

SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES DRAFT OVERARCHING STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN REPORT AUGUST 2018

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd
Company No: 9145032 (England)

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Registered Office: 1 -2 Frecheville Court, off Knowsley Street, Bury BL9 0UF
T: 0161 764 7040 E: MAIL@KKP.CO.UK www.kkp.co.uk



SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES DRAFT OVERARCHING STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

CONTENTS:

PART 1: INTRODUCTION	1
National strategic context summary	1
Local strategic context summary:	3
PART 2: ABOUT SOUTH ESSEX	6
PART 3: VISION	10
PART4: RESEARCH FINDINGS	12
South Essex summary:	12
PART 5: RECOMMENDATIONS	18
Potential funding to implement the strategy	18
Monitoring and review	19
PART 6: ACTION PLAN	20

SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES DRAFT OVERARCHING STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the South Essex Indoor Sports Facilities Overarching Strategy and Action Plan for the period 2018 – 2037. South Essex has an aspiration, and need, to consider its facilities planning particularly in the context of the nascent Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA), an ageing stock of leisure facilities; different management arrangements, future growth needs; changing economic and demographic profile of the area.

The focus of this overarching strategy is to provide clear direction to all partners so that together they can plan and develop a more modern, efficient and sustainable range of community based sport and leisure facilities that South Essex requires. It also aims to identify cross cutting themes which can be addressed across local authority boundaries. This overarching strategy sits alongside the individual indoor and sport strategy and action plan documents, produced for Basildon, Castle Point, Rochford and Southend councils in 2018 and Thurrock strategy and action plan produced in 2017. It also sits alongside an overarching Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan and individual strategy and action plans for the aforementioned local authorities.

Partners

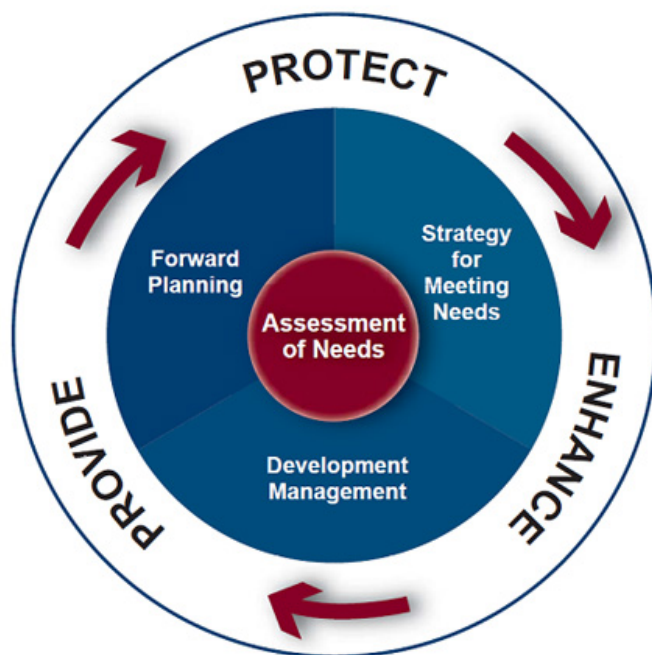
This is a plan for South Essex, excluding Brentwood (although it is expected that this will be taken into consideration in the near future). Whilst Active Essex, Essex County Council and the local authority councils have been the key drivers, it is expected that plans and actions emanating from them will be delivered through partnership with and between other key stakeholders, including Active Essex, parish and town councils and Essex and Southend Health and Wellbeing Boards, and be predicated upon them accepting and taking responsibility for different aspects of its implementation. The partnership approach to Strategy delivery is necessary to make best use of the assets and resources available to drive the development of sport and physical activity in Essex.

National strategic context summary

Sport England aims to ensure positive planning for sport, enabling the right facilities to be provided in the right places, based on up to date assessment of needs for all levels of sport and all sectors of the community. This draft strategic overarching strategy has been produced by applying the principles and tools identified in the Sport England Guide Assessing Needs and Opportunities for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities (ANOG).

SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES DRAFT OVERARCHING STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Figure 1: ANOG model



As illustrated, Sport England regards an assessment of need as core to the planning for sporting provision. This strategic framework provides a basis for future strategic planning across South Essex.

Sporting Future: A new strategy for an active nation

The Government published its strategy for sport in December 2015. This strategy confirms the recognition and understanding that sport makes a positive difference through broader means and that it will help the sector to deliver five simple but fundamental outcomes: physical health, mental health, individual development, social and community development and economic development.

Sport England: Towards an Active Nation

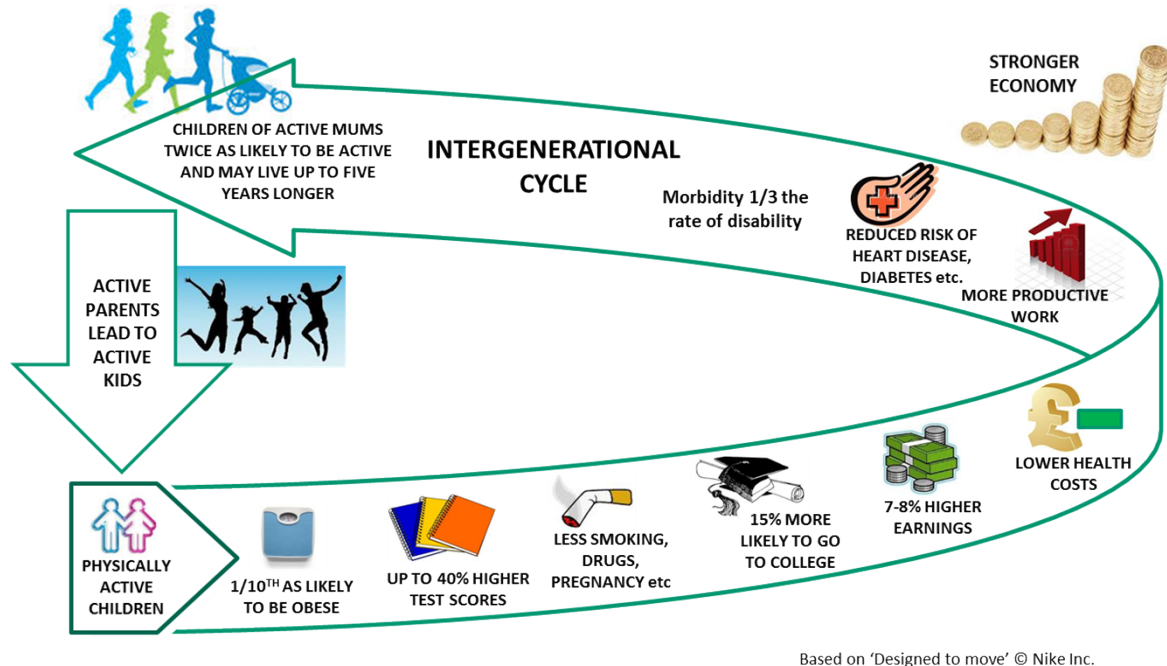
Sport England's response to the Government's strategy was to develop Towards an Active Nation; this identifies that it will invest in:

- ◀ Tackling inactivity
- ◀ Volunteering – a dual benefit
- ◀ Local delivery
- ◀ Taking sport and activity into the mass market
- ◀ Children and young people
- ◀ Supporting sport's core market
- ◀ Facilities

It is clear that increasing participation in sport and physical activity and the health and wellbeing benefits that this delivers is a key driver for the five local authorities, Essex County Council, Active Essex and other partners. This is particularly important in the context of getting the inactive to become active and ensuring that interventions are targeted at underrepresented groups. The wider benefits derived from having a more active population are highlighted in the following intergenerational cycle which clearly demonstrates the impact beyond the sports field.

SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES DRAFT OVERARCHING STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Figure 2: Intergenerational cycle



It is clear that having high quality and appropriate 'places to play sport and be physically active' are an integral part of the mix that delivers health and wellbeing benefits as well as wider economic gains within Essex and as such should be viewed and valued within this context. Sport England has identified that its highest priority for investment will be tackling inactivity. In addition to this, it will continue to invest in facilities, but that there will be a focus on multi-sport and community hubs which bring together other services such as libraries and doctor's surgeries.

Therefore, high quality and appropriate 'places to play sport and be physically active' are important in delivering increased participation in sport and physical activity which is part of the foundation of improving health and wellbeing among South Essex's residents. However, it is not enough just to have the right facilities in the right places, they also need to be programmed and priced appropriately to ensure that activities are appropriate for specific target groups and that cost is not a barrier to access.

Local strategic context summary:

The Association of South Essex Authorities

The Association of South Essex Authorities (ASELA) consists of Basildon, Brentwood, Castle Point, Essex County, Rochford, Southend-on-Sea, and Thurrock Councils. All seven Councils have recognised the need to work across borders on strategic issues such as infrastructure, planning and growth, skills, housing and transport connectivity. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 10th January 2018. This recognises that through a collaborative approach, the Councils will be best placed to deliver a vision for South Essex up to 2050, promoting healthy growth for its communities. There is an intention to assist the delivery of this vision through the preparation of a Joint Strategic Plan.

The core purpose of ASELA is to provide place leadership for South Essex. Recognising that through collaborative approach it will be best placed to develop and deliver a vision for South Essex up to 2050, promoting healthy growth its communities.

SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES DRAFT OVERARCHING STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

ASELA will focus on the strategic opportunities, regardless of individual local authority boundaries for the South Essex economic corridor to influence and secure the strategic infrastructure that will help individual areas to flourish and realise their full economic and social potential.

South Essex Housing Market Assessment 2016

This assessment forms an important part of the evidence base used to set future housing requirements in each of the Thames Gateway South Essex (TGSE) authorities as respective Local Plans are developed, and has been prepared in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).

The Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) has identified a range of objective assessment of need (OAN) for the housing market assessment. This recognises that the authorities are undertaking further work through the preparation of an Economic Development Needs Assessment to appraise the anticipated economic potential of the area. In recognising the evidence of strong need for housing of all tenures, as well as the area's stated growth ambitions, this study concludes that weight should be given to the upper end of the OAN range in the development of housing policy and assessment of housing land supply.

As advocated by the PPG, housing needs have been assessed across the TGSE housing market area. Consideration has also been given to the scale of need within each of the individual authorities over the period from 2014 to 2037.

Table 1: Summary of objectively assessed need range

	Lower end of range	Upper end of range
Basildon	763	837
Castle Point	326	410
Rochford	312	392
Southend-on-Sea	953	1,132
Thurrock	919	973
TGSE	3,272	3,744

In summary this has led to the identification of a range of objectively assessed need for between 3,275 and 3,750 dwellings per annum across the TGSE housing market area with Basildon, Southend and Thurrock the areas likely to see the most growth.

The Government have now introduced a standard methodology for calculating objectively assessed housing need. This represents a slight uplift per annum than the figures presented here and will be considered through any review of this strategy or via the plan preparation process.

Active Essex: Changing One Million Lives to get Essex Active 2017-2021

The Active Essex (County Sports Partnership) target is to get one million people active by the year 2021 by driving up and sustaining sports participation and physical activity. In partnership with a number of key partners and organisations, Active Essex is committed to creating opportunities and resources to achieve this target which will reduce inactivity and develop positive attitudes to health and wellbeing across communities in the County. Although the Strategy applies to the whole county, specific priority is given to the following groups, as those most likely to be underrepresented in both sport and physical activity:

- ◀ People aged 65+.
- ◀ People with a life-long limiting illness or disability.

Comment [MS1]: Note the 2016 SHMA figures have been used rather than the more up-to-date 2017 SHMA Addendum.

Is it a simple case to input the 2017 figures?

Basildon = 972 – 986
Castle Point = 311
Rochford = 331 – 361
Southend = 1,072
Thurrock = 1074 - 1381

The standard methodology will replace both, if we can change at this late stage reference as to why the 2016 figures were used instead of 2017.

Comment [XP2]: Clare, I appreciate this was mentioned at the meeting last week, wording included for you to include and to flag the point once more..

SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES

DRAFT OVERARCHING STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

- Unemployed people.
- People from lower socio-economic groups (NS-SEC 5-8) ¹.
- Females.
- Black and ethnic minorities.

Essex Health and Wellbeing Board: Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2013-2018)

This identifies three key priorities, all of which have specific development areas which need to be achieved through partnership work, as outlined in Table 2.

Table 2: Essex Health and Wellbeing Board key priorities

Priority
Starting and developing well: ensuring every child in Essex has the best start in life.
Living and working well: ensuring that residents make better lifestyle choices and have opportunities needed to enjoy a healthy life.
Ageing well: ensuring that older people are independent for as long as possible.

Summary of local policies

Key local policy messages can be summarised as follows:

- There is a commitment to work across local authority boundaries in the form of the Association of South Essex Local Authorities.
- The 2016 SHMA indicates additional housing requirements for the sub region. Specific locations have not been identified but the general increase will lead to additional demand on leisure facilities, especially in Southend, Thurrock and Basildon.
- There is a commitment to improve the health of all communities in across the South Essex sub region and the need to have good quality sports facilities, which are programmed and priced appropriately.
- The commitment to protect and enhance the range of services that support healthy and active communities within the sub region.
- There are a wide range of activities and programmes delivered across the sub-region in line with Active Essex's key strategic priorities. Specific priority needs to be given to groups which are under-represented in both sport and physical activity.

¹ NS-SEC: National Statistics Socio-economic Classifications

SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES

DRAFT OVERARCHING STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

PART 2: ABOUT SOUTH ESSEX (Basildon, Castle Point, Rochford, Southend-on-Sea & Thurrock)

The total population of the South Essex sub-region, taken from ONS 2016 Mid-Year Population Estimate, was 705,603 with slightly fewer males (345,092) to females (360,511). Basildon has the highest population with over 180,000 residents whilst Rochford has the fewest with less than half that of Basildon.

Table 2: Population of local authorities in South Essex sub region

Local authority	Basildon	Castle Point	Rochford	Southend	Thurrock	Total
Males	89,065	43,679	41,947	88,027	82,374	345,092
Females	94,313	46,052	43,723	91,772	84,651	360,511
Total	183,378	89,731	85,670	179,799	167,025	705,603

Ethnicity (Data source: 2011 census of population, ONS) - In broad terms, South Essex's ethnic composition does not reflect that of England as a whole. According to the 2011 Census of population, the largest proportion (91.39%) of the local population classified their ethnicity as White; this is higher than the comparative England rate of 85.4%. The next largest population group (by self-classification) is Black, at 3.2% which is similar to the national equivalent (3.5%).

Crime (Data source: 2017 Recorded Crime, Home Office)- During the 12 months to September 2017 the rate for recorded crimes per 1,000 persons in South Essex was 75.3; this is lower than the equivalent rate for England and Wales as a whole which was 79.0. In both instances the crime rate has risen since 2015, by around 18.0% for South Essex and 25.5% for England & Wales.

Income and benefits dependency - The median figure for full-time earnings (2017) in South Essex is £29,822; the comparative rate for the East is £29,895 (+0.2%) and for Great Britain is £28,740 (-3.6%). In March 2018, there were 8,680 people in South Essex claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA); this represents a decrease of 46.0% when compared to March 2009 (16,110).

Deprivation (Data source: 2015 indices of deprivation, ONS) - Relative to other parts of the country South Essex experiences similar levels of deprivation; three in 10 of the area's population (29.0%) falls within the areas covered by the country's three most deprived cohorts compared to a national average of c.30%. Similarly, 31.3% live in the three least deprived groupings in the country, this compares to a 'norm' of c.30%.

A different pattern, to that seen for multiple-deprivation, is seen in relation to health with 12.7% falling within the areas covered by the three most deprived cohorts, this compares to a national average of c.30%. Conversely, 43.0% live in the three least deprived groupings compared to a 'norm' of c.30%.

SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES DRAFT OVERARCHING STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Figure 3: Index of multiple deprivation

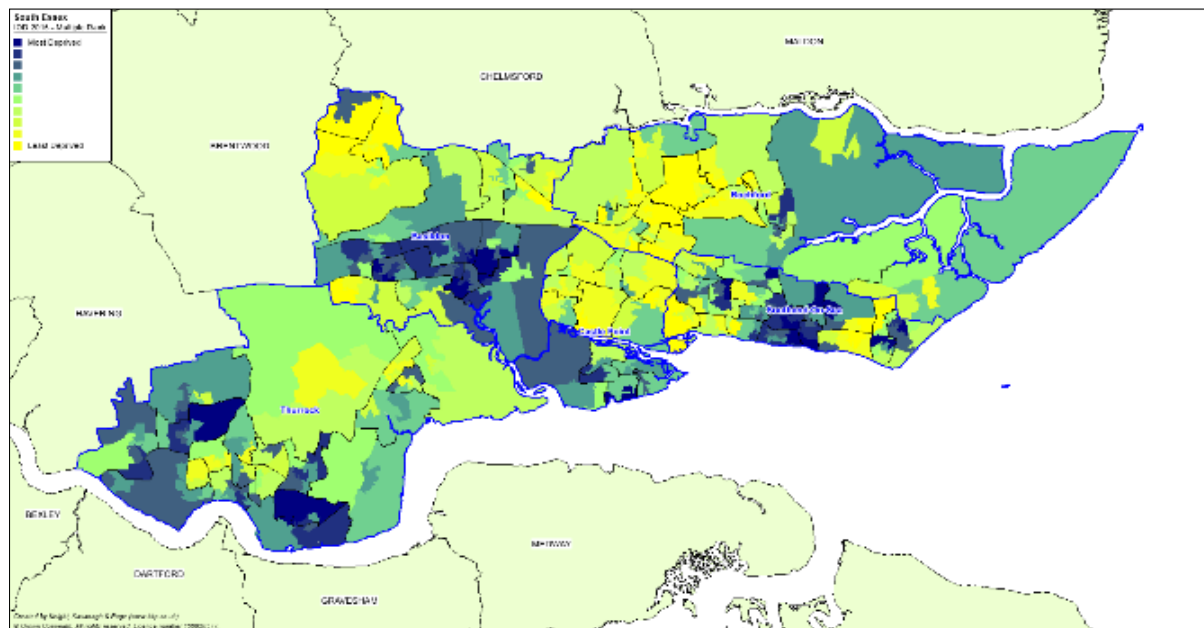
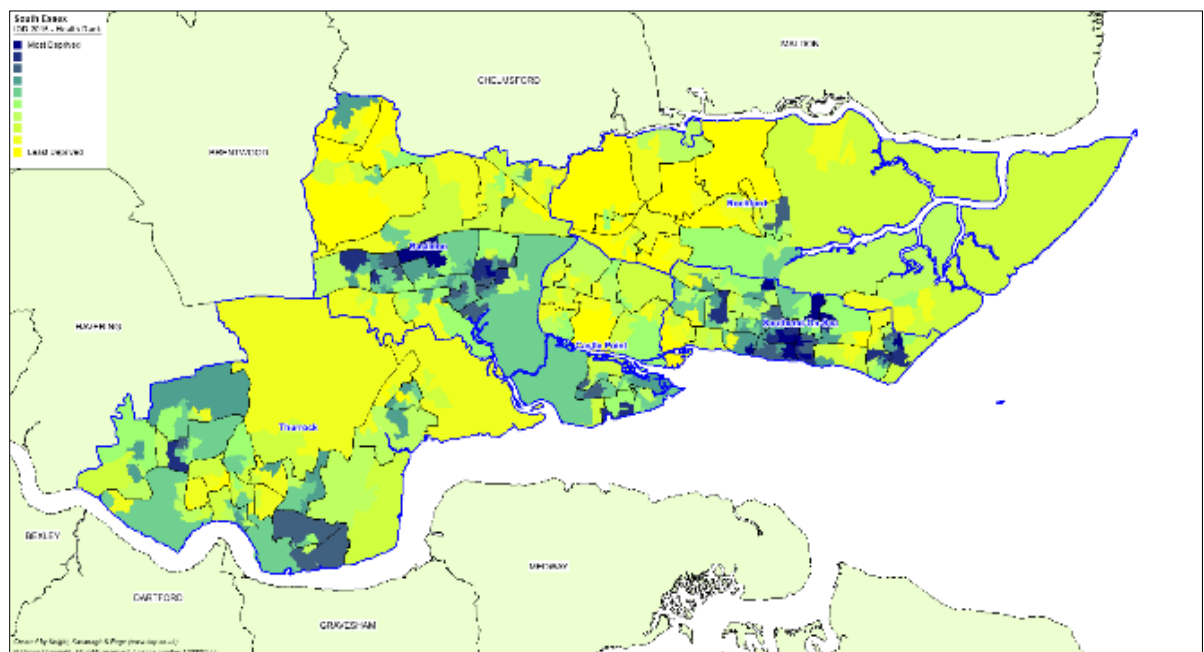


Figure 4: IMD Health domain



Health costs of physical inactivity

The British Heart Foundation (BHF) Promotion Research Group has reviewed the costs of avoidable ill health that it considers are attributable to physical inactivity. The annual cost to the NHS of physical inactivity in South Essex and Brentwood is estimated at £6,430,467. When compared to regional and national costs per 100,000, South Essex and Brentwood (£805,783) is 1.4% below the national average (£817,274) and 1.5% below the regional average (£818,185).

SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES

DRAFT OVERARCHING STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

It should also be noted that in addition to the NHS costs there are also significant costs to industry in terms of days of productivity lost due to back pain etc. These have also been costed in Confederation of British Industry (CBI) reports and are of similar magnitude to NHS costs.

Active Lives Survey (November 2016 – November 2017)

The Sport England Active Lives Survey 2016/17, based on 16+ year olds taking part in walking, cycling, fitness, dance and other sporting activity, is summarised in Table 4. It clearly indicates that Rochford has the highest level of active residents (65.8%) with Castle Point (54.2%) and Thurrock (54.9%) having the least active. Castle Point and Thurrock also have the highest percentage of the population who are inactive compared to the rest of South Essex. Rochford, again, has the strongest results with the smallest percentage being inactive compared with the other four local authority areas.

Table 3: Active Lives Survey results 2016/17 (Source: Sport England)

	Inactive	Fairly Active	Active
Basildon	28.7%	14.3%	57.1%
Castle Point	30.9%	14.9%	54.2%
Rochford	23.1%	11.1%	65.8%
Southend-on-Sea	27.8%	12.9%	59.4%
Thurrock	31.3%	13.9%	54.9%
East	25.4%	12.6%	62.0%
England	25.7%	12.5%	61.8%

Table 4: Deprivation across South Essex sub region using IMD and health

	Basildon	Castle Point	Rochford	Southend	Thurrock
IMD Lowest 20% (least deprived)	20.9%	23.2%	48.9%	8.4%	11.2%
IMD Highest 20% (most deprived)	24.1%	8.3%	1.8%	25.7%	13.4%
Health Lowest 20% (least deprived)	29.2%	18.2%	68.8%	8.7%	27.6%
Health Highest 20% (most deprived)	7.2%	2.0%	0.0%	18.9%	1.0%

Table 5 indicates that Rochford has the lowest percentage of population who live in areas of higher deprivation (taking account of both IMD and health separately) in comparison to other local authorities within the sub region. Given that Rochford has the most active and least inactive populations, this would tend to support the view that people living in areas of lower deprivation are more active than those living in areas of higher deprivation.

Conversely, Southend has the highest level of health deprivation (18.9%) and IMD (25.7%) in comparison to the rest of South Essex. It is, however, the second most active borough in the sub-region suggesting that deprivation is but one factor when considering the propensity of people to take part in sport and physical activity.

SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES DRAFT OVERARCHING STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

This complexity is further amplified by Castle Point and Thurrock, which are considered the least active (using Sport England Active Lives Survey 2015/16); Thurrock has 27.6% of its population living in areas of higher deprivation which would concur with the view that there is a link between levels of inactivity and deprivation; however, the findings in Castle Point indicate that it is very inactive (in comparison) but has low levels of deprivation.

Summary

The partnership of five local authorities, Essex County Council and Active Essex recognise the importance of the leisure facility stock to health and well-being and is committed to its retention via the presumption (in planning policy) against any net loss of active sport and leisure facilities in the sub region. The ASELA 2050 is a relatively nascent group but is committed to working across boundaries for the good of the sub-region. It is, however, understood that there will still be increasing financial constraints and there is a need to develop a strategy to deal with all facilities including poor quality ones which by their nature are expensive to operate and costly to maintain.

Housing growth across the sub-region has the potential to increase demand for facilities in key areas. At this juncture it is unclear as to the likely yield in terms of sources of funding, via, for example, planning gain that will be available to invest in facilities, due to other demands on these monies.

The partnership will need to deal with increasing age-related health challenges of the resident population. Anticipated change in the age profile of the population suggests that facility programmes and opening times will need to ensure that older people are fully included. This is difficult given current occupancy levels in some centres and reliance on school sports facilities to meet the overall demand in the sub region. There needs to be a clear drive across all local authorities to increase physical activity and reduce the levels of inactivity.

SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES DRAFT OVERARCHING STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

PART 3: VISION

Below is the vision for the South Essex Indoor Built Facilities Strategy for the period 2018-2037.

“To create high quality, sustainable leisure and sports facilities which meet community need, increase participation, help tackle health and age issues and provide accessible, inclusive activities for South Essex residents as part of an active lifestyle.”

The vision builds upon the conclusions identified in the four assessment reports (March 2018), Thurrock’s Active Places Report 2017 and Sport England’s five year strategy ‘Towards an Active Nation’, which aims to target the 28% of people who do less than 30 minutes of exercise each week and focuses on the least active groups; typically women, the disabled and people from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

This South Essex Strategy provides an overarching framework within which a clear, coherent way forward for the management and delivery of leisure and sports facilities across the sub region can be identified. The primary focus is to enable residents to gain access to leisure facilities of which they can be proud. It is also vital to ensure that facilities support sport and physical activity programmes that lead to increases in regular participation, taking account of the projected changes in age profile of the population in the County up until 2037.

Aims

The above vision is based upon a clear aims (not in any priority) and summarised in the boxes below. The three main themes of the strategy – to *protect, enhance and provide* reflect the sub region’s priorities and also emanate from Sport England’s planning aim and objectives for sport. Each of the individual local authorities and their partners are recommended to adopt the following aims (as policy) to enable the above vision to be achieved:

Objective 1: Protect

Protect the current stock of facilities in order to meet the sport and physical activity needs of the local residents by identifying defined roles and functions for different facility types which will be supported by appropriate investment.

Objective 2: Enhance

Enhance the county-wide approach to programming and management at all sites with a view to improving sports development aspirations and increasing physical activity outcomes, health and wellbeing agenda based on identified strategic need

Objective 3: Provide

Provide a coherent range of good quality, accessible facilities serving key current and future communities across the South Essex sub region.

SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES

DRAFT OVERARCHING STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

PART4: RESEARCH FINDINGS

South Essex summary

The individual needs assessment reports and local authority strategies identify that a wide variety of indoor sports are offered across the South Essex area including badminton, basketball, table tennis, indoor tennis, netball, gymnastics, squash, indoor bowls etc. Gymnastics is a particularly strong sport in the area and continues to place pressure on existing facilities. Some facilities can be considered to have a regional pull including, for example, Southend Leisure and Tennis Centre (regional diving and tennis facility), Basildon Sports Village (with its regionally renowned gymnastics centre) and Clements Hall Leisure Centre. There are also many local facilities which service local demand.

Further, there is an emphasis on outdoor opportunities including sailing and other water sport activities in some areas. There is strong and vibrant volunteer workforce (which needs support in some instances) across the area which supports the management of the sports clubs, although it is clear that the demographic of volunteers continues to age. The following is a brief summary of the key issues identified in each of the local authorities.

The individual local authority strategies and action plan identify Tier 1 and Tier 2 facilities for sports halls and swimming pools. This is essentially a method of identifying which facilities serve different communities. Further details can be found in the individual local authority strategies and action plans with Tier 1 and Tier 2 facilities summarised as follows: This section provides a synopsis of key sports facilities and sporting activity across the sub-region including those in Thurrock.

Table 5: Synopsis of Tier 1 and Tier 2 facilities across the sub region

Designation	Role and function
Level 1: Regional or sub-regional facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a regional or sub-regional significant facility which is the primary performance venue for a single or select number of priority sports. A venue with the potential to host sub-regional, county, borough-wide and local events. Provides a wide a range of opportunities for residents and visitors to participate in sport and physical activity, contributing significantly to the quality of life of residents across the whole of the Borough. Provides/programmes opportunities for local people to try new activities, develop their skills and progress to a higher performance level. Is a core venue for training and development of teachers, coaches, volunteers, officials and others in key sports.
Level 2: Community Leisure facilities which service the Borough or local town population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to quality of life of residents in the local community served and/or borough and provide a range of opportunities to participate in sport and physical activity. Generally, a combination of stand-alone community facilities and sports facilities on school sites (where this is the primary facility within the locality). Is a venue with potential to host borough-wide, community/ local events Provides a base for the provision of opportunity (delivered by a range of providers) for local people to develop their skills and try new activities. One of several core venues offering health/fitness provision and activity across the Borough. Core venue accommodating the Borough's Learn to Swim programmes (where a pool is incorporated). Provides options for a range of sports organisations to participate, compete and develop skill within their chosen activity.

SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES

DRAFT OVERARCHING STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Designation	Role and function
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports voluntary sports sector to cater for club activity and raise standards in respect of coaching, coach education, administration and volunteer development in chosen sport. • Facility use should reflect the demographic profile of the local community. • If applicable, increases/ improves quality of PE and school sport opportunity for young people attending the school at which it is based.

Table 6: Synopsis of sporting activity across the sub region

Sport	Sub-region overview
Badminton	The coverage of affiliated badminton clubs is poor across the sub-region, although all areas offer recreational and 'no strings' opportunities. All areas identify the need to improve the badminton workforce which suggest that a coordinated approach across the sub-region led by Badminton England, Essex County Badminton Association and supported by leisure operators, should be considered with a view to increasing participation.
Basketball	Basketball is strong across the sub region with Castle Point being the exception. Southend is particularly strong with national league representation. All areas require ongoing support with regard to coach and volunteer development. Regular evaluation of sports hall programming is necessary to ensure that both recreational and club level opportunities remain available. There is a requirement to identify sources of funding to support recreational sessions as this sport attracts many young people who cannot necessarily afford to hire indoor facilities.
Indoor tennis	There are four indoor tennis facilities located in the sub-region, two in Southend, one in Rochford and one in Castle Point. They are all either above average of good quality and offer a total of 13 indoor courts. Availability varies with membership required at the Athenaeum in Rochford and David Lloyd in Southend (although this facility does offer some subsidised use). Southend Tennis and Fitness Centre hosts the regional performance academy and along with Deanes School in Castle Point allows pay and play opportunities. There are estimated to be 52,277 people per indoor tennis court across the sub-region.
Gymnastics	<p>Gymnastics is a popular and growing sport across the sub-region. There has been an increase in demand for the sport at all levels following Olympic and other international success especially of local gymnasts.</p> <p>Each local authority has opportunity for entry level and there are several dedicated gymnastics facilities with the Max Whitlock Academy and Eversley Leisure Centre being the latest additions.</p> <p>There are still waiting lists around the sub-region with, for example, Cartwheels GC indicating 200 people on the waiting list. South Essex GC, based at BSV, is the key club in the area with c.3,500 members. There appears to be relatively good levels of coordination regarding workforce development across different clubs. The development of two additional dedicated facilities will help to address some demand, although there appears to be an insatiable demand for recreational gymnastics in all areas of the sub region.</p> <p>BG is aware of the development in the area and has supported facility upgrades and premises expansions. It is likely that demand for gymnastics will continue to rise and there will be areas where demand continues to outstrip supply as long as the quality of coaching remains high.</p>

SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES

DRAFT OVERARCHING STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Sport	Sub-region overview
Sailing and water sports	Sailing and other water sports appear to be strong in the sub region with six sailing clubs in Rochford, three in Castle Point and Southend has five sailing clubs and a plethora of differ clubs such as kite surfing, rowing and stand up paddle boarding in Southend. The area is one of importance to the RYA as it is supporting the Upper Yacht Club in Rochford to become an RYA approved training centre as well as supporting clubs in Southend with regard to development. Most clubs have capacity to grow. The main challenge to most clubs is the potential silting of the estuary and rivers on which they operate.
Indoor bowls	There are three indoor bowls clubs, one in Rochford and two in Southend on Sea. They offer a total of 13 rinks. This equates to 1 rink per 52,277 people in the sub region, although they are all located in the east of the area. They are all in above average condition and all have spare capacity to service any unmet demand in the area. The key issue for most clubs is maintaining and/or increasing membership given the rising age demographic of current membership.
Squash	<p>All four of the local authorities offer squash courts. There are 10 courts in Rochford as well as Basildon, three courts in Castle Point, 17 courts in Southend and eight courts in Thurrock.</p> <p>Some of the courts are used as multi-purpose areas, especially during the daytime when demand for squash is at its lowest. The offer ranges from pay and play opportunity at Clements Hall Leisure Centre, Rochford to membership only facilities such as the Athenaeum.</p> <p>Given the wide spread of facilities across all five local authorities there is the potential to consider workforce and sports development issues across the local authority border to reduce duplication and help drive up participation.</p>
Table tennis	<p>Table tennis has strong representation across the sub-county area. A wide variety of venues are used ranging from small village halls and community centres to larger leisure centres and/or school sites. Larger clubs report problems with booking sports halls at peak times due to competition from other sports as well as issues surrounding storage of tables.</p> <p>The Southend League is the largest in Essex with 72 teams. It aspires to have a dedicated facility. Likewise, Essex County Table Tennis Association would like to have its own dedicated table tennis facility to develop the sport further.</p> <p>Whilst a dedicated facility would, undoubtedly, help the sport to develop the key issue always revolves around raising the capital to build such a facility and table tennis players paying an appropriate fee to support maintenance and development of such a facility.</p>

Area by area summaries

Basildon summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basildon Sporting Village (BSV) is a Tier 1 facility which is in good condition and attracts participation from the sub region as well as locally. There is no daytime availability of sports halls in Billericay and Wickford although there is capacity at BSV. The conversion of Eversley Leisure Centre into a dedicated gymnastics facility (Summer 2018) should enable the sport to continue to grow. Basildon has sufficient swimming pool capacity. BSV is spacious and offers a high quality offer. Billericay Swimming Pool is in poor condition and needs replacing. A feasibility is being undertaken to understand the demand more fully. It is expected that a facility with six lanes and a learner pool will be required.

SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES

DRAFT OVERARCHING STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Castle Point summary

- ◀ The Local Authority manages the key leisure facility sites directly.
- ◀ Both the main facilities of Runnymede and Waterside Farm leisure centres have received significant investment over the past two years, ensuring that they remain fit for purpose.
- ◀ All sports halls report spare capacity with the exception of Waterside Farm Leisure Centre, which is very popular and at capacity.
- ◀ Consideration of how to extend community use in schools is important (i.e. get more people using them).
- ◀ Waterside Farm Leisure Centre attracts swimmers from Basildon.

Rochford summary

- ◀ Clements Hall Leisure Centre is identified as a Tier 1 facility. It has received investment but is over 40 years old and is likely to need to be fully refurbished or be rebuilt within the lifetime of the Strategy.
- ◀ Clements Hall has been identified as a strategic site by Badminton England.
- ◀ Greensward Academy is an important facility, albeit in a poor state of repair. The potential closure of the sports facilities will put an additional squeeze on other sporting infrastructure in the area.
- ◀ Many residents of Rochford continue to use facilities in Southend. The main reason for this is seen as a combination of the good swimming facility offered at Southend Leisure and Tennis Centre, the relative closeness of the facility and people's working habits (which takes them into Southend).
- ◀ The proposed refurbishment or rebuild of Clements Hall could address this demand by increasing the number of lanes provided.

Southend-on-Sea summary

- ◀ Southend Leisure and Tennis Centre is considered to be a Tier 1 facility. It is a high quality, relatively new facility which draws people in from the wider sub-region.
- ◀ There is a lot of sports activity being undertaken across the Borough, with strong player pathways in a range of sports.
- ◀ This high demand is putting increased pressure on facilities, especially sports halls.
- ◀ Swimming is a popular activity. The swimming stock is generally in good condition. There is, however, an undersupply of water space in Southend estimated to be a minimum of a six lane pool with a learner pool. This is likely to be exacerbated with the projected housing growth in the Borough.
- ◀ Many of the smaller school pools absorb the remaining swimming lesson programme.
- ◀ Southend draws swimmers from Rochford, in particular.

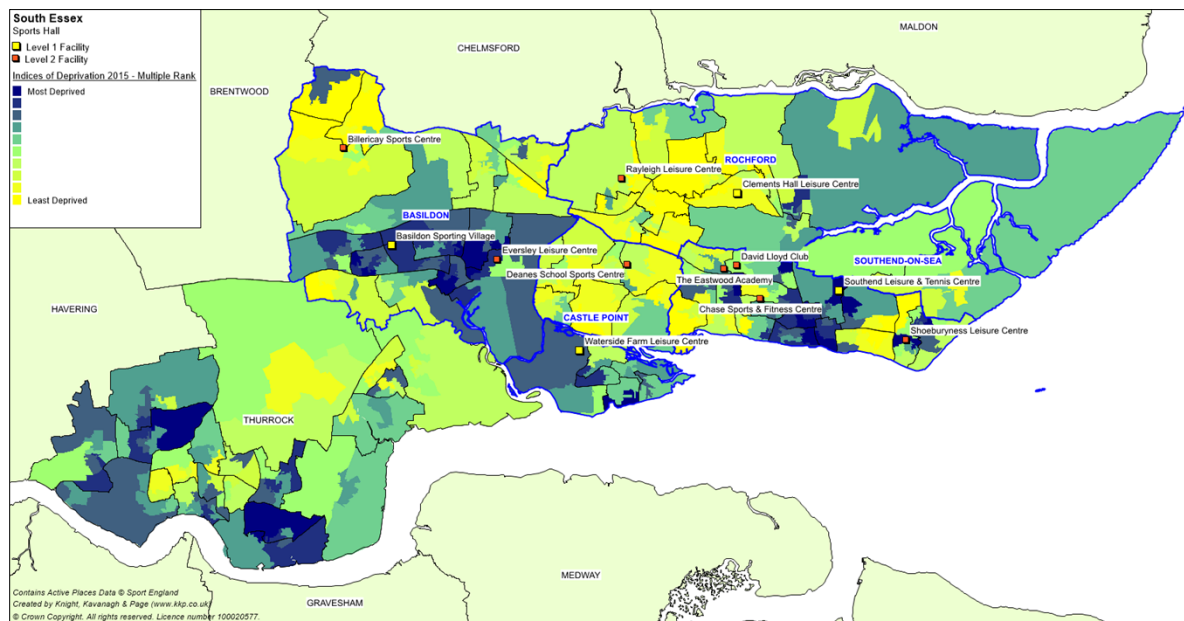
Thurrock summary (as identified in the Indoor Sport and Leisure Facilities Strategy 2017)

- ◀ Swimming is a popular activity with facilities being full at peak periods.
- ◀ Thurrock is in urgent need of new swimming provision to replace the existing stock.
- ◀ All sports halls are in education facilities and unavailable to the public during the day, with investment required in at least 50% of sports halls.
- ◀ There is a limited number of specialist sports facilities.
- ◀ Popularity and participation of gymnastics suggests the need for a permanent facility.
- ◀ There is a need to ensure that the Council's sports facility infrastructure is geared up to contribute to the delivery of interventions designed to address Thurrock's health inequalities.
- ◀ The opportunity exists to develop new sports and physical activity facilities alongside appropriate new schools, required as a result of population growth.
- ◀ There is a need to align indoor facilities with appropriate outdoor provision, especially if new facilities are developed on school sites.
- ◀ There is a need to identify ongoing investment to maintain and protect existing sports facilities and to undertake key elements of refurbishment. A feasibility study is being undertaken for Blackshots Leisure Centre (2018).

SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES DRAFT OVERARCHING STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Figures 4 and 5, overleaf, identify the spread of tiered provision in the wider sub region.

Figure 5: Indoor sports halls (Tier 1 and Tier 2 facilities)



There is a mixed picture of quality and availability of indoor sports halls across the sub-region. Areas of higher population density tend to be serviced by indoor sports halls. The main points emanating from each area are:

- ✦ **Southend-** Badminton, basketball and futsal are popular in Southend. Futsal and basketball in particular would like to expand but are restricted by court availability and cost.
- ✦ **Rochford** – Badminton and basketball are the two most popular sports played in sports halls. It is estimated that any increase in demand through population growth will be accommodated through the current sports hall stock.
- ✦ **Castle Point** - other than Waterside farm leisure centre all sports halls have spare capacity.
- ✦ **Basildon** – there is spare capacity in a number of sports halls although other are reportedly full.
- ✦ **Thurrock** – investment is required in sports halls and a feasibility with regard to the future of Blackshots Leisure centre is currently underway.

SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES DRAFT OVERARCHING STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

PART 5: RECOMMENDATIONS

This section seeks to identify strategic issues which transcend local authority boundaries, with a view that they can either be addressed locally and good practice shared, or that a common approach can be taken across the separate local authorities.

Areas where there is potential for coordinated improvement, therefore, are:

- ✦ For the local authorities (via ASELA) to adopt a co-ordinated approach in respect of working across Public Health, Active Essex, NGBs and other regional partners to help drive up participation (and accommodate) existing demand and better cater for potential participation increases and increased sustainability.
- ✦ Continue to drive improvement of relationships, and work with the national governing bodies and other partners to increase provision of sports and participation levels.
- ✦ Identify ongoing investment, maintenance and refurbishment requirements which impact on more than one local authority with a view to protect and improve existing sports facilities and share this information with partners.
- ✦ In addition, and in order to tackle specific agendas, it is recommended that resource is placed on reducing health inequalities and maximising relationships across the sub county area
- ✦ Each local authority should give ongoing consideration to whether other complementary services can be hosted within any current facilities (e.g. library, health facility, etc) which has the potential to lead to cross fertilisation of use, drive increases in physical activity and lead to more sustainable facilities. This should also be considered across local authority boundaries and specifically take account of new housing growth.
- ✦ Work towards a common community use agreement which can be shared with partner to improve the coordination of community access to, and the programming and pricing of, facilities (including schools) across the sub-region.
- ✦ Share good practice with regard to partnerships between schools and stakeholder clubs/groups and ensure increases in participation from hard to reach groups across the sub region are reflected in operational practice.
- ✦ Where possible identify improved methods of sharing data, notwithstanding GDPR, with a view to ensuring all facilities (which are supported by the wider Partnership) make a progressively greater (and measured) contribution to reducing health inequalities.

All of the above will lead to reducing health inequalities, maximising relationships and enhancing facility management operations.

Potential funding to implement the strategy

The Strategy has not addressed in detail how proposals and recommendations will be funded. It is anticipated that there will be a mix of sources and solutions required to deliver the vision and ambitions of the strategy. These solutions will include:

- ✦ Further development and implementation of each of the individual District's/Borough's developer contributions process associated with the development of urban extensions.
- ✦ Use of capital receipts from land disposal, where applicable.
- ✦ Asset rationalisation and use of revenue saving and/or future liabilities to pay back borrowing aligned to capital investment in other sites.
- ✦ Prudential borrowing where an 'invest to save' justification can be made, particularly for longer-term proposals which may be considered in light of any future borrowing strategy.
- ✦ External funding sources aligned to specific facilities and/or sports (e.g. Sport England funding, other charitable grant awards and funding streams).
- ✦ Third party borrowing where a suitable, robust business case exists (although this will be more expensive than prudential borrowing).

SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES DRAFT OVERARCHING STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Monitoring and review

The Overarching Indoor and Built Facilities Strategy identifies the investment and actions required to deliver and maintain a high quality built facilities infrastructure for the South Essex sub region up until 2037.

It is important that the overarching strategy is 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 which contribute to the quality of life of Essex's residents.

The production of the Strategy should be regarded as the start of the strategic planning process with a requirement for all partners to engage in ongoing dialogue and review in order to ensure that a strategic approach is adopted throughout the life of the strategy.

Each local authority has its own Strategy and Action Plan with identified actions for them and partner which considers short (1-3 years), medium (3–5 years) and long term (up to 10 years). The opportunity exists for each local authority to report to ASELA on an annual basis. This will ensure that changes in the supply and demand for facilities across the authorities is noted and cross border impact taken into consideration.

In particular the annual review process should include:

- ◀ A review of annual progress on the recommendations; taking into account any changes required to the priority of each action (e.g. the priority of some may increase following the delivery of others).
- ◀ Lessons learnt throughout the year.
- ◀ New facilities that may need to be taken into account.
- ◀ Any specific changes of use of key sites in the South Essex sub county (e.g. sport specific specialisms of sites, changes in availability, etc.).
- ◀ Any specific changes in demand at particular facilities and/or clubs in the area (e.g. reduction or increase in club numbers, new housing growth *etc.*).
- ◀ New formats of traditional sports that may need to be taken account of.
- ◀ Any new or emerging issues and opportunities.

The outcome of the review will be to develop a new annual and medium term action plan for indoor and built sports facilities across the South Essex sub region.

SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES DRAFT OVERARCHING STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

PART 6: ACTION PLAN

Management and programming

The following actions are relative to the overall management and programming of key facilities in across the sub-region and should be considered alongside the individual strategies and action plans. All actions identified below should take account of accessibility issues (hearing, visual and wheelchair access). Short term- 1-2 years; medium 3-5 years; Long term 5-10 years. Site by site actions can be found in the individual local authority strategy and action plan documents.

Strategic objective	Recommendation	Action	Timescale	Responsibility	Importance
Sub region wide programming Enhance	Ensure holistic approach to programming across all facilities leading to improved access for all sections of the community.	Consider current programming across the individual local authorities in the sub region Define the role of each facility within the wider community use offer across sub region –as per the individual action plans. Share the commitment to the site by site action plans for improving programming across the sub region.	Short	Each local authority to contribute	High
Community use agreements Enhance	Maintain the availability of the current stock of sports halls to the community.	Using good practice in the sub-region, consider if community use agreements can be secured to further embed policies across the school estate, leading to increased community use. Share good practice	Medium	Active Essex to coordinate	Medium
Sports halls Enhance	Improving access to facilities during the day time given the current reliance on educational facilities for indoor activity.	Highlight good practice across Essex and further afield regarding appropriate solutions to extending day time access including working with schools to accommodate community based organisations.	Short	Schools	Medium
Swimming pools Enhance	Continue to invest in the current stock of facilities and ensure programming reflects the needs of the resident population.	Planning for increases in water space needs to consider cross border demand. Commit to working strategically to programme water time for all residents to ensure the public have sufficient access the pools at peak times.	Short	All local authorities, leisure operators Public Health,	Medium

SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES DRAFT OVERARCHING STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Strategic objective	Recommendation	Action	Timescale	Responsibility	Importance
Health and fitness Enhance	Ensure that the provision of health and fitness facilities are appropriate to an ageing population in the District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When reviewing Council owned leisure centres/ and equipment, ensure excellent accessibility and consider changing age profile of those likely to use the facilities in the future. 	Medium	All local authorities and leisure providers.	Low
Indoor Tennis Enhance	Drive up participation from all sections of the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with the private tennis operators to consider if it will extend its programme/ accessibility to younger people, in particular. Undertake an annual review to assess participation rates across the sub regions Support performance pathway of talented tennis players with a view to maximising their progress. 	Long	LTA, Active Essex, relevant local authorities,	Medium
Indoor bowls Protect	Drive up participation from all sections of the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with indoor bowls facilities to identify good practice across the sub region with a view to increasing access and driving participation. Share good practice between indoor bowls clubs. Share workforce good practice amongst bowls clubs. 	Long	EIBA. Active Essex, clubs and relevant local authorities.	Medium
Sailing and water sports Enhance	Support the growth of water sports in the area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with the NGB to consider whether it has the potential to drive cross border increases in participation. Consider cross border working with regard to removing silt from rivers. Work with clubs to develop a pathway for introducing new members to the different sailing activities. 	Medium	RYA , Active Essex, Environment Agency	Medium

SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES DRAFT OVERARCHING STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Strategic objective	Recommendation	Action	Timescale	Responsibility	Importance
Planning Protect, Enhance, and Provide	To recognise the importance of this study and ensure recommendations are acted upon.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ To adopt the recommendations in this Study and ensure that they are encapsulated in planning policy documents (Local Plans) and taken into account by ASELA as it moves forward with its 2050 plan. ◀ ASELA to develop cross boundary priorities to assist local authorities to identify developments that could be funded through developer contributions, CIL and other sources of funding. 	Medium	ASELA and relevant local authorities	High
Monitor and review	Keeping the Facilities Strategy relevant and up to date.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Complete a light touch review of the study annually. ◀ Undertake a complete review within 5 years of its implementation. 	Medium	Local authorities reporting back to ASELA	High