

BRIGHTON & HOVE INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES PLAN 2012-22



**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

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BRIGHTON AND HOVE INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES PLAN 2012-22

I INTRODUCTION

I.1 Key Aim and Purpose

The key aim of the Sports Facilities Plan 2012-22 is to improve the overall supply, quality and accessibility of sports facilities in Brighton and Hove to meet the current and future demands of residents. It is expected to improve both participation and satisfaction levels, whilst assisting the council in achieving a number of the outcomes identified in the Corporate Plan 2011-15, particularly in the field of engaging people in sport and physical activity and improving health and well being.

The purpose of this Sports Facilities Plan is to provide a framework which underpins decisions about the future development of sports facilities in Brighton & Hove. The Plan has assessed the quantity and quality of the current provision of sports facilities in the city and examined the current and projected demand. From this assessment, a set of priorities are identified together with recommendations to help meet them.

The Sports Facilities Plan 2012-22 has:

- Identified current supply and demand issues
- Identified key priorities for sports facility provision in the city over the coming years
- Identified options for increasing or improving sports facility provision where required

In doing so the Sports Facilities Plan 2012-22 will:

- Inform strategic planning for sports facilities in Brighton & Hove over the next ten years
- Inform planning policy through the City Plan
- Inform the review of the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy and contribute to its delivery

I.2 Need

Data from Sport England's Active People survey which measures levels of sports participation shows that Brighton & Hove are in the top 25% nationally but satisfaction with local sports facility provision is in the bottom 25%. This indicates that the expectations of residents are not currently being met.

In order to try and redress this position, a strategic approach to sports facility provision over the next ten years is required. The Sports Facilities Plan 2012-22 is designed to provide the council with such an approach. Importantly, the Plan will increase the chances of obtaining external funding through bodies such as Sport England and sports national governing bodies. These organisations require the applicant to have a long-term facilities plan and that the funding application, if successful, will help meet specific priorities identified within it. The Plan will also provide city planners with an evidence-based assessment of current and future needs

to refer to when considering future developments and potential developer contributions.

1.3 Scope

The Sports Facilities Plan focuses on facilities which make a significant contribution to community provision. It concentrates primarily upon indoor facilities with an assessment of the following activity areas:

- Swimming Pools
- Sports Halls
- Health & Fitness Suites (including Exercise/Dance Studios)
- Squash Courts
- Indoor Tennis
- Indoor Bowls

It will also assess provision of the following outdoor activity areas as they form a key part of the council's own provision and are attached to indoor facilities:

- Artificial Turf Pitches
- Athletics Tracks

The Plan does not include outdoor sports facilities such as football and cricket pitches, multi-use games areas, bowling greens, golf courses and outdoor tennis courts as this would require a separate detailed analysis. Also, outdoor sports are generally considered to be reasonably well catered for in the city and so the priority at this stage is to focus upon indoor facilities.

The Sports Facilities Plan is for a ten year period. This is in recognition of the fact that each of the proposed recommendations will require considerable work in terms of assessing feasibility. The Plan should not be considered a 'wish list' of improvements and there is a clear need to place it within the context of the council's financial position and available resources. Rather it is a set of recommendations which are founded upon evidence-based priorities and which strike a necessary balance between realism and aspiration.

1.4 Methodology

In formulating the Sports Facilities Plan 2012-22 officers have used a combination of public consultation, facility audits, desk-based assessments, benchmarking and previous studies.

A consultation process was undertaken between December 2011 and February 2012 which was designed to address two key questions. Firstly, what do people think about existing sports facilities in the city and secondly, what do people think should be the priorities for any future development of sports facilities in the city.

This process included an electronic survey hosted on the council's online consultation portal which was backed up by paper copies of the survey which were distributed throughout the council's sports facilities. The survey was also available to

complete on a mobile touch screen device which was located in different facilities during the consultation period.

In addition to the survey outlined above, specific surveys were sent to 404 sports clubs listed on the council's Active For Life database. Again, these were designed to provide feedback on the quality of the facilities that their club uses and whether these facilities are able to meet the current and future development needs of the club. A further survey was sent to managers of sports facilities in the city to provide feedback. It asked the same questions regarding the quality of facilities but also asked specific questions relating to customer feedback and where the facilities are able or not able to meet demand.

Finally, surveys were sent to key stakeholders who are involved in the delivery of sport in the city. This included secondary schools, sports national governing bodies, the County Sport Partnership, NHS Brighton and Hove, Freedom Leisure, Albion in the Community and a number of council services including Sports Development and the Active for Life team.

A total of 873 responses to the consultation were received.

Desk based assessments were undertaken using two Sport England tools designed to help develop a profile of sports facilities in a given location. Firstly, the Active Places tool which was used to identify the quantity and location of community sports facilities in the city. Secondly, the Sports Facilities Calculator which assesses the quantity of community sports facilities that are required to meet local demand. This provided a useful way of measuring how the facilities in Brighton and Hove match up against an industry standard benchmark.

This Sports Facilities Plan is not the first such study to have been undertaken in Brighton and Hove. The council commissioned PMP Consultancy to undertake an Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study in 2007 which included an assessment of indoor sports facility provision. The council also undertook an audit of sports facilities in the city in 2008 which assessed the overall level and quality of the city's provision and identified any weaknesses or gaps in provision to be considered as part of the Council's future strategic planning. The base data from this audit was reviewed and updated where appropriate and used in this Sports Facilities Plan.

In assessing the level of sports facility provision in the city, we have undertaken a benchmarking exercise to see how Brighton and Hove compares to other cities. Southampton, Portsmouth and Plymouth were selected on the basis that they are of similar size in terms of population and are in coastal locations. A more local comparison has also been made with Crawley, Burgess Hill, Horsham and Worthing. This has proved to be an interesting process and has highlighted how other authorities have continued to develop sports facilities over the last 20 years whereas Brighton and Hove has undertaken no substantial new developments.

More details on the findings of the previous studies noted above are provided in Section 2. Section 3 then provides the main body of evidence including the results of the consultation, desk-based assessments and benchmarking. Finally, Section 4 provides a set of recommendations designed to help meet the identified priorities

together with an action plan explaining how each of these recommendations is to be achieved.

BRIGHTON AND HOVE INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES PLAN 2012-22

2 REVIEW OF PREVIOUS STUDIES

2.1 Introduction

This Sports Facilities Plan takes account of two previous studies which looked at sports facilities provision in Brighton & Hove. It builds upon these works by reviewing their conclusions and recommendations and asks whether they are still relevant today. It also assesses what has changed in terms of provision since they were written and what impact these changes have had.

2.2 Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study – PMP Consultancy

In May 2007, PMP Consultancy were appointed by the council to undertake an Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study which included an assessment of indoor and outdoor sports facilities in Brighton & Hove.

The purpose of the study was to provide a comprehensive assessment of the open space, sports and recreational facilities within the city and recommend open space standards and future strategic options. It was one of five background studies approved at the Environment Cabinet Member Meeting on 30 July 2009 as supporting evidence for the Core Strategy and other appropriate Development Plan documents and council strategies.

In undertaking the study, PMP employed a combination of desk-based research, demographic analysis, site visits and consultation with residents and clubs. Below is a summary of their findings.

- Data from Sport England's Active People survey which measures participation shows that participation levels in Brighton & Hove are in the top 25% nationally but satisfaction with local sports facility provision is in the bottom 25%. This indicates that the expectations of residents are not currently being met.
- The public consultation highlighted a number of concerns including a lack of swimming pools, an undersupply of sports halls and a view that Brighton & Hove has poor quality facilities compared to neighbouring authorities such as Crawley, Horsham and Burgess Hill. The quality of ancillary facilities, particularly changing areas in public sports centres was also considered to be poor. There was a need for more affordable provision and demand for alternative/additional indoor facilities including an ice rink, climbing walls and tenpin bowling.
- By using Sport England's Facilities Planning Model, PMP calculated the level of demand in Brighton & Hove for swimming pools, sports halls and health & fitness centres. The results of demand vs supply are shown in the table below:

Activity Area	Requirement for 2006 population	Actual provision	Shortfall
Swimming Pools	2553 sqm	1133 sqm	1420 sqm
Sports Halls	74 courts	26 courts	48 courts

From its analyses, the PMP study formulated the following recommendations for indoor sports facilities. It should be noted that the PMP study was undertaken when the Karis/ING redevelopment of the King Alfred site was still a live project and so these recommendations were made on the assumption that a new King Alfred was to be delivered.

- The Council should explore the possibility of increasing the stock of available public pools to meet the shortfall via new provision and increasing community use of school pools, subject to a detailed review of all facilities, a needs assessment and analysis of current usage.
- The Council should explore the possibility of increasing the stock of sports hall space to meet the shortfall, subject to a detailed review of all facilities, a needs assessment and analysis of current usage.
- The Council should aim to provide at least one multi-sports wet/dry leisure centre to cater for the undersupply of swimming pool space and sports halls, in addition to the King Alfred redevelopment.
- There is no immediate need for additional bowls provision, provided that the current number of rinks, particularly at the King Alfred Leisure Centre, is maintained.
- The Council should aim to support the delivery of a commercially-operated rink to satisfy demand for an indoor arena and ice rink.
- We do not consider that the Council needs to prioritise the future funding and delivery of additional indoor tennis facilities.
- It is recommended that all new sports facilities should have a sinking fund to ensure that the necessary allowance for on-going maintenance and replacement is made. Any potential S106 contributions should be calculated in accordance with this.
- Appropriate measures should be taken to ensure that indoor sports facilities are accessible on foot, as well as by cycle and the public transport system.

2.3 **Sports Facilities Audit**

Brighton and Hove City Council conducted an audit of sports facilities in the city, the findings of which were presented to the Culture, Tourism and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee in November 2008. The main objectives of the study were to:

- Collect basic information about sports facilities in the city – what they provide, who operates them etc.
- Assess the overall level and quality of the city's provision
- Identify any weaknesses or gaps in provision which should be considered as part of the Council's future strategic planning

The audit collected a substantial amount of information about the quantity and quality of sports facility provision in Brighton & Hove and arrived at the following conclusions.

- Although the total number of sports facilities appeared high, many are not purpose designed (community centres, church halls).
- A comparison with three other south coast cities of similar size (Plymouth, Southampton and Portsmouth) showed that Brighton & Hove had fewer facilities than all of them.
- Many of the facilities are old, many are not purpose built and many do not have high levels of public access.
- The city lacks major, high profile, modern facilities.
- The city lacks specialist sports facilities which could form the focus of a major sports development programme. Portsmouth, by comparison, has a gymnastics centre, martial arts centre, cycle velodrome as well as a major indoor sports centre.

It was noted at the time that some of these issues were being addressed through projects which would begin to 'transform the pattern of sports facility provision'. These included the proposed ice rink at Black Rock, the new Amex Community Stadium and the new King Alfred Sports Centre in Hove. However, since that time, only one of these projects has been achieved (Amex stadium) and so there remains a lack of high profile or specialist facilities in the city.

In terms of strategically planning the future of sports facility development in the city, the audit recommended that the following issues should be given priority:

- Full implementation of proposals for Falmer Stadium, Black Rock Ice Rink and King Alfred Sports Centre
- The need for a purpose built gymnastics hall and a purpose built martial arts dojo
- Increasing club and public access to school facilities
- A programme of converting more tarmac tennis courts to acrylic/artificial grass surfaces

- Taking every opportunity to provide and/ or increase access to sports facilities for under 11's

Support for a new much larger King Alfred Leisure Centre was perceived as a solution to a number of issues which had earlier been identified through a major consultation and research exercise in 2001. The Audit revealed that these were still unresolved. They were

- A shortage of purpose built studio space to provide for workout and dance classes
- Supply of fitness gym space not meeting demand
- No major sports hall provision
- Need for a purpose designed competitive swimming pool and additional pool capacity

In creating a long term sports facilities plan for the city, all of the above aspirations are still valid.

Update on Sports Facilities Audit

It has not been possible to completely update the Sports Facilities Audit from 2008 but most of its data is still valid. Very little progress has been made in meeting its priorities. The most significant developments have been

- Amex Community Stadium – new £93 million 22,000 capacity stadium, home to Brighton & Hove Albion FC, opened in August 2011.
- Sussex County Cricket Club - new stands, hospitality, media and training facilities, opened Spring 2011.
- University of Brighton Sports Centre - new £9 million centre in Falmer opened in October 2010. Includes a 6-court sports hall, fitness suite, exercise studios, 3G artificial turf pitch, grass football and rugby pitches, 8 tennis courts.
- St Luke's Swimming Pool – £320,000 refurbishment of pool hall, changing rooms and reception area in summer 2010.
- King Alfred Leisure Centre – installation of new fitness suite in redundant café area at a cost of £450,000, opened January 2011.

Other significant developments currently under construction include

- Blatchington Mill School – two new artificial grass pitches are due to be completed in Summer 2012. The majority of use will be taken up by Brighton and Hove Hockey Club but there will be a small amount of community use.

Although these developments have improved the quality and quantity of sports facilities they have not fundamentally changed the conclusions and priorities identified by the Sports Facilities Audit as shown above, apart from the opening of the Amex Community Stadium.

2.4 Conclusion

The two previous studies outlined above involved extensive research into the quantity and quality of sports facilities in Brighton and Hove. For this reason they provide extremely useful background information and base data for the council's new Sports Facilities Plan. What is evident from the above review is that these studies have both identified broadly the same gaps in provision and are consistent with each other in terms of conclusions.

BRIGHTON AND HOVE INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES PLAN 2012-22

3 FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

3.1 Introduction

This section provides an analysis of current sports facility provision within the city, assesses how effectively it meets the needs of users and makes a series of comparisons to establish where Brighton and Hove is positioned in terms of the quantity, range and quality of its sports facilities.

Two significant exercises underpin this analysis.

Firstly, the 2007/08 audit of all sports facilities in the city (see Section 2) has been updated where necessary and offers a detailed view of the total provision of each type of facility across all types of provider including the council, private sector and educational establishments.

Secondly, a programme of consultation was carried out between December 2011 and February 2012 which consisted of a questionnaire available through the council's online consultation portal, hard-copy and touch screen questionnaires in council facilities and specific feedback from sports clubs, leisure centre managers and other stakeholders in local sports provision.

Use has also been made of Sport England resources which offer an extensive national database of local authority and other sports facilities.

3.2 Current Council and Other Community Provision

The Sports Facilities Plan focuses mainly on council provided facilities but does take account of other relevant provision when making recommendations. A brief summary of the Council's current facility portfolio is set out below.

King Alfred Leisure Centre

The original centre was opened in 1939 and included 2 swimming pools, a ballroom and some outdoor provision. The centre was expanded in 1983 with the addition of a new pool complex with ancillary facilities and the conversion of the old pool areas into 2 permanent sports halls. In 1986 a waterslide complex was added but has since been removed and in 2011 the redundant café area, adjacent to reception was converted into a fitness suite.

The current facility has a 25m six lane main pool, a lagoon/leisure pool, teaching pool, 2 sports halls, an indoor bowls hall, studio/multipurpose room, ballroom and fitness suite with associated spinning studio. The building also incorporates a number of leased areas including Cheetahs Gym, 3 boxing gyms, offices and therapy rooms.

Since 1999 there have been two high profile proposals to redevelop the King Alfred site to include the provision of a new sports centre. The most recent scheme was a comprehensive project by Karis/ING which had been worked up since 2002 but was

eventually withdrawn in 2008. Once it was apparent that the development was not going to happen, an extensive programme of health and safety and urgent maintenance works was undertaken (at a cost of over £800K) to enable the building to remain open to the public.

Prince Regent Swimming Complex

Opened in 1981, the complex has a 25m pool, a separate flexi-pool with moveable floor, shallow pool, teaching pool, fitness suite, sauna and steam room. The separate adjoining Old Slipper Baths building also offers some multi-use spaces.

Withdean Sports Complex

Opened in 1936 as a grass court tennis centre, the complex has since been subject to a number of additional developments including the athletics track (1955), squash building (late 1960s) and indoor tennis centre (1988). It currently provides an all weather athletics track with high standard grass football pitch, 8 squash courts, 3 indoor tennis courts, 3 floodlit outdoor tennis courts, floodlit outdoor multi-purpose area, fitness suite, exercise studio, steam room, sauna and spa.

Moulsecoomb Community Leisure Centre

Opened in January 1991 the centre has a sports hall, fitness suite, exercise studio, 2 floodlit outdoor multi-purpose areas, a cafe and a bar.

Stanley Deason Leisure Centre

Opened in 1984, the centre has a sports hall, 3 squash courts, indoor climbing wall, fitness suite and cafe/bar. 2 full-size floodlit outdoor artificial grass pitches were added in 1994.

St Luke's Swimming Pool

Built in 1903, St Luke's consists of a single 15m swimming pool. The pool hall, changing rooms and reception area were fully refurbished in 2010 with support funding from Sports England.

All of the above facilities are managed by Freedom Leisure on behalf of the council. In addition, the council owns Portslade Sports Centre which forms part of Portslade Aldridge Community Academy and Deans Leisure Centre at Longhill High School. These are both managed directly by the schools and operate with community and school access.

Portslade Sports Centre

Opened in 1973, the centre has 2 sports halls, a fitness suite, 4 squash courts, 2 activity rooms, 1 snooker room, a bar, a grass pitch and a floodlit artificial turf pitch.

Deans Leisure Centre

Opened in 2004, the centre has 2 sports halls, fitness suite, exercise studio, conference suite, outdoor grass pitches and 6 outdoor tennis courts.

Facilities at Waterhall, Brighton Rugby Club's base, the University of Brighton and the University of Sussex are also promoted as community facilities with the ability of any user to book facilities, join classes etc. In practice, these facilities have limited availability for community use because of internal demand and fixed arrangements with other organisations.

Waterhall

Full size, outdoor floodlit 3G artificial grass pitch operated by Brighton Rugby Club.

University of Brighton

The University of Brighton Sports Centre at Falmer was opened in 2010 and includes a 6 badminton court sports hall, 2 exercise studios, fitness suite, floodlit full size artificial grass pitch and 3 7-a-side pitches, 6 outdoor grass pitches and 8 tarmac netball/tennis courts

University of Sussex

There are two facilities on the Falmer campus. The Sports Centre includes 2 sports halls, 4 squash courts, an exercise studio and a fitness suite. The Sports Complex has a full size floodlit artificial grass pitch, fitness suite and weights room, grass sports pitches, 6 hard surface tennis courts and a netball court.

Estimating the true value of the three facilities above in terms of their contribution to community provision is extremely difficult and would demand the supply of detailed information about the operation and usage of each centre. For the purpose of the plan, it is assumed that they are making a limited but not insignificant contribution.

Overview

What is most striking about the council's portfolio is its age and the lack of a purpose built modern flagship centre which is now a common feature of similar authorities. The largest facility – King Alfred Leisure Centre - opened in 1939 – and all centres predate the boom in health and fitness activities which has taken place over the last 20 years. This means, for example, that exercise studios and fitness suites, which are the driving force of many modern centres have had to be fitted into adapted spaces many of which are too small or unsuitable in other ways to meet market expectations and demand. This is the case at King Alfred, Withdean, Prince Regent, Moulsecoomb and Stanley Deason.

Apart from the running track and indoor tennis centre at Withdean, the city lacks any purpose built specialist facilities to provide for sports such as gymnastics and

martial arts. The indoor bowls hall at King Alfred Sports Centre is a specialist facility but was not purpose built (converted from an underground car park) and is now barely fit for purpose.

Section 3.8 below compares the council's portfolio with provision in other similar local authorities and with developments elsewhere in Sussex. This comparison serves to further highlight the way in which other authorities have continued to develop sports facilities over the last 20 years whereas Brighton and Hove has undertaken no substantial developments.

Facilities at Portslade Sports Centre and Deans Leisure Centre have of necessity some restrictions on community use but are included as genuine community facilities within the plan. Waterhall and the Universities are useful additions but do not provide sufficient community access to be able to make up for weaknesses in the mainstream community portfolio and are not regarded as full community facilities.

It should be noted that the plan does not take account of any private facilities, facilities which are exclusive to a single club, school or other facilities which have no community use except where it recognises that these could become community use facilities. Nor does it include the many non sporting venues such as church and community halls which are used for sport and recreational activities often due to lack of more suitable facilities elsewhere.

3.3 Condition of Existing Facilities

The age of the council's facilities portfolio is now creating its own issues in that it is incurring significant maintenance and replacement costs. Listed below are some of the more significant works which have recently been carried out or are planned and committed.

- Refurbishment of King Alfred Leisure Centre pool changing rooms at a cost of £690K is being undertaken in early 2012. These works are necessary in order to keep the pool operational and meet the expectations of customers.
- Refurbishment of St Luke's Swimming Pool in 2010 at a cost of £300K with support funding from Sport England.
- Health and Safety works such as Asbestos removal, Electrical Work and Fire Alarm upgrades at King Alfred (£42K)
- Replacement windows to east and west elevations at King Alfred (£39K)
- Ultra Violet installation at King Alfred due to ozone generator failure (£29K)
- Repairs and Maintenance to Flume at King Alfred (£9K)
- Refurbishment of changing rooms at Moulsecoomb and Stanley Deason undertaken in 2011 (£60K)
- Refurbishment of toilets at Stanley Deason undertaken in 2012 (£30K)

For King Alfred Leisure Centre an independent report carried out in 2010 identified essential works that would be required over a 5 year period at a cost of £1.8M.

Listed below are unavoidable works which will be required during the 10 year period of the Sports Facilities Plan together with estimated costs.

- Complete replacement of the Withdean athletics track (£500K)
- Replacement of one artificial turf pitch at SDLC (£175K)
- Replacement of pool dividing boom at PRSC (£30K)
- Refurbishment of reception toilets and dry change at PRSC (£70K)
- Replacement of waterslide at PRSC (£80K)
- Replacement of Sauna / Steam room at PRSC (£20K)
- Refurbish toilets and changing rooms at WSC (£70K)
- Replacement of Sauna / Steam room at WSC (£20K)
- Upgrade lighting in indoor tennis centre at WSC (£40K)
- Upgrade heating in sports hall at SDLC (£50K)
- Replace lighting in sports hall at SDLC (£15K)
- Replace lighting in sports hall at MCLC (£18K)
- Refurbish toilets and dry changing rooms at King Alfred (£60K)
- Upgrade ventilation in sports hall (£10K)
- Ongoing building maintenance and plant replacements at all sites (£5.7M over 10 years)

The total sum which the Council will need to spend over the next ten years simply to ensure that existing facilities remain fit for purpose is approximately £6.9M.

3.4 Distribution of Facilities

A key issue in planning the long term development of sports facilities is their location and whether this creates a fair balance of access across the city. The 2008 Audit produced the following broad analysis of location by postcode. This excludes primary schools which have few facilities and little potential for public use and grass pitches which do not form part of this plan.

Table 3.1 – Distribution of facilities by postcode

Postcode	Number of Facilities	%
BN1	37	34.6
BN2	36	33.6
BN3	32	29.9
BN41	2	1.9
Total	107	100.0

Table 3.2 - Distribution of facilities by postcode and provider

Facility Provider	BN1	BN2	BN3	BN41	Total
BH Council	7	6	6	0	19
Church/ Religious Organisation	3	2	3	0	8
Community Centre	8	14	4	0	26

Private Club	10	6	14	1	31
Private School	0	4	0	0	4
Sports Club	2	1	0	0	3
State School	3	2	4	1	10
University/ FE College	5	1	1	0	6
Total	38	36	32	2	108

Although the Council is not the lead provider in terms of the number of facilities, it has by far the most significant impact on overall sports provision and participation because it has a number of large multi disciplinary facilities which are completely accessible for public use.

Maps in Appendix I show the distribution of key public facilities by core type – swimming pools, sports halls, fitness gyms and artificial grass pitches.

In terms of long term strategic planning, the most evident issues that arise from the current profile of distribution are:

- The city's three community use swimming pools are concentrated in a small geographic area in the extreme south of the city.
- The centre and north of the city do not have easy access to a sports hall.
- Health and fitness facilities have the best distribution profile but this relies heavily on private provision.
- Large parts of the city are not within the desired 20 minute walking distance of any community sports facility used as a benchmark by Sport England and the Audit Commission
- The only centre offering a wide range of both wet and dry facilities is the King Alfred Leisure Centre on the seafront in Hove.
- Community access artificial grass pitches are mainly located on the outskirts of the city (Portslade Sports Centre in the west, Stanley Deason Leisure Centre in the east, University of Brighton and University of Sussex in Falmer and Waterhall to the north of the city). Only Hove Park can be considered to be more centrally located.
- One of the undesirable impacts of the distribution profile is that large numbers of users travel across the city in order to access facilities.

In order to provide comprehensive and equal access to sports facilities across the city all of the above issues would need to be addressed.

3.5 Consultation

As part of the preparation of the Sports Facilities Plan, four separate consultation exercises have been undertaken with the following groups:

- Users of sports facilities
- Managers of sports facilities
- Sports clubs
- Other key stakeholders (including schools, National Governing Bodies for sports, County Sports Partnership, Sports Development Team, Active for Life team, NHS Brighton & Hove, Albion in the Community).

Questionnaires for each of these groups focussed on identifying gaps in current provision and priorities for future development.

A total of 873 responses were received. Below is a summary of the key results:

3.5.1 Users of Sports Facilities

Users of sports facilities were invited to provide feedback on the quality of existing provision, which sports are not well provided for and what the priorities should be for any future development of facilities in the city.

Quality of existing facilities

Respondents were asked to score the quality of the activity areas that they use on a scale of 0-10 with 0 being *totally unfit for purpose* and 10 being *excellent*. The average score for each area is provided in the right hand column.

Table 3.3 – User quality scores (Activity Areas)

Activity area	Score	Notes
Swimming Pools	15.5% scored 0-2 33% scored 3-5 43% scored 6-8 8.5% scored 9-10	Only 18% of respondents scored higher than 7. Average score – 5.5
Sports Halls	11.5% scored 0-2 35% scored 3-5 41.5% scored 6-8 12.5% scored 9-10	Majority of respondents (57%) scored between 0-6. Average score – 5.5
Squash Courts	10% scored 0-2 28% scored 3-5 52% scored 6-8 10% scored 9-10	68% of respondents scored between 5-8. Average score – 5.8

Studio/Multi-purpose rooms	12% scored 0-2 29% scored 3-5 52% scored 6-8 7% scored 9-10	64% of respondents scored between 5-8. Average score – 5.9
Artificial Grass Pitches	19% scored 0-2 32% scored 3-5 40% scored 6-8 9% scored 9-10	Majority of respondents (52%) scored between 4-7. Average score – 5.0
Running Track	29% scored 0-2 30% scored 3-5 34% scored 6-8 7% scored 9-10	43% of respondents scored between 0-3. Average score – 4.5
Indoor Tennis Courts	15% scored 0-2 25% scored 3-5 43% scored 6-8 17% scored 9-10	75% of respondents scored 5 and over. Average score – 5.8
Indoor Bowls Rinks	38% scored 0-2 36% scored 3-5 21% scored 6-8 5% scored 9-10	74% of respondents scored 5 and under. Average score – 3.6
Fitness Suites / Gyms	6% scored 0-2 23% scored 3-5 56% scored 6-8 15% scored 9-10	68% of respondents scored between 5-8. Average score – 6.4
Climbing Walls	25% scored 0-2 29% scored 3-5 39% scored 6-8 7% scored 9-10	Almost 1 in 5 scored provision as totally unfit for purpose. Average score – 4.7

Respondents were also asked to score the quality of their ancillary areas using the same scoring range.

Table 3.4 – User quality scores (Ancillary Areas)

Ancillary area	Score	Notes
Changing Rooms	27% scored 0-2 34% scored 3-5 31% scored 6-8 7% scored 9-10	72% of respondents scored between 0-6. Average score – 4.5
Toilets	27% scored 0-2 35% scored 3-5 28% scored 6-8 10% scored 9-10	Very similar to above. Average score – 4.6

Car Parks	15% scored 0-2 28% scored 3-5 41% scored 6-8 17% scored 9-10	Average score – 5.8
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Not well catered for

Respondents were asked how well their particular sport(s) was provided for in terms of facilities. Again, a scoring range of 0-10 was applied with 0 being *not provided for at all* and 10 being *more than enough provision*. Sports that were considered to be most poorly provided for were:

Table 3.5 – User scores (sports most poorly provided for)

Sport	Score of 0 to 5
Climbing	81%
Table Tennis	73%
Gymnastics	72%
Hockey	72%
Basketball	67%
Trampolining	65%
Athletics	60%

Priorities

Respondents were invited to identify 3 priorities for the future development of sports facilities in the city. Of those who provided responses to this question, there were a number of themes that emerged and these were grouped into categories in order that they could be effectively analysed. These are provided below in order of popularity.

Table 3.6 – User priorities for future development of sports facilities

Facility Type	Number identifying as a priority
Swimming pools	130
Permanent ice rink	91
Health and fitness facilities	63
Athletics facilities	63
New multi purpose sports centre	58
Upgrade of existing facilities	57
Facilities for young people	30

Indoor tennis	22
Climbing	19
Gymnastics	17
Sports halls	17
Artificial grass pitches	15
Skatepark	15
Cycling	9
Winter sports centre	9

It should be noted that some of these priorities cross over into others. For example, depending on its specification, a new multi purpose sports centre would contain elements of other priorities listed above including swimming pools, sports halls, and health and fitness facilities.

As well as these sporting priorities, there were 52 requests to improve ancillary facilities including changing rooms and toilets and to introduce more café provision. Consideration of parking and transport links was also noted as important to users. This demonstrates that it is not just activity areas that users are concerned with. There is a general expectation that the whole facility environment should provide a quality experience.

Use of facilities outside Brighton & Hove

Respondents were asked whether they use other sports facilities outside of the city and if so, why. Approximately 40% said that they do. Facilities in Crawley (K2 Leisure Centre), Burgess Hill (The Triangle Leisure Centre) and Lewes were noted as particularly popular alternatives on the basis that they provided a better range and quality of facilities to those in Brighton & Hove.

3.5.2 Managers of Sports Facilities

Managers at council and university facilities were asked to complete a questionnaire which focussed on how well current facilities were meeting the demands and expectations of customers and to provide comment more generally on facility needs in the city.

Specific comments from managers which are of direct relevance to forward planning were:

King Alfred Leisure Centre

- Indoor bowls hall in very poor condition
- Usage suffers from general poor perception of the facility
- Existing customers most want to see improvement to ancillary facilities – changing rooms, toilets etc.
- Lack of sports hall space. Demand far exceeds supply at peak times

Prince Regent Swimming Complex

- Fitness suite capacity does not meet current demand
- Unable to meet demand from clubs for pool space
- Car park does not meet demand
- Relocation of sauna and steam room away from poolside would be highly desirable

Withdean Sports Complex

- Studio capacity cannot meet demand
- Fitness suite cannot meet peak time demand
- Changing rooms and toilets require upgrading

Moulsecoomb Community Leisure Centre

- Demand for bar no longer justifies retention
- Unable to meet demand for multi-purpose space
- Unable to meet demand for sports hall space

Stanley Deason Leisure Centre

- Squash courts underused
- Need for exercise studio
- Heavy demand for artificial grass pitches
- Fitness suite underused and needs updating

Portslade Sports Centre

- Unable to meet demand for artificial grass pitch and sports hall space
- No specific desired improvements identified

The Deans Leisure Centre

- Good quality indoor facilities
- Unable to meet demand for sports hall space

As in the other consultation exercises, managers were also asked to identify sports activities that were not well catered for and to name 3 priorities for the future development of sports facilities in Brighton and Hove. They responded as follows:

Not well catered for

The list of sports not well catered for was extensive but offered no collective view of current gaps in provision. Of interest to the plan was the identification of the underprovision of facilities for

- Young people
- Sports hall based activities
- Martial arts

These observations are based firmly on manager's experience of existing use and customer feedback.

Priorities

All but one manager included, as one of their three priorities, the creation of a large new flagship centre for the city. Other priorities were more diverse but the most mentioned were refurbishment of existing facilities and various specialist centres of excellence such as a velodrome or ice rink.

3.5.3 Sports Clubs

Sports clubs were invited to provide feedback through the council's consultation portal. The survey focussed on the quality of existing provision, how well it is able to meet the needs of their club and what the priorities should be for any future development.

Quality of existing facilities

We received 40 responses from clubs. The activity areas which clubs were most dissatisfied with were swimming pools, sports halls and artificial grass pitches. Almost 70% said that the facilities were not meeting the current training and competition needs of the club. In addition there was further concern that the facilities would not provide adequate scope for clubs to fulfil their development potential over the next 10 years. Clubs stated that this was due to not having enough space and the poor quality of existing facilities.

Priorities

Clubs provided a varied response to what the priorities should be for the city. Perhaps unsurprisingly, they tended to focus on the needs of their own club when considering their response to this question. However, there were general themes that emerged regarding the need for new indoor facilities, particularly sports halls and swimming pools and for the need to invest in and upgrade existing facilities.

3.5.4 Other Key Stakeholders

There are a number of key stakeholders who are directly involved with delivering sports programmes in Brighton & Hove or who have a good working knowledge of its sports facilities. 33 stakeholders provided feedback to a survey which again focussed on the quality of existing facilities, the identification of those sports not sufficiently catered for and future priorities.

Quality of facilities

Again, swimming pools were amongst the lowest ranked in terms of quality along with indoor bowls rinks and climbing walls all of which scored 5-6 out of a possible 10. Sports halls, artificial turf pitches and running track were next lowest, scoring just over 6. No facilities scored 8 or above.

Not well catered for

Respondents scored a range of sports from 0-10 with 0 being *not provided for at all* and 10 being *more than enough provision*. The sports which scored the lowest were gymnastics (3.2), trampolining (4.0), hockey (4.6) and climbing (4.7). Health and fitness provision (fitness suites and exercise classes) scored the highest at 8 out of 10.

Priorities

Top of the list for key stakeholders was the development of a new multi-purpose sports centre, closely followed by new swimming facilities and artificial turf pitches. Also featuring highly was the need to provide a purpose built gymnastics facility and to upgrade existing facilities.

3.5.5 Open Space Sport and Recreation Study March 2009

The study undertaken by PMP Consultants in 2008 (see Section 2) included extensive consultation through a household survey, a sports club survey and drop in sessions for members of the public to express views on current and future facility needs. Key results of the consultation of direct relevance to the Sports Facilities Plan were:

- 61% of household survey respondents felt that there were not enough swimming pools in the city
- 54% of household survey respondents viewed the amount of sports hall space as inadequate
- Many respondents compared Brighton and Hove facilities unfavourably with the quality of facilities available elsewhere in Sussex at Horsham, Burgess Hill and Crawley, for example.
- It was generally felt that ancillary facilities at existing centres – changing rooms, toilets etc. - were poor

These results offer further validation of the main conclusions of more recent consultation reported in 3.5.1 to 3.5.4 above.

3.5.6 Active People

Each year Sport England commissions a national survey of sporting activity under the banner of Active People and publishes a number of analyses based on the data collected. Some analyses are provided at local authority level. The latest detailed analysis available relates to the year 2009/10 and shows that the level of satisfaction with local sports facilities has declined from 68.9% in 2007/08 to 65.1% in 2009/10. This is notably lower than the level for both the South East (71.0%) and for England (69.0%) and is reflected in figures for satisfaction with sports provision as a whole (as opposed to simply facilities) with a level of 44.3 % for Brighton and Hove, 49.4% for the South East and 46.2% for England.

3.6 Demand

Identifying unfulfilled and future local demand with any accuracy is a difficult process and there is no simple formula which will provide a definitive answer. However, there are a number of factors which can help to build a profile of the relationship of demand to provision. Some of these are set out below.

3.6.1 Existing Centre Usage

The table below shows the number of visits to council facilities over the last five years together with the total percentage increase/decrease over that period.

Table 3.7 – Attendances of council sports facilities

Facility	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	+/- over period
King Alfred	276100	264669	254739	273852	282987	+ 2.5%
Prince Regent	221473	222133	272685	277799	273009	+ 23.3%
Withdean	177867	199875	207816	224534	230317	+ 29.5%
Moulsecomb	63117	78757	85445	83264	89253	+ 41.4%
Stanley Deason	135023	150486	144297	144601	147821	+ 9.5%
St Luke's	60262	58825	60537	55716	62401	+ 3.5%

We can see that there has been a pattern of increased use across all of the facilities over the last five years with Prince Regent, Withdean and Moulsecomb achieving significant growth, particularly in the areas of Health & Fitness and Sports Hall activities. Whilst St Luke's only shows a modest increase, it should be noted that it underwent a full refurbishment in 2010 and usage for 2011/12 is projected to show a further 7% increase on the previous year.

The most obvious exception to this pattern is the King Alfred Leisure Centre where usage levels have remained relatively stable. This suggests that whilst the demand for sporting activity has grown over the period, the King Alfred has either not been able to meet this demand or has not been able to meet the increasing expectations of users. In part this has also been due to the threat of redevelopment for the last 10+ years as there has been a perception that the site is closing or has closed so users have sought provision elsewhere.

It should also be noted that usage at King Alfred has stabilised following the recent investment detailed in 3.2. The table above illustrates this as attendances dropped between 2006/07 and 2008/09 and have then increased over the next two years.

3.6.2 National trends

The Active People survey referred to in 3.5.6 above also tracks trends in participation for individual types of activity. The latest results from December 2011

show that there is a continuing downward trend in overall participation nationally although there is no analysis of what specific factors are causing this.

Sports activities linked to indoor facilities which are bucking this trend and showing an increase in participation over the last three years are

- Boxing
- Table Tennis
- Climbing
- Workout and dance classes
- Fitness Suite use

The continuing increase in health and fitness participation is of particular interest as it defies continuing assertions that the market has become saturated and reflects comments from some centre managers (3.5.2 above) that their health and fitness facilities are not meeting demand.

3.7 Demographic Change

Office for National Statistics projections for Brighton and Hove suggest that from an estimated base of 260,200 in 2012, the population will rise to 272,900 by 2022 and to 290,600 by 2033, an increase of 11.6% over 21 years. The increase will be spread across all age groups and clearly has implications for the future demand for sports facilities.

3.8 Benchmarks

There are no absolute benchmarks which can be applied to assess the adequacy of Brighton and Hove’s sports facility provision. However, it is useful to place the city’s provision in a wider context and in particular to see how it matches up with what is happening elsewhere. Some comparisons are set out below and also the results from the Sport England Sports Facility Calculator which estimates the level of provision required to meet the needs of the local population.

3.8.1 Comparative Authorities

At various stages in its sports planning over the last ten years, including in the Sports Facility Audit of 2008, the council has used three other similar sized south coast cities as broad comparators – Southampton, Portsmouth and Plymouth. Although there are many variable factors at play in this comparison, there are also a number of similarities which allow for broad conclusions about the comparable status of Brighton and Hove sports facilities. Some key statistics relating to the respective populations are set out below.

Table 3.8 – Key comparative population statistics

	Brighton and Hove	Southampton	Portsmouth	Plymouth
Total Population	256,600	239,700	207,100	257,400

Population 16+	213,800	199,000	132,600	205,200
Area in sq km	82.7	49.9	40.3	79.8
IMD ¹	25.56	24.31	24.21	26.1
% obese adults	22.3	22.3	22.6	27.7
% obese children	8.9	9.3	12.5	10.1
Sports participation ²	24.7	21.6	22.8	20.1

¹ Index of Multiple Deprivation

² % adults [16+] taking part in 3 x 30 mins sport sessions per week (Sport England)

The most obvious distinguishing characteristics of Brighton and Hove in this comparison are that it has the highest population, the largest geographical area and the highest rate of sports participation. These factors are of particular relevance when looking at the facilities profile of each authority as they would indicate a higher level of need for sports facilities. Sport England's Active Places database provides the following analysis of facilities in the four authorities:

Table 3.9 – Comparative sports facilities

Facilities	Brighton and Hove	Southampton	Portsmouth	Plymouth
Athletics Tracks	1	1	2	1
Health & Fitness Suites	30	32	26	30
Ice Rinks	0	0	0	1
Indoor Bowls	2	1	1	1
Indoor Tennis Centres	2	1	2	2
Sports Halls	37	39	37	43
Squash Courts	10 ¹	3	9	8
Swimming Pools	18	21	23	21
Artificial Grass Pitches [AGP]	9 ²	7	9	8
Total	109	105	109	115
Population 16+ (000s)	213.8	199.0	162.4	205.2

¹Squash Courts relates to locations and not the number of courts

²AGP's includes Waterhall, the 2 Universities, Varndean School and Hamilton Lodge School all of which are not fully accessible for community use.

The above analysis does have some health warnings attached in that it does not show all facilities and does not define scale, quality, location or grouping of facilities but nevertheless some broad messages emerge. The most evident is that Brighton

and Hove's provision of core indoor facilities such as health and fitness suites, swimming pools and sports halls is not in line with other authorities given its higher population and greater geographical area.

What the analysis does not show is the major facilities, centres of excellence or specialist facilities which each city has and which to a large extent set the tone and standard of their sports provision.

Southampton has a major football stadium, county cricket ground, the Quays - a regional diving centre and competition pool - and a gymnastics centre.

Portsmouth has a football stadium, cycle velodrome, newly opened gymnastics centre, a martial arts centre and an indoor tennis centre.

Plymouth has a football stadium, ski and snowboarding centre, sailing and water sports centre and a football development centre.

Brighton and Hove has a new football stadium, a county cricket ground and a racecourse.

Brighton and Hove does not have the same level of flagship facilities as the comparator authorities. It compares well with its football stadium, racecourse, county cricket ground – all primarily supporting spectator sports - and water sports provision but is weaker than other cities in facilities which generate and encourage general participation and opportunities for individuals to progress to high levels of achievement.

The last point of comparison is the level of recent investment in facilities by each authority which is as follows:

Southampton – opened a major new facility - The Quays - in June 1999 with 25m competition pool, leisure pool, regional centre of excellence for diving and health and fitness facilities.

Portsmouth - in 2008, a significant development of the Mountbatten Centre added a 50m pool, a new gymnastics centre and generally upgraded dry facilities

Plymouth – a large new wet and dry leisure – Plymouth Life Centre - will open in March 2012 at a cost of £46.5m

Brighton and Hove has built no new facilities since Moulsecoomb Community Leisure Centre in 1991 and the addition of two artificial grass pitches at Stanley Deason Leisure Centre in 1994.

The apparent dislocation between the comparative weakness of facility provision in Brighton and Hove linked to a comparatively higher level of sports participation in the city is partly explained by the fact that Brighton and Hove has high levels of participation in activities which are non facility specific such as cycling and running as well as outdoor sports where it has a comparatively high level of facility provision.

3.8.2 Developments Elsewhere in Sussex

Many Sussex authorities have significantly improved their sports facility portfolios in the last 15 years. Examples include:

Crawley - opened the new large and comprehensive wet and dry centre - K2 – in Nov 2005 at a cost of £32M funded through capital receipts from the sale of the old leisure centre site.

Horsham - opened a new large wet and dry centre – Pavilions in the Park incorporating a purpose built Gymnastics Centre in 2003. The centre cost £14M with £3.4M from lottery funding and the remainder from Horsham District Council. Steyning Leisure Centre, a dual use facility shared with Steyning Grammar School, opened in 2000 at a cost of £4M with £1M coming from lottery funding. Finally, Billingshurst Leisure Centre opened in 2008 at a cost of £6.6M with approx £1M coming from a combination of lottery funding and developer contributions.

Worthing - a new swimming pool complex and health and fitness centre is due to open in February 2013 at a cost of £17.5M. This has been funded through capital receipts from land sales including the site of the existing swimming pool, The Aquarena.

Burgess Hill - opened The Triangle, a major wet and dry centre, in 1999. It cost £15.3M with £5M from developer contributions and the remainder from Mid-Sussex District Council.

Consultation results in 3.5 above show that respondents are very conscious of the fact that Brighton and Hove has not made the same progress that is evident elsewhere in the county and, in particular, that it has no flagship facility to compare with K2 in Crawley and The Triangle in Burgess Hill.

3.8.3 Sport England Sports Facility Calculator

Sport England have developed a calculator which assesses the quantity of certain types of community facility required to satisfy standard demand based on a local authority's population profile. The calculator does not provide exact definitions of the levels of provision required. This is because it is subject to local variations and cannot take account of location, opening hours, quality and other such variable factors. However, in the absence of any absolute science, the calculator is useful as another way of positioning Brighton and Hove against known benchmarks.

The calculator can be used to assess four different types of activity area – sports halls, swimming pools, indoor bowls rinks and artificial grass pitches. For Brighton and Hove, the calculator shows the following results based on its September 2011 model.

Sports Halls

Table 3.10 – Sports Facilities Calculator (Sports Halls)

2012 Actual Community Use Provision	Requirement for 2012 Population	2012 Shortfall	Requirement for 2022 Population	2022 Shortfall
30 badminton courts ¹	77 courts	47 courts	81 courts	51 courts

¹Excludes the 15 University badminton courts which are not fully accessible for community use.

The shortfall is equivalent to 11 x 4 badminton court halls and 1 x 3 court hall in 2012; 12x 4 court halls and 1 x 3 court hall by 2022.

Swimming Pools

Table 3.11 – Sports Facilities Calculator (Swimming Pools)

2012 Actual Community Use Provision	Requirement for 2012 Population	2012 Shortfall	Requirement for 2022 Population	2022 Shortfall
1,496 sqm of surface water area ¹	2,651 sqm	1,155 sqm	2,781 sqm	1,285 sqm

¹ Outdoor pools at Saltdean and Woodingdean are excluded from this calculation.

The shortfall in 2012 is equivalent to 23 conventional 25 metre swimming lanes or roughly 6 x 4 lane 25m pools; by 2022 this rises to 26 x 25m lanes, an additional 3x 25m lanes.

Indoor Bowls

Table 3.12 – Sports Facilities Calculator (Indoor Bowls)

2012 Actual Community Use Provision	Requirement for 2012 Population	2012 Shortfall	Requirement for 2022 Population	2022 Shortfall
13 rinks	13 rinks	-	14 rinks	1 rink

Preston Indoor Bowls Club has been defined as a community facility as its mode of operation is similar to the King Alfred Bowls Club albeit with a higher level of fees.

Artificial Grass Pitches

Table 3.13 – Sports Facilities Calculator (Artificial Grass Pitches)

2012 Actual Community Use Provision	Requirement for 2012 Population	2012 Shortfall	Requirement for 2022 Population	2022 Shortfall
4 pitches	10 pitches	6 pitches	10 pitches	6 pitches

The above results only take account of those facilities in Brighton and Hove which can be specifically identified as community use facilities with “pay and play” open access. These are all council managed centres and the dual use facilities at Portslade Sports Centre and Deans Leisure Centre. There is a small amount of community access at other facilities including Waterhall, the two universities and private facilities which may marginally compensate for lack of community provision but this does not substantially impact on meeting community requirements.

As Sport England themselves state, comparison to a standard requirement norm can raise as many questions as it answers but, even taking this into account, the scale of the above deficits leaves little doubt that, apart from indoor bowls, Brighton and Hove is well short of meeting community requirements for these facilities.

The city falls short of the sports hall benchmark by 61% in 2012 rising to 66% by 2022; pools are short by 44% rising to 46% by 2022; artificial grass pitches are short by 60% for both 2012 and 2022.

3.9 Assessment of Provision by Type of Facility

The assessments below look at current provision in the city in the context of the various analyses and comparators above. They seek to establish where the city currently stands in the level and quality of provision which it makes. They also define what further developments should be considered in order to improve levels of provision, where required, over the next ten years.

3.9.1 Sports Halls

The city has 37 sports halls in 26 locations. Sports hall size is generally expressed in number of badminton courts and size varies from 6 court to 1 court halls. There are three 6 court halls - at Dorothy Stringer School, Moulsecoomb Community Leisure Centre and University of Brighton. The average court size is 2.7 and distribution is as follows:

Table 3.14 – Sports Hall sizes

Size (No. of courts)	Number	%
6	3	8.1
5	3	8.1

4	10	27.0
3	1	2.7
2	4	10.8
1	16	43.3
Total	37	100.0

The total number of badminton courts among all providers is, therefore, 100.

The profile of sites by operation/management is shown in the table below.

Table 3.15 – Sports Hall operation/management

Facility Type	Number	%
School	16	61.5
Council Facility	4	15.4
Community Centre	3	11.5
Private Club	1	3.8
University/ College	2	7.7
Total	26	100.0

The difference in total number between these two analyses is accounted for by some facilities having more than one hall.

The above analyses show quite clearly that a majority of halls (58%) are sized at 3 badminton courts or less making them generally unsuitable for a number of indoor sports and limiting use to one activity at a time.

Almost all newly built large leisure centres today would include either an 8 court hall or a 12 court hall. Both The Triangle at Burgess Hill and K2 in Crawley have 12 court halls. As well as expanding capacity, these offer high quality facilities for sports such as basketball, volleyball and handball and the ability to hold major events such as martial arts competitions.

In terms of distribution, (see Appendix I) central and northern areas of the city are poorly provided with open access community sports halls and fall well short of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment indicator of a facility within 20 minutes walk.

The Sports Facility Calculator suggests that the city is failing to meet community requirements by up to 47 badminton courts and consultation identified a lack of sports hall space as a major issue for both general users and clubs. Even if the university sports halls are added in, a total of 15 courts, the city is still well short of this benchmark.

The 2008 planned King Alfred Leisure Centre would have included an 8 court hall but there are currently no plans for improving sports hall provision in the city. The release of school facilities for more general community use is likely to make only a marginal difference because they are generally 4 courts or less in size and, unless there are other facilities on site which are also in active use, this can be uneconomic.

3.9.2 Swimming Pools

The city has 18 indoor swimming pools at 12 sites. By length, the pools are profiled as follows:

Table 3.16 – Swimming Pool sizes

Length [metres]	Number	%
33	1	5.6
25	4	22.2
20	4	22.2
18	1	5.6
15	4	22.2
12.5	2	11.1
10	2	11.1
Total	18	100.0

By management type the 12 sites are distributed as follows:

Table 3.17 – Swimming Pools operation/management

Facility Type	Number	%
School	6	50.0
Private Club	3	25.0
Council Facility	3	25.0
Total	12	100.0

The difference in total number between these two analyses is accounted for by some facilities having more than one swimming pool.

Schools and private clubs dominate provision but neither of these offers open community access.

Council provision, which accounts for almost all open community access falls well short of the Sports Facility Calculator benchmark for swimming pool provision and another 6 x 4 lane 25m pools would be required to meet this. Because St Luke's Pool is extensively used for closed organised sessions, open community provision is

mostly limited to the Prince Regent Swimming Complex and King Alfred Leisure Centre.

Distribution of pools is a major issue with all three council pools in a small geographical area in the south of the city. The centre, north and east of the city are almost entirely outside the 20 minute walk range of a pool. In any long term planning for pool development, the issue of location will be of considerable importance.

The results of consultation provide clear evidence of a low level of satisfaction with the city’s swimming provision and evidence that significant numbers of local residents are travelling outside the city to facilities such as The Triangle in Burgess Hill and K2 in Crawley. The opening of a new facility in Worthing in 2013 may well draw residents from the west of the city.

Given the continuing popularity of swimming and it’s almost universal accessibility across gender, age, culture and disability, the provision of community pool space and its geographical distribution must be a key consideration in any forward plan for facilities in the city.

3.9.3 Fitness Suites

There are 30 fitness suites in the city. The largest (1500 sqm) is at David Lloyd Leisure and the smallest (28sqm) is at Brighton, Hove and Sussex Sixth Form College. The average number of pieces of equipment in each is 39 and the overall split in equipment type is 61% cardio-vascular equipment and 39% resistance equipment. In addition, 25 fitness suites have free weights and 9 have spinning bikes with an average number of 10.5 bikes. The distribution of fitness suite sizes is as follows:

Table 3.18 – Fitness Suite sizes

Size (sq metres)	Number	%
1,000 +	1	3.3
750 to 999	1	3.3
500 to 749	1	3.3
250 to 449	9	30.0
100 to 249	10	33.4
Under 100	8	26.7
Total	30	100.0

The profile of ownership/management of fitness suites is:

Table 3.19 – Fitness Suites operation/management

Facility Type	Number	%
Private Club	11	36.6
School	10	33.4
Council Facility	7	23.3
University/ College	2	6.7
Total	30	100.0

Apart from St Luke's Pool, all council facilities have fitness suites ranging in size from 48 stations at Withdean to 21 stations at Stanley Deason. The new fitness suite at King Alfred has 41 stations. Compared to local authority fitness suites elsewhere these are small facilities and there is significant on site evidence that they do not fulfil local demand either in capacity or overall quality of provision. One of the key difficulties with community fitness suite provision in the city is that none of it is purpose built and it has all been fitted into converted space.

The consultation has shown that there is a strong demand for an increase in quantity and quality of community health and fitness facilities. It appeared joint third on the list of user's priorities for future development and managers of facilities also noted a need to increase and improve the provision of these facilities.

3.9.4 Exercise Studios

There are 37 studios in the city at 25 locations. The average studio size is 137 sqm. The largest at 600 sqm is at ZT Fitness and the smallest at 49 sqm is at Rox School of Dance and Drama. The profile of sites by type of management is

Table 3.20 – Exercise Studios operation/management

Facility Type	Number	%
Private Club	11	40.8
School	9	33.3
Council Facility	2	7.4
University/ College	3	11.1
Community Centre	1	3.7
Religious Organisation	1	3.7
Total	27	100.0

Workout and dance classes continue to be extremely popular and lack of purpose built studio space is a major weakness in the council's facility portfolio. It restricts development of other activities such as martial arts and fencing which are often taking place in unsuited community halls for want of any specialist provision.

3.9.5 Squash Courts

There are 35 squash courts in the city at 10 locations. The average number of courts at each facility is 3.5. The highest number of courts is 8 at Withdean Sports Complex and the lowest number is 1 at St Aubyn's School. In addition to Withdean, the council operates squash courts at Stanley Deason (3 courts) and Portslade Sports Centre (4 courts). The distribution of courts by type of management is:

Table 3.21 – Squash Courts operation/management

Facility Type	Number	%
Council Facility	15	42.9
Private Club	10	28.5
University/ College	7	20.0
School	3	8.6
Total	35	100.0

Courts are generally in good condition but squash is a sport that is in long term decline and there is no evidence of a demand for more community squash courts in the city. Off peak demand can be very low and there is some evidence that provision could be reduced at Stanley Deason and Withdean and still be adequate to meet current demand.

3.9.6 Artificial Grass Pitches

The city has 9 artificial grass pitches. 4 of these are in council leisure centres or parks, 2 are at a school (Varndean High School and Hamilton Lodge School), 1 is at the University of Sussex, 1 at the University of Brighton and the last is at Brighton Rugby Club. All apart from Varndean are floodlit. All are suitable for football, 5 are suitable for hockey and 1 (Waterhall) is suitable for rugby.

Comparison with other authorities, the Sports Facility Calculator and response to consultation all show that the current provision of artificial grass pitches is inadequate to meet demand and up to 6 more full size pitches may be required.

3.9.7 Indoor Tennis

There are 11 indoor tennis courts in the city split between the Brighton Health and Racquet Club (8 courts) and Withdean Sports Complex (3 courts). In addition, the Pavilion and Avenue Tennis Club covers two of its courts with an inflatable bubble each winter.

Usage studies of the indoor tennis courts at Withdean has highlighted a low level of take-up with only 25-32% of courts being used during peak hours and approximately 15% in off-peak time. Taking this into account and given the seasonally biased nature of demand, the limited number of users at any one time and the good standard of

outdoor provision in the city, indoor tennis is not considered to be a high priority when compared to the needs of other sports.

The Indoor Tennis Centre at Withdean was part-funded by a grant from the Lawn Tennis Association as part of the Indoor Tennis Initiative. A condition of this grant funding was that the tennis hall had to be used exclusively for tennis for the duration of the agreement which expires in November 2012. It would therefore be worthwhile considering whether the space could be used in a more flexible way to better meet the wider sporting needs of the city.

3.9.8 Indoor Bowls

There are 2 indoor bowls facilities in the city at Preston Park and King Alfred Leisure Centre which between them provide 13 rinks.

The two bowls facilities between them are just adequate to meet identified demand in the city albeit that Preston Park is a private club and the King Alfred is in very poor condition. The operation of bowls facilities blurs the distinction between community facilities and private clubs as most local authority facilities are themselves run on a club basis. Often the club itself completely manages the facility although that is not the case at King Alfred.

There is very little casual demand for bowls although there is some. King Alfred, however, has a role in operating leagues for a number of ad hoc teams from throughout the city.

The most pressing issue for indoor bowls provision is to upgrade the existing facility at the King Alfred Leisure Centre either through a new on site development or the creation of a new facility elsewhere. This could be either new build or adaptation of an existing building, although this would be challenging given the required floor space. The council has in the past drawn up and costed plans to build a new centre on the site of the council owned depot in Hove Park but these have never been progressed.

3.9.9 Athletics

There is one formal athletics facility in the city at Withdean Sports Complex. This provides an 8 lane artificial surface track with full stadium facilities including floodlighting, PA system and spectator stands. It is home to three athletics clubs, Brighton & Hove, Phoenix and Arena 80. The track is beginning to show signs of wear and will need to be replaced within 2 years at a likely cost of around £500k in order to retain its A-grade rating and remain a regional venue.

3.9.10 Climbing Walls

There is one climbing wall in the city at Stanley Deason Leisure Centre although there is also a small outdoor climbing boulder – 8m long x 3.5 m high at the Nivea Sun Yellowwave on Madeira Drive.

The Stanley Deason climbing wall is a separate enclosed facility in a converted squash court and caters for novice to experienced climbers. Its size and location have limited its appeal but it continues to offer a wide range of opportunities for local climbers.

Consultation has shown that there is strong demand for a much more adventurous facility in the city.

3.9.11 Gymnastics

There is one gymnastics facility in the city which is in a converted church, St Agnes in Hove which has for several years been the base of Brighton and Hove Gymnastics Club. Although a full gymnastics layout is provided the facility is not in good condition and could not in any sense be considered an ideal provision for the sport. This is restricting the club's ability to meet the demands of users and to develop to its full potential

Bevendean Gymnastics Club which specialises in acrobatics operates at Carden Primary School and Hollingdean Gymnastics Club operates at Hertford Junior School.

Recognition of the need for a new purpose built facility or a converted space to rival facilities in Crawley and Horsham has been in existence for a number of years. Evidence of demand and potential for expansion of the existing operation is clear and the club has a convincing business plan. However, the size of premises required and initial cost have proved too demanding.

Consultation shows that, although it is a minority sport, there is wide recognition across the city that better provision should be made for gymnastics.

There is no doubt that gymnastics is one of the most deserving sports for future investment and a priority for any future development opportunities in Brighton and Hove.

3.9.12 Ice Rink

There is no permanent ice rink in the city. Temporary ice rinks are installed at the Brighton Centre and in the grounds of the Royal Pavilion during the Christmas period and have proved to be popular. The consultation showed strong levels of demand for a permanent facility and it came second in the list of resident's priorities for future developments behind swimming pools.

The project to construct an indoor arena including ice rink at Black Rock adjacent to Brighton Marina is still being discussed with the developer and remains a live project. Such a development would meet this demand and so no further action will be recommended within the Sports Facilities Plan at this stage.

3.10 Planned or Potential Developments in Brighton and Hove

There are a number of potential developments in the pipeline which are at different stages but will need to be taken into account as part of the plan.

- Capital investment proposal for Withdean to create a new, larger gym and second studio, cafe and better ancillary facilities
- Options for artificial grass pitch at The Manor Community Centre in East Brighton
- Proposed ice rink and indoor arena at Black Rock, adjacent to Brighton Marina

Any progress on these projects will be welcome and will significantly enhance the city's sports provision. However, in themselves they will only represent a modest step forward towards meeting the city's full community sports requirement.

3.11 Summary of Findings

The analyses in this section examine the current adequacy of sports facility provision in the city and look forward over the next ten years to identify requirements which will need to be met. Despite the many different viewpoints which are represented and the many different methods of analysis, the results are almost universally consistent in the current weaknesses which they identify and the steps which they recommend should be taken to improve sports facility provision in the city.

There is no benefit in trying to disguise the poor standard of existing provision which is revealed and the fact that the city continues to fall further and further behind comparative authorities elsewhere and fails to meet nationally recognised standards for provision.

Repeatedly both consultation and analysis show that

- Swimming pool provision is insufficient
- There is not enough sports hall space and no major sports hall
- There is still room for growth and excess demand for health and fitness activities
- Artificial grass pitch provision does not meet demand
- Sports stakeholders, clubs and users all believe that the city needs a new major flagship centre
- There are numerous demands for specialist sports facilities in the city, most notably for a gymnastics centre, ice rink and large climbing centre
- Geographical distribution of facilities in the city is uneven
- There is a strong recognition that as well as the demand for an expansion of facility provision, existing facilities also need to be improved and there is a significant funding requirement over the next ten years just to enable these to remain fit for purpose.

None of the above is new. Successive analyses and reports going back to 1999 have identified more or less the same range of issues. The failed Karis/ING/Gehry Hove seafront development proposals, including a new enlarged King Alfred Sports Centre, would have taken a major step forward in filling some of these gaps. In its

absence, the council currently has no plans which will significantly tackle these issues over the next ten years.

BRIGHTON AND HOVE INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES PLAN 2012-22

4 RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN

4.1 Overview of issues to be addressed

The analyses in Section 3 have revealed a number of weaknesses in current community provision and a series of demands which will need to be met over the next ten years. These can be grouped as follows:

- Maintaining existing facilities to an acceptable user standard
- In some cases, such as the Withdean track, carrying out major replacement and renewal work ensuring that existing facilities can remain in full use for a further ten years
- Responding to market demand for increased access to certain types of facility such as health and fitness suites
- Meeting shortfalls in supply of existing provision such as swimming pools, sports halls and artificial grass pitches
- Supporting the development of specific targeted sports which require specialist provision such as ice skating, climbing and gymnastics
- Where practical, correcting imbalances in the distribution of current provision

In seeking to address these issues, the overriding objectives of the Sports Facilities Plan are to:

- Ensure that the city's facilities are capable of meeting customer demand
- Provide facilities which reach best practice standards and offer a quality of customer experience which can be compared with similar authorities elsewhere
- Maximise participation levels for sport in the city
- Offer opportunities in a wide range of participation sports
- Enable participants to progress to the highest possible level in their chosen sport
- As far as practical, offer equal access to facilities for all parts of the city

The scale of the disparity between the existing facility portfolio, the provision of a set of facilities that would meet all shortfalls and demands and the ambition of the objectives above means that the task of preparing a ten year plan is very challenging. It is self evident that all of the identified desirable improvements will not be met over a period of ten years. It is not realistic, for example, to expect the city to provide six new community swimming pools in the next ten years. In order to make progress, therefore, and to maximise the effectiveness of any available resources, the plan requires a firm awareness of what its priorities should be. However, the setting of priorities has itself to be placed firmly within the context of the potential for development in the city and the funding available.

4.2 Current Capacity and Development Opportunities

Over the last ten years, the council has undertaken a number of works to existing facilities to increase their capacity and improve the quality of the customer experience. Recent examples include the complete refurbishment of St Luke's Pool and the conversion of the King Alfred Leisure Centre redundant café area into a

fitness suite and spinning studio. Some further works are already planned such as improvements to the wet changing rooms at King Alfred. However, the potential for development at most centres is almost exhausted. Although the Prince Regent Swimming Complex, for example, has clear demand for a larger fitness suite and purpose built studio, there is no space left to accommodate such a development. Bars and cafes at Moulsecoomb and Stanley Deason although now dispensable are not easily adaptable for other uses.

The centre with the most potential in terms of available land is Withdean Sports Complex. With the departure of Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club, Withdean has unused land which assuming that planning consent were given could be a location for new facilities. It also has some additional potential for reconfiguration to reduce the number of squash courts for which demand is reducing and to redesignate all or part of the indoor tennis centre which, on the cessation of the Indoor Tennis Initiative agreement with the LTA in November 2012, the council will be able to operate it as it wishes.

There is land adjoining the King Alfred Leisure Centre but the wisdom of investing funds in expanding the centre when the long term future of the centre itself remains in doubt is questionable. The complete redevelopment of the King Alfred site primarily for housing but including a large new sports centre was given planning permission in 2007 but the scheme did not come to fruition.

The council is currently working with a developer on a project to construct a new indoor arena at Black Rock to include a new ice rink. The Manor Community Centre in East Brighton has a long term aspiration for the development of an artificial grass pitch on adjacent disused hard courts. Pitch 9 is a climbing company who have secured premises and planning permission for a climbing facility in Goldstone Lane in Hove. They hope to open the facility in 2012.

There are school sites where the further development of sports facilities is clearly possible and was planned under Building Schools for the Future. Proposals are in discussion for a Goals soccer centre at BHASVIC and two new artificial grass pitches are being constructed at Blatchington Mill School in partnership with Brighton and Hove Hockey Club and supported partly by funding from England Hockey. However, as discussed in 4.4 below, school site developments do not always bring wider community benefit.

Some sports, such as gymnastics, could be developed within existing buildings such as warehouses and factories but their space requirement is substantial and so far none have been identified as available and suitable.

Beyond this there are currently no obvious sites where development could take place. In particular, there are no evident locations in which to build new community swimming pools and sports halls or to create a new large flagship centre away from the King Alfred site.

4.3 Funding

Even if the city was rich in locations and development opportunities and committed to an extensive expansion programme for sports facilities, it would require substantial resources to deliver. At its most basic a new community pool would cost in the region of £3m and a major flagship centre would require funding of up to £40m. A comprehensive package designed to make significant inroads to the issues identified in 4.1 could cost £15-20m excluding any provision for a major new centre. The council does not have this level of resource available from its own funds and opportunities for funding from elsewhere are scarce. A brief summary of mainstream potential funding sources is set out below.

The council's own resources either capital or revenue

The council has limited capital resources from which there are considerable demands from a wide range of services. It is therefore likely that the council will only be able to provide limited resources to help achieve the recommendations in the Sports Facilities Plan.

Prudential Borrowing

The continued maintenance costs for the King Alfred Leisure Centre and the commercial impact of its lack of modern facilities have made it comparatively uneconomic to run. Business models for a replacement facility show substantial revenue savings against current costs and the ability to make a considerable contribution, if not meet in total, any necessary borrowing to build a new centre

External funding bodies

The only likely source of funding is the Sports Lottery Fund managed by Sport England. This is now allocated to a series of specific time limited and highly targeted funding programmes. There are two which may be relevant to the Sports Facilities Plan – Inspired Facilities and Iconic Facilities. Funding criteria are strict and very specific. An Iconic Facilities Fund bid for example must be supported by two sport National Governing Bodies which means in effect that it must fulfil part of their own overall strategies.

Sale of land for commercial development

A large number of substantial new local authority sports facility developments are now funded by sale of land for development. The London Borough of Hillingdon, for example, has opened two new centres in the last eighteen months both directly funded by land sales for unrelated housing development.

Planning gain from commercial developments

The other significant contributor to sports facility development has been the incorporation of new sports facilities into commercial developments. This was the basis of the proposed King Alfred Sports Centre as part of the Karis/ING/Gehry

development. If the development had proceeded, the council would have received a substantial benefit which it could not have provided in any other way.

The possibility remains of either generating another development proposal for the King Alfred site or applying benefits to sports facilities through Section 106 from commercial developments elsewhere in the city.

Commercial funding of council facilities from management partners

Freedom Leisure, the council's sports facilities management partner, is already working with the council on an investment proposal for Withdean Sports Complex. However, there is little prospect of an external operator entirely funding the construction of a new centre. The risk involved for them is high, the loan demands are high and the council would, in any case, pay a hefty premium for such financing through revenue management fees paid to the operator.

Commercial development of private sports facilities

Independent commercial developments can make a significant contribution to developing the city's sports portfolio. If proposed independent projects go ahead to open an ice rink at Black Rock and a climbing centre in Hove, they will help meet user demand and aspirations for these sports. However, other than creating a planning climate which helps to facilitate such projects, the council has no active control over when and how they might occur.

4.4 Other Options

Funding the provision of new facilities is not the only option for making progress towards the objectives of the plan. There are two other options which can be pursued:

Open up non council facilities to greater public use

The council is not the main provider of facilities in the city but it is the main provider of facilities which offer open community access. One way to increase community provision could be to negotiate with other providers to offer at least some community access. Schools are the most obvious candidates for this approach and several authorities make use of dual use sites to provide for community sport. However, for most of these, dual use was planned into the original design i.e. they were built as dual use sites. For a school which has a single sports hall or pool to offer, the economics of opening up to community use are unlikely to be viable. However there are an increasing number of commercial operators who are providing packages to manage the hire of all school facilities including sports. This may require groups of schools working together to produce a business model which works but it is worth exploring with local schools to see if it would enable sports facilities to be made more available. Sport England has also just published guidance to help facilitate the process of opening up school facilities for community use.

It is also worth noting that it may be cheaper, for example for the council to subsidise the opening up of a school or private pool for community use than to build a new pool to serve the same community.

Actively form partnerships which may be more effective than the council working alone

The plan recognises that in many areas the council's ability to deliver improvement on its own is limited. However it is in a good position to act as the lead coordinator of groups which together may have the combined resources and expertise to realise a specific project. Contributors to facility development elsewhere have included PCT's, universities (in exchange for guaranteed use), sports clubs, sport national governing bodies, private providers and local businesses.

4.5 Doing Nothing

The context outlined above suggests that any progress on the plan over the next ten years will be very challenging to achieve. However, the alternative of simply accepting the current position and not endeavouring to move forward will make a difficult situation worse. The likely effects of doing nothing will be that:

- The level of underprovision will increase as population increases
- The quality of existing facilities will decline (and could even lead to closure)
- Levels of user dissatisfaction will increase
- More and more journeys will be made out of the city as users seek the facilities they require
- Individuals and clubs will fail to develop their sporting potential
- The city will fall further behind other comparable authorities in the level and standard of its provision
- The cost of eventually delivering the plan's objectives will increase

If the council literally does nothing over the next ten years, the issues will still have to be tackled in 2022 but the challenge of doing so will be even harder.

4.6 Priorities and Recommendations

Choosing priorities for the plan is a difficult process partly because there are so many competing needs but also because a balance needs to be struck between the evident rationale for any action and the possibility of real progress being made. Sections 4.2 and 4.3 above show the constraints on the delivery of the plan in terms of opportunities for development and funding but 4.5 warns against the dangers of not being ambitious enough to make a real difference over the next ten years.

Taking all of these factors into consideration together with the conclusions reached in Section 3, the following key recommendations have been formulated:

1. Build a new large multi-purpose sports centre
2. Increase the number of community swimming pools
3. Facilitate the opening of a purpose built gymnastics facility
4. Increase levels of community access to existing school facilities

5. Improve the quantity and quality of health and fitness facilities
6. Improve existing athletics facilities including replacement of the track at Withdean
7. Develop Withdean as a multi sport hub
8. Improve the quantity and quality of artificial grass pitches

Although these are recommendations it is recognised that over a ten year period other opportunities may present themselves to develop facilities and the plan does not exclude the pursuit of other developments which contribute to the plan's overall objectives.

4.7 Action Plan

The priorities listed above will be challenging to deliver. The first step is a recognition that for each recommendation there is more than one potential path to delivery. The Action Plan which follows identifies options for delivery and recommends which of these are likely to be of most benefit to pursue. It then outlines the necessary actions to be taken to further develop and implement each option.

BRIGHTON AND HOVE – INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES PLAN 2012-22

Action Plan

The following table is arranged by the priorities identified in 4.6 above. For each issue a number of possible options are identified. These are then recommended or not for further action and a brief explanation of the reasoning behind each recommendation is given. For those recommended to further pursue a summary of necessary actions is provided.

Recommendation 1 Build a new large multi-purpose sports centre

No	Options	Pursue Further?	Reason	Necessary Actions
1	Replace the existing King Alfred Leisure Centre (KALC) with a large wet/dry centre on the existing site similar in scope to the proposed Karis/ING/Gehry scheme	Yes	The need for such a centre has not diminished since 2008	- Establish project team to investigate all options listed below.
2	As in (1) but with a smaller centre on the KALC site and some activities such as bowls located elsewhere	Yes	Allows more space for on site commercial development and a potential higher level of funding for sports facilities	
3	Retain the existing KALC and create a new additional centre elsewhere	No	Would rule out any significant commercial development of the site. KALC is expensive to run and has a potentially limited future life. Usage is likely to be affected if a major centre opens elsewhere making KALC even more uneconomic.	None
4	Locate a new centre elsewhere and cease to provide facilities on the King Alfred site	Yes	This may be a route to balancing development benefit against facility cost. It presupposes that an alternative site can be found. Would also help to address the geographical imbalance of current provision.	
5	Locate a new centre elsewhere and retain a smaller centre on the KA site as a local community facility	Yes	Dependent on the location of a new centre, it may no longer serve the King Alfred community and another gap would be created. A community facility with a pool, sports hall and fitness suite would respond to this need.	

Recommendation 2 Increase the number of community swimming pools

No	Options	Pursue Further?	Reason	Necessary Actions
1	Build a new pool at Withdean Sports Complex	Yes	In terms of improving general accessibility to pool space, Withdean is close to the optimum location and has land available. A management infrastructure already exists on site. Planning considerations and the existing site set-up may make this a difficult option to pursue.	- Assess feasibility in terms of capital and revenue costs
2	Improve community access to existing school pools.	Yes	Could provide a ready interim solution at low cost	- Identify suitable school pools in terms of quality, accessibility and location - Initiate discussion with headteachers of identified schools - Consider suitable management arrangements to assist schools
3	Maximise the amount of pool space in any new centre	Yes	This will take pressure off existing pools and free up more pool time for casual use	- Ensure that this is flagged as a priority in any future facility developments
4	Joint fund a new pool on a university site	No	The universities are not well located to provide wider community benefit	None

Recommendation 3 Facilitate the opening of a purpose built gymnastics facility

No	Options	Pursue Further?	Reason	Necessary Actions
1	Build a purpose built standalone gymnastics centre	No	Although highly desirable, funding for this cannot be a priority in the light of other demands	None
2	Include a purpose built gymnastics facility as part of a new multi purpose centre (Recommendation 1 above)	Yes	The incremental cost of providing gymnastics may be justified	- Ensure this is considered in the design of new centre.
3	Develop a gymnastics facility within an existing centre.	Yes	The council wishes to see a centre develop and will offer all practical assistance it can	- Consider options for indoor tennis centre at Withdean in light of expiry of ITI agreement and existing usage
4	Assist Brighton and Hove Gymnastics Club in the search for a suitable site	Yes	The council wishes to see a centre develop and will offer all practical assistance it can	- Investigate list of vacant premises. - Liaise with planners to allow change of use of existing vacant premises
5	Develop a gymnastics facility as part of a multi-sport new build on the Withdean Sports Complex site.	Yes	Withdean Sports Complex has available land following the departure of Brighton & Hove FC.	- Investigate feasibility of gymnastics sharing space with other sports identified in SFP (indoor athletics, martial arts) - Assess feasibility in terms of capital and revenue costs

Recommendation 4 Increase levels of community access to existing school facilities particularly sports halls

No	Options	Pursue Further?	Reason	Necessary Actions
1	Open up existing school facilities for community use	Yes	Schools already have built facilities that could be made available for more community use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify suitable school facilities in terms of quality, accessibility and location - Initiate discussion with headteachers of identified schools - Use recently published Sport England guidance
2	Offer schools practical assistance and partnership deals	Yes	To make it easy for them to enter into community agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assess benefits in kind which could be offered by the council in return for community access - Consider suitable management arrangements to assist schools
3	Consider direct financial subsidy to schools offering community use	Yes	Could be a cheaper option than building new facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carry out cost benefit exercise to assess the value of offering financial support to schools to open up facilities

Recommendation 5 Improve the quantity and quality of health and fitness facilities

No	Options	Pursue Further?	Reason	Necessary Actions
1	Implement the health & fitness proposal for Withdean Sports Complex	Yes	This will represent a significant step forward in health and fitness provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Obtain planning permission - Project manage development in partnership with Freedom Leisure
2	Upgrade existing health and fitness facilities	Yes	Facilities at Prince Regent and Stanley Deason are in need of improvements to retain and develop their existing customer base	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assess options for Prince Regent fitness suite - Assess feasibility of converting redundant café space at Stanley Deason
3	Develop proposal for improved access to health & fitness facilities in schools	Yes	Could greatly increase local accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify suitable school facilities in terms of quality, accessibility and location - Initiate discussion with headteachers of identified schools - Discuss options for joint funding with PCT and other partners

Recommendation 6 Improve existing athletics facilities including replacement of the track at Withdean

No	Options	Pursue Further?	Reason	Necessary Actions
1	Complete replacement of track surface	Yes	If the track is to continue in use for another ten years there is no other option	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consult with athletics clubs and UK Athletics to assess requirements - Develop a fully costed proposal with identified funding - Submit bid to Sport England Inspired Facilities
2	Addition of indoor athletics facilities	Yes	Now becoming a more common feature of high quality athletics provision and will allow Withdean to further develop as a true centre of excellence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Liaise with athletics clubs to assess feasibility and develop a fully costed proposal with identified funding

Recommendation 7 Develop Withdean as a multi sport hub

No	Options	Pursue Further?	Reason	Necessary Actions
1	Review best use of available land at Withdean to further expand its range of sports through the introduction of new facilities	Yes	Withdean Sports Complex has available land following the departure of Brighton & Hove FC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prioritise needs identified in Sports Facilities Plan analysis - Discuss any possible planning constraints with Planning Department - Develop a fully costed proposal to expand provision with identified funding
2	Assess the feasibility of converting the indoor tennis courts to a multi use facility in order to expand the sports base and increase participation	Yes	Current usage level of indoor tennis courts is low. The space could be used to help meet some of the shortfalls identified in the Sports Facilities Plan analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider possible alternative uses of available space - Liaise with existing tennis users to assess future demand and possibility of alternative provision

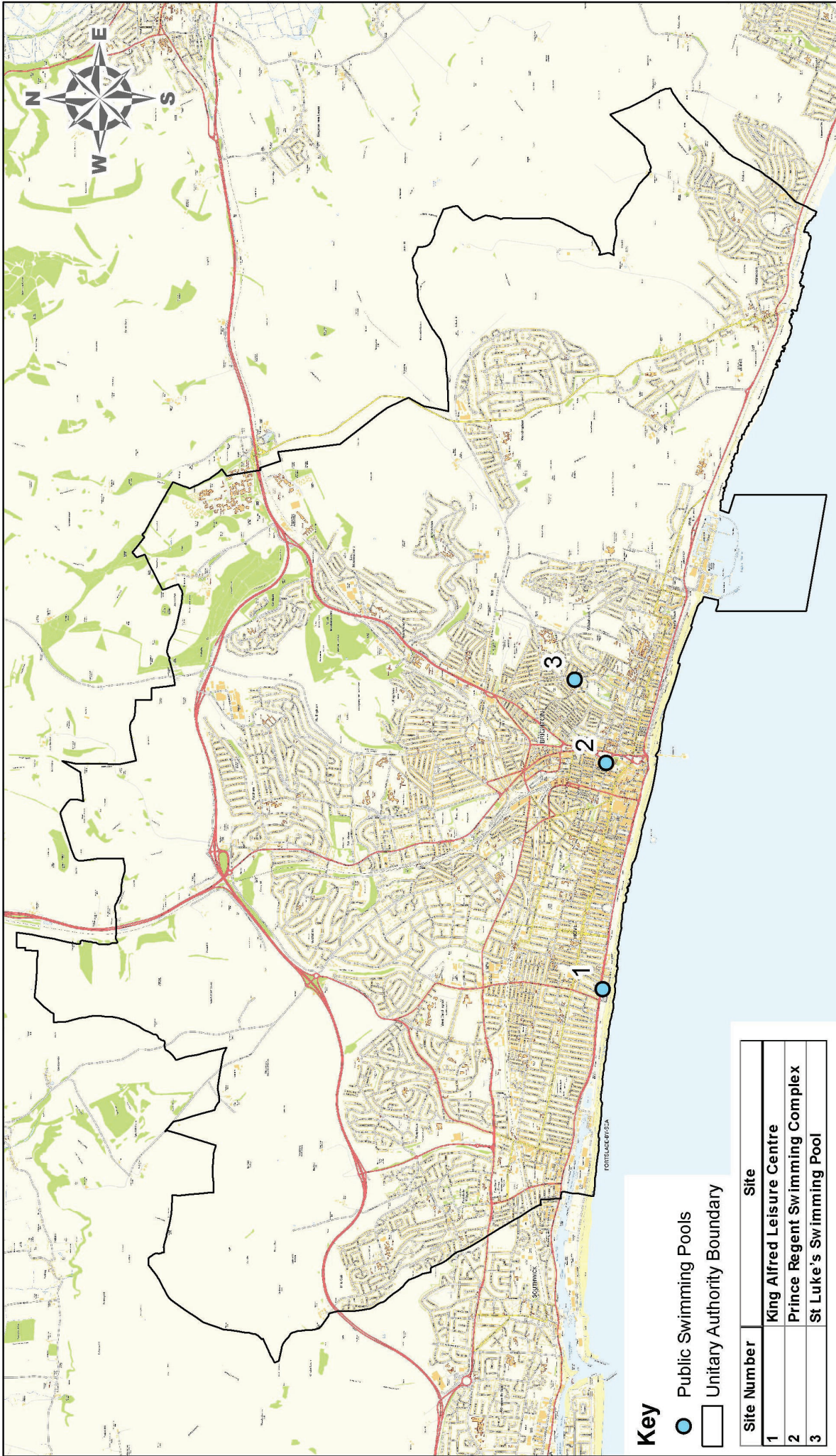
Recommendation 8 Improve the quality and quantity of Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs)

<u>No</u>	<u>Options</u>	<u>Pursue Further?</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Necessary Actions</u>
1	Replace one of the AGPs at Stanley Deason	Yes	The AGP is extremely well-used and has come to the end of its life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Liaise with Freedom Leisure, clubs and schools to identify appropriate surface - Develop a fully costed proposal with identified funding
2	Install an AGP at The Manor community centre	Yes	The Sports Facilities Plan has identified unmet demand for additional AGPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assess feasibility of commercial proposal - Consider options for S106 funding for Badgers Tennis Club development
3	Encourage private investment through commercial 5-a-side provision	Yes	Could increase community provision and help meet identified unmet demand at no cost to the council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Liaise with commercial providers to identify potential sites
4	Discuss options for improved provision with the FA and Albion In The Community	Yes	Could increase community provision, help meet identified unmet demand and improve home grown talent for BHAFc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meet with FA and Albion In The Community

APPENDIX I

DISTRIBUTION OF SPORTS FACILITIES


Public Swimming Pools



Key

- Public Swimming Pools
- Unitary Authority Boundary

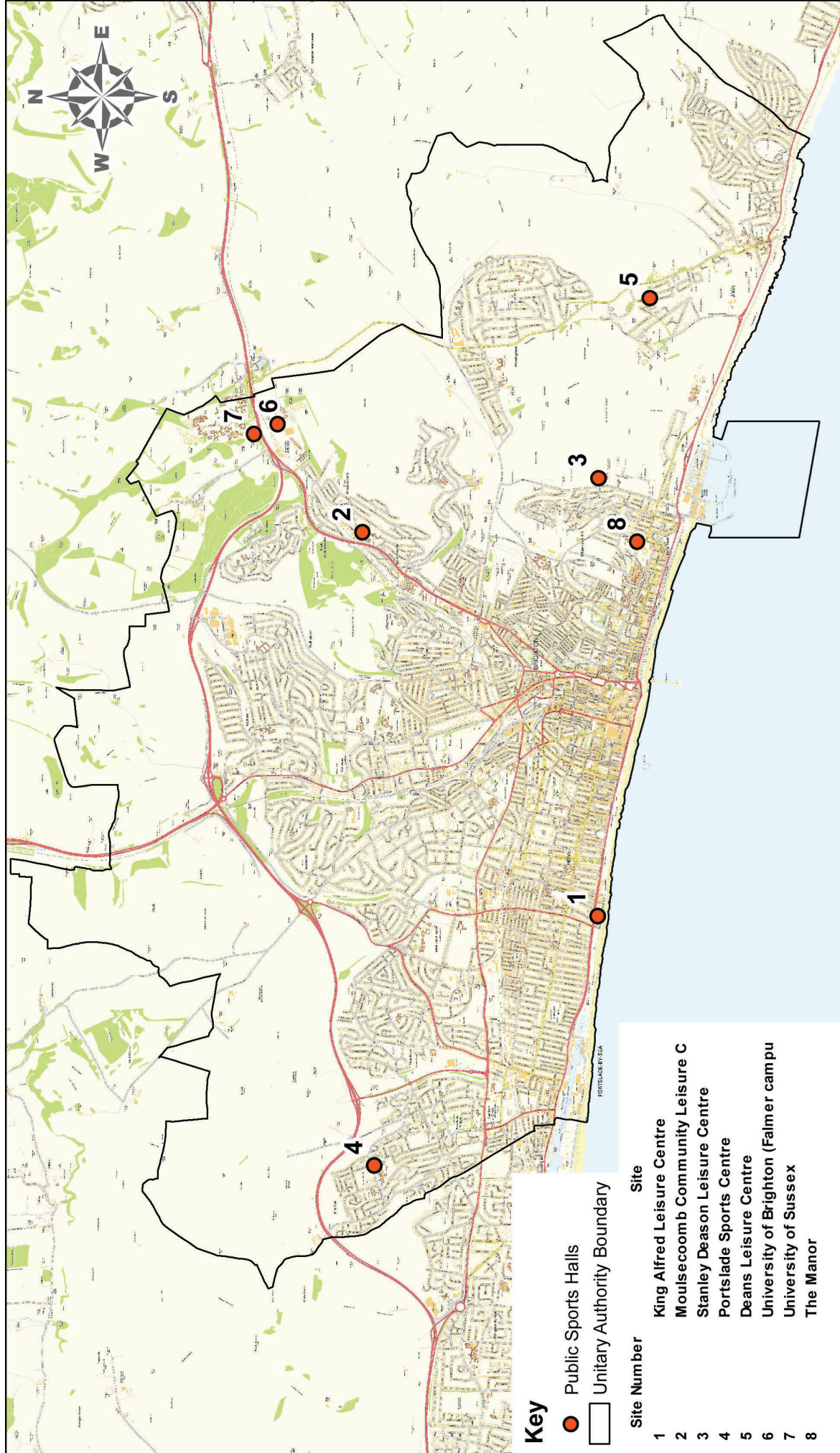
Site Number	Site
1	King Alfred Leisure Centre
2	Prince Regent Swimming Complex
3	St Luke's Swimming Pool

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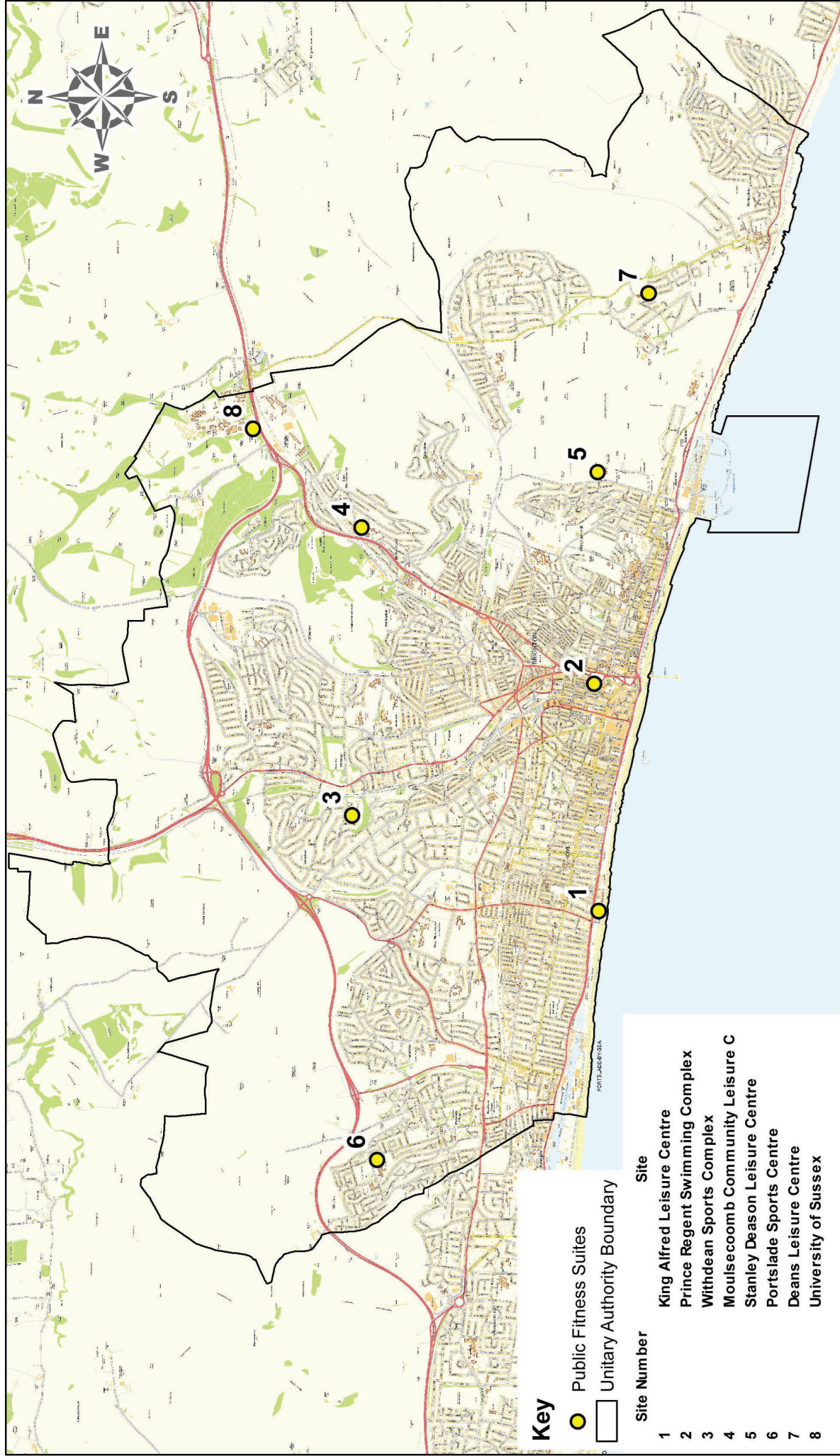


Scale: 1:65,000

Public Sports Halls



Public Fitness Suites



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Scale: 1:65,000

Public Artificial Grass Pitches



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