Assessment of Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs for Aylesbury Vale

Final Report March 2017

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 In 2012 Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) produced a Leisure and Cultural Assessment that considered housing growth proposals for the district as set out in the Vale of Aylesbury Plan. Since this time AVDC has revised its growth proposals and has published a new version of the plan – the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP). This assessment of open space, sport and recreation needs provides a review and update of the 2012 Assessment examining new AVDC information, standards and policies relating to open space, sport and recreation facilities in the district, and takes into account the housing proposals set out in the VALP.

1.2 The Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) Draft Plan sets out a gross 33,300 homes to be provided between 2013-33 and to be distributed to a settlement hierarchy – comprising existing settlements in the Vale, the edge of Milton Keynes and a newly developed settlement (the location of which is not yet determined). The level of growth for each location is set out in the Draft VALP. In practice the housing target for Aylesbury Vale is likely to fall to around 26,800 homes, although at this stage and until a final decision (due in March 2017) on the housing target and allocation is taken, the figure in VALP Draft Plan of 33,300 homes will be used.

1.3 Clearly any growth in population will increase the demands on the existing community infrastructure within Aylesbury Vale, and in many instances will lead to the need for additional and/or improved existing facilities and services to cope with that demand. The detailed report below sets out the methodology and typologies that have been used to assess the impact of future growth. The implications for each of the typologies is summarised below.

- **Sports Halls** - Aylesbury Strategic Settlement (33,300 additional people) – the need equivalent to an additional 9 badminton court hall or 2.25 four court sports halls to the qualitative standards specified. New Settlement (11,250 additional people) - the need equivalent to an additional 3.12 badminton court hall or 0.78 of a four court sports halls. Adjacent to Milton Keynes (10,685 additional people) - the need equivalent to an additional 3 badminton court hall or 0.74 four court sports halls

- **Swimming Pools** - Aylesbury Strategic Settlement (33,300 additional people) – the need equivalent to an additional 6 lane pool to the qualitative standards identified.

- **Community Centres and Village Halls** - Aylesbury Strategic Settlement area (growth of 33,300 people) – as with all proposals the solution will depend on where the developments will occur, and should take account of the principles set out in this assessment. The growth would warrant a minimum of six additional community centres although consideration should be given as to how they could be integrated within other community "hubs" (sports centres, health centres, education facilities etc.) to provide greater sustainability. Buckingham Strategic Settlement (growth of 4,558 people) – provision of an additional Community Centre will be required. New Settlement (11,250 people) – broadly equivalent to the size of Buckingham, and therefore using the same standards, provision of two new community centres would be required. Adjacent to Milton Keynes (10,685 people) - the need equivalent to two community centres.

- **Artificial Grass Pitches** – Aylesbury Strategic Settlement (33,300 additional people) – the need equivalent to an additional 1 pitch to the qualitative standards identified.

- **Grass Playing Pitches** - Aylesbury Strategic Settlement (33,300 additional people) – the need for another 16 grass pitches and 1 cricket pitch. Buckingham Strategic Settlement (4,558 additional people) – the need for another 3 grass pitches and 1 cricket pitch. Haddenham, Wendover and Winslow Strategic Settlements – each would generate the need for another 2 grass pitches and 1 cricket wicket. New Settlement (11,250 people) - the need for 8 grass pitches and 3 cricket wickets. Adjacent to Milton Keynes (10,685 people) - the need for 8 grass pitches and 3 cricket wickets. However, as with the other sports the location will ultimately depend on the distribution of the housing developments.

- **Outdoor Tennis** - Aylesbury Strategic Settlement (33,300 people) – the need for another 13 tennis courts. Buckingham Strategic Settlement (4,558 people) – the need for another 3 tennis courts. Haddenham, Wendover and Winslow Strategic Settlements – each would generate the need for another 2 tennis courts. New Settlement (11,250 people) - the need for 8 tennis courts. Adjacent to Milton Keynes (10,685 people) - the need for 7 tennis courts.

- **Indoor Tennis** – no identifiable need as a result of population growth but new provision should be supported where it meets LTA funding criteria and/or the establishment of any future quantitative standard.

- **Outdoor Bowls** - no identifiable additional future need

- **Indoor Bowls** - Aylesbury Strategic Settlement (33,300 people) – the requirement for another 2 rinks.

- **Athletics** – no need for additional provision, but investment in upgrading and improving existing facilities is required.

- **Golf** – no identified need for additional courses.

- **Health and Fitness** – becoming increasingly diversified in terms of facilities and providers. Future provision should be based on commercial market demand.

- **Squash** – no identified need for additional facilities.

- **Climbing Walls** – decisions on future provision should be linked to a wider strategic view of the place of extreme sport facilities within the Aylesbury Urban environment.

- **Stadia** – from a comparative perspective the future size of the Aylesbury Strategic Settlement will be the same as, or greater than, many locations where reasonable sized stadia exist. There is however no obvious local tenant that could generate crowds of 10,000 plus. The issue is more about whether there is a desire to proactively pursue the future development of a stadium within Aylesbury Vale, or whether to establish it as a future aspiration and be prepared to encourage and support on an opportunistic rather than proactive basis any future proposals.

- **Green Infrastructure**

    - Aylesbury Strategic Settlement (33,300 people) – the need for 66.6ha of accessible natural green space, 46.6ha of incidental open space, and 40ha of major open space;

    - Buckingham Strategic Settlement (4,558 people) – the need for 9.2ha of accessible natural green space, 6.4ha of incidental open space, and 5.5ha of major open space;

    - Haddenham Strategic Settlement – the need for 4.6ha of accessible natural green space, 3.2ha of incidental open space, and 2.8ha of major open space;

    - Wendover Strategic Settlement – the need for 3.6ha of accessible natural green space, 2.5ha of incidental open space, and 2.2ha of major open space;

    - Winslow Strategic Settlement – the need for 4.8ha of accessible natural green space, 3.4ha of incidental open space, and 2.9ha of major open space;

    - New Settlement (11,250 people) - the need for 22.4ha of accessible natural green space, 15.7ha of incidental open space, and 13.44ha of major open space;

    - Adjacent to Milton Keynes (10,685 people) - the need for 21.2ha of accessible natural green space, 14.8ha of incidental open space, and 12.7ha of major open space.

2. INTRODUCTION

Purpose of Assessment

Background

2.1 In 2012 Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) produced a Leisure and Cultural Assessment that considered housing growth proposals for the district as set out in the Vale of Aylesbury Plan Strategy (Submission, 2013). That plan (VAP Strategy) was withdrawn after the Examiner produced a preliminary statement that the plan was unlikely to meet the tests of soundness. A new plan (Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan - VALP) begun to be prepared in March 2014. This assessment of open space, sport and recreation needs provides a review and update of the 2012 Assessment examining new AVDC information, standards and policies relating to open space, sport and recreation facilities in the district, and taking account of the housing proposals set out in the VALP.

The Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan

2.2 AVDC has produced the Draft Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan and this underwent a public consultation in July-September 2016. AVDC is now working towards a Proposed Submission version of VALP. This study is one of the pieces of evidence needed by February 2017 - to enable writing the final version of the plan and to inform the Sustainability Appraisal work and Infrastructure Delivery Plan. A Proposed Submission version of the plan will be prepared to be agreed by the

Council in March 2017. A final proposed submission consultation will take place April-May 2017 ahead of submitting the plan to Government in June 2017. There will be an Examination held in late Summer 2017 and the plan could be adopted by the end of 2017 taking account of any changes recommended in the Inspector's Report.

2.3 The VALP sets out a vision for Aylesbury Vale, based on the Council's overall vision, which is:

"To secure the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the people and businesses in the area".

2.4 The Spatial Vision set out in the Plan is:

"By 2033 Aylesbury Vale will have seen an appropriate amount and distribution of sustainable growth, which will contribute to creating a thriving, diverse, safe, vibrant place to live, work and visit, and where all residents enjoy a high quality of life".

Impact of Future Housing Growth

2.5 The Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) Draft Plan sets out a gross 33,300 homes to be provided between 2013-33 and be distributed to a settlement hierarchy – comprising existing settlements in the Vale, the edge of Milton Keynes and a newly developed settlement (the location of which is not yet determined). The level of housing growth for each location is set out in the Draft VALP. The housing growth (i.e. number of dwellings) is:

- Aylesbury 15,845
- Buckingham 2,571
- Haddenham 1,043
- Wendover 834
- Winslow1,063
- New Settlement 4,500
- Sites Adjacent to Milton Keynes 4,274
- Large Villages 2,174
- Medium Villages 1,458
- Small Villages 434

(see Figure 1 for location of the main settlements referred to above and Figures 2 and 3 for the more detailed breakdown of housing allocations). It should be noted that between 2013 and November 2016 some 4,412 of the 33,300 dwellings planned by 2033 were completed. When calculating future need for the various typologies it has therefore been assumed that any developer contributions resulting from the completed dwellings will already have been negotiated. The needs assessment is therefore based on future growth from 2016 onwards.

2.6 The next stage of the VALP will be the Proposed Submission version of the plan due to be agreed March 2017 for a six weeks minimum period of comment in April-May 2017. Following reduced housing need across the Housing Market Area and increases in housing capacity in Wycombe District and also in Chiltern and South Bucks Districts (Autumn 2016) the housing target for Aylesbury Vale is likely to fall to around 26,800 homes, although at this stage and until a final decision on the housing target and allocation is taken, the original figure of 33,300 homes will be used.

2.7 The above figures relate to the growth in the number of dwellings. For the purpose of evaluating the impact on open space, sport and recreation provision estimated population numbers are required. The draft VALP states that in 2011the average household size was 2.5 people per dwelling, and this is used to estimate the population growth in each settlement type, taking into account completions up until 2016.

2.8 Clearly any growth in population will increase the demands on the existing community infrastructure within Aylesbury Vale, and in many instances will lead to the need for additional and/or improved existing facilities and services to cope with that demand. Open space, sport and recreation are key ingredients in meeting the Plan's vision of "*creating a thriving, diverse, safe, vibrant place to live*". The 2013 Town and Country Planning Association publication *Improving Culture, Arts and Sporting Opportunities through Planning* sets out the key benefits of planning for culture, arts and sport, pointing out that "In recent years culture, arts and sport have been widely used to drive regeneration, build cohesive communities and change the way that places are perceived". Sport England's *Planning for Sport Guide* states that:

"Sport England promotes a planned approach to the provision of facilities and opportunities to participate in sport, in doing so adding value to the work of others and helping to deliver sustainable development goals through:

- recognising and taking full advantage of the unique role of sport and active recreation in contributing to a wide array of policy and community aspirations, including leisure, health and education.
- using sport and recreation as a fundamental part of the planning and delivery of sustainable communities.
- the development of partnership working using sport and active recreation as a common interest."

2.9 As a result this assessment specifically examines the impact of Aylesbury Vale population growth on the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities, and as part of that process reviews and updates the Council's current information, policies and, where appropriate, standards in these areas. These recommended standards will be used to inform VALP and the Council's on-site public open space, sport and recreation needs and off-site financial contributions, through S106 agreements and/or the Community Infrastructure Levy.

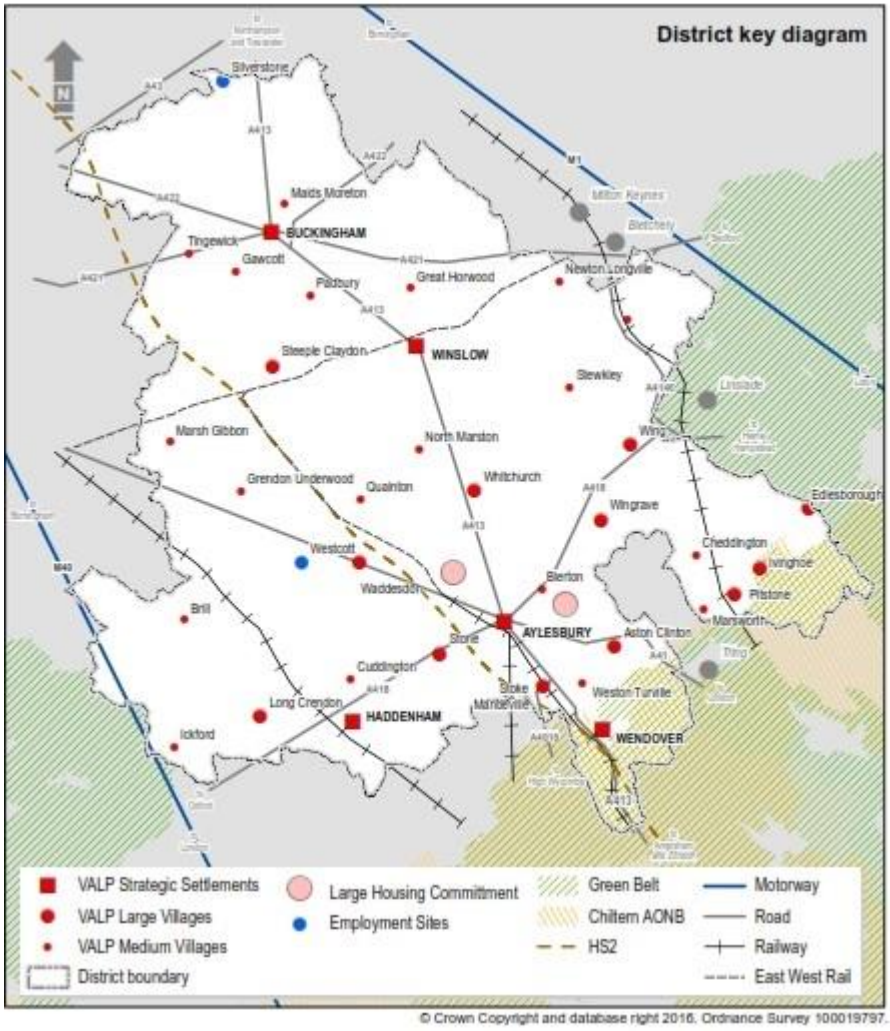


Figure 1 Aylesbury Vale Settlements in the VALP Draft Plan

Category	Description	Settlements	Amount of housing development[10]
Strategic settlements	The most sustainable towns and villages in the district and the focus for the majority of development. These settlements act as service centres for other villages around them. The plan will allocate sites at strategic settlements	Aylesbury Buckingham Haddenham Wendover Winslow	15,845[11] 2,571 1,043 834 1,063 (TOTAL 21,356)
New settlement	A sustainable new settlement making provision for new homes, employment, services and infrastructure.	Location to be determined	4,500 (TOTAL 4,500)
Sites adjacent to Milton Keynes	Allocation of sites adjoining Milton Keynes that fall within Aylesbury Vale district.	Sites within the parishes of Whaddon, Stoke Hammond and Newton Longville.	4,274
Larger villages	Larger, more sustainable villages that have at least reasonable access to facilities and services and public transport, making them sustainable locations for development. The plan will allocate sites at larger villages.	Aston Clinton Edlesborough Ivinghoe Long Crendon Pitstone Steeple Claydon Stoke Mandeville Stone (including Hartwell) Waddesdon (including Fleet Marston) Whitchurch Wing Wingrave	349 164 67 231 275 207 0* 208 197 87 255 134 (TOTAL 2,174)

[10] Based on a percentage increase on housing stock as set out in policy S2

[11] This includes requirements for Stoke Mandeville (217), Bierton (144), and Weston Turville (230), these are added to Aylesbury's requirement and no further sites will be allocated at these settlements.

Figure 2 Settlement Hierarchy from VALP Draft Plan

Category	Description	Settlements	Amount of housing development[10]
Medium villages	Medium villages have some provision key services and facilities, making them moderately sustainable locations for development. The plan will allocate sites at medium villages	Bierton (including Broughton) Brill Cheddington Cuddington Gawcott Great Horwood Grendon Underwood Ickford Maids Moreton Marsh Gibbon Marsworth Newton Longville North Marston Padbury Quainton Stewkley Stoke Hammond Tingewick Weston Turville	0* 99 140 50 67 81 80 53 69 80 57 154 58 64 104 141 72 89 0* (TOTAL 1,458)
Smaller villages	Smaller, less sustainable villages which have relatively poor access to services and facilities. It is expected that small scale development could be accommodated at smaller villages without causing environmental harm. This level of development is also likely to help maintain existing communities. The plan will identify how the housing requirement will be delivered at smaller villages, either through neighbourhood plans or at the next stage of the local plan, but does not make allocations at this stage	Adstock Akeley Ashendon Aston Abbotts Beachampton Bishopstone Buckland Calvert Green Chackmore Charndon Chearsley Chilton Cublington	8 11 5 9 4 6 15 10 4 15 11 6 7

Category	Description	Settlements	Amount of housing development[10]
		Dagnall Dinton Drayton Parslow East Claydon Ford Granborough Great Brickhill Halton Hardwick Ivinghoe Aston Little Horwood Ludgershall Mentmore and Ledburn Mursley Nash Northall Oakley Oving (including Pitchcott) Preston Bissett Shabbington Slapton Soulbury Stowe and Dadford Swanbourne Thornborough Turweston Twyford Weedon Westbury Westcott Whaddon Worminghall	11 10 13 7 4 12 17 16 6 5 9 8 9 14 8 9 22 10 6 10 12 16 6 8 13 5 11 7 9 9 10 11 (TOTAL 434)

Figure 3 Settlement Hierarchy from VALP Draft Plan

Definitions of Open Space, Sport and Recreation

2.10 For planning purposes we have to be quite clear about what is covered by this Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment, and conversely what is not.

2.11 The typologies therefore used in this assessment are as follows:

- Indoor and outdoor sports facilities available for public and community use;
- Multipurpose community buildings (community centres, village halls, church halls available for public use throughout the day/evening/week etc.);
- Public Open Space as originally defined within the former Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17). As the National Planning Practice Guidance states "Open space, which includes all open space of public value, can take many forms, from formal sports pitches to open areas within a development, linear corridors and country parks".

2.12 The above encompasses facilities provided by the public, voluntary and commercial sectors, and takes account of provision sitting outside of the district's boundaries which caters for the needs of people living within those boundaries. It covers the planning Use classes D1 (non-residential institutions) and D2 (Assembly and Leisure) of the Use of Classes Order 1987 (as amended).

2.13 The assessment in this report does not cover libraries, museums/heritage, and other "leisure" facilities such as bars, night clubs and restaurants. There is also a number of typologies which are examined to inform future strategic planning for leisure and culture but for which specific planning standards are unnecessary or inappropriate.

Assessment Framework – "Living Spaces"

2.14 The framework for this assessment is based upon *The Culture and Sport Planning Toolkit*. The Toolkit was developed with the support of the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, and the Department for Communities and Local Government and was launched in March 2009 with further guidance updates based on The Town & Country Planning Association's 2013 publication *Improving Arts, Culture and Sporting Opportunities through Planning: a good practice guide*. The overall management of the Toolkit has been taken on by the Living Spaces Programme, the aim of which is to ensure that all communities can access cultural opportunities and that culture and sport are embedded within the development of villages, towns and cities. The objective is to assist in the building of stronger and more sustainable communities.

2.15 The updated Culture and Sport Planning Toolkit continues to promote a five stage process:

- Stage 1 – Leadership and Co-ordination of the promotion and planning of sport and cultural facilities;
- Stage 2 – Defining a shared Vision for culture and sport
- Stage 3 – Needs and Provision Assessment based on local evidence
- Stage 4 – Delivery of provision, looking at funding, lifecycle, priorities, viability and risks

- Stage 5 – Monitoring and Review, measuring progress and success.

2.16 The above is a cyclical process rather than a linear one, and can therefore integrate existing research and consultation within each of the stages.

2.17 The main focus of this Assessment of Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities in Aylesbury Vale, as it was with the 2012 study, is on Stages 2 and 3. Stage 1, the Leadership and Coordination process, is currently facilitated by Aylesbury Vale District Council and a Steering Group established by the Council to oversee this study comprising representatives of leisure, planning and Parks/open spaces. Stage 4 and 5 will be completed when sites are granted planning permission or allocated in a development plan.

Methodology

2.18 This study follows a Project Specification prepared by the Steering Group in July 2016 and takes account of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (published by the Department for Communities and Local Government, March 2012). Specifically it:

- Reviews and updates relevant national, regional and local policies – whether these are for green infrastructure, national governing bodies of sport or appropriate organisations such as Sport England;

- Updates the 2012 database that identifies the current "supply" of leisure and cultural facilities within the District. This has used publicly available information together with the Council's own latest knowledge, a specifically undertaken 2016 survey of the District's Town and Parish Councils updating the facility data and identifying future developmental needs, and discussion with organisations such as Sport England and the County Sports Partnership.

- Reviews and updates, as appropriate, the previous studies of sport and leisure demand undertaken within Aylesbury Vale, including re-runs of the Sport England Facilities Planning Model for Sports Halls and Swimming Pools, data model updates of future potential sports pitch demand, and reviews of national, local and regional strategies that set out provision required as a result of future demand assessment.

2.19 The maps provided within this study are primarily to illustrate specific points relating to catchment areas or the distribution of facilities. Detailed information on specific facilities within Aylesbury Vale can be found either in the relevant supporting studies or on the database which accompanies this report. Specific questions regarding this can be addressed to the contacts listed at the end of the study.

3. ESTABLISHING THE VISION

A Diverse District

3.1 Aylesbury Vale is a large shire district (900 square kilometres or 350 square miles) which is predominantly rural in character. Parts of Aylesbury Vale have been designated for their landscape quality, either as forming part of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Areas of Attractive Landscape or Local Landscape Areas.

3.2 There are some 103 towns and parishes in the District with the majority of its population based in the five major settlements of Aylesbury, Buckingham, Winslow, Haddenham and Wendover and the rest in mid to small (in terms of population)rural parishes.

3.3 The northern part of the district directly adjoins Milton Keynes and Leighton Buzzard. This proximity means that there are strong linkages with these areas, with Milton Keynes and Leighton Buzzard both providing a source of employment, leisure and retail facilities for the area.

3.4 The southern part of the district contains substantial tracts of high quality landscape including some areas designated as forming part of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Metropolitan Green Belt. It also includes three of the larger settlements in the district: Aylesbury, Wendover and Haddenham.

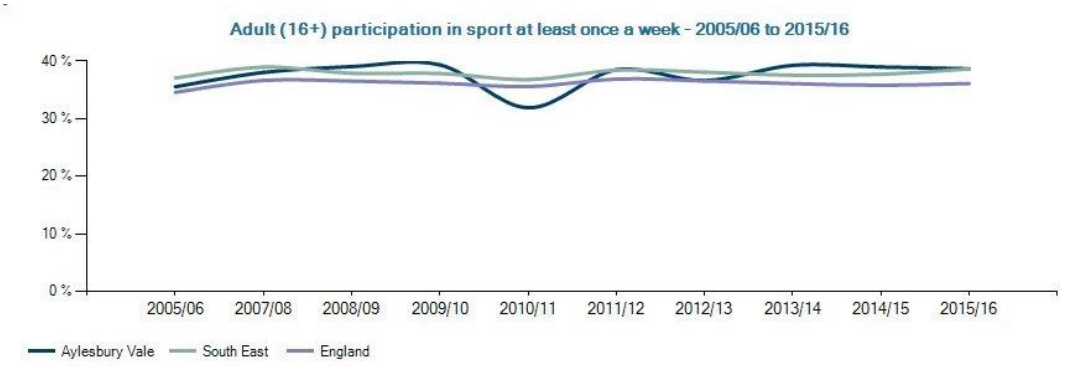
3.5 The population is becoming increasingly elderly: 21% of the population were aged over 60 in 2011, compared to 17% in 2001. There was a corresponding decrease in the young working population (aged 25 to 39) from 23% of the population in 2011, to 19% in 2011.

3.6 The latest census shows that 14.8% of the population comprises ethnic groups other than white British.

3.7 The quality of life is generally high, as demonstrated by the Government's indices of deprivation (2015) which show that the district falls within the 14% least deprived areas in England. However, there are pockets within Aylesbury town which rank among the 26% most deprived in the South East region.

3.8 The life expectancy of residents has been steadily increasing, and is longer than the average for England.

3.9 In terms of sports participation the population of Aylesbury Vale generally scores better than the South East Region and England as a whole, as measured by Sport England's Active Peoples' Survey.



Source: Active People Survey. Measure: Adult (16+) participation in sport (at least once a week) by year, one session per week (at least 4 sessions of at least moderate intensity for at least 30 minutes in the previous 28 days). Time Period(s): 2005/06, 2007/08, 2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16

Figure 4 Aylesbury Vale Sports Participation Trends 2005-2016

3.10 The trends since 2005/06 within the District also indicate a relatively steady level of participation with the exception of a dip between 2009/10 and 2010/11, the period that a significant degree of primary research and consultation which informed the 2012 study came from. For this 2016 assessment, therefore, it is reasonable to assume that the results of those demand analyses represent a minimum level compared to 2016 requirements.

3.11 Aylesbury Vale therefore consists of areas of both urban and rural housing, high and low densities of population, large and small concentrations of specific ethnic groups, areas of affluence and deprivation, and a varied mix of how sport and cultural facilities and services are provided.

3.12 Any overarching vision for sport and cultural provision that embraces the entire district has therefore to take account of this fact, and in reality more localised visions for individual towns and parishes will also have a bearing on the future need and supply of facilities, and indeed the vision for particular sectors of provision and individual sports and activities will also need to be considered.

Building Blocks for the Vision

Sustainable Communities Strategy for Aylesbury Vale 2009-2026

3.13 The overarching vision for Aylesbury Vale District is enshrined in the District's *Sustainable Communities Strategy for Aylesbury Vale 2009-2026*. This sets out the long term vision for the district and the key local priorities – many of which will be addressed and delivered through other district or county-wide strategies, including the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan. It is based on comprehensive consultation with local stakeholders, residents and the community and voluntary sector. Its aim is to develop a sustainable community in Aylesbury Vale. The Strategy looks to shape Aylesbury Vale as a place by balancing and integrating the social, economic and environmental components that define the area. The SCS has five themes and outcomes, these are:

- **Thriving Economy**: building business and enterprise, developing skills and employment, supporting strategic infrastructure requirements and promoting investment;

- **Sustainable Environment**: Tackling climate change enhancing and protecting the local environment, reducing waste, re-using resources, increasing recycling and energy recovery and efficiently managing the transport network;

- **Safe Communities**: Reducing the level and fear of crime, anti-social behaviour, improving the safety of local people and promoting safe development;

- **Health and Wellbeing**: Promoting healthy lifestyles, reducing health inequalities, improving the quality of life, reducing homelessness and providing well-connected communities;

- **Cohesive and Strong Communities**: Sustaining growth of a thriving voluntary community sector, increasing the confidence of communities and reducing social inclusion.

3.14 Sport and culture play an important contributory role in the majority of these themes, particularly in Safe Communities (diversionary activities and facilities for young people, helping to reduce low level crime and nuisance, and as a rehabilitation mechanism for offenders), Health and Wellbeing (regular participation in physical activity can substantially reduce health risks), Cohesive and Strong Communities (sports and cultural activities and facilities provide the mechanisms for bringing people within communities together). In terms of the Sustainable Environment the vision specifically embraces the need for "a well managed network of green infrastructure conserving and enhancing the biodiversity of the area, supporting a range of recreational activities".

The Impact of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

3.15 Perhaps more than any previous host country, the UK has focussed on achieving a legacy of participation and facilities from the staging of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games in London. The district itself is home to the birth of the Paralympic movement at Stoke Mandeville, and the potential interest in sports participation and the demand this may put on sports facilities as a result is acknowledged in this study. Indeed, the preceding graph of sports participation in Aylesbury Vale clearly indicates an increase in participation in the years following 2012. Since 2012 the District Council has held in high priority the legacy of the games and has supported legacy events to encourage interest in the heritage of the Paralympics to the district and the take up of sport and activity for better well-being (http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/2016-paralympic-games-heritage-flame-events).

The Vision for Sport and Culture

3.16 In 2004 the Council produced a Local Cultural Strategy for Aylesbury Vale. The Strategy was the result of extensive consultation, including local forums, organisational and in home surveys. The Strategy has subsequently been updated. In the context of this Strategy the term "culture" also embraces sport and open spaces.

3.17 The Strategy sets out a Vision for sport and culture in Aylesbury Vale, and in light of both the Council's most recent overarching strategic document – the Sustainable Communities Strategy – and the draft VALP, this vision is still relevant and serves as the focus for this assessment. It is:

"We recognise the importance of sport and culture in improving health, tackling social inclusion, developing skills throughout life, contributing to the economy, and developing an individual and community sense of worth and identity. Our vision for sport and culture is that anyone living or working in Aylesbury Vale, irrespective of age, economic circumstance, race, gender, level of ability or geographical location is positively encouraged to, and has the opportunity to,

participate in and enjoy sport and culture at all levels in a way that helps preserve and sustain the local environment.

"We will do this by:

- *Ensuring the sporting and cultural infrastructure is developed to meet the needs of a growing district;*
- *Ensuring that people living in the rural areas of the district have access to a wide range of sporting and cultural activities and opportunities;*
- *Paying particular attention to the development of sporting and cultural opportunities for, and participation by, young people;*
- *Maintaining, developing and celebrating the diverse cultural identity and history of Aylesbury Vale;*
- *Ensuring a focus on those individuals and groups within the district who may be particularly disadvantage in terms of accessing or affording sports cultural activities and opportunities."*

3.18 It must be stressed that this vision embraces all aspects of sports and cultural provision, not just facilities. Facilities are just one part - albeit an important one - of the overall delivery of sporting and cultural opportunities. Specific programmes of activities and the particular skills of the professionals and volunteers that deliver them are just as critical. In the same way that a school is no more than an empty shell without the timetable and teachers necessary to deliver the educational outcomes, so sports and cultural facilities require a proactive input from coaches, instructors, health, youth, sports and leisure specialists, to ensure they are used to their full effect.

3.19 However, having an infrastructure of accessible built sports and cultural facilities is as important in the same way as having an infrastructure of education establishments is.

3.20 This assessment is about the current and future requirements and options for the sporting, recreational and open space elements of cultural *facilities* within Aylesbury Vale.

4. NEEDS AND PROVISION ASSESSMENT

Current Position

4.1 The 2012 Leisure and Culture Assessment reviewed and updated the June 2010 sports and leisure planning assessment which was based on the criteria and methodology of the former Planning Policy Guidance 17 and its Companion Guide. At the same time it reviewed the district's 2010 Playing Pitch Strategy which covered outdoor sports provision and used Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy methodology. Both studies included detailed research and consultation. They identified current need, future need based on the then available projections for population growth, and established quantitative, qualitative and accessibility planning standards for each typology. The 2012 study revisited the data, trends, strategic plans and incorporated feedback from Town and Parish Councils through the Town and Parish Fact Sheets.

4.2 In addition in 2011 the Council prepared the Aylesbury Vale Green Infrastructure Strategy, which has subsequently been updated in 2014. At a wider level, the 2009 Buckinghamshire Green Infrastructure Strategy, consolidated with a project based Delivery Plan 2013 set out the County-wide strategy and the 2009 Strategy will be replaced by a forthcoming overarching vision for the Natural Environment Partnership (NEP) area (http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/environment/green-infrastructure/).

4.3 This 2016 Open Space, Sport & Recreation Assessment updates the 2012 study, with a new and updated audit of facilities, a new survey of Town and Parish Councils, an update of demand data taking account of current and the latest future population scenarios, and a review of the facility provision standards and relevant strategic documentation.

4.4 Taking these into account each of the following sections reviews the typologies identified for inclusion within this study.

Sports Halls

Introduction

4.5 The provision of purpose built and managed indoor facilities for dry sports (three badminton court hall size and above) and swimming (20m x 4 lane pool and above) requires a minimum size of population and demographic mix to justify, both from a sustainability and usage perspective.

4.6 The main mechanism for a demand assessment of these facilities is the Sport England Facilities Planning Model (FPM). This identifies theoretical demand based on the population profile within a given catchment. Demand is then compared to existing supply to calculate the nature of any deficit or oversupply in provision. It is based on research into participation patterns and profiles of users at facilities across England. The research identifies penetration rates and frequency of participation by age and gender, travel time and travel mode. By applying a set formula using peak hours and facility capacity, potential demand expressed in m^2 of pool water area (for pools) or number of badminton courts (for sports halls) can be calculated. Actual supply is then compared to demand within any given catchment and potential levels of under or over provision identified.

4.7 In November 2016 Sport England undertook a national "run" of the FPM covering sports halls and swimming pools in Aylesbury Vale. The "runs" are based on the National Facilities Audit as of January 2016.

Identifying Current Need

4.8 The Sport England analysis suggests that the current supply of sports halls is able to meet the demand generated by the population of Aylesbury Vale, with theoretical levels of satisfied demand being around 93.8%, similar to the regional figure. The model suggests that some 21% of the demand that is being satisfied is being met by sports hall provision outside of the district within other neighbouring local authority areas. Nearly all of the unmet demand is attributed to people living outside the catchment of an existing facility, not surprising given the rural nature of a large part of the district. Overall, and in simplistic terms, the supply/demand balance identifies a 6.75 court theoretical "surplus". The demand modelling is based on a 2015/16 population projection that, as a result of residential growth, is now some 5,000 people below the current 2016

projection. In simplistic terms this would reduce the "surplus" to around 5 courts. It should also be noted that the analysis highlights that some of the areas with comparably higher levels of unmet demand are within and around Aylesbury and Buckingham. These areas therefore should not be considered to have a "surplus" of provision.

Provision Standards

4.9 Provision standards are based on three criteria – accessibility (the accessibility in terms of travel time or distance that it is reasonable to use as a catchment for different facility types), quantitative (the size or number of specific facilities that would be expected for a given population), and qualitative (the quality of design and finishes that are required for any new or upgraded provision). For Sports Halls these are:

- **Accessibility Standard** – the accessibility standard is based on a *20 minute travel time* by car as suggested within the guidance notes for the Sport England FPM i.e. no part of the District should be outside of a 20 minute travel time of an indoor sports hall.

- **Quantitative Standard** – for the purpose of planning development a locally derived standard of *0.28 badminton courts per 1,000 population* is recommended. This is based on the parameters of the Sport England Facilities Planning Calculator applied to the current population of Aylesbury Vale. However, for practical purposes i.e. identifying specific current quantitative requirements, the results of the Sport England FPM for the District will provide the benchmark.

  In terms of provision, delivery should be as a minimum in four badminton court units and should include an *ancillary hall of no less than 1500m²* to ensure maximum sporting benefits and flexibility of use. Provision should be accompanied by the necessary support facilities (changing, plant, reception etc.) as set out in the qualitative standards.

- **Qualitative Standard** – quality standards set benchmarks for the quality of future provision and the development and improvements to existing provision. They may vary according to the size, role and function of the facility being provided. However, the minimum acceptable quality standard for indoor sports halls and their associated facilities will be to meet the most *current (at time of provision) Sport England* Design Guidance Notes for Sports Halls and any subsequent update provided by Sport England.

Future Need

4.10 Given that current demand for sport hall provision is met, with a potential small surplus, future demand will be based on any increase in demand resulting from the growth in population as a result of new housing development. The application of the quantitative standard to each of the growth proposals leads to the following future estimate of need:

- Aylesbury Strategic Settlement (33,300 people – note, it is coincidental that this figure for population is the same as the total projected number of new dwellings up unto 2033) – the need equivalent to an additional 9 badminton court hall or 2.25 four court sports halls to the qualitative standards identified above.

- Buckingham Strategic Settlement (4,558 people) – the need equivalent to an additional 1.28 badminton court hall or 0.32 four court sports hall. In practice no additional stand alone provision justified, although a relevant financial contribution to improve/expand existing provision would be.

- Haddenham, Wendover and Winslow Strategic Settlements – in practice the population growth for each of these settlements justifies no more than the maximum equivalent of 0.66 of a badminton court per settlement. No additional stand alone provision is therefore justified, although a relevant financial contribution to existing provision would be.

- New Settlement (11,250 people) - the need equivalent to an additional 3.12 badminton court hall or 0.78 of a four court sports halls. However, this will depend on where the new settlement is located. Current options in the VALP are close to Haddenham or Winslow. In both instances the total growth across both the new settlement and either of the two options would justify a full four court facility to the quantitative and qualitative standards identified above.

- Adjacent to Milton Keynes (10,685 people) - the need equivalent to an additional 3 badminton court hall or 0.74 four court sports halls to the qualitative standards identified above. However, this will ultimately depend on the distribution of the housing developments. Currently, within the VALP (Draft Plan), proposed development is relatively evenly split between sites within the parishes of Newton Longville and Whaddon, so potential demand will also be split. Both locations are accessible to indoor sports facilities within Milton Keynes, particularly Newton Longville's proximity to Bletchley and Bletchley Leisure Centre. Both the location and nature of future provision will therefore need to be determined once the final decision on location is made and discussion is held between neighbouring authorities.

- Larger, Medium and Smaller Villages – across all the villages the population growth anticipated after 2016 is just over 8,000 people, leading to the need for an additional 2.24 badminton courts. By itself this would not justify the need for an additional sports hall, and given the geographical spread of the villages, and the lack of any area of major population concentration, provision in any location would be difficult to justify. Instead, focus should be concentrated on ensuring local community centres have adequate lower level sports facilities as defined within the qualitative standard for these facilities (see section below).

Swimming Pools

Introduction

4.11 The 2016 audit identifies 9 sites with one or more swimming pools of 20m length or above and a minimum width of 8m or above, that are known to be available for some degree of community use.

Identifying Current Need

4.12 The Sport England analysis suggests that current supply is able to meet current levels of demand from the district's population. 79% of demand is met within Aylesbury Vale, whilst 21% is exported into neighbouring authority areas. Unmet demand is low at 5.7%, equivalent to 113 square metres of water space, which is only just over a third of a traditional 25m x 6 lane pool. The demand modelling is based on a 2015/16 population projection that, as a result of residential growth,

is now some 5,000 people below the current 2016 projection. This could potentially increase unmet demand marginally, but the unmet demand is already low.

Setting Provision Standards

4.13 The following are the recommended local provision standards for swimming pools within Aylesbury Vale:

- **Accessibility Standard** – the accessibility standard is based on a *20 minute travel time* by car as suggested within the guidance notes for the Sport England FPM i.e. no part of the District should be outside of a 20 minute travel time of an indoor swimming pool.

- **Quantitative Standard** – for the purpose of planning development a locally derived standard of *0.2 pool lanes per 1,000 population* is recommended. This is based on the parameters of the Sport England Facilities Planning Calculator applied to the current population of Aylesbury Vale. However, for practical purposes i.e. identifying specific current quantitative requirements, the results of the Sport England FPM for the District should provide the benchmark.

  In terms of provision the pool should be accompanied by the necessary support facilities (changing, plant, reception etc.) as set out in the qualitative standards.

- **Qualitative Standard** – quality standards set benchmarks for the quality of future provision and the development and improvements to existing provision. They may vary according to the size, role and function of the facility being provided. However, the minimum acceptable quality standard for indoor swimming pools and their associated facilities will be to meet the most *current (at time of provision) Sport England* Design Guidance Notes for Swimming Pools and any subsequent update provided by Sport England.

Future Need

4.14 As discussed above, there is no currently identified need for additional public swimming pool water space within the District. Future demand will therefore be based on any increase in demand resulting from the growth in population as a result of new housing development. The application of the quantitative standard to each of the growth proposals leads to the following future estimate of need:

- Aylesbury Strategic Settlement (33,300 people) – the need equivalent to an additional 6 lane pool to the qualitative standards identified above.

- Buckingham Strategic Settlement (4,558 people) – the need equivalent to an additional 0.9 lanes. No additional stand alone provision is justified, although a relevant financial contribution to existing provision would be.

- Haddenham, Wendover and Winslow Strategic Settlements – in practice the population growth for each of these settlements justifies no additional stand alone provision, although a relevant financial contribution to existing provision would be.

- New Settlement (11,250 people) - the need equivalent to an additional 2.29 lanes or just over half a 25m x 4 lane pool. However, this will depend on where the new settlement is located. Current options in the VALP are close to Haddenham or Winslow. In both instances the total growth across both the

new settlement and either of the two options would still not fully justify a 25m x 4 lane pool, although there may be a rationale for an inclusion of such a facility within any new education provision that supplies a degree of community use.

- Adjacent to Milton Keynes (10,685 people) - the need equivalent to an additional 2.17 lanes. As with sports halls total need will ultimately depend on the distribution of the housing developments. Currently, within the VALP (Draft Plan), proposed development is relatively evenly split between sites within the parishes of Newton Longville and Whaddon, so potential demand will also be split, limiting further the requirement for a new facility. Both locations are accessible to indoor sports facilities within Milton Keynes, particularly Newton Longville's proximity to Bletchley and Bletchley Leisure Centre. Both the location and nature of future provision will therefore need to be determined once the final decision on location is made, but on current projections no new pool facility is predicated to be required as a result of the planned housing developments.

- Larger, Medium and Smaller Villages – across all the villages the population growth after 2016 is anticipated at just over 8,000 people, leading to the need for an additional 1.6 lanes. By itself this would not justify the need for any additional pool provision, and given the geographical spread of the villages, and the lack of any area of major population concentration, provision in any location would be difficult to justify.

Community Centres and Village Halls

Introduction

4.15 Community centres and village halls are an important element of cultural provision, particularly in rural areas. They can provide a focus within the local community for activities, indoor events, social gatherings and meetings of local groups and organisations. The ability to provide for a range of multi functional needs within such centres is key, particularly where the size of local settlements (again predominantly in the rural areas) cannot sustain specialist facilities such as theatres, sports halls and major function venues. The community centre or village hall therefore becomes a location for a wide range of small scale but diverse events and activities, ranging from amateur dramatics to badminton clubs to pre-school play groups to bridge clubs to parties to discos to Parish Council meetings.

4.16 Unlike rural areas, in major conurbations such as the Aylesbury Strategic Settlement, the role of a community centre changes. The population of these areas can support specialist facilities such as sports halls, arts centres, entertainment venues and function suites. There is also a multiplicity of providers of these types of facilities within urban areas – public, private, commercial, voluntary and educational – so the choice is wider and the role of community centres can be more focussed.

4.17 As a result of the potentially differing requirements of urban and rural provision, of necessity this section examines the requirements for community centres and village halls under two broad geographical headings – Aylesbury Rural (the majority of the District, excluding the Aylesbury and Buckingham Strategic Settlements) and the Aylesbury and Buckingham Strategic Settlements. The results will then be considered in the context of the growth proposals for each. It should be noted that the terms Community Centre and Village Hall embraces

dedicated facilities for this type of use and does not include facilities that have a primary function other than as a purpose built community centre.

Aylesbury Rural Area

Identifying Current Need

4.18 There are no national standards for the level of provision for community halls, village halls etc. The 2010 AVDC updated PPG17 study therefore referred to the 2004 PPG17 Study which examined actual provision across the district, particularly in relation to parishes, and identified the level, mix and size of facility for a particular population size that most parishes had decided are required to serve their local communities. This was in line with the requirement to develop locally derived standards as recommended within the former PPG17 guidance. This was then cross referenced to comments received from Parishes about their facilities – highlighting strengths and weaknesses. Standards were then identified. Since then both the 2012 Leisure and Culture Assessment and this 2016 update have taken the opportunity to consult with Parishes on their provision. A number have identified specific requirements to either upgrade existing or provide new village halls/community centres, and within the 2012 and 2016 period some of these improvements have taken place. However, overall the changes support rather than detract from the standards that were originally established, unsurprising since the rural areas have remained largely unchanged in the intervening years.

4.19 In 2012 reference was also made to the Aylesbury Vale Cultural Strategy and the need to provide localised activity programmes and opportunities. The standards established therefore required provision as a minimum of community halls available within a defined geographical area that could accommodate some sport activities and some performance events.

4.20 Since there are well over 100 relatively specialist community halls, and many more that could be available for community hire/use, the provision standards (see below) have been established to enable a localised audit to be undertaken to identify the degree to which the standards are met within each parish. When specific housing developments are identified for particular parishes it is intended that the standards can be used to lever contributions to provide or upgrade community facilities to meet the standards where deficits exist.

Setting Provision Standards

4.21 The following are the recommended local provision standards for community centres and village halls within the Aylesbury Vale rural area:

- **Accessibility Standard** - the accessibility standard is based upon a geographical hierarchy that was developed as part of the 2004 AVDC PPG17 study. This hierarchy was created for the study, and although it is no longer universally applicable for all other typologies in this 2016 assessment it provides a good guideline for local community centre provision, and can be largely related to the settlement hierarchies in the draft VALP.

Settlement Level	Population or Definition
Hamlet	Under 100 people
Rural Parish 1	100 – 300 people
Rural Parish 2	300 – 1000 people
Rural parish 3	1000 – 3000 people
Cluster	A mix of parishes within the same

	geographical area where shared use of community facilities is a possibility
Larger Sustainable Settlement	Winslow, Haddenham, Wendover

- **Quantitative Standard** – the quantitative standards are as follows:
    - No provision required at Hamlet or Rural Parish 1 level;
    - At Rural Parish 2 level a small community centre with main hall up to100m^2 with foyer, small meeting room, adequate storage, kitchen, toilet facilities and parking;
    - At Rural Parish 3 level a medium sized community centre up to 250m^2, as above with addition of meeting room(s), and stage;
    - At cluster and sustainable settlement level a minimum 18m x 10m main hall and ancillary facilities suitable for sporting activities to standards set in Sport England Design Guidance Note *Village and Community Halls* plus small fitness room to relevant Sport England guidance; and a minimum 18m x 10m main hall with fixed or demountable stage and ancillary facilities suitable for arts and performance activities to standards set in Sport England Design Guidance Note *Village and Community Halls*. These two halls may in practice be the same if either meets the other's specification.
- **Qualitative Standard** - quality standards set benchmarks for the quality of future provision and the development and improvements to existing provision. They may vary according to the size, role and function of the facility being provided. However, the minimum acceptable quality standard for community centres and village halls will be to meet the most current (at time of provision) Sport England Design Guidance recommendations for these facilities together with such environmental standards relating to sustainability, energy consumption and recycling, and building construction as required by the Council at the time of provision.

Aylesbury Strategic Settlement

Identifying Current Need

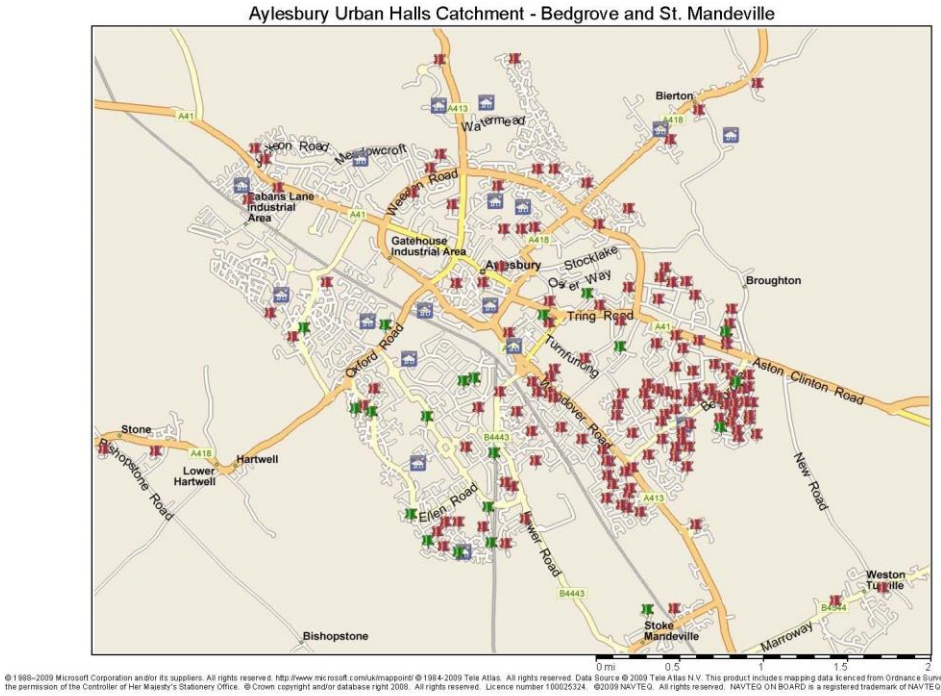
4.22 The first point to make is that the Aylesbury Strategic Settlement area is very well served by community centres of varying types. An updated list of these is provided below:

Alfred Rose Community Centre
Aylesbury Vale Multi-Cultural Centre
Berryfields Community Centre
Buckingham Park Community Centre
Haydon Hill Community Centre
Jonathan Page Play Centre
Prebendal Farm Community Centre
Quarrendon and Meadowcroft Community Centre
Southcourt Community Centre
The Fairford Leys Centre
Walton Parish Hall
Bedgrove Park Community Centre
Watermead Village Hall
Hawkslade Farm Community Centre

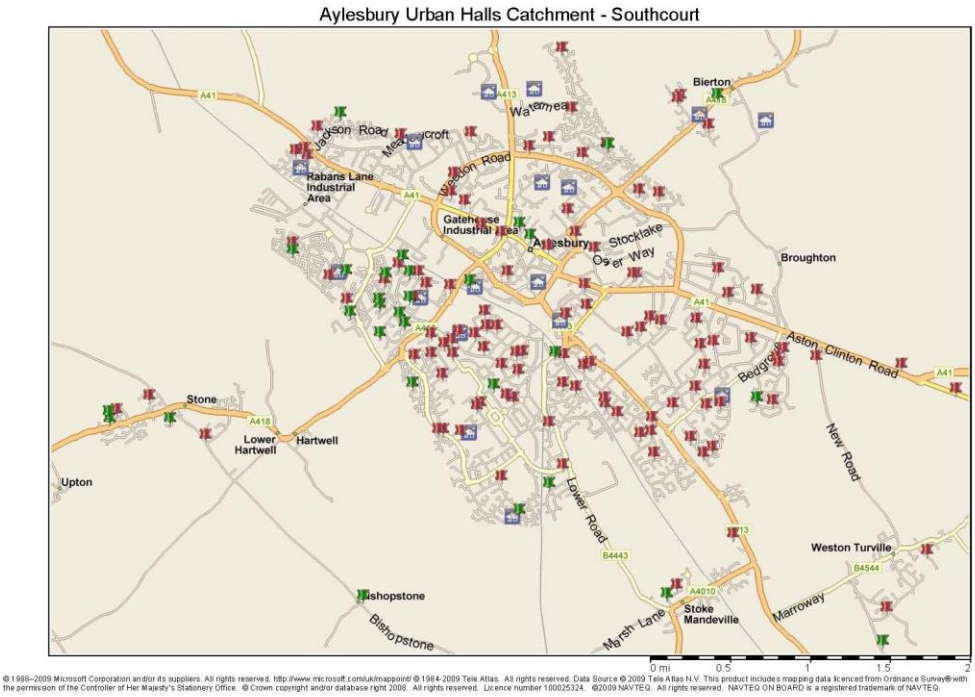
Weston Turville Village Hall
Bierton Jubilee Hall
Stoke Mandeville Community Centre
Walton Court Community Centre

4.23 In terms of their catchments what is important is the reality of how users travel to the centres and from where. To identify this in 2010 the Council undertook user surveys covering six of the facilities. Based on the results of these surveys, some 77% of users travel to the facilities by car, 21% on foot, and the rest on a bike or by public transport.

4.24 The maps below show the main areas (people also travelled from further afield) where people had travelled from to use the centres that were surveyed. The map titles relate to the community areas within which the centres sit.



Map 1: Home Address of Users of Bedgrove Community Centre (red pushpins) and Hawkslade Farm (green pushpins)



Map 2: Home Address of Users of Southcourt Community Centre (red pushpins) and Prebendal Farm (green pushpins)

4.25 What was clear from the above is that the catchment for all centres surveyed covered the entire sub market area i.e. users are not restricted by the geographical location of the centres and are willing to travel from beyond the immediate catchment area. Demand appeared to be driven more by the activities that were taking place at each centre, with users travelling for that particular activity or organisation, rather than the location of the centre itself. Realistically, therefore, accessibility related to the strategic settlement area as a whole, rather than individual community areas.

4.26 This is not to say that there were not locally based users and groups at the centres, but that for the majority of users who travelled by car any of the centres was reasonably accessible. There is also currently no part of the Aylesbury Strategic Settlement area that does not fall within a one mile walk in catchment of a centre.

4.27 Whilst usage data was not available for all the community centres, for those where either usage levels or uptake of capacity had been measured, then this was generally very high, with typically percentage use of available hours and space averaging from mid to high 60's over a season.

Provision Standards

4.28 Based on the above analysis the following recommended local provision standards for community centres within the Aylesbury Strategic Settlement area were developed. These standards are updated from those agreed by the Council in its 2012 leisure and cultural assessment.

- **Accessibility Standard** – provision should be within the Aylesbury Sub Market and no part of the sub Market should be outside of a one mile radius.

- **Quantitative Standard** – given that the existing level of provision generally receives a good level of usage, then we can relate the current number of facilities to current population to arrive at a quantitative standard.

  There are 18 recognisable community centres serving the Aylesbury Strategic Settlement area. Of these one (Quarrendon and Meadowcroft) performs as much a sporting function as a community centre role, whilst the Jonathan Page Play Centre is predominantly focussed on children and young people provision with limited availability for general community hire. On this basis we have taken 16 centres as being reflective of community need and a population within the Aylesbury Strategic Settlement area of around 85,000. This gives a quantitative standard for future provision of 1 Community Centre per 5,300 people.

  In terms of the mix of facilities required, as discussed earlier, there is less need for community centres in the urban area to provide a multi functional role as sporting uses should be delivered through specialist sports facilities, and productions and shows through facilities such as the new Waterside Theatre, Green Park, and the many schools with halls and stages in the area. The primary function of the Community Centres in Aylesbury is therefore to provide for hall hire for activities and functions, and meeting rooms for community groups. Provision should therefore be:

    - Hall 18m x 10m
    - Hall/Studio 10m x 10m
    - Meeting Room 5m x 3.5m approx
    - Kitchen with server
    - Toilets
    - Storage for chairs, cleaning equipment, kitchen requirements, refuse
    - Parking to meet the full requirements of the range of uses.

- **Qualitative Standard** - The minimum acceptable quality standard for community centres will be to meet the most *current (at time of provision) Sport England Design Guidance recommendations for Village and Community Halls*, accepting that the facility mix may not be directly the same as the Guidance, *together with such environmental standards relating to sustainability, energy consumption and recycling, and building construction as required by the Council at the time of provision*.

Future Need

4.29 The Provision Standards can be applied to predicted population growth within the Aylesbury Strategic Settlement area, also taking account of the geographical location of the proposed growth areas. Any conclusions will need to be tempered by any future changes to the growth areas of growth numbers. It is also important to note that a recommendation of the Aylesbury Vale Cultural Strategy was that new developments are integrated as far as possible within existing community areas and that the preparation of the Planning Briefs for the new residential developments should take account of existing local cultural facilities, and where practical and appropriate, and as an initial priority,

should extend and improve existing provision to cater for the needs of new residents rather than create new independent cultural infrastructures.

4.30 Following on from this, the future sustainability of new Community Centres in terms of operational and financial support needs to be carefully considered. Co-location or stand alone facilities will be determined according to local circumstances.

Aylesbury Vale Future Needs Summary

- Aylesbury Strategic Settlement area (growth of 33,300 people) – as with all proposals the solution will depend on where the developments will occur, and should take account of the principles set out above. The growth would warrant a minimum of six additional community centres although consideration should be given as to how they could be integrated within other community "hubs" (sports centres, health centres, education facilities etc.) to provide greater sustainability;

- Buckingham Strategic Settlement (growth of 4,558 people) – Buckingham stands between the Sustainable Settlements (as defined for community centres/village halls) and the Aylesbury Strategic Settlement. As a semi urban area of some 15,000 people, application of the Aylesbury quantitative standard of 1 centre per 5,300 people is more appropriate and is based on a greater range of usage data than available in the Buckingham area, providing a more robust standard. This would indicate that there is no shortage of community centres in Buckingham. With the proposed 4,558 population growth, provision of an additional Community Centre will be required.

- Aylesbury Rural Area (as defined for the purpose of this typology) – provision in these areas should be based on the hierarchy identified earlier. In itself the growth of population in any one area or aggregate of areas is unlikely to generate the need for a new facility, but development funding should be used to refurbish and upgrade existing facilities to meet the levels set out in the provision standards.

- Adjacent to Milton Keynes (10,685 people) - the need equivalent to two community centres. Total need will ultimately depend on the distribution of the housing developments. Currently, within the VALP (Draft Plan), proposed development is relatively evenly split between sites within the parishes of Newton Longville and Whaddon, so potential demand will also be split.

- New Settlement (11,250 people) – broadly equivalent to the size of Buckingham, and therefore using the same standards, provision of two new community centres would be required.

Artificial Grass Pitches

Introduction

4.31 Artificial Grass is one of a number of artificial surfaces that are used for sports facilities. Sport England's 2013 Design Guidance Note on Artificial Surfaces for Outdoor Sport sets the scene:

"The majority of outdoor sports have evolved in environments using natural turf. However, in recent times, the desirability of using natural turf in some

situations has been brought into question. Restrictions on available land, increasing participation in sport, the need to lessen external environmental influences and the desire to reduce operating and maintenance costs have led to alternatives becoming more widely used… "The technological advances in artificial grass in recent years has led to a general acceptance of the surface for training and increasingly for competition. Hockey was the first sport to adopt the surface for competition play and the FIH was the first International Sports Governing Body to publish performance standards for artificial grass pitches which has now become the accepted standard. Football initially viewed the surface as mainly suitable for training due to disparity in the playing characteristic when compared to natural turf. However, the situation has changed with the introduction of the latest 'third generation' (3G) artificial grass surface and recent work on performance standards. The use of '3G' pitches is allowed in all FA competitions (FA & FA Youth Cup to the first round proper) and some league matches. The FA have published guidance documents entitled 'The FA Guide to Artificial Grass Pitches' (Third Edition) in 2010, the 'Third Generation Football Turf Guidance - Information for Players, Referees, Clubs, Leagues and Groundstaff' and 'The FA Guide to 3g Football Turf Pitch Design Principles and Layouts' in 2012 all of which are available on line. There has been significant growth in interest in mini soccer, 9 v 9 and small-sided football and a high demand for five-a-side pitches in both school and community recreation sites. Similarly, the growth in female football participation has a major implication for new pitch provision.

"A similar situation can be seen in rugby with a performance specification now being agreed by the sports governing body subject to a selection procedure that ensures that key safety characteristics are verified.

"It should be noted that separate and different performance specifications have now been agreed for hockey, football and rugby. For high level specialist facilities, there are testing and licensing requirements set out by the sports governing bodies to ensure safety, but there are potential issues in a multi sports context that need to be considered to ensure that the correct surface is selected."

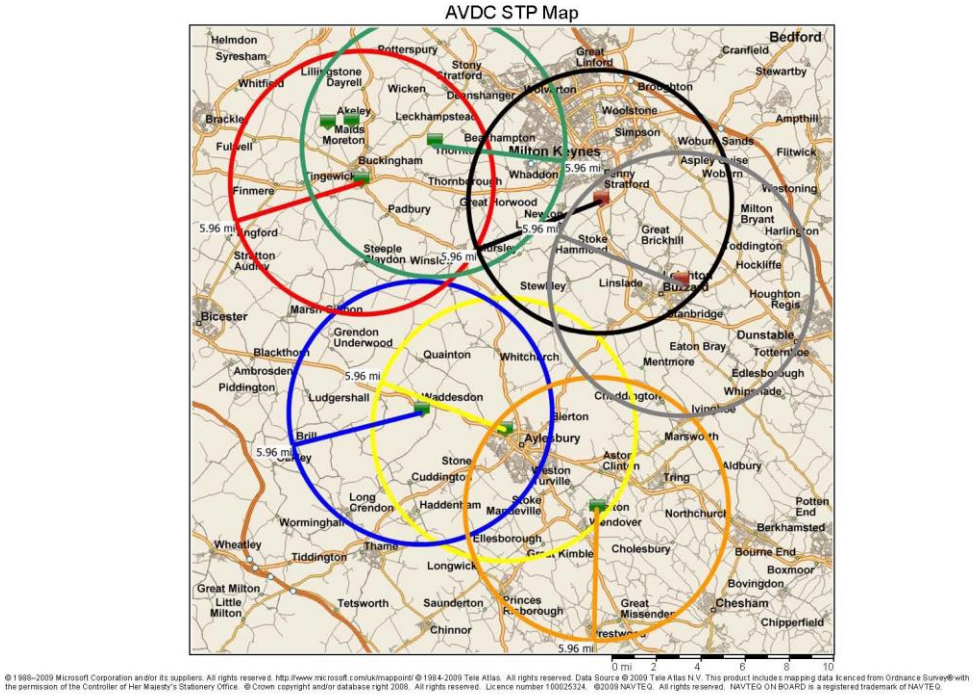
4.32 The landscape in terms of Artificial Grass pitches has therefore become increasingly sophisticated, with different surfaces for different sports, sometimes depending on the level those sports are played at, and AGP's being accepted for different levels of participation and competition, again depending on the sport.

4.33 Artificial grass can also be used on different sizes of pitch, some of which are only suitable for training or small sided games, others of which are to full playing specification. For the purpose of this study the former are classified as MUGA's (Multi Use Games Areas). This section of the assessment concerns itself with full size pitches (typically around 100m in length) which can be used for full size games of football, hockey or rugby.

Identifying Current Need

4.34 In terms of accessibility, the *Synthetic Turf Pitch Study* produced in 2006 for Sport England showed that 70% of AGP users travel up to 5 miles, the average travel distance is 6 miles and the average travel time 22 minutes. This gives an indication of the average distance users of AGP's are prepared to travel to use a facility. If there is more provision within a particular area then users will not have to travel as far, but the research provides a sensible accessibility benchmark.

4.35 The 2010 AVDC leisure needs study took the average six mile travel distance, and took account of AGP's outside of the district (specifically within Leighton Buzzard and Milton Keynes), and identified that all of Aylesbury Vale met the accessibility standard (see map below).



Map 3: Six Mile Radius around existing STP's within and Adjacent to Aylesbury Vale

4.36 Since this time three new floodlit AGP's have been provided, two at Aylesbury Vale Academy – one for hockey and one for football/rugby training – and one at Mandeville School. Both are available for community use. In addition a rugby specific AGP is planned for Aylesbury Rugby Club and construction is now underway.

4.37 Accepting its limitations for this purpose, but applying the Facility Planning Calculator to the Aylesbury Strategic Settlement population, the current provision of four full size AGP's, each with a degree of accessibility for community use, indicates current need is met, and more than met in other areas of the district.

4.38 However, as identified above the complexity and diversity of AGP provision for different sports, combined with the potential economic benefits of having one facility that could accommodate a range of matches and training that would otherwise be spread across a number of natural grass pitches, could impact on the landscape of AGP provision. The case for any additional provision based on this presumption would need to be made on a case by case basis, also taking account of what level of play on AGP's is acceptable as far as National Governing Bodies of Sport are concerned. For planning development purposes, however, the standards set out below will be applicable.

Provision Standards

4.39 For planning development purposes the following sets these standards out under each of the key criteria.

- **Accessibility Standard** – in terms of accessibility, the Sport England study of AGP use showed that 70% of AGP users travel up to 5 miles, the average travel distance is 6 miles and the average travel time 22 minutes. For the purpose of this Leisure and Culture assessment an accessibility standard of a six mile radius has been used.

- **Quantitative Standard** – for the purpose of planning development a locally derived standard of *0.03 AGP's per 1,000* population is recommended. This is based on the parameters of the Sport England Facilities Planning Calculator applied to the current population of Aylesbury Vale.

  In terms of provision, delivery should be as a minimum a full size floodlit AGP to the dimensions appropriate for the sport(s) it is being used for and as set out in the Sport England Design Guidance Notes *Selecting the Right Artificial Surface* and any specific sports National Governing Body requirements appertaining at the time of delivery. Provision should be accompanied by the necessary support facilities (changing, plant etc.) as set out in the qualitative standards.

- **Qualitative Standard** – The minimum acceptable quality standard for STP's and their associated facilities will be to meet the most current (at time of provision) Sport England Design Guidance on Artificial Surfaces for Outdoor Sport and its associated documents, or such replacement or updated guidance, and any specific sports National Governing Body requirements.

Future Need

- Aylesbury Strategic Settlement (33,300 people) – the need equivalent to an additional 1 pitch to the qualitative standards identified above.

- Buckingham Strategic Settlement (4,558 people) – the need equivalent to 0.14 of a pitch. In practice no additional stand alone provision is justified, although a relevant financial contribution to the existing provision or towards a smaller AGP MUGA where none exists would be.

- Haddenham, Wendover and Winslow Strategic Settlements – in practice the population growth for each of these settlements justifies no more than the maximum equivalent of 0.07 pitches per settlement. No additional stand alone provision is therefore justified, although a relevant financial contribution to existing provision or towards a smaller AGP MUGA where none exists would be.

- New Settlement (11,250 people) - the need equivalent to an additional 0.33 of a pitch. However, once again this will depend on where the new settlement is located. Current options in the VALP are close to Haddenham or Winslow. In both instances the total growth across both the new settlement and either of the two options would not justify a full AGP, although a relevant financial contribution to existing provision or towards a smaller AGP MUGA where none exists would be.

- Adjacent to Milton Keynes (10,685 people) - the need equivalent to an additional 0.31 of a pitch. However, this will ultimately depend on the distribution of the housing developments. Currently, within the VALP (Draft Plan), proposed development is relatively evenly split between sites within the parishes of Newton Longville and Whaddon, so potential demand will also be split. Both locations are accessible to AGP facilities within Milton Keynes. Both the location and nature of future provision will therefore need to be determined once the final decision on location is made.

- Larger, Medium and Smaller Villages – across all the villages the population growth anticipated is just over 8,000 people, leading to the need for an additional 0.24 pitches. By itself this would not justify the need for an additional AGP, and given the geographical spread of the villages, and the lack of any area of major population concentration, provision in any location would be difficult to justify.

Natural Grass Pitches

Introduction

4.40 As a predominantly planning growth assessment this study is not a substitute for a full Playing Pitch Strategy. However, the data and conclusions drawn in the 2010 Aylesbury Vale Playing Pitch Strategy have been reviewed and updated in light of known changes to supply and trends in demand. Across the three main pitch sports of football, rugby and cricket a combined "natural grass playing pitch" quantitative standard has been calculated to inform future planned housing development requirements. Any new Playing Pitch Strategy will further help to inform these standards. A brief commentary on each of the sports is given below. These

Football

4.41 Football Clubs can come and go, and participation trends can also change. At a national level the Sport England analysis of individual organised sports participation shows a decline in participation in football between 2007-08 and 2015-16 (Organised sport is defined as participants having done one, or more, of the following in the past 12 months: i) been a member of a club where they take part in sport ii) received tuition to improve their performance iii) taken part in organised competitive sport (of those who have participated in the sport at least once in the last four weeks)). However, there has been a slight upturn in 2015-16 from the previous year and the data relates only to over 16's. The Football Association's investment in developing youth, women's and disability football is seeing some results, although the long-term trends on these are unclear.

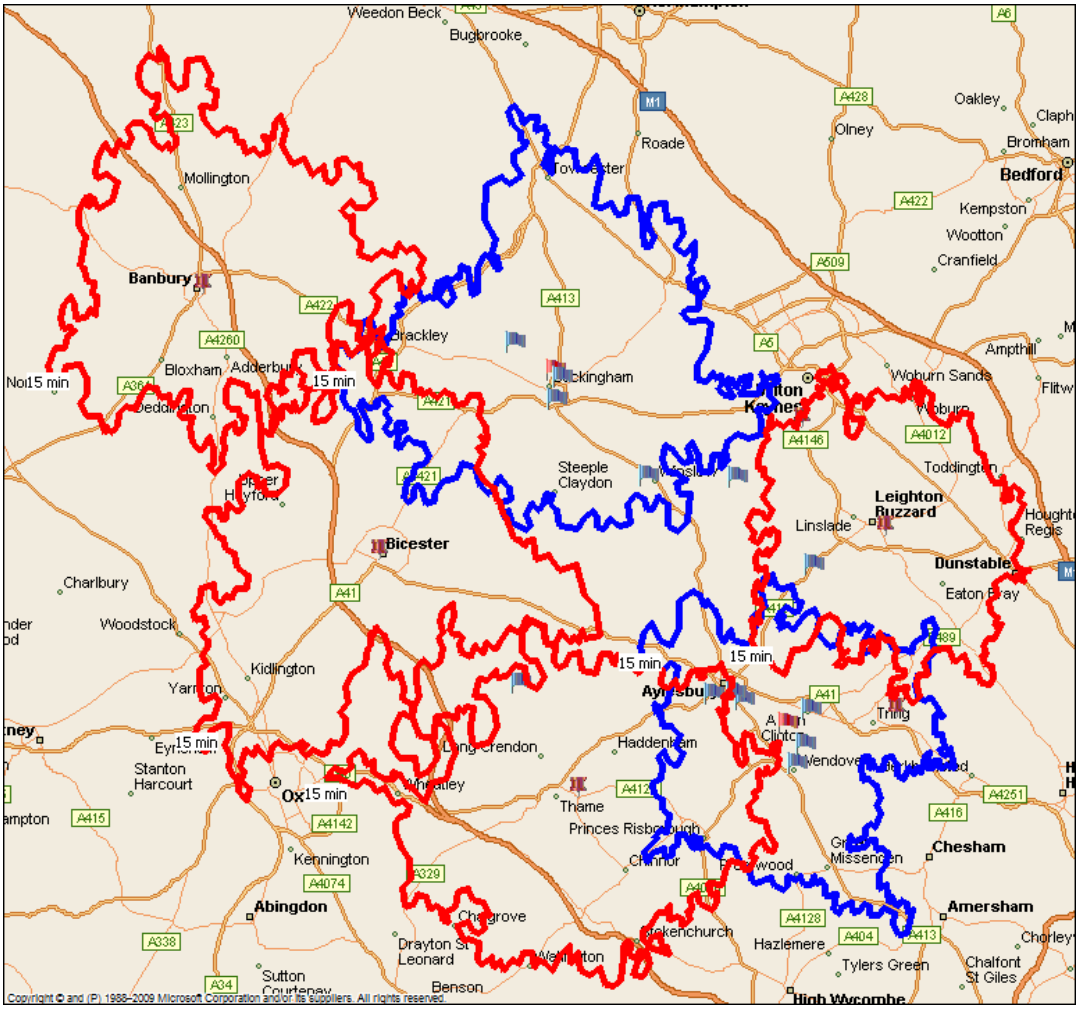
4.42 Grass pitch provision exists across Aylesbury Vale and is provided by District, Town and Parish Councils as well as by clubs themselves and education establishments. There are over 100 grass pitches of various sizes across the district.

Rugby Union

4.43 Rugby is very much a club/location based sport, so provision needs to revolve around the clubs themselves.

4.44 There are two clubs in Aylesbury Vale itself – Aylesbury RUFC and Buckingham RUFC.

4.45 In terms of the distribution of rugby clubs, there is a wide range of other clubs just outside of the District (specifically at Banbury, Bicester, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, Thame and Leighton Buzzard), effectively ensuring that nearly the entire District falls within a 15 minute drivetime of one or more clubs (see Map 4 below).



Map 4: Distribution of Rugby Union Clubs in and adjacent to Aylesbury Vale

Cricket

4.46 Cricket in Aylesbury Vale has developed largely as an integral part of rural life. Pitches and clubs are widely distributed across the district, and the only settlements currently without any provision (based on the 2016 Parish surveys) are Quainton, Adstock and Padbury. The latter two did have pitches at the last audit, so presumably demand has fallen in these areas, or players have re-located elsewhere.

4.47 Usage ranges from clubs with one social side through to clubs with youth development sections and teams competing in local and regional leagues.

4.48 The 2010 study identified there was a theoretical surplus of cricket pitches throughout the District. In reality some of the pitch provision serves social or club teams that may have only one side, or only need to use a pitch once a week, whilst other clubs may have greater demand and more limited facilities. A number of these have been identified in the 2016 Town and Parish survey.

Grass Pitch Provision Standards

4.49 For planning development purposes the following sets these standards out under each of the key criteria.

- **Accessibility Standard** – a variety of accessibility standards for grass pitches have been used, depending on the specific sport but overall a minimum

accessibility standard would be for pitch provision within a 15 minute drivetime of each settlement area.

- **Quantitative Standard** – the quantitative evaluation of grass pitch need is based on a more complex evaluation of supply and demand as described in more detail in the AVDC Playing Pitch Strategy, which may be updated in detail in the near future. However, for the purpose of planning development two locally derived combined grass pitch standards have been calculated. Two standards are used as it is clear that the nature of Aylesbury Vale provision for certain sports – particularly cricket – reflects the differences between rural and urban Aylesbury Vale, and if standards based upon the District as a whole were applied for instance to developments in the urban area, then they would indicate a substantially higher level of provision than the reality of urban demand requires. The rural settlements tend to have developed their own self contained provision reflecting their local identity, so that many will have their own cricket pitch even though the population is quite small. These two standards are:

    - Aylesbury Strategic Settlement – 0.49 adult size grass pitch per 1,000 population, 0.03 cricket wickets per 1,000 population;

    - Aylesbury (all other areas) - 0.73 adult size grass pitch equivalent per 1,000 population, 0.28 cricket wickets per 1,000 population.

  In terms of provision, delivery should as a minimum equate to a full adult size football pitch to the maximum recommended dimensions (including run offs) of the Football Association. Provision should be accompanied by the necessary support facilities (changing, showers plant etc.) as set out in the qualitative standards.

- **Qualitative Standard** – The minimum acceptable quality standard for grass pitches and their associated facilities will be to meet the most *current (at time of provision) Sport England Design Guidance Notes* on *Natural Turf Pitches* and any specific sports National Governing Body requirements. Pavilion standards shall be as set out in the Sports England Design Guidance Note *Pavilions and Clubhouses* and any specific sports National Governing Body requirements.

Future Need

- Aylesbury Strategic Settlement (33,300 people) – the need for another 16 grass pitches and 1 cricket pitch.

- Buckingham Strategic Settlement (4,558 people) – the need for another 3 grass pitches and 1 cricket pitch.

- Haddenham, Wendover and Winslow Strategic Settlements – each would generate the need for another 2 grass pitches and 1 cricket wickets.

- New Settlement (11,250 people) - the need for 8 grass pitches and 3 cricket wickets.

- Adjacent to Milton Keynes (10,685 people) - the need for 8 grass pitches and 3 cricket wickets. However, as with the other sports the location will ultimately depend on the distribution of the housing developments.

- Larger, Medium and Smaller Villages – the largest population growth across all the villages is projected to be in Aston Clinton. The application of the

quantitative standards to the population increase does not identify the need for additional pitch provision and this would therefore be true of all other village settlements. However, a financial contribution to existing provision would be justified.

Outdoor Tennis

Introduction

4.50 Over the past four years Sport England research has shown there has been no significant change in tennis participation, with participation levels remaining relatively steady. However, this is indicative of regular participation rather than more infrequent activity that often takes place during the peak summer period.

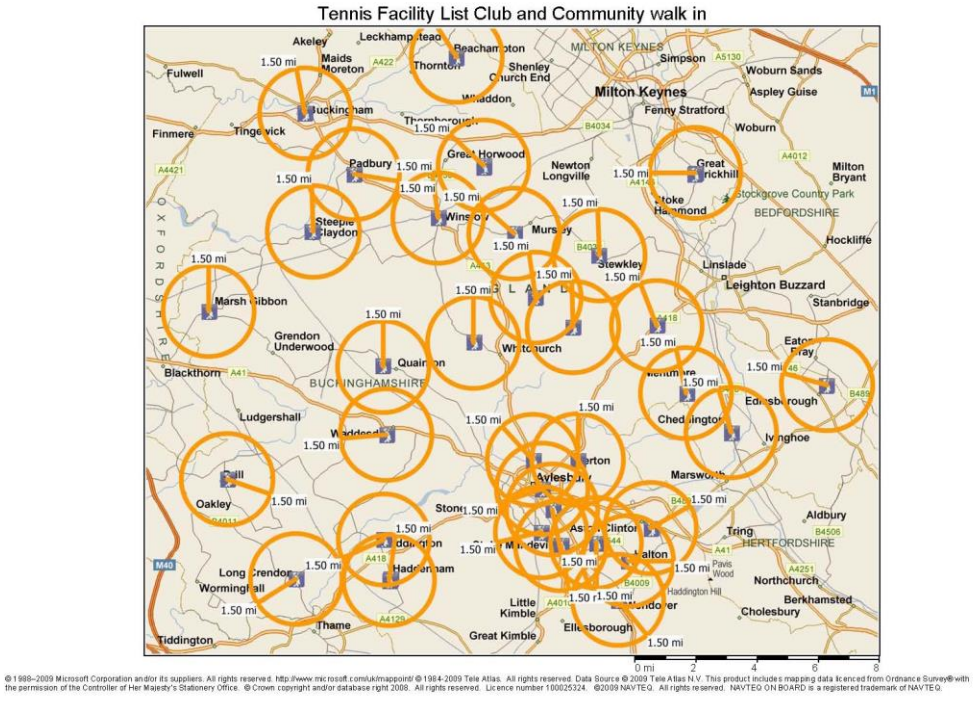
Identifying Current Provision

4.51 Forty-six outdoor tennis court locations have been identified in the District, with some 18 tennis clubs operating across a variety of locations.

Identifying Current Need

4.52 In terms of distribution there is nowhere within the District that is not within a 10 minute drivetime of floodlit tennis courts, with the exception of settlements close to the Milton Keynes border.

4.53 In terms of access by foot to club and community courts generally, based on a 1.5 mile radius once again most of the District is well served, with only Grendon Underwood, Stone and Claydons not falling within a walk in catchment.



Map 5: Tennis Facilities with 1.5 mile Catchment Areas

4.54 Previous consultation with the Buckinghamshire Lawn Tennis Association indicated that Aylesbury Vale is relatively well served in terms of tennis club provision. Its future approach in terms of facility provision should therefore be to generally maximise the use of existing facilities and courts, rather than develop new ones. It believes that most clubs are not at capacity in Aylesbury, and therefore maximisation of use is the priority.

4.55 Feedback from a number of clubs did indicate a need for additional courts or upgrading/refurbishment. Overall, where justification can be made for additional courts at existing clubs, then this should be pursued, but provision across the District is generally at a reasonable level with the exception of the Newton Longville area.

Provision Standards

4.56 The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) has established its *British Tennis Places to Play Strategy 2011-2016*. The aspirations of this Strategy are:

- Access for everyone to well maintained high quality tennis facilities which are either free or pay to play;
- A Clubmark accredited place to play within a 10 minute drive of their home;
- A mini tennis (10 years old and under) performance programme within a 20 minute drive of their home);
- A performance programme for 11-15 year olds within 45 minutes drive time or their home.

4.57 The majority of these criteria relate to standards or programmes that are predominantly sports development driven and will be dependent on tennis and club development initiatives. The LTA's *British Tennis Strategic Plan 2015-18* also focuses on participation rather than facilities However, the basic infrastructure of facilities to enable these to occur is required and the standards below reflect this.

4.58 For planning development purposes the following sets these standards out under each of the key criteria.

- **Accessibility Standard** – the accessibility standard used is access to floodlit courts within a 10 minute drivetime.
- **Quantitative Standard** – As with grass pitches, for the purpose of planning development two locally derived outdoor tennis court standards have been calculated. These two standards are:
    - Aylesbury Strategic Settlement – 0.4 floodlit outdoor tennis courts per 1,000 population;
    - Aylesbury Rural Area (including all other settlements) - 0.7 floodlit outdoor tennis courts per 1,000 population.

  In terms of provision, delivery should be to Lawn Tennis Association recommended dimensions for the number of courts concerned, and provision should be located in **four court** blocks and floodlit. Realistically it should be possible to encompass other sports within the facility (e.g. as a MUGA), to maximise the options for usage throughout the year, and this should be considered if there is to be no formal tennis club based on the site

and its predominant focus is casual use. In this instance every attempt should be made to locate the courts where they can be proactively managed e.g. adjacent to a community centre/village hall or other community facility.

4.59 **Qualitative Standard** – The minimum acceptable quality standard for outdoor tennis courts and their associated facilities will be to meet the most *current (at time of provision) Lawn Tennis Association Technical Guidance*. As above facilities in four court blocks should be suitable for other sporting uses if required.

Future Need

- Aylesbury Strategic Settlement (33,300 people) – the need for another 13 tennis courts.
- Buckingham Strategic Settlement (4,558 people) – the need for another 3 tennis courts.
- Haddenham, Wendover and Winslow Strategic Settlements – each would generate the need for another 2 tennis courts.
- New Settlement (11,250 people) - the need for 8 tennis courts.
- Adjacent to Milton Keynes (10,685 people) - the need for 7 tennis courts. However, as with the other sports the location will ultimately depend on the distribution of the housing developments.
- Larger, Medium and Smaller Villages – the largest population growth across all the villages is projected to be in Aston Clinton. The application of the quantitative standards to the population increase does not identify the need for additional tennis court provision and this would therefore be true of all other village settlements. However, a financial contribution to existing provision would be justified.

Indoor Tennis

Introduction

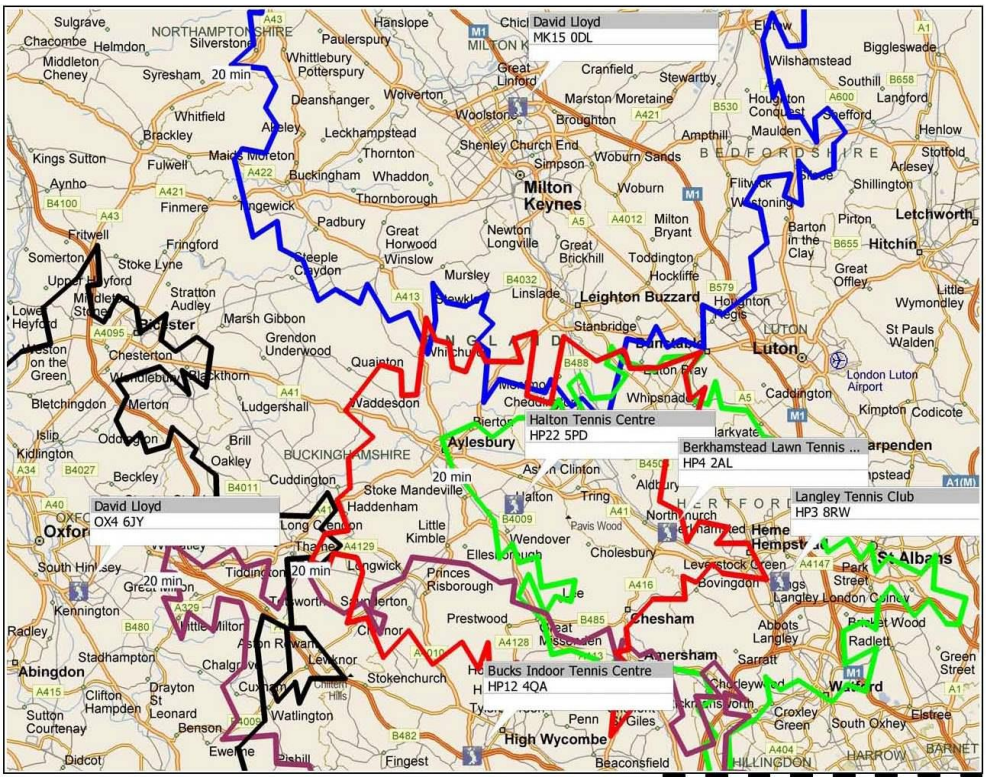
4.60 Given the UK's climate indoor tennis provision, along with outdoor floodlit courts, is an important aspect of ensuring all year round participation.

4.61 Indoor tennis centre provision can range from temporary or semi permanent structures covering outdoor courts through to purpose built indoor facilities. Providers initially were clubs and commercial operators, but with the advent of the LTA's Indoor Tennis Initiative in the 1980's a range of publicly provided facilities were also developed across the UK.

Identifying Current Provision

4.62 There is presently one purpose built indoor tennis centre within Aylesbury Vale – the Halton Tennis Centre with 6 indoor courts.

4.63 There is also a range of other indoor centres within neighbouring local authorities, specifically in Milton Keynes, Oxford, Berkhamsted, High Wycombe and Hemel Hempstead. The location of these facilities together with an indicative 20 minute drive time is shown at Map 6.



Map 6: Indoor Tennis Facilities within and adjacent to Aylesbury Vale showing 20 minute drivetime Catchments

Identifying Future Need

4.64 The LTA's *British Tennis Places to Play Strategy 2011-2016* sets the aspiration for indoor tennis facilities as:

- Indoor tennis courts within a 20 minute drivetime of people's home.

4.65 This is purely an accessibility standard, not a quantitative one. However, from Map 6 it can be seen that the major population areas of Aylesbury Vale fall within a 20 minute drive time of one or more tennis centres. The exceptions are the rural parishes to the west and north west of Aylesbury. Given the population densities in these areas it would be difficult to justify a major indoor tennis centre, although an option would be for one of the tennis clubs in this area to cover one or more of their courts.

4.66 In terms of quantitative standards, whilst the LTA do not provide any for indoor facilities they are currently providing funds to improve or develop facilities where an LTA registered club can demonstrate sustainable growth through facility development and a tennis development plan. It is understood that Halton Tennis Club is seeking funding for additional indoor courts, and they, or any other relevant club, should be supported where they can demonstrate they meet the LTA criteria.

Outdoor Bowls

Introduction

4.67 Bowls is generally a socially inclusive sport and, more importantly, caters for the older age groups that are not so well catered for by other pitch sports. It is also one of the more popular pitch sports in terms of participation. However, it is likely that, as a new generation of "older" people come through – many from the

"baby boomer" generation - bowls may not be seen as such an attractive or active enough sport, and membership and participation will decline.

4.68 The most recent Sport England Active People Survey shows participation in bowls has been steadily declining over the past four years.

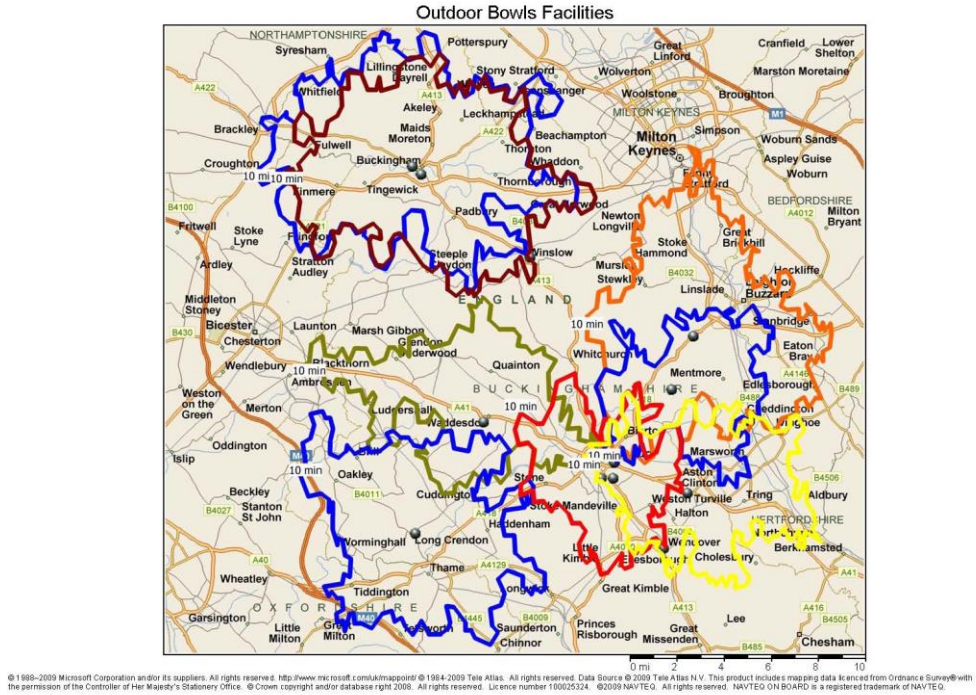
4.69 The *Survey of Sports Clubs 2013*, published by the Sport and Recreation Alliance, shows membership of bowls clubs remaining static between 2012 and 2013.

Identifying Current Provision

4.70 There are 12 outdoor bowls sites in Aylesbury Vale, most of which are either privately owned clubs or clubs that hire or lease the facilities.

4.71 No club had more than 84 members in the survey undertaken in 2010 and most ranged from 40 to 65 members. All, therefore, had capacity for additional members.

4.72 The majority of the district falls within a 10 minute drivetime of a club or facility (see Map 7 below), and nearly all within 15 minutes.



Map 7: Outdoor Bowls Facilities in Aylesbury Vale showing 10 minute Drivetime Catchments

Identifying Future Need

4.73 There are three outdoor bowls clubs in the Aylesbury Strategic Settlement. With decreasing participation at this stage it would be difficult to justify additional provision as a result of population growth in the area.

Indoor Bowls

Introduction and Current Provision

4.74 Indoor Bowls facilities allow participation to take place in the sport during inclement weather and over the winter period. However, the rinks largely lay idle during the summer season.

4.75 There are presently three indoor bowls facilities within Aylesbury Vale –one in Buckingham and two within Aylesbury. Of the two within Aylesbury it was understood that the 6 rink facility at the Stoke Mandeville Stadium was due to close. However, this still remains open in 2016. The other two indoor bowls facilities serving the district are Foxhill Indoor Bowls Club in Aylesbury with 6 rinks and Slade Indoor Bowls Club in Buckingham with 4 rinks.

Identifying Future Need

4.76 Based on the Sport England Facilities Planning Calculator there is a theoretical need for just under 13 rinks to serve the Aylesbury Vale District area. Existing provision is just over this theoretical requirement. This takes no account of accessibility factors in terms of travel time or facilities in neighbouring authorities, where indoor rinks in High Wycombe and at Bletchley Leisure Centre, Milton Keynes, would serve part of the Aylesbury Vale catchment.

4.77 Looking purely at the population within the Aylesbury Strategic Settlement the Sport England Facilities Planning Calculator estimates a current need for 5 rinks, which is met by current provision.

4.78 Looking just at the largest area of population growth – the Aylesbury Strategic Settlement – using the calculator to evaluate future demand as a result of the potential growth proposals would lead to the need for 2.3 indoor rinks, or less than half an indoor centre. The growth in all other settlement areas with a substantially smaller population growth projection would lead to a minimal demand for indoor bowls facilities and any new single stand alone facility would be very difficult to justify.

Athletics

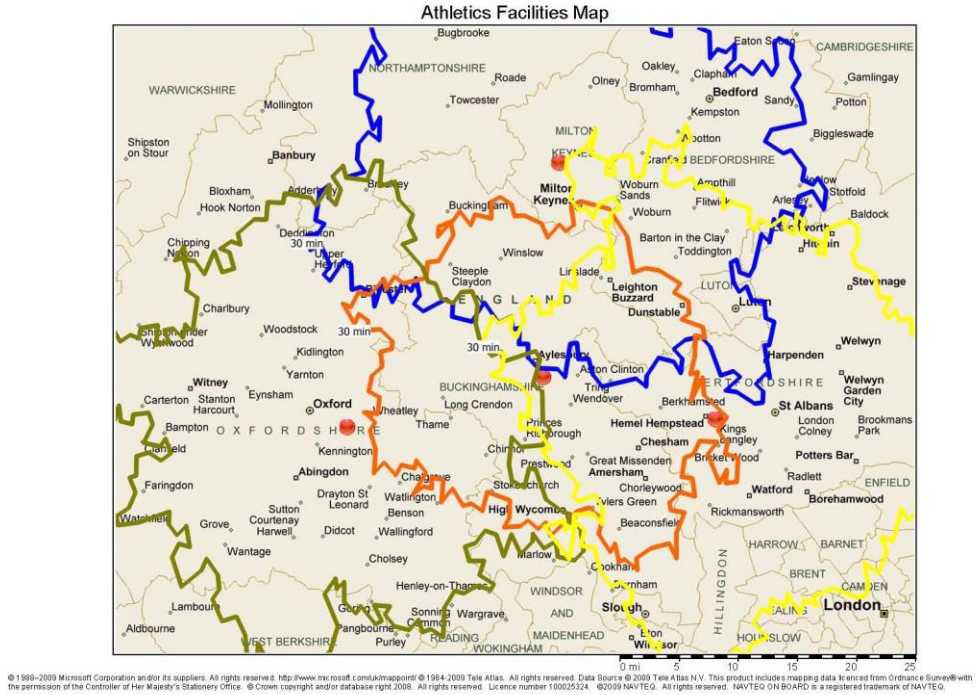
Introduction and Current Provision

4.79 There is one major community athletics facility within Aylesbury Vale – the eight lane floodlit synthetic track at Stoke Mandeville. Another synthetic athletic track to "Olympic standards" exists at Stowe School. Both are graded every five years according to the UKA Track Certification System with Class A being "suitable for all competition", Class B a "Track with event restrictions" and Class C a "non-standard track". The last grading in 2015 graded the Stowe track as an A, but Stoke Mandeville as a B. This reflects comments from the athletics club using Stoke Mandeville in the 2010 survey about some quality and competition issues.

Identifying Current Need

4.80 UK Athletics in its document *Athletics Facilities Planning and Delivery 2007-2012* set a standard of one six lane track per 250,000 people within a 30 minute drivetime (45 minutes in rural areas).

4.81 Both in terms of quantity and accessibility Aylesbury Vale meets this standard. There are also tracks in neighbouring districts, specifically in Milton Keynes, Oxford and Hemel Hempstead, and the whole district falls within the catchments of one or more of these tracks (see Map 8 below).



Map 8: Location of Athletics Tracks in and adjacent to Aylesbury Vale showing 30 minute Drivetime Catchments

4.82 The *UK Athletics Facilities Strategy 2014-19* has been published since the 2012 Aylesbury Vale Leisure and Cultural Assessment was produced. It states:

"This strategy does not seek to identify priority facilities, clubs or geographical areas. Instead, it provides the direction and guidance that will enable the four Home Country Athletics Federations (England Athletics, Athletics Northern Ireland, Scottish Athletics and Welsh Athletics) to establish their own priorities and deliver the principles of the UKA Facilities Strategy within their own national context."

4.83 The strategy sets out a new hierarchy of athletics facility provision as shown in Figure 5 below. The main innovation is the introduction of "Compact Athletics Facilities" described as "A new generation of affordable and sustainable indoor and outdoor athletics satellite facilities that provide a stepping stone into Club Venues". These are not intended to be full size facilities but to simply provide the opportunity to develop the basic athletic skills and to be either standalone or incorporated with or in other sports facilities.

4.84 However, the strategy also states:

"Having reviewed facility provision at a domestic level UKA maintains that there is a sufficient supply of synthetic outdoor 400m tracks to meet club and competition demands and therefore any new facility developments should be focused on entry level Compact Athletics Facilities or the refurbishment/redevelopment of existing facilities to encourage increase usage and sustainability at club level."

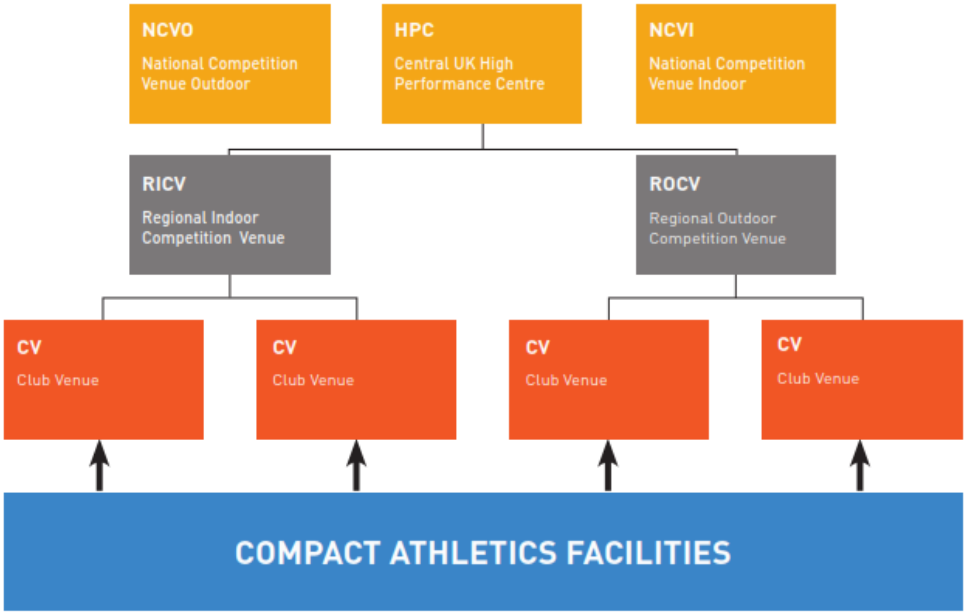


Figure 5: UKA Facilities Hierarchy Levels of Provision

Assessing Future Need

4.85 Even with an increase in the District's population there is no immediate justification for an additional track based on the strategic requirement of one track per 250,000 people within a 30 minute drivetime and the statements within the UKA strategy. The catchment of other tracks covers the Vale as well as the catchment of the track at Stoke Mandeville. There is, however, a case for investment in appropriate facilities to enable the Stoke Mandeville stadium to be used by Aylesbury Vale Athletics Club club for competitive matches. This improvement is further emphasised by the interest generated by the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. As the birthplace of the Paralympics, Stoke Mandeville has an important national and local role to play in the development of disability sport. Quality provision is necessary to encourage and capitalise on interest in participation as a result of London 2012.

Golf

Introduction

4.86 In terms of ownership there are fundamentally three types of golf course:

- **Private Members Clubs** - owned and financed by their members, the majority of these clubs were developed at the turn of the century when land, construction and finance costs were cheap. Based on figures provided by the Golf Research Group 89% of these courses were built between 1880 and 1939. Private Members clubs account for around 55% of all golf facilities in the UK or some 1,400 courses.

- **Municipal Courses** - these courses are owned and financed by local authorities. There have been two main phases of municipal course development - between the wars and between 1970 and 1979. The fundamental philosophy of Municipal Golf provision was to provide non exclusive, accessible and affordable courses for the public, much as with

public swimming pools and public sports centres. There are around 230 municipal courses, accounting for 9% of provision.

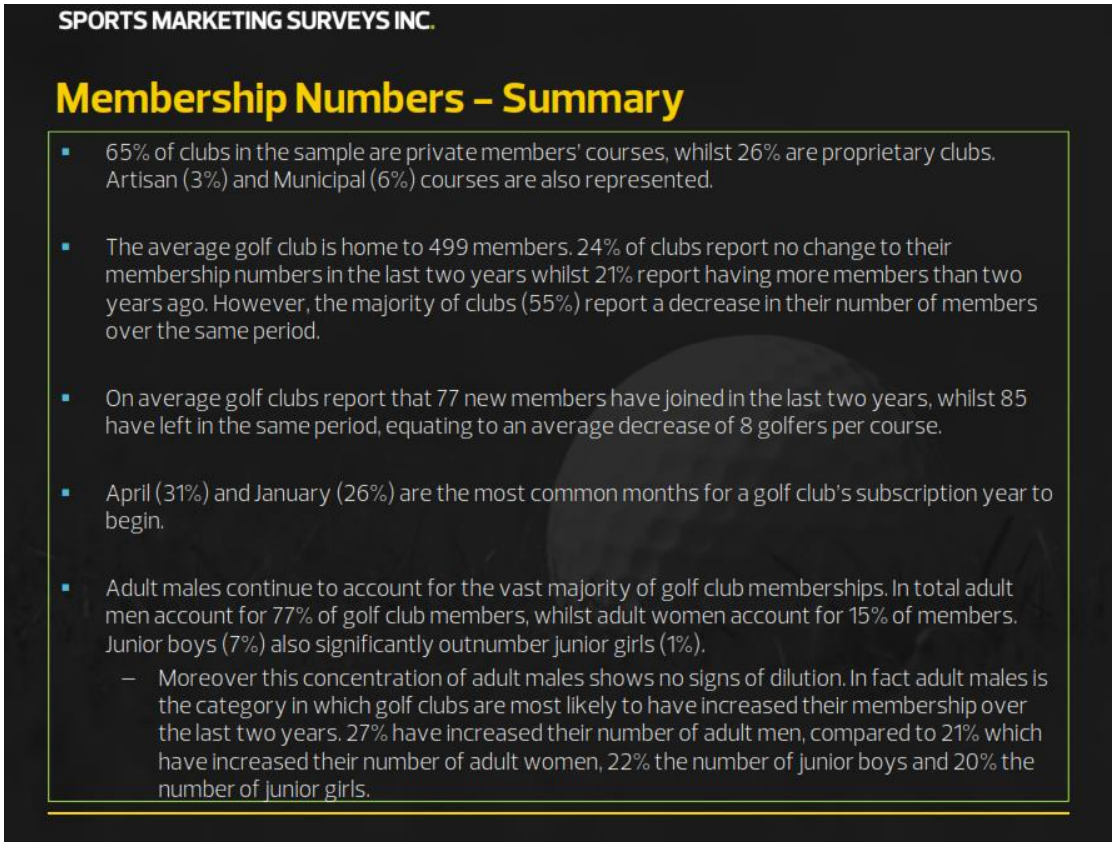
- **Proprietary Courses** - these are courses that have been funded and developed by entrepreneurs, companies etc. as commercial enterprises rather than as "not for profit" members' clubs. Whilst a number of Proprietary Clubs existed prior to the 1990's, the 1989 report from the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, The Demand for Golf, was largely responsible for a major construction boom in golf courses from 1990 onwards. The report identified the need for 691 new 18 hole golf courses to be built prior to 2000. Over 600 new golf facilities have subsequently opened which, with existing facilities adding additional holes, has resulted in the equivalent of some 730 18 hole courses being built since 1990. The vast majority of these are proprietary courses. Overall, proprietary courses account for some 36% of course provision.

4.87 The massive boom in golf course provision in the 1990's inevitably had an impact on participation in golf. Whilst the Royal and Ancient report identified that the greatest need was for pay and play courses in urban areas, many developers saw the opportunity to use rural and agricultural land for course development, with the intention of targeting the high priced membership market. In many instances this was not a sound strategy leading to costly developments in poor locations, making many new courses economically difficult to sustain.

4.88 The impact of the increased supply of courses and the sometimes poor market positioning has led to available demand being spread more thinly, and as competition has become tougher, both private members clubs and proprietary courses have had to become more proactive in attracting users. This has included reviewing their pricing and access mechanisms. Municipal courses have been particularly badly hit as a result, with a fall of some 25% in the average number of rounds played over 18 holes in the 10 years following 1990 (source: Golf Research Group).

4.89 In terms of general participation trends, the recent Sport England Active People Survey (APS) shows that once a week participation in the sport has remained static over the past few years.

4.90 In addition to general participation surveys, The English Golf Union and the English Ladies Golf Association undertake a survey of their affiliated clubs across the country every two years. The resulting data is provided at national, regional and county level. The results of the 2014 survey are the most recent published. At national level the following are some of the key findings from the responding clubs:

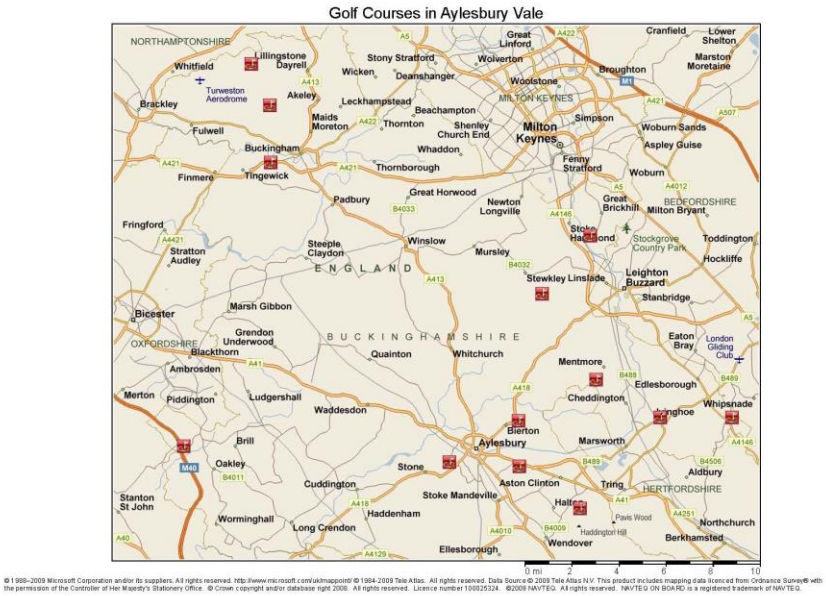


4.91 A decrease in membership does not necessarily reflect an equivalent decrease in usage. Part of the decline is reflected in the concept of the "Clubless Golfer". This is recognised by clubs and the English Golf Partnership in it's *a Vision for English Golf*. In the past golfers tended to be loyal to a particular club, often having to be a member of that club to ensure access to the course at weekends. Many clubs had lengthy waiting lists.

4.92 However, since the rapid expansion of the number of courses within the UK, this situation has changed. Whilst participation rates have not significantly increased the level of supply has, and with it a far higher level of choice of courses for the golfer. Both member and proprietary clubs are having to be more flexible in terms of accommodating "casual" use, however it is packaged, simply to compete. Many golfers – and particularly the recreational golfer who is not so concerned with competing in formal competitions – now choose different courses to participate at each week, rather than remaining loyal to one particular course. Clearly the nature of the course and quality of its ancillary facilities will have a bearing on where these "clubless" golfers choose to play.

Identifying Current Provision

4.93 Aylesbury Vale is well served with golf courses, with some 13 different clubs/courses within the District alone. These comprise a mix of 18 hole, 9 hole and driving range facilities, often with two or more on one site. There is no municipal course, but almost all offer some form of temporary membership or "pay as you play". Geographically these courses are spread across the Vale, with a number in close proximity to the main population centre of Aylesbury (see Map 9).



Map 9: Location and Distribution of Golf Clubs in Aylesbury Vale

Future Need

4.94 The *English Golf Union Ltd Strategic Plan 2014-17* perhaps unsurprisingly focuses predominantly on sports development initiatives to increase participation rather than setting targets for an increase in facility provision.

4.95 Nearly all courses across Aylesbury Vale appear to be offering full memberships and "guest" memberships or pay as you play options. There is no indication that the courses are operating at full capacity or that additional course provision is currently required.

4.96 There are no defined planning standards for golf courses. The research publication *Golf participation in Europe 2015 / Golf Advisory Practice in EMA* identifies that, for England, there is 1 Golf Course per 29,032 people. Used purely as a benchmark, the 13 courses in Aylesbury Vale are more than adequate for both current and future population needs, and any future proposals for course provision should be based on a detailed feasibility demonstrating clearly why additional provision is required.

Health and Fitness

Introduction

4.97 In this context Health and Fitness centres refer to specialist facilities that typically comprise a mix of cardio vascular, resistance and free weights machines, aerobic and dance studios and often a range of ancillary services including pools, spas and treatments.

4.98 The health and fitness industry in the UK began to develop in earnest from the late 1980's/early 1990's. Prior to this provision was predominantly focussed around weight lifting gyms, multi gyms in small areas of a leisure centre, and circuit classes in sports halls.

4.99 There is no "standard" health and fitness facility and no "standard" provider. Provision is made by private sector operators, public sector operators, hotels,

leisure trusts, universities, health providers, voluntary sports clubs and many more. Facilities range from major stand alone complexes with gyms, studios, spas, pools and other facilities delivered by high profile brands such as David Lloyds, Bannantynes and Virgin Active, through to small gym/studio sites located in retail or industrial premises. They encompass gyms located within public sector leisure centres which are often of a quality and standard to match their commercial rivals. The main differentiation between public and private sector health and fitness provision has traditionally been price, where lower monthly memberships and the option to "pay as you play" has been a defining characteristic of public sector facilities. However, even here the boundaries have become blurred, with the advent in the private sector of the low cost, "budget" gym offering an alternative to the higher priced offering of bigger clubs.

4.100 In terms of participation trends the *2016 State of the UK Fitness Industry Report* published by the Leisure Database Company indicates that the industry has experienced optimistic growth in the last twelve months with "increases of 1.9% in the number of fitness facilities, 5.3% in the number of members and 3.2% in market value". The key findings are:

- There are now 6,435 fitness facilities in the UK, up from 6,312 last year.
- Total industry membership is up 5.3% to 9.2 million.
- Total market value is estimated at £4.4 billion, up 3.2% on 2015.
- The UK penetration rate is 14.3%, compared to 13.7% in the previous year.
- 224 new public and private fitness facilities opened in the last 12 months, up from 191 in 2015.

Identifying Current Provision

4.101 There are currently in the region of 27 different health and fitness facilities within Aylesbury Vale, comprising a mix of public, private, voluntary club and educational provision. The size and nature of facilities varies considerably, as do their pricing structures and management approach. The market is constantly changing with new approaches such as commercial low cost gyms being developed.

4.102 The main cluster of provision is around the two major population areas of Aylesbury and Buckingham. However, in practice nearly all of Aylesbury Vale falls within a 15 minute drive time of one or more health and fitness facilities, excluding the provision within neighbouring authorities which will also encompass part of the district within their catchments.

Identifying Future Need

4.103 Given the great diversity of both providers and facility types there is no quantitative or qualitative standard that could sensibly be used to determine future provision. Much will depend on the commercial market as Aylesbury grows and the health and fitness industry develops and diversifies. However, it would be prudent to ensure that fitness facilities provided within any new secondary schools required as a result of the growth of the district should be designed to a standard and quality to facilitate community as well as educational use.

Squash

Introduction

4.104 From its heyday in the 1970's and 1980's, when many leisure centres boasted eight to ten squash courts, the sport has seen a significant drop in participation. Many of the courts were converted for health and fitness purposes where the space used could generate greater levels of use and income.

4.105 The most recent Sport England Active People Survey shows squash as one of the sports that have seen a statistically significant decrease in weekly participation rates over the past few years.

Identifying Current Provision

4.106 There are eight locations in Aylesbury Vale with squash court provision, including stand alone clubs (usually with tennis), public leisure centres and educational facilities. The number of courts within the district totals 22. Nearly all of the district falls within a 20 minute drive time of one or more facilities.

Identifying Future Need

4.107 There are no current recommended quantitative standards for future squash court provision. On present national participation evidence it would be difficult to argue that there is a deficiency in provision and that, from a planning perspective, additional facilities are required.

Climbing Walls

Introduction

4.108 There are many different types of climbing wall, both indoor and outdoor, provided at a wide range of different venues. These embrace a small wall in a school sports hall through to major dedicated indoor climbing centres.

4.109 The British Mountaineering Council - the national representative body for climbers, hill walkers, mountaineers and ski mountaineers in England and Wales – estimates that there are over 300 public climbing walls nationwide. The BMC states that:

"indoor climbing has significantly increased in popularity over the past 10-15 years and today many people – often based in major cities – climb only on indoor climbing walls treating them much like a gym; some indoor climbers may never make the transition to outdoor climbing."

4.110 The BMC's *Strategic Plan 2009-2012* states that only 8.5% of active participants are members of climbing/mountaineering clubs.

Identifying Current Provision

4.111 According to the BMC's *Climbing Wall Directory 2016* there is one indoor climbing wall in Aylesbury District – located on the corner of the sports hall at Aylesbury College. In addition, in February 2016, a "Fun Wall" climbing facility was included in the modernisation project of Swan Pool, Buckingham which now offers a fun introduction to climbing especially to young people.

4.112 Outside of Aylesbury Vale, but geographically accessible for different parts of the district, the following facilities are identified within the Directory:

- XC at Jarman Park, Hemel Hempstead – 880 sqm of climbing and bouldering, 15m ropes area, high ropes course;
- Ellis Brigham Climbing Wall, Xscape, Milton Keynes – 2 towers 10m and 13m, plus bouldering;
- Big Rock Climbing Centre, Milton Keynes – major dedicated indoor climbing centre with children's area;
- Caldecote Project, George Army Centre, Milton Keynes – 12m outdoor wooden tower;
- Rock Solid, Oxford Brooke's University, Oxford – dedicated 14m lead walls and bouldering area.

Identifying Future Need

4.113 The BMC's *Strategic Plan 2009-2012* sets out the importance of providing an infrastructure of clubs, climbing walls and training opportunities to enable progression of new and existing participants, whilst its 2015-19 strategy focuses on the development of membership, participation by young people and hillwalking. However, in neither strategy are there "standards" for provision provided and no identified geographical priorities.

4.114 There are no major indoor climbing facilities within Aylesbury Vale, although much of the district is serviced by facilities just beyond its boundaries. In terms of participation, the Sport England Active People's Survey identifies that some 0.25% of over 14's in England participate in climbing or mountaineering on a regular basis. Not all of these will be using climbing walls, but transposed to the 2016 population of Aylesbury Vale this would equate to some 480 people.

4.115 This is not a substantial market to confidently predict the need for a new facility within the District. However, the Sport England figures are for adult (14 years and above) only, and exclude the younger age groups.

4.116 The key issue is why a facility may be of interest to the Aylesbury Strategic Settlement area in particular. There is value in considering it as part of a focus for retaining young people in the town by providing a wider range of more attractive and "edgy" facilities. The £5.25m XC Centre in Hemel Hempstead came about from a perceived lack of relevant sports provision for young people, and ultimately involved consultation with some 14,000 children and young people, and partnership working between the Council, Youth Connexions and Dacorum Sports Trust. The facility comprises indoor climbing, caving and skate boarding and was predominantly funded through the Big Lottery. The climbing element has reportedly been more of a "slow burner" in terms of usage.

4.117 Provision of a similar facility to serve Aylesbury would be more a question of deciding whether it fits within the wider strategic redevelopment of the Aylesbury area than viewing it as stand alone issue, but any practical decision would need to be informed by a more detailed feasibility as to what "mix" of activities was required and the ongoing viability of such provision.

Stadia

4.118 There is no clear definition of the term "Stadium". It can be used to describe a multitude of sports grounds of different sizes and seating capacity, or an even wider definition as is evidenced from the term being used to describe the Stoke Mandeville Stadium which encompasses both the indoor and outdoor facilities on the site. Typically, however, the term is used to describe sports grounds with a dedicated spectator capacity of 5,000 upwards, although there are grounds with spectator seating which are substantially smaller than this. Modern stadia are often the result of existing clubs – predominantly football – needing or wishing to provide facilities to a standard that meet both customer expectations and the licencing requirements imposed by modern legislation.

4.119 Help and support is increasingly provided by local authorities who may see the provision of a new stadium as a catalyst to regenerate an area or a community.

4.120 Stadia can be of varying sizes with capacity for up to 90,000 people in the largest international facility in England (Wembley), whilst a minimum size to accommodate, for instance, a Premiership Rugby Club would be in the region of a 10,000 seating capacity. The top Premiership Football Clubs have stadia with capacity up to 76,000.

4.121 With few exceptions stadia are provided either as a base for the international team (e.g. Wembley, Twickenham), as part of a major event infrastructure (e.g. the Olympic Stadium), or to host an existing sports club – almost exclusively football or rugby in England (although there are dedicated cricket, athletics, speedway and greyhound racing facilities as well). There are examples of ground share between rugby and football, although these are now becoming less prevalent as the top rugby clubs seek their own venues.

4.122 Traditionally football clubs remain rooted within their local communities, whereas rugby union clubs have shown themselves to be more flexible in order to develop commercially, with London based clubs such as Wasps moving to Coventry from High Wycombe for their matches, London Irish to Reading, and London Welsh to Oxford.

4.123 One of the few examples of football clubs re-locating has been in Milton Keynes where the MK Dons moved from their Wimbledon base. Milton Keynes' aspirations for a 30,000 capacity all seated Stadium was enshrined in the first detailed masterplan for the new city in 1973, and the opportunity finally arose some 30 years later. The new stadium was funded mainly through enabling commercial development as is its second phase development increasing seating capacity from 22,000 to 32,000.

4.124 There is no major stadium within the Aylesbury Vale District nor currently a club of sufficient size and stature to warrant a 10,000 plus seat facility, although the lack of provision means that Aylesbury United FC have to ground share in Thame.

4.125 From a comparative perspective the future size of the Aylesbury Strategic Settlement area will be the same as, or greater than, many locations where reasonable sized stadia exist. The issue is more about whether there is a desire to proactively pursue the future development of a stadium within Aylesbury Vale. This will require the Council to identify a suitable site with the potential for enabling development, and to work with or actively seek prospective tenants/developers of such a facility. The alternative is to establish it as a future aspiration and be prepared to encourage and support on an opportunistic rather than proactive basis any future proposals.

Green Infrastructure

Introduction

4.126 Green Infrastructure(GI) is a planned network of multi-functional interconnecting green spaces designed, developed, and managed to meet the environmental, social and economic needs of communities.

4.127 GI may include urban and country parks, open space, recreation spaces, commons, village greens, woodland, natural and semi-natural habitats for wildlife, nature reserves, wildlife sites, historic parks, ancient monuments and landscapes, watercourses, lakes, ponds, footpaths, cycle ways/recreational routes, and allotments.

4.128 The principles for the management and creation of accessible green infrastructure within the district is set out in the *Aylesbury Vale Green Infrastructure Strategy* covering the period 2011-2026. The Strategy has been produced in partnership with the Buckingham Green Infrastructure Consortium which includes AVDC, partner organisations, local authorities, charities and community groups. Implementation of the Strategy's action plan is coordinated through the Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Local Nature Partnership, which includes Natural England, the Forestry Commission, Bucks County Council, the Wildlife Trust and the Environment Agency.

Identifying Typologies

4.129 In specific terms the Green Infrastructure element of this study includes the following range of facilities:

- Parks and Gardens - Urban parks, country parks, formal gardens and open spaces that have been landscaped and offer one or more amenities for recreation such as:
    - LAPS – Local Areas for Play (as defined by the Fields in Trust) aimed at very young children.
    - LEAPS - Locally Equipped Areas for Play (as defined by the Fields in Trust) aimed at children who can go out to play independently and provision for children that will need to be accompanied by their parents/carers (2 year olds plus) Areas are free of charge to use and entry is generally unrestricted.
    - NEAPS - Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (as defined by the Fields in Trust) aimed at older children. These may be complimented with other leisure facilities such as skate parks, climbing facilities, BMX tracks, fitness equipment, and informal sport. Areas are free of charge to use and entry is generally unrestricted.
    - MUGAS – Multi Use Games Areas aiming to provide a range of informal sports/games activities, typically on an appropriate artificial grass surface.
- Natural and Semi Green Spaces - Woodland, natural grassland, wetlands;
- Civic Spaces, including market squares and other hard surfaced community areas used for community activities;

- Allotments - Usually land rented in plots to local people who cultivate fruit or vegetables for their own consumption;

- Cemeteries and Churchyards – Places to respect and commemorate the dead. Cemeteries can also be places for relaxation, nature, and local history;

- Informal Amenity Space - Spaces that are predominantly mown grass which may include landscape planting and buffer strips that contribute to the greenery of the local area and require minimal maintenance.

4.130 Green space that contributes to GI is often multifunctional, and may include more than one of the functions listed in paragraph 4.128. Additional accessible provision that seeks to enhance the sport and recreation value of green space while not repeating what's provided in an area may include:

- Shared routes with dedicated lanes for pedestrians, cycling and running with marked distances for fitness training e.g. 1km, 2km, 3km with lighting so routes can be safely used during winter

- BMX track that complies with British Cycling 'BMX Specific Regulations' standards for regional tracks, or higher depending on need and intended use

- Skate parks designed to provide challenges for all abilities from beginners to advanced. Unfortunately there are as yet no national standards to inform minimum requirements. So until such a time, consultation will be needed to ensure local requirements are met

- Informal sports provision for general fitness and also for users of formal sports areas to practise their sport. This may include multi use games areas/ball courts, standalone basketball hoop/football goal, etc.

- Trim trails including features for calisthenics fitness and outdoor gym equipment

- Art features that link to the landscape, culture, or heritage of the local area

- Infrastructure such as power points, water, drainage and lighting for community events

- Community gardens and orchards with unrestricted access

- Seating

4.131 Formal outdoor sports areas providing facilities for football, netball, cricket, hockey, rugby, etc. should be treated separate to green space so these areas can function to ensure financial sustainability. Facilities are usually hired for a fee and may include built facilities such as a pavilion or club house. Access is controlled and to maximise day time use the facility should ideally be co-located/shared with a school, college, community hall, sports club etc.

4.132 Formal outdoor sports areas, play areas, and allotments all serve a specific purpose and may be located within or outside green space. Either way such facilities should be located on land that is additional to the open space provided by a developer and complimentary to the GI.

Identifying Current Provision

4.133 A quantitative and qualitative audit of Green Spaces according to the above typologies was undertaken during 2011/12. This audit has been updated for 2016 by AVDC officers working with parish and town councils. This was restricted to green spaces over 0.1ha hectares which were freely publicly accessible. It did not therefore include the major estates such as the National Trust properties or open farmland, or the small areas of green space within urban estates. The quality audit was based in accordance with CABE Space guidance (*Green Space Strategies: A Good Practice Guide)*.

4.134 The green space audit was designed to identify and record the functions of each accessible green space and provides information on each accessible green space in the district. All publicly accessible green spaces have been classified according to their primary function. This refers to the main function or character of the green space. The primary functions identified for the purpose of this Assessment are based on the stated typologies above. Classifying each green space according to its primary function enables an assessment to be made of the amount and distribution of different types of green space.

4.135 The green space audit assessed each public space against nine themes, within which there were 48 criteria. These nine themes were as follows:

- Accessibility – How easy it is for users with reduced mobility to enjoy the green space and can the green space be safely accessed?
- Design – Is the green space well designed and how well is it integrated into the neighbourhood?
- Conservation and Heritage – Does the green space have existing wildlife habitat that would benefit with biodiversity enhancement and/or heritage importance. Are these properly managed?
- Community – Is the green space used for community activities and are they involved in its upkeep?
- Sustainability – Is the green space being managed sustainably?
- Welcoming – Are entrances attractive and welcoming and are there signs/ information?
- Management and Maintenance - How well maintained is the green space? What condition is it in?
- Safe and Secure - How well used is the park and how safe does it feel?
- Marketing - Is there information or publicity about the green space

4.136 Each criterion was scored from 1 (very poor) to 5 (excellent). Where the criterion was not present on a particular green space then it was scored 0. The audit assessed each site's current quality and the site's potential quality. Assessment of potential quality was based on what a site could reasonably be expected to attain given sufficient funding and management, and given the function(s) that it performs. The quality audit was designed to be applicable to all green space functions, and the assessment of existing and potential quality means that the performance of green spaces with different functions can be compared with each other. For each criteria, a site's potential will depend on its function(s). For example, a park would be expected to achieve high scores on criteria within

the themes of 'accessibility' and 'design'. The scores for each site were entered onto a database for analysis. Each site's existing and potential quality scores were calculated for all the quality themes and criteria. Each site was given a percentage score based on how its existing quality compared to its potential quality. A high percentage meant that it was close to realising its full potential.

- 20 – 39% Poor
- 40 – 59% Fair
- 60 – 79% Good
- 80+% Excellent

4.137 The green and public spaces were then grouped according to how their quality and potential were assessed, from 'poor' to 'excellent'. To attain an audit score of 'good', for example, a green space site must have achieved between 60% and 79% of its potential averaged across the nine quality themes. This does not mean that a particular green space has achieved a 'good' score for every theme - it may have attained a higher score on some themes but a lower score on others. Analysis of quality can enable identification of priority areas for investment. It can provide an objective view of where resources are needed most, regardless of size or function of green space. It can enable the development of management and investment action plans for individual green space sites or alternatively across the key themes generally.

4.138 A database has been created which records the findings of the 2011/12 audit and which will be updated on an on-going basis as the Council becomes aware of changes in provision. For this 2016 assessment known green infrastructure developments were added to the database and circulated as part of the consultation with Town and Parish Councils, with any feedback as a result of the consultations being taken into account and incorporated within the database.

Provision Standards

4.139 The *Aylesbury Vale Green Infrastructure Strategy* states that the Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (Natural England,2003), abbreviated to ANGSt, is considered as a national benchmark and is accepted as forming part of government guidance on strategic greenspace provision and having the best fit to GI planning and assessment. The standard emphasizes the importance of communities in towns and cities having easy access to different sizes of natural and semi-natural greenspaces close to where they live. The standards can be divided into quantitative standards (sizes of green space provision) and accessibility standards (representing the zone of influence of a provision and the distance that people are prepared to travel). These are generally expressed together. It has been decided as outlined in the AVDC GI, and based on the findings from public consultation, to predominantly utilise the Natural England Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard for assessment and planning purposes, as follows:

- **Accessibility and Quantitative Standards**
    - No person should live more than 300m from their area of natural green space of at least 2ha in size, and that there should be at least 2ha of accessible natural green space per 1000 population;

- There should be at least one accessible 20ha site within 2km of peoples' homes;
- There should be one accessible 100ha site within 5km of peoples' homes;
- There should be one accessible 500ha site within 10km of peoples' homes;
- There should be 1.4ha per 1000 population as incidental open space (incorporates amenity/landscaped planted areas, green corridors);
- There should be 2.4ha per 1000 population (but see below) as major open space (parks, formal gardens and public open space which is broken down to 1.6ha of outdoor sport space (1.2 pitch sport) and 0.8ha for children and young people playing space). It should be noted that – in order to avoid duplication of provision – the standard for major open space in this study has been reduced from 2.4 ha to 1.2 ha per 1,000 people as 1.2 ha of the 2.4ha standard relates to pitch sports which are dealt with elsewhere in this study.

It should be noted that a larger site with greater catchments can also meet the requirements for smaller site provision. The publication *An Analysis of Accessible Natural Greenspace provision in the South East* produced for the South East AONBs Woodlands Programme, the Forestry Commission, and Natural England in 2007 states:

> "However, it is important to note that a 20 hectare site also has a 300 metre buffer associated with it, as it is utilised in principle in the same way as a two hectare site for those people who live within 300 metres. Similarly, a 100 hectare site, in addition to its five kilometre buffer, also has 300 metre and two kilometre buffers associated with it, and a 500 hectare site has all four buffers. So, for instance, if the nearest greenspace site within 300 metres of a home is over 500 hectares, it would still count as a two hectare site, as well as a 20, 100, and 500 hectare site."

- **Qualitative Standards** – ANGSt standards do not specifically set out qualitative requirements for green space provision. However, as the Commission for Architecture & the Built Environment (CABE) states in its 2005 publication *Start with the Park - Creating sustainable urban green spaces in areas of housing growth and renewal*: "The design of a successful green space depends on understanding the particular needs it will meet. Why is the space being created? Who will use it and how? In many places there are already too many pointless unused areas of grass or small patches of leftover green space adjacent to buildings, which offer little value but still impose a maintenance burden".

  The quality of provision is therefore as important as accessibility and quantity. For development purposes – both of existing and future green space facilities – the qualitative standards set out in the nine Strategic principles of the *Aylesbury Vale Green Infrastructure Strategy* should therefore apply with specific principles being utilised according to the size, nature and location of the development.

4.140 In addition, the quantitative and access standards for LEAPs (and LAPs), NEAPs and MUGAs as set out in Tables 1, 2 and 4 of the Fields in Trust publication *Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard* (and any subsequent iteration) will apply as will the qualitative and design standards set out for MUGAs in the Sport England publication *Artificial Surfaces for Outdoor Sport* (and any subsequent updates).

Future Need

4.141 The Buckinghamshire GI Strategy assessed greenspace provision against ANGSt targets and 69% of households in Aylesbury Vale met none of the ANGSt requirements. Only three settlements in Aylesbury Vale – Aston Clinton, Buckingham and Wendover – met the minimum ANGSt requirements for the provision of larger accessible natural greenspace. Many parts of Aylesbury Vale did not meet the standard of providing at least one 20ha site within 2km or one 500ha site within 10km of people's homes. There was also a general deficiency of accessible GI over 100ha in the Vale.

4.142 The Strategy identified three Priority Areas for Buckinghamshire, two of which were in Aylesbury Vale:

Priority Action Area 1: North Aylesbury Vale;
Priority Action Area 2: Aylesbury Environs.

4.143 The detailed deficiencies in these areas are set out in the *Aylesbury Vale Green Infrastructure Strategy* and the results of the most recent audit of green space show no significant change to this position. However, the deficiency of 100ha provision for specific areas of the Aylesbury Strategic Settlement ("within 5km of the southern edge of Aylesbury there are a number of sites up to the 100ha size threshold along the Chilterns escarpment, however being more than 5km away from other parts of the town, they do not offer sustainable access") should be resolved by the provision of a proposed wetland nature reserve in the Bierton/Broughton area.

4.144 Since the 2012 leisure and cultural assessment a 2014 update to the Aylesbury Vale Green Infrastructure Strategy has been published. This sets out that a new Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership (BMNEP) was formed in 2012 where officers from various partner agencies collaborate as part of Local Nature Partnership (LNP's were proposed in the Natural Environment White Paper and aim to bring together the green infrastructure and biodiversity sectors). During the establishment of the LNP the value of bringing in broader environmental issues around sustainability such as flooding and climate change was recognised and led to the creation of the BMNEP. The updated strategy describes and updates progress on 10 Flagship Projects that will contribute to the overall provision of the Aylesbury Vale Green Infrastructure. In addition *The Buckinghamshire Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan* was published in 2013. The plan provides a more detailed context for delivering and funding strategic green infrastructure in Buckinghamshire, building on work in the county GI Strategy and district level GI Planning, and taking appropriate account of GI planning in adjacent counties (Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and London). Detailed information on the strategic priorities and delivery of key GI projects can be found in these documents.

4.145 In terms of future housing growth the requirements will be determined by the detail of the specific location of such growth in relation to existing Green Infrastructure provision, requiring either a contribution to existing provision, a

contribution to new provision, or direct supply of new provision. In quantitative terms the projected population growth will lead to the following.

- Aylesbury Strategic Settlement (33,300 people) – the need for 66.6ha of accessible natural green space, 46.6ha of incidental open space, and 40ha of major open space;
- Buckingham Strategic Settlement (4,558 people) – the need for 9.2ha of accessible natural green space, 6.4ha of incidental open space, and 5.5ha of major open space;
- Haddenham Strategic Settlement – the need for 4.6ha of accessible natural green space, 3.2ha of incidental open space, and 2.8ha of major open space;
- Wendover Strategic Settlement – the need for 3.6ha of accessible natural green space, 2.5ha of incidental open space, and 2.2ha of major open space;
- Winslow Strategic Settlement – the need for 4.8ha of accessible natural green space, 3.4ha of incidental open space, and 2.9ha of major open space;
- New Settlement (11,250 people) - the need for 22.4ha of accessible natural green space, 15.7ha of incidental open space, and 13.44ha of major open space;
- Adjacent to Milton Keynes (10,685 people) - the need for 21.2ha of accessible natural green space, 14.8ha of incidental open space, and 12.7ha of major open space;
- Larger, Medium and Smaller Villages – these can be calculated individually based on the Provision Standards set out above.

5. SUMMARY OF NEEDS AND PROVISION ASSESSMENT

5.1 The following summarises this Study's assessment of facility provision requirements as a result of the projected population growth proposals.

Sports Halls

5.2 Given that current demand for sport hall provision is met, with a potential small surplus, future demand will be based on any increase in demand resulting from the growth in population as a result of new housing development. The application of the quantitative standard to each of the growth proposals leads to the following future estimate of need:

- Aylesbury Strategic Settlement (33,300 people) – the need equivalent to an additional 9 badminton court hall or 2.25 four court sports halls to the qualitative standards identified above.
- Buckingham Strategic Settlement (4,558 people) – the need equivalent to an additional 1.28 badminton court hall or 0.32 four court sports hall. In practice

no additional stand alone provision justified, although a relevant financial contribution to improve/expand existing provision would be.

- Haddenham, Wendover and Winslow Strategic Settlements – in practice the population growth for each of these settlements justifies no more than the maximum equivalent of 0.66 of a badminton court per settlement. No additional stand alone provision is therefore justified, although a relevant financial contribution to existing provision would be.

- New Settlement (11,250 people) - the need equivalent to an additional 3.12 badminton court hall or 0.78 of a four court sports halls. However, this will depend on where the new settlement is located. Current options in the VALP are close to Haddenham or Winslow. In both instances the total growth across both the new settlement and either of the two options would justify a full four court facility to the quantitative and qualitative standards identified above.

- Adjacent to Milton Keynes (10,685 people) - the need equivalent to an additional 3 badminton court hall or 0.74 four court sports halls to the qualitative standards identified above. However, this will ultimately depend on the distribution of the housing developments. Currently, within the VALP (Draft Plan), proposed development is relatively evenly split between sites within the parishes of Newton Longville and Whaddon, so potential demand will also be split. Both locations are accessible to indoor sports facilities within Milton Keynes, particularly Newton Longville's proximity to Bletchley and Bletchley Leisure Centre. Both the location and nature of future provision will therefore need to be determined once the final decision on location is made and discussion is held between neighbouring authorities.

- Larger, Medium and Smaller Villages – across all the villages the population growth anticipated after 2016 is just over 8,000 people, leading to the need for an additional 2.24 badminton courts. By itself this would not justify the need for an additional sports hall, and given the geographical spread of the villages, and the lack of any area of major population concentration, provision in any location would be difficult to justify. Instead, focus should be concentrated on ensuring local community centres have adequate lower level sports facilities as defined within the qualitative standard for these facilities (see section below).

Swimming Pools

5.3 As discussed above, there is no currently identified need for additional public swimming pool water space within the District. Future demand will therefore be based on any increase in demand resulting from the growth in population as a result of new housing development. The application of the quantitative standard to each of the growth proposals leads to the following future estimate of need:

- Aylesbury Strategic Settlement (33,300 people) – the need equivalent to an additional 6 lane pool to the qualitative standards identified above.

- Buckingham Strategic Settlement (4,558 people) – the need equivalent to an additional 0.9 lanes. No additional stand alone provision is justified, although a relevant financial contribution to existing provision would be.

- Haddenham, Wendover and Winslow Strategic Settlements – in practice the population growth for each of these settlements justifies no additional stand

alone provision, although a relevant financial contribution to existing provision would be.

- New Settlement (11,250 people) - the need equivalent to an additional 2.29 lanes or just over half a 25m x 4 lane pool. However, this will depend on where the new settlement is located. Current options in the VALP are close to Haddenham or Winslow. In both instances the total growth across both the new settlement and either of the two options would still not fully justify a 25m x 4 lane pool, although there may be a rationale for an inclusion of such a facility within any new education provision that supplies a degree of community use.

- Adjacent to Milton Keynes (10,685 people) - the need equivalent to an additional 2.17 lanes. As with sports halls total need will ultimately depend on the distribution of the housing developments. Currently, within the VALP (Draft Plan), proposed development is relatively evenly split between sites within the parishes of Newton Longville and Whaddon, so potential demand will also be split, limiting further the requirement for a new facility. Both locations are accessible to indoor sports facilities within Milton Keynes, particularly Newton Longville's proximity to Bletchley and Bletchley Leisure Centre. Both the location and nature of future provision will therefore need to be determined once the final decision on location is made, but on current projections no new pool facility is predicated to be required as a result of the planned housing developments.

- Larger, Medium and Smaller Villages – across all the villages the population growth after 2016 is anticipated at just over 8,000 people, leading to the need for an additional 1.6 lanes. By itself this would not justify the need for any additional pool provision, and given the geographical spread of the villages, and the lack of any area of major population concentration, provision in any location would be difficult to justify.

Community Centres and Village Halls

- Aylesbury Strategic Settlement area (growth of 33,300 people) – as with all proposals the solution will depend on where the developments will occur, and should take account of the principles set out above. The growth would warrant a minimum of six additional community centres although consideration should be given as to how they could be integrated within other community "hubs" (sports centres, health centres, education facilities etc.) to provide greater sustainability;

- Buckingham Strategic Settlement (growth of 4,558 people) – Buckingham stands between the Sustainable Settlements (as defined for community centres/village halls) and the Aylesbury Strategic Settlement. As a semi urban area of some 15,000 people, application of the Aylesbury quantitative standard of 1 centre per 5,300 people is more appropriate and is based on a greater range of usage data than available in the Buckingham area, providing a more robust standard. This would indicate that there is no shortage of community centres in Buckingham. With the proposed 4,558 population growth, provision of an additional Community Centre will be required.

- Aylesbury Rural Area (as defined for the purpose of this typology) – provision in these areas should be based on the hierarchy identified earlier. In itself the growth of population in any one area or aggregate of areas is unlikely to generate the need for a new facility, but development funding should be

used to refurbish and upgrade existing facilities to meet the levels set out in the provision standards.

- Adjacent to Milton Keynes (10,685 people) - the need equivalent to two community centres. Total need will ultimately depend on the distribution of the housing developments. Currently, within the VALP (Draft Plan), proposed development is relatively evenly split between sites within the parishes of Newton Longville and Whaddon, so potential demand will also be split.

- New Settlement (11,250 people) – broadly equivalent to the size of Buckingham, and therefore using the same standards, provision of two new community centres would be required.

Artificial Grass Pitches

- Aylesbury Strategic Settlement (33,300 people) – the need equivalent to an additional 1 pitch to the qualitative standards identified above.

- Buckingham Strategic Settlement (4,558 people) – the need equivalent to 0.14 of a pitch. In practice no additional stand alone provision is justified, although a relevant financial contribution to the existing provision or towards a smaller AGP MUGA where none exists would be.

- Haddenham, Wendover and Winslow Strategic Settlements – in practice the population growth for each of these settlements justifies no more than the maximum equivalent of 0.07 pitches per settlement. No additional stand alone provision is therefore justified, although a relevant financial contribution to existing provision or towards a smaller AGP MUGA where none exists would be.

- New Settlement (11,250 people) - the need equivalent to an additional 0.33 of a pitch. However, once again this will depend on where the new settlement is located. Current options in the VALP are close to Haddenham or Winslow. In both instances the total growth across both the new settlement and either of the two options would not justify a full AGP, although a relevant financial contribution to existing provision or towards a smaller AGP MUGA where none exists would be.

- Adjacent to Milton Keynes (10,685 people) - the need equivalent to an additional 0.31 of a pitch. However, this will ultimately depend on the distribution of the housing developments. Currently, within the VALP (Draft Plan), proposed development is relatively evenly split between sites within the parishes of Newton Longville and Whaddon, so potential demand will also be split. Both locations are accessible to AGP facilities within Milton Keynes. Both the location and nature of future provision will therefore need to be determined once the final decision on location is made.

- Larger, Medium and Smaller Villages – across all the villages the population growth anticipated is just over 8,000 people, leading to the need for an additional 0.24 pitches. By itself this would not justify the need for an additional AGP, and given the geographical spread of the villages, and the lack of any area of major population concentration, provision in any location would be difficult to justify.

Natural Grass Playing Pitches

- Aylesbury Strategic Settlement (33,300 people) – the need for another 16 grass pitches and 1 cricket pitch.
- Buckingham Strategic Settlement (4,558 people) – the need for another 3 grass pitches and 1 cricket pitch.
- Haddenham, Wendover and Winslow Strategic Settlements – each would generate the need for another 2 grass pitches and 1 cricket wickets.
- New Settlement (11,250 people) - the need for 8 grass pitches and 3 cricket wickets.
- Adjacent to Milton Keynes (10,685 people) - the need for 8 grass pitches and 3 cricket wickets. However, as with the other sports the location will ultimately depend on the distribution of the housing developments.
- Larger, Medium and Smaller Villages – the largest population growth across all the villages is projected to be in Aston Clinton. The application of the quantitative standards to the population increase does not identify the need for additional pitch provision and this would therefore be true of all other village settlements. However, a financial contribution to existing provision would be justified.

Outdoor Tennis

- Aylesbury Strategic Settlement (33,300 people) – the need for another 13 tennis courts.
- Buckingham Strategic Settlement (4,558 people) – the need for another 3 tennis courts.
- Haddenham, Wendover and Winslow Strategic Settlements – each would generate the need for another 2 tennis courts.
- New Settlement (11,250 people) - the need for 8 tennis courts.
- Adjacent to Milton Keynes (10,685 people) - the need for 7 tennis courts. However, as with the other sports the location will ultimately depend on the distribution of the housing developments.
- Larger, Medium and Smaller Villages – the largest population growth across all the villages is projected to be in Aston Clinton. The application of the quantitative standards to the population increase does not identify the need for additional tennis court provision and this would therefore be true of all other village settlements. However, a financial contribution to existing provision would be justified.

Indoor Tennis

5.4 The LTA's *British Tennis Places to Play Strategy 2011-2016* sets the aspiration for indoor tennis facilities as:

- Indoor tennis courts within a 20 minute drivetime of people's home.

5.5 This is purely an accessibility standard, not a quantitative one. However, from Map 6 it can be seen that the major population areas of Aylesbury Vale fall within a 20 minute drive time of one or more indoor tennis centres. The exceptions are the rural parishes to the west and north west of Aylesbury. Given the population densities in these areas it would be difficult to justify a major indoor tennis centre, although an option would be for one of the tennis clubs in this area to cover one or more of their courts.

5.6 In terms of quantitative standards, whilst the LTA do not provide any for indoor facilities they are currently providing funds to improve or develop facilities where an LTA registered club can demonstrate sustainable growth through facility development and a tennis development plan. It is understood that Halton Tennis Club is seeking funding for additional indoor courts, and they, or any other relevant club, should be supported where they can demonstrate they meet the LTA criteria.

Outdoor Bowls

5.7 There are three outdoor bowls clubs in the Aylesbury Strategic Settlement. With decreasing participation at this stage it would be difficult to justify additional provision as a result of population growth in the area.

Indoor Bowls

5.8 Based on the Sport England Facilities Planning Calculator there is a theoretical need for just under 13 rinks to serve the Aylesbury Vale District area. Existing provision is just over this theoretical requirement. This takes no account of accessibility factors in terms of travel time or facilities in neighbouring authorities, where indoor rinks in High Wycombe and at Bletchley Leisure Centre, Milton Keynes, would serve part of the Aylesbury Vale catchment.

5.9 Looking purely at the population within the Aylesbury Strategic Settlement the Sport England Facilities Planning Calculator estimates a current need for 5 rinks, which is met by current provision.

5.10 Looking just at the largest area of population growth – the Aylesbury Strategic Settlement – using the calculator to evaluate future demand as a result of the potential growth proposals would lead to the need for 2.3 indoor rinks, or less than half an indoor centre. The growth in all other settlement areas with a substantially smaller population growth projection would lead to a minimal demand for indoor bowls facilities and any new single stand alone facility would be very difficult to justify.

Athletics

5.11 Even with an increase in the District's population there is no immediate justification for an additional track based on the strategic requirement of one track per 250,000 people within a 30 minute drivetime and the statements within the UKA strategy. The catchment of other tracks covers the Vale as well as the catchment of the track at Stoke Mandeville. There is, however, a case for investment in appropriate facilities to enable the Stoke Mandeville stadium to be used by the club for competitive matches. This is further emphasised by the interest generated by the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. As the birthplace of the Paralympics, Stoke Mandeville has an important national and local role to play in the development of disability sport. Quality provision is necessary to encourage and capitalise on interest in participation as a result of London 2012.

Golf

5.12 The *English Golf Union Ltd Strategic Plan 2014-17* perhaps unsurprisingly focuses predominantly on sports development initiatives to increase participation rather than setting targets for an increase in facility provision.

5.13 Nearly all courses across Aylesbury Vale appear to be offering full memberships and "guest" memberships or pay as you play options. There is no indication that the courses are operating at full capacity or that additional course provision is currently required.

5.14 There are no defined planning standards for golf courses. The research publication *Golf participation in Europe 2015 / Golf Advisory Practice in EMA* identifies that, for England, there is 1 Golf Course per 29,032 people. Used purely as a benchmark, the 13 courses in Aylesbury Vale are more than adequate for both current and future population needs, and any future proposals for course provision should be based on a detailed feasibility demonstrating clearly why additional provision is required.

Health and Fitness

5.15 Given the great diversity of both providers and facility types there is no quantitative or qualitative standard that could sensibly be used to determine future provision. Much will depend on the commercial market as Aylesbury grows and the health and fitness industry develops and diversifies. However, it would be prudent to ensure that fitness facilities provided within any new secondary schools required as a result of the growth of the district should be designed to a standard and quality to facilitate community as well as educational use.

Squash

5.16 There are no current recommended quantitative standards for future squash court provision. On present national participation evidence it would be difficult to argue that there is a deficiency in provision and that, from a planning perspective, additional facilities are required.

Climbing Walls

5.17 The BMC's *Strategic Plan 2009-2012* sets out the importance of providing an infrastructure of clubs, climbing walls and training opportunities to enable progression of new and existing participants, whilst its 2015-19 strategy focuses on the development of membership, participation by young people and hillwalking. However, in neither strategy are there "standards" for provision provided and no identified geographical priorities.

5.18 There are no major indoor climbing facilities within Aylesbury Vale, although much of the district is serviced by facilities just beyond its boundaries. In terms of participation, the Sport England Active People's Survey identifies that some 0.25% of over 14's in England participate in climbing or mountaineering on a regular basis. Not all of these will be using climbing walls, but transposed to the 2016 population of Aylesbury Vale this would equate to some 480 people.

5.19 This is not a substantial market to confidently predict the need for a new facility within the District. However, the Sport England figures are for adult (14 years and above) only, and exclude the younger age groups.

5.20 The key issue is why a facility may be of interest to the Aylesbury Strategic Settlement area in particular. There is value in considering it as part of a focus for retaining young people in the town by providing a wider range of more attractive and "edgy" facilities. The £5.25m XC Centre in Hemel Hempstead came about from a perceived lack of relevant sports provision for young people, and ultimately involved consultation with some 14,000 children and young people, and partnership working between the Council, Youth Connexions and Dacorum Sports Trust. The facility comprises indoor climbing, caving and skate boarding and was predominantly funded through the Big Lottery. The climbing element has reportedly been more of a "slow burner" in terms of usage.

5.21 Provision of a similar facility to serve Aylesbury would be more a question of deciding whether it fits within the wider strategic redevelopment of the Aylesbury area than viewing it as stand alone issue, but any practical decision would need to be informed by a more detailed feasibility as to what "mix" of activities was required and the ongoing viability of such provision.

Stadia

5.22 There is no major stadium within the Aylesbury Vale District nor currently a club of sufficient size and stature to warrant a 10,000 plus seat facility, although the lack of provision means that Aylesbury United FC have to ground share in Thame.

5.23 From a comparative perspective the future size of the Aylesbury Strategic Settlement area will be the same as, or greater than, many locations where reasonable sized stadia exist. The issue is more about whether there is a desire to proactively pursue the future development of a stadium within Aylesbury Vale. This will require the Council to identify a suitable site with the potential for enabling development, and to work with or actively seek prospective tenants/developers of such a facility. The alternative is to establish it as a future aspiration and be prepared to encourage and support on an opportunistic rather than proactive basis any future proposals..

Green Infrastructure

5.24 The Buckinghamshire GI Strategy assessed greenspace provision against ANGSt targets and 69% of households in Aylesbury Vale met none of the ANGSt requirements. Only three settlements in Aylesbury Vale – Aston Clinton, Buckingham and Wendover – met the minimum ANGSt requirements for the provision of larger accessible natural greenspace. Many parts of Aylesbury Vale did not meet the standard of providing at least one 20ha site within 2km or one 500ha site within 10km of people's homes. There was also a general deficiency of accessible GI over 100ha in the Vale.

5.25 The Strategy identified three Priority Areas for Buckinghamshire, two of which were in Aylesbury Vale:

Priority Action Area 1: North Aylesbury Vale;
Priority Action Area 2: Aylesbury Environs.

5.26 The detailed deficiencies in these areas are set out in the *Aylesbury Vale Green Infrastructure Strategy* and the results of the most recent audit of green space show no significant change to this position. However, the deficiency of 100ha provision for specific areas of the Aylesbury Strategic Settlement ("within 5km of the southern edge of Aylesbury there are a number of sites up to the 100ha size threshold along the Chilterns escarpment, however being more than 5km away

from other parts of the town, they do not offer sustainable access") should be resolved by the provision of a proposed wetland nature reserve in the Bierton/Broughton area.

5.27 Since the 2012 leisure and cultural assessment a 2014 update to the Aylesbury Vale Green Infrastructure Strategy has been published. This sets out that a new Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership (BMNEP) was formed in 2012 where officers from various partner agencies collaborate as part of Local Nature Partnership (LNP's were proposed in the Natural Environment White Paper and aim to bring together the green infrastructure and biodiversity sectors). During the establishment of the LNP the value of bringing in broader environmental issues around sustainability such as flooding and climate change was recognised and led to the creation of the BMNEP. The updated strategy describes and updates progress on 10 Flagship Projects that will contribute to the overall provision of the Aylesbury Vale Green Infrastructure. In addition *The Buckinghamshire Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan* was published in 2013. The plan provides a more detailed context for delivering and funding strategic green infrastructure in Buckinghamshire, building on work in the county GI Strategy and district level GI Planning, and taking appropriate account of GI planning in adjacent counties (Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and London). Detailed information on the strategic priorities and delivery of key GI projects can be found in these documents.

5.28 In terms of future housing growth the requirements will be determined by the detail of the specific location of such growth in relation to existing Green Infrastructure provision, requiring either a contribution to existing provision, a contribution to new provision, or direct supply of new provision. In quantitative terms the projected population growth will lead to the following.

- Aylesbury Strategic Settlement (33,300 people) – the need for 66.6ha of accessible natural green space, 46.6ha of incidental open space, and 40ha of major open space;
- Buckingham Strategic Settlement (4,558 people) – the need for 9.2ha of accessible natural green space, 6.4ha of incidental open space, and 5.5ha of major open space;
- Haddenham Strategic Settlement – the need for 4.6ha of accessible natural green space, 3.2ha of incidental open space, and 2.8ha of major open space;
- Wendover Strategic Settlement – the need for 3.6ha of accessible natural green space, 2.5ha of incidental open space, and 2.2ha of major open space;
- Winslow Strategic Settlement – the need for 4.8ha of accessible natural green space, 3.4ha of incidental open space, and 2.9ha of major open space;
- New Settlement (11,250 people) - the need for 22.4ha of accessible natural green space, 15.7ha of incidental open space, and 13.44ha of major open space;
- Adjacent to Milton Keynes (10,685 people) - the need for 21.2ha of accessible natural green space, 14.8ha of incidental open space, and 12.7ha of major open space;
- Larger, Medium and Smaller Villages – these can be calculated individually based on the Provision Standards set out above.

6. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED STANDARDS

6.1 The foregoing sections examine current and future demand within Aylesbury Vale District for different leisure and cultural typologies. In some instances the examination of typologies is primarily for informative purposes, helping to provide direction and advice on the need for specific facility types rather than establish planning standards for future provision. However, examination of the main typologies enables the establishment of locally derived planning standards which can be used to evaluate future need based on planned population growth, and this study examines the implications on demand of the housing proposals for each of the settlement areas within the District.

6.2 A summary of the planning standards is provided in Table 1 below. This should be read in conjunction with the relevant typology sections of this report. These standards have been used or identified in this study from various sources and are now recommended to the Council for adoption.

Typology	Accessibility Standard	Quantitative Standard	Qualitative Standard
Sports Halls	No part of the district should be outside of a 20 minute travel time.	0.28 badminton courts per 1,000 population; facilities should be delivered in four court units with ancillary hall of no less than 1,500sqm and relevant support facilities.	The minimum acceptable quality standard for indoor sports halls and their associated facilities will be to meet the most *current (at time of provision) Sport England Design Guidance - Sports Halls Design and Layouts recommendations for a public use facility*.
Swimming Pools	No part of the district should be outside of a 20 minute travel time.	0.2 pool lanes per 1,000 population. Provision should be accompanied by the necessary support facilities (changing, plant, reception etc.)	The minimum acceptable quality standard for indoor swimming pools and their associated facilities will be to meet the most *current (at time of provision) Sport England Design Guidance Swimming Pool Design recommendations for a public use facility*.
Community Centres and	No provision required at Hamlet or Rural		The minimum acceptable

Typology	Accessibility Standard	Quantitative Standard	Qualitative Standard
Village Halls	Parish 1 level; At Rural Parish 2 level a small community centre with main hall up to100m^2 with foyer, small meeting room, adequate storage, kitchen, toilet facilities and parking; At Rural Parish 3 level a medium sized community centre up to 250m^2, as above with addition of meeting room(s), and stage; At cluster and Larger Sustainable Settlement level a minimum 18m x 10m main hall and ancillary facilities suitable for sporting activities to standards set in Sport England Design Guidance Note *Village and Community Halls* plus small fitness room to relevant Sport England guidance; and a minimum 18m x 10m main hall with fixed or demountable stage and ancillary facilities suitable for arts and performance activities to standards set in Sport England Design Guidance Note *Village and Community Halls*. These two halls may in practice be the same if either meets the other's specification. For the Aylesbury and Buckingham Strategic Settlements, New settlement and settlement adjacent to Milton Keynes no part of the settlement should be further than one mile from a community centre. The quantitative standard is one centre per 5,300 population, to include: • Hall 18m x 10m • Hall/Meeting Room 10m x 10m • Meeting Room 5m x 3.5m approx • Kitchen with server • Toilets • Storage for chairs, cleaning equipment, kitchen requirements, refuse • Parking to meet the full requirements of the range of uses.		quality standard for community centres will be to meet the most *current (at time of provision) Sport England Design Guidance recommendations for these facilities*, accepting that the facility mix may not be directly the same as the Guidance, together with such environmental standards relating to sustainability, energy consumption and recycling, and building construction as required by the Council at the time of provision.
Artificial Grass Pitches	No part of the district should be outside of a 6 mile radius of an AGP.	0.03 AGP's per 1,000 population. Delivery should be as a minimum a full size floodlit AGP to the	The minimum acceptable quality standard for AGP's and their associated

Typology	Accessibility Standard	Quantitative Standard	Qualitative Standard
		dimensions appropriate for the sport(s) it is being used for and as set out in the Sport England Design Guidance Notes *Selecting the Right Artificial Surface* and any specific sports National Governing Body requirements appertaining at the time of delivery. Provision should be accompanied by the necessary support facilities (changing, plant etc.) as set out in the qualitative standards.	facilities will be to meet the most current (at time of provision) Sport England Design Guidance Notes) Sport England Design Guidance on Artificial Surfaces for Outdoor Sport and its associated documents, or such replacement or updated guidance, and any specific sports National Governing Body requirements.
Grass Playing Pitches	A variety of accessibility standards for grass pitches have been used, depending on the specific sport but overall a minimum accessibility standard would be for pitch provision within a 15 minute drivetime of each settlement area.	Aylesbury Strategic Settlement – 0.49 adult size grass pitch per 1,000 population, 0.03 cricket wickets per 1,000 population; Aylesbury (all other areas) - 0.73 adult size grass pitch equivalent per 1,000 population, 0.28 cricket wickets per 1,000 population In terms of provision, delivery should be as a minimum equate to a full adult size football pitch to the maximum recommended dimensions (including run offs) of the Football Association. Provision should be accompanied by the necessary support facilities (changing, showers plant etc.) as set out in the qualitative standards.	The minimum acceptable quality standard for grass pitches and their associated facilities will be to meet the most *current (at time of provision) Sport England Design Guidance Notes* on *Natural Turf Pitches* and any specific sports National Governing Body requirements. Pavilion standards shall be as set out in the Sports England Design Guidance Note *Pavilions and Clubhouses* and any specific sports National Governing Body requirements.
Outdoor Tennis	The accessibility standard used is access to floodlit courts within a 10	Aylesbury Strategic Settlement – 0.4 floodlit outdoor tennis courts per 1,000	The minimum acceptable quality standard for outdoor tennis

Typology	Accessibility Standard	Quantitative Standard	Qualitative Standard
	minute drivetime.	population; Aylesbury Rural Area (including all other settlements) - 0.7 floodlit outdoor tennis courts per 1,000 population. In terms of provision, delivery should be to Lawn Tennis Association recommended dimensions for the number of courts concerned, and provision should be located in **four court** blocks and floodlit. Realistically it should be possible to encompass other sports within the facility (e.g. as a MUGA), to maximise the options for usage throughout the year, and this should be considered if there is to be no formal tennis club based on the site and its predominant focus is casual use.	courts and their associated facilities will be to meet the most *current (at time of provision) Lawn Tennis Association Technical Guidance*. Facilities in four court blocks should be suitable for other sporting uses if required.
Green Infrastructure	No person should live more than 300m from their area of natural green space of at least 2ha in size, and that there should be at least 2ha of accessible natural green space per 1000 population; There should be at least one accessible 20ha site within 2km of peoples' homes; There should be one accessible 100ha site within 5km of peoples' homes; There should be one accessible 500ha site within 10km of peoples' homes; There should be 1.4ha per 1000 population as incidental open space (incorporates amenity/landscaped planted areas, green corridors); There should be 1.2ha per 1000 population as major open space (parks, formal gardens		For development purposes – both of existing and future green space facilities – the qualitative standards set out in the nine Strategic principles of the *Aylesbury Vale Green Infrastructure Strategy* should therefore apply with specific principles being utilised according to the size, nature and location of the development.

Typology	Accessibility Standard	Quantitative Standard	Qualitative Standard
	and public open space).		

7. REFERENCES

Title	Publisher or Organisation	Year	Web Location (if appropriate)
Leisure and Cultural Facilities Study	AVDC	2012	http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/withdrawn-vap-strategy-technical-documents
Issues and Options for the Vale of Aylesbury Plan - Public Consultation Booklet	AVDC	2011	http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/local-development-plans/planning-policy/vale-of-aylesbury-plan-/consultation-vale-aylesbury-plan-december-2011/
Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan Draft Plan	AVDC	2016	https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/vale-aylesbury-local-plan-draft-plan
The Culture and Sport Planning Toolkit	Living Places	2009	http://www.cultureandsportplanningtoolkit.org.uk/
Place Survey	Department of Communities and Local Government	2008	http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/placesurvey2008
Sustainable Communities Strategy for Aylesbury Vale 2009-2016	AV Local Strategic Partnership	2009	www.avlsp.org
Local Cultural Strategy for Aylesbury Vale	AVDC	2004	http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/search/?s=a&k=cultural+strategy
Aylesbury Vale PPG17 Study 2010	AVDC	2010	http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/GetAsset.aspx?id=fAAxADAANAA1ADYAfAB8AFQAcgB1AGUAfAB8ADAAfAA1
Aylesbury Playing Pitch Strategy	AVDC	2010	http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/GetAsset.aspx?id=fAAxADAANAA1ADQAfAB8AFQAcgB1

Title	Publisher or Organisation	Year	Web Location (if appropriate)
			AGUAfAB8ADAAfAA1
Aylesbury Vale Green Infrastructure Strategy and Update	AVDC	2011 and 2014	http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/leisure-culture/parks-open-spaces/aylesbury-vale-green-infrastructure-strategy/
Sport England Design Guidance (various)	Sport England		http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/design_and_cost_guidance.aspx
National Planning Policy Framework	DCLG	2012	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2
National Planning Practice Guidance	DCLG	2014 and since	http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/
Sport England Sports Facilities Calculator	Sport England		http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/planning_tools_and_guidance/sports_facility_calculator.aspx
Sport England Facilities Planning Model	Sport England		http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/putting_policy_into_practice/assessing_need_and_demand/facilities_planning_model/facilities_planning_model.aspx
Sport England Active Peoples Survey	Sport England	2012	http://www.sportengland.org/research/active_people_survey.aspx
Synthetic Turf Pitch User Survey Main Report 2005/06	Sport England and sportscotland	2006	http://www.sportengland.org/research/idoc.ashx?docid=1a3b0420-8a82-4be9-9b87-62ee52949e9f&version=3
The Survey of Sports Clubs 2011	Sport and Recreation Alliance	2011	http://www.sportandrecreation.org.uk/lobbying-and-campaigning/spor

Title	Publisher or Organisation	Year	Web Location (if appropriate)
			t-research/sports-club-survey
British Tennis Places to Play Strategy 2011-2016	The Lawn Tennis Association	2011	http://www.lta.org.uk/clubs-schools/What-is-the-Places-to-Play-Strategy/
Athletics Facilities Planning and Delivery 2007-2012	UK Athletics	2007	http://www.uka.org.uk/governance/facilities/planning--delivery/?locale=en
2014 Golf Club Membership Questionnaire Results Book	English Golf Union and the English Women's Golf Association	2014	
A Vision for English Golf to the Year 2020	English Golf partnership	2004	http://www.englandgolfpartnership.com/
Green Space Strategies: A Good Practice Guide	CABE Space	2006	http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110118095356/http:/www.cabe.org.uk/files/green-space-strategies.pdf
Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard	Fields in Trust		http://www.fieldsintrust.org/Upload/file/PAD/FINAL%20ONLINE%20Planning%20Guidance%20for%20Outdoor%20Sport%20and%20Play%20Provision%20Oct%202015.pdf
Aylesbury Vale Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Database	Aylesbury Vale District Council	2016	

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CONTACTS

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9. GLOSSARY

Term	Explanation
Accessibility Standards	Planning standards that set out the distance or time people should reasonably expect to travel to use a specific facility.
Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP)	Artificial Grass is a surface of synthetic fibres made to look like natural grass. It is used in a variety of formats for various pitch sports.
District Hierarchy	Refer to Figures 1,2 and 3
CABE Space	Set up as a specialist unit of CABE in 2003, CABE Space has helped public, private and voluntary organisations to understand the benefits of well-planned, designed, managed and maintained public space. The organisation ceased to exist in 2011.
Catchment	Usually expressed as a drivetime or distance radius, it is the area from which users of a facility will normally travel from.
Core Catchment	The drivetime or distance radius within which the majority of users of a facility will travel from.
Culture and Sport Planning Toolkit	A practical source of information and advice for all practitioners involved in culture and planning.
Fields in Trust	Formerly the National Playing Fields Association, seeks to protect and promote the provision of outdoor sport and play facilities.
Lawn Tennis Association (LTA)	The governing body for tennis in England

National Planning Policy Framework	The National Planning Policy Framework was published on 27 March 2012. This is a key part of government reforms to "make the planning system less complex and more accessible, to protect the environment and to promote sustainable growth". It replaces the former Planning Policy Guidance Notes.
Natural England	Natural England is an Executive Non-departmental Public Body responsible to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Its purpose is to protect and improve England's natural environment and encourage people to enjoy and get involved in their surroundings.
Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17)	The former government planning guidance relating to sport and green infrastructure. Now replaced by the National Planning Policy Framework.
Qualitative Standards	Planning standards that set the quality of provision required of new developments.
Quantitative Standards	Planning standards that set the quantum of provision required for any given size of development.
Sport England	Sport England is responsible for the strategic overview and support for sport in England and is accountable to Parliament through the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.
Sport England Active People's Survey	The Active People Survey is the largest ever survey of sport and active recreation to be undertaken in Europe and is undertaken on an annual basis.
Sport England Facilities Planning Calculator	The Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) is a planning tool which helps to estimate the amount of demand for key community sports facilities that is created by a given population.
Sport England Facilities Planning Model (FPM)	The FPM is a computer model (developed and used on license from Edinburgh University), which helps to assess the strategic provision of community sports facilities.
Typology	The study or systematic classification of types that have characteristics or traits in common. For this study typologies are defined by different types of sporting, open space or recreation facilities.