

**SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY**

**MARCH 2024**

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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## **PART 1: INTRODUCTION**

This is the South Gloucestershire Indoor and Built Facilities Strategy for the period 2022 – 2043. It draws on the recommendations listed in the previous Strategy, produced in 2017 along with the 2022 Needs Assessment Report, researched and prepared in Spring 2022 by Knight Kavanagh and Page (KKP). The Assessment Report and Strategy have been prepared in accordance with Sport England's ANOG (Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities) and in consultation with South Gloucestershire Council (SGC), Wesport (the Active Partnership for the area), Sport England, national governing bodies of sport (NGBs), local sports clubs and key stakeholders.

### **1.1 Purpose**

The overall aim of the Indoor and Built Facilities Strategy is for SGC to make informed decisions to ensure that sports and physical activity facilities with an appropriate combination of amenities are located in the right places to ensure that the maximum number of local people take part in regular, meaningful physical activity. SGC has an aspiration and need to consider its facilities planning, particularly in the context of the significant increase in population within the Authority.

The focus of this Strategy is to provide clear direction to all partners so that together they can plan and develop the more modern, efficient and sustainable range of community-based leisure, physical activity and sport facilities that South Gloucestershire's residents require.

It provides a concise, robust, comprehensive and up-to-date evidence base in line with the emerging South Gloucestershire Local Plan and sets out a strategic, action plan-based approach to the enhancement of existing, and creation of new, sporting provision.

This will ensure that residents have the option to be physically active and healthier, and where appropriate develop their physical, sporting, health and wellbeing ambitions within their local community. This report is one component of a wider suite of strategies which also includes the Authority's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS).

### **1.2 National strategic context**

#### ***Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation (December 2015)<sup>1</sup>***

The Government's strategy for sport confirms its recognition and understanding that sport makes a positive difference and states its intention that the sector will deliver five simple but fundamental outcomes: physical health, mental health, individual development, social and community development and economic development.

#### ***Sport England: Uniting the Movement 2021<sup>2</sup>***

Sport England's Strategy sets out its assertion that sport and physical activity have a major role to play in improving the physical and mental health of the nation, supporting the economy, reconnecting communities and rebuilding a stronger society for all following the

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<sup>1</sup>

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/486622/Sporting\\_Future\\_ACCESSIBLE.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/486622/Sporting_Future_ACCESSIBLE.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.sportengland.org/about-us/uniting-movement>

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global pandemic. Reflecting this, Uniting the Movement is its 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity.

It seeks to tackle the inequalities that it states are long seen in sport and physical activity making the point that ‘providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity, has never been more important’.

The three key Strategy objectives are:



As well as being an advocate for sport and physical activity, through the building of evidence and partnership development, the Strategy identifies five ‘big issues’ that it wants people and communities to address by working together. They are described as the major challenges to England being an active nation over the next decade as well as being the greatest opportunities to make a lasting difference. Each is designated as a building block that, on its own, would make a difference, but together, could change things profoundly. The issues are:

- ◀ *Recover and reinvent*: Recovering from the biggest crisis in a generation and reinventing as a vibrant, relevant and sustainable network of organisations providing sport and physical activity opportunities that meet the needs of different people.
- ◀ *Connecting communities*: Focusing on sport and physical activity’s ability to make better places to live and bring people together.
- ◀ *Positive experiences for children and young people*: Unrelenting focus on positive experiences for all children and young people as the foundations for a long and healthy life.
- ◀ *Connecting with health and wellbeing*: Strengthening the connections between sport, physical activity, health and wellbeing, so more people can feel the benefits of, and advocate for, an active lifestyle.
- ◀ *Active environments*: Creating and protecting the places and spaces that make it accessible for people to be active.

To address these, the right conditions for change need to be created: across people, organisations and partnerships to help convert plans and ideas. This will include a range of actions including development of effective investment models and applying innovation and digital technology to ensure sport and physical activity are more accessible.

The specific impact of the Strategy will be captured via funded programmes, interventions made, and partnerships forged. For each specific area of action, key performance indicators will be developed to help evidence the overall progress being made by all those involved in supporting sport and physical activity.

### ***Sport England’s planning aim***

Sport England’s aim in working with the planning system is to help provide active environments that maximise opportunities for sport and physical activity for all, enabling the already active to be more so and the inactive to become active. This is supported by the planning objectives of Protect, Enhance, Provide:

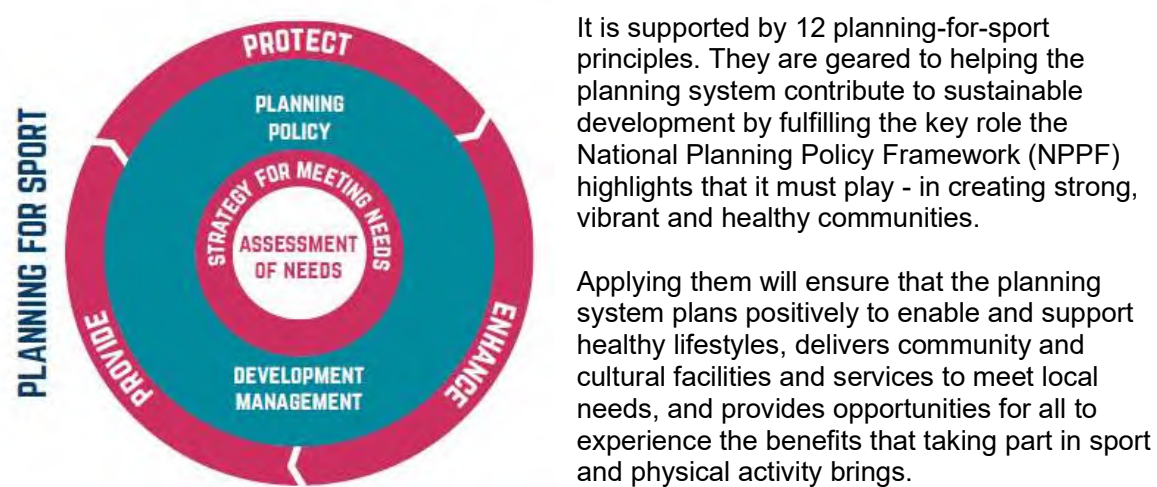
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Table 1.1: Sport England Planning objectives

Protect	Enhance	Provide
To protect the right opportunities in the right places.	To enhance opportunities through better use of existing provision	To provide new opportunities to meet the needs of current and future generations.
Existing provision should be protected unless an assessment has demonstrated there is an excess of the provision and the specific buildings or land are surplus to requirements; or the loss would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the former or current use.	The use of existing provision should be optimised, for example, through quality, access and management improvements supported by appropriate ancillary facilities.	Appropriate new provision that meets needs and encourages people to play sport and be physically active should be provided by adapting existing places and through new development.

Figure 1.1: The Sport England Planning for Sport Model



These principles are applicable to all areas of the planning system at all levels, for example strategic, local authority and neighbourhood planning levels. As such they are of relevance to all involved in, or looking to engage with, the planning system.

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Figure 1.2: Sport England's 12 Planning Principles



## **PART 2: LOCAL AREA CONTEXT**

### **2.1 Local strategic context**

The Council is committed to improving residents' health and wellbeing. It understands the relationship between this and physical activity and this underpins the current Core Strategy and future Local Plan. It recognises the importance of working in partnership with other agencies, such as Circadian leisure trust, to deliver health and wellbeing opportunity.

#### **South Gloucestershire New Local Plan**

The Council is currently working on development of its new Local Plan. As part of the initial phase, it has identified key challenges which will form the focus of the Plan. These are:

- ◀ A declared Climate Emergency to which the Council must respond to positively and proactively, with the aim to be carbon neutral by 2030.
- ◀ An increasing population - by 23.7% (+71,626) which will require the delivery of new homes and services.
- ◀ Creating a strong, clean and green economy that provides land for businesses and investment.
- ◀ Creating a sustainable transport network to support the connectivity of people and businesses across the Authority.
- ◀ Ensure all existing and future environments promote healthy and active lifestyles.

The new Local Plan will cover the period from 2025 – 2042 and will eventually replace the adopted planning policies in the Core Strategy 2006 – 2027, listed below.

This Indoor and Built Facilities Strategy sets out an action plan designed to ensure that existing and potential future facilities are the most appropriate in terms of quantity, quality and location and consider how best to meet the additional needs generated by the planned housing and economic growth.

#### ***The Core Strategy 2006-2027***

This is the key document in SGC's portfolio of Local Development Framework (LDF) planning documents. It sets out the vision for the area based on; evidence, community objectives and the detailed spatial strategy for future development in South Gloucestershire to 2027. The three overarching and cross cutting objectives are:

- ◀ Delivering sustainable communities.
- ◀ Improving health and wellbeing.
- ◀ Mitigating and anticipating to the impacts of climate change.

The Core Strategy has six other objectives:

- ◀ Responding to climate change by developing high quality designed buildings and infrastructure.
- ◀ Talking congestion and improving accessibility.
- ◀ Managing future developments
- ◀ Managing the environment and heritage.
- ◀ Managing economic prosperity.
- ◀ Providing housing and community infrastructure.



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The Authority will see significant housing growth within the timeframe of the Strategy. It is committed to ensuring that current and future communities are supported by high quality infrastructure, including leisure and wellbeing provision.

### **South Gloucestershire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-25**

The Council's Health and Wellbeing Board aims to provide improvements to the health and wellbeing of the people living and working in South Gloucestershire. Its latest Strategy commits it to ensuring that *'All people in South Gloucestershire have the best start in life, live healthy and happy lives and age well in supportive, sustainable communities.'* To achieve this, the four key areas of focus are to:

- ◀ Improve educational attainment and raise aspirations through promotion of health and wellbeing in schools and colleges.
- ◀ Promote and enable positive mental health and wellbeing through the life-course.
- ◀ Promote and enable good nutrition, physical activity and a healthy weight through the life-course.
- ◀ Maximise the potential of the built and natural environment to enable healthy lifestyles and prevent disease.

To match its healthy lifestyles ambitions, Board members will work with Circadian and SGC to ensure that leisure centres are maintained to the highest standard and activity programmes are accessible to all, particularly those from hard-to-reach communities.

### **Climate Emergency Strategy 2020-2030**

In July 2019, South Gloucestershire Council declared a Climate Emergency pledging to provide the leadership to enable South Gloucestershire to become carbon neutral by 2030. To deliver this, the Council pledges the following:

- ◀ To maximise the generation of renewable energy from installations located within South Gloucestershire,
- ◀ To ensure South Gloucestershire is prepared for the local impacts of a changing climate,
- ◀ To ensure that nature in our local area is more protected, connected and healthy and that biodiversity is increased,
- ◀ To plant trees across South Gloucestershire by 2030 to double tree canopy cover.

The Council also publishes an annual Climate and Nature Emergency Action Plan, listing key actions linked to the above pledges within each plan.

### **Wesport Strategy 2020-2025: Acting with Purpose for our People and Place**

Wesport covers the Bristol City Region. Its latest strategy, Acting with Purpose for our People and Place aims to; *'Inspire active lives and create the conditions wherever possible to help everyone to move more'*. This vision will be achieved under three strategic themes:

- ◀ *Influencing the Local Ecosystem* - Wesport aims to ensure that decision makers, influencers, policies and those working and volunteering in the local sporting ecosystem understand what impact sport and physical activity can have, and the potential roles individuals and groups can play in helping maximise this impact.
- ◀ *Information and Measurement* - To communicate, on behalf of the sector, to help achieve Wesport's overall vision. Wesport will work to increase awareness of its role, mainly focusing on the professional network Wesport is working to influence.

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- ◀ *Wesport Delivery* - Wesport will continue to be a central hub through which national sport, physical activity and workforce programmes are delivered in the West of England.

### **Circadian Trust**

Circadian is the main local leisure trust in the Authority. It manages sites at Thornbury, Kingswood, Yate, Bradley Stoke and Longwell Green. In addition to managing the sites, it delivers a number of health-related programmes including a GP referral service and a no-cost swimming in pregnancy programme which are acknowledged to have delivered benefits towards physical and mental health of programme participants.

Circadian have quantified that these programmes saved an estimated £12m + across the lifespan of the previous facilities strategy based on the consequent reduction in GP visits and take up of mental health support services.

Its latest strategy, Reset 2021-2023, is geared around how the Trust will operate following the Pandemic. Its aims are to:

- ◀ Deliver a sustainable charitable business for customers and communities.
- ◀ Re-establish and grow the charity and customer base following the Pandemic.
- ◀ Capitalise on new social values and business opportunities.

To deliver the specific actions outlined above, the Trust will focus on:

- ◀ Developing a new customer base whilst supporting the existing one. This includes re-establishing the swim school and addressing the backlog of swimming lessons. It is estimated that this will take two years.
- ◀ Improving the facility stock via capital investment, including replacing the heat and power unit at Longwell Green Leisure Centre.
- ◀ Working with the planning department at the local authority on the emerging proposals for Kingswood High Street and Yate Town Centre including the potential for new leisure centres in both towns.
- ◀ Developing a working group to explore opportunities for growth along the Bristol fringe due to the significant housing growth proposed in the area.

### ***Summary of local policy***

The SGC area population will increase significantly over the next 20 years. The Authority is committed to ensuring that current and future populations have access to good physical activity opportunities, reside in strong communities, and are supported by a successful and sustainable economy. Working with key partners, SGC has the opportunity to ensure that the sport and physical activity infrastructure supports the level of growth and that there is a balanced sporting eco-system created which will increase levels of physical activity.

## **2.2 About South Gloucestershire**

SGC is a unitary authority in South West England. It comprises multiple towns and population centres with Yate being the administrative centre. Yate and Thornbury are located in the north and the east of the Authority. Kingswood and Bradley Stoke are the other two major towns - located along the border with the City of Bristol. This area is also known collectively as the Bristol fringe. There are good transport links from this area into the City via the two main routes (A38 & M32). An extensive motorway network passes through the

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Figure 1.1: Main towns and transport links – South Gloucestershire Council

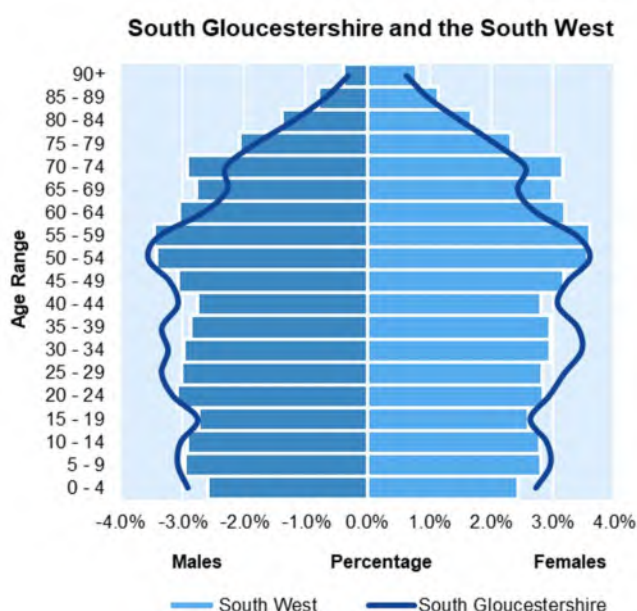


Authority providing access to both north-south (M5) and east-west (M4) links (see Figure 1.1 overleaf.)

**Population and distribution**  
(Data source: 2021 Mid-Year Estimate, ONS):  
The total population of South Gloucestershire is 286,318 (males = 142,464 and females = 143,854). Population density is greatest in and around the Bristol fringe, including

Filton, Bradley Stoke and Kingswood. The towns of Yate and Thornbury also have significant populations.

Of the 286,318, 47,429 (16.3%) are registered disabled.



Its population, age and gender composition set against that of the region indicates a higher proportion of 10-34 year-olds (South Gloucestershire = 30.7%, South West = 28.8%). This would appear to reflect its close proximity to the Bristol city region and the fact that there is a large student population linked to the University of the West of England.

Conversely, it has fewer people in the age groups from 60-75 (South Gloucestershire; 31.6%, South West; 37.9%); The age and make-up of the population is a key factor to consider, when developing and implementing the sport and physical activity offer in the area.

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**Ethnicity:** (Data source: 2011 census of population, ONS): South Gloucestershire's ethnic composition reflects that of England as a whole. According to the 2011 Census, the largest proportion (95%) of the local population classified their ethnicity as White; this is considerably higher than the comparative national rate of 85.4%. The next largest population group (by self-classification) is Asian, at 2.5%. This is much lower than the national equivalent (7.8%).

**Deprivation** (Data source: 2019 indices of deprivation, DCLG): South Gloucestershire experiences very low levels of deprivation. 4.1% of the Authority's population live in areas covered by the country's three most deprived cohorts compared to a national average of c.30%. Conversely, 53.3% live in the three least deprived groupings. This compares to a 'norm' of c.30%. Areas of high deprivation are focused around the Bristol fringe areas; the include Emersons Green and Longwell Green.

**Health data** (Data sources: ONS births and deaths, NCMP<sup>3</sup> and NOO<sup>4</sup>): In keeping with patterns seen alongside low levels of health deprivation, life expectancy in South Gloucestershire is higher than the national figure; the male rate is currently 81.2 compared to 79.6 for England, and the female equivalent is 84.5 compared to 83.2 nationally.

**Obesity rates** - Adult and child obesity rates in South Gloucestershire are above regional averages although the adult rate is slightly below the national figure. Although this is below the regional and national levels, the Council acknowledge it would like to reduce levels of childhood obesity.

	Adult obesity rates	Child obesity rates
South Gloucestershire	62.2%	28.9%
South West of England	61.7%	29.4%
England	68.5%	38.7%

**Active Lives Survey (ALS) 2020/21** - the percentage of South Gloucestershire's population considered to be inactive is 22.9%. This is below both regional (24.1%) and national (27.5%) averages. It has similar levels of active people (64.5%) when compared regionally (64.9%), however, it fares better when compared to the national levels (60.9%).

### Population projections

#### **Strategic planning: Change over 25 years (2018 to 2043<sup>5</sup>)**

The most recent ONS projections indicate a rise of 23.7% (+71,626) in the local population (+71,626) over the 25 years from 2018 to 2043. Several key points are outlined below.

- ◆ The number of 0–15-year-olds, rises by more than one quarter (+26.8%, 14,175) over the 25 year period (2018 and 2043).
- ◆ The number of 16–24-year-olds will rise by +14.1% in the first period (+4,297) to 2030.
- ◆ There is a continuous increase in the numbers of persons aged 65+ and a need to consider varying sports offers for this age group.

### 2.4 Planning policy

#### **South Gloucestershire housing growth**

<sup>3</sup> National Child Measurement Program

<sup>4</sup> National Obesity Observatory

<sup>5</sup> Office for National Statistics 2016-based population projections (data released May 2018)



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South Gloucestershire's new Local Plan will need to identify sufficient land for at least an additional 28,000 new homes over the next twenty years to meet the Authority's needs. Taking account of current planning consents and allocated development this will potentially require sites for c12000 homes to be identified as well as considering whether it is possible to accommodate a share of any unmet need in the wider Bristol City region in accordance with the current Duty to Cooperate. Key growth areas within the Authority which will include provision for indoor sport are:

*Filton Airfield* – There is outline planning consent at the former Filton airfield, on the border between the City of Bristol and South Gloucestershire, for a mixed-use development with outline planning consent for up to 2,675 new dwellings. Reserved matters planning consents have been granted for 278 dwellings so far. A community centre will include fitness studio space and new secondary school will have a four-court sports hall available for community use. A live planning application submitted in spring 2022 proposes increasing residential capacity of the site to up to 6,500 new homes as well as other uses and supporting infrastructure.

Housing growth will also support the area's growing employment sector, which has led to significant increases in the number of high-quality science and technology opportunities in the region. Airbus is one of the key employers currently in Filton. As part of the development, there are plans to convert former air hangars at the site, known as the Brabazon Hangars, for leisure purposes. Specifically, there is potential for the West Hangar, known as the Hub, (equivalent scale: 15 basketball courts) to accommodate a sizeable community leisure offer.

*Lyde Green* – There is Outline consent for 2,550 dwellings with supporting infrastructure and facilities. All parcels now have reserved matters consent and much of the development is now complete with over 1,800 homes occupied. A community centre with a 2-court sports hall and two activity rooms opened in the local centre in 2018 and a secondary school with a sports hall will also be built on site.

*Harry Stoke* – There is Outline planning consent for 1,200 dwellings with supporting infrastructure and facilities. Reserved matters planning consents have been granted for 929 dwellings so far. On site facilities will include a new community centre with main hall and activity rooms which is expected be built by early 2024.

*North Yate* – There is Outline planning consent for up to 2,450 new dwellings with supporting infrastructure and facilities and so far 844 dwellings are occupied. The development will include a new community centre with main hall and activity rooms in the local centre, and this is expected be built by early 2025.

*East of Harry Stoke* – There is Outline planning consent for 2,000 dwellings with supporting infrastructure and facilities. On-site infrastructure will include a community hub with a 2-court sports hall, activity rooms and changing facilities, as well as outdoor sport pitches and courts.

*Yate Town Centre*- Through its master planning work, SGC has sought the views of the community on plans to redevelop Yate Town Centre, to make it, 'a welcoming, healthy, sustainable, and prosperous place to live, work and visit'. This vision includes a combination of leisure, retail and housing. There could be scope to redevelop the current leisure centre as part of this future development.

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*Kingswood Town Centre-*, SGC has plans to redevelop Kingswood town centre. £12.5million has been secured from the Government's Future High Streets Fund and the Council recently purchased the Kingschase Shopping Centre. It has also secured central government funding, to create leisure, housing and community opportunities to complement the retail experience as part of the Council's longer-term ambitions for the site. The Authority has produced a masterplan for the town centre, and it is hoped that a new leisure centre could replace the current facility located at the edge of the town with a new facility in the heart of the retail complex.

The new Local Plan will, in due course, propose a range of housing development options with a focus on using brownfield and regeneration initiatives. This is alongside opportunities for small and medium sized developments, to help create a wider portfolio and range of sites available to meet the District's housing requirement target, thus reducing the reliance on a smaller number of strategic sites.

### ***Summary of the demographic profile and population projections***

It is estimated that South Gloucestershire's population will increase by 23.7% by 2043 largely driven by large areas of housing growth in its major towns. As with most areas across the County, there will be an increase in the number and proportion of people aged over 65, however, there will also be significant increases in those aged 25-34 (26%) and 35-44 (33%), reflecting the economic pull of the area, particularly with the growth of the science and technology sector in and around Filton.

It is therefore important to ensure that leisure facilities complement the growing population underpinned by appropriate facility programming. For example, there will be a need for more family related classes, such as swimming lessons. In addition, facilities will need to support other demographic cohorts, such as the 65+ age group with appropriate daytime activities.

It will be important to work in partnership with leisure teams in the City of Bristol authority, to ensure that facilities on the border with South Gloucestershire are sufficiently robust to cope with a potential increase in demand.

### PART 3: NEEDS ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

#### 3.1 General findings

The significant projected increase in the size of the South Gloucestershire population anticipated by 2043 means that the principal issues for the Authority are (a) whether it has sufficient capacity in key facility types (swimming pools, sports halls, health and fitness) to accommodate this increase in population, and (b) ensuring that facilities are fit for purpose in the longer term in respect of their quality and energy efficiency.

The major growth area is Filton, where an estimated increase in dwellings of c. 6,500 means that a new secondary school is proposed as part of the development. In addition, a community centre will be built, which will include activity studios and a fitness suite. This will increase sports hall capacity in the area; however, questions remain with regard to swimming pool capacity. As Filton is also on the border with the City of Bristol authority, there will be a need to work with Bristol City Council to ensure current and any new provision will support local residents in both South Gloucestershire and the City of Bristol.

Also, the plans to redevelop both Yate and Kingswood town centres mean that due to the age and poor quality of current local leisure provision, there is an opportunity to upgrade, redevelop or replace these as part of any future work.

#### 3.2: What do we know about facilities and activities in South Gloucestershire

##### *Sports halls*

Taking sports halls of all sizes into account, there are 57 sites providing 116 badminton courts in the Authority. Those with two or fewer courts are limited as to the range and scale of recreational and sporting activity they provide. There are 22 sites with sports halls that are 3+ badminton courts in size. These are listed below.

*Table 3.1: A list of the 3+ sports halls in South Gloucestershire along with current capacity levels*

Map ID	Site name	Crts	Assessment condition		Current Utilisation
			Court	Changing	
1	Abbeywood Community Sch	4	Above average	Above average	90%
11	Bradley Stoke Community	4	Poor	Not assessed	40%
13	Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre	4	Above average	Good	100%
14	Brimsham Green School	4	Above average	Not assessed	90%
20	Chipping Sodbury School	4	Above average	Above average	100%
26	Downend Sports Centre	4	Above average	Above average	n/a
37	Hanham Woods Academy	4	Below average	Below average	40%
42	John Cabot Academy	4	Below average	Below average	70%
44	Kingswood Leisure Centre	4	Poor	Above average	50%
52	Mangotsfield School	4	Below average	Below average	80%
53	Marlwood School	4	Poor	Not assessed	n/a
66	Patchway Community College	4	Not assessed	Not assessed	n/a
77	Sir Bernard Lovell Academy (S	4	Above average	Good	100%

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Map ID	Site name	Crts	Assessment condition		Current Utilisation
			Court	Changing	
79	South Gloucestershire & Stroud	4	Good	Above average	100%
86	The Castle School	3	Good	Not assessed	40%
86	The Castle School	4	Good	Not assessed	40%
94	Thornbury Leisure Centre	5	Above average	Above average	50%
94	Thornbury Leisure Centre	5	Below average	Above average	50%
98	UWE Centre For Sport	8	Good	Good	80%
104	Winterbourne Academy	4	Above average	Above average	60%
107	Yate Academy	4	Above average	Not assessed	60%
108	Yate Leisure Centre	7	Below average	Above average	60%

Each major area of population has access to a facility with a 4-court sports hall. There are three in Thornbury, four in Yate and several 4-court halls along the Bristol Fringe. This is reflected in the accessibility analysis, with nearly three quarters (74.8%) of the overall population and 96.9% from areas of high deprivation living within a mile of a community available sports hall. It is worth noting that all key areas also have access to a 'pay and play' accessible facility; Yate, Thornbury, Bradley Stoke and Kingswood leisure centres all offer daytime access plus evening/weekends. The majority of schools also offer community access, however, opening hours fluctuate; some offer up to 40 hours with other restricting community options to fewer than 20.

The quality of sports halls varies considerably. There are four good quality sports halls (19 badminton courts in total), nine are above average (37 courts), five are below average (46 courts) and one (4-court) hall was not assessed. . Of the seven sites rated as below average or poor, three are pay and play facilities (Kingswood, Thornbury and Yate). The remainder are located at educational sites.

Consultation indicated a lack of investment at these below average/poor rated sites over the last 20 years, resulting in a reduction in quality. For example, the sports halls at Yate, Thornbury and Kingswood leisure centres have a combined age of 100+ years and have received limited investment over this period. All three are coming to the end of their lifespan and will need to be replaced in the short (1-3 years) to medium term.(4-6 years).

Sports hall utilisation is strong, with demand returning to pre-Pandemic levels. A full list of current utilisation details are presented in Table 3.1. below. Five sites are at capacity and a further five operate at above 60% of used capacity. There are only six sites with capacity levels below 60%. Although utilisation is strong, consultation with certain groups did indicate that hire costs are unaffordable in some instances which restricts certain clubs from accessing sites.

Anticipated levels of housing growth (particularly in the Bristol Fringe region) when considered alongside current usage levels of sports halls (Bradley Stoke for example is already at capacity), are such that despite some new provision being proposed (such as that as part of the Filton Airfield housing development) more capacity is likely to be required.



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### Swimming pools

There are 28 operational swimming pools on 20 sites distributed across South Gloucestershire. Eleven are equal or greater than 160m<sup>2</sup> in size. As with sports halls, all key areas of population are served by a community available pay and play pool, each of which offer publicly accessible lane swimming. these are:

- ✦ Bradley Stoke
- ✦ Thornbury
- ✦ Filton
- ✦ Yate
- ✦ Longwell Green
- ✦ Kingswood.

It must be noted that all pools are disability friendly, each with pool hoists and appropriate accessible changing provision.

There are also nine pools are within two miles of the South Gloucestershire border, four of which offer pay and play availability. Of particular interest are the facilities located on the south-west section of the border due to the large areas of anticipated housing growth in their vicinity. These include leisure centres at Henbury and Horfield (located in the City of Bristol).

In terms of accessibility, 48.2% of the population lives within a one-mile radial catchment of one or more of the six pay and play access sites and virtually all residents live within a 20-minute drive of a pay and play pool. Two thirds of residents in areas of high IMD, reside within a one-mile radial catchment of a pay and play pool.

The two key challenges facing SGC are the current quality of the majority of pay and play pools, and whether there is sufficient capacity moving forwards to accommodate the future growing population.

As illustrated below, four of the six community available pay and play pools are rated as below average quality. Quality ratings generally reflect the age of the facility. Kingswood, for example, is over 60 years old. With the proposed town centre developments at both Kingswood and Yate, both leisure centres could also be upgraded/redeveloped to provide modern accessible facility to support future generations in these two towns.

*Table 3.2: Quality ratings of community available swimming pools.*

Map ID	Site name	Lanes / length (m)	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Condition	
				Pool	Changing
13	Bradley Stoke LC	6 x 25m	325	Above average	Above average
30	Filton Sports & LC	5 x 25m	250	Below average	Above average
44	Kingswood LC	6 x 25m	313	Below average	Above average
50	Longwell Green LC	6 x 25m	325	Above average	Good
94	Thornbury Leisure Centre	6 x 25m	313	Below average	Above average
108	Yate Leisure Centre	6 x 25m	325	Below average	Above average

The second key challenge relates to current and future capacity levels, particularly with regard to facilities in the Bristol fringe area. Consultation indicates that pools in this area (Bradley Stoke and Filton), along with pools in the neighbouring authority of Bristol, are all

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well used as demonstrated via swimming lesson data. This, coupled with the significant growth in population due to the Filton airfield development, is likely to result in a requirement for additional facilities.

Further analysis is required, and this should include discussion with the City of Bristol Authority to understand cross border requirements, and the use of Sport England's Facility Planning Model (FPM) which will help SGC to understand more exactly their future requirements for swimming provision in the area at a spatial level, linked to housing growth points.

### *Health and fitness suites*

There are 35 gyms in South Gloucestershire, 26 with 20+ stations. These provide a total of 2,086 stations. All but two are rated either good or above average quality. All main population areas have fitness facilities; 69.5% of the population lives within a one-mile radial catchment of a gym. All residents in areas of higher deprivation live within one mile of a gym.

There are six publicly accessible pay and play health and fitness facilities with 20+ stations in South Gloucestershire. The remainder require a membership to access. Circadian delivers an exercise referral programme at all its sites including Bradley Stoke and Thornbury Leisure centres.

Based on current UK penetration rates, there is currently a small surplus in provision, however, as a consequence of population growth, a shortfall of c. 600 stations will be created over the lifetime of this strategy. The priority will be to ensure that residents, particularly in the Bristol fringe have access to a sufficient quantity of provision.

### *Gymnastics*

Gymnastics facilities in the Authority currently comprise Yate International Gymnastics Centre (rated good), Majestics Gymnastics site (current site rated below average although it plans to relocate in the near future) and Fromeside which was not assessed. Nearly all residents reside within a 30-minute drive of the three sites. Of the clubs consulted, King Edmund Acro Gymnastics has capacity to increase membership, however, Majestics currently has a waiting list.

SGC is in the process of creating a new permanent home for Majestics Gymnastics Club, at the former Grange School site. Planning permission has been granted to upgrade the facility (which will open January 2023), however, there are still challenges to address to ensure that the Club can move into the new facility, including facility ownership, management and the level of rent that should be paid.

### *Indoor bowls*

There is one dedicated indoor facility in South Gloucestershire, located at Thornbury Leisure Centre. It is rated as above average quality. The facility plays host to Thornbury Indoor Bowls Club and offers pay and play opportunity to people who are not club members. The EIBA suggests that there is no requirement for additional purpose-built indoor bowls facilities in South Gloucestershire now or in the future.

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### *Squash*

There are 15 squash courts at five sites, with the majority rated as above average quality. Three sites offer pay and play access at Yate, Thornbury and Kingswood leisure centres. There is limited pay and play provision in the Bristol fringe, however, residents have access to pay and play squash facilities within the City of Bristol - notably at Horfield Leisure Centre.

Although England Squash states that there is a theoretical shortfall of provision in South Gloucestershire (13 courts), consultation with Circadian suggests that there is currently spare capacity at its sites. It would be useful to arrange a meeting with England Squash to review this position and consider the range of programmes and initiatives that could be employed to better animate squash provision in the Authority.

### **Community centres/village halls**

There are 76 village/community halls in South Gloucestershire, the majority of which are accessible to residents within a 10-minute drive. Research indicates that these sites generally offer informal physical activity sessions such as Zumba and yoga through to more socially based pursuits such as bridge clubs and knitting groups. All facilities appear to operate at a high level of utilisation following the Pandemic and they offer both daytime and evening activities.

Our audit found that community and village halls in the District also offer a good amount of daytime programming, attuned to a generally older clientele of users. This demonstrates the value of such facilities to their respective local communities in the context of there being less availability for such activities at larger publicly operated leisure centre sites.

### **Summary**

Whilst the key areas of population in the District are generally well served by sports halls, swimming pools and health and fitness provision, with good access for those with disabilities. However, the quality at, and available capacity of certain facilities, particularly those which offer pay and play access is a concern.

Short term priorities need to focus on calculating the potential impact that a possible 6,500 new dwellings could have in the Filton area of the Authority. Work has already begun on the development at Filton airfield, which could see the population increase by approximately 15,600 people (based on an average household occupancy rate of 2.4 person per dwelling). A new secondary school and community hub would address some of the address sports hall and fitness demand, however, the primary concern is ensuring there is sufficient swimming pool provision to cater adequately for current and future populations.

The town centres of both Yate and Kingswood are expected to be redeveloped and master planning work has been undertaken for both sites. This will create new leisure, housing and community opportunities. Due to the age and quality of both leisure facilities in these town centres, both could be either upgraded or new facilities created as part of any town centre development.

Another pressing issue is the outstanding concerns surrounding redevelopment of the former Grange School. Although planning has been approved for the first phase of the project, which includes the upgrade of the sports hall to become a dedicated gymnastics facility, there are several issues still to be resolved. These include site management, tenure and hire charges.

### **PART 4: VISION AND STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS**

This is South Gloucestershire vision for sport and leisure provision for the period 2022-2043. It builds upon the conclusions identified in the Built Facilities Needs Assessment Report.

Whilst there is community pay and play leisure provision located in close proximity to all key areas of population, a key challenge facing the Authority is to ensure there is sufficient affordable provision to accommodate current and future demand. The significant planned and anticipated population increases in the Authority, especially in the Bristol Fringe area, means that current supply is likely to be unable to accommodate this future growth.

A second and equally significant factor is that the majority of key community pay and play leisure facilities (including those at Yate, Filton, Thornbury and Kingswood) are rated as being of below average quality. If SGC's Local Plan vision to create environments which promote healthy and active lifestyles is to be realised, it will need to explore options to upgrade, redevelop or replace some or all of these facilities.

The proposed headline vision is that SGC will: *'Develop and deliver high-quality public sports and physical activity hubs which meet the needs of their communities, increase participation, and assist other service delivery departments and partners in addressing health, social and age-related inequalities. To provide accessible social spaces and home bases for local sports clubs and community groups that otherwise would have nowhere to practise and play. The overreaching aim of this is to make South Gloucestershire one of the most physically active places in Britain.'*

#### **4.2 Key strategic drivers**

##### ***Provide***

***Determine future provision requirements, including in the Bristol fringe area: establish a working group to identify possible facility options to accommodate future population growth.***

Filton Airfield Development is expected to see an increase in population of c15,000 people (if development of the anticipated 6,000 dwellings is approved). This development will include a new primary and secondary school. Although it is anticipated that the secondary school will have a 4-court sports hall available for community bookings, which could go some way towards accommodating the sports hall demand, there are major concerns about pool capacity as existing sites already have waiting lists for swimming lessons.

One possibility in respect of addressing this current and future shortfall could be expansion of the new secondary school site to include a new community available pool and appropriately scaled fitness room provision. With regard to indoor sports hall space, one of the Brabazon hangars at the former airfield site could be adapted and utilised as part of a future leisure offer.

Once exact dwelling numbers are confirmed, a cross-border working group will need to be established (in partnership with the City of Bristol Council) to develop a range of options to provide leisure provision to satisfy future demand. Work required should include the commission of an FPM study to gauge the need (for halls and pools) on a neighbourhood level, based on detailed housing growth scenarios. Preferred options can then be progressed to feasibility stage including detailed business plan, cost and design development.

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It is important in respect of any future facility development, that it considers the Authority's 2030 carbon neutral target and the linked issue of the significant spike in building materials costs.

***Ensure that the new Local Plan develops a policy to ringfence developer contributions to support leisure provision.***

Given the level of growth anticipated in the Authority, there is an opportunity for the Council to secure developer contributions towards indoor sports facilities via CIL / S106, SGC should develop an appropriate policy via its Local Plan review process to accommodate this, with support from Sport England.

***Maintain progress with plans for a new leisure centre as part of the Kingswood town centre masterplan and consider doing the same for the Yate town centre.***

Town centre masterplans have been produced for the settlements of Yate and Kingswood, where leisure centre provision is ageing and need of replacement. A replacement leisure facility for Kingswood has been factored into work to date as part of a mixed use development including retail and housing provision.

There are however no current plans with regard to replacing/upgrading the leisure provision in Yate. It is therefore important that the Council works across its planning and communities functions and with the external commercial partners to consider the potential for leisure to form part of development proposals.

***Consider future opportunities to increase the supply of health and fitness provision.***

In the light of the anticipated future shortfall in health and fitness provision across the Authority, creation of additional capacity within any refurbishment, redevelopment or new venue proposals for Circadian operated sites should be considered, particularly in the Bristol fringe area. This will provide an opportunity to ensure that refurbished spaces are welcoming and appropriate to those residents accessing leisure provision for the first time and / or as a result of being referred by their GP or social prescriber.

***Complete existing and planned works and establish management arrangements for the Grange School that are to the satisfaction of all key user groups.***

The extended closure of the former Grange School site has resulted in gymnastics and netball club activity being dispersed across other sites in the Authority. The proposal to rehome both sports back at the Grange site has now received full planning permission. Phase 1 involves converting the sports hall into a dedicated gymnastics facility. Phase 2 includes the building of a second Sport England compliant community 4-court sports hall.

Work is currently underway on Phase 1 and will be completed by February 2023. Phase 2 (which has yet to receive planning permission) involves upgrading the outdoor netball courts and will be completed by 2024. It is anticipated that the sports facilities will be managed by the Academy provider at the new school site (Digitech Studio School), the Cabot Learning Federation.

Whilst gymnastics has been accommodated on site and the long term future of Majestics Gymnastics Club is secure, it is important that all stakeholders (including Sport England, British Gymnastics, Majestics Gymnastics Club and Avon Netball Association) are satisfied with the facility mix for the second phase, and that management and access arrangements suit all users. A formal community use agreement (CUA) needs to be developed and agreed

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by the sports clubs, SGC and the Academy. This should establish the anticipated programme of use, management and access control arrangements, rent and charging schedules, parking allocations and other priorities.

### ***Improve the overall standard of community available school sports halls and ensure their affordability.***

SGC, working closely with schools and academy trusts, should utilise KKP's facility audit to identify required investment to improve sports hall facilities to ensure their long term sustainability.

Areas of focus should include the installation of new or resurfaced and line marked floors, better and more energy efficient (i.e., LED) lighting, improved fittings and upgraded plant equipment. The following sports halls should be treated as high priority based on needs assessment findings:

- ◀ Bradley Stoke Community School
- ◀ Hanham Woods Academy
- ◀ John Cabot Academy
- ◀ Mangotsfield School
- ◀ Marlwood School.

Having ascertained the levels of need, a priority order of site improvements should be set out which should be informed by levels of community demand, particularly from sports for which sports hall quality is a primary determinant – such as badminton, netball and basketball.

SGC, working with Wesport and Circadian should also consider whether the various academy providers require support on aspects of operational management such as pricing, booking arrangements and marketing of community facilities. This may identify opportunities for community clubs to assume more responsibility for, and influence over the running of certain facilities.

### ***Continue to improve the energy efficiency of leisure centres.***

In respect of high utilities costs, there is a growing need for operators to ensure that leisure centres are as energy efficient as possible. In this regard, all Circadian managed facilities have a Building Management System, which identifies where energy efficiency improvements can be made.

SGC has the opportunity to work with Circadian to identify whether further improvements to existing pool plant and M&E can be made, and also to consider whether improvements in operational practices such as those set out in [Sport England guidance](#) can help to reduce operating costs further.

Potential new leisure centre sites at Kingswood and Yate should consider the benefits of energy efficient building methods. [St Sidwell's Point Leisure Centre](#), the UK's first passivhaus standard leisure centre, is a useful case study in this respect.

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### 4.3 Indoor and built facilities strategy action plan

Taking into account the needs assessment findings, current vision of the Council (and associated organisations) and Sport England's Planning for Sport guidance, overall proposals and actions in respect of each of South Gloucestershire's key facilities are set out. Timescales are listed as short (1-3 years), medium (4-6 years), and long (6 years +).

#### 4.3.1: Facility development, management and programming

Strategic objective	Recommendation	Action	Timescale	Responsibility	Importance
Determine future provision requirements, including key growth points inc. Bristol fringe area. <b>Provide</b>	Undertake further modelling and feasibility work to identify exact spatial requirements for swimming pools, sports halls, health & fitness.	SGC to commission bespoke FPM local run assessments for sports halls and swimming pools.  Establish a working group (with neighbouring authorities including Bristol City Council) to consider cross-border facility requirements.	Short	SGC, Sport England	High.
Secure appropriate developer contributions to support leisure provision. <b>Provide</b>	Ensure that Local Plan policy ringfences developer contributions to support creation of new, and/or the refurbishment and redevelopment of existing, community sports facilities.	Develop (and/or review) a set of policies to calculate facility requirements based on the number of additional residents generated as a result of the net increase in dwellings. If/where possible, review the standards and costs used by SGC compared to those suggested by Sport England and/or applied by neighbouring local authorities.	Short	SGC	High
Develop a new leisure centre in Kingswood town centre. <b>Provide</b>	Ensure that the plan to develop a new centre is retained at the heart of the Kingswood town centre masterplan – and is at the forefront of future investment.	Combine the recommendations in this Strategy with vision set out in the masterplan to ensure that the new leisure centre is developed. Commission a feasibility study to assess the appropriate facility mix and scale.	Medium	SGC Circadian	High



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Strategic objective	Recommendation	Action	Timescale	Responsibility	Importance
Improve the existing or develop a new leisure centre in Yate. <b>Provide</b>	Add a proposal to replace/ upgrade the leisure centre as part of the Yate town centre masterplan	Ensure that plans are listed to either develop a new leisure centre or upgrade the current one, are included in the Yate town centre masterplan.  Commission a feasibility study to assess facility scale and the mix of amenities.	Medium	SGC Circadian	High
Address the future shortfall of fitness provision in the Authority <b>Provide</b>	Take all available opportunities to increase the supply of health and fitness provision where available.	Assess options to increase the scale/quality of fitness provision at SGC owned, Circadian managed sites - via upgrades, as part of the refurbishment/redevelopment of existing sites or when specifying new facilities.  When investing in school sites assess where feasible include fitness in refurbishment/ extension work.	Medium	SGC Circadian, Schools	Medium
Continue to improve the energy efficiency of leisure centres  <b>Enhance</b>	Improve levels of energy efficiency at Circadian managed leisure centre sites.	SGC to work with Circadian to identify further improvements to pool plant and building M&E.  SGC to work with Circadian to identify potential improvements in operational practices in line with Sport England guidance.  SGC to consider the adoption of passivhaus design within potential new leisure facilities (i.e. Yate and Kingswood)	Short	Circadian/SGC	High



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Strategic objective	Recommendation	Action	Timescale	Responsibility	Importance
Improve the quality of sports halls on school sites. <b>Enhance</b>	Work with schools to improve sports hall quality and (as applicable) raise levels of utilisation – also ensuring that hire charges are consistent across the Authority.	Improve the quality of school sports halls giving highest priority to those optimising the highest levels of affordable community use. (Give priority to working with schools which already offer good levels of community use). Develop a system with schools to ensure complementary sports hall programming across the Authority. Consider the issue of cost as a barrier to access, and whether an amended pricing structure or help attract activity which caters for more inactive sections of the community. Develop a site-by-site engagement action plan for schools with more limited community use.	Medium	SGC, Circadian, Schools	High
Planning <b>Protect/Enhance Provide</b>	Adopt the Strategy as an evidence base document supporting the Local Plan	Use strategy inclusion in the Local Plan to positive development management decisions with regard to leisure centre provision.	Medium	Planning & Leisure Team	High
<b>Monitor and review</b>	Keep this Strategy relevant and up to date.	Implement light touch annual strategy review plus a full progress review within 5 years of adoption.	Medium	SGC	High

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### 4.3.1: Facility specific actions

Facility	Management	Overview	Action	Lead agency	Timescale (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)
Abbeywood School	Olympus Academy Trust	The School has a 4-court hall rated above average. It accommodates indoor football, netball, volleyball and martial arts. The sports hall is operating at near capacity.	Support the school to maintain sports hall quality and work with it to maintain its high levels of utilisation.	SCG/ Olympus Academy Trust	Medium	Medium
Brimsham Green School	Cabot Learning Federation	Located in Yate, this above average 4-court sports hall caters for netball, indoor football, and badminton.	Support the school to maintain sports hall quality and work with it to increase utilisation.	SCG/Cabot Learning Federation	Medium	Medium
Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre	Circadian	Popular leisure centre site on the Bristol border. It has a 4-court sports hall, swimming pool, clip and climb facility and a 50 station fitness facility. All rated above average.	Maintains this venue at this level to ensure ongoing provision quality.	Circadian/S GC	Medium	Medium
Bradley Stoke Community School	Olympus Academy Trust	The School has a poor quality 4-court sports hall which has a leaking roof. This School does not presently have the funds to upgrade its facility. This site has limited community use.	Support the school to secure funding to repair the roof – linked to a commitment to community use. It is adjacent to Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre. If/when the sports hall roof is fixed, encourage Circadian and the school to work in partnership to coordinate leisure centre and sports hall use.	Olympus Academy Trust/SGC	Short	High

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Facility	Management	Overview	Action	Lead agency	Timescale (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)
Chipping Sodbury School	The Athelstan Trust	Outward-facing community school, which has an above average 4-court sports hall. The site is popular and the hall is operating at capacity. It caters for indoor football, netball and martial arts. The majority of bookings are linked with the outdoor 3G pitch; football clubs also book all available spaces in the school.	Support the school to maintain sports hall quality and work with it to encourage more 'sports hall' sports to use the venue – encouraging migration of more of the football onto the 3G and the school's grass pitches.	The Athelstan Trust/SGC	Medium	Medium
Downend Sports Centre	Castle School Educational Trust	Formerly managed by Circadian, this 4-court sports hall is now managed by the Academy Trust. It is rated as above average. No sports hall utilisation data was provided.	Support the school to maintain sports hall quality and work with it to ensure it enables use by community sports clubs and community organisations.	Castle School Educational Trust/SGC	Medium	Medium
Hanham Woods Academy	Cabot Learning Federation	It has below average 4-court and one court halls which are used at 40% capacity – mainly for badminton and cricket. It is only available for 15 hours a week which accounts for the relatively low level of community use. The School sites staffing issues as the reason why for not offering more community hours.	Work with the school to investigate ways to increase the levels of community use. Options could include key holder access if staffing issues continue.	Cabot Learning Federation/SGC	Short	High
John Cabot Academy	Cabot Learning Federation	The School has a below average 4-court hall, which caters for indoor football, indoor cricket and netball. It is approaching capacity, with utilisation reported at 70%.	Support the school to secure possible funding options to upgrade the facility – and to maintain current community use levels.	Cabot Learning Federation/SGC	Medium	Medium
Mangotsfield School	Castle School Educational Trust	Located in the Bristol fringe, it has a below average 4-court sports hall, accommodating indoor football and roller skating. It is popular, and reports an 80% utilisation level.	Support the school to secure funds options to upgrade the facility – and maintain community use levels..	Castle School Educational Trust/SGC	Medium	Medium
Patchway Community College	Olympus Academy Trust	This was not audited as part of the Needs Assessment, as access was not obtained. It has a 4-court sports hall which is, according to desktop research, community available.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

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Facility	Management	Overview	Action	Lead agency	Timescale (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)
Sir Bernard Lovell Academy	Futura Learning Partnership	A relatively new site, located in the south of the Authority. The school has an above average 4-court sports hall which caters for indoor football, netball, badminton. baton twirling and basketball. It is operating at capacity.	Support the school to maintain sports hall quality and to maintain its high utilisation levels.	Futura Learning Partnership /SGC	Medium	Medium
South Gloucestershire & Stroud College (WISE)	WISE	A large strategic site with a good quality 4-court hall plus a number of outdoor facilities. The hall is specifically designed for basketball and hosts Bristol Flyers. Basketball club presence limits opportunity for other users, however, it does support netball and table tennis during the evenings.	Support the College to maintain sports hall quality and work with it to maintain high utilisation levels.	WISE/ Bristol Flyers	Medium	Low
The Castle School	Castle School Educational Trust	A stand-alone sports complex with 4-court and 3-court sports halls - both rated good. It hosts taekwondo and indoor football. The present utilisation level is 40%.	Support the school to maintain sports hall quality and work with it to raise utilisation levels.	Castle School Educational Trust/SGC	Medium	Medium
Winterbourne Academy	Olympus Academy Trust	Located close to the Filton growth area, it has a 4-court and a1-court available for community use - both are rated above average.. They cater for indoor cricket, indoor football, and baton twirling. It is currently at 60% utilisation. It also has a four lane 20m pool which is heavily used for swimming lessons. The pool is rated below average.	Support the school to maintain sports hall and swimming pool quality and work with it to further increase utilisation.	Olympus Academy Trust/SGC	Medium	Medium
UWE Centre For Sport	Uwe Centre for Sport	University facility on the border of SGC and Bristol. An 8-court sports hall rated good. It is mainly for students, but has the odd available slot (mainly at weekends) for the community.	Support UWE to maintain sports hall quality and work with it to increase community utilisation – particularly as the local area population rises..	UWE Centre for Sport/ SGC	Medium	Low

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Facility	Management	Overview	Action	Lead agency	Timescale (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)
Kingswood Leisure Centre	Circadian	Ageing community facility in the south of the Authority. It has a 6*25m swimming pool, 4-court sports hall plus fitness provision and one squash court.  All elements are rated below average, apart from the fitness facility, which is rated above average.	Develop new leisure centre linked to implementation of town centre masterplan This should comprise a (minimum) 6-lane x 25m pool, teaching pool, like-for like 4-court sports hall and fitness.  SGC should progress this and initiate further community consultation and demand analysis linked to the conduct of a feasibility study.	SGC/ Circadian	Short	High
Thornbury Leisure Centre	Circadian	Located in the north of the Authority, a strategic facility comprising two 5-court sports halls, a 6-lane x 25m swimming pool, an indoor bowls facility, four squash courts and a 50 station health and fitness facility.  Both sports halls operate at 50% capacity. This facility is 40+ years old and the majority of centre provision is rated as below average.	Whilst this facility is currently fit for purpose, it will need to be upgraded and remodelled in the medium term to ensure its financial sustainability.  The minimum requirement would be to retain at least one sports hall and upgrade existing facilities, including the swimming provision.	SGC/ Circadian	Medium	High
Yate Academy	The Greenshaw Learning Trust	This has an above average 4-court hall. No utilisation data was obtained as part of the need assessment. The site is reportedly community available.	Support the school to maintain sports hall quality and improve records about and, as applicable levels of, community use.	SGC/ Circadian	Short	High
Yate Leisure Centre	Circadian	Located in Yate town centre, this strategic facility comprises a 7-court sports hall, 6-lane 25m pool, three squash courts and a 92 station gym. Yate Gymnastics Academy is part of the building footprint.  The pool and sports hall are rated below average; other elements rate above average.	Ensure that plans for a new leisure centre are included in the Yate town centre masterplan – based upon a minimum requirement to replace the current centre with equivalent provision. Commission a feasibility study to test and validate this.	SGC/ Circadian	Medium	High

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Facility	Management	Overview	Action	Lead agency	Timescale (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)
The Grange Site	TBC	This former school site is in the process of becoming a dedicated gymnastics/netball facility supporting Majestics Gymnastics Club and the Avon Netball Association.  The gymnastics centre is scheduled for completion in January 23 with the (Phase 2) netball element opening in 2024.	Whilst progress has been made there is a need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confirm phase 2 facility mix, supporting netball.</li> <li>Agree on site management arrangements</li> <li>Work with all stakeholders, to development a viable management plan to ensure facility success once opened in 2023.</li> </ul>	SGC/ Sport England/ Wesport/ Majestics Gymnastics Club/BG England Netball	Short	High
Fromeside Gymnastics Club	Unknown	The facility was not accessible for the audit. It is understood that the Club has a dedicated facility in Winterbourne.	Engage with the Club to identify its needs/key challenges and what support is needed.	n/a	n/a	n/a
Community Centres	Various	There are 76 village/community halls in South Gloucestershire accessible to the majority of the population (within a 10-minute drive).	Need to ensure these facilities remain as accessible as possible for local residents with a range of activities.	Various parish/district councils/SGC	Medium	Medium
Other commercial fitness gyms	Commercial	There is a number of commercially operated facilities in the area.	Continue to monitor use and assess the extent to which these complement each other, provision made by Circadian and other activity in the Authority.  Ensure that new/existing facility development/improvement complements and do not compete unduly with SGC owned/managed venues.	SGC	Long	Low

### **PART 5: MONITORING AND REVIEW**

This Strategy identifies the investment and actions required to deliver and maintain a high-quality built facilities infrastructure for South Gloucestershire for the period up until 2043.

It is important that the Strategy is (and is treated as) a live document and is used in a practical manner to prioritise investment, develop key work programmes and partnerships, guide planning gain investment and ensure that built sports facilities are a vital component contributing to the quality of life of South Gloucestershire's residents.

Strategy production is just the start of the process and there is a requirement for all partners to engage in ongoing dialogue and review to ensure that a considered perspective and approach is maintained throughout its life.

It is important for South Gloucestershire Council to adopt the action plan contained in the Strategy. It is further recommended that an annual report be produced to assess progress being made on delivery of Indoor and Built Facilities Strategy recommendations.

The process should not only review progress against the action plan but identify actual/ potential changes in supply and demand. The basis for this is that the Strategy is as much about how facilities are used as it is about ensuring that local infrastructure is of a good quality.

In particular the review should include:

- ◀ Review of annual progress on recommendations made in the 3-5 year action plan; taking account of any changes required to the priority of each action (e.g. the relevance of some may increase/decrease following implementation of others).
- ◀ Learning and sharing lessons absorbed throughout the period.
- ◀ Taking account of other new facilities which come on stream in or adjacent to (or which will impact residents of) the Authority.
- ◀ Review of specific changes in the use of key sites (e.g., sport specific specialisms, changes in number of community available hours, opening times etc.).
- ◀ Any specific changes in demand at particular facilities and/or from clubs in the area (e.g., reduction or increase in club numbers, reaction to new housing growth etc.).
- ◀ Considering new sports/activities and/or formats of traditional sports that may emerge.
- ◀ Any other new or emerging issues and opportunities.

The outcome of the review should be to develop a new annual and medium-term action plan for indoor and built sports facilities in and across the South Gloucestershire authority area.