



HEREFORDSHIRE INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY FINAL REPORT

FEBRAURY 2023

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd
Company No: 9145032 (England)

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Registered Office: 1 -2 Frecheville Court, off Knowsley Street, Bury BL9 0UF
T: 0161 764 7040 E: mail@kcp.co.uk www.kcp.co.uk



Cert Num: 6543-QMS-001

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY

CONTENTS

Part 1: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1: Purpose.....	1
1.2: National strategic context	2
PART 2: LOCAL AREA CONTEXT.....	7
2.1: Local strategic context.....	7
2.2: About Herefordshire	9
2.3: Planning policy	12
PART 3: NEEDS ASSESSMENT FINDINGS	14
3.1: General findings	14
3.2: What do we know about facilities and activities in Herefordshire?	14
PART 4: VISION AND STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN.....	17
4.1: Strategic objectives	17
4.2 Indoor built facilities action plan.....	20
4.2.1: Management and programming.....	20
4.2.2: Sport specific recommendations.....	22
4.2.3: Site specific recommendations	26
PART 5: MONITORING AND REVIEW	38
APPENDIX 1: PLANNING GAIN CONTRIBUTION TOOLKIT	39
APPENDIX 2: INDICATIVE COSTINGS.....	45

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) was appointed by Herefordshire Council 'to produce a *Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS) and a Built Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy (BFS) 2021-2041*'. This work will provide a key piece of evidence to support the update of the Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy.

This process of needs assessment production follows the Assessment Needs and Opportunities Guidance (ANOG) methodology for assessing indoor sports need, developed by Sport England. It also accords with relevant paragraphs of the most up-to-date version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2021) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG). This BFS is, therefore, a detailed assessment of current provision of indoor and built sports facilities located within the Herefordshire area, identifying needs (demand) and gaps (deficiencies in provision).

The audit was conducted between December 2021 and February 2022. Where access to sites was not available KKP carried out non-technical quality assessments via desktop research, and where possible quality was accessed via utilising virtual 'walk arounds' of the health and fitness suites or videos and photos present on the operator's website or in discussion with the operator.

1.1: Purpose

The stated objectives of this BFS are to:

- ◀ Compile a robust, up to date audit of built facilities across the County of Herefordshire area and to assess the quantity, quality, accessibility, and availability of the provision.
- ◀ Complete an assessment of the required levels of built facilities both now and up to 2041. The assessment is based on the principles of 'Protect, Enhance and Provide'. The approach is tailored to take account of the bespoke needs of Herefordshire's communities and emerging Local Plan preferred growth sites, including cross-boundary implications between Herefordshire and neighbouring local/planning authorities.
- ◀ Provide the Council with a comprehensive evidence base to support delivery of future development related to the Local Plan update and development of its related policies, including neighbourhood plans.
- ◀ Support the Council to secure developer contributions and ensure that Sport England's Built Facility Calculator and bespoke calculator/standards where necessary are informed by the local evidence.
- ◀ Produce geographic information systems (GIS) based mapping of assessed facilities/sites and a GIS layer to use within the Local Plan update process in an updateable format.
- ◀ Provide a robust up to date needs assessment which support the councils and to meet the requirement of the amended National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- ◀ Reflect and address the needs and demands of the local population that will grow in line with the changes defined by the emerging Local Plan.
- ◀ Be a catalyst for action by the Council and key stakeholders for potential joint investment in sport and physical activity facilities.
- ◀ Inform the requirements in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

It is a concise, robust, comprehensive and up-to-date evidence base in line with the emerging Local Plan. It sets out a strategic, action plan-based approach to the enhancement of existing, and creation of new, sporting provision. This will ensure that residents have the opportunity to be physically active and healthier, and where appropriate develop their physical, sporting, health and wellbeing ambitions within their local community. This is one component of a wider suite of reports which include the PPOSS – produced by KKP, and a separately commissioned and delivered open space strategy.

1.2: National strategic context

Sport England: Uniting the Movement 2021

Sport and physical activity have a major role to play in improving the physical and mental health of the nation, supporting the economy, reconnecting communities, and rebuilding a stronger society for all following the global pandemic. Reflecting this, Sport England has recently released its new strategy, Uniting the Movement, its 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity.

It seeks to tackle the inequalities that it states are long seen in sport and physical activity noting that 'providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity, has never been more important'. The three key Strategy objectives are:



As well as being an advocate for sport and physical activity, through the building of evidence and partnership development, the Strategy identifies five big issues upon which people and communities need to address by working together. They are described as the major challenges to England being an active nation over the next decade as well as being the greatest opportunities to make a lasting difference. They are designated as a building blocks that individually would make a difference but tackled collectively could change things profoundly. The issues are:

- ◀ ***Recover and reinvent:*** Recovering from the biggest crisis in a generation and reinventing as a vibrant, relevant, and sustainable network of organisations providing sport and physical activity opportunities that meet the needs of different people.
- ◀ ***Connecting communities:*** Focusing on sport and physical activity's ability to make better places to live and bring people together.
- ◀ ***Positive experiences for children and young people:*** Unrelenting focus on positive experiences for all children and young people as the foundations for a long and healthy life.
- ◀ ***Connecting with health and wellbeing:*** Strengthening the connections between sport, physical activity, health, and wellbeing, so more people can feel the benefits of, and advocate for, an active life.
- ◀ ***Active environments:*** Creating and protecting the places and spaces that make it easier for people to be active.

To address these five big issues, the right conditions for change need to be created: across people, organisations, and partnerships to help convert plans and ideas. This will include a range of actions, including development of effective investment models and applying innovation and digital technology to ensure sport and physical activity are more accessible.

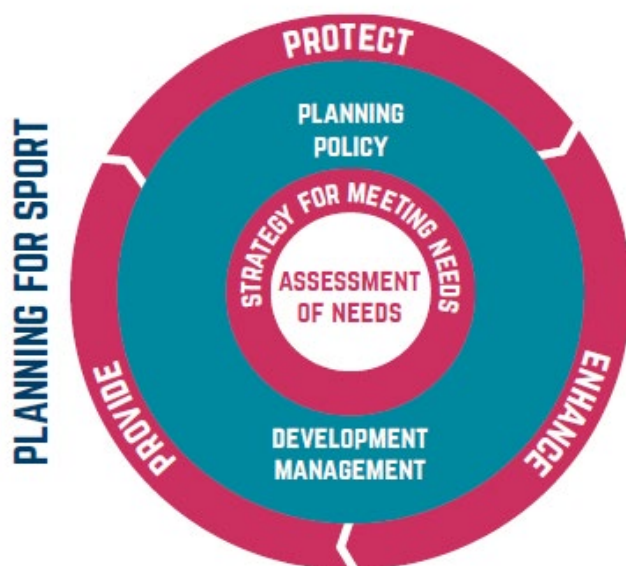
The specific impact of the Strategy will be captured via funded programmes, interventions made, and partnerships forged. For each specific area of action, key performance indicators will be developed to help evidence the overall progress being made by all those involved in supporting sport and physical activity.

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY

Sport England's planning aim

Sport England aims to ensure positive planning for sport, enabling the right facilities to be provided in the right places, based on an up-to-date assessment of needs for all levels of sport and all sectors of the community. As noted earlier, this assessment report was produced for the County of Herefordshire Council applying the principles and tools identified in the Sport England ANOG guidance.

Figure 1.1: The Sport England Planning for Sport Model



Assessment of need is core to planning for sporting provision. It is underpinned by 12 planning-for-sport principles which help the planning system to contribute to sustainable development by fulfilling the key role of the NPPF in creating strong, vibrant and healthy communities. Applying them ensures that the planning system plans positively to enable and support healthy lifestyles, delivers community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs, and provides opportunity for all to experience the benefits that taking part in sport and physical activity brings. They apply to all areas of the planning system and to planning at local authority and neighbourhood levels.

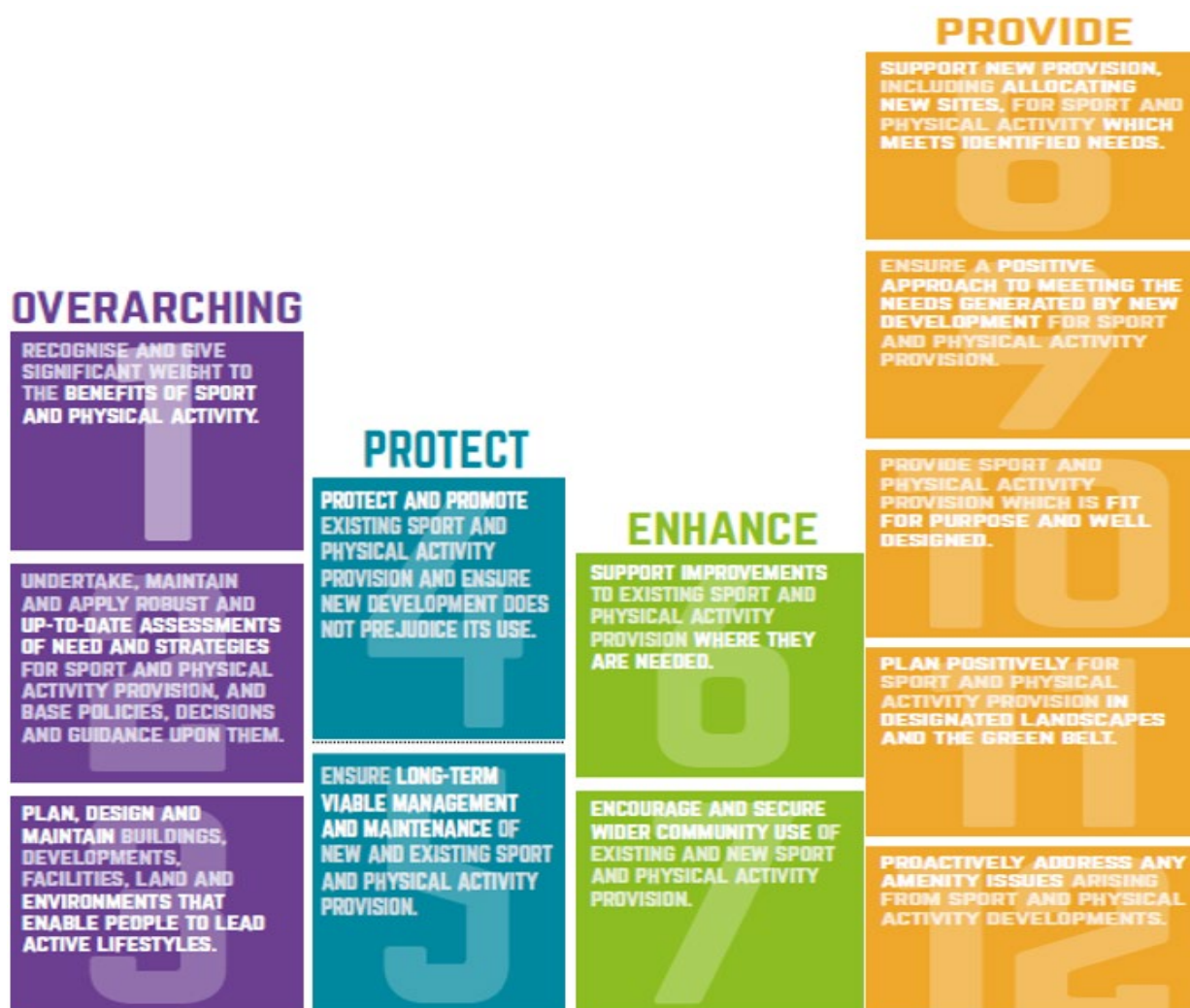
As such they are of relevance to all involved in, or looking to engage with, the planning system.

Table 1.1: Sport England planning objectives

Protect	Enhance	Provide
To protect the right opportunities in the right places.	To enhance opportunities through better use of existing provision	To provide new opportunities to meet the needs of current and future generations.
Existing provision should be protected unless an assessment has demonstrated there is an excess of the provision and the specific buildings or land are surplus to requirements; or the loss would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the former or current use.	The use of existing provision should be optimised, for example, through quality, access and management improvements supported by appropriate ancillary facilities.	Appropriate new provision that meets needs and encourages people to play sport and be physically active should be provided by adapting existing places and through new development.

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY

Figure 1.2: Sport England's 12 planning principles



Cost pressures affecting the leisure industry

Insight produced by the [Local Government Association](#) suggests that Councils continue to face substantial inflationary, Covid-19 related, and demand led pressures which are affecting their ability to efficiently operate leisure provision. This comes alongside the steep increase of living costs to households.

Whilst during 2022, the leisure sector recovery following Covid-19 restrictions has gained momentum, rising utility costs and the recent cost of living pressures on households is likely to adversely impact consumer confidence, throughput, and participation rates. Councils and leisure operators are therefore being required to address and review existing management arrangements and options to ensure the viability of the sector.

Leisure providers (both inhouse and externally commissioned) are being adversely and disproportionately affected because leisure centres have high energy demands, especially for those facilities with swimming pools. Energy costs are typically a leisure operator's second highest cost after staffing costs. This is further exacerbated because the leisure estate is ageing and energy inefficient, with research showing two-thirds of public swimming pools and sports halls are in need of replacing or refurbishment, and ageing assets are contributing up to 40 per cent of some councils' direct carbon emissions.

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY

LGA suggest that, in tackling the challenges presented by the current energy crisis, Councils should aim to pursue a partnership focused approach and consider solutions which may contribute to wider public health, decarbonisation, and levelling up and economic outcomes. This could include the following measures:

- ◀ Regular monthly meetings with leisure operator to review and monitor utility costs.
- ◀ Encourage leisure operators to be open and transparent about the true cost of utilities.
- ◀ Explore potential for flexibility in contractual arrangements and operating parameters: i.e. pool temperature / building temperature / reviewing pricing.
- ◀ Review non-viable/low priority contractual requirements.
- ◀ Consider using any management fee to stabilise utilities and stabilise providers to ensure service continuity.
- ◀ Consider renegotiating the repayment terms of loans to enable providers to defer Covid repayments to later years when they are more stable.
- ◀ Work with the operator to include leisure projects as part of decarbonisation projects and/or council investment in energy saving projects.

Environmental Sustainability

UK Government produced its net zero strategy 'Build Back Greener' in October 2021. This sets out how it intends the UK to meet its target for decarbonisation by 2050. It focuses on interventions such as:

- ◀ A fully decarbonised power system by 2035 with all electricity coming from 'low carbon sources'.
- ◀ Improved efficiency of heating for homes and buildings, aiming for all new heating appliances to be based on low carbon technologies, such as electric heat pumps or hydrogen boilers.
- ◀ Low carbon fuel supply – by scaling up the production of low carbon alternatives including hydrogen and biofuels.

The Council has in place the following net zero carbon commitment as set out in its Pathway to Carbon Neutral: Carbon Management Plan 2020/21-2025/26.

In terms of buildings and energy, the following summary of actions has been proposed:

- ◀ Undertake energy audits of all council owned buildings and compile a carbon reduction plan for each one. Continue work to improve the performance of Council buildings towards achieving net zero emissions by 2030 and maximise funding opportunities such as SALIX.
- ◀ Continue to install solar PV on several council owned buildings to match energy supply form solar panels to demand.
- ◀ Exploration into sources of 'green gas' meaning all of the Council's energy needs will be met with renewables.
- ◀ Continue to install LED lighting with advanced controls across its offices and other buildings.
- ◀ Install more efficient air handling units and boilers where energy savings can be realised.
- ◀ As new technologies emerge, innovative technologies including battery storage will be considered.

The plan highlights leisure centre carbon emissions are a significant proportion of the Councils total emissions.

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY

[Sport England](#) report that ¹climate change and the increased occurrence of extreme weather that it brings are already affecting sports facilities, meaning that the sector needs to build greater resilience to this very real threat.

They propose that a wide range of issues should be considered when approaching project development to and the resultant environmental impact of, say a new swimming pool development. Applying determine whether to refurbish an existing building with its carbon already embodied or to build anew². Establishing a sustainability strategy early on Sport England suggest some key principles as part of a 'pathway to sustainability' and net zero carbon in respect of building design and operation.

- ◀ Reduce energy consumption as the first measure to reduce carbon emissions and energy costs.
- ◀ Change behaviour, eliminate energy waste and operate energy control systems more effectively at no extra cost.
- ◀ Passive design - Building orientation and placement on site is critical to achieving net zero targets Harness a site's natural resources to benefit cross ventilation, natural lighting, solar gain, shelter or shading.
- ◀ Fabric efficiency - Maximise the building fabric and glazing performance.
- ◀ Minimise initial energy demand to reduce demand on plant and technologies incorporated.
- ◀ Efficient systems - Invest in appropriate energy-efficient products including heating, ventilation, fittings, controls, sensors, heat pumps and recovery systems
- ◀ On-site renewables - Incorporate low and zero carbon (LZC) technologies to produce energy on site.
- ◀ Off-site renewables - Only use energy providers who use renewable energy.

¹<https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2021-01/Environmental%20Sustainability%20check%20list.pdf?VersionId=7XfZPDhHKoKHpfKqk165MMWdxwCmYsPO>

PART 2: LOCAL AREA CONTEXT

2.1: Local strategic context

Through a range of strategic plans, Herefordshire Council sets out a vision for a county with a growing economy, an increasing and healthy population and a place where people choose to live. Where people will live longer, healthier and more fulfilled lives, with everyone inspired to lead more active and healthier lifestyles.

Herefordshire County Plan: 2020-2024³

Key areas of focus in the Herefordshire County Plan are:

- ◀ *Environment* – Protect and enhance our environment and keep Herefordshire a great place to live.
- ◀ *Community* – Strengthen communities to ensure everyone lives well and safely together.
- ◀ *Economy* – Support an economy which builds on the county's strengths and resources.

These are developed against three key themes of Sustainability, Connectivity and Wellbeing which will guide the Authority's planning, design and policy making over the coming years.

Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy – HLPCS (2011-2031)

This was adopted by the Council in 2015 and was prepared to guide the development and change in the County up to 2031. The Local Plan, in addition to dealing with the use of land, considers how the area functions and how different parts of the county should develop or change over the next 20 years in response to key issues, such as the need to:

- ◀ Deliver more, better quality homes (especially affordable homes) to meet growing needs in this 'high house price' compared to 'average income' area.
- ◀ Deliver improved infrastructure to support economic development and a growing population.
- ◀ Promote a thriving local economy with successful city, town and village centres and provide sufficient employment land to meet business needs and provide higher incomes through a wider range of better-quality jobs.
- ◀ Protect, conserve and enhance valued natural, historic and built environments, including areas of outstanding natural beauty, special areas of conservation, open spaces as well as the county's intrinsic attractive character.
- ◀ Address issues arising from an ageing population and the reducing younger age population.
- ◀ Meet the challenge of climate change and adapt to its impacts such as increased risk of flooding and air pollution.
- ◀ Create places that actively promote and enable healthy lifestyles.
- ◀ Achieve sustainable development and reduce reliance on the private car whilst accepting the sparsely populated nature of the area and difficulty communities have in accessing services.

The Strategy sets a vision as follows: *'Herefordshire will be a place of distinctive environmental, historical and cultural assets and local communities, with sustainable development fostering a high quality of life for those who live, work and visit here. A sustainable future for the county will be based on the interdependence of the themes of social progress, economic prosperity and environmental quality with the aim of increasing the county's self-reliance and resilience'*.

³ https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/1500/corporate_plan_2016-20

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY

This vision is aligned with 12 objectives under the themes of promoting social progress (supporting strong communities by meeting housing, education and health, transport and infrastructure needs), economic prosperity (supporting new jobs, area regeneration, business, tourism and retail) and environmental quality (addressing climate change, protecting and enhancing the environmental assets of the county).

The findings of this study are most relevant to HLPCS policies: SC1 (social and community facilities), OS1 (requirement for open space, sports and recreation facilities), OS2 (meeting open space, sports and recreation needs), and OS3 (loss of open space, sports or recreational facilities).

Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy Review (2021-2041)

In line with NPPF requirements for local plans to be reviewed and, if required updated no later than five years from adoption, the HLPCS is currently being updated to cover the period 2021-2041. This review will set out the planning framework for the County for the period to 2041 and will cover issues such as housing provision, the economy, retail and town centres, infrastructure provision and the environment. It will also set out policies by which planning applications will be determined, in addition to allocation land for housing, employment and other uses. This BFS, alongside the PPOSS will help to ensure that relevant policies in the plan are updated accordingly to demonstrate the soundness of the plan at examination stage.

Active & Healthy Herefordshire – Herefordshire’s Physical Activity Strategy (2021-2026)

Herefordshire’s Physical Activity Strategy sets out the priorities for physical activity in the County and is underpinned by the vision: ‘in Herefordshire every person has the opportunity to; ‘get moving, be active, feel better, keep well and enjoy healthier lives as part of everyday life in their local community’. The vision is guided by a recognition of national, regional and local policy framework but particularly through local insight identified through the development of the strategy. In order to challenge and address inactivity in Herefordshire, the shared outcomes of the Physical Activity Strategy are:

- ◀ *Active environments* – that support and facilitate every day physical activity for everyone.
- ◀ *Active communities* – supported and developed community assets to increase physical activity levels and build community resilience.
- ◀ *Healthy individuals* – reducing inequalities, increasing awareness and capability in the County’s inactive population to change behaviours and increase physical activity levels long-term.
- ◀ *Partnerships & collaborative working* – to increase physical activity opportunities and participation across Herefordshire’s population.

Active Herefordshire and Worcestershire (Active Partnership)

The stated aim of the Active Partnership is ‘to reduce inactivity and create a more active and healthier Herefordshire and Worcestershire’. Its blueprint for tackling inactivity is set out in its five strategic objectives, which are to:

- ◀ *Target new opportunities for growth* - to raise the profile across new sectors which will influence large scale interventions throughout Herefordshire and Worcestershire.
- ◀ *Partner and influence* - to facilitate and broker relationships across and within a diverse range of sectors at both operational and strategic levels allowing the Active Partnership to disseminate insight to influence decisions locally.
- ◀ *Empower all* - to ensure that individuals, groups and communities are equipped, confident and have the knowledge to understand local need and the mechanisms for change.

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY

- ◀ *Develop a workforce that inspires* - through delivery of high-quality coach education teaching to ensure there is a physical activity workforce that is reflective of local need.
- ◀ *Increase the visibility and accessibility of opportunities* - deliver a range of campaign messaging to create positive opportunities throughout the community through the use of strong communication pathways.

Halo Leisure Services Ltd

Halo is a charitable social enterprise that operates 20+ leisure facilities in Herefordshire, Bridgend, Shropshire and Swindon on behalf of the relevant local authorities. It manages HC's portfolio of eight leisure facilities and in 2017 signed a 75-year operating lease with the Council⁴.

Summary of local context

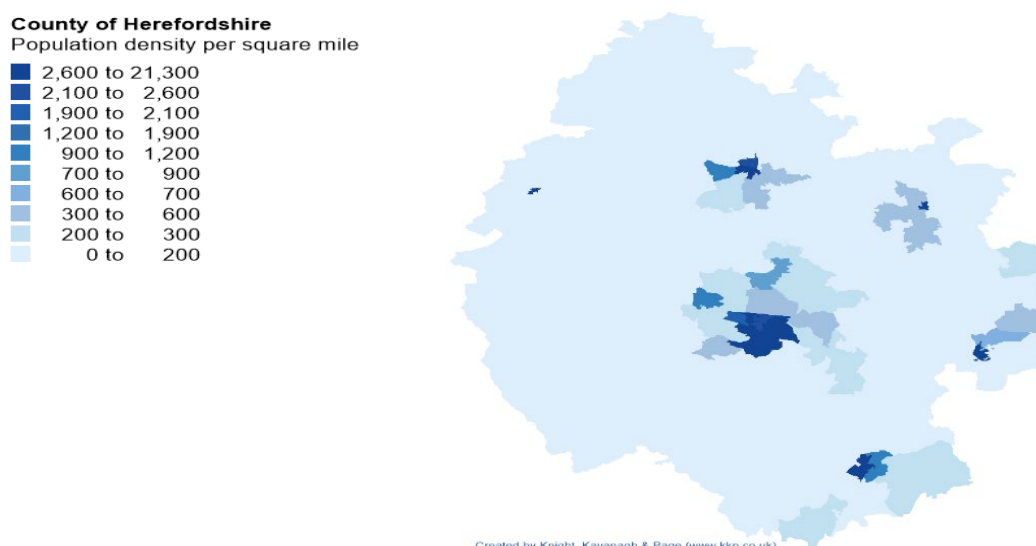
Local policy demonstrates an outcome focused approach with co-commitment to increasing levels of physical activity (across all age groups), reducing health inequality, whilst harnessing the potential for investment offered by residential development as identified in both the Physical Activity Strategy and Core Strategy. In addition, the Council faces the challenge of ensuring that all its facilities remain in good condition and are accessible for all.

2.2: About Herefordshire

Herefordshire is a large mainly rural county. It covers an area of 2,180km² comprising countryside interspersed with the cathedral city of Hereford and the market towns of Leominster, Ross-on-Wye, Ledbury, Bromyard and Kington. It is located on the far western fringes of the West Midlands and is bordered by Shropshire to the north, Malvern Hills to the east, Forest of Dean to the southeast, and the Welsh counties of Monmouthshire and Powys to the west.

Population and distribution (Data source: 2020 Mid-Year Estimate, ONS): The population of Herefordshire is 196,649. Population density is greatest around Hereford, located centrally within the Authority. There are concentrations in the north around Leominster, and in the east and south east around Ledbury and Ross-on-Wye.

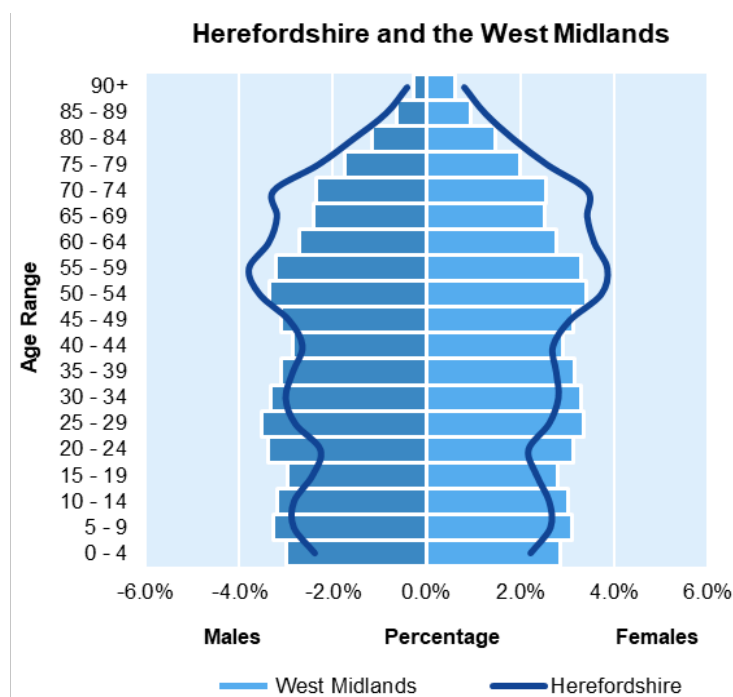
Figure 2.1: Population density 2020 MYE, ONS



⁴<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/453/halo-leisure-signs-75-lease-with-herefordshire-council#:~:text=Halo%20Leisure%20has%20just%20signed,physical%20activity%20in%20the%20county>

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY

Figure 2.2: Comparative age/sex pyramid for Herefordshire and West Midlands



Set against that of the region Herefordshire population age/gender composition data indicates that it has a lower proportion of 10–34 year-olds (26% - than the West Midlands; 32%). This may suggest a lower level of demand from what are regarded as the main sports participation groups and young families. There are, however, more in the 35-64 age groups (38.9% - compared to the West Midlands; 37.1%). These tend to have higher disposable income and may also still be physically active. The age and make-up of the population is a key factor to consider, when developing and implementing the sport and physical activity offer in the area.

Ethnicity (Data source: 2011 census of population, ONS): Herefordshire’s ethnic composition reflects that of England as a whole. The largest proportion (98.2%) of the local population classified their ethnicity as White; this is considerably higher than the comparative England rate of 85.4%. The next largest population group is Asian, at 0.8% this is considerably lower than the national equivalent (7.8%).

Income and dependency (Data source: NOMIS (2021): The median figure for full-time earnings (2020) in Herefordshire is £29,416; the comparative rate for the West Midlands is £30,254 (+2.8%) and for Great Britain is £31,881 (+8.4%). In January 2022 there were 2,960 people in Herefordshire claiming out of work benefits; this represents a decrease of 41.2% when compared to May 2020 (5,035).

Deprivation (Data source: 2019 indices of deprivation, MHCLG): Levels of deprivation in Herefordshire are, relative to other parts of the country, low. One in eight of the County population (12.6%) falls within the areas covered by the country’s three most deprived cohorts compared to a national average of c.30%. Conversely, 17.4% live in the three least deprived groupings (again, this compares to a ‘norm’ of c.30%). The pattern for health is similar; 11.2% of Herefordshire’s population fall within areas covered by the three most deprived cohorts.

Health data (Data sources: ONS births and deaths, NCMP⁵ and NOO⁶): In keeping with patterns seen alongside lower levels of health deprivation, life expectancy in Herefordshire is slightly higher than the national figure; the male rate is currently 79.7 compared to 79.6 for England, and the female equivalent is 83.7 compared to 83.2 nationally.

⁵ National Child Measurement Program

⁶ National Obesity Observatory

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY

Weight and obesity: Obesity is widely recognised to be associated with health problems such as type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer. Nationally, NHS costs attributable to overweight and obesity⁷ are projected to reach £9.7 billion by 2050, with wider costs to society estimated to reach £49.9 billion per year.

These factors combine to make the prevention of obesity a major public health challenge. Adult obesity rates in Herefordshire are above both national and regional averages. However, child rates for obesity are lower than both regional and national averages.

Sport England: Active Lives Survey (ALS) 2020/2021

This is based on 16+ year olds taking part in walking, cycling, fitness, dance and other sporting activity (excluding gardening). 25.1% of the County's population is considered to be inactive. This is below both regional (30.9%) and national (27.5%) averages. It has slightly fewer active people (66.9%). Herefordshire has slightly more active people (63.7%) than both the national (61.4%) and regional (57%) averages.

The most popular sports and physical activities: a further aspect of the ALS is that it makes it possible to identify the most popular (in terms of participation) sports and physical activities within any given area. As with many other areas, fitness and cycling are among the most popular. They are known to cut across age groups and gender. In Herefordshire just over one in five adults take part in fitness, on average, at least twice a month. The next most popular activity is classes in which 17.5% of adults take part in on a relatively regular basis.

Population projections

The most recent ONS projections indicate a rise of 11% in Herefordshire's population (+21,554) over the 20 years from 2021 to 2041. Over this extended timeframe fluctuations are seen in rise and fall at different points across the majority of age groups. Key points are outlined below:

- ◆ The number of 25-34 year olds, falls by -1,666 (-7.6%) over the first half of the projection (to 2031).
- ◆ There is a continuous increase in the number of persons aged 65+ of +24.8% (+12,302) in the first period continuing to rise to +40.8% (+20,223) between 2031 and 2041. While this age group represented 25.2% of Herefordshire's population in 2021 it is projected to be 32.0% of the total by 2041 – approaching one third of the population.

Table 2.1 Herefordshire - ONS projected population⁸ (2021 to 2041)

Age (years)	Number			Age structure %			Change 2021 – 2041		
	2021	2031	2041	2021	2031	2041	2021	2031	2041
0-15	32,754	31,897	32,718	16.7%	15.3%	15.0%	100.0%	97.4%	99.9%
16-24	15,924	17,602	16,786	8.1%	8.4%	7.7%	100.0%	110.5%	105.4%
25-34	21,975	20,308	22,390	11.2%	9.7%	10.3%	100.0%	92.4%	101.9%
35-44	21,883	23,994	22,317	11.1%	11.5%	10.2%	100.0%	109.6%	102.0%
45-54	25,192	24,083	26,259	12.8%	11.5%	12.0%	100.0%	95.6%	104.2%
55-64	29,381	29,103	27,969	14.9%	13.9%	12.8%	100.0%	99.1%	95.2%
65+	49,541	61,843	69,764	25.2%	29.6%	32.0%	100.0%	124.8%	140.8%
Total	196,649	208,829	218,203	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	106.2%	111.0%

⁷ Adult Weight Data is for the period 2016-2017. The child data is for the period 2017-2018

⁸ Based on ONS 2018 projections

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY

Herefordshire Local Plan: Emerging housing requirements

In November 2022 emerging housing market area requirements were provided for this study, as listed in table 2.7 below:

Table 2.2: Housing Market Area Requirements 2021-2041

Housing market area	Total	Indicative urban target	Indicative rural target
Hereford	7,880	3,900	3,980
Leominster	2,500	1,700	800
Ross-on-Wye	2,660	2,180	480
Ledbury	1,860	1,570	290
Bromyard	940	750	190
Kington	720	150	570
Golden Valley	380	0	380

Average household size in the county in 2021 was 2.26 persons per dwelling (2021 Census data). The Council has applied this figure to the projections running through to 2041.

Summary of the demographic profile and population projections

Herefordshire's population, over the next 20 years is expected to increase by 14.5%, with the most substantial rise being in the 65+ age group (by 40.8%). Over one third of the population falls into the Country Living segment. They are defined as 'well-off homeowners who live in the countryside often beyond easy commuting reach of major towns and cities'.

A key issue to consider is whether the current stock of facilities will be able to accommodate this increase or whether there is sufficient demand in specific areas to justify the development of new leisure facilities. There will also be a need to consider how the ageing population will choose to use its leisure time; this may well lead to changes in levels of demand for different activities. The importance of ensuring that the proportion of the population which is currently active remains so and that more of the presently inactive become active (sustaining and improving the general health of the local population) will become increasingly relevant.

2.3: Planning policy

National Planning Policy Framework 2021

The NPPF (July 2021) sets out planning policies for England. It details how these are expected to be applied to the planning system and provides a framework to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

It states that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development (paragraphs 7-9). It establishes that the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social, and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that local plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY

Paragraph 98 of the NPPF establishes that access to a network of high-quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for health and well-being. It states that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative and qualitative deficiencies and surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite, paragraph 99 of the NPPF states that existing open space, sports and recreation sites, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown the site to be surplus to requirements; or
- ◀ The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

It is, essential that the Council, as the local planning authority, retains oversight of all potential facility developments. This includes policies and potential supplementary planning documents setting out the approach to securing sport and recreational facilities through new housing development. This includes the Council's approach to ensuring that community use of new facilities is agreed at the outset to ensure that they contribute to its wider sport and physical activity aspirations and those of its partners. The approach taken to this is pivotal to strategy delivery over coming years.

National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)

National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) is a web-based resource which brings together planning guidance on various topics into one place. It was launched in March 2014 and adds further context to the [National Planning Policy Framework](#). It is intended that the two documents should be read together.

When considering how local planning authorities and developers assess the needs for sports and recreation facilities the guidance states that authorities and developers may refer to Sport England guidance.

PART 3: NEEDS ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

3.1: General findings

Herefordshire recognises the importance of its leisure facility stock to physical activity, health and wellbeing. It is committed to its retention via the presumption (in Planning Policy) against any net loss of active sport and leisure facilities. There is also recognition that HC must operate within a climate of financial constraints (probably increasingly so) following the Pandemic.

As noted above, there is a projected increase in the size of the population of 11% by 2041 (+21,554 additional residents). This encapsulates the predicted continuous rise in the number of persons aged 65+ to the point where this cohort represents 32% of the population by 2041. The key issue is, therefore, likely to be how an increasingly ageing population chooses to use its leisure time and whether/how this may lead to changes in demand for different activities.

It is important to ensure that the proportion of the population which is currently active remains so and that more currently inactive people 'get active' (sustaining and improving the general health of the local population). Indoor and built facilities, and programmes of activity therein, need to be capable of adapting to changing demand and need associated with demographic change.

The principal opportunity/challenge for the Council is to ensure that its facility stock continues to be fit for the future and viable. There is a need to balance the requirements of the core market of people already taking part in sport and physical activity with ensuring that the growth of existing or new activities meets the needs of a more diverse and ageing population. Sustaining and improving the general health of the local population will become increasingly relevant.

The facility stock is split evenly into those which are in either above or below average condition. It is, however, meeting the current demands of residents. There is a need to maintain/improve this quality stock and ensure that facilities within the education estate continue to offer community access.

3.2: What do we know about facilities and activities in Herefordshire?

This section includes summary findings from the needs assessment for the key Herefordshire facility types (village/sports halls, health and fitness, swimming pools).

Village and community halls

The 160 village/community halls in the district serve different communities. Over one third (36%) of the population lives within 800m of a community centre/village hall. It is recognised that new housing developments may place additional demand on current facilities.

Activities provided in/at village halls tend to reflect local community need and play an important role ensuring that people/older people in more rural areas have access to facilities and can contribute to getting the inactive active or help retain those already involved. Further analysis is required to gauge whether, and the extent to which, activities in these facilities can further meet the needs of what is an ageing local population and one which is growing in the County.

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY

Sports halls

The 47 sports halls in Herefordshire offer sports hall space equivalent to 96 badminton courts⁹. Of the 47 sites, 27 have one court or fewer and there are no halls with two courts. Spatially, sports halls are generally located in areas of higher population density. In terms of quality of the 20 assessed 3+ hall sites:

- ◀ Three are rated good quality.
- ◀ Seven are of above average quality.
- ◀ Eight are rated as below average quality.
- ◀ Two sites were unassessed.

Education site availability is limited to peak times (evenings/weekends). All education sites with sports halls manage community bookings in house. Halo manage five sports halls at; Bridge Street Leisure Centre, Hereford Leisure Centre, Lady Hawkins Community Leisure Centre, Leominster Leisure Centre and The Bromyard Centre. Overall, 25% of the 3+ court sports halls in Herefordshire are operating at least 70% capacity, this includes the hall at Hereford Leisure Centre. There are greater levels of spare capacity across the remaining stock, and some sites do have potential to increase usage. Publicly operated facilities provided the greatest availability of community use hours in the peak period and are also amongst the most well-used.

There are moderate levels of demand for sports hall space from the numerous core sports played in and across Herefordshire. The audit indicates that badminton, cricket and netball are the most popular. Badminton demand is a combination of pay and play bookings and has a strong club scene.

Other sports have a presence, including trampolining. Smaller niche activities such as archery are also available in the County. The majority of clubs are recovering well from the Covid-19 shutdown. It is expected that most will return to pre-Pandemic membership levels within the next year. Daytime community use options are primarily to be found at Halo managed sites.

Overall, the assessment, including FPM analysis finds Herefordshire to be generally well served in terms of the number and coverage of its sports halls. They are well used by a variety of sports clubs and community groups. There are clear issues with regard to the quality of certain facilities quality and there is a need to continue to engage with schools to support the vital community access they offer.

Swimming pools

Of the eight 160m² pools included in the assessment, six are in good or above average condition. Both below average pools are at Hereford Leisure Centre- which provides 45% of the total accessible water space in the County which is a significant percentage for one site, especially considering the age of the pool (built in 1976).

There are good overall levels of accessibility to pools in Herefordshire; 90% of the population lives within a 20-minute drive of a swimming pool. Just over 32% reside within 20-minutes' walk. This increases to 55% of those living in areas of higher (top 30% IMD) deprivation. There is strong demand for swimming lessons across the Authority, with three out of the four¹⁰ Halo sites operating at over 80%+ of capacity for lessons.

⁹ All sports hall supply discussion is based on badminton courts as a proxy / equivalent unit of measurement, as per the Sport England Facilities Planning Model

¹⁰ Swimming lessons at Leominster Leisure Centre are operating at 60% capacity.

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY

Two swimming clubs and one triathlon club use swimming pool facilities in Herefordshire. Consultation suggests that clubs are mainly satisfied with pool access and fees charged by Halo, with both swimming clubs reporting a positive relationship with the operator.

FPM analysis and consultation indicates sufficient water space in the area alongside a need to maintain the current pool stock with ongoing investment. A long-term plan to replace/refurbish Hereford Leisure Pool, Ledbury Swimming Pool and Ross Swimming Pool is required- all of which are over 40 years old.

Health and fitness

The 31 health and fitness gyms in Herefordshire have 1,356 stations. Of these, 16 offer community access (a total of 1,160 stations). Spatially there is a good even spread of facilities across the County, with all main population centres being served. Of the community available sites; seven are rated good quality, seven above average, and two below average.

There are good levels of overall accessibility to health and fitness gyms in Herefordshire, with 45% of the population living within one mile and over 94% of residents living within 20 minutes' drive of a gym and/or studio. Accessibility for residents living in higher areas of deprivation is also very good.

In respect of supply and demand analysis, although there is a small undersupply at present, it is expected that some Herefordshire residents in the east and north will access facilities in neighbouring authorities. As such, Herefordshire's supply is deemed to be sufficient now and up to 2041. The key need is to ensure that gyms cater fully for the range of market segments in the County and that residents from targeted groups can afford them.

PART 4: VISION AND STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN

Herefordshire's vision for sport and leisure provision in the area for the period 2021 -2041 reflects the need to support Herefordshire's wider ambitions set out in its physical activity strategy.

The vision is: *"For every person in Herefordshire to have the opportunity to: 'get moving, be active, feel better, keep well and enjoy healthier lives as part of everyday life in their local community"*

4.1: Strategic objectives

Sports halls

- ◀ Work with site operators (mainly secondary schools) to improve the standard of the eight below average community available sports halls and maintain the quality of those which are currently in good/above average condition.
- ◀ Engage with St Mary's RC High School to investigate the potential to open its facilities to community users.
- ◀ Consider whether and how community use can be extended at school sites enabling existing sport and physical activity participation to grow.
- ◀ Where no formal agreements are in place work with educational sites to secure binding and effective community use agreements (CUAs).
- ◀ The Council to work across its planning and leisure functions to establish a policy whereby developer contributions can be directed at improving sports hall quality.

Village halls

- ◀ Consider potential requirement for village halls/multi-purpose facilities in new housing developments, consider how these facilities fit within the wider recreational/sporting mix.
- ◀ Support village hall and parish council committees to offer, coordinate and publicise community spaces which contribute positively to the physical activity, and health and wellbeing agenda.

Swimming pools

- ◀ In the medium term, maintain the standard of the area's swimming pools via ongoing investment. There is a need, in the longer term, to replace/refurbish Hereford Leisure Pool, Ledbury Swimming Pool and Ross Swimming Pool.
- ◀ This investment strategy should be supported by further bespoke FPM modelling (incorporating housing growth allocations) to test whether current levels of water space will be sufficient in the long term, and also to test scenarios for replacing the abovementioned pools.
- ◀ Monitor used capacity at key swimming sites (especially Hereford Leisure Pool) and, where required, assess whether programming should be reviewed to ensure that the most popular activities are assigned to peak times.
- ◀ There is a challenge to balance the programming of swimming pools to ensure fair access to water space for casual and lane swimming, swimming lessons and club swimming. The importance of the revenue generated by swimming lessons to enable pools to remain viable should not be underestimated.

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY

Health & fitness

- ◀ Maintain a watching brief in respect of the scale of health and fitness provision within Herefordshire (and provision made outside the Authority). Should the upward participation trend continue, look to invest in expanding the volume of provision available at public leisure centres.
- ◀ There is a need to ensure that harder to reach groups and people with specific health needs can (affordably) access health and fitness facilities.
- ◀ Consideration should be given to ensuring that public leisure centre health & fitness facilities and the attributed programming meets the needs of Herefordshire's ageing population.
- ◀ Work with, and via, the leisure operator to ensure that the health and wellbeing offer meets the needs of all residents.

Squash

- ◀ There is a need to protect existing squash facilities and continue to invest and maintain court quality to ensure that the sport retains its current high participation levels.

Indoor bowls

- ◀ The indoor bowling facility at Bridge Street Sports Centre needs to be protected. Further investigation is required to ascertain demand levels for new provision in the County.

Indoor tennis

- ◀ Continue to work with the LTA and partners to drive up participation and ensure that indoor tennis facilities are financially viable.

All facility types

- ◀ Ensure that memberships and specific activities are available to people living in the Authority's more deprived communities via enabling increased use of community facilities (e.g., activity halls and community centres).
- ◀ Support other developments (via planning, developer contributions and officer expertise) which may assist in increasing sport and physical activity within the wider community.
- ◀ Work with local sports clubs (with and via the leisure operator) to ensure that facilities and workforce development programmes meet the needs of all clubs and residents.
- ◀ Develop a system to, as early as possible, identify and tackle ongoing investment, maintenance, and refurbishment requirements to protect and improve existing sports facilities.

Action plans

The following action plan contains two sections:

- ◀ Management and programming.
- ◀ Indoor and built sports facilities action plan.

All actions identified should take account of accessibility issues (hearing, visual and wheelchair access). In respect of timescales, short term refers to 1-2 years; medium is 3-5 years and long-term equates to 5-10 years. Action plan priorities are categorised either as protect, enhance or provide in line with Sport England objectives.

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY

The Sport England definitions for these 'headings' are as follows:

- ◀ **Protect**- *to protect the right opportunities in the right places.*
- ◀ **Enhance** - *to enhance opportunities through better use of existing provision.*
- ◀ **Provide**- *to provide new opportunities to meet the needs of current and future generations.*
- ◀ **Overarching** – *roughly works across the three of the above (to be updated*

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

4.2 Indoor built facilities action plan

Taking into account the needs assessments related to specific facilities and sports, the demographic make-up, current vision of the Council and associated organisations, plus Sport England’s Planning Model which encourages Protection, Enhancement and Provision of new facilities, it is recommended that the Council adopt the following strategic recommendations:

4.2.1: Management and programming

Strategic objective	Recommendation	Action	Timescale	Responsibility	Importance
Ensure sports facilities remain attractive and fit for purpose. Protect/enhance	See site by site recommendations and ensure ongoing review of facility condition takes place.	Develop a system to, as early as possible, identify and tackle ongoing investment, maintenance and refurbishment requirements to protect and improve existing	Short	Council, Active Herefordshire & Worcestershire (AHW), Halo, schools, community organisations	High
Maintain/increase community use of education facilities (sport halls) Enhance	Increase number of school sports halls available to the community. Explore options to increase community use hours at sites where scope has been identified (see site by site action plan). Market/promote availability of the current stock of sports halls to more sections of the community	Work closely with schools that have expressed interest in becoming community available – to implement this. Continue to work with schools with good levels of community use to ensure complementary programming across the Authority, and where required secure community use agreements. Engage schools where there is potential to extend community use hours. Develop a site-by-site engagement action plan for schools with limited or no current community use. Ensure any planned development of new sports halls are specified for community use as per Sport England’s technical guidance, and that community use agreements are secured.	Short	Council/AHW, schools	High

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Strategic objective	Recommendation	Action	Timescale	Responsibility	Importance
Create long-term investment plan to replace/upgrade Hereford Leisure Pool, and Ledbury and Ross-on-Wye swimming pools. (Enhance/provide)	See site by site recommendations and ensure ongoing review of facility condition takes place.	Consider commissioning further bespoke FPM local run assessment in respect of swimming pool provision to accurately determine future requirements (incorporating future population growth). Longer term, form a multi-disciplinary project board (leisure, planning, regeneration) to create a long term investment plan for the upgrade/replacement of the three pools.	Long	Council, Halo, Sport England.	High
Facility investments Protect/Enhance/Provide	See site by site/sport by sport recommendations below.	See site by site/sport by sport actions.	Short	Council	High
Planning Protect/Enhance/Provide	Act upon Strategy recommendations.	Adopt the Strategy as an evidence-based document supporting the Local Plan and development management decisions. Ensure that Core Strategy review contains suitably worded policy to protect existing provision in line with NPPF (para 99).	Medium	Council	High
Monitor and review	Keep this Facilities Strategy relevant and up to date.	Complete an annual strategy review. Deliver a complete review within 5 years of adoption.	Medium	Council	High

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

4.2.2: Sport specific recommendations

Sport	Overview and challenges	Recommended actions	Lead agencies	Timescale	Objective
Badminton	<p>There are 84 badminton courts provided at 20 (3+ court) sports halls in Herefordshire. Badminton provision is found at most indoor sports facilities; the largest is at the Hereford Academy.</p> <p>3.17% of adults in Herefordshire have played badminton at least twice in the last 28 days.</p> <p>Based on the assumption that regular adult players play once a week for one hour and that their average need is for 3 adults per court; there is a weekly requirement for 1,667 court hours (current demand).</p> <p>89.87% of badminton courts in Herefordshire meet the Badminton England quality threshold. This equates to 2,051 court hours.</p> <p>There are six affiliated clubs in the County. Broadly clubs report member recruitment to be the primary challenge faced.</p>	<p>Grow participation especially at clubs, working with local stakeholders.</p> <p>Help support these clubs to grow and diversify memberships.</p> <p>Support volunteer and coach development.</p>	Badminton England, Council, AHW.	Medium	Enhance
Netball	<p>Bridge Street Sports Centre and The Point 4 are key venues for the sport in Herefordshire. Hereford Netball League is EN affiliated and operates indoor leagues for 21 teams in the County – regularly using both these venues. The League reports that if it were to grow it would aim to secure more court time at The Point 4. This would be a challenge considering how well used the site already is.</p> <p>Walking Netball sessions are currently held at Bridge Street Sports Centre, Hereford Leisure Centre, and John Kyrle Academy. Two affiliated clubs were consulted – with no issues reported. Commercial leagues also have a strong presence in Herefordshire.</p>	<p>Consult regularly with netball clubs.</p> <p>Work with existing sites to ensure courts remain accessible to accommodate netball training needs.</p> <p>Maintain/increase the number of Back to Netball and Walking Netball sessions if/ where there is demand, whilst retaining pathways between these and local clubs.</p> <p>Support volunteer and coach development.</p>	England Netball, Council/AHW.	Medium	Enhance, Provide.

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Sport	Overview and challenges	Recommended actions	Lead agencies	Timescale	Objective
Basketball	The three affiliated basketball clubs in Herefordshire are Hereford Hornets, Hereford Roar, and Leadonites. All three were approached for consultation; however, no response was secured despite numerous requests.	Engage with clubs to establish what facilities are used for basketball club activity. Support clubs to grow/diversify membership. Support volunteer and coach development.	Council, AHW, Basketball England	Medium	Enhance
Indoor cricket	Cricket in the form of winter club training and recreational activity takes place in ten sports halls in the area. The Bridge Street Sports Centre is a key venue. It hosts the affiliated Herefordshire Indoor Cricket League which accommodates seven clubs from the County.	Consider options to install cricket nets when new sports halls are developed or facilities that do not have them are refurbished. Continue to support indoor league clubs.	HCB, Council/AHW	Medium	Enhance, Provide
Swimming/aquatic sports	Two accredited swimming clubs cater for swimmers of a range of abilities and across disciplines. There is also a Triathlon Club in the County. There is sufficient water space in the area to accommodate an increase in demand based upon projected population growth. Clubs report no main issues in terms of accessing pool time. City of Hereford SC has aspirations to reinstate a water polo section. The primary issue is the age of pools at Hereford Leisure Pool, Ledbury Swimming Pool and Ross Swimming Pool.	Continue to ensure that clubs, aquatic activities and community users are satisfied via effective pools programming and pricing. Ensure that swimming lessons are made fully available to residents in areas of higher deprivation. Continue to review pool programmes at HC sites in the context of increasing swimming participation and improving financial return and capability in the short term.	Council/AHW, Halo, Swim England	Short	Enhance, Provide
Health & fitness	There is a current small undersupply of provision in the Authority. However, this does not account for facilities in adjoining authorities some of which are of significant scale. Their location makes some relevant to Herefordshire residents, particularly those in the East of the Authority - in respect of provision in Malvern Hills and Shropshire. There is a strong market of commercial providers in the Borough	Continue to monitor usage at public leisure centre sites. Ensure that provision/exercise class structure evolves in line with market trends.	Council/Halo.	Long	Enhance, protect.

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Sport	Overview and challenges	Recommended actions	Lead agencies	Timescale	Objective
Squash	<p>Squash is popular locally and has significant participation levels. The level of court provision is low in comparison to neighbouring authorities. Clubs are strong and working to increase participation. There is a need to ensure that courts are well used and protected to enable squash to thrive and grow further.</p> <p>Population increases are unlikely to lead to demand for more squash courts as there is spare capacity now and up to 2041.</p>	<p>Support clubs to grow/diversify membership.</p> <p>Support volunteer and coach development.</p> <p>Ensure that existing squash courts in the Authority are protected.</p>	Council/AHW, England Squash.	Long	Enhance, Protect.
Gymnastics	<p>A strong sport in the County which is still growing. Current supply in the County is adequate and meets current and future demand.</p> <p>Four dedicated venues and one non-dedicated facility accommodate gymnastics clubs/organisations.</p> <p>Clubs are focused on growing membership numbers back to pre-Pandemic levels, most are now operating with waiting lists. They are expected to be back at full capacity by the end of 2022.</p>	<p>Work with local gymnastics clubs to continue to develop dedicated gymnastics facilities (which are better suited to gymnastics requirements and will help accommodate/drive increases in participation)</p> <p>Investigate ways to increase capacity at current venues to cater for growing demand.</p> <p>Expand the coaching and volunteer workforce to develop the sport locally to enable it to offer further gymnastics opportunity</p> <p>A full gymnastics development plan is required for the County.</p>	Council/AHW, British Gymnastics.	Short	Enhance, Provide

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Sport	Overview and challenges	Recommended actions	Lead agencies	Timescale	Objective
Indoor bowls	There is one dedicated indoor bowls facility (with six rinks) in the County; Bridge Street Sports Centre. It is rated as above average quality. The resident club – Leominster Indoor Bowls Club indicates a need for a café/social space at the site. 55% of the Herefordshire population live within a 30-minute vicinity of the Centre. EIBA report the importance of retaining Bridge Street Sports Centre, further, it indicates aspirations for further provision within the County. Further investigation is required to ascertain demand levels for new provision.	Help the Club to maintain the demand for the one indoor bowls facility. Maintain facility quality and make amendments where required. Review the scale/quality of ancillary provision at Bridge Street Sports Centre. Help Club with its marketing strategy to encourage new members and retaining existing ones.	Council/AHW, EIBA.	Medium	Protect, Enhance, Provide
Indoor tennis	There is one indoor tennis facility in Herefordshire-Bridge Street Sports Centre. The facility itself consists of two indoor courts, both of which have been reported as 'above-average' quality. Its geographic position means that 55% of Herefordshire's population live within a 30-minute drive of indoor tennis provision. LTA demand modelling suggests there is potential to develop additional indoor tennis provision in Hereford, although no current clear opportunity is available.	Maintain facility quality. Continue to drive up participation at Bridge Street. Further investigate options/opportunities for new facility development in the Hereford area. Ensure that indoor tennis facilities are available to all Hereford residents.	Council/AHW, LTA.	Medium	Protect, Provide
Climbing	There are three dedicated indoor climbing facilities in Herefordshire. All three are managed by commercial operators. 88% of the population live within 30 minutes of a climbing centre.	Continue to work with the BMC and partners to drive up participation and ensure the facilities are financially viable.	Council/AHW, BMC.	Long	Enhance
Water sports (Canoeing and Rowing)	There are four canoeing clubs, and two rowing clubs in Herefordshire. 85% of the Authority population live within a 30-minute drive of a canoeing club/facility.	Support clubs to grow/diversify membership. Maintain current built facilities and ensure they are viable in the longer term.	Council/AHW, British Canoeing	Long	Protect, Enhance

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Sport	Overview and challenges	Recommended actions	Lead agencies	Timescale	Objective
Shooting	There are two shooting clubs in the County. 53% of Herefordshire's population live within a 30-minute drive of shooting facility. Bromyard & District Rifle Club indicate a need to improve its facility- for which potential S.106 monies are available.	Support clubs to grow/diversify membership. Where possible support Bromyard & District Rifle Club to improve its facility.	Council/AHW, NRA.	Medium	Protect, Enhance
Archery	There are three archery clubs in the County. 53% of Herefordshire's population live within a 30-minute drive of an archery facility. Bromyard Bowmen indicate a need to improve its facility- for which potential S.106 monies are available.	Support clubs to grow/diversify membership. Where possible support Bromyard Bowmen to improve its facility.	Council/AHW, NRA.	Medium	Protect, Enhance

4.2.3: Site specific recommendations

Facility	Management	Overview	Action	Lead agency	Timescale (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)
Bridge Street Sports Centre	Halo	Opened in 1997, it features a 4-court sports hall in above average condition. Hall space doubles up as an indoor tennis provision (2 courts) and would benefit from hall lighting being upgraded. It offers daytime availability. It is mainly used for cricket, netball and tennis, and is operating at c.50% used capacity over 39 available community use hours in the peak period. England Netball considers it to be a key site. The 6 rink indoor bowls facility on site is rated above average quality. It is home to Leominster Indoor Bowls Club (115 members). The Club indicated that ancillary facilities are lacking, as currently only vending machines are in place.	Maintain facility quality.	Halo/Council	Long	Medium
			Explore options to upgrade lighting in sports hall	Halo/Council	Short	High
			Sustain levels of usage	Halo/Council	Medium	Medium
			Review ancillary facilities and how best to support social elements of centre use and for Bowls Club (and other users)	Halo/Council	Short	Medium
			Protect affiliated netball league play	England Netball/ Halo/Council	Medium	Medium

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Facility	Management	Overview	Action	Lead agency	Timescale (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)
Bromyard & District Rifle Club	Club (in house)	Leased venue which includes an indoor and outdoor range. The Club is focused on small bore rifle, air rifle and pistol shooting disciplines. Its facilities are in poor condition, both the flooring and walls of the indoor range require upgrading along with the lighting. In addition, ancillary facilities are lacking and the Club aspires to install toilets and a dedicated kitchen area within the clubhouse. Potential s.106 monies are available to support the improvements.	Support the club with facility developments.	Bromyard & District Rifle Club	Short	Medium
Cloud Nine Health & Leisure Club	Private	Built in 2006 site features a 20-station health and fitness suite in good condition, and a training pool (14m) in good condition. The changing rooms were refurbished in 2021, in addition a sauna facility was added in 2019. Membership is required to access the pool and gym although pay and play ad hoc family swim' sessions are programmed on a weekly basis. This is important for local residents considering its location in sparsely populated west of the County.	Maintain facility quality and Sustain pay and play swimming sessions.	Cloud Nine Health & Leisure Club	Medium	Low
Flipz Gymnastics	Club (in house)	Dedicated facility in a converted industrial unit in Ross-on-Wye - reported to be in good condition. It currently operates as a limited company and has aspirations to transition to become a community interest company (CIC).	Support club to grow/diversify membership and assist with volunteer/coach development.	Flipz Gymnastics, British Gymnastics	Medium	Long
Hereford Cathedral School	In house (Independent school)	4-court sports hall. Quality unassessed. FPM lists site as being available to community, with a reported used capacity of 75% over 25 available community use hours in the peak period. KKP audit could not verify this.	Maintain facility quality. Follow up with the school to ascertain any issues/levels of community use and explore options to increase the hours of community availability with the School.	Council/Hereford Cathedral School	Short	Medium

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Facility	Management	Overview	Action	Lead agency	Timescale (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)
Hereford County Canoe Club	Club (in house)	Family friendly, non-competitive mixed ability club for kayak and open water paddlers. Its programme comprises sociable cruises on the River Wye, as well as other local waterways and rivers across England.	Support club to grow/diversify membership and assist with volunteer/coach development	Hereford County Canoe Club/ British Canoeing	Medium	Low
Hereford Kayak Club	Club (in house)	Club is based at Hereford Rowing Club on the banks of the River Wye. It has access to the Rowing Club's facility along with storage options for its kayaks. Club accommodates both recreational and competition kayaking.	Support club to grow/diversify membership and assist with volunteer/coach development	Hereford Kayak Club/ British Canoeing	Medium	Low
Hereford Leisure Centre	Local Authority	<p>Opened in 1985 and modernised in 2015 the site features an 8-court good quality sports hall, a good quality 83 station health & fitness and toning suite, good quality studio, two above average squash courts, and a dedicated gymnastics area.</p> <p>The sports hall is effectively operating as a 4-court hall, as two courts are permanently allocated to the resident trampolining club, and another two courts are utilised as a flexible exercise class space. Use of the remaining sports hall includes kick boxing, netball, badminton and taekwondo. Off the 44 community peak time hours available the hall is operating at 70% used capacity.</p> <p>The onsite gymnastics offer is significant with 592 regular attendees at sessions.</p> <p>The toning suite was added in 2016 and benefits for those with mobility/health issues.</p> <p>Halo indicates that the squash courts receive moderate use, mainly in the form of pay and play bookings.</p>	Maintain the quality of the facility.	Halo/Council	Long	Medium
			Monitor sports hall used capacity, if demand cannot be catered for consider returning the exercise class space to traditional sports hall activity.	Halo/Council	Short	High
			Retain and maintain the quality of the two squash courts.	Halo/Council	Long	Medium
Hereford Leisure Pool	Local Authority	Opened in 1976 and refurbished (reception, changing facilities, and gym area) in 2016, it	Maintain and where possible improve the quality of the facility.	Halo/Council	Long	Medium

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Facility	Management	Overview	Action	Lead agency	Timescale (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)
		<p>houses facilities including; a 6-lane 25m pool (below average), 27m leisure pool (below average), two training pools (below average), 85 station fitness suite (above average), and two studios (above average). Pool tanks have not received any significant refurbishment since opening although the pumps have been upgraded in recent years.</p> <p>It has 45% of the total accessible water space in the County.</p> <p>FPM modelling suggests very strong demand for the pools, with an assumed 99% used capacity figure despite its age/ condition. In addition, the FPM indicates scope to increase accessible hours for the pools.</p> <p>City of Hereford SC is the primary swimming club pool user. It hires it for 17 hours per week. Hereford Triathlon Club also uses the pool for 1.5 hours per week. Public swimming lessons are operating at 86.6% capacity (1.820 attendees).</p>	A long-term plan is required to replace/refurbish the sites pools.	Halo/Council	Long	High
			Investigate further to ensure pools are available for the full allocation of community hours	Halo/Council	Short	High
			Ongoing review of programming for the pool, to ensure maximum participation from all age and health groups.	Halo/Council	Short	Medium
Hereford Rowing Club	Club (in house)	Club based on the River Wye, with clubhouse and other ancillary facilities.	Support club to grow/diversify membership and assist with volunteer/coach development	Hereford Rowing Club/British Rowing	Medium	Low
Hereford Sixth Form College	Education (in house)	Opened in 1997 it includes a below average quality 4-court sports hall which accommodates: badminton, fitness, classes, basketball, cricket, netball, football, and table tennis. Hall is operating at c.70% used capacity over 22.5 available community use hours in the peak period. It has damp issues. It also has one below average community accessible studio.	Where possible improve facility quality and sustain community use levels. If possible, explore options to increase community use hours with the College.	Hereford Sixth Form College/Council	Short	Medium

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Facility	Management	Overview	Action	Lead agency	Timescale (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)
Hereford Whitecross Club	Club (in house)	This is a significant racquet sports facility in Hereford. Facilities include five squash courts (four good, one below average quality) plus outdoor tennis courts. It has plans to refurbish the below average squash court in the next two-three years. All other courts have been refurbished within the last three years. It has c.430 members (140 juniors, 170 seniors) and is a key site for both tennis and squash in the County.	Support club to grow/diversify membership and assist with volunteer/coach development.	Hereford Whitecross Club/England Squash	Medium	Low
Hereford Youth Canoe Club	Club (in house)	This is based on the banks of the River Wye. Limited other information available and the club was unresponsive to consultation requests. It caters for 11-18 year olds.	Support club to grow/diversify membership and assist with volunteer/coach development.	Hereford Youth Canoe Club/ British Canoeing	Medium	Low
John Kyrle Academy	Education (in house)	Opened in 1980 (refurbished 1990) it includes a below average quality 4-court sports hall which currently accommodates badminton, basketball, cricket, netball, and football. The hall operates at c.70% used capacity over 20 available community use hours in the peak period. Its floor is approaching end of its lifespan and will require replacement in the medium term.	Sustain community use levels. If possible, explore options to increase community use hours with the Academy.	John Kyrle Academy	Medium	Medium
			Explore options for replacing the sports hall floor.	John Kyrle Academy/Council	Medium	High
John Masefield High School	Education (in house)	4-court sports hall plus two squash courts; quality unassessed. FPM lists site as being available to community with a reported used capacity of 100% over 24 available community use hours in the peak period. KKP's audit could not verify this.	Explore options to increase community use hours with the School.	John Masefield High School/Council	Short	Medium
Kingstone Academy	Education (in house)	Opened 2006 (refurbished 2017) it has a below average quality 4-court hall which at the time of KKP's audit had not reopened for community use following lockdown. The School expects to reopen the hall to the	Monitor Schools re-opening to community users. If possible, explore options to increase community use hours with the Academy.	Kingstone Academy/Council	Short	High

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Facility	Management	Overview	Action	Lead agency	Timescale (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)
		community. FPM indicates that the hall (if open to the community) would operate at 66% used capacity over 20 available community use hours in the peak period. The hall floor was replaced in 2017, however, a leak in the building roof has created a damp issue.	Explore options for fixing roof/damp issue.	Kingstone Academy/Council	short	High
Lady Hawkins Community Leisure Centre	Halo	Opened in 1995 (refurbished in 2013) it includes a above average quality 4-court sports hall accommodating badminton, cricket, football, and exercise classes. The hall operates at c.40% used capacity over 25.5 available community use hours in the peak period. This is a dual use facility with Lady Hawkins School having exclusive access on weekday daytime hours. It also has a 15-station health and fitness suite, and studio (above average) - both available to community users. The onsite changing facilities are in a below average condition.	Maintain facility quality and sustain levels of community use.	Halo/Lady Hawkins School/Council	Medium	Medium
			Improve condition of changing facilities. Explore options to increase community use hours with the school, subject to demand.	Halo/Lady Hawkins School/Council	Medium	Medium
Ledbury Swimming Pool		Opened in 1976 and refurbished (reception, changing facilities, and gym area) in 2016, it houses facilities including; a 5-lane 25m pool (above average), 51 station fitness suite (above average), and one studio (above average). The pool tank has not received any significant refurbishment since opening. FPM modelling suggests moderate demand for the pool which is operating at an assumed 55% used capacity. Ledbury & Malvern SC is the primary club pool user – for five hours per week. Public swimming lessons are operating at 83.3% capacity (500 attendees).	Maintain and where possible improve the quality of the facility.	Halo/Council	Long	Medium
			A long-term plan is required to replace/refurbish the sites pools	Halo/Council	Long	High
			Ongoing review of programming for the pool, to ensure maximum participation from all age and health groups.	Halo/Council	Short	Medium

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Facility	Management	Overview	Action	Lead agency	Timescale (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)
Leominster Leisure Centre	Local Authority (trust)	Dual use site opened in in 2006 which features a 6-lane 25m (above average) main pool, 10m training pool (above average), 4 court sports hall (above average), 70 station fitness suite (above average), and two studios (good quality). The sports hall is utilised by Early Mortimer College & Sixth Form during weekday daytime hours. The hall which primarily caters for badminton, martial arts, and football is operating at c.50% used capacity over 44 available peak period community use hours. FPM modelling suggests moderate demand for the pool, with an assumed 55% used capacity. City of Hereford SC is the main club user (7.5 hours/week). Public swimming lessons are at 60% capacity (600 attendees).	Maintain facility quality and sustain levels of community use.	Halo/Council/ Earl Mortimer College	Medium	Medium
			Ongoing review of programming for the pool, to ensure maximum participation from all age and health groups.	Halo/Council	Short	Medium
Lucton School	In house – independent school	Opened in 1950 it includes a above average quality 4-court sports hall (refurbished 2019) which accommodates cricket, badminton, netball, and football. Hall is operating at c.40% used capacity over 14 available peak period community use hours. it was indicated the floor has been replaced within the last 15 years although a small section of it has a damp issue due to a leak in the roof. The School is working to fix the issue. It also has a 4-lane 22m (above average) pool refurbished in 2007 which is available to community groups and clubs. FPM modelling suggests moderate demand for the pool, with an assumed 33% used capacity.	Maintain quality of the facility and sustain levels	Lucton School	Long	Medium

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Facility	Management	Overview	Action	Lead agency	Timescale (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)
React	Club (in house)	Large gymnastics club based in Hereford with c.700 members. Its aims are to grow to c.1000 members, with specific targets for its pre-school offer. It is based in a rented dedicated facility. The Club's focus is on investing in equipment and seeking funding options to support this.	Support club to grow/diversify membership and support volunteer/ coach development.	React/British Gymnastics	Medium	Medium
			Engage with club and where possible support.	React/Council/British Gymnastics	Medium	Medium
Ross Rowing Club	Club (in house)	Significant club with 108 members (inc.30 juniors) with leased facility on the River Wye. This recently suffered two flooding events; the latter badly damaged the clubhouse which has been replaced via insurance coverage. The new building features a bar/social area along with changing facilities and storage, it is designed using materials with better resistance to flooding. Issues linked with the flooding along with the Pandemic have significantly impacted club membership over the last two years, however, it reports an improving trend through 2022.	Support club to grow/diversify membership and assist with volunteer/coach development.	Ross Rowing Club/British Rowing	Medium	Medium
Ross Swimming Pool	Local Authority	Opened in 1973 and refurbished (reception, changing facilities, and gym area) in 2016, it houses a 4-lane 25m pool (above average), 54 station fitness suite (above average), and one studio (good). The pool tank has not received any significant refurbishment since opening. FPM modelling suggests good levels of demand, with an assumed 71% used capacity. City of Hereford SC is the primary club user (5.5 hours/week). Public swimming lessons are at 83.3% capacity (500 attendees).	Maintain and where possible improve the quality of the facility.	Halo/Council	Long	Medium
			A long-term plan is required to replace/refurbish the sites pools	Halo/Council	Long	High
			Ongoing review of programming for the pool, to ensure maximum participation from all age and health groups.	Halo/Council	Short	Medium

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Facility	Management	Overview	Action	Lead agency	Timescale (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)
St Mary's RC High School	Education (in house)	Opened in 2005 it includes a below average quality 4-court sports hall which is not presently open to community users. The School indicated that this is due to hall condition (no main issues- hall is tired). The School is interested in engaging with stakeholders to open up the facility to the community.	Explore options to improve facility.	St Mary's High School/Council	Short	Medium
			Engage with School and further investigate potential of opening its facilities to community users.	St Mary's High School/Council	Short	Short
Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School	Education	Opened in 1997 (refurbished 2007) its below average quality 3-court sports hall caters for badminton. It operates at c.50% used capacity 20 available peak period community use hours.	Explore options to improve facility and sustain levels of community use. Explore options to increase community use hours with the school, subject to demand.	Bishop of Hereford Bluecoat School/Council	Medium	Medium
The Bromyard Centre	Halo	Opened in 1991 it has a below average quality 4-court sports hall which accommodates badminton, and football. The hall is operating at c.60% used capacity over 44 available peak period community use hours. The quality rating is based mainly on the hall's age. The site also has a 25-station health and fitness suite and a studio, both in below average condition.	Explore options to improve facility and sustain levels of community use.	Halo/Council	Medium	Medium
The Downs-Malvern College Prep School	In house – Independent School	Opened in 2009 it has an above average quality 4-court sports hall which accommodates badminton, cricket, and table tennis. Hall is operating at c.50% used capacity over 14 available community use hours in the peak period.	Maintain the quality of the facility and sustain levels of community use.	The Downs – Malvern College Prep School.	Medium	Low

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Facility	Management	Overview	Action	Lead agency	Timescale (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)
The Elms School	In house – Independent School)	Opened in 2002 (refurbished 2020) it has an above average quality 4-court sports hall which accommodates cricket, netball, and football. The hall is operating at c.60% used capacity over 15 available community use hours in the peak period. New cricket nets, LED lighting and improvements to the hall floor were implemented in the 2020 refurbishment.	Maintain the quality of the facility and sustain levels of community use. Explore options to increase community use hours with the school, subject to demand.	The Elms School	Medium	Low
The Hereford Academy	Education (in house)	Opened in 2011 it has an above average quality 6-court sports hall which accommodates badminton, cricket, and netball. Hall is operating at c.70% used capacity over 34 available community use hours in the peak period. It also has a below average quality studio. Key site as only significant sized hall in south of Hereford (city).	Maintain the quality of the facility and sustain levels of community use.	The Hereford Academy	Medium	Low
The Point 4 (Royal National College for the Blind)	Education (in house)	Opened in 2009, it includes a good quality 3 ¹¹ -court sports hall which accommodates: netball, football/futsal, dance classes, and boxing (on occasion). The hall is operating at c.90% used capacity over 36 available community use hours in the peak period. It is a key site for affiliated netball leagues. Furthermore it is also strategic for futsal, hosting both County and national competitions. It also has a good quality 55 station fitness suite (refurbished in 2018) and two above average studios.	Maintain the quality of the facility and sustain levels of community use.	The Point 4	Medium	Low
			Protect affiliated netball league play	The Point 4/ England Netball/ Halo/Council/AH W	Medium	Medium

¹¹ The hall is not marked out for badminton use but is of a large size with a total area of 1434m²

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Facility	Management	Overview	Action	Lead agency	Timescale (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)
Weobley High School	Education (in house)	Opened in 2007 it has an above average quality 4-court sports hall which accommodates: badminton, football, and Zumba classes. Hall is operating at c.35% used capacity over 15 available community use hours in the peak period.	Maintain facility and sustain community use levels	Weobley High School	Medium	Low
Whitecross High School Hereford	Education (in house)	Opened in 2006, it has a below average (signs of wear and tear) quality 4-court sports hall accommodating badminton, football, and dance classes. Hall is operating at c.20% used capacity over 34 available peak period community use hours.	Explore options to improve facility quality.	Whitecross School Hereford/HC	Medium	Medium
			Follow up with school and investigate options to increase community usage	Whitecross School Hereford/HC	Short	Medium
Wigmore Leisure Centre	Education (in house)	Opened in 1994 (refurbished 2004) it includes a below average quality 4-court sports hall accommodating badminton and football. Hall is operating at c.50% used capacity over 17 available community use hours in the peak period. It is a dual use facility with Wigmore School having exclusive access to the hall during weekday daytime hours. Hall line markings are in need of renewal and the School indicate an aspiration to upgrade the lighting to LED. It also has an 18-station health and fitness suite, which is available to community users.	Explore options for renewing line markings & upgrading hall lighting to LED.	Wigmore Leisure Centre/Council	Short	Medium
			Sustain levels of community use.	Wigmore Leisure Centre	Medium	Medium
			Market and promote the availability of the sports hall to increase usage	Wigmore Leisure Centre	Short	Medium
Wyedean Canoe Club	Club (in house)	Recreation focused club based at Symonds Yat on the River Wye providing opportunity for paddlers of all ages and abilities.	Support club to grow/diversify membership and support volunteer/coach development.	Wyedean Canoe Club/British Canoeing	Medium	Low
Commercial fitness gyms	Commercial	There are several commercially operated health and fitness facilities (some with swimming pools), which all contribute to the diverse offer of facilities available across Herefordshire.	Continue to monitor use and gauge the extent to which they complement other activity across the Authority	Commercial operators	Long	Low

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Facility	Management	Overview	Action	Lead agency	Timescale (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)
Commercial climbing facilities	Commercial	There are several commercially operated climbing facilities, which all contribute to the diverse offer of facilities available across Herefordshire.	Continue to monitor use and gauge the extent to which they complement other activity across the authority	Commercial operators	Long	Low
Village halls/ community centres	Various	There are 160 village and community halls in the County. Management varies between village hall committees, parish councils and individuals. All rely on the goodwill of volunteers. Activities range between each hall and are considered to broadly reflect interpreted local need.	Consider potential requirement for village halls/multi-purpose facilities in new housing developments (once allocations have been finalised) and consider how these facilities fit within the wider sporting/ recreational mix.	Council	Medium	Medium
			Support the work of hall management to secure external funding, improve volunteer skills and enhance the quality and effectiveness of facility management, programming, and finance.	Council	Medium	Medium
			Consider potential additional demand produced from new housing developments and whether this demand can be accommodated at existing facilities or whether new provision is required.	Council	Medium	Medium

PART 5: MONITORING AND REVIEW

This Strategy identifies the investment and actions required to deliver and maintain a high-quality built facilities infrastructure for Herefordshire for the period up until 2041.

It is important that it is (and is treated as) a live document and is used in a practical manner to prioritise investment, develop key work programmes and partnerships, guide planning gain investment and ensure that built sports facilities are a vital component contributing to the quality of life of Herefordshire residents.

Strategy production is just the start of the process and there is a requirement for all partners to engage in ongoing dialogue and review to ensure that a considered perspective and approach is maintained throughout the strategy period.

It will be important for Herefordshire County Council and its partners to develop a 3-10 year action plan based around the Strategy and for this to be annually monitored and reviewed. This should not only evaluate progress made against the action plan but should identify actual/potential changes in supply and demand in the Authority. This is on the basis that the Strategy is as much about how facilities are used as it is about ensuring that local infrastructure is of a good quality.

In particular the annual review process should include:

- ◀ A review of progress on the recommendations made and the 3-10 year action plan; taking account of any changes required to the priority of each action (e.g. the priority of some may increase/reduce following implementation of others).
- ◀ Lessons learnt throughout the period.
- ◀ New facilities coming on stream (or being made newly available to the community) which will need to be taken into account.
- ◀ Any specific changes in the use of key district sites (e.g., sport specific specialisms of sites, changes in availability, etc.).
- ◀ Any specific changes in demand at particular facilities and/or clubs in the area (e.g., reduction or increase in club numbers, new housing growth,
- ◀ New formats of traditional sports that may need to be considered.
- ◀ Any other new or emerging issues and opportunities.

The outcome of the review will be to develop a new annual and medium-term action plan for indoor and built sports facilities across the Authority.

APPENDIX 1: PLANNING GAIN CONTRIBUTION TOOLKIT

Introduction

The purpose of this toolkit is to ensure that planning gain contribution sought from an individual development is based on a tailored approach, using the robust evidence bases provided as part of the Herefordshire Indoor & Built Sports Facilities Strategy and Action Plan. This will help to clearly justify the needs arising from the development and how they are to be met.

It provides a step-by-step guide which should be used by those stakeholders which are directly involved in negotiating developer contributions either local authority case officers or housing developers/planning consultants acting on their behalf.

The following processes should be followed in order to inform the potential additional demand that a new housing development generates. This sets out the process for leisure facilities.

There is also a checklist summary for the process which should be completed as evidence of working through each step. In terms of social sustainability, a series of questions to explore are provided with possible options to consider.

For all developments (regardless of size) developer contributions should be sought towards social, sport and open space facilities. Where a development may be considered too small to provide a contribution, consideration should be given to where a number of small developments may have a cumulative impact on the community infrastructure and refer to local planning policy.

In instances where a development may fall within two or more local authorities it is recommended that the demand from the more urban area or locally reflective area are applied in calculating the requirements. This is in order to reflect the on the ground use of provision in the context of its setting. If provision is to be provided on the outskirts of an urban settlement and therefore is to act as an extension of that settlement, it is justifiable to utilise the demand/standards most appropriate.

The suite of evidence documents which should be used to assess demand includes:

- ◀ Herefordshire Indoor & Built Facilities Strategy - Needs Assessment Report: December 2022
- ◀ Herefordshire Indoor & Built Facilities Strategy – Strategy Report January 2023

Process

Step 1	Determine the key indoor sports facility requirement resulting from the development	Navigation
	<p>The key tools to assess this are provided within Sport England's Sports Facility Calculator which is accessed via the Active Places Power website.</p> <p>This will enable you to determine the demand for sports halls, swimming pools and indoor bowls facilities that the new population from a development generates.</p>	<p>Access to the calculator is restricted and requires a username and password to be set up.</p>

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY

The Herefordshire strategy provides an estimate of future demand for key indoor sports facilities based on population forecasts as a result of key housing growth areas. This key demand is translated into units of badminton courts, swimming pool lanes and indoor bowls rinks. As the exact number of units are identified from specific housing developments then the Council will need to apply the household occupancy rate to this to determine the total population.

Number of dwellings x household occupancy rate¹² = associated population

This is the population that is applied within the Sports Facilities Calculator (SFC) to determine the additional provision that is required to meet the additional demand.

The SFC is a modelling tool designed to assist local planning authorities to quantify how much additional demand is generated by increasing populations and new housing areas. The model has no spatial qualities or dimension and can only be used to estimate the facility needs for whole area populations. The model makes no reference to:

- ◀ Location of existing facilities compared to demand.
- ◀ Capacity and availability of facilities (i.e. opening hours, how well they are used).
- ◀ Cross boundary movements of demand.
- ◀ Travel networks and topography.
- ◀ The attractiveness of the existing facility network.

The SFC uses information that Sport England has gathered on who uses facilities and applies this to the population profile of the local area. This ensures that the calculations take on board the population profile (e.g. age, gender, etc) of the local area.

The SFC then turns this estimation of demand (visits per week) into the equivalent amount of facility which is needed to meet these visits. For swimming pools, it uses 25m lane equivalents and for sports halls it uses the number of badminton courts.

Registration is required to access Active Places Power (APP) and therefore the SFC. If you are not already registered, you can register for free via the link under the login button on the APP homepage.

Please note the SFC is one tool and should not be used on its own to determine the need for sports facilities from a single development.

Step 2	Determine the other indoor sports and community facilities required as a result of the development	Navigation
	Use the Indoor Built Facilities Strategy to identify level of need that may be generated from new development(s) for indoor sporting provision not included within the SFC. This should also extend to community centre facilities within the area.	Leisure facilities strategy

There is no clear calculation of the requirements for other indoor sports provision and community centre facilities (not covered by SFC) as a result of a new housing development. In this instance, the Leisure Facilities Strategy should be used to determine the need for additional facilities within any specific area within the Authority. This should take into account the requirement for other dedicated sports facilities if the Strategy identifies this.

¹² National occupancy rate of 2.3 persons per household is used

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY

The Assessment Report (in specific sections) identifies need for other provision. This results from consultation with specific clubs and organisations, facility operators and NGBs. It also takes account of the size, scale and quality of existing provision. Facilities identified within the Assessment Report are determined by the scope of the study which the Council commissions. This will also be informed by how busy existing facilities are. As an example, if an existing leisure centre (adjacent to the new housing development) is fully programmed with high demand for space, it is unrealistic to expect this facility to accommodate the demand generated from the new development. Therefore, additional provision will be required.

Step 3	Demonstrate an understanding of what else the development generates demand for	Navigation
	<p>Consideration also needs to be given to the other infrastructure that will be generated as a result of the development. As an example, this could include primary and secondary schools, health centres, library, etc.</p> <p>The key focus here is to determine where there may be duplication of facilities and where there may be opportunities for shared provision.</p>	<p>Consultation with other council services, partners and developers</p>

In reality, it will take a significantly large development to generate the requirement for a new stand-alone wet and dry leisure centre. Therefore, it is important to identify where other provision may be required as a result of the development in order to determine if this could replace or supplement the need to provide sports facilities or community facilities.

A key example of this is the requirement for primary and secondary school provision as a result of the development. A primary school will require a multi-purpose indoor hall, playground and playing field space to deliver its national curriculum requirements for PE. A secondary school will require at least a three-court sports hall and playing field space in order to deliver its national curriculum requirements for PE.

Therefore, further investigation should be undertaken to identify if there is an opportunity to ensure that community use of school sports facilities can be guaranteed, thus minimising potential duplication. In this instance the ‘contribution’ associated with the increased demand for sports facilities could be used to enhance the school provision to ensure it was appropriate for community use (e.g., extend fitness facilities, community access arrangements, etc.).

In relation to other service (e.g. library, health centre, etc) there is a need to consider how these could be co-located with alongside sports and community facilities, thus creating a community hub. This is a key driver for sports facilities in attracting users that might not otherwise use these types of facilities.

The financial, social and sporting benefits which can be achieved through development of strategic sites (also known as hub sites) are significant. Sport England provides further guidance on the development of community sports hubs at:

<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY

Step 4	Consider if there are existing facilities within close proximity that could be enhanced or extended to accommodate increased demand.	Navigation
	Further investigation is required to determine if there is an existing facility that is close enough to the development site which, if extended /refurbished / remodelled could accommodate the increased demand generated from the new development.	Facility mapping within the Sports Facilities Assessment Report

Detailed analysis of facilities within the vicinity of the new development should be undertaken to assess the suitability of these facilities to accommodate the increased demand generated from the development.

As an example, the following information should be pulled together in order to determine if this is an appropriate solution to accommodate the increased demand:

- ◀ Is the facility close enough to the development to accommodate the increased demand?
- ◀ The quality of the facility.....does it need investment?
- ◀ Is there capacity to accommodate increased demand....how well used is the facility?
- ◀ Are there any restrictions in access to the facility?
- ◀ Are there plans in place to maintain or refurbish the facility?
- ◀ What type of activities are accommodated within the facility?
- ◀ Are the current management arrangements appropriate to accommodate changes or increased demand at the facility?
- ◀ Are there opportunities to co-locate other services alongside or within the facility?

In addition to the above, it will also be important to assess the potential impact of the additional demand on clubs and organisations within the vicinity. As an example, some clubs and organisations may already be at capacity; therefore, there may be no capacity to accommodate increased demand within the existing infrastructure.

Step 5	Consider the design principles for new provision	Navigation
	The exact nature and location of provision associated with either onsite or off-site developments should be fully determined in partnership with leisure and community specialists (e.g. NGBs, local authority, advisers, etc.) and community groups themselves.	https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/

It is important to ensure that the design of new or extended facilities is in line with the needs of local clubs and organisations as well as relevant design guidance. It will be important that any design reflects best practice design guidance taking into account all the key considerations which will be relevant to each facility. As an example, this will include aspects such as: health and safety, safeguarding, storage, sport specific design features, etc.).

Where an extension or refurbishment of an existing facility takes place, it will be important to ensure that the local community is involved in that design. It will also be important to ensure that continuity of provision is also considered as clubs and organisations will need alternative accommodation during the construction period associated with a refurbishment or extension. This is important in ensuring these organisations continue to exist in the longer term.

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY

Development of community hubs is a key focus for many organisations as the benefits derived from facility co-location is often greater than from stand-alone facilities. There is, thus, a need for developers and stakeholders to consider how different facilities may ‘fit’ together. This could, for example, include the following facilities which may be required as part of a development:

- ◀ Indoor and outdoor sports facilities.
- ◀ Primary and secondary schools.
- ◀ Health centres and GP surgeries.
- ◀ Library.
- ◀ Early years provision.
- ◀ Community centre.
- ◀ Children’s play areas.
- ◀ Allotments and community growing areas.
- ◀ Local retail centres.

The master plan for new developments need to consider the strategic location of facilities and the clustering and co-location of facilities in order to maximise the benefit for the local community.

There is also a need to ensure that the location of outdoor sports pitches and ancillary facilities are appropriately located in the context of indoor sports provision (if also being provided onsite) to ensure a cohesive approach to the whole sporting offer.

Step 6	Strategic pooling of financial contributions to deliver new provision	Navigation
	Consideration needs to be given to the multiple developments across the local authority or a combination of local authorities in order to determine if the combined increased demand is sufficient to warrant a contribution to a strategic leisure development.	Wider housing growth strategies.

If the authority considers each housing growth area in isolation then it is unlikely that there will be sufficient demand generated from a single development to warrant a new stand-alone leisure provision, especially swimming pools

As such the Council needs to consider how the cluster of housing developments within the local authority boundary, or relevant cross border area should make a contribution to strategic sport and leisure facilities. As discussed previously, this may be to provide new provision or to enhance existing in order that it can accommodate increased demand.

This in turn requires the Council and developer to consider the wider housing growth within the area which may also include that within a neighbouring authority. Where the combined increased demand generates the requirement for a strategic facility this should be pooled via developer contributions to a strategic development.

However, it should be noted that the contribution may go towards a facility which is outside of the local authority boundary but reflects how people will live their lives within that specific development.

In order to calculate the contribution from each housing development into a strategic leisure facility fund the Council should use the Sport England Sports Facilities Calculator. Using the population growth and process identified from stage 1 this will provide a basis for negotiation with developers on the contribution from each development.

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY

<https://www.activeplacespower.com/>

<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>

Checklist summary

Prompt	Evidence	Navigation
Step 1: Determine the indoor sports facility requirement resulting from the development		https://www.activeplacespower.com/
Step 2: Determine the other indoor sports and community facilities are required as a result of the development		Leisure Strategy
Step 3: Demonstrate an understanding of what else the development generates demand for		Consultation with other council services, partners and developers)
Step 4: Consider if there are existing facilities within close proximity that could be enhanced or extended to accommodate increased demand.		Facility mapping within the Sports Facilities Assessment Report
Step 5: Consider the design principles for new provision		Consultation https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/
Step 6: Strategic pooling of financial contributions to deliver new provision		https://www.activeplacespower.com/ https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY

APPENDIX 2: INDICATIVE COSTINGS

Indicative costs

The indicative costs of implementing key elements of the Action Plan are detailed below. Further details can be found on the Sport England website:

<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>

The costs outlined below are for the development of community sports facilities. These rounded costs are based on schemes most recently funded through the Lottery (and therefore based on economies of scale), updated to reflect current forecast price indices provided by the Building Cost Information Service (BCIS), prepared by Technical Team Lead of Sport England.

Facility capital costs

Facility capital costs are calculated using estimates of what it typically costs to build modern sports facilities, including fees and external work, naturally taking into account varying conditions, inflation and regional adjustments.

Costs are updated regularly in conjunction with information provided by the BCIS (Building Cost Information Service) and other Quantity Surveyors.

The document is often referred to as the Planning Kitbag costs as the figures are often used by planners and developers when reviewing potential planning contributions to site developments.

Facility Type/Details	Area (m2)	Capital Cost (£)
Affordable Sports Halls		
1 Court (18m x 10m)	382	830,000
2 Court (18m x 17m)	515	940,000
4 Court (34.5m x 20m)	1,532	2,755,000
5 Court (40.6m x 21.35m)	1,722	2,985,000
6 Court (34.5m x 27m)	1,773	3,020,000
8 Court (40m x 34.5m)	2,240	3,755,000
10 Court (40.6m x 42.7m)	2,725	4,540,000
12 Court (60m x 34.5m)	3,064	5,005,000
Affordable Sports Centres with Community 25m Pool		
25m Pool 4 Lane (25m x 8.5m)	1,084	4,290,000
25m Pool 5 Lane (25m x 10.5m)	1,344	4,195,000
25m Pool 6 Lane (25m x 12.5m)	1,543	5,635,000
25m Pool 6 Lane (25m x 12.5) plus secondary pool (13m x 7m)	1,850	6,715,000
25m Pool 8 Lane (25m x 17m)	1,878	6,795,000
25m Pool 8 Lane (25m x 17m) plus secondary pool (17m x 7m)	2,226	7,795,000
Affordable Sports Centres with Community 25m Pool		
4 lane pool, 4 court hall, 50 station health and fitness gym plus studio	2,879	9,210,000

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY

Facility Type/Details	Area (m2)	Capital Cost (£)
6 lane pool, 4 court hall, 100 station health and fitness gym plus 2 studios	3,553	10,810,000
6 lane pool plus learner pool, 4 court hall, 100 station health and fitness gym plus 2 studios	3,906	11,905,000
8 lane pool plus learner pool, 5 court hall, 100 station health and fitness gym plus 2 studios	4,509	13,185,000
Indoor Bowls Centre		
6 Rink (excludes Club/Function Room)	1,914	2,500,000
8 Rink (includes Club/Function Room)	2,500	3,270,000
Indoor Tennis Centre		
3 court	2,138	2,825,000
Extra Court	-	920,000

NB – The costs for:

- ✦ Affordable Sports Halls.
- ✦ Affordable Community Swimming Pools.
- ✦ Affordable Sports Centres with Community 25m Pool Options.
- ✦ Affordable Sports Centres with 50m Pool Options.

Align with the costs included within Sport England publications of the same name updated to 2Q18. The reader is referred to these documents and their Appendices for further information on sizes and general arrangement layouts.

The costs for other facilities include:

- ✦ External works (car parks, roads, paths, services connections etc) are included at an average cost of 15% in addition to the costs of the works.
- ✦ 2 months maintenance/grow in costs for Grass Pitches.
- ✦ Allowance for Fees inclusive of PM, SI, Planning and associated fees.

The costs exclude the following:

- ✦ Project specific details/information, including poor ground conditions, difficult access, long service connections.
- ✦ Natural Turf Pitches exclude the costs for site remodelling, pump and sump systems and SUDS attenuation.
- ✦ Inflation beyond 2Q2018.
- ✦ VAT.
- ✦ Land acquisition costs.
- ✦ Regional cost variations in materials and labour.

Lifecycle costs

Lifecycle costs are how much it costs to keep a facility open and fit-for-purpose during its lifetime.

It includes costs for major replacement and planned preventative maintenance (PPM) day-to-day repairs. The costs are expressed as a percentage of the capital cost.

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY

It should not be underestimated the importance of regular maintenance and the expense in maintaining a facility throughout its life.

The table below provides typical annual allowances expressed as a percentage of the Overall Estimated Total Project Cost per annum based on a 25 year cost model.

Facility Type/Details	Sinking Fund (%)	Maintenance (%)
Multi – Use Sports Hall		
Good quality Sports Hall – irrespective of size	0.7	0.5
Affordable Community Swimming Pools		
Good quality Community Swimming Pool, irrespective of size	0.4	1.1

Sinking Fund

Major Replacement Costs. Typical items for consideration include:

- ◀ Scheduled replacement of major systems and components, i.e. upgrades/replacement of mechanical and electrical equipment (HVAC, tanks, filtration/chlorination/dosing plant, CCTV and the like). Re-configuration of wet areas, replacement of sports flooring, reception refurbishment.
- ◀ Scheduled refurbishment and adaptations, including replacement of sports specific equipment/netting. Re-sealing / re-lining of sports flooring, replacing carpets and signage, replacement of external seating and fittings.
- ◀ Cyclical Redecoration.

Maintenance

Day to Day Repairs and Planned Preventative Maintenance (PPM). Planned Preventative Maintenance includes the costs for servicing and maintaining mechanical and electrical plant and systems in accordance with recommended standards/frequencies and statutory/mandatory inspections (i.e. legionella, lift and boiler insurance inspections etc).

Day to day repairs include:

External walls

Repairs to external walls, cladding, glazed screens, external doors and windows. Roofs Repairs to roofs, roof lights and the like, together with all associated work such as roof flashings, DPC's, gutters and downpipes.

Other items Repairs to ducts, internal doors and frames and the like. Fittings and fixtures Repairs to fitted cupboards, seating, notice boards, shelving, worktops and the like. Excludes loose furniture such as chairs, curtains/blinds etc.

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY

Other items

Repairs to ducts, internal doors and frames and the like.

Fittings and fixtures

Repairs to fitted cupboards, seating, notice boards, shelving, worktops and the like. Excludes loose furniture such as chairs, curtains/blinds etc.

Internal finishes

Repairs to internal floor, wall and ceiling finishes.

Plumbing and internal drainage

Repairs and PPM to plumbing and internal drainage including work to; rising mains, storage tanks and cisterns; hot and cold-water services; sanitary ware; waste, soil, overflow and vent pipes; internal manholes, rodding eyes and access covers.

Heating and ventilation

Repairs and PPM to fuel tanks, boilers, flues, plant, pump, motors, filters, switches, expansion tanks, pipework up to and including calorifiers, radiators, ducts, valves, fans and heating and other HVAC equipment.

Power and lighting

Repairs and PPM to electrical switch gear, fuse boxes, busbars, casings, wiring and conduit to lighting and power supply.

Other M&E services

Repairs and PPM to other M&E services which are part of the building, such as filtration/chlorination/dosing plant, fire alarm and bell systems, emergency lighting, clock systems, PA systems, firefighting equipment, flood lighting and lighting conductors.

External Works

General Grounds Maintenance, repairs to car parks and external paving.

Exclusions:

Operation, Occupancy, End of Life Costs, Fees and VAT are excluded from the allowances. The definition of these are provided below:

Operation costs: The cost of operating the facility rather than its occupancy excluding maintenance costs. Includes utility costs, administrative costs, overheads and taxes etc.

Occupancy cost: User support costs relating to the occupation of the facility e.g. security.

End of life: Notional costs payable and credits accruing after 25 years. Includes disposal inspection and reinstatement to meet potential contractual requirements.