# Indoor sports facilities

***Definition***

5.1 Alongside the main audit of open space, an audit of indoor sports facilities has been undertaken. This has included:

- sports halls
- swimming pools
- health & fitness
- indoor tennis
- indoor bowls.

5.2 An assessment of indoor facilities is slightly different to other PPG 17 typologies in that specific demand modelling can be undertaken in line with Sport England parameters.

**Supply and demand**

***Demand for facilities***

5.3 Current demand for facilities has been assessed through desk research and a review of documents, demographic analysis and an analysis of consultation findings.

***Demographic analysis***

5.4 When analysing the need and demand for sports facilities it is important to assess the size and composition of the local leisure market and the impact it will have upon facility usage. An analysis of the population in the District is shown in Table 5.1 below:

***Table 5.1 Demographic analysis***

| | District catchment |
|---|---|
| ***Population*** | The resident population based on the 2001 Census findings was 85,465.<br><br>The proportion of males to females is 47% to 53%.<br><br>Population is projected to increase to 87,756 by 2010. |
| ***Age structure*** | According to the 2001 Census, 17% of the resident population is under 16 years of age (compared to 20% for England and Wales), 48% is between 16 and 59 (compared to 59% in England and Wales) and 35% is aged 60 and over (compared to 21% in England and Wales). |
| ***Ethnic background*** | The ethnic structure of the population shows that 97% of the population are white compared to the national average of 90.9%.<br><br>0.4% of the population are Asian (compared to the national average of 4.6%) and 0.6% are black (compared to the national average of 1.3%). |

| | District catchment |
|---|---|
| ***Economic activity*** | The proportion of residents in full time employment is 27% (compared to 39% in England and Wales). 1.5% of the local population is unemployed (compared to 2.5% in England and Wales).<br><br>15% of the population is retired which is above the 9.9% average for England and Wales. |
| ***Mobility*** | 9.2% of Rother households do not own a car, which is significantly less than the average for England and Wales of 26.8%. |
| ***Health*** | The percentage of people who stated they had a long-term illness, health problem or disability which limited daily activities or work was 20%, which is above the average for England and Wales (17%). |

### *Sport and leisure potential profile*

5.5 A sport and leisure profile for the District has been calculated using data from our in-house geo-demographic software, Mapping the Future™ (MtF). These figures provide an indication of the propensity of residents within the District to take part in specific sports.

5.6 A detailed report on the propensity of residents within the District to participate in sporting activities is provided in Appendix D. The key results relevant to this study are shown in Table 5.2 below.

***Table 5.2 Propensity to participate for Rother District***

| Activity | Rother propensity to participate | National propensity to participate |
|---|---|---|
| Swimming | 21.9% | 23.0% |
| Health and fitness | 14.5% | 19.7% |
| No sport interest | 42% | 35.4% |

5.7 Table 5.2 shows that residents in the District are less likely to participate in swimming and health and fitness than national averages. In particular, residents are 6.6% more likely not to have an interest in any sport. Scores for other indoor sports such as badminton are not available.

### *Findings from public consultation*

5.8 There were a variety of views regarding indoor sports provision in the District from the sports club survey. The most popular comments included:

- a lack of dedicated swimming pools
- poor quality playing pitches
- poor quality ancillary facilities
- improved car parking requested at many sites.

**Analysis of supply and demand**

5.9 We have carried out a comparative analysis to establish the adequacy of current facility provision in meeting identified local demand. The process has involved three stages:

- preparation of a full audit of current facilities within the District to establish the level of supply
- plotting of all facilities using our in-house geo-demographic mapping package (MtF) to illustrate the geographical spread of facilities across the District
- use of approved demand modelling techniques based on national sporting participation parameters used within Sport England's facilities planning model (FPM), to calculate whether the level of current supply adequately meets demand or whether there is under or over provision.

5.10 PMP's supply and demand model is based around the following premise:

- there are X number of people in the catchment area who would be willing to use a particular type of sports facility (based on total population and propensity to participate in that sport)
- at the same time, there are Y units of the relevant sports facilities (eg swimming pool water area, health and fitness stations, etc) in the catchment area
- the relationship between X and Y indicates the surplus or shortfall in terms of number of units.

5.11 Supply and demand analysis has been completed for swimming pools, sports halls, health and fitness, indoor bowls and indoor tennis. Outlined below are our findings and the implications for the District of Rother. This is followed by an examination of the individual analysis areas.

5.12 The different roles of public and private facilities have been included within the assessments with private facilities being discounted for sports hall and swimming pool provision. In addition school facilities formally available to the public have been reduced by 25% in order to take into account there limited availability. Eg a four court sports hall becomes a three court hall in terms of modelling.

**Rother District**

***Swimming Pools***

5.13 The key assumptions used by in the swimming pools demand model are:

- proportion of visits during peak times is 63%
- average duration of visits is 64 minutes
- at one time capacity = 6m² per person
- capacity of 212m² (one pool unit) = 35 people
- one pool unit = average four lane 25 metre pool.

**On this basis, using 2001 Census information, demand levels equate to a total of 748m$^2$ of pool space within the District. The demand model calculates, using projected population statistics, that in 2026 this demand will increase to 845m$^2$.**

5.14 The profile of existing swimming pool provision within the District is illustrated in Map 5.2 at the end of this section. There are ten facilities within the District. A detailed audit of facilities is shown in Appendix C.

5.15 Three swimming pools are included in the modelling (seven are private and are therefore not included), which results in an existing supply of 444m². The oversupply/shortfall is illustrated in Table 5.3 below. This shortfall is equivalent to 3 lanes of a 25m swimming pool.

***Table 5.3 Swimming pool oversupply/shortfall***

| Scenarios | Demand | Supply | Oversupply/shortfall |
|---|---|---|---|
| Existing | 748m$^2$ | 444m$^2$ | Shortfall 304m$^2$ |
| 2026 most likely scenario | 845m$^2$ | 444m$^2$ | Shortfall 401m$^2$ |
| 2026 Game Plan adjusted | 1023m$^2$ | 444m$^2$ | Shortfall 579m$^2$ |

***Sports halls***

5.16 The key assumptions are as follows:

- 60% visits during peak time
- average visit duration = 1 hour
- normal peak periods = 40.5 hours per week
- at one time capacity = 5 people per badminton court.

**On this basis, using 2001 Census information, demand levels equate to a total of 21 badminton courts within the District. The demand model calculates, using projected population statistics, that in 2026 this demand will increase to 24 badminton courts.**

5.17 The distribution of existing sports hall provision within the District is illustrated in map 5.1 at the end of this section. There are seven facilities containing sports halls within the District.

5.18 Facility size and accessibility for public use are key factors taken into consideration when assessing the current level of supply. Of the seven facilities, three have been excluded from the demand modelling analysis, in line with Sport England recommendations. It is important to note that the future modelling scenarios do not include the planned dual use two court sports hall facility at Northiam Primary School, as it is not compliant with Sport England assumptions as it is smaller than three badminton courts in size. Sport England modelling parameters only include sports halls of at least three badminton courts in size.

5.19 Four sports halls are included in the model and when applying the modelling assumptions regarding accessibility for dual use sites (the capacity for dual use sites is reduced by 25% to reflect the balance of school access and public access), the result is an existing supply level of 14 badminton courts. The results of the model under different scenarios are illustrated in Table 5.4 below. The shortfall is equivalent to 2 to 3 new sports halls.

***Table 5.4 Sports hall oversupply/shortfall***

| Scenarios | Demand | Supply | Oversupply/shortfall |
|---|---|---|---|
| Existing | 21 badminton courts | 14 badminton courts | Shortfall 7 badminton courts |
| 2026 most likely scenario | 24 badminton courts | 14 badminton courts | Shortfall 10 badminton courts |
| 2026 Game Plan adjusted | 29 badminton courts | 14 badminton courts | Shortfall 15 badminton courts |

***Health and fitness***

5.20 The key assumptions for the health and fitness demand model are as follows:

- average health and fitness session is one hour
- 65% of use is during peak times
- average user participates 1.5 times per week or six times in a month
- the at one time capacity of a health and fitness facility is calculated by the ratio of one user per station.

**On this basis, using 2001 Census information, demand levels equate to a total of 351 stations within the District. The demand model calculates, using projected population statistics, that in 2026 this demand will increase to 397 stations.**

5.21 The profile of existing fitness gym provision within the District is illustrated in Map 5.2 at the end of Section 5. There are thirteen facilities within the identified catchment area and included in the model. The result is a supply level of 296 fitness stations (existing). The results of the model are illustrated below in Table 5.5 and show a large shortfall of stations in the District.

***Table 5.5 Health and fitness oversupply/shortfall***

| Scenarios | Demand | Supply | Oversupply/shortfall |
|---|---|---|---|
| Existing | 351 stations | 296 stations | Shortfall 55 stations |
| 2026 most likely scenario | 397 stations | 296 stations | Shortfall 101 stations |

5.22 The profile of existing fitness gym provision within the District is illustrated in Map 5.2 at the end of this section. Of the thirteen facilities within the identified catchment area and included in the model, four are available to the public on a "pay and play" basis. A 50/50 spilt provision spilt between public and private operators is normally sought. On this basis the undersupply of publicly available health and fitness stations is further reinforced.

***Indoor bowls***

5.23 For indoor bowls, PMP have applied Sport England's demand model, which is based on the Rother District area. The results of which can be seen in Table 5.6 and Map 5.1 at the end of Section 5.

5.24 It is important to note that the Sport England demand model does not take into consideration whether the facility has public or private access. There is currently a small oversupply of rinks in the District.

***Table 5.6 Indoor bowls oversupply/shortfall***

| Scenarios | Demand | Supply | Oversupply/shortfall |
|---|---|---|---|
| Existing | 7.24 rinks | 8 rinks | Oversupply 0.76 rinks |
| 2026 | 8.17 rinks | 8 rinks | Shortfall 0.17 rinks |

***Indoor tennis***

5.25 There are currently no indoor tennis facilities within the District. The nearest facilities can be found in the neighbouring districts of Tunbridge Wells (public facility), Shepway (private facility) and Wealden (two private facilities).

5.26 At present there is no reliable modelling available for indoor tennis, however Sport England will be extending their demand model in the near future to incorporate this. In the interim PMP have developed their own model based on assumptions from the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA).

5.27 The LTA have a target drivetime of 30 minutes for indoor tennis facilities:

*"the LTA will target suitable locations for both expansion of existing facilities and the building of indoor tennis centres within a 30 minute drive."* (National Tennis Facilities Strategy, LTA, 1998-2002, p12)

5.28 Within this 30 minute drivetime there are five courts available (both in Wealden District). The drivetime is taken from the centre of Bexhill as it is felt to be the most likely location for such a facility as it is the largest urban settlement in Rother.

5.29 Using data from '*Sport and Leisure Potential Profile'* (one of the leading national lifestyle surveys), we have estimated the number of people in the District with a propensity to participate in tennis. We have applied a tennis demand model developed from LTA research ('*The Need for Covered Tennis Courts'*, LTA 1998.) to quantify the level of unmet demand in the area. This model quantifies demand in terms of the number of indoor courts that should be provided to meet the LTA's stated targets.

5.30 In *'Priority Project Funding, Policy and Operational Procedures'*, the LTA states that one indoor court can serve 200 regular tennis players. Our sport and leisure potential profile report (see Appendix D) shows that approximately 7.2% of the local adult population play tennis ie about 23,720 adults.

5.31 National LTA research demonstrates that 5% of people in the UK play tennis and 2% of the population play regularly. It is therefore reasonable to assume that around two fifths of the 23,720 local tennis players play regularly. Using these figures, the demand for indoor tennis courts within the local catchment area of the site is:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Number of local regular tennis players** | **= 23,720 x 2/5** |
| | **= 9,488** |
| **Number of tennis players served per indoor court** | **= 200** |
| **Number of indoor tennis courts required** | **= 9,488/200** |
| | **= 47 courts required.** |

5.32 Table 5.7 below shows that three of the five surrounding local authorities to Rother currently have indoor tennis facilities with one being publicly accessible. Overall there is a clear demand for indoor tennis facilities in Rother however the current lack of public facilities is prevalent amongst the majority of local authorities in the area.

***Table 5.7 Indoor tennis facilities in the surrounding Local Authorities of Rother District***

| Authority | Population | No. of Courts | Access Policy | Courts per 1,000 population |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tunbridge Wells | 104,030 | 4 | Public | 0.038 |
| Ashford | 102,661 | 0 | n/a | 0 |
| Shepway | 96,238 | 2 | Private | 0.021 |
| Hastings | 85,029 | 0 | n/a | 0 |
| Wealden | 140,023 | 5 | Private | 0.036 |
| *Rother* | *85,428* | *0* | *n/a* | *0* |

**Further detailed analysis**

5.33 To further analyse the adequacy of current facility provision in the Rother District, the supply and demand process for swimming pools, sports halls, health and fitness, and indoor bowls has been re-run to include the examination of analysis areas for Battle, Bexhill, East Rother, Rye and West Rother. Indoor tennis has not been examined to this level as a facility could only be economically feasible in the Bexhill area.

5.34 It is important to note that the assumptions used in the District wide analysis have also been applied to the analysis areas.

**Battle**

***Swimming pools***

5.35 Using 2001 Census information, demand levels equate to a total of 43m$^2$ of pool space within the analysis area. The demand model calculates, using projected population statistics, that in 2026 this demand will increase to 49m$^2$. This area is equivalent to approximately one lane of a 25m pool.

5.36 There are currently no public or dual use swimming pool facilities within the Battle analysis area that comply with our modelling criteria. There is one private swimming pool, however this was not included in the model, likewise the outdoor pool at Claverham is also excluded. The oversupply/shortfall is illustrated in Table 5.8 below.

***Table 5.8 Swimming pool oversupply/shortfall***

| Scenarios | Demand | Supply | Oversupply/shortfall |
|---|---|---|---|
| Existing | 43m$^2$ | 0m$^2$ | Shortfall 43m$^2$ |
| 2026 most likely scenario | 49m$^2$ | 0m$^2$ | Shortfall 49m$^2$ |
| 2026 Game Plan adjusted | 59m$^2$ | 0m$^2$ | Shortfall 59m$^2$ |

5.37 It is clear that potential demand levels in the Battle analysis area alone are not significant enough to warrant a swimming pool.

***Sports halls***

5.38 Using 2001 Census information, demand levels equate to a total of one badminton court within the analysis area. The demand model calculates, using projected population statistics, that in 2026 this demand will remain at one badminton court.

5.39 One dual use sports hall is included in the model. When applying the modelling assumptions regarding accessibility for dual use sites (the capacity for dual use sites is reduced by 25% to reflect the balance of school access and public access), the result is an existing supply level of three badminton courts. The results of the model under different scenarios are illustrated in Table 5.9.

***Table 5.9 Sports hall oversupply/shortfall***

| Scenarios | Demand | Supply | Oversupply/shortfall |
|---|---|---|---|
| Existing | 1 badminton court | 3 badminton courts | Oversupply 2 badminton courts |
| 2026 most likely scenario | 1 badminton court | 3 badminton courts | Oversupply 2 badminton courts |
| 2026 Game Plan adjusted | 2 badminton courts | 3 badminton courts | Oversupply 1 badminton court |

5.40 There is currently a healthy oversupply of provision in the Battle analysis area. However no action is required, as population changes will slowly lower the level of oversupply.

***Health and fitness***

5.41 Using 2001 Census information, demand levels equate to a total of 21 stations within the analysis area. The demand model calculates, using projected population statistics, that in 2026 this demand will increase to 23 stations.

5.42 There is one public health and fitness facility included in the model. The oversupply/shortfall is illustrated in Table 5.10 below.

***Table 5.10 Health and fitness oversupply/shortfall***

| Scenarios | Demand | Supply | Oversupply/shortfall |
|---|---|---|---|
| Existing | 21 stations | 20 stations | Shortfall 1 station |
| 2026 most likely scenario | 23 stations | 20 stations | Shortfall 3 stations |

5.43 Supply very closely matches demand in the Battle area for health and fitness. Any decision to increase the number of machines at the Battle Area Sports Centre would need to be a commercial decision for the operator.

***Indoor bowls***

5.44 There are currently no public or private indoor bowls facilities within the Battle area, the results of which can be seen in Table 5.11 below.

***Table 5.11 Indoor bowls oversupply/shortfall***

| Scenarios | Demand | Supply | Oversupply/shortfall |
|---|---|---|---|
| Existing | 0.40 rinks | 0 rinks | Shortfall 0.40 rinks |
| 2026 | 0.46 rinks | 0 rinks | Shortfall 0.46 rinks |

5.45 Table 5.11 shows that demand levels for indoor bowls in the Battle area are not significant enough to warrant a facility.

**Bexhill**

***Swimming pools***

5.46 Using 2001 Census information, demand levels equate to a total of 333m$^2$ of pool space within the analysis area. The demand model calculates, using projected population statistics, that in 2026 this demand will increase to 376m$^2$.

5.47 There is currently one public swimming pool facility within the Bexhill area, the Bexhill Leisure Pool. It should be noted, however that lane swimming is only available for approximately 43 hours a week. There are two private swimming pools, however these were not included in the model. Table 5.12 overleaf illustrates the level of over/undersupply.

***Table 5.12 Swimming pool oversupply/shortfall***

| Scenarios | Demand | Supply | Oversupply/shortfall |
|---|---|---|---|
| Existing | 333m$^2$ | 200m$^2$ | Shortfall 133m$^2$ |
| 2026 most likely scenario | 376m$^2$ | 200m$^2$ | Shortfall 176m$^2$ |
| 2026 Game Plan adjusted | 455m$^2$ | 200m$^2$ | Shortfall 255m$^2$ |

5.48 There is a clear shortfall in Bexhill for swimming water and this situation is more acute than it seems due to the part time role of the Leisure Pool facility. The supply can be countered by gaining public access to one of the two private facilities or by increasing the size of the Council owned facility in any future move.

***Sports halls***

5.49 Using 2001 Census information, demand levels equate to a total of 10 badminton courts within the analysis area. The demand model calculates, using projected population statistics, that in 2026 this demand will increase to 11 badminton courts.

5.50 There are four sports halls within the Bexhill analysis area, however two facilities are private access and are therefore not included within the modelling.

5.51 When applying the modelling assumptions regarding accessibility for dual use sites (the capacity for dual use sites is reduced by 25% to reflect the balance of school access and public access), the result is an existing shortfall of three badminton courts. The results of the model under different scenarios are illustrated in Table 5.13.

***Table 5.13 Sports hall oversupply/shortfall***

| Scenarios | Demand | Supply | Oversupply/shortfall |
|---|---|---|---|
| Existing | 10 badminton courts | 7 badminton courts | Shortfall 3 badminton courts |
| 2026 most likely scenario | 11 badminton courts | 7 badminton courts | Shortfall 4 badminton courts |
| 2026 Game Plan adjusted | 13 badminton courts | 7 badminton courts | Shortfall 6 badminton courts |

5.52 The current and future shortfall of sports halls in the Bexhill area can be met by gaining access to private/school facilities.

***Health and fitness***

5.53 Using 2001 Census information, demand levels equate to a total of 179 stations within the analysis area. The demand model calculates, using projected population statistics, that in 2026 this demand will increase to 202 stations.

5.54 There are five health and fitness facilities included in the model. The oversupply/shortfall is illustrated in Table 5.14 below.

***Table 5.14 Health and fitness oversupply/shortfall***

| Scenarios | Demand | Supply | Oversupply/shortfall |
|---|---|---|---|
| Existing | 179 stations | 99 stations | Shortfall 80 stations |
| 2026 most likely scenario | 202 stations | 99 stations | Shortfall 103 stations |

5.55 There is a clear shortfall of health and fitness stations in the Bexhill area. The public facility at the Leisure Pool only has fifteen stations and consideration should be given to see if enlargement is possible.

***Indoor bowls***

5.56 There are two indoor bowls facilities within the Bexhill area, one public and one private. The results of the Sport England modelling can be seen in Table 5.15 below.

***Table 5.15 Indoor bowls oversupply/shortfall***

| Scenarios | Demand | Supply | Oversupply/shortfall |
|---|---|---|---|
| Existing | 3.43 rinks | 6 rinks | Oversupply 2.57 rinks |
| 2026 | 3.87 rinks | 6 rinks | Oversupply 2.13 rinks |

5.57 Both of the indoor bowls facilities in the District are based within the Bexhill area. This has created a situation of excess supply for this area. As the Gullivers site contains only two rinks, it makes more sense to consider a future disposal of this rather than the site at Egerton Park. Such a course of action should only occur if membership levels drop to uneconomic levels and alternative sporting uses for the site should be considered before disposal.

**East Rother**

***Swimming pools***

5.58 Using 2001 Census information, demand levels equate to a total of 151m$^2$ of pool space within the analysis area. The demand model calculates, using projected population statistics, that in 2026 this demand will increase to 170m$^2$.

5.59 There is currently one public swimming facility within the East Rother analysis area. The one facility in this region at the Flackley Ash Hotel, is private but is available to the public. The oversupply/shortfall is illustrated in Table 5.16 overleaf.

***Table 5.16 Swimming pool oversupply/shortfall***

| Scenarios | Demand | Supply | Oversupply/shortfall |
|---|---|---|---|
| Existing | 151m$^2$ | 43.8m$^2$ | Shortfall 107m$^2$ |
| 2026 most likely scenario | 170m$^2$ | 43.8m$^2$ | Shortfall 127m$^2$ |
| 2026 Game Plan adjusted | 206m$^2$ | 43.8m$^2$ | Shortfall 162m$^2$ |

5.60 The shortfall is equivalent to approximately two lanes of a 25m pool. Unfortunately this makes the provision of such a facility unfeasible and not economic. In addition there is not a town or village with a large enough urban mass to support such a facility. Therefore new swimming provision in this area is not recommended despite the shortfall, particularly as the vast majority of residents would use the pool at Rye

***Sports halls***

5.61 There are currently no public or dual use sports halls within the East Rother area that comply with our modelling criteria. It is important to note that there is a planned dual use two court hall to be developed at Northiam Primary School, however this was not included in the model. The oversupply/shortfall is illustrated in Table 5.17 below.

***Table 5.17 Sports hall oversupply/shortfall***

| Scenarios | Demand | Supply | Oversupply/shortfall |
|---|---|---|---|
| Existing | 4 badminton courts | 0 badminton courts | Shortfall 4 badminton courts |
| 2026 most likely scenario | 5 badminton courts | 0 badminton courts | Shortfall 5 badminton courts |
| 2026 Game Plan adjusted | 6 badminton courts | 0 badminton courts | Shortfall 6 badminton courts |

5.62 There are no public courts in the area which results in a large shortfall of courts. However, there are a large number of schools and community halls that serve a similar role in the rural areas. The role of such facilities is considered later in this chapter. New sports hall provision is not recommended in light of this, the future provision at Northiam Primary School and the usage of facilities in Rye.

***Health and fitness***

5.63 Using 2001 Census information, demand levels equate to a total of 74 stations within the analysis area. The demand model calculates, using projected population statistics, that in 2026 this demand will increase to 83 stations.

5.64 There is one health and fitness facility included in the model. The oversupply/shortfall is illustrated in Table 5.18 below.

***Table 5.18 Health and fitness oversupply/shortfall***

| Scenarios | Demand | Supply | Oversupply/shortfall |
|---|---|---|---|
| Existing | 74 stations | 12 stations | Shortfall 62 stations |
| 2026 most likely scenario | 83 stations | 12 stations | Shortfall 71 stations |

5.65 On first view there appears to be significant health and fitness demand in the East Rother analysis area that is not being met. However, with the lack of major urban areas within East Rother it is extremely hard to justify that there is a demand to support such a facility. For example the Ticehurst area has a population of just 3,393 which equates to a demand of approximately 15 stations. Unfortunately facilities of this size without complimentary facilities are not economic, therefore, it is recommended that no action should be taken.

***Indoor bowls***

5.66 There are no indoor bowls facilities within the East Rother analysis area. The results of the Sport England modelling can be seen in Table 5.19 below.

***Table 5.19 Indoor bowls oversupply/shortfall***

| Scenarios | Demand | Supply | Oversupply/shortfall |
|---|---|---|---|
| Existing | 1.5 rinks | 0 rinks | Shortfall 1.5 rinks |
| 2026 | 1.69 rinks | 0 rinks | Shortfall 1.69 rinks |

5.67 Without a significant rise in population levels, there is no demand for an indoor bowls facility in the East Rother area.

**Rye**

***Swimming pools***

5.68 Using 2001 Census information, demand levels equate to a total of 36m$^2$ of pool space within the analysis area. The demand model calculates, using projected population statistics, that in 2026 this demand will increase to 41m$^2$.

5.69 There is currently one public swimming facility within the Rye area. The oversupply/shortfall is illustrated in Table 5.20 below.

***Table 5.20 Swimming pool oversupply/shortfall***

| Scenarios | Demand | Supply | Oversupply/shortfall |
|---|---|---|---|
| Existing | 36m$^2$ | 200m$^2$ | Oversupply 164m$^2$ |
| 2026 most likely scenario | 41m$^2$ | 200m$^2$ | Oversupply 159m$^2$ |
| 2026 Game Plan adjusted | 49m$^2$ | 200m$^2$ | Oversupply 151m$^2$ |

5.70 Table 5.20 shows there is currently a significant oversupply of swimming water in the Rye area, which is due to the fact that the Rye area attracts a large number of people from outlying areas. As a result no further action is required.

***Sports halls***

5.71 There is one public sports hall within the Rye area that complies with our modelling criteria. The oversupply/shortfall is illustrated in Table 5.21 overleaf.

***Table 5.21 Sports hall oversupply/shortfall***

| Scenarios | Demand | Supply | Oversupply/shortfall |
|---|---|---|---|
| Existing | 1 badminton court | 4 badminton courts | Oversupply 3 badminton courts |
| 2026 most likely scenario | 1 badminton court | 4 badminton courts | Oversupply 3 badminton courts |
| 2026 Game Plan adjusted | 1 badminton court | 4 badminton courts | Oversupply 3 badminton courts |

5.72 As per swimming water, Rye has an oversupply of facilities because of its role in serving the wider rural community. As a result there is no need to take any action in this area.

***Health and fitness***

5.73 Using 2001 Census information, demand levels equate to a total of 18 stations within the analysis area. The demand model calculates, using projected population statistics, that in 2026 this demand will increase to 20 stations.

5.74 There are three health and fitness facilities included in the model. The oversupply/shortfall is illustrated in Table 5.22 below.

***Table 5.22 Health and fitness oversupply/shortfall***

| Scenarios | Demand | Supply | Oversupply/shortfall |
|---|---|---|---|
| Existing | 18 stations | 72 stations | Oversupply 54stations |
| 2026 most likely scenario | 20 stations | 72 stations | Oversupply 52 stations |

5.75 There is one public and two private facilities in Rye, providing a healthy choice for local residents. As per other facilities, the Rye area serves the wider rural community therefore there is no need to take any action in relation to this oversupply.

***Indoor bowls***

5.76 There are no indoor bowls facilities within the Rye area. The results of the Sport England modelling can be seen in Table 5.23 below.

***Table 5.23 Indoor bowls oversupply/shortfall***

| Scenarios | Demand | Supply | Oversupply/shortfall |
|---|---|---|---|
| Existing | 0.34 rinks | 0 rinks | Shortfall 0.34 rinks |
| 2026 | 0.38 rinks | 0 rinks | Shortfall 0.38 rinks |

5.77 Table 5.23 shows the level of demand for indoor bowls in Rye is negligible. There is no need for action in this area.

**West Rother**

***Swimming pools***

5.78 Using 2001 Census information, demand levels equate to a total of 176m$^2$ of pool space within the analysis area. The demand model calculates, using projected population statistics, that in 2026 this demand will increase to 198m$^2$.

5.79 There is currently no public swimming facility within the West Rother area. There are three private swimming facilities, however these have not been included within the model. The oversupply/shortfall is illustrated in Table 5.24 below.

***Table 5.24 Swimming pool oversupply/shortfall***

| Scenarios | Demand | Supply | Oversupply/shortfall |
|---|---|---|---|
| Existing | 176m$^2$ | 0m$^2$ | Shortfall 176m$^2$ |
| 2026 most likely scenario | 198m$^2$ | 0m$^2$ | Shortfall 198m$^2$ |
| 2026 Game Plan adjusted | 240m$^2$ | 0m$^2$ | Shortfall 240m$^2$ |

5.80 The level of demand for swimming water in West Rother is equivalent to a three or four lane 25m pool. However, there is no single town or village with a large enough demand to make such a facility viable. Therefore new provision is not recommended for this area.

***Sports halls***

5.81 There are no public sports halls within the West Rother area that comply with our modelling criteria. The oversupply/shortfall is illustrated in Table 5.25 below.

***Table 5.25 Sports hall oversupply/shortfall***

| Scenarios | Demand | Supply | Oversupply/shortfall |
|---|---|---|---|
| Existing | 6 badminton courts | 0 badminton courts | Shortfall 6 badminton courts |
| 2026 most likely scenario | 6 badminton courts | 0 badminton courts | Shortfall 6 badminton courts |
| 2026 Game Plan adjusted | 8 badminton courts | 0 badminton courts | Shortfall 8 badminton courts |

5.82 As per swimming water in this area, there is a clear shortfall of sports halls but the rural nature of the area means there is nowhere with a large enough demand to warrant a three court facility. In the rural areas schools and community halls often replicate the role of a sports hall and this is examined in greater detail elsewhere in this chapter.

***Health and fitness***

5.83 Using 2001 Census information, demand levels equate to a total of 77 stations within the analysis area. The demand model calculates, using projected population statistics, that in 2026 this demand will increase to 86 stations.

5.84 There are three health and fitness facilities included within the model. However, it should be noted that all of the health and fitness facilities only offer private membership. The oversupply/shortfall is illustrated in Table 5.26 below.

***Table 5.26 Health and fitness oversupply/shortfall***

| Scenarios | Demand | Supply | Oversupply/shortfall |
|---|---|---|---|
| Existing | 77 stations | 93 stations | Oversupply 16 stations |
| 2026 most likely scenario | 86 stations | 93 stations | Oversupply 7 stations |

5.85 The Bannatynes health club on the border of the District is the reason why demand exceeds supply in this area. This facility is aimed at residents of St Leonards on Sea however its location makes it highly accessible to the West Rother area too. There is no need for the Council to take any action in this area.

***Indoor bowls***

5.86 There are no indoor bowls facilities within the West Rother area. The results of the Sport England modelling can be seen in Table 5.27 below.

***Table 5.27 Indoor bowls oversupply/shortfall***

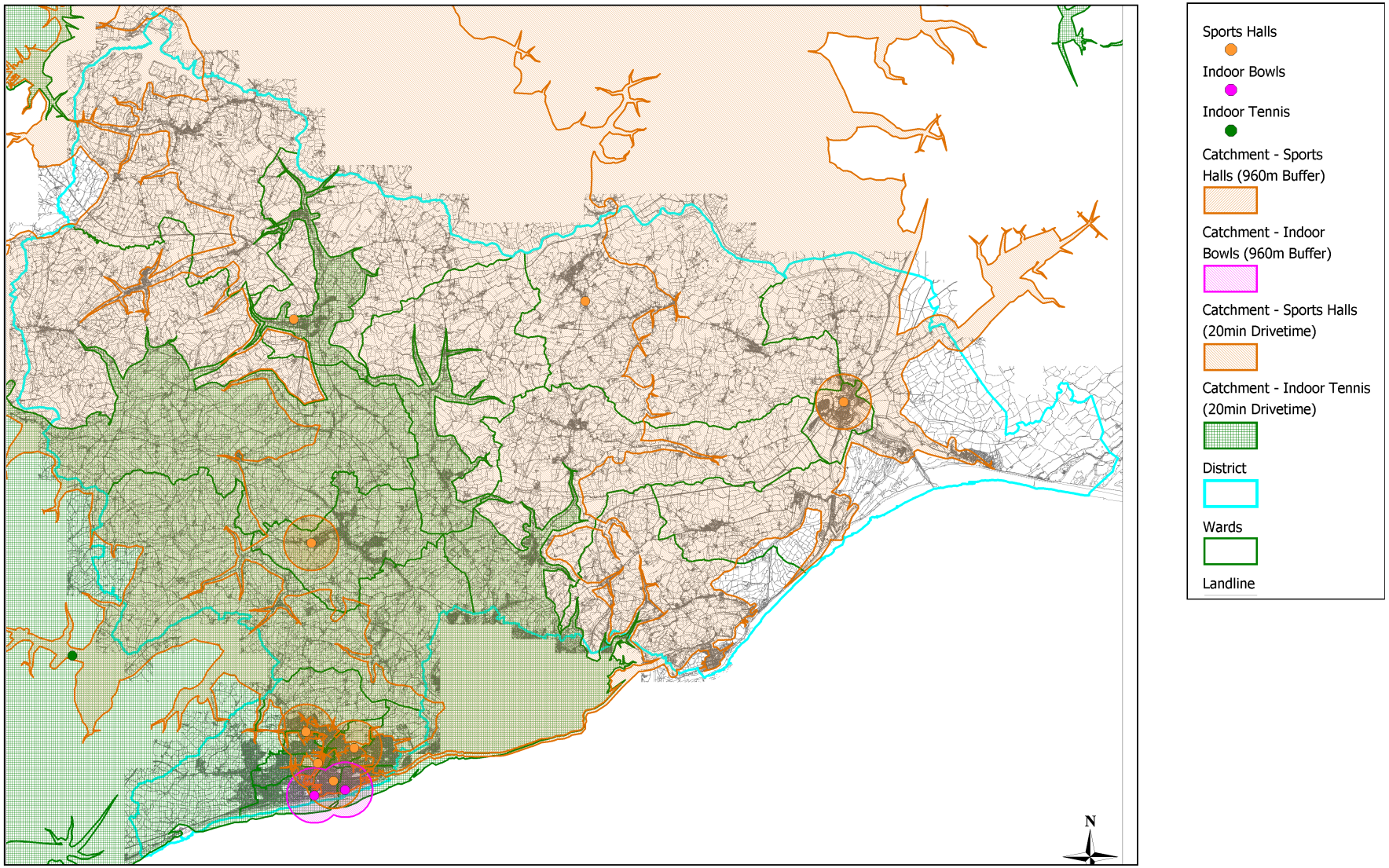
| Scenarios | Demand | Supply | Oversupply/shortfall |
|---|---|---|---|
| Existing | 1.56 rinks | 0 rinks | Shortfall 1.56 rinks |
| 2026 | 1.77 rinks | 0 rinks | Shortfall 1.77 rinks |

5.87 Table 5.27 shows that the level of demand for indoor bowls facilities in West Rother is negligible. Therefore, there is no need for the Council to take any action in this area.

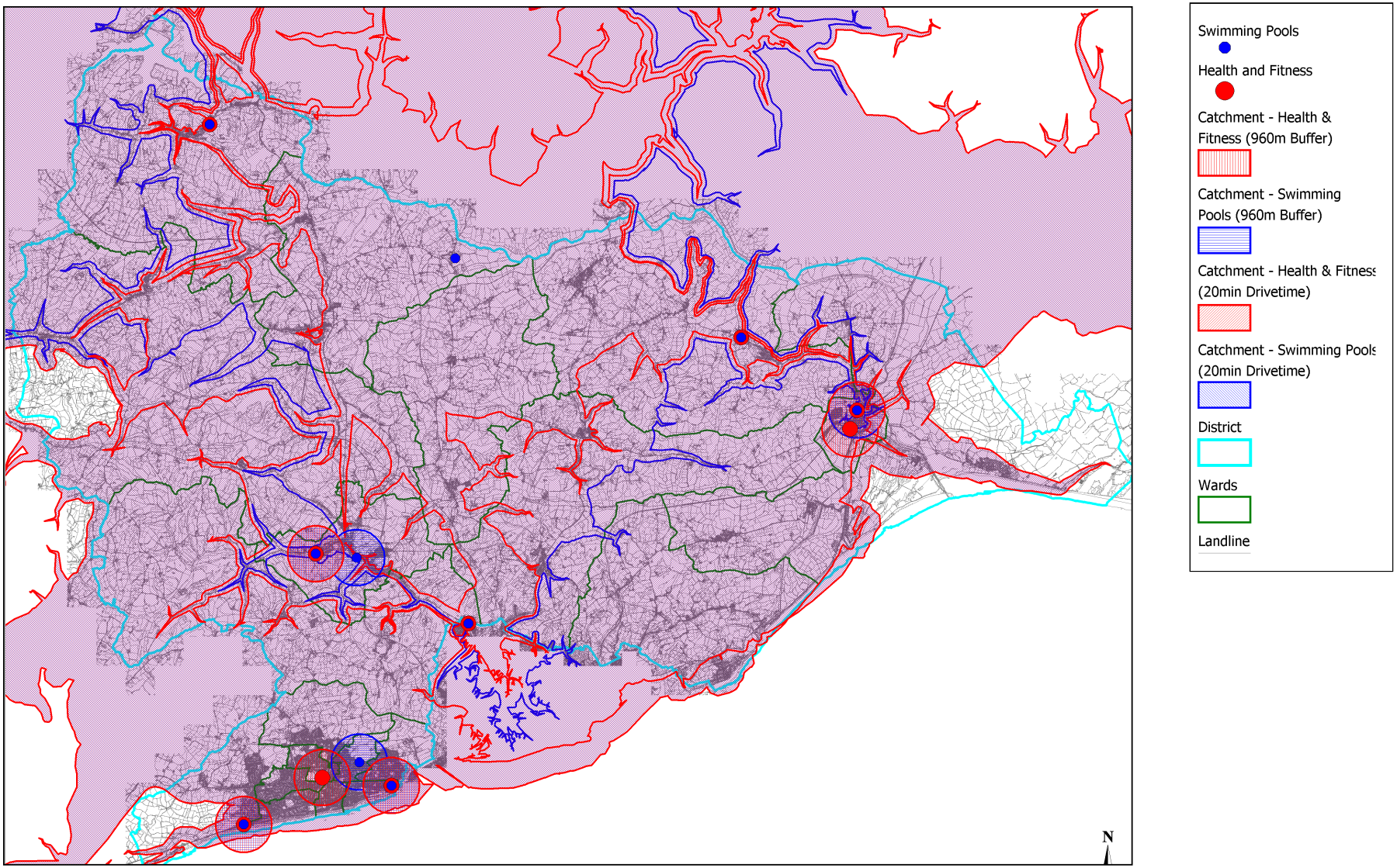
**Accessibility mapping**

5.88 Maps 5.1 and 5.2 overleaf show the accessibility catchments for indoor sport facilities in the District. In line with CPA guidelines, catchments of a 20 minute walktime (960 metres) for facilities in urban areas and 20 minute drivetime for rural areas have been adopted.

***Map 5.1 Accessibility catchment mapping for sports halls, indoor bowls and indoor tennis***



***Map 5.2 Accessibility catchment mapping for swimming pools and health and fitness***



5.89 The accessibility mapping exercise shows there are few provision gaps for indoor sports facilities in the Rother District. The most significant gap relates to indoor tennis which is unsurprising as they are no facilities within the District. The facilities outside the District, however, do cover a sizable proportion of the south west of the District.

5.90 Indoor bowls provision is limited to the Bexhill area and there is a significant overlap in terms of catchment areas. The situation for sports halls is quite the opposite with only the far east of the District without access. However from an urban perspective there are a significant number of people in the Battle and Bexhill areas without access in a 20 minute walktime (960 metres).

5.91 Swimming provision in the District is similar to sports hall provision with only the far east area again without access within a 20 minutes drivetime. There are a smaller number of health and fitness sites however catchment areas are very similar in the rural areas but more limited in the urban areas.

**Overall District-wide conclusions**

5.92 Unlike some open space typologies, new provision of indoor sporting facilities to complete quantity and accessibility gaps is problematic due to the high capital and maintenance costs associated with such facilities. In order to make such facilities as viable as possible it is important that they are located in areas of high population density. Unfortunately this makes new facility provision in all areas but Bexhill problematic due to the small population levels in the rest of the District.

5.93 Due to the small population evident in all areas outside of Bexhill, the role of community halls becomes important. In most PPG 17 studies undertaken by PMP there have been significant accessibility gaps for sports halls where it would be expected that community halls would address access issues however this is not the case in the Rother District. This does not lessen the role of such halls however, and it is important that all urban settlements have access to such a facility. It should be an aim for the Council that each community hall is accessible to all, has sufficient roof space to allow for a single badminton court and a floor type suitable for a range of activities.

5.94 Each facility type will now be addressed in turn.

***Indoor tennis***

5.95 There is a clear latent demand for indoor tennis facilities in the District. The only analysis area with a large enough resident population to sustain such a facility is the Bexhill area and it should be a long-term aim for the Council to have such a facility although it is not necessarily the Council's responsibility to provide one

| | |
|---|---|
| **ISF 1** | The Council to aim for indoor tennis facilities in Bexhill in the long term. |

***Indoor bowls***

5.96 All areas of the District have an undersupply of indoor bowls provision except for Bexhill that has an oversupply of rinks and an overlapping catchment area of facilities. Sport England guidelines state that a population of between 14,000 to 17,000 people is needed to serve such a six rink facility, therefore it is not feasible for any areas except Bexhill to have such a facility. In many areas the availability of short mat bowls in community buildings compensates for the lack of more formal facilities.

5.97 It is not recommended that the level of provision in Bexhill be reduced unless there is a drastic reduction in usage at either site. However the potential relocation of either site to increase accessibility should be considered.

***Swimming pools***

5.98 Levels of provision vary widely throughout the different analysis areas. In the Bexhill analysis area there is a clear undersupply and this is further heightened by the leisure pool only having a limited amount of lane swimming available. In the short term the Council could seek to gain formal access agreements to sites that currently provide to public access. In the longer term a new facility with an enlarged, dedicated lane swimming area is recommended.

| | |
|---|---|
| **ISF 2** | The Council to provide a replacement lane swimming facility in the long term in the Bexhill area. |

5.99 Rye swimming pool serves not only the Rye area but also the wider rural area. In the longer term such a facility in Battle is recommended as it would serve a similar function to the facility in Rye. However it is likely to need considerable subsidies due to relatively low usage levels. Ideally it would be part of a school development in order to increase usage and maximise operational benefits.

| | |
|---|---|
| **ISF 3** | The Council to give long term consideration to a new swimming facility in the Battle area. |

***Sports halls***

5.100 Three analysis areas of Rother currently show an undersupply of sports halls: West Rother, East Rother and Bexhill. Unfortunately new facilities in East and West Rother are not viable due to the lack of a town with a large enough resident population. In Bexhill there are significant opportunities to increase provision levels through the use of dual-use agreements with local schools. It is recommended that the Council investigate the feasibility of the usage of school sports facilities further.

| | |
|---|---|
| **ISF 4** | The Council to investigate the possibility of facilitating access to school sports halls facilities in Bexhill. |

***Health and fitness***

5.101 Only the East Rother and Bexhill areas have a significant undersupply of health and fitness stations. In the East Rother area it is not felt that new facilities would be feasible due to the small populations in the major towns. The same situation is true of West Rother but the Bannatynes facility on the edge of St Leonard's masks this scenario.

5.102 In Bexhill the Council, in conjunction with Freedom Leisure, should investigate the feasibility of increasing provision at any of its sites. In particular the leisure pool has a small number of facilities.

| | |
|---|---|
| **ISF 5** | The Council to investigate the feasibility of increasing the number of health and fitness stations at its own sites. |