

Redditch Borough Council

Built Facility Assessment and Strategy 2022 - 2032

A report by Strategic Leisure Limited

September 2023



Redditch Borough Council

Built Facility Assessment and Strategy

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Glossary of Terms

Terms	Explanation
Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (ANOG)	The Sport England guidance on preparing and developing needs assessments for built sports facilities, which provides the evidence to support a Local Plan.
Community Use	A facility has community use if it is open for use by sports clubs/community groups and pay and play use (use by individuals in the community).
Community Use Agreement (CUA)	A CUA is a formal agreement between a site owner (e.g., an education facility) and a Local Authority (and sometimes also Sport England) for community use of a sports facility on an education site out of school hours.
Affordable Fitness Facilities	These are fitness facilities which may be in the public, private or voluntary sectors, which offer similar prices as those operated by Redditch Borough Council; these facilities are therefore considered to be both affordable and accessible, and providing for at least some of the community, in a way that membership only facilities may not.
Facility Planning Model (FPM)	The FPM is a facility modelling toolkit, developed by Sport England to inform the current and future need for provision of sports halls, swimming pools and all-weather pitches.
Redditch or Redditch Borough	Reference to Redditch, or Redditch Borough, means the entirety of the geographic area for which Redditch Borough Council is responsible.
Redditch Town	Reference to Redditch town means the settlement within the wider Borough area.
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies and how they are expected to be applied. It covers both plan making and development management.
Pay and Play	Sports facilities which are available for use by the general public; facilities can be booked by individuals or groups, without membership necessarily being required.
School Lettings	A school open for lettings provides community access but these tend to just be for clubs/groups i.e., pre-organised groups as opposed to individual pay and play use.
Sports Facility Calculator (SFC)	The SFC is a facility modelling toolkit, developed by Sport England to calculate the future need for provision of sports halls, swimming pools and indoor bowls, based on a specified population increase in an identified location.
Strategic Size	Strategic size refers to either a sports hall of minimum 3 badminton courts, or a pool of a minimum 160 sq. m. These are definitions used by Sport England in the Facility Planning Model.

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Terms	Explanation
	<p>Sports halls: A strategic size hall is anything over 3 badminton court size. This is a Sport England definition, not ours. Activity halls would be 2 badminton courts or less. A typical sports hall would be a strategic size at 4 badminton courts. A village/community hall would typically not have line markings for badminton courts and is an activity hall i.e., less than 2 badminton court size.</p>

1. Executive Summary

1.1. Redditch Borough Council's Vision for future provision of leisure and culture in Redditch is:

Healthier and happier communities actively engaged in leisure and culture.

1.2. Sustainable, high quality, and critically, accessible facility provision has a crucial role to play in delivering these opportunities. Redditch Borough Council needs to plan for the investment requirements of its existing facilities, and work in partnership with other providers and stakeholders to address the other priorities identified through this Strategy.

Aim

1.3. Redditch Borough Council's aim is to provide sufficient high quality, fit for purpose and accessible provision, places and spaces to:

- Increase the proportion of the population that is physically active; the level of activity undertaken will support efforts to further reduce health inequalities;
- Develop additional facility provision (for example providing more community use hours) where need is evidenced e.g., as a result of population growth;
- Design in flexibility; any future facility provision may need to be more multi-purpose in nature, reflecting changing participation trends and opportunities;
- Encourage new participants to start taking part in physical activity;
- Enable opportunities for participation to be provided in a wider range of places and spaces, and particularly at a very local level, using e.g., community centres/halls, engaging with the Integrated Care System (ICS)
- Facilitate the continued development of healthier lifestyles across Redditch's communities;
- Contribute to a reduction in health inequalities, specifically obesity, and increased levels of activity, across Redditch; and
- Create active environments where the opportunity to be more physically active is an integral part of everyday life.

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- 1.4. As the Built Facility Assessment and Strategy is part of the evidence base for the Local Plan it is important to stress that as part of delivering the above aims Redditch Borough Council should aim for its facilities to be able to meet future demand taking into account population/housing growth.
- 1.5. The following key issues, impacts and implications are identified by this study:

Table 1: Key Issues, Impacts and Implications by Facility Type

Facility Type	Key Issues	Impact/Implications
Sports Halls	Reliance on schools to provide facilities	<p>Lack of influence from Redditch Borough Council over supply of sports hall facilities as this sits primarily in the education sector. Only three schools offer community access and only one offers pay and play access as opposed to clubs and groups.</p> <p>There is an opportunity to negotiate Community Use Agreements (CUAs) with the following schools to enhance the pay and play/community use offer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrow Vale Sports and Leisure Centre • St Augustine's School • St Bede's Catholic Middle School • Trinity High School • Tudor Grange Academy, Redditch <p>Negotiating CUAs on a formal basis are best done before a facility is built; however, once the facility is built it is possible to discuss opportunities for longer opening hours/opening up the building for community use, even if a full CUAS is not put in place.</p>
	Over-use of certain sites, e.g., Abbey Stadium	Usage levels are uncomfortably high at peak times (SE recommends 80% occupancy) which can lead to reduced customer satisfaction and can accelerate the need for refurbishment/investment
	Age of the current facility stock	Average age of the facilities in Redditch is 39 years old, (skewed slightly by the Abbey Stadium sports hall which is 59 years old). The average age of a public sports hall nationally is 35 to 40 years; therefore, investment is needed to maintain and improve the quality of the facilities. Improved lighting, floor surface and general décor would all enhance the existing provision.
	Need for joint planning with neighbouring authorities	There is a need to plan with neighbouring authorities, and particularly Bromsgrove as there is significant movement of Redditch residents over the boundary to use facilities in this area and vice versa. Joint planning will provide best value for all authorities for any future investment. N.B A new sports hall is planned in Droitwich, but this is outside the 20-minute drive time catchment area.

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Facility Type	Key Issues	Impact/Implications
	No additional sports hall provision is required to be built for community use	Any planning obligation monies could be directed towards refurbishment of existing facilities.
Swimming Pools	Additional swimming pool provision is required in 2022; this will also meet demand in 2040.	Any planning obligation monies should be directed towards refurbishment of existing facilities. S106 off site contributions could help towards the cost of a new pool in the Borough.
	High utilisation of Abbey Stadium pools at peak times	Usage levels are uncomfortably high at peak times (SE recommends 70% occupancy) which can lead to reduced customer satisfaction and can accelerate the need for refurbishment/investment
	Lack of supply of pools in Redditch, meaning residents are travelling from Redditch to use Bromsgrove facilities	Redditch BC may consider providing more water space which would alleviate some of the current pressure in Bromsgrove.
	There is insufficient swimming pool capacity to meet the level of demand for swimming in the borough from Redditch residents.	Joint strategic planning of facilities required with Bromsgrove District Council.
Health and Fitness	There are 9 fitness suites with an overall supply of 501 fitness stations (excluding 4 private use = 455 stations). There are 2 fitness suites with over 100 stations	There is some competition within the private sector and therefore residents in Redditch are likely to benefit from competitive prices and a high-quality product. There is also a budget gym offer in the Borough.
	All the commercial facilities have up to date fitness stations, are well designed and planned and have good changing facilities.	Most fitness facilities are in the north/central area of the Borough. All areas of the Borough are within a 20-minute drive time catchment of a community accessible fitness suite except the extreme southwest and northwest.
	Of the 9 fitness centres there are 4 fitness centres providing 30 or more fitness stations. Excluding fitness suites with less than 20 stations and those without public access, there are 455 publicly accessible fitness stations.	Although there is an oversupply of fitness stations in Redditch, it is important to retain community access and affordable fitness stations.
	There is demand for 305 stations in 2021 which gives a current over-supply of 155 fitness stations. By 2040 this over-supply increases to 168 fitness stations, assuming there is no change in the supply.	
Squash Courts	There are 2 squash courts in total at Redditch Cricket, Hockey and Rugby Club; neither of these are glass backed.	Squash courts are more specialist facilities and therefore there are generally fewer of them. Both courts in Redditch are within a 20-minute drive time of the majority of the population.
		NGB guidance is 1 court per 10,000 people. On this basis there is an under-supply of 6 courts in Redditch both now and by 2040.

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Facility Type	Key Issues	Impact/Implications
		No demand for additional courts has, however been identified. Nationally squash is usually provided through clubs rather than local authority facilities.
Indoor Bowls	There are no indoor bowls facilities in Redditch.	There is a successful indoor bowls club in Bromsgrove, within an acceptable drive time from Redditch. The England Indoor Bowls Association supports increased use of this club and its facilities to ensure it is sustainable.
Indoor Tennis	There are no indoor tennis courts in Redditch.	Based on the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) figure of 12,500 population for 1 indoor court there is a need for 6.8 indoor courts, and therefore there is a shortfall of 6.8 courts. Any development of indoor tennis court provision should be led by the LTA and Tennis Clubs. However, the LTA has not identified Redditch Borough in its own strategic plan as a specific target location for indoor community tennis provision.
		To reference indoor tennis with the findings of the analysis on outdoor courts (see Table 80, PPS). Even when considering population growth to 2040, there is expected to be enough secured community use provision to meet future demand. The caveat being, that the courts located at Redditch Borough Sports and Social Club were closed for business in August 2023 and remain so to date. If the courts remained closed it will cause critical imbalances to supply and demand. There is an aspiration to reopen the courts in October 2023, although it is unknown if this is a viable prospect. To summarise, if these courts reopen, there is enough capacity to meet demand both currently and in the future. If the courts do not reopen, there is a significant undersupply of tennis provision within Redditch and this will remain so unless there is reopening or development.
Gymnastics	There are no purpose-built gymnastics facilities in Redditch and no gymnastic clubs. Support for gymnastics clubs from outside Redditch to rent former industrial units in the borough to move to and develop as gymnastics facilities.	Gymnastics should be offered as part of wider community programmes at community accessible sports halls in the Borough. Development of gymnastics in the borough

1.6. Based on the key issues and supply and demand analysis, there is clearly a need for:

- Retaining existing levels of community accessible (including pay and play) sports halls, squash courts, athletics track, studios and fitness stations;
- Investment in infrastructure of sports halls to maintain and improve the quality of the facilities although no additional sports hall provision is required to be built for community use either in 2021 or by 2040;

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- Additional swimming pool provision is required now to meet current and future needs by 2040. The need is for circa 1 x 8 lane x 25m pool plus teaching pool 17m x 10m, or the equivalent of 553 sq. m – 578 sq. m of water space.
 - Support to develop gymnastics in the borough
 - Improve quality of ageing facilities – the priority is sports halls (particularly if, in so doing, additional capacity for community access can be created), and one studio at Abbey Stadium
 - Joint strategic planning of facilities required with Bromsgrove District Council and other neighbouring local authorities, and specifically over future swimming provision.
 - Negotiation to introduce Community Use Agreements (CUAs) on education sites (existing or planned) to increase community access (pay and play) through available S106 funding and/or external grants. Where there are existing facilities on education sites without CUAs, but there is potential for wider community use of these facilities, this opportunity should be explored with the relevant education organisation and wherever possible a bespoke arrangement negotiated.
 - Consideration of enhancing current facilities through planning obligation monies i.e., S106.
- 1.7. Retaining and improving the quality of all provision (indoor, outdoor, formal and informal) is important in Redditch to ensure that participation levels are retained and wherever possible increased. Active Lives (November 2021 - 2022) highlights that almost 36.1% i.e., well over a third of the Redditch community is inactive; if these people were to become more active then this would contribute to improved health and wellbeing reducing risks of developing a range of long-term health conditions as illustrated on page 34, Figure 3. Levels of inactivity in Redditch have increased significantly over recent years.¹ Whilst facilities are an important element of the overall active environment, there is also the need to consider, through a wider plan, how increased use of the ‘great outdoors’, informal provision and natural assets can also contribute to increasing levels of physical activity in the community.
- 1.8. The provision of good quality, local accessible and affordable community facilities, to meet identified need (through consultation and assessment, as set out in Sections 4 and 5), is key to facilitating participation growth, and contributing to a reduction in any health inequalities in the Borough.
- 1.9. This reflects Redditch Borough Council’s purpose within their Corporate Strategy, which encourages and supports residents to improve health and wellbeing, ‘live independent, active and healthy lives’, and also supports the priorities of the Worcestershire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, and the Health and Wellbeing Board. Taking part in sport, leisure and physical activity facilitates sustained behaviour change to reduce obesity, improve health, contribute to addressing mental health issues and increase participation.

¹ Source: Active Lives April 2023 based on November 2021-2022 data)

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- 1.10. Other future facility provision, linked particularly to long term population growth and housing development, could include the development of new and improved walking, jogging and cycling routes/connectivity, to encourage active travel, and provide an environment in which physical activity can be easily integrated into daily life.

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Priority Investment Needs

- 1.11. The average age of sports halls in Redditch is 39 years old, (skewed slightly by the sports hall at Abbey Stadium). The average age of a public sports hall nationally is 35 to 40 years; therefore, investment will need to be provided to maintain and improve the quality of the facilities. The quality of some existing provision is average, mainly due to the age and condition of the facilities. Although there is no need for additional sports hall facilities by 2040, the current facility stock which is based mainly on education sites will require investment for refurbishment/replacement. This investment could be through any potential planning obligations money and linked to formal community use agreements. Improving the quality of existing, ageing provision is the priority for future investment.
- 1.12. The Abbey Stadium is key for swimming provision in Redditch; there is a need to consider the refurbishment of this centre in future years (by 2040) to maintain quality of provision – potentially through planning obligations. This is particularly important given the high usage of this facility currently. There is also an opportunity to invest in facilities in return for community use/engagement, for example Tudor Grange Academy (Kingsley Sports Centre) School.
- 1.13. Development of a new pool in Redditch will require capital resources. Consideration of the most appropriate site is also needed. Tudor Grange School is very keen to re-open its pool at Kingsley Sports Centre, but this pool is not ideal (due to depth) for learn to swim sessions. The School needs to release land assets to raise the capital to refurbish its existing pool or develop a new one. Factors to consider include:
- If the School develops the pool itself, what should the relationship be between this and Redditch Borough Council provision? It would not make operational sense in a small borough with limited choice of pools for there to be competition in terms of pricing, programming, learn to swim offer etc.
 - Is there potential for Redditch Borough Council and Tudor Grange School to work in partnership to refurbish//redevelop the pool?
 - Could a refurbished/redeveloped pool be part of the leisure management contract in Redditch?
 - If a new pool is developed where is the optimum location for this?
 - Is there potential to develop additional swimming pool provision on the Abbey Stadium site?
 - A feasibility/options study is needed to explore how additional swimming pool capacity could be developed in Redditch to meet both current and future demand.
- 1.14. The Facility Planning Model (FPM) for Redditch states that a significant proportion of Redditch residents use pools in Bromsgrove and therefore joint working with Bromsgrove District Council may be helpful to review the pool provision situation and future planning for swimming pools.
- 1.15. Fitness facilities, squash, and athletics facilities should be maintained at their current level and investment will be required to improve the quality of these facilities as they continue to age. Squash courts are provided through the voluntary sector (clubs) and support may be required to develop future funding applications.

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- 1.16. Given the cross-boundary usage of facilities it will be important to invest strategically and work with local authority neighbours to ensure economic viability and sustainability of provision.
- 1.17. The identified priorities for future investment in facility provision are:

Table 2: Summary of Facility Investment Priorities

Facility Type	Priority for Future Provision	Location
Sports Halls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased community use/opening hours 	Abbey Stadium, Arrow Vale School, Trinity School, Tudor Grange School,
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refurbishment/replacement of existing ageing facilities – potentially through planning obligations 	Abbey Stadium sports hall; Arrow Vale School,
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of formal Community Use Agreements in schools to improve community access, especially during peak times 	Arrow Vale Sports and Leisure Centre St Augustine's School St Bede's Catholic Middle School Trinity High School
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint strategic planning of sports hall facilities with Bromsgrove District Council and other neighbouring local authorities, 	Tudor Grange Academy,
Swimming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint strategic planning of swimming facilities required with Bromsgrove District Council. 	Redditch Borough and some engagement with Wychavon District Council, Birmingham City Council
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of additional water space to meet current and future demand (feasibility work required) 	Redditch Borough- Kingsley Sports Centre and/or Abbey Stadium
Health and Fitness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although there is an oversupply of fitness stations in Redditch now and by 2040, it is important to retain community access and affordable fitness stations. Improvement in the quality of the poorer quality studio at Abbey Stadium Sports Centre 	Redditch Borough
Squash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support existing provision of 2 courts in the Borough to maintain supply of courts 	Redditch Borough
Athletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain provision of the synthetic track. Improve the track condition and quality by undertaking required track maintenance. 	Redditch Borough
Gymnastics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for gymnastics clubs looking to find former industrial units in which to run gymnastics programmes. 	Redditch Borough

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Facility Type	Priority for Future Provision	Location
General Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Need to retain community centres that can be used for informal sport and physical activity.• Overall, and specifically through the housing growth agenda, provision of more active environments, reflecting active travel, cycle infrastructure, safe cycle routes to school, the need to link existing and new communities with walking/cycling/jogging routes – all supporting access and movement	Redditch Borough

Capital Investment

- 1.18. It is clear from the strategy analysis that there is a need for some capital investment in Redditch leisure facilities to address future needs. This investment relates to the need for additional swimming pool provision. Investment will also be needed in ageing facilities e.g., Abbey Stadium sports hall, older education and voluntary sector facilities.
- 1.19. It is also clear that delivery of the levels of investment required will benefit from a local partnership approach. In Redditch it is particularly important that joint working is developed with neighbouring authorities, particularly Bromsgrove District Council. The development of improved sports facilities, and physical activity environments, will facilitate increased participation, which in turn will benefit individual and community health. The challenge is that the greatest health benefit will be gained by encouraging the inactive to become active, but this requires resources to achieve.

Continued Local Partnership Working with Education Sites

- 1.20. A change to the Council's approach to delivery will be required to meet the needs of this strategy so that the key outcomes of increased participation to address health inequalities and meeting the demands from increased population are met. The refurbishment of existing facilities, increasing and optimising the available capacity in existing education facilities, will provide a mechanism to deliver these outcomes.
- 1.21. The key issue to address initially is that of future partnership working with education sites, to retain community access for clubs and groups as a minimum, and where possible agree Community Use Agreements (CUAs) which provide balanced access for the community on a pay and play basis. Increasing capacity to offer and deliver increased participation opportunities, particularly for those who are currently inactive, could contribute significantly to improved health and wellbeing in the Borough.

Tackling Inactivity

- 1.22. Clearly investing in good quality and accessible leisure facilities provides an infrastructure where people can be physically active. It is important that facilities are both accessible in physical terms and available for people to use; this includes those with a disability or life-limiting condition. Across Redditch there are improvements that could be made to facilities to address this, particularly in swimming pools.

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- 1.23. Of equal importance is the need to enable those who are inactive to be physically active. They may not be comfortable in a leisure facility, so it is crucial to provide the appropriate activities, programmes, partnerships (including those in the wider cultural sectors in the borough) and opportunities either outside or in more informal settings e.g., community/church halls, parks and open spaces (particularly those with developing management plans as they will provide essential infrastructure) to facilitate increased levels of activity. Focussing on getting more people active is important in Redditch where nearly a third of the adult population is inactive. Redditch Borough Council's development services have a vital role to play in engaging with those who are inactive through a range of targeted programmes and services and supporting them into activity. This is where most impact will be delivered in terms of health and well-being.

Development Services

- 1.24. It is also clear from the consultation and analysis that there is a critical role for development services moving forward. Focusing on those who are inactive will have most impact in terms of reducing health inequalities and increasing levels of physical activity in the community. Specific areas of work should include:

- embedding development capacity into the Integrated Care System (ICS) (as per national emphasis) with a focus on mental health, obesity and frailty,
- the development of active environments – in education, at work, at home
- working collaboratively to engage with communities to understand the barriers to taking part in physical activity in Redditch
- working collaboratively through a range of partnerships to co-design programmes and services meeting the needs of those who are inactive
- effecting behaviour change by engaging the inactive
- development of shared outcomes and KPIs to better monitor the impact of more people being regularly physically active
- regular communication between partners to make best use of all available resources

aligned to the Government's new Department of Culture Media and Sport Strategy: "Get Active: A strategy for the future of sport and physical activity" encouraging a cross-departmental approach at local authority level to supporting residents to be more active

- 1.25. It is recommended that the Council set about delivering these areas of work in order to confirm very clear priorities for the Council's Development Services Team. This will help the Council focus on the people and areas where their resources will have most impact.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1 (R1)

Work with Rubicon Leisure to review existing swimming programme at Abbey Stadium to facilitate casual access at peak times; this will require a re-balancing of time currently allocated to swimming club use.

(PROTECT)

Recommendation 2 (R2)

Explore the potential for a more integrated operational leisure management model across both Redditch and Bromsgrove to identify economies of scale.

(PROVIDE)

Recommendation 3 (R3)

Explore the options available to Redditch Borough Council to address the current under-supply of water space in the Borough, working with BDC and Birmingham CC, given there is a geographical opportunity for collaboration between the three areas. A feasibility/options study is really needed to explore how additional swimming pool capacity could be developed in Redditch to meet both current and future demand. It could also be worth exploring the potential for collaboration with Stratford-Upon-Avon Council in relation to Studley swimming pool.

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

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Recommendation 4 (R4)

Review the opportunity to consolidate community centre provision and potentially asset transfer more to the third/commercial sectors to reduce operational costs and resources.

(PROVIDE AND PROTECT)

Recommendation 5 (R5)

Redditch Borough Council to develop appropriate formal access arrangements i.e., Community Use Arrangements (CUA) with any new education sports halls as and when opportunity arises proportionate to new developments.

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

Recommendation 6 (R6)

Upgrade ageing facilities (e.g. sports halls via planning monies if, by so doing, they increase community access. This has the potential to increase daytime access, which is lacking in the borough, particularly for older people.

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

Recommendation 7 (R7)

Improve access to built facilities for those with disabilities and/or life-limiting conditions e.g., pool pod

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

Recommendation 8 (R8)

Identify very clear priorities for the Council's Development Services Team to focus on the people and areas where their resources will have most impact

Specific areas of work. should include:

- embedding development capacity into the Integrated Care System (ICS) (as per national emphasis) with a focus on mental health, obesity and frailty,
- the development of active environments across the borough
- working collaboratively to engage with communities to understand the barriers to taking part in physical activity in Redditch
- working collaboratively through a range of partnerships to co-design programmes and services meeting the needs of those who are inactive
- effecting behaviour change by engaging the inactive
- development of shared outcomes and KPIs to better monitor the impact of more people being regularly physically active
- regular communication between partners to make best use of all available resources
- development of a Physical Activity statement setting out the priorities to which facilities should contribute

aligned to the Government's new Department of Culture Media and Sport Strategy: "Get Active: A strategy for the future of sport and physical activity" encourages a cross-departmental approach at local authority level to supporting residents to be more active

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

Recommendation 9 (R9)

- i) Consider changing where management responsibilities for leisure and culture services 'sit' in the Council to create a more integrated service, aligned to agreed outcomes and priorities.
- ii) Specifically consider facilitating a more joined-up and integrated approach to facility/venue management and the Council's Development Services team aligned to delivery of Health and Wellbeing priorities;

(PROVIDE AND PROTECT)

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Recommendation 10 (R10)

Invest in the development of additional/replacement facilities to address identified gaps:

Facility Type	Priority for Future Provision	Location
Sports Halls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased community use/opening hours 	Abbey Stadium, Arrow Vale School, Trinity School, Tudor Grange School,
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refurbishment/replacement of existing ageing facilities – potentially through planning obligations 	Abbey Stadium sports hall; Arrow Vale School,
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of formal Community Use Agreements in schools to improve community access, especially during peak times 	Arrow Vale Sports and Leisure Centre St Augustine's School St Bede's Catholic Middle School Trinity High School
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint strategic planning of sports hall facilities with Bromsgrove District Council and other neighbouring local authorities, 	Tudor Grange Academy,
Swimming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint strategic planning of swimming facilities required with Bromsgrove District Council. 	Redditch Borough and some engagement with Wychavon District Council, Birmingham City Council
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of additional water space to meet current and future demand (feasibility work required) 	Redditch Borough- Kingsley Sports Centre and/or Abbey Stadium
Health and Fitness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although there is an oversupply of fitness stations in Redditch now and by 2040, it is important to retain community access and affordable fitness stations. Improvement in the quality of the poorer quality studio at Abbey Stadium Sports Centre 	Redditch Borough
Squash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support existing provision of 2 courts in the Borough to maintain supply of courts 	Redditch Borough
Athletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain provision of the synthetic track. Improve the track condition and quality by undertaking required track maintenance. 	Redditch Borough
Gymnastics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for gymnastics clubs looking to find former industrial units in which to run gymnastics programmes. 	Redditch Borough

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Facility Type	Priority for Future Provision	Location
General Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Need to retain community centres that can be used for informal sport and physical activity.• Overall, and specifically through the housing growth agenda, provision of more active environments, reflecting active travel, cycle infrastructure, safe cycle routes to school, the need to link existing and new communities with walking/cycling/jogging routes – all supporting access and movement	Redditch Borough

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

Recommendation 11 (R11)

Provide support to gymnastics clubs looking to identify former industrial units as a club base, to develop gymnastics in the borough.

Recommendation 12 (R12)

Where appropriate, Redditch Borough Council and its partners seek to secure developer contributions from strategic developments that could contribute towards the development/refurbishment of facilities, safe walking/running/cycling routes, and other informal multipurpose places and spaces where people can be active.

(PROVIDE AND PROTECT)

Recommendation 13 (R13)

Redditch Borough Council and all its partners identify the level of capital funding required to address the identified investment needs for sport and physical activity facilities, and investigate all available sources for capital funding, on a partnership basis. To support this process, it is recommended to involve Active Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

(PROVIDE)

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Recommendation 14 (R14)

Redditch Borough Council and its partners prioritise investment in the development of high-quality community sport and physical activity facilities/spaces in order to increase available capacity and opportunities to take part in regular physical activity in the local community thus contributing to improved health and wellbeing, increased participation, and better community cohesion.

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

Recommendation 15 (R15)

There should be on-going monitoring of this Strategy through its implementation, but as a minimum, progress should be reviewed and refreshed every five years. On-going monitoring should include partnership working with neighbouring local authorities to remain aware of facility changes and developments as and when they arise.

(PROTECT)

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2. Stage A - Introduction and Scope

Introduction

- 2.1 This Built Facility Assessment and Strategy (BFS) provides an assessment of the need for built Sports Facilities in the Redditch Borough. The BFS informs the Leisure and Cultural Strategy for Redditch Borough Council and will guide future provision of indoor sports facilities to serve existing and new communities in Redditch.
- 2.2 This BFS for Redditch Borough Council is part of a wider Leisure and Culture Strategy that includes several other related pieces of work (Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS), Arts and Culture Strategy and Parks and Open Spaces Strategy)
- 2.3 This BFS provides an assessment of the need for built Sports Facilities in Redditch Borough. The BFS informs the Leisure and Cultural Strategy for Redditch Borough Council and will guide future provision of indoor sports facilities to serve existing and new communities in Redditch.
- 2.4 It is important to stress that this BFS focuses on facility provision in the context of improving health and wellbeing. Redditch Borough Council will develop a physical activity statement as part of its ongoing work and within the Leisure and Culture Strategy which sets out the priorities to which the facility network will contribute moving forward. These priorities will reflect locally identified needs.
- 2.5 The Borough of Redditch is within the County of Worcestershire and borders Warwickshire County (Stratford Upon Avon District to the east and southeast). It is further surrounded by Bromsgrove District to the west and north, and Wychavon District to the southwest. The Borough is situated at the outer edge of the Green Belt boundary for the West Midlands. Redditch offers easy access to the countryside and prominent local areas, including culturally rich areas such as Stratford-upon-Avon and naturally rich areas such as the Cotswolds. The Borough lies 15 miles south of the Birmingham conurbation and Birmingham airport is approximately 25 minutes' drive time away.
- 2.6 Redditch Borough consists of the main town of Redditch, the villages of Astwood Bank and Feckenham and several other hamlets. It covers an area of 5,435 hectares (13,430 acres) with a population of 84,214 ².

Figure 1: Location of Redditch



² Source: 2011 Census

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- 2.7 The Borough is split into the urban area of Redditch in the north, accounting for 50% of the area and 93% of the population; and the rural area to the south with 7% of the population. The rural area consists predominantly of Green Belt land, but also open countryside, as well as the villages of Astwood Bank and Feckenham.
- 2.8 Redditch was formerly a market town until 1964 when it was designated as a New Town; a status it maintained up until 1985. During this period, the Redditch Development Corporation was responsible for the growth of Redditch, predominantly to the east of the town.
- 2.9 The ONS estimated population for 2021 was 85,165; the projection for 2040 is 85,819³.
- 2.10 In the Borough of Redditch about 15.6% (2,620) of children live-in low-income families. Life expectancy for both men and women is on a par with the England average. Life expectancy is 12.7 years lower for men and 10.4 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Redditch. Add as footnote
Source: Public Health England (Redditch) Local Authority Health Profile 2019
- 2.11 In Year 6, 17.7% (170) of children are classified as obese, lower than the average for England. Levels of GCSE attainment (average attainment 8 score) and breastfeeding are lower than the England average. Add as footnote **Source: Public Health England (Redditch) Local Authority Health Profile 2019**

Purpose and Objectives in Developing a Built Facility Assessment and Strategy

- 2.12 The development of a BFS provides a robust evidence base to support and inform the local planning policy. This study has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) and Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (ANOG) throughout. It provides an updated evidence base for the Local Plan and underpins future priorities for provision.
- 2.13 Having current strategies and strong supporting evidence (the Council's Local Plan period is from 2011-2030), will secure the continued provision of the appropriate level of valuable community assets, to meet increasing population levels.
- 2.14 The strategies will enable the Council to plan in the longer term, by ensuring the future provision of sustainable sport and leisure facilities across the area.

³ Source ONS 2018 Based Sub National Population Projections – Redditch 2021 and 2040

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2.15 The purpose of this BFS is to:

Review	Review the current supply and demand for indoor sports and recreation facilities in Redditch.
Demand	Model the demand to assess the current and projected over/under supply of facilities using a recognised modelling technique that satisfies the requirements of Sport England e.g. Facilities Planning Model (FPM).
Provide	Provide conclusions and recommendations on policy and proposal development.

2.16 The BFS covers the geographical area over which Redditch Borough Council has planning jurisdiction but references areas outside Redditch boundaries as appropriate. It also reflects the diversity of sport and recreational needs across Redditch and provides a robust evidence base for the Local Plan to 2030 and beyond to 2040.

2.17 Redditch Borough Council's Corporate Plan 2019-2024 sets out their key issues and challenges, its vision, mission, values, ambitions, and priorities. The Leisure and Culture Strategy 2022 sets out the direction of travel for sport, leisure and physical activity, aligned to the Council's corporate priorities.

Table 3: Redditch Borough Council Corporate Plan 2019-2024

Redditch Borough Council Corporate Plan 2019-2024	
Our vision is to enrich the lives & aspirations of all our residents, businesses & visitors through the provision of high-quality services, ensuring that all in need receive appropriate help, support and opportunities.	
<p>Community Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic development and regeneration; • Housing growth; • Skills; • Improved health and wellbeing; and • Community safety and anti-social behaviour. 	<p>Organisational Priorities</p> <p>Our organisational priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Stability; • Sustainability; and • High Quality Services.

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Health and wellbeing

- 2.18 The Addendum to the Council's Plan, adopted in 2022, takes the shift in priorities brought about by the pandemic into consideration and sits alongside the current Council Plan.
- 2.19 Within this Addendum Redditch Borough Council has considered what really matters to local residents and the impacts of the pandemic, and in that context has developed nine priorities underpinned by a set of key milestones. The addendum document sits alongside the Redditch Borough Council Plan 2019 – 2024.
- 2.20 The priority of "Improved Health and Wellbeing" is further endorsed by the Addendum and thus remains key to the Leisure and Culture Strategy and all its component parts (including BFS). The addendum to the Council Plan 2019-2024 states that Redditch Borough Council will work with communities to help them identify and develop their strengths (Asset Based Community Development). It specifies that the Council will look at ways to encourage physical movement into people's everyday routines. It will prioritise aligning leisure and culture services with the emerging Integrated Care System (ICS) in order to best achieve this.
- 2.21 Outlined at recommendation 7 is the need for Development Services to identify priorities and within this process prioritise embedding leisure and culture services within the emerging Integrating Care System (ICS) in order to best achieve this.

The following is quoted from that Addendum:

Progress and learning:

Covid-19 helped us see the health and wellbeing importance of community, of activity, and of the health and care system.

Focal points:

Community Development: we will embed an Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) model that builds on the assets that are found in local communities and mobilises individuals, associations, and institutions to come together to realise and develop their strengths. Through grant funding, Community Builders within the voluntary sector will be working with local residents and existing organisations to uncover the key community assets and skills of local residents. They will assess how to build a more cohesive community that will ultimately lead to a less isolated, healthier, and more connected community, particularly as we move towards Covid recovery.

Active travel: we will work with local people and experts to explore how we might establish a local transport infrastructure that encourages physical movement.

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Integrated care: we will work with local public service partners to establish an integrated care model, using a blend of professional and community led support to ensure those who most need support are properly cared for.

Leisure Strategy: we will develop a Leisure Strategy for the Borough.

The Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Board's (WHWB) Strategy 2022-2032 identifies good mental health and wellbeing as the main priority, supported by action in areas that we all need to 'Be Well in Worcestershire'. The Vision of the WHWB is 'working together for all to be well in Worcestershire'. The priority is good mental health and wellbeing, supported by actions on the wider determinants of health:

- Healthy Living at all ages;
- Safe, thriving and healthy homes, communities and place; and
- Quality local jobs and opportunities.

We know that good mental health and wellbeing is an important part of all our experiences in life and that it is something that affects other areas of our health too. Better mental health and wellbeing is linked to improved physical health, performance in education and living longer in better health.

Working with other Worcestershire districts, Redditch Borough Council has a role as a preventative provider in terms of health and wellbeing. Its focus is:

- Tackling inactivity;
- Prevention; and
- Commissioning and the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP).

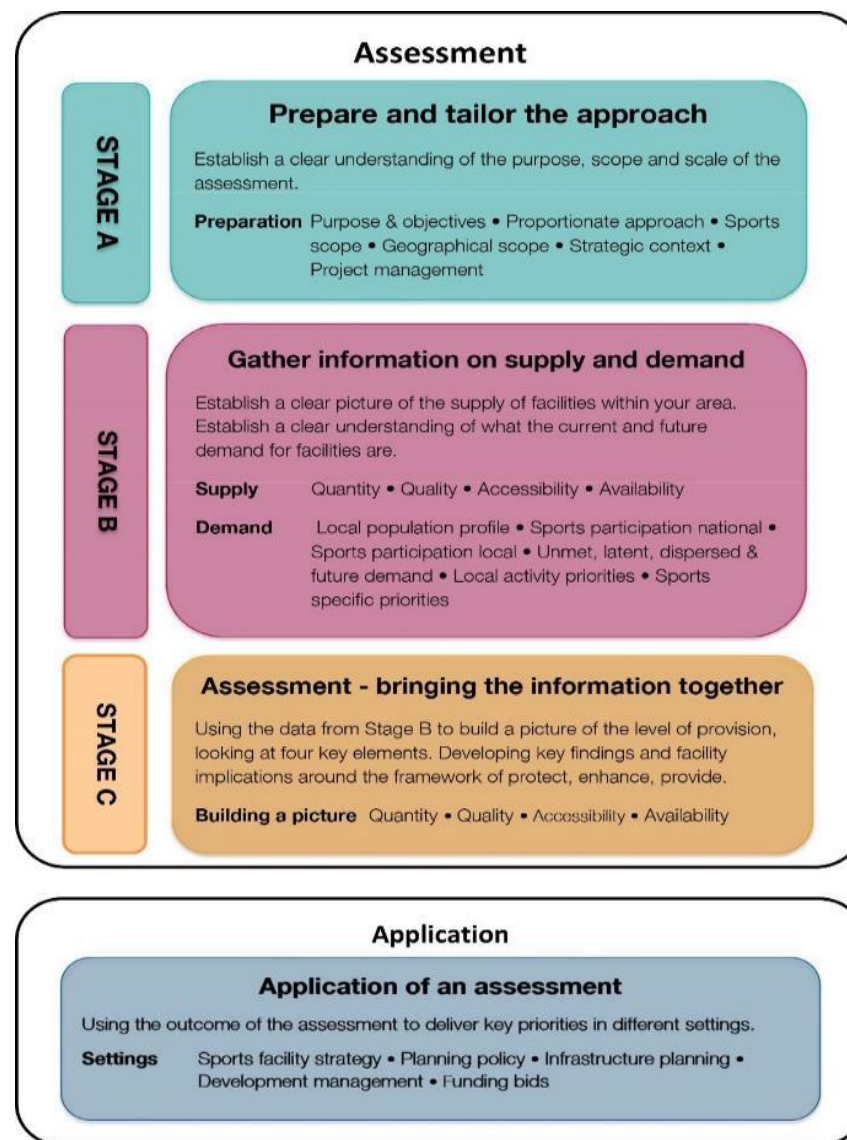
Working with the Primary Care Network (PCN) across the wider preventative agenda, Redditch Borough Council has a key role in co-designing and co-delivering services. Provision of leisure and culture services is central to this role given the contribution they make to health and wellbeing, reduced inequalities and overall quality of life.

2.22 The above strategic approach will also contribute to the Active Herefordshire and Worcestershire vision 'to create a healthier and more active two counties.'

Study Structure

- 2.23 The BFS Study has been developed using the Sport England Assessing Needs and Opportunities guidance (ANOG), published in 2014.
- 2.24 The Evidence Base (essentially Stages A-C) – is based on the ANOG approach, as set out in Figure 2 found on the opposite side of this page.
- 2.25 The **subsequent** Strategy (Sections 5 and 6) sets out the proposed response to the issues identified in the Evidence Base (Sections 1-4).

Figure 2: ANOG Stages



Sports and Geographical Scope

2.26 The scope of the work includes:

- Building on existing material to comprehensively audit all pre-defined sports facilities/facility networks across Redditch Borough;
- Assessing the impact of forecast population growth on the future planning for sports facility provision within Redditch Borough;
- Assessing the impact that sports facility provision in neighbouring Local Authorities has on future provision and planning for sports facility provision within Redditch Borough; and
- Assessing the requirements to demonstrate the impact of investing in existing and new facility stock across Redditch Borough in terms of economic, social and health outcomes.

2.27 The scope of this BFS Study includes analysis of the following facility types across Redditch, in line with the geographical area covered by the Local Plan. Facilities owned by the public (including education), private and third sectors are included.

2.28 The project scope includes the following type of facilities:

- Swimming pools – indoor (there are no outdoor pools in the borough);
- Sports Halls and appropriate school and local community facilities;
- Health and Fitness Facilities i.e., fitness suites and studios;
- Indoor Bowls;
- Squash Courts;
- Gymnastics Facilities;
- Indoor Cricket and
- Indoor Tennis.

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2.29 The key sports to be covered by the facilities include but are not limited to:

Badminton;	Volleyball;	Health and Fitness (Fitness Suites and Dance Studios);	Indoor Bowls;	Basketball;	Indoor Netball;
Swimming;	Indoor Tennis;	Table Tennis;	Gymnastics;	Squash; and	Indoor Cricket.

2.30 The Strategy will assess and identify the provision of all strategic scale indoor recreation facilities i.e., 3 court sports halls, 20m pools or larger and will focus on key providers such as:

- Local Authority;
- Education (School and Higher Education Based); and
- Voluntary and Private Sectors.

2.31 Outdoor sports facilities and pitches are covered in the 2022 Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS). This BFS comprises:

- A Strategy and Action Plan which sets out the full range of findings supported by the evidence, which is fully NPPF compliant;
- Technical evidence which sets out the results of the assessment for all built sports facilities;
- Location plans of all sites using a GIS mapping system;
- Identification of proposals for generic Borough wide issues, sport specific issues and area specific issues;
- A list of priority projects for improvements needed to build sport and leisure facilities over the Local Plan period, with information on indicative costs, phasing and proposed delivery mechanisms, where possible; and
- Recommendations for policy, local standards, and guidelines.

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2.32 In addition to purpose-built facilities, consideration is given to the role of education facilities in meeting local need.

Proportionate Approach

2.33 The brief developed by Redditch Borough Council identifies the key objectives of the strategy as being to:

Provide	Provide a viable and deliverable model of sports facility stock (type/mix) that meets existing and anticipated future demand;
Understanding	Provide a clear understanding of the overall surpluses and deficiencies across the Borough and any specific geographical and/or individual facility needs;
Establish	Establish the principles to help inform where future resources should be focused and help inform the policy direction of the emerging Local Plan; and
Produce	Produce a built facility strategy for Redditch which is compliant with Sport England guidance.

2.34 In addition, the Strategy will:

1. Identify objectives and actions for addressing and delivering the issues and needs identified above;
2. Provide recommendations to help ensure that existing and future sports needs are met across the Borough. It should identify opportunities for improving existing facilities in terms of their quality, quantity, physical and social accessibility, and current maintenance and management and recommend how shortfalls and future needs should be addressed and where new facilities should be located;
3. Provide recommendations for a suitable mechanism for securing developer contributions towards the delivery of sports and physical activity across Redditch (can be based on locally derived quantity, quality and accessibility standards or other appropriate mechanisms). The recommendations should be suitably robust and based on appropriate available evidence; and
4. Give guidance on the cost of recommended actions/proposals and an implementation plan for securing investment and delivering projects, including but not limited to the developer contribution system.

3. Strategic Policy and Context

Introduction

National Level

- 3.1 There are a number of key National and Local strategies and policies which inform and influence the development of these strategies. The majority of the National documents are summarised in Appendix 1, Sport and Physical Activity National Context, but the main ones are highlighted below. These National policies inform the approach to current and future provision of sports facilities, linked to health improvement, increased participation, and the appropriate levels of provision of facilities to meet local needs. From a planning perspective, the national agenda makes the link between national planning policy, a Local Plan and population growth at a local level, and the need to plan for increased demands for infrastructure and provision, linked to Sport England's priorities of "Protect, Enhance and Provide".

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

- 3.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government's planning policies for England. A revised version was published in July 2021 (replacing the previous February 2019 version). The NPPF provides the framework that must be considered in the preparation of Local Plans and is a material consideration in determining planning decisions. The NPPF highlights the purpose of the planning system in terms of contributing to the achievement of "sustainable development", and defines the three dimensions of this – economic, social, and environmental – which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways.
- 3.3 The revised NPPF retains the broad policy approach of the previous version, albeit with a stronger emphasis upon housing delivery. The policy wording for sport and recreation is largely unchanged. Paragraph 98 of the NPPF states that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Paragraph 99 of the NPPF specifies that:

Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

1. An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
2. The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
3. The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.

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- 3.4 The revised NPPF has increased emphasis in relation to health and wellbeing. For example, the increased importance of planning policies and decisions that aim to achieve healthy, inclusive, and safe places (para. 93 – in particular 93c) and NPPF para. 93a – planning positively for provision and use of community facilities (including sports venues) and 93b – consider local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all sections of the community.
- 3.5 Sport England is a statutory consultee on all planning applications affecting playing fields used in the last 5 years, and a consultee on other applications. It looks to improve the quality, access, and management of sports facilities as well as identify the investment needs in new facilities to meet unsatisfied demand. Sport England requires local authorities to have an up-to date assessment of sports facility needs and an associated strategy including a recommendation that the evidence base is regularly reviewed to keep it up to date and renewed at least every five years.
- 3.6 The key drivers for the production of the strategy as advocated by Sport England are to protect, enhance and provide sports facilities, as follows:
1. **Protect:**
 - To provide evidence to inform policy and specifically to support site allocations and development management policies which will protect sports facilities and their use by the community, irrespective of ownership;
 2. **Provide:**
 - To ensure that sports facilities are effectively managed and maintained and that the best uses are made of existing resources – whether facilities, expertise and/or personnel to improve and enhance the existing provision – particularly in the light of pressure on local authority budgets; and
 3. **Enhance:**
 - To provide evidence to help secure external funding for new facilities and enhancements (if on the infrastructure list) and Section 106 agreements. Sport England and the local authority can then use the strategies developed and the guidance provided in making key planning decisions regarding facility developments in the area.

Department for Culture Media and Sport - Get Active: A strategy for the future of sport and physical activity (August 2023)

- 3.7 Our vision is to make sport and physical activity accessible, resilient, fun, and fair, for now and the years to come – for the benefit of individuals and the country.
- 3.8 The government wants to help build a healthier nation by tackling high levels of inactivity, and by making sure that the sport and physical activity sector thrives for future generations.

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- 3.9 This strategy sets out how the government will work with the sector to achieve these aims by ensuring that everyone can be active. Central to this will be a focus on establishing a lifetime habit of being physically active amongst children and young people, including playing sport, supporting the sector to be welcoming to all, and ensuring the sector is prepared for both future challenges and opportunities.
- 3.10 The government wants to help build a healthier nation by tackling high levels of inactivity, and by making sure that the sport and physical activity sector thrives for future generations. Whoever you are, or wherever you live there should be good facilities, a strong network of sports clubs that are open to you, great sport and physical activity opportunities in schools, and confidence in sport and the sector. This strategy sets out a blueprint to make that a reality,
- 3.11 The government cannot deliver the changes needed alone, so we will work alongside the sector to deliver this vision. This doesn't just include traditional sports clubs, schools, and other public sector organisations but also private sector businesses, the outdoor activity sector, and organisations with a core objective of getting the nation more active.
- 3.12 The importance of sport and physical activity on health is recognised by the strategy throughout, noting the potential savings of £7.1 billion to the NHS through prevention because of exercise. There is recognition there needs to be further joining up of physical activity provision and community health.
- 3.13 The 3 core priorities of this strategy, and what it means for the country, are:
1. **Being unapologetically ambitious in making the nation more active, whether in government or in the sport sector:**
 - Ensuring everyone is focused on increasing physical activity, meaning fewer inactive children, and narrowing the gap on inactivity where groups are not being reached, with visible progress across the country by 2030.
 - Focusing on evidence, data, and metrics
 - Setting the future direction for facilities and spaces where people can be active.
 2. **Making sport and physical activity more inclusive and welcoming for all so that everyone can have confidence that there is a place for them in sport.**
 - Helping the sector to be welcoming to all.
 - Improving how issues and concerns are dealt with in the sector.
 3. **Moving towards a more sustainable sector that is more financially resilient and robust.**
 - Supporting the sector to access additional, alternative forms of investment.
 - Working towards a more environmentally sustainable sector.
- 3.14 Delivering against these priorities will help create a more active nation and a more sustainable sport sector. These aims are complementary; greater participation, stronger governance and confidence in the sector will help to drive investment, which in turn helps to attract new audiences.

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3.15 The Government has committed to the following targets to achieve by 2030:

- **Population wide:**
 - Over 2.5 million more active adults as defined through the Chief Medical Officers' guidelines on physical activity.
 - Over 1 million more children meeting the Chief Medical Officers' guidelines on physical activity targets to reduce disparities in participation rates.
- **Targets to reduce disparities in participation rates:**
 - 1.4 million more active adults from those in NS-SEC 6-8
 - 0.7 million more active people who identify as having 1 or more disabilities.
 - 1.5 million more active adults aged 55+.
 - 1.25 million more active women
 - 0.19 million more active Asian adults, particularly people from Indian, Pakistani, and Bangladeshi ethnic groups.
 - 0.09 million more active black adults
- **To achieve this, the Government has committed to the following measures:**
 - A new cross-government approach for activity for all, with clear metrics and targets for the sector, held to account by a joint government and sector National Physical Activity Taskforce.
 - More investment in the sector is targeted at inactive groups, and a more strategic approach to facilities to ensure communities have access to the facilities they need.
 - A focus on all children to meet the activity levels recommended by the UK's Chief Medical Officers, supported by a new campaign aimed at children and young people.

3.16 To accurately measure the impact of the Strategy, the Government has identified the importance of data and metrics from across the sector, as well as delivering investment where it is most needed. It has committed £300 million in investment by 2025, although this is inclusive of previously announced funding.

Summary of Key Actions:

<i>Participation</i>	<i>Tackling disparities in activity</i>	Introduce a cross-government ambition for all children to meet the Chief Medical Officers' guidelines on physical activity.
		Create a new cross-government National Physical Activity Taskforce to ensure that physical activity is prioritised across government.
		Sport England to set an evidence-based measure of success in Uniting the Movement around tackling disparities in sport and activity.
		Support Sport England to introduce a new partner evaluation framework which tracks the impact of sector partners and provides six-monthly reports evidencing spend and impact.
		Undertake discrete monitoring and evaluation of government funded facilities programmes, including the multi-sport grassroots facilities investment programme.
		Work with the sector to build the evidence base on potential mechanisms that could be introduced to enable the further growth of the private sector
<i>Children and young people</i>		Introduce a cross-government ambition for all children to meet the Chief Medical Officers' guidelines on physical activity.
		Work with arm's length bodies and commercial partners to explore what marketing interventions, including a potential new campaign, could be deployed to encourage children and young people to get children active.
		Introduce a new kitemark that measures schools parity of provision.
		Launch a review of the sport offer in schools outside of curriculum PE.
		Continue to support active travel to and from school and Bikeability delivery in the school day.

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	<i>Active Spaces and Facilities</i>	Deliver the investment in multi-use grassroots facilities, with over £300 million to be invested UK-wide by 2025.
		Deliver £21.9 million investment in park tennis courts by 2024.
		Develop a national vision for facilities before the end of 2023.
		Sport England to work with priority places to deliver an enhanced place-based working process.

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<i>Integrity</i>	<i>Elite</i>	Continue our support of Olympic and Paralympic sport through funding of UK Sport.
	<i>Diversity</i>	Support efforts to tackle discrimination across the sector and holding organisations to account for failings in this area.
		Use opportunities presented through our support of hosting major sporting events, encouraging the sector to focus on the diversity of talent pathways.
	<i>Governance</i>	Alongside UK Sport and Sport England we will continue to monitor the impact of the revised Governance Code on the sector, particularly in terms of the effectiveness of Diversity and Inclusion Action Plans in increasing accessibility and equality of opportunity across the sector and at all levels of sport.

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	<i>Doping and corruption</i>	<p>Ensure UK Anti-Doping continues to have the appropriate framework to carry out effective investigations, in line with evolving challenges.</p> <p>The UK will ratify the Macolin Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions.</p>
	<i>Complaint Handling and Dispute Resolution</i>	<p>Launch a call for evidence to understand current experiences, and work with the sector to decide how the prevention and handling of integrity issues could be strengthened.</p>
<i>Sustainability</i>	<i>Economic Sustainability</i>	<p>Support organisations to develop long-term financial sustainability by signposting to resources for building stronger governance models and sharing best practice across the sector.</p> <p>Work with the Department for Business and Trade to highlight best practice and opportunities for inward investment into the domestic sport sector, including in women's sport.</p> <p>Deliver a new economic snapshot that articulates the economic value and growth opportunities that exist within sport in the UK.</p> <p>Continue to bid and successfully host major sporting events that deliver significant socio-economic benefit across the UK – to maintain our world-leading track record in this area – and commission additional analysis of the economic value of these events.</p>

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<i>Sustainability</i>	<i>Technology, data and Innovation</i>	Work with both the technology and the sport sectors to help identify innovative, inclusive digital solutions which help increase participation and activity.
		Support organisations to make use of existing technology and data to drive investment to the sector.
	<i>Environmental Sustainability</i>	Champion the importance of environmental sustainability within sport, including at major events, and encourage all levels of the sector to prioritise development of their own sustainability initiatives.
		Convene a forum of government departments, experts, and organisations across the sports and physical activity sector to share expertise, guidance, and support, which will help the sector to implement and deliver on its ambition to become more environmentally sustainable.
		<p>Work with UK Sport, Sport England and wider stakeholders to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assess the current provision of sustainability initiatives across the sector, from elite to community sport. ● Identify the support needed to help the sector adapt in the long-term. ● Support NGBs with their sustainability ambitions.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensure resources, information, and best practice is freely available within the sector, to enable all organisations to know how best to start and continue their sustainability journey. ● Work towards embedding environmental sustainability as a pillar of funding agreements.

Health Strategies

- 3.9 In July 2011 (updated January 2020) the four UK Chief Medical Officers (CMOs) published physical activity guidelines in a joint CMO report 'Start Active, Stay Active'⁴ covering early years, children and young people, adults and older adults. These guidelines emphasise that physical activity does not refer in its entirety just to sport; it is wholly inclusive of all forms of activity for example play, gardening, and walking. Early experiences often shape feelings, which can discourage activity, resulting in little or no interest to participate at any stage in life.
- 3.10 This presents a huge challenge to educate and promote the benefits of leading an active lifestyle which can improve our mental and physical wellbeing, confidence, interpersonal skills, and sense of achievement. In Redditch it is important that we promote and educate individuals and communities about this message, creating awareness of these benefits.
- 3.11 **Public Health England's Everybody Active Every Day (EAED 2014) (and the review of the implementation of this strategy, March 2018 and August 2021)**⁵ sets out the context in which long term health conditions associated with inactivity such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease contribute not only to NHS costs, but cause a greater dependency on homes, residential and nursing care. The framework centres around 3 agendas:
- Making physical activity the social norm;
 - Making environments accessible for all; and
 - Making physical activity inclusive for everyone.
- 3.12 It recommends action in 4 areas:
1. **Creating a social movement towards an active society**, this message is that being active should not be a choice, needs to be a linking thread that unites the public sector with the voice of charities, local residents, and community leaders. It is a message that should be woven into the policies, commissioning and planning decisions made every day across the country.
 2. **Activating a network of moving professionals**, this is about encouraging and supporting the hundreds of thousands of professionals and volunteers who work directly with the public every day to do what's best to make physical activity the social norm.
 3. **Creating the right spaces in active environments**, shaping the built and natural environment so that being active becomes the preferred choice.
 4. **Scaling up working interventions that make us active**, understanding what works using evidence-based approaches and such interventions to achieve large impact.

⁴ Source: [UK Chief Medical Officers' Physical Activity Guidelines \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/424222/UK_Chief_Medical_Officers_Physical_Activity_Guidelines.pdf)

⁵ Source: [Everybody active, every day: framework for physical activity - gov.uk \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/424222/Everybody_active_every_day_framework_for_physical_activity_-_gov.uk.pdf)

Benefits of regular physical activity ⁶

Figure 3: Benefits of regular physical activity



3.13 The 2018 and 2021 review of the Public Health Strategy recognised these specific challenges:

1. Tacking inequalities;
2. Creating an active society; and
3. Creating active environment.

Sport England Strategy – ‘Uniting the Movement’

3.14 Sport England’s vision is that everyone in England feels able to take part in sport or physical activity, regardless of age, background, or ability; key priorities of the 2021 Sport England Strategy are:

1. Recover and reinvent;
2. Connecting with health and well-being;
3. Connecting Communities;
4. Positive experiences for children & Young people;
5. An active and healthier life;

⁶ Public Health England’s Everybody Active Every Day (EAED 2014)

A Decade of Decline: The Future of Swimming Pools in England Report 2021 – Swim England

- 3.15 This report highlights the value of swimming in supporting physical and mental wellbeing, individual, social and community development and volunteering. However, for everyone to enjoy the benefits of swimming, it is vital that there are a sufficient number and type of facilities in the right locations. There was a huge growth in pools being built from the 1960's onwards. As the average lifespan of a pool is 38 years, many of these pools are now reaching the end of their life or have closed, and it is clear that the number of pools in England is in decline. This, coupled with an increasing population means that there is an urgent need to invest in new facilities or refurbish existing ones.
- 3.16 Based on current pool build trends, the report estimates that the number of available pools could decrease by more than 40% by the end of the decade; this equates to 2,000 pools. This would mean that 3.86 million people would be unable to participate in the swim activities they enjoy.
- 3.17 The Covid pandemic has exacerbated this issue. Since the Covid pandemic 206 pools have closed, either permanently or temporarily, including 68 public pools. Local authorities are one of the biggest investors in leisure facilities in England and they have faced huge budget pressures in recent years, which has only increased as a result of the pandemic.
- 3.18 Currently, the nation's pools are not evenly distributed with some regions facing a much greater shortage of available pools.
- 3.19 The report recommends the following solutions:
- £1 billion of Government investment and support into public leisure facilities to develop the next generation of pools. This should include funding to build/refurbish pool and funding to support local authorities to undertake a strategic needs assessment; and
 - Local authorities that are short of water space as identified through a strategic needs assessment, should include new pool(s) in any Levelling Up Funding application they make.

Securing the Future of Public Sport and Leisure Services September 2021 – APSE, the LGA and CLOA

- 3.20 The report highlights that Councils have supported their leisure providers throughout the Covid pandemic, whilst providers have had to make full use of their financial reserves. However, because many providers operate on low profit margins or are constituted as trusts or charities, they have been unable to secure Government support beyond the Job Retention Scheme (JRS) and the National Leisure Recovery Fund (NLRG), resulting in a projected revenue loss of £411 million for district councils alone, rising to £600 million when unitary and metropolitan councils are included. These acute challenges have led to a renewed recognition of the vital contribution that public sport and leisure services make to communities, bringing communities together, promoting healthy lifestyles, addressing inequalities, and contributing towards a wealth of social value e.g., reducing crime, improving educational attainment.

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- 3.21 The world is also facing a climate emergency and since leisure facilities produce between 10 – 40 per cent of district and unitary councils' direct carbon emissions it is vital that the leisure estate be upgraded to achieve net zero targets.
- 3.22 Nearly two thirds of the national leisure estate is ageing and in need of replacement and there is therefore an opportunity to rethink what our communities will need from our facilities and services in the future and design new, more efficient solutions to help communities be active and stay healthier longer. In addition, the public provision of swimming facilities is essential for ensuring that primary school children, particularly in more deprived areas, can achieve the necessary levels of swimming attainment in the national curriculum.
- 3.23 The report highlights the opportunity to transform the way leisure services and facilities are designed, provided, and delivered. It talks about better integration with the health system (e.g., Integrated Care Systems (ICS) and public health teams), connecting them to active travel routes and '20-minute communities', and creating community hubs by co-locating with wider wellbeing services such as GP surgeries.
- 3.24 Key recommendations from the report include:
- The new Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) should take responsibility for embedding the strategic role of public sport and leisure services within health systems and pathways, coordinating with DCMS, MHCLG and local government within England. All nations should consider how best to coordinate public sport and leisure provision across differing departments of Government.
 - A £1 billion capital investment into the leisure estate based on established design plans would help to create hundreds of construction jobs, improve efficiency, reduce climate emissions and boost usage. Longer term, it would create new job opportunities and apprenticeships in areas of the sport and leisure industry typically taken by young people.
 - The DfE should work with Government departments and councils to map the provision of swimming facilities, and levels of curriculum attainment, investing to address gaps or future gaps in the system and making targeted support available to enable schools to invest in learn to swim and swim safety where the system is currently failing.
 - Councils should consider what social value outcomes they want to achieve through public sport and leisure services and design provision, accordingly, including activities such as outreach work to support those who are most vulnerable. These objectives must also be fully embedded into procurement activity and contract management processes.

A Decade of Change for Public Sector Leisure Report – Ukactive (2021)

- 3.25 This paper sets out a vision for the future of Public Sector Leisure (PSL). It is based on a comprehensive consultation with PSL members and provides a roadmap for progress that will enable the survival, recovery and redevelopment of this part of the sector.
- 3.26 The report highlights the importance of PSL and its role in delivering community based physical activity, but also emphasises the fragility of its infrastructure and how the Covid pandemic has accentuated this. Due to the severe financial pressures on Local Authorities and the non-statutory status of leisure services, PSL delivery has become increasingly focused on driving commercial income, often to the detriment of services that put customers, communities, and outcomes at the heart of their approach.
- 3.27 The consultation highlighted a number of opportunities including, developing a national strategy for PSL, defining the PSL role in a whole systems approach to physical activity, reviewing current contract arrangements and approaches, introducing a National Infrastructure Strategy, adopting a more co-ordinated approach to demonstrating social value, collaborating, and developing a long-term workforce plan.
- 3.28 Key areas of focus include:
- **Data and Insight** – the need to have strong evidence to support what the industry does e.g., Moving Communities
 - **Standards and Improvement** – setting high unified standards. Sport England and UKactive are developing a set of standards and a new framework for improvement that all parts of the sector can adopt, called The Active Standard.
 - **Procurement:** Public Leisure generates £3.3 billion in social value on account of improved health, life satisfaction, educational attainment, and engaging vulnerable groups. The ability of public leisure providers to support health and wellbeing is however, hampered by procurement processes driven by procedure rather than needs. Given the impact on local government finances, there is the danger that the emphasis on commercially driven procurement will increase, to the detriment of targeted community services. Sport England’s Leisure Services Delivery Guidance (LSDG) together with the Strategic Outcomes Planning Guidance (SOPG) will help ensure that social value is at the heart of what public sport and leisure does.
 - **Tackling Health Inequalities** – need to take a whole systems approach to support particular groups ensuring the services offered meet their social, physical and emotional needs. Integrate the PLS with national and local health systems.
- 3.29 The reports call for further financial aid to support PLS as part of a process of long-term transformation. The report outlines a roadmap for transformation.

Future of Public Sector Leisure Report – UKactive (2021)

3.30 This report has been developed as the result of insight gathered from leisure providers on the challenges and opportunities in the delivery of public sector leisure.

3.31 The purpose of PSL is identified as:

‘The delivery of social, economic and health outcomes on both a local and national level whilst also providing affordable, accessible leisure services and facilities to local communities.’

3.32 The report highlights the need to transform PSL and the following opportunities were raised:

- Lobby for PSL to be an essential service
- Develop a National Strategy for PSL
- Define PSL role in a Whole Systems approach to physical activity
- Review current contracting arrangements and approaches – moving away from a transactional contractual approach to a more formal relational contract.
- Build Back Better – a National Public Leisure Infrastructure strategy supporting investment, rationalisation, and consolidation of leisure stock.
- More co-ordinated approach to demonstrating Social Value
- Enhance the image and profile of the sector
- Long Term workforce Planning
- Together we are stronger – collaboration and removal of silo working.

Future of Public Sector Leisure Sport England Dec 2022

- 3.33 Public leisure facilities give local people access to vital community facilities and tackles inequalities in an affordable and accessible way. Put simply, the sector fulfils a vital public service that the free market is not incentivised to offer.
- 3.34 Activity taking place in public leisure facilities makes a significant contribution to the participation theme of the DCMS’s Single Departmental Plan6, as it plays a critical role in “[increasing] participation in, engagement with and access to sport and physical activity”. It also plays – through its focus on ensuring equality of access and a broad geographical spread of provision – an important role in the delivery of ‘priority outcome 4’7: “enhancing the cohesiveness of our communities and nations including through major events and ceremonial occasions, and reducing inequalities of participation in society, particularly among young people.”
- 3.35 The direction of travel for the sector is to transition from a traditional approach to an active wellbeing service.
- 3.36 This vision is built on four inter-related foundations:

Figure 4: Four inter-related foundations

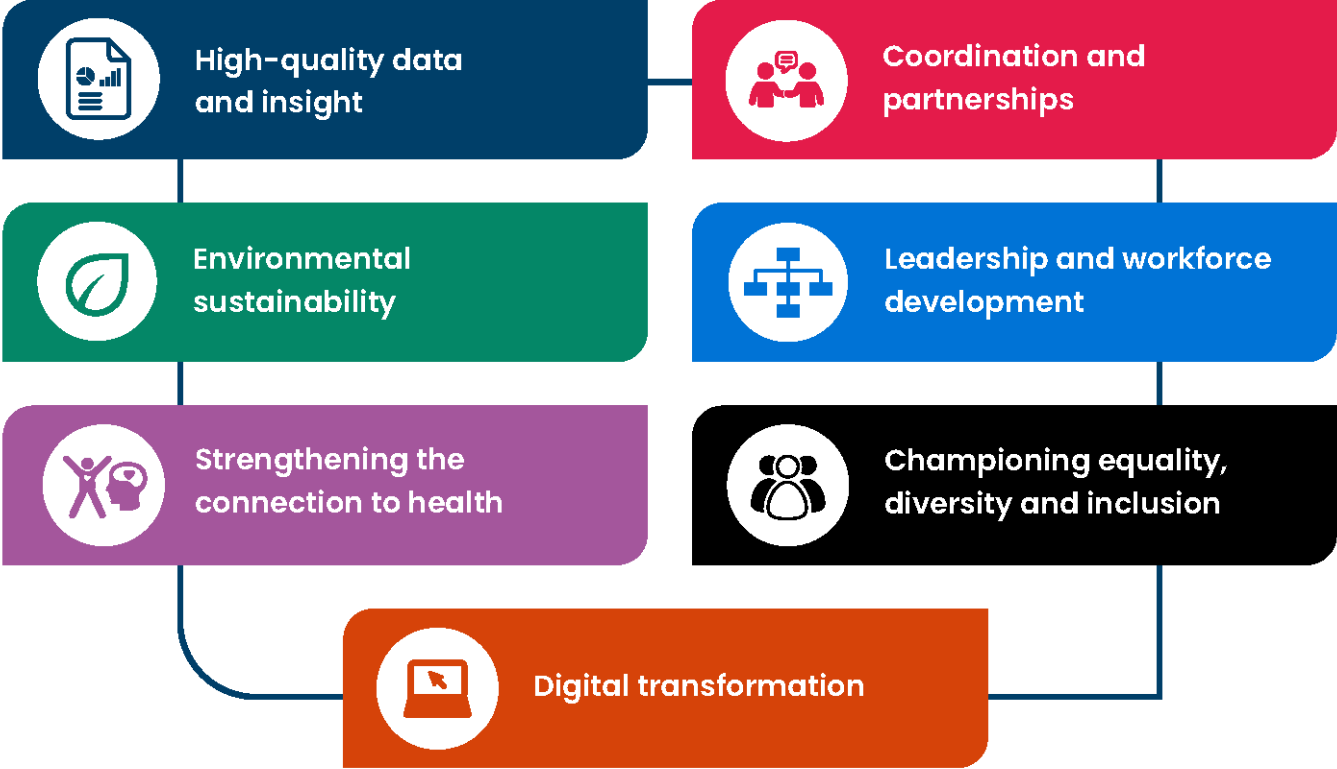


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3.37 The commitments coalesce around seven broad themes:

Figure 5: Seven broad themes



Local Level - Redditch Strategic Context

Table 4: Redditch Strategic Policies and Strategies

Policy/ Strategy/Other Relevant Factors	Summary
<p>Borough of Redditch Local Plan No. 4 Adopted January 2017</p>	<p>Vision The Redditch Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) has provided a foundation to develop a Vision for the Local Plan, specifically the Vision and priorities of the SCS have been considered in the formulation of the Local Plan's Vision. The SCS is built around a shared vision for the Borough. It is envisaged that by 2030: "Redditch will be successful and vibrant with communities that have access to good job opportunities, good education, good health and are communities that people will be proud to live and work in."</p> <p>Objectives Redditch's tourism, leisure and cultural facilities will be improved. There will also be provision of a range of other attractive facilities so that communities are sustainably provided for. To achieve this attractive facilities strategy there will be a focus on new and enhanced leisure provision, specifically in the Town Centre. New and enhanced leisure provision and green infrastructure will achieve healthy communities as well as provision for healthcare facilities and enhancements to existing healthcare. Finally, Redditch Borough will contain excellent services and infrastructure to support its communities with a planned programme of delivery of key infrastructure projects to support the achievement of the Vision.</p> <p>To deliver the Vision a set of 13 non-prioritised Objectives have been developed that reflect the aspirations of the vision and provide direction for the BORLP4 policies. These are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To maintain and provide a high quality natural, rural, and historic environment with a multifunctional Green Infrastructure network which maximises opportunities for enhancing biodiversity value, wildlife, and ecological connectivity. 2. To ensure that all new development in Redditch Borough will work towards the achievement of being carbon neutral in line with the National Standards. 3. To reduce the causes of, minimise the impacts of and adapt to climate change. 4. To protect, promote and where possible enhance the quality of the Borough's landscape and Redditch Borough's other distinctive features. 5. To encourage safer, sustainable travel patterns, improve accessibility and maintain a balanced road hierarchy and reduce the need to travel. 6. To enhance the visitor economy and Redditch's cultural and leisure opportunities including Abbey Stadium. 7. Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime through high quality design and infrastructure, with regeneration achieved at Matchborough, Winyates and Woodrow District Centres. 8. To improve the vitality and viability of Town and District Centres in the Borough by day and night by promoting a vibrant mix of uses including residential. 9. To have sufficient homes meeting demographic needs, including affordable housing, providing for a range, mix, and type in the best locations, including on Strategic Sites. 10. To have a strong, attractive, diverse, and enterprising economic base with sufficient employment land, including Strategic Sites. Redditch will have employees with higher skills levels with strengthened links between business and education. 11. To protect and enhance water, air and soil and minimise flood risk. 12. Ensuring there is a range of health facilities that support existing and new communities and to promote the role of healthy living through good planning. 13. To have demonstrated compliance with the "duty to cooperate" by providing for Redditch's growth across Local Authority boundaries.

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Policy/ Strategy/Other Relevant Factors	Summary
	<p>Policy 12 Open Space Provision Open space can perform a range of functions and as such makes a significant contribution to the GI Network of the Borough. It is an invaluable formal and informal recreational resource, is beneficial for nature conservation and has a bearing on people’s quality of life. Policies 12, 13 and 14 ensure the protection of existing open space (both designated and incidental) and require the creation of new open space as part of new development, thereby helping to achieve this Plan’s Vision and Objectives to have a high-quality natural environment and to improve leisure opportunities.</p> <p>Policy 12 The Borough Council will aim to maintain minimum standards of open space provision as identified in the Open Space Needs Assessment and Playing Pitch Strategy. New development will be required to make provision for new and/or improvements to open space, sports, and recreation facilities in accordance with the Borough Council’s Adopted Open Space Provision Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) or any other form of planning obligation the Borough Council adopts. New open space should be strategically located in order for it to contribute to the Green Infrastructure Network and increase its multifunctionality. The Borough Council will support, in principle, the development of new open space, sports and recreation facilities.</p> <p>If the demand for allotments increases during the course of this Plan period beyond that which can be accommodated within existing allotments, developers may be required to provide new allotments in association with new developments.</p> <p>Local Green Spaces will be designated by the Borough Council through the Allocations Plan, where appropriate, in accordance with the provisions of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Once designated, Local Green Space will be managed in line with planning policy for Green Belts.</p> <p>Reasoned Justification The Open Space Needs Assessment identifies the different types and amounts of open space in each ward of the Borough. The Playing Pitch Strategy identifies the future need for playing pitches in the Borough and recommends that current assets are maximised, and current provision is protected. The strategy for specific typologies of open space is currently contained in the Borough Council’s Open Space Provision SPD.</p> <p>The Open Space Provision SPD recognises open space, sports and recreational facilities of high value which may need protecting and sets out local standards for the provision of open space, sports, and recreational facilities. The Borough Council will negotiate with applicants to establish the appropriate amount and location of open space provision based on the Open Space Provision SPD, Open Space Needs Assessment, Playing Pitch Strategy, and any other relevant evidence.</p> <p>The Open Space Provision SPD is the Borough Council’s current adopted method of calculating open space contributions. This may, in the future, be superseded by another method of collecting planning obligations such as the Community Infrastructure Levy.</p> <p>New open space, sports, and recreation facilities such as playing pitches will be supported in principle provided any ancillary facilities are appropriate.</p> <p>Allotments are an important element of the open space provision within the Borough. Existing allotments are Primarily Open Space and therefore any proposals for development affecting an allotment will be assessed against Policy 13 Primarily Open Space.</p> <p>The NPPF makes provision for local communities to designate Local Green Space through local and neighbourhood plans. Local Green Space will only be designated where it does not conflict with the Objectives of BORLP4 and in accordance with the NPPF. Once designated, Local Green Space will be subject to the same planning policy safeguards as land designated as Green Belt. The Allocations Plan will designate specific sites for Local Green Space where there is a justification for that allocation.</p>

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Policy/ Strategy/Other Relevant Factors	Summary
	<p>Policy 13 Primarily Open Space</p> <p>Policy 13 Open space will be protected and, where appropriate, enhanced to improve quality, value, multifunctionality and accessibility. In order to maintain the levels of open space provision in the Borough, proposals which would result in the total or partial loss of Primarily Open Space will not normally be granted planning permission unless it can be demonstrated that the need for development outweighs the value of the land as an open area.</p> <p>In assessing applications for development on Primarily Open Space the following will be taken into account: i. the environmental and amenity value of the area; ii. the recreational, conservation, wildlife, historical, visual and community amenity value of the site; iii. the merits of retaining the land in its existing open use, and the contribution or potential contribution the site makes to the Green Infrastructure Network, character, and appearance of the area; iv. the merits of protecting the site for alternative open space uses; v. the location, size, and environmental quality of the site; vi. the relationship of the site to other open space areas in the locality and similar uses within the wider area; vii. whether the site provides a link between other open areas or as a buffer between incompatible uses; viii. that it can be demonstrated that there is a surplus of open space and that alternative provision of equivalent or greater community benefit will be provided in the area at an appropriate, accessible locality; and ix. the merits of the proposed development to the local area or the Borough generally.</p> <p>If development is permitted which results in the loss of a playing pitch or allotment site, the Borough Council will require the provision of equivalent or improved facilities and/or financial contributions from developers.</p> <p>Proposals for development on Primarily Open Space land that contribute to both the Green Infrastructure Network in the Borough and the nature and purpose of the open space may be deemed acceptable by the Borough Council.</p> <p>Reasoned Justification All Primarily Open Space is a valuable part of the Green Infrastructure Network of the Borough and fulfils a number of functions including protecting the environment, meeting recreational needs, providing wildlife habits, and maintaining an attractive townscape. This policy applies to Primarily Open Space as identified on the Policies Map and in the Open Space Needs Assessment and new areas of open space created by developments during the Plan period. The Open Space Needs Assessment defines and identifies the different types of Primarily Open Space in the Borough.</p> <p>Development proposals will be assessed against the current and potential attributes of the open space in accordance with the criteria above. If it cannot be demonstrated that the need for a proposed development outweighs the value of the open space, planning permission will not be granted.</p> <p>If development will result in the loss of a playing pitch or allotment site, the Borough Council will negotiate with the developer to determine the appropriate alternative provision and/or financial contribution. In relation to playing pitches, the Borough Council will be guided by the recommendations of the Playing Pitch Strategy.</p> <p>Applications for ancillary development on open space that would enhance the existing open space use will be considered. Where a building is already located on land that is designated as Primarily Open Space, proposed development within its curtilage or immediate surroundings may be acceptable subject to the proposal complying with other relevant planning policies and material considerations.</p>

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Policy/ Strategy/Other Relevant Factors	Summary
	<p>Promoting Redditch’s Community Well-being “To enhance the visitor economy and Redditch’s cultural and leisure opportunities including Abbey Stadium” “Ensuring there is a range of health facilities that support existing and new communities and to promote the role of healthy living through good planning” Improvement and enhancement of the well-being of the Borough’s residents is important. The policies in this chapter support the provision of new and improved tourism, leisure and health facilities and recognise the potential for the natural environment to provide opportunities for leisure and recreation. There is also provision for the identification of additional cemetery space which is likely to be needed in the Borough before the end of the Plan period.</p> <p>Policy 43 Leisure, Tourism and Abbey Stadium The Borough has several leisure and tourist attractions which include Forge Mill, The Needle Museum, Bordesley Abbey, Arrow Valley Country Park, Arrow Valley Countryside Centre, and the Palace Theatre. Large scale redevelopment of the Abbey Stadium complex has recently taken place. There is also a good supply of designated open space and other land which provide for the recreation needs of the Borough. These include allotments, sports pitches, equipped play areas, school playing fields, community open space and water courses. The protection and enhancement of this built and natural resource is essential to achieve the Vision and Objectives of BORLP4 to enhance the visitor economy and cultural and leisure opportunities in the Borough.</p> <p>Policy 43</p> <p>A. Leisure, tourism, and culture Leisure, tourism, and culture proposals, including new build, extensions or additions to existing facilities will be promoted and supported where: i. the proposal is located in places that are sustainable and accessible by a choice of transport modes, principally Redditch Town Centre and/or where additional visitor numbers can be accommodated without detriment to the local economy and environment; and ii. they support sustainable tourism or leisure developments and benefit the economy of the Borough and enhance community facilities.</p> <p>Consideration should also be given to the potential of the natural environment, including Public Rights of Way and water corridors to provide opportunities for leisure and recreation activities, whilst ensuring that this does not place undue pressure on the natural environment. All proposals should contribute positively to the Green Infrastructure network of the Borough.</p> <p>The Borough Council realises the potential for the historic environment to provide opportunities for leisure and tourism and proposals for such will be encouraged, particularly where they result in the enhancement of a heritage asset. B. Abbey Stadium.</p> <p>The Borough Council will safeguard land within the curtilage and land adjacent to the Abbey Stadium Complex for development which is for leisure and leisure-related uses.</p> <p>Reasoned Justification</p> <p>A. Tourism, leisure, and culture Tourism and culture facilities may include museums, visitor centres and also accommodation such as hotels or guest houses. Leisure facilities include but are not limited to intensive sport and recreation uses, cinemas, night-clubs, casinos, health and fitness centres, indoor bowling centres, and bingo halls. Any relevant development proposals will be required to demonstrate that appropriate sequential assessments and impact tests have been carried out in accordance with current guidance. Reference should be made to Policy 30 Town Centre and Retail Hierarchy and Policy 31 Regeneration for the Town Centre.</p>

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Policy/ Strategy/Other Relevant Factors	Summary
	<p>In considering new proposals or extensions or additions to existing facilities, regard will be had to any environmental or transportation impacts that any new facility might create. Such considerations will include, for example, the means by which people will access and travel to the facility and any impact on nature conservation or landscapes. Proposals should be formulated in accordance with the requirements of Policy 19 Sustainable Travel and Accessibility. Public Rights of Way provide an important recreational resource; the improvement of links to existing Public Rights of Way will therefore be encouraged.</p> <p>The natural environment is a valuable resource which can also provide leisure and recreation opportunities. However, a balance must be achieved between providing for leisure and recreation and protecting and enhancing the natural environment. Leisure, tourism, and culture proposals should contribute positively to the Borough's Green Infrastructure network in line with Policy 11 Green Infrastructure.</p> <p>A Green Infrastructure Strategy will be completed for the Borough which will identify opportunities for enhancement of the GI Network. The historic environment holds significant potential for leisure and tourism activity. In particular, the Bordesley Abbey and its setting have the potential to enhance the existing offer and to create linkages to the leisure uses at the Abbey Stadium site. Proposals for leisure and tourism uses related to the historic environment should also be in accordance with Policy 36 Historic Environment.</p> <p>B. Abbey Stadium</p> <p>The Abbey Stadium Complex makes an important contribution to the Borough's indoor and outdoor sport and recreation provision. The Borough Council recognises that the land within the curtilage and adjacent to the Abbey Stadium can also contribute to the Borough's wider leisure-related need. The land which is safeguarded by this policy is identified on the Policies Map.</p> <p>In this location the river Arrow corridor is a designated Special Wildlife Site (SWS). Appropriate measures will be required to protect and enhance the River Arrow and ensure that the ecological value of the wildlife corridor is not undermined (see Policy 16 Natural Environment). Where development proposals affect the flood plain of the River Arrow, an assessment of flood risk should be made in accordance with national planning policy, Policy 17 Flood Risk Management and Policy 18 Sustainable Water Management.</p> <p>Strategic Sites</p> <p>Policy 48 Webheath Strategic Site</p> <p>Webheath is located on the southwest boundary of the Redditch urban area and is ideally located to support a significant amount of Redditch's housing requirements.</p> <p>Policy 48</p> <p>A Strategic Site at Webheath is appropriate for a high-quality development comprising around 400 - 600 dwellings.</p> <p>Delivery of this Strategic Site is best achieved in two phases; the first phase of this site should deliver 200 dwellings and is expected to be delivered within 5 years following Local Plan adoption. The second phase of this site should deliver 200 – 400 dwellings comprehensively to make the best use of the land available. This phase is likely to contribute towards the long-term housing requirement and therefore is unlikely to be delivered within 10 years following Local Plan adoption.</p> <p>Any proposals must not individually or cumulatively jeopardise the future use of any other part of the site or the achievement of the development principles.</p> <p>Development of the Webheath Strategic Site should ensure that the following principles are applied:</p>

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Policy/ Strategy/Other Relevant Factors	Summary
	<p>Development type</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> incorporates a mix of housing types including housing which meets the needs of the ageing population. The provision of bungalows and / or 1-bedroom flats/maisonettes that meet Lifetime Homes Standards would be welcomed in this area. <p>Design and the environment</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the design of this site must be of a high quality and appropriate to its surroundings, taking all opportunities available to improve the character and quality of the Webheath area and the way it functions. the open character of the site and special features of the landscape should be retained through sympathetic design and through ensuring open space is integral to the design. legibility and a central sense of place should be provided through good design, with views from and into the site incorporated and maximised; v. topography of the site should be respected with any excessive remodelling of the land avoided wherever possible. green infrastructure must be provided based on the needs identified in the Green Infrastructure Concept Statement for Webheath, including open spaces (in line with the Open Space Provision SPD). planting and landscaping must be incorporated (informed by a Hedgerow Assessment), to enhance the ecological and woodland features of the site, including the unnamed watercourse and trees to capture all benefits for biodiversity. submission of an ecological survey and an archaeological survey to be approved by the Borough Council. proposals should consider how they can improve the ecological status of the Bow Brook. the Historic Environment Record should be consulted during the formulation of development proposals to establish the potential for heritage assets and used to inform any necessary appraisal or evaluation of the site. <p>Infrastructure</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> development proposals should address contamination associated with any previous uses on the site, including the disused sewerage works, through the submission of an appropriate risk assessment and if necessary, a site investigation and mitigation scheme. the Strategic Site must be accessible by a choice of modes of transport, particularly sustainable transport. Investment informed by a Transport Assessment is required for necessary transport infrastructure, safe access, service improvements and Smarter Choices measures should be delivered. pedestrian links should be provided between the site and the Green Belt area to the west for recreational purposes, and to the existing Webheath area to the north. Cycle and pedestrian links should be provided to link into existing cycle and footpath networks to Redditch Town Centre and where public rights of way exist these should be incorporated into any design proposals. biodiversity enhancements should be provided along transport routes such as SuDS schemes. any necessary measures to mitigate flood risk are to be implemented and flood modelling will be required, which must be outlined in a site-specific Flood Risk Assessment. Development will only be permitted in Flood Zone 1. drainage system upgrades identified in the Borough Council's Outline Water Cycle Strategy must be in place to make development acceptable. This includes upsizing of local sewers and an appropriate solution to dealing with wastewater. appropriate SuDS systems to attenuate and balance any surface water runoff must be incorporated. infrastructure deficits arising from the cumulative impact of the site being developed should be provided through financial contributions, implemented early on in developing the site or, where appropriate future proofed to allow their delivery at a later stage; and Boundaries a defensible Green Belt boundary must be maintained or where appropriate enhanced at the south and west of the site, along the existing Green Belt boundary outlined on the Policies Map.

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Policy/ Strategy/Other Relevant Factors	Summary
	<p>Reasoned Justification</p> <p>Development Type - This site is a greenfield site and was designated as an Area of Development Restraint (suitable to meet future housing needs) in the Borough of Redditch Local Plan No.3. This Plan now designates this site as a Strategic Site suitable for housing. An approximate capacity for residential development is around 400 - 600 dwellings; however, a specific capacity figure should be determined through detailed design proposals and should make the most efficient use of the land available. Housing which meets the needs of the ageing population would be appropriate in this location.</p> <p>Design and the environment - This site has several landscape considerations and topographical issues which must be incorporated into the design of this site. The landscape and topographical issues may be such that the capacity of the site is restricted. It is considered that the delivery of housing suitable for the elderly population may achieve several the aspirations of this Plan including the delivery of appropriate housing of the right style in the right location and making the most efficient use of land. It is considered that 1-bedroom flats/apartments would allow a suitable capacity to be achieved, whilst not compromising the landscape character qualities of this site and delivering much needed housing in an appropriate location.</p> <p>There is a Public Right of Way (the bridle way) which crosses the site from east to west, from Hill Top Lane to Pumphouse Lane. Views from this track should be maximised.</p> <p>There is a steep ridgeline following existing Hill Top Lane southwest which slopes north to south and a steep ridgeline also exists to border the site east of the northern boundary. These ridgelines should be incorporated into site development.</p> <p>The landscape character within the site contributes to the character of the landscape and local distinctiveness of the area. Applicants should refer to the Worcestershire Landscape Character Assessment and the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record to inform proposals. Proposals should consider how they can improve the ecological status of the Bow Brook by considering the 'Bow Brook Biodiversity Delivery Area statement' by Worcestershire Biodiversity Partnership.</p> <p>This site falls within Historic Environment Character Zone (HECZ) 146 of the Historic Environment Assessment (HEA) which has been identified as having high potential for unknown archaeology; therefore, an appraisal of the site will be required prior to any development.</p> <p>Accessibility - The need to facilitate public transport provision is essential in this site due to the current limited service to the area. The ability to access services and facilities (with exception of retail) near to Webheath through walking are limited at present. Further consideration should be given to enhancing the Public Transport, walking, and cycling access to and from the site.</p> <p>About public transport, consideration should be given to extending the 68 service so that it calls within the Webheath Strategic Site and providing equivalent service of 55A and 56A in the daytime to the Hospital/southeast of Redditch.</p> <p>Development of this site provides an opportunity to address the remediation of any potential contamination because of the former sewage works located within the site boundary.</p> <p>Transport infrastructure - About the specific access point for the Phase One of this development, the single point of access from Church Road and emergency access from Pumphouse Lane have been designed to take account of current highway constraints and the need to retain existing trees on the site (which is important at this particular location due to close proximity to Green Belt land). However, Phase One must ensure the infrastructure requirements associated with Phase Two are not compromised.</p>

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Policy/ Strategy/Other Relevant Factors	Summary
	<p>Wastewater management - There is potential for the Webheath site to be drained either by gravity (through a new gravity sewer) to the Priest Bridge sewerage system or by pumping flow into the Sernal catchment (through a new sewage pumping station). Local sewers in both catchments are of small diameter and require upsizing to provide additional capacity. Further hydraulic modelling will be required to assess the extent of any capacity improvements and agreement should be sought with the Borough Council's Drainage Engineer and Severn Trent Water Limited to determine the most suitable approach before an application is submitted. Any infrastructure needed to deliver Phase One of the development must ensure the infrastructure requirements associated with Phase Two are not compromised.</p> <p>Flood risk - A site specific flood risk assessment should also be provided to support development and all measures to mitigate flood risk fully implemented. A small section of the site lies in Flood Zone 3 (both a and b); development in these areas should be avoided. The Sequential Test should be applied to the site layout, to direct built development to areas at less risk from flooding. The watercourse running through the site is a tributary of Swan's Brook. The design of the site should ensure that there is sufficient stand-off from the watercourse and functional floodplain, in accordance with Environment Agency guidance. A precautionary approach should be adopted to flood risk to ensure that development does not adversely impact on existing flood risk.</p> <p>The appropriate methods to manage surface water on this site should be implemented, with runoff from the site not exceeding existing greenfield rates and ideally improving current volume and rates of runoff.</p>
<p>Redditch Infrastructure Delivery Plan Report March 2014</p>	<p>The existing Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) has been prepared by Redditch Borough Council to accompany the Borough of Redditch Local Plan No.4. In order to ensure that new development delivers sustainable communities, the facilities and service needs of the planned population must be properly planned for. To achieve this, the IDP reports on the main physical and social infrastructure requirements to support growth identified in Borough of Redditch Local Plan No.4 (BORLP No.4). This IDP covers infrastructure requirements for development within the Borough and cross boundary development to meet the Borough's needs.</p> <p>This IDP aims to integrate the capital investment programmes of various services and partner organisations with planning for new development identified in the existing Redditch Local Plan No.4. It is important to remember that this will be a living document providing evidence for use well past the adoption of the existing Redditch Local Plan No.4</p> <p>The built environment includes play areas, playing pitches, public art and community facilities. The potential infrastructure requirements included have been identified by the Council's Leisure Service. Currently, developers are required to provide open spaces, play areas and pitches or make a financial contribution towards provision or improvement of existing assets in accordance with the adopted SPD on Open Space Provision. This report, and the facility infrastructure needs in the borough will need to be updated in light of the findings and recommendations of this BFS assessment and strategy.</p>
<p>Shaping Worcestershire future – Our Plan for Worcestershire.</p> <p>Worcestershire County Council 2022 – 2027.</p>	<p>County Council's Corporate Plan – promoting 4 key priorities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Open for business 2. Children and Families 3. The Environment 4. Health and Wellbeing <p>The link to the document is below: Shaping Worcestershire's Future - Our Plan for Worcestershire</p>

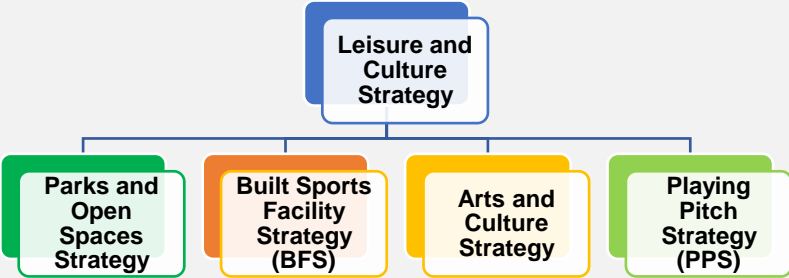
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Policy/ Strategy/Other Relevant Factors	Summary
Redditch Parks and Open Space Strategy 2022	This study identifies the extent of parks and open spaces in the borough, highlights where there is a lower-than-average amount of provision and suggests standards for future provision. The study feeds into the overall Leisure and Culture strategy for Redditch, and its recommendations are aligned to the Leisure and Culture vision and priorities for the area.
Redditch Playing Pitch Strategy 2023 (still to be formally adopted)	<p>The findings of the 2023 PPS are:</p> <p>Football Key Findings: Football 3G AGPs – no current shortfall; under-supply of 0.6 3G AGP by 2040 Adult 11v11–undersupply of 0.25 MES; under-supply of 3.75 MES by 2040 Youth 11 v 11 – no current shortfall; under-supply of 3 MES by 2040 Youth 9 v 9 - no current shortfall; no shortfall by 2040 Youth 7 v 7- no current shortfall; no shortfall by 2040 Youth 5 v 5- no current shortfall; no shortfall by 2040</p> <p>Cricket Key Findings: There is a current under-supply of 15 MPS; by 2040 this increases to 59 MPS.</p> <p>Rugby Union Key Findings: There is a current under-supply of 6 training matches per season (MPS) or 4 matchplay MPS; by 2040 this increases to 10 training MPS and 6 matchplay MPS.</p> <p>Hockey Key Findings: There is sufficient provision of hockey pitches both now and by 2040.</p>
Redditch Local football Facilities Plan June 2019	<p>In summary, the LFFP for Redditch identifies opportunities to accurately target investment in football facilities across the local area.</p> <p>The national funding partners have significantly increased investment to accelerate efforts to deliver more and better football facilities for the grassroots game and this plan proposes a programme of five priority projects for potential investment that will transform local football facilities, including 3G FTPs, improved grass pitches, changing rooms/ pavilions/clubhouses and small sided facilities.</p> <p>This LFFP will be the go-to document for football facility investment in Redditch. It does not however, guarantee the success of future funding applications; each priority project identified will still have to follow an application process to show how it will deliver key participation outcomes, be a good quality, sustainable facility and demonstrate suitable match-funding.</p> <p>This plan has identified the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 x Full size 3G FTPs • 13 Improved grass pitches • 2 Changing rooms / pavilions/ clubhouses • 2 Small sided facilities

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Policy/ Strategy/Other Relevant Factors	Summary
<p>Redditch Leisure and Culture Strategy 2022-2032</p>	<p>This Leisure and Culture Strategy ('the Strategy') for Redditch Borough sets out our future direction for leisure and culture services and identifies the priorities for provision of these important, and highly valued community services.</p> <p>The Leisure and Culture Strategy is an over-arching document, comprising strategies for Parks and Open Spaces (including 4 Management Plans), Built Sports Facilities, Arts and Culture, and Playing Pitches.</p> <p>Figure 6: Overarching Strategy related management plans</p>  <pre> graph TD A[Leisure and Culture Strategy] --> B[Parks and Open Spaces Strategy] A --> C[Built Sports Facility Strategy (BFS)] A --> D[Arts and Culture Strategy] A --> E[Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS)] </pre> <p>For the purposes of this Strategy, leisure and culture covers arts, heritage, physical activity and sport, events, parks, open space facilities, venues, sites and services.</p> <p>This Strategy is aligned to the Corporate Plan which recognises the contribution that leisure and culture can make to the achievement of its corporate and community priorities, and specifically community health and wellbeing.</p> <p>The Vision for leisure and culture provision in Redditch is:</p> <div style="background-color: #cccccc; padding: 5px;">Redditch Borough Council</div> <p>VISION: Healthier and happier communities actively engaged in leisure and culture.</p> <p>AIM: To improve community health and wellbeing through inclusive access to parks, open spaces, sport, physical activity, arts, heritage, culture and everyday creativity. This way we will inspire our communities to lead longer, happier, healthier and more successful lives.</p> <div style="background-color: #cccccc; padding: 5px;">Aim</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To inspire residents and build their confidence to be more active and creative. • To work with partners to identify and remove the barriers to being safely involved with parks and open spaces, sport, physical activity, arts, culture, heritage, and events to improve health and wellbeing. • To facilitate better connectivity between historic places, vibrant open spaces, culture and leisure facilities. • To build the confidence and pride of individuals and communities through active participation and volunteering.

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Policy/ Strategy/Other Relevant Factors	Summary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To create improved collaborative and resident-engaged projects which focus on celebrating the relationship communities have with their landscape, culture and heritage. • To build a healthy community that enables success in education, training and the workplace. • To reduce the long-term financial pressures on our public services by getting communities more active, creative, and better connected to our natural environment. • To manage, develop and maintain a biodiverse, and environmentally sustainable network of spaces and places contributing positively to reducing the impact of climate change. • To generate a high profile, safe, inclusive, well-connected and managed network of active travel networks, green and blue corridors, heritage trails, leisure and culture facilities. • To connect home grown talent with local employment and volunteering opportunities. • To facilitate a vibrant, commercially viable and growing visitor and tourism economy. • To better connect business with the leisure and culture sector. • To adopt creative placemaking and active travel strategies.

3.38 Demographic and participation data are summarised below.

Future Development in the Borough

3.39 A key factor influencing the future provision of sports facilities in the Borough (what and where) is the scale and location of future housing development, which impacts on population density and also levels and nature of community demand.

Redditch Local Plan (2022-2040)

3.40 Redditch Borough Council is progressing development of the new Local Plan. The draft policies and draft allocations likely to be included in the plan will have had regard to the emerging findings of the Built Facilities Strategy.

3.41 Following the consultation period, if necessary, further work can be commissioned by the council to ensure that the relevant policies for open space, sports and leisure are fully evidence based and suitable to be put forward for examination.

Population Profiles and Projections

3.42 The current and future population profile of Redditch and the locations of growth are important to understand in relation to planning for the future provision of sport and physical activity.

Population and Demographics

3.43 The population in Redditch is expected to increase overall by 654 people between 2021 and 2040. The increase is predominantly in the older age groups. 49.7% of the population in Redditch are male and 50.3% are female. Table 5 shows the population estimates for all persons in Worcestershire by 5-year age groups for 2021 and 2040.

Table 5: Population estimates for all persons for 2021 and 2040 for Worcestershire

	Worcestershire			
	2021	2040	Increase no.	Increase %
Population Total	605,437	669,464	64,027	10.6%

3.44 In Worcestershire the ONS 2021 Census identifies a population of 603,700 an increase of 37,400 on the 2011 Census of 6.6%. the Worcestershire County council Population Projections Dashboard projects a population of 669,464 in 2040. Compared to the 2021 Census data the 2040 population projects a significant increase in the following population age bands. It is worth noting the significant increase in ages 75+:

- 40-44 (12.5%)
- 45-49 (11.7%)
- 65-69 (18.3%)
- 70-74 (18.2%)
- 75-79 (39.3%)
- 80-84 (54.8%)
- 85+ (89.6%)

3.45 85% of the Redditch community are White British. The remaining 15% are from a range of ethnically diverse groups.

Redditch Health and Economic Profile

Summary Health Profile

Health in summary

The health of people in Redditch is varied compared with the England average. About 15.6% (2,620) children's live-in low-income families. Life expectancy for both men and women is on a par with the England average.

Health inequalities: Life expectancy is 12.7 years lower for men and 10.4 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Redditch than in the least deprived areas.

Child health: In Year 6, 17.7% (170) of children are classified as obese, lower than the average for England. The rate for alcohol-specific hospital admissions among those under 18 is 18*. This represents 3 admissions per year. Levels of GCSE attainment (average attainment 8 score) and breastfeeding are worse than the England average.

Adult health: The rate for alcohol-related harm hospital admissions is 751*, worse than the average for England. This represents 610 admissions per year. The rate for self-harm hospital admissions is 196*. This represents 160 admissions per year. Estimated levels of excess weight in adults (aged 18+) are worse than the England average. The rates of new sexually transmitted infections killed and seriously injured on roads and new cases of tuberculosis are better than the England average. The rates of statutory homelessness, violent crime (hospital admissions for violence) and employment (aged 16-64) are better than the England average.

* rate per 100,000 population

3.46 The key issues for Redditch outlined in the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) (2019) show:

- Redditch district is ranked 1 amongst geographical neighbours (there are a total of 4) and 120 out of all 317 authorities in England for IDACI. The score, 16.4, represents the actual proportion of children living in families who were income deprived.
 - Redditch is ranked 1 out of Redditch district authority geographical neighbours and 114 out of all 317 authorities in England for IDAOPI. Again, the score, 14.1, represents the actual proportion of the population aged 60 and over who were income deprived.
 - In the latest Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) this area was ranked **105 out of 317 local authorities in England**, where 1 is the most deprived and 317 the least.
 - The most deprived areas in Redditch include parts of Winyates, Church Hill, Batchley and Woodrow.
 - A total of 9% of the Borough's lower super output areas (LSOAs) are in the most deprived 10% nationally. Overall, Redditch ranks in the top 40% of most-deprived local authorities.
- N.B. Rank 1 = most deprived, 317 = least deprived.

Physical Activity and Participation

The Intrinsic Value of Participation

- 3.47 The value of participation in sport and physical activity is significant, and its contribution to individual and community quality of life should not be underestimated. This is true for both younger and older people; participation in sport and physical activity delivers:
- Opportunities for physical activity, and therefore more ‘active living’;
 - Health benefits – cardiovascular, stronger bones, mobility;
 - Health improvement;
 - Mental health benefits; and
 - Social benefits – socialisation, communication, inter-action, regular contact, stimulation.
- 3.48 In addition, participation in sport and physical activity can facilitate the learning of new skills, development of individual and team ability / performance, and provide a ‘disciplined’ environment in which participants can ‘grow’ and develop.
- 3.49 The benefits of regular and active participation in sport and physical activity will be important to promote in relation to future sport, leisure, and physical activity in Redditch.
- 3.50 There is an existing audience in the Borough, which already recognises the advantages of participation, and a latent community who are ready to take part. The sport, physical activity and leisure offer in the Borough can support the delivery of the desired outcomes across a number of Redditch Strategic priorities and objectives.

The Contribution of Sport and Physical Activity

- 3.51 There is now a national focus on physical activity and health and wellbeing, particularly through the Health Promotion Office (announced in March 2021); this focus will need be a national drive to achieve pre Covid 19 physical activity participation rates and to build on this to ensure those who are inactive are provided with opportunities to become active. Chair of UKactive, Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson said in January 2021: “the sport and physical activity sector must be able to survive, recover, and develop to play its fullest role in society”.
- 3.52 Developing a strategic framework to support and promote collaboration in terms of physical activity provision will strengthen the Redditch offer and support the targeting of those communities who will most benefit by being more active.
- 3.53 Nationally a more active population is not only healthier, but also impacts positively on the current costs of social care, mental health, dementia, and it is estimated reduces GP visits nationally by 30 million a year.

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- 3.54 The 2019 study by Sheffield Hallam University for Sport England showed that for every £1 invested in sport, £4 of value is returned. Community sport and physical activity is worth £85.5 billion annually; £42 billion of this figure is social value, including improved work productivity, reduced crime, stronger communities, educational attainment, and of course healthier people.
- 3.55 Redditch Borough Council recognises the value and importance of physical activity. Redditch Borough Council's leisure facility provider is Rubicon, a local authority-controlled company. It also has an active and engaged social enterprise / voluntary sector, a supportive and proactive Active Herefordshire and Worcestershire, private sector provision, high quality outside environments, and a network of sports clubs.
- 3.56 There is a growing acknowledgment within government, national organisations, and services about the benefits of becoming and staying active and there is a willingness to work collaboratively. There is a real understanding of the need to focus on increasing activity in those least likely to participate and embedding active living (i.e., embedding activity into everyday lives), into communities in an inclusive way.

Physical inactivity is the fourth leading risk factor for global mortality accounting for 6% of deaths globally. People who have a physically active lifestyle have a 20% to 35% lower risk of cardiovascular disease, coronary heart disease and stroke compared to those who have a sedentary lifestyle.

Regular physical activity is also associated with a reduced risk of diabetes, obesity, osteoporosis and colon and breast cancer and with improved mental health. In older adults, physical activity is associated with increased functional capacities. The estimated direct cost of physical inactivity to the NHS across the UK is over £0.9 billion per year.⁷

Additional barriers and issues for participation in physical activity

- 3.57 Good transport links that are available and affordable are key as to whether people can access facilities. 85% of visits to indoor sports facilities in Redditch are by car (FPM information), and car ownership is higher than the national average in Redditch. In order to encourage those who are currently inactive, improved transport links would be important.
- 3.58 During the COVID-19 pandemic many people who were previously users at leisure centres and facilities have accessed online classes. It will be useful to consider future usage patterns for current users of the facilities when planning for future provision. The latest Moving Communities (MC) data (April 2023) highlights that pre-pandemic usage levels are being achieved in the majority of the leisure facilities for which data is submitted through MC.
- 3.59 The network of village halls and physical activity in community settings can be invaluable for those lacking confidence or feeling uncomfortable using larger bespoke facilities.

⁷ Source: Public Health England

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3.60 There are 41 indoor facilities as shown in the table below.

Table 6: Summary of Indoor Facilities in Redditch

Facility Type	Sub Facility Type	Redditch Borough
Athletics Tracks	Synthetic	1
Health and Fitness Gym	Health and Fitness Gym	9
Sports Hall	Activity Hall	14
Sports Hall	Main	7
Squash Courts	Normal	2
Studio	Studio	5
Swimming Pool	Learner/Teaching/Training	1
Swimming Pool	Main/General	2
Total		41

Current Participation Rates – Physical Activity Participation

Physical activity participation - adults

Table 7: Percentage of physically active adults 16+ years. (Physically active is defined here as doing at least 150 minutes of physical activity per week).⁸

Redditch	Herefordshire and Worcestershire	England
54.2%	63.75%	63.1%

Table 8: Percentage of fairly physically active adults 19+ years. (Fairly active here is defined here as doing at least 30-149 minutes of physical activity per week.)⁹

Redditch	Herefordshire and Worcestershire	England
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⁸ Active Lives May 2020 – May 2021

⁹ Active Lives November 2020 – November 2021

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9.7%	10.7%	11.1%
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Table 9: Percentage of physically inactive adults 19+ years (Inactive here is defined here as doing less than 30 minutes of physical activity per week.)¹⁰

Redditch	Herefordshire and Worcestershire	England
36.1%	25.6%	25.8%

3.61 Participation rates for adults in Redditch are lower than in Herefordshire and Worcestershire and nationally according to the Active Lives data November 2021/2022. Percentage activity levels are almost 10% lower than the national average. The level of adult inactivity in Redditch is significantly higher than both the Herefordshire and Worcestershire and national averages.

Physical activity participation – children and young people

Table 10: Percentage of physically active children and young people, school years 1-11. (Physically active is defined here as doing more than 60 mins of physical activity per day).¹¹

Redditch	Herefordshire and Worcestershire	West Midlands	England
56.9%	49.1%	45.2%	47.2%

Table 11: Percentage of fairly physically active children and young people, school years 1-11 (Fairly active here is defined here as doing at least 30-59 minutes of physical activity per day)¹²

Redditch	Herefordshire and Worcestershire	West Midlands	England
23.3%	24.7%	22.6%	22.7%

Table 12: Percentage of physically inactive children and young people, school years 1-11 (Inactive here is defined here as doing less than 30 minutes of physical activity per day)¹³

Redditch	Herefordshire and Worcestershire	West Midlands	England
19.7%	26.2%	32.2%	30.1%

¹⁰ Active Lives November 2020 –November 2021

¹¹ Active Lives SE, Children and Young People Academic Year 2021-2022

¹² Active Lives SE, Children and Young People Academic Year 2021-2022

¹³ Active Lives SE, Children and Young People Academic Year 2021-2022

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- 3.62 Participation rates for children and young people in Redditch are significantly higher when compared with other parts of Herefordshire and Worcestershire, regionally and nationally according to the Active Lives data November 2022. Inactivity levels for the least active are 12% lower than the national average. Participation levels in physical activity have increased in Redditch in the last couple of years. (Active Lives data November 2022)

4. Stage B - Existing Facility Provision

Introduction

- 4.1. The current level and nature of indoor sports facility provision in Redditch has been assessed across the Borough.
- 4.2. The Indoor Sports Facility Needs Assessment/Facility Planning Model will provide a scenario for housing and population to 2040 as follows:

Table 13: Scenario modelling for calculation of future facility provision in Redditch

Modelled scenarios	Population ONS 2021	TOTAL Population 2040
Scenario	85,165	85,819

- 4.3. This scenario is modelled as the basis for calculating future need for facility provision in the Borough to 2040.

Supply of Indoor Sport Facilities in Redditch

- 4.4. The following table summarises the existing indoor sports facilities across Redditch.

Table 14: Existing Indoor sports facilities – Redditch

Facilities	Redditch
Sports Hall (3+ Courts)	7
Activity Halls	14
Swimming Pools (Main, Learner and Leisure)	3
Studios	5
Health and Fitness Suites	9
Squash Courts	2
Athletic Tracks	1

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- 4.5. It is important to highlight from the outset that this strategy is not just about formal sports facility provision, but also looks at opportunities for increased use of informal places and spaces. Community halls can be used for sport and physical activity even if they are not purpose designed nor marked for such use and can often provide an introductory experience of sport and physical activity, or a more accessible option for those who are older, have no access to private transport, or who have commitments which make it hard for them to travel to formal facilities.
- 4.6. Increased use of the outdoors, open spaces, parks, recreation grounds, and community halls also has significant potential to contribute to increasing levels of participation in physical activity at a very local level, and to addressing rising levels of obesity and other health inequalities.
- 4.7. Based on the Active Places database, the Sport England Facility Planning Model (FPM), the local sports profile data (Sport England), and the audit undertaken to inform this strategy, the maps used in the following facility assessments show the extent of existing built sport and leisure facility provision in Redditch.
- 4.8. Users of sport and recreation facilities do not necessarily recognise administrative boundaries and will use facilities that are convenient and/or provide a quality/value for money experience. Ownership and management are, in this context, a minor consideration for most users.
- 4.9. The availability of facilities in neighbouring districts can and does influence sports facility usage patterns, as does access to private transport and availability of public transport. Good public transport means that accessing facilities is easier than in other districts.

Catchment Areas

- 4.10. Catchment areas for different types of facilities provide a means of identifying areas currently not served by existing indoor sports facilities. It is however, recognised that catchment areas vary from person to person, day to day, hour to hour, and are also very different in rural and urban areas. This problem is overcome by accepting the concept of 'effective catchment', defined as the distance travelled by around 75-80% of users. The maps in Section 4 of this report demonstrate catchment areas for facility provision in Redditch based on this approach, which uses a 20-minute drive time as a catchment area for sports facilities (the industry guidance from Sport England is a 20 min drive time (car), or a 10-minute walk time).

Demand for Indoor sports facilities

- 4.11. There are two main tools used to inform the assessment of supply and demand, as well as the facility audit (Appendix 9 taken directly from Active Places and used as the baseline data to be checked and challenged through the site visits), quality site visits (Appendix 2 (2a – 2d)), and the demand information gathered through the consultation. These tools are overviewed below:

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4.12. The Sport England Facility Planning Model (FPM) – this is only used for sports halls of 3 court size and above and swimming pools larger than 160 m².

The Facilities Planning Model (FPM) is a computer-based supply/demand model, which has been developed by Edinburgh University in conjunction with Sport Scotland and Sport England since the 1980's.

The model is a tool to help to assess the strategic provision of community sports facilities in an area. It is currently applicable for use in assessing the provision of sports halls, swimming pools, indoor bowls centres and artificial grass pitches.

Use of FPM

Sport England uses the FPM as one of its principal tools in helping to assess the strategic need for certain community sports facilities. The FPM has been developed as a means of:

1. assessing requirements for different types of community sports facilities on a local, regional or national scale;
2. helping local authorities to determine an adequate level of sports facility provision to meet their local needs;
3. helping to identify strategic gaps in the provision of sports facilities; and
4. comparing alternative options for planned provision, taking account of changes in demand and supply. This includes testing the impact of opening, relocating and closing facilities, and the likely impact of population changes on the needs for sports facilities.

Its current use is limited to those sports' facility types for which Sport England holds substantial demand data, i.e., swimming pools, sports halls, indoor bowls and artificial grass pitches.

The report sets out the findings under seven headings and includes data tables and maps. The headings are defined at the start and include total supply; total demand; supply and demand balance; satisfied/met demand; unmet demand; used capacity (how full the pools are); and local share of pools. Each heading is followed by a commentary on the findings. The purpose of the report is to provide Redditch Borough Council with an updated evidence base for sports halls and swimming pools, which the Council can use to inform its strategic planning for the future provision of these facility types. The full FPM reports and appendices are set out in Appendix 8.

The Sports Facility Calculator (SFC)

The Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) provides a quantitative estimate of future demand, but unlike the FPM the SFC model analysis does not identify specific locations for future provision. That needs to be informed by the nature and location of future housing development (where locations are known), local geography and accessibility, and, critically, the location of existing facilities. This is because future demand may have the potential to be addressed through facility extension, or refurbishment, as well as new locations. However, in the absence of any other future demand calculator, the SFC provides an indicator of the level of future provision needed. The SFC can be applied to the same facilities as those modelled in the FPM, but it is important to highlight that the SFC does not identify need, which can only be established by applying the information regarding demand from new housing to the findings and recommendations of the evidence in a Built Facility Strategy (BFS).

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- 4.13. The demand (current and future) for facilities other than sports halls and swimming pools is assessed using National Governing Body (NGB) standards if they are available, plus a combination of local factors e.g., how many existing facilities there are, what is the identified demand from schools, clubs, the community etc, what is available immediately outside the authority boundaries to which people may find it easier to travel.

Stage B (ANOG) - Assessment of Existing Sports Facility Provision

- 4.14. This section sets out the Stage B information required by the ANOG process. It provides a detailed picture of existing facilities in Redditch:
- Quantity: how many of each type there are?
 - Quality: their age and condition?
 - Accessibility: who owns and operates the facilities, facility location and catchment areas?
 - Availability: whether the facilities are available to all residents, and whether there is pay and play access?
- 4.15. Given the inter-related nature of these four key areas, Section 4 covers each facility type in turn, and assesses it in terms of the above, then pulls together all the data collected to provide an overall summary of each facility type, current and future provision i.e., supply and demand analysis.
- 4.16. Section 5 applies the analysis of the provision to identified needs in Redditch, and Section 6 sets out the recommendations to be implemented through the Action Plan, to address these identified needs and gaps.
- 4.17. Given the range of facilities in Redditch, each type is summarised below and assessed separately, to provide a more detailed picture of the current supply and demand, and critically future need.
- 4.18. The formal indoor sport facility types assessed include:
- Sports Halls (including schools and community buildings), and covering indoor sports hall sports such as, badminton, martial arts, indoor cricket basketball, netball, table tennis and volleyball;
 - Health & Fitness Centres (including dance/aerobic studios);
 - Squash Courts; and
 - Swimming Pools.
- 4.19. In addition to the above, reference is also made to the various community halls in the area (although these halls did not form part of the brief for the Built Facility Strategy), which provide informal space for a wide range of physical activity and recreational activities.
- 4.20. It is important to highlight that community use, and specifically pay and play access is the focus of the facility assessment. Community use applies to clubs, the public and community associations / groups; pay and play community access refers to the public.

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- 4.21. The latter is really important because those who are inactive are highly unlikely to join a club to use a facility; therefore, it is only by ensuring there is sufficient pay and play community access to formal and informal facilities, that participation is likely to increase, and particularly amongst those who are currently inactive. Community use provided for clubs is also very important, given that club members are also part of the overall community, but these individuals are more likely to be active already.

Operational Management of Redditch Borough Council Leisure Facilities

- 4.22. Abbey Stadium is managed by Rubicon Leisure on behalf of Redditch Borough Council. Rubicon Leisure is a Local Authority Trading Company (LATCO) established in 2018 and owned by Redditch Borough Council. Rubicon Leisure also manages facilities which are not the subject of this assessment, including:

- Pitcheroak Golf Course;
- Arrow Valley Visitor Centre;
- The Palace Theatre;
- The Forge Needle Museum;
- Windmill Community Centre;
- Batchley Community Centre; and
- Oakenshaw Community Centre.

- 4.23. The Abbey Stadium is a large leisure facility sited adjacent to the Redditch Borough Council athletics track. As a result of further refurbishment in 2012, the centre includes a main and learner pool, sports hall, extensive fitness suite and three studios, outdoor fitness facilities, an athletics track, football pitches and a café.

Quality Audits

- 4.24. The quality audits comprise an independent visual assessment of the quality and condition of the facilities; results are recorded on the ANOG assessment sheet, developed by Sport England, and scored, based on the Sport England system set out in Table 15. Details of the individual audits undertaken are included in Appendix 2 (2a – 2d).

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4.25. The audit scores are based on a numerical value, detailed on each assessment sheet, as follows:

Table 15: Quality Audit Scoring System

Key	Rating
>80%	Excellent
60% - 80%	Good
40% - 59%	Average
20%-39%	Poor
<20%	Very Poor

4.26. A facility scoring highly in terms of visual quality and condition (good – excellent) is likely to require less investment than one which in a poorer visual condition (average – very poor). The combination of the scores, results in the facility rating, and identification of investment need (significant, moderate etc.).

4.27. It is important to highlight that in undertaking the quality assessments, each element of the facility e.g., sports hall, pool etc is given a qualitative assessment, and the overall facility is also given an overall qualitative mark. Therefore, a sports hall can be of poor quality, but the overall facility score could be good.

Consultation

4.28. The ANOG (Assessing Need and Opportunities) methodology requires consultation with clubs, schools, neighbouring Boroughs, National Governing Bodies (NGBs) and key stakeholders. Schools were consulted via an online survey. Clubs' needs are also identified via consultation with NGBs. Neighbouring Boroughs were contacted by email and information collected through this medium and combined with SLL's own knowledge from recent work in relevant areas. NGBs were all contacted by email and asked a series of questions to identify the information required. The consultation responses are set out in detail in Appendix 3.

Community Survey

4.29. A survey was distributed to Redditch residents via a number of stakeholders and websites/social media, which was analysed in December 2021.

Summary of community survey key findings

There were 194 respondents to this community survey. Whilst this is not a huge response it provides some headline views and information.

Gender: Of the total, 116 are female, 70 are male and 8 prefer to self-describe/not to say.

Age: Of the total, the biggest age group that responded were those aged 60 – 69, followed by the 40 – 49 age group.

Ethnicity: Of the total, the largest ethnic group to respond was White English/Welsh/Scottish/ Northern Irish/British.

There were no responses from Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups, Asian or Asian British, Black, African, Caribbean or Black British.

Religious Belief: Of the total respondents, the largest religious group to respond classed themselves as Christian, followed by individuals who had no religion / belief.

There were no responses from the Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, or Sikh religious groups.

Ability: Of the total respondents, the majority of the respondents did not class themselves as having any long-standing health condition or disability.

Nearly 50% of respondents stated they are active for 2-2.5 hours per week.

The majority of those who responded (52%) participate in road walking (using urban footpaths), cycling or running, followed by other at 28%, and swimming at 25%.

Nearly 45% of respondents class themselves as being in good health. followed by 25% who think their health is neither good nor poor.

25% of respondents use / visit the facilities more than once a week (on average). 18% said that they visit weekly on average.

Surprisingly, nearly 15% of respondents (the fourth largest frequency response) said that they had never used / visited the Physical Activity, Recreation and Exercise facilities in Redditch Borough.

The travel time acceptable to the majority of respondents to use / visit Physical Activity, Recreation and Exercise facilities (indoor/outdoor/pitches) within Redditch Borough ranged from 6 - 30 minutes, depending on which facility was being used or visited.

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The four top responses illustrating why respondents participate in physical activity are:

1. To stay fit 70%
2. For enjoyment (65%)
3. To improve my physical health (62%)
4. To improve my mental health (60%)

The main barrier that respondents see as preventing them from participating in physical activity is the cost. This is closely followed by lack of available time, concerns about Covid and respondents being unaware of what is on offer. However, 25% of respondents think that there are no barriers impacting on their participation. Post Covid, 60% of respondents said that they would consider taking up a new physical, recreation or exercise activity. Suggestions as to the activities they would be interested in are:

- Adult dancing, Parent Classes, something different that nowhere else has that people would travel to;
- Gym, classes, swimming;
- More dance for fitness;
- More classes for over 60's. Gentle but accessible physical abilities;
- Thai Boxing;
- Badminton;
- Tennis;
- Swimming;
- Five a side football;
- Swimming, if a pool was available at a reasonable cost at wide opening hours;
- Golf;
- Something that fits around life please;
- I'd really like a boogie bounce class;
- Pilates or Tai Chi;
- Outdoor Swimming;
- Anything that is open to adults and children would be great;
- Yoga;
- Cycling;
- Pilates;
- Couch to 5k;
- I love to play squash, but it is difficult to find available court time;
- I'd love to take up kayaking and SUP, but these activities are not allowed at AV lake;
- Running;
- Fencing;
- Horse-riding; and
- Shooting.

50.3% of respondents identify gaps in provision; examples given are:

- More swimming facilities;
- Daytime access especially for older people;
- Yoga;
- Exercise classes for the 50+;
- Ladies' only swimming;
- Tennis and Squash courts;
- Outside gym;
- Better access to the Abbey Stadium;
- Bike trails;
- Multi wheels sport hub;
- Safe cycling routes; and
- Outdoor facilities for disabled.

Most respondents said they are satisfied with the quality of the indoor facilities.

Key findings:

- Lack of suitable cycle paths for cycling; routes need to be more joined -up;
- Better marketing of what is on offer e.g., joined up website showing everything;
- Junior netball opportunities needed;
- More access for the public at Abbey Stadium pool;
- Participation opportunities for those with a disability/those who are vulnerable;
- Outdoor gyms needed; and
- Places where you can walk/jog.

Detailed survey results are included in Appendix 11.

Schools

- 4.30. Responses were received from 17 schools across Redditch and Bromsgrove. 14% of the schools cited pay and play use for their sports halls with no pay and play for swimming at the 2 schools who returned surveys and have these facilities (there are no schools in Redditch with a pool available for community use since the closure of Kingsley Sports Centre (Tudor Grange School)). There is a very small pool at Woodrow First School, but this is not open for community access. The pool is used by a local swim school to deliver lessons, as well as school use. 60% of the schools who responded said that they would be interested in allowing community use in the future where there is none currently. None of the schools who completed the survey have plans to improve their facilities. The detailed results of the survey are in Appendix 5.

Clubs

- 4.31. Unfortunately, only 7 of the clubs who were surveyed responded, despite this being followed up on several occasions. 2 of the respondent clubs cover both Redditch and Bromsgrove.
- Bromsgrove, Redditch T-T Association;
 - Longmeadow Badminton Club;
 - Redditch & Bromsgrove Company of Archers;
 - Redditch Tennis Club;
 - Redditch Trampoline Club;
 - Redditch Basketball Club;
 - Redditch Sailing Club;

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- Redditch Self Defence and Youth Engagement; and
- Redditch Golf Club.

4.32. The key findings relating to Redditch are as follows:

4.33. Venues most used by the Redditch sports clubs responding are shown in Table 16.

Table 16: Venues most used by Redditch Sports Clubs

Venue	Postcode
Bentley Village Hall	B97 5TB
Dodderhill School	WR9 0BE
Abbey Stadium	B97 6EJ
Studley Leisure Centre	B80 7QU
Redditch Tennis Club	B97 6PB
Arrow Vale Sports Centre	B98 0AW
Studley Leisure Centre	B80 7QU
Redditch Sailing Club	B98 8PT
Ringside Boxing Academy	B98 0EP
Redditch Golf Club	B97 5PJ

4.34. More detail about the use by each club is in Appendix 6 Sports Club Survey Analysis.

4.35. All respondent clubs have 100+ playing members.

4.36. The majority of clubs responding have coaches, paid and unpaid and also volunteers.

4.37. The majority of clubs stated their membership numbers have increased over recent years and that this is likely to increase for a number of reasons e.g., people want to stay fit, people want to get out and about again following the pandemic.

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- 4.38. The majority of clubs have capacity to take more members. The majority of respondent clubs have junior members; membership age ranges from junior to teen to adult.
- 4.39. Most of the respondent clubs use facilities for 10+ hours per week; usage is across 7 days of the week and throughout the year. Depending on the nature of the sport there may be a reduction in activity in either the summer or winter months.
- 4.40. Clubs identify future priorities as continuing to increase membership and volunteer numbers and for some there is a need to improve the quality of the facilities they use. The majority of the clubs responding rate their venues as standard.
- 4.41. Responding clubs provided the following comments:

Survey does not allow realistic replies. We currently have no junior members - answer not available. Our members do not come in multiples of 10 - no facility to put in correct numbers. We do not have paid coaches, just 2 members who happen to be registered coaches - again, not possible to give true response.

We used to use this facility on Wednesday evenings and Friday Evenings but due to a change of facility staff we lost one of our weekday slots, this impacted on our membership as we could not offer a choice of days or both days to our members this meant we lost members who chose other clubs with better facilities.

We are a very successful tennis club in terms of producing county, national and international tennis players over the last decade. We have achieved this without any indoor facilities and for most of the time only having 4 courts (we had the additional 2 courts built in 2016). We offer a facility for members of the community to use either as club member if they want to join or as pay as you play access. We have developed this club from 2006 where we had no usable courts.

We now have 6 courts (4 of which are currently floodlit). We are committed to improving the facilities for all the community as well as our county, national and international players. We are currently looking to seek financial help to help pay for some of the costs involved with floodlights. We are also looking for financial help to support our resurfacing project for two of our worn-out courts. These two projects will help us get more people playing the sport and would help our performance players prepare for their journey in county, national and international events.

In regards for indoor facilities, we don't have any indoor tennis courts in Redditch. Indoor tennis courts would be a massive improvement to facilities. Players in Redditch currently have to travel to Malvern, Billsley or Edgbaston for indoor tennis. Thanks

We aspire to enthuse the next generation of players (u9s & u11s) we are hampered by not having drop-down rings on the main hall court nor in the small gym adjacent to it if these were available, we could vastly improve our provision for not only this section but also for those with special needs (special Olympics).

We used to be able to use the facility twice a week but due to covid and losing member we reduced this to once a week for a short while then after the second lockdown we tried to get back to twice but the centre would not block book us for two evening so we now do every other Sunday morning which is less well attended due to family commitments and so is financially draining on the club so may have to drop the Sunday.

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4.42. The detailed results of the survey are in Appendix 6.

Parish Councils

4.43. 10 Parish Councils (across Bromsgrove and Redditch) responded to the survey, 5 of these said they have no playing fields or sports facilities. 2 cited indoor sports facilities and other community facilities are important locally as a place to deliver a whole range of activities. No response was received from Redditch Parish Council. The detailed results of the survey are in Appendix 7.

Neighbouring Local Authorities

4.44. Only 2 responses were received which were from Stratford upon Avon and Birmingham City. In Stratford upon Avon the Council is carrying out refurbishment across all 5 leisure centres in 2021-22. The nearest centres to Redditch are Studley Leisure Centre and Grieg Leisure Centre. Birmingham City Council would be keen to work in partnership in relation to provision in the south of their area as this is in the catchment area for some Bromsgrove and Redditch residents, and similarly provision in Bromsgrove and some in Redditch is used by City residents.

Assessment of Individual Facility Types

Sports Halls

4.61 Table 17 summarises the overall supply and demand analysis for sports halls in Redditch.

Table 17: Summary Analysis – Sports Hall and Activity Hall Supply and Demand

Facility Type	Assessment Findings
Sports Halls	
Quantity	The supply analysis identifies that Redditch has a total of 7 sports halls (strategic size 3+ courts) (refer to Map 1). The sports halls are provided across 7 sites. Although there is a good supply of sports halls, the majority are on educational sites without formal dual use agreements. There is one sports hall provided by Redditch Borough Council – the Abbey Stadium.
Quality	Sports halls in Redditch are ageing and in need of replacement refurbishment in the future. The average age of existing sports halls in the Borough is 39 years.
Accessibility	Although there is a good supply of sports halls in Redditch, only the Abbey Stadium is available for daytime use; facilities available on school sites are mainly not available during peak periods. The sports hall at Heart of Worcestershire College (Redditch Campus) is only for private use. Community and play access is only available at 3 sports halls – Abbey Stadium, Arrow Vale Sports and Leisure Centre and St Augustine’s School. There are no sports halls in the southwest of the Borough.

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Facility Type	Assessment Findings
Sports Halls	
Availability	<p>In Redditch there is a high level of sports hall and activity hall provision. However, the majority of sports halls are on education sites, providing for sports club/association use, not pay and play access.</p> <p>The limited daytime access to sports hall provision highlights the importance of the community centres which are available during the day for clubs and pay and play use, particularly for the older population, or those without private transport.</p> <p>Redditch has ageing halls on educational sites in good locations but with limited off-peak access.</p>

Sports Halls: Quantity

- 4.45. The supply analysis identifies that Redditch has a total of 7 sports halls (all strategic size 3+ courts) (refer to Map 1). The sports halls are provided across 7 different sites. Appendix 9 details the sports hall supply in Redditch taken from Active Places (Sport England) and additional research.
- 4.46. There are:
- A total of 7 (all strategic size i.e., 3 courts+) sports halls across 7 different sites;
 - 27 badminton courts in the 7 available sports halls, however 3 of these badminton courts are for private use only (Heart of Worcestershire College), and 12 badminton courts are only available to sports clubs and groups (St Bede’s Catholic Middle School (3 courts), Trinity High School (4 courts), Tudor Grange School (5 courts). 12 badminton courts in sports halls are available for pay and play use;
 - There are 13 further badminton courts available in activity halls (halls of less than 2 badminton courts) on the sites where there is also a strategic size sports hall = an overall total of 40 courts (27 plus 13 courts). However, of the 13 badminton courts in activity halls, 5 are for private use only, and 5 are available for use by sports clubs and groups. 3 badminton courts in activity halls are available for pay and play use; and
 - Across sports halls and activity halls there is a total of 32 courts that are available for community use (22 badminton courts are available for clubs and groups, and 15 for pay and play community access). These 32 badminton courts comprise:
 - **Sports Halls** - 12 badminton courts only available for use by sports clubs and community groups; 12 badminton courts available for pay and play use
 - **Activity Halls** – 5 badminton courts only available for use by sports clubs and community groups; 3 badminton courts available for pay and play use

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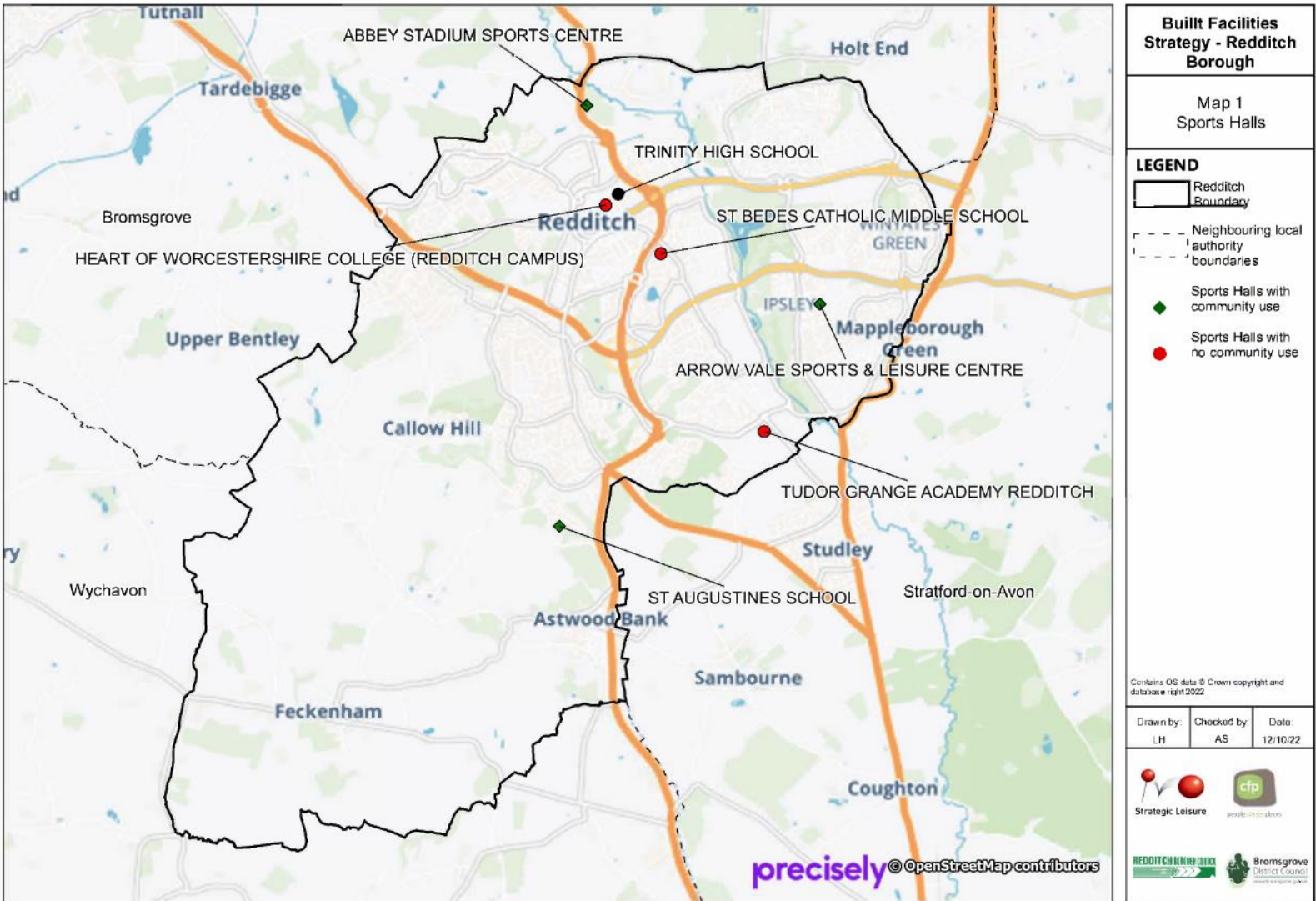
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- 4.47. The sports halls are operated and managed by a mix of schools/colleges/Local Authority controlled company (Rubicon). Six of the strategic sports halls are on education sites and only 2 are available for pay and play access (Arrow Vale Leisure Centre and St Augustine's School) although most of the sports halls on school sites offer bookings to sports clubs and groups. There is one 4 badminton court sports hall at Arrow Vale Leisure Centre, on the site of Arrow Vale School, and one 4 badminton court sports hall at St Augustine's School; both offer pay and play community access.
- 4.48. Strategic size sports halls are shown in Appendix 9 and Table 18, those available for pay and play and/or community use are highlighted in bold. All the sports hall sites are in Redditch town. The southwest of the Borough has no sports halls and there are none close to the authority boundary in Wychavon.
- 4.49. Tudor Grange School would like to open up their sports hall as part of a wider re-development of sports facilities; this would enable pay and play community access to be offered.

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Map 1: Sports Hall sites in Redditch



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Table 18: Supply of Sports Halls in Redditch

Site Name	Post Code	Facility Type	Facility Sub Type	No. of badminton courts	Activity Halls	No. of badminton courts	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Pay and Play Community use ✓	Year Built	Refurbished
Abbey Stadium Sports Centre	B97 6EJ	Sports Hall	Main	4	-	-	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Trust	✓	1963	Yes Whole centre 2016 The gym was refurbished in 2-22.
Arrow Vale Sports & Leisure Centre	B98 0EN	Sports Hall	Main	4	✓	-1	Pay and Play	Community school	Commercial	✓	1976	No
Heart of Worcestershire College (Redditch Campus)	B98 8DW	Sports Hall	Main	3	-	-	Private Use	Further Education	School/College/University (in house)	Private	2007	No
St Augustine's School	B97 5LX	Sports Hall	Main	4	✓	2	Pay and Play	Voluntary Aided School	School/College/University (in house)	✓	1970	No
St Bede's Catholic Middle School	B98 7HA	Sports Hall	Main	3	✓	1	Sports Club / Community Association	Academies	School/College/University (in house)		1961	No
Trinity High School	B98 8HB	Sports Hall	Main	4	-✓	1	Sports Club / Community Association	Academies	School/College/University (in house)		1996	2006
Tudor Grange Academy Redditch	B98 7UH	Sports Hall	Main	5	-✓	1	Sports Club / Community Association	Academy Convertors	School/College/University (in house)	✓	1970	2006

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4.50. Map 2 shows the 3 sports halls which are available for pay and play (facilities in bold in Table 18) on 3 sites.

Sports Halls: Quality

4.51. Detailed quality assessments were undertaken on all the Redditch borough indoor sports facilities (2022) by way of a site visit (where possible given Covid restrictions) and visual assessment of the facilities. These are provided in Appendix 2 (2a – 2d) and are summarised in Table 19.

Table 19: Summary of the Quality Assessment of Redditch sports hall facilities

Facility Name	Quality Score	Commentary	Nos. of contacts for assessment
Abbey Stadium Sports Centre	N/A	Renovated overall in 2016, this facility is in very good repair and is the most modern of all the sports halls. The gym was refurbished in 2022.	Survey completed
Arrow Vale Sports & Leisure Centre	N/A	Built in 1976, this hall has not been refurbished but it is in good repair	Survey completed
Heart Of Worcestershire College (Redditch Campus)	N/A	Built in 2007 and no refurbishment – 25 years old but still in good/reasonable repair. Potentially looks a bit 'tired'	Survey completed
St Augustine's School	N/A	Built in 1970, this facility is in very good condition	Contacted by email (x2) and phone calls (x2) but no response received Online audit assessment carried out
St Bede's Catholic Middle School	N/A	Built in 1961 and no refurbishment – 23 years old but still in good/reasonable repair. Potentially looks a little 'tired'	Survey completed
Trinity High School	N/A	Built in 1996, this facility is in very good condition. Redditch Borough Council is currently in negotiations with SLM, leisure operator to manage this facility and extend pay and play and community use.	Contacted by email (x2) and phone calls (x2) but no response received. Online audit assessment carried out
Tudor Grange Academy Redditch	57%	Built in 19670 this facility needs refurbishment but is still fit for purpose, average condition.	Site visit completed

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- 4.52. The sports halls across Redditch are in average/good condition. The average age of sports halls in Redditch is 39 years but this is skewed by the Abbey Stadium, whose sports hall opened in 1963. Swimming facilities were added more recently.
- 4.53. The national average age span of a public sports facility is 35 – 40 years so clearly the sports hall element of the Abbey Stadium is significantly ageing.

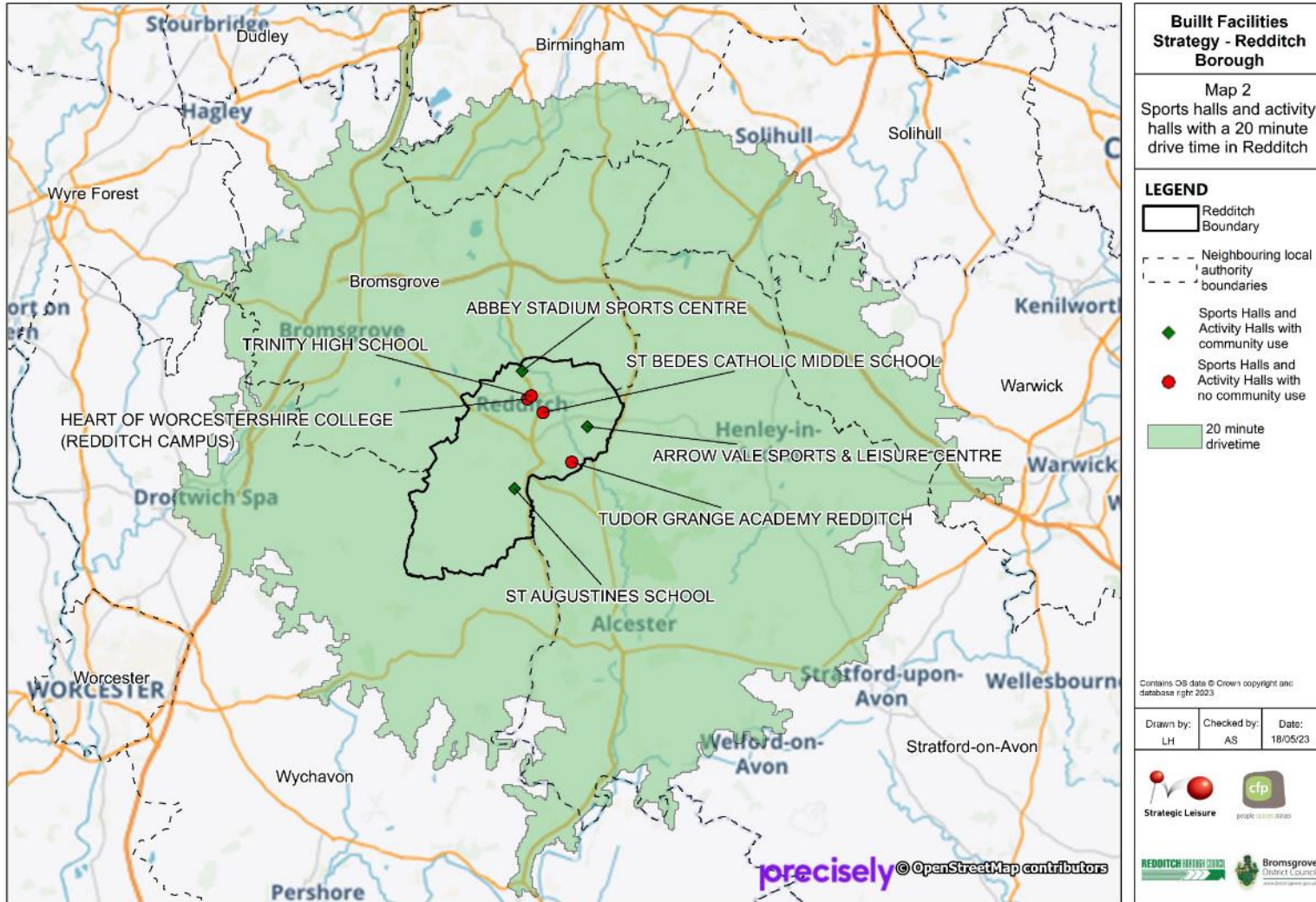
Sports Halls: Accessibility

- 4.54. Map 2 shows the geographic distribution of the strategic size pay and play community access sports halls in Redditch, with a catchment area for each of 20 minutes' drive time (private car). The 20-minute drive time catchment area of the existing pay and play community sports halls does cover the whole Redditch area and therefore all areas of Redditch are serviced by an accessible sports hall. Six of the sports halls are on school or college sites and only open at evenings and weekends and not for pay and play activities (apart from Arrow Vale Sports and Leisure Centre and St Augustine's School). Four of the sports halls, as shown on Map 2 are not available for pay and play access). Daytime access to sports halls for pay and play use is therefore a challenge in Redditch. Many of the sports halls on school sites do offer community access to groups and clubs but only 2 (Arrow Vale Sports and Leisure Centre and St Augustine's School) offer community use on a pay and play basis.

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Map 2: Sports halls and activity halls with a 20-minute drive time in Redditch



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- 4.55. Accessibility to activity halls will vary across Redditch depending on their locations. Activity halls attract far more local use, given that many of them are used for a wide range of activities, including sport and physical activity, arts, community, meetings, lunches, playgroups, events. Many are not marked out as badminton courts so provide informal multi-purpose space which can be used for a wide range of community activities.
- 4.56. The numbers of people who own a car is higher than the national average, with 80.5% of households owning or having access to a car (Source: Sport England Facility Planning Model Assessment May 2022).
- 4.57. The percentage of the population with or without access to a car is important, because it influences travel patterns to sports halls. If there is a high percentage of the population with access to a car, as there is in Redditch, then more visits to sports halls are by car. If the reverse is true, then a network of locally accessible sports halls is important for residents who either walk or use public transport to travel to a sports hall.
- 4.58. The findings for Redditch from Sport England's Facility Planning Model are that 76% of visits to sports halls are by car (up to 20 minutes' drive time), 24% of all visits by walking (20 minutes/1-mile catchment area) and by public transport (20 minutes catchment area).
- 4.59. It is therefore important to ensure that access is available to sports halls by foot and public transport. As so few sports halls provide community use in the daytime, it is important that those that do provide good access are open for as many hours as possible and are affordable to optimise opportunities for participation in sport and physical activity.

Sports Halls: Availability

- 4.60. Table 18 and Map 1 highlight that there is a good level of sports hall and activity hall provision in Redditch. However, the majority are on education sites and some only provide for sports club/association use (usually outside of school hours). Whilst a community access sports hall would typically be open from 7am – 10pm weekdays and 9am – 6pm weekends, a facility on an education site, if open for community use will typically be open from 6pm – 10pm and at weekends. Opening hours for community halls vary significantly depending on how they are operated but they would typically not be open for as many hours as a community access sports hall.
- 4.61. Of the 7 strategic size sports halls only 1 provides all day accessible daytime use (Abbey Stadium). The rest of the centres do not offer access to a strategic size sports hall during the day, because these sports halls are on education sites. This impacts on sections of the community who may prefer to access provision during off peak day time hours, e.g., the elderly.
- 4.62. Overall, although there is a good supply of sports halls in Redditch, access during peak times is also limited because the majority of sports halls are on education sites without formal community use arrangements. The community access sports halls are open for a good number of hours and are well-used, indicating that for many people access is affordable. Arrow Vale Sports and Leisure Centre and St Augustine's School provide pay and play access to sports halls but only in the evening and at weekends.

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- 4.63. A further aspect of accessibility is programming, opening hours and whether facilities offer community pay and play access. Only 2 of the education sites offer community access on a play and pay basis, the remaining schools allow for sports clubs and associations. The clubs that responded to the consultation did not raise any specific issues over access, or the need for additional sports hall time.
- 4.64. However, given the local clubs and the size of their membership, (which is growing) identified in paragraph 4.31 it is clear there is significant demand for indoor sports hall space.
- 4.65. Not everyone is, can be, or wants to be a member of a sports club, so access which is focussed on clubs and groups 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 likely to be those experiencing significant health inequalities.
- 4.66. Access to informal community centre halls is important to ensure access to physical activity opportunities when there are fewer formal facilities available.
- 4.67. There is therefore an important role for the existing community centre, informal hall space and activity hall facilities across Redditch, in providing physical activity opportunities for specific communities, those who may choose not to access formal sports facilities, or those in rural communities. There is also potential to increase capacity for community access pay and play usage of existing education-based facilities, which provide for sports clubs and associations.

Sports Halls: National Governing Bodies (NGBs)

- 4.68. Consultation was undertaken with National Governing Bodies (NGB's), to identify their views on the need for sports hall provision in Redditch. The views of NGB's (representing sports hall sports) who responded are included in Appendix 3. Unfortunately, there were only responses from badminton and gymnastics in relation to sports hall sports.
- 4.69. The key issues are:
- There is high participation in badminton in Redditch;
 - Actual high badminton participation rates contrast with lower Active Lives Survey findings. This highlights that female participation is low and there is a relatively weak badminton infrastructure with only two affiliated clubs. Two thirds of facilities meet Badminton England quality threshold. There is a need to improve quality of facilities so that badminton can increase its capacity;
 - There is a need for access to additional badminton courts to meet and grow participation;
 - Given the existing high levels of participation in badminton, there is lower demand for more badminton;
 - Below average number of clubs;
 - Below average number of courts available;
 - There are particular facility challenges because there is a very low level of badminton court provision compared with high participation rates

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- Despite 17% of the population having a disability or long-term health condition there are no disability clubs or trained disability coaches in the area so opportunity for development in this respect is limited; and
- Below average numbers of registered coaches.

4.70. Key badminton venues in Redditch include:

- Abbey Stadium;
- Arrow Vale Sports Centre;
- Tudor Grange Academy Redditch; and
- Trinity High School.

4.71. These have potential to host clubs or accommodate increased badminton activity.

4.72. There are no gymnastics clubs in Redditch identified by British Gymnastics. Their priorities for the area in terms of gymnastics are therefore:

- Diversify sources of revenue to develop and grow the provision of gymnastics;
- Build the capacity and grow the demand in gymnastics; and
- Raise the profile and increase the appeal of gymnastics.

4.73. British Gymnastics is aware that clubs from outside Redditch are trying to rent former industrial units in the borough to move to and develop as gymnastics facilities, but this is proving challenging. British Gymnastics would support this as it would bring a club presence to the borough and facilitate development of participation in gymnastics.

4.74.

Sports Halls: Sport England Facility Planning Model (FPM) Summary

4.75. Strategic Leisure was provided with Sport England's Facilities Planning Model National Run Report (January 2022 based on National Run data) for sports hall provision in Redditch. The FPM analysis is based on 11 sports hall facilities; the FPM includes sports halls with a minimum of 3 badminton courts and 1 badminton court sports halls that are on the same site, so these 11 sports halls equate to the 7 strategic size sports halls previously identified, plus the activity halls identified in Table 18. The FPM excludes the Heart of Worcestershire College sports hall because that only provides for private use.

4.76. For the purposes of the FPM Sport England has used the exact figure of 85,164 for current population and 85,819 for future population in 2040. The 2021 population generates a sports hall demand for 7,916 visits in the weekly peak period of weekday evenings (up to 5 hours per day) and weekend days (up to 7 hours per weekend day). The demand in the peak periods equates to a total demand for 24.4 badminton courts (with comfort factor included).

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- 4.77. The FPM states a current supply of 28.9 courts during this weekly peak period giving a supply demand balance of 4.5 courts (exceeds demand by this number of courts). The sports hall demand in 2040 is for 7,009 (i.e. a decrease) visits in the weekly and weekend peak periods.
- 4.78. This demand in the peak periods equates to a total demand for 28.9 badminton courts (with comfort factor included).
- 4.79. The FPM states a current supply of 23.8 courts during this weekly peak period giving a supply demand balance of 4 courts (exceeds demand by this number of courts). However, Abbey Stadium Sports Centre is estimated to have 87% of capacity used at peak times in 2021 and 100% in 2040.
- 4.80. Demand for use of sports halls is highest in the northeast of the Borough and also in an area northwest of the Tudor Grange Academy site. Demand for use of sports halls (is lowest in the southwest of the Borough, where there are no sports halls. Unmet demand for sports halls in 2021 is 363 visits per week in the peak period, and by 2040 this is 359 visits per week in the peak period, and by 2040 this is 359 visits. N.B. Unmet demand is demand that exists but cannot be met either because there is insufficient capacity in existing sports halls, or because the people who want to use sports halls live too far away from their nearest sports hall facility.
- A total of 9% of the Borough's lower super output areas (LSOAs) are in the most deprived 10% nationally. Overall, Redditch ranks in the top 40% of most-deprived local authorities;
 - The level of deprivation varies across the Borough; Tudor Grange Arrowvale Sports Centre and Trinity High School are the sports hall sites located in an area of high deprivation;
 - Redditch has an ageing supply of sports halls, primarily located on educational sites;
 - These sports halls offer access in the evenings and at weekends, the majority of this is for clubs and groups, not community pay and play;
 - Demand in Redditch increases by 10% between 2021 and 2040, with some of this increase located around the proposed housing developments on the boundary with Redditch;
 - There is a very high level of car ownership in the Borough: around 85% of use at existing sports halls is from residents who travel by car;
 - Only around 15% of journeys made by Redditch residents to sports halls are on foot or by public transport, despite 40% of the population living within a 20-minute walk of a sports hall; (Source: Sport England facility Planning Model May 2022)
 - Abbey Stadium operates at 87% of its available capacity at peak times;
 - There is some spare capacity in some sports halls at peak times if sites were to open for longer;
 - There is a high level of sports hall use in Redditch from Bromsgrove residents, and vice versa, - joint planning with neighbouring local authorities is an important consideration;
 - Only one sports hall i.e. Abbey Stadium is open for daytime community pay and play use;
 - A high level of demand for sports hall use by Redditch residents is met in both 2021 (95%) and 2040 (94.9%);
 - 19% of satisfied demand is met by suitably located halls outside the Borough in 2021; by 2040 this is 17%. The majority of halls used by Redditch residents outside the Borough are in Stratford on Avon;
 - Unmet demand is very low (5%) in both 2021 and 2040. In 2040 the area of highest unmet demand is the northeast close to Abbey Stadium; and
 - Most of the unmet demand is due to residents without access to a car living too far away from a sports hall.

Interventions and recommendations from FPM

4.62 The key issues are:

- The need to explore how potential changes are made in the hours available for community use at the educational sites;
- The age of the stock and need for modernisation; and
- The location of the residential sites in Redditch and Bromsgrove and the increase in imported demand from Bromsgrove met at the Redditch sports halls.

4.63 Suggested interventions are:

- The interventions and recommendations arising from the FPM key findings are:
 - Secure community-use agreements at educational sites. In terms of the FPM findings, the most important is re-instatement of community use at Tudor Grange Academy. It is in an area of quite high demand for sports halls and has 34 hours of community use available in the weekly peak period. Increasing the community hours to the maximum 46 hours increases the capacity;
 - Modernise Arrow Vale Sports & Leisure Centre and consider increasing the hours available for community use in the weekly peak period from 40 hours at present to the maximum 46 hours. This will maintain the attractiveness of the venue to residents in the Borough. The centre is in an area of quite high demand; and
 - Work with Bromsgrove District to ensure developer contributions secured from the residential sites in both authorities contribute to improving the sports halls in Redditch.

4.64 The FPM findings identify increased usage at Abbey Stadium Sports Centre and Trinity High School by 2040. These are the nearest sports hall sites to the identified strategic residential development sites in both authorities and the increase in use can be attributed in part to the demand from these sites.

4.65 Trinity High School has 34 hours available for community use (sports clubs and groups, not pay and play access) and estimated usage of 84% in 2021 in the weekly peak period and 92% in 2040. Increasing the hours available for community use to 46 hours will increase supply and contribute to meeting the increased demand. It could also accommodate some of the demand not being met at the nearby Abbey Stadium Sports Centre and reduce the used capacity to a more comfortable level. The centre was last modernised in 2006 and may need further modernisation.

4.66 The full and detailed FPM report is included at Appendix 8.

4.67 In the context of the FPM findings summarised above, only St Bede's and Trinity High School engaged in the consultation process for this work and therefore the need to engage with the schools to explore opportunities to maximise community use is a key action for Redditch Borough Council.

Sports Halls: Supply and Demand Analysis

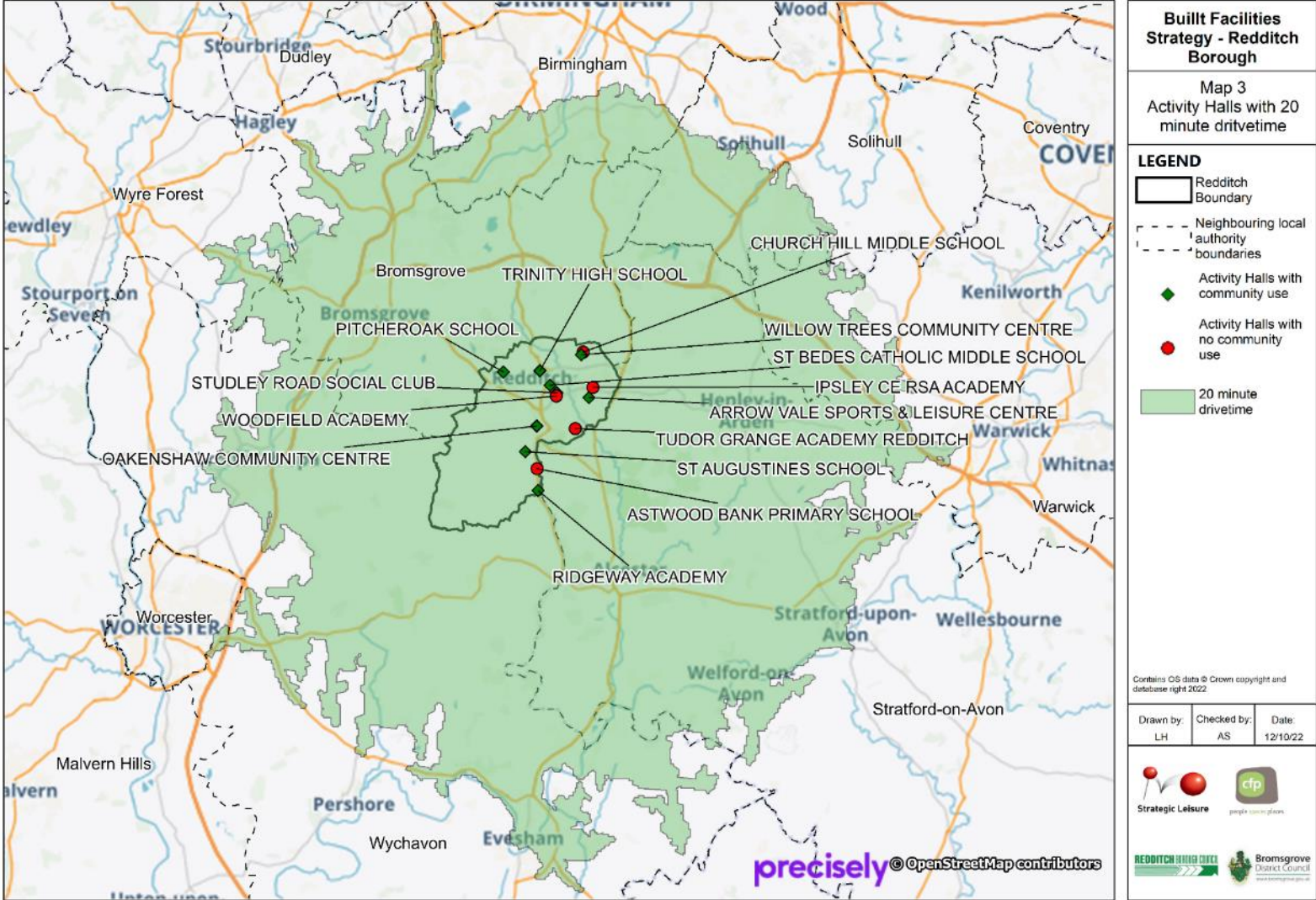
Activity Halls – Supply

- 4.68 Map 4 shows the locations of the Activity Halls in Redditch. There are 19 Activity Halls, 5 of these halls have been included in the strategic sports hall sites. There are therefore 14 additional halls. The activity halls are not included in the brief for this study in terms of an audit, however the importance of activity halls in a community should not be underestimated. These halls provide important local spaces for numerous sports and leisure activities and are often much more accessible for those living in rural communities.

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Map 3: Location map of Activity Halls in Redditch



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4.69 15 of the 14 activity halls listed in Table 20 are located on school sites and therefore the majority of these halls will not be available for daytime use.

Table 20: Supply of Activity Halls in Redditch (not linked to strategic sports hall sites)

Site Name	Post Code	Facility Sub Type	No. of badminton courts	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Year Built	Refurbished
Arrow Vale Sports & Leisure Centre	B98 0EN	Activity Hall	1	Pay and play	Community school	Local Authority (in house)	1976	No
Astwood Bank Primary School	B96 6EH	Activity Hall	1	Private Use	Academies	School/College/University (in house)	2006	No
Church Hill Middle School	B98 9LR	Activity Hall	2	Private Use	Community school	School/College/University (in house)	1980	Yes (2008)
Ipsley Ce Rsa Academy	B98 0UB	Activity Hall	1	Private Use	Academies	School/College/University (in house)	1990	No
Oakenshaw Community Centre	B98 7YB	Activity Hall	0	Sports Club / Community Association	Local Authority	Local Authority (in house)	1970	No
Pitcheroak School	B97 6PQ	Activity Hall	0	Sports Club / Community Association	Community Special School	School/College/University (in house)	1975	No
Ridgeway Academy	B96 6BD	Activity Hall	2	Sports Club / Community Association	Academies	School/College/University (in house)	1955	Yes 2009
St Augustine's School	B97 5LX	Activity Hall	2	Pay and Play	Voluntary Aided School	School/College/University (in house)	1970	No
St Bede's Catholic Middle School	B98 7HA	Activity Hall	1	Sports Club / Community Association	Academies	School/College/University (in house)	1961	No
Studley Road Social Club	B98 7HF	Activity Hall	0	Sports Club / Community Association	Community Organisation	Community Organisation	1999	No

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Site Name	Post Code	Facility Sub Type	No. of badminton courts	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Year Built	Refurbished
Trinity High School	B98 8HB	Activity Hall	1	Sports Club / Community Association	Academies	School/College/University (in house)	1996	Yes 2006
Tudor Grange Academy Redditch	B98 7UH	Activity Hall	1	Sports Club / Community Association	Academy Convertors	School/College/University (in house)	1970	Yes 2005
Willow Trees Community Centre	B98 9JS	Activity Hall	0	Sports Club / Community Association	Local Authority	Local Authority (in house)	1970	Yes 2003
Woodfield Academy	B98 7HH	Activity Hall	1	Private Use	Academies	School/College/University (in house)	1950	Yes 2007

Community Halls and Village Halls

- 4.70 It is important to highlight that this Strategy is not just about formal sports facility provision, but also looks at opportunities for increased use of informal places and spaces. Increased use of outdoor sports facilities and playing pitches, open spaces, parks, recreation grounds, and community halls also has significant potential to contribute to increasing levels of participation in physical activity at a very local level, and to addressing rising levels of obesity and other health inequalities.
- 4.71 Community halls can be used for sport and physical activity even if they are not purpose designed nor marked for such use and can often provide an introductory experience of sport and physical activity, or a more accessible option for those who are older, have no access to private transport, or who have commitments which make it hard for them to travel to formal facilities.
- 4.72 As well as activity halls, there is a range of other community halls/centres, provided by churches, community associations, etc. These are available for community use (however, this is usually groups/association/private run classes/sessions) but provide for far more than sport and physical activity. Typically, community halls will also be hired for dance classes, arts/crafts events and programmes, events meeting and social gatherings.
- 4.73 In addition, there are other community halls that offer sport and physical activity such as village halls. There is already some sport and physical activity being delivered in village and community halls across Redditch; there is an opportunity to increase awareness of existing activities and to extend them, particularly where there are halls available which offer community access, but there is no physical activity taking place.

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Swimming Pools

4.75 Table 21 summarises the overall supply and demand analysis for swimming pools in Redditch.

Table 21: Summary Analysis – Swimming Pool Supply and Demand

Facility Type	Assessment Findings
Swimming Pools	
Quantity	<p>There are 3 pools across 2 sites, but only 2 of these pools (which are on the same site) are accessible to the public on a pay and play basis – the main pool and learner pool at Abbey Stadium. The third pool is at a hotel and only available for use by members of the facility. There is also a small pool at Woodrow School which is used by the school and a swim school only.</p> <p>A very high level of the Borough's demand for swimming pools can be met by the accessible supply of swimming pools in 2021 and 2040. However, there is a current under-supply of swimming pool provision in the borough, equating to 356 sq. m of water space (for comparison, a 4-lane x 25m pool is 200 sq. m). Demand for swimming pool provision in 2021 is for 934 sq. m of water space; the difference between supply and demand is 578 sq. m of water space. This is roughly equivalent to an 8-lane x 25m pool (400 sq. m) plus a teaching pool of 10m x 17m (170 sq. m).</p> <p>Although demand for swimming pool provision reduces to 909 sq. m by 2040, there is still under-supply of water space of 553 sq. m by 2040 if nothing is done about increasing capacity.</p>
Quality	The two pay and play swimming pools at Abbey Stadium are rated as excellent.
Accessibility	2 pools are owned by Redditch Borough Council, 1 pool is only available for members' use, and 1 pool is privately operated (Woodrow School pool which is not open for public use). Abbey Stadium is located centrally in the town centre nearest to the main population.
Availability	Only Abbey Stadium offers a full programme of swimming activities including pay and play access. Used capacity at Abbey Stadium is at 100% at all peak times and therefore at times would feel very busy – Sport England guidance is that when a pool's used capacity exceeds 70% it is uncomfortably full.

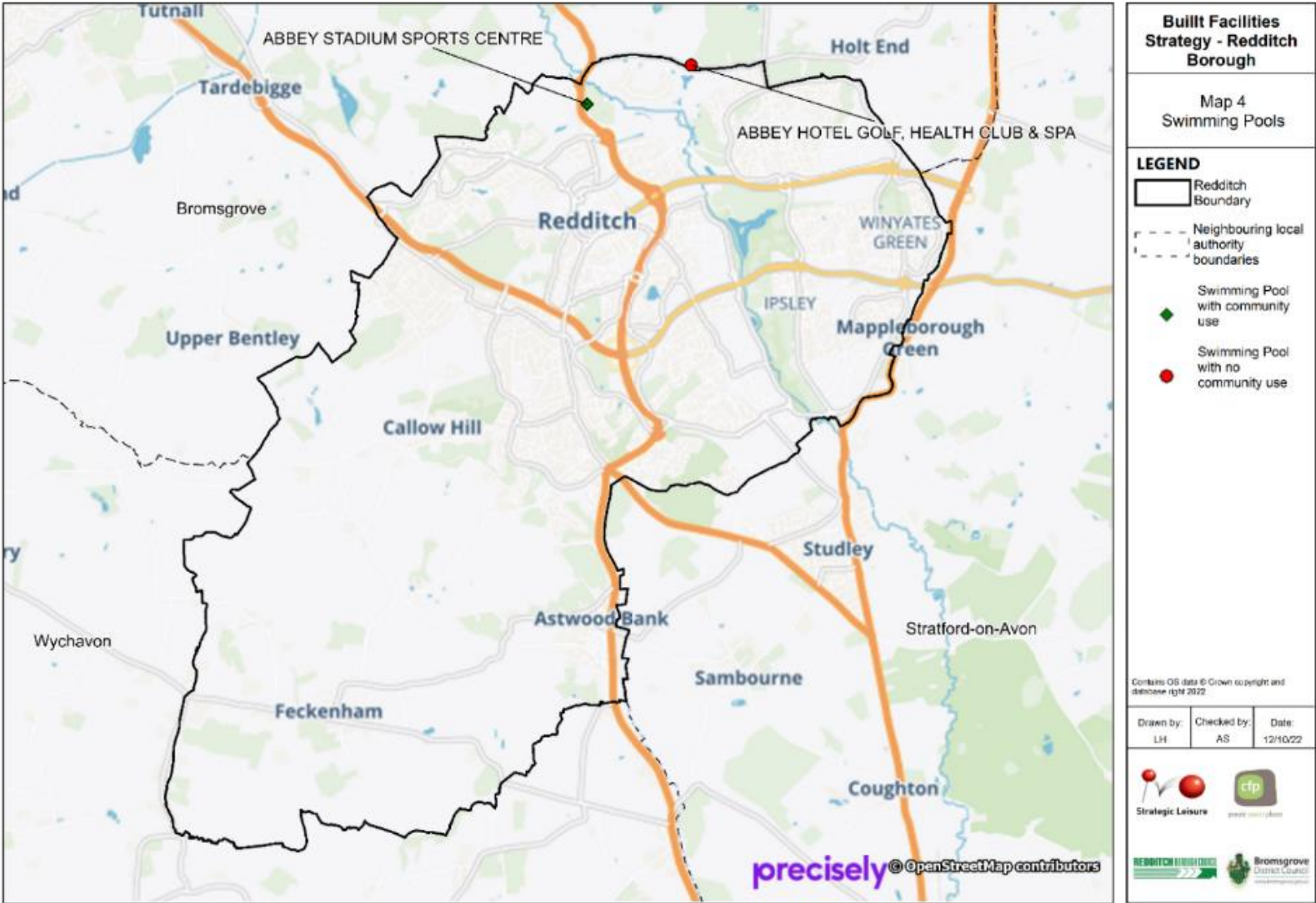
Swimming Pools: Quantity

4.76 There are 3 swimming pools in Redditch at 2 sites with 2 pay and play swimming pools at 1 site which is the Abbey Stadium (shown in bold type in Table 22). The remaining pool is a commercial operation at a hotel. Use of this facility is through registered membership only. There is also a small pool at Woodrow Primary School site; this site is used only by the school and by a swim school. It is not open to the general public.

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Map 4: Location of all Swimming Pools in Redditch (pay and play access shown in green dots)



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Table 22: Swimming Pools in Redditch

Site Name	Post Code	Facility Type	Facility Sub Type	Lanes	Length	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Pay and Play Community use (✓)	Year Built	Refurbished
Abbey Hotel Golf, Health Club & Spa	B98 9BE	Swimming Pool	Main/General	0	15m	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management		2002	No
Abbey Stadium Sports Centre	B97 6EJ	Swimming Pool	Main/General	6	10m	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Trust	✓	2012	No
Abbey Stadium Sports Centre	B97 6EJ	Swimming Pool	Learner/Teaching/ Training	0	25m	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Trust	✓	2012	No

4.77 The analysis of the overall swimming pool supply in Redditch is as follows:

Table 23: Analysis of Swimming Pool Supply in Redditch

	No of Pools	No of sites
Total Number of Pools	3	2
Community Use Swimming Pools (pay and play and sports clubs/community associations)	2	1
Main Pools	2	2
Learner Pools	1	1
Diving Pools	0	0
Leisure pools	0	0
Education Sector (Sports Clubs and Associations)	0	0
Private Sector/Other	1	1
Lido	0	0

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Swimming Pools: Quality

- 4.78 Detailed quality assessments have been undertaken on the 2 Redditch Borough Council pools in the Borough; these are summarised in Appendix 2 (2a – 2d) and Table 24 below.

Table 24: Summary Qualitative Assessments- Swimming Pools

Facility	Overall Quantitative Score for Facility %	Qualitative Score for Swimming Pool	Need for Investment-Overall Facility
Abbey Stadium	86%	Excellent	Minimal - Built 2012
Abbey Stadium	86%	Excellent (Teaching) pool available for lessons/parent and toddler swimming etc	Minimal - Built 2012

- 4.79 Redditch Borough Council’s swimming pools are of excellent quality.

Swimming Pools: Accessibility

- 4.80 The drive time catchment area is based on 20 minutes travel time. It is important to ensure that pools are as accessible as possible to those walking or using public transport. As a guide, Sport England recommend that catchment areas for leisure facilities should have both a walktime catchment area and a catchment area for those travelling by private or public transport e.g., a 10-minute walk time, and a 20-minute drivetime (private car). Clearly it is not possible to provide a swimming pool within 10 minutes’ walk time of all residents.
- 4.81 The findings in the FPM for Redditch are that 89% of all visits to pools are by car, with 12% of visits by walking visits and public transport. The ageing of the resident population between 2021 and 2040 will influence the demand for swimming pools. It can mean that there are fewer people in the main age bands for swimming participation in 2040 than in 2021. (The swimming pool participation and frequency rates (i.e., the number of times a person swims) by age and gender are set out in Appendix 3 of the FPM.) Between 2021 and 2040, Redditch’s population is projected to increase by 1% but demand for swimming is projected to decrease by 3%. Redditch is the only local authority in Worcestershire with a projected decrease in demand for swimming between 2021 and 2040.
- 4.82 Redditch is a small Borough with 1 main town. Generally, access to all facilities is straightforward, although lack of access to private transport means that people are reliant on public transport (which comes at a cost), or walking. Generally, access to Abbey Stadium and its existing pay and play access pool site is good, and there is plenty of on-site car parking. 80.5% of the Redditch population has access to a private car.

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4.83 There are, however, time, cost and travel barriers for some people living in the Borough in terms of access to swimming. Given swimming is a life skill, learning to swim is important.

Map 5: Swimming Pool with Pay and Play Catchment areas in Redditch (20 mins drive time) N.B The catchment areas extend from each facility; they take in surrounding areas because Redditch is a small borough and a 20-minute drive time extends beyond its borders.



n'

Swimming Pools: Availability

- 4.84 In terms of increasing community access to pools in Redditch, there are limited options. Improved access for the public to Abbey Stadium at peak times i.e., weekday evenings would be beneficial. Although Rubicon is changing programme times to accommodate additional demand for swimming lessons, a significant amount of peak time hours remain allocated to swimming club use. This is a historical arrangement and whilst it is important for the club to have access to training time, the amount of time allocated actually prevents access by the public, and therefore is impacting on non-club swimmers' ability to be physically active. This is mentioned several times in consultation feedback. The Abbey Stadium accommodates the full range of swimming activities of learn to swim, public recreational swimming, lane swimming and fitness swimming activities, and swimming development through clubs.

Swimming Pools: National Governing Bodies

- 4.85 Consultation was undertaken with Swim England, to identify their views on the need for swimming pool provision in Redditch. The views of Swim England are provided in Appendix 3, and below:

'To highlight the need to improve the amount of current water provision, which is sitting at a large deficit. Therefore, we would like to ensure that the only community aquatic facility in Redditch can continue to operate sustainably.'

We feel that the area has potential for a further swimming pool development to help reduce the unmet demand, however we understand that identifying the correct location can be problematic and that further investigation would be required to ascertain the needs of such a project.

The priority is to continue to try and increase participation in swimming and to ensure that the current community pool is operational and providing an accessible and fit for purpose facility. As before, we do also feel that the area has potential for a further aquatic facility, especially when such reliance is being placed on a single facility. The pool is operating near to its capacity, which would indicate that there is the demand for swimming in the area.'

Swimming Pools: Sport England Facility Planning Model (FPM)

- 4.86 Strategic Leisure was provided with Sport England's Facilities Planning Model National Run Report (January 2022) for swimming pool provision in Redditch. The detailed assessment is provided in Appendix 8.

Summary of FPM

4.87 The FPM (Facilities Planning Model) modelling runs provide:

- Run 1 – a baseline assessment of provision in 2021.
- Run 2 – a forward assessment of demand for swimming pools and its distribution, based on the projected changes in population from 2021 to 2040.
- Run 3 – an assessment of the impact of re-opening Kingsley Sports Centre Swimming Pool in 2024 on the demand for swimming pools and its distribution.

4.88 The key points from the FPM analysis are:

- A very high level of the Borough's demand for swimming pools can be met by the accessible supply of swimming pools in 2021 and 2040.
- Demand for swimming pool provision in 2021 is for 934 sq. m of water space; the difference between supply and demand is 578 sq. m of water space. This is roughly equivalent to an 8-lane x 25m pool (400 sq. m) plus a teaching pool of 10m x 17m (170 sq. m).
- Although demand for swimming pool provision reduces to 909 sq. m by 2040, there is still under-supply of water space of 553 sq. m by 2040 if nothing is done about increasing capacity.
- The Borough's demand for swimming pools is projected to decrease between 2021 and 2040.
- The demand met increases when Kingsley Sports Centre pool is re-opened. The majority of the Redditch demand is then retained within the Borough.
- The number of people who are unable to access a pool in Redditch because they live too far away from their nearest facility is low. There is too few people in this situation, however, to justify building a new swimming pool on this basis alone.
- The swimming pool sites are estimated to be operating at an uncomfortably high level at peak times in both 2021 and 2040.
- More of the Redditch demand for swimming pools is exported and met in Bromsgrove than is imported from Bromsgrove and met in Redditch. The location of the new housing sites is influencing the export and import of demand.

Interventions and Recommendations from FPM

4.89 The interventions and recommendations are based on the FPM findings and need to be considered to develop an all-round evidence base.

4.90 Setting the FPM findings within this wider context, the recurring themes are:

- The impact of re-opening Kingsley Sports Centre in meeting the demand for swimming pools.
- Both swimming pool sites are estimated to be full in 2040.

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4.91 Options for increasing swimming pool provision in Redditch should be considered, for the following reasons:

- Despite the Redditch demand for swimming decreasing by 3% between 2021 and 2040, the Abbey Stadium Sports Centre is estimated to have 100% used capacity in the weekly peak period in 2021 and 2040, and Kingsley Sports Centre would be 95% utilised if it were to be re-opened. This means Abbey Stadium pools are already uncomfortably busy, and the same would be true of a re-opened Kingsley Sports Centre pool.
- Furthermore, there is demand for 148 visits in the weekly peak period at Abbey Stadium Sports Centre when Kingsley Sports Centre is open but these cannot be accommodated because the Abbey Stadium Pool is full; this is 5% of Abbey Stadium Sports Centre's capacity.
- Retained demand i.e., demand that stays within Redditch as opposed to being met outside the borough, is 68% and 3,408 visits in the weekly peak period when Kingsley Sports Centre is open; this is a 37% increase in terms of visits.

4.92 The only scope to increase supply and capacity at the two sites is limited to increasing the hours available for the teaching/learning pool by 7.5 hours in the weekly peak period at Abbey Stadium Sports Centre.

4.93 Based on the FPM findings, provision of two swimming pool sites i.e., Abbey Stadium and Kingsley Sports Centre, modelled in Run 3, meets the Redditch demand for swimming up to 2040. However, the condition of the swimming pools needs to be considered:

- Abbey Stadium Sports Centre is meeting its purpose. It is a comparatively new pool site opened in 2012. It can support all swimming activities across its 25m pool and its learner pool. It is in the area of highest demand for swimming pools in 2021 and 2040.
- Kingsley Sports Centre does not meet the requirements identified by the FPM findings. The 20m x 9m four-lane pool, which opened in 1970 and was closed in 2017, has a maximum depth of 1.8m and is most suitable for recreational swimming. It is in the area of second-highest demand for swimming pools in 2021 and 2040. The depth of this pool does not make it ideal for teaching learn to swim.
- Based on the FPM findings, re-providing the Kingsley Sports Centre pool i.e., a new build, may be a better option to consider rather than modernising the current pool.

4.94 The projected demand for swimming pools in Redditch in 2040 is for 909 sq. m of water. The current total accessible water space at Abbey Stadium Sports Centre is 365 sq. m of water.

4.95 Options for increasing swimming capacity in Redditch could be based on:

- A new Kingsley Sports Centre with a 25m x 13m six-lane (assuming lane width of 2.17m) swimming pool offering 325 sqm of water would increase the total water space in the Borough to 690 sqm of water or
- Development of an additional 10m x 6.5m teaching/learner pool, at Abbey Stadium Sports Centre, would further increase the Borough's total supply to 755 sqm of water. (Note: this is based on all individual swimming pools being available for the maximum 52.5 hours in the weekly peak period.)

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4.96 The FPM model assesses demand for provision based on spatial analysis. As discussed in Section 5 there are other factors to consider in terms of developing additional swimming pool provision in the Borough alongside evidenced need i.e., location, ownership, capital cost, revenue sustainability, programming and operational delivery.

Health and Fitness Facilities

Table 25: Summary Analysis – Health and Fitness Supply and Demand

Facility Type	Assessment Findings
Health and Fitness (Fitness Suites and Studios)	
Quantity	<p>There are 9 fitness suites in Redditch, with a total of 501 fitness stations. One facility is owned by Redditch Borough Council and is managed by Rubicon Leisure on its behalf and provides 100 of the 501 fitness stations in Redditch. There are 5 studios in Redditch over 3 sites, 4 of which have pay and play community access.</p> <p>Supply and Demand Analysis The existing commercial sector fitness suite provision in Redditch is used by some residents as is the public sector provision. The commercial fitness suites vary in type, from those based on education sites to budget provision i.e., limited staff supervision, less than £25-30 per month membership. The assessment of need (See Appendix 10) includes the commercial facilities, as ‘community access’ on the basis of ‘affordability’ and includes all audited fitness facilities.</p> <p>Current Supply and Demand There are currently 9 fitness suites within 5 fitness centres providing 30 or more fitness stations in each. There are 501 fitness stations in total in the Borough – excluding fitness suites with less than 20 stations and those without public access. There are 455 publicly accessible fitness stations (although some of this would be on a membership basis). There is a calculated demand of 305 stations which gives a current over supply of 150 fitness stations in 2021. See Appendix 10.</p> <p>By 2040 the demand is for 287 fitness stations which means that the over-supply (assuming no changes in supply to 2040) increases to 168 fitness stations. Although there is an oversupply of fitness stations in Redditch, it is important to retain community access and affordable fitness station provision.</p>
Quality	<p>The quality of the fitness facilities (fitness suite) at both Abbey Stadium and Arrow Vale Sports and Leisure Centre is excellent. Studios are also excellent except one of those at the Abbey Stadium which would benefit from investment. The quality of the commercial provision (Abbey Hotel Golf, Health Club and Spa and Pure Gym) is also excellent. Education facilities are in good quality.</p>
Availability	<p>All areas of the Borough except the extreme southwest and northwest are within 20 minutes drivetime of a community accessible fitness facility</p>
Accessibility	<p>Four of the existing nine fitness suites are on education sites and cater only for private use. Three facilities are commercially operated and require membership. One education site also provides pay and play access. The Abbey Stadium is the largest public sector fitness facility and provides both membership and pay and play access.</p>

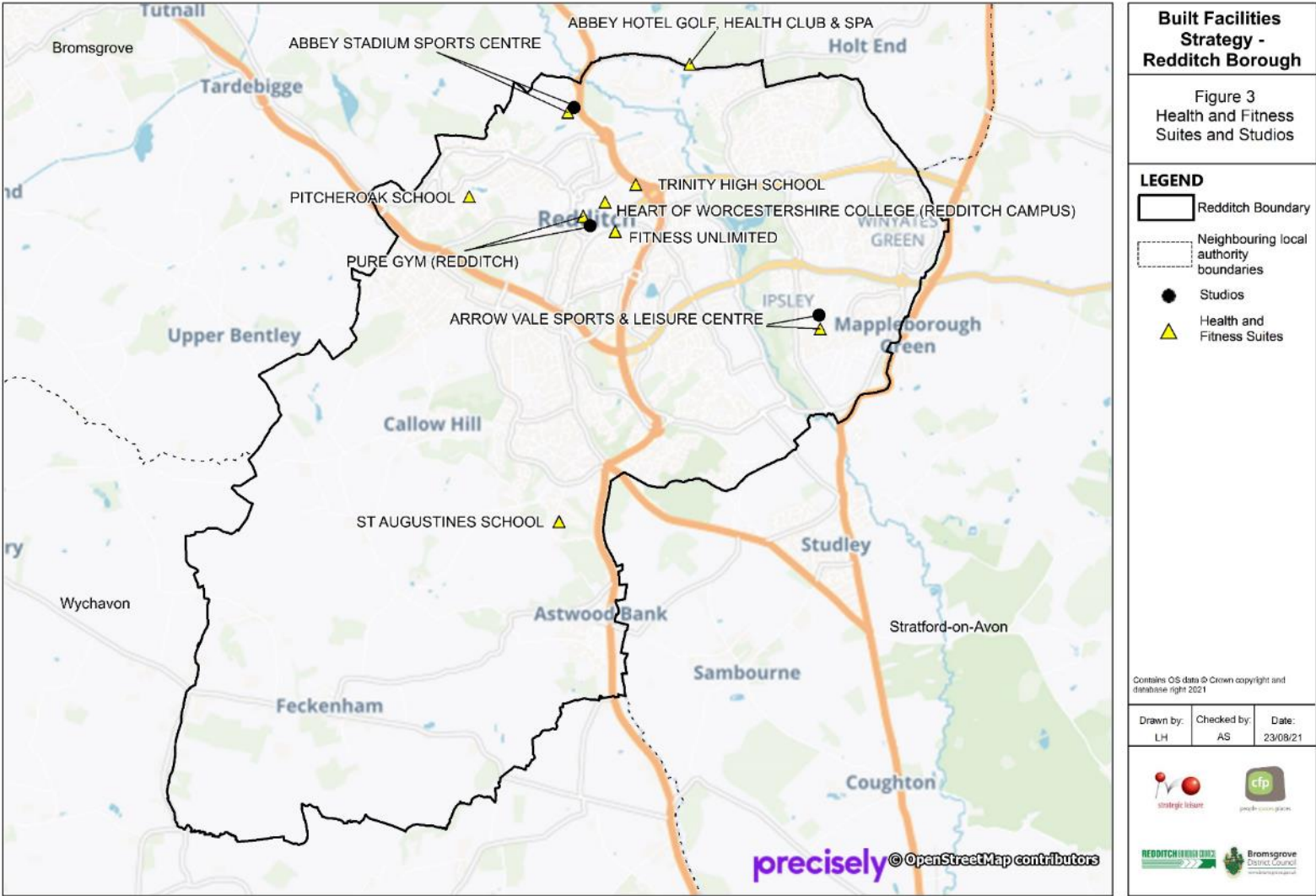
Health and Fitness: Quantity

- 4.97 By way of a definition a “Station” is a piece of static fitness equipment. Health and fitness centres with over 20 stations are generally able to make a more attractive offer to both members and pay and play users.
- 4.98 The 2019 “State of UK Industry” report reveals that the membership penetration rate is 15.6%; consequently on average, one in every 7 people over the age of 16 in the UK is a member of a gym. This penetration rate is used as a comparator in assessing need in the borough.
- 4.99 The supply analysis identifies that overall, there are 9 health and fitness suites in Redditch. In total, the fitness suites provide 501 fitness stations. All fitness suite facilities require some form of payment/membership payment before use, and an induction is required, although there is some pay and play access available at the local authority owned facilities.
- 4.100 There is a good amount of fitness suite provision in Redditch. One is owned by Redditch Borough Council and managed and operated by Rubicon Leisure (Abbey Stadium); five facilities are on education sites. The first is Arrow Vale Sports and Leisure Centre which offers pay and play usage. Heart of Worcestershire College, Pitcheroak School, St Augustine’s School and Trinity School fitness suite facilities are all for private use only. Three other facilities are privately operated and require membership for use i) Abbey Hotel, Golf, Health Club and Spa, ii) Fitness Unlimited and iii) Pure Gym.
- 4.101 All fitness suite facilities in the Borough are shown in Table 26 and illustrated in Map 6.

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Map 6: Location of Health and Fitness Facilities and Studios in Redditch



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Table 26: Fitness Facilities (Fitness Suites) in Redditch

Site Name	Post Code	Facility Type	Stations	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Pay and Play Community use (✓)	Year Built	Refurbished
Abbey Hotel Golf, Health Club & Spa	B98 9BE	Health and Fitness Gym	50	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management		1988	2020
Abbey Stadium Sports Centre	B97 6EJ	Health and Fitness Gym	100	Registered Membership use and Pay and Play	Local Authority	Trust	✓	1995	2012 and 2022
Arrow Vale Sports & Leisure Centre	B98 0EN	Health and Fitness Gym	25	Pay and Play	Community school	Local Authority (in house)	✓	2002	2014
Fitness Unlimited	B98 7AL	Health and Fitness Gym	60	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management		1999	2008
Heart Of Worcestershire College (Redditch Campus)	B98 8DW	Health and Fitness Gym	7	Private Use	Further Education	School/College/University (in house)		2007	n/a
Pitcheroak School	B97 6PQ	Health and Fitness Gym	7	Private Use	Community Special School	School/College/University (in house)		2014	n/a
Pure Gym (Redditch)	B97 4HJ	Health and Fitness Gym	220	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management		2013	n/a
St Augustine's School	B97 5LX	Health and Fitness Gym	16	Private Use	Voluntary Aided School	School/College/University (in house)		1985	2011
Trinity High School	B98 8HB	Health and Fitness Gym	16	Private Use	Academies	School/College/University (in house)		1996	2006

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- 4.102 Redditch Borough Council provides approximately 20% (100) of the overall supply of 501 fitness stations in Redditch borough. There are 2 fitness suites with over 100 stations. Commercially operated fitness suites require registered membership and operate pre-registered, pre-paid/Direct Debit membership schemes. The local authority fitness facilities also operate on this basis in Redditch but also offer pay as you go facilities.
- 4.103 Analysis of the overall supply of fitness suites is summarised in Table 27:

Table 27: Analysis of overall supply of Fitness Suite Provision in Redditch

Total Fitness Suites	9
Total Fitness Stations	501
Pay and Play Fitness Suites	2
Pay and Play / No. of Fitness Stations	125
Registered Membership Fitness Suites	3
Registered Membership no. of Fitness Stations	330
Private use Fitness Suites (HMP Hewell (2) and Phoenix Group)	4
Private use no. of Fitness Stations	46

Table 28: Summary of Fitness Suite Size

Number of Fitness Stations	No. Fitness Suites
150+	1
100 - 149	1
50 - 99	2
30 - 49	1
29 or less	4

- 4.104 The supply of community accessible i.e. membership not required fitness suites is shown on Map 7.

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Health and Fitness: Quality

- 4.105 Quality assessments have been undertaken at health and fitness facilities where access was possible. These quality audits are summarised in Appendix 2 (2a – 2d) and Table 28. Unfortunately, it was not possible to undertake detailed quality audits on all existing facilities, as commercial operators often do not want these to be undertaken, and access to schools was difficult (audits undertaken during Covid). Therefore, a visual check of these has been undertaken online and has been combined with knowledge of the commercial sector nationally.
- 4.106 The visual check highlights that overall, the quality of the commercial facilities is very good as is generally the case. All have up to date fitness stations, are well-designed and planned facilities, with good quality changing facilities.

Table 29: Summary Qualitative Assessments - Health and Fitness Facilities (fitness suites and studios) – HMP Hewell and Phoenix group removed as not accessible to general public

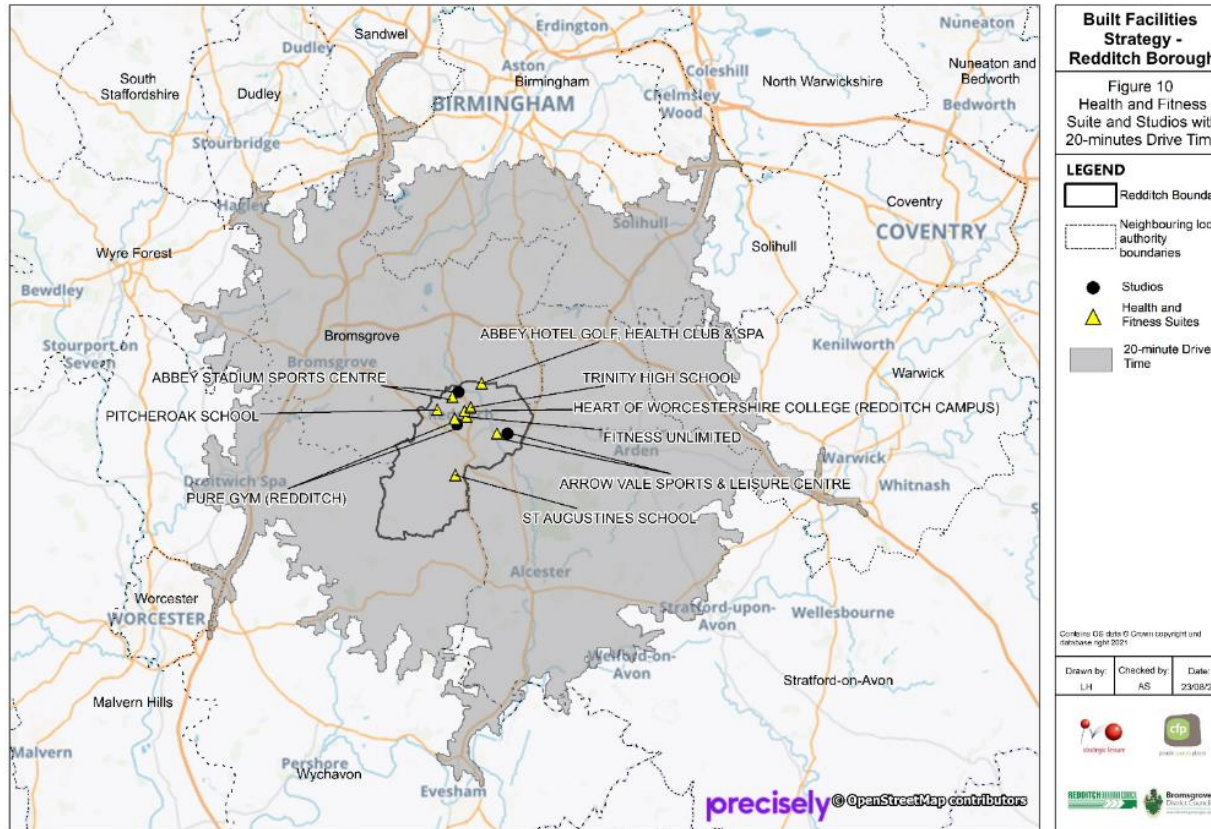
	Overall Quantitative Score for Facility %	Qualitative Score for Health and Fitness Suite	Need for Investment- Overall Facility
Abbey Hotel Golf, Health Club & Spa		Excellent	Ongoing maintenance and updating of equipment
Abbey Stadium Sports Centre	86%	Excellent	Ongoing maintenance and updating of equipment
Arrow Vale Sports & Leisure Centre		Excellent	Ongoing maintenance and updating of equipment
Fitness Unlimited		Excellent	Ongoing maintenance and updating of equipment
Heart Of Worcestershire College (Redditch Campus)		Good	Minimal
Pitcheroak School		Good	Minimal
Pure Gym (Redditch)		Excellent	Ongoing maintenance and updating of equipment
St Augustine's School		Good	Minimal
Trinity High School		Good	Minimal

- 4.107 The quality of the community access health and fitness facilities ranges from good to excellent.

Health and Fitness: Accessibility

4.108 It is clear from Map 7 that the majority of fitness facilities are in the north and central areas of the Borough. All areas of the Borough are within a 20-minute drive time catchment of a community accessible fitness suite except the extreme southwest and northwest. There are very few residential areas in these locations. It is important to ensure that fitness suites are as accessible as possible to those walking or using public transport. Commercial fitness facilities are driven by, and rely on, market demand.

Map 7: Community accessible Fitness Suites and studios within a 20-minute drive time catchment area



Health and Fitness: Availability

- 4.109 Of the existing fitness provision in Redditch the commercial sector (private and registered membership) provides 376 of the 501 stations (75%), and 125 (24.9%) are provided by the local authority (managed by Rubicon Leisure).
- 4.110 It is important to highlight that the existing fitness suite provision in Redditch comprises a mixture of private fitness companies, education providers and public sector providers, and therefore costs are very competitive which means the price of memberships is generally lower because of this competition and therefore more affordable. Appendix 9 includes all the fitness suites in Redditch.

Fitness Studios

Fitness Studios: Quantity

- 4.111 There are 5 studios in Redditch, as identified through Sport England Active Places, across 3 sites. These are provided as part of a health and fitness offer within facilities. Studios provide a space in which a range of aerobic, fitness, dance, Yoga, Pilates, martial arts and boxing classes can take place. Although requiring some specialist equipment for martial arts and boxing, it is also possible for these other forms of activities to take place in an informal space such as a community hall. Informal halls are discussed in the Sports Hall and activity hall section of this assessment.
- 4.112 The studios assessed in this report are multi-purpose studios (no specific size), not those with fixed equipment, or only one use e.g., spinning.
- 4.113 Many community hall facilities are used by dance schools. The smaller halls (often available on education sites) have significant potential to be used for fitness classes as do village halls.
- 4.114 Map 6 shows studios as part of the overall health and fitness offer in Redditch.
- 4.115 The overall provision of studios in Redditch is summarised in Tables 30 and 31, with community accessible studios highlighted in bold.

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Table 30: Fitness Studios in Redditch

Site Name	Post Code	Facility Type	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Pay and Play Community use (✓)	Year Built	Refurbished
Abbey Stadium Sports Centre	B97 6EJ	Studio	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Trust	✓	2012	n/a
Abbey Stadium Sports Centre	B97 6EJ	Studio	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Trust	✓	2012	n/a
Abbey Stadium Sports Centre	B97 6EJ	Studio	Sports Club / Community Association	Local Authority	Trust	✓	2016	n/a
Arrow Vale Sports & Leisure Centre	B98 0EN	Studio	Pay and Play	Community school	Education	✓	1976	2009
Pure Gym (Redditch)	B97 4HJ	Studio	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management		2013	n/a

4.116 The analysis of the overall studio supply in Redditch is as follows:

Table 31: Analysis of overall Studio Supply – Redditch

Total Studios	5
Total number of sites with studios	4
Pay and Play Community Access Studios	4
Commercial Sector Studios	1
Education Sector Studios	1

Fitness Studios: Quality

4.117 Detailed quality assessments have been undertaken on all Redditch Borough Council studios. Unfortunately, it was not possible to undertake personal detailed quality audits on all existing facilities, as commercial operators often do not want these to be undertaken, and access to schools was difficult. Therefore, a visual check of these has been undertaken online and has been combined with knowledge of the commercial sector nationally.

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4.118 These are summarised in Appendix 2 and Table 32.

Table 32: Summary of Quality Assessments Studios in Redditch

	Overall Quantitative Score for Facility %	Qualitative Score for Health and Fitness Studios	Need for Investment- Overall Facility
Abbey Stadium Sports Centre	86%	Excellent	Minimal
Abbey Stadium Sports Centre	86%	Good	Minimal
Abbey Stadium Sports Centre	86%	Good	Minimal
Arrow Vale Sports & Leisure Centre		Excellent	Minimal
Pure Gym (Redditch)		Excellent	Minimal

4.119 The quality of studios is generally good to excellent with a number of facilities having been refurbished recently.

Fitness Studios: Accessibility

4.120 Health and fitness facilities are located mainly in the north and centre of the Borough. Most studios are part of an overall fitness offer, i.e., fitness suite and studio(s) with two commercial facilities offering more than one studio.

4.121 It is clear from Map 7 that all Redditch residents currently have access to a studio within a 20-minute drive time catchment. It is also important to ensure that studios are as accessible as possible to those walking or using public transport.

4.122 Existing community access fitness facilities are mainly situated in the centre and north of Redditch Borough. In addition to the community access studios, there are other studios (commercial/on education sites) which are also used by residents. Overall, there is a good/excellent stock of provision in Redditch, but they are not all accessible to all local residents if they do not have access to a car or public transport.

Fitness Studios: Availability

- 4.123 A comprehensive programme of fitness classes is made available in the studios found on the 5 sites. There are also other sporting activities offered at the community access facilities.
- 4.124 The commercial studio operator has membership rates comparable to those at the Redditch Borough Council owned leisure centre.
- 4.125 In addition to the purpose-built studio facilities in Redditch there are also a number of multi-purpose halls/community centres/village halls. These are also used for activities which could also take place in a studio e.g., aerobics, dance, pilates, yoga etc. Many personal trainers also use village halls as a venue for exercise.

Squash

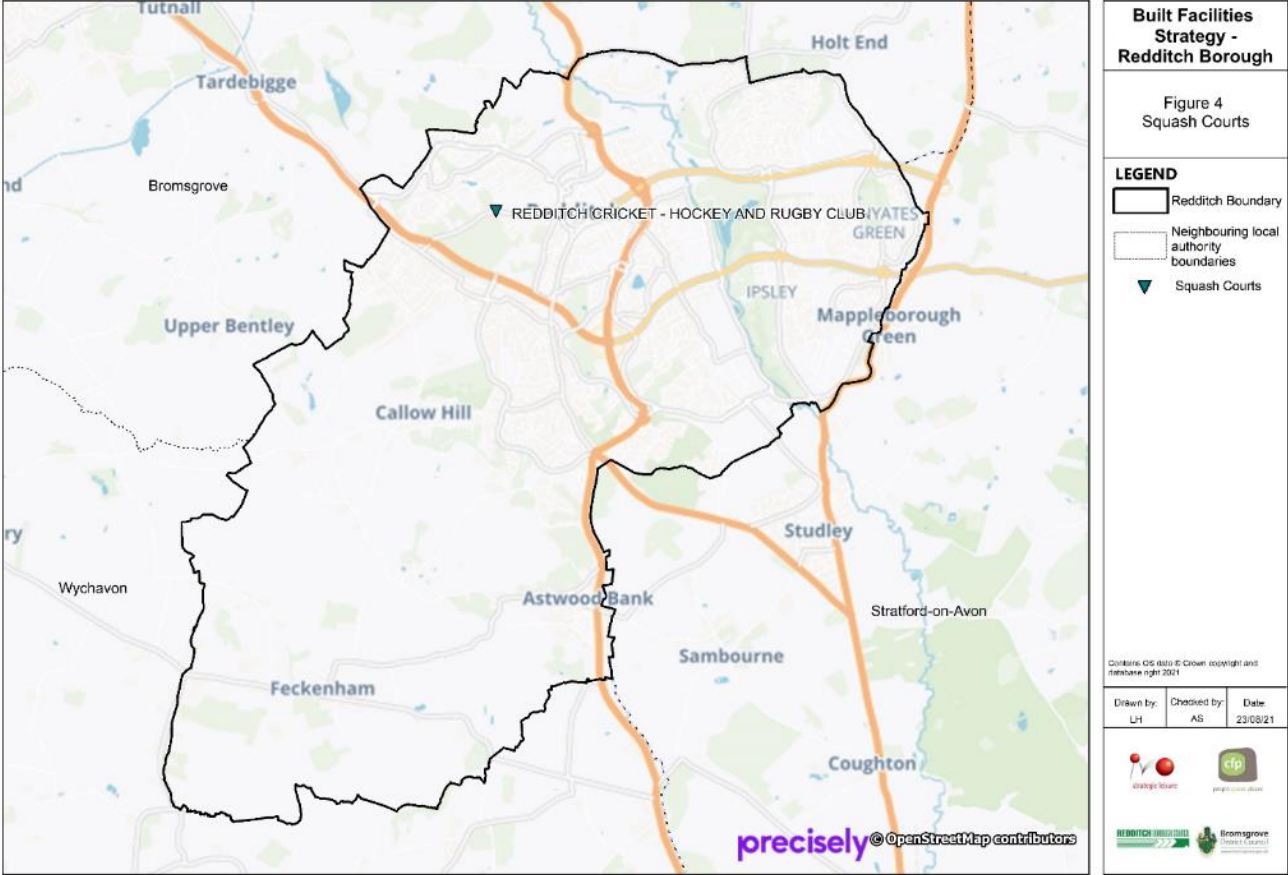
Table 33: Summary Analysis – Squash Court Supply and Demand

Facility Type	Assessment Findings
Squash Courts	
Quantity	<p>There is a total of 2 courts in Redditch; neither of these are glass-backed squash courts.</p> <p>Future Demand</p> <p>There is no specific methodology for assessing the current and future need for squash courts. The NGB guideline is 1 court per 10,000, population; the current supply is under this level by just over 6 courts. This level of under-supply remains into 2040. Overall participation in squash is increasing at national level. Competitive squash across the country is predominantly now played in clubs, and this is replicated in Redditch; demand for community access squash courts has reduced in recent years. Participation is still growing however, but through the club base where juniors can be supported and coached from an early age.</p>
Quality	The quality of the 2 existing squash courts is good.
Accessibility	The existing squash courts are provided at Redditch Cricket, Hockey and Rugby Club and membership is required to use the courts.
Availability	There are 2 squash courts in Redditch, neither of which are glass-back. These are available for use by club members.

Squash: Quantity

4.126 There are 2 squash courts in total at the Redditch Cricket, Rugby and Hockey Club. These are shown on Map 8.

Map 8: Location map of Squash Courts in Redditch



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4.127 The overall supply of squash courts is summarised in Table 34.

Table 34: Squash Courts in Redditch

Site Name	Post Town	Post Code	No of courts	Facility Sub Type	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Pay and Play Community use (✓)	Year Built	Refurbished
Redditch Cricket, Hockey and Rugby Club	Redditch	B97 4SP	2	Normal	Registered Membership use	Sports Club	Sport Club		1988	2005

Squash: Quality

4.128 A quality assessment was undertaken on the facilities where they could be accessed. A visual check of these has been undertaken online and has been combined with knowledge of the squash sector nationally, where facilities could not be accessed.

Table 35: Summary of Quality Assessments Squash Courts in Redditch

	Overall Quantitative Score for Facility %	Qualitative Score for Squash Courts	Need for Investment- Overall Facility
Redditch Cricket, Hockey and Rugby Club		Good	Some investment needed given last refurbishment was 2005, 17 years ago.

Squash: Accessibility

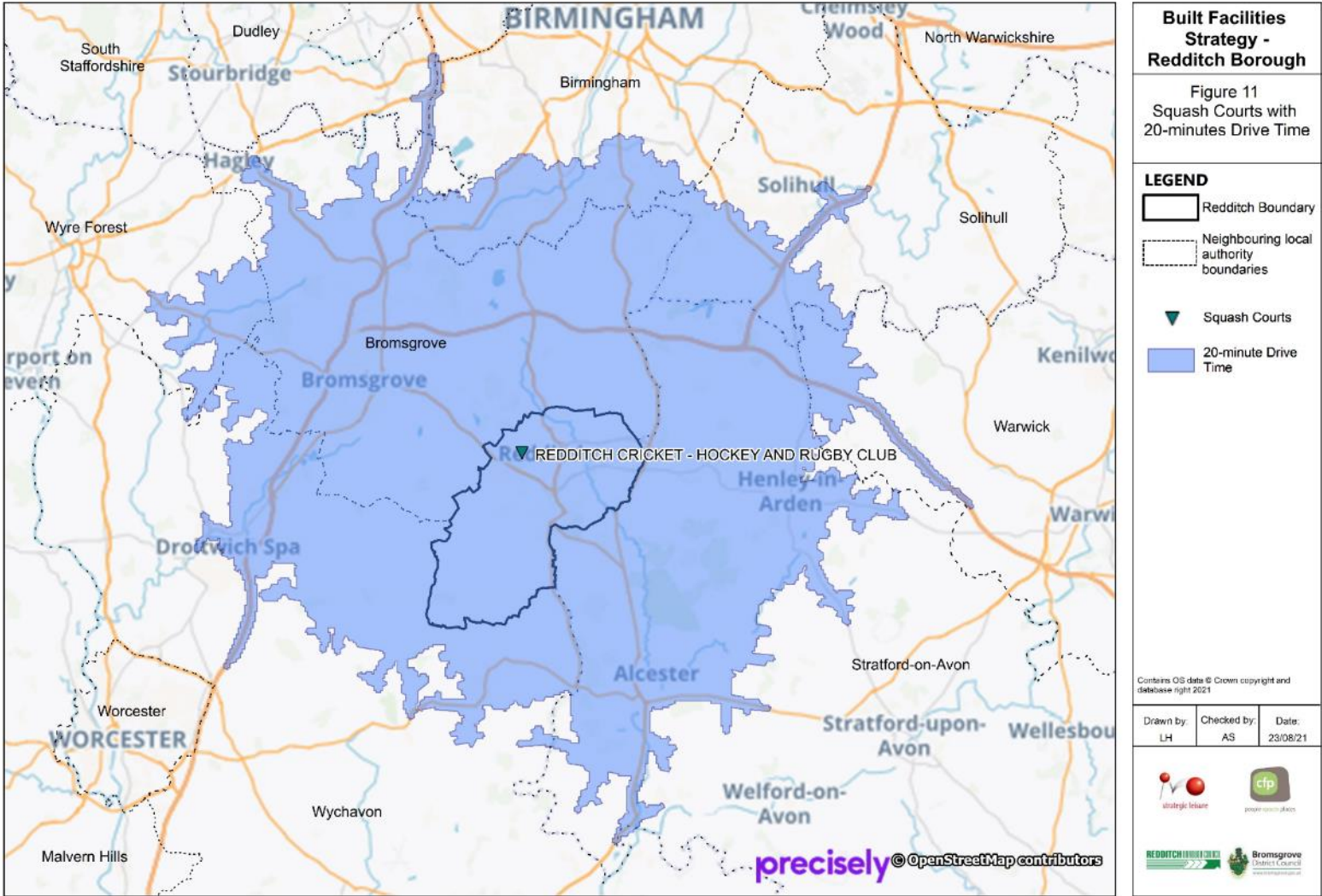
4.129 Squash courts are more specialist facilities, so there are generally fewer of them in any one area. The majority of squash courts nationally are now provided through clubs, as opposed to leisure centres.

4.130 Geographical distribution of squash courts in Redditch is illustrated in Map 9 with a 20-minute catchment area drive time.

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Map 9: Squash courts with a 20-minute drivetime catchment



Squash: Availability

- 4.131 There are only 2 squash courts in the Borough which is a low level of provision against England Squash suggested standards of provision. Squash is trying to re-attract participation by focusing on growing junior participation.
- 4.132 The two courts in Redditch are located at a sports club and membership is required for use, so these are not available for pay and play access.

Squash: NGB Consultation - England Squash

- 4.133 Unfortunately, no response to the consultation request was received from England Squash. In general terms the NGB guideline is 1 court per 10,000 population. In the absence of NGB comment we have used this guideline (below) and therefore there is a need to retain existing levels of provision as a minimum.

Indoor Bowls

- 4.134 Summary – no need identified for indoor bowls provision in the borough.

Indoor Bowls: Quantity

- 4.135 The England Indoor Bowls Association (EIBA) stated in consultation that:
- 4.136 As there are no purpose-built Indoor Bowls sites in Redditch, it is imperative that the FOUR alternative Clubs (located within the “acceptable drive-time” for participants), continue to operate for the foreseeable future.
- Stirchley now – Birmingham, Billesley Common, Yardley Wood Road, Birmingham B13 0HN
 - Welford-on-Avon CV37 8EW
 - Solihull B91 3LE
 - Bromsgrove & District IBC B60 3PT
- 4.137 The EIBA did not identify the need for indoor bowls facilities in the Borough.

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Indoor Tennis

- 4.138 Summary – based on the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) figure of 12,500 population for 1 indoor court there is a need for 6.8 indoor courts, and therefore there is a shortfall of 6.8 courts. Any development of indoor tennis court provision should be led by the LTA and Tennis Clubs. However, the LTA has not identified Redditch Borough as a specific target location for community indoor tennis provision (72 targeted areas across England).

Indoor Tennis Centres: Quantity

- 4.139 Indoor tennis courts are considered because they are a completely different facility from outdoor tennis courts. The majority of outdoor tennis courts are either owned and operated by tennis clubs or are park courts, which tend to be used for recreational tennis. Indoor courts are significantly more expensive to use, and therefore tend to provide for those who are already tennis participants, or who wish to learn to play tennis and can afford private or group coaching.
- 4.140 It is a requirement of the ANOG methodology that indoor tennis courts are covered by a Built Facility Strategy to complement the findings of a playing pitch study which assesses needs for outdoor courts where these are included in the scope.
- 4.141 There are no indoor tennis courts in Redditch. Across Redditch there are a total of 26 outdoor tennis courts, the majority being club and school courts. There are effectively no courts that are open to 'community use' and no park tennis courts
- 4.142 Based on the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) figure of 12,500 population for 1 indoor court there is a need for 6.8 indoor courts, and therefore there is a shortfall of 6.8 courts. Any development of indoor tennis court provision should be led by the LTA and Tennis Clubs. However, the LTA has not identified Redditch Borough as a specific target location for community indoor tennis provision (72 targeted areas across England).
- 4.143 To reference indoor tennis with the findings of the analysis on outdoor courts (see Table 80, PPS). Even when considering population growth to 2040, there is expected to be enough secured community use provision to meet future demand. The caveat being, that the courts located at Redditch Borough Sports and Social Club were closed for business in August 2023 and remain so to date. If the courts remained closed it will cause critical imbalances to supply and demand. There is an aspiration to reopen the courts in October 2023, although it is unknown if this is a viable prospect.
- 4.144 To summarise, if these courts reopen, there is enough capacity to meet demand both currently and in the future. If the courts do not reopen, there is a significant undersupply of tennis provision within Redditch and this will remain so unless there is reopening or development.

Gymnastics Centres

- 4.145 Summary – given the lack of gymnastics clubs in the borough, if a club does form and need support to develop, it would be beneficial to work with British Gymnastics to support the club to develop its own premises/find a suitable warehouse type building that could accommodate a gymnastics club.

Gymnastics Centres: Quantity

- 4.146 There are no purpose-built gymnastics centres in Redditch and no gymnastics clubs. Gymnastics does, however, take place in community access sports halls as part of a wider physical activity programme offered by operators e.g., Abbey Stadium Recreational Gymnastics Club.

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Athletics

Table 36: Summary Analysis –Athletics Tracks Supply and Demand

Facility Type	Assessment Findings
Squash Courts	
Quantity	There is a total of 1 athletics track in Redditch; this is a synthetic track with floodlighting. Future Demand There is no specific methodology for assessing the current and future need for athletics tracks. No demand for additional track provision has been raised or identified, but there is a need to invest in the existing facility.
Quality	The quality of the existing athletics track is average - good.
Accessibility	The existing athletics track is provided at Abbey Stadium;
Availability	The existing athletics track in Redditch it is available for club, organisation and individual use.

Athletics: Quantity

4.147 There is one athletics track in the Borough at the Abbey Stadium.

4.148 The overall supply of Athletics is summarised in Table 37.

Table 37: Athletics Tracks in Redditch

Site Name	Post Town	Post Code	No of lanes	Facility Sub Type	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Pay and Play Community use (✓)	Year Built	Refurbished
Abbey Stadium Sports Centre	Redditch	B97 6EJ	8	Synthetic Track	Sports Club / Community Association	Local Authority	Trust	✓	1982	2006

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Athletics: Quality

4.149 A quality assessment was undertaken on the track as part of the overall assessment of the Abbey Stadium.

Table 38: Summary of Quality Assessment of Athletics Track in Redditch

	Overall Quantitative Score for Facility %	Qualitative Score for Athletics track	Need for Investment- Overall Facility
Abbey Stadium Sports Centre	86%	Average - Good	Some investment needed given last refurbishment was 2006, 16 years ago. The track surface would benefit from a professional re-clean prior to its next accreditation assessment. The throws cage needs urgent attention as is non-compliant e.g., netting is torn.

Athletics: Accessibility

4.150 Athletics tracks are more specialist facilities, so there are generally fewer of them in any one area. It would generally be accepted that a drive time of up to 1 hour could be expected to access an athletics track.

4.151 The track at the Abbey Stadium is accessible from all parts of the Borough in 20-30 minutes.

Athletics: Availability

4.152 There is 1 synthetic athletics track in the Borough at the Abbey Stadium. The track is used by clubs and organisations and can also be accessed by individuals on a pay and play basis for training/jogging.

Athletics: NGB Consultation - England Athletics

4.153 The priorities for England Athletics raised through consultation are:

Key priority: PROTECT

PROTECT: the existing 400m outdoor track & field facilities at the Ryland Centre and Abbey Stadium and ensure that both achieve and maintain UKAs TrackMark accreditation at both facilities (Bromsgrove & Redditch).

Key Facilities Priority 1: Ensure that the allocation of resources to new and existing track and field facilities is prioritised to those that have the greatest potential to impact positively on general participation, club membership growth and retention, and improved personal performance.

To support this priority England Athletics will:

- Encourage all tracks to seek accreditation through TrackMark
- Help venues to identify the level in the Hierarchy of Facilities that is most appropriate for them and support clubs and operators seeking to raise funding to maintain facilities at that level.
- Prioritise new track and field facilities within multi-sport hubs.
- Seek to be actively involved in the development of local planning policies wherever possible.
- Support new 200m indoor tracks and indoor athletics training facilities where there is a proven demand and a clear geographical gap in supply.

Key Facilities Priority 2: Actively encourage athletics and running facilities to be used to their fullest possible extent by the sport and by all sections of the community in order to maximise viability.

To support this priority England Athletics will:

- Support athletics clubs in discussions with facility operators and local authorities over the use of the track infield for other pitch sports and collate examples of good practice and design guidance
- Support clubs and groups to ensure the facilities they use for athletics activity are accessible to all.
- Help clubs to develop a strong partnership with facility owners/operators and will share examples of good practice.
- Provide advice and guidance to clubs actively pursuing an asset transfer.
- Help athletics and running clubs to become more professional and sustainable in how they operate.
- Encourage new partnerships between athletics clubs and schools that have available indoor facilities.

Key Facilities Priority 3: Encourage innovative approaches to the location and design of facilities for individual components of the sport in order to increase reach and create sustainability and viability.

To support this priority England Athletics will:

- Expect all new and refurbished floodlight schemes to deliver a minimum of 100lux across the whole of the track and the infield.
- Support clubs in exploring options for improved environmental sustainability and will share examples of good practice.
- Support the development of MiniTracks / Compact athletics facilities where there is a viable business case
- Consider supporting facility innovations involving non-standard track shapes, designs and uses providing they are backed by a sound business case
- Continue to lobby bodies with an influence over urban design, to ensure that the needs of runners are considered alongside those of cyclists and pedestrians.
- Continue to lobby for the free use of public parks and open spaces by runners and voluntary running groups.
- Assist road running clubs that are looking for somewhere to meet, by introducing them to sports clubs in their area that have suitable facilities.

4.154 There are 11 identified athletics clubs across Redditch and Bromsgrove who use the tracks in each area. Use is both for training and competition.

5. Penultimate Stage - Applying the Assessment Analysis

Facility Specific Analysis

- 5.1 The demographic profile of Redditch, and the small population growth for the Borough, summarised in Section 3, provides an important context for future provision of indoor sports facilities in the Borough, as does the research, consultation, and supply and demand analysis, undertaken to inform this Built Facility Assessment and Strategy. Highlighted below are the key factors and issues considered in planning for future facility provision.
- 5.2 **Population Growth** - Clearly, any increased population will result in increased demand for sports facilities; in Redditch, there will be a need to maintain and improve the existing community access to sports halls and swimming pool water space in the right community settings. However, it is important to remember that the Redditch population will only grow marginally between now and 2040. ONS 20-18 based population projections for Redditch show a population of 85,165 in 2021, increasing slightly by 2040 to 85,819 (654 population increase).
- 5.3 **Housing Development** - one of the principal justifications for provision of additional community sports facilities is additional residents triggering an increase in demand for sports facilities. Given the very low population increase in the Borough between now and 2040 the key issue is to ensure that there is sufficient provision of good quality leisure facilities to meet existing and future demand and that these are accessible for pay and play use. The potential for investment in current and additional provision of formal sports facilities and community halls, secured through developer contributions should be explored; it is particularly important to improve the quality of provision of those sports halls which are ageing. However, linked to housing development is the potential for other infrastructure development e.g., schools, health facilities, which could also link into future provision of sports facilities.
- 5.4 The estimates for population growth to 2040 include the proposed new housing allocations. Strategic sites include:
- **Brockhill East Strategic Site** is located on the northwest boundary of the Redditch urban area and is ideally located to support a significant amount of Redditch's housing, employment, and associated community facilities alongside adjacent development across the Redditch Borough boundary in Bromsgrove District.
 - **Webheath Strategic Site** is located on the southwest boundary of the Redditch urban area and is ideally located to support a significant amount of Redditch's housing requirements.
 - **Woodrow Strategic Site** lies to the rear of properties 1-11 Auxerre Avenue, Greenlands was identified for residential development in both Local Plan No.2 and Local Plan No.3.
- 5.5 Two sustainable mixed use urban extensions (Foxlydiate and Brockhill) are proposed adjacent to the west and north of Redditch Town which will deliver two new sustainable communities. The two development sites will provide a minimum of 3400 dwellings and comprehensive provision of associated new infrastructure to meet some of Redditch's housing requirements up to 2030.

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- 5.6 These proposals are in addition to new housing already permitted or planned for in existing development plans. Once these proposals and the strategic sites for new housing are confirmed, there will be a need to review the need for community halls so provision of these/improvements to existing community halls can be considered through securing of developer contributions.
- 5.7 **Reduction in Health Inequalities** – more active lifestyles will continue to benefit both individual and community health and may become increasingly significant in the post COVID 19 world, particularly in more deprived areas. Redditch has some very significant pockets of deprivation including the most deprived areas of **Winyates, Church Hill, Batchley and Woodrow**. The level of adult inactivity in Redditch is significantly higher than both the Herefordshire and Worcestershire and national averages. Adult inactivity is 10% higher in Redditch than the national average.
- 5.8 A total of 9% of the Borough's lower super output areas (LSOAs) are in the most deprived 10% nationally. Overall, Redditch ranks in the top 40% of most-deprived local authorities.
- 5.9 However, the level of deprivation varies across the Borough. Tudor Grange, Arrowvale Sports Centre and Trinity High School are the sports hall sites located in an area of high deprivation.
- There are some very specific factors to which the provision of quality, affordable and accessible sports facilities can contribute:
 - Maintenance of active lifestyles;
 - Improved mental health;
 - Reduced levels of cardiovascular disease; and
 - Reductions in levels of obesity.
 - Maintaining and growing participation levels in sport and physical activity to contribute to more active lifestyles; facilitating more regular activity for the most inactive 36.1% of the Redditch community (Active Lives November 2021-22) is a priority;
 - Addressing the future supply, quality and access to sports halls, swimming pools, squash courts, indoor tennis, gymnastics and indoor bowls;
 - The need to retain and grow participation in physical activity for community health benefits;
 - The need to invest in active environments e.g., parks and open space, informal halls, where physical activity is the norm;
 - There is already some sport and physical activity being delivered in community centres/halls across the Borough; there is opportunity to increase awareness of this and to extend it, particularly where there are halls available with pay and play access. This could complement the provision of indoor hall space in both existing residential areas and those of new housing growth (see paragraph 5.2).

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- There is an opportunity for investment in 'active' infrastructure to facilitate increased provision of cycling, jogging and walking routes in the Borough and Worcestershire, connecting new and existing settlements, education and leisure sites. Active transport should be a consideration at all new housing developments across the Borough where appropriate. Whilst ensuring new housing developments create opportunities for walking and cycling within the developments themselves is clearly important, the need to then enhance existing infrastructure to better connect those developments with existing settlements should not be overlooked, e.g., If a new development connects to an unlit rural lane with no footways, this does little to promote activity by walking and cycling from those developments. There is a need to look beyond the boundaries of the development to see how those new developments might be better connected to community facilities such as sports halls and swimming pools by enhancing the local network.

Sports Halls

5.10 There are:

- A total of 7 (all strategic size i.e., 3 courts+) sports halls across 7 sites;
- 27 badminton courts across the 7 available sports halls, however 3 of these are for private use only (Heart of Worcestershire College). Twelve courts are only available to sports clubs and groups (St Bedes Catholic Middle School (3 courts), Trinity High School (4 courts), Tudor Grange School (5 courts). Twelve badminton courts in sports halls are available for pay and play use.
- There are 13 further badminton courts available in activity halls at the strategic sites = total of 40 courts. However, of the 13 badminton courts in activity halls, 5 are for private use only, and 5 are available for use by sports clubs and groups. 3 badminton courts in activity halls are available for pay and play use.
- Across sports halls and activity halls there is a total of 37 courts that are available for community use (22 badminton courts are available for clubs and groups, and 15 for pay and play community access).

5.11 The sports halls are operated and managed by a mix of schools/colleges/Local Authority controlled company (Rubicon). Six of the strategic sports halls are on education sites and only 2 are available for pay and play (Arrow Vale Leisure Centre and St Augustine's School) although most of the sports hall on school sites offer bookings to sports clubs and groups. There is one 4 badminton court sports hall at Arrow Vale Leisure Centre, on the site of Arrow Vale School, and one sports hall with 4 Badminton Courts at St Augustine's School. They both offer pay and play community access.

5.12 All existing sports halls are in the centre of the Borough. All can be accessed within a 20-minute drivetime from virtually the whole of the Borough.

5.13 Redditch has ageing halls on educational sites in good locations but with limited off-peak access. There is a need for the educational sector to provide community use sports halls but unfortunately there are no formal dual-use agreements in place.

5.14 The sports halls across Redditch are in good condition. The average age of sports halls in Redditch is 39 years but this is skewed considerably by the sports hall at Abbey Stadium which was built in 1963; this is now 59 years old. The average lifespan of a public sports facility is 35 – 40 years.

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- 5.15 The Facility Planning Model (FPM) states that the current supply of courts meets demand and supply at peak times exceeds demand by 4.5 courts. However, the Abbey Stadium has a used capacity of 87% which makes it very busy at peak times. If other sites were open for longer hours e.g., Arrow Vale Sports and Leisure Centre, Trinity High School, Tudor Grange School (Kingsley Sports Centre) plus additional opening hours are implemented at Abbey Stadium, and at peak periods, this would help achieve the Sport England comfort target of 80% occupancy. There is some potential spare capacity at peak times if sites were to open for longer.
- 5.16 There is a high level of imported demand from Bromsgrove District - joint planning with neighbouring local authorities is an important consideration. 18.9% of the demand from Redditch residents is met by halls in neighbouring authorities.

Demand for sports halls in Redditch reduces by 1.4% between 2021 and 2040. The FPM projects that supply will still be sufficient to meet demand in 2040, however because of the ageing facilities there is potential for the quality of provision to reduce unless there is investment in refurbishment/replacement over this period. It will also be important to secure additional community use/pay and play in some of the facilities on educational sites which would increase capacity, for example Arrow Vale School (Arrow Vale Sports and Leisure Centre), Trinity High School.

- 5.17 There is a very high level of car access in the Borough: around 76.3% of satisfied demand is from residents who travel by car. Only around 24% of journeys made by Redditch residents to sports halls are on foot or by public transport, despite 51% of the population living within a 20-minute walk of a sports hall. Unmet demand is very low in all areas of the Borough with most of the unmet demand being due to residents without access to a car living too far away from a sports hall. The highest level of unmet demand is in the northeast of the Borough, and this is at a very low level.

Swimming Pools

- 5.18 There are 3 pools in Redditch at 2 sites; the 2 pay and play swimming pools are at 1 site, the Abbey Stadium.
- 5.19 The FPM states that Redditch residents have a good supply of accessible swimming pools to meet demand in both 2021 and 2040. However, a significant proportion of this demand is met by swimming pools in Bromsgrove. A higher number of Redditch residents swim in Bromsgrove pools than Bromsgrove residents swim in Redditch. The location of the new housing sites is influencing the export and import of demand.
- 5.20 A very high level of the Borough's demand for swimming pools can be met by the accessible supply of swimming pools in 2021 and 2040. However, there is a current under-supply of swimming pool provision in the borough, equating to 356 sq. m of water space (for comparison, a 4-lane x 25m pool is 200 sq. m).
- 5.21 Demand for swimming pool provision in 2021 is for 934 sq. m of water space; the difference between supply and demand is 578 sq. m of water space. This is roughly equivalent to an 8-lane x 25m pool (400 sq. m) plus a teaching pool of 10m x 17m (170 sq. m).

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- 5.22 Although demand for swimming pool provision reduces to 909 sq. m by 2040, there is still under-supply of water space of 553 sq. m by 2040 if nothing is done about increasing capacity.
- 5.23 The FPM for Redditch highlights that due to the under-supply of pools in Redditch, many Redditch residents are travelling to pools in Bromsgrove making them busier than they would be otherwise. If Redditch BC was to implement recommendations to address the need for additional pool provision this would alleviate some of the additional pressure on Bromsgrove's swimming pools. For example, the Redditch FPM considers the impact of re-opening Kingsley Sports Centre; although this would contribute to some reduction in use of the Redditch swimming pools, the pool is small and slopes steeply. Development of a new pool on this site might be a better option.
- 5.24 Development of a new pool in Redditch will require capital resources. Consideration of the most appropriate site is also needed. Tudor Grange School is very keen to re-open its pool at Kingsley Sports Centre, but this pool is not ideal (due to depth) for learn to swim sessions. The School needs to release land assets to raise the capital to refurbish its existing pool or develop a new one. Factors to consider include:
- If the School develops the pool itself, what should the relationship be between this and Redditch Borough provision? It would not make operational sense in a small Borough with limited choice of pools for there to be competition in terms of pricing, programming, learn to swim offer etc
 - Is there potential for Redditch Borough Council and Tudor Grange School to work in partnership to refurbish//redevelop the pool?
 - Could a refurbished/redeveloped pool be part of the leisure management contract in Redditch?
 - If a new pool is developed where is the optimum location for this?
 - Is there potential to develop additional swimming pool provision on the Abbey Stadium site?
 - A feasibility/options study is really needed to explore how additional swimming pool capacity could be developed in Redditch to meet both current and future demand.
- 5.25 The FPM for Redditch states that a significant proportion of Redditch residents use pools in Bromsgrove and therefore joint working with Bromsgrove District Council may be helpful to review the pool provision situation and future planning for swimming pools.

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Table 39: Key Issues, Impacts, and Implications by Facility Type

Facility Type	Key Issues	Impact/Implications
Sports Halls	Reliance on schools to provide facilities	<p>Lack of influence from Redditch Borough Council over supply of sports hall facilities as this sits primarily in the education sector. Only three schools offer community access and only one offers pay and play access as opposed to clubs and groups.</p> <p>There is an opportunity to negotiate Community Use Agreements (CUAs) with the following schools to enhance the pay and play/community use offer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrow Vale Sports and Leisure Centre • St Augustine's School • St Bede's Catholic Middle School • Trinity High School • Tudor Grange Academy, Redditch <p>Negotiating CUAs on a formal basis are best done before a facility is built; however, once the facility is built it is possible to discuss opportunities for longer opening hours/opening up the building for community use, even if is full CUAS is not put in place.</p>
	Over-use of certain sites, e.g., Abbey Stadium	Usage levels are uncomfortably high at peak times (SE recommends 80% occupancy) which can lead to reduced customer satisfaction and can accelerate the need for refurbishment/investment
	Age of the current facility stock	Average age of the facilities in Redditch is 39 years old, (skewed slightly by the Abbey Stadium sports hall which is 59 years old). The average age of a public sports hall nationally is 35 to 40 years; therefore, investment is needed to maintain and improve the quality of the facilities. Improved lighting, floor surface and general décor would all enhance the existing provision.
	Need for joint planning with neighbouring authorities	There is a need to plan with neighbouring authorities, and particularly Bromsgrove as there is significant movement of Redditch residents over the boundary to use facilities in this area and vice versa. Joint planning will provide best value for all authorities for any future investment. N.B A new sports hall is planned in Droitwich, but this is outside the 20-minute drive time catchment area.
	No additional sports hall provision is required to be built for community use	Any planning obligation monies could be directed towards refurbishment of existing facilities.

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Facility Type	Key Issues	Impact/Implications
Swimming Pools	Additional swimming pool provision is required in 2022; this will also meet demand in 2040.	Any planning obligation monies should be directed towards refurbishment of existing facilities. S106 off site contributions could help towards the cost of a new pool in the Borough.
	High utilisation of Abbey Stadium pools at peak times	Usage levels are uncomfortably high at peak times (SE recommends 70% occupancy) which can lead to reduced customer satisfaction and can accelerate the need for refurbishment/investment
	Lack of supply of pools in Redditch, meaning residents are travelling from Redditch to use Bromsgrove facilities	Redditch BC may consider providing more water space which would alleviate some of the current pressure in Bromsgrove.
	There is insufficient swimming pool capacity to meet the level of demand for swimming in the borough from Redditch residents.	Joint strategic planning of facilities required with Bromsgrove District Council.
Health and Fitness	There are 9 fitness suites with an overall supply of 501 fitness stations (excluding 4 private use = 455 stations). There are 2 fitness suites with over 100 stations	There is some competition within the private sector and therefore residents in Redditch are likely to benefit from, competitive prices and a high-quality product. There is also a budget gym offer in the Borough.
	All the commercial facilities have up to date fitness stations, are well designed and planned and have good changing facilities.	Most fitness facilities are in the north/central area of the Borough. All areas of the Borough are all within a 20-minute drive time catchment of a community accessible fitness suite except the extreme southwest and northwest.
	Of the 9 fitness centres there are 4 fitness centres providing 30 or more fitness stations. Excluding fitness suites with less than 20 stations and those without public access, there are 455 publicly accessible fitness stations.	Although there is an oversupply of fitness stations in Redditch, it is important to retain community access and affordable fitness stations.
	There is demand for 305 stations in 2021 which gives a current over-supply of 155 fitness stations.	
	By 2040 this over-supply increases to 168 fitness stations, assuming there is no change in the supply.	
Squash Courts	There are 2 squash courts in total at Redditch Cricket, Hockey and Rugby Club; neither of these are glass backed.	Squash courts are more specialist facilities and therefore there are generally fewer of them. Both courts in Redditch are within a 20-minute drive time of the majority of the population. NGB guidance is 1 court per 10,000 people. On this basis there is an under-supply of 6 courts in Redditch both now and by 2040. No demand for additional courts has, however been identified. Nationally squash is usually provided through clubs rather than local authority facilities.

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Facility Type	Key Issues	Impact/Implications
Indoor Bowls	There are no indoor bowls facilities in Redditch.	There is a successful indoor bowls club in Bromsgrove, within an acceptable drive time from Redditch. The England Indoor Bowls Association supports increased use of this club and its facilities to ensure it is sustainable.
Indoor Tennis	There are no indoor tennis courts in Redditch.	<p>Based on the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) figure of 12,500 population for 1 indoor court there is a need for 6.8 indoor courts, and therefore there is a shortfall of 6.8 courts.</p> <p>Any development of indoor tennis court provision should be led by the LTA and Tennis Clubs. However, the LTA has not identified Redditch Borough in its own strategic plan as a specific target location for indoor community tennis provision.</p>
		<p>To reference indoor tennis with the findings of the analysis on outdoor courts (see Table 80, PPS). Even when considering population growth to 2040, there is expected to be enough secured community use provision to meet future demand. The caveat being, that the courts located at Redditch Borough Sports and Social Club were closed for business in August 2023 and remain so to date. If the courts remained closed it will cause critical imbalances to supply and demand. There is an aspiration to reopen the courts in October 2023, although it is unknown if this is a viable prospect.</p> <p>To summarise, if these courts reopen, there is enough capacity to meet demand both currently and in the future. If the courts do not reopen, there is a significant undersupply of tennis provision within Redditch and this will remain so unless there is reopening or development.</p>
Gymnastics	There are no purpose-built gymnastics facilities in Redditch and no gymnastic clubs. Support for gymnastics clubs from outside Redditch to rent former industrial units in the borough to move to and develop as gymnastics facilities.	<p>Gymnastics is offered as part of wider community programmes at community accessible sports halls in the Borough.</p> <p>Development of gymnastics in the Borough.</p>

5.26 Based on the key issues and supply and demand analysis, there is clearly a need for:

- Retaining existing levels of community accessible (including pay and play) sports halls, squash courts, athletics track, and fitness stations;
- Investment in infrastructure of sports halls to maintain and improve the quality of the facilities although no additional sports hall provision is required to be built for community use either in 2021 or by 2040;
- Additional swimming pool provision is required now to meet current and future needs by 2040. The need is for circa 1 x 8 lane x 25m pool plus teaching pool 17m x 10m, or the equivalent of 553 sq. m – 578 sq. m of water space.

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- Joint strategic planning of facilities required with Bromsgrove District Council, and specifically over future swimming provision.
 - Negotiation to introduce Community Use Agreements on education sites to increase community access (pay and play); and
 - Consideration of enhancing current facilities through planning obligation monies.
- 5.27 Retaining and improving the quality of provision is important in Redditch to ensure that participation levels are retained and wherever possible increased. Active Lives (November 2021 - 2022) highlights that 36.1% of the Redditch community is inactive; if these people were to become more active then this would contribute to improved health and wellbeing.
- 5.28 The provision of good quality, local community facilities that are accessible and affordable to meet identified need is key to facilitating participation growth and contributing to a reduction in any health inequalities in the Borough.
- 5.29 This reflects Redditch Borough Council's purposes within their Corporate Strategy, which encourages and supports residents to improve health and wellbeing, 'live independent, active and healthy lives', and supports the priorities of the Worcestershire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, and the Health and Wellbeing Board. Participation in sport, leisure and physical activity facilitates sustained behaviour change to reduce obesity, improve health, contribute to addressing mental health issues and increase participation.
- 5.30 It is also clear from the consultation and analysis that there is a critical role for development services moving forward. Focusing on those who are inactive will have most impact in terms of reducing health inequalities and increasing levels of physical activity in the community. Specific area of work should include:
- embedding development capacity into the Integrated Care System (ICS) (as per national emphasis) with a focus on mental health, obesity and frailty,
 - the development of active environments – in education, at work, at home
 - working collaboratively to engage with communities to understand the barriers to taking part in physical activity in Redditch
 - working collaboratively through a range of partnerships to co-design programmes and services meeting the needs of those who are inactive
 - effecting behaviour change by engaging the inactive
 - development of shared outcomes and KPIs to better monitor the impact more people being regularly physically active
 - regular communication to make best use of all available resources
- aligned to the Government's new Department of Culture Media and Sport Strategy: "Get Active: A strategy for the future of sport and physical activity" encourages a cross-departmental approach at local authority level to supporting residents to be more active.

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5.31 Based on the quality audits and assessments, and the supply and demand analysis, the priorities for future investment in facility provision are:

Table 40: Summary of Facility Priorities

Facility Type	Priority for Future Provision	Location
Sports Halls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased community use/opening hours 	Abbey Stadium, Arrow Vale School, Trinity School, Tudor Grange School,
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refurbishment/replacement of existing ageing facilities – potentially through planning obligations 	Abbey Stadium sports hall; Arrow Vale School,
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of formal Community Use Agreements in schools to improve community access, especially during peak times 	Arrow Vale Sports and Leisure Centre St Augustine’s School St Bede’s Catholic Middle School Trinity High School
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint strategic planning of sports hall facilities with Bromsgrove District Council and other neighbouring local authorities, 	Tudor Grange Academy,
Swimming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint strategic planning of swimming facilities required with Bromsgrove District Council. 	Redditch Borough and some engagement with Wychavon District Council, Birmingham City Council
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of additional water space to meet current and future demand (feasibility work required) 	Redditch Borough- Kingsley Sports Centre and/or Abbey Stadium
Health and Fitness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although there is an oversupply of fitness stations in Redditch now and by 2040, it is important to retain community access and affordable fitness stations. Improvement in the quality of the poorer quality studio at Abbey Stadium Sports Centre 	Redditch Borough
Squash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support existing provision of 2 courts in the Borough to maintain supply of courts 	Redditch Borough
Athletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain provision of the synthetic track. Improve the track condition and quality by undertaking required track maintenance. 	Redditch Borough
Gymnastics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for gymnastics clubs looking to find former industrial units in which to run gymnastics programmes. 	Redditch Borough
General Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to retain community centres that can be used for informal sport and physical activity. Overall, and specifically through the housing growth agenda, provision of more active environments, reflecting active travel, cycle infrastructure, safe cycle routes to school, the need to link existing and new communities with walking/cycling/jogging routes – all supporting access and movement 	Redditch Borough

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Facility Type	Priority for Future Provision	Location

- 5.32 Other future facility provision, linked particularly to population growth and housing development, could include the development of new and improved walking, jogging, and cycling routes/connectivity, to encourage active travel, and provide an environment in which physical activity can be easily integrated into daily life (this is reflected in Table 40.)

6. Recommendations and Action Plan

Overview

- 6.1 Redditch's population will grow by approximately 634 people based on ONS projections over the coming years to 2040; although this level of growth is very small, there is a need to ensure sufficient provision of accessible, quality, and affordable leisure facilities – formal and informal, and multi-purpose spaces to meet local need.
- 6.2 More and better access to physical activity at local level is important for residents, particularly those who are currently inactive and those without access to private transport to participate and become physically active. Many of these inactive people will live in the more deprived areas of the Borough (Winyates, Church Hill, Batchley and Woodrow). Ensuring those who lead challenging lives are able to be more active for health benefits is critical. Linking facility provision, informal and formal, to opportunities for active travel and informal places will help to facilitate more active lifestyles for more people. This is very important given the need to retain and continue to grow existing levels of physical activity in the Borough and address the existing health inequalities across the area.
- 6.3 Overall, Redditch has an average range of existing sport and leisure facilities across the area.
- 6.4 In Redditch there is sufficient pay and play accessible sports halls and health/fitness provision to meet future demand. There is a significant under-supply of swimming pool provision, both now and to 2040, unless additional swimming pool capacity is developed.
- 6.5 It is very important that the potential is realised to utilise community centres/halls and other informal places and spaces better for sports hall activities. This could provide activities at a more local level and therefore facilitate participation by those who are elderly, do not have access to a car, have young children, or have a disability.

Vision

- 6.6 As a minimum, Redditch Borough Council wishes to have good quality, fit for purpose facilities that are attractive to users, well maintained and sustainable. This includes community sport and leisure facilities, places and spaces for swimming, fitness, and sports hall sports/activities available for all residents. This includes both formal and informal multi-purpose spaces e.g., community halls in which to play sport and be physically active.
- 6.7 Facilitating opportunities to be more physically active more often is also important. This will contribute to a reduction in the health inequalities in and across Redditch to help people to live and age better.
- 6.8 The provision of high quality and accessible facilities, and where appropriate the opening up of other informal places and spaces, will contribute to the future overall priority for the development of healthier lifestyles in Redditch across all age groups.

6.9 Redditch Borough Council's Vision for future provision of leisure and culture in Redditch is:

Healthy bodies and minds through active and creative communities enjoying our great open spaces and historic built environment.

6.10 Sustainable, high quality, accessible facility provision has a crucial role to play in delivering these opportunities. Redditch Borough Council needs to plan for the investment requirements of its existing facilities and work in partnership with other providers and stakeholders to address the other priorities identified throughout this Strategy.

Aims

6.11 The aim of providing sufficient high-quality fit for purpose and accessible provision within indoor places and spaces is to:

- Increase the proportion of the population that is physically active (the level of activity undertaken will support efforts to further reduce health inequalities)
- Develop additional facility provision (for example providing more community use hours) where need is evidenced e.g., as a result of population growth;
- Ensuring Redditch's facilities will be able to meet future demand taking into account projected population/housing growth;
- Design in flexibility. Any future facility provision may need to be more multi-purpose in nature reflecting changing participation trends and opportunities.
- Encourage new participants to start taking part in physical activity.
- Enable opportunities for participation to be provided in a wider range of places and spaces, and particularly at a very local level, using e.g., community centres/halls.
- Facilitate the continued development of healthier lifestyles across Redditch's communities.
- Contribute to a reduction in health inequalities (specifically obesity) by reducing inactivity across Redditch; and
- Create active environments where the opportunity to be more physically active is an integral part of everyday life.

Principles for Future Provision

6.12 The principles that should guide all future sport and leisure facility development in Redditch are:

- **Ensure residents in all areas of Redditch have pay and play access to good quality, local, accessible and affordable provision, whether it is a formal sports hall or a community hall, or other informal provision;**
- **Aim to ensure that any new sports facilities on education sites provide a balance of opportunities (through a formal agreement) for community access – both pay and play and club use;**
- **Replace / refurbish ageing facilities where new provision is needed. All new and refurbished provision should be designed and developed based on Sport England and (National Governing Body) NGB guidance, and be fully inclusive;**
- **Rationalise existing provision where new fit for purpose facilities can replace/improve existing buildings (but existing levels of provision need to be maintained as a minimum, given some over-use of current facilities);**
- **Invest in existing formal and informal provision to improve quality; and**
- **Invest strategically and work with local authority neighbours to ensure economic viability and sustainability of provision.**

Priority Investment Needs

6.13 The average age of sports halls in Redditch is 39 years old, (skewed slightly by the sports hall at Abbey Stadium). The average age of a public sports hall nationally is 35 to 40 years therefore investment will need to be provided to maintain and improve the quality of the facilities. The quality of current provision is average, mainly due to the age of facilities. Although there is no need for additional sports hall facilities by 2040, the current facility stock which is based mainly on education sites will require investment for refurbishment/replacement. This investment could be through any potential planning obligations money and linked to formal community use agreements. Improving the quality of existing, ageing provision is the priority for future investment.

6.14 Abbey Stadium is key for swimming provision in Redditch and based on the future population growth and consequent increased demand there is a need to consider the refurbishment of this centre in future years (by 2040) to maintain quality of provision – potentially through planning obligations. This is particularly important given the high usage of this facility currently. There is also an opportunity to invest in facilities in return for community use/engagement, for example swimming at Tudor Grange Academy (Kingsley Sports Centre).

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- 6.15 Fitness facilities, squash, and athletics facilities should be maintained at their current level and investment will be required to improve the quality of these facilities as they continue to age. Squash courts are provided through the voluntary sector (clubs) and support may be required to develop future funding applications.
- 6.16 Given the cross-boundary usage of facilities it will be important to invest strategically and work with local authority neighbours to ensure economic viability and sustainability of provision.
- 6.17 The identified priorities for future investment in facility provision are:

Table 41: Summary of Facility Investment Priorities

Facility Type	Priority for Future Provision	Location
Sports Halls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased community use/opening hours Refurbishment/replacement of existing ageing facilities – potentially through planning obligations Introduction of formal Community Use Agreements in schools to improve community access, especially during peak times Joint strategic planning of sports hall facilities with Bromsgrove District Council and other neighbouring local authorities, 	<p>Abbey Stadium, Arrow Vale School, Trinity School, Tudor Grange School,</p> <p>Abbey Stadium sports hall, Arrow Vale School,</p> <p>Arrow Vale Sports and Leisure Centre St Augustine's School St Bede's Catholic Middle School Trinity High School Tudor Grange Academy,</p> <p>Redditch Borough and some engagement with Wychavon District Council and Birmingham City Council</p>
Swimming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint strategic planning of swimming facilities required with Bromsgrove District Council. Development of additional water space to meet current and future demand (feasibility work required) 	<p>Redditch Borough</p> <p>Kingsley Sports Centre and/or Abbey Stadium</p>
Health and Fitness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although there is an oversupply of fitness stations in Redditch now and by 2040, it is important to retain community access and affordable fitness stations. 	Redditch Borough
Squash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support existing provision of 2 courts in the Borough to maintain supply of courts 	Redditch Borough

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Facility Type	Priority for Future Provision	Location
Athletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain provision of the synthetic track. Improve the track condition and quality by undertaking required track maintenance. 	Redditch Borough
General Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to retain community centres that can be used for informal sport and physical activity. Overall, and specifically through the housing growth agenda, provision of more active environments, reflecting active travel, cycle infrastructure, safe cycle routes to school, the need to link existing and new communities with walking/cycling/jogging routes – all supporting access and movement 	Redditch Borough

Other Priorities and Needs

Capital Investment

- 6.18 It is clear from the strategy analysis that there is a need for some capital investment in Redditch to address future needs. This investment predominantly relates to the need for additional swimming pool provision. Investment will also be needed in ageing facilities e.g., Abbey Stadium sports hall, older education and voluntary sector facilities.
- 6.19 It is also clear that delivery of the levels of investment required will only result from a local partnership approach. In Redditch it is particularly important that joint working is developed with Bromsgrove District Council and other neighbouring local authorities. The development of improved sports facilities, and physical activity environments, will facilitate increased participation which in turn will benefit individual and community health. The challenge is that the greatest health benefit will be gained by encouraging the inactive to become active.

Continued Local Partnership Working with Education Sites

- 6.20 To deliver the identified Strategy needs, and the key outcome of increased participation to address health inequalities, plus meet demands from increased population, there is an opportunity for some changes in approach to delivery. The refurbishment of existing facilities and increasing and optimising the available capacity in existing education facilities, provide a mechanism to deliver these outcomes.
- 6.21 The key issue to address initially is that of future partnership with education sites that set about retaining community access for clubs and groups as a minimum, and where possible agree Community Use Agreements (CUAs) which provide balanced access for the community on a pay and play basis. The key site identified include Arrow Vale School
- 6.22 Increasing capacity to offer and deliver increased participation opportunities, particularly for those who are currently inactive, could contribute significantly to improved health and wellbeing in the Borough. Increasing available access to the sports halls for clubs and the wider community at e.g., Arrow Vale School, Trinity School, Tudor Grange School is important. These facilities provide an important resource for local sports clubs.

Tackling Inactivity

- 6.23 Clearly investing in good quality and accessible leisure facilities provides an infrastructure where people can be physically active. It is important that facilities are both accessible in physical terms and available for people to use; this includes those with a disability or life-limiting condition. Across Redditch there are improvements that could be made to facilities to address this, particularly in swimming pools.
- 6.24 Of equal importance is the need to enable those who are inactive to be physically active. They may not be comfortable in a leisure facility, so it is crucial to provide the appropriate activities, programmes and opportunities either outside or in more informal settings e.g., community/church halls to facilitate increased levels of activity. Focusing on getting more people active is important in Redditch where over a third of the adult population is inactive. Redditch Borough Council's development services have a vital role to play in engaging with those who are inactive and supporting them into activity. This is where most impact will be delivered in terms of health and well-being.

Development Services

Planning Policy, Securing Developer Contributions, Planning Obligations, and S106 Obligations – An overview

- 6.25 To implement the Strategy recommendations and address identified needs for improved facility provision Redditch Borough Council will need to identify and secure capital funding from a range of sources. Developer contributions through S106 have the potential to form part of this funding moving forward. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) will also need updating in light of the findings and recommendations of this Built Facility Strategy (see Table 4, Redditch Strategic Policies and Strategies, Redditch Borough Plan 2011-2030 (Adopted January 2017)).
- 6.26 The facility investment needs identified in this Strategy and set out in Table 42 provide the definitive investment priorities and locations for this investment to 2040. This should inform Local Plan policy, and specifically the priorities against which to secure developer contributions moving forward.
- 6.27 New residential developments will not necessarily generate the need for a new sports facility. However, where developments are located in areas where additional pressure will be placed on existing sports facilities by the development, Redditch Borough Council should seek contributions for the enhancement and extension of existing sports in the vicinity of the development. Redditch Borough Council should utilise Sport England's Sports Facilities Calculator to inform these contributions.
- 6.28 If larger developments generate a need for and/or are located adjacent to suitable community provision i.e., a new or improved community hall, then these will be considered on a site-by-site basis having regard to the development proposal, the characteristics of the site and the capacity and condition of existing infrastructure. Off-site contributions may be sought to support nearby existing or new sites, and/or for identified more strategic sites (such as larger, high quality, leisure facilities serving more than the local need, e.g., Abbey Stadium).

Recommendations

Recommendation 1 (R1)

Work with Rubicon Leisure to review existing swimming programme at Abbey Stadium to facilitate casual access at peak times; this will require a re-balancing of time currently allocated to swimming club use.

(PROTECT)

Recommendation 2 (R2)

Explore the potential for a more integrated operational leisure management model across both Redditch and Bromsgrove to identify economies of scale.

(PROVIDE)

Recommendation 3 (R3)

Explore the options available to Redditch Borough Council to address the current under-supply of water space in the Borough, working with BDC and Birmingham CC, given there is a geographical opportunity for collaboration between the three areas. A feasibility/options study is really needed to explore how additional swimming pool capacity could be developed in Redditch to meet both current and future demand. It could also be worth exploring the potential for collaboration with Stratford-Upon-Avon Council in relation to Studley swimming pool.

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

Recommendation 4 (R4)

Review the opportunity to consolidate community centre provision and potentially asset transfer more to the third/commercial sectors to reduce operational costs and resources.

(PROVIDE AND PROTECT)

Recommendation 5 (R5)

Redditch Borough Council to develop appropriate formal access arrangements i.e., Community Use Arrangements (CUA) with any new education sports halls as and when opportunity arises proportionate to new developments.

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

Recommendation 6 (R6)

Upgrade ageing facilities (e.g. sports halls via planning monies if, by so doing, they increase community access. This has the potential to increase daytime access, which is lacking in the borough, particularly for older people.

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

Recommendation 7 (R7)

Improve access to built facilities for those with disabilities and/or life-limiting conditions e.g., pool pod

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

Recommendation 8 (R8)

Identify very clear priorities for the Council's Development Services Team to focus on the people and areas where their resources will have most impact

Specific areas of work. should include:

- embedding development capacity into the Integrated Care System (ICS) (as per national emphasis) with a focus on mental health, obesity and frailty,
- the development of active environments across the borough
- working collaboratively to engage with communities to understand the barriers to taking part in physical activity in Redditch
- working collaboratively through a range of partnerships to co-design programmes and services meeting the needs of those who are inactive
- effecting behaviour change by engaging the inactive
- development of shared outcomes and KPIs to better monitor the impact of more people being regularly physically active
- regular communication between partners to make best use of all available resources
- development of a Physical Activity statement setting out the priorities to which facilities should contribute

aligned to the Government's new Department of Culture Media and Sport Strategy: "Get Active: A strategy for the future of sport and physical activity" encourages a cross-departmental approach at local authority level to supporting residents to be more active

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

Recommendation 9 (R9)

- iii) Consider changing where management responsibilities for leisure and culture services 'sit' in the Council to create a more integrated service, aligned to agreed outcomes and priorities.
- iv) Specifically consider facilitating a more joined-up and integrated approach to facility/venue management and the Council's Development Services team aligned to delivery of Health and Wellbeing priorities;

(PROVIDE AND PROTECT)

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Recommendation 10 (R10)

Invest in the development of additional/replacement facilities to address identified gaps:

Facility Type	Priority for Future Provision	Location
Sports Halls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased community use/opening hours 	Abbey Stadium, Arrow Vale School, Trinity School, Tudor Grange School,
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refurbishment/replacement of existing ageing facilities – potentially through planning obligations 	Abbey Stadium sports hall; Arrow Vale School,
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of formal Community Use Agreements in schools to improve community access, especially during peak times 	Arrow Vale Sports and Leisure Centre St Augustine's School St Bede's Catholic Middle School Trinity High School
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint strategic planning of sports hall facilities with Bromsgrove District Council and other neighbouring local authorities, 	Tudor Grange Academy,
Swimming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint strategic planning of swimming facilities required with Bromsgrove District Council. 	Redditch Borough and some engagement with Wychavon District Council, Birmingham City Council
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of additional water space to meet current and future demand (feasibility work required) 	Redditch Borough- Kingsley Sports Centre and/or Abbey Stadium
Health and Fitness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although there is an oversupply of fitness stations in Redditch now and by 2040, it is important to retain community access and affordable fitness stations. Improvement in the quality of the poorer quality studio at Abbey Stadium Sports Centre 	Redditch Borough
Squash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support existing provision of 2 courts in the Borough to maintain supply of courts 	Redditch Borough
Athletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain provision of the synthetic track. Improve the track condition and quality by undertaking required track maintenance. 	Redditch Borough
Gymnastics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for gymnastics clubs looking to find former industrial units in which to run gymnastics programmes. 	Redditch Borough

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Facility Type	Priority for Future Provision	Location
General Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to retain community centres that can be used for informal sport and physical activity. • Overall, and specifically through the housing growth agenda, provision of more active environments, reflecting active travel, cycle infrastructure, safe cycle routes to school, the need to link existing and new communities with walking/cycling/jogging routes – all supporting access and movement 	Redditch Borough

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

Recommendation 11 (R11)

Provide support to gymnastics clubs looking to identify former industrial units as a club base, to develop gymnastics in the borough.

Recommendation 12 (R12)

Where appropriate, Redditch Borough Council and its partners seek to secure developer contributions from strategic developments that could contribute towards the development/refurbishment of facilities, safe walking/running/cycling routes, and other informal multipurpose places and spaces where people can be active.

(PROVIDE AND PROTECT)

Recommendation 13 (R13)

Redditch Borough Council and all its partners identify the level of capital funding required to address the identified investment needs for sport and physical activity facilities, and investigate all available sources for capital funding, on a partnership basis. To support this process, it is recommended to involve Active Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

(PROVIDE)

Recommendation 14 (R14)

Redditch Borough Council and its partners prioritise investment in the development of high-quality community sport and physical activity facilities/spaces in order to increase available capacity and opportunities to take part in regular physical activity in the local community thus contributing to improved health and wellbeing, increased participation, and better community cohesion.

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

Recommendation 15 (R15)

There should be on-going monitoring of this Strategy through its implementation, but as a minimum, progress should be reviewed and refreshed every five years. On-going monitoring should include partnership working with neighbouring local authorities to remain aware of facility changes and developments as and when they arise.

(PROTECT)

Action Plan

- 6.29 To realise the above Vision and Aims for sport and leisure facility provision in Redditch there are key priorities that need to be addressed and implemented. These are set out below in the Action Plan based on the recommendations for future provision.

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Table 42: Strategy Action Plan

Recommendations	Action	Responsibility	Timescale		Resources / Partners
			Short	= 1 – 5 Years	
			Medium	= 5 – 10 Years	
			Long Term	= 10+ Years	
Recommendation 1 (R1) Work with Rubicon Leisure to review existing programming at Abbey Stadium to facilitate casual access at peak times; this will require a re-balancing of time currently allocated to swimming club use. (PROTECT)	Review current swimming programme and access for pay and play community use.	Redditch Borough Council Officers	Ongoing		Redditch Borough Council Leisure Officer time Swim England
	Meet with swimming clubs to discuss and negotiate revised swimming times.	Redditch Borough Council Officers;	Ongoing		Redditch Borough Council Leisure Officer time, Swim England time
Recommendation 2 (R2) Explore the potential for a more integrated operational leisure management model across both Redditch and Bromsgrove to identify economies of scale. (PROVIDE)	Develop a joint strategic planning of sports facilities group with Bromsgrove District Council Produce a strategic plan for facility development and collaborate to look at increasing capacity and /or investment – mutually beneficial Group to meet quarterly/six monthly to discuss opportunities for joint working and monitoring of plan. Involve Active Sport partnership.	Redditch Borough Council, BDC, Active Sport partnership	Ongoing		Local authorities' officer time; Active Sport partnership time

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Recommendations	Action	Responsibility	Timescale		Resources / Partners
			Short	= 1 – 5 Years	
			Medium	= 5 – 10 Years	
			Long Term	= 10+ Years	
<p>Recommendation 3 (R3) Explore the options available to Redditch Borough Council to address the current under-supply of water space in the Borough, working with BDC and Birmingham CC, given there is a geographical opportunity for collaboration between the three areas. Feasibility work is needed in respect of Abbey Stadium and Tudor Grange Academy (Kingsley Sports Centre).</p> <p>It could also be worth exploring the potential for collaboration with Stratford-Upon-Avon Council in relation to Studley swimming pool.</p> <p>N.B This collaborative approach is suggested because at the moment, Redditch is attracting swimmers into its swimming facilities, particularly from Bromsgrove.</p> <p>(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)</p>	Develop and implement a plan for additional swimming pool capacity in the Borough with Rubicon and potentially other partners in order to maintain and improve quality of the provision by 2040.	Redditch Borough Council Officers;	Medium - Long Term		Redditch Borough Council officer time; Sport England and other funding sources
<p>Recommendation 4 (R4) Review the opportunity to consolidate community centre provision and potentially asset transfer more to the third/commercial sectors to reduce operational costs and resources.</p> <p>(PROVIDE AND PROTECT)</p>	Consider opportunities for asset transfer of community centres from the operational leisure contract to identified third sector partners	Redditch Borough Council Officers	Short – Medium Term		Redditch Borough Council leisure officer and planning,

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Recommendations	Action	Responsibility	Timescale		Resources / Partners
			Short	= 1 – 5 Years	
			Medium	= 5 – 10 Years	
			Long Term	= 10+ Years	
<p>Recommendation 5 (R5)</p> <p>Redditch Borough Council to develop appropriate formal access arrangements i.e., Community Use Arrangements (CUA) with any new education sports halls as and when opportunity arises proportionate to new developments.</p> <p>(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)</p>	<p>Develop a standard CUA for application in any forthcoming planning obligations</p> <p>Redditch Borough Council and its partners work with relevant educational organisations to review, revise and or implement Community Use Agreements (CUA), which provide a better balance of pay and play and club use and longer opening hours where appropriate.</p>	<p>Redditch Borough Council Officers; consultation with school</p> <p>Redditch Borough Council Officers; Education establishments; Sport England</p>	<p>Short – Medium Term</p> <p>Short - Medium Term</p>	<p>Redditch Borough Council leisure officer and planning, consultation time with new school/facility</p> <p>Redditch Borough Council and existing relevant education establishments, Sport England.</p> <p>Time costs for developing Community Use Agreements.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 6 (R6)</p> <p>Upgrade ageing facilities e.g., sports halls via planning monies if, by so doing, they increase community access. This has the potential to increase daytime access, which is lacking in the borough, particularly for older people.</p> <p>(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)</p>	<p>Redditch Borough Council works with relevant partners to explore opportunities to upgrade existing ageing sports facilities, particularly sports halls to create daytime access.</p>	<p>Redditch Borough Council Officers; Partner Organisations e.g., education Sport England</p>	<p>Medium -Long Term</p>	<p>Redditch Borough Council and existing relevant partners, Sport England.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 7 (R7)</p> <p>Improve access to built facilities for those with disabilities and/or life-limiting conditions e.g., pool pod</p> <p>(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)</p>	<p>Redditch Borough Council, Rubicon and other partners work in partnership to improve disability access to leisure facilities, and particularly swimming pools.</p>	<p>Redditch Borough Council Officers; Education establishments;</p>	<p>Short - Medium Term</p>	<p>Redditch Borough Council and existing relevant education establishments,</p>	

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Recommendations	Action	Responsibility	Timescale		Resources / Partners
			Short	= 1 – 5 Years	
			Medium	= 5 – 10 Years	
			Long Term	= 10+ Years	
<p>Recommendation 8 (R8)</p> <p>Identify very clear priorities for the Council's Development Services Team to focus on the people and areas where their resources will have most impact</p> <p>Specific areas of work. should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • embedding development capacity into the Integrated Care System (ICS) (as per national emphasis) with a focus on mental health, obesity and frailty, • the development of active environments across the borough • working collaboratively to engage with communities to understand the barriers to taking part in physical activity in Redditch • working collaboratively through a range of partnerships to co-design programmes and services meeting the needs of those who are inactive • effecting behaviour change by engaging the inactive • development of shared outcomes and KPIs to better monitor the impact of more people being regularly physically active • regular communication between partners to make best use of all available resources 	Support targeted development activities as part of a holistic approach to sustainable community health and wellbeing	Redditch Borough Council Officers;	Ongoing		Redditch Borough Council Planning and Leisure Officer time

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Recommendations	Action	Responsibility	Timescale		Resources / Partners
			Short	= 1 – 5 Years	
			Medium	= 5 – 10 Years	
			Long Term	= 10+ Years	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> development of a Physical Activity statement setting out the priorities to which facilities should contribute aligned to the Government's new Department of Culture Media and Sport Strategy: "Get Active: A strategy for the future of sport and physical activity" encourages a cross-departmental approach at local authority level to supporting residents to be more active <p>(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)</p>					
<p>Recommendation 9 (R9)</p> <p>i) Consider changing where management responsibilities for leisure and culture services 'sit' in the Council to create a more integrated service, aligned to agreed outcomes and priorities.</p> <p>ii) Specifically consider facilitating a more joined-up and integrated approach to facility/venue management and the Council's Development Services team aligned to delivery of Health and Wellbeing priorities; this could also involve transfer of some services to partner operators.</p> <p>(PROVIDE AND PROTECT)</p>	<p>Explore internal options for the future management of the leisure services provided by Redditch Borough Council</p> <p>Redditch Borough Council and Bromsgrove District Council work together to explore the potential for one integrated approach to operational leisure management across the two authorities to achieve economies of scale.</p>	<p>Redditch Borough Council Officers,</p> <p>Redditch Borough Council Officers, Bromsgrove District Council officers,</p>	<p>Short Term</p> <p>Short Term</p>	<p>Redditch Borough Council leisure officer time, External consultants</p> <p>Redditch Borough Council leisure officer time, External consultants</p>	

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Recommendations	Action	Responsibility	Timescale		Resources / Partners
			Short	= 1 – 5 Years	
			Medium	= 5 – 10 Years	
			Long Term	= 10+ Years	
<p>Recommendation 10 (R10)</p> <p>Invest in the development of additional/replacement facilities to address identified gaps as set out in detail in the above recommendations.</p> <p>(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)</p>	<p>Ensure the need for existing levels of play and play sports hall, swimming pools, squash and athletics and fitness provision is reflected in the Local Plan.</p> <p>Liaise with schools re current condition of facility stock and any plans for refurbishment/replacement/modernisation</p> <p>Plan for refurbishment for each establishment with clear dates and costs</p> <p>Identify any potential planning obligation monies to allocate to these refurbishment/development projects</p>	<p>Redditch Borough Council Officers</p> <p>Redditch Borough Council officers, education establishments, sports partnership</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Short – Medium- Long Term</p>	<p>Redditch Borough Council Planning and Leisure Officer time</p> <p>Redditch Borough Council officer time, Education officers time, Active Herefordshire & Worcestershire</p>	
<p>Recommendation 11 (R11)</p> <p>Where appropriate, Redditch Borough Council and its partners seek to secure developer contributions from strategic developments that could contribute towards the development/refurbishment of strategic facilities, additional and safe walking, running, and cycling routes, and where possible to open up other informal, multipurpose places and spaces where people can be active.</p> <p>(PROVIDE AND PROTECT)</p>	<p>Redditch Borough Council should develop a detailed approach to securing developer contributions to support the emerging local plan as set out in:</p> <p>Sport England's CIL and Planning Obligations Advice Note (or the future Developer Contributions guidance that will supersede it) https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/community-infrastructure-levy-and-planning-obligations-advice-note-nov-2018.pdf?PmR9OYIbVat6HfqmmvtKurJ6o1M3d4Z</p>	<p>Redditch Borough Council officers</p>	<p>Short – Medium Term</p>	<p>Redditch Borough Council Planning and Leisure Officer time; Active Herefordshire & Worcestershire; all relevant partners</p>	

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Recommendations	Action	Responsibility	Timescale		Resources / Partners
			Short	= 1 – 5 Years	
			Medium	= 5 – 10 Years	
			Long Term	= 10+ Years	
<p>Recommendation 12 (R12)</p> <p>Redditch Borough Council and all its partners identify the level of capital funding required to address the identified investment needs for sports facilities, and investigate all available sources for capital funding, on a partnership basis. To support this process, it is recommended to involve Active Herefordshire and Worcestershire.</p> <p>(PROVIDE)</p>	<p>Redditch Borough Council Leisure and Planning Officers to identify other funding sources.</p> <p>Involve Herefordshire and Worcestershire Sports Partnership in this process</p>	<p>Redditch Borough Council Leisure and Planning Officers. Sport England, local partners</p>	Short – Medium Term		<p>Redditch Borough Council Planning and Leisure Officer time; Developers Active Herefordshire & Worcestershire Relevant local partners</p>
<p>Recommendation 13 (R13)</p> <p>Where appropriate, Redditch Borough Council and its partners seek to secure developer contributions from strategic developments that could contribute towards the development/refurbishment of facilities, safe walking/running/cycling routes, and other informal multipurpose places and spaces where people can be active.</p> <p>(PROVIDE AND PROTECT)</p>	<p>Redditch Borough Council supports gymnastics clubs to identify suitable club premises.</p>	<p>Redditch Borough Council Leisure and Planning Officers. British Gymnastics</p>	Ongoing		<p>Redditch Borough Council Planning and Leisure Officer time; British Gymnastics</p>

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Recommendations	Action	Responsibility	Timescale		Resources / Partners
			Short	= 1 – 5 Years	
			Medium	= 5 – 10 Years	
			Long Term	= 10+ Years	
<p>Recommendation 14 (R14)</p> <p>Redditch Borough Council and its partners prioritise investment in the development of high-quality community sports facilities/spaces. Increasing available capacity and therefore opportunities to take part in regular physical activity, in the local community, will contribute to improved health and wellbeing, increased participation and better community cohesion.</p> <p>(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)</p>	<p>Redditch Borough Council to work with its local partner providers and relevant health and community partners to ensure provision of, and access to, appropriate community sports facilities and opportunities to provide physical activity in the local community.</p>	<p>Redditch Borough Council Leisure Officers; Public Health and Local Providers and Community Partners</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>		<p>Redditch Borough Council Leisure Officer time; Redditch Borough Council Community Partners; Public Health and Redditch Partner providers.</p>
<p>Recommendation 15 (R15)</p> <p>There should be on-going monitoring of this Strategy through its implementation, but as a minimum, progress should be reviewed and refreshed every five years. On-going monitoring should include partnership working with neighbouring local authorities to keep aware of facility changes and developments.</p> <p>(PROTECT)</p>	<p>Ensure a monitoring process is in place to refresh the strategy and action plan every 5 years.</p> <p>Ensure ongoing dialogue with neighbouring authorities to be aware of facility changes and developments that may impact on Redditch residents and facility plans for the future.</p> <p>Establish a steering group made up of key stakeholders to take forward the actions in the action plan. This could be the same as the steering group recommended for implementing the PPS but excluding the outdoor playing pitch NGBs.</p>	<p>Redditch Borough Council Leisure and Planning Officers. Sport England, local partners</p>	<p>Short – Medium Term</p>		<p>Redditch Borough Council Planning and Leisure Officer time; Developers; Relevant local partners</p>

N.B. It is recognised that any new schools (Recommendation 5) are currently outside the direct control of Redditch Borough Council. This should not, however, prevent local partnerships for community access.

Disclaimer

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