

Test Valley Borough Council
Sports Facilities and Playing
Pitch Strategy 2026 – 2031



continuum
SPORT & LEISURE LTD

Test Valley
Borough Council

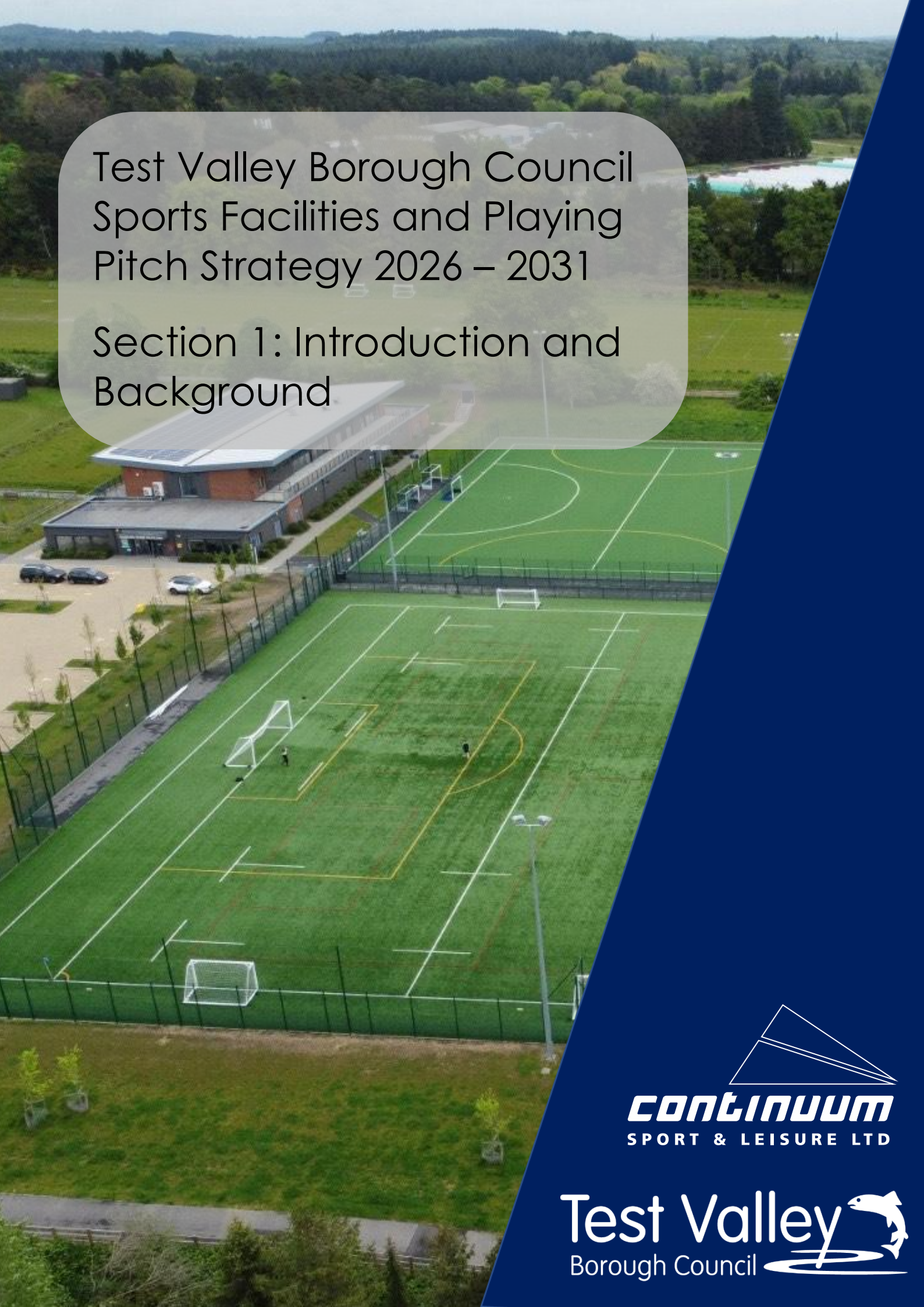


Contents

	Page
Abbreviations	3
Section 1 – Introduction and Background	4
Section 2 – The Study Area	11
Section 3 – Playing Pitch Strategy	20
<i>Introduction</i>	22
<i>Findings and Facility Needs</i>	23
<i>Meeting the Needs: ‘How to’ Scenarios</i>	40
<i>Recommendations by Pitch Sport</i>	48
<i>Summary</i>	49
Section 4 – Sports Facilities Strategy	51
<i>Introduction</i>	53
<i>Sport Specific Analysis</i>	54
<i>Strategic Development Scenario</i>	108
<i>Summary</i>	110
Section 5 – Strategic Recommendations	111
Section 6 – Action Plan	116
Section 7 – Summary	125
Appendices:	
<i>Appendix A - Assessment of Needs Report Cricket</i>	
<i>Appendix B – Assessment of Needs Report Football</i>	
<i>Appendix C – Assessment of Needs Report Hockey</i>	
<i>Appendix D – Assessment of Needs Report Rugby</i>	
<i>Appendix E – Sport England FPM report – Swimming and Sports Halls</i>	
<i>Appendix F – Club Consultation and Aspirations</i>	
<i>Appendix G – Planning Policies</i>	

Abbreviations

3G	Third Generation (artificial grass pitch)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
ALS	Active Lives Survey
BC	Bowls Club
CC	Cricket Club
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
COE	Church of England
CUA	Community Use Agreement
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EA	England Athletics
EBC	Eastleigh Borough Council
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FL	Football League
FTP	Fine Turf Pitch (Cricket)
GMA	Grounds Management Association
HC	Hockey Club
HS	High School
IMD	Indices of Multiple Deprivation
LA	Local Authority
LED	Light Emitting Diode
LFFP	Local Football Facility Plan
LSOAs	Lower Layer Super Output Areas
LPA	Local Planning Authority
MES	Match Equivalent Sessions
MUGAs	Multi Use Games Areas
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NTP	Non Turf Pitch (Cricket)
OHID	Office for Health Improvement and Disparities
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
PF	Playing Field
PP	PitchPower
PPC	Playing Pitch Calculator
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
RAG	Red Amber Green
RC	Roman Catholic
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RFC	Rugby Football Club
SC	Sports Club
SD	Sand Dressed (Hockey)
SE	Sport England
SG	Sports Ground
SFC	Sports Facilities Calculator
SFS	Sports Facilities Strategy
S106	Section 106
TBC	To Be Confirmed
TVBC	Test Valley Borough Council
U	Under
WRC	World Rugby Compliant



Test Valley Borough Council Sports Facilities and Playing Pitch Strategy 2026 – 2031

Section 1: Introduction and Background



1. Introduction and Background

This strategy was completed prior to the outcomes of the Local Government Reorganisation and should a new unitary authority be adopted within the timescale of this strategy, then this document should be adopted by that unitary authority as the position for playing pitches and sports facilities in the Test Valley area until a new strategy is commissioned covering the new authority.

1.1 Background

- a. Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) has recently made significant changes to their council-owned leisure provision with the aim of improving the quality and accessibility of sports facilities to encourage participation in physical activity for all. A new sports hub at Ganger Farm Sports Park, Romsey was opened in September 2022 and includes 2 new artificial pitches catering for hockey, football and rugby, 8 grass pitches (various sizes) for football and rugby, a sports pavilion with changing provision, community space and an exercise studio, 2 outdoor play areas and an outdoor gym. This facility shows Test Valley Borough Council's commitment to improving the sports facilities and increasing levels of physical activity across the borough.
- b. Test Valley Borough Council recognises the way in which people access sport and physical activity has evolved since the COVID-19 pandemic and are updating their strategies to consider and assess how future leisure needs and population growth will impact on the borough's existing sporting provision. The new Sports Facilities and Playing Pitch Strategy 2026 – 2031, produced in line with national guidance from Sport England, forms the updated evidence base to the previous Playing Pitch Strategy 2020 and Sports Facility Strategy 2020 and builds on the successful delivery of a number of the priorities and projects highlighted in the previous strategies.
- c. Continuum Sport and Leisure were commissioned by Test Valley Borough Council to lead on the production of the new strategy, which has been agreed by all the key indoor and outdoor national governing bodies of sport following the Sport England process¹. Each local authority in the country is encouraged to produce this evidence base to inform future decisions regarding the demand and supply of existing and new playing pitches and built sports facilities in their area. The strategy informs an action plan which details potential facility developments based on the demand and supply analysis, as set out in Section 6. This action plan will be reviewed and amended periodically, in partnership with stakeholders and the Strategy Steering Group.
- d. The supply side information contained in the strategy is generated through standard facility audits used for all levels of facility from parks to elite sport, with findings then validated by the relevant NGB of that sport. The demand side information is generated from surveys of current and potential users including local sports clubs as well as club and team data provided by the relevant governing bodies of sport and facility booking records where available. Test Valley Borough Council's Community and Leisure Service and Planning Policy team have provided context and a local perspective on the overarching vision and principles driving the strategy and the outcome objectives.
- e. The resulting action plan is a guide on how enhanced and new facilities might be developed, pending viability testing, funding confirmation and planning permission, if necessary, where they might be developed and the lead organisation to meet identified demand and provide sustainable management and operational models. Often projects are delivered through Test Valley Borough Council, or the sport's governing body engaging with voluntary, education or commercial partners. Each potential project identified in the action plan will be reviewed and re-evaluated considering the situation at the time. The strategy and action plan provide a 'snapshot' of the position at the

¹ <https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/planning-sport>

time of writing. Factors on both the demand and supply side may have changed as well as the cost and viability of the project at the point when an individual project is being considered during the life of this strategy.

- f. When applying for funding to develop new facilities or improve current facilities, Sport England, NGBs, and most other funding organisations, require evidence of the current demand and supply of facilities in an area to justify the proposed project. This strategy, developed and agreed in partnership with these same organisations, is the document that provides this information on playing pitches, built sports facilities and ancillary facilities and is vital to the success of any funding bid.
- g. Through the implementation of this strategy, Test Valley Borough Council has a leading role to play in enabling access to sporting opportunities at a cost that is acceptable to the wider community, including entry level facilities such as free to use open space and multi-use games areas (MUGAs) as well as pay and play summer and winter sports pitches and leisure facilities with changing and toilet facilities to allow communities to participate and clubs to play competitively.
- h. The strategy document comprises two parts – Playing Pitch Strategy (Section 3) and Sports Facilities Assessment (Section 4) – each with an action plan (Section 6).

1.2 Why the strategy has been developed

- a. Alongside the need for Test Valley Borough Council to ensure an up-to-date evidence base following the impact of the pandemic, the purpose of the strategy is to support the delivery of the Council's emerging Local Plan. A key part of the future provision is Test Valley Borough Council's important direct and indirect contribution to getting more people active and moving more to improve the overall health and wellbeing of Test Valley residents. The strategy will assist in establishing how to best meet the current and future health and wellbeing needs of Test Valley's community clubs, organisations, and residents, contributing to the borough priorities of community cohesion, accessibility and social inclusion.
- b. Test Valley Borough Council's main drivers for producing this updated strategy and associated action plan are detailed below:
 - Provide a robust evidence base for use in planning, investment and sports development decisions.
 - Identify the impact of future population growth and changing demographics on existing pitches, physical activity opportunities, and facilities and the need for further provisions / enhancements.
 - To explore opportunities to secure wider community use of school / college / academy pitches and facilities where applicable – establishing the community use arrangements currently in place and potential developments of such arrangements.
 - Identify opportunities and viability for pitches, facilities and facilities improvements.
 - Understand cross-boundary demands, both imported and exported, relating to the use of pitches and physical activity facilities (e.g. leisure centres).
 - Consider potential locations for meeting the demand for all weather pitches in the borough.

1.3 Vision and Key Deliverables

- a. The vision for Test Valley Borough Council's Sports Facilities and Playing Pitch Strategy is to provide an assessment of the needs for playing pitches, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessment identifies specific needs and quantitative and/ or qualitative deficits or surpluses of playing pitches and sports facilities across Test Valley.

- b. A summary of the approach to each strategy is as follows:

The Playing Pitch Strategy:

- Follows Sport England guidance: Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance – An approach to developing and delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy (2013).
- Facilities include Football, Rugby union, Cricket, and Hockey pitches.
- All stages of Sport England's guidance document are followed with the exception for stage E (step 10) which will be the responsibility of the steering group once the final updated strategies are adopted.

The Sports Facilities Strategy:

- Follows Sport England guidance: Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for indoor and outdoor sports facilities – how to undertake and apply needs assessments for sport (2014).
- Facilities include swimming pools, tennis, athletics, netball, squash, bowls and croquet, golf, cycling (i.e. BMX, cyclocross, mountain bike and road), archery, padel, extreme sports, health and fitness, outdoor and indoor gyms, rambling (Health Walks), and other indoor sports played in sports halls.
- All stages of the Sport England guidance are followed.

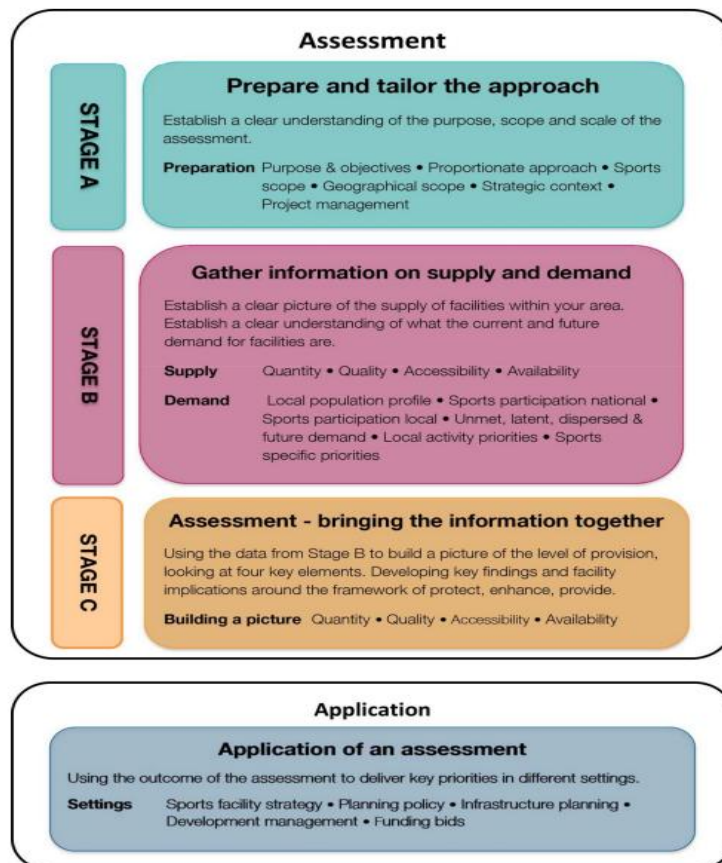
- c. Within these sports and facilities, the strategy seeks as far as is practicable, to include consideration of all forms of play, whether:

- Club and league based (formal) play and training (including reference to indoor nets for Cricket),
- Less formal programmed forms of the respective sports (e.g., friendly and recreational game formats outside the sport's governing bodies affiliated structures), and
- Un-programmed, informal play by groups.

1.4 The Approach to Developing the Strategy

- a. The strategy is based on local needs (current and projections to the end of the strategy period of 2031 and the end of the local plan period 2042) and sets out deliverable actions. This objective is assured by adhering to the 'Assessing needs and opportunities guide for indoor and outdoor sports facilities' and the further application of the 'ten steps' advocated in the current Sport England's 'Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance'. This guidance is detailed in figures 1.1 and 1.2.

Figure 1.1- Assessing needs and opportunities guide for indoor and outdoor sports facilities (ANOG)



Stage A – Prepare and tailor the approach: Establish a clear understanding of the purpose, scope and scale of the assessment.

Stage B – Gather information on supply and demand: Establish a clear picture of the supply of facilities within the area and the current and future demands for facilities.

Stage C – Assessment – Bringing the information together: Using the data from Stage B to build a picture of the level of provision, looking at four key elements. Developing key findings and facility implications around the framework of protect, enhance, provide.

Application – Application of an assessment: Using the outcome of the assessment to deliver key priorities in different settings.

Figure 1.2 - Ten stage approach to a PPS



Stage A - Step 1: Prepare and tailor the approach.

Stage B - Step 2: Gather supply information and views.

- Step 3: Gather demand information and views.

Stage C - Step 4: Understand the situation at individual sites.

- Step 5: Develop the current and future pictures of provision.

- Step 6: Identify the key findings and issues.

Stage D - Step 7: Develop the recommendations and action plan.

- Step 8: Write and adopt the strategy.

Stage E - Step 9: Apply and deliver the strategy.

- Step 10: Keep the strategy robust and up to date.

- b. This 10-step approach is split into 5 key stages of the strategy process. This report covers stages A – D, with Stage E, the application, delivery, and renewal of the strategy, being the responsibility of Test Valley Borough Council, with support from the playing pitch NGBs, Sport England, and wider funding partners.

National Policy Adherence

- c. The strategy also adheres to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Paragraph 103 of the NPPF 2024 states: *"Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate"*.
- d. Sport England's guidance highlights the importance of undertaking detailed assessments of sports facility needs and the benefits of sports and physical activity within local authority areas (as well as considering the range of possible options and scenarios for meeting priority needs and achieving positive outcomes identified through this process), before making recommendations for future action. Specifically, the guidance recommends that local authorities:

1. *Recognise and give significant weight to the benefits of sport and physical activity.*
 2. *Undertake, maintain and apply robust and up-to-date assessments of need and strategies for sport and physical activity provision, and base policies, decisions and guidance upon them.*
 3. *Plan, design and maintain buildings, developments, facilities, land and environments that enable people to lead active lifestyles.*
- e. The guidance published by Sport England also advocates that strategic recommendations and action planning consider the following hierarchy of needs:
1. **Protect** existing sports facilities where these are sustainable and continue to perform a valuable role in meeting community needs.
 2. **Enhance** existing facilities that meet these criteria but need improvement to continue to be of value; and, lastly,
 3. **Provide** new or extended facilities where there is found to be substantial unmet needs currently or predicted for the future.

1.5 Management and delivery

- a. The development of the strategy has been managed by the Test Valley Borough Council Sports Facilities and Playing Pitch Strategy Steering Group. Internal stakeholders within the steering group involved representatives from Test Valley Borough Council including the Head of Parks, Countryside and Sport, the Sports Development Officer and the Planning Policy team. The steering group also included representatives from Hampshire County Council comprising of the Public Health Principal Spatial Planner and Strategic Development Officer in Children's Services.
- b. The external stakeholders included in the Steering Group are made up of representatives from The Football Association, Football Foundation, Lawn Tennis Association, Hampshire Cricket, England & Wales Cricket Board, Rugby Football Union, England Hockey, Sport England, Places Leisure and Continuum Sport & Leisure Ltd, the consultants appointed to co-ordinate the strategy development to the point of the recommendation and action plan.
- c. As part of the process the consultant team engaged with the following other National Governing Bodies: Badminton England, British American Football, British Cycling, British Gymnastics, British Judo, England Athletics, England Golf, England Netball, Rugby League, Swim England and Table Tennis England. The views of the National Governing Bodies who responded to consultation are reflected in the sport's specific sections where relevant. Feedback was also sought from the Active Partnership, Energise Me and neighbouring local authorities.

Test Valley Borough Council
Sports Facilities and Playing
Pitch Strategy 2026 – 2031
Section 2: The Study Area

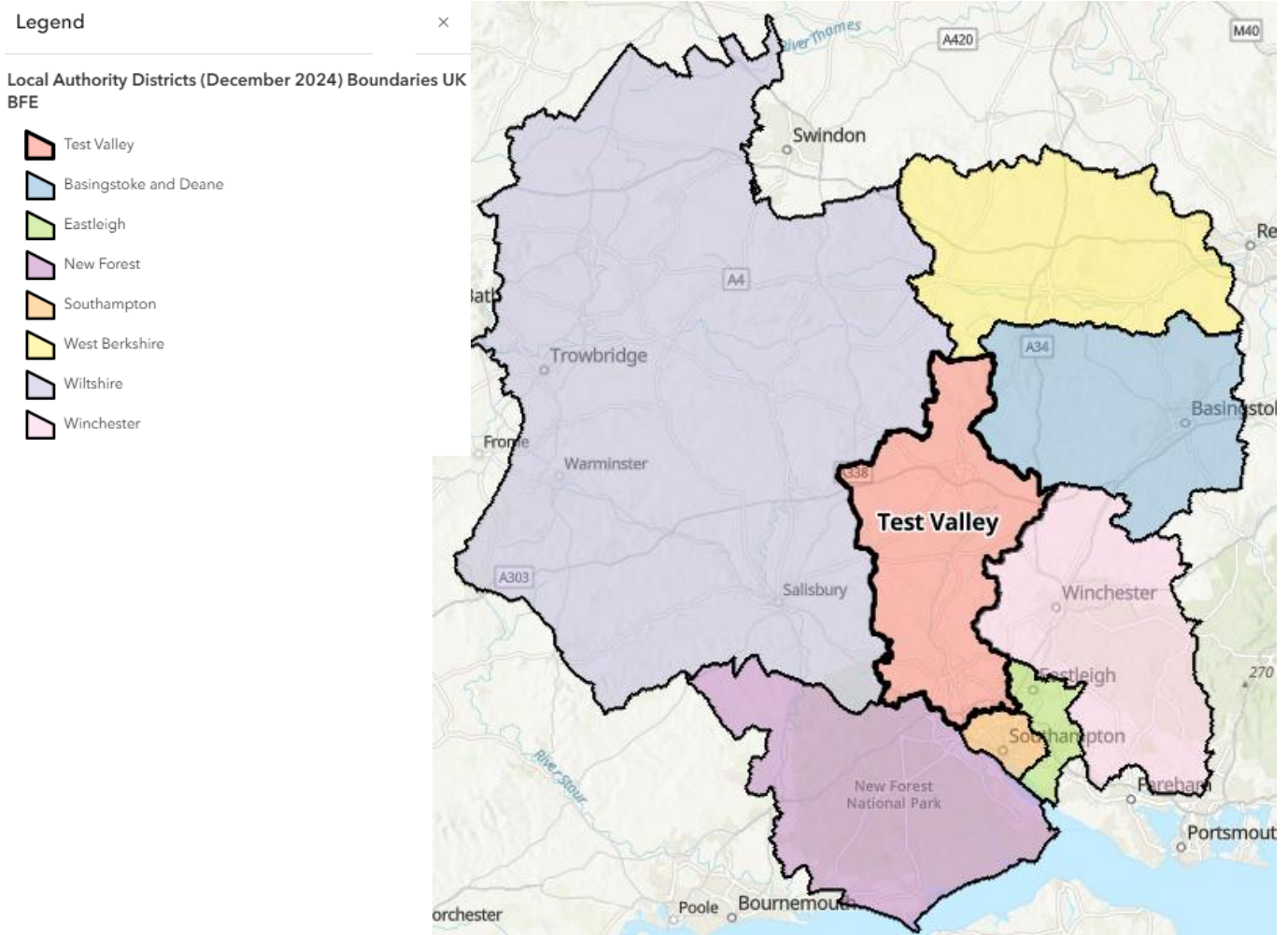


2. The Study Area

2.1 The Extent of the Study Area

- a. The study area for the full strategy covers the borough of Test Valley. As with most boroughs, there is a significant level of cross boundary movement by clubs based in neighbouring authorities and using facilities in Test Valley. An important aspect of this strategy is to quantify imported demand from the neighbouring authorities highlighted in figure 2.1 and assess the impact of this additional use on facilities in Test Valley.

Figure 2.1 – Map of Test Valley and neighbouring Local Authorities



- b. There are also sports teams based in Test Valley that use facilities outside the borough. This cross-boundary movement has been taken into consideration when considering future needs for each sport both in terms of specialist and strategic facilities that serve a sub-regional catchment area, and the local community sporting needs for Test Valley residents.
- c. Test Valley's adopted Local Plan sets out a housing requirement for 2011 to 2029 of 10,854 homes (equating to about 588 per year). In light of changes in national planning policy, there has been a significant increase in the number of homes that need to be planned for. The most recent consultation draft of the emerging Local Plan (Revised Regulation 18, 2025) set out a proposed housing requirement of 15,878 homes to be delivered between 2025 and 2042, with an annual requirement of 934 homes. This requirement would be met through a combination of housing

completions, commitments (including planning permissions), windfall (unplanned) sites, allocations, and neighbourhood plans.

- d. Proposed new housing is spread across the borough, with the majority of the larger scale growth proposed near to existing settlements within and adjoining the borough, including Andover, Ludgershall, Romsey, and Valley Park. However, there are also allocations proposed in some of the rural villages as well.
- e. In the northern half of the borough, around Andover there are large urban extensions proposed in the south (Bere Hill) in close proximity to Picket Twenty, east (including Finkley Down Farm) in close proximity to Augusta Park and north (Manor Farm) near Charlton, with additional allocations to the east and west. Two large sites are proposed at Ludgershall, on the Wiltshire border. Approximately 1000 new dwellings are proposed at Weyhill to the west of Andover on the road corridor to Ludgershall and would look to Andover for services and facilities. Additional sites are proposed at Enham Alamein, Charlton, Stockbridge, Grateley Station and Palestine, Abbots Ann, Upper Clatford, Thruxton, Barton Stacey and Chilbolton.
- f. For the southern half of the borough, around Romsey growth is proposed to the north east at Brentry Nursery and South of Ganger Farm (both of which have resolutions to grant permission on planning applications). Additional sites to the east of Romsey at Halterworth Lane and north of Highwood Lane, along with a site to the south of the Romsey Bypass, near Romsey Rapids, have been proposed. There are proposals for housing to the north and south of Valley Park, which includes Velmore Farm on the boundary with Eastleigh borough. Additional sites are proposed at North Baddesley, Nursling and Rownhams, Ampfield, Braishfield, Broughton, Lockerley, and Wellow.
- g. This suggests that the demand for sports facilities across Test Valley will significantly increase over the course of this strategy period. The impact of population growth on demand for facilities is explored further throughout sections 3 and 4 of this report.

2.2 Tailoring the Approach- What Makes the Study Area Different?

- a. In tailoring the approach, it is important to understand the following unique aspects of the area.
 - The borough of Test Valley is largely rural in character, with two main towns towards the north and south of the borough.
 - Some of the larger sports clubs in the borough focus around Andover and Romsey, however some sports also see a large number of community or village teams that use pitches available in their local area.
 - A number of key leisure sites within the borough are managed by Places Leisure Management Ltd, through a 30-year contract that commenced on 1 April 2017. This includes Andover Leisure Centre, Romsey Rapids, Romsey Sports Centre, Knightwood Leisure Centre and Charlton Lakeside Pavilion.
 - Test Valley Borough Council is responsible for managing a number of playing pitches within the borough including Romsey Sports Centre, Ganger Farm Sports Park, Hunts Farm (north of Romsey), London Road, Saxon Field, Picket Twenty, Picket Piece and East Anton in Andover and Charlton Sports Ground, in Charlton.
 - The previous strategy has been progressed with a number of projects delivered and update papers produced in 2022 and 2024.

The Hampshire Active Partnership

- b. The charity 'Energise Me' - is the lead organisation working to create the conditions for an active population in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and to use the power of sport and physical activity to transform lives. The Energise Me team work alongside numerous public, private and voluntary

partners, bringing together expertise, resources and ideas from all parts of the sports, health and physical activity arena in Hampshire.

- c. The Energise Me Strategy 2022-2027 'We Can Be Active' contains policies aimed at meeting needs and aspirations of the sector in the county. It prioritises those most in need and facing the greatest barriers to participation working in partnership across local government, sport, business and the voluntary sector to increase activity levels reduce inequality and transform lives through sport and physical activity. The strategy sets out five broad goals that summarise what people need to be active:
1. **Positive early experiences** for our children and young people
 2. **Opportunities** that meet our needs and interests and are accessible and easy to find.
 3. **Places and travel routes** where we *all* feel safe and are encouraged to be active.
 4. **Support** to help us get started or keep moving when we feel that we can't do it alone.
 5. **Bold leaders** working together to create happier and healthier communities.

Population Profile and Growth

- d. As detailed within this strategy the development or enhancement of sports facilities in the borough will need to meet the needs of the current population as well as the future population. Figure 2.2 summarises the most up to date population projections which are available for Test Valley. These projections demonstrates that Test Valley's population is projected to grow by 15% over the period to 2042, which is significantly greater than the national average of 8% (as projected by the ONS). An increase of over nearly 20,000 residents will greatly increase the demand for sport and recreation pitches in Test Valley. This increase of population, alongside current population, indicates that the current provision of facilities for sport, physical activity, and recreation in Test Valley will be under growing pressure in the coming years as the population increases.

Figure 2.2 Population projection for Test Valley 2025 – 2042

Location	Base Population ²	2031 Population ³	2042 Population ⁴	% increase to 2042
Test Valley	135,201	144,729	155,441	15%
England	58,620,101	60,484,301	63,261,579	8%

Health

- e. It is important to understand the health profile of Test Valley with regard to the positive benefits that new or improved facilities can have on a number of health issues as well as understanding the propensity of the local population to be active. Test Valley's Local Authority Health Profile (statistics ranging from 2023 to 2025) highlights the health of residents compared to the county and national average.

Figure 2.3 Table of health indicators in Test Valley, Hampshire, and England (OHID LA health profiles)

	Test Valley	Hampshire	England
% Obese children (Year 6) (2024/25)	18.7%	18.9%	22.2%
% Obese or Overweight adults (2023/24)	69.5%	66.1%	64.5%
Life expectancy age: male (2024)	83.0	81.8	79.8
Life expectancy age: female (2024)	85.5	85	83.6
Under 75 mortality: all causes (2024)*	233.3	267.9	329.4
Under 75 mortality: cardiovascular (2024)*	55.8	58.1	74.3
Under 75 mortality: cancer (2024)*	96.8	108.9	117.9

* standardised rate per 100,000 population

² ONS 2024 Mid Year Population Estimates

³ ONS 2022-based sub-national population projections

⁴ ONS 2022-based sub-national population projections

- f. Figure 2.3 provides an overview of the performance of Test Valley across several Department of Health key indicators in comparison with county and national averages, with those health markers which are better than county average highlighted green, and those that are worse highlighted red. This highlights that Test Valley performs well in comparison to the county averages for all of these leading indicators of health and wellbeing for both childhood and adult measures, apart from the percentage of obese or overweight adults.
- g. The profiles of all 20 wards within Test Valley, highlighted the proportion of residents who said they were in 'very good or good health'. The average across Test Valley was 84.7% which is higher than the national average (82.2%). There is a significant range of the proportion of people who reported they are in 'very good or good health', with Valley Park being the highest (89.6%) and Andover St Mary's being the lowest (78%).

Figure 2.4 Table of the proportion of Test Valley wards reporting they are in good or very good health (ONS 2021)

Rank of all wards	Ward Name	% residents who reported they are in good or very good health
1 st	Valley Park	89.6%
2 nd	Andover Downlands	89%
3 rd	Ampfield and Braishfield	87.2%
18 th	Andover Harroway	82%
19 th	Romsey Abbey	79.4%
20 th	Andover St Mary's	78%

- h. Sport England and the Department for Health have identified that engagement in regular sport and physical activity is a key contributor to maintaining 'very good or good' health and across Test Valley it is vital that access to good quality facilities for sport is protected, maintained and enhanced (where needed) or new provision is developed to continue this important contribution to maintain good health.
- i. The JSNA Healthy Places Report for Test Valley (March 2024) states the areas with the greatest access to sports facilities were Chilworth and Nursling in the south, whereas areas with no or very limited sports facilities included Andover town centre, Anton Lakes, Augusta Park and Romsey towards Cupernham. These areas should be considered for the development of new provision where there are suitable opportunities and sufficient local demand.

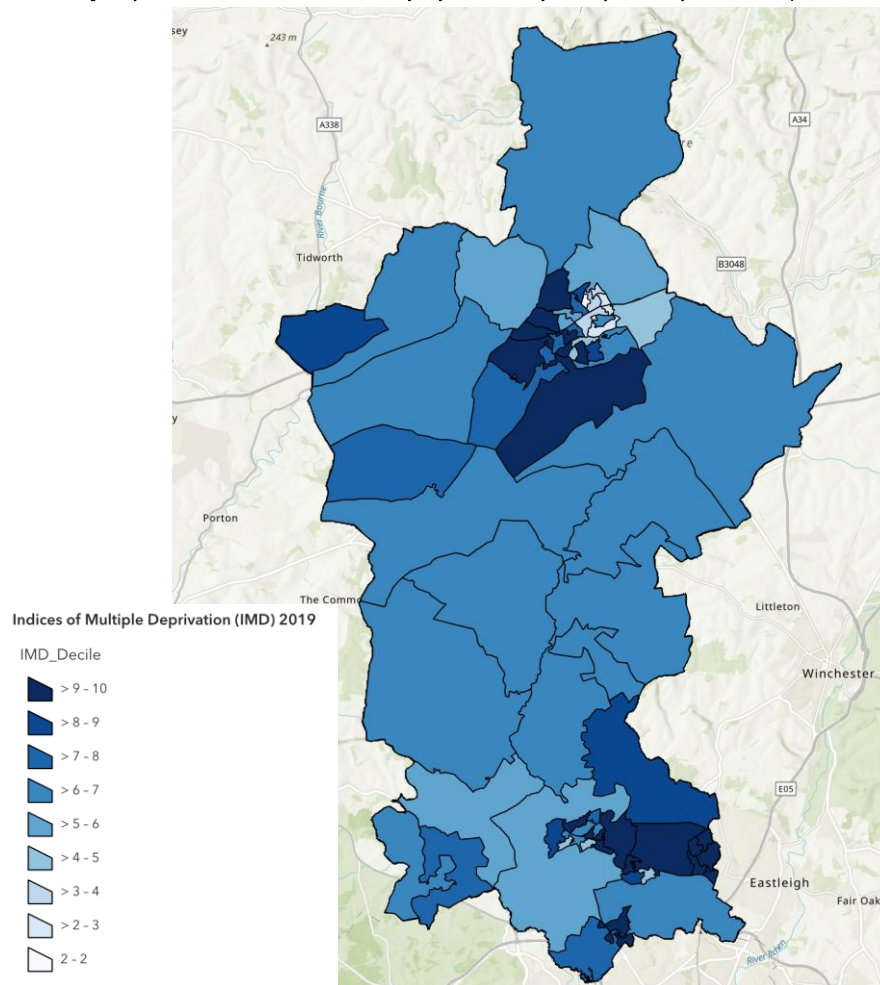
Deprivation

- j. Deprivation, and the social and economic factors behind the figures, directly affect the propensity and ability of the catchment population to access and use facilities and be active. Investment into community sports facilities can also form an important element of the regeneration of deprived areas and provide more accessible opportunities for movement and physical activity. An awareness of how deprivation affects a local population can also influence how activities are delivered and what type of initiatives are launched to increase participation.
- k. Figure 2.5 illustrates Test Valley's deprivation rank against other neighbouring local authorities based on the 2015 and 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation. As shown on the table, Test Valley's deprivation rank has remained relatively consistent from 2015 to 2019 (where rank 1 is most deprived). There is a significant range of deprivation in the surrounding areas, with Winchester being one of the least deprived areas in the country yet Southampton being within the 20% most deprived areas. Residents of high deprivation areas are often faced with challenges relating to the cost of living and propensity to participate and be physically active.

Figure 2.5 Test Valley and neighbouring areas deprivation rank⁵

Area	IMD 2019	IMD 2015
Test Valley	262	286
Basingstoke and Deane	246	275
Winchester	293	307
Eastleigh	288	298
Southampton	55	54
New Forest	241	257
Wiltshire	231	232
West Berkshire	289	291

- I. Figure 2.6 shows a map of Test Valley split up into Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) with different colours outlining their relative performance in the Index of Multiple Deprivation (the darker blue areas are the least deprived Local Super Output Areas, whilst lighter are the most deprived). It is clear that there are significant areas of low deprivation, specifically around the higher population areas such as Andover and Romsey, however within these higher population areas, there are areas and neighbourhoods with a significantly greater level of deprivation. Andover Harroway ward is one of the 20% most deprived LSOAs in the country, with parts of Andover Romans ward and Andover St Mary's ward being in the 30% most deprived LSOAs. Areas and neighbourhoods with higher deprivation should be considered in relation to any current or future development opportunities for sports facilities and initiatives to impact positively on levels of participation and accessibility.

Figure 2.6 Levels of deprivation across Test Valley by lower layer super output areas (IMD 2019)

⁵ English indices of deprivation 2019 and 2015, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

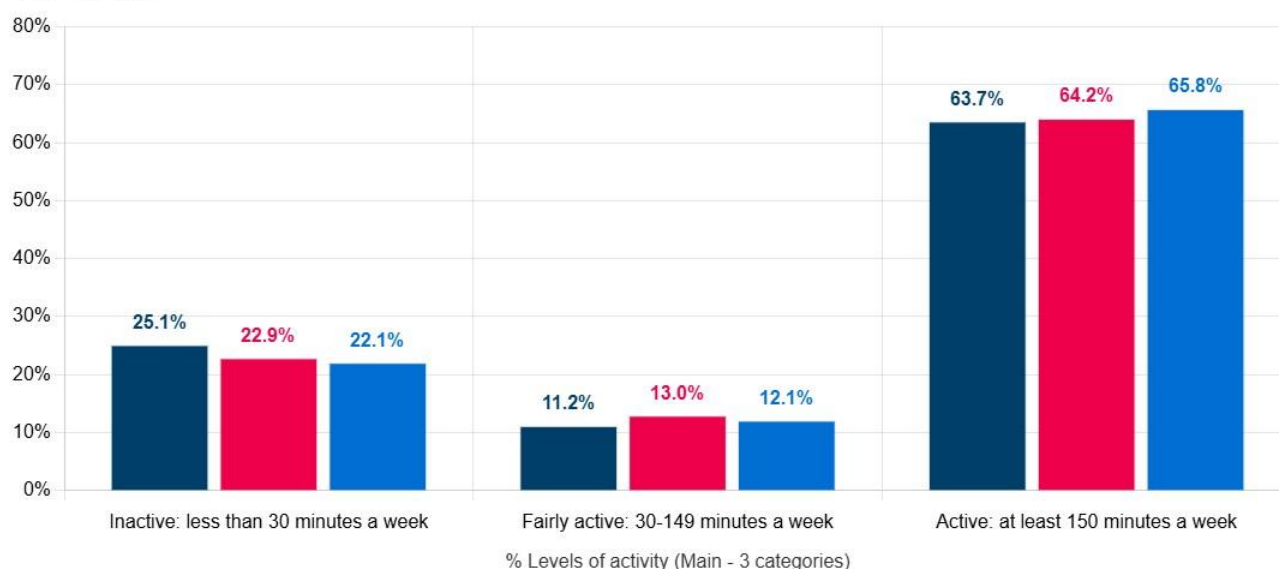
How does the population participate?

- m. Sport England's Active Lives Survey provides a comprehensive assessment of physical activity and sports participation at a local authority, county and national level. Active Lives measures a range of performance indicators including activity rates, indoor and outdoor activity, and satisfaction with local sports provision. Active Lives also provides analysis of activity across a range of demographics including gender, deprivation levels and age.
- n. Figure 2.7 outlines the percentage of the adult population (16+) of Test Valley, Hampshire, and England who are physically active (150+ minutes per week), fairly active (30-149 minutes per week), and inactive (less than 30 minutes per week). The graph shows that Test Valley reports more active residents (64.2%) than the national average (63.7%) however less when compared to Hampshire (65.8%). This suggests that whilst the majority of adult residents in Test Valley are physical active, there is still almost 23% who are inactive. Ensuring the protection and enhancement of sports facilities within Test Valley as well as targeting those who are inactive will be key to increasing the levels of activity in the area.

Figure 2.7 Adult Activity levels in Test Valley, Hampshire and England 2023-24
(Sport England Active Lives survey 2024)

Levels of activity (Main - 3 categories)

Nov 23-24

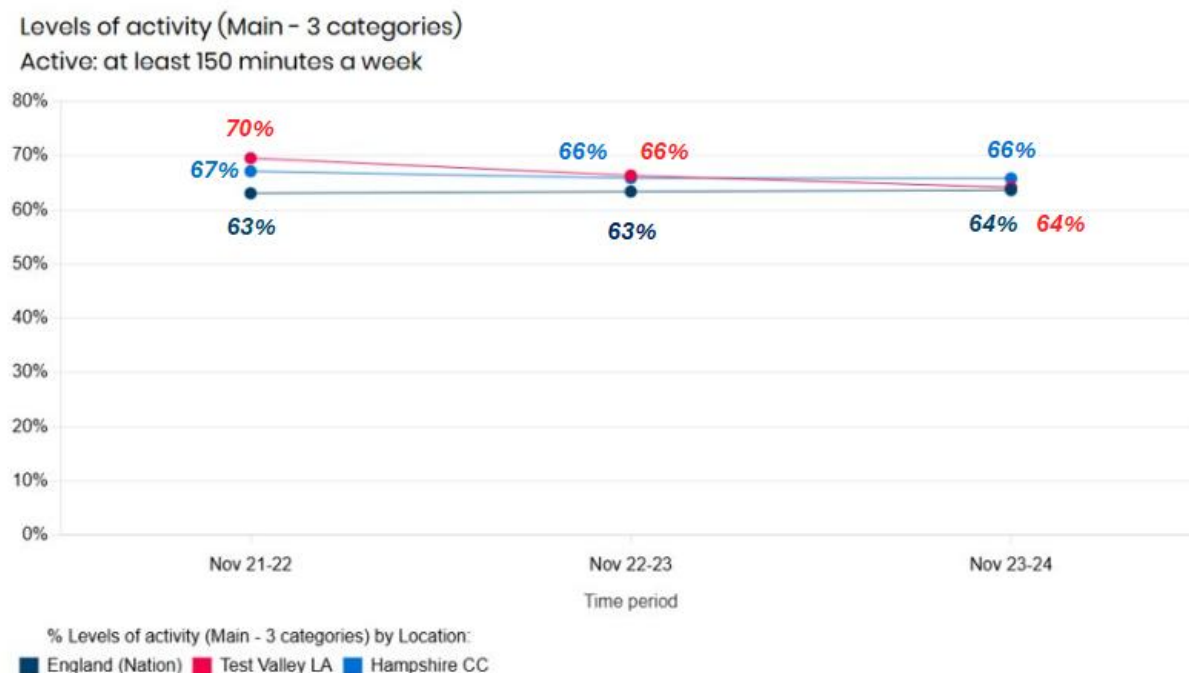


Where:

■ England (Nation) ■ Test Valley LA ■ Hampshire CC

- o. Figure 2.8 shows the number of active adult residents across Test Valley, Hampshire and England. Comparing this to previous years, Test Valley reported a 6% decrease in physically active adult residents from November 2021-22 to 2023-24. This decline in activity levels needs to be addressed and investment in existing sports facilities, as well as new facilities will be important to encourage more people to become active.

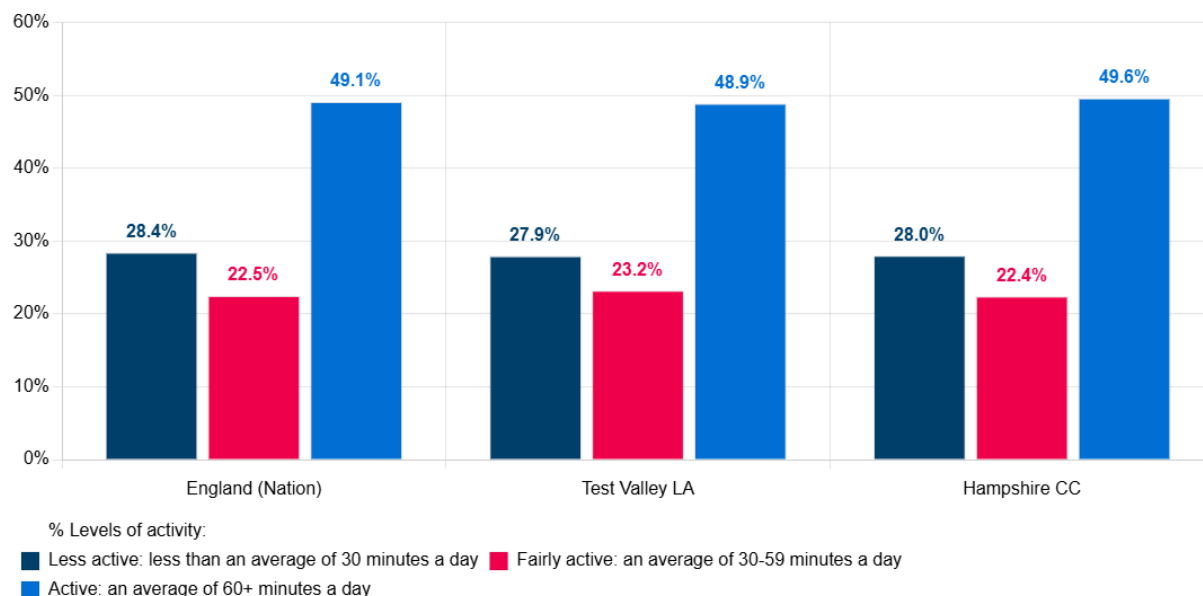
Figure 2.8 Adult Activity Levels in Test Valley, Hampshire and England between 2021 - 2024
(Sport England Active Lives survey 2024)



- p. Children's physical activity rates in Test Valley are in line with the county and national average, with a similar proportion of physically active children (48.9%) to the county (49.6%) and national (49.1%) rates (figure 2.9).

Figure 2.9 Levels of children's physical activity (Sport England Active Lives survey 2025)

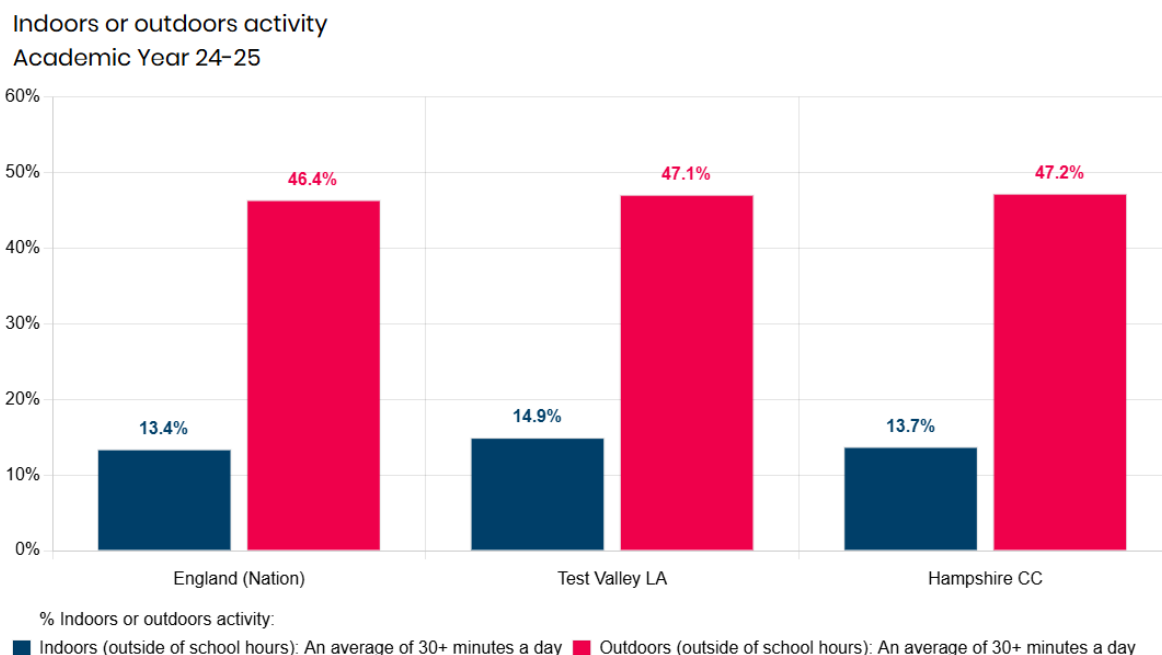
Levels of activity
Academic Year 24-25



- q. A high proportion of children's physical activity outside of school hours in Test Valley takes place outdoors, with 47.1% of children performing an average of 30+ minutes per day of physical activity outdoors outside of school hours (figure 2.10). This proportion is similar to the rates in Hampshire (47.2%) and the national average (46.4%). This highlights the importance of providing and maintaining high quality community outdoor sports facilities, including playing pitches, in ensuring

children can be physically active. In contrast just 14.9% of children undertake 30+ minutes per day of physical activity indoors outside of school hours however, this proportion is greater than the rates in Hampshire (13.7%) and the national average (13.4%).

Figure 2.10 Children's physical activity out of school hours (Sport England Active Lives survey 2025)



2.3 Club consultation

- a. Over the course of this study, sports clubs were consulted through online surveys to gather their views on the facilities available within Test Valley and their future needs. A summary of these consultation findings is available in figure 2.11 below. This shows almost two thirds of sports clubs have grown in the last three years and over 80% are looking to grow in the next three years.
- b. Overall, a high percentage of clubs outlined a need to improve or change their facilities to enable them to continue delivering their activities or enable them to meet their plans for growth. Details consultation with clubs can be found in the relevant sports sections of the strategy as well as in appendix F which provides further detail on the responses to the club survey and outlines clubs aspirations and demand for facility improvements.

Figure 2.11 Summary of consultation

	Totals
Clubs surveyed (all sports)	66
Club with more teams/active members than 3 years ago	66%
Clubs with plans to grow in the next 3 years	86%
Sports facilities are suitable to meet match demand	45%
Ancillary facilities are suitable to meet match demand	45%
Clubs with a need to improve or change sports facilities to sustain or grow	85%
Clubs with a need to improve or change ancillary facilities to sustain or grow	59%

2.3 Summary

- a. The information outlined in this section has provided a key insight into Test Valley and its residents including, understanding health inequalities, propensity for activity and future population growth, all of which is an important consideration when reviewing the need and demand for playing pitches and sports facilities. The next section examines the supply and demand for playing pitches and is followed by section 4 which covers the needs for sports facilities.



Test Valley Borough Council Sports Facilities and Playing Pitch Strategy 2026 – 2031

Section 3 - Playing Pitch Strategy



Contents

	Page
Playing Pitch Strategy	
<i>Introduction</i>	22
<i>Findings and Facility Needs</i>	23
<i>Meeting the Needs: 'How to' Scenarios</i>	40
<i>Recommendations by Pitch Sport</i>	48
<i>Summary</i>	49

3. The Playing Pitch Strategy

3.1 Introduction

- a. This document is part of Test Valley Borough Council's overall Sports Facilities and Playing Pitch Strategy 2026-2031. The Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) replaces the previous Playing Pitch Strategy adopted in 2020.
- b. Consistent with the previous strategy, this PPS includes consideration of facility supply, demands, accessibility and availability for the four primary playing pitch sports of Cricket, Football, Hockey and Rugby.
- c. Within these sports, the strategy seeks as far as is practicable, to include consideration of all forms of play, whether:
 - Club and league based (formal) play and training (including reference to indoor nets for Cricket),
 - Less formal programmed forms of the respective sports (e.g., friendly and recreational game formats outside the sport's governing bodies affiliated structures), and
 - Un-programmed social play by groups of residents, workers, students out of school.
- d. In accordance with the national guidance for the development of playing pitch strategies, the Test Valley PPS sets out the findings of the assessment of needs for playing pitch facilities in the study area, both currently and in the future.
- e. The findings are presented in summary format and should be read in conjunction with separate appendices for each playing pitch sport (Appendices A – D). These documents provide the findings of the detailed research and consultation undertaken to ensure that the facility needs findings summarised are fully robust.
- f. The section concludes with recommendations for the protection and enhancement of existing facilities and for the provision of new facilities where considered necessary to address identified current or future needs to 2031.
- g. This PPS sets out a range of potential future change scenarios (e.g., loss of key playing pitch sites, new provision) and strategic scenarios for addressing identified needs (e.g., change of use from one pitch sport or pitch surface to another, greater community use of education playing pitches). Preliminary consideration is also given to the implications of further population growth forecasts to 2042, the end of the emerging Local Plan period.
- h. The PPS scenarios considered have emerged from discussion with the members of the Test Valley Playing Pitch Strategy Steering Group and inform the policy recommendations and action plan that follow.

3.2 Findings and Facility Needs

- a. Detailed Assessment of Needs reports were undertaken for each of the 4 key playing pitch sports, which assessed the current supply, demand, and future needs for facilities across the borough. These reports are summarised in this section, leading to conclusions on playing pitch needs. These reports (covering Stages B and C of Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance) and supporting site-specific audit reports have been checked and challenged by representatives of the relevant sport's governing bodies and are appended as follows:
 - Appendix A: Cricket- Assessment of Need Report
 - Appendix B: Football- Assessment of Need Report
 - Appendix C: Hockey- Assessment of Need Report
 - Appendix D: Rugby- Assessment of Need Report
- b. This section provides an overall summary of supply, planned and proposed changes to supply, current and latent demand, covering the following leading questions as part of the Playing Pitch Strategy methodology.
 - What are the main characteristics of the **current** supply of and demand for provision?
 - Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet **current** demand?
 - Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?
 - What are the main characteristics of the **future** supply and demand for provision?
 - Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet **future** demand?

3.3 Trends in Participation in Pitch Sports

- a. Nationally, Sport England's latest Active Lives Survey (ALS) data report published in April 2025 and covering the 12 months from November 2023 to November 2024 shows that self-reported regular participation (i.e., taking part at least twice in the last 28 days) in the leading playing pitch sports in England by adults (aged 16+) has recovered to pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels and in some sports continuing to grow.
- b. **Football** – participation has continued to grow to 4.7% in 2023/24, which is the highest level of participation since 2016/17. The FA's insight shows that youth football is growing at an average of 3.09% per annum. A number of scenarios are outlined later in the PPS section, including a significant increase in demand by an age group or sport.
- c. **Cricket** – has increased slightly in the last year from 0.7% in 2022/23, to 0.8% in 2023/24, its highest level of participation. Generally excluding 2019/20 and 2020/21 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, regular adult Cricket participation has been consistent at 0.7%. The most recent ECB data shows an increase in participation in junior teams (U16 and younger) and an increase in girl's participation in national programmes, reaching 30,000 participants for the first time in 2024.
- d. **Rugby Union** – has remained at 0.5% in 2023/2024, showing a steady increase in participation from 0.3% in 2020/21. The highest level of participation recorded was in 2015/16 and 2016/17 at 0.6%.
- e. **Hockey** – has slightly declined in regular participation over the last year, falling to 0.3% in 2023/24 from 0.4% in 2022/23, which was the highest participation rate recorded by Active Lives since 2015/16.
- f. The Active Lives Survey does not include data at local authority area level for individual sports and activities. However, the trend in Test Valley in the three ALS measures of overall participation by adults in physical activity – i.e. *inactive* (less than 30 minutes a week), *fairly active* (30-149 minutes

a week) and *active* (at least 150 minutes a week) indicates that 64% of the adult population self-reported as being *active* (i.e. at least 150 minutes a week) in 2023/24, an increase of 7% since the first survey in 2015/16. Against the *fairly active* measure, the trend over the same period is flat at 13%. The proportion of adults self-reporting as *inactive* fell by seven percentage points over the period from 30% to 23%.

3.4 Club Consultation

- a. To understand the current landscape of clubs in Test Valley, the demand and issues facing each specific sport covered within the strategy, data was collected from a survey which was distributed to the sports clubs in the area. By analysing the data, it provides insight into whether the current level of provision for sport and physical activity is meeting the demands of these sports, the existing and latent demand for growth as well as potential priority project developments. An overview of the results and impact and considerations of the club survey is provided below. 35 individual sports clubs which primarily use playing pitch facilities responded to the invitation to complete the survey, which covers a range of between 73-100% of teams across the different playing pitch sports in Test Valley. Figure 3.1 below shows the team response rate for affiliated clubs of each key playing pitch sport identified in the strategy brief.

Figure 3.1 Affiliated Team response rate for each primary pitch sport

Sport	Total Clubs	Total Teams	Response rate (% of teams represented in club survey returns)
Cricket	20	109	77% (84 teams)
Football	67	340	73% (249 teams)
Hockey	3	63	100% (63 teams)
Rugby Union	3	70	100% (70 teams)

- b. An overview of the findings and the impact and considerations of those findings from the club consultation process specific to playing pitches is provided in figure 3.2 below.

Figure 3.2 Summary of the club survey findings for clubs using playing pitches

Statement	% of total club responses	Impact and considerations
The club has more teams or active members than 3 years/seasons ago	74%	74% of clubs report an increase in active members, suggesting an increase in demand for pitches and ancillary facilities over the last 3 years.
The club have plans to grow in the next 3 seasons	86%	86% of all clubs surveyed have plans to increase their number of teams or members over the next 3 years, which could further increase demand for pitches and ancillary facilities.
There is a need to change or improve the main sports facilities used by the club to sustain or grow the club	86%	86% of clubs feel they need to improve or change their playing pitches to sustain or grow their club, suggesting the growth of community sport in Test Valley may be inhibited if sporting facilities are not improved.
There is a need to change or improve the clubhouse and/or changing room facilities used by the club to sustain or grow the club	63%	63% of clubs feel that their supporting facilities aren't suitable to sustain or grow the club. These ancillary facilities are important for providing inclusive, safe, sports facilities for all.
The club rate their main sports facility as 'average' quality or worse	30%	30% of clubs believe the quality of their playing pitch facilities are either 'average' or worse quality, suggesting that improvements to maintenance and programming may be needed.

3.5 Changes Since the last strategy

Clubs and Teams

- a. In terms of expressed demand, the main change since the last assessment is the continued growth in playing pitch sports at community sports clubs at all age groups. There has been a large increase in youth provision (including girls) within leading cricket, football, hockey and rugby clubs. There has also been an increase in demand among adults for opportunities to play pitch sports recreationally outside the traditional sports club model, including participation in less formal small-sided games and shorter formats.
- b. In terms of governing body registered sports clubs and teams, the current picture of demand in the local authority area in comparison with the position in 2020 (where comparable figures are provided) is shown in figure 3.3 below. All the pitch sports have seen significant growth in overall numbers and diversity of teams with particularly strong growth in mini soccer and youth Football. In terms of the number of registered clubs there has been no change for Hockey and Rugby, a reduction of one club for Cricket and the number of registered football clubs has increased by 7 from 60 to 67 over the last five seasons. There has been a total increase of 232 teams in the borough.
- c. This increase in the number of teams in the borough is testament to the priority the borough places on improving sports facilities and supporting clubs in the area to develop and grow, ensuring more residents have opportunities to be active and improve their health, wellbeing and social outcomes.

Figure 3.3 – Community demand for pitches and sites

	No. of Registered Teams			
		2020	2025	Change
Cricket	Men / Mixed	44	47	+3
	Women	0	6	+6
	Youth Boys / Mixed	20	53	+33
	Youth Girls	0	3	+3
	Total Cricket teams	64	109	+45
Football	Men	58	69	+11
	Women	2	5	+3
	Youth Boys / Mixed	91	130	+39
	Youth Girls	18	19	+1
	Mini soccer Mixed	18	117	+99
	Total Football teams	187	340	+153
Hockey	Men	13	14	+1
	Women	12	14	+2
	Mixed Adult	0	2	+2
	Youth Boys	12	13	+1
	Youth Girls	13	13	0
	Mixed Junior	n/a	7	+7
	Total Hockey Adult teams	50	63	+13
Rugby	Men / Vets	9	9	0
	Women	1	4	+3
	Youth age grade Boys	16	28	+12
	Youth age grade Girls	4	8	+4
	Mini-Rugby (Mixed)	19	21	+2
	Total Rugby teams	49	70	+21
Total increase in all teams				+232

Playing Pitches

- d. The number of playing pitch sites and playing pitches in Test Valley available for community use- both in 2025 and in 2020 - are set out in figure 3.4 below for each pitch type (natural turf and

artificial turf) and for each of the major playing pitch sports for which there is a current demand in the borough.

Figure 3.4 – Supply of playing pitch sites and pitches available to community club teams

	No. of sites		No. of pitches	
	2020	2025	2020	2025
Cricket fine turf	26	21	32	22
Cricket NTP	11	9	5	9
Football grass*	51	42	107	99
Football AGP*	6	7	7	8
Hockey AGP**	5	6	5	6
Rugby grass	8	7	9	9
Rugby AGP (WRC)	0	1	0	1

*includes small sided provision.

**includes hockey AGPs on two independent school sites with very limited community club access and use.

- e. The most significant changes in playing pitch supply for the community in the local authority area over the last five years has been additional provision in 2022 of two new AGPs, grass pitches and a new sports pavilion at Ganger Farm Sports Park in Romsey. This key site in the south of the borough provides a new full-sized 3G AGP and a hockey AGP with full community access. The 3G pitch surface is World Rugby Compliant (WRC) although the predominant use of this facility is for football. The hockey AGP is fully compliant with the governing body specification standards.
- f. There has been grass pitch improvements and/or re-configurations to increase capacity for youth football at a number of football sites since 2020. These are Charlton Sports Centre (4 additional football pitches through change of use of two former rugby pitches) and at Upper Clatford Playing Field (2 additional football pitches). Football Pitches have been brought back into use for community matchplay at Enham Alamein (2), Over Wallop Sports Field and Longparish Sports Field. A new pavilion has also been provided at Over Wallop. In addition, at Romsey Sports Centre, an area of former rugby pitches, includes a training area with sports lighting and the pavilion (previously used predominantly by Romsey RFC prior to relocation in 2021 to new facilities at Ganger Farm) is now used for youth football.
- g. There have also been some education sites which have been lost from community use as the schools have prioritised curriculum and after-school club use (Halterworth Primary School, Portway Junior School, and Stockbridge Primary School). The previous strategy also included a number of football pitch sites that were only used recreationally, including King George V Playing Field (Hurstbourne Tarrant), Longstock Recreation Ground, Ampport Playground, and Vernham Dean Burydene Playing Field. Overall, there are only 3 fewer football pitches than recorded in the previous 2020 assessment after accounting for new sites developed, introduction of affiliated football to previously informal sites, and removing the recreational pitches from the previous supply.
- g. For Cricket, village fine-turf pitches are no longer maintained at Appleshaw War Memorial Playing Field, Over Wallop Playing Field and Upper Clatford Sports Ground. Community access for cricket is not available at the two main independent school sites in Embley and Farleigh. These losses have been partly offset since 2020 by the provision of new Non Turf Cricket Pitches (NTPs) at Ampfield Recreation Ground, Appleshaw War Memorial Playing Field, London Road Sports Ground and Over Wallop Playing Field.
- h. The ancillary team changing facilities have been improved or replaced in line with the 2020 PPS Action Plan at: Broughton Sports Field, Goodworth Clatford Recreation Ground, Over Wallop Sports Field (Alun Evans Memorial Ground), Mountbatten School and Nursling & Rownhams Village Hall.

- i. Despite the increase in artificial provision in the area, the loss in grass pitch provision for both football and cricket added with the significant growth of teams in the borough puts increasing pressure on facilities and highlights a need for more provision.

3.6 Current Supply

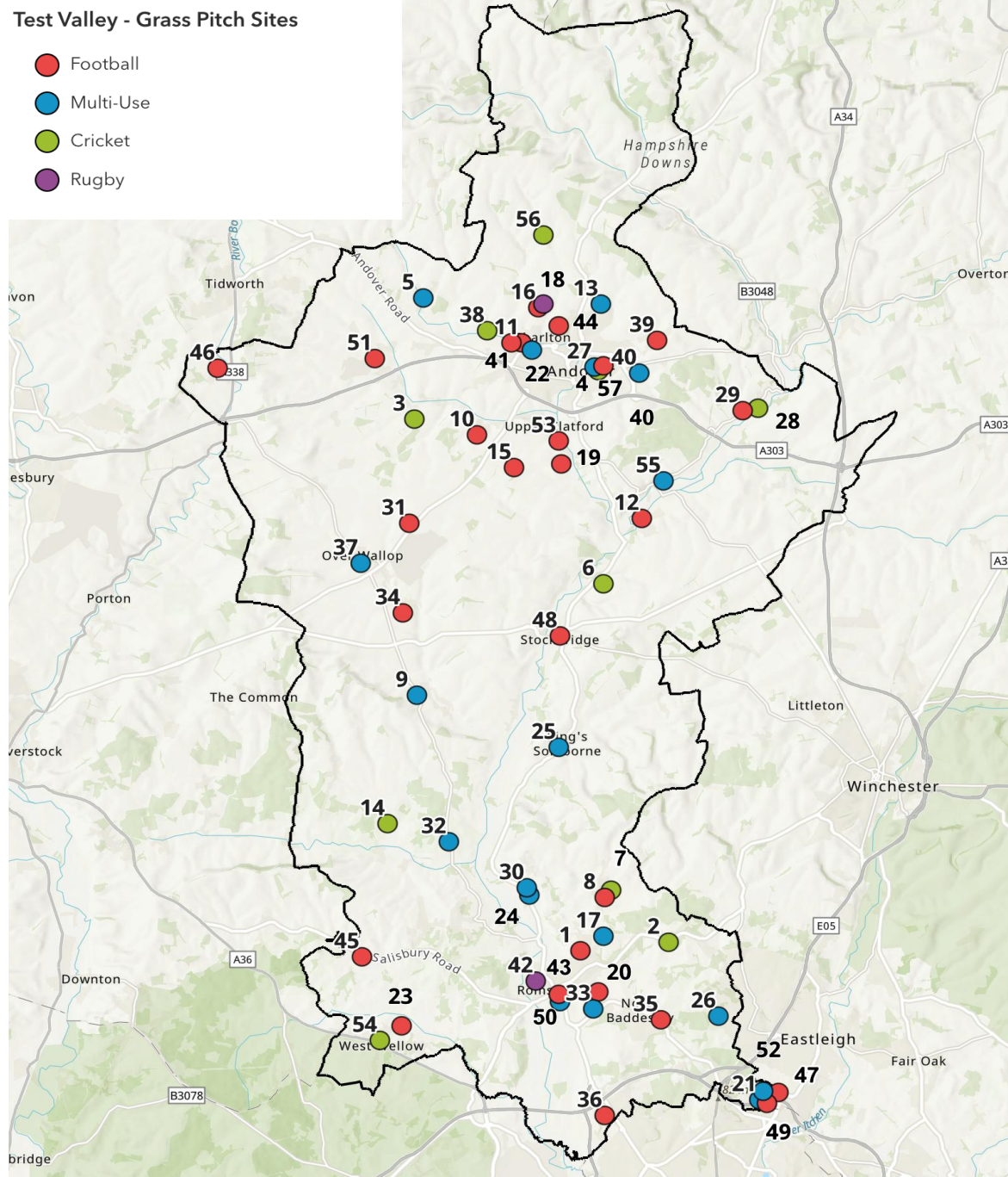
Natural Turf Pitches

- a. The sites with natural turf playing pitches in Test Valley are listed in figure 3.5 and figure 3.6 and shows the distribution of natural turf playing pitch sites throughout the borough. Two sites (47 and 49) just outside the local authority boundary, but used by Test Valley clubs, are included and noted in *Italics* in the table below.

Figure 3.5 Natural turf playing pitches in Test Valley

No	Site name	Sport(s)	No	Site name	Sport(s)
1	Abbotswood Sports Ground	Football	30	Michelmersh & Timsbury Rec	Football, Cricket
2	Ampfield Recreation Ground	Cricket	31	Middle Wallop Army Station	Football
3	Amport Cricket Club	Cricket	32	Mottisfont Sports Field	Football, Cricket
4	Andover CC (Also known as London Road One)	Cricket	33	Mountbatten School	Football, Rugby
5	Appleshaw War Memorial Playing Field	Football, Cricket	34	Nether Wallop Playing Field	Football
6	Bakers Farm (Leckford Estate)	Cricket	35	North Baddesley Recreation Ground	Football
7	Braishfield Cricket Ground	Cricket	36	Nursling and Rownhams Village Hall and Recreation Ground	Football
8	Braishfield Recreation Ground	Football	37	Over Wallop Sports Field (Alan Evans Memorial Ground)	Football, Cricket
9	Broughton Sports Field	Football, Cricket	38	Penton Recreation Ground	Cricket
10	Bulbery Sports Ground- Abbots Ann	Football	39	Picket Piece Rec Ground	Football
11	Charlton Sports Centre	Football	40	Picket Twenty Sports Ground	Football, Cricket
12	Chilbolton War Memorial Playing Field	Football	41	Portway Stadium	Football
13	East Anton Sports Ground	Football, Cricket	42	Romsey School	Rugby
14	East Tytherley Cricket Ground	Cricket	43	Romsey Sports Centre	Football, Cricket
15	Enham Alamein	Football	44	Saxon Fields	Football
16	Foxcotte Park	Football	45	Sherfield English Sports Field	Football
17	Ganger Farm Sports Park	Football, Rugby	46	Shipton Bellinger Village Centre & Playing Field	Football
18	Goodship Ground, Foxcotte Park (Andover RFC)	Rugby	47	<i>Silverlake Stadium (Eastleigh)</i>	<i>Football</i>
19	Goodworth Clatford Recreation Ground (Queen Elizabeth Playing Field)	Football	48	Stockbridge FC	Football
20	Halterworth Primary School	Football	49	<i>Stoneham Lane Football Complex (Monks Brook) (Eastleigh)</i>	<i>Football</i>
21	Hardmoor Sports ground	Football, Rugby, Cricket	50	The Bypass Ground	Football
22	Harrow Way School	Football, Rugby	51	Thrupton Recreation Ground	Football
23	Hatches Farm Playing Fields	Football	52	Trojan Sports Club	Rugby, Cricket
24	Hunts Farm Sports Ground	Football, Cricket	53	Upper Clatford Playing Fields	Football
25	King's Somborne Recreation Ground	Football, Cricket	54	West Wellow Recreation Ground	Cricket
26	Knightwood Leisure Centre	Football, Cricket	55	Wherwell Playing Fields	Football, Cricket
27	London Road Sports Ground (London Road Two)	Football, Cricket	56	Wildhern Village Hall & Playing Field	Cricket
28	Longparish Cricket Ground	Cricket	57	Winton Community Academy (Lift-Winton)	Football
29	Longparish Football Pitch	Football			

Figure 3.6 Distribution of natural turf playing pitch sites



Artificial Turf Playing Pitches

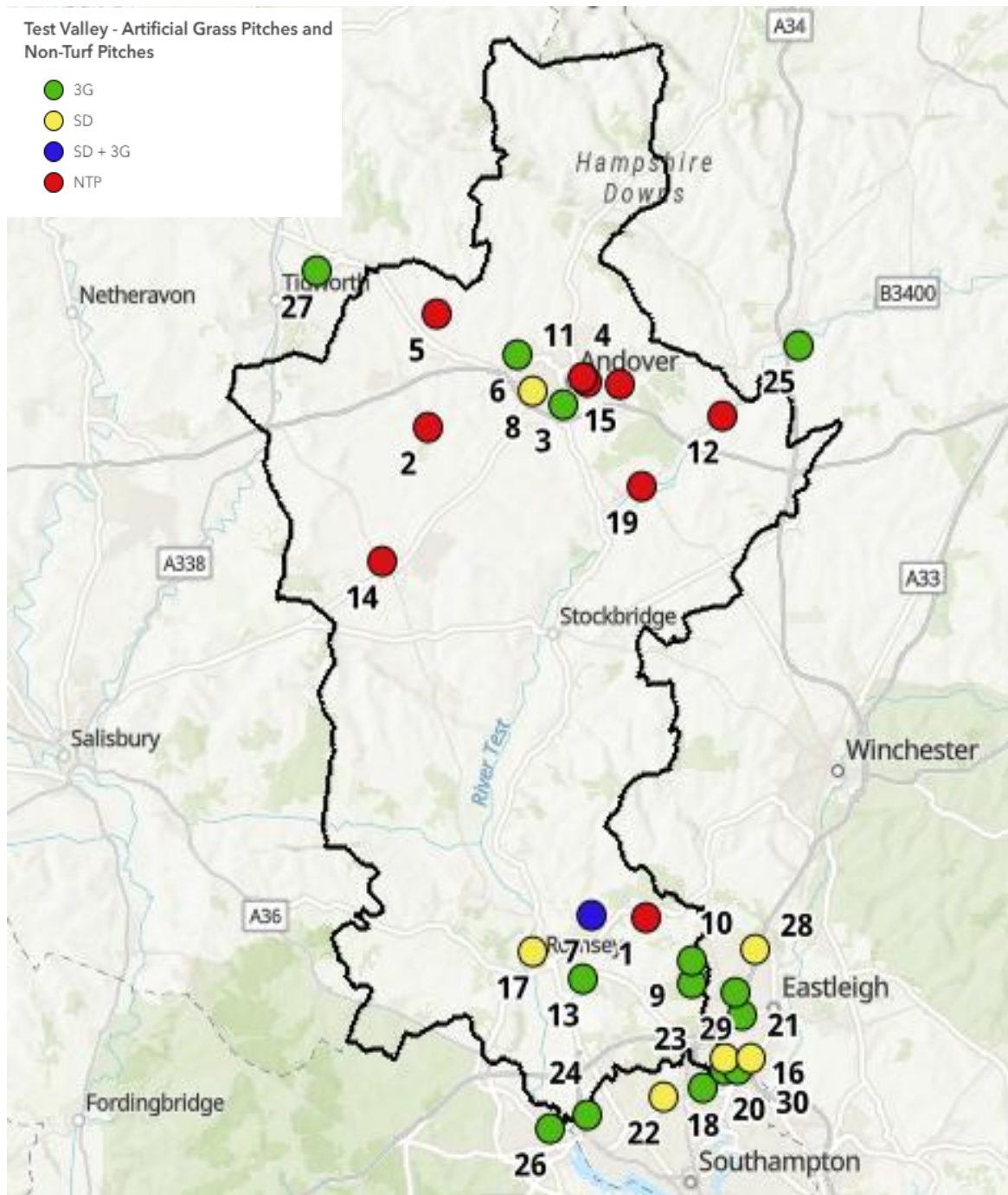
- b. Sites in Test Valley with artificial grass playing pitches (and the sports the sites provide for) are listed in Figure 3.7. The locations of these artificial pitches showing their distribution throughout Test Valley are in Figure 3.8. For Cricket, NTP means Non-Turf Pitch which is an artificial strip located adjacent to a fine turf table or as a standalone wicket instead of a fine turf wicket table, this type of facility is used mainly for junior Cricket and for recreation level adult Cricket and practice.
- c. Full sized 3G and SD artificial grass pitches located outside Test Valley local authority area have been included in figure 3.8 below where they are accessible to residents in the borough.

Figure 3.7 – Artificial Turf Playing Pitches in Test Valley

No	Site Name	Sport / Facility Type	No	Site Name	Sport / Facility Type
1	Ampfield Recreation Ground	Cricket NTP	11	London Road Sports Ground (Also known as London Road Two)	Cricket NTP
2	Amport Cricket Club	Cricket NTP	12	Longparish Cricket Ground	Cricket NTP
3	Anton Junior School	Football 3G (SS)	13	Mountbatten School	Football 3G
4	Andover CC (Also known as London Road one)	Cricket NTP	14	Over Wallop Sports Field (Alan Evans Memorial Ground)	Cricket NTP
5	Appleshaw War Memorial Recreation Ground	Cricket NTP	15	Picket Twenty Sports Ground	Cricket NTP
6	Charlton Sp. Centre (The Sports Academy)	Football 3G	16	St George Catholic College	Football 3G
7	Ganger Farm Sports Park (x2)	WRC 3G Rugby & Football; Hockey SD	17	The Romsey School	Hockey & Football SD
8	John Hanson School	Hockey & Football SD	18	Trojans Sports Club	Hockey & Football SD
9	Knightwood Leisure Centre	Football 3G (SS)	19	Wherwell Playing Fields	Cricket NTP
10	Knightwood Primary School	Football 3G (SS)			
Accessible Artificial Pitch Sites outside Test Valley (full sized 3G/SD sites)					
20	Cantell School	Football 3G	26	Testwood School	Football 3G
21	Places Leisure Eastleigh	Football 3G	27	The Wellington Academy	Football 3G
22	Southampton Outdoor Sports Centre	Hockey & Football SD	28	Thornden School	Hockey & Football SD
23	Stoneham Lane Complex	Football 3G	29	Toynbee School	Football 3G
24	Test Park Sports Ground	Football 3G	30	Wide Lane Sports Ground	Hockey & Football SD
25	Testbourne Community School	Football 3G			

SD = Sand Dressed or Sand Filled Artificial Grass Pitch, 3G = Third Generation Artificial Grass Pitch WRC = World Rugby Regulation 22 Compliant, NTP = Non Turf Pitch, SS = Small Sided Pitches

Figure 3.8 - Distribution of Artificial Turf Playing Pitches sites in Test Valley



3.7 Is There Enough Provision for Current Demand?

- Cricket – No.** The assessment of facility needs shows that there are insufficient fine turf pitches in the borough to cater for the demand of clubs in the area. Two clubs have teams playing outside of the borough, Ampfield and North Baddesley 3rd XI play in Southampton and Trojans CC has junior teams playing in Eastleigh. In addition, 58% of fine turf pitches in the area are being played at or over their maximum capacity.
- There are no sites which have sufficient unused capacity to cater for additional teams in the peak period. There are 5 sites with less than 10 'match equivalent sessions' (MES) available, which is the

minimum required to support an additional team on the site. Although 4 sites have more than 10 MES available, the unused capacity falls outside the peak period, limiting any potential additional use to midweek.

- c. Community use is secured at the majority of cricket sites in the borough by virtue of ownership by either a sports club, Test Valley Borough Council or a Parish Council. There is just one privately owned site, Bakers Farm, providing unsecured use for community cricket.
- d. **Football – No.** There is a shortfall of 3G pitches to meet current training demand. All of the existing full size 11v11 3G AGPs are at full capacity in the peak period apart from Mountbatten School, which only has 2 hours of spare capacity. There is a significant shortfall in provision of 3G pitches to meet training demand and there are clubs in the area who travel outside of the area or use sand-based pitches for training, which constrains the growth aspirations of these clubs and contributes to latent demand. To meet the shortfall in current supply, the FA training model demand ratio 1:38 suggests that there is a need for a minimum of 5 additional full size 11v11 3G pitches in the borough. The potential future provision of these pitches should be strategically located to support large youth clubs to meet the needs of their teams for training and matches.
- e. There is no spare capacity for 9v9 grass pitches and only limited spare capacity for grass pitches in all other categories of play when adjusting for peak period availability, as detailed in section 4 of appendix b. This capacity is spread across the whole of the borough, not located on a small number of specific sites, with all pitches on the 42 sites available for community use being well used.
- f. A number of playing field sites in Test Valley have pitches that are being played to capacity or overplayed. These are either sites that are the home grounds for clubs with a large number of teams and a limited number of pitches, or those which are used by multiple large clubs, or those that have poor maintenance.
- g. There is a large amount of imported demand for grass pitches in Test Valley by 11 clubs based in neighbouring authorities, resulting in 57 teams travelling into the borough for matches. A significant proportion of this imported demand is from youth 11v11 teams with 20 teams travelling into Test Valley. This imported demand is putting additional pressure on the lack of junior 11v11 grass pitches in Test Valley with only 1 pitch per 6 youth 11v11 teams playing in the borough. Whilst some youth teams will play on adult 11v11 pitches, this is not the preferred pitch size for youth teams. With the growth of mini soccer teams in Test Valley, and the success of the central venue league for mini soccer close by at Stoneham Lane Football Complex, in future there will likely be increased demand in the borough for junior 11v11 pitches as these teams progress. Opportunities to develop additional facilities to support the current and future demand for youth 11v11 teams in the area should be explored to ensure there is a complete pathway available from mini to adult football.
- h. **Hockey – No.** Two of the three clubs in Test Valley are operating at sites which are at full capacity in the peak period, requiring them to use secondary sites which are in neighbouring local authorities (Trojans HC) or which are not suitable surfaces for hockey (Andover HC).
- i. The pitch at Trojans Sports Club is used at full capacity during the peak period and is used primarily for hockey (29 of 31 hours in the peak period). This requires Trojans HC to utilise facilities in Eastleigh Borough, including Thornden School, Wellington Sports Ground, and King Edward VI School.

- j. Andover HC primarily use the pitch at John Hanson School, which is used to capacity in the peak period. The majority of peak period use of this school pitch is by football clubs. Just 47% of peak hours are available for hockey. The lack of availability in the peak period for Andover HC requires the club to supplement its training hours with use of the 3G pitch at Charlton Sports Centre, which is not a suitable surface for hockey. Farleigh School, located eight minutes drivetime from John Hanson School, has indicated interest in hiring out their SD AGP. However, only limited peak evening slots are likely to be available due to the school's own needs, particularly for its boarding students. Exploring the school's capacity to relocate Andover HC's 2 hours of training at Charlton Sports Centre to the more suitable playing surface at Farleigh School may be a solution in the short term. Test Valley Borough Council are progressing plans to develop an SD AGP at Picket Twenty Sports Ground to protect the provision of hockey facilities in Andover, as the current pitch is unsecured provision, and to support the growth of Andover HC. Initial surveys have been commissioned, and Test Valley Borough Council is aiming to submit a planning application in 2026.
- k. There is spare capacity at both Ganger Farm Sports Park and The Romsey School which could accommodate additional sessions for Romsey HC. The club report reluctance to use the facilities at The Romsey School as they are significantly poorer quality than those at Ganger Farm. However, if the club continues to grow, it will need to make more use of the Romsey School pitch.
- l. Both Andover HC and Romsey HC report latent demand for community sessions or club training which could be met by securing additional access to SD pitches within the drivetime catchment area of the respective clubs.
- m. The existing hockey sites in Test Valley provide secure access for clubs with Community Use Agreements (CUAs) in place securing priority use for the hockey clubs.
- n. **Rugby – No.** Overall, the majority (five out of nine) of the rugby pitches in Test Valley are used in excess of their carrying capacity. Those pitches that are not currently used to their capacity are, in the main, on education sites which have limited access for clubs and are only occasionally used for training (e.g. Harrow Way School, Mountbatten School). There is also a small amount of unused capacity of the two grass pitches at Ganger Farm Sports Park, however as these pitches do not have sports lighting, Romsey Rugby Club uses various sites for training including the Ganger Farm WRC 3G AGP (7 hours), Romsey Sports Centre (grassed area with sports lighting) and Romsey School (grassed training area not lit).
- o. The majority of the provision is secured either through Council ownership and leases to clubs or by clubs having freehold ownership. The three sites that are unsecure are all education sites which are only used on occasion as overflow training sites.

3.8 Is the Provision of Sufficient Quality?

- a. **Cricket – No.** The cricket pitches (squares and outfield) in the local authority area vary in quality with 9 of 22 pitches assessed to be in good condition and 12 of 22 in a standard condition. There is one poor pitch at Braishfield Cricket Ground, meaning that the effective capacity of the site is reduced to zero. This is a significant issue for the ECB and TVBC, particularly as the majority of sites in the borough have no unused capacity in the peak demand period. Outfields in the borough are in the main of standard quality (18 of 22), with just four rated as good. This is likely due to shared use with other sports e.g. football or informal use of open access recreation grounds.
- b. The delivery of grass pitch improvements recommended by the Grounds Maintenance Association through a PitchPower pitch assessment report would help to improve the playing capacity at the sites assessed. As stated above, the poor quality pitch at Braishfield Cricket Ground is deemed to

have no capacity currently. If this site could be improved up to a standard quality rating, it would increase playing capacity by 18 match equivalent sessions (MES) a season. Similarly, if the standard rated pitches currently used either at capacity or over capacity were improved to good quality, this would further increase the overall cricket playing capacity available in the borough. East Anton Sports Ground, King's Somborne Recreation Ground, Longparish Cricket Ground, Michelmersh & Timsbury Recreation Ground and Mottisfont Sports Field are all standard quality rated currently.

- c. Whilst these potential improvements would address some current capacity issues, it should be acknowledged this would likely require an increase in the pitch maintenance budget for each site, which may not be possible in all cases. The sites where this is deemed feasibility will be identified in the action in section 6.
- d. Six of the nine non turf pitches (NTPs) within Test Valley are in a good condition allowing up to 60 match equivalent sessions (MES) for adults, with 3 rated as standard quality and providing up to 40 MES. The quality rating of non turf practice nets across the borough varies in quality with five good, seven standard, one poor and two sites have lanes that are unusable. The nets at Mottisfont Sports Field and King's Somborne Recreation Ground should be prioritised for upgrade as these grounds accommodate active cricket clubs.
- e. Investment into pavilions is required including new or refurbished provision at a number of sites, where the current provision is inadequate or failing into disrepair. Five pavilions were rated as poor and requiring investment to bring them up to modern standards. The poor quality cricket pavilions at Romsey Sports Centre and Andover (London Road) Cricket ground serve large clubs and are the priorities.
- f. **Football – No.** 13 grass pitches (13%) are not of sufficient quality (i.e. currently rated as 'poor') and the full size 11v11 3G AGP at Charlton Sports Centre requires resurfacing. The majority of grass pitches (62%) are currently rated 'standard' quality. Given the significant growth of clubs in the area, outlined earlier in figure 3.3, the current provision needs to be improved to meet the demand.
- g. 24 grass pitches (24%) are of a good quality, with sufficient maintenance programmes to sustain their level of use and provide a high-quality playing surface. Some of these pitches have benefitted from grass pitch improvements recommended by the Grounds Maintenance Association through the Football Foundation's PitchPower pitch assessment reports. Some clubs also manage the use of their stadia pitches to ensure they remain high quality and are not used over capacity.
- h. There are two sites with grass pitches that have been identified as requiring improvements to the MUGAs on site, East Anton Sports Ground, and Upper Clatford Sports Field. Both sites have a high amount of usage on their grass pitches, with East Anton Sports Ground being used above capacity. Ensuring that good quality MUGAs and recreational facilities are available at sites will help to reduce informal and recreational use of pitches and support the maintenance of pitches. Broughton Parish Council are currently planning to develop a new MUGA at Broughton Sports Field, which will help support recreational use of the site and protect the football pitches, which are currently used over capacity.
- i. Some sites in Test Valley either do not have ancillary facilities or have limited ancillary facilities (lack of changing space), whilst not essential for youth football, many clubs prefer to have access to changing rooms and toilets should be a minimum to ensure the safeguarding of players. Having access to at least standard quality ancillary facilities can support growth of football teams, particular youth and women and girl's teams. There are no changing facilities available at Anton Junior School,

Braishfield Recreation Ground, Longparish Football Pitch, and Thruxton Recreation Ground. There is also poor quality facilities at Enham Alamein and Upper Clatford Sports Field.

- j. **Hockey – No.** The pitch at John Hanson Community School is poor and needs resurfacing within the strategy period (2031). The pitch at Trojans Sports Club was developed in 2017 and has not been resurfaced since, therefore it is likely to also need resurfacing towards the end of the strategy period. The sports lighting at John Hanson Community School and The Romsey School is not LED and needs upgrading.
- k. Ancillary facilities at The Romsey School, John Hanson Community School, and Trojans Sports Club were all rated as poor by the user clubs. Trojans Sports Club are currently redeveloping their clubhouse and changing rooms.
- l. **Rugby – No.** Of the seven naturally drained grass pitches in Test Valley, five were rated as having inadequate drainage, which significantly reduces the playing capacity of pitches and leads to the clubs having to carefully manage usage and frequently cancel training and matches. From consultation, clubs reported that the high levels of overuse on pitches reduces the quality of the pitch despite the level of maintenance undertaken.
- m. Andover Rugby Club stated that the GMA carried out an audit of the pitches at The Goodship Ground and recommended investment of over £30,000 to improve the quality of pitches. The club rate the pitches as poor quality and say that improvements are required to allow the club to grow. If the drainage of the two pitches were improved from 'natural inadequate' to 'natural adequate', this would increase the capacity of the site by 1MES per week and reducing the overplay on site from 3MES to 2MES. If pipe & slit engineered drainage was developed, this would increase site capacity by 3MES, negating the current level of overplay on site.
- n. As part of Trojans FC's application for the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund towards additional machinery, an agronomy report of the rugby pitches at Trojans Sports Club was undertaken to explore potential options for engineered drainage and found no suitable options. Therefore, the club state that the development a WRC 3G AGP in the area to remove training and match pressure from the grass pitches is required to allow the club to grow.
- o. The maintenance of pitches at Trojans Sports Club was rated as 'good' during consultation and site audits, therefore there would be no gains to the capacity of the site through enhanced maintenance. As there are no suitable options for developing engineered drainage at the site, it is unlikely that the capacity of the site will be able to increase. Therefore, opportunities to relocate training demand to a WRC 3G AGP or other nearby grass pitches should be considered.
- p. Both Andover RFC and Trojans FC sites are currently played over capacity and have highlighted a need for WRC 3G AGPs in their local areas to supplement training demand and better manage the use of grass pitches. If all training demand from both clubs was relocated away from grass match pitches, The Goodship Ground would have 0.5MES spare capacity on each pitch and the total overplay of Trojans Sports Club would be reduced from 6MES to 1.5MES.
- q. There is also a need to upgrade the sports lighting at The Goodship Ground and Trojans Sports Club as neither are currently LED and therefore cost significantly more for the clubs to operate.
- r. In terms of ancillary facilities, Trojans FC highlighted that the clubhouse at Trojans Sports Club is poor quality and requires rebuilding. This project is now in progress and as a key provider of rugby,

and other sports, in Test Valley and the only club with an age grade girl's rugby set up, these improvement will help to support the current needs and future growth aspirations of the club.

3.9 Future Supply and Demand

- a. **Planned new supply** - On the future supply side, there are proposed projects (with funding allocations and/or current planning applications either in preparation or subject to detailed consideration) for new and enhanced artificial turf AGP and NTP playing pitch provision or Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) in the borough which, taken together, will address some of the current need for additional playing pitch capacity and reduce overplay on grass pitches. These 'pipeline' projects are:
 - **Picket Twenty Sports Ground**- Test Valley Borough Council is progressing a proposal to develop an SD AGP (primarily for hockey) at Picket Twenty Sports Ground to protect the provision of hockey facilities in Andover. Initial surveys have been commissioned and Test Valley Borough Council is aiming to submit a planning application in 2026.
 - **Foxcote Park (The Goodship Ground)**- A further key priority for the area, subject to planning and funding, is the development of a new stadia 3G AGP (possibly with a WRC surface to enable shared football and rugby use) at Foxcote Park, Andover New Street Football Club's main stadia site. This project comes off the back of the priorities and potential development sites identified by the Football Foundation in the Test Valley Local Football Facilities Plan (January 2025).
 - **North Baddesley Recreation Ground** – A cricket NTP is proposed to reduce overplay and travel by the club's teams to a ground at Lordshill outside the borough.
 - **Broughton Sports Field** – Parish Council plans for installation of a MUGA on this site to cater for recreational demand and help reduce overuse of the grass football pitch.
- b. **Population Growth**- In terms of estimating future demand for community playing pitches, assuming current levels of participation per capita and the forecast population growth (+9,528 people resident in Test Valley Borough Council by 2031⁶), application of Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) tool indicates a potential need to secure more playing pitch capacity. This additional capacity will need to be achieved through a combination of investment in new provision, enhancement of existing pitches and negotiating and securing more community access to existing and any planned new school and college playing pitches.
- c. As Football is the most popular pitch sport, the additional demand for Football pitches generated by the impact of population growth will be by far the largest. Figure 3.9 below shows the additional capacity that will be required in 2031 based on forecast population growth and current 'team generation rates' i.e. the number of teams in each age category in 2025.
- d. Population growth will also create need for additional playing pitch capacity for Cricket, Rugby and Hockey although at a much lower level than for Football (see Figure 3.9).
- e. Looking further ahead to 2042 to align with the timescales of the emerging Local Plan for the borough, at current levels of playing pitch sports demand within the population, the current estimate of population growth of 25,005 additional residents is calculated by the PPS to require

⁶ ONS subnational population projections 2022

further additional playing pitches as shown in figure 3.9 below. This does not include any planned projects and highlights the additional capacity needed to 2042 based on current participation rates. This should be reviewed on a regular basis as part of the strategy stage E process.

Figure 3.9 – Additional capacity needed by 2031 and by 2042 - Population change only: Sport England playing pitch calculator planning tool

Sport and pitch type	Additional capacity needed by 2031	Additional capacity needed by 2042
Cricket – open age and junior	14 wickets	30 wickets
Total Fine Turf Pitches	2 cricket pitches	4 cricket pitches
Football – adult	2.67 pitches	5.67 pitches
Football – youth	5.37 pitches	11.41 pitches
Football- mini	4.22 pitches	8.96 pitches
Total Grass pitches	12 football pitches	26 football pitches
Football- training hours	24.51 hours	52.08 hours
Total 3G AGPs	0.65 3G AGP	1.37 3G AGPs
Hockey	2.27 MES + 3.25 training hours	2.83 MES + 6.9 training hours
Total SD AGPs	0.27 SD AGPs	0.57 SD AGPs
Rugby	1.96 MES + 2.15 MES for training	4.19 MES + 4.56 MES for training
Total Grass pitches	2 rugby pitches	4 rugby pitches

- f. Given constraints on land as well as community demands for facilities for other sports, it is highly unlikely that additional provision of grass pitches at this scale, notably the additional football pitches, will be deliverable. This highlights the importance of the need to develop more 3G AGPs which have a much higher playing capacity than grass pitches and can also support match and training use throughout periods of poor weather. Venues for these additional facilities could be at TVBC owned sites, or as part of new housing developments. TVBC also encourages clubs to explore other available land or private lease arrangements to develop facilities.
- g. **Potential effect of demand trends-** When considering future playing pitch capacity needs, it is important to note that the run of Sport England’s Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) shown in figure 3.9 assumes ‘static demand’ i.e., the proportion of the population by age group and gender that currently play pitch sports stays the same.
- h. The national governing bodies of all four of the major playing pitch sports aspire to continue to grow demand for their sports, particularly among historically under-represented groups and have development programmes and strategies in place towards achieving this aim.
- i. For example, the RFU have launched ‘Impact 25’, a legacy programme for the 2025 Women’s Rugby World Cup which has committed funding to facility development, coaching and match officials, playing and volunteering, and community and fan engagement. This programme aims to grow women’s rugby to 100,000 female players by 2027. Sport England’s Active Lives Survey suggests that 0.1% of the female population regularly participate in rugby union, approximately 30,400 participants. Should the RFU achieve the ambitions set out in Impact 25, female participation nationally could increase by approximately 70,000 nationally over the next 3 years. Both Andover RFC and Trojans FC have benefited from Impact 25, receiving significant grants to support the sustainability and growth of their female provision.
- j. For its part, the FA continues to invest in established development programmes such as the girls’ football school’s partnership and, at club level, ‘Wildcats’ and ‘Squad Girls’ capitalising on the success of the England Women’s team.
- k. Recent changes to physical education policy and practice in schools aimed at equal opportunities for girls could also impact positively on future community demand for all pitch sports.

- l. For this reason, it is recommended that, for the purposes of facility planning, the PPC estimates in figure 3.9 for cricket, rugby and hockey should be considered as the minimum future requirement for new playing pitch capacity that is likely to result from population growth.
- m. Given that FA Insight shows youth football growth has been running at an average of just over 3% per annum since 2018, a further run of the PPC has been undertaken to show the impact on football pitch needs with an adjusted demand rate of 16.44% for youth football up to 2031 (i.e. 3.09% iterative increase per annum for 5 years) and 67% up to 2042 (i.e. the same rate of demand increase sustained iteratively to the end of the emerging Local Plan period).

Figure 3.10 – Demand from population growth and increase in youth football demand (FA Insight)

Football	Additional capacity needed by 2031	Additional capacity needed by 2042
Adult	2.67	5.67
Youth	6.25	19.05
Mini	4.89	14.97
Total grass pitches	14 football pitches	40 football pitches
Training hours	27.58 hours	79.37 hours
Total 3G AGP	1 3G AGP	3 3G AGPs

- n. This football demand is in addition to the current shortfall of 5 3G AGPs as outlined in 3.7d and further emphasises the importance of providing more 3G AGPs in the borough. The LFFP for Test Valley (2025) estimated growth maybe higher equating to an additional 118 teams in the local authority by 2030, of which 41 will come from women and girls, stating this would represent the equivalent of at least three additional 11v11 3G FTPs on top of the current levels of demand. Actual growth should be monitored as part of regular PPS updates to identify whether the population growth and demand/participation growth projections outlined above are proving to be accurate. Future needs should be revised on an ongoing basis to ensure facilities are planned accordingly.
- o. A further key consideration in the assessment of future playing pitch needs is the extent to which the clubs based in the local authority area are able to deliver on their development aspirations. Research and consultation for this strategy has found that a number of playing pitch sports clubs in the area have embraced youth, women and girls and recreational participation development initiatives and programmes of the national governing bodies. Accordingly, these clubs aspire to convert latent demand for their sport into new teams and/or to develop more playing opportunities at a recreational level alongside traditional league competition. However, clubs' aspirations need to be viewed in the context not just of pitch capacity but also their capacity to secure additional volunteer coaches/ team managers etc. to run additional teams and activities.

3.10 Is There Enough Provision to Meet Future Demand?

- a. The clear conclusion of the assessments of need for playing pitches in Test Valley is that, by 2031, there will be a need to provide additional playing and training capacity for all four major playing pitch sports. By 2042, the end of the emerging Local Plan period, there will be a need for further increased playing capacity.
- b. **Cricket – No.** The supply of pitches can only meet the current demand if improvements to levels of pitch maintenance are achieved to bring pitches to a good standard. Whilst this may be possible in some cases, with support of local clubs, others particularly those managed by Test Valley Borough Council on recreation grounds also accommodating football and wider public use it would be difficult.
- c. If the trend observed over the period between this strategy and the previous strategy of significant increases in junior, girls, and women's participation continue, then these new players are likely to

be more attracted to large clubs with existing infrastructure. Clubs, such as Old Tauntonians & Romsey CC, Trojans CC and Wellow & Plaitford Knights CC are currently operating at full capacity on their main sites and investment into NTPs will help to reduce capacity and protect the fine turf wickets.

- d. There are discussions about installing an NTP at North Baddesley Recreation ground for Ampfield & North Baddesley CC which will enable them to cater for demand currently exported to Lordshill Recreation Ground.
- e. There is also a need for at least 2 pitches with a combined total of at least 20 wickets of a good quality to cater for future demand. Opportunities should be explored to reinstate fine turf pitch provision at Over Wallop Sports Field as this would partially meet the future need for pitches, however additional opportunities to develop new wickets within catchment of club sites which are currently overplayed needs to be explored to ensure new pitches are strategically located within areas of highest demand.
- f. **Football – No.** Investment in 5 additional full-sized FA registered 3G AGPS is needed to cater for current demand according to FA guidance of one full sized AGP with sports lighting providing training capacity for 38 teams. An additional 3 full sized 3G pitch equivalents may be needed by the end of the new Local Plan period to cater for future population and demand growth combined. There are already proposals being developed for 3G provision at Foxcotte Park. Options should also be explored in the Romsey and Andover areas, which have been identified by clubs as requiring additional 3G pitch provision. The feasibility of developing an additional 3G AGP at Ganger Farm Sports Park should also be assessed due to the success of 3G hub sites in neighbouring areas and the high demand for the existing 3G AGP by both rugby and football clubs.
- g. In the 2024/25 season, 13 grass pitches across 5 sites were identified as poor quality. Of these pitches, 4 have been assessed using the Football Foundation PitchPower process and therefore have associated maintenance actions to improve the quality of pitches. If the quality of all 13 pitches were improved to 'standard' quality, this would generate an additional 23 MES capacity across the borough and if they were improved to 'good' quality they would generate an additional 47 MES. The majority of these pitches are mini and junior pitches (11) which are likely to be in high demand based on projected youth football growth throughout the strategy and local plan periods.
- h. **Hockey – No.** There is no spare capacity in Andover to support future demand at Andover HC, or in the south of the borough to support the future needs of Trojans HC. Both main pitches used by the clubs are currently at full capacity in the peak period and require the clubs to train out of the borough (Trojans HC) or on surfaces that are not suitable for hockey (Andover HC on 3G at Charlton SC). This lack of existing capacity, growth aspirations of clubs, and future demand generated by population growth suggests a need for at least one additional SD AGP in the borough. However, as the clubs are located at opposite ends of the borough (Andover north, Trojans south) a single new pitch in either location will not meet the need of both clubs due to journey times.
- i. Plans are in development for a new hockey pitch at Test Valley Borough Council's Picket Twenty Sports Ground with Andover HC as the primary user. In addition to this new provision, it is essential that the existing pitch at the John Hanson School is resurfaced to sustain use by Andover HC.
- j. Trojans HC on the border with Eastleigh Borough Council in the south has ambitions to develop a second pitch on this site. However, this would significantly impact on capacity at this large multi-sports club for rugby and cricket which also needs more capacity. Securing additional use of facilities in neighbouring local authorities already used by Trojans HC – e.g. through CUA or license

agreements- may be the most viable option for the club. A scenario for facility provision at Trojans Sports ground is explored in Section 3.14.

- k. Also in the south, Romsey HC have used the hockey pitch at Ganger Farm Sports Park since it was provided in the 2021 augmenting the club's use of the SD AGP at Romsey School. There is spare capacity in the peak period on both pitches. However, the club are seeking improvements to the ancillary facilities at the school in order to expand its activities at this site.
- l. **Rugby – No.** There is currently insufficient provision to meet future demand. Improvements to the maintenance and drainage at overplayed pitches in the borough would increase the number of match equivalent sessions but only enough to meet the current demand at The Goodship Ground and partially meet the current demand at Trojans Sports Club.
- m. The current capacity deficit in Test Valley is -7 MES including training provision and surplus capacity at education sites. To accommodate this on grass pitches (assuming natural adequate drainage and adequate maintenance and therefore a capacity of 2 MES) it would require four grass pitches, which would be difficult to provide due to the limited grass pitch sites available. If education sites are excluded from this calculation as they only provide occasional access for training and are considered unsecure provision as none have CUAs, then the total deficit increases to -8 MES, still requiring four grass pitches.
- n. A third pitch is due to be reinstated at the Goodship Ground following the donation of disused rugby posts to Andover RFC by TVBC. The area where this pitch will be located is currently used for training, so is unlikely to increase the total capacity of the site as it is already used to meet existing training demand. If engineered drainage was developed at The Goodship Ground following the assessment undertaken by the GMA, the current total borough deficit would decrease to 5MES, requiring an additional three pitches to be developed to meet current demand. If engineered drainage was developed at the Goodship Ground, a third pitch reinstated, and a WRC 3G pitch was developed in the Andover area, this would allow Andover RFC to relocate all existing training from The Goodship Ground (4MES), which would reduce the future borough wide need for pitches to one and negate the existing overplay at the site.
- o. Foxcotte Park is being explored as a suitable venue for a 3G stadia pitch for Andover New Street FC and would likely be heavily used by the club's adult and junior teams in the midweek for training, Saturdays for adult football, and Sundays for junior football. If a WRC surface is developed at this site, sufficient availability for Andover RFC would have to be secured. The site is however located adjacent to the rugby club, and would be the most convenient option for the club in terms of travel and being able to utilise their ancillary facilities for home fixtures and training. TVBC is also exploring the possibility of additional artificial pitches in this area to address the growth in both participation and population growth as new housing developments come forward.
- p. There is potential for Trojans FC to relocate some training and match demand to alternative facilities to meet the remaining need for 2 pitch equivalents by 2031. If additional 3G facilities were developed in the Romsey area, this may increase the slots available at the WRC AGP at Ganger Farm Sports Park to rugby clubs. Opportunities for Trojans FC to access the WRC 3G pitch at Wide Lane Sports Ground, Eastleigh, should also be explored to meet the club's current and future demand for rugby pitches.
- q. The projected future need for pitches up to the local plan period of 2042 is greater, requiring an additional three grass rugby pitches, and should also be considered when planning future pitch developments. Whilst the majority of sites in Test Valley have secure community usage, there are

three education sites used for rugby with no community use agreement and Test Valley Borough Council should seek to address this, if possible, to secure them for training use when required by the clubs.

3.11 Meeting the Needs: 'How to' Scenarios

- a. As part of the overall strategy development process, alongside the assessment of need for current and future demand, a number of scenarios have been identified as options to meet the future facility needs highlighted in the preceding section. The Steering Group has considered these scenarios along with their potential implications on the future picture of provision for the leading playing pitch sports in Test Valley and how best to meet existing and future playing pitch facility demand. These scenarios have also been considered in relation to setting the priorities for future enhancement and provision detailed in the action plan for playing pitches in Section 6.

3.12 Scenario 1- Improved Quality of Sites

- a. Before considering the provision of new playing fields it is important to first consider the potential for increasing capacity of existing sites (particularly those grounds owned or leased by community clubs) as these have resources and structures in place (e.g., grounds maintenance, coaching) and an established sporting identity developed over many years. Improving the quality of ancillary facilities such as practice, changing and social provision can also have an impact by sustaining and retaining existing demand and on attracting under-represented groups (e.g. the provision of suitable changing provision for women and girls).
- b. **Cricket** – As set out above in 3.8, the existing 'poor' quality fine turf Cricket pitch at Braishfield Recreation Ground needs improving to at least a standard quality level to enable match play to take place. PitchPower (and ECB funding) is due to be available to local authorities and cricket clubs, providing potential for funding pitch improvements either through the ECB or the Football Foundation for poor quality playing pitch sites like Braishfield Recreation Ground (as well as potentially sites with 'standard' quality pitches that provide for both Football and Cricket (e.g. at East Anton, King's Somborne, Longparish, Michelmersh & Timsbury and Mottisfont)).
- c. Improving the quality of ancillary facilities can also impact on retention of existing players and recruitment of new female players. Of more significant impact on retention, is the quality of the changing facilities, particularly in attracting more women and girls to play club cricket which tends to centre on larger, better resourced clubs. In this respect, the pavilion facilities at Romsey Sports Centre, and at Andover (London Road) Cricket Ground are the priorities for improvement to modern standards.
- d. Upgrading the poor practice nets at Mottisfont Recreation Ground and at King's Somborne are also priorities.
- e. **Football** – In light of the high playing capacity of 3G pitches with sports lighting relative to natural turf, the priority quality improvement to avoid a potentially significant adverse impact on football in the local authority area is the resurfacing of the playing surface of the 3G pitch at Charlton Sports Centre (Portway Sports Academy). This is needed as soon as possible and, at the latest, before May 2027 the expiry date of the current FA approval for affiliated football on this pitch.
- f. If Test Valley Borough Council and Town or Parish Councils were able to raise all 13 of the natural turf pitches with 'poor' quality ratings in the facility audit to 'standard' quality (by implementing better maintenance regimes), the overall playing capacity would increase by a relatively modest 15 MES per week in season across the mix of currently poor rated adult, youth and mini-soccer pitches. More challenging still in terms of cost, upgrading from 'poor' to 'good' quality would increase the

playing capacity by around 30-35 MES per week. Upgrading 'standard' rated pitches to 'good' would also have a substantial positive impact on meeting future capacity needs.

- g. In recognising budget constraints, to maximise the impact of any new investment in pitch maintenance and drainage it will be important to focus any available resources (e.g. from the Football Foundation's Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund) on key locations where the demand is greatest (i.e. sites accessible to multi-team clubs). Key sites in Test Valley previously identified through the Football Foundation's PitchPower (PP) programme already have good quality pitches – e.g. Hunts Farm, Knightwood LC, Romsey Town FC Bypass Ground and Broughton Sports Field. It will be important to continue to maintain high pitch quality at these key sites.
- h. At two single adult pitch sites – Sherfield English Sports Field and Hatches Farm - the PP programme identifies the pitches as poor or basic quality. Although desirable, investing in upgrading these single pitch sites would have minimal impact on addressing the overall need for greater playing capacity for youth football in the borough.
- i. There are a number of pitch sites in regular use by youth football clubs without adequate on-site changing or WC facilities e.g. KTF Youth at Thruxton Recreation Ground, Whitchurch Utd Youth at Longparish, Upper Clatford Youth at Upper Clatford Playing Field, and Baltic YFC at Enham Alamein where the facilities are in poor condition . Whilst not essential for youth football, many clubs prefer to have access to changing rooms and toilets should be a minimum to ensure the safeguarding of players. In addition, Braishfield FC with two adult teams have no home changing facilities. Investment in changing facilities at this site is only considered justifiable if the pitch quality is also improved.
- j. **Hockey** – Quality enhancement of existing facilities is the key scenario for better meeting current and future capacity needs of hockey in Test Valley. Specifically, the pitch at John Hanson Community School is poor and needs resurfacing at the earliest opportunity within the strategy period to sustain the Andover club. The pitch at Trojans Sports Club, developed in 2017, is also likely to also need resurfacing towards the end of the strategy period in 2031.
- k. Upgrading the sports lighting to LED at both John Hanson School and Romsey School would also have beneficial impact and improve the quality of the playing experience and reducing running costs.
- l. Improvements to the ancillary facilities at all three hockey sites- The Romsey School, John Hanson Community School, and Trojans Sports Club – will also impact on retention and recruitment of players. The redevelopment of facilities at Trojans Sports Club is now in progress.
- m. **Rugby** – As set out earlier in section 3.8, five of the seven naturally drained grass Rugby pitches in Test Valley have inadequate drainage, which significantly reduces the playing capacity of pitches. If the drainage of the two pitches at the Andover RFC Goodship Ground were improved from 'natural inadequate' to 'natural adequate', this would increase the capacity of the site by 1MES per week and reducing the overplay on site from 3MES to 2MES. If pipe & slit engineered drainage was developed, this would increase site capacity by 3MES, negating the current level of overplay on site. The Grounds Maintenance Association (GMA) recommends investment of approximately £30,000 in pitch quality improvement works to these pitches as a priority.
- n. A similar GMA assessment of options for quality improvements to the Trojans SC rugby pitches found no realistic opportunities to improve their playing capacity through engineered drainage

solutions. Accordingly, the priority for this club is to identify an opportunity to relocate evening training elsewhere, ideally on a WRC 3G pitch (see scenarios 3.13 and 3.14 below for options).

3.13 Scenario 2- More Community Use at Education Sites

- a. 'Opportunity' education playing pitch sites in Test Valley identified in this strategy either for further investment or for the negotiation of community club access and agreements include: The John Hanson School (upgrade of hockey AGP and lights to support Andover HC's needs and aspirations); Romsey School (upgrade of pitch lighting and ancillary facilities for Romsey HC); Farleigh School (securing of slots on the SD AGP in the peak period for Andover HC); Southampton University Wide Lane Sports Ground (securing of training slots for Trojans SC on the WRC 3G AGP); Anton Junior School (provision of ancillary facilities to support community football on the small sided 3G pitch).
- b. As in most areas, a key issue for the future of community Hockey in Test Valley is the reliance of clubs on access to sand-dressed AGPs on education sites (Andover HC to John Hanson School, Romsey HC to Romsey School) and, in the case of Trojans HC, to schools out of the borough to cater for overspill from its home pitch at Trojans Sports Club. Test Valley Borough Council's planned new SD AGP hockey pitch at Picket Twenty Sports Ground will reduce the need for Andover HC to use the John Hanson School pitch in the medium term (similar to how provision of the Ganger Farm Sports Park SD AGP pitch has reduced use of the hockey pitch at Romsey School by Romsey HC). However, both clubs are likely to grow as a result of a growing population and hockey development initiatives. Retaining access to both the school pitches for the long term and securing community use agreements will therefore be crucial to meeting future need.
- c. Increased access to education sites has very limited potential as a scenario to address current and future capacity needs for cricket and rugby. In these pitch sports, the focus of provision and the community club structure is firmly on club sites augmented by open access local authority sports and recreation grounds. School cricket pitches are often maintained to a lower standard and many schools do not provide weekend access to adequate changing facilities.
- d. School facilities are important to community football in Test Valley, most notably access to 3G pitches as at Mountbatten School, St George Catholic College and Anton Junior School (a recently resurfaced small sided pitch). SD AGPs with lighting at John Hanson School and Romsey School also accommodate demand for team football training due to the lack of availability of sufficient 3G AGP supply in the borough to meet the demand.
- e. Maintaining and growing access to education sports facilities in the evenings and at weekends therefore continues to be an important element of the overall strategy to meet community playing pitch needs going forward, most particularly for football and hockey clubs. Securing formal CUAs with schools and colleges is very challenging in the case of existing facilities. However, whenever new or upgraded sports pitches are proposed on education sites, opportunities to secure formal CUAs linked to planning obligations and/or grant conditions should always be explored.
- f. Should any additional education provision be needed as part of housing growth, then Test Valley Borough Council or Hampshire County Council should ensure community use of any facilities provided and refer to this strategy to identify priorities needed for the area. Similarly, should new capital funding to support community access to school facilities become available in the future, then the Hampshire Active Partnership ('Energise Me'), Test Valley Borough Council, County Council, and the pitch sport governing bodies should consider the priorities identified in this strategy.

3.14 Scenario 3- Change of Use from One Sport or Pitch Type to Another

- a. The most common scenarios involving change of pitch type are:

- Upgrading natural turf pitches to AGPs (i.e. to 3G football and/or WRC rugby, or to sand-dressed Hockey)
 - Resurfacing sand-dressed hockey AGPs as 3G football (subject to consultation and agreement with EH and SE).
 - Resurfacing 3G football as WRC 3G (i.e. suitable for both football and contact rugby).
- b. In Test Valley this scenario presents several key strategic opportunities to address current and future sports and playing pitch facility needs. The main opportunity sites in the borough are:
- North: Foxcotte Park; Picket Twenty Sports Ground
 - South: Ganger Farm Sports Park; Romsey Sports Centre; Trojans Sports Club
- c. In the north of the borough, Test Valley Borough Council is actively pursuing opportunities to address the priority pitch needs in Andover with proposals in development with Andover New Street FC, the Football Foundation and The FA to upgrade the existing grass stadium pitch at Foxcotte Park to a WRC 3G AGP greatly increasing the playing capacity of the existing provision and meet the training needs for rugby.
- d. Plans to resurface a section of the natural turf football pitches at Picket Twenty Sports Ground as a SD AGP are also at the planning stages of development in liaison with the Andover Hockey Club and England Hockey. This change of use will, if implemented, go a long way towards addressing the current and future capacity shortfalls for community hockey in the north of the borough.
- e. In the south of the borough, at Ganger Farm Sports Park, the success of this site in stimulating community pitch sport demand since it was opened by Test Valley Borough Council in 2021 makes a strong needs case for conversion of part of the grass rugby/football pitches to provide a 3G AGP on the site. This scenario would have a clear benefit in providing enhanced capacity for football while also potentially freeing up more slots for rugby on the existing WRC 3G AGP to meet training needs of both Romsey and Trojans Rugby Clubs. The amount of enhanced capacity for football however would be limited by the transfer of football provision from the existing WRC 3G AGP and therefore depending on the level of use needed by rugby could mean further 3G provision would be needed for football.
- f. At the Trojans Sports Club site on the borough boundary with Eastleigh, the available playing pitches have long been insufficient to meet the capacity demands of the playing pitch sports club sections of rugby, hockey and cricket in the peak period. The Needs Assessment research identifies overplay of the cricket pitch (16 wicket square and a two-lane non-turf practice net), the rugby pitches (two senior pitches, one with standard lights, a junior pitch and a lit grass training area), and the hockey pitch (one SD AGP with LED lights for hockey and two hours a week in the peak for football).
- g. As the Trojans site is owned by the Sports Club, Test Valley Borough Council's influence on its future use is largely limited to the planning control process and to the lending of support to grant applications (e.g. to Sport England and other public funding agencies) for priority projects identified in this strategy. The available pitches at Trojans Sports Club are provided and maintained to a good quality and the clear short-term priority is to replace the outdated multi-sports pavilion. In the medium and longer terms, the available options to increase the playing capacity within the existing site boundaries are severely limited without compromising one or other of the three pitch sports, all of which are strongly supported by the community.
- h. Off site within the borough, there are options to provide additional capacity to accommodate demand from the Trojans Hockey and Rugby sections. Provision of a 3G AGP in place of a grass pitch at nearby Ganger Farm Sports Park (see paragraph e. above) would release more rugby training

capacity on the existing WRC 3G pitch currently used extensively for football. The available additional slots for rugby would need to be allocated between the Romsey and Trojans rugby clubs with careful planning.

- i. For hockey, the ideal scenario of providing a second pitch alongside the existing SD AGP at the Trojans site is not achievable without relocating the cricket pitch, which is already used beyond its playing capacity. Within Romsey there is some unused capacity on the hockey AGPs at both Romsey School and Ganger Farm Sports Park. As with rugby above, with careful planning of the allocation of available slots between the Romsey and Trojans clubs at these two sites together with the reallocation of existing football hire of these SD AGPs to a new 3G pitch at Ganger Farm (see paragraph h. above), there is an option to provide substantial additional capacity for the hockey clubs. However, at Romsey School the ancillary provision and existing lighting would also need to be upgraded under this scenario working with the partners involved at this site.
- j. England Hockey does not feel that the scenario outlined above is a long term solution for the club and states that the clubs growing demand can only be met by an additional hockey pitch at Trojans Sports Club. There is a need for all of the clubs sports sections to work on a master plan for the site to address the various demands for each sport and this should be presented as part of any proposal for future investment on the site.

3.15 Scenario 4- Potential Loss of Availability of Key Sites

- a. Little imminent threat to the availability of key community playing pitch sites in Test Valley has been identified in the course of the research and consultation for this PPS. Those sites identified are considered 'at risk' due either to unsecured access or to their current poor condition and resultant health and safety concerns as opposed to any risk of loss due to development.
- b. Risk of loss due to poor quality is an issue for community football at the Charlton Sport Centre if the playing 3G surface is not resurfaced to maintain its FA Registration status. For cricket, the poor cricket pitch at Braishfield Recreation Ground is considered at risk if not upgraded.
- c. No cricket key sites have been identified as at risk although the Bakers Farm pitch on the Leckford Estate, hired by Longparish CC and an out-of-borough club (Sparsholt CC), is privately owned and access is unsecured.
- d. No rugby club sites are identified as at risk although none of the three school sites which are used for occasional club training have CUAs and are therefore considered unsecure for community use. Loss of access as overflow sites for occasional training would negatively impact the provision of training venues for clubs in Test Valley and result in additional overuse of pitches on the club sites.
- e. No football sites are at risk of development in Test Valley, however four school sites used regularly by clubs do not have a CUA in place and therefore are considered unsecure for community use. In addition, the MOD site, Middle Wallop Army Station, is used by clubs but considered unsecure provision. There are also 4 3G AGP sites on education sites without CUAs in place.

3.16 Scenario 5- New or Reinstated Pitches in Test Valley Resulting from Housing Development

- a. As detailed in 3.9a above under the heading 'Planned Provision', the proposed 'pipeline' projects at Picket Twenty Sports Ground, Foxcotte Park, North Baddesley Recreation Ground and Broughton Sports Field all entail a change in use from grass to artificial turf provision on the same playing pitch site (i.e. Scenario 3 at 3.14 above) – i.e. enhancement of existing pitches as opposed to new provision.

- b. Substantial new playing pitch provision has been provided in Andover in recent years (e.g. at Augusta Park / East Anton and Picket Piece) addressing additional demand associated with housing developments and population growth in the town. The cricket assessment of need recommends reinstatement of a fine turf pitch at Over Wallop Sports Field (near Stockbridge central in the borough). The Rugby Assessment identifies an opportunity for the Andover Rugby Club to reinstate a third rugby pitch at The Goodship Ground using posts donated by Test Valley Borough Council. No further proposals for new or reinstated playing pitches have been identified in the course of the research. However, more new playing pitches will need be provided to address need generated by population growth resulting from future large-scale housing developments. Proposed new housing allocations are predominantly in the north area of the borough, including on sites in and around Andover. However, there are additional proposed allocations, including large-scale sites, in a number of locations across the borough. In addition to the proposed allocations, a number of speculative sites have been submitted as planning applications across the borough on the basis that this will increase the supply of sites for housing, potentially increasing the amount of pressure on sports pitches and facilities as a result of a degree of unplanned growth.
- c. In summary, for the larger scale sites in the draft Local Plan, in the north area around Andover there are large urban extensions proposed in the south (Bere Hill) in close proximity to Picket Twenty, east (including Finkley Down Farm) in close proximity to Augusta Park and north (Manor Farm) near Charlton. Two large sites are also proposed at Ludgershall, on the Wiltshire border.
- d. In the south around Romsey, growth is proposed to the north east at Bentry Nursery and South of Ganger Farm, both of which have a resolution for planning permission. Additional sites proposed include land at Halterworth, to the east of Romsey, and Velmore Farm on the boundary with Eastleigh borough.
- e. The adopted Local Plan policy (LHW1) and the proposed policy (HE1) in the draft Local Plan both include a quantitative standard for the provision of one hectare of outdoor sports facilities and/or equivalent indoor facilities per 1,000 head of population together with arrangements in place for the long-term management and maintenance of the new recreation space.
- f. Applying this per capita standard to the borough's current population growth projections (i.e. 9,528 by end 2031 and 20,240 by end 2042) indicates new provision of about 9.5 hectares of additional outdoor sports space by the end of this strategy period in 2031 and a further 10.5 hectares between 2031 and the end of the new Local Plan period in 2042. However, current best practice set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is for an approach based on robust and up to date '*assessments of playing pitch needs and opportunities*'. This is also advocated by Sport England in its published guidance in place of a per capita approach.
- g. In accordance with the national best practice guidance, this strategy (at section 3.9) quantifies the number and type of new playing pitches that are likely to be needed in the borough based on the assessments of need for each pitch sport (Appendices A to D), projected population growth and trends in demand over the next 5 years and to the end of the emerging Local Plan period. The Recommendations (Section 5) and Action Plan (Section 6) set out projects to enhance capacity at existing sites to meet current unmet needs and quantifies the likely need for new playing pitch provision to meet future needs as a consequence of both population growth and trends in demand.

3.17 Scenario 6- Significant Increase in Demand by an Age Group or Sport

- a. Nationally, Sport England's latest Active Lives Survey (ALS) data report published in April 2024 suggests that participation in all four key playing pitch sports has returned to, and in some cases exceeded, levels of participation prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the 5 years following the

pandemic, participation in all sports has been increasing year on year, with Cricket recording its highest levels of participation since the data started being collected. The growth in number of junior teams identified in figure 3.3 shows that there has been a strong growth in junior sports participation across the local authority area.

- b. While Hockey participation is already evenly split between the genders, the governing bodies of Football, Cricket and Rugby all have a clear strategic focus on delivering more opportunities for women and girls to play and compete. As identified in the detailed assessments of future need for each sport, it is demand from the growth from women and girls that is likely to be the most significant over the next planning period and place the most pressure on the available capacity in the peak hours at existing pitches.
- c. This demand and growth is particularly evident in football and, if sustained, will place additional demand pressure on the available stock of youth and mini soccer pitches and 3G AGPs as well as on the existing stock of pavilions many of which do not have adequate changing and toilet facilities. The FA's national insight shows that youth football is growing at an average of 3.09% year on year, based on this growth, there would be a shortfall of 5 mini pitches, 6 junior pitches and one 3G AGP for team training by 2031 (see Figure 3.10).
- d. Actual team generation rates should be monitored as part of regular PPS updates to identify whether the population growth or participation growth scenarios outlined above are proving to be accurate. Future pitch capacity and demand should be revised on an ongoing basis to ensure provisions are planned accordingly.

3.18 Scenario 7- The impact of climate change

- a. Climate change is affecting participation in physical activity, with reduced water and air quality, rising temperatures and extreme weather events such as flooding, drought and heatwaves all affecting playing pitches and expected to increase in the coming decades.
- b. Grass sports pitches are increasingly vulnerable to extreme weather conditions and Sport England and NGBs are conducting research and providing updated advice to clubs on ways to make pitches more resilient to our changing weather patterns.
- c. Artificial pitch provision provides opportunities for increased usage whilst being resilient to most weather conditions for example an 11v11 3G AGP can sustain up to 80 hours of use a week, providing an average of around 1,400 playing opportunities, compared to a good-quality grass pitch, which can sustain just 6 hours a week (100 playing opportunities). A Cricket NTP can allow for 60 MES compared to 5 MES on a fine turf wicket.
- d. However, concerns have been raised about the environment impact of 3G AGPs related to the rubber crumb infill and the recycling of pitches. The rubber infill will be phased out by 2031, and the Football Foundation and Sport England are exploring viable alternatives. Improved containment methods have been put in place in the meantime and 3G AGPs continue to be supported by Sport England as they enable more people to experience the benefits of being active.
- e. As previously outlined in section 3.9 Test Valley have a shortfall of 6 11v11 3G AGPs (5 current and 1 future) if the council tried to accommodate this provision on grass pitches, they would need 84 pitches (134.4 acres of land) to cater for matches and training needs.
- f. Test Valley Borough Council declared a climate emergency in September 2019 and has a climate emergency action plan in place (November 2024). It will be important for the council to review the

impact of climate change on playing pitches and participation levels as part of future versions of this strategy.

3.19 Recommendations by pitch sport

- a. Based on the findings of the assessment of current and future facility needs for the four major playing pitch sports summarised in previous sections of this strategy and detailed in sport-specific reports in Appendices A to D, the following recommendations are made for strategic provision of playing pitch facilities in Test Valley to 2031.
- b. The recommendations assume the quantum of population growth forecast in ONS population projections, i.e. +9,528 additional residents by 2031, and take into consideration the range of potential scenarios available to Test Valley Borough Council and its partner sports bodies to address the facility needs as previously detailed.

3.20 Protect

- a. In the context of current demand, future net population growth and the development aspirations of key sports clubs – particularly to grow opportunities for more women and girls to play Cricket, Football and Rugby- the over-riding priority recommendation of the PPS is to continue to retain the existing overall quantity of land in Test Valley available for use as playing pitches.
- b. Protecting the supply of playing fields, playing pitches and ancillary provision should continue to be a core principle in the planning policies of Test Valley Borough Council in its new Local Plan (as proposed in Policy HE2 – Existing Open Space). The relevant existing planning policies for the protection of playing pitches in Test Valley are detailed in Appendix G of this Playing Pitch Strategy.
- c. Strategic recommendations aimed at maximising the effectiveness of local planning policy in Test Valley and the planning process to both protect playing fields, playing pitches, ancillary provision and to secure community access are set out in Section 5.
- d. Effective use of the planning process to ensure protection of access to education playing pitches is particularly critical to community sport. Continued access to school and college grass and artificial pitches at weekends is key to both Andover Hockey Club and Romsey Hockey Club as well as to many community football clubs in the borough to deliver their programmes of match play for growing numbers of youth and mini-soccer teams.

3.21 Enhance and Provide

- a. It is recommended that a number of existing playing pitch facilities should be prioritised for investment in upgrades (subject to funding, planning and feasibility) in order to continue to meet existing demand from community teams and individuals and to ensure, where possible, that additional capacity is provided to contribute to meeting demand growth.
- b. Greater playing capacity will be needed in future as a result of population growth and as a consequence of demand growth stimulated by the sports development initiatives of local clubs supported by Test Valley Borough Council and other stakeholders including the relevant sport's governing bodies. This need is greatest by far in the case of youth Football, particularly girls' Football. Improved safeguarding and accessibility at ancillary facilities will also be critical to attracting and retaining players, particularly women and girls who remain under-represented in Cricket and Rugby participation.

- c. The assessment of needs and the possible scenarios to address the needs has established that the additional playing pitch capacity that is likely to be needed over the strategy period will not be achievable without significantly improving the maintenance and/or drainage of several key sites.
- d. Figure 3.11 below summarises the strategic recommendations by sport for the enhancement of existing playing field sites and for new provision.

Figure 3.11 – Recommended facility enhancement and new provision by sport

Sport	Site(s)	Recommendation
Cricket	Over Wallop Sports Field	Reinstate former fine turf pitch with NTP
	North Baddesley Rec. Ground, Romsey Sports Centre, West Wellow Rec. ground	Install NTPs to increase playing capacity for clubs with large youth sections
	Braishfield Cricket Ground	Implement GMA Pitch Power report recommendations to raise quality from poor.
	East Anton Sports Ground, King's Somborne Rec. Ground, Mottisfont Sports Field	Provide new or upgraded non turf practice net systems
	Andover Cricket Ground, London Road Sports Ground, Longparish Cricket Ground, Mottisfont Sports Field, Romsey Sports Centre.	Enhance, replace or refurbish changing pavilion or clubhouse facilities
	Site to be determined	Identify opportunities to develop new fine turf wickets within catchment of club sites currently overplayed to cater for future demand.
Football	Charlton Sports Centre, Ganger Farm Sports Park, Sherfield English Sports Field.	Improve quality of grass pitches, delivering FA PitchPower report recommendations for grass pitch improvement where available.
	Charlton Sports Centre	Resurface 3G and renew FA Register status for affiliated play
	Foxcotte Park	Establish funds to upgrade the grass stadium pitch to 3G AGP and assess feasibility for a WRC surface.
	Ganger Farm Sports Park	Assess options to upgrade a grass pitch to 3G AGP
	Romsey Sports Centre / The Bypass Ground	Assess the feasibility of a suitable location for 3G provision ensuring there is no impact on other sports provision in area.
	Broughton Sports Field	Provide a MUGA to reduce informal use of formal grass pitches
	Longparish Football Pitch, Thruxton Recreation Ground	Consider opportunities to provide ancillary facilities
	East Anton Sports Ground, Upper Clatford Playing Fields	Enhance MUGA to reduce informal use of formal grass pitches
	Enham Alamein, Upper Clatford Playing Fields.	Investigate the feasibility to improve ancillary facilities
	Sites to be confirmed.	Investigate the feasibility of additional sites for 3G pitch provision to meet the current and future shortfalls.
Hockey	Picket Twenty Sports Ground	Deliver proposals to install a full-sized SD AGP with sports lighting
	John Hanson School	Resurface SD AGP
	Romsey School	Consider options to improve the ancillary facilities
	Trojans Sports Club	Work with the club to plan the resurface of the current SD AGP, explore options to secure additional match play and training slots either at Romsey School or out-of-borough in the short term and continue to explore the viability of developing an additional sport-lit AGP on site.
	John Hanson School, Romsey School	Upgrade the sports lighting to LED

Sport	Site(s)	Recommendation
Rugby	Foxcotte Park	Explore options to enhance proposed 3G AGP as a WRC pitch with agreed training slots in the peak hours for Andover RC.
	Goodship Ground	Reinstate third pitch, consider options for engineered drainage with GMA
	Trojans Sports Club	Explore options to relocate some training demand to a WRC 3G either at Wide Lane Sports ground in Eastleigh in Romsey area or in the Romsey area should future slots become available
	Ganger Farm Sports Park	Seek to secure additional training slots on the existing WRC 3G if a second 3G AGP is provided at this site
	Goodship Ground, Trojans Sports Club	Upgrade the sports lighting to LED
	Harrow Way School; Mountbatten School; Romsey School	Seek to negotiate access agreements to allow for use of school pitches at weekends for training and youth fixtures when club sites at capacity or at risk of overuse

3.22 Summary

- This review of playing pitches, bringing together the analysis, consultation and assessment work, has highlighted a need to protect the current provision of playing pitches in the area as well as identified a significant number of facility investment needs for Test Valley Borough Council, the Town and Parish Councils and partners.
- Football has grown significantly since the last strategy putting pressure on the facilities in the area. There is a clear need to provide more artificial grass pitches across the local authority area, this includes continuing to progress the current planned AGP pitches at Picket Twenty Sports Ground (hockey), Foxcotte Park (football and potentially rugby) as well as identifying sites for new AGPs (e.g. the Bypass Ground, Ganger Farm Sports Park) and resurfacing the current stock (e.g. Charlton Sports Centre for football) to secure future use. There is the evident need to improve existing grass pitch sites as well introduce or extend community use at education sites (e.g. Romsey School, Mountbatten School, Farleigh School).
- For cricket there is a need for at least two new fine turf pitches (20 wickets total) to address future demand with just one opportunity for pitch reinstatement currently identified (at Over Wallop in the centre of the borough). Opportunities to secure new pitches in the Andover and Romsey areas should be explored in the context of the proposed new large scale housing developments in both towns.
- The two key priorities for hockey are the resurfacing of the sand-dressed pitch at John Hanson School and implementation of the proposal by Test Valley Borough Council to provide a second SD AGP in Andover at Picket Twenty Sports Ground, while exploring options to improve hockey provision in the south of the borough and develop robust CUA on sites.
- The three Rugby clubs in the area have high levels of demand for matches and training, which will require further improvements to the existing pitches at the club sites as well as relocation of some training to suitable WRC AGPs. Opportunities include the potential to increase rugby use of the Ganger Farm Sports Park WRC 3G pitch, if it is deemed feasible for a new 3G pitch to be developed on site and current football use can be reallocated. In Andover, opportunities to secure a WRC 3G pitch and access may develop at Foxcotte Park in association with proposals for 3G provision at this site.

- f. Given the on-going financial challenges for the public sector, it is acknowledged that it will not be possible to deliver or support all the sport specific investment needs identified within this strategy. As a minimum Test Valley Borough Council should ensure the continued protection and maintenance of existing playing pitch provision across the borough.
- g. Section 5 of this strategy that follows sets out a number of overarching policy recommendations aimed at facilitating and addressing the sports specific needs identified in this Playing Pitch Strategy (Section 3) and in the Sports Facilities Assessment that follows (Section 4). Section 6 provides an action plan identifying the prioritised projects arising out of this strategy as well as the partners and stakeholders who are likely to be central to facilitating this change.

Test Valley Borough Council Sports Facilities and Playing Pitch Strategy 2026 – 2031

Section 4 – Sports Facilities Strategy



Contents

	Page
Sports Facilities Strategy	
<i>Introduction</i>	53
<i>Sport Specific Analysis</i>	
• <i>Swimming</i>	54
• <i>Sports Halls</i>	65
• <i>Health and Fitness</i>	77
• <i>Archery and Ultimate Frisbee</i>	80
• <i>Athletics and Running</i>	82
• <i>Bowls, Croquet and Pétanque</i>	85
• <i>Cycling, BMX and Skate Parks</i>	88
• <i>Golf</i>	90
• <i>Gymnastics and Trampolining</i>	93
• <i>Netball</i>	95
• <i>Squash</i>	97
• <i>Tennis</i>	99
• <i>Padel and Pickleball</i>	106
<i>Strategic Development Scenario</i>	108
<i>Summary</i>	110

4. Sports Facilities Strategy

4.1: Introduction

- a. This section of Test Valley Borough Council's Sports Facilities and Playing Pitch Strategy 2026-2031 sets out the supply, demand, and priority actions for non-pitch sports facilities. This Sports Facilities Strategy (SFS) replaces the previous version adopted in 2020.
- b. Consistent with the previous strategy, this SFS considers facility supply, demand, accessibility and availability of the following sports facilities for indoor and/or outdoor sport:
 - Swimming pools over 20m in length or 160m² water area
 - Sports halls (3 badminton courts or more) and community halls (where used for sports)
 - Gymnastic and Trampolining facilities
 - Indoor Bowls halls, outdoor greens and Pétanque
 - Health & Fitness facilities (studios and gyms)
 - Squash courts
 - Indoor and outdoor courts for Tennis, Padel, Netball, Basketball
 - Athletics and running tracks
 - Cycling, BMX and Skate parks
 - Golf facilities.
- c. It is noted that natural turf and Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) are covered within the Playing Pitch Strategy (Section 3 of this report).
- d. Significant specialist large-scale sports facilities in neighbouring authorities (such as Winchester Sports & Leisure Park, Places Leisure Eastleigh and The Quays Swimming & Diving Centre in Southampton) are within a 20-minute driving catchment for Test Valley residents and these catchment and accessibility factors are taken into consideration in determining current and future facility needs.
- e. The approach and method follow current national guidance published by Sport England - *Assessing Needs & Opportunities Guide (ANOG) for Indoor & Outdoor Sports Facilities*, Sport England (July 2014). In accordance with ANOG guidance, this section sets out a detailed analysis of facility supply, demand and accessibility factors by sport facility type (informed by the use of available sports facility planning tools) along with a summary of consultation findings to identify club and NGB facility priorities in the study area. The section concludes with recommendations for the protection and enhancement of existing facilities and for the provision of new facilities, where considered necessary, to address identified current or future needs to 2031. Preliminary consideration is also given to the implications of further population growth forecasts to 2042, the end of the emerging Local Plan period.

4.2 Swimming

What's changed since the Sports Facilities Needs Assessment 2020

- a. There has been no change to the provision since the last strategy was published in 2020 with two public indoor swimming pools located in Test Valley. However, the following completed and planned projects in neighbouring local authority areas are relevant in meeting a proportion of swimming demand from residents of Test Valley:
- b. In Winchester to the east:
 - **Winchester Sport and Leisure Park** – Opened to the public in May 2021, this major public swimming facility replaced River Park Leisure Centre which provided a 25 metre 6 lane main pool and a learner pool. The swimming facilities now comprise of a much larger eight-lane 50m competition pool, as well as a teaching pool, a hydrotherapy pool and an indoor children's splash pad.
- In Southampton to the south:
 - **David Lloyd Southampton West End** – This members' health and racquets club facility recently underwent a major pool refurbishment reopening in September 2025, and whilst this would attract some demand from Test Valley it is likely to be minimal due to the cost of provision and distance to reach it relative to other facilities.
- c. To inform the current strategy and to better understand the current swimming pool needs in 2025, as a baseline to help inform future priorities for swimming provision in the next five years to 2031, Test Valley Borough Council commissioned additional analysis using the Facilities Planning Model (FPM) from Sport England to review the existing swimming pool provision.

Sport England's Facility Planning Model

- d. The overall aims of the standard FPM assessment reports are to provide a current assessment of need for swimming pools in the local authority area (in this case in September 2025) based on the existing supply of pools that provide public access and availability in the peak demand times for the existing population.
- e. The FPM study is a quantitative, accessibility and spatial assessment of the supply, demand and access to swimming pools. The assessment is based on catchment areas, so includes the swimming pools and population across the local authority area and indoor swimming pool facilities in the neighbouring authorities accessible to Test Valley residents.
- f. The most attractive (and accessible) facility for some Test Valley residents may be outside the local authority area (known as exported demand) and for residents of neighbouring local authorities, their most attractive (and accessible) swimming pool may be in Test Valley (known as imported demand). To take account of these factors, the study area places Test Valley at its centre and includes the neighbouring local authorities and their swimming pool supply.

Headline Strategic Overview from the FPM Analysis

- g. The headline strategic finding is that there is sufficient swimming pool capacity in the borough to meet current demand. Unmet demand is very low, and most of this is located too far from a facility. Andover Leisure Centre is estimated to be completely full at peak times. Romsey Rapids Sports Centre is a much larger, ageing site, with several pools in neighbouring local authorities competing for the demand in this area.

Supply of Swimming Pools in Test Valley

- h. Supply is defined as the supply or capacity of the swimming pools available for community and club use in the weekly peak period. Supply is expressed in the number of visits that a pool can accommodate in the weekly peak period and in square metres of water. The total supply and available supply are different because of the hours available for community use in the weekly peak period.
- i. The weekly peak period is when the majority of visits take place and when users have most flexibility to visit. The peak period for swimming pools is one hour on weekday mornings, one hour on weekday lunchtimes, five and a half hours on weekday evenings, and seven and a half hours on weekend days. This gives a total of 52.5 hours per week. The modelling and recommendations are based on the ability of the public to access pool facilities during this weekly peak period.
- j. The two swimming pool facilities that meet the criteria to be included in the FPM modelling are listed in Figure 4.1 below and the locations of these pools - together with those pools within the wider study area - are shown in Figure 4.3 (pink diamonds). The size of the pink diamond is representative of the capacity of the swimming pool site. The five pools at Andover Leisure Centre and Romsey Rapids Sports Centre are all available for the maximum 52.5 hours in the weekly peak period. Accordingly, there is no scope to increase the available hours and capacity at peak times at either site.

Figure 4.1: Details of Swimming Pools in Test Valley

Site	Operation	Year Built/ Refurbed	Facility Type	Peak Hours
Andover Leisure Centre	Public	2019	6 lane main pool (25x13m)	52.5
			Teaching pool (15mx10m)	52.5
Romsey Rapids Sports Centre	Public	1990/2006	3 lane main pool (25x6m)	52.5
			Leisure pool (25mx20m)	52.5
			Teaching pool (10mx6m)	52.5

- k. There are other operational indoor pool venues in the borough within health clubs or private schools that are excluded from the model assessment as too small (i.e. less than 20m in length or 160m²) or for private use. These are listed in Figure 4.2 along with type of pool they offer.

Figure 4.2: Details of Other Swimming Pools in Test Valley Borough

Site	Pool Type	Activity / Reason for Exclusion
Embley School	Teaching	Private Use
Farleigh School	Main	Private Use
Rookwood School	Main	Private Use
St Edward's Special Needs Day School	Main	Private Use
Theclub@chilworth-manor	Main	Principal pool too small

- l. It should be noted that the pool at the independent Farleigh School, whilst excluded from the FPM analysis, does have limited community use by a school parent and community membership (capped at 130 people) as well as hires for some private instructed swimming lessons (e.g. Abbotts Ann Swimming Club). This access is unsecured – i.e. no formal CUA is in place. In addition, Rookwood School in Andover, also excluded from the FPM assessment due to their pool being considered as in private use, is advertised for community use through the school hire system, however the school did not engage in consultation to be able to confirm if this is used by the wider community.

Figure 4.3 Location of Swimming Pool Sites in Test Valley FPM Study Area in 2025

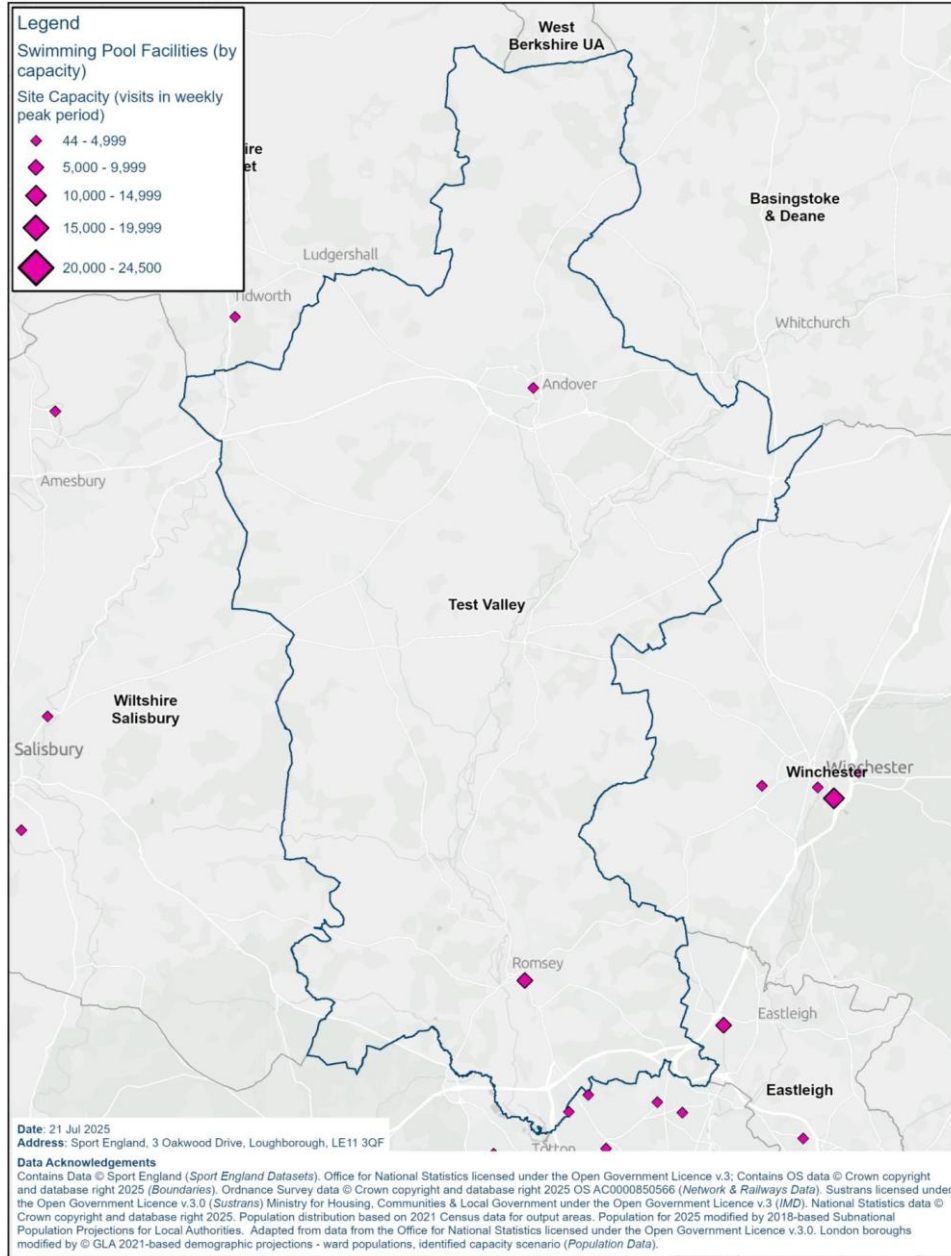


Figure 4.4: Supply of Indoor Swimming Pools in Test Valley Borough

Total Supply	2025
Number of indoor pools	5
Number of indoor pool sites	2
Supply in sqm of water (scaled with hours available in peak period)	1,185
Supply in visits per week in peak period	10,369
Average year built of public leisure centre sites	2004

m. Romsey Rapids provides 60% of the available capacity in Test Valley in the weekly peak period and Andover Leisure Centre the remaining 40%. Both sites enable specific swimming activities to take place in dedicated pools including:

- Casual recreational swimming
- Lane and fitness swimming
- Learning to swim
- Swimming development through clubs

In addition, the main pool and spectator gallery at the Andover Leisure Centre enables the hosting of competitive short course club galas within the borough.

- n. As shown in Figure 4.3 there are several publicly accessible swimming pool sites in neighbouring local authority areas that fall within a 20-minute drive time for Test Valley residents. In addition to Winchester Sports & Leisure Park to the east, Tidworth Leisure Centre in Wiltshire is within a 10-minute drive time from the north west borough boundary. This site has a 6 lane 25m main pool and a learner pool. Provided by the Ministry of Defence for service personnel and their families, the facility is also accessible to the public through an agreement with Wiltshire Council. Similarly, for residents in the far south of the borough, although south of the M27, which may serve as a physical barrier for some, Totton Health & Leisure in New Forest District is only a short drive time and has both main and learner pools. Other pools in Southampton - including the large David Lloyd Club at West End and the regional Southampton Quays swimming centre are also accessible from the south of Test Valley. In addition, Places Leisure Eastleigh's two modern pools (just over the M3) are within a 20-minute drive time from Romsey.

Demand for Swimming Pools

- o. Total demand is calculated by adding the participation by each five-year age band/gender of Test Valley's population with the frequency of participation in each age band/gender and is expressed in visits in the weekly peak period and square metres of water. The FPM parameters for the percentage and frequency of participation, for gender and age, are calculated from Sport England's annual Active Lives survey.
- p. The total demand for swimming by Test Valley residents in 2025 is 8,734 visits per week in the peak period which equates to 1,436m² of water (allowing a 'comfort factor' of 70% of the pools' theoretical capacity to take account of the range of activities that take place which have different numbers of users – e.g. aqua aerobics as compared to lane swimming – and to allow sufficient space to undertake the activity comfortably).
- q. In accordance with its population size relative to its neighbours, Test Valley Borough Council ranks between Eastleigh and Winchester local authority areas in terms of demand for swimming pools expressed as water space (see Figure 4.5).

Figure 4.5: Demand for Swimming by Local Authority

Demand considering a 'comfort' factor*	M ² of water
Test Valley	1,436
Wiltshire	5,667
Southampton	2,797
Basingstoke & Deane	1,961
New Forest	1,897
West Berkshire	1,739
Eastleigh	1,526
Winchester	1,387

* The FPM is designed to include a 'comfort factor,' beyond which the venues are too full. The pool itself becomes too crowded to swim comfortably, and the changing and circulation areas also become too congested. In addition, different pool programming activities have different capacities (e.g. aqua aerobics and lane swimming). To account for these factors, the FPM caps pool capacity at 70% of theoretical capacity.

Deprivation

- r. Within Test Valley the greatest deprivation is in the 20% most deprived LSOAs in the north of Andover and in the 30% most deprived LSOAs to the east and north east of Andover centre.

- s. The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) score is used in the FPM to limit whether people will travel to use commercial facilities with main swimming pools, such as David Lloyd Clubs. A weighting factor is incorporated to reflect the cost element often associated with commercial facilities. The assumption is that the higher the IMD score (less affluence), the less likely the population of the LSOA would choose to go to a commercial facility to swim such as one of the spa hotels, a golf and country club or large-scale health club in the catchment area. While Test Valley does not have any significant commercial swimming pools (>160m²), there are accessible commercial sites in the neighbouring local authorities, notably David Lloyd Southampton West End, which has been recently upgraded.

Accessibility of swimming pools

- t. For residents without access to a car, travel to swimming pools by public transport, by bike or on foot is the choice of travel. The FPM uses a distance decay function where the further a user is from a facility, the less likely they will travel. On average, a 20-minute travel time accounts for approximately 90% of visits to a swimming pool. The travel time limits used are:
- Driving – 20 minutes
 - Public transport – 20 minutes (at half speed of car)
 - Walking – 20 minutes (one mile)
- u. The proportion of the resident population in Test Valley who do not have access to a car is 11% which is much lower than the regional average of 16% and the national average of 23%. The percentage of the population without access to a car influences travel patterns to swimming pools. A low percentage, as in this case, means that there is likely to be a larger number of visits to swimming pools by car. For residents without access to a car, travel to swimming pools by public transport or, in rural areas, more often by taxi, cycling or on foot becomes the alternative choices of travel.
- v. Unsurprisingly given the largely rural nature of the borough, the FPM estimates 88% of journeys to swimming pools by Test Valley residents are by car. Of the remainder, 7% are on foot and 5% by public transport reflecting the location of the pools within Andover and Romsey, the main centres of population with the best bus services.

Satisfied Demand for Swimming Pools

- w. In 2025, 94% of total demand for swimming from Test Valley residents is satisfied by the existing pool supply located either in the local authority area or within a neighbouring area within the driving, walking or public transport catchment areas for Test Valley residents (Figure 4.6). 35% of the total swimming demand generated by Test Valley residents is met by pools in the catchment area located in neighbouring local authorities in the study area – i.e., ‘exported demand’. Whilst exported demand is a significant proportion of total demand, it is clear from Figure 4.7 that this is not adversely impacting on the levels of satisfied demand in the neighbouring authorities which have rates of satisfied demand of 96% or greater.

Figure 4.6: Satisfied Demand for Swimming in Test Valley

Satisfied Demand	2025
Number of visits which are met per week in peak period	8,245
% of total demand satisfied	94%
Number of visits retained per week in peak period	5,371
Demand retained as a % of satisfied demand	65%
Number of visits exported per week in peak period	2,874
Demand exported as a % of satisfied demand	35%

Figure 4.7: Percentage of Satisfied Demand in Study Area

% of Total Demand Satisfied	2025
Test Valley	94%
Basingstoke & Deane	97%
Eastleigh	97%
Winchester	97%
New Forest	96%
Southampton	96%
West Berkshire	96%
Wiltshire	96%

Retained and Exported Demand for Swimming Pools

- x. Another key measurement is retained demand which is a subset of satisfied demand and shows how much of Test Valley residents' satisfied demand for swimming is retained at pools within the borough. This assessment is based on the catchment area and appeal of the pools and residents swimming at these pools. At present, 35% of Test Valley's satisfied demand for swimming is met by pool sites outside the borough equating to 2,874 visits in the weekly peak period. As detailed earlier, the FPM report indicates it is likely that the majority of this exported demand for swimming is to public pools close to the north western (Wiltshire) boundary and the southern boundaries (Eastleigh, New Forest, Southampton) with some to the east (Winchester).
- y. Retained demand is anticipated to be lower than average due to the scale of swimming pool provision close to the southern border. An element of exported demand to facilities outside of the local authority area is the most sustainable approach to meet the needs of Test Valley residents in the south.

Unmet Demand for Swimming Pools

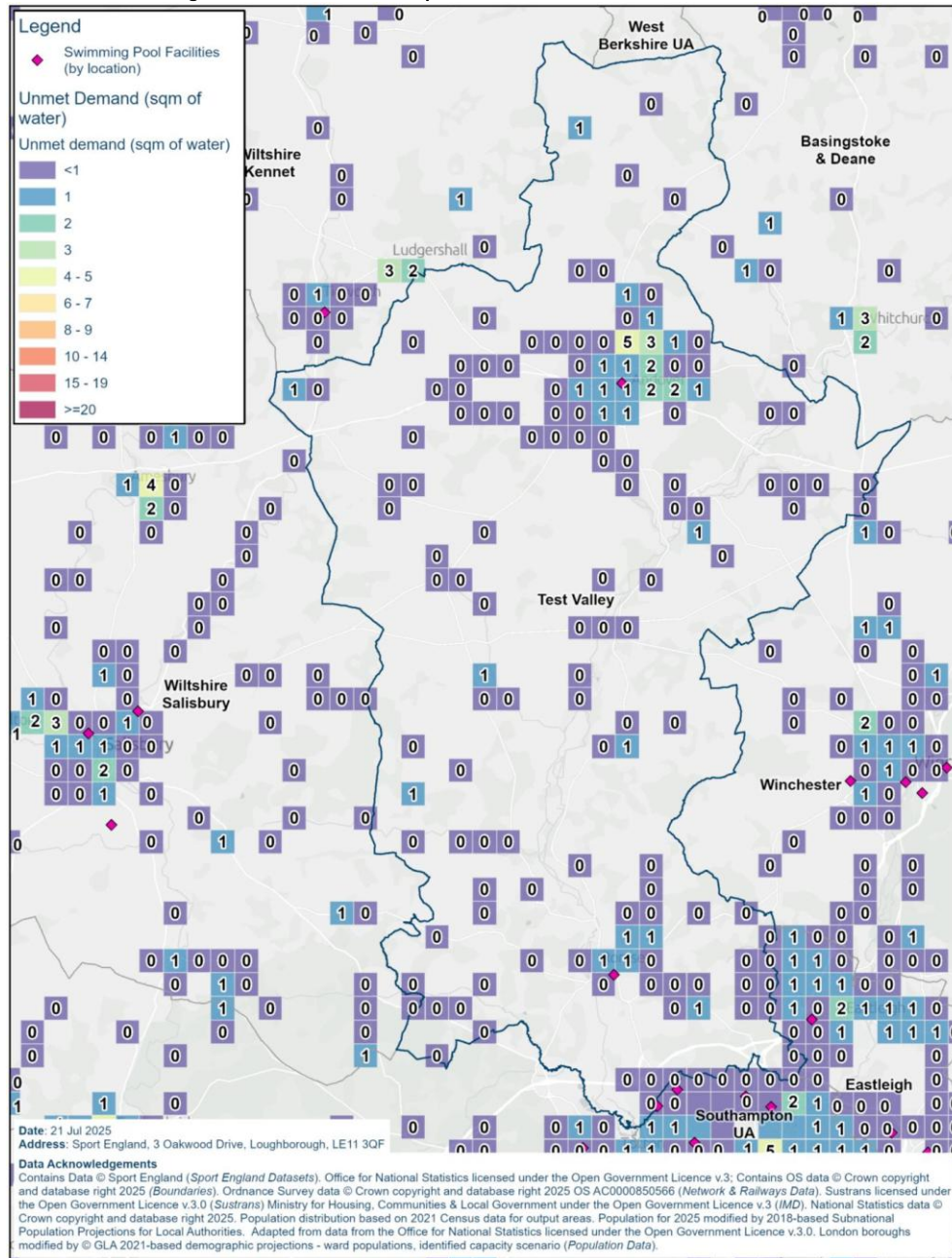
- z. Unmet swimming demand is defined in the model as demand for swimming pools which cannot be met because there is either too much demand for any particular swimming pool within its catchment area resulting in a lack of available capacity, or because demand is located too far away from any swimming pool.
- aa. In Test Valley, unmet demand amounts to a relatively small 6% of total demand, equivalent to 80m² of water area. This is shown in Figure 4.8. This total unmet demand is aggregated from across the whole local authority area and not concentrated in a single location. As shown in Figure 4.8, unmet swimming demand in Test Valley is mainly due to the nearest facility being too far away as opposed to lack of capacity in the pools that are provided. Unsurprisingly, given the rural nature of the area and the nature of the road network, not all those with access to a car live within 20 minutes travel time of an accessible pool. Some unmet demand will always exist because it is not possible to achieve complete spatial coverage whereby all areas of an authority are within walking distance of a swimming pool providing sufficient capacity in the peak period and not everyone will want, or be able, to drive to a facility.

Figure 4.8: Unmet Demand for Swimming in Test Valley

Unmet Demand	2025
Number of visits unmet per week in peak period	489
Unmet demand as a % of total demand	6%
Equivalent in sqm of water with comfort factor	80m ²
Facility too far away:	79%
Without access to a car	57%
With access to a car	22%
Lack of facility capacity:	21%
Without access to a car	12%
With access to a car	9%

bb. Figure 4.9 shows that unmet swimming demand in Test Valley is highest in a 1km square to the north of Andover Leisure Centre and in squares just to the north east and east of the leisure centre. This is due to the Andover pools operating at full capacity (allowing a comfort factor).

Figure 4.9: Unmet Swimming Demand in Test Valley in 2025



Used Capacity of Swimming Pools

cc. Sport England define used capacity as a measure of usage at swimming pools that estimates how well used or how full facilities are in the peak hours; the pools and ancillary changing rooms etc. expressed as a percentage. The assumption is that usage over 70% of capacity is busy and that the venue is operating at an uncomfortable level above that percentage. Taken together, the estimated used capacity of Test Valley's two swimming pool sites in the weekly peak period is 62% which is low relative to the averages for the region (68%) and England as a whole (72%).

- dd. However, the average used capacity masks a wide difference in used capacity between the two pool sites. Andover Leisure Centre is estimated to be 100% utilised at peak times, and Romsey Rapids Sports Centre just 36% utilised. While Romsey Rapids Sports Centre has a much larger capacity, it meets fewer visits than Andover Leisure Centre.
- ee. A range of factors are likely to lie behind this difference. The main reasons will be the relative ages and attractiveness of the two facilities and the much greater alternative provision accessible to Romsey residents with competition from five accessible sites in the neighbouring local authorities of New Forest and Southampton.

Comparative Measure of Provision

- ff. A comparative measure of swimming pool provision by local authority area is water space per 1,000 population. Whilst this per capita quantitative standard approach to planning for sports facilities is no longer advocated by Sport England in its published guidance this measure remains of some interest if only for broad benchmarking purposes. In 2025, there is wide variation in provision across the study area, ranging from 9m² of water per 1,000 population in Test Valley up to 20m² in Winchester (since the opening of the Winchester Sports & Leisure Park in 2021). The average across the South East Region is 13m² and England as a whole 11m².

What next based on the FPM analysis?

- gg. The FPM report provides a detailed 'snapshot' of the supply and demand balance for public swimming in the borough as of 2025. The report findings do not justify investment in providing more public swimming supply at the present time. The clear priority remains as in the 2020 strategy action plan – i.e. to establish the feasibility of replacement of the Romsey Rapids with a new facility as part of a larger master plan to consider the future of the sports complex.
- hh. It will also be important to continue to monitor changes in provision in neighbouring authorities close to the local authority boundary due to the potential impact on the balance of pool supply and demand in Test Valley.

Future Need

- ii. Finally, in the context of this strategy and the emerging Local Plan, it is important to consider the projected increase in population in the borough in terms of scale and location, and how this will impact on the future demand for swimming pools. Sport England's Sports Facility Calculator planning tool has been used to give an indication of the quantum of additional swimming water space likely to be required to accommodate demand from projected population growth. The Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) is a planning tool which helps to estimate the amount of demand for key community sports facilities that may be generated by a given population. It is important to remember that the SFC looks at demand for facilities and does not take into account any existing supply of facilities as it does not include a spatial element.
- jj. To meet the demand of 9,528 additional residents (as currently forecast⁷) over the five-year strategy period until 2031 and assuming current levels of demand, the SFC suggests demand will be generated for 103.37m² of water space equivalent to 1.95 lanes or 0.49 new 4 lane pools, with 629 visits per week in the peak period (figure 4.10).
- kk. Looking further ahead to 2042 to align with the timescales of the emerging Local Plan for the borough, at current levels of swimming demand within the population, the current estimate of population growth of 20,240 additional residents is calculated by the SFC to require an additional

⁷ Population change based on subnational population projections for England from ONS.

219.58 of water space. This is equivalent to 4.13 lanes or 1.03 new 4 lane pools to accommodate an additional 1,335 visits per week in the peak period (vpwpp).

Figure 4.10: Demand for Swimming Pools from estimated population growth in Test Valley to 2031 and to 2042

Swimming Pools	2031	2042
Demand adjusted by	0%	0%
Square meters	103.37	219.58
Lanes	1.95	4.13
Pools	0.49	1.03
vpwpp	629	1,335

- ll. Overall, population led demand growth at this scale is likely to require further provision to be planned within the emerging Local Plan period. To a large degree the need for further provision will be influenced by the distribution of the additional population.
- mm. Proposed new housing is spread across the borough, with the majority of the larger scale growth proposed near to existing settlements within and adjoining the borough, including Andover, Ludgershall, Romsey, and Valley Park (as outlined early in 2.1c to f). Given that the pools at Andover Leisure Centre are currently full to comfortable capacity and are already available for the maximum hours in the peak period (i.e. 52.5 hours a week), there is likely to be a need for expanding provision of swimming pool capacity in the north area within the new Local Plan period unless there is a significant reduction in demand for swimming within the population or new accessible supply is built in a neighbouring local authority.
- nn. Accordingly, it is recommended that preliminary planning for additional pool capacity in the Andover area should be undertaken in the new sports strategy period to investigating the feasibility of potential locations. Test Valley Borough Council should also try to engage with Rookwood School to establish availability of their pool for community clubs as this may reduce the future demand for facilities in the Andover area.
- oo. In the south there is substantial unused capacity at Romsey Rapids as well as accessible pools in neighbouring local authorities. However, given the housing growth proposed in the new Local Plan the position regarding the swimming pool need in the south should be considered as part of any replacement/expansion of the Romsey Rapids swimming pools.

Swimming Pool Sites and Consultation

- pp. The swimming pool provision in the north area is good with new facilities at the Andover Leisure Centre opening in 2019. Operated on behalf of Test Valley Borough Council by Places for People Leisure Management Ltd the two pools (main and teaching) are both available for the maximum 52.5 hours a week in the peak period of demand (evenings and weekends). The swimming programme is comprehensive including a range of learn to swim programmes from pre-school through to adult with around 2,000 participants, lane swimming, family fun sessions, aqua aerobics classes and club-based competitive swimming and water polo training delivered by Andover Swimming and Water Polo Club. The teaching pool has a moveable floor and a splash pad for helping with water confidence. The pool has a wet wheelchair, promoting independent use among users with disabilities. There is also a poolside sauna and steam room.
- qq. The Farleigh School in Red Rice near Andover provides a small but important role in meeting public demand for swimming in the north area particularly for children learning to swim.
- rr. In the south area, the provision for public swimming within the borough is less satisfactory. The configuration of the Romsey Rapids pools (predominantly shallow leisure waters for family fun

activities) considerably restricts capacity for adult lane and fitness swimming: the activity of greatest growth aligned with trends in health and fitness. The pools at this site also have declining attractiveness due to the age of the site and the opening of newer, more attractive sites in neighbouring local authorities. Several of these new sites are accessible to those Test Valley residents with access to a car.

- ss. The pool at St Edwards specialist day school near Romsey in the south area provides care and education for boys who experience social, emotional and mental health difficulties (SEMH). There is little potential for public access to this site. Also in the south area, Embley School offers little potential for public swimming as it only has a teaching pool.
- tt. During consultation with Danebury School, they mentioned being approached by a private investor to build swimming pool provision at the site. This prospect has not progressed during the development of this strategy but if it does in the future the council should explore opportunities to secure some public access.
- uu. Swim England when consulted for this strategy had limited local knowledge to be able to comment on the facilities, however in the previous strategy they noted that Romsey Rapids Sports Complex was not suited to learn to swim, swim fitness or competitive swimming due to the shallow leisure water. They stated a need to plan to replace Romsey Rapids Sports Complex, which will be over 50 years old by 2042, and to maximise usage, their view was that the replacement provision should be a 25m x 8-lane swimming pool with a learner pool and a moveable floor to provide deep water for competition, water polo and synchronised swimming along with the usual community swimming and a leisure splash zone. Spectator seating in the region of 250 should also be considered.

Club Consultation

Andover Swimming & Water Polo Club (Andover Leisure Centre): The club has approximately 163 members (140 youth, 23 adult) with 95% coming from within the local authority area. The club has retained a similar number of members over the last three years. The club are looking to grow and plans to develop a further entry level squad 'Learn to compete' utilising the teaching pool. Andover Leisure Centre is their only venue, with the club using the main pool for 14 hours and teaching pool for 2 hours. The club highlight the need for increased hours of use for both pools to enable them to grow.

Quality ratings – Main facility - 4/5, Changing facilities - 4/5

Priorities and Actions - Swimming Pools

Swimming		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
Retain the current levels of water space and maximum peak period availability to all five pools across the two public swimming pool sites (Andover LC, Romsey Rapids).	- Undertake further modification of the two public pool sites where feasible in partnership with the service provider to further reduce energy costs and minimise waste and emissions. - Establish availability of pool for community use at Rookwood School, Andover.	- Commence preliminary planning for the provision of additional public swimming capacity in the Andover area. - Progress master planning for the future of public sports facilities in Romsey in the context of housing and population growth and the age and configuration of the existing Rapids swimming provision.
Prioritised Actions: Short Term - Progress master planning for the future of public sports facilities in Romsey in the context of housing and population growth and the age and configuration of the existing Rapids swimming provision. Longer Term - Identify options to expand the supply and capacity of public swimming in the Andover area in the context of housing and population growth. - Replace Romsey Rapids		

4.3 Sports Halls

What's changed since the Sports Facilities Needs Assessment 2020

- a. With regard to sports halls in Test Valley, similar to swimming pools, there have been no significant change to the supply of sports halls with public access within the borough since the adoption of the 2020 study. The most relevant supply changes have taken place in neighbouring authorities. In Winchester to the east of Test Valley, with new 8 court community sports and event halls opening in 2021 and 2025 respectively at Winchester Sports & Leisure Park and Winchester College Sports Centre. Both these new facilities are built to current Sport England specifications which has increased the event hosting capabilities within the neighbouring areas in addition to the 15-court sports hall at Places Leisure Eastleigh opened in 2017. To the south of the borough, the Southampton Outdoor Sports Centre is under redevelopment with target completion in 2027 and will include an indoor sports hall dedicated to tennis and netball.

Sport England's Facility Planning Model

- b. To inform the new strategy and to better understand the sport hall needs in 2025, Test Valley Borough Council commissioned from Sport England a Standard Facilities Planning Model (FPM) Assessment of the existing sports hall provision reporting in September 2025. As with swimming pools, the FPM sports hall assessment for Test Valley includes the sports halls and population in the local authority area as well as those located in neighbouring local authorities that fall within a defined travel time catchment.

Headline Strategic Overview from the FPM Analysis

- c. The headline strategic finding is that there is sufficient sports hall capacity in the area to meet current demand. However, the majority of this capacity is unsecured as most of the sports hall supply in the borough is on education sites and there is no available capacity in the peak hours at Andover Leisure Centre which is the only large sports hall in the borough that provides access to the public during the day on weekdays. The rest of this section explores this in greater detail and provides a summary at the end considering the FPM findings along with NBG and club feedback on needs for sports hall provision.

Supply of Sports Halls

- d. In the FPM modelling for sports halls, there are 15 sports hall facilities located at 9 sites in Test Valley.

Figure 4.11: Supply of Sports Halls in Test Valley in 2025

Total Supply	2025
Number of halls	15
Number of hall sites	9
Supply in badminton court equivalents	56.7
Supply in courts scaled with hours available in peak period	39.7
Supply in visits per week in peak period	14,607
Average year built of sites	1993
Average year built of public sites	2019

- e. In general, a four-court sports hall can provide for most indoor hall sports at the community level of participation. However, as set out in figure 4.12, five of the seven 4 court halls included in the FPM assessment have dimensions which are less than the Sport England and National Governing Bodies' recommended size of 34.5m x 20m. Dimensions less than this, limit the run-off area between and behind courts and restrict the levels of competition play that can be programmed for some sports. A further hall (St George Catholic College) is smaller providing the equivalent of 3 badminton courts. These six sports hall sites are therefore limited to recreational and local league level of competition in the case of the majority of hall sports. The size of the green square in Figure 4.13 is representative of the capacity of the sports hall site.

- f. Supply is defined as the supply or capacity of the sports halls available for community and club use in the weekly peak period. The supply is expressed in the number of visits that a sports hall can accommodate in the weekly peak period and in the number of badminton courts. The total supply and available supply are different because of the hours available for community use in the weekly peak period. The weekly peak period is when the majority of visits take place and when users have most flexibility to visit. The peak period for sports halls is one hour on weekday mornings, five hours on weekday evenings and eight hours on weekend days. This gives a total of 46 hours per week. The modelling and recommendations are based on the ability of the public to access facilities during this weekly peak period.
- g. Andover Leisure Centre sports hall is currently available for 45 of the 46 peak hours in a week. The number of peak hours the sports halls are available for community use at the educational sites in the borough included in the FPM range between 15 (St George Catholic College) up to 37.8 (Danebury School (previously known as Test Valley School)). The majority of the accessible school sports halls are available to the public for between 34 and 35 peak hours a week.
- h. There may be some potential to negotiate with Places Leisure an additional hour a week of community access in the peak period at Test Valley Borough Council's Andover Leisure Centre in order to marginally increase the capacity at this sports hall site which is full to capacity in the peak.

Figure 4.12: Details of Sports Halls Included

Site	Operation	Year Built /Refurbed	Sports Hall Type/Area	Peak Hours per week
Andover Leisure Centre	Public	2019	8 court (1380m ²)	45
Danebury School (previously known as Test Valley School)	Educational	2004	4 court (690m ²) Activity (180m ²)	37.8 37.8
Embley School	Educational	1995	4 court (759m ²)	34
Harrow Way Community School	Educational	1967/2009	4 court (594m ²) Activity (180m ²)	20 20
John Hanson Community School	Educational	2002	4 court (594m ²) Activity (180m ²)	34 34
Mountbatten School	Educational	1985	4 court (690m ²) Activity (180m ²)	35 35
Romsey Community School	Educational	1976	4 court (486m ²) Activity (180m ²)	34 34
St George Catholic College	Educational	2003	3 court (690m ²)	15
Winton Community Academy	Educational	1990/2014	4 court (594m ²) Activity (330m ²)	25 25

- i. Figure 4.13 shows the location of the main sports halls in Test Valley included in the FPM analysis, as well as provision in the neighbouring local authorities that fall within a defined travel time catchment. There are other sports or activity halls in the local authority area – primarily village and community halls - that have been excluded from the FPM calculations, due to size e.g. less than 3 courts in size or deemed to be in private use and not available for community use. These are listed in figure 4.14. Some of these provide community use for various sports and activities (listed where known), providing vital additional provision in the borough, most particularly in the day time in the south of the borough and in those rural areas in the north that lie outside the catchment of the only public sports hall site (i.e. Andover Leisure Centre).
- j. An additional 2 court activity hall, gym/studio is planned as part of the wider East Anton strategic development to provide additional provision in the area. A planning application has been submitted and the council is in discussion about future management options.

Figure 4.13: Location of Sports Hall Sites in Test Valley Study Area in 2025

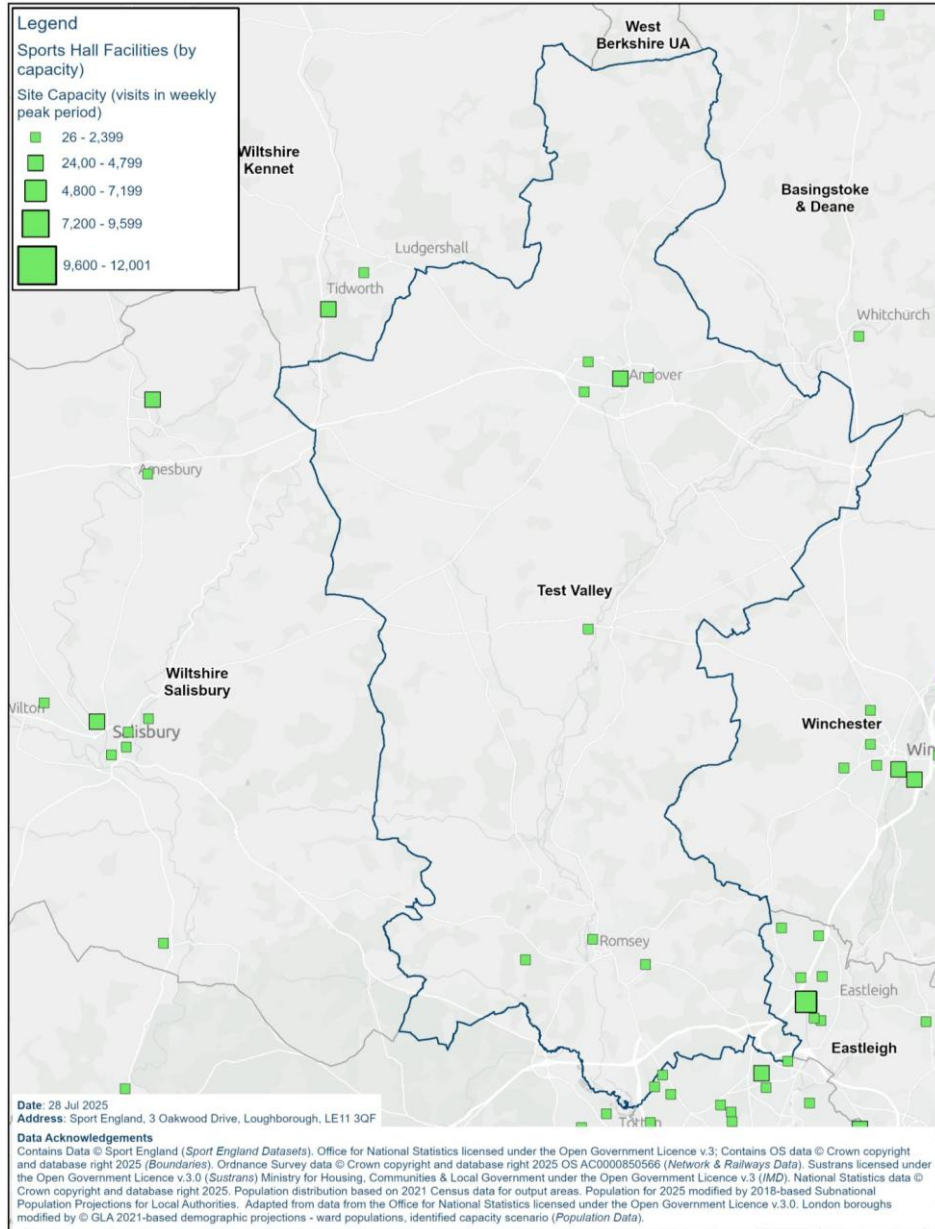


Figure 4.14: Details of Sports Halls Excluded from FPM

Site	Hall Type	Reason for Exclusion	Activities (where known)
Army Headquarters	Activity	Private use	No community use
Broughton Primary School	Activity	Principal hall too small	No community use
Charlton Sports Centre (The Sports Academy)	Activity	Principal hall too small	Dance, Exercise, Martial arts.
Chilworth Community Hall	Activity x2	Principal hall too small	Dance, Exercise, Table Tennis
Farleigh School	Main	Private use	No community use
Icknield School	Activity	Private use	No community use
Kimpton Thruxton & Fyfield Primary	Activity	Principal hall too small	No community use
King George V Playing Field	Activity	Principal hall too small	Dance, Exercise, Martial arts.
Knightwood Leisure Centre	Activity (1 marked court)	Principal hall too small	Badminton, Football, Indoor Bowls, Martial Arts, Table Tennis
Knightwood Primary School	Activity	Principal hall too small	No community use
Middle Wallop Station	Activity	Private use	No community use
Rookwood School	Main Activity	Private use Principal hall too small	Dance, Exercise.
St Edward's School	Activity x 2	Private use	No community use
Stroud School	Main	Private use	No community use
The Mark Way School	Activity	Private use	No community use
Wellow School	Activity	Private use	No community use, but does offer judo sessions for school pupils

Demand for Sports Halls

- k. The total demand for Sports Halls is calculated by adding the participation by each five-year age band/gender of the borough's population with the frequency of participation in each age band/gender and is expressed in visits in the weekly peak period and number of badminton courts. The FPM parameters for the percentage and frequency of participation, for gender and age, are calculated from Sport England's annual Active Lives survey.
- l. Test Valley's resident population of approximately 132,110⁸ generates a demand for sports halls of 9,319 visits per week in the peak period. This is equivalent to 31.7 badminton courts with an 80% comfort factor. This is less than the available supply included in the FPM in 2025 of 56.7 courts (39.7 courts scaled with hours available in peak period).

Accessibility of Test Valley's Sports Halls

- m. The FPM uses a distance decay function where the further a user is from a facility, the less likely they will travel. On average, a 20-minute travel time accounts for approximately 90% of visits to a sports hall. The FPM findings are that 87% of all visits to sports halls by Test Valley residents are by car, 8% on foot and 5% on public transport. This is higher than the regional average of 80% by car and the national average of 74% and reflects the rural nature of the local authority area and high levels of car ownership. 36% of Test Valley residents are within a 20-minute walk of a sports hall. Residents in Andover can access the most sports hall sites within a 20-minute walk because they are served by the Andover Leisure Centre and three school sports halls (Harrow Way, John Hanson and Winton).

Satisfied Demand for Sports Halls

- n. Satisfied demand represents the proportion of total demand for sports halls generated by residents of Test Valley that is met by the available capacity at sports halls within the travel time catchment area (by car, public transport or walking), either in the borough or in a neighbouring local authority area. The FPM analysis in Figure 4.15 shows that there is enough sports hall capacity within a suitable travel time to meet more than nine out of ten desired visits to a sports hall by a Test Valley

⁸ ONS 2018-based population projection for 2025 – note FPM uses earlier sub-national population projection than used elsewhere in the report.

resident (97%). The FPM report evidences that the level of satisfied demand, at 97%, remains above the national and regional averages of 95% and 96% respectively.

Figure 4.15: Percentage of Sports Hall Demand from Test Valley Residents Currently Met by Supply, 2025

% of Total Demand Satisfied	
Test Valley	97%
Basingstoke & Deane	97%
Eastleigh	98%
New Forest	97%
Southampton	98%
West Berkshire	97%
Wiltshire	96%
Winchester	97%
South East Region	96%
England	95%

Retained Demand for Sports Halls

- o. Retained demand is a subset of satisfied demand and shows how much of Test Valley residents' demand for sports halls is retained at sports halls within the local authority area. This assessment is based on the catchment area and appeal of Test Valley's sports halls and Test Valley residents using these facilities. In 2025, over two thirds of visits to a sports hall (68%) by a Test Valley resident were retained within the area. The remaining 32% of visits by Test Valley residents were to sports halls in neighbouring local authorities.
- p. If residents in neighbouring authorities participate at a sports hall in the borough, their usage becomes part of the used capacity of the borough's sports halls, this is known as imported demand. In Test Valley, imported demand accounts for 14% of the used capacity of the borough's sports hall supply. In 2025 Test Valley imported 1,000 sports hall visits in the weekly peak period from residents of neighbouring local authorities and exported 2,865 visits (i.e. Test Valley exported 1,865 more visits than it imported in the weekly peak period).

Unmet Demand for Sports Halls

- q. Unmet demand is important to note as it is demand for sports halls which cannot be met because there is either too much demand for any particular sports hall within its catchment area and there is a lack of capacity; or because demand is located too far away from any sports hall. As shown under Satisfied Demand above, just 3% of sports hall demand is not satisfied (i.e. 'Unmet'). This equates to 1 badminton court. Figure 4.16 shows that the main reason for the small amount of unmet demand that does exist is that some residents – most particularly those without access to a car - live too far away from a sports hall. In a small number of cases (just 2% of the unmet demand) the reason is lack of capacity at existing sports halls in the peak period.

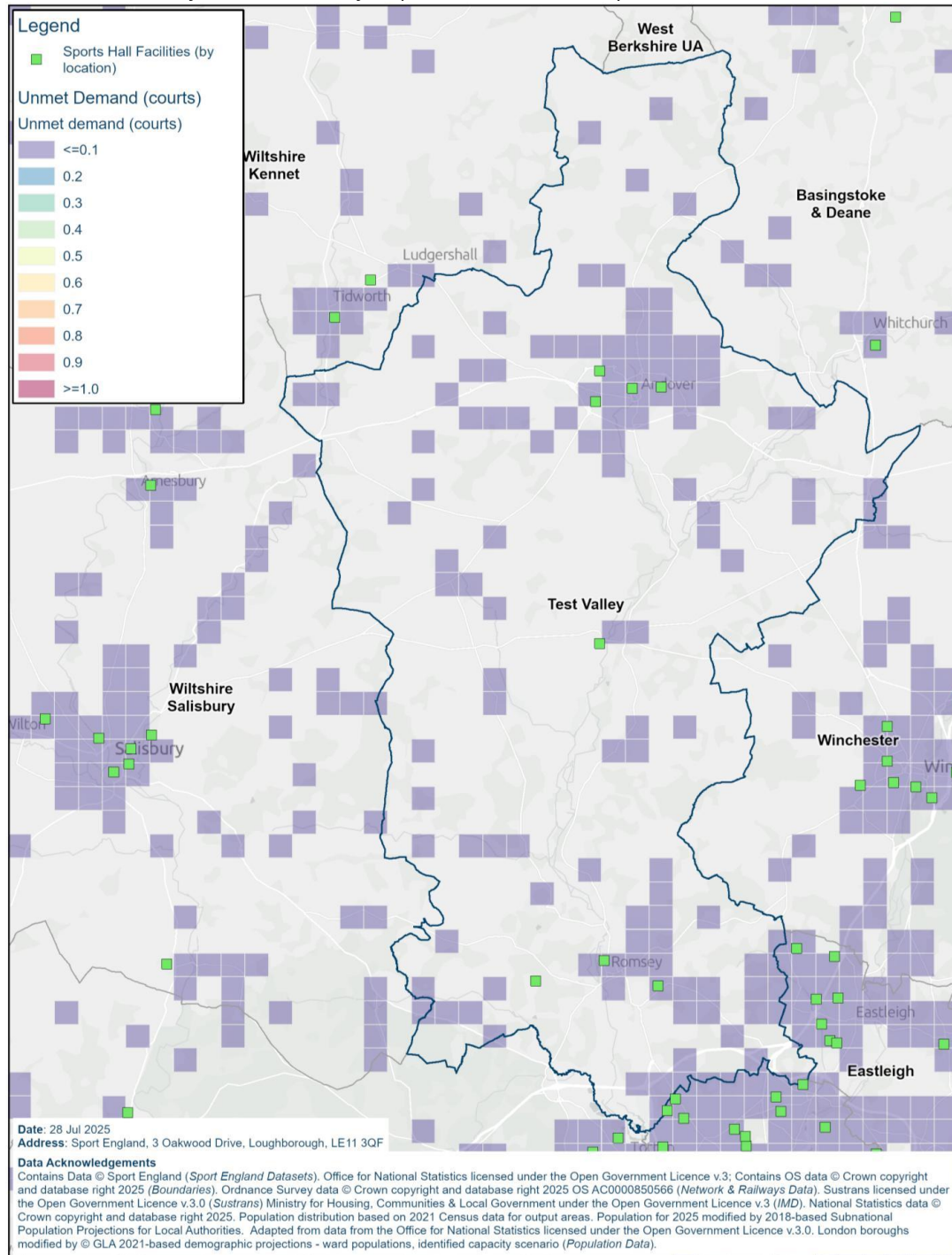
Figure 4.16: Unmet Demand for Sports Halls in Test Valley, 2025

Unmet Demand	2025
Number of visits unmet per week in peak period	269
Unmet demand as a % of total demand	3%
Equivalent in courts with comfort factor	0.9
% of unmet demand due to:	
Facility too far away:	98%
• Without access to a car	87%
• With access to a car	11%
Lack of facility capacity:	2%

Figure 4.17 shows that the unmet demand for sports halls is spread across the local authority at very low levels. Unmet demand is set out in units of badminton courts within one-kilometre colour-

coded grid squares. Unmet demand is in the lowest categories: the indigo squares 0.00–0.1 of a badminton court. These extremely low values are not surprising given that the total unmet demand is only 0.9 badminton courts. The FPM confirms that; at current population levels and distribution there is insufficient reachable unmet demand in any one area to justify the provision of additional sports halls.

Figure 4.17 Distribution of Unmet Demand for Sports Halls in Test Valley



Used Capacity of Sports Halls

- r. This is a measure of usage at sports halls and estimates how well used or how full facilities are. The FPM is designed to include a 'comfort factor', beyond which the venues are too full. When the venues are too full, the time taken to change the sports hall programme and equipment starts to

impinge on the activity time itself and the changing and circulation areas become congested. In the model, Sport England assumes that usage above 80% of capacity is busy and the sports hall is operating at an uncomfortable level.

- s. The model estimates that used capacity of the Test Valley sports halls at 49% in the weekly peak period i.e. well below the comfortable capacity of 80%. It is also noted that the majority of the surrounding local authorities have higher used capacity of their sports hall supply. Exceptions are Winchester (37%) and West Berkshire (47%). The average sports hall used capacity for the south east region is 59% and for England 66%. This suggests that there is a good deal of unused sports hall capacity in the peak period to absorb future growth provided of course there is no reduction in the number of peak hours of community use at any of the sports halls on education sites where, in a number of cases, community access and availability in the peak period is not formally secured by means of a CUA. It should also be noted that consultation with facility providers and sports clubs in the area highlighted that the used capacity of sports halls is higher than estimated by the FPM in the peak period.

Comparative Measure of Provision

- t. A comparative measure of sports hall provision by local authority area is badminton court equivalents per 10,000 population. In 2025, the variation in provision across the region, ranges from 5.3 courts per 10,000 population in West Berkshire down to 3.9 courts per 10,000 population in Basingstoke & Deane. Test Valley has 4.3 courts per 10,000 population just below the regional average of 4.4 courts but above the national average of 4.0 courts. This suggests a need for increased provision particularly with the predicted growth in population.

What next based on the FPM analysis?

- u. The FPM report provides a detailed 'snapshot' of the supply and demand balance for public sports halls in the borough as of 2025. The report findings suggest there is sufficient supply of sports halls provision at the present time but highlights that the majority of this provision is not secured as based at education sites and as such there is a clear need to protect access to this supply through a CUA at education sites, if one does not exist already, and to ensure that once a CUA is in place, that they are monitored to ensure that access is maintained.
- v. Increasing the weekly peak hour availability at the Andover Leisure Centre from 45 to the maximum of 46 would also be beneficial given the lack of unused capacity in the peak at this popular site in the borough's largest population centre.

Future need

- w. Finally, in the context of this strategy and the emerging Local Plan, it is important to consider the projected increase in population in the local authority area in terms of scale and location, and how this will impact on the future demand for sports halls. Sport England's Sports Facility Calculator planning tool has been used to give an indication of the quantum of additional sports hall space likely to be required to accommodate demand from projected population growth. The Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) is a planning tool which helps to estimate the amount of demand for key community sports facilities that may be generated by a given population. It is important to remember that the SFC looks at demand for facilities and does not take into account any existing supply of facilities as it does not include a spatial element.
- x. To meet the demand of 9,528 additional residents (as currently forecast⁹) over the five-year strategy period until 2031 and assuming current levels of demand, the SFC suggests demand will

⁹ Population change based on subnational population projections for England from ONS

be generated for 2.27 'badminton court equivalents' or 0.57 4-court sports halls with 669 visits per week in the peak period (figure 4.18).

- y. Looking further ahead to 2042 to align with the timescales of the emerging Local Plan for the borough, at current levels of sports hall demand within the population, the current estimate of population growth of 20,240 additional residents is calculated by the SFC to require an additional 4.83 badminton courts. This is just less than equivalent to the need for a 6-court sports hall (1.21 equivalent of a 4-court sports hall) to accommodate an additional 1,421 visits per week in the peak period (vpwpp).

Figure 4.18: Demand for Sports Halls from estimated population growth to 2031 and 2042

Sports Halls	2031	2042
Demand adjusted by	0%	0%
Courts	2.27	4.83
4 courts halls	0.57	1.21
vpwpp	669	1,421

- y. Overall, population led demand growth at this scale is likely to require further provision to be planned within the emerging Local Plan period to 2042. To a large degree the need for further provision will be influenced by the distribution of the additional population.
- z. Proposed new housing is spread across the borough, with the majority of the larger scale growth proposed near to existing settlements within and adjoining the borough, including Andover, Ludgershall, Romsey, and Valley Park (as outlined earlier in 2.1c to f). Given that the sports hall at Andover Leisure Centre is currently full to comfortable capacity and is already available for 45 of the 46 maximum hours in the peak period, there is likely to be a need for expanding provision of sports hall capacity in the north area within the emerging Local Plan period unless there is a significant reduction in demand for sports hall sports within the population during the period or new accessible supply is built in a neighbouring local authority. Accordingly, it is recommended that preliminary planning for additional sports hall capacity in the Andover area should be undertaken in the new sports strategy period to test potential scenarios including options to secure increased hours of availability at existing education sports halls as well as options for new provision linked to the planned urban extensions of Andover.
- aa. In the south area of the borough there is no existing public sports hall provision. All the existing accessible supply is on education sites or in neighbouring local authorities. Given the lack of public provision in the south of the borough, the current unavailability of daytime access on weekdays, the lack of security of access at most of the supply on education sites, and the disruption caused by clubs due to bookings cancelled during school exams, it is recommended that planning be carried out to identify and test options and scenarios for new provision in the Romsey area. Options could include provision of a sports hall as part of the wider master plan for replacement of the Romsey Rapids Sports Complex. Opportunities may also be presented in association with large scale housing growth sites planned in the Romsey area.

Sports Hall Sites, Sports and Consultation

- bb. The sports halls across the borough are mainly standard in terms of their quality. The newest site is Andover leisure Centre, the 8 court public sports hall built opened in 2019. Mountbatten School has recently refurbished their one court gymnasium which has a sprung floor and markings for badminton and basketball as well as their changing rooms which each have a toilets and shower cubicles. The remaining sites are of standard quality and appear to have been well maintained. The only facility in need of improvement is the hall at Embley School who stated the floor requires

improvement and re marking. This site is used exclusively for cricket net practice outside of school provision with four lanes available.

- cc. The education sites across the borough mainly use online booking systems with Harrow Way, Mountbatten School, John Hanson, Winton School, The Romsey School all used school hire and Danebury School using bookings plus. Despite the FPM report estimating that there is sufficient unused capacity at sports halls in the area, consultation with facility providers showed that all education sports halls were booked out every evening with only the odd half hour or late hour (9-10pm) slots available in the peak period. A number of sports clubs also highlighted the need for additional sport hall provision during the consultation process.
- dd. Rookwood School in Andover has been excluded from the FPM assessment due to their main sports hall being considered as in private use, the facility however is advertised for community use through the school hire system and appears to be being used, however the school did not engage in consultation. Test Valley Borough Council should try to engage with the school to establish availability for community clubs as this may reduce the future demand for facilities in the Andover area.
- ee. Enham Alamein are investigating opportunities to invest in the development of indoor sports provision, if developed this could also reduce the future demand for facilities in the North of the borough.

Sports and NGB Consultation

Badminton

- ff. Badminton England's area profile (20/21 data) indicates there are 6 affiliated clubs in area. They highlight a projected demand of 1,867 participants in the area. The supply and demand analysis provided by Badminton England indicates an oversupply of 0.7 courts, but when unmet demand is factored in this changes to an undersupply of -0.4 courts, which increases further to -0.7 courts by 2031. They highlight that Test Valley offers a good range of badminton facilities, including modern leisure centres in Andover, Romsey, and Knightwood with high-quality courts, equipment hire, and regular sessions. Council-run sports halls and community venues also support social and club badminton. Overall, the area provides accessible, well-maintained spaces suitable for beginners through to competitive players, however they highlight the current facilities are not sufficient to meet the needs of clubs due to unmet demand.
- gg. Westgate Badminton Centre in Winchester (within reach of Test Valley residents) is a purpose built Performance and Development centre providing elite and performance pathway provision for junior and senior squads. Badminton England's aspiration is to ensure this facility is maintained and along with school satellite provision.

Basketball

- hh. There are no known basketball clubs in the borough affiliated to Basketball England, using the club finder tool, however there are basketball facilities available in the majority of Sports Halls in the area.

Boxing and Martial Arts

- ii. There is one affiliated Boxing Club in Test Valley, Romsey Amateur BC, who have their own facilities and teach boxing skills, techniques and discipline. They offer 3 sessions a week and also have a gym on site that members can use. A number of gyms also provide fitness classes based around boxing such as Box fit or Boxercise.

- jj. British Judo highlighted a demand for Judo in the Test Valley. There are three clubs delivering Judo, The Judo Company at Danebury School, Fleming Park Judo Club at Knightwood Leisure Centre and Scorpion Judo Club at Picket Twenty. The priority for the governing body is to support clubs to have dedicated facilities for the sport where feasible. Fleming Park Judo have expressed a need for additional dedicated space to enable their growth.
- kk. There is Taekwondo provision at Mountbatton School where AO Taekwondo are based and provide classes from 5 years to adults, including family sessions. The club highlighted sessions get cancelled during school exams and they would like to explore a more dedicated facility to improve retention and growth of the club.

Climbing

- ll. There are no clubs registered to the British Mountaineering Council in the borough. The British Mountaineering Council has seen a large demand for bouldering since climbing became an Olympic sport, they highlighted the largest growth area is in non-affiliated youth activity at indoor bouldering walls. Test Valley is well catered for this provision with 3 centres offering indoor climbing activity.
- mm. Andover Leisure Centre has indoor clip and climb provision with 16 themed climbing walls over 20 feet high and is open during weekends and school holidays. Golden Gecko Climbing in Romsey offers top rope and bouldering sessions from beginner to advanced, with a community focus. Parthian Climbing Southampton, which is within Test Valley's boundary, has over 120 top rope and lead routes from beginner to advanced and over 150 boulders across 7 circuits including the official Tokyo 2021 Olympic boulder wall.

Indoor Cricket

- nn. Hampshire Cricket highlight that indoor cricket nets can be difficult to hire at peak times due to demand from other sports. There are indoor practice nets available in a number of sports halls in the borough including Danebury School, Embley School, Harrow Way Community School, John Hanson Community School, Mountbatten School, Rookwood School, Romsey Community School, Winton Community Academy. There is no dedicated site for indoor cricket within a 20-minute drive time catchment of Test Valley.
- oo. The majority of clubs report training on their main sites in practice nets or on the square with portable provision, rather than at indoor halls, with two clubs using facilities outside of the borough in Eastleigh due to availability.

Indoor Hockey

- pp. Trojans HC have two affiliated indoor hockey teams, one men's and one women's. Both teams play in division 2 of their respective leagues with Hampshire qualifying fixtures taking place at King Edward VI School in Southampton. There are no sports halls in Test Valley which are used for competitive indoor hockey. This should be considered in the design for any future sports hall provision.

Table Tennis

- qq. Table Tennis England stated there are approximately 10 affiliated clubs in Test Valley, all of whom are non-asset owning and therefore reliant on renting facilities. They state the current facilities in the area do not meet the needs of clubs, highlighting that clubs' growth is limited by the cost of facilities. Their aspiration is to have a dedicated table tennis facility within the Hampshire area.

- rr. Test Valley Borough Council have worked with the Chantry Centre management team to offer free Table Tennis in the indoor garden during the summer holidays, with Andover Table Tennis providing free coaching on the first day and proved to be a popular community initiative. This is now being trailed in the south of the borough at Ganger Farm Sports Park on a pay and play basis.

Summary

- ss. Whilst the FPM report states there is sufficient sports hall capacity in the area, it acknowledges that the majority of provision is unsecured as it is on education sites and even if this provision could be secured the use of sports halls for school exams and events is disruptive to club programmes. The only public leisure centre in Andover is full and consultation with education sports hall providers showed that they were booked out every evening with very few slots available in the peak period. NGBs highlighted a need for additional sports hall provision or dedicated facilities in the area to meet the needs of clubs and a number of sports clubs also highlighted the need for additional sport hall provision during the consultation process. In light of this evidence and the housing growth forecasted in the borough there is a need for additional public sports hall provision in both the Andover and Romsey area.

Club Consultation

A.O. Tae Kwon Do (Mountbatten School) the club report having 130 members (96 juniors, 34 adults) with 95% of members coming from within Test Valley. They state numbers are growing year on year and have gone from 23 members in 2017 to 130 this year and have plans to grow further. Mountbatten School is their main facility where they run 14 classes over 5 days a week. They also run a recreational session at Wellow School specifically for school pupils. The club highlight that sessions have to be cancelled due to school exams for a period of 6 weeks which is disruptive and they would like to have a dedicated venue with permanent facilities to enable them to improve retention and grow further.

Quality ratings – main facility – 3/5, changing facilities 4/5

Fleming Park Judo Club (Knightwood Leisure Centre) the club report having 80 members (50 juniors, 30 adults) with 40% of members coming from Test Valley, others from Eastleigh (30%), Southampton (20%) and Winchester (10%). The club have plans to grow further and advertise for new members. Their main training site is at Knightwood Leisure Centre, where they run sessions every Saturday, but also offer sessions on a Thursday evening at The Hilt in Eastleigh. They provide their own mats and equipment for both venues. They state a facility need for larger halls to provide them with more space to train and grow and have an ambition to find a facility where they could have a permanent mat area and appropriately ancillary facilities.

Quality ratings – main facility – 3/5, changing facilities 3/5

Badminton club 20/20 (Andover Leisure Centre) have approximately 100 members, all adults from the Test Valley area. They have grown in the last 3 years due to additional court availability and interest, but do not have ambitions to grow further. They use two courts for 2 hours every Monday. They state the courts are in good condition and are swept by staff at the start of each session to ensure a safe playing surface. They did not identify any facility needs.

Quality ratings – main facility – 5/5, changing facilities 4/5

Sports Halls		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
- Protect the quality and availability of Andover Leisure Centre sports hall in partnership with the operator as the sole public sports hall currently available in the borough. - Seek to secure CUAs on education sites and, where possible, extend hours of public availability. - Monitor CUAs once place.	- Work with operator to extend the availability of the sports hall at Andover Leisure Centre to ensure full accessibility for community clubs in peak hour. - Establish availability of Sports Hall for community use at Rookwood School, Andover.	- Commence planning for the provision of additional public sports hall capacity in both the Andover and Romsey areas in association with housing growth plans. - In Romsey, consider options for a public sports hall in master planning future sports facilities to replace the Romsey Rapids Sports Complex. - Consider the identified needs of sports clubs highlighted when planning new hall provision. - Deliver 2 court activity hall in East Anton and explore suitable management opportunities to maximise sports provision.
Prioritised Actions: Short Term - Work with operator to extend the availability of the sports hall at Andover Leisure Centre to ensure full accessibility for community clubs in peak hour. - Establish availability for community use at Rookwood School, Andover. - Deliver 2 court activity hall in East Anton and explore suitable management opportunities to maximise sports provision. - Progress options for sports hall provision as part of the master planning for the future of public sports facilities in Romsey in the context of housing and population growth and the age and configuration of the existing Rapids swimming provision. - Commence planning for the provision of additional public sports hall capacity in both the Andover and Romsey areas in association with housing growth plans. Longer Term - Provide expanded public sports hall provision in Andover following a review of options. - Provide a public sports hall in Romsey.		

4.4 Health and Fitness

- a. There are 12 sites in Test Valley with 20 stations or more that offer health and fitness provision and 15 sites that have studio facilities for exercise classes (information gathered through consultation and review of Sport England Active Places). Schools with gyms for pupil use only are not included, along with those only for private use. The existing provision provides accessible opportunities across the range of access types (pay and play or pay as you go, and membership), and provision (cardio, weights, functional fitness, circuits, exercise to music classes, studio cycling) and options of 24/7 access (PureGym Andover, Snap Fitness Southampton Nursling, Snap Fitness Andover).

Figure 4.20: Health and Fitness Facilities in Test Valley with 20+ stations

Facility Name	Postcode	Approx. Stations	Access Type	Ownership
ANDOVER LEISURE CENTRE	SP10 1QP	160	Registered Membership use, Pay and Play	Local Authority
KNIGHTWOOD LEISURE CENTRE	SO53 4SJ	20	Registered Membership use, Pay and Play	Local Authority
MOUNTBATTEN SCHOOL	SO51 5SY	20	Pay and Play	Education
PROGRESSION FITNESS	SP10 5AZ	24	Pay and Play	Commercial
PUREGYM (ANDOVER)	SP11 8BF	220	Registered Membership use	Commercial
REASONS FITNESS	SP10 3LX	23	Pay and Play	Commercial
ROMSEY RAPIDS SPORTS CENTRE	SO51 8AF	100	Registered Membership use, Pay and Play	Local Authority
SNAP FITNESS (ANDOVER)	SP10 1DS	60	Registered Membership use	Commercial
SNAP FITNESS (SOUTHAMPTON NURSING)	SO16 0YW	200	Registered Membership use	Commercial
THECLUB@CHILWORTH-MANOR	SO16 7PT	29	Registered Membership use	Commercial
THERAPEUTICS	SO50 9HT	26	Registered Membership use	Commercial
WELLOW FITNESS CENTRE	SO51 6BD	25	Registered Membership use	Commercial
	Total	907+		

Figure 4.21: Studio Facilities in Test Valley

Facility Name	Postcode	No of Studios	Access Type	Ownership
PROGRESSION FITNESS	SP10 5AZ	1	Pay and Play	Commercial
LIFT WINTON	SP10 2PS	1	Sports Club / Community Association	Education
THERAPEUTICS	SO50 9HT	1	Registered Membership use	Commercial
WELLOW FITNESS CENTRE	SO51 6BD	1	Registered Membership use	Commercial
ANTON JUNIOR SCHOOL	SP10 2HA	1	Private Use	Education
EMBLEY SCHOOL	SO51 6ZA	1	Sports Club / Community Association	Education
REASONS FITNESS	SP10 3LX	1	Pay and Play	Commercial
CHARLTON SPORTS CENTRE	SP10 3LF	1	Sports Club / Community Association	Local Authority
JOHN HANSON COMMUNITY SCHOOL	SP10 3PB	1	Sports Club / Community Association	Education
ROOKWOOD SCHOOL	SP10 3AL	1	Private Use	Education
ANDOVER LEISURE CENTRE	SP10 1QP	2	Sports Club / Community Association	Local Authority
ROMSEY RAPIDS SPORTS CENTRE	SO51 8AF	3	Registered Membership use	Local Authority
GANGER FARM SPORTS PARK	SO51 0EE	1	Sports Club / Community Association	Local Authority
SNAP FITNESS (ANDOVER)	SP10 1DS	1	Registered Membership use	Commercial
THECLUB@CHILWORTH-MANOR	SO16 7PT	1	Registered Membership use	Commercial
	Total	18		

- b. In light of the revenue contribution made by health and fitness to the financial sustainability of the main public leisure centres and its vital contribution to improving the health and wellbeing of local

residents, it is important to ensure that the health and fitness offer at the local authority sites remains competitive in relation to availability (opening hours), access (affordable membership options) and attractiveness (the quality of the studios, equipment, training and instruction).

- c. With 280 stations across the three public leisure centres, there is a good level of health and fitness provision at council operated sites, all of which provide pay and play options as well as memberships. The equipment is modern and includes cardio equipment, resistance machines, free weights and a function area. The centres all offer personal training and a vast range of group exercise classes.
- d. All the health and fitness facilities listed offer some form of disability access according to Sport England's Active Places database. The gym at Andover Leisure Centre was undergoing significant refurbishment at the time of visit with the gym equipment stored in the sports hall to facilitate an extension of the gym.

Quality of Health and Fitness Facilities

- e. The majority of the facilities that were assessed by the Consultant Team were in a standard or good condition. The Gym at Andover Leisure Centre was undergoing refurbishments at the time of visit, which will increase the gym area to accommodate the significant amount of members and reduce wait times. The gym at Knightwood Leisure Centre, despite being relatively small in comparison to the other leisure centre sites, was in standard condition. The gym at Romsey Rapids Sports Centre is in good condition with modern equipment.

Location of Health and Fitness Facilities in Test Valley

- f. There is a good spread of facilities across the borough with a range of commercial and leisure centre gyms in both the north and south of the area.

Health and Fitness Participation

- g. In terms of health and fitness demand trends, the 2025 annual state of the industry report found that the penetration rate (i.e., the proportion of the adult population in the UK that were members of a gym in either the public or private sector) has increased from 16.0% in 2023 to 16.9% in 2024, noting that engagement in health and fitness increasing across all age groups but particularly in younger adults.
- h. This evidence of the increase in UK health and fitness participation is supported by the findings of the Active Lives Survey for England. 12.7% of adults (16+) in England took part in a gym session at least twice in the previous 28 days in 2023/24 i.e., 5,971,900 people. Whilst this is slightly lower than pre pandemic levels of 13.3% in 2018/19, this has increased 5% since 2020/21, showing good signs of recovery. The number of people taking part in a fitness class was higher, at 14.2% (6,695,500 people), which is an increase from 13.4% in 2022/23.
- i. Places Leisure stated that the health and fitness provision at the public leisure centre sites are at capacity, with a waiting list in place at Andover Leisure Centre, whilst they are expanding the provision through refurbishment there is still a need for additional accessible public provision at a community rate. The forecasted population growth for the area will increase demand on provision and as such the council should plan for additional public provision in Andover and look to expand and enhance the facilities at Romsey Rapids Sports Complex as part of any future refurbishment.

Health and Fitness Recommendations		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
Continue to protect the current quantity and availability of community health and fitness facilities through planning policy.	Ensure Council owned health and fitness facilities and equipment are maintained to a good quality standard whilst offering affordable pricing.	- Plan for the expansion and enhancement of health and fitness facilities as part of the refurbishment of Romsey Rapids Sports Complex. - Consider options for additional public health and fitness provision in the Andover area. - Regularly review health and fitness facility and equipment needs in relation to changes in accessible supply, fitness participation and industry trends and population growth.
Prioritised Actions Short Term - Ensure Council owned health and fitness facilities and equipment are maintained to a good quality standard whilst offering affordable pricing. Longer Term - Plan for the expansion and enhancement of health and fitness facilities as part of the refurbishment of Romsey Rapids Sports Complex. - Consider options for additional public health and fitness provision in the Andover area.		

4.5 Archery and Ultimate Frisbee

- a. There are four archery clubs and one Ultimate Frisbee club based in Test Valley. Andover Archery Club are based at Foxcotte Park and have an outdoor range, and a purpose built accessible indoor range, with toilet facilities and kitchen area. They have adults, juniors and disabled members and run 'have a go' and beginners' courses. They run internal club competitions and enter County competitions.
- b. The Romsey Archers lost access to their previous site in 2023 due to the owner having to sell the land. In May 2024 they secured a new site near Shootash and are starting to regain past members. The range is open 7 days a week and they have access to toilets, coffee and tea making facilities and parking. The club provide beginner and improver sessions and have social shots and run internal league competitions. They do not run teams that compete against other clubs, but some members enter external competitions as individuals.
- c. Tenzon Bowmen use an outdoor range at the Andover Turf Company running 3 sessions a week however they highlight that parking is poor and they have limited toilet facilities and outdoor seating. They currently use indoor facilities in Andover (ground floor of Riverside, formally Wilkinsons) but are actively looking for new indoor facilities and have stated they need a well-lit and heated space 25x15m with storage for targets. The club offer 'have a go' sessions and beginners' courses and provide equipment to assist disabled archers. The club run several leagues and competitions throughout the year both indoor and outdoor.
- d. Southampton Archery Club is based at Hardmoor Sports Ground, which while owned by Eastleigh Borough Council is within the Test Valley boundary and is leased to Trojans Sports Club. The club is one of the largest in the country and has an outdoor range consisting of two fields with floodlighting and dedicated indoor facilities, built in 2019, containing three full size targets and is 25m long. The outdoor space is shared with cricket, football and rugby but one field is always left free for archery. The club offer taster sessions and beginner's courses as well as internal leagues and competitions many club members take part in local and national tournaments and leagues.
- e. Braishfield Ultimate (Frisbee) is based at Braishfield Recreation Ground in the summer and train on a Sunday for 2 hours from 5pm. In the winter they use a pitch with sports lighting, and have previously used Embley School, but stated in their survey this may change. They only had 5-6 people turning up 2 years ago but now regularly get 20 plus people attending training. The club attracts players from the surrounding areas, as the closest other affiliated teams are based in the South in Eastleigh and Southampton, according to UK Ultimate clubs' map.

Quality of Provision

- f. The four archery clubs all have access to outdoor ranges that provide suitable provision, however there is a need for improved ancillary facilities and access to indoor ranges for Romsey Archers and Tenzon Bowmen. Andover Archery Club and Southampton Archery Club have good ancillary facilities with purpose built indoor ranges. Braishfield Ultimate highlighted a need for improved pitch maintenance and line markings for their sport.

Location of Facilities in Test Valley

- g. The locations of outdoor ranges and archery clubs are well located across the borough, covering the main population centres.

Participation

- h. The most recent Active Lives Survey findings indicate a steady demand for adult participation archery nationally, over the last three years at a percentage of 0.1% of the population which is

equivalent to 25,400 regular adult participants.

Club Consultation

The Romsey Archers (Outdoor range near Shootash)- The club has approximately 41 members (2 juniors, 39 adults) with 90% coming from Test Valley and the rest from Southampton. The club has declined in membership over the last 3 years but have plans to grow numbers again by running beginner courses. The club highlighted a need for additional archery butts and at least shelter but ideally a club house on site. They would also like access to facilities for indoor shooting in the winter.

Quality ratings – main facilities – 4/5.

Tenzon Bowmen (Outdoor range Andover Turf Company)- The club has approximately 65 members (11 juniors, 54 adults) with 70% coming from Test Valley and the rest from Wiltshire. The club has two disabled members and have plans to grow this number. The club has sustained the current membership numbers over the last 3 years but have plans to grow numbers through active recruitment at county shows and local events. The club highlighted a need for improved toilet facilities at their current site as well as the need for an indoor facility.

Quality ratings – main facilities – 3/5 ancillary facilities 2/5.

Braishfield Ultimate (Braishfield Rec)- The club has approximately 30 members (10 juniors, 20 adults) with 70% coming from Test Valley and the rest from Winchester, Eastleigh, Portsmouth and beyond. The club has grown over the last 3 years through local outreach, brand establishment and development and have plans to grow further. The club highlighted a need for improved pitch maintenance and pitch markings for ultimate frisbee.

Quality ratings – main facilities – 3/5.

Archery and Ultimate Frisbee Recommendations

Protect	Enhance	Provide
Protect and maintain current facilities to support the growth of clubs.	- Investigate the feasibility of improving current ancillary facilities for archery at Andover Turf Company and developing basic ancillary facilities at sites with none at present. - Consider options to provide suitable line markings for Ultimate Frisbee.	- Investigate the feasibility and suitable locations to provide an indoor range in the borough which could serve both Romsey Archers and Tenzon Bowmen. - Regularly review archery facility needs with Archery GB in relation to changes in participation trends and population growth.

Prioritised Actions

Short Term

- Consider options to provide suitable line markings for Ultimate Frisbee.

Longer Term

- Investigate the feasibility of improving current ancillary facilities for archery at Andover Turf Company by improving the toilets, parking, and outdoor seating.
- Investigate the feasibility and suitable locations to provide an indoor archery range in the borough which could serve both Romsey Archers and Tenzon Bowmen.

4.6 Athletics and Running Provision

- i. There is one standard outdoor 400m athletics track located in Test Valley at Charlton Sports Centre, which is home to Andover Athletics Club.
- j. Andover AC are the only dedicated athletics club in the borough and has approximately 150 members across their junior and senior sections. The club welcomes new members of all ages and abilities and provides coaching geared towards competition in track and field. They compete in a variety of leagues at youth, senior and masters level, as well as county, regional and national championships. The coaches at the club all work on a volunteer basis and additional coaches are needed to help support future growth of the club.
- k. Romsey Road Runners, primarily based at Romsey Sports Centre, are a running club, providing training, racing, and social event programs. Their training nights offer a mix of intervals, hills, long distance runs, recover runs, and tempo sessions on Mondays and Thursdays. The club take part in CC6 Cross Country League, RR10 League, Hampshire Road Race League, and Hampshire Cross Country League.
- l. Chandler's Ford Swifts Running Club, based at Knightwood Leisure Centre, provide a variety of weekly guided sessions that support progression and development of participants' running ability. The club offer sessions on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays which range from speed and strength sessions, social runs, and long distance runs. Social membership is free, providing access to all social run events and guided training sessions, alternatively a paid £30 per year membership is available which provides access to additional sessions, discounted race entry, and ability to participate in the RR10 League.

Quality of Athletics Provision

- m. In consultation, Andover AC rated the running track as good quality, however noted that the use of the infield for football and damage by wildlife reduces the quality of the facility. They also highlighted that the clubhouse roof is leaking despite recent repairs and that the ancillary facilities such as gym, toilets, and catering facilities are basic.

Location of Athletics Facilities in Test Valley

- n. The track at Charlton Sports Centre is located to the north of the borough, serving this half of the borough well. Romsey Road Runners and Chandler's Ford Swifts RC are located in the south of the borough, meaning that there are opportunities to join clubs across the whole of Test Valley, however the only dedicated athletics facility is located in the north. The facilities in the neighbouring authorities outlined below are all located within a 20-minute catchment area of Test Valley and are likely to be used to support club activities in the south of the borough.

Athletics Facilities in Neighbouring Authorities

- o. There are three synthetic 400m facilities in neighbouring areas which according to Sport England's Access Analysis report are within a 20-minute drive time of Test Valley residents, these include;
 - Southampton Outdoor Sports Centre (Southampton) to the south.
 - The Trafalgar School at Downton (Wiltshire) to the west.
 - Winchester Sports Stadium (Winchester) to the east.

Participation in Athletics and Running

- p. The most recent Active Lives Survey findings indicate a steady increase in adult demand for running, or athletics multi sports, nationally, over the last three years. Since 2021/22, there has been an increase in regular adult participation (16+ years old) of 1.1%, reaching 14.1% in 2023/24.

14.1% adult participation is equivalent to 6,624,500 regular adult participants. The current participation figure for athletics and running is now greater than gym-based health and fitness membership.

Parkrun

- q. There are 2 park run events in Test Valley, one at Charlton Sports Centre, Andover, and one at Ganger Farm Sports Park, Romsey which take place at 9am every Saturday. The Andover Park Run event is more established, taking place over 700 times, with nearly 18,000 finishers. The Ganger Farm Park Run started in 2022 and has been steadily growing in participants, averaging approximately 250 participants every week. During consultation, the event organiser for Ganger Farm Park Run identified that should the event grow to average 300 participants, there may be issues with the width of paths and proximity to football and rugby pitches at Ganger Farm Sports Park. There may also be issues with safeguarding should the pitches start being hired out during the course of the event.

Walking

- r. The NHS provides evidence of countless health benefits to walking, centred around heart health, general fitness levels and burning excess calories. Beyond medical benefits the NHS recommend walking as one of the cheapest and easiest ways to become healthier. Whilst physical and mental health is key to the promotion of walking, the environmental benefits are vast in terms of reduced transport by other means and therefore cleaner air and reduced pollution.
- s. TVBC offer Health Walks, which are a series of 1 hour long walks for all fitness levels. These walks are free to access and are led by trained volunteers who motivate and encourage all participants. There are routes set out across North Baddesley, Valley Park, Andover, Romsey, Stockbridge, and Wellow.

Club Consultation

Andover Athletics Club (Charlton Sports Centre)- The athletics club outlined they had approximately 150 members with 75% coming from Test Valley and the rest from neighbouring authorities such as Winchester and Basingstoke. The club has declined in membership over the last 3 years, losing approximately 60-75 members in this time. They are looking to recover this membership and attract new participants however this relies on the recruitment of additional coaches. The club highlighted a need for the track ancillary facilities to be upgraded.

Quality ratings – main facilities – 4/5, ancillary facilities 3/5.

Ganger Farm Park Run (Ganger Farm Sports Park) – The event organisers report having approximately 250 participants every week having grown from 215 per week when the event started in 2022. They are anticipating continued growth, in line with other Park Run events in the area. They have however identified that growth could be self-limiting at approximately 300 participants due to the course layout.

Athletics and Running Recommendations		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
Ensure the lighting, waymarking and other signage along key footpaths and parks used for jogging and walking for health, are maintained to a sufficient standard.	- Achieve and maintain UKA TrackMark accreditation at Charlton Sports Centre. - Upgrade and refurbish the ancillary facilities at the track at Charlton Sports Centre.	- Explore options to develop ActiveTracks in parks and open spaces as part of future housing developments - Regularly review athletics and running facility needs with England Athletics, and leisure providers in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.
Prioritised Actions Short Term - Achieve and maintain a UKA TrackMark accreditation at Charlton Sports Centre Longer Term - Upgrade and refurbish the ancillary facilities at the track at Charlton Sports Centre		

4.7 Bowls, Croquet and Pétanque provision

- a. There are 3 outdoor bowls clubs in the Test Valley, plus 1 club offering indoor and outdoor bowls and 1 indoor (short mat) bowls club.

Figure 4.22 Bowls Sites in Test Valley

Site	Club	Postcode	No Rinks
Banister Park Bowling Club	Banister Park BC	SO50 9HT	20 (8 indoor)
Sherfield English Sports Field	Sherfield English BC	SO51 6JR	6
Shipton Bellinger Village Centre	Bellinger BC	SP9 7TL	3 (indoor short mat)
Vigo Road Recreation Ground	Andover BC	SP10 1HH	6
War Memorial Park	Romsey BC	SO51 8HY	7

- b. Sherfield English BC and Bannister Park BC own the freeholds of their sites (Sherfield English Sports Field and Banister Park Bowling Club, respectively). Andover BC and Romsey BC both lease their grounds from TVBC. Andover BC have 10 years remaining on their lease at Vigo Road Recreation Ground and Romsey BC have 25 years remaining at War Memorial Park. Shipton Bellinger Village Centre is run in trust on behalf of Hampshire County Council by a Management Committee.

Indoor Bowls

- c. There are 2 sites which offer indoor bowls in Test Valley, Banister Park BC and Shipton Bellinger Village Centre, offering a total of 8 indoor rinks and 3 short mats. There are additional indoor bowling facilities in neighbouring authorities that are within a 20-minute driving catchment according to Sport England's access analysis report.
- Atherley Bowling Club (Southampton) to the south
 - Five Rivers Indoor Bowls Club (Wiltshire) to the west
 - Longmeadow Sports Centre (Basingstoke and Deane) to the east
 - Riverside Indoor Bowling Club (Winchester)

Croquet

- d. There is one croquet club (Test Valley Croquet Club) in the borough based at Hunt's Farm, where they have two lawns. The club hire the facility on a weekly basis from Test Valley Borough Council and is maintained by a groundsman. The club are a social club, offering mixed sessions 3 times per week. Sherfield English BC also offer croquet sessions.

Pétanque

- e. There is a purpose built pétanque piste at Hatches Farm Sports Ground in Wellow.

Quality of Provision in Test Valley

- f. Clubs maintain all outdoor bowls greens in the borough either because they own the facilities or due to maintenance responsibilities outlined in lease agreements. All greens were rated as standard or good quality, with no significant issues or areas for improvement identified at the sites. Andover BC highlighted that the edges of the green will need investment soon as they are showing signs of wear and tear.
- g. The quality of ancillary facilities was more mixed, with Andover BC rating their ancillary facilities as poor quality. The club state that the clubhouse is over 100 years old and needs updating to allow accessible access. Test Valley Borough Council is investing in a new clubhouse for the bowls club linked to the wider regeneration of Vigo Road Recreation Ground, which will also enable indoor short mat bowls to be played in the winter. This project will be delivered during this strategy period and make bowls an integral part of the town's park. Sherfield English Bowls Club have ambitions to replace the roof of their clubhouse and address issues with the clubhouse floor.

Location of Facilities in Test Valley

- h. There is a good spread of bowls clubs across the borough with 2 facilities located in the north of the borough and 3 in the south.

Participation in Bowls

- i. The most recent Active Lives Survey findings indicate stable adult demand for bowls nationally over the last 3 years. Each year since 2021, 0.6% of adults (16+) in England participated in bowls at least twice in the last 28 days, in 2023/24 this equates to a total of 270,800 people. Croquet participation has fallen in the last few years in 2023/24 13,200 people were recorded as participating in croquet at least twice in the last 28 days, compared to 17,600 in 2022/23 and 16,200 in 2021/22.

Club Consultation

Andover Bowling Club (Vigo Road Recreation Ground) The club reported having 170 members of which 150 are active playing members, an increase of 50% compared to 3 years ago. The club have plans to grow further over the next 3 years by improving the clubhouse to attract events and competitions to the site. The club also have several trained coaches who help and encourage new members. The proposed new clubhouse will have space for short mat bowling to ensure members have facilities to use throughout the whole year. They also highlighted that minor works are required on the edges of the green due to wear and tear of the ditches.

Quality ratings- Playing surface- 5/5 Ancillary facilities- 2/5

Banister Park BC (Banister Park BC). The club reported approximately 370 members (350 adults and 20 juniors), making it the largest club in the borough. The club state that membership has stayed about the same over the last 3 years, but have plans to grow in the next 3 years by delivering more open days and inviting local community groups such as scouts to play bowls at the club.

Quality ratings- Playing surface- 5/5 Ancillary facilities- 4/5

Sherfield English Bowls Club (Sherfield English Sports Field). The club reported having approximately 52 members (48 adult and 4 youth), with 50% coming from Test Valley. They run several sessions each week as well as croquet sessions. The club state they are looking to grow through advertising and word of mouth. The club identified a need to replace the roof and address flooring issues in their pavilion.

Quality ratings- Playing surface- 3/5 Ancillary facilities- 4/5

Test Valley Croquet Club (Hunts Farm). The club reported 100 members, of which 50% come from Test Valley. The club has maintained a similar level of membership over the last 3 years and has no plans to grow in the future. The lawns were in poor condition at the point of consultation due to a lack of rain over the summer and the club state that a nearby water source would significantly help the maintenance of the facilities.

Quality ratings- Playing surface- 3/5 Ancillary facilities- 3/5

Bowls Recommendations		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
Test Valley Borough Council to continue to protect the current community facilities for bowls through planning policy.	- Improve the banks around the green at Vigo Road Recreation Ground. - Support clubs to link with schools and youth groups such as Scouts and recruit new members through promotion of open days. - Support Sherfield English BC to refurbish and improve their ancillary facilities. - Work with Test Valley Croquet Club to review the specification and maintenance of the lawns	- Provide new clubhouse facilities for Andover BC as part of the Vigo Road Recreation Ground regeneration. - Regularly review bowls facility needs in the area in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.
Prioritised Actions Short Term - Improve the banks around the green at Vigo Road Recreation Ground. - Work with Test Valley Croquet Club to review the specification and maintenance of the lawns. - Support clubs to link with schools and youth groups such as Scouts and recruit new members through promotion of open days. Longer term - Provide new clubhouse facilities for Andover BC as part of the Vigo Road Recreation Ground regeneration. - Support Sherfield English BC to refurbish and improve their ancillary facilities.		

4.8 Cycling, BMX and Skate Park Provision

- a. There are two BMX and five skate parks in the borough as outlined in figure 4.23 below.

Figure 4.23 Cycling, BMX and Skate Park sites in Test Valley

Site	Postcode	Type of Provision
Abbotts Ann Skatepark	SP11 7BN	• Skatepark
Andover Skatepark	SP10 3LF	• Skatepark
Andover BMX Track	SP10 3LF	• BMX Track
Knightwood Skate Park	SO53 4SJ	• Skatepark
Knightwood BMX Track	SO53 4SJ	• BMX Track • Mini BMX Track
North Baddesley Skate Park	SO52 9ED	• Skatepark
Romsey Skatepark	SO51 8AF	• Skatepark

- b. Andover BMX track is one of the 2 regional standard BMX tracks in the area and home to Andover BMX club. Originally developed in 1996, the track has undergone continual improvements and changes over the last 30 years, most recently a new starting hill, gates, and floodlights. The site hosts frequent club level events and races. Andover BMX club state they have outgrown the facility and are in active discussions with British Cycling and TVBC to develop a national standard facility.
- c. Located in the grounds of Knightwood Leisure Centre, Knightwood BMX track is the second regional standard BMX track in Test Valley and home to Knightwood BMX club. The track is professional-grade however is also suitable for beginners, who can hire equipment at the site. There is also a mini BMX track for young children.
- d. An annual Cyclocross event part of the Wessex League is held in Andover in January. The Andover Supercross, held at Charlton Sports Centre, is a blend of road, flat grass, steep banks, tracks, sand and BMX track and includes categories for U8, U10, U12, U14, U16, Senior, Women, Veterans 40-49 and Veteran 50+.
- e. There are two National Cycling Network (NCN) off road cycling routes going through the borough. Route 24, which runs from Bath to Eastleigh and route 246 which link Timsbury with Kintbury, via Andover. There are also a range of local cycle routes including Vernham Dean, Danebury, Test Way, Whitchurch, and King Alfreds Way.

Quality of Cycling, BMX and Skate Park Facilities in Test Valley

- f. The quality of BMX tracks in Test Valley is generally standard quality with opportunities to improve both facilities to better meet the needs of user clubs. The skate parks in Test Valley are also standard quality.

Location of Cycling, BMX and Skate Park Facilities in Test Valley

- g. The provision of skate park facilities is spread across the main population centres in Test Valley, with facilities concentrated around Andover, Romsey and Valley Park.

Cycling Provision in Neighbouring Local Authorities

- h. Sport England's access analysis report indicates that there are 5 facilities within a 20-minute driving catchment of Test Valley which is likely to be used by residents of the borough. This are:
- Southampton Outdoor Sports Centre (Southampton) – South
 - Shirley Ponds Recreation Ground (Southampton) – South
 - Bartley Park (New Forest) – West
 - Freespace BMX Track (Eastleigh) – South
 - Tidworth Freeride Bike Park (Wiltshire) – West

Road Cycling

- i. Braishfield Cycling Club are the only road cycling club in the borough according to British Cycling's 'Find a Club' system. The club offer 2 scheduled rides per week all year round with a range of road and mountain biking opportunities.

Participation in Cycling

- j. The most recent Active Lives Survey findings indicate a slight decline in adult demand for cycling for leisure and sport nationally over the last 4 years. There was a significant increase likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019-20 where 16% of adults (16+) in England participated in cycling at least twice in the last 28 days, this has since dropped to 12.3% in 2023/24 i.e., 5,802,600 people.
- k. TVBC is encouraging the development of cycling facilities as part of new housing developments to encourage and enable people to learn to ride in safe spaces, with wide, lit paths as well as introducing more pump tracks, downhill cycling tracks and supporting the annual Cyclocross event to encourage both cycling for sport as well as for travel.

Cycling for community and active travel purposes

- l. Cycling forms part of the active travel offer in Test Valley which includes walking to school, cycling to work or other everyday journeys, which can offer a convenient, accessible, and affordable way to move more. Helping residents get moving through walking and cycling can make a powerful, lasting difference to their physical and mental health and well-being.

Cycling		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
- Test Valley Borough Council should continue to protect the existing BMX and skate park facilities through planning policy. - Test Valley Borough Council and other relevant organisations should ensure that existing cycle paths, cycle routes, lighting, waymarking and other signage are maintained to a good standard.	- Maintain, refurbish and update the skate parks in the area when needed. - Working with Hampshire County Council to identify interventions to improve cycling infrastructure across the borough as part of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans for Northern and Southern Test Valley. - Work with schools to link to national cycling networks and promote opportunities for active travel.	- Regularly review cycling facility needs with British Cycling and local clubs in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth. - Explore options to develop a clubhouse at Knightwood BMX track to separate ancillary facilities from Knightwood Leisure Centre. - Support Andover BMX club in developing a national standard BMX track
Prioritised Actions Longer Term - Explore options to develop a clubhouse at Knightwood BMX track to separate ancillary facilities from Knightwood Leisure Centre - Support Andover BMX club in developing a national standard BMX track		

4.9 Golf Facilities

- a. There are 6 standard length (18-hole) golf courses in Test Valley as detailed in figure 4.24 below as well as 2 adventure golf courses. 4 sites offer dedicated 9-hole par 3 courses and 1 pitch and putt course.

Figure 4.24 Golf courses in Test Valley

Site	Postcode	Course	Other facilities
Ampfield Golf and Country Club*	SO51 9BQ	1x 18 hole par 3 course	
Andover Golf Club*	SP10 2EF	1x 18 hole course	
Charlton Lakeside	SP10 4AY	1x 18 hole adventure golf 1x 9 hole pitch and putt	
Chilworth Golf Centre*	SO16 7JP	1x 18 hole course	Driving range Short game area
Hampshire Golf Club*	SP11 7TB	1x 18 hole course 1 x 9 hole par 3 course	Driving range Putting green
Leckford Estate Golf Club* (also home to Ordnance Survey Golf Club)	SO20 6JF	2x 9 hole courses	
Monxton and Grateley Golf Centre	SP11 8JG	1x 9 hole par 3	Driving range
Romsey Golf Club*	SO16 0XW	1x 18 hole course	
Romsey Rapids	SO51 8AF	1x 18 hole adventure golf	
Stoneham Golf Club*	SO16 3TT	1x 18 hole course	Driving range
Wellow Golf Club*	SO51 6BD	3x 9 hole courses	Driving range with short game area and putting green

* England Golf affiliated facility

- b. There are 9 affiliated England golf clubs playing from 8 affiliated facilities, with Ordnance Survey Golf club playing out of Leckford Golf Club.
- c. The adventure golf course at Charlton Lakeside is on Council land and managed by Places Leisure as part of Charlton Sports Centre. The course is booked and accessed through Charlton Lakeside Café. There is also an adventure golf course at Romsey Rapids managed by Places Leisure.
- d. The nine hole pitch and putt at Charlton Lakeside, located adjacent to Charlton Sports Centre, costs £5 for adults and does not require pre-booking. There are also four sites with 9 hole par 3 courses across the borough, 3 of which are dedicated sites (Monxton and Grateley Golf Centre, Leckford Estate Golf Club and Wellow Golf Club) and 1 is located at a standard golf course (Hampshire Golf Club). England Golf highlight that this type of provision is most commonly used by beginners or casual players, offering a great entry point to the game and help in the transition from using driving ranges to playing golf on a standard course.
- e. There are 5 driving ranges, of which 4 are affiliated to England Golf. These provide the ideal location for those looking to start in the sport and with the option of now accessing technology it can make the experience more fun appealing to a new audience of future golfers.

Quality of Golf Provision

- f. The 'Golfshake' website provides online customer reviews; figure 4.25 shows quality ratings for formal golf courses in Test Valley. The overall review scores are averaged from individual scores for factors including quality of course, facilities and services, course condition, pace of play, food and drink, practice facilities and value for money. The review ratings show that the golf venues in Test Valley have a high percentage of players (who submitted reviews) that would play them again or recommend the venue to others.

Figure 4.25: Online Ratings of Test Valley Golf Courses and Comparators¹⁰

Club	Overall Rating out of 5	% Would Play Again or Recommend	Sample No
Ampfield Golf and Country Club	3.89	100%	58
Andover Golf Club	3.87	100%	42
Chilworth Golf Club	3.51	98%	307
Hampshire Golf Club	3.19	93%	412
Leckford Estate Golf Club	4.38	100%	55
Monxton & Grateley Golf Centre	3.81	100%	34
Romsey Golf Club	3.84	97%	111
Stoneham Golf Club	4.66	98%	57
Wellow Golf Club	4.15	99%	140

Location of Golf Facilities in Test Valley

- g. The provision of golf facilities is distributed across the borough with clubs located within a reasonable driving catchment of the 2 major towns, Andover (north) and Romsey (south). Hampshire Golf Club, Charlton Lakeside, and Monxton and Grateley Golf Centre are located in the north of the borough, providing a range of 9-hole par 3 / pitch and putt facilities. The only par 3 course located in the south is Ampfield Golf and Country Club, which has 18 holes. The spread of facilities across all sites provides a range of provision, including practice facilities, provision for beginners and juniors as well as family activities such as adventure golf.
- h. England Golf state there is a good amount of provision in the authority, with good variety within the mix of facilities given its size.

Golf Facilities in Neighbouring Local Authorities

- i. Sport England's access analysis report shows there are three golf facilities that are accessible to some Test Valley residents within a 20 minute journey time
- Hamptworth Golf and Country Club 18 holes standard course (Wiltshire) – West.
 - Southampton Municipal Golf Course 18 holes standard course and 9 hole standard course (Southampton) – South.
 - Tidworth Garrison Golf Club 18 holes standard course (Wiltshire) – West.

Golf Participation

- j. In terms of demand, the most recent Active Lives Survey findings, as of November 2023, indicate a slight decrease in adult demand with participation at 2.2% (1,022,300) of adults (16+) in England participating in golf at least twice in the last 28 days, following a high of 2.3% the previous year.
- k. England Golf average membership figures in affiliated golf clubs in Test Valley for 2025 are 430 which has decreased in the last few years since a high just after the COVID-19 pandemic (2022 – 503, 2023 – 478, 2024 - 458), however this is still above the national average of 407.

¹⁰ Source: [www.Golfshake.com](https://www.golfshake.com) (December 2025)

Golf Recommendations		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
Test Valley Borough Council to continue to protect through planning policies the availability of all golf facilities- both traditional courses and entry-level, any proposals for development on golf course sites would require an objective and comprehensive golf needs assessment to be prepared.		Regularly review facility needs for golf in the area in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.
Prioritised Actions Protect and retain all current facilities working with clubs to diversify membership.		

4.10 Gymnastics and Trampolining Provision

- a. There are 3 gymnastics/trampolining clubs/ providers in Test Valley, across 3 different venues. All 3 clubs have dedicated venues which are leased from TVBC. Andover GC have a 99-year lease on their facility, Starlight have 3 years remaining on their lease, and Red Hot GC have 10 years remaining.

Figure 4.26: Facilities in Test Valley used by Gymnastics clubs

Site Name	Postcode	Facility Type
ANDOVER GYMNASTICS CLUB	SP10 4AJ	Dedicated Facility
STARLIGHT TRAMPOLINE AND GYMNASTICS CLUB	SO51 0HR	Dedicated Facility
RED HOT GYMNASTICS CLUB	SP10 5AP	Dedicated Facility

- b. Andover Gymnastics Club have approximately 600 members and are largely focused on competitive gymnastics, with 50 elite gymnasts primarily focused on tumbling. The club represents 30% of the GB tumbling team and are frequent domestic champions. As well as their elite programmes, the club offers range of classes, including pre-school classes, recreational classes, and trampoline classes, all of which are led by qualified coaches.
- c. Starlight Trampoline and Gymnastics Club are the only club based in the south of the borough, in Romsey. They have approximately 650 members of which over 600 are youth members. The club offers a range of classes including pre-school gymnastics, recreational gymnastics, home education gymnastics, and adult gymnastics. There is also a competitive element of the club, with predevelopment, development, regional, and national squads.
- d. Red Hot Gymnastics, based in Andover, have approximately 100 members all of which are juniors. The club primarily focus on classes and recreational opportunities, however, also provide squads up to age 14 which compete locally and nationally.

Quality of Gymnastics and Trampolining Facilities

- e. During the development of this strategy, the Consultant Team undertook non-technical visual site visits at two of the three facilities in the area currently used for gymnastics and trampolining. Each facility was given a quality rating of poor, standard or good. The ratings can be seen below in figure 4.27. It should be noted that the Consultant Team were not able to visit Red Hot Gymnastics Club.

Figure 4.27: Quality of Gymnastic Facilities

Gymnastic Facilities	Quality Rating
ANDOVER GYMNASTICS CLUB	Standard
STARLIGHT TRAMPOLINE AND GYMNASTICS CLUB	Standard
RED HOT GYMNASTICS CLUB	Not Seen

Location of Gymnastics and Trampolining Facilities in Test Valley

- f. The provision of gymnastics facilities is well spread across the Borough, with 2 sites located in Andover, providing access to residents in the north of the borough, and Starlight Gymnastics in Romsey accessible for residents in the south.

Gymnastics and Trampolining Facilities in Neighbouring Authorities

- g. There are several gymnastics clubs in the neighbouring boroughs, the nearest clubs with dedicated facilities are:
- Treasure Gymnastics (dedicated facility) – Winchester – East and Eastleigh – South
 - Southampton Gymnastics Club (dedicated facility) – Southampton – South
 - Superstar Sports Gymnastics Club (dedicated facility) – Southampton – South
 - The Vault Gymnastics & Fitness Centre (dedicated facility) – Wiltshire – West

Gymnastics Participation

- h. The most recent Active Lives Survey findings indicated a stagnant adult participation rate for gymnastics and trampolining over the last 3 years (2021-2024) with the last 3 years reporting an adult (16+) participation rate of 0.4%, 0.5%, and 0.4% respectively. With 0.4% of the national 16+ population regularly participating in gymnastics, this is approximately equivalent to 204,000 participants nationally in 2023/24. However, it should be noted that adult data is of limited value in estimating overall demand for the sport of gymnastics as most participation is by children under 16, who are excluded from this data source.
- i. The Active Lives Children and young people data shows 27.6% of young people (2,049,900) participated in Gymnastics, trampolining or cheerleading in the last 7 days during the academic year of 23-24, this is slightly lower than previous years of 28.8% in 22-23 and 28.7% in 21-22.
- j. British Gymnastics state the main issue for gymnastic development is having access to sufficient dedicated space for clubs to grow and extend their programmes. The NGB states that all clubs report steady membership levels and have a waiting list with clubs in the area highlighting a need for additional facilities.

Club Consultation

Starlight Trampoline and Gymnastics Club – The club have approximately 650 members and run recreational activity programmes and competitive squads. They have grown over the last few years and have ambitions to grow further. The club only have 3 years remaining on their lease but have ambitions to move to a bigger site to help them grow and meet the needs of their members as the current venue doesn't have a high enough room and isn't long enough to meet specifications for certain disciplines. There are also no changing rooms and limited viewing areas at their current site.

Quality ratings – main facilities – 2/5, ancillary facilities 1/5

Red Hot Gymnastics Club – The club have approximately 100 junior members and provide mostly recreational classes, however, also offer competitive squads up to age 14. The club have grown over the last 3 years partially due to relocating to a larger facility within the last year. The club have a development plan in place to continue growing by adding additional classes and sessions. The club have 10 years remaining on the lease of their new site.

Gymnastics and Trampolining Recommendations

Protect	Enhance	Provide
Continue to protect the current quantity and availability of community facilities for gymnastics and trampolining through planning policy and this strategy.	Work with British Gymnastics and the local clubs to support the ongoing refurbishment needs of their facilities in order to maintain the current level of provision.	- Work with Starlight Gymnastics to assess options to relocate at the end of their current lease to a site that better meets the needs of the club. - Regularly review gymnastics and trampolining facility needs with British Gymnastics, and the clubs based in the study area in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.
Prioritised Actions Short Term Work with Starlight Gymnastics to assess options to relocate at the end of their current lease to a site that better meets the needs of the club.		

4.11 Netball Provision

- a. Test Valley has a total of 39 courts across 12 different sites. There are 27 outdoor courts, all of which are located at education sites apart from Knightwood Leisure Centre, and 12 indoor courts of which 10 are located at education sites in the study area.

Figure 4.28 Netball Sites in Test Valley

Site	No Courts	Indoor	Outdoor	Lighting
Andover Leisure Centre	2	2	0	0
Danebury School	4	1	3	0
Embley School	7	1	6	6
Harrow Way Community School	5	1	4	0
John Hanson Community School	5	1	4	4
Knightwood Leisure Centre	2	0	2	2
Mountbatten School	5	1	4	4
Romsey School	1	1	0	0
Rockwood School	1	1	0	0
St George Catholic College	1	1	0	0
Danebury School (previously known as Test Valley School)	1	1	0	0
Winton School	5	1	4	0
Total	39	12	27	16

- b. There are 15 clubs in Test Valley, 6 of which responded to the club survey (Dreams Netball Club, ACES Hearts, Danebury Netball Club, Gemini, Stars, and Vixens). Two league representatives also responded to the survey (Andover District Netball Association and Momentum Netball). Andover District Netball Association (ADNA) deliver to approximately 350 participants with 76% coming from Test Valley. Momentum Netball is a commercial social league not affiliated to England Netball they have over 200 participants within their leagues, 95% of which come from Test Valley.
- c. Test Valley clubs that responded to the club survey also highlighted that they also play netball at facilities outside of the borough such as Testlands Wellbeing Hub (Dreams), Southampton Sports Centre (Dreams), Place leisure Eastleigh (Dreams), Testlands Hub Green and Tidworth Leisure Centre (ACES Hearts).
- d. Stars and Vixens are currently delivering 'Back to Netball' sessions to engage new participants. Danebury Netball Club runs special educational needs sessions throughout the week at Danebury School. England Netball's Session Finder highlights further opportunities located outside of the borough to play recreationally such as Walking Netball, Youth Camps for those aged 11-14 and further 'Back to netball' sessions. Many of these sessions take place at Places Leisure in Eastleigh with options for Walking Netball, Back to Netball, and Youth Camps. It is likely that participants located in the south of Test Valley will travel outside of the borough to take part in these sessions. Based on the England Netball Session Finder, there are no sessions identified within 25 miles of Andover, suggesting a gap in England Netball sessions in the north of the borough.
- e. Test Valley Borough Council has offered free Back to Netball sessions at Picket Piece Recreation Ground and are aiming to also roll this out in the south of the borough.

Quality of Netball Courts in Test Valley

- f. The quality of Netball courts in the area varies depending on the type of provision e.g. indoor or outdoor, the age of the facility and the surface type. All the indoor courts are multi marked and cater for other sports and many of the outdoor courts also double as tennis courts. Through club consultation, only one site was rated as 'poor' which was Winton School as one of the user clubs, ACES Hearts, feel the hall flooring is inadequate to play netball on.

- g. There are only 3 courts across two sites which meet England Netball's standard requirements (Andover Leisure Centre and John Hanson Community School). However, the surface of the outdoor courts at John Hanson Community School are beginning to show early signs of cracking. The 3 outdoor courts at Danebury School were rated as poor quality, with the surface looking tired and in need of investment. Embley School had plans to resurface their 6 outdoor netball/tennis courts in summer 2025. The quality of courts at Knightwood Leisure Centre were rated as 'good' following site visits.

Location of Netball Facilities in Test Valley

- h. The geographical spread of facilities across the area is good, with concentrations of facilities around the major population centres of Andover and Romsey.

Netball Participation

- i. The most recent Active Lives Survey findings show that there has been an increase in adult demand for Netball nationally over the last year and is almost back to pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels of 0.7%. In 2023/24, 0.7% of adults (16+) in England participated in netball at least twice in the last 28 days i.e., 345,700 people. This is the highest total adult population regularly taking part in netball since the Active Lives database started recording data (2015-16).
- j. England Netball did not raise any specific facility issues in the borough but did state there is demand for more 'Back to Netball' and 'Netball Now' sessions to encourage further participation and support the clubs and leagues development needs.

Netball Recommendations		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
Test Valley Borough Council to continue to protect the current quantity and availability of community facilities for netball through planning policy.	- Support Education sites to ensure the courts, fencing and nets at all venues are maintained to a good quality standard and club activity is secured. - Work with clubs and England Netball to explore suitable sites to enhance courts to meet England Netball standards.	- Regularly review netball facility needs with England Netball and netball clubs in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth. - Explore opportunities to provide additional 'back to netball' and 'netball now' sessions. - Ensure any new sports hall provision or outdoor court provision meets Sport England and England Netball requirements
Prioritised Actions Longer Term - Regularly review netball facility needs with England Netball and netball clubs in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth. - Ensure any new sports hall provision or outdoor court provision meets Sport England and England Netball requirements - Work with clubs and England Netball to explore suitable sites to enhance courts to meet England Netball standards.		

4.12 Squash Provision

- a. There are currently 8 publicly accessible squash courts, across 3 sites in Test Valley, with a mix of normal and glass backed courts which enable the spectating of matches.

Figure 4.29: Squash Facilities in Test Valley

Site Name	Postcode	No of courts	Court types	Ownership Type
ANDOVER LEISURE CENTRE	SP10 1QP	2	2 x Normal	Council
TROJANS SPORTS CLUB	SO50 9HT	4	2 x Glass backed 2 x Normal	Club
ROMSEY RAPIDS SPORTS CENTRE	SO51 8AF	2	2 x Normal	Council
TOTAL COURTS		8		

- b. The courts at Andover Leisure Centre are available on a pay as you go basis or as part of Places Leisure's premium leisure membership offer. The centre offers coaching for all ages through AMN Coaching. Places Leisure report that the courts are well used throughout the year.
- c. Trojans Sports Club has 4 courts which are frequently used throughout the week for training (approximately 100 hours per week) and matches 4 times per week. Courts are available to book on a pay as you go basis and the cost is reduced if you are a registered member of the club. Sport 2 Aspire also use the courts to deliver sessions for disadvantaged children.
- d. The courts at Romsey Rapids are available on a pay as you go basis or as part of Places Leisure's premium leisure membership offer.
- e. Test Valley Borough Council is working with Places Leisure to explore the opportunities of adding virtual squash at their venues to encourage participation in squash.

Quality of Squash Facilities

- f. The quality of facilities in the area are of good or standard quality. The 4 courts at Trojans Sports Club were rated as good quality whilst the courts at Andover Leisure Centre and Romsey Rapids were rated as standard quality. Whilst the courts are generally good or standard quality, the quality of ancillary facilities at Trojans Sports Club is poor, however the club have started the redevelopment of their facilities to support the whole multi-sports club.

Location of Squash Facilities in Test Valley

- g. There is a concentration of squash courts in the south of the borough. The only provision in the north are the 2 courts at Andover Leisure Centre, which the operator reports are well used.

Squash Facilities in Neighbouring Local Authorities

- h. Sport England's access analysis report indicates there are 6 sites (18 courts) within a 20-minute drive time that are likely to attract some residents. These include:
- Winchester Racquets and Fitness (6) – Winchester – East
 - David Lloyd Southampton (1) – Southampton – South
 - Amesbury Sports Centre (1) – Wiltshire – West
 - Tidworth Leisure Centre (4) – Wiltshire – West
 - Longmeadow Sports Centre (2) – Basingstoke and Deane – North
 - Places Leisure Eastleigh (4) – Eastleigh – South

Squash Participation

- i. The most recent Active Lives Survey findings indicate the adult demand for squash nationally is stagnant at around 0.6% of adults (16+) in England playing at least twice in the last 28 days. The last 3 years of data, 2021-24 have reported 0.6%, 0.5%, and 0.6%, of adults per year regularly play

squash, equivalent to approximately 287,000 people nationally in 2023/24.

- j. England Squash has a number of engagement programmes aimed at encouraging more people to become involved with the sport and help to create thriving communities, these include Squash 101 programmes - Squash Stars, Junior 101, Adult 101, Squash 57 (Racketball), Squash Girls Can, Mixed Ability Squash and Squash from the Mosque. For these programmes to be successful facilities need to be well maintained to provide a positive experience along with a partnership approach between the various clubs and leisure management teams where applicable.
- k. Racketball is a popular sport which is similar to squash in that it can be played on any regular squash court, but with a larger ball and short racquet. There is a Racketball club at Trojans Sports club, playing on Mondays and Thursdays.
- l. England Squash has a benchmark quantitative guidance standard of 1 court per 10,000 people. The latest population figures for Test Valley indicate a population of 135,201 (ONS Mid-Year Population Estimates), meaning based on a supply of 8 accessible courts, the level of provision in Test Valley is less than this benchmark at approximately 1 court per 16,900 people and with the estimated population increase of 20,240 by 2042 the population per court will increase.

Club Consultation

Trojans Squash Club – The club report having approximately 70 members (50 senior members and 20 junior members) and also deliver the Squash Stars programme to 10 participants. There has been a decline in the number of players over the last 3 years however the club plan to grow over the next 3 years by improving advertisement, developing additional offers, and improving the ancillary facilities at the site.

Quality ratings – main facilities – 4/5, ancillary facilities 2/5

Squash Recommendations

Protect	Enhance	Provide
Continue to protect the current quantity and the availability of community squash facilities through this strategy.	- Ensure the current supply of squash courts are maintained to a good quality standard. - Ensure squash court provision at Romsey Sports Centre is retained and enhanced as part of any redevelopment.	Regularly review squash facility needs with England Squash and leisure provider in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.

Prioritised Actions

Longer Term

- Ensure the current supply of squash courts are protected and maintained to a good quality standard.
- Ensure squash court provision at Romsey Sports Centre is retained and enhanced as part of any redevelopment.

4.13 Tennis Provision

- a. There are 25 sites that offer community accessible tennis courts in the area, with a total of 68 tennis courts. There are 47 outdoor courts with sports lighting in the study area as detailed in figures 4.29 - 4.31. There are 11 sites with park tennis courts, 6 club tennis sites and 8 education sites with tennis courts.
- b. Since the last strategy, Test Valley Borough Council and the LTA, in partnership, have funded £37,000 to improve the Tennis facilities in area as part of the DCMS LTA Tennis Foundation Park Investment Programme, a nationwide campaign to revamp public tennis courts and open up the sport to more people. At Vigo Road Recreation Ground this included cleaning and repainting the tennis courts, refencing part of the surround, and adding a smart access gate to Court 1. A smart access gate was also installed at War Memorial Park, Romsey.
- c. Since the initial investment from the LTA, Test Valley Borough Council have installed a new accessible ramp and smart access gate (on Court 2) at Vigo Recreation Ground. They have also refenced the tennis court at Picket Piece Recreation Ground and installed smart access gates at both Picket Piece Recreation Ground and Picket Twenty Sports Ground.
- d. North Baddesley Parish Council also received DCMS LTA Tennis Foundation Park Investment to resurface their courts and add gate access.
- e. Wellow Tennis Club resurfaced their tennis courts following the completion of a project funded by a £25,000 grant from the Community Asset Fund (CAF).
- f. Test Valley developed a 6-week coaching programme for junior and seniors as an activation strategy for the new investment into the courts aiming to develop a pathway between community and club participation. They have also partnered with the LTA to deliver Free Parks Tennis at Vigo Road Recreation ground and to set up a local league for people playing tennis within Test Valley, targeted at people aged 18+ who want to meet and socialise with other players of similar ability.
- g. Five out of the six tennis clubs located in Test Valley responded to consultation, all five of which rated their playing facilities either good or excellent. Some of these clubs also deliver recreational activities such as the LTA programmes, outreach to schools, teenage girls and walking tennis, with the intention of getting more people engaged with tennis.

Park Tennis in Test Valley

- h. There are 11 park sites in Test Valley which provide a total of 15 tennis courts, 4 of which have sports lighting. Only 6 of the sites are LTA registered, none of which have sports lighting.
- i. Test Valley Borough Council have worked with LTA to open up the tennis offer at the War Memorial Park in Romsey, and Vigo Road, Picket Piece and Picket Twenty in Andover which all have gate access systems and online booking. North Baddesley Parish Council have also worked with the LTA to implement an online booking system.
- j. LTA are keen to develop the offer within the park facilities within Test Valley further, as a significant proportion of tennis participation in the UK takes place in a park environment and is the most likely place for new participants to start their tennis journey.
- k. Participation in parks is often less frequent and generally aligns with the seasonal participation peaks in the summer months. This trend, in the winter months, is not helped by the lack of provision of sports lighting that currently exists in the park environment. Adding lighting in park

environments is a priority for the LTA.

Figure 4.29 Park Tennis Sites in Test Valley

Site	No. Courts	Lighting	LTA Registered	Use of ClubSpark / Gate access
CHILWORTH COMMUNITY TENNIS COURT	1	No	Yes	ClubSpark
KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELD (HURSTBOURNE TARRANT)	1	No	No	-
NETHER WALLOP PLAYING FIELD	1	No	No	-
NORTH BADDESLEY RECREATION GROUND	2	No	Yes	ClubSpark & Gate
PICKET PIECE RECREATION GROUND	1	No	Yes	ClubSpark & Gate
PICKET TWENTY SPORTS GROUND	1	No	Yes	ClubSpark & Gate
TANGLEY PLAYING FIELD	1	Yes (1)	No	-
VERNHAM DEAN PLAYING FIELD	1	Yes (1)	No	-
VIGO ROAD RECREATION GROUND	2	No	Yes	ClubSpark & Gate
WAR MEMORIAL PARK ROMSEY	2	No	Yes	ClubSpark & Gate
WHERWELL PLAYING FIELDS	2	Yes (2)	No	-
Total	15	4	6	-

- l. The LTA has successfully implemented technology that improves the customer journey to court involving the use of an access gate with keypad entry which is connected to the ClubSpark venue management system. Where implemented, the system has been successful in increasing participation rates, whilst also generating income that helps to improve the financial sustainability of the venue. The LTA is looking to significantly increase the number of gate access systems that are installed nationally as part of the Digital Participation Pathway.
- m. The vast majority of park tennis courts across Test Valley are free to use, with some sites providing equipment as well to make the sport as accessible as possible. Four sites (Chilworth Community Tennis Court, Nether Wallop Playing Field and North Baddelsey Recreation Ground) offer pay and play sessions and one site (Tangley Playing Field) has a membership fee for annual use of their booking system with an app.

Indoor Tennis Courts

- n. There are currently only 2 community accessible indoor tennis courts in Test Valley, which are available for pay and play sessions as well as membership, both of which are located in the north of the borough at the Andover Lawn Tennis Club. Sport England's Area Analysis report indicates that the nearest indoor tennis facility is in the borough for 57% of Test Valley residents, for the remaining 43% the nearest facility is outside of the borough. Residents in the south of the borough are within 20 minutes driving catchment of David Lloyd Southampton, which has indoor courts but is only accessible to members, which maybe a financial barrier for some residents. Some residents in the east of the borough are within 20 minutes of Winchester Racquets and Fitness, which is also a members' club however courts can also be booked on a pay and play basis.
- o. Considering the financial barrier of accessing indoor courts at David Lloyd Southampton, there is a lack of indoor or covered tennis court provision in the south of the borough. Improving and retaining access to covered courts and indoor tennis centres is a priority for the LTA. There continues to be too many locations where there is no access to covered tennis courts to facilitate year round participation. The LTA do not support the loss of indoor tennis courts to another sport (including padel).

Tennis Clubs in Test Valley

- p. There is a total of 6 LTA registered tennis club sites located within the study area, listed in figure 4.30. Club environments play a vital role in tennis participation, particularly in encouraging more regular play. They place a strong emphasis on organised activity, including coaching programmes,

social sessions and competition.

Figure 4.30 Club Tennis Sites in Test Valley

Site	No. Courts	Lighting	Indoor
KNIGHTWOOD LEISURE CENTRE (ABSOLUTE TENNIS)	3	Yes (3)	0
ANDOVER LAWN TENNIS CLUB LIMITED	5	Yes (3)	2
GOODWORTH CLATFORD LAWN TENNIS CLUB	2	No	0
PENTON TENNIS CLUB	2	No	0
ROMSEY AND ABBEY TENNIS CLUB	4	Yes (4)	0
WELLOW TENNIS CLUB, HATCHES FARM PLAYING FIELDS	4	Yes (2)	0
Total	20	12	2

- q. Four of the six club site offer pay and play sessions, these include Knightwood Leisure Centre, Andover LTC, Romsey And Abbey TC and Wellow TC.

Education Tennis Sites

- r. There are 8 education sites in Test Valley with tennis court provision which are available for community use. Although these sites all have some level of community use and courts can be booked, school use takes priority and other sports use, where they provide multisport provision can restrict the hours available for community tennis hire.
- s. The delivery of tennis within schools is a priority for the LTA with a range of resources available to support the teaching and learning of tennis, wider school outcomes and assist with links with local LTA Accredited coaches and LTA registered venues.
- t. The LTA is committed to working with schools to widen community access to the sport both during and out of school hours. Opportunities to review the possibility of opening up courts on education sites to further community use or coaching programmes should be explored where appropriate.

Figure 4.31 Education Tennis Sites Available for Community Use in Test Valley

Site	No. Courts	Lighting	Multi-Use
DANEbury SCHOOL	3	No	3
EMBLEY SCHOOL	6	Yes	6
HARROW WAY SCHOOL	5	Yes	5
JOHN HANSON COMMUNITY SCHOOL	4	Yes	4
MOUNTBATTEN SCHOOL	6	Yes	6
ROOKWOOD SCHOOL	2	Yes	0
ROMSEY SCHOOL	4	Yes	4
WINTON COMMUNITY ACADEMY	4	Yes	4
Total	34	31	32

Quality of Tennis Courts in Test Valley

- u. During the development of this strategy, the Consultant Team undertook non-technical visual site visits to the following tennis facilities in the study area. Each facility visited was given a quality rating of Poor, Standard or Good. The ratings can be seen below in figure 4.32. Not all club tennis courts were seen as they either did not respond to consultation requests or offered limited community use.

Figure 4.32: Quality of Tennis Courts audited.

Tennis Courts	Facility Type	LTA registered	Quality Rating
KNIGHTWOOD LEISURE CENTRE (ABSOLUTE TENNIS)	Club	Yes	3x Good
ANDOVER LAWN TENNIS CLUB LIMITED	Club	Yes	Not seen
CHARLTON SPORTS CENTRE	Park	No	1x Poor
CHILWORTH COMMUNITY TENNIS COURT	Park	Yes	Not seen

DANEbury SCHOOL	Education	No	3x Standard
EMBLEY SCHOOL	Education	No	6x Good
GOODWORTH CLATFORD LAWN TENNIS CLUB	Club	Yes	2x Standard
HARROW WAY SCHOOL	Education	No	5x Standard
JOHN HANSON COMMUNITY SCHOOL	Education	No	4x Standard
KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELD (HURSTBOURNE TARRANT)	Park	No	Not seen
MOUNTBATTEN SCHOOL	Education	No	6x Standard
NETHER WALLOP PLAYING FIELD	Park	No	1x Standard
NORTH BADDESLEY RECREATION GROUND	Park	Yes	2x Good
PENTON TENNIS CLUB	Club	Yes	2x Standard
PICKET PIECE RECREATION GROUND	Park	Yes	1x Standard
PICKET TWENTY SPORTS GROUND	Park	Yes	1x Standard
ROMSEY AND ABBEY TENNIS CLUB	Club	Yes	4x Standard
ROMSEY SCHOOL	Education	No	4x Standard
ROOKWOOD SCHOOL	Education	No	2x Standard
TANGLEY PLAYING FIELD	Park	No	1x Standard
VERNHAM DEAN PLAYING FIELD	Park	No	1x Poor
VIGO ROAD RECREATION GROUND	Park	Yes	2x Good
WAR MEMORIAL PARK ROMSEY	Park	Yes	2x Standard
WELLOW TENNIS CLUB, HATCHES FARM PLAYING FIELDS	Club	Yes	4x Good
WHERWELL PLAYING FIELDS	Park	No	2x Standard
WINTON COMMUNITY ACADEMY	Education	No	4x Standard

- v. The non-technical site assessments highlight that the tennis courts within the area vary in quality, however most were either good or standard quality. Only 2 sites (2 courts) were rated as poor.
- w. As outlined above, Test Valley Borough Council and North Baddesley Parish Council, were part of the DCMS LTA Tennis Foundation Parks investment and recently invested in facilities at Vigo Road Recreation Ground in Andover, War Memorial Park Romsey and North Baddesley Recreation Ground. These projects provided new fencing, repainted courts, and secure booking systems. Ensuring these courts are maintained to a good quality for the community is essential.
- x. Absolute Tennis operates out of Knightwood Leisure Centre, with 3 good quality courts with sports lighting (as well as 2 mini courts). They also provide tennis courses and camps out of Mountbatten School, North Baddesley Junior School, Knightwood Primary School, KingsMead Day Nursey, Sherborne House School, and other local schools and nurseries. These courses range from pre-school, school age children, adult beginners, and intermediate level adults looking to improve. The club also offers private lessons.
- y. Andover Lawn Tennis Club has 3 outdoor and 2 indoor courts, which they rate as good quality. Courts are available to be booked on a pay as you go basis by non-members and members (members pay a reduced booking fee). The club also offer coaching sessions through JMc Tennis. The onsite clubhouse is equipped with one changing room, kitchen, and seating area, and is occasionally used for non-sporting activities such as children's parties and fundraising events.
- z. Goodworth Clatford has 2 standard quality courts on their site, which they have a 22-year lease on. The club compete in the Basingstoke and Sarum Leagues and offer opportunities to compete in men's, ladies and mixed doubles matches.
- aa. Romsey and Abbey Tennis Club have 4x standard quality courts with sports lighting which they use to deliver a range of classes as well as pay as you go bookings. The club delivers classes such as social tennis, walking tennis, coaching sessions (for beginners, intermediate, and advanced players), as well as internal club championships. The club are also developing their women's and

girls' tennis offer alongside the LTA Youth Girls initiative.

- bb. Wellow Tennis club has 4, recently refurbished, courts (2 have sports lighting) at Hatches Farm Playing Fields. The courts were recently resurfaced to sand based artificial turf, which was part funded by TVBC's Community Asset Fund, and the club state that these new courts have helped attract new players from other nearby clubs. Primarily a seniors' club, the club has ambitions to grow their junior section.
- cc. Penton Tennis Club have 2 standard quality tennis courts on their site, which are able to be booked on a pay as you go basis by both members and non-members. The club also has a team playing in the winter and summer Sarum League.
- dd. Places Leisure have expressed an interest in developing a cover over the 3 courts at Knightwood Leisure Centre (Absolute Tennis). If developed, these would be the only covered courts in the south of the borough and provide an option for all year tennis participation.
- ee. LTA Venue Registration is a scheme for all tennis venue types, and these include clubs, parks, Community Indoor Tennis Centres and education organisations. To be eligible for LTA registration, venues are required to meet a range of governance, legal and safeguarding standards and in return venues receive a range of tailored and affordable support packages that include public liability insurance, venue management system, free legal advice as well as a range of online resources to support all aspects of tennis management and delivery. There are 12 registered venues in Test Valley local authority area.

Location of Tennis Facilities in Test Valley

- ff. Whilst there is a good spread of clubs across the area, a review of good quality and bookable park courts are essential to the community offer to ensure there are enough provision in high population areas. When travelling for tennis provision the LTA look at distances to courts that people will travel. For a park court this is likely to be within a 10 minute walk, a club 10 minute drive time and covered courts 20 minute drive time. The LTA reports there are currently high levels of bookings across the sites in Andover and therefore the provision of additional park court facilities should be considered in north Andover.

Tennis Participation

- gg. The most recent Active Lives Survey findings indicate that there has been a steady demand for adult tennis nationally over the last 3 years and is in line with highest recorded level since the benchmark Active Lives Survey in 2015/16 with 2.0% of adults (16+) participating. In 2023-24, 1.9% of the adult population in England participated in tennis at least twice in the last 28 days i.e., 910,100 people. Recent LTA insight from July 2025 highlighted in the past year 5.8m adults played tennis, with 2.6m playing monthly and 987,409 playing weekly, and almost 4m children played tennis, with 1.6m playing monthly and 619,000 playing weekly.
- hh. The LTA's vision is 'Tennis Opened Up' and the LTA want tennis and the fantastic benefits it provides to be open to as many people as possible, they encourage providers of tennis to open their facilities to community use and implement an online booking system, and a chargeable model to ensure sustainability for the future investment into sites and will work with providers to review booking processes and price points.
- ii. The LTA strategic priorities for Test Valley are to:
 - Grow the number of park courts with sports lighting to increase the playing hours available.

- Maintain and protect the club landscape and review opportunities to open up tennis within these facilities through pay and play.
- Explore opportunities to develop tennis provision as population increases including park provision and covered courts.

Club Consultation

Andover Lawn Tennis Club have approximately 260 members, of which half are juniors. The club state that they have maintained the same number of players over the last 3 years but have plans to grow into the next 3 years. Part of their plan to grow revolves around the development of new padel courts on site and expanding their pickleball offer. They also state that they have capacity to add an additional 100 tennis members. The club have planning permission to develop padel courts and would be the only padel court providers in the north of the borough if they are developed.

Quality ratings – Playing surfaces – 5/5 Ancillary facilities 5/5

Absolute Tennis have approximately 250 members, of which 200 are juniors. They also deliver outreach sessions to local primary schools with approximately 80 participants. They report that they have grown over the last 3 years by starting outreach at nurseries and are looking to grow further by increasing their outreach work. The club primarily operate at Knightwood Leisure Centre on a weekly hire basis.

Quality ratings- Playing surface- 4/5 Ancillary facilities- 4/5

Wellow Tennis Club have approximately 110 members, of which only 4 are juniors. The club state that they have grown over the last 3 years after developing floodlights and resurfacing the courts, which they hope will help expand the junior section in the coming years. The club own the freehold of their site at Hatches Farm.

Quality ratings- Playing surface- 5/5 Ancillary facilities- 4/5

Romsey and Abbey Tennis Club report having nearly 500 members, of which 140 are juniors, making them the largest club in Test Valley. The club deliver a range of programmes focussing on making tennis accessible to all including walking tennis, specific girls' programmes, and a range of coaching sessions for different levels. They have reported a decline in participation over the last 3 years after a sharp increase in players over the COVID-19 pandemic period. Over the next 3 years the club have plans to grow by developing the female tennis alongside the LTA Youth Girls initiative however highlight that their lack of ancillary facilities is an inhibitor. Although their courts are in good condition, the club highlight a need to resurface in the next 5 years.

Quality ratings- Playing surface- 4/5 Ancillary facilities- 1/5

Goodworth Clatford Tennis Club have approximately 140 members, of which 38 are juniors. The club report an aging membership and have therefore declined in membership over the last 3 years, however have aspirations to grow in the next 3 years and have identified that developing floodlights would allow them to attract younger members who generally play after working hours.

Tennis Recommendations		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
- Test Valley Borough Council to continue to protect the current quantity and availability of community facilities for tennis through planning policy. - Club sites to be maintained to a good quality standard (club led).	- Work with the LTA to provide support for tennis sites in the area to refurbish courts as required during the lifetime of the strategy. - Explore options to provide sports lighting at park courts in areas of high demand. - Explore feasibility of developing covered tennis courts at Knightwood Leisure Centre to provide a year-round tennis offer in the south of the borough.	- Support Romsey and Abbey Tennis Club to develop ancillary facilities at their site. - Consider the provision of additional park court facilities in north Andover. - Regularly review tennis facility needs with the LTA and the tennis clubs based in the area in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.
Prioritised Actions Short Term - Explore feasibility of developing covered tennis courts at Knightwood Leisure Centre to provide a year-round tennis offer in the south of the borough - Support Romsey and Abbey Tennis Club to develop ancillary facilities at their site. Longer Term - Explore options to provide sports lighting at park courts in areas of high demand. - Consider the provision of additional park court facilities in North Andover. - Work with the LTA to provide support for tennis sites in the area to refurbish courts as required during the lifetime of the strategy. - Where appropriate work with education providers to open up facilities to the community.		

4.14 Padel and Pickleball Provision

Padel

- a. The LTA recently launched an updated LTA Padel Strategy to outline plans for 2024 – 2029. The vision and mission align to the tennis strategy and the focus is on growing the infrastructure, increasing and diversifying the coaching workforce and building on the performance pathway as well as increasing visibility and driving participation. There are currently 1,139 courts in Great Britain, of which 60% are indoor (September 25) and a recent survey reported the following findings:-
 - An estimated 580,000 people have played padel in British venues in the past year with around half this number playing regularly / monthly.
 - At present, most players are adults, with juniors accounting for less than 1 in 10 of the total.
 - Most venues reported strong growth, with high interest in taster sessions, and players enjoying the fun / sociability offered by the sport.
 - 9 million people have some interest in playing padel.
 - Currently demand is outstripping supply, with many venues keen to add courts, or cover existing facilities, though costs, and the complexity of local planning rules, can be prohibitive.
- b. LTA padel demand for Test Valley has revealed a latent demand for the sport. The data shows that there is a minimum demand for 9 courts in the borough, however this isn't considered a cap on the number of facilities, and the geographic spread of existing facilities should also be considered when identifying shortfalls.

Figure 4.33: Padel sites in Test Valley

Site	No. Courts	Lighting	Indoor	LTA Registered
TROJANS SPORTS CLUB, EASTLEIGH	6	2	4	Yes
HEADLANDS FARM, WELLOW	1	1	0	No
PIK PADEL, GRATELEY	3	3	3	No
SOMBOURNE PADEL TENNIS, STOCKBRIDGE	1	1	0	No
Total	11	7	7	-

- c. Sombourne Padel Tennis is the oldest site built approximately in 2018, offering pay as you go and membership options. The 6 courts at Trojans Sports Club were opened in 2024 and are operated by PadelStars, offering pay as you go and membership options. The club is currently applying for planning permission to build additional courts due to the popularity of the current courts. The court at Headlands Farm was developed in 2025. Pik Padel is the newest site which opened in January 2026 providing coaching sessions and pay as you go options.

Location of Padel Facilities in Test Valley

- d. There are 8 padel courts are located in the south of the borough, with 3 in the north around Andover. Although LTA figures identify no shortfall in padel demand, based on the current distribution of courts, there is likely to be a demand for more courts in the Andover area.
- e. Andover Lawn Tennis Club have applied for and been granted permission to develop padel courts. Places Leisure have also expressed an interest in developing padel courts at Knightwood Leisure Centre and Ganger Farm Sports Park has also been considered for the potential development of padel courts.
- f. The LTA are keen to work with the Council to establish a community Padel offer and map potential additional sites with high demand within a 20 minute drive time, considering provision in neighbouring local authorities.

Padel Participation

- g. Padel is one of the fastest growing sports in Great Britain which has led to significant interest from private investors and operators. There are a number of planning applications being considered for additional padel provision, ensuring there is a clear community offer will be essential to growing participation and opening up the sport. The location of any potential padel court developments should be carefully considered through the planning process considering environmental health concerns and noise impacts to ensure they do not negatively affect local residents or the capacity of other sports facilities within proximity of the proposed development.
- h. The LTA strategic priorities for Padel in Test Valley are to:
- Support the current landscape of Padel facilities across Test Valley, working with them to align with LTA Padel Strategy.
 - Work with Test Valley Borough Council to establish a community Padel offer and map potential additional sites with high demand within a 20minute drive time, considering provision in neighbouring local authorities.

Pickleball

- i. Pickleball is a fun sport that combines elements of badminton, tennis, and table tennis. The sport can be played both indoors or outdoors on a badminton-sized court and a slightly modified tennis net. There are active sessions organised at Andover Lawn Tennis Club, Andover Leisure Centre and Knightwood Leisure Centre.
- j. Although the LTA are not the governing body for pickleball, they support their registered venues to offer this type of activity to bring new interest and diversity to venues. Pickleball complements tennis and is a great way to engage new and underrepresented communities. The LTA advises venues to use temporary thrown down lines and provides support to venues that consists of online resources and workforce CPD.

Padel and Pickleball Recommendations		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
• Test Valley Borough Council to continue to protect the current quantity and availability of padel facilities through planning policy. • Club sites to be maintained to a good quality standard (club led).	• Work with the LTA to support padel operators working with them to align with the LTA Padel Strategy. • Explore opportunities to encourage additional pickleball activity.	• Work with the LTA to establish a community padel offer. • Regularly review padel facility needs with the LTA in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.
Prioritised Actions Short Term • Work with the LTA to support padel operators working with them to align with the LTA Padel Strategy. • Explore opportunities to encourage additional pickleball activity. • Work with the LTA to establish a community padel offer.		

4.15 Strategic Scenario – Redevelopment of Romsey Rapids & Sports Centre Site

- a. The future of community facilities in the south of Romsey Town has long been the subject of discussion by Test Valley Borough Council and community stakeholder organisations including several local schools under the umbrella of The Romsey Future Partnership. The Partnership considers needs and priority projects to ensure the future resilience of the town as it changes and grows through the development of new housing in and around the town.
- b. In this context, future needs and priorities should also be considered for the cluster of community sports facilities located to the south of the A27 – i.e. Romsey Rapids, Romsey Town FC, Romsey Sports Centre (Cricket, Football, Tennis, Squash).
- c. Currently, the sites in this cluster provide the following sports and youth facilities:
 - Rapids Swimming Sports Complex with main, teaching and leisure swimming pools, health and fitness gym
 - Romsey Town FC stadium pitch (grass with lights) and pavilion
 - Romsey Sports Centre with 1 cricket pitch, 2 lane net system and cricket pavilion; 2 youth 9v9 football pitches, a rugby training pitch with floodlights and pavilion; four tennis courts with sports lighting, squash courts, adventure golf; skatepark; Youth in Romsey Support Centre
- d. The suggestions made below for facilities retained and developed at the site are based on the findings and shortfalls presented throughout both the Playing Pitch and Sports Facilities sections of this strategy and factor in any future developments which have been identified across the local authority area.

Sports Facilities

- e. The Sport England Facilities Planning Model (FPM) report states that strategic planning for replacement of Romsey Rapids Sports Complex needs to be initiated as a priority given the pools will be over 50 years old by 2042. To maximise usage, Swim England's view is that the replacement provision should be a 25m x 8-lane swimming pool with a learner pool and a moveable floor to provide deep water for competition, water polo and synchronised swimming along with the usual community swimming and a leisure splash zone. Spectator seating suitable for galas and events to also be considered.
- f. The current provision as a destination leisure pool is highly valued but makes it less compatible with lane and club swimming. Any replacement provision should provide more flexibility and include a moveable floor to create separate pool water areas of different depths for teaching provision as well as other requirements. A splash pads which are attractive to young users and more cost effective should also be considered.
- g. Given the existing community sports hall shortfall and the facility demands of clubs in the area and the need to replace the Rapids, there is a strong case for including new sports hall provision as part of the proposals for the replacement of the Rapids Complex.
- h. The operator has identified constraints on the gym at Romsey Rapids, which is impacting attrition rates and a need to expand and enhance the current provision needs to be included as part of the master plan. Options to be explored include the potential for a community functional sports hall, which is also reflected in the request from Romsey Future, as well as enhanced provision for community use, with increased studio provision and multifunctional meeting spaces, all of which could better integrate community health and wellbeing facilities.

- i. Working with Places Leisure, TVBC will set out to understand their requirements for growth and need for better provision for the community. Places Leisure are already undertaking a review exercise to establish examples of best practice and provision at other venues.

Playing Pitches

- j. The cricket assessment of need identifies a need to increase the playing capacity for cricket in Romsey particularly in light of the proposed population growth. A cricket pitch and improved pavilion facilities are needed to allow the Old Tauntonians & Romsey CC to continue to grow including its women and girls' cricket section. As identified in the previous strategy, the addition of one or two NTPs is recommended in the planning of new cricket facilities for the Romsey Rapids & Sports Centre site.
- k. Comprehensive redevelopment and reconfiguration of the sports and recreation facilities in this part of the town may also offer opportunities to address some of the unmet current need and future needs for football in the area. There is a need for 3G provision in the Romsey area as identified in the LFFP, the masterplan brief should assess the feasibility of a suitable location ensuring there is no impact on other sports provision in area.
- l. A comprehensive review of all facilities at the Romsey Rapids sports complex is due to take place in 2026. This will include neighbouring sporting needs, pitch space and the need for an enhanced provision of ancillary facilities including car parking to cater for future growth.

4.15 Sports Facilities Assessment Summary

- a. The analysis, consultation and assessment work this section has brought together a number of potential facility investment needs for Test Valley Borough Council and its partners to meet both current needs for sport as well as future demand and growth. A number of key sports will require support to facilitate growth in demand and changes to people's participation and activity at Council, club and educational sites across Test Valley.
- b. Test Valley Borough Council has demonstrated a clear commitment to improving levels of physical activity and health for their residents and communities, and the needs within this section will help Test Valley Borough Council in making some important and key decisions over the coming years to protect, enhance and provide sports facilities across the borough.
- c. The key focus for Test Valley Borough Council as outlined in the previous scenario is that the pools complex and sports pavilions – i.e. Romsey Rapids, Romsey Town FC, Romsey Sports Centre (Cricket, Football, Tennis) on the recreation land to the south of the A27 need replacing. There is an established current shortfall of sports hall provision and of sports pitches in the Romsey area, particularly for youth football. There are also several major new housing developments proposed in and around the town that will need community facilities to serve the growth in population that will result from these developments. To meet these future needs preparation of a masterplan for these sites should be a priority action so that developer contributions can be secured towards the delivery of the identified priority projects at the appropriate time.
- d. Given the on-going financial challenges for the public sector, it will not be possible to deliver or support all of the investment needs identified within this strategy, but it provides a clear outline of the priorities for sports facilities in Test Valley that may attract investment from key partners and other future sources. Section 5 of this strategy sets out a number of overarching policy recommendations aimed at facilitating and addressing the sports specific needs identified in this Strategy and Section 6 of this report sets out the priority projects arising out of this strategy as well as the partners and stakeholders who are likely to be central to facilitating this change.

Test Valley Borough Council Sports Facilities and Playing Pitch Strategy 2026 – 2031

Section 5: Strategic Recommendations




continuum
SPORT & LEISURE LTD

Test Valley 
Borough Council

Strategic Recommendations

5.1 Introduction

- a. This section of the Sports Facilities and Playing Pitch Strategy sets out a number of overarching strategic recommendations, endorsed by the Strategy Steering Group, aimed at ensuring the on-going provision of high-quality, accessible playing pitches and built sport facilities that can meet the needs and demands of the borough's current and future populations. The recommendations relate to the facility needs highlighted in both Section 3, the Playing Pitch Strategy and Section 4, the Sports Facilities Strategy.

5.2 Planning Policy

- a. The need to protect and enhance the existing scale of facility provision for key facility types – pools, sports halls, artificial and natural turf playing pitches, gymnastics centres and health and fitness facilities - remains an important and material consideration as it was in the previous strategy in 2020.
- b. Given the evidence presented, the principles established in the current adopted Test Valley Local Plan 2011-2029 with respect to community sport and leisure recreation facilities need to be maintained with regard to protection however it is acknowledged that in light of this new strategy and evidence base, these will need to be amended to reflect the more up to date national policy and good practice as discussed in this section.
- c. These current planning policies are set out in full at Appendix G to this document together with policies set out in the draft Local Plan. Public consultation on a full draft Local Plan (Regulation 18 Stage 2) took place early in 2024 identifying how Test Valley Borough Council was aiming to deliver their housing need at the time. This was prepared in line with national policy and guidance. Since then, national planning policy has been significantly changed to reflect the Government's ambition of increasing the delivery of housing.
- d. Accordingly, a Draft Local Plan Revised Regulation 18 document was prepared identifying how Test Valley Borough Council is seeking to meet the Government's increase in housing need for Test Valley. The draft Local Plan Revised Regulation 18 document public consultation took place from 27 June to 5 September 2025.
- e. This emerging Local Plan includes a policy for the provision, design and management of new open space, sport and recreation (Policy HE1) in association with proposals for major residential development. A separate policy (HE2) relates to proposals for development on existing open space, sports and recreation buildings and land. When the emerging Local Plan is agreed and adopted, the policies will replace Policy LHW1 in the current Local Plan which relates to both new and existing open space provision.
- f. Existing Local Plan Policy (LHW1) and the proposed Policy HE1 both include per capita quantitative standards for the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities. While the setting of such standards for the provision of Open Space remains in accordance with current good practice and guidance, this is no longer the case for Sport and Recreation Facilities and is not endorsed by either Sport England or National Governing Bodies of Sport.
- g. In place of setting quantitative standards for each facility type, Sport England's national guidance for assessing needs and opportunities (ANOG) advocates gathering detailed local supply and demand data and assessment of area, sport and site-specific needs using purpose-designed sports facility planning tools in order to determine which existing specific sites and facilities should be

protected and the priority areas/sites for enhanced, new or expanded facilities.

- h. Accordingly, this updated Sports Facilities and Playing Pitch Strategy for Test Valley is based on a detailed local assessment of the picture of supply and demand for each of the sports facility typologies in scope and application of the relevant planning tools.
- i. The Sports Facilities and Playing Pitch Strategy will be evidence to use in applying policies for all planning applications especially those which affect outdoor sports facilities and playing pitches, and the recommendations within this strategy are intended to guide future planning decisions and provides an updated approach that enhances and supports Local Plan Policy LHW1 and the emerging Local Plan Policies HE1 and HE2.
- j. Paragraph 103 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessment of the needs for open space, sport and recreational facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses). Changes to the wording of Policy HE1 to reflect this updated best practice guidance can be made in the next (Regulation 19) draft version of the emerging Local Plan.
- k. Test Valley Borough Council should adopt a prioritised site-specific schedule of sports facility needs and opportunities approach within Test Valley Borough Council categorised under the following headings.

PROTECT sports facilities from loss as a result of redevelopment.

ENHANCE existing facilities through improving their quality, accessibility and management.

PROVIDE new facilities that are fit for purpose to meet demands for participation now and in the future.

- l. In this Sports Facilities and Playing Pitch Strategy 2026-2031 it is therefore recommended that Test Valley Borough Council amends proposed Local Plan Policy HE1, to move away from quantitative standards of provision for sport and recreation facilities to reflect the ANOG national guidance.
- m. The strategic recommendations of the Test Valley Sports Strategy Steering Group for playing pitches and sports facilities are set out in the following paragraphs. The recommendations are based on the assessment of needs process (following national guidance) completed as part of this sports facilities and playing pitch strategy, reported in this document and its appendices.

5.3 Protect

- a. Test Valley Borough Council has undertaken a Sports Facilities and Playing Pitch Strategy and assessed existing and future needs for all provision across the borough. The firm conclusion is that there is an identified need to retain all the existing overall quantity of sports facilities within the borough whilst recognising that the distribution of facilities may change (for example, through closure of sites of poor quality or of limited value for community sport replaced by new provision). This headline finding and recommendation is also applicable when examined at the LPA level and in accordance with paragraph 104 of the NPPF and the adopted and emerging Local Plan.
- b. It is therefore recommended that, as proposed, the emerging Local Plan should continue to maintain a policy framework to resist granting planning permission for any development which would lead to the loss, or would prejudice the use, of a sports facility unless either the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location OR the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use

in line with NPPF paragraph 104.

- c. Should a current or newly created sports facility exist in Test Valley that is not mentioned in this Strategy and appendices, its omission is not an endorsement by Test Valley Borough Council, Sport England or the relevant national governing body of that sport for its disposal.
- d. It is also recommended that Test Valley Borough Council continue to work with strategic sports partners (Sport England, the National Governing Bodies of sport and, in particular Hampshire County Council and education providers) to seek agreements to secure access for community sport at those sites in the borough where there is existing access, but long-term access is currently unsecured (i.e. by means of Community Use Agreements).
- e. Where sports facility sites are in Test Valley Borough Council's ownership, the policy of securing community access through asset transfer to community clubs and/or sports associations should continue to be applied, provided that:
 - The facilities are assessed as 'good' quality by the relevant governing bodies of sport prior to transfer, and
 - The transferee is able to demonstrate it has the capacity and resources to maintain the facilities to good quality (and this forms part of any service level agreement). It is recommended that the terms of future transfer agreements include incentives for the clubs to deliver sports development outcomes (e.g. grow numbers of teams, volunteering, and sporting opportunities for under-represented groups).
- f. It is recommended Test Valley Borough Council continue to seek to influence the design and specification of any new education sports facilities and extensions to existing facilities to ensure their suitability for both education and community use (i.e., provided to Sport England and/or the relevant sport's national governing body design dimensions and standards as opposed to education dimensions and standards).
- g. It is further recommended that Test Valley Borough Council negotiates secure affordable community access as a condition of planning consent (via formal Community Use Agreements) for applications from education providers of sports facilities relating to:
 - Extending hours of permitted use
 - Extensions to existing sports facilities
 - Provision of new or enhanced sports facilities

5.4 Enhance and Provide

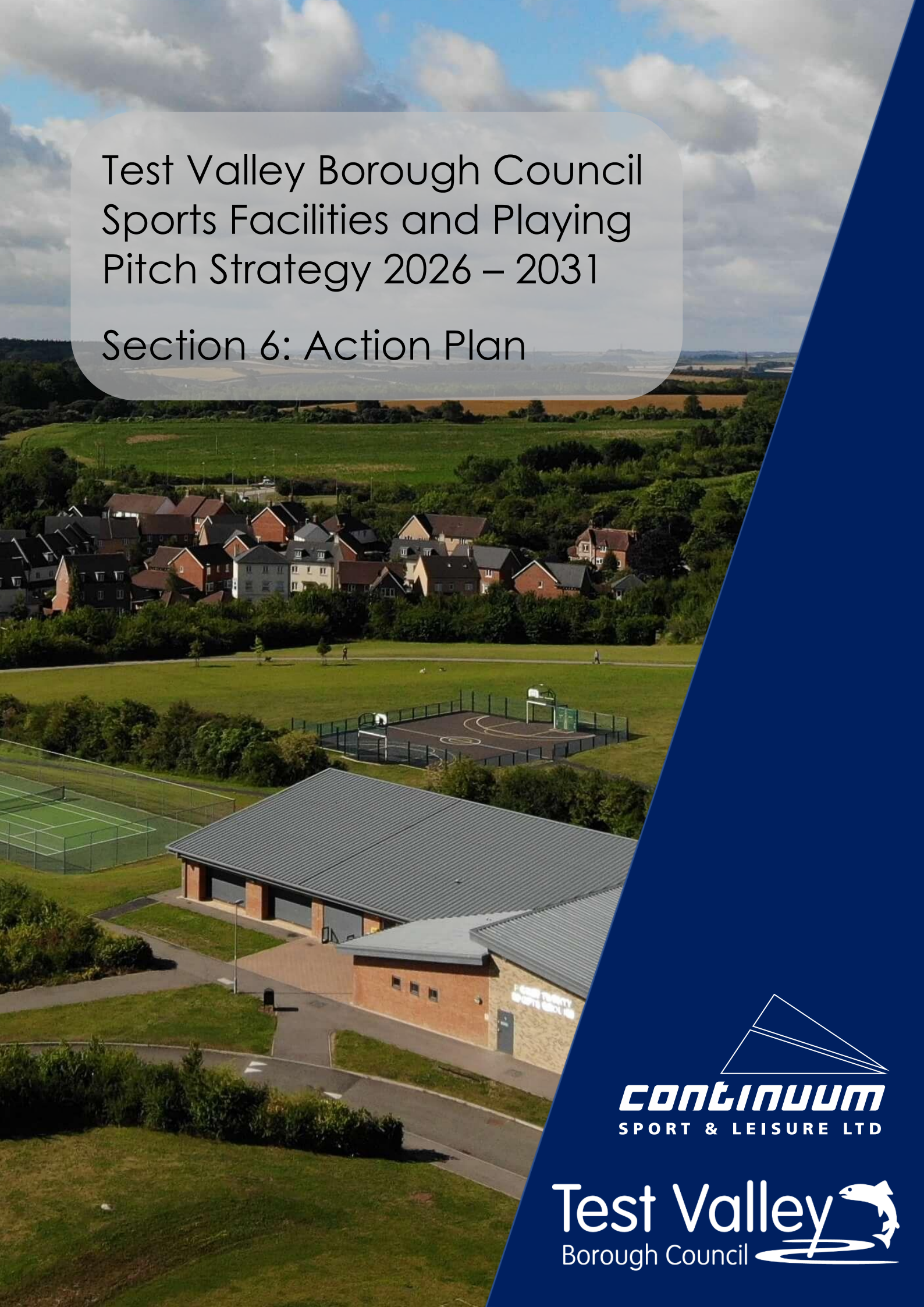
- a. It is recommended that the Local Planning Authority continue to seek the advice of appropriate sport national governing bodies whenever pre-planning proposals or planning applications involving new sports facilities are brought forward or new S106 Agreements for sports facilities are drafted. This is to ensure that the design, layout and management plans maximise the community value of the new facilities and that any maintenance plans meet any relevant Performance Quality Standards.
- b. For appropriate types of development, provision of or contributions towards the delivery of relevant sport and recreation infrastructure projects (including priority projects) should be secured through the appropriate mechanism (CIL/S106). It may also be appropriate in certain circumstances to seek contributions to the maintenance of new facilities or provisions.
- c. The priority projects are those set out in the Action Plan, current at the time the planning application is submitted. The initial Action Plan is in Section 6 of this document. The priority projects

include sites in private ownership and on school sites outside Test Valley Borough Council's control. Accordingly, the lead party responsible for progressing the actions is identified in the Action Plan along with supporting agencies.

- d. For larger scale development proposals, on-site provision of new sport and recreation facilities may be sought. On-site provisions are more likely to be promoted, rather than financial contributions, where a site would be able to accommodate an appropriate facility and / or where there are no or limited existing sports provisions in the vicinity based on identified needs. Early engagement with Test Valley Borough Council is encouraged to ensure on-site provision, where required, is appropriately incorporated into larger scale developments. This process will be guided by the needs identified in the Strategy. On-site provision will typically be secured via a legal agreement, and contributions may be sought (under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 or through the Community Infrastructure Levy mechanism) towards its delivery and maintenance.
- e. The latest version of Sport England's Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) and/or Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) planning tools could be used, as appropriate, to scope the appropriate scale and approximate costs of new provision and to provide the starting point for project specific negotiations of S106 and/or CIL developer contributions. (For example, if 500 new dwellings are proposed at an average of, say, 2.4 persons per dwelling, the additional population total to enter into the Sports Facility Calculator will be 1,200). The figure per dwelling can be adjusted in the calculator tool based on local factors and specific development details.
- f. It is recommended that in the case of all planning applications with implications for sports facilities (both indoor and outdoor), the latest version of Sport England's Model Planning Conditions should be used as appropriate. Current model conditions cover the following:
 - I. Protection/New Provision of Sport & Recreation Facilities;
 - II. Compensatory Provision, Continuity of Use and Phasing of Development;
 - III. Built Design and Layout;
 - IV. Playing Field Provision;
 - V. Operational Matters.In addition, TVBC recommends the application of Sport England's Active Design principles for all developments to ensure people are able to easily engage in an active lifestyle.
- g. It is recommended that Test Valley Borough Council's Strategy Steering Group, comprising of membership from Sport England and the NGBs, should review and update the Action Plan and priority projects annually during the strategy period. In line with Sport England guidance a full review of the strategy will be required after 5 years. If no annual monitoring takes place a full review is required after 3 years.

Test Valley Borough Council Sports Facilities and Playing Pitch Strategy 2026 – 2031

Section 6: Action Plan



6. Action Plan

6.1 Introduction

- a. This section of the strategy provides an outline action plan that details the leading priority projects and facility needs for sport and recreation facilities in Test Valley as referred to and discussed in the previous sections.
- b. Figures 6.1-6.3 (Playing Pitch) and figures 6.4-6.6 (Sports Facilities) presents the projects in alphabetical order, with a reference to their potential to be progressed either in the short term (defined as within 2 years approximately), the medium term (defined as within 2-5 years) or longer to progress (projects dependent on acquisition of land, the outcome of wider area development planning or large-scale review of options, feasibility and viability).
- c. Figure 6.7 that follows highlights a number of sites which present opportunities for providing or extending community sports facilities. These sites sit outside of the main action plan as further work is required to investigate relevant permission, access, suitability, and funding.
- d. Figure 6.8 identifies those playing pitch sites that are not identified in figures 6.1- 6.3 (for enhancement or new provision) or figure 6.7 (opportunity sites) but require protection for community sport through the planning system. The omission of any playing pitch site from this strategy is not an endorsement by Test Valley Borough Council, Sport England or the relevant national governing body of that sport of its disposal.
- e. The action plan is a guide to the leading priority facilities in Test Valley. All projects are subject to future funding confirmation and planning permission where necessary, as well as agreement by lead partners (where not in Council control) for some projects and sites. A number of project proposals within the strategy remain subject to design and cost analysis and for some projects feasibility testing and options appraisals will be required.
- f. Each potential project must be evaluated considering the current situation, as the strategy and action plan sets out the position at the time of writing; so, factors on both the demand and supply side may have changed as well as the cost and viability of the project at the point when an individual project is being considered within the lifespan of this strategy. The action plan should be reviewed and adjusted on an annual basis by the Strategy Steering Group to ensure these factors are taken into consideration.
- g. The immediate priority for Test Valley Borough Council, as with many local authorities at the time of this strategy, is to protect and continue to maintain the current level of facilities to ensure no loss of provision.
- h. The updates to the Action Plan should in turn inform periodic updates of Test Valley Borough Council's priorities for investment and future decision on funding either through capital grant and / or financing and budgetary planning.

Figure 6.1 Priorities and actions for playing pitches in Test Valley (short term)

Site	Facility type	Priority actions	Lead	Partners
Braishfield Cricket Ground	Cricket	Implement GMA Pitch Power report recommendations to raise quality from poor to at least standard.	Club	TVBC, ECB, Hampshire Cricket
Charlton Sports Centre	Football	Resurface 3G and renew FA Register status for affiliated play.	TVBC	FA
	Football	Improve quality of grass pitches through improved maintenance.	TVBC	FA
Ganger Farm Sports Park	Football	Deliver FA PitchPower quality report recommendations for grass pitch improvement.	TVBC	FA
Goodship Ground	Rugby	Reinstate third pitch.	Club, TVBC	RFU
Harrow Way School	Rugby	Seek to negotiate access agreements to allow for use of school pitches at weekends for training and youth fixtures when club sites at capacity or at risk of over use.	School, TVBC	RFU
Mountbatten School	Rugby	Seek to secure community access to allow for increased use of school pitches at weekends for training and youth fixtures when club sites at capacity or at risk of over use.	School, TVBC	RFU
Picket Twenty Sports Ground	Hockey	Deliver proposals to install a SD AGP.	TVBC	EH
	Cricket	Promote use of NTP	TVBC	ECB, Hampshire Cricket
Romsey Sports Centre	Cricket	Complete plans to upgrade changing rooms and provide new showers.	TVBC	ECB, Hampshire Cricket
	Cricket	Install NTP to reduce overuse of FTP and increase playing capacity.	TVBC	ECB, Hampshire Cricket
Sherfield English Sports Field	Football	Deliver FA PitchPower quality report recommendations for grass pitch improvement.	Parish Council	TVBC, FA
The Romsey School	Rugby	Seek to negotiate access agreements to allow for use of school pitches at weekends for training and youth fixtures when club sites at capacity or at risk of over use.	School, TVBC	RFU
Trojans Sports Club	Hockey	Explore options to secure additional match play and training slots either at Romsey School or out of the borough.	Club	TVBC, EH
	Rugby	Explore options to relocate some training demand to a WRC 3G either at Wide Lane Sports Ground in Eastleigh or in the Romsey area should future slots become available.	Club	TVBC, RFU
	Rugby	Support club to improve maintenance practices on grass pitches		
West Wellow Rec. Ground	Cricket	Investigate options to improve drainage options on the site.	Parish Council	TVBC, ECB, Hampshire Cricket

Figure 6.2 Priorities and actions for playing pitches in Test Valley (medium term)

Site	Facility type	Priority actions	Lead	Partners
Andover Cricket Ground	Cricket	Replace the pavilion to improve the accessibility and quality of provision.	TVBC, Club	ECB, Hampshire Cricket
Barton Stacey Recreation Ground	Football	Explore options to utilise the grass pitch for affiliated football to meet the future pitch shortfalls for Junior 11v11 provision, ensuring access to suitable ancillary facilities.	Parish Council	TVBC, FA
Broughton Sports Field	Football, Multisport	Provide a MUGA to reduce informal use of formal grass pitches.	Club, Parish Council	TVBC, FA
East Anton Sports Ground	Football, Multisport	Enhance MUGA to reduce informal use of formal grass pitches.	TVBC	FA
	Cricket	Provide new non turf practice net systems if the opportunity allows	TVBC	ECB, Hampshire Cricket
Foxcotte Park	Football, Rugby	Raise funds to enable the delivery of proposals to upgrade the grass stadium pitch to a WRC 3G AGP, providing peak hours for Andover New Street FC and Andover RFC.	TVBC, Clubs	FA, RFU
Goodship Ground	Rugby	Consider options for engineered drainage with GMA.	Club, TVBC	RFU
	Rugby	Upgrade sports lighting to LED.	Club, TVBC	RFU
John Hanson School	Hockey	Resurface SD AGP and install LED lights, ensuring a robust CUA continues to remain in place.	School, TVBC	EH
King's Somborne Rec. Ground	Cricket	Provide upgraded non turf practice net systems.	Parish Council	TVBC, ECB, Hampshire Cricket
Mottisfont Sports Field	Cricket	Provide upgraded non turf practice net systems.	Club, Parish Council	TVBC, ECB, Hampshire Cricket
		Replace the pavilion to improve quality of provision.	Club, Parish Council	TVBC, ECB, Hampshire Cricket
North Baddesley Rec. Ground	Cricket	Install NTP to provide an additional site for Ampfield and North Baddesley CC.	Club, Parish Council	TVBC, ECB, Hampshire Cricket
The Romsey School	Hockey	Explore options to upgrade sports lighting to LED.	School	EH, TVBC
Trojans Sports Club	Hockey	Plan for the resurface of SD AGP.	Club	TVBC, EH
	Rugby	Upgrade sports lighting to LED.	Club	TVBC, RFU
Upper Clatford Playing Fields	Football	Enhance MUGA to reduce informal use of formal grass pitches.	Parish Council	TVBC, FA
West Wellow Rec. Ground	Cricket	Install NTP to increase playing capacity.	Parish Council	TVBC, ECB, Hampshire Cricket

Figure 6.3 Priorities and actions for playing pitches in Test Valley (long term)

Site	Timescale	Facility type	Priority actions	Lead	Partners
Enham Alamein	Long	Football	Investigate the feasibility to improve ancillary facilities.	Owner	FA, TVBC
Ganger Farm Sports Park	Long	Football / Rugby	Assess options to upgrade a grass pitch to 3G AGP exploring the feasibility of a WRC surface if the preferred location impacts a grass rugby pitch.	TVBC	FA, RFU
	Long	Rugby	Seek to secure additional training slots for Romsey RFC on a WRC surface if additional 3G provision is provided in the area.	TVBC	RFU
London Road Sports Ground	Long	Cricket	Investigate options to improve ancillary facilities.	TVBC	ECB, Hampshire Cricket
Longparish Cricket Ground	Long	Cricket	Investigate the feasibility to upgrade the pavilion to improve quality of provision.	Club	TVBC, ECB, Hampshire Cricket
Longparish Football Pitch	Long	Football	Consider options to provide ancillary provision on site.	Parish Council	TVBC, FA
Over Wallop Sports Field	Long	Cricket	Reinstate fine turf pitch on site with NTP.	Parish Council	TVBC, ECB, Hampshire Cricket
Romsey Sports Centre / Bypass Ground	Long	Football, Rugby	Assess the feasibility of a suitable location for 3G provision ensuring there is no impact on other sports provision in area.	TVBC	FA, RFU, Clubs
The Romsey School	Long	Hockey	Consider options to improve ancillary facilities.	School	EH, TVBC
Thruxton Rec. Ground	Long	Football	Consider options to provide ancillary provision on site.	Parish Council	FA
Trojans Sports Club	Long	Cricket, Football, Hockey, Rugby	Undertake a master planning exercise for the site involving all of the clubs sports sections to address the various demands for each sport.	Club, TVBC, EBC,	NGBs, SE
Upper Clatford Playing Fields	Long	Football	Investigate options to improve ancillary facilities.	Parish Council	TVBC, FA
Site to be identified	Long	Cricket	Identify opportunities to develop new wickets within catchment of club sites currently overplayed to cater for future demand.	TVBC	ECB, Hampshire Cricket
Sites to be identified	Long	Football	Investigate the feasibility of additional sites for 3G pitch provision to meet the current and future shortfalls, in addition to those already identified further options to be explored include Winton Academy, Enham Alamein plus 3 other sites linked to areas of housing growth, which should be included as on site provision, where possible along with the appropriate ancillary facilities (including car parking provision).	TVBC	FA, RFU

Figure 6.4 Priorities and actions for Sports Facilities in Test Valley (short term)

Site	Timescale	Facility type	Priority actions	Lead	Partners
Andover Leisure Centre	Short	Sports Hall	Work with operator to extend the availability of the sports hall at Andover Leisure Centre to ensure full accessibility for community clubs in peak hours.	Places Leisure, TVBC	Sport England
Braishfield Recreation Ground	Short	Ultimate Frisbee	Consider options to provide suitable line markings for ultimate frisbee.	Parish Council	UK Ultimate (Frisbee)
Charlton Sports Centre	Short	Athletics	Achieve and maintain a UKA TrackMark accreditation at Charlton Sports Centre.	TVBC	England Athletics
		Walking/ Cycling	Finalise plans for a fully connected circular walking and cycling route around the perimeter of Charlton Sports Ground. This is for walking, running and cycling.	TVBC	Parish
East Anton Strategic Development	Short	Sports Hall Health and Fitness	Deliver 2 court activity hall, gym/studio in East Anton and explore suitable management opportunities to maximise sports provision.	TVBC	Sport England
Rookwood School	Short	Sports Hall	Establish availability for community use at Rookwood School.	School, TVBC	Hampshire CC
Romsey Area	Short	Gymnastics	Assess options to relocate at the end of the current lease to a site that better meets the needs of the club.	Starlight Gymnastics	TVBC, British Gymnastics
Vigo Road Recreation Ground	Short	Bowls	Improve the banks around the green.	Club	
Romsey and Abbey Tennis Club	Short	Tennis	Support Romsey and Abbey Tennis Club to develop ancillary facilities at their site.	TVBC, Club	LTA

Figure 6.5 Priorities and actions for Sports Facilities in Test Valley (medium term)

Site	Timescale	Facility type	Priority actions	Lead	Partners
Andover Turf Company (Outdoor Archery Range)	Medium	Archery	Investigate the feasibility of improving current ancillary facilities for archery at Andover Turf Company by improving the toilets, parking, and outdoor seating.	Club	TVBC, Archery GB
Hunts Farm Recreation Ground	Medium	Croquet	Work with Test Valley Croquet Club to review the specification and maintenance of the lawns.	TVBC, Club	Croquet England
Borough wide	Medium	Pickleball	Explore opportunities to encourage additional pickleball activity.	TVBC, Places Leisure	Pickleball England, LTA

Figure 6.6 Priorities and actions for Sports Facilities in Test Valley (long term)

Site	Timescale	Facility type	Priority actions	Lead	Partners
Andover BMX Club	Long	BMX	Investigate options to develop a national standard BMX track.	Club	British Cycling TVBC
Charlton Sports Centre	Long	Athletics	Upgrade and refurbish the ancillary facilities at the track, including additional sports lighting and CCTV. TVBC are looking to increase staffing to enhance user experience and address antisocial behaviour on site.	TVBC	England Athletics
Enham Alamein	Long	Sports Hall	Investigate options to invest in indoor sports provision.	Enham Alamein	TVBC, Sport England
Knightwood BMX Track	Long	BMX	Explore opportunities to develop ancillary facilities.	Knightwood BMX	Places Leisure
Knightwood Leisure Centre	Long	Tennis	Explore feasibility of developing covered tennis courts to provide a year-round tennis offer in the south of the borough.	Places Leisure	TVBC, LTA
Sherfield English Bowling Club	Long	Bowls	Plan to refurbish and improve the quality of ancillary facilities on site.	Club	TVBC
Virgo Road Recreation Ground	Long	Bowls	Deliver significant community pavilion project, leased to Andover Bowls Club, enabling the club to play indoor short mat bowls as well as hire hall for community use and provide access to kiosk and public toilets as part of the development.	TVBC, Club	England Bowling
Test Valley Area	Long	Netball	Work with clubs and England Netball to explore suitable sites to enhance courts to meet England Netball standards.	TVBC, England Netball	Clubs
Test Valley Area	Long	Golf	Protect and retain all current facilities working with clubs to diversify membership.	Clubs, TVBC	England Golf
Sites to be identified	Long	Padel	Explore options with the LTA to develop a community padel offer in the borough	TVBC	LTA
Site to be identified	Long	Archery	Investigate the feasibility and suitable locations to provide an indoor archery range in the borough which could serve both Romsey Archers and Tenzon Bowmen.	Clubs	Archery GB

Figure 6.7 Opportunities for providing or extending community sports opportunities to be investigated further at the following sites, all pending funding and relevant permissions; all potential opportunities listed are dependent on the support of the site owners/operators

Site	Timescale	Facility type	Potential actions	Partners
Andover Area	Long	Health and Fitness	Consider options for additional public health and fitness provision in the Andover area.	TVBC, Sport England
Andover Area	Long	Sports Hall	Commence planning for the provision of additional public sports hall capacity in Andover areas in association with housing growth plans, ensuring the provision is compliant with England Netball Court sizes.	TVBC, Sport England, England Netball
Andover Area	Long	Swimming	Identify options to expand the supply and capacity of public swimming in the Andover area in the context of housing and population growth.	TVBC, Sport England, Swim England
Foxcotte Park	Long	Archery, Football, Rugby,	Work closely with clubs in the area to understand theirs, and wider sporting participation, needs and look to ensure any applicable offsite contributions can be associated with the area and adjacent land to enhance the current provision. Depending on the clubs and local need, it is likely this will be a combination of enhancements to ancillary or pitch provision, and wider/adjacent facility development and delivery.	TVBC, NGBs
Romsey Area	Medium	Health and Fitness Swimming Sports Hall Squash	Progress with master planning for the future of public sports facilities in Romsey in the context of housing and population growth, specifically including the potential redevelopment of Romsey Rapids, enhancement and expansion of health and fitness provision, public sports hall space and ensuring the current squash court provision is retained and enhanced.	TVBC
Various school sites	Medium	Sports Halls	Seek discussions with education providers regarding options to secure current public access to school sports halls (by means of CUAs) and to explore any options to extend public availability.	TVBC, Hampshire CC
Various school sites	Long	Various Sports	Support Schools to enhance and improve facilities for community use.	TVBC, Hampshire CC
New Community / Sports Hall provision	Long	Badminton / Table Tennis	Any new provision should ensure suitable storage and work with respective NGBs to develop new sports opportunities in the area.	TVBC, NGBs
Borough wide	Long	Skate	Make improvements to current skate provision to address antisocial behaviour. Investigate areas for additional skate parks	TVBC
Borough wide	Long	Cycling	Add multiuse bike and pedestrian routes in new developments – circular routes, which are safe for learning to ride.	TVBC, HCC
Borough wide	Long	Cycling	Work to incorporate pump track and downhill bike tracks as on-site provision at new developments	TVBC
Borough wide	Long	Running	Explore options to develop ActiveTracks in parks and open spaces as part of future housing developments	TVBC
Borough wide	Long	Tennis	Explore options to provide sports lighting at park courts in areas of high demand.	TVBC

Figure. 6.8 Other playing pitch sites for protection

Site	Sport (s)
Amport Playground	Football (Informal)
Anton Junior School	Football
Abbotswood Sports Ground	Football
Ampfield Recreation Ground	Cricket
Amport Cricket Club	Cricket
Appleshaw War Memorial Playing Field	Football, Cricket
Bakers Farm (Leckford Estate)	Cricket
Braishfield Recreation Ground	Football
Bulbery Sports Ground , Abbots Ann	Football
Chilbolton War Memorial Playing Field	Football
East Tytherley Cricket Ground	Cricket
Goodworth Clatford Recreation Ground (Queen Elizabeth Playing Field)	Football
Halterworth Primary School	Football
Hardmoor Sports Ground	Football, Rugby, Cricket
Hatches Farm Playing Fields	Football
Hunts Farm Sports Ground	Football, Cricket
Hurstbourne Tarrant KGV Playing Field	Football (Informal)
Knightwood Leisure Centre	Football, Cricket
Knightwood Primary School	Football
Longstock Recreation Ground	Football (Informal)
Michelmersh & Timsbury Recreation Ground	Football, Cricket
Middle Wallop Army Station	Football
Nether Wallop Playing Field	Football
Nursling and Rownhams Village Hall and Recreation Ground	Football
Penton Recreation Ground	Cricket
Picket Piece Recreation Ground	Football
Portway Stadium	Football
Saxon Fields	Football
Shipton Bellinger Village Centre & Playing Field	Football
St George Catholic College	Football
Stockbridge FC	Football
Vernham Dean Burydene Playing Field	Football (informal)
Wherwell Playing Fields	Football, Cricket
Wildhern Village Hall & Playing Field	Cricket
Winton Community Academy (Lift- Winton)	Football

Test Valley Borough Council Sports Facilities and Playing Pitch Strategy 2026 – 2031

Section 7: Summary



7.1 Summary

- a. Test Valley Borough Council and its key partners have a very positive and well established track record of protecting and investing in the improvement of facilities for sport and physical activity in the borough to improve the health and wellbeing of the local population. This has been evident since the last strategy which has seen a number of key projects progressed as well as strategy updates published through the Stage E process. Test Valley Borough Council recognises the vital contribution these facilities for sport and physical activity make to the local economy and quality of life for all residents, communities, and visitors.
- b. The significant growth in participation of pitch sports since the last strategy, ensuring more residents have opportunities to be active and improve their health, wellbeing and social outcomes, is a great success but places pressure on the existing facilities and identifies a number of playing pitch priorities for Test Valley Borough Council to consider and plan. For cricket there is a need to install NTPs to increase the playing capacity for clubs with large youth sections, improve a number of ancillary facilities and identify sites for additional fine turf provision to meet future demand. In football, there is a need to provide more artificial grass pitches with a shortfall of 8 artificial grass pitches to meet the current and future demand. There is also a need to improve the quality of grass pitches and ancillary facilities as well as identify sites where additional grass pitches can be accommodated.
- c. The key priority for hockey is to deliver the proposals to install a sand dressed AGP at Picket Twenty Sports Ground and resurface the pitch at John Hanson School. There is a need for additional Rugby provision in the borough to accommodate the match and training demand from clubs, opportunities to increase access WRC 3G pitch provision is a key priority.
- d. The Sports Facilities Strategy identified, the key focus for Test Valley Borough Council is that the pools complex and sports pavilions – i.e. Romsey Rapids, Romsey Town FC, Romsey Sports Centre (Cricket, Football, Squash, Tennis) on the recreation land to the south of the A27 need reviewing and replacing in a way which has the widest possible benefit for residents. This is a multi-sport and multi-use site with a variety of leased areas. There is an established current shortfall of sports hall provision and of sports pitches in the Romsey area, particularly for youth football. There are also several major new housing developments proposed in and around the town that will need community facilities to serve the growth in population that will result from these developments. To meet these future needs preparation of a masterplan for these sites should be a priority action in order that developer contributions and strategic investment can be secured towards the delivery of the identified priority projects at the appropriate time.
- e. As well as the potential investment identified, the overarching need is for Test Valley Borough Council to protect the overall quantity, maintain the quality and secure availability for the wider community to the existing supply of sports facilities. Within Test Valley, like many local authorities, many sports facilities and playing pitches are located on education sites which require new or on-going community use agreements to protect future usage and extend community access where possible.
- f. As local authorities continue to manage difficult budget decisions and the challenges of providing both statutory and critical non-statutory services, the important role physical activity has in positively impacting on the health of the nation is even more evident. The health and wellbeing of the residents of Test Valley will be improved greatly by addressing the priorities highlighted within this strategy.

- g. This strategy provides the evidence base and priority actions needed to enable Test Valley to protect the current sports facilities and playing pitches as well as invest in improved and new facilities where the opportunities arise. This strategy should be updated on at least an annual basis to ensure it reflects the current position. Test Valley has a good working relationship with Sport England, NGBs and local clubs which enabled them to progress the previous strategy and these relationships will be an important factor in progressing the actions in this strategy.