

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL

**OPEN SPACE, SPORT AND RECREATION
ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGIES**

**Part 2:
Sports Facilities Strategy
Executive Summary**

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INTRODUCTION

The Sports Facilities Strategy forecasts the future needs for sport and recreation up to 2031, and takes into account the housing requirements identified in the adopted Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 (Cherwell District Council, 2015) and the draft requirements of the Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 (Part 1) Partial Review - Oxford's Unmet Housing Need Proposed Submission Plan (Cherwell District Council, 2017).

It forms Part 2 of the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment and Strategies with the other parts being:

Part 1: National and Local Policy Context,

Part 3: Playing Pitch Strategy and

Part 4: Open Space Strategy

The document forms part of an evidence base to support and inform planning policy documents, development management decisions, infrastructure planning, funding bids and investment decisions.

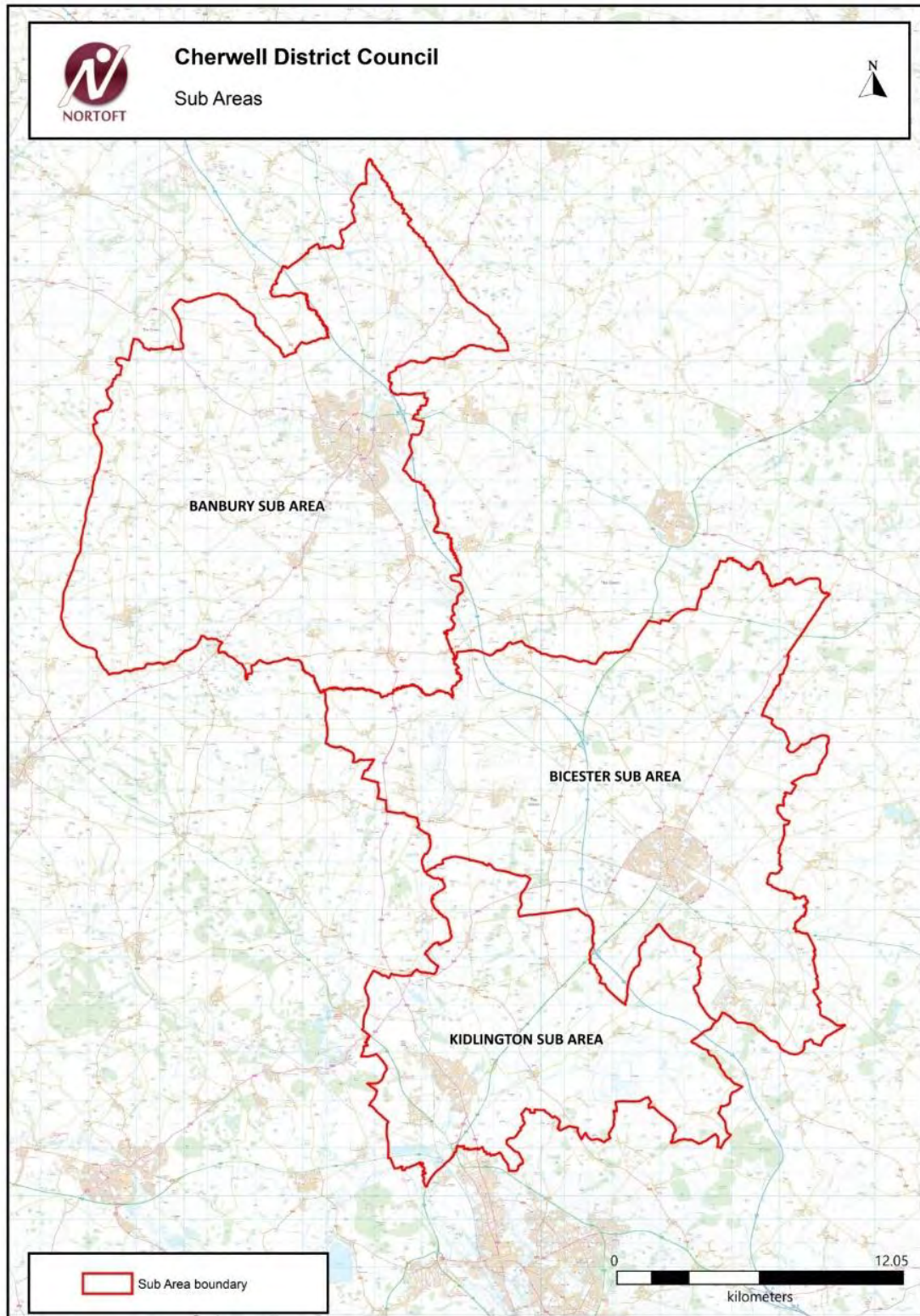
SECTION 1: ASSESSMENT PROCESS AND METHODOLOGY

- 1.1 The approach to this Sports Facilities Strategy reflects the guidance contained in the Sport England Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance of 2014 (Sport England, 2014).
- 1.2 Cherwell is a predominantly rural district, with two towns, Banbury in the north and Bicester in the south east, and a third urban centre at Kidlington, a large village in the south of the district immediately north of Oxford. Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington contain the majority of the built sport facilities in the district, each having leisure centres.
- 1.3 Most of the planned growth in Cherwell district is adjacent to Banbury and Bicester, though the Submission Partial Review of the Cherwell Local Plan Part 1 (2011-2031) – Oxford's Unmet Housing Need also proposes more development in the Kidlington area.

Sub areas for the strategy

- 1.4 The district was divided into three sub areas for the purposes of the Sports Facilities Assessment. The catchments are based on the latest research evidence, either from Sport England or from a sport's national governing body. As several of the main sports facilities, such as sports halls and swimming pools, have an approximately a 20 minute drive time catchment, it is appropriate to consider the authority in sub areas based around Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington.
- 1.5 A map showing the sub areas used in the strategy is given in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Strategy sub areas



Methodology

The assessment of each facility type draws on a number of different elements, including site audits, the theoretical demand for facilities based on various modelling tools such as the Sport England Facilities Planning Model and Sports Facilities Calculator, the results of consultation, issues associated with facility quality and accessibility for the community, population characteristics and projections, policies on participation, and sports development objectives, the resources which may be available to meet the future requirements, National governing body strategic requirements, and the network of facilities and housing growth.

SECTION 2: THE LEISURE NETWORK

- 2.1 This section of the report provides an overview of the facility network in Cherwell. There are four public leisure centre facilities: Spiceball Leisure Centre, Bicester Leisure Centre, Kidlington and Gosford Leisure Centre and Woodgreen Leisure Centre. Woodgreen Leisure Centre is solely a public leisure centre, and the other three have joint day time use. All of the Leisure Centres are managed by Parkwood Leisure under the Legacy Leisure Trust arm.
- 2.2 The geographical spread of the main leisure centres; Spiceball in Banbury, Bicester Leisure Centre and Kidlington and Gosford Leisure Centre means that most of Cherwell's residents can access a leisure centre with a swimming pool, sports hall and gym within 20 minutes' drive.

School facilities

- 2.3 There are two schools with facilities managed directly by Cherwell District Council: The Cooper School Bicester, and North Oxfordshire Academy, Banbury.
- 2.4 Other sports facilities, particularly sports halls, are provided on school sites and except for those identified above, these are managed in-house by the schools themselves. These schools do not have formal community use agreements, have no subsidies for community use, and most facilities are only available for club bookings on a block booking basis. At many schools there is limited opportunity to increase community use at peak time.
- 2.5 The independent Bloxham School (Dewey Sports Centre) and Sibford School however both provide important opportunities to the community as they have some casual swimming times in addition to club use, plus access to their sports halls and fitness facilities.

SECTION 3: SPORTS HALLS

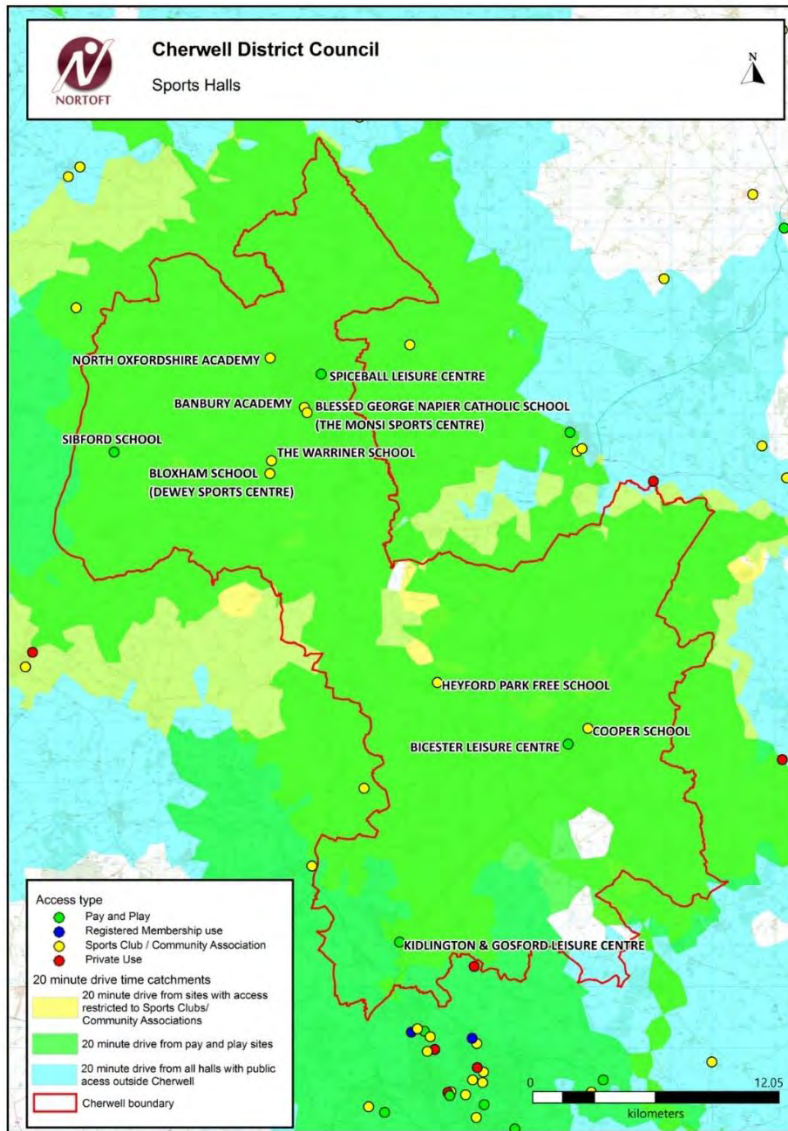
3.1 Sports halls are one of the prime sports facilities for community sport because they are able to provide a venue for many different activities. The standard methodology for measuring sports halls is by the number of badminton courts contained within the floor area. This section considers sports halls of 3+ badminton court size.

Current supply and demand

3.2 There are a number of sports halls across Cherwell and they are reasonably well distributed geographically. They are all of at least standard quality. The sports halls of 3+ badminton court size and above which are available for community use are mapped in

3.3 Figure 2, which also shows that almost all of residents have access to a pay and play sports hall facility within a 20 minute drive time.

Figure 2: Sports Halls (3+ courts) map



- 3.4 There is a current total of 48 badminton courts available for at least some of the peak time. The national average rate of provision per 1,000 population is currently 0.28 courts. Banbury has a slightly higher than national average rate of provision at 0.34 courts per 1,000 population whilst Bicester only has 0.21 courts and Kidlington has 0.16 courts per 1,000 population respectively.
- 3.5 There are a number of sports halls operating at levels above or close to the 80% used capacity rate which Sport England considers to be “busy” at peak time, including: the three main leisure centres, Blessed George Napier Catholic School in Banbury, Bloxham School (Dewey Sports Centre), North Oxfordshire Academy in Banbury and The Warriner School in Banbury. There is almost no spare sports hall capacity at peak time in Banbury, Bicester or Kidlington.

Future requirements

- 3.6 The assessment of the supply and demand for 3+ badminton court size sports halls up to 2031 by strategy sub area is given in Figure 3 together with the recommended priorities for investment.
- 3.7 If the housing proposals contained in the Partial Review do not come forwards, then the demand for sports halls in the Kidlington area is likely to remain largely the same as at present.

Figure 3: Sport halls summary of deficiencies and needs to 2031

	Banbury		Bicester		Kidlington	
	Balance in provision (no badminton courts)	Facility requirements	Balance in provision (no badminton courts)	Facility requirements	Balance in provision (no badminton courts)	Facility requirements
2016	4.6	Retain existing network. Investment as needed to improve quality.	-3.5	Provide 3 x 4 court halls by 2026 plus ancillary hall space. Investment as needed to improve quality for existing facilities.	-3	1 x 4 court hall by 2026, plus 1 x 4 court hall by 2031. Investment as needed to improve quality for existing facility.
2021	1.0		-8.0		-3.2	
2026	-0.6		-11.6		-4.4	
2031	-0.13		-13.2		-6.8	

Recommendations for sports halls

3.8 It is recommended that the Council and relevant stakeholders consider the following to address sports hall provision in the district:

3.9 To support the Council's policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, performance and excellence, it is recommended that the Council continues to support community access to sports halls at its leisure centres and via its partners.

3.10 It is recommended that the Council keep under review the recommendations contained in this strategy, including changes to the housing proposals upon which this assessment is based which may have an impact on the supply and demand for facilities, and the provision or otherwise of other sports facilities such as 3G pitches which will impact on the demand for sports hall space.

3.11 It is recommended that the identified projects are included in the review of the IDP.

3.12 It is recommended that the Council seek to utilise a range of funding sources to deliver the identified projects, taking into account: what monies are already available, the capital programme of the Council, the opportunities for funding via S106 or CIL, and current funding opportunities from a range of external agencies.

Protect

3.13 It is recommended that the existing network of sports halls across the district is protected and maintained, and that the facilities should remain affordable to clubs and individuals.

3.14 It is recommended that where possible, formalised community use agreements are established with schools to protect community use.

3.15 It is recommended that the following should be protected for community use:

- 8 court hall at Spiceball Leisure Centre
- 4 court hall at Bicester Leisure Centre
- 4 court hall at Kidlington and Gosford Leisure Centre
- School sites with community use

Enhance and Provide

3.16 Investment in 3G artificial turf pitches in Bicester and Kidlington and a dedicated gymnastics centre at Bicester is recommended, which would have the effect of releasing capacity in the existing sports hall network by enabling the relocation of football demand and gymnastics use to elsewhere.

3.17 It is recommended that the following is provided, subject to feasibility assessments

including site availability:

- One four court sports hall in association with the proposed secondary school at Begbroke near Kidlington (PR8), designed for and made available for community use. (Subject to the outcome of the Partial Review Submission Local Plan proposals)
- Design and make available for community use the four court sports hall at the planned secondary school in North West Bicester.
- Provide in Bicester one additional four court sports by 2026, and a further four court sports hall by 2031, both designed and made available for community use. Sites to be confirmed.
- Provide one additional sports hall designed and made available for community use in Kidlington by 2031 (unless demand is significantly reduced by relocating football demand to 3G pitches). Site to be confirmed. (Subject to the outcome of the Partial Review Submission Plan Local Plan proposals).

3.18 It is recommended that new planned secondary schools are designed and developed for community use, and that this use is secured via formal legal agreements. The site layout must facilitate this, and the sports halls designed with the minimum size for community use, as set out in the Sport England guidance (Sport England, 2012).

3.19 It is recommended that an increase in the hours which the existing network of sports halls on school sites are open for community use at peak time is sought.

3.20 It is recommended that appropriate land for the new community sports halls for which sites are still to be confirmed should be identified and secured through the planning process.

3.21 It is recommended that all new facilities supported by capital monies from public sources or grant aid should be secured for community use via a binding legal agreement. The length of the agreement to reflect the size of the public support/grant involved.

SECTION 4: SWIMMING POOLS

4.1 Swimming pools might be considered the most important sports facility type in Cherwell as they are used by most of the community, from the very youngest through to people in old age. This assessment considers only indoor pools which are open year round and excludes lidos and other outdoor pools which are only open during the summer months such as the outdoor pool at Woodgreen Leisure Centre, Banbury. This follows the approach advised in the Guidance from Sport England (Sport England, 2014).

Current supply and demand

4.2 Swimming in Cherwell is a popular activity and the historical rates for swimming participation appear to be slightly above the national average, as confirmed by the national governing body for swimming, though the evidence also shows that swimming participation has stagnated recently. The historical rate is about 2% above the national average.

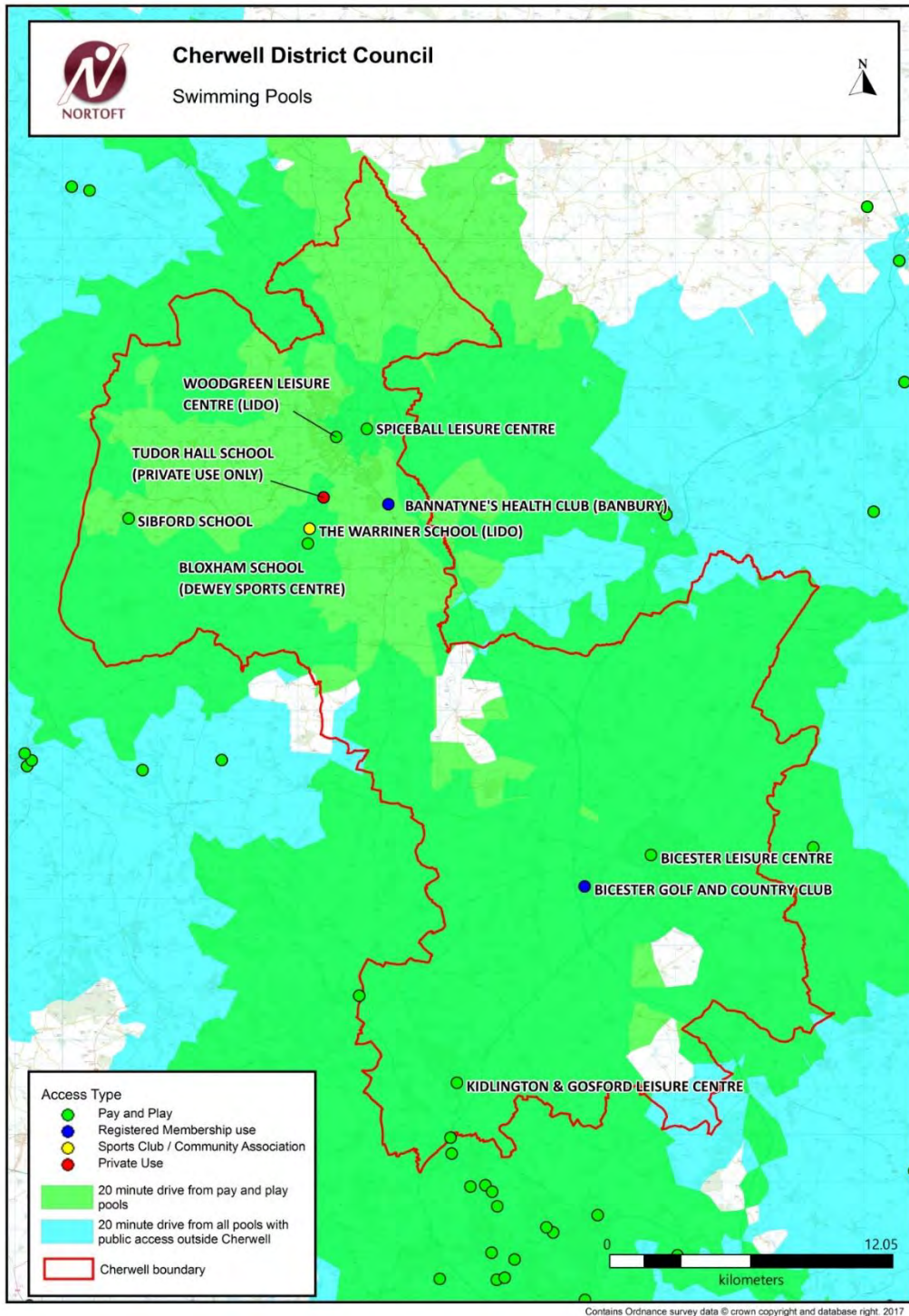
4.3 There are seven pool sites available for community use in Cherwell with a mix of ownership, five offering at least some pay and play access. These are mapped in Figure 4 which shows the pool locations, together with those in the surrounding authorities. The green shading on the map shows the accessibility of pay and play swimming pools to Cherwell residents based on a 20 minute drive time. This suggests that almost everyone with access to a car can reach a pay and play pool within 20 minutes, with only some small rural areas being outside the drive time catchment of any pool.

4.4 The current provision in the Banbury area is about in balance with the supply as the good quality Spiceball Leisure Centre pool is supplemented by good quality facilities at Bloxham School (Dewey Sports Centre) and Sibford School. There is also a commercial facility in this area, the Bannatyne's Health Club. The Woodgreen Leisure Centre has a 50m outdoor pool which is open during the summer months and is seen as reasonable quality.

4.5 All of the strategy modelling and consultation responses provide a clear picture for Bicester; that there is too little water space in the sub area, that there is only one main pool and this is ageing. Its design also means that it is no longer able to be used for competitive swimming. The only other pool in this sub area is the Bicester Golf and Country Club but this is a small pool and only available for registered members.

4.6 The Kidlington and Gosford Leisure Centre pool is the only pool in this sub area. It is 25m x 4 lane. The pool is ageing and its size is restricting use, particularly by the swimming club. At the present time, there is a shortfall of water space to meet the needs of the local community.

Figure 4: Swimming pools map



Future requirements

- 4.7 The assessment of the supply and demand for swimming pool space by strategy sub area up to 2031 is given in Figure 5, together with the overview of priorities for investment.

- 4.8 If the housing proposals in the Kidlington sub area contained in the Partial Review do not come forwards, then the priority will be to retain and improve the existing facility, rather than seeking additional water space.

Figure 5: Swimming water space summary of deficiencies and needs to 2031

	Banbury		Bicester		Kidlington	
	Balance in provision (sq m water space)	Facility requirements	Balance in provision (sq m water space)	Facility requirements	Balance in provision (sq m water space)	Facility requirements
2016	-1	Need for additional small community pool of 25m x 4 lane by 2026. Proposed to be met by commercial sector. Retain and maintain existing pools.	-43	Need for additional 25m x 6 lane pool with teaching pool by 2026. Retain and maintain/replace existing pools.	-23	Need for additional community pool 20 m x 4 lane by 2031. Retain and maintain/replace existing pools.
2021	-163		-182		-36	
2026	-212		-335		-84	
2031	-208		-396		-173	

Recommendations for swimming pools

- 4.9 It is recommended that the Council and relevant stakeholders consider the following to address swimming pool provision in the district:

- 4.10 To support the Council’s policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, performance and excellence, it is recommended that the Council provides attractive swimming facilities available to the whole community which complements the wider provision of recreation opportunities in the private, education, community and voluntary sectors. It is recommended that the Council ensures that there is a network of accessible swimming pools available to all residents on a pay and play basis.
- 4.11 The network of pools provided by the Council as a whole should be financially self-sustaining both in relation to capital and revenue costs.
- 4.12 The Council and Banbury Town Council support the retention of the lido pool at Wood Green Leisure Centre but due to the nature of this facility do not consider that it can form part of the indoor swimming pool provision that is required by

the community without significant further investment.

4.13 It is recommended that the Council consider undertaking Sport England Sports Facilities Planning Model local scenario tests to supplement the Council's understanding and confirm the details of the options for pools in each of the towns.

4.14 It is recommended that the identified projects will be included in the review of the IDP.

4.15 It is recommended that the Council seek to utilise a range of funding sources to deliver the identified projects, taking into account: what monies are already available, the capital programme of the Council, the opportunities for funding via S106 or CIL, and current funding opportunities from a range of external agencies.

Protect

4.16 It is recommended that all the existing swimming pools with community use are protected, retained and maintained at high quality, where the size is greater than 120 sq m.

Enhance

4.17 It is recommended that the existing Bicester Leisure Centre pool is retained and refurbished, or replaced.

4.18 It is recommended that the Kidlington and Gosford Leisure Centre pool is retained, refurbished and extended, or replaced with a larger leisure centre.

4.19 It is recommended that hours for community use at Bloxham School (Dewey Sports Centre) and Sibford School are increased, and use secured through formalised community use agreements.

Provide

4.20 It is recommended that the following provision is sought, subject to feasibility assessments including site availability:

- New community pool of 25 m x 6 lane competition pool plus teaching pool in Bicester. Site to be confirmed.
- New small community pool size 25 m x 4 lane in the Kidlington area by 2031 as part of a new leisure centre. Site to be confirmed.

4.21 Have positive planning polices to enable development of new commercial fitness provision in Banbury which includes swimming pool space of at least 120 sq m in size.

SECTION 5: HEALTH AND FITNESS

- 5.1 This section considers indoor fitness facilities, both the provision of fitness gyms and the provision of studio space. The latter are multi-purpose rooms used for a range of fitness activities and dance, and are usually an integral part of any leisure centre or commercial fitness site. The revenue generated by health and fitness provision is particularly important for those sites with a swimming pool, as the revenue generated can help offset the net revenue costs of a pool.
- 5.2 The provision of health and fitness facilities (typically including fitness stations) is potentially a key element in achieving increased participation in physical activity. However there is no simple way of assessing participation in individual gym and fitness activities, nor the spaces they need. The method used for the analysis of the provision per 1000 population of the health and fitness facilities which have a number of 'stations' (one station might be for example a single treadmill).

Current supply and demand

- 5.3 The fitness and gym provision in terms of both the number of fitness stations and the number of studios in Cherwell is much higher than the regional or national average and the rates of provision in Cherwell's benchmark authorities. There is a wide geographical spread of sites which means that most people can reach a facility within 15 minutes' drive time.
- 5.4 About 61% of the provision is in commercial fitness facilities, but there are only three sites with 100 stations or more. The largest site, Spiceball Leisure Centre, has 150 stations.
- 5.5 In Cherwell, the percentage of commercial fitness provision is higher than in its benchmark authorities, but the size of the individual fitness gyms is smaller than is often the case in the commercial sector in larger urban centres.
- 5.6 The operator of Spiceball is keen to extend the health and fitness offer at the centre and has been considering options.
- 5.7 This suggests that the fitness market is probably at a fine balance between supply and demand in the authority. As the market in fitness gyms responds rapidly to demand, it is likely that there will continue to be regular changes to the supply of gyms in the future.

Future requirements

5.8 The assessment of the supply and demand for health and fitness provision by strategy sub area is given in Figure 6 together with the overview of identified future needs. It is recommended that developers' contributions are sought towards health and fitness provision.

5.9 If the housing proposals contained in the Partial Review do not come forwards, then the demand for fitness facilities in the Kidlington area will need to be reviewed as no further provision will be required.

Figure 6: Health and fitness summary of deficiencies and needs to 2031

	Banbury		Bicester		Kidlington	
	Balance in provision (no. fitness stations & studios)	Facility requirements	Balance in provision (no. fitness stations & studios)	Facility requirements	Balance in provision (no. fitness stations & studios)	Facility requirements
2016	-75	One large fitness gym (90 stations) facility by approx 2020, with 140 station fitness provision by 2031 to link to new swimming pool. Both with studio space.	75	One large fitness gym (100 stations) facility by approx 2026, with further moderate-large fitness provision by 2031. Both with studio space.	1	One medium large fitness gym (40 stations) facility by approx 2026, with further either additional moderate-large fitness provision by 2031. Both with studio space.
	1		-1		0	
2021	-180		-17		-9	
	-1		-2		0	
2026	-216		-112		-40	
	-2		-1		-1	
2031	-232		-165		-92	
	-5		-2		-2	

Recommendations for health and fitness

5.10 It is recommended that the Council and relevant stakeholders consider the following to address health and fitness provision in the district:

5.11 To support the Council's policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, it is recommended that the Council provides attractive health and fitness facilities which are available to the whole community which complements the wider provision of recreation opportunities in the education, commercial, community and voluntary sectors. This provision will be made in association with the public leisure centres, where the revenue generated from health and fitness can help balance the cost of maintaining the centres.

- 5.12 It is recommended that the Council has positive planning policies which enable the development of a commercial health and fitness centre in Banbury which also includes a pool of approx 25 m x 4 lane size.
- 5.13 It is recommended that the identified public projects will be included in a review of the IDP.
- 5.14 It is recommended that the Council seek to utilise a range of funding sources to deliver the identified projects, taking into account: what monies are already available, the capital programme of the Council, the opportunities for funding via S106 or CIL, and current funding opportunities from a range of external agencies.

Sites

Protect

- 5.15 It is recommended that the existing network of health and fitness sites which have 50 stations or more are generally protected and maintained.

Enhance

- 5.16 It is recommended that the health and fitness facilities at Bicester Leisure Centre and Kidlington and Gosford Leisure Centre are refurbished, improved, expanded or replaced.
- 5.17 It is recommended that limited extended fitness provision including gym and studio space is provided at Spiceball Leisure Centre.

Provide

- 5.18 It is recommended that the priorities for new delivery and which need to be confirmed through feasibility work, where appropriate, are:
- Banbury: large fitness gym and studio spaces to support new provision of additional swimming pool space, either as a public or commercial facility. Site and details to be confirmed.
 - Bicester: large fitness gym and studio spaces as part of a new wet/dry leisure centre. Site and details to be confirmed.
 - Kidlington: large fitness gym and studio spaces as part of a new wet/dry leisure centre. Site and details to be confirmed.
- 5.19 Appropriate land for the leisure centres should be identified through the planning process.

SECTION 6: ATHLETICS

- 6.1 The term “athletics” includes field and track activities, both taking place at athletics tracks, as well as cross-country running, road running, marathon/ultra-marathon running, and jogging.
- 6.2 Research by Sport England has shown that about 10% of athletics activity takes place at a track, with 90% elsewhere. The report therefore considers both synthetic athletics track provision and other athletics needs.

Current supply and demand

- 6.3 There is one 8-lane athletics track, the Drayton track at North Oxfordshire Academy in Banbury. This is a joint use facility and has a “Full” certificate from UK Athletics which enables it to host events at all permit levels in all events. The catchment of this track is about 30 minutes’ drive time, so it is accessible to much of Cherwell district. Banbury Harriers Athletics Club uses the site as their home venue. This facility is managed by Cherwell District Council.
- 6.4 There is one other track and field athletics club, the Bicester Athletics Club. This club uses the sports hall at Bicester Leisure Centre in the winter and uses a grass field at Bicester Academy a local park in the summer.
- 6.5 The Horspath track owned and managed by Oxford City and the Tilsley Park track at Abingdon both provide important opportunities for athletes in the south of Cherwell. Almost all of Cherwell’s residents have access to an athletics track within 30 minutes’ drive.
- 6.6 Other running clubs use Woodgreen Leisure Centre, Kidlington and Gosford Leisure Centre and Stratfield Brake as meeting points, but then use the local roads.
- 6.7 There is clear demand from the strategy consultation for more traffic free walking and running routes, and this type of provision has also been identified by the national governing bodies for athletics as a priority.

Future requirements

- 6.8 The national governing bodies’ priorities are to retain the existing network of athletics tracks, and to support the development of compact athletics facilities where there is local need.
- 6.9 There has already been some exploration of the options to develop a compact athletics training facility to respond to the needs of the Bicester Athletics Club. This is the highest priority for the future in terms of track and field athletics.
- 6.10 The development of marked running routes would offer a real opportunity for many people. There are a number of traffic free routes already in existence, and there may be opportunities to develop these further, including in relation to major developments.

Recommendations for athletics

6.11 It is recommended that the Council and relevant stakeholders consider the following to address athletics provision in the district:

6.12 To support the Council's policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, performance and excellence. It is recommended that the Council continues to support community access to athletics tracks and training facilities.

6.13 It is recommended that the identified projects are included in the review of the IDP.

6.14 It is recommended that the Council seeks to utilise a range of funding sources to deliver the identified projects, taking into account: what monies are already available, the capital programme of the Council, the opportunities for funding via S106 or CIL, and current funding opportunities from a range of external agencies.

Protect

6.15 It is recommended that the Drayton track at North Oxfordshire Academy, including the retention of its Full certificate awarded by UK Athletics, is protected.

Enhance

6.16 It is recommended that the delivery priorities are:

- Improvements to routes through parks and open spaces to encourage walking and running.
- Future improvements to the Drayton athletics track at North Oxfordshire Academy, as may be identified and costed.

Provide

6.17 It is recommended that measured walking and running routes are provided in association with England Athletics and other partners, utilising open spaces, parks and traffic free routes.

6.18 It is recommended that, subject to feasibility assessment including site availability, a compact athletics facility is sought in Bicester to meet the needs of Bicester Athletics Club. The suggested preferred location is the Kingsmere secondary school site mainly due to its proximity to the adjacent Sports Ground and an opportunity for the operator to manage such a facility for community use should this also be required.

SECTION 7: SQUASH

7.1 Nationally, Sport England estimates that around 342,300 people play squash or racketball at least once a month, but there has been a gradual decline since 2007 (Sport England, 2017).

Current supply and demand

7.2 There are 8 sites which cater for squash in Cherwell with 15 courts in total. All of the sites are pay and play, except for one club site, Banbury West End Tennis and Squash Club which is available to members only. Most sites have 2 or 3 courts, but there is only one court at both Heyford Free School and Vida Health and Fitness. The Bloxham School site and Spiceball are well used, but there appears to be spare capacity across the rest of the network.

7.3 Cherwell is considered to be a priority area for England Squash with significant opportunities for the growth of the game.

Future requirements

7.4 The strategy analysis suggests that the overall level of squash court provision in Cherwell should be retained and if the Bicester Leisure Centre was to be replaced, that the squash courts should also be replaced.

7.5 If, however, squash as a sport grows as hoped by the national governing body, there will be demand for additional courts. The most appropriate mechanism for the delivery of new courts would be via the commercial sector, so the key priority is for positive planning policies supporting the development of appropriate sites.

Recommendations for squash

7.6 It is recommended that the Council and relevant stakeholders consider the following to address squash provision in the district:

7.7 To support the Council's policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, performance and excellence, it is recommended that the Council continues to support community access to squash courts.

7.8 It is recommended that future identified projects will be included in the review of the IDP.

7.9 It is recommended that the Council seeks to utilise a range of funding sources to deliver the identified projects, taking into account: what monies are already available, the capital programme of the Council, the opportunities for funding via S106 or CIL, and current funding opportunities from a range of external agencies.

Protect

- 7.10 It is recommended that the existing squash facilities are protected, particularly at the leisure centres. They should be refurbished as needed to maintain them at a high quality. Where there is a justified need, investment should be into moveable walls to enable more flexible use of the courts at off peak time.

Enhance and provide

- 7.11 It is recommended that there should be positive planning policies to enable the development of commercial squash clubs in the future.

SECTION 8: GYMNASTICS AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

- 8.1 This section of the strategy addresses the sport of gymnastics and related activities. Some of this activity is within affiliated clubs, but other activity is not affiliated or the activity is not one of the British Gymnastics' recognised disciplines.
- 8.2 There are also some commercial trampoline centres in the district such as Rebound Revolution in Bicester. These purely commercial centres do not provide sports development programmes and are effectively not available or not suitable for gymnastic club activities. They are therefore outside of the strategy.

Current supply and demand

- 8.3 The peak in participation for gymnastics according to British Gymnastics is at around 9 years. Nationally, the affiliated membership gymnastics clubs has been growing rapidly with at least a 12% increase each year since 2012. Most of this growth remains at the young age groups but there has also been a notable increase in the number of teenagers and young adults up to the age of 25 years. There are currently around 370 people taking part in gymnastics and related activities within the district.
- 8.4 Gymnastics does not have a strong club network in Cherwell as there are only three affiliated British Gymnastics clubs in the district: Bicester and District Gymnastics Club, Ricochet Trampoline Club and Kidlington Gymnastics Club. This may in part reflect the fact that there are two large clubs just outside the district. Almost all Cherwell residents are within a 20 minute drive time to an affiliated gymnastics club, either within or outside of the district.
- 8.5 The primary issue in relation to gymnastics provision is in relation to the Bicester and District Gymnastics Club which has long and large waiting lists. The lack of facility access is restricting this club's expansion.

Future requirements

- 8.6 Much of any new gymnastics demand in the Banbury area is likely to be met by the Wade Gymnastics club in South Northamptonshire, and in the Kidlington area by the Cherwell Gymnastics Club in Oxford. The priority is to provide new gymnastics space at Bicester. This could be via a dedicated gymnastics centre but the type of centre, potential location, and costs need to be confirmed as such centres can vary from converted warehouses to specially built facilities with trampoline pits etc.
- 8.7 The need for improved access to multi-functional halls or activity spaces is also expected to continue to be needed across the district, both during the school day and at evenings and weekends. Where appropriate and justified, additional storage space at community centres and village halls may support use by gymnastics and related activities.
- 8.8 Figure 7 summarises the provision needs for gymnastics now and in the future.

Figure 7: Gymnastics summary of deficiencies and needs up to 2031

	Banbury sub area	Bicester sub area	Kidlington sub area
2017	No known deficiencies.	Club uses sports hall at Bicester Leisure Centre and is at capacity with waiting list.	No known deficiencies. Club uses leisure centre.
2021 to 2031	Support to village and community halls to provide storage space for gym equipment where there is demand.	Dedicated gymnastics hall where equipment can be permanently set up is required by 2021. Support to village and community halls to provide storage space for gym equipment where there is demand.	Support to village and community halls to provide storage space for gym equipment where there is demand.

Recommendations for gymnastics

8.9 It is recommended that the Council and relevant stakeholders consider the following to address gymnastics provision in the district:

8.10 To support the Council's policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, performance and excellence, it is recommended that the Council continues to support community access to gymnastics provision.

8.11 It is recommended that a dedicated gymnastic centre for Bicester is included in a review of the IDP.

8.12 Local projects to support increased storage provision at village and community halls with the purpose enabling the sites to then provide for, or better provide for gymnastics may be included in the IDP or may be treated as a local facility for S106 funding. If or when CIL is in place, the Council will be mindful to avoid double dipping between CIL and S106.

8.13 It is recommended that the Council seeks to utilise a range of funding sources to deliver the identified projects, taking into account: what monies are already available, the capital programme of the Council, the opportunities for funding via S106 or CIL, and current funding opportunities from a range of external agencies.

Protect

8.14 It is recommended that the existing trampoline centre in Banbury, and the halls used by gymnastics elsewhere are retained and maintained at high quality.

Enhance and Provide

8.15 It is recommended that, subject to feasibility assessments including site availability and the options for the potential reuse of an existing building, a dedicated gymnastics facility at Bicester is sought for the Bicester and District Gymnastics Club.

8.16 It is recommended that proposals for changing facilities and improved car parking provision at Ricochet Trampoline Centre, Banbury are supported.

8.17 Improved storage at village and community halls where justified to enable the provision of gymnastics.

SECTION 9: BOWLS

- 9.1 This section of the report considers the demand for bowls, both indoor and outdoor. There is some cross-over between indoor and outdoor bowls as some players are active year round, and some sites have both indoor and outdoor rinks. However many players only either play indoors or outside. Specialist indoor bowls centres have catchments of up to 30 minutes' drive time and are largely run separately from outdoor bowls, where the clubs and sites have more local catchments and are usually restricted to the summer months.
- 9.2 The sport primarily attracts older people, with more than 75% of players being aged over 65 years.
- 9.3 The membership of indoors bowls clubs nationally has been fairly static but there seems to have been a slight general decline in the number of people playing outdoor bowls over the last few years. There is not therefore expected to be a significant increase in the number of people playing bowls up to 2031 in Cherwell district, with the possible exception of the Bicester area which will see the number of people aged 60 and over doubling in this period.

Indoor bowls

Current supply and demand

- 9.4 There is one specialist indoor bowls site in Cherwell, at Woodgreen Leisure Centre which has 6 rinks. This site is available October-April to the club, but the green is then boarded over and the green area used for other purposes. Almost all Cherwell residents have access to an indoor bowls centre within 30 minutes' drive, and the catchment of Woodgreen includes all of Bicester and stretches down towards Kidlington. Residents outside of the catchment of Woodgreen can reach alternative indoor bowls greens within 30 minutes' drive within the adjacent authorities.
- 9.5 Woodgreen Leisure Centre has significant spare capacity as do all of the sites outside of Cherwell. The bowls usage of Woodgreen Leisure Centre is however thought by the national governing body to be lower than would usually be expected because of the closure of the site during the summer months, making the bowls membership less attractive than usual.
- 9.6 It is also likely that the village and community hall network is providing important opportunities for many people for short mat bowls.

Future requirements

- 9.7 The low usage of the indoor bowls green at Woodgreen Leisure Centre is of concern. Unless it can be accelerated, the club might still only be using the site at

around 70% capacity by 2031, even taking into account the growth in the number of older people in the Banbury and Bicester areas.

- 9.8 Given that Woodgreen Leisure Centre is the only indoor bowls facility in the district, the site should, if possible be retained. However if this is not financially sustainable, then alternative provision might be considered, perhaps providing either a 4 or 6 rink indoor facility adjacent to an existing bowls club. This would need to be either in Banbury or Bicester in order to maximise the catchment.

Recommendations for indoor bowls

- 9.9 It is recommended that the Council and relevant stakeholders consider the following to address indoor bowls provision in the district:

9.10 To support the Council's policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, performance and excellence, it is recommended that the Council continues to support community access to indoor bowls provision.

9.11 It is recommended that the Council seeks to utilise a range of funding sources to deliver the identified projects, taking into account: what monies are already available, the capital programme of the Council, the opportunities for funding via S106 or CIL, and current funding opportunities from a range of external agencies.

Protect

9.12 It is recommended that the existing indoor bowls provision at Woodgreen Leisure Centre is protected and maintained. Sports development initiatives to support the club to increase their membership more widely should be explored to encourage more players, both older and younger people.

Outdoor bowls

Current supply and demand

9.13 There are 10 bowling green sites within the district and each site has a single green, but with the number of rinks varying from 4 to 6. There is one derelict site at Shipton on Cherwell. The quality of the sites is generally very good.

9.14 Most of the feedback from the clubs shows a membership situation which is either steady or declining, with only the very small Begbroke club saying that its membership had increased. One club ceased in September 2016, at Deddington. Overall the club membership numbers are low, with only Banbury Borough and Banbury Central having over 70 members.

- 9.15 The sites are all managed by the clubs themselves and most are owned by the clubs. The exception is the Horton View site used by Banbury Central.
- 9.16 The relatively small drive time catchment for outdoor bowls greens, a maximum of 15 minutes, means that there is limited cross-authority boundary movement of members.

Future requirements

- 9.17 The existing network of outdoor bowls greens has more than sufficient spare capacity to cater for outdoor bowls in the period up to 2031. The club at Deddington closed in 2016 and the Lower Heyford club is now unaffiliated. The club at Begbroke is small and may not be sustainable in the long term. The catchments of these sites overlap with those of the larger and more successful clubs, and therefore do not appear to be essential to the bowls network in the long term.
- 9.18 Where a site is disused for bowls, then consideration should be given to alternative sport, recreation or green space use in accordance with national planning policy guidance and the Local Plan Part 1, taking into account the findings of the open space, sport and recreation assessments and strategies.

Recommendations for outdoor bowls

- 9.19 It is recommended that the Council and relevant stakeholders consider the following to address outdoor bowls provision in the district:

9.20 To support the Council’s policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, performance and excellence, it is recommended that the Council continues to support community access to outdoor bowls provision via its partners.

9.21 It is recommended that any future identified projects be included in a review of the IDP.

9.22 It is recommended that the Council will seek to utilise a range of funding sources to deliver the identified projects, taking into account: what monies are already available, the capital programme of the Council, the opportunities for funding via S106 or CIL, and current funding opportunities from a range of external agencies.

Protect

9.23 It is recommended that the bowling greens at the following sites should be retained and maintained at high quality:

- Bicester Bowls Club
- Banbury Chestnuts Bowls Club

Banbury Borough Bowling Club
Bloxham Bowls Club
Kidlington Bowls Club
Adderbury Bowls and Social Club
Banbury Central Bowling Club

9.24 It is recommended that the future of the following sites should be kept under review and will be dependent on their membership levels being sustainable:

Begbroke Bowls Club
Lower Heyford Bowls Club

Dispose

9.25 It is recommended that the following sites should not be retained for bowls unless there is local demand:

Deddington Beeches Bowls Club
Bunkers Hill Bowling Green, Shipton on Cherwell

9.26 Where a site becomes disused for bowls, then consideration should be given to alternative sport, recreation or green space use in accordance with national planning policy guidance and the Local Plan Part 1, and taking into account the findings of the open space, sport and recreation assessments and strategies.

SECTION 10: TENNIS

10.1 This section of the strategy considers both indoor and outdoor tennis. Specialist indoor tennis centres have a large catchment area, whilst outdoor tennis is usually more local, except for the largest and most successful clubs.

10.2 Although this section considers indoor and outdoor tennis provision separately, at the club level they can be considered together, since covering courts, either on a permanent or seasonal basis provides significant extra capacity.

10.3 Nationally tennis attracts more men (60%) than women (40%), and the higher socio-economic groups. Sport England's Active People Survey (Sport England, 2017) suggests that tennis participation has decreased during the period 2007/08 to 2015/16. The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) affiliated club information gives a figure of 1,238 club members in Cherwell.

Indoor tennis

Current supply and demand

- 10.4 There is no indoor tennis court provision in Cherwell at the present time, but much of the district is within a 30 minute drive time of a facility. Banbury town and some of the rural area to the west of the town is without any access to a facility within 30 minutes.
- 10.5 Although tennis as a sport has declined over the last few years, most of the affiliated clubs in Cherwell are large, and both Banbury West End Tennis and Squash Club and Bicester Lawn Tennis Club meet the minimum size guidelines from the LTA for indoor court provision.

Future requirements

- 10.6 There appears to be justification for indoor provision in Banbury now, and potentially in the longer term, in the Bicester area. There is an emerging proposal for Banbury which is still at an early stage, and the site, feasibility, type of cover, and financial sustainability is still to be confirmed. The need for and options for covered courts in Bicester should be kept under review.

Recommendations for indoor tennis

- 10.7 It is recommended that the Council and relevant stakeholders consider the following to address indoor tennis provision in the district:

10.8 To support the Council's policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, performance and excellence, it is recommended that the Council seeks to support community access to indoor tennis provision.

10.9 It is recommended that the proposed indoor tennis project at Banbury is included in a review of the IDP.

10.10 It is recommended that the Council seeks to utilise a range of funding sources to deliver the project, taking into account: what monies are already available, the capital programme of the Council, the opportunities for funding via S106 or CIL, and current funding opportunities from a range of external agencies.

Provide

10.11 It is recommended that indoor tennis provision in Banbury is developed in association with the Banburyshire Tennis Network. The site, costs, timescales, sustainability, and deliverability need to be confirmed through a feasibility study.

10.12 If indoor tennis provision elsewhere is not deliverable, then it is recommended that

consideration is given to the improvement of the existing hard courts at the North Oxfordshire Academy, and securing them for community use.

- 10.13 It is recommended that the need for indoor tennis court provision in Bicester is kept under review.

Outdoor tennis

Current supply and demand

- 10.14 Most of the outdoor tennis provision in Cherwell is on tennis club sites, but there are also a small number of community sites. Most of the sites are good quality, although there are some issues on the community courts, particularly in Kidlington.
- 10.15 The LTA's capacity assessment of club sites suggests that all of the clubs are running at above their expected capacity levels, with only Banbury Lawn Tennis Club having spare capacity.
- 10.16 The community courts are likely to be running at around 20% used capacity at peak time, including the courts used by and only available to, the unaffiliated club at Horton cum Studley.
- 10.17 The travel time to tennis courts is less than to other facility types, with the exception of the large club sites which are likely to draw from a wider area, such as the Banbury West End club. If a drive time of 10 minutes is used as the guide to the spread of facilities across the district, then there is a clear gap in provision in the Upper Heyford area.
- 10.18 There are no clubs in the Kidlington area, but this part of the district is well served by provision in Oxford City.

Future requirements

- 10.19 The assessment of the supply and demand for outdoor tennis provision by strategy sub area is given in Figure 8 together with the overview of identified future needs.
- 10.20 If the housing proposals contained in the Partial Review do not come forwards, then the demand for tennis facilities in the Kidlington area is likely to remain at similar levels to present, and new additional tennis facilities will not be required.

Figure 8: Tennis summary of deficiencies and needs to 2031

	Banbury sub area		Bicester sub area		Kidlington sub area	
	Balance in provision (number of courts)	Facility requirements	Balance in provision (number of courts)	Facility requirements	Balance in provision (number of courts)	Facility requirements
2016	-2 non-floodlit courts	Cover courts at Banbury LTC to increase capacity.	-2 floodlit courts	Provision of 6 additional floodlit courts available during school day and suitable for club use (delivery at Whitelands Farm Sports Ground).	-3.5 floodlit courts	Provision of 2 additional floodlit courts with ancillary facilities available during school day and suitable for club use.
2031	-9 floodlit courts	<p>Floodlight courts at Cropredy and Deddington suitable for club use.</p> <p>Develop 1 additional floodlit court at Hook Norton.</p> <p>Explore option of additional courts at North Oxfordshire Academy</p> <p>Develop single non-floodlit courts in village locations where there is potential demand but no access to a court within 10 minutes' drive</p>	-8 floodlit courts	<p>Develop single non-floodlit courts in village locations where there is potential demand but no access to a court within 10 minutes' drive</p>	-5 floodlit courts	<p>Develop single non-floodlit courts in village locations where there is potential demand but no access to a court within 10 minutes' drive</p>

Recommendations for outdoor tennis

10.21 It is recommended that the Council and relevant stakeholders consider the following to address outdoor tennis provision in the district:

10.22 To support the Council's policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, performance and excellence, it is recommended that the Council continues to support community access to outdoor tennis provision.

10.23 It is recommended that the identified projects are included in a review of the IDP.

10.24 It is recommended that the Council seeks to utilise a range of funding sources to deliver the identified projects, taking into account: what monies are already available, the capital programme of the Council, the opportunities for funding via S106 or CIL, and current funding opportunities from a range of external agencies.

Protect

10.25 It is recommended that the existing sites used for outdoor tennis, including both those sites which host tennis clubs and those which are community sites are protected.

Enhance

- 10.26 It is recommended that the following are enhanced:
- Cropredy tennis courts by floodlighting both courts
 - Deddington tennis courts by floodlighting all 3 courts
 - Youth Forum, Kidlington by improving courts and providing floodlights
 - Floodlighting all courts and improving changing provision at Banbury West End, Adderbury
 - Providing an additional floodlit court at Hook Norton.

Provide

10.27 It is recommended that the 6-court outdoor tennis site at Whitelands Farm Sports Ground, Bicester is delivered as planned. Ensure that the floodlighting is appropriate for match play.

10.28 It is recommended that covered courts are provided in Banbury. Site, club, cost and deliverability are to be confirmed through a feasibility study.

Or if not deliverable:

10.29 It is recommended that additional floodlit courts are provided at Banbury as a single site of no less than 4 courts. This new provision may be achieved by

investing in the existing hard courts at the North Oxfordshire Academy to improve their quality and provide floodlighting suitable for tennis match play, and securing their community use.

Or if not deliverable:

- 10.30 A new dedicated tennis club site will be required with no less than 4 floodlit courts.
- 10.31 It is recommended that Kidlington is provided with 2 additional floodlit courts with ancillary facilities available during the school day and suitable for club use by 2031.
- 10.32 It is recommended that a new community tennis court is provided in village locations where there is a strategic gap in provision and locally identified demand. Floodlights not required but preferred.

SECTION 11: GOLF

- 11.1 Golf is the fifth largest participation sport in England. The number of golf club members has been declining since 2004, though seems to be recently levelling off. As the commercial sector is the most important provider of golf in Cherwell, the development of the courses will reflect a combination of demand and appropriate site opportunities.
- 11.2 There are a number of ways in which golf is played, from the standard 18 hole golf course, to shorter Par 3 courses, driving ranges, pitch and putt and other short courses, adventure and even crazy golf. The main sporting facilities are considered to be full courses, short courses, par 3 courses, and driving ranges.

Current supply and demand

- 11.3 There are currently 8 golf sites in Cherwell which all offer 18-hole courses, some with driving ranges. The spread of golf provision means that everyone with access to a car can reach a course within 20 minutes' drive time.
- 11.4 The capacity of the network of golf provision across the district is uneven. It is likely that the courses and driving ranges in the Banbury and Bicester sub areas are primarily catering for the populations within those sub areas, although there will be some cross-border movement of players, particularly where sites are close to the authority boundary, for example Cherwell Edge.
- 11.5 The situation in the Kidlington sub area is notably different, with a rate of provision for golf courses much higher than the rates of provision for the Banbury and

Bicester sub areas. This high rate of provision must be being sustained by the import of players, and this is likely to be mostly from Oxford, as there is only one course in the city.

- 11.6 The current balance in supply and demand is not possible to assess accurately as the membership figures and pay and play use of the individual golf sites are commercially sensitive information. However as an average across the district, England Golf's club membership information suggests that the rate of membership for Cherwell is approximately in line with the other authorities in Oxford, but this is lower than the national average. Based on the district wide average club membership, it seems that there is some spare capacity district wide at the existing club sites. However this will mask variations at the individual club level.
- 11.7 England Golf's analysis suggests there may be the potential for more demand, but in Cherwell the current 18 hole dominant format may be hindering the uptake of the sport.
- 11.8 The North Oxford Golf Course has a club with no security of tenure, and the landowners have put the site forward for housing development. The site has been included as a proposed urban extension in the Submission Partial Review of the Cherwell Local Plan (Part 1): Oxford's Unmet Housing Need.

Future requirements

- 11.9 There are no robust mechanisms for assessing the supply / demand balance for golf. However, assuming that the economic conditions remain similar or better than today into the long term, the increase in housing numbers in Cherwell and its surrounding authorities will generally bring more direct demand for golf in its various forms. The currently forecast long term need is for additional provision by 2031 of:
- Banbury sub area: 1 x nine hole course, 3+ driving range bays
 - Bicester sub area: 1 x 18 hole course or 2 x 9 hole courses, 8 driving range bays
- 11.10 The Kidlington area appears to have some spare capacity at the present time and the growth in the population alone for this area within Cherwell District is not likely to take up all of the spare space even in the longer term, indicating Cherwell's needs can be met. However, as the area is likely to be providing golf opportunities for people living elsewhere, predominantly Oxford, it should be assumed that this demand will remain in the long term.
- 11.11 Should the North Oxford Golf Course be confirmed for housing development (as proposed in the draft Partial Review of the Plan), the long term shortfall in provision to meet the demands of the forecast population in the Kidlington sub area alone may be in the order of 6 holes. The minimum replacement facility

requirement to solely meet the needs of the Kidlington population (excluding consideration of any imported demand) is therefore one 9 hole golf course.

- 11.12 However as there appears to be a significant level of importation of golf players into the Kidlington area, additional analysis would need to be undertaken in relation to the potential loss of the North Oxford Golf Course to confirm whether full replacement is needed.

Recommendations for golf

- 11.13 It is recommended that the Council and relevant stakeholders consider the following to address golf provision in the district:

- 11.14 To support the Council’s policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, performance and excellence, it is recommended that the Council continues to support community access to golf opportunities via its partners.

Protect

- 11.15 The existing golf course sites should be protected, unless the tests set out in the National Planning Policy Framework are met.
- 11.16 Should there be a loss of the North Oxfordshire Golf Course to housing development, then alternative golf provision may be appropriate if a replacement facility is required, informed by an assessment of need.

Enhance and provide

- 11.17 It is recommended that positive planning policies are adopted to enable the development of new golf provision, in various formats, both on existing sites and on new sites. However these policies must also be balanced with other policies relating to the impact of golf on the countryside.
- 11.18 The expected new golf requirements up to 2031 are:
- Banbury sub area: 1 x nine hole course, 3+ driving range bays
 - Bicester sub area: 1 x 18 hole course or 2 x 9 hole courses, 7 driving range bays

SECTION 12: CYCLING

- 12.1 Cycling is a popular activity in Cherwell with high levels of participation by both men and women. Participation in cycling nationally has increased over the last 12 years and Sport England research (Sport England, 2017) has suggested that about 12.5% of Cherwell residents cycle at least once a month, which is higher than both the regional or national averages.

Current supply and demand

- 12.2 In relation to long-distance cycle routes crossing Cherwell, there is one largely north-south route and one east/west route, plus a short route running across Banbury. For much of the district however there are limited traffic free routes or other cycling opportunities, which restricts the ability of minis and juniors to cycle on a regular basis. There are also only a small number of active cycling clubs. Clubs such as Bicester Millennium Cycling Club report that they are seriously restricted in their ability to cater for young people within a safe environment.
- 12.3 The Cherwell Local Plan 2011-31 has a number of references to cycling including the enhancement of the Oxford Canal to better enable cycling as its use as a corridor route, and improved routes for both Banbury and Bicester. Local Plan Part 1 Policy ESD17 requires green infrastructure including cycleways to be integral to new developments.
- 12.4 There are no specialist cycling facilities in the district, for example large BMX sites, cycle speedway or closed road tracks.

Future requirements

- 12.5 There appears to be significant potential to increase rates of cycling activity if cycling was made more easily available, attractive and promoted, and more traffic free routes and other opportunities were to be made available.
- 12.6 It is recommended that a specialist cycling facility which will meet the needs of the whole district is developed. Its details including costs and deliverability, will need to be confirmed via a project specific feasibility study.
- 12.7 The Oxfordshire Cycling Design Standards provide advice for developers on the provision of cycleways in association with new development.

Recommendations for cycling

- 12.8 It is recommended that the Council and relevant stakeholders consider the following to address cycling provision in the district:

- 12.9 To support the Council's policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, performance and excellence, it is recommended that the Council continues to support community access to a range of cycling opportunities.
- 12.10 It is recommended that if a cycling centre project comes forwards this should be identified in a review of the IDP.
- 12.11 It is recommended that the Council should seek to utilise a range of funding sources to deliver such a project, taking into account: what monies are already

available, the capital programme of the Council, the opportunities for funding via S106 or CIL, and current funding opportunities from a range of external agencies.

Protect

- 12.12 It is recommended that the existing network of routes suitable for cycling across Cherwell are protected and maintained.

Enhance

- 12.13 It is recommended that the development of an improved cycling network across Cherwell should be a major focus of future investment, both to support sustainable travel and to respond to the high level of cycling interest.

Provide

- 12.14 It is recommended that a traffic free cycling centre is sought to be delivered which meets the needs of the clubs in the district. The nature of the site, its cost, sustainability, and deliverability would need to be confirmed via a feasibility study.

SECTION 13: OTHER SPORT AND RECREATION ACTIVITIES

- 13.1 There are a number of sports facilities in Cherwell which have specialist facilities, either built facilities, or primarily using countryside and water spaces.

Countryside and water sports

- 13.2 The sport and recreation activities which are based in the countryside using the natural resources include amongst others; walking, horse riding, water sports, motorsports such as motorcycle trials, and air sports such as gliding. The appeal and accessibility of these types of sports in Cherwell is wide, with every sector of the community attracted to using the countryside for at least one activity, particularly walking and cycling.

- 13.3 Most of these activities will take place at sites which are outside of the control of the local authority, so Cherwell District Council's role in relation to these activities is necessarily different compared to that for the built facilities, namely:

- As an advocate working with partners to gain and retain access to a wide range of "natural resources".
- Providing positive planning policy to encourage provision for, and access by, a range of sport and recreation activities.

- Supporting clubs and partners to achieve grant aid to gain, maintain and improve their facilities, particularly where this encourages or enables new participation.

Netball

- 13.4 Netball is primarily a female activity and has been growing in popularity over the last 10 years. Most of the netball activity takes place outdoors, although some clubs have some training indoors.
- 13.5 Two of the four sites in Oxfordshire which are considered by the national governing body to be key venues are in Cherwell: The Cooper School, Bicester and The Warriner School, Bloxham. These sites are a base for central venue competitions and/or are a venue for participation and performance programmes.
- 13.6 In the period up to 2031 there is likely to be sufficient capacity for netball in the existing facilities, but they will need to be kept at high quality. Should additional facilities be required, then there is a potential option of using North Oxfordshire Academy, subject to court improvements and long term security of community use.

Recommendations for netball

- 13.7 It is recommended that the Council and relevant stakeholders consider the following to address netball provision in the district:

- 13.8 To support the Council's policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, performance and excellence, it is recommended that the Council continues to support community access to netball provision.
- 13.9 It is recommended that any future identified projects will be included in a review of the IDP.
- 13.10 It is recommended that the Council will seek to utilise a range of funding sources to deliver the identified projects, taking into account: what monies are already available, the capital programme of the Council, the opportunities for funding via S106 or CIL, and current funding opportunities from a range of external agencies.

Protect

- 13.11 It is recommended that the existing facilities which are used for netball are protected, in particular at The Warriner School and The Cooper School.

Enhance and provide

- 13.12 It is recommended that the quality of the netball facilities at The Cooper School and The Warriner School, which are owned and managed by the academies, are

improved. Any investment would be subject to a long term formal community use agreement.

13.13 It is recommended that where there is local demand, floodlit courts are provided to enable winter evening use.

13.14 It is recommended that the courts at North Oxfordshire Academy are improved if justified by demand. Any investment would be subject to a long term formal community use agreement and would be most likely to be managed by Cherwell District Council or their appointed operator.

Table tennis

13.15 In Cherwell district much of the table tennis activity takes place in village halls, community centres or in ancillary halls, but the Premier Club at Kidlington has its own purpose built high quality venue.

13.16 There is sufficient capacity in the existing network to cater for table tennis up to 2031, so the priority is to maintain the currently used facilities at high quality.

Recommendations for table tennis

13.17 It is recommended that the Council and relevant stakeholders consider the following to address table tennis provision in the district:

13.18 To support the Council's policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, performance and excellence, it is recommended that the Council continues to support community access to table tennis provision.

Protect

13.19 It is recommended that the existing facilities which are used for table tennis, in particular the Forum Centre at Kidlington, are protected.

Enhance and provide

13.20 It is recommended that the opportunities offered at table tennis club venues are improved by investment projects which may be identified and justified in the future.

Archery

- 13.21 There are two archery clubs in Cherwell district; Banbury Cross Archers who use The Warriner School both for their indoor and outdoor activities, and Bicester Archers who use Heyford Free School at Upper Heyford for indoor activities, and Bicester Sports Association at Chesterton for their outdoor activities.
- 13.22 There appears to be sufficient capacity long term for the sport, but there are some facility needs which will help support archery participation.

Recommendations for archery

- 13.23 It is recommended that the Council and relevant stakeholders consider the following to address archery provision in the district:

13.24 To support the Council's policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, performance and excellence, it is recommended that the Council continues to support community access to archery provision.

Protect

13.25 It is recommended that the existing outdoor archery facilities, particularly at the Bicester Sports Association site at Chesterton, are protected.

Enhance and provide

13.26 The Bicester Sports Association and archery clubs should explore the option of providing a basic pavilion close to the archery range at the Chesterton Bicester Sports Association site, as part of the future planning for this site.

13.27 It is recommended that support is given to the archery clubs to access sports halls for winter training as part of wider sports development initiatives led by Cherwell District Council.

SECTION 14: DELIVERING THE STRATEGY

- 14.1 The study is intended to inform not only planning documents and development management decisions but also recreation infrastructure planning and information to support funding bids by both the Council and other providers. All sources of funding and other means of delivery will be required to deliver the facilities needed.
- 14.2 As the responsibility for provision of sport and recreation facilities is shared between the District, Town and Parish Councils, sports clubs and associations, delivering the strategy will require partnership working.
- 14.3 The strategy has identified a number of sports facilities where there is cross-boundary movement of participants over the boundaries. These include the export of gymnasts to Oxford and South Northants, the import of golfers from Oxford to Cherwell, and the export of hockey and tennis players to Oxford. The part of the district where there appears to be most movement is the Kidlington sub area.
- 14.4 The strategy recommendations are based on the expected population growth and changes up to 2031 within the authority itself, including the impact of the new housing proposed in the Partial Review. In effect these recommendations assume that there will be no significant changes in the cross-boundary movement of participants in the individual sports, either from new housing growth just across the boundary, or because there are new sports facilities provided within the adjacent authorities which are easily accessible to Cherwell residents.
- 14.5 However in view of the possibility that proposals for new housing development outside of the district but close to Kidlington might exacerbate the cross-boundary movement, a joint study is recommended to look at specific strategic needs, to ensure that the sports facility provision both meets the needs of the expanding community and is provided in the most cost-effective way.

Securing provision of sport through development

- 14.6 A key output from the strategy is the securing of sports provision through development. This can include on-site provision through master-planning and planning obligations, and securing developers' contributions to off-site provision. It is recognised that the shortfall in funding for specific facilities will need to be met by other funding sources, for example grant aid from the National Governing Bodies of sport, lottery funding, private funding, and housing infrastructure funds.
- 14.7 The Council has a Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document which supports the adopted Local Plan policies on sport and recreation and explains the existing approach to developer contributions. The authority seeks contributions via S106 but it will still be necessary to meet the three CIL tests set out in CIL Reg 122 and National Planning Policy Framework para 204:

- Necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms
- Directly related to the development
- Fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.

Calculating contributions

14.8 The Study has reviewed quantity, accessibility and quality standards for new recreation provision in association with development. It recommends that the standards contained in the Provision Guide in Figure 9 should be used to calculate the amount of expected demand being generated by a specific development for sports halls, swimming pools, fitness facilities, cycling, athletics, gymnastics and tennis. The figure indicates the quantity of facility per 1,000 of population, accessibility and quality standards, and has been directly derived from the strategy's assessment process.

Figure 9: Recommended Provision Guide for new housing developments

Facility type	Quantity per 1000 population	Accessibility	Quality
Sports Halls	Banbury sub area 0.28 badminton courts fully available at peak time	20 minutes by car	Design and quality to meet Sport England or the relevant national governing body guidance
	Bicester and Kidlington Sub Areas 0.30 badminton courts fully available at peak time		
Swimming pools	Banbury sub area 11.40 sq m water space fully available at peak time	20 minutes by car	Design and quality to meet Sport England or the relevant national governing body guidance
	Bicester sub area 11.72 sq m water space fully available at peak time		
	Kidlington sub area 11.76 sq m water space fully available at peak time		
Fitness facilities (stations)	All areas 7.58 stations fully available at peak time	15 minutes by car	Design and quality to meet Sport England guidance
Fitness facilities (studios)	All areas 0.14 studios fully available at peak time	15 minutes by car	Design and quality to meet Sport England guidance
Outdoor tennis	0.48 dedicated tennis courts fully available at peak time	10 minutes by car	Design and quality to meet Sport England or the relevant national governing body guidance

Specialist cycling facility	District wide 1 facility 0.005 facility per 1,000 population	District wide	Design and quality to meet Sport England or the relevant national governing body guidance
Athletics compact training facility	Bicester and Kidlington sub areas 1 facility 0.009 compact athletics facility per 1,000 population	20 minutes by car	Design and quality to meet Sport England or the relevant national governing body guidance
Dedicated gymnastics centre	Bicester sub area 1 facility 0.01 dedicated gymnastics centre per 1,000 population	20 minutes by car	Design and quality to meet Sport England or the relevant national governing body guidance
Indoor tennis facility	Banbury sub area 1 facility 0.01 indoor tennis facility per 1,000 population	20 minutes by car	Design and quality to meet Sport England or the relevant national governing body guidance

Note: **fully available** at peak time means open to community use in the evenings and weekends.

SECTION 15: PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

15.1 The Study includes an Action Plan and recommends that the Council use it as a basis for liaising with key stakeholders to determine how the strategy recommendations are best achieved.

Figure 10: Action Plan for built sports facilities

Proposal / Facility	Action required	Lead organisation	Key partners	Date for action
Forward and development planning				
Sport and recreation strategy review	Review and confirm the proposals in this strategy once the Partial Review is complete (to ensure the assumed amount and location of growth to meet Oxford's unmet need remains unchanged).	CDC		Year 1
Major new housing	Ensure that major new housing sites have policies for	CDC	Sport England	On-going

developments in Cherwell	sports provision, on or off site as appropriate.			
Planning policies on sport and recreation	Update planning policies on sport and recreation through the Local Plan process to reflect updated standards of provision	CDC		Year 2-3
Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document	Update the Supplementary Planning Document as policy guidance on the delivery of sport and recreation facilities and playing pitches for new developments.	CDC		Years 2-3
New swimming provision for Bicester	Complete feasibility study to confirm the preferred option for the delivery of new swimming provision in Bicester, likely to be associated with additional 4-court sports hall and health and fitness provision.	CDC	Sport England Swim England	Year 1
New swimming provision for Kidlington	Complete feasibility study to confirm the preferred option for the delivery of new swimming provision in Kidlington and consider association with additional 4-court sports hall and health and fitness provision.	CDC	Sport England Swim England	Year 1
Planning applications	Respond to planning applications for development to ensure that the necessary sports provision is achieved. If a sport and recreation site has become disused, consideration should be given to other sport, recreation or open space use, having regard to deficiencies identified in the assessments and strategies.	CDC	Sport England	On-going
Cross boundary working with West Oxfordshire and Oxford	Work with West Oxfordshire District Council and Oxford City to identify if there are options for strategic provision of sports facilities, and ways	CDC	West Oxfordshire District Council Oxford	Year 1-2

	in which they can be funded.		City Council	
SW Bicester secondary school	Explore whether the proposed school site can respond to the potential options identified in the feasibility study for new swimming provision for Bicester. This may include developing the site for joint use.	CDC	Oxfordshire County Council	Year 1-2
Proposed secondary school at Begbroke	Confirm proposal for 4-court sports hall designed and made available for community use	CDC	Oxfordshire County Council	Year 1-2
Traffic free walking and cycling routes	Ensure that planning policy requires the provision of linked traffic free walking and cycling routes as part of new developments.	CDC	Developers	On-going
	Development of traffic free running and cycling routes linking existing green spaces in Banbury and Bicester as an integral part of sustainable transport networks.	CDC	Banbury Town Council Bicester Town Council	On-going
Golf planning policies	Positive planning policies should be adopted to enable the development of new golf provision, in various formats, both on existing sites and on new sites, where there is a demonstrated need.	CDC		Year 3
New provision and investment				
Community use agreements on school sites	Ensure that any public investment, and where relevant, planning permission for sports facilities on school sites is linked to formal community use agreements, the terms of which should reflect the size of the investment and the identified need for those facilities in the catchment of the site i.e. small levels of capital	OCC / CDC	OCC Schools	Linked to specific projects

	investment would usually be expected to have less onerous conditions and over a shorter period than major investment. For example resurfacing of hard courts at a school site, compared to the development of a sports hall.			
4-court sports halls for Bicester	Undertake feasibility options study for the delivery of two 4 court halls for Bicester. One to be delivered by 2026, the other by 2031.	CDC		Year 1-2
4-court sports halls for Kidlington	Undertake feasibility options study for the delivery of one 4 court hall for Kidlington by 2031.	CDC		Year 2-3
Specialist gymnastics centre, Bicester	Undertake feasibility study to identify options, costs, deliverability and sustainability of developing a dedicated gymnastics centre for club use in Bicester. May be part of wider review of site options for Bicester Leisure Centre, if so may be more urgent to complete.	CDC	Bicester and District Gymnastics Club, British Gymnastics	Year 2
Covered tennis courts, Banbury	Undertake feasibility study to identify site options, costs, deliverability and sustainability of providing covered courts in association with Banbury Lawn Tennis Club. If not achievable then: Deliver 4-floodlit courts, site to be confirmed but potentially at North Oxfordshire Academy by improving existing hard courts.	CDC	Banbury Lawn Tennis Club Lawn Tennis Association	Year 3
		CDC	North Oxfordshire Academy Lawn Tennis Association	Year 3
Traffic free	Undertake a feasibility study	CDC	British	Year 3

cycling centre	into the development of a traffic free cycling centre to identify options, costs, deliverability and sustainability. Site also to be confirmed.		Cycling Cycle clubs	
Sports development and other actions				
Community use agreements on school sites	Seek to develop community use agreements on school sites where a school acts as an important community sports facility.	CDC	Schools	On-going

SECTION 16: FACILITY SPECIFIC PROPOSALS

- 16.1 The Study also provides a summary of the main sites identified in the strategy and their investment needs. The list also includes new projects for which no specific sites have yet been identified. Several of the specific projects are at relatively early stages of feasibility assessment, and therefore the costs and deliverability are still to be confirmed.
- 16.2 The assessment of the deliverability of the projects, including the achievement of planning permission, will need to be kept under regular review and alternative options identified if the preferred site/location is not possible to deliver. The recommended priorities for the specific projects are identified as High, Medium and Low.

Figure 11: Recommended site specific proposals by sub area

BANBURY SUB AREA

Project name	Main aim	Priority H = High M = Medium L = Low	Phasing St 2018-2021 Mt 2021-2026 Lt 2026-2031	Estimated capital cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners	Comment
Leisure Centres						
Spiceball Leisure Centre	Retain and maintain: 8 badminton court sports hall Swimming pool Fitness gym Studios Squash courts Health Suite	H	On-going		Operator	Site also has crèche, soft play and treatment rooms.
	Extend fitness provision, subject to feasibility study. The proposals should not impact on the sports hall or swimming pool.	H	St	tbc	Leisure Centre operator CDC	Feasibility study completed 2018.
Woodgreen Leisure Centre	Retain and maintain: Fitness gym including studio Indoor bowls centre with 6 rinks Outdoor pool	H	On-going		Operator	Need to support bowls club with sports development programmes to widen and increase membership. Consider retaining bowls green though summer months if sufficient bowls demand.

Project name	Main aim	Priority H = High M = Medium L = Low	Phasing St 2018-2021 Mt 2021-2026 Lt 2026-2031	Estimated capital cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners	Comment
Schools						
Banbury Academy	Retain and maintain: Sports hall	H	On-going		Academy	Managed by academy.
	Resurface very poor quality artificial grass pitch.	H	St	£470,000	Academy	Proposed to resurface existing very poor quality hockey surface pitch.
	Develop full size 3G football turf pitch with floodlights	H	Mt	£935,000	Academy / Developer	Academy has unfulfilled S106 requirement for full size 3G pitch. Timing of delivery linked to housing completions.
Blessed George Napier Catholic School	Retain and maintain: Sports hall	H	On-going		Academy	Managed by school
	Consider development of an artificial grass pitch full size 3G football turf, or conversion of existing hockey surface to 3G. Alternatively retain at high quality the existing hockey surface and make available for hockey club use.	M	Lt	£250,000 (conversion) - £935,000	Academy Football club	Proposed as part of possible joint option with Easington Sports and Social Football Club.

Project name	Main aim	Priority H = High M = Medium L = Low	Phasing St 2018-2021 Mt 2021-2026 Lt 2026-2031	Estimated capital cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners	Comment
Bloxham School (Dewey Sports Centre)	Retain and maintain: Sports hall Swimming pool Full size sand filled hockey pitch Small size sand filled hockey pitch Fitness gym 2 squash courts 3 outdoor tennis courts	H	On-going		School	Good quality facilities, owned and managed by independent school. Seek to increase opening hours for community use. Considering development of additional hockey pitch.
North Oxfordshire Academy	Retain and maintain at good quality: Artificial pitch sand dressed Athletics track Grass pitch inside track Climbing wall	H	On-going		CDC	Joint use facilities
	Retain and maintain at good quality: Sports hall	H	On-going		Academy	Managed by academy
	Provide: Full size 3G football artificial grass pitch with floodlights	H	St	£935,000	Academy CDC	Academy has unfulfilled S106 requirement for full size 3G pitch.
	Extended/new clubhouse with additional changing.	H	St	Tbc for extension £500,000 for new 4 team changing	Academy CDC Clubs	Existing clubhouse insufficient to cater for number of teams. Requires extension or new additional building.
	Improve hard courts.	L	Mt	tbc	CDC Academy	Improve hard courts for netball and tennis use, if other netball provision elsewhere and

Project name	Main aim	Priority H = High M = Medium L = Low	Phasing St 2018-2021 Mt 2021-2026 Lt 2026-2031	Estimated capital cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners	Comment
						covering of tennis courts elsewhere not deliverable. Would require to be managed by CDC and also require extension of the Joint Use Agreement.
Sibford School	Retain and maintain: Sports hall Swimming pool Studio Squash courts	H	On-going		School	Good quality facilities, owned and managed by independent school.
The Warriner School	Retain and maintain: Sports hall Ancillary hall	H	On-going		Academy	Managed by academy. Additional hard court facility being delivered in 2018.
	Improve quality of outdoor hard courts, particularly for use by netball	M	St	tbc	Academy	Public investment would need to be linked to a joint use agreement.
Other sites						
Outdoor bowls facilities	Retain and maintain the greens and ancillary facilities at: Banbury Chestnuts Bowls Club Banbury Borough Bowling Club Bloxham Bowls Club Adderbury Bowls and Social Club Banbury Central Bowling Club	H	On-going		Clubs	
	Keep under review need for outdoor bowls facility at	L				

Project name	Main aim	Priority H = High M = Medium L = Low	Phasing St 2018-2021 Mt 2021-2026 Lt 2026-2031	Estimated capital cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners	Comment
	Deddington. If not required consider alternative use for sport, recreation or open space.					
Cropey tennis courts	Floodlight 2 courts.	H	St	£25,000	Club LTA Parish Council	
Deddington tennis courts	Floodlight 3 courts.	M	Mt	£35,000	Club LTA Parish Council	
Banbury West End Tennis Club, Adderbury	Floodlight 2 courts.	M	Mt	£25,000	Club LTA Parish Council	
	Improve changing provision.	M	Mt	tbc	Club LTA Parish Council	
Hook Norton Tennis Club	Provide additional floodlit tennis court	M	Mt	£165,000	Club Parish Council	

Project name	Main aim	Priority H = High M = Medium L = Low	Phasing St 2018-2021 Mt 2021-2026 Lt 2026-2031	Estimated capital cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners	Comment
Ricochet Trampoline Club	Provide changing and improve car parking	M	St	tbc	Club	A British Gymnastics affiliated club, not commercial centre.
Village and community halls	Improve storage and quality to enable greater range of sport and active recreation to be provided.	H	On-going	tbc	Site owners/manager, Town and Parish Councils, CDC	Costs dependent on needs. Support participation growth through sports development plans.
Village hard courts/tennis courts	Provide tennis court for pay and play or with open access where there is no access to such a court within 10 minutes' drive	L	Mt	£120,000 per court	Parish Councils	
New sites						
New commercial fitness provision. Site to be confirmed	New community pool expected to be provided via the commercial sector. New provision will require large fitness gym to support revenue.	H	Mt	n/a	Commercial	No site yet identified.
Covered tennis courts, Banbury	Identify site to provide covered tennis courts in association with Banbury Lawn Tennis Club. Subject to feasibility assessment and planning.	M	Mt	tbc	CDC Club LTA Town Council	Costs dependent on design. Feasibility study required to confirm options and likely planning issues.

Project name	Main aim	Priority H = High M = Medium L = Low	Phasing St 2018-2021 Mt 2021-2026 Lt 2026-2031	Estimated capital cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners	Comment
Walking, running and cycling routes	<p>Development of improved networks of walking, running routes (including measured marked routes), and cycling routes utilising open spaces, parks and traffic free opportunities in and around Banbury.</p> <p>Development within new housing, and also as links across Banbury.</p>	H	St, Mt, Lt	tbc	Town Council CDC Developers	Proposals to better link both existing green spaces/routes and with and within new developments.

BICESTER SUB AREA

Project name	Main aim	Priority H = High M = Medium L = Low	Phasing St 2018-2021 Mt 2021-2026 Lt 2026-2031	Estimated cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners	Comment
Leisure Centre						
Bicester Leisure Centre	Retain and maintain: Sports hall Swimming pool Fitness gym Studio Squash courts Activity hall 2 x small sided 3G AGPs Health suite Crèche	H	St	tbc	Leisure Centre operator CDC	Joint Use Agreement for sport hall (The Bicester School).
	Extend fitness provision, subject to feasibility study.	H	St	tbc		Feasibility study completed 2018.
	Consider the options for increasing capacity of pool through installation of moveable floor.	M	St	tbc		
	Review future of bowling alley as part of wider site review.	L	St			

Project name	Main aim	Priority H = High M = Medium L = Low	Phasing St 2018-2021 Mt 2021-2026 Lt 2026-2031	Estimated cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners	Comment
Schools						
The Bicester School	Retain and maintain: Ancillary hall and changing	M	On-going		Academy	Managed by academy. Sports hall on adjacent site part of Joint Use Agreement (Bicester Leisure Centre)
The Cooper School	Retain and maintain: Artificial grass pitch	H	On-going		CDC	Joint use agreement for AGP (managed by CDC)
	Retain and maintain: 4 court sports hall Performance hall	H	On-going		Academy	Managed by school. Performance hall floor and seating replacement planned for 2018.
	Improve quality of outdoor hard courts, particularly for use by netball	M	St	tbc	Academy	Investment would need to be linked to a joint use agreement.
Heyford Park Free School	Retain and maintain: Sports hall Fitness gym Squash court Netball / tennis courts	M	On-going		Free School	New/refurbished facilities. Requires more extensive marketing, including for use of the hard courts for tennis. Further housing development will require a whole site leisure master plan for co-ordinated sports facilities.

Project name	Main aim	Priority H = High M = Medium L = Low	Phasing St 2018-2021 Mt 2021-2026 Lt 2026-2031	Estimated cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners	Comment
Other sites						
Outdoor bowls facilities	Retain and maintain the greens and ancillary facilities at: Bicester Bowls Club	H	On-going		Club	
Outdoor bowls facilities	Keep under review need for outdoor bowls facility at Lower Heyford. If not required consider alternative use for sport, recreation or open space.	L	On-going		Parish Council CDC	
Whitelands Farm Sports Ground	Deliver 6 floodlit tennis courts.	H	Mt	£248,000	CDC Operator LTA Club	Planned provision but timescales and funding to be confirmed. Large playing field site with artificial grass and natural grass pitches. Addressed in the Playing Pitch Strategy.
Bicester Sports Assn, Chesterton,	Review options for provision of a pavilion for archery.	L	Mt	£200,000 archery pavilion Other costs tbc	BSA Clubs	Large playing field site providing for cricket, football, rugby and archery. Primarily addressed in the Playing Pitch Strategy, but needs of archery also need to be considered

Project name	Main aim	Priority H = High M = Mediu m L = Low	Phasing St 2018-2021 Mt 2021-2026 Lt 2026-2031	Estimated cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners	Comment
Village and community halls	Improve storage and quality to enable greater range of sport and active recreation to be provided.	H	On-going	tbc	Site owners/ manager, Town and Parish Councils, CDC	Costs dependent on needs. Support participation growth through sports development plans.
New sites						
NW Bicester Secondary School	Design and make available for community use the four court sports hall at the planned secondary school in NW Bicester.	H	Mt	£2,340,000	OCC CDC Developer	Specification and design may need review as site not originally planned to have community use. Formal community use agreement required.
SW Bicester Secondary School	Design and make available for community use the four court sports hall at the planned secondary school in SW Bicester.	H	St	£2,340,000	OCC CDC Developer	Ensure design and specification enable community use. Formal community use agreement required.
New leisure centre. Site to be confirmed	New leisure centre with: 25m x 6 lane competition pool plus teaching pool. Health and fitness	H	Mt	£9,485,000	CDC	Proposal not yet explored. Feasibility, site and deliverability to be confirmed as may be accommodated within Bicester Leisure Centre expansion plans.
Compact Athletics	A compact athletics facility in Bicester to meet the needs of	M	Mt	tbc	CDC OCC	Preferred location is the new Alchester Academy secondary

Project name	Main aim	Priority H = High M = Medium L = Low	Phasing St 2018-2021 Mt 2021-2026 Lt 2026-2031	Estimated cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners	Comment
training facility. Site to be confirmed	Bicester Athletics Club.					school. Costs dependent on design. Liaise with OCC and school sponsor.
Bicester Gymnastics Club. Site to be confirmed.	Development of a specialist gymnastics facility at Bicester for the Bicester and District Gymnastics Club, subject to a feasibility study, including the options for the potential reuse of an existing building.	H	St	tbc	CDC Club British Gymnastics	Costs dependent on site and design.
Village hard courts/tennis courts	Provide tennis court for pay and play or with open access where there is no access to such a court within 10 minutes' drive	L	Mt	£120,000 per court	Parish Council	
Walking, running and cycling routes	Development of improved networks of walking, running routes (including measured marked routes), and cycling routes utilising open spaces, parks and traffic free opportunities in and around Bicester. Development within new housing, and also as links across Bicester.	H	St, Mt, Lt	tbc	Town Council CDC Developers	Proposals to better link both existing green spaces/routes and with and within new developments.

Project name	Main aim	Priority H = High M = Medium L = Low	Phasing St 2018-2021 Mt 2021-2026 Lt 2026-2031	Estimated cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners	Comment

KIDLINGTON SUB AREA

Project name	Main aim	Priority H = High M = Medium L = Low	Phasing St 2018-2021 Mt 2021-2026 Lt 2026-2031	Estimated cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners	Comment
Leisure Centre						
Kidlington & Gosford Leisure Centre	Retain and maintain: Sport hall Swimming pool	H	St	tbc	Leisure Centre operator CDC	
	Increase capacity of pool through installation of new learner pool with moveable floor.	M	St	tbc		Subject to feasibility study.
	Extend fitness provision, subject to feasibility study.	M	St	tbc		Subject to feasibility study.
	Consider resurface AGP to 3G when Gosford Hill open for hockey use.	L	Mt	£250,000	School	Depends also on 3G AGP options elsewhere in Kidlington.

Project name	Main aim	Priority H = High M = Medium L = Low	Phasing St 2018-2021 Mt 2021-2026 Lt 2026-2031	Estimated cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners	Comment
Schools						
Gosford Hill School	Retain and maintain: Ancillary hall and changing Netball courts	M			School	Sport hall, pool and AGP managed as part of JUA as the leisure centre.
Other sites						
Forum Youth Centre	Improve court quality and provide floodlights.	M	Mt	tbc	Parish Council	
Kidlington Forum Table Tennis Club	Retain and maintain	H			Club	Recent purpose-built facility
Outdoor bowls facilities	Retain and maintain the greens and ancillary facilities at Kidlington.	H	On-going		Club	
Outdoor bowls facilities	Keep under review need for outdoor bowls facility at Begbroke and Bunkers Hill, Shipton on Cherwell. If not required consider alternative use for sport, recreation or open space.	L			Parish Councils CDC	
North Oxford Golf Course Replacement site to be	If developed and a replacement facility is required, give consideration to shorter golf formats.	H	If required	N/a	Developer	Proposed redevelopment of North Oxford Golf Course yet to be confirmed through the local plan process.

Project name	Main aim	Priority H = High M = Medium L = Low	Phasing St 2018-2021 Mt 2021-2026 Lt 2026-2031	Estimated cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners	Comment
confirmed						
Village and community halls	Improve storage and quality to enable greater range of sport and active recreation to be provided.	H	On-going	tbc	Site owners/manager, Town and Parish Councils, CDC	Costs dependent on needs. Support participation growth through sports development plans.
New sites						
New 4-court hall, Site PR8	One four court sports hall in association with the proposed secondary school at Begbroke (PR8), designed for and made available for community use.	H	Mt	£2,340,000	OCC CDC Developer	
New leisure centre. Site to be confirmed	New community leisure centre with: 4-court sports hall	M	Lt	£7,345,000	CDC Developer	Proposal not yet explored. Feasibility, site and deliverability to be confirmed. May be incorporated within leisure

Project name	Main aim	Priority H = High M = Medium L = Low	Phasing St 2018-2021 Mt 2021-2026 Lt 2026-2031	Estimated cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners	Comment
	25 m x 4 lane pool Health and fitness					centre expansion plans.
Walking, running and cycling routes	Development of improved networks of walking and running routes (including measured marked routes), and cycling routes utilising open spaces, parks and traffic free opportunities in and around Kidlington. Development within new housing, and also as links across Kidlington.	H	St, Mt, Lt	tbc	Parish Council CDC Developer s	Proposals to better link both existing green spaces/routes and with and within new developments.

Funding

- 16.3 It is important to ensure that all of the available resources are carefully targeted and tailored to meet the needs of the whole community so that any initial capital investment and long term revenue commitments can be fully justified.
- 16.4 The proposals arising from the strategy are likely to be funded and supported by a range of partners and new facility provision might be via a mix of public and private sources. There are some major projects planned in this strategy which will require significant capital funding. Funding sources and programmes vary significantly over time, and therefore as each facility is considered, all available options for funding should be explored by the Council, the stakeholders and potential developers of each project.

Procurement and management

- 16.5 The nature and process of the procurement of the facilities covered by this strategy and their long term management will fundamentally depend upon the type and scale of facility. It is likely that many sports and recreation facilities will increasingly become the responsibility of a sports club(s), but the leisure centres are likely to remain the council's responsibility, either directly or indirectly.

Review and monitoring

- 16.6 The final stage in the strategy is its delivery, and making sure that it is kept up to date. Sport England recommends that a process should be put in place to ensure regular monitoring of how the recommendations and action plan are being delivered. Understanding and learning lessons about how the strategy has been applied is also a key component of monitoring its delivery. This should be an on-going role of the steering group. To this end the Council plans to produce a Leisure Strategy and Delivery Plan during 2018.

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GLOSSARY

- CDC Cherwell District Council
- CIL Community Infrastructure Levy
- IDP Infrastructure Development Plan
- LP Cherwell District Council Local Plan Part 1
- LTA Lawn Tennis Association
- LTC Lawn Tennis Club
- S106 Planning obligations under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990



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