

Policy BSC 12: Indoor Sport, Recreation and Community Facilities

B.168 The PPG17 Indoor Sports and Recreational Facilities Assessment (2006) indicated an under-supply of sports hall and swimming pool provision in the District but concluded that the sports centre modernisation programme would address these deficiencies.



B.169 In terms of future needs to 2026, the assessment indicated that the projected shortfall in swimming pool and sports hall provision could be met through sports centre modernisation combined with dual use agreements to allow public use of school facilities out of school hours. The use of village/community halls for sporting facilities was also highlighted and a survey of village and community halls is currently being undertaken to assess the adequacy of provision. The PPG17 assessment only covered the period to 2026 and in view of the extended plan period and increased level of growth associated with it, a review of indoor sport, recreation and community facilities provision is being undertaken. Initial indications are that there will be a deficiency in sports hall provision by 2031 with unmet demand being particularly noticeable around Bicester. There will be some unmet demand in swimming pool provision by 2031, with a capacity issue at existing facilities and deterioration in attractiveness at the older facilities through aging. Unmet demand could be addressed by the provision of new facilities or increasing the capacity and quality of existing facilities. Further location specific information is included in Section C 'Policies for Cherwell's Places'. The findings will be used to determine whether additional facilities are needed and inform the application of Policy BSC12.

B.170 Should the additional analysis work referred to in paragraph B169 above result in amendments to the indoor sports standards, the standards will be updated in the Local Plan Part 2 and the Developer Contributions SPD. The local standards of provision developed by the PPG17 study are set out below:

Table 9: Local Standards of Provision - Indoor Recreation	
Facility Type	Local Quantity Standard per 1000 Population

Sports Hall	0.315 badminton courts
Swimming Pool	9.31m2 swimming water area
Squash Courts	0.059 courts
Health and Fitness	5.28 stations
Indoor Bowls	0.045 rinks
STPs	0.046 pitches
Athletics Tracks	0.0012 8 lane facility

Table 10: Local Quality Standards

Design and technical standard	All new build and refurbishment schemes to be designed in accordance with Sport England Guidance Notes, which provide detailed technical advice and standards for the design and development of sports facilities.
Facility operation and management standard	All leisure providers to follow industry best practice principles in relation to a) Facilities operation, b) Customer relations, c) staffing and d) Service and development review. The detail of internal systems, policies and practices underpinning implementation of these principles will correlate directly to the scale of facility, varying according to the position of the facility within the levels of the established hierarchy.
Accessibility standard	15 minutes travel time.

B.171 Additional guidance on how the policy and the above standards will be applied is contained in the Planning Obligations Draft SPD. Development proposals will be expected to contribute towards provision commensurate with the needs generated by the development.

Policy BSC 12: Indoor Sport, Recreation and Community Facilities

The Council will encourage the provision of community facilities to enhance the sustainability of communities, and encourage partnership working to ensure that built sports provision is maintained in accordance with local standards of provision by the following means:

- Protecting and enhancing the quality of existing facilities
- Improving access to existing facilities

- Ensuring that development proposals contribute towards the provision of new or improved facilities where the development would generate a need for sport, recreation and community facilities which cannot be met by existing provision.