

Agenda Item 48

Audit of Sports Facilities

City of Brighton & Hove

Undertaken by;

**Sport & Leisure (Brighton & Hove City
Council) with analysis by Ken Burlton (KBC)**

September 2008

BRIGHTON AND HOVE – AUDIT OF SPORTS FACILITIES

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1. INTRODUCTION

Brighton and Hove City Council commissioned Ken Burlton Consultancy [KBC] to conduct an audit of sports facilities in the city. The main objectives of the study were to

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

KBC, working with the Council's leisure team, devised a process of audit [see Methodology below] which was used to gather the information necessary to fulfil these three objectives. It was initially estimated that 40 to 50 facilities would need to be assessed but as the audit progressed it became increasingly apparent that there were a large number of non conventional facilities such as community centres and church halls that were making provision for sports and related activities in one form or another. In all, 107 facilities were visited and assessed as part of the main audit. In addition, a telephone survey was conducted to gather information from 44 primary schools and the results of a previous audit in 2005 by the consultants BELAP, which covered an additional 23 outdoor grass pitch locations not included in the main audit, were also used.

Even with the inclusion of 174 facilities, the audit is not comprehensive. Some facilities, such as hotel health and fitness provision, and some recognised sports, such as darts, were deliberately not included as they are either incidental to other commercial activity or have no specific facility requirements. They have little impact on the city's ability to provide for general sports needs which was the core concern of the audit.

It may well be that, despite the thoroughness of the research which supported the exercise, some buildings and rooms used for sports activity have not yet been identified. The database used to record all the information provided has been set up in a way which makes it easy to include any future additions. If it is decided to expand the database in future to include any areas which were excluded from the initial survey, this will also be easy to do.

The audit brief was strictly limited to an examination of the city's facility portfolio and did not record how facilities were used, the extent of their use and by whom they were used. Some analysis was made of activities which facilities were able to support but this was limited. A different kind of research exercise would be required to log the extent of actual sports activity in the city.

The audit provides a valuable first examination of the city's facility base and will undoubtedly stimulate further investigation of the many issues which it raises. It has not been undertaken as an end in itself but as the start of a long process of ensuring

that the city is making the most of its resources and maximising the opportunities which it provides to take part in sport.

2. METHODOLOGY

Although KBC devised the process and has carried out data analysis and preparation of the report, the main audit was undertaken by Council officers. All data was gathered by personal visits to each site and, where necessary, supplemented by information contained in published materials or discussion with site managers. A series of standard forms, covering all types of facility, was used to record information. Auditors were also encouraged to add in information which they thought was relevant but was not specifically required to complete the audit process.

As well as the simple collation of information, auditors made an assessment of the condition of facilities and their fitness for purpose. These assessments were to some extent subjective and based entirely on a visual inspection during the visit. They were reviewed half way through the process and some adjustments made to ensure a consistency between individual audits.

Activities included were based on Sport England's list of recognised sports [see Appendix 2] although some deliberate exclusions were made. These included

- Sports which do not have a specific facility requirement such as skipping and baton twirling
- Sports which are generally provided in "non sporting" environments such as darts and pool
- Sports such as horse racing which do not directly relate to local sporting needs

Because the audit included several facilities which were not purpose built for sport there were a number of issues of interpretation in deciding exactly what a facility was in sporting terms. This was particularly the case in distinguishing between a small sports hall, a multi purpose room and a studio. It is accepted that there was some element of personal interpretation in deciding which of these categories to use in describing a specific facility. However, this has little impact on the analysis as a whole as the main concern is in determining what is provided and the way in which it is used.

All information from the audit, including comments from the auditors has been recorded on a Microsoft Access database allowing interrogation to provide a wide range of analyses. The data included in this report represents only a small selection of the total information available.

This was not a perfect process mainly because the audit itself revealed a great deal of information that had not been anticipated and the database format had to be continually revised to deal with unexpected results. If repeated, the process is capable of further refinement in the light of this experience. Some of the recording methods could be amended to make them more compatible with database input and some

additional useful information could also be collected. However, the exercise has been a considerable achievement and has for the first time created a detailed database of sports facilities in the city.

A very comprehensive analysis and assessment of outdoor grass pitch provision in the city was carried out in 2005 by the consultants Bennett Leisure and Planning Ltd [BELAP]. Information from this was used as part of the audit process. It used a similar methodology but a different scoring method. Where possible its results are absorbed into the main audit analyses below. Where results are differently expressed but worth reporting they are identified separately in the analyses.

Supplementing the main audit which included the city's state and independent secondary schools, many of which have significant sports facilities, a telephone survey of all of the city's junior and primary schools was conducted. This gathered information about indoor and outdoor spaces available to each school for sports activity.

3. SCOPE

The audit focused on facilities which either allowed some form of public access for sporting activity or, if not publicly accessible, had significant specialist sports provision. Primary and junior schools did not meet these criteria and their survey was conducted to complement the main audit and separately identify any issues relating to junior school provision.

Between them the audit and the BELAP assessment of grass pitches identified 131 facilities delivering opportunities for sports and related physical activities in the city. These covered a wide range of types of facility which included

- Sports centres
- Swimming pools
- Health and fitness clubs
- Gyms
- Golf courses
- Church halls
- Community centres
- Sports fields
- Stadiums
- Cricket grounds

Those who provided and/ or operated facilities included

- Brighton and Hove City Council
- Private operators
- Schools
- Universities of Sussex and Brighton
- Sports clubs
- Community organisations

In terms of the number of facilities, the profile of ownership/ operation was as follows

Facility Type	Number	%
BH Council	42	32.3
Private Club	31	23.8
Community Centre	26	20.0
State School	10	7.7
Church/ Religious Organisation	8	6.2
University/ FE College	6	4.6
Independent School	4	3.1
Sports Club	3	2.3
Total	130	100.0

Even with such a widespread audit, some facilities were not covered, mainly because they were not directly relevant to the objectives of the audit. These are listed in Appendix 4. It should also be noted that many activities which are recognised as sports by Sport England [see Appendix 2] do not require any specific facility and the absence of any reference to them does not imply that they are not provided for within Brighton and Hove.

4. KEY RESULTS

The audit has collected a substantial amount of information about facility provision in Brighton and Hove. Storage of information in a database will allow extensive analysis and interrogation for a variety of purposes. Set out below is a summary of findings relating to quantity and type of provision. This is followed, in alphabetical order by facility types, the key findings for each area of sports provision and then by some cross facility analysis of issues such as location, management and standard of provision.

4.1 Summary Findings

4.1.2 Quantity

It is almost impossible to answer the question “How many sports facilities should a city the size of Brighton and Hove have?” Individual facilities can vary considerably in size and examination of general quantity can disguise over and under provision for individual sports. As section 5 below indicates, very few authorities have undertaken similar audit exercises and, where they have, the methodologies for data collection and analysis have all been different making it extremely difficult to make any kind of comparison of quantity. Caution also has to be exercised over the level of access to facilities. If most facilities are in private clubs or schools, they are making provision for a very limited section of the local community.

At 131, the total number of sports venues appears high although many of these are small and many – particularly community centres – are not purpose designed. Sports which appear to be particularly well provided for are gyms [29 gyms], squash [39 courts], tennis [106 courts] and cricket [16 pitches]. Provision is low for under 11’s football – only 7 pitches in the city – and some more peripheral sports such as

handball and American football, which have been well developed elsewhere, do not apparently have any provision. However, such conclusions should be addressed with some caution as the audit has examined sports facilities and not sports activity in the city and it is possible that many activities are taking place at facilities not specifically designated for them.

4.1.2 Type

One of the most interesting findings of the audit is the balance in type of provision. Because the Council has the biggest, most evident and best used facilities there is a tendency to consider that it dominates provision. However, the audit showed that, in a simple number count, 32.3 % of facilities are Council run, 23.8 % are private clubs and 20.0 % are community centres. If the Council's various park facilities and recreation grounds are taken out, private clubs become the largest sector. There is a wide range of providers and, as the detailed analyses below demonstrate, schools have also become a significant part of the overall portfolio with many secondary schools now developing substantial on site sports provision. Only 3 sports clubs in the city have their own facilities.

4.2 Findings by Type of Facility [alphabetical order]

4.2.1 Athletics

There is one formal athletics facility in the city at Withdean Stadium. This provides an 8 lane artificial surface track with full stadium facilities including floodlighting, PA system and spectator stands. It is home to Brighton and Hove Athletic Track. Its role is complicated by the fact that it is also the temporary home of Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club who have brought in their own additional spectator and changing facilities of their own. The track is beginning to show signs of wear but this remains a regional standard facility which was given a 10/10 fitness for purpose rating.

It was noted that other tracks of varying sizes and standards were temporarily marked on school playing fields but there are no other permanent athletics facilities.

Condition rating	7.0/10
Fitness for purpose rating	10.0/10

4.2.2 Artificial Turf Pitches

The city has 8 artificial turf pitches. 4 of these are in Council run leisure centres or parks, 2 are at a school [Varndean/ Hamilton Lodge], 1 is at the University of Sussex 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 [Brighton Rugby Club] is suitable for tennis.

Average condition rating	8.6/10
Average fitness for purpose rating	8.1/10

4.2.3 Bowls Indoor

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

Average condition rating	6.5/10
Average fitness for purpose rating	7.0/10

4.2.4 Bowls Outdoor

There are 19 outdoor bowls rinks provided in the city at 3 sites.

Average condition rating	8.0/10
Average fitness for purpose rating	8.3/10

4.2.5 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 offers facilities for novice to experienced climbers.

Average condition rating	10.0/10
Average fitness for purpose rating	10.0/10

4.2.6 Golf

The city has 6 golf courses. 4 of these are private clubs and 2 are managed by the City Council. 5 are 18 hole courses with an average yardage of 6,291 and an average par of 71. 1 course [Benfield Valley] is a 9 hole 1,786 yard course.

No separate assessment of condition or fitness for purpose was made of golf courses.

4.2.7 Grass Pitches

There are 32 sites in the city which have grass pitches and their distribution by type is as follows

<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>
Adult Football	61
Junior Football	31
Mini Football [under 11]	7
Rugby	19
Cricket	19
Rounders	3

In addition, 6 sites have cricket nets and a number of schools have athletics markings and field event facilities such as long jump and high jump pits.

Four facilities operate at club level, 2 at county level [1 rugby, 1 football] and 2 at national level [Brighton and Hove Albion at Withdean Stadium; Sussex County Cricket Club]

The highest concentration of pitches is at the University of Sussex Falmer Sports Complex which has 5 adult football pitches, a rugby pitch and a cricket pitch.

The ratings below apply only to those facilities included on the main audit

Average condition rating	7.4/10
Average fitness for purpose rating	7.5/10

The BELAP audit of council managed grass pitches had a complex scoring system with criteria ranging from length of grass to drainage to proximity of changing facilities to pitches. The maximum score under this system is 53. 77% had a score of 40 or over and 93% reached BELAP’s “acceptable” score of 32. Three facilities – Stanmer Park Pitch 1 Whitehawk Recreation Ground and Hollingdean Park – were below the threshold score of 32.

4.2.8 Gymnastics

There is one specialist gymnastics facility in the city at St Agnes Church in Hove which has for several years been the base of Brighton and Hove Gymnastics Club. Although a full gymnastics layout is provided and gymnasts are developed at the club up to national standard, the facility is not in good condition and could not in any sense be considered an ideal provision for the sport.

Condition rating	5/10
Fitness for purpose rating	7/10

4.2.9 Gyms

There are 29 gyms in the city. The largest gym [1500 sqm] is at David Lloyd Leisure and the smallest [28sqm] is at Brighton, Hove and Sussex Sixth Form College. There is a total of 7,480 sqm of gym floor space in the city and the average gym size is 258 sqm. The average number of pieces of equipment in each gym is 39 and the overall split in equipment type is 61% CV equipment and 39% resistance equipment. In addition, 25 gyms have free weights and 9 gyms have spinning bikes with an average number of 10.5 bikes. The distribution of gym sizes is as follows

Size [sq metres]	Number	%
1,000 +	1	3.4
750 to 999	1	3.4
500 to 749	1	3.4
250 to 449	8	27.6
100 to 249	10	34.6
Under 100	8	27.6
Total	29	100.0

The profile of ownership/management is

Facility Type	Number	%
Private Club	11	37.9
School	10	34.5
Council Facility	7	24.2
University/ College	1	3.4
Total	29	100.0

Average condition rating 7.8/10
 Average fitness for purpose rating 7.7/10

4.2.10 Indoor Sports - Ancillary Facilities

The number of indoor sports sites included in the audit was 81. This includes sites which provide both indoor and outdoor facilities which were mainly schools.

Changing Accommodation

39 sites provide dry changing facilities. All but one [Fitness First for Women] provide for male and female users. 14 of the 39 sites provide facilities for disabled users. 36 sites provide showers, 22 provide lockers and 15 provide baby changing facilities.

Average condition rating 6.6/10
 Average fitness for purpose rating 6.8/10

9 sites provide wet changing facilities. All have showers but only 4 provide lockers and 3 have baby changing facilities. 3 have facilities for disabled users.

Average condition rating 5.4/10
 Average fitness for purpose rating 5.7/10

Other ancillary facilities

The number of sites with additional ancillary facilities is as follows

Facility Type	Number
On site car parking	54
Reception area	50
Cafe	29
Bar	21
Vending	23
Shop	5
Meeting rooms	35
Creche	18

No assessment was carried out of the condition or fitness for purpose of other ancillary facilities.

Other activities

The number of sites providing for other non sporting activities is as follows:

<u>Facility Type</u>	<u>Number</u>
Consultation rooms	15
Sunbeds	10
Sauna/ steam room	13
Soft play	2
Snooker/ pool	10

No assessment was carried out of the condition or fitness for purpose of other activity spaces.

4.2.11 Multi Use Games Areas [MUGA's]

There are 6 MUGA's at 4 locations. 3 of the locations are council facilities and the other is a community centre. Sports markings/ capability at the 6 MUGA's is as follows

<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>
Five a Side Football	6
Basketball	5
Netball	3
Tennis	2

Note that these MUGA's do not include any tarmac tennis courts which are also used for some other sports particularly netball [see Tennis below].

Average condition rating	7.5/10
Average fitness for purpose rating	7.2/10

4.2.12 Multi Purpose Rooms

There are 61 indoor multi purpose rooms at 46 sites used for a wide range of activities from dance to tai chi to boxing to short mat bowls. The average room size is 149.8 sqm. The largest room is 784 sqm at Cardinal Newman School and the smallest is 15 sqm at the Amateur Boxing and Kickboxing Club.

The profile of ownership/ management is

Facility Type	Number	%
Community Centre	22	47.8
School	10	21.7
BH Council	5	10.9
Church/ Religious Organisation	5	10.9
Private Club	3	6.5
Sports Club	1	2.2
Total	46	100.0

Average condition rating 6.8/10
 Average fitness for purpose rating 6.9/10

4.2.13 Outdoor Sports – Ancillary Facilities

The number of outdoor sports sites included in the audit was 41. This includes sites which provide both indoor and outdoor facilities which were mainly schools.

The number of sites with additional outdoor ancillary facilities is as follows

Facility Type	Number
Changing rooms	9
Pavilion	7
Clubhouse	14

Overall ratings were given by site to cover all ancillary facilities as follows

Average condition rating 7.1/10
 Average fitness for purpose rating 7.3/10

4.2.14 Sports Halls

The city has 39 sports halls in 27 locations. Sports hall size is generally expressed in number of badminton courts and size varies from 6 court to 1 court halls. There are two 6 court halls - at Dorothy Stringer School and Moulsecoomb Community Leisure Centre. The average court size is 2.7 and distribution is as follows:

Courts	Number	%
6	2	5.6
5	3	8.3
4	10	27.8
3	1	2.8
2	4	11.1
1	16	44.4
Total	36	100.0

<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Number of Studios</u>	<u>% of all Studios</u>
Sound system	19	48.7
Steps	12	30.7
Weights	12	30.7
Mirrors	21	53.8
Barre	8	20.5
Punchbags	2	5.1
Boxing ring	1	2.6

The profile of sites by type of management is

<u>Facility Type</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>
Private Club	11	44.0
School	9	36.0
Council Facility	2	8.0
University/ College	1	4.0
Community Centre	1	4.0
Religious Organisation	1	4.0
Total	25	100.0

Average condition rating 7.5/10
Average fitness for purpose rating 7.7/10

4.2.17 Swimming Pools

The city has 22 swimming pools at 15 sites of which 19 are indoor and 3 outdoor. By length, the pools are profiled as follows

<u>Length [metres]</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>
33	1	4.5
25	6	27.4
20	5	22.7
18	1	4.5
15	4	18.2
12.5	2	9.1
10	2	9.1
8	1	4.5
Total	22	100.0

In total, there are 4,097 square metres of water space provided in the borough.

By management type the 15 sites are distributed as follows

Facility Type	Number	%
School	6	40.0
Private Club	5	33.3
Council Facility	3	20.0
Community Group	1	6.7
Total	15	100.0

Average condition rating 7.0/10
 Average fitness for purpose rating 7.1/10

4.2.18 Tennis

Outdoor courts

The city has 106 outdoor tennis courts at 21 locations. These are broken down by surface type as follows

Surface Type	Number of Courts	%
Tarmac	89	83.9
Artificial Grass	11	10.4
Acrylic	3	2.8
Grass	2	1.9
Carpet	1	1.0
Total	106	100.0

The distribution of courts by type of facility is

Facility Type	Number	%
School	51	48.1
Council Facility	25	23.6
Private Club	24	22.6
University/ College	6	5.7
Total	106	100.0

5 sites have floodlighting. The largest tennis facilities are at Hove Park – 11 courts; Preston Tennis Club – 10 courts; Pavilion and Avenue Tennis Club – 10 courts.

Netball/ basketball – 11 of the tarmac courts are also marked for netball and 2 for basketball.

Average condition rating 7.3/10
 Average fitness for purpose rating 7.3/10

Indoor courts

There are 11 indoor tennis courts in the city split between the Esporta Health and Racquet Club [8 courts] and Withdean Sports Complex [3 courts].

Average condition rating	9.7/10
Average fitness for purpose rating	9.7/10

4.3 Other Sports

A number of areas of provision have not been included in the audit and it should be noted that Brighton and Hove does in addition have significant levels of provision for sports such as

- Horse racing
- Water sports
- Triathlon

There are also many sports not specifically mentioned in the above analysis which do nevertheless have an active base in Brighton and Hove albeit without a high level of purpose built provision. These include such sports as martial arts and fencing.

4.4 Primary and Junior Schools

There are 44 junior and primary schools in the city. For the vast majority of these, indoor sports facilities are integrated with main assembly halls which generally have wall bars and a marked badminton court. 13 schools have some other hall which is also used for sport. Only two schools - Whitehawk and Moulsecomb – have what could be described as a formal sports hall.

29 schools have outdoor hard play areas which have netball posts and markings. 8 make outdoor basketball provision. 30 have outdoor grass areas which are mainly used for football. Only 3 schools report formal use for cricket.

4.5 Secondary Schools

Secondary schools - both state and independent - are included as part of the main audit. It is worth noting, however, the significance of schools facilities in the city. There are 17 secondary school sites which have sports facilities including 4 independent schools. 6 schools have swimming pools all of which are either 20m or 25m in length. All 17 have sports halls most of which have 4 badminton courts or more. 12 have grass pitches and 3 have artificial turf pitches. 13 have tennis courts although all of these are tarmac surfaced. 9 have gyms and 9 have workout studios. The combined total of all of this provision makes schools a major source of sports facilities in the city.

5. CROSS FACILITY ISSUES

5.1 Location

Of the 107 facilities audited, the location profile by postcode was

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

Analysis by postcode and type of facility is given below

<u>Facility Type</u>	<u>BN1</u>	<u>BN2</u>	<u>BN3</u>	<u>BN41</u>
BH Council	7	6	6	0
Church/ Religious Organisation	3	2	3	0
Community Centre	8	14	4	0
Private Club	10	6	14	1
Private School	0	4	0	0
Sports Club	2	1	0	0
State School	3	2	4	1
University/ FE College	4	1	1	0
Total	37	36	32	2

5.2 Condition

Ratings out of 10 were given for each separate area of provision within a building so that in a leisure centre, for example, the pool, gym, studios etc were all given their own individual rating. A score of 10 represented 'Extremely Good' and a score of 1 represented 'Extremely Poor'. In addition to giving a rating, assessors were able to provide notes on specific issues which they had taken into account in awarding their rating or to which they wished to draw attention.

The highest condition ratings were 10.0 for the Stanley Deason Climbing Wall; 9.7 average for indoor tennis courts; 8.8 average for artificial turf pitches.

The lowest condition ratings were 5.4 average for wet changing facilities; 6.6 average for dry changing facilities; 6.8 average for multi purpose rooms

5.3 Fitness for Purpose

Similar to the Condition ratings described above, a General Fitness for Purpose rating was given in which 10 represented 'Fully Fit for Purpose' and 1 represented 'Completely Unfit for Purpose'. This rating gave an insight into the general quality and suitability of what was provided. As with the Condition rating assessors provided

notes on specific issues which they had taken into account in awarding their rating or to which they wished to draw attention.

The highest fitness for purpose ratings were 10.0 for the Stanley Deason Climbing Wall; 10.0 average for squash courts; 10.0 for Withdean Stadium.

The lowest fitness for purpose ratings were 5.7 average for wet changing facilities; 6.8 average for dry changing facilities; 6.9 average for multi purpose rooms.

6. COMPARISON WITH OTHER AUTHORITIES [HOW GOOD IS BRIGHTON AND HOVE?]

There are no absolute standards of provision with which the audit can be compared and very few authorities have carried out such a comprehensive facilities audit. Audits which have been carried out and are publicly available are not necessarily helpful because the methodologies are all different and the authorities [Rugby and Woking, for example] are not comparable. Even where notional standards exist – e.g. sports hall space and water space per head of population – they change over time and are so abstract as to have little meaning in the context of the large number of variables such as balance between private and public provision, exact locations, packaging of facilities, opening hours, booking access etc. that all contribute to establishing the true level of provision in any defined area.

However, some comparison is useful and, for the purpose of this exercise, facilities in 3 other south coast cities have been examined – Southampton [Pop: 217,000], Portsmouth [Pop: 187,000] and Plymouth [Pop: 241,000]. Brighton and Hove’s population is 248,000 so all of these cities offer a broad point of comparison with Brighton and Hove. Using Sports England’s Active Places database, which registers all recognised sports facilities, as a point of comparison, and looking simply at the number of facilities within a 5 mile radius of the city centre the following results are shown.

Brighton and Hove

Radius	Number of facilities	% of 5 miles
5 miles	106	100.0
4 miles	77	72.6
3 miles	61	57.5
2 miles	38	35.8
1 mile	10	9.4

Portsmouth

Radius	Number of facilities	% of 5 miles
5 miles	111	100.0
4 miles	95	85.5
3 miles	61	54.9
2 miles	37	33.3

1 mile	18	16.2
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Plymouth

Radius	Number of facilities	% of 5 miles
5 miles	116	100.0
4 miles	99	85.3
3 miles	65	56.0
2 miles	42	36.2
1 mile	13	11.2

Southampton

Radius	Number of facilities	% of 5 miles
5 miles	123	100.0
4 miles	97	78.8
3 miles	64	52.0
2 miles	33	26.8
1 mile	13	10.6

No absolute conclusions can be drawn from this analysis but it is interesting to note that Brighton and Hove has fewer facilities than the other 3 cities. This does not necessarily mean that it makes less sporting provision because individual facilities may be larger than elsewhere.

The most interesting analysis is the geographical distribution from the city centre where Brighton and Hove has the distinct characteristic of a much wider distribution of facilities. Fewer of its facilities are within one mile of the city centre and a much higher percentage [27.4 % compared with 14.5% in Portsmouth] are between 4 and 5 miles from the city centre. There may be specific population distribution reasons for this but it suggests that Brighton and Hove is better at placing facilities within residential districts, creating a more immediate access for users.

These results should also be placed in the context of the Sport England Active People survey of 2006 which identified that 25.1 % of Brighton and Hove residents spent at least 30 minutes 3 times a week on exercise of moderate intensity and 4.2 % regularly volunteered at least 1 hour a week to support sporting activity. These were the best results of any of the four cities. Plymouth, for example, was the worst performer in the whole of the south west region with 18.6% regularly exercising and 3.6% volunteering. Brighton and Hove may have fewer facilities but it has higher levels of activity.

Sport England has a facility calculator which allows local authorities to calculate the level of facility provision required to meet the needs of their local population. The calculator has indicators in 2 key areas – swimming pools and sports halls – and also has indicators for indoor bowls. Comparison between the facility calculator requirements for Brighton and Hove and the audit results is as follows

Sports Halls

<u>Requirement</u>	<u>Audit</u>	<u>Variation</u>
73 badminton courts	94 courts	21 courts
18 halls	36 halls	18 halls

Pools

<u>Requirement</u>	<u>Audit</u>	<u>Variation</u>
2542 sqm of water area	4097 sqm	1555 sqm
48 lanes	78 lanes	30 lanes
12 pools	22 pools	10 pools

Indoor Bowls

<u>Requirement</u>	<u>Audit</u>	<u>Variation</u>
14 rinks	14 rinks	None
2 centres	2 centres	None

Again, unfortunately, these analyses beg more questions than they ask because it is the access to facilities rather than the quantity that really determines whether the needs of the local population are being met. Public pools in the city, for example, provide only 1,366 sq m of water and publicly accessible sports halls provide only 31 badminton courts - both well below the requirement standard.

Despite attempts to create ideal models and points of comparison, it is extremely difficult to answer the question of how Brighton and Hove compares to provision elsewhere. In terms of general quantity and type of facilities, Brighton is broadly comparable but what it clearly lacks in comparison are major modern facilities and true centres of excellence for specific sports. Generally Portsmouth, Southampton and Plymouth's main leisure centres are bigger and newer than Brighton's but more marked are the high level specialist facilities which each city has.

Southampton, for example 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.

The challenge for Brighton and Hove is not only to modernise and expand its portfolio of mainstream sports and leisure provision but to improve sports development opportunities in the city by beginning to build an expanded network of specialist sports facilities allowing individual sports to expand their impact and to raise their standards.

7. CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Overview

The Council has carried out an exceptional exercise in gathering together a large amount of information about sports provision in the city. This information shows that Brighton and Hove is a thriving sporting city with good levels of participation and a wide range of facilities. Its most noted sporting facilities are the county cricket ground, the racecourse, Withdean Stadium and the sea. Some sports such as golf and squash are well provided for and general distribution of facilities across the city is comparatively good.

However, many of these facilities are old, many are not purpose built and many do not have high levels of public access. In particular, the city lacks high profile facilities and a much needed network of specialist sports facilities which could form the focus of a major sports development programme. Portsmouth, for example, by comparison has a gymnastics centre, martial arts centre, indoor tennis centre and a cycle velodrome as well as a major indoor sports centre, the Mountbatten Centre. It is this type of provision that the city needs to aim to make if it is to raise the level of sports activity in Brighton and Hove.

These issues are already being addressed and projects are being developed which will begin to transform the pattern of sports provision in the city. These include the proposed ice rink at Black Rock, the new Falmer Stadium and the new King Alfred Sports Centre in Hove. But more work needs to be done on a sport by sport basis, working in partnership with local clubs, to expand opportunities for specialist sports developments. A recent example of a partnership project between the city council, Cardinal Newman School and Brighton and Hove Hockey Club to create a hockey development centre at the school is a good example of a cooperative venture which would deliver this aim. Unfortunately, the project has yet to find sufficient funding to proceed.

At the other end of the spectrum, any move to open up the increasingly significant school facilities in the city would have an impact on general levels of participation by creating easy local access to activities. Whilst it is accepted that there are many practical and financial issues to be resolved in doing this, the portfolio of school facilities is substantial and use is generally limited to daytime and term time. More evening and holiday use by organised groups and sports clubs could produce substantial local benefit.

7.2 Priorities

In terms of strategically planning the future of sports facility development in the city, the audit suggests 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
- Encouraging new sports such as handball and American football by simply making pitch markings and court markings available to them

Apart from the new facility plans already in place and the possibility of additional pitch and court markings, there is no immediate and ready answer to any of these issues. All require planning and funding in order to be delivered. However, although there may be no instant solutions to call on, it is still important that these issues are integrated into the strategic planning of the council so that when future opportunities do arise to take action, there is a clear sense of the priorities which have to be met.

APPENDIX 1 LIST OF FACILITIES INCLUDED IN THE AUDIT

In alphabetical order. These are facilities which were visited and assessed in detail. They do not include a number of additional grass pitch sites for which information from the BELAP survey of 2005 was used or primary schools from whom information was gathered through a telephone survey.

<u>Name of Facility</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Postal District</u>
67 Centre	Hodshrove Lane, Moulsecoomb	BN2
Alive Fitness	25-27 Castle Street, Brighton	BN1
Amateur Boxing and Kickboxing Club	Hodshrove Lane, Moulsecoomb	BN2
Badgers Tennis Club	Church Place, Kemptown	BN2
Benfield Valley Golf Course	The Cottages, Hangleton Lane, Portslade	BN3
Blatchington Mill School and Sixth Form Centre	Nevill Avenue, Hove	BN3
Bridge Community Education Centre	Lucraft Road, Brighton	BN2
Brightem Church and Community Centre	North Road, Brighton	BN1
Brighton and Hove Golf Club	Devil's Dyke Road, Brighton	BN1
Brighton and Hove Gymnastics Club	St Agnes Church, Goldstone Lane, Hove	BN3
Brighton Buccaneers Baseball Field	Pavilion Field, Waterhall, Brighton	BN1
Brighton College	Eastern Road, Brighton	BN2
Brighton Ki Society	12 Queen Square, Brighton	BN1
Brighton Rugby Club	Waterhall Playing Fields, Mill Road, Brighton	BN1
Brighton Unemployed Centre Families Project	6 Tilbury Place, Brighton	BN2
Brighton Unitarian Church	New Road, Brighton	BN1
Brighton Youth Centre	64 Edward Street Brighton	BN2
Brighton Hove and Sussex Sixth Form College	205 Dyke Road, Brighton	BN3
Bristol Estate Community Centre	6 Donald Hall Road, Brighton	BN2
Carden Park Community College	Carden Park, Brighton	BN1
Cardinal Newman Catholic School	The Upper Drive, Hove	BN3
Cheetah's Gym	King Alfred Leisure Centre, Kingsway, Brighton	BN3
City College, Brighton and Hove	Pelham Street, Brighton	BN1
City Gate Centre	84-86, London Road, Brighton	BN1
Cockcroft Sports Centre	Brighton University, Lewes Road, Brighton	BN2
Community Base	113 Queens Road, Brighton	BN1

<u>Name of Facility</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Postal District</u>
Coral Health and Fitness	Orchard Road, Hove	BN3
Cornerstone Community Centre	Church Road, Hove	BN3
Crew Club	26 Coolham Drive, Whitehawk	BN2
David Lloyd Leisure	Marina Village, Brighton Marina	BN2
Deans Leisure Centre	Falmer Road, Rottingdean	BN2
Dorothy Stringer School	Loder Road, Brighton	BN1
Dorset Gardens Methodist Church	Dorset Gardens, Brighton	BN2
Dyke Golf Club	Devil's Dyke, Brighton	BN1
East Brighton Golf Club	Roedean Road, Brighton	BN2
Esporta Health and Racquet Club	Village Way, Falmer	BN1
Falmer High School	Lewes Road, Brighton	BN1
Fit for All	Unit 1, Portland Trading Estate, Portland Road, Hove	BN3
Fitness First for Women	Queens Road, Brighton	BN1
Hamilton Lodge School	7-9 Walpole Road, Brighton	BN2
Hangleton Community Centre	Harmsworth Crescent, Hove	BN3
Hanover Community Centre	33 Southover Street, Brighton	BN2
Hollingbury Park Golf Course	Ditchling Road, Brighton	BN1
Hollingdean Community Centre	Thompson Road, Brighton	BN1
Hollingdean Sure Start	Brentwood Road, Brighton	BN1
Hove Dance Centre	Prestwich House, North Street, Portslade	BN41
Hove Lagoon Watersports	Hove Lagoon, Kingsway, Hove	BN3
Hove Park	Old Shoreham Road, Hove	BN3
Hove Park Lower School	Hangleton Way, Hove	BN3
Hove Park Upper School	Nevill Road, Hove	BN3
Hove Recreation Ground	Old Shoreham Road, Hove	BN3
Hove YMCA	17 Marmion Road, Hove	BN3
King Alfred Leisure Centre	Kingsway, Hove	BN3
Kingsway Multiplay	Kingsway Hove [c/o King Alfred LC]	BN3
Knoll Recreation Ground	Rowan Avenue, Hove	BN3
LA Fitness, Brighton	Tower Point, North Road, Brighton	BN1
LA Fitness, Hove	St Helier's Road, Hove	BN3
Manor Road Gym	Manor Road, Brighton	BN2
Meadowview Community Centre	Meadowview, Bevendean, Brighton	BN2
Moulsecoomb Community Leisure Centre	Moulsecoomb Way, Brighton	BN2
Nevill Recreation Ground	Nevill Avenue, Hove	BN3
Nivea Sun Yellowbase	299 Madeira Drive, Brighton	BN2
Old Slipper Baths	Church Street, Brighton	BN1
Patcham Community Centre	Ladies Mile Road, Brighton	BN1
Patcham High School	Ladies Mile Road, Brighton	BN1
Patcham Memorial Hall	Old London Road, Brighton	BN1
Patcham Youth Centre	Old Library, Ladies Mile Road, Patcham	BN1

<u>Name of Facility</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Postal District</u>
Pavilion and Avenue Tennis Club	The Droveaway, Hove	BN3
Portslade Sports Centre	Upper School, Chalky Road, Portslade	BN41
Preston Bowls Club	189 Preston Road, Brighton	BN1
Preston Tennis Club	Preston Drive, Brighton	BN1
Prince Regent Swimming Complex	Church Street, Brighton	BN1
Ralli Hall – BH Jewish Centre	81 Denmark Villas, Hove	BN3
Riptide Gym	152, Kingsway Road Arches, Brighton	BN1
Roedean School	Roedean Way, Brighton	BN2
Rottingdean Cricket Club	Falmer Road, Brighton	BN2
Rottingdean Recreation Ground	Falmer Road, Brighton	BN2
Rox School of Dance and Drama	Unit 1-3, The Old Perfume Factory, Fonthill Road, Hove	BN3
Saltdean Community Centre	Saltdean Park Road, Saltdean	BN2
Saltdean Fitness Centre	Saltdean Park Road, Saltdean	BN2
Saltdean Lido	Saltdean Park Road, Saltdean	BN2
South Portslade Community Centre	St Andrew's Church, Church Road Portslade	BN3
St Aubyn's School	Rottingdean, Brighton	BN2
St George's Hall	Court Farm Road, Hove	BN3
St Luke's Swimming Pool	St Luke's Terrace, Brighton	BN2
St Mary Magdalen Community Centre	Upper North Street, Brighton	BN1
St Mary's Hall School	Eastern Road, Brighton	BN2
St Peter's Community Centre	Hangleton Road/ Holmes Avenue, Hove	BN3
St Richard's Community Centre	Egmont Road, Hove	BN3
Stanley Deason Leisure Centre	Wilson Avenue, Brighton	BN2
Sussex County Cricket Club	The County Ground, Eaton Road, Brighton	BN3
The Salvation Army	1-6 Park Crescent Terrace, Brighton	BN2
University of Sussex Falmer Sports Complex	Falmer, Brighton	BN1
University of Sussex Sports Centre	Falmer, Brighton	BN1
Valley Social Centre	Whitehawk Way, Brighton	BN2
Varley Halls Gym	Brighton University, Coldean Lane, Brighton	BN1
Varndean College	Surrenden Road, Brighton	BN1
Varndean School	Balfour Road, Brighton	BN1
Waterhall Golf Club	Saddlescomb Road, Brighton	BN1
West Hove Golf Club	Badgers Way, Hangleton	BN3
Westows Play and Football	School Road, Hove	BN3
Whitehawk Youth and Community Centre	Whitehawk Road, Brighton	BN2
Withdean Sports Complex	Tongdean Lane, Brighton	BN1
Woodingdean Community Centre	Warren Road, Woodingdean, Brighton	BN2

<u>Name of Facility</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Postal District</u>
Woodingdean Outdoor Swimming Pool	Warren Road, Woodingdean, Brighton	BN2
Woodingdean Youth Centre	Warren Road, Woodingdean, Brighton	BN2
ZT Fitness	Unit 7, Hove Business Park, Fonthill Road, Hove	BN3

APPENDIX 2 SPORT ENGLAND RECOGNISED SPORTS

Aikido
Angling
Aquathlon
Archery
Arm Wrestling
Artistic Skating (Roller)
Association Football
Athletics
Australian Rules Football
Badminton
Ballooning
Ballroom Dancing
Basketball
Baseball/Softball
Baton Twirling
Biathlon
Bicycle Polo
Billiards
BMX
Bobsleigh
Boccia
Bowls
British Wheelchair Bowling Association
Boxing
Camogie
Canoeing
Caving
Chinese Martial Arts
Clay Pigeon Shooting
Cricket
Croquet
Curling
Cycling
Cyclo cross
Dance Sport
Darts
Disability Sport
Diving
Dragon Boat Racing
Duathlon
Equestrian
Exercise and Fitness
Fencing
Folk Dancing
Flying
Fives
Futsal

Gaelic Football
Gliding
Golf
Gymnastics
Handball
Hang Gliding and Paragliding
Harness Racing
Health and Beauty Exercise
Highland Games
Hockey
Horse Racing
Horse Riding
Hovering
Hurling
Ice Hockey
Ice Skating
Jet Skiing
Judo
Ju Jitsu
Kabaddi
Karate
Keep Fit
Kendo
Kneeboarding
Korfball
Lacrosse
Land-Sailing/Yachting
Lawn Tennis
Life Saving
Luge
Model Aircraft Flying
Modern Pentathlon
Motor Cycling
Motor Sports
Motor Cruising
Mountain Biking
Mountaineering
Movement and Dance
Netball
Octopush
Orienteering
Parachuting
Petanque
Polo
Polocrosse
Pool
Powerboating
Powerlifting
Puck Hockey (Roller)
Quoits

Rafting (White Water and Wild Water)
Rackets
Racketball
Rambling
Real Tennis
Roller Sports
Rounders
Rowing
Rugby League
Rugby Union
Sailing and Yachting
Sand and Land Yachting
Shooting (Air, Clay Target, Crossbow, Muzzle Loading, Pistol, Rifle and Target)
Show Jumping
Skateboarding
Skater Hockey (Roller)
Skiing
Skipping
Snooker
Snowboarding
Softball
Sombo
Speedway
Speed Skating (Roller)
Squash
Sub Aqua
Surf Life Saving
Surfing
Swimming and Diving
Table Tennis
Tae Kwon Do
Tang Soo Do
Tenpin Bowling
Trampolining
Triathlon
Tug of War
Unihoc
Volleyball
Wakeboarding
Water Polo
Water Skiing
Weightlifting
Windsurfing
Wrestling
Yoga

