

Uttlesford Open Space, Sport Facility and Playing Pitch Strategy

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Quality control

Uttlesford Open Space, Sport Facility and Playing Pitch Strategy

for

Uttlesford District Council

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1 Introduction

Background

1.1 The Landscape Partnership and Ploszajski Lynch Consulting were appointed by Uttlesford District Council to produce an Open Space, Sport Facility and Playing Pitch Strategy for the district in May 2011. The brief for the study indicated that Uttlesford District Council required a PPG17 (Planning Policy Guidance Note 17) compliant open space strategy to inform the delivery of:

- Networks of accessible, high quality open spaces, sports and recreation provision for existing and future needs
- New provision and the enhancement of existing provision
- Clarity for developers in terms of the requirements for open space provision

1.2 Uttlesford District Council carried out an in-house green space audit in 2006 which looked at provision in 15 parishes. The following types of sites were identified and assessed:

- Allotments
- Amenity green spaces
- Natural and semi natural green spaces
- Outdoor sports provision
- Parks and gardens
- Provision for children and young people

1.3 In total 136 sites (588.07ha) were identified. The NPFA Six Acre standard was used to identify deficits/surplus open space. In all but two of the parishes deficits were identified.

1.4 In May 2010 parish councils and local sports clubs were sent questionnaires regarding local open spaces and sports facilities. A questionnaire was also sent by Uttlesford District Council to Uttlesford citizen panel in 2010 to get their views on local open space and sports facilities.

1.5 The objectives of this current study, as set out in the project brief, are:

- To identify options and mechanisms for dealing with deficiencies in provision
- To update and build upon the 2006 green space audit
- To use the updated audit and assessment to set locally derived open space and recreation provision standards addressing accessibility, quality and quantity
- To provide a robust and comprehensive evidence base to enable the council to develop planning policies for future development plans
- To provide information to enable the council to justify collecting developer contributions
- To inform future decisions regarding the provision and funding of recreational facilities

Scope of the study

1.6 The brief for the study requires the study to cover the following open space typologies:

- Parks and gardens
- Natural and semi-natural greenspaces
- Green corridors
- Outdoor sports facilities
- Amenity greenspace
- Provision for children and young people
- Allotments, community gardens

- Churchyards and cemeteries
- Civic spaces
- Indoor built facilities:
 - Village halls and Community centres
 - Indoor sports halls, health and leisure centres
 - Swimming pools (including school facilities for community use)
 - Specialist provision e.g. indoor bowls, indoor adventurous activities etc

1.7 In relation to the Playing Pitch Strategy element of the study, the brief requires the following issues and requirements to be addressed:

- Providing a comprehensive assessment of the supply of and demand for outdoor playing pitches (senior, intermediate, junior and mini) in Uttlesford, through the application of the Sport England Playing Pitch Model;
- An analysis of the quantity and quality of other outdoor sports facilities in the district;
- Advising on local standards of provision for planning purposes, for outdoor sports facilities;
- Considering the adequacy of existing provision against these standards;
- Making recommendations on appropriate strategy and policy responses;
- Establishment of an approach for developer contributions.

1.8 The Strategy is presented in three separate sections: firstly the Green Space Audit and Strategy, secondly the Playing Pitch Strategy and finally the Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Audit. Each section provides an outline of the methodology employed along with the results of the audit of sites and recommended standards for future provision.

Uttlesford Profile

1.9 The district of Uttlesford comprises 64,118 ha and is located in the north west corner of Essex County. It is one of the largest Districts in Essex in terms of area covered, although it has one of the smallest populations. The district is located adjacent to Cambridgeshire (located to the north) and Hertfordshire (located to the west). Within Essex, Braintree District is located to the east of Uttlesford District, with Chelmsford Borough, Epping Forest District and Harlow all located to the south.

1.10 The District is largely rural, with the two market towns of Great Dunmow and Saffron Walden the largest settlements. The population of the District is spread between these towns and a number of smaller villages, including the key villages of Great Chesterford, Newport, Stansted Mountfitchet, Thaxted and Takeley. Stansted Airport with its regional transport interchange is in the south west of the district.

1.11 The 2008 mid-year estimate of population¹ in Uttlesford was 74,600, of which 37,100 were male and 37,500 were female. Based on these estimates, the current population is indicated to be around 76,800.

1.12 In Uttlesford's Sustainable Community Strategy², it is indicated that the District has a relatively low proportion of 20-29 year olds in comparison to England as a whole. It also indicates that Uttlesford has a "very small representation of black and minority ethnic groups at 2%, though there are growing migrant worker communities living or working in the district", based on the 2001 census.

1.13 The Sustainable Community Strategy also indicates that Uttlesford is one of the most affluent areas of the country and is the least deprived District in Essex. However, the Districts rural nature

¹ 2008-based Subnational Population Projections, ONS (2011)

² Uttlesford Futures - Sustainable Community Strategy: A vision for our future – 2018 (2008)

means that some areas fall within the 25% most 'access deprived' wards in England, based on 2004 Index of Multiple Deprivation data.

1.14 There are 57 Parish or Town councils within Uttlesford District. Their locations are shown below.

Figure 1.1: Town and Parish Councils in Uttlesford



Environmental Context

Topography, river patterns and flood zones

1.15 Uttlesford can be divided into three separate river catchment areas, as identified in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for the District³: the Cam tributaries catchment area in the north, the River

³ Uttlesford Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2008)

Chelmer and Pant catchments in the east and the River Stort and Roding catchments in the west. This document indicates that the District is prone to localised flooding in Great Dunmow, Saffron Walden, Stansted Mountfitchet, Great Hallingbury, Great Canfield, Berden, Manuden, Great Chesterford, Newport and Hatfield Broad Oak. The large number of river valleys within the District, create an intricate network and are an important part of the topography and landscape of the District. In the north west of the District, the landform reaches heights of 130m AOD where chalk is the underlying geology.

Geology and Soils

- 1.16 A broadly flat, but undulating plateau covered by glacial till dominates much of the District. The upper reaches of the River Stour and its tributaries are particularly deeply incised. The chalky boulder clay gives way in the north west of the District to a narrow band of chalk that forms an extension to the Chilterns. Much of the District is classified as Grade 2 Agricultural Land of relatively high quality. This quality is generally reduced to Grade 3 within river valleys.

Landscape Character

- 1.17 At a national level there are two main National Character Areas within the District as defined under the Countryside Agency/English Nature/English Heritage 'Character Map of England'. Landscape character should be used to inform enhancements to the greenspace network, particularly in Natural and Semi-natural greenspaces. These are:

South Suffolk and North Essex Clayland: the area is a broadly flat, chalky boulder clay plateau dissected by undulating river valley topography. It is predominantly arable with irregular field patterns and a wooded appearance. There is some pasture in the valley floors. The area is scattered with impressive churches. There are also several large villages and frequent towns, most with medieval street plans and elaborate timber frame houses.

East Anglian Chalk: this character area is formed of large scale, mainly arable, rolling downland. The landscape is largely open and its chalk geology is distinctive. There are few large towns and many villages have become commuter villages whilst retaining their rural character. The area contains distinctive linear ancient or Roman earthworks.

Designations

- 1.18 Biodiversity - There are no European or international wildlife sites in Uttlesford. There are 12 Sites of Special Scientific Interest, 7 National Nature Reserves and 281 Local Wildlife Sites. In addition Within Uttlesford District the Essex Biodiversity Action Plan lists:
- Two plant Species (native Black Polar and Oxlip)
 - Five Mammal Species (Brown Hare, Dormouse, European Otter, Pipistrelle bats and Water Vole)
 - Four Bird Species (Grey Partridge, Skylark, Song Thrush and Stone Curlew)
 - One Invertebrate Species (Desmoulin's Whorl Snail)
 - Great Crested Newts and
 - Six Habitats (Ancient and/or Species Rich Hedgerows and Green Lanes, Ancient Woodland, Cereal Field Margins, Heathland, Old Orchards and Urban Areas)
- 1.19 Landscape – There are no nationally designated landscapes within Uttlesford. Local designations currently include Special Landscape Areas, Ancient Woodlands, Historic Parks and Gardens, Protected Lanes and Special Verges.

Policy Context

National Strategic Policy and Guidance

The Localism Bill, CLG, 2010

- 1.20 The Localism Bill currently before Parliament proposes a major transition of power from central and regional government to the local level. It is a very wide ranging Bill which when linked with the reductions in public sector spending will see major changes in how services and facilities are provided. This will inevitably impact on how open space is provided and maintained in the future. With most major new open space provision provided in conjunction with new home provision, changes proposed to the planning system will be important in this regard. Notably, the Local Development Framework Core Strategies will effectively be given enhanced status, sitting as they will between national policy guidance and new neighbourhood plans. Neighbourhood Plans will be required to be in accordance with the Core Strategies i.e. they cannot propose less, but could provide more housing than set out in the relevant Core Strategy.
- 1.21 The Localism Bill also includes provision for a number of other measures which are of relevance to this study:-
- Abolition of Local Area Agreements – helped set targets at a local level which could include targets in relation to green space or wildlife sites.
 - Introduction of Community Right to Buy. When listed assets come up for sale or change of ownership, community groups will have time to develop a bid and raise money to buy the asset. This could include greenspace assets.
 - Introduction of Neighbourhood Plans. Provides a route to identifying, protecting or enhancing green space and green infrastructure at the local level.

Sustainable Communities: Building for the future, CLG, 2004

- 1.22 The Communities and Local Government (CLG) plan 'Sustainable Communities: Building for the future' sets out the government's proposed locations for major growth (Growth areas). The Sustainable Communities Agenda has since been expanded to incorporate growth points, including the Haven Gateway. The objectives for Green Infrastructure in the growth areas and growth points are:
- To raise the quality and accessibility of greenbelt land by improving accessibility, biodiversity and utility value;
 - To promote more and better publicly accessible green space in and around communities; and
 - To protect green wedges and green corridors through the planning system.

PPG17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation, DCLG, 2002

- 1.23 Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 indicates the importance of open space, sport and recreation and requires local authorities to undertake robust assessments of the existing and future needs of their communities. It provides a sound basis for undertaking the local assessment of open space, sport and recreation needs.
- a) Assessments of needs and opportunities:
- Local authorities should undertake robust assessments of the existing and future needs of their communities.
 - Assessments of need should cover the differing and distinctive needs of the population.
 - Local authorities should also undertake audits of existing provision that consider qualitative and quantitative elements.

- Assessments and audits will form the starting point for a clear strategy and effective planning policies.
 - Good quality assessments and audits, clear strategies and effective planning policies will provide the means to resolve the conflicts that arise between different uses and users.
 - The Government expects all local authorities to carry out assessments of need and audits of open space.
- b) Setting local standards: Facility standards are best set locally. Local authorities should use the information gained from their assessments of needs and opportunities to set robust local standards. These should form the basis for redressing accessibility, quantitative and qualitative deficiencies through the planning process. Standards should include quantitative, qualitative and accessibility components.
- c) Maintaining an adequate supply of facilities: Existing land should not be built upon unless an assessment has clearly shown it to be surplus to requirements.
- Sites of high quality and those of particular value to a local community should be recognised and protected through appropriate policies in plans.
 - Developments may provide opportunities to meet deficits.
 - Developments may provide opportunities to exchange sites, but in such cases, the new site should be at least as accessible to users and at least equivalent in terms of size, usefulness, attractiveness and quality.
- d) Planning for new facilities: In identifying where to locate new provision, local authorities should:
- Promote accessibility by non-vehicular means and ensure that facilities are accessible for people with disabilities.
 - Locate more intensive uses in sites where they can contribute to town centre vitality and viability.
 - Provide open space in commercial and industrial areas.
 - Enhance the range and quality of existing facilities.
 - Consider security and personal safety.
 - Meet the regeneration needs of areas, using brownfield in preference to greenfield sites.
 - Assess the impact of new facilities on social inclusion.
 - Consider the recreational needs of visitors and tourists.
- e) Planning obligations: Planning obligations should be used as a means to remedy local deficiencies in the vicinity of a new development, where that development increases local needs.

PPS7: Sustainable development in rural areas, DCLG, 2006

- 1.24 Planning Policy Statement 7 (PPS7) sets out the Government's planning policies for rural areas, including country towns and villages and the wider, largely undeveloped countryside up to the fringes of larger urban areas.
- 1.25 PPS7 places a duty on local authorities to ensure the improvement of the quality and sustainability of local environments and neighbourhoods, continuing protection of valued landscapes, natural resources and of the open countryside for the benefit of all.

PPS9: Biodiversity and geological conservation, DCLG, 2004

- 1.26 PPS9 is an extension of the government's biodiversity strategy 'Working with the grain of nature: A biodiversity strategy for England'. PPS9 identifies that biological and geological diversity should be sustained and enhanced as an integral part of social, environmental and economic development.

Draft National Planning Policy Framework, CLG, 2011

- 1.27 In July 2011 the Government published a draft National Planning Policy Framework for consultation. Its stated aim is to make the planning system less complex and more accessible, and to promote sustainable growth. The National Planning Policy Framework will replace existing Planning Policy Statements and Guidance.
- 1.28 Within the draft National Planning Policy Framework the section on Sustainable Communities identifies an objective "to create strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by creating a good quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect community needs and support well-being". One of the factors to help achieve this is to "ensure access to open spaces and recreational facilities that promote the health and well-being of the community". This would be achieved by identifying specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in a local area and setting locally derived standards for the provision of open space, sports and recreational facilities. This is in keeping with the thinking behind PPG17.

Green Infrastructure Guidance, Natural England, 2009

- 1.29 This guidance document provides a comprehensive overview of the concept of green infrastructure and signposts to other relevant information such as Natural England's green infrastructure definition, policy statement and track record in driving delivery. It also maps out wider policy priorities and drivers for green infrastructure. It sets out what constitutes Green Infrastructure (GI), the value of planning for GI and processes for delivering GI effectively.

'Nature Nearby': Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance, Natural England, 2010

- 1.30 This document identifies key standards for use by greenspace professionals that will deliver high quality and inspiring visitor experiences in green spaces close to where people live, and connect people with the natural environment. These standards include Access to Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt), which has the underlying principles of:
- Improving access to green spaces.
 - Improving naturalness of green spaces.
 - Improving connectivity with green spaces.
- 1.31 ANGSt recommends that everyone, wherever they live, should have an accessible natural greenspace:
- of at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes walk) from home;
 - at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home;
 - one accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home; and
 - one accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home; plus
 - a minimum of one hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population.

Biodiversity by Design: A guide for sustainable communities, Town and Country Planning Association, 2004

- 1.32 The Town and Country Planning Association document provides guidance on how to maximise the opportunities for biodiversity in the planning and design of sustainable communities. It offers exemplars from international projects on successful design and management of environmental infrastructure, benefiting communities, to demonstrate new approaches which have the potential

for replication in the UK. The document considers core design principles which relate well to biodiversity, examines methods of analysing a site and its context, advises on how new Green Infrastructure can be created that links to existing networks, and considers detailed design and long term management.

Urban Green Nation: Building the Evidence Base, CABESpace, 2010

1.33 This study investigated over 70 major data sources and assembled an inventory of more than 16,000 individual green spaces. It analysed the data to discover what it says about publicly owned and managed urban green space. The analysis considered the following core themes, which were selected to represent a multi-faceted view of green space:

- 1) quantity: by type and amount of green space available in urban areas
- 2) quality: including subjective assessments, such as resident satisfaction, and objective measures such as biodiversity
- 3) use: how people use green space
- 4) proximity: the physical location of green space in relation to where people live, and how far people have to travel to access different types of green space
- 5) management and maintenance: spending, staffing and how well a space is looked after
- 6) value: capturing how important green space is to people.

1.34 The key findings of the study were:

- 1) Almost nine out of 10 people use parks and green spaces, and they value them
- 2) If people are satisfied with local parks, they tend to be satisfied with their council
- 3) The provision of parks in deprived areas is worse than in affluent areas
- 4) People from minority ethnic groups tend to have less local green space and it is of a poorer quality
- 5) The higher the quality of the green space, the more likely it is to be used.

Open Space Strategies: Best Practice Guidance, CABESpace, 2009

1.35 This document offers guidance to local authorities and their stakeholders on how to prepare an open space strategy. It outlines reasons for preparing a strategy, as well as recommending the scope. It provides case study examples to illustrate the stages of an open space strategy identified in PPG17.

Public Space Lessons: Designing and Planning for Play, CABESpace, 2008

1.36 This document identifies one golden rule for designing play areas: a successful play space is a place in its own right, specially designed for its location, in such a way as to provide as much play value as possible. This should be achieved through following 10 principles, to create a play space that is:

- designed to enhance its setting
- located in the best possible place
- close to nature
- designed so that children can play in different ways
- geared towards encouraging disabled and able-bodied children to play together
- loved by the community
- where children of all ages play together
- designed to enable children to stretch and challenge themselves in every way

- maintained for play value and environmental sustainability
- flexible and able to evolve as the children grow

The value of public space: how high quality parks and public spaces create economic, social and environmental value, CABEspace, 2004

- 1.37 CABE identifies that there are many benefits to high quality parks and public spaces. These benefits can include; a significant impact on the economic life of urban environments; stimulating increased house prices; improvement to our physical and mental health by encouraging us to walk more, to play sport, or simply to enjoy a green and natural environment; providing children with opportunities for fun, exercise and learning; helping to allay fear of crime; shaping the cultural identity of an area; providing a safer and more welcoming environment, encouraging walking and cycling; redress the imbalance known as the 'heat island effect'; vegetation also has benefits to mental well being.

The Sport England Strategy 2008 - 2011, Sport England, 2008

- 1.38 Sport England's overarching aim, as set out in 'The Sport England Strategy 2008 - 2011' is to build the foundations of sporting success through the creation of a world leading community sport system in England. Sport England's approach is to operate at a strategic level, working with and through national sports governing bodies, and drawing in other partners such as Local Authorities who drive local provision and are key to delivering world-leading community sport infrastructure. Sport England's strategy is based on the delivery of the following key outcomes and will ensure that:

- Grow: A substantial and growing number of people from across the community play sport.
- Sustain: Everyone who plays sport has a quality experience and is able to fulfil their potential.
- Excel: Talented people from all backgrounds are identified early, nurtured and have the opportunity to progress to the elite level.

- 1.39 Through the strategy and the creation of a world leading community sport system Sport England is committed to delivering:

- 1 million more people doing sport.
- A reduction in post-16 drop-off in at least 5 sports by 25% by 2012-13.
- A quantifiable increase in satisfaction with sports provision.
- Improved talent development systems in at least 25 sports.
- A major contribution to the delivery of the Five Hour Sport Offer engaging more 5-19 year olds in sport.

- 1.40 Implications for open space, sport and recreation: Sport England's strategy provides a focus for the delivery and development of sport in England. The strategy highlights the key role of Local Authorities in helping to deliver the overarching aim of delivering a world leading community sport system and in particular the infrastructure to support such a system.

A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England / Playing Fields for Sport Revisited, Sport England, 2000

- 1.41 These documents provide Sport England's planning policy statement on playing fields. It acknowledges that playing fields are one of the most important resources for sport in England as they provide the space which is required for the playing of team sports on outdoor pitches, that open space is becoming an increasingly scarce resource and that it can provide an important landscape function, perform the function of a strategic gap or provide a resource for other community activities and informal recreation.

Planning for Open Space, Sport England, 2002

- 1.42 Sport England draws together the large body of research and good practice on the subject of open space and focuses on the revised PPG 17 and its companion guide. The main messages from Sport England within this document are:
- Sport England's policy on planning applications for development of playing fields (A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England) provides 5 exceptions to its normal stance of opposing any loss of all or part of such facilities and are reflected in PPG 17 (paragraphs 10-15).
 - Sport England must be consulted on development proposals affecting land that has been used as playing fields at any time in the previous 5 years, or that is identified as a playing field in a development plan.
 - It is highly likely that planning inspectors will no longer accept a Six Acre Standard approach in emerging development plans and it therefore increases the importance of setting local standards.
 - In undertaking a playing pitch assessment as part of an overall open space assessment, local authorities will need to consider the revised advice and methodology 'Towards a Level Playing Field: A manual for the production of Playing Pitch Strategies' produced by Sport England and available on their website⁴.

*Regional Strategic Policy and Guidance*East of England Plan: The Revision to the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England, Government Office For The East Of England, 2008

- 1.43 The East of England Plan (amongst other regional strategies) provides regional planning policy context to the year 2021 but with a longer-term vision. It includes issues covering economic development, housing, the environment, transport, waste management, culture, sport and recreation and mineral extraction.
- 1.44 Its vision is that by 2021 the East of England will be realising its economic potential and providing a high quality of life for its people, including by meeting their housing needs in sustainable inclusive communities. At the same time it will reduce its impact on climate change and the environment, including through savings in energy and water use and by strengthening its stock of environmental assets.
- 1.45 The Plan's objectives include to improve and conserve the region's environment. There is a specific policy for green infrastructure, POLICY ENV1: Green Infrastructure, which states that areas and networks of green infrastructure should be identified, created, protected, enhanced and managed to ensure an improved and healthy environment is available for present and future communities.
- 1.46 It specifically identifies that Local Development Documents (LDDs) should define a multiple hierarchy of green infrastructure, in terms of location, function, size and levels of use, based on analysis of natural, historic, cultural and landscape assets, and the identification of areas where additional green infrastructure is required.
- 1.47 It further identifies assets of regional significance for the retention, provision and enhancement of green infrastructure, and that these include Hatfield Forest.
- 1.48 The Localism Bill re-confirms the Government's intention to abolish Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS). The RSS would therefore no longer form part of the development plan. However, evidence used in the preparation of the revoked Regional Spatial Strategies still counts as a 'material consideration' for development control purposes depending on the actual case.

⁴ www.sportengland.org

Building a Winning Future Together in Essex - A Strategy for Sport in Essex 2008 – 2012, Sport Essex, 2008

- 1.49 'Building a Winning Future Together in Essex - A Strategy for Sport in Essex 2008 - 2012' was produced by Sport Essex, the County Sports Partnership. It sets the general direction of travel for sport in the county in the period to 2012:
- a) Purpose: The document provides a framework for partnership between all agencies involved in sport in Essex, so that action across a whole range of sport can be properly coordinated and to increase participation in sport and physical activity.
 - b) Strategic themes for action:
 - Identifying, brokering and strengthening strategic links.
 - Increasing quality opportunities for participation in sport and physical activity in a range of settings.
 - Improving and expanding the sport and physical activity infrastructure.
 - Increasing and improving the workforce capacity.
 - Improving the methods and effectiveness of marketing and communications.
 - Providing an effective method of impact measurement.
- 1.50 Implications for open space, sport and recreation: The county sports strategy highlights a number of key issues that should be taken into account in this study, in particular:
- a) Research shows that traditional locations may not offer the most attractive environments for non-participants to become involved in sports and physical activity. Much activity takes place in informal settings such as open spaces and planning standards should take account of such demand.
 - b) Clubs and the voluntary sports sector play a key role in the provision and development of sport and further support should be offered to them to improve the quantity and quality of the opportunities they provide.

Essex Sports Facilities Strategy, Sport Essex, 2008

- 1.51 'Essex Sports Facilities Strategy 2007 - 2020' was produced by Sport Essex. It identifies sports facilities needs in the county:
- a) Purpose: The Strategy should be 'used by local authorities and key partners to help inform the level and nature of provision that is required. Critically, it should also assist in planning for provision cross boundary'.
 - b) Facilities hierarchy: A hierarchy of provision is proposed:
 - Sub-regional facilities: Facilities that serve the whole county.
 - District facilities: Facilities that serve a whole district, but whose catchment may also cover part of another district.
 - Local/neighbourhood facilities: Facilities that serve the rural areas and specific urban areas. As a minimum, all villages should have access to an indoor facility within the village that can cater for recreational activities in which different age groups can participate. All persons living in rural areas should be no further than 20 minutes drive time from a larger leisure facility and swimming pool open to the community. In urban areas, all persons should be within 20 minutes walking time of a larger leisure centre and a swimming pool open to the community.
 - c) Community access: Sport England's Sports Facilities Calculator (SFC) estimates that the supply of sports halls, swimming pools and health and fitness facilities exceeds demand in the county, although around half of the facilities have limited access for community 'pay and play' usage.

- d) Deficiencies in Uttlesford: Consultation with the governing bodies of sport identified the following facilities needs in Uttlesford and/or north Essex:

<i>Governing body</i>	<i>Identified deficiency</i>
UK Athletics	A need for athletics facilities in Uttlesford, possible a 150m 'J' track, rather than a full 400m facility.
Badminton England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A permanent training/competition venue in north Essex • All new community centres/village halls should include 1-2 badminton courts with correct hall height, lighting and court dimensions.
Amateur Rowing Association	Rowing facilities are required in the Uttlesford to Thurrock corridor.

- 1.52 *Recommendations:* The strategy contains the following general recommendations:

- Invest in the existing facilities stock, to maintain current levels of provision.
- Develop new facilities provision.
- Address unmet demand.
- Negotiate increased accessibility/availability to existing facilities.
- Work in partnership.
- Utilise the planning framework.
- Retain performance sport and performance athletes in the county.
- Harness the benefits of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- Improve sports club's security of tenure.
- Facilitate major sports events.

- 1.53 *Implications for open space, sport and recreation:* The findings of the county sports facilities strategy will be taken into account in the wider assessment of need undertaken as part of this study.

Analysis of Accessible Natural Greenspace Provision for Essex, including Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock Unitary Authorities, Essex Wildlife Trust and Natural England, 2009

- 1.54 This study analysed the provision of Accessible Natural Greenspace within Essex, based on a national methodology and using datasets of different types of greenspaces provided by Local Authorities. The study identified that 1% of Uttlesford District is comprised of accessible natural greenspace. The analysis also indicated that 54% of households within Uttlesford do not meet any of the ANGSt criteria, compared with 16% in Essex as a whole. 8% of households were considered to be within 300m of a 2ha+ site, 28% within 2km of a 20ha+ site and 39% within 5km of a 100ha+ site.

Local Policy and Guidance

Sustainable Communities Strategy, Uttlesford Futures, 2008

- 1.55 'A Sustainable Community Strategy: A Vision for the Future 2018' is a draft document produced by Uttlesford Futures, to provide overall policy direction for organisations in the area. The main content relevant to sport and recreation is set out below.
- 1.56 The strategic vision for Uttlesford is 'to sustain a high quality of life in which the benefits of the unique character of the district are available to all residents, workers or visitors'.
- 1.57 Strategic themes: The themes are:
- a) Children and young people matter.

- b) Staying healthy.
- c) Developing business.
- d) Feeling safe.
- e) Protecting the environment.
- f) Getting around.

1.58 Strategic priorities: The strategic priorities relevant to sport and recreation are as follows:

- a) To promote healthy lifestyles amongst young people.
- b) To reduce rural deprivation by increasing access to services.
- c) To provide support to reduce adult obesity.
- d) To increase participation in sport, culture and volunteering.

1.59 *Implications for sport and recreation:* The Strategy illustrates how sport and physical activity, can play a core role in delivering some of the key local priorities.

The adopted Uttlesford Local Plan, UDC, 2005

1.60 'The Uttlesford Local Plan' provides a frame of reference for development control in the district. The main policies of relevance to open space, sport and recreation are set out below.

1.61 The policies on Environment, Built and Natural have the following objectives:

- a) To safeguard the character of Uttlesford's historic settlements.
- b) To conserve and enhance the historic buildings in Uttlesford and their setting.
- c) To protect the natural environment for its own sake, particularly for its biodiversity, and agricultural, cultural and visual qualities.
- d) To limit sensitive development in areas subject to high levels of noise from aircraft or other sources, and avoid deterioration in the noise environment.
- e) To protect ground and surface water resources from contamination and over abstraction.
- f) To protect users of residential properties in particular from long term exposure to poor ground level air quality.
- g) To improve the health of the community.

1.62 Policy ENV3- Open Spaces and Trees: 'The loss of traditional open spaces, other visually important spaces, groups of trees and fine individual tree specimens through development proposals will not be permitted unless the need for the development outweighs their amenity value'.

1.63 Policy ENV7 - The Protection of the Natural Environment - Designated Sites: 'Development proposals that adversely affect areas of nationally important nature conservation concern, such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest and National Nature Reserves, will not be permitted unless the need for the development outweighs the particular importance of the nature conservation value of site or reserve.

Development proposals likely to affect local areas of nature conservation significance, such as County Wildlife sites, ancient woodlands, wildlife habitats, sites of ecological interest and Regionally Important Geological/ Geomorphological Sites, will not be permitted unless the need for the development outweighs the local significance of the site to the biodiversity of the District. Where development is permitted the authority will consider the use of conditions or planning obligations to ensure the protection and enhancement of the site's conservation interest.'

1.64 Policy ENV8 – Other Landscape Elements of Importance for Nature Conservation: 'Development that may adversely affect these landscape elements:

- Hedgerows

- Linear tree belts
- Larger semi natural or ancient woodlands
- Semi-natural grasslands
- Green lanes and special verges
- Orchards
- Plantations
- Ponds reservoirs
- River corridors
- Linear wetland features
- Networks or patterns of other locally important habitats.

will only be permitted if the following criteria apply:

- a) The need for the development outweighs the need to retain the elements for their importance to wild fauna and flora;
- b) Mitigation measures are provided that would compensate for the harm and reinstate the nature conservation value of the locality.

Appropriate management of these elements will be encouraged through the use of conditions and planning obligations’.

1.65 The policies on leisure and cultural provision have the following objectives:

- a) To safeguard existing open space within towns and villages for either formal or informal recreation.
- b) To enable the provision of community facilities in villages, which would accommodate activities central to village life, even where development would not normally be permitted.
- c) To develop sport and leisure facilities at key sites and enable outdoor recreation in the countryside whilst protecting its character and amenities.
- d) To improve access to leisure and cultural facilities and to ensure that all leisure and cultural provision is accessible for the benefit of the whole community to ensure social inclusion.

1.66 Policy LC1 - Loss of sports fields and recreational facilities: ‘Development will not be permitted if it would involve the loss of sports fields or other open space for recreation. Exceptions may be permitted if either of the following applies:

- a) Replacement facilities will be provided that better meet local recreational needs.
- b) The need for the facility no longer exists’.

1.67 As there is already a deficiency in the number of playing pitches, policy LC1 is concerned with total or partial loss of playing fields. It applies whether the facilities are still in active use or whether through ownership, for example, this is now prevented. It also applies to development that would prejudice the use of land as playing fields. It is not intended to prevent the provision of facilities such as changing rooms, pavilions and club houses.

- a) If replacement facilities are proposed they must be at least as good as those lost in terms of location, quantity, quality, and management arrangements.
- b) Replacement facilities must be made available before development of the existing site begins.
- c) An assessment of current and future needs will need to be submitted demonstrating that there is an excess of playing fields in a locality and the catchment of the facility, or that the site has no special significance to sport or recreation, if planning permission is to be granted for development.

- d) The Council intends to work with town and parish councils to provide and/ or improve facilities in the District
 - e) Extensions or additional facilities at existing sports and leisure centres or school sites with potential for dual school and community use will be permitted outside as well as within settlements.
- 1.68 Policy LC2 - Access to Leisure and Cultural Facilities: 'All development proposals for leisure and cultural purposes, whether new build, conversion or extension need to be accessible to all, to ensure social inclusion'.
- 1.69 Policy LC3 - Community Facilities: 'Community facilities will be permitted on a site outside settlements if all the following criteria are met:
- a) The need for the facility can be demonstrated.
 - b) The need cannot be met on a site within the boundaries.
 - c) The site is well related to a settlement'.
- 1.70 Policy LC4 - Provision of Outdoor Sport and Recreational Facilities beyond development limits: 'The following developments will be permitted:
- a) Outdoor sports and recreational facilities, including associated buildings such as changing rooms and club-houses.
 - b) Suitable recreational after use of mineral workings'.
- 1.71 Policy LC6 - Land West of Little Walden Road Saffron Walden: 'A site west of Little Walden Road, Saffron Walden has been identified to provide a community centre and playing fields as part of a mixed development scheme'.
- 1.72 The preamble to Policy LC6 indicates that Saffron Walden is the focal point for the northern half of the district yet it is deficient in a number of leisure and cultural amenities. It has a longstanding problem of inadequate provision of playing fields and does not meet the National Playing Fields Association standards (Since the Adoption of the Local Plan these standards have been superseded by Fields in Trust Standards). A site west of Little Walden Road has been identified to provide a mixed development consisting of a community centre, playing fields and associated car parking. A Master Plan will be prepared in consultation with the Town Council, residents, and local sports clubs to identify the juxtaposition of uses and the type of playing fields needed.
- 1.73 The Local Plan comprises policy planning policies that are robust in their defence of sport and recreation facilities, but the development of standards of provision through this study will be key to determining the adequacy of existing provision and future needs.

Green Space Strategy Audit, UDC, 2006

- 1.74 One of the Background Studies to support the emerging Local Development Framework is the Green Space Strategy Audit, which includes an assessment of both existing open space provision and the adequacy of outdoor sports provision based upon the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) standard. The main material of relevance is summarised below.
- 1.75 The audit considered accessible green space of 0.15 hectares or more within the 15 largest parishes in the District. All parishes had a population of over 1000. The audit utilised a number of the green space types identified in PPG17, namely allotments, amenity green space, natural and semi-natural green space, outdoor sports provision, parks and gardens, and provision for children and young people. An assessment was made of the value of each green space to users in terms of accessibility, cleanliness and maintenance, safety, biodiversity and attractiveness.
- 1.76 The NPFA Standard: The standard was produced as a general guide to the adequacy of provision of 'space that is safely accessible and available to the general public and of a suitable size and nature, for sport, active recreation or children's play'. It has two components:

- a) Outdoor sport: Facilities such as pitches, greens, courts, athletics tracks and miscellaneous sites such as croquet lawns and training areas. These should be provided at a minimum level of 1.6ha per 1,000 people.
- b) Children's playing space: Designated areas for children and young people containing a range of facilities and an environment that has been designed to provide focused opportunities for outdoor play. These should be provided at a minimum level of 0.8ha per 1,000 people.

1.77 Provision of Playing Space assessment: The application of the children's playing space standard produced the following results:

- a) Larger parishes:

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Existing playing space (Ha)</i>	<i>Playing space per 1,000 popn.</i>	<i>NPFA requirement for parish (Ha)</i>	<i>Surplus/(deficit) for parish (Ha)</i>
Clavering	2.8	2.4	2.8	0
Dunmow	11.8	1.7	16.8	(5.0)
Elsenham	3.7	1.5	5.8	(2.1)
Felsted	3.1	1.1	6.8	(3.7)
Great Chesterford	3.2	2.2	3.4	(0.2)
Hatfield Broad Oak	2.0	1.7	2.8	(0.8)
Hatfield Heath	1.6	1.0	4.0	(2.4)
Henham	2.6	2.2	2.8	(0.2)
Little Hallingbury	2.4	1.7	3.4	(1.0)
Newport	4.4	2.2	5.3	(0.9)
Saffron Walden	13.0	0.9	36.2	(23.2)
Stansted	4.8	0.9	13.3	(8.5)
Stebbing	4.5	3.5	3.1	1.4
Takeley	7.2	3.1	5.5	1.7
Thaxted	3.9	1.4	6.2	(2.3)

- b) Urban wards:

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Existing playing space (Ha)</i>	<i>Playing space per 1,000 popn.</i>	<i>NPFA requirement for Ward (Ha)</i>	<i>Surplus/(deficit) for Ward (Ha)</i>
Great Dunmow North	8.2	3.2	6.1	2.1
Great Dunmow South	3.5	0.8	10.8	(7.3)
Saffron Walden Audley	2.0	0.4	11.1	(9.1)
Saffron Walden Castle	4.9	1.0	11.7	(6.8)
Saffron Walden Shire	6.1	1.2	12.2	(6.1)
Stansted North	2.5	0.8	7.6	(5.1)
Stansted South	2.3	0.8	6.6	(4.3)

1.78 Outdoor sports assessment: The application of the outdoor sports standard produced the following results:

a) Larger parishes:

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Existing sports provision (Ha)</i>	<i>Sports provision per 1,000 popn.</i>	<i>NPFA requirement for parish</i>	<i>Surplus/(deficit) for parish (Ha)</i>
Clavering	2.8	2.4	1.8	1.0
Dunmow	8.8	1.3	11.2	(2.4)
Elsenham	3.5	1.5	3.8	(0.3)
Felsted	2.5	0.9	4.5	(2.0)
Great Chesterford	3.0	2.1	2.3	0.7
Hatfield Broad Oak	1.6	1.4	1.9	(0.3)
Hatfield Heath	1.2	0.7	2.7	(1.5)
Henham	1.4	1.2	1.9	(0.5)
Little Hallingbury	1.2	0.9	2.2	(1.0)
Newport	3.6	1.6	3.5	0.1
Saffron Walden	7.4	0.5	24.2	(16.8)
Stansted	2.3	0.4	8.9	(6.6)
Stebbing	3.9	3.1	2.1	1.8
Takeley	6.6	2.9	3.7	2.9
Thaxted	2.7	1.1	4.1	(1.4)

b) Urban wards:

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Existing sports provision (Ha)</i>	<i>Sports provision per 1,000 popn.</i>	<i>NPFA requirement for Ward</i>	<i>Surplus/(deficit) for Ward (Ha)</i>
Great Dunmow North	7.2	2.8	4.1	3.1
Great Dunmow South	1.6	0.4	7.2	(5.6)
Saffron Walden Audley	0.4	0.1	7.4	(7.0)
Saffron Walden Castle	3.5	0.7	7.8	(4.3)
Saffron Walden Shire	3.6	0.7	8.2	(4.6)
Stansted North	2.1	0.7	5.1	(3.0)
Stansted South	1.5	0.5	4.4	(2.9)

1.79 Implications for sport and recreation: The assessment of outdoor sports provision in the Green Space Audit in relation to the NPFA standard provides a helpful preliminary overview of provision, however:

- a) The standard is only intended to provide an overview and takes no account of variations in local demand levels, the type and quality of provision, nor of the distance that play area users and sports participants, are prepared to travel to access facilities.
- b) PPG17 states that 'facility standards are best set locally. Local authorities should use the information gained from their assessments of needs and opportunities to set robust local standards. These should form the basis for redressing accessibility, quantitative and qualitative deficiencies through the planning process. Standards should include quantitative, qualitative and accessibility components'.
- c) The assessment does not cover the smaller parishes in the district, many of which have additional outdoor sports facilities.

2 Assessment of Need

Introduction

2.1 This section examines the data and evidence gathered on local need for sport and recreation provision. The sources assessed include:

- a) Analysing previous relevant surveys and consultations with local people and organisations, including:
 - The 2006 Green Space Strategy Audit
 - A 2010 citizens' panel survey on open spaces (including indoor and outdoor sports facilities).
 - A 2010 survey of local sports clubs.
- b) Undertaking and analysing new surveys and consultation with local people and organisations, including:
 - A 2011 survey of governing bodies of sport.
 - A 2011 survey of local pitch sports clubs.
 - A 2011 survey of local schools.
 - A 2011 survey of leisure centre users.

Green Space Strategy Audit

2.2 As part of the 2006 Audit a questionnaire was prepared for users and non users of the Districts green spaces. It was made available at the Council offices, on their website and published in Uttlesford Life. 912 completed questionnaires were received and the key findings are summarised below.

2.3 *Amount of green space:* Respondents were asked if there was enough green space where they live. 56% indicated that the amount of green space was just right. A further 22% indicated that there was 'plenty' of green space, with the remaining 22% indicating there was not enough.

2.4 *Travel to green space:* Respondents were asked how far they would be prepared to travel to a green space and by what mode of transport. Almost 80% of respondents indicated that they would walk under a mile to a green space and just over 30% indicated they would walk or drive 2-3 miles. Around 65% of respondents would drive to a greenspace if it was 4-5 miles away and over 70% would drive 6+ miles. Cycling or using public transport to visit green spaces was less popular, with the most frequent response being 30% of people would cycle 1-3 miles to a green space.

2.5 *Types of green space:* Respondents were asked which types of green space they use and how frequently. The most frequently used types of green space were green spaces around home, followed by rights of way and parks. Bowling greens, allotments, tennis courts, golf courses and sport pitches were all rarely used by respondents, with over half of respondents never using them.

Citizens Panel survey

2.6 In July 2010, members of Uttlesford Voices, the citizens' panel were asked to indicate their views on open space provision in the district, including indoor and outdoor sports facilities. 289 responses were received and the key findings are summarised below.

- 2.7 *Quantity of open space:* Respondents were asked their views on the quantity of provision of open space:

<i>Open space type</i>	<i>More than enough</i>		<i>About right</i>		<i>Nearly enough</i>		<i>Not enough</i>		<i>No opinion</i>	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Parks and gardens	26	9.0	175	60.6	23	8.0	44	15.2	21	7.3
Natural areas	25	8.8	164	57.7	38	13.4	48	16.9	9	3.2
Amenity green space	26	9.2	163	57.4	35	12.3	41	14.4	19	6.7
Children's play areas	18	6.3	151	52.6	45	15.7	46	16.0	27	9.4
Allotments	13	4.5	76	26.5	43	15.0	96	33.4	59	20.6
Outdoor sports facilities	17	5.9	102	35.7	39	13.6	85	29.7	43	15.0

- 2.8 *Quality of open space:* Respondents were asked their views on the quality of provision of open space:

<i>Open space type</i>	<i>Very good</i>		<i>Good</i>		<i>Average</i>		<i>Poor</i>		<i>Very poor</i>	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Parks and gardens	54	19.2	115	40.9	77	27.4	24	8.5	11	3.9
Natural areas	52	18.4	129	45.6	79	27.9	17	6.0	6	2.1
Amenity green space	29	10.3	117	41.5	102	36.2	27	9.6	7	2.5
Children's play areas	33	11.7	101	35.8	108	38.3	34	12.1	6	2.1
Allotments	8	3.0	66	25.1	109	41.4	58	22.1	22	8.4
Outdoor sports facilities	13	4.7	75	27.4	113	41.2	57	20.8	16	5.8

- 2.9 *Use of open space:* Respondents were asked how often they use different types of open space:

<i>Open space type</i>	<i>Daily</i>		<i>Weekly</i>		<i>Monthly</i>		<i>Less than once a month</i>		<i>Don't use them</i>	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Parks and gardens	25	8.7	38	28.8	63	21.9	70	24.3	47	16.3
Natural areas	52	18.1	97	33.8	54	18.8	51	17.8	33	11.5
Amenity green space	37	13.0	81	28.4	37	13.0	69	24.2	61	21.4
Children's play areas	9	3.1	44	15.3	29	10.1	31	10.8	174	60.6
Allotments	4	1.4	4	1.4	1	0.4	4	1.4	268	95.4
Outdoor sports facilities	5	1.8	34	12.0	19	6.7	47	16.6	178	62.9

2.10 *Travel to open space:* Respondents were asked how they travel to different types of open space:

Open space type	Car		Walk		Cycle		Public transport	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Parks and gardens	109	47.8	144	55.2	10	3.8	8	3.1
Natural areas	72	26.6	200	73.8	9	3.3	3	1.1
Amenity green space	53	21.2	192	76.8	9	3.6	2	0.8
Children's play areas	54	26.7	147	72.8	2	1.0	5	2.5
Allotments	63	42.3	80	53.7	7	4.7	4	2.7
Outdoor sports facilities	108	54.8	82	41.6	7	3.6	7	3.6

2.11 *Quantity of indoor facilities:* Respondents were asked their views on the quantity of provision of indoor sports facilities:

Facility type	More than enough		About right		Not enough		No opinion	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Sports halls	18	6.6%	159	58.5%	49	18.0%	46	16.9%
Swimming pools	21	7.7%	146	53.7%	71	26.1%	34	12.5%
Indoor bowls	19	7.1%	78	29.3%	46	17.3%	123	46.2%
Indoor tennis	10	3.8%	53	20.2%	70	26.7%	129	49.2%
Health and fitness	17	6.4%	114	43.0%	45	17.0%	89	33.6%
Squash courts	11	4.3%	83	32.8%	49	19.4%	110	42.5%

2.12 *Quantity of outdoor facilities:* Respondents were asked their views on the quantity of provision of outdoor sports facilities:

Facility type	More than enough		About right		Not enough		No opinion	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Grass pitches	26	9.5%	125	45.5%	72	26.2%	52	18.9%
Synthetic turf pitches	12	4.7%	38	15.0%	69	27.2%	135	53.1%
Tennis courts	12	4.4%	112	41.3%	79	29.2%	68	25.1%
Bowling greens	17	6.4%	107	40.4%	43	16.2%	98	37.0%
Golf courses	28	11.3%	91	36.7%	44	17.7%	85	34.3%

2.13 *Quality of outdoor facilities:* Respondents were asked their views on the quality of outdoor sports facilities in their area:

Rating	Number	Percentage
Very good	13	4.7%
Good	75	27.4%
Average	113	41.2%
Poor	57	20.8%
Very poor	16	5.8%

- 2.14 *Use of outdoor facilities:* Respondents were asked their views on how often they use outdoor sports facilities in their area:

Rating	Number	Percentage
Daily	5	1.8%
Weekly	34	12.0%
Monthly	19	6.7%
Less than monthly	47	16.6%
Don't use them	178	62.9%

- 2.15 *Mode of transport:* Respondents were asked how they travel to sports facilities:

Rating	Number	Percentage
Car	108	54.8%
Walk	82	41.6%
Cycle	7	3.6%
Public transport	7	3.6%

Local sports clubs survey

- 2.16 A postal and e-mail questionnaire was circulated to 57 sports clubs in the district by Uttlesford District Council in April 2010. 21 responses were received and the material covered by the survey included:

- a) Membership profile.
- b) Views on facilities used.

- 2.17 *Membership profile:* The profile of responding clubs is as follows:

- a) *Overall membership size:* This is as follows:

Number of members	Number	Percentage
1 - 50	8	38.1%
51 - 100	5	23.8%
More than 100	8	38.1%

- b) *Membership trends:* One-third of the clubs reported increased membership over the past three years, one-third has remained static and one-third has experienced a fall in members.
- c) *Waiting lists:* Only one club (4.8%) currently has a waiting list for membership and the rest (95.2%) do not.

- 2.18 *Facilities usage:* Facilities issues were covered as follows:

- a) *Suitability:* Respondents were asked whether the standard of sports provision at their main facility meets the existing and future needs of the club. 15 clubs (71.4%) stated that their needs are fully met, whilst the remaining six (28.6%) identified a range of improvements that are required.
- b) *Condition:* Respondents were asked for their views on the condition of various aspects of the facilities they use:

Rating	Number	Percentage
Very good	28	50.0%
Good	12	21.4%
Average	11	19.6%
Poor	4	7.1%
Very poor	1	1.8%

- c) *Quantity*: Respondents were asked for their views on the number of outdoor facilities in Uttlesford and responded as follows:

Facility type	More than enough		About right		Not enough		No opinion	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Rugby pitches	0	0.0%	6	33.3%	6	33.3%	6	33.3%
Cricket pitches	0	0.0%	8	44.4%	5	27.7%	5	27.7%
Football pitches	1	5.6%	7	38.9%	5	27.7%	5	27.7%
Synthetic turf pitches	0	0.0%	2	11.1%	9	50.0%	7	38.9%
Tennis courts	0	0.0%	6	33.3%	6	33.3%	6	33.3%
Bowling greens	1	5.5%	9	50.0%	3	16.7%	6	33.3%

Governing bodies of sport

- 2.19 An e-mail questionnaire survey was conducted amongst the governing bodies of sport for Essex, whose contact details were provided by Sport England. The material covered by the survey was:
- Any relevant strategies or policy documents relating to their sport in the East, Essex and Uttlesford in particular.
 - Any issues or priorities of particular importance to facilities provision for their sport in Uttlesford.
 - Details of any current or planned future facilities projects in the district, which should be reflected in the strategy.

- 2.20 *Swimming*: The response from the Amateur Swimming Association East Region can be summarised as follows:

<i>Issue</i>	<i>Response</i>
Relevant strategies or policies relating to swimming in the East, Essex and Uttlesford in particular.	The ASA's national strategy ' <i>From Policy to Pool - An ASA Policy Document on Swimming pools in England</i> ' (2009) emphasises the need for additional pool space to meet increased participation and the need to upgrade ageing facilities to improve financial and environmental sustainability.
Any issues or priorities of particular importance to facilities provision for swimming in Uttlesford.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over the Uttlesford area there appears to be an estimated deficit of around 38% in water space accessible by all sections of the community. We recognise that there are a number of 'private' pools, these may provide a significant provision for parts of the population, but this does not cover the deficit for schools and the community as a whole. The Great Dunmow Leisure Centre was built in 2003 so should be in good condition and the Lord Butler Centre was built in 1984. The age is not really a concern for the medium and short term but long term some consideration should be given to the Lord Butler centre.
Details of any current or planned future swimming facilities projects in the district, which should be reflected in the strategy.	No current projects.

2.21 *Bowls*: The response from the Essex Bowling Association was as follows:

Issue	Response
Relevant strategies or policies relating to bowls in the East, Essex and Uttlesford in particular.	We have no specific facility strategies for Essex/ Uttlesford District Council area.
Any issues or priorities of particular importance to facilities provision for bowls in Uttlesford.	We have one Indoor Club in the Uttlesford area (Turpins IBC). The area surrounding the District Council is catered for by Havershill, Falcon and Tye Green.
Details of any current or planned future bowls facilities projects in the district, which should be reflected in the strategy.	Whilst the Market Segmentation data for Uttlesford area shows a high percentage of residents in the 'Comfortable Retired Couple' Category, we consider that at present there is adequate provision for Indoor Bowls.

2.22 *Judo*: The response from the British Judo Association East Region can be summarised as follows:

Issue	Response
Relevant strategies or policies relating to judo in the East, Essex and Uttlesford in particular.	British Judo is undertaking a Facility Strategy and whilst our two clubs within the district have been included in that, during the audit they didn't have any facility requirements. Currently West Essex JC has its own dojo and Saffron Walden JC trains out of Dame Bradbury's School, so they are fairly sorted for facilities.
Any issues or priorities of particular importance to facilities provision for judo in Uttlesford.	Being able to be part of any sports leisure centre's activity programmes, for example having provision to run holiday or community activities.
Details of any current or planned future judo facilities projects in the district, which should be reflected in the strategy.	No current projects.

2.23 *Netball*: The response from the Netball Essex can be summarised as follows:

Issue	Response
Relevant strategies or policies relating to netball in the East, Essex and Uttlesford in particular.	We have two developing clubs in this area and looking to build on this.
Any issues or priorities of particular importance to facilities provision for netball in Uttlesford.	The two Clubs are based in Saffron Walden and Great Dunmow. There is a leisure facility at Great Dunmow, which the club uses, Saffron Walden uses a dual use school site.
Details of any current or planned future netball facilities projects in the district, which should be reflected in the strategy.	No current projects.

2.24 *Football:* The response from the Essex Football Association can be summarised as follows:

Issue	Response
<p>Relevant strategies or policies relating to football in the East, Essex and Uttlesford in particular.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation rates: The area being predominantly rural does not have high levels of participation which is strange because some of its neighbouring authorities such as East Hertfordshire and Chelmsford have very high levels of participation. We put this down to the majority of villages in the district being on the small side so there are often not the numbers of people to grow larger clubs. • Housing growth: We are particularly concerned around the 'growth agenda' and would like to make sure that any additional housing growth includes new pitch development either by the way of new pitches or enhancement of existing football/sport facilities. As some of the larger towns/villages grow we would like consideration to be given to larger multi-pitch sites with improved access. Ideally these would be 4 full size pitches or bigger so that larger youth and adult clubs all be located on one site. Great Notley is a good example in neighbouring Braintree whereby the pitch provision meets the needs of a new development.
<p>Any issues or priorities of particular importance to facilities provision for football in Uttlesford.</p>	<p>Improvements at Parish Council Sites: Dunmow Rhodes is the largest club in Uttlesford yet the town council is not allowing it access to the changing rooms at the Causeway Recreation Ground. The club needs more pitches but is unable to achieve this due to site location and limited support from the TC. Most sites are operated by parish councils in Uttlesford so it is a critical issue that the District Council provides strong leadership to the Town and Parish Councils as an outcome of the strategy. This could involve asking PCs to set aside or propose future recreational land as part of the LDF process especially if Saffron Walden and Dunmow are set to grow.</p>
<p>Details of any current or planned future football facilities projects in the district, which should be reflected in the strategy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish council pitches: A general improvement is needed to the quality of pitches at parish Council sites. • Synthetic turf pitches: There is no 'Third Generation' (3G) pitch in Uttlesford. A priority for the Essex FA is a 3G in each LA, although in Uttlesford, a network of small 3G pitches for training might be a more appropriate option probably starting with Saffron Walden and Dunmow. 40mx25m would be the ideal size but we would not probably invest any of our limited monies in these at this current time. • Herbert's Farm: The Essex FA has one priority at the moment at Herbert's Farm in Saffron Walden which is an extension and refurbishment of the pavilion on site.

2.25 *Badminton:* The response from the Badminton England can be summarised as follows:

Issue	Response
Relevant strategies or policies relating to netball in the East, Essex and Uttlesford in particular.	We have no specific facility strategies for Essex/ Uttlesford District Council area.
Any issues or priorities of particular importance to facilities provision for Badminton in Uttlesford.	There is relatively little Badminton activity in the district.
Details of any current or planned future netball facilities projects in the district, which should be reflected in the strategy.	No current projects.

Pitch sports clubs survey

2.26 An e-mail questionnaire survey was conducted amongst a sample of 45 pitch sports clubs (football, cricket and rugby) in Uttlesford whose contact details were provided by the governing bodies of the sports. 15 completed returns were received, a 33.3% response rate. The material covered by the survey was as follows:

- Profiles in terms of membership numbers, trends and development aspirations.
- Opinions on the facilities used, including quality, convenience and availability.

2.27 *Club profile:* The profile of responding clubs is as follows:

- Overall membership size:* This is as follows:

Number of members	Number	Percentage
1 - 50	7	46.7%
51 - 100	4	26.7%
More than 100	4	26.7%

- Membership composition:* The percentage members of all responding sports clubs in different membership categories are listed below:

	Males	Females
Under 16's	52.9%	4.4%
Aged 16 and above	40.7%	2.0%
TOTAL	93.6%	6.4%

- Development plan:* 7 (46.7%) clubs currently have a written development plan and 8 (53.3%) do not.
- Problem issues:* Clubs reported the following current problem issues:

Problem	Number	Percentage
Lack of external funding (grants etc.)	12	80.0%
Shortage of volunteer help	11	73.3%
Lack of appropriate local facilities	8	53.3%
Lack of internal funding (subs etc.)	5	33.3%
Access difficulties for members (e.g. lack of public transport)	4	26.7%
Lack of information about local facilities/services	3	20.0%
Limited links/co-operation with other local clubs	2	13.3%
Membership recruitment/retention	1	6.7%
None	0	0.0%

e) *Future plans:* Clubs reported the following future plans:

Plans	Number	Percentage
Expand the range of facilities provided	12	80.0%
Increase the number of members	9	60.0%
Refurbish existing facilities	6	40.0%
Relocation to different premises	3	20.0%
None	0	0.0%

2.28 *Facility use:* The use of local facilities by clubs is summarised below:

- a) *Convenience of location:* 12 clubs (80.0%) say the facilities they use are at their preferred location and 3(20.0%) that they are not.
- b) *Availability of facilities:* 13 (86.7%) clubs say that the facilities they use are always available when needed, 2 (13.3%) that they are mostly available when needed and none (0.0%) that they are sometimes available when needed.
- c) *Quality of facilities:* Views on the quality of facilities are as below:

Element	Good Quality	Acceptable Quality	Poor Quality
Firmness of surface	26.7%	26.7%	46.7%
Grip underfoot	26.7%	26.7%	46.7%
Bounce of ball on pitch	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%
Flatness of pitch	20.0%	26.7%	53.3%
Length of grass	26.7%	46.7%	26.7%
Grass cover	26.7%	26.6%	46.7%
Posts and sockets	53.3%	46.7%	0.0%
Line markings	46.7%	33.3%	20.0%
Free from litter, dog fouling etc.	26.7%	53.3%	20.0%
Changing facilities	33.3%	66.7%	0.0%
Showers - clean, hot, plenty of water	66.7%	33.3%	0.0%
Parking	53.3%	0.0%	46.7%
Value for money	46.7%	26.7%	26.7%
Overall quality of pitch	26.7%	26.7%	26.7%

- d) *Problems of non-availability:* The problems caused by non-availability to those 12 clubs with limited access are as follows:

Problem	Percentage
Unable to train as frequently as needed	26.7%
Have to play home fixtures elsewhere	20.0%
Unable to increase club membership	20.0%

Schools survey

2.29 An e-mail questionnaire survey was conducted amongst a sample of 25 primary and secondary schools in Uttlesford. 10 completed returns were received, from four secondary and six primary schools, a 40.0% response rate. The material covered by the survey was as follows:

- a) Details of current provision and aspirations for future improvements.
- b) The basis and amount of community use.
- c) The condition of facilities.
- d) Attitudes to new or enhanced community use in the future.

2.30 *Existing provision and community use:* The table below summarises the sports facilities that are currently provided by the schools that responded and those where there is currently external community use.

Facility type	Currently provide	Available for Community use
Sports hall	2	2
Indoor swimming pool	0	0
Other indoor hall or gymnasium	6	4
Dance studio	0	0
Synthetic turf pitch	1	1
Multi-use games area	0	0
Squash court(s)	0	0
Tennis courts	0	0
Adult football pitches	3	3
Junior football pitches	5	4
Mini-soccer pitches	0	0
Cricket pitches	3	0
Rugby pitches	2	1

2.31 *The basis of current community use:* The basis of community use is as follows:

Basis of use	Number
Lettings only (e.g. 'block bookings' by clubs)	6
Managed use (e.g. 'pay and play' by individuals)	3

2.32 *Future community use:* Attitudes to additional community use of school facilities in the future were as follows:

- a) *Additional use:* 70% of respondents indicated that they would consider additional community use in the future and 30.0% that they would not.
- b) *Daytime community use:* None of the schools indicated that they would consider accommodating daytime community use in the future.
- c) *Factors inhibiting external use:* The following factors were stipulated:

Factor	%
Access to the school and its grounds is problematic at evenings/weekends	30%
The additional wear and tear on the facilities might compromise school use	30%
The costs of accommodating external users would be higher than the income	30%

- d) *Attitudes to future community use:* 33.3% of respondents indicated that if the above problems could be overcome, they would be prepared to allow their facilities to be used by the community in the future.

Leisure centre users' survey

2.33 *Introduction:* A self-completion questionnaire was administered to a random sample of 75 users of the Lord Butler Leisure Centre, 63 users of the Dunmow Leisure Centre and 50 users of the Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre.

2.34 The survey covered usage patterns, perceptions of the adequacy of provision and desired improvements.

2.35 *Frequency of use:* This was recorded as follows:

Frequency	Lord Butler		Dunmow		Mountfitchet	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Every day	18	24.0	4	6.3	7	14.0
Less than daily but more than weekly	37	49.3	49	77.8	26	52.0
Weekly	16	21.3	8	12.7	14	28.0
Fortnightly	2	2.7	1	1.6	2	4.0

Monthly	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Less than monthly	2	2.7	1	1.6	1	2.0

2.36 *Travel time:* This was recorded as follows:

<i>Time</i>	<i>Lord Butler</i>		<i>Dunmow</i>		<i>Mountfitchet</i>	
	No.	%	No.	No.	%	No.
Less than 5 minutes	22	29.3	29	46.1	19	38.0
5 - 10 minutes	29	38.7	20	31.7	15	30.0
11 - 15 minutes	13	17.3	7	11.1	8	16.0
16 - 20 minutes	7	9.3	5	7.9	5	10.0
More than 20 minutes	4	5.3	2	3.2	3	6.0

2.37 *Travel mode:* This was recorded as follows:

<i>Mode of transport</i>	<i>Lord Butler</i>		<i>Dunmow</i>		<i>Mountfitchet</i>	
	No.	%	No.	No.	%	No.
Car	62	82.7	59	93.6	39	78.0
Team coach/minibus	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Public bus	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Train	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Bicycle	2	2.7	1	1.6	1	2.0
Walk	11	14.7	3	4.8	10	20.0

2.38 *Views on the number of local facilities:* Of those who expressed an opinion, the collective responses were as follows:

<i>Facility type</i>	<i>Too many</i>		<i>About right</i>		<i>Too few</i>	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Sports halls	1	0.7	101	66.0	51	33.3
Swimming pools	0	0.0	90	53.3	79	46.7
Health and fitness	4	2.6	114	73.5	37	23.9
Synthetic turf pitches	0	0.0	36	40.9	52	59.1
Tennis courts	1	0.9	66	52.4	59	46.8
Bowls greens	0	0.0	69	79.3	18	20.7
Squash courts	0	0.0	74	64.9	40	35.1
Golf courses	8	7.1	63	56.3	41	36.6
Grass pitches	0	0.0	73	65.2	39	34.8
Village/community halls	1	0.7	110	79.7	37	26.8

The implications for open space, sport and recreation provision

2.39 The analysis of local need and demand for sport and recreation provision in Uttlesford has highlighted a number of key issues that will be strongly reflected in this study.

- The 2006 Audit revealed that over 50% of respondents considered the level of green space provision within the district to be about right, with a further 22% considering the level to be 'plenty'.
- The Citizen's Panel survey revealed that a significant proportion of the respondents feel that the amount of provision of different types of open space within the District is about right. For Parks and gardens, Natural areas and Amenity green space the majority of respondents considered the quality of the provision to be good. For Children's play areas, Allotments and Outdoor sports facilities the quality was generally considered to be average.
- The Citizen's Panel survey also revealed that a significant proportion of the respondents feel that there are too few of several types of sports facility locally, in particular swimming pools, indoor and outdoor tennis courts, synthetic turf pitches and grass pitches.

- d) The Council's 2010 survey of local sports clubs revealed high levels of satisfaction with local sports facilities, with 71.4% of respondents saying that their needs are fully met. Conversely, 50% of respondents believe that there are too few synthetic turf pitches locally.
- e) Most of the governing bodies of sport have no policies or strategic priorities relating to facility provision in the Uttlesford area, although swimming and football have identified some deficiencies.
- f) Respondents to the pitch sports clubs survey were generally critical of the quality of pitch provision in Uttlesford.
- g) Schools are already major providers of sports facilities with community use in Uttlesford and several who do not currently offer external access to their facilities would consider doing so in the future.
- h) The leisure centre users survey showed patterns of very regular use (weekly or more frequently) by facility users. As with some other local surveys, local levels of provision for swimming and tennis courts were judged to be insufficient.

Consultation

- 2.40 Following production of a draft version of this report, copies were circulated to Uttlesford District Council, Sport England and the governing bodies of sport that responded to the original consultation stage to verify the accuracy of the document and obtain feedback. Appendix 4 was also circulated to all Parish and Town Councils by Uttlesford District Council for comment on the sites included and the comments made. Where appropriate all comments were incorporated into the final report.

3 Green Space Audit and Strategy

Methodology

- 3.1 PPG17 sets out a five stage methodology to enable a consistent approach to the preparation of open space appraisals. The five stages are:
- Identifying local needs
 - Auditing local provision
 - Setting provision standards
 - Applying provision standards
 - Developing draft policies
- 3.2 The previous section of the report looked at identifying local need, both in terms of previous studies undertaken and new surveys and consultation undertaken specifically for this strategy. The remainder of this section relates to the following types of open space as identified in PPG17:
- Parks and Gardens
 - Natural and semi-natural green space
 - Green corridors
 - Amenity green space
 - Provision for children and young people
 - Allotments
 - Cemeteries and churchyards
 - Civic spaces
- 3.3 Playing pitches and sports facilities are covered by separate methodologies within the following sections of this strategy. Civic spaces are not covered within this strategy as none over the 0.2ha size threshold were identified within the District. Green corridors have been combined with natural and semi-natural green space due to the small number of green corridors identified and the overlap between the two types of open space.

Study Area

- 3.4 Uttlesford District consists of 57 parishes. Of these 15 parishes were covered by the 2006 Audit. The parishes are not grouped in any particular way for planning purposes and no specific catchment areas have been identified for the main towns and villages. In planning terms Great Dunmow and Saffron Walden are identified as Market Towns and Elsenham, Great Chesterford, Newport, Stansted Mountfitchet, Takeley and Thaxted as main villages. The parishes associated with these settlements have therefore been used to analyse existing provision for some typologies.

Site Audit

- 3.5 To establish Uttlesford District's baseline position with regard to open space, a comprehensive site audit was undertaken. The 2006 Audit identified open spaces within 15 parishes and a further update was undertaken in April 2010 to which nine parishes responded and either verified or amended the locations of open spaces. The 2006 Audit did not consider green corridors, civic spaces or cemeteries and churchyards.
- 3.6 In order to extend the baseline data to cover all parishes a letter and base map was sent to the Parish/Town Clerk for each Parish/Town Council within Uttlesford in June 2011. The letter requested that the Parish/Town Council should check the open spaces already identified in the 15 parishes previously audited. In the remaining Parishes the Clerk was requested to identify open spaces within each of the open space typologies.

- 3.7 Following receipt of responses from the Parish Councils, individual sites were plotted in GIS and questionnaires were prepared for each site over 0.2ha identified and all children's play areas (see Appendix 1 for main questionnaire and Appendix 2 for allotments questionnaire). These were issued to the Parish Councils for them to complete.
- 3.8 Where Parish Councils had not responded to the initial letter sites were identified and questionnaires completed on site by The Landscape Partnership. Where sites were identified by Parish Councils but no questionnaires were returned/completed the overall quality of the sites has been entered as unknown. The following summarises the responses received from Parish/Town Councils:

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Response to request for sites</i>	<i>Response to questionnaires</i>
Arkesden	Audited by TLP	Audited by TLP
Ashdon	Full response received	Full response received
Aythorpe Roding	Audited by TLP	Audited by TLP
Barnston	Audited by TLP	Audited by TLP
Berden	Full response received	Full response received
Birchanger	Full response received	Questionnaires not issued due to late response – quality of sites unknown
Broxted	Full response received	Full response received
Chickney	Full response received	Full response received
Chrishall	Audited by TLP	Audited by TLP with revisions by Parish Council
Clavering	Full response received	Full response received
Debden	Full response received	Partial response received– quality of some sites unknown
Elmdon and Wenden Lofts	Full response received	N/a
Elsenham	Full response received	Questionnaires not issued due to late response – quality of sites unknown
Farnham	Audited by TLP	Audited by TLP
Felsted	Audited by TLP	Audited by TLP
Flitch Green	Audited by TLP	Audited by TLP
Great Canfield	Full response received	Full response received
Great Chesterford	Full response received	Response not received– quality of sites unknown
Great Dunmow	Full response received	Full response received
Great Easton and Tilty	Full response received	Full response received
Great Hallingbury	Full response received	Questionnaires not issued due to late response – quality of sites unknown
Hadstock	Full response received	Response not received– quality of sites unknown
Hatfield Broad Oak	Full response received	Full response received
Hatfield Heath	Audited by TLP	Audited by TLP
Hempstead	Full response received	Full response received
Henham	Full response received	Full response received
High Easter	Full response received	Questionnaires not issued due to late response – quality of sites unknown
High Roding	Full response received	Full response received
Langley	Full response received	Partial response received– quality of some sites unknown

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Response to request for sites</i>	<i>Response to questionnaires</i>
Leaden Roding	Audited by TLP	Audited by TLP
Lindsell	Full response received	Full response received
Littlebury	Full response received	Questionnaires not issued due to late response – quality of sites unknown
Little Bardfield	Full response received	N/a
Little Canfield	Audited by TLP	Audited by TLP with revisions by Parish Council
Little Chesterford	Audited by TLP	Audited by TLP
Little Dunmow	Full response received	N/a
Little Easton	Full response received	Full response received
Little Hallingbury	Full response received	Questionnaires not issued due to late response – quality of sites unknown
Manuden	Full response received	Full response received
Margaret Roding	Full response received	N/a
Newport	Full response received	Full response received
Quendon and Rickling	Audited by TLP	Audited by TLP
Radwinter	Full response received	Response not received– quality of sites unknown
Saffron Walden	Full response received	Partial response received– quality of some sites unknown
The Sampfords	Full response received	Response not received– quality of sites unknown
Sewards End	Full response received	Questionnaires not issued due to late response – quality of sites unknown
Stansted	Full response received	Full response received
Stebbing	Full response received	Full response received
Strethall	Audited by TLP	Audited by TLP
Takeley	Audited by TLP	Audited by TLP
Thaxted	Full response received	Response not received– quality of sites unknown
Ugley	Full response received	Full response received
Wendens Ambo	Full response received	Full response received
White Roding	Audited by TLP	Audited by TLP
Wicken Bonhunt	Audited by TLP	Audited by TLP
Widdington	Full response received	Full response received
Wimbish	Full response received	Questionnaires not issued due to late response – quality of sites unknown

- 3.9 The questionnaires were based on a simplified version of the questionnaires used for the 2006 Audit. They identified any designations relating to the site, the primary and secondary use of the site and considered a range of factors, including Welcome, Entrances/Boundaries, Access into/within site, Safety, Seats and bins, Cleanliness, Facilities, Buildings, Nature conservation, Vegetation, Trees and Water features.

Setting Standards

- 3.10 The 'Companion Guide to PPG 17: Assessing needs and Opportunities' identifies five key attributes of open spaces, sport and recreation facilities, these being:
- Accessibility
 - Quality
 - Multi-functionality
 - Primary purpose and
 - Quantity
- 3.11 The PPG 17 Companion Guide identifies the following:
- **Accessibility** normally comes first in importance for the simple reason that if a particular open space or facility is inaccessible it will be irrelevant to those who may want to use it. At the same time, however, inaccessible open spaces can nonetheless contribute to the appearance, environmental quality and amenity of an area and contribute to biodiversity.
 - **Quality** depends on two things: the needs and expectations of users, on the one hand, and design, management and maintenance on the other – in other words fitness for purpose. In this context 'users' means people of all ages, all social or ethnic groups and abilities or disabilities, and also wildlife. Ensuring that something is fit for purpose requires clarity as to what that purpose is.
 - Many open spaces, however, are in practice **Multi-functional**. Most grass pitches, for example, are probably used for purposes such as children's play, kite flying, exercising dogs (in spite of the potential problem of fouling) or jogging as well as sport. This can create problems when analyzing an audit of provision and determining whether local needs are satisfied.
 - **'Primary purpose'** so that each open space, or sport and recreation facility, is counted only once in an audit of provision. 'Primary' infers that there is at least one secondary purpose; this both reflects the multi-functional nature of many open spaces and brings clarity and consistency to planning, design and management policies. It therefore helps to promote fitness for purpose.
 - **Quantity** is the final key attribute. It is usually measured in terms of the amount of provision (for example, area, the number of pitches or allotments or pieces of play equipment). However, this can be over-simplistic for pitches and some other outdoor sports facilities. For example, a pitch can accommodate only one match starting at 1400 hours on a Saturday afternoon. However, the capacity, or maximum number of matches per week, of any given pitch varies with its specification. This means that it is sometimes possible to address an identified quantitative deficiency in provision by improving the specification, or quality, of existing facilities.
- 3.12 Standards have been identified locally for accessibility, quality and quantity through identifying deficits in these attributes via analysis of the site audits and comparing them to both existing standards, and those of comparator authorities.
- 3.13 Standards have been identified across the District authority for each typology of open space where appropriate.

Comparator authorities

- 3.14 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) provides a Nearest Neighbours Model, to enable local authorities to undertake comparative and benchmarking exercises, by identifying the councils that are most closely related in terms of their demography and economic profile.

- 3.15 In terms of comparing open space provision with the most comparable local authorities, an exercise was undertaken to identify Uttlesford's 'Nearest Neighbours', and establish which of these authorities have undertaken similar open space studies, to provide benchmarking data.
- 3.16 The results of the exercise identified Mid-Sussex, Cotswold, South Oxfordshire, East Hampshire, Winchester, Test Valley, West Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse, Harborough, Sevenoaks, Horsham, Stratford-on-Avon, Hambleton, Maldon and South Cambridgeshire, as the most compatible authorities with an Open spaces/PPG17 assessment/Green spaces strategy. Where the 'nearest neighbour' authorities had not set greenspace standards for a particular typology, we also consulted near spatial neighbours with Open Spaces Strategies, such as North Hertfordshire, East Hertfordshire, Braintree, Chelmsford and South Cambridgeshire to see what standard they had set. A summary of the standards set is provided in Appendix 3.

Role of comparator authorities in standard setting

- 3.17 Whilst the primary method of establishing local standards has been through use of the audit and the community consultation, the comparator standards allow proposed local standards to be compared with local authorities with similar economic, social and demographic profile as a further bench-mark exercise, helping to test the validity of the choice of standard.

Limitations and Assumptions

- 3.18 Whilst every effort has been made to identify open spaces, through initial contact with Parish and Town Councils, review of aerial photography, site visits, input from Uttlesford District Council and circulating a summary of the provision by Parish (Appendix 4) to Parish and Town Councils, it may still be possible that some open spaces have not been identified.
- 3.19 Where questionnaires have been returned by Parish and Town Councils in relation to the quality of open spaces there may be some variation in the level of scoring between different Parishes.
- 3.20 It was not possible to assess the quality of all open spaces, given that survey forms identifying open spaces were returned late or not at all by some Parish and Town Councils.

Parks and Gardens



Jubilee Gardens, Saffron Walden

- 3.21 Parks and gardens are generally areas of land normally enclosed, designed, managed and maintained spaces, usually but not exclusively for public use, and including urban parks, country parks and formal gardens⁵. Their primary purpose is identified in the Companion Guide to PPG17 as 'accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events'. The Companion Guide also indicates that very few new urban parks or gardens were created in the UK in the second half of the twentieth century, other than in the new towns, but that parks can be a good use for some contaminated brownfield sites unsuitable for other forms of development.
- 3.22 In addition to having ecological value, parks and gardens have wider benefits such as providing a sense of place or setting for a wider area and the provision of educational opportunities. These traditional sorts of parks often provide for quiet enjoyment, dog-walking, if appropriate, meeting friends, and children's play, as well as providing for more active recreation. They are also critical in providing a green lung within the built environment, providing a valuable green infrastructure function in terms of pollution control, micro-climate mitigation, a setting for residential development as well as a visual amenity for both users and those who just pass by or overlook them.
- 3.23 Parks and gardens are often identified largely as urban greenspace types, but can fulfil a primary function in some rural areas. This includes historic Parks and Gardens that originated as the grounds of private houses within historic rural estates. Such parks, some of which are on the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens⁶, may not have open access to the public, or may be substantially controlled by a private landowner. The latter is the case with Audley End in Uttlesford.

Result of audit

- 3.24 There are relatively few parks and gardens within Uttlesford. The 2006 Green Space Audit identified three parks or gardens over 0.15 hectares in size, all within Saffron Walden. These were Bridge End Gardens, Jubilee Gardens and The Common. These sites were categorised as parks and gardens due to their role as visitor attractions and the way they are used.

⁵ Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for open space, sport and recreation

⁶ English Heritage; The Register of Historic Parks and Gardens

- 3.25 Following the current audit, these three parks and gardens remain the only open spaces of this category identified within the District over the revised threshold of 0.2 hectares. All three parks and gardens are owned by the Town Council and access is free of charge. Opening times restrict access to Jubilee Gardens and Bridge End Gardens, but access is unrestricted to The Common.
- 3.26 The overall quality of the parks and gardens, both in the 2006 audit and the current audit, is as follows:

<i>Site Name</i>	<i>Overall quality 2006</i>	<i>Overall quality 2011</i>
Bridge End Gardens	Excellent	Good
Jubilee Gardens	Good	Good
The Common	Good	Good

- 3.27 All of the sites are protected by designations. Bridge End Gardens is a Registered Historic Park or Garden, Jubilee Gardens is a Protected Open Space of Environmental Value and The Common is Protected Open Space for Informal Recreation.
- 3.28 The 2006 audit identified that Bridge End Gardens had undergone a lot of work and was a big visitor attraction in the town. The 2011 audit indicates that although the site is described as a 'lovely feature' there are issues with cleanliness, particularly dog fouling, and car parking is considered to be poor.
- 3.29 The 2006 audit indicated that entrances to Jubilee Gardens were in need of improvement and there were issues with litter. The 2011 audit indicates that entrances are considered to be in good condition and locations. Litter was not highlighted as a significant problem in the updated audit, but the variety and quality of vegetation within the park is considered very poor and the wildlife value and car parking poor.
- 3.30 In relation to The Common, the 2006 audit highlighted litter problems and graffiti as well as low nature conservation value. The 2011 update indicates that the variety and quality of vegetation is considered to be very poor within the park and litter, sports facilities and wildlife value are poor.

Parks and Gardens Standards

Role of Green Flag award in standard setting

- 3.31 The Green Flag Award is the national standard for quality parks and green spaces in England and Wales. The award scheme began over ten years ago as a way of recognising the best green spaces in the country. It was also seen as a way to create a benchmark of excellence within recreational areas.
- 3.32 The key criteria against which the awards are given are:

A welcoming place – such as good and safe access, good signage, and equal access for all members of the community.

Healthy, Safe and Secure – particularly important are that equipment and facilities must be safe to use, the park or greenspace must be secure for all members of the community, dog fouling must be addressed, health and safety policies should be in place and toilets, drinking water etc should be available or close by.

Clean and well-maintained – Litter and other waste management issues must be addressed, grounds, buildings and features must be well maintained and a policy on litter, vandalism etc must be in place.

Sustainability – An environmental policy or charter should be in place, pesticide use should be minimised, horticultural peat use should be eliminated, waster [plant materials should be recycled, high horticultural and arboricultural standards should be used, energy conservation measures etc. should be used.

Conservation and heritage – including natural features, wildlife and fauna, landscape features, buildings and structural features.

Community Involvement – knowledge of user community, evidence of community involvement, and recreational facilities for all sectors of the community.

Marketing – marketing strategy in place, good provision of information to users, promotion of the park.

Management – a management plan should be in place.

3.33 Some Local Authorities use the Green Flag as the quality standard for their parks and other greenspaces. It is not known how achievable this is as a proposal, however, and it is therefore thought preferable for Uttlesford to use it as a standard to aspire to, and to set a target within the action plan to achieve the Green Flag standard for key greenspaces over time.

3.34 Greenspace managers can also aspire to ‘Green Heritage site’ status or a ‘Green Pennant’ award for their sites which recognise heritage value and community or voluntary group management.

Quantity

<i>Existing level of provision</i>	<i>Recommended standard</i>
<p>0.12 ha/1000 population</p> <p>or</p> <p>0.4 ha/1000 population in Market Towns</p> <p>(8.86ha total)</p>	<p>Proposed standard: Not set</p>
Justification	
<p>The current level of provision is equivalent to 0.12 ha/1000 population across the District as a whole. However, the current provision is entirely contained within Saffron Walden. If the provision is taken to apply to solely the Market Towns this equates to 0.4 ha/1000 population in these settlements.</p> <p>A proposed standard has not been set due to the very small number of sites within this typology in Uttlesford District. A standard was not set in the 2006 audit either. New parks and gardens are unlikely to be created other than in large new developments, so it will be difficult to increase provision across the District. Standards have been adopted by some of the comparator authorities that were studied, but not all of them. Standards that have been set include;</p> <p>East Hertfordshire 0.53 ha/1000 population Chelmsford Borough 2.0 ha/1000 population in Chelmsford Braintree District 1.2 ha/1000 population in urban areas South Oxfordshire 3.5 ha/1000 population in 4 main towns or 1.0 ha/1000 population in larger settlements Harborough District 0.5 ha/1000 population</p> <p>A large number of the comparator authorities had not, however, set a standard for parks and gardens or had combined it with other types of open space such as amenity greenspace.</p>	

Accessibility

<i>Existing level of provision</i>	<i>Recommended standard</i>
Not defined	Proposed standard: Not set
Justification	
<p>The current provision is entirely within Saffron Walden. A proposed standard has not been set due to the very small number of sites within this typology in Uttlesford District. A standard was not set in the 2006 audit either. New parks and gardens are unlikely to be created other than in large new developments, so it will be difficult to increase provision across the District. Standards have been adopted by some of the comparator authorities that were studied, but not all of them. Standards that have been set include;</p> <p>East Hertfordshire 10 minute walk from residential areas (0.8km) Chelmsford Borough 10 minute drive time (4km) Braintree District 12.5 minute walk (1km) South Oxfordshire 15 minute walk (1km) Harborough District 10 minute drive time (4km)</p>	

Quality

<i>Existing level of provision</i>	<i>Recommended standard</i>
N/A	<p>Proposed standard: Essential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites should be clean and litter-free • All parks should provide a range of horticultural or natural features appropriate to their size and character. • All parks should have appropriate signage particular to that place • All greenspace features and facilities should be well-maintained, including play equipment, footpaths, site furniture and soft landscaping <p>Proposed standard: Desirable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uttlesford District Council should work towards achieving 1 No. Park or Garden of Green Flag standard in the next three years. • All Parks and Gardens should work towards achieving the qualities described within the Green Flag standard in the longer term. • Sites should be managed to give natural surveillance to minimise fear of crime. • All parks should have a range of facilities, including those for young and older people, appropriate to their size and character. • Access to parks and gardens should be part of an integrated network of footpaths and cycleways, should be of high quality design and use materials appropriate to the setting.
Justification	
<p>The current audit shows that the three existing Parks and Gardens are of good quality, with Bridge End Gardens having been rated as Excellent in 2006. All sites are considered visually attractive, with many providing amenity value, but only The Common offers children’s play and only Bridge End Gardens is considered to have biodiversity value and a good variety of vegetation. There are some problems with litter and dog-fouling.</p> <p>The proposed standard responds to the results of the audit by incorporating essential standards around items currently identified as issues. A standard was not set in the 2006 audit. The standard seeks to promote higher standards over time by seeking to use the qualities in the</p>	

'Green Flag' award as a desirable target, encouraging Uttlesford to achieve one Green Flag in the next three years.

The use of quality standards by comparator authority is variable. South Oxfordshire set a standard of all parks and gardens qualifying for the 'Green Flag' award. This was not thought to be deliverable over the lifetime of the strategy for Uttlesford, hence a focus on delivering the qualities of 'Green Flag' standards without having to achieve 'Green Flag' status. This approach has been followed by other Authorities such as East Hertfordshire and Sevenoaks.

Deficiencies

- 3.35 Bridge End Gardens – poor onsite car parking facilities reported by Town Council and issues with dog fouling, litter and fly tipping
- 3.36 Jubilee Gardens – poor onsite car parking facilities reported by Town Council and little variety in vegetation/wildlife value
- 3.37 The Common – poor onsite car parking facilities reported by Town Council and issues with dog fouling, litter and fly tipping

Draft Recommendations

Parks and Gardens

Policy recommendations

RPG1 Seek opportunities to create new parks and gardens where they arise, to increase provision throughout the District

Other recommendations

RPG2 Seek enhancements in cleanliness and accessibility to all sites

RPG3 Seek to attain 'Green Flag' award standards across all parks and gardens in the long term

Amenity Greenspace



Holloway Crescent, Leaden Roding

- 3.38 PPG17 identifies amenity greenspace as being 'most commonly, but not exclusively in housing areas – including informal recreation spaces, greenspaces in and around housing, domestic gardens and village greens'⁷.
- 3.39 These sorts of greenspace tend to consist largely of mown grass which can be of a scale to provide an informal kickabout area, perhaps with some boundary tree-planting or sometimes incorporating play facilities. They do not generally include formal flower or shrub beds or specific seating areas other than occasional benches. Nor do they tend to incorporate areas of high nature conservation value.

Result of audit

- 3.40 Altogether 87 different amenity greenspaces were identified within Uttlesford District that were over the size threshold of 0.2 hectares. A large number of further amenity greenspaces were also identified but were smaller than this threshold. Further auditing of these smaller spaces has not been undertaken.
- 3.41 The single largest green space in this typology is Woodside Green in Great Hallingbury, at 26.37ha which is a large area of common land. With the exception of some of the larger recreation grounds and areas of common land most sites are less than 1ha in size. The character of the Amenity Greenspaces varies greatly but with most consisting of mown grass, a few trees or shrubs, or occasional children's play facilities.
- 3.42 The large majority of Amenity Greenspaces in Uttlesford, by their nature, are in public ownership and therefore allow general public access. This includes 39% of the audited spaces being owned by Parish Councils and a further 12% by Uttlesford District Council. However, areas of amenity greenspace within new housing developments, such as Priors Green in Takeley/Little Canfield and Takeley Park appear to be exceptions to this as they are currently owned by the housing developers prior to being handed over to other bodies.

⁷ Planning Policy 17: Planning for open space, sport and recreation

3.43 The overall quality of the Amenity Greenspaces, both in the 2006 audit and the current audit, is as follows:

Site Name	Overall quality 2006	Overall quality 2011
Clatterbury Lane, Clavering (x3)	Good	Excellent
Crow Street, Henham	Good	Excellent
Site opposite Woodend Green, Henham	Moderate	Excellent
Brocks Mead, Great Easton	Not surveyed	Excellent
Church Field and All Saints Close play area, Ashdon	Not surveyed	Excellent
Roger's End Village Green, Ashdon	Not surveyed	Excellent
Vernons Close, Henham	Not surveyed	Excellent
Woodend Green, Henham	Good (Reclassified from children's play)	Excellent
Clavering Road, Berden	Not surveyed	Excellent
High Street, Clavering	Moderate	Good to excellent
Woodlands Walk, Great Dunmow	Excellent	Good
Chapel Hill War memorial, Stansted Mountfitchet	Good	Good
Chestnut Drive, Hatfield Heath	Good	Good
Greenways play area, Saffron Walden	Good	Good
Hunter Meet/ Chelmsford Road, Hatfield Heath	Good	Good
Mill Hill picnic area, Stansted Mountfitchet	Good	Good
The Shaw and Chelmsford Road, Hatfield Heath	Good	Good
The Downs, Great Dunmow (x2)	Moderate to good (Part reclassified from children's play)	Good
Land fronting Lower Mill Field, Great Dunmow	Moderate	Good
Land next to Holy Trinity Church, Hatfield Heath	Moderate	Good
Lime Tree Hill, Great Dunmow	Moderate	Good
Stane Street, Great Dunmow	Moderate	Good
Bentfield Gardens, Cambridge Road, Stansted Mountfitchet	Not surveyed	Good
Church Road, Stansted Mountfitchet	Not surveyed	Good
Dunmow Road/Drury Lane, Aythorpe Roding	Not surveyed	Good
Hampit Road and nr church Arkesden	Not surveyed	Good
Holloway Crescent, Leaden Roding	Not surveyed	Good
Land around Silver Jubilee Hall, Takeley	Not surveyed	Good
Land off The Shaw, Hatfield Heath	Not surveyed	Good
Monk's Hill, Saffron Walden	Not surveyed	Good
St Martin's Close, White Roding	Not surveyed	Good
Talberds Ley, Great Dunmow	Not surveyed	Good
The Glebe, Hempstead	Not surveyed	Good
Ugley Green	Not surveyed	Good
Dunmow Road/ Warwick Road, Priors Green, Little Canfield	Not surveyed	Good
Rickling Green Road, Quendon and Rickling	Not surveyed	Good
Brixton Lane, Quendon and Rickling	Not surveyed	Good
B1383 verge, Quendon and Rickling	Not surveyed	Good
Station Road/ Hillside Road – perimeter open space with lake, Flitch Green	Not surveyed	Good
Great Easton Playing Field, Great Easton	Not surveyed	Good
Broadfield Playing Field, High Roding	Not surveyed	Good
Village Green, High Street, Hatfield Broad Oak	Not surveyed	Good
Clarendon Road, Priors Green, Little Canfield	Not surveyed	Moderate to good

Site Name	Overall quality 2006	Overall quality 2011
Takeley Park, Takeley (x2)	Moderate to good	Moderate
Harvest Fields, Takeley	Not surveyed	Moderate
Newton Green, Great Dunmow	Moderate (Reclassified from children's play)	Moderate
Open green space with pavilion, Hatfield Heath	Not surveyed	Moderate
Broomfields, Hatfield Heath	Moderate (Reclassified from children's play)	Moderate
Off Rectory Road, Farnham	Not surveyed	Moderate
Recreation ground, Arkesden	Not surveyed	Moderate
The Wick, Wendens Ambo	Not surveyed	Moderate
Village Hall, Stortford Road, Leaden Roding	Not surveyed	Moderate
Within Priors Fields new housing development, Takeley	Not surveyed	Moderate
Station Road – perimeter open space, Flitch Green	Not surveyed	Moderate
Off Baynard Avenue – perimeter open space, Flitch Green	Not surveyed	Moderate
Braintree Road, Felsted	Not surveyed	Moderate
Evelyn Road, Willows Green, Felsted	Not surveyed	Moderate
Lukins Mead/Nursery Rise, Great Dunmow	Moderate (Reclassified from children's play)	Poor
Village Green, Burnsite Road, Felsted	Good	Poor
Land Off Raven's Crescent, Felsted	Not surveyed	Poor
Beeches Close, Saffron Walden	Good	Unknown
Land behind Little Hallingbury Village Hall	Good	Unknown
St Marys View, Saffron Walden	Good	Unknown
Elizabeth Way, Saffron Walden (x2)	Moderate to good	Unknown
A1060 verge, Little Hallingbury	Moderate	Unknown
Museum grounds and castle ruin, Museum Street, Saffron Walden	Moderate	Unknown
Stansted Road, Elsenham	Moderate	Unknown – originally identified by Parish Council as outdoor sports provision
Birchanger Recreation Ground	Not surveyed	Unknown
Magdalen Green, Thaxted	Moderate (Reclassified from children's play)	Unknown
Motts Green, Little Hallingbury	Not surveyed	Unknown
Radwinter Road, Swards End	Not surveyed	Unknown
Weaverhead Close, Thaxted	Moderate (Reclassified from children's play)	Unknown
Woodside Green Common Land, Great Hallingbury	Not surveyed	Unknown
Wrights Green, Little Hallingbury	Not surveyed	Unknown
Woodside Green Common Land, Great Hallingbury	Not surveyed	Unknown
Village Hall field, Great Hallingbury	Not surveyed	Unknown
Little Dunmow Recreation Ground	Not surveyed	Unknown – originally identified by Parish Council as outdoor sports provision
Rectory Lane Playing Field, Ashdon	Not surveyed	Unknown – originally identified by Parish Council as outdoor sports provision

Site Name	Overall quality 2006	Overall quality 2011
Church End Playing Field, Ashdon	Not surveyed	Unknown – originally identified by Parish Council as outdoor sports provision
Football pitch off Bonneting Lane, Berden	Not surveyed	Unknown – originally identified by Parish Council as outdoor sports provision
Hadstock Recreation Ground	Not surveyed	Unknown – originally identified by Parish Council as outdoor sports provision
Anglo American Playing Fields, Saffron Walden	Not surveyed (reclassified from sport)	Unknown – originally identified by Parish Council as outdoor sports provision
Open space around Leisure Centre, Saffron Walden	Moderate (reclassified from children's play)	Unknown – originally identified by Parish Council as outdoor sports provision
Great Sampford Recreation Ground	Not surveyed	Unknown – originally identified by Parish Council as outdoor sports provision

- 3.44 The audit shows that of the sites where results were recorded most Amenity Greenspaces are of moderate quality or above. Only three sites (3% of those audited) have been classified as Poor overall quality. These are Lukins Mead/Nursery Rise, Great Dunmow; Village Green, Burnstie Road, Felsted; and Land off Raven's Crescent, Felsted.
- 3.45 A small proportion of the sites are protected by designations. Woodside Green Common Land, Great Hallingbury is a County Wildlife Site; Beeches Close, Elizabeth Way and the Museum grounds and castle ruin all in Saffron Walden, Wrights Green in Little Hallingbury, Weaverhead Close and Magdalen Green in Thaxted and Priors Green in Takeley are Protected Open Spaces of Environmental Value; The Green in Saffron Walden and Mill Hill picnic area in Stansted Mountfitchet are Protected Open Spaces for Informal Recreation; and Greenways, The Downs and Newton Green all in Great Dunmow are Protected Open Spaces for both Environmental Value and Informal Recreation.
- 3.46 The majority of the sites are generally welcoming, with 64% considered to have an Excellent or Good appearance. This is a slight improvement from the 2006 audit. Only Rectory Road, Farnham and Lukins Mead/Nursery Rise, Great Dunmow were considered to have a poor appearance. The majority of entrances and boundaries of sites were also generally considered to be Excellent or Good, with the same two sites and a site off Baynard Avenue, Flitch Green considered to be poor in relation to these criteria.
- 3.47 Quality of access to the sites, in terms of both disabled access and car parking, was considered to be more variable. 31% of sites were considered to have poor disabled access and 33% poor onsite parking provision, with a further 17% of sites having no parking provision. This is a general improvement from the 2006 audit. It should be noted, however, that car parking close to sites was not always taken into account by respondents to the survey and availability of nearby parking facilities may have an impact on the perceived accessibility of sites.
- 3.48 Litter and vandalism were not considered to be a problem at the majority of sites, in line with the 2006 audit. Only Greenways in Saffron Walden is considered to be poor in relation to fly tipping.
- 3.49 In terms of facilities, 26% of sites were rated as poor or very poor in relation to the provision of seats and bins. Over 36% were rated as poor or very poor in relation to the provision of signage.

Very few sites have sports facilities, with this criterion considered not applicable for 85% of the sites audited. Play facilities are also considered separately to most of the amenity greenspaces, with 28% of the sites considered to be moderate or higher in relation to children's play.

- 3.50 The wildlife or nature conservation value of amenity greenspaces is also variable. 76% of the sites audited are considered to have moderate or higher wildlife value, with the same proportion considered to have moderate or higher variety of vegetation. Greenways in Saffron Walden is considered to have a very poor variety of vegetation. As with the 2006 audit, most sites would have potential to improve nature conservation. Very few sites (72%) have any water features.
- 3.51 A number of the sites presented opportunities for improvement which would enhance the site. The potential to improve sites rated moderate or below is summarised below:

Site Name	Potential
Takeley Park, Takeley (x2)	Improvements needed to disabled access, parking, numbers and maintenance of seats/bins, and play facilities
Harvest Fields, Takeley	Improvements needed to disabled access, parking, numbers and maintenance of seats/bins, and signage
Newton Green, Great Dunmow	Improvements needed to wildlife value and variety of vegetation
Open green space with pavilion, Hatfield Heath	Improvements needed to disabled access, parking, and play facilities
Broomfields, Hatfield Heath	Improvements needed to disabled access, numbers and maintenance of seats/bins, range of facilities, wildlife value and variety of vegetation
Off Rectory Road, Farnham	Improvements needed to general appearance, entrance areas, disabled access, general maintenance, signage and variety of vegetation
Recreation ground, Arkesden	Improvements needed to disabled access, parking, maintenance of seats/bins, signage and wildlife value
The Wick, Wendens Ambo	Improvements needed to disabled access, parking, numbers and maintenance of seats/bins, signage, play facilities, and maintenance of trees
Village Hall, Stortford Road, Leaden Roding	Improvements needed to play facilities and variety of vegetation
Within Priors Fields new housing development, Takeley	Small general improvements
Station Road – perimeter open space, Flitch Green	Improvements needed to signage
Off Baynard Avenue – perimeter open space, Flitch Green	Improvements needed to entrances, parking, provision of bins/seating, and signage
Braintree Road, Felsted	Small general improvements
Evelyn Road, Willows Green, Felsted	Improvements needed to access, provision of bins/seating, and signage
Lukins Mead/Nursery Rise, Great Dunmow	General improvements required
Village Green, Burnsite Road, Felsted	Improvements needed to access, provision of bins and seating, signage, wildlife value and variety of vegetation

Site Name	Potential
Land Off Raven's Crescent, Felsted	Improvements needed to access, provision of bins and seating, signage, wildlife value and variety of vegetation

*Amenity Greenspace: standards*Quantity

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
<p>1.03 ha/1000 population</p> <p>(0.51 ha/1000 population in Market Towns and main villages and 1.8 ha/1000 population in more rural parishes)</p> <p>(77.33ha total)</p>	<p>Proposed standard: 1.0ha per 1000 population</p>
Justification	
<p>A proposed standard has been set that is similar to comparator authorities' standards and existing provision in Uttlesford, with a view to raising the standard above the current in the Market Towns. Some existing deficiencies may already be made up with existing smaller spaces that are below the 0.2ha threshold set for this audit. The current level of provision is equivalent to a range of 0.48 ha/1000 population in Market Towns and main villages and 1.89 ha/1000 population in more rural parishes. No quantity standard was set as part of the 2006 audit</p> <p>The proposed standard has been set above the average standard of the comparator authorities (0.83ha per 1000 population) at 1.0ha per 1000 population. The comparator authority standards were:</p> <p>Winchester – 0.4ha/1000 population East Hertfordshire - 0.55ha/1000 population (<i>equivalent to current provision</i>) Braintree - 0.8ha/1000 population Chelmsford - 0.81ha/1000 population (<i>equivalent to current provision</i>) Harborough – 0.9ha/1000 population East Hampshire – 1.0ha/1000 population Hambleton – 1.38ha/1000 population</p>	

Accessibility

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
<p>Not defined</p>	<p>Proposed standard: Within 5 minutes walk (400m) in main settlements</p> <p><i>As set in 2006 study</i></p>
Justification	
<p>The current level of provision shows clusters of Amenity Greenspace throughout the District, both in urban and rural locations. The audit shows that the large majority of Amenity Greenspace is in public ownership and is publicly accessible.</p> <p>The community consultation undertaken for the 2006 audit identified that the majority of the community would prefer to visit open spaces within 5 minutes walk of their home.</p> <p>Comparator standards at other local authorities of similar profile were:</p> <p>East Hertfordshire - within 5 minutes walk of all residential areas (0.4km) Chelmsford - within 10 minutes walk (800m)</p>	

North Hertfordshire - within 5 minutes walk (480m)
Braintree - within 5-10 minutes walk (400-800m)
South Oxfordshire - within 10 minutes walk (600m)
Hambleton – 15 minutes walk in service centres, 10 minutes walk in rural areas
Harborough - within 10 minutes walk (800m)
Vale of White Horse – 5 minutes walk (300m)
Mid Sussex - 5 minutes walk (300m)
Horsham – 200-350m walk
Sevenoaks - within 10 minutes walk of all residential areas (800m)

The proposed standard has been set as a balance between local need and deliverability, and is similar to many of the comparator authorities. Some deficiencies may be covered by existing smaller spaces, below 0.2ha. Others could be delivered through proposed residential development.

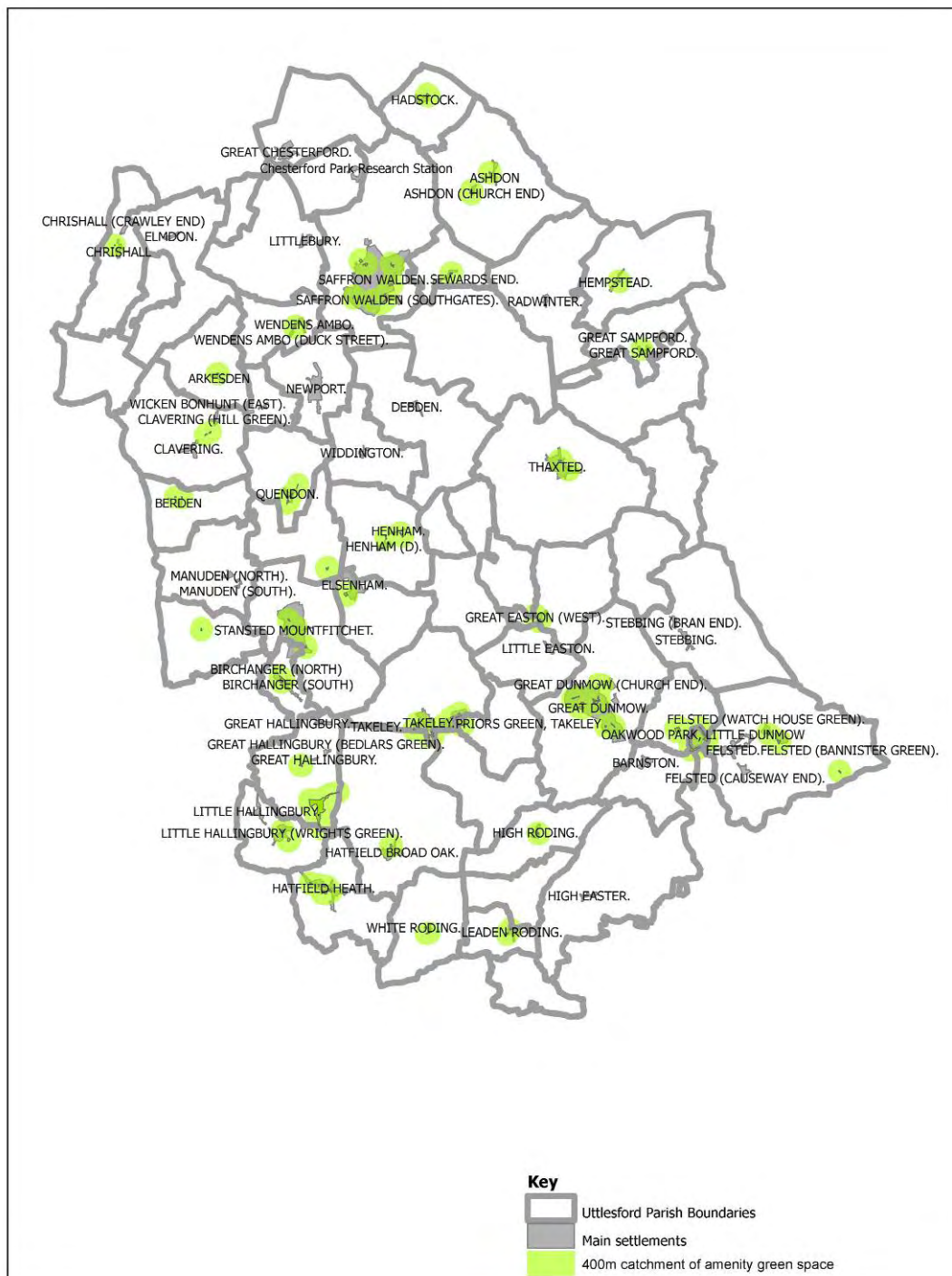
Quality

<i>Existing level of provision</i>	<i>Recommended standard</i>
N/A	<p>Proposed Standard:</p> <p>Essential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites should be clean and litter-free. • Sites should be managed to give natural surveillance to minimise fear of crime. • All greenspace features and facilities where provided should be well-maintained, including play equipment, footpaths, site furniture and soft landscaping. <p>Desirable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to amenity greens should be part of an integrated network of footpaths and cycleways, should be of high quality and appropriate materials for the setting. • Site design should take advantage of any existing natural features including trees, shrubs or wildlife areas or these should be introduced where not existing, as appropriate to the size of the site. • Site boundaries should be appropriately defined.
Justification	
<p>The current resource audit shows that most Amenity Greenspaces are of moderate or above quality. Only one site is of poor quality. The proposed standard responds to the results of the audit by incorporating essential standards around cleanliness and maintenance, biodiversity and natural qualities, and security.</p> <p>The use of quality standards by comparator authority is variable. Many authorities have not set quality standards, with others highlighting authority specific issues that should be addressed. This is the approach recommended for Uttlesford District.</p>	

Deficiencies in local standards

3.52 Patterns of provision: A map showing the location of amenity greenspace in Uttlesford, together with a 400m catchment is below. It shows that most of the settlements within the district are within 400m of their nearest amenity greenspace over 0.2ha, with the exception of some villages and parts of some of the larger towns.

Figure 3.1: Amenity Greenspace Provision in Uttlesford



- 3.53 Deficiencies in **quantity** occur predominantly in the Market Towns and main villages. There are, however, smaller amenity greenspaces and parks and gardens within some of these settlements that would address these deficiencies to some extent.
- 3.54 Deficiencies in **accessibility** in settlements occur in the following areas and are shown below:
- Barnston, Chrishall, Debden, Elmdon and Wenden Lofts, Great Chesterford, Hatfield Broad Oak, High Easter, Littlebury, Little Chesterford, Little Easton, Manuden, Newport, Radwinter, Stebbing, Wicken Bonhunt, Widdington

- Varying size parts (often small) of Birchanger, Clavering, Elsenham, Felsted, Great Dunmow, Great Hallingbury, Hatfield Heath, Little Hallingbury, Saffron Walden, The Sampfords, Stansted, Takeley, Thaxted, Wendens Ambo

3.55 Deficiencies in overall **quality** occur predominantly in Lukins Mead/Nursery Rise, Great Dunmow; Village Green, Burnsite Road, Felsted; and Land Off Raven's Crescent, Felsted. Specific criteria are also considered to be poor in Greenways in Saffron Walden.

Draft recommendations

Amenity Greenspace

Policy recommendations

RAG1 Seek additional provision particularly in Barnston, Chrishall, Debden, Elmdon and Wenden Lofts, Great Chesterford, Hatfield Broad Oak, High Easter, Littlebury, Little Chesterford, Little Easton, Manuden, Newport, Radwinter, Stebbing, Wicken Bonhunt, Widdington to mitigate for existing and prospective quantitative and accessibility deficiencies

Other recommendations

RAG2 Undertake a review of disabled access with appropriate user-groups across the amenity green provision and identify priorities for improvement.

RAG3 Undertake a review of signage and interpretation across the amenity green provision and identify priorities for improvement.

RAG4 Identify where existing smaller sites < 0.2ha could mitigate for existing deficiencies in quantity and accessibility

RAG5 Identify targeted improvements to sites currently identified as of poor quality or sites attaining poor or very poor for a number of criteria

Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace



Stebbing Green, Stebbing

- 3.56 PPG17 identifies that this typology can include woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands (e.g. downlands, commons and meadows) wetlands, open and running water, wastelands and derelict open land and rock areas (e.g. cliffs, quarries and pits)⁸.
- 3.57 Natural or semi-natural greenspace is vital for giving people contact with wildlife, especially within towns, or for communities living in rural areas but who work in urban areas. Natural England (NE) has identified that everyday contact with nature is important for personal well-being and quality of life. They also believe that this contact should be close to where people live and accessible to all, including the most vulnerable in society.

Role of ANGSt

- 3.58 With this in mind, Natural England promotes Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt). These standards encourage provision of:
- an accessible natural greenspace of at least 2ha in size within 300 metres, or 5 minutes walk from home.
 - statutory Local Nature Reserves at a minimum level of one hectare per thousand population
 - at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home
 - one accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home
 - one accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home.

Result of audit

- 3.59 79 sites over 0.2ha and publically accessible have been identified within this typology. This includes sites that may also be considered green corridors as there are only a very small number of sites that fall within the later typology. The sites cover a total area of 517ha. Of the audited sites, 82% are currently publically owned, either by Parish Councils or Essex County Council. Of the remaining sites a number are leased by Parish Councils either from Trusts or private landowners.

⁸ Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for open space, sport and recreation

- 3.60 The single largest greenspace in this typology is Hatfield Forest at 383ha. Other sites vary greatly in size, with the next largest sites being Garnetts Wood in High Easter parish at 25.8ha, The Flitch Way at a total area of 20ha and Birchanger Wood at 20.5ha. Their generally large size makes these sites of great significance in Uttlesford. The smallest is located within Langley Parish and is 0.15ha with the average size of site being 6.54ha.
- 3.61 The character of the natural and semi-natural urban greenspaces varies and includes woodlands, grasslands, meadows, scrub, ponds and streams/rivers. 25% of sites contain no facilities, with 89% having no buildings, 70% no sports facilities and 41% no children's play facilities. Where present the quality of this provision varied. This is comparable with the 2006 audit.
- 3.62 The overall quality of the natural or semi-natural greenspaces, both in the 2006 audit and the current audit, is as follows:

<i>Site Name</i>	<i>Overall quality 2006</i>	<i>Overall quality 2011</i>
Clatterbury Lane, Clavering	Not surveyed	Excellent
Hatfield Forest, Takeley	Excellent	Excellent
Stickling Green, Clavering (x4)	Good	Excellent
The Wilderness nature trail, Ashdon	Not surveyed	Excellent
Butts Green, Clavering	Not surveyed	Good to excellent
B1038 Pelham Road, Clavering	Not surveyed	Good
Land at Langleys behind sewage works off A130, Great Dunmow	Not surveyed	Good
Land at Langleys off A130, Great Dunmow	Not surveyed	Good
Land at Langleys, Great Dunmow	Not surveyed	Good
Simon's Wood, Clavering	Moderate	Good
Land next to Holy Trinity Church, Hatfield Heath	Good	Good
Land nr Forge Cottages, Hatfield Heath	Good	Good
Matching Road, Hatfield Heath	Moderate	Good
Pasernage Downs, Great Dunmow	Good	Good
Pond Lane sites 1 and 2, Hatfield Heath	Moderate to good	Good
Pond Lane sites 3 and 4, Hatfield Heath	Good	Good
Pound Lane, Ugley	Not surveyed	Good
Stebbing Green	Good	Good
Stebbing Green, Stebbing (x5)	Good	Good
Stortford Road, Clavering	Not surveyed	Good
The Downs, Manuden	Not surveyed	Good
Nature Reserve off The Street, Berden	Not surveyed	Good
The Green, Little Walden Road, Saffron Walden	Moderate (reclassified from children's play)	Good
Cage End Close, Hatfield Broad Oak	Not surveyed	Good
River Chelmer, Great Dunmow (x2)	Good	Moderate to good
Battle ditches, Saffron Walden	Not surveyed	Moderate to good
Braintree Road/River Chelmer, Great Dunmow (x2)	Not surveyed	Moderate
Chinnel Meadow, Wendens Ambo	Not surveyed	Moderate
Claypits Plantation, Saffron Walden	Poor	Moderate
Flitch Way, Great Dunmow	Good	Moderate
Smiths Green, Takeley (x3)	Good	Moderate
Flitch Way, Takeley	Good	Poor
Marshall Piece, Stebbing	Good	Poor
Flitch Way, Great Hallingbury	Not surveyed	Unknown
Bardfield Road, Thaxted	Not surveyed	Unknown
Bustard Green Common Land, Lindsell	Not surveyed	Unknown
Chelmsford Road, Hatfield Heath	Moderate	Unknown
Common Land off Dewes Green Road, Berden	Not surveyed	Unknown
Common or open access land, Langley (x2)	Not surveyed	Unknown

Site Name	Overall quality 2006	Overall quality 2011
Common or open access land, Langley (x2)	Not surveyed	Unknown
Common or open access land, Langley (x6)	Not surveyed	Unknown
Common or open access land, Park Lane, Langley (x5)	Not surveyed	Unknown
Coptal Lane, Thaxted	Moderate	Unknown
Cutlers Green, Thaxted	Not surveyed	Unknown
Dunmow Road, Thaxted	Not surveyed	Unknown
Greenspace including village pond, Hadstock	Not surveyed	Unknown
Land at Hadstock	Not surveyed	Unknown
Motts Green, Little Hallingbury	Moderate (reclassified from children's play)	Unknown
Site nr Wrights Green, Little Hallingbury	Good (reclassified from children's play)	Unknown
South Street, Great Chesterford	Good	Unknown
Stocking Green woodland, Radwinter	Not surveyed	Unknown
Sweetings Meadow, Lindsell	Not surveyed	Unknown
Wooded area off De Vigier Avenue, Saffron Walden	Not surveyed	Unknown
Birchanger Wood	Not surveyed	Unknown

3.63 Many sites are covered by a wildlife designation of some sort. Hatfield Forest is designated as Ancient woodland, Important Woodland and a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Fifteen sites are designated as County Wildlife Sites (CWSs), including Stebbing Green, the Flitch Way, Parsonage Downs, Sweetings Meadow, Bustard Green, The Downs and Linnets Wood. The different elements of Sticking Green in Clavering are designated as CWSs and Important Woodlands, and Claypits Plantation in Saffron Walden is designated as an Important Woodland.

3.64 The first impressions of most sites were Good or Excellent (80%). This is an improvement from the 2006 audit. 84.5% of sites were rated as good or excellent in terms of the safe 'feel' of the sites and 73.3% in terms of the level of vandalism and graffiti. This is comparable with the 2006 audit. Between 9 and 22% of sites were rated as poor or very poor in relation to cleanliness, with dog fouling being the biggest issue. This has changed since 2006 when litter was the biggest problem overall.

3.65 A number of the sites presented opportunities for improvement which would enhance the site. The potential to improve sites rated moderate or below is summarised below:

Site Name	Potential
River Chelmer, Great Dunmow (x2)	Address issues of vandalism, dog fouling, fly tipping and litter. Improvements needed to nature conservation value
Battle ditches, Saffron Walden	Improvements needed to parking provision, seating provision, dog fouling and litter problems, and signage
Braintree Road/River Chelmer, Great Dunmow (x2)	Address issues of vandalism, dog fouling, fly tipping and litter. Improvements needed to nature conservation value
Chinnel Meadow, Wendens Ambo	Improvements need to disabled access and parking provision, as well as signage and other facilities
Claypits Plantation, Saffron Walden	Improvements need to most aspects
Flitch Way, Great Dunmow	Improvements needed to disabled access, seating provision, dog fouling and litter problems

Site Name	Potential
Smiths Green, Takeley (x3)	Improvements need to disabled access, parking provision and play provision
Fritch Way, Takeley	Improvements need to entrances, disabled access and parking provision, to address the feel of the space, bin and seating provision, signage provision, dog fouling and litter problems
Marshall Piece, Stebbing	Improvements need to entrances, disabled access and parking provision, to address the feel of the space, signage provision and maintenance of vegetation

Natural and semi-natural greenspaces: standards

Quantity

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
<p>6.7 ha/1000 population (11.7 ha/1000 population in Market Towns and main villages and 3.0 ha/1000 population in more rural parishes) (517ha total)</p>	<p>Proposed standard: a minimum of 7ha publicly accessible sites/1000 population</p> <p>No standard is set for private sites as the quantity is subject to market forces.</p>
Justification	
<p>The current level of publicly-accessible provision is equivalent to a range of 2.5ha/1000 population in rural parishes - 12.4ha/1000 population in Market Towns and main villages. A proposed standard has been set that is similar to comparator authorities' provision and slightly higher than existing provision, with a view to raising the standard above the current provision. Some existing deficiencies may already be made up with existing smaller spaces that are below the 0.2ha threshold set for this audit or access to open countryside and the rights of way network. No quantity standard was set as part of the 2006 audit.</p> <p>The proposed standard has been set above the average standard of the comparator authorities (4.09ha per 1000 population) at 7ha per 1000 population. This is in line with comparator authorities where standards have generally been set slightly higher than current provision. Comparator authorities that were studied have set the following standards;</p> <p>East Hertfordshire – 7.76ha/1000 population (equivalent to current provision) Chelmsford - 2ha/1000 population in urban areas North Hertfordshire – 1.47ha/1000 population in towns and 6.37ha/1000 population in rural areas Harborough – 8.5ha/1000 population in rural areas, 1.5ha/1000 population in urban areas East Hampshire – 1ha/1000 population</p>	

Accessibility

<i>Existing level of provision</i>	<i>Recommended standard</i>
Not defined	<p>Proposed standard: At least one publicly-accessible site within 5 minutes walk time (300-400m) in main settlements</p> <p>As set in 2006 study</p>
<i>Justification</i>	
<p>The audit shows that only a small proportion of natural and semi-natural greenspaces are currently over 2ha, although most sites are in public ownership and are publicly accessible.</p> <p>The community consultation undertaken for the 2006 audit identified that the majority of the community would prefer to visit open spaces within 5 minutes walk of their home. The Natural England Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard also indicates that there should be an accessible natural greenspace of at least 2ha in size within 300 metres, or 5 minutes walk from home. Given the small size of most natural and semi-natural greenspaces within Uttlesford it is not considered possible to attain this standard at present. Many competitors do not set a size threshold for the accessibility criteria, with distances from natural and semi-natural greenspaces varying between 400m and 1600m walk. The proposed standard is at the lower end of this range, in line with the 2006 audit.</p> <p>Comparator standards at other local authorities of similar profile were:</p> <p>East Hertfordshire – urban accessibility standard of 10 minute walk (800m) from residential areas</p> <p>Chelmsford – 20 minutes walk (1.6km)</p> <p>North Hertfordshire – 720m walk under 2ha, 960m walk 2-20ha, 1440m walk over 20ha</p> <p>Braintree – 15 minutes walk (1.2km)</p> <p>Harborough – 20 minutes walk (1.6km)</p> <p>Vale of White Horse – 15 minutes walk (900m), 15 minutes cycle (2250m), 15 minutes drive (5625m)</p> <p>Mid Sussex – 10 minute walk or cycle (600m or 1500m)</p> <p>Horsham – 1000m walk</p> <p>Stratford-on-Avon – 15 minutes walk (720m)</p> <p>East Hampshire – 400m</p> <p>Sevenoaks – 15 minutes walk (1.2km) from residential areas</p>	

Quality

<i>Existing level of provision</i>	<i>Recommended standard</i>
N/A	<p>Proposed Standards:</p> <p>Essential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites should be clean and litter free • Sites should be of ecological value with appropriate amenity facilities • Footpaths should be well-maintained and designed to minimise impact on the natural features and to maximise natural surveillance • Site management processes should be maintained <p>Desirable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All major sites should have an active Management Plan in place • Signage should be provided at every site with contact details of managing organisation • All sites should seek to have interpretative facilities in place

Justification

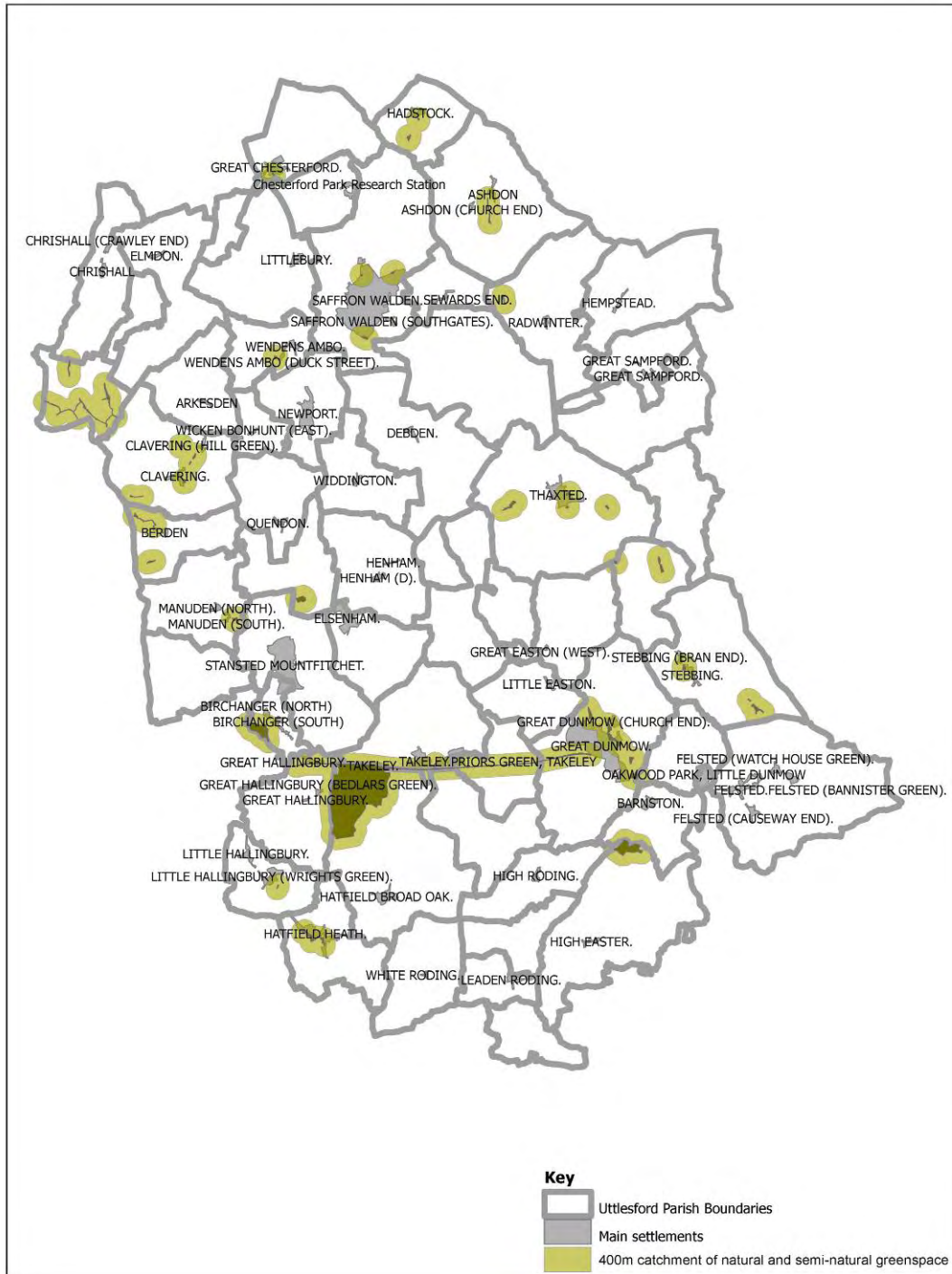
Two of the natural and semi-natural greenspaces are currently ranked as poor quality with a range of issues around accessibility, litter, signage, quality of welcome or of facilities.

Comparator authorities hadn't identified particular standards for quality aside from South Oxfordshire which suggests that all sites should be of high quality, Stratford-on-Avon which suggests all sites should achieve a fair rating using their scoring system and East Hertfordshire and Sevenoaks which set standards based on issues identified through consultation responses.

Deficiencies in local standards

- 3.66 Patterns of provision: A map showing the location of natural and semi-natural greenspace in Uttlesford, together with a 400m catchment is below. It shows the irregular pattern of provision of this type of open space and the poor level of provision in many parishes.
- 3.67 Deficiencies in **quantity** occur predominantly in rural parishes. There are, however, smaller natural and semi-natural greenspaces within some of these settlements that would address these deficiencies to some extent, along with access to open countryside and the rights of way network.
- 3.68 Deficiencies in **accessibility** occur in the following areas and are shown below:
- Arkesden, Barnston, Chrishall, Debden, Elmdon and Wenden Lofts, Elsenham, Felsted, Flitch Green, Great Easton and Tilty, Hempstead, Henham, High Easter, High Roding, Leaden Roding, Littlebury, Little Easton, Newport, Quendon and Rickling, Radwinter, The Sampfords, Swards End, Stansted, White Roding, Wicken Bonhunt, Widdington
 - Varying size parts (often small) of Ashdon, Berden, Birchanger, Clavering, Great Chesterford, Great Dunmow, Great Hallingbury, Hatfield Broad Oak, Hatfield Heath, Little Hallingbury, Manuden, Saffron Walden, Stebbing, Takeley, Thaxted, Wendens Ambo
- 3.69 Deficiencies in overall **quality** occur predominantly along the Flitch Way and in Marshall Piece, Stebbing.

Figure 3.2: Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace Provision in Uttlesford



Draft Recommendations

Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace

Policy recommendations

RN1 Seek additional publically-accessible provision in Arkesden, Barnston, Chrishall, Debden, Elmdon and Wenden Lofts, Elsenham, Felsted, Flitch Green, Great Easton and Tilty, Hempstead, Henham, High Easter, High Roding, Leaden Roding, Littlebury, Little Easton, Newport, Quendon and Rickling, Radwinter, The Sampfords, Swards End, Stansted, White Roding, Wicken Bonhunt, Widdington to mitigate for existing and prospective quantitative deficiencies

RN2 Seek improvements to PRoW network and bridleways in rural areas and the urban fringe to maximise amenity benefits of private sites even where these not accessible

Other recommendations

RN3 Review quality of access and interpretation within publically-owned Natural and Semi-Natural sites and identify priorities for enhancement

RN4 Review role and identify enhancement needs as appropriate for Poor quality publically accessible sites, namely the Flitch Way and Marshall Piece, Stebbing

RN5 Identify areas for 'naturalisation' within other typologies e.g. amenity greens or boundary areas of sports pitches, to mitigate deficiencies where new sites cannot be created

RN6 Ensure all major sites have an active Management Plan in place

Provision for Children and Young People



Children's play area, Clavering

- 3.70 PPG17 identifies that this provision can include play areas, skateboard parks, outdoor basketball hoops and other more informal areas (e.g. 'hanging out' areas or teenage shelters for instance)⁹. It is important to emphasise that children and young adults play in spaces other than those that are equipped for play. In particular, the role of more natural environment in play and learning is being increasingly rediscovered.
- 3.71 Skate parks and BMX tracks have been included within this typology in order to comply with the PPG17 guidance. It is recognised that the activities undertaken at these facilities can be enjoyed by both children and adults, with some facilities specifically designed for older children and adults. It is also acknowledged that wheeled sports such as skateboarding, blading and scootering, as well as BMXing are recognised by Sport England as sports.
- 3.72 Play England identifies that children value and make good use of a varied natural landscape¹⁰. Benefits include: exploring and investigating the natural world; exploring their sensory abilities, exploring wildlife, building, digging and demolishing; climbing, jumping and balancing; playing around, behind, over, through and under things; using places to enrich all sorts of play from social to fantasy play. Elements of play that encourage this sort of exploration should be incorporated into the widest range of play spaces and other types of greenspace.
- 3.73 Natural England's recent Childhood and Nature Survey¹¹ has identified how fewer than 10% of children play in woodlands, countryside and parks.
- 3.74 *Definition of LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs:* The National Playing Fields Association (NPFA), now known as Fields in Trust¹², has defined three categories of play areas, known as Local Areas for Play (LAPs), Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs), and Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs). A brief definition of each type is given below:
- Local Areas for Play (LAPs):* These are small landscaped areas of open space specifically designated for young children (under 6 years old) and their parents or carers for play activities and socialisation close to where they live. A LAP should be a safe, attractive and stimulating

⁹ Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for open space, sport and recreation

¹⁰ Play Naturally: Play England www.playengland.org.uk/resources

¹¹ Natural England; Childhood and Nature Survey www.naturalengland.org.uk

¹² www.fieldsintrust.org/

environment which will give young children the opportunity to play and interact with their peers away from their own back garden, thus encouraging the development of a range of social and educational skills.

Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs): A LEAP is an unsupervised play area mainly for children of early school age (4-12 years) but with consideration for other ages. Unlike a LAP a LEAP is equipped with formal play equipment and it should provide a focal point for children when they are responsible enough to move away from the immediate control of parents. A LEAP will need to be provided on a development of more than 30 houses, although where there is an identified lack of play areas in the vicinity, smaller developments may be required to include such provision in order to ensure that the situation is not exacerbated. Each LEAP will normally serve between 30 and 100 dwellings and new residential developments of over 100 houses may need to include more than 1 LEAP.

Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs): A NEAP will serve a substantial residential development and as such should cater for a wide range of children including those with special needs. Play equipment should be aimed primarily at those aged between 4 and 14 and should aim to stimulate physical, creative, intellectual, social and solitary play. Teenage provision should be in the form of kickabout/basketball areas, opportunities for wheeled play (skateboarding, roller-skating, etc.) and meeting areas.

- 3.75 The overall quality of provision for children and young people identified both in the 2006 audit and the current audit is as follows:

Site Name	Overall quality 2006	Overall quality 2011
Play area at Great Easton Playing Field, The Endway, Great Easton	Not surveyed	Excellent
Vernons Close, Henham	Moderate	Excellent
Minet Park - Thaxted Road Skate Park and mini-park, Saffron Walden	Not surveyed	Excellent
Mill Road, Debden	Not surveyed	Excellent
Church Field and All Saints Close play area, Ashdon	Not surveyed	Excellent
The Causeway, Great Dunmow	Not surveyed	Excellent
Anglo American Playing Fields, Saffron Walden	Good	Good
Bentfield Green, Stansted	Good	Good
Broadfield, High Roding	Not surveyed	Good
Land fronting Lower Mill Field, Great Dunmow	Not surveyed	Good
Manor Road, Little Easton	Not surveyed	Good
Oakroyd Avenue, Great Dunmow	Good	Good
Play area at Burns Playing Field, off Abbey View, Great Easton	Not surveyed	Good
Play area off Medlars Mead, Hatfield Broad Oak	Good	Good
Play area Off The Street, Manuden	Not surveyed	Good
Playground at Bentfield Green, Stansted	Not surveyed	Good
Ross Close/ Long Horse Close, Saffron Walden	Good	Good
Skate park, The Causeway, Great Dunmow	Not surveyed	Good
Pulford Playing Field	Good	Good
Jolly Boys Lane North, Felsted	Not surveyed	Good
Clarendon Road, Priors Green, Little Canfield	Not surveyed	Good
Play area off St Nicholas Field, Berden	Not surveyed	Good
Jigneys Meadow Adventure Playground	Not surveyed	Good
Talberds Ley, Great Dunmow	Not surveyed	Good
Watts Close play area, Barnston	Not surveyed	Moderate to good
Rectory Lane Playing Field, Ashdon	Not surveyed	Moderate to good
Children's playground off The Shaw, Hatfield Heath	Not surveyed	Moderate

Site Name	Overall quality 2006	Overall quality 2011
Equipped play area, basketball court and open grass off Petlands, Saffron Walden	Not surveyed	Moderate
Land behind cricket ground, Takeley	Good	Moderate
Meadow Ford, Newport	Good	Moderate
Mountfitchet Road, Stansted	Moderate	Moderate
Station Road, Newport	Moderate	Moderate
Harvest Fields, Takeley	Not surveyed	Moderate
Children's play area, Arkesden	Not surveyed	Moderate
Barnston Village Hall play area, Barnston	Not surveyed	Moderate
Burnsite Road, Felsted	Good	Moderate
Evelyn Road, Willows Green, Felsted	Not surveyed	Moderate
Baynard Avenue play area, Flitch Green	Not surveyed	Moderate
Stokes Road, Priors Green, Little Canfield	Not surveyed	Moderate
Saffron Trails BMX dirt track, Plantation Wood, Saffron Walden	Not surveyed	Moderate
Honey Road/ Mortymer Close, Priors Green, Little Canfield	Not surveyed	Moderate
Warwick Road, Priors Green, Little Canfield	Not surveyed	Moderate
Off Rectory Road, Farnham	Not surveyed	Poor
Blacklands Avenue and Seven Devils Lane, Saffron Walden	Good	Unknown
Greenways children's playground, Saffron Walden	Not surveyed	Unknown
The Common children's playground, Saffron Walden	Not surveyed	Unknown
Clatterbury Lane play area, Clavering	Not surveyed	Unknown
Equipped children's play area, Great Sampford	Not surveyed	Unknown
Skate Park, Great Sampford	Not surveyed	Unknown
Land off Pilgrim's Close, Great Chesterford (x2)	Not surveyed	Unknown
Station Road, Elsenham	Not surveyed	Unknown
Newmarket Road, Great Chesterford	Not surveyed	Unknown
Pilgrim's Close, Great Chesterford	Not surveyed	Unknown
Play area off Moules Lane, Hadstock	Not surveyed	Unknown
Skate park, Newmarket Road, Great Chesterford	Not surveyed	Unknown
Station Road, Thaxted	Not surveyed	Unknown
Walden Road, Thaxted	Not surveyed	Unknown
Birchanger Recreation Ground	Not surveyed	Unknown
Long Lea, Langley	Not surveyed	Unknown
Walden Road, Littlebury	Not surveyed	Unknown
Littlebury Green, Littlebury	Not surveyed	Unknown
Recreation Ground play area, Little Dunmow	Not surveyed	Unknown
Manor Road play area, Little Easton	Not surveyed	Unknown
Recreation Ground play area, Radwinter	Not surveyed	Unknown
Sewards End Recreation Ground play area	Not surveyed	Unknown
Recreation Ground children's play area, Stansted	Not surveyed	Unknown
The Wick play area, Wendens Ambo	Not surveyed	Unknown
White Roding Sports Club play area	Not surveyed	Unknown
Hamel Way play area, Widdington	Not surveyed	Unknown
Wimbish Recreation Ground play area	Not surveyed	Unknown
Stansted Skate Park	Not surveyed	Unknown

<i>Site Name</i>	<i>Overall quality 2006</i>	<i>Overall quality 2011</i>
The Green, Little Walden Road, Saffron Walden	Moderate	Reclassified as Amenity Greenspace
Broomfields, Hatfield Heath	Moderate	Reclassified as Amenity Greenspace
Motts Green, Little Hallingbury	Good	Reclassified as Amenity Greenspace
Wrights Green, Little Hallingbury	Good	Reclassified as Amenity Greenspace
Newton Green, Great Dunmow	Moderate	Reclassified as Amenity Greenspace
The Downs, Great Dunmow	Moderate	Reclassified as Amenity Greenspace
Nursery Rise, Great Dunmow	Moderate	Reclassified as Amenity Greenspace
Woodend Green, Henham	Good	Reclassified as Amenity Greenspace
Magdalen Green, Thaxted	Moderate	Reclassified as Amenity Greenspace
Weaverhead Close, Thaxted	Moderate	Reclassified as Amenity Greenspace
Dunmow Road, Thaxted	Moderate	Reclassified as Outdoor Sports Provision

Result of site audit:

- 3.76 Of the sites identified by the audit and surveyed, most (59%) are in public ownership and a number are on privately owned land but leased to Parish Councils. All allow general public access. The largest space in this typology is located in Blacklands Avenue and Seven Devils Lane and is 1.69ha. The other sites audited vary in size from 0.01-1.63ha. All play areas were audited, regardless of their size, due to the small area usually covered specifically by play areas.
- 3.77 The quality of this provision was generally moderate or above. One site had a poor rating – Land off Rectory Road, Farnham – due to a range of factors including the appearance of the site, its entrances and boundaries and access for the disabled.
- 3.78 The character of the provision for children and young people is generally of a grassed area, mainly in a housing estate, with equipped areas for play or other activity. These types of play areas are often more suitable for younger children. Areas designed specifically as skate parks and BMX tracks have also been identified within this typology. Provision for children and young people was specifically identified separately from areas of amenity greenspace, although much of the play equipment is contained within amenity greenspaces. 80% of spaces for children and young people audited were rated good or excellent for their play provision.
- 3.79 Several of the play areas are located within designated sites. These are Protected Opens Spaces of Environmental Value, for Informal Recreation or both. These sites include Bentfield Green playground and open space in Stansted, Mountfitchet Road in Stansted, a Skate park and play area at The Causeway in Great Dunmow, Ross Close/ Long Horse Croft in Saffron Walden and Meadow Ford in Newport.
- 3.80 Most of the sites are generally welcoming and have entrances and boundaries that are considered moderate or better. Within the sites, disabled access was generally ranked as moderate or good, but was poor at Arkesden children's play area, Stebbing playing field, Land behind Takeley cricket ground and Station Road, Newport. It was considered very poor at Meadow Ford, Newport and the play area off Petlands in Saffron Walden. Parking provision was considered more variable, as was issues of litter and vandalism.

3.81 A number of the sites presented opportunities for improvement which would enhance the site. The potential to improve sites rated moderate or below is summarised below:

Site Name	Potential
Children's playground off The Shaw, Hatfield Heath	Improvements needed to parking provision
Equipped play area, basketball court and open grass off Petlands, Saffron Walden	Improvements needed to disabled access, parking provision and to address issues of vandalism and dog fouling
Land behind cricket ground, Takeley	Improvements needed to general feel and level of welcome, boundaries and entrances and disabled access
Meadow Ford, Newport	Improvements to address issues identified by the Parish Council are being undertaken
Mountfitchet Road, Stansted	Improvements needed to entrances and nature conservation value
Station Road, Newport	Improvements to address issues identified by the Parish Council are being undertaken
Harvest Fields, Takeley	Improvements needed to parking provision and nature conservation value
Children's play area, Arkesden	Improvements needed to disabled access, parking provision, entrances and nature conservation value
Barnston Village Hall play area, Barnston	Improvements needed to disabled access and nature conservation value
Burnsite Road, Felsted	Improvements needed to disabled access, parking provision, signage and nature conservation value
Evelyn Road, Willows Green, Felsted	Improvements needed to disabled access, parking provision and signage
Baynard Avenue play area, Flitch Green	Improvements needed to signage and vegetation maintenance
Stokes Road, Priors Green, Little Canfield	Improvements needed to disabled access and signage
Saffron Trails BMX dirt track, Plantation Wood, Saffron Walden	Improvements needed to entrances, access and to address issues of dog fouling
Honey Road/ Mortymer Close, Priors Green, Little Canfield	Improvements needed to access and signage. Suitable for younger children only
Warwick Road, Priors Green, Little Canfield	Improvements needed to disabled access, signage and bins. Suitable for younger children only
Off Rectory Road, Farnham	Improvements needed to general appearance, entrance areas, disabled access, general maintenance, signage and variety of vegetation

Provision for Children and Young People: standards

Quantity

<i>Existing level of provision</i>	<i>Recommended standard</i>
<p>0.18 ha/1000 population (0.24 ha/1000 population in Market Towns and main villages and 0.16 ha/1000 population in more rural parishes) (13.98ha total)</p>	<p>Proposed standard: a minimum of 0.2ha/1000 population</p>
<i>Justification</i>	
<p>The current level of publicly-accessible provision is equivalent to a range of 0.24ha/1000 population in Market Towns and main villages - 0.16ha/1000 population in rural parishes. A proposed standard has been set that is similar to comparator authorities' provision and slightly higher than existing provision, with a view to raising the standard above the current provision. No quantity standard was set as part of the 2006 audit.</p> <p>The proposed standard has been set below the average standard of the comparator authorities (0.4ha per 1000 population) at 0.2ha per 1000 population. This is in line with a number of the comparator authorities, despite being below the average. Comparator authorities that were studied have set the following standards;</p> <p>East Hertfordshire – 0.2ha/1000 population South Cambridgeshire – 0.8ha/1000 population Chelmsford – 0.81ha/1000 population North Hertfordshire – 0.2ha/1000 population Braintree – 0.2ha/1000 population Winchester – 0.8ha/1000 population Hambleton – 0.74ha/1000 population for children, 0.25ha/1000 population for teenagers Harborough – 0.3ha/1000 population Stratford-on-Avon – 0.25ha/1000 population East Hampshire – 0.25ha/1000 population Sevenoaks - 0.1ha/1000 population</p>	

Accessibility

<i>Existing level of provision</i>	<i>Recommended standard</i>
<p>Not defined</p>	<p>Proposed standard: Within 5 minutes walk (400m) in main settlements As set in 2006 study</p>
<i>Justification</i>	
<p>The community consultation undertaken for the 2006 audit identified that the majority of the community would prefer to visit play areas within 5 minutes walk of their home. The standard that has been set meets the needs of younger age groups. It is comparable with several comparator authorities and is consistent with the 2006 audit.</p> <p>Comparator standards at other local authorities of similar profile were:</p> <p>East Hertfordshire – urban standard of 5 minute walk (400m) from residential areas Chelmsford – 5-10 minutes walk (400-800m) North Hertfordshire – 240m for LAP, LEAP or undefined, 600m for NEAP Braintree – 5 minutes walk (400m) for toddler/junior and 10 minutes walk (800m)</p>	

<p>for teenagers Hambleton – 10 minutes walk for children and 15 minutes walk for teenagers Harborough – 5-10 minutes walk (400-800m) Stratford-on-Avon – 5 minutes walk (240m) for children’s play, 15 minutes walk (720m) for young people East Hampshire – 480m for toddler/junior and 650m for youth Sevenoaks – 10 minutes walk (800m) from residential areas</p>

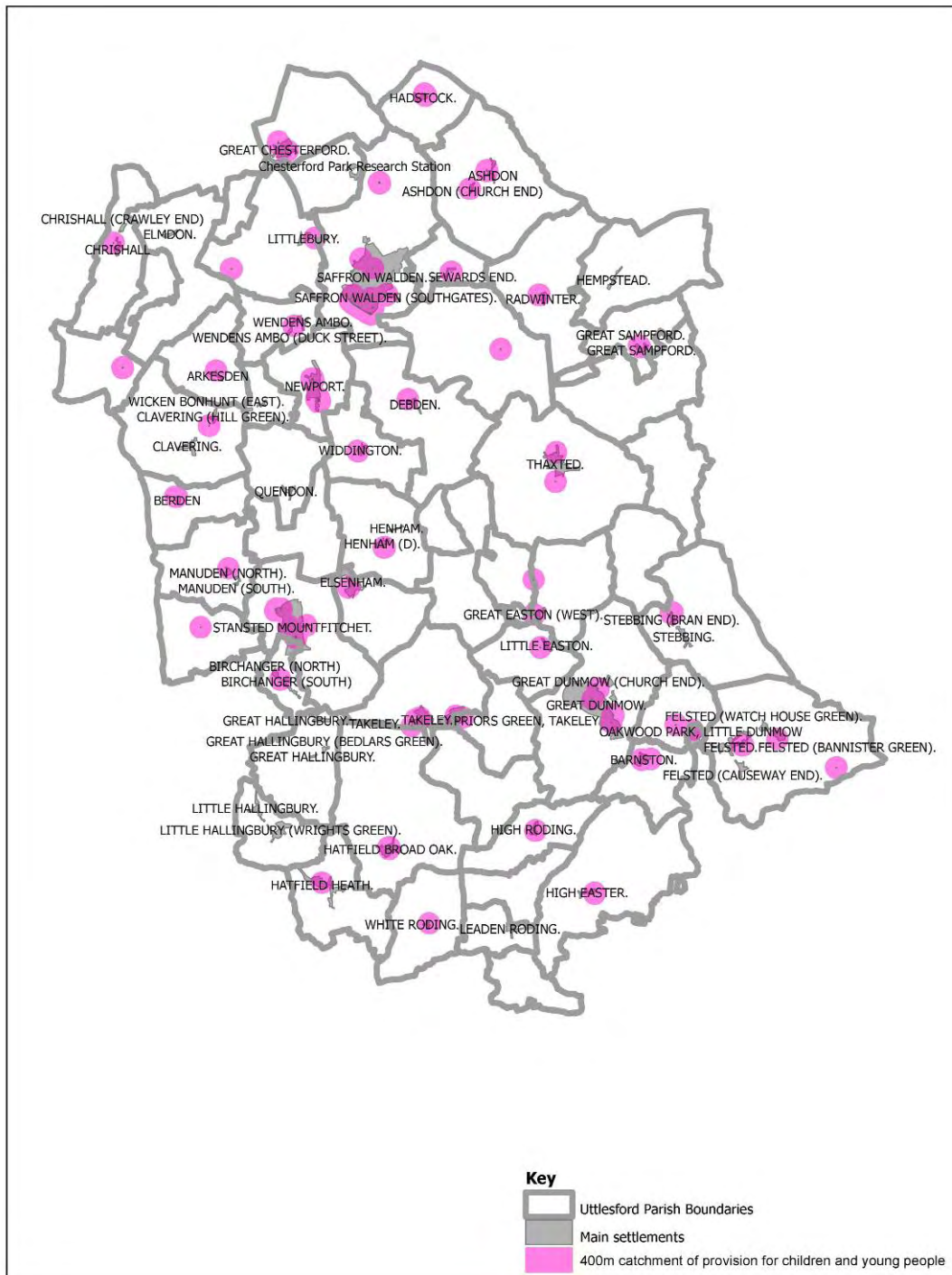
Quality

<i>Existing level of provision</i>	<i>Recommended standard</i>
N/A	<p>Proposed Standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All play areas must adhere to the Fields in Trust LEAP (Local Equipped Area for Play) and NEAP (Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play) national standards. • All play spaces should have natural surveillance and be within sight of walking or cycling routes or desire lines • Facilities should be designed in consultation with local children and young people, be clean and litter free, have no vandalism and provide a mixture of formal and informal facilities. • Facilities for youth should seek to provide skate/BMX features, or other appropriate facilities, alongside youth shelter areas • All play spaces should be designed to maximise experience of natural features.
<i>Justification</i>	
<p>The current resource audit shows that the provision for children and young people is generally good quality with one site identified of poor quality.</p> <p>Comparator authorities hadn’t identified particular standards for quality aside from Stratford-on-Avon which suggests all sites should achieve a fair rating using their scoring system and East Hertfordshire and Sevenoaks which set standards based on issues identified through consultation responses.</p>	

Deficiencies in local standards

- 3.82 Patterns of provision: A map showing the location of provision for children and young people in Uttlesford, together with a 400m catchment is below. It shows the dispersed pattern of provision of this type of open space and that the majority of parishes contain at least one play area.
- 3.83 Deficiencies in **quantity** occur predominantly in Market Towns and main villages.
- 3.84 Deficiencies in **accessibility** occur in the following areas and are shown below:
 - Aythorpe Roding, Broxted, Chickney, Elmdon and Wenden Lofts, Great Canfield, Great Hallingbury, Hempstead, Leaden Roding, Lindsell, Little Bardfield, Little Chesterford, Little Hallingbury, Margaret Roding, Quendon and Rickling, Strethall, Ugley, Wicken Bonhunt
 - Varying size parts (often small) of Birchanger, Clavering, Debden, Felsted, Flich Green, Great Chesterford, Great Dunmow, Hatfield Heath, Henham, High Easter, Littlebury, Manuden, Newport, Saffron Walden, Stansted, Stebbing, Takeley, Thaxted, Wendens Ambo
- 3.85 Deficiencies in overall **quality** occur predominantly off Rectory Road, Farnham.

Figure 3.3: Provision for children and young people in Uttlesford



Draft Recommendations

Provision for Children and Young People

Policy recommendations

RCYP1 Seek additional provision in line with the above standards in areas of proposed growth.

Policy recommendations

RCYP2 Identify priority sites where natural play elements can be incorporated within planned new or enhanced facilities.

RCYP3 Seek further information on community demand for the provision of skateparks and BMX tracks

Allotments



Chickney Road Allotments, Henham

- 3.86 By definition, an 'allotment garden' is wholly or mainly cultivated by the occupier for the production of fruit or vegetables for consumption by himself and his family¹³. PPG17 identifies that the primary purpose is opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion¹⁴. Allotments are an important component of open space which provide recreational value, support biodiversity, and contribute towards healthy lifestyles through physical exercise and the chance to grow fresh produce.
- 3.87 The Government recognises the health benefits of allotment gardening.¹⁵ Increasing people's awareness about food and how it is made and grown can encourage people to eat more fresh vegetables and fruit. Allotment gardening can also:
- bring people together from all age groups around a common interest.
 - there is considerable scope for schools to link up with local allotments societies to use allotments and the skills of plot holders to participate in school education projects.
 - allotments are a potential resource for bio-diversity.
 - the potential exists for allotments and other forms of community gardens to become important recreational assets and open space amenities for people living in dwellings without gardens.
 - allotments can also perform a valuable function as a productive temporary use of open land which may be allocated to some other future open use¹⁶
- 3.88 Allotment sites owned by local authorities can be designated as 'statutory' or 'temporary' where 'statutory' sites are subject to some protection under the Allotments Act 1925. 'Temporary' sites have no security beyond the usual planning system requirements¹⁷.

¹³ Government's response to the Environment, Transport and Regional Affairs Committee's report 'The Future for Allotments', 1998

¹⁴ Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for open space, sport and recreation

¹⁵ Government's response to the Environment, Transport and Regional Affairs Committee's report 'The Future for Allotments', 1998

¹⁶ www.wirralfedallotments.org.uk

- 3.89 The Local Government Association has revised its advice for allotment officers and associations, to provide an update on the policy framework, legislation and practice affecting allotment gardening¹⁸.
- 3.90 The overall quality of allotments identified both in the 2006 audit and the current audit is as follows:

Site Name	Overall quality 2006	Overall quality 2011
Brick Kiln Lane, Stebbing	Specific status not given	Excellent
Chickney Road, Henham	Specific status not given	Excellent
The Street, High Roding	Not surveyed	Good to Excellent
Stortford Road, Clavering	Specific status not given	Good to Excellent
Mallows Green Road, Manuden	Not surveyed	Good
Roger's End, Ashdon	Not surveyed	Good
Little Walden Road, Saffron Walden	Specific status not given	Good
Mill Road, Felsted	Specific status not given	Good
Jubilee Allotments, Waldgroves, Great Dunmow	Specific status not given	Good
Mill Road, Debden	Not surveyed	Good
Allotments off Broad Street, Hatfield Broad Oak	Not surveyed	Good
Frambury Lane, Newport	Specific status not given	Moderate to good
Crocus Fields, Saffron Walden	Specific status not given	Moderate to good
Rickling Green Road, Quendon and Rickling	Not surveyed	Moderate to good
Pennington Lane, Stansted	Specific status not given	Moderate
Off The Street, Manuden	Not surveyed	Poor
Land rear of Magdalen Green, Thaxted	Specific status not given	Unknown
Land off Radwinter Road, Saffron Walden	Specific status not given	Unknown
Off Bardfield Road, Thaxted	Not surveyed	Unknown
Site off Peaslands Road, Saffron Walden	Specific status not given	Unknown
Windmill Hill, Saffron Walden	Specific status not given	Unknown
Birchanger Lane, Birchanger	Not surveyed	Unknown
Church Lane, Elsenham	Not surveyed	Unknown
Off The Street, High Easter	Not surveyed	Unknown
Off Hamel Way, Widdington	Not surveyed	Unknown

Result of site audit:

- 3.91 Of the allotment sites audited, only two were categorised as moderate or poor, Pennington Lane, Stansted and the site off The Street, Manuden. Specific quality gradings for individual allotment sites were not given in the 2006 audit, so it is not possible to make a direct comparison. However, 31% of allotment sites were considered poor in the 2006 audit.

¹⁷ Environment, Transport and Regional Affairs Committee's report 'The Future for Allotments', 1998.

¹⁸ Local Government Association; Growing in the community: a good practice guide for the management of allotments; 2nd ed, 2008

- 3.92 Just over half of the allotments audited are privately owned, although some are managed by the Parish Council. Parish Councils own and managed 33% of the allotment sites and Uttlesford District Council 13%. Of the 25 allotment sites identified only the site of Peaslands Road, Saffron Walden has any form of designation. It is within a Protected Open Space of Environmental Value and for Informal Recreation.
- 3.93 In relation to pedestrian access, only The Street, High Roding was rated as poor. It was also the only site to score very poor for movement around the site. All other sites scored moderate or higher in both categories. Parking was a slightly more widespread issue, with five sites rated as poor and a further site rated as very poor.
- 3.94 The majority of allotment sites scored good or excellent for all aspects of cleanliness and maintenance. The Street, High Roding; Crocus Fields, Saffron Walden; and Broad Street, Hatfield Broad Oak were the only sites to score poor or very poor for any of the criteria in this category.
- 3.95 None of the sites were graded lower than moderate in terms of wildlife value, with 56.3% rated good or excellent. Brick Kiln Lane allotments in Stebbing; Rickling Green Road, Quendon; Broad Street, Hatfield Broad Oak and Rickling and The Street, Manuden were rated very poor for information, although a further five sites considered that the provision of notice boards was not applicable.

Allotments: standards

Quantity

<i>Existing level of provision</i>	<i>Recommended standard</i>
<p>0.2 ha/1000 population (0.24 ha/1000 population in Market Towns and main villages and 0.2 ha/1000 population in more rural parishes) (15.33ha total)</p>	<p>Proposed standard: a minimum of 0.25ha/1000 population</p>
<i>Justification</i>	
<p>The current level of allotment provision is equivalent to a range of 0.2ha/1000 population in rural parishes - 0.24ha/1000 population in Market Towns and main villages. A proposed standard has been set that is similar to comparator authorities' provision and slightly higher than existing provision, with a view to raising the standard above the current provision. No quantity standard was set as part of the 2006 audit.</p> <p>The proposed standard has been set just below the average standard of the comparator authorities (0.27ha per 1000 population) at 0.25ha per 1000 population. This is equivalent to approximately 10 standard allotment plots (approximately 250 sq m) and is in line with a number of the comparator authorities, despite being just below the average. Provision should be off site if less than four allotment plots would be required. Comparator authorities that were studied have set the following standards;</p> <p>East Hertfordshire – 0.22ha/1000 population Chelmsford – 0.3ha/1000 population North Hertfordshire – 0.23ha/1000 population in towns, 0.36ha/1000 in rural area South Oxfordshire – 0.3ha/1000 population in larger settlements, 0.2ha/1000 population in smaller settlements Hambleton – 0.2ha/1000 population Harborough – 0.35ha/1000 population Maldon – 0.2ha/1000 population Stratford-on-Avon – 0.4ha/1000 population East Hampshire – 0.2ha/1000 population</p>	

Accessibility

<i>Existing level of provision</i>	<i>Recommended standard</i>
Not defined	<p>Proposed standard: Within 10 minutes drive (4km) of whole population</p> <p>No standard set in 2006 study</p>
<i>Justification</i>	
<p>The community consultation undertaken for the 2006 audit identified that the majority of the community would prefer to drive to sites that are over a mile away. The standard that has been set is comparable with several comparator authorities, as no standard was in the 2006 audit.</p> <p>Comparator standards at other local authorities of similar profile were:</p> <p>East Hertfordshire – 10 minute drive from residential areas Chelmsford – 10 minutes drive (2-4km) North Hertfordshire – 720m walk South Oxfordshire – 10 minute walk (600m) Hambleton – 15 minutes walk Harborough – 10 minutes drive (4km) Maldon – all households within 2km radius Stratford-on-Avon – 10 minutes drive (4.8km) district wide, 10 minutes walk (480m) in larger settlements East Hampshire – 480m Sevenoaks – 10 minutes walk (800m) from residential areas</p>	

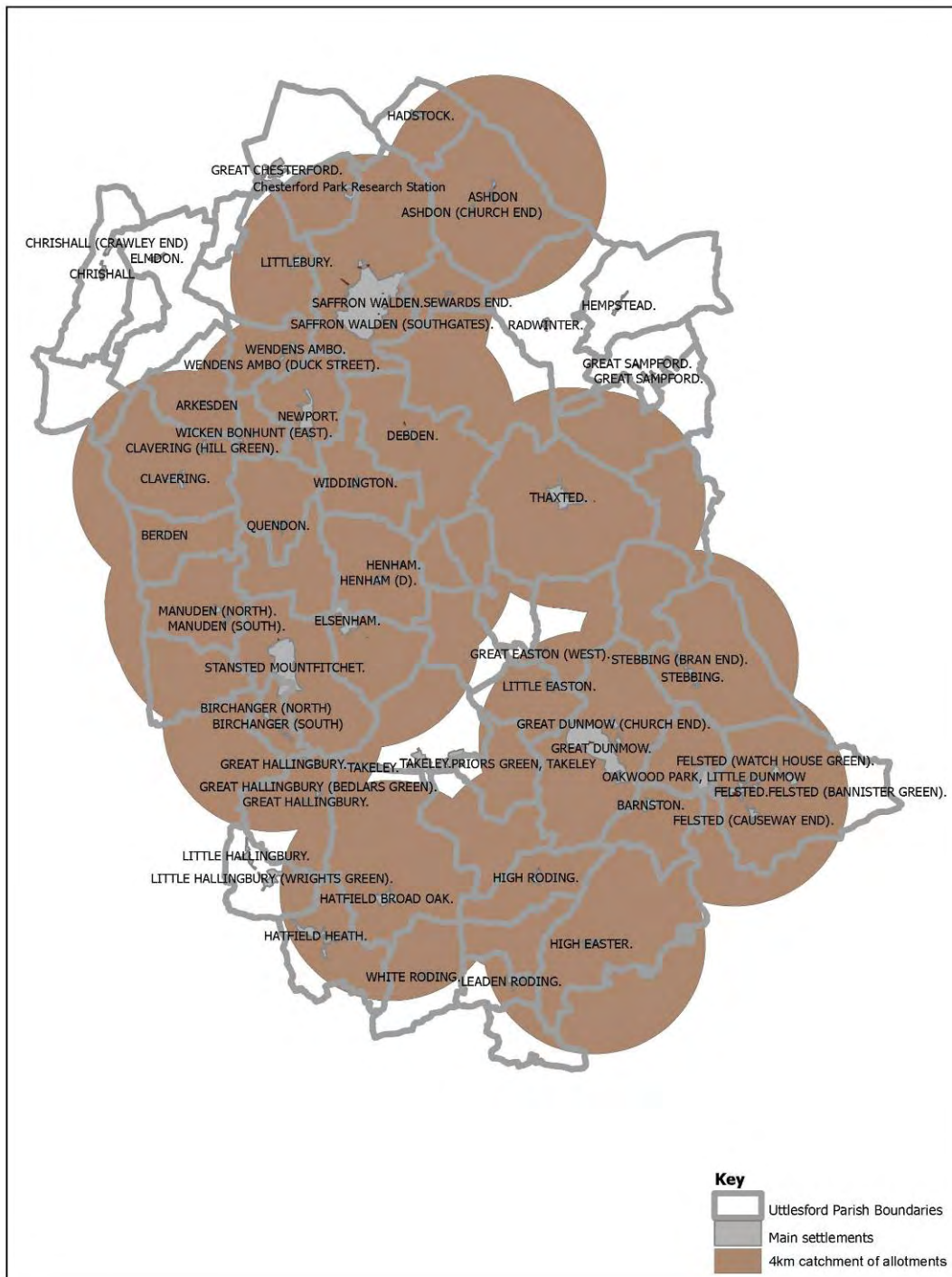
Quality

<i>Existing level of provision</i>	<i>Recommended standard</i>
N/A	<p>Proposed standards:</p> <p>Essential</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allotments should have secure fencing, a watering point, water storage facilities, containers for equipment, good quality soils, vehicle access to the allotment entrance and parking facilities. • Management of vacant plots • Provision for clearance/removal of rubbish and composting <p>Desirable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pathways through the site.
<i>Justification</i>	
<p>The current resource audit shows that the provision of allotments is generally good quality with one site identified of poor quality.</p> <p>Comparator authorities hadn't identified particular standards for quality aside from South Oxfordshire which suggests all sites should be high quality and East Hertfordshire, Hambleton and Sevenoaks which set standards based on issues identified through consultation responses.</p>	

Deficiencies in local standards

3.96 Patterns of provision: A map showing the location of allotments in Uttlesford, together with a 4km catchment is below. It shows that a large proportion of the district is within 4km of their nearest allotment site. There are areas in the north west of the district that have no provision, as well the north east and small areas along the south east and south west boundaries. There is also an area of deficiency at the centre of the district, around Takeley and the Priors Green development.

Figure 3.4: Allotment provision in Uttlesford



- 3.97 Deficiencies in **quantity** occur predominantly in some of the smaller villages.
- 3.98 Deficiencies in **accessibility** occur in the following areas and are shown above:
 - Chrishall, Elmdon and Wenden Lofts, Great Chesterford, Hempstead, Priors Green - Little Canfield, Little Hallingbury, Radwinter, The Sampfords, Takeley
 - Small parts of Hadstock
- 3.99 Deficiencies in overall **quality** occur predominantly at the allotments off The Street, Manuden.

Draft Recommendations

Allotments

Policy recommendations

RA1 Seek additional provision particularly in Chrishall, Elmdon and Wenden Lofts, Great Chesterford, Hempstead, Priors Green - Little Canfield, Little Hallingbury, Radwinter, The Sampfords, Takeley e.g. through prospective development, to mitigate for existing and prospective quantitative deficiencies.

Other recommendations

RA2 Seek further information on community need for allotment gardens.

RA3 Work with Allotment Associations or Trusts to seek enhancements in quantity, quality and access to sites, especially where demand or deficiencies have been identified locally.

RA4 Seek improvements to access from local communities to allotment sites where these have been identified as below average quality

RA5 Identify areas in existing sites within other typologies, especially amenity greens, but including formal parks or school grounds, where new sites could be created that cannot be delivered through development

Cemeteries and churchyards*Leaden Roding churchyard*

- 3.100 Churchyards can be defined as within the walled boundary of a church while cemeteries are burial grounds outside the church confines. The PPG17 guidance¹⁹ identifies that this typology includes private burial grounds, local authority burial grounds and disused churchyards.
- 3.101 The primary purpose of this type of open space is for burial of the dead and quiet contemplation, but the amenity and visual benefits are also important, as well as the opportunities to promote wildlife conservation and biodiversity, especially in older churchyards. Cemeteries and churchyards can be a significant open space provider in some areas particularly in rural areas. In other areas they can represent a relatively minor resource in terms of the land, but are able to provide areas of nature conservation importance. Some churchyards retain areas of unimproved grasslands and other habitats, thus providing a sanctuary for wildlife in urban settlements and/or heritage value within more rural landscapes.
- 3.102 There is increasing demand for 'natural' or 'green' burials. This can be for environmental reasons – people want to reduce their impact on the environment caused by cremation, for instance, and don't like the 'conveyor-belt' type atmosphere of modern burial grounds and crematoria. Such burials involve simple natural, earth-friendly materials, which make the minimum impact on wildlife habitats and the landscape in the future. This type of burial ground can provide a wide range of greenspace benefits to the community and could be considered as one of the choices if additional burial sites are needed in Uttlesford.

Result of audit

- 3.103 66 sites have been identified within Uttlesford District, although five of these are below the 0.2ha threshold used for other types of open space. Sites are found throughout the District. All of the Cemeteries and Churchyards audited are owned by the associated church, except Chickney Church which is owned by a Trust, and allow general public access into the churchyards.
- 3.104 The sites range in size from Saffron Walden Cemetery at 5.38ha, to the church grounds in Swards End at only 0.03ha. The average size of the sites is 0.58ha. Eight churchyards are located in County Wildlife Sites, including in Aythorpe Roding, Chrishall, Little Canfield and Wicken Bonhunt.

¹⁹ Planning Policy 17: Planning for open space, sport and recreation

The Cemetery and churchyard, Church Street, Saffron Walden; Radwinter churchyard and Thaxted churchyard are designated as a Protected Open Space of Environmental Value.

- 3.105 The overall quality of the Cemeteries and Churchyards audited is generally moderate or above with only one site, the upper churchyard in Manuden, identified as very poor. Overall quality from the current audit is as follows (this type of open space was not included in the 2006 audit):

Site Name	Overall quality 2006	Overall quality 2011
Cemetery, Chickney Road, Henham	Not surveyed	Excellent
Churchyard, The Endway, Great Easton	Not surveyed	Excellent
Ashdon churchyard and cemetery	Not surveyed	Excellent
Churchyard, Church End, Clavering	Not surveyed	Excellent
Saffron Walden Cemetery	Not surveyed	Excellent
Chickney Church	Not surveyed	Good
St Peters churchyard, off Patmore End, Ugley	Not surveyed	Good
St Mary's Church, Church End, Great Canfield	Not surveyed	Good
Churchyard, The Street, Manuden	Not surveyed	Good
Churchyard, Church Hill, Hempstead	Not surveyed	Good
Cemetery and churchyard, Church Street, Saffron Walden	Not surveyed	Good
Churchyard, Church Road, Stansted	Not surveyed	Good
St Mary the Virgin churchyard, Hatfield Broad Oak	Not surveyed	Good
Dunmow Town Cemetery and Churchyard	Not surveyed	Good
Off High Street, Little Chesterford	Not surveyed	Good
Chelmsford Road, Hatfield Heath	Not surveyed	Good
Off Wicken Road, Wicken Bonhunt	Not surveyed	Good
Arkesden churchyard, Arkesden	Not surveyed	Good
St Martin's Close, White Roding	Not surveyed	Good
Aythorpe churchyard, Aythorpe Roding	Not surveyed	Good
Holy Trinity Church, Chrishall	Not surveyed	Good
Methodist Chapel, Chrishall	Not surveyed	Good
Holy Cross Church, Felsted	Not surveyed	Good
All Saints Church, Little Canfield	Not surveyed	Good
All Saints Church, Quendon and Rickling	Not surveyed	Good
St Simon and St Jude's Church, Quendon and Rickling	Not surveyed	Good
St Mary the Virgin church and churchyard, Wendens Ambo	Not surveyed	Moderate
Strethall Churchyard	Not surveyed	Moderate
United Reform Church, Stortford Road, Hatfield Heath	Not surveyed	Moderate
Church Lane, Takeley	Not surveyed	Moderate
Stortford Road, Leaden Roding	Not surveyed	Moderate
St Andrew's churchyard, Barnston	Not surveyed	Moderate
Upper churchyard off The Street, Manuden	Not surveyed	Very poor
Churchyard, Bull Lane, Langley	Not surveyed	Unknown
Churchyard, Langley	Not surveyed	Unknown
Churchyard, Gallows Green Road, Lindsell	Not surveyed	Unknown
Churchyard, Church Street, Widdington	Not surveyed	Unknown
Churchyard, The Causeway, Langley	Not surveyed	Unknown
Churchyard, Church Drive, Berden	Not surveyed	Unknown
Cemetery off Bolford Street, Thaxted	Not surveyed	Unknown
St Mary's churchyard, Little Sampford	Not surveyed	Unknown
St Michael's churchyard, Great Sampford	Not surveyed	Unknown
Churchyard, Watling Street, Thaxted	Not surveyed	Unknown
Broxted Churchyard	Not surveyed	Unknown

Site Name	Overall quality 2006	Overall quality 2011
Churchyard, Walden Road, Hadstock	Not surveyed	Unknown
Churchyard, Walden Road, Radwinter	Not surveyed	Unknown
Churchyard, Church Street, Great Chesterford	Not surveyed	Unknown
Churchyard, Church Lane, Debden	Not surveyed	Unknown
Churchyard, Harrisons, Birchanger	Not surveyed	Unknown
St Giles churchyard, Great Hallingbury	Not surveyed	Unknown
St Mary's churchyard, Little Hallingbury	Not surveyed	Unknown
Churchyard, Mill Lane, Littlebury	Not surveyed	Unknown
Chapel and grounds, Littlebury Lane, Littlebury	Not surveyed	Unknown
Church grounds, Walden Road, Swards End	Not surveyed	Unknown
Churchyard, off Maple Lane, Wimbish	Not surveyed	Unknown
St Nicholas Church, Elmdon	Not surveyed	Unknown
St Mary's Church, Elsenham	Not surveyed	Unknown
Cemetery, High Street, Elsenham	Not surveyed	Unknown
St Mary's Church, Farnham	Not surveyed	Unknown
St Mary's Church, High Easter	Not surveyed	Unknown
All Saints Church, High Roding	Not surveyed	Unknown
St Katherine's Church, Little Bardfield	Not surveyed	Unknown
Priory Church, Little Dunmow	Not surveyed	Unknown
St Mary's Church, Little Easton	Not surveyed	Unknown
St Margaret's Church, Margaret Roding	Not surveyed	Unknown
St Mary's Church, Stebbing	Not surveyed	Unknown

- 3.106 Of all the sites 15% are considered to have a poor or very poor appearance. This includes the Upper Churchyard in Manuden and churchyards in Chelmsford Road (Hatfield Heath), Church Lane (Takeley), Strethall and Aythorpe Roding. Entrances and boundaries are also considered poor in Chelmsford Road (Hatfield Heath), Church Lane (Takeley) and Strethall churchyards.
- 3.107 Disabled access is generally not very good, with over 42% of sites rated poor or very poor. This is not surprising given the age of the open spaces. Parking is even more of an issue in relation to cemeteries and churchyards, with 36% graded poor or very poor.
- 3.108 The safety of sites is generally considered to be good. Only Chelmsford Road, Hatfield Heath and Church Lane, Takeley were rated poor in terms of their feel and only Church Lane, Takeley in terms of vandalism. The majority of sites were rated good or excellent in terms of dog fouling, litter and fly tipping. The Upper Churchyard in Manuden scored poorly in all three categories, with the Lower Churchyard also scoring very poor for dog fouling.
- 3.109 Provision and maintenance of seats within churchyards and cemeteries is an issue in around 25% of sites. Nine sites indicated that signage was either poor or not provided. The majority of sites were rated moderate or higher in relation to nature conservation and wildlife value.
- 3.110 Some of the sites presented opportunities for improvement or enhancement. This potential to improve sites rated moderate or below is summarised below:

Site Name	Potential
St Mary the Virgin church and churchyard, Wendens Ambo	Improvements needed to disabled access, parking provision, seating, signage and variety of vegetation
Strethall Churchyard	Improvements needed to general feel and level of welcome, boundaries and entrances, disabled access, parking provision and signage
United Reform Church, Stortford Road, Hatfield Heath	General small scale improvements needed

Site Name	Potential
Church Lane, Takeley	Improvements needed to general feel and level of welcome, boundaries and entrances, disabled access, signage and to address issues of safety, vandalism and maintenance
Stortford Road, Leaden Roding	Improvements needed to disabled access, parking provision and seating provision
St Andrew's churchyard, Barnston	Improvements needed to parking provision, seating provision and wildlife value
Upper churchyard off The Street, Manuden	Improvements needed to general feel and level of welcome, disabled access, parking provision and level of seating, as well as to address issues of dog fouling, litter, fly tipping and maintenance

Cemeteries and Churchyards: standards

3.111 It is not applicable to set standards for either quantity or accessibility for cemeteries and churchyards. PPG 17 Annex states: "many historic churchyards provide important places for quiet contemplation, especially in busy urban areas, and often support biodiversity and interesting geological features. As such many can also be viewed as amenity greenspaces. Unfortunately, many are also run-down and therefore it may be desirable to enhance them. As churchyards can only exist where there is a church, the only form of provision standard which will be required is a qualitative one."

Quality

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
N/A	<p>Cemeteries and churchyards should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have well-kept grass or natural areas, with appropriate flowers, trees and shrubs • offer a clean and litter free environment with clear pathways • have appropriate and good quality ancillary facilities such as seating, signage and car-parking where appropriate.
Justification	
<p>The current resource audit shows that the provision of Cemeteries and Churchyards is generally good quality with one site identified of very poor quality.</p> <p>Comparator authorities hadn't identified particular standards for quality aside from East Hertfordshire and Sevenoaks which set standards based on issues identified through consultation responses.</p>	

Deficiencies in local standards

3.112 *Quality* - Upper churchyard off The Street, Manuden – Very poor

Draft Recommendations

Cemeteries and churchyards

Other Recommendations

RC1 Seek enhancements in quality and accessibility to sites where these have been identified as being below average quality

RC2 Review greenspace design and management of Upper churchyard off The Street, Manuden, and put in place a plan for enhancements.

4 Assessment of Playing Pitches

Introduction

4.1 Typologies: This section contains an analysis of playing pitch and related changing facilities provision in Uttlesford. The pitch types examined are as follows:

- a) Adult football pitches.
- b) Junior football pitches.
- c) Mini-soccer pitches.
- d) Cricket pitches.
- e) Rugby pitches.

Methodology

4.2 The analysis follows the PPG17 methodology. As advocated in the PPG17 Companion Guide, an additional assessment specific to playing pitches, Sport England's Playing Pitch Model (PPM) and a methodology for qualitative pitch audits was applied, as set out in '*Towards a Level playing Field - A guide to the production of Playing Pitch Strategies*' (2005). However, to ensure consistent treatment with the other PPG17 typologies, the following minor variations in approach were adopted:

- a) Because the strategy assesses publicly-accessible provision, the analysis is confined to pitches with community access, rather than including any private facilities without public access. The vast majority of pitches without community access in Uttlesford are on school sites, some of which may offer opportunities to accommodate external users in the future.
- b) The outputs from the PPM were used to guide the development of local standards of provision and as with the other typologies, these standards have then been applied to determine current and future needs, rather than just the numerical outputs of the PPM and related material such as Team Generation Rates and the Conversion Rates advocated by the Football Association.
- c) The methodology for the qualitative audit was based upon Sport England's recommended criteria.

4.3 Synthetic turf pitches are analysed separately in the sports facilities section, but where such facilities serve the needs of grass pitch users, for example as a training facility, this has been reflected in the respective assessments.

4.4 The following stakeholders were consulted as part of the playing pitch assessment process:

- a) The county governing bodies of football, cricket and rugby.
- b) All football, cricket and rugby clubs in the district.
- c) All parish councils in the district.
- d) All schools in the district.

Data on teams

4.5 Introduction: The data on local pitch sport teams is detailed overleaf. It was compiled from the following sources and cross referenced with the clubs survey.

- a) The Football Association's 2010/2011 Football Participation report for Uttlesford.
- b) The England and Wales Cricket Board's 'Play-Cricket' database.
- c) The local rugby club website.

4.6 Football clubs: The following clubs and teams currently play in the district.

<i>Club</i>	<i>Home pitches</i>	<i>Adult teams</i>	<i>Junior teams</i>	<i>Mini teams</i>
Ashdon Villa FC	Bartlow Road, Ashdon	1	0	0
Barnston FC	High Easter Road, Barnston	2	0	0
Birchanger FC	Birchanger Social Club	1	0	0
Debden FC	Debden Recreation Ground	2	0	0
Dunmow FC	Dunmow Recreation Ground	1	0	0
Dunmow Rhodes FC	Dunmow Recreation Ground	2	0	0
Dunmow Rhodes Youth FC	Dunmow Recreation Ground	0	7	4
Dunmow Vets FC	Dunmow Recreation Ground	2	0	0
Elsenham Eagles FC	Elsenham Playing Fields	1	0	0
Elsenham Youth FC	Elsenham Playing Fields	0	5	3
Great Chesterford FC	Chesterford Recreation Ground	1	0	0
Felsted Rovers FC	Felsted Playing Field	1	0	0
Flitch Youth FC	Alcott Playing Field	0	3	1
Hatfield Broad Oak	Hatfield Broad Oak Sports Club	1	0	0
Hatfield Heath FC	Calves Pasture	3	0	0
Ickleton FC	Ickleton Village Hall Ground	1	0	0
Littlebury FC	Littlebury Recreation Ground	1	0	0
Lower Street FC	The Old Mill Playing Field	1	0	0
Manuden Junior FC	Manuden Playing Field	0	3	2
Manuden United FC	Manuden Playing Field	1	0	0
Newport Veterans FC	Newport Recreation Ground	1	0	0
Plantation Youth FC	Herbert Farm Playing Fields	1	3	4
Queen's Park Stansted FC	Hargrave Park	2	0	0
Quendon Athletic FC	Quendon Recreation Ground	1	0	0
Radwinter Colts FC	Radwinter Recreation Ground	0	1	0
Saffron Crocus FC	Ickleton Village Hall Ground	2	0	0
Saffron Dynamos FC	Carver Barracks	1	0	0
Saffron Hawks Youth FC	Katherine Semar School	0	1	2
Saffron Rangers FC	<i>Linton Village College</i>	1	0	0
Saffron Walden Town FC	Caton's Lane Quendon Recreation Ground	4	0	0
Saffron Walden Town Girl's FC	Katherine Semar School	0	1	0
Saffron Walden Town Ladies FC	Caton's Lane	1	0	0
Saffron Walden Town Youth FC	Caton's Lane Dame Bradbury School	0	6	3
Sharp One FC	Jubilee Field, Clavering	1	0	0
Spartak 78 Youth FC	Herbert Farm Playing Field	0	7	3
Stansted FC	Hargrave Park	2	0	0
Stansted Junior Youth FC	Mountfitchet High School	0	1	0
Stansted Youth FC	Hargrave Park	0	1	0
Takeley FC	Station Road, Takeley	2	0	0
Takeley Youth FC	Station Road, Takeley	0	2	0
Thaxted Rangers FC	Thaxted Recreation Ground	2	0	0
Thaxted Rangers Youth FC	Thaxted Recreation Ground	0	5	5
Walden Wanderers Youth FC	Wimbish Recreation Ground	0	1	0
White Roding Sports FC	White Roding Sports Club	3	0	0
TOTAL	-	46	47	27

4.7 Football team data: Analysis of the football teams information from the FA's Football Participation report for Uttlesford for 2010/2011 reveals the following:

- a) Trends: The number of adult teams decreased by one (2.3%) between seasons 2009/10 and 2010/11, junior teams remained the same at 47 and mini-soccer teams decreased by one (3.7%) in the same period.
- b) Conversion rates: The proportion of the population from each age group and gender that plays football in Uttlesford in 2010/2011 is tabulated below, with comparative data for the East and England as a whole. The figures show that rates of adult male participation are higher than the national and regional averages, but that adult women, junior and mini-soccer rates are all below the averages. Consultation with the Essex FA suggests that the main reason for the relatively low conversion rates in Uttlesford is exported demand to neighbouring areas with very active youth and mini-soccer leagues:

Age group	Uttlesford	East	England
Adult male	7.4%	6.9%	5.4%
Adult female	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%
Junior male	18.4%	25.8%	21.4%
Junior female	0.4%	2.6%	2.3%
Mini-soccer (mixed)	7.1%	10.6%	9.1%
All forms	6.2%	7.1%	5.9%

4.8 Cricket clubs: The following clubs and teams currently play in the district:

Club	Home pitches	Adult teams	Junior teams
Ashdon CC	Walton's Park, Ashdon	2	0
Audley End & Littlebury CC	Audley End House	2	0
Aythorpe Roding CC	Roundbush Green	5	3
Birchanger CC	Birchanger Social Club	2	0
Chesterfords CC	Great Chesterford Recreation Ground	2	0
Chrishall CC	Jigney's Meadow	1	0
Clavering CC	Hill Green, Clavering	1	0
Clogham's Green CC	Clogham's Green, Leaden Roding	2	0
Dunmow CC	St. Edmunds Lane, Dunmow	4	5
Eastons CC	Little Easton Recreation Ground	1	0
Elmdon CC	Pilgrim's Hill, Elmdon	3	0
Farnham CC	Hazel End, Farnham	2	0
Great Canfield CC	Green Street, Great Canfield	3	0
Hatfield Broad Oak CC	Hatfield Broad Oak Sports Club	1	0
Hatfield Heath CC	The Heath, Hatfield Heath	2	0
High Easter CC	The Street, High Easter	1	0
High Roding CC	Rands Road, High Roding	4	5
Hockerill CC	Beldham's Lane, Hockerill	7	3
Langley CC	Langley Upper Green	1	0
Lindsell CC	Gallows Green, Lindsell	1	0
Little Bardfield Village CC	Churchend, Little Bardfield	2	0
Little Hallingbury CC	Gaston Green, Little Hallingbury	2	0
Molehill Green CC	School Lane, Molehill Green	2	0
Newport CC	Newport Recreation Ground	3	1
Radwinter CC	Radwinter Recreation Ground	1	0
Rickling Ramblers CC	Rickling Green	2	0
Saffron Walden CC	Anglo-American Playing Field County High Sports Centre Friends School Wenden's Ambo Playing Field	6	19
Sampfords CC	High Street, Great Sampford	1	0

<i>Club</i>	<i>Home pitches</i>	<i>Adult teams</i>	<i>Junior teams</i>
Stansted CC	Hargrave Park, Stansted Henham Road, Elsenham	3	2
Stansted Hall & Elsenham CC	Stansted Hall	4	6
Stebbing CC	Stebbing Recreation Ground	1	0
Takeley CC	Parsonage Road, Takeley	1	2
Thaxted CC	Bardfield End Green, Thaxted	4	3
Wenden CC	Wenden's Ambo Playing Field	1	0
White Roding CC	White Roding Sports Club	2	0
TOTAL	-	82	49

4.9 Rugby clubs: The following club and teams currently play in the district:

<i>Club</i>	<i>Home pitches</i>	<i>Adult teams</i>	<i>Junior teams</i>	<i>Mini teams</i>
Saffron Walden RFC	Springgate, Chickney Road, Henham	4	10	7

4.10 Team Generation Rates: Team Generation Rates (TGRs) for each pitch sport in Uttlesford are tabulated below. These compare the number of teams of each type with the number of people in the respective age groups, to take account of the 'active age groups' for each sport:

<i>Sport and age group</i>	<i>Number of teams</i>	<i>People in age group</i>	<i>TGR</i>
Adult men's football (16 - 45)	46	13,076	1: 284
Adult women's football (16 - 45)	1	13,884	1: 13,884
Boy's Junior football (10 - 15)	46	3,142	1: 68
Girl's Junior football (10 - 15)	1	3,018	1: 3,018
Mixed Mini-soccer (6 - 9)	27	3,760	1: 139
Adult men's cricket (18 - 55)	82	17,606	1: 215
Adult women's cricket (18 - 55)	0	-	-
Junior boy's cricket (11 - 17)	46	3,590	1: 78
Junior girl's cricket (11 - 17)	3	3,450	1: 1,150
Adult men's rugby (18 - 45)	4	11,679	1: 2,920
Adult women's rugby (18 - 45)	0	-	-
Junior boy's rugby (13 - 17)	10	2,530	1: 253
Junior girl's rugby (13 - 17)	0	-	-
Mixed Mini-rugby (8 - 12)	7	5,000	1: 714

4.11 TGR's in context: Team Generation Rates enable comparisons to be made with national averages (compiled from data from Sport England's Playing Pitches Toolkit) as follows:

<i>Sport and age group</i>	<i>Uttlesford</i>	<i>England</i>
Adult men's football (16 - 45)	1: 284	1: 386
Adult women's football (16 - 45)	1: 13,884	1: 14,728
Boy's Junior football (10 - 15)	1: 68	1: 157
Girl's Junior football (10 - 15)	1: 3,018	1: 2,129
Mixed Mini-soccer (6 - 9)	1: 139	1: 399
Adult men's cricket (18 - 55)	1: 215	1: 989
Adult women's cricket (18 - 55)	-	1: 45,938
Junior boy's cricket (11 - 17)	1: 78	1: 381
Junior girl's cricket (11 - 17)	1: 1,150	1: 5,928
Adult men's rugby (18 - 45)	1: 2,920	1: 3,666
Adult women's rugby (18 - 45)	-	1: 19,725
Junior boy's rugby (13 - 17)	1: 253	1: 702
Junior girl's rugby (13 - 17)	-	1: 5,395

Mixed Mini-rugby (8 - 12)	1: 714	1: 1,346
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4.12 Team equivalents: In addition to the teams requiring access to pitches to play competitive fixtures, the impact on overall demand from training use can be assessed by calculating the ‘team equivalents’ that such usage generates. The following information was derived from the survey of pitch sports clubs and the additional team equivalents have been included in the application of the Playing Pitch Model below:

- a) Adult football: Adult teams in Uttlesford typically train on average once a week in addition to their competitive fixtures. Because of the lack of floodlights at most grass pitches in the district, the facilities used for midweek evening training include sports halls, the full-sized synthetic turf pitches and multi-use games areas. Training on grass frequently involves the use of training ‘grids’ rather than the pitches themselves. As a result, the additional ‘team equivalents’ generated by training usage on grass pitches equates to an estimated 7 teams (15% of the training volume), concentrated in the midweek period. Whilst this does not impact directly upon peak demand periods, the wear and tear on some of the lower quality pitches does affect their carrying capacity.
- b) Junior football: Junior teams typically train an average of once a week and use a similar mix of facilities. The additional ‘team equivalents’ generated by training usage on grass pitches equates to an estimated 7 teams (15% of the training volume), concentrated in the midweek period.
- c) Mini-soccer: Mini-soccer teams typically train an average once a week and use a similar mix of facilities. However, because of the nature of the mini-game and the small size of the players, wear and tear on grass pitches is a less significant factor. As a result, the additional ‘team equivalents’ generated by training usage on grass pitches equates to an estimated 3 teams (10% of the training volume), concentrated in the midweek period.
- d) Cricket: Clubs typically train twice a week during the cricket season, but this has a negligible effect on pitches because the training involves the use of nets on the outfield or synthetic turf wickets. As a result, the additional ‘team equivalents’ generated by training usage on match wickets is zero.
- e) Rugby: Saffron Walden Rugby Club has access to a floodlit training pitch and adult and junior teams typically train once a week on midweek evenings. As a result, the additional ‘team equivalents’ generated by training usage on match pitches is zero.

Pitches in Uttlesford

4.13 Definition: The pitches included in the analysis are defined as natural turf areas permanently laid out with regulation markings, with the following dimensions for club-level play as specified in Sport England’s ‘Comparative Sizes of Sports Pitches and Courts’ (2011), have community access and are used for competitive play.

Pitch Type	Pitch length	Pitch width	Size including run-offs
Adult football	Max. 120m/Min. 90m	Max. 90m/Min. 45.5m	Max. 126m x 96m
Junior football	Max. 100.6m/Min. 68.25m	Max. 64m/Min. 42m	Max. 106.6m x 70m
Mini-soccer	Max. 45.75m/Min. 27.45m	Max. 27.45m/Min. 18.3m	Max. 54.9m x 36.6m
Adult cricket	20.12m	Max. 36.6m/Min. 3.05m	111.56m x 106.69m
Junior cricket	19.2m	Max. 27.45m/Min. 3.05m	92.36m x 88.41m
Adult rugby	Max. 144m	Max. 70m	Max. 154m x 80m
Mini-rugby	Max. 70m	Max. 43m/Min. 30m	Max. 80m x 53m

4.14 Security of access: A key consideration in assessing pitch supply is the extent to which provision is available for unrestricted community use and subject to formalised access arrangements that cannot easily be rescinded. Sport England has produced a formal classification for access to playing pitches which is set out below. In common with the other PPG17 typologies, this study has focused exclusively on categories A and B.

Category	Definition	Supplementary information
A(i)	Secured community pitches	Pitches in local authority or other public ownership.
A(ii)		Pitches in the voluntary, private or commercial sector which are open to members of the public.*
A(iii)		Pitches on education sites which are available for use by the public through formal community use agreements.
B	Used by community but not secured	Pitches not included above, that are nevertheless available for community use, e.g. school facilities without formal user arrangements.
C	Not open for community use	Pitches at establishments which are not, as a matter of policy or practice, available for community use.

* Where there is a charge, this must be reasonable and affordable for the local community.

4.15 'Quantitative analysis: Details of all pitches with community access in Uttlesford are listed below, with the access category recorded for each'. The information on pitches was compiled from:

- Sport England's 'Active Places' database.
- The survey of town and parish councils.
- The qualitative audit which involved a visit to every pitch site in the district to verify the quantity and quality of pitches and related facilities.

Site	Access category	Adult football	Junior football	Mini-soccer	Cricket	Rugby
Alcott Playing Field	A(i)	1	-	1	-	-
Anglo-American Playing Field	A(i)	-	-	-	1	-
Audley End House	B	-	-	-	1	-
Ashdon Villa Football Club	A(ii)	1	-	-	-	-
Barnston Football Club	A(ii)	1	1	-	-	-
Birchanger Social Club	A(ii)	1	-	-	-	-
Burns Playing Field, Great Easton	A(i)	1	-	-	-	-
Calves Pasture	A(i)	1	-	-	-	-
Carver Barracks	B	2	-	-	-	-
Causeway Recreation Ground	A(i)	2	1	1	-	-
Clavering Village Green	A(i)	-	-	-	1	-
Clogham's Green Cricket Club	A(ii)	-	-	-	1	-
County High Sports Centre	B	-	-	-	1	-
Dame Bradbury's School	B	-	1	3	-	-
Debden Recreation Ground	A(i)	1	-	-	-	-
Dunmow Cricket Club	A(ii)	-	-	-	1	-
Elmdon Cricket Club	A(ii)	-	-	-	1	-
Elsenham Cricket Club	A(ii)	-	-	-	1	-
Elsenham Playing Fields	A(i)	1	1	-	-	-
Farnham Cricket Club	A(ii)	-	-	-	1	-
Felsted Playing Field	A(i)	1	1	-	-	-
Friends School	B	-	-	-	2	-
Great Canfield Cricket Club	A(ii)	-	-	-	1	-
Great Chesterford Recreation Ground	A(i)	1	-	-	1	-
Great Dunmow Leisure Centre	A(i)	1	-	-	-	-
Hargrave Park	A(ii)	1	-	-	1	-
Hatfield Broad Oak Cricket Club	A(ii)	-	-	-	1	-
Hatfield Broad Oak Sports Club	A(ii)	1	-	-	-	-
Hatfield Heath Cricket Club	A(ii)	-	-	-	1	-
Herbert Farm Playing Fields	A(i)	2	1	-	-	-
High Easter Cricket Club	A(ii)	-	-	-	1	-

<i>Site</i>	<i>Access category</i>	<i>Adult football</i>	<i>Junior football</i>	<i>Mini-soccer</i>	<i>Cricket</i>	<i>Rugby</i>
High Easter Playing Field	A(i)	-	1	1	-	-
High Roding Cricket Club	A(ii)	-	-	-	1	-
Hockerill Cricket Club	A(ii)	-	-	-	2	-
Ickleton Village Hall Ground	A(i)	1	-	-	-	-
Jigney's Meadow, Chrishall	A(i)	-	-	-	1	-
Jubilee Field	A(i)	1	-	-	-	-
Katherine Semar School	B	-	3	3	-	-
Langley Cricket Club	A(ii)	-	-	-	1	-
Laundry Lane Playing Field	A(i)	-	1	-	-	-
Lindsell Cricket Club	A(ii)	-	-	-	1	-
Little Bardfield Cricket Club	A(ii)	-	-	-	1	-
Little Easton Recreation Ground	A(i)	-	-	-	1	-
Little Hallingbury Cricket Club	A(ii)	-	-	-	1	-
Littlebury Recreation Ground	A(i)	1	-	-	-	-
Manuden Playing Fields Association	A(i)	1	1	-	-	-
Molehill Green Cricket Club	A(ii)	-	-	-	1	-
Mountfitchet High School	A (iii)	3	-	-	-	-
Newport Recreation Ground	A(i)	2	-	-	1	-
Quendon Recreation Ground	A(i)	1	-	1	-	-
Radwinter Recreation Ground	A(i)	1	-	-	1	-
Rickling Ramblers Cricket Club	A(ii)	-	-	-	1	-
Roundbush Green	A(i)	1	-	-	1	-
Saffron Walden Rugby Club	A(ii)	-	-	-	-	2
Saffron Walden Town FC	A(ii)	1	1	2	-	-
Sampfords Cricket Club	A(ii)	-	-	-	1	-
Sewards End Recreation Ground	A(i)	-	1	-	-	-
Stansted Hall Cricket Club	A(ii)	-	-	-	1	-
Stansted Recreation Ground	A(i)	-	1	-	-	-
Stebbing Cricket Club	A(ii)	-	-	-	1	-
Takeley Cricket Club	A(ii)	-	-	-	1	-
Takeley Football Club	A(ii)	1	-	-	-	-
Takeley Recreation Ground	A(i)	1	2	-	-	-
Thaxted Cricket Club	A(ii)	-	-	-	1	-
Thaxted Recreation Ground	A(i)	1	1	1	-	-
Walton's Park, Ashdon	A(ii)	-	-	-	1	-
Wenden's Ambo Playing Field	A(i)	-	-	-	1	-
White Roding Sports Club	A(ii)	1	-	2	1	-
Wimbish Recreation Ground	A(i)	2	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	38	18	15	39	2

4.16 Per capita provision: The number of pitches of each type per capita is as follows:

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Pitches per capita</i>
Adult football	1: 2,021
Junior football	1: 4,267
Mini-soccer	1: 5,120
Cricket	1: 1,969
Rugby	1: 38,400

4.17 Security of access: The number and percentage of pitches of each type in each access category in Uttlesford is shown below. It shows that almost 14% of all pitches are in the least secure access category (available for community use but without formal user arrangements), including nearly half of the mini-soccer pitches. Since community use of these (mostly school) pitches could in theory

be rescinded at any time, efforts should be made to secure more formal Community Use Agreements.

<i>Pitch</i>	<i>A(i)</i>		<i>A(ii)</i>		<i>A(iii)</i>		<i>B</i>	
	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>
Senior football	25	65.8	8	21.0	3	7.9	2	5.2
Junior football	12	66.7	2	11.1	0	0.0	4	22.2
Mini-soccer	5	33.3	4	26.7	0	0.0	6	40.0
Cricket pitches	9	23.1	26	66.7	0	0.0	4	10.2
Rugby pitches	0	0.0	2	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
TOTAL	51	45.9	42	37.8	3	2.7	15	13.5

4.18 Qualitative analysis: The qualitative audit used the methodology specified by Sport England, which generated percentage scores for each aspect of each site. The assessment criteria are based on the methodology in Sport England's 'Playing Pitch Toolkit'. Every pitch site in Uttlesford was visited by an experienced assessor and 'scored' against the following criteria:

- Pitches: The assessment included the quality of grass cover and length, pitch size, safety margins, slope and evenness, dog-fouling, unofficial use, damage to surface, goalposts, cricket wicket protection and line markings.
- Changing provision: The assessment included overall quality, evidence of vandalism, the quality of showers, toilets, security and segregated changing.
- Other aspects: The assessment included the quality of car parking and public transport.

4.19 The full results of the qualitative audit are set out below. Any aspects of the facilities that were rated as below 'average' have been highlighted to identify those facilities where qualitative improvements should be prioritised:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Other aspects</i>
Alcott Playing Field	78%	42%	48%
Anglo-American Playing Field	92%	91%	51%
Audley End House	77%	38%	44%
Ashdon Villa Football Club	58%	61%	21%
Barnston Football Club	61%	59%	50%
Birchanger Social Club	91%	79%	55%
Burns Playing Field, Great Easton	85%	62%	44%
Calves Pasture	48%	43%	49%
Carver Barracks	89%	77%	25%
Causeway Recreation Ground	59%	95%	90%
Clavering Village Green	61%	63%	22%
Clogham's Green Cricket Club	77%	41%	34%
County High Sports Centre	82%	89%	75%
Dame Bradbury's School	79%	71%	88%
Debden Recreation Ground	73%	63%	53%
Dunmow Cricket Club	68%	41%	59%
Elmdon Cricket Club	75%	40%	50%
Elsenham Cricket Club	78%	44%	48%
Elsenham Playing Fields	62%	82%	44%
Farnham Cricket Club	61%	58%	45%
Felsted Playing Field	67%	47%	67%
Friends School	80%	91%	95%
Great Canfield Cricket Club	71%	55%	45%
Great Chesterford Recreation Ground	58%	97%	75%
Great Dunmow Leisure Centre	60%	77%	74%

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Other aspects</i>
Hargrave Park	90%	55%	62%
Hatfield Broad Oak Cricket Club	67%	48%	55%
Hatfield Broad Oak Sports Club	48%	45%	58%
Hatfield Heath Cricket Club	80%	41%	51%
Herbert Farm Playing Fields	55%	48%	88%
High Easter Cricket Club	81%	63%	44%
High Easter Playing Field	77%	59%	35%
High Roding Cricket Club	62%	43%	39%
Hockerill Cricket Club	92%	79%	88%
Ickleton Village Hall Ground	79%	0%	50%
Jigney's Meadow	68%	55%	50%
Jubilee Field	41%	23%	45%
Katherine Semar School	76%	82%	67%
Langley Cricket Club	81%	43%	65%
Laundry Lane Playing Field	75%	40%	55%
Lindsell Cricket Club	49%	60%	34%
Little Bardfield Cricket Club	78%	33%	46%
Little Easton Recreation Ground	63%	61%	58%
Little Hallingbury Cricket Club	83%	66%	44%
Littlebury Recreation Ground	81%	0%	50%
Manuden Playing Fields Assoc.	71%	69%	44%
Molehill Green Cricket Club	64%	44%	37%
Mountfitchet High School	82%	84%	68%
Newport Recreation Ground	64%	82%	57%
Quendon Recreation Ground	66%	59%	55%
Radwinter Recreation Ground	62%	67%	48%
Rickling Ramblers Cricket Club	77%	79%	58%
Roundbush Green	71%	62%	41%
Saffron Walden Rugby Club	72%	69%	29%
Saffron Walden Town FC	81%	78%	88%
Sampfords Cricket Club	69%	59%	25%
Sewards End Recreation Ground	78%	42%	52%
Stansted Hall Cricket Club	66%	48%	34%
Stansted Recreation Ground	75%	0%	47%
Stebbing Cricket Club	61%	76%	33%
Takeley Cricket Club	77%	81%	49%
Takeley Football Club	91%	79%	88%
Takeley Recreation Ground	74%	21%	44%
Thaxted Cricket Club	73%	41%	51%
Thaxted Recreation Ground	64%	65%	33%
Walton's Park, Ashdon	76%	59%	44%
Wenden's Ambo Playing Field	57%	37%	39%
White Roding Sports Club	81%	63%	46%
Wimbish Recreation Ground	60%	50%	34%



Herbert Farm Playing Fields - showing the sloping pitches

4.20 'The table below sets out the number of pitches which were rated as below average and are therefore in a condition that is likely to compromise the quality and quantity of play that they can accommodate.'

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>No. pitches below 'average'</i>	<i>% pitches below 'average'</i>
Adult football	3	7.9%
Junior football	0	0.0%
Mini-soccer	0	0.0%
Cricket	1	1.9%
Rugby	0	0.0%
ALL PITCHES	4	3.6%

4.21 Pitch carrying capacity: Pitch carrying capacity is the number of games per week that a pitch can accommodate. Consultation with pitch providers suggests that an 'average' quality pitch in Uttlesford (i.e. rated 50% or higher on Sport England's qualitative scoring system) can accommodate two games (and/or training sessions) per week without detriment to the quality of the pitch. Below average pitches, cater for one or fewer matches/training sessions per week due to their poor quality. For the purposes of calculating supply through the Playing Pitch Model, such pitches effectively count as less than one pitch, because of their periodic non-availability in the peak demand period. The table below shows the calculated carrying capacity of each type of pitch in Uttlesford:

<i>Pitch Type</i>	<i>Average quality or better</i>			<i>Below average quality</i>			<i>Total effective availability</i>
	<i>No. pitches</i>	<i>Multiplication factor</i>	<i>Effective availability</i>	<i>No. pitches</i>	<i>Multiplication factor</i>	<i>Effective availability</i>	
Adult football	35	x 1	35	3	x 0.5	1.5	36.5
Junior football	18	x 1	18	0	x 0.5	-	18.0
Mini-soccer	15	x 1	15	0	x 0.5	-	15.0
Cricket pitch	38	x 1	38	1	x 0.5	0.5	38.5
Adult rugby	2	x 1	2	0	x 0.5	-	2.0

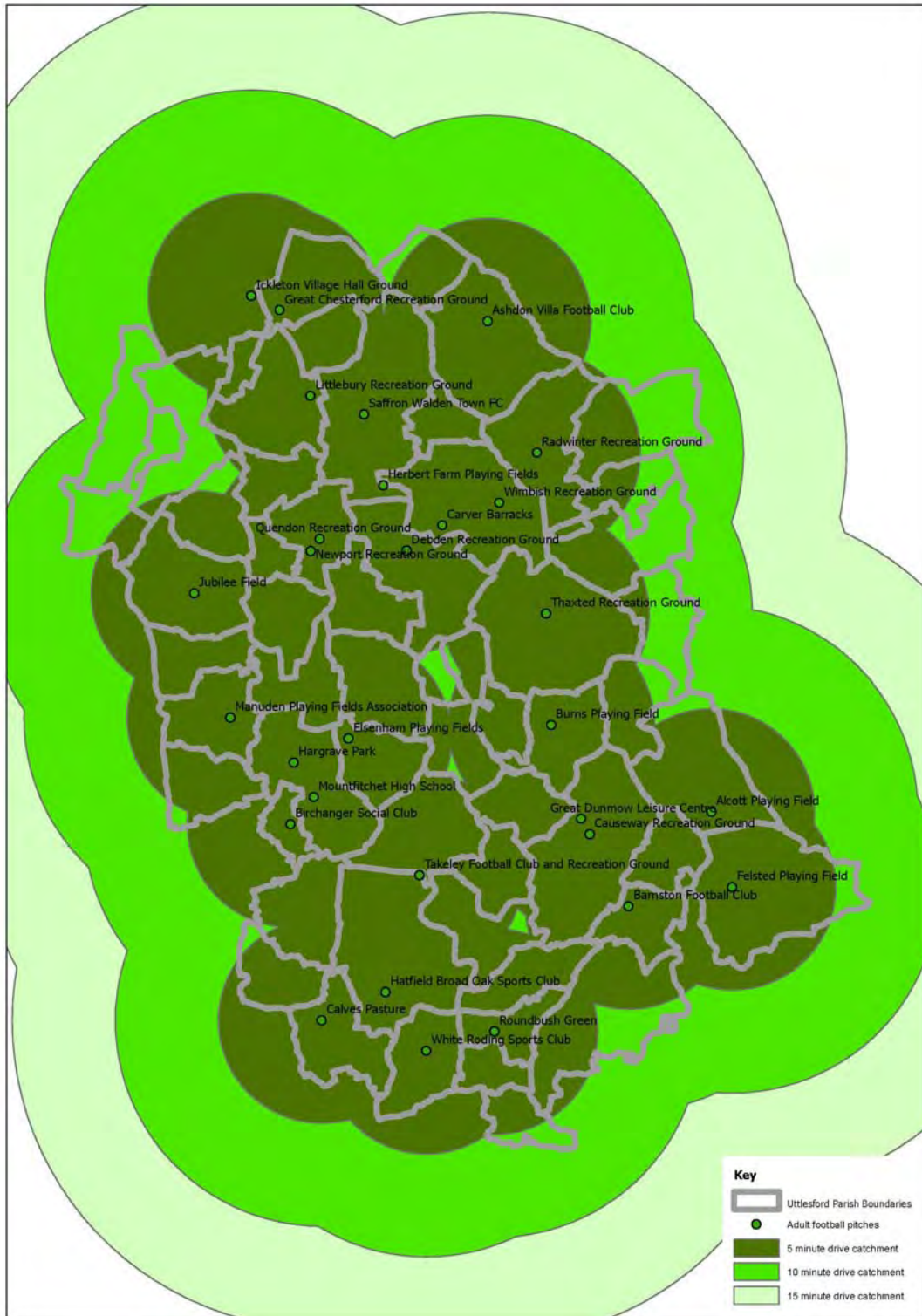
- 4.22 Changing facilities: The quality of changing facilities was assessed. 26 (39.4%) were rated as below 'average'. These facilities collectively serve 32 (28.9%) of the 111 pitches in the district. Poor quality changing provision compromises the overall playing experience and whilst it may be tolerated by existing players, it is likely to have a detrimental effect on attracting and retaining new participants.



Changing facilities at Herbert Farm Playing Fields - showing signs of wear and tear

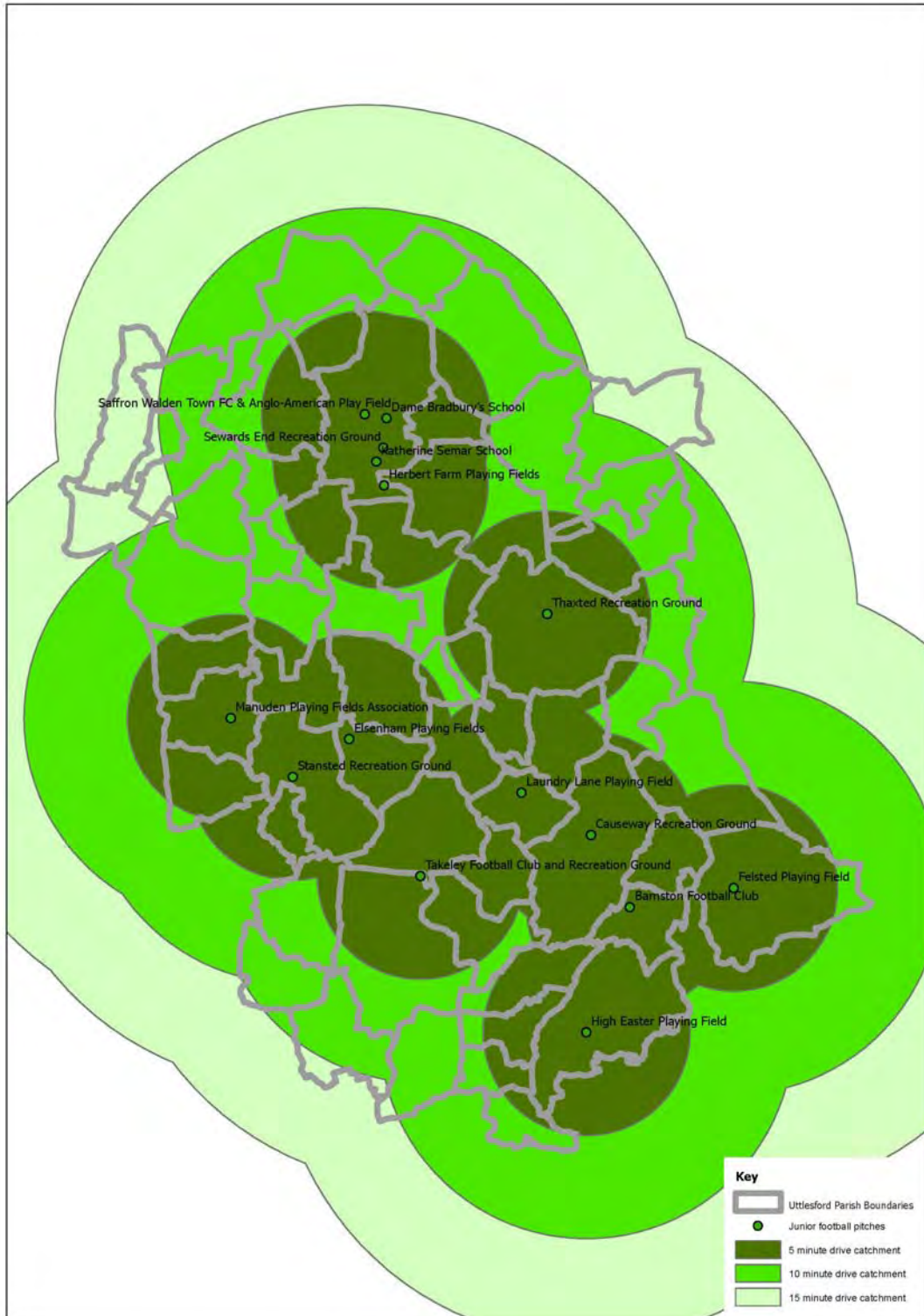
- 4.23 Effective catchment: 76.6% of the pitch users in the leisure centre users survey travel by car and 95.7% of them have a journey of 15 minutes or less.
- 4.24 Patterns of provision of adult football pitches: A map showing adult football pitches in Uttlesford, with 15 minute drive time catchments is below. It shows that the entire population is within 15 minutes drive of a pitch. The five and ten minute drive time catchments are also shown, to illustrate those parts of the district where pitches are relatively less accessible and show that most of the district is within five minutes drive of an adult football pitch.

Figure 4.1: Provision of Adult Football Pitches in Uttlesford



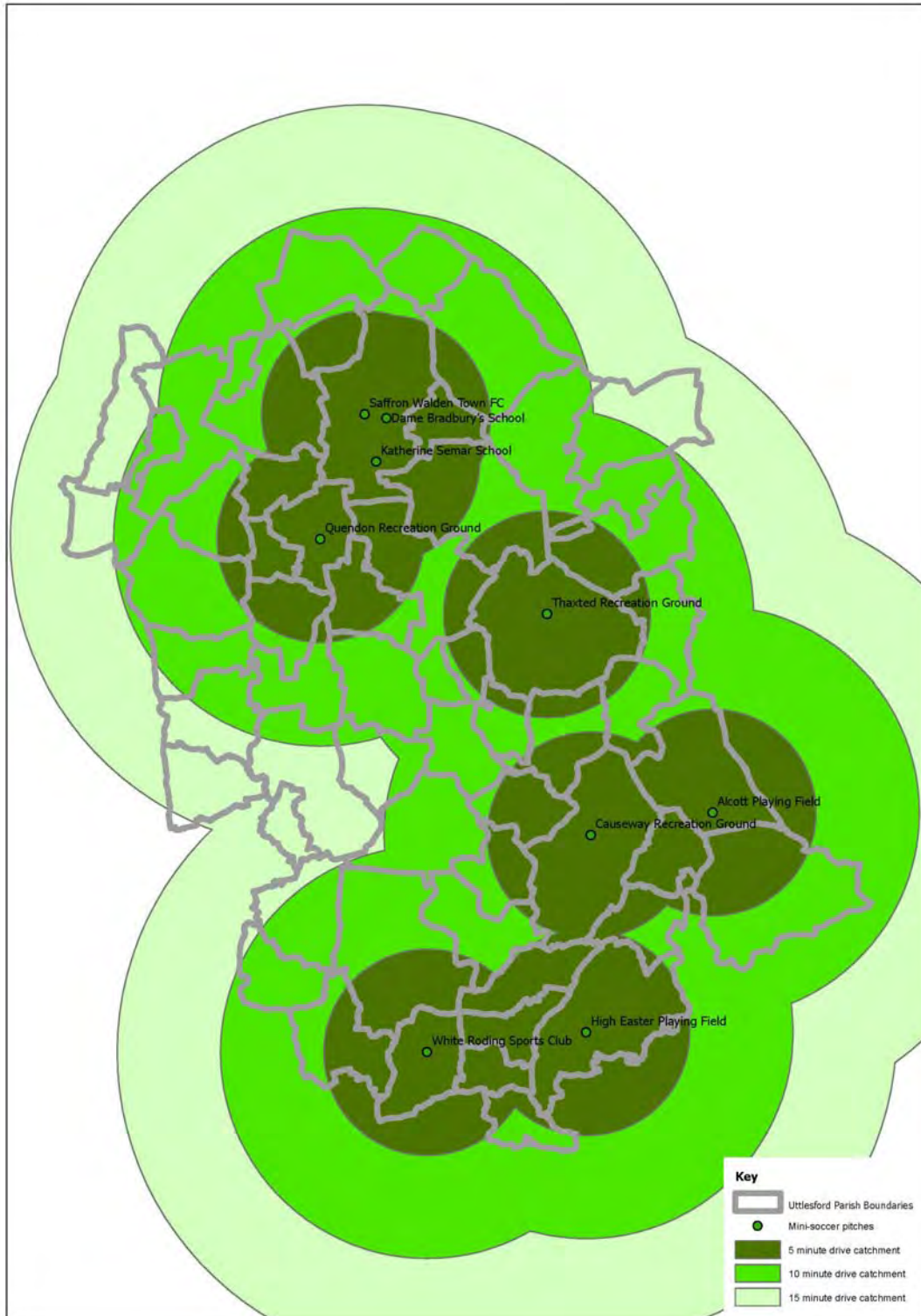
4.25 Patterns of provision of junior football pitches: A map showing the location of junior football pitches in Uttlesford, together with 15 minute drive time catchments is below. The map shows that the entire population is within 15 minutes drive of a pitch. The five and ten minute drive time catchments are also shown, to illustrate those parts of the district where pitches are relatively less accessible and show that most of the district is within ten minutes drive of a junior football pitch:

Figure 4.2: Provision of Junior Football Pitches in Uttlesford



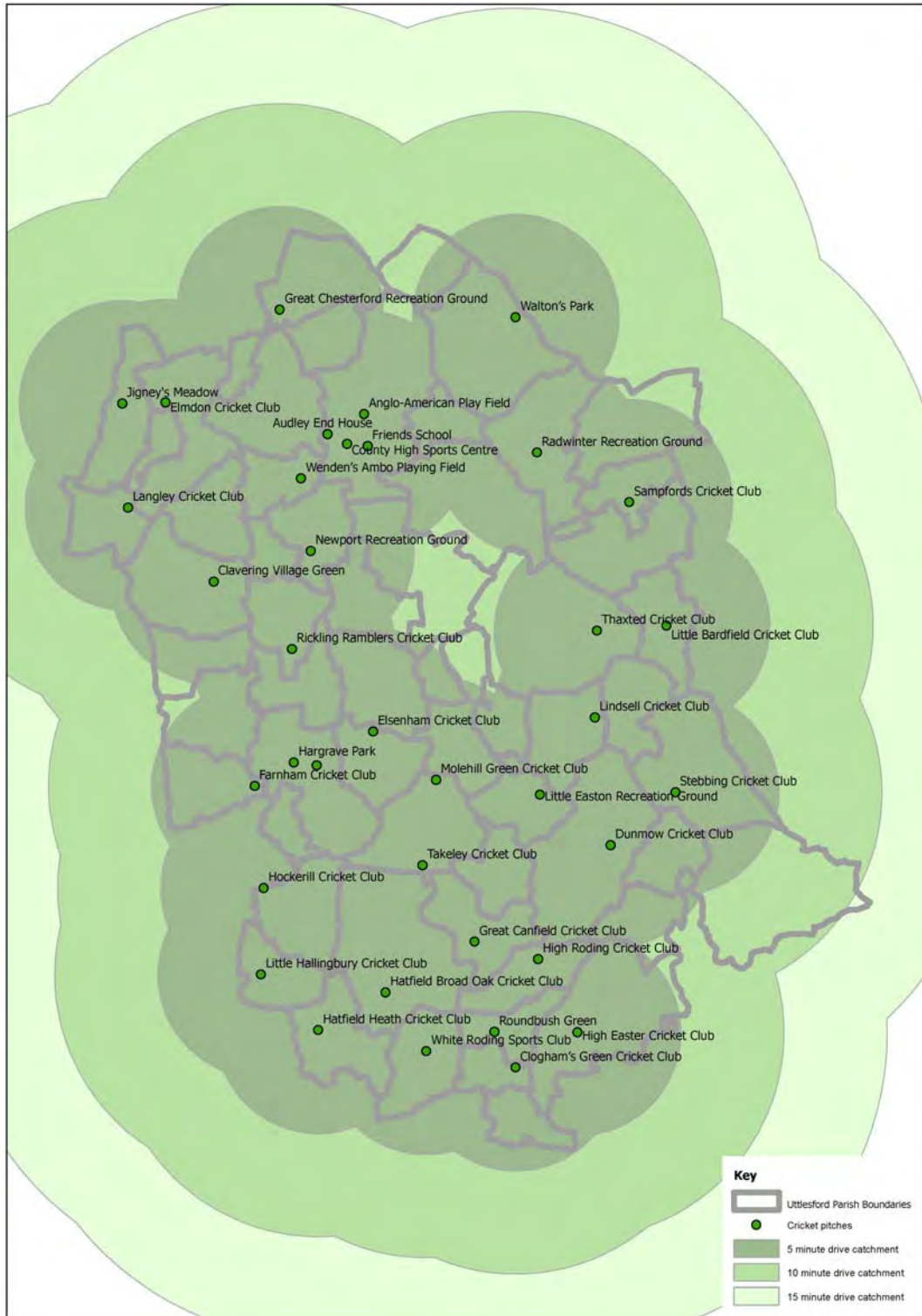
4.26 Patterns of provision of mini-soccer pitches: A map showing the location of mini-soccer pitches in Uttlesford, together with 15 minute drive time catchments is below. The map shows that a small part of the south-west of the district is further than 15 minutes drive from the nearest pitch, although demand will be served by facilities just over the boundary in Bishop's Stortford. The five and ten minute drive time catchments are also shown, to illustrate those parts of the district where pitches are relatively less accessible:

Figure 4.3: Provision of Mini-soccer Pitches in Uttlesford



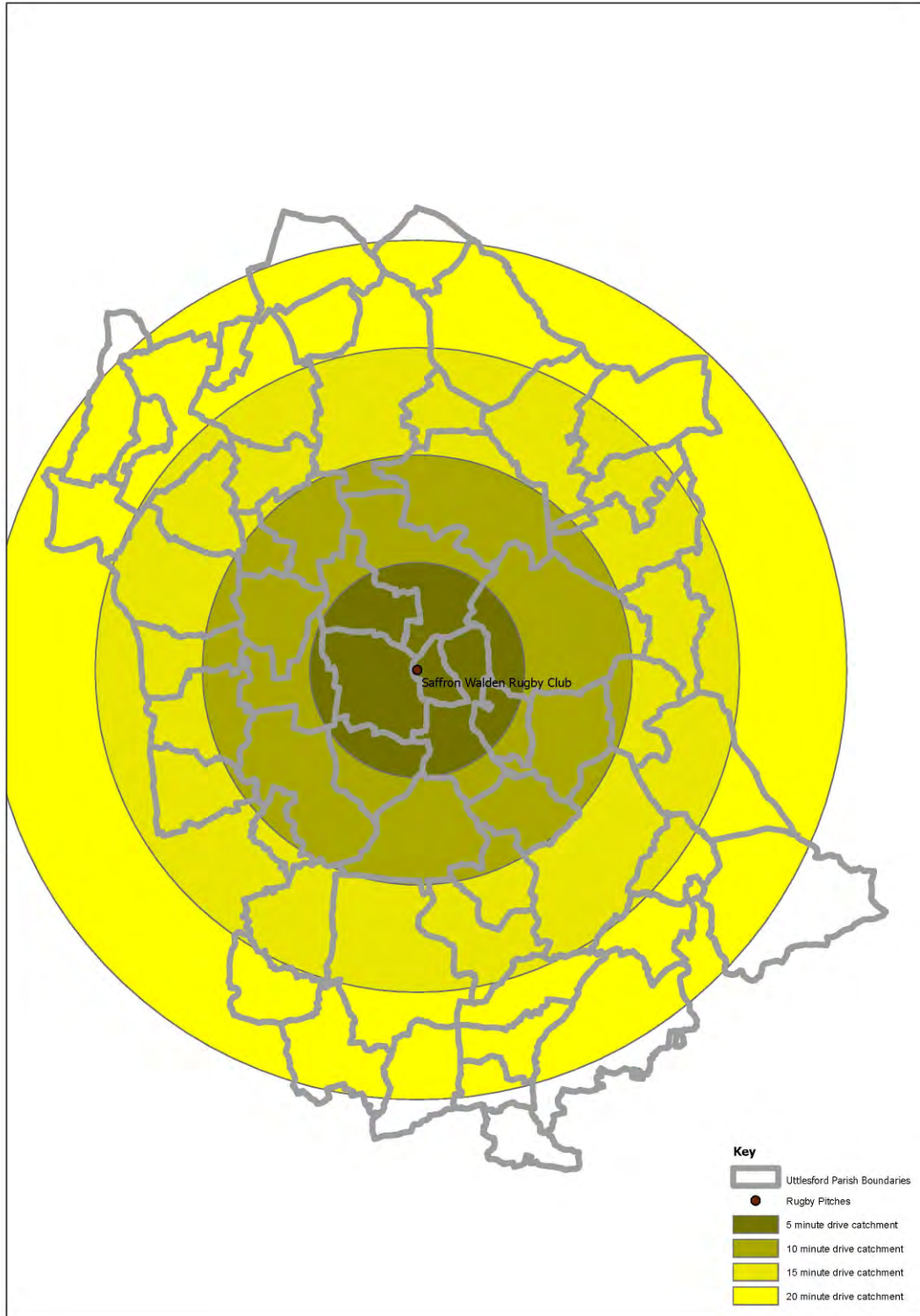
4.27 Patterns of provision of cricket pitches: A map showing the location of cricket pitches in Uttlesford, together with 15 minute drive time catchments is below. The map shows that the entire district is within 15 minutes drive of a pitch. The five and ten minute drive time catchments are also shown, to illustrate those parts of the district where pitches are relatively less accessible and show that most of the district is within five minutes drive of a cricket pitch.

Figure 4.4: Provision of Cricket Pitches in Uttlesford



4.28 Patterns of provision of rugby pitches: A map showing the location of rugby pitches in Uttlesford, together with a 20 minute drive time catchment is below. The map shows that only the extreme northern and southern parts of the district are more than 20 minutes drive of a pitch and these areas will be served by provision in South Cambridgeshire and Chelmsford respectively. The five, ten and fifteen minute drive time catchments are also shown, to illustrate those parts of the district where pitches are relatively less accessible:

Figure 4.5: Provision of Rugby Pitches in Uttlesford



The Playing Pitch Model

4.29 Introduction: To assess the adequacy of playing pitch provision in Uttlesford, Sport England's Playing Pitch Model (PPM) was applied, in line with its document 'Towards a Level Playing Field: A Guide to the Production of Playing Pitch Strategies' (2003). The PPM involves the following stages:

- a) *Stage one - Identifying teams/team equivalents:* The full list of all clubs and teams in the district are identified and their match and training needs are converted into team equivalents.
- b) *Stage two - Calculating home games per team per week:* These figures are identified from the above data and include provision for training use of pitches.
- c) *Stage three - Assessing total home games per week:* These are calculated from the above outputs.
- d) *Stage four - Establishing temporal demand for games:* This is identified from the regular timings of matches, to identify the periods of peak demand.
- e) *Stage five - Defining pitches used on each day:* This is calculated by applying the peak demand.
- f) *Stage six - Establishing the number of pitches available for each sport:* All pitches for each sport in the district are identified and their carrying capacity is calculated by assessing qualitative data.
- g) *Stage seven - Identifying the balance:* This is done by comparing data generated from the previous six stages.
- h) *Stage eight - Identifying local influences on demand:* A range of factors are considered to establish whether the 'raw' outputs of the PPM need to be refined to take account of local circumstances that influence demand.

4.30 PPM Results: The results of applying the PPM in Uttlesford are as follows:

		Football	Cricket	Rugby	
Stage 1 Identifying team equivalents	Adult male teams	45	82	4	
	Junior male teams	46	46	10	
	Mixed Mini teams	27	0	7	
	Adult female teams	1	0	0	
	Junior female teams	1	3	0	
Stage 2 Calculate home games per week	Adult male games	0.65	0.7	0.5	
	Junior male games	0.65	0.7	0.5	
	Mixed Mini games	0.5	-	0.5	
	Adult female games	0.65	0.7	0.5	
	Junior female games	0.65	0.7	0.5	
Stage 3 Assessing total home games per week	Adult male games	29.3	57.4	2.0	
	Junior male games	29.9	32.2	5.0	
	Mixed Mini games	13.5	-	3.5	
	Adult female games	0.65	-	-	
	Junior female games	0.65	2.0	-	
Stage 4 Establish temporal demand for pitches	Saturday morning	Adult male teams	-	-	-
		Junior male teams	-	13%	-
		Mixed Mini teams	-	-	-
		Adult female teams	-	-	-
		Junior female teams	-	-	-
	Saturday afternoon	Adult male teams	22%	60%	100%
		Junior male teams	-	-	-
		Adult female teams	-	-	-

			Football	Cricket	Rugby
	Sunday morning	Junior female teams	-	-	-
		Adult male teams	51%	-	-
		Junior male teams	15%	37%	100%
		Mixed Mini teams	100%	-	100%
		Adult female teams	-	-	-
	Sunday afternoon	Junior female teams	-	100%	-
		Adult male teams	-	26%	-
		Junior male teams	65%	-	-
		Mixed Mini teams	-	-	-
		Adult female teams	67%	-	-
	Midweek	Junior female teams	67%	-	-
		Adult male teams	27%	14%	-
		Junior male teams	20%	50%	-
		Mixed Mini teams	-	-	-
		Adult female teams	33%	-	-
Stage 5 Defining pitches needed each day	Saturday morning	Junior female teams	33%	-	-
		Adult male teams	27%	14%	-
		Junior male teams	20%	50%	-
		Mixed Mini teams	-	-	-
		Adult female teams	33%	-	-
	Saturday afternoon	Adult male pitches	-	-	-
		Junior male pitches	-	4.2	-
		Mixed Mini pitches	-	-	-
		Adult female pitches	-	-	-
		Junior female pitches	-	-	-
	Sunday morning	Adult male pitches	6.5	34.4	2.0
		Junior male pitches	-	-	-
		Mixed Mini pitches	-	-	-
		Adult female pitches	-	-	-
		Junior female pitches	-	-	-
	Sunday afternoon	Adult male pitches	14.9	-	-
		Junior male pitches	4.5	11.9	5.0
		Mixed Mini pitches	13.5	-	3.5
		Adult female pitches	-	-	-
		Junior female pitches	-	2.0	-
Midweek	Adult male pitches	-	14.9	-	
	Junior male pitches	19.4	-	-	
	Mixed Mini pitches	-	-	-	
	Adult female pitches	0.7	-	-	
	Junior female pitches	0.7	-	-	
Stage 6 Establishing pitches effectively available	Adult male pitches	7.9	8.1	-	
	Junior male pitches	6.0	16.1	-	
	Mixed Mini pitches	-	-	-	
	Adult female pitches	0.3	-	-	
	Junior female pitches	0.3	-	-	
Stage 7 Identifying deficits (-) and surplus (+)	Saturday morning	Adult pitches	36.5	38.5	2
		Junior pitches	18		
		Mini pitches	15		
	Saturday afternoon	Adult pitches	+36.5	+34.3	+2.0
		Junior pitches	+18.0		
		Mini pitches	+15.0		
	Sunday morning	Adult pitches	+30.0	+4.1	+0.0
		Junior pitches	+18.0		
		Mini pitches	+15.0		
	Sunday afternoon	Adult pitches	+21.6	+24.6	-6.5
Junior pitches		+13.5			
Mini pitches		+1.5			

			Football	Cricket	Rugby
Sunday afternoon	Adult pitches		+34.8	+24.0	+2.0
	Junior pitches		-2.1		
	Mini pitches		+15.0		
Midweek	Adult pitches		+28.3	+14.3	+2.0
	Junior pitches		+11.7		
	Mini pitches		+15.0		



The cricket pavilion on Clavering Green - an attractive facility in a rural setting

4.31 Local influences on demand: To supplement the above analysis, the local influences on demand for each pitch sport is examined below and factored in to the preliminary numerical assessment of deficiency:

a) Football:

Factor	Analysis in Uttlesford	Impact on latent demand
Current frustrated demand	<p>'The area being predominantly rural does not have high levels of participation which is strange because some of its neighbouring authorities such as East Hertfordshire and Chelmsford have very high levels of participation. We put this down to the majority of villages in the district being on the small side so there are often not the numbers of people to grow larger clubs' – Essex FA response to the Uttlesford governing bodies of sport survey (2011).</p> <p>None of the football clubs responding to the clubs survey indicated that they are unable to increase their membership as a result of the non-availability of pitches - Uttlesford pitch sports clubs survey (2011).</p>	There is no evidence of frustrated demand for football in the district.

Factor	Analysis in Uttlesford	Impact on latent demand
Sports development initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The FA has a national target to increase weekly participation in football by 5% between 2009 and 2013. - 'FA National Game Strategy 2008 - 2012' (2008). The number of football teams in Uttlesford decreased slightly between seasons 2009/10 and 2010/11. - FA 'Local Area Data for Uttlesford' (2011). 	It has been assumed that the impact of football development programmes will maintain demand for football pitches.
Quality of pitches/facilities	The audit of pitch quality carried out for this study identified that only 6.9% of adult football pitches are rated as below 'average' and this may limit the quantity of football they can accommodate. - Uttlesford pitch audit (2011).	The poor quality of some pitches in the district limits their carrying capacity and this has been factored in to assessments of deficiency.
National sporting success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The high media profile that football enjoys as the 'national game' makes it an attractive option for many young players. - 'FA National Game Strategy 2008 - 2012' (2008). The increased media coverage of the women's game has helped it to overtake Netball as the most popular women's team sport. - 'FA National Game Strategy 2008 - 2012' (2008) 	There is no firm evidence that the performance of the national team has specifically influenced participation rates.
Pricing policies	All the football respondents to the pitch sports clubs survey believe that pitch hire charges represent 'good' or 'acceptable' value for money, so there is no evidence that price is deterring use. - Uttlesford pitch sports clubs survey (2011).	There is no discernible impact of pricing on latent demand.
School sport	There is no evidence that the volume of school sport is compromising the ability of schools pitches to accommodate community use. - 'Uttlesford schools survey' (2011).	There is no discernible impact of school sport on local supply and demand.
Long-term impact of mini-sports	Adult and mini-soccer teams both reduced slightly in Uttlesford between seasons 2009/10 and 2010/11. - FA 'Local Area Data for Uttlesford' (2011).	Adult and junior/mini-soccer demand levels appear to be convergent at present.
Lifestyle changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changing lifestyles (for example more weekend working) have created a trend where larger pools of players are needed to form a team. The FA recognises this phenomenon and has set a target of maintaining the current number of adult men's teams, despite an overall increase in the number of players. - 'FA National Game Strategy 2008 - 2012' (2008). Many players are prolonging their careers, which has led to the development of small-sided versions of the game for older players. - 'FA National Game Strategy 2008 - 2012' (2008). 	Lifestyle changes are unlikely to have any further significant impact upon overall demand for football.

b) Cricket:

Factor	Analysis in Uttlesford	Impact on latent demand
Current frustrated demand	None of the cricket clubs responding to the clubs survey identified that they are unable to increase their membership as a result of the non-availability of pitches. - Uttlesford pitch sports clubs survey (2011).	There is no evidence of frustrated demand for cricket in Uttlesford.
Sports development initiatives	The ECB has a national target to increase weekly participation by 37% per between 2009 and 2013 which if achieved will have a significant impact on demand for cricket pitches. - 'Play Cricket - Making a Difference' (2007).	Demand for cricket is already very high in the district and is unlikely to increase significantly further.
Quality of pitches/facilities	The audit of pitch quality carried out for this study identified that no cricket pitches are rated as below 'average' and as a result are unlikely to limit the quantity of cricket they can accommodate. - Uttlesford pitch audit (2011).	There is no evidence that pitch quality compromises cricket needs in Uttlesford.
National sporting success	The success of the England team in the Ashes Series' in 2005 does not appear to have had a sustained impact on overall weekly adult participation in cricket, which increased by only 0.01% (from 0.48% to 0.49% between 2006 and 2008). - Active People Survey (2008).	The impact of national sporting success in cricket does not appear to have had a significant sustained effect at community level.
Pricing policies	All the cricket respondents to the pitch sports clubs survey believe that pitch hire charges represent 'good' value for money, so there is no evidence that price is deterring use. - Uttlesford pitch sports clubs survey (2011).	There is no discernible impact of pricing on latent demand.
School sport	There is no evidence that the volume of school sport is compromising the ability of schools pitches to accommodate community use. - 'Uttlesford schools survey' (2011).	There is no discernible impact of school sport on local supply and demand.
Long-term impact of mini-sports	The number of junior teams is smaller than the number of adult teams and it is unlikely that when age group participation converts into adult teams that demand for pitches will increase substantially. - Uttlesford pitch sports clubs survey (2011).	It is likely that demand for pitches will remain the same as the current numbers of junior players get older.
Lifestyle changes	The age band by which TGRs for adult cricket are calculated already extends to 55. - 'Towards a Level Playing Field: A Guide to the Production of Playing Pitch Strategies' (2005).	Lifestyle changes are likely to have a limited impact on latent demand.



A good quality pavilion serving football and cricket at Roundbush Green

c) Rugby:

Factor	Analysis in Uttlesford	Impact on latent demand
Current frustrated demand	Saffron Walden Rugby Club identified that the non-availability of pitches does not limit its ability to recruit new members. - Uttlesford pitch sports clubs survey (2011).	There is no evidence of frustrated demand for rugby in Uttlesford.
Sports development initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RFU is keen to develop 'Leisure Rugby' as a game, to expand its appeal to a wider range of prospective players. - 'The Rugby Union Whole Sport Plan 2009 - 2013' (2009). The RFU has a national target to increase weekly participation by 2% for adult males, 30% for adult females and 30% for 16 - 19 year olds per between 2009 and 2013 which if achieved will have a significant impact on demand for rugby pitches. -'The Rugby Union Whole Sport Plan 2009 - 2013' (2009). 	Demand for rugby in Uttlesford may increase further, but Saffron Walden Rugby Club has some capacity to expand its pitches on adjacent land if necessary.
Quality of pitches/facilities	The audit of pitch quality carried out for this study rated both rugby pitches as above 'average' and as a result they cope with a high volume of play. - Uttlesford pitch audit (2011).	The quality of pitches will not deter participation in rugby in the district.
National sporting success	Adult participation in rugby increased by 0. 1% (from 0.46% to 0.56% between 2006 and 2008). - Active People Survey (2008).	National success does not seem to be directly linked to participation increases
Pricing policies	Saffron Walden Rugby Club's response to the pitch sports clubs survey indicated that its pitch hire changes represent 'good' value for money and so there is no evidence that price is deterring use. - Uttlesford pitch sports clubs survey (2011).	There is no discernible impact of pricing on latent demand.
School sport	There is no community use of school rugby pitches in Uttlesford. - 'Uttlesford schools survey' (2011).	There is no impact of on local supply and demand.

Factor	Analysis in Uttlesford	Impact on latent demand
Long-term impact of mini-sports	The RFU is seeking to address the drop-off in participation in post-16 players by increasing numbers by 30% by 2013. If achieved, this will have a significant impact on pitch demand. - 'The Rugby Union Whole Sport Plan 2009 - 2013' (2009).	It is likely that demand for pitches will increase if a higher proportion of junior and mini players are retained
Lifestyle changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many players are prolonging their careers, which has led to the development of veteran's competitions for older players. - 'The Rugby Union Whole Sport Plan 2009 - 2013' (2009). • The development of 'Leisure Rugby' is likely to attract a wider cross-section of players. - 'The Rugby Union Whole Sport Plan 2009 - 2013' (2009). 	Lifestyle changes are likely to have a limited impact on latent demand.



Ashdon Villa FC - Showing the sloping pitch

- 4.32 Localised deficiencies: The districtwide assessment of pitch supply and demand identifies the position across Uttlesford as a whole and the accessibility maps illustrate the geographical distribution of provision. However, in some instances concentrations of demand may lead to localised shortfalls in pitch provision and a 2007 playing pitch assessment of the Saffron Walden area in connection with a proposed housing development identified a significant shortfall of junior football and mini-soccer pitches within the four wards that comprise the town. These findings accord broadly with the findings of this study and emphasise that there is a case for additional pitch provision to be made in the Saffron Walden area.
- 4.33 Pitch development proposals: Whilst there are currently no known development proposals for the loss of playing pitches in Uttlesford, four proposed schemes that would enhance existing provision are planned at:
- The Anglo-American Playing Field, Saffron Walden.
 - Herberts Farm, Saffron Walden.
 - Oakwood Park, Flitch Green.
 - A new 4.5ha playing field in Manuden.
- 4.34 Imported and exported demand: Demand imported to, or exported from the district can also affect the adequacy of local pitch provision. In the case of Uttlesford, there is limited evidence from the

surveys of governing bodies and clubs, or the review of playing pitch assessments in neighbouring areas, that displaced demand has a significant effect on supply and demand locally:

- a) Exported demand: Only one team in Uttlesford (Saffron Rangers FC) plays its home fixtures on a pitch outside the district, which suggests that almost all local demand can be accommodated.
- b) Imported demand: Of the neighbouring districts to Uttlesford, only East Herts has a current (2010) playing pitch strategy. This concludes that there are shortfalls in junior football, mini-soccer, cricket and rugby pitch provision in the Bishop's Stortford area and as a result, some limited demand is exported to pitches in the south-western parts of Uttlesford.

4.35 Strategic reserve: Another important consideration with playing pitches is the issue of maintaining a strategic reserve. This allows pitches to be 'rested' on a weekly or seasonal basis, to allow playing surfaces to recover and regenerate. Typically the strategic reserve should equate to a minimum of 10% of the number of pitches required at the peak demand period.

4.36 Analysis of PPM results: The 'raw' data outputs of the PPM and the analysis of latent demand have been qualified as follows, to produce an accurate reflection of the situation in the district:

- a) Adult football: There is a notional surplus of 21.6 adult football pitches during the peak demand period on Sunday mornings. There is no evidence of any significant local latent demand to adjust this figure. However, an additional 10% strategic reserve of the 14.9 pitches needed in the peak period reduces the notional surplus by a further 1.5 pitches to 20.1 pitches.
- b) Junior football: There is a deficit of 2.1 junior pitches during the peak demand period on Sundays. There is no evidence of any significant local latent demand to adjust this figure. The current deficiency is managed through a combination of scheduling back-to-back fixtures on the same pitch and playing matches on senior pitches, neither of which is ideal. The addition of a 10% strategic reserve of the 20.1 pitches needed in the peak period increases the deficit by 2.0 pitches to 4.1 pitches.
- c) Mini-Soccer: There is a notional surplus of 1.5 pitches during the peak period on Sunday mornings. There is no evidence of any significant local latent demand to adjust this figure. The current deficiency is managed through a combination of scheduling back-to-back fixtures on the same pitch and playing two matches simultaneously across an adult pitch, neither of which is ideal. The addition of a 10% strategic reserve of the 15 mini-soccer pitches needed in the peak period produces a precise balance between supply and demand.
- d) Cricket: There is a notional surplus of 4.1 pitches during the peak period on Saturday afternoons. There is no evidence of any significant local latent demand to adjust this figure. However, an additional 10% strategic reserve of the 34.3 cricket pitches needed in the peak period reduces the notional surplus by a further 3.4 pitches, to a notional surplus of 0.7 pitches.
- e) Rugby: There is a deficit of 6.5 pitches during the peak demand period on Sunday mornings. However, this is managed by playing three mini-rugby matches simultaneously across one of adult pitches, playing back to back junior games on the adult pitches and using the training pitch for junior games. The addition of a 10% strategic reserve of the 8.5 rugby pitches needed in the peak period increases the notional deficit by a further 0.9 pitches to 7.4 pitches, although in practice, the existing pitches can accommodate all current demand.

4.37 Taking account of the above qualifications, the effective position in the district at present, based upon the preliminary interpretation of the PPM is as follows:

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Effective position</i>	<i>Explanation</i>
Adult football	Surplus of 20.1	The notional surplus of 21.4 pitches calculated by the PPM

pitches	pitches	reduces by 1.5 pitches to take account of the strategic reserve.
Junior football pitches	Deficit of 4.1 pitches	The deficit of 2.1 pitches calculated by the PPM increases by 2.0 pitches to take account of the strategic reserve.
Mini-soccer pitches	Supply and demand balanced	The notional surplus of 1.5 pitches calculated by the PPM reduces by 1.5 pitches to take account of the strategic reserve.
Cricket pitches	Surplus of 0.7 pitches	The notional surplus of 4.1 pitches calculated by the PPM reduces by 3.4 pitches to take account of the strategic reserve.
Rugby pitches	Deficit of 0.9 pitches	The notional surplus of 6.5 pitches calculated by the PPM reduces by 0.9 pitches to take account of the strategic reserve but with scheduling, the existing pitches can accommodate all current demand, so the effective deficit is only that required for the strategic reserve.

Local standards of provision

4.38 Based on the evidence above, the following local standards of provision were set:

Facility	Standard	Justification
Adult football pitches	One adult pitch (1.2ha) per 4,000 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing levels of provision adjusted for pitch carrying capacity equate to one pitch per 2,021 people. - Quantitative audit (2011). The Playing Pitch Model indicates a current adjusted surplus of 20.1 pitches at the peak period, suggesting that 18.4 of the current 38.5 adult pitches (or one per 4,174) are required to cater for existing demand. - 'Playing Pitch Model' (2011) 126m x 96m is the prescribed maximum size of an adult football pitch with run-offs. - 'Comparative Sizes of Sports Pitches and Courts' (2011).
	Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all pitches and ancillary facilities rate 'above average' or better.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The overall quality of three (8.3%) of the adult football pitches in the district is currently rated as below 'average'. - Qualitative audit (2011). The overall quality of 26 (39.4%) changing facilities is currently rated as below 'average'. - Qualitative audit (2011).
	The whole population within 15 minutes drive or walk of the nearest pitch.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 95.7% of respondents to the leisure centre user's survey travel for 15 minutes or less to reach grass pitches. - Uttlesford Leisure Centre Users Interview Survey (2011). 76.6% of respondents to the leisure centre user's survey travel grass pitches by car. - Uttlesford Leisure Centre Users Interview Survey (2011).
Junior football pitches	One junior pitch (0.75ha) per 3,450 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing levels of provision equate to one pitch per 4,267 people. - Quantitative audit (2011). The Playing Pitch Model indicates a current adjusted deficit of 4.1 pitches at the peak period, suggesting that 22.1 junior pitches (or one per 3,420 people in the district) are required to cater for existing demand, compared with the current 18. - 'Playing Pitch Model' (2011). 106.6m x 70m is the prescribed maximum size of a junior football pitch with run-offs. - 'Comparative Sizes of Sports Pitches and Courts' (2011).

Facility	Standard	Justification
	Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all pitches and ancillary facilities rate 'above average' or better.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All junior football pitches in the district are currently rated as 'average' or better. - Qualitative audit (2011). The overall quality of 26 (39.4%) changing facilities is currently rated as below 'average'. - Qualitative audit (2011).
	The whole population within 15 minutes drive or walk of the nearest pitch.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 95.7% of respondents to the leisure centre user's survey travel for 15 minutes or less to reach grass pitches. - Uttlesford Leisure Centre Users Interview Survey (2011). 76.6% of respondents to the leisure centre user's survey travel grass pitches by car. - Uttlesford Leisure Centre Users Interview Survey (2011).
Mini-soccer pitches	One mini-soccer pitch (0.2ha) per 5,000 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing levels of provision equate to one pitch per 5,120 people. - Quantitative audit (2011). The Playing Pitch Model indicates a current balance between supply and demand for pitches at the peak period, suggesting that 15 mini-soccer pitches (or one per 5,040 people in the district) are required to cater for existing demand, compared with the current 15. - 'Playing Pitch Model' (2011) 54.9m x 36.6m is the prescribed maximum size of a mini-soccer pitch with run-offs. - 'Comparative Sizes of Sports Pitches and Courts' (2011).
	Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all pitches and ancillary facilities rate 'above average' or better.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All mini-soccer pitches in the district are currently rated as 'average' or better. - Qualitative audit (2011). The overall quality of 26 (39.4%) changing facilities is currently rated as below 'average'. - Qualitative audit (2011).
	The whole population within 15 minutes drive or walk of the nearest pitch.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 95.7% of respondents to the leisure centre user's survey travel for 15 minutes or less to reach grass pitches. - Uttlesford Leisure Centre Users Interview Survey (2011). 76.6% of respondents to the leisure centre user's survey travel grass pitches by car. - Uttlesford Leisure Centre Users Interview Survey (2011).
Cricket pitches	One cricket pitch (1.2ha) per 2,000 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing levels of provision equate to one pitch per 1,969 people. - Quantitative audit (2011). The Playing Pitch Model indicates a current adjusted surplus of 0.7 pitches at the peak period, suggesting that 37.8 cricket pitches (or one per 2,031 people in the district) are required to cater for existing demand, compared with the current 38.5. - 'Playing Pitch Model' (2011). 111.56m x 106.69m is the prescribed maximum size of a cricket pitch with run-offs. - 'Comparative Sizes of Sports Pitches and Courts' (2011).

Facility	Standard	Justification
	Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all pitches and ancillary facilities rate 'above average' or better.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The overall quality of one (3.1%) of the cricket pitches in the district is currently rated as below 'average'. - Qualitative audit (2011). The overall quality of 26 (39.4%) changing facilities is currently rated as below 'average'. - Qualitative audit (2011).
	The whole population within 15 minutes drive or walk of the nearest pitch.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 95.7% of respondents to the leisure centre user's survey travel for 15 minutes or less to reach grass pitches. - Uttlesford Leisure Centre Users Interview Survey (2011). 76.6% of respondents to the leisure centre user's survey travel to grass pitches by car. - Uttlesford Leisure Centre Users Interview Survey (2011).
Rugby pitches	One rugby pitch (1.2ha) per 26,000 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing levels of provision equate to one pitch per 38,400 people. - Quantitative audit (2011). The Playing Pitch Model indicates a current adjusted deficit of 0.9 pitches at the peak period, suggesting that 2.9 rugby pitches (or one per 26,482 people in the district) are required to cater for existing demand, compared with the current 2. - 'Playing Pitch Model' (2011) 154m x 80m is the prescribed maximum size of a rugby pitch with run-offs. - 'Comparative Sizes of Sports Pitches and Courts' (2011).
	Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all pitches and ancillary facilities rate 'above average' or better.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All rugby pitches in the district are currently rated as 'average' or better. - Qualitative audit (2011). The overall quality of the changing facilities at Saffron Walden Rugby Club is currently rated as 'above average'. - Qualitative audit (2011).
	The whole population within 20 minutes drive or walk of the nearest pitch.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saffron Walden Rugby Club members typically travel for up to 20 minutes to reach the club. - Uttlesford pitch sports clubs survey (2011). Saffron Walden Rugby Club members typically travel by car to reach the club. - Uttlesford pitch sports clubs survey (2011)

Applying the standards

4.39 Introduction: The tables below contain the results of applying the playing pitch standards, including an assessment of future needs based upon the effects of population increases. This has been modelled based upon the 2008-based sub-national population projections (ONS, 2011) which show a projected increase in the district's population to 89,600 by 2028, a 16.7% increase and the additional demand attributable to this is included. In line with recent trends in the 'Active People' survey data, no allowance has been made for any future increases in participation rates in the pitch sports. Where the calculations have generated needs indicating a fraction of a pitch, the number of pitches required has been rounded up to the nearest whole pitch:

4.40 *Adult football pitches:*

Assessed criterion	Assessed position
Current provision	38 pitches (36.5 adjusted for pitch carrying capacity).
Current needs	No current quantitative deficiency (notional surplus of 20.1 pitches). Quality improvements needed to adult football pitches at Hatfield Broad Oak Sports Club and Jubilee Field (Clavering). Quality improvements needed to changing facilities at Alcott Playing Field (Stebbing), Calves Pasture (Hatfield Heath), Felsted Playing Field, Hatfield Broad Oak Sports Club, Herbert Farm Playing Fields, Jubilee Field (Clavering), and Takeley Recreation Ground. No accessibility deficiency. Negotiate secured community access to 'Category B' pitches at Carver Barracks.
Future needs	3 additional pitches. Changing facilities to meet Sport England/governing body guidelines. All aspects of quality 'above average'. Within 15 minutes drive of new developments.
Total future needs	21.5 pitches (18.4 to meet existing demand plus 3 to meet population growth).

4.41 *Junior football pitches:*

Assessed criterion	Assessed position
Current provision	18 pitches
Current needs	4.1 additional pitches. No pitch qualitative improvements. Quality improvements needed to changing facilities serving junior football pitches at Felsted Playing Field, Herbert Farm Playing Fields, Laundry Lane Playing Field (Little Easton), Swards End Recreation Ground and Stansted Recreation Ground. No accessibility deficiency. Negotiate secured community access to 'Category B' pitches at Dame Bradbury's School and Katherine Semar School.
Future needs	4 additional pitches once the existing deficiency has been met. Changing facilities to meet Sport England/governing body guidelines. All aspects of quality 'above average'. Within 15 minutes drive of new developments.
Total future needs	27 pitches

4.42 *Mini-soccer pitches:*

Assessed criterion	Assessed position
Current provision	15 pitches
Current needs	Supply and demand effectively balanced. No pitch qualitative improvements. No qualitative improvements needed at changing facilities serving mini-soccer pitches. No accessibility deficiencies. Negotiate secured community access to 'Category B' pitches at Dame Bradbury's School and Katherine Semar School.
Future needs	3 additional pitches. Changing facilities to meet Sport England/governing body guidelines. All aspects of quality 'above average'. Within 15 minutes drive of new developments.
Total future needs	18 pitches

4.43 *Cricket pitches:*

Assessed criterion	Assessed position
Current provision	39 pitches (38.5 adjusted for pitch carrying capacity).
Current needs	No current quantitative deficiency (notional surplus of 0.7 pitches). Quality improvements needed to changing facilities serving cricket pitches at Audley End House, Clogham's Green CC, Dunmow CC, Elmdon CC, Elsenham CC, Hatfield Broad Oak CC, Hatfield Heath CC, High Roding CC, Langley CC, Lindsell CC, Little Bardfield CC, Molehill Green CC, Stansted Hall CC, Thaxted CC and Wenden's Ambo Recreation Ground. No accessibility deficiencies. Negotiate secured community access to 'Category B' pitches at County High Sports Centre and Friends School.
Future needs	7 additional pitches once the existing deficiency has been met. Changing facilities to meet Sport England/governing body guidelines. All aspects of quality 'above average'. Within 15 minutes drive of new developments.
Total future needs	45 pitches

4.44 *Rugby pitches:*

Assessed criterion	Assessed position
Current provision	2 pitches.
Current needs	0.9 additional pitches No qualitative deficiency. No accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	0.5 pitches. Changing facilities to meet Sport England/governing body guidelines. All aspects of quality 'above average'. Within 20 minutes drive of new developments.
Total future needs	4 pitches.



A good quality junior football pitch at Barnston Youth FC

Summary of playing pitch needs

- 4.45 The table below summarises the additional playing pitch needs, based upon the combined effects of population and participation increases. Where the calculations have generated needs indicating a fraction of a pitch, the number of pitches required has been rounded up to the nearest whole pitch:

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Provision in 2011*</i>	<i>Needs in 2011</i>	<i>Extra needs in 2028</i>	<i>Total needs in 2028</i>
Adult football pitches	38 (36.5)	19	3	22
Junior football pitches	18 (18)	23	4	27
Mini-soccer pitches	15 (15)	15	3	18
Cricket pitches	39 (38.5)	38	7	45
Rugby pitches	2 (2)	3	1	4

* Pitch carrying capacity shown in brackets.

5 Assessment of Sports Facilities

Introduction

- 5.1 Typologies: This section contains an analysis of sports facility provision in Uttlesford. The facility types examined are as follows:
- a) Sports halls.
 - b) Swimming pools.
 - c) Synthetic athletics tracks.
 - d) Synthetic turf pitches.
 - e) Indoor bowls facilities.
 - f) Outdoor bowls greens.
 - g) Indoor tennis courts.
 - h) Outdoor tennis courts.
 - i) Squash courts.
 - j) Golf courses.
 - k) Health and fitness facilities.
 - l) Village and community halls.

Methodology

- 5.2 Introduction: The analysis follows the PPG17 methodology, the details of which are set out below.
- 5.3 The five stage approach: The methodology for undertaking the assessment involves five main stages:
- a) Analysis of local need.
 - b) Audit of local provision.
 - c) Setting provision standards.
 - d) Applying provision standards.
 - e) Drafting policies
- 5.4 Analysis of local need: Local need was analysed by:
- a) Evaluating previous relevant surveys and consultations with local people and organisations, including:
 - A 2010 citizens' panel survey on open spaces (including indoor and outdoor sports facilities).
 - A 2010 survey of local sports clubs.
 - b) Undertaking and analysing new surveys and consultation with local people and organisations, including:
 - A 2011 survey of leisure centre users.
 - A 2011 survey of governing bodies of sport.
 - A 2011 survey of local pitch sports clubs.
 - A 2011 survey of local schools.

5.5 Audit of local provision: This involved the following:

- a) Quantitative assessment: Identifying the size and location of each publicly accessible sports facility in Uttlesford.
 - Comparator authorities: Where the information exists, the per capita levels of provision of each typology were benchmarked with geographically neighbouring authorities (to provide local geographical context and to identify the likelihood of imported or exported demand), and a range of demographically similar areas. The CIPFA 'Nearest Neighbour' local authorities are areas with the closest demographic composition to Uttlesford, in terms of a range of indices including the size and profile of their population and local economic activity. As a result, community demand for sports facilities in these areas is likely to be the most comparable to Uttlesford.
 - Sport England's Facilities Planning Model: Information from Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) was assessed to analyse the current and future balance between the supply of, and demand for, sports halls, swimming pools and synthetic turf pitches in Uttlesford. The FPM comprises a spatial assessment of provision based on the nature of sports participation (demand) within an area and the available supply, taking into account issues such as capacity and accessibility. National runs of the model are undertaken every year which enable profiles of provision to be developed for local areas. These runs facilitate a comparison with the results for England, the East, neighbouring and selected comparator authorities.
- b) Qualitative assessment: The quality of each type of sports facility in Uttlesford was evaluated via a site visit by an experienced assessor and the application of a standardised 'scoring' system.
- c) Effective catchments: The effective catchments were identified for each type of sports facility in Uttlesford, based upon user surveys and defined as the travel time/distance that 75% - 80% of users are prepared to undertake.

5.6 Setting provision standards: Proposed local standards were devised, based upon:

- a) Quantitative standards: Existing per capita levels of provision have been used as the basis for setting quantitative standards, where they are judged to be adequate, based upon local surveys, benchmarking with comparator areas and other demand modelling. Where the evidence base and analysis suggests that current provision is inadequate, a quantitative standard has been set based upon a proportionate increase in per capita provision, having regard to the position in comparator areas.
- b) Qualitative standards: The qualitative standards are based upon the 'above average' definitions for each aspect of each typology, used in the qualitative audit. The full definitions are listed in Appendix II, but the council's policy position is to seek in the first instance to achieve at least an 'above average' rating for all sites.
- c) Accessibility standards: The travel times were identified on the basis of local survey results to establish the travel time/distance that 75% - 80% of users of each typology were prepared to undertake, including provision both within the district and in neighbouring districts. Mode of travel was specified on the basis of local survey results indicating travel mode preferences (i.e. reflecting current behavioural patterns).
- d) Applying provision standards: The standards were applied to establish the adequacy of current and future provision.
- e) Current provision: Current provision has been assessed in relation to the respective quantitative and qualitative standards and assessing the numbers of people living within the accessibility catchment thresholds.
- f) Future provision: This has been modelled based upon the 2008-based sub-national population projections (ONS, 2011) which show a projected increase in the district's population to 89,600 by 2028, a 16.7% increase and the additional demand attributable to this is included.

- Where supply/demand is broadly in balance in terms of existing needs, the local standard of provision has been applied to the increased population to calculate future needs.
- Where the assessment has identified a surplus of existing provision, its ability to accommodate future needs has been taken into account, before identifying the need to additional new facilities, to avoid overprovision and the consequent impact on viability.

Sports halls

5.7 Definition: For the purposes of this study sports halls are defined as indoor halls with minimum dimensions of 33m x 17m x 7.6m (equivalent to four badminton courts, or one basketball or tennis court) with line markings for multi-sports.

5.8 Quantitative analysis: Halls in Uttlesford and comparator areas are as follows:

- a) Provision in Uttlesford: There are 6 sports halls with community access in Uttlesford, equivalent to one facility per 12,800 people. The survey of the governing bodies of sports that use sports halls indicated that all the halls can accommodate the full range of expected activities:

Sports hall	Address	Dimensions
County High Sports Centre	Audley End Road, Saffron Walden CB11 4UH	33m x 18m
Friends School	Mount Pleasant Road, Saffron Walden CB11 3EB	33m x 18m
Lord Butler Leisure Centre	Peaslands Road, Saffron Walden CB11 3EG	33m x 18m
Great Dunmow Leisure Centre	Parsonage Downs, Dunmow CM6 2AT	33m x 18m
Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre	Forest Hall Road, Stansted CM24 8TZ	33m x 18m
Newport Free Grammar School	Cambridge Road, Newport CB11 3TR	33m x 18m

- b) Other indoor sports provision: In addition to the sports halls above, there is a 30m x 15m hall (equivalent to three badminton courts) at Dame Bradbury School in Saffron Walden, which has some community use and supplements the provision made by regulation size sports halls.
- c) Provision in neighbouring areas: Sports hall provision in neighbouring local authorities is tabulated below. Uttlesford has the highest per capita rate of sports hall provision and the highest number of badminton courts per capita (based on data from 'Active Places Power').

Local authority	No. Sports Halls	Sports halls per capita	No. courts per capita
Uttlesford	6	1: 12,800	1: 3,200
North Hertfordshire	9	1: 13,856	1: 3,370
East Hertfordshire	7	1: 19,586	1: 3,917
<i>Median values</i>	<i>6.5</i>	<i>1: 21,654</i>	<i>1: 4,967</i>
Braintree	6	1: 23,783	1: 4,921
Chelmsford	7	1: 23,971	1: 5,413
South Cambridgeshire	4	1: 36,125	1: 9,031

- d) Provision in comparator areas: The number of sports halls and badminton courts per capita in CIPFA 'Nearest Neighbour' local authorities is tabulated below and is derived from 'Active Places Power'. The figures for Uttlesford are just above the median values for facilities and courts per capita:

<i>Local authority</i>	<i>No. Sports Halls</i>	<i>Sports halls per capita</i>	<i>No. courts per capita</i>
Mid-Sussex	15	1: 8,773	1: 1,755
Cotswold	9	1: 9,277	1: 2,141
South Oxfordshire	14	1: 9,329	1: 2,252
East Hampshire	11	1: 10,173	1: 2,238
Winchester	11	1: 10,300	1: 2,312
Test Valley	11	1: 10,309	1: 2,181
West Oxfordshire	9	1: 11,389	1: 2,847
Vale of White Horse	10	1: 11,870	1: 2,580
Harborough	7	1: 11,914	1: 2,780
Sevenoaks	9	1: 12,578	1: 2,695
Uttlesford	6	1: 12,800	1: 3,200
<i>Median values</i>	<i>8.8</i>	<i>1: 13,897</i>	<i>1: 3,198</i>
Horsham	9	1: 14,422	1: 3,090
Stratford-on-Avon	8	1: 14,863	1: 3,303
Hambleton	5	1: 17,460	1: 3,968
Maldon	3	1: 20,967	1: 4,838
South Cambridgeshire	4	1: 36,125	1: 9,031

- 5.9 Qualitative analysis: The qualitative audit produced the following results. The overall mean score equates to a value between 'high quality' and 'above average':

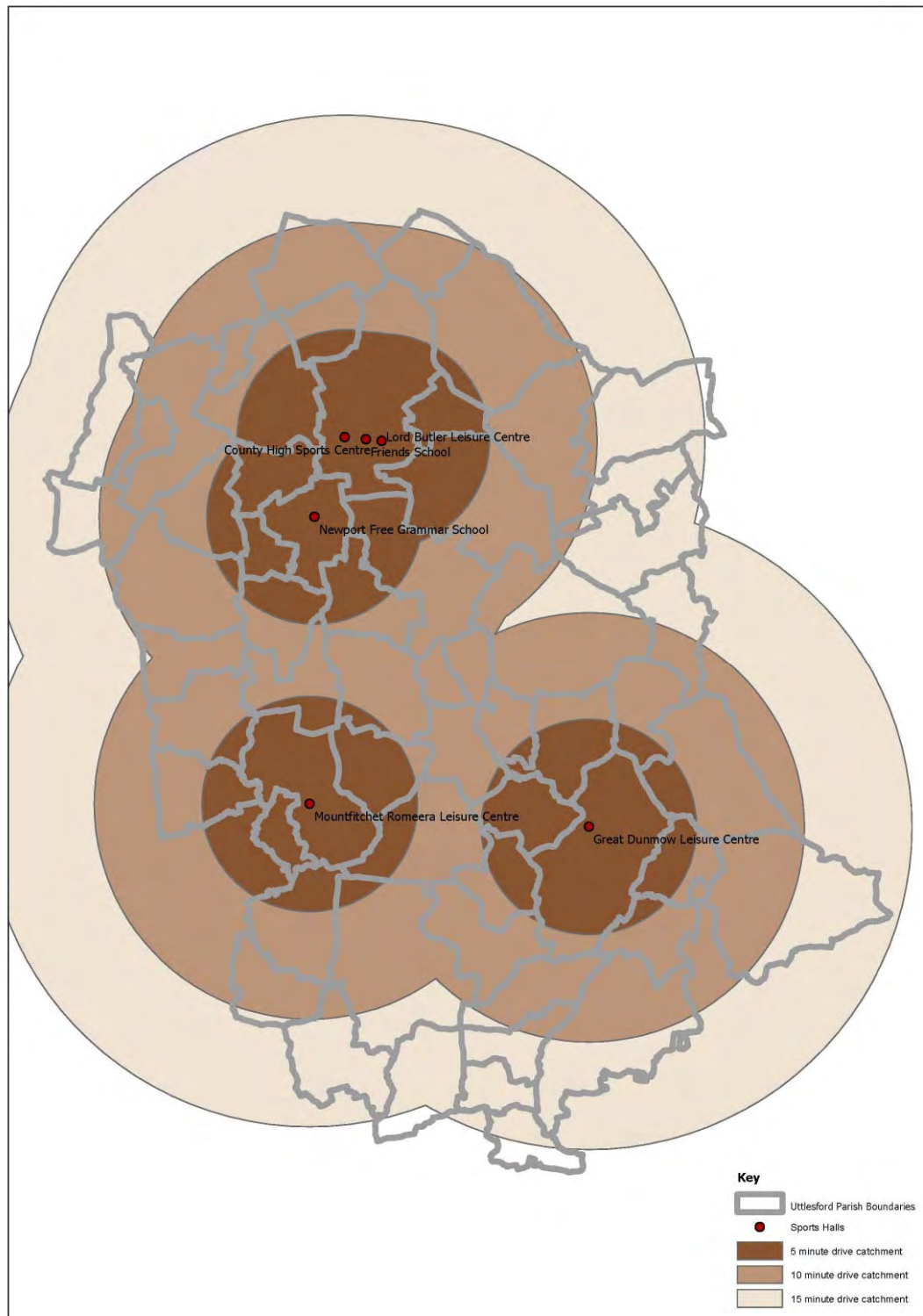
<i>Sports hall</i>	<i>Playing area</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Disabled access</i>	<i>Maintenance/Cleanliness</i>	<i>Parking/access</i>	<i>Mean</i>
County High Sports Centre	5	5	5	5	4	4.8
Friends School	5	4	5	5	5	4.8
Great Dunmow Leisure Centre	5	5	5	5	5	5.0
Lord Butler Leisure Centre	4	4	5	4	5	4.4
Mountfitchet Romeera LC	5	5	5	5	4	4.8
Newport Free Grammar School	5	4	4	5	4	4.4
Mean	4.83	4.5	4.83	4.83	4.5	4.7



A high-quality sports hall at Great Dunmow Leisure Centre

- 5.10 Effective catchment: Local surveys produced the following indications of accessibility to sports halls in Uttlesford:
- a) 82.8% of the respondents to the leisure centre users' survey that use sports halls travel for 15 minutes or less to reach a sports hall.
 - b) 85.4% of respondents to the leisure centre users' survey that use sports halls travel to sports halls by car.
- 5.11 Patterns of provision: A map showing the location of sports halls in Uttlesford, together with 15 minute drive time catchment is below. It shows that the entire population of the district is within 15 minutes drive of their nearest sports hall, with the exception of the southern and north-easternmost fringes of the area, which are served by facilities in Bishop's Stortford and Haverhill. The five and ten minute drive time catchments are also shown, to illustrate those parts of the district where sports halls are relatively less accessible.

Figure 5.1: Sports Hall provision in Uttlesford



5.12 Facilities Planning Model assessment: To supplement the locally derived assessment of need, information from Sport England’s 2011 national run of its Facilities Planning Model (FPM) was assessed to analyse the current and future balance between the supply of, and demand for, sports halls in Uttlesford. The FPM results imply the following:

- a) Supply: Because the FPM takes account of smaller halls, it calculates that there is the equivalent of 32 badminton courts of sports hall space in Uttlesford (scaled to 25 courts to

take account of hours available for community use), providing a total capacity of 5,000 visits per week in the peak period (vpwpp).

- Halls are weighted in the model to reflect their attractiveness for use, in terms of age, whether they have been refurbished and form of use and management and availability to the community. The halls at the main leisure centres are all weighted above 90% because they are widely available to the community in peak periods and generally relatively new.
 - Total sports hall provision in Uttlesford equates to 4.2 courts per 10,000 people which is slightly above the national (4%), regional (4.1%) and Essex (4.1%) averages.
- b) Demand: Demand for sports halls from the local population is 3,350 vpwpp. This is equivalent to demand for 21 badminton courts in the peak period. Demand is also influenced by accessibility and the mobility of local residents. Car ownership or access to a car by residents is high in Uttlesford - only 7% do not have access to a car, compared with the national (20%), regional (13%) and Essex (12%) averages. This relatively low figure for the district indicates a particularly mobile population which may increase the choice of sports hall provision residents are able to access, but also reflects the rural nature of the district and the relative lack of public transport.
- c) Supply/demand balance: On the basis of the above assessment, there is a notional surplus equivalent to four badminton courts (equivalent to one sports hall) in the district (but see supplementary analysis below).
- d) Satisfied demand: Satisfied demand represents the proportion of total demand that is met because there is spare capacity at sports halls and residents live within the driving, walking or public transport catchment of a hall. The FPM calculates that 95% of the demand for sports hall provision in Uttlesford is satisfied, which equates to about 3150 visits per week. This figure is significantly higher than the national (91%), regional (93%) or Essex (94%) averages.
- 91% of the satisfied demand is met by local residents travelling by car, 7% on foot and 3% by public transport.
 - Not all of the satisfied demand from residents of Uttlesford is met by provision within the district. Approximately 75% of the district's satisfied demand is retained (2350 visits), while 25% (800 visits) is exported to adjacent districts, probably to facilities in Bishops Stortford and Braintree.
- e) Unmet demand: Unmet demand for sports halls in the district is for less than 200 visits per week, or about 5% of total demand. This is lower than the national (9%), regional (7%) or Essex (6%) average and comparable with neighbouring authorities.
- In total unmet demand represents the equivalent of only about one badminton court (including a comfort factor), and this is spread thinly across the whole district.
 - Almost all of the unmet demand in Uttlesford (99%) is caused because residents live outside or on the edge of the catchment of a sports hall, and only 1% because of a lack of sports hall capacity. The regional average is 89% and the national figure 78% and this local measure of unmet demand is based again on the relatively good level of sports hall provision overall.
- f) Used capacity: 'Used capacity' is a measure of usage and throughput at sports halls and estimates the extent to which facilities are well used. The FPM is designed to include a 'comfort factor', which in the case of halls assumes that usage over 80% of capacity is busy and the hall is operating at an uncomfortable level.
- The total number of visits to halls in Uttlesford is 2750 (compared with total capacity of 5000 and demand of 3350). This equates to 55% of total capacity well below the 'comfort level'. The national average is 65%, the regional 63% and Essex 63%, so local throughputs are low.

- The sports halls at the three main leisure centres (Great Dunmow 79%, Lord Butler 72% and Mountfitchet Romeera 77%) are the best utilised, being the most attractive to the community, better located in the main towns and offer the most convenient pay and play access.
 - Uttlesford retains 2250 visits per week from local residents in its own halls (86% of the used capacity). However, 400 visits are also imported from neighbouring areas (14% of the used capacity), compared with 800 visits which are exported elsewhere outside the district. There is therefore a small net export of demand for sports halls from the district and overall it depends more on neighbouring local authorities for sports hall provision than otherwise.
- g) Relative share: The FPM also analyses the relative share of sports halls (i.e. it takes into account the size and availability of facilities and travel mode) and helps to establish whether residents in one area have a greater or lesser share of provision than other areas, when compared against a national average (100). Uttlesford has a relative share of 126, which means that residents of the district have 26% better provision than the national average. This is a reflection of relatively high provision, relatively low demand, good accessibility to other halls within a reasonable catchment and lack of competition from the residents of adjacent local authority areas.

5.13 FPM summary: The sports hall findings can be summarised as follows:

- a) There is a significant surplus of supply of halls within the district compared with demand generated by local residents, though this is less marked when 'comfortable' levels of use are considered.
- b) Satisfied demand is very high compared with the average and almost as high as it is possible to be, given that it is not viable (certainly in a rural area) to meet absolutely all demand, because of capacity and accessibility issues. Consequently unmet demand for sports halls in Uttlesford is very low, and almost all of this is caused by residents living outside the established walking or driving catchments of existing facilities. Very little unmet demand is caused because halls are full.
- c) There is insufficient unmet demand in any one location in Uttlesford to justify additional sports hall provision for this reason alone.
- d) Overall throughput at existing halls is well within the comfortable level of use, and no individual halls exceed this figure
- e) Relative share is well above the national average. Uttlesford is well provided for sports halls overall.
- f) A small net amount of demand is exported to adjacent local authority areas, but this is for only 400 visits per week, and is caused by more appropriate locations for local residents outside the district.

5.14 FPM conclusions: The level of satisfied demand for sports halls in Uttlesford is at a level which is unlikely to be exceeded, given the nature of the district, and additional sports halls would not at the present time soak up any significant additional unmet demand. There is therefore no justification at present for additional sports halls in the district. However the following policy pointers should be considered in the future:

- a) Some existing sports halls are becoming old and may be nearing the end of their useful life. Their attractiveness will decline as every year passes and their throughput could approach comfortable levels of use in a short time. A fundamental review of quality, condition and fitness for purpose should be undertaken to assess their future viability and utility.
- b) Housing and population pressures in Uttlesford and the wider area will inevitably place additional pressures on existing facilities if the current supply remains constant, and a thorough review of the needs of new housing growth areas should consider the existing stock of sports halls.

- c) Proposals for school rationalisation in neighbouring Bishops Stortford could result in a change in the local supply of sports halls serving the area, and this should be addressed if planning permission is granted for this and implemented.
- d) The small amounts of unmet demand for sports halls which exist throughout the district, and in particular in the outlying villages, could be met by more local provision at smaller halls (e.g. village halls, primary schools) as satellites to the main sports halls
- e) While the current assessment identifies no particular deficits in sports hall provision at present, the future implications of housing growth, participation increase and the other factors outlined above could ideally be addressed in more detail through a local commission of a full FPM assessment which would be able to reflect changing assumptions about supply, demand, population and participation levels. This should be discussed with Sport England at the earliest possible time.

5.15 Planned provision: There are currently no known plans for additional sports hall provision in the district.

5.16 Local standard of provision: Based on the evidence above, the following local standard of provision was set:

Standard	Justification
<p>One four-badminton court sports hall (33m x 18m x 7.6m) per 12,500 people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing levels of provision equate to one sports hall per 12,800 people - <i>Quantitative audit</i> (2011). • Total sports hall provision in Uttlesford equates to 4.2 courts per 10,000 people which is slightly above the national (4%), regional (4.1%) and Essex (4.1%) averages. - <i>Facilities Planning Model</i> (2011). • The FPM identifies that unmet demand in the district at present is equivalent to one badminton court. - <i>Facilities Planning Model</i> (2011). • 95% of sports hall demand in Uttlesford is currently being met by supply, so current levels of provision are about right. - <i>FPM</i> (2011). • The FPM identifies that usage levels at sports halls in the borough at peak periods are at 55% of available capacity, so there is some spare capacity at present. - <i>FPM</i> (2011). • Uttlesford's 'relative share' score for sports halls is 26% above the national average, representing high levels of provision. - <i>FPM</i> (2011) • The number of sports halls and courts per capita in Uttlesford is the best for its neighbouring local authorities, which suggests that existing levels of provision are above the norm for geographically similar areas. - <i>Active Places Power</i> (2011). • The number of sports halls and courts per capita in Uttlesford is above the median figure for its comparator local authorities, which suggests that existing levels of provision are around the norm for demographically similar areas. - <i>Active Places Power</i> (2011). • 70.4% of the respondents to the citizens' panel survey who expressed an opinion believe that existing levels of sports hall provision are 'about right', so a standard equivalent to current levels of provision is justifiable. - <i>Uttlesford Voices Survey</i> (2010). • 66.0% of the respondents to the leisure centre users survey who expressed an opinion believe that existing levels of sports hall provision are 'about right', so a standard equivalent to current levels of provision is justifiable. - <i>Uttlesford Leisure Centre Users Survey</i> (2011).

Standard	Justification
Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all facilities rate 'average' or better.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The overall mean qualitative score for sports halls in the district equates to a value between 'high quality' and 'above average'. - <i>Qualitative audit</i> (2011). All aspects of all facilities were rated as at least 'above average' quality. - <i>Qualitative audit</i> (2011).
The whole population within 15 minutes walk or drive of their closest sports hall.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 82.8% of the respondents to the leisure centre users' survey that use sports halls travel for 15 minutes or less to reach a sports hall. - <i>Uttlesford Leisure Centres Users' Survey</i> (2011). 85.4% of respondents to the leisure centre users' survey that use sports halls travel to sports halls by car. - <i>Uttlesford Leisure Centre Users' Survey</i> (2011). 'In urban areas, all persons should be within 20 minutes walking time of a larger leisure centre and a swimming pool open to the community'. - <i>Essex Sports Facilities Strategy 2007 - 2020'</i> (2008). 'All persons living in rural areas should be no further than 20 minutes drive time from a larger leisure facility and swimming pool open to the community'. - <i>Essex Sports Facilities Strategy 2007 - 2020'</i> (2008).

5.17 Applying the standard: The results of applying the standard are as follows:

Assessed criterion	Assessed position
Current provision	6 sports halls with community access.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No overall quantitative deficiency, although several facilities are close to 'comfortable capacity'. No qualitative deficiency. All aspects of all facilities are currently rated as 'above average' or better. No accessibility deficiency. All parts of the district are within 15 minutes walk or drive of the nearest sports hall.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 additional sports hall close to the main areas of new housing growth. All aspects of quality above average. Within 15 minutes drive of new developments.
Total future needs	7 sports halls with community access

Indoor swimming pools

5.18 Definition: For the purposes of this study, indoor swimming pools are defined as main pools with minimum length of 20 metres, although smaller teaching and diving pools are included in the assessment where they are integral to a facility with a main pool.

5.19 Quantitative analysis: Pools in Uttlesford and comparator areas are as follows:

- a) Provision in Uttlesford: There are three facilities comprising a collective total of 907.5sq.m. of water space) with community access in Uttlesford, equivalent to one facility per 25,600 people, or 11.82sq.m. of water space per 1,000 people. The survey of the Amateur Swimming Association (East) confirmed that all the pools can accommodate the full range of swimming activities, with the exception of diving:

Swimming pool	Address	Dimensions
Friends School	Mount Pleasant Road, Saffron Walden CB11 3EB	20m x 10m
Great Dunmow Leisure Centre	Parsonage Downs, Dunmow CM6 2AT	25m x 13m
Lord Butler Leisure Centre	Peaslands Road, Saffron Walden CB11 3EG	25m x 10.5m 12m x 10m

- b) Other swimming provision: Smaller pools in the district, whilst catering for a more limited range of swimming needs, also supplement the provision made by the main pools above. Existing facilities of this nature which have at least some community use are listed below:

<i>Swimming pool</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>
County High Sports Centre	Audley End Road, Saffron Walden CB11 4UH	18m x 8m
Pace Health Club, Stansted	Waltham Close, Stansted CM24 1PP	15m x 5m
Livingwell Health Club	Round Coppice Road, Stansted CM24 1SF	15m x 5m

- c) Provision in neighbouring areas: The provision of swimming pools neighbouring local authorities is tabulated below and shows that Uttlesford is below the median in terms of pools per capita and overall water space, but more importantly above the median for pool space per capita (based on data from 'Active Places Power'):

<i>Local authority</i>	<i>No. pools</i>	<i>Pools per capita</i>	<i>Water space</i>	<i>Sq.m. per 1,000 people</i>
North Hertfordshire	5	1: 24,940	1,989sq.m.	15.95sq.m.
Braintree	3	1: 47,567	1,149sq.m.	12.42sq.m.
Uttlesford	3	1: 25,600	907.5sq.m.	11.82sq.m
<i>Median values</i>	<i>3.8</i>	<i>1: 33,927</i>	<i>1,274.75sq.m.</i>	<i>10.80sq.m.</i>
East Hertfordshire	5	1: 27,420	1,603.5sq.m.	11.70sq.m.
Chelmsford	3	1: 55,933	1,141.5sq.m.	6.80sq.m.
South Cambridgeshire	4	1: 22,500	858sq.m.	5.94sq.m.

- d) Provision in comparator areas: The water space per capita in demographic comparators is tabulated below and shows that provision in Uttlesford is just above the median figure for pools per capita and well above the median for pool space per capita:

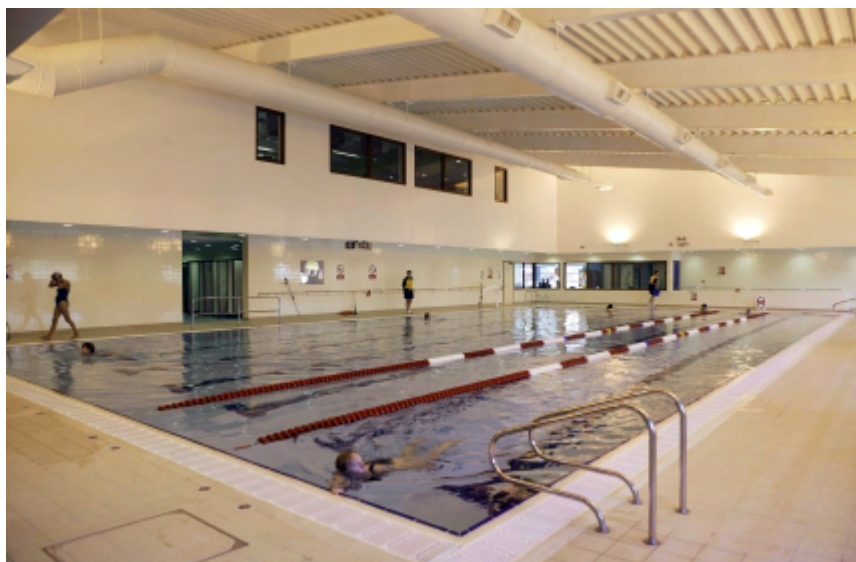
<i>Local authority</i>	<i>No. pools</i>	<i>Pools per capita</i>	<i>Water space</i>	<i>Sq.m. per 1,000 people</i>
Sevenoaks	5	1: 22,640	1,813.5sq.m.	16.02sq.m.
West Oxfordshire	4	1: 25,625	1,377.5sq.m.	13.44sq.m.
Mid-Sussex	5	1: 26,320	1,725.5sq.m.	13.32sq.m.
Winchester	5	1: 22,660	1,502sq.m.	13.26sq.m.
Stratford-on-Avon	5	1: 23,780	1,548sq.m.	13.02sq.m.
Cotswold	4	1: 20,875	1,027.5sq.m.	12.30sq.m.
Uttlesford	3	1: 25,600	907.5sq.m.	11.82sq.m
Hambleton	4	1: 21,825	1,012.5sq.m.	11.60sq.m.
Harborough	3	1: 27,800	932.5sq.m.	11.18sq.m.
<i>Median values</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1: 26,243</i>	<i>1,089.8sq.m.</i>	<i>10.09sq.m.</i>
Vale of White Horse	4	1: 29,675	1,185sq.m.	9.98sq.m.
Horsham	3	1: 43,267	1,009sq.m.	7.77sq.m.
South Oxfordshire	4	1: 32,650	972.5sq.m.	7.75sq.m.
East Hampshire	3	1: 37,300	853sq.m.	7.62sq.m.
Test Valley	3	1: 37,800	712.5sq.m.	6.28sq.m.
South Cambridgeshire	4	1: 22,500	858sq.m.	5.94sq.m.
Maldon	1	1: 62,900	250sq.m.	3.97sq.m.

5.20 Qualitative analysis: The qualitative audit produced the following results. The overall mean score equates to a value between 'high quality' and 'above average':

<i>Swimming pool</i>	<i>Pool</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Disabled access</i>	<i>Maintenance/Cleanliness</i>	<i>Parking/access</i>	<i>Mean</i>
Friends School	5	4	5	5	5	4.8
Lord Butler Leisure Centre	5	4	4	4	5	4.4
Great Dunmow Leisure Centre	5	5	5	5	5	5.0
Mean	5.0	4.33	4.67	4.67	5.0	4.73

5.21 Effective catchment: Local surveys produced the following indications of accessibility to swimming pools in Uttlesford:

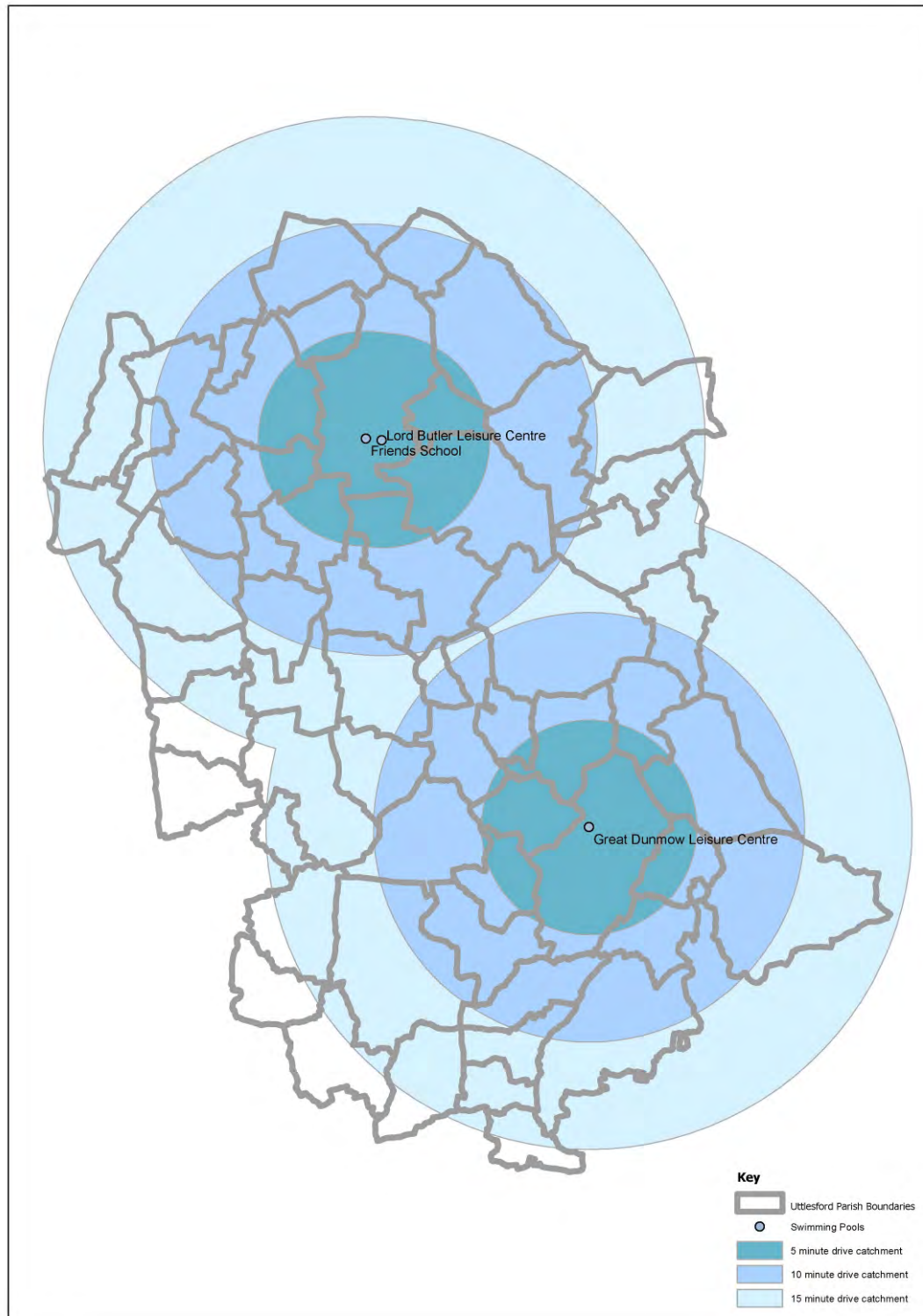
- a) 81.1% of the respondents to the leisure centre users' survey that use swimming pools travel for 15 minutes or less to reach a pool.
- b) 87.9% of respondents to the leisure centre users' survey that swimming pools travel by car.



A high-quality swimming pool at Dunmow Leisure Centre

5.22 Patterns of provision: A map showing the location of swimming pools in Uttlesford, together with the 15 minute drive time catchments is below. It shows that the entire population of the district is within 15 minutes drive of their nearest pool, with the exception of the south-easternmost fringes of the area, which are served by facilities in Bishop's Stortford. The five and ten minute drive time catchments are also shown, to illustrate those parts of the district where swimming pools are relatively less accessible.

Figure 5.2: Swimming Pool Provision in Uttlesford



5.23 Facilities Planning Model assessment: To supplement the locally derived assessment of need, information from Sport England’s 2011 national run of its Facilities Planning Model (FPM) was assessed to analyse the current and future balance between the supply of, and demand for, sports halls in Uttlesford. The FPM results imply the following:

5.24 Supply: The FPM recognises four swimming pool sites (with five pools) in Uttlesford, because it has included the provision at Felsted School which has limited public access. The total water area of

1,091m² has been scaled to 785m² to take account of hours available for community use and a capacity of 6,376 visits per week in the peak period. This equates to 14.21m² water space per 1,000 people, slightly above the average for Essex, the East and England.

- a) Demand: Demand for swimming pools from the resident population is 4,213 vpwpp. This is equivalent to demand for 740.7m² in the peak period, with the 'comfort factor' included.
- b) Supply/demand balance: There is a notional surplus equivalent to 44.01m² in the peak period, with the 'comfort factor' included. This represents about one third of a 25m four lane pool with a comfort factor included.
- c) Satisfied demand: Taking into account the walking or driving time catchments for the existing facilities and the ability of residents to reach them (based upon local car ownership rates) 93.4% of demand for swimming pools in the district is currently met. It is not feasible to meet all demand, and the Uttlesford figure is almost as high as it is possible to achieve.
 - a. 90% of demand is met by car, 7% on foot and 3% by public transport.
 - b. Not all of the satisfied demand from residents of Uttlesford is met by provision within the district. About two thirds of the district's satisfied demand is retained (2600 visits), while one third (1350 visits) is exported to adjacent districts, probably to pools in Bishops Stortford and Braintree.
- d) Unmet demand: Unmet demand for pools in the district is for only 300 visits per week, or about 7% of total demand, which is lower than the average. In total unmet demand represents the equivalent of only about 50m² of additional water (including a comfort factor), and this is spread thinly across the whole district.
- e) Used capacity: The total number of visits to pools in Uttlesford is 2900 (compared with total capacity of 6400 and demand of 4200). This equates to 45% of total capacity well below the 'comfort level'. The national average is 58%, the regional 59% and Essex 61%, so local throughputs are low. Uttlesford retains 2,600 visits per week from local residents in its own pools (90% of the used capacity) and imports a small amount (340 visits or 10%) from outside. This compares with 1,350 visits exported to neighbouring LA areas, so Uttlesford is a major net exporter of demand of over 1000 visits per week, probably to Bishops Stortford and Braintree.
- f) Personal share: Uttlesford has a relative share of 137, which means that residents of the district have 37% better access to pools than the national average. This is a reflection of relatively good provision, relatively low demand and good accessibility to other pools within a reasonable catchment in neighbouring LA areas where there is spare capacity (East Herts in particular).

5.25 FPM Summary: The swimming pool findings can be summarised as follows:

- a) There is a small surplus of supply of water space within the district compared with demand generated by local residents, when 'comfortable' levels of use are considered.
- b) Satisfied demand is very high compared with the average and almost as high as it is possible to be, given that it is not viable (certainly in a rural area) to meet absolutely all demand, because of capacity and accessibility issues. Consequently unmet demand for pools in Uttlesford is very low, and all of this is caused by residents living outside the established walking or driving catchments of existing facilities. No unmet demand is caused because pools are full.
- c) There is insufficient unmet demand in any one location in Uttlesford to justify additional pool provision for this reason alone.
- d) Overall throughput at existing pools is well within the comfortable level of use, and no individual pools remotely reach this figure

- e) Relative share is well above the national average – Uttlesford residents are well provided for pools overall.
- f) Uttlesford, despite the good supply of pools, is a significant net exporter of demand from its own residents to pools outside the district.

5.26 FPM conclusions: The level of satisfied demand for swimming pools in Uttlesford is at a level which is unlikely to be exceeded, given the nature of the district, and additional pools would not at the present time soak up any significant additional unmet demand. There is therefore no justification at present for additional pools in the district. However the following policy pointers should be considered in the future:

- a) Some existing pools are becoming old and may be nearing the end of their useful life. Their attractiveness will decline as every year passes and their throughput could approach comfortable levels of use in a short time. A fundamental review of quality, condition and fitness for purpose should be undertaken to assess their future viability and utility.
- b) Housing and population pressures in Uttlesford and the wider area will inevitably place additional pressures on existing facilities if the current supply remains constant, and a thorough review of the needs of new housing growth areas should consider the existing stock of pools.
- c) Proposals for school rationalisation in neighbouring Bishops Stortford could result in a change in the local supply of pools serving the area, and this should be addressed if planning permission is granted for this and implemented.

5.27 Planned provision: There are currently no known plans for additional swimming pool provision in the district.

5.28 Local standard of provision: Based on the evidence above, the following local standard of provision was set:

Standard	Justification
One 25m indoor swimming pool per 25,000 people (12 sq.m. of water space per 1,000 people).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing levels of provision equate to one swimming pool per 25,600 people, equivalent to 11.82sq.m. per 1,000 people - <i>Quantitative audit</i> (2011). • Usage levels of in the district at peak periods are at 45.4% of available capacity, so there is significant spare capacity at present. - <i>FPM</i> (2011). • 93.4% of swimming pool demand in Uttlesford is currently being met by supply, so current levels of provision are about right. - <i>FPM</i> (2011). • Uttlesford has a relative share of 137, which means that residents of the district have 37% better access to pools than the national average. - <i>FPM</i> (2011). • The water space per capita in Uttlesford is above the median figure for its neighbouring local authorities, which suggests that existing levels of provision are above the norm for geographically similar areas. - <i>Active Places Power</i> (2011). • The water space per capita in Uttlesford is well above the median figure for its comparator local authorities, which suggests that existing levels of provision are above the norm for demographically similar areas. - <i>Active Places Power</i> (2011). • 61.3% of the respondents to the citizens' panel survey who expressed an opinion believe that existing levels of swimming pool provision are 'about right', so a standard equivalent to current levels of provision is justifiable. - <i>Uttlesford Voices Survey</i> (2010). • 53.3% of the respondents to the leisure centre users survey who expressed an opinion believe that existing levels of swimming pool provision are 'about right', so a standard equivalent to current levels of provision is justifiable. - <i>Uttlesford Leisure Centre Users Survey</i> (2011). • The Amateur Swimming Association (East) stated that 'over the Uttlesford

Standard	Justification
	area there appears to be an estimated deficit of around 38% in water space accessible by all sections of the community. We recognise that there are a number of 'private' pools, these may provide a significant provision for parts of the population, but this does not cover the shortfall for schools and the community as a whole'. - <i>Governing Bodies of Sport Survey (2011)</i> .
Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all facilities rate 'above average' or better.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The overall mean qualitative score for swimming pools in the district equates to a value between 'high quality' and 'above average'. - <i>Qualitative audit (2011)</i>. • All aspects of all pools were rated as at least 'above average' quality. - <i>Qualitative audit (2011)</i>. • The Amateur Swimming Association (East) stated that 'the Great Dunmow Leisure Centre was built in 2003 so should be in good condition and the Lord Butler Centre was built in 1984. The age is not really a concern for the medium and short term but long term some consideration should be given to the Lord Butler centre'. - <i>Governing Bodies of Sport Survey (2011)</i>.
The population within 15 minutes walk or drive of their closest pool.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 81.1% of the respondents to the leisure centre users' survey that use swimming pools travel for 15 minutes or less to reach a pool. - <i>Uttlesford Leisure Centres Users' Survey (2011)</i>. • 87.9% of respondents to the leisure centre users' survey that swimming pools travel by car. - <i>Uttlesford Leisure Centre Users' Survey (2011)</i>. • 'In urban areas, all persons should be within 20 minutes walking time of a larger leisure centre and a swimming pool open to the community'. - <i>Essex Sports Facilities Strategy 2007 - 2020' (2008)</i>. • 'All persons living in rural areas should be no further than 20 minutes drive time from a larger leisure facility and swimming pool open to the community'. - <i>Essex Sports Facilities Strategy 2007 - 2020' (2008)</i>.

5.29 Applying the standard: The results of applying the standard are as follows:

Assessed criterion	Assessed position
Current provision	3 swimming pools with community access.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No overall quantitative deficiency, although several facilities are close to 'comfortable capacity'. • No qualitative deficiency. All aspects of all facilities are currently rated as 'above average' or better. • No accessibility deficiency. All parts of the district are within 15 minutes walk or drive of the nearest swimming pool.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.5 additional swimming pools (152sq.m. water space). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes drive of new developments.
Total future needs	4 swimming pools with community access

Synthetic athletics tracks

5.30 Definition: For the purposes of this study, synthetic athletics tracks comprise all-weather, 400m tracks, with a minimum of six lanes and full field event facilities.

5.31 Quantitative analysis: Tracks in Uttlesford and comparator areas are as follows:

- Provision in Uttlesford: There are no synthetic athletics tracks in Uttlesford.
- Provision in neighbouring areas: The provision of athletics tracks in neighbouring local authorities is tabulated below. It shows that half of the adjoining districts have a track:

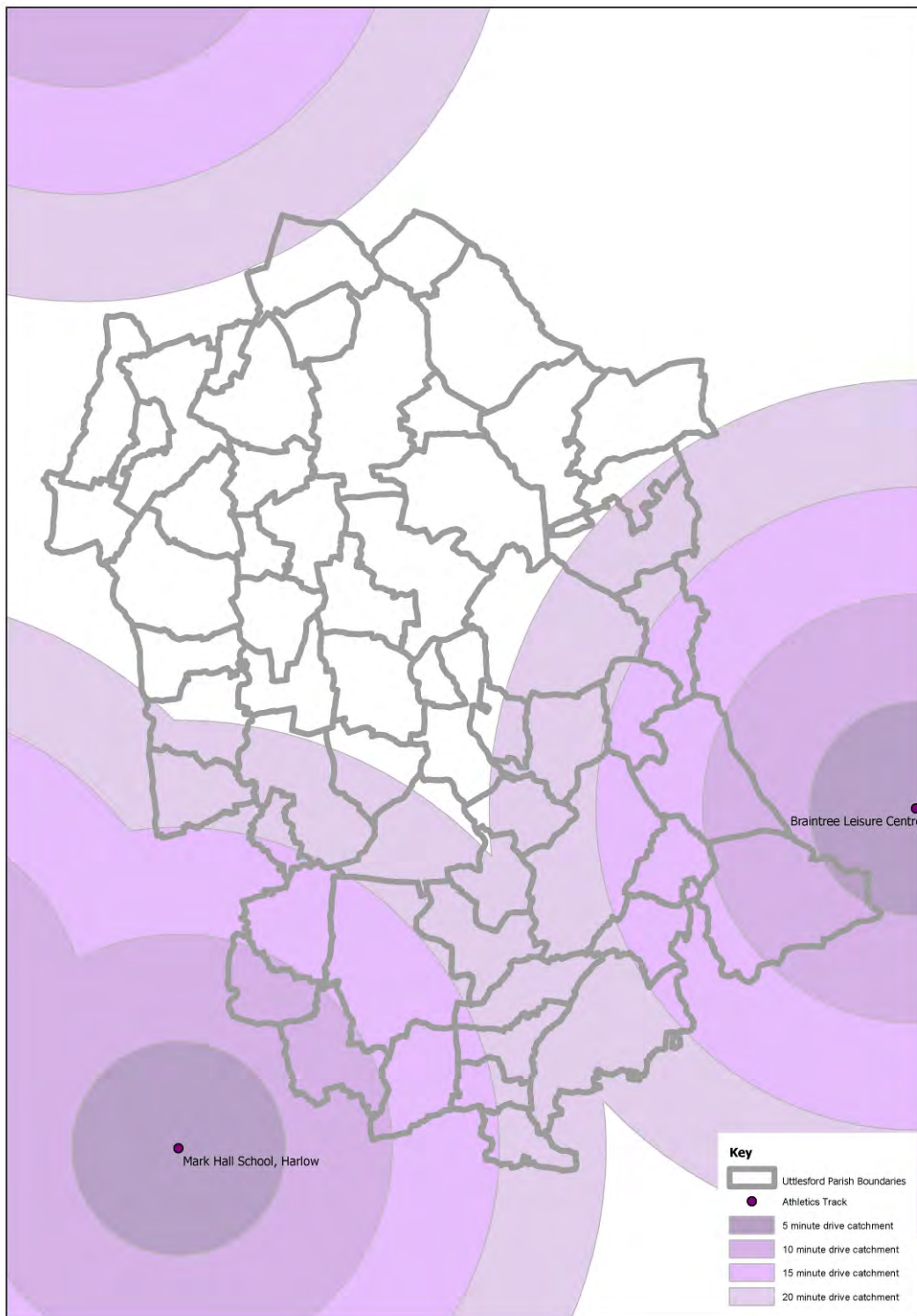
Local authority	No. tracks	Tracks per capita
East Hertfordshire	1	1: 137,100
Braintree	1	1: 142,700
Chelmsford	1	1: 167,800
<i>Median values</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>1: 149,200</i>
Uttlesford	0	-
North Hertfordshire	0	-
South Cambridgeshire	0	-

- c) Provision in comparator areas: The synthetic athletics tracks per capita in CIPFA 'Nearest Neighbour' local authorities are tabulated below and is derived from 'Active Places Power'. It shows that slightly more than half of the comparator authorities do not have a track.

Local authority	No. tracks	Tracks per capita
Sevenoaks	1	1: 113,200
Winchester	1	1: 113,300
Test Valley	1	1: 113,400
Vale of White Horse	1	1: 118,700
Stratford-on-Avon	1	1: 118,900
Horsham	1	1: 129,800
South Oxfordshire	1	1: 130,600
<i>Median values</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>1: 119,700</i>
Maldon	0	-
Uttlesford	0	-
Cotswold	0	-
Harborough	0	-
Hambleton	0	-
West Oxfordshire	0	-
East Hampshire	0	-
Mid-Sussex	0	-
South Cambridgeshire	0	-

- 5.32 Effective catchment: In no track in the district, none of the local surveys produced any data on travel time catchments. However, UK Athletics recommends one 400m synthetic athletics track within 20 minutes drive in rural areas and 20 minutes walk in urban areas - 'Athletics Facilities Strategy for the UK' (2006).
- 5.33 Patterns of provision: A map showing the athletics tracks in neighbouring areas, together with the 20 minute drive time catchment is below. It shows that a large area in the north of the district is beyond the catchment of the nearest track. The five, ten and fifteen minute drive time catchments are also shown, to illustrate those parts of the district where athletics tracks are relatively less accessible.

Figure 5.3: Athletic Track Provision in Uttlesford



5.34 Planned provision: There are currently no known plans for athletics track provision in the district.

5.35 Local standard of provision: Based on the evidence above, the following local standard of provision was set:

Standard	Justification
One six-lane 400m synthetic track per 250,000 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no provision in the district at present. - <i>Quantitative audit</i> (2011). • Essex Athletics Association has identified a need for athletics facilities in Uttlesford, although not necessarily a full-sized track. - <i>'Essex Sports Facilities Strategy 2007 - 2020'</i> (2008). • UK Athletics recommends one 6-lane track per 250,000 people. - <i>'Athletics Facilities Strategy for the UK'</i> (2007). • The tracks in surrounding districts serve an average of 149,200 people each, which indicates that neighbouring areas have some spare capacity at present in relation to the national standard. - <i>Quantitative audit</i> (2011).
All aspects of a track should rate 'above average' or better.	This complies with the general aspiration in all the local standards of provision, to achieve at least 'above average' quality ratings.
The whole population within 20 minutes walk or drive of the nearest track.	UK Athletics recommends one 6-lane 400m synthetic athletics track within 20 minutes drive time. - <i>Athletics Facilities Strategy for the UK</i> (2007).

5.36 Applying the standard: The results of applying the standard are as follows:

Assessed criterion	Assessed position
Current provision	No synthetic tracks within the district, local need is served by facilities in Cambridge, Hertford, Braintree and Chelmsford.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • No qualitative deficiency. • A significant accessibility deficiency in the north of the district, but there is no evidence of any frustrated demand.
Future needs	No additional requirement.
Total future needs	No synthetic tracks within the district, with local need served by facilities in neighbouring areas.

Synthetic turf pitches

5.37 Definition: For the purposes of the study, synthetic turf pitches have artificial grass playing surfaces, dimensions of 101.4m x 63m (including run-offs), with sand-filled, rubber crumb or water-based variants.

5.38 Quantitative analysis: Pitches in Uttlesford and comparator areas are as follows:

- a) Provision in Uttlesford: There are five pitches with community access in Uttlesford, equivalent to one facility per 15,360 people. Consultation with the Essex Football Association identified that 'there is no 'Third Generation' (3G) pitch in Uttlesford. A priority for the Essex FA is a 3G in each local authority, although in Uttlesford, a network of small 3G pitches for training might be a more appropriate option probably starting with Saffron Walden and Dunmow. 40mx25m would be the ideal size':

Facility	Description
Great Dunmow Leisure Centre	Sand-filled
County High Sports Centre	Sand-filled
Newport Free Grammar School	Sand-filled
Felsted School	2 x sand-filled

- b) Provision in neighbouring areas: The provision of synthetic turf pitches in neighbouring local authorities are tabulated below and show that Uttlesford has the highest rate of provision:

<i>Local authority</i>	<i>No. pitches</i>	<i>Pitches per capita</i>
Uttlesford	5	1: 15,360
East Hertfordshire	7	1: 19,586
North Hertfordshire	5	1: 24,940
<i>Median values</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>1: 27,957</i>
Braintree	5	1: 28,540
South Cambridgeshire	4	1: 36,125
Chelmsford	4	1: 41,950

- c) Provision in comparator areas: The synthetic pitches per capita in CIPFA 'Nearest Neighbour' local authorities are tabulated below and is derived from 'Active Places Power'. Uttlesford has the highest per capita rate of provision:

<i>Local authority</i>	<i>No. pitches</i>	<i>Pitches per capita</i>
Uttlesford	5	1: 15,360
East Hampshire	8	1: 13,988
Mid-Sussex	8	1: 16,450
Harborough	5	1: 16,860
West Oxfordshire	6	1: 17,083
Winchester	6	1: 18,883
Horsham	7	1: 18,543
Sevenoaks	6	1: 18,867
<i>Median values</i>	<i>5.1</i>	<i>1: 24,206</i>
Test Valley	6	1: 18,900
Cotswold	4	1: 20,625
Maldon	3	1: 20,967
Stratford-on-Avon	5	1: 23,780
Vale of White Horse	4	1: 29,675
South Oxfordshire	4	1: 32,650
South Cambridgeshire	4	1: 36,125
Hambleton	1	1: 87,300

- 5.39 Qualitative analysis: The qualitative audit produced the following results. The mean score equates to a value between 'high quality' and 'above average':

<i>Synthetic pitch</i>	<i>Playing surface</i>	<i>Pitch lighting</i>	<i>Pitch fencing</i>	<i>Maintenance</i>	<i>Parking/ access</i>	<i>Mean</i>
County High Sports Centre	5	0	5	5	5	5.0
Felsted School	5	5	5	5	4	4.8
Great Dunmow Leisure Centre	5	5	5	5	4	4.8
Newport Free Grammar School	5	5	5	5	4	4.8
Mean	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.25	4.85

- 5.40 Effective catchment: Local surveys produced the following indications of accessibility to synthetic turf pitches in Uttlesford:

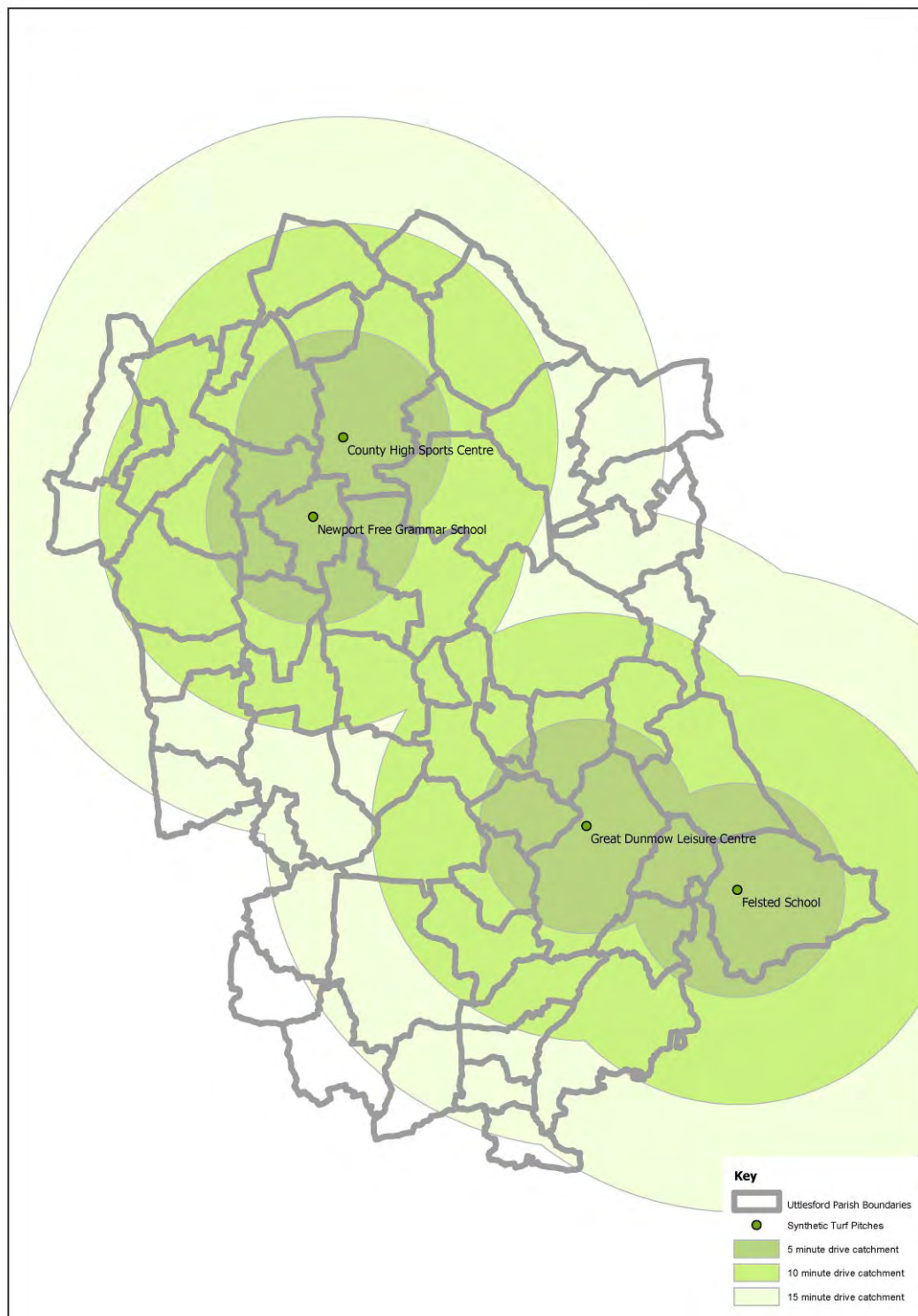
- 79.7% of the respondents to the leisure centre users' survey that use synthetic pitches travel for 15 minutes or less to reach a pitch.
- 91.9% of respondents to the leisure centre users' survey that use synthetic pitches travel to the facility by car.



A High-quality synthetic turf pitch at the County High Sports Centre

- 5.41 Patterns of provision: A map showing the location of synthetic turf pitches in Uttlesford, together with the 15 minute drive time catchments is below. It shows that the entire population of the district is within 15 minutes drive of their nearest pitch, with the exception of the south-westernmost fringes of the area, which are served by facilities in Bishop's Stortford. The five and ten minute drive time catchments are also shown, to illustrate those parts of the district where synthetic turf pitches are relatively less accessible.

Figure 5.4: Synthetic Turf Pitches Provision in Uttlesford



5.42 Facilities Planning Model assessment: To supplement the locally derived assessment of need, information from Sport England’s 2011 national run of its Facilities Planning Model (FPM) was assessed to analyse the current and future balance between the supply of, and demand for, synthetic turf pitches in Uttlesford. The FPM results imply the following:

- a) **Supply:** There are five pitches at four sites in Uttlesford. Two pitches are available on a pay-and-play basis, while three are available to sports clubs and local organisations on a block booking system. Taking into account community hours available overall in the peak period,

the supply of pitches is 2.87. These pitches accommodate 2,123 visits per week in the peak period. Total synthetic pitch provision in Uttlesford equates to 0.6 pitches per 10,000 people which the best pro rata provision of pitches in the East region (though the ratio applies to total number of pitches and not scaled for community use).

- b) Demand: Demand for synthetic pitches from the local population is 1,621 vpwpp. This is equivalent to demand for 2.2 pitches in the peak period.
- c) Supply/demand balance: On the basis of the above assessment, there is a notional surplus equivalent to 0.68 synthetic pitches in the district.
- d) Satisfied demand: Satisfied demand represents the proportion of total demand that is met because there is spare capacity at synthetic pitches and residents live within the driving, walking or public transport catchment of a hall. The FPM calculates that 94.4% of the demand for synthetic pitches in Uttlesford is satisfied, which equates to 1,530 visits per week. This figure is significantly higher than the national (76%), regional (78%) or Essex (81%) averages.
 - 92% of the satisfied demand is met by local residents travelling by car, 6% on foot and 2% by public transport.
 - Not all of the satisfied demand from residents of Uttlesford is met by provision within the district. Approximately 63% of the district's satisfied demand is retained (969 visits), while 37% (561 visits) is exported to adjacent districts, probably to facilities in Bishops Stortford and Braintree. This level of exported demand is about the median for the region, but is perhaps surprising given the high level of supply of pitches in the district.
- e) Unmet demand: Unmet demand for synthetic pitches in the district is for fewer than 90 visits per week, or 5.6% of total demand. This represents the equivalent of only a small fraction of one pitch.
- f) Used capacity: 'Used capacity' is a measure of usage and throughput at synthetic pitches and estimates the extent to which facilities are well used. The total number of visits per week to synthetic pitches in Uttlesford is 1,925 (compared with total capacity of 2,123 and demand of 1,530). This equates to 90% of total capacity and whilst high, this is significantly below the national (94%), regional (97%) and Essex (97%) averages. Uttlesford retains 950 visits per week from local residents on its own pitches (50% of the used capacity), and imports a similar amount from outside. When the 550 visits exported from Uttlesford are taken into account it is clear that the district, because of the good supply, is a net importer of demand of about 400 visits per week.
- g) Relative share: The FPM also analyses the relative share of synthetic pitches (i.e. it takes into account the size and availability of facilities and travel mode) and helps to establish whether residents in one area have a greater or lesser share of provision than other areas, when compared against a national average (100). Uttlesford has a relative share of 180, which means that residents of the district have 80% better access to pitches than the national average. This is the best ratio by far in the whole region and is a reflection of relatively high provision, relatively low demand and good accessibility to other pitches within a reasonable catchment. The East region figure for comparison is 103.

5.43 FPM summary: The synthetic pitch findings can be summarised as follows:

- a) There is a small surplus of supply of pitches within the district compared with demand generated by local residents.
- b) Satisfied demand for pitches is very high compared with the average and consequently unmet demand is very low. The latter is caused both by residents living outside the established walking or driving catchments of existing facilities and by capacity constraints at some existing pitches.
- c) There is insufficient unmet demand in any one location in Uttlesford to justify additional pitch provision for this reason alone.

- d) Overall throughput at existing pitches is high, but well below the average.
- e) Relative share is the highest in the region, and Uttlesford residents are therefore well provided for pitches overall.
- f) A small net amount of demand is imported from adjacent areas and local pitches in the district therefore perform an important function in meeting the needs of some neighbouring authorities.

5.44 FPM conclusions: The level of satisfied demand for synthetic pitches in Uttlesford is high, and probably at a level which is unlikely to be exceeded, given the nature of the district, and additional pitches would not at the present time soak up any significant additional unmet demand. There is therefore no justification at present for additional pitches in the district.

- a) Even though FPM analysis does not show need for additional synthetic pitches in general, there is a lack of any Third Generation ('3G') surface in Uttlesford, which would permit the development of a wider range of football activities, including competition on a surface specifically designed for football. If proposals did come forward for a 3G pitch, there may well be a case for justifying such a facility based on consultation if local need exists for football.
- b) Housing and population pressures in Uttlesford and the wider area will inevitably place additional pressures on existing facilities if the current supply remains constant, and a thorough review of the needs of new housing growth areas should consider the existing stock of pitches.
- c) The small amounts of unmet demand for pitches which exist throughout the district and in particular in the outlying villages, could be met by more local provision of smaller synthetic pitches or multi use games areas at local venues such as village halls and playing fields.

5.45 Planned provision: There are currently no known plans for additional synthetic turf pitch provision in the district.

5.46 Local standard of provision: Based on the evidence above, the following local standard of provision was set:

Standard	Justification
One full-sized floodlit synthetic turf pitch (101.4m x 63m) per 15,000 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing levels of provision equate to one full-sized synthetic pitch per 15,360 people - <i>Quantitative audit</i> (2011). • Per capita levels of synthetic pitch provision in Uttlesford are by far the best figure for the neighbouring local authorities, suggesting that existing levels of provision are above the norm for geographically similar areas. - <i>Active Places Power</i> (2011). • Per capita levels of synthetic pitch provision in Uttlesford are the best figure for the comparator local authorities, suggesting that existing levels of provision are above the norm for demographically similar areas. - <i>Active Places Power</i> (2011). • When compared with the national average (100), Uttlesford has a relative share of 180 for synthetic pitches, which means that residents of the district have 80% better access to pitches than the national average. - FPM (2011). • 58.0% of the respondents to the citizens' panel survey who expressed an opinion believe that there are 'too few' synthetic turf pitches in Uttlesford, but this needs to be set against the relatively high existing levels of provision. - <i>Uttlesford Voices Survey</i> (2010). • 59.1% of the respondents to the leisure centre users' survey, who expressed an opinion, believe that there are 'too few' synthetic turf pitches in Uttlesford, but this needs to be set against the relatively high existing levels of provision. - <i>Uttlesford Leisure Centre Users Survey</i> (2011). • 81.8% of the respondents to the Council's sports clubs survey, who expressed an opinion, believe that there are 'too few' synthetic turf pitches in Uttlesford, but this needs to be set against the relatively high current levels of provision.

Standard	Justification
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>UDC Sports Clubs Survey (2010)</i>. • The Essex Football Association stated that 'there is no 'Third Generation' (3G) pitch in Uttlesford. A priority for the Essex FA is a 3G in each local authority, although in Uttlesford, a network of small 3G pitches for training might be a more appropriate option probably starting with Saffron Walden and Dunmow. 40mx25m would be the ideal size'. - <i>Governing Bodies of Sport Survey (2011)</i>.
All aspects of all pitches and their ancillary facilities should rate 'above average' or better.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The overall mean qualitative score for synthetic turf pitches in the district equates to a value between 'high quality' and 'above average'. - <i>Qualitative audit (2011)</i>. • All aspects of all pitches were rated as at least 'above average' quality. - <i>Qualitative audit (2011)</i>.
The whole population within 15 minutes walk or drive of their closest pitch.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 79.7% of the respondents to the leisure centre users' survey that use synthetic pitches travel for 15 minutes or less to reach a pitch. - <i>Uttlesford Leisure Centres Users' Survey (2011)</i>. • 91.9% of respondents to the leisure centre users' survey that use synthetic pitches travel to the facility by car. - <i>Uttlesford Leisure Centre Users' Survey (2011)</i>.

5.47 Applying the standard: The results of applying the standard are as follows:

Assessed criterion	Assessed position
Current provision	5 synthetic turf pitches.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • No qualitative deficiency. • No access deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 additional 3G pitch close to the main areas of new housing growth. • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes drive of new developments.
Total future needs	6 synthetic turf pitches.

Indoor bowls facilities

5.48 Definition: For the purposes of this study, indoor bowls facilities are defined as specialist halls for playing flat green bowls. The number of individual rinks will vary, but is typically six or eight.

5.49 Quantitative analysis: Facilities in Uttlesford and comparator areas are as follows:

- a) Provision in Uttlesford: There is one indoor bowling facility in Uttlesford. The Essex Indoor Bowls Association stated that 'whilst the Market Segmentation data for the Uttlesford area shows a high percentage of residents in the 'Comfortable Retired Couple' category, we consider that at present there is adequate provision for Indoor Bowls':

Site	Rinks
Turpin's Indoor Bowls Club	6

- b) Provision in neighbouring areas: The provision of indoor bowls facilities in neighbouring local authorities are tabulated below. They show that only half of the districts have an indoor bowls facility and of these, Uttlesford has the best levels of per capita provision.

Local authority	No. facilities	Facilities per capita	No. rinks	Rinks per capita
Uttlesford	1	1: 76,800	6	1: 12,800
North Hertfordshire	1	1: 124,700	8	1: 15,588

<i>Median values</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>1: 122,700</i>	<i>3.7</i>	<i>1: 16,388</i>
Chelmsford	1	1: 167,800	8	1: 20,975
East Hertfordshire	0	-	0	-
Braintree	0	-	0	-
South Cambridgeshire	0	-	0	-

c) Provision in comparator areas: The indoor bowls facilities and numbers of rinks per capita in CIPFA 'Nearest Neighbour' local authorities are tabulated below and are derived from 'Active Places Power'. Uttlesford has well above the median levels of facilities and rinks per capita:

<i>Local authority</i>	<i>No. facilities</i>	<i>Facilities per capita</i>	<i>No. rinks</i>	<i>Rinks per capita</i>
Sevenoaks	2	1: 56,600	16	1: 7,075
Maldon	1	1: 62,900	7	1: 8,986
Stratford-on-Avon	2	1: 118,900	12	1: 9,908
Uttlesford	1	1: 76,800	6	1: 12,800
Harborough	1	1: 83,400	6	1: 13,900
Test Valley	1	1: 113,400	8	1: 14,175
<i>Median values</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>1: 95,618</i>	<i>7.5</i>	<i>1: 16,249</i>
Horsham	1	1: 129,800	8	1: 16,225
West Oxfordshire	2	1: 102,500	6	1: 17,083
East Hampshire	1	1: 111,900	6	1: 18,650
Winchester	1	1: 113,300	6	1: 18,883
Cotswold	1	1: 83,500	2	1: 41,250
Hambleton	0	-	0	-
Vale of White Horse	0	-	0	-
South Oxfordshire	0	-	0	-
Mid-Sussex	0	-	0	-
South Cambridgeshire	0	-	0	-

5.50 Qualitative analysis: The qualitative audit produced the following results. The mean score equates to a value between 'high quality' and 'above average':

<i>Site</i>	<i>Green</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Disabled</i>	<i>Green</i>
Turpin's Indoor Bowls Club	5	4	5	5

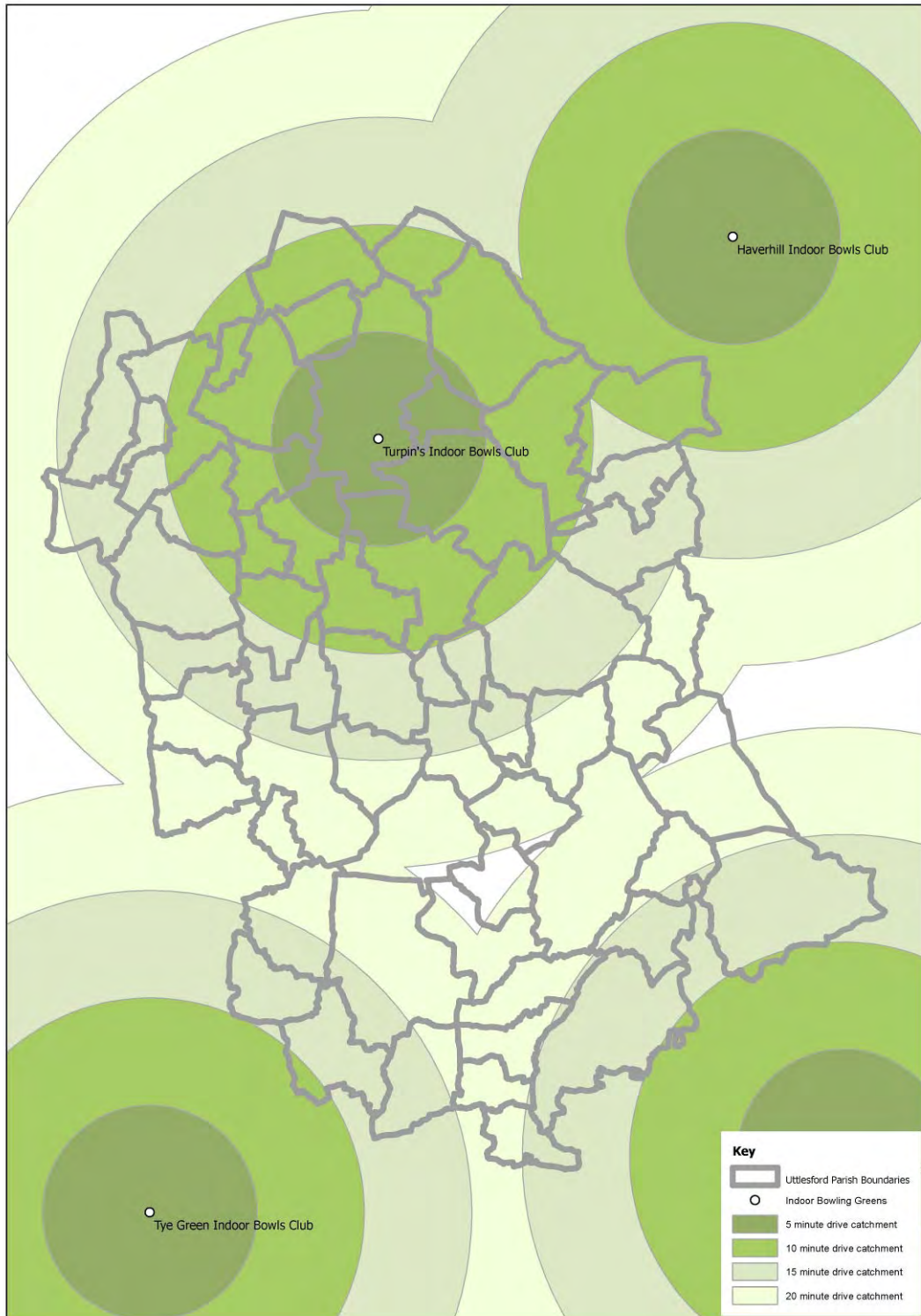
5.51 Effective catchment: Sport England's 'Indoor Bowls Design Guidance' (2005) identifies that 'the majority of facility users will live locally and travel not more than 20 minutes'.



Turpin's Indoor Bowling Club in Saffron Walden

5.52 Patterns of provision: A map showing the location of the indoor bowls facilities in Uttlesford and neighbouring areas, together with the 20 minute drive time catchments is below. It shows that with the exception of a small part of the central-southern and eastern rural areas, the entire population of the district is within 20 minutes drive of their nearest facility. The five, ten and fifteen minute drive time catchments are also shown, to illustrate those parts of the district where indoor bowls facilities are relatively less accessible.

Figure 5.5: Indoor Bowls Facilities Provision in Uttlesford



- 5.53 Planned provision: There are currently no known plans for additional indoor bowls provision in the district.

5.54 Local standard of provision: Based on the evidence above, the following local standard of provision was set:

Standard	Justification
One indoor bowling rink per 12,500 people (one 6-rink centre per 75,000 people).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing levels of provision equate to one indoor bowling rink per 12,800 people - <i>Quantitative audit</i> (2011). The number of facilities and rinks per capita in Uttlesford is the best for its neighbouring local authorities, which suggests that existing levels of provision are above the norm for geographically similar areas. - <i>Active Places Power</i> (2011). The number of facilities and rinks per capita in Uttlesford is well above the median figure for its comparator local authorities, which suggests that existing levels of provision are around the norm for demographically similar areas. - <i>Active Places Power</i> (2011). The Essex Indoor Bowls Association states that 'whilst the Market Segmentation data for the Uttlesford area shows a high percentage of residents in the 'Comfortable Retired Couple' category, we consider that at present there is adequate provision for Indoor Bowls'. - <i>Governing Bodies of Sport Survey</i> (2011). 54.5% of the respondents to the citizens' panel survey who expressed an opinion believe that existing levels of indoor bowls provision are 'about right', so a standard equivalent to current levels of provision is justifiable. - <i>Uttlesford Voices Survey</i> (2010). 79.3% of the respondents to the leisure centre users survey who expressed an opinion believe that existing levels of bowls provision are 'about right', so a standard equivalent to current levels of provision is justifiable. - <i>Uttlesford Leisure Centre Users Survey</i> (2011). The English Indoor Bowling Association advocates one indoor rink per 14,000 - 17,000 people. - <i>'Indoor Bowls Design Guidance Note'</i> (2005).
All aspects of all indoor bowls facilities should rate 'above average' or better.	The overall quality of the existing indoor bowls facility in the district equates to a value between 'high quality' and 'above average' - <i>Qualitative Audit</i> (2011).
The whole population within 20 minutes walk or drive of an indoor bowls facility.	'The majority of facility users will live locally and travel not more than 20 minutes'. - <i>'Indoor Bowls Design Guidance'</i> (2005)

5.55 Applying the standard: The results of applying the standard are as follows:

Assessed criterion	Assessed position
Current provision	One 6-rink facility.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No quantitative deficiency. No qualitative deficiency. No substantive access deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 additional rink added to the existing facility. All aspects of quality above average. Within 20 minutes drive of new developments.
Total future needs	One 7-rink indoor bowls facility.

Outdoor bowls greens

5.56 Definition: For the purposes of this study, outdoor bowls greens are defined as effectively flat, fine turf grassed areas, 40 yards x 40 yards, with regulation banks and ditches around the perimeter and ancillary facilities for changing and equipment storage.

5.57 Quantitative analysis: The following greens are in Uttlesford and comparator areas:

- a) Provision in Uttlesford: There are 11 bowling greens in Uttlesford, equivalent to one facility per 6,982 people:

Site
Birchanger Bowls Club
Clavering Bowls Club
Dunmow Bowls Club
Elsenham Bowls Club
Great Chesterford Bowls Club
Quendon Bowls Club
Radwinter Bowls Club
Saffron Walden Town Bowls Club
Stansted Bowls Club
Stebbing Bowls Club
Thaxted Bowls Club

- b) Provision in neighbouring areas: The provision of bowling greens in neighbouring local authorities is tabulated below. The data on facilities was provided by the Essex and Hertfordshire County Bowling Associations and shows that Uttlesford has the highest per capita rate of provision:

Local authority	No. Bowls greens	Bowls greens per capita
Uttlesford	11	1: 6,982
South Cambridgeshire	14	1: 10,321
North Hertfordshire	11	1: 11,336
<i>Median figures</i>	<i>10.3</i>	<i>1: 12,565</i>
East Hertfordshire	10	1: 13,710
Chelmsford	12	1: 13,983
Braintree	4	1: 19,167

- c) Provision in comparator areas: There is no data on per capita levels of provision of greens in comparator local authorities.

5.58 Qualitative analysis: The qualitative audit produced the following results. The overall mean score equates to a value of just above 'average', but disabled access and parking/general access are rated between 'average' and 'below average' overall:

Facility	Playing surface	Pavilion/ changing	Disabled access	Parking/ access	Mean
Birchanger Bowls Club	3	4	3	3	3.25
Clavering Bowls Club	4	3	2	2	2.75
Dunmow Bowls Club	5	5	4	4	4.50
Elsenham Bowls Club	4	5	3	3	3.75
Great Chesterford BC	5	3	2	3	3.25
Quendon Bowls Club	5	4	3	3	3.75
Radwinter Bowls Club	5	4	2	2	3.25
Saffron Walden Town BC	5	5	4	4	4.50
Stansted Bowls Club	4	3	2	2	2.75
Stebbing Bowls Club	5	3	2	3	3.25
Thaxted Bowls Club	4	4	2	3	3.25
Mean	4.45	3.90	2.64	2.91	3.47

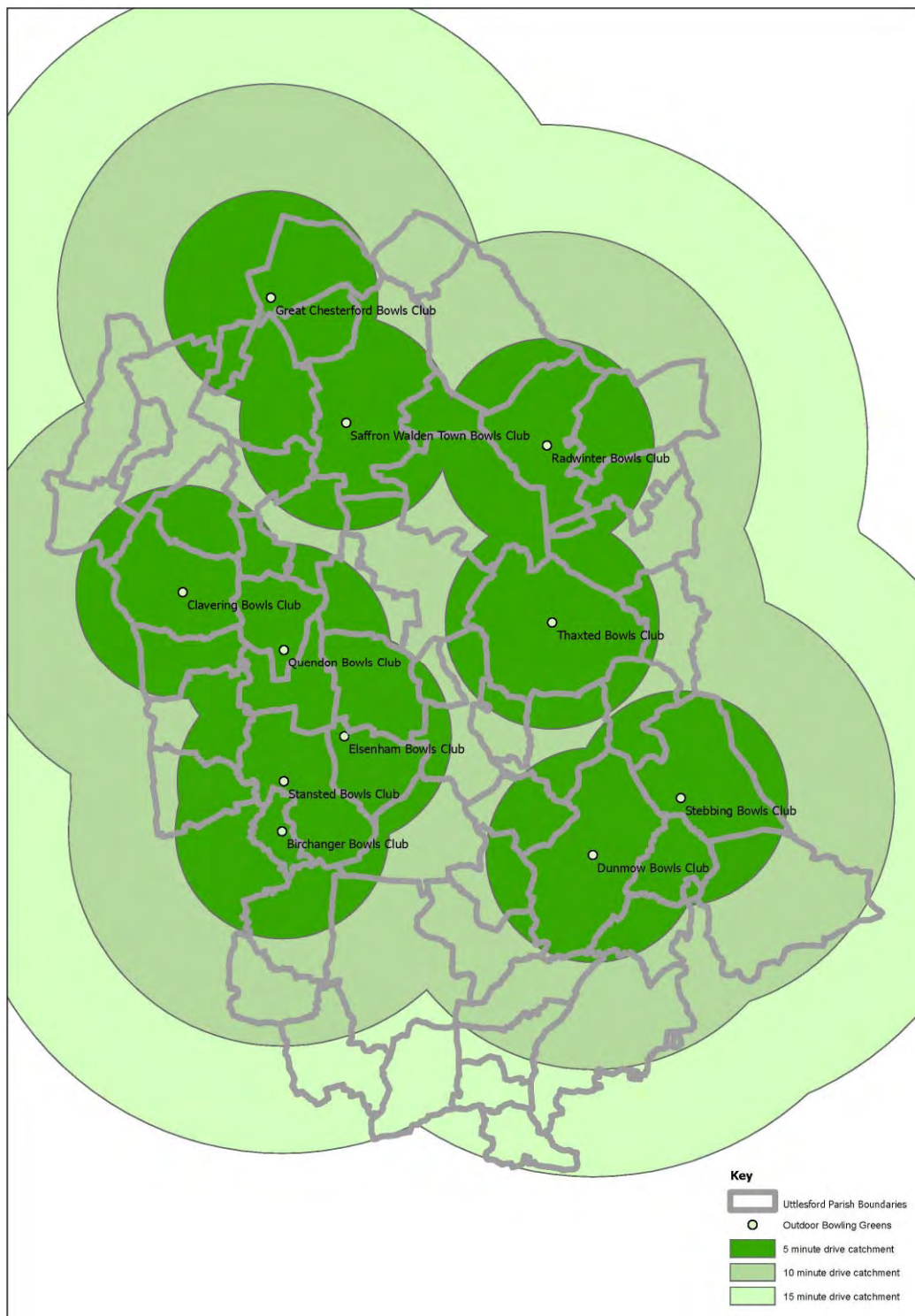
- 5.59 Effective catchment: According to the Bowls England, 90% of outdoor bowls players travel by car with a maximum journey time of 20 minutes.



A High-quality green and pavilion at Dunmow Bowls Club

- 5.60 Patterns of provision: A map showing the location of the outdoor bowls greens in Uttlesford, together with the 15 minute drive time catchments is below. It shows that the entire population of the district is within 15 minutes drive of their nearest facility. The five and ten minute drive time catchments are also shown, to illustrate those parts of the district where outdoor bowls facilities are relatively less accessible.

Figure 5.6: Outdoor Bowls Green Provision in Uttlesford



5.61 Planned provision: There are currently no known plans for additional outdoor bowls provision in the district.

5.62 Local standard of provision: Based on the evidence above, the following local standard of provision was set:

Standard	Justification
One outdoor bowling green per 7,000 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing levels of provision equate to one green per 6,982 people - <i>Quantitative audit</i> (2011). Existing per capita levels of provision in Uttlesford are the best of the neighbouring local authorities, which suggests that existing provision is above the norm for geographically similar areas. - <i>Quantitative audit</i> (2011). 64.1% of the respondents to the citizens' panel survey who expressed an opinion believe that existing levels of outdoor bowls provision are 'about right', so a standard equivalent to current levels of provision is justifiable. - <i>Uttlesford Voices Survey</i> (2010). 79.3% of the respondents to the leisure centre users survey who expressed an opinion believe that existing levels of bowls provision are 'about right', so a standard equivalent to current levels of provision is justifiable. - <i>Uttlesford Leisure Centre Users Survey</i> (2011). 69.2% of the respondents to the Council's sports clubs survey who expressed an opinion, believe that provision of bowls greens in Uttlesford is 'about right'. - <i>UDC Sports Clubs Survey</i> (2010).
All aspects of all greens and their ancillary facilities should rate 'above average' or better.	The overall mean score for bowling greens in the district from the qualitative audit equates to a value of just above 'average', but disabled access and parking/general access are rated between 'average' and 'below average' overall. - <i>Qualitative audit</i> (2009).
The whole population within 15 minutes walk or drive of their closest green.	'The majority of facility users will live locally and travel not more than 20 minutes. 90% of users will travel by car'. - <i>Bowls Design Guidance</i> (2005)

5.63 Applying the standard: The results of applying the standard are as follows:

Assessed criterion	Assessed position
Current provision	11 outdoor bowling greens.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No quantitative deficiency Disabled and general access improvements needed at all facilities apart from Dunmow BC and Saffron Walden Town BC. No accessibility deficiency.
Future needs (population)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 additional bowling greens. All aspects of quality 'above average'. Within 15 drive of new developments.
Total future needs	13 outdoor bowling greens.

Indoor tennis courts

5.64 Definition: For the purposes of this study, indoor tennis courts are defined as specialist facilities housing one or more tennis courts.

5.65 Quantitative analysis: Provision in Uttlesford and comparator areas is as follows:

- a) Provision in Uttlesford: There are no indoor tennis courts in Uttlesford.

- b) Provision in neighbouring areas: The provision of indoor tennis courts in neighbouring local authorities is tabulated below and shows that half of the districts, including Uttlesford, have no dedicated indoor tennis facilities:

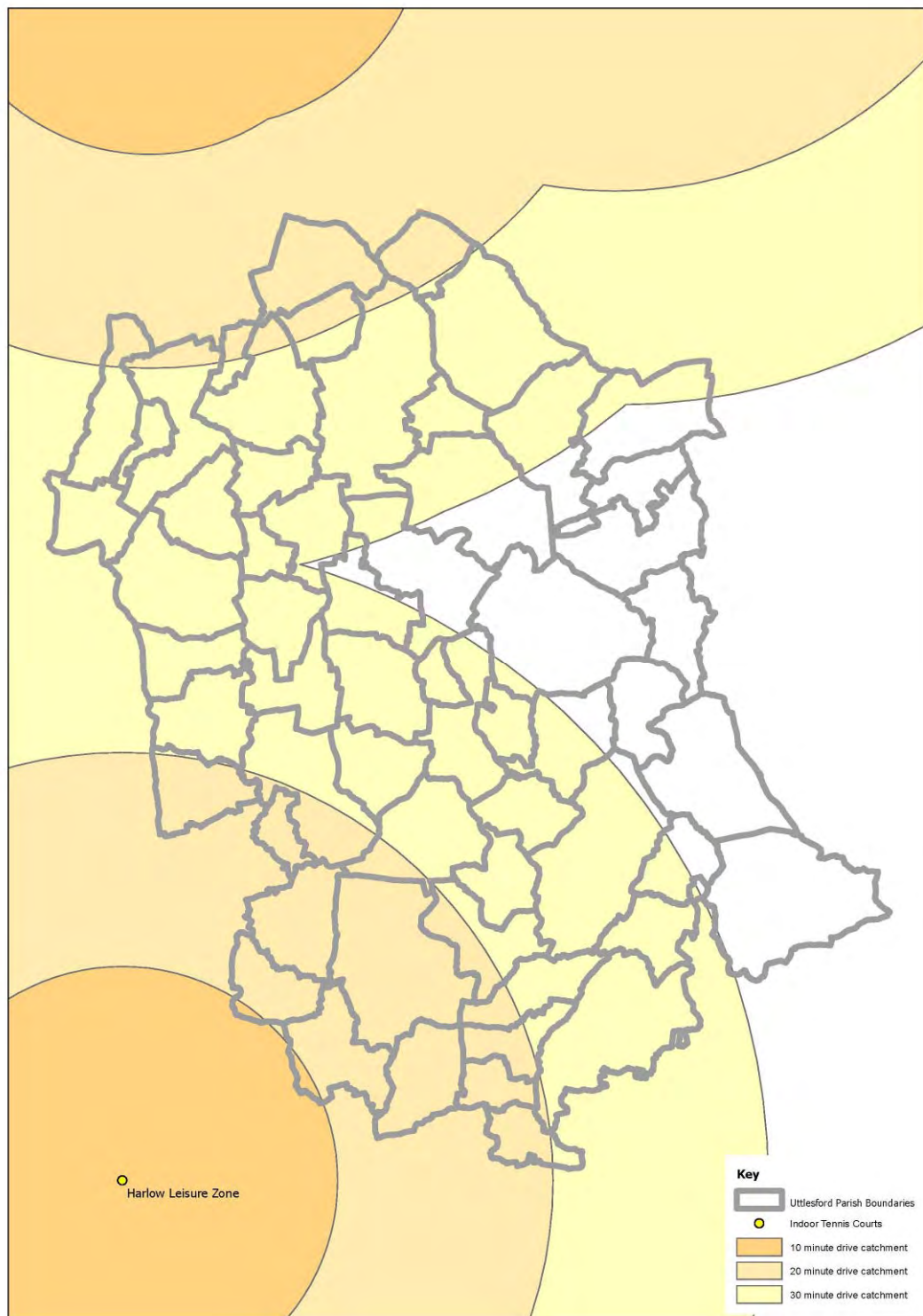
<i>Local authority</i>	<i>No. facilities</i>	<i>Facilities per capita</i>	<i>No. courts</i>	<i>Courts per capita</i>
East Hertfordshire	1	1: 137,100	4	1: 34,275
North Hertfordshire	1	1: 124,700	3	1: 41,567
Braintree	1	1: 142,700	3	1: 47,567
Median values	<i>0.5</i>	<i>1: 134,833</i>	<i>3.3</i>	<i>1: 41,136</i>
Uttlesford	0	-	0	-
South Cambridgeshire	0	-	0	-
Chelmsford	0	-	0	-

- c) Provision in comparator areas: The indoor tennis courts per capita in CIPFA 'Nearest Neighbour' local authorities are tabulated below and is derived from 'Active Places Power'. Half the comparator authorities, including Uttlesford have no indoor tennis provision:

<i>Local authority</i>	<i>No. facilities</i>	<i>Facilities per capita</i>	<i>No. courts</i>	<i>Courts per capita</i>
Maldon	1	1: 62,900	4	1: 15,725
East Hampshire	2	1: 55,950	6	1: 18,650
Vale of White Horse	1	1: 118,700	6	1: 19,783
Harborough	1	1: 83,400	3	1: 27,800
Winchester	1	1: 113,300	4	1: 28,325
Sevenoaks	1	1: 113,200	3	1: 37,733
Mid-Sussex	1	1: 131,600	2	1: 65,800
South Oxfordshire	1	1: 130,600	1	1: 130,600
Median values	<i>0.6</i>	<i>1: 101,206</i>	<i>3.6</i>	<i>1: 43,052</i>
Uttlesford	0	-	0	-
Cotswold	0	-	0	-
Hambleton	0	-	0	-
West Oxfordshire	0	-	0	-
Test Valley	0	-	0	-
Stratford-on-Avon	0	-	0	-
Horsham	0	-	0	-
South Cambridgeshire	0	-	0	-

- 5.66 Patterns of provision: A map showing the location of the indoor tennis courts in neighbouring areas, together with the 30 minute drive time catchments is below. It shows that there is a significant accessibility deficiency in the eastern part of the district, although the levels of unserved demand are insufficient to justify additional facility provision within Uttlesford. The ten and twenty minute drive time catchments are also shown, to illustrate those parts of the district where indoor tennis facilities are relatively less accessible.

Figure 5.7: Indoor Tennis Court Provision in Uttlesford



5.67 Planned provision: There are currently no known plans for indoor tennis provision in the district.

5.68 Local standard of provision: Based on the evidence above, the following local standard of provision was set:

Standard	Justification
One indoor tennis court per 40,000 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no provision in the district at present. - <i>Quantitative audit</i> (2011). • The number of courts per capita in Uttlesford is below the median for its neighbouring local authorities (1 per 41,136), which suggests that existing levels of provision are below the norm for geographically similar areas. - <i>Active Places Power</i> (2011). • The number of courts per capita in Uttlesford is well below the median figure for its comparator local authorities (1 per 43,052), which suggests that existing levels of provision are below the norm for demographically similar areas. - <i>Active Places Power</i> (2011). • 52.6% of the respondents to the citizens' panel survey who expressed an opinion believe that existing levels of indoor tennis provision are 'too few', so a standard above current levels of provision is justifiable. - <i>Uttlesford Voices Survey</i> (2010).
All aspects of all indoor courts and their ancillary facilities should rate 'above average' or better.	This complies with the general aspiration in all the local standards of provision, to achieve at least 'above average' quality ratings.
The whole population within 30 minutes walk or drive of the nearest courts.	91.0% of indoor tennis court users travel for 30 minutes or less to reach a court and 95% by car. - <i>'Survey of Indoor Tennis Facilities in Areas of Best Supply'</i> (2001).

5.69 Applying the standard: The results of applying the standard are as follows:

Assessed criterion	Assessed position
Current provision	No indoor tennis courts. Demand in Uttlesford is served by facilities in Cambridge, Newmarket and Harlow.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency • No qualitative deficiency. • Significant accessibility deficiency in the eastern part of the district, although the levels of unserved demand are insufficient to justify additional facility provision within Uttlesford.
Future needs	Additional demand is insufficient to justify specialist provision.
Total future needs	No additional requirements.

Outdoor tennis courts

5.70 Definition: For the purposes of this study, outdoor tennis courts are defined as hard or grass surfaced courts permanently marked for tennis, complying with dimensions specified by Lawn Tennis Association.

5.71 Quantitative analysis: Outdoor tennis courts in Uttlesford and comparator areas are as follows:

- a) Provision in Uttlesford: There are 35 tennis courts in Uttlesford, equivalent to one court per 2,194 people:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Courts</i>
Castle Hill Tennis Club	3
Clavering Tennis Club	2
Debden Recreation Ground	2
Dunmow Tennis Club	2
Elsenham Tennis Club	2
Great Chesterford Recreation Ground	2
Great Dunmow Leisure Centre	4
Grove (Saffron Walden) Tennis Club	5
Henham Tennis Club	2
Lord Butler Leisure Centre	2
Newport Village Tennis Club	2
Stansted Tennis Club	2
Stebbing Tennis Club	2
Thaxted Tennis Club	2
The Sampfords Tennis Club	1

- b) Provision in neighbouring areas: The provision of tennis courts in neighbouring local authorities is tabulated below. The data on facilities was provided by the County LTA and local authority websites and shows that Uttlesford has the highest per capita rate of provision:

<i>Local authority</i>	<i>No. courts</i>	<i>Courts per capita</i>
<i>Uttlesford</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>1: 2,194</i>
South Cambridgeshire	52	1: 2,779
North Hertfordshire	34	1: 3,668
<i>Median values</i>	<i>36.8</i>	<i>1: 3,645</i>
Chelmsford	41	1: 4,092
Braintree	33	1: 4,324
East Hertfordshire	30	1: 4,570



Castle Hill Tennis Club in Saffron Walden

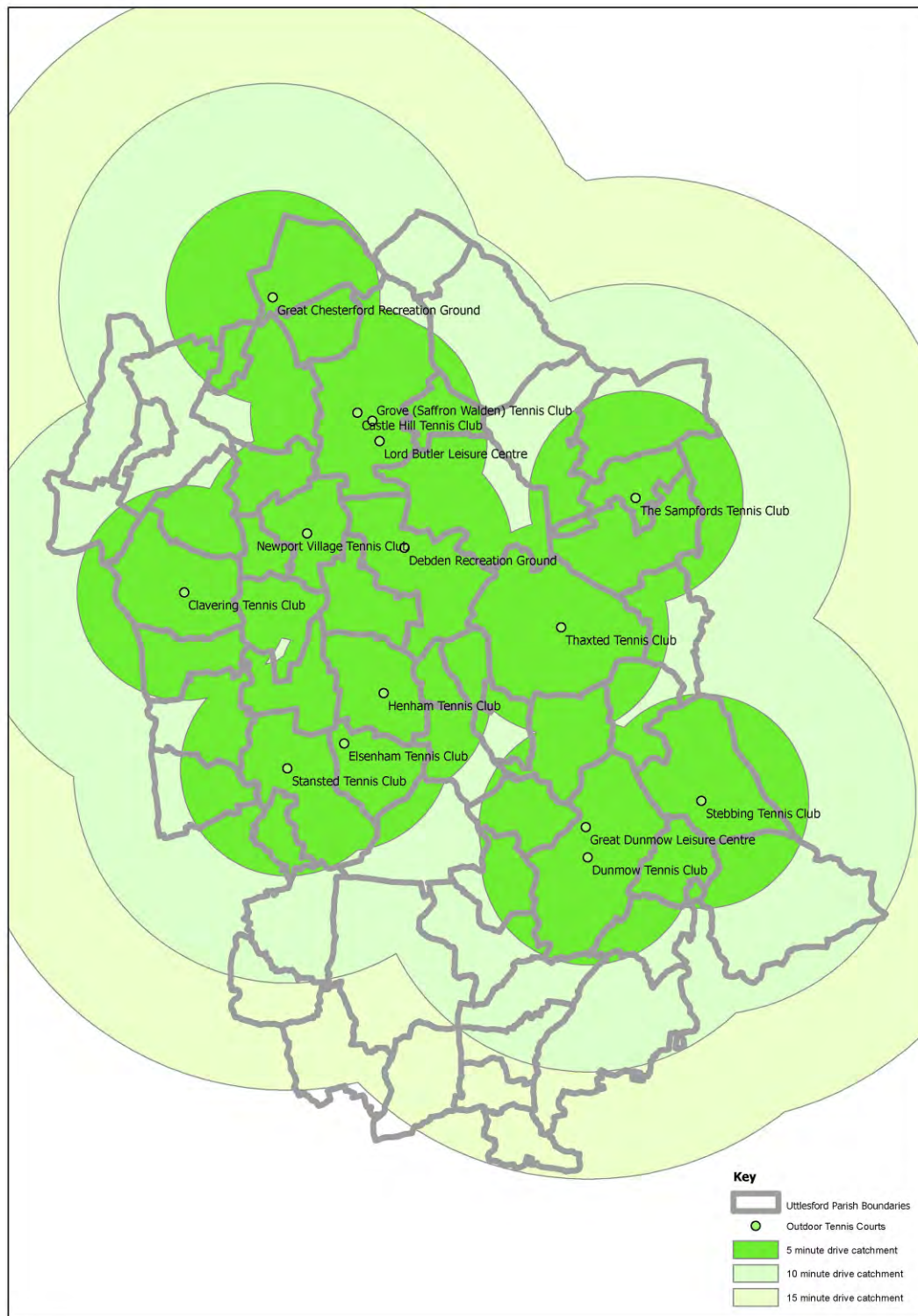
- c) Provision in comparator areas: There is no data on per capita levels of provision of courts in comparator local authorities.

- 5.72 Qualitative analysis: The qualitative audit produced the following results. The overall mean score equates to a value of 'above average', but some aspects of some facilities are rated as 'below average':

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Playing surface</i>	<i>Lights</i>	<i>Fencing</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Parking/access</i>	<i>Mean</i>
Castle Hill Tennis Club	5	-	2	2	3	3.00
Clavering Tennis Club	4	-	4	-	2	3.33
Debden Recreation Ground	4	-	4	2	3	3.25
Dunmow Tennis Club	5	5	5	2	4	4.20
Elsenham Tennis Club	5	5	5	5	5	5.00
Great Chesterford Recreation Ground	4	4	4	5	4	4.20
Great Dunmow Leisure Centre	5	5	5	5	4	4.80
Grove (Saffron Walden) TC	5	4	5	5	4	4.60
Henham Tennis Club	4	-	4	2	2	3.00
Lord Butler Leisure Centre	5	5	5	4	5	4.80
Newport Village Tennis Club	5	-	5	-	2	4.00
Stansted Tennis Club	5	5	5	2	2	3.80
Stebbing Tennis Club	5	5	5	5	3	4.60
Thaxted Tennis Club	4	5	4	4	2	3.80
The Sampfords Tennis Club	4	-	4	-	3	3.67
Mean	4.47	4.78	4.27	3.58	3.20	4.06

- 5.73 Effective catchment: 63.0% of the 54 outdoor tennis court users in the community interview survey travel by car and 83.3% of them have a journey time of 10 minutes or less.
- 5.74 Patterns of provision: A map showing the location of the outdoor tennis courts in Uttlesford, together with the 15 minute drive time catchments is below. It shows that the entire population of the district is within 15 minutes drive of their nearest facility, with the exception of the south-westernmost fringes of the area, which are served by facilities in Bishop's Stortford. The five and ten minute drive time catchments are also shown, to illustrate those parts of the district where outdoor tennis courts are relatively less accessible.

Figure 5.8: Outdoor Tennis Court Provision in Uttlesford



5.75 Planned provision: There are currently no known plans for additional outdoor tennis provision in the district.

5.76 Local standard of provision: Based on the evidence above, the following local standard of provision was set:

Standard	Justification
One outdoor tennis court per 2,200 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing levels of provision equate to one court per 2,194 people. - <i>Quantitative audit</i> (2011). Existing per capita levels of provision in Uttlesford are the best of the neighbouring local authorities, which suggests that existing provision is above the norm for geographically similar areas. - <i>Quantitative audit</i> (2011). 55.2% of the respondents to the citizens' panel survey who expressed an opinion believe that existing levels of outdoor tennis provision are 'about right', so a standard equivalent to current levels of provision is justifiable. - <i>Uttlesford Voices Survey</i> (2010). 52.4% of the respondents to the leisure centre users survey who expressed an opinion believe that existing levels of tennis court provision are 'about right', so a standard equivalent to current levels of provision is justifiable. - <i>Uttlesford Leisure Centre Users Survey</i> (2011). 50.0% of the respondents to the Council's sports clubs survey who expressed an opinion, believe that provision of tennis courts in Uttlesford is 'about right'. - <i>UDC Sports Clubs Survey</i> (2010).
Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all facilities rate 'average' or better.	The overall mean score for tennis courts in the district from the qualitative audit equates to a value of 'above average', but some aspects of some facilities are rated as 'below average'- <i>Qualitative audit</i> (2011).
The whole population within 15 minutes walk or drive of their closest court.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 76.4% of the respondents to the leisure centre users' survey that use tennis courts travel for 10 minutes or less to reach a pitch. - <i>Uttlesford Leisure Centres Users Survey</i> (2011). 67.9% of respondents to the leisure centre users' survey that use tennis courts travel to the facility by car. - <i>Uttlesford Leisure Centre Users Survey</i> (2011).

5.77 Applying the standard: The results of applying the standard are as follows:

Assessed criterion	Assessed position
Current provision	35 outdoor tennis courts.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No quantitative deficiency Qualitative improvements needed at Castle Hill TC, Clavering TC, Dunmow TC, Stebbing TC and Thaxted TC. No accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 additional tennis courts. All aspects of quality above average. Within 15 minutes drive of new developments.
Total future needs	41 outdoor tennis courts.

Squash courts

5.78 Definition: For the purposes of this study, squash courts are defined as specialist indoor courts, complying with the dimensions specified by England Squash and Racketball.

5.79 Quantitative analysis: Facilities in Uttlesford are as follows:

- a) Provision in Uttlesford: There are six courts at two locations in Uttlesford, equivalent to one court per 12,800 people:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Courts</i>
Great Dunmow Leisure Centre	2
Lord Butler Leisure Centre	4

- b) Provision in neighbouring and comparator areas: No other neighbouring authorities or comparator areas have details of courts and neither does the 'Active Places' database.

- 5.80 Qualitative analysis: The qualitative audit produced the following results. The overall mean score equates to a value of 'above average':

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Score</i>
Great Dunmow Leisure Centre	5
Lord Butler Leisure Centre	3
<i>Average</i>	<i>4.0</i>

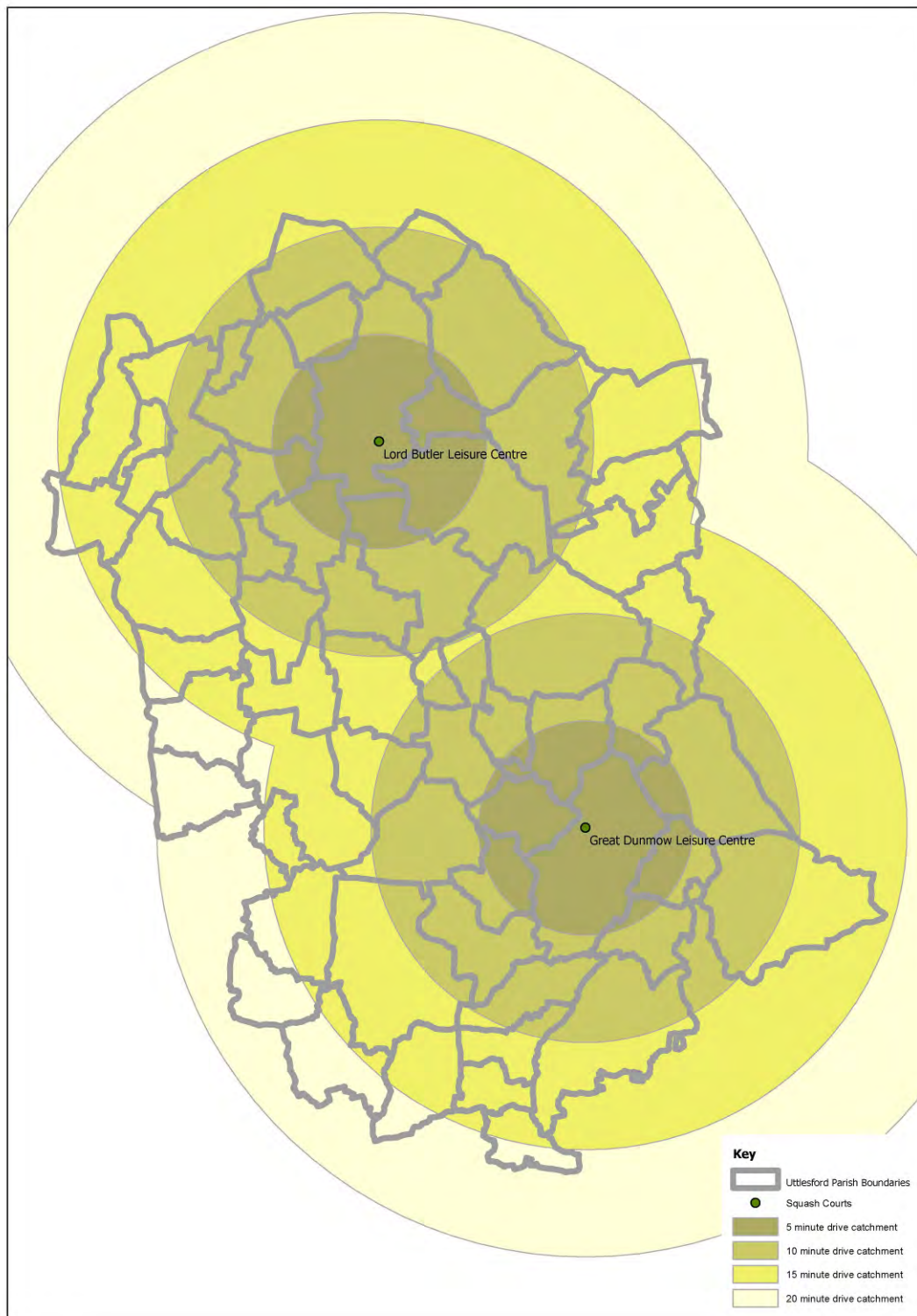
- 5.81 Effective catchment: 90.0% of the squash court users in the leisure centre user's survey travel by car and 80.0% of them have a journey time of 20 minutes or less.



An 'average' standard squash court at the Lord Butler Leisure Centre

- 5.82 Patterns of provision: A map showing the location of the squash courts in Uttlesford, together with the 20 minute drive time catchments is below. It shows that the entire population of the district is within 20 minutes drive of their nearest facility. The five, ten and fifteen minute drive time catchments are also shown, to illustrate those parts of the district where squash courts are relatively less accessible.

Figure 5.9: Squash Court Provision in Uttlesford



5.83 Planned provision: There are currently no known plans for additional squash court provision in the district.

5.84 Local standard of provision: Based on the evidence above, the following local standard of provision was set:

Standard	Justification
One squash court per 12,600 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing levels of provision equate to one court per 12,800 people. - <i>Quantitative audit</i> (2011). 58.0% of the respondents to the citizens' panel survey who expressed an opinion believe that existing levels of squash court provision are 'about right', so a standard equivalent to current levels of provision is justifiable. - <i>Uttlesford Voices Survey</i> (2010) 64.9% of the respondents to the leisure centre users survey who expressed an opinion believe that existing levels of squash court provision are 'about right', so a standard equivalent to current levels of provision is justifiable. - <i>Uttlesford Leisure Centre Users Survey</i> (2011).
Quality improvements to ensure that all aspects of all facilities rate 'above average' or better.	The overall mean score for squash courts in the district from the qualitative audit equates to a value of 'above average', although the quality of the courts at the Lord Butler Leisure Centre is rated as only 'average'. - <i>Qualitative Audit</i> (2011).
The whole population within 20 minutes walk or drive of the nearest court.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90.0% of the respondents to the leisure centre users survey that use squash courts travel for 20 minutes or less to reach a court. - <i>Uttlesford Leisure Centres Users' Survey</i> (2011). 80.0% of the respondents to the leisure centre users survey that use squash courts travel to the courts by car. - <i>Uttlesford Leisure Centres Users' Survey</i> (2011).

5.85 Applying the standard: The results of applying the standard are as follows:

Assessed criterion	Assessed position
Current provision	6 squash courts.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No quantitative deficiency The courts at the Lord Butler Leisure Centre need refurbishing to meet the qualitative standard. No accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 additional squash court. All aspects of quality above average. Within 20 minutes drive of new developments.
Total future needs	7 squash courts.

Golf courses

5.86 Definition: For the purposes of this study, golf courses are defined as specialist facilities comprising nine or eighteen holes. To take account of the different sizes of course, the number of facilities in an area is defined in terms of 18-hole golf course equivalents.

5.87 Quantitative analysis: Provision in Uttlesford and comparator areas is as follows:

- a) Provision in Uttlesford: There is one 18-hole and one 9-hole golf course in Uttlesford, collectively comprising 27 holes, equating to one 18-hole course per 51,200 people, or one hole per 2,844 people:

Site	Holes
Elsenham Golf & Leisure Centre	9
Saffron Walden Golf Club	18

- b) Provision in neighbouring areas: The provision of golf courses in neighbouring local authorities is tabulated below, derived from 'Active Places Power'. It shows that Uttlesford has the poorest rate of per capita provision:

<i>Local authority</i>	<i>No. courses</i>	<i>Courses per capita</i>	<i>No. holes</i>	<i>Holes per capita</i>
South Cambridgeshire	12	1: 12,042	216	1: 669
North Hertfordshire	7	1: 17,814	126	1: 990
East Hertfordshire	7.5	1: 18,280	135	1: 1,016
<i>Median values</i>	<i>6.5</i>	<i>1: 26,586</i>	<i>118.5</i>	<i>1: 1,477</i>
Braintree	7.5	1: 19,027	135	1: 1,057
Chelmsford	4	1: 41,950	72	1: 2,331
Uttlesford	1.5	1: 51,200	27	1: 2,844

- c) Provision in comparator authorities: The number of golf courses and holes per capita in CIPFA 'Nearest Neighbour' local authorities is tabulated below and is derived from 'Active Places Power'. Uttlesford has by far the poorest per capita figures for both measures of provision:

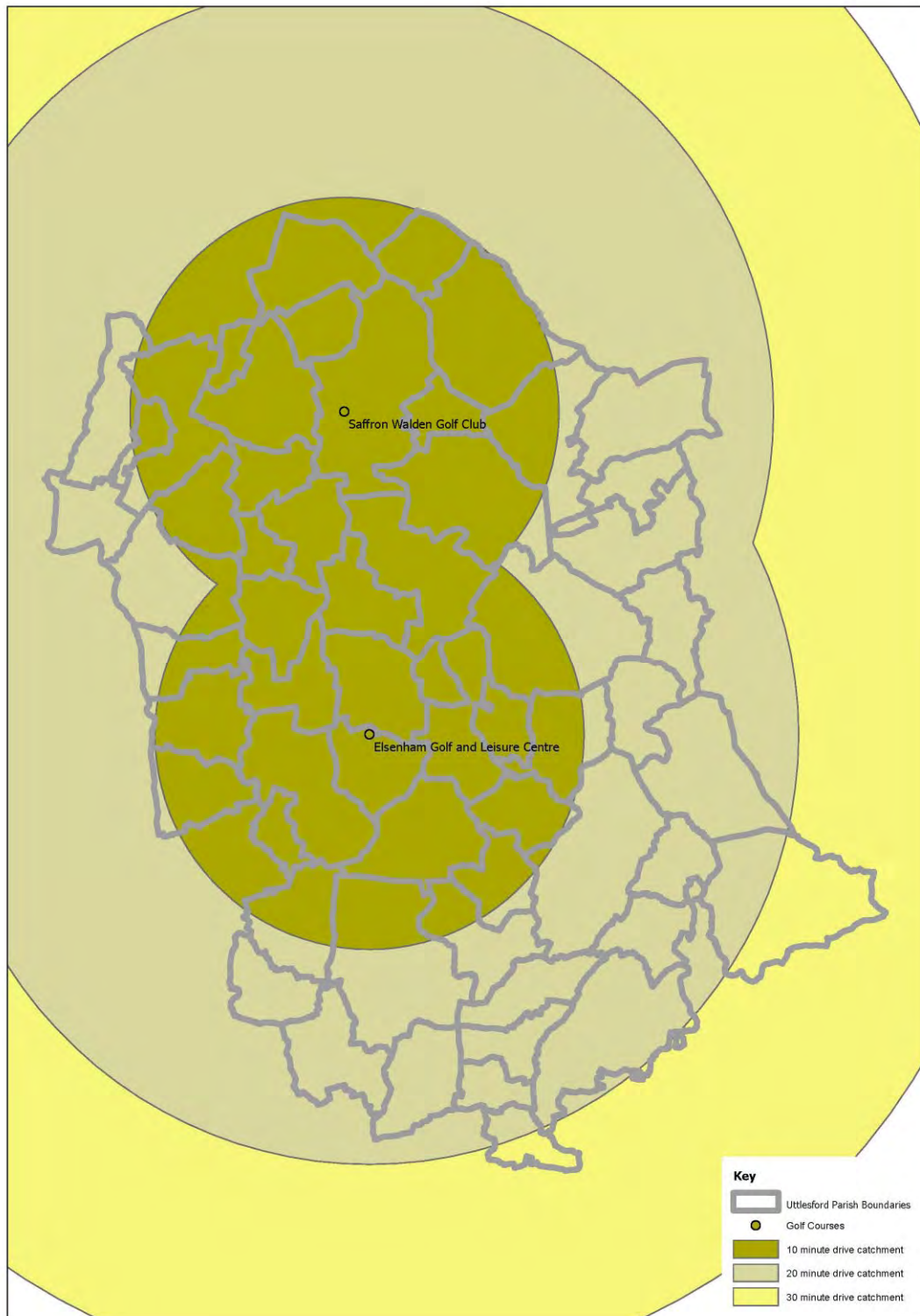
<i>Local authority</i>	<i>No. courses</i>	<i>Courses per capita</i>	<i>No. holes</i>	<i>Holes per capita</i>
Sevenoaks	16.5	1: 6,861	297	1: 381
Maldon	9	1: 6,989	162	1: 388
Winchester	12	1: 9,442	216	1: 525
Test Valley	11	1: 10,309	198	1: 573
Vale of White Horse	11.5	1: 10,322	207	1: 574
Cotswold	8	1: 10,438	144	1: 580
South Oxfordshire	11.5	1: 11,357	207	1: 631
South Cambridgeshire	12	1: 12,042	216	1: 669
Horsham	10.5	1: 12,362	189	1: 687
Stratford-on-Avon	9.5	1: 12,516	171	1: 695
<i>Median values</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>1: 14,841</i>	<i>162</i>	<i>1: 825</i>
East Hampshire	7.5	1: 14,920	135	1: 829
Hambleton	5.5	1: 15,873	99	1: 882
Mid-Sussex	8	1: 16,450	144	1: 914
Harborough	5	1: 16,680	90	1: 927
West Oxfordshire	5	1: 20,500	90	1: 1,139
Uttlesford	1.5	1: 51,200	27	1: 2,844

- 5.88 Qualitative analysis: The qualitative audit produced the following results. The overall mean score equates to a value between 'high quality' and 'above average':

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Course</i>	<i>Clubhouse</i>	<i>Disabled access</i>	<i>Parking/ access</i>	<i>Mean</i>
Elsenham Golf & Leisure Centre	5	4	3	4	4.00
Saffron Walden Golf Club	5	5	4	4	4.50
Mean	5.0	4.5	3.5	4.0	4.25

- 5.89 Effective catchment: According to the 'English Golf Union Local Market Review' (2011), golf course catchments typically comprise 30 minutes driving time.
- 5.90 Patterns of provision: A map showing the location of the golf courses in Uttlesford, with their 30 minute drive time catchments is below. It shows that the entire population of the district is within 30 minutes drive of the nearest course. The ten and twenty minute drive time catchments are also shown, to illustrate that most parts of the district are within 20 minutes driving time of a golf course.

Figure 5.10: Golf Course Provision in Uttlesford



5.91 Planned provision: There are currently no known plans for additional golf course provision in the district.

5.92 Local standard of provision: Based on the evidence above, the following local standard of provision was set:

Standard	Justification
One 18-hole golf course per 25,000 people, or one hole per 1,400 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing levels of provision are one 18-hole course per 51.200 people, or one hole per 2,844 people - <i>Quantitative audit</i> (2011). • The number of golf holes per capita in Uttlesford is only half the median figure for its neighbouring local authorities, which suggests that existing levels of provision are well below the norm for geographically similar areas. - <i>Active Places Power</i> (2011). • The number of golf holes per capita in Uttlesford is only one-third of the median figure for its comparator local authorities, which suggests that existing levels of provision are well below the norm for demographically similar areas. - <i>Active Places Power</i> (2011). • 55.8% of the respondents to the citizens' panel survey who expressed an opinion believe that existing levels of golf course provision are 'about right', so a standard equivalent to current levels of provision is justifiable. - <i>Uttlesford Voices Survey</i> (2010) • 56.3% of the respondents to the leisure centre users survey who expressed an opinion believe that existing levels of golf course provision are 'about right', so a standard equivalent to current levels of provision is justifiable. - <i>Uttlesford Leisure Centre Users Survey</i> (2011). • The English Golf Union states that in the country as a whole, 'supply of golf courses currently exceeds demand, with membership vacancies existing in the majority of golf clubs. Nevertheless, it is important to note that participation rates are still rising'. Current levels of provision are therefore a reasonable basis for setting standards - <i>'Golf Development Strategic Plan 2004-2014'</i> (EGU, 2004).
All aspects of the courses and their ancillary facilities should rate 'average' or better.	The overall mean score for golf courses in the district from the qualitative audit equates to a value in excess of 'above average', although the quality of disabled access at the Elsenham Golf and Leisure Centre is rated as only 'average'. - <i>Qualitative Audit</i> (2011)
The whole population within 30 minutes walk or drive of the nearest course.	Golf course catchments typically comprise 30 minutes driving time. - <i>English Golf Union Local Market Review'</i> (2011).



Saffron Walden Golf Club

5.93 Applying the standard: The results of applying the standard are as follows:

Assessed criterion	Assessed position
Current provision	1.5 golf courses.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency • Disabled access at the Elsenham Golf and Leisure Centre should be improved. • No accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 additional 9-hole golf course. • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 30 minutes drive of new developments.
Total future needs	2 golf courses.

Health and fitness facilities

5.94 Definition: Health and fitness facilities comprise specialist indoor areas with a mixture of cardiovascular and resistance exercise equipment (termed 'stations').

5.95 Quantitative analysis: Health and fitness facilities in Uttlesford and comparator areas are as follows:

- a) Provision in Uttlesford: There are eleven health and fitness facilities, collectively providing 383 stations in Uttlesford, equivalent to one facility per 6,982 people and one station per 201 people:
- c. Three facilities, comprising a total of 164 stations (43% of the total in the district) are available on a 'pay and play' basis (marked * below).
 - d. Two facilities, comprising 61 stations (16% of the total in the district) are available at school sites on a dual use basis (marked ** below).
 - e. Six facilities, comprising a total of 158 stations (41% of the total in the district) are available on a membership-only basis (marked with ***).

Site	Stations
Wilbur's Fitness Gym***	45
Lord Butler Leisure Centre*	72
County High Sports Centre**	26
Elsenham Golf & Leisure Centre***	15
Felsted School***	34
Felsted Fitness**	35
Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre*	37
Livingwell Health Club***	19
Great Dunmow Leisure Centre*	55
Pace Health Club***	26
Flitch Fitness Centre***	19

- b) Provision in neighbouring areas: The provision of fitness facilities in neighbouring local authorities are tabulated below and show that Uttlesford is below the median figures for the number of facilities and stations, but more significantly is above the median level for facilities per capita and the number of stations per capita:

<i>Local authority</i>	<i>No. facilities</i>	<i>Facilities per capita</i>	<i>No. stations</i>	<i>Stations per capita</i>
East Hertfordshire	14	1: 9,793	849	1: 161
North Hertfordshire	17	1: 7,335	697	1: 179
Chelmsford	17	1: 9,871	836	1: 201
<i>Median values</i>	<i>13.2</i>	<i>1: 8,875</i>	<i>638</i>	<i>1: 215</i>
Uttlesford	11	1: 6,982	383	1: 201
South Cambridgeshire	17	1: 8,500	493	1: 293
Braintree	14	1: 10,193	611	1: 236

- c) Provision in comparator authorities: The number of fitness stations per capita in CIPFA 'Nearest Neighbour' local authorities is tabulated below and is derived from 'Active Places Power'. As compared with its geographical neighbours, Uttlesford is below the median figures for the number of facilities and stations, but above the median level for facilities per capita and the number of stations per capita:

<i>Local authority</i>	<i>No. facilities</i>	<i>Facilities per capita</i>	<i>No. stations</i>	<i>Stations per capita</i>
Cotswold	13	1: 6,423	435	1: 192
South Oxfordshire	16	1: 8,163	650	1: 201
Mid-Sussex	16	1: 8,265	633	1: 208
Horsham	14	1: 9,271	618	1: 210
Stratford-on-Avon	17	1: 6,994	554	1: 214
Uttlesford	11	1: 6,982	383	1: 201
Vale of White Horse	13	1: 9,131	531	1: 224
East Hampshire	13	1: 8,608	462	1: 242
<i>Median values</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>1: 9,494</i>	<i>427.5</i>	<i>1: 280</i>
Test Valley	9	1: 12,600	447	1: 254
West Oxfordshire	11	1: 9,354	398	1: 258
Winchester	15	1: 7,553	422	1: 268
South Cambridgeshire	17	1: 8,500	493	1: 293
Hambleton	8	1: 10,913	229	1: 381
Maldon	6	1: 10,516	193	1: 392
Sevenoaks	8	1: 14,150	269	1: 421
Harborough	6	1: 13,900	165	1: 505

- 5.96 Qualitative analysis: The qualitative audit produced the following results. The overall mean score equates to a value in excess of 'above average':

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Equipment</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Disabled access</i>	<i>Parking/access</i>	<i>Mean</i>
Wilbur's Fitness Gym	4	4	3	1	3.00
Lord Butler Leisure Centre	5	5	3	5	4.50
County High Sports Centre	4	4	3	4	3.75
Elsenham Golf & Leisure Centre	4	4	3	4	3.75
Felsted School	5	4	4	3	4.00
Felsted Fitness	5	4	4	3	4.00
Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre	5	5	5	5	5.00
Livingwell Health Club	5	5	5	5	5.00
Great Dunmow Leisure Centre	5	5	5	5	5.00
Pace Health Club	5	5	4	4	4.50
Flitch Fitness Centre	4	4	3	3	3.50
Mean	4.63	4.45	3.81	3.81	4.18

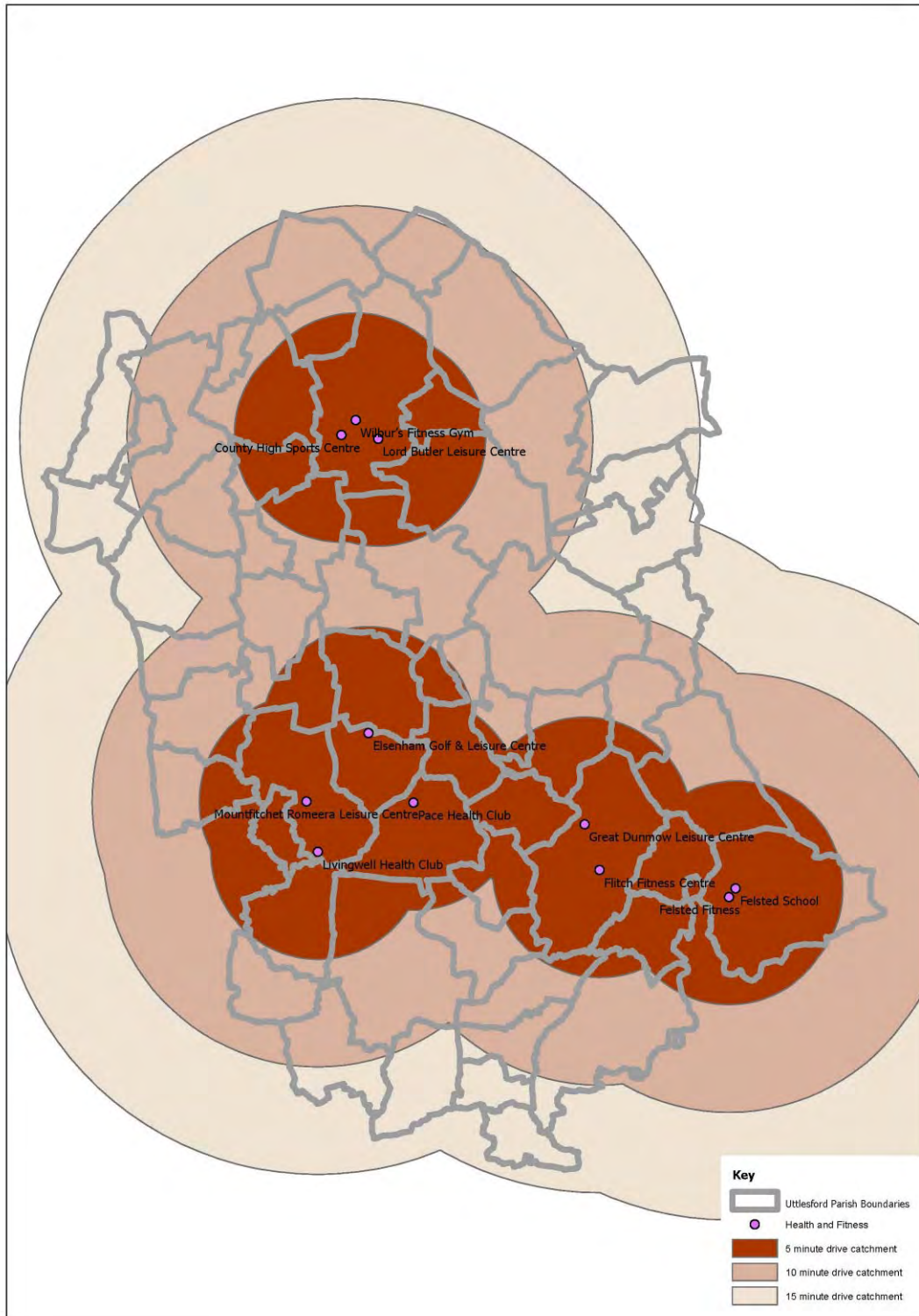
- 5.97 Effective catchment: 74.7% of the health and fitness facility users in the leisure centre users survey travel by car and 82.4% of them have a journey time of 15 minutes or less.



A 'Good' quality health and fitness facility at Felsted Fitness

- 5.98 Patterns of provision: A map showing the location of the health and fitness facilities in Uttlesford, with their 15 minute drive time catchments is below. It shows that the entire population of the district is within 15 minutes drive of the nearest facility. The five and ten minute drive time catchments are also shown, to illustrate those parts of the district where health and fitness facilities are relatively less accessible.

Figure 5.11: Health and Fitness Facility Provision in Uttlesford



5.99 Planned provision: There are currently no known plans for additional health and fitness provision in the district.

5.100 Local standard of provision: Based on the evidence above, the following local standard of provision was set:

Standard	Justification
One health and fitness facility with an average of 36 stations per 7,000 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing levels of provision equate to one facility per 6,982 people and one station per 201 people. - <i>Quantitative audit</i> (2011). Uttlesford is above the median level for facilities per capita and the number of stations per capita for its neighbouring local authorities, which suggests that existing levels of provision are above the norm for geographically similar areas. - <i>Active Places Power</i> (2011). Uttlesford is above the median level for facilities per capita and the number of stations per capita for its comparator local authorities, which suggests that existing levels of provision are above the norm for demographically similar areas - <i>Active Places Power</i> (2011). 64.8% of the respondents to the citizens' panel survey who expressed an opinion believe that existing levels of fitness provision are 'about right', so a standard equivalent to current levels of provision is justifiable. - <i>Uttlesford Voices Survey</i> (2010) 73.5% of the respondents to the leisure centre users survey who expressed an opinion believe that existing levels of fitness provision are 'about right', so a standard equivalent to current levels of provision is justifiable. - <i>Uttlesford Leisure Centre Users Survey</i> (2011).
Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all facilities rate 'average' or better.	The overall mean score for health and fitness facilities in the district from the qualitative audit equates to a value in excess of 'above average', but disabled and general access at some facilities are rated as only 'average' or worse - <i>Qualitative audit</i> (2011).
The whole population within 15 minutes walk or drive of their closest facility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 74.7% of the respondents to the leisure centre users' survey that use synthetic pitches travel for 15 minutes or less to reach a pitch. - <i>Uttlesford Leisure Centres Users' Survey</i> (2011). 82.4% of respondents to the leisure centre users' survey that use synthetic pitches travel to the facility by car. - <i>Uttlesford Leisure Centre Users' Survey</i> (2011).

5.101 Applying the standard: The results of applying the standard are as follows:

Assessed criterion	Assessed position
Current provision	11 health and fitness facilities comprising 383 stations.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No quantitative deficiency. Disabled access improvements needed at some facilities. No accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 additional or extended health and fitness facility with 72 stations. All aspects of quality above average. Within 15 minutes drive of new developments.
Total future needs	13 health and fitness facilities.

Village and community halls

5.102 Definition: For the purposes of this study, village and community halls are defined as multi-purpose indoor facilities that are capable of accommodating a range of sports and physical fitness activities, mostly at recreational level.

5.103 Quantitative analysis: Village and community halls in Uttlesford are as follows:

- a) Provision in Uttlesford: There are 54 village and community halls in Uttlesford as follows, equivalent to one hall per 1,422 people:

- Arkesden Village Hall
- Aythorpe Roding Village Hall
- Berden Village Hall
- Bolford Street Hall, Thaxted
- Chishill Village Hall
- Debden Memorial Hall
- ET Foakes Memorial Hall, Gt. Dunmow
- Elsenham Memorial Hall
- Farnham Village Hall
- Flitch Green Community Hall

- Great Canfield Village Hall

- Great Easton Parish Hall
- Great Sampford Village Hall
- Hatfield Broad Oak Village Hall
- Hempstead Village Hall

- High Easter Village Hall
- Leaden Roding Village Hall
- Little Canfield Village Hall
- Little Easton Memorial Hall
- Little Walden Village Hall
- Manuden Village Hall
- Newport Village Hall
- Radwinter Village Hall

- Sewards End Village Hall
- Takeley Silver Jubilee Hall
- Wendens Ambo Parish Hall
- Wimbish Village Hall

- Ashdon Village Hall
- Barnston Village Hall
- Birchanger Church Hall
- Broxted Village Hall
- Clavering Village Hall
- Duddenhoe End Village Hall
- Elmdon Village Hall

- Elsenham Village Hall
- Felsted Memorial Hall
- Golden Acre Comm. Ct., Saffron Walden
- Great Chesterford Community Centre
- Great Hallingbury Parish Hall
- Hadstock Village Hall
- Hatfield Heath Village Hall
- Henham Sports and Community Centre
- Langley Community Centre
- Lindsell Village Hall
- Little Chesterford Village Hall
- Little Hallingbury Village Hall
- Littlebury Village Hall
- Mole Hill Green Village Hall
- Quendon and Rickling Village Hall
- St. John's Ch. Hall, Stansted Mountfitchet
- Stebbing Village Hall
- Ugley Village Hall
- Widdrington Village Hall
- Women's Institute Hall, High Roding

b) Provision in neighbouring and comparator areas: There is no data on per capita levels of provision of village and community halls in neighbouring or comparator local authorities.

5.104 Qualitative analysis: The full results of the qualitative audit are set out in Appendix II, but the mean score for each assessed criterion is set out on the table below. The overall rating equates to a mean value of just below 'average':

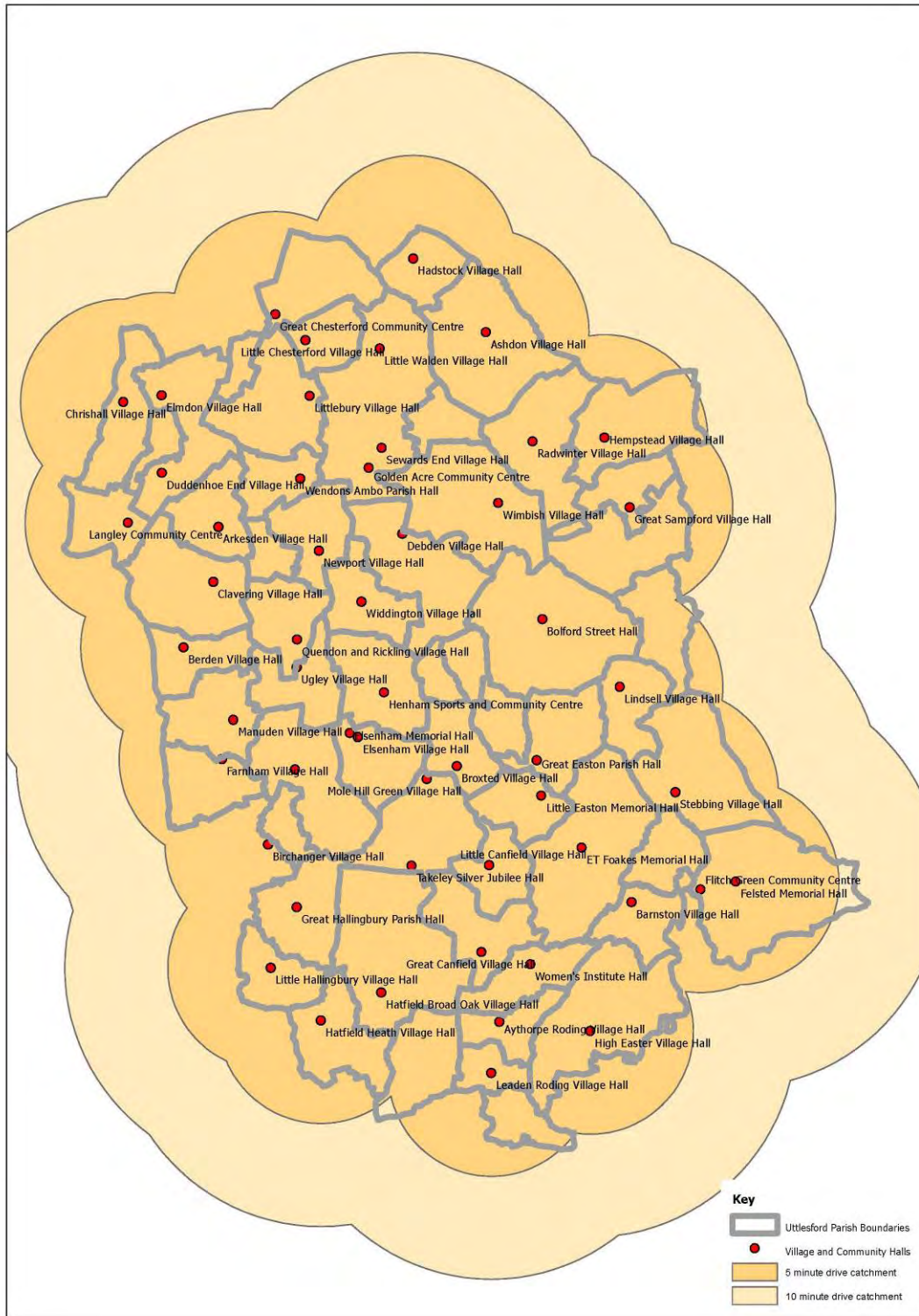
<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Score</i>
Floor surface	3.25
Roof span	2.74
Lighting	2.71
Changing	1.42
Disabled access	3.12
Parking/general access	3.04
Average	2.71

5.105 Effective catchment: 64.2% of hall users in the community interview survey travel by car and 90.6% have a journey time of 10 minutes or less.

5.106 Patterns of provision: A map showing the location of village and community halls in Uttlesford with their 10 minute drive time catchments is below. It shows that the entire population of the district is

within 10 minutes drive of the nearest hall. The five minute drive time catchments are also shown, which illustrates that most of the district is within five minutes driving time of a hall.

Figure 5.12: Village and Community Hall Provision in Uttlesford





A 'High quality' facility at Great Chesterford Community Centre

- 5.107 Planned provision: The only known plans for additional community/village hall provision in the district are for the replacement of Manuden Village Hall with a community facility with dimensions capable of accommodating a range of indoor sports.
- 5.108 Local standard of provision: Based on the evidence above, the following local standard of provision was set:

Proposed Standard	Justification
One community/village hall per 1,500 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing levels of provision equate to one community/village hall per 1,422 people - <i>Quantitative audit</i> (2011). • 79.7% of the respondents to the leisure centre users survey who expressed an opinion believe that existing levels of village and community hall provision are 'about right', so a standard equivalent to current levels of provision is justifiable. - <i>Uttlesford Leisure Centre Users Survey</i> (2011).
Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all halls rate 'average' or better.	The overall mean score for village and community halls in the district from the qualitative audit equates to a value of just below 'average', but changing provision at most facilities is often minimal and therefore rated as 'very poor' - <i>Qualitative audit</i> (2011).
The whole population within 10 minutes drive or walk of the nearest community/village hall.	'As a minimum, all villages should have access to an indoor facility within the village that can cater for recreational activities in which different age groups can participate'. - <i>Essex Sports Facilities Strategy 2007 - 2020</i> (2008).
All new/extended halls to comply with Sport England recommended dimensions (18m x 10m x 6.1m).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A hall with dimensions of 18m x 10m x 6.1m (equivalent to one badminton court) is capable of accommodating a range of indoor sports to recreational standard. - <i>Village and Community Halls Design Guidance</i> (2005). • All new community centres/village halls should include 1-2 badminton courts with correct hall height, lighting and court dimensions. - <i>Essex Sports Facilities Strategy 2007 - 2020</i> (2008).



Widdington Village Hall showing a good ceiling height and quality floor surface for recreational level sport

5.109 Applying the standard: The results of applying the standard are as follows:

<i>Assessed criterion</i>	<i>Assessed position</i>
Current provision	54 village/community halls.
Current needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • Qualitative improvements for sports usage needed at most facilities. • No accessibility deficiency.
Future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 additional village/community halls. • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 10 minutes drive of new developments.
Total future needs	62 village/community halls.



The interior of Ashdon Village Hall showing a good quality floor for recreational level sport and physical activity

Summary of sports facility needs

5.110 The table below summarises the current and future sports facility needs:

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Provision in 2011</i>	<i>Needs in 2011</i>	<i>Extra needs in 2026</i>	<i>Total needs in 2026</i>
Sports halls	6	6	1	7
Swimming pools	3	3	0.5	3.5
Athletics tracks	0	0	0	0
Synthetic turf pitches	5	5	1	6
Indoor bowling greens	6 rinks	6 rinks	1 rink	7 rinks
Outdoor bowling greens	11	11	2	13
Indoor tennis courts	0	0	0	0
Outdoor tennis courts	35	35	6	41
Golf courses	1.5	1.5	1 x 9-hole	2
Squash courts	6	6	1	7
Health and fitness facilities	11	11	2	13
Village and community halls	54	54	8	62

6 Open Space, Sport and Recreation Planning Policy

Introduction

- 6.1 This section examines the considerations that Uttlesford District Council will take into account in finalising open space, sport and recreation policies in the Local Development Framework.

Vision

- 6.2 The vision for open space, sport and recreation in Uttlesford is ***'to provide, safeguard and develop a network of safe, accessible and attractive open spaces, sports facilities and pitches that are valued, well managed and maintained and enhance the quality of life, sense of well-being, health and learning opportunities of all sections of the community'***.

General policy considerations

- 6.3 Introduction: In support of the vision, a number of general policies have been developed in consultation with local people and taking account of the specific physical, demographic and strategic context of Uttlesford district, and these are in turn reflected in the assessment of open space, sport and recreation provision in the strategy.
- 6.4 Locally derived standards of provision: Planning Policy Guidance 17 'Open Space, Sport and Recreation' (PPG17) states that 'the Government believes that open space, sport and recreation standards are best set locally. Local authorities should use the information gained from their assessments of needs and opportunities to set robust local standards. These should form the basis for redressing quantitative and qualitative deficiencies through the planning process.' The standards of provision proposed in the open space, sport and recreation strategy are therefore based upon a detailed assessment of local needs. In most cases this has involved:
- a) Benchmarking levels of provision in Uttlesford against those of our geographical neighbouring authorities and also against a range of demographically comparable areas.
 - b) Consulting with users to seek their views on the current adequacy of provision.
 - c) Setting a district wide standard based upon the above evidence base.
- 6.5 Minimum standards of provision: The standards of provision for open space, sport and recreation should be regarded as the minimum levels required to meet existing needs. This means that it will be appropriate to:
- a) Seek higher levels of provision in appropriate circumstances where opportunities permit it.
 - b) Regularly review and amend the standards as needs like increased rates of physical activity evolve over time.
- 6.6 Existing and new developments: In some of the urban parts of the district, opportunities for meeting identified deficiencies in open spaces are limited by the absence of opportunities in such built-up areas. Similarly, in some rural areas where most land is in private ownership, securing public access to open spaces may not be possible. However, the opportunities presented by new residential developments may offer the flexibility to achieve enhanced levels of greenspace provision, recognising that the current standards represent an assessment of the minimum amounts that are needed.
- 6.7 Quality of provision: Quality criteria were set in consultation with local communities, to define the condition to which each type of green space, sports facility and playing pitch in the district should aspire. The quality of each site was assessed in relation to a set of objective criteria relating to wider norms and over time all identified qualitative deficiencies will be addressed progressively as resources and opportunities allow.
- 6.8 Provision relating to new developments: The following principles will apply:
- a) All new dwellings should contribute towards the provision of open space, sport and recreation. For smaller developments where on-site provision is not achievable, a financial

contribution will be sought from developers towards the improvement of provision elsewhere, where appropriate schemes can be identified within the defined catchment.

- b) The precise nature, composition and size of provision in new developments will be determined in relation to the overall size of the development and with reference to the minimum standards of provision.
- c) Financial contributions will relate to the size of each dwelling and their anticipated occupancy rates.

6.9 Community involvement: In determining the precise nature of new and improved greenspace in each locality, Uttlesford District Council will:

- a) Consult with those with a specific interest in the use of the greenspace (such as young people with play provision), to ensure that wherever possible the new provision meets their needs.
- b) Involve town and parish councils in confirming local needs and the optimum way of meeting them, both in terms of additional provision and its ongoing management.

Open space policy considerations

6.10 'Surplus' provision: In some instances the application of standards produces an apparent 'surplus' of open space provision. However, this should not be interpreted as signifying that the 'surplus' could be disposed of because:

- a) The standards against which the 'surplus' was assessed are the minimum that are required to meet current local needs. Local concentrations of existing demand and future increases in greenspace usage will both inflate the amount of provision needed to levels well above the minimum stipulation.
- b) An apparent 'surplus' in one form of open space will often compensate for shortfalls in other types of provision locally.
- c) Some of the larger areas of open space serve wider than local needs, with usage catchments well beyond the immediate boundaries of the parish or ward in which they are located. In such cases, it is clearly inappropriate to assess the adequacy of provision solely in relation to the size of the local population.

6.11 Multi-functionality: The form of assessment advocated by PPG17 requires open spaces to be categorised in relation to their primary function only. The advantage of this is that there is no 'double counting' of sites, but the disadvantage is that the multi-function nature of many sites is downplayed. As an example, an area designated as a playing pitch may be used for its primary function for only 1.5 hours per week and as amenity greenspace for the remainder of the time, but the latter function will not be included in the formal assessment.

Sports facility policy considerations

6.12 Facilities Planning Model: Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) comprises a useful preliminary basis for assessing the adequacy of sports hall, swimming pool and synthetic turf pitch provision but its raw outputs provide only a partial picture of local need. For this reason, the FPM outputs have been used to inform the development of local minimum standards of provision for sports halls, swimming pools and synthetic turf pitches, but other factors have also been considered as part of the evidence base.

Playing pitch policy considerations

6.13 The Playing Pitch Model: Sport England's Playing Pitch Model (PPM) comprises a useful preliminary basis for assessing the adequacy of pitch provision, but its raw outputs provide only a partial picture of local need. For this reason, the PPM outputs have been used to inform the production of local minimum standards of provision for each type of pitch, which incorporate other factors such as displaced and latent demand.

- 6.14 Pitch space allocations: In addition to the dimensions of the playing surface as stipulated by the governing bodies of the pitch sports, together with the recommended safety 'run-off' areas, the area stipulated for new pitches in the district will normally allow for the direction of each pitch to be rotated or moved laterally, to change the areas of highest wear each season.
- 6.15 'Surplus' provision: In some instances the application of standards produces an apparent 'surplus' of pitches. However, this should not be interpreted as signifying that the 'surplus' could be disposed of because:
- a) The standards against which the 'surplus' was assessed are the minimum that are required to meet current local needs. Local concentrations of existing demand and future increases in sports participation rates will both inflate the number of pitches needed to levels well above the minimum stipulation.
 - b) The minimum standards of provision are based in part on demand for pitches during the peak period. A number of teams play on their local pitch at times other than in the peak period. Were their pitch to be regarded as surplus because it does not cater for demand at the peak period, they would have to travel elsewhere to play. This would be likely to deter recreational level participants, for whom involvement on a local basis is one of the prime motivations to play.

Developer contributions

- 6.16 Introduction: Developer Contributions (or Section 106 Agreements) involve the provision of capital and revenue funds by housing developers, as a contribution to the facilities and services that the inhabitants of new residential developments will need. The introduction of Development Plan Documents (DPDs) under the Local Development Framework system for planning will provide local authorities with a basis for formalising such arrangements. This section sets out the basis on which developer contributions can be calculated for open spaces, sports facilities and playing pitch provision.
- 6.17 The introduction of a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for Uttlesford may have an impact on the use of Developer Contributions/Section 106 Agreements in relation to open space, sport and recreation. The CIL is intended to fund new infrastructure required to support the development of an area and should not be used to remedy pre-existing deficiencies in infrastructure provision²⁰. Local authorities will be required to produce a schedule of infrastructure projects or types that would be funded, wholly or in part, by the levy. If the authority sets out that it intends to fund a type of infrastructure via the levy it will not be able to seek Developer Contributions towards that type of infrastructure. Once a CIL has been adopted, or post 6 April 2014 if a CIL has not been adopted, the maximum number of developments from which contributions can be pooled will be limited to five. It may therefore be advisable to include future strategic open space, sport and recreation provision within the CIL charging schedule whilst leaving smaller scale open spaces and facilities to be funded through Section 106 Agreements at the site specific level.
- 6.18 Principles: Policies for open space, sport and recreation should be developed with the following principles in mind:
- a) Policies and planning standards should be comprehensive, but also flexible and simple to understand. Guidance should be clear and unambiguous, to provide practical solutions to meet all circumstances.
 - b) There should be clarity about the costs that developers will be required to meet, including the planning and design, installation and longer-term maintenance of facilities.
 - c) The basis on which on-site and off-site contributions will be determined should be clearly stated, with thresholds set to reflect the planning standards for facilities.
- 6.19 Open space costings: There is not a specific body or guidance document that provides a methodology for calculating developer contributions relating to open space provision.

²⁰ Community Infrastructure Levy: An Overview, CLG, May 2011

Consequently costings provided for open space typologies are based on figures provided in other similar studies and from the experience of The Landscape Partnership. The mix and type of dwellings used for the calculations is explained below as part of the Sport England Six-stage approach for calculating developer contributions relating to sports facilities.

- 6.20 The costs of provision of each type of open space are set out below, with sources for each costing indicated where appropriate. For the purposes of the calculation, it has been assumed that all additional facilities will be provided as new, although the options for provision include several lower cost possibilities.

<i>Type of open space</i>	<i>Approximate cost (£)</i>	<i>Unit of measurement</i>
Parks and Gardens	1,750,000 ²¹	Per park
Natural and semi-natural green space	37,000 ²²	Per ha
Amenity green space	40,000 ²³	Per ha
Provision for children and young people		
NEAP	100,000 ²⁴	Per facility
LEAP	50,000	
LAP	12,000	
Skate park/BMX track	120,000	
Allotments	40,000 ²⁵	Per ha

- 6.21 Inflation: Assuming an average increase in prices of 2% per annum in the 15 year period to 2026, the average cost of each type of facility provision across the whole period (based upon the mid point in 2018) will be as follows:

<i>Type of open space</i>	<i>Approximate cost (£)</i>	<i>Approximate cost per 1000 population based on proposed quantity standard (£)</i>
Parks and Gardens	1,960,000	n/a – provision to be sought where appropriate only and likely to relate to large developments
Natural and semi-natural green space	41,440	290,080
Amenity green space	44,800	44,800
Provision for children and young people		
NEAP – assume 1.5 per 1000 popn	112,000	168,000
LEAP – assume 4 per 1000 popn	56,000	224,000
LAP – assume 20 per 1000 popn	13,440	268,800
Skate park/BMX track – assume 0.2 per 1000 popn	134,400	26,880
Total	315,840	687,680
Allotments	44,800	11,400

- 6.22 Divide costs into dwellings: This is final stage involves dividing the costs by the relevant number and type of dwellings, to arrive at an appropriate contribution. Based upon the assumed numbers of the additional population attributable to each type of property, calculated as per paragraph 6.23 f) below, the costs can be apportioned as follows:

²¹ East London Green Grid Parks and Open Spaces: Budget Cost Estimates – cost of local park

²² East London Green Grid Parks and Open Spaces: Budget Cost Estimates – average costs of ecology park, green links, nature reserves and woodland belts with 2% inflation per annum applied.

²³ East London Green Grid Parks and Open Spaces: Budget Cost Estimates – average costs of District open space and green links, with reference to Central Bedfordshire Planning Obligations SPD Background Paper

²⁴ East London Green Grid Parks and Open Spaces: Budget Cost Estimates – with 2% inflation per annum applied, with 2% inflation per annum applied and experience of The Landscape Partnership

²⁵ Eastbourne Borough Council Allotment Provision discussion by Cabinet, December 2010 and Hambleton District Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation SPD – derivation of costs

Type of property	Assumed No. future residents per dwelling	Proportion of 1000 population	Cost per dwelling (£)				
			Parks and Gardens	Natural and semi-natural green space	Amenity green space	Provision for children and young people	Allotments
One bedroom	1	0.001	n/a	290	45	688	11
Two bedrooms	2	0.002	n/a	580	90	1376	22
Three bedrooms	3	0.003	n/a	870	135	2064	33
Four bedrooms	4	0.004	n/a	1160	180	2752	44
Five bedrooms	5	0.005	n/a	1450	225	3440	55
Multiple occupancy	53	0.053	n/a	15370	2385	36434	583

6.23 A Six-Stage process: Sport England advocates a six-stage process for calculating developer contributions relating to sports facilities. Based on this approach and the combination of known and projected figures, the following is a worked example of the developer contributions that might be attracted for sports facilities and playing pitches in Uttlesford:

- a) **Identify the timeframe for the DPD:** This corresponds with the timeframe for the LDF, which covers the period up to 2028.
- b) **Establish the number of dwellings to be committed:** Based upon the 2008-based sub-national population projections (ONS, 2011) which show a projected increase in the district's population to 89,600 by 2028, a population increase of 12,800 will be accommodated in 4,665 new dwellings in Uttlesford in this period.
- c) **Agree what type of dwellings should contribute to sports and pitch facilities:** In line with local planning policy, contributions will be invited for all residential properties, proportionate to the number of occupants.
- d) **Calculate the number and mix of dwellings of each type likely to be provided within the DPD timeframe:** The precise location and size of housing has yet to be determined, but the following projections are based upon assumed future patterns of provision locally.

Type of property	No. properties	No. residents
One bedroom	1,000	1,000
Two bedrooms	1,500	3,000
Three bedrooms	1,000	3,000
Four bedrooms	750	3,000
Five bedrooms	400	2,000
Multiple occupancy	15	800
TOTAL	4,665	12,800

- e) **Establish the relevant costs of facility development:** The costs of provision of each type of sports facility and pitch are set out below, based on Sport England's published costs for the second quarter of 2011. For the purposes of the calculation, it has been assumed that all additional facilities will be provided as new, although the options for provision include several lower cost possibilities.

- **Average facility costs:** These are estimated as follows:

Type of facility	Land purchase	Site preparation	Design fees	Planning fees	Building costs	Equipment	TOTAL
Sports halls	£100,000	£200,000	£200,000	£50,000	£2.15 million	£50,000	£2.75million
Swimming pools	£100,000	£200,000	£300,000	£50,000	£5.5 million	£200,000	£6.35 million
Synthetic tracks	£100,000	£200,000	£50,000	£50,000	£665,000	£50,000	£1.115 million
Synthetic pitches	£75,000	£200,000	£20,000	£5,000	£405,000	£20,000	£725,000
Indoor bowls	£100,000	£200,000	£100,000	£50,000	£1.09 million	£10,000	£1.55 million
Outdoor bowls	£50,000	£20,000	£10,000	£2,000	£50,000	£1,000	£133,000
Indoor tennis	£200,000	£200,000	£200,000	£50,000	£1.65 million	£20,000	£2.32 million
Outdoor tennis	£20,000	£5,000	£5,000	£1,000	£33,000	£1,000	£65,000
Squash courts	£20,000	£5,000	£5,000	£1,000	£75,000	-	£106,000
Golf courses	£1 million	£500,000	£250,000	£50,000	£1.5 million	£50,000	£3.35 million
Health and fitness	£50,000	£50,000	£50,000	£10,000	£500,000	£300,000	£960,000
Village/comm. halls	£20,000	£10,000	£25,000	£5,000	£150,000	£5,000	£215,000
Grass pitches	£75,000	£20,000	£5,000	£5,000	£60,000	£2,000	£167,000

- **Inflation:** Assuming an average increase in prices of 2% per annum in the 15 year period to 2026, the average cost of each type of facility provision across the whole period (based upon the mid point in 2018) will be as follows:

Type of facility	Cost in 2018
Sports halls	£3,222,063
Swimming pools	£7,440,037
Synthetic tracks	£1,306,400
Synthetic pitches	£832,797
Indoor bowls	£1,816,072
Outdoor bowls	£155,830
Indoor tennis	£2,718,250
Outdoor tennis	£76,159
Squash courts	£121,761
Golf courses	£7,440,037
Health and fitness	£1,306,400
Village/comm. halls	£246,967
Grass pitches	£155,830

- **Extra facilities needed:** Identified facility needs, based upon population increases relating to new housing developments, are shown below:

Type of facility	No. extra facilities needed
Sports halls	1
Swimming pools	0.5
Synthetic tracks	0
Synthetic pitches	1
Indoor bowls	1 rink
Outdoor bowls rinks	2
Indoor tennis courts	0
Outdoor tennis courts	6
Squash courts	1 x 9-hole
Golf courses	1
Health and fitness	2
Village/comm. halls	8

Grass pitches	15
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- **Attributable costs:** The total attributable costs are shown below:

Type of facility	Cost in 2018	No. extra facilities	Total costs (£)
Sports halls	£3,222,063	1	£3,222,063
Swimming pools	£7,440,037	0.5	£3,720,019
Synthetic tracks	£1,306,400	0	0
Synthetic pitches	£832,797	1	£832,797
Indoor bowls	£1,816,072	1 rink	£302,679
Outdoor bowls rinks	£155,830	2	£311,660
Indoor tennis courts	£2,718,250	0	0
Outdoor tennis courts	£76,159	6	£456,954
Squash courts	£121,761	1	£121,761
Golf courses	£7,440,037	1 x 9-hole	£3,720,019
Health and fitness	£1,306,400	2	£2,612,800
Village/comm. halls	£246,967	8	£1,975,736
Grass pitches	£155,830	15	£2,337,450

- **Total attributable cost:** The total cost of meeting all facility needs amounts to £19,613,878.
- f) **Divide costs into dwellings:** This is the final stage and involves dividing the costs by the relevant number and type of dwellings, to arrive at an appropriate contribution. Based upon the percentages of the overall additional population attributable to each type of property the costs can be apportioned as follows:

Type of property	% residents	Apportioned costs	No. dwellings	Cost per dwelling
One bedroom	7.9%	£1,549,963	1,000	£1,549.50
Two bedrooms	23.6%	£4,628,875	1,500	£3,085.92
Three bedrooms	23.6%	£4,628,875	1,000	£4,628.88
Four bedrooms	23.6%	£4,628,875	750	£6,171.83
Five bedrooms	15.8%	£3,098,899	400	£7,747.25
Multiple occupancy	5.5%	£1,078,763	15	£71,917.55

6.24 **On-site/off-site contributions:** To determine whether developer contributions should be spent on facilities on the site of a specific housing development, or allocated to a central fund for off-site development within an appropriate travel time/distance of the development will depend upon a number of factors, including:

- The size of the development (and whether there is physically enough space to accommodate some of the larger types of facility).
- The number and type of dwelling being provided and whether the number of new residents is greater than the per capita standard thresholds for the provision of facilities of each type.

6.25 On the basis of the above, the criteria for on-site or off-site provision of each type of facility in Uttlesford will be as follows:

<i>Type of facility</i>	<i>Threshold for on-site provision</i>	<i>Threshold for off-site provision</i>
Parks and Gardens	Provision to be sought where possible on larger developments	n/a
Natural and semi-natural green space	All developments over 10 dwellings	All developments under 10 dwellings and where onsite provision is not possible
Amenity green space	All development	All developments where onsite provision is not possible
Provision for children and young people	All developments over 10 dwellings	All developments under 10 dwellings and where onsite provision is not possible
Allotments	All developments over 10 dwellings capable of accommodating four standard allotment plots	All developments under 10 dwellings and where onsite provision is not possible
Sports halls	Development accommodates 12,500 people on site	Developments collectively accommodate 12,500 people. Provision to be made within 15 minutes driving time of each new development.
Swimming pools	Development accommodates 25,000 people on site	Developments collectively accommodate 25,000 people. Provision to be made within 15 minutes driving time of each new development.
Synthetic tracks	No additional provision required.	No additional provision required.
Synthetic pitches	Development accommodates 15,000 people on site	Developments collectively accommodate 15,000 people. Provision to be made within 15 minutes driving time of each new development.
Indoor bowls	Development accommodates 12,500 people on site	Developments collectively accommodate 12,500 people. Provision to be made within 20 minutes driving time of each new development.
Outdoor bowls	Development accommodates 7,000 people on site	Developments collectively accommodate 7,000 people. Provision to be made within 15 minutes driving time of each new development.
Indoor tennis	No additional provision required.	No additional provision required.
Outdoor tennis	Development accommodates 2,200 people on site	Developments collectively accommodate 2,200 people. Provision to be made within 15 minutes driving time of each new development.
Squash courts	Development accommodates 12,600 people on site	Developments collectively accommodate 12,600 people. Provision to be made within 20 minutes driving time of each new development.
Golf courses	Development accommodates 25,000 people on site	Developments collectively accommodate 25,000 people. Provision to be made within 30 minutes driving time of each new development.

<i>Type of facility</i>	<i>Threshold for on-site provision</i>	<i>Threshold for off-site provision</i>
Health and fitness	Development accommodates 7,000 people on site	Developments collectively accommodate 7,000 people. Provision to be made within 15 minutes driving time of each new development.
Village/community halls	Development accommodates 1,500 people on site	Developments collectively accommodate 1,500 people. Provision to be made within 10 minutes driving time of each new development.
Adult football pitches	No additional provision required.	No additional provision required.
Junior football pitches	Development accommodates 3,450 people on site	Developments collectively accommodate 3,450 people. Provision to be made within 15 minutes driving time of each new development.
Mini-soccer pitches	Development accommodates 5,000 people on site	Developments collectively accommodate 5,000 people. Provision to be made within 15 minutes driving time of each new development.
Cricket pitches	Development accommodates 2,000 people on site	Developments collectively accommodate 2,000 people. Provision to be made within 15 minutes driving time of each new development.
Rugby pitches	Development accommodates 26,000 people on site	Developments collectively accommodate 26,000 people. Provision to be made within 20 minutes driving time of each new development.

7 Action Plan

Introduction

7.1 This section comprises an action plan for meeting the open space, sports facility and playing pitch deficiencies identified in this strategy. It contains the following material:

- a) Options for meeting the deficiencies.
- b) Delivery partners.
- c) Grant funding sources.
- d) Action plan for meeting existing needs.
- e) Action plan for meeting future needs.

Dealing with deficiencies

7.2 Introduction: A number of options are available for meeting the identified deficiencies in provision, including:

- a) New provision.
- b) Upgrading and refurbishing.
- c) Improved capacity.
- d) Enhanced access.

7.3 New provision: Providing entirely new open space, sport and recreation facilities may be the only means of securing additional provision in the right location. This can be achieved by:

- a) Identifying entirely new sites for provision in appropriate locations.
- b) Extending existing provision where feasible.
- c) Disposing of existing facilities to reinvest the capital receipt in new provision.
- d) Incorporating open space and facilities into new community provision and/or housing/retail/commercial developments.

7.4 Upgrading and refurbishing: Upgrading and refurbishing existing provision would meet some of the qualitative deficiencies identified. The types of upgrade that would be most beneficial include:

- a) Better provision for visitors at many natural and semi-natural greenspace sites would improve their overall quality rating (although this will need to be balanced against the impact on site biodiversity of enhanced visitor numbers).
- b) Disabled access was rated as 'below average' or 'poor' for most typologies in Uttlesford. Beneficial improvements would include provision for access by disabled people throughout a facility or site (such as lifts or ramps in buildings and hard-surfaced paths with wheelchair accessible gates at open spaces), dedicated changing, parking and toilet facilities and specialist equipment to facilitate disabled usage.
- c) Changing facilities are poor at some types of playing pitch sites in the district and improvements would significantly enhance the experience of users and help to retain existing and attract new participants.

7.5 Improved capacity: Improving the capacity of open space, sport and recreation facilities will enable them to accommodate more use and users. Examples include:

- a) The provision of floodlights for outdoor sports facilities will extend the period in which they can be used.
- b) Drainage and other qualitative improvements to grass pitches enable them to accommodate more play, with fewer postponed fixtures.

- c) Providing additional play equipment in children's play areas, to expand the range of ages and abilities catered for, will attract additional users.
- d) Habitat restoration and development improves the biodiversity value of natural and semi-natural and other greenspace sites.
- e) Provision of facilities like a crèche will improve the capacity of a built sports facilities to cater for families with young children.
- f) Physically expanding the area of existing greenspace sites will increase their capacity for use and may enhance their wildlife and biodiversity value.

7.6 Enhanced access: Improving access to open space, sport and recreation provision can be achieved in a number of ways:

- a) **Formal agreements:** Securing improved access through the development of formal agreements serves to safeguard public usage of provision without general community access and in some cases may provide sufficient security of tenure to allow external funding applications to be sought, to provide further enhancements. Examples include:
 - Securing the dual use by the community of education facilities, through a Community Use Agreement (CUA). Several schools in Uttlesford already allow external community use of their sports facilities, although in some instances there is no formal Community Use Agreement to secure this. Negotiating community access to education facilities offers an attractive means of securing additional capacity. Sport England provides a template CUA.
 - The designation of Access Land under the provisions of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act (2000), which allows additional public access at specified sites in addition to traditional linear footpaths and bridleways.
 - The provision or extension of longer-term leases on sports facilities and greenspace sites (typically 21 years or more), to allow tenants to apply for grant-aid from external sources to fund improvements.
- b) **Public transport improvements:** Improvements to public transport (in particular rural buses), would reduce the need for travel by private vehicles.
- c) **Rights of way improvements:** Improving the rights of way network will ensure that there are appropriate linkages between key sites in the district will improve access and encourage more sustainable forms of transport.
- d) **Information and awareness:** The provision of interpretive panels at sites with nature conservation interest can help to educate and inform users and enhance the user experience. Similarly, good on-site signposting can improve user confidence in exploring larger sites or following marked trails. By the same token, off-site signposting creates greater awareness of sites by non-users and may therefore encourage usage. Finally, the development and distribution of publicity materials promoting open space, sport and recreation will also raise awareness amongst potential users.

Delivery partners

- 7.7 Introduction: A wide range of organisations will have a role in implementing the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy. The type of roles are summarised below.
- 7.8 Uttlesford District Council: The Council is likely to play the lead role in co-ordinating the development of the larger, more strategic sites and facilities, using its statutory planning powers where necessary. It will develop a more strategic, facilitational role, based upon developing, maintaining and making available an up-to-date and robust evidence base.
- 7.9 Parish councils: Parish councils will continue to provide more local scale open space and facilities in the rural parts of the district.

- 7.10 Schools: Several state and independent schools in the district already provide facilities from which local communities benefit, however there is a need to develop more formal community use agreements to secure external access to provision.
- 7.11 Sports organisations: Most governing bodies of sport have strategies for facility provision and some funding to support priority developments. Local sports clubs are significant providers of sports facilities, in particular bowling greens, golf courses, tennis courts and playing pitches.
- 7.12 Environmental organisations: County and national conservation trusts such as the Essex Wildlife Trust provide and manage natural and semi-natural greenspace sites, including the creation of new areas from time to time.
- 7.13 Commercial organisations: Several commercial sector organisations provide sports facilities in Uttlesford, including several of the health and fitness facilities. There may be scope for encouraging more involvement in provision by the private sector.
- 7.14 Developers: The developers of new housing and commercial projects in the district can be required either to provide new open space, sport and recreation as part of an individual development, or to make a financial contribution towards the costs of such provision on site or elsewhere in the vicinity. The key principle is that the open space, sport and recreation demand generated by a development must adequately be met, as opposed solely to rectifying any pre-existing deficiencies. This mechanism is likely to comprise a major component of new provision in the district.
- 7.15 Private landowners: Private landowners may be prepared to allow permissive access across some private open space sites, providing an important supplement to the supply of publicly accessible natural and semi-natural greenspace.
- 7.16 Partnership arrangements: Partnership arrangements involving combinations of any of the above providers will help to share the costs of provision, management and maintenance of additional provision.

Funding sources

- 7.17 Introduction: Whilst some local funding may be available to help with the costs of meeting deficiencies in open space, sport and recreation provision in Uttlesford, the majority of the money is likely to need to be raised from external sources. These are examined in greater detail below, but it should be noted that there is strong competition for the relatively limited amounts of funding available, so only high priority projects are likely to succeed. In addition to the sources listed, some other governing bodies of sport also offer grant and/or loan funding for priority facility developments or improvements.
- 7.18 Sports facilities funding: Sport England has the following range of funding programmes from which projects in Uttlesford might benefit:
- a) *Small grants*: The Small Grants Programme has been set up to support local community sport projects which seek to increase participation, sustain participation or develop opportunities for people to excel at their chosen sport. It is open to any bona fide not-for-profit club or association, statutory body or educational establishment. Grants vary from £300 to £10,000 but the total project cost cannot exceed £50,000.
 - b) *The Iconic Facilities Fund*: The fund draws on the inspirational pull of London 2012 to create local beacons for grassroots sport. £30m will be invested over the next three years in innovative, large-scale, multi-sport facilities' projects that are regionally significant for at least two sports and can demonstrate long-term financial viability.
 - c) *Protecting playing fields*: Through this programme, Sport England will fund up to 300 projects for playing field improvements that will contribute to both retaining and increasing participants in sport across England at the local level. The programme will fund capital projects that create, develop and improve playing fields for sporting and community use and offer long term protection of the site for sport. Projects are likely to involve the construction of new pitches or improvement of existing ones that need levelling or drainage works.

- d) *Inspired Facilities Fund*: Inspired Facilities is focused on making it easier for local community and volunteer groups to improve and refurbish sports clubs or transform non-sporting venues into modern grassroots sport facilities. It will provide grants of up to £150,000 for a wide range of projects than can demonstrate that they will meet community needs.

7.19 The Football Foundation: The Foundation is jointly funded by the Football Association, the FA Premier League, Sport England and the Government, to provide grants for projects where football is the major user. The main funding from which projects in North Somerset are likely to benefit is the 'Grass Roots' programme, which has a national budget of around £32 million per annum.

- a) The Foundation seeks to provide sporting facilities by putting into place a new generation of modern facilities in parks, clubs, local leagues and schools, to sustain and/or increase participation.
- b) Facilities eligible for funding include synthetic turf pitch installation and floodlighting, clubhouse development and refurbishment, changing room improvements and pitch drainage.
- c) Applicants may include an element of revenue funding in their grant applications, to help to sustain or increase participation through a development programme.
- d) An organisation can apply for capital funding up to a maximum of £1 million. The percentage level of support is variable, but will not exceed 90%. However, 'ceiling' grants will only be awarded in exceptional circumstances and the average award to date is around 65%. Applicants must be able to demonstrate that they have exhausted all other sources of grant funding.

7.20 Rugby Football Foundation: The Foundation is a charitable trust established by the Rugby Football Union to promote and develop community rugby union in England. The Foundation administers a Capital Fund for the financing of capital projects aimed at improving facilities which lead to the recruitment and retention of rugby players. It has two funding streams:

- a) The Groundmatch Grant Scheme: Clubs at level 5 and below can apply for between £1,500 and £6,000 on a matched 50:50 basis for capital works projects that support the retention and recruitment of community rugby players.
- b) An interest free loan scheme: The scheme provides up to £100,000 in an interest free loan to capital works to clubs at level 4 and below which contribute to the retention and recruitment of community rugby players.

7.21 Funding for open spaces: The Department for Communities and Local Government produced a publication in August 2011 entitled 'Potential funding for community green spaces'²⁶. The document identifies potential funding available to community and voluntary organisations for community green space initiatives and the different grant schemes open to local groups, green spaces, allotment organisations or trusts, and also where to go to get help when looking for funding.

Action plan for meeting existing needs

7.22 Introduction: An action plan is set out below, which lists the current deficiencies in provision and identifies ways of meeting the shortfalls.

7.23 Open spaces: The action plan to address current needs is as follows:

<i>Type of open space</i>	<i>Current assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quantity and accessibility standards not set • Poor onsite car parking and issues with dog fouling, litter and fly tipping or little variety in vegetation/wildlife value at 	Seek opportunities to create new parks and gardens where they arise, to increase provision throughout the District

²⁶ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/greenspacefunding>

<i>Type of open space</i>	<i>Current assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
	existing parks and gardens	
Natural and semi-natural green space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantitative deficiencies predominantly in rural parishes Specific qualitative deficiencies along the Flitch Way and in Marshall Piece, Stebbing Accessibility deficiencies in a number of settlements – see paragraph 3.65 	<p>Seek additional publically-accessible provision in Arkesden, Barnston, Chrishall, Debden, Elmdon and Wenden Lofts, Elsenham, Felsted, Flitch Green, Great Easton and Tilty, Hempstead, Henham, High Easter, High Roding, Leaden Roding, Littlebury, Little Easton, Newport, Quendon and Rickling, Radwinter, The Sampfords, Swards End, Stansted, White Roding, Wicken Bonhunt, Widdington</p> <p>Seek improvements to PRow network and bridleways in rural areas and the urban fringe to maximise amenity benefits of private sites even where these not accessible</p> <p>Identify areas for ‘naturalisation’ within other typologies e.g. amenity greens or boundary areas of sports pitches, to mitigate deficiencies where new sites cannot be created</p>
Amenity green space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantitative deficiencies predominantly in the Market Towns and main villages Specific qualitative deficiencies in Lukins Mead/Nursery Rise, Great Dunmow; Village Green, Burnsite Road, Felsted; and Land Off Raven’s Crescent, Felsted Accessibility deficiencies in a number of settlements – see paragraph 3.51 	<p>Seek additional provision particularly in Barnston, Chrishall, Debden, Elmdon and Wenden Lofts, Great Chesterford, Hatfield Broad Oak, High Easter, Littlebury, Little Chesterford, Little Easton, Manuden, Newport, Radwinter, Stebbing, Wicken Bonhunt, Widdington.</p> <p>Identify where existing smaller sites < 0.2ha could mitigate for existing deficiencies in quantity and accessibility.</p> <p>Identify targeted improvements to sites currently identified as of poor quality or sites attaining poor or very poor for a number of criteria</p>
Provision for children and young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantitative deficiencies predominantly in the Market Towns and main villages Specific qualitative deficiencies at Rectory Road, Farnham Accessibility deficiencies in a number of settlements – see paragraph 3.82 	Identify priority sites where natural play elements can be incorporated within enhanced facilities
Allotments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantitative deficiencies predominantly in a few smaller villages Qualitative deficiency at the allotments off The Street, Manuden Accessibility deficiencies in Chrishall, Elmdon and Wenden Lofts, Great 	Keep local demand under review and seek additional provision particularly in Chrishall, Elmdon and Wenden Lofts, Great Chesterford, Hempstead, Priors Green - Little Canfield, Little Hallingbury,

<i>Type of open space</i>	<i>Current assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
	Chesterford, Hempstead, Priors Green - Little Canfield, Little Hallingbury, Radwinter, The Sampfords, Takeley and small parts of Hadstock	Radwinter, The Sampfords, Takeley
Cemeteries and churchyards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantity and accessibility standards not set Upper churchyard off The Street, Manuden considered to be very poor 	Seek enhancements in quality and accessibility to the Upper churchyard off The Street, Manuden

7.24 Sports facilities: The action plan to address current needs is as follows:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Current assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Sports halls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No overall quantitative deficiency, although several facilities are close to 'comfortable capacity'. No qualitative deficiency. All aspects of all facilities are currently rated as 'above average' or better. No accessibility deficiency. All parts of the district are within 15 minutes walk or drive of the nearest sports hall. 	No action required
Swimming pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No overall quantitative deficiency, although several facilities are close to 'comfortable capacity'. No qualitative deficiency. All aspects of all facilities are currently rated as 'above average' or better. No accessibility deficiency. All parts of the district are within 15 minutes walk or drive of the nearest swimming pool. 	No action required
Athletics tracks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No quantitative deficiency. No qualitative deficiency. A significant accessibility deficiency in the north of the district, but there is no evidence of any frustrated demand. 	Keep local demand under review
Synthetic turf pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No quantitative deficiency. No qualitative deficiency. No substantive access deficiency. 	Keep local demand under review and consider provision of small-sided 3G synthetic turf pitches/multi-use games areas in parts of the district that are most distant from current pitch provision.
Indoor bowls greens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No quantitative deficiency. No qualitative deficiency. No substantive access deficiency. 	Keep local demand under review, particularly in the south central area.
Outdoor bowls greens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No quantitative deficiency Disabled and general access improvements needed at all facilities apart from Dunmow BC and Saffron Walden Town BC. No accessibility deficiency. 	Support clubs to make external funding applications for disabled and general access improvements at all facilities.
Indoor tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No quantitative deficiency No qualitative deficiency. 	Keep local demand under review, particularly in the eastern part of the

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Current assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant accessibility deficiency in the eastern part of the district, although the levels of unserved demand are insufficient to justify additional facility provision within Uttlesford. 	district.
Outdoor tennis courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency • Qualitative improvements needed at Castle Hill TC, Clavering TC, Dunmow TC, Stebbing TC and Thaxted TC. • No accessibility deficiency. 	Support clubs to make external funding applications
Squash courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency • The courts at the Lord Butler Leisure Centre need refurbishing to meet the qualitative standard. • No accessibility deficiency. 	Refurbish courts at the Lord Butler Leisure Centre.
Golf courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency • Disabled access at the Elsenham Golf and Leisure Centre should be improved. • No accessibility deficiency. 	Encourage Elsenham Golf and Leisure Centre to address the disabled access issues, with support for external funding application(s) if required.
Health and fitness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • Disabled access improvements needed at some facilities. • No accessibility deficiency. 	Support disabled access improvements at Wilbur's Fitness Gym, Lord Butler Leisure Centre, County High Sports Centre and the Flitch Fitness Centre.
Village and community halls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quantitative deficiency. • Qualitative improvements for sports usage needed at most facilities. • No accessibility deficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit existing halls to establish their capacity to accommodate sports activities. • Implement an improvement programme, prioritising facilities with the greatest potential to accommodate extra activity.

7.25 Playing pitches: The action plan to address current needs is as follows:

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Current assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Adult football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No current quantitative deficiency (notional surplus of 18.5 pitches). • Quality improvements needed to three pitches. • Quality improvements needed to selected changing facilities. • No accessibility deficiency. • Negotiate secured community access to 'Category B' pitches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve pitch quality at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hatfield Broad Oak Sports Club. - Jubilee Field (Clavering). • Support site owners with funding applications to improve changing facilities, prioritising sites serving more than one pitch: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alcott Playing Field (Stebbing). - Calves Pasture (Hatfield Heath). - Felsted Playing Field. - Hatfield Broad Oak Sports Club. - Herbert Farm Playing Fields. - Jubilee Field (Clavering). - Takeley Recreation Ground. • Secure community access to pitches at Carver Barracks.
Junior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.1 additional pitches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide 4 additional junior pitches

Pitch type	Current assessed deficiency	Action plan for meeting deficiency
football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No pitch qualitative improvements. • Quality improvements needed to changing facilities serving junior football pitches. • No accessibility deficiency. • Negotiate secured community access to 'Category B' pitches 	<p>by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Including pitches in the proposed new playing field development in Manuden and other proposed developments in Saffron Walden. - Converting adult football pitches in areas of the district where junior demand is highest. • Support site owners with funding applications to improve changing facilities, prioritising sites serving more than one pitch: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Felsted Playing Field. - Herbert Farm Playing Fields. - Laundry Lane Playing Field (Little Easton) - Swards End Recreation Ground. - Stansted Recreation Ground. • Secure community access to pitches at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dame Bradbury's School. - Katherine Semar School.
Mini-soccer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply and demand effectively balanced. • No pitch qualitative improvements. • No qualitative improvements needed at changing facilities serving mini-soccer pitches. • No accessibility deficiencies. • Negotiate secured community access to 'Category B' pitches at Dame Bradbury's School and Katherine Semar School. 	<p>Secure community access to pitches at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dame Bradbury's School. • Katherine Semar School.
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.1 additional pitches. • Quality improvements needed to changing facilities serving cricket pitches. • No accessibility deficiencies. • Negotiate secured community access to 'Category B' pitches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support site owners with funding applications to improve changing facilities, prioritising sites serving more than one pitch: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Audley End House. - Clogham's Green CC. - Dunmow CC. - Elmdon CC. - Elsenham CC. - Elsenham CC - Hatfield Broad Oak CC. - Hatfield Heath CC. - High Roding CC. - Langley CC. - Lindsell CC. - Little Bardfield CC. - Stansted Hall CC. - Thaxted CC. - Wenden's Ambo Recreation Ground. • Secure community access to pitches at:

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Current assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
		- County High Sports Centre. - Friends School.
Rugby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.9 additional pitches • No qualitative deficiency. • No accessibility deficiency. 	Support Saffron Walden Rugby Club with funding applications to provide an additional pitch on land adjacent to their current site.

Action plan for meeting future needs

7.26 Introduction: An action plan is set out below, which lists the future projected deficiencies in provision and identifies ways of meeting the shortfalls.

7.27 Open spaces: The action plan to address future needs is as follows:

<i>Type of open space</i>	<i>Future assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Parks and Gardens	No specific additional requirement.	Seek opportunities to create new parks and gardens where they arise through new development, to increase provision throughout the District
Natural and semi-natural green space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum of 7ha publicly accessible sites/1000 population • All future sites should be clean and litter free, be of ecological value with appropriate amenity facilities, and footpaths should be well-maintained and designed to minimise impact on the natural features and to maximise natural surveillance. • At least one publicly-accessible site within 5 minutes walk time (300-400m) in main settlements 	Seek additional publically-accessible provision in Arkesden, Barnston, Chrishall, Debden, Elmdon and Wenden Lofts, Elsenham, Felsted, Flich Green, Great Easton and Tilty, Hempstead, Henham, High Easter, High Roding, Leaden Roding, Littlebury, Little Easton, Newport, Quendon and Rickling, Radwinter, The Sampfords, Swards End, Stansted, White Roding, Wicken Bonhunt, Widdington to mitigate for existing and prospective quantitative deficiencies Identify areas for 'naturalisation' within other typologies e.g. amenity greens or boundary areas of sports pitches, to mitigate deficiencies where new sites cannot be created
Amenity green space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.0ha per 1000 population • All future sites should be clean and litter-free, managed to give natural surveillance to minimise fear of crime, and all greenspace features and facilities where provided should be well-maintained, including play equipment, footpaths, site furniture and soft landscaping. • Within 5 minutes walk (400m) in main settlements/new developments 	Seek additional provision particularly in Barnston, Chrishall, Debden, Elmdon and Wenden Lofts, Great Chesterford, Hatfield Broad Oak, High Easter, Littlebury, Little Chesterford, Little Easton, Manuden, Newport, Radwinter, Stebbing, Wicken Bonhunt, Widdington to mitigate for existing and prospective quantitative and accessibility deficiencies
Provision for children and young	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum of 0.2ha/ 1000 population • All play areas must adhere to the Fields in Trust LEAP (Local Equipped Area for Play) 	Seek additional provision in line with the standards in areas of proposed growth.

<i>Type of open space</i>	<i>Future assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
people	and NEAP (Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play) national standards, should have natural surveillance and be within sight of walking or cycling routes or desire lines, facilities should be designed in consultation with local children and young people, be clean and litter free, have no vandalism and provide a mixture of formal and informal facilities, and facilities for youth should seek to provide skate/BMX features, or other appropriate facilities, alongside youth shelter areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within 5 minutes walk (400m) in main settlements 	
Allotments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum of 0.25ha/ 1000 population • Allotments should have secure fencing, a watering point, water storage facilities, containers for equipment, good quality soils, vehicle access to the allotment entrance and parking facilities, as well as management of vacant plots and provision for clearance/removal of rubbish and composting • Within 10 minutes drive (4km) of whole population 	Seek additional provision particularly in Chrishall, Elmdon and Wenden Lofts, Great Chesterford, Hempstead, Priors Green - Little Canfield, Little Hallingbury, Radwinter, The Sampfords, Takeley e.g. through prospective development, to mitigate for prospective quantitative deficiencies. Identify areas in existing sites within other typologies, especially amenity greens, but including formal parks or school grounds, where new sites could be created that cannot be delivered through development
Cemeteries and churchyards	No specific additional requirement.	No action required

7.28 Sports facilities: The action plan to address future needs is as follows:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Future assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Sports halls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 additional sports hall close to the main areas of new population growth. • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes drive of new developments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure the provision of a new sports hall funded by developer contributions. • Ensure that existing facilities continue to be maintained to 'above average' standard.
Swimming pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.5 additional swimming pool (152sq.m. water space). • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes drive of new developments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure the provision of a new learner pool at Great Dunmow Leisure Centre funded by developer contributions. • Ensure that existing facilities continue to be maintained to 'above average' standard.
Athletics	No additional requirement.	No action required

Facility	Future assessed deficiency	Action plan for meeting deficiency
tracks		
Synthetic turf pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 additional 3G pitch close to the main areas of new housing growth. • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes drive of new developments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure the provision of a new 3G synthetic pitch funded by developer contributions. • Ensure that existing facilities continue to be maintained to 'above average' standard.
Indoor bowls greens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 additional rink added to the existing facility. • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 20 minutes drive of new developments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure the provision of an additional rink to the existing facility funded by developer contributions. • Ensure that existing facilities continue to be maintained to 'above average' standard.
Outdoor bowls greens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 additional bowling greens. • All aspects of quality 'above average'. • Within 15 drive of new developments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure the provision of two bowling greens in areas with accessibility deficiencies in the south of the district, subject to local demand and funded by developer contributions. • Ensure that existing facilities continue to be maintained to 'above average' standard.
Indoor tennis courts	No additional requirement.	No action required
Outdoor tennis courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 additional tennis courts. • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes drive of new developments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure the provision of public tennis courts in sub-areas within 15 minutes drive of new developments, with a pre-existing deficiency, funded by developer contributions. • Support local clubs in making funding applications to the LTA to secure additional tennis courts at club sites. • Ensure that existing facilities continue to be maintained to 'above average' standard.
Squash courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 additional squash court. • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 20 minutes drive of new developments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure the provision of a squash court in conjunction with the proposed new sports hall funded by developer contributions. • Ensure that existing facilities continue to be maintained to 'above average' standard.
Golf courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 additional 9-hole golf course. • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 30 minutes drive of new developments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the provision of a golf course by a commercial operator. • Ensure that existing facilities continue to be maintained to 'above average' standard.
Health and fitness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 additional or extended health and fitness facilities with 72 stations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage commercial operators to provide two new health and

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Future assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 15 minutes drive of new developments. 	fitness facilities in areas with an accessibility deficiency. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that existing facilities continue to be maintained to 'above average' standard.
Village and community halls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 additional village/community halls. • All aspects of quality above average. • Within 10 minutes drive of new developments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure the provision of 8 additional village/community halls in conjunction with new developments, funded by developer contributions. • Ensure that existing facilities continue to be maintained to 'above average' standard.

7.29 Playing pitches: The action plan to address future needs is as follows:

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Future assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Adult football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 additional pitches. • Changing facilities to meet Sport England/governing body guidelines. • All aspects of quality 'above average'. • Within 15 minutes drive of new developments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional need will be met by surpluses in current provision. • Ensure that existing facilities continue to be maintained to 'above average' standard.
Junior football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 additional pitches once the existing deficiency has been met. • Changing facilities to meet Sport England/governing body guidelines. • All aspects of quality 'above average'. • Within 15 minutes drive of new developments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure the provision of 4 additional junior pitches in areas within 15 minutes drive of new developments, funded by developer contributions. • Ensure that existing facilities continue to be maintained to 'above average' standard.
Mini-soccer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 additional pitches. • Changing facilities to meet Sport England/governing body guidelines. • All aspects of quality 'above average'. • Within 15 minutes drive of new developments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure the provision of 3 additional mini-soccer pitches in areas within 15 minutes drive of new developments, funded by developer contributions. • Ensure that existing facilities continue to be maintained to 'above average' standard.
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 additional pitches once the existing deficiency has been met. • Changing facilities to meet Sport England/governing body guidelines. • All aspects of quality 'above average'. • Within 15 minutes drive of new developments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure the provision of 7 additional cricket pitches in areas within 15 minutes drive of new developments, funded by developer contributions. • Ensure that existing facilities continue to be maintained to 'above average' standard.
Rugby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.5 pitches. • Changing facilities to meet Sport England/governing body guidelines. • All aspects of quality 'above average'. • Within 20 minutes drive of new developments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure the provision of an additional rugby pitch land on adjacent to Saffron Walden Rugby Club's current site, funded by developer contributions. • Ensure that existing facilities

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Future assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
		continue to be maintained to 'above average' standard.

8 Summary

Introduction

8.1 This study was produced by consultants from The Landscape Partnership and Ploszajski Lynch Consulting following the five step methodology set out in PPG17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation, as follows:

- Identifying local needs
- Auditing local provision
- Setting provision standards
- Applying provision standards
- Developing draft policies

8.2 A summary of existing provision in each category of open space, playing pitches and sports facilities by Parish can be found in Appendix 4. The following is a summary of the policy recommendations for each category of open space, playing pitch and sports facility.

Open space policy recommendations

8.3 Civic spaces are not covered within this strategy as none over the 0.2ha size threshold were identified within the District. Green corridors have been combined with natural and semi-natural green space due to the small number of green corridors identified and the overlap between the two types of open space.

8.4 Parks and Gardens proposed standards:

- Standards have not been set for either quantity or accessibility for parks and gardens.
- Quality - Essential:
 - Sites should be clean and litter-free
 - All parks should provide a range of horticultural or natural features appropriate to their size and character.
 - All parks should have appropriate signage particular to that place
 - All greenspace features and facilities should be well-maintained, including play equipment, footpaths, site furniture and soft landscaping
- Quality – Desirable:
 - Uttlesford District Council should work towards achieving 1 No. Park or Garden of Green Flag standard in the next three years.
 - All Parks and Gardens should work towards achieving the qualities described within the Green Flag standard in the longer term.
 - Sites should be managed to give natural surveillance to minimise fear of crime.
 - All parks should have a range of facilities, including those for young and older people, appropriate to their size and character.
 - Access to parks and gardens should be part of an integrated network of footpaths and cycleways, should be of high quality design and use materials appropriate to the setting.

8.5 Parks and Gardens proposed recommendations:

- Policy recommendations
 - RPG1 Seek opportunities to create new parks and gardens where they arise, to increase provision throughout the District

- Other recommendations
 - RPG2 Seek enhancements in cleanliness and accessibility to all sites
 - RPG3 Seek to attain 'Green Flag' award standards across all parks and gardens in the long term

8.6 Amenity Greenspace proposed standards:

- Quantity - 1.0ha per 1000 population
- Accessibility - Within 5 minutes walk (400m) in main settlements
- Quality - Essential:
 - Sites should be clean and litter-free.
 - Sites should be managed to give natural surveillance to minimise fear of crime.
 - All greenspace features and facilities where provided should be well-maintained, including play equipment, footpaths, site furniture and soft landscaping.
- Quality – Desirable:
 - Access to amenity greens should be part of an integrated network of footpaths and cycleways, should be of high quality and appropriate materials for the setting.
 - Site design should take advantage of any existing natural features including trees, shrubs or wildlife areas or these should be introduced where not existing, as appropriate to the size of the site.
 - Site boundaries should be appropriately defined.

8.7 Amenity Greenspace proposed recommendations:

- Policy recommendations
 - RAG1 Seek additional provision particularly in Barnston, Chrishall, Debden, Elmdon and Wenden Lofts, Great Chesterford, Hatfield Broad Oak, High Easter, Littlebury, Little Chesterford, Little Easton, Manuden, Newport, Radwinter, Stebbing, Wicken Bonhunt, Widdington to mitigate for existing and prospective quantitative and accessibility deficiencies
- Other recommendations
 - RAG2 Undertake a review of disabled access with appropriate user-groups across the amenity green provision and identify priorities for improvement.
 - RAG3 Undertake a review of signage and interpretation across the amenity green provision and identify priorities for improvement.
 - RAG4 Identify where existing smaller sites < 0.2ha could mitigate for existing deficiencies in quantity and accessibility
 - RAG5 Identify targeted improvements to sites currently identified as of poor quality or sites attaining poor or very poor for a number of criteria

8.8 Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace proposed standards:

- Quantity - a minimum of 7ha publicly accessible sites/1000 population
- Accessibility - At least one publicly-accessible site within 5 minutes walk time (300-400m) in main settlements
- Quality - Essential:
 - Sites should be clean and litter free
 - Sites should be of ecological value with appropriate amenity facilities

- Footpaths should be well-maintained and designed to minimise impact on the natural features and to maximise natural surveillance
- Site management processes should be maintained
- Quality – Desirable:
 - All major sites should have an active Management Plan in place
 - Signage should be provided at every site with contact details of managing organisation
 - All sites should seek to have interpretative facilities in place

8.9 Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace proposed recommendations:

- Policy recommendations
 - RN1 Seek additional publically-accessible provision in Arkesden, Barnston, Chrishall, Debden, Elmdon and Wenden Lofts, Elsenham, Felsted, Flitch Green, Great Easton and Tilty, Hempstead, Henham, High Easter, High Roding, Leaden Roding, Littlebury, Little Easton, Newport, Quendon and Rickling, Radwinter, The Sampfords, Swards End, Stansted, White Roding, Wicken Bonhunt, Widdington to mitigate for existing and prospective quantitative deficiencies
 - RN2 Seek improvements to PRow network and bridleways in rural areas and the urban fringe to maximise amenity benefits of private sites even where these not accessible
- Other recommendations
 - RN3 Review quality of access and interpretation within publically-owned Natural and Semi-Natural sites and identify priorities for enhancement
 - RN4 Review role and identify enhancement needs as appropriate for Poor quality publically accessible sites, namely the Flitch Way and Marshall Piece, Stebbing
 - RN5 Identify areas for 'naturalisation' within other typologies e.g. amenity greens or boundary areas of sports pitches, to mitigate deficiencies where new sites cannot be created
 - RN6 Ensure all major sites have an active Management Plan in place

8.10 Provision for Children and Young People proposed standards:

- Quantity - a minimum of 0.2ha/ 1000 population
- Accessibility - Within 5 minutes walk (400m) in main settlements
- Quality:
 - All play areas must adhere to the Fields in Trust LEAP (Local Equipped Area for Play) and NEAP (Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play) national standards.
 - All play spaces should have natural surveillance and be within sight of walking or cycling routes or desire lines
 - Facilities should be designed in consultation with local children and young people, be clean and litter free, have no vandalism and provide a mixture of formal and informal facilities.
 - Facilities for youth should seek to provide skate/BMX features, or other appropriate facilities, alongside youth shelter areas
 - All play spaces should be designed to maximise experience of natural features.

8.11 Provision for Children and Young People proposed recommendations:

- Policy recommendations

- RCYP1 Seek additional provision in line with the above standards in areas of proposed growth.
- Other recommendations
 - RCYP2 Identify priority sites where natural play elements can be incorporated within planned new or enhanced facilities.
 - RCYP3 Seek further information on community demand for the provision of skateparks and BMX tracks

8.12 Allotments proposed standards:

- Quantity - a minimum of 0.25ha/ 1000 population
- Accessibility - Within 10 minutes drive (4km) of whole population
- Quality - Essential:
 - Allotments should have secure fencing, a watering point, water storage facilities, containers for equipment, good quality soils, vehicle access to the allotment entrance and parking facilities.
 - Management of vacant plots
 - Provision for clearance/removal of rubbish and composting
- Quality – Desirable:
 - Pathways through the site

8.13 Allotments proposed recommendations:

- Policy recommendations
 - RA1 Seek additional provision particularly in Chrishall, Elmdon and Wenden Lofts, Great Chesterford, Hempstead, Priors Green - Little Canfield, Little Hallingbury, Radwinter, The Sampfords, Takeley e.g. through prospective development, to mitigate for existing and prospective quantitative deficiencies.
- Other recommendations
 - RA2 Seek further information on community need for allotment gardens.
 - RA3 Work with Allotment Associations or Trusts to seek enhancements in quantity, quality and access to sites, especially where demand or deficiencies have been identified locally.
 - RA4 Seek improvements to access from local communities to allotment sites where these have been identified as below average quality
 - RA5 Identify areas in existing sites within other typologies, especially amenity greens, but including formal parks or school grounds, where new sites could be created that cannot be delivered through development

8.14 Cemeteries and churchyards proposed standards:

- It is not applicable to set standards for either quantity or accessibility for cemeteries and churchyards.
- Quality - Cemeteries and churchyards should:
 - have well-kept grass or natural areas, with appropriate flowers, trees and shrubs
 - offer a clean and litter free environment with clear pathways
 - have appropriate and good quality ancillary facilities such as seating, signage and car-parking where appropriate

8.15 Cemeteries and churchyards proposed recommendations:

- Other recommendations
 - RC1 Seek enhancements in quality and accessibility to sites where these have been identified as being below average quality
 - RC2 Review greenspace design and management of Upper churchyard off The Street, Manuden, and put in place a plan for enhancements.

Sports facility policy recommendations

8.16 Adult football pitches proposed standards:

- Quantity - One adult pitch (1.2ha) per 4,000 people
- Accessibility - The whole population within 15 minutes drive or walk of the nearest pitch
- Quality - Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all pitches and ancillary facilities rate 'above average' or better

8.17 Adult football pitches proposed recommendations:

- Improve pitch quality at:
 - Hatfield Broad Oak Sports Club.
 - Jubilee Field (Clavering).
- Support site owners with funding applications to improve changing facilities, prioritising sites serving more than one pitch:
 - Alcott Playing Field (Stebbing).
 - Calves Pasture (Hatfield Heath).
 - Felsted Playing Field.
 - Hatfield Broad Oak Sports Club.
 - Herbert Farm Playing Fields.
 - Jubilee Field (Clavering).
 - Takeley Recreation Ground.
- Secure community access to pitches at Carver Barracks.
- Additional need will be met by surpluses in current provision.
- Ensure that existing facilities continue to be maintained to 'above average' standard.

8.18 Junior football pitches proposed standards:

- Quantity - One junior pitch (0.75ha) per 3,450 people
- Accessibility - The whole population within 15 minutes drive or walk of the nearest pitch
- Quality - Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all pitches and ancillary facilities rate 'above average' or better

8.19 Junior football pitches proposed recommendations:

- Provide 4 additional junior pitches by:
 - Including pitches in the proposed new playing field development in Manuden and other proposed developments in Saffron Walden.
 - Converting adult football pitches in areas of the district where junior demand is highest.
- Support site owners with funding applications to improve changing facilities, prioritising sites serving more than one pitch:

- Felsted Playing Field.
- Herbert Farm Playing Fields.
- Laundry Lane Playing Field (Little Easton)
- Swards End Recreation Ground.
- Stansted Recreation Ground.
- Secure community access to pitches at:
 - Dame Bradbury's School.
 - Katherine Semar School.
- Secure the provision of 4 additional junior pitches in areas within 15 minutes drive of new developments, funded by developer contributions.
- Ensure that existing facilities continue to be maintained to 'above average' standard.

8.20 Mini-soccer pitches proposed standards:

- Quantity - One mini-soccer pitch (0.2ha) per 5,000 people
- Accessibility - The whole population within 15 minutes drive or walk of the nearest pitch
- Quality - Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all pitches and ancillary facilities rate 'above average' or better

8.21 Mini-soccer pitches proposed recommendations:

- Secure community access to pitches at:
 - Dame Bradbury's School.
 - Katherine Semar School.
- Secure the provision of 3 additional mini-soccer pitches in areas within 15 minutes drive of new developments, funded by developer contributions.
- Ensure that existing facilities continue to be maintained to 'above average' standard

8.22 Cricket pitches proposed standards:

- Quantity - One cricket pitch (1.2ha) per 2,000 people
- Accessibility - The whole population within 15 minutes drive or walk of the nearest pitch
- Quality – Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all pitches and ancillary facilities rate 'above average' or better

8.23 Cricket pitches proposed recommendations:

- Support site owners with funding applications to improve changing facilities, prioritising sites serving more than one pitch:
 - Audley End House.
 - Clogham's Green CC.
 - Dunmow CC.
 - Elmdon CC.
 - Elsenham CC.
 - Elsenham CC
 - Hatfield Broad Oak CC.
 - Hatfield Heath CC.
 - High Roding CC.
 - Langley CC.

- Lindsell CC.
- Little Bardfield CC.
- Stansted Hall CC.
- Thaxted CC.
- Wenden's Ambo Recreation Ground.
- Secure community access to pitches at:
 - County High Sports Centre.
 - Friends School.
- Secure the provision of 7 additional cricket pitches in areas within 15 minutes drive of new developments, funded by developer contributions.
- Ensure that existing facilities continue to be maintained to 'above average' standard.

8.24 Rugby pitches proposed standards:

- Quantity - One rugby pitch (1.2ha) per 26,000 people
- Accessibility - The whole population within 20 minutes drive or walk of the nearest pitch
- Quality – Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all pitches and ancillary facilities rate 'above average' or better

8.25 Rugby pitches proposed recommendations:

- Support Saffron Walden Rugby Club with funding applications to provide an additional pitch on land adjacent to their current site.
- Secure the provision of an additional rugby pitch land on adjacent to Saffron Walden Rugby Club's current site, funded by developer contributions.
- Ensure that existing facilities continue to be maintained to 'above average' standard.

Playing pitch policy recommendations

8.26 Sports halls proposed standards:

- Quantity - One four-badminton court sports hall (33m x 18m x 7.6m) per 12,500 people
- Accessibility - The whole population within 15 minutes walk or drive of their closest sports hall
- Quality – Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all facilities rate 'average' or better

8.27 Sports halls proposed recommendations:

- Secure the provision of a new sports hall funded by developer contributions.
- Ensure that existing facilities continue to be maintained to 'above average' standard.

8.28 Swimming pools proposed standards:

- Quantity - One 25m indoor swimming pool per 25,000 people (12 sq.m. of water space per 1,000 people)
- Accessibility - The population within 15 minutes walk or drive of their closest pool
- Quality – Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all facilities rate 'above average' or better

8.29 Swimming pools proposed recommendations:

- Secure the provision of a new learner pool at Great Dunmow Leisure Centre funded by developer contributions.

- Ensure that existing facilities continue to be maintained to 'above average' standard.
- 8.30 Synthetic athletics tracks proposed standards:
- Quantity - One six-lane 400m synthetic track per 250,000 people
 - Accessibility - The whole population within 20 minutes walk or drive of the nearest track
 - Quality – All aspects of a track should rate 'above average' or better
- 8.31 Synthetic athletics tracks proposed recommendations:
- Keep local demand under review
- 8.32 Synthetic turf pitches proposed standards:
- Quantity - One full-sized floodlit synthetic turf pitch (101.4m x 63m) per 15,000 people
 - Accessibility - The whole population within 15 minutes walk or drive of their closest pitch
 - Quality – All aspects of all pitches and their ancillary facilities should rate 'above average' or better
- 8.33 Synthetic turf pitches proposed recommendations:
- Keep local demand under review and consider provision of small-sided 3G synthetic turf pitches/multi-use games areas in parts of the district that are most distant from current pitch provision.
 - Secure the provision of a new 3G synthetic pitch funded by developer contributions.
 - Ensure that existing facilities continue to be maintained to 'above average' standard.
- 8.34 Indoor bowls facilities proposed standards:
- Quantity - One indoor bowling rink per 12,500 people (one 6-rink centre per 75,000 people)
 - Accessibility - The whole population within 20 minutes walk or drive of an indoor bowls facility
 - Quality – All aspects of all indoor bowls facilities should rate 'above average' or better
- 8.35 Indoor bowls facilities proposed recommendations:
- Keep local demand under review, particularly in the south central area
 - Secure the provision of an additional rink to the existing facility funded by developer contributions.
 - Ensure that existing facilities continue to be maintained to 'above average' standard.
- 8.36 Outdoor bowls greens proposed standards:
- Quantity - One outdoor bowling green per 7,000 people
 - Accessibility - The whole population within 15 minutes walk or drive of their closest green
 - Quality – All aspects of all greens and their ancillary facilities should rate 'above average' or better
- 8.37 Outdoor bowls greens proposed recommendations:
- Support clubs to make external funding applications for disabled and general access improvements at all facilities.
 - Secure the provision of two bowling greens in areas with accessibility deficiencies in the south of the district, subject to local demand and funded by developer contributions.
 - Ensure that existing facilities continue to be maintained to 'above average' standard.
- 8.38 Indoor tennis courts proposed standards:

- Quantity - One indoor tennis court per 40,000 people
- Accessibility - The whole population within 30 minutes walk or drive of the nearest courts
- Quality – All aspects of all indoor courts and their ancillary facilities should rate 'above average' or better

8.39 Indoor tennis courts proposed recommendations:

- Keep local demand under review, particularly in the eastern part of the district

8.40 Outdoor tennis courts proposed standards:

- Quantity - One outdoor tennis court per 2,200 people
- Accessibility - The whole population within 15 minutes walk or drive of their closest court
- Quality – Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all facilities rate 'average' or better

8.41 Outdoor tennis courts proposed recommendations:

- Support clubs to make external funding applications
- Secure the provision of public tennis courts in sub-areas within 15 minutes drive of new developments, with a pre-existing deficiency, funded by developer contributions.
- Support local clubs in making funding applications to the LTA to secure additional tennis courts at club sites.
- Ensure that existing facilities continue to be maintained to 'above average' standard.

8.42 Squash courts proposed standards:

- Quantity - One squash court per 12,600 people
- Accessibility - The whole population within 20 minutes walk or drive of the nearest court
- Quality – Quality improvements to ensure that all aspects of all facilities rate 'above average' or better

8.43 Squash courts proposed recommendations:

- Refurbish courts at the Lord Butler Leisure Centre
- Secure the provision of a squash court in conjunction with the proposed new sports hall funded by developer contributions.
- Ensure that existing facilities continue to be maintained to 'above average' standard.

8.44 Golf courses proposed standards:

- Quantity - One 18-hole golf course per 25,000 people, or one hole per 1,400 people
- Accessibility - The whole population within 30 minutes walk or drive of the nearest course
- Quality – All aspects of the courses and their ancillary facilities should rate 'average' or better

8.45 Golf courses proposed recommendations:

- Encourage Elsenham Golf and Leisure Centre to address the disabled access issues, with support for external funding application(s) if required
- Encourage the provision of a golf course by a commercial operator.
- Ensure that existing facilities continue to be maintained to 'above average' standard

8.46 Health and fitness facilities proposed standards:

- Quantity - One health and fitness facility with an average of 36 stations per 7,000 people
- Accessibility - The whole population within 15 minutes walk or drive of their closest facility
- Quality – Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all facilities rate 'average' or better

8.47 Health and fitness facilities proposed recommendations:

- Support disabled access improvements at Wilbur's Fitness Gym, Lord Butler Leisure Centre, County High Sports Centre and the Flitch Fitness Centre
- Encourage commercial operators to provide two new health and fitness facilities in areas with an accessibility deficiency.
- Ensure that existing facilities continue to be maintained to 'above average' standard.

8.48 Village and community halls proposed standards:

- Quantity - One community/ village hall per 1,500 people
- Accessibility - The whole population within 10 minutes drive or walk of the nearest community/village hall
- Quality – Qualitative improvements to ensure that all aspects of all halls rate 'average' or better
- All new/extended halls to comply with Sport England recommended dimensions (18m x 10m x 6.1m)

8.49 Village and community halls proposed recommendations:

- Audit existing halls to establish their capacity to accommodate sports activities.
- Implement an improvement programme, prioritising facilities with the greatest potential to accommodate extra activity.
- Secure the provision of 8 additional village/community halls in conjunction with new developments, funded by developer contributions.
- Ensure that existing facilities continue to be maintained to 'above average' standard.