



LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON COUNCIL

INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

FINAL REPORT

AUGUST 2009

Integrity, Innovation, Inspiration

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OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the draft indoor sports facilities needs assessment report for the London Borough of Croydon produced by Knight, Kavanagh & Page (KKP). It builds upon information drawn from an audit and analysis of indoor sport and recreation facilities in Croydon and consultation carried out in parallel with this process. It assesses the needs of, and for, sport and recreation facilities in the Borough. The findings have been assembled in a manner and form that is compliant with PPG17 and Sport England guidance. It is also consistent with the Borough Council's stated vision for:

'A safe, healthy, prosperous and sustainable future for the whole community'

The intention is that it will be used to inform local planning processes and future strategic planning over the next 10 years (i.e., up to 2019). The Needs Assessment will, when finalised, contribute to corporate strategic and development planning by informing and underpinning production of Croydon's Local Development Framework (LDF).

The finalised needs assessment will:

- ◀ Provide a basis for the review of sport, recreation and physical activity policies and proposals as well as providing a justification for inclusion of developer contributions for sport and recreation facilities as part of the planning process. The underpinning assessment provides a rationale for investment in sport and recreation facilities.
- ◀ Provide a basis for establishing sport and recreation facility requirements determining whether the right facilities are in the right place to serve Croydon residents and sports clubs.
- ◀ Provide a clear rationale for the planning of new sport and recreation facility provision and the protection of existing facilities threatened by development.
- ◀ Determine an appropriate balance between public, private, voluntary and education sector facility provision to meet identified local need.
- ◀ Contribute to provision of a robust, up to date evidence base to inform land allocations and planning policies in the LDF based on assessments of the scope for improving the performance of existing facilities.
- ◀ Be suitable to guide a strategy for investment in new and existing facilities for the future.

This process is being supported by Sport England's Facilities Improvement Service (FIS). The FIS is designed to improve local authority strategic planning for sport to maximise opportunities for well planned facilities improvement. It is understood that the first stage of the service was completed during 2008 following establishment of a FIS Project Steering Group and production of scoping study, which identified the strategic context for a facilities strategy and the following key drivers for change:

- ◀ The fundamental requirement for a needs and evidence base for sports and recreation facilities in order to inform the LDF Core Strategy and set standards for sports and recreation facilities in the Borough.
- ◀ Croydon's extensive plans to redevelop its school stock via the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) process. This includes plans to develop up to six academies.

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This report considers the audit of, and assesses sport and recreation facilities in, Croydon. Consistent with PPG 17 guidance (see below), it considers the quantity, quality and accessibility of current provision so that the recommendations and actions are justified and understood.

To this extent, it has three phases (as shown below) plus appendices:

Phase	Description
Introduction	Details appertaining to the brief and the methodology, plus the scope of the study. Background information about LBC and a summary of the policy context for providing sport and recreation facilities.
Needs assessment	Identification of local need for sport and recreation facilities, including the additional need generated by projected housing development and increases in participation, a review of recent research relating to sport and recreation facilities and identification of aspirations for specialist facilities. Assessment of the number, distribution, condition and accessibility of each type of facility; this includes, and takes account of, facilities in neighbouring areas. Facility specific catchments and minimum provision standards are proposed as appropriate.
Proposals	Consideration of the impact of likely development and presentation of scenarios to cater for identified shortfalls and gaps. Needs identified for specific types of facility in the previous phase are also included. Initial scenarios for the allocation and grouping of facilities in the Borough to ensure that key, identifiable, neighbourhoods (or groups thereof) are effectively serviced by publicly available indoor community sports provision
Appendices	Including the pro-forma used for the audit of sport and recreation facilities.

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METHODOLOGY

The term 'sport and recreation facilities' includes large, purpose built sport and recreation centres of 'district wide/national' significance, locally significant facilities and facilities provided by both the education and private sectors. Within this framework, ownership and management are fundamentally important. They can determine the effectiveness with which facilities serve the community and meet local need. We have therefore undertaken an assessment of facilities provided in Croydon by the public, private and voluntary sectors as part of this study.

PPG17 compliance

PPG 17 'Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation' was published in July 2002 followed in September of the same year by 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG 17'. It re-affirms the importance of local authorities undertaking 'robust assessments of the existing and future needs of their communities'. Paragraph 5 states that 'good quality assessments and audits, leading to clear strategies supported by effective planning polices, will provide vital tools for resolving potential conflicts that arise between different uses and users of open space, sports and recreational facilities.'

Paragraph 10 goes on to state that 'existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land should not be built on unless an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the land to be surplus to requirements.' Evaluation of whether a land or a facility is 'surplus to requirements' should include consideration of all the functions that they might perform. Not all open space, sport and recreational land and buildings are of equal merit and some may be available for alternative uses.

This strategy and the underpinning assessment will result in LBC being provided with a study that enables it to establish frameworks for the development and management of sport and recreation facilities across the Borough.

Audit

LBC holds some data about the quantity and ownership of sport and recreation facilities in the Borough. It uses Active Places Power data/information to provide a spatial evidence base and other 'planning tools' (e.g., Facilities Planning Model) to determine accessibility and the extent to which local demand is met. Borough Council data was augmented by KKP during December 2008 and January 2009 with a non-technical, visual assessment of sport and recreation facilities to provide quality information for inclusion in the study.

This combination of existing LBC plus KKP generated assessment data provides a 'snap shot' of the current situation ensuring that the Study is PPG17 compliant. It allows for:

- ◀ Analysis of the quantity of provision.
- ◀ Assessment of the levels and types of facilities use.
- ◀ Assessment of quality.

KKP uses a standardised audit pro-forma (see Appendix 1) to assess each facility ensuring that all are considered and assessed on a 'like for like' basis. Analysis of the distribution of, and interrelationship between, sport and recreation facilities also underpins

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evaluation of demand. The assessment also considered the 'life expectancy' and/or basic building development requirements of facilities.

It provides an indication of areas of high demand, where there is potential to provide improved and/or additional facilities to meet such demand and the options to, where appropriate, protect the current stock.

Analysis

The key focus of this part of the Study is to present key findings and issues related to sport and recreation facility provision in Croydon. The key aims are to:

- ◀ Assess key sport and recreation facilities including quality, quantity, distribution and accessibility.
- ◀ Evaluate the distribution and usage of sport and recreation facilities.
- ◀ Undertake a needs assessment via analysis and identification of current unmet and future demand.
- ◀ Assess the impact of national/regional/local initiatives and development plans on provision of indoor facilities.

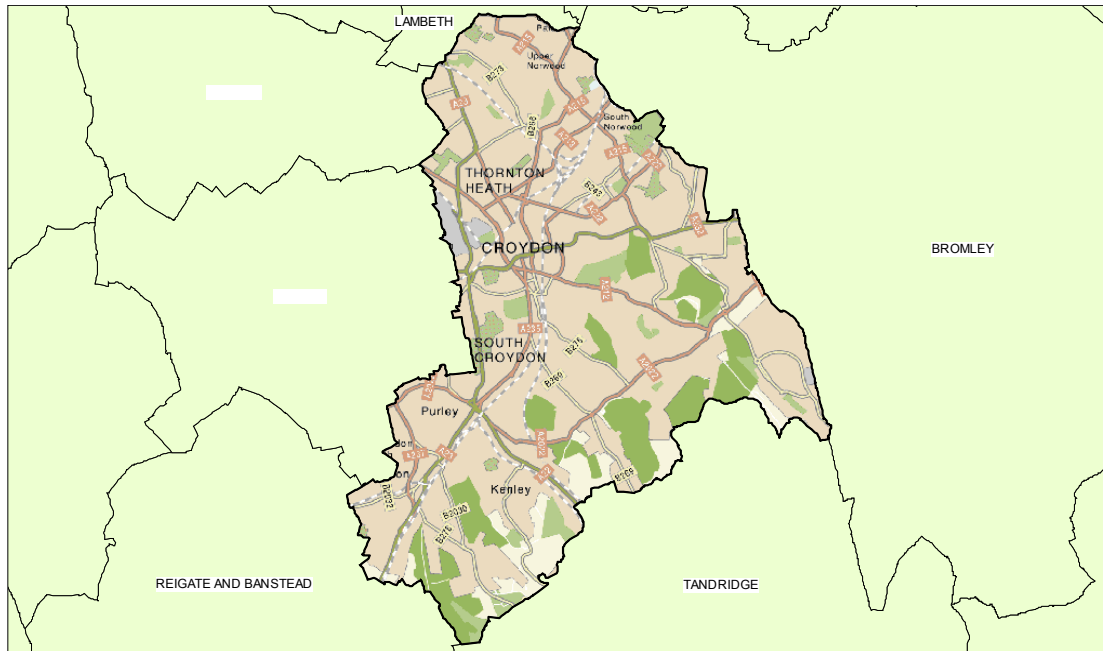
Active Places Power is applied as a planning tool to model provision of sport and recreation facilities. It has been designed to assist in investment decisions across Government and to assist local authorities to audit their sports provision and develop local strategies. It also assists national governing bodies of sport (NGBs) to identify areas in need of improvement in the context of facility provision for their sport.

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DEMOGRAPHIC CONTEXT

The London Borough of Croydon (LBC) is a large town and major commercial centre in South London. It is large, complex and diverse. The factors outlined below influence current and future supply and demand for sport and recreation facilities in the Borough.

Figure: Location of Croydon

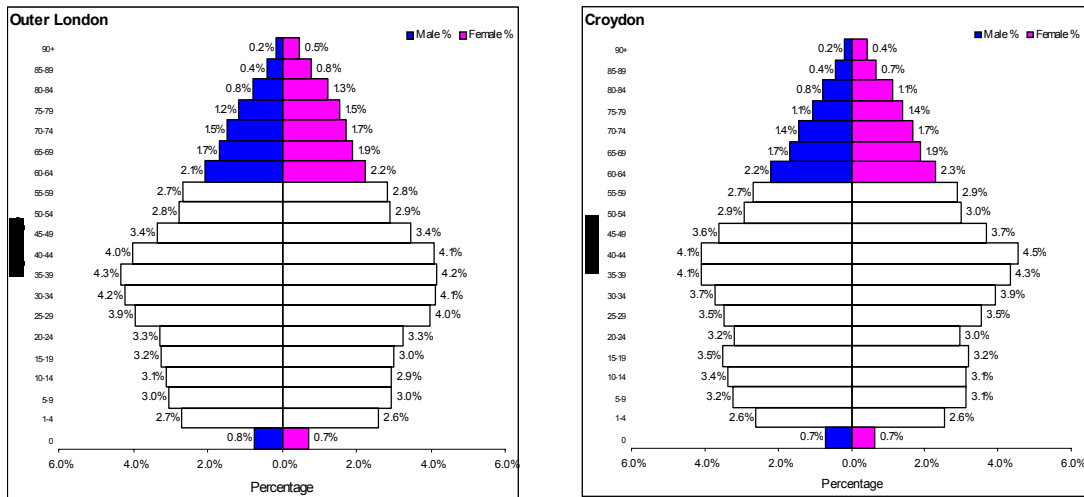


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Population

Its 2009 population is estimated at 339,900 (ONS); 166,800 males and 173,000 females. Age and gender distribution comparing Croydon within Outer London is shown below.

Figure: Age/gender distribution of population: Outer London region and Croydon



These charts illustrate the fact that there are slightly more (and a higher proportion of) 10-14 and 15-19 year olds in Croydon than in the Outer London region. Consequently, consideration should be given to how services might be oriented (at this stage) to cater for the short and medium term needs and demands of younger people and young adults.

Latest projections show that, if current trends continue, the population will grow by a further nearly 14,300 people (i.e., approximately 4.3%) by 2019 (ONS).

The number of pupils entering primary education has increased by 20% over the past 3 years. The birth rate is increasing significantly and there is every indication that the number of children in each year group will be 800 higher than the 2007 figure. The first year of the increase are now aged 7 and therefore will move into the 10-14 age bracket in 2012/13. The first year showing the full 800 increase are those aged 5 in 2009 and will therefore enter to 10-14 grouping in 2014/15.

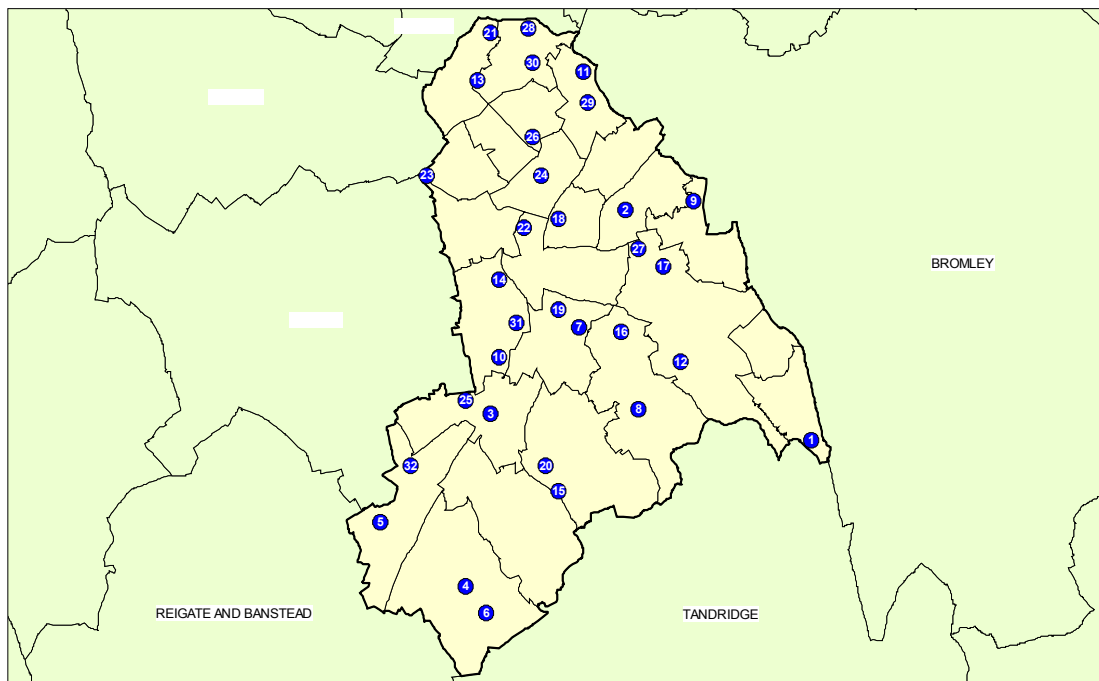
Sport and recreation facilities

Active Places allows sports facilities in an area to be identified. Nationally, it contains information about over 50,000 facilities, across eleven facility types. The map below shows sporting facilities, by type, in the Croydon area. Some form of sports facility is available in the majority of wards, however, there are currently no principal sports facilities located within the following five wards:

- ◀ Bensham Manor
- ◀ Broad Green
- ◀ Fieldway
- ◀ Kenley
- ◀ Woodside

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Figure: Map of principal sports facilities in Croydon identified in Active Places



The key, listing these facilities, is set out overleaf.

Key for principal sports facilities in Croydon map

ID	Site	ID	Site
1	Addington High School	17	Shirley High School
2	Ashburton Learning Village	18	Sir Philip Game Youth Centre
3	Christ Church Hall	19	South Croydon Sports Club
4	Coulsdon College	20	St Edmunds Church Hall
5	Coulsdon Community Centre	21	St Josephs College
6	Coulsdon High School	22	St. Mary's Catholic High School
7	Croham Hurst School (Now amalgamated with Old Palace School and part of Whitgift foundation).	23	The Archbishop Lanfranc School
8	Croydon Sports Club	24	The Selhurst High School For Boys (Co-located on site of the BRIT School. Sports facilities are being operated by LBC).
9	Edenham High School	25	Thomas More School
10	Haling Manor High School	26	Thornton Heath Leisure Centre
11	Lewis Sports & Leisure	27	Trinity Sports Club
12	Monks Hill Sports Centre	28	Virgo Fidelis Convent Senior School
13	Norbury Manor High School For Girls	29	Waterside Centre
14	Old Town Youth Club	30	Westwood Language College For Girls

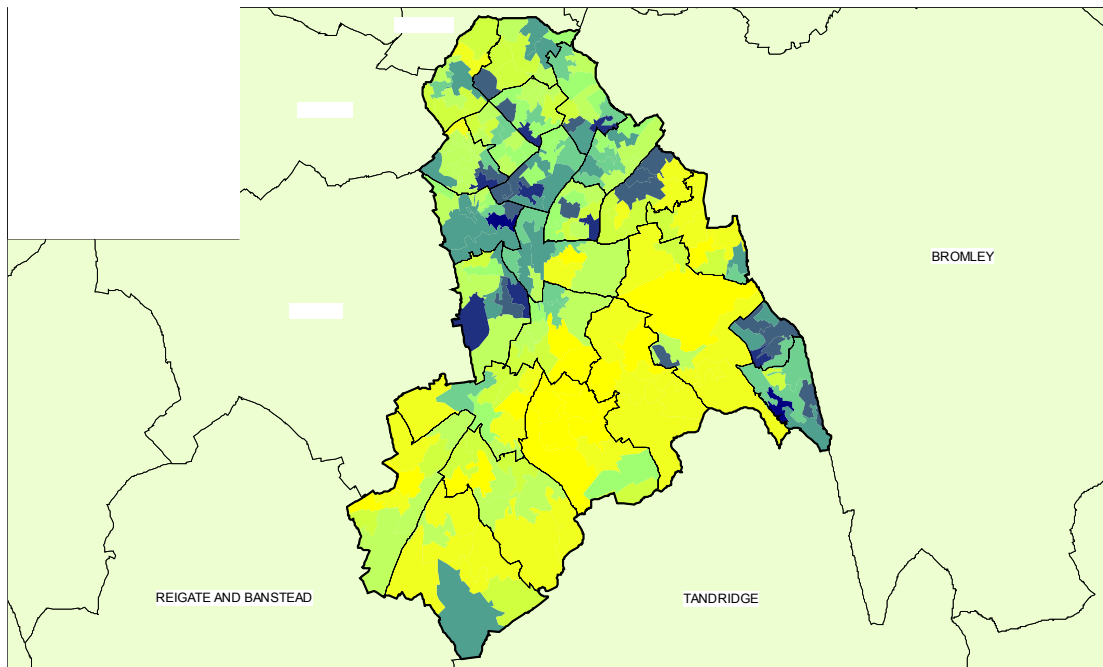
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15	Riddlesdown High School	31	Whitgift Sports Centre
16	Royal Russell School	32	Woodcote High School

Health

A range of indicators, based on the indices of deprivation, suggest that a significant proportion of the Borough's population has health problems.

Figure: Indices of deprivation 2007 – Health rank



On average people living in areas to the centre and to the north of the Borough and also in the Fieldway and New Addington wards in the east, experience significantly higher levels of poor health compared to those resident in the south of Croydon. Of particular concern is the need for more services to be provided locally and for greater service integration.

Physical activity

The Active People Survey 2005/06 (AP1) was a survey of over 360,000 adults aged 16 and over living in England. At least 1,000 telephone interviews were carried out in every local authority in England. Sport England developed a diagnostic tool (APD) to help use the results of the survey. It gathered data on the type, duration and intensity of people's participation in different types of sport and recreational activity, as well as information about volunteering, club membership, tuition from an instructor or coach, participation in competitive sport and satisfaction with local sports provision.

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Nationally, AP2 results highlight:

- ◀ Over two million adults in England (age 16 and over) volunteer in sport for at least one hour a week. This has increased by 125,000 between 2005/6 and 2007/8 (from 1.92 million adults to 2.04 million adults).
- ◀ There has been no change in the percentage of the adult population who receive tuition between 2005/6 and 2007/8.
- ◀ Between 2005/6 and 2007/8 there has been a statistically significant decrease in the percentage of the adult population that take part in organised competition, and the percentage of the adult population that are members of a club where they play sport.
- ◀ Satisfaction with local sports provision declined between 2005/6 and 2007/8.
- ◀ Football participation (indoor and outdoor) has grown from 2.91 million adults (7.1%) to 3.12 million adults (7.6%), an increase of 232,000 participants.
- ◀ Athletics participation has grown by 460,000 participants, from 2.04 million adult participants (5.0%) to 2.50 million adults (6.0%). This includes athletics track/field, running and jogging.
- ◀ Participation in golf has increased from 1.46 million adults (3.6%) to 1.54 million adults (3.7%), an increase of 87,000 participants.

Croydon

The table below shows the AP1 and 2 survey results for Croydon in comparison to the England and the Sport England Region of London; as well as those for the nearest neighbours.¹ The nearest neighbours are not necessarily geographic neighbours, but those which are the closest to Croydon in terms of socio-demographics. This type of comparison has been developed to aid local authorities in comparative and benchmarking exercises, the models provide a wide range of socio-economic indicators upon which the specific family group (nearest neighbours) is calculated. The results are discussed in more detail below:

¹ According to www.cipfastats.net Croydon's top three nearest neighbours are Enfield, Redbridge and Ealing.

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Table: AP2 versus AP1 results

Area	KPI 1		KPI 2		KPI 3		KPI 4		KPI 5		KPI 6	
	AP1 %	AP2 %	AP1 %	AP2 %	AP1 %	AP2 %	AP1 %	AP2 %	AP1 %	AP2 %	AP1 %	AP2 %
National	21.0	21.3	4.7	4.9	25.1	24.7	18.0	18.1	14.9	14.6	69.5	66.6
London	21.3	20.2	3.5	3.8	26.2	25.3	19.2	19.7	13.1	12.4	66.1	61.8
Enfield	19.7	14.0	3.6	7.0	23.5	22.5	16.4	17.9	12.2	11.1	71.4	67.4
Redbridge	19.1	21.4	3.8	6.0	24.7	28.9	18.0	21.4	14.1	11.9	65.1	62.6
Ealing	21.2	20.0	4.1	3.4	26.4	24.0	19.1	17.7	13.4	10.5	71.4	67.4
Croydon	20.0	15.3	5.1	4.1	26.3	27.4	19.3	19.9	14.5	14.3	62.0	55.5

KPI 1	At least 3 days a week x 30 minutes moderate participation
KPI 2	At least 1 hour a week volunteering to support sport
KPI 3	Club member
KPI 4	Received tuition from an instructor or coach in last 12 months
KPI 5	Taken part in organised competitive sport in last 12 months
KPI 6	Satisfied with local sports provision
Red text shows where results for AP2 are lower than AP1	
Green text shows where results for AP2 are higher than AP1	

It was repeated with smaller sample sizes, between October 2007 and 2008 (AP2). The difference between the results for AP1 and AP2 are statistically significant for Croydon. The results displayed below compare AP1 and AP2.

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AP1 found that 20% of those people surveyed in Croydon participated in sport at least three days a week for 30 minutes at a moderate level; below the national average. This decreased significantly to 15.3% following the AP2 survey.

Of those surveyed, over half (62%) of people from Croydon were satisfied (KPI 6) with local sports provision (AP1) which is below the national average (69.5%) and lower than the comparable areas. Furthermore, AP2 found that the satisfaction levels decreased marginally in Croydon (55.5%). The community consultation, as discussed later in the report, helps to shed some light on the causes of this comparable dissatisfaction.

Sport England's segmentation model, which comprises 19 'sporting' segments, is designed to assist understanding of attitudes, motivations and perceived barriers to sports participation. It is used to assist agencies involved in delivery of sport and recreation to develop tailored interventions, communicate more effectively with the target market and to better understand participation in the context of life stage and lifecycles.

Across Croydon, Active People data indicates higher proportions of people in segments two, six, nine, ten and nineteen (see below) relative to other segments locally, regionally and/or nationally. Segment two is the most significant. A full breakdown of the 19 segments can be found in the appendices.

Segment ref.	Market segment	Key characteristics	% of LBC population	Activities/sports that appeal to segment
BO6	<i>Tim</i> , settling down males	Tim loves sport. He manages trips to the gym, weekends at the canoe club and the odd mid-week game of squash. He hopes things won't change too much when the baby comes, but he knows they may not be able to enjoy such regular snowboarding holidays in the future.	9.8%	Football Golf Squash Cricket Rugby Union Shooting American Football
A02	<i>Jamie</i> , sports team drinkers	Jamie participates in club and organised sport. His motivations are to train/compete, to meet friends, to improve performance and to enjoy it. Better playing facilities would encourage him to participate.	7.8%	Football Martial Arts Boxing Basketball Weight training Badminton
AO3	<i>Chloe</i> , fitness class friends	Chloe is likely to be a member of a gym or fitness club. She is motivated to train to keep fit and to meet friends. More free time, people to go with and longer opening hours may encourage more participation.	7.4%	Body combat Swimming Gym Tennis Netball Pilates Running Aqua Aerobics
B09	<i>Kev</i> , pub league team mates	Kev is likely to be part of a social club which has some form of physical recreation. As with Jamie, he is motivated to train and to meet friends. Better facilities and cheaper admission may encourage more participation.	7.4%	Football Karate Weight training Boxing Rugby Darts/ Snooker/ Pool Fishing Cricket

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This information is particularly useful when considering the orientation, marketing and promotion of sport and recreation facilities. In Croydon provision of internet information (to assist decision making and as a primary source of information) is significant, as are text alerts. TV advertising and targeted mail-shots linked to specific promotions could also be significant.

Market segmentation tools are also available via Experian in the form of Mosaic, which classifies all consumers in the United Kingdom in 61 types aggregated into 11 groups. The result is a classification that paints a picture of UK consumers in terms of their socio-demographics, lifestyles, culture and behaviour to provide a view of UK consumers at the start of the 21st century. The table overleaf shows the top five mosaic classifications in Croydon *per se*, and then compared to the country as a whole:

Mosaic group description	Population in Croydon	Percentage	National Percentage
1 - Ties of Community	93,075	27.1%	16.5%
2 - Suburban Comfort	71,825	21.0%	15.7%
3 - Symbols of Success	54,305	15.8%	10.5%
4 - Urban Intelligence	47,914	14.0%	6.9%
5 - Blue Collar Enterprise	25,923	7.6%	11.7%

The Groups are described as follows:

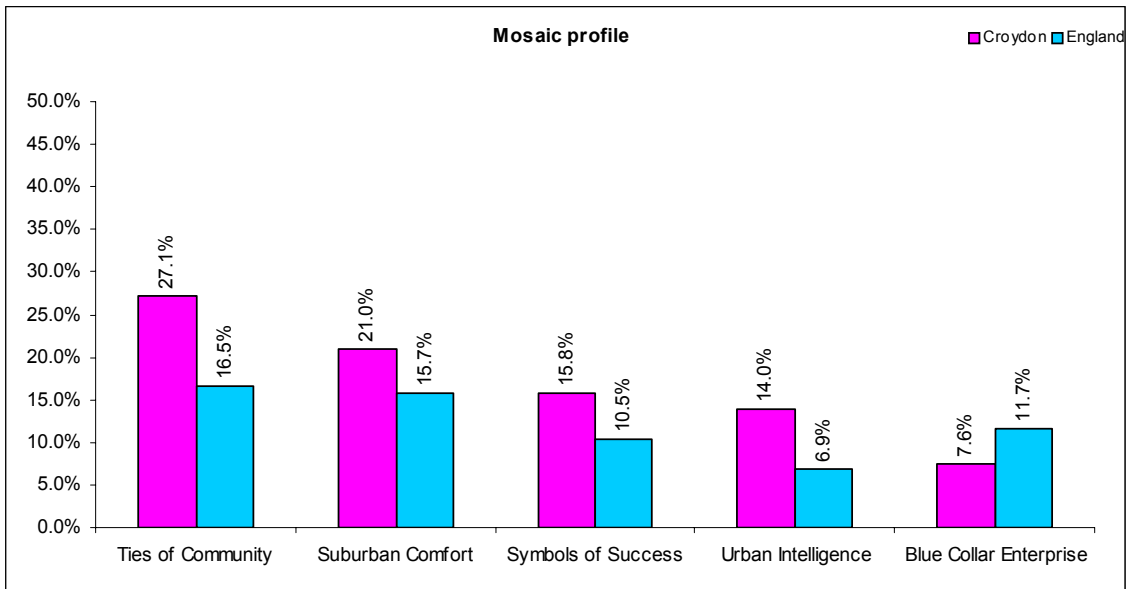
Mosaic group	Description
Ties of Community	'Ties of Community' is comprised of people whose lives are mostly played out within the confines of close knit communities. Living mostly in older houses in inner Borough neighbourhoods or in small industrial towns, most of these people own their homes, drive their own cars and hold down responsible jobs. Community norms rather than individual material ambitions shape the pattern of most residents' consumption.
Suburban Comfort	'Suburban Comfort' comprises people who have successfully established themselves and their families in comfortable homes in mature suburbs. Children are becoming more independent, work is becoming less of a challenge and interest payments on homes and other loans are becoming less burdensome. With more time and money on their hands, they can relax and focus on activities that they find intrinsically rewarding.
Symbols of Success	'Symbols of Success' comprises people whose lives are 'successful' by whatever yardsticks society commonly uses to measure success. These are people who have rewarding careers rather than jobs, who live in sought after locations, who drive the more modern and expensive cars and who indulge in the most exotic leisure pursuits. Most, though not all, appear to enjoy stable household arrangements.
Urban Intelligence	'Urban Intelligence' comprises young and well educated people who are open to new ideas and influences. Young and single, and few encumbered with children, these people tend to be avid explorers of new ideas and fashions, cosmopolitan in their tastes and liberal in their social attitudes. Whilst eager consumers of the media and with a sophisticated understanding of brand values, they like to be treated as individuals, and value authentic over veneer.

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Mosaic group	Description
Blue Collar Enterprise	'Blue Collar Enterprise' comprises people who, though not necessarily very well educated, are practical and enterprising in their orientation. Many of these people live in what were once council estates but where tenants have exercised their right to buy. They own their cars, provide a reliable source of labour to local employers and are streetwise consumers. Tastes are mass market rather than individualistic and focus on providing comfort and value to family members.

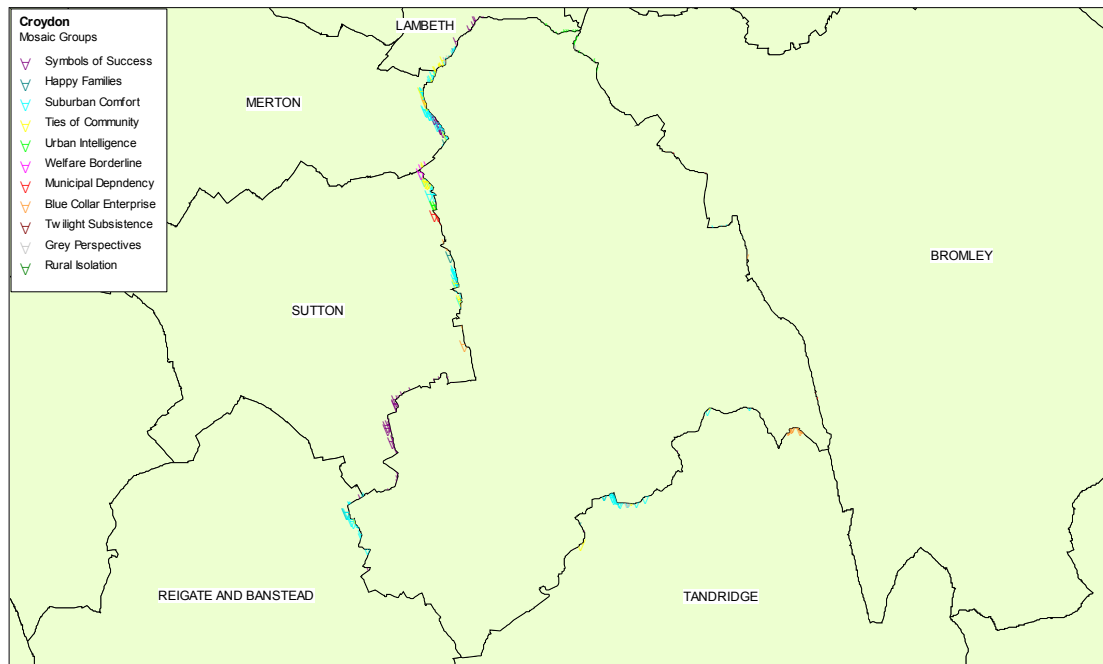
The largest segment profiled for Croydon is 'Ties of the Community'. This accounts for 27.1% of households in the area. This is a substantially higher proportion than is seen for this group nationally. The chart below shows the top five classifications for the Croydon Borough area relative to the national equivalents:

Mosaic profile: Croydon



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Figure: Map of mosaic groups in Croydon



Analysis of mosaic groups in Croydon identifies that there are clusters of 'ties of the community' in the north of the Borough whilst symbols of success dominate the southern areas of the Borough.

The mosaic profile of Croydon would suggest that sport and recreation facilities should be well targeted, affordable and cater for a range of mass market and intrinsically rewarding tastes.

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POLICY CONTEXT

The implications of the policy context for sport and recreation facility provision in Croydon can be summarised as follows:

Policy area	Summary and implications
National planning policy	PPG 17 provides guidance to local authorities about planning and providing for sport and recreation facilities, in particular the need to undertake a robust quantitative and qualitative audit and the development of rigorously researched local standards of provision. This assessment and is consistent with the guidance.
National sports policy	Government policy provides a general framework for significantly increasing levels of participation/physical activity and support for elite sport. Arguably, sports facilities in Croydon should underpin these objectives via creation of a network suitable for community sports development and, where appropriate, performance sport.
Other (relevant) national policy	The benefits of increasing participation in sport and active recreation are both explicit and implicit in much government policy. Development of a network of appealing, accessible sport and recreation facilities should embrace, and demonstrate contribution to, these wider social objectives.
Regional planning policy	The London Plan provides a framework for development in South East England for the 20 years to 2026. It brings together policies for development with other directives and programmes that influence the nature of places and how they function, including those governing health, social issues, the economy, culture, skills and the environment. Croydon is identified as an 'Opportunity Area'. Policy 3D.6 notes that 'the Mayor will work with partners to develop and implement legacies from the new permanent facilities in the Olympic Park. These will include ensuring that the facilities meet London's sport needs and that they are accessible and affordable for all Londoners' It goes on to highlight that in DPDs ¹ boroughs should identify sites for a range of sports facilities to meet local, sub-regional and wider needs. In considering proposals for sports facilities, boroughs should ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ A sequential approach is applied. ◀ Sites have good access by public transport, cycling and walking, or improved access is planned. ◀ Facilities are accessible to all sections of the community, including disabled people. ◀ New provision is focused on areas with existing deficiencies in facilities. ◀ The multiple use of facilities is encouraged, including those of schools and commercial organisations.

¹ DPDs Development Plan Documents.

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Policy area	Summary and implications
Regional sports policy	<p>Sport England's national objective region is to increase the level of participation by 1% year on year. In addressing this vision, its ambition is that a wide range of agencies will commit to delivery, the sharing of expertise and the development of common approaches to address six key themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Maximising opportunities for sport and physical activity through effective and sustainable partnerships. ◀ Overcoming barriers and enabling excluded or hard-to-reach groups to participate. ◀ Providing opportunities and incentives for people in workplace settings to take part within their daily routine. ◀ Helping children and young people to make physical activity part of their everyday life. ◀ Developing the potential within organisations and individuals to achieve personal and sporting success. ◀ Changing attitudes by raising awareness of the economic, educational, social and health benefits of sport and physical activity.
Local planning policy	<p>The LDF will replace Croydon's Unitary Development Plan (UDP) as the main collection of planning policy documents within the council. The protection of existing facilities and designation of sites for new sports facilities will contribute to provision within the Borough. It will also enable the prioritisation of areas where new sports facilities are required and highlight those that are of high value.</p>

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SECTION 2: KEY ISSUES CONSIDERATIONS AND ISSUES

A number of considerations and issues specific to the Borough were explored in development of this Strategy:

Local Area Agreement (2008-2011)

Although a new one is in the process of being established, to date Croydon's Local Area Agreements (LAA) that runs until 2009, has had agreed specific targets to:

- ◀ Reduce the number of people claiming incapacity benefit and similar benefits for 6 months or more
- ◀ The number of employees attaining Skills for Life and NVQ Level 2 and 3 qualifications
- ◀ Reduce the number of families with children and young people for whom the Council accepts a homeless duty where the reason for homelessness is exclusion from the home
- ◀ Increase GCSE attainment in specified wards in NW Croydon
- ◀ Increase average achieving higher than L4 in KS2 in specified wards in NW Croydon
- ◀ Decrease % of 16 to 18 years olds NOT in education, employment and training
- ◀ Decrease % absence from schools in NW Croydon
- ◀ Increase number of people engaged in formal volunteering
- ◀ Reduce extent of litter, detritus and graffiti borough wide & increase tonnage of commercial glass recycled
- ◀ Increase the number of cavity walls and loft insulations to reduce carbon dioxide emissions
- ◀ Reduce number of incidents of violent crime
- ◀ Reduce motor vehicle crime and increase DV detection rate

Building Schools for the Future (BSF)

Croydon, in tandem with the London Borough of Kingston announced its intention to make a joint bid for £450 million of funding from the Government's Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme in December 2008. The Borough Council's bid set out what it described as 'a vision for the future of secondary schooling that will offer every child - regardless of their background - the opportunity to achieve their full academic potential'.

The intention of the joint submission was to enable Croydon and Kingston to combine expertise and significantly reduce the costs of procuring building projects in both boroughs.

BSF in Croydon is, potentially, a very large investment programme. The stated intention is to transform secondary education, whilst providing an opportunity to meet defined community sports and recreation needs, both in sports provision but much more importantly in delivering the 'school sport' agenda of two hours physical education in and outside of the school curriculum and the extended offer of up to five hours.

Each borough is to make its own case for transforming education within its own boundaries but the intention was to create a joint Local Education Partnership (LEP) - be responsible for procuring and project managing and the construction of projects across both boroughs.

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The proposals, published on 13 November 2008, included:

- ◀ Three new academies located at Ashburton Community School, Selsdon High School and Haling Manor School
- ◀ Two London Challenge Trust schools at Addington High School and Westwood Language College
- ◀ Increased sixth-form provision across the borough
- ◀ Special education provision for children with learning difficulties.

Since then, they have been subject to further change and, notwithstanding the excellent input of lead officers on the Borough's BSF team to this review, the exact current status of the programme, at point of publication of this assessment, will need to be confirmed.

There is clearly a need to take full advantage of the opportunity to make greater community sport-based use of schools and to take full advantage of the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and BSF. Ultimately, strategic recommendations need not only to be based on sound evidence, but also to enable local agencies and stakeholders to open the door and influence the manner in which the programmes is planned and delivered.

Conversely, if the opportunities presented by BSF are not shaped and made to fit into a Borough-wide sports facilities framework, there is a danger that it will be delivered in such a way as to limit opportunity and cannibalise key catchments, actually restricting progress towards a situation where affordable community use of schools is the norm.

Because of this danger, later in this report, an (at this stage relatively speculative) attempt is made to look at how a model hierarchy of provision in the Borough might look in the context of servicing specific sub-divisions and to suggest specific sites around which provision at different 'levels' might be developed via the BSF investment process and the opportunity it allows to amend present custom and practice in relation to allowing community access to school-based indoor and built sports facilities.

Working in partnership

LBC has developed a partnership with Fusion to manage its core sport and leisure facilities. The contract between the Borough Council and Fusion commenced in 2008 succeeding the former partnership arrangements between LBC and Parkwood; a partnership with a private sector operator.

Fusion has, to date, demonstrated a willingness to be flexible in its approach to working with the Council. It has taken on the management responsibility for Monks Hill Sports Centre which was not originally part of the contract and it is working with the Council through the challenges arising from the lack of progress in developing a replacement for New Addington Swimming Pool. The company also has plans to extend the development of South Norwood Leisure Centre by reconfiguring the fitness offer located in the basement of the facility.

Fusion has stated its interest in working with the Council and potential Academy partners to develop an arrangement for it to manage community use of facilities on key school sites. The company is involved in comparable management structures with schools in other local authority areas and views this as a potential way forward to extend the reach of community sport in Croydon.

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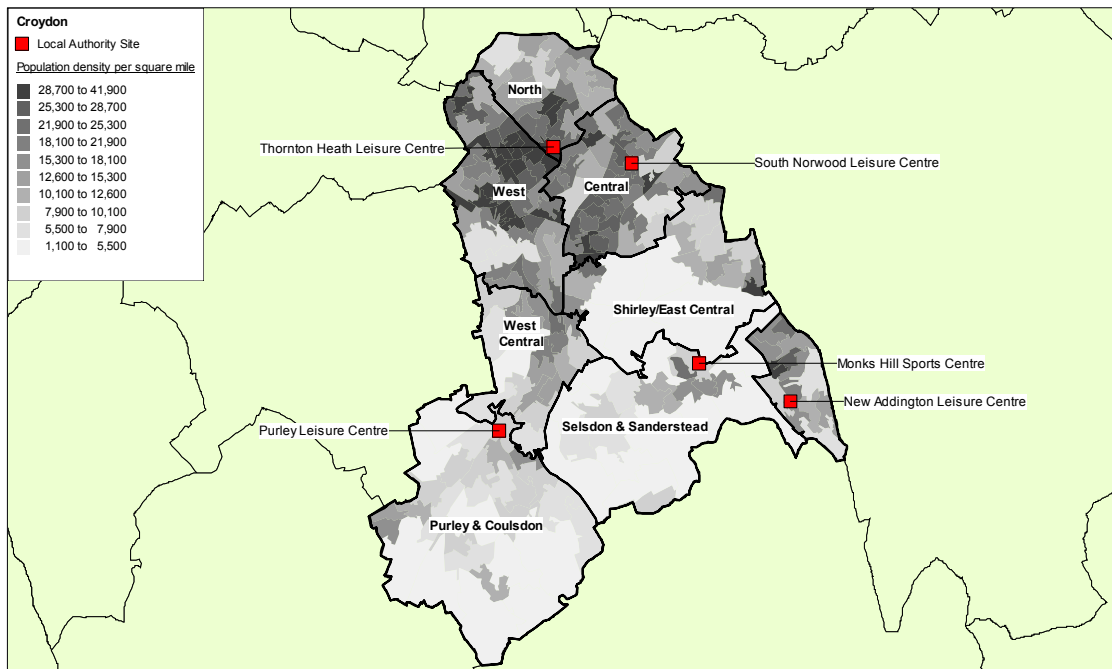
Positioning of current sites

Current sport and recreation provision in Croydon is the result of a combination of political decisions and opportunism. Fortunately, this has resulted in a fairly balanced distribution of sport and recreation facilities across the Borough. LBC currently operates four core facilities based at:

- ◀ Thornton Heath Leisure Centre
- ◀ South Norwood Leisure Centre
- ◀ New Addington Swimming Pool
- ◀ Purley Pools

In addition, the Council also operates Monks Hill Sports Centre, based at Selsdon High School. It is intended that this will be redeveloped via the BSF process.

London Borough of Croydon – local authority indoor sports facilities



Facility age and condition

The Council's stock of sport and leisure facilities is varied in quality, size and accessibility. As identified above Monks Hill SC is based on a school site and is only available for community use for limited periods. A summary of the condition of the other four key facilities can be found over the page.

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LBC indoor sports facilities

Facility	Activity areas	Future investment requirements	Quality rating
Thornton Heath Leisure Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ 4-court sports hall ◀ 6 lane, 25 m pool ◀ Teaching pool ◀ Dance studio ◀ 72 station fitness suite ◀ Crèche ◀ Healthy Living Centre located in the facility in partnership with the PCT. 	<p>The facility opened in 2004.</p> <p>No investment requirements have been identified.</p> <p>Consultation suggests that there is potential for this model to be replicated elsewhere in the Borough.</p> <p>The only true community sports hall in the Borough (i.e. not linked to a school, with the associated limitations on community access).</p>	
South Norwood Leisure Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ 6 lane 25 m pool ◀ Teaching pool ◀ 250 spectator seating to pool ◀ 45 station fitness suite, split across two rooms ◀ Meeting room 	<p>The facility has recently been refurbished (in 2007).</p> <p>Fusion has plans to increase the fitness provision by expanding into the basement area (i.e., at street level)</p> <p>No investment requirements have been identified beyond that of extending the fitness provision.</p>	
New Addington Swimming Pool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ 6 lane, 25 m pool ◀ Teaching pool ◀ 20 station, fitness suite ◀ Meeting/party room 	<p>The facility is already, in effect, beyond its useful life and there is a need to find an alternative solution.</p>	
Purley Pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ 6 lane, 25 m pool ◀ Teaching pool ◀ 45 station, fitness suite 	<p>The facility was built in 1982 and is now considered dated.</p> <p>Fitness provision has been developed in the undercroft to the facility and does not meet customer expectations; especially given the high level (and relative standard) of competition in the area. The facility could continue in the same vein for a number of years, but is, in effect, a 'ticking time bomb' for LBC.</p>	

Strategic facility programming

Minimal direction or influence is exerted by the Council over facility programmes at core facilities. It appears to be satisfied to delegate such decisions to Fusion, based on the conditions set out in the management contract between the two parties. However, these five facilities only represent a relatively small proportion of Council-owned/linked PE and sport facility stock.

There is no requirement for schools in the Borough to provide community access to sports facilities on their sites and no guidance or instruction is provided with regard to the target markets for these facilities.

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There are, as a result, varied and haphazard arrangements for programming and community access and in some circumstances community access would appear to be actively discouraged.

In addition to the 'state schools' in the Borough, a number of the fee paying schools have, and on occasion make available to the public, indoor and built sports facilities.

Facility issues

There are currently (and there have previously been) a number of proposals to develop sport and recreation facilities in the Borough. In some instances such plans were designed to address key challenges facing the service; others are underpinned by specific political commitments and decisions. These include:

- ◀ New Addington – plans were in place to provide a new facility linked to the provision of a new Tesco store. This proposal has now been withdrawn; providing LBC with an opportunity to lead (rather than be led on) a local master plan, within which sport and leisure provision could/should be a key feature.
- ◀ Waddon – The Council has decided to provide a new 'wet and dry' sports facility in Waddon. This has potential to provide (on an interim basis) leisure facilities to serve some areas that would technically be regarded as part of the Croydon town centre.
- ◀ Purley – a range of proposals have been put forward to replace the Purley Pools. The facility is dated and there is the need to find a definite longer term solution. The Council appears to be committed to doing this.
- ◀ Coulsdon – proposals have been tabled to develop a pool in Coulsdon; These have not, as yet been set out in detail and may be incorporated within a wider masterplan.

Postal survey

A postal survey of 82 clubs (to which, to date, 14 clubs have responded; a response rate of 17%) was undertaken to ascertain view and opinions on provision of indoor sport and recreation facilities in the area. Although the response to this is, as yet, insufficient as a basis for firm policymaking and further telephone interviews and one/two open forums will be held with clubs to further verify these findings, it has identified the following issues:

- ◀ A majority of facilities listed in the survey questionnaire are used for training, fewer are used for competition.
- ◀ The quantity, quality and accessibility of provision is generally considered to be 'average' or below, other than where clubs have access to their own or privately owned facilities where the quality is rated as 'good'.
- ◀ In general, facilities in Croydon are not considered to meet the needs of clubs and other organisations that completed the survey. Reasons for this include:
 - ◀ Constant threat of facility closure leaves clubs feeling vulnerable.
 - ◀ Limited access to the schools which have good quality facilities.
- ◀ Respondents are in agreement that the provision of indoor sports facilities does not meet the needs of the clubs in the Borough.
- ◀ One martial arts club uses facilities outside Croydon (including Darwin Leisure Centre at Biggin Hill). It notes the relative quality of this experience highlighting the suitability of equipment provided, parking and the low cost of venue hire.

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The National Benchmarking Service for Sports and Leisure Centres

The National Benchmarking Service (NBS) is a partnership approach to providing critical data on the performance of local leisure facilities. The following tables provide a key insight into the strengths and weaknesses gleaned from report information.

Monks Hill

Strengths	Staff; availability; ease of booking
Ones to watch	Food and drink
Weaknesses	Access; cost recovery; utilisation; cleanliness

Purley Pools

Strengths	Access; maintenance and repair costs; availability of activities; water temperature in the pool; equipment quality
Ones to watch	Food and drink
Weaknesses	Cost recovery; utilisation; cleanliness

South Norwood Leisure Centre

Strengths	Staff; availability; quality of equipment; water quality
Ones to watch	Cost recovery; accessibility; food and drink
Weaknesses	Four access indicators; utilisation

Thornton Heath Leisure Centre

Strengths	Three access indicators; accessibility; quality of lighting in the hall; quality of equipment
Ones to watch	Cost recovery; number of people in the pool; food and drink
Weaknesses	Two access indicators; utilisation

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Residents survey

As a key component to identifying local needs, KKP (through LBC's Talkabout survey) carried out a survey to identify the attitudes and needs of the broader local community. The survey provides a robust sample of both users and non-users of outdoor sport and recreation facilities across the area. Additional views captured through consultation from service users such as sports clubs are detailed in the relevant sections.

LBC distributes a survey to citizen panel members: Talkabout Croydon. KKP has recently (April 2009) included questions sport and recreation facilities to identify with the attitudes and needs of the broader local community. In total, 1,446 surveys were sent out to members and 797 were completed and returned. The results have been weighted to provide analysis of all 1,446 surveys distributed.

Responses are split between areas for greater local area analysis as follows:

- ◀ North – 509.
- ◀ Central – 480.
- ◀ South – 457.

Key issues covered include the following:

- ◀ Current usage of provision.
- ◀ Reasons for usage/non-usage of provision.
- ◀ Time taken/distance travelled to provision.
- ◀ Attitudes to provision (e.g., adequacy, quality, accessibility).

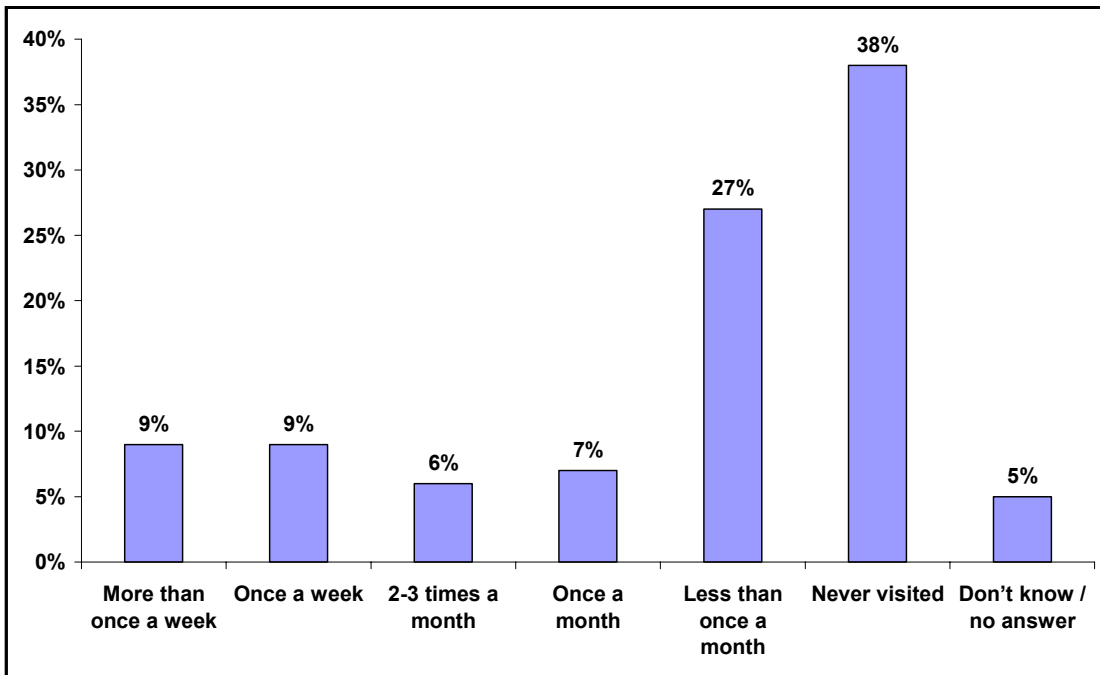
The results of the survey have been analysed and are presented in graphical format with commentary (see figures below). Please note that there are a number of results with a high percentage of "don't know". This, for example, does not always mean that the respondent does not know how often they have visited sports facilities. But, it may mean that the respondent could not answer because they do not use the facility, rather than as a result of a lack of awareness.

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Usage of indoor sports facilities

Nearly two fifths (38%) of respondents have not visited indoor sports facilities in the last 12 months, whilst 27% visit less than once a month. Only 5% of respondents are unable to state how often they visit indoor sports facilities. Just under a tenth (9%) visit more than once a week. Slightly more respondents from South Croydon (37%) have never visited an indoor sports facility compared to those from Central (32%) and North (31%). The majority of respondents (43%) who visit less than once a month are from North Croydon.

Figure: Frequency of usage of indoor sports facilities in the last 12 months

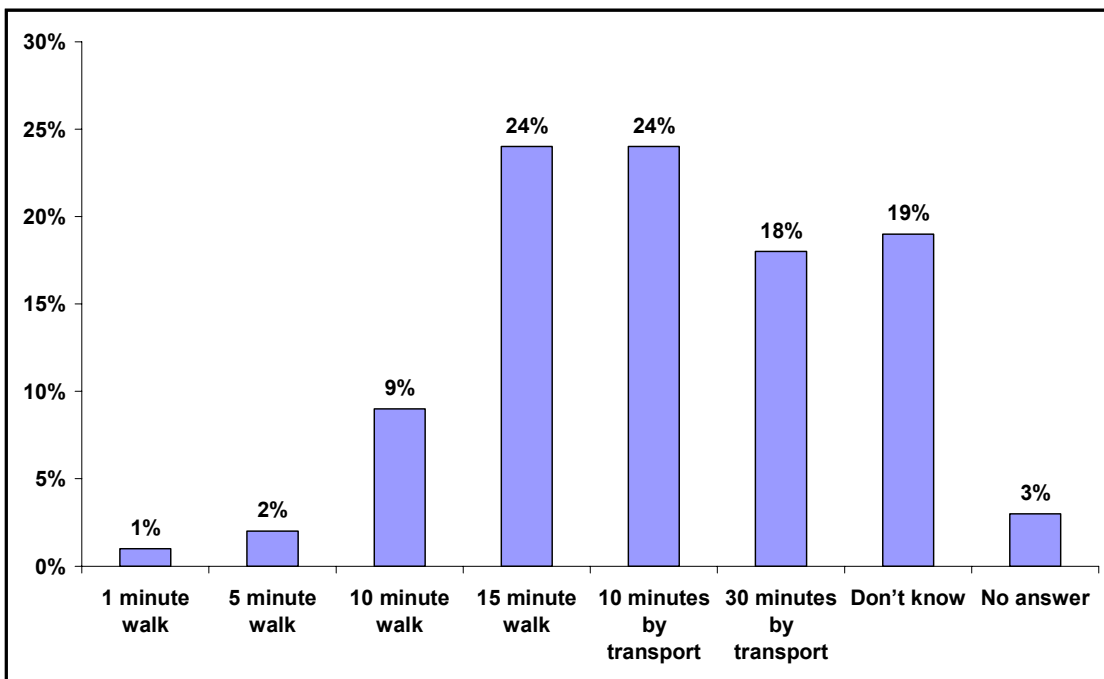


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Accessibility of indoor sports facilities

Just over a third (36%) of respondents are willing to walk to reach civic spaces, with 24% of respondents willing to walk 15 minutes. However, 42% of respondents will travel by transport in order to access provision, with 24% of respondents willing to travel 10 minutes by transport. Over a fifth (22%) are unable to state how far they would be willing to travel to access civic spaces. More respondents from Central (37%) and North (36%) Croydon are willing to walk 15 minutes, compared to those from South (27%). Of the respondents willing to travel 10 minutes by transport, 39% are from South Croydon, 36% from Central Croydon and 25% from North Croydon.

Figure: Time willing to travel to access indoor sports facilities

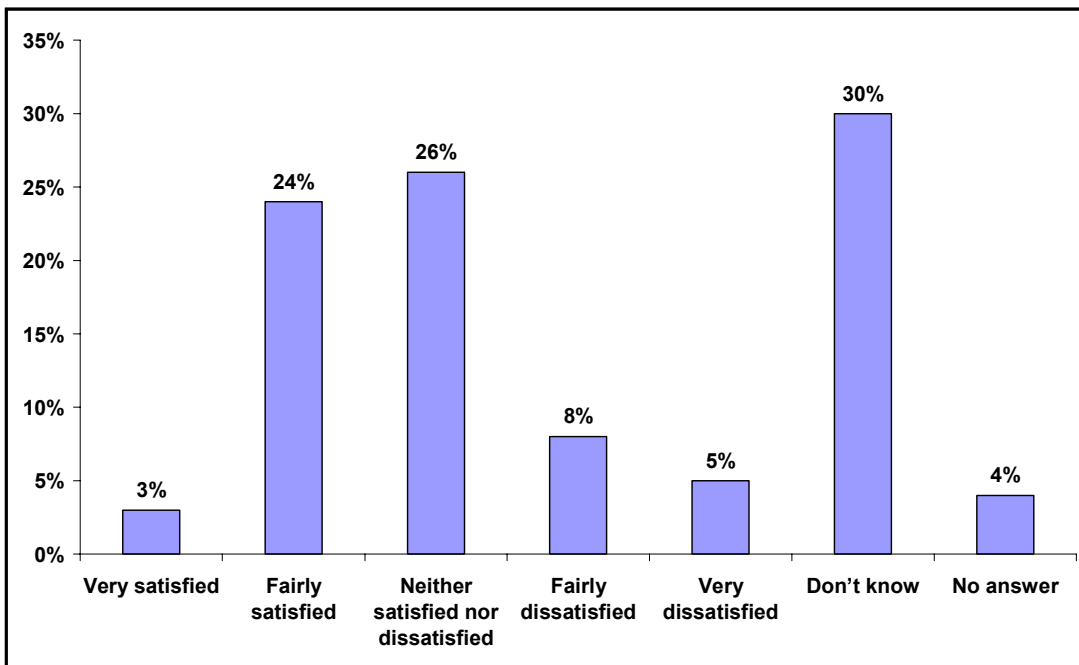


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Quality of indoor sports facilities

Just over a quarter (27%) of respondents are satisfied (very/fairly) with the quality of provision of indoor sports facilities, only 13% of respondents are dissatisfied (fairly/very). 26% are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with provision, whilst over a third (34%) of respondents are unable to comment on the quality of provision of indoor sports facilities. The majority (44%) of respondents who are satisfied (very/fairly) are from North Croydon.

Figure: Quality of provision of indoor sports facilities

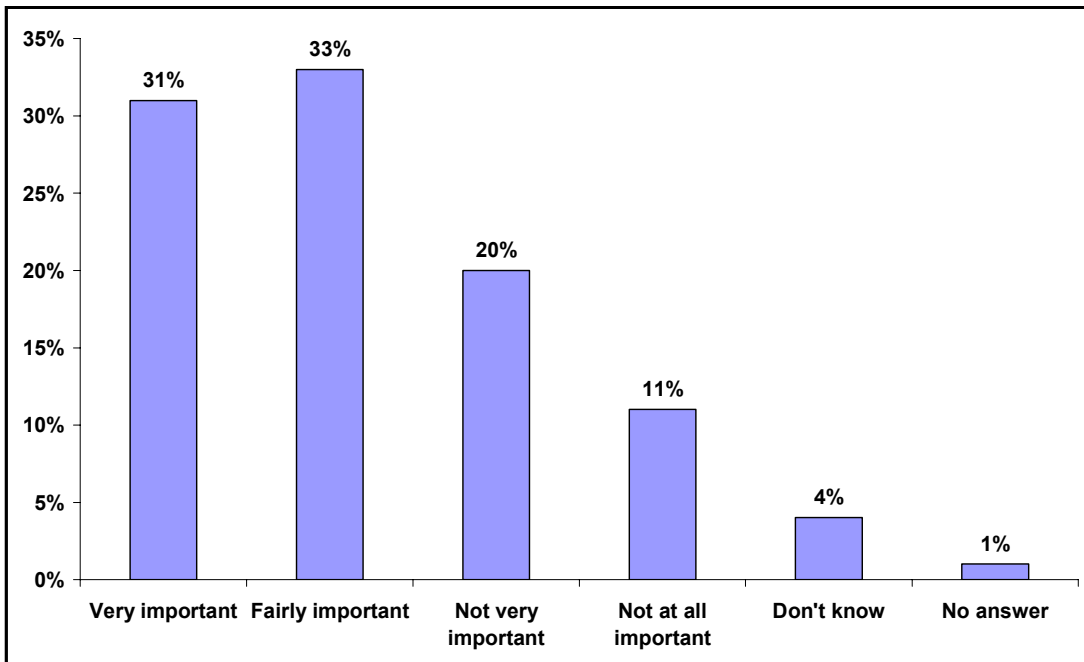


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Importance of indoor sports facilities

Nearly two thirds (64%) of respondents rate the importance of indoor sports facilities as important (very/fairly), with the majority (33%) stating them as fairly important. 31% of respondents rate indoor sports facilities as not important (not very/not at all). Only 5% are unable to rate the importance of indoor sports facilities. The majority (37%) of respondents who feel indoors sports facilities are important are from North Croydon, compared to Central (34%) and South (29%).

Figure: Importance of indoor sports facilities

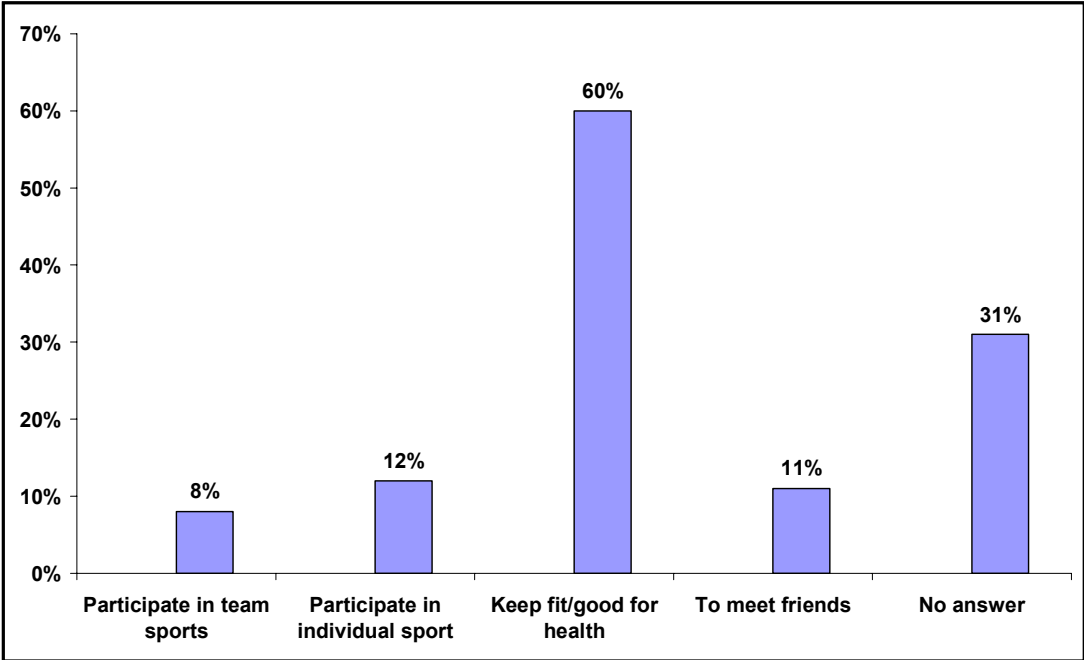


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Reasons for use of indoor sports facilities

Three fifths (60%) cite keep fit/good for health as the main reason for using indoor sports facilities. Nearly a third (31%) did not provide an answer. The majority (40%) of respondents who list keep-fit as a main reason are from North Croydon.

Figure: Main reasons for using indoor sports facilities

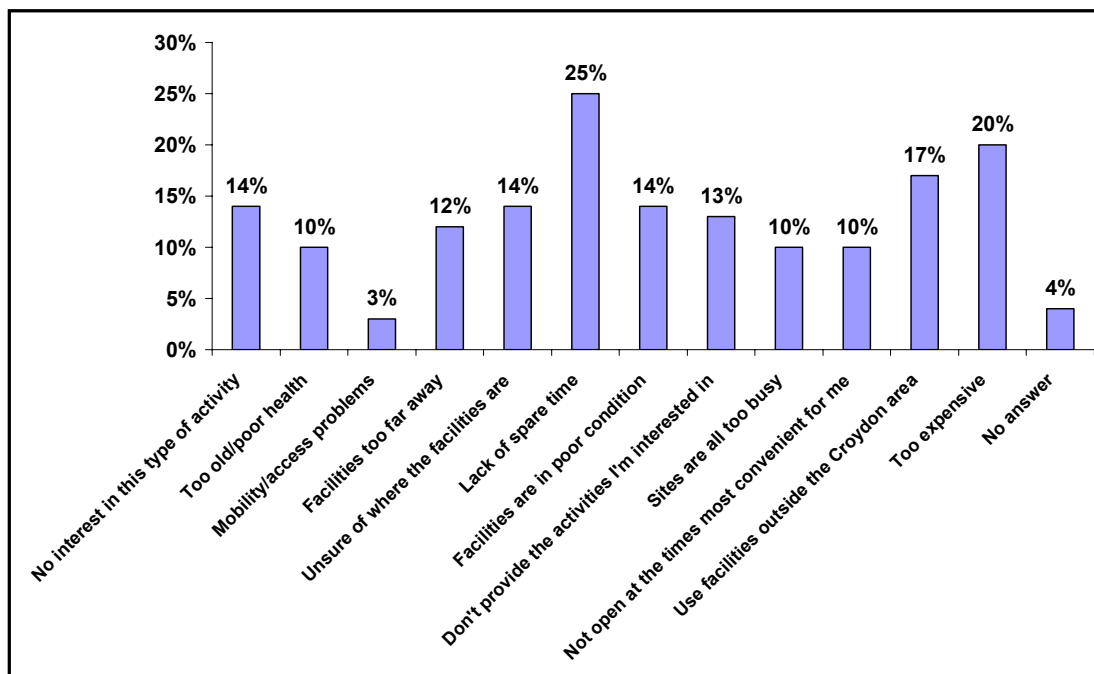


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Reasons for non-use of indoor sports facilities

The most common reason for not visiting indoor sports facilities is due to a lack of spare time (25%), followed by facilities being too expensive (20%) and the use of facilities outside the Croydon area (17%). Of the respondents who list a lack of spare time as a reason for not visiting most (56%) are from North Croydon.

Figure: Reasons for not visiting indoor sports facilities



Consultation

Consultation with groups specific to indoor sports provision in Croydon provides an indication of public opinion whilst providing some meaningful statistics. Key findings from consultation include:

- ◀ A number of groups identified the high cost of facilities as the main barrier to use, specifically private facilities. There is demand for a scheme to encourage lower income groups to participate.
- ◀ The highest rated aspirations by frequent users of indoor sports facilities are range of activities, cleanliness of changing facilities, equipment maintenance and cost.
- ◀ The lack of suitable facilities in the South of the Borough. In particular user groups suggest that the lack of changing facilities for disabled people at Purley Pool limits the use of this facility.
- ◀ The design of Thornton Heath Leisure Centre is good practice which should be implemented in future developments.

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SECTION 3: CURRENT PROVISION

The following section provides detail about the quality, quantity and accessibility of indoor sports facilities in the Borough.

Sports halls

This section covers the provision of sports halls and concentrates on the ability of facilities in the Borough to cater for delivery of community activity and major indoor sports (e.g., netball, basketball, badminton). Only halls that are four badminton (or larger) courts in size are considered to be appropriate to include in the analysis. However, the Active Places Power planning tool classification of 'main halls' does include those with fewer than four courts in the analysis.

It is widely acknowledged, however, that halls of less than four badminton courts in size substantively limit the range and type of activity that can take place. A four-court hall will accommodate a wider range of sports than a 3-court hall including netball, basketball, five-a-side football and cricket practice nets. As a result, for the purposes of this analysis, the smaller halls (i.e. those with less than four badminton courts) drawn from Active Places (and excluded from the mapping analysis below) includes the following:

- ◀ Norbury Manor High School for Girls
- ◀ Sir Philip Game Youth Centre
- ◀ Old Town Youth Club
- ◀ Royal Russell School
- ◀ St Edmunds Church Hall
- ◀ Woodcote High School
- ◀ Edenham High School
- ◀ The Archbishop Lanfranc
- ◀ The Selhurst High School for Boys
- ◀ Woodcote High School
- ◀ Addington High School
- ◀ Christ Church Hall
- ◀ Coulsdon Community Centre
- ◀ Croham Hurst School
- ◀ Waterside Centre
- ◀ Westwood Language College for Girls
- ◀ Coulsdon College
- ◀ Shirley High School
- ◀ South Croydon Sports Club
- ◀ Virgo Fidelis Convent Senior School

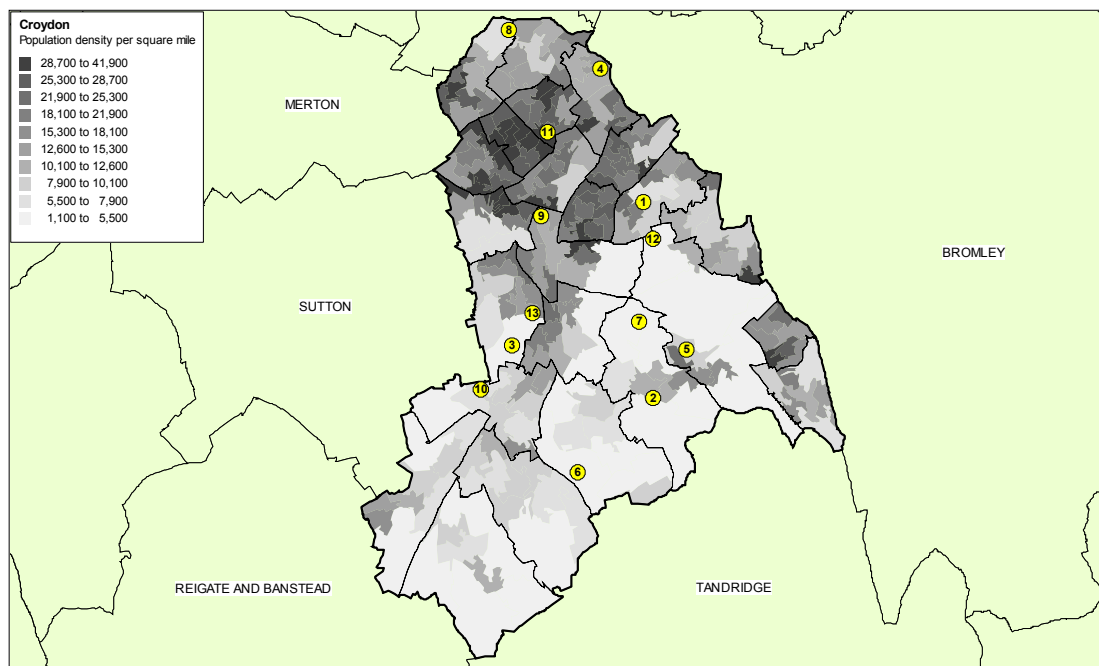
4-court (or larger) sports halls

The Borough has ten 4-badminton court sports halls, two 5-court halls, one 6-court hall and one 7-court sports hall (located at Whitgift Sports Centre).

As illustrated on the map overleaf, there is generally a good distribution of indoor sports facilities across the Borough. However, the pattern of such provision forms a 'central spine' running, in broad terms, north to south through the Borough and there is limited provision in, in particular, the eastern neighbourhoods of the Borough. Provision in southern wards is also limited. However, population density in these areas is substantially lower than elsewhere in the Borough area.

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Figure: 4-court (or larger) sports halls in Croydon



Key for sports hall map

ID	Active Places	Site name	No. of courts	Access policy	Owner type	Management type
1	1201220	Ashburton Learning Village	4	Clubs/comm. groups	Community school	Private contractor (PPP/PFI)
2	1007941	Croydon Sports Club	4	Pay and Play	Other Independent School	Commercial management
3	1200969	Haling Manor High	4	Clubs/comm. groups	Foundation School	School (in house)
4	1002327	Lewis Sports & Leisure ²	4	Pay and play	Academies	Other
5	1002344	Monks Hill SC ³	4	Pay and play	Community school	Trust
6	1201034	Riddlesdown HS	5	Clubs/comm. groups	VA School	School (in house)
7	1007953	Royal Russell	6	Clubs/comm. groups	Other Independent School	Comm. management
8	1007954	St Josephs College	4	Pay and Play	Voluntary Aided School	School (in house)
9	1200361	St. Mary's RC	4		Voluntary Aided School	School (in house)
10	1002409	Thomas More	4		Voluntary Aided School	School (in house)
11	1002410	Thornton Heath LC	4	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Trust
12	1007955	Trinity Sports Club	5	Registered Membership use	Other Independent School	School (in house)
			4			
13	1200350	Whitgift Sports Centre	7	Clubs/comm. groups	Other Independent School	Comm. management

² Based at the Harris Academy in Crystal Palace.

³ Based at Selsdon High School.

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It is evident that the education sector is a major provider of sports halls. Ownership of these facilities rests with a range of voluntary aided, community and independent schools and the facilities tend to be managed either on an 'in house' basis or via some form of commercial management arrangement. LBC currently has limited influence on the programming and pricing policies of these facilities and there is little or no evidence of any policy or work programme led ambition to get involved in this area.

Thornton Heath is currently the only non-school based sports hall owned by LBC. It is managed by Fusion which also manages the school-site based Monks Hill Sports Centre which also has a full sized sports hall. These facilities serve communities in the north and south of the Borough.

A significant proportion of the Borough's schools make sports hall facilities available for community use. The nature, extent, affordability, consistency and practical arrangements for this varies substantially. Consequently, its 'developmental usefulness' cannot be ascertained with any degree of certainty and the value and contribution of such provision is undetermined.

Swimming pools

There are eight LBC owned swimming facilities, managed by Fusion, in the Borough located at four sites including:

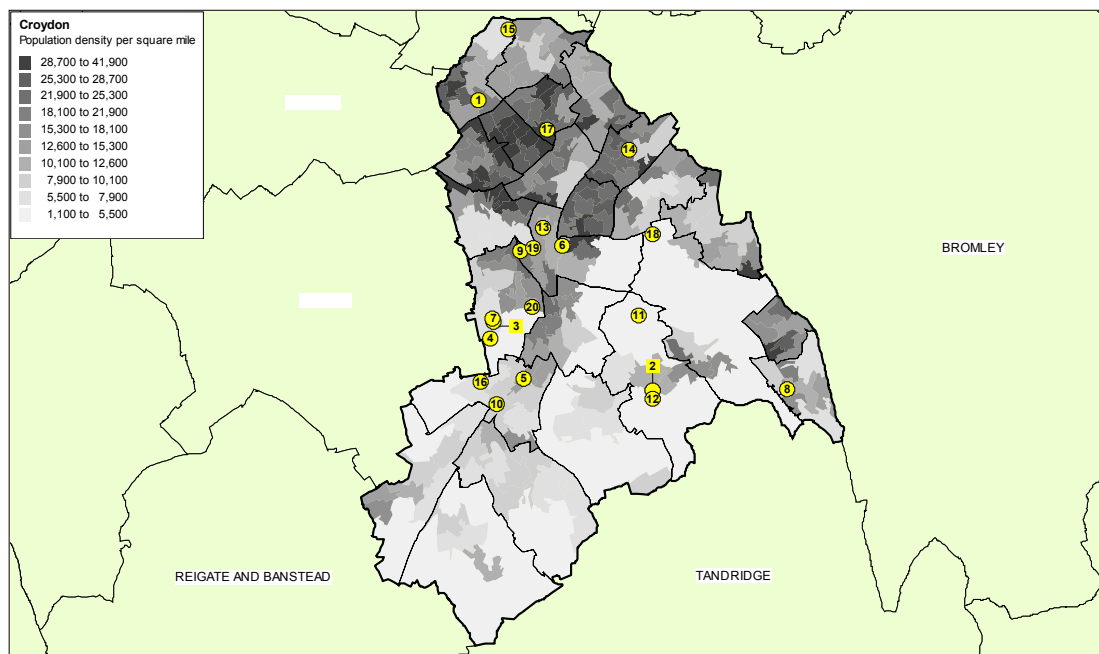
- ◀ New Addington Swimming Pools (Map ref. 8)
- ◀ Purley Pool (Map ref. 10)
- ◀ South Norwood Leisure Centre (Map ref. 14)
- ◀ Thornton Heath Leisure Centre (Map ref. 17)

These facilities provide four 25 metre main swimming pools and four learner/teaching pools (from 10 metres to 12.5 metres). There is significant swimming pool provision through commercially managed facilities across the Borough where access is through register membership use. However, these facilities should not be considered in respect of community access.

It is evident from the mapping that these facilities also seek to service communities in the north and south of the Borough. Furthermore the provision is also balanced by facilities in New Addington and Purley which to some extent achieve an east-west balance respectively.

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Figure: Swimming pools in Croydon



Key for swimming pools map

ID	Active places ref.	Site Name	Sub type	No of lanes	Owner Type	Management Type	Access Policy
1	1000071	Cannons (Norbury)	Main	2	Other	Commercial	Membership use
2	1007941	Croydon Sports Club	Main	4	Ind. School	Commercial	Membership use
3	1001335	Greens	Main	2	Commercial	Commercial	Membership use
4	1000123	La Fitness (Croy)	Main	2	Commercial	Commercial	Membership use
5	1000926	La Fitness (Purley)	Main		Commercial	Commercial	Membership use
6	1013984	Lido Leisure Club	Leisure pool		Commercial	Commercial	Membership use
7	1000983	Livingwell)	Main		Commercial	Commercial	Membership use
8	1002348	New Addington	Main/teaching	6	LBC	Trust	Pay and Play
9	1200349	Old Palace School	Main	4	Ind. School	School (in house)	Club / community
10	1002369	Purley Pool	Main & teaching	6	LBC	Trust	Pay and Play
11	1007953	Royal Russell	Main/teaching	4	Ind. School	Commercial	Membership use
12	1001319	Selsdon Park Hotel	Leisure Pool/lido	1	Commercial	Commercial	Membership use
13	1000044	Solutions 2008	Teaching		Commercial	Commercial	Membership use
14	1010208	South Norwood LC	Main/teaching	6	Local Authority	Trust	Pay and Play
15	1007954	St Josephs College	Main	6	VA School	School (in house)	Club / Community
16	1002409	Thomas More	Main	5	VA School	School (in house)	Club / community
17	1002410	Thornton Heath LC	Main/Teaching	6	Local Authority	Trust	Pay and Play
18	1007955	Trinity Sports Club	Main	6	Ind. School	School (in house)	Membership use
19	1003090	Virgin Active	Main	3	Commercial	Commercial	Membership use
20	1200350	Whitgift SC	Main/General	8	Ind. School	Commercial	Membership use

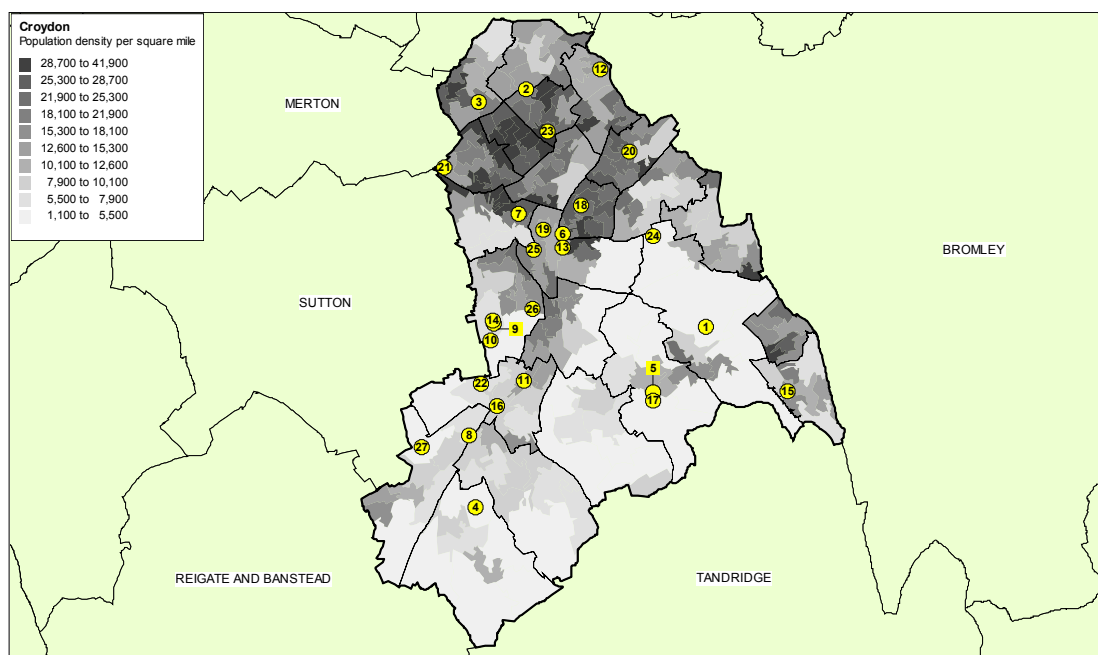
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Pools types classified as 'teaching' are, for the purposes of this study, considered to be inadequate in terms of offering opportunities for swimming, although they may support learn to swim programmes across the Borough.

Health and fitness facilities

There are 27 identified health and fitness facilities in the Borough, four owned and operated (via Fusion) by LBC. The majority of the other 23 are owned and managed by private sector fitness providers and clubs with the remainder owned and managed through the education sector. Five (LA Fitness, Solutions 2008, Beauty & the Beast, Fitness First Health Club and Greens Health & Fitness), have over 100 stations and thus dominate the commercial market for health and fitness in the Borough.

Figure: Health and fitness facilities in Croydon



Key to the health and fitness map

ID	Active Places ref.	Facility name	No. of stations	Owner type	Management type	Access policy
1	1000198	Addington Palace Country Club	27	Commercial	Commercial Management	Membership use
2	1000258	Beauty & The Beast	115	Commercial	Commercial Management	Pay and play
3	1000071	Cannons Health Club	85	Other	Commercial Management	Membership use
4	1001265	Coulsdon Manor	31	Commercial	Commercial Management	Pay and play
5	1007941	Croydon Sports Club	11	Ind. School	Commercial Management	Membership use
6	1000463	Energie Fitness Club	100	Commercial	Commercial Management	Membership use
7	1003409	Fitness First (Croydon)	130	Commercial	Commercial Management	Membership use
8	1003263	Fitness First (Purley)	65	Commercial	Commercial Management	Membership use

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ID	Active Places ref.	Facility name	No. of stations	Owner type	Management type	Access policy
9	1001335	Greens	192	Commercial	Commercial	Membership use
10	1000123	La Fitness (Croydon)	46	Commercial	Commercial	Membership use
11	1000926	La Fitness (Purley)	105	Commercial	Commercial	Membership use
12	1002327	Lewis Sports & Leisure	28	Academies	Other	Pay and play
13	1013984	Lido Leisure Club	10	Commercial	Commercial	Membership use
14	1000983	Livingwell	20	Commercial	Commercial	Membership use
15	1002348	New Addington Pools	24	LBC	Trust	Pay and play
16	1002369	Purley Pool	51	LBC	Trust	Pay and play
17	1001319	Selsdon Park Hotel	15	Commercial	Commercial	Membership use
18	1002387	Sir Philip Game YC	12	Other	Other	Membership use
19	1000044	Solutions 2008	107	Commercial	Commercial	Membership use
20	1010208	South Norwood LC	46	Local Authority	Trust	Pay and Play
21	1200358	Archbishop Lanfranc School	20	Foundation School	School (iin house)	Club / community
22	1002409	Thomas More School	9	VA School	School (in house)	Club / community
23	1002410	Thornton Heath LC	72	LBC	Trust	Pay and play
24	1007955	Trinity Sports Club	25	Ind. School	School (in house)	Membership use
25	1003090	Virgin Active (Croydon)	91	Commercial	Commercial Management	Membership use
26	1200350	Whitgift Sports Centre	38	Ind. School	Commercial Management	Membership use
27	1009452	Woodcote High School	21	Community school	LBC (in house)	Pay and play

Indoor tennis facilities

There are no indoor tennis facilities in the London Borough of Croydon.

Ice rinks

PPG17 Guidance advocates that ice rinks are considered as part of built facility supply and demand assessments. There are no ice rinks in the London Borough of Croydon. However, Streatham Ice Rink lies within a one mile catchment of the Borough.

Athletics tracks

The only all weather, 400m athletics track in Croydon is at Croydon Sports Arena. This is an eight lane synthetic track and is the home of Croydon Harriers and Striders of Croydon AC. It consists of changing rooms, floodlights and covered seating for approximately 400 people. The track also has full field event facilities and a fixed height steeplechase water jump. It was refurbished in 2000. A full analysis of this facility will be provided as part of the outdoor recreation and green spaces needs assessment.

Outdoor sport and recreation facilities

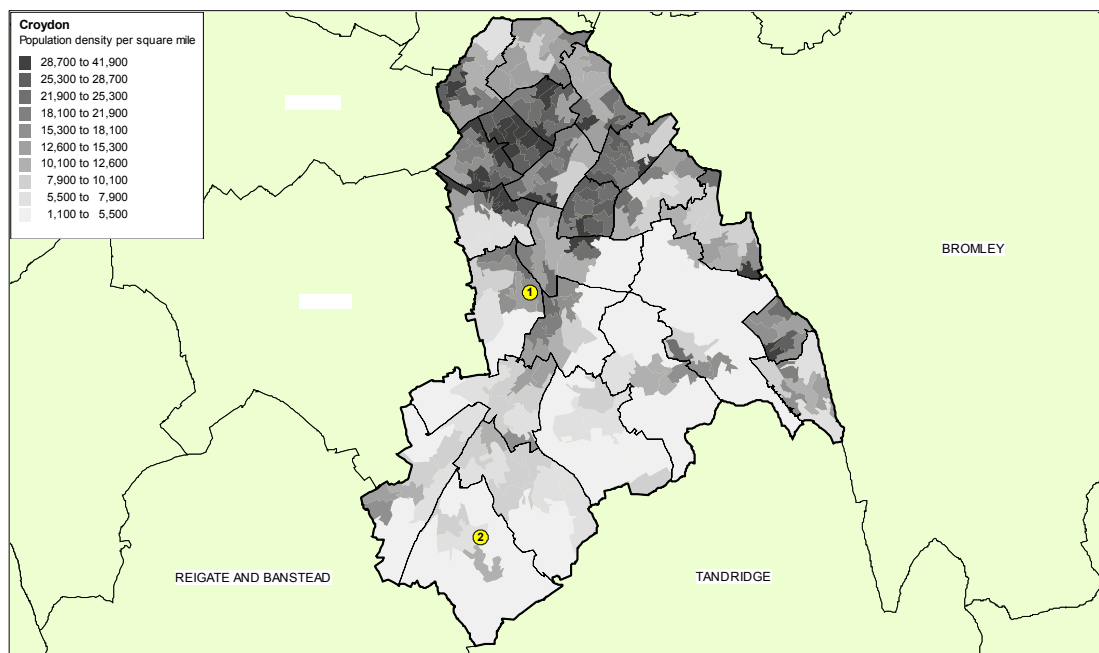
The principal venue for outdoor sport and recreation in Croydon is at South Norwood Lake. A full analysis of this facility will be provided as part of the outdoor recreation and green spaces needs assessment.

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON COUNCIL INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Indoor bowls

There are two indoor bowling facilities in the Borough, both located in the south. Both offer registered membership use. Croydon Bowling Club has six rinks and was refurbished in 2007 (some 70 years after it first opened). Old Coulsdon Bowling Club is a smaller facility which offers three rinks.

Figure: Indoor bowls facilities in Croydon



Key to indoor bowls map

Map ID	Active Places ref.	No. of rinks	Site name	Owner Type	Management Type	Access Policy
1	1011167	6	Croydon Bowling Club Ltd	Commercial	Commercial	Membership use
2	1011102	3	Old Coulsdon Bowls Club Ltd	Sports Club	Sport Club	Membership use

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON COUNCIL

INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Sport and recreation facilities in neighbouring areas

Users of sport and recreation facilities do not recognise administrative boundaries and will use facilities that are convenient and/or provide a quality/value for money experience. One example of this is the 'cross-border migration' to use Darwin Leisure Centre in Bromley.

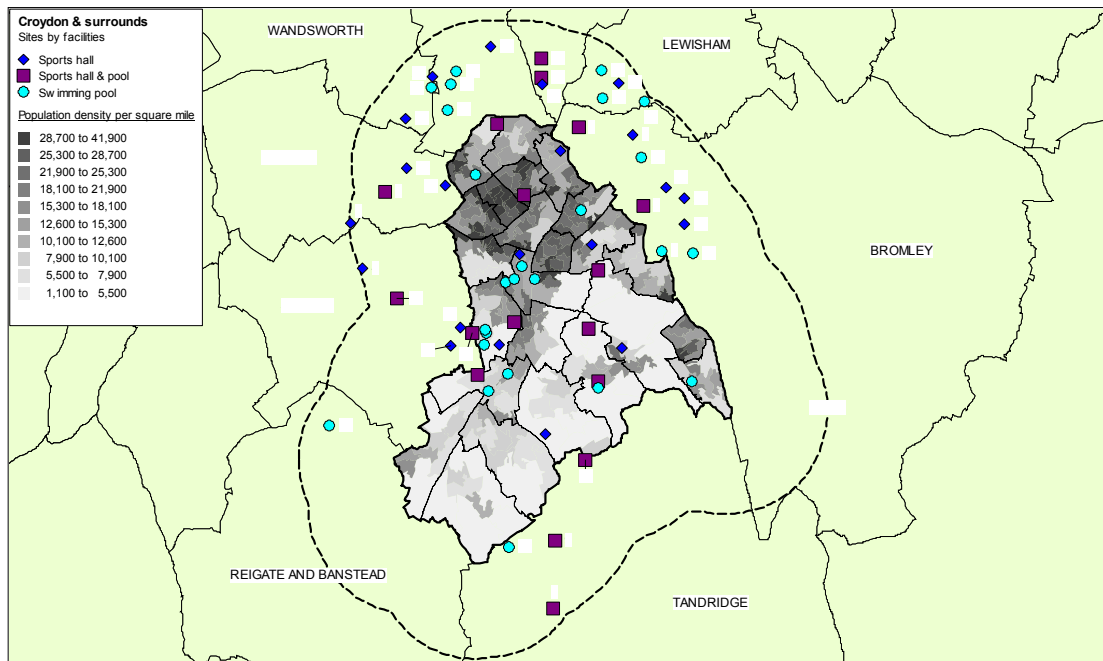
Ownership and management are, in this context, a minor consideration for most users. The availability of facilities in neighbouring areas can and does influence usage patterns within Croydon. Anecdotal evidence suggests that community sport and recreation facilities in neighbouring areas attract significant levels of use by Croydon residents. Further work may be required to identify the extent and true nature of this situation.

Sport England's Active Places database (a nationally recognised database of sport and recreation facilities) identifies 37 community sport and recreation facilities located within a 2-mile catchment (this equates, approximately, to a 15 minute car journey) of Croydon's boundary, as illustrated in the Figure below.

A significant proportion of these facilities provide a 'halo' of provision to the north of the Borough boundary and include large facilities, for example Crystal Palace National Sports Centre.

A number of facilities also lie very close to the Croydon boundary and it is, as a result, highly likely that they are visited and used by Croydon residents. Examples include; Warlingham School, The Village Health Club, Esporta Health and Fitness, Wilsons School and Harris Academy Merton. It is important to note that none of these facilities are likely to be local authority owned and managed.

Figure: Pools and sports halls within 2 mile catchment of the Borough boundary.



LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON COUNCIL INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

A new 25 metre 6-lane pool in under construction in the centre of Biggin Hill and is within the two mile catchment of Croydon. Furthermore Langley Park Boys School on same site as the girls school are progressing a new £30m build.

Key to swimming pools and sports halls in neighbouring areas map

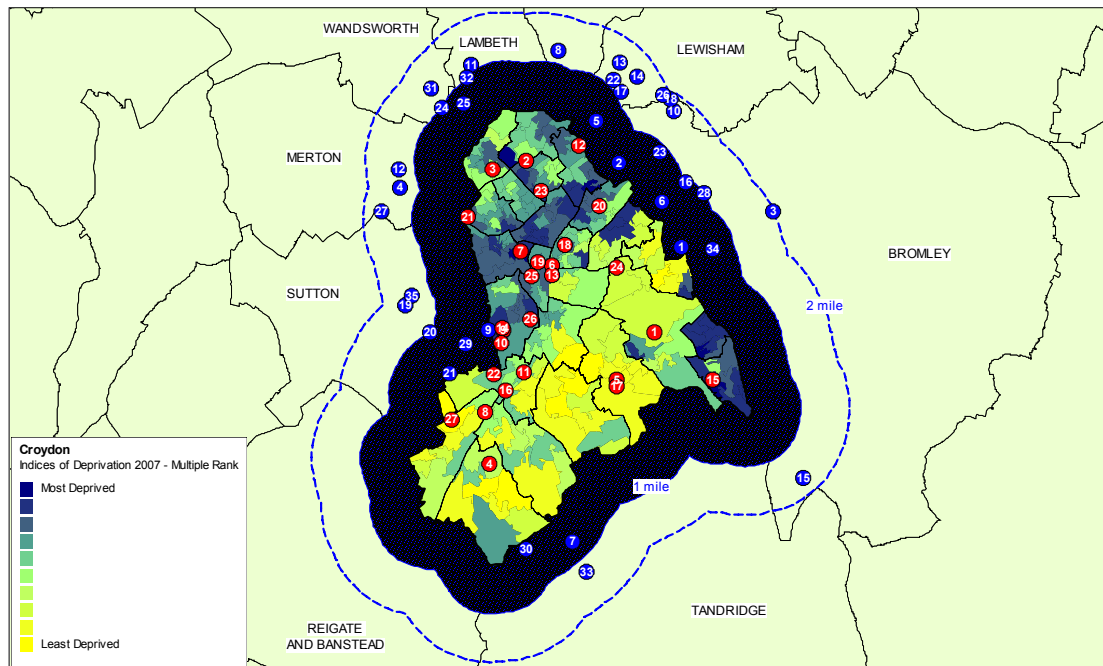
Map ID	Active places ref.	Site	Badminton courts	Facilities
1	1014018	Bethlem Royal Hospital Sports Facilities		Swimming pool
2	1009173	Bishopsford School Sports Hall	4	Sports hall
3	1002223	Canons Leisure Centre (Mitcham)	6	Sports hall & pool
4	1002226	Carshalton Boys Sports College	4	Sports hall
5	1204614	Caterham School	4	Sports hall & pool
6	1038279	Cator Park School	4	Sports hall
7	1002141	Crystal Palace National Sports Centre	4	Sports hall & pool
8	1000050	David Lloyd Club (Beckenham)	4	Sports hall & pool
9	1003179	De Stafford Sports Centre	4	Sports hall & pool
10	1014167	Dulwich College Preparatory School	4	Sports hall & pool
11	1008225	Dulwich College Sports Club	8	Sports hall & pool
12	1000039	Esporta (Surrey Health And Racquets Club)	4	Sports hall & pool
13	1009463	Fitness First Health Club (Streatham)		Swimming pool
14	1002272	Forest Hill Pool		Swimming pool
15	1201243	Forest Hill School Sports Hall	4	Sports hall
16	1200737	Graveney School	4	Sports hall
17	1204926	Greenacre School For Girls		Swimming pool
18	1009906	Harris Academy Merton	4	Sports hall
19	1003320	Kelsey Park School For Boys	4	Sports hall
20	1201371	Kingsdale Foundation School	4	Sports hall
21	1000142	La Fitness (Sydenham)		Swimming pool
22	1002147	Langley Park Girls School Sports Centre	4	Sports hall
23	1002139	Spa At Beckenham		Swimming pool
24	1009073	St Marks Church Of England Academy	4	Sports hall
25	1009453	St Martin In The Fields School Sports Facilities	4	Sports hall
26	1200530	Streatham & Clapham High School	4	Sports hall
27	1002400	Streatham Leisure Centre		Swimming pool
28	1002213	The Bridge Leisure Centre		Swimming pool
29	1003077	The Parklangley Club	4	Sports hall
30	1002836	The Phoenix Centre	4	Sports hall
31	1013873	The Village Health Club		Swimming pool
32	1002415	Tooting Bec Lido		Swimming pool
33	1000174	Virgin Active Club (Streatham)		Swimming pool
34	1003216	Warlingham School	4	Sports hall & pool
35	1002431	West Wickham Pools		Swimming pool
36	1002433	Westcroft Leisure Centre	10	Sports hall & pool
37	1201235	Wilson's School	4	Sports hall

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON COUNCIL INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The following maps provide a more detailed analysis of neighbouring facilities within a one and two mile catchment of Croydon.

The map below reveals that health and fitness facilities are dominant in the catchment to the north of the Borough. In general this reflects population densities to the north of the Borough. There is likely to be cross-boundary use of facilities, particularly those within the one mile catchment.

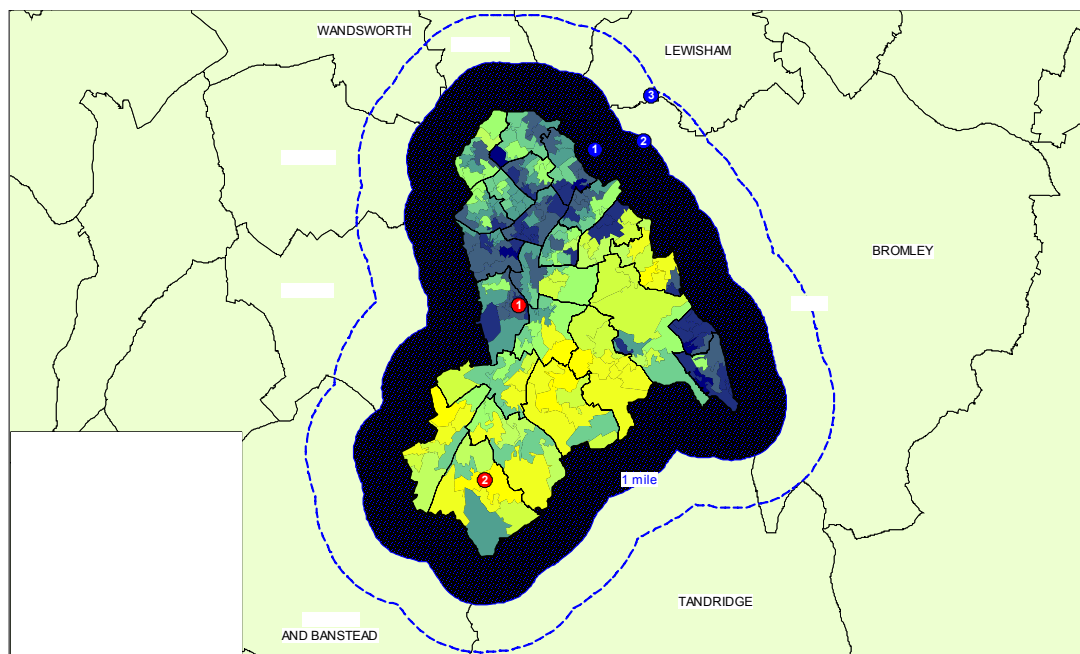
Figure: Health and fitness facilities within 2 mile catchment of the Borough boundary.



LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON COUNCIL INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

There are three indoor bowls facilities within a two mile catchment of the Borough boundary. This includes the Crystal Palace Indoor Bowls Club, Cyphers Indoors Bowls Club and The Bridge Leisure Centre.

Figure: Indoor bowls facilities within 2 mile catchment of the Borough boundary.



Regional facilities

Croydon does not currently have a regional sports facility. There are a range of regional sports facilities in the South East Region, including Crystal Palace, which is adjacent to LBC. These facilities serve the regional need for elite and performance athlete training and development and provide appropriate venues for events and competition. This is unlike local facilities which specifically contribute to the quality of life for local residents, and provide opportunities to increase participation and improve health and well being. It is anticipated that the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics will provide a legacy of regional facilities for the Capital. Therefore, given the planning, preparation and investment in the event it would be inappropriate for LBC to consider the need for a regional facility at this stage. Furthermore, consultation indicates that the need within the area is for local accessible facilities which meet the needs of local residents and contribute to LBC's corporate priorities.

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON COUNCIL

INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

To identify shortfalls in the quantity of principal sport and recreation facilities within Croydon, we have utilised Sport England's Active Places Power capacity (or supply and demand) analysis. This uses the current capacity of provision across the Borough and potential demand (based on population and participation trends), to analyse whether the current capacity of facilities is meeting current demand and provides an indication of surplus or shortfall. In addition, we apply population and participation increases to the demand to calculate whether current supply will also meet future demands. Sport England 'Facility Planning Model profiles' and ASA analysis (will follow when ASA has capacity) are also considered, as appropriate and relevant, to help interpret, finesse and verify the analysis.

Sports halls

An important consideration in examining provision of sports halls in Croydon is access. This is particularly significant because a significant proportion of the provision is located on education sites that offer little by way of consistent access. Thus, while there is a good range of sports hall provision in the Borough, access is restricted at a number (probably the majority) of sites. In addition, it has what might be described as more than its share of under-sized school-based sports halls most of which fall 'under the radar' for this analysis.

Analysis of demand for sports halls

Table 1: Active Places Power analysis of demand for sports halls

	Current	Future (2019) ⁴
Capacity	9,652.5	9,652.5
Demand	15,671	17,896.28
Balance	-6,018.5	-8243.78
% Croydon demand met	61.24	59.94
% England demand met	131.97	
% London Region demand met	81.71	

Demand met in Croydon is significantly lower than that of the London region and England. Identification (via Active Places Power analysis) that 140% of demand for a particular type of facility is satisfied indicates that all need in an area is met (this takes quality of provision and the extent to which school facilities may be available into account because 'all facilities, all use' are included in the analysis)⁵. On this basis, Croydon is currently very significantly under-provided for in terms of 'main hall' sports halls. As shown, when predicated population growth and participation projections are taken into consideration this situation is further exacerbated.

However, under BSF all 3 court halls on secondary school sites will be increased to at least 4 court.

⁴ Assumes 4.3% population growth and 10% participation increase across Croydon up to 2019.

⁵ Where supply equals demand the percentage figure will equal 100%. However, Sport England builds in a comfort factor of approximately 40% because at 100% space will be at a premium. Therefore, when analysing figures it is useful to assume that 140% represents a figure where demand is comfortably met by existing supply. A figure below 140% would suggest that supply does not meet identified demand.

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON COUNCIL INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM), run in October 2008, identified further supply and demand issues. Merton has been identified as a comparator local authority and is used throughout this analysis to provide a relative comparison.

It should, however, be noted that this comparison includes all sports halls including all those that are under-sized in both authorities. The comparison and findings should, as a result, be viewed with caution.

Supply of facilities

Number of main halls Includes all 3-court or larger halls available for community use	25 20%	13 11%
Number of sites Some sites include more than one hall e.g. main hall plus activity hall	20 22%	11 12%
Number of badminton courts Total number of courts Courts available as % of south London total	91 20%	54 12%
Capacity Visits per week in the peak period Capacity as a % of South London total	14,819 20	9,124 12%
Courts available per 10,000 people	2.7	2.8
Total courts Supply of publicly available courts (scaled with hours available in peak period)	91 73	54 45

Croydon has a significant proportion of the supply of sports halls in South London (only exceeded by Bromley). By comparison, Merton has limited provision.

Demand for sports halls

	Croydon	Merton
Population ONS 2007 Population As a % of South London total	333,288 25%	192,298 14%
Demand for courts from resident population Visits per week in the peak period As a % of South London total	15,786 25%	9,257 15%
Demand for courts with comfort factor applied As % of south London total	97 25%	57 15%
% of population without access to a car England = 19.5% London = 29.1%	21.8%	22.1%

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON COUNCIL INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The highest level of demand for courts in South London is currently found in Croydon. It also falls significantly below the percentage of the population without access to a car.

Supply and demand balance

Supply Expressed as publicly available courts (scaled with hours available in peak period)	73	45
Demand Expressed as courts (taking into account a comfort factor)	97	57
Supply/demand balance Courts available compared to minimum required to meet demand	-24	-12

In terms of hours available in the peak period, Croydon has the third (out of the six south London boroughs) largest supply of publicly available courts. However, it also has the highest demand expressed for courts. Hence there is a significant deficit calculated; -24 courts. This is currently the largest deficit of all south London authorities.

Satisfied demand

% of total demand satisfied by supply England = 90.2%	82.9%	84.5%
Net importer/exporter of demand	14.6% exporter	0.2% exporter

Satisfied demand in Croydon currently falls below the national figure and Croydon is also a significant net exporter of demand.

Unmet demand

	Croydon	Merton
Total number of visits from south London residents not currently being met (vpwpp) As % of south London total	2,697 29%	1,432 16%
Unmet demand as % of demand England = 9.8%	17.1%	15.5%
Unmet demand as courts (taking into account a 'comfort' factor)	17	9
Unmet demand due to		
Lack of capacity	58.7%	68.8%
Outside catchment	41.3%	31.2%
Supply/demand balance Courts available compared to minimum required to meet demand	-24	-12

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON COUNCIL INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Unmet demand is highest in Croydon of all the South London authorities. This is considered to equate to unmet demand for 17 courts. There is an equal split of the unmet demand attributed to lack of capacity or being outside the catchment.

Facility use

Utilised capacity (at peak times) as		
Visits	10,783	7,805
Courts	53	39
Percentage (England = 66.6%)	72.8%	85.5%
% of visits made to halls by walk (England = 16.2%)	22.2%	20.9%
% of visits made to halls by car (England 79.6%)	72%	73.1%
% of visits made to halls by public transport (England 4.3)	5.8%	6.1%

Croydon currently has the lowest percentage of utilised capacity. Of the six authorities in south London, Croydon has the most significant proportion of visits to sports hall to be made on foot. Conversely visits to halls made by car are amongst the lowest in south London.

Personal share

	Croydon	Merton
Personal share of halls relative to London average	+16%	+10%

Personal share helps to show which areas have a better/worse share of facilities. It takes into account the size and availability of facilities as well as travel modes and helps to establish whether a particular area has less than, or more than its 'fair share' of facilities compared to the regional average.

Although higher than the London personal share (0%), the personal share of facilities in Croydon falls below that of three of its neighbouring authorities including; Bromley, Richmond and Sutton.

As stated above, a sizeable proportion of currently available sports hall space is delivered via the education sector and, in many instances, access is restricted. This clearly points to a need for a greater focus on securing consistent and clear community use agreements (logically, in the context of the Borough's present plans, linked to increased community use of school facilities under the BSF and Extended Schools initiatives). If it is not possible to secure greater levels of consistent and reliable community access to school based facilities, consideration should be given to making additional provision available in other locations and via other means.

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON COUNCIL

INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Swimming pools

20 sites currently provide swimming pool provision in Croydon. Of these, twelve have a degree of restricted access due to the fact that they operate on a membership basis (these include for example St Joseph's College, Whitgift Sports Centre and Green's Health and Fitness Club). Seven pools are provided on education sites. Eight pools on four sites are under local authority ownership and are available for community use.

Analysis of demand for swimming pools

Table 2: Active Places Power analysis of demand for swimming pools

	Current	Future (2019)⁶
Capacity	38,506.52	38,506.52
Demand	19,887	22,710.95
Balance	18,618	15,795.57
% Croydon demand met	193.65	169.55
% England demand met	173.56	
% South East Region demand met	159.63	

Identification (through Active Places Power analysis) that 140% of demand for a particular type of facility is satisfied indicates that all needs in an area are met (this takes account of the quality of provision and the extent to which school facilities may be available). On this basis, Croydon is currently over-provided in terms of swimming pools. However, when predicated population growth and participation projections are taken into consideration this situation improves.

Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM), run in October 2008, identified further supply and demand issues. Merton has been identified as a comparator local authority and is used throughout this analysis to provide a relative comparison.

⁶ Assumes 2% population growth and 10% participation increase across Croydon in the next ten years.

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON COUNCIL INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Supply of pool facilities

	Croydon	Merton⁷
Number of pools Includes indoor pools available for community use, which are 20m or more in length, or at least 160 square metres.	19 23%	14 17%
Number of pool sites Some sites may include more than one pool e.g. main pool plus learner pool.	14 25%	10 18%
Public or commercial		
Public	7	4
Commercial	7	6
Water space		
Public water space	2,431 - 45%	1,497 – 53%
Commercial water space	2,972 - 55%	1,355 – 47%
Total water space	5,403	2,852
Water space available as % of south London total	27%	14%
Capacity of all pools		
Visits per week in the peak period (vpwpp)	36,000	21,244
Capacity as a % of South London total	26%	15%
Water space available per 1,000 population	16.2	14.8
Total water space		
Supply of publicly available water space in square metres (scaled with hours available in peak period)	5,403 4,542	2,851 2,615

Croydon has the largest number of pool sites of the South London authorities. There is an equal split of sites classified as public or private. Bromley has the most significant provision in terms of water space available.

⁷ Merton is identified as a comparator local authority and is used throughout this analysis to provide a comparative picture.

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON COUNCIL INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Demand for swimming

Population		
ONS 2007 Population	333,288	192,298
As a % of South London total	25%	14%
Swims demanded from resident population		
Visits per week in the peak period	19,662	11,498
As a % of South London total	25%	15%
Demand expressed as water space with comfort factor applied		
As % of south London total	3,457	2,022
	25%	15%
% of population without access to a car		
England = 19.5%		
London = 29.1%	21.8%	22.1%

The highest level of demand in South London is currently found in Croydon. Croydon also has a significantly higher proportion of its population that do not have access to a car.

Supply and demand balance

Supply		
Expressed as publicly available water space (scaled with hours available in peak period)	4,542	2,615
Demand		
Expressed as water space (taking into account a comfort factor)	3,457	2,022
Supply/demand balance		
Water space available compared to minimum required to meet demand	+1,085	+593

In terms the peak period, Croydon has the second largest supply of publicly available water space of the six South London local authorities. However, it also has the highest expressed demand. However, supply of water space currently exceeds demand and hence Croydon has sufficient supply to meet current demand.

Satisfied demand

	Croydon	Merton
% of total demand satisfied by supply		
England = 91.9%	94.9%	96.9%
Net importer/exporter of demand	16.8% importer	7.8% exporter

Satisfied demand in Croydon is currently lowest of the six South London local authorities. Croydon is also a net importer of demand.

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON COUNCIL INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Unmet demand

Total number of visits from south London residents not currently being met (vpwpp) As % of south London total	1,008 30%	1,432 16%
Unmet demand as % of demand England = 8.1%	5.1%	15.5%
Unmet demand as water space (taking into account a 'comfort' factor)	177	9

Unmet demand is higher in Croydon than it is in all the other South London authorities. The level of unmet demand is considered to equate to 177 square metres of water space. This analysis is supported by consultation with LBC officers who suggest that there is a perception that water space is not necessarily available to the general public. There is an equal split of the unmet demand attributed to there being a lack of capacity or being outside the catchment.

Facility use

% of overall capacity utilised (at peak times) Percentage (England = 57.6%)	59.5%	48.5%
% of visits made to pools by walk (England = 16.2%)	22.1%	29.1%
% of visits made to pools by car (England 79.6%)	72%	65.6%
% of visits made to pools by public transport (England 4.3)	5.9%	5.3%

Croydon currently has the highest percentage of utilised capacity.

Personal Share

	Croydon	Merton
Personal share of halls relative to London average	+40%	+7%

Personal share helps to show which areas have a better/worse share of facilities. It takes into account facility size and availability as well as travel modes. It also helps to establish whether a particular area has less than, or more than its 'fair share' of facilities compared to the regional average.

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON COUNCIL INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

ASA analysis

The Amateur Swimming Association would wish to see the swimming pool stock in the Borough of Croydon increased in line with the national average and the recommended level of water area by the addition of several new school swimming pool facilities within their sports facility strategy and BSF programme. There are 95 Primary Schools, and 23 Secondary Schools, serving the community in Croydon, with only state schools and one further education college having swimming pools. One Independent school also allows sports club usage of their facility. Adding three 25 metre 6 lanes pools to school sites would not bring the Borough to the recommended level but would contribute to satisfying the Key Stage 2 requirements. With great population density in the capital, and land space at a premium it would be prudent to use BSF projects to increase dual use facilities to raise the level of the swimming pool stock. It would be advantageous for some of the pools to be to sufficient specification to hold aquatic disciplines such as water polo. Therefore a moveable floor to make it suitable for all activities ranging from teaching beginner lessons (0.75m) incorporating some element of shallow water, such as large entry steps, to a depth to allow low level competition (minimum of 2 metres). There is provision for long course swimming and diving neighbouring Borough of Bromley, at Crystal Palace.

The ASA would also wish to see the swimming pool stock in the London Borough of Croydon increased. Based on its supply and demand analysis there is a total area of swimming pool water space in the City of 5,387m² of which 2,133m² (40%) is accessible to swimming clubs, schools, the general public and low-income earners) there is an estimated short fall of 2,166m².

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON COUNCIL

INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Health and fitness facilities

According to Active Places there are 20 sites with 20 or more fitness stations, providing a total of 1,496 fitness stations in Croydon. The education and private sector is well established, reflected by the fact that 85% of sites are operated by these sectors (split between registered membership clubs and pay and play operations). Provision at Fitness First and LA Fitness significantly contributes to the availability of health and fitness provision in the Borough with both operators delivering at four sites across the Borough. LBC operates just over one tenth of the sites and provides 193 (approximately 13%) of the stations.

Analysis of demand for health and fitness provision

Active Places Power does not provide analysis for fitness provision. Therefore, demand is calculated using the UK penetration rates for health and fitness:

Table 3: Analysis of demand for health and fitness provision

	Current	Future (2019) ⁸
Adult population	339,900	354,200
UK penetration rate	19.7	20.9
Number of potential members	66,960	74,027
Number of visits per week (1.5 per member)	100,440	105,040
% of visits in peak time	65	65
Number of stations required during peak times ⁹	1,674	1,750

Current total provision is 1,496 stations. (There are 1,399 stations in facilities with 20 or more stations, which is the recommended minimum size). This falls below the calculated number of stations required to service peak time demand by 178 stations. Anticipated demand (in 2019) equates to 1,750 stations. The fact that many of LBC's health and fitness facilities are currently operating beyond capacity during peak times suggests that future provision will need to increase to ensure that demands are satisfied and that disadvantaged groups are not further marginalised.

Further research into the extent to which a significant proportion of the Borough's community has access to such provision, given the predominance of the membership-based commercial sector may also be prudent particularly given the LAA commitment to improving services and opportunities for key targeted groups.

⁸ Assumes 2% population growth and 10% participation increase across Croydon in the next ten years.

⁹ Peak time estimated at 39 hours (based on Active Places Power figures).

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON COUNCIL

INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Indoor bowls

There are two indoor bowling facilities in the Borough. Croydon Bowling Club has six rinks and is a 'members club' and was refurbished in 2007. Old Coulsdon Bowling Club is a smaller facility with three rinks.

Table 4: Active Places Power analysis of demand for indoor bowls

	Current	Future (2019)
Capacity	1,404	1,404
Demand	2,638	3,015
Balance	-1,234	-1,611
% Croydon demand met	53.22	46.57
% England demand met	59.08	
% London Region demand met	41.22	

Demand for indoor bowling facilities is currently not being met. This is not uncommon throughout the country. Increases in population and participation, coupled with the increasing popularity of low impact sports such as indoor short mat bowling and the changing age structure of the population, suggests that demand for indoor bowling facilities in the Borough is only likely to increase.

Additional community facilities

Housing development is one of the principal justifications for additional community sports facilities (i.e., new and increased numbers of residents are assumed to bring increased levels of demand for sports facilities). Demand for sport and recreation facilities tends to increase most significantly in areas of greatest housing development, particularly when such growth is combined with the predicted increases in levels of participation in sport and physical activity.

There is currently limited clarity with regard to the location of future housing developments in the Borough. Where there is insufficient justification, based on housing and related projections alone, for new facilities, identification of existing need is important in justifying their development.

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON COUNCIL INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

A quality audit of main sport and leisure facilities in Croydon is being conducted to underpin the assessment. Facilities are rated on a five point scale from very good (bright green) to very poor (bright red); see table key below. Remedial action is identified where possible. 'Court' references relate to the number of badminton courts the hall does (or could) contain. Audit findings are summarised as follows:

Table: Summary of audit findings by facility

Name	Quality rating	Comment(s)
St Mary's Catholic High School	Hall	The main hall is rated as very good quality. It is used by Croydon Flyers Basketball Club. There are no on-site staff, community users are provided with keys. The site is limited with a tight footprint in a town centre location.
Addington High School	Halls, H&F	There are two small (1-court) halls. The school has a small health and fitness suite which has old equipment.
Ashburton Learning Village	Hall, H&F	There is evidence of some vandalism at the site.
The Archbishop Lanfranc School	Hall, H&F	The main hall (3 courts) is in good condition, as is the School's H&F suite. The School has a member of staff dedicated to managing community use of the facilities. Community access to the school is considered to be good (i.e. sports facilities can be accessed without having to enter the main building. The school can be easily separated and 'locked off' from the sports facilities).
Woodcote High School	Hall	The main hall and health and fitness suite are rated as good quality. The school is scheduled to have a new sports hall in 2010. Community access on the site is not supported by ease of access.
Selsdon High School	Hall, H&F	The facilities are rated as good. The fitness suite is currently awaiting refurbishment and is thus out of use. Community use of facilities is managed by Fusion (Monks Hill Sports Centre) The High School will become part of new academy on site.

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Name	Quality rating	Comment(s)
Norbury Manor High School for Girls	Hall	Schools 'activity halls' are rated as good quality. The School is keen to increase the levels of community use at the site.
Riddlesdown High School	Hall, H&F	The School's facilities are rated as good. The health and fitness suite is used by local youth football teams for training. Community use is considered to be supported by ease of access to the site
Harris City Academy	Hall, H&F	The facilities were developed in 2006. There is very limited community use of the site.
John Ruskin College	Hall, H&F	The School has a limited range of facilities which includes a 3-court activity hall and small health and fitness suite.
Shirley High School	Hall	The School has a 3-court activity hall, used by local netball and football clubs
Virgo Fidelis Convent School	Hall	The School has received outline planning permission to develop a (50m) swimming pool on the site but there is currently no finance in place to realise this aspiration.
Edenham High School	Hall	The School has two activity halls (3 courts and 2 courts). These are currently used by local badminton and aerobics clubs. A dance studio is to be built at the site during the summer (2009).
St Andrews High School	Hall	The School had a 1-court activity hall. The School uses facilities at Archbishop Lanfranc when it is appropriate to do so.
Purley Pool	Pools	The facility is dated and looks 'tired'. There has not been any significant investment in recent years to upgrade any of the facilities.
	H&F	
New Addington Pools	Pools	The facility is beyond its useful life. Usage at the site has reduced significantly.
	H&F	
South Norwood Leisure Centre	Pools, H&F	The facility was refurbished in September 2007 and is now in good condition. There is significant club use of the pool by two local swimming clubs. There are plans to extend health and fitness facilities.
Thornton Heath Leisure Centre	Halls, H&F	The facility, which opened in 2004, offers very good facilities.

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Name	Quality rating	Comment(s)
Monks Hill Sports Centre	Hall	Vandalism is an issue at the site. The Sports Centre will form part of new academy on the Selsdon site.
St Joseph's College	Halls, Pool	There is community use of both facilities which are rated as good quality.
Thomas More Secondary School	Halls, Pool	The facility is good quality. There has been some recent (2008) investment in the changing facilities. Assessments indicate the building is ageing. There is significant community use of all facilities on-site which is managed by the School.
Haling Manor High School	Hall	The facility is rated as good quality.

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Assessment of audit findings

The majority of sport and leisure facilities in Croydon are assessed to be in ‘good’ or better condition. This is particularly true for the majority of school facilities. However, a number are poor quality, including some of the stock owned by LBC and managed by Fusion. Seven facilities currently fall below the thresholds identified in the quality components of the minimum provision standards below, these are:

Name	Facility	Quality rating
Addington High School	Hall, Health and fitness	Average
Ashburton Learning Village	Halls, Health and fitness	Average
Selsdon High School	Health and fitness	Average
St Andrews School	Hall	Average
Purley Pool	Pools	Average
Purley Pool	Health and fitness	Poor
New Addington Leisure Centre	Pools	Very poor
New Addington Leisure Centre	Health and fitness	Poor
Monks Hill Sports Centre	Hall	Average

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ACCESSIBILITY ANALYSIS

Catchment areas for different types of provision are a tool to identify areas currently not served by existing sports facilities. It is recognised that they can vary from person to person, day to day, hour to hour. This perennial problem is overcome in PPG17 by accepting the concept of 'effective catchments', defined as the distance travelled by the majority of users.

Up until recently, when assessing accessibility the former CPA performance indicators for provision were considered. Foremost amongst these is the access indicator for facility provision; 'the percentage of population that are (reside) within 20 minutes travel time of a range of three different sports facility types of which one has achieved a quality assured standard'.

This standard is interpreted here as a 5 minute drive-time to reflect local circumstances (i.e., the majority of users travel to sport and recreation facilities in Croydon by private car) and LBC policy aspirations and applied to sports halls, swimming pools, and health and fitness provision across Croydon. Drive-times are calculated based on a speed of 20 mph, which (in urban areas) is equivalent to between 1 and 1.5 miles or a 20 minute walk.

Access is also considered as part of the 'quantitative analysis' above. For example, it is factored into the supply/demand assessment, primarily because the 'accessibility' of facilities influences perceptions (and the reality) of 'supply'. In general terms, facilities provided and operated by local authorities cater for a wider range of community use, during the day, than those on education sites or run by commercial operators. As a result, they are generally considered to be the most accessible.

Sport and recreation facilities on education sites that used by local communities are invariably available at times when not needed for curriculum based activity (e.g., after 17.30 on weekday evenings and at weekends). Facilities provided by commercial operators are generally considered to be the least accessible, primarily because they are relatively expensive (which is, in part, reflects the quality of provision) and because they tend to demand that users subscribe to a membership scheme.

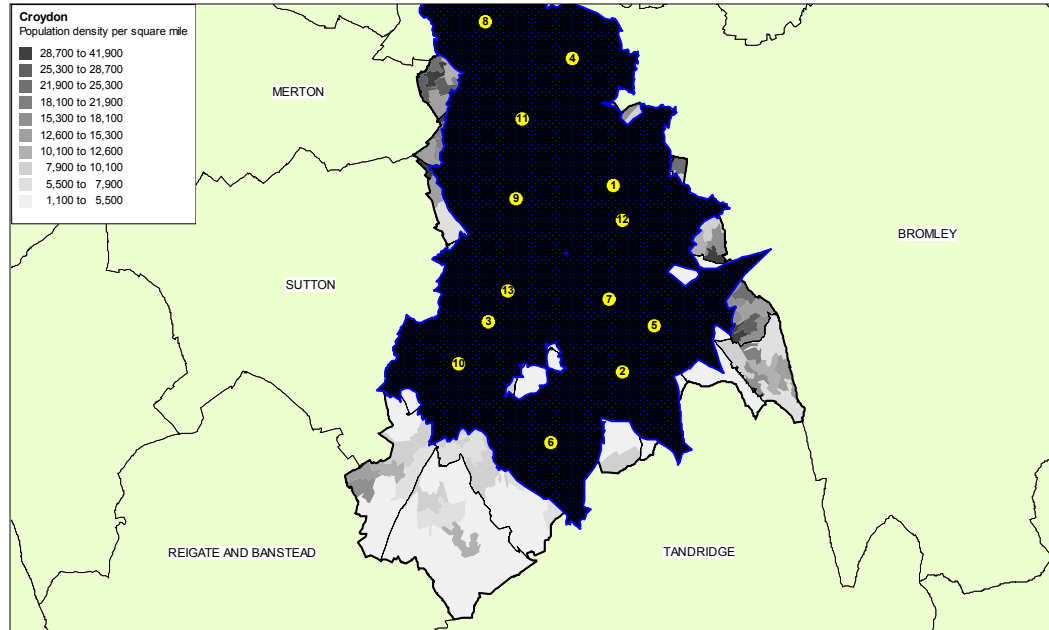
There are various variations and nuances to these broad definitions, but they are considered to accurately reflect the general situation in Croydon.

Sports halls

The figure (overleaf) shows the existing stock of sports halls (minimum 4-courts). A 20 minute walk/five minute drive time is applied to each facility and catchment areas amalgamated to highlight provision gaps. It shows that whilst a significant proportion of the Borough's population lives within a 20 minute walk/five minute drive time of a sports hall and there are no significant catchment gaps) there are gaps in the areas along Croydon's borders. These are most significant in the south of the Borough (i.e., Fairfield, Coulsdon East and Kenley) where population densities are relatively low, and in the north west (i.e., Norbury and West Thornton) and Fieldway and New Addington where densities are significantly higher. The analysis, however, does not take into account facility quality or the fact that education site based and privately operated sports halls offer varying quantities (and definitions) of accessibility.

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Figure: Sports halls with 5 minute drive-time/20 minute walk-time catchments.



Key

ID	Facility Name	ID	Facility Name
1	Ashburton Learning Village	8	St Josephs College
2	Croydon Sports Club	9	St. Mary's Catholic High School
3	Haling Manor High School	10	Thomas More School
4	Lewis Sports & Leisure	11	Thornton Heath Leisure Centre
5	Monks Hill Sports Centre	12	Trinity Sports Club
6	Riddlesdown High School	13	Whitgift Sports Centre
7	Royal Russell School		

Swimming pools

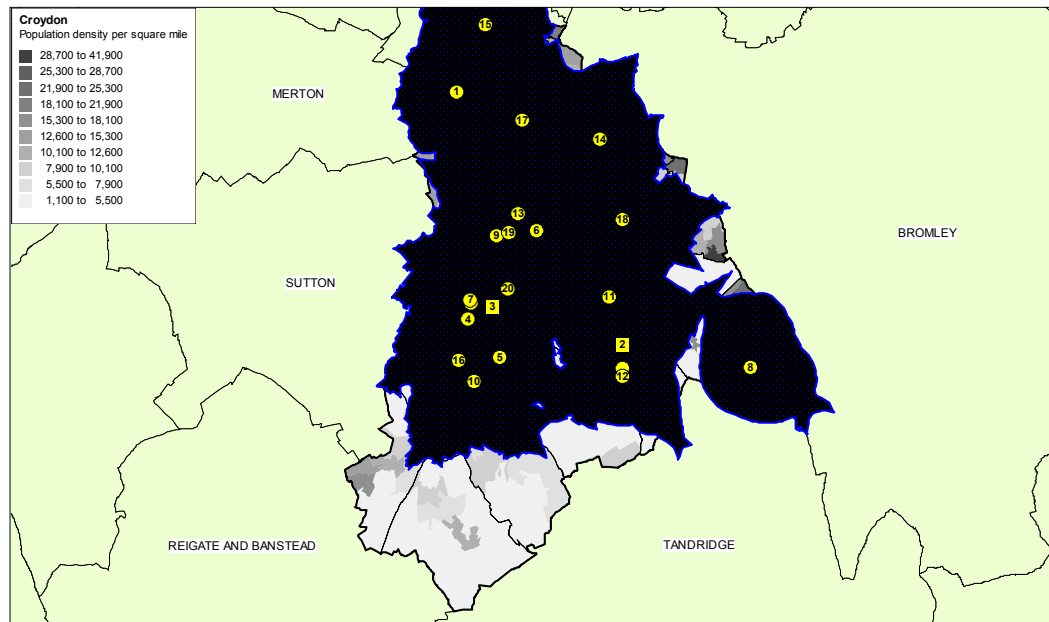
A catchment mapping approach has been adopted to analyse the adequacy of coverage of swimming pool provision across the Borough. As described in the section on sports halls above, it also helps to identify areas currently not serviced by existing swimming pools.

The Figure overleaf shows the current stock of swimming pools with an amalgamated 5 minute drive-time catchment area. It illustrates that the majority of the Borough's population resides within a 20 minute walk/ five minute drive-time of a swimming pool.

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The most significant gap in provision occurs in the south in the Coulsdon East ward, although population densities in this ward are relatively low. Furthermore areas of the Shirley ward which are significantly more densely populated also reveal gaps in the provision. This catchment analysis, however, does not take account of facility quality and accessibility nor does it consider access to facilities based on cost which has implications on potential limitations to access for lower income groups.

Figure: All pools in Croydon; 5 minute drive-time/20 minute walk-time catchments



Key

ID	Facility Name	ID	Facility Name
1	Cannons Health Club (Norbury)	11	Royal Russell School
2	Croydon Sports Club	12	Selsdon Park Hotel And Golf Club
3	Greens Health & Fitness (Croydon)	13	Solutions 2008
4	LA Fitness (Croydon)	14	South Norwood Leisure Centre
5	LA Fitness (Purley)	15	St Josephs College
6	Lido Leisure Club	16	Thomas More School
7	Livingwell Health Club (Croydon)	17	Thornton Heath Leisure Centre
8	New Addington Swimming Pools	18	Trinity Sports Club
9	Old Palace School Of John Whitgift	19	Virgin Active Club (Croydon)
10	Purley Pool	20	Whitgift Sports Centre

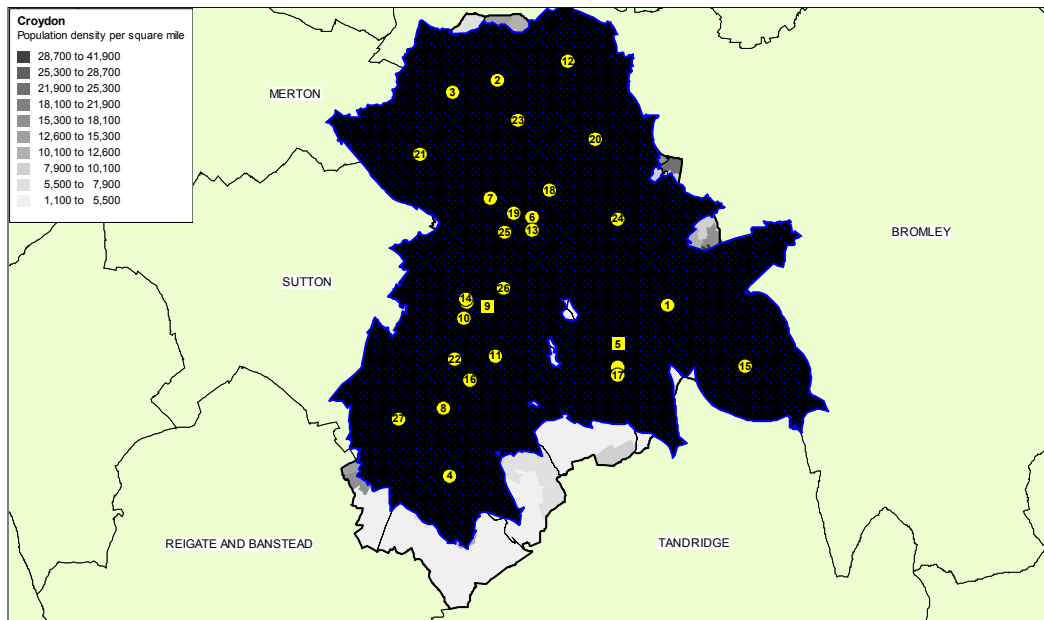
Consultation highlights that Purley Pool is inaccessible for disabled users. The Thornton Heath Leisure Centre is considered to offer good access for a range of users. In particular users suggest that the women only sessions at the venue offer a facility for which there is wider demand across the Borough

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Health and fitness facilities

Although not all residents reside within a 5 minute travel-time of health and fitness provision, there is a good spread of provision. Significantly deficient areas are to be found in the south of the Borough (e.g., Coulsdon East, Kenley and Sanderstead wards) and the densely populated north area. The map also illustrates the 'skew' of facilities to the west of the Borough.

Figure: Fitness facilities: 5 minute drive-time/20 minute walk-time catchments.



Key

ID	Facility Name	ID	Facility Name
1	Addington Palace Country Club	15	New Addington Swimming Pools
2	Beauty & The Beast	16	Purley Pool
3	Cannons Health Club (Norbury)	17	Selsdon Park Hotel And Golf Club
4	Coulsdon Manor & Golf Club	18	Sir Philip Game Youth Centre
5	Croydon Sports Club	19	Solutions 2008
6	Energie Fitness Club (Croydon)	20	South Norwood Leisure Centre
7	Fitness First Health Club (Croydon)	21	The Archbishop Lanfranc School
8	Fitness First Health Club (Purley)	22	Thomas More School
9	Greens Health & Fitness (Croydon)	23	Thornton Heath Leisure Centre
10	LA Fitness (Croydon)	24	Trinity Sports Club
11	LA Fitness (Purley)	25	Virgin Active Club (Croydon)
12	Lewis Sports & Leisure	26	Whitgift Sports Centre
13	Lido Leisure Club	27	Woodcote High School
14	Livingwell Health Club (Croydon)		

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Management type

The way in which a sport and recreation facility is managed can determine the level and type of community use allowed/encouraged. For example, local authority managed sport and recreation facilities are considered more likely to encourage use by disadvantaged groups than those run by commercial sector operators and are, thus, in effect more accessible. To help identify facilities that are accessible and those that are not, Active Places Power 'Management types' are rated as follows:

Active Places Power 'management type'	Accessibility rank
School/college/university (in house)	3
Local authority (in house)	1
Trust (on behalf of a local authority)	1
Commercial management	5
Sports club	4
Community organisation	2

A facility's 'management type' in Active Places Power is used here as a proxy indicator of facility accessibility.

Site	APP: 'management type'	Ranking
Addington High School	School/College/University (in house)	3
Ashburton Learning Village	Private Contractor (PPP/PFI)	-
Christ Church Hall	Community organisation	2
Coulsdon College	School/College/University (in house)	3
Coulsdon Community Centre	Community organisation	2
Coulsdon High School	School/College/University (in house)	3
Croham Hurst School	School/College/University (in house)	3
Croydon Sports Club	Commercial Management	5
Edenham High School	School/College/University (in house)	3
Haling Manor High School	School/College/University (in house)	3
Lewis Sports & Leisure	Other	-
Monks Hill Sports Centre	Trust	1
Norbury Manor High School For Girls	Local authority (in house)	1
Old Town Youth Club	Community organisation	2
Riddlesdown High School	School/College/University (in house)	3
Royal Russell School	Commercial Management	5
Shirley High School	School/College/University (in house)	3
Sir Philip Game Youth Centre	Other	-
South Croydon Sports Club	Sports club	4
St Edmunds Church Hall	Community organisation	2
St Josephs College	School/College/University (in house)	3
St. Mary's Catholic High School	School/College/University (in house)	3
The Archbishop Lanfranc School	School/College/University (in house)	3

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Site	APP: 'management type'	Ranking
The Selhurst High School For Boys	School/College/University (in house)	3
Thomas Moore School	School/College/University (in house)	3
Thornton Heath Leisure Centre	Trust	1
Trinity Sports Club	School/College/University (in house)	3
Virgo Fidelis Convent Senior School	School/College/University (in house)	3
Waterside Centre	Community organisation	2
Westwood Language College For Girls	School/College/University (in house)	3
Whitgift Sports Centre	Commercial Management	5
Woodcote High School	Local authority (in house)	1

Based on the analysis above, sport and recreation facilities in Croydon with greatest potential to become more accessible (i.e. scoring 3 or above because of the way they are managed) include:

- ◀ Addington High School
- ◀ Coulsdon College
- ◀ Coulsdon High School
- ◀ Croham Hurst School
- ◀ Croydon Sports Club
- ◀ Edenham High School
- ◀ Haling Manor High School
- ◀ Riddlesdown High School
- ◀ Royal Russell School
- ◀ Shirley High School
- ◀ South Croydon Sports Club
- ◀ St Joseph's College
- ◀ St Mary's Catholic High School
- ◀ The Archbishop Lanfranc School
- ◀ The Selhurst High School for Boys
- ◀ Tomas Moore School
- ◀ Trinity Sports Club
- ◀ Virgo Fidelis Convent Senior School

Public transport

Consultation clearly identifies that it is not easy (or indeed possible in some cases) to use public transport to get to and from some sport and recreation facilities. In the light of Council aspirations to reduce the number of private car journeys and the relatively good current (and particularly potential) distribution of sport and recreation facilities in the Borough, improved links with the public transport network could improve access to sport and recreation facilities.

Establishing or improving links with existing or proposed public transport networks should, thus, be a key consideration when seeking to develop new sports facilities in the Borough. There is also, of course, where facilities are to be developed on schools sites, opportunities to 'kill two birds with one stone' linking solutions to the issues associated with transport to and from school with those of sport centre accessibility.

As highlighted in the supply and demand analysis, access to facilities on foot or via public transport is particularly important in Croydon, particularly given the relatively low levels of car ownership in the Borough.

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SUMMARY OF SHORTFALLS AND KEY ISSUES

Shortfalls in the quantity, quality and accessibility of sport and recreation facilities in Croydon, as identified from the supply and demand analysis, are summarised as follows:

Quantity

- ◀ Thornton Heath Leisure Centre is the only community sports hall in the Borough that is not on a school site with the concomitant limitations that apply to community access. The Council's decision to develop a new wet and dry sports facility in Waddon, if and when implemented, will double the volume of provision of full access community sports halls in the Borough.
- ◀ Similarly, development of a replacement for New Addington Swimming Pool is thought likely to include a community sports hall which will also increase the provision, especially for daytime users.
- ◀ Development of sports facilities via the BSF and Academies programme could deliver additional community sports halls in the area. It is likely to result in some schools increasing the volume of provision from 3 courts to 4; a size that is significantly more useful from a school team sport and community perspective. Furthermore, it will also result in the development of sports facilities on some school sites where there is, presently, minimal provision.
- ◀ As stated above, Croydon is currently under-provided for in terms of 4-badminton court (or larger) sports halls. This is further exacerbated when future population and participation growth is taken into account.
- ◀ It is important that school developments include 4-court sports halls (of at least the BB98 minimum size), as opposed to 3-court halls which have significantly less flexibility from both school and community perspectives.
- ◀ Croydon is (according to Active Places) currently over-provided for in terms of swimming pools. When predicted population growth and participation projections are taken into consideration, this situation will change. It is also important to note that Active Places includes provision of private members club pools, which are not generally accessible to schools, clubs and economically disadvantaged communities.
- ◀ ASA calculations suggest there is an estimated deficient of 2,166 m² of water space.
- ◀ Consideration must also be given to the nature of sport and leisure provision in Croydon town centre. There are potentially significant changes to the profile of this area (i.e., a shift from an office to a residential focus). The quantity, type and quality of community facilities developed in this location will be a factor that impacts upon people potentially relocating to this area. It may be the case that facilities in Waddon meet some of the increased demand from growth in the town centre.
- ◀ Demand analysis shows a deficit of fitness provision in the Borough. Assuming constant supply, this equates to 178 stations in 2019. It is also important to note that this does not take account of the fact that a low proportion (just 17%) of existing fitness provision is run by LBC/Fusion and the relative accessibility of other provision, in particular for key priority groups, is open to question.
- ◀ Demand for indoor bowling facilities is not currently being met by existing provision and, left unaddressed, this situation will worsen by 2019.

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Quality

A key consideration for LBC is the quality of facilities on offer. As identified previously there is a need to address the following key challenges:

- ◀ Replacement of New Addington Swimming Pool which is moving towards the end of its useful life.
- ◀ Development of a longer term solution related to Purley Pools.
- ◀ Ensure that sufficient capital funds are made available to the operator of the Council's facilities to maintain them to a high standard, so that the Council does not find itself in this challenging position in 25 to 30 years time.
- ◀ Within school developments, it is vital that the Council specifies, at least some key strategically located facilities (see below) at a minimum requirement that matches upcoming Sport England technical guidance as opposed to BB98 which has key limitations in the context of meeting the needs of key community clubs at the requisite quality level.

Accessibility

- ◀ There is generally a good spread of sports halls across the Borough. However, many are under-sized and there are catchment gaps in the south of the Borough (where population densities are lower) and in Fieldway and New Addington wards (where densities are high). There is restricted access to the majority of sports halls on education sites (i.e., those managed in house by fee paying schools and those in state schools that are not supported by any form of dedicated management regime).
- ◀ Areas deficient in swimming pool provision include Coulsdon wards.
- ◀ Increasing access to existing, and in particular new, provision on school sites will go some way towards improve accessibility across Croydon and reducing pressures on existing facilities.

Key issues

Research, consultation and analysis of the assessment identified the following key issues for sport and recreation facilities in Croydon:

- ◀ Consultation with LBC officers suggests generally positive working relationships with Fusion Leisure. Significant work has been undertaken to develop and cement this relationship and it is considered, by all parties, to be a significant improvement on the one that existed with the previous contractor.
- ◀ In general, Croydon's facility stock is ageing and it is becoming more and more of a challenge to cater (at an appropriate level of quality) for the needs of residents. Current research suggests low levels of public satisfaction with leisure facilities.
- ◀ The new facility at Thornton Heath is a good design and builds in key features which enables it to accommodate cultural specific groups (e.g. blinds built into all windows around the pool). The key challenge will be to maintain this facility to its current high standards. This model could be replicated in other locations.
- ◀ As stated previously, Thornton Heath is the only wet and dry sports facility in the Borough, with the only full size publicly available sports hall is not based on a school site. Should the proposed Waddon development go forward a second 'full use' wet and dry sports facility will be available to residents

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- ◀ Purley Pool is adequate and could last for several more years. However, it is dated and faces DDA and circulation issues. A longer term solution is required.
- ◀ New Addington Pool is beyond its useful life and should be replaced.
- ◀ South Norwood Leisure Centre has recently been refurbished and there are plans to relocate the fitness suite to the ground floor and provide a group fitness facility.
- ◀ Consultation with Youth Services indicates that there is currently only very limited partnership work with sports facility operators (i.e. core and school facilities) and that complementary programmes and initiatives are not being planned and developed.
- ◀ Club activity tends to prevail in the South whilst the North of the Borough has, reportedly, only a limited club infrastructure. In part this follows the pattern of facility provision and quality, but this issue also reflects the demographic and socio-economic profile of the areas. Consultation highlights that, to date, facility operation and management has not fostered or catalysed the consistent development of strong, sustainable clubs.
- ◀ It would appear that there is minimal cross-boundary migration to use leisure centres between local authorities. Consultation with Fusion identified that even though Crystal Palace pool is closed, there has been no significant increase in pool usage.
- ◀ As noted elsewhere in this report, many schools do not allow regular and consistent community use of their sports facilities. The rationale for this would appear to include, for example, the cost of caretaking, vandalism and facility location and appropriateness, the absence of dedicated staff and 'interrupted use as a result of examinations, school productions etc..
- ◀ Many schools have not engaged with the 'extended schools agenda' as their stated priority is 'the education of young people'. In a number of schools this is reportedly viewed as 'more than enough of a challenge'. There is a perception that adding community engagement into this mix would in some instances be seen as a 'step too far'.
- ◀ Given the above there is a danger that new schools (and their sports facilities) will not be designed and developed with the wider community in mind.
- ◀ There is a strong need for closer integration and leadership between Partnership Development Managers (PDMs) and the Sports Development Team within Croydon Council. This has begun within the context of the CSPAN, but needs to be adequately led and prioritised by both parties.

SECTION 4: FUTURE PROVISION

Options and opportunities

The status, extent and ambitions of the proposed BSF programme in Croydon have changed during the period of this study. Nonetheless, if handled effectively, BSF is a real, probably one-off, opportunity to develop a comprehensive, cohesive 'indoor sport' offer to residents of the Borough. The configuration of facilities suggested below, is based upon broadly recognisable clusters of wards/SOAs/residential areas and is intended to provide a start point for discussion in relation to:

- ◀ How (and whether) LBC intends to seek to cater for the facility needs of its various communities in a serious systematic manner.
- ◀ The basis upon which it is reasonable (or even possible) to subdivide the Borough to generate a platform for the introduction of planning policies that are predicated upon clear direction in the context of indoor sports provision.
- ◀ The extent, given the paucity of consistently/regularly available indoor sport (particularly dry sports hall) provision in the Borough, it is necessary or valid to make assumptions about realistic levels of demand given that, to an extent, in all areas, demand is a function of supply.
- ◀ The realistic potential that LBC will, via its BSF programme, adopt a formal definition of community use and 'impose' this upon schools that are to receive new sports facilities via the programme; particularly where the provision at such schools is pivotal to effectively servicing on of the agreed sub-divisions of the Borough.
- ◀ The extent to which the governing bodies of schools may be prepared to accept this level of pre-ordination in relation to community sport (and presumably also cultural) facilities.
- ◀ The capacity (and willingness) of the Council and/or Fusion to take on the management and programming of additional school facilities and the revenue costs and liabilities associated with so doing.
- ◀ Linked directly to this, the extent to which, via effective and judicious design it will be possible to 'design-out' excessive staff and supervision costs thus enabling community access to school-based sports facilities to be managed on (at best) a break-even and at worst (a relatively low 'per unit') cost basis.

This, of course, presupposes that the Council is prepared to:

- ◀ Adopt such a formal definition of community use which reflects the position and significance of the school site in the facility hierarchy (a KKP suggestion as to what this might look like is included below).
- ◀ Take the (in the context of BSF implementation to date elsewhere) bold step of embedding this in its Strategy for Change and the process of procuring a LEP partner.
- ◀ Look beyond standard BB98 specifications and provision to allow for viable (and relevant, community facing) facilities to be installed.

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Definition of community use

The following definition of community use should be applied to all facilities in Croydon:

To provide suitable, accessible and readily available facilities for the benefit of the local community that underpin participation in sport and physical activity and directly assists achievement of national and local targets to annually increase participation levels in sport and physical activity by 1% whilst delivering the social and economic beneficial by-products that can be attributed to an active community.

Facility hierarchy



This then requires the operator to have:

- ◀ A proven knowledge and understanding of the demographic profiles and the stated (or tested) needs of local residents.
- ◀ A proven knowledge and understanding of community need, having engaged and consulted on a regular basis with local representative agencies such as youth clubs, tenants and residents associations, older peoples groups, local pressure groups, etc.
- ◀ A proven knowledge and understanding of the sporting infrastructure within the local area, including sports clubs, leagues, individual and commercial providers that already exist within the local community.
- ◀ An appreciation of the strategic definitions of 'need' that have been applied to the area by key partner agencies such as health, housing, regeneration, etc..
- ◀ A commitment to the strategic impacts and outcomes to be achieved within the local area.

By adopting the above definition of community use and approach to managing the facilities and services, the effectiveness of use will significantly increase as it will enable key partners and operators to:

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- ◀ Provide variety within the overall programme which accommodates recreational and competitive opportunity at all levels of performance.
- ◀ Offer a combination of direct delivery and intervention via a range of partners (e.g. sports clubs, individual coaches or instructors and key agencies) as appropriate.
- ◀ Collect management information and intelligence to underpin actions to extend the reach of the service, which will:
 - ◀ Introduce new people and communities to existing activities and club opportunities.
 - ◀ Introduce existing customers to new a new range of activities and club opportunities.
 - ◀ Enable operators to develop innovative programmes for hard to reach groups.
- ◀ Continually seek to re-present the sport and physical activity offer to the local community.
- ◀ Develop the service in such a way that people in local communities are able to make informed choices about it.

BSF protocols

In order to ensure that maximum benefit is achieved from the refurbishment and redevelopment of school sports facilities through the BSF and other school redevelopment funds (e.g. PFI, Academies), the following protocols should be adopted:

- ◀ Within the negotiations for the development of schools (sports facilities) requirements for the type and role of community use should be set out within the Intention to Negotiate documents, ensuring that there is no ambiguity about the role of the school.
- ◀ Management arrangements for community use of school sports facilities should be clearly identified prior to negotiation with developers. They should reflect the best option for delivering “community use” at the school, and it should not be assumed that the school itself is best placed to do this. Schools (and academies?) should be required to sign up to these arrangements (a formal community use agreement) and this is should be set up so that it is not subject to change as and when head teachers and school governors change.
- ◀ All strategic partners within the area should sign up to an accord whereby the clear preference for the management of community use of school sports facilities is by way of a sport and leisure focused agency (e.g. Fusion, specific, sports development linked local authority in-house operator, etc.)
- ◀ All schools must go through a set process by which the roles and responsibilities of each agency in the delivery of the 5-hour offer, extended schools and community use are clearly identified.
- ◀ If operated by an agency other than the school; the sports facilities operator should provide the school with a termly performance report on its contribution to delivery of the ‘extended schools agenda’.
- ◀ The community use operators should adopt an open book approach to facilities management. This should result in clearly defined financial outcomes/benefits to both school and operator as well as ensuring that a contribution (beyond that encapsulated in the BSF contract) is made to future facility maintenance.

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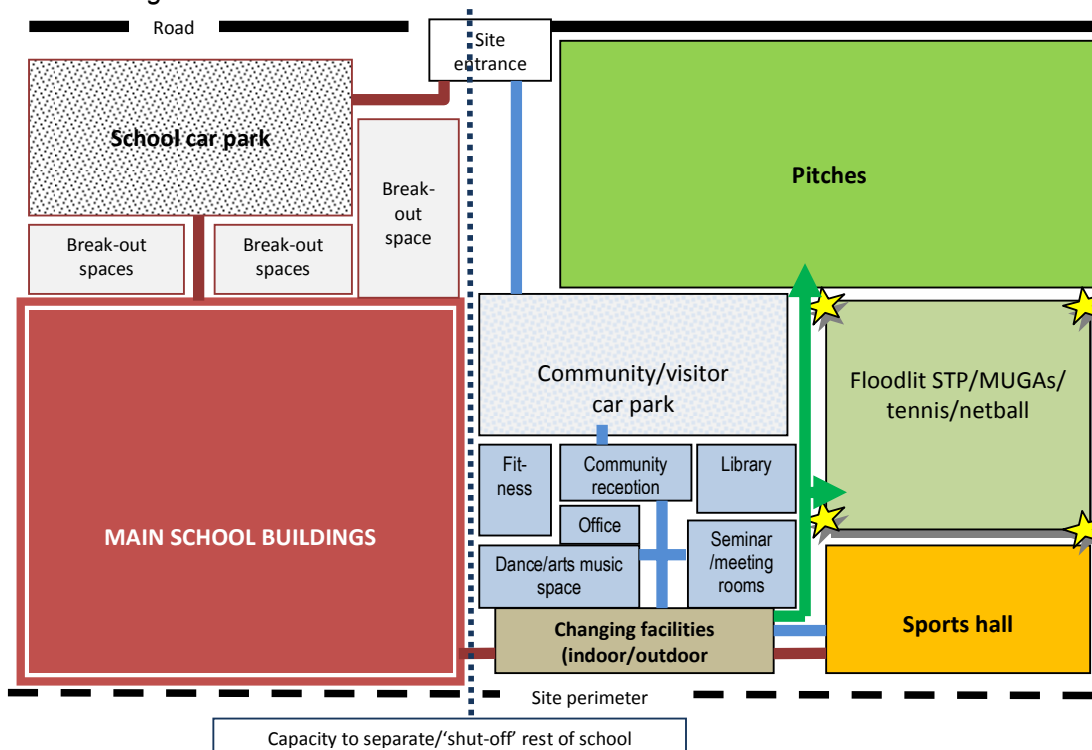
- ◀ Clubmark clubs should be given priority access to all sports facilities, but especially schools, where school-club links can be enhanced and cemented.
- ◀ Programming of school sports facilities should complement those at other community sports facilities and schools and a model of central programming should be adopted with a focus on sports and community development priorities. This may have to be built into existing leisure management contracts.
- ◀ The London Borough of Croydon (and/or, as appropriate, its delegated sport and leisure provider) will automatically be consulted throughout the process development or refurbishment of any new school in their area. (Reflecting this, LBC will ensure that staff resource is in place to respond to such needs).

Exemplar designs

Consideration should be given to facility end use from educational and community use perspectives. Croydon should seek to ensure that all new developments on school sites are designed to “exemplar” standards, both in the overall design as well as the technical specification of the activity areas. As such, all school designs should meet NGB and Sport England technical design guidance standards as a minimum.

The “exemplar” design as detailed below should be the starting point for school redevelopment and remain the aspiration. This is not an attempt to design the school, rather to establish key design principles to be adopted when developing the school.

School design schematic



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Key principles

The key design principles could/should include:

- ◀ Indoor sports facilities that will be made available for community use to be located near to each other and to changing rooms.
- ◀ The design should incorporate 'airlocks' which allow community use facilities to be separated from the rest of the school limiting (or possibly in certain instances even removing) the need for on-site supervision/management.
- ◀ Where possible they should be clearly visible to community.
- ◀ Signage and signposting should make the fact that they are community sports facilities available to the community clear and unambiguous
- ◀ Where outdoor facilities are included, they should, wherever possible, be located near each other & outdoor changing rooms.
- ◀ The design should allow separate sport & school pedestrian and vehicular 'traffic'
- ◀ There should be clearly designated, separate school/ community parking and the community parking should be close to indoor sports facilities.
- ◀ ICT/ systems should be set up to enable remote operation/access etc.

Planning process

A key consideration of this strategic framework must be the extent to which it can be enshrined within the planning process in Croydon. By including key aspects of the above (e.g. within supplementary planning documents) when assessing the acceptability of particular developments or master-plan proposals there is potential to take steps to ensure that good practice is adopted in the planning, development and operation of any new facilities.

The following could/should be considered by LBC planning department and taken into account when developing the planning guidance for each school development:

- ◀ All organisations must demonstrate that they have entered into detailed consultation with a range of leisure partners to identify local need for facilities (e.g. sports development, sports facility operators, local sports clubs, schools, Pro Active South London).
- ◀ If applicable, there must be a detailed and justified explanation as to why the location and access arrangements for a school sports facility deviate from the exemplar design model as outlined within this strategic framework.
- ◀ There must be a detailed explanation if and where technical design standards for specific activity areas fall below those stipulated by key NGBs and Sport England.
- ◀ Planning awards for all school-based sports facilities will be conditional on the application of an agreed 'Croydon definition' of community use and operating requirements.
- ◀ The operator may be required to demonstrate community use in line with the above definition for (at least 5/10/15?) years following the opening of the facility. Monitoring and evaluation of this should be transferred, at the appropriate juncture, from planners to leisure departments or external partners (e.g. Fusion).

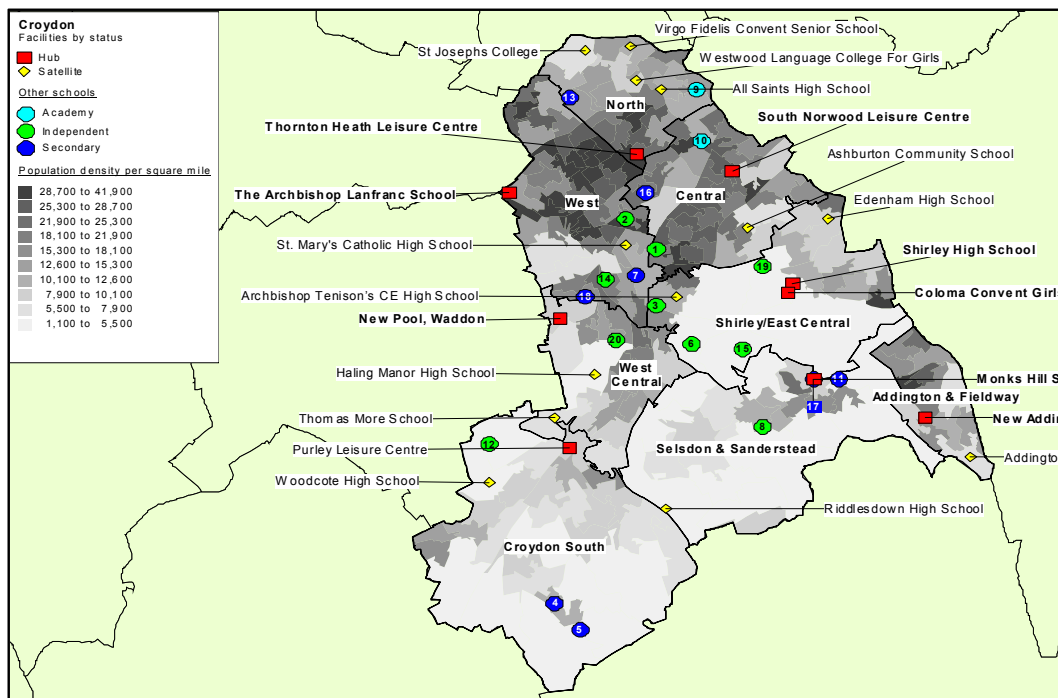
Only if the above requirements are adopted will Croydon achieve its wider ambitions and make best use of its BSF resources.

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Area provision

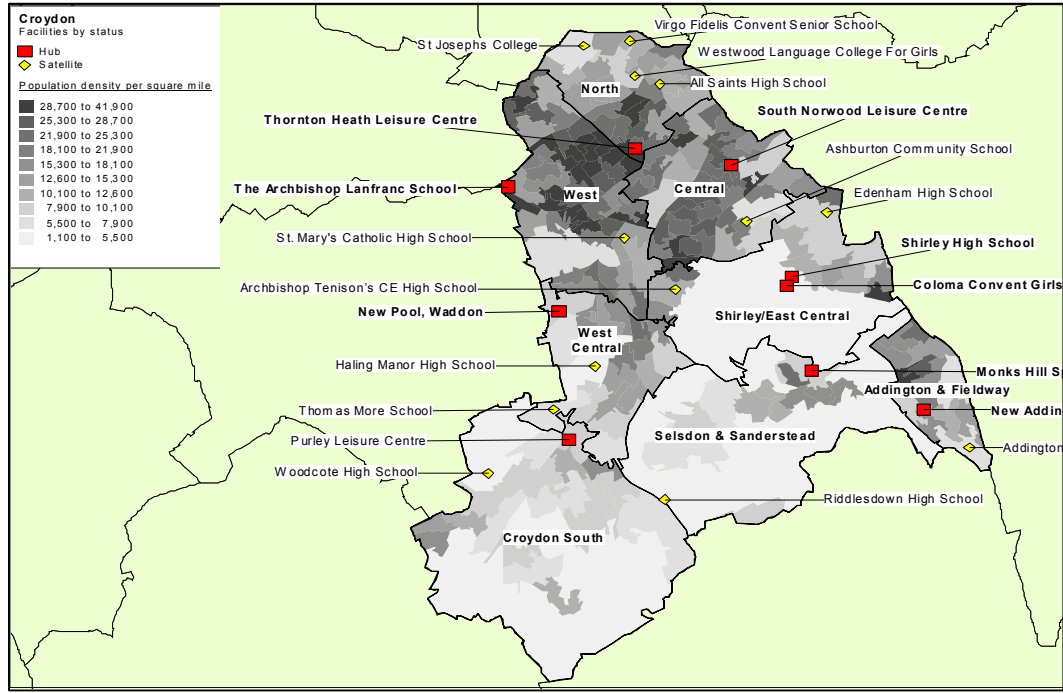
Given the geographic scale of the Borough and the high levels of variation in, for example, population density, deprivation and the volume and relevance of voluntary and private sector provision it is not straightforward to identify appropriate area subdivisions. However, to provide a starting point for discussion, we have, based in part on the opportunity of the upcoming BSF programme, suggested some options upon which development of an approach to facilities planning could be predicated.

Figure: Area breakdown – including all schools & centres / proposed hub & satellites



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Figure: Area breakdown – proposed hub & satellites



North

Status	Facility/school	Notes
Hub site	Thornton Health LC	A relatively new facility which is in good condition and around which long-term development can be planned
Community use satellite(s)	Virgo Fidelis (or) St Joseph's	The area at the front of the site at Virgo Fidelis would suit development of a community use facility given that tenure/access can be guaranteed.
	Westwood Language College All Saints High School	Development at one or other (or both) schools would enable more provision in one of the more densely populated areas of the Borough. However, this should only be on the basis where community use can be guaranteed and no restrictions on use are imposed through the planning process.
Other schools	Norbury Manor	Facilities good but limited. School keen to encourage greater community use
Notes	This area is densely populated and contains several schools plus, unusually, extensive 'ribbon' playing field areas. With imagination, it is feasible that at least one or two of the secondary schools in the area could be developed to become appropriate satellite sites	

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Croydon Central

Status	Facility/school	Notes
Hub site	South Norwood LC	Existing LBC leisure centre managed by Fusion
Community use satellite(s)	Ashburton Community School	Existing (new) school is an Oasis Academy but has good (new) sports hall and school hall plus large, good quality playing fields. Could serve South Norwood/Woodside.
Academies	Harris (Crystal Palace) Harris (South Norwood)	Do have relevant sports facilities but not included as academies thought likely to 'do their own thing'.
Other schools	New facilities at St Andrews High School could also serve Croydon Central. Archbishop Tenison's CofE High School is to be rebuilt on a new site which has strong potential to design in community use. School facilities are likely to be adjacent to the (good quality) playing fields on the new site. Given its location, a sports facility on this site could, arguably service Croydon Central.	
Other notes	It is considered important that new indoor sports facilities are developed linked to, or as part of the planned extensive development of dwellings in the centre of Croydon.	

Croydon West

Status	Facility/school	Notes
Hub site	Archbishop Lanfranc	There is no LBC managed sports centre in this area. The school is scheduled to get a new sports hall. This could be developed to a 'better than BB98' specification and set out to bring other pre-existing facilities on the school site into play and be the hub for the 'West' area.
Community use satellite(s)	St Mary's RC High School	Good quality main sports hall (main use - basketball)
Other schools	At present St Andrews High School uses Archbishop Lanfranc for elements of its PE curriculum delivery. If and when new sports facilities are provided on this site, it could also be a satellite serving Croydon West/Croydon Central	
Other notes	Alternatively, the hub site for this area could be Thornton Heath LC (handling two areas) with Archbishop Lanfranc developed as a major satellite site.	

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West Central

Status	Facility/school	Notes
Hub site	New sports centre at Waddon	The planned new sports facility at Waddon is the logical choice as the hub site for this area.
Community use satellite(s)	Haling Manor High School (Harris Academy Purley from September 2009)	Activity halls (x 2) and (new) dance studio.
Other schools	One of the Borough's high profile fee paying schools is located in this area.	

Shirley/East Central

Status	Facility/school	Notes
Hub site	Coloma Convent School Shirley High School	There is, presently, no LBC managed indoor sports centre in this area. Given the adjacency of these two school sites and the way in which land to be developed is located, it may be feasible to develop a large shared facility (say 8 court hall) to service Coloma Convent School and Shirley High School and to bring other proposed facilities on the site(s) into play as part of a managed sports facility Note: Coloma would have to change its current access policy..
Community use satellite(s)	Edenham High School	Activity halls (x 2) and (new) dance studio
Other schools	Several of the Borough's high profile fee paying schools are located in this area.	
Other notes	The Coloma/Shirley High School site offers a real opportunity to develop an innovative combined school facility which could also, because of its potential size, be a flagship centre for the Borough – for indoor sports events and major league based competition in sports such as basketball, netball and badminton. Archbishop Tenison's is also a possible managed hub site for this area (see above).	

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Selsdon & Sanderstead

Status	Facility/school	Notes
Hub site	Monks Hill	This community use sports centre at Selsdon High School is to be rebuilt and, given its position, serving other schools and adjacent to extensive STP spaces and a brand new MUGA may suit development to meet the new Sport England/NGB sports hall dimensions rather than the core BB98 specification. This forms part of the new academy. The sponsor for the new academy is the Coloma Trust.
Community use satellite(s)	Riddlesdown High School	Has a good quality sports hall and fitness facilities. Although the school is slightly isolated, actual access onto the school site once there is considered to be reasonably good.
Other schools	One of the Borough's high profile fee paying schools is located in this area.	
Other notes	Monks Hill is in the most densely populated part of this area and is important in this context. It is vital to take advantage of the configuration of the school to ensure that an efficient, effective joint-use sports facility is developed on the site.	

Addington

Status	Facility/school	Notes
Hub site	New Addington Pools	This is due to be replaced. The new facility should be the hub site for the Addington/New Addington area.
Community use satellite(s)	Addington High School	Has currently limited, poor sports facilities. New facilities developed at the school could/should be set up to enable community use and could be managed from the proposed new facility in new Addington.
Other notes	This is a densely populated and relatively deprived and isolated area; which needs quality wet and dry sports facilities. Arguably, consideration should be given to developing a new wet and dry sports facility on the school site; this might assist the school to improve its status and performance although the location is relatively poor in the context of main population centres.	

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Croydon South

Status	Facility/school	Notes
Hub site	Purley Pools	Taking into consideration the need to improve the facility, it is an obvious choice for hub site in the area
Community use satellite(s)	Woodcote High School Thomas More School	This has a good quality sports hall and fitness facilities. With these, plus the planned additional sports hall, this is potentially a very good satellite dry site. Access to Woodcote, as currently configured, may be problematic. This school site has a sports hall and a swimming pool. It also, with investment, has potential to be a good satellite site.
Other notes	<p>Woodcote High School (Sports College) already has a sports hall and fitness facilities which are rated as 'good condition'. To add to this, it is scheduled for a new (possibly Sport England specification) sports hall. This would make it quite a sizeable dry sport site.</p> <p>In a similar vein, Thomas More which also has a sports hall and an existing pool, might be a suitable candidate to be the area's hub site and may required addition of just a main pool (plus relevant refurbishment/development) to become a hub facility.</p> <p>All facilities/proposed developments are in the North of the area and residents of Coulsdon East and Old Coulsdon will have to 'cross' main road and railway line barriers to access facilities, hence needs for facilities based in Coulsdon need to be considered. Woodcote currently have funding for an additional covered sports space and construction should start in August 2009.</p>	

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FACILITY DEVELOPMENT

The proposed facility developments (or considered variations thereof) will assist Croydon to achieve a network of sport and recreation facilities that support both recreational activity and performance-based involvement.

Sports hall development

Issues were raised in the previous section about sports halls. The primary issue is that additional sports hall space is required to cater for projected population growth and increases in participation. To help achieve the vision it will be necessary to:

- ◀ Retain/replace the majority of existing LBC operated and joint-use sports halls.
- ◀ Upgrade/refurbish specific sports halls.
- ◀ Improve accessibility to specific sports halls.
- ◀ Optimise the benefits of BSF to community sport.

Specific developments across the Borough should consider the following:

- ◀ Additional sports halls should be developed at the proposed new wet and dry sports facility solutions in Waddon and New Addington.
- ◀ New sports halls developed on secondary school sites should all be a minimum of 4-courts and, where practically possible, be better specified than the standard BB98 specification.

Swimming pool development

Key issues for consideration with regard to swimming pool development include:

- ◀ The need to upgrade/refurbish specific swimming pools.
- ◀ The need to improve accessibility to specific swimming pools.
- ◀ The development of new pools in Waddon and New Addington. Consideration should be given to developing 'good-sized' small pools with moveable floors which can accommodate a range of users (e.g. swimming lessons, water fitness classes, aqua arthritic classes). This would leave main pools at these venues available for 'swimming'.
- ◀ A longer term solution for Purley Pools.

Indoor bowls development

Demand for indoor bowling facilities is currently not met. There is demand for a new indoor bowling facility in the Borough.

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Health and fitness facilities development

Significant factors to consider in terms of health and fitness provision include:

- ◀ The good spread of provision across the Borough.
- ◀ The fact that the majority of health and fitness facilities are either located on educational sites or managed by dedicated private sector fitness providers.
- ◀ Anticipated demand in 2019 equates to the need for an additional 178 stations.
- ◀ LBC health and fitness facilities are currently operating at, or near, capacity.

Health and fitness provision should be a key component of all of the Council's key facility development solutions. As seen in the design and operation of Thornton Heath Leisure Centre the fitness offer can significantly offset the operational deficit of the facility, as well as ensuring that key links with health agencies are established and strengthened.

The way forward

The primary and immediate task for the Borough Council and its partners is to begin the 'journey' by:

- ◀ Agreeing and adopting the components of the needs assessment.
- ◀ Developing an action plan and strategy for future development; linked directly to the Borough's BSF strategy and work programme.
- ◀ Establishing a group to oversee, and report on, implementation of an agreed action plan and strategy.
- ◀ Instigating a programme of training and development amongst partners to generate ownership of the strategy.

Annually, partners will need to develop 'work programmes' of focused and deliverable activity based on the actions and outcomes identified. All such programmes will be endorsed by Croydon to help reduce duplication, encourage co-ordination and ensure that issues identified above are incorporated into the work of partners.

Strategy implementation should be reviewed each year and an annual progress report produced. Core strategy content will be updated as appropriate (for example, when playing pitch information is updated). Performance will be measured in line with LBC monitoring protocols. The action plan should be updated and 'published' annually. The longer-term impact of strategy implementation will be evaluated in 2013 and a new/updated strategic plan produced, identifying the extent to which progress has been made, highlighting achievement and analysing aspects of delivery that have not gone as well as expected. This will be utilised to underpin strategic planning for the ensuing five year period.

Acknowledged priority sport and recreation facility development needs in Croydon are, thus (in no particular order), to:

- ◀ Develop additional/replace sport and recreation facilities to replace ageing facilities.
- ◀ Increase access to sport and recreation facilities particularly in central Croydon.
- ◀ Improve access to/increase community use of secondary school provision.

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- ◀ Increased capacity of LBC sport and recreation facilities operating at (or near) capacity, particularly in areas where demand is likely to increase (e.g., those designated for housing development).

The way that facilities are managed and operated also influences their use. Key issues that should be considered and/or addressed in Croydon include:

- ◀ Ensuring good access to court time for generic sports development and/or club-based or led development activity.
- ◀ Central programming of school facilities to encourage financially and developmentally efficient and effective community use.
- ◀ Support for 'elite performance' provision.

Analysis of existing provision also identifies the principles that should underpin all sport and recreation facility development in the Borough. These are to:

- ◀ Improve the quality of existing facilities.
- ◀ Amend policies to obtain developer contributions.
- ◀ Provide a more localised provision of facilities which are closer to where people live.

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APPENDIX 1: AUDIT PROFORMA

ActivePlaces reference:			
Facility name:			
Facility also known as:			
Address:			
Town:			
Postcode:			
Telephone number:			
Date Visited:		Assessor:	
Is there a public transport link within 500m of the entrance:			
Ownership type:			
Commercial, Community Organisation, Community School, Foundation School, Further Education, Government, Higher Education Institutions, Industry (for employees), Local Authority, MOD, Other Independant School, Sports Club, Voluntary Aided School, Voluntary			
Management/ Operator type:			
Commercial Management, Community Organisation, Industry Sports Club, Local Authority (in house), MOD, School/College/University (in house), Sport Club, Trust			
Car parking:		Yes	No Yes, number of spaces
DDA Access to facility:			
DDA compliance	Indicate if Yes	DDA compliance	Indicate if Yes
Parking:		Activity areas:	
Finding and reaching the entrance:		Toilets:	
Reception area:		Social areas:	
Doorways:		Spectator areas:	
Changing facilities		Emergency exits:	
SPORTS HALL: 1			
TYPE:		Main	Activity Hall
Condition		Very good	Good Neither Poor Very Poor
No of badminton courts		Width:	
Badminton clearance (6.7m)		Length:	
Area estimation?		Area:	
SPORTS HALL: 2			
TYPE:		Main	Activity Hall
Condition		Very good	Good Neither Poor Very Poor
Number of badminton courts		Width:	
Badminton clearance (6.7m)		Length:	
Area estimation?		Area:	
SPORTS HALL: 3			
TYPE:		Main	Activity Hall
Condition		Very good	Good Neither Poor Very Poor
Number of badminton courts		Width:	
Badminton clearance (6.7m)		Length:	
Area estimation?		Area:	

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SPORTS HALL: 4						
TYPE:		Main	Activity Hall			
Condition		Very good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
Number of badminton courts		Width:				
Badminton clearance (6.7m)		Length:				
Area estimation?		Area:				
SWIMMING POOL: 1						
TYPE:		Main/General Lido	Learner/Teaching/Training	Leisure Pool	Diving	
Condition		Very good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
Number of lanes		Minimum depth				
Width		Maximum depth				
Length		Diving boards?				
Area		Movable floor?				
SWIMMING POOL: 2						
TYPE:		Main/General Lido	Learner/Teaching/Training	Leisure Pool	Diving	
Condition		Very good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
Number of lanes		Minimum depth				
Width		Maximum depth				
Length		Diving boards?				
Area		Movable floor?				
SWIMMING POOL: 3						
TYPE:		Main/General Lido	Learner/Teaching/Training	Leisure Pool	Diving	
Condition		Very good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
Number of lanes		Minimum depth				
Width		Maximum depth				
Length		Diving boards?				
Area		Movable floor?				
DANCE STUDIO / MULTI PURPOSE ROOM 1						
Condition		Very good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
Width		Length				
DANCE STUDIO / MULTI PURPOSE ROOM 2						
Condition		Very good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
Width		Length				
DANCE STUDIO / MULTI PURPOSE ROOM 3						
Condition		Very good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
Width		Length				
DANCE STUDIO / MULTI PURPOSE ROOM 4						
Condition		Very good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
Width		Length				
PERMANENT MATT AREA						
Condition		Very good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
Width		Length				
MEETING ROOMS						
Condition		Very good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
Number of meeting rooms						
Width		Length				
HEALTH & FITNESS SUITE (normally over 20 stations)						
Condition		Very good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
Number of stations						
INDOOR BOWLS						

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Condition		Very good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
Number of rinks		Width				
Area		Length				
INDOOR TENNIS						
TYPE:		Airhall	Airhall (seasonal)	Framed fabric	Traditional	
Condition		Very good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
Number of courts						
Type of surface		Acrylic	Macadam	Textile		
SYNTHETIC TURF PITCHES: 1						
TYPE:		Rubber crumb pile (3G)		Sand based	Water based	
Condition		Very good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
Width		Number of pitches				
Length		Floodlit				
Area						
SYNTHETIC TURF PITCHES: 2						
TYPE:		Rubber crumb pile (3G)		Sand based	Water based	
Condition		Very good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
Width		Number of pitches				
Length		Floodlit				
Area						
SYNTHETIC TURF PITCHES: 3						
TYPE:		Rubber crumb pile (3G)		Sand based	Water based	
Condition		Very good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
Width		Number of pitches				
Length		Floodlit				
Area						
OTHER SPORTS FACILITIES						
TYPE:						
Condition		Very good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
Length / Width / Specifics						
TYPE:						
Condition		Very good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
Length / Width / Specifics						
TYPE:						
Condition		Very good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
Length / Width / Specifics						
CHANGING FACILITIES						
Wet		Yes				
Condition		Very good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
Dry		Yes				
Condition		Very good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
Other (specify)						
Condition		Very good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
Other (specify)						
Condition		Very good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
Other (specify)						
Condition		Very good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
Other (specify)						
Condition		Very good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
Disabled		Yes				
Condition		Very good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor

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OVERALL RANKING OF THE QUALITY / CONDITION OF THE WHOLE FACILITY						
Quality / Condition		Very good	Good	Neither	Poor	Very Poor
Additional comments						
COMMUNITY USE						
Does the facility have Community Use				Yes	No	Term-time only
TYPE OF FACILITY - indicate one only						
Stand alone community sports facility		School with community access				
Dual use sports facility		University sports facility				
LEVEL OF COMMUNITY USE - indicate one only						
100% programmed activity, pay and play and block bookings		Limited to block bookings only				
Mixture of block bookings and pay and play		Limited times at specific times of the year				
Hours of Community Use per week						
Less than 10 hours		10 - 20 hours				
20 - 30 hours		30 - 40 hours				
40 - 50 hours		Over 50 hours				
INVESTMENT PLANNING						
Has the facility undergone any significant financial investment/ refurbishment in recent years?						
If Yes, amount invested?						
Year of investment						
Area invested in?						
Health and Fitness		Dance studio/ multi-purpose				
Swimming Pool		Sports Hall				
STP		Reception and entrance				
Roofs		Plant and machinery				
Disabled access		Changing rooms				
Other		Electrical works				
Specify if other....						
Is there any investment/ refurbishment plan for the facility						
If Yes, specify areas to be invested in:						
Health and Fitness		Dance studio/ multi-purpose				
Swimming Pool		Sports Hall				
STP		Reception and entrance				
Roofs		Plant and machinery				
Disabled access		Changing rooms				
Other		Electrical works				
Specify if other....						
What is the life expectancy of the facility?						
1 -5 years		11 – 15 years				
6 – 10 years		16 – 20 years				
Are there any plans to rationalize this facility?						
If Yes, When?						

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION			
Is the facility of a scale to attract county, regional or national events?			
County		Regional	
National			
Please specify which events....			
What sports are significant, in development terms, within the operation of this facility?			
Aerobics/ keep fit		Karate	
Badminton		Netball	
Basketball		Roller hockey	
Bowls - indoor		Softball	
Boxing		Squash	
Climbing - indoor		Swimming	
Cycling - velodrome		Synchronised swimming	
Dance		Table tennis	
Diving		Tae Kwon Do	
Fencing		Tennis - indoor	
Football - 5-a-side		Trampolining	
Gymnastics		Volleyball	
Hockey - indoor		Water polo	
Judo		Weightlifting	
Kabbadi		Wrestling	
Other.....			
What key local issues need to be taken on board with respect to this facility?			
Environment			
Cultural / community			
School			
Demographics			
What improvements are needed to bring the facility up to DDA compliance (tick)			
Parking:		Activity areas:	
Finding and reaching the entrance:		Toilets:	
Reception area:		Social areas:	
Doorways:		Spectator areas:	
Changing facilities		Emergency exits:	
Signage		Information	
Lift access to all levels, if appropriate			

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APPENDIX 2: SPORT ENGLAND MARKET SEGMENTS

