

**London Borough of Islington
Sports Facilities Update 2018**

Final Report



ISLINGTON



CONTINUUM
SPORT & LEISURE LTD

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Amendment History

Version no.	Date	Reference	Authors	Comments
1	10-08-18	Facilities Update: First Working Draft Report August 2018 – Confidential Internal Client Only Copy	Grace Clancey Michael Salmon John Chapman	First working draft for review
2	20-08-18	Updated section 6	Michael Salmon	
3	12-11-18	Final Report with addition of Executive Summary & Conclusion	John Chapman	Incorporates feedback on Client Draft
4	13-11-18	Final Report with addition of Executive Summary & Conclusion	Michael Salmon	Incorporates proof read of document
5	30-05-19	Final Report with addition of recommended action at request of Sport England	John Chapman	Incorporates feedback from Sport England

Client Distribution List

Name	Position
Mark Christodoulou	Head of Leisure – Islington Council
Ben Johnson	Planning Policy Team - Islington Council
Mike Carless	Planning Policy Team - Islington Council

CONTENTS

<i>Executive Summary</i>	4
1. Introduction and Purpose	13
2. Methodology	16
3. Islington Context	23
4. Strategy and Policy	35
5. Consultation and Engagement	41
6. Facility Analysis	74
7. Summary of Needs & Priority Sites	151
8. Conclusion	159

Appendices

- A. Site Audits
- B. Park Pitches and Tennis Centre Bookings
- C. Islington Football Teams / FA 3G Scenarios
- D. Pitch Sports Team Generation Rates
- E. Map of Community Centres in Islington

Executive Summary

Islington's last assessment of facility needs for sport was undertaken nearly ten years ago. The *Open Space, Sports and Recreation Assessment (2009)* informed the borough's current planning policies for open space and sports facilities. Of particular relevance is the Islington Core Strategy, adopted in 2011. Policy 17 of the Core Strategy highlights the importance of promoting sport and physical activity to reducing health inequalities in the borough and seeks to:

- Safeguard existing facility provision
- Improve existing facilities to maximise their use
- Increase access to school facilities
- Maximise opportunities for sport and recreation in community centres
- Use the Olympics to promote opportunities for sport and physical activity.

Islington's Local Plan is currently being reviewed, to include the Core Strategy, Site Allocations Plan and Development Management Policies for the period to 2036. This review is framed within the wider policy context of the London Plan and the Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), itself updated in July 2018.

In this context, in 2017 Islington Council's Planning Service commissioned this update of sports facility needs and priorities to form part of the evidence base for the new Local Plan. At the same time, the Council commissioned consultants to update a physical activity needs assessment (PANA). Consultation to inform the updated PANA and the findings of this work have informed the findings of this update of sports facility needs.

National guidance for preparing sports facility needs assessments has also been updated since the last review. The 2009 assessment followed PPG 17, the relevant published national Planning Policy Guidance for sports and recreation facilities at the time. This updated review follows the guidance methodology published by Sport England in 2014 - *Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities*.

With respect to outdoor playing pitches, Sport England has published separate guidance. In light of the very small supply of natural turf pitches in Islington, at the outset, the Council agreed with Sport England a proportionate approach to the assessment of need for playing pitches. The agreed approach was to check/challenge pitch supply and demand data and emerging findings by means of email and phone consultation with the relevant pitch sport governing bodies, as opposed to meetings of a Steering Group. It was also agreed to consider the extent to which demand is exported to available playing pitches in neighbouring boroughs.

Since the last review, Islington has seen substantial investment in the public realm including parks and housing estates as well as the provision of new and upgraded built facilities for sport and facility reconfigurations in response to changing demand trends. Notable sports facility projects over the period include major upgrades of Ironmonger Row Baths and Archway Leisure Centre; new sports flooring, outdoor small sided football pitches and installation of a modern trampoline centre at the Sobell Centre; enhancements to the Market Road Football Centre, Islington Tennis Centre and Highbury Fields Tennis Courts; new indoor facilities for sport at the Arsenal Hub (indoor football) and City Sport (London City University). In summer 2018, further investment was made in resurfacing the artificial pitches in Whittington Park, Rosemary Gardens and Paradise Park.

Highbury Leisure Centre was also substantially refurbished and extended prior to suffering fire damage enforcing temporary closure in October 2018. The 4,300 members of this popular facility have been provided with access to alternative fitness gyms across London pending re-opening of the gym facilities scheduled for early 2019, while arrangements are in place to accommodate the school, swim club and public swimming programmes at Archway and Cally pools with extended opening hours.

In summary, the main findings of this sports facility needs assessment - against measures of the *quantity, quality, accessibility and availability* of the existing provision - are as follows:

- The Cally Corridor and Bemerton Estate represents an area within the borough which has a clear deficit in low cost, accessible sports facility provision and is one of the main areas in the borough where residents in the PANA research report the most barriers to being more active. Facility enhancement at Barnard Park is identified as a priority in this area.
- The demand and need for a new replacement sports centre in the Finsbury (Bunhill & Clerkenwell) area in the south of the borough is recognised as a key future part of the regeneration plan for this area.
- The current leisure centre offer, whilst having achieved some good results since the investment has taken place, still remains lower priority for residents in solving the issues around being more active. Future provision and investment should look to deliver a community-led focus on activities, facilities, pricing and programming to address barriers to access and availability.
- With regard to estate-based facility provision, greater focus should be afforded to ensuring that the facilities are suitable for a good range of sports and physical activities - e.g. ceiling heights, dimensions, lighting and ventilation of community halls and size of MUGAs to enable use by young people, not just young children.
- A number of key indoor sports for Islington (netball and basketball in particular) are struggling to meet the needs of their clubs' training requirements with both the cost of hire of school sports halls, lack of security of access and school exam periods.
- Parts of the Islington Schools estate needs significant investment and the timing could represent a good opportunity for the sports facilities identified within this strategy to be considered within the business case being put forward. Investment into those facilities to secure community access could impact positively on health and wellbeing.
- The training and competition programme of the borough's well supported swimming club (Anaconda SC) is dispersed across four pools of which only one is suitable for district level competition. The club has long aspired to secure an 8-lane competition pool with capacity for spectators to complement the existing large competition pools in neighbouring Camden (Swiss Cottage) and Hackney (Clissold). However, there are higher priority swimming facility needs in the borough including repairing and reopening the Highbury Leisure Centre pools following fire damage, improvements to Holloway School pool plant to improve efficiency and the need to replace the outdated Cally Pools.
- The recently upgraded facilities for football in the borough at Market Road (and their management) are particularly highly regarded by the two large football leagues that operate at this site. However, the pitches operate at full capacity in the peak period and the lack of playing capacity in the borough leads to substantial levels of unmet and exported football demand to outer London boroughs, Essex and Hertfordshire (particularly for 11v11 league football for those transitioning from youth leagues in the area. Given the shortfall in borough supply, the quantity of football pitch provision needs to be retained in plans to replace the Finsbury Leisure Centre, options to increase the playing capacity at Tufnell Park should continue to be explored and further provision of FA compliant 3G pitches is needed should opportunities arise.
- There is also a shortfall in playing pitches for cricket and rugby in the borough. To provide better for these sports, the existing facilities for cricket at Wray Crescent need improving (new artificial cricket wicket and changing pavilion), as do the grass pitches in Paradise Park used for touch rugby. Installing a rugby shock-pad as part of the proposals for a new football 3G pitch in Barnard Park should also be considered.
- With no sand based artificial grass pitches (AGPs) in Islington of suitable size for competition hockey, and a large shortfall of hockey compliant pitches throughout London, any opportunity that may arise to provide a hockey AGP (e.g. in association with new or redeveloped secondary schools) should be actively pursued, although it is recognised that addressing this facility need will be very challenging in view of the lack of available land in the borough and competing demands from football.

- o Islington is a priority borough for several of the National Governing Bodies of Sport:

Boxing - the governing body and other consultees highlight the key role of Islington Boxing Club in the community and the need for an enhanced or new building to accommodate and grow the club's activities.

Water Sports - the key role of Islington Boat Club in providing opportunities for sailing, canoeing etc. to young people from a range of backgrounds in an urban area has been highlighted in the consultation.

Tennis - the LTA endorses the key sub regional role of the Market Road Tennis Centre and of the high quality, highly accessible courts at Highbury Fields.

Netball - the borough is home to the 2017 Netball Club of the Year and has good quantity and quality of courts (both indoor and outdoor) for social, commercial and EN affiliated leagues. The planned replacement of the Finsbury Leisure Centre sports hall with a 6 court hall to meet competition netball dimensions is strongly supported by England Netball. Maintaining affordable access and availability of facilities on park sites (e.g. Highbury Fields) and on unsecured education sites will be the main facility considerations for netball in the future.

- o Other leading sports in the borough in terms of popularity and growth in demand identified in the research and consultation are *Swimming, Gymnastics, Table Tennis, Basketball and Cycling*. In the sports of cycling and gymnastics, there is a needs case for provision of specialist facilities subject to identifying suitable sites, securing funding and demonstrating long term sustainability. Demand for basketball is particularly strong and growing. Islington Panthers, competing in the national league, based in the sports hall at St Aloysius College (just outside the borough boundary), is faced with meeting full caretaking costs from next year and has high levels of latent demand (e.g. from primary age children) which it is unable to accommodate without securing more sports hall access on Sundays at rates parents can afford.

Islington is not a priority *transition local authority* for Sport England in light of its high physical activity rates relative to many London boroughs. Sport England strongly endorses the ProActive model across Islington and Camden with its strong focus on sport participation as a driver of public health outcomes. This model aligns closely with Sport England's *strategic vision model* for sports facilities and services to achieve local evidence-based priorities.

Through the consultation and research carried out for this facility needs assessment, it is evident that the priorities identified will contribute directly to the strategic aims of Islington Council and key partner organisations for sport through increasing opportunities to be active, and reducing health inequalities by developing long term sustainable community approaches that enable residents to build physical activity into the fabric of their lives.

This Needs Assessment has identified priority investment opportunities as the basis for future strategic planning by the relevant council services and external partners for their delivery and implementation at a local level. Delivery of the identified facility needs, informed by the findings of the updated Physical Activity Needs Assessment, will support a sustained increase in participation in sport and physical activity in Islington borough with focus on communities of greatest need in accordance with the Council's strategic vision.

Facilities in need of protection from development, those in need of enhancement and needs for new facility provision to address gaps in supply are shown in the first table below and will inform the Council's review of its Local Plan and policies for sport and recreation.

The final table identifies the priority projects/sites to be addressed by the council in partnership with other stakeholders together with suggested next steps and potential sources for the necessary capital funding. These priorities are put forward and as the basis for future strategic planning by relevant council services - i.e. Planning/Regeneration, Public Realm/Sport, Housing and Education - for their delivery and implementation.

Finally, in the case of most sports, and the playing pitch sports in particular, demand generated by Islington Borough residents is met by facility supply in neighbouring boroughs. In view of the high levels of exported demand, and the scarce availability of land in the borough for additional supply, it is strongly recommended that the Council and the relevant sports' national governing bodies should:

- Monitor access to facilities in neighbouring boroughs so Islington residents continue to have use of these facilities.
- Work closely with neighbouring Council's to ensure that Islington's existing and future exported demand is accommodated.

London Borough of Islington Sports Facilities Update 2018
Final Report

Facility Needs by Sport Facility Type

Sport Facility	Protect	Enhance	Provide
Swimming Pools	<p>Protect the existing quantity of supply of swimming pool provision across Islington as a minimum. <i>(including the Highbury Leisure Centre pools currently closed pending repair following fire damage).</i></p> <p>Ensure that the per capita swimming pool supply does not fall below 13m² of water space per 1,000 of the population.</p>	<p>Enhance the quality of the swimming pool provision within the borough as well as accessibility for the community at school based pools and promotion of this availability.</p> <p>Priority sites to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Holloway School plant (subject to technical report findings). ○ Cally Pools (as part of larger regeneration proposals for the Cally area) ○ Cosmetic upgrades to the pool tiles at Archway Leisure Centre subject to detailed assessment. 	<p>Regularly review needs with Sport England and Swim England in relation to changes in supply and population growth in the borough and neighbouring boroughs.</p>
Sports & Activity Halls	<p>Protect the existing quantity of supply of sports hall provision across Islington at a minimum.</p> <p>Ensure that the per capita sports hall supply does not fall below 2.80 courts per 10,000 of the population.</p>	<p>Enhance the quality of the sports hall provision within the borough's leading schools, as well as protect and enhance accessibility at affordable rates for sports clubs and groups and promotion of this availability.</p> <p>Priority sites to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Central Foundation School (if feasible, expand on school's current plans to provide a 3-court hall) ○ Highbury Fields School ○ St Aloysius College (options at this site or others to secure more affordable access for Panthers Basketball) 	<p>Replacement Sports Hall to be provided at Finsbury Leisure Centre (6 courts to meet Sport England and England Netball specifications for club level competition level) and consider potential for club basketball (e.g. Panthers satellite).</p> <p>Include Community Use Agreements as part of planning conditions for any new or extended education sports halls as part of new schools or school expansions to accommodate forecasted population growth.</p> <p>Work towards a target of 3.00 courts per 10,000 (the current London average).</p>
Health & Fitness Suites	<p>Protect the existing quantity health and fitness supply at all GLL run leisure centres <i>(including at Highbury Leisure Centre temporarily closed following a fire)</i> and, through the leisure management contract terms and programming and pricing policies, protect pay and play access at affordable rates.</p>	<p>Review with community management organisations the enhancement needs of gyms where these are provided in community centres and tenant halls on housing estates with a view to improving the quality and provide programmes to attract inactive/insufficiently active local residents. Improve the accessibility of facilities on school sites for the community and the promotion of this availability.</p>	<p>Consider options to provide additional outdoor gyms where appropriate.</p> <p>Support the leisure operator to enhance/re-model existing leisure centre fitness facilities in response to market trends and ensure that new provision in the replacement Finsbury Leisure Centre is appropriately designed to appeal to the widest possible market.</p>
Tennis Courts	<p>Protect the existing quantity of supply of indoor provision at the Islington Tennis Centre (ITC) as a minimum, and of outdoor courts with community access and availability.</p>	<p>Work with GLL and the LTA to assess the resurfacing requirements of the indoor courts and programme works for off-peak summer months (or over a Christmas/New Year closure) to minimise impact.</p>	<p>Consider options for covering outdoor courts or otherwise expanding indoor court provision at ITC.</p>
Squash Courts	<p>Protect the existing quantity of supply of 14 community squash courts.</p>	<p>Maintain an average quality score of 4 out of 5 for squash facilities. Support the enhancement proposals of the Coolhurst club in Haringey serving the north Islington catchment area.</p>	<p>Ensure that 4 courts in the existing Finsbury Leisure Centre are replaced to a high quality standard in the proposed new centre.</p> <p>No additional squash courts are required.</p>

London Borough of Islington Sports Facilities Update 2018
Final Report

Sport Facility	Protect	Enhance	Provide
Boxing Rinks	Protect the existing quantity of supply of dedicated boxing provision.	Upgrade or ideally replace the Islington BC facilities.	No additional boxing rink provision is required.
Martial Arts	Protect the existing quantity of supply of martial arts provision across the borough. Ensure that the existing supply at leisure centre and school sites across the borough is maintained.	Review the enhancement needs of facilities with community organisations with a view to improving the quality and providing more programmes tailored to attract inactive or insufficiently active local residents.	Consider options to provide additional provision in the north of the borough and for the potential to incorporate a dedicated dojo within an enhanced facility for boxing (see above).
Gymnastics Facilities	Protect the existing quantity of supply of gymnastics provision across the borough in schools and community centres as a minimum.	Assess improvements required to Elizabeth Garret Anderson School hall and Jacksons Lane CC (with British Gymnastics, Calypso GC and Islington & Hampstead GC) to facilitate expansion of the clubs' programmes and capacities to reduce waiting lists.	Investigate with British Gymnastics any opportunities for a dedicated gymnastics centre as part of future site opportunities in liaison with the borough-based Calypso GC and the Islington & Hampstead GC (part based in Islington).
MUGAs & Ball Courts	Protect the existing quantity of supply of MUGAs and Ball Courts across the borough as a minimum.	Enhance MUGA and Ball Court provision in the borough with priority given to sites at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Barnard Park o McCall and Hollins House o Milner Square 	Prioritise the resolution of planning concerns impacting upon the replacement of the existing Ball Court at Mitchison Baxter Park with a new MUGA. Provide a new MUGA at Zoffany Park to replace existing stock on Elthorne estate.
Football Pitches	Protect the existing quantity of supply of grass football pitches across the borough as a minimum.	Enhance football pitch provision in the borough with priority given to Tufnell Park pitches which are struggling to meet existing demand - i.e. consider the feasibility of introducing reinforced grass to increase playing capacity (subject to monitoring performance of the trial in The Regent's Park).	To alleviate demand on existing provision, any opportunities to increase the number of pitches available for community use should be taken. Where possible, include Community Use Agreements as part of conditions for any playing fields planned at new/reconfigured schools.
Artificial Grass Pitches	Protect the existing quantity of supply of AGPs across the borough as a minimum with no reduction in the number of full size or small-sided pitches. Increase availability of the Highbury Fields, Paradise Park and Rosemary Gardens pitches by extending opening hours from 9pm to 10pm to be consistent with other park sites.	Continue to enhance AGP provision in the borough with priority given to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o City of London Academy – storage for goals o Highbury Fields Courts & Pitches – upgrade o Holloway School – upgrade o Islington Arts and Media School – upgrade o Peel Centre – replace damaged goals Also improve accessibility to provision on school sites for the community and promotion of this availability.	Where possible, include Community Use Agreements as part of conditions for new AGPs at school sites in the borough. Provide ancillary facilities at Highbury Fields. One additional FA compliant full size 3G AGP is required in the borough to meet current demand to enable each team to train on a 3G pitch. Between one and two further FA compliant full size 3G AGPs will be required over the local plan period to provide for new football teams that are likely to be generated by forecasted population growth to 2036.
Cricket Pitches	Protect the existing quantity of supply of cricket pitches in the borough as a minimum.	Enhance existing provision by resurfacing the playing pitch at Wray Crescent and providing a new pavilion or clubroom for users.	If future provision is to be considered in the borough, the central area is currently the most in need of access to cricket pitches.

London Borough of Islington Sports Facilities Update 2018
Final Report

Sport Facility	Protect	Enhance	Provide
Rugby Pitches	Protect the existing quantity of supply of rugby pitches in the borough as a minimum.	Enhance rugby pitch provision in the borough by improving the existing facility at Paradise Park. Grass coverage is poor and there are potential health and safety hazards that need to be addressed regarding the proximity of the touchline to trees.	Any opportunities for additional provision in the borough should be explored.
Hockey Pitches	n/a	n/a	Any appropriate and suitable opportunities for hockey provision in the borough should be explored. At present, Islington participants are using sites outside the borough boundary.
Ice Rinks	Protect the existing quantity of supply of ice rink provision in Islington.	While the Sobell rink is quite dated, and its small size restricts its suitability for formal competitive ice sports, no specific enhancement requirements were identified in the audit.	There is no requirement for additional provision in the borough.
Bowling Greens	Protect the existing quantity of supply of greens.	Improve the existing facility at Finsbury Square by installing an artificial surface.	There is no requirement for additional provision.
Cycle Tracks	n/a	n/a	Explore opportunities with British Cycling, Islington Cycling Club and other partners to provide a permanent traffic-free cycling oval track facility on a suitable park site in the borough with on-site management presence and ancillary facilities available. Also, consider opportunity sites to host cycling events (e.g. grass track racing, cyclo cross).
Water Sports Centres	Protect the existing quantity of supply.	Review the Islington Boat Club layout and spatial needs of the user groups with a view to improving its fitness for purpose and sustainability.	There is no requirement for additional provision.
Athletics Facilities	n/a	Replace the pavilion and changing rooms at Finsbury Park in partnership with the Finsbury Park Sports Partnership, England Athletics and Haringey Council.	The area has a number of large road-running clubs. Consider opportunities to provide and promote well-lit paved routes in the borough.
Netball Courts	Protect the existing quantity of supply and maintain low cost access to outdoor courts for social leagues and drop-in sessions.	n/a	Ensure the plans for replacement of the Finsbury Sports Centre sports hall provide for the sport (6 courts to meet Sport England and England Netball specifications for club level competition level).

London Borough of Islington Sports Facilities Update 2018
Final Report

Priority Projects

Sports Facilities Site	Proposed Development	Context / Next Stages	Funding and Financing
Finsbury Leisure Centre	Replacement with new Sports Centre with same facility mix and enhanced quality of provision to include 6-court sports hall in line with specifications for district league netball and suitable for basketball national league games.	Planning - Late 2018. Project Development Phase Early 2019.	Potential Developer Agreement GLL / Leisure Contractor Sport England LB Islington Capital
Cally Pools	Replacement with new Swimming Pool – re-provision of 6-lane district competition pool as minimum plus enhanced health and fitness offer that is attractive and accessible to the local resident community.	Finalise regeneration plans for the site and consider alternative sites in the area for a replacement pool - e.g. Market Road.	Funded as part of regeneration plans for the area.
Holloway School	Pool plant upgrade / energy efficiency measures.	Commission pool plant engineers to assess and report on options and costs including projected payback period.	LBI/GLL
Central Foundation School	Expand school's current plans to provide a 3-court sports hall in the basement to a 4-court hall with a Community Use Agreement.	Commission feasibility study (<i>NB. project may not be feasible due to site constraints</i>).	LBI
Highbury Fields School	Major refurbishment of existing sports hall on site linked to a new Community Use Agreement.	Commission feasibility study.	LBI
Islington Tennis Centre	Resurface indoor courts. Expand provision on site for year-round tennis.	Assess needs and costs with LTA and seek quotations. Commission feasibility study for options - additional courts or cover existing 2 outdoor courts (taking into account Cally Pools site options review above).	LTA/SE GLL/Leisure Contractor LBI
Islington Boxing Club	Major upgrade or replacement on current or alternative site. Combine with a Martial Arts Centre for the borough with a permanent dojo.	Commission feasibility study.	England Boxing/ SE IBC LBI LMCT
Highbury Fields	Complete tennis court resurfacing. Re-orientate existing 3G MUGA and provide an addition MUGA to FA Approved standard for 5v5. Provide a new pavilion to replace derelict building on site.	Planning (MOL) Planning (MOL)	LTA LBI / FF SE
Finsbury Park (LB Haringey)	Upgrade tennis courts. Replace athletics pavilion/changing rooms.	Funding applications.	Finsbury Park Partnership LTA, EA LBH/LBI LMCT
To be identified - Gymnastics	Dedicated gymnastics facility for Islington.	Investigation with British Gymnastics and Calypso GC into the opportunities to provide a dedicated offer to incorporate all club activity at one site. Working also with the Hampstead Club who also serve Islington residents and any expansion plans they have. Opportunities to be investigated at either current sites (EGA, Jacksons Lane) or new provision.	British Gymnastics (Sporting Assets low-cost loans planned for introduction in 2019/20).
Various - Community Halls (on estates and in	Minor upgrades and revised layouts to facilitate sports programming (fitness activities, martial arts, table tennis	Detailed audit of community centres to identify leading opportunities at low cost.	LBI S106 / CIL or re-provision

London Borough of Islington Sports Facilities Update 2018
Final Report

Sports Facilities Site	Proposed Development	Context / Next Stages	Funding and Financing
other settings)	etc.).	Where regeneration plans have an impact on future provision of community sport in these venues the re-provision of these spaces and facilities needs to be considered in future development plans and provision for community venues and space. Particular consideration to be given to the size and specification of indoor space to facilitate programming of sport and active recreation.	within future plans
Various - MUGAs (on estates and in other settings)	Upgrade existing MUGAs at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Barnard Park o McCall and Hollins House o Milner Square Provide new MUGAs at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Zoffany Park o Mitchison Baxter Park 	Where regeneration plans have an impact on future provision of MUGAs, re-provision needs to be considered in future development plans with particular consideration given to the appropriate size and specification to facilitate programming and use for older teenagers (e.g. 9v9 size where feasible).	LBI S106 / CIL or re-provision within future plans
Tufnell Park	Improve football pitch quality / playing capacity.	Monitor performance of reinforced grass trial at The Regent's Park and assess options for Tufnell Park.	FA /FF LBI
Wray Crescent	Resurface non-turf cricket pitch Provide small pavilion with WCs to replace storage container	Commission feasibility study	Middlesex Cricket Board ECB / SE / LBI / LMCT
Barnard Park	Install 9v9 3G floodlit pitch in place of redgra and WCs to serve park users. Consider option to install rugby shockpad to facilitate shared use for football and rugby training/ TAG.	Planning	FA /FF / LBI RFU
Paradise Park	Enhance TAG rugby pitches or replace as football pitches if TAG is accommodated at Barnard Park (see above).	RFU pitch quality assessment and recommendations.	RFU LBI
Finsbury Square	Enhance quality of bowls green or replace fine turf with an artificial surface.	Detailed feasibility study.	LBI
St Aloysius College (LB Haringey)	Provide 3G pitch to FA approved specifications.	Commission Feasibility Study <i>(NB. only if it can be accommodated without impacting on the cricket provision at the site).</i>	LBI School
Caledonian Park	A permanent cycle track (e.g. 250 concrete oval or 90m cycle speedway).	Assess feasibility and consider alternative parks if not suitable.	LBI Islington Cycle Club British Cycling

Section 1: Introduction and Purpose of Report

1.1 Background and Context

Islington is a small, densely populated, inner London borough with a growing, diverse population that is relatively young. Although only about six square miles, it stretches from the City of London in the south to Archway and the borders of Islington and Camden to the north and west and Hackney to the east. It is a borough of stark contrasts. There are high levels of deprivation, with associated high levels of chronic ill health and premature mortality. The borough also contains small areas of great wealth. There is no clear geographical demarcation between deprived and more affluent areas.

Extracts from LB Core Strategy 2011 & Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2010

Islington has accommodated substantial housing and employment growth over a long period of time. Further growth is expected. Long-term population projections released by the GLA predict that Islington's population will increase from 222,890 in 2016 to 254,430 in 2041.

Islington has a prosperous economy, having added over 30,000 jobs between 2005 and 2015. Islington's workforce is forecast to grow significantly over the next 20 years with projected jobs growth of 50,500. In 2011, the average daily number of people travelling into Islington for work was 132,137, whilst the number travelling elsewhere was 71,375, yielding a net inflow of over 60,600 people.

Historic and future population and employment growth creates demand for sport and recreation facilities. This needs to be taken into account in planning for community infrastructure requirements. Pressures on land for development means that there is an ever present need to protect provision for community sports. To accommodate growth, there is also a need to plan for enhancing or providing new sports facilities.

The aspiration of the Borough Council articulated in the current Core Strategy (February 2011) is that everyone who lives, works and studies in the borough can feel that they belong. Towards this end, the trend of planned economic and social development is set to continue. With positive new looks to the public realm, new retail and space for businesses, improved housing estates, new homes and schools and large scale investment in leisure centres and outdoor sports facilities (e.g. Ironmonger Row Baths, Highbury Leisure Centre, Sobell and Archway leisure centres, Market Road Football Pitches, Islington Tennis Centre, Whittington Park) as well as ambitious development plans for key sites (including Finsbury, Cally and the Holloway Prison) the borough continues to offer huge potential and opportunity.

The integration between leisure, sport and health has been made explicit by the London Borough of Islington through a number of important strategies including Islington's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013-2016, A Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (2009/10), a Children and Young People's Health Strategy 2015-2020 and The Proactive Islington Strategy 2012-2017.

A number of these strategies are currently being updated along with this update of the sports facilities strategy. To inform this update, consultation has taken place with lead officers in the council for public health, leisure, sport and recreation, with the consultants leading on the update to the Proactive Islington Strategy as well as with relevant partner agencies delivering opportunities for community sport and recreation in the borough (e.g. Better Leisure GLL, Access to Sport, Arsenal in the Community, the Camden & Islington Youth Football League) and with sports clubs through online surveys.

The council has made it clear that the approach to any investment into facilities for sport and physical activity is to be prioritised based on the direct link to improving levels of physical activity and health alongside the leading sporting needs identified.

Leisure and cultural services in Islington are seen as an important resource for improving public health and wellbeing and in addressing priority public health concerns and inequalities that exist across the borough. Good quality provision of facilities and services encourages more active and healthy lifestyles through increasing participation in sport and physical activity. Increasing people's access to opportunities for sport and the right facilities can have a lasting positive effect on residents' health, mental wellbeing and quality of life. The provision of facilities for sport and physical activity plays an essential role in the prevention of ill-health and reducing health inequalities which too has an impact on reducing costs to the wider economy, the council (namely adult social care services) and the NHS in the long-term. Whilst Islington's population is relatively young (nearly 65% are under the age of 40), there is expected to be a 20% increase in those aged 65 and over and a 25% increase in those aged 80 years and over in the years to 2025.

1.2 National Policy and Guidance

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is clear about the role that sport can play in delivering sustainable communities by promoting health and wellbeing and improving people's quality of life. Sport England, working within the provisions of the NPPF, wishes to see local planning policy protect, enhance and provide for sports facilities based on robust and up-to-date assessments of need, as well as helping to realise the wider benefits that participation in sport can bring.

This *Sports Facilities Update* for Islington provides detailed evidence that supports Sport England's aspirations and ensures that the importance of sports facility provision becomes and remains a central part of planning policy and development management within Islington.

Islington Council accepts that sport and recreation facilities are essential components of the borough's built infrastructure which both drive and respond to growth and improvement throughout the borough. The council acknowledges that sport and physical activity make a wider contribution to society than a narrow focus on sports participation might suggest. Sport and physical activity play a key role in meeting key corporate policy priorities by contributing to improvements in the health and quality of the life of residents to achieve a healthier and more active borough. The council also notes that sport and physical activity are integral and beneficial elements of shared service provision, such as school sites meeting the sporting needs of both education providers and the wider community.

This assessment of sports facility needs in Islington is also a vital part of the council's wider aim of developing and delivering sound planning policies within its Local Plan review.

Sound policies for the protection and development of community sports facilities can only be achieved if underpinned by objectively-assessed needs evidence which, in turn, informs a strategic plan for sports facility provision. The priorities and high level policies which are referred to within this update focus on how best to protect, enhance and provide appropriate sports facilities and represent the basis for consistent application through development management within Islington.

Following the most up to date guidance from Sport England, this update takes a clearly justified and positive approach to planning for sport. The facility strategy update has been positively prepared (based on objectively assessed needs), is consistent with national policy (reflecting the NPPF), is justified (having considered alternatives) and effective (being deliverable). This combination of factors ensures that the strategy provides a sound basis for future policies in order to inform decisions about future provision and investment, in particular S106 and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

Islington's Local Plan is currently being reviewed, framed within the wider policy context of the London Plan and the Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The key planning documents under review will be the Core Strategy (2011), Development Management Policies (2013), Site Allocations (2013) and the Finsbury Local Plan (2013).

Islington's last sports and recreation assessment was undertaken some years ago, firstly through the Leisure Needs Analysis (2006) and then as part of the wider PPG17 Open Space Sports and Recreation Assessment (2009). These documents played a key role in helping to inform the borough's current planning policies, found in the Local Plan, which is made up of several Development Plan documents.

Islington's Core Strategy (policy CS17) (2011) recognises the importance of promoting sport and physical activity in reducing health inequalities. The Core Strategy sets out a strategic policy to, amongst other things:

- Safeguard existing provision.
- Improve existing facilities to maximise their use.
- Increase access to school facilities.
- Maximise opportunities for sport and recreation in community centres.
- Use the Olympics to promote opportunities for sport and physical activity.

The Core Strategy identifies that most residents have access to at least one type of outdoor sports facility within a 15-minute walk, however parts of the borough lack access to different types of facilities. The evidence supporting the Core Strategy (Open Space Sport and Recreation Assessment 2009) found that there was a shortfall of provision of outdoor facilities, however it should be noted that there is limited space to provide new facilities, therefore highlighting the importance of improving existing provision. The same evidence suggests that, despite having a surplus of gym provision, there are not enough publicly accessible sports halls and that, despite good levels of swimming provision, some additional swimming space will be needed.

Further relevant policy is set out in Islington Council's Local Plan Development Management Policies document (Policy DM6.4). This sets out the circumstances in which new sport and recreation facilities may be required by new developments, the promotion of community access to private facilities and the criteria that need to be addressed to justify the loss of public sport and recreation facilities.

The soundness of an evidence base will be tested through the scrutiny of such policy where it is used to justify a particular position. This *Facilities Update* does not advocate one single measure of the soundness of evidence, but by providing up-to-date data and an evidence base which has been systematically prepared in line with national guidance and best practice it will ensure Islington Council can continue to present a logical and defensible position for the provision of sport and physical activity both now and the evident needs for the future.

The borough of Islington is set for significant change and development over the coming years. Having a clear, complete and coherent needs assessment and priorities for sports facilities (including playing pitches) will provide a rationale and blueprint for strategic action with regard to facilities for community sport for the next 18 years.

1.3 Report Content

Section 2 outlines the methodology and approach taken by the Consultant Team with regards to the sports facilities.

Section 3 outlines the local context for Islington in terms of current participation and the costs of inactivity, as well as future housing growth and population increases.

Section 4 outlines the relevant local, regional and national policies and priorities that the Consultant Team has reviewed which both influence and can be influenced by sports facility provision.

Section 5 outlines the structure and different types of consultation undertaken by the Consultant Team, including a summary of what these show and the leading issues.

Section 6 outlines the quantity, quality and accessibility assessments undertaken by the Consultant Team for each sports facility type identified within the methodology.

Section 7 provides a summary of the key priorities and actions highlighted in Section 6 under facility-type action plans along with an overall summary of known investment.

Section 2: Methodology

2.1 Introduction

Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (ANOG) for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities provides a recommended approach to undertaking a robust assessment of need for indoor and outdoor sports facilities to meet the requirements of the Government's NPPF, which states that:

'Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required.' (NPPF, Paragraph 73)

Sport England's Playing Pitches Guidance (PPG) provides a recommended approach to undertaking assessment of need across a Local Authority area for outdoor playing pitches used for the sports of football, rugby, cricket and hockey as well as minor pitch sports played in some local authority areas such as lacrosse, softball and baseball, rounders, rugby league, Gaelic sports and American Football.

This section shows how the Consultant Team has used and applied the ANOG and PPG guidance methodologies to produce the Sport and Physical Activity Facilities Strategy for Islington.

2.2 Prepare and Tailor the Approach

In line with Sport England's guidance the Consultant Team worked with leading leisure and planning officers to ensure the indoor facility assessment was agreed and focused on the needs of Islington Council. This included:

- Regular meetings and progress reviews with the Head of Leisure to oversee the study process.
- Detailed review of the specific needs for Islington.
- Agreement of indoor and outdoor sites for inclusion in the study with Islington.
- Agreement of parameters of the study with Islington and Sport England, including facility types to be included within the assessment and specifications.
- Consultation with Sport England regarding the use of national planning tools and agreeing a proportionate approach to application of the PPG methodology (e.g. phone and email consultation with the pitch sport NGBs in place of meetings of an Islington Playing Pitch Strategy Steering Group) in the context of the very small quantity of playing pitches in the borough and the limited opportunities to provide more in future due to the small size of the borough and the density of the built area.

The parameters of this strategy (the sports facility types assessed and their respective specifications) are set out below:

- Swimming Pools over 20m in length with community access
- Sports Halls over 3 courts in size (or 27m x 17m) with community access
- Health and Fitness Suites (gym space) offering over 20 stations
- Dance Studios
- Squash Courts
- Indoor Tennis Courts
- Community Facilities with Activity Halls
- Specialist Sports Facilities
 - Martial Arts facilities (dedicated permanent facilities)
 - Gymnastics facilities
 - Boxing facilities
 - Ice rinks
 - Hockey artificial grass pitches (AGPs)
 - Rugby pitches
 - Football pitches (natural turf and artificial turf)
 - Cricket pitches
 - Tennis courts
 - Bowls facilities (indoor and outdoor)
 - Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs)/ Ball Courts

2.3 Gather Information

The Consultant Team analysed the available data held by Islington on sports facilities, including:

- Islington Local Plan Core Strategy (2011) and relevant Development Plan Documents (e.g. Finsbury Local Plan) and relevant Supplementary Planning Documents (e.g. Cally Plan, Holloway Prison)
- Leisure Needs Analysis (2006).
- PPG17 Open Space Sports and Recreation Assessment (2009).
- Proactive Islington Strategy 2012-2017.
- Islington Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2013.
- Islington Children & Young People Health Strategy 2015-2020.
- JSNA (2009/10).
- Historic investment in LBI facilities since 2006.
- Future planned investment in facilities by LBI/GLL.
- GLL customer satisfaction surveys.
- GLL data on private facility competitors in terms of locations, facility type, access, and numbers of users where appropriate.
- Sport England's Active Places Power Database.
- Council Leisure/Commissioning and Planning team datasets – facilities, usage, regeneration/housing, population projections and asset management plans.
- National Governing Body facilities data.
- Sport England FPM Islington reports based on a national run of data (Pools and Halls, 2018).
- Facilities strategy work from Haringey, Hackney, Camden, City of London and Westminster.
- Usage data for all available facilities.
- Audits/condition surveys/maintenance plans for main leisure facilities.

2.3.1 Planning Tools

The Consultant Team also undertook a detailed supply and demand analysis using a range of national planning tools. They are listed below with an explanation of the rationale for utilising them:

- Active Places Power database, Sport England: to assess the type and quantity of indoor sport and recreation facilities in Islington. The database lists sports halls, swimming pools, health and fitness suites, indoor tennis centres, indoor bowls facilities and squash courts in Islington.
- Facilities Planning Model (FPM), Sport England: to assess the strategic provision of sports halls and swimming pools in Islington, including an analysis of supply and demand which assesses the capacity of existing facilities for a particular sport to meet local demand for that sport, taking into account how far people are prepared to travel to a facility. FPM reports for Pools and Halls in Islington at current population levels were commissioned to inform this update from Sport England's 2018 National Run of the Facilities Planning Model.
- Sports Facility Calculator (SFC), Sport England: to estimate the amount of demand for indoor sport and recreation facilities in Islington that is created by a given population. Specifically, the SFC helps to quantify how much additional demand for indoor sport and recreation facilities is generated by new and projected population growth, development and regeneration areas. The SFC can only be used for sports halls, swimming pools and indoor bowls facilities and is used in conjunction with the tools above and supported by the local picture of demand in Islington.

2.3.2 Site Audits

Based on the parameters for the Sports Facility Update which were agreed with Islington, the Consultant Team developed a list of sports facility sites which would be the subject of a non-technical quality assessment. A list of 98 sites to be audited and assessed was agreed with Islington. The agreed sites were:

Figure 2.1: Audited Sites

Facility	Facility Type
1. City Of London Academy	Sports Halls (2) & AGP
2. Andover Estate	Small AGP
3. Anytime Fitness (London Kings Cross)	Gym & Studios
4. Archway Leisure Centre	Swimming Pool & Gym
5. Archway Park	Ball Court

London Borough of Islington Sports Facilities Update 2018
Final Report

Facility	Facility Type
6. Arsenal Hub	Indoor AGP
7. Arundel Square	MUGA
8. Assembly Hall (Town Hall)*	Activity Hall
9. Asteys Row	Ball Court
10. Aubert Court Community Centre (Highbury Roundhouse)*	Activity Hall
11. Barnard Park	MUGA/redgra
12. Basire Street	Ball Court
13. Better Gym Holloway - Fitspace	Gym & Studio
14. Bingfield Park	Ball Court
15. Caledonian Park	MUGA/hardcourt
16. Cally Pool & Gym	Swimming Pool & Gym
17. Caxton House Community Centre*	Activity Halls
18. Central Boys Foundation School	Sports Hall, Activity Hall, AGP
19. Chambers Road Open Space	Ball Court
20. City And Islington College (Centre Of Applied Sciences)	Small AGP & Gym
21. Citysport	Sports Hall, Gym & Studios
22. David Lloyd Studio (Islington) - Orange Fitness	Gym & Studios
23. Dowe Dynamics Gym & Fitness Shop	Gym & Studios
24. Elizabeth Garrett Anderson School	Sports Hall, Tennis Courts, Gym & Studio
25. Elizabeth House Community Centre	Activity Hall
26. Energie Fitness (London Old Street)	Gym
27. Elthorne Park	AGP & Outdoor Gym
28. Finsbury Leisure Centre	Sports Hall, Squash, AGP
29. Finsbury Park Community Hub	Activity Hall
30. Finsbury Square	Bowls Green
31. Fit4less (London Highbury)*	Gym & Studios
32. Fitness First Health Club (Highbury)	Swimming Pool, Gym, Studios
33. Fitness First Health Club (London Angel)	Gym & Studios
34. Formerly GAMBIER HALL (NOW BETTY BUNKER HALL)*	Activity Hall
35. Grafton School	Activity Hall
36. Graham Street Open Space	Ball Court
37. Gymbox (Farringdon)*	Gym & Studios
38. Gymbox (Old Street)	Gym & Studios
39. Hanley Crouch Community Association	Activity Hall
40. Harvist Estate	AGP
41. Highbury Fields Courts And Pitches	3G AGP & Tennis Courts
42. Highbury Fields School	Sports Hall & Studio
43. Highbury Grove School	Swimming Pool, Sports Hall, Activity Hall, AGP, Gym
44. Highbury Leisure Centre	Swimming Pool, Gym
45. Hilldrop Area Community Association	MUGA, Activity Hall
46. Holloway Neighbourhood Group	Activity Hall
47. Holloway School	Swimming Pool, Sports Hall, AGP
48. Hornsey Lane Estate Community Centre	Activity Hall
49. Ironmonger Row Baths	Swimming Pools, Spa, Gym, Studios
50. Isledon Road Open Space	Ball Court
51. Islington Arts & Media School	Small AGP, Sports Hall, Gym, Studios
52. Islington Boxing Club	Specialist boxing hall, gym

London Borough of Islington Sports Facilities Update 2018
Final Report

Facility	Facility Type
53. Islington Tennis Centre	Tennis Courts (indoor & outdoor, Gym)
54. Joseph Grimaldi Playground	Ball Court
55. King Square Estate	AGP
56. Laycock Street Open Space	Ball Court
57. London Metropolitan University (London North Campus)	Sports Halls (2), Gym
58. Market Road Football Centre	3G AGPs
59. McCall And Hollins House	AGP, Ball Court
60. Mildmay Community Centre	Activity Hall
61. Milner Square	Ball Court
62. Mitchinson Baxter Open Space	Ball Court
63. Murial Street Gardens	Ball Court
64. Nuffield Health Islington Fitness & Wellbeing Gym	Swimming Pool, Gym
65. OTIUM LEISURE CLUB (BARBICAN)Part Of Thistle Hotel	Swimming Pool, Gym
66. Paradise Park	3G MUGA, Touch Rugby Pitches
67. Peel Centre	Activity Hall, AGP, Studios
68. Platform	Dance Studio (+ drama /arts spaces)
69. Pure Gym (London Finsbury Park)*	Gym & Studios
70. Pure Gym Local (London Holloway Road)*	Gym & Studios
71. Quaker Gardens Play Area	Ball Court
72. Quill Street Estate	Small Sided AGP
73. Rosemary Gardens	3G MUGA, Tennis Courts
74. Roundhouse	Activity Halls (2)
75. Royal Northern Gardens	Ball Court
76. Sobell Leisure Centre (Holloway)	Sports Hall, Trampoline Park, Gym, Studios, Small sided 3G AGP, 32m Ice Rink
77. Soho Gyms (Farringdon)	Swimming Pool, Gym & Studios
78. Spa Fields	MUGA
79. St Aloysius College	Sports Hall, cricket pitch, football pitches (4)
80. St Davids Church Hall	Activity spaces
81. St Lukes Community Centre	Activity Halls (2)
82. St Mark's Primary School	Small sided AGP
83. St Mary Islington Community Partnership	Sports Hall, Gym & Studios
84. St Mary Magdalene Academy	Sports Hall, Gym, AGP, Activity Hall
85. The Factory Fitness And Dance Centre	Gyms & Studios
86. The Gym (London Angel)	Gym
87. Thornhill Road STP	STP
88. Times Boxing Club*	Specialist boxing gym
89. Tufnell Park Playing Fields	Tennis Courts (2), Football Pitches
90. Union Chapel*	Activity spaces/studio
91. Urban Kings Gym	Gym & Studio
92. Virgin Active Club (Islington Angel)	Swimming Pool, Gym, Studios
93. Virgin Active Club (Moorgate)*	Swimming Pool, Gym, Studios
94. Wray Crescent	MUGA, Cricket Pitch (Non turf)
95. White Lion (Lift)	Gym & Studios
96. Whittington Park Community Association	Activity Halls (2)
97. Whittington Park Synthetic Turf Pitch	Full size 3G AGP
98. William Tyndale Primary School	Small sided 3G AGP, (32x23m)

* These site were not audited either due to lack of response or wish not to be included in the qualitative assessments when contacted.

Each of the sites audited by the Consultant Team was the subject of an outline quality assessment and scored out of five across the following areas:

- Playing Area: the quality of the main sport and recreation facilities at the site (e.g. sports hall playing surface).
- Maintenance: decorative order and cleanliness of the facilities at the site.
- Changing Facilities: the quality of the changing provision at the site.
- Ancillary Facilities: the quality of the ancillary facility offer at the site (e.g. storage, seating, café, meeting rooms)
- Community Access: how accessible the site is to the community either on foot/cycle (e.g. availability of secure Sheffield bike stand or bike hangar) or by public transport. The overall community access score was informed by Public Transport Accessibility Level (PTAL) scores¹.
- Accessibility for Disabled People: the quality facilities and accessibility of the site for disabled people.

The scoring metric used in the facility quality assessments is set out below:

- 1 = very poor quality; in need of urgent improvement; clearly not fit for purpose
- 2 = limited quality; improvements required in a number of areas; very basic standard of provision
- 3 = average quality; fit for purpose; improvements required in some areas; adequate standard of provision
- 4 = good quality; accessible; some high quality aspects
- 5 = very good quality; very accessible; no obvious issues/improvement required

Based on the results on the non-technical quality assessment each site was given a mean quality score.

2.3.3 Strategy and Policy Review

In order to ensure that the *Sports Facilities Update* takes account of relevant local, regional and national policies and priorities the Consultant Team reviewed a range of strategies, policies and plans. The focus of this element of the methodology is to identify the notable changes to sport and physical activity policies in the last few years along with any specific corporate priorities for Islington which both influence and can be influenced by improved sports facility provision. Moreover, the strategy and policy review identifies how Islington's sports facility stock impacts on regional and national policy agendas, as well as how this impact can be enhanced in the future.

2.3.4 Consultation Process

This update is underpinned by a thorough and robust consultation process to ensure that the conclusions and recommendations are sound and firmly grounded in local need and demand. The consultation process consisted of the following key elements:

- Face to face meetings with key departments and partners within Islington from the Planning Policy, Parks and Leisure, Public Health, Housing Community Development, Children & Young People, plus Proactive Camden & Islington, Hall Aitken (leading research and consultation for a joint borough physical activity needs assessment), and GLL (operators of the council's leisure centres).
- Detailed telephone interviews with relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs), Sport England, London Sport, leisure leads in neighbouring boroughs and with key sports / community development agencies working in sport in the borough (Arsenal in the Community, Access Sport), the Islington/GLL Football Development Manager and the lead organisers of the two major adult and junior football leagues hosted at Market Road Football Centre.
- Site visits and meetings with key facility providers including school Business Managers.
- An online survey of local sports clubs and community groups (led by Hall Aitken).

¹ The PTAL rates locations by distance from frequent public services along a 9-point scale, A location will have a higher PTAL score for the following reasons;

- It is at a short walking distance to the nearest stations or stops
- Waiting times at the nearest stations or stops are short
- More services pass at the nearest stations or stops
- There are major rail stations nearby
- Any combination of all the above.

The focus of this element of the methodology was to canvas the views of a wide range of partners, stakeholders, facility users and local people on the quantity, quality and accessibility of indoor and built sport and recreation provision in Islington. The process also ensured that the research and review kept in line with the pace of change within Islington for the regeneration and redevelopment.

2.4 Bring Information Together

Following the completion of stages 2.2 and 2.3 of the methodology the Consultant Team was in a position to draw conclusions and make recommendations based on a large, detailed and robust evidence base. The key findings of the review process are presented in sports facility specific sections which present the following information for each facility type under review:

- Quantitative Assessment
 - Supply and Demand Analysis
- Qualitative Assessment
 - Non-Technical Quality Assessment
- Accessibility Assessment
 - Distance thresholds
- Local Needs and Consultation
- Priorities and Standards for each facility type (where applicable)

The priorities identified for each facility type are based on a detailed assessment of needs and opportunities through multiple planning tools, research techniques and consultation methods. The priorities identified for the different facility types relate to:

- Quantitative Standards
- Qualitative Standards
- Accessibility Standards

2.4.1 Setting Standards for Provision – Revised and Updated Approach

The focus of Sport England's latest guidance on strategic planning for community sports facilities (ANOG, PPG) is for all local authorities and planning departments to provide a more localised picture of need, based on local evidence and the use of national planning tools in the most relevant and robust way. Sport England is advising local authorities and their planning departments to move away from a blanket approach to setting standards for sports facility provision based on numerical standards and comparisons with other local authorities (where supply and demand can be influenced by a wide range of other factors).

Sport England, using the Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance, advises against focusing on one single tool for determining standards for sports facility provision on the basis that a more detailed, layered and localised approach to the assessment of needs and opportunities at a local authority level is required as a basis for future policy. The Consultant Team has therefore assessed the leading facility types based on the supply and demand balance as well as levels of unmet demand, utilising the planning tools described in the methodology alongside findings from the detailed consultation process, online survey results, non-technical quality assessments and accessibility assessments. This has resulted in the formation of a more localised picture of needs and priorities for each indoor sports facility type which should be considered in the context of future supply and demand changes as well as evolving investment requirements.

Islington is following Sport England guidance with regard to forward planning and the priorities set out in this study are based on a meticulously assembled local picture. The priorities identified are specific to each of the leading indoor facility types that have been assessed and are categorised under the Protect, Enhance and Provide headings:

- **PROTECT** sports facilities from loss as a result of redevelopment.
- **ENHANCE** existing facilities through improving their quality, accessibility and management.
- **PROVIDE** new facilities that are fit for purpose to meet demands for participation now and in the future.

Islington has, through the commissioning of this study, followed this guidance on strategic planning and assessing needs and opportunities whilst maintaining a pragmatic approach to any new facility provision given the difficult economic circumstances that all local authorities are currently experiencing and will continue to experience for many years across all areas of service provision.

London Borough of Islington Sports Facilities Update 2018
Final Report

This process culminates in a clear and reasoned set of priorities for Islington which are rooted in a thorough and robust assessment of needs and opportunities related to sport and physical activity facilities provision in the borough. This is all set within the context of the positive changes that are being planned for the borough through its regeneration planning and the investment into and development of Islington overall.

Section 3: Islington Context

When assessing the quantity, quality and accessibility of sport and recreation facilities in a particular area it is important to consider the propensity of the local population to be active and participate in sport and active recreation. An understanding of local participation levels and preferences helps to inform an assessment of levels of need and demand for particular sport and recreation facility types. It also provides useful insight on how existing facilities can be enhanced to better meet the needs of local people.

A demographic profile of Islington residents is provided in this section to demonstrate the diverse nature and varied needs of the borough's population. For additional context, population projection data is included along with an overview of planned developments in Islington.

An overview of local participation levels in the borough based on Sport England's Active Lives Survey results is also provided here. Small area estimates are used, where appropriate, to give an indication of the variable nature of participation levels across different parts of Islington. Relevant health indicators are also referenced in Section 3.

3.1 Borough Profile

An understanding of the population profile of Islington is essential to ensuring that any recommendations made reflect the community's requirements.

3.1.1 Demographics

There are 16 wards in Islington, as shown in Figure 3.1. A population split for each is provided in Figure 3.2. This data uses experimental estimates which aren't fully consistent with the other ONS data displayed in this section and it should be used as indicative rather than definitive.

Figure 3.1: Islington Wards



Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2017

Figure 3.2: Islington Population by Ward

Ward	Population	Ward	Population
Barnsbury	14,116	Hillrise	12,597
Bunhill	18,909	Holloway	17,795
Caledonian	15,325	Junction	12,714
Canonbury	13,062	Mildmay	14,429
Clerkenwell	12,641	St George's	12,895
Finsbury Park	17,008	St Mary's	12,868
Highbury East	13,172	St Peter's	13,263
Highbury West	18,055	Tollington	14,016

Source: ONS Mid-year Population Estimates by ward, experimental statistics, 2016

Whilst Bunhill is the most populous ward in Islington, the three wards of Holloway, Highbury West and Finsbury Park towards the north of the borough account for 52,858 residents, almost a quarter (23%) of Islington's total population.

Figure 3.3: Islington Population by Gender

Area	Total Population	Male	Female
Islington	232,055	116,773 (50.3%)	115,282 (49.7%)
London	8,769,659	4,369,201 (49.8%)	4,400,458 (50.2%)
England	55,268,067	27,300,920 (49.4%)	27,967,147 (50.6%)

Source: ONS Population Estimates, 2016

Islington is a relatively small London borough, with 232,055 residents making it the 25th most populous in the region. There are more men living in Islington than women, and whilst the regional average is a 50:50 split of men and women, this pattern is not unusual as there are 20 London boroughs, in total, with a higher proportion of men.

Figure 3.4 indicates the spread of the population between different age bandings.

Figure 3.4: Islington Population by Age – as a proportion of Total Population

Area	0-15	16-24	25-49	50-64	65+
Islington	16%	15%	47%	13%	9%
London	20%	11%	42%	15%	12%
England	19%	11%	34%	18%	18%

Source: ONS Population Estimates, 2016

Islington has a relatively young population. Whilst the borough has a considerably smaller proportion of 0-15 year olds compared to the rest of London and the national average, the proportion of 16-24 year olds (the most active age-band) is the highest out of all of the region's local authorities.

Only 5 London boroughs have a lower proportion of residents over the age of 65. Just under 1 in 10 residents in Islington are in this older age-bracket compared to almost 2 in 10 across England.

Figure 3.5: Islington Population by Ethnicity

Area	White	Asian / Asian British	Black / African / Caribbean / Black British	Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Groups	Other Ethnic Group
Islington	68%	9%	13%	7%	3%
London	60%	19%	13%	5%	3%
England	85%	8%	4%	2%	1%

Source: Census, 2011 – Base population for Islington was 206,125

Whilst Islington has a higher than average BAME population in comparison with the rest of the country, in the context of Greater London, Islington is less diverse than the regional average. 32% of residents living in the borough are from Black, Asian or Minority ethnicities, considerably lower than the 40% London average. This proportion varies from ward to ward as displayed in Figure 3.6.

Figure 3.6: BAME population in Islington Wards as % of Total Population

Ward	BAME %	Ward	BAME %
Barnsbury	29%	Hillrise	34%
Bunhill	35%	Holloway	36%
Caledonian	35%	Junction	31%
Canonbury	28%	Mildmay	35%
Clerkenwell	29%	St George's	28%
Finsbury Park	43%	St Mary's	25%
Highbury East	24%	St Peter's	26%
Highbury West	32%	Tollington	36%

Source: Census, 2011 – Base population for Islington was 206,125

Levels of diversity are much higher in the wards of Finsbury Park (43%) and Holloway (36%), two of the most populous wards in Islington. Conversely, wards such as Highbury East (24%) and St. Mary's (25%) have a lower proportion of BAME residents than the rest of the borough.

Figure 3.7 provides information on the socio-economic classification of residents in Islington.

Figure 3.7: Islington 16-74 Population by Socio Economic Classification

Area	National Statistics Socio Economic Classification (NS-SEC) Grouping			
	1 & 2	3,4 & 5	6,7 & 8	Not Classified
Islington	44%	20%	23%	13%
London	36%	26%	26%	11%
England	31%	29%	31%	9%

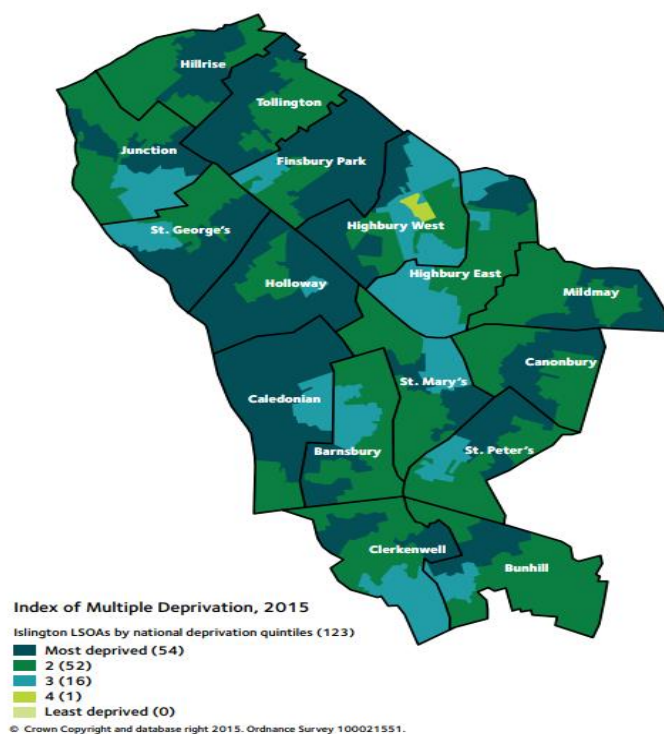
Source: Census, 2011 – Base population for Islington was 165,149 (16-74 year olds)

There are only 7 London boroughs with a higher proportion of their population who are classified socio-economically in groups 1 and 2. These groups refer to people in higher or lower managerial or professional occupations and give a strong indication that Islington is a relatively affluent borough. Reflecting this, the proportion of residents in groups 6, 7 or 8 (routine or semi-routine occupations or those who are long term unemployed/have never worked) is lower than both the regional and national averages.

Analysing socio-economic data relating to the different wards in the borough shows that there are clear pockets of affluence in Islington, with 56% of residents in Highbury East being categorised into groups 1 and 2 along with 52% of residents in St Mary's. The figure falls as low as 36% in Finsbury Park and Caledonian, however these rates are still above the national average for the proportion of residents in the top grouping.

Relative affluence can also be measured using deprivation statistics. Figure 3.8 shows the areas of high deprivation in the borough.

Figure 3.8: Indices of Multiple Deprivation, Islington 2015



Source: Indices of Multiple Deprivation, 2015. Map reproduced from State of Equalities in Islington, LB Islington, Annual Report 2017²

The Islington population is projected to increase substantially over the next 10 years. GLA forecasts from 2011 suggest a 32% rise in the borough to bring population to a total level of 272,875 by 2036. This is higher than the 27.3% forecasted increase across the whole of Greater London.

3.1.3 Borough Profile Summary

Islington is a borough with a young, diverse population that ranks highly on the socio-economic scale, but it is also an area with severe and extensive levels of deprivation that make it one of the most deprived local authorities in the country. Participation in physical activity tends to mirror deprivation trends, with residents afflicted by less disposable income often being less likely to live active lifestyles.

Section 3.2 explores further the sporting and recreational habits of Islington residents.

3.2 Activity

3.2.1 Sport England's Active Lives Survey

Sport England's Active Lives Survey is a relatively new dataset that has replaced the previous Active People Survey. It provides an assessment of levels of physical activity across the country at a local authority, regional and national level. At present, only 2 full years of data is available but the annual survey results can be used to identify general patterns and trends in participation. The following analysis utilises data from the two surveys that have been carried out. Due to the presently small body of information, comparison of performance over time is problematic. This data is best viewed as an indicative direction of travel rather than a definitive portrayal of activity habits.

This section considers existing sport and physical activity participation rates in Islington to assess likely demand for enhanced quality, quantity and accessibility of sports facilities in the borough and help identify the types of facilities and opportunities that should be provided in order to meet

² <https://www.islington.gov.uk/~media/sharepoint-lists/public-records/communications/information/adviceandinformation/20172018/20170919stateofequalitiesreport2017.pdf>

local needs. For comparison, it also provides regional and national data along with statistics for both neighbouring Local Authorities and areas which are statistically similar to Islington demographically.

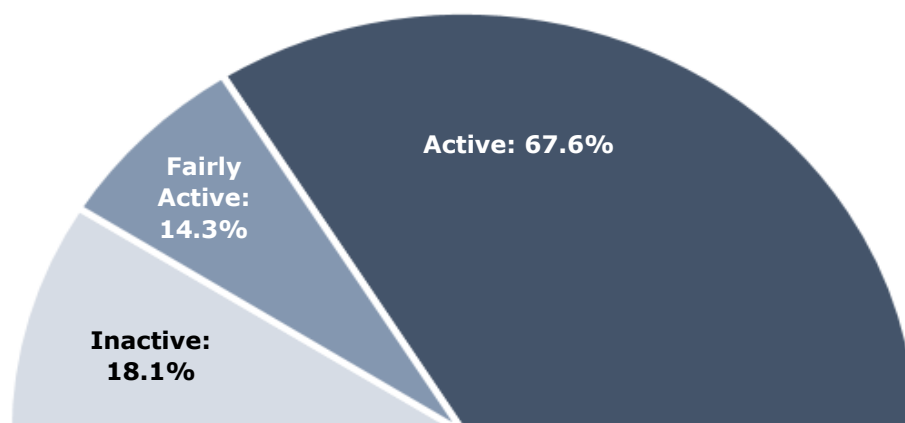
The following definitions for different levels of activity are used by Sport England

- *Inactive*: a person doing less than 30 minutes of moderate intensity activity per week
- *Fairly active*: a person doing between 30-149 minutes of moderate intensity activity per week
- *Active*: a person doing 150+ minutes of moderate intensity physical activity per week

Moderate intensity activity is defined as activity which causes an individual to raise their breathing rate.

Figures 3.9 and 3.10 display the most recently published Active Lives data.

Figure 3.9: Activity Rates in Islington



Source: Active Lives Survey, Sport England, November 2016-17

Figure 3.10: Activity Rates – Comparison Analysis

	Inactive		Fairly Active		Active	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Islington	16%	18.1%	10.4%	14.3%	73.6%	67.6%
Camden	23.1%	15.5%	9.2%	12.4%	67.7%	72.1%
Hackney	22.6%	18.4%	9.2%	10.3%	68.2%	71.3%
Hammersmith & Fulham	20%	19.6%	6.7%	10.6%	73.4%	69.8%
Haringey	21.8%	23.2%	14.1%	12.6%	64.1%	64.2%
London	24.2%	24.8%	12.3%	12.9%	63.5%	62.3%
England	25.6%	25.7%	12.4%	12.5%	62.1%	61.8%

Source: Active Lives Survey, Sport England, November 2016-17

Islington is an area of high activity rates. Considerably more people are active in the borough when compared to both the London and national averages. 67.6% of adults living in the area do more than 150 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity on a weekly basis. However, it's interesting to note, that whilst this is a comparatively high percentage, the rate has actually fallen considerably from 73.6% the previous year.

Out of 326 Local Authorities that are measured in England, Islington ranks 46th for the proportion of active people, meaning the borough is in the top performing quartile in England.

Another helpful way of measuring performance in an area is to benchmark data against the performance of both physical and statistical neighbours. In this instance the neighbouring boroughs of Hackney and Haringey, the statistically similar Hammersmith and Fulham and Camden, which falls into both categories. In 2016, Islington had a higher activity rate than all of its neighbours, however in the last 12 months, Camden, Hackney and Hammersmith and Fulham have all increased their rates to overtake the area. However, given the small sample size and

likely variances in data from year-to-year, it's reasonable to assume that Islington is performing at the expected level, or above it.

Islington has a very small proportion of inactive residents, the 10th best rate in the country. Whilst this rate has increased slightly over the last 12 months, currently standing at 18.1%, it is still considerably lower than the national and regional averages and only Camden, from the list of statistical and physical neighbours, has a lower proportion.

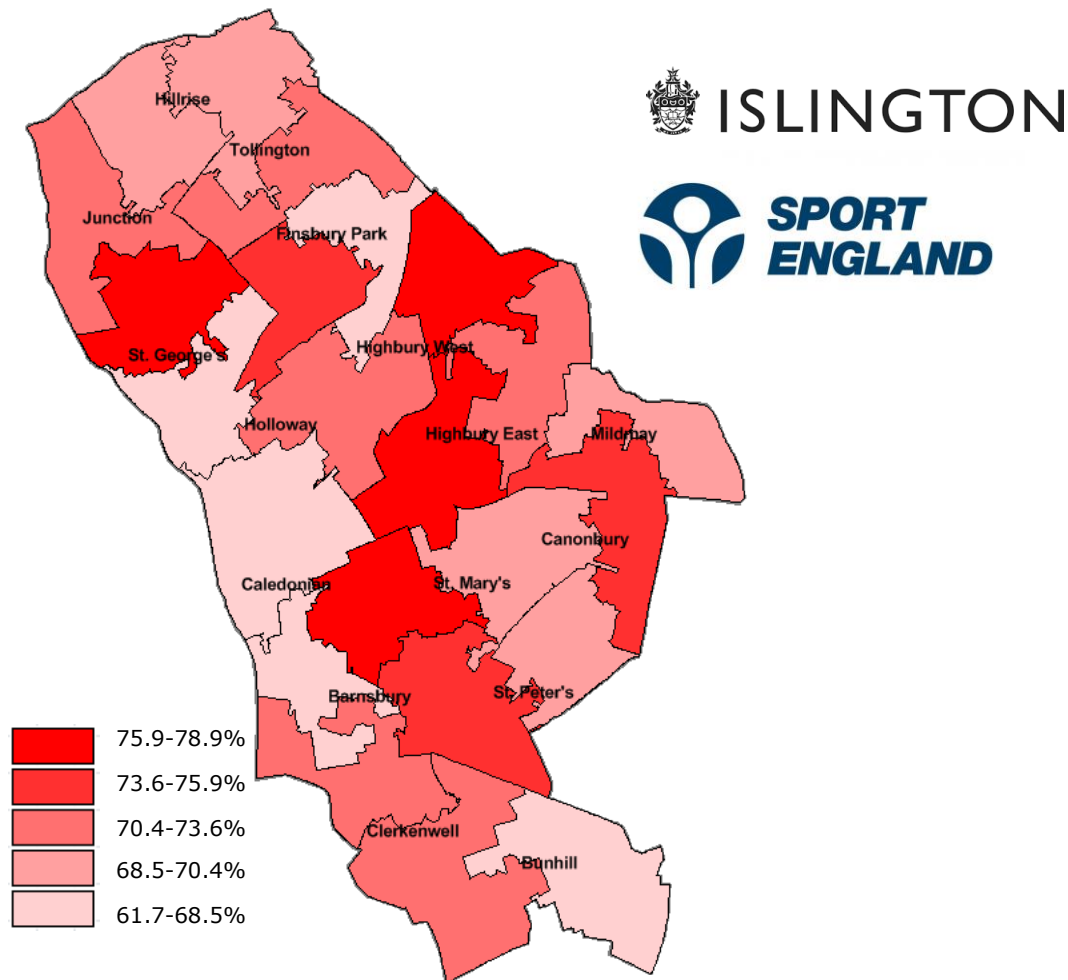
3.2.2 Sport England's Small Area Estimates

Whilst information relating to borough participation levels is helpful in gaining an overall picture of participation habits, Sport England's Small Area Estimates give us an idea of how these habits vary within Islington.

The information in Section 3.2.2 should be treated with caution. The data is modelled, based on Active Places and demographic information, and whilst a useful indicator with regard to understanding general trends, it should not be regarded as definitive.

Figure 3.11 shows the levels of variance.

Figure 3.11: 16+ Adults being active for 150+ minutes per week in Islington Small Areas



Source: Sport England Small Area Estimates, 2016.
Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2017

As evidenced in Figure 3.11, activity rates within Islington reflect, in part, patterns of deprivation, with more active people living in the more affluent areas such as Highbury and St George's and less active people residing in the most deprived parts of the borough such as Finsbury Park.

Data from Small Area Estimates can be manipulated, when combined with population estimates, to provide information at ward level. Using the raw data provided by Sport England along with ONS population estimates for 2016, Figure 3.10 calculates activity and inactivity estimates for these areas and demonstrates the discrepancies between different parts of the borough.

Figure 3.12: Activity and Inactivity Estimates for Islington Wards (16+)

Ward	Activity	Inactivity
Barnsbury	72.4%	17.0%
Bunhill	69.4%	18.6%
Caledonian	66.3%	22.7%
Canonbury	71.8%	17.4%
Clerkenwell	73.0%	16.2%
Finsbury Park	68.4%	19.8%
Highbury East	73.9%	15.5%
Highbury West	74.1%	15.7%
Hillrise	69.6%	16.4%
Holloway	70.6%	19.5%
Junction	71.5%	16.1%
Mildmay	72.4%	16.8%
St George's	70.7%	18.6%
St Mary's	73.8%	16.3%
St Peter's	72.5%	16.9%
Tollington	70.9%	16.8%

Source: Sport England Small Area Estimates, 2016 / ONS LSOA Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2016.

3.3 Health: Prevalence of Obesity and Diseases Linked to Inactivity

There is strong scientific evidence that being physically active can help people live healthier, happier lives by improving mood and mental health, reducing the risk of chronic diseases, some cancers, falls in the elderly, stress, depression and dementia and also helping to maintain healthy weight and reducing the risks of early death. This section looks at key health indicators in Islington and the impact of inactivity on public finances in the borough.

3.3.1 Obesity

Whilst it is still open to debate regarding the causal links between obesity and inactivity, the World Health Organisation state that sedentary lifestyles lead to double the risk of an individual being obese³. Having a strong and accessible sport and physical activity facility offer is essential to providing residents with the opportunity to be active in a way that meets the varied needs of a diverse population.

Figure 3.13 provides a time series of adult obesity in Islington, including comparable regional and national data alongside that of both physical and statistical neighbours.

Figure 3.13: Excess weight in adults

Area	2015/16	2016/17
Islington	50.9%	53.2%
Camden	42.7%	45.3%
Hackney	48.8%	58.7%
Hammersmith & Fulham	50.5%	52.5%
Haringey	53.8%	49.9%
London	55.2%	55.2%
England	61.3%	61.3%

Source: Public Health England, based on Active Lives Survey, 2017

Whilst rates have increased in the borough over the course of the last 12 months, the proportion of adults with excess weight is still lower in Islington than it is across both the rest of London and

³ <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/release23/en/>
www.continuumleisure.co.uk

the country as a whole. It's important to note, however, that the borough is underperforming in comparison with its statistical neighbours, considerably so when compared to rates in Camden. Child obesity is measured at two school development stages; at reception age and in year 6. Figure 3.14 provides the data relating to this.

Figure 3.14: Prevalence of Overweight, including Obese amongst Children

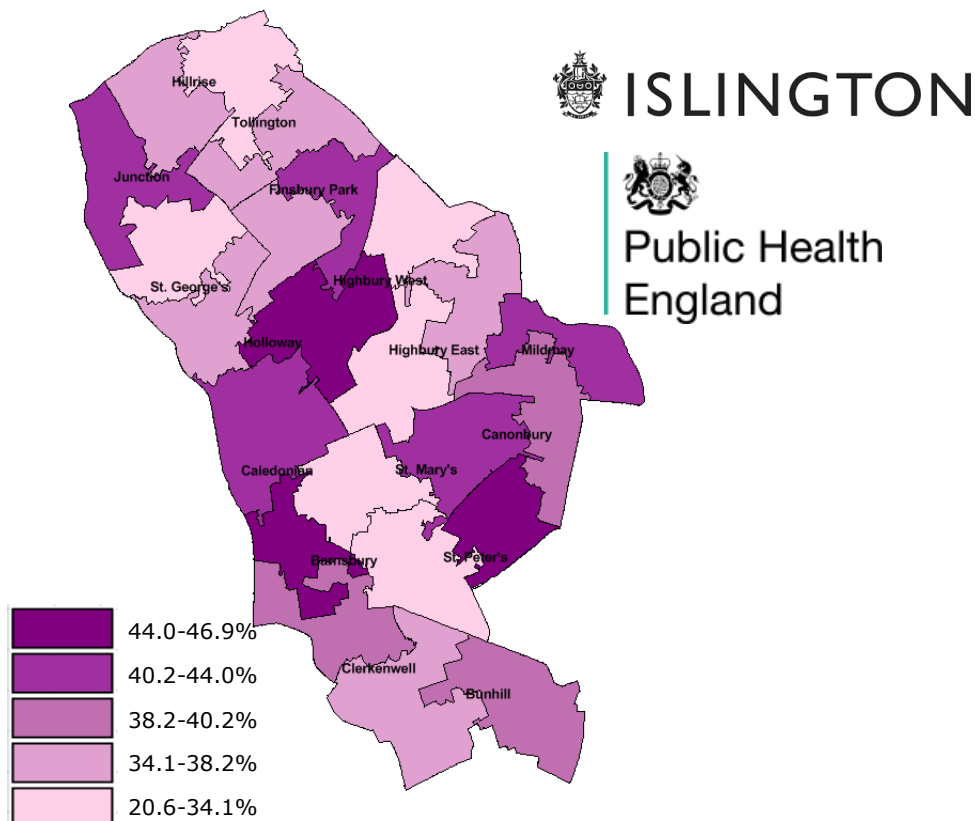
	2015/16		2016/17	
	Reception	Year 6	Reception	Year 6
Islington	22.5%	36.5%	22.8%	39%
Camden	20.2%	37.8%	21%	38.4%
Hackney	24.7%	43.3%	25.1%	41.5%
Hammersmith & Fulham	21.3%	34.6%	21.5%	37.8%
Haringey	23.6%	38.4%	21.6%	37.5%
Croydon	21.5%	38.9%	23.7%	37.7%
Greenwich	27.4%	42.9%	24.1%	42.7%
London	22%	38.1%	22.3%	38.5%
England	22.1%	34.2%	22.6%	34.2%

Source: National Child Measurement Programme, NHS Digital, 2017

Rates of child obesity amongst reception age children in Islington are higher than both the regional and national averages. 22.8% of children in this cohort are overweight, a rate that has risen over the last 12 months. Whilst rates in neighbouring Hackney are higher, performance across statistical neighbours suggests Islington is underperforming in this area.

Across the Year 6 cohort the situation is worse, with 39% of young people overweight, a figure that has increased by 2.5 percentage points over the last year and is considerably higher than the national average of 34.2%. Figure 3.15 demonstrates how levels of child obesity amongst the Year 6 cohort varies across the borough.

Figure 3.15: Year 6 Children who are Obese in Islington Small Areas



Source: National Child Measurement Programme, 2014/15-2016/17.
Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2017

The areas in Islington most affected by high levels of child obesity don't necessarily follow the patterns of deprivation and low activity, with higher than national average rates of child obesity found across most parts of the borough.

3.3.1 Diseases Linked to Inactivity

The prevalence rates of certain diseases linked to inactivity is particularly relevant to a discussion on provision for sports facilities. An improved and targeted facility offer can have the impact of reducing inactivity, thereby positively contributing, over time, to a fall in the prevalence rates of these afflictions. Figure 3.16 gives an indication of the rates for these diseases in Islington and comparable areas.

Figure 3.16: Prevalence Rates for Diseases Linked to Inactivity

Area	Cardiovascular Disease Mortality Rate	Cancer Mortality Rate	Prevalence of Diabetes	Prevalence of Depression
Islington	84.3	147.5	7.3%	8.6%
Camden	60.5	115.0	7.8%	7.3%
Hackney	102.6	146.1	9.1%	9.1%
Hammersmith & Fulham	73.7	138.2	7.6%	6.6%
Haringey	84.6	127.3	9.1%	6.5%
London	74.9	126.8	8.9%	6.6%
England	73.5	136.8	8.5%	9.1%

Source: Under 75 Mortality Rate per 100,000, Cardiovascular Disease, PHE, 2014-16; Under 75 Mortality Rate, Cancer per 100,000, PHE, 2014-16; Estimated 16+ Prevalence of Diabetes (Diagnosed and undiagnosed), PHE, 2016-17; 18+ Prevalence of Depression, PHE, 2016-17

Islington has higher rates of cardiovascular disease mortalities, cancer mortalities and prevalence of depression than might be expected given the lower rates of statistical neighbours. The rate of deaths from cancer, in particular, is considerably higher than the national average.

The role of physical activity as a preventative measure in tackling prevalence rates of certain diseases is well documented. The NHS reports that people who are physically active on a regular basis have a 35% reduced risk of coronary heart disease and stroke, a 50% lower risk of diabetes and colon cancer and a 30% lower risk of early death. Providing a facility offer that suits the needs of the local population and encourages them to be active can lead to a healthier population that can also have a positive impact on the local economy.

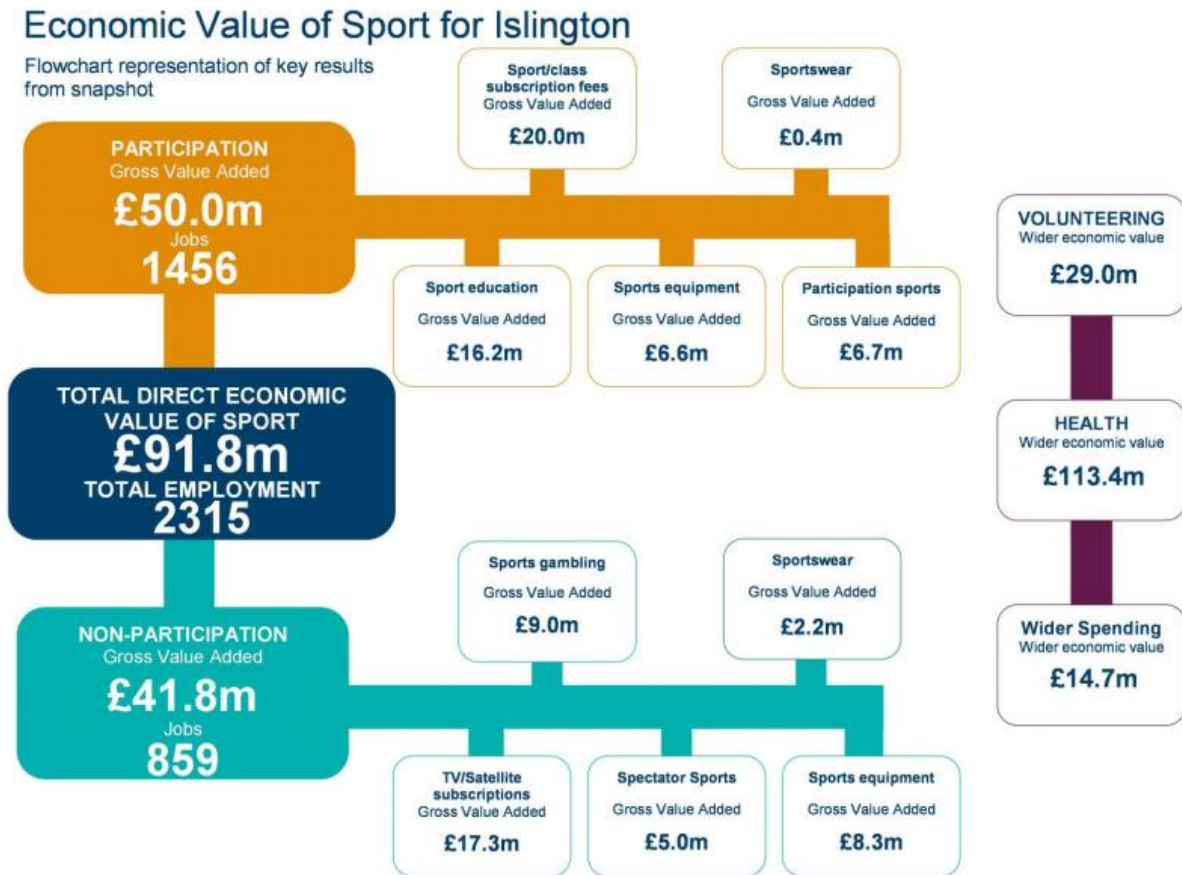
3.4 Cost of Inactivity and the Economic Value of Sport in Islington

The British Heart Foundation Health Promotion Research Group estimate that physical inactivity costs the national economy £7.4bn⁴ annually in healthcare, premature deaths and sickness absence. This translates locally to costs of £3.1m in Islington.

The overall economic value of sport to Islington has been estimated by Sport England at £91.8m. Figure 3.17 is taken from Sport England's model published in 2013.

⁴ <https://www.sportengland.org/our-work/health-and-inactivity/why-tackling-inactivity-matters/#>

Figure 3.17: Economic Value of Sport in Islington



Source: Sport England Economic Value of Sport Model, 2013.

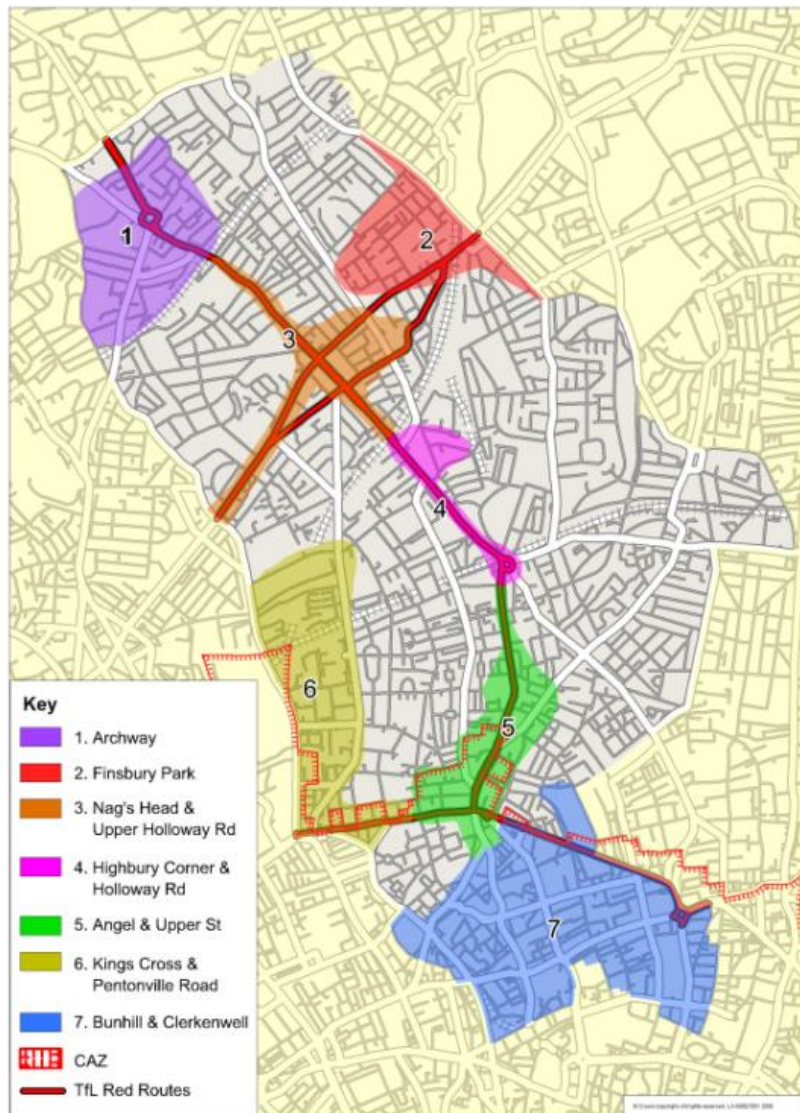
£50m of Gross Value Added in Islington can be attributed directly to people being active. This compares variably with neighbouring boroughs such as Haringey (£60.9m) and Hackney (£46.9m). Additionally, 1,456 people in the borough are employed as a result of sport and physical activity, with 859 of those positions linked directly to people participating and being active. This demonstrates the benefits of the strong offer that currently exists in the borough and indicates additional economic benefits that further strengthening the offer can bring to Islington.

3.5 Regeneration Plans in Islington

It is noted throughout Section 3 that whilst Islington is an active and comparatively affluent borough, it is also an area affected by high levels of deprivation. Islington's Core Strategy, developed in 2011 as part of the Local Plan, and provides details on the key sites in the borough for which there are specific spatial policies for managing growth and change up to 2025.

These sites are demonstrated in Figure 3.18.

Figure 3.18: Development Areas in Islington



Source: Taken from LB Islington Core Strategy, 2011

Figure 3.19 summarises the key development plans in each area with regard to sport and physical activity.

Figure 3.19: Islington Development Plans – Sport and Physical Activity

Area	Core Strategy Development Plans
Archway	Archway Leisure Centre underwent major refurbishment in recent years. The plan encourages the redevelopment of underused land to meet borough housing targets with a contribution of between 800-1,400 residential units. Improving the environment for pedestrians and cyclists is a priority as is the improvement of local open spaces.
Finsbury Park	Redevelopment of low density employment sites around Finsbury Park station is supported in the plan to provide mixed-use developments of housing (500-700 units), employment, retail and leisure. The core strategy states there will be improvements to walking and cycling routes.
Nag's Head & Upper Holloway Road	Improvement of the public realm is a priority to enhance the environment for pedestrians and cyclists. Opportunities for leisure activities within the Nag's Head town centre will be encouraged to complement existing uses.
Highbury Corner & Holloway Road	Improvements to the station frontage will improve the area to pedestrians and cyclists and increase access to open green space. A major housing development has taken place at the former site of Arsenal Football Club.
Angel & Upper Street	Improvements to the environment are sought for pedestrians and cyclists by reducing the dominance of through traffic. Any significant residential developments will be resisted in the area.
Kings Cross & Pentonville Road	A major housing development on the Kings Cross triangle site will provide 250 new homes.
Bunhill & Clerkenwell	Bunhill and Clerkenwell has a diversity of assets related to leisure, culture and the arts which will be supported. The introduction of Crossrail and Thameslink has increased accessibility for the area and associated housing growth is planned. Pedestrian priority measures, including new cycling routes, will be a priority. Improvements will also be made to pedestrian routes which link the local parks as detailed in the Finsbury Local Plan, an area action plan for Bunhill and Clerkenwell published in June 2013.

The Local Plan is scheduled to undergo a review, with consultation likely to take place in the summer of 2018. Sport facility specific policies are likely to be captured in a community infrastructure policy captured in an updated Local Plan up to 2036.

There are also plans for a new Finsbury Centre which includes new homes, a leisure centre, a GP surgery and a nursery. There will be a specific site allocations for this in the new document.

3.6 Conclusion

Islington is an active area, with high levels of physical activity and low levels of inactivity in comparison to both the national and regional averages. The borough has a relatively young resident demographic that provides opportunities to further increase participation rates in the area, however it is one of the most deprived local authorities in the country, and the associated low levels of health presents challenges.

Opportunities come in the form of regeneration plans for some of the most deprived parts of the borough. With identified areas for new housing stock, it is crucial that leisure provision is in place to meet the needs of an evolving population.

The development of the *Sports Facilities Update* provides an excellent opportunity for the local authority to improve their participation levels in conjunction with improvements to the existing facilities or subsequent recommendations for new provision. This will be particularly pertinent in the priority areas of the borough given the developments in those areas.

Section 4: Strategy & Policy

In order to ensure that this *Sports Facilities Update* takes account of relevant local, regional and national policies and priorities, the Consultant Team reviewed a range of strategies, policies and plans. The focus of this element of the methodology is to identify specific corporate priorities for Islington which both influence and can be influenced by sports facility provision. The strategy and policy review which follows in this section also identifies how Islington's facility stock contributes to regional and national policy agendas.

4.1 National Strategy

The following strategies provide national level strategic guidance and direction in relation to the development of sport, physical activity and healthy lifestyle initiatives. The improvement of the existing sport and leisure facilities in Islington will contribute towards a number of national policy objectives as summarised below:

4.1.1 Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation – December 2015

The Government's *Sporting Future* Strategy is based around a framework which sets out how success will be judged by impact on the set outcomes that define why Government invests in sport. There are five specific areas where sport can make a substantial contribution, and Government funding will go to organisations that can best demonstrate that they will make positive contributions and deliver some or all of the outcomes of this strategy, listed below:

- Physical Wellbeing
- Mental Wellbeing
- Individual Development
- Social and Community Development
- Economic Development

The strategy is moving away from the focus on the number of people participating at any moment in time and shifting focus to the broader outcomes that sport can deliver, such as the impact sport can have on physical and mental health, building social capital, educational attainment, employability and economic growth. Although still a part of the strategy, there is a shift in focus away from participating in sport and winning medals, and instead recognising how sport makes a difference through broader means which will help the sector to deliver the five outcomes more effectively.

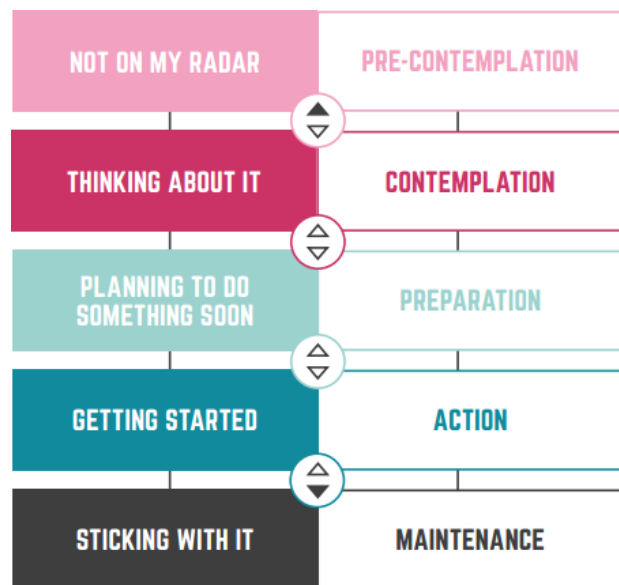
4.1.2 Sport England Strategy: Towards an Active Nation - 2016-2021

Through their strategy 'Towards an Active Nation', Sport England will invest over £1 billion of public funding between 2016 and 2021, with the overall vision that everyone in England regardless of age, background or level of ability feels able to engage in sport and physical activity. The new strategy will also align itself to deliver against the 5 health, social and economic outcomes set out *Sporting Future: A new Strategy for an Active Nation*, which aims to look beyond participation to how sport changes lives and becomes a force for social good. In order to put the new strategy into practice, Sport England will focus on behaviour change. **Figure 4.1** identifies the 5 key stages of behaviour to define the main features of their fundable programmes. To fully implement their new strategy, achieve their overall vision, and impact positively on the outcomes identified within the new Government strategy, Sport England have also created 7 new investment programmes. These are listed below along with how these align with facilities provision in Islington.

- 1. Tackling Inactivity** – Whilst activity rates in Islington are above the national average, 18.1% of the adult population still don't take part in at least 30 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity on a weekly basis. By ensuring the facility offer is relevant and accessible to the local population, this piece of work can contribute towards tackling inactivity.
- 2. Children and Young People (5+)** – 16% of the Islington population is under the age of 16 and future provision will need to reflect the needs and wants of children and young people.
- 3. Volunteering** – regeneration plans and the provision of new facilities will lead to the creation of additional teams to cater for latent demand. This, in turn will lead to an increase in demand for volunteers.

4. **Taking sport and activity into the mass market** – providing additional good quality facilities and additional sporting opportunities can encourage those in Islington who are wanting to participate but who are yet to convert these intentions into actions, to become active.
5. **Supporting sport's core market** – supporting existing and new clubs with a strong and updated facility offer is key to this piece of work.
6. **Local delivery** – Investment into the borough would increase opportunities to participate in sport and could help to improve the health profiles of the evolving local population.
7. **Facilities** - In line with both Sport England's facility investment programme and the Government's *Sporting Future Strategy*, an updated facilities offer will support and improve local provision.

Figure 4.1: Sport England Behaviour Change Model



People can move back and forth through these

4.1.3 HM Government Childhood Obesity Strategy, 2016

Produced by Government with the aim of significantly reducing England's rate of childhood obesity within a 10 year period, this paper proposed 14 actions which looked to respect both consumer choice and economic realities. These were;

- Soft Drinks Industry Levy – Introducing a levy on producers and importers across the UK.
- 20% decrease in sugar – Reduce levels of sugar intake by children.
- Supporting Innovation – Encourage businesses to make their products healthier.
- Developing a Framework – Update the nutrient profile model to inform families (10 years).
- Making Healthier Options Available in the Public Sector.
- Provide Support – Continue to help low income families access healthy food, use of vouchers.
- Physical Activity – Help children to do at least 60mins of physical activity each day.
- Quality Sport and Physical Activity for Schools – NGBs offer programmes to primary schools.
- Healthy Rating Scheme – Introduce a voluntary healthy rating scheme in primary schools.
- Healthier School Food – Update the school food standards in light of government dietary recommendations.
- Clearer Food Labelling – Update labels to be clearer about sugars.
- Supporting Early Years Settings – Children's Food Trust to develop revised menus for early years settings by December 2016.
- New Technology – Develop new apps that support and inform about healthier choices.
- Health Professional to Support Families – Enlist the help of professionals to support families.

An updated facilities offer that is accessible and appealing to young people is key to combating child obesity. As referenced in **Section 3**, rates of child obesity, specifically amongst the Year 6 cohort, are considerably higher than the national average in Islington.

4.1.4 'Everybody Active, Everyday - An evidence-based approach to physical activity 2014' – Public Health England

'Everybody active, Everyday' is a Public Health England document put together to help address the problem of increasing inactivity in England and drive a step change in the public's health with an aim of increasing both mental and physical health and wellbeing. The document states that around one in two women and a third of men in England are damaging their health through a lack of physical activity. 'Everybody Active, Everyday' goes on to suggest that this is unsustainable and costing the UK an estimated £7.4bn a year and if current trends continue, the increasing costs of health and social care will destabilise public services and take a toll on quality of life for individuals and communities. The document puts forward regular physical activity and an active lifestyle as a means of preventing many life threatening diseases such as cancer and diabetes, and conditions like obesity, hypertension and depression.

The document also makes some recommendations on how infrastructure, including sport and leisure facilities, can best assist in increasing physical activity through thoughtful urban design, understanding land use patterns, and creating transportation systems that promote walking and cycling which will help to create active, healthier, and more liveable communities.

Public Health England suggest that maximising the potential of the assets that already exist such as common land, woodland, streets, parks, leisure facilities, community halls, and workspaces, and thinking differently about how we commission and plan public services relating to physical activity is essential for ensuring that physical activity interventions are successful. It is important for Islington that any developments in provision of sport and leisure facilities reflects this aim of providing quality facilities that maximise their potential for community use.

4.2 Regional Strategy

The London Plan is the Spatial Development Strategy produced by the Mayor of London setting the strategic plan for development in London over the next 20-25 years. The Local Plans of the London boroughs are required to be in general conformity with the London Plan. The London Plan is also part of the statutory development plan for the borough and has to be taken in account in the determination of planning applications.

The London Plan sets out a significant number of requirements in relation to Local Plan preparation which must be addressed in the development of the policy options. The Mayor also establishes a strategic approach in relation to key policy areas leaving limited scope for alternative policy options at the local level.

Revised Early Minor Alterations (REMA) to the London Plan (2011) were adopted in October 2013 to ensure that it is consistent with the NPPF. The Mayor also published significant Further Alterations The London Plan (FALP) for consultation in January 2014 that respond to changes in future projections of growth in London that have been informed by the 2011 Census and other evidence.

In the specific area of sport in London, in July 2018 the GLA published '*Sport for all of us - The Mayor's Draft Strategy For Sport In London*'. At the heart of the Mayor's approach to sport in London is his belief in the power of sport to bring people together and improve their lives. This underpins the Mayor's aim for London to be the most socially integrated and active city and undisputed sporting capital of the world. The draft strategy that will shape the Mayor's approach to sport and sports facility plans has two distinct strands:

First, the Mayor will continue to support major sports events being hosted in London as major events have a significant ability to bring strong economic and social benefits to London, from promoting the city internationally, to offering mass volunteering opportunities for Londoners.

The Mayor's second focus is on community sport, which has previously had a primary focus on increasing participation. The GLA intend to broaden this focus to use the power of sport to improve social integration in London – a core priority of the Mayor's wider work. It is proposed that, central to the GLA's work in community sport, will be a new £8.8 million programme, 'Sport Unites' which

will focus on three themes: Sport for Social Integration, Active Londoners and Workforce & Capacity Building. The programme will also provide investment via the Mayor's £45m Young Londoners Fund.

The second of these themes - *Active Londoners* - is the most directly relevant to sports facility planning. The investment in this theme aims to provide more opportunities for Londoners to take part in a wide variety of sport and physical activity in their local area. Specifically, the programme intends to fund initiatives that cater for inactive Londoners and provide pathways for people to use sport to pursue their goals at all levels - whether that is simply improving fitness or making the transition into top-level sports. To achieve this, the GLA intends to:

- Provide more affordable, local participation opportunities for Londoners in places where demand outstrips supply
- Promote programmes that target inactive Londoners
- Invest in pilots which test innovative methods
- Invest in organisations that cater for and support Londoners with mental health difficulties.

4.3 Local Strategy

Local strategies outlining priorities for Islington which the development of improved facilities for sport and physical activity in the borough can contribute towards are referenced in the section which follows:

4.3.1 Islington Council Core Strategy, February 2011

Part of Islington's Local Development Framework, the strategy sets out priorities for development by the council to address inequalities and encourage economic growth in the borough. The document has the following vision;

- The overall vision of the Islington Strategic Partnership is for the borough to be a place where real change has been achieved to create a stronger economically, environmentally and socially sustainable community.

The strategy is to be achieved through the following strategic objectives;

1. Tackling inequality and exclusion in the borough, and seeking to ensure that local residents share in the prosperity of London.
2. Securing a supply of housing which encourages mixed communities, where the main priority will be maximising provision of social rented housing.
3. Meeting and seeking to exceed the minimum regional targets for housing supply, with new housing contributing to the increased quality of life for residents.
4. Ensuring new development and the spaces around it provide a high quality environment that is accessible to all residents, employees and visitors.
5. Maintaining and enhancing Islington's historic environment through conservation-led regeneration initiatives.
6. Promoting neighbourhoods that support a sense of wellbeing, specifically to reduce health inequalities in the borough by encouraging healthier choices including (but not limited to) the use of open spaces, play opportunities and access to both high quality sports and health care facilities.
7. Maintaining growth in employment by ensuring a broad range of opportunities exist for all types and sizes of businesses across all parts of Islington.
8. Tackling worklessness through training and employment initiatives.
9. Ensuring a range of provision of shopping, leisure and local services which serve the local community and support Islington's economy.
10. Supporting the borough's universities and hospitals as major employers and service providers as they seek to maintain and improve their estates.
11. Encouraging new hotels/visitor accommodation where it benefits Islington's economy and enhances the local area.
12. Minimising the borough's contribution to climate change and ensuring we are able to cope with the effects of a changing climate.
13. Reducing Islington's impact on the environment by using resources, including energy, water and other materials, as efficiently as possible.
14. Promoting waste minimisation, re-use, recycling, composting and resource efficiency over landfill.

15. Delivering high quality, multi-functional green infrastructure alongside development throughout the borough.
16. Protecting and enhancing biodiversity in the borough and increasing access to nature.
17. Encouraging walking and cycling over public transport use and encouraging all of these over car use.
18. Improving transport connections to ensure that public transport capacity is sufficient to meet the needs of those who live, work, and study in the borough and that capacity is also sufficient to allow access to work, study and leisure opportunities beyond the borough.
19. Using significant transport improvements to lead regeneration.

Priority number 6 clearly indicates the importance that the council places on improving the health of residents in the borough and this clearly aligns with an updated facilities offer that enables residents in Islington to be active in ways which are convenient and accessible to them.

4.3.2 The Proactive Islington Strategy, 2012-2017

Whilst this strategy period has now concluded, the aims and objectives within still align with national and regional plans. Through this strategy produced by Proactive Islington, a partnership of local stakeholders including the local authority and NHS North Central London, there was an aim to promote physical activity as an enjoyable pursuit that improves health and wellbeing, supports social cohesion, reduces social exclusion and enables people to live full and active lives whilst reducing health inequalities. The strategy has 3 health-related priorities;

- Ensuring every child has the best start in life
- Preventing and managing long term conditions to extend both length and quality of life and reduce health inequalities
- Improving mental health and wellbeing

Having an improved and updated facilities offer clearly aligns strongly with the principles of this strategy in relation to the positive effect that increased activity opportunities can have on levels of health and wellbeing. The positive impact that increased physical activity can have on levels of obesity, general physical health and mental wellbeing has been documented.

4.3.3 Islington's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2017-2020

Produced by the Islington Health and Wellbeing Board, a partnership between the local authority and clinical commissioning group, this document has the vision of Islington having a healthier, fairer and more resilient population, to be achieved through three strategic priorities;

- Ensuring every child has the best start in life.
- Preventing and managing long term conditions to enhance both length and quality of life and reduce health inequalities.
- Improving mental health and wellbeing.

A reduction in child and adult obesity, reduction in people feeling lonely and improved outcomes for young people involved in gangs are all outcomes of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy that align strongly with this piece of work. A strong facility offer that reflects the needs of local communities can have a positive effect on physical and mental health along with community cohesion.

4.3.4 LB Islington Children and Young People's Health Strategy 2015-2020

Produced by the Islington Health and Wellbeing Board, this document has a vision of improving the health and wellbeing of children and young people in Islington from conception to adulthood and to reduce health inequalities by;

- Promoting good health.
- Making safe, high quality, affordable and coordinated health services available at, or close to home in partnership with children, young people, their parents and carers.
- Supporting them to be in control of their own health where possible and to maximise their life chances as they grow up.

The strategy has eleven strategic priorities;

1. Ensure the best start in life for all, continuing to invest in prevention and further embedding early intervention.
2. Ensuring improved Oral Health.
3. Prevent and reduce obesity and overweight.

4. Ensure the health sector works effectively to safeguard children and young people.
5. Strengthen primary care to ensure that all children and young people in Islington have access to high quality and equitable services.
6. Improve access to timely care and treatment for children and young people who are acutely unwell.
7. Ensure that health services are high quality, cost effective, clinically safe and deliver a positive experience of care.
8. Ensure health services and partners work together to deliver person centred care for children and young people with long term conditions, life limiting or life threatening illnesses, mental and emotional health needs and special educational needs and disabilities.
9. Improve the health of vulnerable groups of children and young people including looked after children, young people who offend and young carers.
10. Ensure young people are well supported and remain connected with services in the transition from paediatric services.
11. Encourage the development of infrastructure that supports the delivery of this strategy e.g. IT, workforce development etc.

An updated facilities offer aligns with two key outcome areas of the CYP Health Strategy, namely a reduction in childhood obesity, specifically amongst Year 6 children, and improvements in mental health. Increased physical activity has been demonstrated to have positive impact on both these issues and improving opportunities for children and young people to be active in the borough can have the knock-on effect of contributing positively to these outcomes.

4.4 Conclusion

The development of this *Sports Facilities Update* for Islington provides an exciting opportunity for the local authority to complement existing development plans in the borough, as referenced in this section with an updated facilities offer, providing a full assessment of the current facility stock in relation to the identified needs of the local community, partners and stakeholders.

The proposed development priorities contained in **Section 7** will contribute to the strategic priorities of key agencies, helping to ensure that facilities in Islington provide the best possible option with regards to meeting local needs and demands as well as helping to secure the long term viability of provision.

The wider value of participation in sport, active recreation and physical activity is recognised across a range of policy areas for Islington and nationally, including planning, community development and health. The *Sports Facilities Update* will put forward options for the best way to provide opportunities and activities which support actions within these policy areas at a local level and clearly has the potential to support work to bring about a sustained increase in participation by residents of the borough.

Section 5: Consultation & Engagement

Sections 3 and **4** have presented information about the demographics and population profile in Islington, participation levels in sport and physical activity and the strategic need for continued investment in and provision of facilities that support sport, recreation and physical activity in the borough.

Consultation is critical to help gather information and then check, challenge and validate the supply audit and picture of demand. In terms of consultation the NPPF refers to the need for early and meaningful engagement and collaboration. This emphasises the importance of Stage A: Prepare and Tailor the Approach and ensuring the right people are involved in the assessment work at the outset.

The NPPF, within paragraph 155, suggests that: *'...a wide section of the community should be proactively engaged, so that local plans, as far as possible, reflect a collective vision and a set of agreed priorities.'*

As such, consultation is key to further building a local picture of need and priority for sport within this *Sports Facilities Update* and to formulate the council's emerging planning policies. Ahead of the detailed analysis of provision and the supply and demand of facilities, a process of consultation with key partners and stakeholders was undertaken. The consultation process detailed within this report focuses on general sports provision.

This section of the report provides a summary of the findings from this consultation process and highlights the emerging findings related to the provision of facilities for sport and physical activity in Islington.

5.1 Consultation with Key Stakeholders

Figure 5.1 Key Stakeholder Consultation Summary

Partner / Department	Leading Priorities and Influences	On-going and Future Involvement
<p>LBI Planning Policy</p>	<p><i>Sports Facility Policies in Local Plan</i> - sports facility specific policies in the current Local Plan are likely to be captured in a much broader based 'community infrastructure' policy in the new Local Plan to 2036. Existing Core Strategy and Development Plan Documents will be merged together in the new Local Plan.</p> <p><i>Finsbury Development Plan Document</i> - There will be a specific site allocation for a new leisure centre to replace the existing centre in the Local Plan Review.</p> <p><i>Developer Contributions for Community Infrastructure (including sports facilities)</i> - The Council has a S106 SPD and a CIL Charging Schedule adopted in 2014. The CIL Charging Schedule is informed by Ward Improvement Plans with 50% of funds going to Ward teams to decide on how it is spent and the other 50% being spent strategically. A review of the council's CIL Charging Schedule will be carried out in the next year or so.</p> <p><i>Main sports community infrastructure projects completed in recent years:</i> Ironmonger Row Baths upgrade Archway LC major refurbishment Emirates Indoor 3G Queensland Road Highbury Leisure Centre expansion of health and fitness Sobell - conversion of part of sports hall to Trampoline Centre and provision of outdoor 3G 5v5 pitches Market Road Football Centre - upgrade Whittington Park, Paradise Park, Rosemary Gardens - 3G surface replacements</p>	<p><i>Future major sports facility projects in planning process:</i></p> <p>Finsbury Leisure Centre - planning application to be determined in 2018.</p> <p>Cally Pools - consideration of future re-provision as part of ongoing wider regeneration planning for the Cally corridor area.</p> <p>Holloway Prison site - a Supplementary Development Plan (SDP) is in place mainly for housing including a large allocation of social housing.</p> <p>Anaconda Swimming Club are petitioning for a competition pool as part of the development (8l, 250 spec seats). Inclusion of large scale sports facilities would impact significantly on the viability of the development and the number of affordable units provided.</p> <p>Barnard Park - proposal to remove the existing large redgra open access sports pitch and replace with a bookable 9v9 3G pitch.</p> <p><i>New education facility plans with potential for community sport:</i></p> <p>New student accommodation in Bastwick Street may include indoor sports facilities</p> <p>The Central Foundation School in Old Street may have some new sports facilities planned linked to a proposed office development on part of this site.</p>
<p>LBI Public Realm (Greenspace & Leisure)</p>	<p>The focus of the sports facility work of Greenspace & Leisure is on ensuring the existing facility stock is of good quality and sustainable while also maximising opportunities to grow participation in sports and physical activity towards the council's wider aims for improved public health and reduction in health inequalities.</p> <p>Recent facility investment projects have sought to balance these objectives, for example: <i>Sobell Trampoline Park:</i> Business plan forecast to more than double</p>	<p>The growing focus on promoting physical activity to achieve improved public health outcomes as the rationale for provision of facilities for sport will increasingly determine where available resources for sports facilities in the borough are invested.</p> <p>For example there will need to be on-going focus on affordable/ accessible facilities to people on low incomes (e.g. estate based facilities and provision in parks) as resources allow, alongside completion of the current programme of reinvestment in the major stock with the delivery of the new Finsbury</p>

London Borough of Islington Sports Facilities Update 2018
Final Report

Partner / Department	Leading Priorities and Influences	On-going and Future Involvement
	<p>annual usage of the space. <i>Highbury Leisure Centre:</i> Larger health and fitness facilities to accommodate unmet demand in the peak period. <i>Whittington Park, Paradise Park, Rosemary Gardens:</i> 3G pitch surface replacements to sustain participation and income.</p>	<p>Leisure Centre.</p>
LBI Education	<p>Accessibility to school facilities for community use - while sport and recreation facilities and spaces at most schools are underused outside the 35 weeks of schooldays from 8am to 4pm, increasing access is a real challenge and very time consuming with real barriers that should not be under-estimated, particularly where the community use is not planned into the design and management regime from the outset. During the school day, safeguarding and security largely prevent opportunities for community use. Cost of access to the borough's sports facilities in parks etc. (hire fees) is also an issue for running primary competitions (co-ordinated by the service's School Sports Competition Manager) as well as for individual schools without their own play spaces to deliver PE lessons.</p> <p>Availability - even at those schools where there is some evening access to sports halls etc. but substantial spare capacity, the community use is often long established on a basis of trust (often with the community club/group leader having a personal link with the school and trusted to be a keyholder). Therefore, extending availability to other clubs/groups remains a challenge as it takes time to build trust. Schools are more likely to focus on ensuring their play spaces are suitable for use by their own 'school community' of children and parents out of core education hours (i.e. before and after school and on Saturday mornings in some cases). There has been a focus on school facility needs to enable more of this type of access in recent years in the borough through the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) - i.e. an 'Active Places' initiative which involved auditing spaces for play and PA at primary schools and a capital programme of investment in playground surfaces, equipment etc. at those with the greatest need, although community use/benefit has not been monitored. There is also a small capital funding pot (£140k) ring-fenced from the council's allocation from Government Capital Funding Programme for Schools specifically for health and wellbeing projects.</p>	<p>Main opportunities lie in planning affordable community use into design and management of new and extended schools linked to regeneration plans (as opposed to securing more use of existing or expanded facilities on existing school sites) as most existing sites offer little capacity for extension.</p> <p>Future projects need to consider the issue of inclusion. This involves enabling access to suitable facilities on school sites for people with additional needs (e.g. the Holloway and the Bridge Special School example in the north of the borough). Is there a similar opportunity to be explored in the south based around the Richard Cloudesley School linking to Prior Weston, Golden Lane Community Centre and Fortune Street Park?</p> <p>The borough's 'Brightstart' early years programme has identified the need on school sites for more fit for purpose, secure play spaces for the early years teams to deliver health and wellbeing programmes for u5's and their families - e.g. Dads Football.</p> <p>Lack of open space and school playing fields in the borough will be an ongoing challenge (e.g. in roll out the 'Daily Mile' initiative in the borough's primary schools).</p> <p>The diverse nature of the areas within the borough with relatively high socio-economic deprivation also presents challenges in terms of the location of facilities to maximise accessibility.</p>
LBI Public Health	<p>Islington still has an unusually high percentage of social housing and estates with high levels of socio economic deprivation and health</p>	<p>The department is working up proposals to extend targeted work on physical activity delivered by partners such as Access to Sport and Arsenal in the</p>

London Borough of Islington Sports Facilities Update 2018
Final Report

Partner / Department	Leading Priorities and Influences	On-going and Future Involvement
	<p>inequalities.</p> <p>There is a lot of facility supply in tenant halls and community centres where there is plenty of potential for better use through joint work with housing associations and tenant associations.</p>	<p>Community through proactive interventions with social housing partners.</p> <p>In the public realm, there is a need to make more of the potential offered to more effectively manage and promote use of the sports facilities on the sites that also have adventure playgrounds for children to age 14. The borough has 10 of these facilities, half managed by Islington Play Association and half by Awesome (a social enterprise CIC). Ball Courts and MUGAs could be managed and promoted in association with these playgrounds in future.</p> <p>In the longer term, with the growth in relatively low cost private sector health clubs and gyms, the council may need to consider whether it is appropriate to change the balance between investment in large leisure centres towards smaller neighbourhood and estate based facilities - tenant halls, MUGAs, parks and open spaces - that are free or low cost to use.</p>
LBI Housing	<p>In comparison with most of its near neighbour local authorities, Islington Council has retained ownership and management of a significantly higher proportion of social housing stock and places a strong focus on engagement with its social housing residents to improve housing services through a Community Development Team within its Housing Service. Helping to deliver the health and wellbeing agenda using local facilities and providing positive youth engagement activities on estates are among the core aims of this service.</p> <p>The Team works closely in partnership with the Public Realm & Sport service and the main sport development charities based in the borough (i.e. Access to Sports and Arsenal in the Community) to deliver an 'Active Estates' community activity programme. Regular Active Estates partnership meetings are held to review performance and plan for future programmes and promotions. No specific areas take precedence for these activity programmes as Islington has social housing estates throughout the borough (see Map of Community Centres & Estates at Appendix E) although the partners regularly review needs and opportunities and the stock of estate halls, community centres, ball courts and MUGAs are subject to a periodic audit/condition survey by Islington Housing Services to identify planned maintenance and upgrade requirements.</p>	<p>In 2018, the Active Estates partners have been working on increasing activities at two estates in particular - Andover and Bemerton - in response to needs identified by a cross departmental steering group. In addition, the Community Development Team has been consulting with residents of Peregrine House & Estate to develop plans to replace/upgrade the existing MUGA, play and seating/picnic areas possibly with a larger playing pitch. The Team will continue to focus on promoting to estate residents the availability of facilities and programmes for sports and physical activity facilities in their local areas, particularly in the winter months when outdoor areas are less appealing. To this end, a programme of installing and maintaining electronic noticeboards on the Council managed estates will be continued.</p> <p>The service will also continue to administer a small grants fund of up to £250 per annum available to Resident Tenant's Associations and other voluntary, recreational or community groups recognised by the council to support development activities and events as well as administration and promotion. The Active Estates programme is subject to evaluation annually through resident surveys and annual reports produced by A2S and Arsenal in the Community, including surveys of participants in the sessions. The A2S project has been delivering community development and sports activity programmes for 16 years. In 2016/17 A2S delivered 56 weekly sports coaching sessions in local estates, parks or community centres reaching approximately 5,000 young people helping a number to gain qualifications and into employment.</p> <p>Similarly, AiTC has been delivering Football in the Community and other sports and community development opportunities in partnership with the council for 13 years, including delivery of the Islington Positive Futures</p>

London Borough of Islington Sports Facilities Update 2018
Final Report

Partner / Department	Leading Priorities and Influences	On-going and Future Involvement
		<p>initiative aimed at engaging young people at risk of offending in physical activities. In 2016/17, AiTC delivered 168 weekly sessions across the borough with 5,745 individuals attending five or more sessions. The Council's Housing Service and Public Realm & Sport Service will continue to work in partnership on jointly planned and funded projects to improve community sports and recreation facilities on the borough's housing estates. The Housing Service, via its Community Development Team will also continue to support the Active Estates sports and community development project in partnership with the Sport Service, A2S and AiTC.</p>
London Sport	<p>Whilst there are a number of very good public leisure facilities in Islington, provision for people with disabilities, and specifically people with hearing impairments, is poor. There's a barrier with the workforce – they need to be upskilled to be more welcoming and more aware of what to do with people who have impairments or long term conditions.</p> <p>The parks in the borough would benefit from more activation. Residents value the outdoor space in the borough but there needs to be more organised/facilitated physical activity opportunities accessible on an informal 'drop-in' basis.</p>	<p>London Sport have a representative that works directly with LB Islington. They have objectives to help the Local Authority with the delivery of all strategies and their accompanying recommendations. Quarterly meetings will remain in place and London Sport are represented at Pro-Active meetings.</p> <p>When new leisure provision opens in the borough, London Sport will help with promotion and insight into centre usage.</p>
Sport England	<p>Islington is not one of Sport England's current priority 'Transition Local Authorities' for investment support as its Active Lives participation scores are relatively high. Also, in terms of the main stock of leisure centres and specialist facilities (e.g. Market Road Tennis), there has been significant investment in this stock in recent years to maintain high quality facility provision.</p>	<p>Sport England strongly endorses the ProActive model across Islington and Camden due to its strong focus on sport participation as a driver of public health outcomes. This model aligns with Sport England's 'Strategic Vision' model for working with LAs to support the achievement of local evidence-based priorities.</p>
GLL	<p>Indoor Facilities - The focus of this consultation centred on the benefits of the conversion of a section of the sports hall at the Sobell Sports Centre to trampolining (now operational); both the financial benefits but also the focus on young people and being more active in a less formal setting, usage and attendance numbers were really enhanced through this different offer. The other priority facility project for GLL when the consultation took place was the ongoing refurbishment works at Highbury Leisure Centre.</p> <p>Parks Pitch Bookings - GLL report they have no problems meeting demand for 5v5 slots but struggle to accommodate peak demand from club teams for 11v11 adult and 7v7 pitches (under 9s and under 10s). Meeting demand from junior schools for PE lessons is also difficult (as</p>	<p>GLL welcomes the opportunity to continue to work in a successful partnership with Islington Council on joint projects. Investment to date has impacted positively on levels of physical activity in the borough.</p> <p>The replacement of Finsbury Leisure Centre (which has reached the end of its design life) is the next priority to further improve the leisure centre estate for the benefit of existing users and to attract new users including those who are currently insufficiently active for their health and wellbeing, whilst also delivering financial efficiencies.</p> <p>GLL are also committed to working with the council and other partners as appropriate to determine a viable future for the Cally Pool. GLL perceive demand for this venue to provide an expanded offer (particularly for health and fitness activities) but recognise the constraints of the building in terms of</p>

London Borough of Islington Sports Facilities Update 2018
Final Report

Partner / Department	Leading Priorities and Influences	On-going and Future Involvement
	<p>many schools in the borough don't have onsite pitches) where a single 7v7 pitch (e.g. half of a full size pitch) is too small to comfortably accommodate a class of 40 children.</p>	<p>space and its age (future liabilities etc.</p>
<p>Access to Sport (A2S)</p>	<p>There is a shortfall of suitable, accessible spaces in the borough that are available for A2S to deliver its programmes of free and subsidised sport to residents of housing estates and other young people across the borough aged 5-25.</p> <p>The prime priority for the facility plan needs to be to protect existing sports spaces (or provide suitable replacement) in future new developments. For example, a 'sunken pitch' on Duncan Road (opposite Mount Carmel School) which serves the Elthorne Estate is earmarked as a housing new build redevelopment priority. While there is the free to access Cruyff Pitch on Elthorne Park, this does not meet all the demand for spaces for kickabouts and sports development programming in this area. Demand will only grow in future as new housing is provided. Also the tower block Peregrine House and Peregrine Estate off City Road in EC1 has a good size MUGA which needs protecting/replacing in plans for redevelopment of this housing.</p> <p>Where community centre buildings are provided in housing estates they are often not suitable to accommodate sport and recreation activities - especially ball games. Existing facilities on estates are already under pressure. For example, the loss of the second basketball court at Sobell to the Trampoline Park has impacted on the capacity of the A2S programme for basketball. With planned housing growth, there is a need for more intelligent and coherent planning of small community sports halls within estates.</p> <p>Availability of estate based facilities for sport is another issue that needs to be considered in planning future facilities. Some of the estate based MUGA pitches have planning conditions that prevent their use on Sundays or after 9pm. In future, there is a need to ensure all facilities can be used throughout the weekend (i.e. no planning restrictions on Sunday use).</p> <p>These needs have been articulated in previous assessments but, in the view of A2S, have not been addressed or given sufficient priority in</p>	<p>The 'Cally Corridor' is the top priority area in the borough to secure more/better spaces for accessible (free or low cost) opportunities for sport and recreation as far as A2S is concerned. The Bemerton Estate in this area is among the 'Big 4' social housing estates in the borough and beset with significant social deprivation and youth crime issues. A2S struggle to deliver interventions and diversionary programmes in this part of the borough due to a lack of suitable spaces.</p> <p>The main outdoor spaces available in the Cally Corridor are Barnard Park and Bingfield Park. The planned upgrade of the redgra at Barnard Park is long overdue. The redgra is not suitable to run sports development programmes.</p> <p>As well as St Aloysius College across the borough boundary, the Islington study should include Finsbury Park as this site is used as much by Islington residents as by those from Haringey. A2S are an active member of the Finsbury Park Sports Partnership which has taken on the sports facilities from Haringey Council. Recent investment in upgrading the track, gym and changing is benefiting young people from Islington. A current facility project is relaying and floodlighting the tennis courts at Finsbury Park with support from the LTA and LMCT.</p> <p>A2S faces increasing challenges in raising revenue funding in order to continue to be able to offer free and highly subsidised activity programmes in the areas of greatest need. Current sources include Islington Leisure, Islington Housing, Sport England and the European Union. With demand for schools' AGPs and Halls outstripping the supply and running costs ever-increasing, the school facility hire market is becoming increasingly competitive, putting upward pressure on hire charges which, if unchecked, will impact on accessibility for A2S and other charitable sports development providers.</p>

London Borough of Islington Sports Facilities Update 2018
Final Report

Partner / Department	Leading Priorities and Influences	On-going and Future Involvement
	investment decision making to date.	
Arsenal in the Community	<p>History and Aims: Established 1985. Delivers sport, social and education programmes to over 5,000 individuals each week. Since 2004, Arsenal in the Community has jointly financed the Islington Football Development Partnership with Islington Council and GLL.</p> <p>Key Facility Issues, Challenges and Needs:</p> <p>1. Quantity - The shortfall of large pitch spaces in the borough to meet demand and need - the lack of 11v11 pitches places constraints on AITC programmes including BTEC courses, football development training courses and tournaments with the 14-18 age group particularly. Many estate-based ball courts are simply too small to run any ball sport programmes within this age group and serve almost exclusively as play spaces for children. While this is a long-standing challenge and not a new issue, it highlights the need for policies to effectively protect existing larger spaces in the Local Plan and a commitment to maximise access and availability to these spaces for free-to-access and subsidised targeted community programming, whilst striking a balance to secure sufficient income (from hire to leagues and corporate teams) to sustain the pitches.</p> <p>2. Availability - The shortfall and pressure of demand from leagues and corporate hires means that there is insufficient availability of those larger pitch spaces that do exist for targeted programming. Market Road, Whittington and Tufnell Park are not available to AITC currently. Paradise Park pitch is an example where corporate bookings clash with demand from young people from the estates for free access. The Rosemary Gardens pitch strikes a better programming balance. The ideal model of provision is the Cruyff Pitch in Elthorne Park (which is free to access at all times), although it has to be recognised that sustaining this type of provision requires grants and public funding for upgrades. It is important that the <i>Sports Facilities Update</i> highlights the return on investment (both financial and social) that such facilities make relating to this and reductions in youth crime.</p> <p>3. Accessibility - Cost and booking systems are a real barrier to those most in need. Also for AITC and A2S, budgets are already stretched to meet the growing demand for structured intervention programmes. AITC see a case for more flexible charging policies to allow free or heavily subsidised access to dormant facilities in parks and on school sites in the off peak.</p>	<p>Sports programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women's sessions Coaching sessions for promising players Run local district football sides Gunners Hockey programme (in schools linking with Old Loughtonians HC in Chigwell, Essex) Other school sports support (both curriculum support and after school sessions) Short Mat bowls for 80+ (at 6 community centres and Emirates) Disability sport sessions (various at Arsenal Hub, Sobell and William Tyndale School). Talent Network - new funding is being sought to replace Premier League 4 Sport (a 2012 legacy programme jointly funded by the Premier League and Sport England). AITC partner with local coaches, schools and clubs to create a network where young talent can flourish. The Local Club talent network created includes - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Black Arrows Badminton Club Finsbury Table Tennis Club Highbury Table Tennis Club The Gunners Table Tennis Club London Lynx Volleyball Club London Beach Volleyball Club Capital London Judo Club Lions Sports Services Islington Handball Club <p>Investment in facilities - In the last few years, the Arsenal Foundation has provided c. £500k financial support to help with the refurbishment of 13 community pitches in Islington, Hackney and Camden, with the resurfaced or new facilities then used for a range of AITC and A2S sessions and or open access play. The choice of which facilities received funding for upgrade has not been particularly strategic - rather, selections made using local knowledge of local area needs built up over many years plus identifying where there is a willingness on the part of the land owner and fundable, deliverable schemes. Examples in Islington include at Quill Street, McCall and Hollins House, King Square Estate, Rosemary Gardens, Market Road, William Tyndale School, St John's School, St Mark's School and Elthorne Park.</p>

London Borough of Islington Sports Facilities Update 2018
Final Report

Partner / Department	Leading Priorities and Influences	On-going and Future Involvement
	<p>Current Project:</p> <p>Current Project:</p> <p>Emirates Stadium Podium - £10k secured to provide distance markers and branded information (including suggested exercises with players' images) around the perimeter for walking, gentle jogs and running. This is a public space already available and used by runners.</p>	<p>Facility Quality Upgrade Priorities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Barnard Park pitch - redgra not usable. Maximise size of upgrade and protect sufficient availability for free access for local young people from housing estates in Cally Corridor - e.g. Bemerton, Copenhagen Peregrine House pitch, City Road - LBI Housing has recently completed consultations and prepared outline plans to include a larger pitch space than the existing MUGA, play and seating/picnic areas. AITC accept that there is no prospect of securing a full size pitch but consider an 8-9 a side size pitch should be provided as a minimum in the regeneration proposals. Bingfield Park pitch - this park is located within the heart of the Bemerton Estate. The current ball court is poorly designed (includes a concrete ledge) and needs upgrading/expanding. In planning for this, the design should reflect that the enhanced pitch needs to continue to be open access (location within the estate will mean that no-one from outside will wish to hire it).

5.2 Consultation and Review of Surrounding Boroughs

Figure 5.2 Impact locally on new provision being planned

London Borough of Islington Sports Facilities Update 2018
Final Report

Neighbouring Borough	Key Facilities Near Boundary	Current facilities strategy?	Any facility projects of relevance
Haringey (North)	<p>St Aloysius School, Crouch End (<i>LBI Education Service</i>) - grass pitches, cricket, sports hall</p> <p>Coolhurst Tennis & Squash Club, Crouch End</p>	<p>An Indoor Sports Strategy is currently in the final stages of development</p> <p>Playing Pitch Strategy 2017</p>	<p>Wood Green regeneration and proposal for new leisure centre with swimming pool.</p> <p>Bull Lane Playing Fields (located over the boundary in Enfield) is identified as a potential hub site for football and cricket in the north with new 3G pitches and NTPs.</p> <p>There is a potential scenario for a south hub by providing a new 3G in place of a grass football pitch at St Aloysius School to address unmet demand in the Crouch End area and drawing from the north end of Islington borough. There is already junior cricket and Islington schools football on the pitches at this site.</p> <p>Plans to increase the number of floodlit tennis courts at Coolhurst LTC will also improve supply of year round tennis for residents and schools in the north of Islington borough.</p>
Hackney (East)	<p>Finsbury Park Sports Partnership - track, gym, tennis, grass pitches (Access to Sport are a founder member of the FPSP and manage bookings)</p> <p>Clissold Leisure Centre, Stoke Newington - 3 pools, health & fitness</p>	<p>No.</p> <p>An Infrastructure Assessment 2016</p>	<p>The 2016 assessment identified needs for 4 new AGPs, a 4-lane pool and 4 new sports halls. Priority projects included refurbishment or replacement of The Kings Hall LC (Victorian Baths last refurbished in 1990) and the Britannia LC in Shoreditch. A planning application was submitted in June 2018 for a replacement for the Britannia Centre to include: a 25m 6-lane pool with moveable floor, a 20m x 10m training pool with moveable floor, leisure water, a 6-court sports hall, 4 squash courts, health and fitness, 2 3G 5v5 pitches and 2 tennis courts.</p> <p>Clissold Leisure Centre built in 2002 offers facilities for competition swimming (8 lanes and spectator capacity).</p>
City of London (South)	<p>Golden Lane Leisure Centre (managed by Fusion Lifestyle)</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>The Golden Lane LC is Grade 2 Listed and was refurbished in 2012 at a cost of £2.63m providing a training pool, badminton court and health and fitness facilities. Very accessible to residents in the south of Islington borough.</p>
Tower Hamlets (South East)	<p>Mulberry Sports Centre, Whitechapel - small sided 3G pitches, health and fitness</p> <p>St George's Leisure Centre,</p>	<p>Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy 2017-2027</p> <p>Playing Pitch Assessment 2017</p>	<p>A number of strategic options are under consideration to increase the overall supply of publicly accessible sports halls and swimming pools in Tower Hamlets with partners, ideally to include neighbouring councils. Site options for new swimming and sports hall provision are identified as: Bishopsgate Good Yard, redevelopment and/or extensions to</p>

London Borough of Islington Sports Facilities Update 2018
Final Report

Neighbouring Borough	Key Facilities Near Boundary	Current facilities strategy?	Any facility projects of relevance
	<p>Shadwell - pools, health and fitness (<i>home to Islington Underwater Hockey Club</i>)</p> <p>John Orwell Sports Centre, Wapping - sports hall, small sided 3G pitches, health and fitness</p>		<p>Whitechapel Sports Centre and York Hall and either addition of a sports hall at St George's or development of this site with reinvestment of proceeds in providing a pool and 3G 5v5 pitches at the John Orwell Leisure Centre close by.</p> <p>Shortfall of one full size 3G pitch, a full size sand based AGP for hockey, a cricket NTP and at least one senior rugby pitch but no current plans to address.</p>
Camden (West)	<p>Kentish Town Sports Centre</p> <p>Talacre Community Sports Centre</p> <p>Pancras Square Leisure Centre</p> <p>Swiss Cottage Leisure Centre</p>	No.	<p>The newest leisure centre in Camden - Pancras Square LC in the heart of Kings Cross opened in 2014. It offers a 25m pool with a moveable floor, a training pool and a health and fitness suite. The centre is easily accessible from south Islington.</p> <p>For residents on the west side of the borough, the gymnastics centre (Talacre) and the Victorian Kentish Town Sports Centre (refurbished in 2010) are also easy to access. For competition swimming, Swiss Cottage LC provides high quality facilities (8 lanes) built in 2006.</p> <p>£1.5m improvement funding was confirmed by Camden Council in March 2018 in partnership with GLL and the London Marathon Charitable Trust to expand the gymnastics and soft play facilities and upgrade public areas. Proposals are under consideration by Camden Council for expansion of the Talacre Sports Centre which first opened in 2003.</p>

5.3 Conclusion – Key Stakeholders

- The demand and need for a new replacement sports centre in the Finsbury (Bunhill & Clerkenwell) area in the south of the borough is recognised as a key future part of the regeneration plan for this area.
- Stark health inequalities remain, furthering the evidence that the borough remains divided socially, economically and in terms of people's wellbeing. Investment into and improving access to low cost park and estate-based facilities for physical activity and sport is recognised as a key priority for investment into health and wellbeing.
- The Cally corridor area remains a priority for the improvement of community infrastructure including the long term future of the Cally Pools.
- A major upgrade or replacement of the Islington Boxing Club and replacement of the out-dated redgra pitch with a modern 3G facility in Barnard Park remain priorities to help deliver health, wellbeing and sports/community development objectives.
- A particular issue for agencies delivering sports on estates is to ensure (through the planning process) that as housing estates are upgraded, estate based sports facilities are provided to the appropriate size and specifications so as to be accessible to older teenagers and young adults, not just younger children.
- Parts of the Islington Schools estate needs significant investment and the timing could represent a good opportunity for the sports facilities identified within this report to be considered within the business case being put forward. A number of the priority schools identified are in areas of need within Islington and investment into those facilities would have a notable social and community impact on health, wellbeing and sport.

5.4 Consultation with National Governing Bodies of Sport

A series of telephone interviews and email consultations were undertaken with all the relevant National Governing Bodies of Sports (NGBs) to gather their views on the current and future provision of leisure facilities in the borough and to ascertain whether Islington has been identified as an area for development for their sport.

Figure 5.3 summaries the key facility priorities for each NGB, the NGB's opinion on current provision within the borough, the NGBs future facility needs and whether or not the NGB can contribute funding to facility developments for their sport.

Figure 5.3: NGB Survey Consultation Summary

NGB	Priority Borough? Y/N Programmes?	Current Provision - Key Clubs/Facilities	Quantity rating? (1-5)	Quality rating? (1-5)	Future Facility Needs	Funding for facility development?
England Boxing	Yes - high youth crime rates. Priority for EB diversionary programmes. Also working with the council to develop daytime programmes at dedicated club sites where there is capacity - e.g. at Islington BC - for mental health (MIND) and disability programmes.	Islington Boxing Club (Club Mark) - EB affiliated Islington & Finsbury Youth Club (Angel ABC) - unaffiliated York Way Community Centre (Times ABC - multisport) - affiliated to the Amateur Boxing Alliance (ABA) not EB Sobell Centre - dedicated Boxing Studio - used by several unaffiliated community groups - Knockout BC, Islington Community BC, Sobell LGBT BC	Good (4)	Good (4) Sobell dedicated boxing studio York Way CC had funding a few years ago to expand and upgrade the boxing gym	Priority is to upgrade/replace the Islington BC building. The club secured a 99yr lease on its premises from the Council in 2012 and is currently working on a funding strategy to raise £1m+ before commissioning a feasibility study, planning application and grant funding bids.	No - EB meeting IBC in June to discuss funding options e.g. SE CAF to £150k; LMCT to £150k, GLA, local trusts, Corporate Sponsorship.
Swim England	All local authority districts are a priority for the activity of swimming. No specific programmes that London Swimming are aware of. The Anaconda Swim Club is affiliated to Swim England and London Swimming and holds Swim England Swim 21 quality accreditation. The Swim England Learn to Swim Framework is used for teaching.	Highbury Leisure Centre Archway LC Ironmonger RB (Anaconda SC and CliDive Sub Aqua) Cally Pools (Anaconda SC and Cally Masters SC) Holloway School (Anaconda SC) City of London Academy Pool Commercial health and fitness clubs with pools - Virgin Active (Moorgate), Virgin Active (Angel), Nuffield Health (Islington), Fitness First (Highbury) Otium Club (Barbican) and Soho Gyms (Farringdon). There is provision for synchronised swimming and water polo but not diving.	Good - FPM small surplus	HPools-3 ArchLC-2 IRB-2 Cally-3 Holl S-4 CLA-3 VActive-3 Others-2	There are 4 local authority community pools but only one of these (Cally Pools) is a 25m x 6-lane pool to District standard. Need to maintain quantity and enhance quality of older provision and improve energy efficiency through renewals	No
Archery GB <i>No response</i>		Access to Sport (LIFT project); Experience Archery (Caxton House CC)				

London Borough of Islington Sports Facilities Update 2018
Final Report

NGB	Priority Borough? Y/N Programmes?	Current Provision - Key Clubs/Facilities	Quantity rating? (1-5)	Quality rating? (1-5)	Future Facility Needs	Funding for facility development?
Badminton England	Discover Badminton Strategy 2017-2025 - aim to grow grass roots participation particularly by young people, and competitive opportunities.	<p>Key Clubs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Badminton Badminton Club • Finsbury Badminton Club • Goslings London Badminton Club • Black Arrows Badminton Club • Sobell Junior Badminton Club • Sobell Badminton Club • Black Arrows Badminton Club • London Met Badminton Club <p>Key Facilities: Finsbury Leisure Centre and Sobell Leisure Centre are used by several clubs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finsbury Leisure Centre • Sobell Leisure Centre • Science Centre (London Met University) • City University <p>School Activity: Black Arrows Badminton Club is involved in coaching badminton in schools across Islington. Shapla Primary has engaged with BE in the past to improve their badminton provision and get more young people playing through The Racket Pack initiative. Also, primary satellite clubs are set up at Copenhagen Primary School and Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, linked to Black Arrows Badminton Club.</p>	<p>Islington has a number of good facilities where Badminton is played, which includes sports centres and school facilities.</p> <p>Loss of courts at Sobell to Trampoline Park has impacted on quantity of courts (reduced by half)</p>	<p>CityUni - 5 FLC - 4 Sobell - 3</p> <p>All the facilities have sufficient courts, and are well used. The difference in the score is to reflect the quality of service e.g. court set up and readiness for use.</p>	<p>Finsbury Leisure Centre - the centre is dated and could be a better facility for Badminton with improved lighting.</p>	<p>No.</p>
Basketball England		<p>St Aloysius College (Islington Panthers BC)</p> <p>Islington Arts & Media School (Go Mammoth Basketball)</p>			<p>Main issue is cost of access to suitable sports halls - Panthers issue of new charges for caretaking which need to pass on to parents from next year.</p>	

London Borough of Islington Sports Facilities Update 2018
Final Report

NGB	Priority Borough? Y/N Programmes?	Current Provision - Key Clubs/Facilities	Quantity rating? (1-5)	Quality rating? (1-5)	Future Facility Needs	Funding for facility development?
Boccia England	Not currently. The NGB are looking at priority areas for the next 12 months now but it is unlikely Islington will be one. No NGB programmes.	There are no affiliated clubs in Islington. The nearest boccia group is Hackney Warriors (Space SC in Hoxton N1)	Not known	Not known	No current priorities	None
Bowls England	No affiliated bowls club currently in Islington Borough. LBI Greenspace manage Finsbury Square green as Pay and Play green from May to September. It is popular in fine weather with office workers for bowls and picnics. 'Barefoot Bowls' sessions are programmed. For 28 days over the Christmas period a marquee is erected over the green which is used for events including 'Beach Rugby'.	Outdoors: Finsbury Square (6 rinks). Others in neighbouring boroughs: City of London BC (in King Edward Memorial Park, Tower Hamlets); Parliament Hill BC (Camden) and Hornsey BC (Haringey).	BE would like to see an affiliated bowls club at Finsbury Square subject to green upgrade or conversion to artificial	BE: Poor playing standard at Finsbury Square	Installation of an artificial surface would, on balance, appear to meet the needs of this site – particularly given the challenge of maintaining a natural grass surface to a good playing standard.	None
English Indoor Bowling Association	A former indoor club in Islington - Mansfield IBC in Highgate - closed a few years ago and the site was sold for development.	Indoors: Nearest are in Bounds Green - 3 rinks (LB Haringey); The Lawns David Lloyd - 6 rinks (LB Enfield), Glebelands IBC - 8 rinks (LB Barnet), and Paddington- 6 rinks (Westminster).	Good - capacity to increase members at all 4 clubs	EIBA: BG - 4 Lawns - 4 Glebe - 4 Padd - 2	No current priorities	None
British Canoeing	Islington attended 2018 LYG in paddle sports Regent's Canal 200th anniversary events in 2019.	Islington Boat Club; Regents Canoe Club (Regents Canal at Graham Street)				
RYA London & SE - Sailing	Yes - located close to RYA affiliated clubs and Centres; Large diverse population; Number of schools and community groups; Excellent opportunity to drive boating in an urban environment; and to enable boating to be more accessible as a whole (i.e. less travel time to participate)	Islington Boat Club (IBC) is an RYA Recognised Training Centre providing RYA certified Training in Powerboating, Inland Waterways (Narrow boating) and Dinghy sailing (Dinghy sailing currently suspended due to a change in staff but soon to be reinstated). Located on the Regents Canal, IBC cater for youth and adults and are fully inclusive delivering accessible boating for all ages, abilities and disabilities. IBC deliver curriculum and non-curriculum boating and land based activities and	2 - limited capacity	4 - just need to improve layout and allocation of space	IBC - Equipment (craft, personal equipment); Staff funding; Facility design, layout and allocation of space. (i.e. Making the facility fit for purpose and for	No

London Borough of Islington Sports Facilities Update 2018
Final Report

NGB	Priority Borough? Y/N Programmes?	Current Provision - Key Clubs/Facilities	Quantity rating? (1-5)	Quality rating? (1-5)	Future Facility Needs	Funding for facility development?
	IBC is delivering: i) IBC Over 50's ii) RYA Learn to sail iii) RYA Start Power Boating iv) RYA Inland Waterways	<p>are exceptionally well placed for promoting boating in an urban setting leading to further boating opportunities outside of London.</p> <p>Whilst Islington has its own boating club, residents are very well serviced by local RYA Training Centres and RYA Affiliated clubs a short commute away. London has excellent public transport links. Many residents will travel to providers outside the borough, namely: King George SC (Waltham Forest), Laburnum Boat Club (Hackney), Stoke Newington West Reservoir Centre (Hackney), Westminster Boating Base (Westminster), Welsh Harp SC (Brent), Wembley SC (Brent), Phoenix Outdoor Centre (Barnet), Shadwell Outdoor Centre (Tower Hamlets), Shadwell SC (Tower Hamlets) and Docklands Sailing and Watersport Centre (Tower Hamlets). The clubs listed do not include the many Sea Scout and Marine Society Sea Cadet groups (both are affiliated to the RYA) which includes a MSSC Boat Station in the London Borough of Newham (Royal Docks) and the Welsh Harp Reservoir (Brent).</p>			the ability to be sustainable).	
British Cycling	No purpose built facilities for cycling in Islington currently. London is currently divided across three BC Regions.	<p>Islington Cycle Club (established in 2012 as part of the borough's Olympic Legacy). A large, inclusive club with 600+ members, 20% female and a youth section for 8-15yr olds. 9 weekly club rides are organised to suit all abilities. Most rides start from Whittington Park, and some from Regent's Park Inner Circle which offers a different ride experience. The club also uses Finsbury Park (tarmac Basketball Courts) as traffic free space for skills training etc.</p> <p>Islington Pedal Power is a cycling club for people with learning disabilities. They use the Emirates Stadium concourse and Finsbury Park (Basketball Courts).</p>				
British Fencing London Region	No. BF has worked with the charity	Finsbury LC EC1 (2 evenings and Saturday afternoons) and Central Foundation School for		Adequate for club's		No

London Borough of Islington Sports Facilities Update 2018
Final Report

NGB	Priority Borough? Y/N Programmes?	Current Provision - Key Clubs/Facilities	Quantity rating? (1-5)	Quality rating? (1-5)	Future Facility Needs	Funding for facility development?
	London Youth in recent years on a fencing programme for young people using the MUGA on the roof of Mary Magdelene Academy. The Regional Centre of Fencing Excellence is in Hendon (Leon Paul Fencing Centre) which is reasonably accessible from Islington.	Boys EC2 (4 evenings). London Fencing Club (300 members) Fighting Fit Fencing Club courses at Mount Carmel School N19		needs - planned new FLC will enhance quality		
British Gymnastics London Region	No. Focus is based on need, suitability and partners' ability to support a project to successful completion. BG Facility Development Priorities (for 2017 - 2021) are: - Support increased capacity through clubs, leisure providers and other delivery providers. - Guide investment from British Gymnastics, Home Country Sports Councils, Local Authorities and other potential funders. - Maintain and improve the quality of facilities and equipment within existing delivery partners. - Develop insight of how facility developments can contribute towards other BG Strategic Priorities. The emphasis for 2017 - 2021 will be using gymnastics as a foundation sport for 5 to 11 year olds and for teenagers to be retained in sport and physical activity. Older people is an area of opportunity including those with specific health issues as demonstrated by the 'Love to Move' Programme.	Calypso GC with c.150 members - based at Elizabeth Garratt Anderson School, London Met Uni Tower Building and City of London Academy in Highgate. This is the only club fully based in Islington Borough. Also, Islington and Hampstead GC has an Islington base at Jackson's Lane Community Centre (17 No. 12 wk courses on Tues, Weds, Fridays.) There is also a GLL-run trampoline club at the Sobell Centre and the new Sobell Trampoline Park for entry level.	Low rating of quantity (and lack of dedicated facilities) in relation to demand and continuing growth trends.	No response	The Calypso club has approached BG for assistance to progress a re-location to a unit or dedicated space. The club have been pro-active working with external partners (including London Sport) on the Satellite Club programme and they have been used a good practice case study. BG will be supporting the club with a search and acquisition of a unit and advice on governance and funding applications.	No. A facility development team is available to support, develop and guide clubs, leisure providers and other partners to help achieve their facility requirements. In addition, BG is currently in discussion with Sporting Assets for a new funding stream based on low-cost loans which is planned for introduction in 2019/20.
British Judo	No No	No BJ affiliated clubs. Unaffiliated clubs delivering judo and related activities are: Sobell Judo Club (40 yrs.); MMA RP at Ringcross Community Centre N7	3 -Provision adequate to meet demand	3	Not a priority currently	No

London Borough of Islington Sports Facilities Update 2018
Final Report

NGB	Priority Borough? Y/N Programmes?	Current Provision - Key Clubs/Facilities	Quantity rating? (1-5)	Quality rating? (1-5)	Future Facility Needs	Funding for facility development?
British Taekwondo <i>No response</i>		Islington Angels (Islington West Library and Jean Stokes Community Hall); Karoon Taekwondo Academy (Sobell Centre and Vibast Community Centre in Old Street)				
British Weight Lifting <i>No response</i>		CrossFit Evolving, in railway arches unit on Holloway Road, N7. Others nearby: London Olympic Weightlifting Academy, Vauxhall; clubs in Hackney and Bethnal Green				
British Wrestling <i>No response</i>		Nearest - XTream London Wrestling at Selby Centre, N17 (Sunday evenings)				
England Athletics	<p>The current EA facilities strategy priorities are: to safeguard the existing stock of facilities; to upgrade non-competition standard venues; to develop new and innovative models for training provision. Also, to infill geographical gaps with compact facilities that are located at Satellite sites (preferably school sites). The NGB does not have priority areas, but the current Track and field facilities at Finsbury Park are strategically important for athletics and they would want to see them preserved and enhanced.</p> <p>No EA development programme initiatives in borough at present.</p>	<p>London Heathside AC at Finsbury Park 'London Marathon Track'; and North London YMCA (Tottenham Lane Centre) N8 (Haringey)</p> <p>Finsbury Park sits on the border of both Hackney and Islington in the far south corner of Haringey. The newly laid track and Heathside club serves people from all 3 boroughs as well as from Camden.</p>	4 - enough 6/8 lane tracks	4 or 5 - Finsbury Park London Marathon Track 1 - Finsbury Park Pavilion	<p>The facility priority of EA in Islington is to replace the pavilion and changing rooms at Finsbury Park.</p> <p>The area has a number of large road running clubs. EA consider that Urban planners need to consider safe, well-lit paved routes.</p>	No

London Borough of Islington Sports Facilities Update 2018
Final Report

NGB	Priority Borough? Y/N Programmes?	Current Provision - Key Clubs/Facilities	Quantity rating? (1-5)	Quality rating? (1-5)	Future Facility Needs	Funding for facility development?
England Handball	<p>Islington has a club and school handball activity (coordinated by London Youth Games) therefore focus of development work in region is on other areas where club or school handball opportunities are not currently provided.</p> <p>No specific programmes or initiatives in the borough currently. In future, EH is looking to launch a new national initiative to introduce handball skills in primary schools.</p>	<p>St Aloysius School (Haringey); St Mary Magdalene Academy N7 have teams in the LYG. The former reached national schools handball finals in 2017.</p> <p>Islington Handball Club play out of London Metropolitan University Sports Hall. EH report some issues with this venue regarding management and availability. Also the club has been in dispute with the league regarding overseas players and registration costs.</p>	Lack of suitable sized sports halls for league handball nationally. Only 3 halls in London with 40x20m halls with handball markings	Not known	Always interested in opportunities for handball in sports halls even if not the ideal 40x20m adult league competition dimensions. Lower leagues show flexibility on issue of court dimensions and accept courts of circa 36m x 18m where necessary (NB. this is still larger than a standard 4 ct badminton hall).	No. However, EH will support with cost of handball line markings in suitable sports halls.
England Hockey	No. All activity is exported to surrounding areas. EH is not aware of any development programmes operating in Islington. There are a few schools EH class as 'attached to hockey' but EH are not aware of these schools having formal links with clubs.	<p>Nearest large club is West Hampstead HC playing at Whitefield School in Barnet.</p> <p>Also London Academicals HC, with origins in UCL students, play in Bermondsey.</p>	n/a	n/a	EH has no facility priorities in Islington currently as there are no compliant pitches or identified opportunities to provide any.	England Hockey are reliant on grant funds to support any facility investment
England Netball	Yes - Islington is one of several London Boroughs were EN allocate additional staff resources on netball development support.	<p>Cumberland Netball Club (Club of the Year 2017) play in leagues at national, regional and county levels and use venues in Islington and Camden (both indoor and outdoor floodlit courts) including CitySport (Franklin Building, Clerkenwell) and Holloway School (Premier & Regional teams); Elizabeth Garratt Anderson School (A, B & South Teams). Also, an Islington 'One Heart' Social Netball League runs on the outdoor courts at Highbury Fields & Highbury Grove schools.</p> <p>There are several established commercial leagues operating in Islington:</p>	Adequate	Not known	Club has well established relationship with London City University and Holloway School and priority need is continued access to both venues at affordable rates. Similarly, low cost access to	No

London Borough of Islington Sports Facilities Update 2018
Final Report

NGB	Priority Borough? Y/N Programmes?	Current Provision - Key Clubs/Facilities	Quantity rating? (1-5)	Quality rating? (1-5)	Future Facility Needs	Funding for facility development?
		Play Netball <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Elizabeth Garrett Anderson School · Highbury Grove School Go Mammoth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · City of London Academy · Highbury Fields Netball Courts All Nations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Highbury Grove School · Highbury Fields Netball Courts Back to Netball, Netball Now and Walking Netball drop in sessions take place across Thornhill Sports Pitch, Sobell LC and Highbury Fields.			Highbury Fields, Thornhill and Sobell outdoor pitches needs to be maintained for £3/£4 a session drop in netball.	
England Squash		Sobell LC (6); Finsbury LC (4); Ironmonger Row Baths (2); Coolhurst Tennis & Squash Club (7) - just across the boundary in Haringey. Southbank Club (5) in Wandsworth also accessible	Good	Good - IRB, Sobell. New courts planned at FLC.	The retention of 4 courts in the replacement plans for the Finsbury LC.	No
English Lacrosse <i>No response</i>		SOAS (Uni club), WC1H; Central London Lacrosse Club (Regents Park Hub) and in Camden at Talacre Sports Centre, Dalby St				
Exercise Movement & Dance Partnership		EMD member organisation classes (e.g. in Street League, Urban Dance Fitness, Nordic Walking, Move It or Lose It, FitSteps, Circus Fit, Boxercise)				
Goalball UK	Not currently - the sport is very small in London at present.	Nearest: The Castle Leisure Centre, 22 Elephant and Castle, London SE1 6SQ Fortnightly on Tuesdays 6pm-8pm. £3/session (new £20m centre)	Not enough knowledge of facilities	Not enough knowledge of facilities	For visually impaired sport it's vital for the venue to be in close proximity (short walk) to a tube stop or train station. This is often the deal breaker when choosing venues for the sport.	No
Great Britain Wheelchair Rugby	Yes - Sobell Leisure Centre is a priority facility moving forward	Nearest - London Wheelchair Rugby Club at ASPIRE in Stanmore	2	3	There needs to be increased	No.

London Borough of Islington Sports Facilities Update 2018
Final Report

NGB	Priority Borough? Y/N Programmes?	Current Provision - Key Clubs/Facilities	Quantity rating? (1-5)	Quality rating? (1-5)	Future Facility Needs	Funding for facility development?
	due to having accessible space and an established programme for disability sport.				capacity for disability sport, with scheduled times allotted in centre timetables.	
Lawn Tennis Association	<p>The LTA has previously invested significant funding to venues in Islington. The borough has one of the 8 community indoor tennis centres in London. The LTA knows demand for tennis is high, evidenced by the booking data obtained from sites across the borough. Therefore Islington is classed as a priority, but further development potential is limited by facilities.</p> <p>The LTA are confident that more indoor courts would provide a good return on investment.</p> <p>A new programme is launching at Highbury Fields from June 2018, for adults and juniors, delivered by GLL. This is following a new Islington Parks coach license that has been agreed between the council, GLL and coaches operating on Highbury Fields. There are plans for a small programme to be introduced at Tufnell Park, once the programme at HF has grown.</p> <p>Schools outreach programme: Following a Schools roadshow that took place in Highbury Fields, Tufnell Park & Rosemary Gardens – GLL have engaged with and set up a regular schools programme</p>	<p>Islington Tennis Centre (Market Road); Highbury Fields/Highbury TC; Rosemary Gardens; Tufnell Park.</p> <p>Also, in Haringey, Finsbury Park courts (when upgraded), Coolhurst Club - large high quality trust owned club with indoor and outdoor floodlit courts and extensive junior coaching programme just over the boundary in Haringey, and Highgate Club.</p> <p>Courts at Clissold Park in Hackney and Hampstead in Camden also serve Islington residents.</p>	1 - All of the main facilities in Islington are at capacity, peak times are way over capacity. Activity levels of the Borough are high against the number of courts. Local venues just over the borders are also at capacity	4 - Mostly Very Good	<p>1. Indoor Courts at Islington Tennis Centre – need to be resurfaced.</p> <p>2. Top bank of courts at Highbury Fields</p> <p>3. Tufnell Park courts.</p> <p>Early stage discussions have taken place around covering more at courts at Islington TC.</p> <p>Whilst not in Islington, the LTA have invested in sites in other boroughs that sit just across the border and serve Islington residents- e.g. LTA funding approved to invest in Finsbury Park courts; exploring options for conversion of grass courts and</p>	<p>Yes – primarily for indoor and floodlit projects</p> <p>£125m of funding over ten years to be matched by partners 50/50</p>

London Borough of Islington Sports Facilities Update 2018
Final Report

NGB	Priority Borough? Y/N Programmes?	Current Provision - Key Clubs/Facilities	Quantity rating? (1-5)	Quality rating? (1-5)	Future Facility Needs	Funding for facility development?
	<p>with 2 local schools at HF, 1 at TP, 1 at RG. Ongoing programme being developed at Islington Tennis Centre with 10+ schools engaged (1,000 kids); Mini/Junior programme with 500+ children.</p> <p>Regular adults programme SERVES being delivered by Access to Sport at a Centre at Rose Bowl Youth Centre N1 2PT</p> <p>Disability sessions at Islington TC</p>				<p>more floodlighting at Coolhurst Club subject to the enhanced courts being made accessible to other local tennis clubs in the 'Tennis Network'</p>	
<p>London Volleyball Association</p>	<p>Not a specific priority.</p> <p>Entered into the Volleyball Events in the London Youth Games.</p>	<p>SOAS VC (Uni Club) use the William Ellis School in Camden, Lilian Bayliss School in Southwark, and London Met University Sports Centre in Islington. London Met also has its own volleyball club. Sobell Centre is used for Recreational Volleyball and League Volleyball by Inter Volleyball Club.</p> <p>Inter VC also use the Talacre Sports Centre in Camden. Islington Arts & Media Centre has been used on occasions by a number of teams including Met. Police and Inter VC.</p>	2	1	<p>Need more sports hall space/ programme time for indoor volleyball - recently lost access to Sports Hall at Elizabeth Garrett Anderson School due to management issues (formerly used by LYG squads).</p> <p>Currently looking to secure access to the sports hall at Acland Burghley School (just over boundary in Camden). If access is secured, there will be a need to install court</p>	<p>Cannot fund new facilities, only court equipment.</p>

London Borough of Islington Sports Facilities Update 2018
Final Report

NGB	Priority Borough? Y/N Programmes?	Current Provision - Key Clubs/Facilities	Quantity rating? (1-5)	Quality rating? (1-5)	Future Facility Needs	Funding for facility development?
					equipment (net posts, line markings).	
<p>ECB Middlesex Cricket Board</p>	<p>Yes - in 2014 MCB identified with the council that participation rates were in decline in schools and communities. In 2014 only 6 Islington schools had cricket coaching taking place on site and a junior club (once thriving) had ceased to exist. In 2016 Islington Council and Middlesex Cricket joint funded a full time cricket coach post, with the remit to get cricket back on the school curriculums (primary, secondary and special), create community cricket sessions on housing estates, restart Islington Cricket Club and promote the playing of cricket in Islington. Funding for the post is to September 2019.</p>	<p>Wray Crescent NTP and outfield. There is no pavilion (former provision is condemned). There is a container on-site used for changing and storage. MCB colts use the pitch for training along with occasional use for London LMS league fixtures. The main user is Pacific CC who play 15 friendly matches at Wray Crescent.</p> <p>St Aloysius School (Haringey) – a grass pitch (funded by BIG Lottery) and NTP (funded by Chance to Shine).</p>	4	2 - NTP 1 - Pavilion NTP is worn and some issues with outfield shared with football (mitigated by use of moveable goals)	<p>Middlesex cricket would like to see a new pavilion built at Wray Crescent. Through the London Cricket Trust, we will replace the NTP but to create a better user experience, a new pavilion is vital to promote the development of junior and Adult cricket.</p> <p>Important to retain St Aloysius pitch and to ensure that current 3G project at this school has no impact on cricket.</p>	<p>NTP - Yes (London Cricket Trust)</p> <p>Pavilion - Some potential. Conversations are in early stages.</p>
<p>London Football Association</p>	<p>Priority borough for estate based diversionary and social inclusion programmes - delivered by A2S and Arsenal ITC charities.</p> <p>LFA supporting Islington Football Partnership with Disability Youth Football Festival in July 2018 with a view to CIYFL establishing a disability youth football league at Market Road to link into adult disability sessions delivered by the</p>	<p>FA registered 3Gs at Market Road and Whittington Park.</p> <p>3G MUGAs at Finsbury LC, in Rosemary Gardens and Paradise Park</p> <p>Grass pitch at Tufnell Park.</p> <p>Grass pitches and 9v9 across border at St Aloysius School.</p> <p>Informal play on Barnard Park (redgra), grass in</p>	<p>Poor - there is a lack of capacity for team training due to the low number of pitches and demand in peak to play league games and</p>	<p>Good - Whit Park, Rosemary Gardens, Paradise Park and IAMs School all resurfaced and major remedial works for</p>	<p>Provide more capacity of FA registered 3G pitches. Confident that 2 or 3 more in the Islington/ Camden area would be filled by unmet and latent demand in peak.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>No - LBI funded</p>

London Borough of Islington Sports Facilities Update 2018
Final Report

NGB	Priority Borough? Y/N Programmes?	Current Provision - Key Clubs/Facilities	Quantity rating? (1-5)	Quality rating? (1-5)	Future Facility Needs	Funding for facility development?
	IFDP.	parks and open spaces - e.g. Wray Crescent, Whittington Park and on numerous hard court MUGAs in parks, at school sites and on estates (some floodlit).	commercial 5v5. High unmet and latent demand for youth football (CIYFL turns away teams) Young players who want to progress in 11v11 grass football are forced to travel to clubs in outer London, boroughs or Essex/Herts fringe.	FA reg. at Market Road in 2018. Drainage works to Tufnell Park pitch in 2017.	Barnard Park 9v9 3G project (FF supported at planning) St Aloysius FA reg. 3G project. (planning app submitted to Haringey) and protect 9v9 and senior grass pitches Protect Tufnell Park grass pitch. Redevelopment of Finsbury LC - seek to secure small-sided pitches to FA registration spec in replacement proposals.	(cap. programme, S106)
Rounders England	The whole of England is a priority for Rounders England. The 2017-2021 strategic mission is to connect people through Rounders. At present, there are no RE programmes in Islington.	Rounders can be played by anyone, anywhere. Many teams & leagues play at social sport clubs, cricket clubs, council parks etc. The sport has a number of school members in and around the borough. There is the Go Mammoth Rounders league (https://www.gomammoth.co.uk/rounders/london/). There are no club teams. The nearest recorded is in Newham.	n/a	n/a	Not presently.	Not presently.

London Borough of Islington Sports Facilities Update 2018
Final Report

NGB	Priority Borough? Y/N Programmes?	Current Provision - Key Clubs/Facilities	Quantity rating? (1-5)	Quality rating? (1-5)	Future Facility Needs	Funding for facility development?
London & SE Rugby Football League	There is no rugby league activity in Islington, other than primary school rugby league as part of the School Games and London Youth Games primary school competition structure. The borough is not a priority locally.	There is a pro-team in Ealing (London Broncos). The nearest amateur clubs are London Skolars (u14/u16 at White Hart Lane Community Sports Centre in Haringey), Newham Dockers (Memorial Park, West Ham), Brixton Bulls (Woodmansterne Playing Fields), West Warriors and Hammersmith Hill Hoists both at Dukes Meadows in LB Hounslow.	n/a	n/a	(See RFU below - if Barnard Park 9v9 football 3G has rugby shockpad, then will also be usable for the development of junior rugby league in future)	No
Rugby Football Union		2 reduced sized pitches (no posts) are marked in Paradise Park N7. These are predominantly used by Try Tag Rugby and also have markings to facilitate games being played. Most use is between April and October. There are two rugby clubs based in Islington, namely City University RFC (who train at the new CitySport facility in Goswell Road and play midweek fixtures on grass pitch at East London RFC's ground in Plaistow and Regent's Park Hub) and HAC RFC who play at their own ground in City Road and use out of borough sites (Chiswick RFC in Dukes Meadows, and The Park Club) when necessary. Finsbury Park RFC, based just across the boundary in Haringey, play at several sites including Downs Hill Park, Finsbury Park and Schools sites.	2 - Shortfall of pitches to meet demand	3	Little provision for community rugby in the borough. Access to the Uni and HAC club sites is very limited. Both clubs use several alternative venues when their "homes" are unviable for play. The Barnard Park 3G 9v9 football pitch proposal presents the potential to work with the Council, SE and FA/FF on providing a rugby compliant surface and shock pad.	Yes
Table Tennis England	Yes - a priority to support any existing clubs and to encourage more use of the social tables in parks that the council has provided in recent years.	Highbury TTC based at both St Mary Magdalene Academy, N7 (close to Paradise Park which has social tables) and Highbury Grove School. Other social outdoor tables are located in Whittington Park (with a table tennis group), Tufnell Park, Wray Crescent, Highbury Fields and Rosemary Gardens.	3	3	None identified. There has been recent investment made by the council in social tables.	No. NGB provide support to clubs and local authorities in making grant applications to other agencies.
Triathlon England	Many perceive triathlon as a white middle class sport. TE is seeking	London Heathside, AC based in the borough, has a large Tri section and has weekly swim training	In London, TE hear	Unknown	Many London Tri clubs are internet	No

London Borough of Islington Sports Facilities Update 2018
Final Report

NGB	Priority Borough? Y/N Programmes?	Current Provision - Key Clubs/Facilities	Quantity rating? (1-5)	Quality rating? (1-5)	Future Facility Needs	Funding for facility development?
	to address this and create a more diverse sport. Islington is a borough of huge diversity and of interest to TE. GO TRI is a TE initiative that provides an entry-level experience and is all about removing barriers with accessible participation opportunities and activities.	sessions at Park Road Pools in Haringey N8. The Capital Tri club (20 adults) is based at West Reservoir Green Lanes N4 for open water swimming and uses Lee Valley Velo Park for bike training. Hampstead Tri Club (120 members including juniors) is based at Kentish Town SC, NW5 in Camden.	about lack of pool time and the problems associated with cycling safely, particularly for juniors.		only with no permanent facility base for training. TE is not a facility-owning NGB. All tri clubs suffer from lack of pool space and safe places for children and adults to train for cycling.	
The British Mountaineering Council <i>No response</i>		None. The nearest indoor walls are Castle Climbing Centre (Green Lanes) and Stoke Newington (N4). Other indoor centres in the area are: Westway, Mile End and Spider (Tolworth). London Mountaineering Club use all venues.				
British Wheelchair Basketball Association <i>No response</i>		There are no clubs in the borough. The nearest is Sparrows WBC at SPACE LC, Hackney N1 6HQ. Other nearby clubs are in Southwark, Hackney, Lewisham and Lambeth.				
American Football <i>No response</i>		London Blitz club play on the 3G football pitches at Market Road and on a grass pitch in Finsbury Park just over the borough boundary in Haringey. The Floreal Sports Foundation run Flag sessions for girls in the borough at Elizabeth Garrett Anderson School.				
Gaelic Athletic Association <i>No response</i>		There are no clubs in Islington. The nearest are Holloway Gaels Ladies and Eire Og London GAA Club who play in Downhills Park, Haringey and train two evenings a week at Park View Academy N15.				

5.5 Summary NGB Consultation

Whilst a disappointing response from a number of governing bodies, there remains a number of key priorities emerging from the NGB feedback:

- Boxing has been identified as an integral part of the sporting offer within Islington and the ABA has identified the need to protect and upgrade the boxing provision at the Islington Boxing Club is a key priority.
- Basketball in Islington remains a strong sport and continued access to the sports halls at Sobell, IAM School and the replacement 6-court hall at Finsbury Leisure Centre as well as the London Metropolitan University sports hall at an affordable cost will be critical to sustaining and growing participation in line with demand.
- Swim England acknowledge the long standing aspirations of the successful Anaconda swimming club for a larger competition pool but consider the short term facility priority is to ensure the existing stock of pools are sustainable (e.g. through investment in a more efficient plant at Holloway School) and, in the medium term, a replacement for the Cally Pools to district level (6-lane) competition standard.
- The water sports governing bodies recognise the importance of Islington Boat Club as a key provider of opportunities in an urban inner city area, and consider the facility priority is to upgrade the layout of the clubhouse to improve its space allocation for users.
- Athletics strongly support the needs case for a replacement pavilion and changing rooms at Finsbury Park currently being promoted by the managing partnership at this key site for both Islington and Haringey boroughs.
- Cricket identify the need for a new pavilion at Wray Crescent (the only cricket facility in the borough) to support the programme on the artificial wicket at this site which the county board has committed to resurface.
- Tennis consider Islington to be a flagship provider of high quality community courts (both indoor and outdoor) and identifies the completion of the upgrades to the final three courts in Highbury Fields as a priority followed by resurfacing of the heavily used indoor courts at the Market Road Tennis Centre.
- Handball, Netball and Volleyball all seek access to suitably sized indoor courts in the Islington area and consider the planned replacement of the sports hall at Finsbury Leisure Centre with a 6-court hall (to England Netball approved dimensions for run offs) as suitable to facilitate the development of their sports in the borough.
- Rugby consider the project to install a 3G facility at Barnard Park in place of the derelict redgra pitch presents a valuable opportunity to secure a suitable venue for rugby development through investment in a World Rugby compliant shock pad in partnership with the council and the Football Foundation.
- Football strongly identify the need to secure more FA-approved standard 3G capacity in the borough, particularly for 9v9 and 11v11 football, in the context of high demand driven by the local leagues and growth in the adult small sided game and the lack of available land for grass pitches.

5.6 Consultation with Clubs and Leagues

In order to develop an understanding of the facility needs and demands for sports clubs within Islington, and so as not to duplicate surveys, Hall Aitken Consultants distributed an online survey to sports clubs and community organisations with questions covering facility issues and needs as well as demand data. Many of the organisations self-defined as neither a sports club nor community organisation and therefore did not complete the questions in the survey pertaining to sports facility provision in the borough. Fewer than 20 completed responses were received from clubs and community groups for this reason. Follow up consultations were therefore carried out with several key stakeholders and with representatives of key leagues - i.e. the Camden & Islington Junior Football League and the Islington Adult Football League - to ensure that the consultation secured a response that was broadly representative of the views of football clubs based in the borough on facility needs and priorities for the future.

With regard to football, it was noted by the league organisers and the borough's Football Development Manager that the low response by individual clubs to the online survey reflects high overall satisfaction levels with the facilities currently available at the main central league venue (Market Road Football Centre) which has benefited from large scale enhancement in the last two years.

Figure 5.4 Club and League Consultees

Anaconda Swimming Club	Islington Gymnastics Club
Highbury Table Tennis Club	Hampstead Gymnastics Club
Black Arrows Badminton Club	The North London Special Leagues
Asmara Football Club	Camden & Islington Youth Football League
Highbury Tennis Club	Islington Adult Football League
Highbury Fields Parkrun Group	Pedal Power Cycling Club
Islington Handball Club	Islington Borough Ladies Football Club
Try Tag Rugby Group	Drayton Football Club
Clidive Scuba Diving Club	Islington A2S Wolves
London Fencing Club	Islington Cycling Club
Illuminate Freedom	Islington Boat Club
Islington Chinese Association	Abacei

The main findings of relevance to the facilities for sport in Islington Borough can be summarised as:

- *Anaconda Swimming Club* activities are currently dispersed across four pools in the borough - Cally, Highbury, IRB and Holloway School/The Bridge. The club aspire to consolidate this programme on fewer sites and to secure access to an 8-lane 25m competition pool with spectator facilities in Islington. The club are currently petitioning the council for inclusion of a competition pool in the development plans for the former Holloway Prison site.
- *The Camden & Islington Youth Football League*, based at the Market Road Football Centre central venue, identified no facility issues at the site which has recently been upgraded. The priority issue for the league is securing more peak programme time (on Tuesday evenings) and/or capacity at other sites (subject to suitable safeguarding) to accommodate their existing 215 teams, growing demand for new girls age group teams and also from displaced teams from leagues in neighbouring boroughs. The Camden and Regent's Park League for example does not offer u16s football which leads to displacement of teams to Islington and other leagues from the age of 16. Other teams from Wapping in Tower Hamlets have applied to join the league in 2018/19. CIYFL and the Islington Football Partnership is also working to establish a Disability Youth League building on a Disability Football Festival held in 2018 and an established Sunday Adult Disability football session at the Market Road Centre. The challenge in programming the Market Road pitches is achieving the right balance between the growing demands of the CIYFL and commercial leagues to generate sufficient income to maintain the facilities to the current high standard.
- *The Islington Adult Midweek Football League* is also long established at Market Road Football Centre and is similarly highly satisfied with the quality of the facilities and the site management. The league secretary reports that, in line with the national trend in decline in adult 11-a-side football, the league has seen a slight fall in the number of teams registering in recent seasons (numbers are down by 3 or 4 teams for 2018/19) and the cost (c. £2,200-£2,500 per team per season plus first aid and kit) is the most often quoted reason for drop out along with transfer from 11-a-side to small-sided football. Other growing challenges are recruiting and retaining club officials and the difficulties of addressing the transition from the highly successful CIYFL to the adult league. Transition years are difficult particularly with the mobility of young people for education and work.
- *Islington Panthers Basketball Club* has been based at St Aloysius College (just over the borough boundary into Haringey) since its inception over 10 years ago. The College has long recognised the important role of the club in providing sporting opportunities for pupils at the school (mainly boys from year 7-13) and in the wider community. Until earlier this year the College has absorbed the caretaking costs to allow the club access at weekends and on two evenings a week. A caretaking charge is being introduced incrementally from this year which is impacting on the club's growth plans in response to large latent demand from parents of primary age children and will necessitate increasing the annual subscription for national

league level player from the current fee of £160pa from next year. Although the club has substantial capacity of volunteer coaches to expand the club, lack of access to suitable sports halls at affordable rates particularly on Sundays (when caretaking costs are c. £38/hr) is frustrating this development.

- *Islington Cycling Club* has grown rapidly from its formation in 2012 in response to the success of the London 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games and the growth in interest in leisure and commuter cycling. The nearest alternative club at the time was Finsbury Park CC, a long established traditional club which, despite its name, programmed most of its rides from Potters Bar, outside London. Membership of ICC grew very rapidly (300 joined in the first 18 months) demonstrating strong latent demand for the sport. With a membership of well over 600 in 2018 and still growing, the club is likely to become the largest cycling club in London within the next 12 months.

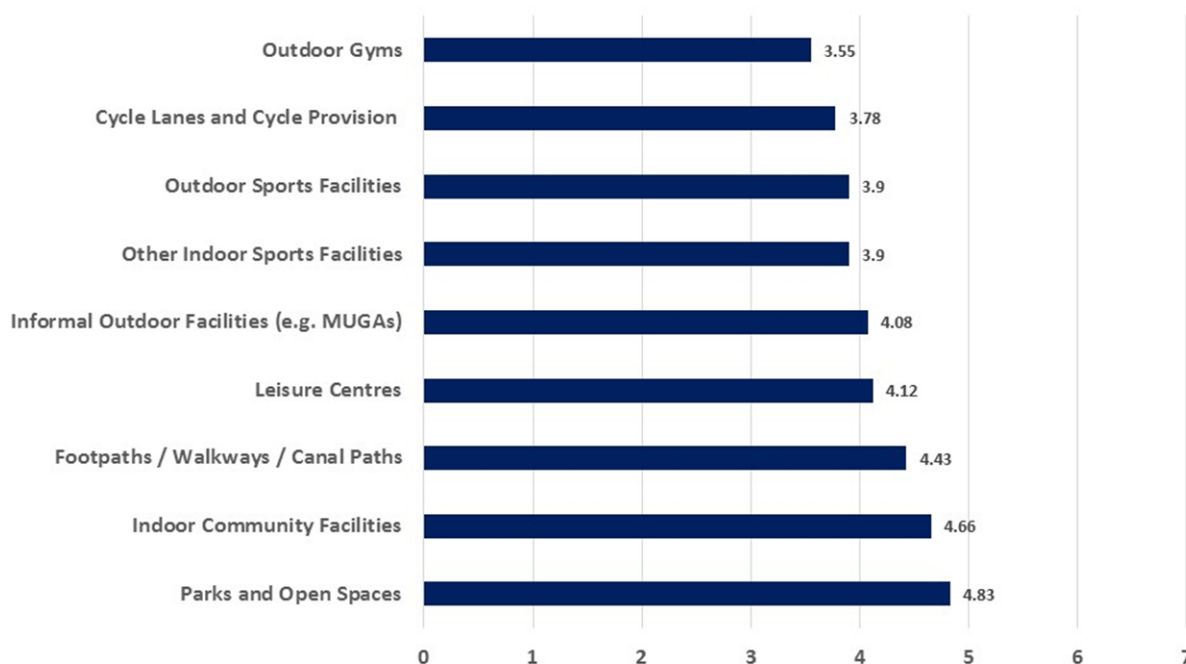
The club's ethos is inclusive (20%+ of the members are female, a youth section provides opportunities for 8-15yr olds including traffic free skills training on the basketball court area in Finsbury Park). The club operates a multi-level approach tailoring rides (distances and average speeds) to suit a wide range of experience and fitness levels. Road cycling (training and club rides in groups) is the main focus although the club also offers members opportunities to road race (including an annual club time trial) and to participate in track cycling (booking slots at the Lee Valley VeloPark's indoor 250m banked track and outdoor 1 mile circuit) and in cyclocross on Hackney Marshes to the east of the borough, Alexandra Palace Park to the north or Herne Hill Velodrome in south London. These traffic free facilities are quite difficult to access for young people without access to a car.

Demand for leisure and commuter cycling in the borough is likely to continue to grow, supported by the council's plan to install 200 new bike hangars with a capacity for 1,200 cycles by 2020. In order to sustain growth in cycling participation, particularly among children, there is a strong needs case for the provision of a traffic free cycling facility within the borough. The main barriers to provision of a dedicated traffic free cycle facility in Islington is the density of development and pressure of competing sports and recreational demands on available park land. There is also a need for any track to be co-located with other facilities to provide a management presence and supporting welfare and refreshment facilities. However, with careful planning, one of the larger parks with on site management and complementary ancillary facilities (e.g. Caledonian Park, Barnard Park or Paradise Park) may present opportunities for a small scale permanent cycling facility, such as a 250m oval concrete track or a 90m cycle speedway track with capacity for occasional grass track and cyclo cross events. This would require a partnership between the council, the club, Islington primary schools and potentially the private sector, supported by British Cycling.

The nearest BMX tracks for Islington residents are in Hackney (Haggerston Park), Haringey (Lordship Recreation Ground) and Tower Hamlets (Mile End Park). There is also a BMX facility at the Lee Valley VeloPark. Monthly grass track racing events in summer and cyclo cross (year-round) are programmed in various parks in Haringey (Finsbury Park, Alexandra Palace Park, Ducketts Common, Bruce Castle Park and Chestnuts Park) by the Haringey Schools Cycling League (established in 2012 and involving children from years 4-6 in six primary schools currently with plans to expand). The only remaining cycle speedway track listed in London is in east London in Canning Town Recreation Ground.

With regard to the overall findings of the online survey of clubs and groups across both Islington and Camden, Hall Aitken asked stakeholders to rate how useful they found the facilities and spaces in their local area on a scale of 1 to 7 (1 being least useful, 7 being the most useful). Figure 5.5 shows the average response across all stakeholders, with the most useful facilities or spaces being parks and open spaces, indoor community facilities and footpaths/walkways and canal paths. All of these are informal physical activity spaces and are likely to be free to use and easily accessible. Stakeholders identified leisure centres as the fourth most useful type of facility.

Figure 5.5 Usefulness of Facilities by Type



(N=117) Source: Hall Aitken (August 2018)

5.7 Resident Survey 2018

As part of the Physical Activity Needs Assessment (PANA) consultation with residents, Hall Aitken contracted BMG Research to deliver 400 resident interviews (200 in each borough). The purpose of the interviews was to gather qualitative insights into the barriers and motivations around participating in physical activity and sport. A door-to-door survey was carried out in a number of wards. The interviews targeted residents who are currently inactive or partly active (i.e. anyone not currently doing 150 minutes or more of moderate intensity physical activity per week). The main findings were;

- **Awareness** - parks and open spaces are the most important facilities in terms of awareness of places people can go to help get active. Some 65% of those interviewed in Islington were aware of such a facility with 61% aware of a gym and 45% a swimming pool.
- **Use** - More than a quarter of the Islington respondents had used an open space or park for physical activity during the past 4 weeks (28%). Gyms have been used by 9% of those interviewed in Islington and 7% have used a swimming pool in the past 4 weeks.
- **Gender and use** - Nearly two thirds of the women in Islington interviewed had not used any of the local facilities in the past 4 weeks (63%) compared with 52% of men. Whilst parks and open spaces were the most widely used facility by women, the rate of use was lower than amongst males (26% compared with 31%). Women were also less likely to have accessed sports halls (3%) than was the case for men (6%). However, women were more likely than men to have made use of a swimming pool (9% compared with 5%). Female respondents were also slightly more likely to have used a community centre for physical activity (3% against 2% for men). In contrast, none of the women who responded had made use of local groups or clubs, or outdoor gyms.
- **Long term health condition/disability and use** - Among Islington residents who identified as having a long-term health condition or disability, eight out of ten had not used any of the facilities in their local area over the past 4 weeks (80%). Only 7% had accessed an outdoor space or park for physical activity, whilst 4% had made use of a gym and a similar proportion had accessed a swimming pool and sports hall. The respondents' health condition/disability was the main barrier to activity that was reported.

- **Ethnicity and use** - Black residents in Islington were less likely to have used any local facilities over the past 4 weeks (66%) than white residents (56%). The main barrier reported was a lack of time due to work or family commitments.
- **Suitability of facilities** - amongst those who had used the local facilities, almost all stated that outdoor green spaces, gyms and swimming pools met their needs. Gyms were particularly positively rated in Islington by those using them, with 94% stating that they met their needs very well (73% outdoor green spaces, 71% pools). Ease of access was considered the most important factor for both outdoor spaces and pools. For gyms, the quality and range of activities was the key factor.
- **Latent demand** - around four in ten (41%) respondents said that they would like to do more physical activity (Males 42%, Females 39%). This was much lower among black respondents, only around one in six (17%) and slightly lower among Asian residents (35%). Lack of time due to work and family commitments was reported as the most significant barrier to increasing activity levels. For older people (65+), increasing age was reported as a key factor for not wanting to do more physical activity. Those with a long-term health condition or disability were also much less likely to want to be more physically active, with only just over a quarter of this group wanting to be more active (26%) compared with 46% of those without a long-term condition.
- **Barriers** - lack of time due to work commitments is identified as the most frequent barrier, affecting one in four men (25%) and just over one in five women (21%). Lack of time is followed by cost, which is identified by 17% of women and 13% of men. The cost of facilities and services was reported as a significant barrier to being more active. Expensive gym memberships were reported as the most common factor. 18% of respondents reported that more affordable options (for example, free activities) would be the most important factor to support them being more active, along with discounted gym memberships. Health and mobility are the next most significant barriers amongst Islington residents, with mobility slightly more significant among women than men (12% against 9%). Lack of local facilities (6%) is also a more significant barrier for women (particularly for child care) whilst not being considered as a barrier by male respondents.

5.8 Focus Groups 2018

Also as part of the Physical Activity Needs Assessment (PANA) consultation with residents, Hall Aitken carried out two focus groups with 12 Islington residents in July 2018. The first group comprised of one male and four female residents. The second group consisted of six members of a local group supporting people with learning disabilities (two males and four females), accompanied by three support workers.

A total of six themes were identified from the two focus groups:

1. Exercise environments/ facilities appearing unsafe or inaccessible (and lacking in community feel).
2. Perceptions regarding the cost and quality of activities.
3. Support needs.
4. Awareness of local opportunities to advertise.
5. Information needs and preferences.
6. Need for accessible and tailored exercise.

The main facility implications relate to the first of these themes.

Participants spoke about gym and exercise facilities lacking in community-feel. For example, participants shared scenarios of gym staff members making them feel unwanted, paid them little or no attention, and they felt unable to approach staff for help with using the equipment. They also expressed that they felt their concerns were not taken seriously. These concerns also stretched beyond their workout/physical activity practice, and related to safety concerns about the facilities.

Participants offered suggestions as to how to overcome this. Several participants were aware of other more creative forms of exercise that exist elsewhere, and characterised them as having a more meaningful vision. For example, they shared the concept of the 'Good Gym', whereby members are encouraged to run to a (potentially socially isolated) neighbour's home, stay for some company, and then run back. There was an overall consensus of participants indicating that if gyms could have supportive staff, creative classes, or encourage meaningful unique forms of

exercise, this would foster a greater sense of community and be a more inviting environment to be a part of.

5.9 GLL Customer Surveys

Approximately 2,500 existing users of the leisure centres in Islington (i.e. GLL customers) completed independently conducted satisfaction questionnaire surveys in 2017 online, by phone or on exiting the leisure centres.

Customers' overall rating score for the leisure centres using the Net Promotor Score (NPS) methodology was very positive at +85%, although down 7 percentage points from the 2016 score of +92%.

Although no specific questions are included on facility quality, cleanliness is a partial proxy measure as it reflects in part the age and finishes of the facilities as well as the quality of management attention to cleanliness.

It is noted that the overall cleanliness NPS for the changing rooms and toilets across the leisure centre estate remained positive in 2017 at +66% but that this was a 13 percentage point reduction on the previous year. The cleanliness of the activity areas scored much higher at +83% although again this was lower than the +90% score in 2016.

The 2017 survey included questions concerning the quality of gym and general fitness studio equipment (sound systems, spin bikes etc). Again, the gym equipment ratings scores were very positive with only 9% of over 650 respondents rating the gym equipment below satisfactory. The studio equipment ratings were lower with a fifth of 390 respondents (20%) rating below satisfactory (i.e. poor or very poor).

5.10 Overall Consultation Summary and Recommendations

LB Islington Priorities from Consultation

- The Cally Corridor and Bemerton Estate represents an area within the borough which has a clear deficit in low cost, accessible sports facility provision and is one of the main areas in the borough where residents in the PANA research report the most barriers to being more active. Facility enhancement at Barnard Park is identified as a priority in this area.
- The current leisure centre offer whilst having achieved some good results since the investment has taken place, still remains lower priority for residents in solving the issues around being more active. Future provision and investment needs to ensure a community led focus on activities, facilities, pricing and programming.
- With regard to estate based facility provision, greater focus should be afforded to ensuring that the facilities are suitable for a good range of sports and physical activities - e.g. ceiling heights, dimensions, lighting and ventilation of community halls and size of MUGAs to enable use by young people, not just young children.
- A number of key indoor sports for Islington – netball and basketball in particular are struggling to meet the needs of their clubs training requirements with both the cost of school sports halls and the loss of these to school exam periods.
- The training and competition programmes of the swimming club are dispersed across four pools of which only one is suitable for district level competition. The club has long aspired to secure a large competition pool in the borough with capacity for spectators.
- The facilities for football in the borough at Market Road and their management by GLL are particularly highly regarded by the two large football leagues that operate at this site.
- However, the pitches at Market Road operate at full capacity in the peak period and the lack of capacity in the borough leads to substantial levels of unmet and exported demand to outer London boroughs, Essex and Hertfordshire (particularly for 11v11 league football for those transitioning from the CIYFL and other youth leagues in the area such as Camden & Regents Park FL).
- There is also very little provision for cricket and rugby in the borough. To provide better for these sports, the existing facilities for cricket at Wray Crescent need improving (new artificial cricket wicket and changing pavilion), as do the grass pitches in Paradise Park used for touch rugby, and installing a rugby shock-pad as part of the proposals for a new 3G pitch in Barnard Park needs to be considered.
- With no sand based artificial pitches in Islington suitable for hockey and a large shortfall of hockey compliant pitches in London, any opportunity that may arise to provide a hockey AGP (e.g. in association with new or redeveloped secondary schools) should be actively pursued. Addressing this facility need will be very challenging in view of the lack of available land in the borough and competing demands from football.
- Islington is not a key priority local authority for Sport England in light of its high activity rates relative to several neighbour authorities. However, Islington is a priority for several of the National Governing Bodies of Sport – notably:
 - Boxing* - the key role of Islington BC and the need for an enhanced building;
 - Water Sports* - the key role in an urban area of Islington Boat Club in providing opportunities for sailing, canoeing etc.
 - Tennis* - the key sub regional role of the Market Road Tennis Centre (where the indoor courts need resurfacing) and options to extend the capacity should be considered, and the high quality, highly accessible courts at Highbury Fields where the current programme to upgrade the courts needs to be completed).
 - Netball* - the borough is home to the 2017 club of the year (Cumberland NC) and has good quantity and quality of courts (both indoor and outdoor). The replacement of the Finsbury Leisure Centre sports hall with a 6-court hall to comply with competition netball dimensions is strongly supported by England Netball. Maintaining affordable access and availability of facilities on park sites (e.g. Highbury Fields) and on unsecured education sites will be the main facility considerations for netball in the future.
- Other leading sports in the borough in terms of popularity and growth in demand identified in the research and consultation include *Swimming, Gymnastics, Table Tennis, Basketball* and *Cycling*. In the sports of cycling and gymnastics in particular, there is a needs case for provision of specialist facilities subject to identifying suitable sites and securing funding and demonstrating long term sustainability.

London Borough of Islington Sports Facilities Update 2018
Final Report

The views on quantity, quality, accessibility and availability from the consultation process all help with understanding the key issues relating to supply and demand of facilities and opportunities within Islington. It is critical that the information and understanding gained from this consultation is considered alongside the supply and demand analysis in the next section.

6. Facility Analysis

6.1 Introduction

The following section sets out the findings of the quantity, quality, accessibility and availability assessments undertaken by the Consultant Team for each sports facility type identified as within scope in the study brief and inception meeting.

As detailed in the **Methodology** in **Section 2**, the needs assessment for sports facilities has been prepared in accordance with Sport England's published guidance dated July 2014⁵. In particular, the facility audit information (supply, demand, accessibility, availability) and needs findings for Islington have been reviewed and updated through a process of consultation with facility operators, sports clubs and governing bodies and neighbouring local authority sports and leisure or planning officers. In addition, with regard to swimming pools and sports halls, Sport England provided summary Facilities Planning Model (FPM) reports for Islington from the 2018 national run of the model.

It is noted that in the consultation section for each facility type, the responses shown are only from those local sports clubs that responded with specific comments concerning facility supply and its adequacy to complement the main findings set out in **Section 5** previously. The major sports facilities in neighbouring local authority areas that have been identified as likely to fall within the catchment area of residents of Islington are also identified in relation to the facility types in the study scope. An approximate journey time of 20 minutes (i.e. 1 mile or 1.6km walking or 3 miles or 4.8km by car) is assumed in relation to facility accessibility.

This section of the report summarises the current supply and demand factors and considers the potential impact of forecast population growth on future facility needs. For each facility type quantitative comparisons are made with neighbouring authorities. However, as explained earlier in this report, these are not used to determine recommended per capita quantity standards for Islington as each local authority area has its own unique supply and demand characteristics and overall picture of provision making the needs and opportunities different in each case.

6.2 Facility Provision

Ahead of the facility analysis it is important to note the ownership of sports facilities within Islington as part of the context of the current situation but also the influence of changes to the facility stock as detailed later in this report.

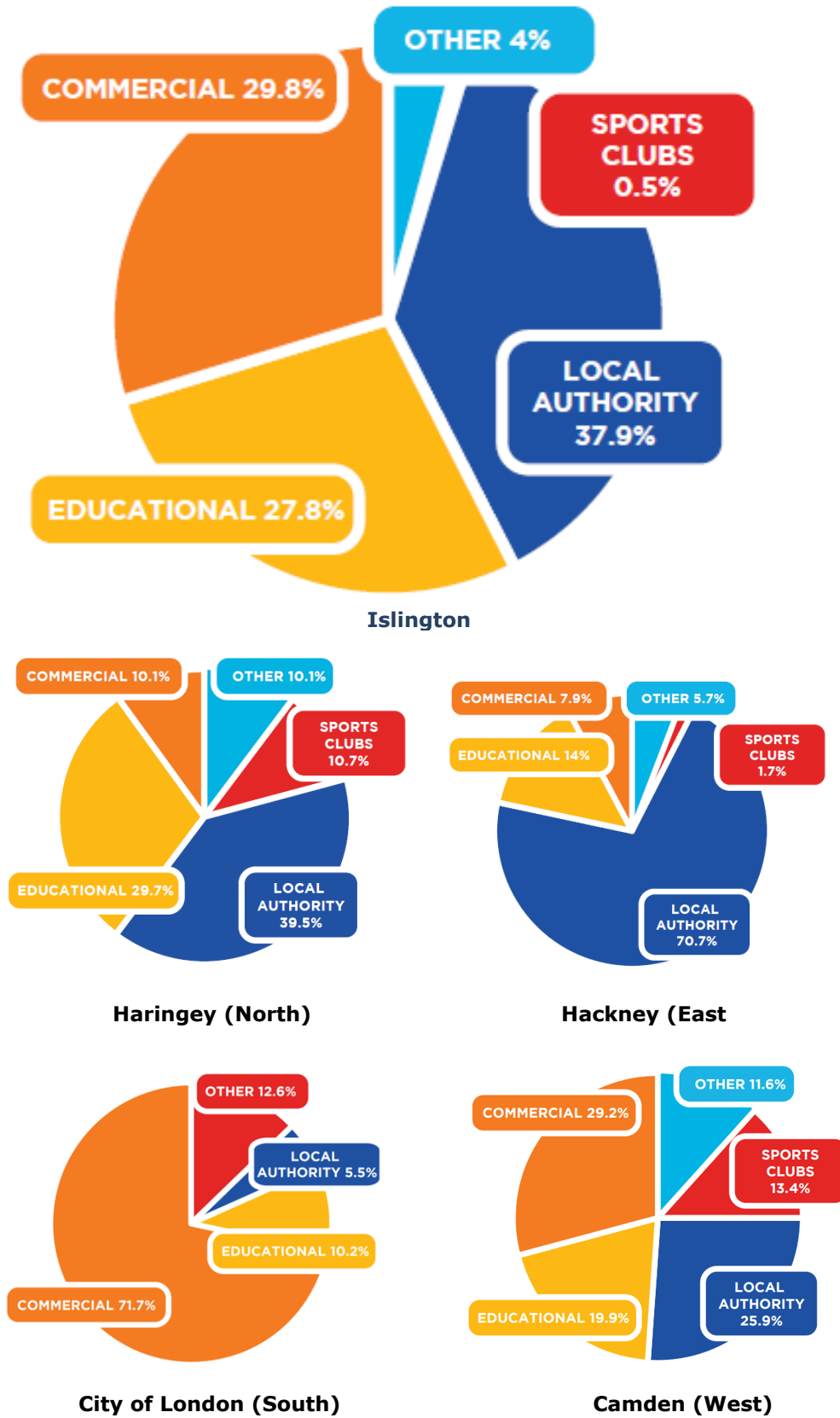
Islington's facilities ownership is highest within the local authority itself (37.9%), however a large proportion falls within the education sector at 27.8% which is higher than both Camden (to the west) and Hackney (to the east). Hackney has a much higher proportion of facilities under local authority ownership at just over 70%.

Further comparison is provided with the borough's four contiguous neighbours which shows the difference notably in commercial ownership being very much higher in Islington than in its immediate neighbouring boroughs and sports club facility ownership much lower (with the notable exception of the City of London to the south which is atypical). This is in part due to the fact that the number of outdoor facilities is low in Islington relative to its main neighbours and it is outdoor facilities as opposed to indoor that are most commonly in the ownership of sports clubs and associations.

The most relevant part of this analysis is that Islington, similar to Haringey to the north, has a high proportion of its sports facility supply in the education sector. The importance of school sites in meeting demand and the poor quality of the facilities at some sites has been identified in the facility audits and consultations. Influencing and changing investment into schools is a key output for this strategy update.

⁵ Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities, July 2014. Available at <https://www.sportengland.org/media/3599/20140722-anog-published.pdf>

Figure 6.1 Facility Ownership Overview



Source London Sport – Physical Activity and Sport Borough Profile 2016

6.3 Swimming Pools

The summary below provides the *quantitative, qualitative and accessibility assessments* for swimming pool provision within Islington together with the main findings from the site audits undertaken. All pools of 20m+ or 160sqm of water area with access to the community are included in the analysis (i.e. excludes smaller school or privately owned swimming pools with no access for community groups). Recommended strategic priorities for community accessible swimming pools in Islington for the strategy period to 2036 are set out at the conclusion of this sub-section.

6.3.1 Supply

The following table shows the 20m+/160sqm indoor swimming pool sites in Islington that are publicly accessible. There are 9 sites across Islington which offer swimming pools which meet the criteria for inclusion within this strategy (community accessible pools at least 20m in length and 160m² in area). Learner/teaching/training pools and leisure pools located at sites which also offer a main pool which meets the inclusion criteria have also been included within the supply and demand analysis, as per Sport England's FPM modelling. The FPM modelling excludes private facilities and lidos from its analysis. The 9 sites under review provide a combined total of 12 swimming pools. 10 of these are main 20m/160m² pools, and 2 are learner/teaching/training pools. There are no diving pools in the borough. The pool at Archway Leisure Centre incorporates a freeform area with beach, wave machine and a flume for water play. 2 of the sites under review offer six lane pools. It is noted that the Highbury Leisure Centre pools (5-lane and learner) are temporarily closed pending rebuild and reopening following recent extensive fire damage.

The table includes a RAG rating of the availability of each facility for Islington residents to utilise these facilities on a pay and play basis with further commentary on this under Used Capacity and Availability later in this section. Red indicates lack of availability for both peak and off-peak times, amber indicating some availability, for swimming pools in Islington this is mainly off-peak usage given the demand for swimming and peak time pool use. Green shows availability. The only pools to indicate green availability are the two larger commercial health club pools (Virgin Active). The two school pools provide very valuable swimming club and lesson capacity but are limited in terms of pay and play and recreational swimming opportunities.

Figure 6.2: 20m+/160m² community accessible swimming pools in Islington

	Facility Name	No. of Pools	Water Space (m ²)	Pool Type and lanes	Access Type	Availability RAG Rating	Management Type	Year Built (Refurb.)
1	Archway Leisure Centre	1	671	Main/General 3 lanes freeform area flume	Pay & Play		Leisure Management Contract	1991 (2015)
2	Cally Pool & Gym	2	513	Main/General 6 lanes Main/General 0 lanes	Pay & Play		Leisure Management Contract	1985 (2000)
3	Highbury Grove School (City of London Academy)	1	140	Main/General 3 lanes	Sports Club/Assoc		Education (in house)	2010
4	Highbury Leisure Centre	2	400	Main/General 5 lanes Learner 0 lanes	Pay & Play	Temporarily Closed - fire damage	Leisure Management Contract	1984 (2006)
5	Holloway School	1	250	Main/General 6 lanes	Sports Club/Assoc		Trust	2008
6	Ironmonger Row Baths	2	395	Main/General 5 lanes Learner 0 lanes	Pay & Play		Leisure Management Contract	1939 (2012)
7	Nuffield Health (Islington)	1	160	Main/General 2 lanes	Registered member		Commercial	1998 (2008)
8	Virgin Active (Moorgate)	1	375	Main/General 5 lanes	Registered member		Commercial	2001
9	Virgin Active (Islington Angel)	1	250	Main/General 4 lanes	Registered member		Commercial	2002

Facility Name	No. of Pools	Water Space (m ²)	Pool Type and lanes	Access Type	Availability RAG Rating	Management Type	Year Built (Refurb.)
No. of Pools / m² water	12	3,153					

6.3.2 Other Swimming Pools in Islington

3 other sites in the borough have been identified that provide swimming facilities that do not meet the specification applied by Sport England for inclusion in its Facilities Planning Model (FPM). These pools fall below the size threshold (20m length or 160m² water space) of the FPM.

Figure 6.3 Other Swimming Pools in Islington

Facility Name	No. of Pools	Water Space (m ²)	Pool Type	Access Type	Availability RAG rating	Management Type
Fitness First (London Highbury)	1	144	Main/General 3 lanes	Commercial		Commercial
Otium Leisure Club (Barbican)	1	91	Learner 0 lanes	Commercial		Commercial
Soho Gyms (Farringdon)	1	96	Main/General 3 lanes	Commercial		Commercial

These additional pool sites play a minor role in contributing to mainly adult fitness swimming and learn to swim / building water confidence for young children of members and members' guests. In terms of availability, due to their small capacity they are largely full to comfortable capacity in the peak hours but offer off-peak availability.

6.3.3 Supply and Demand Analysis

The key findings of the FPM analysis in relation to the current supply of and demand for swimming pools in Islington and the wider FPM study area (including the boroughs of Camden, Haringey, Hackney and the City of London) are summarised below.

Supply

A comparative measure for assessing supply of pools on a consistent basis, is water space per 1,000 population. Across London in 2018, there are 11m² of water per 1,000 population. Supply per capita in Islington at 13m² per 1,000 population exceeds this average. So too does neighbouring Camden to the west and The City of London to the south (although the City is not a good comparator in view of its very low resident population).

Figure 6.4 Supply of Pools in Islington and Neighbour Boroughs

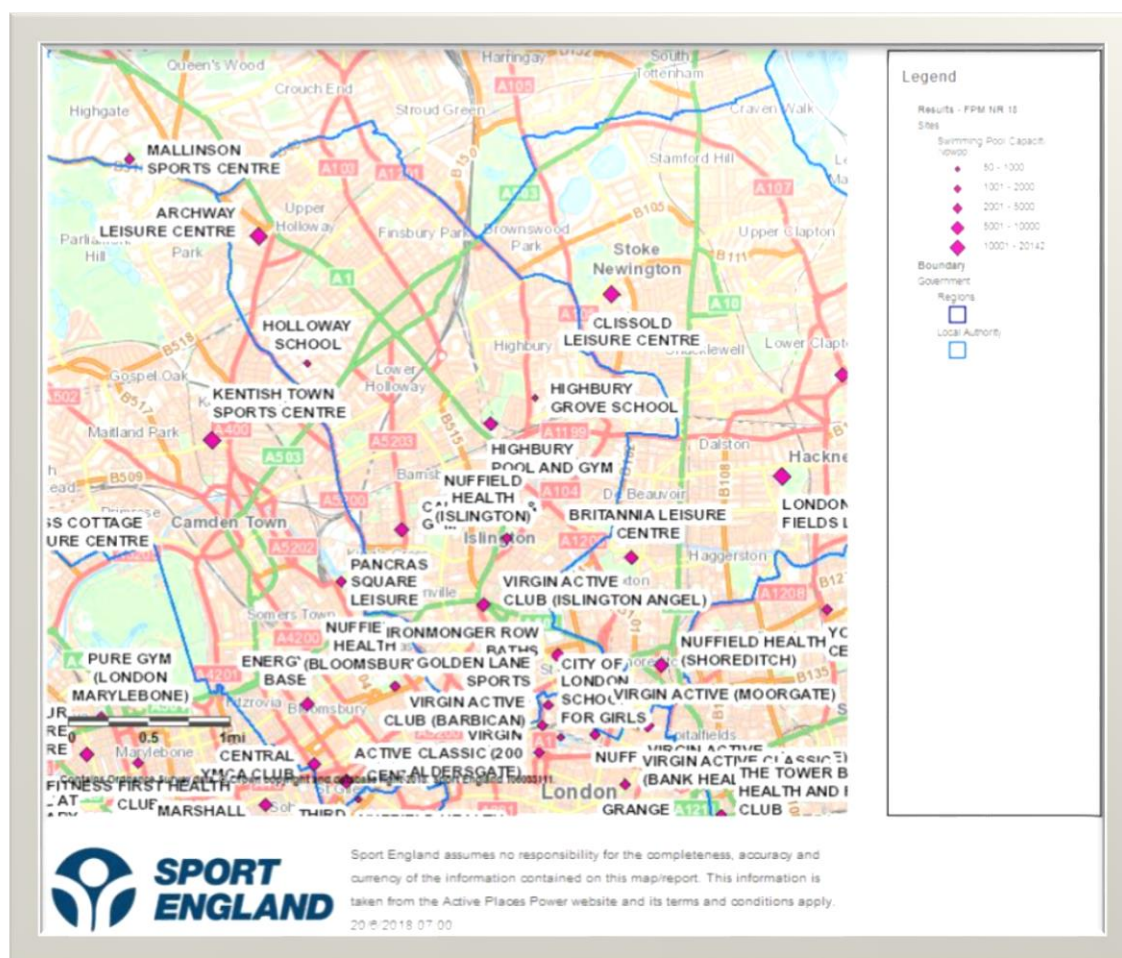
Total Supply	Islington	Camden	City of London	Hackney	Haringey
Number of pools	12	14	8	9	8
Number of pool sites	9	9	8	5	5
Supply of total water space in m ²	3,153	3,542	1,617	3,083	1,900
Supply of publicly available water space in m ² (scaled with hours)	2,659	3,176	1,503	2,619	1,663

London Borough of Islington Sports Facilities Update 2018
Final Report

Total Supply	Islington	Camden	City of London	Hackney	Haringey
available in the peak period)					
Supply of total water space in visits per week peak period	23,051	27,534	13,030	22,705	14,418
Water space per 1,000 population	13	14	179	11	7

Across the four authorities in the study area, (excluding City of London) there are 28 swimming pool sites and 43 individual pools as shown in Map 6.1.

Map 6.1: Location of the swimming pool sites Islington 2018



Three of the sites have a main pool and a separate teaching/learner pool, the largest being at Cally Pool and Gym with a 25m x 6-lane main pool and a 20m x 10m pool. The other sites being Highbury Leisure Centre with a 25m x 5-lane pool and a teaching/learner pool of 100 m² of water (temporarily closed following a fire) and Ironmonger Row Baths, with a main pool of 31m x 10m and a teaching/learner pool of 90m² of water. The only single public swimming pool site is Archway Leisure Centre, which is a very extensive leisure pool with a total water space of 671m² and includes a beach area and flumes.

There are, in addition, two education single pool sites, at Highbury Grove School with a 20m x 3-lane pool and Holloway School which has a 25m x 4-lane pool. There are also three commercial

swimming pools, namely Nuffield Health Islington with a 20m 4-lane pool, Virgin Active (Islington) with a 25m x 4-lane pool and Virgin Active (Moorgate) with a larger 25m x 5-lane pool.

The average age of the public swimming pool sites in 2018 is 43 years, however this is somewhat misleading as there have been very extensive modernisation of the public pools especially at Ironmonger Baths (opened in 1939 and completely modernised in 2012), Archway Leisure Centre (opened 1991 and modernised in 2015), Highbury Leisure Centre (opened in 1984, modernised in 2006 and about to be rebuilt following a major fire), and Cally Pool and Gym (opened in 1985 and modernised in 2000). The average age of all nine Islington pool sites in 2018 is 27 years.

Demand

The total population of Islington Borough in 2018 is 234,012 people. The Islington population generates a total demand for swimming of 15,741 visits in the weekly peak period of week day lunchtimes (1 hour), weekday evenings (up to 5 hours per day) and weekend days (up to 7 hours per weekend day), which equates to a demand for 2,613 m² of water. (For context a 25m x 4-lane pool is between 210 – 250 m² of water, depending on lane width).

In Islington, 64.1% of the resident population do not have access to a car, based on the 2011 Census. This is similar to Hackney (63.7%) and considerable lower car ownership than in Haringey (51.3%). The London Region average is 40% and, England wide, 24.9% of the population who do not have access to a car. Car access is an important determinant of patterns of demand for swimming pools as it influences travel patterns. However, this is less significant in London and especially inner London, given the extensive public transport system. The findings for Islington are that 27% of visits to pools are by car (up to 20 minutes' drive time) 60% of all visits to pools are by walking (20 minutes/1-mile catchment area) and 13% of visits are by public transport (20 minutes catchment area). So, in Islington, around seven out of ten visits to pools are by a combination of walking and public transport making a network of local accessible pools important to addressing demand.

Figure 6.5 Demand for Pools in Islington and Neighbour Boroughs

Total Demand	Islington	Camden	City of London	Hackney	Haringey
Population	234,012	244,476	9,027	277,667	281,203
Swims demanded – visits per week peak period	15,741	16,170	563	19,079	18,908
Equivalent in water space – with comfort factor included	2,613	2,683	94	3,167	3,138
% of population without access to a car	64.10	60.30	68.20	63.70	51.30

Supply and Demand Balance

The FPM measure of *Supply and Demand Balance* simply compares the total demand for swimming in a borough with the total supply in that borough. The measure ignores where the pool sites are located in relation to the distribution of the population, the accessible supply in neighbouring boroughs and cross border movements of demand. In addition, *Supply and Demand Balance* does not take into account the propensity/reasons for residents using facilities outside their own borough.

Figure 6.6 Pools Supply & Demand Balance in Islington and Neighbour Boroughs

Supply/Demand Balance	Islington	Camden	City of London	Hackney	Haringey
Supply - Swimming pool provision (m ²) based on hours available for community use	2,659	3,176	1,503	2,619	1,663
Demand - Swimming pool provision (m ²) taking into account a 'comfort' factor	2,613	2,683	94	3,167	3,138
Provision available compared to the minimum required to meet demand	46	493	1,409	-548	-1,475

Supply and Demand Balance therefore only provides a picture of how a borough's total supply of pools compares with the total demand for pools generated by that borough's population. The resident population of Islington in 2018 generates a demand for 2,613m² of water. This compares to the total supply of 2,659m² of water available for community use in the weekly peak period. So, on this crude measure, there is a positive balance of supply exceeding demand by 46m² of water in 2018.

Supply exceeds demand in Camden by 493m² of water. In Hackney and Haringey the picture is reversed with demand exceeding supply, by 548m² of water in the case of Hackney and by 1,475m² in Haringey. Haringey has the least number of swimming pool sites of all the authorities, with five sites and the total water area is only between 50%-60% of the supply in the other authorities.

These *Supply and Demand Balance* findings significantly influence the amount of demand that is exported and imported between authorities as shown in the following FPM measures of *Satisfied Demand*, *Unmet Demand* and *Used Capacity* which take into account the catchment area of pools across local authority boundaries. The findings of these later measures reflect how much of the Islington demand for swimming can be met and the level of unmet demand.

Satisfied Demand - demand from Islington residents currently being met by supply

Satisfied demand represents the proportion of total demand that is met by the capacity at the swimming pools from residents who live within the driving, walking or public transport catchment area of a swimming pool. The finding is that in 2018, 95% of the total demand for swimming from Islington residents is satisfied/met by existing pools located either in the borough or in a neighbouring borough and that the existing pools offer sufficient capacity to accommodate this demand.

Figure 6.7 Satisfied Demand for Pools - Islington and Neighbour Boroughs

Satisfied Demand	Islington	Camden	City of London	Hackney	Haringey
Total number of visits which are met	15,068	15,440	548	17,633	16,227
% of total demand satisfied	95.70	95.50	97.30	92.40	85.80
% of demand satisfied who travelled by car	27	30.40	19	31.30	49.70
% of demand satisfied who travelled by foot	60.10	57.50	75.10	50.20	28.20
% of demand satisfied who travelled by public transport	12.90	12	6	18.50	22.10
Demand Retained	8,563	10,704	300	10,870	7,968
Demand Retained -as a % of Satisfied Demand	56.80	69.30	54.80	61.70	49.10
Demand Exported	6,505	4,736	248	6,762	8,259
Demand Exported -as a % of Satisfied Demand	43.20	30.70	45.20	38.30	50.90

Retained Demand

Of the 95% of Islington demand that is satisfied, 57% is retained within the borough. This is quite low. As Map 6.1 shows, there is an extensive network of swimming pool sites to the south east of Islington. It is likely that for many Islington residents, these pools are the nearest pool sites to where they live.

As this is quite a low level of retained demand, it is important to state that the model distributes demand based on residents travelling and using the nearest pool to where they live. Sport England research does support this modelling assumption. However there are increasingly other factors which influence which pools residents chose to use. The quality of the swimming pool offer and the pool site condition, plus other facilities on the same site (such as a gym) are all of increasing importance. They do mean residents will travel further to swim in a pool that provides a more all-round offer, than simply choosing to swim in the nearest pool to where they live.

Given the range and quality of the swimming pool offer and modernisation of the Islington pool sites, it is more likely the retained demand finding is an underestimate of the amount of Islington retained demand.

Exported demand

The residual of satisfied demand, after retained demand, is exported demand. The 2018 finding is that just 43% of the Islington satisfied demand for swimming is met outside the authority. Again, this is based on the nearest pool for this level of the borough's satisfied demand, is a pool located outside the Borough.

In terms of visits, the Islington retained demand is 8,563 visits per week in the weekly peak period. Whilst the Islington exported demand, is 6,505 visits per week in the weekly peak period.

The data does not identify how much of the Islington demand goes to which authority or pool site, it just provides the total figure for exported demand.

Used Capacity and Availability

The FPM includes a 'comfort factor', beyond which the venues are too full. The model assumes that swimming pool usage over 70% of capacity is busy and the swimming pool is operating at an uncomfortable level above that percentage. The pool itself becomes too full to swim and the changing and circulation areas become crowded.

In 2018, the estimated used capacity of the swimming pools in Islington as a borough-wide average is estimated to be 73.8% of pool capacity used in the weekly peak period. This is slightly above the Sport England benchmark figure of 70% of pool capacity used in the weekly peak period.

The findings for each individual pool site in the borough vary considerably as set out in Figure 6.8. There are several reasons why the used capacity of individual pool sites will vary:

- Public swimming pool sites provide for all swimming activities of learn to swim, public recreational swimming, fun and leisure activities, lane and fitness swimming and swimming development through clubs. Public leisure centre pools are accessible for public use as well as club use. The opening hours will be extensive and the centres will be available for public use during day times, unlike school pool sites. Public leisure centres are proactively managed to encourage and support swimming participation and increase physical activity. Finally, as a public leisure centre, there is not the requirement to pay a monthly membership fee to access the swimming pools, as there is at commercial sites. All these factors contribute to there being a draw effect to the public leisure centre pools and they have a higher estimated used capacity than non-public pool sites.
- The FPM assessment is that all four public pools sites in Islington have an estimated used capacity of 100% in the weekly peak period.
- The three commercial swimming pool sites have a range of pool capacity used in the weekly peak period of 8% at Virgin Active Moorgate, then 12% at Virgin Active Islington and 14% at Nuffield Health Islington. The type of use at the commercial pools is for recreational swimming by the centre membership. Some commercial pools may also provide learn to swim schools. So a much more limited programme of use is also limited by the willingness and ability of residents to pay the monthly membership fee. The model's peak hours will differ at

commercial pools with a peak also of early mornings and a longer than one-hour peak midday, but fewer evening peak hours. The model's estimate of used capacity is for recreational swimming by centre membership, so one activity and not as extensive as for the swimming activities at the public swimming pools. Hence the overall reasons for an estimated much lower level of used capacity at these pool sites.

- o The estimated used capacity of the education pool sites is also estimated to be 100% in the weekly peak period. These pool sites will have variable hours of access for community use and this will be reflected in the amount of pool capacity used. It may well be there are very few hours for community use and, if there is also a high level of demand in the area, the capacity is reached very quickly. Also as Map 6.1 shows, there are far fewer swimming pool sites in the area of both Highbury Grove School and Holloway School. So it is likely these pool sites are retaining more demand in their catchment area, especially the 20 minutes/1 mile walking catchment.

Figure 6.8: Used Capacity - Islington Pools

Name of Site	% of Capacity Used	% of Capacity Not Used
Islington	74%	26%
Archway Leisure Centre	100%	0%
Cally Pool & Gym	100%	0%
Highbury Grove School	100%	0%
Highbury Leisure Centre	100%	0%
Holloway School	100%	0%
Ironmonger Row Baths	100%	0%
Nuffield Health (Islington)	14%	86%
Virgin Active (Moorgate)	8%	92%
Virgin Active Club (Islington Angel)	12%	88%

As detailed in Figures 6.2 and 6.3 previously, there is limited availability across the pool stock in Islington based on the reviews of the programmes, site visits and consultation with facility operators with some off-peak capacity at the leisure centre sites and commercial health club sites. This further supports the Sport England analysis on the used capacity and limited additional capacity that the water space has in Islington.

Unmet Demand

The FPM measure of *Unmet Demand* comprises two factors:

- i. Excess demand for any particular swimming pool within its catchment area; and
- ii. Demand located outside the catchment area of any pool.

In 2018, total unmet demand for Pools in Islington is 4.3% of total demand which equates to 112m² of water. Of this total, 39% is derived from the first factor (lack of swimming pool capacity) and 61% from the second factor (i.e. unmet demand located outside the catchment area of a pool). The latter is from residents who do not have access to a car and live outside the 'walk to', or, public transport catchment area of a pool.

This type of unmet demand will always exist because it is not possible to get complete geographic coverage, whereby all areas are inside catchment, especially when the walking catchment area of swimming pools is small at 20 minutes/1 mile and the public transport catchment. This applies even in inner London, where there is an extensive supply of pools and a very extensive public transport network.

The key point is not that unmet demand outside the catchment exists but the scale and if it is clustered enough to consider further pool provision, to improve accessibility to pools.

The Islington total unmet demand is 112m² of water, of which 68m² of water is from demand located outside catchment.

This is an insufficient level of unmet demand in 2018 to consider increasing pool provision so as to increase travel accessibility for residents.

There are current proposals for additional pool supply in Haringey (Wood Green) and Hackney (redevelopment of Britannia LC to include a district level 6-lane pool). If these projects are delivered, they should reduce the level of imported demand to the Islington pools in the north and east of the borough.

Sports Facility Calculator (SFC)

Alongside the FPM analysis the Consultant Team has used the Sports Facility Calculator (SFC). The SFC provides a useful estimation of the likely facility needs of a particular population based on estimated demand for that facility type.

Figure 6.9 shows the total additional demand for swimming pools generated by projected population growth in Islington in the period 2018-2036 based on the GLA central trend projection of an additional 39,000 residents. It compares the number of facilities that the SFC estimates are required to meet projected levels of demand generated by the additional residents in Islington for that future population. The SFC however does not take into account the age and condition of existing facilities or the import and export of demand across borough boundaries.

Figure 6.9: Sports Facility Calculator – demand for water space generated by forecast population growth for Islington Borough

Swimming Pools	
Square meters	435.51
Lanes	8.20
Pools	2.05
VPWPP*	2,623

*visits per week in the peak period (the additional number of visits estimated the population creates)

The SFC suggests that by 2036 it is projected that Islington's population will generate demand for an additional 436m² of water space, equivalent to a 25m 6-lane pool and a learner pool. (The table indicates 2+ pools as it uses a measure of 25m x 4-lanes).

6.3.4 Sport England's Active People – Swimming Participation

Whilst Active Lives has superseded Active People, the results from the last round of the Active People survey that provided participation breakdown is worthy of review within this study. The Active People Survey found that in 2015 (APS9), swimming was the 4th most popular activity for people to participate in, at a national level, as detailed in figure 6.10 below at 10.2%. Of further note is that when respondents were asked what activity they would like to do if they were able to, swimming was the leading choice (see Figure 6.11).

Figure 6.10 Participation Rates National figures APS9

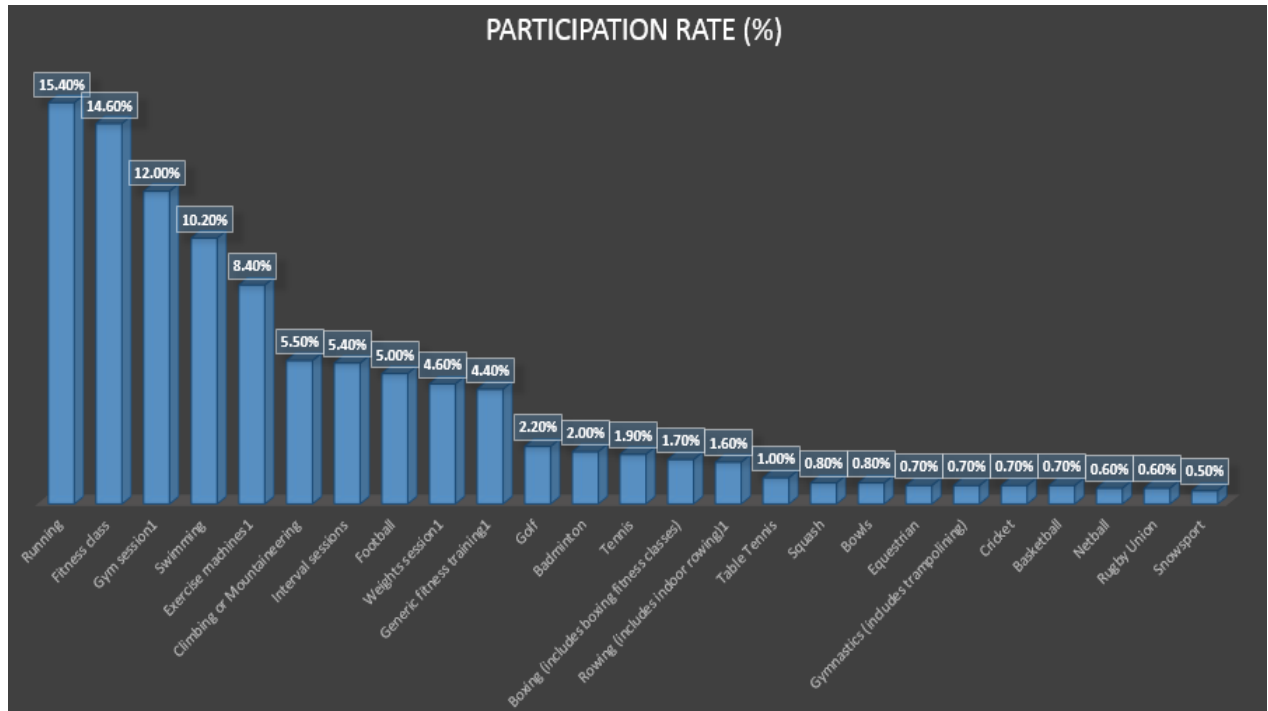
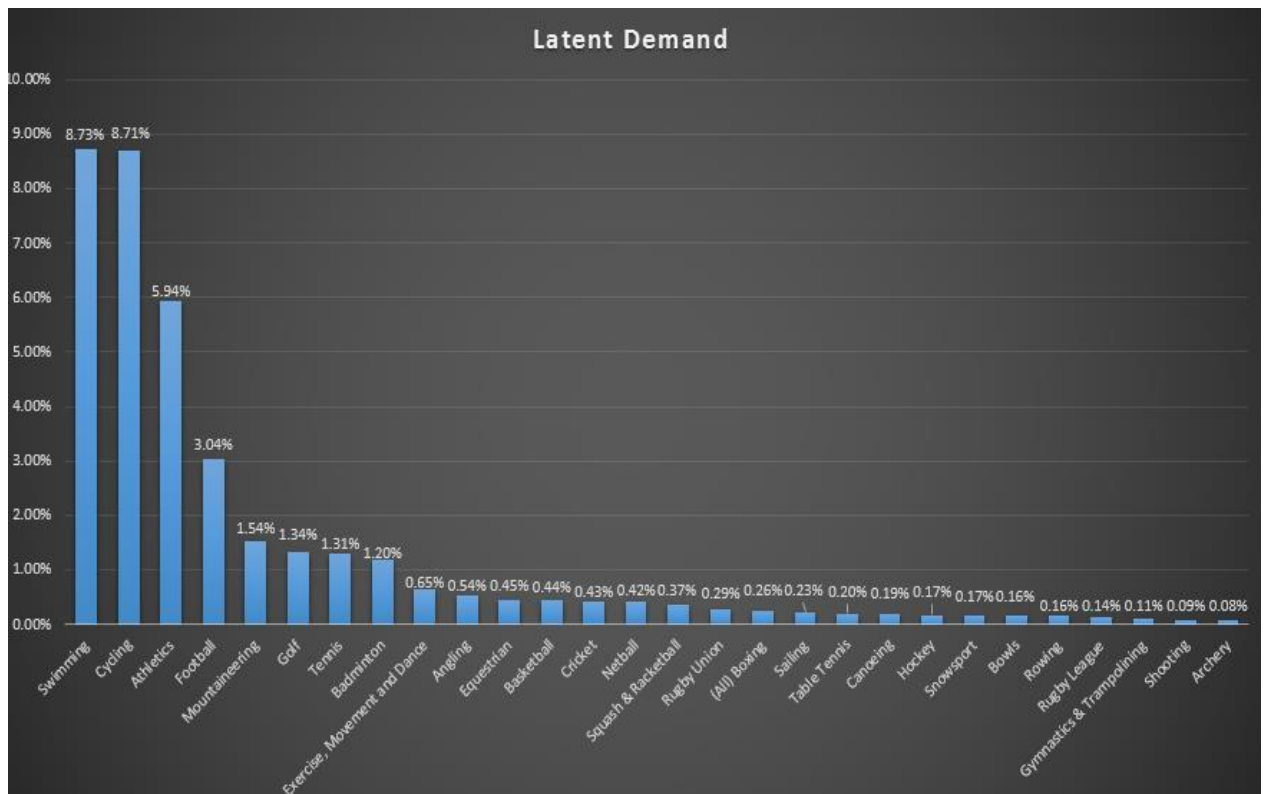


Figure 6.11 Latent Demand National APS9



6.3.5 Supply and Demand Analysis Summary

- The supply of water space per 1,000 residents in Islington is considerably above the London average.
- Unmet demand for swimming is low although the public pools are very full in relation to comfortable capacity in the peak times of demand. This is largely due to the fact that the borough is a net importer of demand from neighbouring boroughs.
- The level of imported demand is likely to fall if future proposals for additional supply in Haringey to the north are delivered.
- Car ownership is lower within Islington than London's average, making local accessible facilities on foot or by public transport more of a priority. However, the current supply of pools is well located in relation to bus and underground services.
- The SFC shows that with significant projected population growth in Islington to 2036, the provision of additional swimming pools will need to be considered.

6.3.6 Quantity Standards: Swimming Pools

The quantitative supply and demand analysis allows for consideration of quantity standards for swimming pool provision which should influence Islington's future investment decisions.

Figure 6.12 shows the current supply of water space per 1,000 of the population in Islington (13.47m²) and uses Sport England's FPM modelling to calculate a target quantity standard based on addressing the existing level of unmet demand for swimming pools in Islington. FPM modelling suggests that unmet demand for swimming pools in the borough equates to the equivalent of 112m² of water space, giving a target supply of 3,265m² or 13.95m² per 1,000 of the population. This considerably exceeds the London average (11m²/1,000). It is recommended that the current supply per 1,000 population of 13m² should be the minimum that the council should strive to maintain.

Figure 6.12: Current Target Quantity Standard for Swimming Pools in Islington

Current Supply (m ²)	Current Population	Current Supply per 1,000 population (m ²)	Unmet Demand (equivalent in m ²)	Target Supply based on Unmet Demand (m ²)	Target Supply per 1,000 population (m ²)
3,153	234,012	13.47	112	3,265	<u>Maintain >13</u>

Similar to the review of the SFC earlier, Figure 6.13 shows how the quantity of swimming pool supply per 1,000 population in Islington will be affected by projected population growth in the borough up to 2036. By 2036, without additional swimming pool provision or additional demand being met at existing sites (which, given the high used capacity across public supply in Islington, is unlikely), the supply of water space per 1,000 of the population in Islington is projected to fall to 11.56m² (i.e. just above the average for London). This, together with high levels of latent demand for swimming and the high public health value of swimming, indicates that plans need to be formulated to ensure that the quantity of swimming pool supply keeps pace with additional demand generated by population growth in Islington over the Local Plan period to 2036.

The quantity standard should be regularly reviewed by Islington's Leisure Team in liaison with Sport England through re-runs of the FPM to take into account alterations in demand for swimming pools resulting from population growth and alterations to the supply of water space both within the borough and in neighbour boroughs. Subject to the findings of future runs of the FPM for swimming in the borough, it is recommended that maintaining a minimum quantity standard of 13m² of water space per 1,000 population (i.e. 2m² above the current regional average for London) should be adopted as an indicative quantitative target as the population of the borough increases.

Figure 6.13: Projected Impact of Population Growth on Quantity Standard for Swimming Pools in Islington

Year	Supply (m ²)	Population Projection	Supply per 1,000 population (m ²)
2018	3,153	234,012	13.47
2036	3,153	272,875	11.56

6.3.7 Qualitative Assessment

Alongside the analysis of supply and demand, the quality of the facility stock has been assessed via non-technical quality assessments to allow for verification of the quality of that supply.

Non-Technical Quality Assessment

Based on the non-technical quality assessments (as described in the methodology in **Section 2**), the highest scoring swimming pool sites are Virgin Active clubs. The recently upgraded IRB scores highly as does the most recently provided pool at Holloway School. It is noted that whilst this pool scored well on the visual measures of quality there are known issues with the plant and running costs that need to be addressed. Despite its age, the Cally Pool also scored well. This site was last upgraded in 2000 and is currently subject to redevelopment plans to accommodate regeneration of the social housing in this area. These non-technical quality scores are summarised in Figure 6.14 and presented in more detail in the full Appendices. Aside from the urgent issue regarding the running costs and plant at the Holloway Pool, other needs are mainly cosmetic (e.g. replacing/cleaning pool tiles in localised areas at Archway leisure centre).

Figure 6.14: Mean Quality Score – Swimming Pool Sites in Islington

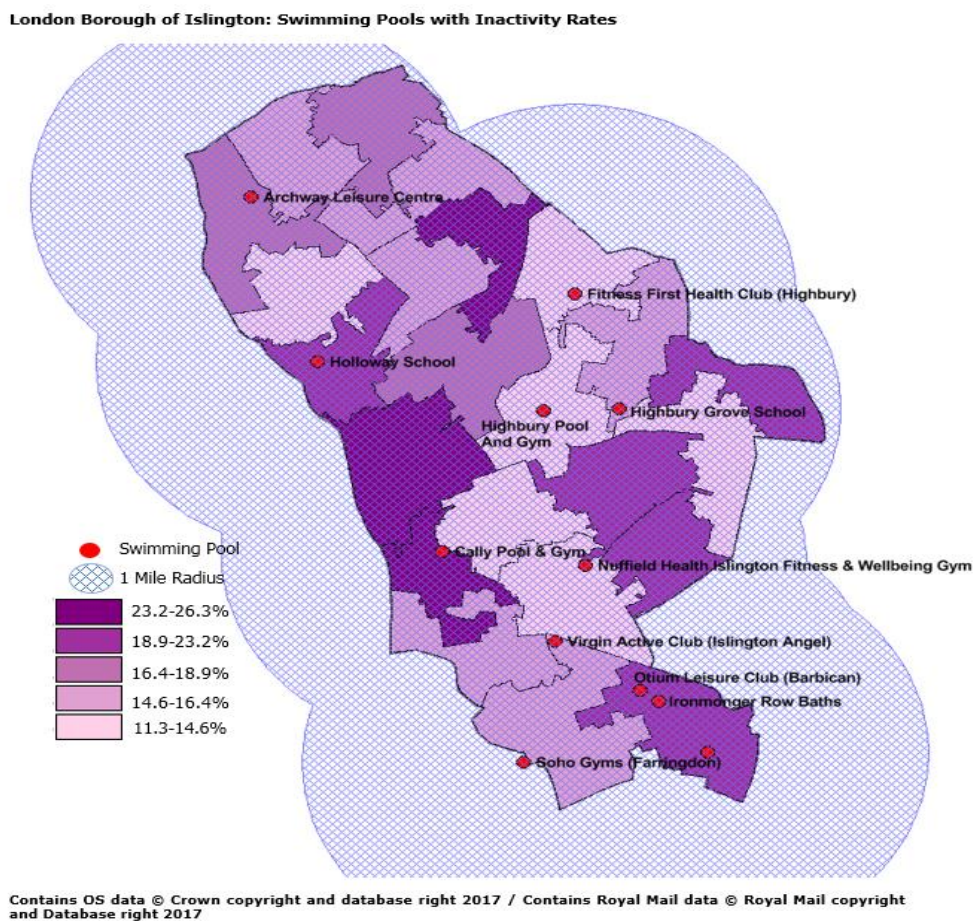
Facility Name	Mean Quality Score
Archway Leisure Centre	3
Cally Pool & Gym	4
Fitness First Highbury	3
Highbury Grove School	3
Highbury Leisure Centre ⁶	-
Holloway School	4
Ironmonger Row Baths	4
Otium Leisure (hotel pool)	4
Soho Gyms Farringdon	2
Virgin Active Angel	5
Virgin Active Moorgate	Not audited

6.3.8 Accessibility Assessment

Figure 6.15 identifies 1 mile/20 minute walk-to catchments for each of the swimming pool sites under review in Islington. The map illustrates that the majority of the borough falls within a one-mile catchment of a swimming pool site. There is no significant strategic gap in swimming provision within Islington.

⁶ Temporarily closed for rebuilding following fire. Will be good/excellent (4/5) when reopens.

Figure 6.15: Map of Audited Swimming Pool Sites in Islington (1 mile 'walk-to' catchments marked)



6.3.9 Local Needs and Consultation

The key findings of the consultation process relevant to swimming pool provision in Islington are summarised below:

- There are 4 local authority community pools but only one of these (Cally Pools) is a 25m x 6-lane pool to District standard for competitions.
- The main swimming club in the borough - Anaconda - is very successful and well supported. The club has long identified an aspiration for the provision of an 8-lane 25m competition pool with spectator capacity in the borough. The nearest sites offering this level of facility are Clissold Leisure Centre in Hackney borough (1.2 miles from central Islington) and Swiss Cottage Leisure Centre in Camden (2.9 miles).
- Consultation with neighbouring boroughs, Sport England and Swim England indicates that further 6-lane district level competition pools are being considered for Haringey (Wood Green) and Hackney (new Britannia Leisure Centre). If provided, these new pools will reduce imported demand in Islington.
- Swim England consider the priorities in Islington should be to maintain quantity, enhance the quality of the older provision and improve energy efficiency through renewals (e.g. Holloway Pool, Cally Pool).
- Specific issues from consultation with the Islington Leisure Team, aside from the need to repair and reopen Highbury Leisure Centre pools following a recent fire) are the high costs of operating the Holloway School pool and the need to replace the existing plant with a more energy efficient solution in order to sustain this pool in community and club use.

6.3.10 Priorities and Standards for Swimming Pools

The priorities below are set out in line with Sport England's priorities for forward planning under the headings of protect, enhance and provide.

Figure 6.17: Swimming Pool Priorities, Improvement Recommendations and Quantity Standards

Protect	Enhance	Provide
<p>Maintain the current level of swimming pool provision across Islington as a minimum (<i>including the Highbury Leisure Centre pools currently closed pending repair following fire damage</i>).</p> <p>Ensure that the per capita swimming pool supply does not fall below 13m² of water space per 1,000 of the population.</p>	<p>Enhance the quality of the swimming pool provision within the borough as well as accessibility for the community at school based pools and promotion of this availability.</p> <p>Priority sites to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Holloway School plant (subject to technical report findings). ○ Cally Pools (as part of larger regeneration proposals for the Cally area) ○ Cosmetic upgrades to the pool tiles at Archway Leisure Centre subject to detailed assessment. 	<p>Regularly review needs with Sport England and Swim England in relation to changes in supply and population growth in the borough and neighbouring boroughs.</p>
<p>Prioritisation and Outline Investment Needs</p> <p>Short Term (1-2 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Highbury Leisure Centre - repair/replacement of pools following fire. 2. Holloway School Swimming Pool – plant energy efficiency measures. 3. Assess need for new pool tiling - Archway leisure centre. <p>Medium Term (3-4 years)</p> <p>Planning and Development of replacement for Cally Pools maintaining, as a minimum, a 6-lane district level competition pool.</p> <p>Longer term (5+ years)</p> <p>Reconsider needs case for provision of a further 25m 6-lane pool in relation to population growth.</p>		
<p>Future Needs for Swimming</p> <p>The Council should work to maintain a standard of 13m² of water space per 1,000 of the population by the end of the new Local Plan period to 2036.</p> <p>As part of the overall review process the growing population within the borough will impact on the current supply (and the projected increase in supply) and unmet demand. The regular review of this strategy every 2 years will need to include Sport England FPM analysis.</p>		

6.4 Sports Halls

The summary below provides the *quantitative, qualitative and accessibility assessments* for sports hall provision within Islington together with the main findings from the site audits undertaken. All sports halls of 3 (badminton) courts or larger are included in the analysis (i.e. excludes smaller halls – with community halls dealt with later within this section). Recommended strategic priorities for community accessible sports halls in Islington for the strategy period to 2036 are set out at the conclusion of this sub-section.

6.4.1 Supply

The following table shows the indoor sports hall sites in Islington that are publicly accessible. There are 13 sites across Islington which offer sports halls which meet the criteria for inclusion within this strategy (larger than 3 badminton courts for the main area) and available to access by community clubs in the peak period.

11 of these sites are included in the June 2018 Facilities Planning Model (FPM) report as meeting the modelling criteria.

A further 2 sites - London Metropolitan University and St Aloysius College are excluded from the FPM run on grounds that they do not offer access to community sports clubs and groups. However, local research has identified that the sports halls at both sites now offer some availability to sports clubs in the peak period. In the following paragraphs, the report therefore caveats the findings of the FPM accordingly.

The table includes a RAG rating of the availability of each facility for Islington residents to utilise these facilities on a pay-and-play basis with further commentary on this under *Used Capacity* and *Availability* later in this section. Red indicates a lack of availability for both peak and off peak times. Amber indicates some availability (for sports halls in Islington, given the majority of sites are on school sites there is limited off peak opportunities for indoor sport). A high number of schools have full community sports programmes which is very positive. A number of schools have limited capacity due to community clubs (from consultation) stating prices are too high with schools highlighting additional security costs being a factor. Some schools capacity is due to poor facilities now limiting their attractiveness.

Figure 6.18: Community accessible Sports Halls in Islington

	Facility Name	Facility Type	No. of Badminton Courts	Access Type	Availability RAG rating	Management Type	Year Built (Refurb.)
1	City of London Academy	Main	4	Sports Club/Assoc		School (in house)	2009
2	CitySport	Main	6	Registered members		University (in house)	2015
3	Elizabeth Garrett Anderson School	Main	4	Sports Club/Assoc		School (in house)	1960 (2001)
4	Finsbury Leisure Centre	Main Activity Halls (3)	6	Pay & Play		Leisure Management Contract	1975 (2004)
5	Hargrave Hall Community Centre	Main Activity Hall	4	Sports Club/Assoc	n/a	Community Organisation	Not known
6	Highbury Grove School	Main Activity Hall	4	Sports Club/Assoc		School (in house)	2010
7	Holloway School	Main	4	Sports Club/Assoc		Leisure Management Contract	2007
8	Islington Arts & Media School	Main	4	Sports Club/Assoc		School (in house)	2003
9	City of London Academy Highgate Hill (former Mount Carmel College)	Main	3	Sports Club/Assoc	n/a	School (in house)	1960
10	Sobell Leisure Centre	Main	8 (+ 8 converted to Trampoline Park in 2018)	Pay & Play		Leisure Management Contract	1972 (2017)
11	St Mary Magdalene Academy	Main	4	Sports Club/Assoc		School (in house)	2005
12	London Metropolitan University (Holloway Campus)	Main Main	6 3	Private Use* Private Use*		University (in house)	
13	St Aloysius College <i>Playing fields are in LB Haringey</i>	Main	4	Private Use*		School (in house)	2009
HALLS / COURTS		14 Main Halls	64 courts				

* Excluded from FPM modelling as no access for community use on Active Places database. It is noted that the NGB and club consultation for this update found some community club access for badminton, gymnastics and handball to London Met University Sports Halls and for basketball at St Aloysius College (Islington Panthers).

6.4.2 Activity Halls

Separate activity halls, not meeting the Sport England FPM analysis criteria but identified as accommodating community sports use either within schools or community settings, are detailed in Figure 6.19. As detailed in the consultation section, these smaller venues play a key and growing role in accommodating demand for low-cost access for sports and active recreation activities for Islington residents on low incomes and from other under-represented groups (A map of community facilities is available in Appendix E).

Figure 6.19: Activity / Community Halls

	Facility Name	Facility Type	No. of Badminton Courts Approx.	Access Type	Availability RAG rating	Management Type
1	Caxton House Community Centre	Activity Hall	0	Pay & Play & Sports Club/Assoc	n/a	Community Organisation
2	Central Foundation Boys School	Activity Halls (2)	0	Sports Club/Assoc		School (in house)
3	Grafton Primary School	Activity Hall	1	Private Use		Other
4	Highbury Fields School	Activity Hall	1	Private Use		School (in house)
5	Mildmay Community Centre	Activity Hall	0	Pay & Play & Sports Club/Assoc		Community Organisation
6	Elizabeth House Community Centre	Activity Hall	0	Pay & Play & Sports Club/Assoc		Community Organisation
7	Peel Centre (3 corners) Clerkenwell	Activity Hall	0	Pay & Play & Sports Club/Assoc		Community Organisation
8	St George's Church & Centre	Activity Hall	0	Sports Club/Assoc	n/a	Church (in house)
9	St Luke's Community Centre	Activity Hall	0	Private Use		Church (in house)
10	St Mary Islington Community Partnership	Activity Hall	1 (markings for basketball, 5 a side)	Pay & Play & Sports Club/Assoc		Community Organisation
11	The Crypt on the Green	Activity Hall	0	Sports Club/Assoc	n/a	Community Organisation
12	Winton Primary School	Activity Halls (3)	0	Sports Club/Assoc	n/a	School (in house)
13	Hilldrop Community Centre	Activity Halls (2)	0	Pay & Play & Sports Club/Assoc		Community Organisation
14	Hanley Crouch Community Association (Brickworks Centre)	Activity Halls (2)	0	Pay & Play & Sports Club/Assoc		Community Organisation
15	Holloway Neighbourhood Group (Old Fire Station)	Activity Hall	0	Pay & Play & Sports Club/Assoc		Community Organisation
16	Hornsey Lane Estate Community Centre	Activity Hall	0	Sports Club/Assoc & Pay & Play		Community Organisation
17	Whittington Park Community Association	Activity Hall	0	Sports Club/Assoc & Pay & Play		Community Organisation

6.4.3 Supply and Demand Analysis

The key findings of the FPM analysis in relation to the current supply of, and demand for, sports halls in Islington are discussed below. This analysis applies to the main sports hall sites only for Islington.

Supply

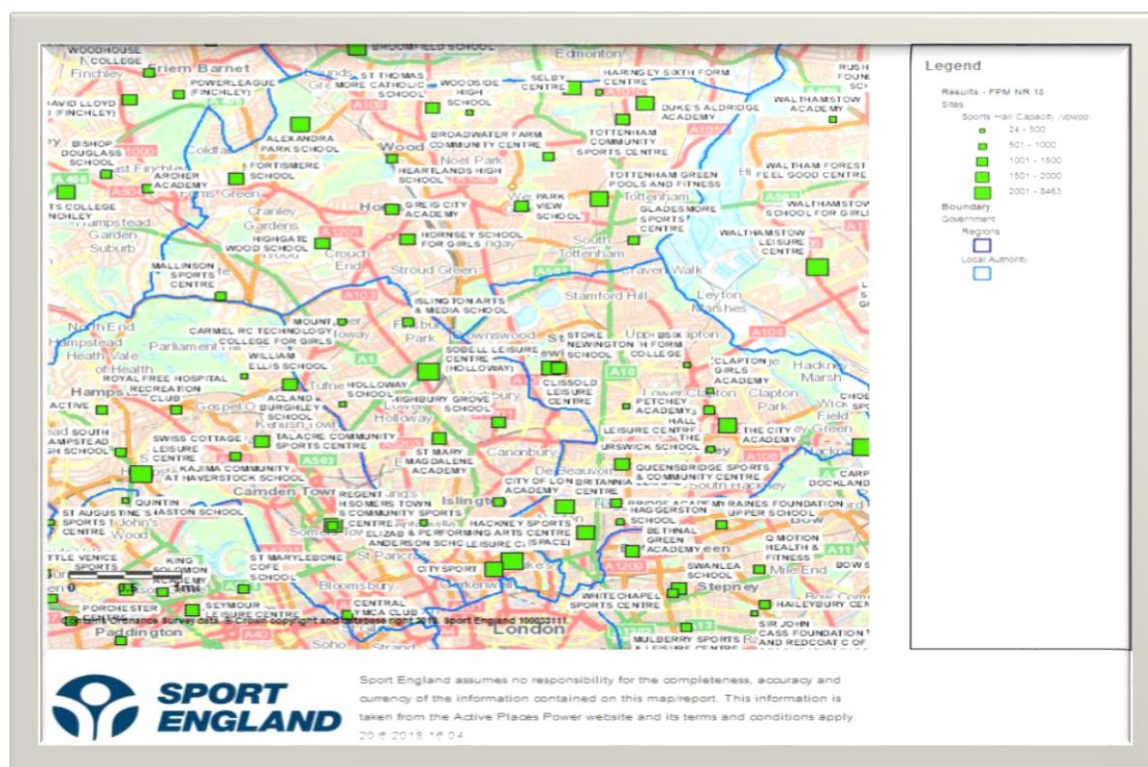
A comparative measure for assessing supply of sports halls on a consistent basis, is badminton courts per 10,000 population. The London average is 3 courts per 10,000 population and for England wide it is 4.2 courts per 10,000 population in 2018. Supply per capita in Islington at 2.8 courts per 10,000 population is just below this average (although if the accessible courts at London Met University and St Aloysius Schools excluded from the FPM run are included, the borough supply is in line with the regional average across London. Sports hall supply in neighbouring Camden to the west is some way below the average while, in the north in Haringey, supply exceeds the average.

Figure 6.20: Supply of Sports Halls in Islington and Neighbour Boroughs

Total Supply	Islington	Camden	City of London	Hackney	Haringey
Number of halls	16	15	0	17	26
Number of hall sites	11	11	0	14	17
Supply of total hall space in courts	66.50	57.40	0	73.40	97.80
Supply of publicly available hall space in courts (scaled with hours available in peak period)	53.30	40.50	0	53.80	72.40
Supply of total hall space in visits per week peak period	14,541	11,056	0	14,687	19,768
Courts per 10,000 population	2.80	2.30	0	2.60	3.50

Across the four local authorities in the study area there is a total of 53 sites with sports halls offering 74 sports halls totalling 295 badminton courts. The distribution of sports hall sites is shown in Map 6.2:

Map 6.2 Location of sports hall sites Islington 2018



The average age for the sports hall sites in Islington is 25 years. However this is misleading as six of the sports hall sites have opened post 2003 and the average age is influenced by two sports hall sites which opened in 1960, these being the Elizabeth Garret Anderson School sports hall and the Mount Carmel RC Technology College for Girls sports hall. The most recent sports hall to open is City Sport (University of London) which opened in 2015.

Of the four pre-2000 sports hall sites, three have been modernised (i.e. the sports hall floor upgraded to a sprung timber floor, the lighting system upgraded or the changing accommodation modernised). These are Elizabeth Garret Anderson School (1975 and modernised in 2001), Sobell Centre (1972 and new flooring provided in 2011 by LOCOG as a London 2012 training venue for

volleyball and further modernised in 2017) and Finsbury Leisure Centre (1975 and modernised in 2004). The only pre-2000 un-modernised sports hall is The City of London Academy Highgate Hill (formerly called Mount Carmel RC Technology College for Girls) which was built in 1960.

The public leisure centres at The Sobell Centre and Finsbury Leisure Centre provide a very extensive offer, not just because of their scale and their modernisation, but the range and scope to provide for all indoor sports and for physical activity classes. The provision at Finsbury Leisure Centre is very extensive with a 6 badminton court size main hall and then three further activity halls, two of which are 24m x 16m. The scale, and mix of individual halls allows for very flexible programming, allowing multi sports use of several sports or classes at the same time as well as providing sufficient scale for a show court for events use.

The Sobell Centre is a 16 badminton court size venue and is the flagship sports hall provision in the borough. Again this scale of venue can accommodate all indoor sports and allow for flexible programming with multi sports use at the same time. In 2017, eight of the courts were converted to a trampoline park and provide dedicated use. The remaining 8-court hall can still accommodate a range of sports or show court for events.

The scale of the provision at the education venues includes a 6 badminton court sports hall at CitySport and then six further education venues, which have a 4 badminton court size main sports hall. Most of the main halls at the education venues have dimensions of 34.5m x 20m which provides for indoor hall sports at the education and community level of activity, so again the scale of provision is extensive.

Demand

The total population of Islington Borough in 2018 is 234,012 people. The Islington population generates a total demand for sports halls of 15,774 visits in the weekly peak period of weekday evenings (up to 5 hours per day) and weekend days (up to 7 hours per weekend day). The demand in the weekly peak period equates to 72 badminton courts.

As previously referenced, 64.1% of Islington residents don't have access to a car. Car access is an important determinant of patterns of demand for sports halls as it influences travel patterns. However, this is less significant in London and especially inner London, given the extensive public transport system. The findings for Islington are that 40% of visits to sports halls are by car (up to 20 minutes' drive time), 44% of all visits are by walking (20 minutes/1-mile catchment area), and 16% of visits are by public transport (20 minutes catchment area). This means that around six out of ten visits to sports halls are by a combination of walking and public transport, making a network of local accessible sports halls important to addressing demand.

Figure 6.21 Demand for Sports Halls in Islington and Neighbouring Boroughs

Total Demand	Islington	Camden	City of London	Hackney	Haringey
Population	234,012	244,476	9,027	277,667	281,203
Visits demanded – visits per week peak period	15,774	16,285	571	18,731	18,644
Equivalent in courts – with comfort factor included	72.30	74.60	2.60	85.80	85.40
% of population without access to a car	64.10	60.30	68.20	63.70	51.30

Supply and Demand Balance

The FPM measure of *Supply and Demand Balance* simply compares the total demand for sports halls in a borough with the total supply in that borough. The measure ignores where the sports hall sites are located in relation to the distribution of the population, the accessible supply in neighbouring boroughs and cross-border movements of demand. In addition, *Supply and Demand Balance* does not take into account the propensity/reasons for residents using facilities outside their own borough.

Figure 6.22: Sports Hall Supply & Demand Balance in Islington and Neighbouring Boroughs

Supply/Demand Balance	Islington	Camden	City of London	Hackney	Haringey
Supply - Hall provision (courts) based on hours available for community use	53.30	40.50	0	53.80	72.40
Demand - Hall provision (courts) taking into account a 'comfort' factor	72.30	74.60	2.60	85.80	85.40
Supply / Demand balance	-19	-34.10	-2.60	-32	-13

Supply and Demand Balance therefore only provides a picture of how a borough's total supply of sports halls compares with the total demand for sports halls generated by that borough's population. The resident population of Islington in 2018 generates a demand for 72.30 courts. This compares to the total supply of 53.30 courts available for community use in the weekly peak period. So, on this crude measure, there is a negative balance of demand exceeding supply by 19 courts in 2018.

Demand also exceeds demand in the three main neighbours; Camden by 34 courts, Hackney by 32 courts and Haringey by 13 courts.

These *Supply and Demand Balance* findings influence significantly, the amount of demand that is exported and imported between authorities as shown in the following FPM measures of *Satisfied Demand*, *Unmet Demand* and *Used Capacity* which take into account the catchment area of sports halls across local authority boundaries. The findings of these later measures reflect how much of the Islington demand for sports halls can be met and the level of unmet demand.

Satisfied Demand - demand from Islington residents currently being met by supply

Satisfied demand represents the proportion of total demand that is met by the capacity at the sports halls from residents who live within the car, walking or public transport catchment area of a sports hall site. The finding is that in 2018, 81% of the total demand for sports halls from Islington residents is satisfied/met by existing halls located either in the borough or in a neighbouring borough and that the existing halls offer sufficient capacity to accommodate this demand.

This is a quite high level of satisfied/met demand and the range of satisfied demand in the neighbouring authorities is quite close. It is highest in Haringey, at 84% of the total Haringey demand for sports halls being met. The lowest level of the comparable neighbouring boroughs is in Camden where 77% of demand is met.

Figure 6.23: Satisfied Demand for Sports Halls - Islington and Neighbour Boroughs

Satisfied Demand	Islington	Camden	City of London	Hackney	Haringey
Total number of visits which are met	12,826	12,574	401	15,179	15,746
% of total demand satisfied	81.30	77.20	70.30	81	84.50
% of demand satisfied who travelled by car	40.30	45.80	41.60	41.60	52.20
% of demand satisfied who travelled by foot	44	40.30	42.40	42	32.30
% of demand satisfied who travelled by public transport	15.70	13.90	16	16.40	15.50
Demand Retained	7,730	7,095	0	7,678	10,978
Demand Retained -as a % of Satisfied Demand	60.30	56.40	0	50.60	69.70
Demand Exported	5,096	5,480	401	7,501	4,768

Satisfied Demand	Islington	Camden	City of London	Hackney	Haringey
Demand Exported -as a % of Satisfied Demand	39.70	43.60	100	49.40	30.30

Retained Demand

Retained demand measures how much of the Islington demand is met at sports halls located within the borough. This is based on the catchment area of sports halls and residents using the nearest sports hall to where they live. The finding is that the nearest sports hall for an Islington resident which is a venue located in the borough, is a high 60% of the total 81% of the Islington satisfied demand for sports halls.

In short, the location and catchment area of the sports hall sites in the borough are very well located, in relation to the location of the Islington demand for sports halls. So much so, that the nearest hall for six out of ten visits to a sports hall by an Islington resident is a venue located in the borough.

Exported demand

The residual of satisfied demand, after retained demand, is exported demand. The 2018 finding is that 39% of the Islington satisfied demand for sports halls is met outside the authority. Again, this is based on the nearest sports hall site for this level of the borough's satisfied demand, is a site located outside the borough.

In terms of visits, the Islington retained demand is 7,730 visits per week in the weekly peak period. Whilst the Islington exported demand, is 5,096 visits per week in the weekly peak period.

The data does not identify how much of the Islington demand goes to which authority or sports hall site, it just provides the total figure for exported demand.

Used Capacity and Availability

The FPM includes a 'comfort factor', beyond which the venues are too full. For sports halls, Sport England sets the comfort level at 80% of capacity used at peak times (weekday evenings and weekend days).

Above this level the time taken to change the sports hall for different activities starts to impinge on the activity time itself. Also, the changing and circulation areas become overcrowded and can discourage participation.

In 2018, the estimated used capacity of the sports halls in Islington as a borough-wide average is estimated to be 100% of capacity used in the weekly peak period. This finding of full sports halls to comfortable capacity in the peak period is mirrored in Camden and in Haringey. Only Hackney sports halls of the comparable neighbours, has spare capacity in the peak.

As detailed in Figure 6.18 previously there is limited availability across the sports hall stock in Islington based on the reviews of the programmes, site visits and consultation with facility operators with some off peak capacity at the leisure centre sites and community sites. This further supports the Sport England analysis on the used capacity and limited additional capacity that the sports hall supply has in Islington.

Figure 6.24: Used Capacity - Islington and Neighbouring Boroughs

Used Capacity	Islington	Camden	City of London	Hackney	Haringey
Total number of visits used of current capacity	14,541	11,056	0	12,606	19,768
% of overall capacity of halls used	100	100	0	85.80	100
Visits Imported;					
Number of visits imported	6,811	3,961	0	4,928	8,790
As a % of used capacity	46.80	35.80	0	39.10	44.50

Unmet Demand

The FPM measure of *Unmet Demand* comprises two factors:

- i. Excess demand for any particular sports hall within its catchment area; and
- ii. Demand located outside the catchment area of any sports hall.

In 2018, total unmet demand for halls in Islington is 18.7% of total demand which equates to 13.5 badminton courts with a comfort factor. Of this total, 75% is derived from the first factor (lack of sports hall capacity) and 25% from the second factor (i.e. unmet demand located outside the catchment area of a sports hall site). The latter is from residents who do not have access to a car and live outside the 'walk-to', or, public transport catchment area of a sports hall.

This type of unmet demand will always exist because it is not possible to get complete geographic coverage, whereby all areas are inside catchment, especially when the walking catchment area of sports halls is small at 20 minutes/1 mile and the public transport catchment. This applies even in inner London, where there is an extensive supply of sports halls and a very extensive public transport network.

The key point is not that unmet demand outside catchment exists but the scale and if it is clustered enough to consider further provision, to improve accessibility to existing sites. No one area has high unmet demand although it is marginally greater in the Hornsey area to the south and east of the Sobell Centre.

The Islington total unmet demand found by the FPM analysis is 13.5 courts, of which 25% (i.e. fewer than 4 courts) is from demand located outside the catchment. The model identifies that part of the reason why the existing halls are full in the peak period is the 'draw' the Islington supply exerts on demand from other residents of boroughs. The reasons cited for this higher than average draw factor are the relative large scale of the halls at Sobell (8 courts), Finsbury (6) and City Sport (6) as well as the modern stock relative to sites in neighbouring boroughs (i.e. recent refurbishments).

The FPM findings suggest that while there is unmet demand in 2018 for up to 13.5 courts, there is an insufficient level of unmet demand in one specific area to consider increasing sports hall provision so as to increase travel accessibility for residents. If the 13 excluded courts with a measure of community access (at London Met and St Aloysius) are considered, the needs case for building more courts to address current unmet demand is further reduced.

Sports Facility Calculator (SFC)

Alongside the FPM analysis, the Consultant Team has used the Sports Facility Calculator which provides a useful estimation of the likely facility needs of a particular population based on estimated demand for that facility type. Figure 6.25 shows the total additional demand for sports halls generated by projected population growth in Islington in the period 2018-2036 based on the GLA central trend projection of an additional 39,000 residents. It compares the number of facilities that the SFC estimates are required to meet projected levels of demand generated by the additional residents in Islington for that future population. The SFC however does not take into account the age and condition of existing facilities or the import and export of demand across borough boundaries.

Figure 6.25: Sports Facility Calculator – demand for sports halls generated by future population forecast for Islington Borough.

Sports Halls	
Courts	12.08
Halls	3.02
vpwpp*	2,638

*visits per week in the peak period (the additional number of visits estimated the population creates)

The SFC suggests that by 2036 it is projected that the forecast increase in Islington Borough's population will generate demand for an additional 12 courts or 3 additional 4 court sports halls. Whilst the use of the SFC should be treated with caution, it is apparent that while the case for additional indoor sports hall space in Islington is marginal with the increase in accessible supply in the university sector, there is a needs case for further sports halls over the Local Plan period to 2036 at the current population growth forecasts. The consideration of new sports hall facilities within the borough is a clear emerging priority however there is also scope to improve the capacity

of the current sites with potential investment which may then have a positive impact on the high levels of demand and need for indoor space.

6.4.4 Supply and Demand Analysis Summary

- The supply of indoor sports halls per 10,000 residents in Islington at 2.8 courts per 10,000 population is a little below the London average (3 courts per 10,000).
- The levels of unmet demand found in the FPM analysis equates to 13 courts with a comfort factor - the equivalent of 3 new 4-court sports halls. However, the FPM modelling assumes no community access to the 2 sports halls at London Met University and the sports hall at St Aloysius School which the consultation indicates are accessed for a few hours a week by community clubs.
- The Sport England FPM highlights that no single area is significantly under-supplied with sports halls whilst the area with highest unmet demand is to the south and east of the Sobell Centre in Hornsey.
- The SFC shows that projected population growth in Islington changes the needs case for more sports hall supply from marginal currently to definite in the period to 2036.

6.4.5 Quantity Standards: Sports Halls

The quantitative supply and demand analysis allows for consideration of quantity standards for sports hall provision which should influence Islington Council's future investment decisions.

Figure 6.26 shows the current supply of courts per 10,000 of the population in Islington from the FPM (i.e. 2.80 courts per 10,000) and uses Sport England's FPM modelling to calculate a target per 10,000 of the population quantity standard based on addressing the existing level of unmet demand for sports halls in Islington. FPM modelling suggests that unmet demand for sports halls in Islington equates to the equivalent of 13 courts. Adjusting to allow for community access in the peak period to the 13 courts on education sites excluded from the FPM supply assumptions, this would give a target for Islington to work towards of 75 courts and a supply of **3 courts per 10,000** to get to at least the current London average.

The development of any new sports hall space will be a challenge for the densely populated urban space within Islington. It is discussed later in this section that the potential impact of improving the quality and in turn the capacity of the current facility stock should be considered with strategic investment into mainly education sites.

Figure 6.26: Current Target Quantity Standard for Sports Halls in Islington

Current Supply (courts)	Current Population	Current Supply per 10,000 population	Unmet Demand (equivalent in courts)	Target Supply based on Unmet Demand (courts)	Target Supply per 10,000 population (courts)
66cts	234,000	2.80	Estimate 5 courts*	71	3.00

* 13courts from FPM analysis less say 8 courts equivalent to allow for community access in the peak period to the 13 courts excluded from the FPM supply assumptions at London Met and St Aloysius.

The review of SFC in Figure 6.27 shows how the quantity of sports hall supply per 10,000 population in Islington will be affected by projected population growth in the borough up to 2036. By 2036, without additional sports hall provision or additional demand being met at existing sites, the supply of sports hall space per 10,000 of the population in Islington is projected to fall to 2.44 courts per 10,000. This indicates that planning action must be taken to meet the projected shortfall to ensure that the quantity of sports hall supply keeps pace with additional demand generated by population growth in Islington. In order to reach the target quantity standard, additional sports halls or increased capacity at existing sites will be required to ensure that demand for sports hall space does not go unmet.

The quantity standard should be regularly reviewed by Islington Council in liaison with Sport England to take into account alterations in demand for sports halls resulting from population growth and alterations to the supply of indoor courts in Islington and its neighbouring boroughs. With this in mind, it is recommended that whilst a minimum quantity standard of 3 courts per 10,000 of the population is considered, it is important that supply does not fall below the current

level, with partners working towards achieving at least the London average for sports hall space in the longer term.

Figure 6.27: Projected Impact of Population Growth on Quantity Standard for Sports Halls in Islington

Year	Supply courts	Population Projection	Supply per 10,000 population (courts)
2018	66	234,012	2.80
2036	66	272,875	2.44

6.4.6 Qualitative Assessment

Alongside the analysis of supply and demand, the quality of the facility stock has been assessed via non-technical quality assessments to allow for the verification of the quality of that supply.

Based on the non-technical quality assessments, the highest scoring sports hall sites were CitySport and St Mary Magdalene Academy, offering both good quality facilities and busy community programmes. No site that was audited scored less than 3/5, indicating that Islington has good quality sports hall provision. The quality scores are summarised below in Figure 6.28 and presented in more detail in the full Appendices.

Figure 6.28: Mean Quality Score – Sports Halls (and Community Hall) Sites in Islington

Facility Name	Mean Quality Score
Sports Halls + Activity Halls	
City of London Academy	4
CitySport	5
Elizabeth Garrett Anderson School	3
Finsbury Leisure Centre	3
Hargrave Hall Community Centre	Not audited
Highbury Grove School	3.5
Holloway School	3
Islington Arts & Media School	3.5
City of London Academy Highgate Hill (former Mount Carmel College)	Not audited
Sobell Leisure Centre	4
St Mary Magdalene Academy	5
London Metropolitan University (Holloway Campus)	4
St Aloysius College <i>Playing fields are in LB Haringey</i>	3
Community Halls	
Caxton House Community Centre	Not audited
Central Foundation Boys School	2
Grafton Primary School	3
Highbury Fields School	2
Mildmay Community Centre	3
Elizabeth House Community Centre	3
Peel Centre (3 corners) Clerkenwell	3.5
St George's Church & Centre	Not audited
St Luke's Community Centre	3
St Mary Islington Community Partnership	2.5
The Crypt on the Green	Not audited
Winton Primary School	Not audited
Hilldrop Community Centre	3

Facility Name	Mean Quality Score
Hanley Crouch Community Association (Brickworks Centre)	4
Holloway Neighbourhood Group (Old Fire Station)	3
Hornsey Lane Estate Community Centre	3
Whittington Park Community Association	2

The assessments reveal that whilst there is a good number of overall sites across Islington which provide community access to sports clubs, the standard of provision is low in a number of key locations in the borough. The capacity of a number of sports hall sites is also limited with some ageing and poor quality facilities on a number of the school sites. Of note, only two sites offer pay-and-play access throughout the day - Sobell and Finsbury. These are also the only sites (aside from Holloway School) where Islington Council has direct influence over pricing and programming policy via the leisure management contract.

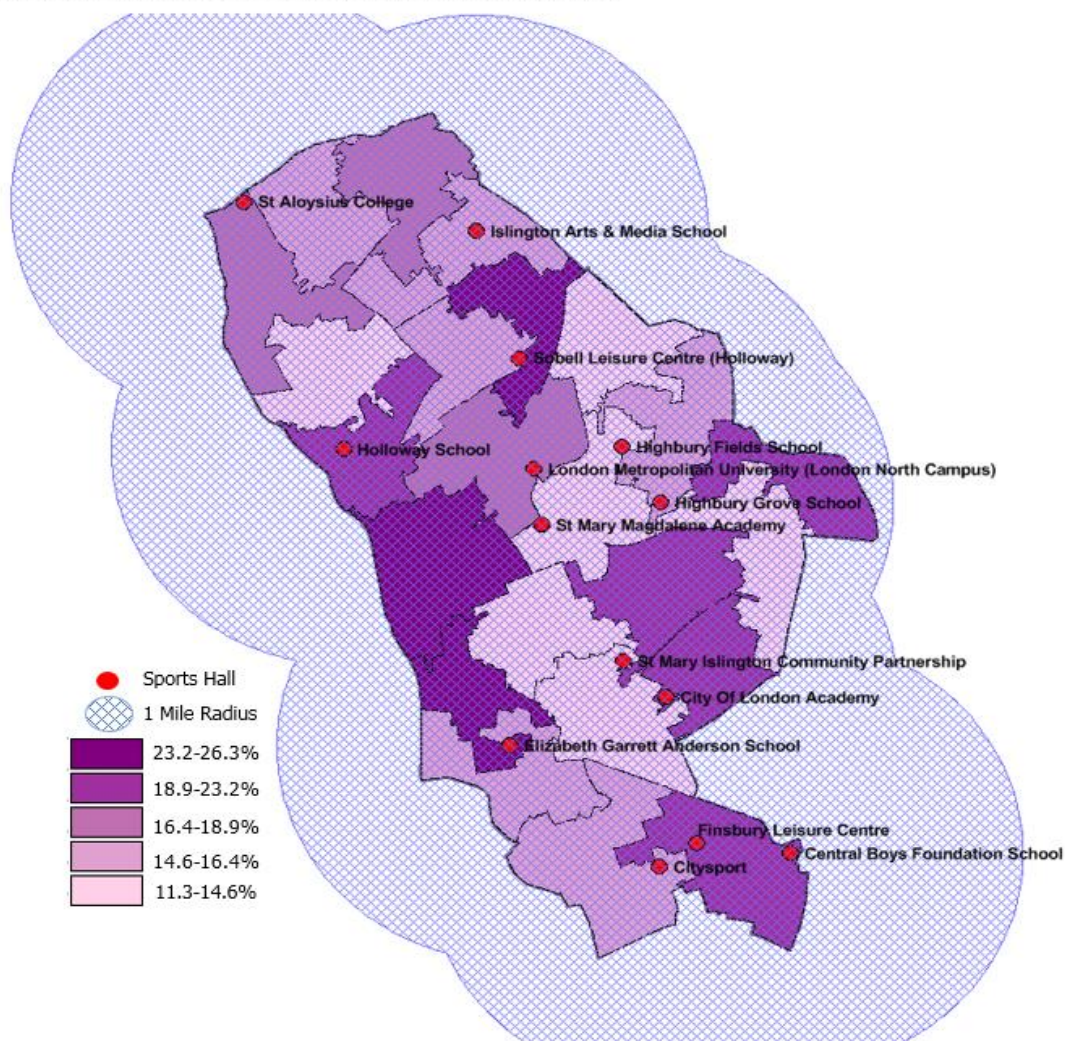
Those of the smaller community sites audited provide some reasonable quality space with some quite new provision (e.g. Mildmay Community Centre). However, the majority of the community hall stock on housing estates and in other community settings is quite run down and the community organisations that manage these consistently identify the need for investment, mainly for relatively minor repairs and purchase of replacement equipment to sustain the broad range of community sports and physical activity programmes delivered at these facilities, either for free or at low cost, to make them accessible to those on low incomes.

6.4.7 Accessibility Assessment

Figure 6.29 identifies 1 mile/20 minute walk-to catchments for each of the leading sports hall sites under review in Islington. The map illustrates that the borough is well provided for in terms of the 1 mile catchment for sports halls.

Figure 6.29: Map of Leading Sports Hall Sites in Islington (1 mile walk-to catchments marked)

London Borough of Islington: Sports Halls with Inactivity Rates



Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2017 / Contains Royal Mail data © Royal Mail copyright and Database right 2017

6.4.8 Local Needs and Consultation

The key findings of the consultation process relevant to sports hall provision in Islington are summarised below:

- Despite having a number of large housing estates with relatively low rates of physical activity and poor public health outcomes, overall the borough of Islington has relatively high scores in the Active Lives Survey and is therefore not on the list of high priority *'Transition Local Authorities'* for intervention and support from Sport England
- As detailed in **Section 5**, club responses to the priorities for investment within Islington for indoor sport highlighted a number of key findings. For the under-represented groups, cost of access and awareness of opportunities continue to be the main barriers along with a perception that club-based activities are, in general, insufficiently inclusive.
- To better reach under-represented groups and reduce public health inequalities, there is a broad consensus among the consultees that the focus for facility investment moving forward once the Finsbury Leisure project is delivered, should be on improving the smaller community halls in partnership with the community organisations that own or manage the extensive network of these facilities throughout the borough. These spaces are in high demand for low impact activity classes, martial arts and other community programming.
- For sports clubs, several struggle to access halls of sufficient size in the peak period to accommodate demand for their sports (e.g. netball, basketball, handball, volleyball and

gymnastics) or consider their security of access to be at risk (e.g. Panthers at St Aloysius College Sports Hall). The re-provision of a slightly larger 6-court sports hall within the plans for replacement of the Finsbury Leisure Centre should improve this situation, particularly for netball.

6.4.9 Priorities and Standards for Sports Halls

The priorities below in Figure 6.30 are set out in line with Sport England’s priorities for forward planning under the headings of protect, enhance and provide.

Figure 6.30: Sports Hall Priorities, Improvement Recommendations and Quantity Standards

Protect	Enhance	Provide
<p>Maintain the current level of sports hall provision across Islington at a minimum.</p> <p>Ensure that the per capita sports hall supply does not fall below 2.80 courts per 10,000 of the population.</p>	<p>Enhance the quality of the sports hall provision within the borough’s leading schools, as well as protect and enhance accessibility for the community for clubs and groups and promotion of this availability.</p> <p>Priority sites to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Central Foundation School (if feasible, expand on school's current plans to provide a 3-court hall) ○ Highbury Fields School ○ Protection of access to St Aloysius College for Panthers Basketball (identified in consultation as at risk) 	<p>Replacement Sports Hall to be provided at Finsbury Leisure Centre (6 courts to comply with Sport England and England Netball specifications for club-level competition).</p> <p>Include Community Use Agreements as part of planning conditions for any suitable and appropriate new or extended education sports halls to accommodate forecast population growth.</p> <p>Work towards a target of 3.00 courts per 10,000 (the current London average).</p>
<p>Prioritisation and Outline Investment Needs</p> <p>Short Term (1-2 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Secure planning consent and procure construction of a replacement for the Finsbury Leisure Centre. 2. Clarity on the business cases for leading school sites and coordination of community sport potential with the wider redevelopment plans for these sites. <p>Medium Term (3-4 years)</p> <p>Develop a priority schedule of repair and upgrade works to activity halls and ancillary facilities on community sites (on housing estates and in other community settings) linked to business plans from community management organisations to sustain and grow physical activity and sports programmes within the centres receiving investment support.</p> <p>Longer Term (5 years+)</p> <p>Reconsider needs case for provision of further sports halls with community access in relation to population growth.</p>		
<p>Future Needs for Sports Halls and Activity Halls</p> <p>The Council should work towards achieving the London average of at least 3 courts per 10,000 to be achieved within the medium term of this strategy.</p> <p>The investment sites should be considered as offering more indoor space than the current facility stock. Any new development should look to increase on the current provision where viable. This will require careful financial planning given the prevalence of the sports halls in education facilities and the clear and evident challenges the borough has in addressing the ageing school stock.</p> <p>As part of the overall review process the growing population within the borough will impact on the current supply (and the projected increase in supply) and unmet demand. The regular review of this strategy every 2 years will need to include Sport England FPM analysis.</p> <p>Prominent Role of Community Halls Space in Islington for Sport and Physical Activity.</p> <p>Community halls provide essential spaces for sport and physical activity (see also Martial Arts later in this section). It is recommended that any future proposals which impact on the on-going provision of community halls which provide sport and physical activity are not lost within future development schemes and as a minimum they are considered to be replaced and the activity can continue to be provided.</p> <p>As identified in the consultation, greater consideration should be given in future regeneration plans for housing</p>		

Protect	Enhance	Provide
estates to include community halls and MUGAs of sufficient size and suitably specified to accommodate a range of sports and physical activities to recreational level for all ages.		

6.5 Health and Fitness Suites

The summary below provides the **quantitative, qualitative and accessibility assessments** for health and fitness provision within Islington alongside the leading outcomes from the detailed consultation process which has informed this *Sports Facilities Update*. The priorities and standards to be adopted for health and fitness provision are then provided at the end of this assessment.

As per the methodology presented earlier, health and fitness suites offering 20+ stations have been included within the audit and analysis.

6.5.1 Quantitative Assessment

Figure 6.31 provides a list of the health and fitness sites in Islington which are publicly accessible. Further information on each of the health and fitness sites audited is also provided.

Figure 6.31: Health and Fitness Suites in Islington (highlighted those <20 stations)

Facility	Stations	Access	Management	Built (refurb)
1. Anytime Fitness (London Kings Cross)	50	Registered Membership	Commercial	2011
2. Archway Leisure Centre	100	Registered Membership	Trust	1991 (2017)
3. Better Gym Holloway	105	Registered Membership	Trust	2007 (2017)
4. Cally Pool and Gym	17	Registered Membership	Trust	1985 (2007)
5. City And Islington College (Centre Of Applied Sciences)	20	Private	School/College/University	2011
6. Citysport	132	Registered Membership	School/College/University	2015
7. David Lloyd Studio (Islington) - Orange Fitness	24	Pay and Play	Commercial	1984 (2004)
8. Dowe Dynamics Gym & Fitness Shop	43	Registered Membership	Commercial	1994 (2007)
9. Elizabeth Garrett Anderson School	11	Sports Club / Community Org	School/College/University	2007
10. Energie Fitness (London Old Street)	100	Registered Membership	Commercial	1999 (2014)
11. Fit4less (London Highbury)	33	Registered Membership	Commercial	2005 (2013)
12. Fitness First Health Club (Highbury)	66	Registered Membership	Commercial	2011
13. Fitness First Health Club (London Angel)	79	Registered Membership	Commercial	2003 (2013)
14. Gymbox (Farringdon)	100	Registered Membership	Commercial	2016
15. Gymbox (Old Street)	50	Pay and Play	Commercial	2014
16. Highbury Grove School (City of London Academy)	8	Private	School/College/University	2010
17. Highbury Leisure Centre ⁷	140	Registered Membership	Trust	1984 (2017)
18. Ironmonger Row Baths	30	Registered Membership	Trust	1995 (2017)
19. Islington Arts & Media School	9	Private	School/College/University	2005
20. Islington Boxing Club	35	Sports Club / Community Org	Commercial	Not known
21. Islington Tennis Centre	70	Registered Membership	Trust	2000 (2017)

⁷ Temporarily closed for repair following fire damage. 4,300 members offered use of other GLL fitness facilities in London pending re-opening.

London Borough of Islington Sports Facilities Update 2018
Final Report

Facility	Stations	Access	Management	Built (refurb)
22. London Metropolitan University (London North Campus)	60	Private	School/College/University	2006 (2016)
23. Nuffield Health Islington Fitness & Wellbeing Gym	55	Registered Membership	Commercial	1998 (2007)
24. Otium Leisure Club (Barbican)	22	Registered Membership	Commercial	2001 (2013)
25. Pure Gym (London Finsbury Park)	220	Registered Membership	Commercial	2015
26. Pure Gym Local (London Holloway Road)	220	Registered Membership	Commercial	2000
27. Sobell Leisure Centre (Holloway)	150	Registered Membership	Trust	1972 (2017)
28. Soho Gyms (Farringdon)	55	Registered Membership	Commercial	2000 (2014)
29. St Mary Islington Community Partnership	10	Sports Club / Community Org	Community Organisation	1975 (2009)
30. St Mary Magdalene Academy	10	Private	School/College/University	2008
31. The Factory Fitness And Dance Centre	23	Registered Membership	Commercial	2008 (2012)
32. The Gym (London Angel)	117	Registered Membership	Commercial	2014
33. Urban Kings Gym	20	Registered Membership	Commercial	Not known
34. Virgin Active Club (Islington Angel)	200	Registered Membership	Commercial	2002 (2008)
35. Virgin Active Club (Moorgate)	180	Registered Membership	Commercial	2001 (2006)
36. White Lion (Lift)	30	Pay and Play	Community Organisation	2011

6.5.2 Supply and Demand Analysis

The key findings from Sport England's research tools in relation to the current supply of and demand for health and fitness facilities in Islington are as follows:

- o There are 36 sites with health and fitness facilities within Islington, 31 of which offer health and fitness suites with 20+ stations.
- o The health and fitness suites provide a combined total of 2,594 stations.
- o The largest health and fitness suites in Islington in terms of the number of stations provided are Pure Gym in Finsbury Park (220 stations), Pure Gym in London Holloway (220 stations), Virgin Active Club in Angel (200 stations) and Virgin Active Club in Moorgate (180 stations).
- o 7 health and fitness sites are within the ownership and pricing policy control of Islington Council via the leisure management contract with GLL. 20 of the sites are commercially owned (club operators or hotel chains), 2 are managed by Community Organisations and 7 sites are managed by schools or universities (5 of which are private and not available for community use).
- o Only 3 of the sites provide access to their health and fitness facilities on a pay-and-play basis whilst 17 of the commercially managed sites offer access to registered members only. 5 are not open to public use, albeit the majority of those sites are the smaller schools facilities at which the health and fitness offer is limited.
- o Analysis using Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) and Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) is not available for health and fitness suites.

Figure 6.32 compares the total supply of community accessible health and fitness facilities (in stations) per 10,000 of the population in Islington with the supply in its neighboring boroughs. The supply for the other boroughs is based on Active Places entries. This analysis has been undertaken in the absence of FPM modeling for health and fitness facilities. It considers the supply of health and fitness stations only and does not take into account the age and condition of existing facilities, demand for use of these facilities or the import and export of demand across borough boundaries.

Figure 6.32: Supply of community accessible health and fitness stations per 10,000 of the population –Islington comparison with geographical / statistical neighbours

Local Authority	Stations Per 10,000	Activity Levels
-----------------	---------------------	-----------------

London Borough of Islington Sports Facilities Update 2018
Final Report

Camden	132	72.1
Islington	110	67.6
Hackney	39	71.3
Barnet	80	56.8
Waltham Forest	49	64.5
Enfield	53	57.5
Haringey	73	64.2

The key findings of the health and fitness stations per 10,000 of the population analysis are summarised below:

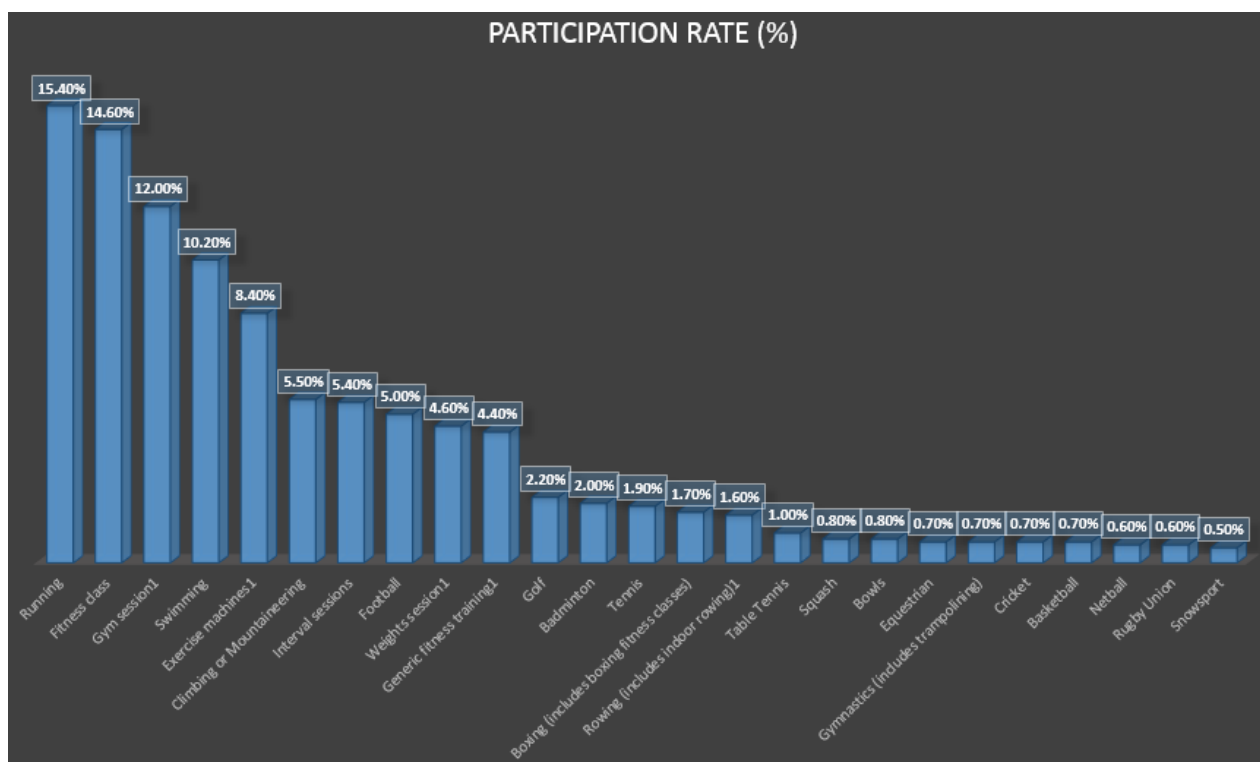
- Islington ranks 2nd out of 7 in terms of health and fitness station supply when compared with neighbouring and statistically similar local authority areas. The borough ranks 3rd out of 7 in terms of levels of activity based on Active Lives.

6.5.3 Sport England's Active People – Participation

The last iteration of the Active People Survey in 2015 found that fitness classes, gym sessions and exercise machines were 3 of the top 5 most popular activities for people to participate in as detailed in Figure 6.33 below.

As previously highlighted within the swimming section, this is an important comparison when looking at the fact that the national research from Sport England shows more than half of Islington residents wish to do more activity.

Figure 6.33 Participation Rates National figures APS9



6.5.4 Fitness Market Trends

There are now over 9.7 million fitness members in the UK which has boosted the penetration rate to an all-time high of 14.9%. 1 in every 7 people in the UK is a member of a gym.

The industry has experienced another year of growth over the twelve month period to the end of March 2017, with increases of 4.6% in the number of fitness facilities, 5.1% in the number of members and 6.3% in market value. The low cost market has continued to be the main driving force behind the private sector growth over the last 12 months. There are now over 500 low cost clubs which account for 15% of the market value and 35% of membership in the private sector.

Summary of Key Facts for 2017

- There are now 6,728 fitness facilities in the UK, up from 6,435 last year.
- Total industry membership is up 5.1% to 9.7 million.
- Total market value is estimated at £4.7 billion, up 6.3% on 2016.
- The UK penetration rate is 14.9%, compared to 14.3% in the previous year.
- 272 new public and private fitness facilities have opened in the last 12 months, up from 224 in 2016.

Summary of Projections for 2018 (from UK Fitness Industry Report)

- Total number of gyms: > 7,000
- Total membership: > 10 million
- Market value: £5 billion
- Penetration rate > 15%

The market is predicted to keep growing through 2020 and beyond. However the budget segment is driving much of this growth. In this context, in the view of the Consultant Team, the Council need to carefully consider within the new Local Plan period to 2036 the longer term purpose of investment in its leisure centre stock and health and fitness facilities which are now at comparable or higher cost to use than equivalent quality provision in the commercial sector.

The investment by the Council over recent years in providing free to access outdoor gyms in parks reflects the need to ensure that publicly funding health and fitness facilities are accessible to all. However, in the view of the consultant team, the change in the market suggests a need to recalibrate pricing/programming and access policies in future iterations of the leisure management contract to better ensure that these publicly funded facilities are more effective at achieving target public health outcomes by reaching more inactive or insufficiently active residents.

On the completion of the upgrades to the leisure centre stock, with the replacement of Finsbury Leisure Centre and Cally Pools, there will be a strong case for a change in focus of future investment from the main leisure centres towards smaller neighbourhood and estate based facilities (such as tenant halls, MUGAs, parks and open spaces) that are free or low cost to use.

6.5.5 Qualitative Assessment

Non-Technical Quality Assessment

Based on the non-technical quality assessments (as described in the methodology earlier in the report), the highest scoring health and fitness sites are Citysport, Fitness First Health Club (London Angel), Ironmonger Row Baths, Sobell Leisure Centre and Virgin Active Club (Islington Angel). A number of schools have found it difficult to offer health and fitness facilities to their community users and have not had the capacity to enhance this with the focus on the demands for indoor space.

Figure 6.34: Mean Quality Score – Health and Fitness Sites in Islington

Facility	Quality Score
1. Anytime Fitness (London Kings Cross)	4
2. Archway Leisure Centre	4
3. Better Gym Holloway	3
4. Cally Pool and Gym	2
5. City And Islington College (Centre Of Applied Sciences)	2
6. Citysport	5
7. David Lloyd Studio (Islington) - Orange Fitness	4
8. Dowe Dynamics Gym & Fitness Shop	2
9. Elizabeth Garrett Anderson School	1
10. Energie Fitness (London Old Street)	3.5
11. Fit4less (London Highbury)	Not Audited
12. Fitness First Health Club (Highbury)	3
13. Fitness First Health Club (London Angel)	5
14. Gymbox (Farringdon)	Not Audited
15. Gymbox (Old Street)	4
16. Highbury Grove School (City of London Academy)	1
17. Highbury Leisure Centre ⁸	-
18. Ironmonger Row Baths	5
19. Islington Arts & Media School	2
20. Islington Boxing Club	3
21. Islington Tennis Centre	5
22. London Metropolitan University (London North Campus)	3
23. Nuffield Health Islington Fitness & Wellbeing Gym	4
24. Otium Leisure Club (Barbican)	4
25. Pure Gym (London Finsbury Park)	Not Audited
26. Pure Gym Local (London Holloway Road)	Not Audited
27. Sobell Leisure Centre (Holloway)	5
28. Soho Gyms (Farringdon)	3
29. St Mary Islington Community Partnership	3

⁸ Temporarily closed for rebuilding following fire. Will be good/excellent (4/5) when reopens.

Facility	Quality Score
30. St Mary Magdalene Academy	2
31. The Factory Fitness And Dance Centre	4
32. The Gym (London Angel)	4
33. Urban Kings Gym	4
34. Virgin Active Club (Islington Angel)	5
35. Virgin Active Club (Moorgate)	Not Audited
36. White Lion (Lift)	4

NB: A number of the gyms as private businesses did not wish to be audited and did not participate in the review.

The health and fitness market is continuing to evolve and change to meet market needs. At the time of this report, the market in some places has moved away from heavily kitted out gyms with machines with the emphasise on training spaces and resistance activities. GLL has already acknowledged that it is reviewing the gym spaces that it currently operates to reduce the number of stations offered to meet the changing needs of the customer base.

Whilst the number of stations has been used as a comparator earlier in this section to assess any correlation between supply and levels of activity, the assessment and priorities for this facility type has therefore changed from an emphasis on the number of stations offered to the quality of those spaces and the customer experience in meeting their fitness needs within a changing market place.

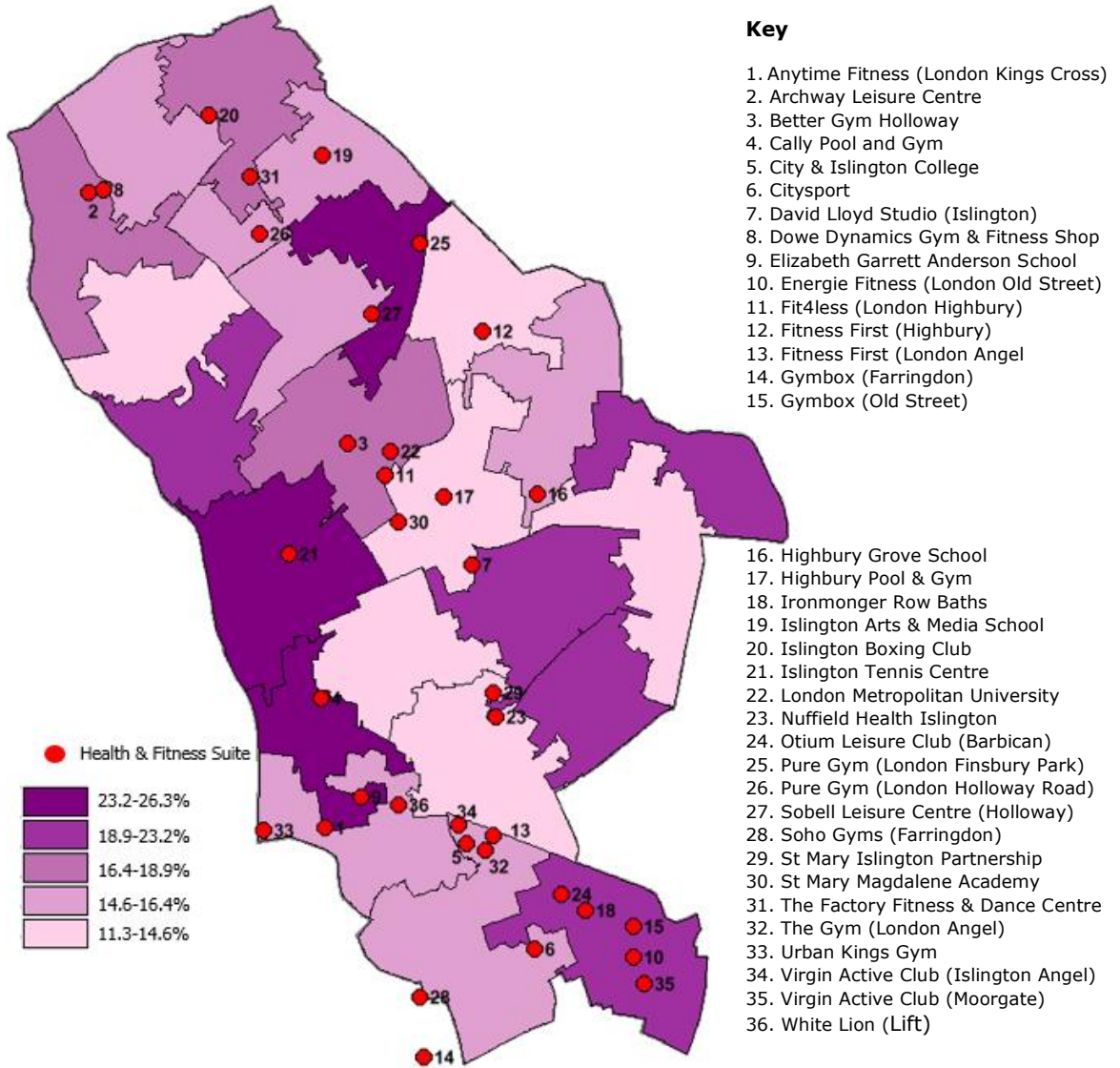
The priorities for Islington is to ensure that the pay and play health and fitness facilities under the management of GLL provide a high quality participation experience at an affordable rate and that there is an adequate supply of low cost and free opportunities to exercise using fitness equipment by maintaining a network of outdoor gyms in parks and providing investment support where needed to community organisations to provide local cost gyms on housing estates and in community centres.

6.5.6 Accessibility Assessment

Figure 6.35 identifies the location of each of the health and fitness facilities within Islington. To ensure clarity of the locations, a one mile calculator has not been added to the image, however residents living across all parts of Islington do reside within a one mile catchment of a facility offering 20+ health and fitness stations.

Figure 6.35: Map of Audited Health and Fitness Sites in Islington (1 mile walk-to catchments marked)

London Borough of Islington: Health and Fitness Suites with Inactivity Rates



Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2017 / Contains Royal Mail data © Royal Mail copyright and Database right 2017

6.5.7 Local Needs and Consultation

The key findings of the consultation process relevant to health and fitness provision in Islington are summarised below:

- The health and fitness facilities in the council's leisure centre estate, managed by GLL, face stiff competition from the commercial sector in terms of pricing, innovation of offer (e.g. Gym Box) and physical accessibility (i.e. some low cost gyms are in high street locations e.g. Old Street).
- Whilst there are currently sufficient health and fitness facilities in Islington to satisfy demand for this facility type, it is important that the council continues to offer high quality, affordable facilities and considers how to make these more accessible on a pay-and-play basis with the leisure contractor.
- Future investment in more free-to-access outdoor gyms and low-cost gyms in community centre and tenant hall settings is likely to be more effective in reaching the inactive or insufficiently active cohorts in the population than further investment in leisure centres.

6.5.8 Priorities and Standards for Dedicated Health and Fitness Facilities

The priorities below are set out in line with Sport England's priorities for forward planning under the headings of protect, enhance and provide.

Figure 6.35 below sets out the health and fitness improvements and priorities for Islington.

Figure 6.35: Health and Fitness Priorities, Improvement Recommendations and Quantity Standards

Protect	Enhance	Provide
Maintain the existing provision of health and fitness supply at all GLL-run Leisure Centres (<i>including at Highbury Leisure Centre, temporarily closed following a fire</i>) and, through the leisure management contract terms and programming and pricing policies, protect pay-and-play access at affordable rates.	Review with community management organisations the enhancement needs of gyms where these are provided in community centres and tenant halls on housing estates with a view to improving the quality and provision of programmes to attract inactive or insufficiently active local residents. Also, improve the accessibility of health and fitness facilities on school sites for the community and the promotion of this availability.	Consider options to provide additional outdoor gyms where appropriate. Support the leisure operator to enhance or re-model existing leisure centre fitness facilities in response to market trends and ensure that new provision in the replacement Finsbury Leisure Centre is appropriately designed to appeal to the widest possible market.
Prioritisation and Outline Investment Needs		
Short Term (1-3 years)		
1. Replacement of the fitness facilities at Finsbury Leisure Centre ensuring as far as is practicable that studio spaces afford sufficient flexibility for change in layout and equipment to respond to future trends in demand.		
Medium Term (3-5 years)		
1. Planning and Development of replacement for Cally Pools & Gym ensuring through the design and the leisure management contract that the new health and fitness offer in the replacement facility is as accessible as possible to the local community residents on the Bemerton Estate.		
2. Carry out a review of low-cost community gyms and fitness class studios in community centres to establish priorities for investment in enhancement linked to delivery of public health outcomes.		
Future Needs for Health and Fitness		
The Consultant Team do not advocate the council focus on a standard for stations per head of population due to the constant changes to the health and fitness market. However the opportunities for investment and development in the leisure centre estate and community centres should be reviewed against general activity levels in comparison to neighbouring and statistical boroughs to review progress.		
The council's leisure contractor must ensure that health and fitness remains affordable and accessible.		

6.6 Indoor and Outdoor Tennis Courts

6.6.1 Quantitative Assessment

There is only one centre within Islington that provides indoor tennis all year round at The Islington Tennis Centre (ITC) adjacent to the Market Road Football Centre. The indoor site, built in 1989 and last refurbished in 2000, provides 6 courts within a permanent traditional building and 2 floodlit outdoor porous macadam courts. The centre also has a fitness gym (70 stations, approximately, refurbished in 2017) and an activity hall/studio. The ITC is managed by GLL under a long-term lease and runs separately to the main leisure contract. The courts are available to both members and on a pay-and-play basis, although there is a requirement to register online in order to pre-book a court.

Also drawing on the north Islington catchment area, Coolhurst Tennis and Squash Club in Crouch End, Haringey provides two indoor courts during the winter months within a temporary dome.

6.6.2 Supply and Demand Analysis

The key findings from Sport England’s research tools in relation to the current supply of, and demand for, indoor tennis courts in Islington and London are as follows:

- Within the 6 neighbouring boroughs there are 9 sites which offer indoor tennis courts providing a total of 41 indoor courts alongside the 6 at the ITC.
- The closest facility that isn’t a membership based club is New River Tennis Centre in Haringey.
- Analysis using Sport England’s Facilities Planning Model (FPM) and Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) is not available for tennis facilities.

6.6.3 Sport England’s Active People / Active Lives – Participation

From Sport England’s market segmentation 3,577 people (16+) participate in tennis once a month in Islington. The borough is well-represented in terms of the most active segments. 17.2% of Islington adults who play tennis are in the Jamie segment (compared to 8.6% nationally) whilst 15.5% are in the Ben segment (14.1% nationally). This suggests that participation in the sport across the borough is above the national average.

Nationwide, according to Active Lives, 1.9% of adults participated in tennis twice in the last 28 days and 6.9% participated at least once in the last year.

Whilst Active Lives has superseded the Active People survey, the last Active People data that provides details down to local authority level for tennis is from 2008/09. This shows that participation in the sport ten years ago was higher in Islington than across England. 4.58% said they play the sport when asked the ‘any time’ question compared to 2.36% nationally in that year. Whilst this is considered to be a dated statistic it provides an interesting backdrop to the popularity of tennis for Islington to be considered and updated by further work with the LTA.

6.6.5 Qualitative Assessment

Figure 6.36: Mean Quality Score - Indoor Tennis in Islington

Facility	Quality Score
Islington Indoor Tennis Centre	5

- The indoor centre is in good repair and provides good quality indoor courts. Although not identified in the non-technical visual assessment, the operator and the LTA reported in consultation that the heavy use of the indoor courts since last resurfaced in 2000 means that resurfacing will be needed again in the next year or two in order to sustain the quality of play.
- The facility is fully accessible for people with disabilities.
- The facility has good usage, with very limited weekend and evening capacity based on consultation with GLL and analysis of the booking records. Analysis provided in Appendix B shows the indoor courts are booked to 76% of total capacity in the peak hours in the summer rising to over 93% in the autumn and winter months. Schools use the facility during the day, and during term time the centre also puts on evening tennis classes for young people. Outside of school term, there is much more evening capacity. At weekends, the only quiet times are before 9am.
- Pay and play costs £27.50 per hour per court for non-members, £24.35 for registered pay and play members and £12.35 for concessions. (By way of comparison, the standard pay and play rate for a covered macadam court at the New River Centre in Haringey is £20 per hour).

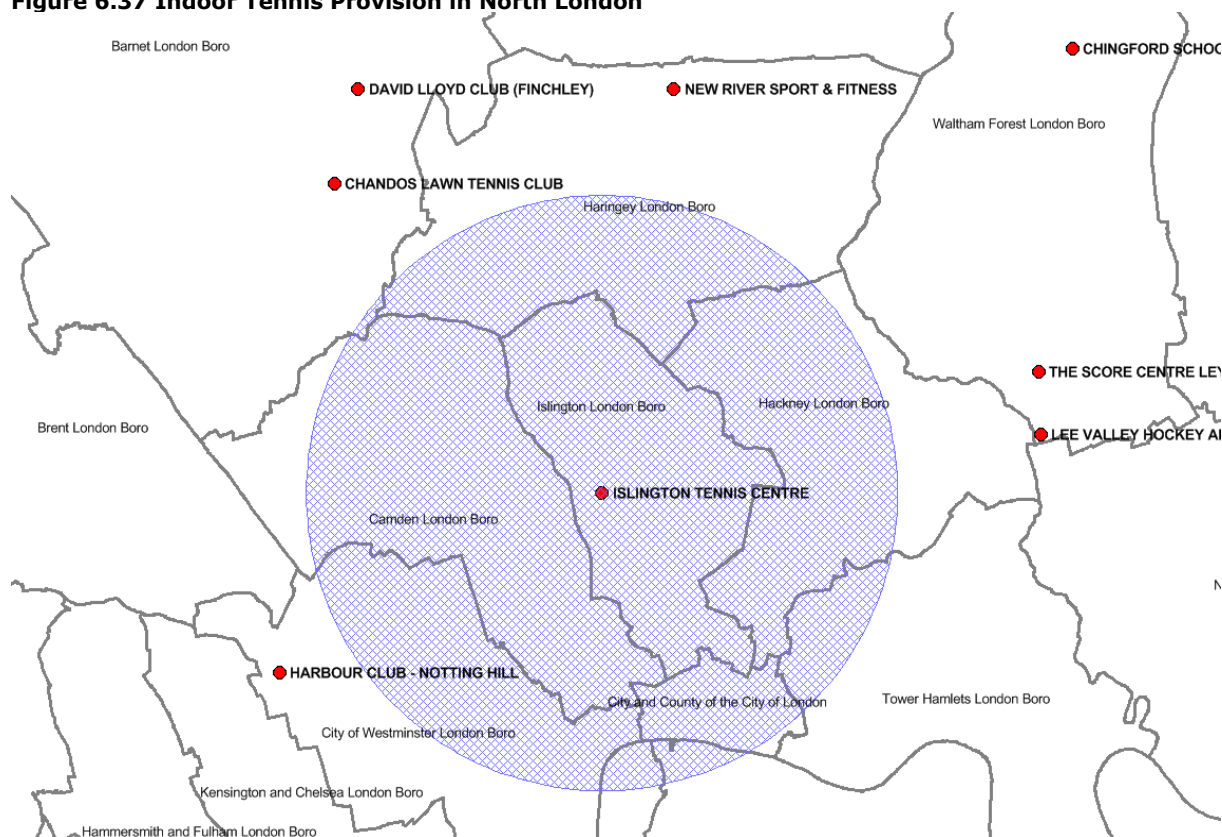
6.6.6 Accessibility Assessment

The indoor centre is located in Market Road a short walk from Caledonian Road underground station and is served by the 274 and 43 bus routes.

Given the specialist nature of the facility the catchment analysis focuses on the other sites providing indoor tennis within a 3-mile catchment of Islington Tennis Centre. The catchment buffer zone allows for an approximate 45 minutes peak time drive in the urban setting. Figure 6.37 demonstrates that Islington Tennis Centre is the only indoor provision within a 3-mile radius. The Harbour Club in the City of Westminster and Chandos Lawn Tennis Club in Barnet are the closest

alternative facilities. None of these sites offer pay-and-play access. The provision of indoor tennis centres in this area of London is limited given the size of the resident population.

Figure 6.37 Indoor Tennis Provision in North London



Facility	Borough	Number of Indoor Courts	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type
CHANDOS LAWN TENNIS CLUB	LB Brent	4	Sports Club / Community Association	Sports Club	Sport Club
CHINGFORD SCHOOL OF TENNIS CLUB	LB Waltham Forest	3	Pay and Play	Commercial	Other
DAVID LLOYD CLUB (ENFIELD)	LB Enfield	6	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management
DAVID LLOYD CLUB (FINCHLEY)	LB Brent	10	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management
HARBOUR CLUB – NOTTING HILL	City of Westminster	3	Sports Club / Community Association	Commercial	Commercial Management
HAZELWOOD SPORTS CLUB	LB Enfield	6	Sports Club / Community Association	Sports Club	Sport Club
NEW RIVER TENNIS CENTRE	LB Haringey	4	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Trust
COOLHURST TENNIS & SQUASH CLUB	LB Haringey	2	Registered Membership use	Sports Club	Sports Club
LEE VALLEY HOCKEY AND TENNIS CENTRE	LB Waltham Forest	4	Pay and Play	Other	Trust
THE SCORE CENTRE – LEYTON	LB Waltham Forest	2	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Trust

6.6.7 Local Needs and Consultation

- LTA Are keen to retain as much indoor provision as possible to ensure year-round tennis with a strategic focus on increasing the number of covered tennis courts where possible.
- London remains a key priority for the LTA based on the lack of indoor tennis facilities and the overall population.
- Other centres within London and the North London area have limited capacity, GLL have indicated in the consultation that it is difficult to book an indoor court at peak time given the current programme and usage at Islington Tennis Centre and New River, the nearest comparable facility, is also at full capacity.
- The LTA are keen to explore options to expand the capacity at ITC through provision of more covered courts.
- The ITC is one of only 8 indoor facilities across London that provides accessible courts on a pay-and-play basis, this therefore enhances the case for its importance within a priority area for both London and Islington.
- The indoor Courts at Islington Tennis Centre are due for resurfacing.
- There has been extensive investment in park courts in the borough which are generally good quality compared with most London boroughs with a high percentage of floodlit courts for year-round play. The top bank of 3 park courts at Highbury Fields remain to be enhanced (budget is in place to complete this incremental upgrade). The next priority will then be the surface of the Tufnell Park courts.
- LTA funding is approved to invest in upgrading the Finsbury Park courts which serve Islington residents as much as those from Haringey.
- Also close to the borough boundary, the LTA is exploring options for the conversion of grass courts and more floodlighting at Coolhurst Club, subject to the enhanced courts being made accessible to other tennis clubs in the local 'Tennis Network'.
- In the long term, there may be a needs case to provide a cover for the 2 outdoor courts at Market Road.

6.6.8 Priorities and Standards for Indoor and Outdoor Tennis

Figure 6.38: Indoor and Outdoor Tennis Priorities and Improvement Recommendations

Protect	Enhance	Provide
Maintain the level of indoor provision at the ITC.	Work with GLL and the LTA to assess the resurfacing requirements of the indoor courts and programme works for off-peak summer months (or over a Christmas/New Year closure) to minimise impact.	Consider options for covering outdoor courts or otherwise expanding indoor court provision at ITC
Prioritisation and Outline Investment Needs		
Short Term (1-3 years)		
1. Look at the need for resurfacing the indoor courts at the ITC		
2. Complete the programme of upgrade to the outdoor courts at Highbury Fields		
3. Upgrade courts at Finsbury Park (used by Islington residents).		
Medium Term (3-5 years)		
1. Consider options for expanding indoor provision at ITC.		
Future Needs for Indoor Tennis		
Exploring the potential opportunities to develop the ITC site further to provide more community tennis capacity is recommended in view of the high level of unmet demand in the peak period.		

6.7 Squash Courts

The summary below provides the **quantitative, qualitative and accessibility assessments** for squash court provision within Islington alongside the leading outcomes from the consultation process which has informed this *Sports Facilities Update*. The priorities and standards to be adopted for squash court provision are then provided at the end of this assessment. As per the methodology in **Section 2**, all publicly accessible squash courts listed on Sport England's Active Places Power database have been included within the indoor facility audit and analysis.

6.7.1 Quantitative Assessment

Figure 6.39 provides a list of the squash court sites in Islington which are publicly accessible. Further information on each of the squash court sites audited is also provided.

As with other facilities, the availability is RAG rated. The Coolhurst squash club in Crouch End is outside the borough in Haringey but serves demand for squash from the north of Islington borough. The club has an extensive programme for members and junior development (including local schools in the off peak). Although non-member access is provided for under the terms of a sports lottery grant agreement, there is limited availability in the peak hours due to high demand from members. The club at Finsbury Leisure Centre is well-supported limiting non-member availability although the two courts at Ironmonger Baths provide an alternative for non-club players with availability. With six courts at Sobell there is good availability.

Figure 6.39: Squash court provision in Islington

Facility	Courts	Court Type	Availability	Management	Year Built (refurb.)
1. Finsbury Leisure Centre	4	3 x Glass backed 1 x Regular	Yellow	Leisure Management Contractor	1975
2. Ironmonger Row Baths	2	2 x Glass backed	Yellow	Leisure Management Contractor	2014
3. Sobell Leisure Centre	6	Regular	Green	Leisure Management Contractor	1972
4. Virgin Active (Moorgate)	2	Glass backed	Yellow	Commercial	2001 (2008)
5. Coolhurst Tennis and Squash (LB Haringey)	7	2 x Regular 5 x Glass backed	Red	Community Sports Club	1988 (2012)

6.7.2 Supply and Demand Analysis

The key findings from Sport England's research tools in relation to the current supply of and demand for squash courts in Islington are as follows:

- There are four sites in Islington which offer squash courts and provide a combined total of 14 squash courts.
- 12 of the 14 squash courts are accessible on a pay-and-play basis.
- These 12 courts are within the ownership of Islington Council and managed by GLL.
- A further 7 high quality club courts are provided just over the borough boundary with Haringey in Crouch End. These courts were supported with Sports Lottery funding and are available for non-members to hire.
- Analysis using Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) and Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) is not available for squash courts.

Sport England's Active People

The Active People Survey found that in 2015/06 0.46% of London's 16+ population participated in a minimum of 30 minutes of squash and racketball at least once a week, slightly above the national (0.45%) average. 0.77% of adults in London participated in the sport once a month. The sample size for Islington was insufficient to give a statistically robust result for this measure.

Sport England's Market Segmentation

Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool estimates that 2,059 adults (16+) in Islington currently participate in squash and racketball. The Tool also estimates that 1,337 of the adult (16+) population would like to participate in more squash and racketball than they currently do. In percentage terms, these findings align closely with the London averages.

6.7.4 Qualitative Assessment

Non-Technical Quality Assessment

Based on the non-technical quality assessments, the highest scoring squash court site was Coolhurst Tennis and Squash (Crouch End) just over the borough boundary in Haringey. These courts are within the catchment area for residents in the northern parts of the Islington borough and are available to use on a pay-and-play basis under the terms of a grant agreement between the club and Sport England.

The public courts at the Sobell Sports Centre and Ironmonger Row Baths are in good condition and are well maintained. The Finsbury courts are in fair condition and are due to be replaced in the plans for a new Finsbury LC which are due to be submitted for planning consent in late 2018.

Figure 6.40: Mean Quality Score – Squash Courts in Islington

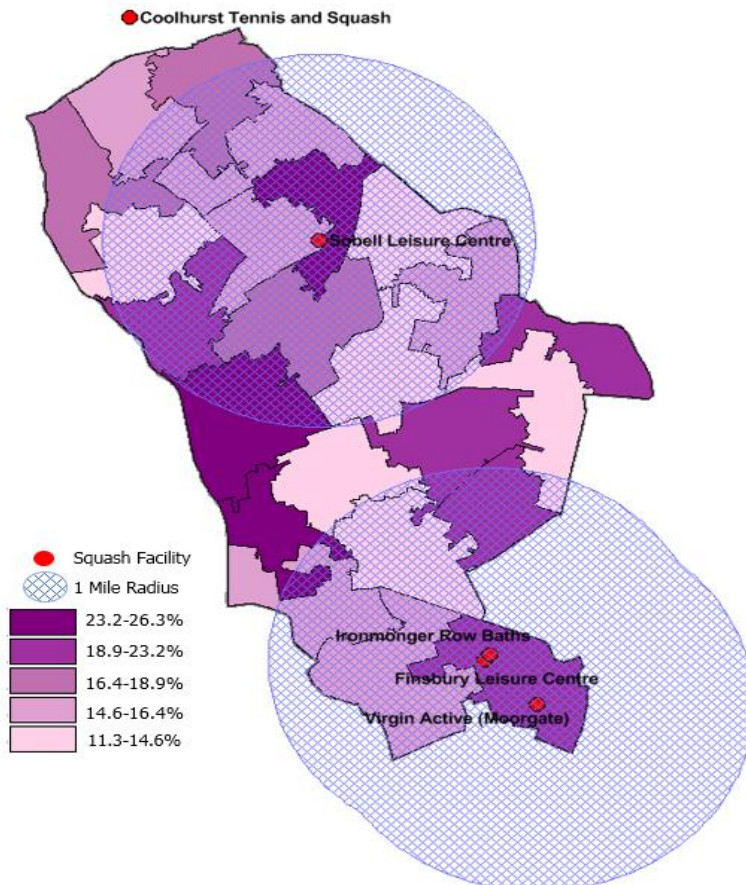
Site	Mean Quality Score (out of 5)
Sobell Leisure Centre	4
Ironmonger Row Baths	4-5
Finsbury Leisure Centre	3
Virgin Active (Moorgate)	Not audited
Coolhurst Tennis and Squash (Haringey)	4-5

6.7.5 Accessibility Assessment

Figure 6.41 identifies 1mile/20 minute walk-to catchments for the squash court sites within Islington and the Coolhurst Club provision in Crouch End. The Finsbury Leisure Centre and Ironmonger Row courts are within a short walk of Old Street Underground Station and on several main bus routes. The courts at Sobell are similarly very accessible by bus and tube, two minutes from Holloway Road Underground Station. The map illustrates that the borough has a reasonably adequate distribution of squash sites with many areas falling within a one mile catchment of a court. However, with most courts near to the City in the south, there is a clear area across the central band of the borough outside the 1 mile walk to catchment area of a court. Whilst neighbourhoods to the east are likely to be well served by Britannia Leisure Centre in Hackney, parts of the west of the Borough, such as Caledonian, do not have access to provision.

Figure 6.41: Map of Audited Squash Court Sites in Islington (1 mile walk-to catchments marked)

London Borough of Islington: Squash Facilities with Inactivity Rates



Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2017 / Contains Royal Mail data © Royal Mail copyright and Database right 2017

6.5.4 Local Needs and Consultation

The key findings of the consultation process relevant to squash provision in Islington are summarised below:

- o England Squash and Racketball (ESR) have identified that the majority of participants are playing regularly in club-based facilities with a notable drop in leisure centre provision for the sport.
- o Securing investment into new replacement courts within the current plans for the new Finsbury Leisure Centre is ESR's main priority over the next few years so as to continue to offer good opportunities for squash and squash 57 (racketball) and to complement the 2 good quality courts at IRB (provided in 2014) in this densely populated area which offers excellent access to large numbers of local office workers at lunchtimes and after work.
- o There are three squash clubs in Islington, namely Sobell Squash Club, Finsbury Leisure Centre Squash Club and the HAC Squash Club. The first two clubs have a long history of entering teams in the Middlesex Squash & Racketball Association leagues. The clubs have active ladders, junior sections and regular coaching and 'open' sessions. The third, HAC SC, is a two adult team club competing in the Bath Cup and inter club social matches and plays its home fixtures at Virgin Active Club in Moorgate.
- o The Coolhurst Club just over the borough boundary is looking to improve financial sustainability by enhancing the club's fitness and exercise space, which in the longer term is beneficial for the continued development of squash.

6.7.6 Priorities and Standards for Dedicated Squash Facilities

The priorities below are set out in line with Sport England's priorities for forward planning under the headings of protect, enhance and provide.

Figure 6.42 sets out the squash court improvements and priorities for Islington.

Figure 6.42: Squash Court Priorities, Improvement Recommendations and Quantity Standards

Protect	Enhance	Provide
Retain existing supply of 14 community squash courts in Islington	<p>Maintain an average quality score of 4 out of 5 for squash facilities.</p> <p>Coolhurst – support the enhancement proposals of this key club in Haringey serving the north Islington catchment to help sustain the excellent squash and racketball programme that it provides.</p>	<p>Ensure that 4 courts in the existing Finsbury Leisure Centre are replaced to a high quality in the proposed new Centre.</p> <p>No additional squash courts will be required in Islington.</p>
<p>Prioritisation and Outline Investment Needs</p> <p>Short Term (1-3 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure replacement of 4 courts to a high quality in plans for the replacement of Finsbury Leisure Centre. 2. Support the proposals of the Coolhurst Club (just over the borough boundary) to enhance its fitness offer to help sustain the squash and tennis programmes for the long term. <p>Medium Term (3-5 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain investment and quality levels. <p>Long Term (5 years+)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No changes proposed. 		
<p>Future Needs for Squash</p> <p>The needs for investment into the current facility stock to improve the quality of squash in Islington are modest and focus on maintaining the current level of provision. There is a need to ensure the replacement of courts for the Finsbury LC Squash Club and pay-and-play users living, working or studying in the Clerkenwell, Bunhill, Old Street area to complement the 2 good quality courts at Ironmonger Row Baths (upgraded in 2014).</p>		

6.8. Boxing Facilities

The summary below provides the **quantitative, qualitative and accessibility assessments** for dedicated boxing provision within Islington alongside the leading outcomes from the detailed consultation process which has informed this Strategy. The priorities and any standards to be adopted for boxing provision are then provided at the end of this assessment.

Dedicated boxing facilities identified through consultation with LB Islington and Bevis Allen of Boxing England have been included within the audit and analysis.

6.8.1 Quantitative Assessment

Figure 6.43 provides a list of the dedicated boxing sites in Islington which are publicly accessible. Further information on each of the boxing sites audited is also provided. Boxing plays a key role in Islington, providing an important diversionary and engagement tool with young people in particular which is further emphasised by the direct involvement of the Metropolitan Police Community Team with Islington Boxing Club and the boxing programme there.

The availability of facilities is RAG rated. The two boxing clubs with dedicated permanent rings are open and accessible spaces, available particularly to young people. The rating is amber due to the fact that these sites run popular programmes already and availability and capacity is limited by the volunteers and partners who support the activity. The other two rings are temporary in youth and community venues where boxing availability is more limited by demand for the space for other activities.

Figure 6.43: Dedicated Boxing provision in Islington

Facility Name	Facilities	Access Type	Availability	Management	Built (refurb)
1. Islington Boxing Club N19 3LP	2 dedicated boxing rings, training areas, m/f changing rooms, small car park (20 spaces)	Pay & Train, Recreational and Competitive Membership options available		Charity	1984 - former builders' depot
2. Sobell Centre	Dedicated Boxing Studio	Used by several unaffiliated community groups - e.g. Knockout BC, Islington Community BC, Sobell LBGT		Leisure Management Contractor	1972 (2017)
3. Islington & Finsbury Youth Club (Angel ABC)	Boxing ring in multi activity space	Unaffiliated - for youth only	n/a	Community Organisation	tbc
4. York Way Community Centre (Times ABC - multisport)	Boxing ring in multi activity space	Not affiliated to England Boxing	n/a	Community Organisation	tbc

6.8.2 Supply and Demand Analysis

The key findings from Sport England's research tools in relation to the current supply of, and demand for, boxing facilities in Islington are as follows:

- There is one dedicated boxing club facility in Islington that is accessible to the community at the Islington Boxing Club adjacent to Elthorne Park in Upper Holloway N19.
- Under the umbrella of Islington Community Sports Academy Charity, coaches at the club provide boxing sessions for the whole community, ranging from competitive boxing classes, beginners academy classes and recreational sessions.
- Competitive or Recreation memberships are both £25 per calendar year (January-January) for adults and £20 for juniors (u17). Non-members are also encouraged to attend recreational sessions at a cost of £10 for adults and £7 for students and juniors (u17). Those in receipt of benefits can attend lunchtime sessions for £6 as a non-member or £4 as a member.
- The club runs a Junior Academy (ages 8-15) with sessions on Monday & Friday evenings between 5pm-6:30pm and Senior Academy sessions on Tuesday & Thursday evenings from 6pm-8pm.
- The club boasts the second largest female boxing team in the country.
- The club is a converted builders' depot/office and arranged on two floors. On the ground floor there are 2 competition-sized boxing rings with a further competition-sized ring on the first

floor. There are toilets and women’s changing on the ground floor and male changing on the first floor.

- o In July 2010 Islington ABC became the first amateur boxing club in London to achieve ABAE Clubmark Accreditation.
- o The club is in use 6 days a week and has currently over 400 members in the competitive boxing section and over 600 members in the recreational boxing section.
- o The club is also the home social base of a football club with 8 teams from mini soccer to senior playing in the CIYFL and Adult Midweek League at the Market Road Football Centre.
- o The club received the Mayor’s Civic Award in 2010 in recognition of its valuable work with young people and was recently granted a long term lease on a peppercorn rent.
- o Two much smaller clubs (unaffiliated to England Boxing), Angel ABC and Times ABC, operate out of multi activity halls at Islington & Finsbury Youth Club and York Way Community Centre respectively.
- o Analysis using Sport England’s Facilities Planning Model (FPM) and Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) is not available for boxing facilities.

Sport England’s Active People

The Active People Survey found that in 2015/16 0.34% of London’s population aged 16+ participated in a minimum of 30 minutes of boxing at least once a week, which is just below the national (0.36%) average. However, 0.59% of adults in London take part in boxing at least once a month, higher than the national rate of 0.48%. The sample size for Islington was insufficient to give a statistically robust result for this measure.

Sport England’s Market Segmentation

Sport England’s Market Segmentation Tool estimates that 708 adults (16+) in Islington currently box and that 442 adults would like to participate in more boxing than they currently do. In percentage terms, this is slightly above the London region and national averages (0.2%).

6.8.3 Qualitative Assessment

Non-Technical Quality Assessment

Based on the non-technical quality assessments, the boxing facilities in Islington have been given a non-technical mean quality score. Although very well supported with several hundred active members as well as being the home social base of a multi-team local football club, the quality of the facilities - particularly the building fabric and the changing areas - is quite poor due partly to its age but also due to the fact that the building was not designed for community sports use.

Figure 6.44: Mean Quality Score – Dedicated Boxing Sites in Islington

Site	Mean Quality Score (out of 5)
Islington Boxing Club	3
Sobell Centre Studios	4
York Way Community Centre	Not audited
Islington & Finsbury Youth Club	Not audited

6.8.4 Accessibility Assessment

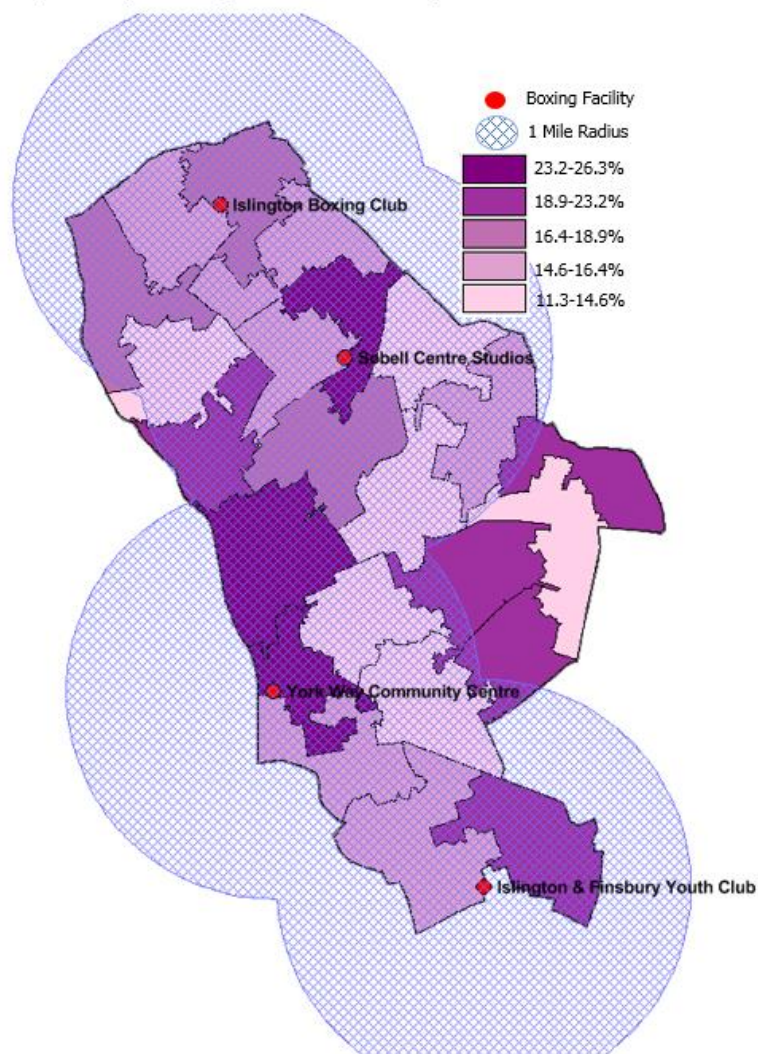
Figure 6.45 identifies 1 mile/20 minute walk-to catchments for the dedicated facilities at Islington Boxing Club plus the secondary boxing venues at Sobell, York Way and Islington & Finsbury Youth Club. The map illustrates that the IBC’s main catchment covers the northern part of the borough around Holloway. Other boxing facilities accessible to those in the north of the borough are located in Haringey at The Selby Centre and Tottenham Community Sports Centre.

Areas in the south of the borough fall outside the walk to catchment area of the Islington Boxing Club although the club is accessible by bus (91 or 210 to Hornsey Rise) or on foot from Archway station. There are several boxing gyms in the City with catchment areas that extend into the southern parts of Islington. These include: The Ring Boxing Club in Ewer Street Southwark (SE1 0NR), BXR in Paddington St (W1U 5QX), Fitzroy Lodge on Lambeth Road (SE1 7JY), Repton Gym in Whitechapel (E2 6EG), Peacock Gym in Canning Town Caxton St (E16 1JL) and Rooneys Gym in Elephant and Castle (SE1 6DR). However, the cost of access to some of these clubs is likely to be a significant barrier to people on low incomes. The Ring BC, for example, costs £75 per month whilst Reptons cost £120 a year for adults and the trendy BXR gym costs as much as £1,500 per

annum. Others are more accessibly priced, such as Fitzroy Lodge and Rooneys which offer drop in sessions for just £5 and £12 a session respectively.

Figure 6.45: Map of Audited Dedicated Boxing Facilities in Islington

London Borough of Islington: Boxing Facilities with Inactivity Rates



Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2017 / Contains Royal Mail data © Royal Mail copyright and Database right 2017

6.8.5 Local Needs and Consultation

The key findings of the consultation process relevant to boxing provision in Islington are summarised below:

- o As detailed in **Section 5**, England Boxing sees Islington as a key priority area with the need to engage young people at risk from crime and involvement in crime.
- o The NGB is working with the council to develop daytime programmes at dedicated club sites where there is capacity, for example, at Islington Boxing Club for mental health (MIND) and disability programmes.
- o However, the first floor of IBC's existing building is not accessible for disabled users. It is a very popular, well maintained facility that would benefit from overall refurbishment or, ideally, replacement
- o England Boxing has stated their support for IBC's long-term plans now that it has secured a long-term lease on the site from the council to redevelop the site with a purpose built new gym and community area for local use.

6.8.6 Priorities and Standards for Dedicated Boxing Facilities

The priorities below are set out in line with Sport England’s priorities for forward planning under the headings of protect, enhance and provide. Figure 6.46 below sets out the boxing improvements and priorities for Islington.

Figure 6.46: Boxing Facility Priorities, Improvement Recommendations and Quantity Standards

Protect	Enhance	Provide
Retain the existing level of dedicated boxing provision across the borough.	The IBC facilities need to be upgraded or ideally replaced.	No additional provision is required
<p>Prioritisation and Outline Investment Needs</p> <p>Short Term (1-3 years) Priority is to upgrade/replace the Islington BC building. The club secured a 99yr lease on its premises from the council in 2012. There is a need to commission a feasibility study leading to planning application and grant funding bids.</p> <p>Medium Term (3-5 years) Ensure existing boxing facilities are retained at the Sobell and in the two youth and community venues and enhanced as needed to sustain the clubs and programmes for community boxing at these sites.</p> <p>Long Term (5 years+) None if medium term achieved.</p>		
<p>Future Needs for Boxing Boxing remains a strong sport in Islington and the Council should provide support to continue to enhance the offer across the existing sites which serve different sectors of the population from serious competitive boxers to young people gravitating to boxing for fitness and for social reasons. The future sustainability of the Islington Boxing Club is critical to serving the sports and social needs of several hundred young people in the North Holloway area, many of whom are from families on low incomes. The focus by the council on reducing youth crime and increasing engagement with young people, especially those at risk of crime or involvement in crime, should manifest itself in the form of continued support for this very important sport and activity within Islington.</p>		

6.9 Martial Arts Facilities

The summary below provides the **quantitative, qualitative and accessibility assessments** for martial arts provision within Islington alongside the leading outcomes from the consultation process which has informed this *Sports Facilities Update*. The priorities for martial arts provision are then provided at the end of this assessment.

Martial arts facilities identified through consultation with Islington and the NGBs have been included within the audit and analysis. It should be noted that Islington does not have a fully dedicated martial arts facility. The majority of martial arts within the borough is delivered either within community facilities or leisure centres within the borough.

There are no British Judo affiliated clubs. Unaffiliated clubs delivering judo and related activities are the Sobell Judo Club who have used studio space at the Sobell Centre for over 40 years and Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) RP who are based at Ringcross Community Centre, N7. Neither has a dedicated dojo.

With regard to Taekwondo, the main active groups and the facilities they use are:

- Islington Angels - Islington West Library and Jean Stokes Community Hall
- Karoon Taekwondo Academy - Sobell Centre and Vibast Community Centre in Old Street

Although not martial arts as such, a related group is CrossFit Evolving specialising in weightlifting and based in railway arches unit on Holloway Road, N7. Other weightlifting venues within a short journey time from most parts of Islington are available in Hackney and Vauxhall (i.e. The London Olympic Weightlifting Academy).

6.9.1 Quantitative Assessment

Figure 6.47 provides a list of the facilities that provide martial arts opportunities within Islington which are publicly accessible.

The availability of the martial arts facilities have been (where possible) RAG rated based on the site visits and consultation. However, only the Sobell Centre of these venues was included in the agreed list of sites to be audited. From desk research and consultation it has been established that all are open and accessible clubs to the community in Islington. The Sobell Studio accommodates a very full programme and, like the boxing provision, to a large extent availability is limited by the capacity of the hiring clubs' volunteers (qualified coaches).

Figure 6.47: Martial Arts provision in Islington

Facility Name	Facilities	Access	Availability	Management
Islington West Library	Function hall	Pay and Play. Used by Islington Angels	n/a	Local Authority
Jean Stokes Community Hall	Function hall	Pay and Play. Used by Islington Angels	n/a	Local Authority
Ringcross Community Centre	Function hall	Pay and Play. Used by MMA RP	n/a	Housing Association
Sobell Centre Studios	Dedicated Studio	Pay and Play. Used by several unaffiliated community groups - e.g. Sobell Judo Club; MMA RP;		Leisure Management Contractor
Vibast Community Centre	Function hall	Pay and Play. Used by Karoon Taekwondo Academy	n/a	Local Authority

6.9.2 Supply and Demand Analysis

The key findings from Sport England's research tools in relation to the current supply of, and demand for, martial arts in Islington are as follows:

- Whilst there is no single dedicated martial arts facility in Islington a number of the providers have been able to provide matted dojos within community space and studios which provide semi-permanent training and club spaces across the borough.
- Sobell Leisure Centre provides a very important resource for martial arts with a number of unaffiliated martial arts clubs and groups operating out of the centre including a judo club which has been established for over 40 years.
- Analysis using Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) and Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) is not available for martial arts facilities.
- It should be noted that the majority of martial arts provision in Islington would appear to be in community buildings or industrial / employment buildings within key regeneration areas. These sites and their value to sport and physical activity should be recognised when the regeneration plans are being considered along with any changes taking place that would impact on the continuation of the provision for martial arts in these key locations in Islington.

Sport England's Active People

There is no regional or local data available for martial arts. On a national basis, the Active People Survey found that in 2015/16 0.04% of 16+ adults in England participated in judo once a week, whilst 0.14% participated in karate and 0.06% participated in taekwondo on the same basis.

Sport England's Market Segmentation

There is no martial arts data available from the market segmentation database.

6.9.3 Qualitative Assessment

Non-Technical Quality Assessment

Only Sobell Leisure Centre was audited as part of the facility review however we are aware that the facilities used for martial arts at the community centres generally have limited capacity and low-grade supporting changing facilities.

Figure 6.48: Mean Quality Score – Martial Arts Sites in Islington

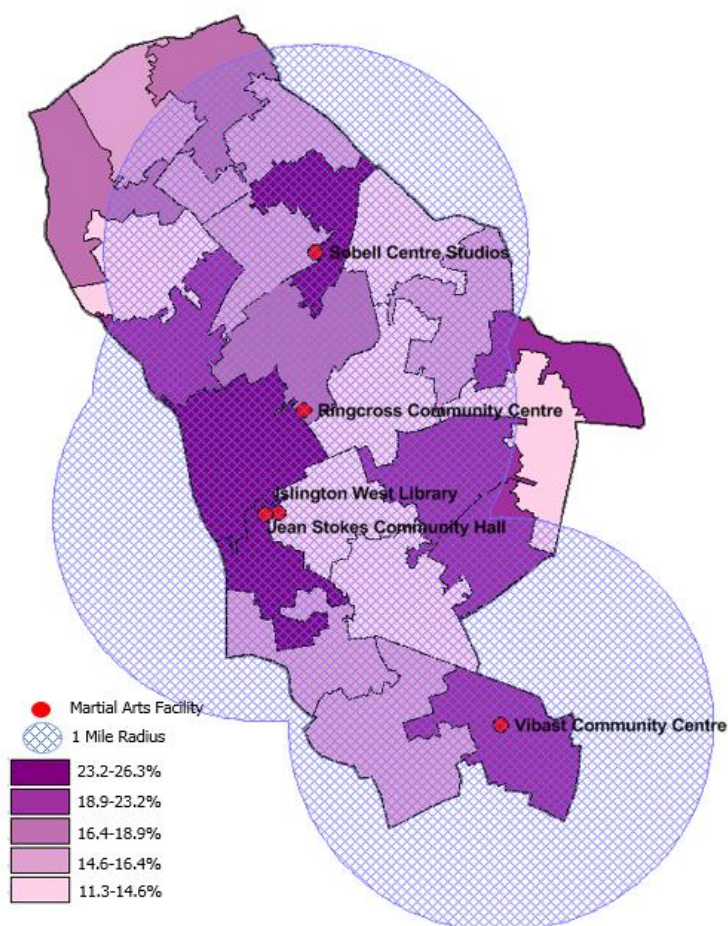
Facility Name	Mean Quality Score (out of 5)
Islington West Library	Not Audited
Jean Stokes Community Hall	Not Audited
Ringcross Community Centre	Not Audited
Sobell Centre Studios	4
Vibast Community Centre	Not Audited

6.9.4 Accessibility Assessment

Figure 6.49 identifies the 1 mile/20 minute walk-to catchment for martial arts and combat sports venues within Islington. The majority of martial arts provision within the borough from research carried out for this study, is within the central areas of Islington. There are clear gaps in provision in the Junction and Hillrise areas to the north of the borough as well as in the Mildmay ward to the east.

Figure 6.49: Map of Martial Arts Facilities / Venues in Islington

London Borough of Islington: Martial Arts Facilities with Inactivity Rates



Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2017 / Contains Royal Mail data © Royal Mail copyright and Database right 2017

6.9.5 Local Needs and Consultation

The key findings of the consultation process relevant to martial arts provision in Islington are summarised below:

- British Judo did not identify Islington as a current priority borough and stated that the current provision adequately met the need within the borough.

- o None of the clubs raised specific concerns about facilities in the online survey conducted by All Aitken.

6.9.6 Priorities and Standards for Martial Arts Facilities

The priorities below are set out in line with Sport England’s priorities for forward planning under the headings of protect, enhance and provide as detailed previously in the methodology. Figure 6.50 below sets out the martial arts improvements and priorities for Islington.

Figure 6.50: Martial Arts Facility Priorities, Improvement Recommendations and Quantity Standards

Protect	Enhance	Provide
Retain the existing level of martial arts provision across the borough. Ensure that the existing levels of martial arts provision at leisure centre and school sites across the borough are maintained.	Review the enhancement needs of facilities with community organisations with a view to improving the quality and provide programmes to attract inactive or insufficiently active local residents.	Consider options to provide additional provision in the north of the borough where appropriate.
<p>Prioritisation and Outline Investment Needs</p> <p>Short Term (1-3 years)</p> <p>1. No short term proposals</p> <p>Medium Term (3-5 years)</p> <p>1. Martial Arts facilities to be considered and included in any sports facility development in association with Islington Boxing Club</p> <p>Long Term (5 years+)</p> <p>1. For martial arts to be a key consideration in potential redevelopment or replacement of Finsbury Leisure Centre or Cally Pools & Gym</p>		
<p>Future Needs for Martial Arts</p> <p>As with boxing, martial arts is an important sport (across the different disciplines) in Islington and the council should provide support to continue to enhance the offer across the leading sites. The future of the Islington Boxing Club will have a bearing on the future provision. There is a potential opportunity to include specialist martial arts provision within any new indoor facility for the boxing club (e.g. a dedicated Dojo).</p> <p>There is clear evidence that a dedicated community martial arts centre would be well used and supported by the clubs within Islington. Any such provision would be limited in its viability as a stand-alone facility and would need to be considered within the wider development of either new school sports provision, in association with the Islington Boxing Club redevelopment or possibly the replacements for either Finsbury leisure centre or Cally Pools & Gym in the longer term.</p> <p>As with boxing, the focus by the council on reducing youth crime and increasing engagement with young people, especially those at risk of crime or involvement in crime, should manifest itself in the form of support for this very important sport and activity within Islington. The future regeneration plans should also be sensitive to and account for any changes to community sites which currently accommodate martial arts to ensure these activities can continue.</p>		

6.10 Gymnastics Facilities

The summary below provides the **quantitative, qualitative and accessibility assessments** for dedicated gymnastics provision within Islington alongside the leading outcomes from the consultation process. The priorities and any standards to be adopted for gymnastics provision are then provided at the end of this assessment.

Dedicated gymnastics facilities identified through consultation with LB Islington and British Gymnastics have been included within the audit and analysis.

6.10.1 Quantitative Assessment

Figure 6.51 provides a list of the dedicated gymnastics sites in Islington which are publicly accessible.

Gymnastics in Islington is delivered across a number of sites within the borough, sites including;

- o Elizabeth Garratt Anderson School: Calypso Gymnastics Club
- o London Metropolitan University Tower Building
- o City of London Academy in Highgate

- Jackson’s Lane Community Centre: Islington and Hampstead Gymnastics Club
- Sobell Trampoline Park at Sobell Leisure Centre

However, within the borough there is no dedicated gymnastics facility aside from the new recreational trampoline park at the Sobell Leisure Centre which has achieved high levels of utilisation in the peak hours since opening earlier this year.

Figure 6.51: Dedicated Gymnastics provision in Islington

Facility	Facility	Access	Availability	Management	Built (refurb)
Sobell Leisure Centre	Trampolining Park	Pay and Play		Leisure Management Contractor	1972 (2017)

6.10.2 Supply and Demand Analysis

The key findings from Sport England’s research tools in relation to the current supply of and demand for gymnastics facilities in Islington are as follows:

- There is no dedicated gymnastics facility in Islington. Gymnastics is mostly delivered with non-permanent equipment, across a number of school and community centre sites within Islington and the spread of activity for that level of access is positive.
- However, demand for activity remains high and there is a large demand for more gymnastic opportunities and clubs all report large waiting lists. The total number of people estimated to be on waiting lists is 1.6m (Freshminds Latent Demand Research, 2017). Furthermore, this research also shows that a further 1.3 million would like to participate but don’t currently and also are not on a waiting list.
- Analysis using Sport England’s Facilities Planning Model (FPM) and Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) is not available for gymnastics facilities.

Sport England’s Active People

The Active People Survey found that in 2015/16 0.35% of London’s population aged 16+ participated at least once a month for 30 minutes in gymnastics and trampolining. This is above the national (0.26%) average. The sample size for Islington was insufficient to give a statistically robust result for this measure and there is no regional data available for once a week participation.

Sport England’s Market Segmentation

Sport England’s Market Segmentation Tool estimates that 0.2% of Islington’s adult (16+) population currently participate in gymnastics and trampolining. This is on a par with the London regional and national averages (both 0.2%).

The Tool also estimates that 0.2% of Islington’s adult (16+) population would like to participate in more gymnastics and trampolining than they currently do. This level of latent demand for participation in the sport represents a potential adult market of more than 300 people wanting to do more based on Market Segmentation data.

6.10.3 Qualitative Assessment

Non-Technical Quality Assessment

Based on the non-technical quality assessments (as described in the methodology earlier in the report), the gymnastics facilities in Islington have been given a non-technical mean quality score.

Figure 6.52: Mean Quality Score – Dedicated Gymnastics Sites in Islington

Site	Mean Quality Score (out of 5)
Sobell Leisure Centre	5

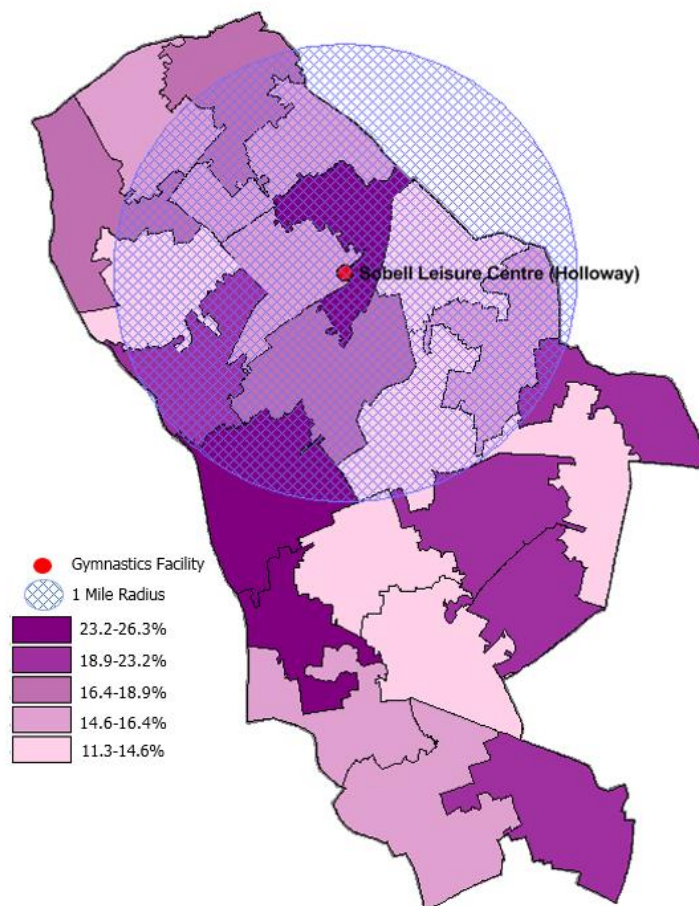
6.10.4 Accessibility Assessment

The map below identifies 1 mile/20 minute walk-to catchments for the dedicated gymnastics facilities within Islington. The map illustrates that the main catchment for the dedicated gymnastics provision is focused on the north east and central areas of the borough with the southern areas of Islington falling outside of this catchment. It should be noted that Calypso

gymnastics club has a borough wide pull in terms of membership and, as discussed earlier, gymnastics is delivered across a number of other sites in the borough to a certain level.

Figure 6.53: Map of Audited Dedicated Gymnastics Facilities in Islington

London Borough of Islington: Gymnastics/Trampolining Facilities with Inactivity Rates



Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2017 / Contains Royal Mail data © Royal Mail copyright and Database right 2017

6.10.5 Local Needs and Consultation

The key findings of the consultation process relevant to gymnastics provision in Islington are summarised below:

- As detailed in **Section 5**, British Gymnastics is keen to ensure that the current level of activity is maintained and raise some concerns over the use of schools facilities with some secondary schools having to reduce capacity for gymnastics during exam periods.
- Waiting lists remain high at the two clubs based in the borough and, until children leave the clubs, they cannot offer new places.
- British Gymnastics state that there is undoubtedly the potential to grow gymnastics participation in Islington. The restriction on growth is mainly due to a lack of suitable spaces and not having enough coaches trained at the right level when there is an opportunity to grow membership. Provision of a dedicated facility enables a club to grow significantly in membership and also to improve its sustainability through increases in income from membership and increasing activity and secondary spend. A key part of BG's strategy is to increase participation to support clubs moving into their own dedicated facility, offering more time and space for classes.
- There is a definite trend for gymnastics clubs to move into their own dedicated facilities. Approximately 40 clubs move into their own spaces every year and BG expect this trend to continue and possibly increase. There is limited provision of access to facilities within the area with almost all clubs having waiting lists restricting access to gymnastic activities due to the lack of time within both dedicated and non-dedicated facilities.

- o Calypso GC have recently approached BG for assistance to progressing a re-location to a unit or dedicated space so that the club can develop and grow including increasing its membership. The club have been pro-active in working with external partners (including London Sport) on the Satellite Club programme and it was used as a good practice case study. BG will be supporting the club with a search and acquisition of a unit or an asset transfer if available and will also be advising on governance and funding issues including grant applications.

6.10.6 Priorities and Standards for Dedicated Gymnastics Facilities

The priorities below are set out in line with Sport England’s priorities for forward planning under the headings of protect, enhance and provide. Figure 6.54 below sets out the gymnastics improvements and priorities for Islington.

Figure 6.54: Gymnastics Facility Priorities, Improvement Recommendations and Quantity Standards

Protect	Enhance	Provide
Protect the current level of gymnastics provision across the borough in schools and community centres.	Where feasible, the council should work with the Calypso Gym Club, BG, Elizabeth Garret Anderson School, Islington & Hampstead Gym Club and Jackson's Lane Community Centre to look at improvements required to these buildings and equipment needs for the gymnastics clubs in order to expand their programmes and capacities to reduce waiting lists.	With BG, the council should investigate the opportunities for a dedicated gymnastics centre as part of future site opportunities in liaison with the borough-based Calypso gymnastics club (and potentially the Hampstead GC).
Prioritisation and Outline Investment Needs		
Short Term (1-3 years)		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Investigate the opportunity to enhance the dedicated gymnastics provision in the borough both through current facility enhancements at the EGA School and Jackson's Lane Community Centre with British Gymnastics and the two gymnastics clubs using these venues. 2. Work with BG and GLL to develop the recreational trampolining programme at Sobell Trampoline Park and create progression links to the borough’s gymnastics and trampolining clubs. 		
Medium Term (3-5 years)		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An expanded offer for gymnastics is provided either through a new dedicated facility or through enhancement of existing venues as a coordinated and planned development with BG and the Calypso Club based in the borough. 		
Long Term (5 years+)		
None if medium term priorities met		
Future Needs for Gymnastics		
British Gymnastics see a lot of potential for growth in the sport if the current challenges for the clubs serving the borough (Calypso and Hampstead) can be addressed in terms of current facility capacity and accessibility.		
The clubs appears to be operating within the current facility provision and membership and activity is based on the capacity they have with spaces only becoming available once members leave. Both maintain large waiting lists.		
The potential to investigate expanding the offer for gymnastics and a larger dedicated facility is something that should be pursued as part of the next steps by Islington Council, progressed in close partnership with the Calypso Club in particular and with British Gymnastics.		

6.11 MUGAS / Ball Courts

The summary below provides the **quantitative, qualitative and accessibility assessments** for MUGA and Ball Court provision within Islington alongside the leading outcomes from the consultation process which has informed this *Sports Facilities Update*. The priorities for MUGA and Ball Court provision are then provided at the end of this assessment.

MUGA and Ball Court facilities identified through consultation with Islington have been included within the audit and analysis. There is no NGB overseeing MUGAs or Ball Courts however the most common types of activities that take place in these facilities are basketball and football. However, these facilities are often used for informal sport and usage is difficult to quantify.

6.11.1 Quantitative Assessment

Figure 6.55 provides a list of the MUGA and Ball Court facilities within Islington which are publicly accessible and available on a free drop-in basis:

Figure 6.55: MUGA and Ball Court provision in Islington

Facility Name	Facilities	Access	Management
Archway Park	Ball Court	Open Access	Local Authority
Arundel Square	MUGA	Open Access	Local Authority
Asteys Row	Ball Court	Open Access	Local Authority
Barnard Park	MUGA	Open Access	Local Authority
Basire Street	Ball Court	Open Access	Local Authority
Bingfield Park	Ball Court	Open Access	Local Authority
Caledonian Park	MUGA	Open Access	Local Authority
Chambers Road Open Space	Ball Court	Open Access	Local Authority
Graham Street Open Space	Ball Court	Open Access	Local Authority
Hilldrop Area Community Association	MUGA	Open Access	Local Authority
Isledon Road Open Space	Ball Court	Open Access	Local Authority
Joseph Grimaldi Playground	Ball Court	Open Access	Local Authority
Laycock Street Open Space	Ball Court	Open Access	Local Authority
McCall And Hollins House	Ball Court	Open Access	Local Authority
Milner Square	Ball Court	Open Access	Local Authority
Mitchinson Baxter Open Space	Ball Court	Open Access	Local Authority
Murial Street Gardens	Ball Court	Open Access	Local Authority
Paradise Park	3G MUGA	Open Access	Local Authority
Quaker Gardens Play Area	Ball Court	Open Access	Local Authority
Rosemary Gardens	3G MUGA	Open Access	Local Authority
Royal Northern Gardens	Ball Court	Open Access	Local Authority
Spa Fields	MUGA	Open Access	Local Authority
Wray Crescent	MUGA	Open Access	Local Authority

There are 23 sites in the borough with either MUGA or Ball Court facilities, all of which are free to access and managed by the Local Authority.

6.11.2 Supply and Demand Analysis

There is no method of calculating or benchmarking the supply and demand of MUGAs or Ball Courts and, given their main function is to facilitate informal activity, there is no trusted method of calculating usage.

Sport England's Active People

There is no national, regional or local data available for the use of MUGAs or Ball Courts.

Sport England's Market Segmentation

There is no MUGA or Ball Court data available from the market segmentation database.

6.11.3 Qualitative Assessment

Non-Technical Quality Assessment

Based on the non-technical quality assessments (as described in the methodology earlier in the report), the MUGA and Ball Court facilities in Islington have been given a non-technical mean quality score.

Figure 6.56: Mean Quality Score – MUGA and Ball Court Sites in Islington

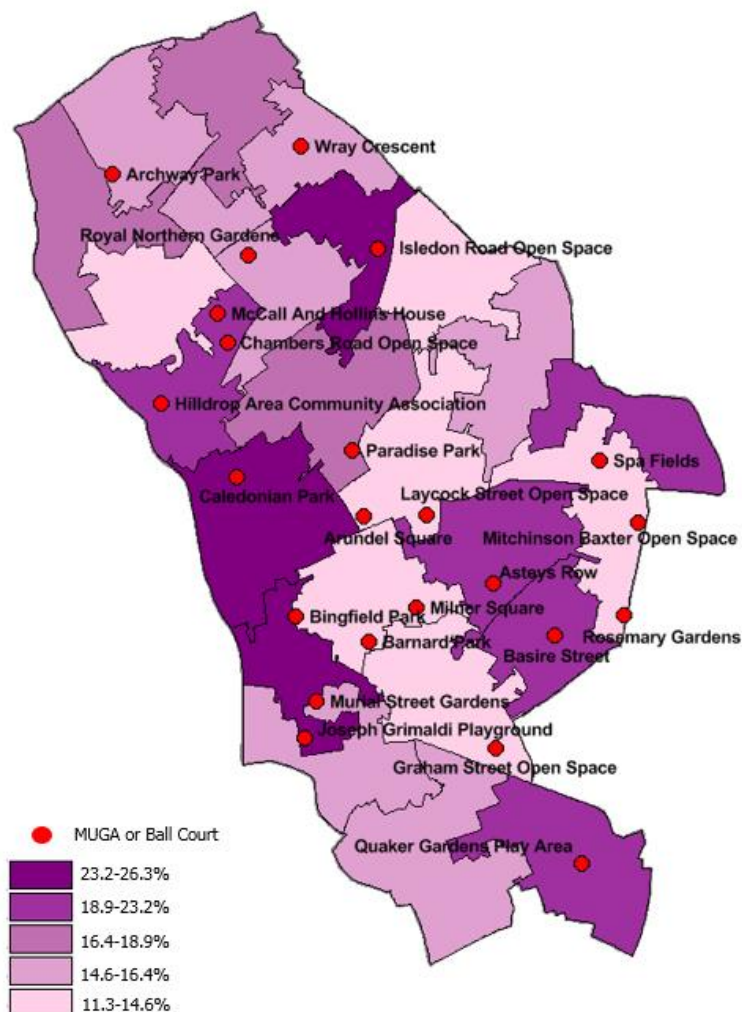
Facility Name	Mean Quality Score (out of 5)
Archway Park	2
Arundel Square	2
Asteys Row	2
Barnard Park	1
Basire Street	3
Bingfield Park	4
Caledonian Park	3
Chambers Road Open Space	2
Graham Street Open Space	2
Hilldrop Area Community Association	3
Isledon Road Open Space	2
Joseph Grimaldi Playground	4
Laycock Street Open Space	4
McCall And Hollins House	1
Milner Square	1
Mitchinson Baxter Open Space	5
Murial Street Gardens	3
Paradise Park	2
Quaker Gardens Play Area	2
Rosemary Gardens	2
Royal Northern Gardens	2
Spa Fields	4
Wray Crescent	2

6.11.4 Accessibility Assessment

Figure 6.57 identifies the location of MUGA and Ball Court provision in the borough. A 1 mile/20 minute walk-to catchment has not been added due to the large number of sites. All residents in the borough live within walking distance of one of these facilities.

Figure 6.57: Map of MUGAs and Ball Courts in Islington

London Borough of Islington: MUGAs and Ball Courts with Inactivity Rates



Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2017 / Contains Royal Mail data © Royal Mail copyright and Database right 2017

6.11.5 Local Needs and Consultation

The key findings of the consultation process relevant to MUGA and Ball Court provision in Islington are summarised below:

- **Bingfield Park MUGA** (south of borough near Kings Cross). This facility currently has a hard, concrete surface MUGA (open access) for kick-about football and basketball. The Local Authority is considering an option to upgrade the site to a bookable 3G pitch. The park is not staffed by LB Islington so an agreement with the Adventure Playground operator to programme and manage use of the 3G on behalf of the Local Authority will need to be reached.

This project has the potential to be a pilot to test a model for other parks and open spaces where there are Adventure Playgrounds managed either by Islington Play Association or Awesome CIC. Other sites where this could be considered include:

1. Cornwallis Street MUGA
2. Radnor Street Gardens MUGA

However, this is not a simple decision as any upgrade has an impact on accessibility and removes basketball use from the mix. It also raises issues of income generation to finance surface sinking funds.

- **Zoffany Park** (on Elthorne Estate in the north of the borough close to Elthorne Park) – an existing but disused kick-about pitch on the estate is subject to a housing proposal with Zoffany Park identified as the preferred location to provide a MUGA as a replacement. If planning is approved, a Housing Developer will provide the MUGA in 2018/19.
- **Mitchison Baxter Park** (on Dover Court Estate on eastern edge of Canonbury Ward) - £21m+ estate regeneration scheme is underway providing around 70 new homes. Development has consent for replacing an existing floodlit ball court MUGA by about 50m. Planning consent for the replacement MUGA is an issue as it imposes an earlier lights off restriction (8pm) which has displaced a bike polo team that used the original ball court.

6.11.6 Priorities and Standards for MUGA and Ball Court Facilities

The priorities below are set out in line with Sport England’s priorities for forward planning under the headings of protect, enhance and provide. Figure 6.58 below sets out the MUGA and Ball Court improvements and priorities for Islington.

Figure 6.58: MUGA and Ball Court Facility Priorities & Improvement Recommendations

Protect	Enhance	Provide
Retain the existing level of MUGA and Ball Court provision across the borough.	Enhance MUGA and Ball Court provision in the borough with priority given to sites at; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Barnard Park ○ McCall and Hollins House ○ Milner Square 	<p>Prioritise the resolution of planning concerns impacting upon the replacement of the existing Ball Court at Mitchison Baxter Park with a new MUGA.</p> <p>Provide a new MUGA at Zoffany Park to replace existing stock on Elthorne estate.</p>
<p>Prioritisation and Outline Investment Needs</p> <p>Short Term (1-3 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A number of the sites audited have reports of vegetation on court that are in danger of posing health and safety hazards to users of the facilities. A clean up of existing stock is required in the short term. 2. Explore the potential of a pilot partnership with an Adventure Playground operator at Bingfield Park, Cornwallis Street or Radnor Street Gardens. <p>Medium Term (3-5 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a regular schedule of renovation works to open access MUGAs and Ball Courts. 2. Review planning restrictions that prevent many ball courts / MUGAs from remaining open after 9pm due to floodlighting issues. <p>Longer Term (5 years+)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reconsider provision of further MUGAs and Ball Courts with open access in relation to population and housing growth taking into account the needs of older youths as well as younger children in specifying the size of new provision. 		
<p>Future Needs for MUGAs and Ball Courts</p> <p>There is good provision of MUGAs and Ball Courts across the borough. Future needs should reflect housing growth in the borough. These facilities are essential providers of informal, community sport and real focus should be placed on regular maintenance to ensure that activity is not displaced.</p> <p>Any future developments in the borough that result in the removal of MUGAs or Ball Courts should be required to replace provision in locations that don’t have a negative impact on participation rates in the affected area.</p>		

6.12 Football Pitches

The summary below provides the **quantitative, qualitative and accessibility assessments** for natural turf Football Pitch provision within Islington alongside the leading outcomes from the consultation process which has informed this *Sports Facilities Update*. The priorities for football pitch provision are then provided at the end of this assessment.

Availability is an issue at both sites. The HAC pitches are only available to the HAC's football club while the council's only grass football pitches in Tufnell Park are unable to accommodate demand from both teams and for informal use from local residents and students living in the North London University Halls of Residence close by. As per the methodology presented earlier, pitches identified through consultation with Islington and the FA have been included within the audit and analysis.

6.12.1 Quantitative Assessment

Figure 6.59 provides a list of the football pitches within Islington which are publicly accessible.

Figure 6.59: Natural Turf Football Pitch provision in Islington

Facility Name	Facilities	Sub-Type	Access	Management
Honourable Artillery Company (HAC)	Football Pitch	1 x Full Size	Sports Club / Community Association	MOD (HAC)
Tufnell Park Playing Fields	Football Pitch	1 x Full Size 1 x Junior	Pay and Play	Leisure Management Contractor

6.12.2 Supply and Demand Analysis

The key findings from Sport England's research tools in relation to the current supply of and demand for football pitches in Islington are as follows:

- There are just 2 sites in the borough with natural turf football pitches providing a total of two adult 11v11 pitches and one youth 7v7 pitch.
- The HAC site is owned by the Ministry of Defence and provides no community access other than to the HAC's member sports clubs. The pitches are managed by the Artillery Company for the benefit of its affiliate sports clubs which include a football club - The HAC Association Football Club (founded in 1897). The club is open and all current members are from outside the regiment. The two HAC teams consist mainly of former university first team footballers. Home fixtures are usually played at the Griffin Sports Ground in Dulwich (LB Lewisham) with just a few matches played at HAC Sports Ground (Armoury House). The HAC compete at a high standard in the Premier Division of the Amateur Football Combination. They have finished runners-up three times since the league's formation in 2004. HAC Reserves play in Senior Two South, two divisions below. There is also a veteran's side. See Appendix C.
- Tufnell Park has 1 adult and 1 junior pitch. Bookings are managed by GLL on behalf of the Council. The main regular hirers of the adult pitch are Tufnell Park FC and Old Magdalenians FC (each with one team playing home fixtures on alternate Saturday afternoons). Athletic Brent Cross with one 11v11 youth team use this pitch on Sunday mornings and two other teams (including girls) play fixtures on the 7v7 pitch on Sunday mornings. See Appendix C.
- Including training, use by schools and informal use (including by students from nearby halls of residence), the adult pitch at Tufnell Park is played at around double the FA recommended playing capacity (i.e. 2 'Match Equivalent Sessions' a week) for a standard quality pitch. The junior pitch operates at capacity. No bookings are taken in the summer months but the pitches continue to sustain significant use and wear from informal play (including by students in the summer term). There is an ongoing challenge at the site with managing booked use against informal demand.
- There has been recent investment in the drainage system to the senior pitch at Tufnell Park. LBI Greenspace have identified a potential for the pitch to be further upgraded to hybrid reinforced grass to increase playing capacity. A similar upgrade is currently being trialled in The Regent's Park and the Local Authority are monitoring the outcome of this trial before deciding whether to consider this solution for Tufnell Park. The park is large enough to accommodate 2 senior 11v11 football pitches. However, LBI Greenspace choose to mark and equip as 1 x 11v11 and 1 x 7v7 to retain the ability to move the goalmouths around to manage wear and tear as effectively as possible. If reinforced grass is introduced, it may be possible to accommodate two senior pitches in future.

- o Tufnell Park is the only secured grass football pitch site in the borough within the ownership and pricing policy control of Islington Council via the leisure management contract with GLL. As such, meeting demand for team football from within the borough relies almost exclusively on the supply of AGP facilities (24 sites), most particularly the Market Road Football Centre but also Whittington Park plus, for futsal, university sports halls (City Sport and London Metropolitan). The AGP supply is detailed and assessed in the following section.

Sport England’s Active People

The Active People Survey found that in 2015/06 5.14% of London’s 16+ population participated in a minimum of 30 minutes of football at least once a week, slightly above the national (4.21%) average. 1.66% of adults in London participated in 11 a side football at least once a week whilst 2.59% took part in small sided football on a weekly basis. The sample size for Islington was insufficient to give a statistically robust result for this measure.

Sport England’s Market Segmentation

Sport England’s Market Segmentation Tool estimates that 13,871 adults (16+) in Islington currently participate in football. The Tool also estimates that 2,714 of the adult (16+) population would like to participate in more football than they currently do.

6.12.3 Qualitative Assessment

Non-Technical Quality Assessment

Based on the non-technical quality assessments (as described in the PPS methodology earlier in the report), the football pitches in Islington have been given a non-technical quality rating (Good/Standard/Poor) in accordance with the Sport England PPS Guidance methodology.

Figure 6.60: Quality Rating – Natural Turf Football Pitches in Islington

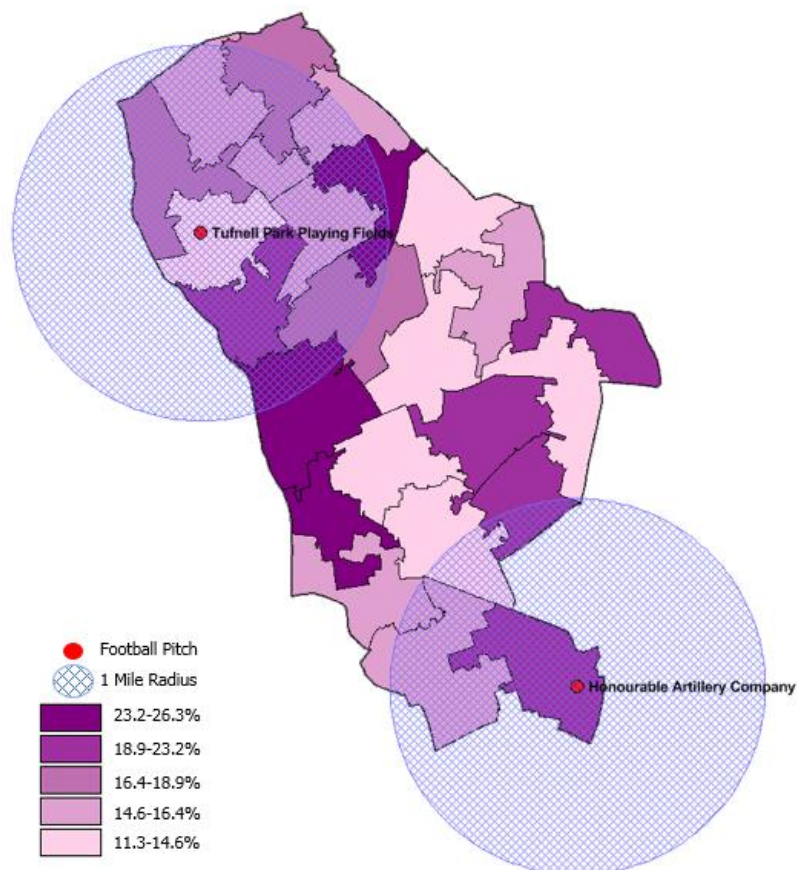
Facility Name	Quality Score (Good, Standard, Poor)
Honourable Artillery Company (HAC)	Not Audited
Tufnell Park Playing Fields	Standard

6.12.4 Accessibility Assessment

Figure 6.61 identifies 1 mile/20 minute walk-to catchments for grass football pitches within Islington. The map illustrates that the main catchment for the provision is focused on the north-west and south areas of the borough with central parts of Islington, and parts of the north-east falling outside of this catchment.

Figure 6.61: Map of Natural Turf Football Pitches in Islington

London Borough of Islington: Football Pitches with Inactivity Rates



Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2017 / Contains Royal Mail data © Royal Mail copyright and Database right 2017

6.12.5 Local Needs and Consultation

The key findings of the consultation process relevant to football pitch provision in Islington are summarised below:

- GLL, who manage the leisure contract at Tufnell Park state there is sufficient provision for 5x5 football but the borough struggles to meet demand for 7x7 sided games. There is large demand from junior schools at Tufnell Park during off-peak hours.
- Demand for 11v11 at Tufnell Park is not currently being met. Saturday slots are fully booked for clubs' home matches each season and although there is a trend of fewer adult teams, any available slots that come free are back-filled immediately with demand from junior clubs/teams.
- At most sites (grass and AGP) football is block booked with demand remaining fairly constant throughout the year, including the summer months.
- There is a high level of displaced (exported) demand for football particularly from u16s upwards to play 11 a side competitive football. This has been exacerbated by the Camden & Regent's Park Youth Football League no longer catering for u16 teams on the grass pitches at The Regent's Park.
- There are also players resident in Islington borough who choose to travel to play for teams in clubs based outside the borough in order to compete on grass pitches in an 11v11 league of the appropriate standard of play. Examples include Ryan FC, a highly successful 40 team club based in Chingford in Waltham Forest borough, and FC Broxbourne Borough playing at Goffs Lane Playing Fields in Waltham Cross in Broxbourne borough. Islington young players (16-18) have also been recruited in the past in to Wingate & Finchley FC and Hadley Wood HC youth sides.

6.12.6 Priorities for Natural Turf Football Pitches

The priorities below are set out in line with Sport England’s priorities for forward planning under the headings of protect, enhance and provide. Figure 6.62 sets out the football pitch improvements and priorities for Islington.

Figure 6.62: Natural Turf Football Pitch Priorities, Improvement Recommendations

Protect	Enhance	Provide
Retain the existing level of grass football pitches across the borough.	Enhance football pitch provision in the borough with priority given to Tufnell Park pitches which are struggling to meet existing demand. Consider the feasibility of introducing reinforced grass to increase playing capacity (subject to monitoring performance of the Regent’s Park trial of this system).	To alleviate demand on existing provision, any opportunities to increase the number of pitches available for community use should be taken. Where possible, include Community Use Agreements as part of conditions for new AGPs (and any new playing fields planned) at school sites in the borough.
<p>Prioritisation and Outline Investment Needs</p> <p>Short Term (1-3 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consider feasibility of introducing reinforced grass technology to the pitches at Tufnell Park to increase playing capacity and, potentially, to maximise use of available playing field space by laying out two 11v11 pitches. <p>Medium Term (3-5 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where possible, include Community Use Agreements as part of planning conditions for proposals for new facilities suitable for football (whether natural turf, AGP or indoor halls) on education sites. <p>Longer Term (5 years+)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As above 		
<p>Future Needs for Natural Turf Football Pitches</p> <p>Team Generation Rate (TGR) calculations (see Appendix D) estimate there will be increased future needs for pitches with an additional 58.3 football teams in the borough by 2036, the majority of these will be mini-soccer teams (27.8) whilst 16 will be adult male teams.</p> <p>Any opportunities in the borough to provide new natural turf football pitches with community access at weekends should be taken (although heavily constrained by lack of land and values). There is the potential opportunity to provide an adult pitch at Paradise Park if Try Tag Rugby is relocated to the proposed new 9v9 3G MUGA at Barnard Park.</p>		

6.13 AGPs

The summary below provides the **quantitative, qualitative and accessibility assessments** for AGP provision within Islington alongside the leading outcomes from the consultation process which has informed this *Sports Facilities Update*. The priorities for AGP provision are then provided at the end of this assessment.

As per the methodology presented earlier, AGPs identified through consultation with Islington, the FA and GLL have been included within the audit and analysis.

6.13.1 Quantitative Assessment

Figure 6.63 provides a list of the AGPs within Islington which are publicly accessible.

There is an issue relating to the **availability** of several of the Council owned AGPs managed by GLL as these currently close at 9pm. There is a good case to extend the opening hours of the AGPs at Highbury Fields, Paradise Park and Rosemary Gardens until 10pm to increase peak capacity and to be consistent with the other sites to simplify booking for users. Review of bookings data (see Appendix C) and consultation with GLL and other site operator’s evidences very little availability at most AGP sites in the borough in the peak times.

Figure 6.63: AGP provision in Islington

Facility Name	Facilities	Size	Access	Management
City Of London Academy	Sand filled	Small	Private Use	School/College/University
Andover Estate	TBC	Small	TBC	Local Authority
Arsenal Hub	3G	Small	Pay and Play	Sport Club
Central Foundation Boys School	3G	Small	Sports Club / Community Association	Voluntary Aided School
City And Islington College (Centre Of Applied Sciences)	Sand dressed	Small	Private Use	School/College/University
Elthorne Park	3G	Small	Open Access	Local Authority
Finsbury Leisure Centre	3G x 2	Small x 2	Pay and Play	Trust
Harvist Estate	3G	Small	Open Access	Local Authority
Highbury Fields Courts And Pitches	3G	Small	Sports Club / Community Association	Trust
Highbury Grove School	3G	Small	Pay and Play	Trust
Holloway School	Sand filled	Small	Sports Club / Community Association	Trust
Islington Arts & Media School	Sand filled	Small	Pay and Play	School/College/University
King Square Estate	3G	Small	Open Access	Local Authority
Market Road Football Centre	3G x 5	Full size x 2 Small x 3	Pay and Play	Trust
McCall And Hollins House	3G	Small	Open Access	Local Authority
Paradise Park	3G	Small	Pay and Play	Local Authority
Peel Centre	3G	Small	Pay and Play	Community Organisation
Quill Street Estate	3G	Small	Pay and Play	Local Authority
Rosemary Gardens	3G	Small	Pay and Play	Local Authority
Sobell Leisure Centre (Holloway)	3G	Small	Pay and Play	Trust
St Mark's Primary School	3G	Small	Sports Club / Community Association	School/College/University
St Mary Magdalene Academy	3G	Small	Sports Club / Community Association	School/College/University
Thornhill Road STP	3G	Small	Open Access	Commercial
Whittington Park Synthetic Turf Pitch	3G	Full size	Sports Club / Community Association	Trust
William Tyndale Primary School	3G	Small	Sports Club / Community Association	School/College/University

6.13.2 Supply and Demand Analysis

The key findings from Sport England's research tools in relation to the current supply of and demand for AGPs in Islington are as follows:

- There are 24 sites in the borough with AGPs.
- 8 of the sites are managed by the Local Authority, whilst 7 are run by GLL, the trust that leisure provision is contracted to in the borough.
- 7 sites are managed by a combination of schools, colleges, universities or voluntary aided schools.
- In terms of access, 9 AGPs in the borough are available on a pay and play basis, whilst 4 are open access. One site (Elthorne Park) is open at all times. 2 of the AGPs audited are for private use only (both on education sites).
- The majority of AGPs in Islington are designed for small-sided games. There are 3 large, full size AGPs in the borough (2 at Market Road and 1 at Whittington Park).

- o Data from the London FA for Islington, incorporating AFA affiliated teams, shows that 80 different clubs, with a total of 195 teams, use football pitches in the borough (AGPs, natural turf and university sports halls). Data from the CIYFL and the Islington Midweek Adult Football League indicates that the London FA data understates current demand. The aggregated team data from the two central leagues indicate 213 teams played on a weekly basis at Market Road alone in 2017/18 (see Appendix C).
- o There is imported demand from other boroughs accommodated at Market Road Football Centre. Examples in the CIYFL include: Regent's Park FC, Somers Town FC, Camden Town & East Finchley FC (all based in Camden), St Johns Wood FC (based in Westminster/Camden) and Stoke Newington FC (based in Hackney). The league secretary reports that Teams from Tower Hamlets (Wapping Youth) are joining CIYFL in 2018/19.
- o However, this imported demand is outweighed by demand from Islington teams displaced or exported to clubs and grounds in neighbouring local authorities and further afield in Hertfordshire and Essex. The following leagues based at venues outside Islington include age group teams from clubs with their base in Islington borough. (Several of these clubs have younger age group teams also playing at Market Road in the C&IYFL).
 1. *Camden & Regent's Park Youth Football League* (teams aged u6 to u16) playing on grass at Regent's Park Hub. Islington based clubs entering teams include: The Hill Soccer School, Cally Stars and Pro Touch.
 2. *Echo Junior Football League* playing on both 3G and grass at grounds in Essex and the East London boroughs (e.g. Beckton, Romford, Dagenham, Tilbury and Aveley). Islington based clubs entering teams are Crown & Manor FC and AC United.
 3. *Rural Friendly League* playing at grounds in Hertfordshire and Enfield. ProDirect Academy Islington u7 and u8 play at an RFL central league venue in Broxbourne borough (Goffs Churchgate Academy 3G).
 4. *Hackney Marshes Youth League* playing on Hackney Marshes grass pitches. Clubs completing in this league with teams also playing at Market Road Islington include Little Soccer Stars Academy for youth teams aged 8+.
- o Provision of one additional full size floodlit 3G pitch is required in Islington to provide sufficient 3G capacity to allow all teams currently playing competitive league football within the borough to have access to 3G to train on once a week (see FA Scenarios at Appendix C).
- o Provision of one further additional 3G would be required in order to transfer all matches currently played on the council managed grass pitch at Tufnell Park Playing Field to 3G.

Sport England's Active People

There is no national, regional or local Active People Survey data available specifically related to the use of AGPs. Active People activity data relating to football is detailed in the football section of this report.

Sport England's Market Segmentation

There is no data available from the Sports Market Segmentation (SMS) database specific to use of AGPs.

6.13.3 Qualitative Assessment

Non-Technical Quality Assessment

Based on the non-technical quality assessments the AGPs in Islington have been given a non-technical mean quality score.

Figure 6.64: Mean Quality Score – AGP Sites in Islington

Facility Name	Mean Quality Score Out of 5
City Of London Academy	4
Andover Estate	4
Arsenal Hub	4
Central Foundation Boys School	4
City And Islington College (Centre Of Applied Sciences)	2
Elthorne Park	4

London Borough of Islington Sports Facilities Update 2018
Final Report

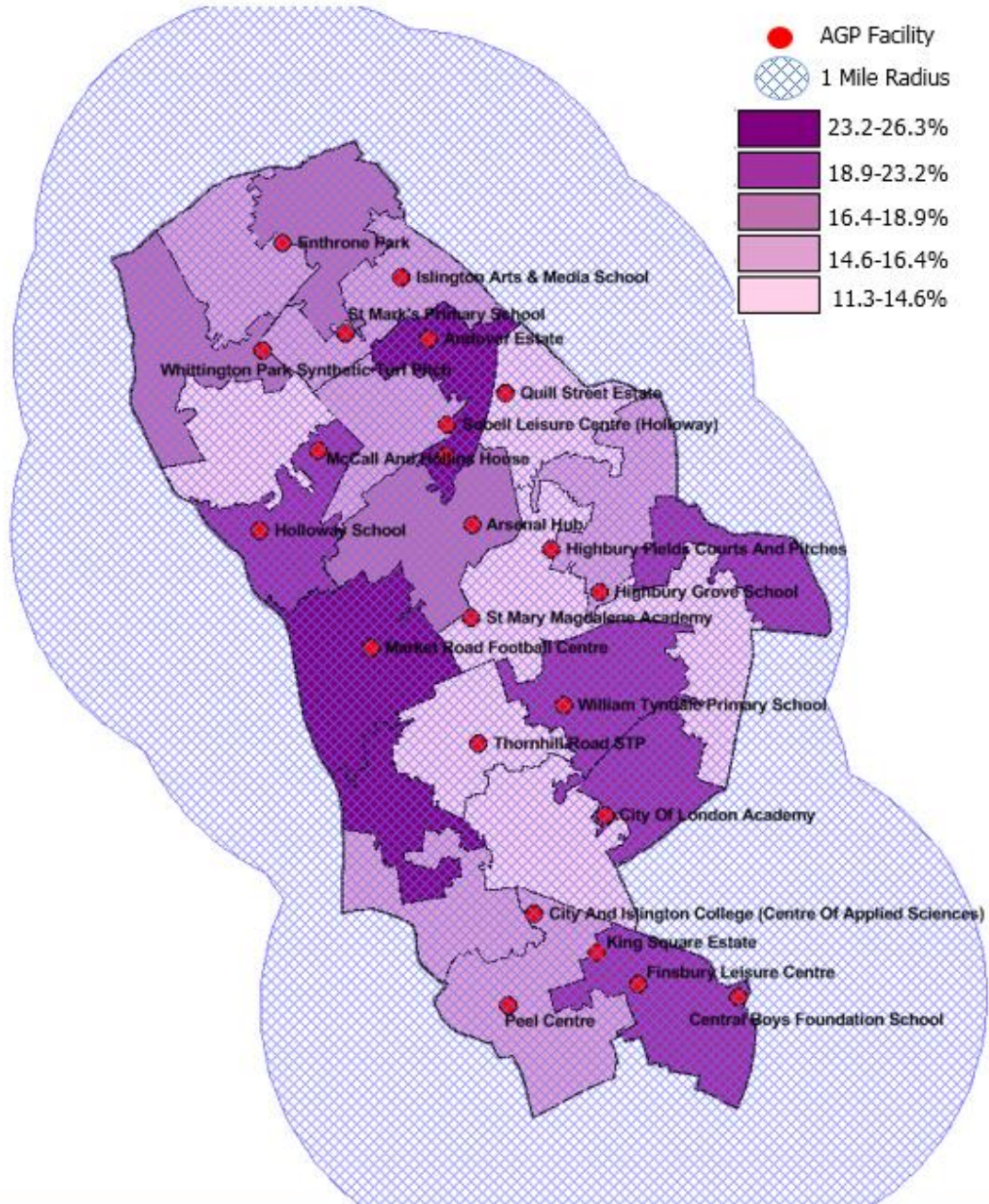
Facility Name	Mean Quality Score Out of 5
Finsbury Leisure Centre	4
Harvist Estate	4
Highbury Fields Courts And Pitches	4
Highbury Grove School	5
Holloway School	2.5
Islington Arts & Media School	3
King Square Estate	3
Market Road Football Centre	5
McCall And Hollins House	3
Paradise Park	2
Peel Centre	4
Quill Street Estate	2
Rosemary Gardens	5
Sobell Leisure Centre (Holloway)	4
St Mark's Primary School	4
St Mary Magdalene Academy	3
Thornhill Road STP	4
Whittington Park Synthetic Turf Pitch	5
William Tyndale Primary School	4

6.13.4 Accessibility Assessment

Figure 6.65 identifies 1 mile/20 minute walk-to catchments for AGPs within Islington. The map illustrates that the extent of existing provision means all residents in the borough live within walking distance of an AGP.

Figure 6.65: Map of AGPs in Islington

London Borough of Islington: AGPs with Inactivity Rates



Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2017 / Contains Royal Mail data © Royal Mail copyright and Database right 2017

6.13.5 Local Needs and Consultation

The key findings of the consultation process relevant to AGP provision in Islington are summarised below:

- GLL report that the FA registered floodlit full size 3G pitches at Market Road are booked to capacity in the peak hours, whilst the 5v5 3G pitches at this site have some spare capacity. This is confirmed by the analysis of bookings records (Appendix A).

- The Whittington Park pitch is fully booked for matches (or allocated to free community sessions) from 10am to 3pm on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the year and is used extensively for Holiday Camps from 9am to 3pm in the School holidays. There is some spare early evening capacity for half pitch bookings (7v7) but not the full pitch (see Appendix A).
- Junior school class sizes (circa 40 children) are too large to be accommodated on one 7v7 area so schools often book two 7v7 pitches which they find expensive. At Whittington Park AGP (where 2 x 7v7 are marked), GLL considers a third 7v7 area would be supported by demand if provided.
- The Camden & Islington Youth Football League (CIYFL) seek more peak evening slots on the full size AGPs at Market Road to accommodate growing demand and its development aims with regard to youth disability and girls football. The league is keen to focus all activity at this single central league venue in order to maintain safeguarding standards without the need to increase costs for the teams and individual players' parents and families.
- In terms of school demand, as well as local junior schools, GLL report that several secondary schools are regular daytime hirers of Market Road AGPs for PE (not just football). Regular hiring secondary schools are:
 - St Mary Magdalene Academy
 - Gower School
 - Highgate School (November and December)
 - Ad hoc hires are also made by Haverstock School and Northbridge School (at Sobell)
- The 3G MUGA at Highbury Fields is used very close to capacity in the peak hours (98%) while there is some spare capacity in the peak on the 3G MUGA at William Tyndale Primary School (see Appendix A).
- GLL report noticeable increases in AGP demand in mid-September coinciding with the start of the higher education academic year. There are regular bookings by City University, London Metropolitan, SOAS, UCL and Hult International Business School.
- At Highbury Fields, the Local Authority is looking at the feasibility of new buildings to support the sports uses of the AGP and hard court areas (predominantly football and netball). Architects are appointed to consider the feasibility within the planning constraints of Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) policies. There is an existing small pavilion at the end of the courts (originally grant aided by Sport England) which is no longer fit for purpose and has been closed for some years. There is also an option to resurface and re-orientate the existing 3G enclosure to accommodate 2 bookable 5v5 spaces in place of one pitch currently.

6.13.6 Priorities and Standards for AGPs

The priorities below are set out in line with Sport England's priorities for forward planning under the headings of protect, enhance and provide. Figure 6.66 below sets out the AGP improvements and priorities for Islington.

Figure 6.66: AGP Priorities, Improvement Recommendations and Quantity Standards

Protect	Enhance	Provide
<p>Retain the existing level of AGPs across the borough with no reduction in the number of full size or small-sided pitches.</p> <p>Increase availability of the Highbury Fields, Paradise Park and Rosemary Gardens pitches by extending opening hours from 9pm to 10pm to be consistent with other park sites.</p>	<p>Continue to enhance AGP provision in the borough with priority given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o City of London Academy – storage for goals o Highbury Fields Courts & Pitches – upgrade o Holloway School – upgrade o Islington Arts and Media School – upgrade o Peel Centre – replace damaged goals <p>Also improve accessibility to provision on school sites for the community and promotion of this availability.</p>	<p>Where possible, include Community Use Agreements as part of conditions for new AGPs at school sites in the borough.</p> <p>Provide ancillary facilities at Highbury Fields.</p> <p>One additional FA compliant full size 3G AGP is required in the borough to meet current demand to enable each team to train on 3G.</p> <p>Between one and two further FA compliant full size 3G AGPs will be required over the local plan period to provide for new football teams that are likely to be generated by forecast population growth to 2036.</p>
<p>Prioritisation and Outline Investment Needs</p> <p>Short Term (1-3 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explore potential for temporary storage space at City of London Academy 2. Replace damaged goals at the Peel Centre <p>Medium Term (3-5 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support for new pavilion/coaching room building development at Highbury Fields to replace derelict pavilion. 2. Review planning restrictions that prevent many AGPs from remaining open post 9pm due to floodlighting. <p>Longer Term (5 years+)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supply is struggling to meet demand in the borough and the potential for new provision should be explored where possible. This includes including community use agreements as part of the arrangement for future school facilities and encouraging currently private provision to come into community use. Between one and three additional 3G AGPs are likely to be required to meet demand over the Local Plan period. 		
<p>Future Needs for AGPs</p> <p>TGR calculations estimate there will be increased future needs for pitches with an additional 58.3 football teams in the borough by 2036, the majority of these will be mini-soccer teams (27.8) whilst 16 will be adult male teams. There is no expected increase in hockey teams playing in the borough (currently zero) unless a sand based AGP is provided that is compliant with EH requirements. It is forecast that there'll be one additional adult rugby union team.</p> <p>Provision of one additional full size floodlit 3G pitch is required in Islington Borough to provide sufficient 3G capacity to allow all teams currently playing competitive league football within the borough to have access to 3G to train on once a week.</p> <p>Provision of one further additional 3G would be required in order to transfer all matches currently played on the council managed grass pitch at Tufnell Park Playing Field to 3G.</p>		

6.14 Cricket Pitches

The summary below provides the **quantitative, qualitative and accessibility assessments** for Cricket Pitch provision within Islington alongside the leading outcomes from the consultation process which has informed this *Sports Facilities Update*. The priorities for cricket pitch provision are then provided at the end of this assessment.

Availability is an issue at both cricket pitch sites located within the borough. The only fine turf pitch at HAC is only available to its own clubs (plus some hires to companies based in the area), while the council's only cricket facility at Wray Crescent is an artificial pitch unsuitable for traditional Saturday league cricket.

As per the methodology presented earlier, pitches identified through consultation with Islington and the Middlesex County Cricket Board have been included within the audit and analysis.

6.14.1 Quantitative Assessment

Figure 6.67 provides a list of the cricket pitches within Islington which are publicly accessible.

Figure 6.67: Cricket Pitch provision in Islington

Facility Name	Facilities	Access	Management
Wray Crescent	Cricket Pitch - non turf	Pay and Play	Leisure Management Contractor
Honourable Artillery Company (HAC)	Cricket Pitch - fine turf	Sports Club / Community Association	MOD (HAC)
<i>St Aloysius College (in Haringey Borough)</i>	Cricket Pitch - fine turf and non-turf	Education	School

6.14.2 Supply and Demand Analysis

The key findings from Sport England's research tools in relation to the current supply of and demand for cricket pitches in Islington are as follows:

- Wray Crescent is the only public cricket pitch in Islington (no fine turf square - non turf pitch and outfield only). The pavilion at the site is condemned and teams using the facility only have access to a steel container for changing and equipment storage.
- Maintenance of the outfield is a challenge as a football group regularly play on the surface on Sundays. The site has a history of management issues and disputes between the footballers and cricket teams due to recurring booking clashes. Moveable football goals were recently provided in an attempt to mitigate the problems. The site has surround netting to prevent cricket balls going into neighbouring gardens.
- The main cricket demand of this pitch is for MCB colts training and by the only borough based club (Pacific Cricket Club) who programmed 15 friendly matches at Wray Crescent in its 2018 fixture list. There is also occasional midweek evening use for London LMS league fixtures.
- There is a second cricket pitch in the south of the borough at the Honorable Artillery Company Sports Ground at Artillery Gardens. Cricket has been played at this site at least since 1725. The 1st, 2nd and AXIs play a full fixtures list throughout the summer. It is a popular venue given its convenience for City-based teams, its attractive location and high-quality grounds, and the hospitality which the HAC Club can offer.
- There is also a cricket pitch (fine turf and NTP) accessible to residents in the north of the borough at St Aloysius College. This site falls within the Haringey boundary however the school is an Islington school. The grass pitch was funded, some years ago, by the BIG Lottery and the NTP more recently by the cricket charity for school age children, Chance to Shine.

Sport England's Active People

The Active People Survey found that in 2015/06 0.72% of London's 16+ population participated in cricket at least once over a four week period. This is slightly above the national average of 0.64%. 0.47% of London adults took part in a match, again higher than the national rate of 0.41%

Sport England's Market Segmentation

Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool estimates that 1,682 adults (16+) in Islington currently participate in cricket. The Tool also estimates that 988 of the adult (16+) population would like to participate in more cricket than they currently do.

6.14.3 Qualitative Assessment

Non-Technical Quality Assessment

Based on the non-technical quality assessments (as described in **Section 2**), the cricket pitches in Islington have been given a non-technical mean quality score.

Figure 6.68: Mean Quality Score – Cricket Pitches in Islington

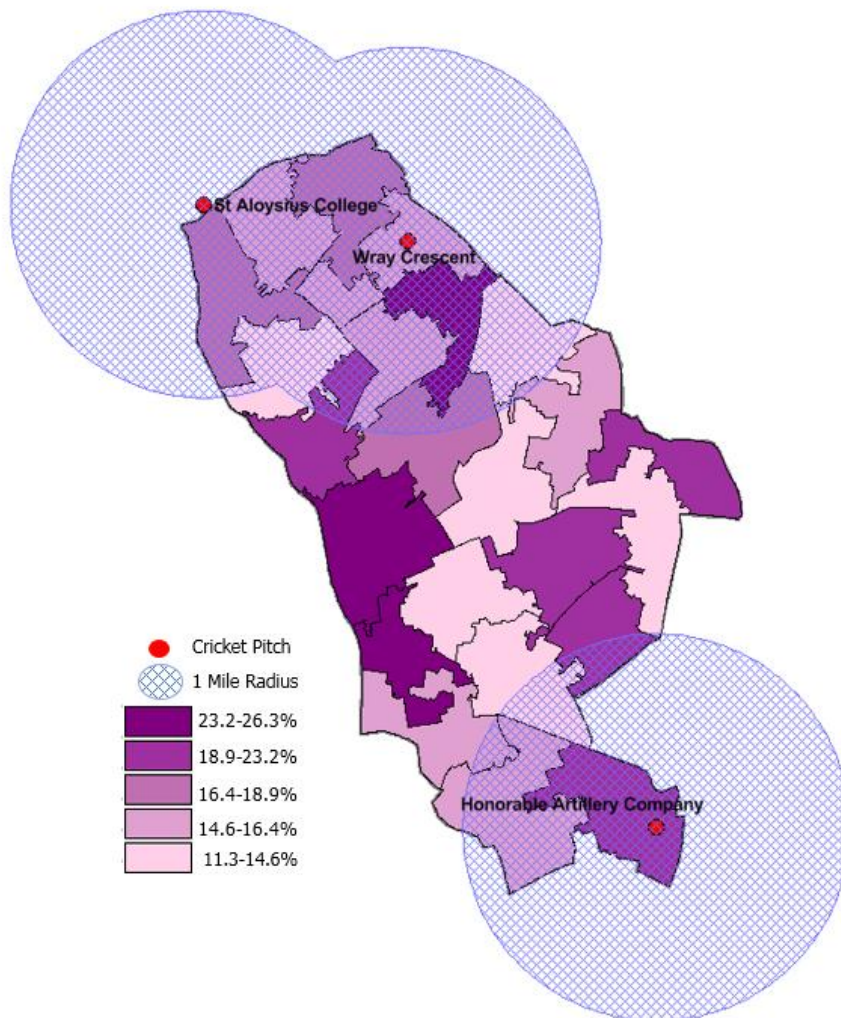
Facility Name	Mean Quality Score (out of 5)
Wray Crescent	2 - worn NTP, no pavilion
Honourable Artillery Company	Not audited
<i>St Aloysius College (LB Haringey)</i>	Not audited

6.14.4 Accessibility Assessment

The map below identifies 1 mile/20 minute walk-to catchments for cricket pitches within Islington. St Aloysius is included due to the fact that whilst the pitch actually falls within Haringey’s boundary, the facility is used by Islington residents. The map illustrates that the main catchment for cricket provision is focused in the north and the south of the borough with the central parts of Islington falling well outside of the catchment areas of the supply.

Figure 6.69: Map of Cricket Pitches in Islington

London Borough of Islington: Cricket Pitches with Inactivity Rates



Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2017 / Contains Royal Mail data © Royal Mail copyright and Database right 2017

6.14.5 Local Needs and Consultation

The key findings of the consultation process relevant to cricket pitch provision in Islington are summarised below:

- Middlesex cricket would like to see a new pavilion built at Wray Crescent in place of the existing storage container. Through the London Cricket Trust, the MCB propose to replace the NTP surface but, to create a better user experience, the NGB consider that a new pavilion is vital to promote the development of junior and adult cricket.
 - It will also be important to retain the St Aloysius College pitch and to ensure that future proposals to develop a 3G AGP at this site does not impact adversely on the facilities for cricket.
 - There is currently one team that are based in the borough, Pacific Cricket Club, who play games at Wray Crescent in the North East London League. Other users of the site are a Last Man Stands group and Middlesex Colts (with MCC Juniors).
 - The ECB produced the Cricket Unleashed strategy in 2016 that is based on 5 key elements:
 - More Play
 - Great Teams
 - Inspired Fans
 - Good Governance and Social Responsibility
 - Strong Finance and Operations
- Priorities from the strategy include:
- Invest in new and existing facilities that will deliver *More Play* opportunities for men and women
 - Provide fun, safe and family friendly environments for all children playing cricket
 - Promote shorter pitch lengths for younger age groups
 - Develop new facilities in areas of strategic need to allow more people to play cricket more often
- If existing provision is maintained and enhanced, the MCB consider there is sufficient supply of cricket facilities in the borough to meet demand.

6.14.6 Priorities and Standards for Cricket Pitches

The priorities below are set out in line with Sport England’s priorities for forward planning under the headings of protect, enhance and provide. Figure 6.70 sets out the Cricket Pitch improvements and priorities for Islington.

Figure 6.70: Cricket Pitch Priorities & Improvement Recommendations

Protect	Enhance	Provide
Retain the existing cricket pitches in the borough.	Enhance existing provision by resurfacing the playing pitch at Wray Crescent and providing a new pavilion or clubroom for users.	If future provision is to be considered in the borough, the central area is currently the most in need of access to cricket pitches.
<p>Prioritisation and Outline Investment Needs</p> <p>Short Term (1-3 years)</p> <p>1. Resurface the NTP at Wray Crescent</p> <p>Medium Term (3-5 years)</p> <p>1. Schedule of regular maintenance at Wray Crescent</p> <p>Longer Term (5 years+)</p> <p>No long term priorities if short and medium are met.</p>		
<p>Future Needs for Cricket Pitches</p> <p>TGR calculations estimate there will be an additional 0.4 cricket teams in the borough by 2036 (see Appendix C). There is sufficient capacity to meet current demand so long as community access to the grass pitch and NTP at St Aloysius School (Haringey) is sustained and the NTP at Wray Crescent is resurfaced and supported by a new pavilion.</p>		

6.15 Rugby Pitches

The summary below provides the **quantitative, qualitative and accessibility assessments** for Rugby Pitch provision within Islington alongside the leading outcomes from the consultation process which has informed this *Sports Facilities Update*. The priorities for rugby pitch provision are then provided at the end of this assessment.

Lack of **availability** of rugby pitches in the borough limits potential to grow the game at the present time.

As per the methodology in **Section 2**, pitches identified through consultation with Islington Council and the RFU have been included within the audit and analysis.

6.15.1 Quantitative Assessment

Figure 6.71 provides a list of the rugby pitches within Islington which are publicly accessible.

Figure 6.71: Rugby Pitch provision in Islington

Facility Name	Facilities	Access	Management
Paradise Park	Junior Rugby Union x 2 pitches (Touch Rugby)	Pay and Play	Leisure Management Contractor
Honourable Artillery Company	1 senior pitch	Community Club/Association	MOD (HAC Sports Association)

6.15.2 Supply and Demand Analysis

The key findings from Sport England's research tools in relation to the current supply of and demand for rugby pitches in Islington are as follows:

- o There are only two playing pitch sites in the borough with rugby pitches, The Honourable Artillery Company Sports Ground (a senior pitch) and at Paradise Park (2 undersized pitches used for regular RFU promoted Try Tag rugby sessions for all ages).
- o The lack of pitches in the borough mean club teams (University teams and HAC) and schools travel to pitches outside the borough to play and train (such as Finsbury Park, Plaistow, Dukes Meadows and Park Club Ealing). The HAC club runs two main senior open league teams playing at home on the single pitch on alternate Saturday afternoons in the season and an occasional third side often playing away. The club trains pre-season in Hyde Park and at the ground under training lights in season on Thursday evenings.
- o In 2017, The Rugby Football Union (RFU) adopted the following strategic objectives and policies for the administration and development of the game at all levels in England:
 - Protect - protecting everything that makes rugby in England special
 - Engage - engaging and inspiring new audiences
 - Grow - providing more participation through more opportunities for more people
 - Win - putting sustainable success at the heart of the professional game

In the area of community rugby facilities, the key aims articulated in the strategy relate to the themes of Protect and Grow:

Protect - To support clubs to protect themselves against risks to sustainability including in the area of facilities and their quality.

Grow - Improve player transition from age grade to adult 15-a-side rugby; increase female playing numbers; create a community 7-a-side offering that is social and fitness focused with reduced contact; improve access to rugby in non-traditional and urban areas; expand places to play through artificial grass pitches particularly in areas where grass pitches are significantly overused.

Sport England's Active People

The final Active People Survey 10 (Oct 2015 - Sept 2016) showed that, nationally, adult (16+) participation in rugby nationally grew by 0.02% over the previous 12 months. 0.46% of adults (16+) in England played rugby for at least 30 minutes once a week in 2015/16. In London, 0.42% of London's 16+ population participated in a minimum of 30 minutes of rugby at least once a month, slightly below the national average.

Sport England's Market Segmentation

Sport England’s Market Segmentation Tool estimates that 2,970 adults (16+) in Islington currently participate in rugby union. The Tool also estimates that 692 of the adult (16+) population would like to participate in more rugby union than they currently do.

6.15.3 Qualitative Assessment

Non-Technical Quality Assessment

Based on the non-technical quality assessments, the rugby pitches in Islington have been given a non-technical mean quality score.

Figure 6.72: Mean Quality Score – Rugby Pitches in Islington

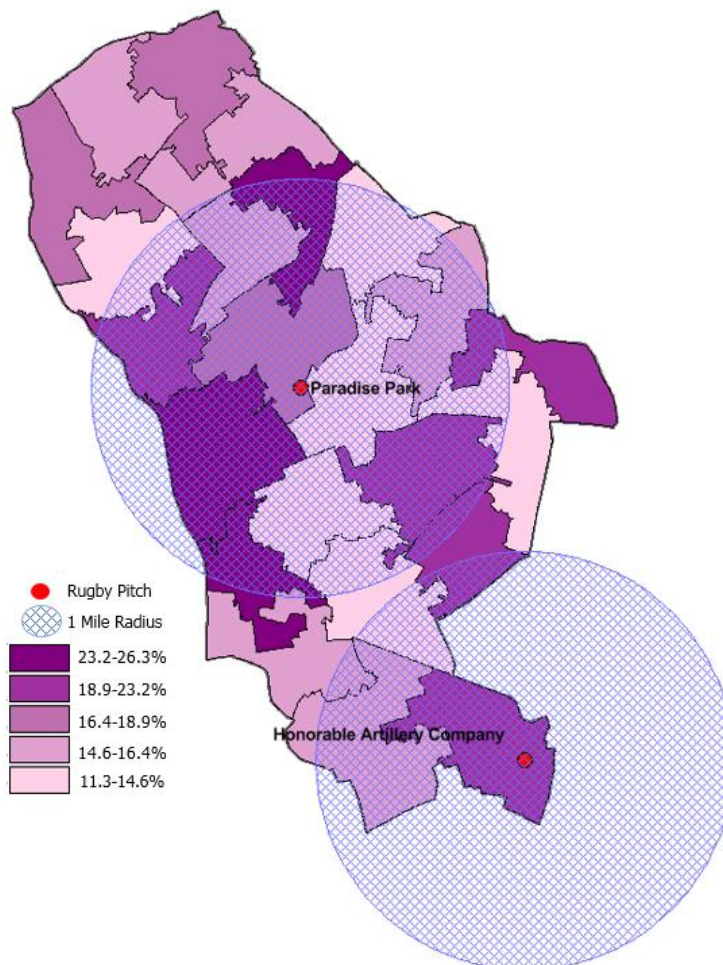
Facility Name	Mean Quality Score (out of 5)
Paradise Park	2
Honourable Artillery Company	Not audited

6.15.4 Accessibility Assessment

Figure 6.73 identifies 1 mile/20 minute walk-to catchments for rugby pitches within Islington. The map illustrates that the area most poorly served by rugby pitches is the northern parts of Islington.

Figure 6.73: Map of Rugby Pitches in Islington

London Borough of Islington: Rugby Pitches with Inactivity Rates



Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2017 / Contains Royal Mail data © Royal Mail copyright and Database right 2017

6.15.5 Local Needs and Consultation

The key findings of the consultation process relevant to rugby pitch provision in Islington are summarised below:

- In the context of the Grow the game objective, the RFU consider that the existing pitches at Paradise Park are in need of improvement. There is poor grass coverage and the touchline is located 1m from trees, posing a potential safety hazard.
- The RFU is also considering with SE and the FA the case for providing a rugby shock pad for a proposed 9v9 pitch at Barnard Park to provide a rugby compliant facility in the borough for training for clubs based in this part of London and for Try Tag Rugby. If provided, without compromising the quality of the pitch for the main football demand, this could potentially release the grass pitches used by Try Tag Rugby in Paradise Park to football.

6.15.6 Priorities and Standards for Rugby Pitches

The priorities below are set out in line with Sport England’s priorities for forward planning under the headings of protect, enhance and provide. Figure 6.74 below sets out the rugby pitch improvements and priorities for Islington.

Figure 6.74: Rugby Pitch Priorities & Improvement Recommendations

Protect	Enhance	Provide
Retain the existing level of grass rugby pitches across the borough.	Enhance rugby pitch provision in the borough by improving the existing facility at Paradise Park. Grass coverage is poor and there are potential health and safety hazards that need to be addressed regarding the proximity of the touchline to trees.	Any opportunities for additional provision in the borough should be explored.
<p>Prioritisation and Outline Investment Needs</p> <p>Short Term (1-3 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve the grass coverage and explore the possibility of reconfiguring the site to increase the run off areas between the touchline and trees along the edge of the site. 2. Consider the option to include a World Rugby compliant shock pad as part of the 3G development plans for the redgra pitch at Barnard Park and relocate the Try Tag Programme to this facility freeing up Paradise Park grass playing areas for football. <p>Medium Term (3-5 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consider the need for additional provision grass pitch provision with community access in relation to population growth at any new development sites in the borough. 2. Where possible, include Community Use Agreements as part of planning conditions for proposals for new facilities suitable for rugby (whether natural turf or WR compliant AGP) on education sites. <p>Longer Term (5 years+) As above</p>		
<p>Future Needs for Rugby Pitches</p> <p>TGR calculations forecast that there’ll be one additional adult rugby union team operating in the borough by 2036 (0.9 teams). This will exacerbate the current shortfall in provision.</p>		

6.16 Hockey Pitches

The summary below provides the **quantitative, qualitative and accessibility assessments** for Hockey Pitch provision within Islington alongside the leading outcomes from the consultation process which has informed this *Sports Facilities Update*. The priorities for hockey pitch provision are then provided at the end of this assessment.

Lack of **availability** of hockey competition compliant pitches in the borough limits potential to grow the game in the borough at the present time.

6.16.1 Quantitative Assessment

There is currently no supply of dedicated hockey pitches in the borough, as confirmed through consultation with Islington and England Hockey.

6.16.2 Supply and Demand Analysis

The key findings from Sport England's research tools in relation to the current supply of and demand for hockey pitches in Islington are as follows:

- All hockey activity by Islington residents, outside school PE hockey on small sand based AGPs and MUGAs, is exported to surrounding areas.
- Arsenal in the Community runs an introductory hockey programme with schools on sand AGPs and MUGAs.
- The nearest large hockey club to Islington is West Hampstead HC. They play at Whitefield School in Barnet. London Academicals HC play in Bermondsey.
- The Honourable Artillery Company based in the south of the borough runs an open hockey section as part of its sports association. The club currently has two teams; the Gunners (1XI) and the Sutlers (2X1), which play in Div' 3 and Div' 6 of the London Hockey League from late September through March with no weekly training. The club plays all its home matches on sand AGP pitches at James Allen's Girls' School ('JAGS') in Dulwich and in Battersea Park.

Sport England's Active People

The Active People Survey found that in 2015/06 0.22% of the adult population in England participate in hockey at least once a week whilst 0.33% take part at least once a month. There is no comparable data for London or Islington due to the size of the sample.

Sport England's Market Segmentation

Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool estimates that 572 adults (16+) in Islington currently participate in hockey. The Tool also estimates that 356 of the adult (16+) population would like to participate in more hockey than they currently do.

6.16.3 Local Needs and Consultation

The key findings of the consultation process relevant to hockey pitch provision in Islington are summarised below:

- England Hockey is not aware of any development programmes operating in Islington. There are a small number of schools that the NGB class as 'attached to hockey' but England Hockey are not aware of these schools having formal links with clubs.
- The NGB has no facility priorities in Islington currently as there are no compliant pitches or identified opportunities to provide any.
- England Hockey are reliant on grant funds to support any facility investment.
- The England Hockey Facilities Strategy produced in 2017 sets out the following national vision, mission and objectives.
 - Vision – For every hockey club in England to have appropriate and sustainable facilities that provide excellent experiences for players
 - Mission – More, better, happier players with access to appropriate and sustainable facilities.
 - There were three main objectives
 - Protect:* To conserve the existing hockey provision. There are currently over 800 pitches across England that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities).
 - Improve:* To improve the existing facilities stock. The current facility stock is ageing and there needs to be a strategic investment into refurbishing the pitches and ancillary facilities. There needs to be more support to clubs to obtain better agreements with facility providers and education around owning an asset.
 - Develop:* To strategically build new hockey facilities where there is an identified need and ability to deliver and maintain. This might include consolidating hockey provision in a local area where appropriate. EH research has identified key areas across the country where there is a lack of suitable hockey provision and a need for additional pitches. There is an identified need for multi pitches in the right places to consolidate hockey and allow clubs to have all their provision catered for at one site.

6.16.4 Priorities and Standards for Hockey Pitches

The priorities below are set out in line with Sport England’s priorities for forward planning under the headings of protect, enhance and provide. Figure 6.75 sets out the hockey pitch improvements and priorities for Islington.

Figure 6.75: Hockey Pitch Priorities & Improvement Recommendations

Protect	Enhance	Provide
No hockey provision in the borough	No hockey provision in the borough	Any suitable and appropriate opportunities for hockey provision in the borough should be explored. At present, Islington participants are using sites outside the borough boundary.
<p>Prioritisation and Outline Investment Needs</p> <p>Short Term (1-3 years) No hockey provision in the borough at present.</p> <p>Medium Term (3-5 years) 1. The potential for provision of an EH compliant sand based AGP should be explored where suitable and appropriate. This includes including community use agreements as part of the arrangement for future school facilities.</p> <p>Longer Term (5 years+) As above</p>		
<p>Future Needs for Hockey Pitches Given the lack of facility provision for hockey in the borough and the growth trend in the sport across London, particularly amongst women and girls, it will be important to seek to provide a hockey compliant AGP in future in Islington to meet latent and displaced demand. At the same time, it must be recognised that there are challenges, most notably a lack of available space and competing needs for more football compliant 3G AGP capacity.</p> <p>The only potential opportunity to provide a compliant hockey AGP is likely to be in association with any new or redeveloped secondary schools. In the event that space for a pitch is found in future on a school site, a Community Use Agreement will be required to secure community access for the long term.</p>		

6.17 Ice Rinks

The summary below provides the **quantitative, qualitative and accessibility assessments** for Ice Rink provision within Islington alongside the leading outcomes from the consultation process which has informed this *Sports Facilities Update*. The priorities for ice rink provision are then provided at the end of this assessment.

6.17.1 Quantitative Assessment

Figure 6.76 provides a list of the ice rinks within Islington which are publicly accessible.

Figure 6.76: Ice Rink provision in Islington

Facility Name	Access	Management
Sobell Leisure Centre	Pay and Play	Trust

6.17.2 Supply and Demand Analysis

The key findings from Sport England’s research tools in relation to the current supply of and demand for ice rinks in Islington are as follows:

- There is one ice rink in the borough, located at Sobell Leisure Centre, a GLL run facility.
- The rink was installed in 1970 and was refurbished in 2010. It measures 496m² and is open 7 days per week.
- The facility is used for weekly training by the University of London Dragons Ice Hockey Club.
- Analysis using Sport England’s Facilities Planning Model (FPM) and Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) is not available for ice rinks.

Sport England’s Active People

The Active People Survey found that in 2015/06 0.02% of the England 16+ population participated in a minimum of 30 minutes of ice skating at least once a week. This increased to 0.07% participating once a month. There are no comparable figures available for London or Islington.

Sport England’s Market Segmentation

There is no data for ice skating or ice hockey from Sport England’s market segmentation tool.

6.17.3 Qualitative Assessment

Non-Technical Quality Assessment

Based on the non-technical quality assessments (as described in the methodology earlier in the report), the ice rinks in Islington have been given a non-technical mean quality score.

Figure 6.77: Mean Quality Score – Ice Rinks in Islington

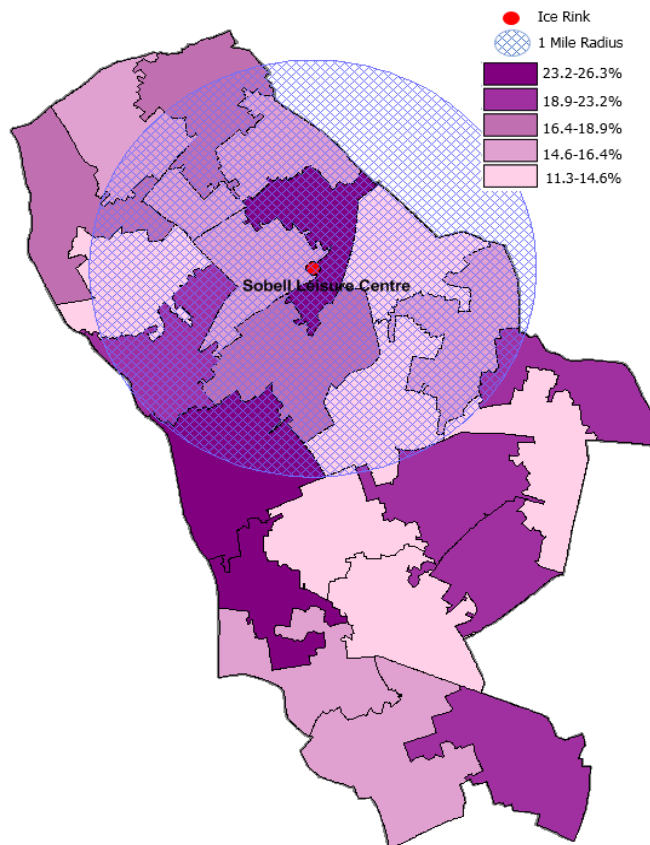
Facility Name	Mean Quality Score (out of 5)
Sobell Leisure Centre	3

6.17.4 Accessibility Assessment

Figure 6.78 identifies 1 mile/20 minute walk-to catchments for ice rinks within Islington. The map illustrates that the main catchment for provision is focused on the north-east of the borough with southern parts of Islington falling outside of this catchment. However, specialist facilities such as ice rinks generally draw from a much larger catchment area.

Figure 6.78: Map of Ice Rinks in Islington

London Borough of Islington: Ice Rinks with Inactivity Rates



Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2017 / Contains Royal Mail data © Royal Mail copyright and Database right 2017

6.17.5 Local Needs and Consultation

The key findings of the consultation process relevant to ice rink provision in Islington are summarised below:

- Neither The University of London Dragons Ice Hockey Club nor the English Ice Hockey Association engaged in the consultation process.

6.17.6 Priorities and Standards for Ice Rinks

The priorities below are set out in line with Sport England’s priorities for forward planning under the headings of protect, enhance and provide. Figure 6.79 below sets out the ice rink improvements and priorities for Islington.

Figure 6.79: Ice Rink Priorities & Improvement Recommendations

Protect	Enhance	Provide
Retain the existing level of ice rink provision in Islington.	While the rink is quite dated and its small size restricts its suitability for formal competitive ice sports, no specific enhancement requirements were identified in the audit.	There is no requirement for additional provision in the borough.
Prioritisation and Outline Investment Needs Short Term (1-3 years) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protect the facility for recreational activity focus aimed at young people complementing the new trampoline park. Medium Term (3-5 years) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhance the rink and plant as necessary to maintain a quality experience for customers. Longer Term (5 years+) As above.		
Future Needs for Ice Rinks As the rink and plant were upgraded in 2010, the short term needs for investment into the rink at Sobell are modest in order to maintain access for young people to have the opportunity to learn to skate and for recreational skating. The rink and plant refurbishment needs and needs for replacement of maintenance equipment should be reviewed regularly.		

6.18 Bowls

The summary below provides the **quantitative, qualitative and accessibility assessments** for bowls provision within Islington alongside the leading outcomes from the consultation process which has informed this *Sports Facilities Update*. The priorities for bowls provision are then provided at the end of this assessment.

6.18.1 Quantitative Assessment

Figure 6.80 provides a list of the Bowls facilities within Islington which are publicly accessible.

Figure 6.80: Bowls provision in Islington

Facility Name	Access	Management
Finsbury Square	Pay and Play	Local Authority

6.18.2 Supply and Demand Analysis

The key findings from Sport England’s research tools in relation to the current supply of and demand for bowls in Islington are as follows:

- There is one bowling green in Islington, based at Finsbury Square, a small central London park adjacent to a busy road near Moorgate station.
- The facility is a 6-rink grass bowling green. Bookings for the site can be made online on the same day of play.
- The facility is open 5 days a week (closed at weekends).
- Other facilities in neighbouring boroughs include City of London BC (in King Edward Memorial Park, Tower Hamlets), Parliament Hill BC (Camden) and Hornsey BC (Haringey).
- The nearest indoor rinks are in Bounds Green (3-rinks; LB Haringey), The Lawns David Lloyd (6-rinks; LB Enfield), Glebelands IBC (8-rinks; LB Barnet), and Paddington (6-rinks; Westminster).

Sport England's Active People

The Active People Survey found that in 2015/06 0.22% of the London population took part in some form of bowling at least once a week. This was lower than the England average of 0.51%. 0.37% of people in the country took part in Crown Green bowls once a week.

Sport England's Market Segmentation

Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool estimates that 805 adults (16+) in Islington currently participate in bowls. The Tool also estimates that 202 of the adult (16+) population would like to participate in more bowls than they currently do.

6.18.3 Qualitative Assessment

Non-Technical Quality Assessment

Based on the non-technical quality assessments, the bowling facility in Islington has been given a non-technical mean quality score.

Figure 6.81: Mean Quality Score – Bowls Provision in Islington

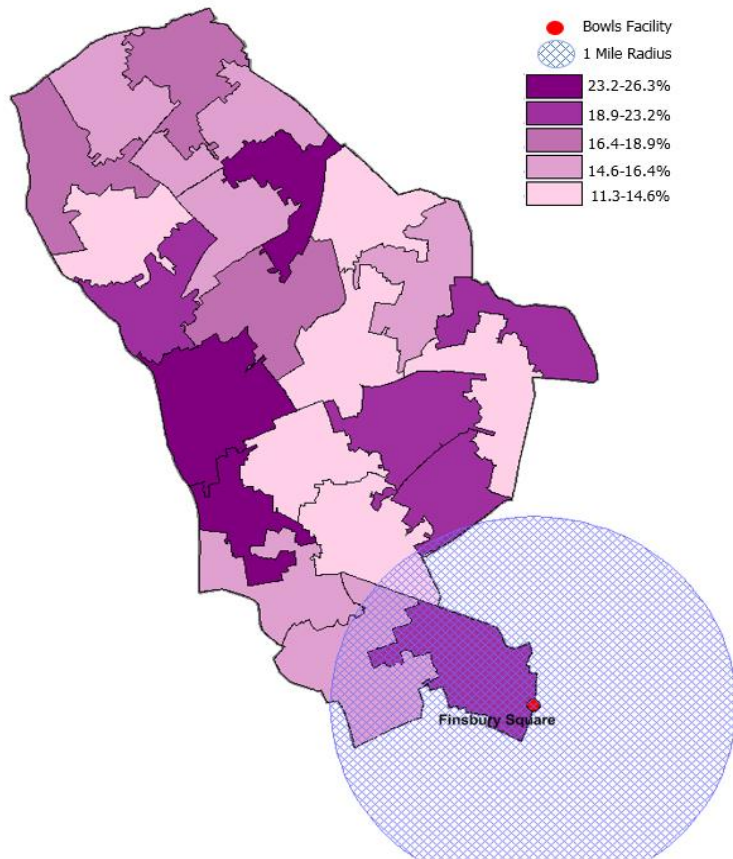
Facility Name	Mean Quality Score (out of 5)
Finsbury Square	3

6.18.4 Accessibility Assessment

Figure 6.82 identifies 1 mile/20 minute walk-to catchments for bowls provision within Islington. The map illustrates that the main catchment for the provision is focused on the south of the borough with central and northern parts of Islington falling outside of this catchment.

Figure 6.82: Map of Bowls Provision in Islington

London Borough of Islington: Bowls Facilities with Inactivity Rates



Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2017 / Contains Royal Mail data © Royal Mail copyright and Database right 2017

6.18.5 Local Needs and Consultation

The key findings of the consultation process relevant to bowls provision in Islington are summarised below:

- There are currently no affiliated bowls club in Islington Borough.
- Bowls England would like to see an affiliated bowls club at Finsbury Square subject to a green upgrade or conversion to an artificial surface.
- The installation of an artificial surface would appear to meet the needs of this site, particularly given the challenge of maintaining a natural grass surface to a good playing standard.

6.18.6 Priorities and Standards for Bowls

The priorities below are set out in line with Sport England’s priorities for forward planning under the headings of protect, enhance and provide. Figure 6.83 sets out the bowls improvements and priorities for Islington.

Figure 6.83: Bowls Priorities & Improvement Recommendations

Protect	Enhance	Provide
Retain the existing level of provision in Islington.	Improve the existing facility at Finsbury Square by installing an artificial surface.	There is no requirement for additional provision in the borough.
<p>Prioritisation and Outline Investment Needs</p> <p>Short Term (1-3 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with the Bowls England to discuss the improvements required at Finsbury Square. 2. Explore the potential for either improvements to the fine turf green or the installation of an artificial playing surface at Finsbury Square. <p>Medium Term (3-5 years) No further facility needs</p> <p>Longer Term (5 years+) As above</p>		
<p>Future Needs for Bowls Facilities</p> <p>Given the availability and accessibility of greens and clubs (including indoor rinks) in the neighbouring boroughs and the trend of declining demand for the sport, further provision is unlikely to be needed in the period of the Local Plan.</p>		

Section 7: Summary of Facility Needs & Priority Sites

This final section of the facility needs assessment update draws together the key findings by sports facility type based on the research, consultation and analysis detailed in the preceding sections and the appendices.

Facilities in need of protection from development, those in need of enhancement and needs for new facility provision to address gaps in supply are included to inform Islington Council's review of its Local Plan and policies for sport and recreation in accordance with the current national guidance methodology published by Sport England, *Assessing Needs & Opportunities for Indoor & Outdoor Sports Facilities* (ANOG) and the *Playing Pitch Strategy Guide*.

The key findings by sport table is followed by a list of projects/sites that have emerged from the needs assessment as priorities to be addressed by the council in partnership with other stakeholders in the short term, together with suggested next steps and potential sources for the necessary capital funding. These priorities are put forward as the basis for future strategic planning by relevant council services (i.e. Planning/Regeneration, Public Realm/Sport, Housing and Education) for their delivery and implementation.

In the case of most sports, and the playing pitch sports in particular, demand generated by Islington Borough residents is met by facility supply in neighbouring boroughs. In view of the high levels of exported demand, and the scarce availability of land in the borough for additional supply, it is strongly recommended that the Council and the relevant sports' national governing bodies should:

- Monitor access to facilities in neighbouring boroughs so Islington residents continue to have use of these facilities.
- Work closely with neighbouring Council's to ensure that Islington's existing and future exported demand is accommodated.

London Borough of Islington Sports Facilities Update 2018
Final Report

Figure 7.1 Facility Needs by Sport Facility Type

Sport Facility	Protect	Enhance	Provide
Swimming Pools	<p>Protect the existing quantity of supply of swimming pool provision across Islington as a minimum. <i>(including the Highbury Leisure Centre pools currently closed pending repair following fire damage).</i></p> <p>Ensure that the per capita swimming pool supply does not fall below 13m² of water space per 1,000 of the population.</p>	<p>Enhance the quality of the swimming pool provision within the borough as well as accessibility for the community at school based pools and promotion of this availability.</p> <p>Priority sites to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Holloway School plant (subject to technical report findings). ○ Cally Pools (as part of larger regeneration proposals for the Cally area) ○ Cosmetic upgrades to the pool tiles at Archway Leisure Centre subject to detailed assessment. 	<p>Regularly review needs with Sport England and Swim England in relation to changes in supply and population growth in the borough and neighbouring boroughs.</p>
Sports & Activity Halls	<p>Protect the existing quantity of supply of sports hall provision across Islington at a minimum.</p> <p>Ensure that the per capita sports hall supply does not fall below 2.80 courts per 10,000 of the population.</p>	<p>Enhance the quality of the sports hall provision within the borough's leading schools, as well as protect and enhance accessibility at affordable rates for sports clubs and groups and promotion of this availability.</p> <p>Priority sites to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Central Foundation School (if feasible, expand on school's current plans to provide a 3-court hall) ○ Highbury Fields School ○ St Aloysius College (options at this site or others to secure more affordable access for Panthers Basketball) 	<p>Replacement Sports Hall to be provided at Finsbury Leisure Centre (6 courts to meet Sport England and England Netball specifications for club level competition level) and consider potential for club basketball (e.g. Panthers satellite).</p> <p>Include Community Use Agreements as part of planning conditions for any new or extended education sports halls as part of new schools or school expansions to accommodate forecasted population growth.</p> <p>Work towards a target of 3.00 courts per 10,000 (the current London average).</p>
Health & Fitness Suites	<p>Protect the existing quantity of supply of health and fitness provision at all GLL run Leisure Centres <i>(including at Highbury Leisure Centre temporarily closed following a fire)</i> and, through the leisure management contract terms and programming and pricing policies, protect pay-and-play access at affordable rates.</p>	<p>Review with community management organisations the enhancement needs of gyms where these are provided in community centres and tenant halls on housing estates with a view to improving the quality and provide programmes to attract inactive or insufficiently active local residents. Improve the accessibility of facilities on school sites for the community and the promotion of this availability.</p>	<p>Consider options to provide additional outdoor gyms where appropriate.</p> <p>Support the leisure operator to enhance/re-model existing leisure centre fitness facilities in response to market trends and ensure that new provision in the replacement Finsbury Leisure Centre is appropriately designed to appeal to the widest possible market.</p>
Tennis Courts	<p>Protect the existing quantity of supply of indoor provision at the Islington Tennis Centre (ITC) as a minimum, and of outdoor courts with community access and availability.</p>	<p>Work with GLL and the LTA to assess the resurfacing requirements of the indoor courts and programme works for off peak summer months (or over a Christmas/New Year closure) to minimise impact.</p>	<p>Consider options for covering outdoor courts or otherwise expanding indoor court provision at ITC</p>
Squash Courts	<p>Protect the existing quantity of supply of 14 community squash courts.</p>	<p>Maintain an average quality score of 4 out of 5 for squash facilities. Support the enhancement proposals of the Coolhurst club in Haringey serving the north Islington catchment area.</p>	<p>Ensure that 4 courts in the existing Finsbury Leisure Centre are replaced to a high quality in the proposed new Centre.</p> <p>No additional squash courts are required.</p>

London Borough of Islington Sports Facilities Update 2018
Final Report

Sport Facility	Protect	Enhance	Provide
Boxing Rinks	Protect the existing quantity of supply of dedicated boxing provision.	Upgrade, or ideally replace, the Islington BC facilities.	No additional boxing rink provision is required.
Martial Arts	Protect the existing quantity of supply of martial arts provision across the borough. Ensure that the existing supply at leisure centre and school sites across the borough is maintained.	Review the enhancement needs of facilities with community organisations with a view to improving the quality and providing more programmes tailored to attract inactive or insufficiently active local residents.	Consider options to provide additional provision in the north of the borough and the potential to incorporate a dedicated dojo within an enhanced facility for boxing (see above).
Gymnastics Facilities	Protect the existing quantity of supply of gymnastics provision across the borough in schools and community centres as a minimum.	Assess improvements required to Elizabeth Garret Anderson School hall and Jacksons Lane CC (with British Gymnastics, Calypso GC and Islington & Hampstead GC) to facilitate expansion of the clubs' programmes and capacities to reduce waiting lists.	Investigate with British Gymnastics any opportunities for a dedicated gymnastics centre as part of future site opportunities in liaison with the borough-based Calypso GC and the Islington & Hampstead GC part-based in Islington.
MUGAs & Ball Courts	Protect the existing quantity of supply of MUGAs and Ball Courts across the borough as a minimum.	Enhance MUGA and Ball Court provision in the borough with priority given to sites at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Barnard Park o McCall and Hollins House o Milner Square 	Prioritise the resolution of planning concerns impacting upon the replacement of the existing Ball Court at Mitchison Baxter Park with a new MUGA. Provide a new MUGA at Zoffany Park to replace existing stock on Elthorne estate.
Football Pitches	Protect the existing quantity of supply of grass football pitches across the borough as a minimum.	Enhance football pitch provision in the borough with priority given to Tufnell Park pitches which are struggling to meet existing demand by considering the feasibility of introducing reinforced grass to increase playing capacity (subject to monitoring performance of trial in The Regent's Park).	To alleviate demand on existing provision, any opportunities to increase the number of pitches available for community use should be taken. Where possible, include Community Use Agreements as part of conditions for any playing fields planned at new or reconfigured schools.
Artificial Grass Pitches	Protect the existing quantity of supply of AGPs across the borough as a minimum with no reduction in the number of full size or small-sided pitches. Increase availability of the Highbury Fields, Paradise Park and Rosemary Gardens pitches by extending opening hours from 9pm to 10pm to be consistent with other park sites.	Continue to enhance AGP provision in the borough with priority given to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o City of London Academy – storage for goals o Highbury Fields Courts & Pitches – upgrade o Holloway School – upgrade o Islington Arts and Media School – upgrade o Peel Centre – replace damaged goals Also improve accessibility to provision on school sites for the community and promotion of this availability.	Where possible, include Community Use Agreements as part of conditions for new AGPs at school sites in the borough. Provide ancillary facilities at Highbury Fields. One additional FA compliant full size 3G AGP is required in the borough to meet current demand to enable each team to train on 3G. Between one and two further FA compliant full size 3G AGPs will be required over the local plan period to provide for new football teams that are likely to be generated by forecast population growth to 2036.
Cricket Pitches	Protect the existing quantity of supply of cricket pitches in the borough as a minimum.	Enhance existing provision by resurfacing the playing pitch at Wray Crescent and providing a new pavilion or clubroom for users.	If future provision is to be considered in the borough, the central area is currently the most in need of access to cricket pitches.

London Borough of Islington Sports Facilities Update 2018
Final Report

Sport Facility	Protect	Enhance	Provide
Rugby Pitches	Protect the existing quantity of supply of rugby pitches in the borough as a minimum.	Enhance rugby pitch provision in the borough by improving the existing facility at Paradise Park. Grass coverage is poor and there are potential health and safety hazards that need to be addressed regarding the proximity of the touchline to trees.	Any opportunities for additional provision in the borough should be explored.
Hockey Pitches	n/a	n/a	Any suitable and appropriate opportunities for hockey provision in the borough should be explored. At present, Islington participants are using sites outside the borough boundary.
Ice Rinks	Protect the existing quantity of supply of ice rink provision in Islington.	While the Sobell rink is quite dated, and its small size restricts its suitability for formal competitive ice sports, no specific enhancement requirements were identified in the audit.	There is no requirement for additional provision in the borough.
Bowling Greens	Protect the existing quantity of supply of greens.	Improve the existing facility at Finsbury Square by installing an artificial surface.	There is no requirement for additional provision.
Cycle Tracks	n/a	n/a	Explore opportunities with British Cycling, Islington Cycling Club and other partners to provide a permanent traffic free cycling oval track facility on a suitable park site in the borough with onsite management presence and ancillary facilities available. Also, consider opportunity sites to host cycling events (e.g. grass track racing or cyclo cross).
Water Sports Centres	Protect the existing quantity of supply.	Review the Islington Boat Club layout and spatial needs of the user groups with a view to improving its fitness for purpose and sustainability.	There is no requirement for additional provision.
Athletics Facilities	n/a	Replace the pavilion and changing rooms at Finsbury Park in partnership with the Finsbury Park Sports Partnership, England Athletics and Haringey Council.	The area has a number of large road-running clubs. Consider opportunities to provide and promote well-lit paved routes in the borough.
Netball Courts	Protect the existing quantity of supply and maintain low-cost access to outdoor courts for social leagues and drop in sessions.	n/a	Ensure the plans for replacement of the Finsbury Sports Centre sports hall provide for the sport (6 courts to meet Sport England and England Netball specifications for club competition level).

Figure 7.2 Priority Projects

London Borough of Islington Sports Facilities Update 2018
Final Report

Sports Facilities Site	Proposed Development	Context / Next Stages	Funding and Financing
Finsbury Leisure Centre	Replacement with new Sports Centre with same facility mix and enhanced quality of provision to include 6-court sports hall in line with specifications for district league netball and suitable for basketball national league games.	Planning - Late 2018 Project Development Phase Early 2019	Potential Developer Agreement GLL / Leisure Contractor Sport England LB Islington Capital
Cally Pools	Replacement with new Swimming Pool – re-provision of 6-lane district competition pool as minimum plus enhanced health and fitness offer that is attractive and accessible to the local resident community.	Finalise regeneration plans for the site and consider alternative sites in area for replacement pool (e.g. Market Road).	Funded as part of regeneration plans for the area.
Holloway School	Pool plant upgrade / energy efficiency measures.	Commission pool plant engineers to assess and report on options and costs including projected payback period.	LBI/GLL
Central Foundation School	Expand school's current plans to provide a 3-court sports hall in the basement to a 4-court hall with a Community Use Agreement.	Commission feasibility study <i>(NB. project may not be feasible due to site constraints)</i> .	LBI
Highbury Fields School	Major refurbishment of existing sports hall on site linked to a new Community Use Agreement.	Commission feasibility study.	LBI
Islington Tennis Centre	Resurface indoor courts Expand provision on site for year-round tennis.	Assess needs and costs with LTA and seek quotations. Commission feasibility study for options - additional courts or cover existing 2 outdoor courts (taking into account Cally Pools site options review above).	LTA/SE GLL/Leisure Contractor LBI
Islington Boxing Club	Major upgrade or replacement on current or alternative site. Combine with a Martial Arts Centre for the borough with a permanent dojo.	Commission feasibility study.	England Boxing/ SE IBC LBI LMCT
Highbury Fields	Complete tennis court resurfacing. Re-orientate existing 3G MUGA and provide an addition MUGA to FA Approved standard for 5v5. Provide a new pavilion to replace derelict building on site.	Planning (MOL) Planning (MOL)	LTA LBI / FF SE
Finsbury Park (LB Haringey)	Upgrade tennis courts Replace athletics pavilion/changing rooms	Funding applications	Finsbury Park Partnership LTA, EA LBH/LBI LMCT
To be identified - Gymnastics	Dedicated gymnastics facility for Islington.	Investigate with British Gymnastics and Calypso GC the opportunities to provide a dedicated offer to incorporate all club activity at one site. Working also with the Hampstead Club who also serve Islington residents and any expansion plans they have. Opportunities to be investigated at either current sites (EGA and Jacksons Lane) or new provision.	British Gymnastics (Sporting Assets low-cost loans planned for introduction in 2019/20).
Various - Community Halls (on estates and in	Minor upgrades and revised layouts to facilitate sports programming (fitness activities, martial arts, table tennis	Detailed audit of community centres to identify leading opportunities at low cost.	LBI S106 / CIL or re-provision

London Borough of Islington Sports Facilities Update 2018
Final Report

Sports Facilities Site	Proposed Development	Context / Next Stages	Funding and Financing
other settings)	etc.).	Where regeneration plans have an impact on future provision of community sport in these venues, the re-provision of these spaces and facilities needs to be considered in future development plans. Particular consideration to be given to the size and specification of indoor space to facilitate programming of sport and active recreation.	within future plans
Various - MUGAs (on estates and in other settings)	Upgrade existing MUGAs at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Barnard Park o McCall and Hollins House o Milner Square Provide new MUGAs at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Zoffany Park o Mitchison Baxter Park 	Where regeneration plans have an impact on future provision of MUGAs, re-provision needs to be considered in future development plans with particular consideration given to the appropriate size and specification to facilitate programming and use for older teenagers (e.g. 9v9 size where feasible).	LBI S106 / CIL or re-provision within future plans
Tufnell Park	Improve football pitch quality / playing capacity	Monitor performance of reinforced grass trial at The Regent's Park and assess options for Tufnell Park.	FA /FF LBI
Wray Crescent	Resurface non-turf cricket pitch Provide small pavilion with WCs to replace storage container	Commission feasibility study	Middlesex Cricket Board ECB / SE / LBI / LMCT
Barnard Park	Install 9v9 3G floodlit pitch in place of redgra and WCs to serve park users Consider option to install rugby shockpad to facilitate shared use for football and rugby training/ TAG	Planning	FA /FF / LBI RFU
Paradise Park	Enhance TAG rugby pitches or replace as football pitches if TAG accommodated at Barnard Park (see above).	RFU pitch quality assessment and recommendations	RFU LBI
Finsbury Square	Enhance quality of bowls green or replace fine turf with artificial surface	Detailed feasibility study	LBI
St Aloysius College (LB Haringey)	Provide 3G pitch to FA approved specifications	Commission Feasibility Study <i>(NB. only if can be accommodated without impacting on the cricket provision at the site)</i>	LBI School
Caledonian Park	A permanent cycle track (e.g. 250 concrete oval or 90m cycle speedway)	Assess feasibility and consider alternative parks if not suitable.	LBI Islington Cycle Club British Cycling

Section 8: Conclusion

This is a time of change and opportunity in Islington. The impending publication of a new Local Plan will shape how the borough will develop over the coming decades to address the challenges of housing needs, employment opportunities, the role of town centres and the need for community facilities and infrastructure that promote health and wellbeing. This comprehensive assessment and update of sports facility needs, last undertaken in 2009, is timely and the findings reflect changes in patterns of supply and demand for sport in the borough over the last nine years or so identified through consultation with the local community, partners and stakeholders.

Growth in the resident population and in the numbers of people travelling into the borough to work is forecast to continue over the new Local Plan period. Long-term population projections released by the GLA predict that Islington's population will increase from 222,890 in 2016 to 254,430 in 2041. Alongside growth in the resident population, it is projected that new employment opportunities will create a further 50,500 new jobs over the next 20 years further increasing the numbers of people in the borough each day.

This growth in demand needs to be taken into account in planning for community infrastructure requirements but creates particular challenges. The economic success of Islington creates demand on land for development in what is the second smallest borough in London and the third smallest district in England.

The borough also faces challenges relating to health and physical inactivity. Although average participation levels in sport and physical activity in Islington are higher than in most of its neighbours reflecting the borough's relative prosperity, there are a number of social housing estates located throughout the borough where high inactivity levels and health inequalities remain a real challenge.

The Council has a strong and long-held strategic vision for sport and physical activity as a driver of improved public health outcomes in the areas of greatest need. This vision is reflected in the *Pro Active* partnership model approach adopted some years ago (in close partnership with neighbours Camden Council) and the development of a Physical Activity Needs Assessment and Strategy with a focus on sport participation as a driver of public health outcomes. This model aligns closely with Sport England's *strategic vision model* for sports facilities and services to achieve local evidence-based priorities.

Research and consultation carried out in parallel to this facility needs update confirmed that real challenges remain in relation to under-represented groups with regard to participation in physical activity and sport particularly among residents living in the borough's social housing estates many of whom are either being priced out of physical activity or simply do not have it on their radar. Stakeholders working to address these challenges in Islington - both within the Council itself and in external community development organisations in the sports sector such as Access to Sport and Arsenal in the Community - all recognise that to address this challenge the future offer of sports facilities and services needs to be both more affordable and more accessible to these communities.

Through the consultation and research carried out for this facility needs assessment, it is evident that the priorities identified throughout will contribute directly to the strategic aims of Islington Council and key partner organisations for sport through increasing opportunities to be active, and reducing health inequalities by developing long term sustainable community approaches that enable residents to build physical activity into the fabric of their everyday lives.

This Needs Assessment has identified priority investment opportunities as the basis for future strategic planning by relevant council services (i.e. Planning/Regeneration, Public Realm/Sport, Housing and Education) and external partners for their delivery and implementation at a local level. Delivery of the identified facility needs, informed by the findings of the updated Physical Activity Needs Assessment for the borough, will support a sustained increase in participation in sport and physical activity in Islington borough with focus on communities of greatest need in accordance with the Council's strategic vision for sport.

London Borough of Islington Sports Facilities Update 2018
Final Report



Determination
1

CONTINUUM
SPORT & LEISURE LTD