Plymouth and South West Devon Sports and Leisure Facilities Plan
2016 to 2034

February 2017 (Consultation draft)
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Foreword

Plymouth’s vision is to be one of Europe’s most vibrant waterfront cities where an outstanding quality of life is enjoyed by everyone. The ambition is for Plymouth to have the most active population in the south west by 2034 with a mix of quality sports clubs, top class facilities, active schools and accessible community opportunities for sport and physical activity.

South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Councils have a vision to deliver thriving towns and villages with vibrant and healthy local communities, recognising the importance of local services.

We recognise the important contribution sport and leisure plays in ensuring our communities are happy, healthy, confident, and have an outstanding quality of life.

This Plan is the product of a comprehensive assessment of the needs of Plymouth and South West Devon as well as the coordination and commitment of stakeholders and facilities providers. The Plan follows methodology published by Sport England and its production has been overseen by a steering group comprising key partners, with significant input from a wide range of stakeholders.

We are really pleased to have worked alongside key local and national partners to develop this comprehensive Plan for sport and leisure facilities and are committed to delivering its objectives. In order to achieve this ambition, the principles within this Plan have become part of the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Plan which is the single strategic Plan for the City and South West Devon.

Sport and leisure facilities are seen as key infrastructure which will support our ambition to deliver a healthy population and make the area a great place to live. The Plan provides important evidence to support the Joint Local Plan to achieve this ambition.

This Plan provides a framework for decision making regarding sport and leisure facility infrastructure. We are grateful to all those who have contributed to this work and for their ongoing support in achieving these objectives.
## Glossary and abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PCC</td>
<td>Plymouth City Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHDC</td>
<td>South Hams District Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>WDBC</td>
<td>West Devon Borough Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSWDJLP</td>
<td>The Joint Local Plan for Plymouth, South Hams and West Devon Council Areas</td>
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<tr>
<td>FPM</td>
<td>Facility Planning Model (Sport England)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGB</td>
<td>National Governing Body of Sport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plymouth Policy Area</td>
<td>A sub area of the study area which includes the area administered by Plymouth City Council as well as locations administered by South Hams District Council and Devon County Council around the edge of Plymouth known as the urban fringe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANOG</td>
<td>Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (Sport England)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study Area</td>
<td>The Council areas of Plymouth City, South Hams District and West Devon Borough</td>
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<tr>
<td>South West Devon</td>
<td>A sub area of the study area comprising of the council areas of South Hams and West Devon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUGA's</td>
<td>Multi Use Games Areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTA</td>
<td>Lawn Tennis Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COPAC</td>
<td>City of Plymouth Athletics Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAFC</td>
<td>Plymouth Argyle Football Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARFC</td>
<td>Plymouth Albion Rugby Football Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayflower 400</td>
<td>Events to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower departing Plymouth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPPN</td>
<td>National Planning Policy Network</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Executive Summary

I The Plymouth and South West Devon Sport and Leisure Facilities Plan is based on a detailed assessment of local needs and broader ambition for indoor and outdoor sport and leisure provision (excluding playing pitches), in line with national best practice and guidance.

II The Plan has been developed with the help and support of a wide range of agencies, organisations and individuals and led by a project steering group.

III The Plan sets out a range of issues and action points to be addressed across the local authority areas of Plymouth, South Hams and West Devon.

IV The Plan provides an evidence base to support the policies of the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan and its delivery and implementation. In particular the Plan focuses on:

- Quantity of Facilities
- Quality of Facilities
- Access to Facilities – are they in the right location?
- Availability of Facilities – are they open and available for the community?

Needs Summary

Quantity

- We need to protect and maintain the existing network of facilities throughout Plymouth, South Hams and West Devon, and ensure planned facilities are delivered;
- We need to support the investment and ambition of major sports clubs to improve the level of sporting performance.

Quality

- We need to invest in improving the quality of some facilities;

Accessibility

- We need to focus on improving access to sports and leisure facilities where people are less active.
- We need to focus on improving access to watersports, in particular access to Plymouth Sound.

Availability

- We need to better co-ordinate access to some facilities such as school based sports facilities.
The Sporting Network

V There is a need to recognise, protect and enhance key strategic sports sites across Plymouth and South West Devon to ensure the network of multi-sport opportunities for local people is maintained.

VI In Plymouth Policy Area the network includes key hub sites:

- **Plymouth Life Centre (PLC) and Central Park** - acting as the main Central hub for sport in Plymouth;
- **Brickfields - Sports Centre and outdoor recreation facilities (BSC)** - focusing on a mix of outdoor and indoor sports to deliver for both the local catchment in the west of the City and the wider City catchment;
- **University of St Mark and St John (Marjon) - Sports Centre and outdoor recreation facilities** – delivering facilities for the north of the city;
- **New Sherford Sports Facilities** - supporting the population growth planned for the east of the City.

As well as specific sports and local facilities including:

- **Swallows Gymnastics Club** - delivering grassroots sport and performance in Gymnastics;
- **Honicknowle** - delivers a number of sport and wellbeing facilities which enhance and deliver in the west of the City;
- **Plympton Pool** – delivers swimming facilities for the east of the city;
- **Local Community Centres** - which are located throughout the city and provide an important role in physical activity spaces;
- **Outdoor Pools** - at Tinside and Mount Wise, which deliver sporting benefits (albeit limited to the summer months);
- **Parks and natural spaces (including formal sports facilities)** - which provide spaces for informal physical activity and sport;
- **School Community Facilities** - delivering a network of local facilities to support sport in Plymouth;
- **Access to the Water** - through publicly accessible slipways and activities;
- **Professional Sports Clubs** - such as Plymouth Albion and Plymouth Argyle.

For South West Devon the sporting network of facilities is focused in the local towns and villages, including:

- **Tavistock** - a number of venues including Meadowlands Pool, Mount Kelly College and Tavistock Community College provide the mix of facilities, with a new 50m swimming pool at Mount Kelly College and dryside investments at Meadowlands Pool;
- **Okehampton** - Parklands Leisure Centre provides the multi-sport venue delivering the key built facility provision next to outdoor sports provision at Okehampton College;
- **Ivybridge** - a number of venues including Ivybridge Community College, Macauleys Health Club, South Devon Tennis Centre and Ivybridge Leisure Centre provide a mix of facilities with investment in a new pool at Ivybridge Leisure Centre;
- **Kingsbridge** – Quayside Leisure Centre provides a multi-sport venue and is planned for investment. Kingsbridge Community College provide sports facilities;
• Totnes – Totnes Pavilion (Including TADPool) and KEVICC’s local College provide sporting facilities delivering the key indoor provision for the town;

• Dartmouth – the Leisure Centre together with the new indoor pool will deliver the multisport venue for the town.

Opportunities

VII  There are some real opportunities to develop and create additional facilities which can enhance and improve the overall sporting performance in Plymouth as well as the neighbouring South Hams and West Devon, such as:

• A Multi-sport Arena (circa 12 court size) which has the capacity to deliver a venue for spectator events and act as a home for Plymouth Raiders (Basketball), but also to deliver a home for Super League franchises in a range of indoor sports, such as Netball, Futsal and Badminton. This would replace the sports venue at Plymouth Pavilions.

• Improved Stadium Facilities – with both Plymouth Albion and Plymouth Argyle identifying the need to improve their existing facilities, with the ambitions of Plymouth Albion to reach the Rugby Premiership within 10 years.

• An eight lane Athletics Track – to deliver the future opportunity for competitions and events in the city.

• Improved access to Plymouth Sound – from the city with a centrally located slipway and improved infrastructure to deliver improved casual and competitive access to the water. In addition improved access from the foreshore to Plymouth Sound should be considered to meet the needs of the growing number of open water swimmers.

• Additional Gymnastics Hall – to deliver on the significant waiting list and demand for gymnastics in Plymouth.

• Closed Road Race Circuit (circa 1.5km) – identified by British Cycling to deliver on the improved cycling participation.

• Health and Well Being Centres – the link of sport and leisure (and physical activity) to improved health and well-being are well established and within the city there is a drive to deliver health and wellbeing centres and contribute to Plymouth being the most active population in the South West.

• Sporting Events – contribute to the delivery of our sporting ambition and create a vibrant area which contributes to the economy and reputation of the area, particularly linking to the Mayflower 400 events.

• Community Use Programme in Schools – a focus on delivering activities and programmes in schools and opening up access with a co-ordinated approach.
VIII For the main indoor sports facilities (sports halls and swimming pools) modelling has indicated there is no significant shortfall in provision identified now or in the future but the provision is not equally spread across the study area (particularly in the west of Plymouth where there is less provision, less car ownership and poorer health outcomes).

IX There is a need to maintain and protect existing and planned facilities across the study area to ensure a deficit does not occur.

X The area is going to undergo a large amount of growth and this Plan has developed standards for the identification of section 106 and other developer contributions for sport and leisure facilities. This will help with the funding of the priorities detailed in this Plan as required to support the development of the area.

Challenges

XI During the development of the Plan a number of challenges were identified from the user/non user survey:

- The cost of participating in sport at facilities is considered high by both non users and users;
- Access to facilities (particularly swimming) from the West of the City is considered poor;
- Availability of facilities (either space to hire or opening hours) is a barrier to use.

XII These challenges cut across all facilities. The Plan has been developed to prioritise the enhancement of sporting facilities in a manner that addresses these concerns. The Plan and accompanying Action Plan will be regularly monitored and reviewed in the coming years to ensure provision remains appropriate for the community needs.
SECTION 1

Background and purpose

1.1 Plymouth City Council (PCC), South Hams District Council (SHDC) and West Devon Borough Council (WDBC) have commissioned RPT Consulting and 4Global (independent market specialists) to undertake a Sport and Leisure Facilities Plan for a study area which includes Plymouth (including the Urban Fringe) and South Hams and West Devon Council areas.

1.2 A separate Assessment Report (Appendix A) has been prepared which sets out the evidence to support this Plan and has been undertaken in line with Sport England’s Assessing Opportunities and Needs Guidance (ANOG). This is recognised by the industry as the most effective method to assess the needs for sport and leisure facilities.

Context

1.3 The rationale and background for this Plan is both National and Local Policy frameworks including the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Plan.

1.4 The NPPF sets out the Government’s economic, environmental and social planning policies for England and is based on the principle of sustainable development. One of the key strands of the policy is to promote healthy communities and to facilitate social interaction, creating healthy, inclusive communities. In Box 1 on page 12 are the key features of the NPPF and the relevance to sport and leisure provision.
In relation to social, recreational and cultural facilities and services which the community needs, planning policies and decisions should:

- Plan positively for the provision of community facilities (including sports venues) to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments
- Guard against unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services
- Ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernise in a way that is sustainable and retained for the benefit of the community
- Ensure an integrated approach to the location of housing and community facilities and services.

The Government also wants planning decisions to be based on up to date local plans, put together with communities and based on adequate evidence. Thus the availability of a locally based assessment of need should be recognised in any future development needs.

Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land including playing fields should not be built upon unless,

- An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements, or
- The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location, or
- The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.
1.5 The Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Plan is being prepared and produced for adoption in 2017 and brings together the three plans produced by the Councils as follows (and consulted upon in 2016):

- Plymouth Plan Part One
- South Hams – Our Plan
- West Devon – Our Plan

1.6 This document provides the evidence base for the policies and allocations within the Joint Local Plan.

**Local Catchment for the Study Area**

1.7 The study area includes the Local Authorities of Plymouth, South Hams and West Devon for which there is predicted to be significant growth (12.7%) in the population as illustrated in the table below.

**Table 1.1 – Population Projections**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014 Population</th>
<th>2034 Population</th>
<th>Total Growth</th>
<th>% Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plymouth</td>
<td>261,546</td>
<td>302,933</td>
<td>41,387</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Hams</td>
<td>84,108</td>
<td>87,147</td>
<td>3,039</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Devon</td>
<td>54,260</td>
<td>60,495</td>
<td>6,235</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Study Area</strong></td>
<td><strong>399,914</strong></td>
<td><strong>450,575</strong></td>
<td><strong>50,661</strong></td>
<td><strong>12.7%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Objectively Assessed Need, Joint Plan)

Notes: the 2034 projections are taken from Table 4 in the OAN paper and includes migration trend

1.8 The majority of the growth is in Plymouth and its urban fringe with significant growth areas identified as follows:

- Eastern Corridor Growth Area (Sherford);
- Derriford and Northern Corridor Growth Area;
- City Centre and Waterfront.
Purpose

1.9 This facilities Plan provides a baseline for current and future supply and demand for sport and leisure facilities in the study area.

1.10 More specifically, this assessment:

- Refers to, and is in general accordance with, relevant national and local policies and priorities, and supports policies within the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Plan;
- Provides a clear picture of existing supply, surpluses, deficit and anticipated future demand for sport and leisure facilities;
- Assesses current supply of publicly accessible facilities, with the assessment identifying the quantity, quality, accessibility and availability of facilities;
- Provides a robust evidence base for use in planning, investment, grant funding, development contributions and sports development decisions drawing upon participation across the study area.

1.11 In particular the Plan will consider both the need for improved or new facilities and also the vision and ambition for sport. For Plymouth this will include clear linkage to the ‘health agenda’ with a focus on ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to be physically active. For South West Devon this includes the health and wellbeing of the population and ensuring the towns and villages deliver facilities for their communities.

1.12 The scope of the study includes indoor and outdoor built facilities but excludes playing pitches and artificial grass pitches which have been assessed through a separate Playing Pitch Plan. It also excludes other outdoor facilities such as tennis courts, MUGA’s, Bowls Greens for South Hams and West Devon which are covered in the Open Space Sport and Recreation Study (OSSR) and/or specific Town or Parish OSSR plans.

1.13 A steering group has been established to guide and oversee the assessment and Plan, which includes Leisure Officers from PCC, SHDC and WDBC, Planning Officer (representing the Joint Plan) and Sport England.

1.14 The Plan is intended to be a plan for the study area and not for any specific organisation within the study area. The Councils involved in developing the Plan recognise that this Plan is about a range of different partners delivering the Plan as opposed to identifying a series of actions for each Council to deliver.

1.15 We have conducted a joint study to ensure that cross border issues are addressed. However in planning for the development of facilities in the future there are issues that are specific to the following areas.

- Plymouth and Urban Fringe (Known as the Plymouth Policy Area in the Joint Local Plan);
- South Hams and West Devon Council Area (Known as the Thriving Towns and Villages in the Joint Local Plan).
1.16 This work is supported by the assessment report, which provides the evidence base for the key findings.
SECTION 2

Key findings

Need and Ambition

2.1 Throughout the assessment of sports and leisure facilities consideration has been given to both:

- **The Need** for facilities – what actions and facilities are required to meet the sporting needs of the community (based on the assessment of need in the assessment report, Appendix A) as well as the growing population;

- **The Ambition** – what facilities can support and deliver Plymouth’s and South Hams/West Devon’s ambition for the area.

2.2 Plymouth’s vision for sport is.

*Plymouth to have the most active population in the South West by 2034 with a mix of quality sports clubs, top class facilities, active schools and accessible community opportunities for sport and physical activity.*

2.3 To support this vision there are four areas Plymouth is seeking to focus on:

- Places – improving sports facilities and infrastructure;
- Participation – getting people active for life;
- Pride – strengthening Plymouth’s reputation for elite sport, events, tourism and economic development;
- Performance – enhancing the sporting ambition of the city.

2.4 South Hams/West Devon’s ambition is for thriving towns and villages of which health and well-being and activity is important. The Councils are committed to serving their local communities, working together and supporting safe and healthy lifestyles. This includes maintaining and improving local facilities for sport, recreation, play and open space.

Existing Provision

2.5 Sports Hall and Swimming Pool provision across the area tends to be the focus for community sports provision and drives much of the analysis, as these two facilities will cater for the majority of indoor sport provision. Swimming pools cater for aquatic disciplines and swimming is the highest participation indoor sport by percentage of the population. Sports Halls cater for a wide range of sports including badminton, netball, basketball, indoor cricket, football, volleyball, bowls, handball, etc.

2.6 The existing provision of these two main sports facilities have been reviewed and the maps below illustrate the existing provision for these facilities, ranging from major facilities such as the Plymouth Life Centre, Brickfields and Marjon Sports Centre through to smaller more local facilities.
Figure 2.1 – Existing Provision

Sports Hall Provision (Plymouth)
Swimming Pool Provision (Plymouth)

Swimming Pools by type in the city of Plymouth
Sports and Leisure Facilities Plan 2016 to 2034

Sports Hall Provision (South Hams and West Devon)

Sports Halls by type in South Hams and West Devon
Swimming Pool Provision (South Hams and West Devon)

Swimming Pools by type in South Hams and West Devon

Contains: OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2016
2.7 Addition to the core provision of swimming pools and sports halls, there are a range of other facilities (indoor and outdoor) currently provided including:

- Specialist sports facilities, such as Swallows Gymnastics Centre, Indoor and Outdoor Tennis Courts, Squash Courts/ martial art centres, athletics tracks, golf and ski. Some of these may be within a larger multi use facility;
- Professional sports clubs, such as Plymouth Argyle FC, Plymouth Raiders Basketball and Plymouth Albion RFC;
- Other community facilities such as Community Centres and Parish Halls where sport is played;
- Outdoor facilities such as cycling routes, slipways, watersports centres, which link to the natural environment and provide access for sport.

2.8 The existing provision across the area is provided through a mix of Local Authority owned facilities, Education (both school and higher education), Private Sector and Voluntary Sector (sports clubs, charities) and we consider the mix of provision within our assessment.

Identifying the Need and Ambition

2.9 For Sports Halls and Swimming Pools there is a well-established demand model, the Facility Planning Model (FPM), which Sport England have developed. The model establishes the need for new facilities by identifying the likely levels of participation from the population and comparing this with existing provision.

2.10 However this approach only provides a theoretical demand for the key facilities and other facility types do not have such a demand model. In order to identify the needs and future ambitions for the area we have supplemented and informed the FPM with other research and consultation including:

- **Facility Audit** – the existing facilities have been identified and the quality of these facilities has been assessed. The results have been identified in a database which can be regularly updated as facilities change;
- **User and Non User Survey** – a survey was undertaken which sought to identify views of users and non-users. 617 people responded to the survey which included both residents within the study area and visitors to the area;
- **Club Survey** – a sports club survey was undertaken targeting the sports clubs within the area. 136 clubs responded across 36 different sports including indoor and outdoor sports clubs;
- **Consultation** – a series of consultations have been undertaken across the study area with over 75 organisations given the opportunity to provide their views. These include a range of organisations, such as:
  - Universities and other Higher Education Colleges;
  - Local Community Groups;
  - Community Sports Clubs;
  - Professional Sports Clubs;
  - Facility Providers;
  - Schools;
  - Sporting National Governing Bodies;
  - Third Sector organisations (such as National Trust, etc);
  - Town and Parish Councils.
These consultations form the evidence base against which the future priorities and needs have been identified. This approach brings together demand modelling, supported by local research and consultation to ensure the priorities and findings are based on the local market conditions.

Assessment Findings

The findings and priorities that are identified in this section have been led by the modelling, research and consultation across three key different facility types:

- Main Indoor Sports Facilities – reflecting the priorities for Sports Halls and Swimming Pools, as discussed earlier;
- Other Indoor Sports Facilities – reflecting other sports;
- Outdoor Sports Facilities (Plymouth only) – including tennis courts, access to the water for sport and other outdoor facilities (excluding playing pitches and artificial grass pitches).

The findings are based on the assessment of need in 2016 but also the likely position in 2034, taking into account planned new facilities and the population growth.

We summarise the key findings below for the facility types across the study area.

### Table 2.1 – Assessment Findings

#### Sports Halls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aspect</th>
<th>Assessment Findings (Sports Halls)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Quantity** | - The FPM modelling has identified a surplus of provision of sports halls in South Hams with a small deficit (1 court) in West Devon, both now and for future population growth  
- The FPM modelling has identified a significant surplus of supply in Sports Halls in Plymouth, both now and for future population growth.  
- Consultation with clubs and NGBs indicates an ambition for a 12 court Arena (Plymouth) acting as a venue for super league games across a number of sports, with a focus on spectator events as opposed to participation |
| **Quality**  | - The facility audit and user survey has identified varied quality across the study area although the sports halls in South Hams and West Devon are generally in better condition than Plymouth. |
| **Accessibility** | - Overall there is good accessibility for sports halls across the study area with very few areas with no access, as illustrated through the mapping of provision. |
| **Availability** | - The main issue with availability is community use in schools in Plymouth where there is limited co-ordination to programming, as identified through consultation with the School Sports Partnership and other organisations.  
- There are times (such as weekends) when improved access to Schools would benefit provision, following consultation and analysis of the existing provision.  
- Plymouth Life Centre also is difficult for the community and clubs to access with the current booking agreements, and the feedback from users over difficulty in booking space. The facility currently has high usage rates. |
# Swimming Pools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aspect</th>
<th>Assessment Findings (Swimming Pools)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quantity</td>
<td>• FPM Modelling has identified a surplus of provision of indoor pool water in South Hams and West Devon, particularly with new pools at Kelly College, Dartmouth and a planned pool for Ivybridge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The FPM modelling indicates some deficit in supply in Plymouth mainly in the west of city but not enough deficit to justify a new 25 metre pool. Consultation with local community groups in the west of the city suggest a lack of accessible swimming provision.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The new pool at Sherford will support the provision particularly in the east of the city.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• These findings reflect the position now and in the future (2034) and assume that all existing provision is maintained and the planned provision in Sherford, Ivybridge and Mount Kelly is delivered, and reflects the population growth. If these are not delivered then this would likely deliver a deficit in provision in Plymouth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality</td>
<td>• The facility audit has identified varied quality of pools across the study area but with new pools and planned investment in the quality of some of the existing pools quality will be significantly enhanced.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Plympton Pool (Plymouth) and TADPool (Totnes) are the two main facilities requiring investment, which have not currently been identified for investment.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The two major outdoor pools in Plymouth are of reasonable quality but there may be opportunities to enhance them, following the facility audit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessibility</td>
<td>• Generally the pools are accessible within the east of Plymouth but the access to pools is difficult for people from the west of the city, as suggested through consultation and the user/non user survey (particularly for 19-24 yr olds).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Across South Hams and West Devon pools are also accessible, although the rural nature means there are some areas outside the catchment areas, which is usual for rural districts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Availability</td>
<td>• The user and non-user survey together with consultation has suggested that cost is a key factor in availability with lower cost likely to deliver improved use (particularly from deprived areas).</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Use of the Plymouth Life Centre is also identified through consultation that there is a perceived lack of general public swimming. It is noted however that a public swim offer is always available other than when the main pool is in 50 metre mode.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Other Indoor Sports Facilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aspect</th>
<th>Assessment Findings (Other Indoor Sports)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Quantity</strong></td>
<td>Consultation with British Gymnastics and Swallows Club identifies an urgent need for an additional Gymnastics facility within Plymouth, to meet the demand for gymnastics (particularly the 1,000 people on the waiting list).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other than this there is no clear need identified for other indoor provision.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Quality</strong></td>
<td>The facility audit has identified varied quality across the study area with some facilities in particular need of investment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Swallows Gymnastics centre is in need of investment and expansion to deliver on the need.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The ice rink in Plymouth is in need of investment or replacement and an ice facility should be retained within Plymouth, following the consultation, facility audit and surveys.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accessibility</strong></td>
<td>The other sports identified are in general more regional facilities or draw upon a wider catchment, and as such there is not a need for local access. For example the Gymnastics Centre draws users from throughout Plymouth and beyond.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The facilities are located in accessible places for populations and there are no specific access issues identified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Availability</strong></td>
<td>Many of the facilities identified (such as squash, indoor tennis and ice) are operated by the private sector and some of them are members only clubs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>As such there are potential issues with the cost of facilities and the focus on community or public facilities should be to ensure they are accessible for those who can't afford to pay for other facilities. This is supported as an issue through the user/non user survey and consultation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Quantity</strong></td>
<td>The consultation with NGB's, facility audit and surveys suggests the provision across a number of facilities appears to be adequate, including outdoor pools, bowling greens and MUGA's.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>There does appear to be a need for additional tennis provision in Central Park which is currently being developed through the masterplan work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Consultation with watersport NGBs, facility providers and clubs identifies the provision of additional centrally located slipway for access to the water with ancillary accommodation as a need.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Retention of the two outdoor pools are seen as important for the future delivery of the sport and leisure facilities plan, in particular for the west of the city. However, there are issues of the sustainability of the pools that needs to be addressed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Quality</strong></td>
<td>The Central Park Skatepark is in need of investment and expansion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>There is an opportunity to consider investment in Tinside Lido and Mount Wise Pools to improve the offer and financial burden of the facility.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brickfields outdoor sports facilities is one of the key sites which requires improved quality, following the audit and consultation with users and key clubs. In particular the main outdoor facilities such as athletics require improvement. These improvements will need to be led by an overall masterplan approach, which identifies a clear hierarchy of priorities for the site.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Assessment Findings (Other Indoor Sports)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aspect</th>
<th>Findings</th>
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</table>
| **Accessibility** | - Access to Plymouth Sound for casual use is an issue due to the type and scale of publicly accessible slipways. (The Mountbatten Centre is considered difficult to access from the city).  
                  - In addition improved access from the foreshore to Plymouth Sound should be considered to meet the needs of the growing number of open water swimmers. |
| **Availability** | - The availability of tennis courts has the potential to be improved through the use of the LTA’s access system and online booking systems. |

Note: Outdoor facilities in South Hams and West Devon are covered by the Open Space Sport and Recreation Strategy, Town and Parish Council plans.

2.15 From the consultation and facility audit there are some sites which deliver multi-sport opportunities and are distributed through the area to provide a network of key leisure sites which are then supported by a network of specialist and local facilities. These key sites act as a focus for significant use by communities and as a focus on specific sports facilities.

2.16 The concept of key sites is that these sites are important to ensure sports provision is maintained and enhanced. The user and non-user survey and consultation have identified these venues as well utilised and they are distributed about the area.
2.17 Through the work that has been undertaken we have identified a number of key sport and leisure sites, which are either currently provided or are being planned. These sites are either multi-sport venues or specialist facilities which deliver facilities for a particular sport and include the following:

Plymouth

- **Plymouth Life Centre (PLC) and Central Park** – acting as the main hub for sport in Plymouth;
- **Brickfields Sports Centre, including outdoor recreation facilities (BSC)** – focusing on a mix of outdoor and indoor sports to deliver for a local catchment in the central and west of the city and the broader city catchment;
- **Marjon Sports Centre** – delivering facilities for the north of the city;
- **New Sherford Sports Facilities** – supporting the population growth in the east of the city.

In addition to these multi-sport hubs there are a number of specialist and more local facilities which provide an important part of the overall mix and network of sports and leisure facilities in Plymouth, such as:

- **Swallows Gymnastics Club** – delivering grassroots sport and performance in Gymnastics;
- **Honicknowle** – delivers a number of sport and wellbeing facilities which enhance and deliver in the west of the City;
- **Plympton Pool** – delivers swimming facilities for the east of the city;
- **Local Community Centres** – which are located throughout the city and provide an important role in physical activity spaces;
- **Outdoor Pools** – at Tinside and Mount Wise, which deliver sporting benefits (albeit limited to the summer months);
- **Parks and natural spaces (including formal sports facilities)** – which provide spaces for informal physical activity and sport;
- **School Community Facilities** – delivering a network of local facilities to support sport in Plymouth;
- **Access to the Water** – through publicly accessible slipways and activities;
- **Professional Sports Clubs** – such as Plymouth Albion and Plymouth Argyle.

It is recommended that the sport and leisure provision within Plymouth is built around the key multi-sport sites identified supported by a network of local sites as set out above. This makes best use of ancillary resources such as car parking, changing and reception areas delivering a best value approach.
South Hams and West Devon

The ambition within the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan (PSWD JLP) is for the development of Thriving Towns and Villages within the Council areas. With the rural nature of the districts and the lower population than Plymouth the major towns should deliver sporting provision specific for their towns through multi-sport venues, as illustrated below:

- **Tavistock** – a number of venues including Meadowlands Pool, Mount Kelly College and Tavistock Community College provide the mix of facilities, with a new 50m swimming pool at Mount Kelly College and dry side investments at Meadowlands Pool;

- **Okehampton** – Parklands Leisure Centre provides the multi-sport venue delivering the key built facility provision next to outdoor sports provision at Okehampton College;

- **Ivybridge** – a number of venues including Ivybridge Community College, Macauleys Health Club, South Devon Tennis Centre and Ivybridge Leisure Centre provide a mix of facilities with investment in a new pool at Ivybridge Leisure Centre;

- **Kingsbridge** – Quayside Leisure Centre provides a multi-sport venue and is planned for investment. Kingsbridge Community College provides sports facilities;

- **Totnes** – Totnes Pavilion (Including TADPool) and KEVICC’s local College provide sporting facilities delivering the key indoor provision for the town;

- **Dartmouth** – the Leisure Centre together with the new indoor pool will deliver the multisport venue for the town.

These facilities provide a network of multi-sport venues which enable the key towns to deliver a sporting offer. Currently many of these venues are being invested in through a new partnership with Fusion Lifestyle which is bringing significant capital investment through a Design, Build, Operate and Maintain (DBOM) approach. Fusion will be investing in and improving facilities to deliver increased participation and improved revenue which will fund the capital investment.

It is recommended that this network of provision is protected and following the enhancements underway consideration is given for the longer term reinvestment.

2.18 It is recommended that this approach to the overarching provision of Sport and Leisure Facilities is adopted.

2.19 There are also a number of facility developments and other areas which have been identified to meet the sporting needs, such as:

- **Improved Access to Plymouth Sound** – from the City with centrally located slipways and improved storage to deliver improved casual access to the water. Consultation has identified this as an issue for users and non-users, with the facility audit identifying this gap. In addition improved access from the foreshore to Plymouth Sound should be considered to meet the needs of the growing number of open water swimmers;

- **Additional Gymnastics Hall** – to deliver on the significant waiting list and demand for gymnastics in Plymouth;

- **Community Use Programme in Schools** – a focus on delivering activities and programmes in schools and opening up access with a co-ordinated approach.
2.20 Other facilities are required to deliver on the ambition for Plymouth as set out below. It is important to recognise that these facilities are identified as being able to support and deliver the ambition as opposed to community sporting needs.

- **A multi-sport Arena** (circa 12 court size) which has the capacity to deliver a venue for spectator events and act as a home for Plymouth Raiders, but also to deliver a home for Super League franchises in a range of indoor sports, such as Netball and Badminton. The lack of suitable space in the Life Centre and the ambition for a number of sports to target spectator events and deliver future growth in the sport support this ambition.

- **Improved Stadium Facilities** – with both Plymouth Albion and Plymouth Argyle identifying the need to improve their existing facilities, with the ambitions of Plymouth Albion to reach the Rugby Premiership within 10 years. Both clubs have identified the need for these venues to be enhanced and in comparison to other cities the level of performance would support the need for enhanced venues.

- **An eight lane Athletics Track** – to deliver the future opportunity for competitions and events in the city, as identified by the consultation with COPAC and other users, as well as the current poor quality of the existing track.

- **Closed Road Race Circuit (circa 1.5km)** – identified by British Cycling to deliver on the improved cycling participation. This was supported by the lack of other facilities in the region and the club consultation.

- **Health and Well Being Centres** – the link of sport and leisure (and physical activity) to improved health and well-being are well established and within the city there is a drive to deliver health and wellbeing centres.

- **Sporting Events** – contribute to the delivery of ambition and create a vibrant area with contribution to the economy and reputation of the area, particularly linking to Mayflower 400 events.

2.21 The needs identified above for enhanced or new facilities have been identified and prioritised in the action plan based on modelling supported by results from the user/non user survey and consultation.

2.22 As the future population grows across the study area it is important to identify a number of facility standards which will ensure that provision continues to meet the needs of a growing population.

**Standards**

2.23 Facility standards are important to set out the framework for future provision and a mechanism whereby development contributions can be identified and collected to ensure the infrastructure for sport and leisure supports the future growth in population.

2.24 Contributions which arise out of housing or other developments will be utilised to contribute to developing the network of provision of sports facilities required to support the growth of the area identified in this plan.

2.25 Facility standards have been set for the following facility types:

- Wet Sports Facilities – indoor and outdoor swimming facilities
- Dry Sports Facilities – indoor sports facilities such as sports halls, squash, tennis, etc
- Outdoor Sports Facilities – outdoor sports facilities (excluding outdoor pools and playing pitches)
2.26 We summarise the standards below:

### Table 2.2 – Facility Standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Standard (per 10,000 population)</th>
<th>Rationale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wet Sports Facilities</td>
<td>Plymouth 107 sqm, South Hams and West Devon 101 sqm</td>
<td>The Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) from Sport England suggests the standard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry Sports Facilities</td>
<td>Plymouth 490 sqm, South Hams and West Devon 449 sqm</td>
<td>The Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) from Sport England suggests the standard, based on sports hall provision.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Sports Facilities</td>
<td>Plymouth 951 sqm, South Hams and West Devon N/A</td>
<td>Based on current provision, using hard surface playing areas provision. Assumes club based provision from Sport England guidance.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: The Sports Hall sqm is based on a 4 court sports hall of 690 sqm from Sport England design guidance.

2.27 The costs associated with each of these standards are summarised below and are based on the cost guidance from Sport England in 2016. They should be reviewed and updated through the Sport Facility Calculator at least annually. We identify the costs per sqm which are associated with each of these standards.

### Table 2.3 – Facility Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Cost (£) per sqm</th>
<th>Rationale</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wet Sports Facilities</td>
<td>£17,000</td>
<td>Costs from Sport England’s sports facility calculator, as at 2nd quarter 2016.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry Sports Facilities</td>
<td>£3,100</td>
<td>Costs from Sport England’s sports facility calculator, converted to a per sqm figure based on a 4 court hall being 690 sqm, as at 2nd quarter 2016.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Sports Facilities</td>
<td>£163</td>
<td>Utilising cost guidance from Sport England as at 2nd quarter 2016.</td>
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</table>

2.28 These standards seek to identify the facility types against which future developer contributions can be calculated for any future developments.
SECTION 3

Key Recommendations

3.1 This section sets out the strategic framework for the delivery of the sports facility plan in Plymouth and South West Devon.

3.2 The first section focuses on Plymouth through setting out recommendations built around the two key policies within the Plymouth Plan

- Policy 23 – Enhancing Plymouth’s Sporting Facilities
- Policy 35 – Celebrating Plymouth’s Sporting Excellence

3.3 The recommendations (listed below in no particular order) support these policies and in turn are supported by the action plans, although recognising sport and facility plans also support other policies, such as improving health and wellbeing policies.

Table 3.1 – Plymouth Key Recommendations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enhancing Plymouth’s Sporting Facilities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P1</td>
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Celebrating Plymouth’s Sporting Excellence

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P13</td>
<td>Develop a co-ordinated programme of activities across the schools in Plymouth to deliver improved access to sports facilities on schools sites.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>P14</td>
<td>Support the ambitions of major sports clubs such as Plymouth Argyle FC and Plymouth Albion RFC</td>
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<tr>
<td>P15</td>
<td>Support Swallows Gymnastics in identifying and delivering an enhanced gymnastics facility.</td>
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<tr>
<td>P16</td>
<td>Continue to deliver watersports (including swimming) events to attract major national and international events and seek to develop new events such as triathlon.</td>
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<tr>
<td>P17</td>
<td>Support the development of health and well-being centres in the city to maximise the opportunities to promote healthy lifestyles.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

3.4 For South Hams and West Devon the overarching policy is to create and deliver thriving towns and villages, with the sports and leisure facilities being at the centre of provision across each of the main towns.

Table 3.2 – South Hams and West Devon Recommendations

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SW1</td>
<td>Deliver investment in the facility stock which has been identified as poor quality aiming to improve the facilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW2</td>
<td>Develop a co-ordinated programme of activities across the schools to deliver improved access to sports facilities on schools sites.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW3</td>
<td>Protect the existing facility stock within the districts or seek replacement for the facilities if they are closed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW4</td>
<td>Utilise the facility standards within the assessment report for identifying investment and developer contributions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW5</td>
<td>Ensure the investment plans are delivered through the leisure management contract</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW6</td>
<td>Work with Plymouth to ensure the delivery of planned facilities to meet the needs of South Hams residents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW7</td>
<td>Maintain multi-sport venues in the key towns across the districts and deliver on a co-ordinated approach to provision in the towns.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.5 The recommendations are not set out to be a list of recommendations for any of the three Local Authorities who have commissioned the Plan but rather a list of recommendations for Local Stakeholders and Partners to deliver working together to attract funding and resources to deliver sports and leisure plan for the study area.
Delivery and Implementation

Action Plan

3.6 An Action Plan has been prepared (Appendix B) which translates the recommendations and strategic policies into the action plan. Consideration has been given to the priorities as set out below:

- **Priority 1** – Short Term (1-5 years);
- **Priority 2** – Medium Term (5-10 years);
- **Priority 3** – Long Term (10 years plus).

3.7 In practice, additional sites and opportunities will emerge which have not been identified in the action plan, but fit within the overall strategic objectives and policies. It will be important that these opportunities are taken advantage of and the Councils and their partners should seek to ensure the action plan is flexible enough to identify and take advantage of any opportunities that emerge.

Implementation

3.8 The role of the Local Authorities in the delivery of the action plan will be different in each case and they could act as enablers, resource support, funders, deliverers and in some cases will have direct involvement as site owners or funders. The action plan is not intended to commit the Local Authorities (or indeed any other stakeholder) to funding but sets out the framework against which grants and developer contributions can be realised.

3.9 The steering group which has developed this sport and leisure facilities plan is committed to ensuring the implementation of the action plan. The action plan sets out lead organisations with partners.

3.10 It is anticipated that the progress notes and status columns in the action plan will be used to identify how well each action is progressing with a red, amber, green system to assess whether the actions are on track.

3.11 The main funding delivery mechanisms for the Councils and others in delivering the Plan are:

- Developer contributions to meet the sporting needs of the area required to support the planned growth;
- Partner Funding – capital funding allocated to deliver facilities which directly benefit partners;
- Community Fundraising – by sports clubs and other bodies;
- Grant funding from Sport England and other bodies (such as NGBs, health and education).

3.12 Each of the lead organisations will need to identify the potential funding opportunities and work with partners to deliver the action plan.
Monitoring and Review

3.13 With the emerging opportunities and the changing participation in sport and leisure it is important that the monitoring and review of the plan. This is as important as the initial step in developing the Plan, to ensure the robustness of the Plan.

3.14 The steering group are therefore committed to keeping the Plan alive through:

- Monitoring the delivery of the recommendations and actions, reflecting any changes that are required;
- Recording any changes to the facility stock in the area and evaluating the impact of this on the supply and demand for facilities;
- Assessing changes in participation trends and the development of new formats for sport;
- Assessing the impact of demographic changes and new population/housing growth;
- Ongoing consultation to understand the evolving needs of clubs, NGBs and other partners;
- Analysis of funding sources and new funding opportunities;
- Reviewing the growth of emerging sports, their participation rates and facilities available.

3.15 The ongoing monitoring of the Plan will be led by the Councils although it is anticipated that they will seek the support of key partners to monitor and review the Plan. In particular it is proposed that the Plymouth Sports Board will provide input for the ongoing monitoring and review for the Plan.

3.16 The steering group will also be responsible for the agreement of the scope and requirements for an update of this Sport and Leisure Facilities Plan.
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