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Havant Borough Council

Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy



Havant
BOROUGH COUNCIL



01

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02

Executive Summary



Introduction

The Sports Consultancy was appointed by Havant Borough Council (HBC) in October 2025 to complete an audit and assessment of indoor sports facilities and to produce an Indoor Sports Facility Strategy for Havant Borough (the Borough).

Project Brief

The project brief required that the indoor sports facility strategy should consider the age, quality, size, accessibility, community use, opening hours and type of management of each existing facility. In doing so, the assessment focused on providing the following:

- A clear understanding of the current and future supply and demand issues for key sporting facilities in terms of quantity, quality and location.
- Identification of recommendations and priorities to assist the authority and key stakeholders in the delivery of sporting outcomes for the area.
- Development and delivery of a facility strategy that is capable of formal adoption by HBC to shape its investment and facility priorities within the emerging Local Plan.

Methodology

The assessment has been prepared in accordance with Sport England's guidelines (Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance) to reflect current best practice for the provision of indoor sports facilities. It included a detailed assessment of supply and analysis of the quality, quantity, availability and accessibility for the following indoor facilities:

- Sports halls (3+ badminton courts)
- Swimming pools (20m+ length)
- Learner pools
- Fitness centres and gyms
- Dance / aerobic studios
- Squash courts
- Indoor Tennis / Padel
- Indoor Bowls
- Community space/halls with capacity for sport use
- Other specialist indoor sport facilities (e.g. gymnastics, pickleball, indoor athletics)

The following pages contain a summary of the key findings from the needs assessment work, by facility type.

Swimming Pools

Havant Borough currently does not meet Swim England's recommendation of 12 sqm per 1,000 population, and there is a deficit of 167–243 sqm of water, increasing to 376–464 sqm by 2043. The Council should support and investigate proposals for new swimming pool provision, in order to address the deficit in swimming pool water space in the Borough, roughly equivalent to an additional 8-lane 25m pool by 2043.

An initial feasibility should be undertaken to assess the feasibility of developing a new leisure centre containing an 8-lane 25m swimming pool, or 6-lane pool plus learner pool to address this deficit. Whilst the majority of the most densely populated areas covered by the existing Council pools, the priority areas are not. The majority of Leigh Park and Wecock are not within a catchment, whilst nearly all of Stakes and the entirety of South Hayling are excluded. Of these, Leigh Park has by far the largest population and thus the least well served – its population is roughly 27,000, with the other 3 areas between 9,000–12,000.

Sports Halls

Havant currently provides an oversupply of 9.4 badminton courts in the weekly peak period, reducing to a surplus of 4.7 courts in 2043 respectively. There is a heavy reliance on the education sector, however, representing 72% of the availability in the peak period. Whilst there is no need to build a new sports hall, the Council centres are estimated to be uncomfortably full (80%+ utilised) at peak times, and efforts can be made to alleviate this pressure, such as encouraging better community access at school sites by permitting 'pay-and-play' access.

Additional sports hall space can be used to provide programming for sports which currently struggle to access suitable facilities, such as pickleball and cricket.

Health & Fitness Suites

There is currently a growing commercial gym sector in the Borough, with demand high and expected to continue growing with the increased population. The Council should continue with its plans to refurbish Waterlooville LC, as well as supporting the development of new community accessible health and fitness facilities, where these are viable and supported by site specific latent demand analysis. Health and fitness facilities should be a key consideration of the facility mix of any new Council leisure developments given its popularity and commerciality. Given the prevalence of the commercial sector, the Council facilities play a crucial role in providing a fitness opportunity to those facing the greatest health inequalities. Schemes such as GP referrals and subsidised targeted pricing can help the Council facilities effectively fulfil this role.

Studios

There is a strong provision of studios in the Borough across a range of providers, with Council facilities providing a significant minority share of the market. Demand is very high and will continue to grow. The Council should continue with its plans to refurbish Waterlooville LC, as well as supporting the development of new community accessible studios, where these are viable and supported by site specific latent demand analysis. Studios should complement gym suites as a combined health & fitness offer and should be a key consideration of the facility mix of any new Council leisure developments given its popularity and commerciality.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Key Findings By Facility Type

Squash Courts

Squash England comment that the recommended number of courts should meet its national requirement of 1 court per 10,000 people, with Havant currently providing 1 court per 15,500 people. However, demand is low and falling, and an existing squash club reported that they do not operate at capacity. This contradiction should be examined further as part of a feasibility study on any proposed new facility to establish if squash courts would be a suitable provision.

If court provision is reduced this would have a negative impact on squash and current users may find it difficult to secure bookings at alternative sites during peak times. As such, whilst there might not be demand to build new courts, the Council should work with facility operators to protect the existing supply.

Indoor Bowls

Current provision across the Borough is meeting existing need, largely supplemented by an extensive outdoor and all-weather bowls provision, reducing the reliance on indoor facilities. There is no requirement for additional indoor bowls provision in the Borough. The Borough does however have a growing ageing population, and this could improve future trends in participation. There is a need to support Warner Lakeside Bowls Club in maintaining their facility to support current levels of participation.

Specialist Health & Fitness

There is no need for the Council to consider developing their own specialist fitness facilities given the prevalence of the commercial sector in this space. They should, however, support existing clubs to ensure the provision remains adequate and achieves high participation. Many of these facilities are small, locally owned businesses, and the Council should endeavour to support them where possible.

Gymnastics

There are 2 dedicated gymnastics facilities in the Borough, and an advanced gymnastics facility shortly beyond the border with Portsmouth. As such, there is not currently a need for more dedicated gymnastics facilities within the Borough. The Council should instead focus on protecting the existing provision. This includes supporting Solent Gymnastics Clubs in addressing their operational and marketing issues, as well as maintaining the children-only gymnastics space at Havant Leisure Centre and considering replacing/upgrading this provision when planning Havant LC's replacement.

Indoor Tennis

There are currently no indoor tennis facilities in the Borough, although there are extensive outdoor tennis courts. The LTA believed the current and forecasted population warrants some provision of indoor tennis, but they do not include Havant as one of their 96 priority authorities for indoor tennis development. The Council should engage further with the LTA on this.

There are currently no padel courts in the Borough. The LTA identify a current demand for at least 9 courts. The Council should develop a padel strategy for Havant, forming a plan to suitably deliver facilities for an identified need in a rapidly popularising sport.

Indoor Athletics Priorities

There are currently no indoor athletics facilities in Havant or the nearby area, and England Athletics would like to see one developed in the region. Additionally, there are currently no outdoor synthetic athletics tracks in the Borough. The Council should engage England Athletics and neighbouring authorities to discuss this need and potentially suitable locations. This opportunity is likely better pursued by the new unitary authorities, but discussions can begin now. Additionally, the Council should pursue opportunities to develop a synthetic outdoor track at a playing field site.

Strategy & Action Plan

This strategy and action plan has been commissioned by HBC on behalf of all leisure stakeholders in the Borough, but it is recognised that the recommendations and actions cannot be delivered by the Council alone. HBC is only one stakeholder in the Borough and has limited resources, in terms of officer support and funding. 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, and include:

- Havant Borough Council
- Neighbouring Authorities / LGR Partners
- Hampshire County Council
- Schools and colleges
- Sports clubs
- Facility operators
- National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs)
- Other providers/organisations.

The action plan contained in the report has been developed to address a number of strategic priorities, identified during the study, and the needs identified for each facility type reviewed. The actions are set out under the following headings:

- Specific Strategic Considerations
- General Strategic Priorities
- Swimming Pool Priorities
- Sports Hall Priorities
- Health and Fitness Priorities
- Dance Studio Priorities
- Squash & Racketball Priorities
- Indoor Bowls Priorities
- Gymnastics Priorities
- Specialist Health & Fitness Priorities
- Indoor Tennis / Padel Priorities
- Indoor Athletics Priorities

The specific actions have been identified in the Action Plan, as well as target timescales for completion.

Anticipated Outcomes

Delivery of the objectives contained in this strategy will result in the following outcomes being achieved:

1. Waterloo Leisure Centre will be refurbished, providing an improved fitness offer,, and a generally enhanced quality to the centre's interior.
2. Alongside Sport England and Energise Me, the Council will be prepared to implement the place-based scheme as impactfully as possible. Both operational funding and capital grants will be effectively used to deliver increased opportunities to the identified priority areas.
3. The new unitary authority post-LGR will be well prepared to replace Havant Leisure Centre, and its closure will see its provision replaced, not lost.
4. Proposals for a new leisure centre will be developed, leading to the reduction of the deficit of water space within the Borough, among other benefits to facility provision.
5. Community use of sports facilities on educational sites will be protected, securing the provision of sports halls to the public, and expanded where possible to ease the pressure on the Council-owned centres.
6. Excess sports hall space will be used to provide programming for sports currently struggling for facility access, including cricket, hockey, martial arts and pickleball.
7. Sports facility charges should remain reasonable, in terms of affordability to residents, and be comparable with similar facilities elsewhere. Subsidised programmes/access schemes will be in place to support those facing the greatest health inequalities.
8. Existing specialist facilities will be assisted in maintaining their provision for sports including squash, indoor bowls and gymnastics.
9. The loss of strategically valuable sports facilities, that are available for community use or could contribute to meeting future community needs, will be minimised. Any that are lost will be replaced by equivalent or better provision, in terms of quantity and quality, in a suitable location.
10. The Council will develop a padel strategy, allowing them to potentially provide the Borough with access to a popular, fast-growing sport.
11. The opportunity to develop a regional indoor athletics hub, in Havant or elsewhere, will have been discussed with England Athletics and neighbouring authorities, and the feasibility of developing an outdoor track to meet current need will have been explored.
12. Opportunities for HBC to reduce carbon consumption and emissions from its centres will be investigated, in line with the Councils Climate Change Strategy.
13. Strategically valuable sites will be better utilised and options to maximise revenue generation from facilities will be investigated, to improve revenue generation and participation.
14. Stakeholders will work together to increase the levels of community access to sites and to reduce inequalities. Stakeholders should include Council departments, health agencies, facility operators, education providers, NGBs, and local sports clubs to expand the range of affordable and accessible facilities for both residents and visitors to Havant. Among other schemes, GP referrals, subsidised membership and targeted outreach programmes will be utilised to ensure health & wellbeing facilities are available to all residents.

Anticipated Outcomes

15. Stakeholders will be supported, where possible, in developing new indoor facilities.
16. New sports facilities, provided as part of future educational provision in Havant, will be designed for curricular, extra-curricular, community and sports development use to ensure that opportunities for community use out of school hours is secured.
17. New developments (e.g. residential, commercial and retail) will contribute towards the development and enhancement of sports facilities to meet identified needs with priority being given to projects identified in this Strategy.
18. There will be collaborative working between neighbouring authorities to maximise cross-boundary usage and minimise the impact of LGR.
19. Specific issues relating to the Borough's demographic profile will be addressed. This will include using indoor sport and leisure facilities to improve levels of physical activity in the whole population and reduce the gap in health inequalities by promoting access and engagement with at risk groups.
20. There will be increased engagement with representatives of protected and target groups when developing projects that provide new indoor sports facilities.

Funding

It is clear that the development of a new leisure facility in Havant will help to improve the provision of facilities to meet both current and future demand.

Any leisure facility infrastructure improvements in the Borough will be reliant on securing funding. The current financial climate has placed pressure on the finances of all facility operators including local authorities.

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

- **Council funding:** Capital funding allocated to deliver facilities within HBC's ownership, and potentially the use of capital receipts from the sale of existing assets.
- **Capital Grant funding:** In addition to Sport England grants, various NGBs, including the LTA and ECB, have capital funding pots available for developing facilities in priority areas.
- **Third party funding:** Financing capital through the forecast operational surplus and finance packages as part of the leisure management procurement process or construction contracts.
- **Commercial sector funding:** Limited potential for investment from commercial leisure operators such as those who provide health and fitness centres.
- **Planning Obligations:** Section 106 development contributions, CIL or any replacement.

Planning Obligations

Planning obligations are legal obligations entered into as part of a planning application to mitigate the impacts of a development proposal. Planning obligations are also commonly referred to as 'section 106', 's106', as well as 'developer contributions' or 'Community Infrastructure Levy' (CIL).

Section 106 agreements are legal agreements between developers and the local council linked to planning permissions, and this is the system that HBC currently uses to secure contributions. Section 106 agreements are needed when a development will have impacts on the local area that cannot be moderated by means of conditions attached to a planning decision. For example, a new residential development can place extra pressure on the social, physical and/or economic infrastructure which already exists in a certain area.

A planning obligation will aim to balance the pressure created by the new development with improvements to the surrounding area ensuring that, where possible, the development would make a positive contribution to the local area and community.

Monitoring and Review

This strategy has been produced to enable the development of indoor sports facilities within the Borough 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.

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 or governance, such as post-LGR. The progress against the plan should be reviewed on an annual basis, and the strategy should be updated every 5 years 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 the Borough.

03

STAGE A

**Background & Policy
Review**



3.1

National Policy Context



The following documents have been reviewed and summarised in relation to the national context for sport and physical activity:

- Uniting the Movement – Sport England (2021 – 2031)
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2024)
- UK Active’s Blueprint for an Active Britain (2016)
- Social and Economic Value of Community Sport and Physical Activity (Sport England, 2020).
- Public Health England Strategy 2020–2025
- NHS – Core20PLUS5
- NHS – Fit for the Future – 10-year Health Plan for England
- National Model Design Code 2021

This documentation has revealed the following context for our work:

UNITING THE MOVEMENT – SPORT ENGLAND (2021–2031)

Sport England has published its 10-year strategy to transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity. It aims to set a strategy to adapt and rebuild from the disruption of COVID-19 by re-imagining how we keep movement, sport and activity central to the lives of everyone.

It outlines 3 key objectives on which Sport England will focus their time and resources:

1. Advocating for movement, sport and physical activity

Whilst providing funding from the Exchequer and National Lottery is and will remain an important part of their role, Sport England will focus on building partnerships and networks that extend beyond the traditional sport sector, sharing expertise and experience to maximize impact.

Relationships, influence, and collaboration are as important as financial investment in achieving their goals. Their role is to help others see how a shared agenda for a more active nation can support broader aims, leading and coordinating efforts to create meaningful, widespread change.

2. Joining forces on five big issues

Sport England identify five key issues which are common across all levels and parts of the sector, which are the biggest challenges to an active nation over the next decade and are also the greatest opportunities to make a lasting difference:

- Recover and reinvent
- Connecting communities
- Positive experiences for children and young people
- Connecting with health and wellbeing
- Active environments

3. Creating the catalysts for change

Sport England recognise the above big issues will only have a profound impact if we also acknowledge how we must change and improve what we deliver as a sector. To create the right conditions for change across people, organisations and partnerships, they identify five specific capabilities, approaches and relationships that will make progress possible:

- Effective investment models
- Realising the power of people and leadership
- Applying innovation and digital
- High-quality data, insight and learning
- Good governance.

NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK (NPPF) (2024)

The NPPF sets out planning policies for England. It details how these changes are expected to be applied to the planning system. It also provides a framework for local people and their councils to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities. It states that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. Achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives:

- An economic objective
- A social objective
- An environmental objective.

A presumption in favour of sustainable development remains a key aspect of plan-making and decision-taking processes. Planning policies are required to identify and meet housing needs and ensure delivery of development.

The “promoting healthy and safe communities” theme identifies that planning policies should be based on robust, up-to-date assessments of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities. Local needs, deficiencies and opportunities for provision should be identified and used to inform what provision is required in an area.

UK ACTIVE’S BLUEPRINT FOR AN ACTIVE BRITAIN (2016)

Whilst this strategy is nearly 10 years old, it still holds relevance today and as such has been included.

The national cost of physical inactivity stands at over £20 billion per year and the UK Active’s Blueprint for an ‘Active Britain’ calls for a single-minded focussing of resources, energy and policy to turn the tide of physical inactivity.

The purpose of the document is to support government, local authorities, businesses and activity providers to re-embed activity into daily life. We are currently faced with the most inactive generation of all time in England, with nearly one in three adults failing to meet the Chief Medical Officer’s Guidelines on Physical Activity as of 2014.

To turn the tide on inactivity, getting people moving must be considered a top-tier standalone health issue, and embedding activity into all aspects of daily life must be a priority for the government while reaffirming their commitment to public health as a crucial area of health policy. Physical activity must become a crucial part of the delivery mechanisms of the NHS, with the development of a comprehensive, evidence-based, systematic integration of physical activity into clinical care.

Powerful, robust research and high-quality evidence is the cornerstone of activity promotion. The first step to any behavioural intervention strategy must be obtaining a clear understanding of whether it will achieve its goal and whether it is the most effective way of doing so. The physical activity sector, supported by the government and local authorities across the country, should utilise its vast resources to ensure that there are ample opportunities for disabled people to get active.

The report identifies that work needs to be done to create a greater understanding between teachers and parents, the health sector, children’s activity and sports providers and children themselves, as to what works in getting children moving again.

It recommends the need for local authorities to work with high schools and academies to provide a long-term motivational behavioural change intervention scheme in partnership with activity providers, to engage the most inactive children and signpost activity opportunities tailored to individual needs.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC VALUE OF COMMUNITY SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY (SPORT ENGLAND, 2020)

Sport England commissioned the Sport Industry Research Centre at Sheffield Hallam University to calculate the social impact and the economic importance of sport and physical activity in England. They found that, when measured against costs of engagement and providing opportunities, for every £1 spent on community sport and physical activity, a return on investment (ROI) of £3.91 was created for individuals and society. Furthermore, the combined economic and social value (SROI) of taking part in community sport and physical activity in England in 2017/2018 was £85.5 billion.

The research showed that £42 billion worth of value was created from improved life satisfaction for 24 million participants and 3.9 million volunteers through their involvement in sport and physical activity. The findings also demonstrate how physical activity plays an important role in preventing several serious physical and mental health conditions, with the research showing this had a value of £9.5bn. Of this amount, £5.2bn was in healthcare savings, while £1.7bn was in social care savings.

More than £3.6bn worth of savings were generated by the prevention of 900,000 cases of diabetes, while a further £3.5bn of value was generated through avoided dementia cases and the related care. A total of £450 million was saved by preventing 30 million additional GP visits. A further £20bn of value came from stronger and safer communities, including:

- 10,000 fewer crime incidents
- The replacement value of work done by sports volunteers (£5.7bn)
- Improved levels of social trust, belonging and community engagement (£14.2bn).

PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND STRATEGY 2020–2025

This strategy identifies 10 priority areas where PHE should focus to protect people and help people live longer in good health. These fit within 4 categories aligning with their mandate:

Promote a healthier nation

- Take steps towards creating a smoke-free society by 2030
- Help make the healthy choice the easy choice to improve diets and reduce rates of childhood obesity
- Develop and share advice on how best to reduce air pollution levels and people's exposure to polluted air
- Promote good mental health and contribute to the prevention of mental illness

Promote a fairer society

- Work to improve the health of babies, children and their families to provide the best start in life and the foundations of good health into adulthood

Keep the public safe 24/7

- Enhance our ability to respond to major incidents (including pandemic influenza) by strengthening our health protection system
- Work to help contain, control and mitigate the risk of antimicrobial resistance

Strengthen the public health system

- Utilise technology to develop targeted advice and interventions and support personalised public health and care at scale
- Improve our data capability and strengthen our approach to disease surveillance using new tools and techniques
- Transition to a new national science campus with state-of-the-art facilities at PHE Harlow

NHS – CORE20PLUS5

Core20PLUS5 is a national NHS England approach to inform action to reduce healthcare inequalities at both national and system level. The approach defines a target population – the ‘Core20PLUS’ – and identifies ‘5’ focus clinical areas requiring accelerated improvement.

Core20

The most deprived 20% of the national population as identified by the national Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). The IMD has seven domains with indicators accounting for a wide range of social determinants of health.

PLUS

PLUS population groups should be identified at a local level. Populations we would expect to see identified are ethnic minority communities; people with a learning disability and autistic people; people with multiple long-term health conditions; other groups that share protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010; groups experiencing social exclusion, known as inclusion health groups; coastal communities (where there may be small areas of high deprivation hidden amongst relative affluence).

Inclusion health groups include: people experiencing homelessness, drug and alcohol dependence, vulnerable migrants, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, sex workers, people in contact with the justice system, victims of modern slavery and other socially excluded groups.

FIVE “5”

There are five clinical areas of focus which require accelerated improvement. Governance for these five focus areas sits with national programmes; national and regional teams coordinate activity across local systems to achieve national aims.

1. Maternity
2. Severe Mental Illness
3. Chronic Respiratory Disease
4. Early Cancer Diagnosis
5. Hypertension.

NHS – FIT FOR THE FUTURE – 10-YEAR HEALTH PLAN FOR ENGLAND

Overall approach

The NHS 10 Year Health Plan sets out a fundamental shift in how healthcare is delivered, moving away from a reactive model focused on treating illness towards a preventative, population health approach. The plan recognises that many of the drivers of poor health sit outside the healthcare system, including factors such as housing, employment, education and access to opportunities for physical activity, requiring coordinated action across the whole system.

Three key shifts in delivery

The plan is underpinned by three major system-wide shifts: from hospital to community, from analogue to digital, and from sickness to prevention. In particular, the shift to prevention aims to reduce demand on acute services by tackling the root causes of ill health, including obesity, inactivity and wider social determinants.

Prevention and healthy behaviours

A central ambition is to support people to live healthier lives and delay the onset of long-term conditions, with a strong emphasis on enabling healthier choices. The plan highlights that a significant proportion of major conditions are preventable and promotes action to increase physical activity, improve diet and address lifestyle risk factors.

Neighbourhood and community-based care

The NHS will increasingly deliver care through a 'neighbourhood health service' model, bringing together multidisciplinary teams across health, social care and the voluntary sector to provide more integrated, proactive and localised care. This model focuses on early intervention, prevention and supporting people within their communities, reducing reliance on hospital-based services.

Role of partners and local services

The plan emphasises the need for collaboration beyond the NHS, including local government, voluntary organisations and community services, to improve population health and reduce inequalities. Access to opportunities for sport, recreation and active lifestyles is recognised as an important contributor to health and wellbeing, reinforcing the role of the physical activity and leisure sector in supporting prevention and healthier communities.

NATIONAL MODEL DESIGN CODE 2021

Purpose

The NMDC provides detailed guidance on the production of local design codes, guides and policies to promote successful design, giving local authorities a framework to set clear, locally-responsive design standards for new development in England.

Main Themes

The NMDC is structured around ten characteristics of well-designed places: Context, Identity, Built Form, Movement, Nature, Public Spaces, Uses, Homes and Buildings, Resources, and Lifespan – cross-cut by goals of Character, Community, and Climate.

Active Design Principles

Active Design is a set of ten principles that aim to create places which encourage people to move more and lead healthier lives. Principle 8 – "Active Buildings Inside and Out" – is most relevant to sport facilities, promoting layouts that encourage physical activity and connect buildings to the wider public realm.

Flexibility and Accessibility in Indoor Sport Facilities

Flexibility in local design codes can be introduced by setting an acceptable range for a parameter or not coding for it at all, allowing sport buildings to serve multiple uses over time. On accessibility, Sport England's guidance stresses offering choice where a single design solution cannot accommodate all users, providing for flexibility in use, and creating convenient and enjoyable environments for everyone to use with dignity and privacy.

3.2

Local Policy Context



The following documents have been reviewed and summarised in relation to the local context for sport and physical activity:

- Havant Borough Council – Corporate Strategy (2024-2028)
- Havant Active Wellbeing Strategy (2025-2030)
- Havant Indoor Built Sports Facility Strategy (2017-2036)
- Havant Borough Council Playing Pitch Strategy (2024)

This documentation has revealed the following context for our work:

HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL – CORPORATE STRATEGY (2024-2028)

The Corporate Strategy 2024–2028 sets the overarching direction for Havant Borough Council and provides the policy framework that underpins all future investment and service delivery, including sport, leisure, and physical activity provision. It was developed in response to residents' priorities following the 2024 elections and focuses on delivering positive change across the Borough.

The strategy is structured around four central themes:

- Wellbeing
- Pride in Place
- Growth
- A Responsive Council.

Key challenges highlighted include housing affordability, health inequalities, environmental pressures, access to services, and the need to improve resident engagement. Havant has 53,292 homes, with only 1.2% vacant, and local house prices are over ten times average annual income. Emergency housing need has increased since the pandemic, with up to 150 households per month at risk of homelessness. The number one concern for residents is quality and access to health services.

The strategy commits the Council to supporting active, healthy lifestyles, reviewing leisure and arts provision, maintaining play parks, and improving access to services. It also focuses on improving public spaces, regenerating town centres, protecting the environment, and ensuring infrastructure keeps pace with growth. Collectively, the Corporate Strategy provides a strong policy justification for investment in sports and leisure facilities as part of improving health, wellbeing, place quality and community resilience across Havant.

HAVANT ACTIVE WELLBEING STRATEGY (2025–2030)

The Active Wellbeing Strategy is a five-year, partnership-led strategy that aims to reduce inactivity and health inequalities across Havant by embedding physical activity into everyday life. It considers all forms of activity, from walking and cycling to gym use and organised sport, and positions activity as a preventative tool to improve health, wellbeing and wider social outcomes.

The evidence base shows significant challenges.

- Around 30.2% of adults, over 31,000 people, are inactive, doing less than 30 minutes of activity per week.
- Over half of children aged 5–16 do not meet daily activity guidelines, equating to around 7,800 children.
- Two thirds of adults are overweight or obese, and rates of cardiovascular disease, mental health conditions and self-harm admissions are higher than national averages.
- There are clear inequalities, with 18 neighbourhoods among the most deprived nationally and life expectancy gaps of over 10 years between the most and least deprived areas.

The strategy identifies affordability, poor access to facilities, limited active travel routes, time pressures and lack of information as key barriers. In response, it promotes a place-based, whole-system approach focused on improving access to facilities, creating active environments, supporting community-led activity and aligning sport and leisure provision with health and social care. The strategy reinforces the importance of accessible, inclusive and affordable sports facilities as essential infrastructure for tackling inactivity and inequality.

HAVANT INDOOR BUILT SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY (2017–2036)

The Indoor Built Sports Facility Strategy provides a long-term assessment of indoor sports provision across Havant, analysing supply, demand, accessibility and future need up to 2036. It covers swimming pools, sports halls, fitness facilities and specialist indoor provision, using Sport England modelling and population growth forecasts. It is being superseded by this updated strategy.

The strategy identifies clear capacity pressures.

- Havant has six swimming pools across three sites, providing 1,419 square metres of water space, equivalent to 11 square metres per 1,000 residents, which is below national and regional averages.
- There is an existing shortfall of around 41 square metres of pool space, rising to a requirement for an additional 208 square metres by 2036, equivalent to one new 25-metre, four-lane pool. Around 19% of swimming demand is currently met outside the Borough.
- Sports halls are numerically sufficient, with 26 halls across 24 sites, but effective capacity is limited by restricted community access, particularly at education sites, and both council-operated halls operate at full peak-time capacity.
- Fitness provision is also under-supplied, with an estimated shortfall of around 30 stations, increasing to around 90 by 2036.

The strategy highlights the ageing condition of Havant and Waterlooville Leisure Centres and concludes that major refurbishment or replacement will be required to meet future needs and modern standards.

HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY (2024)

This document forms the strategic recommendations and delivery framework of the Havant Borough Playing Pitch Strategy Review 2024. It updates the 2017 strategy and provides an evidence-based approach to protecting, improving and planning outdoor sports provision across the Borough to 2042. The strategy covers a wide range of sports and applies to all pitch provision regardless of ownership.

The strategy is structured around three overarching objectives:

- **Objective 1** is to protect the existing supply of outdoor sports facilities to meet current and future needs.
- **Objective 2** is to enhance outdoor sports provision and ancillary facilities through improved quality and management.
- **Objective 3** is to provide new outdoor sports facilities where there is current or future demand.

Overall, while pitch numbers are broadly sufficient, effective capacity is constrained by quality, drainage, access and peak-time pressures, requiring a combination of improvements and new provision.

Football

Football has the greatest demand pressures, while overall supply is close to sufficient, there is widespread overplay at peak times, especially across junior and mini pitches. Specific sites experience both weekly and peak-time overplay, with limited spare capacity on secured community sites (effectively a deficit of 4 match equivalent sessions at peak time). Growth to 2042 generates a requirement for approximately 14 additional pitches across all formats, alongside quality improvements and better access to existing sites.

Cricket

Cricket provision is generally sufficient in quantity but constrained by quality and limited peak-time capacity. There is no spare capacity on Saturdays, with only limited availability on Sundays and midweek. Several sites are overplayed due to poor pitch quality. Future demand is projected to require at least 2 new 8-wicket squares (equivalent to 74 match equivalent sessions per season), alongside improved maintenance standards and secure tenure for clubs.

Rugby

Rugby provision is significantly overplayed, with Havant Rugby Club experiencing overplay of c.17.75 match equivalent sessions per week, rising to over 25 MES by 2042. Capacity is heavily constrained by poor drainage, limited maintenance and reliance on grass pitches for training. Addressing demand will require pitch quality improvements, increased access to World Rugby compliant AGPs, and potentially additional provision and supporting facilities.

Hockey

Hockey provision is critically constrained, with a single AGP serving the Borough. The existing pitch is poor quality and nearing end of life, with insufficient capacity to accommodate both match play (c.13.5 matches per weekend) and training demand. There is a clear requirement for at least one additional AGP and upgrades to existing facilities to support club development and community use.

3.3

About Havant Borough



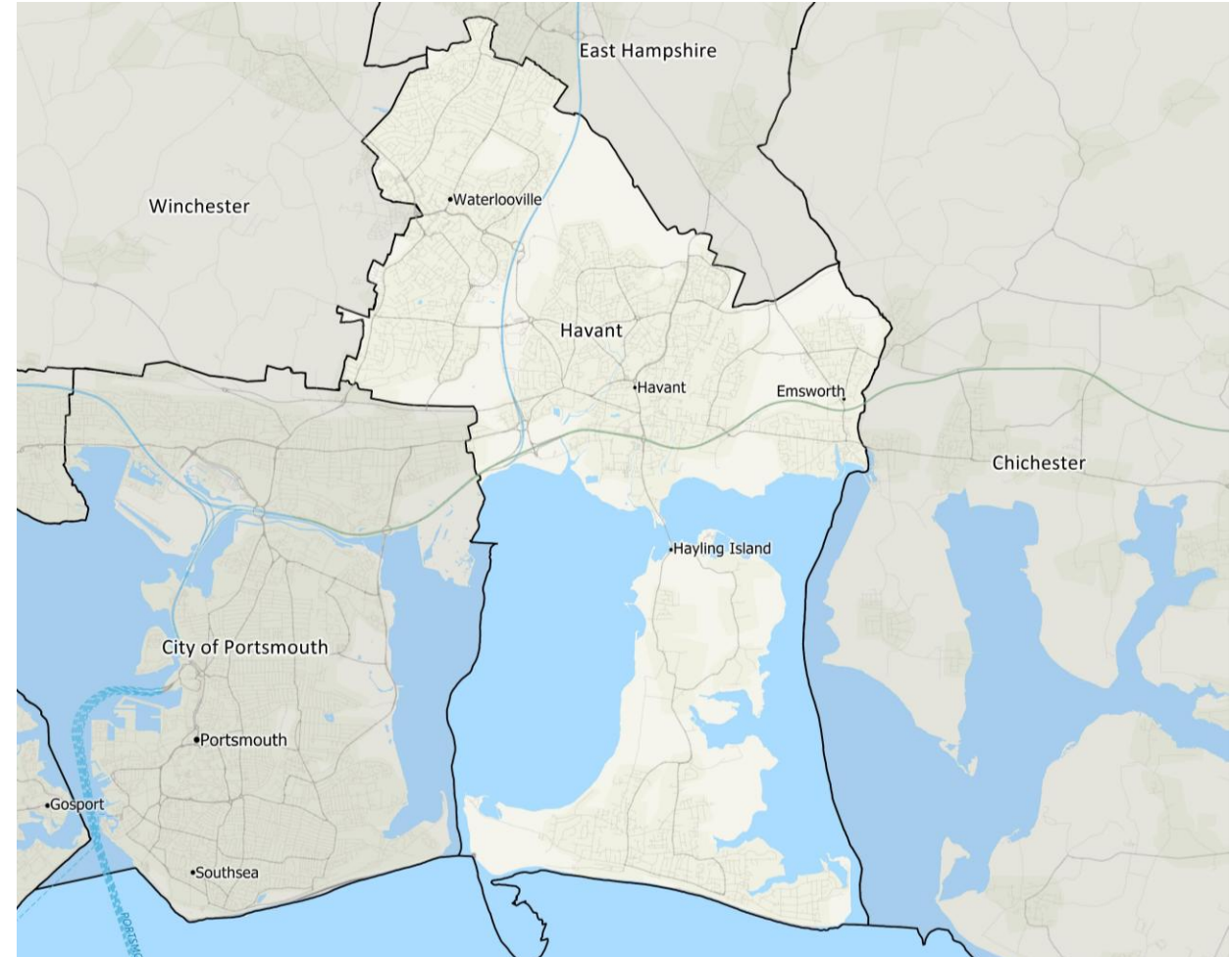
BACKGROUND REVIEW

About Havant Borough Council

About Havant Borough Council

- Havant Borough covers an area of approximately 56 km² and is located in the south-east of Hampshire, within the Southeast region of England. The Borough forms part of the wider South Hampshire sub-region and sits between the major urban centres of Portsmouth and Chichester.
- Havant is a coastal Borough, bordered by the Solent to the south, with Portsmouth City Council to the south-west, East Hampshire District to the north, and Chichester District to the east. The Borough includes Hayling Island and has frontage onto Chichester Harbour.
- The Borough contains a mix of urban, coastal and rural environments. Large parts of the southern and eastern areas are influenced by the Chichester Harbour Area, with nationally and internationally designated sites supporting important coastal and bird habitats.
- Havant Borough benefits from strong transport connections. The A27 and A3(M) provide strategic road links to Portsmouth, Southampton, the M27 and the wider motorway network. Havant railway station is a key interchange on the Portsmouth Direct and West Coastway lines, providing regular services to London, Portsmouth, Southampton and Brighton.
- Havant Borough has a population of approximately 124,200 (2021 Census) and is relatively densely populated compared to much of Hampshire. The vast majority of residents (97%) live within the Borough's urban areas, particularly Leigh Park, Waterlooville and Havant town.

Map 1 – Havant Borough Council



Total Population

- Havant has a population of 124,200 according to the latest ONS Census (2021). This is the official figure used throughout this study for consistency with detailed data requirements.
- Havant's population of 124,200 makes it the 15th most densely populated of the South East's 64 local authority areas, accounting for roughly 9% of Hampshire's population. In 2021, Havant ranked 189th for total population out of 309 local authority areas in England, which is a fall of nine places in a decade.
- This population represents population growth of 2.9% since the previous census in 2011 (0.29% pa). This is below the county and national averages.
- It's population density of 2,228 per sq km is the 3rd largest in Hampshire, behind Rushmoor and Gosport. This ranks Havant as the 15th most densely populated area of the South East's 62 local authority areas, and in the top 30% of most densely populated authorities in England.
- There are 53,600 residential properties in the Borough, the majority of which are single-family households (64.8%).

Table 1 – Havant Population (2021 Census)

Metric	Havant	Hampshire	England
Population	124,200	1,400,900	56,490,000
Growth Since 2011	2.9%	6.3%	6.5%
Male	48.3%	48.9%	49%
Female	51.7%	51.1%	51%

Wards & Regions

- Havant Borough is comprised of 12 wards, grouped into five broader regions:
 1. Leigh Park (Leigh Park East and Leigh Park West)
 2. Waterlooville (Hart Plain, Cowplain, Waterloo, Stakes, and Purbrook)
 3. Havant & Bedhampton (St Faith's and Bedhampton)
 4. Emsworth (Emsworth)
 5. Hayling Island (Hayling East and Hayling West).
- The Borough was previously divided into 14 wards. Under the former arrangements, Leigh Park East comprised the Battins and Bondfield wards, while Leigh Park West comprised Warren Park and Barncroft.
- The largest region in Havant is Hayling Island (16.17 sq km), making up almost one-third of the Borough's 56 sq km area, followed by Waterlooville (14.32 sq km). The smallest region is Emsworth at 4.84 sq km.
- The area with the highest population is Waterlooville with 48,909 residents, followed by Leigh Park with 27,916 residents. The lowest population is Emsworth with only 10,269 residents.
- The fastest growing regions are Havant & Bedhampton, Emsworth, and Waterlooville, with a population growth of 11.3%, 8.2% and 1.9% since 2011. Hayling Island has a relatively stagnant population growth with 0.05% since 2011, whilst Leigh Park decreased in population by 0.7% since 2011.
- Waterlooville and Leigh Park are the densest areas with 17,709 and 13,153 residents per sq km. Given its size, Hayling Island is by far the least dense area with 2,153 residents per sq km.

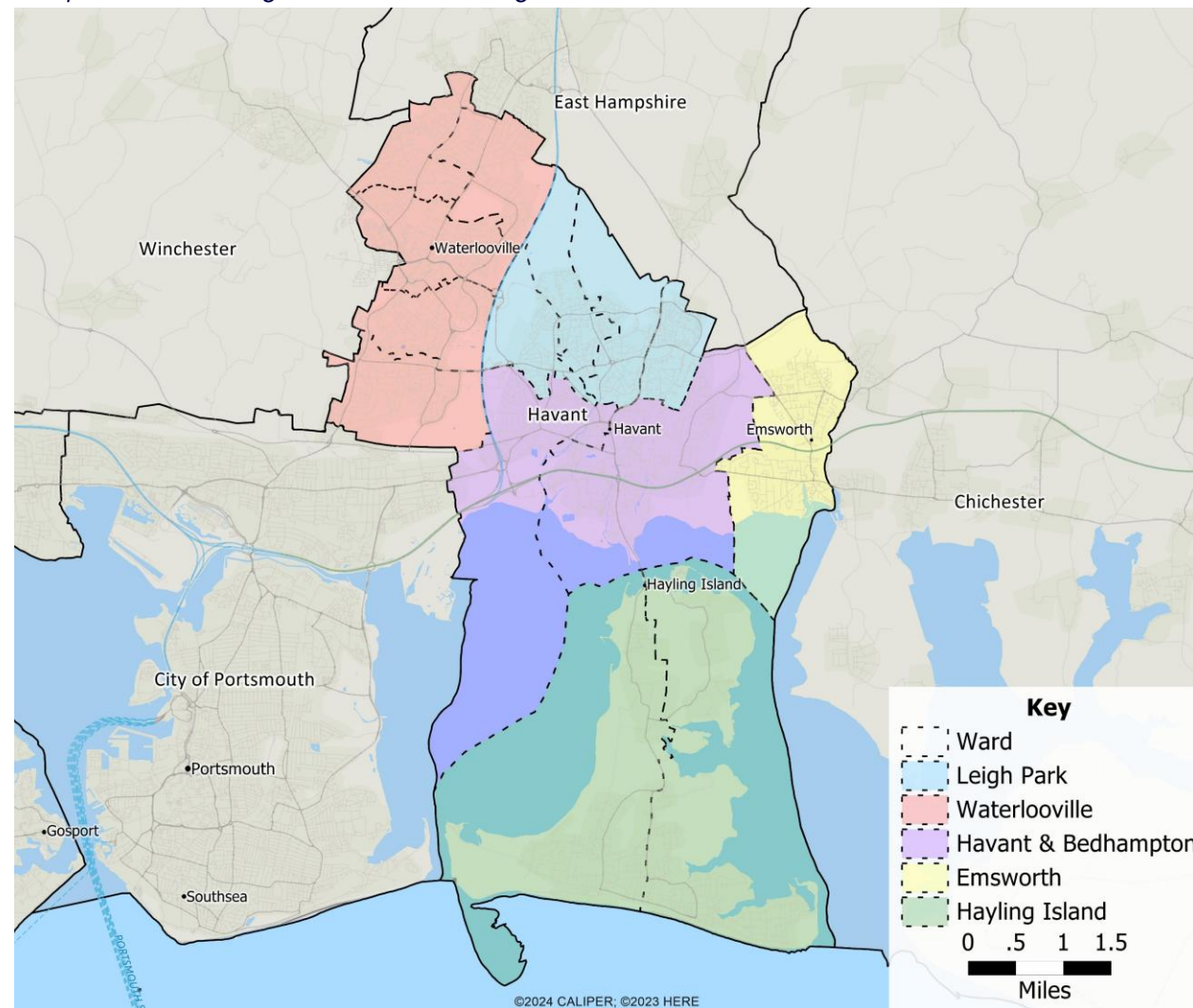
BACKGROUND REVIEW

About Havant Borough Council

Table 2 – Regions of Havant Borough

Region	Size sq km	Population	Change since 2011	% of the Borough	Pop. Density per sq km
Leigh Park	8.9	27,916	-0.7%	22.5%	13,153
Waterlooville	14.32	48,909	1.9%	39.4%	17,709
Havant & Bedhampton	11.51	19,727	11.3%	15.9%	3,649
Emsworth	4.84	10,269	8.2%	8.3%	2,121
Hayling Island	16.17	17,387	0.05%	14%	2,153

Map 2 – Wards & Regions of Havant Borough



Demographics

- The average age of the population is 46, up from 44 in 2011, which is higher than the county (41) and national averages (40).
- Havant Borough has a lower proportion of young people aged 15 or under (17.2%) and of people aged 16 to 64 years (58.5%) than the county and national averages. Nearly a quarter, (24.3%) of the Borough's population is of retirement age (65+), compared to 18.5% for England.
- The Borough has an ageing population. The proportion of the population aged 65+ is significantly higher than the national average and has increased from 21% to 25% since 2011. In the same period, the population aged 16-64 shrunk from 62% to 60%, whilst the population aged 0-15 remained the same at 17%.
- The population of Havant is predominantly white, with 95.9% of all residents being of white ethnic origin; this is higher than the averages for Hampshire (92.6%), and England (81.0%). The largest single BME groups in the Borough are Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh (1.7%) and Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups (1.4%).

Table 3 – Havant Age (2021 Census)

Metric	Havant	Hampshire	England
Average age	46	41	40
Aged 0-15	17.2%	17.9%	18.5%
Aged 16-64	58.5%	60.4%	63%
Aged 65+	24.3%	21.7%	18.5%

- Religion in the Borough is largely split between no religion (47.4%) and Christian (45.3%). The next most prevalent religion is Muslim (0.5%).
- 54.8% of the population aged 16+ in the Borough are in employment and the unemployment rate is 2.9%. The employment rate is notably worse than both the County and national averages, whilst the unemployment rate is in between county and national averages.
- In 2021 in Havant Borough, 2,981 people – around 2.9% of the population of 124,200 – were unemployed or had never worked. Indicating only a small portion of the local community facing labour market inactivity or joblessness.

Table 4 – Havant Employment (2021 Census)

Metric	Havant	Hampshire	England
Working aged population	72,647	846,993	35,605,655
% of total population	58.5%	60.5%	63%
% in employment	54.8%	59.7%	57.4%
% unemployed	2.9%	2.5%	3.5%

BACKGROUND REVIEW

About Havant Borough Council

Health

- Self-reported health in the Borough is worse than the England average, with 79.9% of residents describing their health as either 'very good' or 'good' and 5.6% as either 'bad' or 'very bad'. This is worse than county and national averages.
- 19.9% of the Borough's population reported a disability which limits their day-to-day activities in some way; this is higher than county and national averages.
- Life expectancy at birth for males (80.8 years) and females (82.8 years) in Havant Borough is only slightly lower than averages in Hampshire, while on national level males have a higher average while females have a slightly lower one.
- The percentage of adults (aged 18+) classified as overweight or obese in Havant is 72.1%, dramatically higher than county and national averages.

Table 5 – Havant Health (2021 Census)

Metric	Havant	Hampshire	England
Bad/Very Bad Health	5.6%	4.1%	5.2%
Disability	19.9%	16.4%	17.3%
Life Expectancy (M/F)	80.8/82.8	81.3/84.6	79.3/83.2
Overweight/Obese	72.1%	66.1%	64.5%

Sports Participation

- The Sport England Active Lives Survey defines being active as taking part in 150+ minutes of moderately intense physical activity per week. Fairly active is between 150 and 30 minutes per week, whilst inactivity is defined as less than 30 minutes per week.
- The latest Active Lives Survey (2023/24) reveals that 54.3% of Havant's population is active, whilst 30.7% are inactive. This is significantly lower activity and higher inactivity than Hampshire and England averages.

Table 6 – Havant Activity (Active Lives Survey 2023/24)

Metric	Havant	Hampshire	England
Active	54.3%	65.8%	63.7%
Fairly Active	15%	12.1%	11.2%
Inactive	30.7%	22.1%	25.1%

BACKGROUND REVIEW

About Havant Borough Council

Deprivation

- In October 2025, ONS released an updated English Indices of Deprivation. This section uses this data.
- Overall, Havant is more deprived than 53% of local authority areas in England.
- The highest levels of deprivation in Havant are seen in education and skills, with employment and crime also ranking highly. Comparatively lower levels of deprivation are recorded across IDACI, income, health and disability. IDAOPI, barriers to housing and services, and the living environment are some of Havant's least deprived areas.

Table 7 – Havant Deprivation by area (2025 IMD)

Metric	Havant Rank (where 1 is most deprived)
Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)	139 th
Income	122 nd
Employment	102 nd
Education and skills	74 th
Health Deprivation and Disability	123 rd
Crime	101 st
Barriers to Housing and Services	184 th
Living Environment	287 th
Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index	94 th
Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index	163 rd

Table 8 – Havant Deprivation (2021 Census)

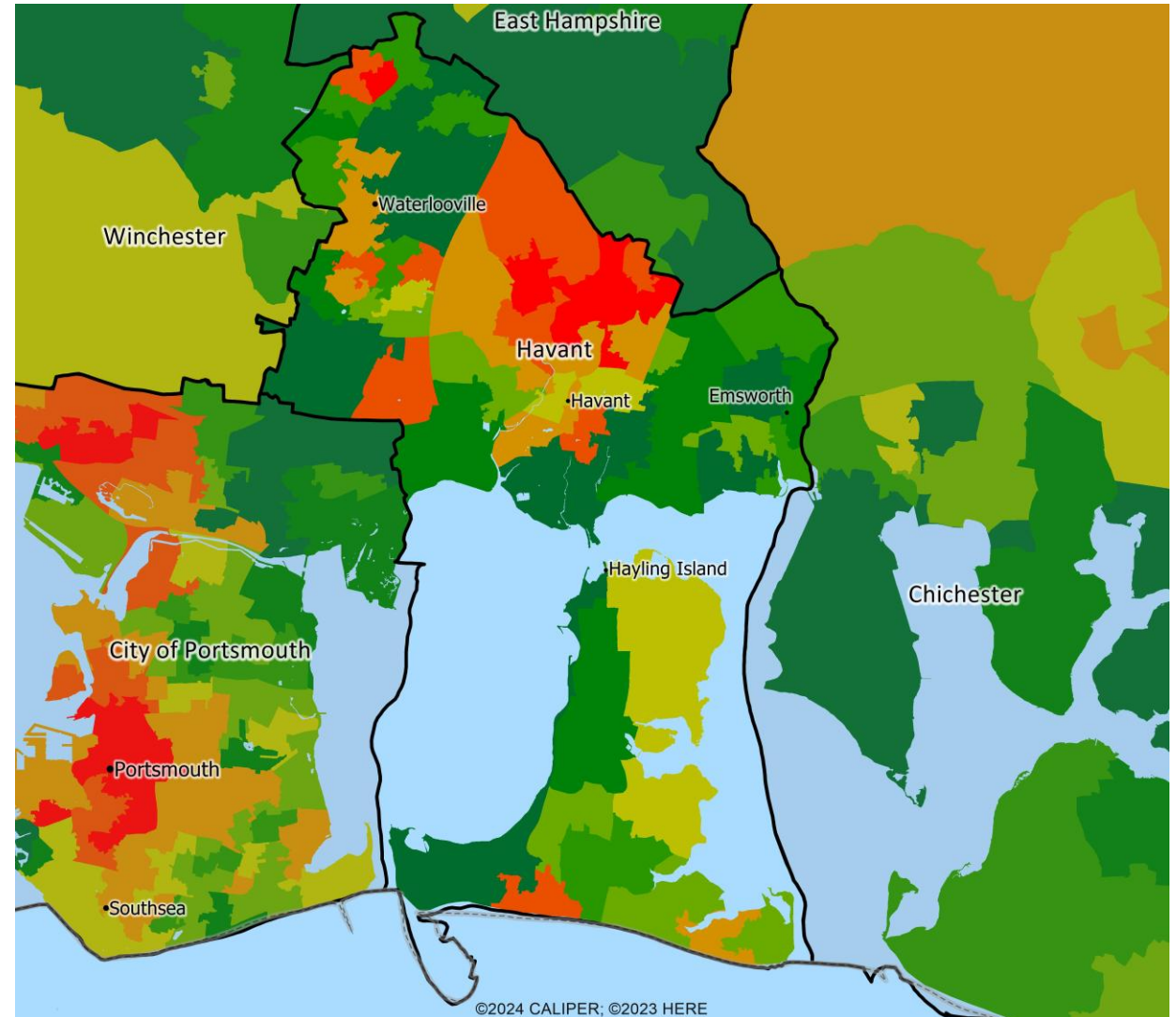
Metric	Havant	Hampshire	England
Household – No Car	18.1%	13.3%	23.5%
No Qualifications	19.9%	14.7%	18.1%
Average Household Income	£34,300	£36,000	£37,600

- Life expectancy is 9.0 years lower for men and 7.0 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Havant than in the least deprived areas. This is a larger gap than across Hampshire (6.8/4.9), but a lower gap than England (10.4/8.4).
- Nationwide, inactivity levels are significantly higher in the most deprived areas (31%) than the least deprived (16%).
- Nationwide, obesity levels are higher in the most deprived areas (~71%) than the least deprived (~59%).
- Nationwide, the 20% least deprived areas have an average income of 12x higher than the 20% most deprived areas.

Deprivation

- Map 3 shows the 2025 IMD by Lower Super Output Area in Havant, with red indicating the most deprived areas in England and green indicating the least deprived.
- Comparing this map to wards & regions shown in Map 2 reveals that:
 - Leigh Park experiences significant deprivation throughout the area.
 - Waterlooville, Havant & Bedhampton and Hayling Island contain pockets of deprivation.
 - Emsworth experiences very low deprivation.
- The main towns within the Borough, Havant and Waterlooville, are areas of medium deprivation.
- Havant is a Borough of mixed deprivation, with areas of widespread high deprivation (Leigh Park) and widespread low deprivation (Emsworth), and pockets of both high and low deprivation elsewhere.

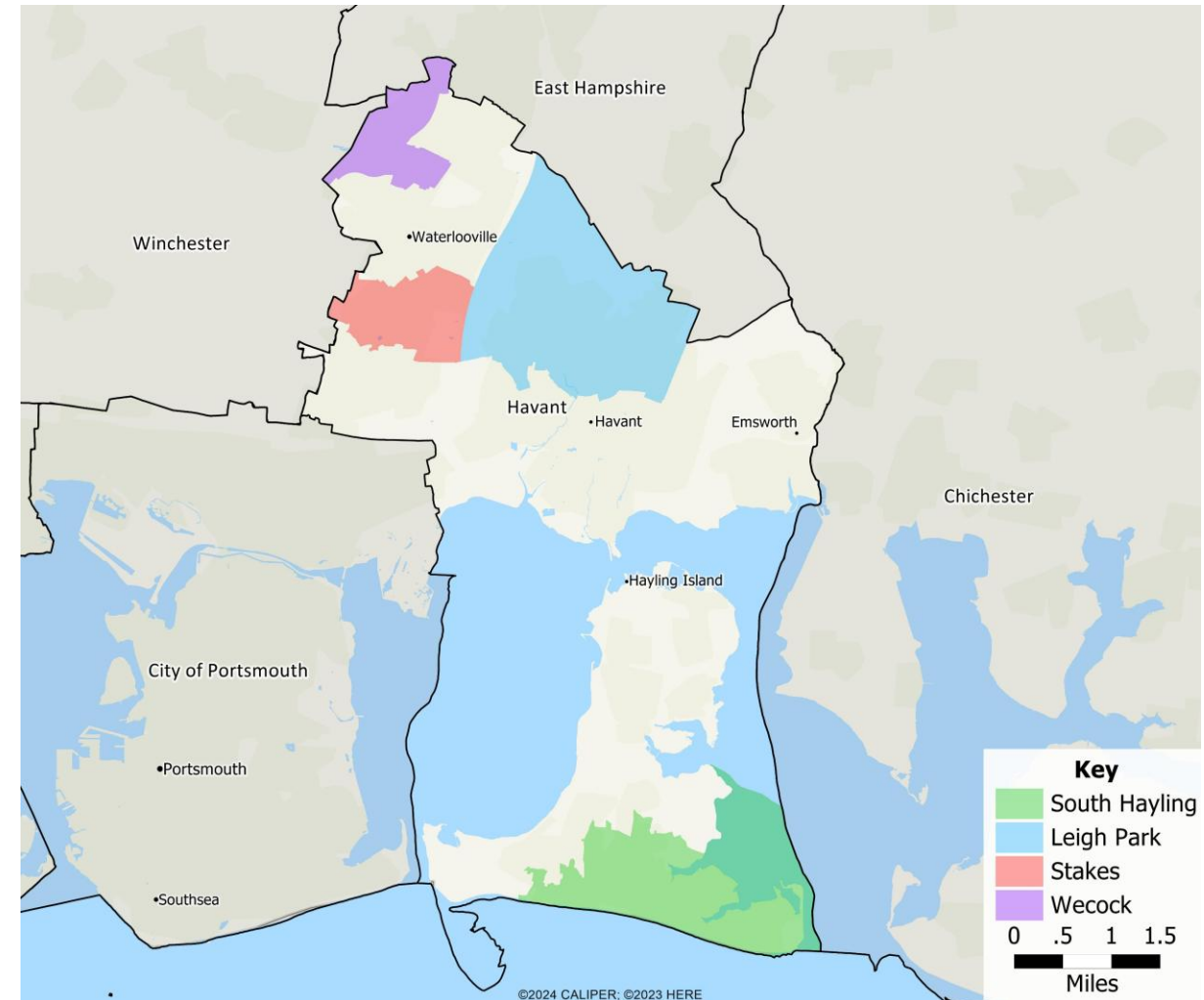
Map 3 – Deprivation in Havant Borough (IMD 2025)



Deprivation

- Under their Uniting the Movement strategy, Sport England announced £250m of funding in 2023 to tackle inactivity in areas identified as having the greatest need. In November 2025, Havant was confirmed as one of the local authorities to be included in Phase 2 of the scheme.
- Alongside Energise Me and Sport England, the Council are currently in a 12-month development phase to mobilise the place work. Revenue funding has been confirmed, but any capital allocation has not yet.
- The whole Borough has been classified as high need rather than only certain areas. However, 4 priority neighbourhoods have been identified for initial focus using MSOA data, blending a range of physical activity, social need and deprivation. These areas and their populations are:
 - Leigh Park – 27,912
 - Wecock – 9,887
 - Stakes – 10,368
 - South Hayling – 11,443
- These neighbourhoods have been selected as local areas, and their exact borders do not necessarily align with any formal ward/MSOA boundaries. The location of each has been estimated in Map 4.
- These locations align well with the IMD data shown in Map 3. The main area of deprivation, Leigh Park, is included. The majority of the other pockets of deprivation are included; the only deprived pockets not within these 4 areas are in the south of Havant town and the east of Purbrook to the south of Stakes.

Map 4 – Sport England Priority Areas



Population Projections

- In 2023, Havant Borough Council completed a Housing Needs Analysis report. This examined the expected population growth in the Borough up to 2043, based on a requirement to deliver 361 new dwellings per year.
- As this study has been undertaken following the release of the 2021 Census, it benefits from the use of the most up-to-date data available and therefore represents the most recent and accurate report on housing requirements in the Borough.

Table 9 – Havant Population Projections

Metric	Finding	Working
Havant population (2021)	124,200	2021 Census
Additional dwellings (2023 – 2043)	7,220	361 x 20
Additional dwellings (2021 – 2043)	7,942	7,220 + (361 x 2)
Residents per household (Havant)	2.32	2021 Census
Additional residents (2021 – 2043)	18,420	7,942 x 2.32
Projected Population (2043)	142,620	124,200 + 18,420
Percentage growth (2021 – 2043)	14.8%	$\frac{(142,620 - 124,200)}{124,200}$

- This data reveals that the trend of Havant’s population increase from 2011 to 2021 will continue until 2043 and become more pronounced.
- The total number of additional dwellings required between 2021 and 2043 was calculated by applying the annual housing requirement from 2023–2043 of 361 dwellings across the 20-year period and extrapolating this back to a 2021 start date. This results in a requirement for 7,942 additional dwellings to support the projected population growth of the Borough.
- Using Census 2021 data, an average household size of 2.32 residents per dwelling was calculated for Havant. Applying this household size to the additional dwellings identified above produces an estimated population increase of approximately 18,420 residents by 2043.
- Adding this projected population increase to the Borough’s 2021 baseline population results in an overall population projection of approximately 142,620 residents by 2043.
- Overall, Havant expects a significant population growth between 2021 and 2043, with 18,420 new residents representing 14.8% growth. This is growth of 0.67% per annum and is significantly higher than the 0.29% per annum from 2011 to 2021.

- The full report can be found here: [Draft Building A Better Future Plan](#)

BACKGROUND REVIEW

About Havant Borough Council

Population Projections

- The 2043 population projections presented in Table 9 are now applied to the five regions of Havant, which are Leigh Park, Waterlooville, Havant & Bedhampton, Emsworth, and Hayling Island.
- The findings of Table 10 show the individual population projections of each region of Havant, based on the 361 additional dwellings required to meet population demands in the Borough, and their expected location within the Borough, which was provided by the Council:

Table 10 – Havant Areas Population Projections

Region	2021 Population	2021 % of total	2043 Population	2043 % of total	Growth since 2021	% growth since 2021
Emsworth	10,269	8.3%	11,227	7.9%	958	9.3%
Havant & Bedhampton	19,727	15.9%	29,840	20.9%	10,113	51.3%
Hayling Island	17,387	14.0%	17,964	12.6%	577	3.3%
Leigh Park	27,916	22.5%	29,617	20.8%	1,701	6.1%
Waterlooville	48,909	39.4%	53,981	37.8%	5,072	10.4%
Total	124,200	-	142,620	-	18,420	14.8%

- The projected 2043 population for each region was calculated by distributing the total projected population increase of 18,420 residents in proportion to each region's share of the Borough's expected housing growth by 2043. This consists of 361 dwellings per year over the period, with the Council providing the expected split of the total across each region.
- Waterlooville remains the most populated region, accounting for 37.8% of the Borough's population in 2043. The majority of growth is expected in Havant & Bedhampton, however, growing by over 50% by 2043. Emsworth remains the least populated region, representing 7.9% of the Borough's population, whilst Hayling Island experiences the slowest growth at only 3.3%.
- Overall, Table 10 demonstrates that the projected population increase of 18,420 residents by 2043 is not distributed proportionately across the five regions of the Borough. This indicates that a greater focus of investment in more densely populated regions such as Waterlooville and Havant & Bedhampton is justified when compared to regions such as Emsworth and Hayling Island, where the population is smaller and growth is slower.

04

STAGE B

**Audit of Facility Supply
and Demand Assessment**



4.1

Facility Audit Introduction & Methodology



Introduction

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

- Sports halls (3+ badminton courts)
- Swimming pools (20m+ length)
- Learner pools
- Fitness centres and gyms (20+ stations)
- Squash courts
- Indoor Tennis
- Indoor Bowls
- Activity / community halls with capacity for sport use
- Other specialist indoor sport facilities (e.g., gymnastics, martial arts, indoor cycling, indoor athletics)

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

Assessment of Supply

Research on the existing supply of facilities was completed using desk-based analysis and through consultation. The supply analysis included facilities operated by a range of organisations and information was gathered on the following areas:

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

This enables identification of the potential of each facility and informs investment decisions at each site.

Assessment of Demand

When assessing facility provision against demand, key issues such as population and participation growth are taken into account. The resident population of the Borough is 124,200 (2021 census). The population is forecast to increase by 14.8% between 2020 and 2043 to an estimated 142,400.

Demand has been assessed utilising available Sport England tools (i.e. Facilities Planning Model, Active Places, Sports Facility Calculator and Active Lives Survey) to help gauge strategic provision of community sports facilities. It helps to analyse sports facility provision and whether supply meets demand. It provides data that is used as part of the information base to inform the analysis of supply and demand.

Demand analysis is supplemented by data collected 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 was conducted with a range of stakeholders to gain a comprehensive understanding of key issues, summarised in Appendix 1.

Supply and Demand Analysis

The supply and demand assessment is key in determining whether the Borough 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.

It is necessary to assess the current capacity across the Borough 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.

Catchment Areas

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.

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.

Havant is a mix of urban and rural areas, although 97% of the population live within urban areas. Car ownership is higher than national averages; 18.1% of households have no access to a car. Given the nature of the area public transport is not always available, so accessible community sports facilities are important to facilitate participation in physical activity.

Therefore, when considering appropriate catchments, a blended approach has been taken to reflect a highly urban population with high car ownership in a relatively large and rural area.

A 20-minute walk time has been applied to swimming pools, sports halls and health and fitness suites. For the more specialised facilities such as studios, indoor bowls, squash courts, and gymnastics, it is recognised that provision for these sports attract users from further away and therefore a 20-minute drive time has been applied for these facilities.

Facilities Planning Model (FPM)

The Facilities Planning Model (FPM) is a Sport England tool for assessing the supply and demand of facilities within a Borough. It provides a range of metrics in addition to headline supply and demand, including areas of under/provision, reason for unmet demand and imported/exported demand. They can also forecast provision against future population changes and facility openings/closings.

Havant Borough Council commissioned 2x FPM reports to inform this study, assessing the 2025 supply and demand for swimming pools and for sports halls.

4.2

Swimming Pools



INDOOR SWIMMING POOLS

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). Lidos are excluded from this definition and are not included in the supply and demand analysis, due to their seasonal operation and dependence on weather conditions for use.

Supply

Quantity

There are two sites in the Borough that have fully public swimming pools. Havant Leisure Centre has a 6-lane 25m pool, a 13m learner pool, and a 3m deep diving pool, which is attached to the main pool and part of the same pool tank. Waterlooille Leisure Centre has an 8-lane 25m pool and a 13m learner pool. Both sites are owned by HBC and operated via a lease and partnering agreement with local trust Horizon Leisure.

Sinah Warren, a hotel, has a small learner pool which is listed as publicly accessible through a registered membership. There are no other suitable swimming pools in the Borough with any public access.

There are other pools within the Borough, but these have not been included in this study as they are either permanently closed or are lidos/leisure pools. These facilities have been highlighted grey in Table 11 to indicate they have been excluded.

Table 11 – Indoor Swimming Pools

Site Name	Facility Type	Water Area sqm	Access Type	Ownership	Year Built
Havant Leisure Centre	Main	500	Pay and Play	Local Authority	1974
	Learner	91			1987
	Diving	63			1974
Waterlooville Leisure Centre	Main	425	Pay and Play	Local Authority	1991
	Learner	124			
Sinah Warren	Learner	44	Registered Membership use	Commercial	2001
	Lido	46			
Langstone Quays Resort	Leisure	216	Registered Membership use	Commercial	1987
Warner Lakeside Indoor Bowls Club	Leisure	98	Community Club / Association	Commercial	1995

Availability

The FPM report identifies that total publicly available water space in Havant is 1,247 sqm of water. The two Council-owned centres account for 96% of this pool space. Both are open for the maximum 52.5 hours in the weekly peak period, and are both estimated to be operating at an uncomfortably full level at peak times – Havant LC at 75% and Waterlooville LC at 76%.

The 2 Council centres are also the only to offer pay-and-play, with the only other public pool requiring a swimming club/private membership. Not everyone is, can be, or wants to be a member of a sports club, so this type of access does not actually provide for the whole community, and is unlikely to address the needs of the most inactive, or those from the areas of highest deprivation, who are also more likely to be those experiencing significant health inequalities.

Consideration of Neighbouring Authorities

There are four Local Authorities which neighbour Havant Borough Council; Portsmouth City Council to the south-west, Winchester City Council to the north-west, East Hampshire District Council to the north and Chichester District Council to the east. Table 12 provides the supply of publicly available swimming pools for each:

Table 12 – Pool Supply

Supply	Havant	Portsmouth	Winchester	East Hamps	Chichester
Number of pools	5	11	14	10	9
Number of sites	3	9	12	7	8
Supply (sqm)	1,247	2,667	3,169	1,913	1,861
Residents / sqm	99.6	78.0	40.2	65.7	66.7

During our consultation, none of the neighbouring authorities revealed plans for any new swimming pools. Despite this, Havant has a significantly lower provision than all its neighbouring authorities.

Swim England recommend 12 sqm of water per 1,000 residents, which equates to 83.3 residents per sqm. As such, Havant does not meet this recommendation at present, whilst all four neighbouring authorities do meet this recommendation.

None of the pools in neighbouring authorities are particularly close to the Havant border and do not serve a significant portion of the Borough's population, with the exception of two school pools in the north of Portsmouth, which are easily accessible to residents in the Bedhampton area.

Quality

Havant Leisure Centre is an old and tired centre, with the pools built in 1974. Whilst they have not experienced any significant maintenance issues recently and were refurbished in 2010, the centre is now over 50 years old and there is a recognition within the Council and Horizon that the centre is reaching the end of its life. It is expected to require replacing within this review period up to 2043, and proper maintenance by the operator until that time is crucial to ensure the crucial swimming pool provision remains open until a replacement is available/under development.

Waterlooville Leisure Centre is newer, built in 1991, and as such is of a much higher quality than Havant Leisure Centre. It is still over 30 years old, however, so a significant refurbishment is planned in the next year. Given this, no further major investment is likely to be required at least in the early part of this review period. The facility will be over 50 years old in 2043, however, and replacement plans may be required towards the end of the review period. Proper maintenance by the operator is crucial to maintain quality and extend the building's life.

Accessibility

Appropriate driving time accessibility standards can be applied to swimming pools to determine deficiencies in provision. Catchment mapping, based on an amalgamated 20-minute walking time, has been adopted to analyse the adequacy of coverage of swimming pool provision across the Borough; it also helps to identify areas currently not served by existing swimming pools.

40,653 people are within a 20-minute walk of a publicly accessible swimming pool. This represents 32.7% of Havant's current population.

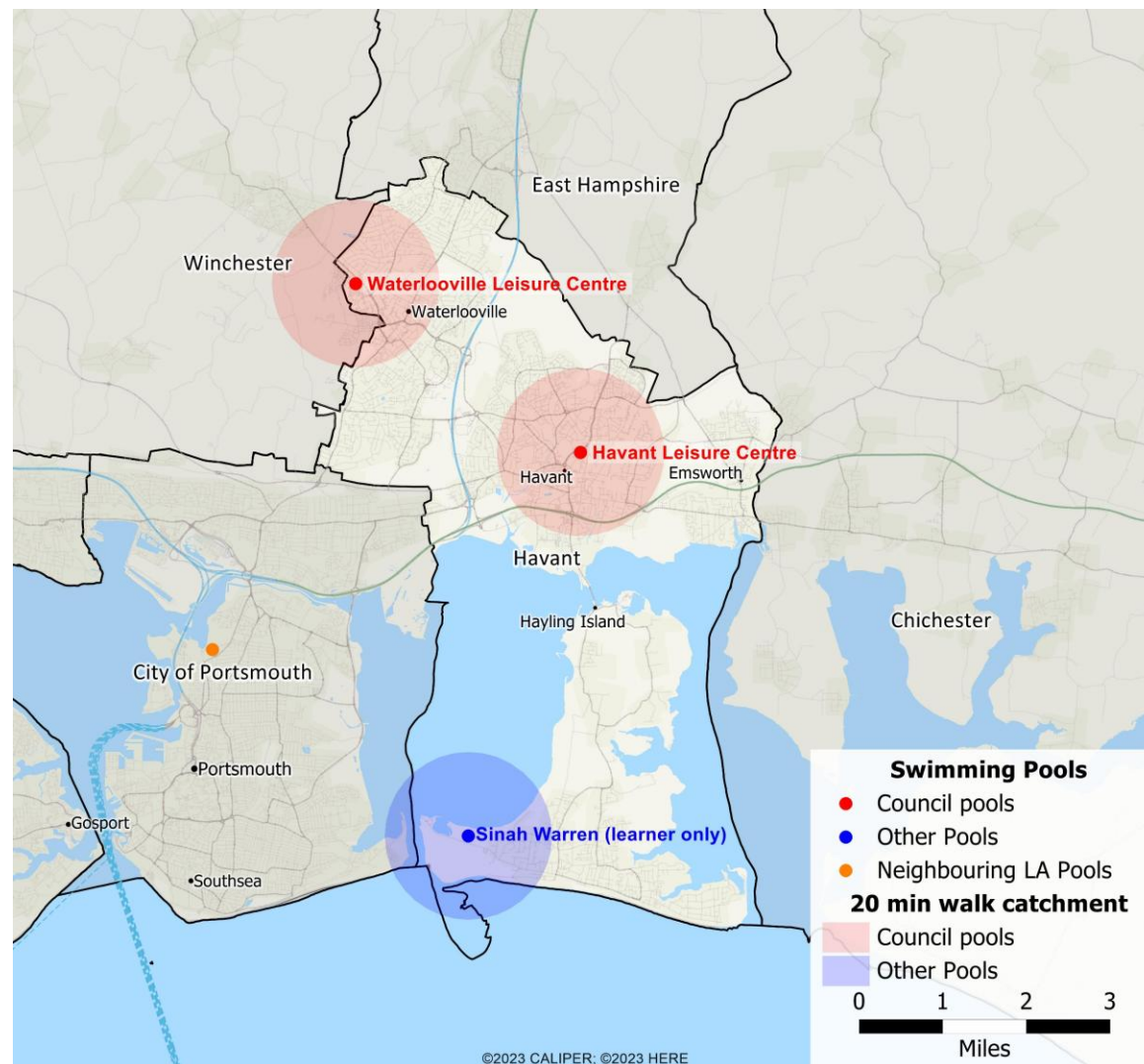
Of these, 35,849 (28.9% of total population) are within the catchment of the Council-owned pools. This is a very low percentage, as over 70% of the population do not have easy access to a swimming pool.

These catchments do not align well with Sport England's identified priority areas in Map 4. Parts of Wecock and Leigh Park are within the catchments of Waterlooville and Havant Leisure Centres respectively, but the majority of these areas are outside the catchments, and nearly the entirety of Stakes and South Hayling are excluded. These areas have been identified as the most deprived and inactive areas, and therefore the most important to be within easy walking access of Council facilities.

The catchment of the Council facilities is in highly urban areas within the towns of Havant and Waterlooville. However, many urban areas are not within any pool's catchment area, most notably Emsworth, the majority of Leigh Park and the southern half/northern edge of Waterlooville.

There are also gaps in provision in less populated Hayling Island. Given the more rural nature and geographical separation, however, it is more likely that residents in these areas will travel by car (up to a 20-minute drive) to access swimming pool provision.

Map 5 – Indoor Swimming Pools in Havant



Demand

The FPM report identifies that the resident population generates demand for 8,600 visits in the weekly peak period, which equates to 1,414 sqm of water with a comfort factor included. This demand is slightly more than the total water space in Havant. This equates to 95% of Havant’s demand being met. This is the same as the regional average, and slightly above the national average of 93%.

The FPM report cites unmet demand as 76 sqm. Residents who are too far from a swimming pool account for 100% of all unmet demand. The Council centres are well-located to meet the areas of highest demand, but not the most deprived residents.

The population is expected to grow by 14.8% by 2043 to a population of 142,620. This results in a demand for 1,623sqm of water space by 2043. Swim England calculate demand differently, using a target provision of 12 sqm per 1,000 population. This results in a current demand of 1,490 sqm and 1,711 sqm in 2043.

Table 13 shows the level of unmet demand currently and by 2043. It should be noted that the supply remains constant in the below; no existing pools have been removed (e.g., closure of Havant LC) and no new pools have been added (e.g., replacement of Havant LC).

Table 13 – Pool Demand 2025 & 2043

	2025		2043	
	Water sqm	Surplus / Deficit	Water sqm	Surplus / Deficit
Supply	1,247	-	1,247	-
Demand (FPM)	1,414	167 sqm	1,623	376 sqm
Demand (Swim England)	1,490	243 sqm	1,711	464 sqm

There is an existing deficit of pool space within the Borough, and this is expected to grow by 2043. For context, a standard 6-lane 25m pool is 325 sqm of water, and a standard 8-lane 25m pool is 425 sqm, roughly the same as a 6-lane 25m pool plus a learner pool.

Additionally, Havant Leisure Centre is over 50 years old and is expected to reach the end of its useful life before 2043. The loss of Havant LC’s 654 sqm, over half the Borough’s provision, would significantly increase the estimated deficit in water space by 2043 unless suitably replaced.

Summary

There is currently a small deficit of water space in the Borough. The Council facilities are key assets, providing 96% of the provision and offering the only pay-and-play access to swimming. The vast majority of the most deprived and inactive areas identified as a priority by Sport England are not within a 20-minute walk of the Council facilities, although the areas of highest demand are included.

By 2043, the deficit is expected to increase to between 376 and 464 sqm, roughly equivalent to one new 8-lane pool or 6-lane pool plus learner pool.

Implications for Strategy

Havant is a coastal Borough, and swimming is a particularly important skill for residents of coastal areas, especially children.

Increasing the provision of public swimming pools should be a priority for the Council. In addition to the likely replacement of the Havant Leisure Centre by 2043, the Council should look to develop at least 1 new public swimming facility.

4.3

Sports Halls



SPORTS HALLS

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.

Main Halls

This assessment considers sports hall facilities in the Borough that comprise at least one badminton court. However, a standard 3-court or more sports hall (known as ‘main hall’ in this assessment) 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 space to accommodate indoor cricket nets and to undertake indoor athletics. Many 3+ court sports halls also have a dividing net which enable them to be subdivided into separate areas for use, for example, for circuit training, cricket nets, table tennis or martial arts activities. As such, a 3+ court sports hall has greater sports development value and flexibility than smaller halls.

Supply

Quantity

There is only one site in the Borough that has a fully public (pay and play) sports hall – Havant Leisure Centre. It has an 8-court sports hall, is owned by HBC and is operated via a lease with local trust Horizon Leisure. There is one other site owned by the Council, Cowplain Activities Centre. This has a 3-court hall but is operated by a sports club / community association and access is controlled through them, rather than being pay to play.

There are 9 other sports halls in the Borough which provide some community access. These are all located at educational sites and comprise a mix of 4-court and 3-court halls, totalling 32 further badminton courts.

There is 1 further educational site with a 4-court sports hall with no public access. Table 14 shows all sports halls in Havant, with those excluded from this study highlighted in grey.

Table 14 – Sports Halls

Site Name	Facility Type	Courts	Access Type	Ownership	Year Built
Havant Leisure Centre	Main	8	Pay And Play	Local Authority	1984
Cowplain Activities Centre	Main	3	Community Club / Association	Local Authority	1983
The Hayling College	Main	3	Community Club / Association	Education	1975
Warblington School	Main	3	Community Club / Association	Education	1955
Purbrook Park School	Main	3	Community Club / Association	Education	1965
HSDC South Downs	Main	4	Community Club / Association	Education	2003
The Cowplain School	Main	4	Community Club / Association	Education	1971
Park Community School	Main	4	Community Club / Association	Education	1999
Oaklands Catholic School	Main	3	Community Club / Association	Education	1970
Havant Academy	Main	4	Community Club / Association	Education	1989
Crookhorn College	Main	4	Community Club / Association	Education	1966
HSDC Havant	Main	4	Private Use	Education	2000

Community / Activity Halls

Activity halls are the smallest buildings that can accommodate a sports programme alongside the customary social and arts pursuits. There are a wide variety of types and sizes, often supplementing the main hall with a restricted range of use. Sport England recognises 1-2 badminton court activity halls that can accommodate a range of recreational and sporting activities. However, it is recognised that smaller halls lack the flexibility and capacity for large club activities.

In addition to the 43 badminton courts across 11 sports halls, there are 22 activity / community halls in the Borough which are publicly accessible. The majority are either owned by the Council or are at education sites. 4 of these have no badminton court listed – whilst the space might still be utilisable for some hall activities, it is not known what they can accommodate and they are excluded from this study.

17 are 1-court halls and 1 is a 2-court hall, totalling 19 further badminton courts. Most of these courts are run by a community association / local sports club and are accessed through membership in the club / association rather than being pay and play.

Whilst these are less utilisable than the courts at a full-size sports hall, they can still provide valuable space for indoor sport, especially at a very local, recreational level. These spaces can be utilised for traditional sports hall sports such as badminton, but also for exercise classes, pickleball, indoor cricket, dance / gymnastics and boxing / martial arts.

Map 6 shows the location of each activity hall, with the numbers on Map 6 corresponding to Table 15 overleaf with the full details of each.

Map 6 – Activity Halls in Havant

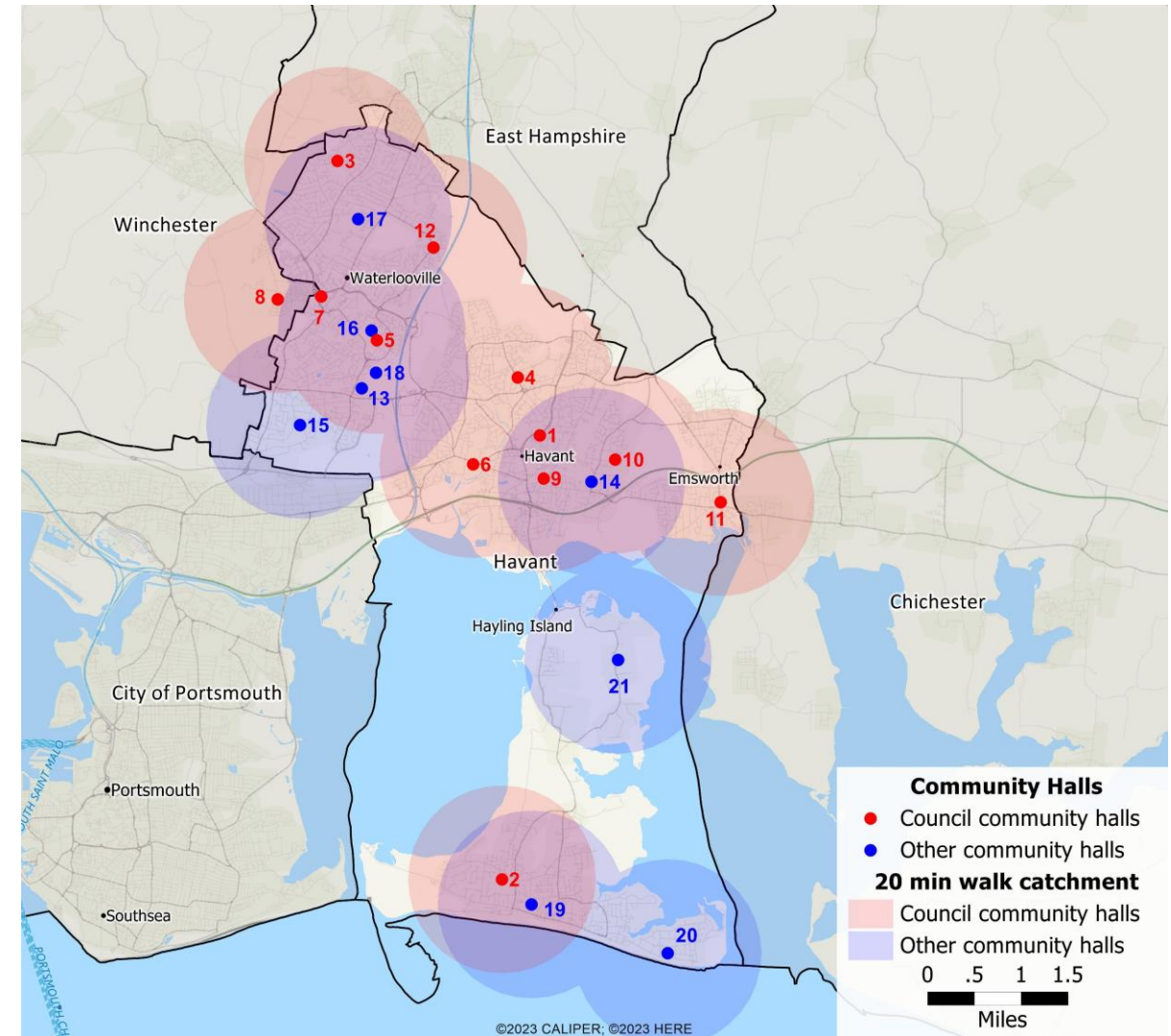


Table 15 – Activity / Community Halls

ID on Map 6	Site Name	Facility Type	Courts	Access Type	Ownership	Year Built
1	Havant Leisure Centre	Activity Hall	1	Community Club / Association	Local Authority	1982
2	Hayling Island Community Centre	Activity Hall	2	Community Club / Association	Local Authority	1981
3	The Acorn Centre	Activity Hall	1	Community Club / Association	Local Authority	2004
4	Leigh Park Community Centre	Activity Hall	1	Community Club / Association	Local Authority	?
5	Springwood Community Centre	Activity Hall	1	Community Club / Association	Local Authority	?
6	Bedhampton Community Centre	Activity Hall	1	Community Club / Association	Local Authority	?
7	Waterlooville Community Centre	Activity Hall	1	Community Club / Association	Local Authority	?
8	Newlands Community Hall	Activity Hall	0	Community Club / Association	Local Authority	?
9	The Pallant Centre	Activity Hall	1	Community Club / Association	Local Authority	?
10	The Stride Centre	Activity Hall	0	Community Club / Association	Local Authority	?
11	Emsworth Community Centre	Activity Hall	1	Community Club / Association	Local Authority	?
12	Westbrook Hall	Activity Hall	1	Community Club / Association	Local Authority	?
13	Crookhorn College	Activity Hall	1	Community Club / Association	Education	1966
14	Warblington School	Activity Hall	1	Community Club / Association	Education	1955
		Activity Hall	1	Community Club / Association	Education	1975
15	Purbrook Park School	Activity Hall	1	Community Club / Association	Education	1965
16	Springwood Junior School	Activity Hall	1	Community Club / Association	Education	1982
17	The Cowplain School	Activity Hall	1	Community Club / Association	Education	1971
18	Oaklands Catholic School	Activity Hall	1	Community Club / Association	Education	1950
19	Seacourt Tennis Club	Activity Hall	1	Registered Membership use	Commercial	1966
20	Eastoke Community Centre	Activity Hall	0	Community Club / Association	Others	1952
21	North Hayling Recreation Hall	Activity Hall	0	Community Club / Association	Others	?
-	The Waterloo School	Activity Hall	1	Private Use	Education	1980
-	Rachel Madocks School	Activity Hall	1	Private Use	Education	1989

Availability

The total publicly available sports hall space in Havant is 62 badminton courts. Of these, 43 are located in sports halls, and 19 are in activity/community halls. However, the actual number of courts practically available decreases when accounting for the fewer hours available at education sites and the limited usability of activity halls. The FPM reports estimate that the space available in the weekly peak period is equivalent to 41.0 courts – we will call this *scaled supply*.

The significance of this is two-fold. It confirms the importance of the Council’s pay and play facilities, which provide the vast majority of the daytime provision and are the only fully public courts available. Education sites are closed to the public during school hours, and typically only open to clubs or block bookings outside of this, not casual players. The Council facilities are the key provision for making sports halls accessible to all. Both Council facilities are operating at uncomfortably full levels (Havant LC at 81% and Cowplain AC at 98%).

Despite this, the courts provided by the education sector remain the majority of the provision in the Borough. This is especially the case in the peak hours outside of school hours, providing 72% of the scaled supply. This demonstrates the crucial need to work closely with education site owners to encourage access, for clubs and organisations, to their facilities outside school hours. The educational sites currently have a high commitment to community usage, with most between 29.5 and 39.0 hours in the weekly peak period.

Consideration of Neighbouring Authorities

The supply of publicly available sports halls for each neighbouring authority is summarised in Table 16. Scaled supply is used as it presents a fairer representation of what is practically available for public use.

Table 16 – Sports Hall Supply

Supply	Havant	Portsmouth	Winchester	East Hamps	Chichester
Number of sites	11	18	12	11	9
Scaled supply (courts)	41.0	67.4	56.2	46.9	35.0
Residents / court	3,029	3,086	2,268	2,681	3,546

Havant has a comparable supply of sports halls per capita to neighbouring authorities. During our consultation, none of the neighbouring authorities revealed plans for any new sports halls.

Quality

Havant Leisure Centre is an old and tired centre, built in 1974. The sports hall was built in 1984 and has not been refurbished since. Whilst it has not experienced any significant maintenance issues recently, the centre is now over 50 years old and there is a recognition within the Council and Horizon that the centre is reaching the end of its life. It is expected to require replacing within this review period up to 2043, and proper maintenance by the operator until that time is crucial to ensure the crucial sports hall provision remains open until a replacement is available/under development.

The Cowplain Activity Centre sports hall was built in 1983 and underwent refurbishment in 2005. Given its age, it is likely that significant refurbishment or replacement will be required during the review period, and the Council’s sports and estates team should work with the tenant community association to monitor the condition of the facility.

Accessibility

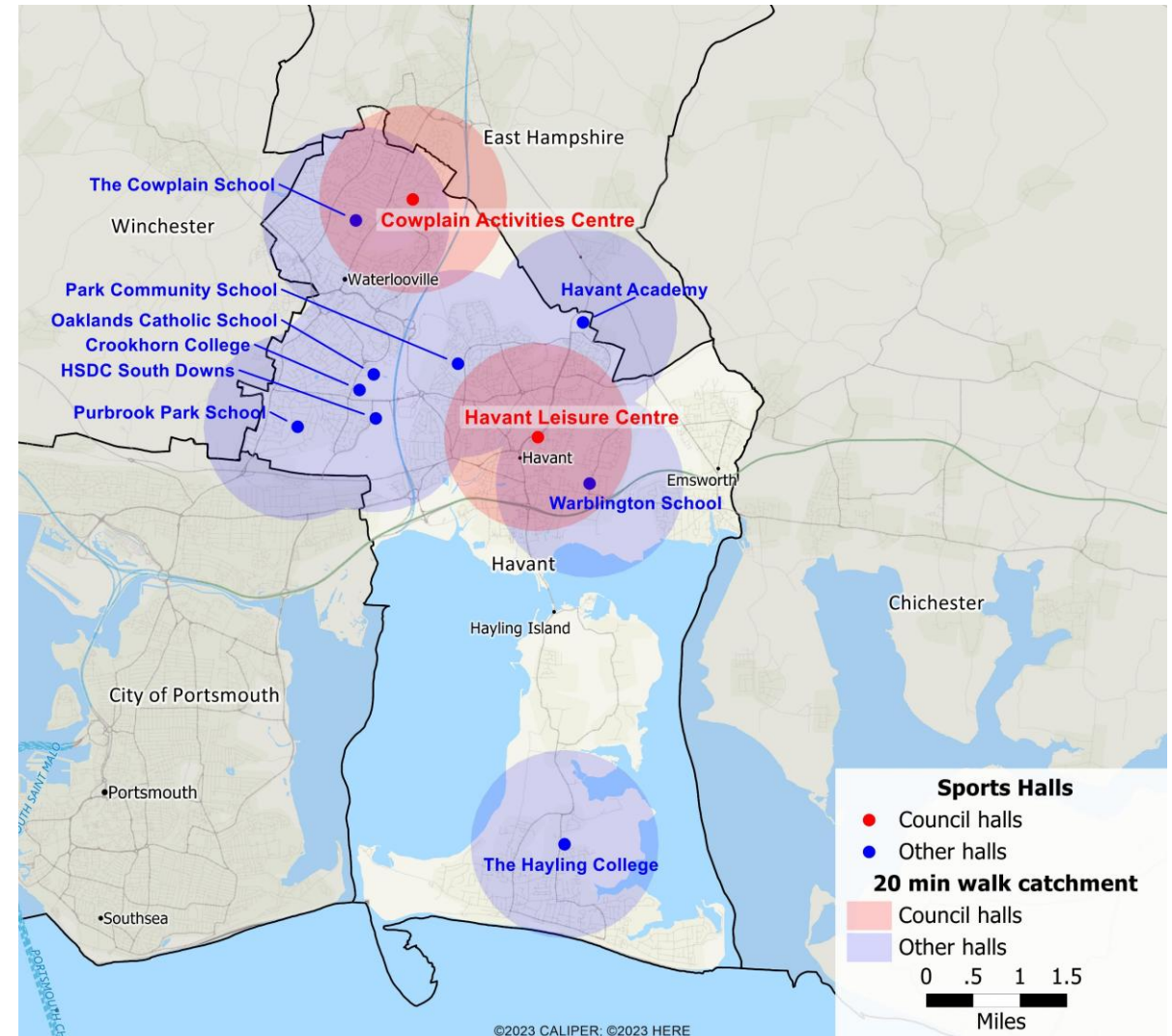
Appropriate driving time accessibility standards can be applied to sports halls to determine deficiencies in provision. Catchment mapping, based on an amalgamated 20-minute walking time, has been adopted to analyse the adequacy of coverage of sports hall provision across the Borough; it also helps to identify areas currently not served by existing sports halls.

102,095 people are within a 20-minute walk of a publicly accessible sports hall. This represents 82.2% of Havant's current population. Of these, 42,122 people (33.9% of total population) are within the catchment of the Council-owned halls. This is a low percentage, as over 65% of the population do not have easy access to a fully public sports hall.

These catchments do not align well with Sport England's identified priority areas in Map 4, although represents an improvement compared to swimming pools. Cowplain Activities Centre is positioned between Wecock and Leigh Park and captures much of these areas, with Havant LC also capturing a portion of Leigh Park. However, the majority of these areas are still outside the catchments, and the entirety of Stakes and South Hayling are excluded. These areas have been identified as the most deprived and inactive areas, and therefore the most important to be within easy walking access of Council facilities.

The catchment of the Council facilities is in highly urban areas within the towns of Havant and Waterlooville. However, many urban areas are not within any hall's catchment area, most notably Emsworth, much of Leigh Park and the southern half of Waterlooville. It is noted, however, that Bourne Leisure Centre (a Chichester DC facility) has a sports hall and includes Emsworth within its catchment. There are also gaps in provision in less populated Hayling Island. Given the more rural nature and geographical separation, however, it is more likely that residents in these areas will travel by car (up to a 20-minute drive) to access sports hall provision.

Map 7 – Sports Halls in Havant



Demand

The FPM report identifies that the resident population generates demand for 9,299 visits in the weekly peak period, which equates to 31.6 badminton courts with a comfort factor included. This demand is significantly less than the scaled supply available in Havant.

This equates to 98% of Havant’s demand being met, slightly above the regional (96%) and national (95%) averages. Unmet demand is 0.7 courts, 100% of which is residents who are too far from a sports hall.

The Council centres are well-located to meet the areas of highest demand, but not the most deprived residents.

The population is expected to grow by 14.8% by 2043 to a population of 142,620. This results in a demand for 36.3 badminton courts by 2043. There are currently no new halls planned. Table 14 shows the level of unmet demand by 2040.

Table 17 – Hall Demand 2025 & 2040

	2025		2043	
	Courts	Surplus / Deficit	Courts	Surplus / Deficit
Scaled Supply	41.0	-	41.0	-
Demand	31.6	9.4 courts	36.3	4.7 courts

There is an excess of sports hall space in both 2025 and 2043.

Havant Leisure Centre is over 50 years old and is expected to reach the end of its useful life before 2043. If not re-provided for, the loss of Havant LC’s 8-court hall would see 2043’s roughly 4-court surplus become a 4-court deficit. More importantly, it would represent the loss of the only fully public sports hall provision in the Borough, making sports halls far less accessible.

Summary

There is a surplus of sports halls in both 2025 and 2043. The education sector makes up the majority of the provision, whilst Havant Leisure Centre is a key facility as the only fully public, pay and play provision. The vast majority of the most deprived and inactive areas identified as a priority by Sport England are not within a 20-minute walk of the Council facilities, although the areas of highest demand are included.

Implications for Strategy

There is no need to build additional courts before 2043. The Council should work closely with the education sector to ensure their key provision remains accessible and affordable for the community (e.g., through community use agreements), and work with the operators to ensure the Council’s facilities remain accessible.

4.4

Health & Fitness



HEALTH & FITNESS SUITES

Health and fitness facilities of significance are normally defined as facilities with a minimum of 20 stations, which provides a better variety and availability of equipment.

Supply

Quantity

There are currently 14 operational gym facilities in Havant, 11 of which meet the criteria for inclusion of public access and 20+ station. These total 1,215 stations.

These 11 sites consist of the 2 Council-owned facilities (Havant LC and Waterlooville LC), 1 education site and 9 commercial facilities.

The 9 commercial facilities consist of 3 sites from 2 large operators, 2 hotels/resorts and 4 independent operators. They are largely priced in the budget-medium range, with the two hotel / resort locations being a slightly more expensive premium offer. PureGym is the largest provider with 440 stations across two sites.

Since the previous report in 2018, there have been a number of closures and openings. The number of stations has significantly increased from 765 to 1,215 given the size of the new commercial gyms. The 2 Council-owned facilities contain 310 stations, a market share of 26%, down from 40% previously.

All health & fitness suites in the Borough are shown in Table 18, with those excluded from this study highlighted in grey. It should be noted that given the recent opening of Anytime Fitness Hayling, its station count is not yet listed and an estimation has been made from photos and their other sites.

Table 18 – Health & Fitness Suites

Name	Stations	Access Type	Ownership	Year Built	Year Refurb
Havant Leisure Centre	160	Registered Membership	Local Authority	1982	2015
Waterlooville Leisure Centre	150*	Registered Membership	Local Authority	1991	2012 (2027)*
HSDC South Downs	21	Pay and Play	Education	2003	2006
Leigh Fitness	54	Pay and Play	Commercial	2015	-
My Fitness Hub Havant	160	Registered Membership	Commercial	1993	-
	30	Registered Membership	Commercial	2015	-
PureGym (Waterlooville)	220	Registered Membership	Commercial	2000	2020
Activ Health Fitness Centre	50	Registered Membership	Commercial	2009	-
Sinah Warren	30	Registered Membership	Commercial	2001	2008
Langstone Quays Resort	40	Registered Membership	Commercial	1987	2015
PureGym (Havant)	220	Registered Membership	Commercial	2025	-
Anytime Fitness Hayling	80 (est)	Registered Membership	Commercial	2025	-
Oaklands Catholic School	30	Private Use	Education	2001	-
Avenue Lawn Tennis Squash And Fitness Club	16	Registered Membership	Sports Club	1972	2010
Seacourt Tennis Club	17	Registered Membership	Commercial	1995	2011

* Plans are under development for an internal refurbishment of Waterlooville LC, which will see the fitness suite and studios reconfigured. The new number of stations is not yet known.

Availability

All 11 facilities, including both of the Council-owned facilities, are accessed through a membership, with some offering pay-and-play via day passes. Whilst typically the commercial sector is less affordable than the public sector and can create availability concerns given a cost barrier, that is not the case in Havant. Standard monthly memberships at the vast majority of commercial facilities are in the £20-40 range; the Council facilities are not the sole provider of a relatively affordable option. However, it is important to note that cost still remains a barrier, and the Council facilities are key for providing a service which is affordable and appropriate to those who face the greatest inequalities and challenges to being physically active. This is achieved by offering subsidised memberships to certain groups and schemes such as GP referral and community discounts. It is vital that the Council protect and continue this provision to ensure fitness facilities are available to all.

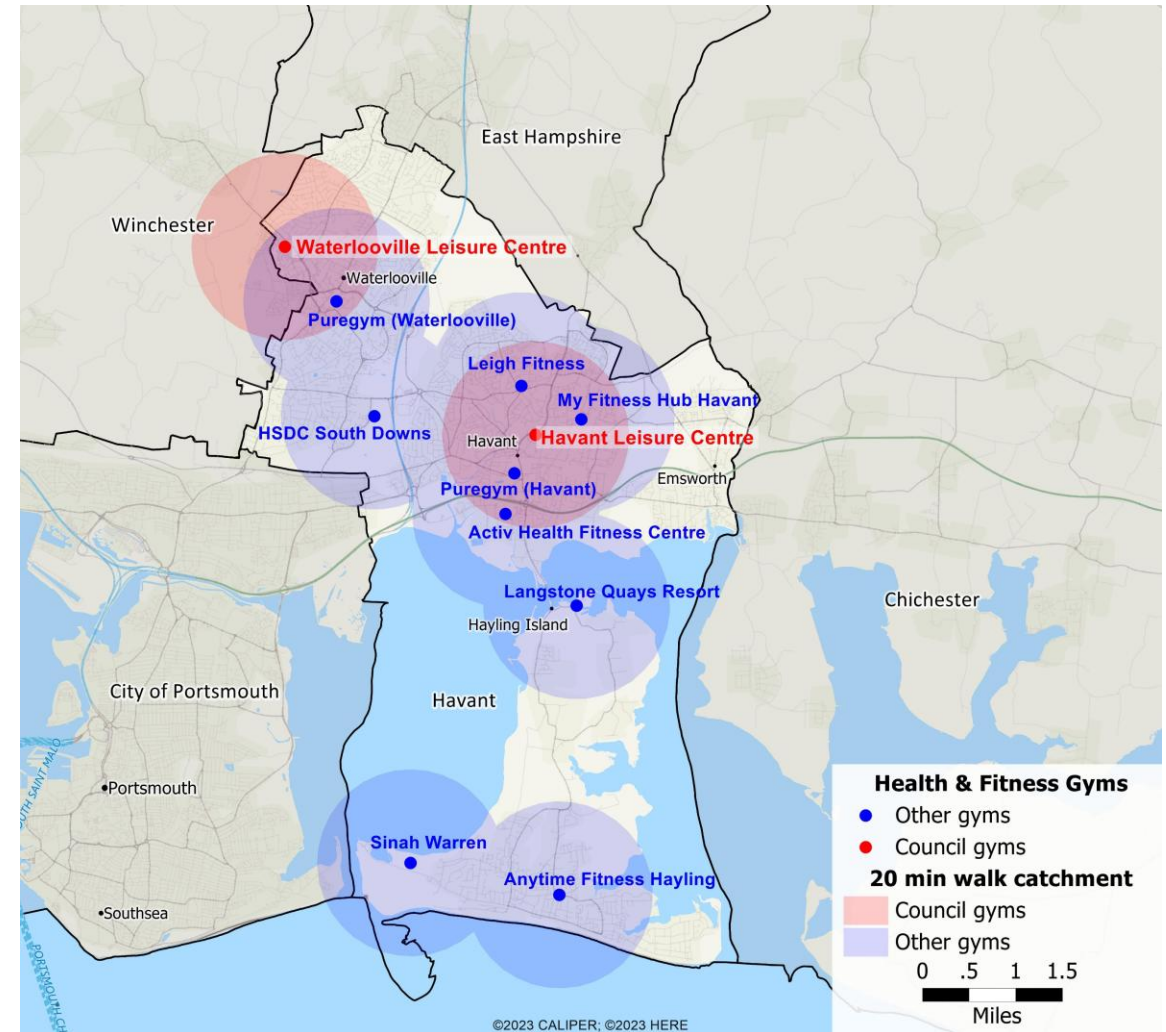
Quality

There are plans to enhance and refurbish the Waterlooville LC suite, which will result in a high quality. The Havant LC gym was improved in 2015, connecting it to the rest of the building's interior. Their condition should be monitored and improved as necessary going forward to ensure a high quality of service. Commercial facilities are generally of a good quality and all bar one has been built/refurbished since 2008.

Accessibility

A 20-minute walking time has been applied to all health & fitness suites in the Borough in Map 8. 87,065 people are within a 20-minute walk of a publicly accessible gym, 70.1% of Havant's current population. 35,847 of these (28.9% of total population) are within the catchment of the Council-owned facilities. The catchment covers the majority of the urban areas and most deprived areas, with the only high-population areas not covered being Emsworth and the north of Waterlooville/Leigh Park. It should be noted again that Emsworth is within the catchment of Bourne Leisure Centre, a Chichester DC facility with a gym.

Map 8 – Health & Fitness Suites in Havant



Demand

The growth in provision of health and fitness facilities in the Borough in recent years indicates a strong demand for memberships; Havant's commercial gym market continues to grow and is clearly yet to hit saturation. The housing growth planned across the Borough and the population growth of 14.8% by 2043 is likely to increase the level of demand for health and fitness suites.

Gym sessions remain an incredibly popular form of exercise, with the latest Active Lives survey showing that 12.7% of the national population engage in a gym session at least twice per month, representing the 3rd most popular form of exercise.

Summary

There is a growing commercial gym sector in the Borough which is priced affordably. The Council facilities represent a significant minority market share of 26%. Demand is expected to continue to grow as the population increases up until 2040.

Implications for Strategy

There is an opportunity for the Council to extend its fitness offer, increasing its market share and attracting new members from emerging residents. More broadly, whilst Council-owned fitness facilities can be profit-generating and subsidise other sports facilities, they serve a unique role in the fitness market. By working with health and community bodies and utilising referral schemes and subsidised memberships, these facilities provide a vital access point to those who face the greatest inequalities and challenges to being physically active. Council-owned fitness facilities provide a significant opportunity to create an integrated preventative health network and positively impact public health & physical inequality, and whilst commercialising these gyms brings many benefits, it should not be at the expense of this vital role.

DANCE / AEROBIC STUDIOS

Dance/aerobic studios are areas that provide a multi-purpose space, accommodating a wide range of activities for movement and exercise. Typically dance/aerobic studios are located at leisure centres and schools, to supplement Health and Fitness provision. However, general purpose spaces at activity halls and community centres can also provide the community with (more restricted) spaces for sporting activities and exercise classes.

Supply

Quantity

There are currently 22 public fitness studios in Havant across 16 sites. 5 are at Council-owned facilities, 7 at education sites and 9 at commercial facilities. Additionally, there are plans to refurbish the interior of Waterlooville Leisure Centre, which will see the studio provision increase from 2 to 4 in 2027. This will include the provision of dedicated spin and box12 studios in addition to the multi-purpose studios, catering for a wide range of high and low intensity fitness classes. As such, we have modelled against this future scenario and included 4 studios at Waterlooville LC.

This represents a significant increase since the previous report in 2018, when there were 14 studios.

These are listed in Table 19 on the next page.

We have been unable to source certain data points for some facilities not listed on Active Places Power.

Availability

The studios are spread across a mix of Council-owned, commercial and education facilities. All are available through a membership or community club, with some also offering pay and play access, including the Council sites.

In addition, the activity/community halls listed in the sports halls section can also function as studios for classes. School studios will have limited access times but there is enough availability across the range sites.

Quality

The quality of the Council studios is fair; all studios are in reasonable condition. Their condition should be monitored and improved as necessary going forward to ensure a high quality of service.

Commercial facilities are generally of a good quality.

AUDIT OF FACILITY SUPPLY AND DEMAND ASSESSMENT

Dance / Aerobic Studios

Table 19 – Dance / Aerobic Studio Supply

Name	Size sqm	Access Type	Ownership	Year Built	Year Refurb
Havant Leisure Centre	98	Registered Membership	Local Authority	1985	-
	200	Community Club / Association	Local Authority	2017	-
Waterlooville Leisure Centre	36	Registered Membership	Local Authority	2010	2018
	100	Registered Membership	Local Authority	2015	-
	TBC	Registered Membership	Local Authority	2027	
	TBC	Registered Membership	Local Authority	2027	
Crookhorn College	144	Community Club / Association	Education	2001	-
My Fitness Hub Havant	164	Registered Membership	Commercial	1993	-
	80	Registered Membership	Commercial	2015	-
	72	Registered Membership	Commercial	2015	-
The Cowplain School	180	Community Club / Association	Education	2017	
	240	Community Club / Association	Education	1971	
	100	Community Club / Association	Education	2012	
Puregym (Waterlooville)	150	Registered Membership	Commercial	2000	2014
Park Community School	120	Community Club / Association	Education	2005	-
Langstone Quays Resort	90	Registered Membership	Commercial	1987	2015
Sinah Warren	180	Registered Membership	Commercial	2018	-
Havant Academy	144	Community Club / Association	Education	2006	2012
Puregym (Havant)	150	Registered Membership	Commercial	2025	-
Moods Gym	?	Registered Membership	Commercial	2010	-
Horizon Wellbeing Hub	?	Registered Membership	Local Authority	2023	-
Hayling Sports Centre	?	Registered Membership	Local Authority	1981	?
Warblington School	?	Community Club / Association	Education	1975	?
Anytime Fitness Hayling	?	Registered Membership	Commercial	2025	-
HSDC South Downs	200	Private Use	Education	2003	-

Accessibility

The normal acceptable standard would be to apply a 20-minute drive time catchment for studio facilities. Map 9 shows that all residents in the Borough can access a public dance/aerobic studio within a 10-minute drive time.

Demand

The latest Active Lives survey shows that 14.2% of the national population engage in a fitness class at least twice per month, representing the most popular form of exercise, showing a recent significant increase. This demand will likely continue to grow as the population of the Borough increases up to 2043.

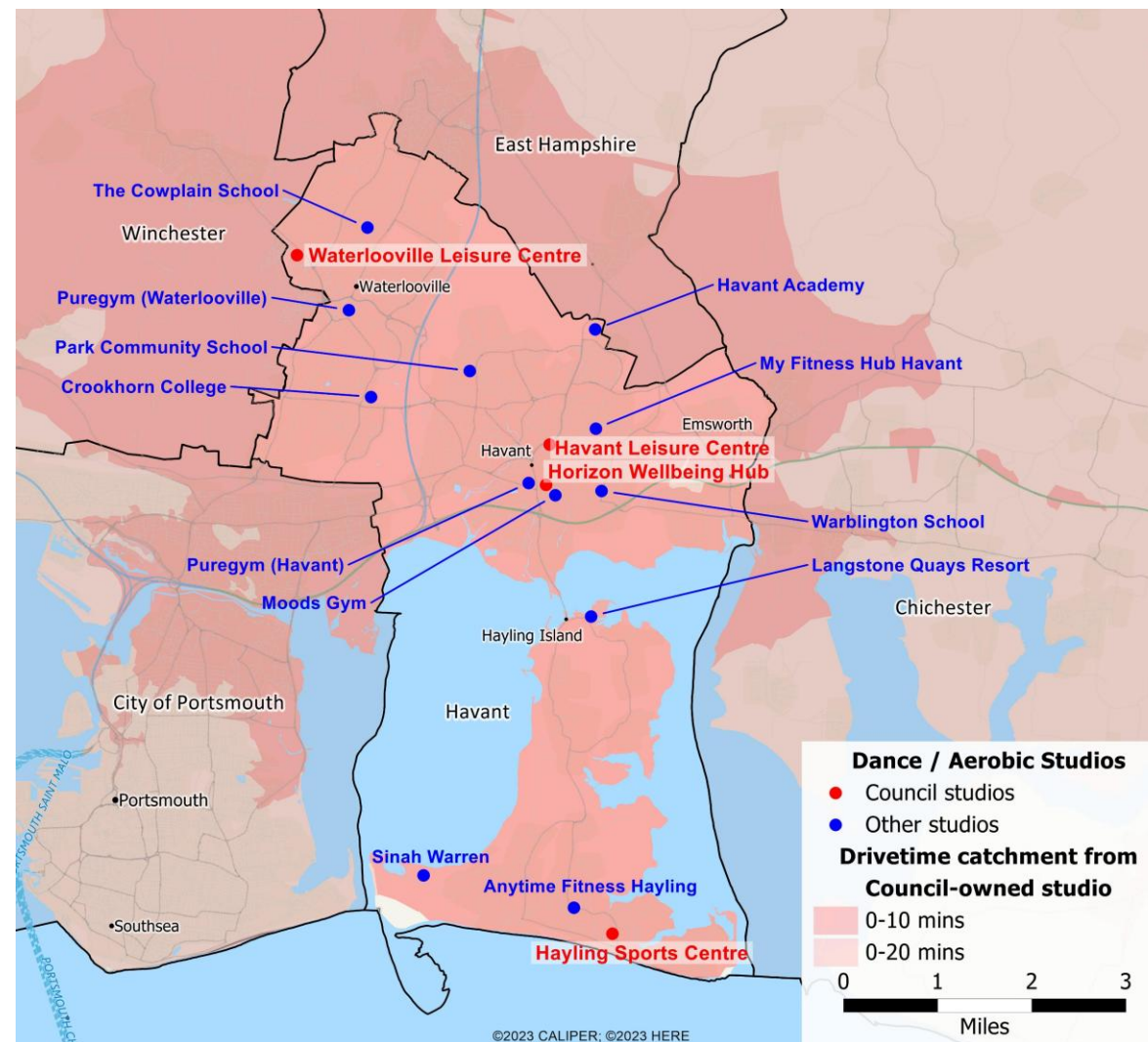
Summary

There is a strong provision of studios in the Borough across a range of providers, with Council facilities providing a significant minority share of the market. Demand is very high and will continue to grow.

Implications for Strategy

The Council are already increasing their studio provision with the refurbishment of Waterlooville LC. Further studio provision should be considered as part of any new leisure centre developments and is likely to form an important part of the facility mix, subject to an examination of demand at that time.

Map 9 – Dance / Aerobic Studios in Havant



4.5

Specialist Facilities



SQUASH / RACKETBALL COURTS

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 and coaches to watch squash matches and training sessions and are therefore more popular than solid wall squash courts. Racketball is also played on squash courts, although they are two completely different sports, they require similar skill sets and the same environment for play.

Supply

Quantity

There are 8 courts across 3 sites in Havant, 1 of which is at a Council site with the rest located at local sports clubs. There are 3 glass-backed courts and 5 normal courts. This represents no change from the previous 2018 report.

The provision of squash courts is shown in Table 20.

Table 20 – Squash Court Supply

Name	Courts	Type	Access Type	Ownership	Year Built	Year Refurb
Havant Leisure Centre	1	Glass-backed	Pay and Play	Local Authority	1986	2009
Seacourt Tennis Club	3	Normal	Registered Membership	Sports Club	1966	2006
	1	Glass-backed	Registered Membership	Sports Club	1966	2006
Avenue Lawn Tennis Squash And Fitness Club	2	Normal	Club / Association	Sports Club	1972	2007
	1	Glass-backed	Club / Association	Sports Club	1972	2007

Availability

The court at Havant Leisure Centre is fully public with pay and play access. The courts at the Seacourt and Avenue Lawn clubs all require a membership to the club.

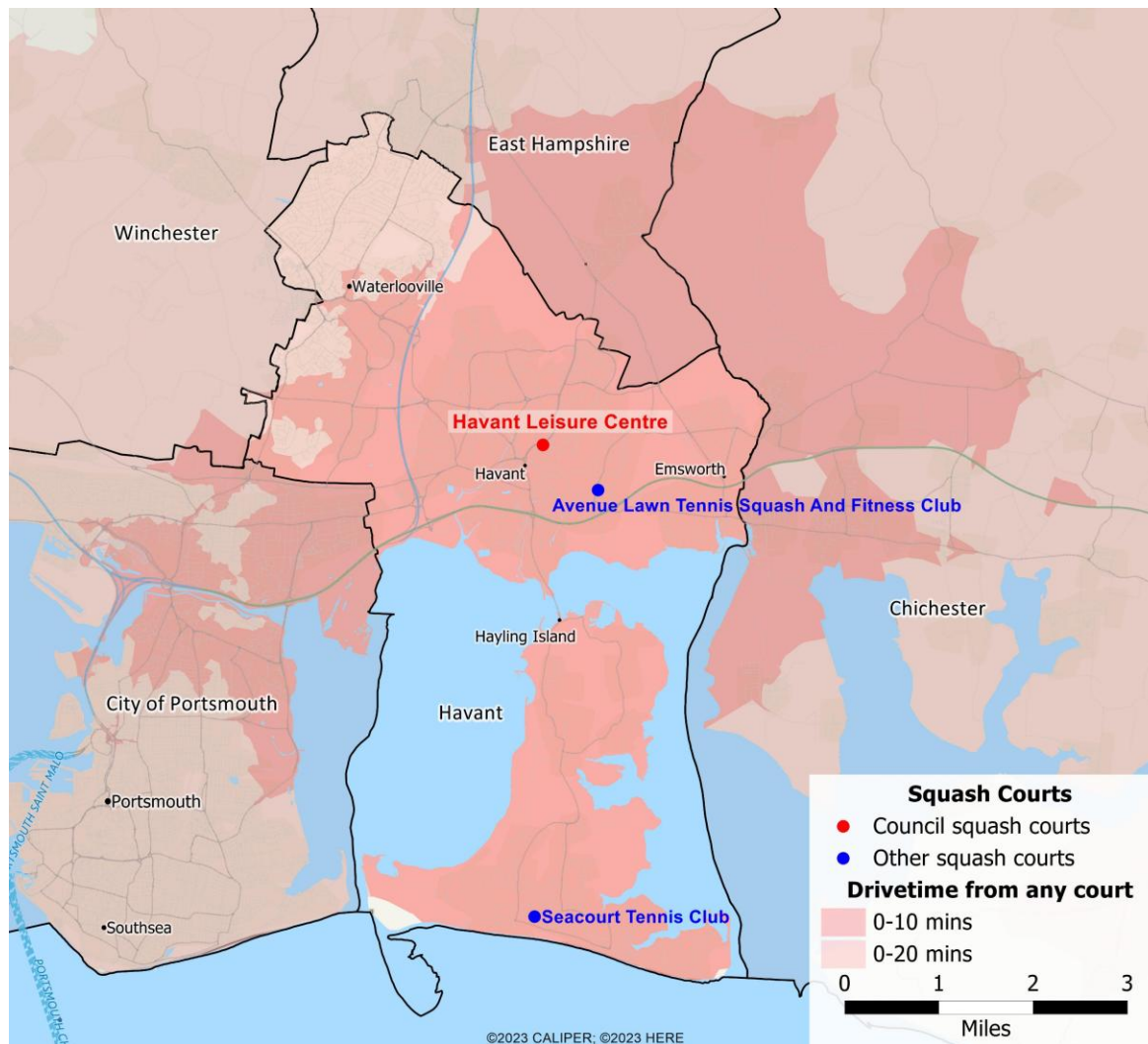
Quality

All courts are aging having been built by 1986, but all have been refurbished in the last 20 years and should be in relatively good condition. The court at Havant Leisure Centre is part of an old building which is likely to be closed within the review period.

Accessibility

The normal acceptable standard would be to apply a 20-minute drive time catchment for squash courts. Map 10 on the next page shows that all residents in the Borough can access a squash court within a 20-minute drive time, with the vast majority of the population being within a 10-minute drive.

Map 10 – Squash / Racketball Courts in Havant



Demand

The latest active lives survey shows a significant decline in demand of 33% for squash since 2016. It shows the current participation level is around 0.6% of the population.

Squash England comment that the recommended number of courts should meet its national requirement of 1 court per 10,000 people. For Havant, that would represent a current shortfall of 4 courts, increasing to 6 by 2043. In our consultation, however, the Avenue Club stated their squash courts are only used 40% of the time.

Summary

There are 8 publicly available squash courts in the Borough, 1 of which is provided by the Council. Demand is low and currently declining, although the existing supply falls short of Squash England’s recommend level of provision.

Implications for Strategy

Squash England recommend increasing the provision of facilities to meet the current unmet demand and the additional demand generated by a growing population. However, further detailed analysis of the demand should be undertaken given that Avenue Tennis Squash & Rackets Club reported that their courts are underutilised and the wider trends in squash participation.

INDOOR BOWLS

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.

Supply

Quantity

There is one indoor bowls facility in the Borough, Warner Lakeside Indoor Bowls Club in Hayling Island. It is available for use by members and is owned and operated by the user club. This facility has six indoor rinks. This represents no change since the previous 2018 study.

The provision of indoor bowls is shown in Table 21.

Table 21 – Indoor Bowls Supply

Name	Rinks	Access Type	Ownership	Year Built
Warner Lakeside Indoor Bowls Club	6	Sports Club	Commercial	1990

Additionally, there is an extensive provision of outdoor bowls clubs as listed in the Playing Pitch Strategy. Many of these facilities also provide all-weather facilities, enabling year-round play.

Quality

The club did not respond to our request for consultation to establish the condition of the facilities. Built in 1990, it is assumed that the facilities are in fair condition with some issues.

Availability

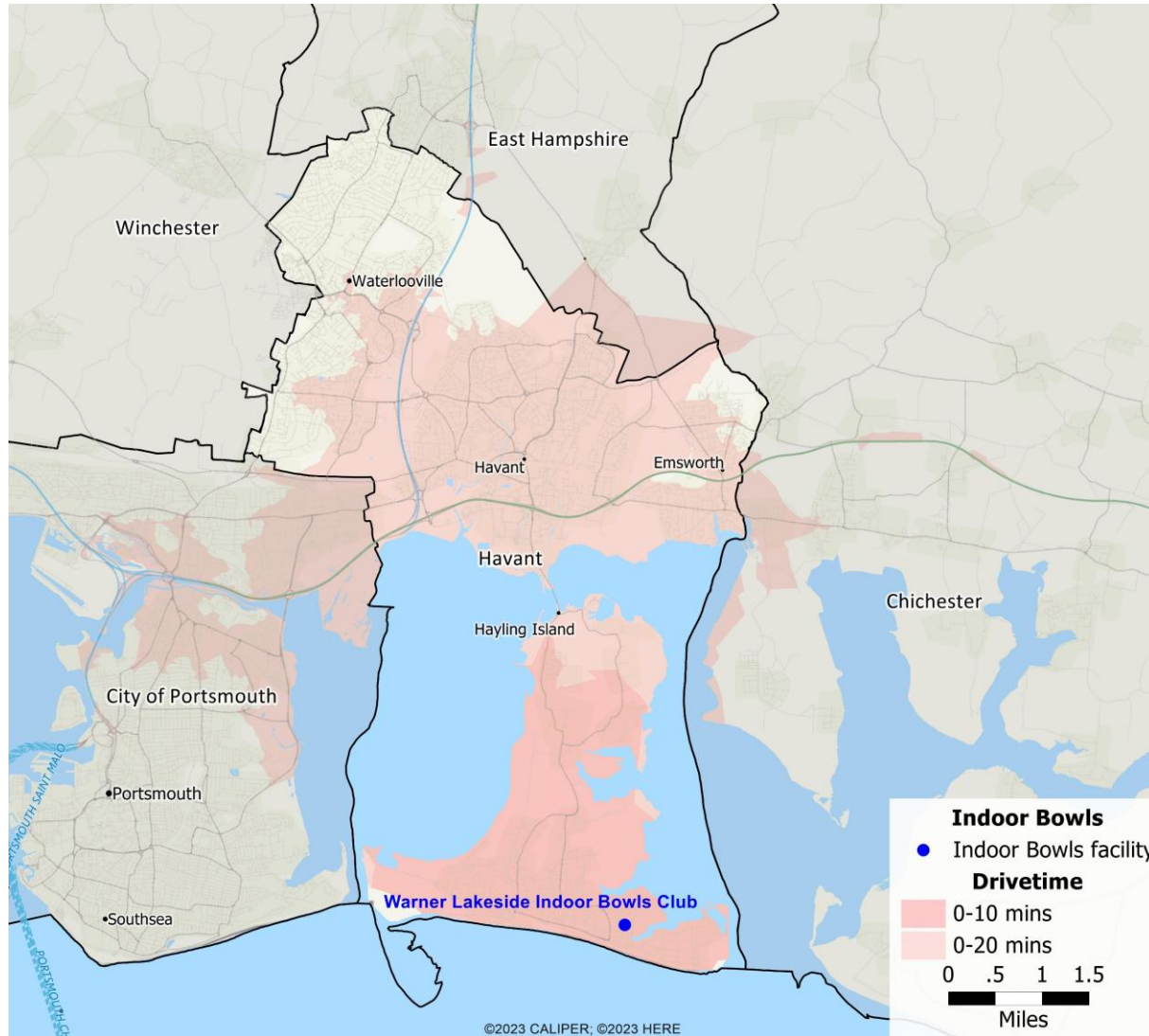
The 6 rinks are only available to members of the club.

Accessibility

The normal acceptable standard would be to apply a 20-minute drive time catchment for indoor bowls facilities. Map 11 on the next page shows that the vast majority of residents in the Borough can access the indoor bowls facility within a 20-minute drive time.

The only areas beyond the 20-minute catchment are parts of Waterlooville and Leigh Park. These areas are very close to the Portsmouth border, and there are easily accessible facilities beyond the limits of Havant Borough Council.

Map 11 – Indoor Bowls Facilities in Havant



Demand

The latest active lives survey shows a significant decline in demand of 22% for bowls since 2016, but stable in the last 12 months. It shows the current participation level is around 0.6% of the population.

The Borough has an aging population, and this is expected to become more pronounced by 2043. This age demographic has a higher tendency to participate in bowls.

As more outdoor bowls clubs provide all weather facilities, enabling year-round play, there is less demand for dedicated indoor facilities.

Summary

There is one indoor bowls facility in the Borough which is within the 20-minute catchment of the majority of the Borough. Demand is low but stable and expected to remain stable or slightly increase as the population grows and ages.

Implications for Strategy

There is currently no need for an additional facility, especially given the extensive outdoor and all-weather bowls provision, but the Council should work with the existing club to protect the provision it does provide.

GYMNASTICS

Gymnastics requires a diverse range of specification of facility depending upon the disciplines/activities being run. A “dedicated gymnastics centre” can be defined as a facility for the sole use and purpose of gymnastics. Such facilities can be “free standing” single buildings, or part of a larger complex, such as a school or leisure centre. A dedicated facility is one that is purpose built and dedicated for gymnastics use with equipment permanently laid out.

A “non-dedicated gymnastics centre” is defined as a multi-use facility such as sports halls at a school or leisure centre. Gymnastics clubs generally require access to good standard sports halls that have provision for storage of equipment, particularly for trampoline and low-level gymnastic equipment and matting.

Supply

Quantity

There are currently 2 dedicated gymnastics facilities in the Borough, one of which is Council-owned, located within Havant Leisure Centre. It provides a range of disciplines but is only suitable to recreational children’s gymnastics. The other facility, owned and operated by Solent Gymnastics Club, is suitable for a higher level of gymnastics for both adults and children.

All the previously listed sports halls/activity halls/studios are theoretically usable as non-dedicated gymnastics facilities, subject to programming. One such activity hall is currently utilised for gymnastics at Oakland School, and one studio at CrossFit Iron Duke.

Table 22 – Gymnastics Supply

Name	Type	Provision	Access Type	Ownership	Year Built
Havant Leisure Centre	Dedicated	Children-only	Pay And Play	Local Authority	1984
Solent Gymnastics Club	Dedicated	All ages	Club / Association	Sports Club	2019
Just Jump (Oakland School)	Non-dedicated	Children-only	Club / Association	Education	1970
Raw Kids (Crossfit Iron Duke)	Non-dedicated	Children-only	Club / Association	Commercial	2014

Availability

The facilities are only available through club membership / course enrolment with the exception of Havant Leisure Centre.

Quality

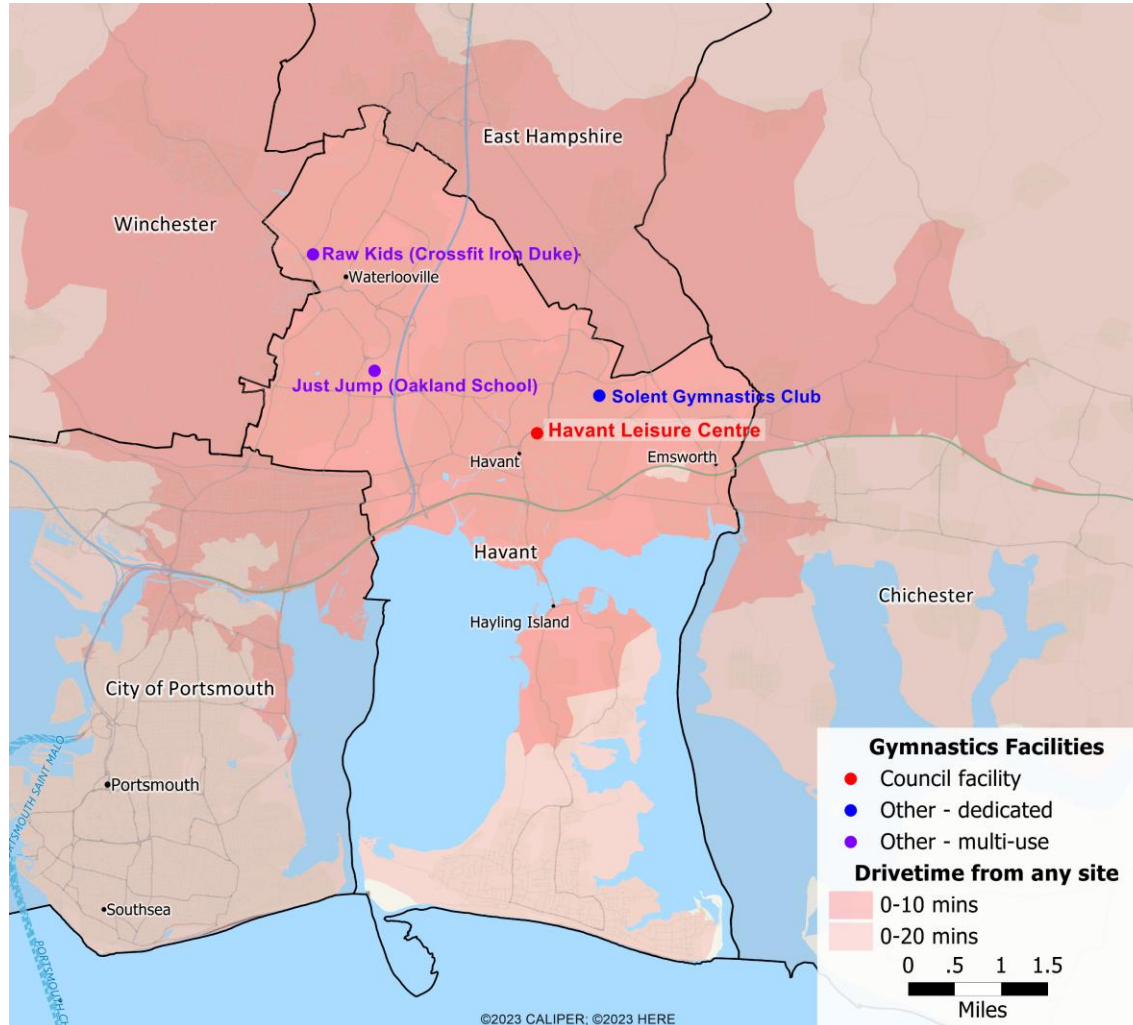
Havant Leisure Centre is an old building and is expected to reach the end of its useful life by 2043. The facility is generally tired and of a relatively poor quality. Solent Gymnastics Club is a new facility, with full Olympic standard equipment and specialist recreational equipment.

There is a very high-quality gymnastics facility near the border in Portsmouth. This site provides competitive standard facilities for those who need a higher quality of facilities and easily accessible to most of the Borough.

Accessibility

The normal acceptable standard would be to apply a 20-minute drive time catchment for gymnastics facilities. Map 12 on the next page shows that all residents in the Borough can access a gymnastics facility within a 20-minute drive time, with Hayling Island the only location within a 10-minute drive.

Map 12 – Gymnastics Facilities in Havant



Demand

The latest active lives survey shows the current participation level in gymnastics / trampolining is around 0.8% of the population. This represents a 17% decrease since 2016. The participation rate is higher in children, who represent the vast majority of demand.

Solent Gymnastics Club reported in our consultation that they have around 400 members participating per week, and they operate at capacity at peak times.

Summary

There are 2 dedicated gymnastics facilities. 1 is Council-owned and is only of a quality to provide entry-level children’s gymnastics, and the other is a newer facility providing a higher quality facility for all ages. There are also 2 non-dedicated facilities currently being used for gymnastics, and a large range of others which could be. The north-east of Portsmouth has a large, high-quality gymnastics facility.

Implications for Strategy

There is not currently a need for more gymnastics facilities within the Borough. If more demand arises, there is a large range of multi-use facilities which could provide gymnastics facilities up to a certain level of quality. Much of the demand requiring high-quality facilities will be exported to Portsmouth.

SPECIALIST HEALTH & FITNESS

Specialist health & fitness facilities provide an atypical fitness offer, such as targeted functional fitness suites, boxing studios or martial arts dojos. They typically operate on a different model, with a programme largely based on group sessions, and often act more like a sports club than a public gym. Their highly targeted nature means they are considered separately from traditional health & fitness gyms and are not included in the previous calculations of gym stations within the Borough.

They require a range of facility spaces, depending upon the disciplines being run. A dedicated facility can be defined as a facility for the sole use and purpose of hosting sport and exercise. Multi-use/non-dedicated facilities can be defined as any flexible space which is currently being utilised for delivering specialist health & fitness sessions.

Given this different classification, Sport England typically do not include these facilities on Active Places Power.

Supply

Quantity

There are currently 7 dedicated specialist health and fitness facilities in the Borough, none of which are owned by the Council. These are a mix of CrossFit and boxing studios. Two boxing clubs currently utilise non-dedicated facilities; one studio in a shopping centre and one Council-owned community hall.

The potential supply of non-dedicated facilities in the Borough is extensive and includes all previously listed activity/community halls and studios.

Since these facilities do not appear on Active Places Power, some details are not known with certainty, and the list may contain errors / omissions.

Table 23 – Specialist Fitness Suites Supply

Name	Type	Access Type	Ownership
Basecamp	Dedicated	Registered Membership	Commercial
Basepoint Crossfit	Dedicated	Registered Membership	Commercial
Crossfit Hayling Island	Dedicated	Registered Membership	Commercial
Crossfit Iron Duke Waterlooville	Dedicated	Registered Membership	Commercial
PFM Fitness Gym Havant	Dedicated	Registered Membership	Commercial
Warriers Gym	Dedicated	Registered Membership	Commercial
Back To Fitness Gym & Boxing	Dedicated	Registered Membership	Commercial
Waterlooville Boxing Club (Wellington Way Shopping Centre)	Non-dedicated	Club / Association	Commercial
Leigh Park Boxing Club (Leigh Park Community Centre)	Non-dedicated	Club / Association	Local Authority

Availability

As the facilities are not listed on Active Places Power, it is not known what their exact access type is. It is, however, reasonable to assume that all require membership of or enrolment in the tenant / owner club.

Quality

As the facilities are not listed on Active Places Power, their build dates are unknown. All clubs were contacted for consultation; of those who responded, all said that their facility was in good condition. None of the facilities are owned by the Council, so the Council bears no responsibility over their upkeep.

Accessibility

The normal acceptable standard would be to apply a 20-minute drive time catchment for specialist fitness facilities. Map 13 shows that all residents of the Borough can access a specialist fitness facility within a 10-minute drive.

Demand

The latest active lives survey shows an increase in demand of 17% for combat sports / martial arts since 2016. It shows the current participation level is around 2.0% of the population. Whilst functional fitness (e.g., CrossFit) is not specifically captured by Active Lives, this type of fitness is becoming increasingly popular, driven by the success of events such as Hyrox.

Whilst the growing popularity of this kind of exercise and the forecast population growth will likely see demand increase, this will be mitigated as the population growth is largely in older groups, who are less likely to participate in functional fitness / combat sports / martial arts.

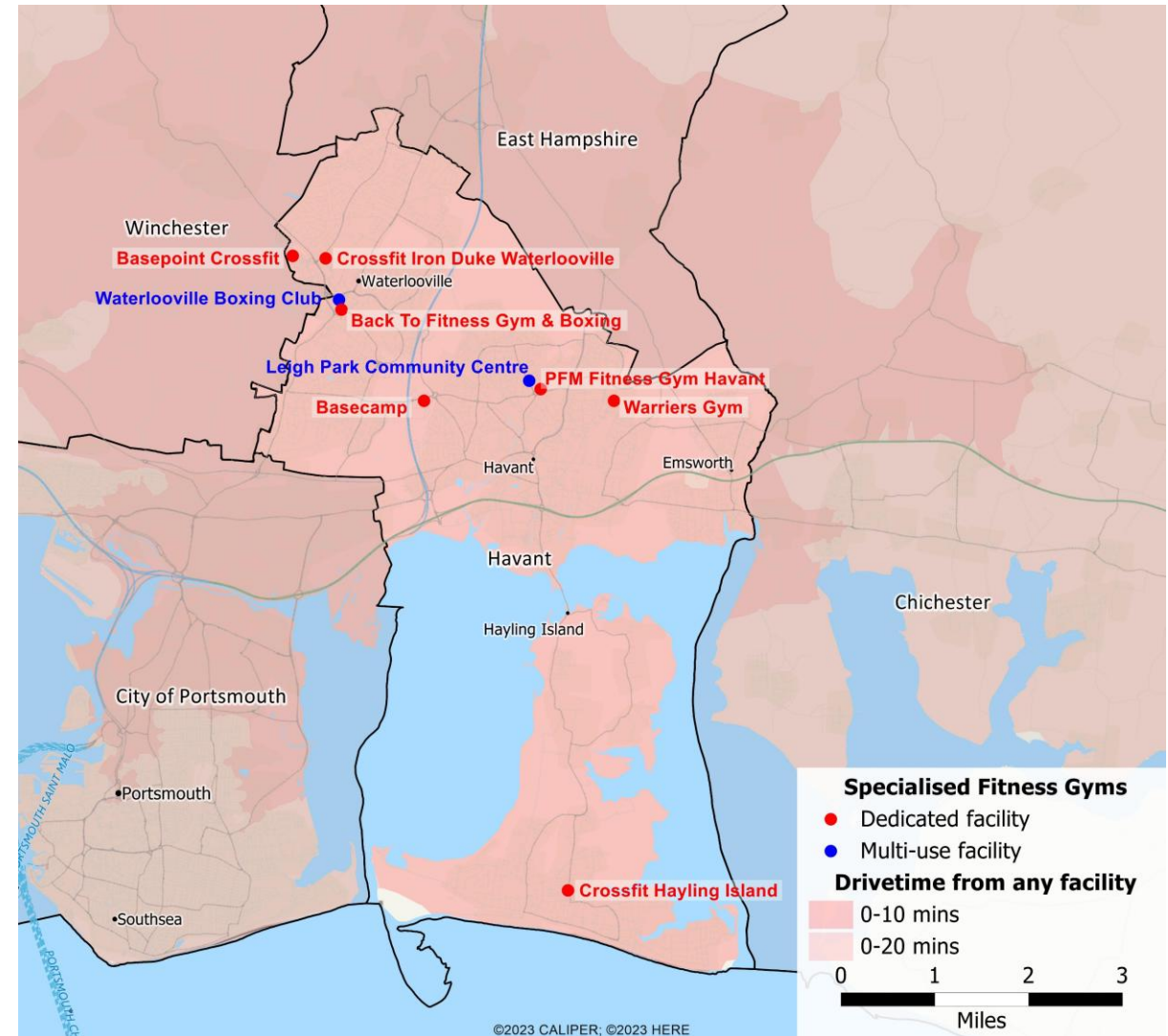
Summary

There is a range of specialist fitness facilities available via club membership. Many more suitable spaces are not currently utilised. Demand is expected to slightly increase.

Implications for Strategy

There is no need for the Council to consider developing their own specialist fitness facilities given the prevalence of the commercial sector in this space and extent of facilities which could be used as non-dedicated facilities.

Map 13 – Specialist Fitness Studios in Havant



INDOOR TENNIS / PADEL

Indoor tennis / padel courts are completely covered by a roof. There are three main types of indoor court structure; air-supported structures, fabric frame structures and rigid frame buildings.

Supply

There are currently no indoor tennis facilities in Havant. There are 54 publicly accessible outdoor tennis courts in the Borough.

There are currently no padel courts in the Borough, indoor or outdoor.

Demand

The latest Active Lives survey shows that 1.9% of the population participate in tennis. This level has been relatively stable since 2016. It makes no distinction between indoor and outdoor tennis.

In our consultation, the LTA believe that the population projections warrant indoor tennis courts in Havant. They do not, however, include Havant in their list of 96 target authorities across the UK as a priority for developing indoor tennis courts, which allows an authority to unlock LTA funding.

Padel is an emerging sport experiencing significant growth. The latest Active Lives survey estimates that the participation rate increased by 150% from 2023 to 2024.

The LTA estimate a current demand for at least 9 padel courts in Havant.

Summary

There are currently no indoor tennis facilities in Havant but a large provision of outdoor tennis courts. The LTA believe the current population plus forecasted growth warrants some provision of indoor tennis.

There are currently no indoor or outdoor padel courts, with the LTA estimating a current demand for at least 9 courts.

Implications for Strategy

Development of indoor tennis would deliver a high-quality, weather independent facility for a popular sport. Given the ample supply of outdoor courts and the fact the LTA do not class Havant as a priority area, however, there is not a strong need to develop indoor tennis and providing this is very low priority.

There is an opportunity for the Council to develop padel courts, providing against an identified unmet demand for an emerging sport. These courts would not necessarily need to be indoors. Whilst not a priority development, the Council should consider commissioning a padel feasibility study with a view to delivering a potentially highly-utilised, commercially successful facility. A key focus of this study should be on the different operating models available and how they can be utilised to balance commerciality against accessibility for the local community, avoiding the common pitfall of making the sport inaccessible through over-commercialising the assets.

INDOOR ATHLETICS

Indoor athletics facilities are completely covered by a roof and dedicated to track and field athletics. It does not include multi-purpose spaces where some athletics can be practiced, such as sports halls.

Supply

There are currently no indoor athletics facilities in Havant or neighbouring authorities. Havant Athletics Club reported in our consultation that they use the indoor sports hall at Oaklands School, but this does not provide enough time or space for their needs.

Additionally, there are currently no outdoor synthetic athletics tracks within the Borough. Athletics is primarily an outdoor sport, and residents must travel to Chichester or Portsmouth to access a track. Havant Athletics Club again reported issues with accessing these out-of-Borough facilities.

Demand

The latest Active Lives survey shows that 0.5% of the population engage in track & field athletics. It does not differentiate between indoor and outdoor athletics.

Track and field athletics can all be performed at outdoor facilities, with indoor facilities generally only required at regional athletics hubs for high-performance training or dedicated indoor tournaments.

England Athletics stated that they would like to see 1 athletics/multi-use space developed in the area, ideally 82m+ long to accommodate 60m sprints.

Summary

There are currently no indoor athletics facilities in Havant or the nearby area, and England Athletics would like to see one developed in the region. Additionally, there are currently no outdoor synthetic athletics tracks in the Borough.

Implications for Strategy

There is the opportunity to include a dedicated indoor athletics facility to serve as a regional hub for athletics. This is specialist facility and not a high-priority, but would be a valuable provision for the sport. Neighbouring authorities may be more suitable locations – the Council should consider engaging them, England Athletics and local clubs. Consideration of this development may be more appropriate for the post-LGR unitary authority.

Whilst not an indoor facility, there is a need to provide a synthetic outdoor athletics track within the Borough. Council or school playing fields would be suitable locations for such a facility.

INDOOR CYCLING

Indoor cycling facilities are dedicated facilities for indoor cycling. This does not include cycling studios for group exercise classes, which are included in the dance / aerobic studio section. There are 3 main types: velodrome, BMX track and BMX park.

Supply

There are currently no indoor cycling facilities in Havant.

Demand

The latest Active Lives survey shows that cycling for leisure and sport remains very popular, with 12.3% of the population participation. It does not, however, differentiate between indoor and outdoor cycling, or between the different types of cycling (road, track, BMX etc).

The vast majority of cycling takes places outdoors, and British cycling did not respond to our request for consultation, so we can assume that they do not view Havant as a priority area for developing indoor cycling facilities.

Summary

There are currently no indoor cycling facilities in Havant, and no provable demand to develop them. British Cycling did not engage in the study.

Implications for Strategy

There is not a need to develop plans for an indoor cycling facility.

05

STAGE C

Indoor Sport Facility Strategy



5.1

Introduction



Introduction

The purpose of this strategy and action plan is to provide an indoor sports facility strategy document and a prioritised and timeline action plan for the Borough, which incorporates the key findings from the needs assessment. It includes a long-term view to 2043 and makes recommendations to inform decisions on future facility investment. It contains substantial proposals for new leisure and recreation facilities.

The strategy will form part of the evidence base for providing indoor sports facilities, in conjunction with HBC's Local Plan, and will be referenced as a basis for securing external investment, either from development 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 Borough are co-ordinated and planned by HBC and its partners, with reference to strategic need and the needs assessment work included in this document.

HBC cannot guarantee that facility improvements contained in this strategy will be provided; the aim of the strategy is to prioritise the projects to direct future investment and so that money that is available can be used to best benefit.

Developing the Strategy

This strategy is based on a considerable amount of background research work regarding the future needs for sport and recreation provision. It has been developed using a number of recognised sports facility planning tools and a wide-ranging consultation with relevant stakeholders.

Recommended facility planning tools were applied, including Sport England's Active Places and Active Lives. The strategy is also informed by analysis of the results of Sport England Facility Planning Model for Sports Halls and Swimming Pools. These reports were commissioned specifically for this purpose.

Over 100 individuals and organisations were invited to input as part of the consultation, including facility users, clubs, facility operators, council officers and National Governing Bodies of Sport.

A comprehensive audit of provision in the Borough was completed. 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.

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.

Action Plan

This strategy and action plan has been commissioned by HBC on behalf of all leisure stakeholders in the Borough, but it is recognised that the recommendations and actions cannot be delivered by the Council alone. HBC is only one stakeholder in the Borough and has limited resources, in terms of officer support and funding. 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, and include:

- Havant Borough Council
- Neighbouring Authorities / LGR Partners
- Hampshire County Council
- Schools and colleges
- Sports clubs
- Facility operators
- National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs)
- Other providers/organisations.

The following action plan has been developed to address a number of strategic priorities, identified during the study, and the needs identified for each facility type reviewed. The actions are set out under the following headings:

- Sports halls (3+ badminton courts)
- Swimming pools (20m+ length)
- Learner pools
- Fitness centres and gyms
- Dance / aerobic studios
- Squash courts
- Indoor Tennis / Padel
- Indoor Bowls
- Community space/halls with capacity for sport use
- Other specialist indoor sport facilities (e.g. gymnastics, pickleball, indoor athletics)

The actions have been identified in the Action Plan, as well as target timescales for completion. The timescales allocated are short (1 to 2 years) medium (3 to 5 years) and long term (5+ years) priorities.

Delivery of strategic priorities could have a significant impact on groups with protected characteristics, as defined in the 2010 Equality Act. Consultation with representatives of protected groups should be undertaken when developing projects such as a proposed replacement for Havant Leisure Centre in order to identify whether needs of people with protected characteristics are being met and whether specific actions are required to encourage people with protected characteristics to participate in activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

5.2

Specific Strategic Considerations



Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

LGR replaces separate county, borough and district councils with a single unitary authority in order to simplify bureaucracy, save money and improve public services. This will be achieved by merging several existing districts/boroughs into one entity, coming into effect in stages within the next 5 years.

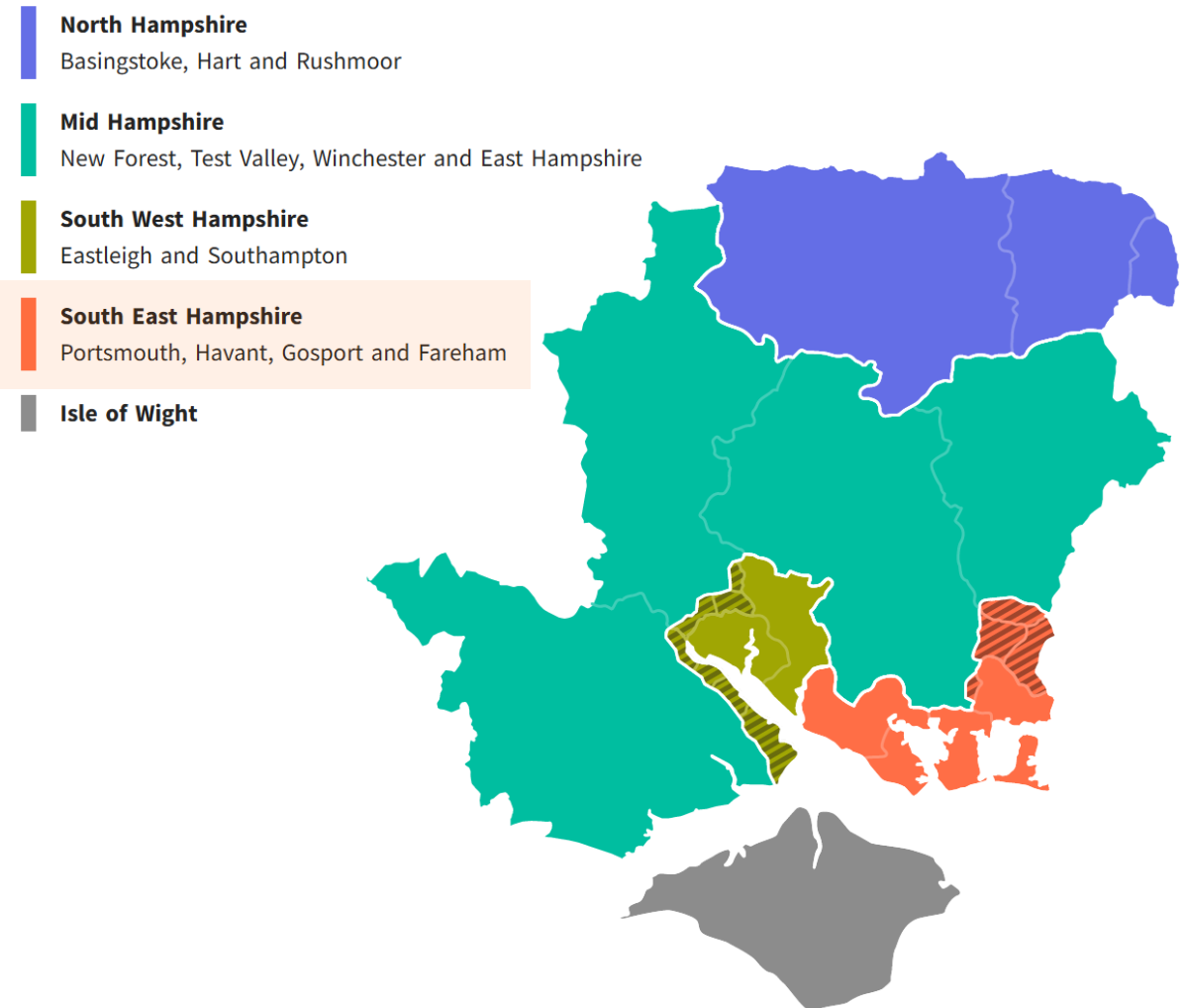
In Hampshire, the Government confirmed its preferred approach on 25 March 2026, with new unitary authorities expected to be established from April 2028, following shadow authority arrangements from 2027.

As a result of this decision, a new South-East Hampshire unitary authority (for which Havant had expressed their support) will be created, replacing Havant Borough Council and merging it with Fareham Borough Council, Gosport Borough Council and Portsmouth City Council. Following boundary changes, this authority will also include Newlands, Clanfield, Horndean and Rowlands Castle.

It is recognised that this will have a significant bearing on the implementation of this strategy. Whilst the structure of the new authority is now confirmed, the detailed governance arrangements, service priorities and funding allocations are still to be established. Therefore, whilst the provision of neighbouring authorities has been considered, this strategy only analyses and is written for Havant Borough Council.

Major decisions and investments, such as building new leisure facilities, will require significant financial backing from the new unitary authority, and it is recognised that certain projects may be unable to proceed given changing budgets and strategic priorities from existing authorities to the new unitary authority. What will remain unchanged, however, is the demand for certain recommendations and their importance/potential impact to the area that is currently Havant Borough Council.

Map 14 – Confirmed South-East Hampshire unitary authority



5.3

General Strategic Priorities



General Strategic Priorities

The following table contains a list of the general strategic priorities identified through completion of this study, the actions required to deliver them, the objectives that each would contribute towards, the implementing partners and the timescales (short, medium, long term and ongoing). They have also each been assigned a red-amber-green (RAG) rating, **where red indicates the highest priority and green the lowest priority.**

ID	Strategic Priority	Action Required	Implementing Partners	Timescale	Priority
1	Progress with proposals to refurbish the interior of Waterlooville Leisure Centre.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject to the funding available and financial viability, proceed with the proposals which will provide a much-improved fitness offering and improvements to the quality of the centre & its appearance. 	HBC	Short	
2	Work with strategic partners to target the most deprived areas of the Borough, which are currently underserved by Council facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the Havant Place Partnership's lead organisation, the Council should give significant attention and resource to its current 12-month mobilisation phase for the place-based scheme and the subsequent delivery of the full award. Working alongside Sport England and Energise Me, the place-based scheme presents a significant opportunity to make a positive impact in the most in-need areas, be it through operational revenue support or capital grants. 	HBC Sport England Energise Me	Ongoing	
3	Prepare for the replacement of Havant Leisure Centre as it reaches end of life towards the end of this review period.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Havant Leisure Centre is expected to reach the end of its useful life towards the end of this review period. The loss of its swimming provision without adequate replacement would be catastrophic for swimming provision in the Borough, as well as damaging other key provisions such as sports halls and fitness suites. Therefore, the new unitary authority should be prepared to replace Havant LC when it reaches end of life. 	New Unitary Authority	Long	
4	Begin developing proposals for a new leisure facility to address the unmet demand for swimming facilities, which is expected to increase to the equivalent of an 8-lane pool by 2043, and which better serves priority, deprived, communities with an accessible facility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission an initial feasibility to assess with a facility mix that meets the identified needs of the current Havant Borough as informed by this strategy, also exploring potentially suitable locations (e.g., Leigh Park, Hayling Island, Stakes, Wecock) and capital costs/funding options. Subject to the findings of this study, proceed to a detailed feasibility study with a view to develop a new leisure centre. As a major investment, it is likely that this can only progress so far before the new unitary authority is in place. HBC can, however, begin initial feasibility work to provide a strong evidence base and headstart for the new authority to progress the project. Whilst the overall picture of provision across the new authority may change and appear suitable, the demand in the currently underserved areas of Havant will not and will only increase as population grows. 	HBC and New Unitary Authority	Short	

INDOOR SPORT FACILITY STRATEGY

General Strategic Priorities

ID	Strategic Priority	Action Required	Implementing Partners	Timescale	Priority
5	Protect and enhance community use of sports facilities on educational sites, where required, especially for sports currently experiencing issues accessing programming slots such as indoor cricket and pickleball.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote partnership working between schools, Council and other facility operators in the Borough to develop community access and maximise utilisation of existing facilities. Formal community use agreements should be implemented where possible. HBC may require additional officer resource to work with stakeholders 	HBC Schools and colleges	Short	
6	Avoid, where possible, the loss of 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to review plans for developments involving strategically valuable sports facilities. Ensure any loss in provision is replaced by equivalent or better provision, in line with the relevant Local Plan Policy. 	HBC	Ongoing	
7	Utilise strategically valuable sites and investigate options to maximise revenue generation from facilities in order to sustain other sports/facilities which do not have the income generating potential.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with leisure stakeholders to better understand the operation of strategically valuable facilities, in order to investigate options to maximise revenue generation from existing facilities. HBC may require additional officer resource to provide oversight to work with stakeholders 	HBC Facility Operators Sports clubs	Ongoing	
8	Investigate opportunities to reduce carbon consumption at leisure facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate and implement opportunities to reduce carbon consumption at leisure facilities owned by HBC and provide advice and support to encourage other facility operators to explore opportunities for carbon reduction at their sites. 	HBC Facility Operators	Short / Medium	
9	Ensure that accessibility of new facilities is considered.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accessibility should be fully considered when locating and designing new community sports facilities, including accessibility via public transport and fully inclusive and accessible design standards. 	HBC	Ongoing	

ID	Strategic Priority	Action Required	Implementing Partners	Timescale	Priority
10	Ensure that sports facility charges are reasonable in terms of affordability to residents and are comparable with similar facilities elsewhere.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep community accessible sports facility charges under review and benchmark against nearest neighbour authorities. HBC may require additional officer resource to work with stakeholders 	HBC Facility Operators	Ongoing	High
11	Encourage stakeholders to work together to try and increase the levels of community access to sites. Stakeholders should include Council departments, health agencies, facility operators, education providers, NGBs, and local sports clubs to expand the range of affordable and accessible facilities for both residents and visitors to Havant.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council to continue an open dialogue with stakeholders and partners to support them, where possible, in maintaining and improving the range of affordable and accessible facilities in the Borough. This may include, but is not limited to, GP referral schemes, subsidised pricing, introductory schemes for target groups and providing operational or capital support where possible. HBC may require additional officer resource to work with stakeholders 	HBC Key Stakeholders	Ongoing	High
12	Support where possible stakeholders developing new indoor facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise on needs analysis, potential users, operational challenges and project sustainability HBC may require additional officer resource to work with stakeholders 	HBC NGBs Facility Owners	Ongoing	Medium
13	Ensure, as far as possible, that any new sports facilities, provided as part of future educational provision in Havant, are designed for curricular, extra-curricular, community and sports development use and that opportunities for community use out of school hours is secured .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement formal community use agreements where possible and encourage community access at available times. Encourage any proposals for school sports facilities in the Borough to have appropriate facilities to enable community use e.g. external lighting, car parking and changing. 	HBC Schools, colleges and academies	Ongoing	Medium

ID	Strategic Priority	Action Required	Implementing Partners	Timescale	Priority
14	Ensure that new developments (e.g. residential, commercial and retail) contribute towards the development and enhancement of sports facilities to meet identified needs, priority being given to projects identified in this Strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop costed facility priorities and incorporate these into the Borough's Infrastructure Delivery Plan. These are likely to be proposals that come forward from site owners/operators that are seeking to develop facilities. HBC may require additional officer resource to cost proposals and prioritise. 	HBC Stakeholders	Ongoing	
15	Explore opportunities for collaborative working between neighbouring authorities to maximise cross-boundary usage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain and develop good relationships with officers at neighbouring authorities to ensure that cross boundary issues and opportunities are considered for the benefit of all neighbouring authorities and their communities, and all Councils and leisure services are well-prepared to merge into a single unitary authority. 	HBC Neighbouring Authorities Hampshire CC	Short / Medium	
16	Contribute towards addressing specific issues relating to the Borough's demographic profile.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that planned facilities are designed in such a way that they can assist stakeholders in addressing the Borough's key issues and inequalities, ensure appropriate provision for the ageing population and contribute to improving levels of sports participation. 	HBC Stakeholders	Ongoing	
17	Use indoor sport and leisure facilities to improve levels of physical activity in the whole population and reduce the gap in health inequalities by promoting access and engagement with at risk groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on programming and pricing to proactively engage people experiencing health and social inequality, including people on low incomes, income support, in social housing and with higher levels of benefit need. 	HBC Energise Me Facility Operators	Ongoing	

5.4

Strategic Priorities by Facility Type



Strategic Priorities by Facility Type

The strategic priorities by facility type are listed in the following tables. These priorities are linked to the outcome of the needs assessment work, summarised in the previous sections of this strategy.

Swimming Pool Priorities

Havant does not currently meet Swin England’s recommendation provision for swimming pools, with a current shortfall of between 167 to 243 sqm, increasing to 376 to 464 sqm by 2043. The Council should support and investigate proposals for a new public swimming pool to address the deficit in swimming pool water space in the Borough, roughly equivalent to an additional 8-lane 25m pool by 2043.

ID	Strategic Priority	Action Required	Implementing Partners	Timescale	Priority
18	Begin developing proposals for a new leisure facility to address unmet demand for swimming facilities across the Borough, as per strategic priority #4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission an initial feasibility to assess potentially suitable locations, appropriate feasibility mix and capital costs/funding options. Subject to the findings of this study, proceed to a detailed feasibility study with a view to develop a new leisure centre. As a major investment, it is likely that this can only progress so far before the new unitary authority is in place. HBC can, however, begin initial feasibility work to provide a strong evidence base and headstart for the new authority to progress the project. Whilst the overall picture of provision across the new authority may change and appear suitable, the demand in the currently underserved areas of Havant will not and will only increase as population grows. 	HBC or New Unitary Authority	Short	
19	Encourage and support all other proposals to develop new swimming pools within the Borough.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This may be developments at school sites, commercial facilities or other stakeholders. The Council should support these and encourage they are accessible and affordable to the community (e.g., access outside school hours, Council-subsidised memberships at commercial facilities for key groups). 	HBC	Ongoing	

Swimming Pool Priorities

ID	Strategic Priority	Action Required	Implementing Partners	Timescale	Priority
20	Work with local swimming clubs and operators to ensure they have sufficient time and space to aid development of their club.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council pools are estimated to operate at an uncomfortable capacity at peak times, and there is a small unmet demand. These needs could be addressed by increased provision at a new facility and by increasing access to existing pools within the Borough – e.g., learner session at Sinah Warren. 	HBC Facility Operators Local Clubs	Short	
21	Prepare for the replacement of Havant Leisure Centre, as per strategic priority #3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Havant Leisure Centre is expected to reach the end of its useful life towards the end of this review period. The loss of its swimming provision without adequate replacement would be catastrophic for swimming provision in the Borough. Therefore, to resolve the deficit of pool space, the Council should be prepared to replace Havant LC when it reaches end of life in addition to providing a new pool in the nearer future. Given the timescales, this will be a matter for the new unitary authority – this point should be made clear to them by HBC from the outset of the handover. 	HBC New Unitary Authority	Long	

Sports Hall Priorities

Havant currently provides an oversupply of 9.4 courts in the weekly peak period, reducing to a surplus of 4.7 courts in 2043. There is a heavy reliance on the education sector, however, representing 72% of the scaled supply. Whilst there is no need to build a new sports hall, the Council centres are not well-placed to serve the priority areas and they are estimated to be uncomfortably full (81% and 98%) at peak times, and efforts can be made to alleviate this pressure.

ID	Strategic Priority	Action Required	Implementing Partners	Timescale	Priority
22	Work with the school sites to ensure their key provision is maintained, and increased where possible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss implementing community use agreements with schools where they are not currently in place to guarantee public access, and maintain existing agreements. Where this is not possible, maintain discussions with schools and users to try secure public access times. Whilst the education sites currently demonstrate a strong commitment to allowing public access, with most sites allowing between 29.5 and 39 hours, not all sites meet this, and could potentially increase their public access time. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HSDC South Downs – 24 hours per week Oaklands Catholic School – 20 hours per week Discuss permitting ‘pay-and-play’ community access with school sites, none of which currently offer this. 	HBC Facility Operators User Clubs	Ongoing	
23	Investigate increasing the opening hours of the Council centres in the weekly peak period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neither Council centre is open for the maximum 46 hours in the weekly period, with Cowplains at 44 hours and Havant Leisure Centre at 38 hours. There is scope to increase this, especially at Havant LC, to alleviate their uncomfortably full operation and provide programming opportunities for sports struggling to access peak bookings (e.g., pickleball, cricket). 	HBC Facility Operators	Short	

Sports Hall Priorities

ID	Strategic Priority	Action Required	Implementing Partners	Timescale	Priority
24	Engage facility operators, user clubs and NGBs to try resolve issues raised with the supply.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several cricket clubs reported issues with the quantity, accessibility and quality of the indoor net provision at sports halls, especially with access to suitable bookings. Very few halls have cricket nets. British Judo and British Taekwondo both referenced a lack of suitability accessibility and difficulty securing suitable bookings, as well as problems with equipment storage. Pickleball England reported problems with accessing suitable programming slots. Havant Hockey Club reported problems with accessing suitable programming slots. 	HBC Facility Operators NGBs Sports Clubs	Short	High
25	Utilise spare sports hall space to provide programming for sports lacking access to facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given the excess of sports halls, even at peak times, school sites could be utilised to provide space for sports struggling to access programming or sports without enough access to dedicated facilities. This may also alleviate pressure from the Council-owned halls, which are uncomfortably full at peak. 	HBC Facility Operators User Clubs	Ongoing	High
26	Prepare for the replacement of Havant Leisure Centre, as per strategic priority #3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Havant Leisure Centre is expected to reach the end of its useful life towards the end of this review period. The loss of its sports hall without adequate replacement would be catastrophic for access to daytime and pay-and-play sports hall access, with only the Council sites offering this and this site being far larger than Cowplains AC. Therefore, to secure the public accessibility of sports hall space, the Council should be prepared to replace Havant LC when it reaches the end of life. Given the timescales, this will be a matter for the new unitary authority – this point should be made clear to them by HBC from the outset of the handover. 	HBC New Unitary Authority	Long	High

INDOOR SPORT FACILITY STRATEGY

Strategic Priorities by Facility Type

Health & Fitness Suite Priorities

There is currently a growing commercial gym sector in the Borough, with demand high and expected to continue growing with the increased population. The Council should support the development of new community accessible health and fitness facilities, where these are viable and supported by site specific latent demand analysis. Health and fitness facilities should be a key consideration of the facility mix of any new Council leisure developments.

ID	Strategic Priority	Action Required	Implementing Partners	Timescale	Priority
27	Progress with proposals to refurbish the interior of Waterlooville Leisure Centre, as per strategic priority #1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject to the funding available and financial viability, proceed with the proposals which will provide a much-improved fitness offering and improvements to the quality of the centre & its appearance. 	HBC	Short	
28	Include health & fitness provision as a key provision when developing proposals for a new leisure facility, as per strategic priority #4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The initial feasibility study should consider the suitable scale of health and fitness facilities for any new centre, commissioning latent demand studies for specific sites of interest. 	HBC and New Unitary Authority	Short	
29	Work with key strategic partners to ensure the Council gyms are serving those facing the greatest health inequalities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council-owned fitness facilities provide a significant opportunity to create an integrated preventative health network and positively impact public health & physical inequality, and whilst commercialising these gyms brings many benefits, it should not be at the expense of this vital role. Working with facility operators and health bodies, this can be achieved with initiatives such as GP referral schemes, subsidised memberships/protected pricing, targeted introductory programs and outreach to priority groups. 	HBC Facility Operators Health Bodies Community Groups	Ongoing	
30	Support organisations planning the development or refurbishment of health and fitness suites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage the development of new or extended health and fitness facilities where these complement to the range of sustainable facilities across the Borough. Organisations planning such developments should be encouraged to demonstrate that demand exists, to ensure new developments are sustainable and don't have an unnecessarily negative impact on existing providers. 	HBC Facility Operators	Short / Medium	

INDOOR SPORT FACILITY STRATEGY

Strategic Priorities by Facility Type

Dance / Aerobic Studios Priorities

There is a strong provision of studios in the Borough across a range of providers, with Council facilities providing a significant minority share of the market. Demand is very high and will continue to grow. The Council should support the development of new community accessible studios, where these are viable and supported by site specific latent demand analysis. Studios should complement gym suites as a combined health & fitness offer and should be a key consideration of the facility mix of any new Council leisure developments.

ID	Strategic Priority	Action Required	Implementing Partners	Timescale	Priority
31	Progress with proposals to refurbish the interior of Waterlooville Leisure Centre, as per strategic priority #1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject to the funding available and financial viability, proceed with the proposals which will provide a much-improved studio offering and improvements to the quality of the centre & its appearance. 	HBC	Short	
32	Include fitness studios provision as a key provision when developing proposals for a new leisure facility, as per strategic priority #4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The initial feasibility study should consider the suitable scale of fitness facilities for any new centre, commissioning latent demand studies for specific sites of interest. This should consider studios in addition to the previously mentioned health & fitness gym suites. 	HBC and New Unitary Authority	Short	
33	Utilise existing spaces to meet any unmet demand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should demand at any point significantly outweigh supply at the Council facilities, the Council should consider utilising other spaces to provide studio programming. Potentially suitable sites include activity halls, community rooms or even sports halls given the current oversupply. 	HBC Facility Operators	Ongoing	
34	Support organisations planning the development or refurbishment of health and fitness suites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage the development of new or extended health and fitness facilities where these complement the existing range of sustainable facilities across the Borough. Organisations planning such developments should be encouraged to demonstrate that demand exists, to ensure new developments are sustainable and don't have an unnecessarily negative impact on existing providers. 	HBC Facility Operators	Short / Medium	

Squash / Racketball Courts Priorities

There are 8 courts across 3 sites in Havant for public usage, with 1 being provided by the Council and the rest requiring club membership. Squash England comment that the recommended number of courts should meet its national requirement of 1 court per 10,000 people, with the Borough currently providing 1 court per 15,500 people. However, demand is low and falling, and an existing squash club reported that they do not operate at capacity. This contradiction should be examined further as part of a feasibility study on any proposed new facility to establish if squash courts would be a suitable provision.

If court provision is reduced this would have a negative impact on squash and current users may find it difficult to secure bookings at alternative sites during peak times.

ID	Strategic Priority	Action Required	Implementing Partners	Timescale	Priority
35	Protect current levels of squash court provision in the Borough.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HBC should encourage existing providers of squash & racketball courts to maintain provision to meet current and potential future demand for access to courts. 	HBC Facility Operators	Ongoing	High
36	Examine suitability of providing new squash courts as part of a new public leisure facility, as per strategic priority #4, and as part of replacing Havant Leisure Centre, as per strategic priority #3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of a feasibility study for a new leisure centre, further consultation should be undertaken with England Squash and existing clubs/users to determine whether new courts are required as per England Squash's initial recommendation. 	HBC England Squash Sports clubs / users	Short / Medium	High
37	Redirect users of any lost squash courts to other nearby facilities and work with facility operators to support potential club use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should any existing courts be lost, the Council should work with local clubs and users to find alternative provision, including the Council investigating whether existing facilities which require membership would begin to offer some community access on a 'pay and play' basis and/or allow external club bookings. 	HBC England Squash Facility operators Sports clubs / users	Ongoing	Medium

Indoor Bowls Priorities

Current provision across the Borough is meeting existing need, largely supplemented by an extensive outdoor and all-weather bowls provision, reducing the reliance on indoor facilities. There is no requirement for additional indoor bowls provision in the Borough The Borough does however have a growing ageing population, and this could improve future trends in participation. There is a need to support Warner Lakeside Bowls Club in maintaining their facility to support current levels of participation.

ID	Strategic Priority	Action Required	Implementing Partners	Timescale	Priority
38	Maintain existing indoor bowls facilities at Warner Lakeside Bowls Club.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Warner Lakeside Bowls Club to continue to deliver indoor bowls. Bowls, in particular, provides a good activity for older members of the community or those with limited mobility. Support should focus on assisting the club in marketing their facilities to potential user groups, through existing channels, to help maintain and increase membership numbers. If possible, the Council should consider supporting the club in the maintenance and upkeep of its facilities if the club does not have the means to do this itself and risks closure. 	HBC Warner Lakeside Bowls Club NGB	Ongoing	

Gymnastics Priorities

There are 2 dedicated gymnastics facilities in the Borough, and an advanced gymnastics facility shortly beyond the border with Portsmouth. As such, there not currently a need for more dedicated gymnastics facilities within the Borough. The Council should instead focus on protecting the existing provision.

ID	Strategic Priority	Action Required	Implementing Partners	Timescale	Priority
39	Provide support where possible to Solent Gymnastics Club.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In our consultation, the club revealed they face challenges with operational costs and marketing. Resource permitting, the Council should discuss any ways they can support the advertisement and running of the club. This club represents the Borough's only dedicated facility of sufficient quality to support high level and adult gymnastics. With 400 weekly regulars, this club is an important provision and the Council should support them where they can. 	HBC Solent Gymnastics Club British Gymnastics	Short / Ongoing	High
40	Maintain existing gymnastics facility at Havant Leisure Centre.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect the children-only gymnastics space at Havant LC. Consideration of demand and the need for replacement should be considered when Havant LC's replacement is being planned towards the end of this review period. 	HBC Horizon	Medium / Long	High
41	Utilise existing spaces to meet any unmet demand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should demand at any point significantly outweigh supply in the Borough, the Council should consider utilising other spaces to provide a level of gymnastics programming. Potentially suitable sites include activity halls, community rooms or even sports halls given the current oversupply. 	HBC Facility Operators	Ongoing	Medium

Specialist Health & Fitness Priorities

There is no need for the Council to consider developing their own specialist fitness facilities given the prevalence of the commercial sector in this space. They should, however, support existing clubs to ensure the provision remains adequate and achieves high participation.

ID	Strategic Priority	Action Required	Implementing Partners	Timescale	Priority
42	Support existing facility providers to maintain their provision and engage local residents to participate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support existing facility providers to continue delivering a suitable provision. Support should focus on maximising participation of this strong facility supply through marketing to potential user groups, running/supporting introductory programmes etc. Many of these facilities are small, locally owned businesses, and the Council should endeavour to support them where possible. 	HBC Facility Operators	Short / Ongoing	

Indoor Tennis / Padel Priorities

There are currently no indoor tennis facilities in the Borough, although there are extensive outdoor tennis courts. In our consultation, the LTA believed the current and forecasted population warrants some provision of indoor tennis, but they do not include Havant as one of their 96 priority authorities for indoor tennis development.

There are currently no padel courts in the Borough. The LTA identify a current demand for at least 9 courts.

ID	Strategic Priority	Action Required	Implementing Partners	Timescale	Priority
43	Engage further with the LTA regarding the demand for indoor tennis within the Borough, and the potential for LTA funding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given the extensive publicly accessible provision of outdoor tennis courts and Havant's exclusion from the LTA's 96 priority authorities, we would expect that there is not a need to develop indoor tennis facilities. This should be discussed further with the LTA, however, as should Havant's eligibility for their capital loan scheme. 	HBC LTA	Medium	
44	Develop / commission a padel strategy for Havant, forming a plan to deliver facilities for an identified need in a rapidly popularising sport.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This should examine the optimum facility mix, site locations, operational considerations and funding possibilities. A key part of such a strategy should examine the various operating models available, and how the Council can use them to balance commerciality against ensuring accessibility for the local community and priority groups. 	HBC	Short	

Indoor Athletics Priorities

There are currently no indoor athletics facilities in Havant or the nearby area, and England Athletics would like to see one developed in the region. Additionally, there are currently no outdoor synthetic athletics tracks in the Borough.

ID	Strategic Priority	Action Required	Implementing Partners	Timescale	Priority
45	Engage further with England Athletics and neighbouring authorities to discuss the need for a regional indoor athletics centre.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given the highly specialised, regional hub nature of such a facility, this is likely a project better pursued by the new unitary authority. Conversations can begin now, however, to start exploring the demand and most suitable locations with England Athletics and neighbouring authorities. 	New Unitary Authority England Athletics HBC Neighbouring Authorities	Long	
46	Support opportunities to develop a synthetic outdoor athletics track, as set out in the Playing Pitch Strategy 2024.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whilst covered in the PPS, it is clear that there is a need for some level of athletics provision in Havant. This position is supported by our consultation with NGBs, sports clubs and facility operators. The Council should encourage and support any proposal to develop a synthetic outdoor athletics track and consider opportunities to drive this development. Council or education playing fields are the most suitable locations – particularly those school sites which already have a grass athletics track. 	HBC England Athletics Education sites Sports clubs	Ongoing	

5.5

Anticipated Outcomes



Anticipated Outcomes

Delivery of the objectives contained in this strategy will result in the following outcomes being achieved:

1. Waterloo Leisure Centre will be refurbished, providing an improved fitness offer,, and a generally enhanced quality to the centre's interior.
2. Alongside Sport England and Energise Me, the Council will be prepared to implement the place-based scheme as impactfully as possible. Both operational funding and capital grants will be effectively used to deliver increased opportunities to the identified priority areas.
3. The new unitary authority post-LGR will be well prepared to replace Havant Leisure Centre, and its closure will see its provision replaced, not lost.
4. Proposals for a new leisure centre will be developed, leading to the reduction of the deficit of water space within the Borough, among other benefits to facility provision.
5. Community use of sports facilities on educational sites will be protected, securing the provision of sports halls to the public, and expanded where possible to ease the pressure on the Council-owned centres.
6. Excess sports hall space will be used to provide programming for sports currently struggling for facility access, including cricket, hockey, martial arts and pickleball.
7. Sports facility charges should remain reasonable, in terms of affordability to residents, and be comparable with similar facilities elsewhere. Subsidised programmes/access schemes will be in place to support those facing the greatest health inequalities.
8. Existing specialist facilities will be assisted in maintaining their provision for sports including squash, indoor bowls and gymnastics.
9. The loss of strategically valuable sports facilities, that are available for community use or could contribute to meeting future community needs, will be minimised. Any that are lost will be replaced by equivalent or better provision, in terms of quantity and quality, in a suitable location.
10. The Council will develop a padel strategy, allowing them to potentially provide the Borough with access to a popular, fast-growing sport.
11. The opportunity to develop a regional indoor athletics hub, in Havant or elsewhere, will have been discussed with England Athletics and neighbouring authorities, and the feasibility of developing an outdoor track to meet current need will have been explored.
12. Opportunities for HBC to reduce carbon consumption and emissions from its centres will be investigated, in line with the Councils Climate Change Strategy.
13. Strategically valuable sites will be better utilised and options to maximise revenue generation from facilities will be investigated, to improve revenue generation and participation.
14. Stakeholders will work together to increase the levels of community access to sites and to reduce inequalities. Stakeholders should include Council departments, health agencies, facility operators, education providers, NGBs, and local sports clubs to expand the range of affordable and accessible facilities for both residents and visitors to Havant. Among other schemes, GP referrals, subsidised membership and targeted outreach programmes will be utilised to ensure health & wellbeing facilities are available to all residents.

Anticipated Outcomes

15. Stakeholders will be supported, where possible, in developing new indoor facilities.
16. New sports facilities, provided as part of future educational provision in Havant, will be designed for curricular, extra-curricular, community and sports development use to ensure that opportunities for community use out of school hours is secured.
17. New developments (e.g. residential, commercial and retail) will contribute towards the development and enhancement of sports facilities to meet identified needs with priority being given to projects identified in this Strategy.
18. There will be collaborative working between neighbouring authorities to maximise cross-boundary usage and minimise the impact of LGR.
19. Specific issues relating to the Borough's demographic profile will be addressed. This will include using indoor sport and leisure facilities to improve levels of physical activity in the whole population and reduce the gap in health inequalities by promoting access and engagement with at risk groups.
20. There will be increased engagement with representatives of protected and target groups when developing projects that provide new indoor sports facilities.

5.6

Delivery of the Strategy



Funding

It is clear that the development of a new leisure facility in Havant will help to improve the provision of facilities in order to meet both current and future demand. Any leisure facility infrastructure improvements in the Borough will be reliant on securing funding. The current financial climate has placed pressure on the finances of all facility operators including local authorities.

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

- **Council funding:** Capital funding allocated to deliver facilities within HBC's ownership, and potentially the use of capital receipts from the sale of existing assets.
- **Capital Grant funding:** In addition to Sport England grants, various NGBs, including the LTA and ECB, have capital funding pots available for developing facilities in priority areas.
- **Third party funding:** Financing capital through the forecast operational surplus and finance packages as part of the leisure management procurement process or construction contracts.
- **Commercial sector funding:** Limited potential for investment from commercial leisure operators such as those who provide health and fitness centres.
- **Planning Obligations:** Section 106 development contributions, CIL or any replacement.

Planning Obligations

Planning obligations are legal obligations entered into as part of a planning application to mitigate the impacts of a development proposal. Planning obligations are also commonly referred to as 'section 106', 's106', as well as 'developer contributions' or 'Community Infrastructure Levy' (CIL).

Section 106 agreements are legal agreements between developers and the local council linked to planning permissions, and this is the system that HBC currently uses to secure contributions. Section 106 agreements are needed when a development will have impacts on the local area that cannot be moderated by means of conditions attached to a planning decision. For example, a new residential development can place extra pressure on the social, physical and/or economic infrastructure which already exists in a certain area.

A planning obligation will aim to balance the pressure created by the new development with improvements to the surrounding area ensuring that, where possible, the development would make a positive contribution to the local area and community.

Monitoring and Review

This strategy has been produced to enable the development of indoor sports facilities within the Borough 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.

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 or governance, such as post-LGR. The progress against the plan should be reviewed on an annual basis, and the strategy should be updated every 5 years 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 the Borough.

06

Appendices



Appendix 1

Stakeholder Consultation Summary



Category	Organisation	Response Received?
Borough Officer	Havant Borough Council – Housing/Planning	Yes
Borough Officer	Havant Borough Council – Estates	Yes
Borough Officer	Havant Borough Council – Health	Yes
Borough Officer	Havant Borough Council – Community Development	Yes
Borough Officer	Havant Borough Council – Finance	Yes
Facility operator	Horizon Leisure – Trust	Yes
Local Sports Organisation	EnergiseMe	Yes
National Governing Body	Sport England	Yes

CONSULTATIONS

National Governing Bodies

Category	Organisation	Response Received?
National Governing Body	Swim England	-
National Governing Body	Badminton England	-
National Governing Body	British Gymnastics	-
National Governing Body	England Squash	Yes
National Governing Body	Volleyball England	-
National Governing Body	Basketball England	-
National Governing Body	England Netball	Yes
National Governing Body	England Boxing	-
National Governing Body	England Indoor Bowling Association	-
National Governing Body	British Judo	Yes
National Governing Body	British Cycling	-
National Governing Body	British Taekwondo	Yes
National Governing Body	British Fencing	-
National Governing Body	LTA	Yes
National Governing Body	Table Tennis England	-
National Governing Body	Pickleball England	Yes
National Governing Body	England Athletics	Yes

CONSULTATIONS

National Governing Bodies & Neighbouring Authorities

Category	Organisation	Response Received?
National Governing Body	British Karate	-
National Governing Body	British Wrestling	-
National Governing Body	Kickboxing GB	-
National Governing Body	British Kung Fu	-
National Governing Body	Hampshire FA	-
National Governing Body	Hampshire Cricket	-
National Governing Body	British Ju-Jitsu	-
Neighbouring Authority Sport & Leisure Team	Portsmouth City Council	-
Neighbouring Authority Sport & Leisure Team	Winchester City Council	Yes
Neighbouring Authority Sport & Leisure Team	East Hampshire District Council	Yes
Neighbouring Authority Sport & Leisure Team	Chichester District Council	-

Category	Organisation	Response Received?
Academic Institutions	Crookhorn College	-
Academic Institutions	The Hayling College	-
Academic Institutions	The Waterloo School	Yes
Academic Institutions	Havant Academy	-
Academic Institutions	Barncroft School	-
Academic Institutions	Rachel Madocks School	-
Academic Institutions	Warblington School	-
Academic Institutions	Purbrook Park School	Yes
Academic Institutions	The Cowplain School	Yes
Academic Institutions	Park Community School	Yes
Academic Institutions	Oaklands Catholic School	Yes
Academic Institutions	HSDC Havant	-
Academic Institutions	HSDC South Downs	-
Academic Institutions	Springwood Junior School	-

Category	Organisation	Response Received?
Private Facilities	Westbrook Hall	Yes
Private Facilities	Hayling Island Community Centre	-
Private Facilities	North Hayling Recreation Hall	-
Private Facilities	The Acorn Centre	Yes
Private Facilities	Leigh Fitness	-
Private Facilities	Springwood Community Centre	Yes
Private Facilities	My Fitness Hub Havant	-
Private Facilities	Activ Health Fitness Centre	-
Private Facilities	Emsworth Community Centre	Yes
Private Facilities	Waterlooville Community Centre	-
Private Facilities	Eastoke Community Centre	-
Private Facilities	Avenue Lawn Tennis Squash And Fitness Club	Yes
Private Facilities	Puregym (Waterlooville)	-
Private Facilities	Puregym (Havant)	-
Private Facilities	Moods Studio	-
Private Facilities	PFM Gym	-
Private Facilities	Anytime Fitness Hayling	-

Category	Organisation	Response Received?
Private Facilities	Warriers Gym	Yes
Private Facilities	Crossfit Iron Duke	Yes
Private Facilities	Crossfitt Hayling	-
Private Facilities	Crossfit Basepoint	-
Private Facilities	The Club (Langstone Quays Resort)	Yes
Private Facilities	Sinah Warren	-
Private Facilities	Leigh Park Community Centre	Yes
Private Facilities	Solent Gymnastics Club	Yes
Private Facilities	Cowplain Activities Centre	-
Private Facilities	Newlands Community Hall	-
Private Facilities	The Pallant Centre	-
Private Facilities	Havant Leisure Centre, Waterlooville Leisure Wellbeing Hub	Yes
Private Facilities	Bedhampton Community Centre	Yes
Private Facilities	The Stride Centre	-
Private Facilities	Hayling Sports Centre	-
Private Facilities	National Tennis Association (Park Tennis Courts)	-
Private Facilities	Seacourt Tennis Club	-

Category	Organisation	Response Received?
Sports Club	Havant Athletic Club	Yes
Sports Club	Portsmouth Triathletes	-
Sports Club	Victory Athletic Club	-
Sports Club	Havant Hockey Club	Yes
Sports Club	Havant & Waterlooville Football Club	-
Sports Club	South Downs Volleyball Club	-
Sports Club	Hayling Island Cricket Club	Yes
Sports Club	Waterlooville Cricket Club	Yes
Sports Club	Emsworth Cricket Club	Yes
Sports Club	Purbrook Cricket Club	-
Sports Club	Havant Cricket Club	Yes
Sports Club	Havant Hornet Badminton Club	-
Sports Club	Waterlooville Boxing Club	-
Sports Club	Leigh Park Boxing Club	-
Sports Club	Havant & Waterlooville Swimming Club	Yes
Sports Club	Raymarine Cricket Club	Yes
Sports Club	Havant Borough Sports Association	-

Overall Position

NGB responses indicate that provision in Havant is currently limited across several sports, including tennis, athletics, netball, squash, judo and cricket. While facilities do exist, they are often fragmented, inconsistently managed and heavily reliant on a small number of sites, particularly schools and leisure centres. The key issue is not just quantity, but how effectively facilities are accessed, programmed and maintained.

Supply and Demand (current & future)

Current provision is insufficient or restricted for a number of sports, with specific gaps including indoor tennis courts, indoor athletics facilities, netball-compatible sports halls, squash courts and cricket nets. Access to existing facilities, particularly school sites, is a major constraint due to limited availability, exam periods and competing uses. Demand is expected to increase further, driven by population growth and rising participation, especially among women, girls and juniors. This will intensify existing pressures and requires additional and more specialised provision, including covered courts, indoor training spaces and improved outdoor facilities.

Planned Changes and Investment

There is limited evidence of current facility development within the borough, although NGBs highlight national strategies and funding streams that could support future provision. Some local ambitions are noted, including new cricket nets and the potential development of multi-sport sites such as Warblington Farm, indicating opportunities for partnership-led investment aligned with NGB priorities.

Gaps and Issues

Key gaps relate to both the availability and quality of facilities, including the absence of certain facility types and poor condition or suitability of existing sites. Issues include inadequate sports hall sizes for netball, poorly maintained cricket facilities, lack of ancillary provision and limited indoor training capacity. Accessibility remains a major barrier, particularly in relation to school facilities, which are often unavailable when needed.

Strategic Implications for Havant

Havant should prioritise addressing key facility gaps in sports such as tennis, athletics, netball and cricket, while improving access to existing provision, particularly within the education sector. Enhancing the quality and resilience of current facilities, developing multi-sport hubs and aligning with NGB funding opportunities will be critical to meeting future demand and supporting participation growth.

Overall Position

Responses from neighbouring authorities, including Winchester and East Hampshire, highlight that facility planning is being actively managed through up-to-date strategies, but that provision remains constrained across their areas. There is a clear acknowledgement that facility needs and pressures extend beyond administrative boundaries, with cross-boundary relationships—particularly between East Hampshire and Havant—playing an important role in meeting demand.

Supply and Demand (current & future)

Both authorities identify existing and future shortfalls across a range of pitch-based sports, including football, rugby, hockey and cricket, alongside emerging demand for facilities such as padel tennis and 3G pitches. Certain deficits are significant, including double-digit shortfalls in football pitches and additional requirements for rugby, hockey and artificial turf pitches. Planned growth and new development are expected to increase demand further, with some provision being delivered through housing sites and school access, although this is unlikely to fully address identified gaps. The closure of facilities, such as an indoor tennis centre, further exacerbates pressures, particularly where replacement provision is not secured.

Planned Changes and Investment

Neighbouring authorities identify a number of planned developments, particularly new 3G pitches in locations such as Horndean, Petersfield and Alton, often linked to wider growth areas. However, overall levels of new provision appear limited relative to the scale of identified need, and some facility types, such as indoor tennis, are not currently being replaced following closures. Delivery is often reliant on new development and securing community use of school sites.

Gaps and Issues

Key gaps relate to outdoor pitch provision across football, rugby, hockey and cricket, as well as a lack of specialist facilities such as padel courts and indoor tennis. Constraints on delivery are also highlighted, particularly in East Hampshire where large areas fall within the South Downs National Park, limiting opportunities for new or floodlit provision. This places additional pressure on neighbouring areas, including Havant, to accommodate unmet demand.

Strategic Implications for Havant

The findings reinforce the importance of Havant's role within a wider sub-regional network of provision, with clear potential for the borough to support unmet demand from neighbouring areas. There is an opportunity for Havant to plan strategically for cross-boundary use, particularly for pitch sports and 3G provision, while also considering how new facilities could complement rather than duplicate neighbouring provision. Strengthening collaboration with adjacent authorities will be important to ensure a coordinated approach to future facility delivery.

Overall Position

Responses from academic institutions, including Oaklands Catholic School, Park Community School, Waterloo School, Cowplain School and Purbrook Park School, show that schools are key providers of sports facilities in Havant, offering a wide range of provision including sports halls, 3G pitches, MUGAs, grass pitches, gyms and dance studios. Most sites make facilities available to community users, particularly for sports such as football, netball, badminton, dance, athletics and cricket; however, access is constrained by school use, staffing and operational limitations, meaning their full potential as community assets is not currently realised.

Supply and Demand (current & future)

While schools collectively provide a broad range of facilities, availability for community use is limited to evenings, weekends and holidays, restricting overall capacity. Demand is strongest for football (particularly 3G pitches), sports halls and multi-use indoor spaces, with facilities often moderately utilised but with clear periods of underuse, particularly at weekends or where sites lack appropriate supporting infrastructure. There is very limited provision of indoor cricket nets, despite known demand, and gaps are also identified in athletics provision, particularly the absence of an all-weather track. Future demand is expected to increase, but schools highlight that without additional investment, expanded access or new facilities, they will be unable to accommodate further growth.

Planned Changes and Investment

Planned investment is generally limited and focused on maintenance or small-scale improvements, such as sports hall refurbishments, pitch maintenance and replacement of ageing equipment.

Some aspirations are identified, including new all-weather pitches, floodlighting and improved fitness facilities, but these are largely unfunded and dependent on external investment. Overall, there is limited evidence of major new facility development being delivered through the education sector at present.

Gaps and Issues

Key challenges relate to maintenance costs, staffing constraints and limited funding, which restrict both the quality of facilities and their availability for community use. Issues include ageing or poor-quality all-weather pitches, flooding of grass football pitches, lack of storage, insufficient changing provision and the high cost of repairs such as sports hall flooring. Accessibility is further constrained by the need to prioritise school use, alongside limited staffing to support extended opening hours.

Strategic Implications for Havant

The findings highlight the important role of schools as part of Havant's wider facility network, with clear potential to increase community access and utilisation if key barriers can be addressed. Supporting investment in school sites, particularly for 3G pitches, sports halls and athletics provision, could significantly increase capacity. There is also an opportunity to improve programming, unlock underused time periods and strengthen partnerships to maximise the contribution of education facilities to meeting borough-wide demand.

Overall Position

Responses from private and community-based providers, including facilities such as Havant Leisure Centre, The Avenue Tennis & Squash Club, Solent Gymnastics Club, community centres and independent gyms, highlight a diverse but fragmented network of provision across activities including gym, swimming, squash, gymnastics, boxing, fitness classes and community hall-based sport. These facilities play a significant role in meeting local demand across all age groups, but their contribution is shaped by their commercial or community operating models, which can limit accessibility and long-term sustainability.

Supply and Demand (current & future)

Current provision is varied, with some facilities such as gyms, swimming pools and fitness classes experiencing high levels of demand and utilisation, while others, particularly community halls, report underuse or limited sporting activity. Key activities include gymnastics, swimming, squash, tennis, football, boxing and group exercise, with strong demand from children, young people and older adults. However, access can be restricted by membership models, pricing or limited programming. Future demand is expected to grow, particularly for accessible and inclusive activities, youth provision and specialist facilities such as padel courts and hydrotherapy pools, although many providers indicate they lack the capacity or resources to expand provision without external support.

Planned Changes and Investment

Investment across the sector is mixed, with some larger operators planning enhancements such as gym refurbishments, additional studios and new padel courts, often supported by a combination of operator funding and public investment.

However, many smaller providers and community venues report limited or no planned development due to funding constraints, with improvements typically restricted to minor refurbishments or maintenance works.

Gaps and Issues

The most significant challenges relate to rising operating and maintenance costs, including utilities, staffing and business rates, which are impacting financial viability across both private gyms and community centres. Many facilities report ageing buildings, limited funds for refurbishment and difficulty sustaining operations, particularly for smaller providers. There are also gaps in specific provision, including accessible facilities, youth-focused activities and specialist spaces, alongside underutilised capacity in some venues due to limited programming or awareness.

Strategic Implications for Havant

The findings highlight the importance of the private and community sector in supporting overall provision in Havant, with clear opportunities to better integrate these facilities into the wider network. Supporting financial sustainability, improving awareness and programming, and enabling targeted investment, particularly for smaller providers could help maximise their contribution. There is also potential to expand provision through partnership working, particularly to address gaps in youth activity, inclusive provision and specialist facilities.

Overall Position

Responses from local sports clubs, including cricket, athletics, hockey and swimming clubs, highlight a strong and active club base within Havant, with membership levels ranging from small community clubs to larger organisations such as Havant Hockey Club and Havant & Waterlooville Swimming Club. Clubs are heavily reliant on a mix of school facilities, leisure centres and venues outside the borough, with a clear view that existing provision does not fully meet their needs, particularly for training and competition.

Supply and Demand (current & future)

The majority of clubs report insufficient access to facilities, particularly sports halls, swimming pools and indoor training spaces, with 60% indicating they do not have enough time or space to meet current needs. Clubs frequently rely on school sites such as Crookhorn School, Oaklands and Warblington, as well as facilities outside Havant, including Portsmouth-based venues, due to limited local availability. Demand is expected to increase further, driven by growth in junior and women's participation, alongside the need for additional training time during winter months. Specific facility needs include indoor cricket nets, sports halls, indoor hockey provision, athletics tracks and access to swimming water space.

Planned Changes and Investment

There is little evidence of planned facility development being led by clubs themselves, with most relying on existing provision and expressing a need for external investment rather than delivering new facilities independently. Some clubs identify aspirations for improved or additional facilities, but these are largely dependent on wider strategic investment rather than club-led schemes.

Gaps and Issues

Key issues relate to limited availability, difficulties securing regular bookings and reliance on facilities outside the borough. Programming constraints are common, with challenges in accessing consistent time slots and disruptions caused by competing uses or operational restrictions. While facility quality is generally considered good, there are specific concerns, including inadequate cricket nets, lack of indoor hockey provision within the borough, and swimming pools that do not meet competition standards, particularly in terms of depth and configuration.

Strategic Implications for Havant

The findings highlight a clear need to increase both the quantity of provision and access to existing facilities, particularly for key sports such as cricket, athletics, hockey and swimming. Improving access to school and leisure centre facilities, alongside targeted investment in specialist provision such as athletics tracks, indoor training spaces and swimming facilities, will be critical to supporting club development. There is also a need to reduce reliance on out-of-borough facilities and ensure Havant can retain and grow its club base.