

# SPORTS HALLS

## Sports Hall Provision

Sports hall spaces for the range of indoor sports covering the various different levels of play are an essential component of delivering physical education provision within schools, and achieving sustainable, healthy and successful communities.

A typical sports hall will cater for sports such as badminton, short tennis, basketball, gymnastics, five-a-side football, handball, indoor hockey, korfbal, netball, volleyball, aerobic, and sports hall athletics.

As well as being the UK's most popular indoor sport badminton has the most demanding requirements for a number of functional elements including lighting and associated roof structure, background colours and air velocities. For these reasons the overall dimensions of the halls are normally derived and classified from the optimum arrangement of badminton courts.

## Identifying Local Needs and Opportunities

The consultation processes used to support the development of this PPG17 assessment and strategy identified the following needs:

Within the **Resident Survey**, just over 50% of residents are not satisfied with the existing indoor facility provision, highlighting:

- Many of the indoor sports halls were of a poor standard.
- Facilities were too busy when required at peak periods.
- There was a need for more indoor cricket net provision.
- The need for more daytime use of multi purpose indoor space in Chard, Ilminster and Yeovil.
- The lack of any suitable sport hall able to accommodate local, county and/or regional competitions.
- There was a gap in sport hall provision in Ilminster.

The **Sports Club Survey** indicated that 20% of clubs needed to develop or find new indoor sports facilities to support their expansion.

Consultation with national governing of sport development officers identified that:

- **Badminton:** Existing facilities are perceived to be reasonable for recreational badminton, and that a specific badminton facility' would be particularly useful to provide a focus for development of the sport through providing a performance and development centre. The Badminton Association of England expressed their desire to develop a Performance Center for the sport in Somerset, which could be located in South Somerset.
- **Basketball:** A central venue designed to cater for a central basketball league play with seating and catering facilities for 100 players and 50 spectators, would provide the platform for the sport to progress in Yeovil and South Somerset. The English Basketball Association identified that they would recommend per population of 100,000 a centre consisting of

1-2 courts.

- **Netball:** There was no suitable indoor sports hall to cater for premier league netball.

As part of the **Sports Zone Survey**, a large proportion of the 5071 respondents (28%) stated that they would wish to see a new multi-purpose sports hall within the facility mix.

## Audit of Local Provision

This section identifies the baseline of sports hall provision. There are 18 sports halls within South Somerset, provided via the public, private and education sectors. The majority of these are on school sites, however many of these have very limited or no community access.

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.

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.

Sports halls located in private boarding schools, have not been included in the supply calculation as any community use is strictly limited to one or two clubs, on a negotiated contract, as each school prioritises use towards its resident students.

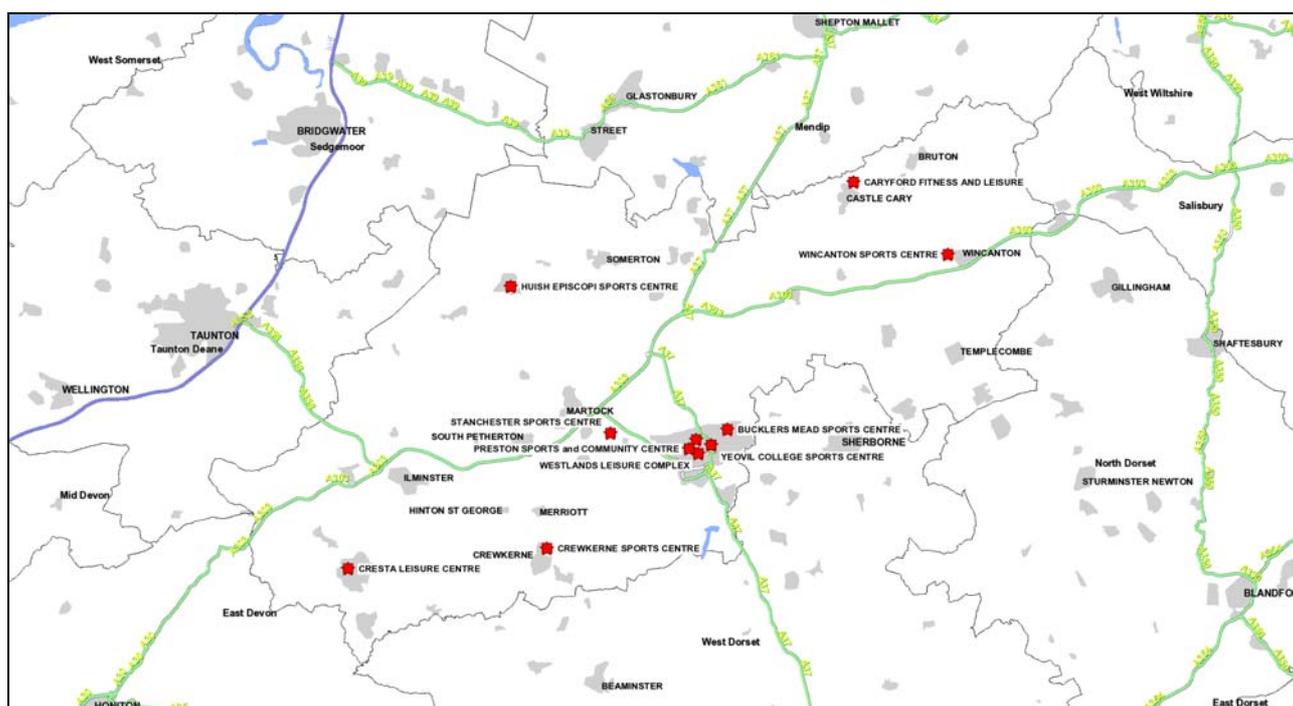
**Table 1** below shows the accessibility factors used to determine the true level of supply throughout the district:

**Table 1: Sport Hall Accessibility Provision**

Facility Type	Accessibility Factor
Public	100%
Dual use	75%
Club use	75%
Private school	0% - not included

The application of these parameters reduces the number of halls down from 18 to 11. The location of these halls is set out below in **Map 1**. **Table 2** lists the audit information for the 11 halls which meet the supply parameters, and therefore represent the true supply picture for South Somerset:

## Map 1: Existing Community Sports Hall Sites



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**Table 2: Audit Summary**

Site	SSDC Area	Management/ Type	No. of Courts	No. of courts after applying accessibility factor
Bucklers Mead Sports Centre, Yeovil	South	School / dual use	4	3
Caryford Sports Centre	East	1610 <sup>1</sup> / dual use	4	3
CRESTA	West	1610/ dual use	4	3
Crewkerne Sports Centre	West	1610/ dual use	4	3
Huish Episcopi Sports Centre	North	Academy / dual use	4	3
Preston Sports Centre, Yeovil	South	1610/ dual use	4	3
Stanchester Sports Centre	North	1610/ dual use	4	3
Westfield Community School, Yeovil	South	School / club use	4	3
Westlands Leisure Complex, Yeovil	South	Private	4	4
Wincanton Sports Centre	East	Trust / dual use	4	3
Yeovil College	South	College / dual use	4	3
<b>Totals</b>			<b>44</b>	<b>34</b>

**Table 2** also show that the adjusted sports hall provision for South Somerset amounts to **34 courts** in 2007.

<sup>1</sup> Previously Somerset Leisure Trust

Audit summary for the other 7 sports halls within South Somerset and the reason they have been excluded from the audit and subsequent assessment, is summarised in **Table 3**.

**Table 3: Excluded Sports Hall Audit Summary**

Site	SSDC Area	Management	No. of courts	Reason for exclusion
Bruton School for Girls	East	Private school	4	No secured community use
Wadham School, Crewkerne	West	School	4	Minimal community use. Not promoted as on same site as Crewkerne Sports Centre
Hazelgrove Prep. School	East	Private school	4	No secured community use
Kings School, Bruton	East	Private school	4	No secured community use
Perrott Hill School	West	Private school	4	No secured community use
Sexey's School, Bruton	East	Private school	4	No secured community use
Yeovilton	East	MoD	2 x 4	No secured community use

### Operation of Local Sports Hall Network

The levels of use at each of the local sports halls has been observed. From these observations, it is clear that the network of original dual use halls built pre-2003 are fully booked at peak times and operate with heavy off peak usage. The halls at Caryford and Crewkerne Sports Centres which were built after this time, have steadily developing programmes, but still have some capacity for increasing usage at off peak times. There is also some capacity for increasing usage at Westlands, however, private management and quality of the facility will constrain capacity.

### Setting Provision Standards

In determining standards of provision, PPG 17 states that local standards of sports facility provision should include:

- A **quantitative** component (how much new provision may be needed). This is generally expressed in terms of the number of people served by each facility type (e.g. one sports hall per 15,000 people).
- A **qualitative** component (against which to measure the need for enhancement of existing facilities). The development of objective, measurable quality standards is important in determining where improvements are most needed.
- An **accessibility** component (principally concerned with distance thresholds to a facility). For local authorities serving both urban and rural areas, both urban and rural distance thresholds may be used.

## Quantity Standard

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), unless otherwise stated:

Comparing the quantity of sports hall provision in the District with the current population.

Comparing the quantity of sports halls provision in the District with the population within their effective catchments.

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<sup>2</sup> (classified by age and gender).

For the purposes of this calculation, the size of 1 court is calculated to be 17.4 m x 9.4 m = 163.56m<sup>3</sup>

**Table 4** shows the results emerging from each methodology.

**Table 4: Quantity Standard Comparisons**

Methodology		Size (sq m)	Equivalent Standards	
			Sq m per 1, 000	Sq m per person
1	Current Adjusted Supply Available to Current Population	5561	35.09	0.03509
2	Current Supply to their Catchment Population		36.88	0.03688
3	SE FPM / SFC Demand Parameters	-	44.65	0.04465

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.

<b>Proposed quantity standard:</b>	46.88 sq m of sports hall space per 1,000 population
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<sup>3</sup> 17.4m x 9.4 m = 1 badminton court, including run-off - Sport England Comparative Sizes of Sports Pitches and Courts, 2007

## Setting a Quality Standard

The Council is proposing to adopt the following quality standard for all its indoor sports facilities. The quality standard reflects the views and aspirations of the local community and improvements to the quality of some of the existing facilities were highlighted in the consultation for this report.

<b>Proposed quality standard:</b>	<p>Indoor sports facilities should comply with the appropriate Sport England technical guidance.</p> <p>Indoor sports facilities (and ancillary facilities and equipment) should be in at least 'good' condition.</p> <p>Good condition is defined as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Well decorated and maintained, with no signs of neglect.</li> <li>• Well equipped as appropriate.</li> <li>• Effective storage space.</li> <li>• Meeting health and safety standards.</li> <li>• Welcoming reception area.</li> <li>• Reasonable number of changing accommodation for available facilities, as appropriate.</li> <li>• Well lit for sport and recreation activities, as appropriate.</li> <li>• Segregated changing and shower areas, as appropriate.</li> <li>• Segregated lockable changing areas as appropriate.</li> </ul>
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## Setting a Catchment and Accessibility Standard

Catchment areas provide a means of identifying the extent to which there is adequate geographical coverage of the District. Because propensity to travel varies between individuals, recreation planners normally apply the concept of 'effective catchment' defined as the travel time / distance 75%-80% of facility users are prepared to travel. Mode of transport is also important although for sports halls, given the preponderance of car based travel, catchments are most frequently defined in terms of car drive times.

The Sport and Recreation Community Needs Survey yielded valuable information on the typical travel distances travelled to use indoor sport and recreation facilities. **Table 5** shows that only 2.3% of respondents were prepared to travel more than 10 miles to indoor recreation facilities.

**Table 5: Resident Access Findings**

How close to home do you think recreation facilities should be provided?	Indoor Facilities % response
Less than 1 mile	11.5
1 - 5 miles	40.6
5 - 10 miles	14.2
More than 10 miles	2.3

Based on these survey outcomes, the catchment standard has been calculated and translated as a 15 minute drive time. It is therefore recommended that the following catchment and accessibility standard be adopted.

<b>Proposed catchment and accessibility standard:</b>	All South Somerset residents should live within a 15 minute drive time of a 4 court sports hall.  Sports halls should have good access, DDA compliance and 'adequate daytime community use' <sup>4</sup>
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### Setting a Minimum Acceptable Size Standard

In order to provide a full range of indoor sports, a sports hall is normally marked out with a minimum of 4 badminton courts. It is therefore recommended that the following minimum acceptable size standard be adopted.

<b>Minimum acceptable size:</b>	4 badminton court (based on Sport England guidance).  1 court is calculated as 17.4 m x 9.4 m = 163.56 m <sup>2</sup>  4 court hall is therefore calculated as 654.24 m <sup>2</sup>
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<sup>4</sup> Adequate year round, day time community use is defined as "some availability for non-programmed use between 9am and 5pm, plus dedicated parking for daytime users"