent condition. The quality of City Of Ely Indoor Bowls Club was assessed as good, however there are parts of the facility (including the bowling carpet surface) that are looking tired and there is an insufficient number of car parking spaces. Refurbishment of the roof in 2013 and bar/social area in 2012 suggests a proactive management team, which manages a thriving club that has 400 members.

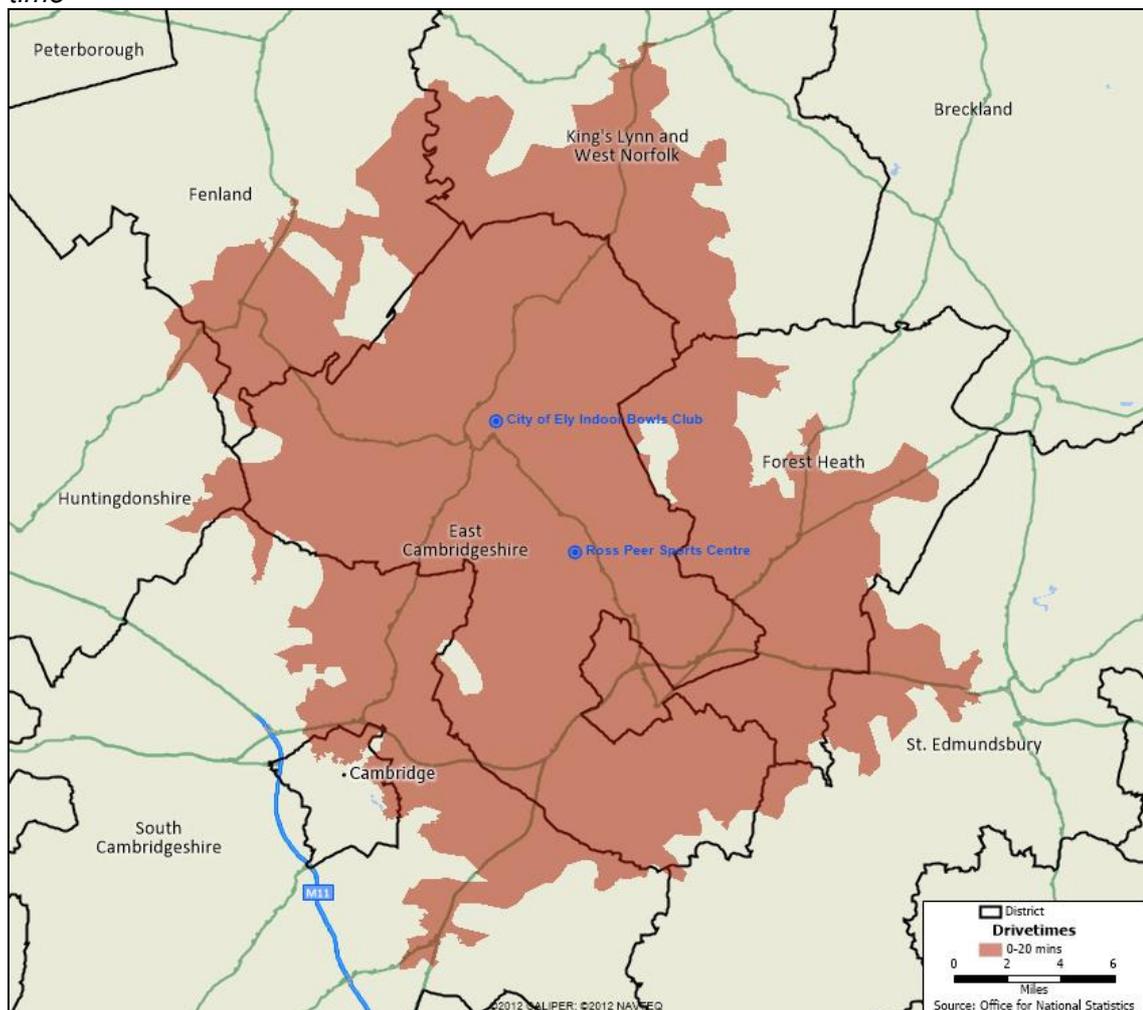
## Accessibility

- 4.15.3 This section considers the accessibility of facilities in relation to both the physical (i.e. built environment) and human (i.e. management of entry to facilities) elements.

### Physical

- 4.15.4 Appropriate drive time accessibility standards can be applied to indoor sports provision to determine deficiencies in provision. The normal acceptable standard would be to apply a 20 minute drive time for indoor bowls facilities in urban and rural areas.

*Figure 16: Map to show Indoor Bowls Facilities in East Cambridgeshire 20 minute drive time*



- 4.15.5 The majority of residents in East Cambridgeshire (including the largest settlements) are within a 20 minute drive time catchment of the indoor bowls facilities. There is a small gap in provision in the west of the District, however this is an extremely rural area with no settlements. There is also a 'pocket' of gap in provision in the south west of the District as residents in this area cannot access Ross Peers Sports Centre or City of Ely Indoor Bowls Club within a 20 minute drive time. However, Cambridge Chesterton Indoor Bowls Club (in City of Cambridge) is located approximately 6 miles (a 20 minute drive time) from residents located in this gap in provision.
- 4.15.6 Furthermore there is a gap in indoor bowls provision in the most southerly tip of East Cambridgeshire. However, Haverhill Bowls and Sports Club (in Borough of St Edmundsbury) is located approximately 6 miles (a 13 minute drive time) from residents in this gap in provision.

### **Human**

- 4.15.7 According to Active Places, both indoor bowls facilities in the District are available for community use offering either pay and play access policy. Consultation with facility operators has revealed that the majority of users at City of Ely Indoor Bowls Club are club members, whereas at Ross Peers Sports Centre membership is not required.

## **4.16 Demand**

- 4.16.1 The Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) has been created by Sport England to help local planning authorities quantify how much additional demand for the key community sports facilities, is generated by populations of new growth, development and regeneration areas.
- 4.16.2 Based on current population of 84,200<sup>6</sup>, the SFC for indoor bowls facilities identifies a demand for 5.81 rinks. When looking at future population of 103,700<sup>7</sup> for 2026, the demand for indoor bowls facilities in East Cambridgeshire is 7.6 rinks. Therefore, with the current supply of 10 rinks, both current and future demand for indoor bowls facilities in the District is met.

### **English Indoor Bowling Association**

- 4.16.3 English Indoor Bowling Association were consulted with and say there is no demand for an additional Indoor Bowls facility in East Cambridgeshire. Existing provision of two indoor bowls facilities are adequate to meet the needs of the local population (present and foreseeable future).

## **4.17 Summary**

- There are two indoor bowls facilities in East Cambridgeshire - City of Ely Indoor Bowls Club (six rinks) and Ross Peers Sports Centre (four rinks)
- The existing indoor bowls facility provision in East Cambridgeshire is of good or excellent quality and meets both current and future demand.
- Based on current population the SFC for indoor bowls facilities identifies a demand for 5.81 rinks. The future demand for indoor bowls facilities in East Cambridgeshire is 7.6 rinks. Therefore, with the current supply of 10 rinks, both current and future demand for indoor bowls facilities in the District is met.

---

<sup>6</sup> Census (2011)

<sup>7</sup> Cambridgeshire County Council; Population, Housing and Employment Forecasts (2013)

- There are small gaps in provision (further than a 20 minute drive time) in the west, south west and southerly tip of East Cambridgeshire. However, these areas are either rural with small numbers of residents or have access (within a 20 minute drive time) to an indoor bowls facility in neighbouring local authorities.

*Implication for Strategy*

- 4.17.1 Retain and maintain current indoor bowls provision. There is no requirement for additional indoor bowls provision in the District.

## 4.18 Squash Courts

4.18.1 Squash courts are either backed by a solid wall (classed as ‘normal’ in this assessment) or glass-backed, the latter of which allows for spectators to watch squash matches and are therefore more popular for hosting competitive fixtures.

## 4.19 Supply

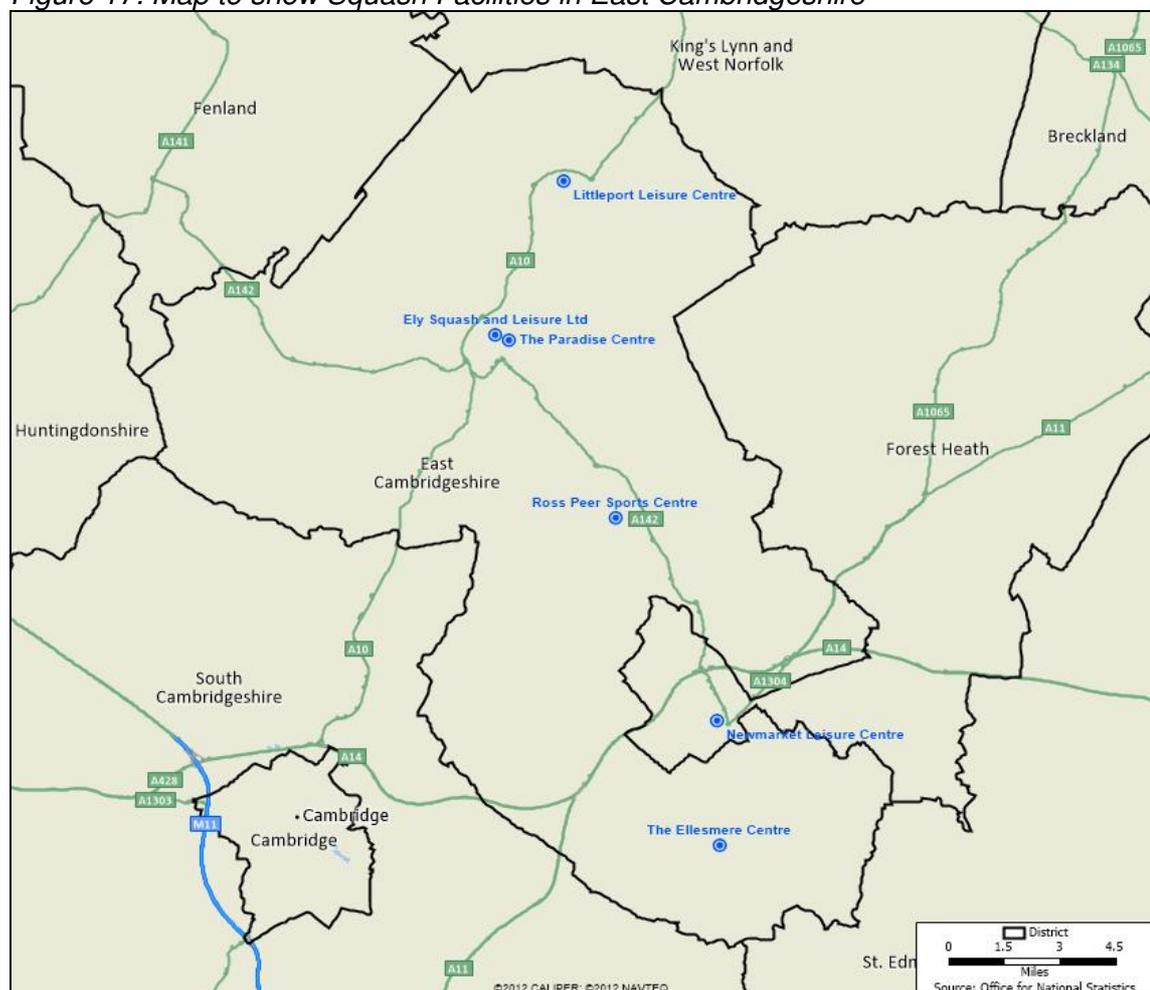
### Quantity

4.19.1 There are five sites in East Cambridgeshire as well as Newmarket Leisure Centre that provide squash court provision. The ownership and management of these six facilities is varied with one managed commercially, three by a community organisation, one by a community school and one by the Local Authority.

4.19.2 There is a good supply of squash courts for both training, club sessions and competitions. Four of the eight courts that service the District are glass-backed and only two of the six sites with squash courts are single court sites (The Ellesmere Centre and Littleport Leisure Centre).

4.19.3 Five of the six sites were built in the 1980s or early 1990s. All but one of the facilities have been refurbished in the last 10 years – The Ellesmere Centre has not been refurbished. The newest facility is Newmarket Leisure Centre, which was built in 2009.

*Figure 17: Map to show Squash Facilities in East Cambridgeshire*



*Table 13: Supply information for Squash Courts in East Cambridgeshire*

Facility	Court Type	Number of Courts	Ownership Type	Management Type	Quality
Ely Squash and Leisure Ltd	Normal	2	Commercial	Commercial Management	Adequate
The Ellesmere Centre	Normal	1	Community Organisation	Community Organisation	Adequate
Littleport Leisure Centre	Glass-backed	1	Community Organisation	Community Organisation	Good
Ross Peers Sports Centre	Normal	2	Community Organisation	Community Organisation	Poor
The Paradise Centre	Glass-backed	2	Leased from Local Authority	Trust	Good
Newmarket Leisure Centre	Normal	3	Community School	Trust	Excellent
	Glass-backed	1			

### Planned Developments

- 4.19.4 The recent studies on the development of new sport and leisure provision in Littleport and Ely have highlighted that demand for squash in the area is declining and therefore squash provision is not a priority when considering the most commercially viable schemes. It is likely that squash courts will not be included in the development of new facilities in Ely and Littleport.

### Quality

- 4.19.5 Non-technical site assessments were carried out on squash courts in East Cambridgeshire. The quality of squash courts in the District is varied; ranging from poor to excellent. The courts in poorest condition are located at Ross Peers Sports Centre and the highest quality courts are at Newmarket LC.

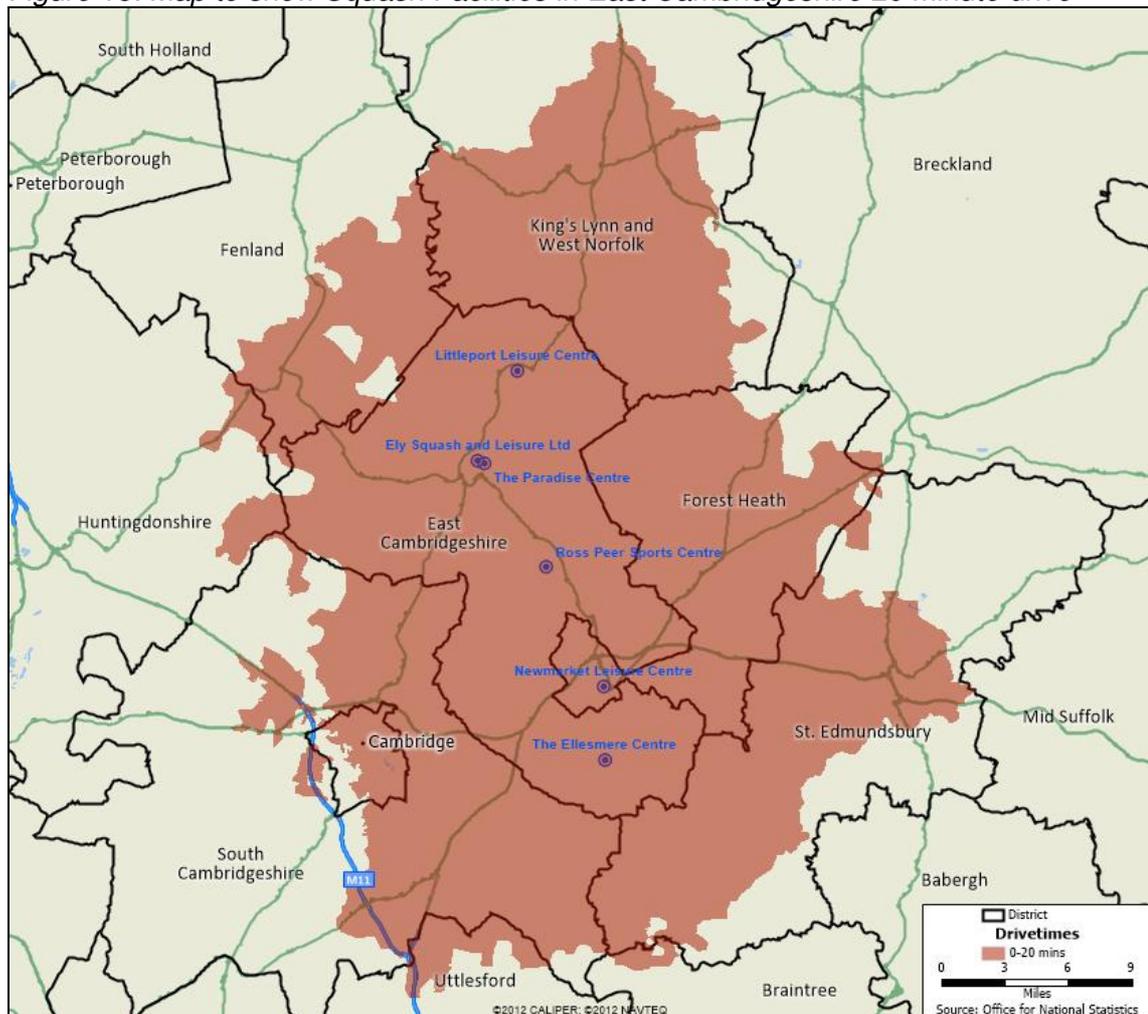
### Accessibility

- 4.19.6 This section considers the accessibility of facilities in relation to both the physical (i.e. built environment) and human (i.e. management of entry to facilities) elements.

### Physical

- 4.19.7 Appropriate drive time accessibility standards can be applied to indoor sports provision to determine deficiencies in provision. The normal acceptable standard would be to apply a 20 minute drive time for squash facilities in East Cambridgeshire, which is shown in Figure 18 overleaf.

Figure 18: Map to show Squash Facilities in East Cambridgeshire 20 minute drive



- 4.19.8 All main settlements and the vast majority of residents in East Cambridgeshire have access to squash facilities within a 20 minute drive time. There is a small gap in provision in the west of the District, however this is a very rural area with nominal number of residents.

### Human

- 4.19.9 Based on information from Active Places, five of the six sites are available on a pay and play access policy. Ely Squash and Leisure Ltd is the only facility that is accessible through a sports club or community association. However, consultation with Ely Squash Club (users for Ely Squash and Leisure Ltd) has revealed that community use (i.e. pay and play) is also possible when club training sessions/matches are not taking place.

## 4.20 Demand

- 4.20.1 There is no recognised methodology for estimating the level of total demand, and satisfied and unmet demand for squash. The Active People surveys undertaken regularly by Sport England do give some indication of existing participation in squash, although it is accepted that this does not equate exactly with demand as it may be affected by current provision. However, the regularity of the surveys from 2007/8 on a

six monthly and annual basis since then do allow some trends in participation to emerge, as set out in the following table.

*Table 14: Once a week national participation in squash and racketball (16 years and over)*

Sport	APS 1 (Oct 2005-Oct 2006)		APS4 (Oct 2009-Oct 2010)		APS7Q3 to APS8Q2 (Apr 2013-Apr 2014)	
	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number
Squash and Racketball	0.74%	299,800	0.69%	290,100	0.48%	210,700

(Source: Active People Survey 8)

- 4.20.2 There has been a clear decrease across the country in the number of participants of squash from 2005 to 2014. These findings are supported by consultation with Ely Squash Club, who say that the current utilisation rate of its courts is 15-20% and that membership numbers have decreased in recent years.

### **England Squash and Racketball (ESR)**

- 4.20.3 ESR commented that the only glass-backed courts in East Cambridgeshire are at Littleport Leisure Centre and The Paradise Centre. These facilities are crucial to sustaining and developing squash in the District. One or two court facilities are identified as satellite facilities and three court (or more) facilities are used as Development Centres. These Centres are more suitable for coaching and ESR would be keen to support an opportunity to introduce a Development Centre in the area (ideally Ely).
- 4.20.4 ESR would recommend to re-provide a modern two court facility or preferably a flexible three court facility in a prime location. A facility encompassing 200 sqm could provide movable side walls and offer greater flexibility in usage at off peak times for group exercise, for example.
- 4.20.5 If the provision in East Cambridgeshire is reduced, Squash and Racketball will struggle to have a future in the District. ESR is working closely with Cambridgeshire Squash Association with a focus on junior squash, there are resources and crucially people available to support a comprehensive County-wide development programme. It would be a real missed opportunity if the lack of suitable provision in the District were to prevent involvement in this programme.

## **4.21 Summary**

- There are five sites in East Cambridgeshire, as well as Newmarket Leisure Centre, which provide squash court provision.
- There is a good supply of solid-backed and glass-backed squash courts from a range of providers.
- All main settlements and the vast majority of residents in East Cambridgeshire have access to squash facilities within a 20 minute drive time.
- The quality varies but facilities are extremely accessible to the community with the majority of courts being accessible via a pay and play access policy.
- Demand for squash is decreasing and findings from Sport England's Active People Survey supports consultation with local club of lessening demand for squash courts.

- England Squash and Racketball have identified Littleport Leisure Centre and The Paradise Centre (only glass-backed courts in East Cambridgeshire) as key facilities for the development of junior squash in the District. Should any facilities in East Cambridgeshire be lost, the sport will struggle to have a future in the District. However, feasibility studies undertaken for the development of new facilities in Ely and Littleport suggest squash courts may not be provided in the proposed new developments.

#### *Implications for Strategy*

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

## 4.22 Studios

4.22.1 Studios accommodate a range of uses, allowing users to participate in a range of disciplines, such as; exercise, dance & movement (e.g. aerobics), sport training (e.g. martial arts), arts and social activities<sup>8</sup>.

## 4.23 Supply

### Quantity

4.23.1 There are eight sites that accommodate a studio in East Cambridgeshire, plus an additional three studios at Newmarket Leisure Centre. The ownership and management varies across the sites, the majority (50%) are located at educational establishments and the remaining studios are leased from the Local Authority (17%), a community organisation (25%) and a commercial organisation (8%).

4.23.2 There is limited information on Active Places about the age of the studios. However, it is likely that the studios were built (or refurbished) at the same time as the health and fitness suites, as studios supplement the health and fitness offer. On this basis, the majority of studios have been built (or refurbished) in the last 10 years.

4.23.3 *Figure 19: Map to show Activity Studios in East Cambridgeshire*



<sup>8</sup> Sport England; Fitness and Exercise Spaces Guidance Notes (2008)

*Table 15: Supply information for Studios in East Cambridgeshire*

Facility	Studio Type	Number of Studios	Ownership Type	Management Type	Quality
Atrium Club (Ely)	Aerobic	1	Commercial	Commercial Management	Excellent
Witchford Village College	Multi-purpose	1	Community School	School/College	Good
Burwell Community Sports Centre	Multi-purpose	1	Community Organisation	Trust	Good
Newmarket Leisure Centre	Aerobic	3	Community School	Trust	Excellent
Bottisham Village College	Multi-purpose	1	Community School	Academy	Good
Soham Village College	Multi-purpose	1	Community School	Academy	Poor
Ross Peers Sports Centre	Multi-purpose	1	Community Organisation	Community Organisation	Adequate
Littleport Leisure Centre	Multi-purpose	1	Community Organisation	Community Organisation	Adequate
The Paradise Centre	Multi-purpose	1	Leased from Local Authority	Trust	Adequate
	Aerobic	1			Good

4.23.4 There are seven multi-purpose studios and five aerobic studios servicing East Cambridgeshire. Fitness and exercise is an evolving market, and new trends are constantly emerging. For example emphasis in recent years has been to combine aerobics with another activity, such as boxing, dance or martial arts<sup>9</sup>. The five aerobic studios are located at the three largest health and fitness suite providers (The Paradise Centre, Newmarket Leisure Centre and Atrium Club).

### **Planned Developments**

4.23.5 Recent studies undertaken on the development of new facilities in Littleport and Ely suggest they are likely to include a dance/activity/aerobic studios. Current plans include two studios in Ely and one studio in Littleport.

### **Quality**

4.23.6 Non-technical site assessments were carried out and the quality of studios is generally good. Of the 12 studios, only the studio at Soham Village College is of poor quality. Three of the studios (25%) are in adequate condition; four (33%) of the studios deemed to be in good condition and the remaining four studios (33%) are in excellent condition. The four excellent studios are located at Newmarket Leisure Centre and Atrium Club.

### **Accessibility**

4.23.7 This section considers the accessibility of facilities in relation to both the physical (i.e. built environment) and human (i.e. management of entry to facilities) elements.

<sup>9</sup> Sport England; Fitness and Exercise Spaces Guidance Notes (2008)



## 4.24 Demand

4.24.1 There is no established methodology for estimating the level of total demand, and satisfied and unmet demand for activity studios. Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool, which helps identify sporting profiles of a population, as identified earlier in this report, found the largest market segments of the population in East Cambridgeshire typically participate in keep fit/gym (as well as cycling and swimming). This suggests that there is a high demand for studio space as keep fit classes and spinning classes (exercise bike training) tend to be hosted in studios. Furthermore, consultation with the operators of studios revealed that over 80% of operators rank exercise and fitness classes as one of the most popular activities to take place at their facility.

## 4.25 Summary

- There are 12 studios servicing East Cambridgeshire; five aerobic studios and seven multi-purpose. The majority (66%) of studios are of excellent or good quality.
- Aerobic studios tend to be a key ancillary facility linked to health and fitness gyms
- All residents in East Cambridgeshire are within a 20 minute drive time of a studio and access for use is also good as 11 of the 12 studios are accessible through a pay and play access policy.
- Plans for the development of new facilities in the District suggest new studios in Littleport (one studio) and Ely (two studios).
- There is increasing demand for activities such as keep fit/gym, spinning and exercise and fitness classes, identified by both consultation with operators and the Market Segmentation Tool.

### *Implications for Strategy*

4.25.1 Support operators to retain, maintain and increase studio provision (where appropriate) in the District in order to meet growing demand. This is most likely to be linked to development of new health and fitness gyms.

## 4.26 Indoor tennis

4.26.1 Covered or indoor tennis courts, includes stand-alone indoor tennis structures, purpose built tennis centres and indoor courts connected to other sports facilities, such as sports clubs. To include dedicated indoor tennis courts only and not multi-use halls which have tennis courts marked out.

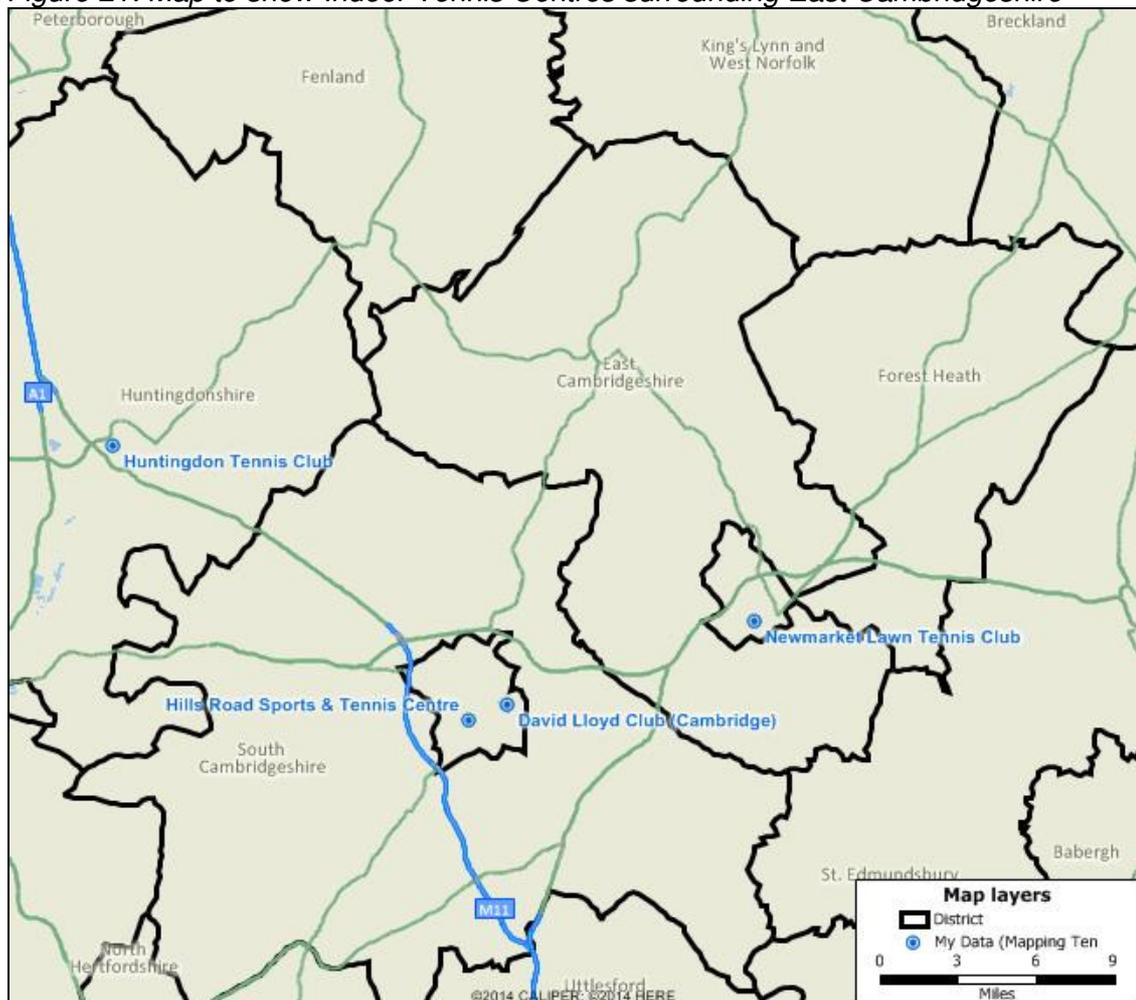
## 4.27 Supply

### Quantity

4.27.1 There are no indoor tennis courts located in East Cambridgeshire. However, there is indoor tennis provision in nearby authorities of Forest Heath, Cambridge and Huntingdonshire.

4.27.2 There are four sites that are located in areas surrounding East Cambridgeshire. Newmarket Lawn Tennis Club is the closest to East Cambridgeshire and has seasonal indoor tennis provision in the form of an Airhall, which is a temporary structure that covers three macadam courts during the winter months. There is also an Airhall at Huntingdon Tennis Club, which is used throughout the year to offer three acrylic tennis courts. The remaining two sites are located in Cambridge and are traditional indoor tennis centres, which host six acrylic and six textile courts between them.

4.27.3 *Figure 21: Map to show Indoor Tennis Centres surrounding East Cambridgeshire*



*Table 16: Supply information for Indoor Tennis in East Cambridgeshire*

Facility	Facility Type	Number of Courts	Ownership Type	Management Type
Huntingdon Tennis Club	Airhall	3 Acrylic	Sports Club	Sport Club
David Lloyd Club (Cambridge)	Traditional	2 Acrylic 6 Textile	Commercial	Commercial Management
Hills Road Sports & Tennis Centre	Traditional	4 Acrylic	Further Education	School/College/University (in house)
Newmarket Lawn Tennis Club	Airhall (seasonal)	3 Macadam	Sports Club	Sport Club

### Quality

4.27.4 Non-technical site assessments were not carried out on indoor tennis provision.

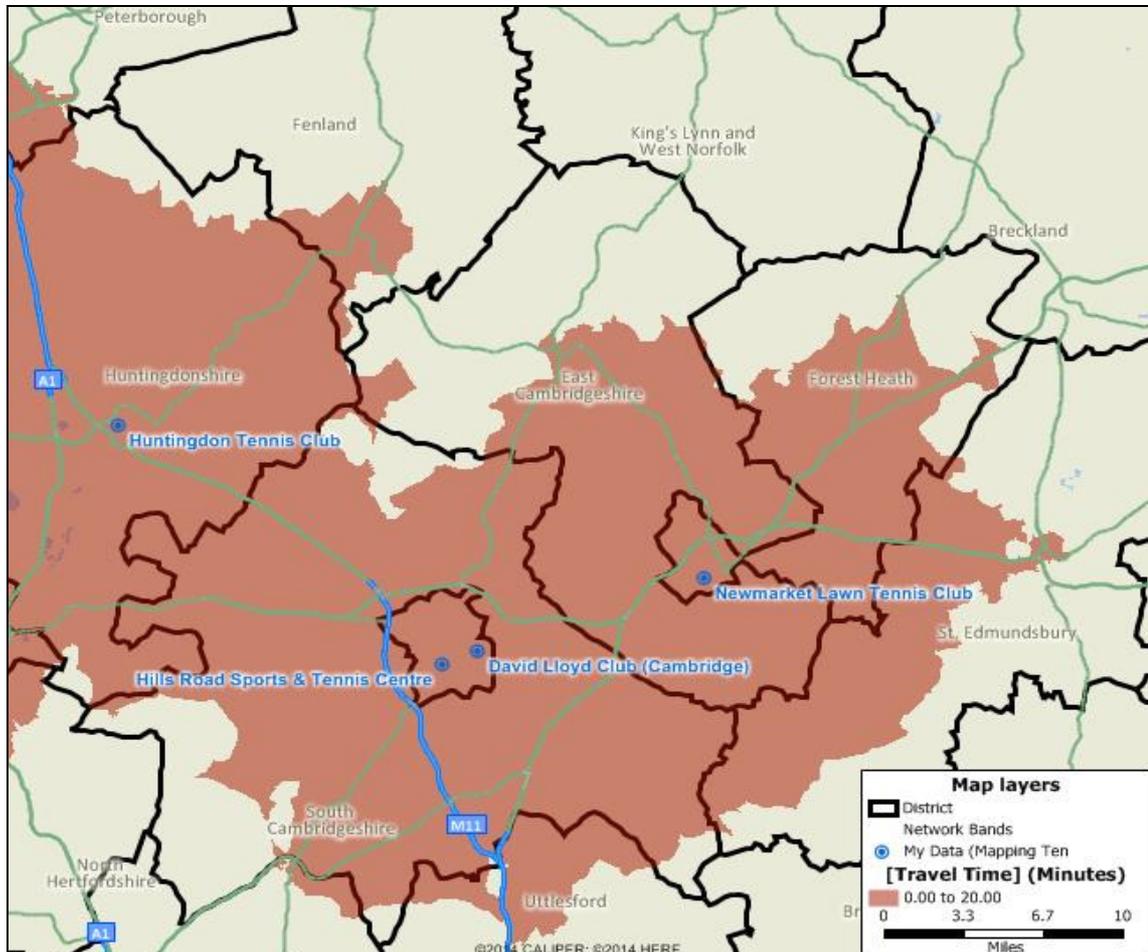
### Accessibility

4.27.5 This section considers the accessibility of facilities in relation to both the physical (i.e. built environment) and human (i.e. management of entry to facilities) elements.

### Physical

Specialist facilities will have a far wider catchment (e.g. sub regional). The Lawn Tennis Association in its 'Places to Play Strategy' set targets for the provision of indoor tennis courts within a 20 minute drive time and High Performance Centre within a 45 minute drive time.

4.27.6 Figure 22: Map to show Indoor Tennis courts closest to East Cambridgeshire 20 minute drive



- 4.27.7 Appropriate drive time accessibility standards can be applied to indoor sports provision to determine deficiencies in provision. The normal acceptable standard would be to apply a 20 minute drive time for indoor tennis in East Cambridgeshire, which is shown in Figure 22 above.
- 4.27.8 The map shows that the majority of residents in East Cambridgeshire have access to an indoor tennis centre within a 20 minute drive time.

### Human

- 4.27.9 Two of the four sites that surround East Cambridgeshire are owned and managed by a sports club, one is located at a school and one is commercially owned and managed (by David Lloyd Club). David Lloyd Club (Cambridge) has registered membership use only, however the remaining three sites are accessible on a pay and play policy.

## 4.28 Demand

- 4.28.1 There is no recognised methodology for estimating the level of total demand, and satisfied and unmet demand for indoor tennis. The Active People surveys undertaken regularly by Sport England do give some indication of existing participation in tennis, although it is accepted that this does not equate exactly with demand as it may be affected by current provision. However, the regularity of the surveys from 2007/8 on a six monthly and annual basis since then do allow some trends in participation to emerge, as set out in the following table.

Table 17: Once a week national participation in tennis (16 years and over)

Sport	APS 1 (Oct 2005-Oct 2006)		APS4 (Oct 2009-Oct 2010)		APS7Q3 to APS8Q2 (Apr 2013-Apr 2014)	
	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number
Tennis	1.12%	457,200	1.04%	437,500	0.97%	434,600

(Source: Active People Survey 8)

- 4.28.2 There has been a clear decrease across the country in the number of participants of tennis from 2005 to 2014.

## 4.29 Summary

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

### *Implications for Strategy*

- 4.29.1 There are no indoor tennis courts in East Cambridgeshire but the majority of residents in the District are within a 20 minute drive time of indoor tennis facilities in neighbouring authorities.

## 5 INDOOR SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

### 5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The purpose of this strategy is to provide an indoor sports facility strategy document and a prioritised and timeline action plan for East Cambridgeshire, which incorporates the key findings from the needs assessment. It includes a long-term view to 2026, and makes recommendations to inform the preparation of planning policies as part of the next local plan review.
- 5.1.2 The strategy will form part of the evidence base for providing indoor sports facilities, in conjunction with the District Council's Local Plan and will be referenced as a basis for securing external investment, either from developer contributions, government grants or other sources. It will also ensure that as and when funding is available, investment decisions affecting the local sports infrastructure of the district are co-ordinated and planned by the Council and its partners, with reference to strategic need and the needs assessment work included in this document.

### 5.2 Developing the strategy

- 5.2.1 This strategy has been developed using a number of sports facility planning tools and a wide ranging consultation with relevant stakeholders.
- 5.2.2 A steering group was formed comprising representatives from East Cambridgeshire District Council and Sport England. This steering group was responsible for establishing the brief and for the check and challenge of the strategy during its development.
- 5.2.3 Recommended facility planning tools were applied including Sport England's Active Places, Active People, Sports Facility Calculator and Market Segmentation data. The strategy is also informed by detailed analysis of the results of Sport England Facility Planning Model for Sports Hall and Swimming Pool. These reports were commissioned specifically for this purpose.
- 5.2.4 Consultation was conducted with over 60 individuals and organisations, including facility users, clubs, facility operators, council officers and National Governing Bodies of Sport.
- 5.2.5 A comprehensive audit of provision in the District was completed alongside relevant facility managers during July and September 2014. The audit provides a snapshot of the situation at that time and sites were reviewed on a like for like basis on their ability to provide for any increase in participation. A range of elements including accessibility, service provision, catchment (travel time) and affordability were assessed. Facilities were also graded dependant on their catchment and composition as strategic facilities, district wide facilities or local facilities.
- 5.2.6 Consultation and research is fundamental to the validity of the strategy and key stakeholders and partners were consulted in addition to a comprehensive audit of facilities. Findings of the consultation and research were taken into account when developing the action plan in this strategy. This clearly identified three key drivers for the strategy. These are summarised in the following paragraphs.

### **Driver 1 – Population growth**

- 5.2.7 East Cambridgeshire is a predominantly rural district that covers an area of 655km<sup>2</sup> and has a population of 84,200<sup>10</sup>. The population has increased significantly in recent years and growth is expected to continue to increase to 103,700 by 2026<sup>11</sup>.
- 5.2.8 We understand that the Council will make provision for 9,400 new homes through a range of developments. There are significant new land allocations proposed on the edge of main settlements, including Ely, Soham and Littleport.
- 5.2.9 New sport and leisure provision is planned in Ely and Littleport to cater for the growing population in Ely (and district as a whole) and a new secondary school is planned in Littleport.

### **Driver 2 – Increasing participation**

- 5.2.10 People in East Cambridgeshire are less physically active than the regional and national averages, which incurs additional health care costs of just over £1.3 million<sup>12</sup> due to inactivity. East Cambridgeshire's involvement in volunteering, club membership, tuition, competition and organised sport has increased over the last 5 years. The three largest market segments of the population in East Cambridgeshire typically participate in keep fit/gym, swimming and cycling. However, the percentage of the adult population in the district that are satisfied with sports provision in their local area has decreased in the last 5 years.

### **Driver 3 – The supply of facilities meets the demand**

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

---

<sup>10</sup> Census (2011)

<sup>11</sup> Cambridgeshire County Council; Population, Housing and Employment Forecasts (2013)

<sup>12</sup> British Heart Foundation, 2009/10

### 5.3 Objectives

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

#### **Objective 1 – Protect and maintain strategically important existing facilities**

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

#### **Objective 2 – Improve access to meet demand**

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

#### **Objective 3 – Effective and sustainable programming**

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

#### **Objective 4 – Provide new facilities**

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

#### **Objective 5 – Improve viability of facilities**

5.3.6 To improve viability of facilities through considering different management options.

#### **Objective 6 – Utilise strategically valuable sites and maximise revenue generation**

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

#### **Objective 7 – Improve co-ordination of delivery between stakeholders**

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

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

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

## 5.4 Action Plan

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

## General Strategic Priorities

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

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

## Swimming Pool Priorities

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

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

## Sports Hall Priorities

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

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

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

## Health and Fitness Suite Priorities

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

Strategic Priorities	Action Required	Objectives reached	Implementing partners	Timescale
Improvement and promotion of facilities on school sites in order to widen community access	Priority school sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ely College</li> <li>Bottisham Village College Sports Centre</li> <li>Witchford Village College</li> </ul>	2 and 7	ECDC Schools identified	Short
Progress with proposals to development a Health and Fitness Suite at the new leisure centre in Ely	Current plans include the development of a 120 station health and fitness suite.	4	ECDC	Short
Address any impact on other facilities that are within close proximity to that of the new leisure centre in Ely.	The Paradise Centre, Atrium Club and Witchford Village College are located in or near to Ely and therefore may be affected by current plans for new health and fitness suite at district wide leisure centre.	6	ECDC	Medium
Continue to support the County Council with the development of a Health and Fitness Suite in Littleport	Latest feasibility work identified the need for a Health and Fitness Suite with 40 stations in Littleport	4	ECDC County Council	Short
Health and fitness provision should be provided in conjunction with new housing developments.	Main areas for development, as identified in the Local Plan are Ely, Littleport and Soham	4 and 8	ECDC	Ongoing

### **Indoor Bowls Priorities**

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

### **Squash Court Priorities**

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

### **Studio Priorities**

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

### **Indoor Tennis Priorities**

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

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

## **5.5 Delivery of the Strategy**

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

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

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

## **5.6 Housing Growth**

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

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

## **5.7 Developer Contributions**

### **5.7.1 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 Planning Obligations**

5.7.2 The latest legislation covering Section 106 developer contributions states that local authorities will only be able to pool a maximum of 5 secured S106 contributions to fund one specific infrastructure project. Projects which relied upon funding from a wide number of tariff-based Planning Obligation contributions will instead need to be secured via the new CIL. S106 agreements will largely be used to secure new or improved infrastructure which is either site-specific or immediately related to the development, e.g. affordable housing, children's play facilities, community centre.

5.7.3 East Cambridgeshire District Council has adopted CIL and is seeking to secure and administer funding through CIL. Therefore the continued development of a robust needs and evidence base in terms of providing further detail and options for delivery is required. CIL will be a limited resource, and there will be many calls upon this resource to deliver a wide range of infrastructure needs. It is therefore important that clear information is available to enable decision-makers to make informed choices when allocating these resources at the local level, using resources as efficiently and as effectively as possible when addressing local infrastructure needs arising from development. This strategy and action plan will provide East Cambridgeshire District Council with this evidence base to maximise the contribution of future CIL funding to the delivery of leisure infrastructure.

## **5.8 Monitoring and Review**

5.8.1 This strategy has been produced to enable the development of indoor sports facilities within East Cambridgeshire to be provided for in a planned and co-ordinated way that meets the needs of the local population and addresses areas that could have the greatest future demand.

5.8.2 The strategy is based on the current known and planned facilities, but it will need to be reviewed periodically, particularly when there are significant changes in facility provision. The progress against the plan should be reviewed on an annual basis and the strategy and action plan should be updated if there are any significant changes in order to ensure that the strategy requirements keep pace with changes in facility provision and the amount of growth planned for East Cambridgeshire.

5.8.3 A key component of the process of delivering the action plan is the establishment of a Key Stakeholder Group, which should be set up by the Council to facilitate the implementation of the action plan.

## 6 PROPOSED LOCAL STANDARDS/LEVELS OF PROVISION

### 6.1 Approach and Rationale

- 6.1.1 To identify the local standards for indoor sports facilities for East Cambridgeshire District, we have reviewed the existing standards for indoor provision (based upon an area per 1,000 people) and made recommendations for developing new proposed standards for provision.
- 6.1.2 A range of methodologies have been used in order to provide a robust process and calculations, supported by Sport England, which have then been refined and adjusted to meet the specific circumstances of each area and facility type within the East Cambridgeshire District, including:
- proposed and possible new housing development in terms of population growth, geographical location and potential impact on needs and demand for community and district wide indoor sports facilities;
  - planned developments of replacement or new indoor sports provision in East Cambridgeshire;
  - impacts on facilities from cross-boundary use between neighbouring authorities;
  - the Indoor Facilities Audit, visits and consultations with officers of the council and other leisure stakeholders;
  - information on size and location of the indoor facilities and their facility mix, levels and types of use, the quality of provision and their value as an amenity to the community.

### 6.2 Future Local Standards/Levels of Provision

- 6.2.1 The table below translates the future standard per 1,000 population into the number of facilities required commensurate with projected population growth to 2026. As previously identified in this study, the population of East Cambridgeshire in 2011 was 84,200<sup>13</sup> and it is projected to be 103,700<sup>14</sup> by 2026.
- 6.2.2 The table divides each facility type and provides information and recommendations in the table columns which are defined as:
- Column 1 – Existing standards gathered from East Cambridgeshire Sports Facilities and Play Areas Assessment (2005).
  - Column 2 – The total amount of current provision (2014).
  - Column 3 – The total amount of current provision divided by current population (84,200) and applied per 1,000 population.
  - Column 4 – Known planned developments up to 2026 have been included here. These include development of new school sports facilities in Littleport and a district-wide leisure centre in Ely. Please note, findings in table below

<sup>13</sup> Census (2011)

<sup>14</sup> Cambridgeshire County Council; Population, Housing and Employment Forecasts (2013)

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

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

**Table 1: Existing standards and future levels of indoor provision**

Sports Facility	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Existing standards per 1,000 population (2005)	Current provision total	Current provision per 1,000 population (2011=84,200)	Planned developments up to 2026	Future provision total	Future provision per 1,000 population (2026=103,700)	Additional provision required to meet demand (2026)	Future standards of provision per 1,000 population
<b>Swimming pools</b> <i>lane swimming with community access</i>	9.29m <sup>2</sup> @ 2021 (6.2m <sup>2</sup> @ 2005 <sup>15</sup> )	775m <sup>2</sup>	9.20m <sup>2</sup>	Increase of 242m <sup>2</sup> <sup>16</sup>	1,017m <sup>2</sup>	9.81 m <sup>2</sup>	No additional provision required – demand is met	9.81 m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Sports halls</b> <i>4+ court halls with community access</i>	0.26 courts @ 2021 (0.28 courts @ 2005)	30 courts	0.36 courts	Increase of 4 courts	34 courts	0.33 courts	No additional provision required – supply exceeds demand	0.33 courts
<b>Health and Fitness Suites</b> <i>20+ stations with community access</i>	Not available	225 stations	2.67 stations	Increase of 130 stations <sup>17</sup>	355 stations	3.42 stations	8 stations are required to meet demand <sup>18</sup>	3.50 stations
<b>Indoor Bowls Rinks</b> <i>with community access</i>	Not available	10 rinks	0.12 rinks	No planned developments	10 rinks	0.10 rinks	No additional provision required – supply exceeds demand	0.10 rinks
<b>Squash Courts</b> <i>with community access</i>	Not available	12 courts	0.14 courts	Decrease of 1 court	11 courts	0.11 courts	No additional provision required – supply exceeds demand	0.11 courts
<b>Studios</b> <i>with community access</i>	Not available	11 studios	0.13 studios	Increase of 2 studios	13 studios	0.13 studios	2 studios are required to meet demand <sup>19</sup>	0.14 studios
<b>Indoor Tennis Courts</b> <i>all courts</i>	Not available	0 courts	0 courts	No planned developments	0 courts	0 courts	No provision required	0 courts

<sup>15</sup> Findings of assessment in 2005 does not include Newmarket Leisure Centre as this was built in 2009

<sup>16</sup> Sport England's FPM identified unmet demand of 242m<sup>2</sup>. New leisure centre in Ely will include 8 lane 25m pool (442m<sup>2</sup>) to account for loss of 4 lane 25m pool (200m<sup>2</sup>) at Paradise Pools.

<sup>17</sup> Based on 120 stations at new leisure centre in Ely and a net increase of 10 stations in Littleport.

<sup>18</sup> Derived from findings of work in Section 4.12 of Needs Assessment report

<sup>19</sup> Derived from findings of work in Section 4.24 of Needs Assessment report

### **6.3 Summary of Findings**

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

## **APPENDIX 1: AUDIT FINDINGS**

Site Name	Facility Type	Facility Sub Type	Unit	Number	Quality
Burwell Community Sports Centre Ltd	Sports Hall	Main	Badminton Courts	4	Good
	Studio	Multi-use	N/A	1	Good
	Changing rooms	Indoor and Outdoor	Male and Female	2	Adequate

Village/rural catchment. Corrugated iron external with surrounding playing fields. Main facility is the sports hall, which although is in good condition, the floor is 30+ years old. The Centre recently refurbished its dance studio which is well used, as is the bar/function room but of average quality. The changing rooms are in need of refurbishment and look worn out due to usage from local school. During term time the school uses the sports hall 12 hours a week.

Site Name	Facility Type	Facility Sub Type	Unit	Number	Quality
Paradise Pools	Swimming Pool	Main/General	Lanes	4	Good
	Swimming Pool	Leisure Pool	Lanes	0	Good
	Changing rooms	Wet-side changing	Family Village	3	Excellent
			Male and Female		Good

Based on the same site as The Paradise Centre, the Pools are of good quality and clearly well-maintained.

Site Name	Facility Type	Facility Sub Type	Unit	Number	Quality
Ross Peers Sports Centre	Sports Hall	Main	Badminton Courts	5	Adequate (with poor floor)
	Indoor Bowls	Indoor Bowls	Rinks	4	Excellent
	Health And Fitness Suite	Health And Fitness Suite	Stations	27	Adequate
	Sports Hall	Activity Hall (Multi-Use)	Badminton Courts	0	Adequate
	Studio	Meeting Room/Spinning (multi-use)	N/A	1	Adequate
	Squash Courts	Normal	Courts	2	Poor
	Changing rooms	Indoor and Outdoor	Male and Female	4	Poor
Dedicated Bowls Male and Female			Good		

Located next to (but separate from) Soham Village College. Encased in corrugated iron, a large facility that boasts an excellent indoor bowls hall. Used extensively by local, regional and national bowls competitors during the winter, it is a huge space that is multi-use during the summer (e.g. a theatre production). School next door use facilities regularly. There is also a bar/bowls viewing area/snooker room/function room which is in adequate condition.

Site Name	Facility Type	Facility Sub Type	Unit	Number	Quality
The Ellesmere Centre	Sports Hall	Activity Hall	Badminton Courts	1	Excellent
	Squash Courts	Normal	Courts	1	Adequate
	Sports Hall	Activity Hall/function room	Badminton Courts	0	Adequate
	Changing rooms	Indoor and Outdoor (plus separate toilets)	Male Changing	2	Good
Female Changing			Excellent		

Situated in a village, this Centre is clearly of high value to the community. It has a postcode office, library area and a function room/village hall that is used for weddings in the summer - £15K planned improvements to this hall. The sports hall is of excellent quality as in 2013 a new floor and lights were installed. There is also a meeting room of adequate quality and a kitchen which is due to be improved as part of the function hall refurbishment. A meeting/class room is located upstairs but is in poor condition and there are plans to convert the space into a treatment room. The Centre Manager has plans to refurbish the majority of the centre over the next two years – depending on funding. The changing facilities were refurbished in 2013 – a different company did female changing rooms to a higher standard than the company that did the male changing rooms.

Site Name	Facility Type	Facility Sub Type	Unit	Number	Quality
The Paradise Centre	Sports Hall	Main	Badminton Courts	4	Excellent
	Health And Fitness Suite	Health And Fitness Suite	Upstairs Cardio	50 Stations	Good
			Downstairs Weights Room	25 Stations	Adequate
	Studio	Studio	Studio	2	Good
			Studio/Creche		Adequate
	Squash Courts	Glass-Backed	Courts	2	Good
	Changing rooms	Outdoor and Indoor	Male and Female	2	Adequate
		WC	Male WC	2	Poor
Female WC	Good				

Located on the same site as Paradise Pools, this centre looks out-dated from the outside – encased in corrugated iron. The Centre Manager explained that two-thirds of the centre's income is from the Health and Fitness Suite. There is also room for 12 spinning bike but classes are so popular that 24 bikes are required. There are two excellent quality beauty rooms which are rented by the Centre – very popular. There is also a meeting room of adequate quality.

Site Name	Facility Type	Facility Sub Type	Unit	Number	Quality
Newmarket Leisure Centre	Sports Hall	Main	Badminton Courts	4	Good
	Health And Fitness Suite	Health And Fitness Suite	Stations	60	Excellent

	Swimming Pool	Main/General	Lanes	6	Excellent
	Swimming Pool	Learner/Teaching/Training	Lanes	0	Excellent
	Sports Hall	Activity Hall	Badminton Courts	1	Excellent
	Squash Courts	Normal	Courts	4 (1 of which is glass backed)	Excellent
	Studio	Studios	Dance Studios	3	Excellent
			Personal Training Room		Good
	Changing rooms	Wet-side	Changing Village	7	Excellent
		College dry-side	Male and Female		Excellent
Public dry-side		Male and Female	Excellent		
H & F changing		Male and Female	Excellent		

The Centre has an extremely impressive exterior – smart and modern. The entrance hall and Café are of excellent quality, as is the conference room. The main swimming pool is used by local clubs for training and competitions (10 – 12 a year) including Bottisham Club use the pool. The Centre also has two beauty therapy rooms that are rented by the centre.

Site Name	Facility Type	Facility Sub Type	Unit	Number	Quality
Littleport Sports Centre	Sports Hall	Main	Badminton courts	5	Good (excellent new floor)
	Health and Fitness Suite	Health and Fitness Suite	Stations	30	Good
	Squash Court	Glass Backed	Courts	1	Good
	Sports Hall	Activity Hall/Dance/Darts room	Badminton courts	0	Adequate
	Sports Hall	Theatre/Multi-purpose/Function room	Badminton courts	0	Good
	Changing rooms	Indoor	Male and Female	2	Poor
		Outdoor	Team and referee	5	Adequate

Situated on the outskirts of a village, the catchment is very rural and therefore quite inaccessible unless a car owner. The Centre is located within a playing field and has a corrugated iron exterior. Inside the facilities generally look tired and in need of refurbishment. The sports hall has recently had a new floor fitted, however the heating of the hall is poor i.e. heat remains of the top of the hall. The indoor changing facilities are in extremely poor condition, particularly the showers. The Health and Fitness Suite has been expanded to include floor space of a redundant squash court. The Theatre Hall is used regularly for event (100 seated dinner/wedding). There are two bars; a large good quality (but poorly heated) one and a smaller good/excellent quality one. The kitchen is too small and only of adequate condition.

Site Name	Facility Type	Facility Sub Type	Unit	Number	Quality
Ely College	Sports Hall	Activity	Badminton courts	1	Poor

	Sports Hall	Main	Badminton courts	4	Good
	Health and Fitness Suite	Health and Fitness Suite	Stations	8	Poor

The one court hall has internal use only – Adult Education classes mostly. The main hall is only 8 years old. The College is undertaking a huge extension to increase classroom space, yet there are no new sports facilities planned. Health and Fitness Suite has old poor quality equipment.

Site Name	Facility Type	Facility Sub Type	Unit	Number	Quality
Soham Village College	Sports Hall	Activity	Badminton courts	1	Poor
	Sports Hall	Activity	Badminton courts	0	Poor
	Studio	Multi-purpose	Studio	1	Poor

School uses Ross Peers Sports Centre (next door) 5 days a week. Usually morning and primary school use in evening. Sometimes they use the squash courts. This agreement is contracted with Ross Peers. Two small halls, one is used for indoor football by club but poor floor - £16 an hour, 90% spare capacity. One group use second hall (no court) a week also poor quality and same with multi-purpose studio – one group but poor.

Site Name	Facility Type	Facility Sub Type	Unit	Number	Quality
Witchford Village College	Sports Hall	Main	Badminton courts	3	Adequate
	Sports Hall	Activity	Badminton courts	2	Adequate
	Health and Fitness Suite	Health and Fitness Suite	Stations	15	Good
	Studio	Multi-purpose	Studio	1	Good

Received Football Foundation funding for 3G AGP a few years ago. Looking to host more parties on it. Main hall is used in winter by football clubs – storage is poor. Disability group use hall for Boccia. School hall (assembly space) is used by local dance group for productions. Community Education hire out activity hall most. Studio not used much. Health and Fitness Suite open to public most mornings and evenings and all weekend.

Site Name	Facility Type	Facility Sub Type	Unit	Number	Quality
Bottisham Village College Sports Centre	Swimming Pool	Main	Lanes	4	Adequate
	Sports Hall	Main	Badminton courts	4	Adequate
	Sports Hall	Activity	Badminton courts	1	Good
	Studio	Multi-purpose	Studio	1	Good

	Health and Fitness Suite	Health and Fitness Suite	Stations	20	Good
Sports Centre has separate entrance (and staff) to school. Community sports centre feel centred around swimming pool. Pool needs work done but is well used by groups and public but could cater for more users if required.					
Site Name	Facility Type	Facility Sub Type	Unit	Number	Quality
City Of Ely Indoor Bowls Club	Indoor bowls hall	Indoor bowls hall	Rink	6	Good
Located in the centre of Ely, next to the Paradise Centre and Pools. The quality of City Of Ely Indoor Bowls Club was assessed as good, however there are parts of the facility (including the bowling carpet surface) that are looking tired and there is an insufficient number of car parking spaces and the female changing room is too small. Refurbishment of the roof in 2013 and bar/social area in 2012 suggests a proactive management team, which manages a thriving club that has 400 members.					
Site Name	Facility Type	Facility Sub Type	Unit	Number	Quality
Ely Squash and Leisure Ltd	Squash	Squash courts	Courts	2	Adequate
Located next to rugby clubhouse, the building external and entrance is not appealing to the customer. The car park is small and is used by rugby spectators at weekends. The facilities generally are tired and worn out, although some refurbishment to the changing rooms and kitchen has been undertaken. The lights and vents above the squash courts have recently been replaced, yet the floor and walls are worn. There is a good size bar area with balcony over rugby pitches.					
Site Name	Facility Type	Facility Sub Type	Unit	Number	Quality
Atrium Club	Swimming Pool	Leisure pool	Lanes	0	Good
	Studio	Aerobic	Studio	1	Excellent
	Health and Fitness Suite	Health and Fitness Suite	Stations	40	Good
Located within close proximity to The Paradise Centre, with good frontage onto busy road. Large, light reception area with generally well-kept facilities throughout. Pool is too small for lane swimming but in good condition. Health and fitness suite has good quality floors and equipment, although space is not that large. Excellent studio; very large, good floor with platform for instructor, and space for a range of equipment and exercises.					

## **APPENDIX 2: SPORT ENGLAND FACILITIES PLANNING MODEL RESULTS**



**Creating sporting opportunities in every  
community**

**Sport England's Facilities Planning Model**

**East Cambridgeshire District Council**

**Provision for Swimming**

**Executive Summary Report Runs 1 and 2**

## Executive Summary: Provision for Swimming Pools

1. This executive summary report describes the key findings on the facility planning model (fpm) assessment on the provision for swimming in 2014 and 2026 for East Cambridgeshire District Council and the wider study area including authorities which border East Cambridgeshire.
2. The purposes of the fpm assessment are to assess:
  - The extent to which the existing supply of swimming pools meets current levels of demand from the resident population in 2014
  - The extent to which changes in the projected population growth between 2014 and 2026 in East Cambridgeshire and the wider study area has on the projected demand for swimming and supply of pools in 2026.
  - To provide a hard evidence base and key findings which can be addressed in a wider East Cambridgeshire sports facilities strategy?
3. This Executive Summary reports on the key findings, themes and issues which emerge from the 2014 and 2026 fpm assessments. This report is written in a narrative and descriptive style leaving the main report to set out technical assessment in detail. Potential suggested fpm scenarios are placed in the text and are in bold typeface.

### **Overall Assessment**

4. The overall assessment for both years is that quantity of swimming pool provision in East Cambridgeshire is greater than the demand for swimming by East Cambridgeshire residents. The East Cambridgeshire supply of swimming pools from its three pools at two swimming pool sites, equates to 670 sq metres of water, in both years. (Note: for context a 25m x 4 lane swimming pool is 212 sq metres of water)
5. The total demand for swimming by East Cambridgeshire residents is for 947 sq metres of water in 2014 and which increases to 1,067 sq metres of water by 2026, based on the projected increase in population of 14.9% between the two years and which increases the total demand for swimming by 12.5% between 2014 – 2026.
6. So demand exceeds supply and the unmet demand is 277 sq metres of water in 2014 and 397 sq metres of water by 2026. This is quite a large gap and it equates to 41% of the total East Cambridgeshire waterspace in 2014 and 59% in 2026. It does assume that ALL the East Cambridgeshire demand for swimming is met at the three pools on two sites in East Cambridgeshire
7. This is not a realistic assumption and when supply and demand are assessed on the basis of where the East Cambridgeshire demand is located and the location of the swimming pools and their walking and drive time catchment area, the unmet demand does reduce. This is because the catchment area of swimming pools does extend across local authority boundaries and some of the East Cambridgeshire demand is located closer to a pool outside the authority than inside. In short, based on the catchment area of pools

and where demand is located East Cambridgeshire is exporting more of its residents demand for swimming than it is importing demand from outside the authority (the import and export details of where demand goes to and comes from are set out in the main report).

8. The export/import dimension reduces the unmet demand for swimming in East Cambridgeshire to 166 sq metres of waterspace in 2014 and 242 sq metres of waterspace in 2026. This represents 14% of the East Cambridgeshire total waterspace in 2014 and 36% in 2026, still a sizeable difference.

### **How full are the swimming pools?**

9. The impact of supply being greater than demand does mean that that the used capacity (how full the pools are) of the two swimming pool SITES is high. The estimated used capacity is 81% of total capacity in both years. The Sport England benchmark of pools being "comfortably full" is 70% of their total capacity in the weekly peak period. So based on the Sport England benchmark the East Cambridgeshire pool sites are 11% above the pool full comfort level in both 2014 and 2026.
10. The used capacity at each pool site does vary considerably and in 2014 is an estimated 97% of pool capacity used at the Paradise Pools site and 54% at the Bottisham Village College Sports site. In 2026 the percentages are 100% and 49% respectively. (Note the percentage for both sites do not reflect the district wide average because of the impact of the import and export of demand)
11. The reasons for the estimated used capacity of each pool site to vary are similar to those reported on for sports halls. The reasons are
  - more demand located in the catchment area of one swimming pool site when compared to another
  - some pools being more modern and having a higher quality and facilities, such as health and fitness, so they are comparatively more attractive than older venues. This would not appear to apply as the Bottisham Village site opened in 1980 and the Paradise Pools site opened in 1981. Also both sites have been modernised, in 2005 and 2008 respectively.
  - location of a pool site creating ease of access and that fits with work/family lifestyle choices. This is usually a big factor in different pool capacities used as pools do reflect a very wide age range of users and swimming is very often a family based activity. So some pools can fit in much better than others in terms of activities being available at times that suit family/personal circumstances across a wide range of user/age groups.
  - Pool size configuration and programming - again quite often a big factor in different used capacities of pools. It could be one pool because of its size/configuration offers a wider range of swimming activities and there is more public casual swimming, lane swimming, learn to swim programmes and less club use than at another pool. This will reflect different throughputs and usage at different pools. The Paradise Pools does have a very large learner/training pool of 200 sq metres of water as well as a main pool. The Bottisham Village site has one main pool only. So the Paradise Pool site can offer a much wider range of swimming activities and this may well be a reason for its estimated higher used capacity than for the Bottisham Village site.

- restricted hours of opening and types of use at some sites, thereby suppressing demand at some venues and pushing demand to more accessible venues (in terms of programming/activities and hours and possibly price). This can often apply to school and college sites, where public use or most likely club use is limited and thereby reflected in the overall usage level.

### Does East Cambridgeshire have enough waterspace?

- Based on the fpm supply and demand assessment the answer appears no. To put this question into a wider context for East Cambridgeshire the benchmark and comparator of waterspace per 1,000 population for the District and the other authorities has been applied. This assessment shows East Cambridgeshire is at the lower end of provision in comparison with its study area neighbours and considerably below the England wide average.
- The figures for 2014 and 2026 are set out below in table 1. Based on this benchmark and comparisons plus the fpm findings for East Cambridgeshire itself, then the answer to the question appears to be no.

**Table 1: Waterspace per 1,000 population for East Cambridgeshire and all authorities in 2014**

Name of authority/pool sites/year	East Cambridgeshire	Fenland	Forest Heath	Huntingdonshire	Kings Lynn & West Norfolk	South Cambridgeshire	England
Number of pool SITES	2	3	2	7	5	2	2,187
Waterspace per 1,000 population sq m water <b>2014</b>	7.4	9.9	9.8	8.7	9.8	2.6	12.6
Waterspace per 1,000 population, sq m f water <b>2026</b>	6.5	9.3	8.5	8	9.2	2.3	12.3

### Can East Cambridgeshire make more use of its existing swimming pool sites to share the usage of the pools more easily?

- Possibly but there are big limitations to this option and quite probably the pool programming between both sites is already co-ordinated. The constraint on this option is that there are only two swimming pool sites in the District and the Bottisham Village site only has one pool tank and so it is limited in the range of activities that can take place at any one time. Also the district wide average for used swimming pool capacity is already at 81% of total capacity. So creating a more even spread of the demand and usage across both sites is very limited. In effect it will mean both pool sites are very full and still above the Sport England benchmark of 70% of pool capacity used.

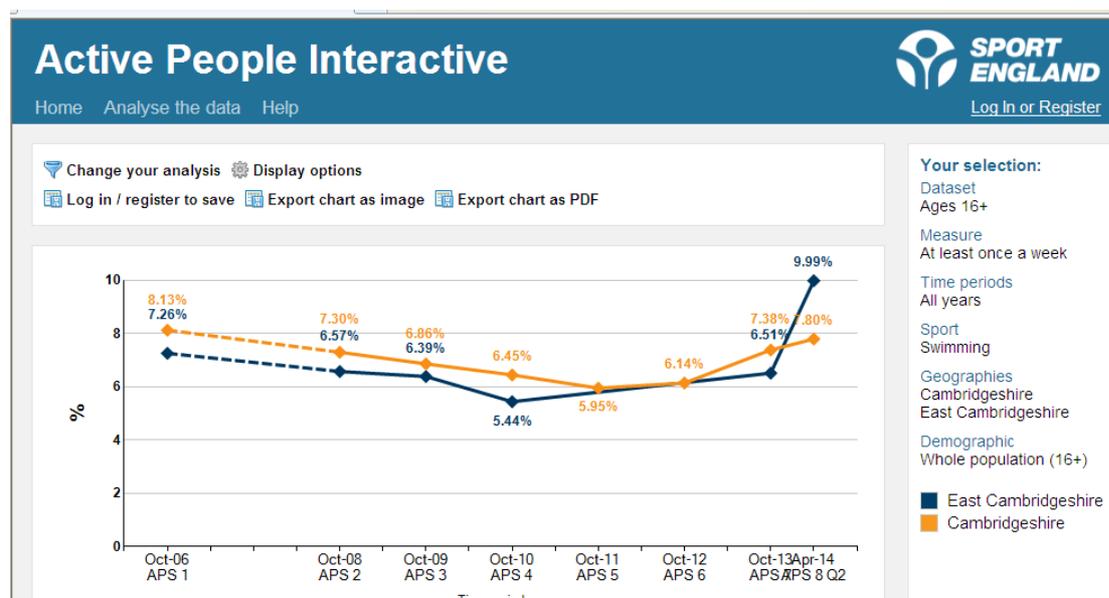
### Other key strategic findings influencing East Cambridgeshire swimming pool provision in the future

- The fpm assessment is based on the current rates and frequencies of swimming participation applied to the East Cambridgeshire population and in the other authorities.

This rate and frequency of swimming participation is assumed not to change between 2014 and 2026 in all authorities. Evidently if participation goes up or down it will influence the key fpm assessment finding that demand for swimming is greater than supply in both 2014 and 2026 in East Cambridgeshire.

16. To try and get an assessment of potential future changes in demand for swimming a good source is to review what has happened to the swimming participation rate over the period of the Sport England Active People surveys. The APS data for the surveys 1 – 8 covering the October 2006 – April 2014 period and based on once week participation by adults (16+) shows a fluctuating rate of swimming participation.
17. The findings are set out in chart 1 below for East Cambridgeshire (blue line) and for comparison purposes the findings for Cambridgeshire County (yellow line) are also included.

**Chart 1: Active People Survey 1 – 8. Rate of adult once a week participation in swimming for East Cambridgeshire and Cambridgeshire County**



18. The rate of participation for both authorities has tracked a similar pattern but the fluctuations in East Cambridgeshire are more marked. For both authorities the once a week participation rate decreased between October 2006 – October 2010 (for the County it decreased for one more year to October 2011). Since 2010 and 2011 the rate of once week participation has increased and for East Cambridgeshire the rate in April 2014 is 2.7% higher than it was in October 2006 (9.9% April 2014 and 7.26% in October 2006).
19. Furthermore there has been a very big increase of 4% between October 2012 and April 2014. The District Council is best placed to understand these findings and to assess whether a sustained rate of increase in swimming participation will be maintained over the period 2014 – 2026. However the indications are of an upward trend in adult swimming participation.
20. If this does continue this will create an even bigger gap in the difference between demand and supply, based on the fpm assessment for 2014 and 2026 for East Cambridgeshire.

21. **The District Council may wish to consider an fpm modelling scenario of a projected increase in swimming participation of xx per cent over yy years to understand the impact this has on the projected future overall supply and demand balance for swimming in both scale and location.**

**Does East Cambridgeshire need to increase its swimming pool provision and what are the options?**

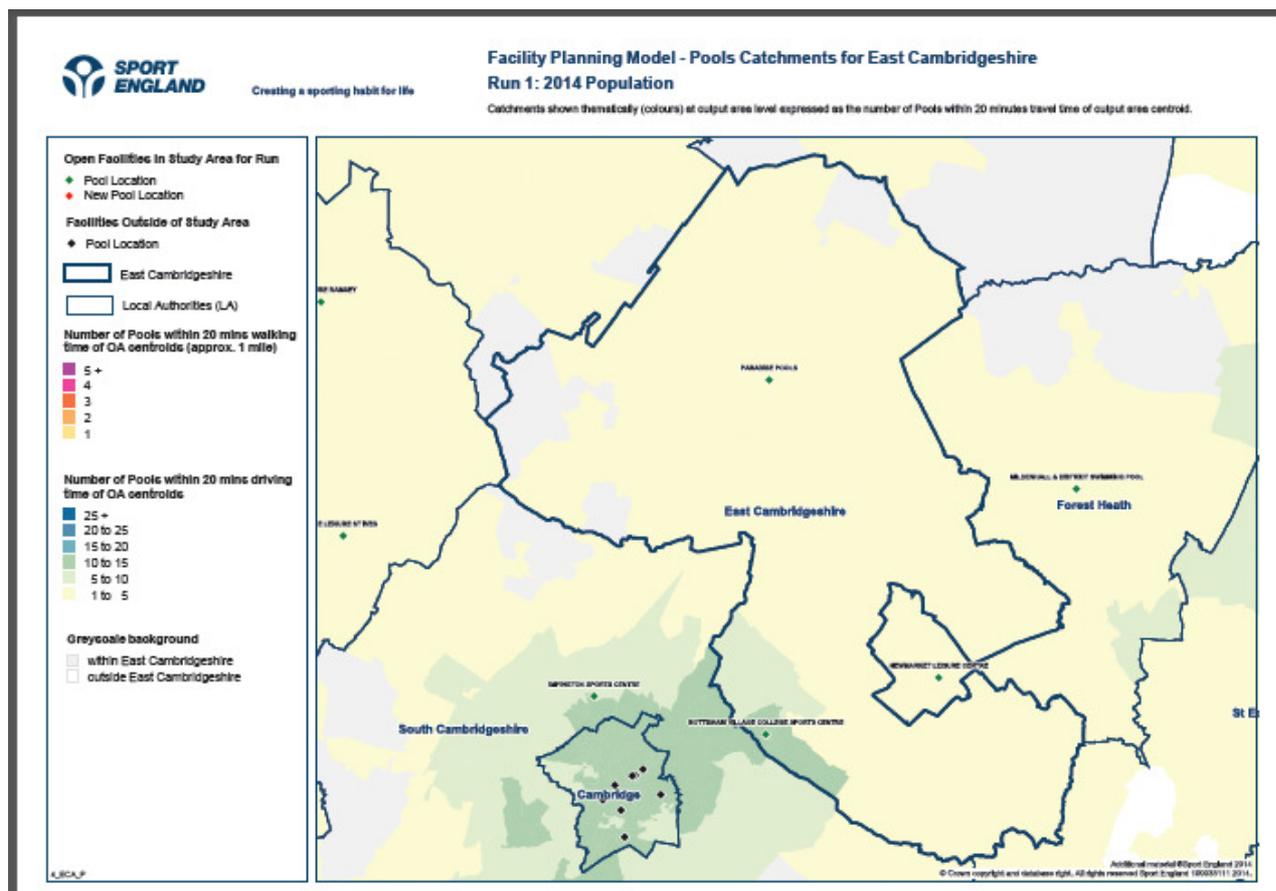
22. Based on the fpm assessment key finding that supply is greater than demand now and in 2026 and the pools are estimated to be very full both now and in 2025 then the answer is yes.
23. In terms of modelling any changes/increases in future provision then factors in determining options to consider are

- **Increasing the supply at the existing sites by adding a further pool.** An option is to increase pool provision at the Bottisham Village pool site as there is already a pool there. (Note the author does not know of the pool ownership, operation, condition, site layout and constraints or agreements for access and community use. The option is put forward on the basis of the fpm findings on supply, demand and catchment area assessment and there is already a pool at this site so it maybe a sports and cost effective option).
- **New pool provision at a new site.** The fpm findings on travel patterns and accessibility show there is good access to swimming pools based on the location of the sites and their 20 minute drive time catchment area. Some 92% of all visits to pools are estimated to be by car, so it is the dominate travel mode. In terms of accessibility map 1 below shows that all of the East Cambridgeshire population can access between 1 – 10 pools based on where they live and the location/catchment area of pools (area shaded cream in map 1).

To refine this a little, the finding is that 94% of the population live within the drive time catchment area of 2+ pools. So determining a new pool location based on access is unlikely to improve on the pretty good existing travel accessibility. Any new pool location should be decided on factors other than accessibility, it is suggested.

- **Size of any new pool.** The fpm assessment is that the unmet demand is for around 242 sq metres of water up to 2026. However, any increase in pool provision of this scale is unlikely to reduce used capacity across the authority to (say) 65% and create some headroom of spare capacity before the Sport England benchmark of 70% of pool capacity used is reached. This would suggest a requirement of over 300 sq metres of water. So possibly a 25m x 6 lane pool and a learner teaching pool in addition to the main pool.
- **Swimming pool age and condition** – possibly a driver for the fpm assessment is knowledge that the age and condition of the existing pools is such that replacement provision is being considered. The fpm assessment is that the amount of existing waterspace needs to be retained and any new/replacement provision needs to increase the amount of waterspace, not simply replace what already exists based on the age, condition and quality of the existing stock.

**Map 1: Access to swimming pools based on the 20 minute drive time catchment area. 2014**



## Summary

24. In brief, this Executive Summary report has tried to present the key strategic findings from the fpm assessment of the 2014 and 2026 supply and demand for swimming pools. Based on the key finding that demand is assessed to exceed supply in 2014 and the impact of population growth has on further increasing demand over supply up to 2026, the report has tried to set out some implications arising from the assessment.
25. Mainly this relates to the suggested need to assess the impact of any changes in swimming participation could have on the fpm findings. Finally the report sets out some factors it is suggested the District Council considers in developing fpm options and scenarios to address the main findings in the fpm report, directed towards an increase in swimming pool provision.



**SPORT  
ENGLAND**

**Creating sporting opportunities in every  
community**

**Sport England's Facilities Planning Model**

**East Cambridgeshire District Council**

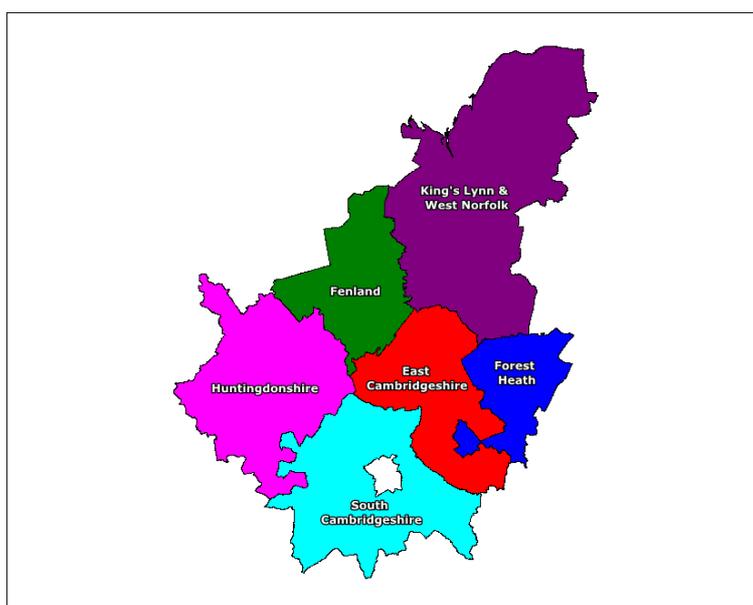
**Provision for Sports Halls**

**Executive Summary Report Runs 1 and 2**

## Executive Summary: Provision for Sports Halls

26. The key findings from the facility planning model (fpm) assessment of the supply and demand for sports halls are set out in this Executive Summary report. The assessment is based on the provision for sports halls in East Cambridgeshire District and the local authorities which share a boundary with East Cambridgeshire.
27. The assessment includes a 2014 baseline assessment of supply and demand for sports halls and then supply and demand for sports halls based on the projected growth in population up to 2026 and the aging of the core resident population over the next 12 years.
28. This summary report is written as a narrative of the key findings, key issues emerging and potential options to consider in addressing the issues. Hopefully this will assist the District Council in setting any further runs/work on fpm scenario testing. Possible fpm options arising from this assessment are set out in bold typeface in the summary report for the Council to consider.
29. The main report contains a full and detailed assessment of all the findings on the supply, demand and access to sports halls. It provides an evidence base for the District Council to apply in the development of a wider indoor sports facilities strategy. A full set of the maps prepared as part of the study will be provided to the District Council by Sport England.
30. A map of the study area and the geography for the fpm assessment is set out below in Map 1.

### **Map 1: Study area for East Cambridgeshire and the bordering local authorities**



31. The purpose of the fpm assessment is to understand;
- how supply, demand and access to sports halls changes between 2014 (the baseline) and 2026 based on population change.
  - to assess if there is an overall surplus or deficit in sports hall provision, with the scale and location of either:
  - to assess how accessible sports halls are based on travel patterns to sports halls, their location, catchment area and the distribution of demand across East Cambridgeshire and the wider study area.
  - to identify if there are any hot spots of unmet demand and or issues of access to sports halls based on travel patterns

### **Overall Assessment**

32. The overall assessment is that in both 2014 and 2026 the supply of sports halls is greater than demand. Some key data findings are
- There is a 14.9% increase in the East Cambridgeshire population between 2014 and 2026
  - Total demand for sports halls increases by 11.4% between 2014 and 2026
  - The supply of sports halls is unchanged between the two years
  - With these changes in demand, the used capacity of the sports halls increases by 8% from 54.6% in 2014 to 62.6% in 2026. This is well within the Sport England threshold level for when a sports hall is "comfortably full". Sport England sets this assessment at 80% of the capacity of a sports hall being used in the weekly peak period.
33. In effect, the overall assessment is that the projected increase in population and knock on increases in demand for sports halls can be met by the existing supply of sports halls. The assessment is that by 2026 there is still a 17% of sports hall supply that is not used and before the Sport England halls full comfort level of 80% is reached. So the main finding from the fpm assessment is that there is a sufficient supply of sports halls and in the right locations to meet the demand up to 2026 (and beyond).
34. The caveat to this finding is that any increase in hall sports participation is going to push the used capacity up but there is still a good level of headroom of 17% of capacity before sports halls are comfortably full. **The District Council may wish to consider as one fpm scenario option, modelling an increase in hall sports participation between 2014 and 2026 and to assess if this happened what impact it would have on the overall supply and demand balance.** Should the District Council have a policy objective and delivery that projects an increase in hall sports participation can be achieved and sustained.

### **Findings on the distribution of demand across sports hall venues**

35. The good news on overall supply, demand and used capacity does however have to be tempered by the findings on the DISTRIBUTION OF DEMAND. The authority wide average of the East Cambridgeshire sports halls being an estimated 62.6% full by 2026 does differ at individual venues.

36. By 2026 there are four venues which have a much higher estimated used capacity, these being: the Paradise Centre at 100% of capacity used (same in 2014); the Burwell Centre an estimated 94% of used capacity used in 2026 (83% in 2014); and the Ross Peers Centre with 80% of capacity used (71% in 2014). In addition, by 2026 the City of Ely Community College is estimated to have a used capacity of 86% and which is a 20% increase over the 2014 estimate of 66%.
37. So whilst across the authority there is an estimated used capacity which provides for a good level of spare headroom of 17% of capacity, the estimated distribution of demand across venues is creating highs and lows in how full each individual sports hall is estimated to be.
38. The key finding from the assessment and possible action required is to consider if it is possible to make interventions to try and manage the distribution of demand across venues. Doing this so as to create a more even balance in the usage and allow some spare headroom of capacity at the venues estimated to be most busy.
39. The unmet demand for sports halls which is created by these four venues being very full (in effect demand which would like to access these venues but cannot because of lack of supply and there is no alternative venue in the same catchment area) is only 1.5 badminton courts (rounded) across the authority. So unmet demand from lack of sports hall capacity is not an issue it is, to repeat, the distribution of demand across existing sports hall venues.
40. The reasons as to why demand can differ by venues are many
- more demand located in the catchment area of one sports hall when compared to other venues
  - some sports halls being more modern and having a higher quality and facilities, such as health and fitness, so they are comparatively more attractive than older venues
  - location creating ease of access and that fits with work/family lifestyle choices
  - sports hall programming and offering activities at times that suit participants
  - restricted hours of opening and types of use at some sites, thereby suppressing demand at some venues and pushing demand to more accessible venues (in terms of programming and hours and possibly price). This can often apply to school and college sites, who are also most likely to provide for clubs but not provide for pay and play casual sports and recreation
41. The estimated used and unused capacity for each of the East Cambridgeshire sites in both 2014 and 2026 is set out below in table 1.

**Table 1: Level of used and unused capacity of sports hall in East Cambridgeshire Runs 1 and 2**

Name of facility	Dimensions	FPM Courts	SITE YEAR BUILT	SITE YEAR REFURB	% of Capacity used 2014	% of capacity not used 2014	% of Capacity used 2026	% Capacity not used 2026 not used 2026
<b>EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE</b>					<b>55%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>37%</b>
BOTTISHAM VILLAGE COLLEGE SPORTS CENTRE	31 x 17	4	1980		28%	72%	30%	70%
BOTTISHAM VILLAGE COLLEGE SPORTS CENTRE	18 x 10							
BURWELL SPORTS CENTRE	32 x 17	4	1984		83%	17%	94%	6%
CITY OF ELY COMMUNITY COLLEGE	30 x 20	4	2003		66%	34%	86%	14%
CITY OF ELY COMMUNITY COLLEGE	18 x 10							
LITTLEPORT LEISURE CENTRE	36 x 17	5	1994	2013	20%	80%	28%	72%
LITTLEPORT LEISURE CENTRE	16 x 11							
LITTLEPORT LEISURE CENTRE	18 x 15							
ROSS PEERS SPORTS CENTRE	36 x 19	5	1984	2000	71%	29%	80%	20%
ROSS PEERS SPORTS CENTRE	18 x 12							
THE PARADISE CENTRE	31 x 17	4	1986	2011	100%	0%	100%	0%
WITCHFORD VILLAGE COLLEGE	27 x 18	3	1985		74%	26%	76%	24%

### Other key findings

42. The other main findings relate to

- Accessibility and travel patterns to sports halls
- The age of the East Cambridgeshire sports halls

#### Accessibility and travel patterns to sports halls

43. Map 2 overleaf shows the 20 minute/1 mile walk to catchment area for the East Cambridgeshire sports halls (shaded orange). This is superimposed on the 20 minutes drive to catchment areas for the East Cambridgeshire sports halls (shaded cream).

44. In the cream area residents have access to between 1 – 10 sports halls based on a 20 minute drive time catchment area of where the sports halls are located (Note: it is acknowledged that the range of 1 - 10 is too wide to determine how good accessibility is. The main report has more detailed analysis and this shows that 3% of the East Cambridgeshire population live within the 20 minute drive time of one sports hall. A further 3% live within the 20 minute drive time catchment area of 2 sports halls. The remaining 94% of the East Cambridgeshire population live within the drive time catchment area of 2+ and up to 10 sports halls – so a bit more refinement than in map 2). Residents in the small green area have access to between 10 – 20 sports halls based on the drive time catchment area

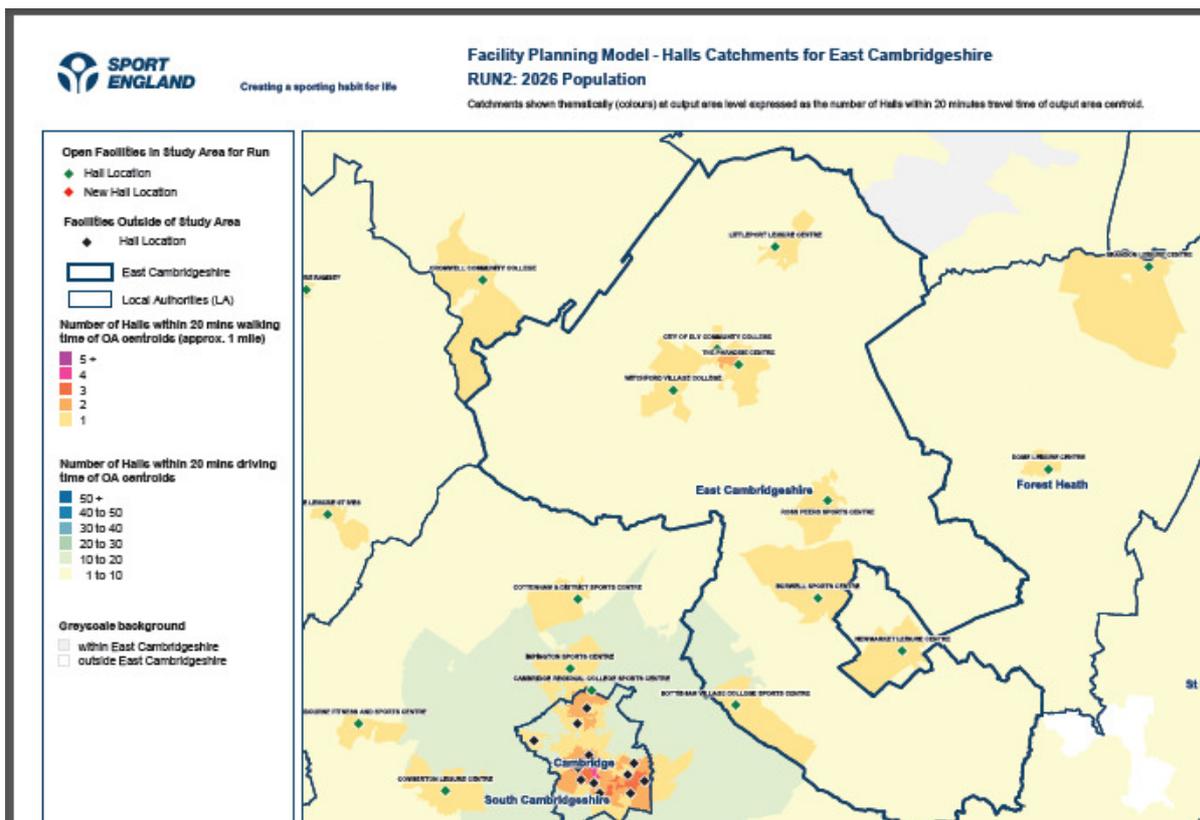
45. Car travel is the chosen mode of travel to sports halls and in 2014 the estimate is that 89% of all visits to sports halls are by car. Travel to sports halls by walking accounts for just under 8% of all visits, whilst travel by public transport is just under 3% of all visits.

46. For the 20 minutes/1mile walk to catchment area the areas of East Cambridgeshire shaded orange are within the walking catchment area of one sports hall. By definition the walking catchment area of a sports hall is small. The findings are that

around 90% of the land area of East Cambridgeshire is outside the walk to catchment area of a sports hall. This land area represents 60% of the 2014 population.

47. It is recognised that access to sports facilities in rural areas is an issue and these high numbers and findings have to be tempered by the estimate that visits to sports halls by walking by East Cambridgeshire residents is around 8% of all visits. Also, as reported, supply of sports halls exceeds demand, so addressing this rural accessibility issue is about making the existing venues more accessible by public transport or increasing access to village and community centre venues which can provide for a modest level of indoor hall sports activities. It is not about provision of additional sports halls in rural areas.
48. Overall on accessibility the findings are that changing the location of the sport halls is unlikely to improve on this current good access to venues by car. Changing supply based on age/ condition of sports halls and new areas of population growth are much more important determinants than trying to improve accessibility by travel patterns.

**Map 2: Access to sports halls based on the 20 minute drive time catchment area and the 20 minute/1mile walk to catchment area. Run 2 2026.**



Supply and age of the East Cambridgeshire (and study area) sports halls

49. A summary of the sports hall supply and age is that in 2014 there are a total of 12 sports halls on 7 sites across East Cambridgeshire. The total supply in number of badminton courts from these 12 sports halls for community use – club and public - is 38 badminton courts.
50. East Cambridgeshire is mid range in the supply of sports halls when compared with other authorities. The highest supply is in Huntingdonshire at 51.6 courts (15 sports halls at 11 sites), whilst Forest Heath has the lowest at 16 badminton courts (5 sports halls and 3 sites).
51. Table 1 below sets out the name of each sports hall, the number of badminton courts, the year it opened and year it was refurbished, if this happened. Some key findings from this table about the sports hall stock are:
- The stock is quite old with 5 of the 7 sites opened before 1990. Older sports halls tend to be less attractive and appealing to users with a tendency to be functional in design and appearance. They may lack a sprung timber floor which is much more appealing to sports hall users who wish to improve team or individual performance. A combination of these features, or, a lack of them does detract from their appeal and usage and this may well be reflected in lower user numbers
  - 2 of the 5 sites which pre-date 1990 have been refurbished, between 2000 – 2011. Also the Littleport Leisure Centre which opened in 1994 was refurbished in 2013.
  - 3 of the 7 sites are entered as college sites. Public access for sites on education sites require committed agreements between the local authority, the college and the owner/operator of the sports halls. Increasingly this is becoming more complex and public access becoming much more focused on the business case for community use. **Any reduction in community use of the college site will change the positive supply and demand balance in sports halls provision. The Council may wish to consider an fpm scenario of testing the impact of closure of college sites – if this is known to be a real issue and possibility.**
  - 4 of the 7 sites are 4 badminton court size, with 2 of 5 badminton courts and 1 of 3 badminton courts. So 6 of the 7 sites can provide for the full range of indoor halls sports at community and recreational level. (Note: in 2011 Sport England and the National Governing Bodies for hall sports agreed a specification for a model sports hall which increases the size to 5 badminton courts. This does not mean the East Cambridgeshire provision is below standard, it is more about setting future standard/dimensions which all hall sports governing bodies agree on)
  - There are no double court sports halls of 6 or 8 badminton courts. This size of sports hall provides for multi use in indoor hall sports at the same time and can cater for events and competitions with spectating up to county or regional level of most indoor hall sports.

**Table 1: Name, size, date opened age, year of any major refurbishment of sports halls and ownership in East Cambridgeshire 2014**

Name of facility	Dimensions	Number of courts	Year built	Year of refurbishment
<b>EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE</b>				
BOTTISHAM VILLAGE COLLEGE SPORTS CENTRE	31 x 17	4	1980	
BOTTISHAM VILLAGE COLLEGE SPORTS CENTRE	18 x 10			
BURWELL SPORTS CENTRE	32 x 17	4	1984	
CITY OF ELY COMMUNITY COLLEGE	30 x 20	4	2003	
CITY OF ELY COMMUNITY COLLEGE	18 x 10			
LITTLEPORT LEISURE CENTRE	36 x 17	5	1994	2013
LITTLEPORT LEISURE CENTRE	16 x 11			
LITTLEPORT LEISURE CENTRE	18 x 15			
ROSS PEERS SPORTS CENTRE	36 x 19	5	1984	2000
ROSS PEERS SPORTS CENTRE	18 x 12			

### Summary of findings.

52. The assessment is that the overall supply of sports halls is sufficient to meet demand in 2014 and up to 2026. However the distribution of demand across individual venues is creating high and lows in that some 4 of the 12 sports halls have an estimated very high level of capacity used at peak times. Intervention is required to try and balance the distribution of demand across more venues and creates some headroom of spare capacity.
53. An increasing challenge is managing and maintaining access to sports halls for community use on school and college sites. East Cambridgeshire has three out of seven sports hall sites on education sites and so any loss of existing access at these venues will reduce the current favourable positive supply and demand balance.
54. It is suggested the District Council may wish to model this potential impact of changing access at these venues, if it is known to be a real issue. Also to consider modelling the impact of any increase in hall sports participation has on the supply and demand balance, IF the Council anticipates and has evidence that such an increase is possible and can be sustained.

### **APPENDIX 3: LIST OF CONSULTEES**

Facility/Organisation	Contact Name	Club Name/ Organisation Type
Bottisham College Sports Centre	Jane Newbury	Jane Newbury School of Dancing
Burwell Sports Centre	Sabrina Marengi	Chair based exercise tutor of M&A sessions
Burwell Sports Centre	Phil Morris	Burwell Table Tennis Club
Burwell Sports Centre	Mary Barnes	Bottisham and Soham Children's Centre
Burwell Sports Centre	Becky Nicholls	Trampolining coach
Burwell Sports Centre	Karen Kent	Burwell Bootcamp
Burwell Sports Centre	Faradena Afifi	Mature and Active East Cambridgeshire
Burwell Sports Centre	Glen Carmen	Weekly indoor football user
Burwell Sports Centre	Chrissie Bond	Chrissie Bond Yoga
The Ellesmere Centre	Richard Holness	Cambridge & Gazely Squash
The Ellesmere Centre	Paul May	PM Squash
The Ellesmere Centre	Rob Boyce	Ellesmere Table Tennis Club
The Ellesmere Centre	Sally Pope	Ellesmere Tennis
Littleport Leisure Centre	Coach James Wilson	Bigshots Badminton Club
Littleport Leisure Centre	Brian Paddington	Ely Roller Skating Club
Littleport Leisure Centre	Andy Rutterford	Littleport Junior Archery Group
Littleport Leisure Centre	Andy Rutterford	Littleport Badminton Club
Littleport Leisure Centre	Laura Neaves	Littleport Lions Korfbal Club
The Paradise Centre	Susan Platt	Addenbrooke's Cardiac Rehabilitation
The Paradise Centre	Mark Deas	City of Ely Cricket Club
The Paradise Centre	Sarah	Funk It Up Dance Groups
The Paradise Centre	Sara Cunnington	Ely Victoria Badminton Club
The Paradise Centre	Annabel Line	Wriggletots
Paradise Pools	Mark Jones	Ely RLSS Rookies Club
Paradise Pools	Robin Goodfellow	City of Ely Amateur Swimming Club
Paradise Pools	Brian Emerson	Ely Tri Club
Ross Peers Sports Centre	Julie Norris	Bury Roller Hockey Club
Witchford College	John Wright	Camboccia
Witchford College	Hannah McKenzie	Cambridge Gymnastics Academy
Witchford College	Rob Knapper	East Cambs Warriors Basketball Club
Witchford College	Ian Cheale	Skai Karate Club
The Paradise Centre	Jeremy Wakefield	Operator
Ross Peers Sports Centre	Sharon Hickmott	Operator
Bottisham College Sports Centre	Claudine Bateman	Operator
Littleport Leisure Centre	Andrew Rutterford	Operator
Witchford College	D Baker/ Jenna Silk	Operator
Ely College	Angela Spencer	Operator
The Ellesmere Centre	Julie Brampton	Operator
Burwell Sports Centre	Jan Clay	Operator
City of Ely Indoor Bowls Club	Sarah Seymour	Operator
Ely Squash Club	Paul Seaford	Operator
Paradise Pools	Simon Crosby	Operator
Soham Village College	Matthew Daybell	Operator

Newmarket Leisure Centre	Alan Carter	Operator
Sport England	Nick Boulter	NGB
Badminton England	Michael Nyarko	NGB
Boccia England	Paul Chambers	NGB
Bowls Development Alliance	Paul Humphreys	NGB
The FA	Joe Goude	NGB
England Handball	Louise Jukes	NGB
England Netball	Sarah Beatie	NGB
Rugby Football League (RFL)	Dan Steel	NGB
Amateur Swimming Association (ASA)	Mark Burgess	NGB
Amateur Swimming Association (ASA)	Collette Railton	NGB
Volleyball England	Rohan West	NGB
Great Britain Wheelchair Rugby	Kirsty Clarke	NGB
England Squash and Racketball	Jon Carney	NGB
South Cambs District Council	Kirsty Human	Neighbouring Authority
Fenland District Council	Phil Hughes	Neighbouring Authority
Cambridge City Council	Carrie Holbrook	Neighbouring Authority
Huntingdonshire District Council	Jo Peadon	Neighbouring Authority
East Cambridgeshire District Council	Martin Grey	Local Authority
East Cambridgeshire District Council	Allison Conder	Local Authority