

**Ploszajski Lynch  
Consulting Ltd.**



**Shepway District Council**  
*Sports Facilities Strategy*

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Introduction

Ploszajski Lynch Consulting Ltd. (PLC) was commissioned by Shepway District Council (SDC) to produce a Sports Facilities Strategy (SFS) for the district. This is part of a wider assessment of sport and leisure provision in the district which also includes a playing pitch assessment.

## 1.2 The aim and objectives of the strategy

### 1.2.1 Aim

The aim of the SFS is to undertake a needs and opportunities assessment for indoor and outdoor sports facilities and future need for provision, driven by increased population and to identify any gaps in the existing facility network.

### 1.2.2 Objectives

The objectives of the SFS are as follows:

- The preparation of the strategy will enable SDC and other local providers to shape their future sports facilities offer. This may comprise direct provision by the council and that undertaken by education, voluntary, community and private sectors. The strategy will also inform site-specific and wider policies within the emerging Core Strategy Review.
- The strategy will underpin the contribution that sport can make in support of the health and well-being objectives in SDC's Corporate Plan and priority objectives. It will also help provide a rationale for other local and wider stakeholders to plan for current and future needs.
- The development of the strategy is an opportunity to set out a strategic vision for future provision of indoor and outdoor sports facilities, based on robust evidence and a needs assessment. This will guide and inform future investment and partnerships, influence the Local Plan and Core Strategy (partial) review, future-proof and increase participation opportunities to 2037 and beyond.

## 1.3 The scope of the strategy

### 1.3.1 The facilities

The sports facilities included in the Strategy are:

- Sports halls.
- Swimming pools.
- Health and fitness facilities.

- Squash courts.
- Indoor and outdoor tennis facilities.
- Indoor and outdoor bowls facilities.
- Athletics tracks.
- Water sports centres.
- Village and community halls.

#### **1.4 The study methodology**

The methodology for the study follows the ‘*Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance*’ (2014) approach (ANOG), developed by Sport England. The process involves two parts and three stages as follows:

- **Part One** - Undertaking the assessment.
  - **Stage A:** Prepare and tailor the assessment.
  - **Stage B:** Gather information on supply and demand.
  - **Stage B:** Bring the information together.
- **Part Two - Stage C:** Applying the assessment.

#### **1.5 Strategy format**

The structure of the Strategy document is as follows:

- Assessing sports facilities needs in Shepway.
- The local context for facilities provision.
- Strategic influences on facilities provision.
- Sports halls.
- Swimming pools.
- Health and fitness facilities.
- Squash courts.
- Indoor and outdoor tennis facilities.

- Indoor and outdoor bowls facilities.
- Athletics tracks.
- Water sports centres.
- Village and community halls.
- Policies and recommendations.
- Implementing and reviewing the strategy.

## 2 ASSESSING SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS IN SHEPWAY

### 2.1 Introduction

This section explains the basis upon which the current sports facilities needs in Shepway have been identified, along with the approach for identifying the additional provision that will be needed as a result of population growth.

The methodology applied to assess the needs and opportunities for sports facilities follows Sport England's recommended approach, advocated in 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance' (2014).

### 2.2 Preparing and tailoring the approach

SDC convened a project steering group led by officers from the Planning and Environmental Health department and involving officers from Grounds Maintenance and the Shepway Sports Trust, to devise:

- The aims and objectives of the review of sports and leisure facilities in the district.
- The scope of the exercise, including the types of facilities to include, the geographical scope and the overall timeframe for the assessment.
- The local and wider strategic context.
- The project management arrangements for the study, including the decision to engage assistance from external consultants.

A project brief was produced, approved and signed-off to complete Stage A of the process.

### 2.3 Assessing sports facilities supply

The assessment of sports facilities supply at Stage B of the study involved four main elements:

- **Quantity:** Establishing what facilities there are in the district, with details of their dimensions, technical information like playing surfaces and floodlighting. This included consideration of facilities not currently in use, not available to the community and significant provision in neighbouring areas that serves some needs of Shepway residents.
- **Quality:** Auditing the quality of all aspects of all facilities. This involved assessing each facility in terms of its condition (its age, appeal, fabric and ancillary provision like changing and car parking - factors that will influence its attractiveness to users) and fitness for purpose (its technical specifications and ability to accommodate an appropriate standard of play).
- **Accessibility:** Determining spatial distribution of provision in the district by GIS mapping of each facility type, including catchment analysis appropriate to the scale and role of each facility.

- **Availability:** Identifying how much each facility is used, whether there is any existing spare capacity and if there is any scope to increase capacity. This involved consideration of programming and usage data, opening times and pricing levels, which was secured through consultation with facility providers and operators.

The information was collated and analysed in a facilities supply report, which was evaluated and approved by the project steering group.

## 2.4 Assessing sports facilities demand

The assessment of sports facilities demand at Stage B of the study involved five main elements:

- **Local population profile:** Establishing the local demography, including the size, age profile, affluence/deprivation, health indices and growth projections.
- **Sports participation:** Identifying local sports participation characteristics, through analysing the results of Sport England's 'Active People' survey, market segmentation data, local facilities usage figures and a survey of local clubs to establish membership patterns and trends.
- **Unmet, displaced and future demand:** In addition to current expressed demand, analysis of unmet (demand which exists but cannot currently be satisfied), displaced (demand from within the district that is satisfied elsewhere) and future demand (based on projected population and participation increases) was identified.
- **Local participation priorities:** Establishing and local priorities for the use of sports facilities, such as those relating to corporate health and well-being policies.
- **Sport-specific priorities:** Determining through consultation with Kent Sport, the governing bodies of sport and a local sports clubs survey, whether there are any sport-specific priorities for Shepway.

The information was collated and analysed in a facilities demand report, which was evaluated and approved by the project steering group.

## 2.5 Assessing the balance between sports facilities supply and demand

To complete Stage B of the process, the supply and demand information was brought together for each type of facility to establish:

- **Quantity:** Are there enough facilities with sufficient capacity to meet needs?
- **Quality:** Are the facilities fit for purpose for the users?
- **Accessibility:** Are the facilities in the right physical location for the users?
- **Availability:** Are the facilities available for those who want to use them?

Where appropriate for some types of facility, the assessment included the use of Sport England planning tools, in particular:

- **Facilities Planning Model:** The Facilities Planning Model (FPM) comprises a spatial assessment of sports hall and swimming pool provision based on the nature of demand within an area and the available supply, taking into account issues such as capacity (hours of availability in the peak period) and accessibility.
- **Sports Facilities Calculator:** The Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) has been developed by Sport England to help local planning authorities quantify how much additional demand for the key community sports facilities (swimming pools, sports halls, indoor bowls and artificial grass pitches) is generated as a result of new growth linked to specific development locations

The information was collated and analysed in a supply and demand assessment report, which was evaluated, approved and signed-off by the project steering group to complete Stage B of the process.

## 2.6 Applying the assessment - Developing the strategy

The results of the assessment were applied to produce a Sports Facilities Strategy for the district, which included:

- **Options for provision:** The options for meeting current and future facilities needs were identified under Sport England's recommended headings of 'Protect', 'Provide' and 'Enhance'.
- **Policy recommendations:** Arranged under the headings of 'Protect', 'Provide' and 'Enhance', planning policy recommendations were developed to ensure that the implementation of the strategy will be supported by the provisions of the Local Plan.
- **Action plan:** An action plan was developed for each type of sports facility, linking identified issues with specific actions, including the organisations responsible for lead and support roles, the resource implications and the respective priorities.
- **Delivery:** Mechanisms for securing developer contributions towards the costs of meeting additional facilities arising from housing growth in the district were developed.
- **Monitoring and review:** The arrangements for ensuring that the SFS remains robust and up-to-date were specified.

## 2.7 Sources of information

Information was gathered throughout the process from a wide range of consultees including:

- **Sport England:** Guidance on the assessment methodology.
- **Shepway District Council:** Consultation with officers from Planning and Grounds Maintenance on their respective areas of responsibility.



- **Shepway Sports Trust:** Data on usage of the key facilities.
- **Other local sports facilities providers:** Consultation with organisations such as the Three Hills Sports Park, Folkestone Sports Centre Trust, local sports clubs and commercial health and fitness operators on usage levels and spare capacity.
- **Neighbouring local authorities:** Information on their sports facilities assessments and the impact of any cross-border issues was obtained from Ashford Borough Council, Canterbury City Council, Dover District Council and Rother District Council.
- **Kent Sport:** Information on local and wider strategic priorities.
- **Governing bodies of sport:** Information on local and wider strategic priorities and local supply and demand information.
- **Sports clubs:** Information on sports facilities provision and use, current and future needs and opinions on quality, which was submitted via an on-line survey and attracted responses from Badminton, Basketball, Bowls, Gymnastics, Judo Squash, Swimming, Tennis and Yoga clubs.
- **Parish Councils:** Information on the quantity and quality of facilities that they provide, which was submitted via an on-line survey.
- **Schools:** Information on sports facilities provision and use, plus attitudes towards community use, which was submitted via an on-line survey.
- **Individual facilities users:** Individuals using the key local facilities at Folkestone Leisure Centre, Marsh Academy Leisure Centre and Three Hills Sports Park, who submitted views on provision via an on-line survey.
- **General community survey:** An in-street interview survey was conducted with a representative cross-section of 400 Shepway residents, involving both users and non-users of local sports facilities, to gather perspectives and opinions on local provision.

## 2.8 Summary

Assessing sports facilities needs in Shepway district using the approach advocated by Sport England in its *'Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance'* has ensured that the exercise is both robust and evidence-based and as a result complies with the provisions of the Government's planning policy framework.

## 3 THE LOCAL CONTEXT FOR FACILITIES PROVISION

### *Key findings:*

- **Overall sports participation rates:** Sports participation rates in Shepway are below the respective county and regional averages. This reflects the relatively elderly age structure.
- **Geographical variations in participation:** There are significant differences in sports participation between the southern (where rates are lower) and northern (where rates are higher) parts of the district, which will impact upon demand patterns.
- **Population growth:** The district's population is projected to increase by 18,536 people by 2037. A significant proportion of this growth will be accommodated in the Otterpool Park Garden Town and the expansion of Sellenge. This will create significant additional demand for sports facilities.
- **Facilities supply:** Sports facilities are provided by a mosaic of owners and operators from the public, voluntary and commercial sectors, which highlights the need for and benefits of a strategic approach to co-ordinating provision.

### 3.1 Introduction

This section identifies the context within which sports facilities provision is made in Shepway.

### 3.2 Background

Shepway is a coastal district in south-east Kent. Chiefly rural in nature, the district covers approximately 363 sq. km (140 sq. miles) and stretches from the East Sussex border (near Rye) in the south-west, across the low-lying Romney Marsh, through to Folkestone and the escarpment and hills of the Kent Downs in the north. The settlements and districts of Ashford, Dover and Canterbury adjoin Shepway. Folkestone is the primary town, accounting for just under half of Shepway's 109,500 population (2011 census). The district is well served with national and international transport links via the rail network and the M20, with central London less than one hour's travel time by train. With these improved communications, functional connections with settlements outside but close to the district can be as important as the relationships between places within Shepway. The 'Local Plan Core Strategy' (2013) notes that 'some northern Shepway villages may have more functional links with Canterbury than Folkestone/Hythe, and Ashford influences places in western Shepway'.

### 3.3 Sub-areas

Three district character areas are identified in the Core Strategy, to help interpret the sustainable development needs within a large and varied district and in particular as a tool to more clearly articulate strategic proposals in context.

#### 3.3.1 The Urban Area

Folkestone and Hythe form a physically continuous built-up area by virtue of the connecting coastal neighbourhoods of Sandgate and Seabrook, and this can be defined as the Urban Area for Shepway. The urban area is bound by the sea to the south and escarpment to the north.

### 3.3.2 The North Downs

The north of Shepway is predominantly but not exclusively Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). This is centred on traditional villages such as Elham and Lyminge and encompasses the large settlement of Hawkinge. It includes a rural area near Hythe which lies outside the national landscape designation. This area is bordered by Ashford Borough to the west and the AONB on the other sides.

### 3.3.3 Romney Marsh

The south and east of the district is the distinctive area of countryside collectively known as Romney Marsh. Within this lie New Romney and Lydd, other coastal communities, small inland villages and the Dungeness peninsula.

## 3.4 Population

### 3.4.1 Current population

The 2011 census measured the population of Shepway as 107,969. According to Kent County Council's *Business Intelligence Statistical Bulletin* (2017) the population of the district increased to 111,200 by the middle of 2016, an increase of 3,231 (3.0%).

### 3.4.2 Age structure

Shepway has a relatively elderly age structure, with a mean age of 42 compared with the Kent average of 40. The breakdown from the 2011 census is as follows:

<b>Age group</b>	<b>Shepway %</b>	<b>South-east %</b>	<b>England %</b>
0-15	17.8%	19.5%	19.1%
16-24	10.6%	11.5%	11.2%
25-44	23.2%	25.4%	26.5%
45-64	27.6%	26.3%	26.1%
65-74	10.8%	9.2%	8.8%
74+	10.0%	8.1%	8.3%

### 3.4.3 Ethnicity

Shepway's population is comparatively ethnically homogeneous with 96.4% of residents classifying themselves as White.

### 3.4.4 Population growth

SDC's *Strategic Housing Market Assessment* (2016) generated a projected population of 126,505 for Shepway by 2037, based on a combination of demographic change and net migration. This will represent an increase of 18,536 people, or 17.2% over the 2011 census figure.

### **3.5 Deprivation**

According to the Government's 2015 Indices of Multiple Deprivation, Shepway ranks 113<sup>th</sup> out of 326 English local authorities in terms of overall deprivation. However, this overall rating hides some local inequalities, with four (out of 67) Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in the district ranked amongst the 10% poorest in England. Folkestone Harbour and Folkestone Harvey Central LSOAs ranked in the poorest 2% in the country. Public Health England estimates that 4,100 children (22.0%) in the district live in poverty.

### **3.6 Health**

Local health indices are recorded in Public Health England's *'Health Profile for Shepway'* (2017). These show that in general the health of people in Shepway is better than in England as a whole:

- Life expectancy at birth is lower than the national averages by 0.3 years for men, but higher by 0.1 years for women. Life expectancy is 6.7 years lower for men and 3.5 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Shepway than in the least deprived areas.
- 20.6% of year 6 children in Shepway are obese, compared with a national average of 19.8%.
- 64.4% of adults in the district are overweight or obese, compared with 64.8% nationally.

### **3.7 'Active People' survey**

Sport England's *'Active People'* survey was run between 2005 and 2016 and provided the most comprehensive annual measure of participation patterns at national, regional and local level in England. It identified the following key measures of adult (16+) participation in sport and physical activity in Shepway:

#### **3.7.1 Overall participation**

Overall rates of regular adult participation in sport and physical activity (at least one session of 30 minutes of moderate intensity exercise per week) in Shepway in 2016 were 33.0%, which is well below the Kent average of 35.4% and the 38.3% figure for the south-east as a whole.

#### **3.7.2 Volunteering**

The percentage of the population volunteering to support sport for at least one hour a week in Shepway is 13.1% which is below both the south-east average of 13.6%, but above the national average of 12.6%.

#### **3.7.3 Club membership**

The percentage of the population belonging to a sports club in Shepway is 20.5% significantly below the south-east average of 24.5% and the national average of 22%.

#### **3.7.4 Coaching**

The percentage of the Shepway population receiving sports coaching in the last year was 16.2% in 2016, below the south-east average (18.1%) but above the England average (15.6%).

### 3.7.5 Organised competition

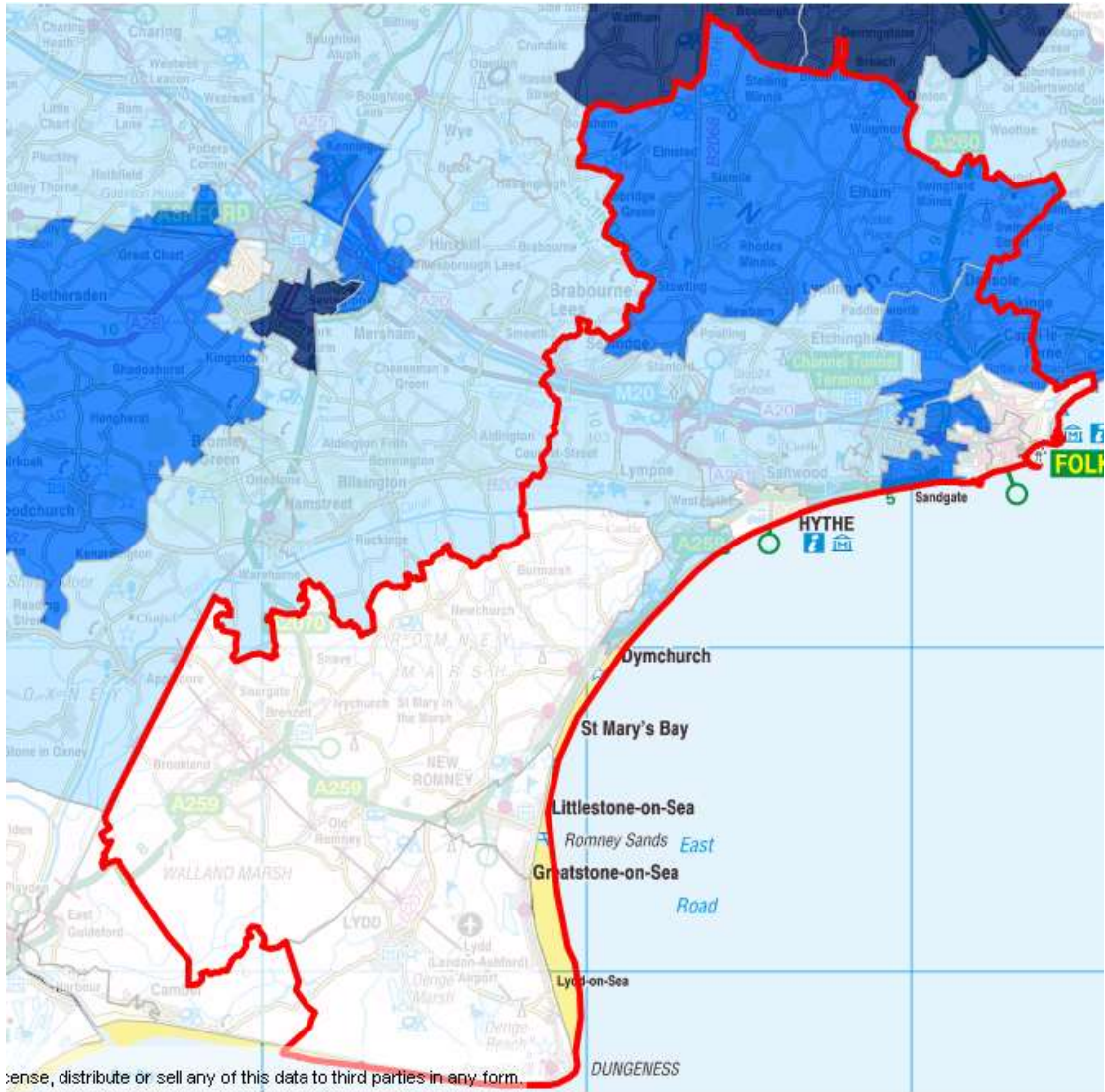
The percentage of the Shepway population taking part in a sporting competition in the last year was 9.2% in 2016, well below the south-east figure of 15.6% and the national average of 13.3%.

### 3.7.6 Satisfaction

The percentage of adults who are very or fairly satisfied with sports provision in Shepway in 2016 was 60.4%, below the south-east figure of 64.6% and the England average of 62.1%.

### 3.7.7 Geographical variations

Whilst overall rates of participation in Shepway are relatively low, the map below identifies large variations at Middle Super Output Area (MSOA) level. Most of Folkestone and all of Romney Marsh are in the lowest quartile nationally and the North Downs in the upper middle quartile.



- Lowest quartile
- Low middle quartile
- Upper middle quartile
- Highest quartile

### 3.7.8 Individual sports

The ‘Active People’ survey also measures levels of participation in individual sports at local authority level and the results for Shepway, compared with the figures for the South East and England are tabulated below

<i>Sport</i>	<i>Shepway</i>	<i>South East</i>	<i>England</i>
Cycling	10.0%	9.8%	8.3%
Swimming	8.8%	10.0%	9.5%

### 3.8 ‘Active Lives’ survey

In 2017, Sport England replaced the ‘Active People’ survey with the ‘Active Lives’ survey, which broadens the definition of engagement in sport and physical activity, with a greater focus on measuring inactivity. The definitions used in the survey are as follows:

- **Sport and physical activity:** This includes bouts of at least 10-minutes of moderate or higher intensity sports activities, walking and cycling for leisure or travel, fitness activities and dance.
- **Active:** The ‘Active’ population is defined as those doing at least 150 minutes of the above activities per week.
- **Fairly active:** The ‘Fairly active’ population is defined as those doing at between 30 and 149 minutes of the above activities per week.
- **Inactive:** The ‘Inactive’ population is defined as those doing at 30 minutes or less of the above activities per week.

The key data for Shepway, with county, regional and national comparators from the initial survey is set out below:

<i>Area</i>	<i>Active</i>	<i>Fairly active</i>	<i>Inactive</i>
Shepway	57.6%	14.0%	28.5%
Kent	60.3%	14.2%	25.5%
South-east	63.1%	13.6%	23.4%
England	60.6%	13.8%	25.6%

The ‘Active Lives’ survey also identifies that the proportion of people reaching 150+ minutes of physical activity a week generally decreases with age. People aged 75-84 are half as likely to be active as 16-24 year olds. Half of all inactive people are aged 55+, but they account for just 36% of the adult population.

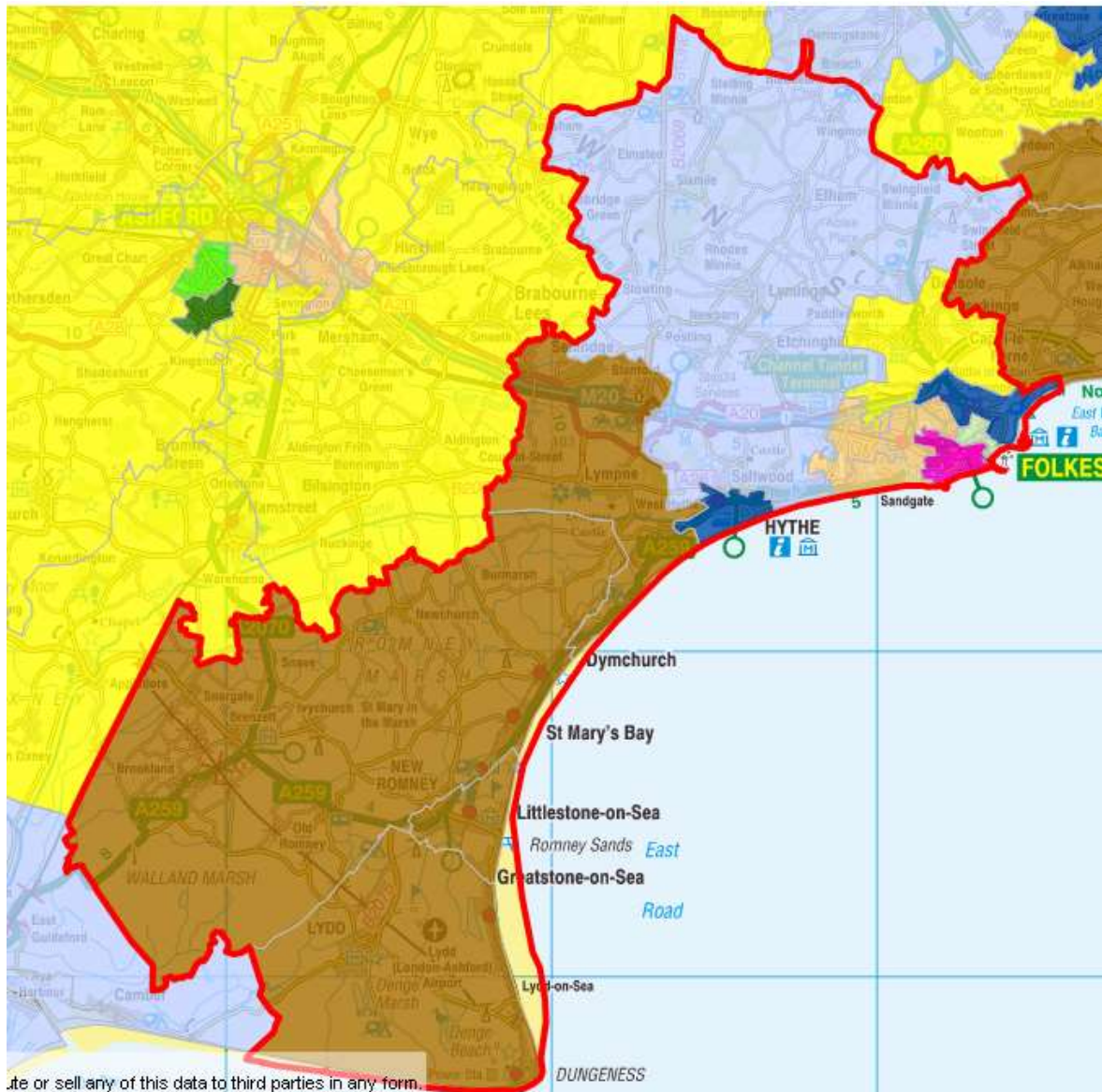
### 3.9 Market segmentation

Sport England has analysed 19 adult sporting market segments, to better understand specific motivations for sports participation and barriers to doing more sport and physical activity. The data provides a useful way of anticipating demand for individual types of activity, based upon the extent to which each segment is over or under represented in the local population.

Sport England classifies all market segments with more than 7% of the adult population as ‘dominant’ and their sporting preferences therefore influence facilities demand in the area. The ‘dominant’ market segments in Shepway are listed below:

<i>Segment name</i>	<i>Characteristics</i>	<i>Sports that appeal</i>
Settling down males	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age 26-45</li> <li>• Married</li> <li>• Owner-occupied</li> <li>• Employed full-time</li> <li>• 50% have children</li> <li>• Social class ABC1</li> <li>• 32% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week</li> <li>• 27% do no exercise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canoeing</li> <li>• Skiing</li> <li>• Cricket</li> <li>• Golf</li> <li>• Cycling</li> <li>• Squash</li> <li>• Football</li> </ul>
Comfortable mid-life males	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age 36-65</li> <li>• Married</li> <li>• Owner-occupied</li> <li>• Employed full-time</li> <li>• 50% have children</li> <li>• Social class ABC1</li> <li>• 26% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week</li> <li>• 39% do no exercise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sailing</li> <li>• Gym</li> <li>• Football</li> <li>• Jogging</li> <li>• Badminton</li> <li>• Golf</li> <li>• Cycling</li> <li>• Cricket</li> </ul>
Early retirement couples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age 56-65</li> <li>• Married</li> <li>• Owner-occupied</li> <li>• Retired/employed full-time</li> <li>• No dependent children</li> <li>• Social class ABC1</li> <li>• 19% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week</li> <li>• 54% do no exercise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swimming</li> <li>• Sailing</li> <li>• Walking</li> <li>• Golf</li> <li>• Aqua aerobics</li> <li>• Shooting</li> <li>• Bowls</li> <li>• Fishing</li> </ul>
Retirement home singles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age 65+</li> <li>• Single</li> <li>• Owner occupied and council</li> <li>• Retired</li> <li>• No dependent children</li> <li>• DE</li> <li>• 5% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week</li> <li>• 86% do no exercise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walking</li> <li>• Bowls</li> <li>• Dancing</li> <li>• Gentle exercise</li> </ul>

- **Geographical variations:** The ‘dominant’ market segment in each Middle Super Output Area in Shepway is mapped overleaf. ‘Early Retirement Couples’ (marked in brown) are the ‘dominant’ segment in the Romney Marsh sub-area, with ‘Comfortable Retirement Couples’ (marked in grey) in the North Downs sub-area and a more complex mix in the Urban sub-area, including ‘Retirement Home Singles’ (marked in dark blue) and ‘Comfortable Mid-Life Males’ (marked in pale brown).



### 3.10 The local sports facilities supply network

Sports facilities provision in Shepway comprises a mixed economy involving the public, voluntary and commercial sectors. The key providers are as follows:

- **Shepway Sports Trust:** The Trust runs sports development programmes in the district to encourage people from under-represented groups to become more physically active.
- **Folkestone Sports Centre Trust:** The Trust owns and operates the Folkestone Sports Centre.
- **Shepway Leisure:** Shepway Leisure is a company formed by the Cheriton Road Sports Ground Trust to operate the Three Hills Sports Park.
- **Medway Leisure Trust:** The Trust operates Hythe Swimming Pool under contract from Shepway District Council.



- **Schools:** Secondary schools are major sports facilities providers in the district, although not all provision is community accessible.
- **Sports clubs:** Voluntary sector sports clubs provide and run a range of mostly smaller facilities, in particular water sports facilities, tennis courts and bowls greens.
- **Commercial providers:** The commercial sector is very active in Shepway, from major national operators like TruGym, though to small local businesses. Health and fitness facilities comprise the main form of commercial provision, but also include a swimming pool, squash and tennis courts.
- **Parish councils:** Parish councils make some provision in the rural parts of the district, principally village and community halls.
- **The Armed Forces:** A wide range of sports facilities are provided at Sir John Moore Barracks, although none are community accessible.
- **Informal provision:** Given Shepway district's coastal location, a wide range of water sports activities are available along the coastline and the Royal Military Canal. Walking and cycling are also popular, with National Cycle Network routes 2, 11 and 17 running through the district.

### 3.11 Local community views on sport and physical activity

#### 3.11.1 Introduction

In connection with the 'Shepway's Health Inequalities Action Plan' (2017) a survey of local community views on health and well-being was undertaken, which attracted more than 400 responses. The key findings of relevance to sports facilities provision are summarised below.

#### 3.11.2 Barriers to participating in sport and physical activity

The barriers to participation were noted as follows:

- **Lack of time:** This was selected by 34% of respondents, although some may not find time as physical activity is not a priority for them.
- **Cost:** Money/cost was selected with 19% of respondent's indicating this was a barrier. This included low income, unemployment and the cost of activities.
- **Fear:** Was cited by 16%, with respondents indicating that they were fearful of various factors such as fear of judgement, body image, embarrassment but also other factors such as fear of injuries and not being able to work due to injuries.
- **Poor health:** Health was selected by 14% of respondents with typical responses including lack of mobility, lack of fitness or sporting ability, age, and general poor health.
- **Lifestyle Factors:** These were cited by 10% of respondents with childcare, pregnancy, working unsocial hours, shift work or full-time work cited.

- **Awareness:** Lack of signposting/services was selected by 5% with respondents indicating a lack of knowledge was the biggest barrier.
- **Environmental Factors:** These scored 2% with the weather, darkness and travel to sessions the most common barrier.

### 3.11.3 Most popular activities to try

The most popular activities that respondents would like to try in rank order of popularity are swimming, walking, zumba, yoga and gym.

## 3.12 Local community views on sports facilities provision

### 3.12.1 Introduction

To establish the views of the local community on sports facilities provision in Shepway, an in-street interview survey was initiated as part of the SFS evidence-base, involving a demographically representative sample of 400 local residents, including users and non-users of sports facilities in the district. The survey involved 400 local residents and was conducted at sampling points in Folkestone, Hythe, Hawkinge and New Romney, with the number of respondents at each location reflecting the respective proportions of the district population in each area.

An initial question sifted sports facility users past and present (who comprised 62.2% of the sample) from non-users (37.8%) and the subsequent questions reflected these distinctions. The headline findings of each survey are summarised below, whilst the specific implications for each type of sports facility are detailed in the facility-specific chapters.

### 3.12.2 Non-user findings

The non-users' responses included the following key findings:

- **Reasons for non-use:** The most commonly cited reasons for non-use of local sports facilities were not interested/motivated (30% of respondents) or too busy (26% of respondents). Issues like cost and the quantity or quality of facilities were cited by fewer than 7% of non-users.
- **Awareness of facilities:** Almost 50% of non-users felt that they do not know what is in offer at Shepway sports facilities, suggesting that more and different styles of promotion of activity programmes might have benefits.
- **Facilities that would encourage use:** 25% of non-users felt that more swimming pool provision would encourage them to participate, with 18% saying the same in relation to health and fitness facilities.
- **Sources of information:** The most important sources of information on local facilities use were noted as the internet (62% of non-users) and friends and family (58% of non-users).

### 3.12.3 User findings

The responses from local sports facilities users included the following key findings:

- **Facilities used:** The most frequently used types of sports facilities locally are swimming pools (26%) of users and health and fitness facilities (18% of users).
- **Frequency of use:** 30% of local swimming pool users participate at least once a month, compared with 35% of health and fitness facilities users, 24% of sports hall users and 15% of village and community hall users.
- **Specific facilities used:** The facility used by the largest number of current participants is Folkestone Sports Centre (26%), followed by Three Hills Sports Park (9%).
- **Rating of facilities:** All aspects of local sports facilities provision were positively rated by users, with customer service the most favourably assessed:

<i>Aspect</i>	<i>Very good</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Very poor</i>
Quality	29.3%	43.1%	20.3%	6.1%	1.2%
Opening hours	25.6%	54.1%	15.0%	3.7%	1.6%
Cleanliness	27.2%	49.6%	17.1%	5.3%	0.8%
Accessibility	26.8%	54.5%	13.4%	2.0%	3.3%
Availability	21.2%	53.1%	13.5%	6.5%	5.7%
Customer service	32.1%	51.6%	13.8%	2.0%	0.4%

- **Priorities for additional facilities:** The following priorities were indicated:

<i>Facility type</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Sports halls	43.3%	34.0%	10.5%	10.1%
Swimming pools	59.1%	30.4%	2.8%	7.7%
Health and fitness	47.3%	31.0%	14.3%	10.3%
Squash courts	19.2%	40.0%	26.1%	14.7%
Tennis courts	26.7%	41.7%	20.2%	11.3%
Bowls greens	13.4%	36.4%	37.2%	13.0%
Athletics facilities	16.2%	44.5%	26.3%	13.0%
Water sports facilities	21.1%	43.3%	22.7%	13.0%
Village/community halls	24.0%	37.4%	24.8%	13.8%

## 3.13 Local facility users' views on sports facilities provision

### 3.13.1 Introduction

To establish the views of the users of sports facilities in Shepway on local provision in Shepway, an online survey was initiated with users of:

- Folkestone Sports Centre
- Three Hills Sports Park

- Marsh Academy Leisure Centre

### 3.13.2 Folkestone Sports Centre

The survey received 30 responses and the key findings were as follows:

- **Frequency of use:** 80% of respondents use the centre at least once a week.
- **Travel time:** 90% of respondents travel for 20 minutes or less to reach the centre.
- **Travel mode:** 77% of respondents travel to the centre by car, whilst 13% walk.
- **The quality of the centre:** This was assessed as follows:

<i>Aspect</i>	<i>Very good</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Very poor</i>
Sports facilities	10.3%	51.7%	31.1%	6.9%	0.0%
Changing rooms	3.3%	26.7%	30.0%	26.7%	13.3%
Toilets	3.3%	46.7%	26.7%	17.7%	6.7%
Décor/maintenance	3.3%	26.7%	43.3%	20.0%	6.7%
Disabled access	24.1%	37.9%	27.6%	10.3%	0.0%
Opening hours	43.3%	40.0%	16.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Prices	20.0%	53.3%	10.0%	16.7%	0.0%
Staff service	13.3%	50.0%	16.7%	10.0%	10.0%
Car parking	3.3%	0.0%	26.7%	40.0%	30.0%

### 3.13.3 Three Hills Sports Park

The survey received 34 responses and the key findings were as follows:

- **Frequency of use:** 100% of respondents use the centre at least once a week.
- **Travel time:** 85.3% of respondents travel for 20 minutes or less to reach the centre.
- **Travel mode:** 79.4% of respondents travel to the centre by car, whilst 20.6% walk.
- **The quality of the centre:** This was assessed as follows:

<i>Aspect</i>	<i>Very good</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Very poor</i>
Sports facilities	44.2%	52.9%	2.9%	0.0%	0.0%
Changing rooms	18.2%	72.7%	9.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Toilets	20.6%	61.8%	8.8%	8.8%	0.0%
Décor/maintenance	20.6%	55.9%	17.5%	3.0%	3.0%
Disabled access	9.1%	81.8%	9.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Opening hours	27.3%	60.6%	12.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Prices	9.1%	69.7%	18.3%	3.0%	0.0%
Staff service	11.8%	58.8%	20.6%	8.8%	0.0%
Car parking	8.8%	44.1%	17.7%	17.7%	11.8%

### 3.13.4 Marsh Academy Leisure Centre

The survey received 29 responses and the key findings were as follows:

- **Frequency of use:** 72.4% of respondents use the centre at least once a week.
- **Travel time:** 96.5% of respondents travel for 20 minutes or less to reach the centre.
- **Travel mode:** 79.3% of respondents travel to the centre by car, whilst 13.8% walk.
- **The quality of the centre:** This was assessed as follows:

<i>Aspect</i>	<i>Very good</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Very poor</i>
Sports facilities	34.5%	48.3%	17.2%	0.0%	0.0%
Changing rooms	25.0%	50.0%	21.4%	3.6%	0.0%
Toilets	34.5%	51.7%	13.8%	0.0%	0.0%
Décor/maintenance	34.5%	58.6%	6.9%	0.0%	0.0%
Disabled access	32.1%	32.1%	35.8%	0.0%	0.0%
Opening hours	34.5%	44.8%	17.2%	13.4%	0.0%
Prices	20.7%	34.5%	37.9%	6.9%	0.0%
Staff service	57.1%	35.7%	3.6%	0.0%	3.6%
Car parking	55.2%	41.4%	3.4%	0.0%	0.0%

### 3.14 The implications for sports facilities provision

The implications of the local context for sports facilities provision in Shepway are as follows:

- **An elderly population:** The age structure of the district reveals a relatively elderly profile. Rates of sport and physical activity are typically lower amongst older age groups.
- **Population growth:** The district's population is projected to increase by 18,535 people by 2037. This will create significant additional demand for sports facilities.
- **Overall sports participation rates:** General participation rates in sport and physical activity are well below the respective county, regional and national averages. The 'Active Lives' survey identifies that rates of physical activity typically decline with age, so with a relatively elderly age structure in Shepway, the local population has a predisposition to lower participation rates.
- **Geographical variations in participation:** Analysis of participation rates at Middle Super Output Area level reveal significant differences between the southern and northern parts of the district, which will impact upon demand patterns.
- **'Dominant' market segments:** Walking, cycling and water sports feature highly in the sporting preferences of the 'dominant' market segments in Shepway, which will inflate local demand for provision for these sports.

- **Facilities supply:** Sports facilities are provided by a mosaic of owners and operators from the public, voluntary and commercial sectors, which highlights the need for and benefits of a strategic approach to co-ordinating provision.
- **Facility non-users:** The survey of non-users suggests that the quantity and quality of local facilities provision is less of a factor in their non-participation, than a lack of awareness of what is available. Swimming pools and health and fitness facilities feature most highly in the types of provision likely to attract current non-users the most.
- **Facility users:** The quality of most facilities provision in Shepway is rated relatively highly by users. The highest perceived priorities for additional provision are (in rank order) swimming pools, health and fitness facilities, sports halls and water sports facilities. Whilst around 80% of users travel to their chosen facilities by car, almost all other users walk, which emphasises the need for geographically accessible provision in the district.
- **Non-specialist and informal facilities provision:** The expressed preferences of current non-participants in Shepway for walking and cycling (which mostly rely on the existing public rights of way network) and zumba and yoga (which can be accommodated in non-specialist spaces like village and community halls) underline the importance of accommodating sport and physical activity on a holistic basis, rather than just in specialist built facilities.

## 4 STRATEGIC INFLUENCES ON FACILITIES PROVISION

### *Key findings:*

- **Shepway Corporate Plan:** Promoting healthy lifestyles and providing a new district leisure centre are key priorities.
- **Shepway Planning policy:** A robust, evidence-based assessment of sports facilities needs in the district is required to inform planning policy and this SFS will provide this to help ensure good future provision.
- **National sports policy shifts:** The move in national sports policy towards prioritising new participants will create a challenge for sport to ensure that the traditional facilities ‘offer’ is sufficiently relevant and attractive to engage a wider participation base, including people who are currently inactive.
- **Governing body of sport priorities:** There are no major identified strategic facilities needs or opportunities in Shepway, but some potential to link with funding programmes that might enhance local provision.

### 4.1 Introduction

This section examines the influence of relevant policies and priorities on sports facilities provision in Shepway, including the impact of national strategies.

### 4.2 Shepway Council's Corporate Plan

The Council's work is guided by *'The Corporate Plan 2017-2020'* (2017). One strategic objective is to 'keep our communities healthy and safe', which is supported by the following priorities of relevance to the SFS:

- Promote healthy lifestyles within our communities.
- Provide a new district leisure facility.
- Ensure the best use of our community assets to support community and voluntary sector organisations.

### 4.3 Shepway Local Plan

The *'Shepway Core Strategy Local Plan'* (2013) sets out local planning policies and identifies how land is used, determining what will be built where. Adopted local plans provide the framework for development and must be positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy.

The Core Strategy contains three 'Strategic Needs' one of which is 'the challenge to improve the quality of life and sense of place, vibrancy and social mix in neighbourhoods, particularly where this minimises disparities in Shepway'. This is underpinned by aims including:

- ‘Improve sports facilities and reduce relative disparities in the health of communities’.
- ‘Maintain cohesive neighbourhoods and encourage increased voluntary activity, the retention of viable local community buildings and civic interest in community development’.

#### **4.4 Shepway Health Inequalities Action Plan**

‘*Shepway’s Health Inequalities Action Plan*’ (2017) underpins the Council’s corporate objective to promote healthy lifestyles, which contains the following material of relevance to the SFS:

- **Aim:** The aim of the Plan is ‘to make healthy choices possible and accessible by removing barriers for participants’.
- **Local costs:** The Plan notes that the average cost of sport/physical activity sessions for different age groups in Shepway are £2.90 for primary school aged children (5-11), £1.50 for young people aged 12-15, £5.00 for adults aged 16-50 and £3.00 for older adults (50+).
- **Children and young people:** The objective to give children and young people the best start in life notes that ‘activities such as sport allow children to develop well-rounded skill sets and opportunities should be fostered both by schools and local communities. Extracurricular activities can help to keep children physically active and reduce obesity’.
- **Adults:** The Plan includes an objective to encourage adult to lead more active lives. This notes that the number of sports facilities in Shepway is below the per capita average for Kent and Medway for sports halls, swimming pools, tennis courts and athletics tracks. The action plan includes a commitment to:
  - Provide more opportunities and support existing opportunities for Shepway residents to take part in sport and physical activity.
  - Make the most of the facilities in the local community.
  - Using open space to improve health and encourage, physical activity.
  - Support incentives and activities that help build physical activity into their daily lives.



## 4.5 Neighbouring local authority sports facilities strategies

The implications for Shepway of the Sports Facilities Strategies of the neighbouring local authorities are as follows:

<i>Local Authority</i>	<i>Facilities priorities</i>	<i>Implications for Shepway</i>
Ashford Borough Council	<p>Ashford Borough Council's <i>'Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy and Action Plan'</i> (2016) concludes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sports halls:</b> Existing facilities meet current needs. A further 6-badminton courts are needed by 2030.</li> <li>• <b>Swimming pools:</b> Existing facilities meet current needs. A further 83sq.m of pool space is needed by 2030.</li> <li>• <b>Health and fitness:</b> Existing facilities meet current and future needs.</li> <li>• <b>Indoor bowls:</b> Existing facilities meet current and future needs.</li> <li>• <b>Squash courts:</b> Existing facilities meet current and future needs.</li> <li>• <b>Indoor tennis:</b> A feasibility study is being undertaken to identify the location for a new facility in the borough.</li> <li>• <b>Gymnastics:</b> There is a need for additional gymnastics provision.</li> <li>• <b>Athletics tracks:</b> The existing facility meets current and future needs.</li> </ul>	There is some spare capacity for most facility types in Ashford, with the exception of indoor tennis which is being addressed. The athletics track and indoor tennis centre are likely to serve needs from Shepway.
Canterbury City Council	Canterbury City Council does not have a current sports facilities strategy and therefore there is no objective needs assessment on the adequacy of local provision.	No available information.
Dover District Council	<p>Dover District Council's <i>'Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy'</i> (2016) concludes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sports halls:</b> There is a current shortfall equivalent to one sports hall, which will be addressed by additional provision by 2026.</li> <li>• <b>Swimming pools:</b> There is a current shortfall equivalent to one 25m 6-lane pool, which will be met by the new pool at Dover Leisure Centre.</li> <li>• <b>Health and fitness:</b> There is a significant shortfall in provision at present.</li> <li>• <b>Indoor bowls:</b> Existing facilities meet current and future needs.</li> <li>• <b>Squash courts:</b> Existing facilities meet current and future needs.</li> <li>• <b>Indoor tennis:</b> There is no requirement for indoor tennis provision.</li> <li>• <b>Gymnastics:</b> There is a need for additional gymnastics provision.</li> </ul>	The shortfalls in sports halls, swimming pools and health and fitness may all lead to exported demand to provision in Folkestone.
Rother District Council	<p>Rother District Council's <i>'Indoor Sports and Leisure Facilities Strategy 2015-2025'</i> (2015) concludes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sports halls:</b> Existing facilities meet current needs. A new sports hall is needed in Bexhill by 2025.</li> <li>• <b>Swimming pools:</b> There is an existing shortfall in provision, including no learner pools. A new swimming pool is needed in Bexhill by 2025.</li> <li>• <b>Health and fitness:</b> There is an existing shortfall in peak time availability. A new health and fitness facility is needed in Bexhill by 2025.</li> <li>• <b>Squash courts:</b> Existing facilities meet current and future needs.</li> </ul>	The shortfall in pools may export demand to Shepway. The new facilities in Bexhill will be too distant to serve the needs of Shepway residents.

## 4.6 Kent Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Shepway District Council is a member of the South Kent Coast CCG Health and Wellbeing Board. This board is responsible for delivery in that area of the wider *'Kent Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2014-2017'* (2014). The health vision as set out in the strategy is 'to improve health and wellbeing outcomes, deliver better coordinated quality care, improve the public's experience of integrated health and social care services, and ensure that the individual is involved and at the heart of everything we do'.

The strategy makes no mention of sport and physical activity is promoted only as a way of decreasing obesity. No specific targets for participation are set out.

## 4.7 Kent Sport's Strategic Framework

Kent Sport (the Kent and Medway County Sports Partnership) produced a *'Towards an Active County'* (2017), with ten key priorities for sport and physical activity in the county to 2021:

- ***Supporting the inactive to become active:*** Inactivity is defined as doing less than 30 minutes of moderate intensity activity per week.
- ***Maximising the benefits of sport and physical activity to other social agendas:*** These include physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing, social and community development, individual development and economic development.
- ***Increasing participation in sport and physical activity:*** Providing appropriate opportunities to help ensure habits become resilient and the core market is sustained.
- ***Providing appropriate opportunities for children and young people:*** Creating opportunities for them to be active as they transition through different stages of their lives.
- ***Addressing the inequalities in sport and physical activity engagement:*** Focusing on those in lower socio-economic groups, women and girls, disabled people and older people.
- ***Improving facilities for sport and physical activity:*** Ensuring they attract new customers, meet customer needs and provide a good customer experience.
- ***Supporting the voluntary sector and volunteering:*** Ensuring diversity amongst volunteers.
- ***Supporting talented performers:*** To maximise their potential.
- ***Maximising the benefit of major events:*** To promote participation and volunteering opportunities.

## 4.8 The Government's Planning Policies

In March 2012, the Government published the 'National Planning Policy Framework' (2012), setting out its economic, environmental and social planning policies for England. Taken together, these policies articulate the Government's vision of sustainable development, which should be interpreted and applied locally to meet local aspirations. The policies of greatest relevance to sports facilities provision and retention are as follows:

- **Sustainable development:** 'The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. Sustainable development means development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'.
- **Health and well-being:** 'Local planning authorities should work with public health leads and health organisations to understand and take account of the health status and needs of the local population, including expected future changes, and any information about relevant barriers to improving health and well-being'.
- **Open space, sports and recreational facilities:** 'Access to good quality opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. The planning system has a role in helping to create an environment where activities are made easier and public health can be improved. Planning policies should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of sports and recreational facilities in the local area. The information gained from this assessment of needs and opportunities should be used to set locally derived standards for the provision of sports and recreational facilities'.
- 'Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land should not be built on unless:
  - An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
  - The need for and benefits of the development clearly outweigh the loss'.

The Government also issued 'National Planning Practice Guidance' in 2014 and the following is of particular relevance to sports facilities:

- **Sport and recreation provision:** 'Open space should be taken into account in planning for new development and considering proposals that may affect existing open space. It can provide health and recreation benefits to people living and working nearby'.
  - 'Authorities and developers may refer to Sport England's guidance on how to assess the need for sports and recreation facilities'.
  - 'Where there is no requirement to consult, local planning authorities are advised to consult Sport England in cases where development might lead to loss of, or loss of use for sport, of any major sports facility, the creation of a site for one or more playing pitches, artificial lighting of a major outdoor sports facility or a residential development of 300 dwellings or more'.

- **Health and well-being:** ‘Local planning authorities should ensure that health and wellbeing, and health infrastructure are considered in local and neighbourhood plans and in planning decision making’.
  - ‘Development proposals should support strong, vibrant and healthy communities and help create healthy living environments which should, where possible, include making physical activity easy to do’.
  - ‘Opportunities for healthy lifestyles must be considered (e.g. planning for an environment that supports people of all ages in making healthy choices, helps to promote active travel and physical activity and promotes high quality open spaces and opportunities for play, sport and recreation).

#### **4.9 The Government’s Sports Strategy**

The Government’s sports strategy ‘*Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation*’ (2015) sets the context for a national policy shift. It contains the following material of relevance to sports facilities provision in Shepway:

- The Strategy seeks to ‘redefine what success looks like in sport’ by concentrating on five key outcomes: physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing, individual development, social and community development and economic development.
- The benefit of engaging those groups that typically do little or no activity is immense. Future funding will therefore focus on those people who tend not to take part in sport, including women and girls, disabled people, those in lower socio-economic groups and older people.

#### **4.10 Sport England Strategy**

Sport England’s strategy ‘*Towards an Active Nation*’ (2016) contains a significant policy shift to encourage more currently inactive people to become active, with a relative move away from support for programmes aimed at existing participants. Elements of particular relevance to sports facilities provision in Shepway are as follows:

- More money and resources will be focused on tackling inactivity because this is where the gains for the individual and for society are greatest.
- There will be greater investment in children and young people from the age of five to build positive attitudes to sport and activity as the foundations of an active life.
- Sport England will work with those parts of the sector that serve existing participants to help them identify ways in which they can become more sustainable and self-sufficient.

#### **4.11 Governing Bodies of Sport Strategies**

A number of the governing bodies of sport have produced facilities strategies, which are summarised below, to assess their implications for provision in Shepway:

<i>Sport</i>	<i>Facilities priorities</i>	<i>Implications for Shepway</i>
Athletics	<p>A hierarchy of facilities is proposed in UK Athletics <i>Facilities Strategy 2014 - 2019</i> (2014) including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Club Training Venue</b> - Track and field facilities (indoor and outdoor) that have a strong anchor club with 100+ track and field members. To support site sustainability, Club Venues should have excellent social and ancillary provision and facilities that actively encourage multi-sport usage.</li> <li>• <b>Compact Athletics Facility</b> - A new generation of affordable and sustainable indoor and outdoor athletics satellite facilities that provide a stepping stone into Club Venues. They are designed to fit available spaces and budgets and provide functional, inspiring, facilities at which people of all ages and abilities can improve their fitness and confidence and develop the fundamental athletics movement skills.</li> </ul>	In the absence of an athletics track in Shepway, there may be scope to consider the smaller scale provision proposed in UK Athletics' facilities strategy.
Badminton	<p>Badminton England's <i>National Facilities Strategy (2012)</i> lists the specific requirements of facilities used for badminton:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The hall should have a sprung floor as a minimum.</li> <li>• The lighting must be suitable (no lights above the courts and no natural light).</li> <li>• There should be appropriate space around the court for safety.</li> <li>• The walls must be the right colour (green or blue).</li> <li>• The ceiling must be the appropriate height (6.7m).</li> </ul> <p>Local authority priority areas are identified for 'Community Badminton Networks', but Shepway is not included.</p>	Shepway is not identified as a priority area.
Basketball	<p>The British Basketball Federation's <i>Transforming Basketball Together in Britain 2016 - 2028</i> (2016) contains an objective to 'develop a clear facilities strategy for basketball, creating community hubs including, where appropriate, arenas that sit at the heart of communities and are homes for the leading elite and community clubs'.</p>	Shepway is not identified as a priority area.
Gymnastics	<p>British Gymnastics' <i>Facility Strategy 2017 - 2021</i> (2017) identifies a range of gymnastics facilities options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Standalone dedicated facilities</b> - Achievable for most clubs. Can provide for participation and competition.</li> <li>• <b>Multi-venue dedicated facilities</b> - For large club-based organisations looking to further expand opportunities.</li> <li>• <b>Dedicated facility as part of a multi-sport venue</b> - Most likely to be local authority-based projects.</li> <li>• <b>Non-dedicated space as part of leisure centre</b> - Ideal for club delivery and mass participation activities.</li> <li>• <b>Satellite venues</b> - Opportunities for clubs to scale up their programmes and increase activity options.</li> <li>• <b>Non-dedicated spaces in leisure centres</b> - Ideal for introductory level, mass participation programmes.</li> </ul>	Dover Gymnastics Club has active proposals to relocate to a new specialist facility in Shepway.

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Facilities priorities 2013 - 2017</b>	<b>Implications for Shepway</b>
Sailing	The Royal Yachting Association's <i>London and South-east Regional Plan 2017 - 2021</i> (2012) aims 'to create a thriving network of clubs and training centres which work together to introduce people to the sport and retain and engage them'. The RYA will support water sports centres to offer more 'pay-and-play' opportunities.	Four clubs in Shepway run the RYA participation programmes.
Squash	England Squash and Racketball's <i>Game Changer: Participation Strategy</i> (2015) states that 'although we support the development of facilities, our resources cannot create a significant impact on the thousands of courts in the country. Our past efforts to support court development have been beneficial but limited'.	No funding for squash courts, but Kent Squash is very active in the district.
Swimming	Swim England's <i>Towards a Nation Swimming: A Strategic Plan for Swimming in England 2017 - 2021</i> (2017) has no facilities priorities but includes a commitment to 'working with providers to create a swimming environment that is more inclusive and exceeds the expectations of swimmers'.	No specific local facilities priorities in Shepway.
Table tennis	Table Tennis England's <i>Facilities Strategy 2015 - 2025</i> (2015) identifies that table tennis takes place in a variety of settings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Formal club-led environments</b> - Consisting of dedicated table tennis facilities (equipped for and predominantly used by table tennis), school halls, community halls, church halls, multisport clubs and leisure centres.</li> <li>• <b>Informal social environments</b> - Including bars, workplaces, parks, sport-specific clubs and community spaces.</li> </ul> To support sustainable clubs, the priorities are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a minimum of one accessible, high quality dedicated multi-table facility in every active county.</li> <li>• Support current clubs to ensure long-term security of use of their facilities and to develop facilities or access multisport and multi-use environments.</li> </ul> To support the social recreational game, the priorities are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the implementation of free-to-use outdoor tables, prioritising centres of population.</li> <li>• Establish a network of social table tennis venues offering vibrant informal environments for all.</li> </ul>	Village and community halls are important venues for table tennis delivery in Shepway. There may be scope to install outdoor tables in appropriate locations.
Tennis	The Lawn Tennis Association's <i>Transforming Tennis Together</i> programme will invest £125 million over 10-years to improve local tennis facilities, with a target to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the number of covered and floodlit courts by 50%.</li> <li>• Install online booking and entry systems so everyone can book a tennis court easily from their mobile phone, computer or tablet.</li> <li>• Refurbish courts, clubhouses and other social spaces to ensure players have a great experience every time they visit.</li> <li>• Support other innovative and creative ideas that meet local demand.</li> </ul>	Significant opportunities to improve local facilities, linked to tennis participation programmes.

#### **4.12 The implications for sports facilities provision**

The implications of the key strategic influences on sports facilities provision in Shepway are:

- **Shepway Corporate Plan:** Promoting healthy lifestyles and providing a new district leisure centre are key priorities.
- **Shepway Planning policy:** A robust, evidence-based assessment of sports facilities needs in the district is required to inform planning policy and this SFS will provide this to help ensure good future provision.
- **County priorities:** It is an identified priority to ensure that appropriate facilities provision is made to support an increase in sport and physical activity.
- **National sports policy shifts:** The move in national sports policy towards prioritising new participants will create a challenge for sport to ensure that the traditional facilities 'offer' is sufficiently relevant and attractive to engage a wider participation base, including people who are currently inactive.
- **Governing body of sport priorities:** There are no major identified strategic facilities needs or opportunities in Shepway, but some potential to link with funding programmes that might enhance local provision.

## 5 SPORTS HALLS

### *Key findings:*

- **Quantity:** There are six community-accessible sports halls in Shepway, plus four other facilities without public access. There is no current spare peak-time sports hall capacity in the district. Additional demand by 2037 will amount to the equivalent of 1.25 four-badminton court sized sports halls with full community access.
- **Quality:** The quality of most aspects of most sports halls is rated as ‘average’ or better. No quality issues have any impact upon either capacity or usage levels at present.
- **Accessibility:** All the main populated areas of the district are within 20-minutes driving time of a community-accessible sports hall.
- **Availability:** Four sports halls in the district currently have no community access, which is not the best use of available community resources. With three of the six currently community available sports halls in the district on school sites, there is limited midweek daytime access to sports halls.

### 5.1 Introduction

This section examines the provision of sports halls in Shepway. Sports halls are defined as indoor halls with multi-sport markings and minimum dimensions equivalent to three badminton courts (27m x 18m).

### 5.2 Quantity

#### 5.2.1 Sports halls with community use

The location and dimensions of the sports halls without community use in Shepway is as follows:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Year built</i>
Folkestone Academy	Academy Lane, Folkestone CT19 5FP	34.5m x 20m 33m x 18m	1955 2007
Hawkinge Community Centre	Heron Forstal Avenue, Hawkinge CT18 7FP	27m x 18m	2003
Folkestone Sports Centre	Radnor Park Avenue, Folkestone CT19 5HX	36m x 31.5m	1972
Marsh Academy Leisure Centre	Station Road, New Romney TN28 8BB	33m x 18m	2001
Pent Valley Leisure Centre*	Tile Kiln Lane, Folkestone CT19 4PB	27m x 20m	2005
Three Hills Sports Park	Cheriton Road, Folkestone CT19 5JU	32m x 21m	2013

#### 5.2.2 Sports halls with limited community use

The Beacon School provides for pupils aged 3-19 with profound, severe and complex educational needs. It has a small (three-badminton court sized) sports hall, but because of the need to provide a safe and secure environment for its pupils, community use is limited to occasional weekend hirings.



<i>Facility</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Year built</i>
The Beacon School	Park Farm Lane, Folkestone CT19 5DN	27m x 18m	2016

### 5.2.3 Sports halls without community use

The location and dimensions of the sports halls without community use in Shepway is as follows:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Year built</i>
Brockhill Park Performing Arts College	Sandling Road, Hythe CT21 4HL	34.5m x 20m	1987
Sir John Moore Barracks	Folkestone CT20 3HG	34.5m x 20m	Unknown
The Harvey Grammar School	Cheriton Road, Folkestone CT19 5JY	33m x 18m	1996

### 5.2.4 Sports halls without community use

The position regarding the potential for community use at sports halls with no current public access in Shepway is as follows:

- ***Brockhill Park Performing Arts College:*** The College recently discontinued community use of its sports facilities because of non-payment by some block-booking users.
- ***Sir John Moore Barracks:*** As an armed forces operational site, the sports facilities have never been available for civilian use and with the current security situation, this position is unlikely to change.
- ***The Harvey Grammar School:*** The school opened a new sports hall in September 2017, having had no community use of its previous facility. It has an extensive extra-curricular usage programme but may consider some community use.

## 5.3 Quality

### 5.3.1 The criteria assessed

The quality of sports halls was assessed by a non-technical visual inspection during a site visit to all facilities. The criteria that were evaluated were as follows:

- ***Playing area:*** The overall condition, playing surface, clear span roof height, lighting, spectator provision, equipment and fitness for purpose.
- ***Changing facilities:*** The capacity, condition and fitness for purpose.
- ***Disability access:*** The extent of full disabled access to the facility, including the provision of access ramps, dedicated changing, toilets and car parking.
- ***Maintenance and cleanliness:*** The quality of maintenance and cleanliness standards.
- ***General access:*** Including car parking, signposting, external lighting and proximity to public transport.

### 5.3.2 The basis of the ratings

The facilities were rated on a five-point scale, where 5 equates to ‘very good’ (highlighted in green below), 4 to ‘good’ (also highlighted in green below), 3 to ‘average’ (highlighted in yellow below), 2 to ‘poor’ (highlighted in red below) and 1 to ‘very poor’ (also highlighted in red below). The ratings for the sports halls in Shepway are shown in the table below.

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Playing area</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Disability Access</i>	<i>Maintenance</i>	<i>General access</i>
Folkestone Academy (main hall)	5	4	4	4	5
Folkestone Academy (smaller hall)	3	-	3	2	4
Hawkinge Community Centre	3	4	5	5	4
Folkestone Sports Centre	4	4	4	4	4
Marsh Academy Leisure Centre	4	4	4	5	4
Three Hills Sports Park	4	5	4	5	5

### 5.3.3 User comments

- ***Folkestone Junior Badminton Club:*** The club stated that ‘the lighting is very poor at Folkestone sports centre and needs immediate improvement’.

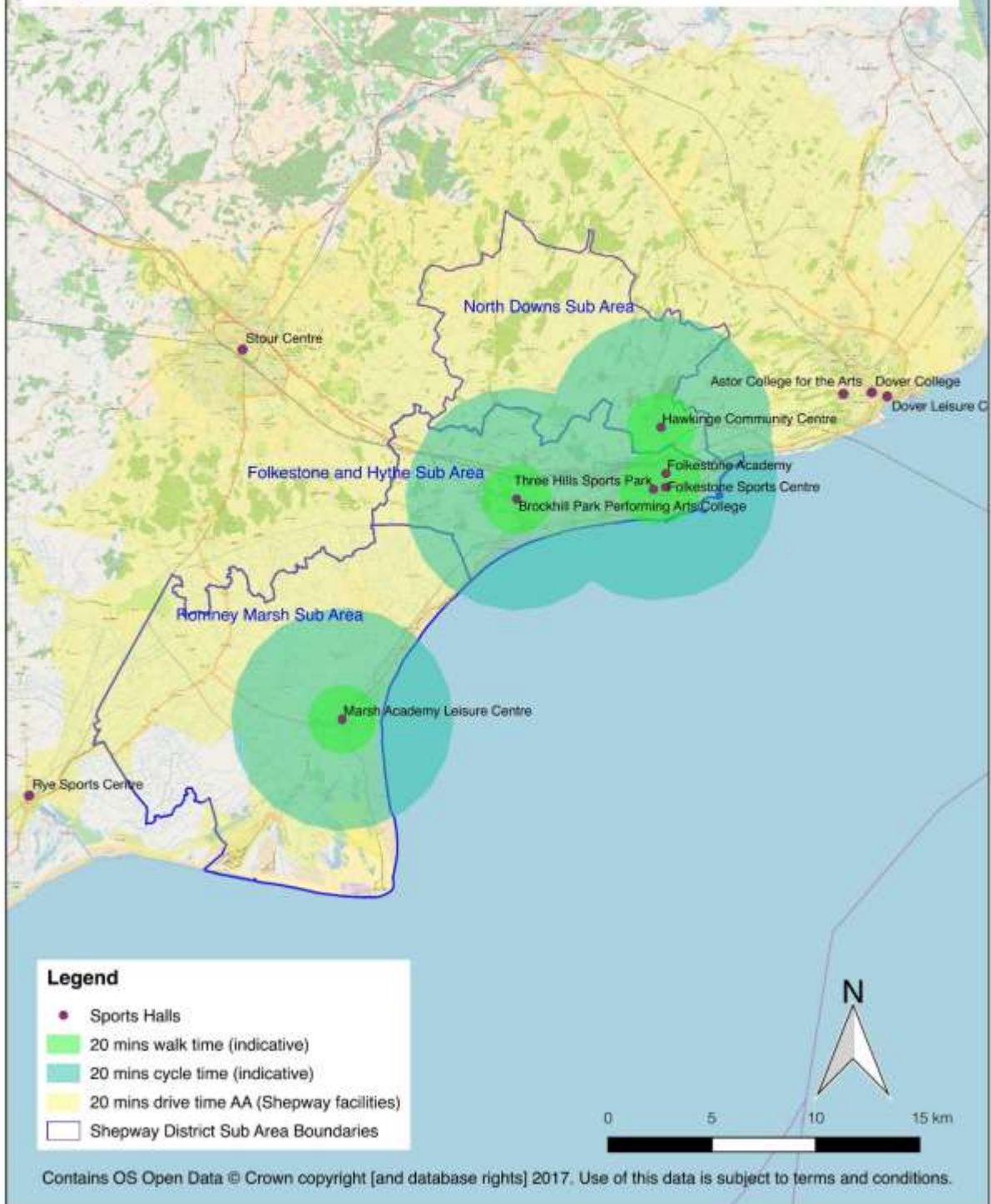
## 5.4 Accessibility

The map overleaf shows the location of all sports halls in Shepway, along with drivetime catchments (in yellow), cycle time catchments (in blue) and walking time catchments (in green). Based on Sport England research, the ‘effective catchment’ for sports halls (defined as the time/distance travelled and the prevailing mode of transport used by up to 90% of facility users) is 20 minutes driving time. The drive times were generated using an Open Source Mapping Tool, powered by Open Route Services and based upon AA Route Planner data.

The map shows that almost the whole of Shepway is within 20-minutes drive time of a sports hall, with the exception of a small area in the south-west of the district, which is relatively close to Rye Sports Centre in Rother.



# Shepway Sports Halls



## 5.5 Availability

The table below identifies the opening hours, usage arrangements, pricing, booking arrangements and used capacity in the peak periods. The information was supplied by the facility operators.

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Opening hours and basis of use</i>	<i>Pricing and booking arrangements</i>	<i>Peak period usage levels</i>
Folkestone Academy	Mon-Fri 6pm - 9pm Sat 9am - 1pm Block bookings only	Whole hall £40 Bookings by phone.	40%
Hawkinge Community Centre	Mon-Sun 9am - 9pm 'Pay-and-play' and block bookings	Whole hall £37.50 weekends £24 midweek Badminton court £12.50 weekends £8 midweek Bookings in person, on-line or by phone.	88%
Folkestone Sports Centre	Mon-Fri 6.30am - 10pm Sat-Sun 7am - 6pm 'Pay-and-play' and block bookings	Whole hall (peak) £60 Badminton court £7.40 Bookings in person, on-line or by phone.	73%
Marsh Academy Leisure Centre	Mon-Fri 5pm - 11pm Block bookings only Sat-Sun 8am-6pm 'pay-and-play'	Whole hall £36 Badminton court £8 Bookings in person, on-line or by phone.	100%
Pent Valley Leisure Centre	Currently closed	n/a	n/a
Three Hills Sports Park	Mon - Fri 9am - 10pm Sat 9am - 11pm Sun 9am - 9 pm 'Pay-and-play' and block bookings.	Whole hall £60 Bookings in person, on-line or by phone.	87%

## 5.6 Key findings on supply

The key findings are as follows:

- With three of the six sports halls currently available for community use in the district on school sites, there is limited midweek daytime access. The facilities at Pent Valley Leisure Centre are currently closed although it is understood that they will be available for community use when the site re-opens as a Free School in September 2019.
- The quality of sports halls in the district is generally good, although the smaller hall at Folkestone Academy has no integral changing facilities and poor maintenance.
- There is at least one sports hall in each of the three sub-areas in the district and the whole population is within 20-minutes driving time of a sports hall.
- One of the halls is only available for block bookings by clubs, which mitigates against casual participants who may wish to play on an irregular or intermittent basis.
- Pricing is variable, with a full hall rate of £60 per hour in Folkestone, but £37.50 and £36 at Hawkinge and Marsh Academy respectively.

- Peak time utilisation rates are high at several sites. Sport England recognises a measure of ‘comfortable capacity’, where a sports hall is regarded as effectively fully utilised when peak usage levels reach 80%. This reflects the fact that changeover periods between bookings, particularly those that involve removing and/or installing equipment, will reduce the usage time available. Four of the six currently available sports halls in Shepway are used to above ‘comfortable capacity’ and the average utilisation rate for the district as a whole is 82%.

## 5.7 Current demand for sports halls

### 5.7.1 Expressed demand

Expressed community use demand for sports halls in Shepway is as follows. The information was supplied by the facility operators:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Peak hours available</i>	<i>Peak hours utilised</i>	<i>% Peak utilisation</i>
Folkestone Academy	19	7	40%
Hawkinge Community Centre	33	29	88%
Folkestone Sports Centre	33	24	73%
Marsh Academy Leisure Centre	33	33	100%
Pent Valley Leisure Centre	0	0	n/a
Three Hills Sports Park	33	28	87%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>82%</b>

### 5.7.2 Displaced demand

Displaced demand relates to users of sports halls from within the study area which takes place outside of the area. The following sports halls with community accessibility are located in adjacent local authority areas, close enough to the district boundary to provide usage opportunities for Shepway residents.

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Distance from Shepway boundary</i>
Astor College for the Arts	Astor Avenue, Dover CT17 0AS	6 miles
Dover Leisure Centre	Townwall Street, Dover CT16 1LN	6 miles
Dover College	Effingham Close, Dover CT17 9RH	6 miles
Rye Sports Centre	The Grove, Rye TN31 7ND	3 miles
Stour Centre	Station Approach, Ashford TN23 1ET	6 miles
Tenterden Leisure Centre	Recreation Ground Road, Tenterden TN30 6RA	6 miles

Sport England’s Facilities Planning Model (FPM) 2017 run for sports halls in Shepway, which is examined in greater detail below, estimates that 4.1% of all sports hall demand in the district is exported to facilities in neighbouring areas, whilst 7.3% of all local demand is imported, which makes Shepway a small net importer of sports hall demand.

### 5.7.3 Unmet demand

Sport England’s Facilities Planning Model (FPM) also included an assessment of unmet demand for sports halls in the district. This involves two components:

- Demand that cannot be met within a sports hall catchment due to excess demand for that facility.
- Demand that cannot be met because it is located outside the catchment of a sports hall.

The FPM estimates that 10.5% of all demand for sports halls in Shepway is currently unmet, which is equivalent to demand for 3.1 badminton courts (equivalent to slightly less than one sports hall). 95.1% of the unmet demand is attributable to the population living beyond the catchment of a sports hall.

## 5.8 Local sports participation priorities

There are no specific local sports participation priorities in Shepway, other than a general policy commitment to promote health and well-being through increased levels of physical activity. Sports halls have a role to play in this, given the breadth of appeal of the wide range of indoor sports and activities that they can accommodate.

## 5.9 Sport-specific priorities

Analysis of sport-specific strategies (summarised in section 4.10 above) and consultation with Kent Sport and the governing bodies of sport produced a limited range of priorities in relation to local sports hall provision:

- **Badminton clubs:** Local clubs are based at several sports halls including Folkestone Badminton Club and Wyndgate Badminton Club at Folkestone Sports Centre and Marsh Badminton Club at the Marsh Academy Leisure Centre. Respondents to the clubs' survey all indicated that they have sufficient access to court space in sports halls to meet all their needs.
- **Basketball:** Folkestone Basketball Club includes the Folkestone Saints men's team, the Folkestone Flames ladies team and a number of junior and veterans' teams. It is based at Folkestone Sports Centre, but also uses other facilities outside the district at Canterbury School to accommodate all its playing needs. It has long-term aspirations to provide an eight-badminton court sized sports hall at Folkestone Sports Centre.
- **Gymnastics:** Dover Gymnastics Club is a long-established (1976) and popular club with more than 500 members and a growing waiting list of more than 450 young people. The club needs to find new premises to meet the demand and to develop a number of gymnastics disciplines in the region. Many of the club's members and coaches live in Shepway and there are no other standalone gymnastics clubs in Shepway or Ashford, so relocating to Shepway is a viable proposition. The club is already actively involved in sport in Shepway through its involvement with Shepway Sports Trust and the Folkestone Academy, by running workshops, supporting competitions, and teacher training. Shepway Sports Trust is supporting proposals by Dover Gymnastics Club to move to Shepway and it has asked the club to submit plans for a new gymnastics centre at Three Hills Sports Park.
- **Table Tennis:** Table Tennis England responded that Shepway is not a priority area and that local clubs are primarily based in village and community halls rather than larger sports halls.

## 5.10 Future demand for sports halls

### 5.10.1 Population growth

SDC's 'Strategic Housing Market Assessment' (2015) generated a projected population of 126,505 for Shepway by 2037, based on a combination of demographic change and net migration. This will represent an increase of 18,536 people, or 17.2% over the 2011 census figure.

### 5.10.2 Participation rates

One factor in considering future sports participation rates is to track historical trends, as a guide to possible future developments.

- National trends:** Sport England's 'Active People' survey has recorded adult (16+) weekly participation rates for each sport at national level on an annual basis since 2005. The results for those sports that use sports halls are tabulated below. Badminton, Basketball and Tennis have also experienced statistically significant decreases, whilst Netball and Table Tennis have both achieved statistically significant increases:

Sport	2005/06	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	% Change
Badminton	1.29%	1.24%	1.20%	1.24%	1.20%	1.26%	1.16%	1.13%	1.04%	0.97%	-0.32%
Basketball	0.39%	0.45%	0.46%	0.36%	0.36%	0.35%	0.36%	0.31%	0.36%	0.35%	-0.04%
Gymnastics	0.14%	0.15%	0.12%	0.12%	0.11%	0.12%	0.11%	0.09%	0.10%	0.15%	+0.01%
Judo	0.04%	0.05%	0.04%	0.06%	0.03%	0.06%	0.04%	0.05%	0.04%	0.04%	No change
Netball	0.27%	0.29%	0.32%	0.34%	0.31%	0.37%	0.28%	0.35%	0.36%	0.42%	+0.15%
Table Tennis	0.17%	0.18%	0.20%	0.30%	0.32%	0.23%	0.25%	0.22%	0.23%	0.24%	+0.07%
Tennis	1.12%	1.18%	1.27%	1.04%	0.88%	1.03%	0.94%	0.97%	0.97%	0.90%	-0.22%
Volleyball	0.08%	0.12%	0.09%	0.09%	0.07%	0.06%	0.07%	0.06%	0.07%	0.08%	No change

- Local trends:** Sport England's 'Active People' survey has recorded adult (16+) weekly participation rates for Shepway an annual basis since 2005. The results are tabulated below and show that whilst rates have fluctuated over the survey periods, there is an overall increase between 2005 and 2016, although due to the small sample sizes at local authority level (500 people), this is not regarded as statistically significant:

2005/06	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	% Change
30.6%	33.6%	31.0%	32.9%	27.8%	28.8%	34.3%	30.5%	32.4%	33.0%	+2.4%

### 5.10.3 Future projections

Sport England has developed the Sport Facility Calculator (SFC), to help to quantify how much additional demand for key community facilities like sports halls, will be generated by population increases. Whilst the SFC is not spatial, is used by Sport England to calculate the increased demand from new development. The SFC uses Sport England survey data on who uses facilities and applies this to the population profile of the local area. This builds up a profile of usage, which can be then applied to estimate how much demand any given population would generate.

This demand is then converted into the quantity of facilities needed and expressed as badminton courts to define sports hall needs. For the purposes of projecting future demand in Shepway, population growth of 18,536 by 2037 was assumed, along with current participation rates, since there have been no statistically significant increases since 2005, either locally in Shepway or collectively for the sports that use sports halls. Based upon this, the SFC calculates demand for an additional 5 badminton courts, which is equivalent to 1.25 four-badminton court sized sports halls with full community access.

### **5.11 Key findings on demand**

The key findings are as follows:

- Expressed demand for sports halls in Shepway is high. In the peak demand periods, three of the six currently available sports halls in Shepway are used to above Sport England's calculated 'comfortable capacity' figure of 80% and the average peak utilisation rate for the district as a whole is 82%.
- Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) 2017 run for sports halls in Shepway, estimates that 4.1% of all sports hall demand in the district is exported to facilities in neighbouring areas, which is a relatively low proportion.
- The FPM estimates that 10.5% of all demand for sports halls in Shepway is currently unmet, which is equivalent to demand for 3.1 badminton courts (equivalent to slightly less than one sports hall). 95.1% of the unmet demand is attributable to the population living beyond the catchment of a sports hall.
- Sport England's Sport Facility Calculator projects demand for an additional 5 badminton courts by 2037, which is equivalent to 1.25 four-badminton court sized sports halls with full community access.

### **5.12 The balance between sports hall supply and demand**

Four criteria have been assessed to evaluate the balance between sports hall supply and demand in Shepway:

- **Quantity:** Are there enough facilities with sufficient capacity to meet needs now and in the future?
- **Quality:** Are the facilities fit for purpose for the users now and in the future?
- **Accessibility:** Are the facilities in the right physical location for the users now and in the future?
- **Availability:** Are the facilities available for those who want to use them now and in the future?



## 5.13 Quantity

### 5.13.1 Current needs

Current sports halls in Shepway are assessed to be at operating at just above ‘comfortable capacity’, based upon the following evaluation:

- **Used peak capacity:** Average peak utilisation rates for sports halls in Shepway are 82%, which is above Sport England’s ‘comfortable capacity’ figure of 80%. This suggests that the current number of community-accessible sports halls can only just meet current needs, although this will be addressed if the Pent Valley Leisure Centre re-opens.
- **Satisfied demand:** The FPM supports this conclusion, calculating that 89.5% of demand for sports halls in Shepway is met by current provision. The unmet demand is assessed to be equivalent to 3.1 badminton courts (0.78 of a sports hall).
- **Exported demand:** The FPM calculates that only 4.1% of all sports hall demand in the district is exported to facilities in neighbouring areas, whilst 7.3% is imported, making Shepway a small net importer of sports hall demand. This reflects the fact that most sports halls in neighbouring areas are on the outer limits of the 20-minute drivetime catchment from Shepway.
- **Unavailable facilities:** The sports hall at the Pent Valley Leisure Centre is currently unavailable for community use and it is unclear whether it will re-open in September 2019 when a Free School takes over the running of the site. Three further sports halls at Brockhill Park Performing Arts College, Sir John Moore Barracks and the Harvey Grammar School have no community use and the owners have indicated that this position is unlikely to change
- **Changes in supply:** Folkestone School for Girls has planning consent to build a sports hall at its site and is currently fund-raising. However, three of the six existing sports halls with community use are on school sites with no formal community use agreements, so access could in theory be withdrawn at any time.

### 5.13.2 Future needs

The quantity of sports halls required to meet future needs has been assessed as equivalent to 2.3 four-badminton court sized sports halls with full community access, based upon the following evaluation:

- **Demand increases:** The district’s population is projected to increase by 18,536 by 2037. This will represent an increase of 17.2% over the 2011 census figure.
- **Participation trends:** Based on national and local sports participation trends, for the purposes of forecasting future demand the likeliest scenario is for participation rates to remain at their current levels.
- **Additional needs:** Based upon a population increase of 18,536 people in the district by 2037 and sports participation rates remaining at current levels, Sport England’s Sport Facility Calculator projects demand for an additional 5 badminton courts, which is equivalent to 1.25 four-badminton court sized sports halls with full community access.

## 5.14 Quality

### 5.14.1 Current quality

There are no critical quality issues relating to sports halls in Shepway, although the position should be kept under review based upon the following evaluation:

- **Existing quality issues:** Most sports halls rate from ‘average’ to ‘good’ across all quality categories, with the exception of ‘poor’ ratings for changing and maintenance at the smaller hall at Folkestone Academy. None of these quality issues has a significant impact upon either capacity or usage levels at present.
- **Ageing facilities:** The smaller sports hall at Folkestone Academy was built in 1955 and has not been extensively refurbished since. The facility is likely to be reaching the end of its planned life expectancy, which will reduce the available supply unless they it is replaced.

### 5.14.2 Future quality

By the end of the plan period in 2037, several of the sports halls in the district will be in need of refurbishment.

## 5.15 Accessibility

### 5.15.1 Current accessibility

Some parts of the district lie beyond the catchment of the nearest sports hall based upon the following evaluation:

- **Geographical spread:** All the main populated areas of the district are within 15-minutes driving time of a sports hall.
- **Unmet demand:** The FPM estimates that 10.5% of all demand for sports halls in Shepway is currently unmet. This equates to demand for 3.1 badminton courts (equivalent to 0.78 of a sports hall). 95.1% of the unmet demand is attributable to the population living beyond the catchment of a sports hall.
- **Location of unmet demand:** The FPM calculates that the unmet demand is spread thinly across the district, rather than being focussed in a particular area.

### 5.15.2 Future accessibility

To ensure that there is adequate accessibility to sports halls in the future, an appropriate level of developer contributions will be required to upgrade existing facilities and/or to provide new ones, appropriately located in relation to the new population.

## 5.16 Availability

### 5.16.1 Current availability

There are a number of current impediments to sports hall availability in Shepway:

- ***Impaired community access:*** Four sports halls in the district currently have no community access, which is not the best use of available community resources.
- ***'Pay and play' availability:*** Because of the management arrangements at many of the sports halls on school sites in the district, one of the halls is only available for block bookings by clubs or individuals, with the Marsh Academy facility only available on this basis during the mid-week period, which mitigates against casual participants who may wish to play on an irregular or intermittent basis.
- ***Off-peak availability:*** With three of the six currently community available sports halls in the district on school sites, there is limited midweek daytime access to sports halls. This has particular significance in a district with a relatively elderly population where retired people are likely to inflate daytime demand.

### 5.16.2 Future availability

Addressing the current availability issues in the future will either involve providing sports halls on non-education sites, with appropriate management arrangements, or looking at innovative solutions to facilitate daytime community access to school sports halls.

## 5.17 The options for securing additional sports hall capacity

The options for securing existing and additional sports hall capacity to meet current and future needs are as follows:

### 5.17.1 Protect

Protecting existing sports halls through the Local Plan will be key both to securing local provision by ensuring that planning policy supports the retention of existing sports halls, including any without current community access, unless the loss of a facility would involve its replacement with a facility of at least the equivalent size, quality and accessibility.

### 5.17.2 Provide

Ensuring that extra sports hall capacity is achieved by:

- Providing new facilities in conjunction with new housing developments, in particular Otterpool Park Garden Town and the Sellindge expansion, either on-site or through Section 106 developer contributions that reflect the additional sports hall demand arising from the additional population.
- Encouraging the provision of sports halls that meet Sport England's recommended dimensions (34.5m x 20m), to offer maximum flexibility of use.

- Supporting Folkestone School for Girls aspirations to provide a sports hall on their site, subject to the provision of appropriate levels of community access.

### 5.17.3 Enhance

Enhancing existing sports hall capacity by:

- Negotiating with the providers of the three sports halls in the district with no community use at present, to secure at least some public access.
- Securing formal Community Use Agreements at existing and proposed future facilities on school sites, to enhance community accessibility.
- Encouraging schools with existing community use to extend opening hours, particularly those with limited or no weekend use at present.
- Supporting schools to improve their management of community use arrangements, to improve ‘pay-and-play’ access to sports halls.

## 5.18 Action Plan

### 5.18.1 Introduction

The tables below set out the action plan for sports halls to guide the implementation of the strategy. The capital cost estimates are based upon Sport England’s *Facility Costs - Second Quarter of 2016*’ (2016).

### 5.18.2 Key strategic actions

<b>Issues</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Protection of existing sports halls	Include a policy in the Local Plan to protect all existing sports halls.	SDC	-	-	High
Community access to sports halls	Pursue formal Community Use agreements at all existing and any future proposed sports halls on education sites.	SDC	Academies and schools	Possible funding for improvements to physical accessibility.	High
Funding for future sports hall needs	Include sports halls as ‘relevant infrastructure’ under CIL regulation 123.	SDC	-	-	High
Need for an additional 1.25 sports halls by 2037.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include a requirement for provision of a sports hall as part of a leisure centre in Otterpool Park Garden Town.</li> <li>• Support Folkestone School for Girl’s aspirations to provide a community-accessible sports hall</li> </ul>	SDC	Developers Folkestone School for Girl’s	£2,215,000 per sports hall	High

### 5.18.3 Site-specific actions

<b>Site</b>	<b>Issues</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Folkestone Academy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited weekend community access.</li> <li>No 'pay-and-play' use.</li> <li>No formal Community Use Agreement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage Academy to expand weekend access and 'pay-and-play' use.</li> <li>Pursue a formal Community Use Agreement.</li> </ul>	SDC	Folkestone Academy	-	Medium
Hawkinge Community Centre	No current issues.	No action required.	-	-	-	-
Folkestone Sports Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ageing facilities.</li> <li>Poor quality general access.</li> </ul>	Feasibility study to consider long-term options for sports hall provision at the Centre.	Folkestone Sports Centre Trust	SDC	£20,000 for feasibility study	High
Marsh Academy Leisure Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No midweek evening 'pay-and-play' use.</li> <li>No formal Community Use Agreement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage Academy to develop midweek 'pay-and-play' use.</li> <li>Pursue a formal Community Use Agreement.</li> </ul>	SDC	Marsh Academy	-	Medium
Pent Valley Leisure Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently closed.</li> <li>Future community use policy unclear.</li> <li>No formal Community Use Agreement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Negotiate community access with Free School.</li> <li>Pursue a formal Community Use Agreement.</li> </ul>	SDC	Turner Free School	-	High
Three Hills Sports Park	Proposal to provide a new specialist gymnastics facility with Dover Gymnastics Club.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop facility designs.</li> <li>Develop fundraising strategy.</li> </ul>	Shepway Sports Trust	Dover Gymnastics Club British Gymnastics	No cost estimates available	High

## 6 SWIMMING POOLS

### *Key findings:*

- **Quantity:** There are five swimming pools at three sites with community use in Shepway which comply with the minimum dimensions, plus two smaller pools and one pool with no community access. Four of the five swimming pool sites in Shepway are used to above ‘comfortable capacity’ at peak times. There is a current shortfall equivalent to one 25m x 4-lane pool. Additional demand by 2037 will amount to the equivalent of an additional 25m x 4-lane pool.
- **Quality:** The quality of most aspects of most pools is ‘very good’ or ‘good’, although general access at Folkestone Sports Centre is poor, as are the changing facilities at Hythe Swimming Pool.
- **Accessibility:** The whole population is within 20 minutes driving time of their nearest pool, although in the case of the Romney Marsh sub-area, this involves the Rye Sports Centre in neighbouring Rother.
- **Availability:** Both the main swimming pool sites in Shepway offer ‘pay-and-play’ swimming on a non-membership basis.

### 6.1 Introduction

This section examines the provision of swimming pools in Shepway. Swimming pools are defined as indoor facilities with minimum pool length of 20 metres, although smaller teaching and diving pools are included in the assessment where they are integral to a facility with a main pool.

### 6.2 Quantity

#### 6.2.1 Swimming pools with community use

The location and dimensions of swimming pools with community use in Shepway is as follows:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Year built</i>
Bannantyne’s Health Club	Shearway Road, Folkestone CT19 4RH	20m x 8m	2004
Folkestone Sports Centre	Radnor Park Avenue, Folkestone CT19 5HX	25m x 12.5m 12.5m x 7.5m	1972
Hythe Swimming Pool	South Road, Hythe CT21 6AR	25m x 11m 9m x 4m	1974

#### 6.2.2 Additional smaller pools with community use

The location and dimensions of the smaller swimming pools that serve some supplementary needs in Shepway is as follows:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Year built</i>
Hythe Imperial Health Club	Princes Parade, Hythe CT21 6AE	15m x 5m	1985
Spindles Health and Leisure	The Harbour, Folkestone CT20 1TX	12m x 6m	1975

### 6.2.3 Swimming pools with limited community use:

The following swimming pools in Shepway on holiday camps sites have some limited use for swimming lessons out of the main holiday season:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Weekly use</i>
New Beach Holiday Park	Hythe Road, Dymchurch TN29 0JX	23m x 12m	6.5 hours
Beacon School	Park Farm Lane, Folkestone CT19 5DN	6m x 4m	2.5hours

### 6.2.4 Swimming pools with no community use

The following swimming pool in Shepway has no community use:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Year built</i>
Sir John Moore Barracks	Folkestone CT20 3HG	25m x 9.2m	Unknown

## 6.3 Quality

### 6.3.1 The criteria assessed

The quality of swimming pools was assessed by a non-technical visual inspection during a site visit to all facilities. The criteria that were evaluated were as follows:

- **Pool area(s):** The overall condition, lighting, aquatic activities provided for, temperature, spectator provision and fitness for purpose.
- **Changing facilities:** Capacity, condition and fitness for purpose.
- **Disability access:** Provision for disabled access throughout the facility.
- **Maintenance and cleanliness:** The quality of maintenance and cleanliness standards.
- **General access:** Car parking, lighting, signposting and proximity to public transport.

### 6.3.2 The basis of the ratings

The facilities were rated on a five-point scale, where 5 equates to ‘very good’ (highlighted in green below), 4 to ‘good’ (also highlighted in green below), 3 to ‘average’ (highlighted in yellow below), 2 to ‘poor’ and 1 to ‘very poor’. The ratings for the swimming pools in Shepway are shown in the table below.

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Pool area</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Disability Access</i>	<i>Maintenance</i>	<i>General access</i>
Bannantyne’s Health Club	5	5	4	5	5
Folkestone Sports Centre	5	3	4	4	2
Hythe Swimming Pool	3	2	3	3	4

### 6.3.3 User comments

- **Folkestone Swimming Club:** The club stated that ‘we would like to hold our own galas, but spectator facilities [at the Folkestone Sports Centre pool] are not to a standard or quantity to allow this’.
- **Folkestone Sports Centre users:** Respondents to the Folkestone Sports Centre users’ survey commented that the swimming changing rooms were the part of the facility in greatest need of improvement.
- **New Romney Leisure Centre users:** 34.8% of respondents to the New Romney Leisure Centre users’ survey commented that provision of a swimming pool at the centre should be considered,

### 6.4 Accessibility

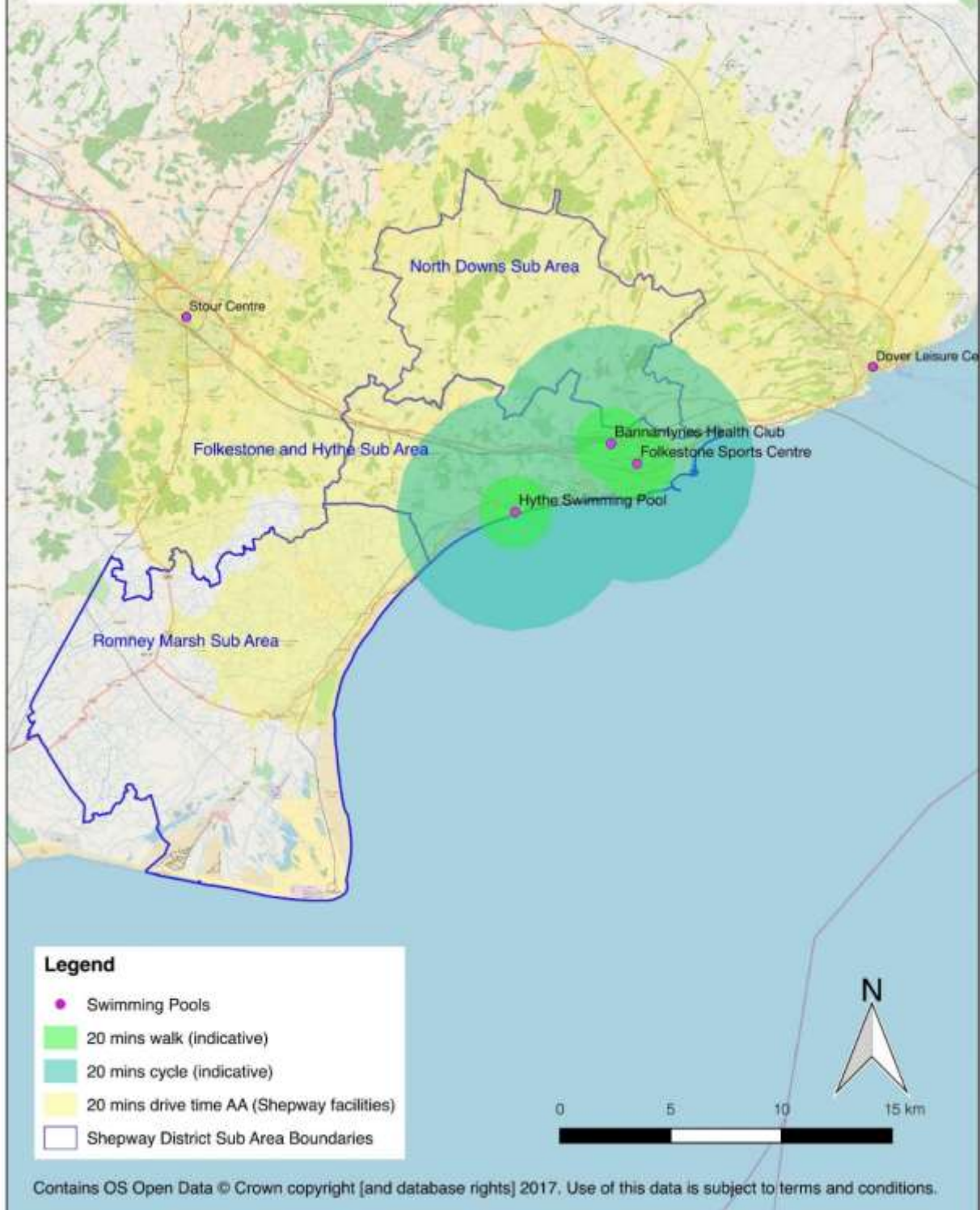
The map overleaf shows the location of all swimming pools in Shepway, along with drivetime catchments (in yellow), cycle time catchments (in blue) and walking time catchments (in green). Based on Sport England research, the ‘effective catchment’ for indoor swimming pools (defined as the time/distance travelled and the prevailing mode of transport used by up to 90% of facility users) is 20 minutes driving time. The drive times were generated using an Open Source Mapping Tool, powered by Open Route Services and based upon AA Route Planner data.

The map shows that almost the whole of Shepway is within 20-minutes drive time of a swimming pool, with the exception of the western part of the Romney Marsh sub-area, which is within the catchment of the pool at the Rye Sports Centre in Rother.





## Shepway Swimming Pools



## 6.5 Availability

The table below identifies the opening hours, usage arrangements, pricing and used capacity in the peak periods. The information was supplied by the facility operators.

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Opening hours and basis of use</i>	<i>Pricing</i>	<i>Peak usage</i>
Bannantyne's Health Club	Mon-Fri 6.30am -10.30pm Sat-Sun 8am - 9pm Membership only	Peak membership £55 per month Off-peak membership £45 per month Day pass £15	59%
Folkestone Sports Centre	Mon - Fri 6.30pm - 10pm Sat - Sun 7am - 6pm 'Pay and play' usage	Adult casual swim £3.30 Concessions £2.50 Family swim £11.50	99%
Hythe Swimming Pool	Mon - Fri 7am - 10pm Sat - Sun 7am - 5pm 'Pay and play' usage	Adult casual swim peak £4.10 Adult casual swim off-peak £3.00 Concessions £2.50 Family swim £10.20	77%

## 6.6 Key findings on supply

The key findings are as follows:

- There are five swimming pools at three sites with community use in Shepway which comply with the minimum dimensions, plus two smaller pools.
- User charges conform with market norms and include some discounts for concessions.
- General access at Folkestone Sports Centre is poor, as are the changing facilities at Hythe Swimming Pool, where most other aspects are at the lower end of 'standard' quality.
- All the pools are within the Urban sub-area, with no provision in the North Downs or Romney Marsh sub-areas. Despite this, the whole population is within 20 minutes driving time of their nearest pool, although in the case of the Romney Marsh sub-area, this involves the Rye Sports Centre in neighbouring Rother.
- Peak time utilisation rates are universally high. Sport England recognises a measure of 'comfortable capacity', where a swimming pool is regarded as effectively fully utilised when peak usage levels reach 70%. Four of the five swimming pool sites in Shepway are used to above 'comfortable capacity'.

## 6.7 Current demand for swimming pools

### 6.7.1 Expressed demand

Expressed community use demand for swimming pools in Shepway is as follows:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>% Peak utilisation</i>
Bannantyne's Health Club	59%
Folkestone Sports Centre	99%
Hythe Swimming Pool	77%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>85.1%</b>

Sport England’s Facilities Planning Model (FPM) 2017 run for swimming pools in Shepway, estimates that expressed demand in the district is equivalent to 6,854 visits per week in the peak period.

### 6.7.2 Displaced demand

Displaced demand relates to users of swimming pools from within the study area which takes place outside of the area. The following pools with community ‘pay-and-play’ accessibility are located in adjacent local authority areas, close enough to the district boundary to provide usage opportunities for Shepway residents.

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Distance from Shepway boundary</i>
Dover Leisure Centre	Townwall Street, Dover CT16 1LN	6 miles
Rye Sports Centre	The Grove, Rye TN31 7ND	3 miles
Stour Centre	Station Approach, Ashford TN23 1ET	6 miles
Tenterden Leisure Centre	Recreation Ground Road, Tenterden TN30 6RA	6 miles

The FPM run for swimming pools in Shepway calculates that the district is a net exporter of swimming demand. It estimates that 8.9% of all swimming demand is exported to facilities in neighbouring areas, compared with 7.1% of demand which is imported from neighbouring areas.

### 6.7.3 Unmet demand

Sport England’s Facilities Planning Model (FPM) also included an assessment of unmet demand for swimming pools in the district. This involves two components:

- Demand that cannot be met within a pool catchment due to excess demand for that facility.
- Demand that cannot be met because it is located outside the catchment of a pool.

The FPM estimates that 19.6% of all demand for swimming pools in Shepway is currently unmet, which is equivalent to demand for 223sq.m of pool space (equivalent to a 25m x 4-lane pool). All of the unmet demand is attributable to the population living beyond the catchment of a swimming pool (primarily in the Romney Marsh sub-area. This was reflected in responses to the New Romney Leisure Centre users survey, where 31% of respondents cited the need for a pool.

## 6.8 Local sports participation priorities

There are no specific local sports participation priorities in Shepway, other than a general policy commitment to promote health and well-being through increased levels of physical activity. Swimming pools have a role to play in this, given the breadth of appeal to all age groups.

## 6.9 Sport-specific priorities

Consultation with Swim England’s Head of Facilities identified the following:

- All community-accessible pools in Shepway fit within Swim England’s Facility Framework either as ‘competition/community pools’ or ‘community pools’.

- There is concern that the pools are quite aged at approximately 45 years old and this suggests that a replacement strategy and plan should be in place. With a population of approximately 111,000 it is unlikely that the local authority could afford to increase this provision, but through a replacement process they should be making the water areas more flexible and sustainable.
- One pool with 6-lanes (Folkestone Sports Centre) is a designated district competition pool, the other with 5-lanes (Hythe Swimming Pool) is only a community pool any new provision should consider designing one 8-lane pool (a county competition pool) and one 4-lane community pool to give more balance and utility.

## 6.10 Future demand for swimming pools

### 6.10.1 Population growth

SDC's 'Strategic Housing Market Assessment' (2015) generated a projected population of 126,505 for Shepway by 2037, based on a combination of demographic change and net migration. This will represent an increase of 18,536 people, or 17.2% over the 2011 census figure.

### 6.10.2 Participation rates

One factor in considering future sports participation rates is to track historical trends, as a guide to possible future developments. Sport England's 'Active People' survey has recorded adult (16+) weekly participation rates for swimming at national and local level on an annual basis since 2005. The results are tabulated below and show that participation rates have fallen over the past decade at national and local level, although the rate of decline in Shepway has been less than for the country as a whole:

Area	2005/06	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	% Change
England	8.04%	7.83%	7.57%	7.50%	6.62%	6.81%	6.77%	6.16%	5.70%	5.67%	-2.37%
Shepway	7.67%	7.28%	6.37%	7.75%	8.11%	-	-	6.57%	6.81%	-	-0.86%

### 6.10.3 Future projections

Sport England has developed the Sport Facility Calculator (SFC), to help to quantify how much additional demand for key community facilities like swimming pools, will be generated by population increases. Whilst the SFC is not spatial, is used by Sport England to calculate the increased demand from new development. The SFC uses Sport England survey data on who uses facilities and applies this to the population profile of the local area. This builds up a profile of usage, which can be then applied to estimate how much demand any given population would generate.

This demand is then converted into the quantity of facilities needed and expressed as pool water space to define swimming pool needs. For the purposes of projecting future demand in Shepway, population growth of 18,536 by 2037 was assumed. Whilst swimming participation rates have fallen over the past decade, given the appeal of the sport to a broad cross-section of the community, it has been assumed that participation rates will remain static for the period until 2037. Based upon this, the SFC calculates demand for an additional 190sq.m of pool space by 2037, which is equivalent to one 25m x 4-lane pool with full community access.

## 6.11 Key findings on demand

The key findings are as follows:

- Expressed demand for swimming pools in Shepway is high. In the peak demand periods, four of the pools in Shepway are used to well above Sport England's calculated 'comfortable capacity' figure of 70%.
- Sport England's FPM estimates that only 8.9% of all swimming pool demand in the district is exported to facilities in neighbouring areas.
- The FPM estimates that 19.6% of all demand for pools in Shepway is currently unmet, which is equivalent to demand for a 25m x 4-lane pool. All the unmet demand is attributable to the population living beyond the catchment of a swimming pool. This was reflected in responses to the New Romney Leisure Centre users survey, where 31% of respondents cited the need for a pool.
- Sport England's Sport Facility Calculator projects demand for an additional 190sq.m of pool space by 2037, which is equivalent to one 25m x 4-lane pool with full community access.

## 6.12 The balance between swimming pool supply and demand

Four criteria have been assessed to evaluate the balance between swimming pool supply and demand in Shepway:

- **Quantity:** Are there enough facilities with sufficient capacity to meet needs now and in the future?
- **Quality:** Are the facilities fit for purpose for the users now and in the future?
- **Accessibility:** Are the facilities in the right physical location for the users now and in the future?
- **Availability:** Are the facilities available for those who want to use them now and in the future?

## 6.13 Quantity

### 6.13.1 Current needs

Current swimming pools in Shepway are assessed to be at operating at over 'comfortable capacity', with a small shortfall in provision based upon the following evaluation:

- **Used peak capacity:** Average peak utilisation rates for pools in Shepway are 78%, which is above Sport England's 'comfortable capacity' figure of 70%. This suggests that there is capacity shortfall at present.
- **Satisfied demand:** The FPM supports this conclusion, calculating that 80.4% of demand for pools in Shepway is met by current provision. The unmet demand is assessed to be equivalent to one 25m x 4-lane pool.

- **Exported demand:** The FPM calculates that 8.9% of all swimming demand is exported to facilities in neighbouring areas. This figure is relatively low in relation to local unmet demand, which suggests that there are few accessible pools in neighbouring areas.
- **Unmet demand:** The FPM estimates that 19.6% of all demand for pools in Shepway is currently unmet, which is equivalent to demand for a 25m x 4-lane pool. All of the unmet demand is attributable to the population living beyond the catchment of a swimming pool, primarily in the Romney Marsh sub-area.
- **Changes in supply:** Swim England notes that the age of the facilities at Folkestone Sports Centre and Hythe Swimming Pool is an issue and this will be addressed in part by the provision of a planned new pool in Hythe.

### 6.13.2 Future needs

The quantity of swimming pools required to meet future needs has been assessed as an additional 190sq.m of pool space by 2037, which is equivalent to one 25m x 4-lane pool with full community access, based upon the following evaluation:

- **Demand increases:** The district's population is projected to increase by 18,536 by 2037. This will represent an increase of 17.2% over the 2011 census figure.
- **Participation trends:** Based on national and local sports participation trends, for the purposes of forecasting future demand the likeliest scenario is for participation rates to remain at their current levels.
- **Additional needs:** Sport England's Sport Facility Calculator projects demand for 190sq.m of additional pool space by 2037, which is equivalent to one 25m x 4-lane pool with full community access

## 6.14 Quality

### 6.14.1 Current quality

General access to the pool at Folkestone Sports Centre is rated as 'poor' quality, as are the changing facilities at Hythe Swimming Pool, where most other aspects are at the lower end of 'standard' quality. The age of the pools at Folkestone Sports Centre and Hythe Swimming Pool means that both buildings are likely to be approaching the end of their planned lifespans.

### 6.14.2 Future quality

As noted above, the pools at Folkestone Sports Centre and Hythe Swimming Pool are 45 years old and 43 years old respectively, so future quality issues are likely to occur in the short term.

## **6.15 Accessibility**

### **6.15.1 Current accessibility**

All parts of the district are within the 20-minute drivetime catchment of the nearest swimming pool based upon the following evaluation:

- **Geographical spread:** Some areas in the south-west of the district are beyond the catchment of the existing pools in Shepway but are served in part by a facility in Rye.
- **Unmet demand:** The FPM estimates that all the unmet demand in the district is attributable to the population living beyond the catchment of a swimming pool.

### **6.15.2 Future accessibility**

To ensure that there is adequate accessibility to swimming pools in the future, an appropriate level of developer contributions will be required to upgrade existing facilities and/or to provide new ones, appropriately located in relation to the new population.

## **6.16 Availability**

### **6.16.1 Current availability**

Both of the main swimming pool sites in Shepway offer ‘pay-and-play’ swimming on a non-membership basis.

### **6.16.2 Future availability**

Ensuring that there are sufficient ‘pay-and-play’ swimming opportunities to meet future demand will entail the development of additional pool capacity. This may involve the redevelopment/relocation of Hythe Swimming pool and the development of facilities to serve unmet need in the Romney Marsh sub-area. As at present some additional capacity may be provided by the commercial leisure sector.

## **6.17 The options for securing additional swimming pool capacity**

The options for securing existing and additional swimming pool capacity to meet current and future needs are as follows:

### **6.17.1 Protect**

Protecting existing pools through the Local Plan will be key both to securing local provision by ensuring that planning policy supports the retention of existing swimming pools, including those with membership-only access, unless the loss of a facility would involve its replacement with a facility of at least the equivalent size, quality and accessibility.

### **6.17.2 Provide**

Ensuring that extra swimming pool capacity is achieved by:

- Providing additional pool space at the planned new leisure centre in Hythe, which will replace the existing Hythe pool. Consideration should be given to an 8-lane 25m pool and learner pool.
- Providing new facilities in conjunction with new housing developments, in particular the Otterpool Park Garden Town and Sellindge expansion, either on-site or through developer contributions via Section 106 agreements that reflect the additional swimming demand arising from the additional population.
- Encouraging the provision of swimming pools with a minimum length of 20m by commercial leisure providers, particularly in the Romney Marsh sub-area.

### 6.17.3 Enhance

Enhancing existing swimming pool capacity by negotiating with commercial operators and holiday parks to provide casual swimming for non-members in off-peak periods.

## 6.18 Action Plan

### 6.18.1 Introduction

The tables below set out the action plan for sports halls to guide the implementation of the strategy. The capital cost estimates are based upon Sport England's *Facility Costs - Second Quarter of 2016* (2016).

### 6.18.2 Key strategic actions

<b>Issues</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Protection of existing swimming pools	Include a policy in the Local Plan to protect all existing swimming pools.	SDC	-	-	High
Community access commercial pools	Negotiate with commercial pool providers to provide casual swimming for non-members in off-peak periods.	SDC	Academies and schools	Possible funding for improvements to physical accessibility.	High
Funding for future swimming pool needs	Include sports halls as 'relevant infrastructure' under CIL regulation 123.	SDC	-	-	High
Provision in Otterpool Park Garden Town	Include a requirement for on-site provision of a swimming pool as part of a leisure centre to meet the needs of the new population.	SDC	Developers	£3,740,000	High
Current deficit equivalent to one 25m x 4-lane pool.	Investigate the feasibility of including a 25m x 8-lane pool in the new Hythe Leisure Centre, to expand current water space.	SDC	-	£20,000 for feasibility study £6,010,000 for an 8-lane pool	High
Shortfall equivalent to one 25m x 4-lane pool by 2037.	Include a requirement for provision of a sports hall as part of a leisure centre in Otterpool Park Garden Town.	SDC	-	£3,740,000 for a 4-lane pool	High



### 6.18.3 Site-specific actions

<i>Site</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Bannantyne's Health Club	Spare pool capacity at off-peak times.	Investigate the potential for off-peak access by non-members.	SDC	Bannantyne's Health Club	-	Medium
Folkestone Sports Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ageing facilities.</li> <li>• Poor quality general access.</li> </ul>	Feasibility study to consider long-terms options for swimming provision at the Centre.	Folkestone Sports Centre Trust	SDC	£20,000 for feasibility study	High
Hythe Swimming Pool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ageing facilities.</li> <li>• Poor quality changing facilities.</li> <li>• New leisure centre planned with a pool.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pursue new Hythe Leisure Centre project.</li> <li>• Investigate the feasibility of including a 25m x 8-lane pool in the new centre.</li> </ul>	SDC	-	£20,000 for feasibility study	High

## 7 HEALTH AND FITNESS

### *Key findings:*

- **Quantity:** There are 12 publicly accessible health and fitness facilities currently available in Shepway, collectively comprising 515 equipment stations, plus the currently closed facility at Pent Valley Leisure Centre, which has an additional 24 stations. Additional demand by 2037 will amount to the equivalent of an extra 145 equipment stations.
- **Quality:** Ten of the twelve facilities have at least one aspect of quality that is rated as ‘poor’ or ‘very poor’, most frequently relating to disabled access.
- **Accessibility:** The whole population is within 20 minutes driving time of the nearest health and fitness facility.
- **Availability:** Four facilities offer ‘pay-and-play’ public access, but many of the remaining facilities offer a ‘day pass’ arrangement, allowing short-term access on a non-membership basis.

### 7.1 Introduction

This section examines the provision of health and fitness facilities in Shepway. Health and fitness facilities are defined as dedicated community accessible facilities with a range of exercise equipment.

### 7.2 Quantity

#### 7.2.1 Health and fitness facilities with community use

The location and number of stations at health and fitness facilities with community use in Shepway is as follows:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Stations</i>	<i>Built/refitted</i>
Al's Gym	North Street, New Romney TN28 8DW	17	2002
Bannantyne's Health Club	Shearway Road, Folkestone CT19 4RH	61	2004
Dynamix Leisure	Firs Lane, Folkestone CT19 4QF	50	2013
Fitone	Sandgate Road, Folkestone CT20 2AA	60	2014
Folkestone Sports Centre	Radnor Park Avenue, Folkestone CT19 5HX	65	2010
Hi-Rep Gym	Wear Bay Crescent, Folkestone CT19 6BA	66	2014
Hythe Imperial Health Club	Princes Parade, Hythe CT21 6AE	26	2010
Hythe Swimming Pool	South Road, Hythe CT21 6AR	9	2010
Pent Valley Leisure Centre*	Tile Kiln Lane, Folkestone CT19 4PB	24	2005
Marsh Academy Leisure Centre	Station Road, New Romney TN28 8BB	35	2012
Spindles Health and Leisure	The Harbour, Folkestone CT20 1TX	16	2007
Three Hills Sports Park	Cheriton Road, Folkestone CT19 5JU	10	2013
TruGym	West Terrace, Folkestone CT20 1RR	100	2014

\* Facility currently closed during the conversion of the site to a Free School, which will open in September 2019.

## 7.2.2 Health and fitness facilities without community use

The location of health and fitness facilities with no community use in Shepway is as follows:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Stations</i>	<i>Year built</i>
Brockhill Park Performing Arts College	Sandling Road, Hythe CT21 4HL	19	2006
Folkestone Academy	Academy Lane, Folkestone CT19 5FP	10	Unknown
Sir John Moore Barracks	Folkestone CT20 3HG	50	2016
The Folkestone School for Girls	Coolinge Lane, Folkestone CT20 3RB	20	Unknown
The Harvey Grammar School	Cheriton Road, Folkestone CT19 5JY	20	2017

## 7.3 Quality

### 7.3.1 The criteria assessed

The quality of health and fitness facilities was assessed by a non-technical visual inspection during a site visit to all facilities. The criteria that were evaluated were as follows:

- ***Fitness facilities:*** The overall condition, mix of cardio-vascular and resistance equipment, lighting and ambience.
- ***Changing facilities:*** Capacity, condition and fitness for purpose.
- ***Disability access:*** Provision of disability-specific equipment and disabled access throughout the facility.
- ***General access:*** Car parking, lighting, signposting and proximity to public transport.

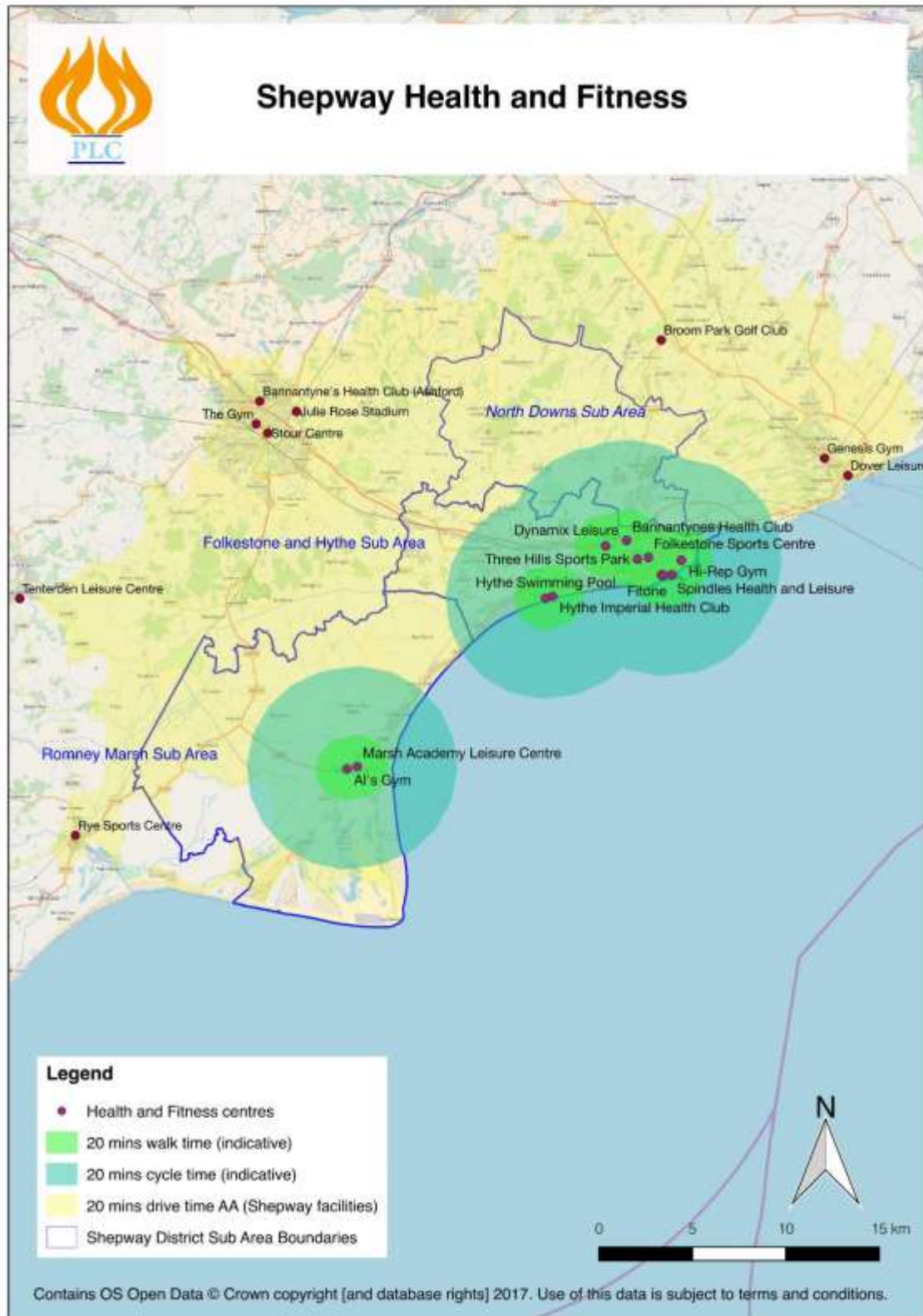
### 7.3.2 The basis of the ratings

The facilities were rated on a five-point scale, where 5 equates to ‘very good’ (highlighted in green below), 4 to ‘good’ (also highlighted in green below), 3 to ‘average’ (highlighted in yellow below), 2 to ‘poor’ (highlighted in red below) and 1 to ‘very poor’.

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Fitness facilities</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Disability Access</i>	<i>General access</i>
Al’s Gym	3	2	1	3
Bannantyne’s Health Club	5	5	4	5
Dynamix Leisure	4	4	2	4
Fitone	4	3	1	5
Folkestone Sports Centre	5	3	4	2
Hi-Rep Gym	1	1	0	2
Hythe Imperial Health Club	3	3	2	4
Hythe Swimming Pool	4	2	1	3
Marsh Academy Leisure Centre	5	3	3	5
Spindles Health and Leisure	3	2	1	2
Three Hills Sports Park	4	5	3	5
TruGym	5	2	1	5

## 7.4 Accessibility

The map below shows the location of all health and fitness facilities in Shepway. Based on Sport England research, the ‘effective catchment’ for health and fitness facilities is 20 minutes driving time. The map shows that the whole of Shepway is within 20 minutes’ drive of the nearest facility, with the exception of a sparsely populated area in the south-west of the district:



## 7.5 Availability

The table below identifies the opening hours, usage arrangements and pricing (shown as monthly direct debit costs to facilitate comparison). The information was supplied by the facility operators.

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Opening hours and basis of use</i>	<i>Pricing</i>
Al's Gym	Mon - Fri 9am - 1pm, 3pm - 9pm Sat - Sun 10am - 2pm Membership only, but day pass available for £3.50 per day	£28
Bannantyne's Health Club	Mon - Fri 6.30am - 10.30pm Sat - Sun 8am - 9pm Membership only, but day pass available for £15 per day	£55
Dynamix Leisure	Mon - Fri 6.30am - 10pm Sat 7.30am - 5pm Sun 9am - 3pm Membership only, but day pass available for £7 per day	£38
Fitone	Mon - Fri 7.30am - 9pm Sat 9am - 4pm Sun 9am - 1pm Membership only, but day pass available for £6 per day	£33.08
Folkestone Sports Centre	Mon - Fri 6.30pm - 10pm Sat - Sun 7am - 6pm Pay-and-play' (£6 per session) and membership	£35
Hi-Rep Gym	Mon - Fri 10am - 9pm Sat 10am - 6pm Sun 10am - 2pm Membership only	£22
Hythe Imperial Health Club	Mon-Fri 6.30am -10pm Sat-Sun 8am - 8pm Membership only, but day pass available for £10 per day	£49
Hythe Swimming Pool	Mon - Fri 7am - 10pm Sat - Sun 7am - 5pm 'Pay-and-play' (£4.50 per session) and membership	£18.40
Pent Valley Leisure Centre*	Currently closed	-
Marsh Academy Leisure Centre	Mon - Fri 7am - 10pm Sat - Sun 8am - 6pm Pay-and-play' (£6.80 per session) and membership	£15
Spindles Health and Leisure	Mon - Fri 6.30am - 8.30pm Sat - Sun 9am - 6.30pm Membership only	£19.99
Three Hills Sports Park	Mon - Fri 7am - 10pm Sat 9am - 10pm Sun 9am - 9pm 'Pay-and-play' (£5 per session) and membership	£15
TruGym	Mon - Fri 6am - 10pm Sat - Sun 8am - 8pm Membership only, but day pass available for £6 per day	£15.99

## 7.6 Key findings on supply

The key findings are as follows:

- There are 12 publicly accessible health and fitness facilities currently available in Shepway, collectively comprising 515 equipment stations, plus the currently closed facility at Pent Valley Leisure Centre, which has an additional 24 stations.
- Four facilities offer 'pay-and-play' public access, but many of the remaining facilities offer a 'day pass' arrangement, allowing short-term access on a non-membership basis.
- Membership charges vary between £15 and £55 per month, although there are discounted introductory offers at many facilities.
- Ten of the twelve facilities have at least one aspect of quality that is rated as 'poor' or 'very poor', most frequently relating to disabled access.

- There are ten facilities, collectively providing 380 equipment stations in the urban sub-area, two collectively providing 135 equipment stations in the New Romney sub-area, but none in the North Downs sub-area (although provision in Folkestone is relatively accessible to residents in that area).

## 7.7 Current demand for health and fitness facilities

### 7.7.1 Expressed demand

The 2016 ‘*State of the UK Fitness Industry*’ report’ reveals that the UK health and fitness industry is continuing to grow. It has more clubs, more members and a greater market value than ever before. Over the twelve-month period to the end of March 2016, there were increases of:

- 1.9% in the number of fitness facilities.
- 5.3% in the number of members.
- 3.2% in overall market value.

For the first time ever, health and fitness members exceeded 9 million. 1 in 7 people in the UK is a member of a gym, an all-time penetration rate high of 14.3%. The low-cost market with its large membership numbers, online joining, long opening hours and low-prices has continued to expand rapidly. The private low-cost sector now accounts for 12% of the total number of private clubs, 13% of the private market value and 32% of the private sector membership.

### 7.7.2 Displaced demand

Displaced demand relates to users of health and fitness facilities from within the study area which takes place outside of the area. The following facilities are located in adjacent local authority areas, close enough to the district boundary to provide usage opportunities for Shepway residents.

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Distance from Shepway boundary</i>
Bannantyne’s Health Club	Eureka Leisure Park, Ashford TN25 4BN	6 miles
Broom Park Golf Club	Canterbury Road, Barham CT4 6QX	1 mile
Dover Leisure Centre	Townwall Street, Dover CT16 1LN	6 miles
Flackley Ash Leisure Club	Flackley Ash TN31 6YH	2 miles
Genesis Gym	London Road, Dover CT17 0SH	6 miles
Julie Rose Stadium	Willesborough Road, Ashford TN24 9QX	6 miles
Rye Sports Centre	The Grove, Rye TN31 7ND	3 miles
Stour Centre	Station Approach, Ashford TN23 1ET	6 miles
Tenterden Leisure Centre	Recreation Ground Road, Tenterden TN30 6RA	6 miles
The Gym	New Street, Ashford TN24 8TN	6 miles

### 7.7.3 Unmet demand

There are two measures of unmet demand:

- Consultation with the operators of all health and fitness facilities in the district have indicated that they can accommodate some new users/members, so a lack facility capacity is not an issue even though usage is busy in the peak periods.
- UK Active has devised a model that provides guidance on the supply of health and fitness stations against the current anticipated demand. The model uses national data from fitness facility operators, with the most recent local data for health and fitness participation from the 'Active People' survey. The model anticipates a need for 608 fitness stations, which compares with actual supply of 515 stations, indicating a notional shortfall of 93 stations:

<b>Element</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Number</b>
Shepway adult population	-	91,700
% health and fitness participants	5.95%	5,456
Average visits per week	2.4	13,095
No. visits at peak period	65%	8,512
Capacity in one hour of peak time	28	304
No stations required at peak time	-	608

### 7.8 Local sports participation priorities

There are no specific local sports participation priorities in Shepway, other than a general policy commitment to promote health and well-being through increased levels of physical activity. Health and fitness facilities have a particular role to play in this, given the breadth of appeal to all age groups.

### 7.9 Sport-specific priorities

There are no identified strategic priorities for developing health and fitness facilities in Shepway.

### 7.10 Future demand for health and fitness facilities

#### 7.10.1 Population growth

SDC's 'Strategic Housing Market Assessment' (2015) generated a projected population of 126,505 for Shepway by 2037, based on a combination of demographic change and net migration. This will represent an increase of 18,536 people, or 17.2% over the 2011 census figure.

#### 7.10.2 Participation rates

One factor in considering future sports participation rates is to track historical trends, as a guide to possible future developments. Sport England's 'Active People' survey has recorded adult (16+) weekly participation rates for health and fitness at national and local level on an annual basis since 2005. The results are tabulated below and show that participation rates nationally have increased significantly over the past decade:

<b>2005/06</b>	<b>2007/08</b>	<b>2008/09</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>% Change</b>
12.6%	14.1%	14.0%	14.3%	14.3%	14.6%	15.3%	15.4%	15.5%	16.0%	+3.4%

### 7.10.3 Future projections

Local health and fitness participation rates have increased by an average of 0.35% per annum over the past decade. It would therefore be reasonable to assume a similar growth rate until 2037, which would increase demand by 0.35% by the end of the plan period. When combined with population growth of 17.2%, this would collectively increase demand by 24.2% by 2037. Based on current provision of 515 equipment stations and no effective spare capacity, there will be demand for 640 stations by 2037, an increase of 125 over the existing figure.

### 7.11 Key findings on demand

The key findings are as follows:

- In line with national trends, expressed demand for health and fitness facilities in Shepway is high.
- Demand is projected to increase by 24.2% by the end of the plan period. This will lead to a need for an extra 125 equipment stations by 2037.

### 7.12 The balance between health and fitness supply and demand

Four criteria have been assessed to evaluate the balance between health and fitness facility supply and demand in Shepway:

- **Quantity:** Are there enough facilities with sufficient capacity to meet needs now and in the future?
- **Quality:** Are the facilities fit for purpose for the users now and in the future?
- **Accessibility:** Are the facilities in the right physical location for the users now and in the future?
- **Availability:** Are the facilities available for those who want to use them now and in the future?

### 7.13 Quantity

#### 7.13.1 Current needs

Current health and fitness facilities in Shepway are assessed to be at operating at close to full capacity, based upon the following evaluation:

- **Used peak capacity:** Although no detailed figures are available, consultation with local operators indicates that most facilities are operating at close to full capacity in the peak periods.
- **Satisfied demand:** There is no empirical evidence of unmet demand, with a good geographical spread of provision, although the application of UK Active's demand model indicates a notional shortfall of 93 fitness equipment stations in the peak period.



- **Changes in supply:** There are no known planned changes to supply, although commercial sector providers are likely to respond to increases in demand by expanding local capacity.

### 7.13.2 Future needs

The quantity of health and fitness provision required to meet future needs has been assessed as equivalent to 640 fitness stations by 2037, based upon the following evaluation:

- **Demand increases:** The district's population is projected to increase by 18,536 to by 2037. This will represent an increase of 17.2% over the 2011 census figure.
- **Participation trends:** Health and fitness participation rates have increased by an average of 0.35% per annum over the past decade. It would therefore be reasonable to assume a similar growth rate until 2037, which would increase demand by 7.0% by the end of the plan period.
- **Additional needs:** Based on the above figures and on current provision of 515 equipment stations and no effective spare capacity, there will be demand for 640 stations by 2037, an increase of 125 over the existing figure.

## 7.14 Quality

### 7.14.1 Current quality

Ten of the twelve facilities have at least one aspect of quality that is rated as 'poor' or 'very poor', most frequently relating to disabled access. Disabled access problems most frequently involve a lack of adaptive equipment and access difficulties.

### 7.14.2 Future quality

Current quality issues will need to be addressed, but in a highly competitive market commercial health and fitness providers place a premium on equipment innovation and facility quality, so it seems reasonable to assume that local provision will continue to be upgraded regularly. Supporting facility operators to achieve IFI Mark accreditation through the Inclusive Fitness Initiative would ensure better disabled access in the future.

## 7.15 Accessibility

### 7.15.1 Current accessibility

The whole population is within 20 minutes driving time of the nearest health and fitness facility, with the exception of a sparsely populated area in the south-west of the district. There are ten facilities, collectively providing 360 equipment stations in the urban sub-area, two collectively providing 135 equipment stations in the New Romney sub-area, but none in the North Downs sub-area (although provision in Folkestone is relatively accessible to residents in that area).

### 7.15.2 Future accessibility

Commercial health and fitness operators are likely to ensure that additional facilities are provided that are well-located in relation to new housing developments.

## **7.16 Availability**

### **7.16.1 Current availability**

Four facilities offer ‘pay-and-play’ public access, but many of the remaining facilities offer a ‘day pass’ arrangement, allowing short-term access on a non-membership basis. Membership charges vary between £15 and £55 per month, although there are discounted introductory offers at many facilities.

### **7.16.2 Future availability**

With a competitive local market including several low-cost commercial providers, it seems unlikely that cost will be a barrier to accessibility in the future. However, the inclusion of expanded ‘pay-and-play’ health and fitness provision as part of the new Hythe Swimming Pool would ensure that accessible facilities are available for the whole community in that area.

## **7.17 The options for securing additional health and fitness capacity**

The options for securing existing and additional health and fitness facility capacity to meet current and future needs are as follows:

### **7.17.1 Protect**

Protecting existing health and fitness facilities through the Local Plan will be key both to securing local provision by ensuring that planning policy supports the retention of existing facilities, including those with membership-only access, unless the loss of a facility would involve its replacement with a facility of at least the equivalent size, quality and accessibility.

### **7.17.2 Provide**

Ensuring that extra health and fitness capacity is achieved by:

- Providing new or expanded facilities at the new Hythe Leisure Centre, to ensure that ‘pay-and-play’ access is available.
- Providing new facilities in conjunction with new housing developments, in particular the Otterpool Park Garden Town and the Sellindge expansion, either on-site or through Section 106 developer contributions that reflect the additional demand arising from the additional population.
- Seeking to secure community use of the facility at Pent Valley Leisure Centre when the site re-opens in September 2019.
- Encouraging the provision of health and fitness facilities by commercial leisure providers.

### **7.17.3 Enhance**

Enhancing existing health and fitness capacity by:

- Negotiating with commercial operators to provide access for non-members in off-peak periods.

- Investigating community access to the four facilities on sites that have no external use at present.
- Addressing the quality issues that affect ten of the twelve health and fitness facilities in the district, in particular addressing disabled access problems through the promotion of the Inclusive Fitness Initiative.

### 7.18 Action Plan

The table below sets out the action plan for health and fitness facilities to guide the implementation of the strategy. All actions are generic, rather than facility specific. The capital cost estimates are based upon Sport England's *Facility Costs - Second Quarter of 2016* (2016).

<b>Issues</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Protection of existing health and fitness facilities.	Include a policy in the Local Plan to protect all existing health and fitness facilities.	SDC	-	-	High
Need for an additional 125 fitness stations by 2037.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand 'pay-and-play' capacity at the new Hythe Leisure Centre.</li> <li>• Include a requirement for a 'pay-and-play' health and fitness facility as part of a leisure centre in Otterpool Park Garden Town.</li> <li>• Negotiate secured community use of the facilities at Pent Valley Leisure Centre when it re-opens.</li> </ul>	SDC	Developers Turner Free School	Dependent on the scale and nature of provision.	Medium
'Pay-and-play' access to commercial health and fitness facilities.	Negotiate 'pay-and-play' access to commercial health and fitness facilities in off-peak periods.	SDC	Private health clubs	Possible funding to subsidise public use.	Medium
Funding for future health and fitness needs.	Include health and fitness facilities as 'relevant infrastructure' under CIL regulation 123.	SDC	-	-	High

## 8 SQUASH COURTS

### *Key findings:*

- **Quantity:** There are four facilities with community use in Shepway, collectively containing eight squash courts, plus two courts on an armed forces site with two courts and no public access. There is sufficient spare capacity at existing courts to meet all additional demand to 2037.
- **Quality:** The quality of both facilities is ‘good’. The quality of all facilities is rated as at least ‘average’.
- **Accessibility:** almost the whole of Shepway is within 20-minutes’ drive time of a squash court, with the exception of the western part of the Romney Marsh sub-area, which is within the catchment of the courts at the Rye Sports Centre in Rother.
- **Availability:** Two sites offer casual use and the squash clubs have membership fees that are set at reasonable rates with discounts for off-peak use and juniors.

### 8.1 Introduction

This section examines the provision of squash courts in Shepway. Squash courts are defined as specialist courts for squash and racketball, complying with regulation dimensions.

### 8.2 Quantity

#### 8.2.1 Squash Courts with community use

The location and number of squash courts with community use in Shepway is as follows:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Courts</i>	<i>Year built</i>
Folkestone Sports Centre	Radnor Park Avenue, Folkestone CT19 5HX	3	2006
Hythe Cricket & Squash Club	The Grove, Hythe CT21 6AX	2	2008
Hythe Imperial Health Club	Princes Parade, Hythe CT21 6AE	1	2004
Marsh Academy Leisure Centre	Station Road, New Romney TN28 8BB	2	2006

#### 8.2.2 Squash Courts without community use

The location and number of squash courts with no community use in Shepway is as follows:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Courts</i>	<i>Year built</i>
Sir John Moore Barracks	Folkestone CT20 3HG	2	Unknown

## 8.3 Quality

### 8.3.1 The criteria assessed

The quality of squash courts was assessed by a non-technical visual inspection during a site visit to all facilities. The criteria that were assessed to give a single overall score for each squash facility were the court surface, changing provision, line markings, walls, disability and general access and fitness for purpose.

### 8.3.2 The basis of the ratings

The facilities were rated on a five-point scale, where 5 equates to ‘very good’, 4 to ‘good’ (highlighted in green below), 3 to ‘average’, 2 to ‘poor’ and 1 to ‘very poor’. The ratings for the squash courts in Shepway are shown in the table below.

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Score</i>
Folkestone Sports Centre	4
Hythe Cricket & Squash Club	5
Hythe Imperial Health Club	3
Marsh Academy Leisure Centre	4

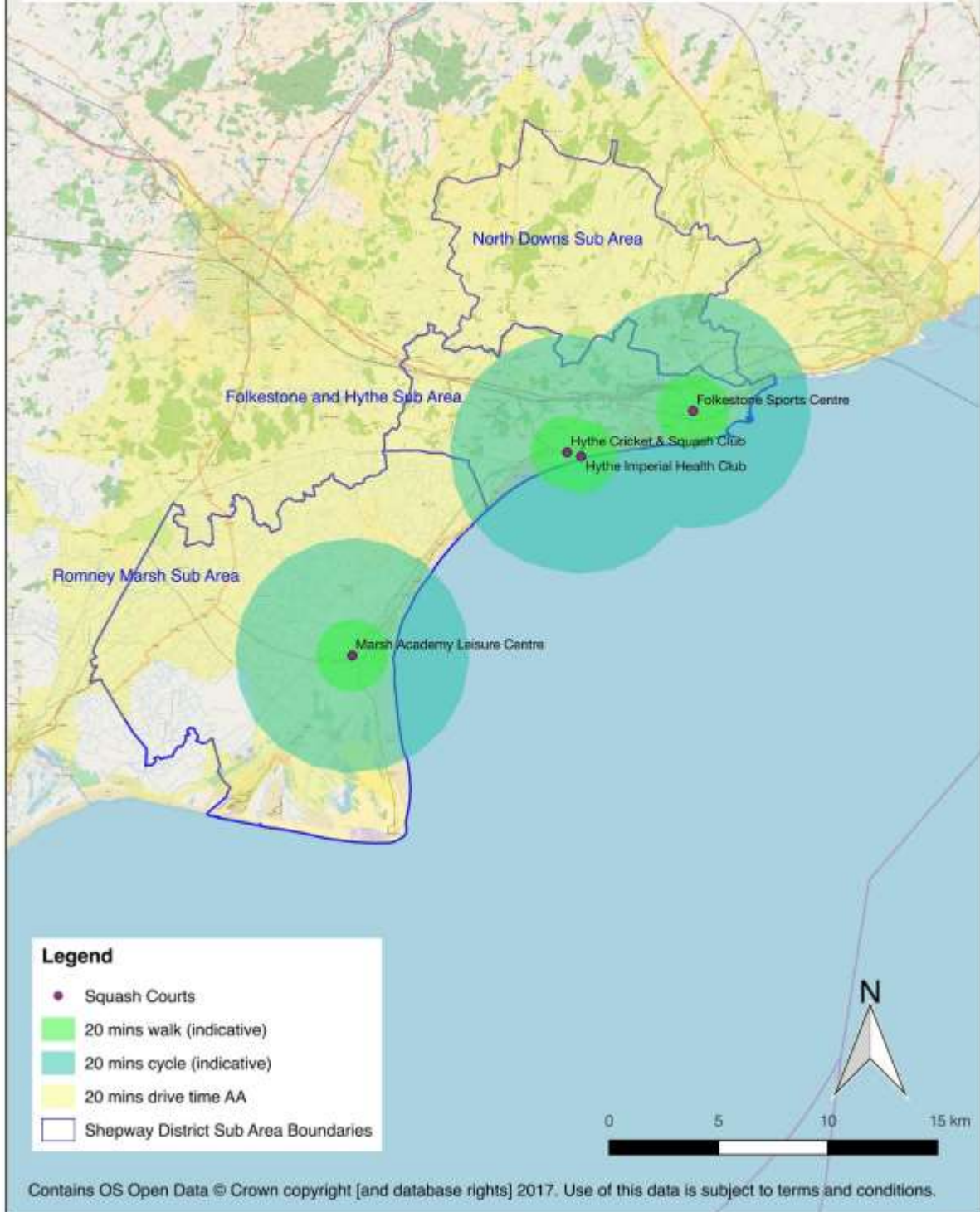
## 8.4 Accessibility

The map below shows the location of all squash courts in Shepway, along with drivetime catchments (in yellow), cycle time catchments (in blue) and walking time catchments (in green). Based on Sport England research, the ‘effective catchment’ for squash courts is 20 minutes driving time. The map overleaf shows the location of all squash courts in Shepway, together with courts in neighbouring areas within the 20-minute drivetime catchment of the district boundary. The drive times were generated using an Open Source Mapping Tool, powered by Open Route Services and based upon AA Route Planner data.

The map shows that almost the whole of Shepway is within 20-minutes drive time of a squash court, with the exception of the western part of the Romney Marsh sub-area, which is within the catchment of the courts at the Rye Sports Centre in Rother.



## Shepway Squash Courts



## 8.5 Availability

The table below identifies the opening hours, usage arrangements, pricing and used capacity in the peak period. The information was supplied by the facility operators. At Folkestone Sports Centre and Marsh Academy Leisure Centre, the usage rates include the use of the courts for other non-squash activities, in particular soft play and fitness classes.

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Opening hours and basis of use</i>	<i>Pricing</i>	<i>Peak usage</i>
Folkestone Sports Centre	Mon - Fri 6.30pm - 10pm Sat - Sun 7am - 6pm 'Pay and play' usage	£7.00 per court per 45 mins	40%
Hythe Cricket & Squash Club	Mon-Sun 8.30am -10pm Sat-Sun 8am - 8pm Membership only	£95 per annum for peak use £60 per annum for off-peak	50%
Hythe Imperial Health Club	Mon-Fri 6.30am -10pm Sat-Sun 8am - 8pm Membership only	Day pass available for £10 per day £3.00 per 45 mins	30%
Marsh Academy Leisure Centre	Mon-Fri 5pm - 10pm Sat-Sun 8am-6pm 'Pay-and-play' usage	£7.00 per court per 45 mins	50%

## 8.6 Key findings on supply

The key findings are as follows:

- There are four facilities with community use in Shepway, collectively containing eight squash courts, plus two courts on an armed forces site with two courts and no public access. Two the community accessible facilities are available for use on a 'pay-and-play' basis.
- The quality of all facilities is rated as at least 'average'.
- There are three facilities, collectively providing six courts in the urban sub-area, one providing two courts in the Romney Marsh sub-area, but none in the North Downs sub-area (although provision in Folkestone is relatively accessible to residents in that area).
- Availability in the peak periods is relatively good, with an average of 42.5% used capacity. However, there are some pressures at Folkestone Sports Centre and Marsh Academy Leisure Centre, where non-squash usage if the courts causes some pinch points.

## 8.7 Current demand for squash courts

### 8.7.1 Expressed demand

Squash participation has been in long-term decline. Both clubs in the district have experienced falling membership in the past decade although both currently have stable numbers, with 33 members at Hythe Squash Club and 41 at Folkestone Squash Club.

### 8.7.2 Displaced demand

Displaced demand relates to users of squash courts from within the study area which takes place outside of the area. The following facilities are located in adjacent local authority areas, close enough to the district boundary to provide usage opportunities for Shepway residents.

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Distance from Shepway boundary</i>
Dover Leisure Centre	Townwall Street, Dover CT16 1LN	6 miles
Rye Sports Centre	The Grove, Rye TN31 7ND	3 miles
Stour Centre	Station Approach, Ashford TN23 1ET	6 miles

### 8.7.3 Unmet demand

Unmet demand involves two components:

- Demand that cannot be met within a facility catchment due to excess demand for that facility.
- Demand that cannot be met because it is located outside the catchment of a facility.

At Folkestone Sports Centre, the use of the courts for other activities such as fitness classes limits some peak time access. Folkestone Squash Club commented that ‘we cannot fully train new players, especially juniors on Saturday mornings. Some matches have had to be stopped. As a club we need a squash court, others using this space just need a generic space, but not our dedicated area’.

### 8.8 Local sports participation priorities

There are no specific local sports participation priorities in Shepway, other than a general policy commitment to promote health and well-being through increased levels of physical activity. As a specialist activity, squash is likely to have limited appeal to new sports participants.

### 8.9 Sport-specific priorities

Consultation with Kent Squash and Racketball’s County Development Officer identified the following issues:

- A Primary Schools Squash Academy initiative has been launched in Kent, which involves coaching year 4 children in schools before creating pathways into local clubs. In Folkestone, the initiative has attracted between 50 and 70 junior players who are now based at The Folkestone Sports Centre courts.
- Kent Squash would like to extend its development programmes to the Marsh Academy courts in New Romney in the future.
- The governing body delivers a ‘Squashercise’ programme to attract women into squash and racketball via a squash related exercise programme.
- Kent Squash would like to introduce an Active Racketball programme for older people in Shepway, which involves a version of the game that is more accessible to older people and in particular attracts many former players.



## 8.10 Future demand for squash courts

### 8.10.1 Population growth

SDC's 'Strategic Housing Market Assessment' (2015) generated a projected population of 126,505 for Shepway by 2037, based on a combination of demographic change and net migration. This will represent an increase of 18,536 people, or 17.2% over the 2011 census figure.

### 8.10.2 Participation rates

One factor in considering future sports participation rates is to track historical trends, as a guide to possible future developments. Sport England's 'Active People' survey has recorded adult (16+) weekly participation rates for squash at national level on an annual basis since 2005. The results are tabulated below and show that participation has declined significantly over the past decade, with the number of regular (at least once a week) players falling by more than 100,000, from 299,800 in 2005 to 199,500 in 2016. The adult participation rates are detailed below:

2005/06	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	% Change
0.74%	0.71%	0.72%	0.69%	0.67%	0.61%	0.55%	0.45%	0.51%	0.45%	-0.29%

### 8.10.3 Future projections

Local squash participation rates have been stable in recent years and whilst this runs counter to national trends, despite the efforts of Kent Squash it would be reasonable to assume static growth to 2037. Population growth of 17.2% will therefore increase demand for squash court capacity by a similar amount.

## 8.11 Key findings on demand

The key findings are as follows:

- Contrary to national trends, expressed demand for squash courts in Shepway is stable.
- Population growth of 17.2% in Shepway by 2037 is likely increase demand for squash court capacity by a similar amount.

## 8.12 The balance between squash court supply and demand

Four criteria have been assessed to evaluate the balance between squash court supply and demand in Shepway:

- **Quantity:** Are there enough courts with sufficient capacity to meet needs now and in the future?
- **Quality:** Are the courts fit for purpose for the users now and in the future?
- **Accessibility:** Are the courts in the right physical location for the users now and in the future?

- **Availability:** Are the courts available for those who want to use them now and in the future?

## 8.13 Quantity

### 8.13.1 Current needs

Current squash courts in Shepway are assessed to be at operating with significant spare capacity, based upon the following evaluation:

- **Used peak capacity:** The courts in the district are currently used for an average of 42.5% in the peak period. This includes some use of the courts for non-squash activities.
- **Satisfied demand:** There is some evidence of unmet demand in the district, caused by fitness classes and soft play using squash courts in the peak period, but this could be managed with better co-ordination of the respective programmes.
- **Changes in supply:** There are no known planned changes to supply, with relatively recent court refurbishment at all sites.

### 8.13.2 Future needs

Spare capacity at the existing courts should be able to accommodate all additional future demand, based upon the following evaluation:

- **Demand increases:** The district's population is projected to increase by 34,030 to by 2037. This will represent an increase of 17.2% over the 2011 census figure.
- **Participation trends:** Local squash participation rates have been projected to remain static until 2037.
- **Additional needs:** With 57.5% spare peak time capacity at the existing courts, all additional demand can be accommodated by current spare capacity.

## 8.14 Quality

### 8.14.1 Current quality

There are no significant quality issues relating to squash courts in Shepway, although the position should be kept under review.

### 8.14.2 Future quality

All local providers continue to invest in maintaining and improving their facilities, so if this process can be assisted with funding from developer contributions in the future, it seems reasonable to assume that local provision will continue to be upgraded regularly.

## **8.15 Accessibility**

### **8.15.1 Current accessibility**

There are three sites, collectively providing six squash courts in the urban sub-area, one site providing two courts in the New Romney sub-area, but none in the North Downs sub-area (although provision in Folkestone is relatively accessible to residents in that area).

### **8.15.2 Future accessibility**

Since the current facilities are geographically well-located to serve districtwide needs, they will continue to serve future needs.

## **8.16 Availability**

### **8.16.1 Current availability**

Two sites offer casual use and the squash clubs have membership fees that are set at reasonable rates with discounts for off-peak use and juniors.

### **8.16.2 Future availability**

It is reasonable to assume that similar membership arrangements will be offered in the future and if developer contribution funding is offered to enhance the facilities at both sites, it could be conditional on the provision of 'pay-and-play' access.

## **8.17 The options for securing additional squash court capacity**

The options for securing existing and additional squash court capacity to meet current and future needs are as follows:

### **8.17.1 Protect**

Protecting existing squash courts through the Local Plan will be key both to securing local provision by ensuring that planning policy supports the retention of existing facilities, unless the loss of a facility would involve its replacement with a facility of at least the equivalent size, quality and accessibility.

### **8.17.2 Provide**

There is no identified strategic need to provide additional squash courts, although the position should be regularly reviewed over the lifespan of the strategy.

### **8.17.3 Enhance**

Enhancing existing squash courts by ensuring that the courts and ancillary facilities receive regular maintenance and improvements.

## **8.18 Action Plan**

The table below sets out the action plan for squash courts to guide the implementation of the strategy.

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Protection of existing squash courts.	Include a policy in the Local Plan to protect all existing squash courts.	SDC	-	-	High
Use of squash courts for other activities at peak times.	All facility operators to prioritise squash usage at peak times, with other activities programmed accordingly.	Court providers	-	-	High
Maintaining existing squash courts	Support existing providers to maintain existing courts to sustain and improve current quality.	SDC	Court providers	Dependent on the scale and nature of provision.	High

## 9 INDOOR AND OUTDOOR TENNIS COURTS

### *Key findings:*

- **Quantity:** There is one indoor tennis court in Shepway, 35 outdoor courts with community access (15 of which are floodlit) and 14 outdoor courts without community use. There is sufficient spare capacity at existing indoor and outdoor courts to cater for all additional demand to 2037.
- **Quality:** The quality of courts is generally good, although disabled access is rated as ‘poor’ at the indoor court and two outdoor court sites.
- **Accessibility:** Whilst the whole population is within 30-minutes drivetime of the indoor court and within 10-minutes’ drive from the nearest outdoor tennis court.
- **Availability:** ‘Pay-and-play’ tennis is not available at the indoor court in the district but is at 22 (62.9%) of the 35 community-accessible outdoor courts.

### 9.1 Introduction

This section examines the provision of indoor and outdoor tennis courts in Shepway.

- Indoor tennis halls are defined specialist permanent or temporary indoor facilities with appropriate playing surface, line markings, nets and court dimensions for tennis.
- Outdoor tennis courts are defined as specialist outdoor facilities with appropriate playing surface, line markings and nets for tennis.

### 9.2 Quantity

#### 9.2.1 Indoor tennis courts with community use

Details of the indoor tennis court with community use in Shepway district is as follows:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>No. courts</i>
Hayne Barn Tennis Centre	Saltwood, Hythe CT21 4EH	1 tarmac

#### 9.2.2 Outdoor tennis courts with community use

The location and number of outdoor tennis courts with community use in Shepway is as follows:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>No. courts</i>
East Cliff tennis courts	Wear Bay Road, Folkestone CT19 6PY	8 grass
Elham tennis courts	Canterbury Road, Elham CT4 6XS	2 tarmac
Folkestone Academy	Academy Lane, Folkestone CT19 5FP	3 tarmac
Folkestone Tennis Club	Radnor Park Avenue, Folkestone CT19 5HX	3 tarmac
Hayne Barn Tennis Centre	Saltwood, Hythe CT21 4EH	1 tarmac
Hythe Lawn Tennis Club	The Grove, Hythe CT21 6AX	8 tarmac

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>No. courts</i>
Littlestone Golf Club	St. Andrew's Road, New Romney TN28 8RB	2 tarmac
Lyminge tennis court	Jubilee Field, Woodland Road, Lyminge CT18 8EW	1 tarmac
Sellindge Tennis Club	Swan Lane, Sellindge TN25 6HB	2 tarmac
South Road Recreation Ground	South Road, Hythe CT21 6AR	2 tarmac 3 grass

### 9.2.3 Outdoor tennis courts without community use

The location of outdoor tennis courts without community use in Shepway is as follows:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>No. courts</i>
Brockhill Park Performing Arts College	Sandling Road, Saltwood, Hythe CT21 4HL	6 tarmac
Sir John Moore Barracks	Folkestone CT20 3HG	2 tarmac
The Harvey Grammar School*	Cheriton Road, Folkestone CT19 5JY	6 tarmac

\* On the school site but owned by Shepway District Council and no current community use.

## 9.3 Quality

### 9.3.1 The criteria assessed for indoor courts

The quality of indoor tennis courts was assessed by a non-technical visual inspection during a site visit to all facilities. The criteria that were assessed were as follows:

- **The court:** The overall condition, playing surface, clear span roof height, lighting, spectator provision, equipment and fitness for purpose.
- **Changing facilities:** The capacity, condition and fitness for purpose.
- **Disability access:** The extent of full disabled access to the facility, including the provision of access ramps, dedicated changing, toilets and car parking.
- **Maintenance and cleanliness:** The quality of maintenance and cleanliness standards.
- **General access:** Car parking, signposting, external lighting and proximity to public transport.

### 9.3.2 The criteria assessed for outdoor courts

The quality of outdoor tennis courts was assessed by a non-technical visual inspection during a site visit to all facilities. The criteria that were assessed were as follows:

- **The court:** Court surface, line markings and fitness for purpose.
- **Fencing:** Condition and appearance.
- **Disability access:** Provision for disabled access to the courts.
- **General access:** Parking, signage and proximity to public transport.

- **Lighting:** The quality, illumination levels and evenness of floodlights.

### 9.3.3 The basis of the ratings

The facilities were rated on a five-point scale, where 5 equates to ‘very good’ (highlighted in green below), 4 to ‘good’ (also highlighted in green below), 3 to ‘average’ (highlighted in yellow below), 2 to ‘poor’ (highlighted in red below) and 1 to ‘very poor’ (also highlighted in red below).

### 9.3.4 Indoor court assessment

The ratings for the indoor tennis courts in Shepway are shown in the table below.

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Courts</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Disability Access</i>	<i>Maintenance</i>	<i>General access</i>
Hayne Barn Tennis Centre	4	3	2	4	2

### 9.3.5 Outdoor court assessment

The ratings for the outdoor tennis courts in Shepway are shown in the table below.

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Court</i>	<i>Fencing</i>	<i>Disability Access</i>	<i>General access</i>	<i>Lighting</i>
East Cliff tennis courts	4	4	3	4	-
Elham tennis courts	5	5	2	4	5
Folkestone Academy	4	5	3	4	4
Folkestone Tennis Club	5	4	3	3	-
Hayne Barn Tennis Centre	4	5	2	2	-
Hythe Lawn Tennis Club	5	5	3	4	5
Littlestone Golf Club	4	4	4	4	-
Lyminge tennis court	3	5	3	3	-
Sellinge Tennis Club	5	5	4	5	5
South Road Recreation Ground	4	4	4	5	-

## 9.4 Accessibility

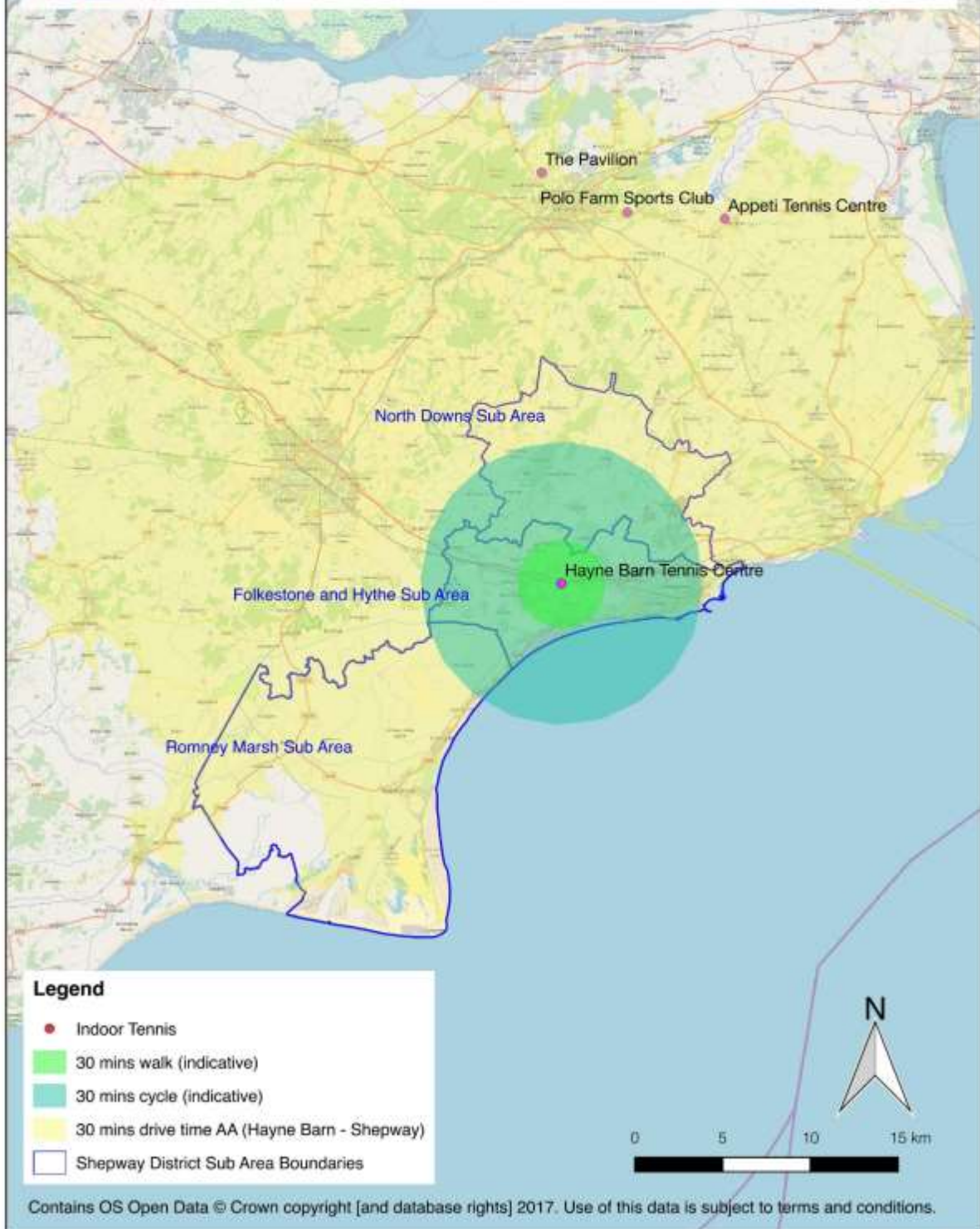
### 9.4.1 Indoor courts

The map below shows the location of the indoor tennis court in Shepway, along with the drivetime catchment (in yellow), cycle time catchment (in blue) and walking time catchment (in green). Based on Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) research, the ‘effective catchment’ for indoor tennis courts is 30 minutes driving time. The map below shows the location of the indoor tennis court in Shepway, together with courts in neighbouring areas which are within the 30-minute drivetime catchment of the district boundary. The drive times were generated using an Open Source Mapping Tool, powered by Open Route Services and based upon AA Route Planner data.

The map shows that the whole population is within the catchment of the indoor court, with the exception of a sparsely populated area in the south-west of the district:



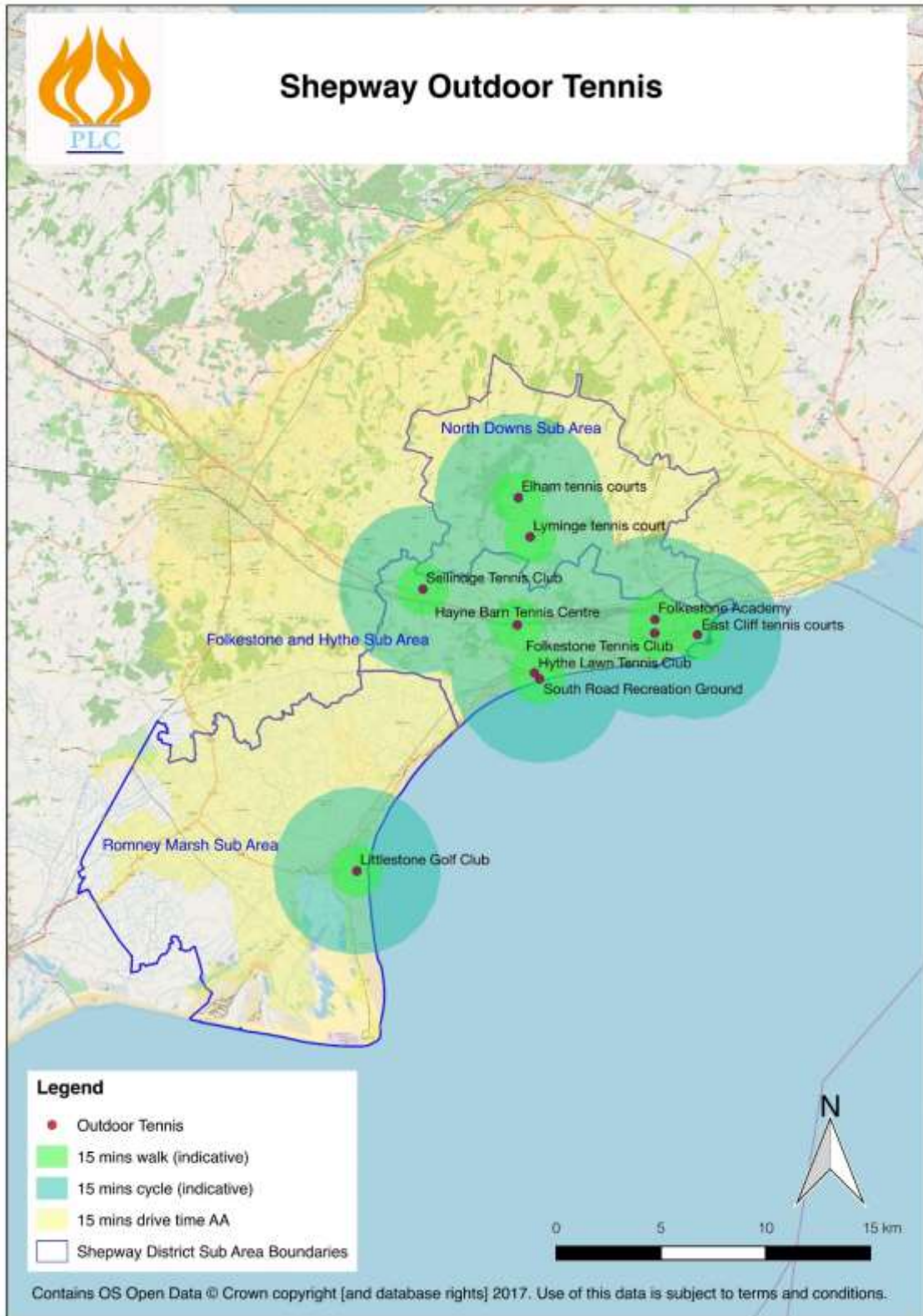
# Shepway Indoor Tennis





### 9.4.2 Outdoor courts

Based on LTA research, the ‘effective catchment’ for outdoor tennis courts is 10 minutes driving time. The map below shows the location of the outdoor tennis courts in Shepway and indicates that the whole population is within the catchment of at least one outdoor court, with the exception of a sparsely populated area of Romney Marsh.



## 9.5 Availability

### 9.5.1 Indoor courts

The table below identifies the opening hours, usage arrangements, pricing and used capacity in the peak period. The information was supplied by the facility operators.

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Opening hours and basis of use</i>	<i>Pricing</i>	<i>Peak usage</i>
Hayne Barn Tennis Centre	Mon - Sun 8am - 10.30pm Membership use only	£16 per hour (peak) £10 per hour (off-peak) 130 per year membership	65%

### 9.5.2 Outdoor courts

The table below identifies the basis of use and cost of tennis court usage in Shepway:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Basis of use</i>
East Cliff tennis courts	£2 per court per hour	'Pay-and-play'
Elham tennis courts	£5 per court per hour	'Pay-and-play'
Folkestone Academy	£5 per court per hour	'Pay-and-play'
Folkestone Tennis Club	£3.50 per court per hour casual hire	'Pay-and-play' Membership Coaching Academy
Hayne Barn Tennis Centre	£130 per year membership	Membership only
Hythe Lawn Tennis Club	£115 per year adult membership £12 per year junior membership	Membership only
Littlestone Golf Club	£730 per annum full membership	Golf club members only
Lyminge tennis courts	£3.50 per court per hour	'Pay-and-play'
Sellinge Tennis Club	£65 per year adult membership £25 per year junior membership	Membership only
South Road Recreation Ground	£4 per court per hour (adults) £1.60 per court per hour (juniors)	'Pay-and-play'

## 9.6 Key findings on supply

The key findings are as follows:

- There is one indoor tennis court in Shepway, 35 outdoor courts with community access and 14 outdoor courts without community use.
- The quality of indoor and outdoor courts is generally at least 'average' although disabled access is rated as 'poor' at two sites, including the indoor court at Hayne Barn.
- The whole population is within the 30-minute drivetime catchment of the indoor court in Hythe, with the exception of a sparsely populated area of Romney Marsh.
- The whole population is within 10-minutes' drive from the nearest outdoor tennis court, with the exception of a sparsely populated area of Romney Marsh.

- ‘Pay-and-play’ tennis is not available at the indoor court in the district but is at 22 (62.9%) of the 35 community-accessible outdoor courts.

## 9.7 Current demand for tennis courts

### 9.7.1 Expressed demand

Tennis participation has been in long-term decline, although most clubs in the district currently have stable membership numbers. The LTA provided the following data on utilisation rates at courts used by its affiliated clubs:

<i>Club</i>	<i>Courts</i>	<i>Capacity</i>	<i>Members</i>	<i>Used capacity</i>
Folkestone TC	3	120	60	50%
Hayne Barn TC	2	240	50	21%
Hythe TC	8	480	422	88%
Sellindge TC	2	120	41	34%

There are no detailed figures available for court utilisation rates at other sites in Shepway, but all local providers have indicated that there is significant spare capacity at most courts.

### 9.7.2 Displaced demand

Displaced demand relates to users of tennis courts from within the study area which takes place outside of the area. The following indoor tennis facilities are located in adjacent local authority areas, close enough to the district boundary to provide usage opportunities for Shepway residents.

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Distance from Shepway boundary</i>
Appeti Tennis Centre	Knight Avenue, Canterbury CT2 8QA	8 miles
Polo Farm Sports Club	Littlebourne Road, Canterbury CT3 4AF	7 miles
The Pavilion	University of Kent, Canterbury CT2 7SR	8 miles

### 9.7.3 Unmet demand

All clubs in the district have indicated that they can accommodate new users/members, so facility capacity is not an issue.

## 9.8 Local sports participation priorities

There are no specific local sports participation priorities in Shepway, other than a general policy commitment to promote health and well-being through increased levels of physical activity. As an activity appealing to both genders and most age groups, tennis is likely to have some appeal to new and lapsed sports participants.

## 9.9 Sport-specific priorities

Consultation with the Lawn Tennis Association’s Community Business Manager identified the following issues:

- The LTA’s ‘*Transforming Tennis Together*’ programme will invest £125 million over 10-years to improve local tennis facilities, with a target to double the number of children and casual adults playing tennis.
- The LTA wants to work with local networks, to promote a joined up, transformational improvement to existing facilities, largely through increasing the number of courts that are floodlit and covered but also courts that can be booked online.
- The LTA has provided previous funding for projects at Hythe Lawn Tennis Club.
- Three Hills Sports Park sits on the same land as six disused council-owned courts at Harvey Grammar School. These courts are unsafe to use and need re-developing. The improvement of the courts would dramatically impact on tennis participation in Shepway, as there is already a heavy footfall of residents taking part in different activities at the sports park and there are two schools surrounding the site.

## 9.10 Future demand for tennis courts

### 9.10.1 Population growth

SDC’s ‘*Strategic Housing Market Assessment*’ (2015) generated a projected population of 126,505 for Shepway by 2037, based on a combination of demographic change and net migration. This will represent an increase of 18,536 people, or 17.2% over the 2011 census figure.

### 9.10.2 Participation rates

One factor in considering future sports participation rates is to track historical trends, as a guide to possible future developments. Sport England’s ‘Active People’ survey has recorded adult (16+) weekly participation rates for tennis at national level on an annual basis since 2005. The results are tabulated below and show that participation has declined significantly over the past decade, with the number of regular (at least once a week) players falling by more than 59,000, from 457,200 in 2005 to 398,100 in 2016. The adult participation rates are detailed below:

2005/06	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	% Change
1.12%	1.18%	1.27%	1.04%	0.88%	1.03%	0.94%	0.89%	1.02%	0.90%	-0.22%

### 9.10.3 Future projections

Local tennis participation rates have been stable in recent years and whilst this runs counter to national trends, it would be reasonable to assume static growth to 2037. Population growth of 17.2% will therefore increase demand for tennis court capacity by a similar amount.

## 9.11 Key findings on demand

The key findings are as follows:

- Contrary to national trends, expressed demand for indoor and outdoor tennis courts in Shepway is stable.
- Population growth of 17.2% in Shepway by 2037 is likely increase demand for indoor and outdoor tennis court capacity by a similar amount.

## 9.12 The balance between tennis court supply and demand

Four criteria have been assessed to evaluate the balance between indoor and outdoor tennis court supply and demand in Shepway:

- **Quantity:** Are there enough courts with sufficient capacity to meet needs now and in the future?
- **Quality:** Are the courts fit for purpose for the users now and in the future?
- **Accessibility:** Are the courts in the right physical location for the users now and in the future?
- **Availability:** Are the courts available for those who want to use them now and in the future?

## 9.13 Quantity

### 9.13.1 Current needs

Current indoor and outdoor tennis courts in Shepway are assessed to be at operating with significant spare capacity, based upon the following evaluation:

- **Used capacity:** All local providers have indicated that there is significant spare capacity at most courts.
- **Satisfied demand:** There is no evidence of unmet demand in the district.
- **Changes in supply:** There are no known planned changes to tennis court supply, although the LTA has identified a priority to re-instate six unused tennis courts at Three Hills Sports Park.

### 9.13.2 Future needs

Spare capacity at the existing indoor and outdoor tennis courts should be able to accommodate all additional future demand, based upon the following evaluation:

- **Demand increases:** The district's population is projected to increase by 18,536 to by 2037. This will represent an increase of 17.2% over the 2011 census figure.
- **Participation trends:** Local tennis participation rates have been projected to remain static until 2037.
- **Additional needs:** With spare capacity at both indoor and outdoor courts, most additional demand can be accommodated by current spare capacity, although the re-instatement of six disused courts at Three Hills Sports Park will provide a development hub. Also, there is a case for making locally-accessible provision in the major new developments at Otterpool Park and the Sellindge expansion

- **Access to courts on school sites:** In addition to the 35 courts that are currently community accessible, there are a further 14 courts on school sites, where community use might be negotiated subject to additional demand.

## **9.14 Quality**

### **9.14.1 Current quality**

The quality of indoor and outdoor courts is generally at least ‘average’ although disabled access is rated as ‘poor’ at two sites, including the indoor court at Hayne Barn. The other main quality issue is the state of the court surfaces at the six unused tennis courts at the Three Hills Sports Park.

### **9.14.2 Future quality**

All court providers will need to continue to invest in maintaining and improving their facilities, so if this process can be assisted with funding from developer contributions in the future, it seems reasonable to assume that local provision will continue to be upgraded regularly.

## **9.15 Accessibility**

### **9.15.1 Current accessibility**

Whilst the whole population is within 30-minutes drivetime of the indoor court and within 10-minutes’ drive from the nearest outdoor tennis court.

### **9.15.2 Future accessibility**

Providing locally accessible outdoor tennis courts as part of the Otterpool Park and Sellindge expansion would be consistent with meeting health and well-being objectives in the new developments.

## **9.16 Availability**

### **9.16.1 Current availability**

‘Pay-and-play’ tennis is not available at the indoor court in the district but is at 22 (62.9%) of the 35 community-accessible outdoor courts.

### **9.16.2 Future availability**

It is reasonable to assume that a similar balance of ‘pay-and-play’ and membership arrangements will be offered in the future and if developer contribution funding is offered to enhance the facilities at club sites, it could be conditional on the provision of ‘pay-and-play’ access.

## **9.17 The options for securing additional tennis court capacity**

The options for securing existing and additional tennis court capacity to meet current and future needs are as follows:

### 9.17.1 Protect

Protecting existing indoor and outdoor tennis courts through the Local Plan will be key both to securing local provision by ensuring that planning policy supports the retention of existing facilities, unless the loss of a facility would involve its replacement with a facility of at least the equivalent size, quality and accessibility.

### 9.17.2 Provide

With spare capacity at both indoor and outdoor courts, most additional demand can be accommodated by current spare capacity, although the re-instatement of six disused courts at Three Hills Sports Park will provide a development hub. Also, there is a case for making locally-accessible provision in the major new developments at Otterpool Park and the Sellindge expansion

### 9.17.3 Enhance

Enhancing existing tennis court capacity by:

- Improving the quality of the six currently disused tennis courts at Three Hills Sports Park.
- Addressing the disabled access issues at the two sites where this is rated as ‘poor’.
- Ensuring that the courts and ancillary facilities receive regular maintenance and improvements, funded by developer contributions where appropriate.
- Negotiating community access to the 14 outdoor tennis courts on school sites.

## 9.18 Action Plan

### 9.18.1 Introduction

The tables below set out the action plan for indoor and outdoor tennis courts to guide the implementation of the strategy. The capital cost estimates are based upon Sport England’s *Facility Costs - Second Quarter of 2016* (2016).

### 9.18.2 Key strategic actions

<b>Issues</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Protection of existing tennis courts.	Include a policy in the Local Plan to protect all existing tennis courts.	SDC	-	-	High
Community access to school courts	Negotiate access to tennis courts on school sites.	SDC	Schools	-	Medium
Funding for future tennis court needs.	Include tennis courts as ‘relevant infrastructure’ under CIL regulation 123.	SDC	-	-	High
Meeting tennis development needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reinstate 6 courts at Three Hills Sports Park to create a Tennis Hub.</li> <li>• Include a requirement for tennis court provision in Otterpool Park Garden Town.</li> </ul>	SDC	Shepway Leisure LTA Developers	£200,000 for Three Hills £40,000 per court at Otterpool Park	High

### 9.18.3 Site-specific actions

<b>Site</b>	<b>Issues</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Priority</b>
East Cliff tennis courts	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Elham tennis courts	Poor quality disabled access	Improve disabled access	Elham Parish Council	Developers	£5,000	Medium
Folkestone Academy	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Folkestone Tennis Club	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Hayne Barn Tennis Centre	Poor quality disability and general access	Improve disabled and general access	Hayne Barn Indoor Tennis	Developers	£10,000	High
Hythe Lawn Tennis Club	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Littlestone Golf Club	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Lyminge tennis court	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Sellinge Tennis Club	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
South Road Recreation Ground	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-



## 10 INDOOR AND OUTDOOR BOWLS FACILITIES

### *Key findings:*

- **Quantity:** There is one 7-rink indoor bowls hall and 13 outdoor bowls greens in Shepway, one of which is currently disused. There is sufficient spare capacity at existing indoor and outdoor facilities to cater for all additional demand to 2037.
- **Quality:** The quality of facilities is generally good, but disabled access is rated as ‘poor’ at three sites.
- **Accessibility:** The whole population is within the 30-minute drivetime catchment of Folkestone Indoor Bowls Club and within 15-minutes’ drive from the nearest outdoor bowls green, apart from a sparsely populated area of Romney Marsh.
- **Availability:** All facilities operate on a membership basis, although several clubs run weekly introductory coaching sessions to attract new members. The East Cliff bowls green is available for ‘pay-and-play’ bowls.

### 10.1 Introduction

This section examines the provision of indoor and outdoor bowls facilities in Shepway.

- Indoor bowls halls are defined specialist indoor facilities with appropriate playing surface and rink dimensions for bowls.
- Outdoor bowls greens are defined as effectively flat, fine turf grassed areas, 40 yards x 40 yards, with regulation banks and ditches around the perimeter and ancillary facilities for changing and equipment storage.

### 10.2 Quantity

#### 10.2.1 Indoor bowls halls with community use

The location and number of rinks at the only indoor bowls hall with community use in Shepway is as follows:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Rinks</i>
Folkestone Indoor Bowls Centre	Cheriton Road, Folkestone CT19 5JU	7

#### 10.2.2 Outdoor bowls greens with community use

The location and number of outdoor bowls greens with community use in Shepway is as follows:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Address</i>
Cheriton Bowls Club	Weymouth Road, Cheriton, Folkestone CT19 4LS
East Cliff bowls green	Wear Bay Road, Folkestone CT19 6PY
Folkestone Bowls Club (x2)*	Cheriton Road, Folkestone CT19 5JU

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Address</i>
Folkestone Park Bowls Club (x2)	Radnor Park Avenue, Folkestone CT19 5HY
Hythe Bowls Club	Canal Bank, Ladies Walk, Hythe CT21 6AX
Lyminge Bowls Club	Woodland Road, Lyminge CT18 8EW
New Romney Bowls Club (x2)	Sussex Road, New Romney TN28 8HL
Sellindge & District Bowls Club	69, Swan Lane, Sellindge TN25 6HB
Wear Bay Bowls Club (x2)	Wear Bay Road, Folkestone CT20 1PD

\* One green currently disused.

## 10.3 Quality

### 10.3.1 The criteria assessed for indoor bowls halls

The quality of the indoor bowls hall was assessed by a non-technical visual inspection during a site visit. The criteria that were assessed were as follows:

- **The green:** The overall condition, lighting, spectator provision, equipment storage and fitness for purpose.
- **Changing facilities:** The capacity, condition and fitness for purpose.
- **Disability access:** The extent of full disabled access to the facility, including the provision of access ramps, dedicated changing, toilets and car parking.
- **General access:** Car parking, signposting, external lighting and proximity to public transport.

### 10.3.2 The criteria assessed for outdoor bowls greens

The quality of outdoor bowls greens was assessed by a non-technical visual inspection during a site visit to all facilities. The criteria that were assessed were as follows:

- **The green:** The quality of the grass, flatness and regulation ditches.
- **Changing facilities:** The capacity, condition and fitness for purpose.
- **Disability access:** The extent of full disabled access to the facility, including the provision of access ramps, dedicated changing, toilets and car parking.
- **General access:** Parking, signage and proximity to public transport.

### 10.3.3 The basis of the ratings

The facilities were rated on a five-point scale, where 5 equates to ‘very good’ (highlighted in green below), 4 to ‘good’ (also highlighted in green below), 3 to ‘average’ (highlighted in yellow below), 2 to ‘poor’ (highlighted in red below) and 1 to ‘very poor’.

### 10.3.4 Indoor bowls hall assessment

The ratings for the indoor bowls facility in Shepway are shown in the table below.

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Green</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Disability Access</i>	<i>General access</i>
Folkestone Indoor Bowls Centre	5	5	4	5

### 10.3.5 Outdoor bowls greens assessment

The ratings for the outdoor bowls greens in Shepway are shown in the table below.

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Green</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Disability Access</i>	<i>General access</i>
Cheriton Bowls Club	4	4	2	4
East Cliff bowls green	4	5	3	5
Folkestone Bowls Club	4	4	3	5
Folkestone Park Bowls Club	4	5	4	4
Hythe Bowls Club	4	5	3	4
Lyminge Bowls Club	5	5	2	4
New Romney Bowls Club	5	5	4	5
Sellinge & District Bowls Club	4	4	3	4
Wear Bay Bowls Club	4	4	1	5

## 10.4 Accessibility

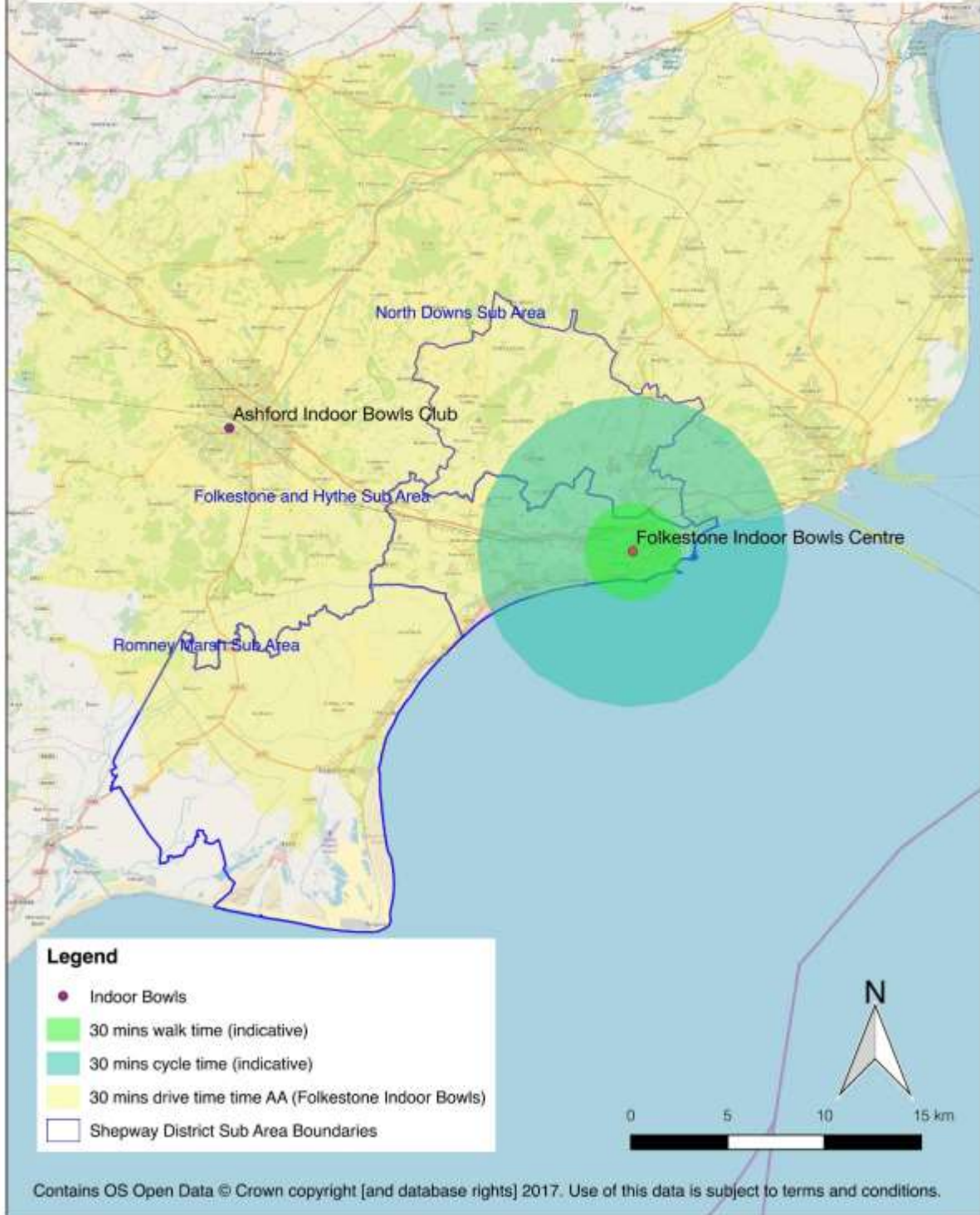
### 10.4.1 Indoor bowls hall

The map below shows the location of the indoor bowls facility in Shepway, along with the drivetime catchment (in yellow), cycle time catchment (in blue) and walking time catchment (in green). Based on Sport England research, the 'effective catchment' for indoor bowls facilities (defined as the time/distance travelled and the prevailing mode of transport used by up to 90% of facility users) is 30 minutes driving time. The map shows the location of the indoor bowls hall, with a 30-minute drivetime catchment. The drive times were generated using an Open Source Mapping Tool, powered by Open Route Services and based upon AA Route Planner data.

The map shows that a large part of the Romney Marsh sub-area is outside the catchment of an indoor bowls facility and is not served by provision in neighbouring areas either.

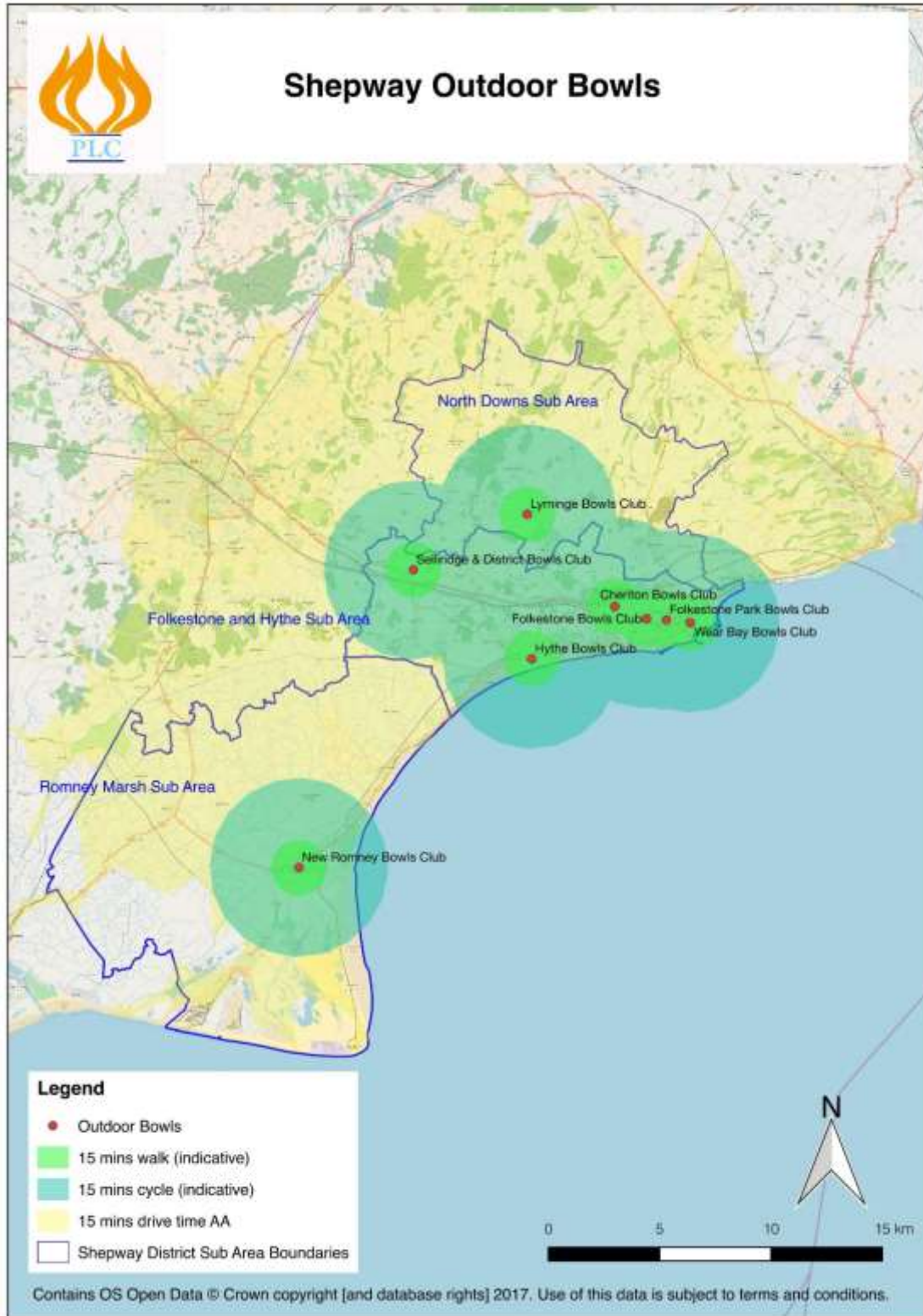


## Shepway Indoor Bowls



## 10.4.2 Outdoor bowls greens

Based on Sport England research, the ‘effective catchment’ for outdoor bowls greens (defined as the time/distance travelled and the prevailing mode of transport used by up to 90% of facility users) is 15 minutes driving time. The map below shows the location of the outdoor bowls greens in Shepway, with a 15-minute drivetime catchment, with the exception of a sparsely populated area of Romney Marsh.



## 10.5 Availability

### 10.5.1 Indoor bowls hall

The use of the facility is confined to members of Folkestone Indoor Bowls Club, although the club has an extensive programme of coaching and introductory sessions, including free open days.

### 10.5.2 Outdoor bowls greens

The table below identifies the basis of use of outdoor bowls greens in Shepway. The information was supplied by the facility operators:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Basis of use</i>
Cheriton Bowls Club	Membership only
East Cliff bowls green	'Pay-and-play'
Folkestone Bowls Club	Membership only
Folkestone Park Bowls Club	Membership only Introductory sessions provided
Hythe Bowls Club	Membership only
Lyminge Bowls Club	Membership only Introductory sessions provided
New Romney Bowls Club	Membership only
Sellinge & District Bowls Club	Membership only
Wear Bay Bowls Club	Membership

## 10.6 Key findings on supply

The key findings are as follows:

- There is one 7-rink indoor bowls hall and 13 outdoor bowls greens in Shepway, one of which is currently disused.
- The quality of facilities is generally good, but disabled access is rated as 'poor' at three sites.
- The whole population is within the 30-minute drivetime catchment of Folkestone Indoor Bowls Club.
- The whole population is within 15-minutes' drive from the nearest outdoor bowls green, with the exception of a sparsely populated area of Romney Marsh.
- All facilities operate on a membership basis, although several clubs run weekly introductory coaching sessions to attract new members. The East Cliff bowls green is available for 'pay-and-play' bowls.

## 10.7 Current demand for bowls facilities

### 10.7.1 Expressed demand

- **Indoor bowls:** Folkestone IBC currently has 450 members. Sport England's *Indoor Bowls Guidance Note* (2005) stipulates that full capacity is reached at 80 - 100 members per rink, so as a seven-rink facility, the indoor hall can accommodate 560 - 700 members. This suggests that expressed demand amounts to around 65% based on 100 members per rink.
- **Outdoor bowls:** Bowls participation has been in long-term decline and the national picture of falling demand is reflected in the Shepway area, with around a 3% annual decline in club membership. All local outdoor clubs have indicated that they have significant spare capacity.

### 10.7.2 Displaced demand

Displaced demand relates to users of bowls greens from within the study area which takes place outside of the area. The following indoor bowls facility is located in Ashford, close enough to the district boundary to provide usage opportunities for Shepway residents.

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Distance from Shepway boundary</i>
Ashford Indoor Bowls Club	Jemmett Road, Ashford TN23 4QD	6 miles

### 10.7.3 Unmet demand

All clubs in the district have indicated that they can accommodate new users/members, so facility capacity is not an issue. The whole district population is within the catchment of the indoor facility and at least one outdoor green, so there is no unmet geographical demand.

## 10.8 Local sports participation priorities

There are no specific local sports participation priorities in Shepway, other than a general policy commitment to promote health and well-being through increased levels of physical activity. As an activity appealing primarily to older age groups, bowls is likely to have some appeal to new and lapsed sports participants in an expanding proportion of the population.

## 10.9 Sport-specific priorities

Consultation with the Divisional Secretary of the Kent County Bowls Association identified the following issues:

- Folkestone Indoor Bowls Club has maintained a static membership for the past couple of years but for the 10 or so years prior to that it has seen a 4% or so year on year drop. The playing membership now stands at about 450 from around 1,000 at the turn of the century.
- The same pattern is true of outdoor clubs with a year on year fall of about 3%. Many clubs are now hovering on the brink of extinction.
- All clubs indoor and outdoor would welcome new members especially in their 40s and 50s.

## 10.10 Future demand for bowls

### 10.10.1 Population growth

SDC's 'Strategic Housing Market Assessment' (2015) generated a projected population of 126,505 for Shepway by 2037, based on a combination of demographic change and net migration. This will represent an increase of 18,536 people, or 17.2% over the 2011 census figure.

### 10.10.2 Participation rates

One factor in considering future sports participation rates is to track historical trends, as a guide to possible future developments. Sport England's 'Active People' survey has recorded adult (16+) weekly participation rates for bowls at national level on an annual basis since 2005. The results are tabulated below and show that participation has declined significantly over the past decade, with the number of regular (at least once a week) players falling by more than 98,000, from 309,800 in 2005 to 211,900 in 2016. The participation rates are detailed below:

2005/06	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	% Change
2.21%	2.32%	2.10%	2.02%	1.54%	1.57%	1.73%	1.58%	1.33%	1.30%	-0.91%

### 10.10.3 Future projections

Sport England has developed the Sport Facility Calculator (SFC), to help to quantify how much additional demand for key community facilities like indoor bowls halls, will be generated by population increases. Whilst the SFC is not spatial, is used by Sport England to calculate the increased demand from new development. The SFC uses Sport England survey data on who uses facilities and applies this to the population profile of the local area. This builds up a profile of usage, which can be then applied to estimate how much demand any given population would generate. This demand is then converted into the quantity of facilities needed and expressed as rinks to define indoor bowls needs. Based upon this, the SFC calculates demand equivalent to an additional 1.57 indoor bowls rinks by 2037.

## 10.11 Key findings on demand

The key findings are as follows:

- Expressed demand for indoor and outdoor bowls in Shepway has fallen in the past decade. Despite this, with a higher than average proportion of the local population being from older age groups and trends towards an aging population, it is reasonable to assume that any future falls in participation rates will be offset by increases in the overall number of people in the age groups to which bowls has the greatest appeal.
- Population growth of 17.2% in Shepway by 2037 is likely increase demand for indoor and outdoor bowls green capacity by a similar amount, assuming static participation rates in the future.
- In terms of indoor bowls, the Sport Facility Calculator assesses that the extra demand is equivalent to 1.57 indoor rinks.



## 10.12 The balance between bowls supply and demand

Four criteria have been assessed to evaluate the balance between indoor and outdoor bowls green supply and demand in Shepway:

- **Quantity:** Are there enough greens with sufficient capacity to meet needs now and in the future?
- **Quality:** Are the greens fit for purpose for the users now and in the future?
- **Accessibility:** Are the greens in the right physical location for the users now and in the future?
- **Availability:** Are the greens available for those who want to use them now and in the future?

## 10.13 Quantity

### 10.13.1 Current needs

Current indoor and outdoor bowls facilities in Shepway are assessed to be at operating with significant spare capacity, based upon the following evaluation:

- **Used capacity:** All local clubs have indicated that there is significant spare capacity to attract additional members.
- **Satisfied demand:** There is no evidence of unmet demand in the district.
- **Changes in supply:** There are no known planned changes to bowls green supply.

### 10.13.2 Future needs

Spare capacity at the existing indoor and outdoor bowls facilities should be able to accommodate all additional future demand, based upon the following evaluation:

- **Demand increases:** The district's population is projected to increase by 18,536 to by 2037. This will represent an increase of 17.2% over the 2011 census figure.
- **Participation trends:** Local bowls participation rates have been projected to remain static until 2037.
- **Additional indoor bowls needs:** The Sport Facility Calculator assesses that the extra demand for indoor bowls is equivalent to 1.57 indoor rinks (accommodating 126 - 157 members) Existing spare capacity at Folkestone IBC amounts to the equivalent of 2.5 rinks (or 200 - 250 members), so additional demand to 2037 can all be accommodated by the current facility.
- **Additional outdoor bowls needs:** There is sufficient spare capacity at existing bowls clubs to accommodate all additional demand to 2037 and this should add to the long-term viability of the current clubs.

## **10.14 Quality**

### **10.14.1 Current quality**

All other aspects of the indoor bowls facility are rated as at least ‘good’ quality. Most aspects of the outdoor bowls facilities are rated as at least ‘average’, with the exception of disabled access at three sites.

### **10.14.2 Future quality**

All providers will need to continue to invest in maintaining and improving their facilities, so if this process can be assisted with funding from developer contributions in the future, it seems reasonable to assume that local provision will continue to be upgraded regularly.

## **10.15 Accessibility**

### **10.15.1 Current accessibility**

A significant proportion of the population of the Romney Marsh sub-area is beyond the 30-minute drivetime catchment of Folkestone Indoor Bowls Club. The whole population is within 15-minutes’ drive of the nearest outdoor bowls green, with the exception of a sparsely populated area of Romney Marsh. There are eight outdoor greens in the urban sub-area, two in the Romney Marsh sub-area and two in the North Downs sub-area.

### **10.15.2 Future accessibility**

Preserving the current pattern of provision will continue to meet accessibility needs in the future.

## **10.16 Availability**

### **10.16.1 Current availability**

Sessions for non-members are run at two of the nine outdoor bowls clubs in the district, with ‘pay-and-play’ access at one further facility. Club membership fees are generally set at reasonable rates.

### **10.16.2 Future availability**

It is reasonable to assume that a similar balance of arrangements for use by non-members will be offered in the future and if developer contribution funding is offered to enhance the facilities at club sites, it could be conditional on the provision of ‘pay-and-play’ access.

## **10.17 The options for securing additional bowls capacity**

The options for securing existing and additional bowls capacity to meet current and future needs are as follows:

### 10.17.1 Protect

Protecting existing indoor and outdoor bowls facilities through the Local Plan will be key both to securing local provision by ensuring that planning policy supports the retention of existing facilities, unless the loss of a facility would involve its replacement with a facility of at least the equivalent size, quality and accessibility.

### 10.17.2 Provide

With spare capacity at both indoor and outdoor greens, all additional demand can be accommodated by current spare capacity.

### 10.17.3 Enhance

Enhancing existing bowls facility capacity by:

- Ensuring that the greens and ancillary facilities receive regular maintenance and improvements, funded by developer contributions where appropriate.
- Making the provision of access for non-members a condition of any developer contribution funding offered towards bowls facilities improvements.

## 10.18 Action Plan

### 10.18.1 Introduction

The tables below set out the action plan for indoor and outdoor bowls facilities to guide the implementation of the strategy. The capital cost estimates are based upon Sport England's *Facility Costs - Second Quarter of 2016* (2016).

### 10.18.2 Key strategic actions

<b>Issues</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Protection of existing bowls facilities	Include a policy in the Local Plan to protect all existing bowls facilities	SDC	-	-	High
Funding for future bowls facilities needs.	Include bowls facilities as 'relevant infrastructure' under CIL regulation 123.	SDC	-	-	High

### 10.18.3 Site-specific actions

<b>Site</b>	<b>Issues</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Cheriton Bowls Club	Poor quality disabled access	Improve disabled access	Cheriton BC	Developers	£5,000	Medium
East Cliff bowls green	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Folkestone BC	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Folkestone Park BC	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Hythe BC	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Lyminge BC	Poor quality disabled access	Improve disabled access	Lyminge BC	Developers	£5,000	Medium
New Romney BC	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Sellinge & District BC	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Wear Bay Bowls Club	Poor quality disabled access	Improve disabled access	Wear Bay BC	Developers	£5,000	Medium

## 11 ATHLETICS FACILITIES

### *Key findings:*

- **Quantity:** There are no specialist athletics facilities in Shepway, but tracks in Ashford and Canterbury meet some local needs. There is sufficient spare capacity at the existing tracks to cater for all additional demand to 2037.
- **Quality:** The quality of both tracks in neighbouring areas is reported to be ‘good’ by England Athletics.
- **Accessibility:** The whole population is within the 30-minute drivetime catchment of the tracks in neighbouring areas.
- **Availability:** The Canterbury track can be used on a ‘Pay-and-play’ basis, but club or centre membership is required at the Ashford track.

### 11.1 Introduction

This section examines the provision of athletics facilities in Shepway.

- Athletics tracks are defined as 400m synthetic surfaced tracks with full field events provision.
- Athletics training facilities comprise either Club Training Venues or Compact Athletics Facilities, both of which are flexible in terms of the precise composition of facilities.

### 11.2 Quantity

There are no specialist athletics facilities in Shepway. The nearest provision is located as follows:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Lanes</i>	<i>Distance from Shepway boundary</i>
Canterbury Academy Campus	Knight Avenue, Canterbury CT2 8QA	6	8 miles
Julie Rose Stadium	Willesborough Road, Ashford TN24 9QX	8	6 miles

### 11.3 Quality

The quality of both tracks in neighbouring areas is reported to be ‘good’ by England Athletics.

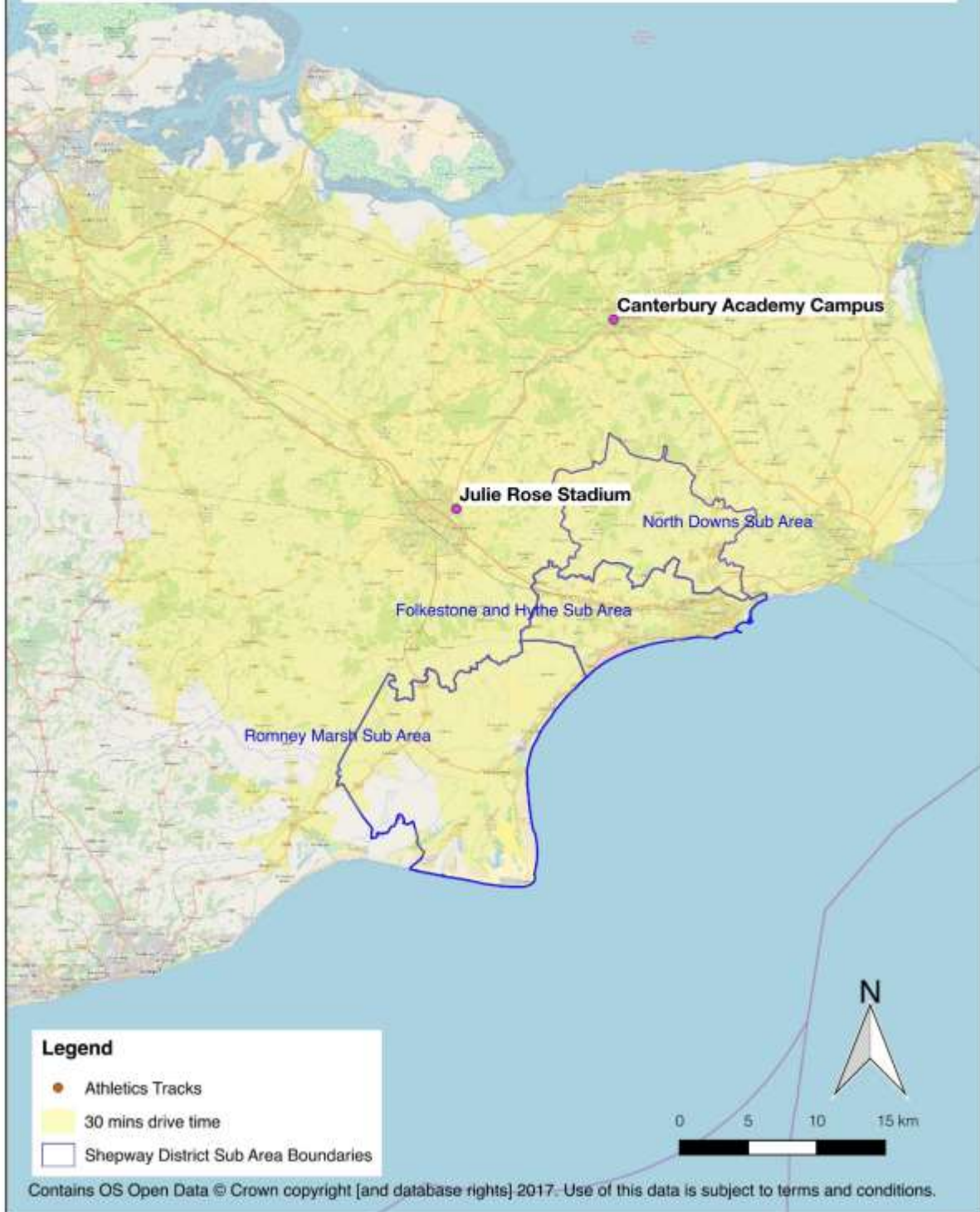
### 11.4 Accessibility

As a specialist facility, athletics tracks typically attract users from within a 30-minute drivetime catchment. The drive times were generated using an Open Source Mapping Tool, powered by Open Route Services and based upon AA Route Planner data.

The catchment of the tracks in Canterbury and Ashford cover the whole of the population of Shepway, with the exception of a small, sparsely populated area in the south-west of the district.



## Shepway Athletics Tracks



## 11.5 Availability

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Opening hours and basis of use</i>	<i>Pricing</i>
Canterbury Academy Campus	Mon - Fri - 5.30pm - 8pm Sun 10am - 12pm Club use by Invicta East Kent AC 'Pay-and-play' use	£20 per month club membership £6 per session for non-members
Julie Rose Stadium	Mon - Thurs - 8.30am - 9pm Fri 8.30am - 7pm Sat - Sun 9am - 4pm Club use by Ashford AC	£68 per annum club membership £19.99 per month for Ashford Leisure Trust membership

## 11.6 Key findings on supply

The key findings are as follows:

- There are no specialist athletics facilities in Shepway, but tracks in Ashford and Canterbury meet some local needs.
- The whole population is within the 30-minute drivetime catchment of the nearest track.
- The Canterbury track can be used on a 'Pay-and-play' basis, but club or centre membership is required at the Ashford track.

## 11.7 Current demand for athletics facilities

### 11.7.1 Expressed demand

The following running clubs are active in Shepway:

- **Folkestone Running Club:** The Club is based at Three Hills Sports Park and primarily caters for road and cross country running.
- **Folkestone Running Club Juniors:** The Club provides for younger runners and includes sports hall athletics as well as road and cross-country running.
- **Blister Sisters:** The Club provides for female road runners and is based in Hythe.
- **Hawkinge Hurricanes Running Club:** The Club is based at Hawkinge Community Centre and primarily caters for road and cross country running.
- **South Kent Harriers:** The club provides primarily for road runners and is based in Folkestone.
- **Folkestone Park Run:** A weekly 5km run is organised at The Leas in Folkestone and attracts up to 250 runners to each event. Participants are required to register, but no membership is needed.

### 11.7.2 Displaced demand

Displaced demand relates to users of athletics facilities from within the study area which takes place outside of the area. Notwithstanding the running club activity in Shepway, all use of specialist athletics facilities by district residents is displaced to neighbouring areas.

### 11.7.3 Unmet demand

There is no evidence of unmet demand for specialist athletics facilities in Shepway.

## 11.8 Local sports participation priorities

There are no specific local sports participation priorities in Shepway, other than a general policy commitment to promote health and well-being through increased levels of physical activity. Track and field athletics is a specialist subset of activities, which whilst increasingly appealing to participants from the older age groups is still a relatively minority interest.

## 11.9 Sport-specific priorities

Consultation with the Facilities and Planning Manager of England Athletics identified the following issues:

- England Athletics has not identified Shepway as a priority area for development. As per the UK Athletics *Facilities Strategy 2014 - 2019* (2014), it believes that there are sufficient 400m tracks in the area to meet current and future needs.
- However, England Athletics is keen to promote local development opportunities involving:
  - **Sports Hall Athletics:** Sports Hall Athletics is aimed at 4 - 14-year olds and involves running, jumping and throwing events within school halls and sports halls.
  - **A Compact Athletics Facility:** Compact Athletics Facilities involve the provision of a range of outdoor athletics facilities, flexible in their size and composition, but typically including an all-weather running straight, with some field event facilities and links to running routes in the surrounding area. They are typically based on school sites and often linked to other sports facilities like pitches.
- There are no Compact Athletics Facilities south of London at present, so England Athletics is keen to promote a network of provision although it has no capital funding to support this process.

## 11.10 Future demand for athletics

### 11.10.1 Population growth

SDC's *Strategic Housing Market Assessment* (2015) generated a projected population of 126,505 for Shepway by 2037, based on a combination of demographic change and net migration. This will represent an increase of 18,536 people, or 17.2% over the 2011 census figure.

### 11.10.2 Participation rates

One factor in considering future sports participation rates is to track historical trends, as a guide to possible future developments. Sport England's 'Active People' survey has recorded adult (16+) weekly participation rates for running (which includes track and field athletics) at national level on an annual basis since 2005. The results are tabulated below and show that participation has increased significantly over the past decade, with the number of regular (at least once a week) runners growing by 864,000. The participation rates are detailed below:

2005/06	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	% Change
3.33%	3.89%	4.16%	4.45%	4.47%	4.72%	4.65%	4.96%	5.29%	5.37%	+2.04%

### 11.10.3 Future projections

Whilst demand for running in general is growing, this primarily involves recreational running on roads and footpaths, rather than participation in track and field athletics with its dependence on specialist track facilities, where participation has been broadly static. In relation to additional future demand for tracks, therefore, it seems reasonable to project needs based on the current participation rates.

### 11.11 Key findings on demand

The key findings are as follows:

- Expressed demand for running is relatively high in Shepway, although there is no evidence of unmet demand for track and field athletics as a result of the lack of specialist facilities provision within the district.
- Population growth of 17.2% in Shepway by 2037 is likely increase demand for athletics track capacity by a similar amount, assuming static participation rates in the future.

### 11.12 The balance between athletics supply and demand

Four criteria have been assessed to evaluate the balance between athletics track supply and demand in Shepway:

- **Quantity:** Are there enough tracks with sufficient capacity to meet needs now and in the future?
- **Quality:** Are the tracks fit for purpose for the users now and in the future?
- **Accessibility:** Are the tracks in the right physical location for the users now and in the future?
- **Availability:** Are the tracks available for those who want to use them now and in the future?



## 11.13 Quantity

### 11.13.1 Current needs

Existing athletics facilities provision in neighbouring areas is meeting current needs, based upon the following assessment:

- **Used capacity:** The tracks in Ashford and Canterbury both have spare capacity.
- **Unmet demand:** There is no evidence of any unmet demand for athletics facilities in Shepway at present. The whole population of the district is within 30-minutes driving time of one or both of the tracks in neighbouring areas.
- **Changes in supply:** There are no known planned changes to athletics track supply.

### 11.13.2 Future needs

Spare capacity at the existing tracks in Ashford and Canterbury should be able to accommodate all additional future demand, based upon the following evaluation:

- **Current spare capacity:** Ashford AC only use the Julie Rose Stadium on two evenings per week and Sunday mornings, so there is significant spare capacity. The Canterbury track is used more regularly, but Invicta and East Kent AC can accommodate more members.
- **Demand increases:** The district's population is projected to increase by 18,536 by 2037. This will represent an increase of 17.2% over the 2011 census figure.
- **Participation trends:** Local athletics participation rates have been projected to remain static until 2037.

## 11.14 Quality

### 11.14.1 Current quality

The current quality of the track and ancillary facilities was not assessed, but is believed to be good.

### 11.14.2 Future quality

Tracks need to be resurfaced regularly so the facility providers will need to continue to invest in maintaining and improving the facilities.

## 11.15 Accessibility

### 11.15.1 Current accessibility

The whole population is within the 30-minute drivetime catchment the existing tracks in Ashford and Canterbury.

### 11.15.2 Future accessibility

Assuming that both tracks remain operational and have community use, the whole population will continue to have access to an athletics track.

## 11.16 Availability

### 11.16.1 Current availability

The Canterbury track can be used on a 'Pay-and-play' basis, but club or centre membership is required at the Ashford track.

### 11.16.2 Future availability

There is no indication that the availability of the tracks is likely to alter in the future.

## 11.17 The options for securing athletics track capacity

The options for securing existing and additional athletics track capacity to meet current and future needs are as follows:

### 11.17.1 Protect

Protecting existing athletics tracks through the Local Plans of Ashford Borough Council and Canterbury City Council will be key both to securing local provision by ensuring that planning policy supports the retention of existing facilities, unless the loss of a facility would involve its replacement with a facility of at least the equivalent size, quality and accessibility.

### 11.17.2 Provide

There is no identified strategic need to provide an additional track, although provision of a Compact Athletics Facility would provide opportunities for introductory level athletics for young people.

### 11.17.3 Enhance

Enhancing current provision through periodic resurfacing of the tracks in Ashford and Canterbury.

## 11.18 Action Plan

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Protection of existing athletics facilities	Encourage neighbouring local authorities to include a policy in their Local Plans to protect all existing athletics tracks	SDC	Ashford BC Canterbury CC	-	High
Funding for future athletics facilities needs.	Include athletics facilities as 'relevant infrastructure' under CIL regulation 123.	SDC	-	-	High
Possible need for a Compact Athletics Facility.	Feasibility study to establish demand and need.	SDC	Local athletics clubs	£10,000 for feasibility study	Medium

## 12 WATER SPORTS FACILITIES

### *Key findings:*

- **Quantity:** There are eight water sports facilities with public access in Shepway. There is sufficient spare capacity at existing facilities to meet all additional demand to 2037.
- **Quality:** Aspects of the quality of four of the nine water sports facilities are rated as ‘poor’.
- **Accessibility:** that the whole population is within 30-minutes’ drive of at least one facility.
- **Availability:** Three of the eight sites offer casual use and all clubs have membership fees that are set at reasonable rates with discounts for juniors.

### 12.1 Introduction

This section examines the provision of water sports facilities in Shepway. Water sports facilities are defined as permanent, built facilities that cater for the diverse needs of sailing, windsurfing, kite surfing, water-skiing, canoeing, sub-aqua and rowing.

### 12.2 Quantity

The location and number of water sports facilities with community use in Shepway is as follows:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Sports provided</i>
Action Watersports	Dengemarsh Road, Lydd TN29 9JH	Water-skiing, wakeboarding, Jet-skiing
Folkestone Rowing Club	Granville Parade, Sandgate CT20 3AL	Rowing
Folkestone Sea Sports	The Stade, Folkestone CT19 6AU	Powerboating, sailing, canoeing, paddle boarding
Folkestone Yacht and Motorboat Club	North Street, Folkestone CT19 6AF	Sailing, windsurfing, sub-aqua
Hythe and Saltwood Sailing Club	Marine Parade, Hythe CT21 6AW	Sailing, windsurfing, canoeing, kite surfing
Redoubt Sailing Club	Dymchurch Road, Hythe CT21 4ND	Sailing, windsurfing
Seapoint Canoe Centre	Princes Parade, Seabrook, Hythe CT21 5ZY	Canoeing, paddle boarding
The Varne Watersports Club	Coat Drive, Greatstone-on-Sea TN28 8NR	Sailing, windsurfing, power boating, water-skiing, kite surfing

### 12.3 Quality

#### 12.3.1 The criteria assessed

The quality of water sports facilities was assessed by a non-technical visual inspection during a site visit to all sites. The criteria that were assessed were as follows:

- **The clubhouse:** The quality of the social area(s), changing facilities and other provision.

- **Boat/equipment storage:** The availability of a hard-standing area, secure fencing and covered spaces.
- **Water access:** The arrangement for accessing the water, including jetties, pontoons, slipways and moorings.
- **Disability access:** The extent of full disabled access to the facility, including the provision of access ramps, dedicated changing, toilets and car parking.
- **General access:** Parking, signage and proximity to public transport.

### 12.3.2 The basis of the ratings

The criteria were rated on a five-point scale, where 5 equates to ‘very good’ (highlighted in green below), 4 to ‘good’ (also highlighted in green below), 3 to ‘average’ (highlighted in yellow below), 2 to ‘poor’ (highlighted in red below) and 1 to ‘very poor’.

### 12.3.3 The basis of the ratings

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Clubhouse</i>	<i>Storage</i>	<i>Water access</i>	<i>Disability access</i>	<i>General access</i>
Action Watersports	5	4	4	4	4
Folkestone Rowing Club	4	4	1	2	2
Folkestone Sea Sports	1	3	4	3	5
Folkestone Yacht and Motorboat Club	4	5	2	2	5
Hythe and Saltwood Sailing Club	4	4	5	2	4
Redoubt Sailing Club	2	4	4	3	3
Seapoint Canoe Centre	1	4	4	3	3
The Varne Watersports Club	5	5	5	4	5

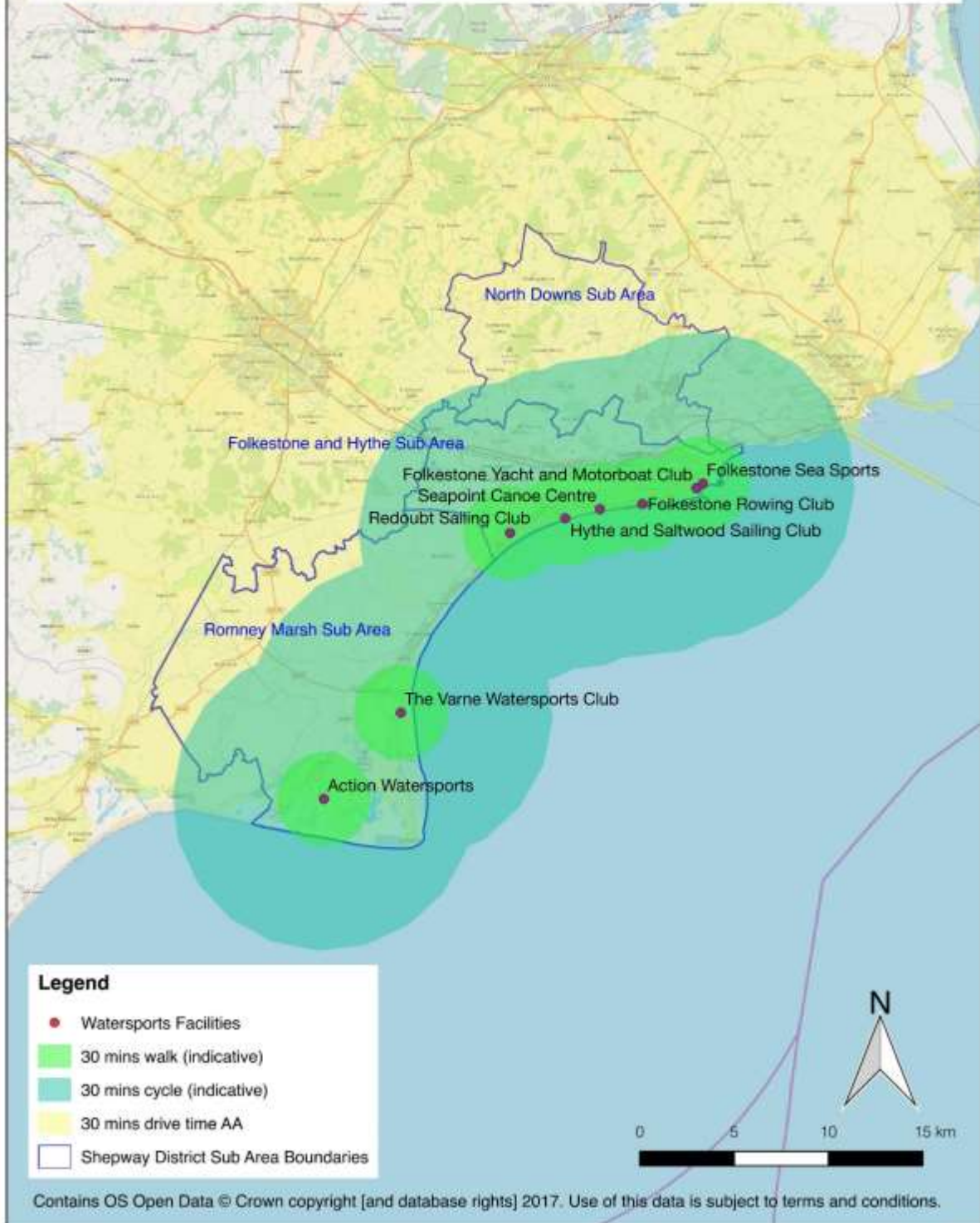
## 12.4 Accessibility

The map overleaf shows the location of all water sports facilities in Shepway, along with drivetime catchments (in yellow), cycle time catchments (in blue) and walking time catchments (in green). The ‘effective catchment’ for water sports is 30 minutes driving time. The drive times were generated using an Open Source Mapping Tool, powered by Open Route Services and based upon AA Route Planner data.

The map identifies that the whole population is within 30-minutes’ drive of at least one facility.



## Shepway Watersports Facilities



## 12.5 Availability

The table below identifies the opening hours, usage arrangements, pricing and used capacity in the peak period. The information was supplied by the facility operators.

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Opening hours and basis of use</i>	<i>Pricing</i>
Action Watersports	Mon - Sun 9am - 4pm 'Pay and play' usage	Water-skiing £57.99 (half day) Jet skiing £44.99 (15 minutes)
Folkestone Rowing Club	Clubhouse Mon-Fri 2pm -11pm Sat-Sun 12am - 11pm Membership only	£10 per month adults £5 per month concessions
Folkestone Sea Sports	Varies seasonally 'Pay-and-play'	Canoeing £12 (hour) Paddle boarding £12 (hour)
Folkestone Yacht and Motorboat Club	Varies seasonally Membership usage	£73 Annual adult membership £20 Annual junior membership
Hythe and Saltwood Sailing Club	Varies seasonally Membership usage	£100 Annual adult membership £50 Annual concessions membership
Redoubt Sailing Club	Varies seasonally Membership usage	
Seapoint Canoe Centre	Weekends Membership and 'Pay-and-play'	£25 per session (adult) £6 per session (under 18s)
The Varne Watersports Club	Mon, Tues and Fri evenings Sat - Sun afternoons Membership usage	£106 Annual adult membership £39 Annual junior membership

## 12.6 Key findings on supply

The key findings are as follows:

- There are eight facilities in Shepway, providing for a wide range of water sports at marine and freshwater sites.
- Aspects of the quality of four of the nine water sports facilities are rated as 'poor'. Seapoint Canoe Club has planning consent for a new clubhouse and is currently fundraising.
- There six facilities in the urban sub-area and two in the Romney Marsh sub-area, but none in the North Downs sub-area (although provision in Folkestone is relatively accessible to residents in that area).
- Three of the eight sites offer casual use and all clubs have membership fees that are set at reasonable rates with discounts for juniors.

## 12.7 Current demand for water sports

### 12.7.1 Expressed demand

Expressed demand for water sports is generally stable, with the recent emergence of a number of new activities like paddle boarding and kite surfing, to complement reduced participation in the more 'traditional' water sports.

## 12.7.2 Displaced demand

Given its coastal location and good links via the M20, Shepway imports water sports demand from neighbouring inland areas, as well as accommodating the needs of residents.

## 12.7.3 Unmet demand

Unmet demand involves two components:

- Demand that cannot be met within a facility catchment due to excess demand for that facility.
- Demand that cannot be met because it is located outside the catchment of a facility.

There is no evidence of unmet demand for water sports in the district due either to a lack of capacity at existing facilities or inadequate geographical coverage.

## 12.8 Local sports participation priorities

There are no specific local sports participation priorities in Shepway, other than a general policy commitment to promote health and well-being through increased levels of physical activity. The water sports comprise a wide range of activities that appeal to all age groups and from that perspective they will be attractive to a wide demographic.

## 12.9 Sport-specific priorities

Consultation with the Royal Yachting Association's Regional Development Officer identified that the RYA does not have any strategic facilities priorities in Shepway as such, but works locally with a number of local providers to deliver water sports programmes, in particular Hythe and Saltwood SC, Folkestone Yacht and Motor Boat Club, Folkstone Sea Sports and Redoubt SC.

## 12.10 Future demand for water sports

### 12.10.1 Population growth

SDC's 'Strategic Housing Market Assessment' (2015) generated a projected population of 126,505 for Shepway by 2037, based on a combination of demographic change and net migration. This will represent an increase of 18,536 people, or 17.2% over the 2011 census figure.

### 12.10.2 Participation rates

One factor in considering future sports participation rates is to track historical trends, as a guide to possible future developments. Sport England's 'Active People' survey has recorded adult (16+) weekly participation rates for canoeing and sailing at national level on an annual basis since 2005. The results are tabulated below and show that participation regular participation on at least a weekly basis has declined for sailing and remained the same for canoeing:

<b>Sport</b>	<b>2005/06</b>	<b>2007/08</b>	<b>2008/09</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Canoeing	0.09%	0.10%	0.15%	0.12%	0.11%	0.11%	0.10%	0.13%	0.08%	0.90%	No change
Sailing	0.16%	0.22%	0.20%	0.15%	0.12%	0.15%	0.14%	0.15%	0.13%	0.10%	-0.06%

### 12.10.3 Future projections

Local water sports club membership rates have been stable in recent years and whilst this runs counter to national trends, it would be reasonable to assume static growth to 2037. Population growth of 17.2% will therefore increase demand for water sports facilities by a similar amount.

#### 12.11 Key findings on demand

The key findings are as follows:

- Contrary to national trends, expressed demand for water sports in Shepway is stable.
- Population growth of 17.2% in Shepway by 2037 is likely increase demand for water sports facilities by a similar amount.

#### 12.12 The balance between water sports supply and demand

Four criteria have been assessed to evaluate the balance between water sports supply and demand in Shepway:

- **Quantity:** Are there enough facilities with sufficient capacity to meet needs now and in the future?
- **Quality:** Are the facilities fit for purpose for the users now and in the future?
- **Accessibility:** Are the facilities in the right physical location for the users now and in the future?
- **Availability:** Are the facilities available for those who want to use them now and in the future?

### 12.13 Quantity

#### 12.13.1 Current needs

Current water sports facilities in Shepway are assessed to be at operating with some spare capacity, based upon the following evaluation:

- **Club membership:** All the clubs consulted have capacity to accommodate more members
- **Satisfied demand:** There is no evidence of unmet demand in the district, with ‘pay-and-play’ opportunities available for those who do not wish to enrol as club members.
- **Changes in supply:** There are no known planned changes to facilities supply.

#### 12.13.2 Future needs

Spare capacity at the existing facilities should be able to accommodate all additional future demand, based upon the following evaluation:



- **Demand increases:** The district's population is projected to increase by 18,536 to by 2037. This will represent an increase of 17.2% over the 2011 census figure.
- **Participation trends:** Local water sports participation rates have been projected to remain static until 2037.
- **Additional needs:** With spare capacity at the existing clubs and facilities, all additional demand can be accommodated by current spare capacity.

## 12.14 Quality

### 12.14.1 Current quality

Aspects of the quality of four of the nine water sports facilities are rated as 'poor'. Seapoint Canoe Club should be supported in its efforts to provide a new clubhouse to replace the current poor quality facility.

### 12.14.2 Future quality

All local providers continue to invest in maintaining and improving their facilities, so if this process can be assisted with funding from developer contributions in the future, it seems reasonable to assume that local provision will continue to be upgraded regularly, subject to the availability of funding.

## 12.15 Accessibility

### 12.15.1 Current accessibility

The whole population is within 30-minutes' drive of at least one facility. There six facilities in the urban sub-area and two courts in the Romney Marsh sub-area, but none in the North Downs sub-area (although provision in Folkestone is relatively accessible to residents in that area).

### 12.15.2 Future accessibility

Since the current facilities are geographically well-located to serve districtwide needs, they will continue to serve future needs.

## 12.16 Availability

### 12.16.1 Current availability

Three of the eight sites offer casual use and all clubs have membership fees that are set at reasonable rates with discounts for juniors.

### 12.16.2 Future availability

It is reasonable to assume that similar membership arrangements will be offered in the future and if developer contribution funding is offered to enhance the facilities at appropriate sites, it could be conditional on the provision of 'pay-and-play' access.

## 12.17 The options for securing additional water sports capacity

The options for securing existing and additional water sports capacity to meet current and future needs are as follows:

### 12.17.1 Protect

Protecting existing water sports facilities through the Local Plan will be key both to securing local provision by ensuring that planning policy supports the retention of existing facilities, unless the loss of a facility would involve its replacement with a facility of at least the equivalent size, quality and accessibility.

### 12.17.2 Provide

There is no identified strategic need to provide additional water sports facilities, although the position should be regularly reviewed over the lifespan of the strategy. Seapoint Canoe Club should be supported in its efforts to provide a new clubhouse.

### 12.17.3 Enhance

Enhancing existing water sports facilities by ensuring that the land-based and water-based facilities receive regular maintenance and improvements.

## 12.18 Action Plan

### 12.18.1 Introduction

The tables below set out the action plan for water sports facilities to guide the implementation of the strategy. The capital cost estimates are based upon Sport England's *Facility Costs - Second Quarter of 2016* (2016).

### 12.18.2 Key strategic actions

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Protection of existing water sports facilities	Include a policy in the Local Plan to protect all existing water sports facilities	SDC	-	-	High
Funding for future water sports facilities needs.	Include water sports facilities as 'relevant infrastructure' under CIL regulation 123.	SDC	-	-	High

### 12.18.3 Site-specific actions

<i>Site</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Action Water sports	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Folkestone Rowing Club	Poor quality water access, disabled and general access.	Improve water access, disabled and general access if feasible.	Folkestone RC	Developers	-	Medium
Folkestone Sea Sports	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Folkestone Yacht and Motorboat Club	Poor quality water and disabled access.	Improve water and disabled access if feasible.	Folkestone Y&MC	Developers	-	-
Hythe and Saltwood SC	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Redoubt Sailing Club	Poor quality clubhouse	Provide new clubhouse	Redoubt SC	Developers	£250,000	Medium
Seapoint Canoe Centre	Poor quality clubhouse	Provide new clubhouse	Seapoint CC	Developers	£250,000	High
The Varne WSC	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-

## 13 VILLAGE AND COMMUNITY HALLS

### *Key findings:*

- **Quantity:** There are 28 village and community halls in Shepway district, that accommodate some sport and physical activity. Additional demand by 2037 will amount to the equivalent of an extra two halls.
- **Quality:** There are no significant quality issues relating to village and community halls in Shepway.
- **Accessibility:** The whole population is within 10 minutes driving time of the nearest village and community hall, with the exception of the sparsely populated area in the extreme south of Shepway.
- **Availability:** All facilities offer ‘pay-and-play’ public access and block bookings.

### 13.1 Introduction

This section examines the provision of village and community halls in Shepway. Village and community halls are defined as community accessible facilities with the potential to accommodate some sport and physical activity.

### 13.2 Quantity

The location of village and community halls with community use in Shepway is as follows:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>
All Soul's Church Hall	High Street, Cheriton CT19 4HE	14m x 10m x 3m
Brenzett Village Hall	King Street, Brenzett TN29 9UF	12m x 8m x 3.5m
Brookland Village Hall	Boarman's Lane, Brookland TN29 9QZ	12m x 8m x 3m
Dymchurch Village Hall	Orgarswick Avenue, Dymchurch TN29 0NX	12m x 8m x 4m
Elham Village Hall	Canterbury Road, Elham CT4 6XS	16m x 10m x 5m
Etchinghill Village Hall	St. Mary's Drove, Etchinghill CT18 8NQ	18m x 8m x 4m
Evington Hall	Evington TN25 5JH	12.5m x 7.5m x 4m
Folkestone Baptist Church Hall	135, Hill Road, Folkestone CT19 6LY	10m x 7m x 4m
Hawkinge Village Hall	93, Canterbury Road, Hawkinge CT18 7BS	12m x 7m x 4.5m
Hythe Town Hall	1, Stade St, Hythe CT21 6BG	20m x 12m x 5m
Ivychurch Village Hall	Brenzett Road, Ivychurch TN29 0AN	9m x 7m x 3.5m
Lyminge Village Hall	Woodland Road, Lyminge CT18 8EW	12m x 8m x 5m
Lympne Village Hall	Lympne Hill, Lympne CT21 4NX	12m x 7m x 3m
New Romney Assembly Rooms	Church Approach, New Romney TN28 8NS	15m x 8m x 4m
Newchurch Village Hall	Newchurch TN29 0DP	18m x 9m x 6m
Newington Village Hall	Newington Road, Newington CT18 8AU	18m x 10m x 5m
Palmarsh Village Hall	Dymchurch Road, Hythe CT21 6NG	10m x 8m x 4m
Postling Village Hall	The Street, Postling CT21 4EU	12m x 9m x 3.5m
Radnor Park Community Centre	Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone CT20 2QL	14m x 9m x 5m
St. Andrew's Church Hall	Surrenden Road, Cheriton CT19 4DY	20m x 12m x 5m

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>
St. Mary's Bay Village Hall	15, Jefferson Lane, St. Mary's Bay TN29 0SW	15m x 10m x 5m
St. Peter's Church Hall	Baldwin Road, Greatstone-on-Sea TN28 8RG	8m x 6m x 3m
St. Saviour's Community Centre *	130, Canterbury Road, Folkestone CT19 5NR	10m x 8m x 4m
Saltwood Village Hall	Rectory Lane, Hythe CT21 4PZ	14m x 9m x 4m
Sellindge Sports and Social Club	Swan Lane, Sellindge TN25 6HB	12m x 10m x 3m
Sellindge Village Hall	Main Road, Sellindge TN25 6JY	18m x 10m x 3m
Stelling Minnis Village Hall	Bossingham Road, Stelling Minnis CT4 6AG	14m x 9m x 4m
Stowting Village Hall	Stowting Hill, Stowting TN25 6BE	10m x 7m x 3m

\* Currently closed. Re-opening in 2018 as Folkestone Community Church

### 13.3 Quality

#### 13.3.1 The criteria assessed

The quality of village and community halls was assessed by a non-technical visual inspection. Facilities were assessed on the basis of their suitability to accommodate sport and physical activity:

- **Provision for formal sport:** Including dedicated sports facilities and markings and changing rooms. These are given a rating of 4
- **Available for a range informal physical activity:** The provision of a space which can be used for several recreational sports. These are given a rating of 3
- **Limited availability for physical activity:** The provision of a space which can be used for exercise classes such as yoga or aerobics. These are given a rating of 2
- **Not available for physical activity:** These are given a rating of 1

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Score</i>
All Soul's Church Hall	2
Brenzett Village Hall	3
Brookland Village Hall	3
Dymchurch Village Hall	3
Elham Village Hall	3
Etchinghill Village Hall	4
Evington Hall	2
Folkestone Baptist Church Hall	2
Hawkinge Village Hall	2
Hythe Town Hall	2
Ivychurch Village Hall	2
Lyminge Village Hall	3
Lympne Village Hall	3
New Romney Assembly Rooms	2
Newchurch Village Hall	4
Newington Village Hall	4

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Score</b>
Palmarsh Village Hall	3
Postling Village Hall	3
Radnor Park Community Centre	2
St. Andrew's Church Hall	3
St. Mary's Bay Village Hall	4
St. Peter's Church Hall	2
St. Saviour's Community Centre	2
Saltwood Village Hall	3
Sellindge Sports and Social Club	3
Sellindge Village Hall	3
Stelling Minnis Village Hall	3
Stowting Village Hall	2

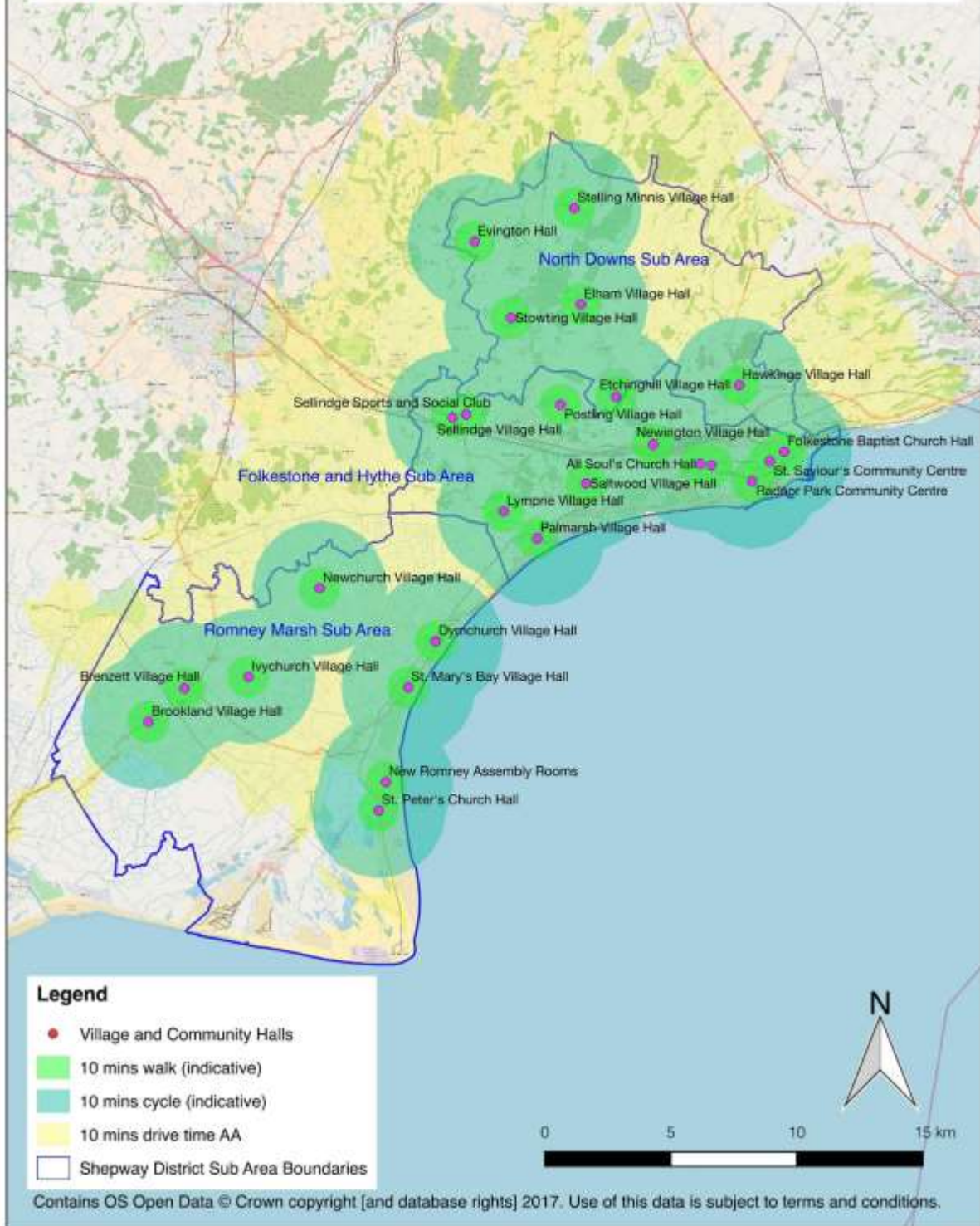
### **13.4 Accessibility**

The map below shows the location of all village and community halls in Shepway, along with drivetime catchments (in yellow), cycle time catchments (in blue) and walking time catchments (in green). The 'effective catchment' for village and community halls is 10 minutes driving time. The drive times were generated using an Open Source Mapping Tool, powered by Open Route Services and based upon AA Route Planner data.

The map shows that there is comprehensive geographical coverage of the district, with the exception of the sparsely populated area in the extreme south of Shepway.



# Shepway Village and Community Halls



### 13.5 Availability and use

The table below identifies the sport and physical activity currently accommodated at village and community halls in Shepway. The information was supplied by the facility operators:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Sports accommodated</i>
All Soul's Church Hall	Dance
Brenzett Village Hall	Table tennis, Short mat bowls
Brookland Village Hall	Keep fit, yoga
Dymchurch Village Hall	Short mat bowls
Elham Village Hall	Badminton, table tennis, short mat bowls
Etchinghill Village Hall	Badminton, table tennis
Evington Hall	None
Folkestone Baptist Church Hall	None
Hawkinge Village Hall	Keep fit
Hythe Town Hall	Keep fit
Ivychurch Village Hall	Keep fit
Lyminge Village Hall	Judo, short mat bowls
Lympne Village Hall	Karate, pilates, short mat bowls, zumba
New Romney Assembly Rooms	Keep fit
Newchurch Village Hall	Badminton, short mat bowls
Newington Village Hall	Badminton, short mat bowls
Palmarsh Village Hall	Zumba, yoga, keep fit
Postling Village Hall	Table tennis
Radnor Park Community Centre	Keep fit
St. Andrew's Church Hall	Pilates, keep fit
St. Mary's Bay Village Hall	Kickboxing, street dance
St. Peter's Church Hall	Keep fit
St. Saviour's Community Centre	Yoga, keep fit
Saltwood Village Hall	Taekwondo, table tennis, yoga, pilates
Sellindge Sports and Social Club	Table tennis, short mat bowls
Sellindge Village Hall	Pilates, keep fit
Stelling Minnis Village Hall	Pilates, yoga
Stowting Village Hall	Yoga

### 13.6 Key findings on supply

The key findings are as follows:

- There are 28 village and community halls currently available in Shepway.
- All facilities are available for hire by groups and individuals.
- Hire charges vary from £8 an hour to £12 an hour.
- All halls can accommodate some informal, recreational sport and physical activity, but four have badminton court markings.

- 15 halls are located in the urban sub-area, eight in the New Romney sub-area and five in the North Downs sub-area.

### **13.7 Current demand for village and community halls**

#### **13.7.1 Expressed demand**

Most of the village and community halls accommodate at least some sport and physical activity, but this is generally a small component of usage programmes that include a wide range of other social and community functions. Most of the demand served is for recreational level sports activities, complementing the more formal sports opportunities available in the specialist indoor sports facilities.

#### **13.7.2 Displaced demand**

Displaced demand relates to users of village and community halls from within the study area which takes place outside of the area. Because they serve a relatively localised catchment, there is no evidence of Shepway residents accessing halls outside the district.

#### **13.7.3 Unmet demand**

All village and community halls have some spare capacity to accommodate additional activities, so there is no evidence of unmet demand in the district.

### **13.8 Local sports participation priorities**

There are no specific local sports participation priorities in Shepway, other than a general policy commitment to promote health and well-being through increased levels of physical activity. Village and community halls have an important role to play in this, given their wide geographical coverage and consequent accessibility to participants.

### **13.9 Sport-specific priorities**

There are no identified strategic priorities for developing village and community halls in Shepway.

### **13.10 Future demand for village and community halls**

#### **13.10.1 Population growth**

SDC's '*Strategic Housing Market Assessment*' (2015) generated a projected population of 126,505 for Shepway by 2037, based on a combination of demographic change and net migration. This will represent an increase of 18,536 people, or 17.2% over the 2011 census figure.

#### **13.10.2 Participation rates**

One factor in considering future sports participation rates is to track historical trends, as a guide to possible future developments. Sport England's 'Active People' survey has recorded adult (16+) weekly participation rates for sports that use village and community halls on an annual basis since 2005. The results are tabulated below and show that participation rates nationally have fluctuated over the past decade, but collectively across the sports featured, there has been a small decline:



<i>Sport</i>	<i>2005/06</i>	<i>2007/08</i>	<i>2008/09</i>	<i>2009/10</i>	<i>2010/11</i>	<i>2011/12</i>	<i>2012/13</i>	<i>2013/14</i>	<i>2014/15</i>	<i>2015/16</i>	<i>% Change</i>
Badminton	1.29%	1.24%	1.20%	1.24%	1.20%	1.26%	1.16%	1.13%	1.04%	0.97%	-0.32%
Keep fit	-	-	-	-	0.88%	1.62%	1.34%	1.02%	0.93%	0.98%	+0.10%
Table Tennis	0.17%	0.18%	0.20%	0.30%	0.32%	0.23%	0.25%	0.22%	0.23%	0.24%	+0.07%

### 13.10.3 Future projections

It would therefore be reasonable to assume no increases in participation rates until 2037. However, population growth of 17.2% will increase demand by the same amount by 2037.

### 13.11 Key findings on demand

The key findings are as follows:

- Village and community halls meet demand for a wide range of sport and physical activities at a recreational level.
- Demand is projected to increase by 17.2% by the end of the plan period, based on population growth.

### 13.12 The balance between health and fitness supply and demand

Four criteria have been assessed to evaluate the balance between village and community hall supply and demand in Shepway:

- **Quantity:** Are there enough facilities with sufficient capacity to meet needs now and in the future?
- **Quality:** Are the facilities fit for purpose for the users now and in the future?
- **Accessibility:** Are the facilities in the right physical location for the users now and in the future?
- **Availability:** Are the facilities available for those who want to use them now and in the future?

### 13.13 Quantity

#### 13.13.1 Current needs

Current village and community halls in Shepway are assessed to be at operating with some spare capacity, based upon the following evaluation:

- **Used peak capacity:** Analysis of usage programmes in the peak period for all village and community hall use, including non-sports activity, reveals around 10% spare capacity, which is collectively equivalent to 2.5 of the 25 halls.
- **Satisfied demand:** There is no evidence of unmet demand, with a good geographical spread of provision.

- **Changes in supply:** A new hall and pavilion is planned as part of the Shorncliffe Garrison housing development in Cheriton.

### 13.13.2 Future needs

The quantity of village and community halls required to meet future needs has been assessed as equivalent to an additional two halls by 2037 once current spare capacity has been absorbed, based upon the following evaluation:

- **Demand increases:** The district's population is projected to increase by 18,536 to by 2037. This will represent an increase of 17.2% over the 2011 census figure.
- **Participation trends:** Participation trends for sports using village and community halls are projected to remain static.
- **Additional needs:** 22.5 halls cater for all current needs, so adding 17.2% demand to this produces a need for 26.4 halls by 2037. With 25 at present, an additional two will be required to meet the extra demand arising from population growth.

## 13.14 Quality

### 13.14.1 Current quality

There are no significant quality issues relating to village and community halls in Shepway, although the position should be kept under review.

### 13.14.2 Future quality

All local providers continue to invest in maintaining and improving their facilities, so if this process can be assisted with funding from developer contributions in the future, it seems reasonable to assume that local provision will continue to be upgraded regularly.

## 13.15 Accessibility

### 13.15.1 Current accessibility

The whole population is within 10 minutes driving time of the nearest village and community hall. Five halls are located in the urban sub-area, 12 in the New Romney sub-area and eight in the North Downs sub-area.

### 13.15.2 Future accessibility

Additional facilities should be well-located in relation to new housing developments, in particular Otterpool Park and the Sellindge expansion.

## 13.16 Availability

### 13.16.1 Current availability

All facilities offer 'pay-and-play' public access. Hourly hire charges vary between £8 and £12.

### 13.16.2 Future availability

Given the charitable status of many village and community hall operators, it is likely that prices will continue to be geared towards affordability.

### 13.17 The options for securing additional village and community halls

The options for securing existing and additional village and community hall capacity to meet current and future needs are as follows:

#### 13.17.1 Protect

Protecting existing village and community halls through the Local Plan will be key both to securing local provision by ensuring that planning policy supports the retention of existing facilities, unless the loss of a facility would involve its replacement with a facility of at least the equivalent size, quality and accessibility. To maximise the potential for sports use, all replacement halls should comply with the dimensions needed for a Badminton court (18m x 10m x 6.1m) and the provisions of Sport England's *'Village and Community Halls: Design Guidance Note'* (2001).

#### 13.17.2 Provide

Ensuring that extra village and community hall capacity is achieved by:

- Providing new or expanded facilities in conjunction with new housing developments, funded through Section 106 developer contributions that reflect the extra demand arising from the additional population.
- To maximise the potential for sports use, all new halls should comply with the dimensions needed for a Badminton court (18m x 10m x 6.1m) and the provisions of Sport England's *'Village and Community Halls: Design Guidance Note'* (2001).

#### 13.17.3 Enhance

Enhancing existing village and community hall capacity by supporting applications by hall providers for extensions or enhancements such as the addition of changing facilities.

### 13.18 Action Plan

<b>Issues</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Protection of existing village and community halls.	Include a policy in the Local Plan to protect all existing water sports facilities	SDC	-	-	High
Funding for future village and community hall needs.	Include athletics village and community halls as 'relevant infrastructure' under CIL regulation 123.	SDC	-	-	High
Need for two additional village and community halls by 2037.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Include a requirement for a community hall in Otterpool Park Garden Town.</li><li>• Include a requirement for a community hall in the Sellindge expansion.</li></ul>	SDC	Developers	£640,000 for each community hall	Medium

## 14 POLICIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 14.1 Introduction

This section contains policies and recommendations for the protection, enhancement and provision of sports facilities in Shepway.

### 14.2 Policy context

The recommendations made in the context of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 74, which stipulates that existing sports facilities, should not be built upon unless:

- An assessment has taken place which has clearly shown the facility 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 sport and recreation provision, the needs for which clearly outweighs the loss.

### 14.3 Protect

#### 14.3.1 Recommendation 1: Safeguarding existing provision

The Shepway Sports Facilities Strategy (SFS) comprises a robust and evidence-based assessment of current and future needs for sports facilities in the district. The Strategy has identified a need for all current facilities to be retained, on the basis of the specific identified roles that each can play in delivering the needs of sport in the district both now and in the future. It is therefore recommended that existing planning policies continue to support the retention of all sites, based upon the evidence in the SFS.

#### 14.3.2 Recommendation 2: Community access to education sports facilities

A significant proportion of some types of sports facility in Shepway are located on school sites (in particular three out of six sports halls in the district). None of these facilities are subject to formal Community Use Agreements and external use could, therefore in theory be withdrawn at any time. Some education sports facilities have no community use at all at present, which does not optimise the use of public resources. Furthermore, the management arrangements for many school sports facilities with external use are not conducive to maximising that use. It is therefore recommended that:

- Efforts are made to secure formal Community Use Agreements at existing education sports facilities.
- Community Use Agreements become a standard condition of planning consent at all new education sports facilities, along with a design and specification that is consistent with maximising school and community use.

- Community Use Agreements become a standard condition of receiving funding from developer contributions to improve or enhance the capacity of existing sports facilities on education sites, to meet the additional demand arising from housing developments.
- Support be offered to schools with their community use management arrangements.

## **14.4 Enhance**

### **14.4.1 Recommendation 3: Capacity improvements**

Some of the current and future demand for sports facilities in Shepway can be accommodated through enhancements to existing facilities. Improvements to playing surfaces to increase carrying capacity, provision of floodlights for some outdoor facilities, extended and reconfigured changing facilities to cater for simultaneous adult/junior and male/female usage will all facilitate extra usage at existing sites. It is recommended that the site-specific action plan in the Shepway SFS be used as the basis for prioritising facilities enhancements that will help to alleviate the current identified and future projected deficits.

### **14.4.2 Recommendation 4: Developer contributions (enhancements)**

Some of the additional demand arising from the proposed housing development and the related population growth in Shepway, can be accommodated through enhancements to existing sports facilities. It is therefore recommended that:

- The action plan in the Shepway SFS be used as the basis for determining facility enhancements that demonstrably relate to the scale and location of specific developments.
- An appropriate level of financial contributions should then be sought under Section 106 or CIL arrangements, using Sport England's Sports Facility Calculator tool, to cover the capital and revenue implications of the enhancements.
- To facilitate this, sports facilities should be listed as 'relevant infrastructure', under CIL Regulation 123 unless the Council considers it unlikely that CIL receipts would extend to delivering sports facilities projects, in which case they should be excluded and secured through planning obligations, having regard to the pooling restrictions.

## **14.5 Provide**

### **14.5.1 Recommendation 6: New sports facilities**

Whilst spare capacity in most types of sports facility can meet current and future needs to 2037, specific shortfalls identified in the Shepway SFS by an evidence-based needs assessment, that would best be met through new provision include:

- The equivalent of 1.23 four-badminton court sized sports halls with full community access.
- The equivalent of one 25m x 4-lane pool with full community access.
- 125 health and fitness equipment stations.

- Two village and community halls.

It is recommended that Shepway District Council should play an active role in encouraging the provision of these facilities, in conjunction with other local stakeholders.

#### 14.5.2 Recommendation 7: Developer contributions (new provision)

Some of the additional demand arising from the proposed housing development in Shepway, can be accommodated through the provision of new sports facilities. It is therefore recommended that:

- The action plan in the Shepway SFS be used as the basis for determining new facility provision that demonstrably relates to the scale and location of specific developments.
- An appropriate level of financial contributions should then be sought under Section 106 or CIL arrangements, using Sport England's Sports Facility Calculator tool, to cover the capital and revenue implications of providing the facilities.
- To facilitate this, sports facilities should be listed as 'relevant infrastructure', under CIL Regulation 123 unless the Council considers it unlikely that CIL receipts would extend to delivering sports facilities projects, in which case they should be excluded and secured through planning obligations, having regard to the pooling restrictions.

## 15 IMPLEMENTING AND REVIEWING THE STRATEGY

### 15.1 Introduction

This section identifies the applications of the Shepway Sports Facilities Strategy (SFS) and the mechanisms for reviewing it to ensure that it remains robust and up-to-date.

### 15.2 Strategy implementation

The success of the SFS will be determined by how it is used. While the use of the SFS should be led by Shepway District Council, its application and delivery will also be the responsibility of the other key local stakeholders including:

- **Shepway Sports Trust:** The Trust runs sports development programmes in the district to encourage people from under-represented groups to become more physically active.
- **Folkestone Sports Centre Trust:** The Trust owns and operates the Folkestone Sports Centre.
- **Shepway Leisure:** Shepway Leisure is a company formed by the Cheriton Road Sports Ground Trust to operate the Three Hills Sports Park.
- **Medway Leisure Trust:** The Trust operates Hythe Swimming Pool under contract from Shepway District Council.
- **Schools:** Secondary schools are major sports facilities providers in the district, although not all provision is community accessible.
- **Sports clubs:** Voluntary sector sports clubs provide and run a range of mostly smaller facilities, in particular water sports facilities, tennis courts and bowls greens.
- **Commercial providers:** The commercial sector is very active in Shepway, from major national operators like TruGym, though to small local businesses. Health and fitness facilities comprise the main form of commercial provision, but also include a swimming pool, squash and tennis courts.
- **Parish councils:** Parish councils make some provision in the rural parts of the district, principally village and community halls.

### 15.3 Strategy applications

The SFS has a number of applications:

#### 15.3.1 Sports development planning

The SFS can be applied to help:

- Highlight, justify and make the case for sports development activities with particular sports, groups and clubs and in particular areas.
- Identify current and future trends and changes in the demand for individual sports and how they are played.
- Inform the work, strategies and plans of sporting organisations active in the area.
- Advocate the need to work with specific educational establishments to secure community use of their site(s).
- Develop and/or enhance school club links by making the best use of school sites where they have spare capacity and are well located to meet demand.

### 15.3.2 Planning policy

The SFS can be applied to help:

- Develop new, and review the effectiveness of existing, local planning policy (e.g. Local and Neighbourhood Plans) in line with paragraph 73 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- The implementation of local planning policy to meet the needs of the community in line with paragraph 74 of the NPPF.

### 15.3.3 Planning applications

The SFS can be applied to help:

- Inform the development of planning applications which affect existing and/or proposed new sports facilities provision.
- Inform pre-application discussions to ensure any subsequent planning applications maximise their benefit to sport and are developed in line with national (e.g. NPPF paragraph 74) and local planning policy.
- Sports clubs and other organisations provide the strategic need for development proposals thereby potentially adding support to their application(s) and saving them resources in developing such evidence.
- Shepway District Council to assess planning applications affecting existing and/or proposed new playing sports facilities provision in line with national (e.g. NPPF paragraph 74) and local planning policy.
- Sport England and other parties respond to relevant planning application consultations.

The SFS can also be applied to help Shepway District Council to meet other relevant requirements of the NPPF including:



- Taking account of and supporting local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs (NPPF paragraph 17 - Core Planning Principles).
- Delivering the social, recreational, cultural facilities and services the community needs (NPPF paragraph 70).
- Planning positively for the development and infrastructure required in the area to meet the objectives, principles and policies of the framework (NPPF paragraph 157).
- Working with public health leads and health organisations to understand and take account of the health status and needs of the local population, including expected future changes, and any information about relevant barriers to improving health and well-being (NPPF paragraph 171).

#### 15.3.4 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The SFS can be applied to help:

- Advocate the need for sports facilities provision to be taken into account when the local authority is developing and/or reviewing an approach to the CIL (Charging Schedule and Infrastructure Delivery Plan) and the wider benefits of doing so (e.g. improving health and wellbeing).
- Provide prioritised infrastructure requirements for sports facilities provision including deliverable sport, area and site-specific projects with costings (where known).

#### 15.3.5 Funding bids

The SFS can be applied to help:

- Provide the evidence base and strategic need to support funding bids by a range of parties to a variety of potential funding sources.
- Inform potential bidders of the likely strategic need for their project.

#### 15.3.6 Facility and asset management

The SFS can be applied to help:

- Ensure a strategic approach is taken to the provision and management of sports facilities.
- Inform the current management, strategies and plans of sports facility providers e.g. local authorities (within the study area and neighbouring areas), leisure trusts and educational establishments.
- Share knowledge of how sites are managed and maintained, the lessons learnt and good practice.

- Highlight the potential of asset transfers and ensure any proposed are beneficial to all parties.
- Provide additional protection for particular sites over and above planning policy, for example through deeds of dedication.
- Resolve issues around security of tenure.

### 15.3.7 Public health

The SFS can be applied to help:

- Understand how the community currently participates in sport, the need for sports facilities and how this may evolve.
- Raise awareness of and tackle any barriers to people maintaining and increasing their participation.
- Highlight and address any inequalities of access to provision within the study area.
- Provide evidence to help support wider health and well-being initiatives.

### 15.3.8 Co-ordinating resources and investment

The SFS can be applied to help:

- Raise awareness of the current resources and investment (revenue and capital) going into the management, maintenance and improvement of sports facilities provision.
- Co-ordinate the current and any future resources and investment to ensure the maximum benefit to sport and that value for money is secured.
- Ensure the current and any future resources and investment are complimentary and do not result in their inefficient use.

### 15.3.9 Capital programmes

The SFS can be applied to help:

- Provide the evidence base to justify the protection and investment in sports facilities provision.
- Influence the development and implementation of relevant capital programmes (e.g. school refurbishment and new build programmes).

## **15.4 Monitoring delivery**

A process should be put in place to ensure regular monitoring of how the recommendations and action plan are being delivered. This monitoring should be led by Shepway District Council and supported by all members of, and reported back to, the steering group. Understanding and learning lessons from how the SFS has been applied should also form a key component of monitoring its delivery.

## **15.5 Keeping the strategy robust and up-to-date**

Along with ensuring that the SFS is used and applied, a process should be put in place to keep it robust and up to date. This will expand the life of the SFS providing people with the confidence to continue to both use it and attach significant value and weight to its key findings and issues, along with its recommendations and actions.

Sport England advocates that the SFS should be reviewed on an annual basis from the date it is formally signed off by the steering group. This will help to maintain the momentum and commitment built up when developing the SFS. Taking into account the time to develop the SFS this should also help to ensure that the original supply and demand information is no more than two years old without being reviewed.

The annual review should highlight:

- How the delivery of the recommendations and action plan has progressed and any changes required to the priority afforded to each action (e.g. the priority of some may increase following the delivery of others).
- How the SFS has been applied and the lessons learnt.
- Any changes to particularly important facilities and/or sites in the area (e.g. the most used or high-quality sites for a particular sport) and other supply and demand information, what this may mean for the overall assessment work and the key findings and issues.
- Any development of a specific sport or particular format of a sport.
- Any new or emerging issues and opportunities.

## **15.6 Strategy implementation**

To support the delivery of the actions in all the facility-specific chapters, Shepway District Council in consultation with stakeholders should prepare a short-term action plan identifying priorities and actions for year one of the strategy delivery. The action plans in the SFS provide a long list of prioritised actions, but many will not be applicable, appropriate or manageable to deliver initially. This is the first stage of delivering the SFS and essential that this is undertaken as this initiates the delivery and provides momentum following completion of the work.