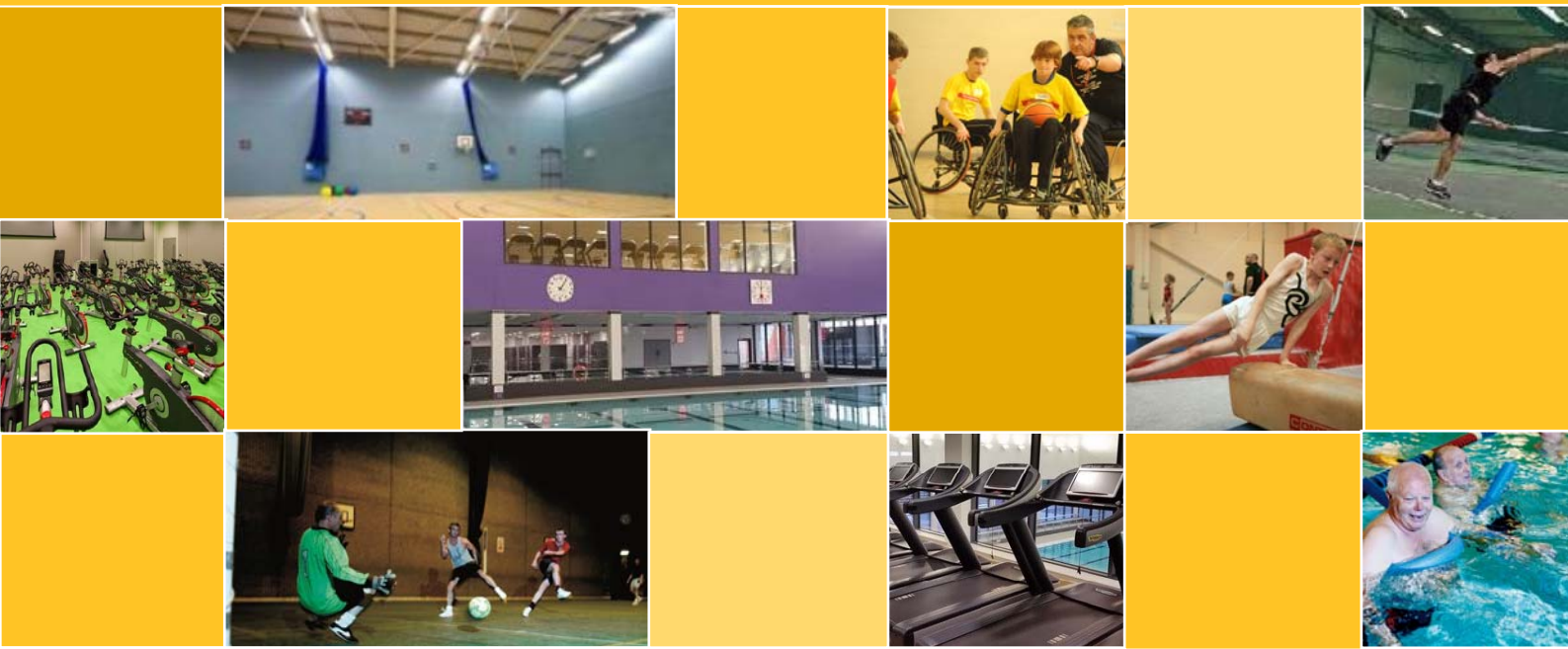


Indoor Sports Facility Strategy



The Sports Consultancy

Adopted July 2016



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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONSULTEES

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 The Sports Consultancy was appointed by Dover District Council (DDC) in June 2015 to complete an audit and assessment of indoor sports facilities and to produce an indoor sports facility strategy for Dover District (the District).

1.2 Project Brief

- 1.2.1 The project brief required that the indoor sports facility strategy should consider the age, quality, size, accessibility, community use, opening hours and type of management of each existing facility. In doing so, the assessment focused on providing the following:

- A clear understanding of the current and future supply and demand issues for key sporting facilities in terms of quantity, quality and location.
- Identification of recommendations and priorities to assist the authority and key stakeholders in the delivery of sporting outcomes for the area.
- Development and delivery of a facility strategy that is capable of formal adoption by DDC to shape its investment and facility priorities.

- 1.2.2 The assessment has been prepared in accordance with Sport England's guidelines (Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance July - 2014) to reflect current best practice for the provision of indoor sports facilities. It included a detailed assessment of supply and demand the following indoor facilities:

- Indoor swimming pools
- Sports halls
- Health and fitness suites
- Indoor bowls
- Squash courts
- Indoor tennis courts
- Dance/aerobic studios
- Gymnastics.
- It included analysis of the quality, quantity and accessibility for each facility type.

- 1.2.3 The following paragraphs contain a summary of the key findings from the needs assessment work, by facility type.

1.3 Key Findings for Indoor Swimming Pools

- 1.3.1 Overall, the district has a relatively low level of swimming pool provision. Water space per 1,000 population is 8.88m², which is lower than the national (12.46m²) and regional (13.82m²) averages. This is reflected in the fact that unmet demand in the district (14.4%) is higher than the national (8.6%) and regional (7%) averages. As a result existing levels of swimming pool provision should be retained where possible.
- 1.3.2 The Council should continue to support plans for new swimming pool provision in order to address the deficit in swimming pool water space in the District in 2015 and in the future, equivalent to an additional 6 lane 25m pool. Increasing pool water at a new Dover Leisure Centre from 6-8 lanes could contribute towards this.

- 1.3.3 It should be noted that the 6 lane 23m pool (c.275m² of water space) at Duke of York's Royal Military School is an important facility in the District and provides additional capacity which is not factored in to the FPM analysis, thereby reducing the shortfall on pool water in the District particularly for clubs and other groups.

1.4 Key Findings for Sports Halls

- 1.4.1 Overall, the district currently has a relatively low level of sports hall (3+court) provision in 2016. However, with plans for increasing community access to existing sports halls in the district, there is a higher level of sports hall (3+ court) provision projected in 2026. The levels of satisfied demand in the district range from 89.8% in 2016 (similar to the national figure of 89.6%) to 92% in 2026 (higher than the national figure of 88.6%). When supply vs demand is converted into the equivalent of badminton courts worth of sports hall space, there is a current deficit of supply of about 3.5 courts in 2016 and an excess of about 1.5 courts in 2026. It should be noted that the 2026 calculation assumes a 4 court hall at the new Dover Leisure Centre, currently the centre has 8 courts.
- 1.4.2 The potential reduction (from 8 courts to 4 courts) in the amount of sports hall space provided at a new replacement Dover Leisure Centre does not appear to have a detrimental impact on satisfied demand in the District and indeed this scenario will result in a greater level of supply across in 2026. However, this assumes that community access to sports hall space at Dover College, Sir Roger Manwood's School and Duke of York's Royal Military School is realised. This also assumes continued community access to sports hall space at Castle Community College.
- 1.4.3 A lack of appropriate time and space at sports halls is hindering the development of Sandwich Boxing Club, Dover Castle Archers and Indoor Cricket. All other clubs consulted with report sufficient sports hall space to meet the needs of the club.

1.5 Key Findings for Health and Fitness Suites

- 1.5.1 The Council should support the development of new community accessible health and fitness facilities, where these are viable and supported by site specific latent demand analysis. The findings of latent demand reports completed for Dover and Deal show that a significant level of latent demand exists. This reflects the relatively low level of provision in these towns in terms of quality and quantity of facilities. The results of the analysis support the increase in health and fitness provision from 65 stations to 120 at a new Dover Leisure Centre and an increase from 40 stations to 70 stations at Tides.

1.6 Key Findings for Indoor Bowls

- 1.6.1 Current provision across the district is meeting existing need. There is no requirement for additional indoor bowls provision in the District, assuming the long-term trend for declining participation continues. The District does however have an ageing population and therefore this could improve future trends in participation. There is a need to support Betteshanger Indoor Bowls Club in maintaining current levels of participation.

1.7 Key Findings for Squash Courts

- 1.7.1 There is no requirement for additional squash provision in. Demand for squash is falling nationally and in the District, resulting in underutilisation of courts. Operators are increasingly converting squash courts for more popular, revenue generating, activities. Although a small increase has been predicted in the number of active members at Dover Squash Club, the number of available courts is sufficient to service this increase.

If court provision is reduced this would have a negative impact on squash and current users may find it difficult to secure bookings at alternative sites during peak times. Provision of courts at Duke Of York's Military School may be a possible solution to address the loss at Dover Leisure Centre, if this was to be decided.

1.8 Key Findings for Indoor Tennis

- 1.8.1 Due to the existing facilities in Deal and nearby Canterbury, Dover District is not identified by the LTA as having a lack of provision. Indoor tennis courts at Tides Leisure and Indoor Tennis Centre should be retained.

1.9 Key Findings for Dance/Aerobic Studios

- 1.9.1 There is a requirement to increase the level of provision of dedicated multi-purpose studio space within the District. The Council should support development of new community accessible dance and activity studios, where these are viable and particularly where they complement a wider health and fitness offer. Proposals for a new leisure centre in Dover and for the improvement of Tides include additional studio space.

1.10 Key Findings for Gymnastics

- 1.10.1 There is a requirement to investigate options for the development of a new dedicated gymnastics facilities in the District. There is latent demand identified (through waiting lists) at Dover Gym Club and Deal Gym Club. However, it should be noted that these facilities can be developed as commercially viable businesses.

1.11 Strategy and Action Plan

- 1.11.1 The strategy and action plan has been commissioned, by DDC, on behalf of all leisure stakeholders in the District but it is recognised that the recommendations and actions cannot be delivered by the Council alone. DDC is only one stakeholder in the District and has limited resources, in terms of officer support and funding. All partners involved in indoor sports provision, whether public, private or voluntary will need to work together to take the strategy through to implementation. The relevant stakeholders have been identified in the Action Plan, and include:

- Dover District Council
- Kent County Council
- Schools and colleges
- Sports clubs
- Facility operators
- National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs)
- Other commercial providers.

- 1.11.2 The action plan contained in the report has been developed to address a number of strategic priorities, identified during the study, and the needs identified for each facility type reviewed. The actions are set out under the following headings:

- General Strategic Priorities
- Swimming Pool Priorities
- Sports Hall Priorities
- Health and Fitness Priorities
- Indoor Bowls Priorities
- Squash Priorities

- Aerobic/Dance Studio Priorities
- Gymnastics Priorities.

1.11.3 The specific actions have been identified in the Action Plan, as well as target timescales for completion.

1.12 Anticipated Outcomes

1.12.1 Delivery of the objectives contained in this strategy will result in the following outcomes being achieved:

- The loss of strategically valuable sports facilities that are available for community use or could contribute to meeting future community needs will be minimised. Any that are lost will be replaced by equivalent or better provision, in terms of quantity and quality, in a suitable location.
- Strategically valuable sites will be better utilised and options to maximise revenue generation from facilities will be investigated, to improve revenue generation and participation.
- Options for the replacement of Dover Leisure Centre will be investigated in full and recommendations made for the delivery of a new centre.
- Proposals for the improvement of facilities at Tides Leisure Centre will be progress, leading to recommendations for improvements to the centre.
- Community use of sports facilities on educational sites will be protected and enhanced where required.
- Sports facility charges should remain reasonable, in terms of affordability to residents, and be comparable with similar facilities elsewhere.
- Stakeholders will work together to increase the levels of community access to sites. Stakeholders should include Council departments, health agencies, facility operators, education providers, NGBs, and local sports clubs to expand the range of affordable and accessible facilities for both residents and visitors to Dover.
- Stakeholders will be supported, where possible, in developing new indoor facilities.
- New sports facilities, provided as part of future educational provision in Dover, will be designed for curricular, extra-curricular, community and sports development use to ensure that opportunities for community use out of school hours is secured.
- New developments (e.g. residential, commercial and retail) will contribute towards the development and enhancement of sports facilities to meet identified needs with priority being given to projects identified in this Strategy.
- There will be collaborative working between neighbouring authorities to maximise cross-boundary usage.
- Specific issues relating to the district's demographic profile will be addressed. This will include using indoor sport and leisure facilities to improve levels of physical activity in the whole population and reduce the gap in health inequalities by promoting access and engagement with at risk groups.
- There will be increased engagement with representatives of protected groups when developing projects that provide new indoor sports facilities.

1.13 Delivery of the Strategy

- 1.13.1 The delivery of this strategy is dependent upon the formation of close working partnerships with stakeholders to collectively enhance the operation and provision of indoor sports facilities in the District.

1.14 Funding

- 1.14.1 It is clear that the development of a new leisure centre in Dover and improvements to Tides are required to improve the quality of facilities in order to meet both current and future demand. Any leisure facility improvements in the District will be reliant on securing funding. The current financial climate has placed pressure on the finances of all facility operators including local authorities.
- 1.14.2 The council will seek to work with others to use the indoor leisure assets in the District innovatively and a multi-agency approach is required to address the facility requirements in the strategy. The main funding delivery mechanisms for DDC and others in delivering the strategy are:
- **Council funding:** capital funding allocated to deliver facilities within DDC's ownership, and potentially the use of capital receipts from the sale of existing assets.
 - **Capital Grant funding:** national agencies such as Sport England.
 - **Third party funding:** Financing capital through the forecast operational surplus and finance packages as part of the leisure management procurement process or construction contracts.
 - **Commercial sector funding:** limited potential for investment from commercial leisure operators such as those who provide health and fitness centres.
 - **Development contributions:** Section 106 development contributions.

1.15 Monitoring and Review

- 1.15.1 This strategy has been produced to enable the development of indoor sports facilities within the District to be provided for in a planned and co-ordinated way that meets the needs of the local population and addresses areas that could have the greatest future demand.
- 1.15.2 The strategy is based on the current known and planned facilities, but it will need to be reviewed periodically, particularly when there are significant changes in facility provision. The progress against the plan should be reviewed on an annual basis and the strategy and action plan should be updated if there are any significant changes in order to ensure that the strategy requirements keep pace with changes in facility provision and the amount of growth planned for the District.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The Sports Consultancy was appointed by Dover District Council (DDC) in June 2015 to complete an audit and assessment of indoor sports facilities and to produce an indoor sports facility strategy for Dover District (the District).

2.2 Project Brief

- 2.2.1 The project brief required that the indoor sports facility strategy should look at the age, quality, size, accessibility, community use, opening hours and type of management of each existing facility. In doing so, the assessment focused on providing the following:
- A clear understanding of the current and future supply and demand issues for key sporting facilities in terms of quantity, quality and location.
 - Identification of recommendations and priorities to assist the authority and key stakeholders in the delivery of sporting outcomes for the area.
 - Development and delivery of a facility strategy that is capable of formal adoption by DDC to shape its investment and facility priorities.
- 2.2.2 The assessment identifies and assesses the provision of the indoor sports facility types listed below:
- Indoor swimming pools
 - Sports halls
 - Health and fitness suites
 - Indoor bowls
 - Squash courts
 - Indoor tennis courts
 - Aerobic/dance studios
 - Gymnastics
- 2.2.3 The assessment has been prepared in accordance with Sport England's guidelines (Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance July - 2014) to reflect current best practice for the provision of indoor sports facilities.
- 2.2.4 The guide focuses on the practicalities of producing a clear and robust assessment to help develop and apply local planning policy. The guide will therefore assist DDC with meeting the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework. The approach has been developed so that it can be tailored to apply to a range of sports facilities is intended to help Local Authorities (as the key strategic and statutory planning lead) to understand the facility needs in their area.

2.3 Methodology and Approach

- 2.3.1 The audit and assessment methodology included the following stages of work:

Stage 1 Project initiation

Stage 2 A review of policy review of relevant strategic background documentation - analysis of existing and emerging local planning policies for indoor sport facility provision in the District

Stage 3 Audit of local provision - A desktop review of the existing facility supply in the area using data made available by Sport England, via Active Places

Power, to establish the current level of provision within the District including the range of facilities, age, management type and accessibility. This information was supplemented by consultation with operators and site visits to key facilities.

Stage 4 Identifying local needs - Consultation with key stakeholders (i.e. DDC Officers, Sport England, National Governing Bodies of Sport, local educational establishments with indoor sports facilities, key local sports clubs, facility managers, neighbouring local authorities and County Sport Partnership) and use Sport England's strategic planning tools such as the Facilities Planning Model and Active Places Power, to complete a robust assessment of the demand for indoor sports facilities.

Stage 5 Using the outputs from stages 3 and 4, identification of surpluses, shortfalls, issues and recommendations to help ensure that existing and future of indoor sports facility needs are met across the District. This stage identified opportunities for improving existing indoor facilities in terms of their quality, quantity, physical and social accessibility, community access to school sites and current maintenance and management.

Stage 6 Production of an indoor sports facility strategy document and a prioritised and timeline action plan for the District. This incorporates the key findings from each of the stages listed above. The final strategy takes a long-term view for the period 2016-2026 to conform with the detailed modelling tools, which run the facility planning horizon to 2026.

2.3.2 The findings in this report are based on data collected from a range of sources including:

- Published policy and strategy documents
- Sport England tools including:
 - The Facility Planning Model
 - Active Places Power website
 - Active People Survey
 - Market Segmentation.
- Stakeholder consultation including:
 - Council officers
 - Sport England
 - Facility operators
 - Relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport
 - County Sport Partnership
 - User clubs
 - Neighbouring local authorities.
- Site visits.

2.3.3 This document contains the findings from the audit and assessment of indoor sports facilities and the strategy and action plan.

3 BACKGROUND AND POLICY REVIEW

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 This section contains a review of local and national policies and other information, which is of significance in the development of the needs assessment, strategy and action plan. This includes consideration of the following:

- National policy context
- Local policy context
- Demographic profile
- Health and sports participation trends
- Sport England market segmentation.

3.1.2 The key issues arising from the policies and information reviewed have been summarised in the following pages. A summary of the key findings is provided at the end of the section.

3.2 National Context

A New Strategy for Sport (DCMS, 2015)

3.2.1 It has been thirteen years since a broad strategy for sport was published and the sporting world has significantly changed since 2002. It has become clear that since 2012 the existing approach to increasing participation has exhausted its potential for further growth and a new approach is needed that reflects financial, social and technological realities of the time.

3.2.2 The involvement of almost every government department is crucial as the power of sport extends across almost every area of government activity.

3.2.3 Ten themes have been derived through consultation that together captures the headline issues. These themes are:

- Theme one – Participation: The governments objective is simple, to make everyone feel that sport is for them, whether a beginner or a competitor. It is important to encourage those who thrive off competition but also equally important not to forget those who just wish to participate socially and learn.
- Theme two - Physical Activity: Physical activity, even in the smallest of forms can have significantly large benefits and promoting it is therefore a core part of the strategy.
- Theme three – Children and young people: Giving children the opportunity to take part and develop a love of physical activity and sport is vital to ensure participation and long-term enjoyment.
- Theme four – Financial sustainability: In the current process of moving the country from economic crisis to recovery, all aspects of public sector budgets must be addressed.
- Theme five – Coaching, workforce and good governance: Skills are a key driver of balanced growth. The government is committed to delivering apprenticeship reforms through Trailblazers and are currently working with a range of employees in the sport and leisure industry.
- Theme six – Elite and Professional Sport: Elite sport has the power to inspire young people.

- Theme seven – Infrastructure: Local authorities have an important role in providing high-quality facilities, but alternative sources of investment and partnership approaches are crucial in ensuring the sustainability of the sports sector.
- Theme eight – Fairness and Equality: Sport has the potential to break down barriers and making the most of unique opportunities where sport can promote equality in the wider society is crucial.
- Theme nine – Safety and Wellbeing: Sport is extremely powerful and it is vital that everyone is able to perform, take part and work in a safe and accessible environment.
- Theme ten – International Influence and Major Sporting Events: The main challenge after hosting the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games is how best to maintain the momentum created.

Sport England: Towards an Active Nation (Strategy 2016-2021)

3.2.4 In December 2015 the Government published Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation which focusses upon five main outcomes: physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing, individual development, social and community development and economic development. This new strategy sets out how Sport England will deliver these outcomes. One of the most important features of this strategy is a much stronger focus on tackling inactivity. Customer focus is also a key theme throughout this strategy. Programmes and projects must start with the needs of the individual, offering them activities when and where they feel comfortable. Key changes they will be making include:

- Focusing more money on resources tackling inactivity
- Investing more in children and young people
- Building positive attitudes to sport and activity as the foundations of an active life
- Helping those who are active now to carry on
- Responding to customer needs and helping the sector be more welcoming and inclusive especially of those groups currently under-represented in sport
- Working nationally and encouraging stronger collaboration to deliver a more joined-up experience of sport and activity for customers
- Working with a wider range of partners including the private sector
- Encouraging innovation.

3.2.5 Sport England are aiming to help the sector become more productive and sustainable and will work with UK Sport to set targets to reduce any reliance on single sources of public funding and increase their overall level of non-public investment. Seven new investment programmes have been created that directly respond to the policy direction set in Sporting Future, with the current Sport England 30+ investment programme being replaced. The seven investment programmes will be underpinned by a new Workforce Strategy and Coaching Plan. The programmes are:

- Tackling inactivity – at any one time in England 28% of people are inactive, they face a range of barriers to activity, both emotional and practical. These people will be the highest priority for Sport England investment
- Children and young people – new remit to work with children from the age of five and recognise that responsibility lies outside the school curriculum encouraging basic competence and enjoyment.
- Volunteering a dual benefit – focus on what the volunteer gets out of volunteering with a focus on both short and long term volunteering
- Taking sport and activity into the mass market – seek out and back ideas that can help make sport a mass market activity, including making sport more digitally

accessible. More practical solutions need to be created specifically for those who are trying to become more physically active and not just to support those with well-established habits. The main focus here will be on scale, with Sport England wishing to make a difference to hundreds of thousands of people.

- Supporting sport's core market – aim to ensure that those who have a strong affinity for sport are treated as valued customers by the sports system.
- Local delivery – Aim to demonstrate the benefits of working in a more joined up way in some specific places where they will pilot new ways of working locally and build long-term collaborations.
- Facilities – commitment to investing in all types of facilities, with a strong presumption in favour of multi-sport for their major strategic investments with the aim of ensuring facilities are designed to welcome customers. A new Community Asset Fund will be created to support local infrastructure by attracting local social investment.

3.2.6 Sport England will consequently:

- Create a new dedicated fund of £120m to tackle inactivity over the next four years
- Ensure that at least 25% of their total investment over the next four years directly benefits inactive people, including a proportion of their funding for local delivery, children and young people and facilities
- Work with Public Health England to develop clear messages on physical activity training programmes to primary healthcare professionals.
- Develop a collaborative programme of work with leading health charities. The aim will be to get more people at risk of, or living with long-term conditions, taking part in sport and physical activity.
- Create a common evaluation framework for all proposals and investments
- Create new and wider partnerships in the next four years, as well as working with existing partners in new ways
- Specifically focus on more commercial data and gaining more digital expertise
- Aim to build on lessons learned in the Inspired Facilities programme to simplify the competitive funding processes over the life of this strategy, starting with the new Community Asset Fund which will replace the current Small Grants programme.

National Planning Policy Framework (2012)

3.2.7 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out planning policies for England. It details how these changes are expected to be applied to the planning system. It also provides a framework for local people and their councils to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities. It states that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It identifies the need to focus on three themes of sustainable development:

- Economic
- Social
- Environmental.

3.2.8 A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

3.2.9 The “promoting healthy communities” theme identifies that planning policies should be based on robust, up-to-date assessments of need for open space, sports and

recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative and qualitative deficiencies and surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

Everybody Active, Everyday (Public Health England, 2014)

- 3.2.10 Public Health England is aiming to drive a steep change in the public's health. Tackling physical inactivity is a key step to making the change to reduce preventable death, disease and disability and support people and their surrounding communities to ultimately achieve their potential. Other high income countries including Finland and Germany have illustrated that such a situation can be changed.
- 3.2.11 Public Health England want to engage with providers, professionals, and commissioners in health, social care, transportation, planning, education, sport and leisure, culture, the voluntary and private sector to drive through this campaign.
- 3.2.12 Being active everyday needs to ultimately be embedded across every community in every aspect of life. England is currently 24% less active than in 1961. Public Health England has developed four domains for action at both a national and regional scale. These include:
- Active society: creating a social movement
 - Moving professionals: activating networks of expertise
 - Active lives: creating the right environments
 - Moving at scale: scaling up interventions that make us active.
- 3.2.13 A cultural turnaround in attitudes to physical activity needs to change with a long-term promotion of physical activity ultimately needed. Professionals need to be activated in a variety of practices including; spatial planning, social care, sport and leisure and the media.
- 3.2.14 Public Health England recognises that monitoring progress and measuring impact at a population, organisational, programme and individual level needs to occur. To support the evaluation at a local level, Public Health England have developed the Physical Activity Standard Evaluation Framework (SEF).
- 3.2.15 It is recognised that delivering the vision of everyone being active everyday will not be achieved in ten years. The following steps provide actions for local areas to support and facilitate change:
- Lead by example in all public sector workspaces
 - Make every contact count for volunteers and professionals to encourage active lives
 - Teach every child to value, enjoy and have the skills to be active every day and build environments that are age friendly, safe for cyclists and make walking easier.
- 3.2.16 Alongside Everybody Active Everyday, Public Health England is publishing supporting publications that provide in-depth resources and information to support local and national action.

3.3 Local Policy Context

The Strategy Framework for Sport in Kent

- 3.3.1 Kent has developed a strategic framework for sport and physical activity following the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. It includes sport strategies, local

authority strategies, and health strategies and has been developed to provide a direction of travel for all organisations and partners involved in physical activity and sport. It is hoped that the framework will act as a guide to each organisation who will be able to identify their own individual priorities.

3.3.2 Key themes and priorities include:

- Increasing participation in sport and physical activity
- Supporting the voluntary sector and volunteering
- Using sport and physical activity to contribute to other social agendas
- Attracting funding and development
- Improving facilities for sport and physical activity
- Improving information, partnership working and co-ordination
- Ensuring sport and physical activity is recognised and supported by local policy and decision makers
- Planning and research for sport and physical activity
- Attracting major events to the County

3.3.3 Performance measures will be reviewed regularly through the Kent and Medway Sports Board.

Dover District Local Plan (Adopted 2010)

3.3.4 The Core Strategy sets out a high growth agenda, and it is recognised that this will need to be supported by considerable level of infrastructure. The principle sports/leisure centres in the district are identified as those in Dover, Deal and Sandwich, but it is acknowledged that the centres at Dover and Deal are becoming outdated. The infrastructure delivery plan states that a replacement indoor sport and recreation facility will be required to replace inefficient facilities in Dover. Also the need for new indoor sport provision in Aylesham is highlighted in order to help support the village expansion.

3.3.5 A policy on leisure centre provision has been saved within the previous Local Plan. It states that proposals for indoor facilities will be permitted provided that any major facility is located in Dover or Deal at a site within the town centre, or if no site of this nature is available, they are to be located on the edge-of-centre where there are good pedestrian or cycle links. If such facilities are to be located at a rural settlement the proposals will only be permitted provided they only satisfy an identified local need. It is acknowledged that people living in the countryside have no less of a need for recreation than those living in towns.

Dover District Council Corporate Plan (2012-2016)

3.3.6 The vision of the District is to create ‘a high-speed district of growth, enterprise, and opportunity.’ Despite the tough economic climate that the District and the country are going through, the Council continues to make progress with plans to regenerate the district engaging and working with a range of partners.¹

3.3.7 A strategic priority outlined is the aim to ultimately serve the community effectively. Priority actions outlined to help deliver this priority include supporting and identifying

¹ To be updated in line with the new Corporate Plan once agreed by the Council

sport, leisure and recreation opportunities through the delivery of the Local Development Framework with the aim of this being delivered in 2016.²

Land Allocations Local Plan (2015)

- 3.3.8 Replace with: Parts of Dover town do not fulfil their potential or are in need of renewal, these are known as 'Areas of Change'. Dover Leisure Centre is identified as one such area. It occupies a particularly prominent site, and despite significant investment by DDC, the current facilities do not meet current expectations and needs. In addition, the Centre is not energy efficient and consequently costly to run. Improved facilities could form part of the planned regeneration of the town and meet predicted increased levels of demand.
- 3.3.9 Two broad objectives are set out:
- Investigate whether it will be possible to meet the need for modern, inclusive sport and recreation facilities by building new facilities on the existing site, or whether the Leisure Centre should be relocated and the site re-developed; and
 - Ensure that any new development on the site fulfils the potential of this prominent location.

Dover District Sport and Recreation Strategy (2008-2018)

- 3.3.10 DDC alongside Sport England and The Government recognise the regeneration benefits that the provision of sport and recreational opportunities can bring to communities. The need to develop a strategy for Sport and Recreation in the District was identified, which led to key outcomes, including; increased access and opportunities, increased participation, improved personal performance, improved health and wellbeing and a safer and stronger community.
- 3.3.11 The key drivers for this strategy were identified as:
- 1) Increase the range of opportunities for young people to participate in sport, leisure and physical activities enabling increased levels of participation
 - 2) Ensure that the District has a range of appropriately located, quality leisure facilities, services and activities meeting local needs
 - 3) Increase the range of opportunities which enable people of all ages and abilities to participate in a range of sport and recreational activities which enhance their quality of life and increase participation levels by 1% per year.
- 3.3.12 Following on from the identification of key drivers, a number of objectives were set out and the most relevant are listed below:
- 1) A co-ordinated approach should be undertaken with regards to the delivery of sports across the District.
 - 2) In partnership, enable and facilitate increased opportunities and improve access for children and young people to all sport, leisure and physical activity provision in the District.
 - 3) With regards to Dover Leisure Centre, costings should be undertaken to carry out improvement work to entrance areas, both internally and externally in addition to remedial or replacement works being required to internal finishes.
 - 4) Work should be undertaken at Tides Leisure and Indoor Tennis Centre (Tides) to identify the extent of deterioration of the main pool hall and ensure repairs are

² To be updated in line with the new Corporate Plan once agreed by the Council

carried out. In addition to further feasibility work being done to assess the need to replace the leisure pool with a conventional pool.

- 5) Identify opportunities to develop new partnerships for sport and recreation provision.

Dover Leisure Centre Feasibility and Options Appraisal (2015)

- 3.3.13 A feasibility and options appraisal study for the improvement and replacement of the existing Dover Leisure Centre is being undertaken alongside this needs assessment. The study is still progressing, however initial options include a 6 or 8 lane 25m main pool (100 spectator seats in 6 lane pool option and 250 in an 8 lane option) and a learner pool with moveable floor to focus on swimming lessons. The initial options also include a 4-8 court sports hall, 120 station health and fitness suite, up to 3 aerobic/dance studios, a dedicated spin studio and up to 3 squash courts.
- 3.3.14 A number of related feasibility studies are being undertaken in parallel with this study, which includes the following:
- DDC is assessing wet side improvements for future investment at the Council's pools.
 - Your Leisure (management operator) is undertaking further feasibility work on dry side facilities and extending health and fitness provision at Tides.

3.4 Demographic Profile

- 3.4.1 The demographic profile of the District has been reviewed to provide further context in terms of the catchment population and the key factors influencing facility needs.

Population

- 3.4.2 The District has a population of 113,100³, with 65% living in urban areas and the remaining 35% of the population living in rural areas. The population has grown by 6.8% from the 2001 census figure of 104,571. The overall population is expected to increase 22% to approximately 136,600 people by 2026⁴.
- 3.4.3 The population for individual areas are presented below:⁵
- Dover Urban Area – 44,390 (39%)
 - Deal Urban Area – 30,100 (27%)
 - Sandwich Rural Settlement – 7,040 (6%)
 - Aylesham Rural Settlement – 4,940 (4%).
- 3.4.4 The 65% of the population living in urban areas only occupy approximately 21%⁶ of the total land area in the District. The remaining 35% of the population live in rural areas occupying 79% of the land, with approximately 22% of the District being designated as part of the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Approximately two thirds of the District's residents live in the two coastal towns of Dover and Deal, with the remainder living in Sandwich and other small settlements throughout the remaining rural area.
- 3.4.5 The District has a slightly higher percentage of 50-64 year olds (17.1%), compared with England (15.1%) and it has been predicted that the District faces demographic changes

³ 2014 Mid-Year Population Estimates (Census based) as published by the Office for National Statistics on 25 June 2015

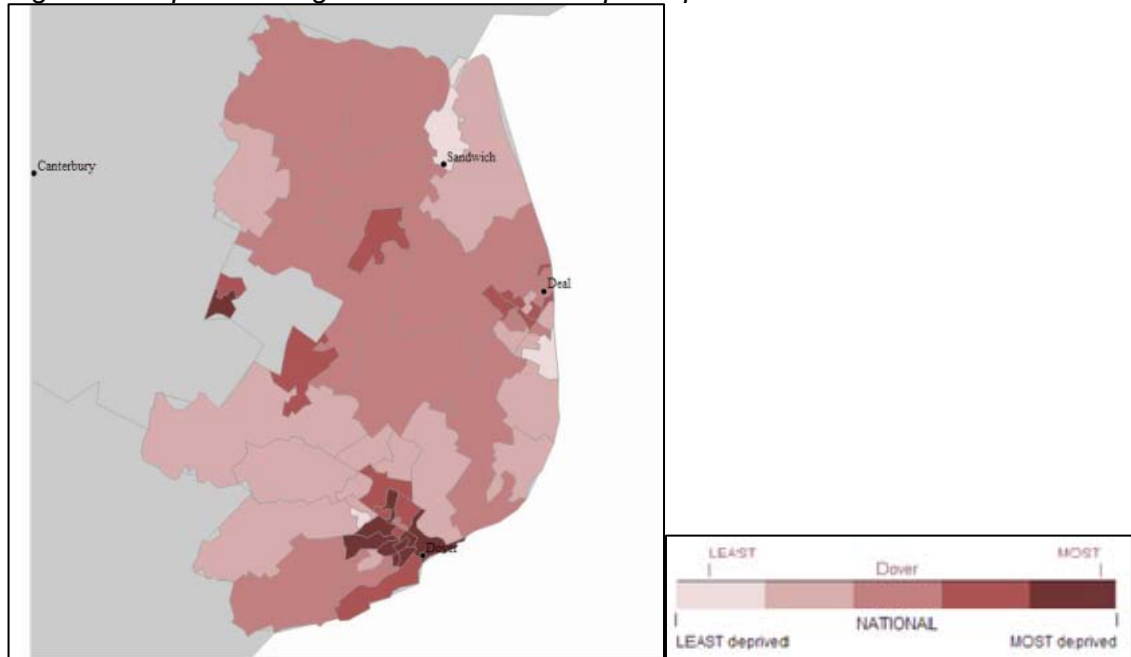
⁴ KCC Strategy forecast (Oct 2014), Business Intelligence, Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

⁵ 2014 Mid-Year Population Estimates (Census based) as published by the Office for National Statistics on 25 June 2015

over the next 25 years that if unchecked, will see the population age dramatically. This demographic trend is one of the main challenges for the District given its potential impact in terms of a declining working age population and increased public spending in areas of health and social care.

- 3.4.6 Coastal deprivation is also an issue within the District, along with the challenges alongside it. The issues include those surrounding regeneration, health, wellbeing and limited opportunities for young people. Figure 1 below illustrates the areas of ranging deprivation within the District.

Figure 1: Map illustrating overall index of multiple deprivation in Dover District



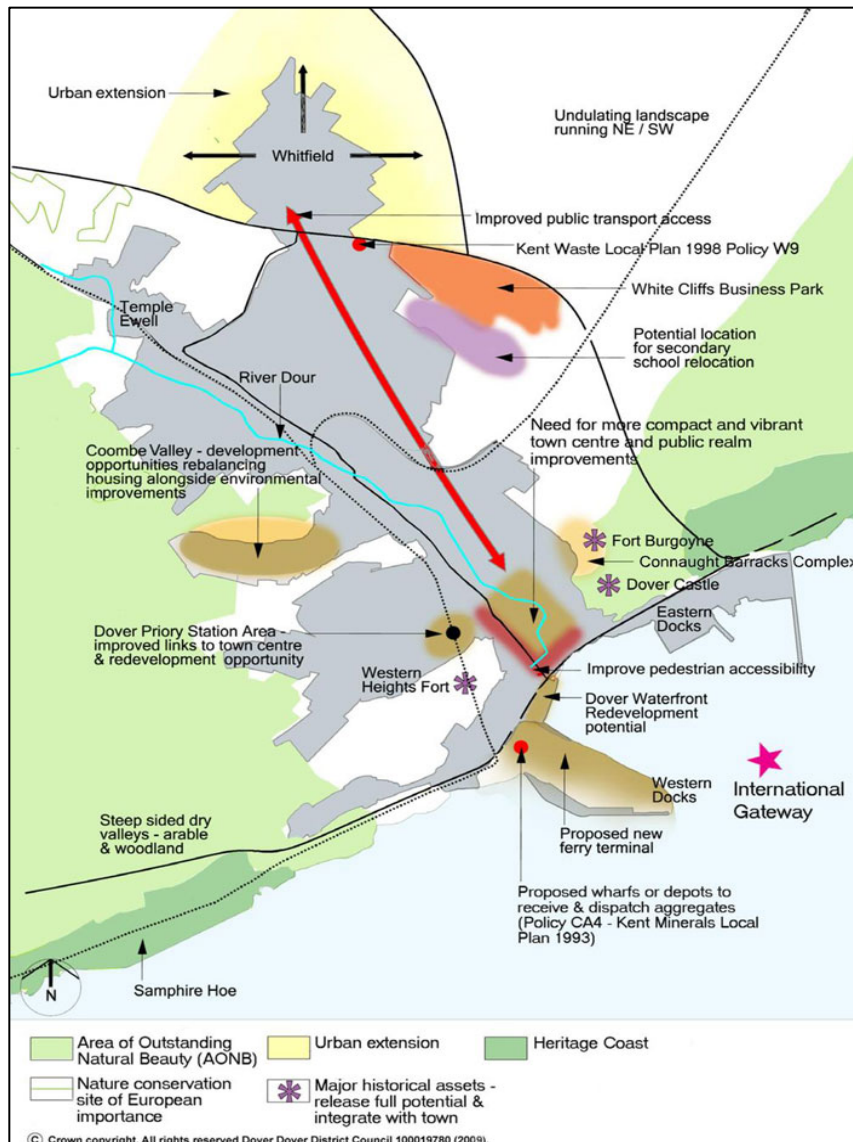
(Source: State of the District 2014: An economic, social and environmental profile of Dover District)

- 3.4.7 The main areas of deprivation are in Dover, Deal and Aylesham, which stresses the need for affordable, community accessible facilities in these areas.
- 3.4.8 Recent development trends in the District have seen an increase in the proportion of single person households and a large shift away from privately rented and local authority housing to owner occupation. Figure 2 below illustrates the urban extension to Whitfield, whereby 5,750 new homes with a variety of housing types are to be introduced on a 209 hectare site⁷.

⁶ State of the District 2014: An economic, social and environmental profile of Dover district

⁷ Adam Architecture: <http://www.adamarchitecture.com/projects/urbanism/whitfield.htm>

Figure 2: Map illustrating spatial and structural development plans



(Source: Adopted Core Strategy, 2010)

3.4.9 The Core Strategy⁸ is a key document outlining DDC's development objectives, which includes allocation of land for around 14,000 new homes, with the aim of providing at least 10,100 by 2026. The approximate distribution of these can be seen below:

- 70% in Dover
- 10% in Deal (subject to investigation of Middle/North Deal)
- 5% in Sandwich
- 7% in Aylesham
- 7% Rural.

3.5 Health

3.5.1 There are c.24,000⁹ physically inactive adults in the District. These are adults (16+) doing less than 30 minutes moderate intensity physical activity per week, which at a

⁸ Public Health England (2014)

rate of 26.3%, is higher than the South East rate of 25.4%. This physical activity may contribute to the slightly lower life expectancy of 79.1 years and 82.8 years for males and females respectively compared, with the average life expectancies of 80.4 and 83.9 in the South East.

- 3.5.2 The District has a high rate of obesity levels in children. In Year 6, 20.2%¹⁰ of children are classed as obese, which is at a higher rate than the regional and national rates of 16.0% and 18.9% respectively.
- 3.5.3 There are however c.45,400¹¹ physically active adults in the District doing at least 150 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity per week, which may contribute towards the slightly lower percentage of overweight adults in the District, which at 63.2% is lower than the national rate of 63.8%.
- 3.5.4 According to South Kent Coast Clinical Commissioning Group, the priorities in the District include improving life expectancy by preventing suicide, heart disease and reducing smoking prevalence, improving teenage pregnancy rates, and improving physical activity in children and adults.

3.6 Sports Participation

- 3.6.1 The number of people in the District participating in physical activity at least one 30 minute session of moderate intensity sport per week has fluctuated between the years 2005 and 2015. There has been an overall increase in participation from 30.4% to 32.7%¹² between these years, although participation dropped off significantly in 2009 and 2011. It should be noted however, that this trend varies from the regional trend, which has remained much steadier, with just a slight decrease in participation overall from 37.1% in 2005/06 to 36.9% in 2015.
- 3.6.2 In comparison to neighbouring authorities, Dover District has a higher rate of moderate intensity sports participation in 2015 than Thanet (29.2%) and Shepway (32.4%). However, Canterbury has a significantly higher sports participation rate at 37.6% in 2015, which is also above the regional average.

Table 1: Adult (16+) participation in at least 30 minutes and moderate intensity sport (at least 1 session a week) by year

Survey	Dover	Canterbury	Shepway	Thanet	South East
	%	%	%	%	%
APS1 2005/06	30.4	34.5	30.6	30.2	37.1
APS2 2007/08	32.6	32.8	33.6	35.6	39.0
APS3 2008/09	32.5	38.3	31.0	25.5	37.9
APS4 2009/10	29.2	36.1	32.9	32.7	37.9
APS5 2010/11	37.9	37.1	27.8	30.5	36.8
APS6 2011/12	27.6	40.2	28.8	32.5	38.4
APS7 2012/13	32.5	31.9	34.3	31.1	38.1
APS8 2013/14	35.2	42.8	30.5	21.5	37.6
APS9 2014/15	32.7	37.6	32.4	29.2	36.9

(Source: Active People Survey 1-9, Sport England 2015)

⁹ Public Health England (2014)

¹⁰ Public Health England (2014)

¹¹ Public Health England (2014)

¹² Active People Survey (2015)

- 3.6.3 There are 37,600¹³ adults in the District wanting to do more sport, which at a rate of 42.6% is considerably lower than the regional (57.8%) and national (57.4%) rates

Table 2: Number of adults (16+) wanting to do more sport

	Dover		South East		England	
	No. (000s)	Rate	No. (000s)	Rate	No. (000s)	Rate
All adults	27.6	42.6%	4,055	57.8%	24,676.3	57.4%

(Source: Active People Survey 9, 2014/15)

- 3.6.4 According to the most recent Active People Survey 9 (2014/15), which focusses on adult participation in particular sports; 9,300 adults (16 years +) stated that they wished to participate more in swimming. Swimming participation in the District (10.7%) compares poorly to regional (12.2%) and national averages (11.5%), which could reflect a lack of swimming provision in the District.

3.7 Non Participation

- 3.7.1 In addition to analysing participation we have also reviewed the Active People Survey (2014/15) results for non-participation. The results for non-participation in sport by 14+ year olds are summarised in table 3. This shows that non participation in sport in the District (54.4%) compares poorly to regional (49.8%) and national averages (52.8%).

Table 3: Non-participation in sport by 14+ year olds

	Dover	South East	England
	Rate	Rate	Rate
All over 14 year olds	54.4%	49.8%	52.8%

(Source: Active People Survey 9, 2014/15)

3.8 Sport England Market Segmentation

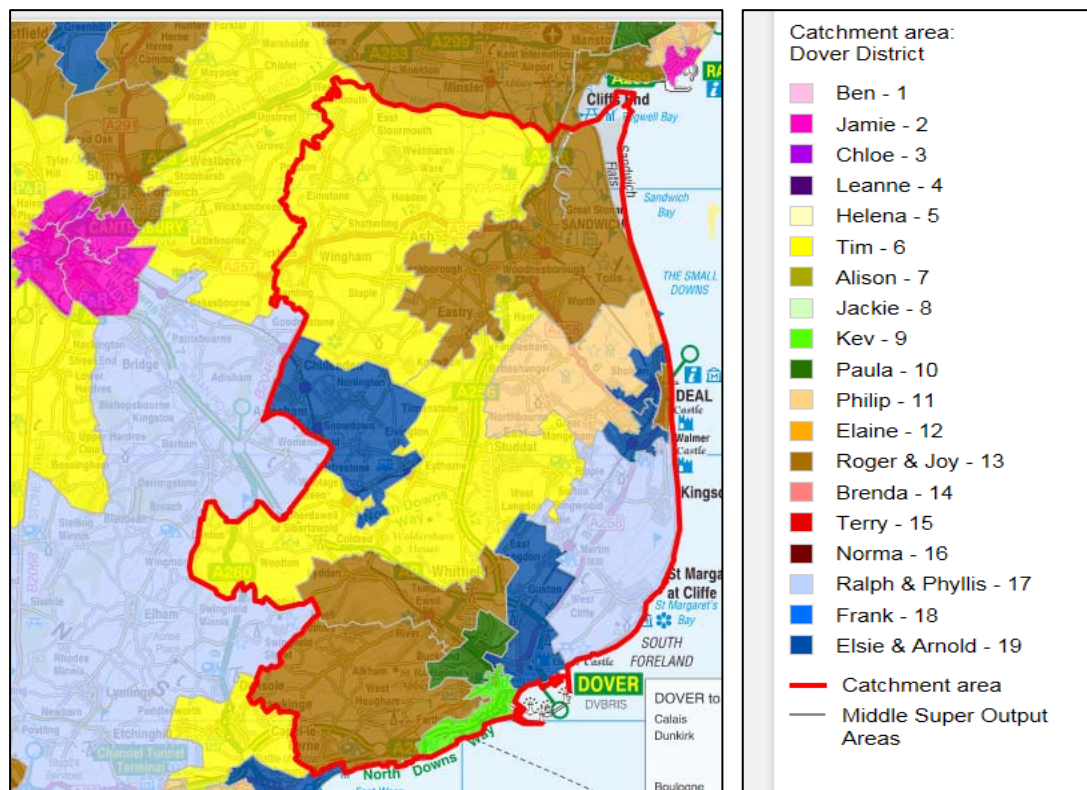
- 3.8.1 To help better understand attitudes, motivations and perceived barriers to participation, Sport England has developed a segmentation model with 19 'sporting' segments. Each has a distinct sporting behaviour and attitude.
- 3.8.2 Knowing which segment is most dominant in the local population is important as it can help direct provision and programming. For example, whilst the needs of smaller segments should not be ignored, it is useful for the District to understand which sports are enjoyed by the largest proportion(s) of the population. Segmentation also enables partners to make tailored interventions, communicate effectively with target market(s) and better understand participation in the context of life stage.

Dominant Market Segmentation in Dover by Population

- 3.8.3 Figure 3 overleaf illustrates the geographical spread of different regions within the District and their associated segment. It would appear from the map that Tim (as depicted by the yellow coloured areas) is the market segment with the greatest coverage in the District. The segment "Tim" is defined as: sporty male professionals (aged 26-45), buying a house and settling down with partner.

¹³ Active People Survey 2014/15

Figure 3: Market segmentation in Dover



(Source: Sport England Market Segmentation Tool)

- 3.8.4 Table 4 below, however, shows the population of all segments within the area, demonstrating that some areas must be more densely populated than others. The market segment which represents the largest population within the District is “Philip” (9.6%) and “Elise and Arnold” (9.6%).
- 3.8.5 “Philip” accounts for 8,204 people and are defined as: mid-life professional, sporty males with older children and more time to themselves. “Elise and Arnold” account for 8,200 people and are defined as: retired singles or widowers, predominately female, living in sheltered accommodation.
- 3.8.6 The implications for indoor sports facility provision are that the dominant profiles would benefit most from provision of facilities to support keep fit/gym, swimming and football. The majority of other popular activities are outdoor based e.g. cycling, running, golf and bowls.

Table 4: Catchment population of each segment within Dover District

Segment	Catchment Population	Top Sports (played at least once a month) and sporting behaviour
Philip	8,204	Philip's sporting activity levels are above the national average. Philip's top sports are cycling (16%), keep fit/ gym (15%), swimming (12%), football (9%), and golf (8%)
Elise & Arnold	8,200	Elsie and Arnold are much less active than the average adult. Their top sports are keep fit/ gym (10%), swimming (7%), bowls (3%), golf (1%) and cycling (1%).
Roger & Joy	7,929	Roger and Joy are slightly less active than the general population. Roger and Joy's top sports are keep fit/ gym (13%), swimming (13%), cycling (8%), golf (6%), and angling (2%)
Tim	6,312	Tim is an active type that takes part in sport on a regular basis. Tim's top sports are cycling (21%), keep fit/ gym (20%), swimming (15%), football (13%) and golf (7%)
Elaine	5,474	Elaine's sporting activity levels are similar to the national average. Elaine's top sports are keep fit/ gym (21%), swimming (18%), cycling (7%), athletics including running (3%) and tennis (2%)
Jackie	4,922	Jackie has above average participation levels in sport, but is less active than other segments in her age group. Jackie's top sports are keep fit/ gym (22%), swimming (20%), cycling (9%), athletics including running (6%), and badminton (2%)
Frank	4,480	Frank is generally much less active than the average adult. Frank's top sports are golf (7%), keep fit/ gym (6%), bowls (6%), swimming (6%) and cycling (4%)
Kev	4,287	Kev has above average levels of participation in sport. Kev's top sports are keep fit/ gym (14%), football (12%), cycling (11%), swimming (10%) and athletics including running (6%)
Ralph & Phyllis	4,067	Ralph and Phyllis are less active than the average adult, but sportier than other segments of the same age group. Ralph and Phyllis' top sports are keep fit/ gym (10%), swimming (9%), golf (7%), bowls (4%), and cycling (4%)
Brenda	3,834	Brenda is generally less active than the average adult. Brenda's top sports are keep fit/ gym (15%), swimming (13%), cycling (4%), athletics including running (2%) and badminton (1%)
Jamie	3,550	Jamie is a very active type that takes part in sport on a regular basis. Jamie's top sports are football (28%), keep fit and gym (22%), athletics including running (12%), cycling (12%) and swimming (10%)
Ben	3,520	Ben is a very active type and takes part in sport on a regular basis. He is the sportiest of the 19 segments. Ben's top sports are football (33%), keep fit/ gym (24%), cycling (18%), athletics including running (15%) and swimming (13%)
Alison	3,376	Alison is a fairly active segment with above average levels of participation in sport. Alison's top sports are: keep fit/ gym (27%), swimming (25%), cycling (12%), athletics including running (11%), and equestrian (3%)
Terry	3,337	Terry is generally less active than the average adult. Terry's top sports are generally keep fit/gym (8%), swimming (6%), cycling (6%), angling (4%) and golf (4%)
Paula	3,291	Paula is not a very active type and her participation is lower than that of the general adult population. Paula's top sports are keep fit/ gym (18%), swimming (17%), cycling (5%), athletics including running (4%) and football (3%)
Helena	3,282	Helena is a fairly active type that takes part in sport on a regular basis. Helena's top sports are keep fit/ gym (26%), swimming (22%), cycling (11%), athletics including running (9%), and equestrian (3%)

Chloe	3,144	Chloe is an active type that takes part in sport on a regular basis. Chloe's top sports are keep fit/ gym (28%), swimming (24%), athletics including running (14%), and equestrian (5%)
Leanne	2,927	Leanne is the least active segment of her age group. Leanne's top sports are keep fit/ gym (23%), swimming (18%), athletics including running (9%), cycling (6%) and football (4%)
Norma	1,680	Norma is generally less active than the average adult. Norma's top sports are keep fit/ gym (12%), swimming (10%), cycling (2%), bowls (1%) and martial arts/ combat (1%)

(Source: Sport England Market Segmentation Tool, 2015)

3.9 Summary

3.9.1 The following key points have been identified through the background and policy review:

- The District has a population of 113,100, which is expected to increase 22% to approximately 136,600 people by 2026.
- The proposed expansion at Whitfield, on the edge of Dover, whereby 5,750 new homes with a variety of housing types are to be introduced on a 209 hectare site¹⁴. Land has been allocated for 14,000 new homes across the District, with the aim of providing at least 10,100 homes by 2026.
- The 65% of the population living in urban areas only occupy approximately 21% of the total land area in the District. The remaining 35% of the population live in rural areas occupying 79% of the land¹⁵.
- The health of the District is mixed; the number of people in the District participating in at least one 30 minute session of moderate intensity sport per week is less than the national average with the latest Active People Survey illustrating a difference of 2.3%.
- The District has a high rate of obesity levels in children. In Year 6, 20.2% of children are classed as obese, which is higher than the regional and national rates of 16.0% and 18.9% respectively.
- According to the most recent Active People Survey (2014/15), which focusses on adult participation in particular sports; 9,300 adults (16 years +) stated that they wished to participate more in swimming. Swimming participation in the District (10.7%) compares poorly to regional (12.2%) and national averages (11.5%), which could reflect a lack of appropriate swimming provision in the District.
- The results for non-participation in sport by 14+ year olds shows that non participation in sport in the District (54.4%) compares poorly to regional (49.8%) and national averages (52.8%).
- Sport England's Market Segmentation shows that of the 19 segments, "Elise and Arnold" and "Phillip" are the market segments that account for the highest number of people within the District, being 8,204 and 8,200 respectively. These are mid-life professional males with older children or retired widowers living in sheltered accommodation. The implications for indoor sports facility provision are that the dominant profiles would benefit most from provision of facilities to support keep fit/gym, swimming and football. The majority of other popular activities are outdoor based e.g. cycling, running, golf and bowls.

¹⁴ Adam Architecture: <http://www.adamarchitecture.com/projects/urbanism/whitfield.htm>

¹⁵ State of the District 2014: An economic, social and environmental profile of Dover District

4 AUDIT OF FACILITY SUPPLY

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The audit of facility supply includes an assessment of the following indoor facilities:

- Indoor swimming pools
- Sports halls
- Health and fitness suites
- Indoor bowls
- Squash courts
- Indoor tennis courts
- Dance/aerobic studios
- Gymnastics.

4.1.2 It included analysis of the quality, quantity and accessibility for each facility type.

Assessment of Supply

4.1.3 Where possible, audits and assessments have been undertaken in the presence of management staff from the facilities. This is of considerable value as it not only enables access to be gained to all aspects of facilities, but also allows more detailed in-situ discussion of issues such as customer perspectives, quality, maintenance etc. This is essential as the audit is a 'snapshot' visit and there is a risk, dependent upon the time of day/year, that it may not wholly reflect general user experience.

4.1.4 Site visits were undertaken at facilities operated by a range of organisations and information was gathered on the following areas:

- Facility and scale
- Ownership, management and access arrangements (plus, where available, facility owner aspirations)
- Location, access and accessibility
- Condition, maintenance and existing improvement plans.

4.1.5 This enables identification of the potential of each facility and informs investment decisions at each site.

Assessment of Demand

4.1.6 When assessing facility provision against demand, key issues such as population and participation growth are taken into account. Land has been allocated for 14,000 new homes across the District, with the aim of providing at least 10,100 homes by 2026¹⁶.

4.1.7 Demand has been assessed utilising available Sport England tools (i.e. Facilities Planning Model, Active Places and Active People Survey) to help gauge strategic provision of community sports facilities. It helps to analyse sports facility provision and whether supply meets demand. It provides data that is used as part of the information base to inform the analysis of supply and demand.

¹⁶ Dover District Core Strategy 2010

- 4.1.8 Demand analysis is supplemented by data collected during site visits and stakeholder consultation. This enables key local issues to be taken into account, e.g. where local demand is particularly high and additional provision is required. Consultation was conducted with a range of stakeholders to gain a comprehensive understanding of key issues.

4.2 Catchment Areas

- 4.2.1 Catchment areas for different types of facilities provide a tool for identifying areas currently not served by existing indoor sports facilities. It is recognised that catchment areas vary from person to person, day to day, hour to hour. Therefore, Sport England accept a catchment which is defined as the distance travelled by around 75-80% of users.
- 4.2.2 Sport England determines that differences in rural and urban catchments are reflected within an agreed walk or drive time catchment. The normal acceptable standard would be to apply a 20-minute walk time (1 mile radial catchment) for an urban area and a 20 minute drive time for a rural area. The District is described as being an urban area (65% of population¹⁷) with significant rural hubs (35% of population), therefore when looking at catchments, a 20 minute walk time has been applied to swimming pools, sports halls, health and fitness suites and dance/aerobic studios. However, for indoor bowls, squash courts, indoor tennis and gymnastics, it is recognised that provision for these sports attract users from further away and therefore a 20 minute drive time has been applied for these facilities.

4.3 Supply and Demand Analysis

- 4.3.1 The supply and demand assessment is key in determining whether the District currently has sufficient provision to account for future changes in population. It also takes into account the spread of provision and enables identification of communities not served by an indoor facility.
- 4.3.2 It is necessary to assess the current capacity across the District and potential demand (based on population and participation trends). This helps determine whether current capacity is meeting current demand and whether there is a surplus or a shortfall. It also identifies the areas of over or undersupply relative to demand.

4.4 Comparators

- 4.4.1 The 'Nearest Neighbour' model was developed by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) to aid local authorities in comparative and benchmarking exercises. It is widely used across both central and local government. The model uses a number of variables to calculate statistical similarity between local authorities. Examples of these variables include population, unemployment rates, tax base per head of population, council tax bands and mortality ratios.
- 4.4.2 Table 5 shows the number and type of facilities in the District compared to that of the 'Nearest Neighbour' authorities. This includes all facilities, including privately operated facilities which are not included in the study. The results demonstrate that there are varying levels of supply in these areas; from 69 to 82, amongst which the District has the least amount of facilities, with 69. However, the ratio of facilities per head in the District provides a better means of comparison. The District has the second lowest overall provision per capita, including below average for level of provision in swimming

¹⁷ 2014 Mid-Year Population Estimates (Census based) as published by the Office for National Statistics on 25 June 2015

pools, sports halls, health and fitness suites, indoor bowls and studios. There are, however, in the District, an average number of indoor tennis provision and an above average number of squash courts.

Table 5: Total number of facilities compared with nearest neighbours

Facilities	Dover	Scarborough	Sedgemoor	Shepway	Swale	Average
Swimming Pools	9	14	16	8	12	12
Sports Halls	25	37	23	24	26	27
Health & Fitness Suites	15	19	19	16	13	16
Indoor Bowls	1	1	4	1	1	2
Squash Courts	10	5	6	10	10	8
Indoor Tennis Centre	1	1	0	1	0	1
Dance/Aerobic Studios	8	5	11	10	11	9
Total	69	82	79	70	73	75
16+ Population (000s)	88.2	92.3	92.1	80	109.3	92
No. of facilities per head	0.78	0.89	0.86	0.88	0.67	0.82

(Source: Active Places Power. Measure: Number of sports facilities by facility type: 2015)

- 4.4.3 Further detail on the current supply of facilities in the district is included in the following section.

5 NEEDS ASSESSMENT, SURPLUSES AND SHORTFALLS IN FACILITY PROVISION

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 This section contains a summary of the findings from the needs assessment work. Each facility type is reviewed in turn with information provided on various factors relating to supply and demand for facilities. The key findings are provided for each facility.

5.2 Indoor Swimming Pools

- 5.2.1 Defined as an “enclosed area of water, specifically maintained for all forms of water based sport and recreation, this covers indoor pools and specific diving tanks used for swimming, teaching, training and diving” (Sport England Active Places).

5.3 Supply

Quantity

- 5.3.1 There are two sites in the District that have fully community accessible swimming pools; Dover Leisure Centre (6 lane 25m plus learner pool) and Tides Leisure and Indoor Tennis Centre (25m leisure pool). Both sites are owned by DDC and operated by Your Leisure (a Trust). Tides leisure pool has limited programming options, as the lack of deep water makes it impossible to schedule multiple programs at the same time. It is predominately a family leisure attraction to provide fun for families.
- 5.3.2 Duke Of York’s Royal Military School has a 6 lane 23m pool, which is available for limited community use by sports clubs. External repairs and internal refurbishment was completed on the pool and changing rooms in late 2015.
- 5.3.3 Balance Spa and Health Club has a 22m leisure pool which accommodate some lane swimming, accompanied by a smaller (and warmer) exercise pool. Both pools are only accessible via membership (£365 a year) but are not available for club use. The location of swimming pools in the District is included in the following map.

Figure 4: Swimming pools in Dover

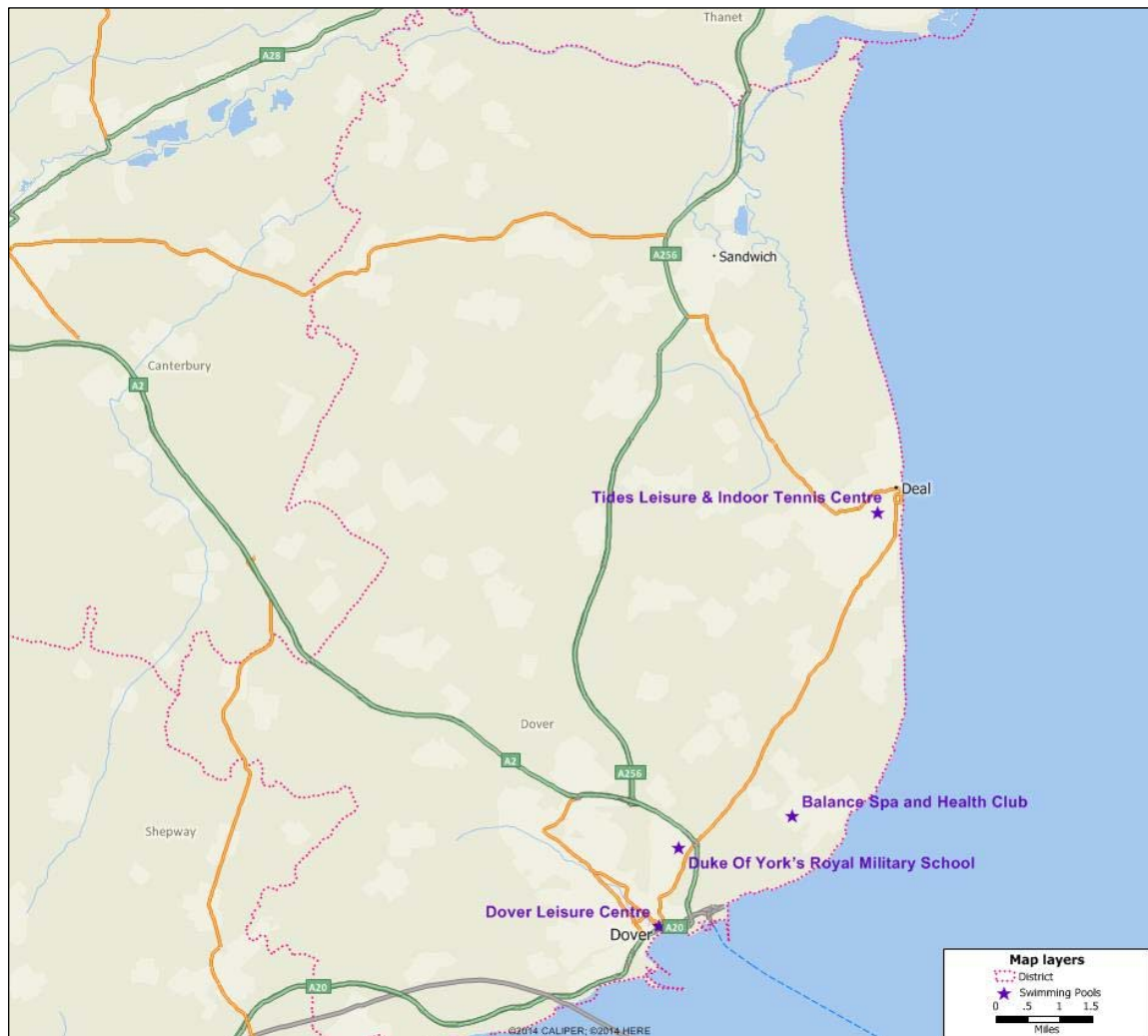


Table 6: Swimming pool supply information

Facility	Pool Type	Number of Lanes	Length (metres)	Ownership Type	Management Type	Access Type	Quality
Balance Spa and Health Club	Leisure Pool	0	22	Commercial	Commercial	Registered Membership Use	Unknown
	Exercise Pool	0	9				
Dover Leisure Centre	Main/General	6	25	Local Authority	Trust	Pay and Play	Poor
	Learner	0	12.5				
Duke of York's Royal Military School	Main/General	6	23	Academy	Academy (in house)	Sports Club / Community Association	Good
Tides Leisure and Indoor Tennis Centre	Leisure Pool	0	25	Local Authority	Trust	Pay and Play	Average

Neighbouring Authority Facilities

- 5.3.4 Kingsmead Leisure Centre in Canterbury is owned by the local authority and operated by a trust. It is Canterbury City Council's flagship centre with a 6 lane 33m main pool, leisure pool and learner pool, which has approximately 400,000 visits per year. It is

located c.10 miles from the North-West boundary of the District and therefore it may attract residents of the District.

- 5.3.5 Folkestone Sports Centre in Shepway has a 6 lane 25m main pool and a learner pool. The Sports Centre is located in the centre of Folkestone, a few miles from the South-West boundary of the District, which is easily accessible to residents via the A20.

Planned Developments

- 5.3.6 DDC is currently undertaking a feasibility and options appraisal study for the improvement and replacement of the existing Dover Leisure Centre. The study is still progressing, however initial options include a 6 or 8 lane 25m main pool (100 seats in 6 lane option and 250 in 8 lane option) and a learner pool should be considered with moveable floor to focus on swimming lessons. This space will also be used for other activities including aqua aerobic, which contribute to wider health and wellbeing objectives.
- 5.3.7 Your Leisure, which operates Tides, is developing plans for improvements to the centre which include redevelopment health and fitness provision (adding studio space and increasing health and fitness provision to 70 stations). Work should be undertaken to identify the extent of deterioration of the main pool hall and ensure repairs are carried out. Feasibility work relating to these issues is ongoing.
- 5.3.8 Sandwich Sport and Leisure Centre, which shares its site with Sandwich Technology School, are operated by Freedom Leisure, working for and under the oversight of Sandwich Sport & Leisure Trust. The Trustees have plans for future development of the Centre, to address the need for additional sports facilities in Sandwich and surrounding areas. The Centre Manager reports high levels of demand, from the leisure centre users, local community and schools, for new swimming pool provision in the District. A 6 lane 25m pool is planned as part of future development at the site. However, due to land restrictions, discussions with the owner of adjacent land are ongoing and subsequent planning and funding of the new facilities still need to be addressed. These are medium to long term plans for the Trust.
- 5.3.9 Sir Roger Manwood's School in Sandwich has a redundant lido (approximately 3 lane 25m) which has been out-of-use for a number of years. The School has medium to long term plans (funds permitting) to restore the lido, create independent access, and then to enclose with a moveable or permanent roof. The School would like to bring the swimming pool back into use for school and community use subject to planning and approval and funding.
- 5.3.10 Canterbury City Council recognises the need for investment into its Kingsmead Leisure Centre in Canterbury. Current plans will see the refurbishment and retention of the Centre's three pools – main pool, learner pool and leisure pool. The Council does not foresee an increase or decrease in pool provision; however the final decision on investment at the Centre has yet to be made.

Quality

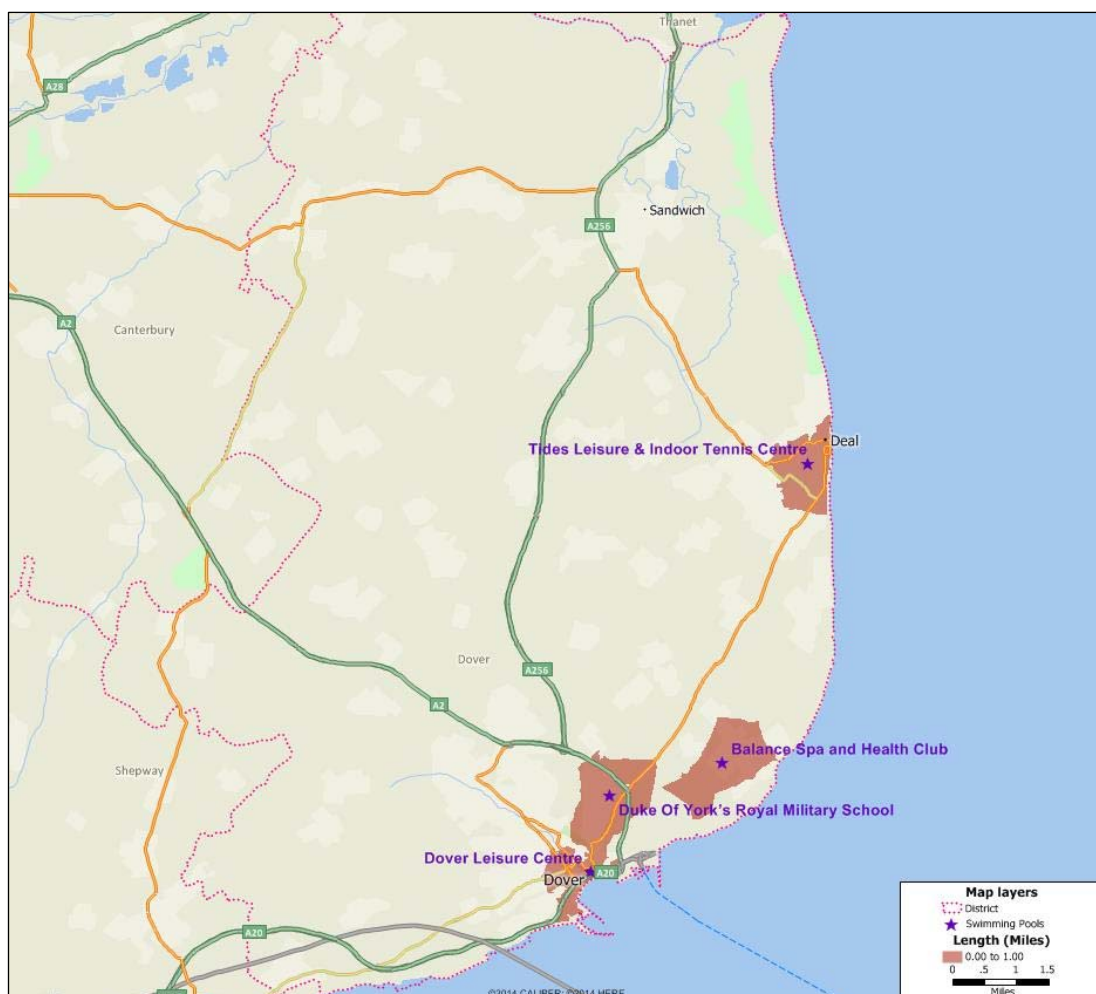
- 5.3.11 Swimming pools were assessed via a (non-technical) visual assessment which provides an indication of quality from a user perspective. It is important to note that this does not consider significant infrastructure issues such as plant and machinery, boilers, roofing and glazing.

- 5.3.12 Duke Of York's Royal Military School has undergone a £25m improvement programme to upgrade facilities (across whole estate) and therefore are to encourage more community use in order to get a return on their investment. Therefore, despite it being built in 1909, the swimming pool and changing rooms have been recently refurbished.
- 5.3.13 Swimming pools that are of lower quality are at Dover Leisure Centre (built in 1976) and Tides (built in 1988). All facilities are in a relatively poor condition and in need of refurbishment or replacement. DDC recognises the need for improvement of these pools and, as previously stated, is undertaking a feasibility and options appraisal study for the replacement of the existing Dover Leisure Centre. Furthermore DDC is investigating options of wet side improvements to Tides to enhance and retain the family leisure pool provision by undertaking refurbishment works. Investment proposals at Tides are likely to be implemented within the coming two years and there are further proposals from the operator to extend the facilities to increase health and fitness provision at the site.

Accessibility

- 5.3.14 Appropriate walk time accessibility standards can be applied to swimming pools to determine deficiencies in provision. Catchment mapping, based on an amalgamated 20 minute walk time, has been adopted to analyse the adequacy of coverage of swimming pool provision across the District; it also helps to identify areas currently not served by existing swimming pools.

Figure 5: Community accessible swimming pools in Dover; 20 minutes' walk time catchment



- 5.3.15 The map shows that the most populated areas in the District (Dover and Deal) are within a 20 minute walk time of a community accessible swimming pool. However, in Sandwich (the third largest settlement in the District), there is a large gap in swimming pool provision. There are also gaps in provision in less populated rural areas of the District (including Aylesham); however it is more likely that residents in these areas will travel by car (up to a 20 minute drive) to access swimming pool provision.
- 5.3.16 The housing growth planned across the District is likely to increase the level of demand for swimming pool provision, particularly in Sandwich, where approximately 505 new homes are planned between 2016 and 2026. There are also new homes planned in the Whitfield area of Dover (approximately 5,750), Deal (approximately 1,010) and Aylesham (approximately 707) over the next 10 years.

5.4 Demand

- 5.4.1 Sport England's Facility Planning Model (FPM) provides an assessment on the provision for swimming in 2015 for DDC. The purposes of the FPM assessment are to assess the extent to which the existing supply of swimming pools meets current levels of demand from the resident population. It helps to analyse sports facility provision and the extent to which supply meets demand. It provides data that is used as part of the information base to inform the analysis of supply and demand.
- 5.4.2 According to Sport England FPM (2015 National Run), the total supply of water space in the District equates to 8.88m² per 1,000 of the population, which is below both national (12.46m²) and regional (13.82m²) levels. It is also lower than within two of the neighbouring authority areas – Canterbury (13.39m²) and Thanet (10.37m²). It should be noted that 6 lane 23m pool at Duke of York's Royal Military School is not included within this FPM analysis, as it is categorised as being for 'Private Use' only.
- 5.4.3 The supply of swimming pool provision in the district (scaled to take account of hours available for community use) is 872.27m², which when compared to the demand for swimming pool provision (1.148.29m²), results in a 'shortfall' of circa 276m² of water space (similar to the size of a 6 lane 25m main swimming pool). This includes a built-in comfort factor that helps to ensure that any "target figure" includes additional space so as to make sure that any facilities are not going to be at 100% of their theoretical capacity.
- 5.4.4 Satisfied demand is the demand created by the residents of the District that is met by current swimming pool supply in the area, including pools inside and outside of the district boundaries. Levels of satisfied demand are lower than national (91.4%) and regional (93.0%) figures. The model forecasts that 85.6% of the demand being generated by the population of the District is being satisfied. Circa 82% of this demand is being met by provision within the District boundaries whilst circa 18% (1,071 visits) is actually being exported into pools within other authority areas. The unmet demand in the District (14.4% or 988 visits) is higher than the national (8.6%) and regional (7%) averages.
- 5.4.5 The swimming pool at Tides and Dover Leisure Centre are forecast to be operating at high levels of used capacity during the peak period. The model forecasts that the swimming pools in the District are being used at 65.5% capacity during the peak periods each week. This is slightly above the national figure (64.8%) and the regional figure (61.1%). This underlines their importance as community facilities and suggests that the public may experience issues accessing the pools during the peak periods.

- 5.4.6 The model has identified the following used capacity figures for the respective three sites within the District:
- Balance Spa and Health Club – 16%
 - Dover Leisure Centre – 81%
 - Tides Leisure and Indoor Tennis Centre – 96%.
- 5.4.7 As mentioned above, the 6 lane 23m pool at Duke of York's Royal Military School is not included within this FPM analysis, as it is categorised as being for 'Private Use' only. Following consultation with the School, the pool is available for community use to sports clubs and community associations. However, due to safeguarding protocol at the School, the times at which the pool is available to the community are limited – approximately 100 days a year. Numerous sports clubs use the swimming pool and therefore the School suggests that c.20% of capacity is currently used.
- 5.4.8 As a guide, the FPM identifies that swimming pools with a used capacity of 70% and above are considered to be busy. Those that have a used capacity of 100% are considered to be theoretically full all the time in the peak periods. The model highlights the importance of the two local authority facilities as venues for community sport with the pools estimated to have a used capacity of 81% at Dover Leisure Centre and 96% at Tides in the weekly peak periods. This data suggests that there are likely to be limited (if any at all) opportunities to further increase community usage at these two sites during the peak periods. Interestingly, the model forecasts that the commercial facility (Balance Spa and Health Club) has extremely low levels of used capacity at 16%. Although access to these pools is only available via membership and may not be affordable and accessible to all members of the community.
- 5.4.9 This analysis suggests a need for more community accessible water space within the District to support a growing resident population and to provide further opportunities that could support an increase in the levels of participation within swimming and other aquatics activities. However, this FPM analysis should not be considered in isolation and it is recommended that this analysis should form part of a wider assessment of provision at the local level, using information and knowledge gathered through consultation with key stakeholders.
- 5.4.10 The 6 lane 23m pool (c.275m² of water space) at Duke of York's Royal Military School is currently available for 'Private Use' only. Following consultation with the School, the pool is available for community use to sports clubs and community associations. However, due to safeguarding protocol at the School, the times at which the pool is available to the community are limited to approximately 100 days a year. Numerous sports clubs use the swimming pool and therefore the School suggests that c.20% of capacity is currently used. While access to this pool is limited, compared to other community swimming pools, it is an important facility in the District and provides additional capacity which is not factored in to the FPM analysis, thereby reducing the shortfall of pool water in the District.

Consultation

- 5.4.11 Sport England's FPM and research from the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) suggests there is a reasonable deficit in water space in the District in 2015 equivalent to a 6 lane 25m pool. To compound this, the age of the facilities at the majority of community accessible sites is a concern. The age of facilities is not a single indicator of the quality but it can raise concerns over the future viability of the centres. When a pool gets to 40 years old much of the mechanical installations need replacing, resulting in significant investment requirements. With this comes the aesthetics of the facility which,

when combined, pose a question about the most sensible way to invest. Bearing in mind the significant deficit in provision, and the age of the facilities, the ASA hopes that a facility strategy addresses these two areas specifically and look at replacement options to ensure swimming is attractive, relevant and secured for the next 25 years.

- 5.4.12 Dover Life Guard Club (400 active members) use Dover Leisure Centre pool seven days a week – morning and evening sessions during the week, a morning session on Saturday and an evening session on Sunday. The Club also holds 8-10 Galas a year at Dover Leisure Centre, where spectator seating of 140 is at full capacity. The Club does not have enough time and space to meet its current needs. A larger pool (with more changing facilities) would address their needs and help reduce the 2 year waiting list that it has for its ‘Learn to Swim’ sessions. The lack of suitable facilities is hindering the development of the club and it feels that, based on the current waiting list number, it could double the number of members it has if appropriate swimming pool provision was available.

5.5 Summary

- According to Sport England FPM (2015 National Run), the total supply of water space in the District equates to 8.88m² per 1,000 of the population, which is below both national (12.46m²) and regional (13.82m²) levels. It is also lower than within two of Dover’s neighbouring authority areas – Canterbury (13.39m²) and Thanet (10.37m²).
- There are two sites in the District that have fully community accessible swimming pools; Dover Leisure Centre (6 lane 25m plus learner pool) and Tides (25m leisure pool). Both are owned by DDC and operated by Your Leisure. Tides leisure pool has limited programming options as it is a shallow-water family leisure attraction.
- The 6 lane 23m pool (c.275m² of water space) at Duke of York’s Royal Military School is currently available for ‘Private Use’ only. While access to this pool is limited, compared to other community swimming pools, it is an important facility in the District and provides additional capacity which is not factored in to the FPM analysis, thereby reducing the shortfall of pool water in the District.
- Balance Spa and Health Club (22m leisure pool) is available via membership only and may not be affordable to all members of the community.
- DDC is currently undertaking a feasibility and options appraisal study for the improvement and replacement of the existing Dover Leisure Centre. The study is still progressing, however initial options include a 6 or 8 lane 25m main pool (100 spectator seats in a 6 lane option and 250 in an 8 lane option) and a learner pool with moveable floor to focus on swimming lessons. This space will also be used for other activities including aqua aerobic, which contribute to wider health and wellbeing objectives.
- DDC is currently investigating wet side improvements to Tides to enhance the quality of wet side provision and retain the focus of family leisure pools at this centre.
- Sandwich Sport and Leisure Centre has long term plans to develop a 6 lane 25m pool (alongside other facilities) on adjacent land, which requires planning and funding.
- Sir Roger Manwood’s School has medium to long term plans (funds permitting) to restore the redundant lido (approximately 3 lane 25m), create independent access, and then to enclose with a moveable or permanent roof.
- Sport England’s FPM analysis and research from the ASA suggests there is a deficit in water space in the District in 2015 equivalent to a 6 lane 25m pool. This supported by consultation with Dover Life Guards, which has a 2 year waiting list for

its 'Learn to Swim' sessions and believes it could double the number of club members if appropriate swimming pool provision was available.

- The pools are located in the most densely populated areas of the District (Dover and Deal) and therefore allow the majority of residents to access a pool within 20 minutes' walk. However, there is a gap in provision in Sandwich, which is supported by consultation with the centre manager at Sandwich Sport and Leisure Centre, who says demand in this area is high.
- All residents have access to a swimming pool within a 20 minute drive time.

Implication for Strategy

- 5.5.1 Overall the district has a relatively low level of swimming pool provision. Water space per 1,000 population is 8.88m², which is lower than the national (12.46m²) and regional (13.82m²) averages. This is reflected in the fact that unmet demand (14.4%) is higher than the national (8.6%) and regional (7%) averages. As a result existing levels of swimming pool provision should be retained where possible.
- 5.5.2 The Council should continue to support plans for new swimming pool provision in order to address the deficit in swimming pool water space in the District in 2015 and in the future, equivalent to an additional 6 lane 25m pool. Increasing pool water at a new Dover Leisure Centre from 6-8 lanes could contribute towards this. It should also continue to investigate wet side improvements and retain the focus of family leisure pools at Tides Leisure Centre.
- 5.5.3 It should be noted that the 6 lane 23m pool (c.275m² of water space) at Duke of York's Royal Military School is an important facility in the District and provides additional capacity which is not factored in to the FPM analysis, thereby reducing the shortfall on pool water in the District particularly for clubs and other groups.

5.6 Sports Halls

- 5.6.1 Indoor multi-sports halls are defined as areas where a range of sport and recreational activities are carried out and include specifically designed sports halls, such as leisure centres and school sports halls.

5.7 Main halls

- 5.7.1 This assessment considers sports hall facilities in the District that comprise at least one badminton court. However, a standard 3-court or more sports hall (known as 'main hall' in this assessment) provides greater flexibility in that it can accommodate major indoor team sports such as football (5-a-side and training), volleyball, basketball and netball. It also provides sufficient space to accommodate indoor cricket nets and to undertake indoor athletics. Many 3+ court sports halls also have a dividing net which enable them to be subdivided into separate areas for use, for example, for circuit training, table tennis or martial arts activities. As such, a 3+ court sports hall has greater sports development value and flexibility than smaller halls.

5.8 Activity halls

- 5.8.1 Activity halls are the smallest buildings that can accommodate a sports programme alongside the customary social and arts pursuits. There are a wide variety of types and sizes, often supplementing the main hall with a restricted range of use, including aerobics, keep fit classes, martial arts, boxing, and table tennis. Sport England

recognises 1-2 badminton court activity halls that can accommodate a range of recreational and sporting activities. However, it is recognised that smaller halls lack the flexibility and capacity for large club activities.

5.9 Supply

- 5.9.1 Following the results of consultation with sports hall providers in the District, a local run of the FPM report was commissioned to ensure that the analysis of sports hall supply reflected a more accurate picture than that held on Sport England's Active Places database, which was used previously to inform the 2015 National Run FPM reports.
- 5.9.2 Two Runs of the local FPM were commissioned. The facilities that were included within the respective Runs were discussed and agreed with officers from Dover District Council.
- 5.9.3 Run 1 saw the inclusion of a new 4-court sports hall that is due to open at Dover Christ Church Academy in 2016 and the 4-court sports hall that opened at Duke of York's Royal Military School in 2014, details of which were missing from the Active Places Database.
- 5.9.4 Run 2 saw the addition and/or inclusion of 4 facilities that were not included within Run 1:
- 4-court main hall and smaller activity hall at Sir Roger Manwoods School previously excluded as private, are included
 - 6-court main hall at Dover College previously excluded as private is included
 - New 4-court main hall at Aylesham Welfare Leisure Centre, with a possible opening date of 2025 depending on the rate of housing development in the village.
 - New 4-court main hall at a new Dover Leisure Centre located in the Dover Urban Area, with an opening date of 2018 – a reduction from the current 8- court hall
- 5.9.5 Table 7 summarises the list of facilities included in FPM Local Run 1 and Run 2.

Table 7: Summary of FPM local runs 1 and 2

Facility	Number of Marked Courts (3 courts +)	Run 1 (2016)	Run 2 (2026)
Astor College For The Arts	4	Yes	Yes
Aylesham Welfare Leisure Centre	4	No	Yes
Baypoint Leisure	4	Yes	Yes
Castle Community College	4	Yes	Yes
Dover Christ Church Academy	4	Yes	Yes
Dover College	6	No	Yes
Dover Leisure Centre	8	Yes	No
Dover Leisure Centre (new replacement facility)	4	No	Yes
Duke of York Royal Military School	4	Yes	Yes
Sandwich Sports & Leisure Centre	4	Yes	Yes
Sir Roger Manwoods School	4	No	Yes
Tides Leisure & Indoor Tennis	4	Yes	Yes

Quantity

Main Halls

- 5.9.6 There are eight main halls (3+ courts) in the District that are currently available for community use. The largest hall is located at Dover Leisure Centre (8 courts) and the remaining seven halls are all 4-court in size. Overall the district has a relatively low level of main hall (3+ court) provision in 2016 (3.5 courts per 10,000 population) compared to regional (4.54 courts) and national (4.35 courts) averages. However, with plans for increasing community access to existing sports halls in the district, there is a higher level of main hall (3+ court) provision projected in 2026 (4.5 courts per 10,000 population).
- 5.9.7 The eight main halls are owned by various organisations (4 by educational establishments, 2 by the local authority, 1 by a trust and 1 is commercially owned), which differ in management type, and therefore in accessibility type. Four of these are available on a 'pay and play' basis and the remaining 4 main halls (all located at educational establishments) predominately accommodate use by the students, but also offer bookings for sports clubs and community associations outside of school hours.
- 5.9.8 There are also three 4-court main halls in the District that are currently not available (or have limited availability) for community use. In 2014, The Duke of York's Royal Military School completed the construction of a 4-court sports hall that will be available for use by sports clubs and community associations. However, due to safeguarding protocols, the hall will only be available for community use for circa 100 days per year, mainly during school holiday periods.
- 5.9.9 Sir Roger Manwood's School and Dover College also have 4-court main halls that could potentially be made available for community use outside of school/college hours. A planning condition, issued in 1990s, currently prohibits Sir Roger Manwood's School from letting its main hall (and activity hall) to the community, as objections were received from local residents on the increase in traffic caused by the community use. The School is keen to address the concerns raised and to work towards enabling community access to its sports halls.
- 5.9.10 Dover College would like to resume community access of its main hall, however in order to adhere to safeguarding protocols, planning permission would be needed for an additional access road. The current access road is adjacent to the college boarding house and therefore a new access road within close proximity to the sports hall would allow for community use to be resumed.
- 5.9.11 Dover Christ Church Academy has recently (2015) completed a refurbishment and extension of its sports hall (from 2 courts to 4 courts). The Academy has also developed appropriate parking and security to accommodate external lettings during evenings and weekends, for which it reports demand is already significant.
- 5.9.12 As a result of the aspirations of Dover College and Dover Christ Church Academy to offer greater community access, both facilities were included in Run 2 of the FPM analysis for sports halls.

Activity Halls

- 5.9.13 There are four activity halls in the District, all of which are located at educational establishments and are available for limited community use. There is an additional

activity hall at Sir Roger Manwood's School which, like the main hall on the site, is prohibited from accommodating lettings.

- 5.9.14 The activity halls must be pre-booked and are only available to sports clubs and community associations outside of school hours.

Figure 6: Sports halls in Dover



Table 8: Sports hall supply information

Facility	Hall Type	No. of badminton courts	Ownership Type	Management Type	Access Type	Quality
Astor College for the Arts	Main	4	College	College (in house)	Sports Club / Community Association	Unknown
	Activity	1				Unknown
Baypoint Leisure	Main	4	Commercial	Commercial	Pay and Play/ Registered Membership Use	Unknown
Castle Community College	Main	4	College	Trust	Sports Club / Community Association	Good
	Activity	1		College (in house)		Very Poor
Dover Christ Church Academy	Main	4	Academy	Academy (in house)	Sports Club / Community Association	Very Good
	Activity	1				Unknown

Dover College	Main	4	Independent School	School (in house)	Sports Club / Community Association	Poor
Dover Leisure Centre	Main	8	Local Authority	Trust	Pay and Play	Average
Duke of York's Royal Military School	Main	4	Academy	Academy (in house)	Sports Club / Community Association	Excellent
Northbourne Park School	Activity	2	Independent School	School (in house)	Sports Club / Community Association	Unknown
Sandwich Sport and Leisure Centre	Main	4	Trust	Trust	Pay and Play	Good
Sir Roger Manwood's School	Main	4	Academy	School (in house)	Sports Club / Community Association	Good
	Activity	1				Average
Tides Leisure and Indoor Tennis Centre	Main	4	Local Authority	Trust	Pay and Play	Good

Neighbouring Authority Facilities

- 5.9.15 Folkestone Saints Basketball Club, which are based at Folkestone Sports Centre in Shepway (a few miles from the South-West boundary of the District), are in advanced stages of arranging a new build basketball and handball facility in Folkestone. This facility would be easily accessible to Dover District residents, however the availability of hall space may be limited due to use by basketball and handball clubs in the area.
- 5.9.16 In Canterbury, Kingsmead Leisure Centre is to be refurbished. Various feasibility studies have identified a potential facility mix, which will see either the retention of 4 court sports hall or conversion into soft play / 2 court hall with mezzanine.

Planned Developments

- 5.9.17 Aylesham & Snowdown Social Welfare Scheme, which owns Aylesham Welfare Leisure Centre, is planning to add a 4-court sports hall to the existing Centre. The owners would like to use development contributions, generated from the residential developments planned for Aylesham, to fund the new sports hall. However potential funding for sports facilities from development contributions will not be realised until about two thirds of the residential development has been completed and sold. Less than 15% of the residential development has been completed so far. The uncertainty over the date upon which the funding will be received, together with a lapsed outline planning permission (granted in 2009/10) for the new sports hall, adds some risk to the likelihood of this proposed sports hall development. Nevertheless, during 2016, owners of the Leisure Centre plan to progress with the feasibility and planning stages for the new sports hall development, having identified a need from local sports clubs and community associations in the Aylesham area for additional sports hall space.
- 5.9.18 Dover Grammar School for Boys (approximately 1 mile northwest of Dover Town centre) has plans to develop a 4-court sports hall. The School's existing 1-court sports hall (built in 1930's) is in a poor state of repair and current safeguarding protocol restricts community use of the facility. The School has planning permission for the new sports hall, which will be made available for extensively community use, through procedures to address safeguarding protocol, however there is a shortfall in funding required. Due to this facility not being built and the current funding shortfall it has not been included in the FPM analysis.
- 5.9.19 Castle Community College in Deal is being redeveloped to provide a new college campus. It is likely that the existing 4-court sports hall on the site will be closed and a new sports hall (also 4-courts) will be built and available for community use outside of

school hours. The new campus and sports hall are planned for completion in September 2017.

- 5.9.20 DDC is also currently undertaking a feasibility and options appraisal study for the improvement and replacement of the existing Dover Leisure Centre. The study is still progressing. Initial options include provision of between four and eight badminton courts.

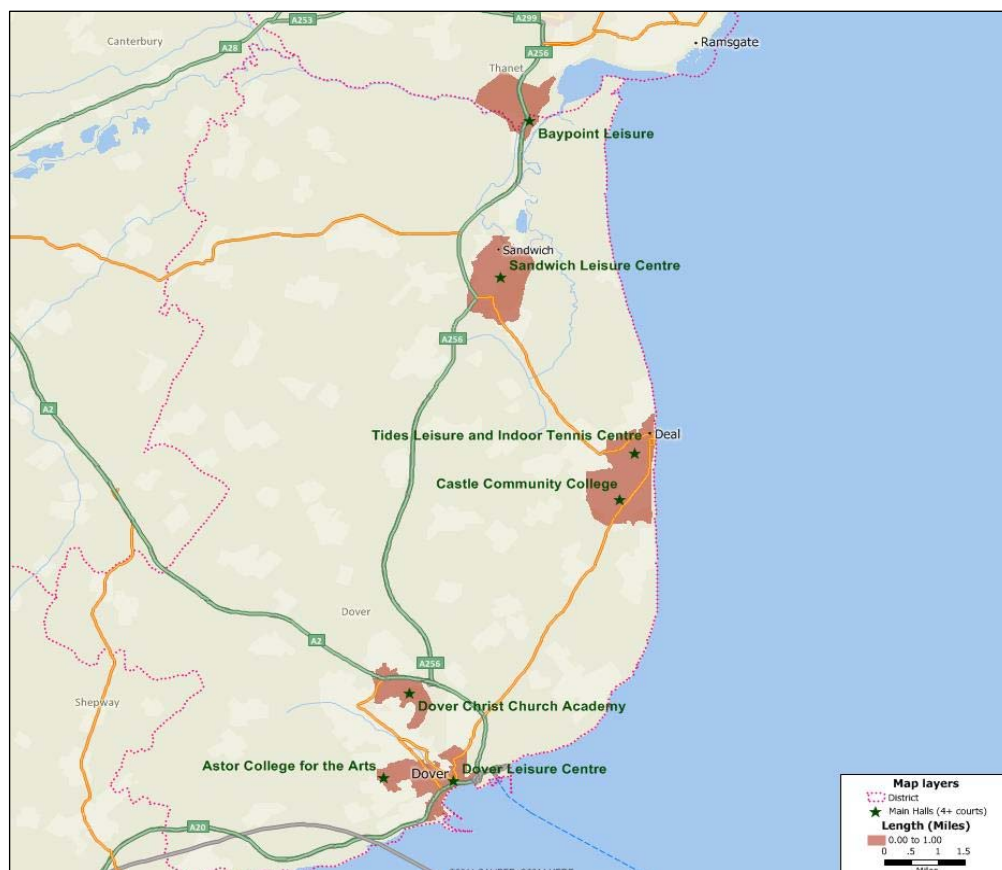
Quality

- 5.9.21 Non-technical visual assessments were carried out and, in the main, the quality of sports halls in and around Dover is considered good. Sports halls of the best quality in Dover are located at Dover Christ Church Academy and Duke Of York's Royal Military School, due to recent developments of new or improved sports halls. The activity hall at Castle Community College and the main hall at Dover College are in the worst condition. Local feedback reports a reduction in community use at Castle Community College due to poor quality of the facilities. Generally, the sports halls in the District are fit-for-purpose in terms of quality, although many are ageing facilities that are soon due for refurbishment; particularly Dover College and Dover Leisure Centre.

Accessibility

- 5.9.22 Appropriate walk time accessibility standards can be applied to sports hall provision to determine deficiencies in provision. A 20 minute walk time (1 mile radial catchment) has been applied to community accessible main halls (3+ badminton courts) servicing Dover. This enables identification of areas not currently serviced by existing sports halls.

Figure 7: Map to show access to 3+ court sports halls based on a 20 minute walk time catchment area



- 5.9.23 Figure 7 shows that the majority of the District's population live within 1 mile (20 minutes' walk time) of a community accessible 3+ court sports hall. The largest gaps in provision are in rural areas, including Aylesham. Residents in these areas are likely to be willing to travel by car (up to 20 minutes) to a main hall in an urban area.
- 5.9.24 The housing growth planned across the District is likely to increase the level of demand for sports hall space in the future. However, the main areas of planned housing growth, totalling approximately 9,292 new homes in Dover, Deal Sandwich and Aylesham.

5.10 Demand

- 5.10.1 A bespoke analysis of demand for sports halls (3 courts or more) in the District was undertaken. Initial analysis began with the findings from Sport England's FPM assessment of the supply and demand for sports halls. The FPM analysis has modelled the provision of sports halls in 2016 (Run 1) and in 2026 (Run 2). These runs are intended to show the current scenario of sports hall provision (Run 1) and the potential future provision (Run 2).
- 5.10.2 The facilities included within each of the Runs is based on information from Sport England's Active Places database, and supplemented with local intelligence provided by DDC. The purpose of the FPM assessment is to assess if the demand for sports halls is satisfied in 2016 and 2026, factoring in imported, retained and exported demand; and whether there is any spare capacity at sports halls both in 2016 and 2026.
- 5.10.3 Measured in the number of badminton courts, the supply of sports hall provision in 2016 (scaled to take account of hours available for community use) is 30 courts. The demand for sports hall provision (taking into account a 'comfort' factor – below 80% used capacity) is 33.5 courts. Therefore in 2016 there is a deficit of supply of 3.5 courts. In 2026, the supply of sports hall provision increases to 35 courts and the demand is forecast to remain at 33.5 courts. This results in an excess of 1.5 courts in 2026.
- 5.10.4 Between 2016 and 2026, there is a decrease in the level of unmet demand (10.2% in 2016 and 8% in 2026) and an increase in the satisfied demand (89.8% in 2016 and 92% in 2026).

How well used are the facilities?

- 5.10.5 Table 9 shows the predicted levels of used capacity in Runs 1 and 2 of the FPM. The results show that the average used capacity for sports halls in the District improves over the period, from 72.7% in 2016, decreasing to 68.8% in 2026. This reduction in used capacity demonstrates that there is additional capacity. In both runs the used capacity is below the 80% level when the facilities are assumed to be uncomfortably busy.
- 5.10.6 There are a wide range of used capacity levels at individual facilities across the District. The FPM provides an estimation of used capacity levels and, where applicable (i.e. FPM figures differs to that of the figure provided by facility operators) estimations by facility operators have also been provided. The highest levels of usage are at Tides (100%), Dover Leisure Centre (90% according to facility operator; 79% according to FPM) and Castle Community College (96%). Whereas the lowest levels of used capacity are at Baypoint Leisure (19%) and Duke Of York's Royal Military School (20% according to facility operator; 62% according to FPM). In 2026, the level of used capacity reaches above Sport England's recommended 80% at four sites in Dover;

Castle Community College (96%), Dover College (90%), Dover Leisure Centre Replacement (100%) and Tides (100%). However, with the planned developments and increase in community accessibility of sports hall provision in Dover, Sandwich and Aylesham, used capacity at three sites is expected to decrease between 2016 and 2026; Baypoint Leisure (19% to 10%), Dover Christ Church Academy (75% to 67%) and Sandwich Sports and Leisure Centre (85% to 64%).

Table 9: Used Capacity

Individual Sites Utilised Capacity	Run 1 (2016) %	Run 2 (2026) %
England Total	73	75
South East Total	71	75
Dover	73	69
Astor College For The Arts	62	68
Aylesham Welfare Leisure Centre	0	67
Baypoint Leisure	19	10
Castle Community College	96	96
Dover Christ Church Academy	75	67
Dover College	0	90
Dover Leisure Centre	79	0
Dover Leisure Centre (Replacement)	0	100
Duke of York's Royal Military School	62	72
Sandwich Sports & Leisure Centre	85	64
Sir Roger Manwoods School	0	34
Tides Leisure & Indoor Tennis Centre	100	100
Canterbury	54	53
Shepway	74	76
Thanet	75	80

(Source: FPM Findings, 2015)

- 5.10.7 The data shows that in Run 2, despite the increase in population, the inclusion of new facilities and two school sites with public access (Dover College and Sir Roger Manwood's School) provides a greater average of courts per 10,000 of the population – from 3.5 in 2016 to 4.5 in 2026. Also, the provision of a new 4-court hall at Aylesham Welfare Leisure Centre in the west of the District has a marked impact on the number of halls available for people within large parts of west and central Dover.
- 5.10.8 Overall, the FPM suggests that the supply modelled within Runs 1 and 2 would result in high levels of satisfied demand. The potential reduction (from 8 courts in Run 1 to 4 courts in Run 2) in the amount of sports hall space provided at a new replacement Dover Leisure Centre does not appear to have a detrimental impact on satisfied demand but it must be remembered that this reduction in supply has been further mitigated by the theoretical provision of other sports halls in Run 2. The picture would look different if the modelled levels of community access to sports hall space at Dover College, Sir Roger Manwood's School and Duke Of York's Royal Military School, are not realised. This also assumes continued community access to sports hall space at Castle Community College.

Consultation

- 5.10.9 Indoor netball courts at Sandwich Sport and Leisure Centre are used by the only affiliated netball club in the District (John Reeve Netball Club), which also serves as a central venue by Sandwich & District Netball League. The Club has recorded that it is a very good facility that is easy to access. England Netball reports that there doesn't

appear to be any demand for any additional indoor netball facilities in this part of the District from local affiliated Clubs. The District isn't a priority area for England Netball, however if a new facility was put in place, England Netball would certainly consider it as an area to focus on in the future.

- 5.10.10 Sandwich Boxing Club (35 active members) uses Sandwich Sport and Leisure Centre on two mid-week evenings a week. The Club does not have enough time and space to meet its current needs. A larger hall, with adequate space for a boxing ring and punching bags, is required on a regular basis so that sessions can be held more frequently and for more participants. The lack of appropriate space, which means session times are reduced due to equipment having to be put up and taken down, is hindering the development of the Boxing Club.
- 5.10.11 British Gymnastics reports that clubs in the District have limited time within the non-dedicated venues that they use and each have waiting lists preventing more participants from taking part in gymnastics. British Gymnastics would be keen to see more access to sports hall time and space and provision made to either create new dedicated gymnastics spaces and or facilities; or improve existing centres to allow the increase in capacity of existing gymnastics clubs. With approximately 700 active members currently taking part on a weekly basis (or more frequently) in the District, and each of the gymnastics clubs operating in the area having a waiting list; the demand is clear for access to more time and space to enable gymnastics to grow.
- 5.10.12 Dover Castle Archers (61 active members) currently use the general purpose hall at The Whitfield Club all day on Sundays and twice during the week for club sessions. The Club does not have enough time and space to meet its current needs. The Club has previously used other facilities in the District, such as school facilities, however prices for hiring the hall is prohibiting use. Also, availability of enough space (with appropriate safety precautions with other hall users) at leisure centres is not available at the times required. Availability of a sports hall at least 25-30 yards long with affordable hiring charges is required to retain current membership levels and to accommodate an expected increase in the number of members in the next 5 years.
- 5.10.13 According to Kent Cricket Board, there is a significant lack of provision and opportunities for indoor cricket in the district. Dover district leagues host indoor matches in Canterbury due to the lack of provision in the District. For a number of years indoor cricket matches were hosted at Dover Leisure Centre, but due to the poor quality of facilities and equipment (nets), the league was relocated to Canterbury. As a result, fewer players are willing to travel to play and therefore fewer indoor cricket teams have been formed. A lack of suitable facilities with appropriate equipment is hindering the development of indoor cricket in the district.
- 5.10.14 There are however several clubs that have sufficient space and time at a sports hall in the District. Invicta Fencing Club (approximately 60 active members) use Sandwich Sport and Leisure Centre for training during the week and host all day competitions on three Sundays a year. Scorpions Badminton Club (30 active members) use Astor College for the Art on Thursday evenings for training and matches. Both clubs have enough space and time to meet their current and future needs.

5.11 Summary

- Overall the district has a relatively low level of sports hall (3+ court) provision in 2016 (3.5 courts per 10,000 population) compared to regional (4.54 courts) and national (4.35 courts) averages. However, with plans for increasing community

access to existing sports halls in the district, there is a higher level of sports hall (3+ court) provision projected in 2026 (4.5 courts per 10,000 population).

- There are eight main sports halls (3+ courts) and four activity halls (1-2 courts) across 11 sites in the District. Seven of the 11 sites are educational establishments and therefore limit access to sports clubs and community associations outside school hours.
- There are 4-court sports halls at Sir Roger Manwood's School and Dover College that have the potential to be opened up for use by sports clubs and community associations outside of school hours.
- Aylesham Welfare Leisure Centre and Dover Grammar School for Boys have aspirations of developing 4-court sports halls at their sites. Castle Community College in Deal is being redeveloped to provide a new college campus. It is likely that the existing 4-court sports hall on the site will be redeveloped and a new sports hall (also 4-courts) will be built and available for community use outside school hours.
- Feasibility work is still progressing; however initial options for consideration include the reduction of sports hall space at Dover Leisure Centre (from 8 courts to 4 courts).
- Opening up access to existing sites and with potential new sports hall developments in the District, the average used capacity for sports halls (3+ courts) improves from 72.7% in 2016, decreasing to 68.8% in 2026. This reduction in over-crowding is below the level set by the FPM, which as a guide, identifies that sports halls with a used capacity of 80% and above are considered to be uncomfortably busy.
- Dover Castle Archers and Sandwich Boxing Club have been identified as clubs that do not currently have enough time and space to meet the needs of its members. This is hindering the development of these clubs. Dover Indoor Cricket League matches are played in Canterbury due to a lack of appropriate and available sports hall space in the District. All other clubs consulted with report sufficient sports hall space to meet the needs of the club.
- Sport England's FPM (3+ court sports halls) suggests in 2016 and 2026 there are high levels of satisfied demand. When converted into the equivalent of badminton courts worth of sports hall space, the FPM suggests there is a deficit of supply of about 3.5 courts in 2016 and an excess of about 1.5 courts in 2026. However, the excess of provision will occur only if all the community use aspirations are achieved.

Implication for Strategy

- 5.11.1 Overall the district currently has a relatively low level of sports hall (3+court) provision in 2016. However, with plans for increasing community access to existing sports halls in the district, there is a higher level of sports hall (3+ court) provision projected in 2026. The levels of satisfied demand in the district range from 89.8% in 2016 (similar to the national figure of 89.6%) to 92% in 2026 (higher than the national figure of 88.6%). When supply vs demand is converted into the equivalent of badminton courts worth of sports hall space, there is a current deficit of supply of about 3.5 courts in 2016 and an excess of about 1.5 courts in 2026. It should be noted that the 2026 calculation assumes a 4 court hall at the new Dover Leisure Centre, currently the centre has 8 courts.
- 5.11.2 The potential reduction (from 8 courts to 4 courts) in the amount of sports hall space provided at a new replacement Dover Leisure Centre does not appear to have a detrimental impact on satisfied demand in Dover and indeed this scenario will result in a greater level of supply across the district in 2026. However, this assumes that community access to sports hall space at Dover College, Sir Roger Manwood's School

and Duke of York's Royal Military School is realised. This also assumes continued community access to sports hall space at Castle Community College.

- 5.11.3 A lack of appropriate time and space at sports halls is hindering the development of Sandwich Boxing Club, Dover Castle Archers and Indoor Cricket. All other clubs consulted with report sufficient sports hall space to meet the needs of the club.

5.12 Health and Fitness Suites

- 5.12.1 Health and fitness facilities of significance are normally defined as facilities with a minimum of 20 stations, which provides a better variety and availability of equipment.

5.13 Supply

Quantity

- 5.13.1 In Dover District, there are 11 health and fitness suites with 20 or more stations; nine suites are accessible on a pay and play basis and two with a registered membership. These are located at either local authority owned sites (two sites), sites owned by a trust (two sites), located at an Academy (one site) and commercial owned sites (six sites).

Figure 8: Health and fitness suites in Dover

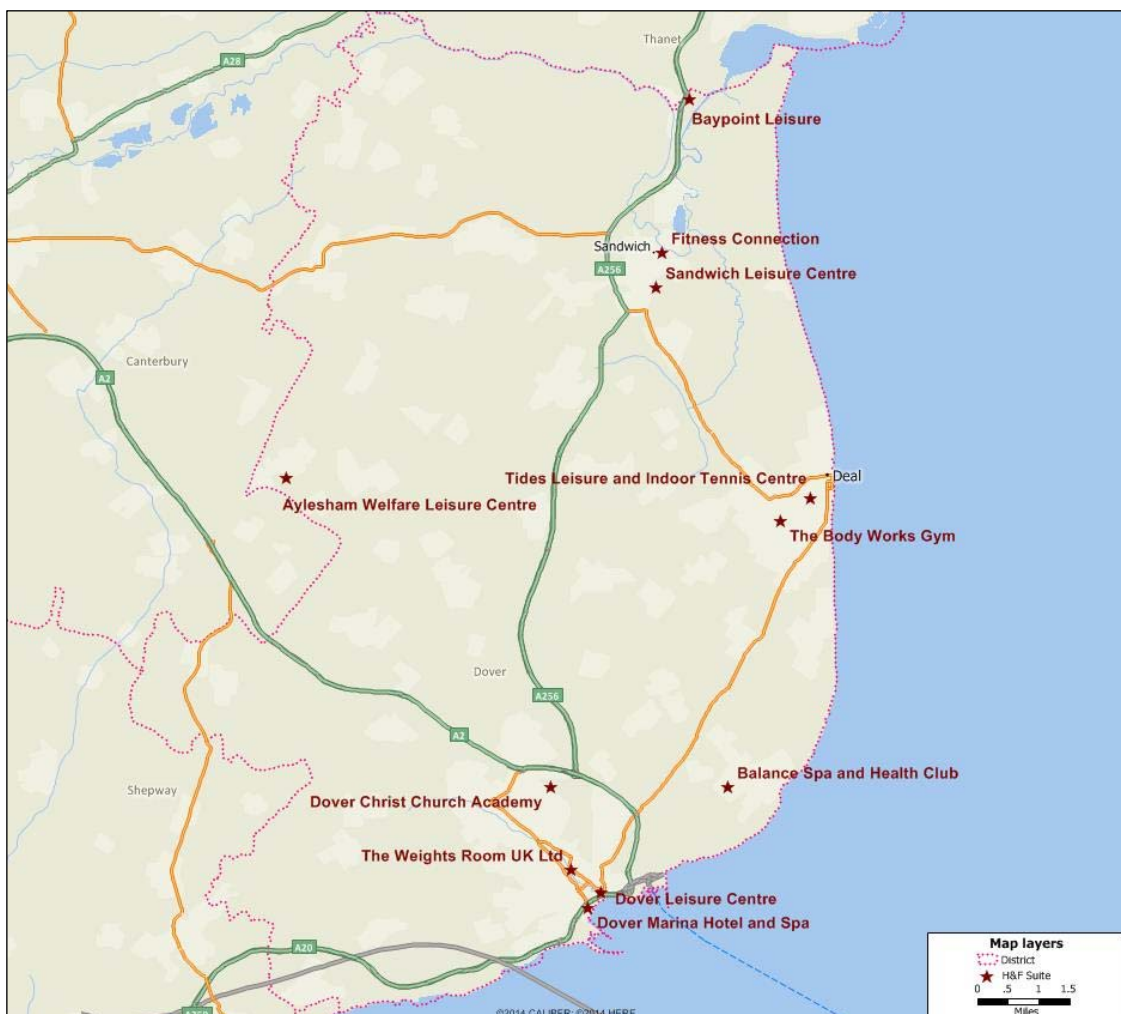


Table 10: Supply information for health and fitness suites

Facility	No. of stations	Ownership Type	Management Type	Access Type	Quality
Aylesham Welfare Leisure Centre	26	Trust	Trust	Pay and Play	Good
Balance Spa and Health Club	23	Commercial	Commercial	Registered Membership Use	Good
Baypoint Leisure	70	Commercial	Commercial	Registered Membership Use	Good
Dover Christ Church Academy	20	Academy	Academy	Pay and Play	Good
Dover Leisure Centre	65	Local Authority	Trust	Pay and Play	Average
Dover Marina Hotel and Spa	30	Commercial	Commercial	Pay and Play	Unknown
Fitness Connection	50	Commercial	Commercial	Pay and Play	Unknown
Sandwich Sport and Leisure Centre	70	Trust	Trust	Pay and Play	Good
The Body Works Gym	50	Commercial	Commercial	Pay and Play	Unknown
The Weights Room UK Ltd	100	Commercial	Commercial	Pay and Play	Unknown
Tides Leisure and Indoor Tennis Centre	40	Local Authority	Trust	Pay and Play	Good

Quality

5.13.2 Non-technical visual assessments were carried out. Low cost gyms are commercial providers and therefore were not assessed. Generally, health and fitness suite provision in Dover is of good quality. Although the equipment at Tides (and Dover Leisure Centre) have recently been upgraded, the buildings appear dated and in need of refurbishment and/or expansion. Recently refurbished facilities at Sandwich Sport and Leisure Centre are very popular – operators Freedom Leisure exceeded membership targets in August 2015.

Planned Developments

5.13.3 Health and fitness suites tend to have high levels of usage, and are important revenue generating areas, therefore investment in updating user space and equipment is important. A number of facilities intend to improve provision through upgrading of equipment or refurbishment/extension of health and fitness facilities.

5.13.4 Recent and planned developments include:

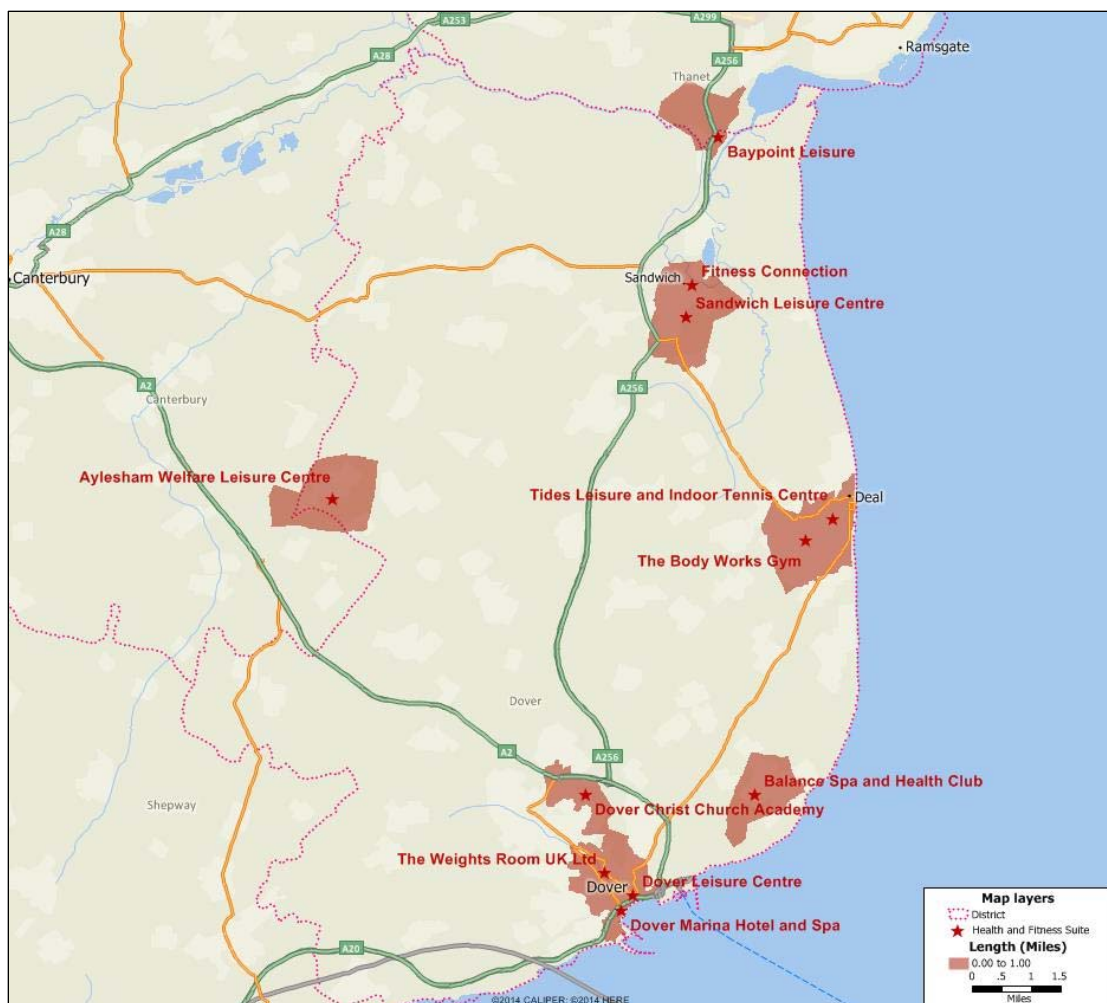
- Dover Christ Church Academy has a 20 station fitness suite, within its newly constructed leisure facilities. The Academy is working towards making this available for community use through a membership scheme.
- Tides Leisure and Indoor Tennis Centre considering options of extending health and fitness offer from 30 stations to 70 stations. Equipment at Tides has recently been upgraded.
- DDC is considering options to extend the health and fitness offer from 65-120 stations at a replacement of Dover Leisure Centre. Equipment at Dover Leisure Centre has recently been upgraded.

- At the time of completing this work Total Fitness Mix in Deal has opened but has not been included in the analysis work.

Accessibility

- 5.13.5 Appropriate walk time accessibility standards can be applied to health and fitness suites to determine deficiencies in provision. Catchment mapping, based on a 20 minute walk time, has been completed to analyse the adequacy of coverage of health and fitness provision across the District; it also helps to identify areas currently not served by existing health and fitness suites.

Figure 9: Community accessible health & fitness suites in Dover (20+ stations) 20 minutes' walk time (1 mile radial) catchment



5.13.6 Figure 9 shows that the majority of the Dover urban population live within 1 mile (20 minutes' walk time) of a health and fitness suite. The largest gaps in provision are in rural areas. Residents in these areas are likely to be willing to travel by car (up to 20 minutes) to a health and fitness suite in an urban area.

5.13.7 The housing growth planned across the District is likely to increase the level of demand for health and fitness suites. However, the main areas of planned housing growth (totalling approximately 9,292 new homes in Dover, Deal, Sandwich and Alyesham) are also where the majority of health and fitness suites are located.

5.14 Demand

5.14.1 All community accessible health and fitness suites are at 80-90% used capacity at peak times. Consultation with facility managers has provided indicative levels of used capacity at peak times. The utilisation of health and fitness suites in the District varies:

- Aylesham Welfare Leisure Centre – 85%
- Balance Spa and Health Club – unknown
- Baypoint Leisure – unknown
- Dover Christ Church Academy – 20% (staff and student usage). The Academy has a 20 station fitness suite, within its newly constructed leisure facilities. The Academy is working towards making this available for community use through a membership scheme.
- Dover Leisure Centre – 85%
- Sandwich Sport and Leisure Centre – 80%
- Tides Leisure and Indoor Tennis Centre – 90%.

5.15 Summary

- In the District, there are 11 health and fitness suites with 20 or more stations; nine suites are accessible on a pay and play basis and two with a registered membership. These are located at either local authority owned sites (two sites), sites owned by a trust (two sites), located at an Academy (one site) and commercial owned sites (six sites).
- Dover Christ Church Academy has a 20 station fitness suite, within its newly constructed leisure facilities. The Academy is working towards making this available for community use through a membership scheme. Your Leisure is considering options for extending the health and fitness offer at Tides; and 120 station health and fitness suite at Dover Leisure Centre's replacement.
- Latent demand reports should be commissioned based on specific catchment areas if new health and fitness provision is planned linked to new community leisure centres, as these provide a site specific consumer demographic analysis. These reports have been commissioned for Dover Leisure Centre and Tides. The Council should support the development of new community accessible health and fitness facilities, where these are viable and supported by site specific latent demand analysis. The findings of latent demand reports completed for Dover and Deal show that a significant level of latent demand exists. This reflects the relatively low level of provision in these towns. The results support the increase in health and fitness provision from 65 stations to 120 at a new Dover Leisure Centre and an increase from 40 stations to 70 stations at Tides.

Implication for Strategy

- 5.15.1 The Council should support the development of new community accessible health and fitness facilities, where these are viable and supported by site specific latent demand analysis. The findings of latent demand reports completed for Dover and Deal show that a significant level of latent demand exists. This reflects the relatively low level of provision in these towns in terms of quality and quantity of facilities. The results of the analysis support the increase in health and fitness provision from 65 stations to 120 at a new Dover Leisure Centre and an increase from 40 stations to 70 stations at Tides.

5.16 Indoor Bowls

- 5.16.1 An indoor bowls facility is defined as a purpose built bowls centre or dedicated bowls area within a sports facility. It does not include short mat bowls areas, which are temporarily laid out in multipurpose halls.

5.17 Supply

Quantity

- 5.17.1 There is one indoor bowls facility in the District, Betteshanger Indoor Bowls Club. The indoor bowls centre is situated in Deal and is part of the Betteshanger Social Welfare Scheme Sports Club. This facility has four indoor rinks and c.188 playing members. It is available for use by members and is owned and operated by the Betteshanger Social Welfare Scheme Sports Club.
- 5.17.2 Folkestone Indoor Bowls Centre is located in neighbouring Shepway and has seven rinks that are owned and managed by a sports club. The indoor bowls centre is located in the centre of Folkestone, a few miles from the South-West boundary of the District, which is easily accessible to Dover District residents via the A20.

Figure 10: Map of indoor bowls facilities in Dover

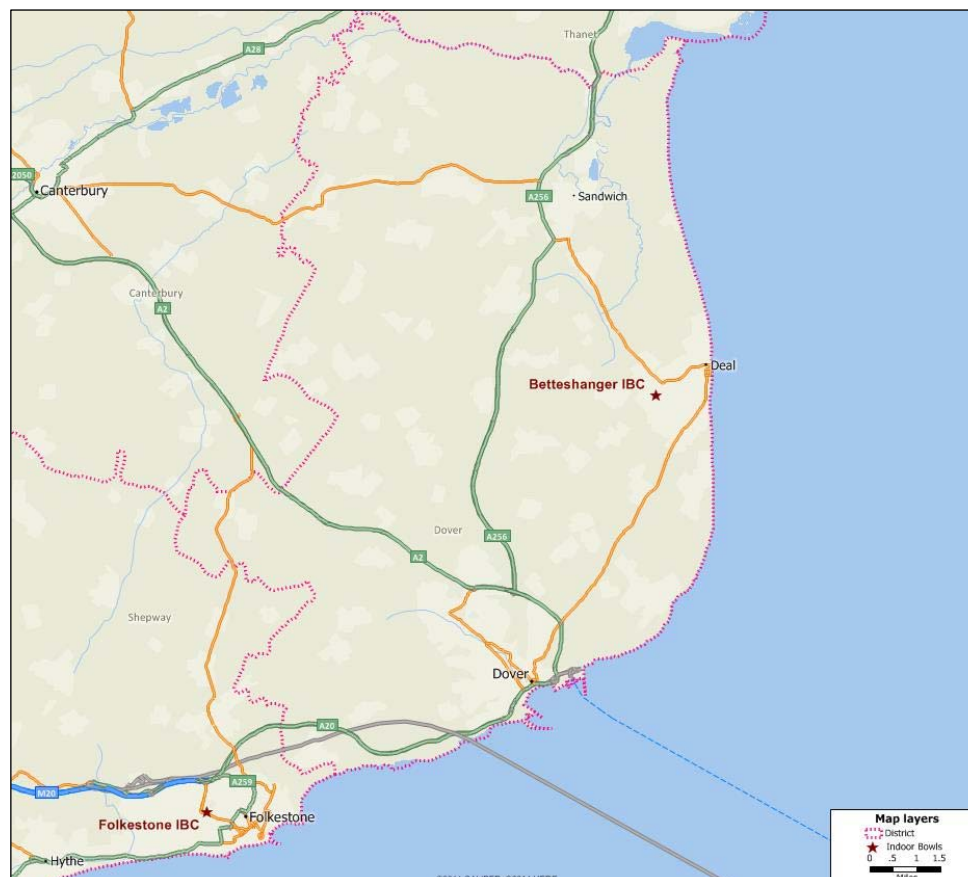


Table 11: Supply information for Indoor Bowls in Dover

Facility	Number of Rinks	Ownership Type	Management Type	Access Type	Last Refurbished
Dover					
Betteshanger indoor bowls centre	4	Sports Club	Sports Club	Registered Membership Use	2004
Shepway					
Folkestone indoor bowls centre	7	Sports Club	Sports Club	Sports Club/ Community Association	2000

Quality

- 5.17.3 Betteshanger indoor bowls centre was built in 2000 and subsequently refurbished in 2004. The changing facilities have not been refurbished since the facility was opened. The neighbouring facility at Folkestone was built in 1995 and refurbished in 2000.

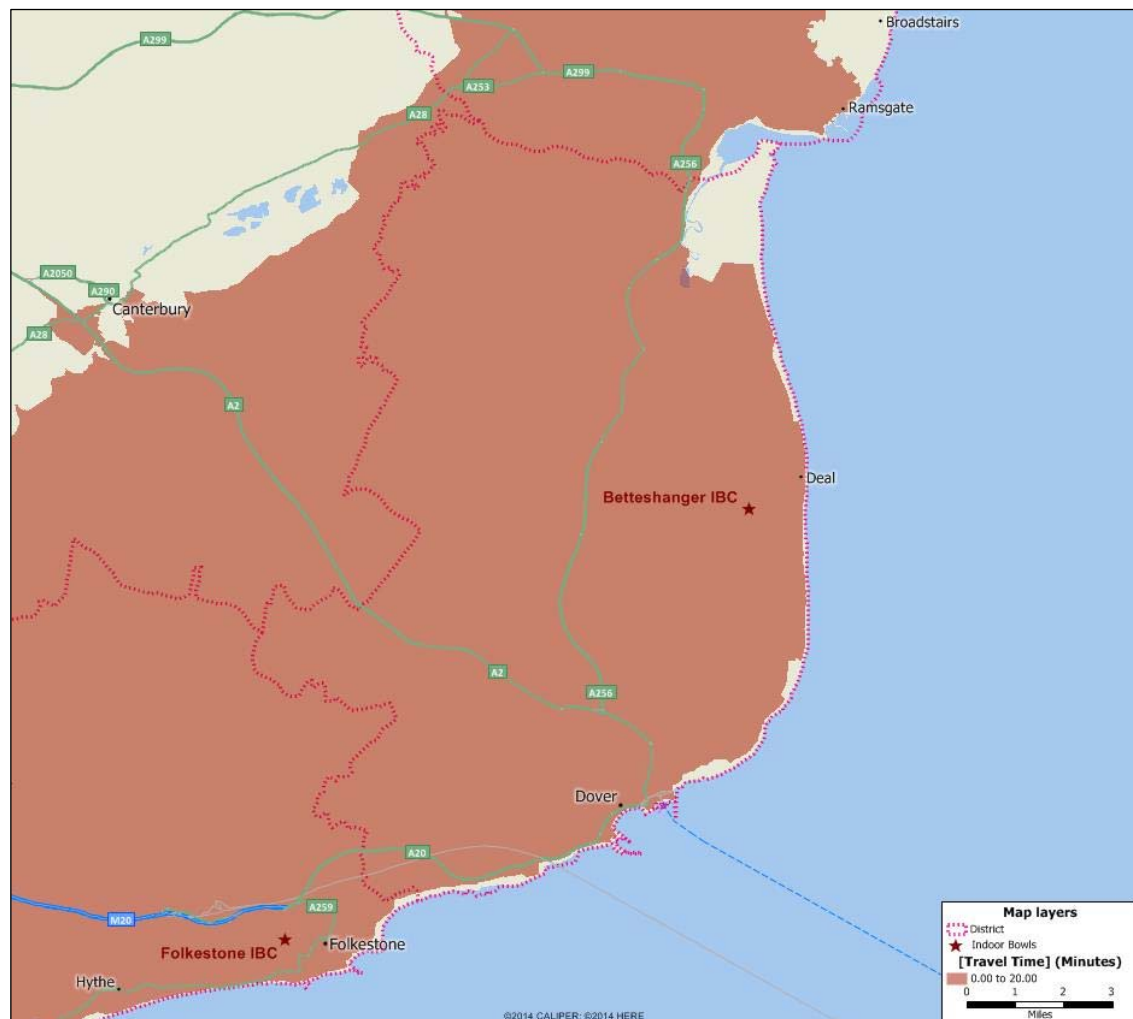
Accessibility

- 5.17.4 This section considers the accessibility of facilities in relation to both the physical (i.e. built environment) and human (i.e. management of entry to facilities) elements.

Physical

- 5.17.5 Appropriate drive time accessibility standards can be applied to indoor sports provision to determine deficiencies in provision. The normal acceptable standard would be to apply a 20 minute drive time for indoor bowls facilities in urban and rural areas. The map below shows that Betteshanger indoor bowls centre is located in the middle of the District and is therefore accessible to the vast majority of Dover's residents within a 20 minute drive time.

Figure 11: Map to show indoor bowls facilities in Dover 20 minute drive time



- 5.17.6 The planned housing growth across the District of 10,100 new houses by 2026 may increase the demand for indoor bowls facilities. The District has a slightly higher percentage of 50-64 year olds (17.1%), compared with England (15.1%). This age demographic is approaching retirement age and, according to Sport England Market Segmentation analysis, there are 8,200 people in the District defined as retired singles or widowers with a tendency to participate in bowls.

Human

- 5.17.7 According to Active Places, Betteshanger indoor bowls centre is available for use by registered members only. It should be noted that the majority of bowls use tends to be via club bookings as opposed to pay and play. Betteshanger indoor bowls centre is open from 9:30am to 22:30pm every day.

5.18 Demand

- 5.18.1 Active People surveys, undertaken regularly by Sport England, show a decrease in the number of people participating in bowls. Over the last 10 years the number of people participating in bowls (aged 55 or over) has dropped nationally from 309,800 in 2005 to 216,800 in 2015, which is a fall of 30%.

Consultation

- 5.18.2 The English Indoor Bowling Association was consulted and commented that, based upon the current number of 188 declared members at Betteshanger, there is a sufficient supply of purpose built indoor bowls facilities and there is no need for additional indoor bowls facilities in the District.

5.19 Summary

- There is one indoor bowls facility in Dover, Betteshanger Indoor Bowls Club (4 rinks), which is part of the Betteshanger Social Welfare Scheme Sports Club. Folkestone Indoor Bowls Centre (7 rinks) is a larger but older facility that is easily accessible to residents in South-West of the District.
- Betteshanger indoor bowls centre was built in 2000 and last refurbished over ten years ago in 2004.
- There are no gaps in provision (within a 20 minute drive time) in the District.
- In summary, there is sufficient supply of indoor bowls facilities in Dover District. Based on current membership levels of c.188 at Betteshanger Indoor Bowls Club, together with the identified downward trend of bowls participation in England (30% drop in last 10 years), The English Indoor Bowling Association, commented that there is no need for additional indoor bowls facilities in the District.

Implication for Strategy

- 5.19.1 Current provision across the district is meeting existing need. There is no requirement for additional indoor bowls provision in the District, assuming the long-term trend for declining participation continues. The District does however have an ageing population and therefore this could improve future trends in participation. There is a need to support Betteshanger Indoor Bowls Club in maintaining current levels of participation.

5.20 Squash Courts

- 5.20.1 Squash courts are either backed by a solid wall (classed as 'normal' in this assessment) or glass-backed, the latter of which allows for spectators and coaches to watch squash matches and training sessions and are therefore more popular than solid wall squash courts. Racketball is also played on squash courts, although they are two completely different sports, they require similar skill sets and the same environment for play.

5.21 Supply

Quantity

- 5.21.1 There are five sites in the District offering a total of 11 squash courts (two glass-backed, nine solid-backed). One site is local authority owned, one is commercially owned, one is a private members club and two are located at educational establishments. Squash courts at three of the five sites are available on a pay and play basis and one site (Duke of York's Royal Military School) is available for use by sports clubs and community associations only.
- 5.21.2 Duke of York's Royal Military School has four courts which, due to safeguarding protocol, are only available for limited community use during school holidays.

- 5.21.3 Deal Squash Club is a private members club with a single squash court. The court is owned and managed by the club and can only be used by members.

Figure 12: Map to show Squash Facilities in Dover



Table 12: Supply information for Squash Courts in Dover

Facility	Facility sub type	No. of courts	Ownership Type	Management Type	Access Type	Quality
Baypoint Leisure	Solid-backed	2	Commercial	Commercial Management	Pay and Play	Unknown
Deal Squash Club	Solid-backed	1	Club	Club	Private Membership Only	Good
Dover Leisure Centre	Solid-backed	2	Local Authority	Trust	Pay and Play	1 x Average & 1 x Poor
	Glass-backed	1				Average
Duke of York's Royal Military School	Solid-backed	3	Independent School	School (in house)	Sports Club/Community Association	Good
	Glass-backed	1				Good
Sandwich Sport and Leisure Centre	Solid-backed	1	Trust (at Foundation School)	Trust	Pay and Play	Good

Quality

- 5.21.4 Non-technical site assessments were carried out on squash courts in the District and the quality of courts within the District is varied. The condition of the courts at Dover Leisure Centre is deemed average to poor quality. One of the two solid-backed courts

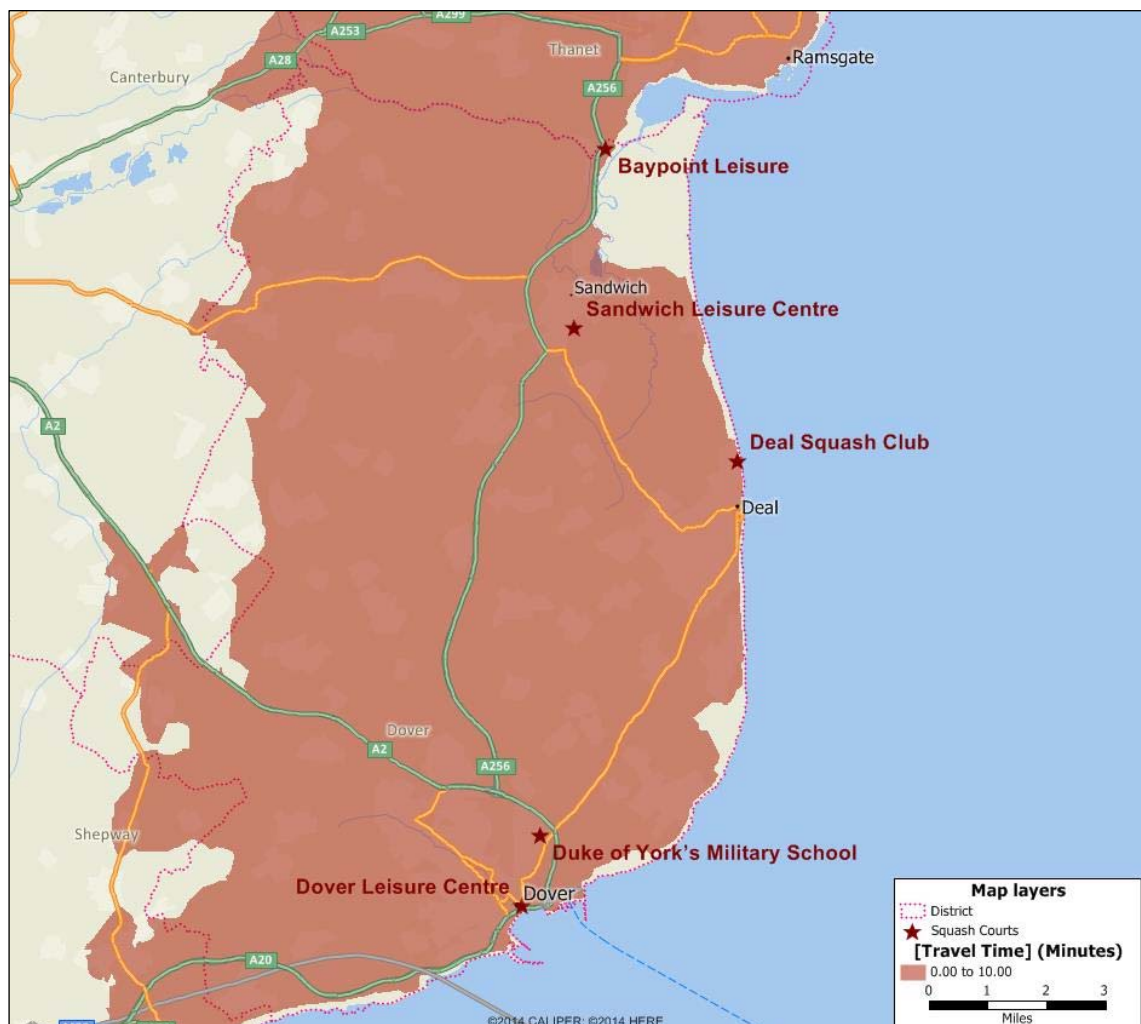
at Dover Leisure Centre has damp on the floor and walls and therefore is of poor quality. The courts at Duke of York's Military School, Sandwich Sport and Leisure Centre and Deal Squash Club are of good quality. The quality of courts at Baypoint Leisure is unknown.

- 5.21.5 Dover Squash and Racketball Club members book courts at Dover Leisure Centre throughout the day and evening as required. They feel that the quality of the courts does not encourage people to participate in squash. The Club would like improvement in quality of courts and ideally four glass-backed courts as a primary facility to host competitions and events.

Accessibility

- 5.21.6 Appropriate drive time accessibility standards can be applied to indoor sports provision to determine deficiencies in provision.

Figure 13: Map to show squash facilities in Dover 10 minute drive time catchment



- 5.21.7 Figure 13 shows that the vast majority of the District residents are able to access a squash court within a 10 minute drive time. There are no gaps in squash provision in the District.
- 5.21.8 The expected population increase of 22% in the District by 2026 may increase the level of demand for squash. There is a total of 10,100 new houses planned across the

District by 2026. The main areas of planned housing growth (totalling approximately 9,292 new homes) by 2026 are in Dover, Deal, Sandwich and Aylesham.

5.22 Demand

- 5.22.1 There is no recognised methodology for estimating the level of demand for squash. The Active People survey, undertaken regularly by Sport England, shows there was a small increase in participation levels between 2014/15 and 2015/16. However, overall it indicates a significant drop of more than 30% in participation over the last 10 years.
- 5.22.2 Facility managers have, in some cases, echoed this downward trend. At Dover Leisure Centre, demand is satisfied by two courts as the third squash court is only used for squash approximately 10 hours per week and is utilised for table tennis for the majority of the remaining time. 'Representatives from Dover Squash and Racketball Club, which has 55 active members using courts at Dover Leisure Centre, commented that it is proactively seeking to increase participation in the sport; it is working on formulating a junior development club and establishing a Coastal Racketball league. As a result it expects the numbers of active members to increase in the next 5 years. The club believes the provision of three courts to be appropriate to accommodate this increase.
- 5.22.3 Demand for squash is generally falling and operators may wish to use space for more popular/revenue generating activities such as for dance/aerobic classes or extension of health and fitness suite, as demonstrated at Dover Leisure Centre with reduction of courts from four to three in order to accommodate more health and fitness facilities.

5.23 Consultation

- 5.23.1 The courts at Dover Leisure Centre are described by England Squash as extremely important because they are the district's main provision available to the public and should be kept. Kent is a high performing area in terms of squash participation and ESR are looking for new squash schemes to have four glass-backed courts as a primary facility, so that competitions and events can be hosted. ESR would welcome early stage discussions with DDC around potential funding opportunities.
- 5.23.2 The courts at The Duke of York's Royal Military School are of a higher quality than those at Dover Leisure Centre but are primarily only used by the School. The School is open to communication regarding the possibility of courts being open for community use and have facilitated partnerships in the past when a local club used the courts. At Sandwich Sport and Leisure Centre the one available court is also used for karate and boxing, resulting in limited spare capacity.
- 5.23.3 Deal Squash Club is a private members club (45 active members) and the court can only be used by members (£75 membership). The club hosts open evenings in order to attract new members as it has previously had 100 members.

5.24 Summary

- There are five sites with squash court provision in the District, which are provided by local authority, commercial, private club and educational establishments.
- Courts at Deal Squash Club and The Duke of York's Military School are not available on a pay and play basis. These courts are currently only available to private members and for limited use by sports clubs and community associations. The remaining courts are available on a pay and play basis.
- The courts at Dover Leisure Centre have some spare capacity with primarily only two of the three courts used primarily for squash. At Sandwich Sport and Leisure

Centre the one available court is also used for karate and boxing, resulting in limited spare capacity.

- The demand for squash courts is generally falling, with courts being utilised for other activities, as demonstrated at Dover Leisure Centre where the fourth squash court was converted into a health and fitness space. This illustrates how facility operators are under increasing pressure to use squash courts for commercially viable activities.

Implication for Strategy

- 5.24.1 There is no requirement for additional squash provision in the District. Demand for squash is falling nationally and in the District, resulting in underutilisation of courts. Operators are increasingly converting squash courts for more popular, revenue generating, activities. Although a small increase has been predicted in the number of active members at Dover Squash Club, the number of available courts is sufficient to service this increase. If court provision is reduced this would have a negative impact on squash and current users may find it difficult to secure bookings at alternative sites during peak times. Provision of courts at Duke Of York's Military School may be a possible solution to address the loss at Dover Leisure Centre, if this was to be decided.

5.25 Indoor Tennis

- 5.25.1 Indoor tennis courts are completely covered by a roof. There are three main types of indoor court structure; air-supported structures, fabric frame structures and rigid frame buildings.

5.26 Supply

Quantity

- 5.26.1 Tides Leisure and Indoor Tennis Centre (four courts) is the only facility in the District with indoor tennis courts. The courts are available on a pay and play basis and are owned by the Council and managed by a trust.

Figure 14: Map to show Indoor Tennis Facilities in Dover



Table 13: Supply information for Indoor Tennis Facilities in Dover

Facility	Facility sub type	No. of courts	Ownership Type	Management Type	Access Type	Quality
Tides Leisure and Indoor Tennis Centre	Rigid frame structure	4	Local Authority	Trust	Pay and Play	Excellent

Quality

- 5.26.2 A non-technical site assessment was carried out on the indoor tennis courts at Tides. Built in 2011, the quality of the four indoor tennis courts is excellent and having had sufficient time (five years) to “bed in”, the surface of the courts can now be cleaned. This will enhance and prolong the quality of the courts.

Accessibility

- 5.26.3 This section considers the accessibility of facilities in relation to both the physical (i.e. built environment) and human (i.e. management of entry to facilities) elements.

Human

- 5.26.4 Tides offer a range of recreational sessions that are available to the general public. The range of sessions offered can be seen in the Table 14 alongside the corresponding prices and descriptions.

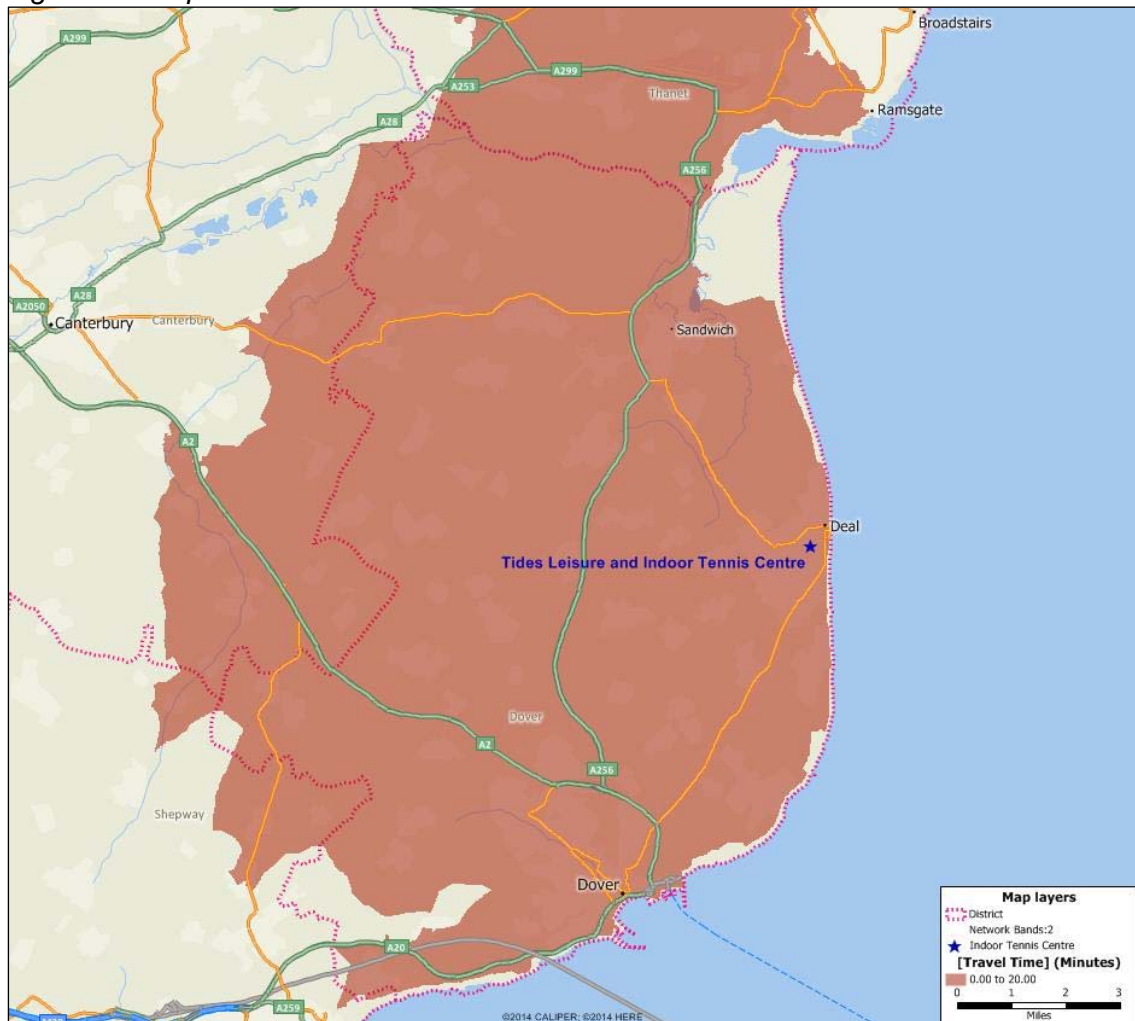
Table 14: Tennis Sessions on offer to the public at Tides Indoor Tennis Centre

Session	Description	Price	Price with Leisure Card	Times
Court Hire per hour	Adult	£13.30	£11.30	-
	Junior	£10.30	£8.20	-
Adult Recreation Sessions (16+)	Club sessions where a coach is on hand to organise drills and can arrange matches.	£7.40	£6.40	Mon 8:00 – 20:00 Tues 10:00 – 12:00 Thurs 10:00 – 12:00
Tennis Xpress	Aimed at beginners, it is an easy way to learn to play tennis using modified equipment. After completion of this course the coach may recommend a regular group.	£7.40	£6.40	Tues 19:00 – 20:00
Match Practice Night	Two hours of organised tennis games and matches	£5.10	£4.50	Wed 19:00 – 21:00
Active Tennis (50s)	One hour with a coach followed by one hour social play specifically for the Over 50s.	£5.30	£4.20	Friday 10:00 – 12:00
Teen Tennis (Under 16yrs)	Sessions for Teens to play, socialise and learn about the game. Sessions will include fun mini competitions, play on full size courts plus cardio tennis and match play.	£3.20	£2.60	Friday 18:00 – 20:00 (Sept-Mar)
Private Lessons	One to one or come along with a friend (Adult)	£30.80	£25.70	-
	One to one or come along with a friend (Junior)	£23.60	£21.60	-
Buddy Hitting	Play against a coach for practice - non coached (Adult)	£23.15	£22.05	-
	Play against a coach for practice - non coached (Junior)	£17.85	£16.80	-
Ball Machine Hire	Play on your own or with a friend using a state of the art ball machine	£18.50	£16.40	-

Physical

- 5.26.5 Appropriate drive time accessibility standards can be applied to indoor sports provision to determine deficiencies in provision. The normal acceptable standard would be to apply a 20 minute drive time catchment for indoor tennis facilities within the District. Figure 15 shows that the vast majority of residents can access an indoor tennis court in a 20 minute drive time.

Figure 15: Map to show indoor tennis facilities in Dover 20 minute drive time catchment



- 5.26.6 The expected population increase of 22% in the District by 2026 is likely to increase the level of demand for indoor tennis. There are a total of 10,100 new houses planned by 2026. The main areas of planned housing growth (totalling approximately 9,292 new homes) by 2026 are in Dover, Deal, Sandwich and Alyesham.

5.27 Demand

- 5.27.1 Active People surveys, undertaken regularly by Sport England illustrate that there has been a decrease across England in the participation of tennis over the last 10 years. Since, 2005, the number of people participating in tennis (aged 16 and over) has decreased nationally from 437,500 to 422,400, a percentage decrease of 3.45%. It should be noted that this is tennis as a whole and not specifically those playing tennis on indoor courts.
- 5.27.2 Despite this downward national trend, indoor tennis courts at Tides are extremely well used. The four courts are used extensively by recreational, club and elite players (90% used capacity) and has been identified by The LTA as having the potential for achieving LTA Performance Centre accreditation, which will attract more players to the centre due to improved facilities and the presence of the best coaches.
- 5.27.3 The adopted Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Facility Strategy (PPS) recognised the important contribution of the indoor centre to tennis participation. Improvement to the

outdoor courts at Victoria Park, Deal is identified as a strategic objective in the PPS, would complement the indoor provision at Tides. Consultation

- 5.27.4 The LTA were consulted and commented that it always seeks to support the development of new indoor projects in South East England, due to the demand for tennis and the lack of publically available indoor tennis courts in the region. A recent study undertaken by the LTA mapped the best locations for new indoor tennis facilities based upon existing provision of facilities. The nearest location to be identified as being a gap in the market was Thanet. Dover District was not initially recognised as an area of high priority due to the excellent level of provision at existing facilities at Tides Leisure and Indoor Tennis Centre and Canterbury Indoor Tennis Centre.

5.28 Summary

- Tides Leisure and Indoor Tennis Centre (four courts) is the only facility in the District with indoor tennis courts. The courts are available on a pay and play basis and are owned by the Council and managed by a trust.
- The four courts are used extensively by recreational, club and elite players (90% used capacity) and has been identified by The LTA as having the potential for achieving LTA Performance Centre accreditation, which will attract more players to the centre due to improved facilities and the presence of the best coaches.
- The District has not been recognised as an area of high priority by the LTA due to existing facilities in Deal and nearby Canterbury.

Implication for Strategy

- 5.28.1 Due to the existing facilities in Deal and nearby Canterbury, Dover District is not identified by the LTA as having a lack in provision. Indoor tennis courts at Tides Leisure and Indoor Tennis Centre should be retained.

5.29 Dance/Aerobic Studios

- 5.29.1 Dance/aerobic studios are areas that provide a multi-purpose space, accommodating a wide range of activities for movement and exercise. Typically dance/aerobic studios are located at leisure centres and schools, to supplement Health and Fitness provision. However, general purpose spaces at village halls and community centres can also provide the community with (more restricted) spaces for sporting activities and exercise classes.

5.30 Supply

Quantity

- 5.30.1 There are six dance/aerobic studios (recognised by Sport England Active Places) available for community use (on a pay and play basis or via registered membership) in the District. Of the six recognised dance/aerobic studios, three are located at sites owned by a trust; two studios are located at commercially owned sites and one studio is at a local authority owned site. Two studios are located at Sandwich Sport and Leisure Centre (a trust owned site).
- 5.30.2 There are also 42 general purpose spaces at village halls and community centres throughout in the District.

Figure 16: Map of studio facilities in Dover

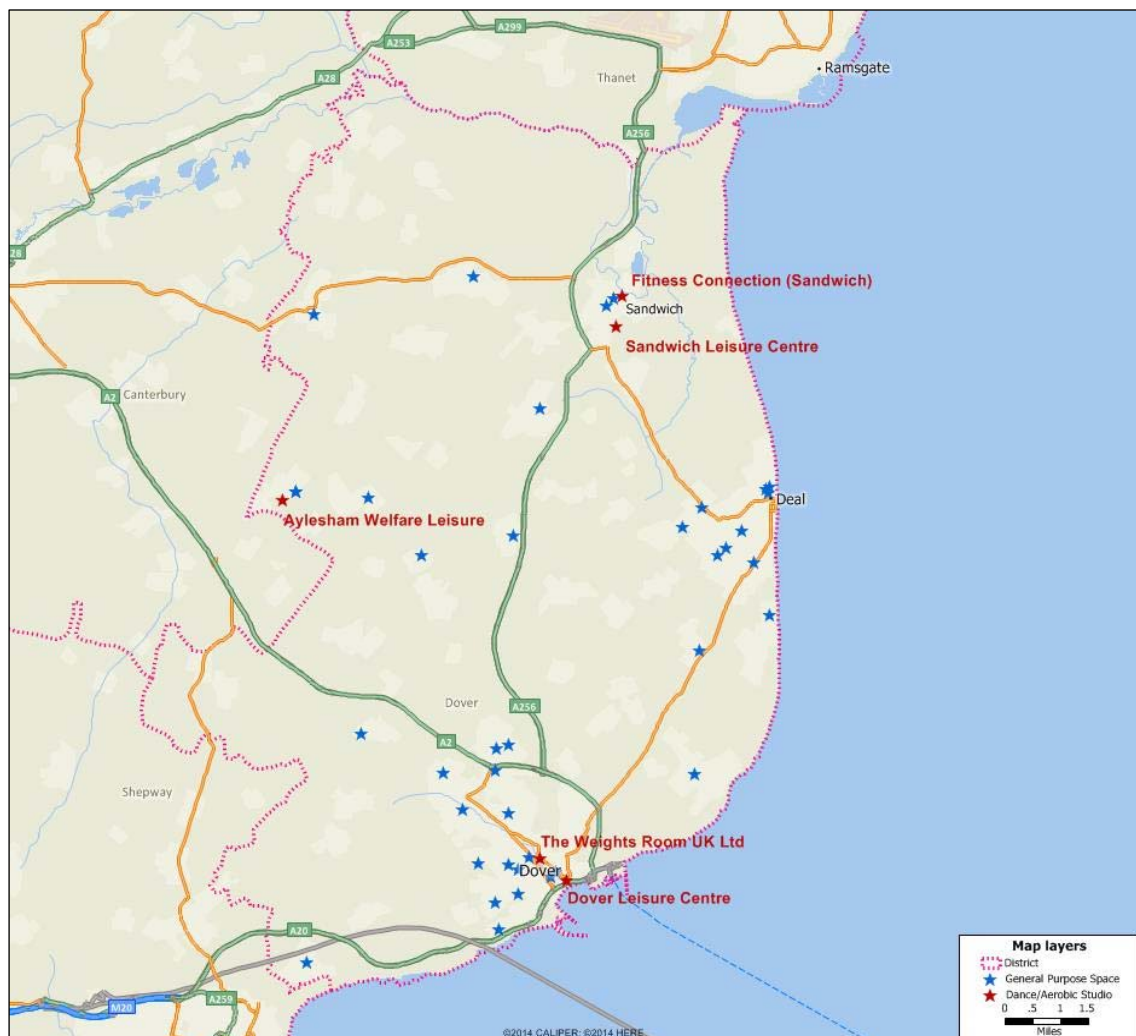


Table 15: Supply information for Studio facilities in Dover

Facility	Facility sub type	No. of studios	Ownership Type	Management Type	Access Type	Quality
Aylesham Welfare Leisure Centre	Studio	1	Trust	Trust	Pay and Play	Good
Dover Leisure Centre	Studio	1	Local Authority	Trust	Pay and Play	Average
Fitness Connection (Sandwich)	Studio	1	Commercial	Commercial Management	Registered Membership Use	Unknown
Sandwich Sport and Leisure Centre	Studio	2	Trust	Trust	Pay and Play	Average
The Weights Room UK Ltd	Studio	1	Commercial	Commercial Management	Pay and Play	Unknown

Table 16: Information for general purpose spaces at village halls and community centres

Facility/Parish Council	Examples of activities space is utilised for
Alkham Village Hall	Event Hire
Astor Yoga, Deal	Yoga
Ash Village Hall	Dance

Facility/Parish Council	Examples of activities space is utilised for
Aycliffe Town Hall	Event Hire
Aylesham and District Community Workshop Trust	Event Hire
Bechange, Alyesham	Event Hire
Beddow Academy, Dover	Dance
Buckland Community Centre, Dover	Tai Chi, Yoga, Zumba and Event Hire
Capel-le-Ferne Village Hall	Dance, Drama, Club Meetings
Carol Jenkins Dance School, Dover	Dance
Clarendon and Westbury Halls	Event Hire
Curzon Hall Community Centre, Dover	Community Space
Deal Welfare Club and Social Institute Club	Live bands, bingo, snooker
Deal Adult Education Centre	Exercise Classes
Denton With Wootton Parish Hall	Event Hire
Dover Community Association	Event Hire
Eastry Village Hall	Event Hire
Eclipse Yoga Centre, Dover	Yoga
Elvington Community Centre	Event Hire
Goodnestone Village Hall	Event Hire
Great Mongeham Parish Hall	Event Hire
Guildhall Sandwich	Weddings
Hougham Without Village Hall	Event Hire
Kingsdown Village Hall	Event Hire
Kings Hall, Dover	Dance, Cheerleading
Landmark Centre, Deal	Event Hire
Langdon Village Hall	Event Hire
Lydden Village Hall, Lydden Parish Council	Karate, parties
Nonnington Village Hall	Event Hire
Northbourne Parish Hall	Event Hire
Old Park Community Centre, Whitfield	Event Hire
Phoenix Centre, Sandwich	Karate, Yoga, Dance
Ringwould Village Hall	Weddings and birthday events
Ripple Parish Council Village Hall	Event Hire
River Village Hall, Dover	Event Hire
Shepherdswell Village Hall	Zumba, Tango Dancing, Bridge
Sholden Village Hall	Event Hire
St George's Hall, Deal	Event Venue

Facility/Parish Council	Examples of activities space is utilised for
St John's Hall, Dover	Event Hire
St Margaret's Hall, St Margaret's-at-Cliffe	Wedding Receptions, Conferences
St Richard's Church Centre, Dover	Event Venue
Staple Village Hall	Event Hire
Temple Ewell Village Hall	Drama
The Ark, Dover	Conference Space, Choir
The Buckland Community Centre, Dover	Event Hire
Tilmanstone Village Hall	Exercise Classes
Triangles Community Centre, Dover	Children's Community Centre
Walmer Parish Hall	Event Hire
Whitfield Parish Council	'Fitness is Fun' classes and junior football
Whitfield Village Hall	Dance, Event Hire
Wingham Village Hall	Dance, Event Hire
Woodnesborough Village Hall	Event Hire
Worth Parish Council, Deal	Event Hire

5.31 Planned Developments

- 5.31.1 A new studio will be available for public use in January 2016 at Dover Christ Church Academy and there are plans at Sandwich Sport and Leisure Centre and Aylesham Welfare Leisure Centre to include new studios within future development proposals.
- 5.31.2 Feasibility work is still progressing, however initial options for consideration by DDC include the provision of 2-3 aerobic/dance studios and a dedicated spin studio at a new Dover Leisure Centre and 1 aerobic/dance studio at Tides.

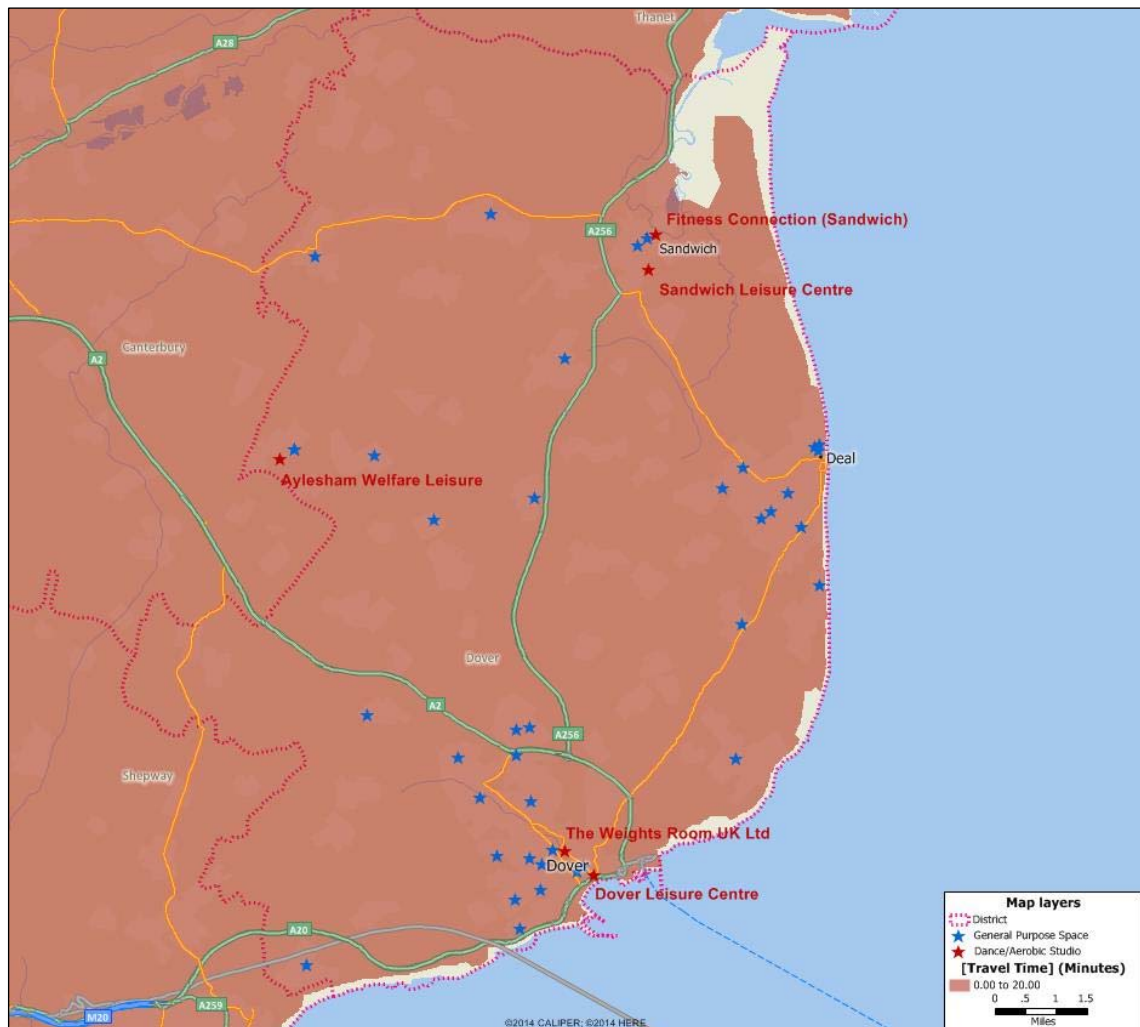
Quality

- 5.31.3 Non-technical site assessments were carried out on studios in the District where possible. As with health and fitness suites, studios tend to have high levels of usage and are important revenue generating areas. Therefore, investment in updating user space and equipment is important. Of the studios that were assessed, Aylesham Welfare Leisure Centre (built in 2010) is deemed the best quality (rated as good) and Sandwich Sport and Leisure Centre (built in 1999 and refurbished in 2004) and Dover Leisure Centre (built in 1976 and refurbished in 2007) were both rated as average quality.

5.32 Accessibility

- 5.32.1 Appropriate drive time accessibility standards can be applied to indoor sports provision to determine deficiencies in provision. The normal acceptable standard would be to apply a 20 minute drive time catchment for studio facilities. Figure 17 below shows that all residents in the District can access a dance/aerobic studio within a 20 minute drive time.

Figure 17: Map to show studios in Dover 20 minute drive time catchment



5.32.2 The expected population increase of 22% in the District by 2026¹⁸ is likely to increase the level of demand for studios. The main areas of planned housing growth (totalling approximately 9,292 new homes) by 2026 are in Dover, Deal, Sandwich and Aylesham.

5.33 Demand

5.33.1 Active Places has illustrated that national participation for dance, exercise and movement that utilise studio space, has decreased slightly from 444,900 between the years of 2013-2014, to 399,600 between the years 2014-2015. There is not sufficient data on participation numbers prior to this.

5.34 Consultation

5.34.1 Participation trends in aerobics and dance are seen to be increasing and through consultation with managers of leisure centres in Dover, Sandwich and Aylesham, there is high usage and latent demand for fitness classes using studio space. The sports hall at Tides Leisure and Indoor Tennis Centre is used predominately for hosting activities, such as fitness and exercise classes, that would usually be held in studios. Reports of

¹⁸ KCC Strategy forecast (Oct 2014), Business Intelligence, Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

high usage and latent demand for fitness classes at Tides Leisure and Indoor Tennis Centre, which holds up to 50 classes per week.

- 5.34.2 Parish councils in the District were sent a survey that laid out questions concerning activity halls/space in their Parish. Questions included in the survey asked about the activities that the facilities are utilised for, the size of spaces they have and for thoughts on indoor facilities in the surrounding area. 35 Councils were contacted, via an online survey, with 10 responding. Of the 10 respondents, only 40% have an activity hall and these are; Worth Parish Council, Lydden Parish Council, Shepherdswell with Coldred Parish Council and Whitfield Parish Council.
- 5.34.3 The activity halls/space are utilised for a variety of activities. The activity hall in Lydden Parish Council is used by a Karate Club, for band rehearsals and for children's parties. Shepherdswell with Coldred Parish Council have a hall with toilet and kitchen facilities that can cater for 104 people when seated. This area is used for mother and toddler groups, gardening clubs, bridge, Zumba and tango dancing in addition to kids parties and fundraising events. Whitfield Parish Council have a small activity hall with the dimensions 10m x 7m and the space is utilised for fitness classes such as Zumba and spinning, in addition to being used for sign language classes.
- 5.34.4 There is increasing popularity in new dance classes such as Zumba and conditioning classes such as Yoga and Pilates and a number of village halls and community centres are being utilised to accommodate the increased demand for classes.

5.35 Summary

- There are six dance/aerobic studios (recognised by Sport England Active Places) available for community use (on a pay and play basis or via registered membership) in the District. There are also 42 general purpose spaces at village halls and community centres in the District.
- Of the six recognised dance/aerobic studios, three are located at sites owned by a trust; two studios are located at commercially owned sites and one studio is at a local authority owned site. Two studios are located at Sandwich Sport and Leisure Centre (a trust owned site).
- Participation trends in aerobics and dance are seen to be increasing and through consultation with managers of leisure centres in Dover, Sandwich and Aylesham, there is high usage and latent demand for fitness classes using studio space. The sports hall at Tides is used predominately for hosting activities, such as fitness and exercise classes, that would usually be held in studios.
- A new studio will be available for public use in January 2016 at Dover Christ Church Academy and there are plans at Sandwich Sport and Leisure Centre and Aylesham Welfare Leisure Centre to include new studios within future development proposals.
- Feasibility work is still progressing, however initial options for consideration by DDC include the provision of 2-3 aerobic/dance studios and a dedicated spin studio at Dover Leisure Centre and 1 aerobic/dance studio at Tides.

Implications for Strategy

- 5.35.1 There is a requirement to increase the level of provision of dedicated multi-purpose studio space within the District. The Council should support development of new community accessible dance and activity studios, where these are viable and particularly where they complement a wider health and fitness offer. Proposals for a

new leisure centre in Dover and for the improvement of Tides include additional studio space.

5.36 Gymnastics

- 5.36.1 Gymnastics requires a diverse range of specification of facility depending upon the disciplines/activities being run. A “dedicated gymnastics centre” can be defined as a facility for the sole use and purpose of gymnastics. Such facilities can be “free standing” single buildings, or part of a larger complex, such as a school or leisure centre. A dedicated facility is one that is purpose built and dedicated for gymnastics use with equipment permanently laid out.
- 5.36.2 A “non-dedicated gymnastics centre” is defined as a multi-use facility such as sports halls at a school or leisure centre. Gymnastics clubs generally require access to good standard sports halls that have provision for storage of equipment, particularly for trampoline and low level gymnastic equipment and matting.

5.37 Supply

Quantity

- 5.37.1 There are four gymnastics clubs in the District. Two of these have dedicated gymnastics centres and two clubs use non-dedicated facilities at a leisure centre and a school.
- 5.37.2 Dover Gym Club is based at a converted warehouse in Poulton Close in Dover. Deal Gym Club has a dedicated permanent facility in the centre of Deal. Dover Trampoline Club uses Dover Christ Church Academy and Tides, and East Kent Acro Gym Club uses Tides.

Figure 18: Map of gymnastics facilities in Dover

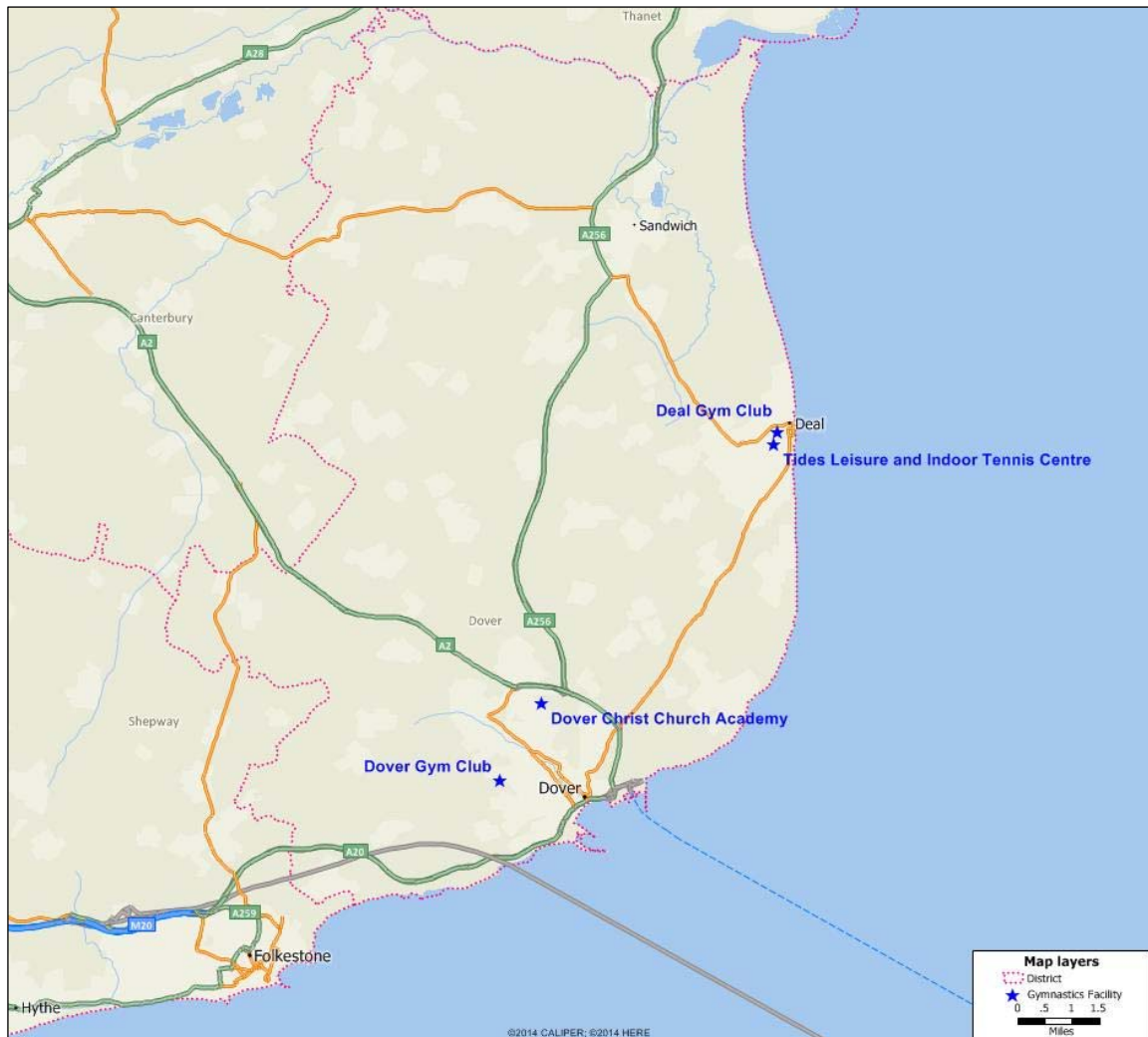


Table 17: Supply information for gymnastics facilities in Dover

Facility	Facility sub type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Access Type	Quality
Deal Gym Club	Dedicated	Club	Club	Sports Club/ Community Association	Very Good
Dover Christ Church Academy	Non-Dedicated	Academy	Academy	Sports Club/ Community Association	Very Good
Dover Gym Club	Dedicated	Club	Club	Sports Club/ Community Association	Poor
Tides Leisure and Indoor Tennis Centre	Non-Dedicated	Local Authority	Trust	Sports Club/ Community Association	Good

Quality

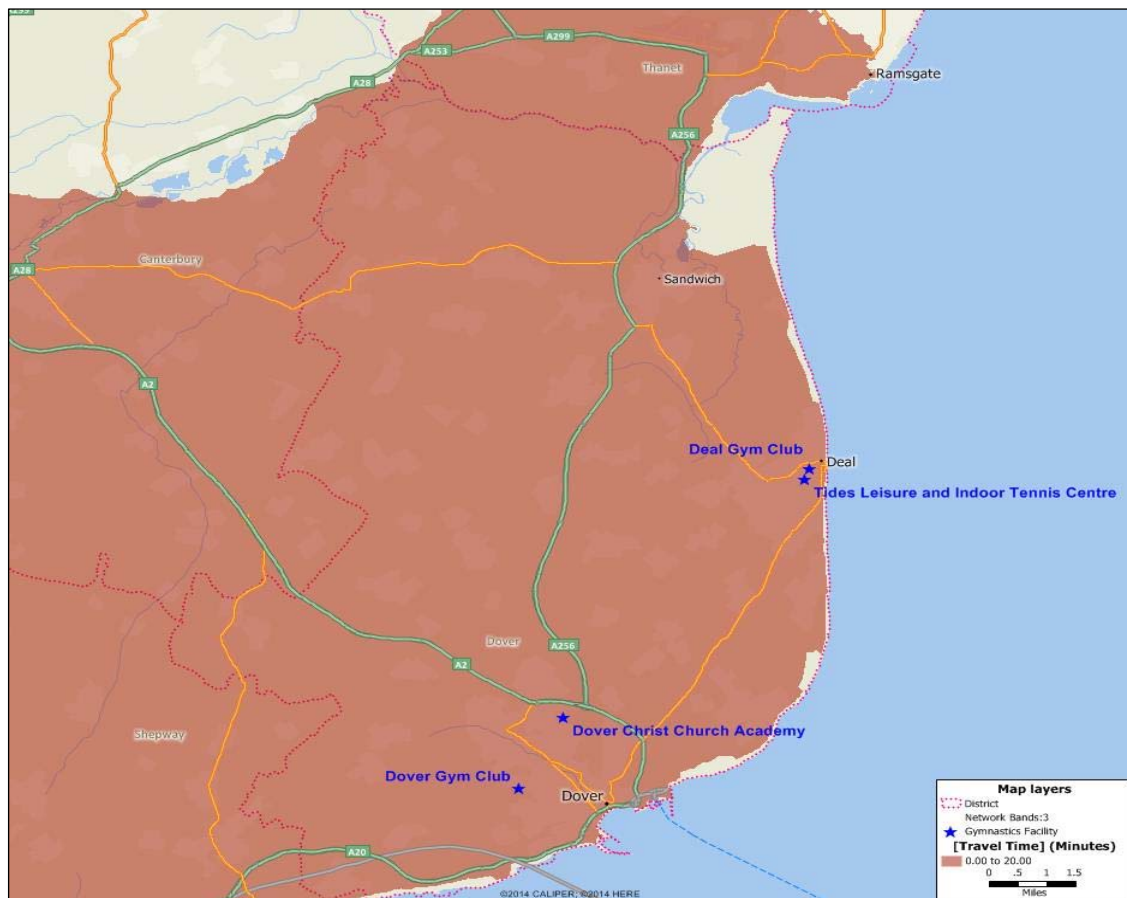
- 5.37.3 The quality of sites utilised varies. The sports hall at Dover Christ Church Academy was extended and refurbished in 2015 and therefore is of very good quality. Deal Gym Club report that its facility is of very good quality. The sports hall at Tides is of good quality; it was built in 2002 and has not been refurbished since. Dover Gym Club facility

is of poor quality and has a leak in the roof that consistently causes damage to their equipment.

5.38 Accessibility

- 5.38.1 Appropriate drive time accessibility standards can be applied to indoor sports provision to determine deficiencies in provision. The normal acceptable standard is to apply a 20 minute drive time catchment for gymnastics facilities in the District. Figure 19 below shows that all residents in the District can access gymnastics facilities within a 20 minute drive time.

Figure 19: Map to show gymnastics facilities in Dover 20 minute drive time catchment



- 5.38.2 The expected population increase of 22% in Dover District by 2026¹⁹ is likely to increase the level of demand for gymnastics facilities. The main areas of planned housing growth (totalling approximately 9,292 new homes) by 2026 are in Dover, Deal, Sandwich and Aylesham.

5.39 Demand

- 5.39.1 The Active People survey results illustrate that national participation levels for gymnastics have decreased from 58,900 in 2006, to 44,300 in March 2015²⁰. However there has been a slight increase in participation since 2013, when there were 37,000 participants. Drop-out in gymnastics remains on average at a very young age, with participation in the UK peaking at approximately 9 years of age. For the sport to grow

¹⁹ KCC Strategy forecast (Oct 2014), Business Intelligence, Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

the drop-out age needs to be increased through providing the support and facilities to deliver appropriate services to gymnasts.

- 5.39.2 The clubs affiliated to British Gymnastics currently operating in the District are Dover Gym Club and Deal Gym Club. Both are multi discipline clubs offering many forms of gymnastics. Neighbouring Folkestone also has an affiliated club which draw participants from the District. British Gymnastics say that these clubs are limited by the size of their venue and both have a waiting list preventing more participants from taking part in gymnastics. According to a survey undertaken by British Gymnastics (2010), gymnastics clubs have an average waiting list of 35 people, highlighting a high level of demand.
- 5.39.3 British Gymnastics is keen to see more access to sports halls becoming available for clubs, or for existing centres to be improved to increase the capacity of existing clubs. Following on from this, British Gymnastics is aiming to increase the provision of dedicated gymnastic spaces, providing facilities that allow permanent gym equipment to be set up. With approximately seven hundred active members currently taking part on a weekly basis (or more frequently) in the District, and both affiliated gymnastics clubs operating in the area having a waiting list, the demand is clear for access to more time and space to enable gymnastics to grow in the District.
- 5.39.4 British Gymnastics Facility Strategy for England (2010) aims for the development of gymnastics specific facilities that are appropriate to the different levels of performance within the sport including dedicated and non-dedicated gymnastics venues. The vision for facility development is to enhance the total network of gymnastics provision, from grass roots opportunities in school/leisure centre/community centre based non-permanent facilities, through to clubs offering high performance dedicated facilities and training programmes.
- 5.39.5 There is a definite trend for gymnastics clubs to move into their own dedicated facilities. Over 30 clubs in the UK moved into their own spaces in 2014-15. British Gymnastics expect this trend to continue, with an increased amount of clubs moving their activities to dedicated spaces/facilities. Currently, hiring a facility presents a problem for clubs if they do not have a long term arrangement. Facilities being hired from schools or colleges mean that usage is subject to the facilities not being used for other things or being inaccessible during academic holidays for example. It is therefore important that gymnastics clubs develop long term plans that enable them to develop.

5.40 Consultation

- 5.40.1 East Kent Acro Gymnastic Club (80 active members) uses Tides twice during the week and once at the weekend. The Club says that it does have enough time and space at Tides to meet its current needs. It does not foresee the need for additional time and space over the next 5 years. It believes that the quality of the facilities are good and they have had no issues with the management of the facility i.e. bookings and availability of hall space. The Club has sufficient space to operate successfully and therefore would like to see its usage of Tides continued at the current level.
- 5.40.2 Dover Trampoline Club (20 active members) uses facilities at both Dover Christ Church Academy and Tides three times during the week for time periods ranging from one and a half to two hours. The Club currently has enough time and space to meet its current needs, however it does feel that the quality of the equipment used is poor and has not

²⁰ Active People Survey 9Q2

been replaced for fourteen years. The Club does not think that additional time and space will be required in the next 5 years.

- 5.40.3 Deal Gymnastics Club (350 active members) has its dedicated gymnastics facility located in the centre of Deal. The Club reports a lack of sufficient space to cater for its needs. The facilities are used by club members 7 days a week and the demand for gymnastics is increasing. The Club would like to utilise the land available surrounding the facility to expand the building in order to cater for new members. The Club would also like to improve the quality of its facilities, to match other modern gymnastics facilities in other parts of the country.
- 5.40.4 Dover Gymnastics Club (450 active members) operates from a converted warehouse at Poulton Close in Dover. The facilities are used extensively six days a week for between 6.5 hours to 12.5 hours per day. The Club says that its facility is too small and is preventing additional classes and disciplines being accommodated. Increased space would enable two classes to take place at the same time, allowing a wider diversity of classes to take place, as well as accommodating new members. The Club is ideally looking for a larger permanent facility that has suitable disabled access and suitable parking space to meet the needs of the club. More facilities are also required to accommodate the needs of the coaches and the parents. An example is that currently there is only one male toilet available.
- 5.40.5 British Gymnastics reports that clubs in the District have limited time within the non-dedicated venues that they use and each have waiting lists preventing more participants from taking part in gymnastics. British Gymnastics would be keen to see more access to sports hall time and space and provision made to either create new dedicated gymnastics spaces and or facilities; or improve existing centres to allow the increase in capacity of existing gymnastics clubs. With approximately 700 active members currently taking part on a weekly basis (or more frequently), and each of the gymnastics clubs operating in the area having a waiting list; the demand is clear for access to more time and space to enable gymnastics to grow.

5.41 Summary

- There are four gymnastics clubs in the District. Dover Gym Club are based at a converted warehouse in Poulton Close in Dover. Deal Gym Club has a dedicated permanent facility in the centre of Deal. Dover Trampoline Club uses Dover Christ Church Academy and Tides, and East Kent Acro Gym Club uses Tides.
- The quality of sites utilised ranges, however problems have been highlighted at Dover Gym Club, where leaks in the roof consistently causes damage to equipment.
- National participation levels for gymnastics have decreased from 58,900 in 2006, to 44,300 in March 2015. However there has been a slight increase in participation since 2013, when there were 37,000 participants. Many clubs, including those in the District have extensive waiting lists and according to a recent survey (British Gymnastics, 2010) gymnastics clubs have an average waiting list of 35 people.
- The demand for dedicated gymnastics facilities is clear and this will enable gymnastics to grow and for participation rates to increase.
- Through club consultation, Dover Gym Club and Deal Gym Club illustrated that facilities are preventing their club from developing further. British Gymnastics are keen to see either more sports halls becoming easily available for clubs to utilise, or a move to clubs having dedicated facilities where they can develop long term plans.

Implications for Strategy

- 5.41.1 There is a requirement to investigate options for the development of a new dedicated gymnastics facilities in the District. There is latent demand identified (through waiting lists) at Dover Gym Club and Deal Gym Club. However, it should be noted that these facilities can be developed as commercially viable businesses.

6 INDOOR SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 The purpose of this strategy and action plan is to provide an indoor sports facility strategy document and a prioritised and timeline action plan for the District, which incorporates the key findings from the needs assessment. It includes a long-term view to 2026, and makes recommendations to inform decisions on future facility investment. It contains substantial proposals for new leisure and recreation facilities.
- 6.1.2 The strategy will form part of the evidence base for providing indoor sports facilities, in conjunction with DDC's Local Development Plan and will be referenced as a basis for securing external investment, either from development contributions, government grants or other sources. It will also ensure that as and when funding is available, investment decisions affecting the local sports infrastructure of the District are co-ordinated and planned by DDC and its partners, with reference to strategic need and the needs assessment work included in this document.
- 6.1.3 DDC cannot guarantee that facility improvements contained in this strategy will be provided, the aim of the strategy is to prioritise the project to direct future investment and so that money that is available can be used to best benefit.

6.2 Developing the strategy

- 6.2.1 This strategy is based on a considerable amount of background research work regarding the future needs for sport and recreation provision. It has been developed using a number of recognised sports facility planning tools and a wide ranging consultation with relevant stakeholders.
- 6.2.2 A project steering group was formed comprising representatives from DDC. This steering group was responsible for establishing the brief and for the check and challenge of the strategy during its development.
- 6.2.3 Recommended facility planning tools were applied, including Sport England's Active Places, Active People and Market Segmentation data. The strategy is also informed by analysis of the results of Sport England Facility Planning Model for Sports Halls (2016 and 2026) and Swimming Pools (2015 National Runs). These reports were commissioned specifically for this purpose.
- 6.2.4 Consultation was conducted with over 60 individuals and organisations, including facility users, clubs, facility operators, council officers and National Governing Bodies of Sport.
- 6.2.5 A comprehensive audit of provision in the District was completed alongside relevant facility managers during July and September 2015. The audit provides a snapshot of the situation at that time and sites were reviewed on a like for like basis on their ability to provide for any increase in participation. A range of elements including accessibility, service provision, catchment (travel time) and affordability were assessed. Facilities were also graded dependant on their catchment and composition as strategic facilities, District wide facilities or local facilities.
- 6.2.6 Consultation and research is fundamental to the validity of the strategy and key stakeholders and partners were consulted in addition to a comprehensive audit of facilities.

6.3 Action Plan

6.3.1 This strategy and action plan has been commissioned, by DDC, on behalf of all leisure stakeholders in the District but it is recognised that the recommendations and actions cannot be delivered by the Council alone. DDC is only one stakeholder in the District and has limited resources, in terms of officer support and funding. All partners involved in indoor sports provision, whether public, private or voluntary will need to work together to take the strategy through to implementation. The relevant stakeholders have been identified in the Action Plan, and include:

- Dover District Council
- KCC
- schools and colleges
- sports clubs
- facility operators
- National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs)
- other commercial providers.

6.3.2 The following action plan has been developed to address a number of strategic priorities, identified during the study, and the needs identified for each facility type reviewed. The actions are set out under the following headings:

- General Strategic Priorities
- Swimming Pool Priorities
- Sports Hall Priorities
- Health and Fitness Priorities
- Indoor Bowls Priorities
- Squash Priorities
- Aerobic/Dance Studio Priorities
- Gymnastics Priorities.

6.3.3 The actions have been identified in the

6.3.4 Action Plan, as well as target timescales for completion. The timescales allocated are short (1 to 2 years) medium (3 to 5 years) and long term (5 to 10 years) priorities.

6.3.5 An equality impact assessment of this strategy shows that delivery of strategic priorities could have a significant impact on groups with protected characteristics, as defined in the 2010 Equality Act. Consultation with representatives of protected groups should be undertaken when developing projects such as a replacement for Dover Leisure Centre in order to identify whether needs of people with protected characteristics are being met and whether specific actions are required to encourage people with protected characteristics to participate in activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

6.4 General Strategic Priorities

6.4.1 The following table contains a list of the general strategic priorities identified through completion of this study. The actions required to deliver them the objectives that each would contribute towards, the implementing partners and the timescales (short, medium, long term and ongoing).

ID	Strategic Priorities	Action Required	Implementing partners	Timescale
1	Avoid, where possible, the loss of strategically valuable sports facilities that are available for community use or could contribute to meeting future community needs, unless replaced by equivalent or better provision, in terms of quantity and quality, in a suitable location.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to review plans for developments involving strategically valuable sports facilities. Ensure any loss in provision is replaced by equivalent or better provision. 	DDC	Ongoing
2	Utilise strategically valuable sites and investigate options to maximise revenue generation from facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with leisure stakeholders to better understand the operation of strategically valuable facilities, in order to investigate options to maximise revenue generation from existing facilities. 	DDC Facility operators Sports clubs	Short
3	Progress with proposals to investigate options for the replacement of Dover Leisure Centre.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission detailed feasibility and site investigation studies required to identify the preferred option for the replacement of Dover leisure centre. Subject to the findings of the detailed feasibility study, and dependant on the project being affordable and financially viable, proceed with the development of a new leisure centre. 	DDC NGBs	Short / Medium
4	Progress with proposals for improvement of facilities at Tides Leisure Centre.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council to work with facility operator to deliver improved wetside & health and fitness facilities, subject to confirmation of project being affordable and financially viable 	DDC Facility operator	Short / Medium

ID	Strategic Priorities	Action Required	Implementing partners	Timescale
5	Protect and enhance community use of sports facilities on educational sites, where required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote partnership working between schools, Council and other facility operators in the district to develop community use and maximise utilisation of existing facilities. 	DDC Schools and colleges	Short
6	Ensure that sports facility charges are reasonable in terms of affordability to residents, and are comparable with similar facilities elsewhere.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep community accessible sports facility charges under review and benchmark against nearest neighbour authorities. 	Facility operators Schools, colleges and academies	Short
7	Encourage stakeholders to work together to try and increase the levels of community access to sites. Stakeholders should include Council departments, health agencies, facility operators, education providers, NGBs, and local sports clubs to expand the range of affordable and accessible facilities for both residents and visitors to Dover.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council to continue an open dialogue with stakeholders and partners to support them, where possible, in maintaining and improving the range of affordable and accessible facilities in the district. 	DDC Key Stakeholders	Short and ongoing
8	Support where possible stakeholders developing new indoor facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise on needs analysis and project sustainability 	DDC KCC NGBs	
9	Ensure, as far as possible, that any new sports facilities, provided as part of future educational provision in Dover, are designed for curricular, extra-curricular, community and sports development use and that opportunities for community use out of school hours is secured.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage any proposals for school sports facilities in the District to have appropriate facilities to enable community use e.g. external lighting, car parking and changing. 	DDC Schools, colleges and academies	Ongoing

ID	Strategic Priorities	Action Required	Implementing partners	Timescale
10	Ensure that new developments (e.g. residential, commercial and retail) contribute towards the development and enhancement of sports facilities to meet identified needs, priority being given to projects identified in this Strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop costed facility priorities and incorporate these into the District's Infrastructure Delivery Plan. 	DDC Stakeholders	Ongoing
11	Explore opportunities for collaborative working between neighbouring authorities to maximise cross-boundary usage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain and develop good relationships with officers at Canterbury City Council (CCC), Thanet District Council (TDC) and Shepway District Council (SDC) to ensure that cross boundary issues and opportunities are considered for the benefit of all neighbouring authorities and their communities. 	CCC TDC SDC	Ongoing
12	Contribute towards addressing specific issues relating to the district's demographic profile.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that planned facilities are designed in such a way that they can assist stakeholders in addressing the district's high rate of obesity levels in children, ensure appropriate provision for the ageing population and can contribute to improving the below average levels of sports participation. 	DDC Stakeholders	Ongoing
13	Use indoor sport and leisure facilities to improve levels of physical activity in the whole population and reduce the gap in health inequalities by promoting access and engagement with at risk groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on programming and pricing to proactively engage people experiencing health and social inequality, including people on low incomes, income support, in social housing and with higher levels of benefit need. 	DDC Stakeholders Facility operators	Ongoing

6.5 Strategic Priorities by Facility Type

6.5.1 The strategic priorities by facility type are listed in the following tables. These priorities are linked to the outcome of the needs assessment work, summarised in the previous sections of this strategy. Reference is also made to the findings from the new leisure centre options appraisal and feasibility study for the development of a replacement for Dover Leisure Centre. This is contained in a separate report, which was completed in parallel with this strategy.

6.6 Swimming Pool Priorities

6.6.1 The total supply of water space in the District equates to 8.88m² per 1,000 of the population, which is below both national (12.46m²) and regional (13.82m²) levels. It is also lower than within two of Dover's neighbouring authority areas – Canterbury (13.39m²) and Thanet (10.37m²). The swimming pools at Tides and Dover Leisure Centre are forecast to be operating at high levels of used capacity during the peak period, 96% and 81% respectively. This underlines their importance as community facilities and suggests that the public may experience issues accessing the pools during the peak periods.

6.6.2 There are plans for new swimming pool provision in order to address the reasonable deficit in water space in the District in 2015 (equivalent to a 6 lane 25m pool). These plans include replacement of swimming pools at Dover Leisure Centre, refurbishment of the leisure pool at Tides, and aspirations for a new pool at Sandwich Sport and Leisure Centre and reinstating a pool at Sir Roger Manwood's School. There could also be an opportunity to address demand through increased usage of Duke of York's Royal Military School and Balance Spa and Health Club, which have used capacity of 20% and 16% respectively.

ID	Strategic Priorities	Action Required	Implementing partners	Timescale
14	Progress proposals for the development of a new Leisure Centre in Dover to address unmet demand for swimming facilities across the district. This will replace Dover Leisure Centre.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The following new swimming facilities have been recommended in the options appraisal and feasibility study for the development of leisure centres across the district: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a 6 or 8 lane 25m main pool (100 seats in 6 lane option and 250 in 8 lane option) a learner pool with moveable floor to focus on swimming lessons. Commission detailed feasibility and site investigation studies required to identify the preferred option for the replacement of Dover leisure centre. Consult further with Sport England and the ASA on the level 	DDC	Short / Medium

ID	Strategic Priorities	Action Required	Implementing partners	Timescale
		<p>of provision required and more detailed aspects of the specification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject to the findings of the detailed feasibility study, and dependant on the project being affordable and financially viable, proceed with the development of a new leisure centre. 		
15	Work with operators of swimming pools where community access is currently limited.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work with Duke of York's Royal Military School to increase community use of its swimming pool during school holidays. Investigate whether Balance Spa and Health Club would offer access on a 'pay and play' basis and/or allow club bookings, to increase community usage. The amount of additional community access will need to be investigated further following more detailed discussions with operators. It is likely that the greatest benefit for the community will be if access can be agreed for peak times (evenings and weekends) when there is most pressure on pool space within the district. 	DDC Schools Sports clubs	Short / Medium
16	Stakeholders to investigate plans for new pools at Sandwich Sport and Leisure Centre and Sir Roger Manwood's School.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the decision on the size of main pool at the new leisure centre in Dover (6 or 8 lane 25m pool), there will be a need to determine the most appropriate levels of provision at Sandwich Sport and Leisure Centre (4 or 6 lane 25m pool). The Sandwich Leisure Trust should be assisted in exploring the feasibility of adding swimming provision, with a focus on affordability and financial viability. The long-term aspiration at Sir Roger Manwood's School to reinstate a former lido and convert into an indoor pool should be encouraged. However, as community access may be limited and the School has aspirations of funding the pool itself, the size of the pool should be determined by the School. Work with other providers to ensure opportunities to provide for any remaining undersupply of pool water provision can be delivered. This should include encouraging operators to 	Facility operators	Medium / Long

ID	Strategic Priorities	Action Required	Implementing partners	Timescale
		<p>complete the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete needs analysis work to ensure that proposed facilities are located in the best location to address supply and demand issues. • Engage with the DDC, the ASA and Sport England to seek a strategic view on levels of pool provision at proposed locations. • Complete feasibility work to demonstrate whether the proposed facilities are affordable and financially viable in the long term. This should include identification of all sources of capital and revenue of funding. 		
17	Work with local swimming clubs and operators to ensure they have sufficient time and space to aid development of their club.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Dover Life Guards, which require additional water space to meet the current/future needs of the club. These needs could be addressed by increased provision at the new leisure centre in Dover and by increasing access to Duke of York's Royal Military School. 	DDC Facility operators Dover Life Guards NGBs	Short / Medium

6.7 Sports Hall Priorities

- 6.7.1 Sport England's FPM (3+ court sports halls) suggests in 2016 and 2026 there are high levels of satisfied demand. When converted into the equivalent of badminton courts worth of sports hall space, the FPM suggests there is a deficit of supply of about 3.5 courts in 2016 and an excess of about 1.5 courts in 2026.
- 6.7.2 A lack of appropriate time and space at sports halls is hindering the development of Sandwich Boxing Club, Dover Castle Archers and Dover Indoor Cricket League.
- 6.7.3 The potential reduction (from 8 courts to 4 courts) in the amount of sports hall space provided at a new replacement Dover Leisure Centre does not appear to have a detrimental impact on satisfied demand in the District. Community access to sports hall space at Dover College, Sir Roger Manwood's School and Duke of York's Royal Military School, should be realised. Community access to sports hall space at Castle Community College should also continue.

ID	Strategic Priorities	Action Required	Implementing partners	Timescale
18	Consider measures to utilise spare capacity at specific sports hall sites, especially school sites at peak times.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue dialogue with Duke of York's Royal Military School to offer more sports hall space during school holidays, particularly for indoor cricket league matches and pre-season indoor cricket training (Easter holiday). Work with Dover College and Sir Roger Manwood's School to help achieve their aspirations of opening up community access of sports hall space. Permission for a new access road at Dover College and permission to allow external lettings at Sir Roger Manwood's School should be explored and addressed through planning applications. The spaces could be utilised by either Dover Castle Archers or Sandwich Boxing Club. Utilise Sport England's 'Use Our School' toolkit and explore potential opportunities for external operators of school facilities. Inform schools of the different clubs that need space and are potential customers, making connections and links to give the schools confidence that there is a large market and 	DDC School identified Sports clubs identified NGBs	Short / Medium

ID	Strategic Priorities	Action Required	Implementing partners	Timescale
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> high demand for their space. Sharing of information on agreements with clubs, likely costs for hire, maintenance and how they can promote themselves. 		
19	Continue to assist clubs to address the capacity issues of sports halls at peak times.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support local clubs and leagues that state insufficient sports hall space, this includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sandwich Boxing Club Dover Castle Archers Dover Indoor Cricket League. 	DDC Sports clubs identified NGBs KCC	Short/ Medium
20	Support and encourage, where possible, the development of new provision at Aylesham Welfare Leisure Centre.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support initial plans for a 4 court sports hall, subject to viability being demonstrated. The space could be utilised by either Dover Castle Archers or Sandwich Boxing Club. 	DDC Aylesham & Snowdown Social Welfare Scheme KCC	Long
21	Progress with plans to develop sports hall provision at the new Dover Leisure Centre.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to investigate a 4 or 8 court facility with the variant of an artificial grass pitch, in line with initial findings from the feasibility work undertaken. Current plans identify a 4 or 8 court sports hall as part of the development of the new leisure centre to replace Dover Leisure Centre. 	DDC	Short / Medium
22	Continue to encourage the development of new provision at educational establishments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Dover Grammar School for Boys to help achieve their aspirations of developing new sports hall provision. The School requires planning and funding for the new hall. Community access to sports hall space at Castle Community College should continue. Seek to retain this provision and protect it by ensuring that new college investment plans maintain public access to the sports hall. 	DDC Facility operator KCC	Short / Medium

6.8 Health and Fitness Suite Priorities

- 6.8.1 In the District, there are 11 health and fitness suites with 20 or more stations; nine suites are accessible on a pay and play basis and two with a registered membership. These are located at either local authority owned sites (two sites), sites owned by a trust (two sites), located at an Academy (one site) and commercial owned sites (six sites).
- 6.8.2 There are plans for new/extended health and fitness provision at Dover Christ Church Academy (20 stations - will be available for community use in January 2016); Tides considering options of extending health and fitness offer (70 stations); and 120 station health and fitness suite at Dover Leisure Centre replacement.
- 6.8.3 In general terms there is no additional provision required both in 2016 and 2026. However, latent demand reports should be commissioned based on specific catchment areas if new health and fitness provision is planned linked to new community leisure centres, as these provide a site specific consumer demographic analysis.

ID	Strategic Priorities	Action Required	Implementing partners	Timescale
23	Progress with proposals to develop a health and fitness suite at the new Dover Leisure Centre.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current plans include the development of a 120 station health and fitness suite. 	DDC	Short / Medium
24	Support organisations planning the development or refurbishment of health and fitness suites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current plans include redevelopment health and fitness provision (increasing to 70 stations) at Tides Leisure and Indoor Tennis Centre. Encourage the development of new or extended health and fitness facilities where these add to the range of sustainable facilities across the district. Organisations planning such developments should be encouraged to demonstrate that demand exists, to ensure new developments are sustainable and don't have an unnecessarily negative impact on existing providers. 	DDC Facility operators	Short / Medium

6.9 Indoor Bowls Priorities

- 6.9.1 There are no gaps in provision (within a 20 minute drive time) in the District. Based on current declared membership levels of 188 at Betteshanger Indoor Bowls Club, together with the identified downward trend of bowls participation in England (30% drop in last 10 years), The English Indoor Bowling Association, say there is no need for additional indoor bowls facilities in the District. There is no requirement for additional indoor bowls provision in the District, assuming the long term trend for declining participation continues.
- 6.9.2 According to Sport England's Market Segmentation Analysis, "Elise and Arnold" account for 8,200 people and are defined as: retired singles or widowers, predominately female, living in sheltered accommodation. Consequently, this means that 9.6% of the district's population would benefit from initiatives that appeal to "Elise and Arnold"; which includes bowls.

ID	Strategic Priorities	Action Required	Implementing partners	Timescale
25	Maintain existing indoor bowls facilities at Betteshanger Indoor Bowls Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Betteshanger Indoor Bowls Club to continue to deliver indoor bowls. Bowls, in particular, provides a good activity for older members of the community or those with limited mobility. Support should focus on assisting the club in marketing their facilities to potential user groups, through existing channels, to help maintain and increase membership numbers. 	DDC Betteshanger Indoor Bowls Club NGB KCC	Ongoing

6.10 Squash Court Priorities

6.10.1 There is no requirement for additional squash provision in the District. Demand for squash is falling nationally and in the District, resulting in underutilisation of courts. Operators are increasingly converting squash courts for more popular, revenue generating, activities. Although a small increase has been predicted in the number of active members at Dover Squash and Racketball Club, the number of available courts is sufficient to service this increase.

ID	Strategic Priorities	Action Required	Implementing partners	Timescale
26	Continue to develop plans for squash courts at the new Dover Leisure Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A maximum of 3 courts should be considered, to retain existing levels of provision if possible. If court provision is reduced this would have a negative impact on squash and current users may find it difficult to secure bookings at alternative sites during peak times. 	DDC	Short / Medium
27	Redirect users of any lost squash courts to other nearby facilities and work with facility operators to support potential club use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of courts at Duke of York's Military School may be a possible solution to address the loss at Dover Leisure Centre (or elsewhere in the District), if this was to be decided. Continue to engage with Duke of York's Royal Military School to work towards achieving extended accessibility arrangements for Dover Squash and Racketball Club, factoring in the safeguarding of children attending the school. 	DDC England Squash and Racketball Operators and users identified KCC	Medium/ long

6.11 Indoor Tennis Priorities

6.11.1 The indoor tennis courts at Tides are well used and, should LTA Performance Centre accreditation be achieved, usage is likely to increase further. However, due to existing facilities in Deal and nearby Canterbury, the District is not identified by the LTA as having a lack in provision. Indoor tennis courts at Tides should be retained and appropriately maintained to enable high levels of usage.

ID	Strategic Priorities	Action Required	Implementing partners	Timescale
28	Support operators of Tides Leisure and Indoor Tennis Centre to maintain quality of courts and maximise usage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with operators to ensure effective programming and appropriate pricing in order to continue extensive club, community and elite player usage. 	DDC LTA Operators and users identified	Ongoing
29	To protect the building from external flash flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To explore flood protection measures and seeking funding to implement 	DDC LTA	Ongoing

6.12 Aerobic/Dance Studio Priorities

6.12.1 There is a requirement to increase the current provision of studio space within the District. DDC should support development of new community accessible dance and activity studios, where these are viable and particularly where they complement a wider health and fitness offer.

ID	Strategic Priorities	Action Required	Implementing partners	Timescale
30	Support organisations planning to provide new studio space.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support plans at Sandwich Sport and Leisure Centre and Aylesham Welfare Leisure Centre which include new studios within future development proposals. Feasibility work is still progressing, however initial options for consideration by DDC include the provision of 2-3 aerobic/dance studios and a dedicated spin studio at Dover Leisure Centre and 1 aerobic/dance studio at Tides Leisure and Indoor Tennis Centre. 	DDC Facility Owners Identified	Medium

6.13 Gymnastics Priorities

6.13.1 There is a requirement to investigate options for the development of a new dedicated gymnastics facility in the District. There is latent demand identified (through waiting lists) at Dover Gym Club and Deal Gym Club.

ID	Strategic Priorities	Action Required	Implementing partners	Timescale
31	Support clubs to investigate options to provide a new gymnastics facilities in Dover.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Dover Gym Club and Deal Gym Club to identify new facilities to accommodate latent demand. This could include (depending on storage availability) utilising spare hall space at Duke of York's Royal Military School, Dover College, Sir Roger Manwood's School, Tides or Castle Community College. 	DDC British Gymnastics Dover Gym Club Deal Gym Club Operators identified	Medium/long

7 OUTCOMES

7.1 Anticipated Outcomes

7.1.1 Delivery of the objectives contained in this strategy will result in the following outcomes being achieved:

- The loss of strategically valuable sports facilities that are available for community use or could contribute to meeting future community needs, will be minimised. Any that are lost will be replaced by equivalent or better provision, in terms of quantity and quality, in a suitable location.
- Strategically valuable sites will be better utilised and options to maximise revenue generation from facilities will be investigated, to improve revenue generation and participation.
- Options for the replacement of Dover Leisure Centre will be investigated in full and recommendations made for the delivery of a new centre.
- Proposals for the improvement of facilities at Tides Leisure Centre will be progress, leading to recommendations for improvements to the centre.
- Community use of sports facilities on educational sites will be protected and enhanced where required.
- Sports facility charges should remain reasonable, in terms of affordability to residents, and be comparable with similar facilities elsewhere.
- Stakeholders will work together to increase the levels of community access to sites. Stakeholders should include Council departments, health agencies, facility operators, education providers, NGBs, and local sports clubs to expand the range of affordable and accessible facilities for both residents and visitors to Dover.
- Stakeholders will be supported, where possible, in developing new indoor facilities.
- New sports facilities, provided as part of future educational provision in Dover, will be designed for curricular, extra-curricular, community and sports development use to ensure that opportunities for community use out of school hours is secured.
- New developments (e.g. residential, commercial and retail) will contribute towards the development and enhancement of sports facilities to meet identified needs with priority being given to projects identified in this Strategy.
- There will be collaborative working between neighbouring authorities to maximise cross-boundary usage.
- Specific issues relating to the district's demographic profile will be addressed. This will include using indoor sport and leisure facilities to improve levels of physical activity in the whole population and reduce the gap in health inequalities by promoting access and engagement with at risk groups.
- There will be increased engagement with representatives of protected groups when developing projects that provide new indoor sports facilities.

8 DELIVERY OF THE STRATEGY

8.1 Introduction

- 8.1.1 The delivery of this strategy is dependent upon the formation of close working partnerships to collectively enhance the operation and provision of indoor sports facilities in the District.

8.2 Funding

- 8.2.1 It is clear that the development of a new leisure centre in Dover is required to improve the quality of facilities in order to meet both current and future demand. Any leisure facility infrastructure improvements in the District will be reliant on securing funding. The current financial climate has placed pressure on the finances of all facility operators including local authorities.

- 8.2.2 The council will seek to work with others to use the indoor leisure assets in the District innovatively and a multi-agency approach is required to address the facility requirements in the strategy. The main funding delivery mechanisms for DDC and others in delivering the strategy are:

- **Council funding:** capital funding allocated to deliver facilities within DDC's ownership, and potentially the use of capital receipts from the sale of existing assets.
- **Capital Grant funding:** national agencies such as Sport England.
- **Third party funding:** Financing capital through the forecast operational surplus and finance packages as part of the leisure management procurement process or construction contracts.
- **Commercial sector funding:** limited potential for investment from commercial leisure operators such as those who provide health and fitness centres.
- **Development contributions:** Section 106 development contributions.

8.3 Development Contributions, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 Planning Obligations

- 8.3.1 The latest legislation covering Section 106 development contributions states that local authorities will only be able to pool a maximum of 5 secured S106 contributions to fund one specific infrastructure project. Projects which relied upon funding from a wide number of tariff-based Planning Obligation contributions will instead need to be secured via the new CIL. S106 agreements will largely be used to secure new or improved infrastructure which is either site-specific or immediately related to the development, e.g. affordable housing, children's play facilities, community centre.
- 8.3.2 Dover District Council is considering whether to adopt a local CIL. Continued development of a robust needs and evidence base helps to identify the infrastructure needed in this district to support planned growth. CIL can only provide a finite resource, and there are many forms of infrastructure that would need to be considered when allocating any secured funding. It is therefore important that clear information is available to decision-makers when making choices about allocation of these resources at the local level, using resources as efficiently and as effectively as possible to address local infrastructure needs arising from development. This strategy and action plan will provide DDC with an evidence base that will help to ensure appropriate allocation of any future CIL funding to the delivery of leisure infrastructure.

8.4 Monitoring and Review

- 8.4.1 This strategy has been produced to enable the development of indoor sports facilities within the District to be provided for in a planned and co-ordinated way that meets the needs of the local population and addresses areas that could have the greatest future demand.
- 8.4.2 The strategy is based on the current known and planned facilities, but it will need to be reviewed periodically, particularly when there are significant changes in facility provision. The progress against the plan should be reviewed on an annual basis and the strategy and action plan should be updated if there are any significant changes in order to ensure that the strategy requirements keep pace with changes in facility provision and the amount of growth planned for the District.

APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONSULTEES & KEYSTAKEHOLDERS.

Type	Organisation
Dover District Council	Property Services
Dover District Council	Finance
Dover District Council	Planning
Dover District Council	Community & Engagement
Dover District Council	Leadership, Health & Wellbeing
County Council	Kent County Council (Public Health)
County Sports Partnership	Kent County Council
Facility Operator	Your Leisure Ltd
Sport England	Sport England
Facility Operator	Dover Leisure Centre Manager (Your Leisure Ltd)
Facility Operator	Tides Centre Manager (Your Leisure Ltd)
Facility Operator	Freedom Leisure Ltd
Facility Operator	Sandwich Sport and Leisure Centre Manager (Freedom Leisure Ltd)
Facility Operator	Aylesham Welfare Leisure Centre (Freedom Leisure Ltd)
Facility Owner	Aylesham & Snowdown Social Welfare Scheme
Facility Owner	Sandwich Sports & Leisure Centre Trust
Facility Owner	Baypoint Leisure
Facility Owner	Total Fitness Gym and Studio
Facility Owner	Hour Glass Fitness Club
Facility Owner	Dover Weights Room
Facility Owner	The Body Works Gym
Facility Owner	The Fitness Connection in Sandwich
Swimming Facility Owner	Kingsdown Holiday Park
Swimming Facility Owner	Balance Spa & health Club
Swimming Facility Owner	Wallets Courts , St Margaret's
Sport Club	Dover Lifeguard Club
Sport Club	Dover Squash & Racketball Club
Sport Club	Deal Squash Rackets Club
Sport Club	Dover Scorpions Badminton Club
Sport Club	Ajax Badminton Club
Sport Club	Betteshanger Badminton Club
Sport Club	The Manwood Road Junior Badminton Club
Sport Club	Dover and District Boccia Sports Association
Sport Club	Dover Castle Archers
Sport Club	Dover Boxing Club
Sport Club	Deal Squash Club
Sport Club	East Kent Acro Gymnastics Club
Sport Club	Deal Gymnastics Club
Sport Club	Dover Gymnastics Club
Sport Club	Dover Trampoline Club
Sport Club	Folkestone Saints Basketball Club
Sport Club	Invicta Fencing Club
Sport Club	Vista Twisters
National Governing Body	Amateur Swimming Association
National Governing Body	England Squash

Type	Organisation
National Governing Body	Badminton England
National Governing Body	English Indoor Bowling Association
National Governing Body	Kent Cricket Board
National Governing Body	Basketball England
National Governing Body	England Netball
National Governing Body	English Gymnastics
National Governing Body	England Handball
National Governing Body	Lawn Tennis Association
National Governing Body	England Volleyball
National Governing Body	British Judo
National Governing Body	England Table tennis
National Governing Body	Kent Football Association
Neighbouring Authority	Shepway
Neighbouring Authority	Canterbury
Neighbouring Authority	Thanet
Secondary School	Castle Community College
Secondary School	Dover Christ Church Academy
Secondary School	Dover College
Secondary School	Dover Grammar School for Boys
Secondary School	Duke of York's Royal Military School
Secondary School	Sandwich Technology School
Secondary School	Sir Roger Manwood's School
Secondary School	Astor College for the Arts
Secondary School	Dover Grammar for Girls
Secondary School	Ripplevale School
Secondary School	St Edmunds Catholic School
Further Education College	East Kent College
Primary School	Eastry Church of England Primary School
Primary School	Sandwich Infant School
Sporting Networks	Dover District School Games
Sporting Networks	StreetGames
Sporting Networks	Physical Activity and Programme Manager (Kent County Council)
Town or Parish Council	Alkham Parish Council
Town or Parish Council	Ash Parish Council
Town or Parish Council	Aylesham Parish Council
Town or Parish Council	Capel-Le-Ferne Parish Council
Town or Parish Council	Deal Town Council
Town or Parish Council	Denton with Wotton Parish Council
Town or Parish Council	Dover Town Council
Town or Parish Council	Eastry Parish Council
Town or Parish Council	Eythorne Parish Council
Town or Parish Council	Goodnestone Parish Council
Town or Parish Council	Great Mongeham
Town or Parish Council	Guston Parish Council
Town or Parish Council	Hougham Without Parish Council

Type	Organisation
Town or Parish Council	Langdon Parish Council
Town or Parish Council	Lydden Parish Council
Town or Parish Council	Nonnington Parish Council
Town or Parish Council	Northbourne Parish Council
Town and Parish Council	Preston Parish Council
Town or Parish Council	Ringwould With Kingsdown Parish Council
Town or Parish Council	Ripple Parish Council
Town or Parish Council	River Parish Council
Town or Parish Council	Sandwich Town Council
Town or Parish Council	Sheperdswell with Coldred Parish Council
Town or Parish Council	Sholden Parish Council
Town or Parish Council	St Margaret's At Cliffe Parish Council
Town or Parish Council	Staple Parish Council
Town or Parish Council	Stourmouth Parish Council
Town or Parish Council	Sutton By Dover Parish Council
Town or Parish Council	Temple Ewell Parish Council
Town or Parish Council	Tilmanstone Parish Council
Town or Parish Council	Walmer Parish Council
Town or Parish Council	Whitfield Parish Council
Town or Parish Council	Wingham Parish Council
Town or Parish Council	Woodnesborough Parish Council
Town or Parish Council	Worth Parish Council
Civic Society	The Deal Society
Civic Society	The Dover Society

Note: Consultees and stakeholders highlighted in bold represents those who actively engaged by responding to the consultation either during development of the draft strategy or through the formal public consultation.