

Wealden Indoor/Built Sports Facility Needs Assessment

2016 – 2028

Report produced on behalf of Wealden
City Council by Leisure and the
Environment in association with Ethos
Environmental Planning



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Contents

1. Introduction	1 - 5
2. Context	6 - 15
3. Leisure centres (general)	16 - 32
4. Indoor Swimming Pools	33 - 47
5. Sports Halls	48 - 69
6. Other indoor (specialist) facilities	70 - 83
7. Future Provision, Standards and other Recommendations	84 – 90

End notes

Appendix 1: Explanation of Sport England Active People and Market Segmentation analyses

Appendix 2: Active Places definitions, in full

Appendix 3: Health and Fitness and Studio provision

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Term		Meaning
ANOG		Assessment of Needs and Opportunities Guide
APP		Active People Power
APS		Active People Survey
FPM		Facility Planning Model
H&FS		Health & Fitness Suites
SFC		Sports Facility Calculator

1 INTRODUCTION

Description of report

1.1 This is one of five reports provided within the overall Wealden Open Space, Sports and Recreational Facilities Study. It considers the provision of indoor and built sports and active recreation facilities for the community.

1.2 The five reports are:

- Wealden Community and Stakeholder Consultation Report (Local Needs Assessment);
- Wealden Open Space Study (comprising a main report and area profiles);
- Wealden Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Needs Assessment (Part A, B and C);
- Wealden Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy and Action Plan (Part D of the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Needs Assessment); and,
- Wealden Indoor/Built Sports Facility Needs Assessment (this report).

Study Overview

1.3 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires local planning authorities to set out policies to help enable communities to access high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation. These policies need to be based on a thorough understanding of local needs for such facilities and opportunities available for new provision.

1.4 In view of the above, in 2016 Wealden District Council appointed Ethos Environmental Planning in conjunction with Leisure and the Environment to produce a new open space, indoor and outdoor sports and recreational facilities audit and assessment- a needs assessment and strategy to inform the decision making process up to 2028.

1.5 Overall aims of the study are:

- To provide an audit of existing indoor and outdoor leisure facilities within the Council's administrative area and immediate boundaries.
- To provide an assessment of these facilities in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility.
- To provide a community and stakeholder needs assessment.
- To identify gaps in provision, over provision and priority guidelines for future investment.
- To develop and provide a strategy determining the actions and resources required to guide the Council's decision making up until 2028.

1.6 There are three key elements to the study:

- An Open Space Assessment
- A Playing Pitch Strategy and Outdoor Sports Assessment
- An Indoor and Built Sports and Recreation Facilities Assessment (This report)

1.7 As such the overall outcome of the study will comprise of main reports drawing upon an evidence base comprised of:

- Consultation and engagement with all relevant key stakeholders, agencies and organisations as well as the wider community and general public.

- An audit of all facilities within the scope of the study.
- Analysis and assessment of the adequacy of current and future facility provision based on recommended methodologies such as Sport England's "Assessing Needs and Opportunities" national planning guidance.

Indoor Sports and Recreational Facilities Assessment

1.8 In addition to the overall requirements set out for the project (above) the **Indoor Sports and Built Recreation Facilities Assessment** should:

- Identify all key indoor sports facilities currently available to the community;
- Identify the demand for these facilities by local people;
- Evaluate what local people think about the quality of facility provision;
- Identify existing and predicted deficiencies/surpluses (including potential demand for indoor extreme sports); and,
- Identify recommendations for future areas of investment and delivering improvements.

Methodology

1.9 As set out the indoor sport and leisure provision assessment has adopted the Sport England 'Assessment of Needs and Opportunities Guide' (ANOG) methodology, which advocates a broad approach to be undertaken looking at supply and demand and considering need in terms of:

- **Quantity** - what facilities there are in the area, how many you have?
- **Quality** – how good are they in terms of condition and being 'fit for purpose'?
- **Accessibility** - where they are located?
- **Availability** - how available are they? (The degree of 'availability' is analogous to the level of 'Community Use' (see para 1.15)).

1.10 ANOG states that it is only by understanding all these elements together and their inter-relationship that you can form a rounded view of the supply and demand for facilities in an area. As also advocated by ANOG extensive consultation has been undertaken to inform the analysis. Questionnaire surveys were undertaken as below:

- A sample household survey- referred to as the 'household survey' subsequently in this report.
- Survey of national governing bodies of sport and local clubs.
- A survey of parish councils.
- A Local groups and organisations survey.

1.11 Discussions were also undertaken with key District Council officers, and visits to key facilities within the local authority.

1.12 The detailed findings of these consultations are summarised in this report. The complete consultation reportage is provided in the Wealden Community and Stakeholder Consultation Report (Local Needs Assessment)

1.13 The assessment has also been informed by the use of analytical techniques, which include GIS mapping, and Sport England on-line analytical tools such as the Facility Planning Calculator, Active People, and Market Segmentation.

Report Framework

1.14 The report is made up of 6 main sections:

- Section 2 provides context for the study in respect of planned change within the local authority, and an analysis of the characteristics of the population that have a relevance to planning for sport and recreation. Key policies of other stakeholders are also noted.
- Sections 3,4,5,6 provide an assessment of provision for different facilities/activities, based on a consideration of their quantity, quality and accessibility, and availability for 'community use'. The term 'Community Use' is central to this study and is defined below. At the end of each section there is a short summary in respect of key findings, issues and options.
- Section 7 considers the impact of future planned population change on those facilities/activities considered in the sections 3 to 6. As appropriate it outlines some potential standards of provision for key facilities, and other appropriate strategic recommendations to help meet both existing and future demand for facilities.

What is community use?

1.15 At its simplest 'community use' is a term that is used to describe the extent to which a given sport or recreation facility is available for use by members of the general community- either on a pay-as-you go informal basis, or as part of an organised club or group.

1.16 In practice, the above definition of community use will include a wide range of management regimes whose admission policies will span informal 'pay-as-you-go' access, by the general community; and, through to use by organised clubs and groups by booking or longer-term agreements etc. Whether, individual facilities are considered to be available for significant community use depends of several factors, including:

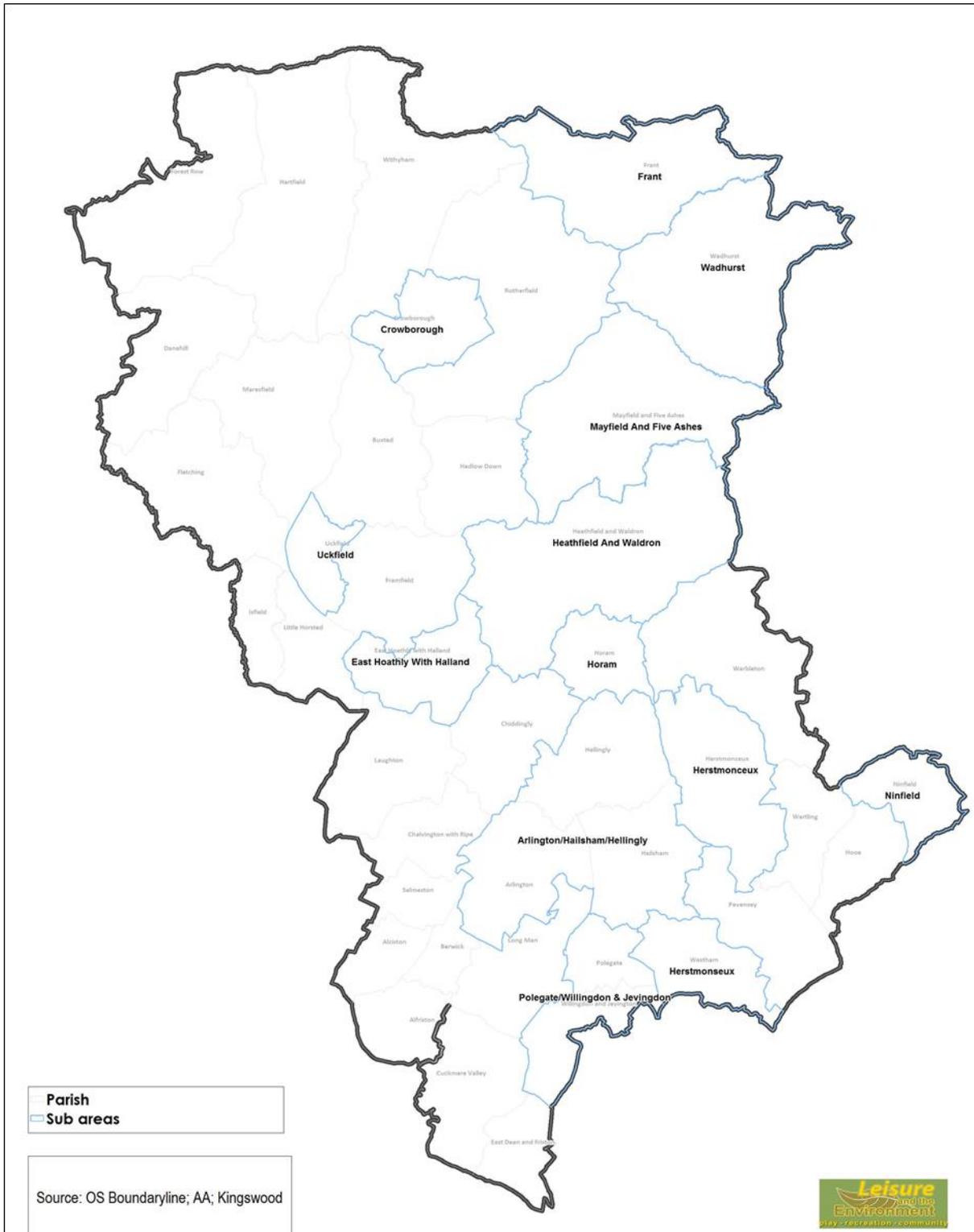
- Type of facility (and whether its size and design might be of use to the community at large, or at least significant groups within the community);
- The cost of using facilities, and whether these might generally be considered to be affordable;
- The times and days of availability (times of most demand for the general community are likely to be in the evenings and at the weekends, as well as during mid-week lunchtime (popular for people at work).
- The extent to which such use by the community is 'assured' over the longer-term.

1.17 In terms of utility for the general community different facilities will therefore have diverse value by nature of because of their varying scale, location, and management/pricing policies. This is not to deny the importance of other smaller provision for local clubs and groups, as well as those residents who prefer to pay for access to private/commercial facilities.

District-wide and local perspectives

1.18 The report examines provision at both the District-wide level, but also at a local level, and especially in relation to the defined growth areas identified in existing and emerging development plans (reviewed in the next section). Existing provision is also recorded based on the parish it lies within. Given the geographical spread of the District, it is essential for the needs assessment to provide this local insight. Area-specific information is provided in the relevant sections for the main facility types, and for the following sub areas identified in **Figure 1.1**, which include the District Council's growth areas for the Wealden Local Plan (considered in Section 3).

Figure 1.1: Key growth areas



2 CONTEXT

General

2.1 This section includes important contextual information about Wealden local authority relevant to the analysis contained in this report. It considers:

- A brief review of the policies and priorities of the local authority, as well as other key stakeholders and that have relevance to planning for sport and recreation within the local authority.
- The current demographic character of the local authority, and how it is likely to change in the coming years, up to 2028.
- A review of the particular characteristics of the adult population in respect of how this influences people's inclination to take part in sport and active recreation.
- Key issues have been identified, taking into account the above.

2.2 This section includes important contextual information about the Wealden local authority area relevant to the analysis contained in this report. It considers:

- Strategic context - A brief review of the policies and priorities of the local authority, as well as other key stakeholders and that have relevance to planning for sport and recreation within the local authority.
- The current demographic character of the local authority, and how it is likely to change in the coming years, up to 2028.
- A review of the particular characteristics of the adult population in respect of how this influences people's inclination to take part in sport and active recreation.

2.3 Key issues have been identified, taking into account the above.

2.4 The strategic context/policy overview is summarised in each of the reports associated with the overall Wealden Open Space, Sports and Recreational Facilities Study (outlined in section 1.1). Some existing strategies and policies are relevant to each of the studies and are therefore included within each separate report.

2.5 The demographic characteristics of the adult population and key issues arising from these characteristics is summarised.

2.6 Policies and strategies are subject to regular change, therefore the summary provided in this section was correct at the time of writing. Wealden District Council reserve the right to change and update this section as policies change.

2.7 The policy overview will include analysis of the Council's existing strategies and policies. It also includes a review of other strategies of relevance at national and local levels and assesses their implications for the provision of open space, sport and recreation opportunities. In addition, an assessment of the relationship between the proposed study and other relevant council strategies and initiatives is included.

Strategic Context

National Strategic Context

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

2.8 The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how they should be applied. The NPPF must be adhered to in the preparation of local and neighbourhood plans, and is a material consideration in planning decisions. The NPPF contains the following references that relate to green infrastructure and open spaces:

2.9 **Para 17 - Achieving Sustainable Development - Core Planning Principles:** Within the overarching roles that the planning system ought to play, a set of core land-use planning principles should underpin both plan-making and decision-taking.

2.10 **Para 58** - Local and neighbourhood plans should develop robust and comprehensive policies that set out the quality of development that will be expected for the area. **Para 73** - Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required.

2.11 **Para 74** – Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- 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
- The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

2.12 **Para 75** - Planning policies should protect and enhance public rights of way and access. Local authorities should seek opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks including National Trails.

2.13 **Para 99** - Local Plans should take account of climate change over the longer term, including factors such as flood risk, coastal change, water supply and changes to biodiversity and landscape.

2.14 **Para 109** - The planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment.

Sporting Future - A New Strategy for an Active Nation

2.15 This cross-government strategy seeks to address flat-lining levels of sport participation and high levels of inactivity in this country. Through this strategy, government is redefining what success in sport means, with a new focus on five key outcomes: physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing, individual development, social and community development and economic development. In future, funding decisions will be made on the basis of the outcomes that sport and physical activity can deliver.

2.16 It is government's ambition that all relevant departments work closer together to create a more physically active nation, where children and young people enjoy the best sporting opportunities available and people of all ages and backgrounds can enjoy the many benefits that sport and physical activity bring, at every stage in their lives.

2.17 Government is reaffirming its commitment to Olympic and Paralympic success but also extending that ambition to non-Olympic sports where it will support success through grassroots investment in those sports, and by sharing UK Sport's knowledge and expertise. The strategy outlines what is expected of the sector to deliver this vision, and how the government will support it in getting there.

2.18 Public investment into community sport is to reach children as young as five as part of a ground-breaking new strategy. The move will see Sport England's remit changed from investing in sport for those aged 14 and over to supporting people from five years old right through to pensioners, in a bid to create a more active nation.

2.19 Investment will be targeted at sport projects that have a meaningful, measurable impact on how they are improving people's lives – from helping young people gain skills to get into work, to tackling social inclusion and improving physical and mental health.

2.20 Funding will also be targeted at groups who have low participation rates to encourage those who do not take part in sport and physical activity to get involved. This includes supporting women, disabled people, those in lower socio-economic groups and older people. Sport England will set up a new fund in 2016 to get inactive people physically active and will support and measure participation in sport and wider physical activity going forward.

Sport England Strategy – 'Towards an Active Nation' 2016-2021

2.21 In response to the Government's strategy, Sport England's new strategy vision is that that everyone in England, regardless of age, background or ability, feels able to take part in sport or activity. Sport England's new vision and its supporting aims will therefore contribute to achieving the government's. Key features of the new Strategy are:

- Dedicated funding to get children and young people active from the age of five, including a new fund for family based activities and offering training to at least two teachers in every secondary school in England to help them better meet the needs of all children, irrespective of their level of sporting ability.
- Working with the sport sector to put customers at the heart of everything they do, and using the principles of behaviour change to inform their work.
- Piloting new ways of working locally by investing in up to 10 places in England – a mix of urban and rural areas.
- Investing up to £30m in a new volunteering strategy, enabling more people to get the benefits of volunteering and attracting a new, more diverse range of volunteers.
- Helping sport keep pace with the digital expectations of customers – making it as easy to book a badminton court as a hotel room.
- Working closely with governing bodies of sport and others who support people who already play regularly, to help them become more efficient, sustainable and diversify their sources of funding.

2.22 With respect to the final bullet point (above) a projected 38% of Sport England controlled investment will be directed through the National Governing Bodies of Sport. This is the largest of Sport England's funding programmes.

Local Context

Wealden District of Opportunity – Corporate Plan 2015-2019

2.23 The Council's Corporate Plan sets out its direction and priorities for the next four years.

Vision

"Wealden will Continue to work with our partners to support: Sustainable economic growth and sound financial management; Engaged, resilient, active communities; Access to suitable housing, local jobs, services, facilities and leisure opportunities

We will: Protect and enhance Wealden's unique rural character and distinctive, high quality, natural and historic environment; Promote the countryside as a sustainable resource for recreation, tourism and other rural enterprise; Work with partners to regenerate our diverse market towns, creating jobs, attracting investment and bringing in wealth; Support our local businesses and entrepreneurs; Generate sustainable sources of income to reinvest in local priorities; Manage growth to meet future needs; Provide more homes that local people can afford, maintaining a balance between our rural settlements and market towns; Help improve connectivity and access to services for all our communities ."

2.24 Key Priorities are set out under three themes of which the most relevant to this report is:

"Communities We want... people in Wealden's communities to have the opportunity to enjoy a good quality of life through: Access to services; Healthy lifestyle; Access to good health care; Affordable housing; Skills and employability; Increasing connectivity; Effective community leadership and representation; Keeping communities safe".

The emerging new Local Plan and evidence base

2.25 The Council is now preparing its new Local Plan called the Wealden Local Plan (WLP or The Plan). The Wealden Local Plan will identify policy for housing, the economy, the environment and infrastructure including green infrastructure, open space, sports and recreation provision.

2.26 The new Wealden Local Plan will review all the policies within the Core Strategy which was adopted in 2013. When the Wealden Local Plan is adopted, the Core Strategy policies will be superseded. In addition to this the Wealden Local Plan will take the place of the Wealden Local Plan adopted in 1998.

Core Strategy Local Plan

2.27 Adopted in February 2013, the Core Strategy Local Plan is currently the overarching planning policy document for the District and comprises a long-term spatial vision, strategic objectives and key planning policies for the Wealden District area (incorporating part of the South Downs National

Park) for the period 2013 to 2027. It will be superseded by the new Wealden Local Plan when it is adopted.

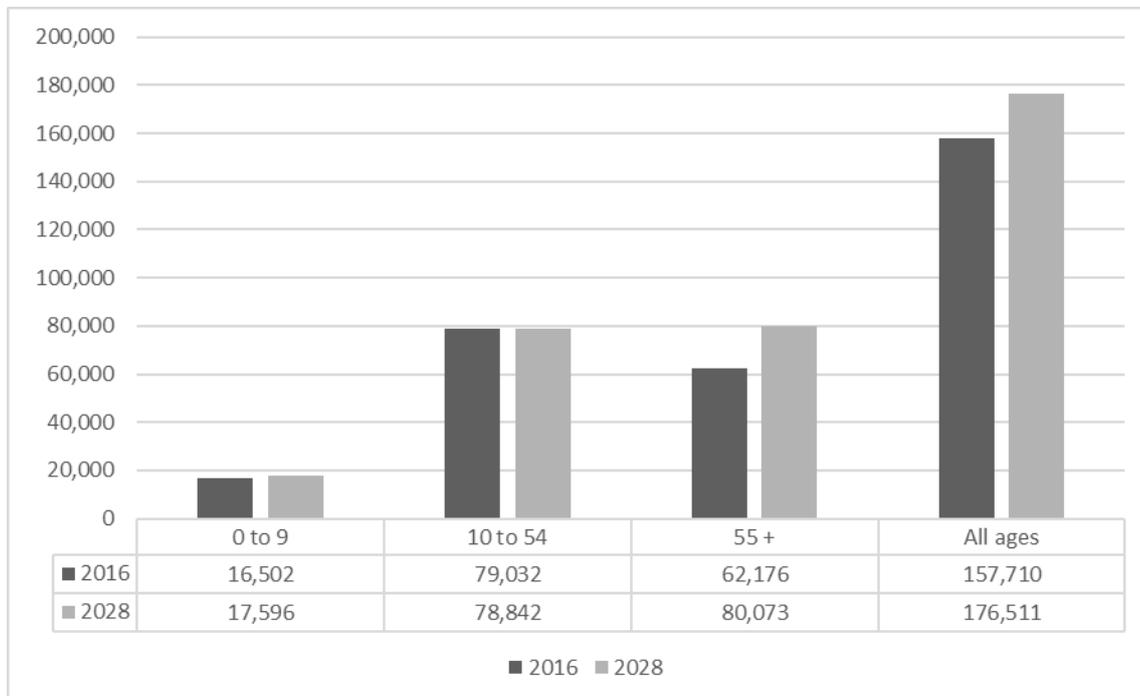
Demographic Character and how it is likely to change up to 2028

Population

2.28 As at 2016 Wealden District area was estimated to have a population of 157,710. This figure is based upon population projections provided by the ONS.¹ The same projections calculate that by the year 2028 the population will have increased to 176,511. This figure is itself only based upon previous trends, and does not necessarily take into account the impact of planned new residential growth yet to be determined.

2.29 This growth will affect the local demography in different ways. **Figure 2.1** shows the impact it is likely to have on general age cohorts within the population.

Figure 2.1: Changing local population and age structure²



2.30 The most noteworthy feature of the above changes is that whilst there is an overall growth in the population generally, the biggest numerical increases are in the oldest age groups and especially within those in the post retirement age groups.

2.31 Generally speaking, it is the younger adult age groups between 16 and 45 years of age that have the greatest propensity to participate in sports and active recreation. Whilst these age groups

¹ Office of National Statistics Population projections by single year age groups.

² Office of National Statistics Population projections by single year age groups.

will continue to grow within the local authority it is clear that the greater percentage of the overall population growth will come from within the older age groups, and this will have implications for the way in which sport and recreation facilities are planned.

2.32 Much of the anticipated population change through allocated housing up to the year 2028 will be centred on the southern part of the local authority, and around Hailsham/Polegate. Trend based population growth will also be focused on the key urban areas within the District.

2.33 **Figure 2.2** below shows the overall distribution of population within the local authority (and is based on population data available from the Census Output Area level from the 2011 census).

Affluence and deprivation

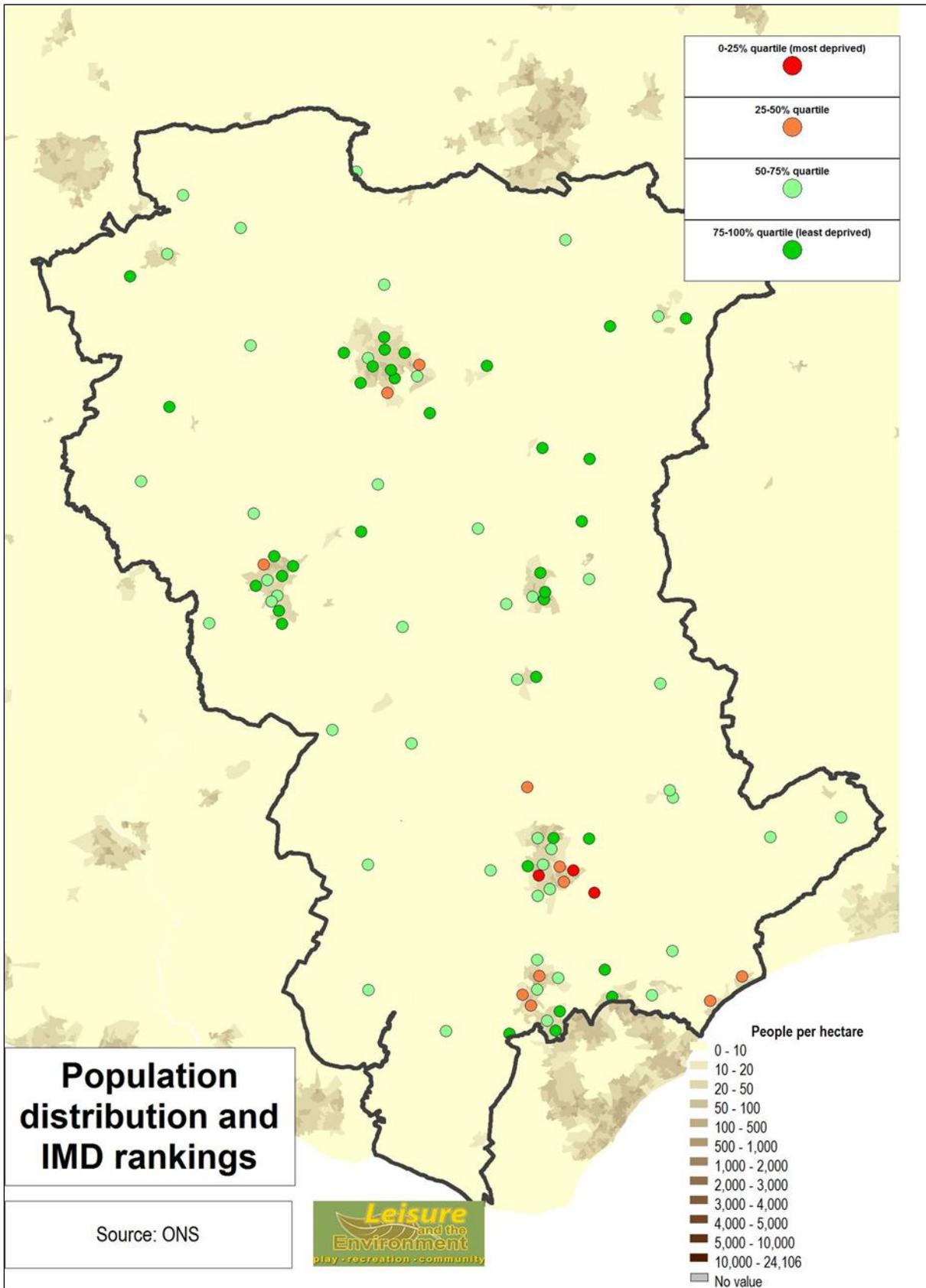
2.34 Also shown on **Figure 2.2** is a traffic light colour scheme reflecting the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)³ scores for the locality. All of the approximately 34,500 Census Super Output Areas (SOAs) within England and Wales have been categorised into one of four quartiles based on their ranking in the most recent available government IMD at the time of this study. The red light represents SOAs in the highest ranked (most deprived) quartile whilst, the dark green light represents those in the lowest ranked (most affluent) quartile.

2.35 Much of the local authority area might be considered quite well off compared with most other parts of the country. There are, however, parts of the urban areas (and especially in the south of the District) that fall within the two least affluent quartiles.

2.36 Research has shown that there is a high correlation between levels of deprivation, and participation levels in sport and recreation. (i.e. the more deprived an area the lower the tendency for residents in those areas to participate, and vice versa.)

³ IMD stands for Index of Multiple Deprivation. This is a government sponsored suite of social, economic and other indicators that seek to inform the assessment of relative deprivation and affluence, geographically within England. The index/indices are based on ONS geographical units, and are updated periodically.

Figure 2.2: Population distribution and deprivation



Review of characteristics of adult population

Local participation levels in sport and active recreation

2.37 The Sport England Active People surveys have now been running for several years. Further details of the Active People Surveys (APS) are contained in Appendix 1. Essentially, the analysis is based on a regular sample survey of participation by the adult public aged 16 years and over. The sequence of surveys has now reached Active People year eight (AP8). Data has been released by Sport England allowing for mapping of participation rates to a local Census Middle Super Output Area. The results of this mapping are shown on the following **Figure 2.3**.

2.38 Consistent with the relatively high levels of affluence enjoyed by local residents, rates of regular participation in sport and active recreation are generally higher, and often significantly higher, than the national averages for England. To reinforce the point made earlier about the correlation between deprivation and participation, a geographical area where participation rates appear significantly lower than those for England as a whole is that where, (as shown on Figure 2.2), levels of measured deprivation are highest (the urbanised south of the District). It is to be noted that much of the remainder of the southern part of the District also exhibits low participation levels relative to national patterns.

Issues

2.39 The character of the local authority's population continues to change and this has a profound effect on the types of sport, play and leisure activity appealing to local people.

2.40 Many 'conventional' sports and facilities are seeing a decline in popularity- and in some cases participation and use is unlikely to return up to former levels. Other activities (sometimes derivatives of traditional sports) are becoming increasingly popular. In a modern, fast-moving world income, time, and social media also help dictate what people do with their free-time.

2.41 The Council is working in a financially challenging environment- this brings challenges, but it also presents a clear opportunity for reviewing the Council's leisure service and facilities it operates.

2.42 Similarly, many agencies, groups and organisations have shared aspirations in respect of the 'health agenda' and great potential exists for collaboration between public and voluntary sectors, as well as social and commercial enterprises to realise these aspirations.

2.43 The various factors considered above suggest that the following will be the major determinants in the demand for sports and active recreation into the foreseeable future within the local authority:

- A growing population, which may be further accentuated by planned new residential growth that has not yet been allocated.
- A south/north divide in the local authority in terms of regular participation in sport and active recreation which might in part be attributed to relatively high levels of social and economic deprivation in some localities but also, perhaps, to a lack of access to suitable opportunities to take part in sport and active recreation.
- A potential ageing of the overall population, which will present a challenge in terms of maintaining and improving overall participation levels, but also in the provision of appropriate facilities and opportunities.

3 LEISURE CENTRES IN GENERAL

General

3.1 Sections 4 and 5 deal with sports halls and swimming pools, which are basic components of community indoor/built sports provision. They are therefore essential elements of the overall community sporting infrastructure. Between them they can host a range of wet and dry activities and facilities. However, they are in themselves just basic units, and are often part of larger complexes which might host a range of other built facilities and associated activities, in the form of 'Leisure Centres'.

3.2 Leisure Centres continue to form the bedrock of local authority built sports provision. In rural local authorities, such as Wealden, leisure centres and the associated outside facilities can often be the only sports and recreation facilities that are owned/operated by the District Council (as opposed to parish and town councils).

3.3 Sections 4 and 5 examine the local supply and demand of indoor swimming pools and sports halls, and this analysis is important. However, larger leisure centres hosting pools, sports halls and other facilities can offer something more than the sum of the total parts, and the synergy between different elements and activities within a leisure centre can provide economic, health and social benefits that are significantly more than if pools, sports halls, and other elements are built in isolation.

Existing provision within Wealden District (quantity and quality)

3.4 There are four facilities operating in the District which have the character of community leisure centres, and which are all owned by the local authority, but managed by a Trust:

- Uckfield Leisure Centre (wet and dry)
- Heathfield Leisure Centre (dry only)
- Hailsham Leisure Centre (wet and dry, but no sports hall)
- Crowborough Leisure Centre (wet and dry)

3.5 Some of the larger independent schools in the local authority have very impressive built sports facilities. Whilst these can sometimes be available for outside use by clubs and organisations, their primary function is to meet the needs of the school, and they are used for that purpose for long hours throughout the week.

3.6 The main Senior Schools in Wealden providing sports facilities for swimming, badminton, basketball, netball, five-a-side football and volleyball are:

- Bede's School (including 25m x 6 lane swimming pool and 8 badminton court size sports hall);
- Beacon Academy, Crowborough (including 25m x 6 lane swimming pool and 4 badminton court six sports hall)- n.b. (the pool at this venue is now closed for the foreseeable future) ;
- Hailsham Community College (including 4 badminton court size sports hall);
- Heathfield Community College adjacent to Heathfield Leisure Centre (including 4 badminton court size sports hall);

- Uckfield Community Technical College adjacent to Uckfield Leisure Centre (see Uckfield Leisure Centre); and,
- Uplands Community College (including two sports halls, a fitness suite and exercise studio, and two synthetic turf pitches – sand based and 3G).

3.7 The above schools allow varying amounts of community access to their facilities, subject to the priority demands of the school.

3.8 The local authority controlled facilities are operated by Freedom Leisure, a social enterprise Leisure Trust, on behalf of Wealden District Council. The contract for Hailsham and Crowborough Leisure Centres expires in 2027; the contract for Uckfield and Heathfield Leisure Centres (Dual Use Centres) expires in 2022. The Council/Freedom Leisure agree a rolling programme for ongoing buildings maintenance.

Site visits

3.9 In more detail, the provision at each of these venues is as following in **Table 3.1**. The table summarises facilities, and specifications; provides a rating of condition and ‘fitness for purpose’, and some other general comments.

3.10 For guidance purposes only, the table provides a Condition Rating and a Fit for Purpose Rating based upon visual inspection, discussion with leisure officers, facility managers and the judgement of the consultant as appropriate. Scores are: 5 = Very Good, 4 = Good, 3 = Adequate, 2 = Less than adequate, 1 = Poor

Table 3.1: Leisure Centre provision in Wealden District

Uckfield Leisure Centre	Specifications	Condition rating	Fit for Purpose rating	Comments Dual use facility, operated out of school hours by Freedom Leisure
Swimming Pools Main pool	Leisure pool plus lane swimming. Flume.	4	3/4	Free form leisure pool. 25m lane section (3). Limited teaching areas.
Sports hall	4 badminton courts	2	2/3	Ageing and potential need for refurbishment. Some curtain tracking issues (eg. Cricket nets not working). Hard compound floor.
Fitness Gym Sauna	c. 50 stations 12 spinning bikes	4	4	Including previous squash court converted area.
Squash courts	2 no.	3	3	Regular maintenance in place.
Changing rooms Wet change Dry change	Village Recently refurbished	4/5 4	4 4	Changing village refurbished – meets requirements.
Catering area	Servery plus vending 'The Promenade'	4	4	Refurbished, ambience and air quality improved. Provides viewing over pool area. Meets demand.

Creche		3/4	4	Multi-use room
Entrance Foyer	Includes shop area	4	4	
Synthetic Turf Pitch	Floodlit 3G	5	5	Accommodates football and rugby, not hockey. An additional STP is being considered by the school and Freedom Leisure..
Car park and external profile		3	3	Potential for upgrading. Uninspiring entrance at rear/side of building.
Accessibility			2/3	Improved signage desirable.
Disability	General provision	3	3	Ramps – external/internal. Pool Hoist. No lift. No hearing loop.l

Heathfield Leisure Centre	Specifications	Condition rating	Fit for Purpose rating	Comments Dual use centre operated of school hours by Freedom Leisure
Sports hall	4 badminton courts size	3	3/4	Granwood floor. Wearing well. Cricket nets x 2
Fitness Gym	c. 12 stations	4	3	Inadequate space available.
Multi-purpose hall Adjacent small hall	Large size. Sprung floor. Support to main hall. Children's activities. Servery.	3 3	2 2/3	Multi-use hall with inadequate storage (equipment on display at all times). Not conducive to some activities. Access through small adjacent hall.
Changing rooms		4	4	Refurbished.
Catering areas		2	3	Catering/kitchen - poor image – upstairs hall. Vending.
Entrance Foyer	Waiting area	2	2	Functional. Poor image of sitting out area/chairs. Signage needs improvement.
Car park and external profile		3/4	2/3	Limited number of spaces at peak use times. Recent resurfacing.

Accessibility			3	Some peak time congestion with school access. Improved road signage needed.
Disability	General provision	3/4	3/4	Lift. Flat/wide entrance. No loop.

Hailsham Leisure Centre	Specifications	Condition rating	Fit for Purpose rating	Comments Operated by Freedom Leisure on behalf of WDC
No Sports Hall Converted to Bowling and soft play facilities c. 2010				Adjacent hall p/o Council building – no floor markings.
Swimming Pool Learner pool and Flume Sauna and Steam	25m x 6 lane Refurbished	4/5	4/5	Well used, attractive facility.
Fitness Gym	c. 90 stations	4	4	Layout accommodates different disciplines. Facility for beauty treatments.
Studios x 3 Plus Spinning Studio	Sprung floors c. 20 bikes	4/5 4	4/5 4	Multi-use. Includes large screen imaging.
Soft Play centre	Single storey - large area	4	4	Extended. Configuration accommodates different age-groups.
Ten-Pin Bowling	8 lanes Café/servery	4/5	4/5	Casual and group bookings.
Changing rooms				

Wet	Village	3	3	Potential layout redesign desirable.
Dry	Recent refurbishment	4	4	Improvements across all centres.
Catering areas	Integral with entrance foyer	5	4	Servicing other areas from central island.
Entrance Foyer	Integral with catering service/area	5	4/5	Welcoming central island.
Car park		4	4/5	Generous provision. Shared with Council.
Accessibility			3/4	Central location
Disability	General provision	3	3	Generally good provision. Pool hoist. Lift. External ramp. No hearing loop.

Crowborough Leisure Centre	Specifications	Condition rating	Fit for Purpose rating	Comments Operated by Freedom Leisure on behalf of WDC
Swimming Pool Sauna and steam	25m x 6 lane Refurbished	5	5	Movable floor x third of length – flexible programming for teaching, galas etc. c.80 raked seats at high level.
Sports hall	4 badminton courts size Granwood floor	3	4	Signs of wear. Original Granwood floor lasting well.
Multi-use hall	Jigsaw plastic floor	4	4	Children’s activities in the main.
Fitness Gym	c.60 stations plus free weights	4	4	Part conversion from squash court to extend.
Exercise Studios (x2) Plus Spinning studio	Sprung wood floors 17 bikes	5 4	5 4	Busy and well used areas.
Changing rooms Wet Dry	Village	4 4	3 4	Flexible configuration meets requirements. Have been refurbished.
Catering area	Central island	5	4	Central island integral with Reception.

Entrance Foyer	Central island	5	4	Central island integral with catering service area.
Athletics track		2/3	2	Ageing surface. Multi-Use area in middle field. Potential to upgrade. Council facility.
Car park and external profile	Upper and lower car parks	4	4	Generous provision. Short walk to Centre.
Accessibility			3	Signage improvement proposed.
Disability	General provision	3	3	Ramp. Lift. No pool hoist. Hearing loop.

Outside the local authority

3.11 In neighbouring local authorities there are the following major significant leisure centres that are likely to be used by some residents from within Wealden District.

- **Eastbourne Borough:** Sovereign Centre, Cavendish Centre, Motcombe Pool, Eastbourne Sports Park
- **Rother District:** Bexhill Leisure Centre, Bexhill leisure Pool, Battle Sports Centre
- **Tunbridge Wells Borough:** Tunbridge Wells Sports Centre, Weald Sports Centre, Putlands Sports Centre
- **Sevenoaks District:** Sevenoaks, Leisure Centre, Edenbridge Leisure Centre
- **Tandridge District:** Tandridge Leisure Centre, de Stafford Sports Centre
- **Mid Sussex District:** The Triangle (Burgess Hill), The Dolphin (Haywards Heath), King's Centre (East Grinstead)
- **Lewes District:** Downs Leisure Centre, Lewes Leisure Centre, Peacehaven Leisure Centre, Ringmer Pool, Seaford Swim and Fitness Centre.

Key Stakeholders

The views of local residents

3.12 The household survey conducted as part of this study highlighted Sport and Leisure Centres are used regularly by significant numbers (43% of households report using them at least monthly - many more regularly; as are the District's gym/health and fitness facilities (33%); and swimming pools (33%).

Views of the Freedom Leisure Trust (Area Manager)

3.13 The Trust acknowledges that peak time supply in some areas of provision does not meet the level of demand; sports hall space in Hailsham is an example, and future increased housing development in Hailsham and Uckfield areas will exacerbate this problem requiring greater provision of community access to swimming pools and sports halls; discussion with the education sector may assist secured community use of their facilities.

Others

3.14 The Council has engaged with 'Hailsham Active' which has identified a need and proposals for an outdoor and indoor sports park development in Hailsham; it identifies a shortfall in sports hall provision with secured community use, and is exploring how capital and revenue costs might be achieved (see comments below and main report).

Other significant components of successful leisure centres.

3.15 The variety in the character of leisure centres is as great as the number of leisure centres itself, and each should be designed and operating in a way that best meets the needs of their community and market niche. The key components of a successful leisure centre also vary greatly—some of the bigger facilities can offer ice rinks, extreme sports accommodation, indoor bowls greens.

3.16 Outdoor provision like floodlit artificial turf pitches are also very popular with users. However, in respect to indoor facilities there are two types of provision (beyond swimming pools and sports halls) that tend to offer highly popular facilities which can often underpin the finances of centres – these are 'health and fitness suites' and 'studios'.

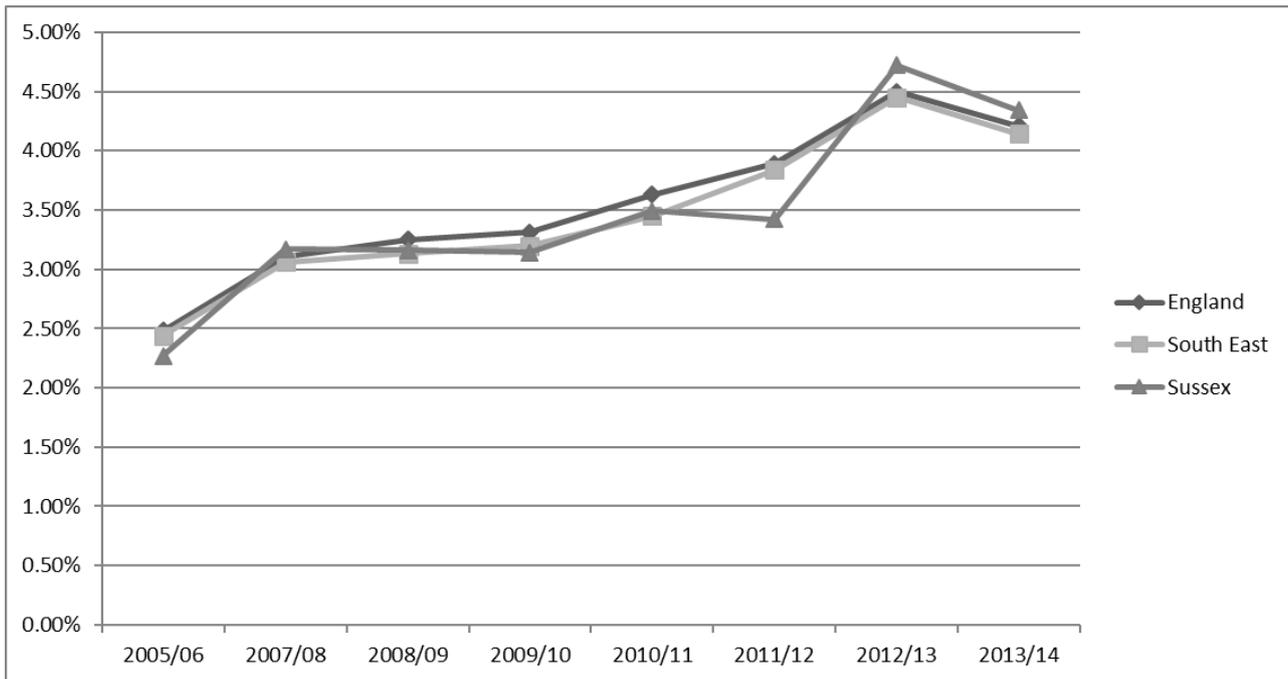
3.17 Health and Fitness suites (H&FS) is a term used here to cover indoor 'gym' facilities with a range of equipment designed to help with aerobic and anaerobic health, fitness and training regimes. They can be found as standalone venues, or often as part of a larger sports and leisure complex such as council leisure centres and commercial 'health spas' etc. These activities are noteworthy as they tend to have high participation rates amongst both women and men. Many are run on a commercial club basis, and those in local authority leisure venues can help to cross-subsidise other facilities.

3.18 The provision of flexible studio and activity spaces as opposed to more formal sports halls is an increasingly important element of any local provision, meeting the increasing need for more flexible physical activity programmes as opposed to formal sport opportunities. Such spaces can be used to accommodate a range of sports and recreation activity. They are most commonly used for dance and aerobics sessions. Provision covers various sectors including local authority, private, commercial, club, and education. These sectors afforded by a variety of access opportunities ranging from pay and play (such as those found in the Council's leisure centres) to up-market commercial club facilities.

3.19 Details on the current location of known such facilities is provided in **Appendix 3**.

3.20 The importance of these two types of facility in respect of usage by local people is illustrated below, by reference to Sport England Active People Survey data. The Active People Surveys and the method of sampling is explained in **Appendix 1**. Amongst other activities covered these surveys provide data on the number of adults regularly taking part in 'fitness and conditioning exercises', which is considered to be fairly representative of use of health and fitness suites.

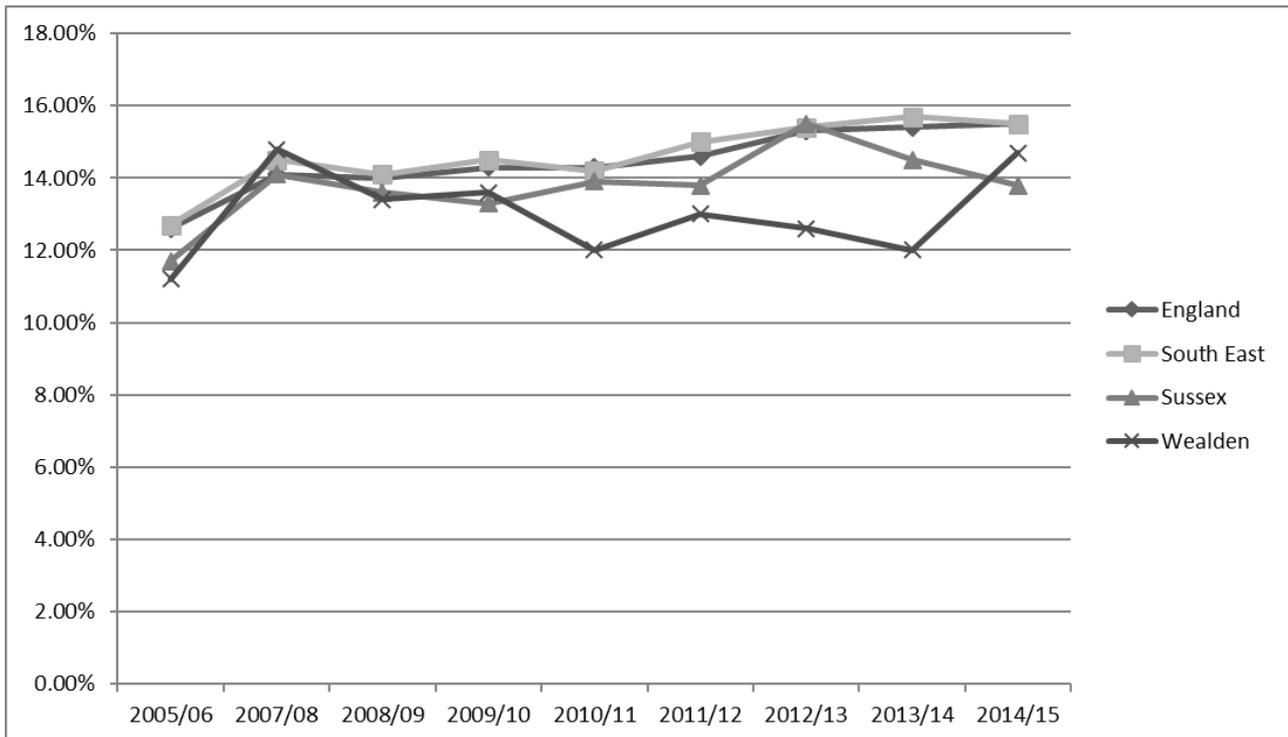
Figure 3.1: Adults participating in fitness and conditioning activities at least once a week.



3.21 Due to sample sizes there are no data that can be reported with confidence for Wealden District. However, the average rate of at least weekly participation by adult for Sussex over the various annual surveys works out to be 3.5%. Based on population data being used for this assessment, around 83% of the Wealden population is estimated to be an adult (defined here as being 16 years of age and above). This means that the current number of adults in the total estimated population (157,710) is 130,582. 3.5% of this adult population is 4,570 adults, estimated to be taking part at least weekly.

3.22 More generally if the Active People data for people participating in 'gym and keep fit activity' (a wider spectrum of activity than for Figure 3.1) it yields the following.

Figure 3.2: Adults participating in gym and keep fit activities at least once a week.

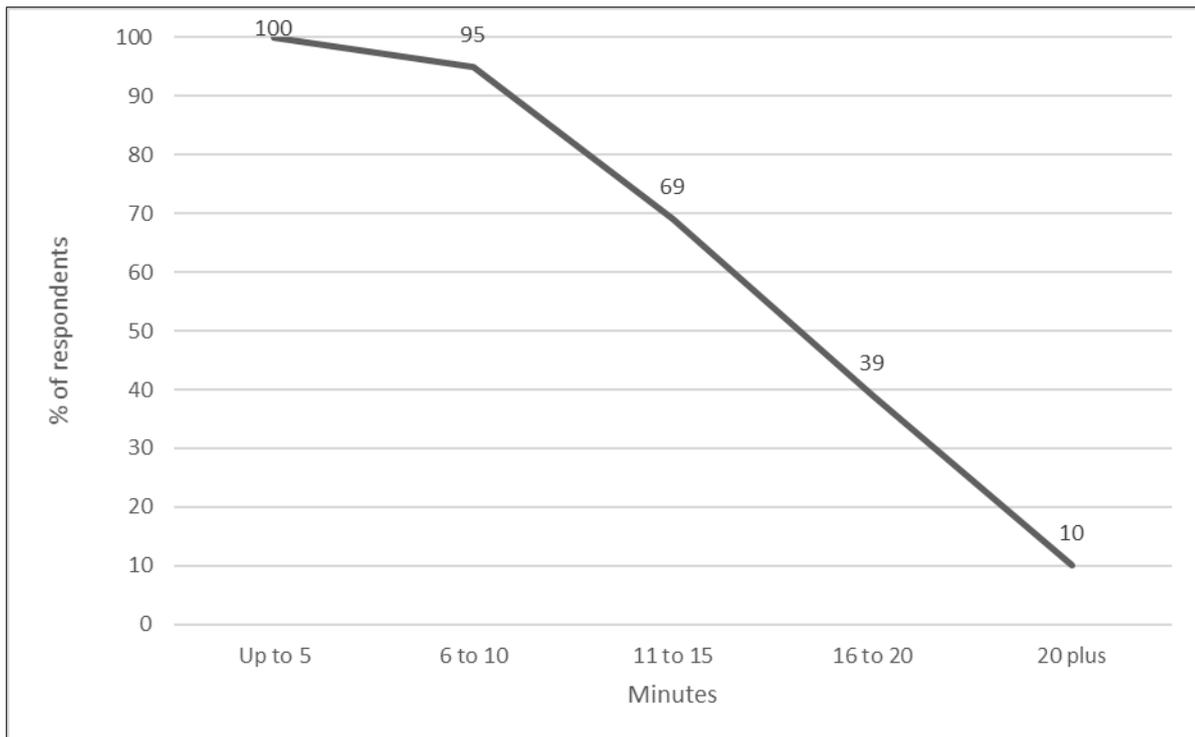


3.23 The average rate of at least weekly participation by adults for Wealden over the various annual surveys works out to be 13%, which is about 17,000 of the current adult population. These are big figures, and such activity makes heavy use of facilities like H&F suites and studios. There is also likely to be a knock-on effect in respect of other facilities in a leisure centre such as pools and catering areas.

Accessibility (Geographical)

3.24 The survey indicated that the majority of respondents used sports halls and swimming pools on a regular basis, and roughly 60-70 % indicated that they were prepared to travel up to around 15 minutes to use such facilities, and the most popular mode being by car. (See **Figure 3.3** below).

Figure 3.3: Access by car to leisure centres



Plans for future new provision

3.25 Potential new and improved provision specifically in respect of swimming pools and sports halls is covered in the relevant paragraphs of the following two sections.

3.26 However, in respect of the provision of new or redeveloped leisure centres the major new provision in the future is likely to be in the south of the District, and in the Hailsham and Polegate areas, as this is where the very large majority of planned new housing and therefore population growth will take place. The implications in respect of the likely scale and nature of improved provision in this area are considered in more detail in the final **Section 7**, which recommends justified standards, and then applies them to the projected changes in population to 2028.

3.27 Active Places or the FPM do not consider health and fitness in the same degree of detail as other facilities, and there is no 'ready reckoner' for assessing demand. The Fitness Industry Association (FIA) has devised a model that provides guidance on the supply of stations against the current anticipated demand.

3.28 The model defines health and fitness users as all people participating in health and fitness, including private club members and users of local authority facilities. The model is based on peak period demand, and the peak times are identified as follows:

- Mon-Fri, 6pm – 10pm
- Sat-Sun, 12pm – 4pm

3.29 For modelling purposes, it is assumed that 65% of the total weekly usage occurs at the busiest (peak) time periods. Based on research with health and fitness operators it has been assumed that the average member/user visits the facility 2.4 times per week. This might seem high, but is premised on the knowledge that many people who take part in such activities take place both

regularly and very frequently. If there is local evidence of lower usage rates then the assumption about weekly usage could be reduced.

3.30 Sport England's Active People Survey has been used to understand the percentage of the population participating in health and fitness. In Wealden District Figure 3.4 shows that the number of people estimated to participate in the 'wider' definition of gym and keep fit activities at least once/week is 13% of the adult population, or c.17 k adults. **Table 3.2** (below) applies the FIA ready reckoner to this cohort.

Figure 3.4: Demand calculation for health and fitness

Standard	Values	Total
Population (over 16)		130,582
% of population participating in health and fitness	13%	c.17,000
Average number of visits per week	2.4	40,800
No. of visits in peak time	65%	26,520
No. of visits on one hour of peak time	28	947
TOTAL NO. OF STATIONS REQUIRED (PEAK TIME)		947

3.31 This shows that, on this basis, a total of 947 stations are required during the peak time period to accommodate anticipated current levels of demand. According to Active Places, the current supply is 504 (or 226 if relative accessibility to the public on a pay-and-play basis is only included). This estimated requirement is over twice as high as the existing supply, and must therefore be treated with much caution.

Future issues and options for leisure centres within Wealden District

3.32 Based on evidence presented in this Section, Section 7 suggests local standards for the key components of leisure centres: swimming pools, and sports halls. It will be in the south of the District where the application of these standards to population change up to 2028 will highlight the quantum of new provision for these facilities that will be required to meet the needs of an expanded population. Swimming pools and sports halls are considered more fully in the next two sections of this report. The economic, leisure and social benefits of providing a wider span of facilities in combined-facility leisure centres must be given serious consideration.

3.33 Projected growth elsewhere in the District is of a lower order than in the south of the District. In these areas, where improved provision is required, it would make sense (for the above reasons) to focus improvements on existing leisure centres wherever appropriate, given the existing infrastructure, location and management.

3.34 Given the importance of 'fitness and conditioning' facilities in the operation of modern leisure centres it is important to consider the potential growth in the market for this type of user, to inform future planning and design of new centres.

3.35 Based on trend based analysis, between 2016 and 2027 the current estimated local authority population of 157,710 is projected to rise to 176,511, a rise of 18,801 people. Assuming the current age structure of the population remains broadly the same 83% of this additional population will be adults (i.e. 16 years +), that is, 15,605. Active People data cited earlier suggest that a reasonable estimate of the adult population participating in gym and keep fit activity is 13%.

3.36 This suggests the following additional regular participants in this activity group would be 2,029, or enough for a large gym and keep fit club.

4 INDOOR SWIMMING POOLS

General

4.1 This section considers the provision of swimming facilities within the local authority with respect to its quantity, quality, and accessibility and availability (for community use). Issues and options for swimming provision will then be summarised. Swimming as an activity will cover not just casual swimming by members of the public, but also race swimming, synchronised swimming, and water polo etc. Pools can also be used as training venues for canoeing and sub-aqua, although the utility of conventional pools for such activities is limited.

Quantity

4.2 Background research indicates a considerable number of swimming pools within the Wealden local authority area. However, many of these will only be partly available for use by the general community, if at all.

Existing provision (general)

4.3 **Figure 4.1** and **Table 4.1** below show the location and description of all known swimming pools within the Wealden local authority, as well as major swimming pool provision within neighbouring local authority areas which it is possible that Wealden residents might use.

Figure 4.1: Location of known swimming pools (Hailsham Leisure Centre has a main pool and a learner pool)

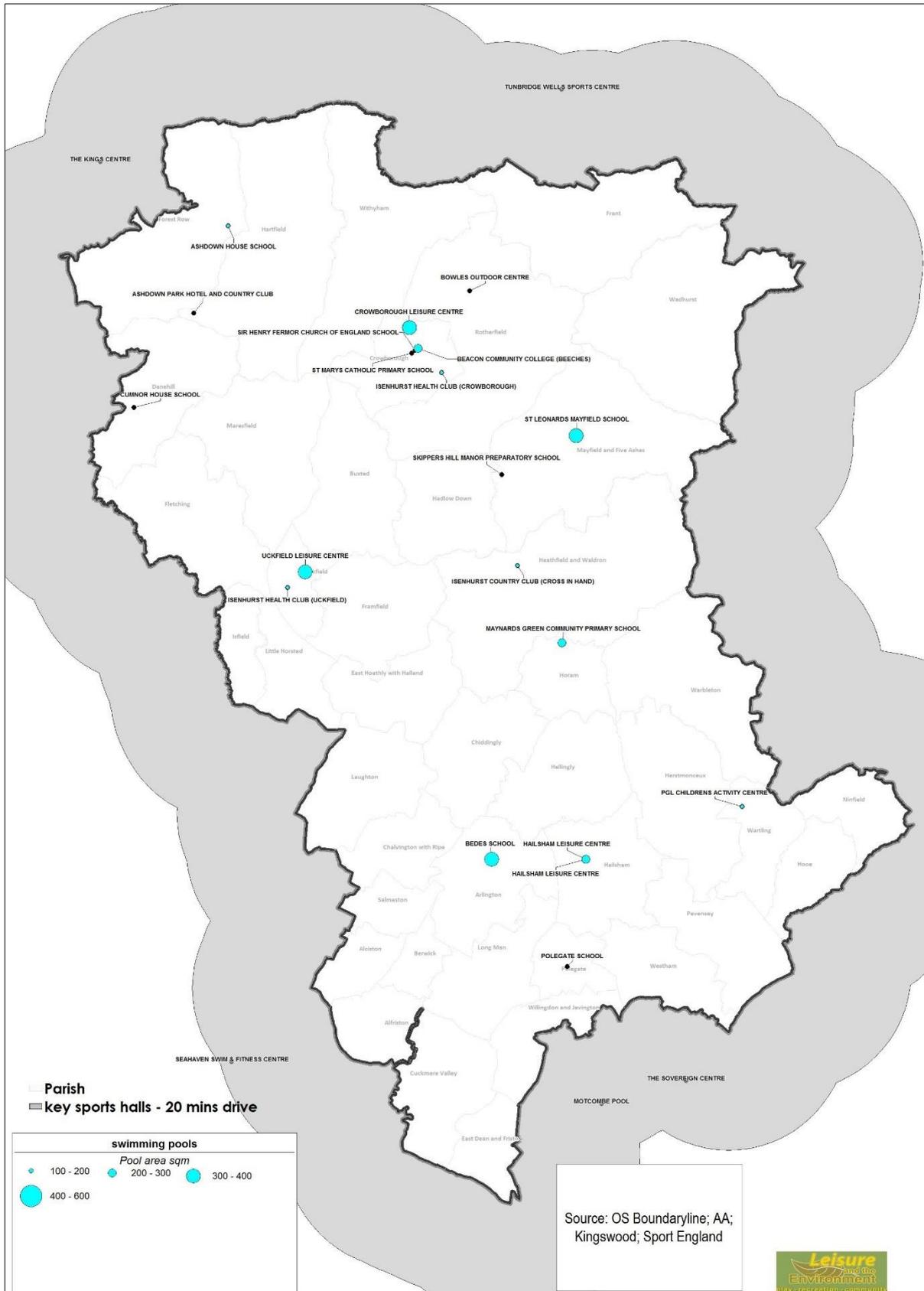


Table 4.1: Description of known pools in the District (Categorisation adopted from the Sport England Active Places Power database- see **Appendix 2**)

Name	Type ⁴	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Year Built	Refurbished	Pool area sq.m	Pool length	Pool width	Facility Status
ASHDOWN HOUSE SCHOOL	Main/General	Private Use	Other Independent School	Trust	1994	No	133.3	16.7	8	Operational
ASHDOWN PARK HOTEL AND COUNTRY CLUB	Learner/Teaching/Training	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	1997	Yes	91.0	12.5	7	Operational
BEACON COMMUNITY COLLEGE (BEECHES)	Main/General	N.A	Community school	School/College/University (in house)	1664		230.0	16.7	8	Closed for the foreseeable future
BEDES SCHOOL	Main/General	Sports Club / Community	Other Independent	School/College/University (in house)	1997	Yes	300.0	25.0	12	Operational

⁴ The definitions below are taken from the Sport England Active Places Power website

Main/General	Indoor only. Principle pool(s) within site. Minimum length is 15m. Pool must be traditional rectangular tank. Where a main pool has had flumes/slides fitted, provided the pool is rectangular in shape, it should be classified as a 'Main/General' pool.
Leisure Pool	Indoor only. A pool which has a freeform, curved shape on the majority of its sides. These pools are primarily designed for informal recreational swimming and may include flumes, slides, beach areas, water jets, wave machines. Some leisure pools may have been designed to allow lane swimming within a specific area of the pool. These pools should be classified as 'leisure' where the majority of its sides are freeform. If lanes are present, these should be counted, and the length recorded.
Learner/Teaching/Training	Indoor only. Either less than 15m in length, or a secondary pool within site. Smaller and generally shallower than Main pool, and traditionally rectangular in shape. May have stepped/shallow area for infant use. Record number of lanes if present.
Diving	Indoor only. Pool specifically designed for diving. Pools are usually square and deeper than main pools.
Lido	Public open-air pool. Includes ponds which have roped off section e.g. Hampstead. May be seasonal and only opened for six months of year. When shut status should be marked

Name	Type ⁴	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Year Built	Refurbished	Pool area sq.m	Pool length	Pool width	Facility Status
		Association	School							
BOWLES OUTDOOR CENTRE	Main/General	Sports Club / Community Association	Commercial	Commercial Management	1996	No	68.0	17.0	4	Operational
CROWBOROUGH LEISURE CENTRE	Main/General	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Trust	1986	Yes	325.0	25.0	13	Operational
CUMNOR HOUSE SCHOOL	Lido	Private Use	Other Independent School	School/College/University (in house)		No	75.0	15.0	5	Temporarily Closed
HAILSHAM LEISURE CENTRE	Main/General	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Trust	1985	Yes	225.0	25.0	9	Operational
HAILSHAM LEISURE CENTRE	Learner/Teaching/Training	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Trust	1985	Yes	25.0	5.0	5	Operational
ISENHURST COUNTRY CLUB (CROSS IN HAND)	Main/General	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	1995	Yes	112.5	15.0	7.5	Operational
ISENHURST HEALTH CLUB (CROWBOROUGH)	Main/General	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	2005	No	150.0	15.0	10	Operational
ISENHURST HEALTH CLUB (UCKFIELD)	Main/General	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	2001	No	150.0	15.0	10	Operational
MAYNARDS GREEN COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL	Main/General	Private Use	Community school	School/College/University (in house)	1996	Yes	200.0	20.0	10	Operational

Name	Type ⁴	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Year Built	Refurbished	Pool area sq.m	Pool length	Pool width	Facility Status
PGL CHILDRENS ACTIVITY CENTRE	Lido	Private Use	Commercial	Commercial Management	1977	Yes	160.0	16.0	10	Temporarily Closed
POLEGATE SCHOOL	Learner/Teaching/Training	Private Use	Community school	School/College/University (in house)		No	84.0	12.0	7	Operational
SIR HENRY FERMOR CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL	Learner/Teaching/Training	Sports Club / Community Association	Voluntary Aided School	School/College/University (in house)		Not Known	38.5	11.0	3.5	Operational
SKIPPERS HILL MANOR PREPARATORY SCHOOL	Learner/Teaching/Training	Private Use	Other Independent School	School/College/University (in house)		No	66.0	11.0	6	Operational
ST LEONARDS MAYFIELD SCHOOL	Main/General	Sports Club / Community Association	Other Independent School	School/College/University (in house)	1960	Yes	325.0	25.0	13	Operational
ST MARYS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL	Learner/Teaching/Training	Sports Club / Community Association	Voluntary Aided School	Local Authority (in house)	1975	Yes	72.0	6.0	12	Operational
UCKFIELD LEISURE CENTRE	Leisure Pool	Pay and Play	Sports Club	Trust	1987	Yes	325.0	25.0	13	Operational

4.4 There may also be some small pools located on primary school sites that have not been identified, but which are too small in any event to be included in the analysis considered in the following paragraphs.

Availability/community use⁵

4.5 It will be noted that the list comprises a range of provisions covering local authority, education, commercial, and membership facilities. In essence, only a proportion will be available for the general community to use, *on a casual pay-as-you-go basis*; in this regard it is the local authority provision at Hailsham, Crowborough, and Uckfield that has greatest value, by nature of its scale, location, and management/pricing policies. This is not to deny the importance of other provision for local clubs and groups, as well as those residents who prefer to pay for access to commercial pool space on a subscription basis; these other facilities are also to some lesser or greater extent available for community use, but not on a casual, pay-as-you-go basis.

4.6 Determining which of the 20 facilities listed in **Table 4.2** offers a significant level of community use is therefore a matter of judgement. The extent to which facilities are open to community use will, amongst other things, depend on the times they are open to the general public, or else local clubs and organisations. For local authority controlled leisure centres these opening hours will generally encompass daytimes and evenings throughout the week. However, for education venues, this will be limited to times when facilities are not required for curriculum use. Some visits and phone calls to venues have been made, together with checks of facility websites, although it is recognised that policies and practices in respect of community availability of school facilities can change.

⁵ See Section 1.15 for an explanation of this term

Table 4.2: Swimming pools in Wealden District considered to offer significant levels of community use

Name	Type	Access Type	Management Type	Pool area sqm	Facility Status
BEDES SCHOOL	Main/General	Sports Club / Community Association	School/College/University (in house)	300	Operational
CROWBOROUGH LEISURE CENTRE	Main/General	Pay and Play	Trust	325	Operational
HAILSHAM LEISURE CENTRE	Main/General	Pay and Play	Trust	225	Operational
HAILSHAM LEISURE CENTRE	Learner/Teaching/Training	Pay and Play	Trust	25	Operational
ISENHURST COUNTRY CLUB (CROSS IN HAND)	Main/General	Registered Membership use	Commercial Management	112.5	Operational
ISENHURST HEALTH CLUB (CROWBOROUGH)	Main/General	Registered Membership use	Commercial Management	150	Operational
ISENHURST HEALTH CLUB (UCKFIELD)	Main/General	Registered Membership use	Commercial Management	150	Operational
ST LEONARDS MAYFIELD SCHOOL	Main/General	Sports Club / Community Association	School/College/University (in house)	325	Operational
UCKFIELD LEISURE CENTRE	Leisure Pool	Pay and Play	Trust	325	Operational

4.7 The above list is estimated to be **2,167 square metres** of pool space that can be available for community use. This would work out at 13.7 square metres of pools space per thousand people and based on the existing estimated population for the District at 2016. Many of these, however, have limited availability.

4.8 In terms of practical availability to the community and the range of facilities, the above will yield varying opportunities. The list includes only those facilities that might be considered to be 'general pools', as opposed to pools (for example) designed for learners and toddlers, and bespoke diving pools.

4.9 Those pools which are most significant in respect of community access and use are those located at Hailsham, Crowborough and Uckfield Leisure Centres. Other facilities are found primarily on school sites and at commercial venues. On school sites use during the day in term-time will, in general terms, be devoted to curricular activity. However, there is likely to be use of the pools by organised clubs and societies in the evenings and at weekends. Commercial venues will be heavily used, but many people may not be able to afford the subscription fees associated.

4.10 There are clearly synergies between provision in different sectors- for example, provision at commercial venues may help to alleviate pressure at local authority facilities, whilst also offering their customers an environment within which they feel more comfortable. Likewise, provision at schools (when not required for curricular use) will benefit clubs that might otherwise struggle to find sufficient time and space for their needs at local authority venues.

4.11 However, given the fact that the primary motivations of education and commercial providers are not the same as those of the local authority, it is always possible that:

- Changing curricular demands might reduce the availability of facilities for outside clubs and groups; and/or;
- Changed economic motivation may mean commercial venues cease to operate.

4.12 Other types of pool have been excluded from Table 3 for a variety of reasons. These other types of pool may have great value to small sections of the general community, but do not have a wider utility. Outdoor pools like those that might be found at some primary schools have been excluded. These may be used by the community, but have limited utility for most people except for the warmer months.

4.13 In terms of the local authority provision there is no clear hierarchy of facilities, in the way in which there may exist in more urban local authorities. This is because each facility serves its own discrete geographical area, and they are largely mutually exclusive in their catchments.

4.14 Pools in the education and commercial sector will offer a complementary and supporting role to the local authority pools, in respect of the more limited level of community use they provide. Bedes School will play a significant role in respect of local swimming club activity (explained later in this section).

4.15 The biggest contributions to water space are made by the three local authority pools, which total to around 900 square metres, or around 42% of usable water space by the community. It should be noted, however, that the pool at Uckfield is a dual use facility with the community college and therefore not always available for use by the general public.

4.16 In addition to venues within the District, there are others in neighbouring local authorities that are likely to be used by Wealden residents living close by, and these are shown on **Figure 4.1**. They include:

Motcombe Pool	Eastbourne District
Seahaven Swim & Fitness Centre	Lewes
The Kings Centre	Mid Sussex
The Sovereign Centre	Eastbourne District
Tunbridge Wells Sports Centre	Tunbridge Wells District

Sport England Facilities Planning Model (FPM)⁶

4.17 In its simplest form the model seeks to assess whether the capacity of existing facilities for a particular sport are capable of meeting local demand for that sport, taking into account how far people are prepared to travel to a facility. In order to estimate the level of sports facility provision in an area, the model compares the number of facilities (supply), with the demand for that facility that the local population will produce. The level of participation is estimated using national participation rates, and applying them to the number of people within appropriate demographic cohorts living in the local authority. The model can be used to test scenarios, by suggesting what impact a new facility would have, or the closure of a facility, to the overall level of facility provision. It can also take account of and model the impact of changes in population, for example, from major housing development.

4.18 Basic modelling data from Sport England can be made available. However, to be effective this needs to be based on a clear idea of where new development will be located over the coming years. It is therefore not timely to use such modelling outcomes, given that they cannot currently be informed by a clear indication of where new allocations will be made, and their scale.

Sport England Facilities Calculator (FC)

4.19 The Facilities Calculator is another Sport England web-based tool which allows users to estimate the potential numbers of basic community facilities (such as sports halls and swimming pools) that might be generated by large-scale housing/population growth in a given location. The calculator uses data similar to that used within the FPM. The calculator must be used with caution and an understanding what it is and isn't designed to do. For example, its estimations do not take into account existing provision in the locality (which will need to be factored in). In addition, as it is based on national data, it will not take into account local circumstances. Nevertheless, it is a useful analytical tool when used in conjunction with types of analysis.

4.20 Based on the current estimated population the FC suggests a provision of 1,609 square metres of waterspace for community use. This compares with 2,167 square metres in total within the District, but only 900 square metres of which is available on a casual and assured community use basis.

⁶ See Endnote 1 for an explanation

4.21 The majority of the 900 square metres is located in the central and northern part of the local authority (the Uckfield and Crowborough pools have more waterspace than the Hailsham complex). In terms of locations of waterspace in relation to the areas likely to accommodate major new growth in the coming years, the following comments can be made.

4.22 The importance of swimming as a participative activity is illustrated below, by reference to Sport England Active People Survey data. The Active People Surveys (APS) and the method of sampling is explained in **Appendix 1**. Amongst other activities covered these surveys provide data on the number of adults regularly taking part in 'swimming' (indoors and outdoors).

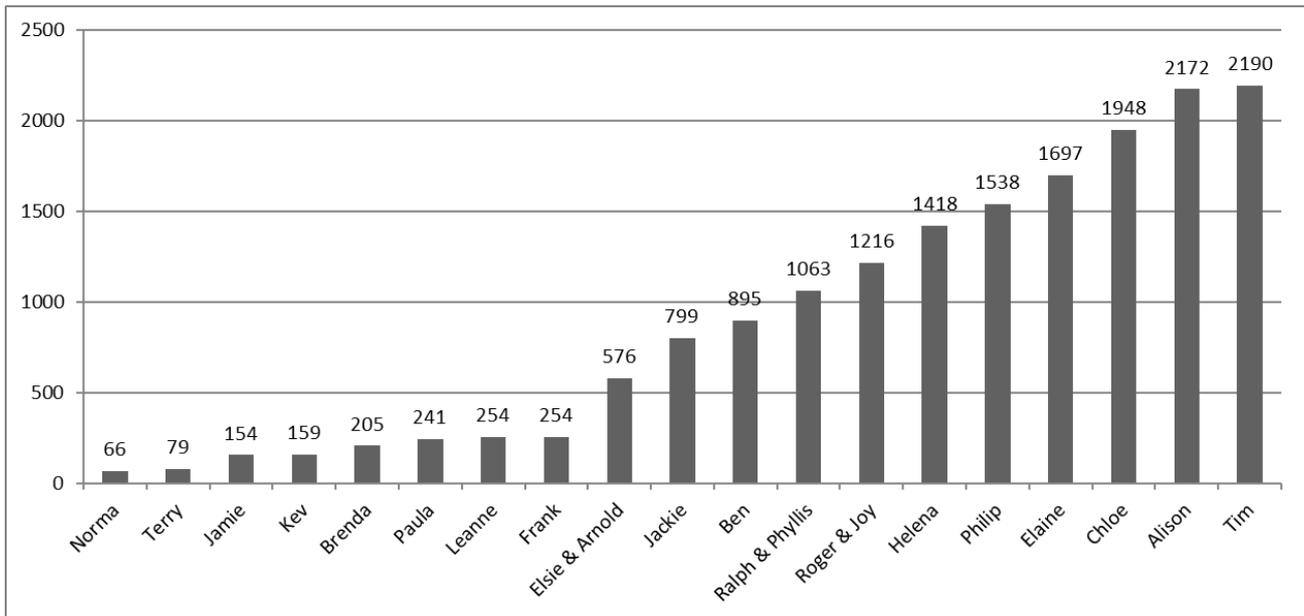
Figure 4.2: Adults participating in swimming (indoors and outdoors) at least once a week.



4.23 The average rate of at least weekly participation by adults for Wealden over the various annual surveys works out to be 7.5%. Based on population data being used for this assessment, around 83% of the population is estimated to be an adult (defined here as being 16 years of age and above). This means that the current number of adults in the total estimated population (157,710) is 130,582. 7.5% of this adult population is 9,800 adults, taking part at weekly, and this is a big number.

4.24 **Figure 4.3** shows the numerical expression of the percentage of overall Sport England adult Market Segments (see **Appendix 1**) likely to take part in the given activities.

Figure 4.3: Numerical representation of Sport England (adult) Market Segments in Wealden likely to swim



4.25 Swimming is an activity that has widespread appeal across the age-groups. When the above figures are totalled up, they come to around 17,000 adults. This might suggest that, even though the APS figures in Figure 7 are high, they are not matching those of the potential adult swimming market. It suggests that there might be unmet demand within the population.

Views of Stakeholders

The views of local residents

4.26 In respect of swimming pools, the household survey conducted as part of this study⁷ highlighted that Sport and Leisure Centres are used regularly by significant numbers (43% of households report using them at least monthly - many more regularly); as are the District's gym/health and fitness facilities (33%); and swimming pools (33%).

4.27 It is interesting to look at the frequency with which regular users of facilities visit them as for some facilities this is not immediately obvious from looking at the overall figures.

4.28 Sports/leisure centres are used at least weekly by 73% - of which 17% visit nearly every day; and for swimming pools 68% - of user households visit at least weekly (of which 8% make use nearly every day).

4.29 The results of the household survey also highlighted that whilst a clear majority of households reported that overall there are currently enough of all of the various kinds of indoor sport and leisure facilities; most notably in relation to Village Halls and Community Centres (79%) and Sport and Leisure Centres (76%). The two kinds of facility where significant numbers of respondent households believe that overall there is a need for more are *swimming pools* (38%) and specialist indoor sports facilities such as indoor bowls and tennis centres (30%).

⁷ A random sample postal survey was sent to 3000 households. Respondents were asked to respond to provide a view on behalf of their household, rather than simply as individuals. 505 surveys were completed. The total number of people represented through the household survey was 1205 and the average household size of the households was 2.4 - the same as the national average (2.4) and slightly higher than Wealden District as a whole (2.3).

Freedom Leisure Trust (Area Manager)

4.30 It is acknowledged that peak time supply in some areas of provision does not meet the level of demand; sports hall space (Hailsham) is an example; future increased housing development in Hailsham and Uckfield areas will exacerbate this problem requiring greater provision of community access to swimming pools and sports halls; discussion with the education sector may assist secured community use of their facilities.

Parish and town councils, and others

4.31 *Heathfield and Waldron Parish Council* – confirms its continued aspiration and commitment for a swimming pool at the site of the Heathfield Leisure Centre adjacent to Heathfield Community College.

4.32 *Heathfield Partnership* has been through a number of phases of development planning and consultation. While planning permission has been obtained for an energy efficient 25m x 6 lane swimming pool, a viable and sustainable capital and revenue funding strategy and partnership support has proved the major obstacle and continues to be explored; the scheme is supported by Sport England; an Olympic legacy pool allocation was achieved but ultimately declined through difficulties in capital funding; existing supply and demand for swimming pool provision is being re-evaluated in the context of the considerable new housing development proposed for the Uckfield and Hailsham areas.

4.33 *Uckfield Town Council* would like to see additional and secured community use at the Uckfield (dual use) Leisure Centre;

4.34 *Wadhurst Parish Council* has aspirations to improve its Memorial Hall which would accommodate space for leisure and exercise activities; a swimming pool is a long held priority for the parish.

National Governing Bodies

Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) Sussex ASA and Club Development Officer.

4.35 Overall in the Wealden area there is a shortfall in supply of swimming pools of sufficient dimensions for the development of all swimming disciplines including diving, waterpolo and synchronised swimming.

4.36 Government and Sport England seek to promote participation in these disciplines at a young age which requires more local facilities to be provided; these are growing sports boosted by the 4 year Olympic cycle.

4.37 The ASA would also support a 50m swimming pool and diving pit on the border of Kent and Sussex as there is a gap in this area; also needed for waterpolo at a national level.

4.38 Waterpolo could take place at Crowborough Leisure Centre where ASA training camps have previously taken place; waterpolo and synchronised swimming require 2m depth of water at advanced levels.

4.39 There is no local diving facility, the nearest being at Crawley K2.

4.40 Generally, obstacles which local swimming clubs have to overcome include lack of available water time within swimming pool programmes and the cost of hire.

4.41 **Beacon Swimming Club** was instrumental in combining with Crowborough Swimming Club and raising funds to help initiate the building of the current swimming facility at Crowborough Leisure Centre in 1985, the home of Beacon Swimming Club (also training at Mayfield Girls School).

4.42 **Hailsham Swimming Club** now undertakes most of its training and galas at Bede's School (25m x 6 lane pool with blocks); the cost of hire at Hailsham Leisure Centre has become non-economic against numbers attending sessions.

4.43 The ideal gala requirement is for between 100 and 150 spectator seats, starting blocks, electronic scoreboard.

Quality of provision

Site visits

4.44 Site visits were conducted to the three key pool venues at Hailsham, Crowborough, and Uckfield Leisure Centres. For guidance purposes only, the table provides a Condition Rating and a Fit for Purpose Rating based upon visual inspection, discussion with leisure officers, facility managers and the judgement of the consultant as appropriate. Scores are: 5 = Very Good, 4 = Good, 3 = Adequate, 2 = Less than adequate, 1 = Poor

4.45 The assessment scores are reproduced in Section 3 dealing with Leisure Centres. The assessment concluded that all three pool venues were assessed as being at least adequate or better, in respect of both condition and fitness for purpose. However, the lack of teaching space in the freeform Uckfield pool was noted.

Views of Stakeholders

The views of local residents

4.46 In broad terms respondent households tended to view the quality of indoor sports and recreation overall provision as being quite good.

4.47 The indoor facilities most commonly regarded as being of good or very good quality are gym/health and fitness facilities (60%); sport and leisure centres (57%); and village halls and community centres (55%). *Swimming pools were rated slightly less highly (46% rating them as good or very good).*

Wealden District Council (Community and Regeneration Manager, and Colin Thompson, Asset Management Co-Ordinator)

4.48 There has been considerable investment by the Council in Wealden's leisure facilities particularly at Uckfield (structural, foyer and viewing areas), Crowborough and Hailsham (structural, foyer and reception/cafe/tergia area).

Freedom Leisure Trust (Area Manager)

4.49 The Trust is committed to exceeding requirements and expectations for the Council and its residents in delivering the quality and range of facilities and activities within the leisure centres. Whilst it is acknowledged that some venues reflect that condition and fit for purpose can be improved. More recent improvements and refurbishment at Uckfield, Hailsham and Crowborough Leisure Centres have improved ambience, operational efficiency and user demand for improved facilities.

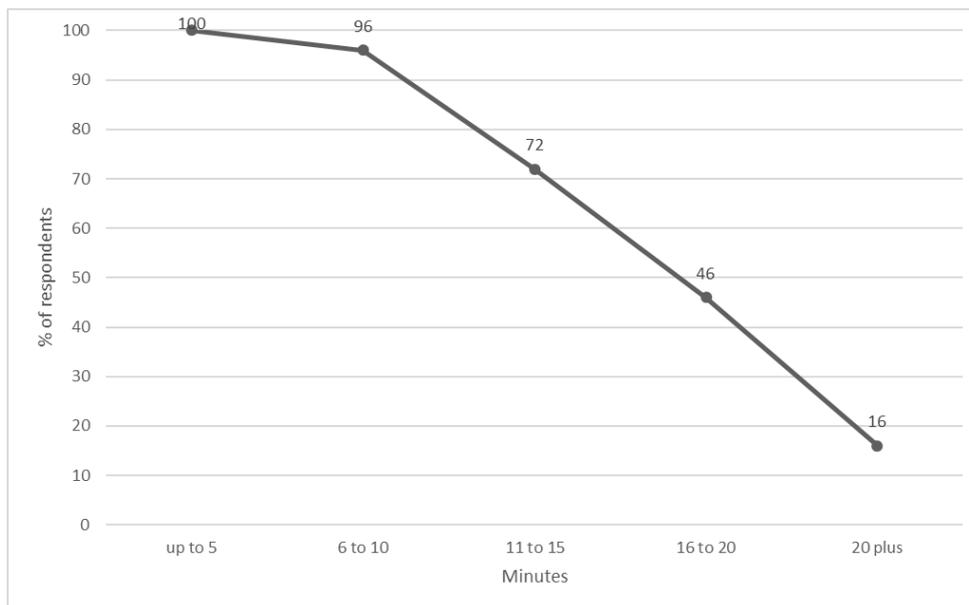
4.50 Wealden District Council has a capital asset management and maintenance programme for the built sports facilities but this may not be able to meet the longer term building and structural refurbishment requirements; creative planning and external partnership funding may be needed to meet the requirements of supply and demand for health and exercise related facilities linked to the planned growth in the district's population.

Access

Views of local residents

4.51 The survey indicated that the majority of respondents used swimming pools on a regular basis, and the majority (75 percentile) were prepared to travel between 10 and 15 minutes to use such facilities, and the most popular mode being by car - see **Figure 4.4**.

Figure 4.4: Preparedness to travel to swimming pools

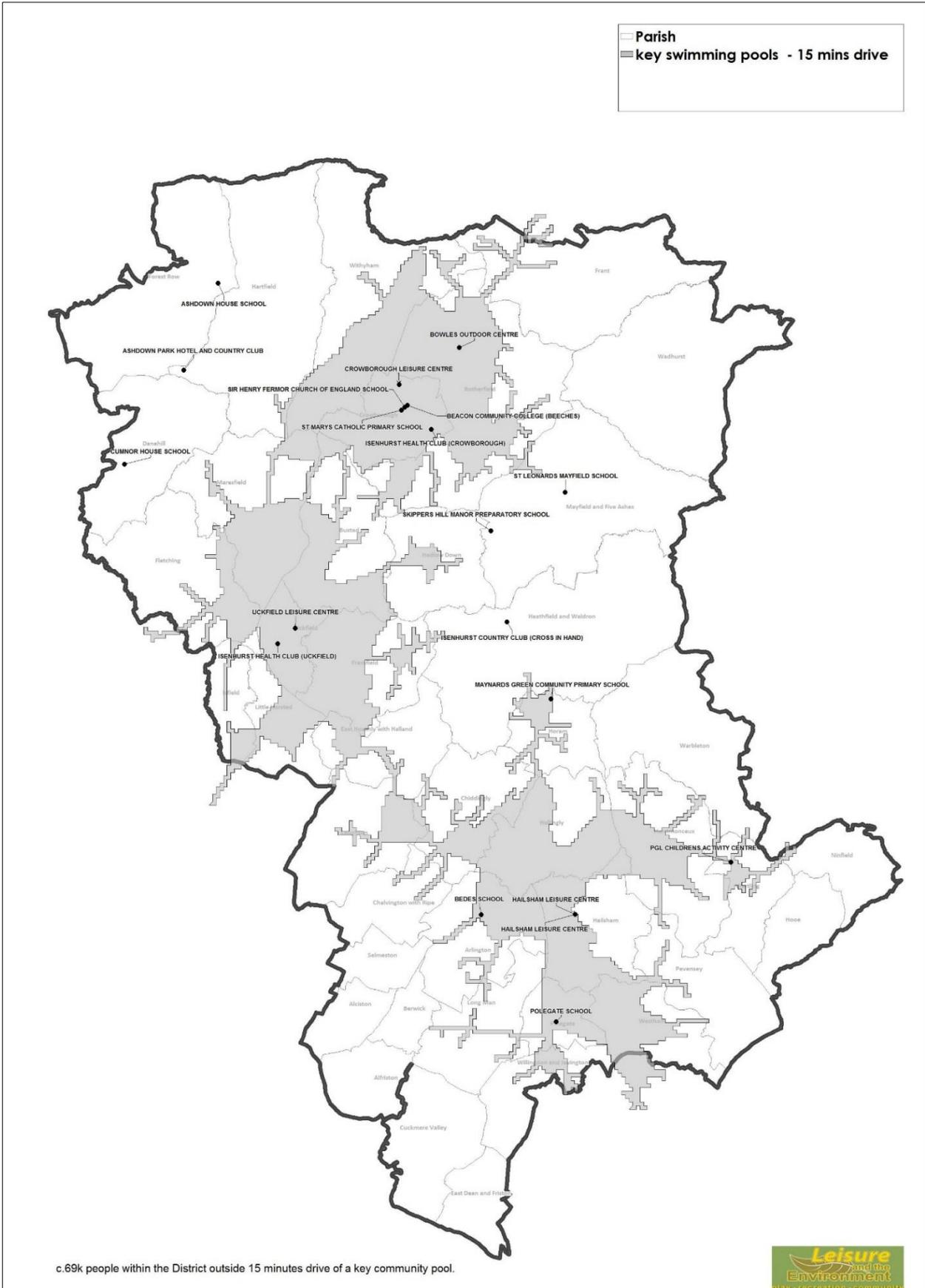


FPM data/what is an acceptable drivetime to a pool

4.52 Data underpinning FPM modelling suggests a spatial element based on 20-minute drive or walk time catchments, centred on facilities considered in the analysis. The 20-minute catchment is based on data obtained from previous national research by Sport England, which concluded that a 20-minute drive time represented 90% of the user catchment on average for swimming pools. However, the same research indicated that around 60 per cent of users were only prepared to travel up to 10 minutes. The survey conducted as part of this study suggests that an appropriate compromise for Wealden District might be a 15-minute catchment by foot or car. Travel by car is by far the most significant mode of transport to swimming pools, and a 15-minute drive catchment would roughly equate with the 75 percentile response provided by the household survey.

4.53 If 15 minutes is adopted as a travel time to swimming pools acceptable to 75% of the population, the resultant catchments for the three local authority pools are shown on **Figure 4.5**. The catchments are based on assumed average speeds for different classes of roads. The maps show that on the basis of these assumed average speeds significant geographical areas are not covered by the catchments of the three local authority swimming pools. The estimated population within the local authority falling outside the catchment has been calculated to be 69,000 (about 44% of the total local authority population).

Figure 4.5: 15-minute drive catchments for Hailsham, Uckfield and Crowfield Leisure Centre pools



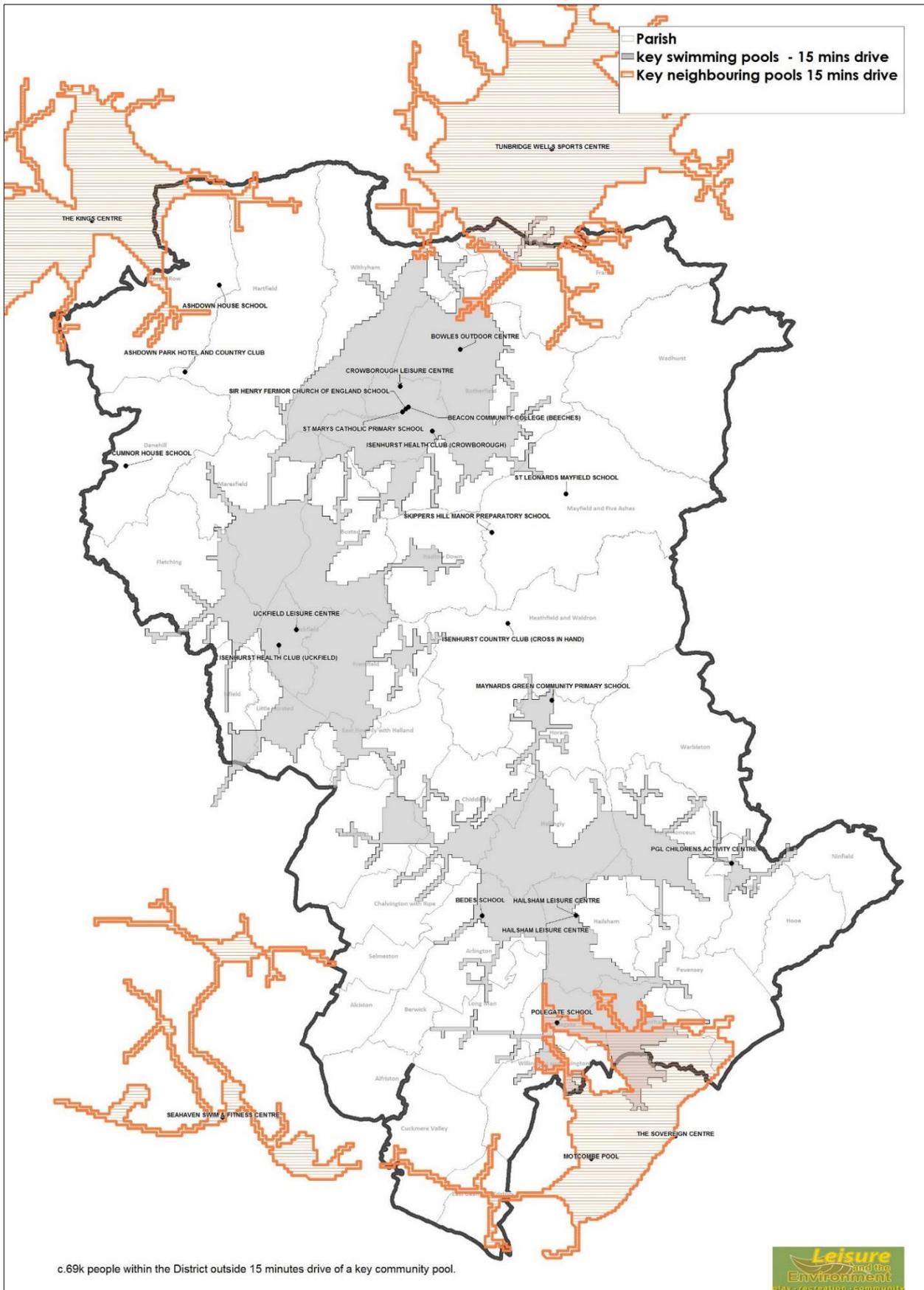
4.54 If the catchments of non-local authority pools not in secured community use were to be included on **Figure 4.5** the extent of the exclusion zone would be reduced. It is very conceivable that some of those residents excluded from the estimated catchments used in **Figure 4.5** might find it easier to use swimming facilities in neighbouring areas. The following (listed in **Table 4.2**) are likely to be the closest significant provision of an appropriate kind outside the Wealden local authority.

Table 4.2: Selected pools in neighbouring areas

Name	Access Type	Ownership Type
MOTCOMBE POOL	Pay and Play	Local Authority
THE SOVEREIGN CENTRE	Pay and Play	Local Authority
SEAHAVEN SWIM & FITNESS CENTRE	Pay and Play	Local Authority
THE SOVEREIGN CENTRE	Pay and Play	Local Authority
TUNBRIDGE WELLS SPORTS CENTRE	Pay and Play	Local Authority
THE KINGS CENTRE	Pay and Play	Local Authority

4.55 If their 15-minute catchments were also superimposed on a map, they would reduce the size of the 'exclusion zone' and its resident population (see **Figure 4.6**), although it would largely remain intact. There is also a presumption here that the capacity exists at these neighbouring venues to absorb the potential demand generated by these residents. The biggest gap that remains is in the mid-east of the district.

Figure 4.6: 15-minute drive catchments from major pools in neighbouring areas.



Plans for future new provision

4.57 In association with major future growth allocations in the south of the District, additional swimming space will be required (see below). However, there are other proposals for new swimming pool provision. There has been a strong push for a swimming pool at Heathfield (where the existing leisure centre is a 'dry' venue only, unlike the other three local authority venues). Heathfield is located on the side of the District where Figure 4.6 shows that travel to local authority pools both within Wealden and in neighbouring local authorities will not be easy on a regular basis.

4.58 Elsewhere, there are suggested proposals for pool space in Wadhurst. Crowborough Town Council would like to see the pool at Beacon College repaired, as it has been out of action for some time; and, Uckfield Town Council would like to see more community use time available at the Uckfield Leisure Centre Pool, which is managed on a dual use basis with the adjacent college.

Future issues and options for swimming provision within Wealden local authority

4.59 Based on evidence presented in this section, Section 7 justifies a local standard for the provision of indoor swimming pools. If the quantitative component of the outline standard is applied to the projected planned population growth between now and 2028 it suggests that the additional demand generated would lead to a need for an extra **278 sq.m. of water space- around the equivalent of 1.2 25m x 4 lane pools**⁸

The evidence from the consultations and investigations conducted for this assessment suggests that all pool space currently available for community use in the public sector is already heavily used, and the situation will be most acute on the south of the District, where pool space is especially lacking and there is highly likely to be a net export out of demand to pools in neighbouring local authorities.

4.60 The general scale and location of the planned strategic growth is now available and the impact this will have on likely demand for new and improved facilities should be addressed further in the Strategy and Action Plan, which should consider:

- Where new provision should be made in terms of additional pool space;
- Where existing pools can and should be improved to meet additional demands; and,
- Where developer contributions generated in growth areas might be expected to contribute towards new and/or improved provision in other locations. The way in which it might be reflected in new and/or improved provision could vary markedly.

4.61 For example, if additional major new housing provision is likely to be allocated in the south of the District then additional demand will be heavily concentrated on that area, and this is where major new provision will need to be focussed, possibly with the cooperation of neighbouring local authorities.

4.62 On the other hand, where there is dispersed growth across the local authority, then it would impact more on existing pools space in other key settlements further north.

⁸ This is based on the preferred option housing allocation of 11,857 houses to 2028, using an occupancy rate of 2.3 = 27,271

4.63 In the above regard, there is clearly theoretically a degree of drive-time access to several key venues in neighbouring local authorities. What is not clear is the extent to which these venues will have the capacity to absorb such use, at the time it is required.

4.64 Capacity and availability can change very rapidly and options which might look credible now may not be at a time when the locations of future growth beyond 2028 are determined- it would be far better to look at opportunities to exploit any existing spare capacity then.

4.65 With regard to the future design of facilities, a notable strand of comments coming back from key stakeholders concerns the lack of pool space that is suitable for competition swimming and training. This has frustrated the development of aquatic sports within the District beyond a basic club level. Future new provision should be designed to ensure a better accommodation of the competition needs of aquatic sports.

5 SPORTS HALLS

General

5.1 This section considers the provision of sports halls within the local authority with respect to their quantity, quality, and accessibility. Issues and options for sports hall provision will then be summarised.

5.2 Sports halls can accommodate a diverse range of sports and recreational activities. They are flexible spaces that can be used for activities that include basketball, badminton, indoor football, football training, cricket winter training, table tennis, gymnastics, netball, and a host of other training activities.

Quantity

5.3 Background research indicates a considerable number of sports halls within the Wealden local authority area. However, many of these will only be partly available for use by the general community, if at all. They will also be of varying sizes, and therefore utility for general and specialist use by the community.

Existing provision (general)

5.4 **Figure 5.1** and **Table 5.1** show the location and describe all the most significant sports halls in the Wealden local authority, as well as major provision within neighbouring local authority areas which it is possible that Wealden residents might use. The map only identifies the provision of 'main halls' with a size big enough to accommodate at least 3 badminton courts - this size, appropriately configured, is big enough to host activities such as basketball and 5-a-side football. The map does not show whether sports halls also have supporting smaller activity halls, of which there are several. Activity halls are better suited to supporting activities such as keep fit, and martial arts which do not require the space or the ceiling height needed by some other sports.

Figure 5.1: Location of principal sports halls

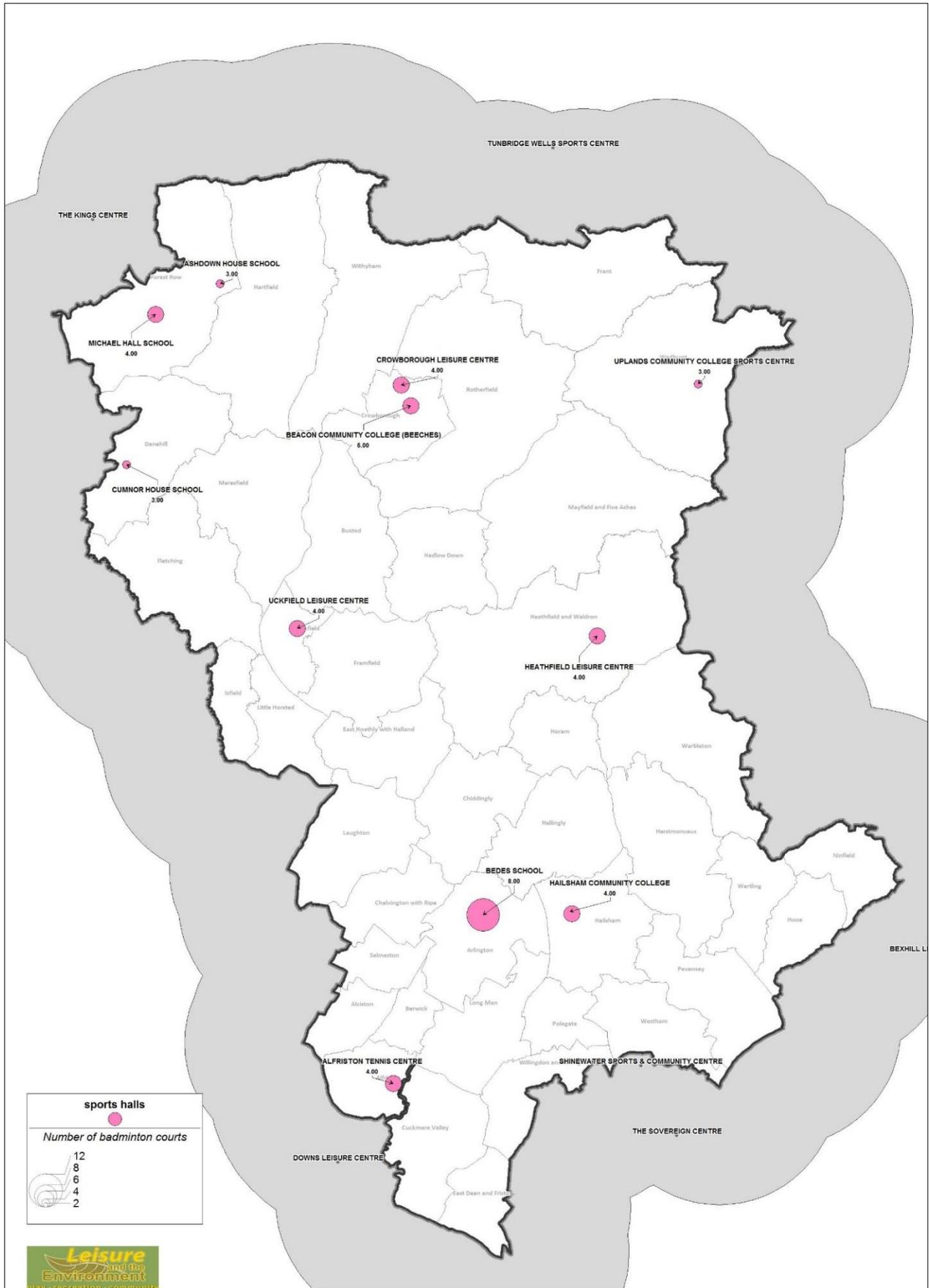


Table 5.1: Known sports halls (main halls and activity halls) Categorisation adopted from the Sport England Active Places Power database- (see Appendix 2)

Name (where facilities are in more than one building they are listed separately)	Facility Sub Type⁹	Number of badminton courts	Facility Status	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Year Built	Year Refurbished
ALFRISTON TENNIS CENTRE	Main	4	Operational	Pay and Play	Commercial	Commercial Management	1974	
ASHDOWN HOUSE SCHOOL	Main	3	Operational	Private Use	Other Independent School	Trust	1980	n/a
BEACON ACADEMY (GREEN LANE)	Activity Hall	1	Operational	Sports Club / Community Association	Community school	School/College/University (in house)	1960	n/a
BEACON COMMUNITY COLLEGE (BEECHES)	Activity Hall	1	Operational	Private Use	Community school	School/College/University (in house)	1960	n/a

⁹ The definitions below are taken from the Sport England Active Places Power website

Main	Main multi-sports hall(s) within site. Minimum size is marked out as 3 Badminton courts and above. Dimensions Min width 18m, max width 70m, Min Length 27m Max length 90m
Activity Hall	This is a multi-sports hall (below 3 badminton courts) where activities take place that does not qualify as a main hall and is not a purpose built studio. It can include Community/Village halls. It should be between the following dimensions: min width 9m, max width 18m, min length 17m, max length 26m. It may or may not be marked out.
Barn	Marked out with Minimum size of 4 badminton courts or 1 basketball court, or 1 netball court or 1 volleyball court. These are buildings which did not start out life as a dedicated sports hall but are now used for that purpose. Typically the dimensions of the building are much greater than the courts they contain. May include courts marked out in the middle of a indoor velodrome or indoor running track.

Name (where facilities are in more than one building they are listed separately)	Facility Sub Type ⁹	Number of badminton courts	Facility Status	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Year Built	Year Refurbished
BEACON COMMUNITY COLLEGE (BEECHES)	Activity Hall	0	Operational	Private Use	Community school	School/College/University (in house)	1960	n/a
BEACON COMMUNITY COLLEGE (BEECHES)	Main	5	Operational	Private Use	Community school	School/College/University (in house)	1960	
BEDES SCHOOL	Main	8	Operational	Sports Club / Community Association	Other Independent School	School/College/University (in house)	2007	n/a
BODLE STREET VILLAGE HALL	Activity Hall	0	Operational	Sports Club / Community Association	Local Authority	Local Authority (in house)		n/a
BROAD OAK VILLAGE HALL	Activity Hall	0	Operational	Sports Club / Community Association	Community Organisation	Community Organisation		
CROWBOROUGH LEISURE CENTRE	Main	4	Operational	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Trust	1985	n/a
CUMNOR HOUSE SCHOOL	Main	3	Operational	Private Use	Other Independent	School/College/University	1980	n/a

Name (where facilities are in more than one building they are listed separately)	Facility Sub Type ⁹	Number of badminton courts	Facility Status	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Year Built	Year Refurbished
					School	(in house)		
FIVE ASHES VILLAGE HALL	Activity Hall	0	Operational	Sports Club / Community Association	Community Organisation	Community Organisation		n/a
HAILSHAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE	Activity Hall	1	Operational	Pay and Play	Academies	School/College/University (in house)	1960	n/a
HAILSHAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE	Main	4	Operational	Pay and Play	Academies	School/College/University (in house)	2005	n/a
HEATHFIELD COMMUNITY COLLEGE	Activity Hall	1	Operational	Sports Club / Community Association	Community school	School/College/University (in house)	1962	
HEATHFIELD LEISURE CENTRE	Main	4	Operational	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Trust	1996	n/a
JARVIS BROOK SCOUT HALL	Activity Hall	0	Operational	Sports Club / Community Association	Other	Other		n/a

Name (where facilities are in more than one building they are listed separately)	Facility Sub Type ⁹	Number of badminton courts	Facility Status	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Year Built	Year Refurbished
LAUGHTON COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL	Activity Hall	0	Operational	Private Use	Community school	School/College/University (in house)		n/a
LAUGHTON VILLAGE HALL	Activity Hall	0	Operational	Sports Club / Community Association	Community Organisation	Community Organisation		n/a
MAYNARDS GREEN COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL	Activity Hall	0	Operational	Private Use	Community school	School/College/University (in house)		n/a
MICHAEL HALL SCHOOL	Main	4	Operational	Pay and Play	Other Independent School	School/College/University (in house)	2004	n/a
RIDGEWOOD VILLAGE HALL	Activity Hall	0	Operational	Sports Club / Community Association	Local Authority	Community Organisation		n/a
SIR HENRY FERMOR CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL	Activity Hall	0	Operational	Private Use	Voluntary Aided School	School/College/University (in house)		n/a

Name (where facilities are in more than one building they are listed separately)	Facility Sub Type⁹	Number of badminton courts	Facility Status	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Year Built	Year Refurbished
ST LEONARDS MAYFIELD SCHOOL	Activity Hall	1	Operational	Private Use	Other Independent School	School/College/University (in house)	1960	n/a
ST MARYS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL	Activity Hall	0	Operational	Sports Club / Community Association	Voluntary Aided School	Local Authority (in house)		n/a
THE POLEGATE COMMUNITY CENTRE	Activity Hall	0	Operational	Pay and Play	Community Organisation	Community Organisation	1969	
UCKFIELD COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE	Activity Hall	1	Operational	Private Use	Community school	School/College/University (in house)	1968	n/a
UCKFIELD LEISURE CENTRE	Main	4	Operational	Pay and Play	Sports Club	Trust	1987	
UPLANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE SPORTS CENTRE	Main	3	Operational	Pay and Play	Community school	School/College/University (in house)	1998	n/a
UPLANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE SPORTS CENTRE	Activity Hall	2	Operational	Pay and Play	Community school	School/College/University (in house)	1998	n/a

Name (where facilities are in more than one building they are listed separately)	Facility Sub Type ⁹	Number of badminton courts	Facility Status	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Year Built	Year Refurbished
WILLINGDON COMMUNITY SCHOOL	Activity Hall	0	Operational	Sports Club / Community Association	Community school	School/College/University (in house)	1950	n/a
WILLINGDON PRIMARY SCHOOL	Activity Hall	0	Operational	Private Use	Community school	School/College/University (in house)	1950	n/a
WILLINGDON PRIMARY SCHOOL	Activity Hall	1	Operational	Private Use	Community school	School/College/University (in house)	1970	n/a

Availability/community use¹⁰

5.5 It will be noted that the list comprises a range of provisions covering local authority, education, commercial, and membership facilities. In essence only a proportion will be available for the general community to use.

5.6 In terms of utility for the general community it is the local authority provision at Uckfield, Crowborough, and Heathfield that is most significant. There is no sports hall at Hailsham Leisure Centre, as this was taken out to make way for 10-pin bowling and soft play areas. In lieu of provision at the Hailsham Leisure Centre the hall at Hailsham Community College assumes added importance.

5.7 This is not to deny the importance of other provision for local clubs and groups. In this regard there is very significant school provision. However, an overall assessment of opening hours will suggest that it is the local authority controlled facilities that have the longest opening hours for the general community, as well as the greatest levels of throughput.

5.8 Determining which of the facilities listed in **Figures 5.1** and **Table 5.1** offer a significant level of community use is therefore a matter of judgement. At the very local level even the smallest sports halls can offer good opportunities for local communities. However, it will be the larger facilities of three or more badminton courts in size that offer the most diverse opportunities for a greatest number of potential users. The facilities listed in **Table 5.2** are judged to be available for significant community use in respect of a supply/demand modelling exercise conducted in Wealden to aid this report (discussed later in this section). The list generally represents the larger halls within the District, and reflects the provision shown on **Figure 5.1**, although some smaller units are also included where they are part of a larger complex.

5.9 The extent to which facilities are open to community use will, amongst other things, depend on the times they are open to the general public, or else local clubs and organisations. For local authority controlled leisure centres these opening hours will generally encompass daytimes and evenings throughout the week. However, for education venues, this will be limited to times when facilities are not required for curriculum use. Where information on hours of availability are available, this has been used and sense-checked, although it is recognised that policies and practices in respect of community availability of school facilities can change.

5.10 In terms of the local authority provision there is no clear hierarchy of facilities, in the way in which there may exist in more urban local authorities. This is because each facility serves its own discrete geographical area, and they are largely mutually exclusive.

5.11 Pools in the education and commercial sector will offer a complementary and supporting role to the local authority halls, and especially at Hailsham Community College and Uplands Community College (Wadhurst).

¹⁰ See the end of Section 1 for an explanation of this term.

Table 5.2 Sports halls in Wealden District local authority considered to offer significant community use

Name (where facilities are in more than one building they are listed separately)	Number of courts	Access Type	Ownership Type	Year Built
CROWBOROUGH LEISURE CENTRE	4	Pay and Play	Local Authority	1985
HAILSHAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE	4	Pay and Play	Academies	2005
HEATHFIELD LEISURE CENTRE	4	Pay and Play	Local Authority	1996
MICHAEL HALL SCHOOL	4	Pay and Play	Other Independent School	2004
UCKFIELD LEISURE CENTRE	4	Pay and Play	Sports Club	1987
UPLANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE SPORTS CENTRE	3	Pay and Play	Community school	1998
BEACON COMMUNITY COLLEGE (BEECHES)	5	Private Use	Community school	1960
ASHDOWN HOUSE SCHOOL	3	Private Use	Other Independent School	1980
ST LEONARDS MAYFIELD SCHOOL	1	Private Use	Other Independent School	1960
BEDES SCHOOL	8	Sports Club / Community Association	Other Independent School	2007

5.12 There are estimated to be the equivalent of 40 badminton courts hosted in the various qualifying sports halls across the local authority. However, the majority of these courts will be located in the larger halls – principally, those with four or more courts.

5.13 Only 12 of the above 40 courts are controlled by the local authority (representing 30% of the total stock). The remaining provision in the above table is from within the education sector. Provision at other non-local authority facilities listed does not necessarily provide for assured access by the general community, in the sense that such use is not guaranteed for the longer-term.

Sport England Facilities Planning Model (FPM)

5.14 In its simplest form the model seeks to assess whether the capacity of existing facilities for a particular sport are capable of meeting local demand for that sport, taking into account how far people are prepared to travel to a facility. In order to estimate the level of sports facility provision in an area, the model compares the number of facilities (supply), with the demand for that facility that the local population will produce. The level of participation is estimated using national participation rates, and applying them to the number of people within appropriate demographic cohorts living in the local authority. The model can be used to test scenarios, by suggesting what impact a new facility would have, or the closure of a facility, to the overall level of facility provision. It can also take account of and model the impact of changes in population, for example, from major housing development.

5.15 Basic modelling data from Sport England can be made available. However, to be effective this needs to be based on a clear idea of where new development will be located over the coming years. It is therefore not timely to use such modelling outcomes, given that they cannot currently be informed by a clear indication of where new allocations will be made, and their scale.

Sport England Facilities Calculator (FC)

5.16 The Facilities Calculator is another Sport England web-based tool which allows users to estimate the potential numbers of basic community facilities (such as sports halls and swimming pools) that might be generated by large-scale housing/population growth in a given location. The calculator uses data similar to that used within the FPM. The calculator must be used with caution and an understanding what it is and isn't designed to do. For example, its estimations do not take into account existing provision in the locality (which will need to be factored in). In addition, as it is based on national data, it will not take into account local circumstances. Nevertheless, it is a useful analytical tool when used in conjunction with types of analysis.

5.17 Based on the current estimated population the FC suggests a provision of 41 court spaces (the equivalent of 10.4-court sports halls for community use. This compares with 40 courts identified above, some of which only having restricted and unsecured community use.

5.18 The balance of the local authority controlled provision is focussed on the central and north parts of the local authority (the Uckfield, Crowborough, and Heathfield). There is an absence of a local authority controlled sports hall in the south of the District, and therefore heavy reliance on the facility at Hailsham Community College, which is not in secured community use.

5.19 There are clearly synergies between provision in different sectors- provision at schools (when not required for curricular use) will benefit clubs that might otherwise struggle to find sufficient time and space for their needs at local authority venues.

5.20 However, given the fact that the primary motivations of education providers are not the same as those of the local authority, it is always possible that changing curricular demands might reduce the availability of facilities for outside clubs and groups.

Views of Key Stakeholders

The views of local residents

5.21 The household survey did not answer questions specifically in relation to views on Sport Halls. However, it highlighted the following:

- *Sport and Leisure Centres are used regularly by significant numbers (43% of households report using them at least monthly - many more regularly); as are the District's gym/health and fitness facilities (33%); and swimming pools (33%).*
- *A clear majority of households reported that overall there are currently enough of all of the various kinds of indoor sport and leisure facilities; most notably in relation to Village Halls and Community Centres (79%) and Sport and Leisure Centres (76%).*

Wealden District Council (Community and Regeneration Manager, and Colin Thompson, Asset Management Co-Ordinator)

5.22 There is, limited and unsecured community use at some of the District's secondary school facilities; Uckfield and Heathfield Leisure Centres are dual use centres where Freedom leisure manage 'out of school hours' public access to these centres;

5.23 The District Council's future strategy for the longer term building and plant maintenance and upgrading, replacement and/or new provision of indoor sports facility provision (including sports halls and swimming pools) will therefore need to take account of increased demand as result of its growing population linked to agreed local standard of provision;

Freedom Leisure Trust (Area Manager)

5.24 It is acknowledged that peak time supply in some areas of provision does not meet the level of demand; sports hall space (Hailsham) is an example; future increased housing development in Hailsham and Uckfield areas will exacerbate this problem requiring greater provision of community access to sports halls; discussion with the education sector may assist secured community use of their facilities.

Views of Parish and Town Councils, and others

5.25 *Forest Row Parish Council* – a rebuilt village hall should be suitable to accommodate badminton, short mat bowls and exercise classes.

5.26 *Hailsham Parish Council* – there should be improved community access to the community college facilities.

5.27 *Hailsham Active-* is exploring proposals for new outdoor and indoor sports park and health centre facilities available to the community in order to meet the needs of supply shortfalls.

5.28 *Uckfield Town Council* would like to see additional and secured community use at the Uckfield (dual use) Leisure Centre;

5.29 *Wadhurst Parish Council* has aspirations to improve its Memorial Hall which would accommodate space for leisure and exercise activities.

Views of Governing Bodies of Sport

5.30 *Sussex County Badminton Association (SCBA)*: The sport is generally allocated significant time in the main leisure centres during peak and off-peak times due to its popularity across different age-groups, for men and women; demand frequently outstrips supply at peak midweek evening times or at weekends;

5.31 *Sussex Basketball (Sussex County Basketball – SCB)*: Basketball is no longer played at senior league level in Wealden District as the quality and size of sports hall provision in Wealden District is not of a suitable standard for this (previously played at Hailsham Leisure Centre before sports hall was converted to indoor bowling and studio). The sport is mainly played within school facilities (including Uckfield Leisure Centre) and is encouraged at this level by the SCB. The SCB considers the cost of facilities within sports centres generally to be too high which discourages club development as a pathway outside the school environment. The SCB has no concrete plan to develop the sport further at a senior level in the Wealden district.

5.32 *British Gymnastics - Sussex Gymnastics*: Gymnastics clubs tend to be accommodated either within local sports centres or within their own leased and sometimes purpose built premises; the latter arrangement may occur due to growth and to secure greater independence of their activities; growth in this sport is substantial, and which also follows the Olympic four year cycle; may require additional facilities in the future. Gymnastics in various forms takes place at Uckfield, Heathfield and Crowborough Centres and the main provision is Uckfield Gymnastics Club. The Uckfield Gymnastics Club has adapted a former army training camp building in Maresfield as a permanent base for its activities (adjacent to the tennis club and indoor/outdoor bowls club); all gymnastics disciplines are catered for; the club has c.600 gymnastics with a waiting list in the order of 400, and participants much wider than local; it is run as a community club limited by guarantee. Other significant clubs within the Mid to East Sussex area are located in: Crawley K2 (The Horse), Brighton and Hove, Hastings (Summerfields), Bexhill (1066); many more smaller clubs feed into these.

5.33 *Sussex Netball (Sussex County Netball Association)*: Netball is less well developed in East Sussex than it is in West Sussex; this is due in part to there being a lack of accessible infrastructure and resources in East Sussex including coaches, outdoor and indoor facilities; there is currently no facility strategy focusing indoor provision in Wealden district. Indoor courts are needed to support competition, poor weather and the colder months; sports halls will more readily allocate time to badminton, basketball and five-a-side football; however, Freedom Leisure do allocate time for netball at Crowborough and Uckfield Leisure Centres. Outdoor courts in Hampden Park, Eastbourne, have recently been resurfaced to secure supply and a well-supported netball league; there is no similar demand or outdoor provision in the Wealden area although the Association may look to schools with outdoor courts/playgrounds and sports halls to provide league and competition space to support netball programmes or initiatives, to seek to enhance and grow the sport in East Sussex; Beacon Academy offers this opportunity through Crowborough Netball.

5.34 *Crowborough Netball*: was set up as a not for profit community (CIC) enterprise to promote the game in the area to all ages and abilities; using a number of outdoor and indoor facilities (September to March), including those mentioned above; Crowborough Netball works in partnership with Freedom Leisure;

5.35 *Wadhurst Junior Netball Club*: is based at Uplands Community College and able to use the indoor facility.

5.36 *Sussex Futsal and the Sussex Futsal Club*: have Development Centres located at Eastbourne Sports Park, St. Leonards Academy and Hastings Academy; the sport which is played mainly within indoor halls is keen to expand its activities across Sussex.

5.37 *Sussex Volleyball Association (SVA)*: The SVA advises that there are very few options currently available for volleyball in Wealden district; former teams in Crowborough and Heathfield were not sustained over time; East Grinstead is probably the closest team in Sussex; Tonbridge have a team in the Kent league. The demand for clubs in the local area has waned somewhat but the SVA are able to assist with setting up clubs - in the past it has provided funding for equipment and should be able to assist with coaches in the short term to get things up and running. There is no up to date facility provision within Wealden's leisure centres and therefore no club volleyball (post and net fixings are inadequate or absent). Minimal school activity takes place within some school sports halls. The SVA's strategy includes recommendations for suitable provision (floor specification, net and post fixings, seating for spectators).

Quality of provision

Site visits

5.38 Site visits were conducted to the three key sports hall venues at Crowborough, Heathfield, and Uckfield Leisure Centres. For guidance purposes only, the table provides a Condition Rating and a Fit for Purpose Rating based upon visual inspection, discussion with leisure officers, facility managers and the judgement of the consultant as appropriate. Scores are: 5 = Very Good, 4 = Good, 3 = Adequate, 2 = Less than adequate, 1 = Poor. The assessments are reported in full in Section 3 dealing with Leisure Centres. The assessment concluded that all three sports halls were

well kept, but that the hall at Uckfield was in need of refurbishment and that the Crowborough venue floor was beginning to age. (See Section 3 on Leisure Centres for more detail).

5.39 Certain interests have noted that there can be shortcomings in design in respect of sports halls when considering the needs of certain sports- some of these needs might be relatively inexpensive to cater for if considered at an early stage in the design process for new facilities. Examples are storage facilities for resident clubs (such as for gymnastics and table tennis etc), and fixtures (such as for volleyball posts).

Views of key stakeholders

Views of local residents

5.40 The household survey conducted for this assessment identified that in broad terms respondent households tended to view the quality of indoor sports and recreation overall provision as being quite good. The indoor facilities most commonly regarded as being of good or very good quality are gym/health and fitness facilities (60%); *sport and leisure centres* (57%); and village halls and community centres (55%).

Wealden District Council (Community and Regeneration Manager, and Colin Thompson, Asset Management Co-Ordinator)

5.41 There has been considerable investment by the Council in Wealden's leisure facilities particularly at Uckfield (structural, foyer and viewing areas), Crowborough and Hailsham (structural, foyer and reception/cafeteria area).

Freedom Leisure Trust (Area Manager)

5.42 The Trust is committed to exceeding requirements and expectations for the Council and its residents in delivering the quality and range of facilities and activities within the leisure centres. Whilst it is also acknowledged that some venues reflect that condition and fit for purpose can be improved. More recent improvements and refurbishment at Uckfield, Hailsham and Crowborough Leisure Centres have improved ambience, operational efficiency and user demand for improved facilities.

5.43 Wealden District Council has a capital asset management and maintenance programme for the built sports facilities but this may not be able to meet the longer term building and structural refurbishment requirements; creative planning and external partnership funding may be needed to meet demand for health and exercise related facilities linked to the planned growth in the district's population.

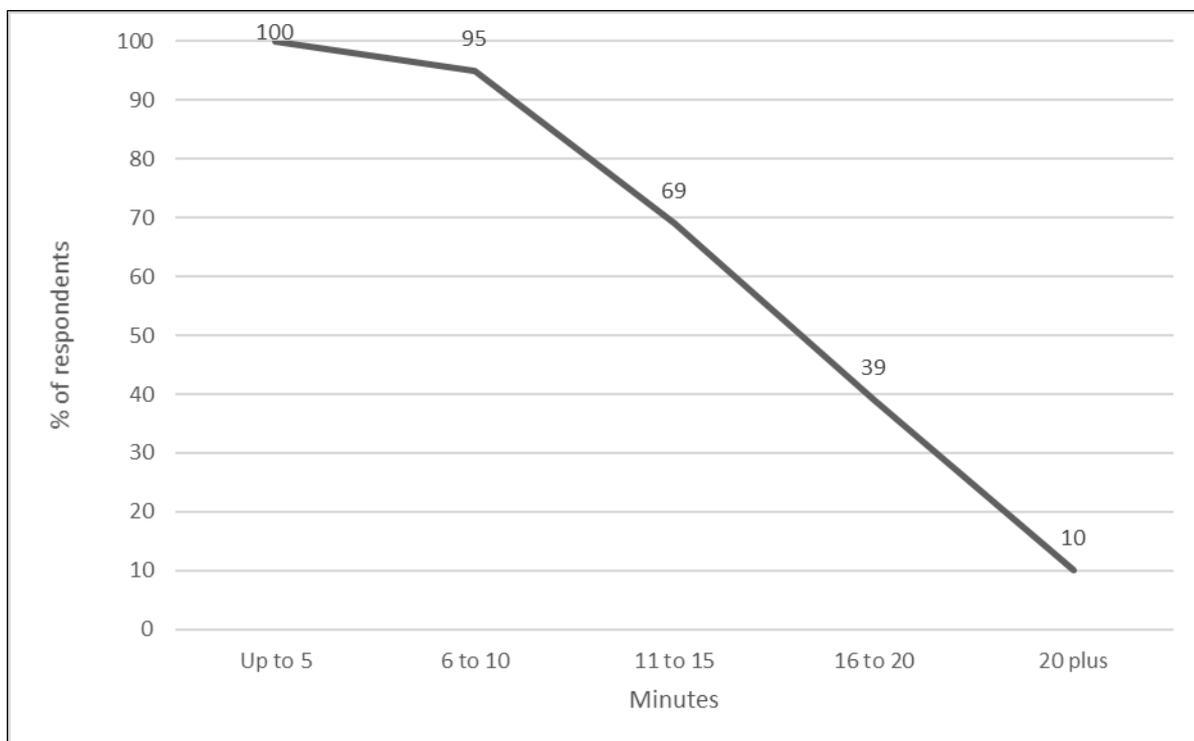
Access

Views of local residents

The household survey

5.44 Travel time to sports halls specifically was not the theme of a question asked in the households survey conducted for this needs assessment. However, the survey indicated that the majority respondents used sports and leisure centres on a regular basis, and roughly 60-70 % indicated that they were prepared to travel up to around 15 minutes to use such facilities, and the most popular mode being by car. (See Figure 5.2 below)

Figure 5.2: *Preparedness to travel to sports and leisure centres*



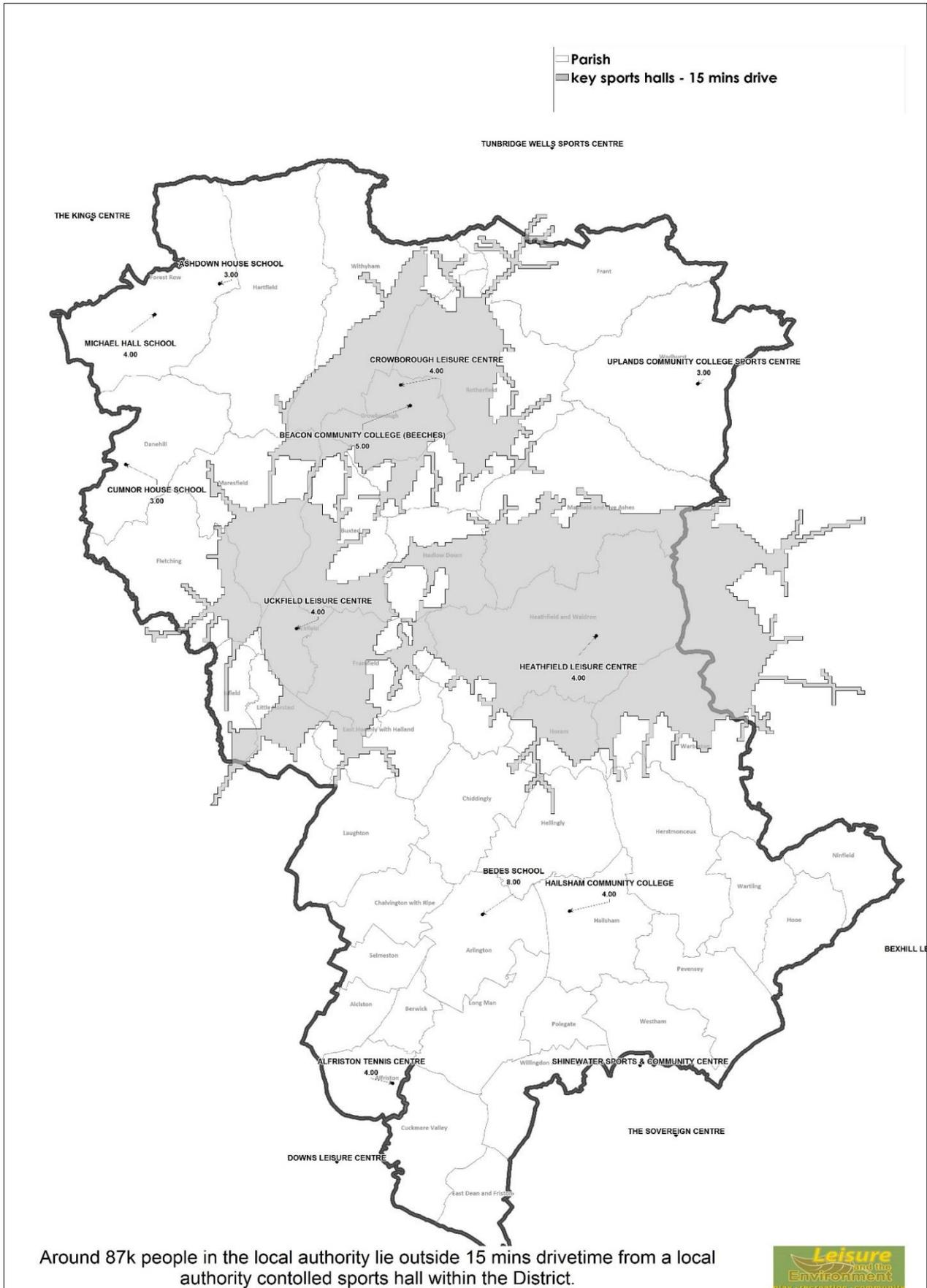
FPM report/what is an acceptable drivetime to a sports hall?

5.45 The FPM analysis discussed earlier in this section has a spatial element based on 20-minute drive or walk time catchments, centred on facilities considered in the analysis. The 20-minute catchment is based on data obtained from previous national research by Sport England, which concluded that a 20-minute drive time represented 90% of the user catchment on average for sports halls. However, the same research indicated that around 60 per cent of users were only prepared to travel up to 10 minutes. The household survey conducted as part of this study suggests that an appropriate compromise for Wealden might be a 15-minute catchment by foot or car. Travel by car is by far the most significant mode of transport to sports halls, and a 15-minute drive catchment would roughly equate with the 75% quartile response provided by the household survey.

5.46 If 15 minutes is adopted as a travel time to sports halls acceptable to 70% of the population, the resultant catchments of the Crowborough, Heathfield, and Uckfield sports halls are shown on the **Figure 5.3**. The catchments are based on assumed average speeds for different classes of roads. The map shows that on the basis of these assumed average speeds significant geographical areas are not covered by the combined catchment of the three key local authority controlled sports halls. The estimated population within the local authority falling outside the catchment has been calculated to be 87,000 persons, which is around 55% of the current District population. The Hailsham Community College sports halls has been excluded from this drivetime analysis, as it is not in secured community use.

5.47 If non-local authority sports halls not in secured use were to be included on **Figure 5.3**, the extent of the exclusion zone would be reduced.

Figure 5.3: 15- minute drive catchments for key Wealden District Council controlled sports halls



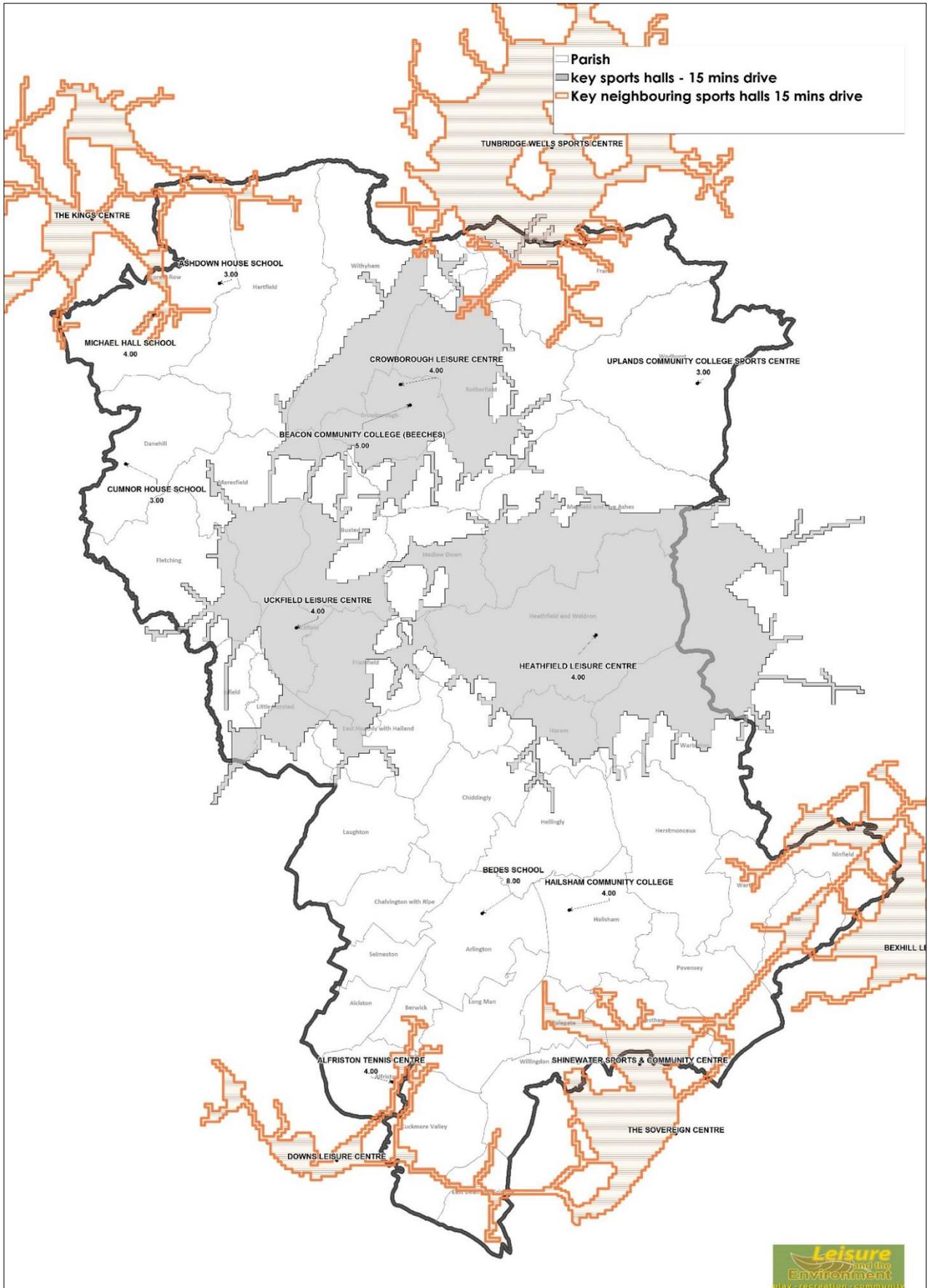
5.48 It is very conceivable that those residents excluded from the estimated catchments used in **Figure 5.3** might find it easier to use facilities in neighbouring areas. The following are likely to be the closest significant provision of an appropriate kind outside the Wealden local authority (**Table 5.3**):

Table 5.3: Selected sports halls in neighbouring areas

Name	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type
BEXHILL LEISURE CENTRE	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Trust
DOWNS LEISURE CENTRE	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Trust
SHINEWATER SPORTS & COMMUNITY CENTRE	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Local Authority (in house)
THE KINGS CENTRE	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Trust
THE SOVEREIGN CENTRE	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Commercial Management
TUNBRIDGE WELLS SPORTS CENTRE	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Trust

5.49 If their 15-minute catchments were also superimposed on a map, they would reduce the size of the 'exclusion zone' and its resident population (see **Figure 5.4**), but only very marginally. This also pre-supposes that the capacity exists at these neighbouring venues to absorb the potential demand generated by these residents.

Figure 5.4: 15-minute drive catchments from key sports halls in neighbouring areas.



Plans for future new provision

5.50 Within the education sector there are plans for indoor sports facilities at certain education campuses as shown in **Table 5.4** below.

Table 5.4: Plans for indoor sports facilities

Facility plans and aspirations
Hailsham Active has identified a shortfall in sports hall provision with secured community use, and is exploring how capital and revenue costs might be achieved to pay for new facilities (see comments below and main report)
Uckfield Town Council would like to see additional and secured community use at the Uckfield (dual use) Leisure Centre
Wadhurst Parish Council has aspirations to improve its Memorial Hall which would accommodate space for leisure and exercise activities; a swimming pool is a long held priority for the parish
Forest Row Parish Council is seeking a rebuilt village hall that should be suitable to accommodate badminton, short mat bowls and exercise classes

Future issues and options for sports hall provision within Wealden local authority

5.51 Based on evidence presented in this section, Section 7 justifies a local standard for the provision of over 7.1 courts-space worth of sports halls- the equivalent of about 1.8 x new 4-court sports halls, or other permutation.¹¹

5.52 The evidence from the consultations and investigations conducted for this assessment suggests that all hall space currently available for community use in the public sector is already heavily used, and the situation will be most acute on the south of the District, where there is no provision in secured community use in a bone fide public leisure centre, and there is highly likely to be a net export out of demand to halls in neighbouring local authorities.

5.53 The general scale and location of the planned strategic growth is now available and the impact this will have on likely demand for new and improved facilities should be addressed further in a Strategy and Action Plan, which should consider:

- Where new provision should be made in terms of additional sports hall space;
- Where existing sports halls can and should be improved to meet additional demands; and,

¹¹ This is based on the preferred option housing allocation of 11,857 houses to 2028, using an occupancy rate of 2.3 = 27,271

- Where developer contributions generated in growth areas might be expected to contribute towards new and/or improved provision in other locations.

5.54 With regard to the future design of facilities, a notable strand of comments coming back from key stakeholders is that there is a lack of space for some significant indoor sports which hampers progress of these sports locally.

5.55 Attention to simple design features can help in making a venue better, such as in the case of fixture points being installed for volleyball nets. In other cases, it might be impossible for new or improved provision to reconcile the ideal specifications for different sports. A case in point would be the desire for badminton clubs to have sprung wooden floors, which may not be so desirable for other sports. However, technology is providing surfaces that are accepted for many sports such as badminton, netball, and volleyball.

5.56 In terms of planned new provision or facility overhaul, there are potential sports-specific projects that might be embraced at the planning and design stage, especially:

- The need of netball interests to have better local outdoor and indoor facilities.
- Given appropriate design, such facilities could be shared with several other sports.

6 OTHER INDOOR AND BUILT FACILITIES

General

6.1 Beyond indoor swimming pools and sports halls (perhaps combined into larger leisure centres), there are other forms of more specialist 'built' sports facilities that can be used heavily by local residents, and these include indoor tennis courts, indoor bowls greens, athletics tracks, and Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs). The last of these are covered in the accompanying Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Needs Assessment.

6.2 The above can sometimes be found as part of much larger leisure centre complexes, but are more frequently standalone venues.

6.3 **Bowls** can be played either outdoors or indoors. Whilst most provision continues to be outdoors using traditional turf rinks, there are also a large number of indoor facilities using artificial surfaces, which are available for play throughout the year and in the evenings. It is these indoor facilities that are the subject of this section. There are other varieties of indoor bowls that take place in venues like village halls and community centres, using portable mats. These, again, are also outside the scope of this section. There can be expected to be some cross-over between indoor and outdoor bowls in terms of winter and summer activity (for example), and this needs to be taken into account in trying to assess demand for provision.

6.4 Whilst **lawn tennis** can be played on a variety of surfaces, both indoors and outdoors, in this section it is only the provision of indoor tennis facilities that is being considered directly, although there will be some crossover in participants playing both indoors and outdoors. (Outdoor tennis is considered in the accompanying Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Needs Assessment). Indoor tennis facilities require a significant amount of space; the space required for a single court is around the equivalent of a 4-badminton court sports hall. They tend to be provided as part of a larger leisure complex, and usually on a commercial or club basis.

6.5 **Athletics** includes facilities required for participating in activities collectively known as track and field. However, running also takes place off-track. Synthetic surfaces are now generally required for competitive athletics.

Quantity

Existing provision (general)

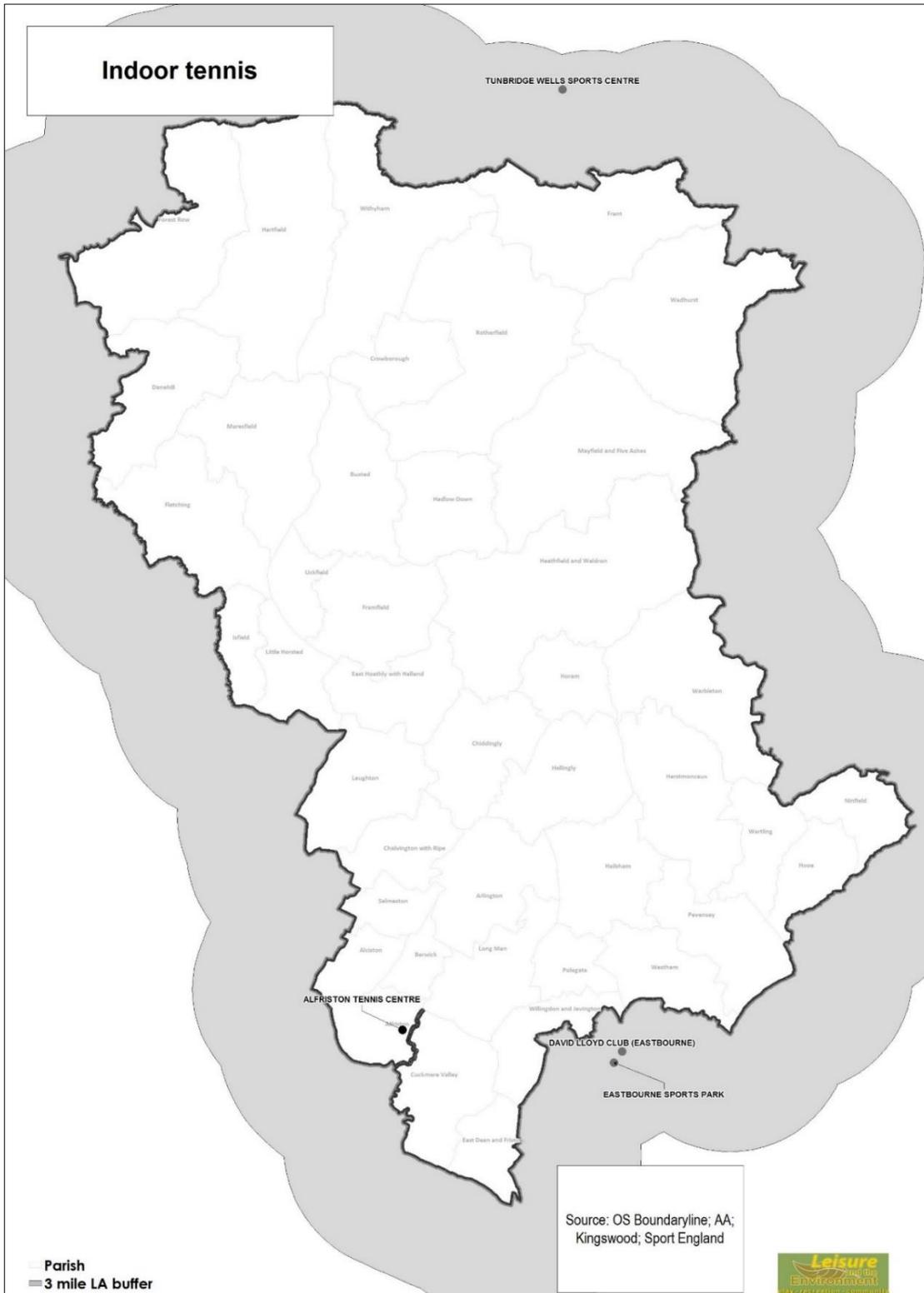
6.6 **Figures 6.1 to 6.2** show the location of all known indoor tennis, indoor bowls and synthetic athletics tracks in and around the borders of Wealden District.

6.7 There is a single **indoor tennis court** provided at the Alfriston Tennis Centre. The nearest alternative provision is in Tunbridge Wells and Eastbourne, where there are much larger multi-court facilities.

6.8 The **Wealden Bowls Centre** is located as part of a tennis and bowls complex in Maresfield. This is the only such facility in the local authority, and others close to the District borders are at David Lloyd Club (Eastbourne), Denton Island Indoor Bowls Club, Eastbourne & District Indoor Bowls Club; Eastbourne Sports Park; Egerton Park Indoor Bowls Club; Gullivers Bowls Club; Langney Sports Club; Royal Tunbridge Wells Indoor Bowls Club; and, Tunbridge Wells Sports Centre

6.9 The only athletics track in the District is the cinder track at Crowborough (Goldsmiths) Leisure Centre. The closest synthetic tracks available are six-lane facilities in Lewes and Eastbourne

Figure 6.1: Indoor tennis in and around the local authority

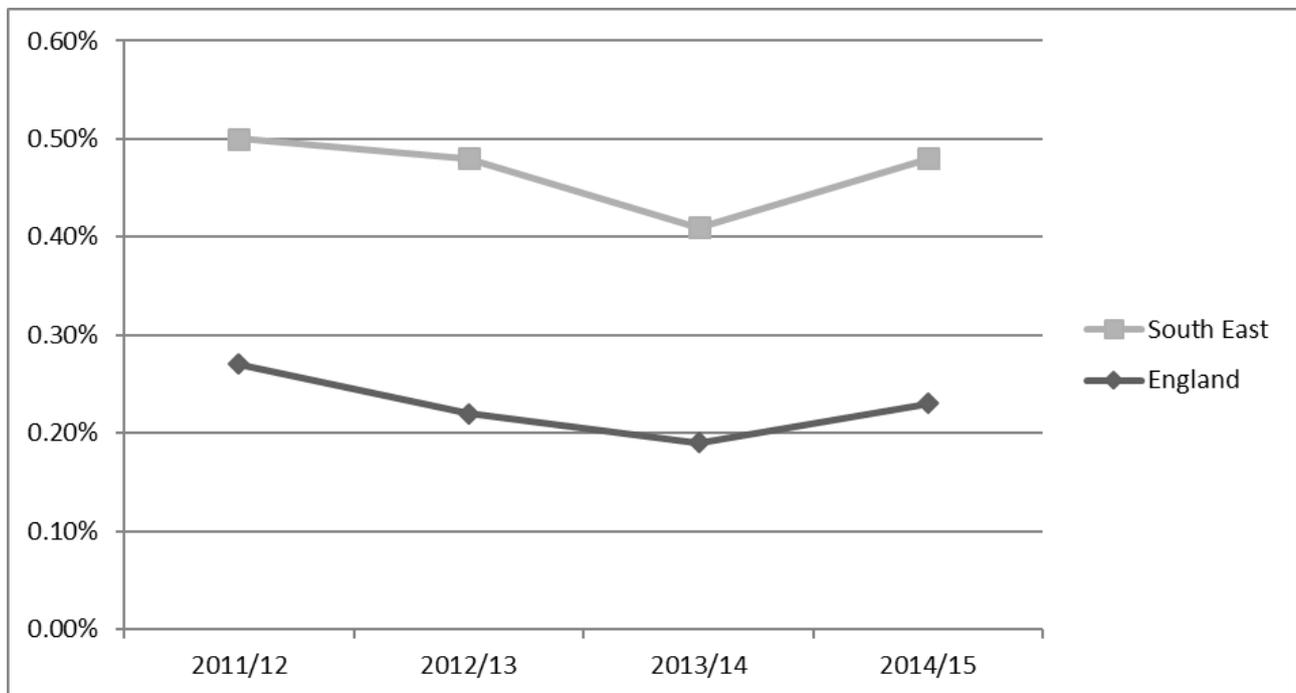


Active People and Market Segmentation

6.10 The relative importance of indoor tennis as a participative activity is illustrated below, by reference to Sport England Active People Survey data. The Active People Surveys (APS) and the method of sampling is explained in Appendix 1. Amongst other activities covered these surveys provide data on the number of adults regularly taking part in indoor tennis, indoor bowls, and athletic activity.

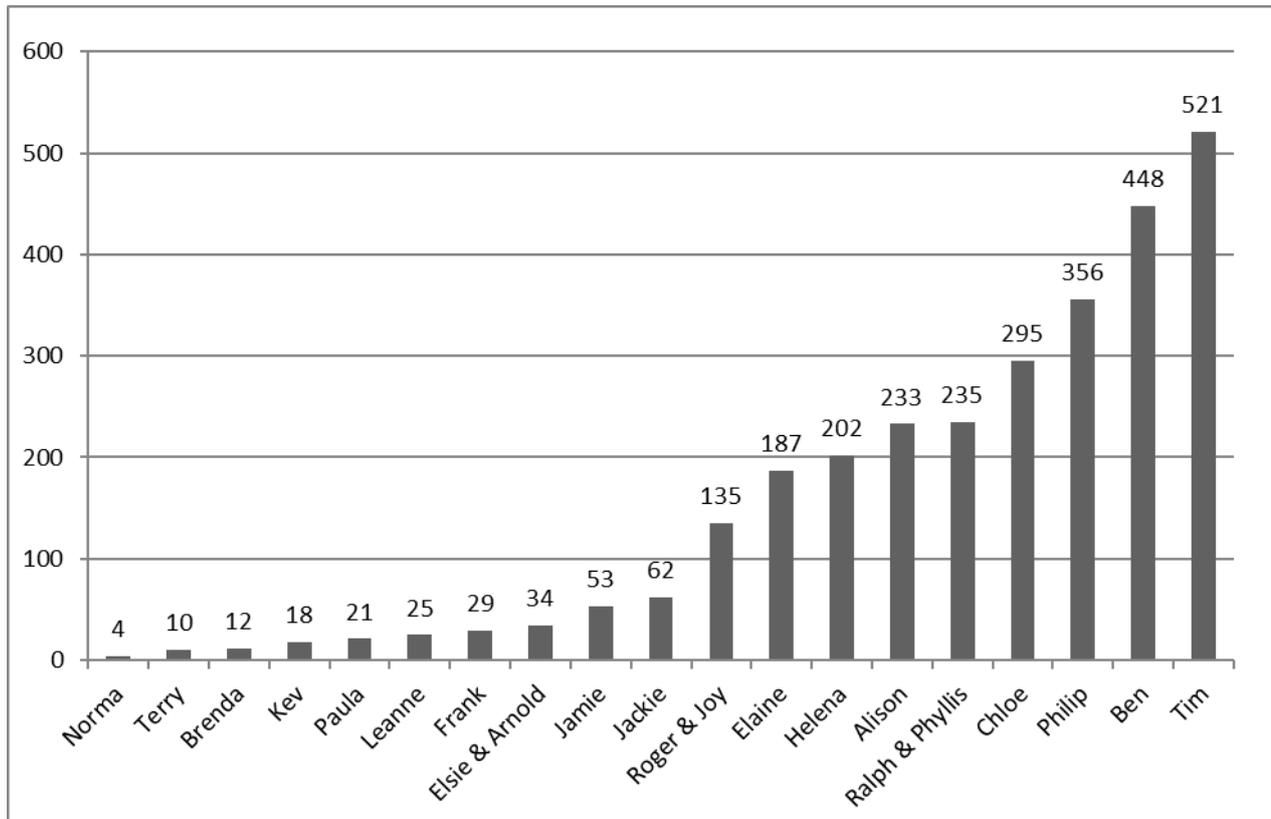
6.11 Due to the small size of the sample it is not appropriate to provide APS survey figure above for either Wealden or Sussex. However, the average of the annual estimates available for the South East suggest that the various annual surveys works out to be 0.50% of the adult population. Based on population data being used for this assessment, around 83% of the Wealden population is estimated be an adult (defined here as being 16 years of age and above). This means that the current number of adults in the total estimated population (157,710) is 130,582. 0.50% of this adult population is 313 adults, taking part at least weekly.

Figure 6.4: Adults participating in indoor tennis at least once a week.



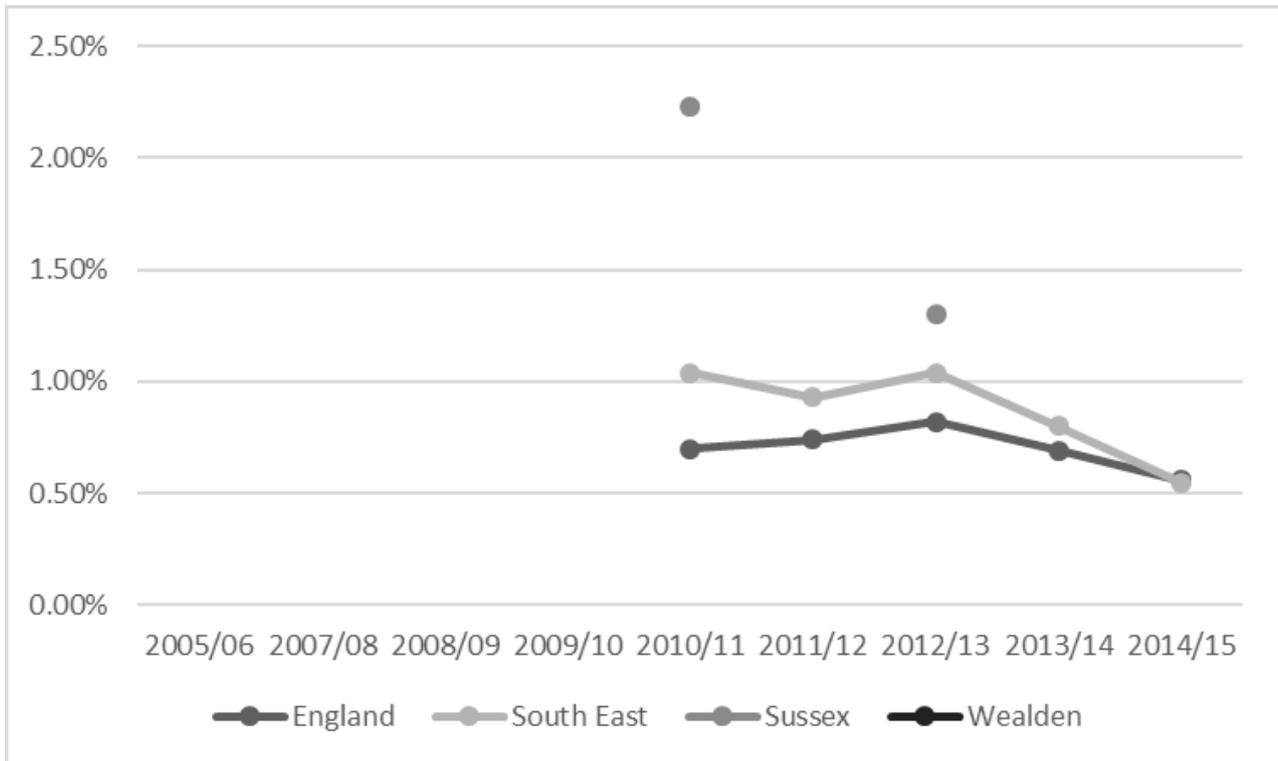
6.12 **Figure 6.5** shows the numerical expression of the percentage of overall Sport England adult Market Segments (see Appendix 1) likely to take part in the given activities, but this time both indoor and outdoor.

Figure 6.5: Numerical representation of Sport England (adult) Market Segments in Wealden taking part in tennis



6.13 The total number of adults with a propensity to take part in tennis is, at 2,880, far higher than the figure estimated from Figure 6.4. Although the above figure includes both indoor and outdoor tennis, there is likely to be a significant crossover between the two, and the numbers in Figure 6.5 therefore suggest that there may be potential for further growth in local tennis generally, given the disparity between the numbers derived from Figures 6.4 and 6.5. There is currently only one covered court within the District, and additional indoor provision would be very likely to increase participation significantly.

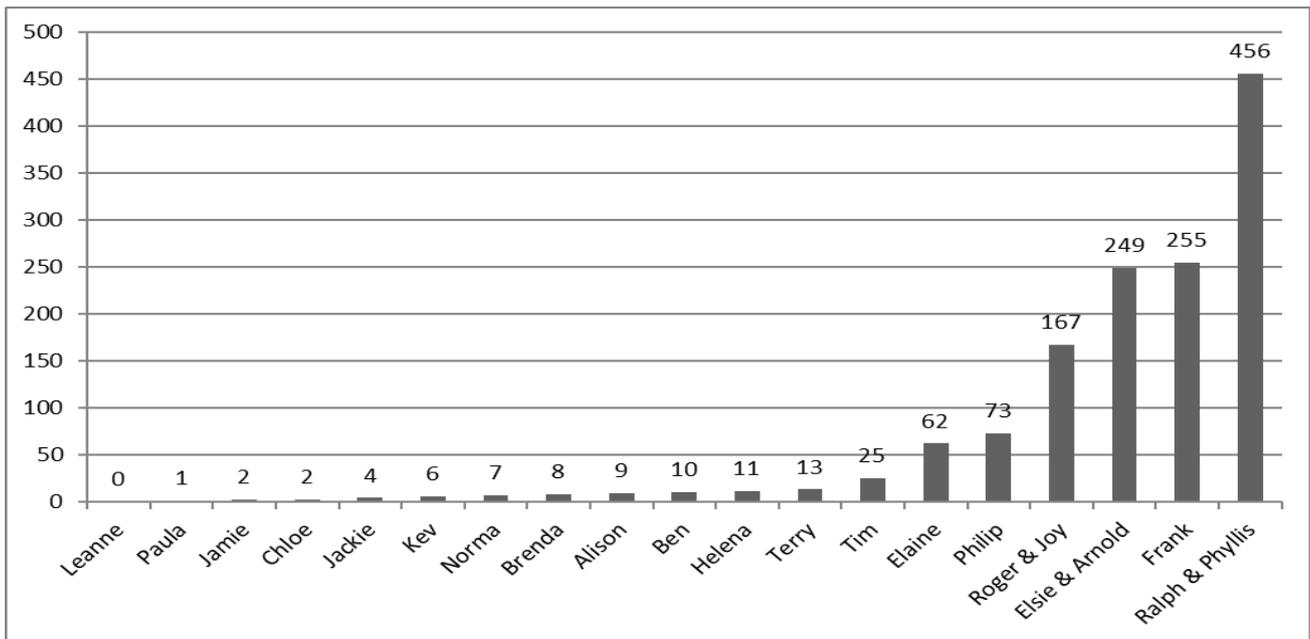
Figure 6.6: Adults participating in indoor bowls at least once a week. (n.b. data for Sussex in not available for two consecutive years and so there is no trend line.



6.14 Due to the small size of the sample it is not appropriate to provide APS survey figure above for Wealden. However, the average of the annual estimates available for Sussex suggest that the various annual surveys works out to be 1.8 % of the adult population. Based on population data being used for this assessment. This means that the current number of adults in the total estimated population (157,710) is 130,582. 1.8% of this adult population is 2,350 adults, taking part at weekly.

6.15 **Figure 6.7** shows the numerical expression of the percentage of overall Sport England adult Market Segments (see Appendix 1) likely to take part in the given activities, but this time both indoor and outdoor.

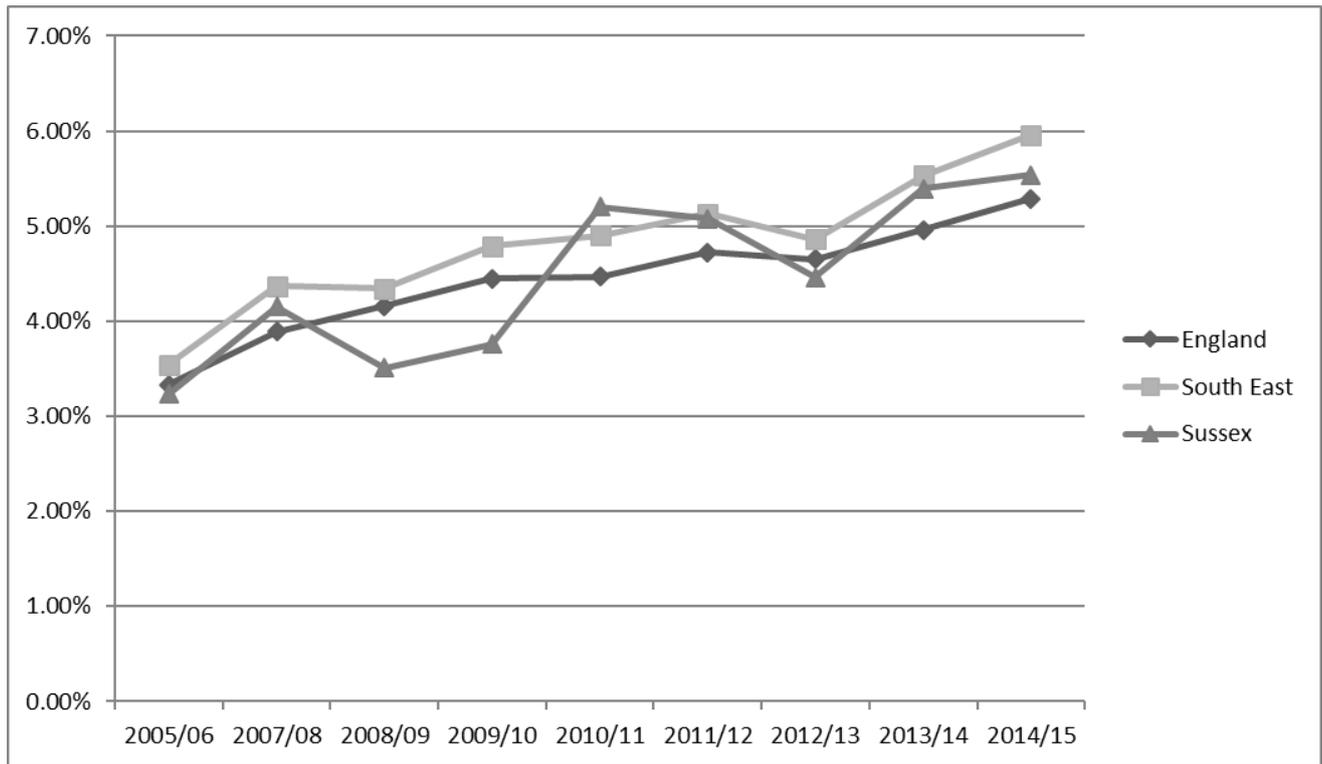
Figure 6.7: Numerical representation of Sport England (adult) Market Segments in Wealden taking part in bowls



6.16 The total number of adults with a propensity to take part in bowls is, at 1,360, far lower than the figure estimated from Figure 6.6, even though the above figure includes both indoor and outdoor bowls. The disparity between the numbers derived from Figures 6.6 and 6.7 suggest that additional indoor provision would be very unlikely to increase participation significantly, by itself.

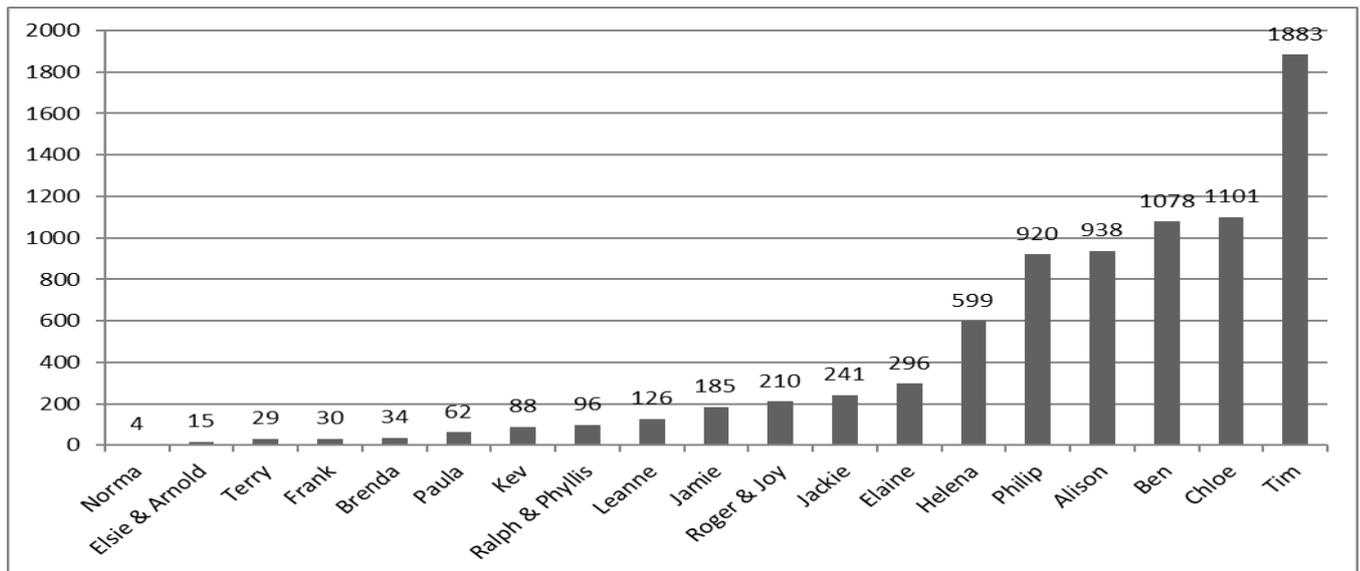
6.17 In respect of athletics, due to the small size of the sample it is not appropriate to provide APS survey figure above for Wealden. However, the average of the annual estimates available for Sussex suggest that the various annual surveys works out to be 4.5 % of the adult population. Based on population data being used for this assessment. This means that the current number of adults in the total estimated population (157,710) is 130,582. 4.5% of this adult population is 5,876 adults, taking part at weekly. Athletic activity here also includes off-track running, although there will be some crossover.

Figure 6.8: Adults participating in athletics at least once a week.



6.18 **Figure 6.9** shows the numerical expression of the percentage of overall Sport England adult Market Segments (see Appendix 1) likely to take part in the given activities.

Figure 6.9: Numerical representation of Sport England (adult) Market Segments in Wealden taking part in athletics



6.19 The total number of adults with a propensity to take part in tennis is, at 7,935, higher even than the figure estimated from Figure 6.8. The disparity between the numbers derived from Figures 6.7 and 6.8 suggest that there is still potential for growth in local athletics activity, and this may in part be due to a lack of track and field facilities, within easy reach.

Views of key stakeholders

Views of local residents via the household survey

6.20 The household survey conducted to inform this needs assessment identified that 79% of the respondents felt there to be enough specialist indoor facilities (which would include indoor tennis and indoor bowls venues); whilst 30% felt that there were not enough; and 3% considered there to be too many.

6.21 13% of respondents considered that they used such facilities at least monthly; and, 10% at least weekly. The nature of the activities hosted by such facilities makes it likely that they will be used by relatively few people compared to say indoor pools or other popular facilities at leisure centres, but that those that do will use them both regularly and frequently.

Views of national governing bodies of sport and clubs

6.22 **England Athletics (EA):** There is no relevant National Governing Body athletics facility strategy and currently Wealden does not feature in any specific NGB plans for facility development. Currently there is no NGB funding potentially available to support the delivery of athletics facility priorities in the Wealden area.

6.23 England Athletics note that the most important facility for Athletics in Wealden is the cinder track at Crowborough Leisure Centre used by Crowborough Runners. They are aware that Crowborough Runners and Crowborough Town Council have been working to determine the viability of securing funding for resurfacing the current track. They understand that there is some local commitment to part-fund the project, but that the majority of costs would need to be sourced externally.

6.24 EA suggest that all five England Athletics affiliated clubs within the district are in a reasonable close location to a certificated track "albeit none of the seven surrounding tracks in Sussex and Kent are within the Wealden District boundary".

6.25 The five EA affiliated clubs utilise the following sites for training:

- Crowborough Runners – Goldsmith's Leisure Centre track; indoor halls for junior training at Beacon Community College.
- Heathfield Road Runners – largely use roads around Heathfield for training. Twice monthly training at Eastbourne Track.
- Wadhurst Runners – Meet to run from Uplands Sports Centre.
- Hailsham Harriers – Battle Road Playing Fields/Summerheath School Sports Hall (indoor winter training).
- Uckfield Runners – Meet to run from Freedom Leisure Centre, Uckfield. Twice monthly training at Eastbourne Track.

6.26 Regarding quality EA note that: "we are aware of the desire of Crowborough Runners to change the surface of the cinder track to a synthetic surface". They also suggest that "no other club has identified the desire to improve existing provision in the district".

6.27 EA are not aware of any issues regarding access to facilities.

6.28 The five registered clubs (all road running focussed) have relatively small numbers of registered athletes (as of year end 15/16 affiliation data)

- Crowborough Runners – 64
- Heathfield Road Runners – 82
- Wadhurst Runners – 73
- Hailsham Harriers – 140
- Uckfield Runners – 66

6.29 In addition to the five affiliated clubs, there are seven Run England registered groups within the district.

6.30 **Club response - Crowborough Runners:** The club's primary facility is the cinder track at Crowborough Leisure Centre. Current membership is 125 (including 50 juniors) and this has decreased over the last three years due to "lack of facilities, Poor state of old clinker covered, pot holes and puddle bedecked track". They also "hire the grass track at Beacon, weather permitting". The club rates most aspects of the quality of their main facility as poor or very poor, bar ease of getting to the facility and car parking. The club reports that "we have been campaigning for years to get an all-weather running track plus jumping and throwing facilities at Goldsmiths" and "we have plans for a new j type training track with jumps and throwing areas to replace existing cinder track". Barriers to club development were a shortage of good quality outdoor facilities/resources; a shortage of suitable training facilities; and a lack of financing (internal and external). They also note that "the town council have imposed restrictions on type of facility".

6.31 **England Indoor Bowling Association (Development Officer):** The area is well provided with indoor centres near Uckfield (Maresfield), Tunbridge Wells, Eastbourne (Langley and Hamden Park), Lewes and Crawley, all with 6 rinks. The EIBA are not aware of specific plans for additional provision in Wealden district although the EIBA strategy promotes indoor centres where demand is identified. The EIBA notes there has been a general decline in membership to indoor centres over recent years.¹²

6.32 **Wealden Bowls Centre and Wealden Indoor Bowling Club:** The Wealden Bowls Centre (6 indoor rinks, 6 outdoor rinks, social areas and restaurant) is located at Maresfield (at the junction of the A22 and the A272 north of Uckfield). It has c. 600 members and maintains this level annually despite a natural 10% loss in membership each year; it is a Community Amateur Sport Club, limited by guarantee, run by its members for its members. The Club is keen to convert its lease with the Council to a freehold arrangement in order to secure its assets and long term sustainability. The Club's growth focus is to extend its membership and usage all the year-round; it draws its membership from within and outside Wealden district.

6.33 **Hailsham Bowling Club (outdoor):** The Club confirms that the majority of its members who bowl in the winter visit the indoor centres in Eastbourne and not the indoor centre at Maresfield for reasons of proximity.

6.34 **Lawn Tennis Association (LTA)– London and South East Region:** the LTA confirms that it has no designated regional county centre in or near Wealden district; however, indoor courts are located in Tunbridge Wells (community access through Fusion, the Trust operator), and further into Kent in Canterbury (Polo Farm), Maidstone and Gillingham. There are aspirational discussions taking place with one or two clubs for indoor courts as an addition to their existing facilities; but

¹² It should be noted that the Sport England 'Sports Facility Calculator' estimates that the Wealden District population (157,710) could generate a demand for 2.3 venues (13.8 rinks). Taking the Wealden Club venue into account, this leaves a theoretical shortfall, albeit that the responses from local bowls interests do not suggest there to be a major deficiency in the supply of facilities, currently.

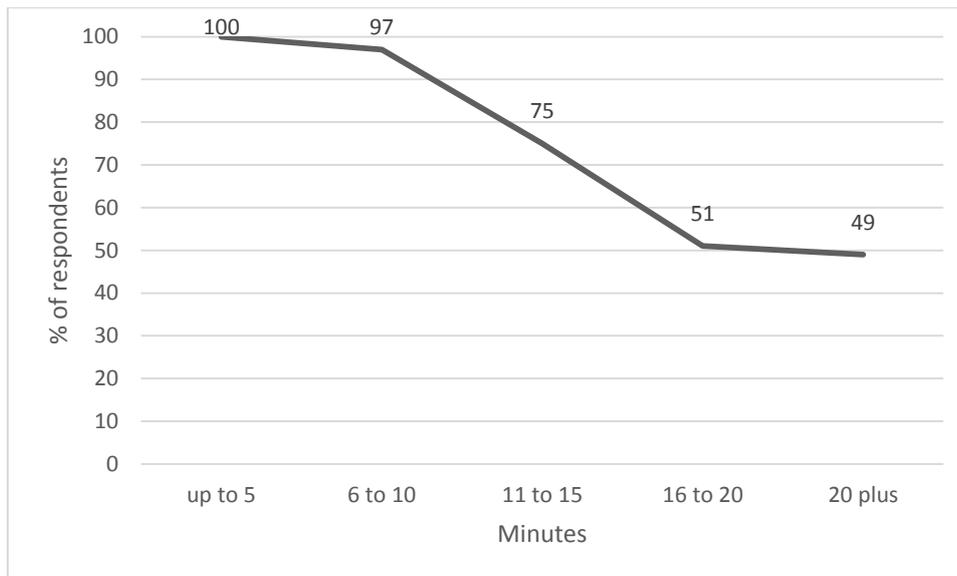
these are potentially some years away, without sufficient funding, and may not come to fruition. The Withdean Sports Centre near Brighton has two indoor tennis courts and Bede's School in Wealden also aspires to include indoor tennis in its future plans to expand its sports facilities. Air domes or lightweight structures may offer alternative opportunities for outdoor tennis clubs in the future, subject to demand, planning consents and funding.

6.35 There is no identified strategic demand or plan for indoor tennis in Wealden district, although there may be local demand expressed by local tennis clubs; the LTA, subject to funds being available linked to its Whole Sports Plan, would require evidence of substantial anticipated community use before LTA funding or loan could be secured.

Accessibility

6.36 The nature of specialist sports facilities suggests that there will be fewer of these compared to other basic community sports facilities, and therefore an acceptance of longer travelling times. This is confirmed by the findings of the household survey, which suggests a greater preparedness on the part of respondents to travel longer to get to such venues. Around 50% of respondents suggested they would be prepared to travel over 20 minutes, and with the preferred mode of transport being by car.

Figure 6.9: Preparedness to travel to specialist facilities



Plans for future new provision

6.37 With the exception of the local running club's aspirations for a new synthetic j-track at Crowborough, there are no known proposals for the provision of additional specialist built/indoor facilities within the District, and many of the needs for such venues are met by facilities outside the District.

Future issues and options for specialist provision within Wealden local authority

6.38 The general scale and location of the planned strategic growth is now available and the impact this will have on likely demand for new and improved facilities will be considered further in the Strategy and Action Plan, which considers:

- Where new provision should be made in terms of additional facilities;
- Where existing facilities can and should be improved to meet additional demands; and,
- Where developer contributions generated in growth areas might be expected to contribute towards new and/or improved provision in other locations.

6.39 The current estimated percentage of the adult population taking place regularly in the activities cited in this section are:

- Indoor tennis is 0.5% of the adult population;
- Indoor bowls is 1.8% of the adult population; and,
- Athletics (including off-track running) is 4.5% of the adult population.

6.40 Assuming the current age structure of the population remains broadly the same. 83% of the additional population will be adults (i.e. 16 years +). This suggests the following additional regular participants for the above sports locally¹³:

- Indoor tennis: 113 additional players;

¹³ This is based on the preferred option housing allocation of 11,857 houses to 2028, using an occupancy rate of 2.3 = 27,271 (*0.83 = 22,635).

- Indoor bowls: 407 additional players; and,
- Athletics (including off-track running): 1018 extra runners, jumpers and throwers (many of these will be off-track runners).

6.41 There is no overwhelming argument to suggest that these increases will require additional new facilities. Although, the c.400 additional bowlers would be about two thirds the membership of the existing Wealden indoor club, but this would be dissipated across the district commensurate with where planned growth is allocated. On the other hand, the planned allocations in Polegate, Westham, Hellingly, Hailsham, Arlington, Jevington, and Willingdon will yield around 17,135 people (and therefore around 14,222 adults). This will yield around 256 potential adult players. Whilst this is much less than the membership at the existing Wealden Club, it will be focussed in the south of the District and will generate a significant latent demand for such a facility.

6.42 The 1,018 additional adults participating in athletic activities would benefit from new and improved facilities, but this might take the form of marked running routes in the main (such as Run England's 3,2,1 schemes).

7 FUTURE PROVISION, STANDARDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

General

7.1 This section considers future natural and planned changes that will impact upon the need for sports and active recreation provision. It looks at projected growth to the year 2028; and, the potential impact of all allocations within the current Local Development Framework and other strategic projections in terms of influencing demand. It goes on to consider some outline standards (where appropriate) to guide the provision of new or improved facilities, especially in relation to planned new housing allocation, where geographically focused increases in needs are likely to be most acute. Other recommendations are made in respect of the provision of specific types of facility, and planning policy and guidance.

Natural and planned population change (to 2028)

7.2 As at 2016 Wealden Council area was estimated to have a population of 157,710. This figure is based upon population projections provided by the ONS. The same projections calculate that by the year 2028 the population will have increased to 176,511. This figure is itself only based upon previous trends, and does not necessarily take into account the impact of planned new residential growth yet to be determined.

7.3 The Council is now preparing its new Local Plan called the Wealden Local Plan (WLP or The Plan). The Wealden Local Plan will identify policy for housing, the economy, the environment and infrastructure including green infrastructure, open space, sports and recreation provision. Preferred Options for testing have been published and the Council is testing provision of around 11,857 new homes in the plan period up until 2028.

Guidance for the development of new and improved facilities

7.4 Taking into account the above considerations, the following **Table 7.1** provides some guidance for improvements to the sports built facility infrastructure based on the findings of Sections 3 to 6. Where appropriate, outline standards of provision will be suggested to, in particular, help guide provision in relation to new housing with respect to Section 106 contributions and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The guidance is based on identified needs, and its application is not intended to cover commitments that have not as yet been completed.

Table 7.1: Summary of guidance in relation to specific facilities

Facility	Comment	Standard (if appropriate)	Calculation as applied to additional population increase by 2028 ¹⁴	Potential capital cost (based on sources indicated) ¹⁵
Indoor swimming pools (Section 4)	<p>Evidence from Section 3 suggests that at only 900 square metres of waterspace in community use¹⁶, the district is lacking access to swimming space for community use. National comparative data suggests that a more appropriate level of provision would be around 1,609 square metres</p> <p>This might form the nucleus of an acceptable guide for new or improved provision to the pool stock over the coming years, allied to appropriate access and quality component</p>	<p>10.20 sq.m waterspace/1000 persons.</p> <p>This is the per capita ideal provision of water space when divided by the current estimated local authority population. (i.e. 1,609/157,710)</p> <p>Ideally, no more than 15 minutes' drive or walk time (the latter in urban areas); and, a quality component (perhaps referring to an expectation on the extent and character of secured community use, and the design of new or improved facilities, such as shape, dimensions, depth variation etc.)¹⁷.</p>	<p>If the quantitative component of the above outline standard was applied to the projected housing growth between now and 2028 it suggests that the additional demand generated would lead to a need for an extra 278 sq.m. of water space- around the equivalent of 1.2 25m x 4 lane pools.</p>	<p>c. £4,374,000 (for 278 sq.m)¹⁸</p>
Sports halls (Section 4)	<p>The evidence of Section 4 suggested that a desirable local authority-wide aggregate of sports halls would be circa 41 courts (or 10.3 x 4-court halls).</p> <p>The district currently has the equivalent of 40 courts with sports halls that are available for some level of community use. However, the extent of such use will vary between venues with the greatest such use being at the local authority controlled venues.</p> <p>National comparative data suggest that an appropriate level of provision should be 41 courts (10.3 sports halls)</p> <p>This might form the nucleus of an acceptable guide for new or improved provision to the sports hall stock over the coming years, allied to appropriate access and quality component</p>	<p>0.26 courts/1000 persons.</p> <p>This is the per capita provision of sports hall court units by the current estimated local authority population. (i.e. 41 /157,710k)</p> <p>Ideally, no more than 15 minutes' drive or walk time (the latter in urban areas); and, a quality component (perhaps referring to an expectation on the extent and character of secured community use, and the design of new or improved facilities, such as shape, dimensions, etc.)¹⁹.</p>	<p>If the quantitative component of the above outline standard was applied to the projected population growth between now and 2027 it suggests that the additional demand generated would lead to a need for an extra 1.77 x 4-court sports halls (7.1 courts).</p>	<p>£4,141,800²⁰(for 1.77 x 4-court sports halls)</p>
Health & Fitness Suites (Section 5)	<p>Appendix 3 of this report identifies an estimated 504 health & fitness stations with suite venues throughout the district. However, it is estimated that only 226 of these stations are easily available for community use on a pay and play basis and at public venues (leisure centres and community schools). Based on the current population estimates for 2016 this number of units equates approximately to 1.4 stations per 1000 population.</p> <p>This provision obviously excludes that which is not under the control of the local authority (such as at schools commercial and membership facilities). No doubt, these sectors will continue to provide for such facilities. However, the public sector makes a</p>	<p>1.43 health & fitness station/ 1000 person (see under comment for explanation of how this has been derived)</p> <p>Ideally, no more than 10-15 minutes' drive or walk time (the latter in urban areas); and, a quality component (perhaps referring to an expectation on the extent and character of secured community use, and the design of new or improved facilities, such as shape, dimensions, etc.)²¹.</p>	<p>The Council might consider providing for an additional 39 health and fitness stations²² spread over one or more of its centres. It would be sensible for this provision to be made in association with new or improved provision for leisure centres in line with the recommendations within the appropriate section of this report.</p>	<p>(See footnote 20) in respect of a 'wet/dry' leisure centre.</p>

¹⁴ This is based on the preferred option housing allocation of 11,857 houses to 2028, using an occupancy rate of 2.3 = 27,271

¹⁵ Sport England Facility Costs (2nd Quarter 2017). These were the most up-to-date figures available from Sport England at the time of the study. The current Sport England cost data should be used at all times, and is available from <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>

¹⁶ 'Community Use' will include a wide range of management regimes whose admission policies will span informal 'pay-as-you-go' access, by the general community; and, through to use by organised clubs and groups by booking or longer-term agreements etc. Whether, individual facilities are considered to be available for significant community use depends of several factors, including:

- Type of facility (and whether its size and design might be of use to the community at large, or at least significant groups within the community);
- The cost of using facilities, and whether these might generally be considered to be affordable;
- The times and days of availability (times of most demand for the general community are likely to be in the evenings and at the weekends, as well as during mid-week lunchtime (popular for people at work). *Some education facilities with appropriate dual use arrangements can therefore have substantial community use.*
- The extent to which such use by the community is 'assured' over the longer-term.

¹⁷ The costs provided in the above schedule are based on 'affordable' community facility designs offered on <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/>

¹⁸ A wet and dry leisure centre including 4-lane pool, 4-court hall, and 50- unit health and fitness plus studio would cost c. £7,345,000, and this might be a more cost-effective option than a standalone pool.

¹⁹ The costs provided in the above schedule are based on 'affordable' community facility designs offered on <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/>

²⁰ A wet and dry leisure centre including 4-lane pool, 4-court hall, and 50- unit health and fitness plus studio would cost c. £7,345,000, and this might be a more cost-effective option than a standalone sports hall.

²¹ The following link provides guidance on the design of health and fitness facilities in the context of 'wet/dry' leisure centres: <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/combined-wet-and-dry-facilities/>

²² This is based on the preferred option housing allocation of 11,857 houses to 2028, using an occupancy rate of 2.3 = 27,271

Facility	Comment	Standard (if appropriate)	Calculation as applied to additional population increase by 2028 ¹⁴	Potential capital cost (based on sources indicated) ¹⁵
	significant contribution to the provision of such facilities driven by a community focused pay as you play ethos.			
Indoor bowls (Section 6)	Section 6 identified the statistics in relation to participation in bowls generally, and that no additional indoor facilities could be justified beyond the expansion of existing venues	No standard suggested	Any additional capacity required resulting from population growth would best be met through expansion of the existing venues.	
Indoor tennis (Section 6)	Section 6 identified a small potential market for a new indoor tennis facility, at this time.	No standard suggested	The potential need for such a facility is not proven.	
Athletics (Section 6)	Section 6 identified that the local authority does not have a synthetic track, and strategically could not really justify one given provision elsewhere outside the District. The proposals for a reduced J-track ²³ at Crowborough, given its isolation from other facilities, might justify some funding from developer contributions/CIL given the estimated popularity of athletic activity highlighted in Section 6. However, there should also be a focus on safe off-road running opportunities, such as Run Englands 3-2-1 initiative.	No standard suggested	NA	NA
Studios (Section 9)	Studios are considered to be a valuable and multi-functional space that should be embraced in both new and refurbished leisure centres wherever possible. They can accommodate activities that have wide appeal across the demographic groups	No standard suggested	This should be integral to all new major sports hall provision. (See under Sports Halls (above) for an indication of required needs in this regard)	(see note under costings for indoor swimming pools)

²³ A 'J track is a reduced version of an athletics track, and examples are provided in the following publication: <https://www.sportengland.org/media/4221/athletics.pdf>

Other recommendations

7.5 Other than the above guidance it will be very important for the Council to provide complementary guidance through its planning policies, and these should cover the following.

7.6 Include policies and proposals in the Development Plan which are consistent with paragraphs 73 and 74 of the National Planning Policy Framework guidance and, in particular, include reference to the recommendations contained in this Section.

7.7 Include sites specific proposals that cover the relevant recommendations contained in **Table 7.1** where the location and/or site of new or improved provision is determined.

7.8 In circumstances where proposals for development and use of a site are contrary to those contained in the recommendations in this section, they should only be approved where:

- an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- 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
- the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.'

End notes

Facilities Planning Model (FPM) In its simplest form the model seeks to assess whether the capacity of existing facilities for a particular sport are capable of meeting local demand for that sport, taking into account how far people are prepared to travel to a facility. In order to estimate the level of sports facility provision in an area, the model compares the number of facilities (supply), with the demand for that facility that the local population will produce. The level of participation is estimated using national participation rates, and applying them to the number of people within appropriate demographic cohorts living in the local authority. The model can be used to test scenarios, by suggesting what impact a new facility would have, or the closure of a facility, to the overall level of facility provision. It can also take account of and model the impact of changes in population, for example, from major housing development.

The data underlying the model is derived from supply, demand, and usage patterns developed over the years from national surveys and, as such, the analysis does not necessarily reflect particular local circumstances. The conclusions of the modelling exercise conducted for this study should not therefore be considered in isolation from other local research and evidence. More detailed Sport England modelling (not available to this assessment) can take into account the fact that the supply of and demand for major community sports facilities cannot be considered within the local authority in isolation from neighbouring areas, and the location and nature of provision in adjacent local authorities can therefore also be factored into calculations of overall supply

Active People Surveys (APS) The Sport England Active People Surveys have now been running for several years. Further details of the Active People Surveys (APS) are contained in **Appendix 1**. Essentially, the analysis is based on a regular sample survey of participation by the adult public aged 16 years and over. The sequence of surveys has now reached Active People year eight (AP8). The APS results are not always available at the local authority level due to the inadequate size of data samples in some situations.

Appendix 1: Further Explanation of Sport England Active People and Market Segmentation analyses

Carried out on behalf of Sport England by the leading social research company TNS BMRB, the Active People Survey (APS) measures the number of adults taking part in sport across England. Providing the most comprehensive and authoritative picture of sports participation in England, APS is central to Sport England's measurement of its own strategy and the performance of key partners.

Key features of APS

APS is the largest survey of its kind ever undertaken – 165,000 adults (age 14 and over) are interviewed each year

The size of the survey means results can be published for a large number of different sporting activities and for every local authority area in England

Time series data stretches back to the first wave of the survey in 2005/6

A high quality, random sampling, survey design ensures results are representative of the population

High quality survey design including:

- 1 Randomly sampled landline telephone interviews with adults aged 16 and over – extended to age 14 and over in July 2012
- 2 Calls are made throughout the year and at different times across each day
- 3 500 interviews per local authority (district and single tier) each year

The sequence of surveys has now reached Active People year eight (AP8). The APS results are not always available at the local authority level due to the inadequate size of data samples in some situations.

Market Segmentation

Sport England's market segmentation has been designed to help understand the life stages and attitudes of different population groups –and the sporting interventions most likely to engage them.

The market segmentation data builds on the results of Sport England's Active People survey; the Department of Culture, Media and Sport's [Taking Part survey](#); and the [Mosaic tool from Experian](#). It presents a picture of 19 dominant social groups in each area, and puts people's sporting behaviour in the context of complex lives. Propensity modelling – a statistical technique that matches the probability of displaying a particular behaviour or attitude to each demographic category – was used to link the survey data to wider population groups.

This created a tool with two key elements:

- 1 a Sport England segment for every adult in England
- 2 the ability to count market segment profiles for any region or community, down to postcode level.

The 19 dominant social groups are summarised in the link: <http://segments.sportengland.org/querySegments.aspx>

Segment	Forename & brief description	Gender/age/status	Sports Most Interested in	Motivations	Barriers	How to increase Participation	Participation Profile
01	Ben (Competitive Male Urbanites)	Male 18-25 Single Graduate professional	Rugby, Squash, Windsurfing, Tennis, Climbing, Gym, Football	Improving performance Training for competition Social Enjoyment Keep fit	Time Interest	Better facilities Improved transport	Most active in population Approx. 20% of segment zero days

Segment	Forename & brief description	Gender/age/status	Sports Most Interested in	Motivations	Barriers	How to increase Participation	Participation Profile
02	Jamie (Sports Team Drinkers)	Male 18-25 Single Vocational Student	Basketball, Football, Weight Training, Boxing, Martial Arts	Social Performance Competition	Time	Better facilities Longer opening hours	Second highest participation of all types Approx. 30% of segment zero days
03	Chloe (Fitness Class Friends)	Female 18-25 Single Graduate Professional	Running, Aqua Aerobics, Tennis, Gym, Swimming	Weight Fitness	Time	Cost Opening Hours Facilities People to go with	Active type. Approx. 30-35% of segment zero days
04	Leanne (Supportive Singles)	Female 18-25 Single Likely to have children Student / part time vocational education	Swimming, Gym, Aerobics, Dance Exercise, Body Pump, Utility Walking	Losing weight Activities for children	Health isn't good enough Time	Help with child care Longer opening hours Cost	Least active of group A who participate. Approx 40-45% of segment zero days

Segment	Forename & brief description	Gender/age/status	Sports Most Interested in	Motivations	Barriers	How to increase Participation	Participation Profile
05	Helena (Career Focused Females)	Female 26-35 Single Full time professional	Gym, Road Running, Dance Exercise, Body Pump, Yoga	Losing weight Keeping fit Improving performance	Time People to go with	Longer opening hours People to go with	Very active type. Approx. 30-35% of segment zero days
06	Tim (Settling Down Males)	Male 26-45 Single / married May have children Professional	Canoeing, Cricket, Cycling, Squash, Skiing, Golf, Football	Improve performance Keep fit Social	Time	More free time Help with childcare	Very active type. Approx 25-30% of segment zero days
07	Alison (Stay at Home Mums)	Female 36-45 Married Housewife Children	Swimming, Badminton, Aerobics, Pilates, Cycling, Exercise Bike	Taking children Losing weight Keeping fit	Time	Help with childcare Better facilities	Fairly active type. Approx 30-35% of segment zero days

Segment	Forename & brief description	Gender/age/status	Sports Most Interested in	Motivations	Barriers	How to increase Participation	Participation Profile
08	Jackie (Middle England Mums)	Female 36-45 Married Part time skilled worker, housewife Children	Swimming, Dance Exercise, Body Pump, Ice Skating (with children), Aqua Aerobics	Taking children Losing weight	Time Cost Lack of interest	Help with childcare Cheaper admissions	Average activity. Approx 45-50% of segment zero days.
09	Kev (Pub League Team Mates)	Male 36-45 Single / married May have children Vocational	Football, Darts, Snooker, Weights, Fishing, Pool, Ten Pin Bowling, Cricket	Competition Social Enjoyment (ltd) Perform	Time Slight cost factor	More free time Cost Facilities	Less active within group B Approx. 50% of segment zero days
10	Paula (Stretched Single Mums)	Female 26-35 Single Job seeker or part time low skilled	Swimming, Utility walking, Aerobics, Ice Skating	Lose weight Take children	Cost Lack of childcare Poor transport Lack of interest	Improved transport Cheaper admission Help with childcare Better facilities	Least active type within Group B Approx. 60% of segment zero days

Segment	Forename & brief description	Gender/age/status	Sports Most Interested in	Motivations	Barriers	How to increase Participation	Participation Profile
11	Philip (Comfortable Mid-Life Males)	Male 46-55 Married Professional Older children	Sailing, Badminton, Cycling, Gym, Jogging, Golf,	Social Taking children Improving performance Enjoyment	Time Lack of childcare	More free time Help with childcare	Most active within Group C Approx. 40% of segment zero days
12	Elaine (Empty Nest Career Ladies)	Female 46-55 Married Professional Children left home	Swimming, Walking, Aqua Aerobics, Step Machine, Yoga Gym	Keeping fit Losing weight Help with injury	Time Lack of interest	Longer opening hours More people to go with	Reasonably active type. approx. 40-45%of segment zero days
13	Roger and Joy (Early Retirement Couples)	Male / female 56-65 Retired or part-time	Swimming, Walking, , Bowls, Sailing, Golf,	Keeping fit To help with injury Enjoyment Taking grandchildren	Poor health Lack of interest Transport	Better facilities Improved transport	Participate once or twice a week Approx 50-55% of segment zero days

Segment	Forename & brief description	Gender/age/status	Sports Most Interested in	Motivations	Barriers	How to increase Participation	Participation Profile
14	Brenda (Older Working Women)	Female 46-55 Single / married May have children Low skilled worker	Swimming, Utility Walking, Dance Exercise, Aerobics, , Keep fit	Weight Bring grandchildren Help with injury	Lack of interest Time	More free time Longer hours Help with childcare (for grandchildren)	Sometimes participates Approx 60-65% of segment zero days
15	Terry (Local 'Old Boys')	Male age 56-65 Single / married Low skilled worker Job seeker	Fishing, Shooting, Pool, Darts, Snooker, cycling	Help with injury Social	Poor health Lack of people to go with Cost	People to go with	Some low intensity participation Approx 65-70% of segment zero days
16	Norma (Later Life Ladies)	Female 56-65 Single / married Low skilled worker Retired	Walking, Keep fit, Swimming, Aqua Aerobics	Help with injury or disability	Poor health Cost	People to go with	Lowest participation of Group C Approx 75-80% of segment zero days

Segment	Forename & brief description	Gender/age/status	Sports Most Interested in	Motivations	Barriers	How to increase Participation	Participation Profile
17	Ralph and Phyllis (Comfortable Retired Couples)	Male / female 65+ Married Retired	Bowls, Golf, Walking, Fishing, Swimming	Social Improve performance and keep fit Enjoyment	Transport Lack of people to go with	Improved transport More people to go with	Highest participation of Group D Approx. 70% of segment zero days
18	Frank (Twilight Year Gents)	Male 66+ Married / single Retired	Bowls, Golf, Darts, Pool, Snooker, Walking, Fishing	Social Enjoyment	Poor health	Improved transport Cheaper admission	Medium participation for group D approx. 75-80% zero of segment days
19	Elsie and Arnold (Retirement Home Singles)	Male / female 66+ Widowed Retired	Walking, Dancing, Bowls, Low-impact exercise	Social Help with injury	Health problems and disability	Improved transport People to go with	Lowest participation of Group D Approx. 85% of segment zero days

Appendix 2: Active Places definitions of terms, in full

What are the facility Access Type definitions?

Access Types are **defined** as:

Free Public Access - There is no charge to use the facility

Pay and Play - The main means of public access to the facility is on payment of a charge. The facility may also have a membership scheme, and it may be possible to block book the facility for a specific activity or for lessons, but during the public opening hours anyone can just turn up, pay and play.

For example: Local authority swimming pool or health and fitness facility, where the casual user pays per session, although there is also a membership scheme.

Sports Club/Community Association use - The main means of public access to the facility is via sports clubs or community associations, which book it for use by their members. Membership of the club or association is based on a particular sport or community group, and is not based on performance criteria or on a particular facility. The club or association may use several different facilities.

For example: Access to indoor bowls greens is through a bowls club, or to athletics tracks through an athletics club. School swimming pool that can be used by a swimming or sub-aqua club, but cannot be used by the general public.

Registered Membership use - The main public access to the facility is by membership. Members usually pay a joining fee as well as a monthly or annual subscription. Membership is controlled by the owner or manager of the facility.

For example: Fitness First health and fitness facility can only be used by registered members

Private use - The facility cannot be used by the public, either on a pay and play basis or through a recreational club, except when playing against the owner of the site. It may be available for use by elite clubs or development squads.

For example: School grass pitches that are only available for the school teams and the teams they are playing against. University, prison, MOD etc facilities that are not available for public use.

Not Known

Access Types are **grouped** into the following categories:

- **Public Access**
- **Private**
- **Not Known**

What are the facility Management Type definitions?

Generally there is one management type for each site. Sometimes there may be more than one (e.g. outdoor facilities are managed by the LEA but indoor facilities are handled by a private contractor).

Management Types are **defined** as:

School/College/University (in house) - Managed by the school/college themselves. Community access to these facilities are often limited to fit around curriculum/University use

Local Authority (in house) - Managed by Local Authority using their own staff.

Private Contractor (PPP/PFI) - Facility managed by a private contractor as part of the Public Private Partnership / Private Finance Initiative. PPP/PFI is a partnership between the public and private sector for the purpose of delivering a project or service traditionally provided by the public sector. This is an arrangement whereby the public sector pays the contractor to build and run a

facility for a set period (25 years), after which the facility is handed back to the public sector. This arrangement is increasingly common with the development of new schools and some Local Authority Leisure Provision.

Trust - Charitable Trust set up to run sports facilities. A number of Local Authorities have set up Leisure Trusts to run their leisure centres. These Trusts benefit from charitable status and work outside the Local Authority structure. The Local Authority remains the owner of the facility.

Sport Club - Where the facility is managed by a sports club.

Commercial Management - Where the facility is managed by a commercial company, such as commercial health clubs. There are also Local Authority Facilities which have been contracted in to manage Local Authority Leisure Centres.

CSSC - Civil Service Sports Council provides sports facilities for employees in Government departments and agencies, the Post Office, BT and many other public bodies and in many companies carrying out ex-civil service work. The CSSC is the largest corporate provider of sport and leisure in the UK and have a network of sports facilities across the country.

Community Organisation - Facilities that are managed and run by Community Organisations, such as community associations and user groups.

Industry Sports Club - Facilities which are managed by an Industrial/Commercial Company for the benefit and use by its staff. Use of these facilities are often limited to family members of employees.

Health Authority - Facilities which are managed by the Health Authority.

MOD - Facilities on MOD sites managed by Armed Forces. Limited community availability.

Other - Other types of management

Not Known - Facilities where the management type is not known.

Management types are **grouped** into the following categories:

- **Education**
- **Local Authority**
- **Trust**
- **Commercial**
- **Others**
- **Not Known**

What are the facility Operational Status definitions?

Operational Status means the functional status of a facility. The Operational Status of a facility is defined as:

- **Planned**
- **Under Construction**
- **Operational**
- **Temporarily Closed**
- **Closed**
- **Does not appear to meet Active Places criteria***
- **No Grass Pitches Currently Marked Out**
- **Not Known**

* The "Does not appear to meet Active Places criteria" means that the data collected under further inspection has been found to not meet the definitions of the facility type/sub type as defined in the

Sports Data Model e.g. it is an AGP where the length is too small etc. It is not a reflection of the quality or it failing to meet a certain design standard. The definitions of the facility types can be found under Help > Sports Data Model (SDM).

What are the facility Ownership Type definitions?

Ownership Types are **defined** as:

(Note, for educational establishments the education type is taken from the Type of Establishment code in Edubase).

Local Authority - Facilities owned by the Local Authority, to include District, Borough, County and Unitary Councils

Community school - Similar to former County schools. LEA employs the school's staff, owns the school's land and buildings and is the admissions authority (it has primary responsibility for deciding the arrangements for admitting pupils).

Voluntary Aided School - Similar to former aided schools. The governing body is the employer and the admissions authority. The school's land and buildings (apart from playing fields which are normally vested in the LEA) will normally be owned by a charitable foundation.

Voluntary Controlled School - Very similar to former controlled schools. The LEA is the employer and the admissions authority. The school's land and buildings (apart from the playing fields which are normally vested in the LEA) will normally be owned by a charitable foundation.

Foundation School - At foundation schools the governing body is the employer and the admissions authority. The school's land and buildings are either owned by the governing body or by a charitable foundation.

City Technology College - Independent all-ability, non fee-paying schools for pupils aged 11-18. Their purpose is to offer pupils of all abilities in urban areas across England the opportunity to study successfully a curriculum geared, with the help of private sector sponsors, towards the world of work. Also encouraged to innovate in the development, management and delivery of the curriculum.

Community Special School - Is the special school equivalent of mainstream Community schools yet are catered wholly or mainly for children with statutory statements of special educational needs.

Non-Maintained Special School - Independent special schools approved by the Secretary of State for Education and Skills. They are run on a not-for-profit basis by charitable trusts and normally cater for children with severe and/or low incidence special educational needs.

Independent School approved for SEN Pupils - A special school equivalent of Other Independent catering wholly or mainly for children with statutory statements of special educational needs. Has been approved by the DfES for SEN provision.

Other Independent Special School - A special school equivalent of Other Independent catering wholly or mainly for children with statutory statements of special educational needs.

Other Independent School - Any school which provides full time education for 5 or more pupils of compulsory school age, which is not maintained by a local education authority or a non-maintained special school.

Foundation Special School - A special school equivalent of the mainstream Foundation school catering wholly or mainly for children with statutory statements of special educational needs.

Pupil Referral Unit - Any school established and maintained by a local authority which is specially organised to provide education for children who are excluded, sick or otherwise unable to attend mainstream school and is not a county or special school.

LEA Nursery School - Is maintained by a local education authority and is not a special school, providing education for children who have attained the age of 2 but are under compulsory school age.

Playing for Success - Through Playing for Success, the DfES is establishing out of school hours study support centres within top football clubs and at other sports' clubs grounds and venues. The centres use the environment and medium of football to help motivate pupils identified by their schools, as being in need of a boost to help them get back up to speed in literacy and ICT.

Academy Sponsor Led - Academies are all-ability, state-funded schools established and managed by sponsors from a wide range of backgrounds, including high performing schools and colleges, universities, individual philanthropists, businesses, the voluntary sector, and the faith communities

EY Setting - Early Years settings include private and voluntary day nurseries, pre-schools, playgroups, childminding networks, portage services and Local Authority day nurseries. The database only lists EY Settings that are registered with the Early Years Development Plan and Childcare Partnerships.

Further Education

Higher Education Institutions

Miscellaneous Education

Secure Units

Sixth Form Centres

Commercial - Site owned by a commercial company .

Sports Club - Site owned by a sports club.

Community Organisation - Facilities that are owned and run by Community Organisations, such as community associations and user groups.

Government - Sites which are owned by Government Departments, excluding Local Authority site & MOD sites.

Industry (for employees) - Facilities which are owned by an Industrial/Commercial Company for the benefit and use by its staff. Use of these facilities are often limited to family members of employees.

Health Authority - Facilities which are owned by the Health Authority.

MOD - Facilities owned by the MOD.

Other - Other types of ownership

Not known - Sites where the ownership is not known

Academy Convertors - All schools that have chosen through Governing Body Resolution and application to the Secretary of State to become an Academy under the Academies Act 2010.

Academy Free Schools - Free Schools are all-ability state-funded schools set up in response to parental demand. The most important element of a great education is the quality of teaching and Free Schools will enable excellent teachers to create schools and improve standards for all children, regardless

Academy Specials - Special Schools that have chosen through Governing Body Resolution and application to the Secretary of State to become an Academy under the Academies Act 2010. These will be handled differently to Academy convertors and will follow a different process which is currently being developed

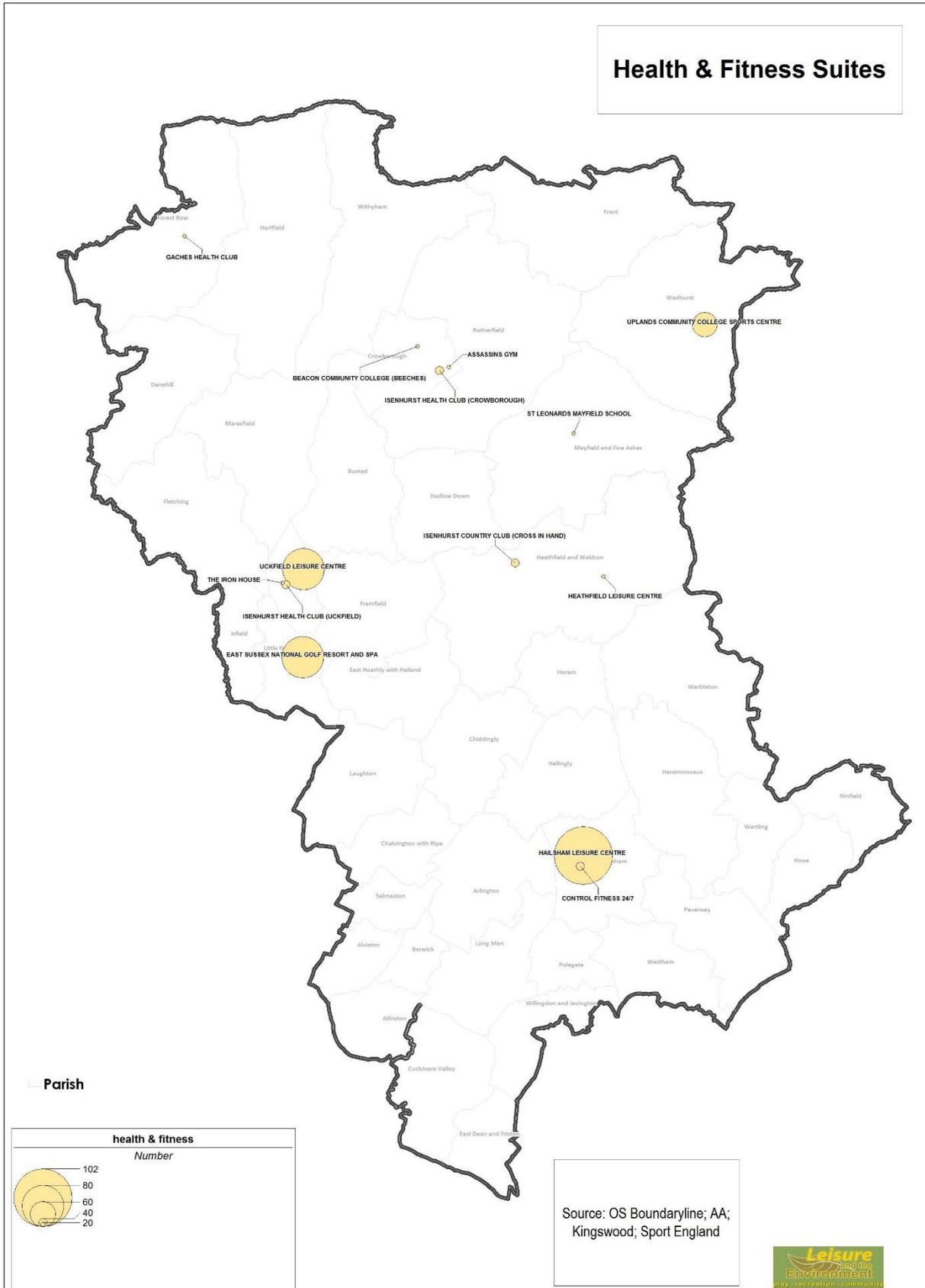
Special College

Ownership types are **grouped** into the following categories:

- **Local Authority**
- **Education**

- **Commercial**
- **Sports Club**
- **Community Organisation**
- **Others**
- **Not Known**

Appendix 3: Health & Fitness Suites and Studio provision in the District



Name	Unit	Number	Facility Status	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type
ASSASSINS GYM	Stations	15	Operational	Pay and Play	Commercial	Commercial Management
BEACON COMMUNITY COLLEGE (BEECHES)	Stations	18	Operational	Private Use	Community school	School/College/University (in house)
CONTROL FITNESS 24/7	Stations	25	Operational	Pay and Play	Commercial	Commercial Management
EAST SUSSEX NATIONAL GOLF RESORT AND SPA	Stations	73	Operational	Pay and Play	Sports Club	Sport Club
GACHES HEALTH CLUB	Stations	17	Operational	Pay and Play	Commercial	Commercial Management
HAILSHAM LEISURE CENTRE	Stations	102	Operational	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Trust
HEATHFIELD LEISURE CENTRE	Stations	14	Operational	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Trust
ISENHURST COUNTRY CLUB (CROSS IN HAND)	Stations	36	Operational	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management
ISENHURST HEALTH CLUB (CROWBOROUGH)	Stations	37	Operational	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management
ISENHURST HEALTH CLUB (UCKFIELD)	Stations	35	Operational	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management
ST LEONARDS MAYFIELD SCHOOL	Stations	10	Operational	Private Use	Other Independent School	School/College/University (in house)

Name	Unit	Number	Facility Status	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type
THE IRON HOUSE	Stations	12	Operational	Pay and Play	Commercial	Commercial Management
UCKFIELD LEISURE CENTRE	Stations	62	Operational	Pay and Play	Sports Club	Trust
UPLANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE SPORTS CENTRE	Stations	48	Operational	Pay and Play	Community school	School/College/University (in house)

Studios



□ Parish

Source: OS Boundaryline; AA; Kingswood; Sport England



Name	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type
ASHDOWN PARK HOTEL AND COUNTRY CLUB	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management
BEDES SCHOOL	Sports Club / Community Association	Other Independent School	School/College/University (in house)
CROWBOROUGH LEISURE CENTRE (2 studios)	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Trust
CROWBOROUGH TENNIS AND SQUASH CLUB LTD	Pay and Play	Commercial	Trust
EAST SUSSEX NATIONAL GOLF RESORT AND SPA	Registered Membership use	Sports Club	Sport Club
GACHES HEALTH CLUB	Pay and Play	Commercial	Commercial Management
HAILSHAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE	Pay and Play	Academies	School/College/University (in house)
HAILSHAM LEISURE CENTRE (multiple provision)	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Trust
HEATHFIELD LEISURE CENTRE	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Trust
ISENHURST COUNTRY CLUB (CROSS IN HAND)	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management
ISENHURST HEALTH CLUB (CROWBOROUGH)	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management
ISENHURST HEALTH CLUB (UCKFIELD)	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management
ST LEONARDS MAYFIELD SCHOOL	Private Use	Other Independent	School/College/University (in

Name	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type
		School	house)
UCKFIELD LEISURE CENTRE	Pay and Play	Sports Club	Trust
UPLANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE SPORTS CENTRE	Pay and Play	Community school	School/College/University (in house)