

Developing a local standard for Sports Halls for South Somerset

(a) Current situation 2007

Based on district population of 158,460 (Experian, 2007)

In conducting the audit of sports hall provision, the Authority has used the supply parameters applied within the Sport England Sports Hall Facility Planning Model. These are:

- Sports halls must be a minimum of 4 badminton courts in size.
- Sports halls must have a minimum of 49 hours per week secured community use.

The application of these parameters results in a total supply of 11 sports halls in South Somerset, a total of 44 badminton courts. An accessibility factor has been applied to sports halls on school or college sites, as the availability of these sports halls to the community is reduced by school/college use during the daytime (dual use). The same factor has also been applied to sports halls that can only be hired out as a whole, to clubs and associations, usually on a block booking system during evenings and weekends only. Supply has been calculated as 75% of a fully accessible public sports hall, therefore a 4 court hall becomes a 3 court in supply calculations.

The application of the accessibility factor results in a total supply of 34 badminton courts, 5,561 square metres, for South Somerset.

Total area of sports hall provision = 5561 square metres

Square metres per 1,000 population = 35.09 square metres

(b) Previous Standard

Not applicable

(c) Rationale

To set a quantity standard of square metres of sports hall space per 1,000 population, the authority has assessed three different methodologies using a population of 158,460 (ONS, 2007):

1. Comparing the quantity of sports halls provision in the District with the current population.
2. Comparing the quantity of sports halls provision in the District with the population within their effective catchments.
3. Utilising the demand profiles for sports halls across South Somerset from the Sport England Facility Planning Model and Sports Facility Calculator, which include factors for peak use, duration of visits and capacity. These parameters are then applied to the active population of South Somerset.

For the purposes of this calculation, the size of 1 badminton court is calculated to be 17.4 m x 9.4 m = 163.56 square metres (Sport England, 2007)

Table 1 shows the results emerging from each methodology:

Methodology	Size sq m	Sq m per
1. Current adjusted supply available to current	5561	35.09
2. Current supply to catchment population		36.88
3. Sport England FPM/SFC demand parameters		44.65

In setting the quantity standard provision needs to be made for the additional impact that will stem from the Council's commitment to drive up participation levels across South Somerset by at least 1%, year on year, expressed within its **Corporate Plan** and the **South Somerset Sport and Active Leisure Strategy the Next Level (2007 – 2012)**. The Sport England Active People Survey measures increases in participation and shows an increase in 2.5% over 2 years from 20.3% in 2006 to 22.8% in 2008 for South Somerset. To accommodate this trend alongside the increases in population over the next 20 years, a percentage increase in demand has been added for sports halls. This has been reasonably and prudently set at 5%.

Based on the outcomes of this analysis and the outcomes from the local needs assessment identifying the need for more daytime use of sports halls in certain areas of the District and the need for central performance facilities, it is recommended that the basis for the standard is the Sport England Facility Planning Model figure – 44.65 sq m per 1,000. When the 5% demand increase is applied to this figure, it gives a standard of 46.88 sq m per 1,000.

(d) Recommended Standard

South Somerset = 46.88 square metres per 1,000 population