

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY

OCTOBER 2016

(This page will be printed on the back of the cover page)

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



Derry City and Strabane District Council



Belfast City Council



SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC) Sports Facility Strategy (the 'Strategy') provides a framework for the future prioritisation, development and provision of sports facilities at local level, to meet identified community need.

The Strategy has been developed during a period of significant change in Northern Ireland (NI); the implementation of the Review of Public Administration (RPA), reducing Council areas from 26 to 11 (from 1 April 2015), the introduction of Community Planning as a statutory responsibility of public bodies and the re-organisation and restructuring of Governmental Departments, roles and remit have all taken place, or are in the process. The Strategy is therefore both an important means of contributing to the above, but also represents a significant opportunity as a result of these changes.

STRATEGY PURPOSE AND RATIONALE

The purpose of the Strategy is to identify the strategic need for **Sports facilities in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council**.

This is one of 11 Local Strategies to be developed in the context of the NI-wide work. A consistent approach to developing the Local Strategies has been undertaken. The same methodology for applying supply and demand standards for sports halls, swimming pools and health and fitness facilities have been used in all 11 Local Authority Strategies and agreed with Sport NI.

The Strategy rationale is to develop a framework for the future prioritisation and development of sports facilities, based on identified need, increasing participation, addressing health inequalities and other local specific factors.

The focus of the facilities analysis has been sports halls of 3 courts or above (except those on education sites), pools of 20 m and above, health and fitness suites of 20 stations and above and full size artificial grass pitches (AGPs), together with other facilities specific to each local area.

The Strategy reflects the wider – NI 10 Year Plan for the provision of Strategic Sports Facility Strategy for Northern Ireland (2016), which focuses on the need for future provision that are of cultural significance, as well as those that provide for high performance training and competition. These facilities contribute to the vision and targets set out within strategic documents such as the Programme for Government (2011-2021), Building a Better Future (2011-15) and Sport Matters, the Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation (2009-19).

At local level, the identification of need for sports facility provision is also aligned to the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Corporate Plan 2015-2019 and the new Community planning process.

In an environment of unprecedented change for Northern Ireland and particularly where resources are limited, the need for a strategic plan, which identifies priorities for provision and investment at local level is important.

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This Strategy will inform the development of an evidence-based approach to strategic planning for and development of, sports facilities at local level, to optimise their value and benefits. The restructuring of the District Council boundaries (Review of Public Administration (RPA) implemented on 1 April 2015 provides a unique opportunity and some interesting challenges, to instigate and instill, an improved strategic culture to sports facility planning in Northern Ireland.

The Strategy will speak to and engage all stakeholders involved in the planning, development and delivery of sports facilities in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, to inform a coherent future approach, which will make best use of all available resources.

VISION

The Vision underpinning the Strategy is:

‘Development of an evidence based assessment of facility need, which will inform and prioritise future investment in and development of, a network of high quality sports facilities, addressing the needs for increased community participation in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council’

AIM

The Strategy Aim is to develop a strategic framework for the future provision of sports facilities in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. This identifies the need for provision and the priorities for investment into sports facilities, informed by evidence of need, consultation with key stakeholders and a supply and demand analysis.

OBJECTIVES

The Strategy Objectives are:

- **To identify the existing range of facilities provided at local level in Newry, Mourne and Down.**
- **To undertake consultation with strategic stakeholders to identify current and future facility needs and locations.**
- **To undertake a supply and demand assessment to identify gaps in current provision, plus future needs.**
- **To develop a facility framework reflecting identified current and future community needs.**
- **To link this strategic framework where relevant to the network of local sports facilities.**
- **To develop a set of strategic principles underpinning all future investment in sports facilities.**
- **To link the identified sports facility needs in Newry, Mourne and Down into the priorities identified at national level, where appropriate.**
- **To recommend priority investment(s) in sports facility provision in Newry, Mourne and Down.**

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SPORT NI FACILITY STRATEGY - FUTURE PRINCIPLES FOR THE PROVISION OF SPORTS FACILITIES

The 10 year NI Sports Facility Plan 2016 sets out a number of recommendations for facilities of NI wide and cultural significance and for those providing for high performance training and competition. The recommendations stress the need for an evidence-based approach to the future planning for sports facilities, based on need, to ensure that investment is strategic and will deliver sustainable provision, benefitting communities across NI. **Funding from Sport NI will only be targeted at new facilities that meet the key principles below.**

The Sport NI Facilities Strategy states when planning for future provision the following key principles (KP) should be applied:

- **KP1.** Proposed sports facilities should take account of the Northern Ireland 10 Year Sports Facility Plan 2016 and the 11 associated District Council Area Reports.
- **KP2.** Proposed sports facilities should be collaboratively planned to reduce duplication, displacement and encourage shared use.
- **KP3.** Sports facilities should be appropriately planned and designed to ensure a wide range of users and utilisation.
- **KP4.** Proposed sports facilities should be accompanied by a long-term Sports Development Plan to ensure viability and sustainability.
- **KP5.** High performance facilities in GB or RoI should be considered when exploring the potential for similar provision in Northern Ireland.
- **KP6.** Priority should be given to the development/improvement of multi-facility hubs, including the provision of a range of synthetic turf pitches.
- **KP7.** Where possible new and/or improved school sports facilities should be designed and managed in a way that enables community use.

An important recommendation in the Sport NI Facility Strategy is the identification of the need for a strategically-located, multi-facility hub in each new Council area. This aims to address challenges of accessibility to both facilities and critically support services for elite athletes, but also provides the opportunity to consider the development locally of facilities which provide for 4-5 different sports on one site. These could facilitate increased participation at community level and potentially be more efficient and effective to operate given that revenue costs could be spread across the facility operation and remove the need for duplication of infrastructure e.g. car parking, across a number of sites. Given the geography of NI and the existing sports facility infrastructure in place, it is also recognised that for some Councils their Multi-Facility Hub already exists, or may be best delivered through a number of linked sites.

Specific recommendations are also made in relation to the future secured community use of sports facilities on education sites, the fact that all 3Gs/synthetic pitches need to be developed with floodlights to maximise access and usage.

NEEDS, PRIORITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The assessment and analysis undertaken to develop this Strategy identifies a need for some additional provision, across a range of facility types, as well as more generic needs in terms of improvement to the quality of existing facilities and the accessibility of provision. All new and improved facility provision should be fully inclusive to optimise participation opportunities across communities.

The facility needs have been identified as a result of the qualitative, quantitative and accessibility analysis undertaken. These are summarised in Table A below, by facility type.

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Table A: Summary of Facility Needs in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

FACILITY TYPE	FACILITY NEEDS/PRIORITIES
SPORTS HALLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newry, Mourne and Down District Council have planned and are committed to providing 36 badminton court sports hall spaces in secured community use. The demand modelling suggests there is a deficit of 11 badminton court secured sports halls in 2016 and 17 badminton court secured sports halls in 2037. If the number of Badminton court sports halls that are provided in Education establishments (46 badminton courts) that are not fully open for community use are considered, this would eliminate any need for additional sports hall space in the future to 2037. This would mean putting into place community use agreements with schools and meets Sport NI Key Principle 7. Where possible new and/or improved school sports facilities should be designed and managed in a way that enables community use. • The district has 3 or 4 court sports hall provision within a 20 minute drive time of its residents. • There is a need to replace the Newcastle Centre in the future and securing sports hall provision should be considered along with ancillary facilities to cater for activities that currently take place when funding becomes available in the future. • Provision of 3 or 4 court sports halls in villages is not sustainable. Smaller 1 court halls at community centres with added recreational provision with open space and a multi-use games area would provide recreational and physical activity needs. • The provision model for sports halls comes down to the long term sports development plan for the facility, the economic and business case. What is it? Is it needed? Taking into account participation, financials and outcome benefits.
SWIMMING POOLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newry, Mourne and Down District Council have planned and are committed to providing 1,205 sq m of water space and have provided additional leisure water space at Newry leisure Centre. This is sufficient to meet the demands for 2016. • There will be a need for additional water space in Newry, Mourne and Down going forward to 2037. This is roughly equivalent to a 4 lane 25m pool 212sq m. • Consideration should be given to providing an indoor swimming pool alongside any future indoor leisure provision in Newcastle.
HEALTH AND FITNESS FACILITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UK propensity to participate as a fitness gym member for 2015 is 13.7% of the population as identified from the fitness Industry state of the nation report. The total population aged over 16 has been used and participation rates for using fitness facilities at peak times has been utilised to provide a current demand for 547 fitness stations across Newry, Mourne and Down. The current supply is calculated as 838. This suggests a surplus of 291 health and fitness stations. Some of the private gyms are not accessible to all the community due to cost and transport. • The number of fitness stations required for 2037 is equivalent to 645 fitness stations. There are currently enough fitness stations to cover the need to 2037.

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FACILITY TYPE	FACILITY NEEDS/PRIORITIES
ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are approximately 55 soccer Clubs across Newry, Mourne and Down providing approximately 215 teams. The English Football Association through its new 3G Rubber Crumb Pitch Strategy has decided that to ensure the sustainability of a new 3G pitch there must be a minimum of 42 teams (not Clubs within the area but teams that would have access to the pitch for training and competition). • By using the 42 teams formulae on a District wide basis for Newry, Mourne and Down with approximately 215 teams there is a need for 5 3G rubber crumb pitches for soccer. There are currently 9 3G rubber crumb pitches of which 5 solely provide for soccer across Newry, Mourne and Down. There are a further 3 soccer 3G pitches planned for John Bosco Youth Club site (Respect Soccer Project), Ballyhornan and Downpatrick. • If you take GAA football, hurling and camogie there are approximately 45 Clubs providing approximately 476 teams. Applying 42 teams to 1 3G rubber crumb pitch identifies a need for 11 3G rubber crumb pitches for Gaelic Games across the District. Currently there are only 3 3G rubber crumb pitches suitable for Gaelic games. • To meet Sport Northern Ireland Sports Hub needs it would be appropriate to support Clubs and sports that will work together in the future eg GAA, Soccer and Rugby Clubs whereby 42 teams using a sports hub facility can at least train on 1 3G pitch. • From a sustainability view point 3G rubber crumb pitches should be used during the day by schools and the evenings for training and weekends for competitive games. A minimum demand of teams for use of a 3G pitch should be instigated eg 42 teams per 3G rubber crumb pitch. • Wherever possible the IFA, IRFU and the GAA are keen to work in partnership with local authorities to develop new multi-sport facilities, providing access for all. • There is a need to provide a sand based all-weather pitch at Saintfield to replace the outdated shale hockey pitch and a need to replace the carpet at McAuley Park where Kilkeel Hockey Club play. • There are 2 disused shale pitches at Langley Road with floodlights. A decision is required on the future use of these pitches. The same applies to the Shale Pitch at Dunleath Park, Downpatrick. • The carpet of an AGP will be required to be replaced nearly every 10 years and in this instance it is recommended that a sink fund is set up for each 3G pitch to provide for the funding of a new carpet in the future. The projected cost is £200,000 per pitch. This should be met from income from these pitches. This means that a Business Plan showing £20,000 per annum to a sink fund for the replacement of the carpet and a sports development case is required each time a 3G pitch is built or supported by the District.

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FACILITY TYPE	FACILITY NEEDS/PRIORITIES
GRASS PLAYING PITCHES AND CHANGING ROOMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The six acre standard methodology of the number of pitches required does not take into consideration quality of pitches or actual demand for pitches. It uses a standard per 1000 population and treats demand as standard across all 11 Local Authorities in Northern Ireland. The demand however is not standard. Newry, Mourne and Down have for example 45 GAA Clubs where Ards and North Down have 4 GAA Clubs. • Across Newry, Mourne and Down District there are 52 playing pitch sites in the Council’s ownership. The pitches on these sites are of varying quality and therefore cannot sustain the same number of games on each pitch each week. Quality of pitches determines the capacity or number of times a pitch can be played. • There is a need to provide the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Gerry Brown Park – Pitch required at ‘Good’ Standard ➢ Jennings Park 1 and Jennings Park 2 - Pitch required ‘Good’ Standard ➢ Jack Mackin Park – Pitch required ‘Good’ standard ➢ Norman Brown Park – Pitch required ➢ Derryleckagh W Davis Street and Derryleckagh Olympic Park – Pitch required ‘Standard’ quality ➢ Derryleckagh P Barry Park – Pitch required at ‘Good’ Standard ➢ St Michael’s Gaelic requires an extra pitch per week at a ‘Good’ Standard and raise current ‘Standard’ pitch to ‘Good’. ➢ Milltown Park - Pitch required ‘Good’ standard ➢ Dunleath Park – raise both existing pitches to ‘Standard’ quality ➢ Drumaness Soccer – raise the existing pitch to ‘Good’ quality ➢ Ardglass – current pitch needs to be raised to a ‘Standard’ Standard ➢ Killough – current pitch needs to be raised to a ‘Standard’ Standard ➢ Strangford – current pitch needs to be raised to ‘Good’ Standard ➢ Castlewellan – needs pitch raised to a ‘Good’ Standard ➢ Annsborough – current pitch needs to be raised from standard of pitch to ‘Good’ Standard ➢ Dundrum (Newcastle) - requires drainage works. ➢ Langley Road – needs additional drainage works. ➢ Kilbroney Park – raise both existing pitches to ‘Standard’ quality <p>It should be noted with a possible provision of specific DEA Hubs and the development of AGP pitches the need for the 58 grass pitches may no longer be required and the upgrading requirements of the pitches listed above will have to be re-evaluated as the DEA Hubs shall provide sufficient facilities for all current usage.</p>

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FACILITY TYPE	FACILITY NEEDS/PRIORITIES																																																	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are a number of playing pitch facilities leased to different Clubs. A number of Clubs have also requested leases at a number of sites these are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Milltown Gaelic Pitch, Pavilion and Car Park - Request (Warrenpoint GAA) ➤ Nan Sands Park Soccer - Request (Saval GAA) ➤ Mona View Green 5 Aside - Request (Annalong Community Group) ➤ Gerry Brown Park Gaelic Pitch - Request (Mitchell's GAA) ➤ Lisdrumliska Recreation Area/Pitch (Glen Hill) - Request (Newry Rugby Club) ➤ Shandon Park/Norman Brown Park Soccer Pitch - Request (Damolly F/C) ➤ Annsborough Playing Fields - Request (Aughlisnafin GAA) ➤ Murdock Soccer Pitch - Request (Forkhill GAA) ➤ St. Michael's Gaelic Pitch - Request (St Michael's GAA) <p>The Strategy has identified a need to undertake refurbishment or renewal works on the following outdoor recreational changing/pavilions.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="295 746 2072 1375"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="295 746 891 790">PITCH</th> <th data-bbox="891 746 1482 790">REFURBISH/UPGRADE CHANGING/PAVILION</th> <th data-bbox="1482 746 2072 790">REPLACE CHANGING/PAVILION</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Derryleckagh W Davis Street</td> <td>Needs upgraded</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Derryleckagh P Barry Park</td> <td>Needs upgraded</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Derryleckagh Olympic Park</td> <td>Needs upgraded</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Milltown Park</td> <td></td> <td>Poor, needs to be replaced</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mourne Esplanade Pitch</td> <td>Needs upgraded</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dunleath Park Pitches</td> <td>Needs upgraded</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ardglass</td> <td>Needs upgraded</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ballykinlar</td> <td>Needs upgraded</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rosconnor Pitch Annacloy</td> <td>Needs upgraded</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Donard Pitches Donard Park</td> <td>Needs upgraded</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dundrum</td> <td>Needs upgraded</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Castlewellan</td> <td>Needs upgraded</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Annsborough</td> <td>Needs upgraded</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Langley Road Pitches</td> <td>Needs upgraded</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kilbroney Park</td> <td></td> <td>Needs facilities</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		PITCH	REFURBISH/UPGRADE CHANGING/PAVILION	REPLACE CHANGING/PAVILION	Derryleckagh W Davis Street	Needs upgraded		Derryleckagh P Barry Park	Needs upgraded		Derryleckagh Olympic Park	Needs upgraded		Milltown Park		Poor, needs to be replaced	Mourne Esplanade Pitch	Needs upgraded		Dunleath Park Pitches	Needs upgraded		Ardglass	Needs upgraded		Ballykinlar	Needs upgraded		Rosconnor Pitch Annacloy	Needs upgraded		Donard Pitches Donard Park	Needs upgraded		Dundrum	Needs upgraded		Castlewellan	Needs upgraded		Annsborough	Needs upgraded		Langley Road Pitches	Needs upgraded		Kilbroney Park		Needs facilities
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TENNIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision of a bubble to provide all year round tennis should be provided at Newry Tennis Club/Newcastle Tennis Club. • The following tennis changing/pavilions need to be upgraded or replaced. 																																																	

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

FACILITY TYPE		FACILITY NEEDS/PRIORITIES		
		FACILITY	REFURBISH/UPGRADE CHANGING/PAVILION	REPLACE CHANGING/PAVILION
		Warrenpoint Tennis shared with Gaelic		Portacabin needs to be replaced
		Annalong Bowling and Tennis	Needs to be upgraded	
		Newcastle Tennis – Island Park	Needs to be upgraded	
BOWLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider offering Clubs a new pavilion with an artificial bowls green to manage the facility and lease the facility for 25 years. The cost of the artificial bowls green could be recovered in 3 years and maintenance funds diverted for other grass pitch maintenance. The following bowls changing/pavilions need to be upgraded or replaced. 			
		FACILITY	REFURBISH/UPGRADE CHANGING/PAVILION	REPLACE CHANGING/PAVILION
		Warrenpoint Bowling Green		Portacabin needs to be replaced
		Annalong Bowling and Tennis	Needs to be upgraded	
		Newcastle Bowls Club Castle Park		Needs to be replaced
		Kilkeel Bowling Pavilion	Needs to be upgraded and extended	
ATHLETICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a need for an athletic facility in and around Downpatrick/Newcastle. A 6 lane track in partnership and shared with a school would be the most sensible option. 			
WATER SPORTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation identified that the District could benefit from enhanced yachting and wet sports facilities at various harbours but specifically Annalong, Newcastle and Dundrum. There could be improved use of Newry Canal as wet sports centre – canoeing etc – Better use of disused quarries for diving and water sports. The Leisure and Sports Development Department should consider a joint study with tourism to enhance existing water sports and develop new water sports facilities across Newry, Mourne and Down. 			
WALKING AND NATIONAL CYCLE NETWORK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific opportunities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of an iconic coastal path similar to the one in Wales (round the Welsh Coast) as part of the Community Paths Network, which would provide safe and accessible walking, along the coastal areas from Donegal to Carlingford Lough, Causeway Coast and Glens and County Down. Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI) states that every time a new walking route is established, it results in a massive increase in usage. The Wales Coast Path generated 2.82m visitors in its first 12 months of operation and added £32m to the Wales economy, as well as significantly raising the profile of Wales through national and international media. Development of a national network of Riverside Paths (based on a partnership between ORNI, Department for Communities, Inland 			

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FACILITY TYPE	FACILITY NEEDS/PRIORITIES
	<p>Waterways, Waterways Ireland, Loughs Agency, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency and Sport NI); following the implementation of the EU Protection of Water Framework Directive, there is a significant opportunity to create riverside and woodland trails alongside existing rivers. A tree belt has to be planted 10m from the riverside, which could create such family friendly routes for both cycling and walking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There is an identified need to review and further develop the National Cycle Network including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maximising the potential of current greenways; developing new linear greenways; and ➤ Developing greenway links to communities. ● Projects identified in the ORNI Action Plan/Operational Review 2015 include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Outdoor Sports Hubs – Sperrins, Mournes, Causeway Coast and Glens. ➤ Off-road coastal walking route from Portavogie to Kilkeel. ➤ Mountain bike trails and walking trails. ➤ There is also a proposed Mourne coastal route pathway
SPORTS HUBS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ From the work undertaken in this Strategy regarding sports provision and the identified perceived need by Sports Clubs for artificial grass pitches and grass pitches along with other sports provision, provides the opportunity to consider the development locally of facilities which provide for 4-5 different sports on one site. These could facilitate increased participation at community level and potentially be more efficient and effective to operate given that revenue costs could be spread across the facility operation and remove the need for duplication of infrastructure e.g. car parking, across a number of sites. ➤ It is proposed to provide a Sports Hub in each of the DEAs over a period of time. ➤ The provision of a Sports Hub would be required to meet certain criteria. This is to ensure sustainability and meet Sport NI key principles of providing Sports Hubs across NI. <p>The proposed sports hub criteria is as follows:</p>

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FACILITY TYPE	FACILITY NEEDS/PRIORITIES				
	CRITERIA	SITE NAME	SITE NAME	SITE NAME	SITE NAME
	<p>1. The proposed development must have considered the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The perceived needs of Newry, Mourne and Down Sports Clubs identified within the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Sports Facility Strategy. ii. Other Local Authorities Sports Facility developments and strategies and iii. The Northern Ireland 10 year Sports Facility Plan 2016. <p>Meets Sport NI KP1, KP2, KP3 and KP5</p>	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No
	CRITERIA	SITE NAME	SITE NAME	SITE NAME	SITE NAME
	<p>2. Is the land currently in the ownership of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council or Education Ownership (reduced land holding costs)</p> <p>Use of Education sites meets Sport NI KP7</p>	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No
	<p>3. Proposed Sports Hub is already known as a sport and leisure destination and has some existing sports and leisure facilities (previously known as a sports destination)</p>	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No
	<p>4. The proposed Sports Hub must have a high proportion of population within a 20 minute drive time in the individual DEA (Major catchment) with accessible transport routes to and from.</p> <p>Meets Sport NI KP3</p>	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No
	<p>5. Does the sports hub provide the opportunity to provide for high performance facilities?</p> <p>Meets Sport NI KP5</p>	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No

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FACILITY TYPE	FACILITY NEEDS/PRIORITIES				
	<p>6. Partnership arrangements must be in place for the operation and use of the Sports Hub (This could be Local Authority, Education and Schools, Sports Clubs or Community Centres).</p> <p>Minimum of 4 different Sports Clubs and sports to be involved in the partnership.</p> <p>All Sports Club users must be Members of SAND</p> <p>Meets Sport NI KP2, KP3 and KP7 (if education site utilised).</p>	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No
	<p>7. A sustainable business case with a long term sports development plan must be in place with a sink fund for the provision of 3G pitches at any Sports Hub</p> <p>Meets Sport NI KP4</p>	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No
OTHER	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure that provision of sports facilities and participative opportunities are a priority in the Newry, Mourne and Down Community Plan, so that wherever possible planning gain resources can be secured for investment at local level. 2. Potentially some support for Club-led projects identified in the consultation process of this strategy. (Could be to assist with match funding for grant applications, or a one-off capital grant). 3. Clubs and organisations need capacity building and guidance on how to apply for funding. 4. Investment in areas of under provision particularly rural areas – Multi Use Games Areas (This links with Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Play Strategy). 5. Review of existing Community Centres – How they can provide for sport and physical activity in the rural areas. 				

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION 1

A feasibility study is undertaken to consider the options for the Newcastle Centre and sports facilities in Newcastle in the future.

RECOMMENDATION 2

Consider providing additional and improving 'Poor' and 'Standard' quality rated playing pitches soccer and Gaelic to meet a 'Good' standard of provision which allows for pitches to have the capacity to provide for 3 games a week.

RECOMMENDATION 3

The Council to provide refurbished or new pavilion changing rooms where the strategy has identified the need at outdoor sports facilities.

RECOMMENDATION 4

The Council to provide capacity building, funding application and business and sports development planning advice to Sports Clubs and sports and community organisations.

RECOMMENDATION 5

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to consider the opportunity to designate a multi-sport hub within each of the DEAs. Sports Hubs would need to meet certain criteria identified within this Strategy. Where possible designation of a multi sports hub should also involve the provision of support services for High Performance training, operating as a satellite from the Sport Institute Northern Ireland (SINI). (There are a number of management proposals to look at and a need to talk to Clubs every hub would be different as each DEA is different).

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

DEA	SITE LOCATION	PRIORITY SCORING	CURRENT STATUS
Crotlieve	St Mark's/St Peter's GAA	1	Planning permission has been approved and Partnership agreed.
Slieve Gullion	No Sites Identified	-	-
Rowallane	Assumption Grammar	1	Existing community use and all stakeholders to be established.
Rowallane	Active Saintfield	1	Initial stage of identifying Partnerships and funding.
Downpatrick	Down High School	2	Initial stage of identifying Partnerships and funding. Restricted in number of sports.
Mournes	Kilkeel High School/Leisure Centre	1	Initial stage of identifying Partnerships and stakeholders.
Mournes	Donard Park, Newcastle	2	Initial stage of identifying Partnerships and funding. Restricted in number of sports.
Mournes	St Louis Grammar	1	Initial stage of identifying Partnerships and stakeholders.
Newry	Newry High School	2	Initial stage of identifying Partnerships and funding. Restricted in number of sports.
Newry	St Joseph's High School	2	Initial stage of identifying Partnerships and funding. Restricted in number of sports.
Newry	Newry Leisure Centre	1	Initial stage of identifying Partnerships and stakeholders.
Slieve Croob	Ballynahinch Rugby Club	1	Initial stage of identifying Partnerships and stakeholders.

RECOMMENDATION 6

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council undertakes a review of its community centres to assess the options for the long term of sports and physical activity provision at these facilities; as well as the locations for future provision, given the population growth expected.

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

RECOMMENDATION 7

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council works with external partners to develop outdoor provision comprising walking and cycling routes/trails linking sports facilities and transport.

RECOMMENDATION 8

Areas of population growth/areas without access to other formal sports facilities should have access to a MUGA or outdoor recreational grass sports area as minimum provision.

RECOMMENDATION 9

Partnership working should underpin all future investment in sports facility provision to ensure it 'fits' with and addresses identified needs of the district and can maximise access to and securing of, all available external and internal funding opportunities.

RECOMMENDATION 10

Newry, Mourne and Down should consult and work with neighbouring authorities and other providers on an ongoing basis on future sports facility provision to ensure there is no duplication of provision.

RECOMMENDATION 11

Consider a partnership approach to the development of a bubble to cover 2 tennis courts at either Newry Tennis Club or Newcastle tennis Club to provide a facility within the local authority that provides for all year round tennis.

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

RECOMMENDATION 12

Consider a shared approach with a school to deliver a 400m 6 lane track with ancillary facilities in the Downpatrick/Newcastle area.

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC) Sports Facility Strategy (the 'Strategy') provides a framework for the future prioritisation, development and provision of sports facilities at local level, to meet identified community need. The Strategy has been developed during a period of significant change in Northern Ireland (NI); the implementation of the Review of Public Administration (RPA), reducing Council areas from 26 to 11 (from 1 April 2015), the introduction of Community Planning as a statutory responsibility of public bodies and the re-organisation and restructuring of Governmental Departments, roles and remit have all taken place, or are in process. The Strategy is therefore both an important means of contributing to the above, but also represents a significant opportunity as a result of these changes.

STRATEGY PURPOSE AND RATIONALE

- 1.2. The purpose of the Strategy is to identify the strategic need for:

➤ **Sports facilities in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council**

- 1.3. The Strategy rationale is to develop a framework for the future prioritisation and development of sports facilities, based on identified need, increasing participation, addressing health inequalities and other local specific factors.
- 1.4. The focus of the facilities analysis has been sports halls of 3 courts or above (except those on education sites), pools of 20m and above, health and fitness suites of 20 stations and above and full size Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs), together with other facilities specific to each local area.
- 1.5. The Strategy reflects the wider – NI 10 Year Plan for the provision of Strategic Sports Facility Strategy for Northern Ireland (2015), which focuses on the need for future provision that are of cultural significance, as well as those that provide for high performance training and competition. These facilities contribute to the vision and targets set out within strategic documents such as the Programme for Government (2011-2021), Building a Better Future (2011-15) and Sport Matters, the Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation (2009-19).
- 1.6. At local level, the identification of need for sports facility provision is also aligned to the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Corporate Plan 2015-2019 and the new Community Planning process.
- 1.7. In an environment of unprecedented change for Northern Ireland and particularly where resources are limited, the need for a Strategic Plan, which identifies priorities for provision and investment at local level, is important.
- 1.8. This Strategy will inform the development of an evidence-based approach to strategic planning for and development of sports facilities at local level, to optimise their value and benefits. The restructuring of the District Council boundaries (Review of Public Administration (RPA)) implemented on 1 April 2015 provides a unique opportunity and some interesting challenges, to instigate and instill, an improved strategic culture to sports facility planning in Northern Ireland.

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

- 1.9. The Strategy will speak to and engage all stakeholders involved in the planning, development and delivery of sports facilities in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, to inform a coherent future approach, which will make best use of all available resources.

VISION, AIM, OBJECTIVES

- 1.10. The Vision underpinning the Strategy is:

‘Development of an evidence based assessment of facility need, which will inform and prioritise future investment in and development of, a network of high quality sports facilities, addressing the needs for increased community participation in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council’.

- 1.11. The Strategy Aim is to develop a strategic framework for the future provision of sports facilities in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. This identifies the need for provision and the priorities for investment into sports facilities, informed by evidence of need, consultation with key stakeholders and a supply and demand analysis.

- 1.12. The Strategy Objectives are:

- **To identify the existing range of facilities providing at local level in Newry, Mourne and Down.**
- **To undertake consultation with strategic stakeholders to identify current and future facility needs and locations.**
- **To undertake a supply and demand assessment to identify gaps in current provision, plus future needs.**
- **To develop a facility framework reflecting identified current and future community needs.**
- **To link this strategic framework where relevant to the network of local sports facilities.**
- **To develop a set of strategic principles underpinning all future investment in sports facilities.**
- **To link the identified sports facility needs in Newry, Mourne and Down into the priorities identified at national level, where appropriate.**
- **To recommend priority investment(s) in sports facility provision in Newry, Mourne and Down.**

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

OUTCOMES

1.13. The Strategy outcomes will be:

- **Identification of the future approach required to plan strategically in Newry, Mourne and Down District for the provision of sports facilities, at local level, setting out the principles behind the future approach to provision, partnership, investment and delivery, as well as identifying priorities for new development and refurbishment.**
- **Identification of clear priorities for investment.**

APPROACH TO STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

1.14. This is one of 11 Local Strategies to be developed in the context of the NI-wide work. A consistent approach to developing the Local Strategies has been undertaken and is summarised below:

- **Review of Strategic Context e.g. Community Planning, NI 10 Year Plan for the provision of Strategic Sports Facilities.**
- **Audit of existing provision with the main focus on pools, halls, health and fitness and artificial pitches (AGPs); each Local Strategy also identifies any specific facility needs and requirements.**
- **Development of the Sports Facility Data Hub, which builds on the database established in Bridging the Gap and for the first time, incorporates some data on education facilities.**
- **Local Consultation – Clubs, Local Authorities, Schools, key local stakeholders; it is important to highlight that each Local Strategy consultation process was designed and developed by the Council, reflecting their knowledge of the area and stakeholders; the consultancy team facilitated the consultation process and analysed the feedback received, which is very different in each of the 11 areas. Some areas had larger responses to Focus Group consultation than others and conversely, others received significant feedback via telephone and email.**
- **Analysis of supply and demand.**
- **Development of Evidence of Need.**
- **Identification of key issues, needs, opportunities and challenges for each specific locality and community.**
- **Strategy Development.**

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

- 1.15. The quantitative analysis for both national and local strategies is a key element in defining both the current baseline facility supply and whether this meets the current needs of the population, as well as informing future priorities. The approach to data collection has been to develop a bespoke online database portal that each Council and governing body was able to log in to and input or verify information in a structured and prescribed format. Using Sport NI's Active Places as a basis, this approach enhances the completeness, accuracy and reliability of the data, as well as giving Council's ownership of their own information, from which analysis and mapping has been undertaken. A standardised central database also means analysis and benchmarking can take place across authorities, which is particularly relevant when considering cross-boundary supply and usage of facilities.
- 1.16. It is key that these strategies help deliver positive outcomes on an ongoing basis and one of the key benefits of this approach is to provide a legacy to Sport NI, all the associated national governing bodies and each Council. The Data Hub can be used as an ongoing 'live' tool through which all stakeholders can maintain and access an accurate, up to date audit of facilities, as well as using it as a central point around which facility planning models, national benchmarking and other research projects can be based. Following completion of the strategies the project team intends to work with stakeholders to ensure this tool remains as effective as possible going forwards.
- 1.17. Limitations to the strategic planning work undertaken include:
- **The fact that every grass pitch could not be visited and for this reason, these Local Strategies focus on headline issues/needs with grass pitches.**
 - **Unless information was made available through the consultation process, assumptions have been made about the scale of education facilities i.e. halls are assumed to be 3 court unless otherwise stated**
 - **Education facilities that are available for community use have been identified on a local Council area basis, where this knowledge was available, or has been identified through the consultation process**
- 1.18. Thanks to the Members and Officers of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and to Sport NI Officers for their support and advice in the development of this Strategy.

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

2. STRATEGY CONTEXT

- 2.1 A number of important changes in the approach to facility investment and development are required in NI, to ensure there is a strategic rationale behind and informing investment. These changes translate into a number of key principles (highlighted in the 2015 10 Year NI Plan for the provision of Strategic Sports Facilities), which should underpin all future facility planning for, investment in and delivery of sports facilities in NI.

FUTURE PRINCIPLES FOR THE PROVISION OF SPORTS FACILITIES (SOURCE: NI SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY)

Planning for future provision should apply these principles:

- KP1.** Proposed sports facilities should take account of the Northern Ireland 10 Year Sports Facility Plan 2016 and the 11 associated District Council Area Reports.
- KP2.** Proposed sports facilities should be collaboratively planned to reduce duplication, displacement and encourage shared use.
- KP3.** Sports facilities should be appropriately planned and designed to ensure a wide range of users and utilisation.
- KP4.** Proposed sports facilities should be accompanied by a long-term Sports Development Plan to ensure viability and future sustainability.
- KP5.** High performance facilities in GB or RoI should be considered when exploring the potential for similar provision in Northern Ireland.
- KP6.** Priority should be given to the development/improvement of multi-facility hubs, including the provision of a range of synthetic turf pitches.
- KP7.** Where possible new and/or improved school sports facilities should be designed and managed in a way that enables community use.

(Source: NI 10 Year Sports Facility Plan 2015)

- 2.2 The 10 year NI Sports Facility Plan 2015 sets out a number of recommendations for facilities of NI wide and cultural significance and for those providing for high performance training and competition. The recommendations stress the need for an evidence-based approach to the future planning for sports facilities, based on need, to ensure that investment is strategic and will deliver sustainable provision, benefitting communities across NI.
- 2.3 A number of sports are prioritised based on need, performance to date at international and national level and future potential. Other sports are highlighted for investment should resources become available. The input and partnership of Governing Bodies will be important in confirming future investment in prioritised sports.

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

- 2.4 An important recommendation is the identification of the need for a strategically-located, multi-facility hub in each new Council area. This aims to address challenges of accessibility to both facilities and critically support services for elite athletes, but also provides the opportunity to consider the development locally of facilities which provide for 4-5 different sports on one site. These could facilitate increased participation at community level and potentially be more efficient and effective to operate given that revenue costs could be spread across the facility operation and remove the need for duplication of infrastructure e.g. car parking, across a number of sites. Given the geography of NI and the existing sports facility infrastructure in place, it is also recognised that for some Councils their Multi-Facility Hub already exists, or may be best delivered through a number of linked sites.
- 2.5 Specific recommendations are also made in relation to the future secured community use of sports facilities on education sites, the fact that all 3Gs/synthetic pitches need to be developed with floodlights to maximise access and usage and a number of potential locations for future development.

BRIDGING THE GAP- ACTIVE PLACES RESEARCH 2009

- 2.6 Bridging the Gap – Active Places Research 2009 and its subsequent update in 2014, have also informed the Strategy and provides the baseline facility database which has been verified and updated as part of this work (using the Data Hub – see paragraph 1.15).
- 2.7 The 2009, ‘Bridging the Gap’ Active Places research report, produced by Sport NI (SNI), assessed the adequacy of existing sports facility provision (excluding education facilities), in Northern Ireland’s 26 former and 11 proposed District Council areas by comparison with National Facility Standards and/or the facility demand of potential users (determined by the Facilities Planning Model (FPM)).
- 2.8 ‘Bridging the Gap’ established three general findings:
- 1. There is a significant shortfall in sports facility provision in Northern Ireland**
 - 2. The deficit in provision is not uniform**
 - 3. There are a number of areas for concern regarding provision, particularly in relation to quality, quantity, accessibility, condition, universal access and specification**
- 2.9 Although ‘Bridging the Gap 2009’ identified significant need for sports facilities throughout Northern Ireland, the research stopped short of identifying where new or refurbished sports facility provision should be developed or located. The Programme for Government, Together Building a United Community, the Corporate Plan of the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL), Sport Matters and SNI’s Corporate Plan identify a number of Government priorities that set the direction for investment in sport and physical recreation, because sport contributes to a range of wider social, economic and cultural needs. Sport improves community health and well-being and can contribute to reducing inequalities in child poverty and social deprivation, as well as ensuring equality of opportunity.
- 2.10 The 2014 Update to Bridging the Gap re-calculated need for a number of specific facility types, to illustrate progress in developing the sports facility infrastructure in NI; the analysis still identifies a significant shortfall in provision, however, particularly in terms of playing pitches.

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

2.11 There are a number of other key NI policy documents, which have informed this Strategy. These include:

- **Sport Matters – a culture of lifelong enjoyment and success in sport – DCAL and Sport NI (2009)**
- **Grassroots Sport in Northern Ireland: A summary of participation and potential challenges – Northern Ireland Assembly (2012)**
- **A Fitter Future For All - Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (2012)**
- **The Economic Importance of Sport in Northern Ireland – DCAL and Sport NI (2008)**
- **Regional Development Strategy 2035 – Department for Regional Development (2012)**
- **Your School, Your Club: A Practical Guide to Achieving Community Use of School Sports Facilities – Sport NI (2014)**

THE COMMUNITY PLANNING AGENDA AND HOW THIS STRATEGY WILL CONTRIBUTE

- 2.12 One of the major new initiatives launched to coincide with RPA and one that has expanded Council remits, is the introduction of community planning at national and local level. Community Planning will provide the new national and local agenda for investment, development and delivery. Sport and physical activity have a critical role in terms of increasing participation, reducing inequalities in community and individual health, contributing to cultural diversity and delivering social cohesion; the need for sports facilities and investment in sporting infrastructure need to be prioritised through the process of community planning at local level.
- 2.13 A key element of RPA will see the Councils given a power of 'general competence'. According to the Northern Ireland Executive, this power of 'general competence' allows Councils to do anything, which they consider is likely to promote or improve the wellbeing of their areas and/or persons in it. In addition, Councils have been given community planning responsibilities. Community planning is "A process led by Councils in conjunction with partners and communities to develop and implement a shared vision for their area, which relates to all aspects of community life and which also involves working together to plan and deliver better services".
- 2.14 Councils will have a statutory responsibility to lead community planning. Elected members will have an important role in the process, working with the Council's partners to involve local people and communities in the development of the shared vision. Community planning can bring benefits in terms of easier to access, better integrated, local services; more effective collaboration across the public sector; better use of public resources; higher standards of public service and willingness to innovate and learn from others.

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

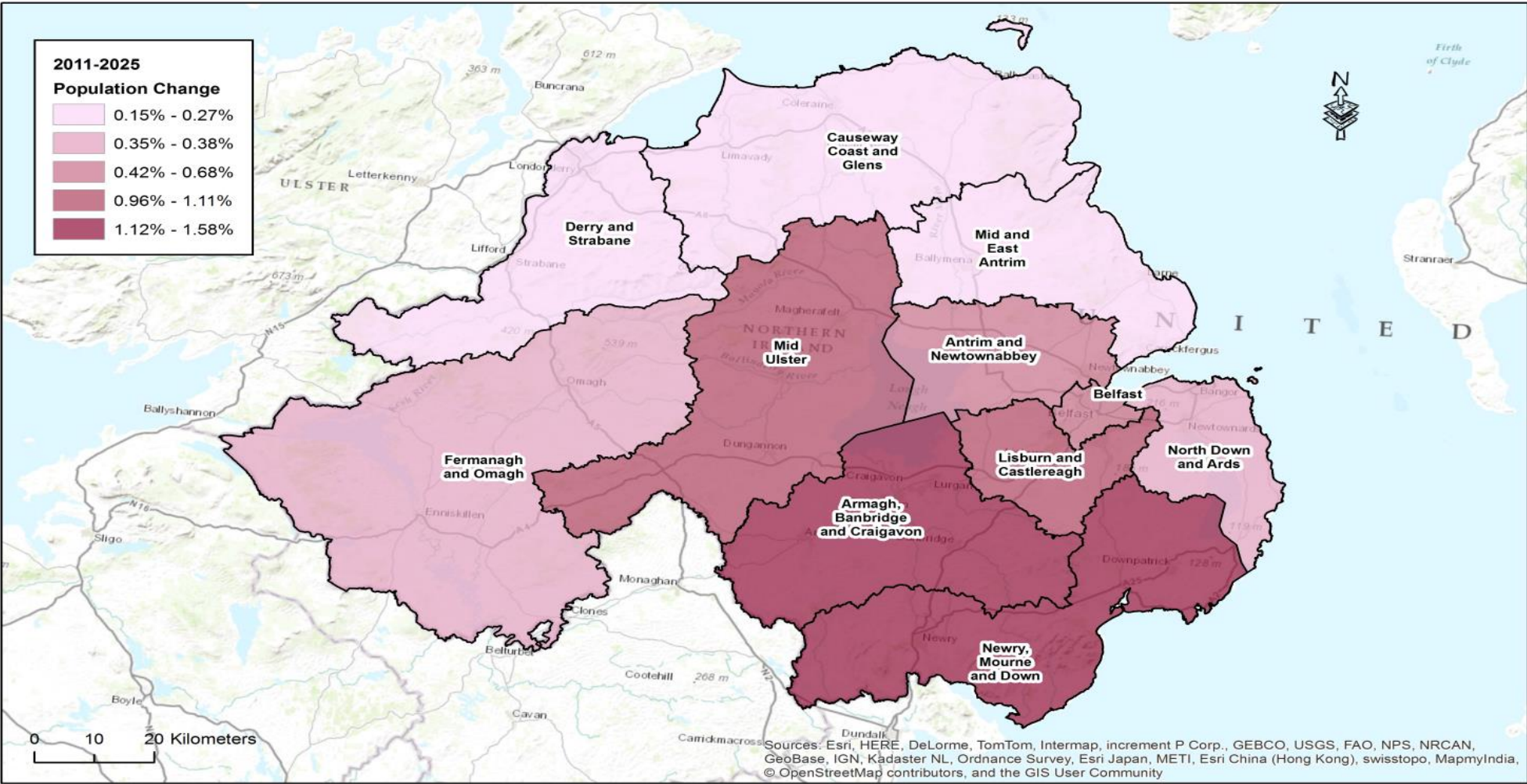
POPULATION GROWTH

POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHIC CONTEXT IN NORTHERN IRELAND

- 2.15 The population of NI is 1,810,683 (Census 2011, figures as of June 2014). Annual figures produced by Northern Ireland Statistics Research Agency (NISRA) show that the current population trend in Northern Ireland is one of growth. This is partly a result of the birth rate being higher than the death rate, resulting in natural population growth, (which since 2000 has averaged over 9,100 per year) and is partly due to net migration, which although this has been net outward migration since 2010, has still contributed to an additional c. 33,500 residents since the turn of the Millennium.
- 2.16 Over the decade 2012-2022, the population of Northern Ireland is projected to increase by 5.2 per cent (i.e. 94,900 people), reaching 1,918,500 people in 2022. The Northern Ireland population is projected to reach 2 million people in 2036.
- 2.17 An important demographic trend is the ageing of the population, which is evident from several key indicators:
- **The growth of the population aged 65 and over (26.0 per cent) is projected to be substantially larger than that of the remainder of the population (1.5 per cent) in the period 2012-2022;**
 - **The number of people aged 65 and over is projected to exceed the number of children (i.e. those aged under 16) from mid-2027 onwards; and**
 - **The median age is projected to rise from 37.6 years in 2012 to 39.8 years in 2022.**(Source: NI Statistical Research Centre (NISRA) October 2014)
- 2.18 NI population growth is illustrated in Map 2.1.

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Map 2.1: Population Change in NI



Population Change (2011-2025)

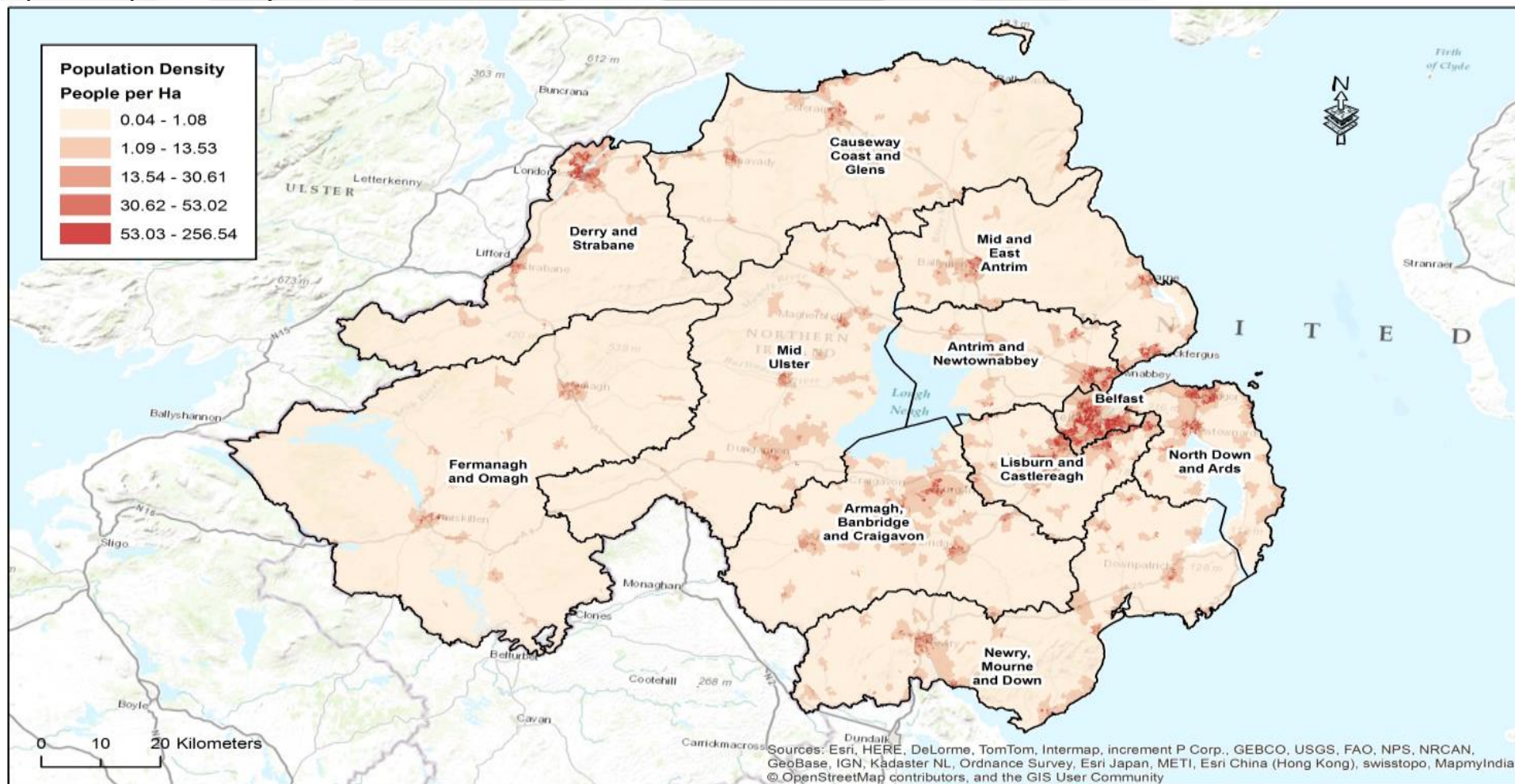


SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

- 2.19 The Office for National Statistics (ONS) predicts that this trend of population growth is set to continue. It is estimated that the population of Northern Ireland is set to rise above the two million mark for the first time by 2036, based on current estimates. The ONS predicts that population growth will then reduce, from growing at a rate of approximately 10,000 people per annum, from 2017-2019, to a rate of approximately 5,000 per annum from around 2030.
- 2.20 It is acknowledged that these figures are just estimates and that they may change over time. However, there are clear signs that the population has been growing and it is anticipated that this trend of growth is likely to continue. This growth, both in the birth rate and the possible pressures of inward migration create pressures on the capacity of sports and leisure facilities.
- 2.21 As the population continues to increase, inevitably demand will also increase, particularly around the usages of sports pitches and swimming pools – given the evidence that suggests the popularity of sports such as swimming and football. As the population grows, there is a need to ensure that the NI sport and leisure infrastructure is able to cope with ever-increasing demand.
- 2.22 Map 2.2 illustrates the population density of NI; this is likely to be further intensified as the population grows. As is clear from Map 2.3, the highest levels of population are clustered around the main urban centres of Belfast, Derry and Lisburn. This is also where, based on Map 2.3, the highest levels of deprivation are found. In addition to these areas, there is significant deprivation in the extreme West and Centre of NI.

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Map 2.2: NI Population Density

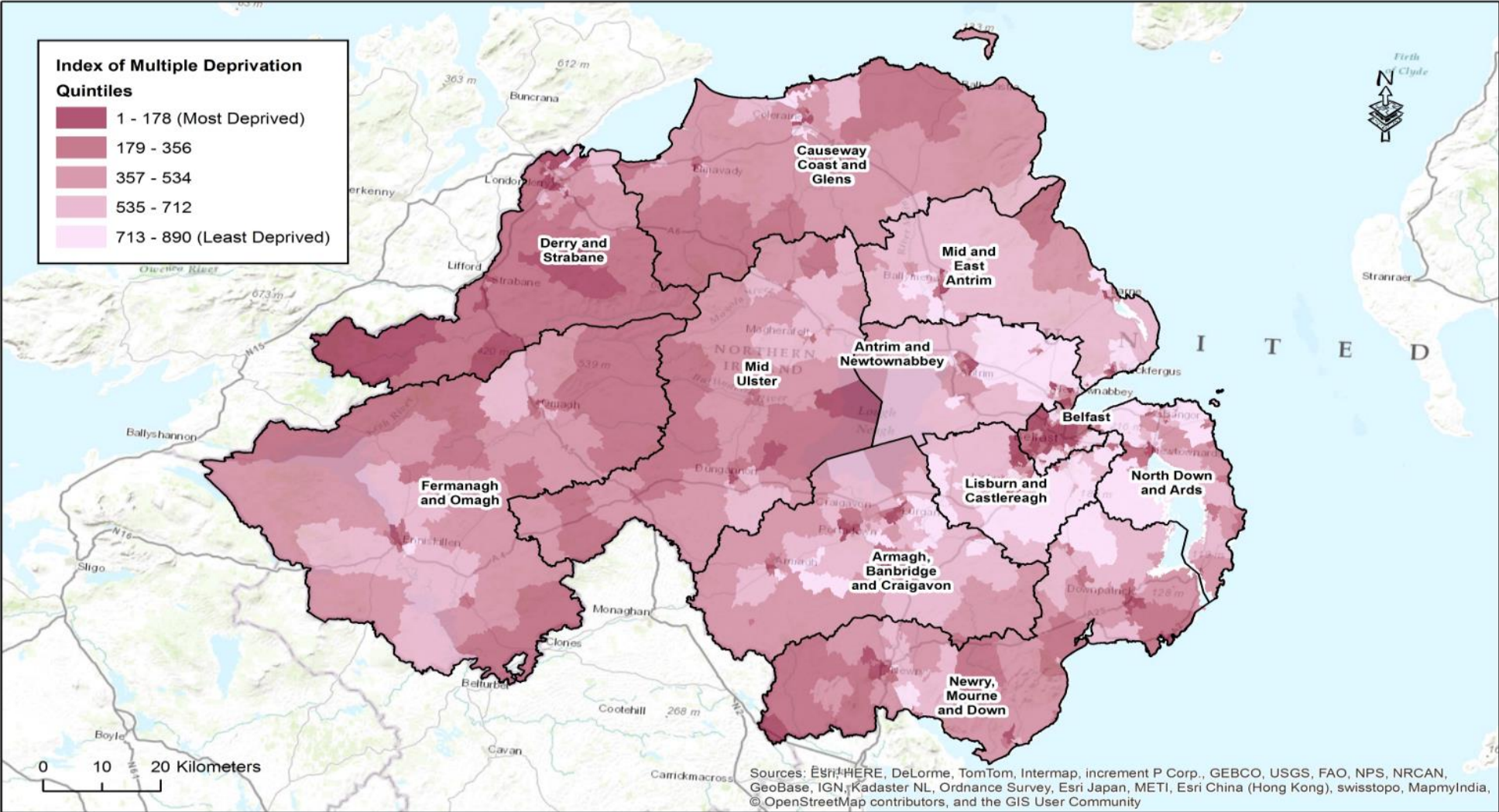


Population Density



SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Map 2.3: NI Index of Multiple Deprivation



Index of Multiple Deprivation



SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL CONTEXT – NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN

- 2.23 Newry, Mourne and Down District Council are the third largest Council area in Northern Ireland. Although primarily made up of the former Newry and Mourne and Down District Council areas, the new Council also includes the electoral ward of Ballyward which has transferred from the former Banbridge District Council area.
- 2.24 The District Council covers the Southeast of Northern Ireland including southern County Armagh and large parts of County Down and incorporates all of the Mourne Mountains Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and has an extensive coastline stretching from Strangford Lough to Carlingford Lough and border counties Louth and Monaghan in the Republic of Ireland.
- 2.25 Newry has direct access to the main Belfast-Dublin road and rail routes whilst the A2 dual carriageway runs from Newry to Warrenpoint. Road connectivity within the new district is poor – particularly between Newry and Downpatrick, the two main population hubs.
- 2.26 The 2015 population estimate for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Area is 175,974 (Source: Community Plan Base Line Information). The District Council has 7 District Electoral Areas. These area and their population are:

➤ Slieve Gullion	26,388
➤ Newry	28,456
➤ Crotlieve	25,554
➤ The Mournes	30,843
➤ Slieve Croob	20,373
➤ Downpatrick	22,291
➤ Rowallane	22,069

- 2.27 The Newry, Mourne and Down area is shown in Map 2.4.

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Map 2.4: Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and the seven district electoral areas



SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

- 2.28 Within the area, Newry (26,893) and Downpatrick (10,874) are the two largest towns accounting for 16% and 6% of the area's population respectively. Newry is defined as a City and Downpatrick as a medium town according to NISRA. The area also has a number of small towns including Warrenpoint/Burren (8,819), Newcastle (7,743), Kilkeel (6,521) and Ballynahinch (5,715).
- 2.29 A summary of Newry, Mourne and Down Districts Council's demographic profile is set out in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1: Demographic Summary – Newry, Mourne and Down

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTIC	NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN SUMMARY
CURRENT POPULATION	Population 175,974 (2015)
FUTURE POPULATION	Population is growing; predicted to 187,800 by 2022 (increase of 8.1% or 14,100 people from 2012) and to 205,000 by 2037 (increase of 18% or 31,300 people from 2012)
POPULATION DENSITY	Low population density at 1.6 people per hectare, but higher than NI average of 1.3 people per hectare
DEPRIVATION	Is the third most deprived area in NI. The Super Output Areas (SOAs) which rank in the Top 100 most deprived in terms of multiple deprivations include Ballymote (59 th), Drumgullion (71 st), Ballybot (91 st) and Daisy Hill 1 (95 th). The least deprived ward is Saintfield with 552.
ETHNICITY PROFILE	1.1% of ethnic minority residents, the fourth lowest level in NI
AGE PROFILE	Although NI has a younger population overall than England, Wales and Scotland, the population is ageing; older people will become a larger % of the population in the future. The median population age in Newry, Mourne and Down is 36; half of the area's population is older than this and half is younger. Newry, Mourne and Down have one of the youngest populations in NI.
CAR OWNERSHIP	15% of the population has no car; compared with 22.7% of the NI population that has no car; 41.9% of the population has at least one car, compared with 41.38% of the NI population which has at least 1 car.
HOUSEHOLDS	76% of the population is an owner-occupier; this is a higher level than the NI wide figure of 66.90%
EMPLOYMENT	According to annual figures for 2014, at 4.6% the new Council has the joint third highest percentage of residents on the unemployment claimant count (alongside Causeway Coast and Glens). This represents 5,050 claimants. The NI average for 2014 stood at 4.6%.

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTIC	NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN SUMMARY
HEALTH PROFILE	Has the highest percentage of people who are in very good health (50.32%). 70.1% of people have no long-term health problems, the second highest of all the eleven Councils in Northern Ireland. There are two major hospitals, Daisy Hill in Newry City and the Downe in Downpatrick. The challenge is to at least maintain performance in these areas but at the same time tackle high levels of health inequalities as well as anti-social behaviour in areas of disadvantage, poverty and a tradition of dependency.
OBESITY LEVELS	In common with the rest of the UK, rates of adult and childhood obesity are increasing; the new Health Survey for Northern Ireland 2013/14 showed that 61% of adults were either overweight (37%) or obese (24%)

(Source: LCCC Corporate Plan 2015-17; NI Assembly Research and Information Service Research Paper Local Government Districts 2014 (based on Census 2011, information as at 09.06.14) and NISRA Statistical Bulletin, Theme Population October 2014)

2.30 Key statistics relating to the future population of the area include:

- **The total population is projected to increase to 191,282 in 2025 and to 205,000.**
- **The number of children (i.e. those aged under 16) is projected to increase from 39,740 in 2015 to 41,924 in 2025 and then to reduce slightly in 2037 to 40,811.**
- **The working age population is projected to increase from 109,777 in 2015 to 117,398 in 2025 and then to increase to 121,102 in 2037.**
- **The number of those aged 65 and over is projected to increase from 28,378 in 2015 to 32,511 in 2025 and to 42,358 in 2037.**

2.31 It is clear from the above population data that Newry, Mourne and Down has a growing, if ageing, population, the majority of whom are in good health. Most people are in employment and own their own home and there are areas of deprivation. Levels of car ownership are high, which means that the population is mobile. The number of those under 16 is set to increase, as will the number of older people; both age cohorts will need to be catered for in terms of access to opportunities to be physically active.

2.32 These factors point to a community which is, in the main, able to access sports facilities and opportunities to be physically active. The fact that the population is ageing has some impact on the type of activities in which people choose to be involved. For older people access to opportunities for physical activity may be more important than simply the provision of sports facilities. For young people and those in their later teens to early 30s, access to good quality, accessible indoor and outdoor sports facilities may be more of a priority. Growing obesity levels suggest there is a need to facilitate increased participation and to ensure availability of quality sports facilities, which are both affordable and accessible to the local community. It will be important to ensure that communities have equal access to sports and leisure facilities to ensure that levels of obesity do not continue to show significant increases.

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

- 2.33 The context and environment in which young people have grown up is different to previous generations – Some change in delivery is required just to maintain levels of interest in sport amongst each new generation. Technology is an integral part of young people’s lives, they do not separate online and offline activities. Sporting activities need to reflect this.
- 2.34 Young people’s behaviour does not always reflect their attitude to sport – we need to focus on changing behaviours not attitudes – Many young people feel positive about sport but aren’t necessarily looking to take part; for them, sport and physical activity needs to be more visible and accessible, with stronger reminders of their positive associations – Other young people are uninterested in sport but find wider reasons to take part. Promoting the benefits they are looking for is more effective; selling sport as fun does not resonate with them.
- 2.35 For many, there is a shift in teenage years towards taking part for more functional or lifestyle reasons – Motivations change as young people grow up, with health, fitness and looking and feeling good becoming more important. The shift towards fitness-related activities is occurring at an earlier age than previously. We need to keep engaging and providing feedback to young people, particularly girls, on what actually matters to them not what matters to sport.
- 2.36 Don’t underestimate passive participation – Playing sport is a passive act for many young people who are carried along by what their friends/family are doing or what’s happening in their educational setting. As they grow up more proactive choices are required. Sport therefore has to compete or connect to other interests and priorities.
- 2.37 Leveling the playing field can help to overcome the emotional baggage of sport – Young people with negative associations, driven by previous experiences and a perceived lack of competence, are more likely to have a narrower definition of sport focused on traditional, competitive activities. New or unusual sports or different positioning can provide more of a level playing field. Whilst the activity can be sport, the message that sells it doesn’t have to be.
- 2.38 Young people are seeking meaningful experiences – There needs to be reasons for young people to keep coming back to make sport a habit which benefits them as an individual, reinforces their place in their social group or helps them develop themselves.
- 2.39 The supply of sport tends to reach those who are already engaged – There is a need for a broader offer which meets more diverse needs to break the norms of sport participation.
- 2.40 As the population continues to grow, demand for access to quality sports facilities will increase. The opening of facilities on education sites to create a greater level of public access could facilitate increased levels of participation in sport and physical activity, which could contribute to reducing health inequalities (see guidance set out in Your School, Your Club).

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

CORPORATE PLAN

2.41 The 2015-19 Corporate Plan sets out the Council's priorities for the local area. These are:

1. **Become one of the premier tourism destinations on the island of Ireland.**
2. **Attracted investment and supported the creation of new jobs.**
3. **Supported improved health and well-being outcomes.**
4. **Protected our natural and built environment.**
5. **Led the regeneration of our urban and rural areas.**
6. **Advocated on your behalf specifically in relation to those issues which really matter to you.**
7. **Empowered and improved the capacity of our communities.**
8. **Transformed and modernised the Council, providing accessible as well as value for money services.**

2.42 The Council's mission is to:

“Lead and serve a District that is prosperous, healthy and sustainable.”

2.43 Priority number 3 Supported improved health and wellbeing outcomes highlights the Council's commitment to replace the two existing Leisure Centres in Newry City and Downpatrick and to develop targeted programmes to tackle obesity and diabetes, promote increased physical activity levels and implement a leisure facilities and play strategy.

COMMUNITY PLAN

2.44 Local Councils now have a responsibility to bring together communities, agencies and other statutory partners to work in a co-ordinated way and to devise a Local Area Plan; the Local Area Plan should act as a blueprint for effective integrated service delivery and ultimately bring about real improvements in all aspects of life in Newry, Mourne and Down.

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

2.45 To inform the development of the Newry, Mourne and Down Community Plan development, a community questionnaire 'Have Your Say it's Your Future' was promoted for the community to complete and 9 Community engagement meetings were held in 2015, to establish the partnership basis for the Plan, engage communities and identify their views on local priorities and needs.

2.46 The draft community planning vision is:

“Newry, Mourne and Down is a place with strong, safe and vibrant communities where everyone has a good quality of life and access to opportunities, choices and high quality services which are sustainable, accessible and meet people’s needs.”

2.47 There are seven more public engagements events during February and March 2016.

2.48 The community planning consultation to date has already identified the:

- **The value and importance of sport and physical activity as part of everyday life**
- **The opportunity to develop more integrated transport routes which facilitate physical activity**
- **The value and importance of the natural environment to physical activity and sport**

OTHER RELEVANT STRATEGIES

ECONOMIC, REGENERATION AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2015 - 2020

2.49 The Economic, Regeneration and Investment Strategy Mission is:

“Newry, Mourne and Down District Council will be recognised as a vibrant, dynamic and connected region of enterprise and economic growth; a place of sustainable natural beauty and a premier tourist destination, encompassing excellence in culture and arts and enabling and creating opportunities for all”

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

2.50 The strategy is developed around 5 themes:

1 Economic Development

2 Tourism Development, Marketing, Promotion and Events

3 Urban Development and Regeneration

4 Rural Development and Regeneration 5 Arts, Culture and Heritage

2.51 The priorities of the strategy are:

• **Economic Development**

- To support job creation through growth of the indigenous business base
- To advance employability and skills within the region
- To enhance Cross Border and Transnational Business Development Links
- To increase inward investment into the region
- To establish effective business networks
- To influence the establishment of effective and business friendly approaches to the planning process

• **Tourism Development, Marketing, Promotion and Events**

- To become the destination of choice in NI
- To become NI's premier outdoor/ adventure destination
- To become one of NI's finest events destinations

2.52 The strategy picks up on 2 of Newry, Mourne and Downs strengths:

- **Outstanding natural beauty of the area**
- **Availability of wide range of outdoor activities**

PLAY STRATEGY 2016 - 2021

2.53 The Council is currently developing a Play Strategy at the same time as the Sports Facility Strategy. Both strategies should take cognisance of each other be aligned to Corporate and Departmental Plans.

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

3. THE OVERALL PICTURE OF FACILITY PROVISION

- 3.1. The important role that sport and physical activity plays in today's society and that the equitable availability of accessible, high quality sport and leisure provision can enhance the quality of life, health and well-being of the local community is recognised in the LCCC Corporate Plan.
- 3.2. There is a wide range of existing built sports facilities in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council provided through the public, private and voluntary sectors, as summarised in Table 3.1. The full audit of facilities is provided in Appendix 2 and on a facility by facility basis (for the main types i.e. sports halls, swimming pools, fitness suites and all weather grass pitches (AGPs)) in section 4.

Table 3.1: Summary of Existing Sports Facilities – Newry, Mourne and Down

FACILITY TYPE	NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN
ALL WEATHER PITCHES	9 3G Rubber Crumb Pitches, 9 Sand filled and 1 shale All Weather Pitches
ATHLETICS TRACK	St Colman's College Newry – 6 lane athletics track with field events
BOXING CLUBS	18 Boxing Clubs
GOLF COURSES	17 Golf Courses
GRASS PITCHES	58 Grass Pitches (Soccer and Gaelic)
HEALTH AND FITNESS SUITES	18 Fitness Gyms with 20 fitness stations or more
INDOOR BOWLS RINKS	0
MOTOR SPORTS FACILITIES	4 sites
OUTDOOR BOWLS GREENS	12 outdoor bowls Club sites
SPORTS HALLS	13 sites with 3 badminton court halls or more
SQUASH COURTS	3 facilities – Newry Sports Centre (2 courts), Down Sports Centre (2 courts) and Kilkeel Sports Centre (1 court)
SWIMMING POOLS	Local Authority swimming pools Down Leisure Centre, Newry Leisure Centre and Kilkeel Leisure Centre. There is the Tropicana Outdoor Pools in Newcastle (Leisure Pools open July and August).
TENNIS INDOOR CENTRE	0

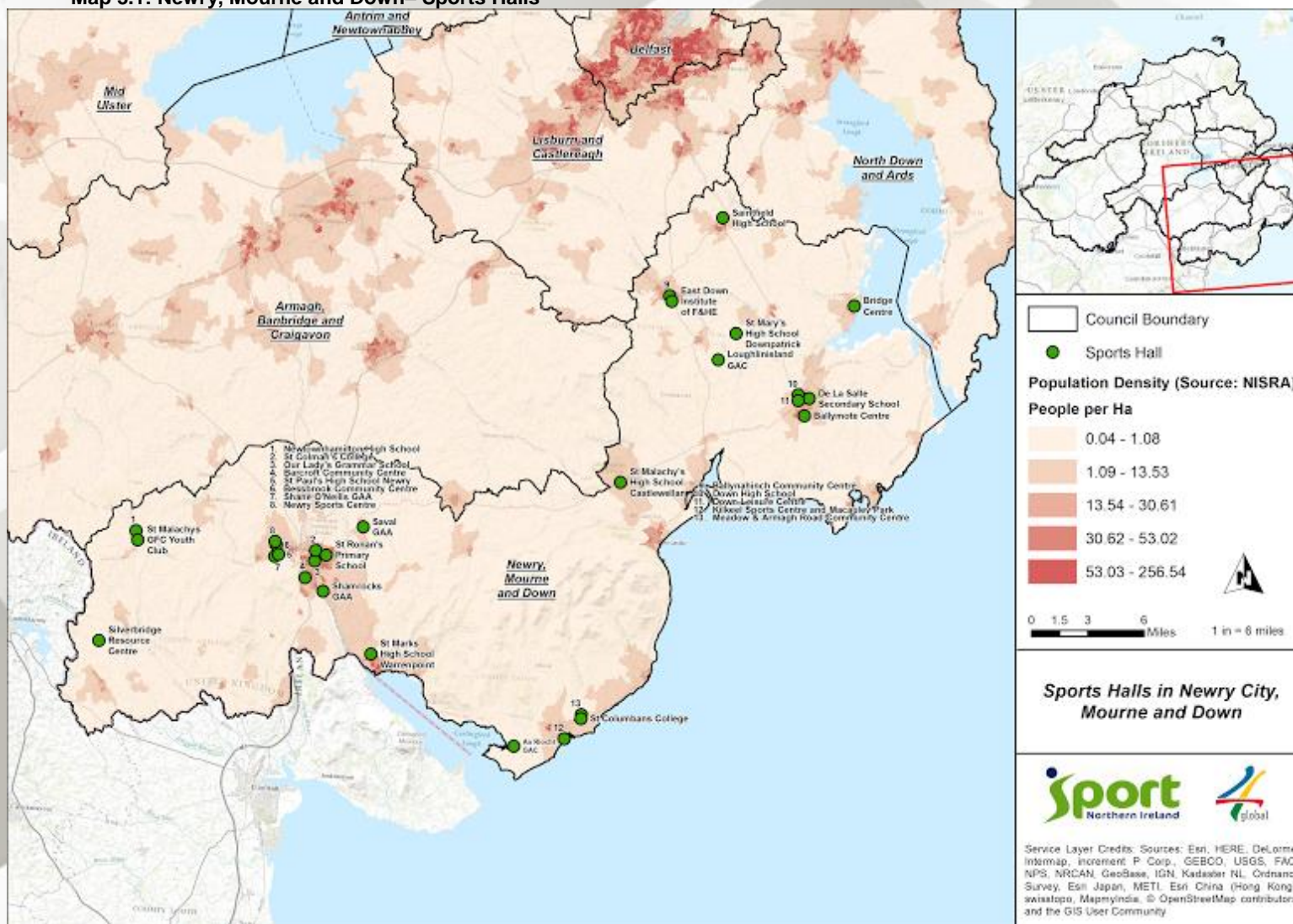
SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

FACILITY TYPE	NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN
TENNIS COURTS OUTDOOR	Downpatrick Tennis Club – 4 bitmac courts (Down High School), fenced no floodlights, Newcastle Tennis Club - 4 polytop all-weather, fenced and floodlit, Warrenpoint Tennis Club - 3 bitmac courts, Newry Tennis Club – 4 polymeric courts, plus Mourne Esplanade Kilkeel (3 courts), Kilbroney Park Rostrevor (2 courts) and Annalong Tennis Court (1 court).
ACTIVITY CENTRES	Tollymore National Outdoor Centre, Newcastle, East Coast Outdoor Activity Centre, Acton Adventures, Greenhill YMCA, Newcastle, Peak Discovery, Life Adventure Centre Castlewellaan, Rock and Ride Kilcoo Newry, Flagstaff Adventures Newry. Numerous walking trails, cycling and fishing facilities. Bluelough Adventure Centre
WATER SPORTS FACILITIES	10 sites offer water sports

3.3. Maps 3.1 – 3.4 show the locations of the existing sports halls, swimming pools, fitness suites and AGPs in Newry, Mourne and Down.

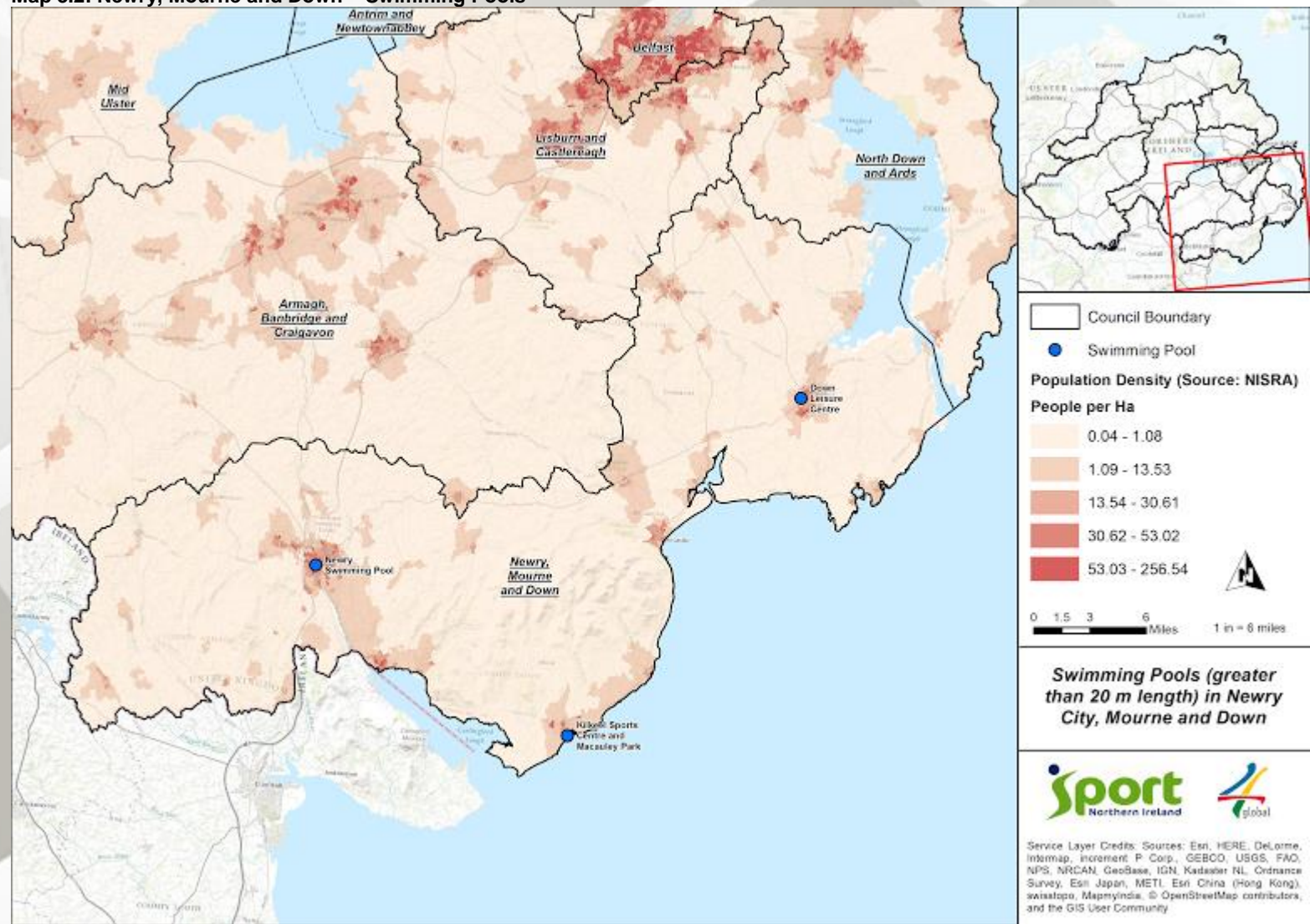
SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Map 3.1: Newry, Mourne and Down – Sports Halls



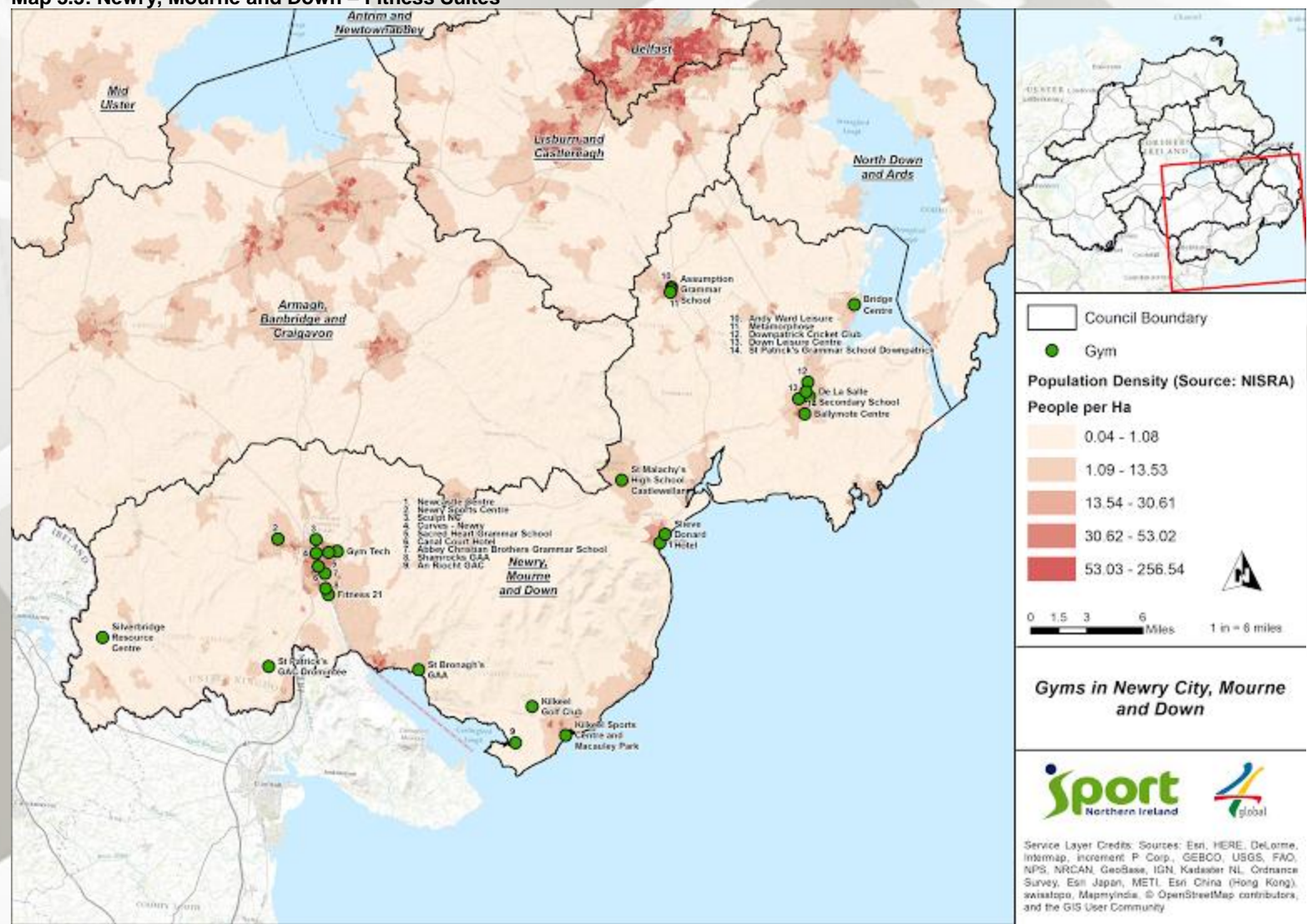
SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Map 3.2: Newry, Mourne and Down – Swimming Pools



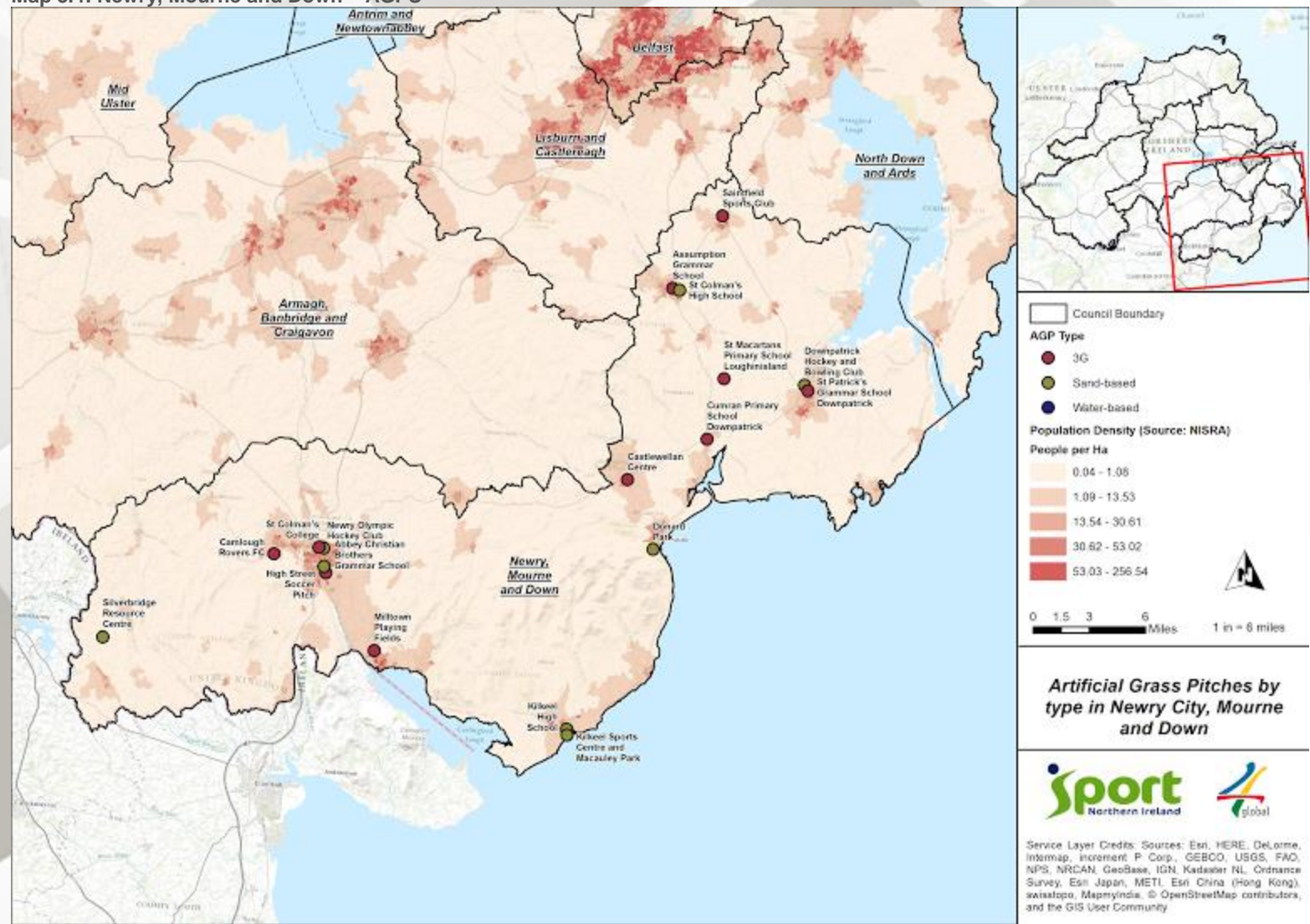
SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Map 3.3: Newry, Mourne and Down – Fitness Suites



SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Map 3.4: Newry, Mourne and Down – AGPS



SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

- 3.4. Newry and Mourne is a superb walking destination, offering a wide range of walks that cater for a broad range of fitness, ability and experience, from flat easy coastal routes to testing slopes and mountains. The Mountains of Mourne and the Ring of Gullion areas provide an outstanding backdrop for walkers of all types. The Mourne international walking festival in June and the Wee Binnian Walking Festival in September offer a wide variety of walks ranging from excellent roads and track walls to guided mountain rambles and hikes. Equally there are a number of cycle ways
- 3.5. There are many facilities offering a wide selection of activities in the Mournes and Ring of Gullion area. These range from climbing, coastering and bouldering, high ropes and zip lines to mountain biking, orienteering and archery. The Northern Ireland National Outdoor Centre is based at Tollymore.
- 3.6. Both the Mournes and Ring of Gullion areas have many lakes and rivers which offer some of the best waters for game and coarse angling.

PARTICIPATION

- 3.7. The Sport Matters Progress Report October 2013 - September 2014 highlights the partnership working between SNI and local Councils to increase participation following the 2010 SAPAS report. The report highlights that 54% of the NI population took part in sport and physical activity once in the last 12 months (2013/14), a rise of 9% from 2008/09; 48% of adults took part in sport and physical activity once in the last week (2013/14), a rise of 11% from 2008/09 and participation rates for women have risen from 30% (2010) to 40% in 2013/14.
- 3.8. 36% of the Newry, Mourne and Down population participate in 5 x 30 minutes of sport/physical activity per week (Source: SAPAS 2010). There is higher participation by males than females. Participation levels are likely to have increased as a result of the Active Communities Programme (due to finish in 2016). A summary of the 2010 SAPAS Research on participation in sport and physical activity in NI is set out in Table 3.2:

Table 3.2: Summary of 2010 SAPAS Research and the Sport Matters Report Update 2013/14

PARTICIPATION MEASURE	SAPAS 2010 REPORT – NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN	SPORT MATTERS REPORT UPDATE 2013/14 - NI WIDE
5 X 30 Minutes of sport and physical activity per week	36%	35%
Participated in Sport in last 7 days	33%	37%
Satisfaction with Sports Facilities	50%	62%

- 3.9. Based on Table 3.2 participation levels in are higher than, the NI average. Although relatively high at 36%, this still means 64% of people in Newry, Mourne and Down are not active enough to have any health benefits.
- 3.10. Implementation of the Active Communities Programme in Newry, Mourne and Down (in partnership with SNI), has created more opportunities to be physically active and resulted in increased levels of participation.
- 3.11. The Sports Development Coach Education programme increases opportunities for participation through improved coaching and building Club capacity.

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

SPORTS ASSOCIATION NEWRY AND DOWN (SAND)

- 3.12. The main purpose of SAND is to promote the development of sports by providing community Sports Clubs with funding opportunities. Community Sports Clubs will be encouraged to seek independent accreditation for their Club while aiming to provide or secure the provision of educational, training and recreational programmes. SAND will also work towards advancing the physical education of our citizens throughout the district, especially amongst young people while also raising awareness among the general public about the opportunities for improving their quality of life and reducing health inequalities through a range of programmes and services.
- 3.13. It is about empowerment, capacity building and working in collaboration with a diverse range of agencies to achieve outcomes which are beneficial to the sporting community. Sports Clubs will have the opportunity for their voice to be heard through SAND on the stakeholder engagement forum and be part of the Community Plans for Sport in Newry, Mourne and Down.
- 3.14. The new Sports Association has the opportunity to make a substantial impact on at least two of the eight priorities in the Council's Corporate Plan, by improving health and well-being outcomes and advancing the capacity of our communities by promoting leadership and responsible community ownership of programmes.
- 3.15. Membership of the SAND will be open to any community based amateur Sports Club who is registered with their governing body. In addition to Club membership, the group will also contain Elected Members.
- 3.16. The Council works with a large number of sports and National Governing Bodies of sport. There are 55 activities with a separate Governing Body. These are listed below:

ACTIVITY	GOVERNING BODY
Angling	Ulster Angling Federation Ltd
Archery	NI Archery Society
Athletics	Athletics NI
Badminton	Ulster Branch Badminton Union of Ireland
Basketball	Basketball NI
Billiards and Snooker	NI Billiards and Snooker Association
Boccia	GB Boccia
Bowls	Irish Bowling Association
Boxing	Ulster Provincial Boxing Council
Camogie	Ulster Camogie Council
Canoeing (Sea Kayak)	Canoe Association of NI

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ACTIVITY	GOVERNING BODY
Chinese Martial Arts	NI National Chinese and Associated Martial Arts Association
Cricket	Cricket Ireland
Cycling	Cycling Ulster
Darts	Northern Ireland Darts Organisation
Disability Sport	Disability Sport NI
Equestrian	Horse Sport Ireland
Exercise and Fitness	Fitness NI
Dance	Dance Sport NI
Fencing	NI Fencing Ltd
Football	Irish Football Association
Gaelic Games	Ulster Council GAA (Handball, Football and Hurling)
Golf	Ulster Branch Irish Golfing Union
Gymnastics	Gymnastics
Handball (Olympic)	The Irish Handball Association
Hockey	Ulster Hockey
Judo	NI Judo Federation
Ju-Jitsu	NI Ju Jitsu Association
Karate	NI Karate Board
Kickboxing	British Kickboxing Council
Life Saving	Royal Life Saving Society, Ulster Branch
Motor Sports	2+4 Wheels Motorsport Ltd
Mountain Biking	Cycling Ulster
Mountaineering	Mountaineering Council for Ireland
Muay Thai or Thai Boxing	International Federation of Muaythai Amateur (Art of Eight Limbs)
Netball	Netball NI
Orienteering	NI Orienteering
Pool	Northern Ireland Pool Association
Quad Racing	United Quad Racing Ireland
Rambling	Ulster Federation of Rambling Clubs
Rowing (Coastal)	Rowing Ireland Ulster Branch
Rugby Union	Ulster Branch Irish Rugby Football Union

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ACTIVITY	GOVERNING BODY
Sailing	Royal Yachting Association NI
Shooting	Northern Ireland Shooting Federation
Special Olympics	Special Olympics Ireland
Squash	Ulster Squash
Swimming	Swim Ulster
Table Tennis	Ulster Branch Irish Table Tennis Association
Taekwondo	Taekwondo Association of NI
Tennis	Ulster Branch Tennis Ireland
Triathlon	Triathlon Ulster
Tug of War	NI Tug of War Association
Volleyball	NI Volleyball Association
Water Skiing	Irish Water Ski Federation (NI Sub Committee)
Yoga	Yoga Fellowship of Northern Ireland

3.17. The Council also supports a wide range of minority sports such as BMX and also works with a number of disability Sports Clubs and organisations.

4. ASSESSMENT OF DEMAND

4.1 This Strategy focuses on an assessment of the main community sport facility types:

- **Sports halls**
- **Swimming Pools**
- **Fitness Suites**
- **AGPs**

4.2 An assessment of each facility type (supply, location, accessibility, demand) is set out in the rest of this section. Stakeholder consultation feedback (local Clubs, schools, Governing Bodies (GBS), LCCC officer and Member feedback is reflected in relation to each facility type.

4.3 Consultation feedback on other facility issues/needs is summarised at the end of this section (paragraph 4.49).

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

4.4 It is important to highlight that assessing the demand for sports facility provision in Newry, Mourne and Down means treating the district as an 'island': the district's population is assessed for the level of demand it generates for sports facilities. In reality, given the scale and geography of NI and the fact that people do not live by red border lines on a map, residents access facilities in neighbouring authorities. Therefore, any quantitative under supply needs to be considered very carefully; the consultation undertaken for this Strategy has raised specific issues regarding a lack of provision or quality of provision:

- **Access to education-based facilities - sometimes difficult**
- **Poor pitch quality (grass pitches) soccer, rugby, GAA – Hockey (shale pitches)**
- **Changing rooms (outdoor) poor quality**
- **Need to improve tennis facilities**
- **Need for accessible athletics facilities**
- **Not always necessary to new build, consider refurbishment**
- **Clubs and organisations need capacity building and guidance on how to apply for funding**
- **There is a need to explain the benefits of partnership working and what outcomes can be achieved by partnership working.**

SPORTS HALLS

SUPPLY

- 4.5 The supply of sports halls considers secured and unsecured community use. In considering secured community use these are facilities which are in the ownership of the Local Authority and are open for the general public to use. Unsecured community use are facilities that are within the private, voluntary and education sector that are not fully secured for community use unless a formal community use agreement has been set up with the local authority.
- 4.6 Only sports halls with 3 badminton courts or more are included in this analysis. Sports halls with lower numbers of badminton courts are not deemed to be able to cater for basketball indoor 5 v 5 etc.
- 4.7 There will be sports halls once building work is complete in Newry, Mourne and Down, based on 9 sites (2 halls will be provided at the new Newry Leisure Centre an 8 court hall and a 4 court hall). Together these sports halls will provide a total of 36 badminton courts.

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Table 4.1: Sports Halls in Newry, Mourne and Down with secured community use existing, planned and committed.

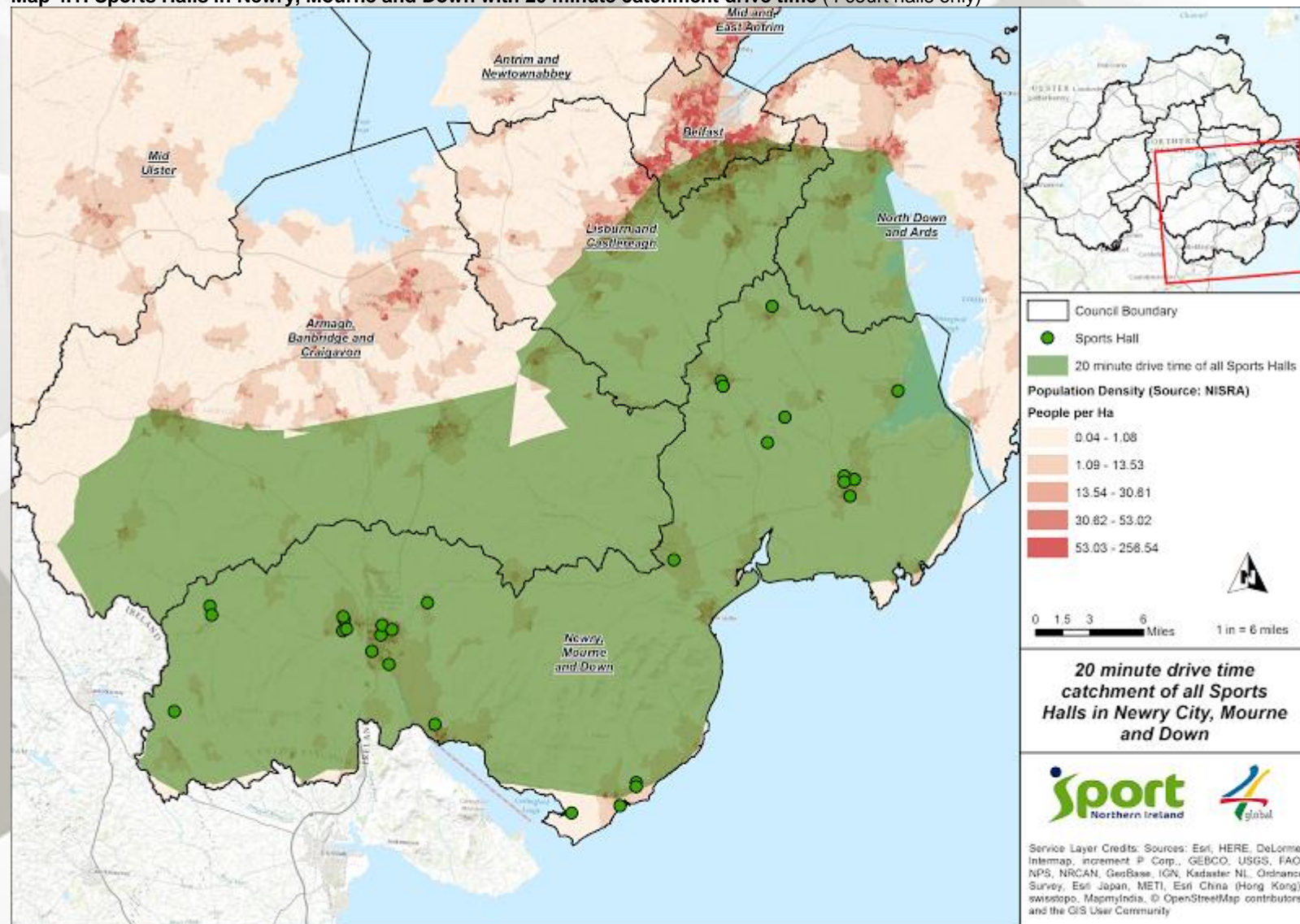
FACILITY NAME	DESCRIPTION – NUMBER OF BADMINTON COURTS	OWNERSHIP	OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT	COMMUNITY ACCESS
DOWNPATRICK LEISURE CENTRE	4 (to be built)	NMDDC		Yes
NEWRY LEISURE CENTRE	8 (to be built)	NMDDC		Yes
NEWRY LEISURE CENTRE	4 (to be built)	NMDDC		Yes
KILKEEL LEISURE CENTRE	3	NMDDC		Yes
BALLYMOTE	4	NMDDC		Yes
BRIDGE	3	NMDDC		Yes
CASTLEWELLAN	4 (to be built)	Community Group		Yes
BALLYNAHINCH	3	NMDDC		Yes
SAINTFIELD	3 (committed to be provided)			Yes
TOTAL	36 COURTS			9 SECURED COMMUNITY ACCESSIBLE SPORTS HALLS

ACCESSIBILITY

- 4.8 Map 3.1, (section 3), shows all the existing sports halls in Newry, Mourne and Down including education, private and voluntary sector facilities. Map 4.1 illustrates the locations of all the existing sports halls and highlights that virtually the whole of Newry, Mourne and Down is within a 20 minute drive time of a sports hall. It is also important to highlight that there is some overlap with facilities in Lisburn and Castlereagh, North Down and Ards and Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon, given the geography of the area.
- 4.9 It should also be highlighted that from accessibility point not all small village areas will require a 3 or 4 court sports hall facility but a smaller 1 or 2 court facility where other physical activity can take place. A recommendation is that there is a hierarchy of facility provision for sports hall space provided across Newry, Mourne and Down dependent on size of community.
- 4.10 There is a need to replace the Newcastle Centre in the future and securing sports hall provision should be considered along with ancillary facilities to cater for activities that currently take place when funding becomes available in the future.

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Map 4.1: Sports Halls in Newry, Mourne and Down with 20 minute catchment drive time (4 court halls only)



SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

DEMAND SPORTS HALLS (NUMBER OF BADMINTON COURTS)

4.11 Bridging the Gap 2009 and the 2014 Bridging The Gap Update highlight the following for sports halls in Newry, Mourne and Down:

4.12 Table 4.2 shows that when education sports halls are excluded in the 2009 and 2014 Bridging the Gap there was a requirement for 13 additional badminton courts in 2014.

Table 4.2: Summary of Sports Hall Supply and Demand 2009 and 2014 – Excluding Education Sports Halls

AREA	PROJECTED POPULATION 2011	UNMET DEMAND - VISITS PER WEEK	2009 EXISTING COURTS	2009 BADMINTON COURTS REQUIRED	2014 EXISTING COURTS	2014 BADMINTON COURTS REQUIRED
Newry and Mourne	95325	533	17	8	20	5
Down	69189	2975	10	8	10	8
TOTAL			27	16	30	13

4.13 In 2009 the ratio of required bad courts per 1000 of population in Newry and Mourne was 25 (Badminton courts required 17 + 8) ÷ 95,325 (population census data 2011) = 0.0056 x 1,000 = 0.26 bad courts per 1000 population.

4.14 In 2009 the ratio of required badminton courts per 1000 population in Down was 18 (Badminton courts required 10 + 8) ÷ 69,189 (population census data 2011) = 0.0026 x 1,000 = 0.26 bad courts per 1000 population.

4.15 Based on the number of required courts of 0.26 badminton courts per 1000 population you can project what the requirements are for the future.

4.16 The requirements for Newry, Mourne and Down in 2016 are, population of 179,136 (Source NNIS SNPP12 SYA) ÷ 1000 = 179.136 x 0.26 = 47 (rounded).

4.17 The requirements for Newry, Mourne and Down in 2037 are 204,971 ÷ 1000 = 205 x 0.26 = 53 rounded.

4.18 Newry, Mourne and Down have planned and committed to providing 36 badminton court sports hall spaces in secured community use. This leaves a deficit of 10 badminton court secured sports halls in 2016 and 17 badminton court secured sports halls in 2037.

4.19 When taking into consideration the number of Badminton court sports halls that are provided in Education establishments. These are shown in Table 4.3 and identify **46** badminton courts. The amount of sports halls leads to a recommendation to ensure that Newry, Mourne and Down have Community Use agreements in place with schools. This would eliminate any need for additional sports hall space in the future to 2037.

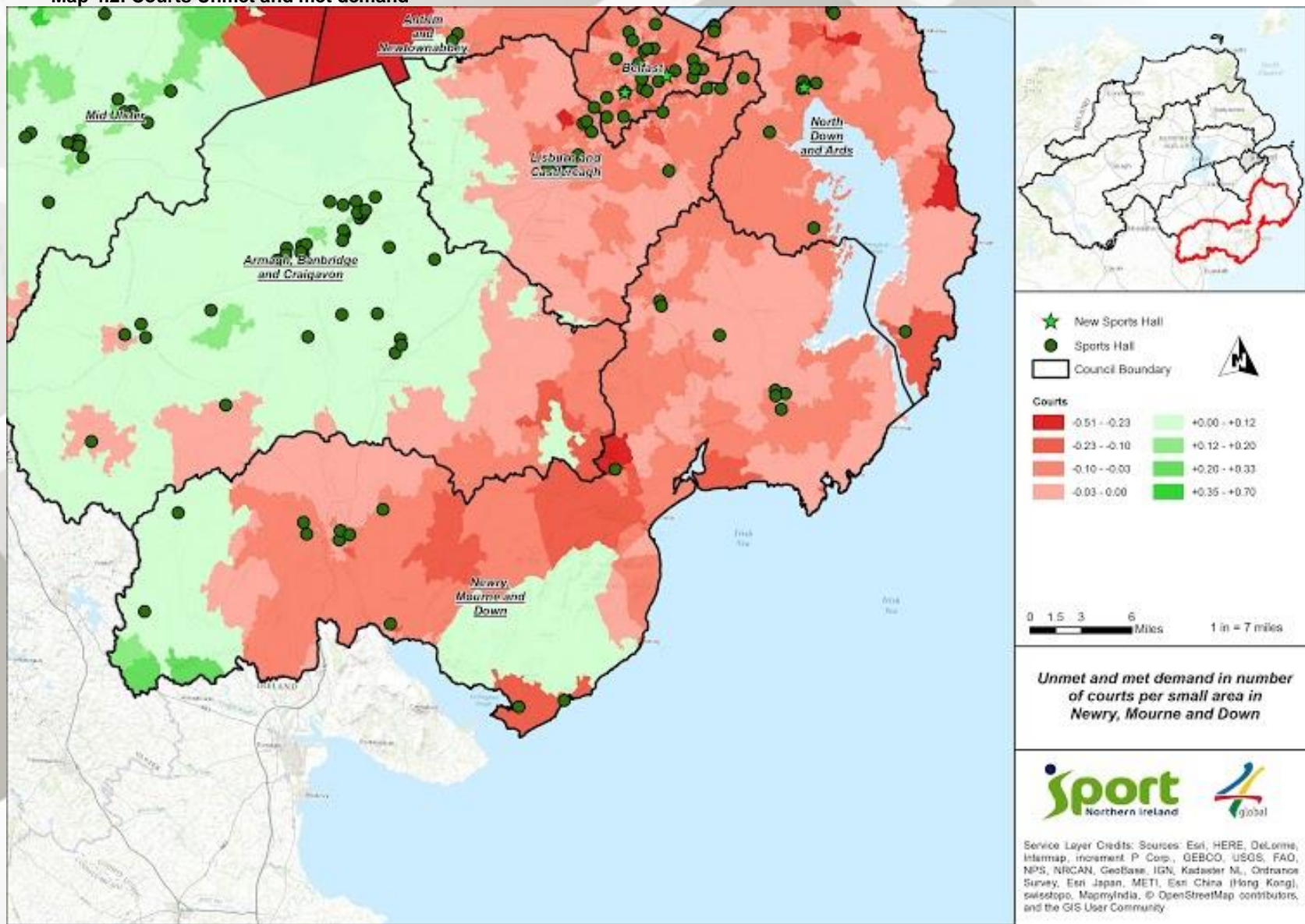
SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Table 4.3 Sports Hall provided at Education establishments.

FACILITY NAME	DESCRIPTION – NUMBER OF BADMINTON COURTS
ST MARKS HIGH SCHOOL WARREN POINT	3 Badminton Courts
ABBEY CHRISTIAN BROTHERS GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWRY	4 Badminton Courts
OUR LADY'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWRY	3 Badminton Courts
ST COLMAN'S COLLEGE, NEWRY	4 Badminton Courts
ST PAUL'S BESSBROOK	4 Badminton Courts
DOWN HIGH SCHOOL DOWNPATRICK	4 Badminton Courts planned for the future
ST PATRICK'S GRAMMAR RED HIGH SCHOOL	4 Badminton Courts
ST MALACHY'S HIGH SCHOOL CASTLEWELLAN	3 Badminton Courts
ST RONAN'S HIGH SCHOOL	3 Badminton Courts
DE LA SALLE HIGH SCHOOL	3 Badminton Courts
SERC DOWNPATRICK	4 Badminton Courts
NEWTOWNHAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL	3 Badminton Courts
ASSUMPTION GRAMMAR SCHOOL BALLYNAHINCH	4 Badminton Courts (Community Use through school)
TOTAL	46 COURTS

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Map 4.2: Courts Unmet and met demand



SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

4.20 Consultation was undertaken with local Clubs, schools, GBs and LCCC to inform this Strategy. Stakeholder Consultees are listed in Appendix 1. Specific issues raised in relation to sports hall provision in Newry, Mourne and Down:

- **Lack of community access to secondary school sports facilities.**
- **The need for a purpose-built trampolining facility and dedicated gymnastics facility in Newry.**
- **Need for accessible basketball and netball indoor facilities in Newry.**
- **Down GAA – Would require a sports hall as part of a centre of excellence in Newry, Mourne and Down.**
- **Sports Hall required at Derryleckagh Playing Fields.**
- **St Peter’s GAA and St Mark’s High School, Warrenpoint are working in partnership to create a sports hub and have the school sports hall open to the community.**
- **There are opportunities to ensure full community use of the new Down High School Sports Hall in the future.**
- **Newcastle – Consultation identified the need for a 4 court sports hall, fitness suite, health and well-being offices, swimming pool (likely tourist friendly) outside floodlit synthetic pitch and Bowling Green – preferred site Girls School Shan Slieve Drive.**
- **St Colman’s High School, Ballynahinch has identified a very real need for a Sports Hall to complement the training and playing requirements in the Ballynahinch area. St Colman’s have undertaken, with CCMS and the Department of Education architectural plans and a preliminary feasibility study. The school does have a designated area adjacent to the existing 2G floodlit pitch that could accommodate such a facility.**
- **Castlewellan Wheelchair Rugby Club require an indoor home venue and will be speaking to the Castlewellan Partnership re the use of the Partnerships new sports hall.**

4.21 The **8** court sports hall at the new Newry Sports Centre will accommodate accessible basketball and netball and provide a pit for dedicated gymnastics and trampolining.

4.22 Additional consultation was undertaken with Newry, Mourne and Down Councillors. This highlighted the following:

- **The need for a change of thought from the School Authorities about community use of sports halls within schools.**
- **With a dispersed population there is an issue with access from rural areas depending on where the sports halls are located.**

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- There is a lack of willingness to invest in partnerships on school sites unless facilities are to be owned by that partner.
- Lack of public access in rural areas results in young people unable to gain access to sports hall facilities.
- Centres need to be more accessible is there a need and is it open access to all.

4.23 The provision model comes down to the economic and business case. What is it? Is it needed? Taking into account participation, financials and outcome benefits.

SWIMMING POOLS

4.24 The Bridging the Gap Report Sport NI 2009 appears not to have included Downpatrick Leisure Centre Pool. Bridging the Gap Update 2014 states the following:

“Bridging the Gap (2014) – Swimming Pools Shortfall = -391sqm of water (no shortfall) (Council pools only) (taking account of Bangor and Magherafelt and including Templemore Sports Complex and **Down Leisure Centre, which were not included in the BTG analysis**). “

4.25 Bridging the Gap 2009 identified that Newry, Mourne and Down had a shortfall of 1.5 swimming pools which equals 432sqm of water space. The Downpatrick Swimming Pool if taken into consideration would have provided 330sqm of water space leaving a deficit of 112sqm of water space. At the time of the 2009 Bridging the Gap Report Newry, Mourne and Down had the following swimming pool provision shown in Table 4.5

Table 4.5: Swimming Pools in Newry, Mourne and Down 2009

FACILITY NAME	DESCRIPTION – POOL TYPE	SQM OF WATER SPACE	OWNERSHIP	OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT	COMMUNITY ACCESS
DOWNPATRICK LEISURE CENTRE	Main 25m X 10m Learner 8m x 10m	250 80	NMDDC	NMDDC	Yes
NEWRY LEISURE CENTRE	Main 25M x 12.5m Learner 7m x 12.5m	312.5 87.5	NMDDC	NMDDC	Yes
KILKEEL LEISURE CENTRE	Main 25m X 12.6m	315	NMDDC	NMDDC	Yes
TOTAL		1,045Sqm Of Community Accessible Water Space			4 Community Accessible Swimming Pools (Excluding The Leisure Pool)

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- 4.26 The requirement for water space identified by Bridging the Gap in 2009 is the ratio of required square meterage of water space per 1000 of population in Newry and Mourne which was 715sqm of water space plus 432sqm required = 1147 sqm (Not including Downpatrick Swimming Pool) ÷ 164,514 (projected population census data 2011) = 0.0070 x 1,000 = 6.97 sqm of water space per 1000 population.
- 4.27 Newry, Mourne and Down has replaced the Newry Swimming Pool and are replacing the Down Leisure Centre Swimming Pool. There will still be 3 indoor swimming pool sites in Newry, Mourne and Down that provide for secured community use. These sites provide for 5 pools, 2 are learner pools, 3 are main pools. The Newry Swimming Pool will also have additional Leisure Pool water space. There are 2 pools provided at hotels Slieve Donard Hotel and the Canal Court Hotel and a swim school exists at Fletchers Craigmores Swim School. The two hotel swimming pools are not completely open for community use and Fletchers provides for swim school use. These swimming facilities are not included in the statistics.
- 4.28 The 3 sites providing the secured community use; these are the swimming pools at Down Leisure Centre, Newry Swimming Pool and Kilkeel Leisure Centre. When Down Leisure Centre Swimming Pool is complete the following water space across all three swimming pools with lanes will be available as shown in table 4.6. 1,205 sqm of swimming pool water space will be community accessible (lane swimming). This does not include the indoor leisure water space being provided at Newry Swimming Pool.
- 4.29 Based on the number of required sqm of water space 6.97 sqm per 1000 population requirements for the future can be projected.
- 4.30 The requirements for Newry, Mourne and Down in 2016 are, population of 179,136 ÷ 1000 = 179.136 x 6.97 = 1249 sqm of water space (rounded).
- 4.31 The requirements for Newry, Mourne and Down in 2037 are 205,000 ÷ 1000 = 205 x 6.97 = 1,428.85 sqm of water space.
- 4.32 Newry, Mourne and Down have planned and committed to providing 1,205 sqm of water space and have provided additional leisure water space at Newry Leisure Centre. This is sufficient to meet the demands for 2016.
- 4.33 There will be a need for additional water space in Newry, Mourne and Down going forward to 2037. The required amount in 2037 is 1249 sqm. The existing amount once Down Leisure Centre is complete will be 1205 sqm. This leaves a gap of 223.85 sqm. This is roughly equivalent to a 4 lane 25m pool 212sqm. Consideration should be given to planning additional water space for the future in 2037.

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Table 4.6: Swimming Pools in Newry, Mourne and Down

FACILITY NAME	DESCRIPTION – POOL TYPE	SQM OF WATER SPACE	OWNERSHIP	OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT	COMMUNITY ACCESS
DOWNPATRICK LEISURE CENTRE	Main 25m X 13m Learner 7m x 13m	325 91	NMDDC	NMDDC	Yes
NEWRY LEISURE CENTRE	Main 25M x 17m Learner 4m x 13m	425 52	NMDDC	NMDDC	Yes
KILKEEL LEISURE CENTRE	Main 25m X 12.5m	312.5	NMDDC	NMDDC	Yes
TOTAL		1,205.5Sqm Of Community Accessible Water Space			4 Community Accessible Swimming Pools (Excluding The Leisure Pool)

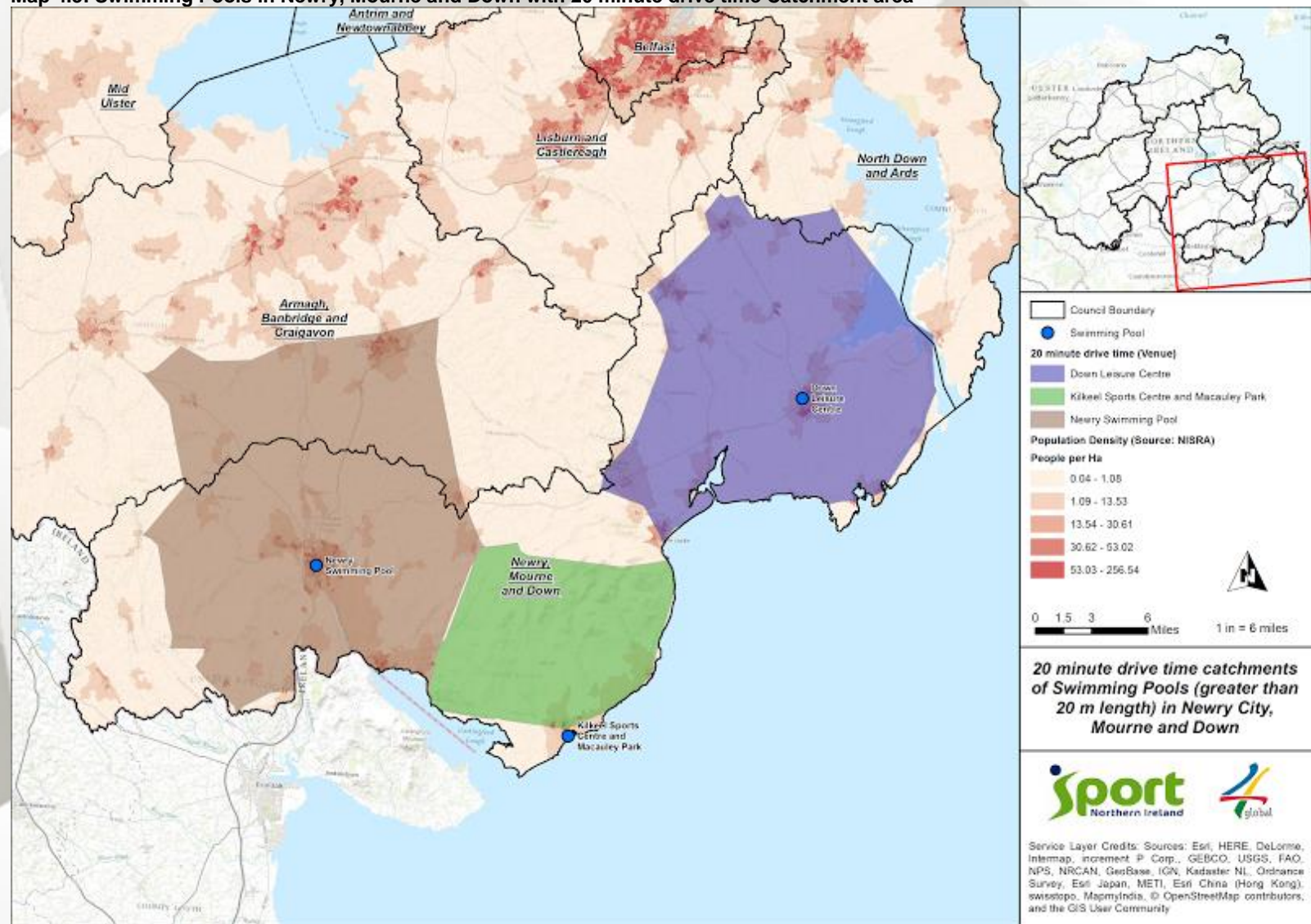
N.B Assumes a 4 lane x 25m pool is 212.50 sqm; lane width assumed to be 2m unless otherwise stated

ACCESSIBILITY

4.34 Map 3.2, (section 3), shows the existing swimming pools in Newry, Mourne and Down. Map 4.3 illustrates the locations of the existing swimming pools and shows where the gaps are in provision for residents within a 20 minute drive time catchment area of a community accessible swimming pool. The areas outside this catchment area are the West and in the middle. The middle is provided for by Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council.

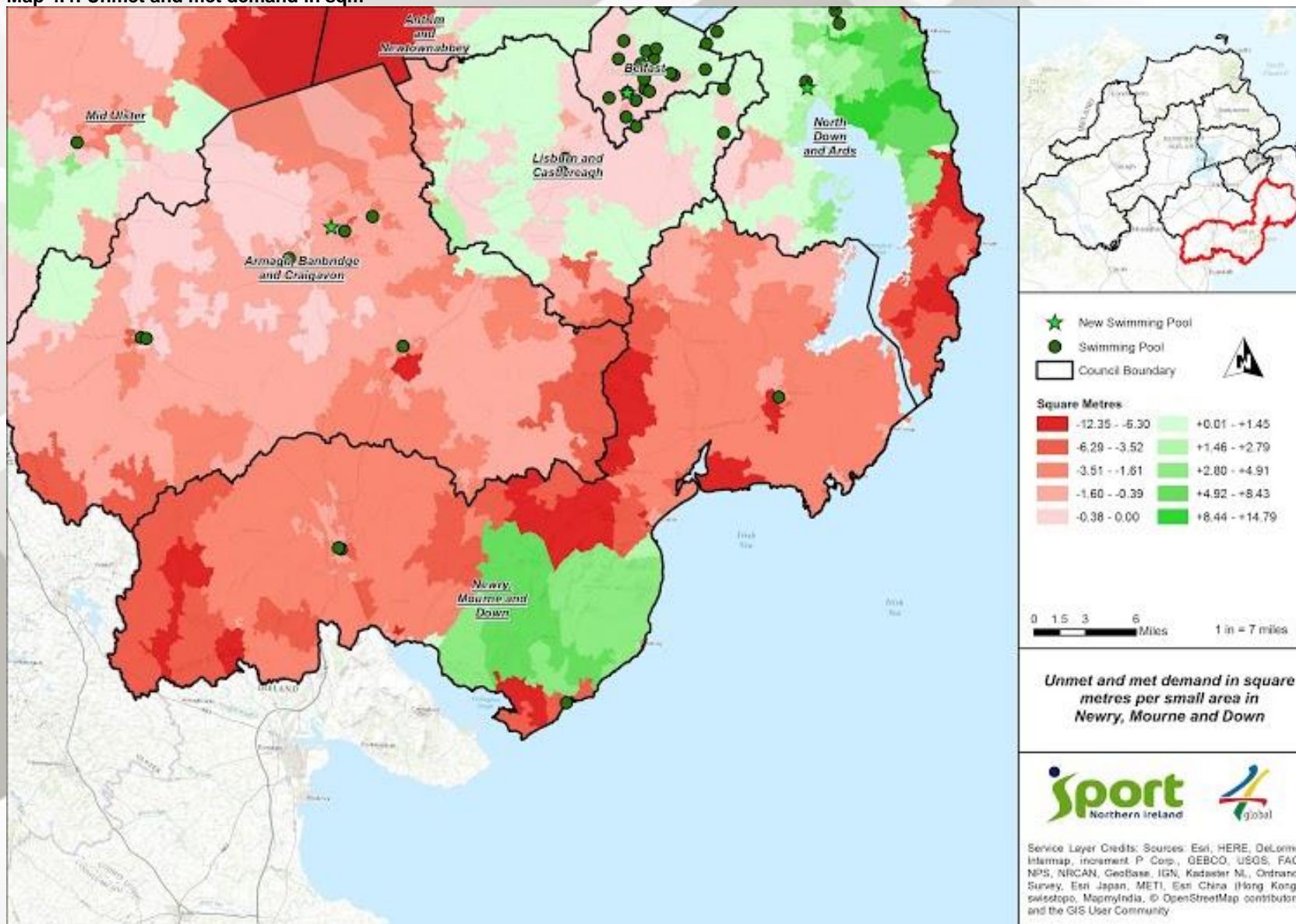
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Map 4.3: Swimming Pools in Newry, Mourne and Down with 20 minute drive time Catchment area



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Map 4.4: Unmet and met demand in sqm



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CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

- 4.35 Consultation was undertaken with local Clubs, schools, GBs and LCCC to inform this Strategy. Stakeholder Consultees are listed in Appendix 1. Newry, Mourne and Down Councillors consultation is also included in the summary below.
- 4.36 Specific issues raised in relation to swimming pool provision in Newry, Mourne and Down include:
- **Consultation with the swimming Club at Down Leisure Centre identified that the swimming Club would like the new pool in Downpatrick to be 25m x 8 lanes and provide additional programmed water space for swimming Club usage.**
 - **Newcastle Centre - Consultation identified need for updating replacing facilities and a need for swimming provision for those families that cannot afford to travel or have the means to travel to swimming facilities further away.**
 - **There is a greater need for swimming pool provision around the coastal areas to ensure the community can swim.**
 - **There is a real need for a swimming pool in Newcastle and to recognise that a swimming pool has an impact on tourism.**
 - **We need to accommodate the community from deprived areas who would not access the Slieve Donard and Canal Court Hotels.**
 - **Surprised that Warrenpoint was not considered as an area requiring a swimming pool.**

FITNESS SUITES

- 4.37 Health and fitness facilities are normally defined and assessed using a base scale of a minimum of 20 stations. A station is a piece of static fitness equipment and larger health and fitness centres with more stations are generally able to make a more attractive offer to both members and casual users. They can provide a valuable way to assist people of all ages, ethnicities and abilities to introduce physical exercise into their daily lives with the obvious benefits to health, fitness and wellbeing.
- 4.38 The current state of the UK fitness industry is complex with a variety of providers including the private sector (ranging from low cost operators to the high end market), trusts, schools and local authority operators. Within the UK, the private fitness market has continued to grow steadily over the last 12 months with an estimated increase of 6% in the number of members. The current market penetration rate is 13.7% of the population (June 2015).
- 4.39 There are at least 18 fitness facilities in Newry, Mourne and Down that provide fitness facilities that cater for more than 20 fitness stations. The fitness facilities in table 4.9 are known facilities with over 20 stations that are open to the wider community. There are other facilities on school sites, private gyms and GAA Club facilities that also provide fitness suite facilities across Newry and Mourne but provide stations under 20.

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Table 4.8: Fitness Suites and number of stations in Newry, Mourne and Down

FACILITY NAME	NUMBER OF FITNESS STATIONS	OWNERSHIP	OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT	COMMUNITY ACCESS
ANDY WARD LEISURE, BALLYNAHINCH	35	Private	Membership	Yes
BURRENDALE HOTEL, NEWCASTLE	40	Hotel	Membership	Yes
MUSCLEWORX GYM	25	Private	Membership	Yes
ELITE FITNESS	30	Private	Membership	Yes
GYM TEC, NEWRY	60	Private	Membership	Yes
BALLYMOTE CENTRE, DOWNPATRICK	22	LA	Membership	Yes
DE LA SALLE SCHOOL, DOWNPATRICK	25	Education	Membership	Yes
DOWN LEISURE CENTRE, DOWNPATRICK	32	LA	Membership	Yes
NEWRY SPORTS CENTRE	90	LA	Membership	Yes
KILKEEL LEISURE CENTRE	32	LA	Membership	Yes
LIFEBUILDERS CENTRE KILKEEL	20	Private	Membership	Yes
AN RIOCHT	20	Private	Membership	Yes
NEWCASTLE CENTRE	20	LA	Membership	Yes
CARRICKDALE HOTEL	90	Private (Hotel)	Membership	Yes
SCULPT - NEWRY	80	Private	Membership	Yes
RITE FITNESS - NEWRY	80	Private	Membership	Yes
CANAL COURT HOTEL - NEWRY	100	Private	Membership	Yes
CROSS FIT - CASTLEWELLAN	47	Private	Membership	Yes
TOTAL	838			

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ACCESSIBILITY

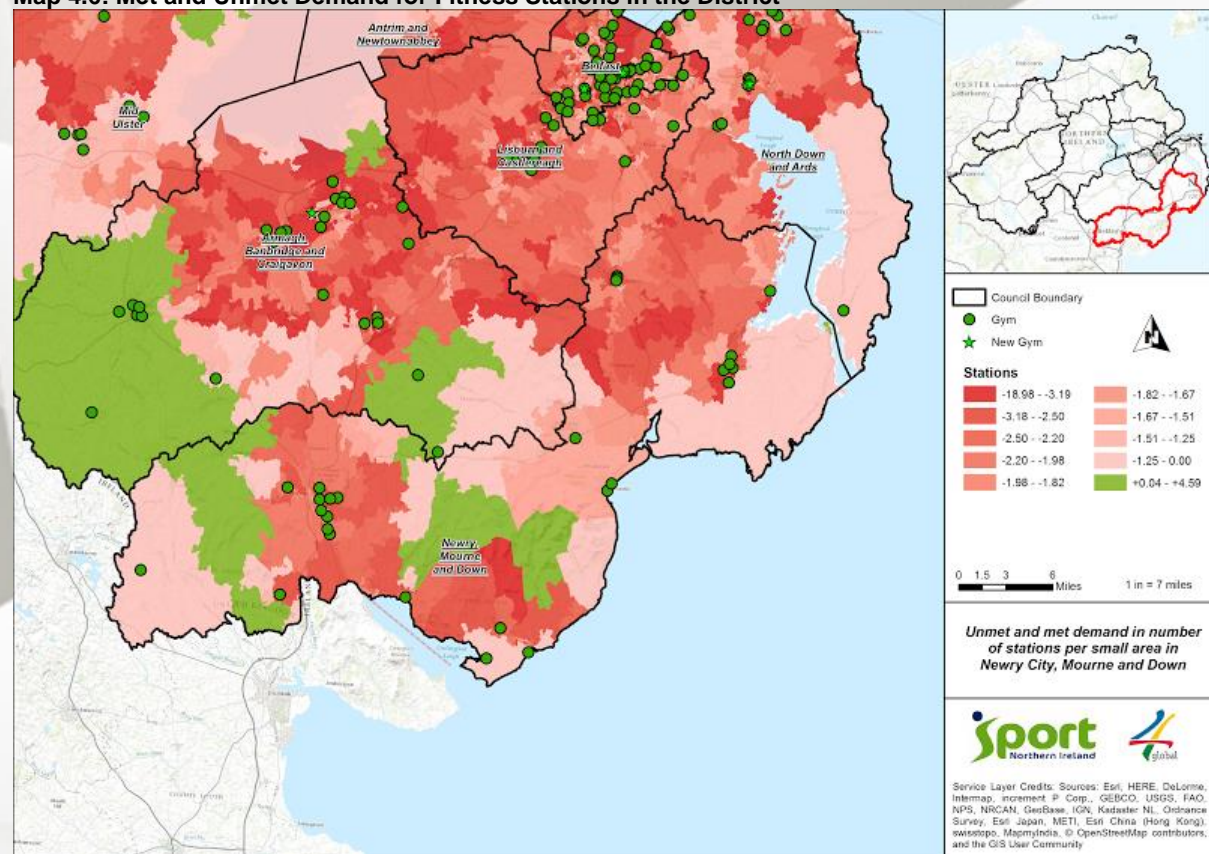
- 4.40 Map 3.3 (Section 3) shows the location of the existing fitness suites in Newry, Mourne and Down. Map 4.5 shows these facilities with a 15 minute drive time catchment area. The map shows facilities with less than 20 fitness stations. The table above only identifies those fitness suites with 20 or more fitness stations.
- 4.41 It is clear from Map 4.3 that the catchment areas of the existing community accessible fitness facilities cover the majority of the district. These are complemented by the private sector facilities, which are accessed and used by some of the Newry, Mourne and Down Community. Areas in the extreme North West and the south of the district are outside the catchment areas for existing community accessible facilities.
- 4.42 The largest community fitness facility is at Newry Leisure Centre.
- 4.43 Although membership will be required for all fitness suites to ensure users have been through the induction process, the private sector facilities are likely to have a higher membership fee than the public sector facilities, therefore they may not be as accessible to the whole community.

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DEMAND

- 4.44 Appendix 3 looks at current supply of fitness stations and demand. The UK propensity to participate as a fitness gym member for 2015 is 13.7% of the population as identified from the fitness Industry state of the nation report. The total population aged over 16 has been used and participation rates for using fitness facilities at peak times has been utilised to provide a current demand for 547 fitness stations across Newry, Mourne and Down. The current supply is calculated as 838. This suggests a surplus of 291 health and fitness stations. Some of the private gyms are not accessible to all the community due to cost and transport.
- 4.45 The number of fitness stations required for 2037 based on population data Subnational projections 2012 aged 16+ is shown in Appendix 4 and is equivalent to 645 fitness stations. There are currently enough fitness stations to cover the need in 2037.

Map 4.6: Met and Unmet Demand for Fitness Stations in the District



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4.46 Appendices 3 and 4 summarise current and future demand for fitness provision, based on population and propensity to participate. There are additional fitness gym facilities below 20 fitness stations where loose weights are provided in smaller gyms across Newry, Mourne and Down District. These are:

- **Tel's Gym** – Personal Training and Bootcamp Gym. Equipment: 3x TRX work stations, 3x punch bags
- **Downpatrick Boxing Club** – Boxing Club/Gym. Equipment: Squat Rack, 3 x benches, selection of weights up to 50kg, boxing ring, Tyres, 12 stationary weights machines, 2 x ice baths.
- **Wade Training** – Personal Training/spinning. Equipment: 12 spinning bikes, 2 x benches, selection of weights up to 40kg, 2 x barbells, 1 x prowler.
- **Neil O'Bank** – Personal Training/ Bootcamp Class. Equipment: specialized floor for prowler, 1 x prowler, specialized ropes, kettle bells, Tyres, spin bike, rower.
- **The GymDock (previously Rockpit)** – Equipment: 5 treadmills, 2 cross trainers, 2 bikes, 2 squats racks, cable crossover, weights up to 60kg.
- **Ray Gym** – Equipment: squat rack, treadmill, rower, cross trainer, 4 barbells, kettle bells, 5 stationary weights machine.
- **Conor Gelston Gym**- Annacloy Equipment: weights up 25kg, power bags, kettle bells up to 36kg, rings, 4 x squat rack, 3 x benches, boxes (box jumps), hex bar, prowler, bike, sledge hammers, full rig (squat rack, lat pd, pull up bar x 4) back extension bench, specialized ropes.
- **Saul GAC** – Equipment: Treadmill, bike, squat rack, weights up to 25 kg.
- **Pulse Fitness** – Cricket Club Equipment: 10 spinning bikes, 4 TRX cables, 4 x Punch bags, running Club.
- **East Down AC** – Equipment: 3 x treadmills, 2 x cross trainers, 2 x rowers, 2 x bikes.

CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

4.47 Consultation has identified the following in relation to the need for more community fitness provision:

- **St Joseph's High School, Newry – Shared Areas Project** The intention of the Shared Areas project is to provide community health and fitness facilities.
- **Russell Gaelic Union, Downpatrick** – The Clubs teams require a dedicated fitness area.
- **A new Leisure Centre in Newcastle** must provide a fitness suite.
- **St Louis Grammar School, Kilkeel** aspire to have a fitness gym facility open to the community.
- **Assumption Grammar School, Ballynahinch** aspire to increase the size of their fitness gym facility and open to the community.

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AGPS AND GRASS PITCHES

AGPS 3G RUBBER CRUMB PITCHES SUPPLY

4.48 There are 9 3G rubber crumb pitches across Newry, Mourne and Down District. 3 of these pitches can provide for Gaelic games as well as rugby and soccer. The remaining 5 can provide for soccer.

Table 4.9: Existing AGPs in Newry, Mourne and Down

FACILITY NAME	FACILITY	SURFACE	SIZE	OWNERSHIP	OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT	COMMUNITY ACCESS
CASTLEWELLAN CENTRE	Castlewellan	3G Rubber Crumb	Full size Soccer	Community Partnership	Community Partnership	Yes
ABBEY CHRISTIAN BROTHERS GRAMMAR SCHOOL	Newry	3G Rubber Crumb	Full size GAA	Education	Education	Yes
ASSUMPTION GRAMMAR SCHOOL	Ballynahinch	3G Rubber Crumb pitch	Full Size Soccer	Education	Education	Yes
CAMLOUGH ROVERS	Camlough	3G Rubber Crumb Pitch	Full Size Soccer	Club	Club	Yes
ST COLMAN'S COLLEGE	Newry	3G Rubber Crumb	Full Size Rugby, Gaelic Football and Soccer	Education	Education	Yes
ST PATRICK'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL (RED HIGH)	Downpatrick	3G Rubber Crumb	Full Size Gaelic Football	Education	Education	Yes
WARREN POINT TOWN FC MILLTOWN PLAYING FIELDS	Newry	3G Rubber Crumb	Not Full Size Soccer	Club	Club	Yes
VALLEY RANGERS/ BRACKEN CENTRE	Kilkeel	3G Rubber Crumb	Full Size Soccer	Community Centre	Community Centre	Yes
KILLYLEAGH FC	Killyleagh	3G Rubber Crumb	Not Full Size Soccer	Club	Club	Yes
DONARD PARK	Newcastle	Sand Dressed	Hockey/Soccer Training	LA	LA	Yes

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FACILITY NAME	FACILITY	SURFACE	SIZE	OWNERSHIP	OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT	COMMUNITY ACCESS
DOWN HOCKEY CLUB MALONE PARK	Downpatrick	Sand dressed	Hockey/Soccer Training	Club	Club	Yes
ST COLMAN'S HIGH SCHOOL	Ballynahinch	Sand Based	Hockey/Soccer Training	Education	Education	Yes
KILKEEL HIGH SCHOOL	Kilkeel	Sand Based	Hockey/Soccer Training	Education	Education	Yes
MCAULEY PARK KILKEEL	Kilkeel	Sand based	Hockey/Soccer Training	Club	Club	Yes
NEWRY OLYMPIC HOCKEY	Newry	Sand Based	Hockey/Soccer Training	Club	Club	Yes
SILVERBRIDGE RESOURCE CENTRE	Silverbridge	Sand Based	Hockey/Soccer Training	Community	Community	Yes
SAINTFIELD HOCKEY CLUB	Saintfield	Shale	Hockey	Club	Club	Yes
THREE WAYS COMMUNITY CENTRE	Newry	Sand Based	Hockey/Soccer Training	Community	Community	Yes

- 4.49 A 3G rubber crumb pitch carpet lasts approximately 10 years before it will require replacing. To ensure sustainability of providing 3G rubber crumb pitches business and sports development plans for each pitch should be produced. The business and sports development plan should provide evidence of programming and an income and expenditure stream that will provide a sink fund that will pay for the replacement carpet when required. A new replacement carpet can cost up to £200,000.
- 4.50 There are approximately **55** soccer Clubs across Newry, Mourne and Down providing approximately **215** teams. The English Football Association through its new 3G Rubber Crumb Pitch strategy has decided that to support a new 3G pitch there must be a minimum of 42 teams (not Clubs within the area but teams that would have access to the pitch for training and competition).
- 4.51 By using the **42** teams formulae on a District wide basis for Newry, Mourne and Down with approximately **215** teams there is a need for 5 3G rubber crumb pitches for soccer there are currently 8 3G rubber crumb pitches of which 5 solely provide for soccer across Newry, Mourne and Down.
- 4.52 There are a further 3 soccer 3G pitches planned - John Bosco Youth Club site (Respect soccer project) in Kilkeel, Ballyhornan and Downpatrick Football Club.

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- 4.53 If you take GAA football, hurling and camogie there are approximately **45 Clubs** providing approximately **476 teams**. Applying 42 teams to 1 3G rubber crumb pitch identifies a need for 11 3G rubber crumb pitches for Gaelic Games across the District. Currently there are only 3 3G rubber crumb pitches suitable for Gaelic games.
- 4.54 **To meet Sport Northern Ireland Sports Hub needs it would be appropriate to support Clubs and sports that will work together in the future eg GAA, Soccer and Rugby Clubs whereby 42 teams using a sports hub facility can at least train on 1 3G pitch.**
- 4.55 Wherever possible the IFA, IRFU and the GAA are keen to work in partnership with local authorities to develop new multi-sport facilities, providing access for all. This latter point is critical, as despite GAA facilities providing open access to most facilities, there is still a perception in some and particularly the rural areas of NI, that these are not available across the community.
- 4.56 Provision of additional 3G pitches would help to address accessibility issues for GAA, football and rugby, because existing grass pitches cannot always be used by everyone simply because many are of insufficient quality to meet demand and some are on education sites where there is no access and/or the pitches do not have floodlighting. Opening up access to synthetic floodlit pitches and sports halls on education sites (school/college), would help to satisfy existing unmet demand for sports facilities and particularly grass pitches.

HOCKEY ALL WEATHER PITCHES

- 4.57 Hockey all weather pitches are different to 3G rubber crumb pitches. These are sand based and have a much shorter pile carpet. Hockey cannot currently be played on 3G rubber crumb. In the past hockey has been played on shale and grass. However, the playing surface now sanctioned by Ulster Hockey is an all-weather short carpet and sand based pitch. The following hockey Clubs play at the following facilities across Newry, Mourne and Down:
- **Kilkeel Hockey Club – McAuley Park, Kilkeel**
 - **Nomads Hockey Club – Donard Park, Newcastle**
 - **Newry Olympic Hockey Club – Newry Olympic Hockey Club, Newry**
 - **Ballynahinch Hockey Club – St Colman’s High School, Ballynahinch**
 - **Down Hockey Club – Malone Park, Downpatrick**
 - **Saintfield Hockey Club – Travel to where they can find an all-weather pitch for match use. Training currently takes place at St Colman’s High School, Ballynahinch**
- 4.58 There is a need to provide a sand based all-weather pitch at Saintfield to replace the outdated shale pitch and a need to replace the carpet at McAuley Park where Kilkeel Hockey Club play.
- 4.59 There are 2 disused shale pitches at Langley Road with floodlights. There are decisions that are required as what these two shale pitches could be used for in the future. The same applies to the Shale Pitch at Dunleath Park, Downpatrick.

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- 4.60 The 2014 updated Bridging the Gap assessment identifies a surplus of 45 pitches in Newry, Mourne and Down (grass and all weather) including education all weather and grass pitches. When Education Grass pitches are excluded and just all-weather education pitches are included there is a deficit of 25 pitches. The analysis is based upon the six acre standard and that Sport NI count an AGP as 4 times a grass pitch. In fact, a 3G rubber crumb pitch if used as a central venue site for 9 v 9, 7 v 7 or 5 v 5 can hold more than 4 competitive games per day.
- 4.61 The six acre standard methodology does not take into consideration quality of pitches or actual demand for pitches. It uses a standard per 1000 population and treats demand as standard across all 11 Local Authorities in Northern Ireland. The demand however is not standard. Newry, Mourne and Down have for example 45 GAA Clubs where Ards and North Down have 4 GAA Clubs.
- 4.62 From a sustainability view point 3G rubber crumb pitches should be used during the day by schools and the evenings for training and weekends for competitive games. A minimum demand of teams for use of a 3G pitch should be instigated eg 42 teams per 3G rubber crumb pitch.
- 4.63 The carpet of the AGP will be required to be replaced nearly every 10 years and in this instance it is recommended that a sink fund is set up for each 3G pitch to provide for the funding of a new carpet in the future. The projected cost is £200,000 per pitch. This should be met from income from these pitches. This means that a business case showing £20,000 per annum to a sink fund for the replacement of the carpet and a sports development case is required each time a 3G pitch is built or supported by the authority.

GRASS PITCH AND CHANGING ROOMS:

- 4.64 There are different quality standards for playing pitch surfaces. Soccer for instance states that a poor pitch only allows for 1 game per week, to be played, a standard pitch allows 2 games a week and a good pitch allows for 3 games a week.
- 4.65 The quality of playing pitches in the ownership of Newry, Mourne and Down have been assessed for quality and capacity.
- 4.66 In the absence of an agreed methodology in Northern Ireland for quality assessments of playing pitches. The methodology used in the Sport England Playing Pitch Assessment agreed with the England Football Association (FA) has been used by Council Officers:
- **Good**
 - **Standard**
 - **Poor**
- 4.67 Quality of pitches determines the capacity or number of times a pitch can be played. The England Football Association has set guidance standards for the number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its current quality (pitch capacity).
- 4.68 The following table identifies the guidelines for quality and capacity that have been used across Newry, Mourne and Down Playing Pitches.

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Table 4.10: Guidelines for Football Pitch Quality across the Newry, Mourne and Down Playing Pitches

ADULT PITCHES		YOUTH PITCHES		MINI PITCHES	
PITCH QUALITY	MATCHES PER WEEK	PITCH QUALITY	MATCHES PER WEEK	PITCH QUALITY	MATCHES PER WEEK
Good	3	Good	4	Good	6
Standard	2	Standard	2	Standard	4
Poor	1	Poor	1	Poor	2

It should be noted with a possible provision of specific DEA Hubs and the development of AGP pitches the need for the 58 grass pitches may no longer be required and the upgrading requirements of the pitches listed above will have to be re-evaluated as the DEA Hubs shall provide sufficient facilities for all current usage.

4.69 The aim must be to bring the 'Poor' and 'Standard' quality pitches up to a 'Good' standard. There is a need to provide the following:

- **Gerry Brown Park – Pitch required at 'Good' Standard**
- **Jennings Park 1 and Jennings Park 2 - Pitch required 'Good' Standard**
- **Jack Mackin Park – Pitch required 'Good' Standard**
- **Norman Brown Park – Pitch required**
- **Derryleckagh W Davis Street and Derryleckagh Olympic Park – Pitch required 'Standard' quality**
- **Derryleckagh P Barry Park – Pitch required at 'Good' Standard**
- **St Michael's Gaelic requires an extra pitch per week at a 'Good' Standard and raise current 'Standard' pitch to 'Good'.**
- **Milltown Park - Pitch required 'Good' Standard**
- **Dunleath Park – raise both existing pitches to 'Standard' quality**
- **Drumaness Soccer – raise the existing pitch to 'Good' quality**
- **Ardglass – current pitch needs to be raised to a 'Standard' standard**
- **Killough – current pitch needs to be raised to a 'Standard' standard**
- **Strangford – current pitch needs to be raised to 'Good' standard**
- **Castlewellan – needs pitch raised to 'Good' Standard**
- **Annsborough – current pitch needs to be raised from standard of pitch to 'Good' Standard**

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- **Dundrum (Newcastle) requires drainage works**
- **Langley Road – needs additional drainage works.**
- **Kilbroney Park – raise both existing pitches to ‘Standard’ quality.**

4.70 There are a number of playing pitch facilities leased to different Clubs. A number of Clubs have also requested leases at a number of sites these are:

- **Milltown Gaelic Pitch, Pavilion and Car Park - Request (Warrenpoint GAA)**
- **Nan Sands Park Soccer - Request (Saval GAA)**
- **Mona View Green 5 Aside - Request (Annalong Community Group)**
- **Gerry Brown Park Gaelic Pitch - Request (Mitchell's GAA)**
- **Lisdrumliska Recreation Area/Pitch (Glen Hill) - Request (Newry Rugby Club)**
- **Shandon Park/Norman Brown Park Soccer Pitch - Request (Damolly F/C)**
- **Annsborough Playing Fields - Request (Aughlisnafin GAA)**
- **Murdock Soccer Pitch - Request (Forkhill GAA)**
- **St. Michael's Gaelic Pitch - Request (St Michael's GAA)**

4.71 The strategy has identified a need to undertake refurbishment or renewal works on the following outdoor recreational changing/pavilions.

Table 4.11: Identified Needs

PITCH	REFURBISH/UPGRADE CHANGING/PAVILION	REPLACE CHANGING/PAVILION
Derryleckagh W Davis Street	NEEDS UPGRADED	
Derryleckagh P Barry Park	NEEDS UPGRADED	
Derryleckagh Olympic Park	NEEDS UPGRADED	
Milltown Park		POOR NEEDS TO BE REPLACED
Mourne Esplanade Pitch	NEEDS UPGRADED	
Dunleath Park Pitches	NEEDS UPGRADED	
Ardglass	NEEDS UPGRADED	
Ballykinlar	NEEDS UPGRADED	
Rosconnor Pitch Annacloy	NEEDS UPGRADED	
Donard Pitches Donard Park	NEEDS UPGRADED	
Dundrum	NEEDS UPGRADED	
Castlewellan	NEEDS UPGRADED	

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PITCH	REFURBISH/UPGRADE CHANGING/PAVILION	REPLACE CHANGING/PAVILION
Annsborough	NEEDS UPGRADED	
Langley Road Pitches	NEEDS UPGRADED	
Killbroney Park		NEED FACILITIES

4.72 The table below identifies the bowls and tennis pavilions that need to be replaced or refurbished.

Table 4.13: Bowls and tennis pavilions for refurbishment

FACILITY	REFURBISH/UPGRADE CHANGING/PAVILION	REPLACE CHANGING/PAVILION
Warrenpoint Bowling Green		Portacabin needs to be replaced
Warrenpoint Tennis shared with Gaelic		Portacabin needs to be replaced
Annalong Bowling and Tennis	Needs to be upgraded	
Newcastle Bowls Club Castle Park		Needs to be replaced
Newcastle Tennis – Island Park	Needs to be upgraded	

CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

4.73 The consultation process raised a significant number of points and issues related to grass and all weather pitch provision in the district. The feedback on pitch provision, current and future, represents the majority of comments received.

4.74 The consultation feedback identified the following:

- **Killyleagh YC Football Club has a vision to have a 3G pitch.**
- **Downpatrick Football Club – Have applied for funding for a 3G pitch close to the racecourse in Downpatrick.**
- **Down GAA – would like a centre of excellence within Newry, Mourne and Down to include grass pitches and a 3G floodlit playing area with 6 grass sand based pitches 4 of these to be floodlit.**
- **Derryleckagh Playing Fields – Convert 2 no. full size 3G soccer pitches (in existing pitches location), 1 no. 3G full size Gaelic pitch (in existing pitch location), 1 no. 3G rugby pitch - located in new area of land beside existing pitches, 1 no. small 3G multi use pitch - located in new area of land beside existing pitches. (Due to River Agency plains/floodplains this site has been identified as unsuitable as 3G facility).**
- **Newry High School - 3G soccer/Rugby pitch with community use.**
- **St Mark's High School in Partnership with St Peters GAA – 3G floodlit full size GAA pitch.**

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

- **Ballynahinch Rugby Club – propose a 3G rubber crumb pitch for soccer, rugby and GAA on their second grass rugby pitch.**
- **Kilbroney Park – 3G rubber crumb pitch.**
- **Mullaghglass Primary School – 3G rubber crumb pitch.**
- **St Louis Grammar School – 3G training area for Gaelic football and rugby.**
- **Saintfield Utd – require a 3G soccer pitch.**
- **Aughlisnafin GAC – Are seeking funding for a 3G Gaelic football pitch.**
- **Castlewellan GAC – Are seeking funding for a 3G Gaelic football pitch.**
- **Killeavy GAC – Have aspirations for a 3G Gaelic football pitch.**
- **Crossmaglen Rangers in partnership with St Joseph's School - Seeking funding for a 3G Gaelic football pitch.**
- **Camlough Rovers – Aspire for a second 3G pitch with a stand for 200 to assist the Club to get into the Irish League.**
- **Saintfield Hockey Club are in need of an all-weather pitch to meet their men’s, ladies and junior team match requirements.**
- **Kilkeel Hockey Club – The current pitch carpet urgently requires replacement.**

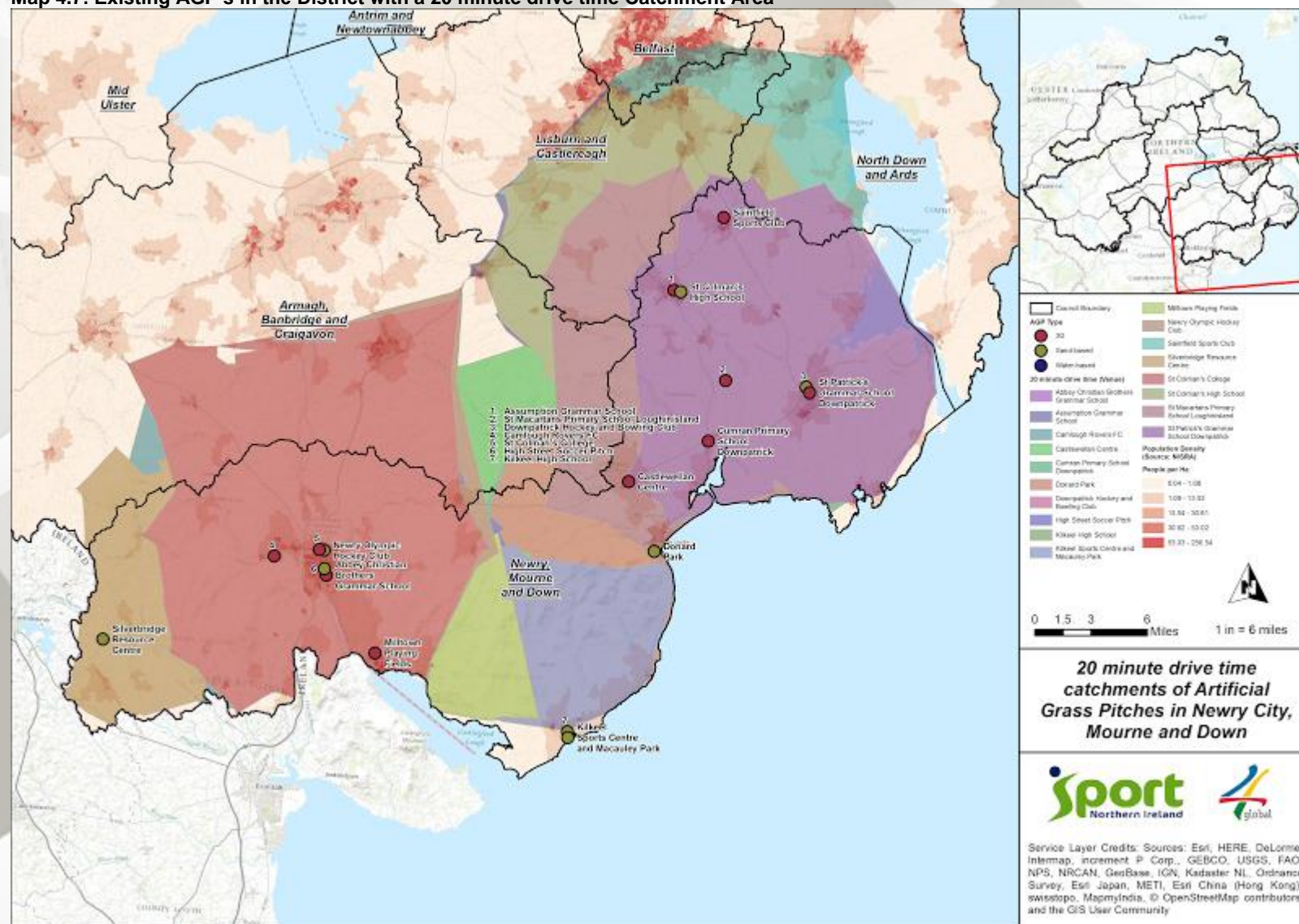
4.75 There are numerous comments on improvements to Grass Pitches, Changing rooms and other ancillary facilities. The comments have been captured as part of this strategy and have been noted as perceived improvements and requirements for Clubs. Some of these improvements are also geared towards sports hubs and all the consultation can be seen in Key Issues Identified by Sports Clubs and Other Organisations.

ACCESSIBILITY

4.76 Map 4.7 shows the existing AGPs in the district. Map 4.7 shows these facilities with a 20 minute drive time catchment area.

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Map 4.7: Existing AGP's in the District with a 20 minute drive time Catchment Area



SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

OTHER SPORTS FACILITIES

4.77 There are a number of other sports facilities in Newry, Mourne and Down which also need discussion in terms of future provision. Specifically, these include:

- **Tennis Facilities**
- **Athletics Facilities**
- **Bowls Facilities**
- **Water Sports Facilities**
- **Walking and National Cycle Network**

TENNIS FACILITIES

KEY ISSUES

4.78 During the consultation for this Strategy the following perceptions have been identified:

- **Newry Tennis Club/Newcastle Tennis Club - Need for a bubble to be able to provide year round tennis facilities and a need for additional tennis courts across Newry. The tennis courts at Warrenpoint need to be protected.**
- **St Mark's High School and St Peter's GAA (Strategic Alliance) – plan to refurbish floodlit tennis courts.**
- **Downpatrick Tennis Club - The tennis Club require a minimum of 4 courts and the current courts need resurfacing and floodlights provided.**
- **Assumption Grammar School - Enhancement of existing bitmac surface for tennis facilities.**
- **Suggestion that Newcastle tennis courts are included with other sports facilities all within one area.**
- **Huge waiting list for Downpatrick Tennis Club**
- **Newcastle Tennis Club have provided a development plan to include renewing existing court surfaces, providing a bubble over 2 courts and providing additional courts.**
- **Councillors were surprised that Warrenpoint Tennis Club had not requested a bubble for its courts. The consultation identified that they wished to protect their courts from closure.**

4.79 Options – At each of the locations for sports hubs tennis should be a priority.

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ATHLETIC FACILITIES

- 4.80 Athletics facilities in Newry are well served by St Colman's School. The facilities on this site provide for a 6 lane athletics track and caters for all track and field events. The athletics track is managed by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council in the evenings and weekends. The facility is relatively new, opening in November 2011. The St Colman's Sports Complex including the athletics track was funded through a unique partnership including Newry and Mourne District Council, St Colman's College, Sport Northern Ireland and the Department for Social Development.
- 4.81 During the consultation for this Strategy the following perceptions have been identified:
- **Murlough Athletics Club** - There are no facilities in Downpatrick to encourage running/athletics among our many young people attending local schools. Running is perfect as a healthy sport option to people who either don't like or feel they are no good at team sports or ball sports. No safe place to run at night, especially for women and children. Running training often involves frequent fast interval/sprint runs over short periods and runners are a safety hazard to all other pedestrians (and cars) during this type of training. A running track would solve this.
 - **East Down Athletics Club** - The development of an all-weather running track is vital, not only for the development of the East Down AC but also the health of the community. The broad membership of EDAC in ability and age is a great benefit to all the community in the Downpatrick area. A running track would allow further expansion of the Club and also allow development of athletics for talented youngsters who have to travel to other Clubs in Belfast/Lisburn to reach their potential.
 - **St Mary's GFC, Burren** – Wish to develop a Running/Walking track - Develop track around perimeter of playing field to accommodate athletics Club, walkers, local community, boxing Club, GAA teams.
 - **Bryansford GAC, Newcastle Nomad Hockey Club, Newcastle FC and Newcastle AC** - Athletics track within the district which would be most likely centrally located. The partners would be all athletics Clubs and the Council. Jogging facilities – Lower Demesne area at Donard Park, Newcastle – jogging trails with discrete lighting etc – partner's athletic Club and the Council.
 - Councillors asked if Newry was a full length athletic facility and why the facility wasn't an eight lane track and was it fit for purpose. It was concluded that it was a six lane track which is what Sport NI recommended and that there was no need for another 8 lane track in Northern Ireland. It was fit for purpose and met all accreditation standards.
 - Councillors suggested Kilbroney as a site for a floodlit athletics or running area. Newcastle promenade becomes a running track during the winter months. A number of GAA Clubs have placed walking and running tracks around their pitch. It was also explained that it was quite costly to provide and maintain a running track and that the return was quite small in monetary terms.
- 4.82 There is a need for an athletics facility in and around Downpatrick/Newcastle. A 6 lane track in partnership with a school would be the most sensible option.

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

BOWLS FACILITIES

KEY ISSUES

4.83 During the consultation for this Strategy the following perceptions have been identified:

- **Bowls Pavilions are generally in poor state of repair – Saintfield Bowls Club, Newry Bowls Club, Newcastle Bowls Club, St Peter’s and St Paul’s Bowls Club and Kilkeel Bowling Club.**
- **Some Clubs need access to short mat bowls equipment.**
- **Need to take into consideration the social aspect of bowls.**
- **Council should be looking after and maintaining its own facilities.**
- **Can different Clubs be included in one facility eg a sports hub.**
- **Identify the cost of providing and running an artificial bowls green.**

4.84 Sport NI would like Local authorities to consider the following and consider strategically located artificial bowls greens in the future.

4.85 The cost of maintaining outdoor greens is a challenge for local authorities in times of reducing budgets. If maintenance is not undertaken the greens become poor quality and therefore are not fit for purpose. Rationalising the number of existing grass bowls greens and developing strategically located artificial bowls greens across the 11 new Council areas is important to maintain and develop participation, particularly as the Northern Ireland population is aging. The benefit of this programme will be increased and sustainable participative opportunities in the community, as well as the development of facilities suitable for high performance training.

4.86 The Council should consider offering Clubs a new pavilion with an artificial bowls green to manage the facility and lease the facility for 25 years. The cost of the artificial bowls green could be recovered in 3 years and maintenance funds diverted for other grass pitch maintenance.

4.87 The following bowls changing /pavilions need to be upgraded or replaced

Table 4.14: Bowls changing / pavilions the need to be upgraded or replace

FACILITY	REFURBISH/UPGRADE CHANGING/PAVILION	REPLACE CHANGING/PAVILION
Warrenpoint Bowling Green		Portacabin needs to be replaced
Annalong Bowling and Tennis	Needs to be upgraded	
Newcastle Bowls Club Castle Park		Needs to be replaced
Kilkeel Bowling Pavilion	Needs to be upgraded and extended	

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

WATER SPORTS FACILITIES

KEY ISSUES

4.88 During the consultation for this Strategy the following perceptions have been identified:

- **Bryansford GAC, Newcastle Nomad Hockey Club, Newcastle FC and Newcastle AC - Enhanced yachting and wet sports facilities at our various harbours but specifically Annalong, Newcastle, Dundrum – Kilkeel, Ardglass and Warrenpoint would be considered too busy to encourage water sports. Better use of Newry Canal as a wet sports centre – canoeing etc – Better use of disused quarries for diving and water sports in safety partners would be Council, yacht Clubs and community groups this would also have some tourism benefits.**
- **Camlough Lake (changing pavilion and storage facilities to promote Camlough Lake Sports)**

4.89 The Leisure and Sports Development Department should consider a joint study with tourism to enhance existing water sports and develop new water sports facilities across Newry, Mourne and Down.

WALKING AND THE NATIONAL CYCLE NETWORK

4.90 Recent new cycling/walking trails opened include: Bunkers's Hill, Castlewellaan - multi use trails, completed and officially launched and Castlewellaan Forest Park - walking trails completed and officially launched.

4.91 Development of cycling and walking trails in both urban and rural areas provides the opportunity to incorporate physical activity into daily life e.g. walking/cycling to work and provide an important network of routes used recreationally by families and individuals.

4.92 The development of an iconic route or trail has significant potential and appeal. Such an investment would benefit the overall population, as well as result in inward investment as a result of use by visitors and tourists. A Northern Ireland Coastal Path could be developed based on existing infrastructure and would significantly benefit Northern Ireland communities both in terms of participation and health, as well as delivering real economic benefits.

4.93 Equally, a long-term project to develop a network of riverside routes, linking into the existing walking and cycling networks already existing in Northern Ireland would provide an increased number of family friendly and safe routes, to encourage and facilitate increased levels of physical activity across Northern Ireland communities.

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

- **Specific opportunities include:**

- Development of an iconic coastal path similar to the one in Wales (around the Welsh Coast) as part of the Community Paths Network, which would provide safe and accessible walking, along the coastal areas from Donegal to Carlingford Lough, Causeway Coast and Glens and County Down. Outdoor Recreation NI states that every time a new walking route is established, it results in a massive increase in usage. The Wales Coast Path generated 2.82m visitors in its first 12 months of operation and added £32m to the Wales economy, as well as significantly raising the profile of Wales through national and international media.
- Development of a national network of Riverside Paths (based on a partnership between ORNI, Department for Communities, Inland Waterways, Waterways Ireland, Loughs Agency, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency and Sport NI); following the implementation of the EU Protection of Water Framework Directive, there is a significant opportunity to create riverside and woodland trails alongside existing rivers. A tree belt has to be planted 10m from the riverside, which could create such family friendly routes for both cycling and walking.
- Greencastle to Kilkeel requested by Kilkeel Development Association
- Derrymore House Walking Trail
- Outdoor Gym and 1km track around Downshire Estate.

- **There is an identified need to review and further develop the National Cycle Network including:**

- Maximising the potential of current greenways; developing new linear greenways; and
- Developing greenway links to communities.

- **Projects identified in the Outdoor Recreation NI Action Plan/Operational Review 2015 include:**

- Outdoor Sports Hubs – Sperrins, Mournes, Causeway Coast and Glens
- Off-road coastal walking route from Portavogie to Kilkeel.
- Mountain bike trails and walking trails.
- Proposed Mourne Coastal route pathway.

GENERIC KEY ISSUES

4.94 The following generic key issues have been identified following the consultation on this Strategy:

- **Need for the Council to assist Sports Clubs and organisations with capacity building, the development of sports development and business plans and funding application advice.**
- **Need for a replacement facility in Newcastle alongside outdoor facilities.**
- **Improved access to education based facilities.**
- **The role of community centres in the delivery of sport and physical activity.**
- **The perception of insufficient quantity of playing pitches and the poor quality of playing pitches.**

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

- The perception of need for 3G grass pitches across Newry, Mourne and Down.
- The need to address the quality of provision of outdoor playing pitch pavilion and changing provision.
- Identified aspirations of Club/community organisation investment needs.
- Opportunities to develop cycling and walking provision in and around Newry, Mourne and Down, particularly linked to the coast, rivers and canal.

4.95 Below sets out criteria and methodology for scoring and prioritising each individual clubs needs

• Sports Halls

- Sports Halls – There is a need to consider future provision of sports hall facilities in Newcastle along with other facilities such as swimming when funding becomes available.
- Otherwise no identified need to build additional sports hall facilities for community use across Newry, Mourne and Down - it would be considered sustainable to provide community use of existing school sports halls not currently open for community use.
- Priority 1: School Sports Halls that already exist and wish to open for community use.
- Priority 2: School sports hall that are existing, wish to open for community use but require refurbishment.
- Priority 3: New school sports halls that wish to open for community use.

• Swimming Pools

- There is a need to consider future provision of swimming pool space in the Newcastle - There will be a need for additional water space in Newry Mourne and Down going forward to 2037. This is roughly equivalent to a 4 lane 25m pool 212sq m.
- Consideration should be given to providing an indoor swimming pool alongside any future indoor leisure provision in Newcastle.
- Priority 1: provision of future 4 lane swimming pool space in Newcastle
- Priority 2: provision of any other swimming space in Newcastle

• Artificial Grass Pitch 3G and Sand Based

- Priority 1: Provision of artificial grass pitch for GAA, Rugby, Hockey and Football must be provided on a multi sports hub site catering for 4 or 5 sports and meet the Sports Hub Criteria.
- There will be some DEAs with more than 1 site prioritisation would come down to number of potential users, and sustainability - sound business plan and sports development plan. Sink funds in place.
- Priority 2: Provision of artificial 3G or sand based artificial grass pitch on one club site with less than 4 sports as a partnership arrangement in place.

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

- Priority 3: Provision of artificial 3G or sand based artificial grass pitch on one club site for use by one club.

• Grass Pitches

- Priority 1: Upgrading and or replacement of existing Council owned pitches.
- Priority 2: Upgrading and or replacement of non-Council owned pitches.

• Pavilions and changing rooms

- Decision needs to be taken should financial support be given to clubs before the Council has refurbished/ replaced its own outdoor sports changing rooms.
- Priority 1: Upgrading and or replacement of existing Council owned pavilions and changing rooms.
- Priority 2: Upgrading or replacement of non-Council owned pavilions and changing rooms most likely to provide increases in usage in the community.
- Priority 3: Upgrading or replacement of non-Council owned pavilions and changing rooms no increased usage in the community.

• Bowls - Pavilion and Green renewal/ refurbishment

- Any identified Bowls greens should consider having the green replaced with an artificial grass surface to reduce maintenance costs.
- Priority 1: Where clubs agree to change from a grass surface to an all-weather surface and undertake a lease for the facility.
- Priority 2: All other Bowls Pavilion and green renewal and refurbishment

• Tennis

- There is a need to refurbish Newcastle Tennis courts and there is a proposal to relocate Kilkeel tennis courts. There is a need to either provide bubble (minimum 2 courts) at Newry Tennis club or Newcastle Tennis Club.
- Priority 1: Provision of a bubble where most use will take place.
- Priority 2: Council owned tennis facility requirements
- Priority 3: Non Council owned tennis facility requirements

• Sports Hub

- Priority 1: Meets all the Sports Hub Criteria with the exception of criteria 5.
- Priority 2: Meets 5 out of 7 of the Sports Hub Criteria with the exception of criteria 5
- Priority 3: Meets 4 out of 7 of the Sports Hub Criteria with the exception of criteria 5
- Priority 4: Meets less than 3 out of 7 of the Sports Hub Criteria with the exception of criteria 5.

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

- **Health and Fitness Gyms**

- No identified additional need.

- **Athletics**

- Newcastle Athletics Club - Athletics track – within district – most likely centrally located – partners all athletics clubs and council

- **Water Sports/Walking and Cycling/Other**

- Priority 1: Fits with other stakeholders plans and strategies and likely to receive funding
- Priority 2: Does not fit with other stakeholders plans and strategies.

EACH CLUB AND SPORTING GROUP SHOULD NOTE THAT THEIR INDIVIDUAL NEEDS ARE INCLUDED IN THE STRATEGIC DOCUMENT AND GIVEN A PRIORITY SCORE AS PER GUIDANCE ABOVE, HOWEVER THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL SHALL FUND OR SHOULD BE EXPECTED TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR EACH FACILITY.

HOWEVER, THIS DOCUMENT CONFIRMS THE NEEDS WITHIN OUR DISTRICT AND NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL WILL SUPPORT EACH CLUB/BODY WITH THEIR INDIVIDUAL EFFORTS TO GAIN FUNDING OR WORKS.

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Table 4.15: Key Issues Identified by Sports Clubs and Organisations

ORGANISATION OR SITE	LOCATION AND CATEGORY	DEA	PRIORITY	FACILITIES REQUIRED	PARTNERSHIPS
ULSTER SMALL ARMS SHOOTING CLUB				Would like an indoor range awaiting planning permission for facilities for people with disabilities 4 members are shooting in Italy.	
DOWN GAA	District Wide	District Wide		<p>Down GAA Facilities Requirements 2015 And Beyond</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop a Centre of Excellence located within Down with a good road infrastructure making it accessible by all. On Site to have an Administrative Headquarters for Down GAA. To have 6 full size Grass Sand Based pitches with 4 of these pitches flood-lit to a high spec. To have one 3G surface playing area flood-lit. To have 6 full size Changing Rooms with two of these to be female specific. To have a full size sports hall. To have a strength and Conditioning facility. To create a Down Health and Well-Being Centre where all ages can benefit from advice on nutrition, diet, life style and mental and physical well-being. To have Two Hurling/Camogie Walls. An Indoor Handball Court. (To be All Ireland Standard). On site Catering and Dining facilities. Facilities on site for Athletics/Walking activity. On site Crèche facilities. Car Parking and Toilet Facilities 	
BOWLS PAVILIONS	District Wide	District Wide		Pavilions are generally in poor state of repair – Saintfield Bowls Club, Newry Bowls Club, Newcastle Bowls Club, St Peter and St Paul’s Bowls Club, Kilkeel Bowling Club	
GUIDANCE FUNDING AND CAPACITY BUILDING	District Wide	District Wide		Clubs require assistance on how to access funding and applying for funding	

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ORGANISATION OR SITE	LOCATION AND CATEGORY	DEA	PRIORITY	FACILITIES REQUIRED	PARTNERSHIPS
OPENING UP OF SCHOOL FACILITIES	District Wide	District Wide		Need to open up school facilities for community use	
PLAYING PITCH CHANGING ROOMS	District Wide	District Wide		Poor condition of playing pitch changing rooms across the district	
CANOEING ON THE CANAL	Newry – Water Sports	Newry	1	Lack of water sports on the canal – could start canoeing if a container was allowed on the side of the canal.	
NEWRY SHAMROCKS	Newry	Newry	2	Newry Shamrocks caters for 22 GAA teams (Football, Hurling and juveniles). They have a registered Youth Club with 195 members and a section called “autistic mums” who used the Clubs facilities with a membership of 97.	
	Grass Pitches			The development plan for Parc Esler is to raise the level of the existing pitches by 2 feet and install new drains and floodlights.	
	Sports Hall			1	
SACRED HEART BOXING CLUB	Newry – Sports Hall	Newry	2	<p>Since 2013 the Club have worked with Newry and Mourne District Council and it was the Council that proposed an extension at Bessbrook Community Centre.</p> <p>Following this detailed plans were drawn up and the Club were granted funding by Newry and Mourne District Council for the capital build. The Club was assured that they were a priority case for facility development at Bessbrook Community Centre.</p> <p>Throughout the whole process the Club worked closely with officers and local Councillors.</p> <p>This is a priority for the Club as they moved into the Loughbrook industrial estate as a holding measure until the capital build was completed. The Club are paying £150 a week in rent, which is a huge burden on the Club financially.</p>	
NEWRY TENNIS CLUB	Newry - Tennis	Newry	1	Need for a bubble to be able to provide year round tennis facilities. Need for additional tennis courts across Newry and must not take tennis courts out of Warrenpoint	

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ORGANISATION OR SITE	LOCATION AND CATEGORY	DEA	PRIORITY	FACILITIES REQUIRED	PARTNERSHIPS
NEWRY HIGH SCHOOL	Newry – Sports Hub	Newry	2	<p>The current site is under utilised by the community it serves and there exists an opportunity to develop a strategic project that will have a significant benefit and impact on the school, the community and the surrounding Newry area.</p> <p>Current facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sporting outdoor facilities at Newry High School are currently very poor. • The school currently has 2 gravel pitches that are poor surfaces for the delivery of outdoor games. • The school are the only post primary school in the SELB that does not have a grass/3G pitch/area. • There is a lack of full sized soccer sporting facilities in the Newry region. <p>The Project: The Project proposal is to develop the existing facilities at Newry High to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A full sized artificial (3G) soccer/rugby pitch on existing south gravel site - drainage, goals, dugouts, markings etc. • Flood lighting (3G) – to ensure full use / benefits gained from improved facilities • Fencing – required to ensure site is safe and secure at all times • Separate changing facilities and a community block 	<p>Newry High School Damolly Soccer Club Newry Rugby Club Newry and Mourne Council IFA Sporting NI RFU SELB</p> <p>Action so far: Planning application approved Outline Business Case completed Community Plan completed</p> <p>Number of meetings with senior management and elected officials from all partnership groups Key support from Newry and Mourne Council and SELB</p> <p>Newry High School Student Council – letter to and visit from Minister of Education</p> <p>Discussions over draft lease agreement with Newry and Mourne Council</p>

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ORGANISATION OR SITE	LOCATION AND CATEGORY	DEA	PRIORITY	FACILITIES REQUIRED	PARTNERSHIPS
St JOSEPH'S HIGH SCHOOL NEWRY	Newry – Sports Hub	Newry	2	<p>Community based initiative called SHARED AREAS which is registered as a company (limited by guarantee) with charitable status.</p> <p>The intention of the Shared Areas project is to provide community health and fitness facilities at St Joseph's HS, Newry including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3G football pitch • Climbing walls (interior and exterior) • External fitness zone • Internal fitness suite • Cycle provision <p>We have engaged in extensive community consultation from September 2014 and are in the process of seeking funding to help create the aforementioned community facilities.</p>	<p>We have been working in connection with the 9 Community Associations in Newry and have developed partnerships with the Southern Health and Care Trust, local Church groups, DENI and PSNI Neighbourhood Policing Team.</p> <p>The Shared Areas project is working to create a series of community health and fitness facilities on the premises of St Joseph's HS which include: 3G football pitch, Climbing walls (interior and exterior), Fitness zone (interior and exterior) and Cycle provision.</p> <p>The need for these facilities has been identified from additional community consultation which looked at the social issues of people in the Armagh Road, in which problems with education, social justice and community cohesion have been highlighted.</p> <p>These facilities/services will run in conjunction with existing facilities at the school itself (computer suites, Home Economics facilities etc.) to allow community groups to take part in other socially beneficial activities and in effect improve the social cohesiveness of the area.</p> <p>The benefactors of the proposed facilities will include: the youth, the elderly and family units. As a not-for-profit organisation, there will be a system established which will allow the facilities to be used at a reduced cost or for free for people impacted by financial difficulties.</p>
NEWRY SPORTS CENTRE COMPLEX	Sports Hub	Newry	1	Develop Jennings Park into 3 AGP pitches for soccer and Gaelic and possibly rugby combined, The tennis courts form Our Lady's Grammar School. Walking trail and possible outdoor gym equipment.	Newry, Mourne and Down Council, GAA Clubs, Local Soccer League, Our Lady's Grammar School Newry Rugby Club, Tennis Clubs
NEWRY CITY FC	Newry – Showgrounds - AGP	Newry	2	To replace the current grass pitch with a 3G pitch, complete minor ground improvements to comply with UEFA criteria, improvements to community facilities – social/meeting rooms, develop the back pitches for community use with 3G rubber crumb.	Newry City FC Possible Bid For Funding, Newry Shamrocks, Newry Mitchels Local Running Clubs, Local Carnbane League

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ORGANISATION OR SITE	LOCATION AND CATEGORY	DEA	PRIORITY	FACILITIES REQUIRED	PARTNERSHIPS
ST MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL	Newry AGP	Newry	3	<p>The school has applied through Minor Works application for Joint Funding for a Multi-Use Games Area in conjunction with an application to DSD.</p> <p>Currently plans have been drawn up and forwarded for planning approval and the school have been told the planning approval will last five years in which such time funding may become available.</p>	St Mary's High School
DOWN HIGH SCHOOL	Downpatrick Sports Hall	Downpatrick	2	New school in the future with community use providing sports hall and outdoor facilities.	Local Authority School Education
EAST DOWN ATHLETICS CLUB	Downpatrick Athletics	Downpatrick	1	The development of an all-weather running track is vital, not only for the development of the East Down AC but also the health of the community. The broad membership of EDAC in ability and age is a great benefit to all the community in the Downpatrick area. A running track would allow further expansion of the Club and also allow development of athletics for talented youngsters who have to travel to other Clubs in Belfast/Lisburn to reach their potential.	
DOWNPATRICK YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE	Downpatrick AGP	Downpatrick	2	Downpatrick FC (DFC), with over 200 playing members (including about 30 females), is currently progressing a project to develop a new state of the art 3/4G facility to meet their needs, the needs of the Ballymote and Cathedral Wards and the broader needs of the local community's young people.	<p>Downpatrick FC consulted with over 40 local sporting Clubs, schools and community groups and 22 have written to confirm their intention to use the facility. This research for the project has identified that 22 local groups, with 1410 members, plan to use the new facility for in excess of 2000 hours per year. This will involve an average of almost 50 bookings per week throughout the year.</p> <p>These Clubs clearly share Downpatrick FC's (and Sport NI's) view that new facilities are essential; they see this as an important opportunity for their own development and their planned usage reflects their commitment to helping to ensure the long term sustainability of the facility.</p>

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ORGANISATION OR SITE	LOCATION AND CATEGORY	DEA	PRIORITY	FACILITIES REQUIRED	PARTNERSHIPS
MEADOWLANDS	Downpatrick AGP	Downpatrick	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 G Pitch full size fenced and floodlit MUGA 70 x 40 fenced and floodlit Children's Play Park Trim Trail Spectator Seating Indoor Area – Community Rooms and kitchen Car Parking 	Full Feasibility and consultation undertaken with local residents
RUSSELL GAELIC UNION	Downpatrick Changing Pavilion Grass Pitches Walking Trail	Downpatrick	2 2 1	<p>The Club needs to expand and develop its facilities to cater for all the various internal and external groups that are using the grounds. In order to enhance and promote female and juvenile participation the Club needs additional changing/shower facilities which are currently being shared with men's changing rooms. In conjunction with this our Club teams have no dedicated fitness suite where they can train either as a team or as individuals. It is also hoped to have a meeting room/office as part of the same building. All of the above can also be used for Community projects and participation.</p> <p>Facilities are both user friendly and safe for the larger crowds who attend County Championship games and inter county games/development squads. Works required in this regard are replacing and upgrading fencing at our main pitch and provision of new dug-outs on both pitches.</p> <p>Development of a perimeter walking track with lighting and exercise equipment to increase community participation and healthy lifestyle choices. It is our intention to provide this additional facility for families who are attending games or training sessions.</p> <p>The area in which the Club is based is a deprived area and there is no other facility of this type available.</p>	<p>The programme of works will also increase facilities available to females, older people and those disabled. The provision of a secure, off road all year round lit walking track will provide a safe environment for those who wish to take some exercise.</p> <p>This programme of works will aim to improve facilities to increase community participation and reduce anti-social behaviour. Increased participation in organized sporting activities will provide young children with an outlet to express their abilities and talents in a useful and productive manner.</p> <p>As second county ground the enhanced facilities will attract more big games, larger spectator numbers and a higher "spend" in the area benefitting local shops and restaurants</p>
ARDGLASS GOLF COURSE	Ardglass Golf	Downpatrick	2	Linked course of the year but require Club house refurbishments and car park extension.	
ARDGLASS FC	AGP	Downpatrick	3	Provision of an AGP 3G pitch. It should be noted that there is funding being made available through neighbourhood renewal to upgrade the existing grass pitch.	
DOWNPATRICK RACE COURSE	AGP 3G Pitch	Downpatrick	1	Pitch planned and received funding.	
DOWNPATRICK ESTATE	Walking Trail	Downpatrick	1	Outdoor gym and 1km track to support and promote staff health and wellbeing.	All stakeholders on the Downshire Estate

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ORGANISATION OR SITE	LOCATION AND CATEGORY	DEA	PRIORITY	FACILITIES REQUIRED	PARTNERSHIPS
COUNCIL PLAYING PITCHES	Grass Pitch	Downpatrick	1	Need to raise the standard of playing pitches at Dunleath Park, Killough and Strangford.	
COUNCIL CHANGING AND PAVILIONS	Changing Pavilion	Downpatrick	1	Need to refurbish/replace: Dunleath Park Ballykinlar Rossconor	
ARDGLASS MEADOWLANDS	Grass Pitch	Downpatrick	1	Upgrade and level the grass pitch playing surface (Council owned Facility)	
	Changing Rooms/Pavilion	Downpatrick	1	Upgrade and refurbish the existing Council owned changing facility.	
BISHOPS COURT RACING CIRCUIT	Bishops Court Changing Pavilion	Downpatrick	3	Need improved toilet facilities	
BALLYNAGROSS FC	Downpatrick Changing Pavilion	Downpatrick	2	New football pitch facilities but no changing rooms yet over the road there is a GAC with changing facilities.	
DOWNPATRICK TENNIS CLUB	Downpatrick Tennis	Downpatrick		There is a need to consider resurfacing Downpatrick Tennis Club Courts and provide floodlights	The tennis Club require a minimum of 4 courts and the current courts need resurfacing and floodlights provided.
TECONNAUGHT GFC	Killyleagh – Pavilion And Changing Rooms	Downpatrick	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of Phase I pavilion development has been initiated A Design team has been appointed for Phase II development and design development has been initiated An electronic scoreboard has been erected to ensure a better spectator experience on Match days Ball stops have been replaced at the training pitch New floodlighting for training pitch has been installed to facilitate all year round training Improvement Works programme for the training pitch has been developed 	
KILCLIEF	Changing Pavilion	Downpatrick	2	Kilclief GAA have the largest membership of ladies involved with camogie within the District. Surrounding Clubs allocate the site for this code therefore the changing facilities are sub standard and need upgraded.	

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ORGANISATION OR SITE	LOCATION AND CATEGORY	DEA	PRIORITY	FACILITIES REQUIRED	PARTNERSHIPS
	AGP		2	The current singular pitch is no longer suitable for all the teams, camogie, football and hurling using this site and require a 3G pitch which can be utilised by local community groups and other sports associations.	
	Sports Hall		2	A sports hall is required to provide community usage for indoor sports and gym facilities as this rural community cannot commute to Down Leisure Centre. Similar scheme to other GAA Clubs at present eg Saul GAA.	
	Walking Trial		1	A Walking Trial has been identified linking coastal route and the Club to Strangford.	
DOWNPATRICK FISHING GROUPS	Other	Downpatrick	2	Quoile River requires appropriate upgrading of fishing stands, a re-stock of various species of fish and requires to be dredged due to silt build up.	
MAYOBRIDGE AND WARRENPOINT HANDBALL	Sports Hall	Crotlieve	3	<p>Unfortunately last year the court was closed regularly due to a leak in the roof, which in turn led to warped and loose floorboards</p> <p>The back wall (glass) is not solid anymore and the door will not close properly leading to irregular bounces.</p> <p>The court is still very usable but is not favoured to play on, for any league and important games.</p> <p>Both MayoBridge and Warrenpoint do have limited access to One Wall Courts but depend on the Sports Centre for 4 wall Handball</p> <p>With St Colman's, Newry and St Mark's, Warrenpoint both having recently installed One Wall Courts, and with St Josephs and the Abbey to follow suit it is imperative that we can provide access to as many courts as possible.</p> <p>Any future ventures across the sporting spectrum could include handball in their plans as a One Wall court just needs a flat wall and surrounding ground.</p> <p>Ideally we would like to increase the number of 4 wall courts within the county too, as we currently only have 5 (Downpatrick Sports Centre x 1, Hilltown x 1, Newry Sports Centre x 1 and Saval x 2.)</p>	

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ORGANISATION OR SITE	LOCATION AND CATEGORY	DEA	PRIORITY	FACILITIES REQUIRED	PARTNERSHIPS
KILBRONEY PARK MASTER PLAN	AGP	Crotlieve	N/A 1	<p>As part of the consultation on the draft Kilbroney Park Master plan, Council have received a significant number of comments on the need for adequate GAA and soccer provision in Rostrevor. It is not proposed in the Master plan to further enhance the informal playing provision which exists in Kilbroney Park. I am conscious the Sports Facility Strategy is currently being developed and soccer and GAA provision in Rostrevor is something which should be considered.</p> <p>Kilbroney Park existing soccer and Gaelic grass pitches</p> <p>Need upgraded with a potential site to be developed as a AGP for multi use within the park for, local schools, soccer, GAA Clubs, south Down development and other sporting Clubs for hire</p>	
ROSTREVOR ROVERS FC KILBRONEY PARK	Changing Room/Pavilion	Crotlieve	2	<p>Facilities required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing facilities • Toilets and washing facilities <p>Can the planned activity hub in the master plan encompass facilities for those that participate in team games on site as well?</p>	
ST MARY'S GFC	Grass Pitches Walking Trail	Crotlieve	2 1	<p>Development of Facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Club constructed 1990, in need of refurbishment • 4 Dressing rooms – in need of refurbishment • Heating system requires major overhaul • 2 Playing fields 1 resurfaced 2013 at cost of £90k which was funded by Club Floodlighting requires upgrading on this pitch • 1 playing pitch requires new drains & resurfacing Floodlighting was upgraded on this field at a cost £90k which was funded by Club. • Gym/Youth Club that is not fit for purpose <p>Need to Acquire additional grounds and develop to 2 x ¾ size pitches for juvenile teams</p> <p>Running/Walking track - Develop track around perimeter of playing field to accommodate athletics Club, walkers, local community, boxing Club, GAA teams. Set in a rural environment, there are no facilities within the local environs with adequate footpaths and lighting.</p>	

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ORGANISATION OR SITE	LOCATION AND CATEGORY	DEA	PRIORITY	FACILITIES REQUIRED	PARTNERSHIPS
				<p>Coaching - Over the past 5 years the Club has been hugely successful at juvenile level, with teams at all age groups victorious in their respective championships and a strong representation in the various County teams. The level of coaching is superb, but we want to continue to build on that knowledge and expertise through qualifications and "on hands" experience.</p> <p>Commencing in 10.15 we are hosting programmes for Juvenile teams to build on their core strength, flexibility and efficient biomechanics, which is being funded through "Big Lottery". This will also benefit our coaches.</p>	
BURREN VISION	Sports Hall	Crotlieve	3	<p>Our vision is 'To provide a community hub that provides for improved health and wellbeing for the entire locality regardless of ability, belief or age through enhanced facilities and services.</p> <p>Our existing Youth Club site and surrounding area is not suited for its current use, it's unsafe and extremely limiting in what is offered to the local community. The Building has Asbestos Containing Material in both the roof covering and interior ceilings. The building has very poor thermal insulation qualities and a high energy consumption of Oil and Electricity. A modern facility will allow us to reduce our energy consumption, remove the risk from the Asbestos containing Material and incorporate into the design renewable energy systems thereby reducing running costs. A new facility will also give us the opportunity to improve the Architecture of our Community which lies within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.</p>	
BURRENS ATHLETIC CLUB		Crotlieve		<p>Juniors train at Burren GAA Club grounds one day per week. We use a rough stone and dust track around the 2 pitches, through the car park.</p> <p>Issues with this current facility: Safety – Children from 7 years running through the car park, unsuitable, rough surface</p> <p>Child protection – Toilet facilities not always available (for example when teams are on site for training or matches)</p> <p>We have to cancel regularly giving priority to St. Mary's Club football events or due to traditional/parish holidays.</p> <p>Senior Club Would like to develop the senior Club but we do not have facilities locally. St. Colman's track is oversubscribed on week evenings. Our runners meet and run on local roads wearing head torches and hi-vis gear. This is clearly not safe.</p>	

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ORGANISATION OR SITE	LOCATION AND CATEGORY	DEA	PRIORITY	FACILITIES REQUIRED	PARTNERSHIPS
	Athletics	Athletics track – within district – most likely centrally located – partners all athletics Clubs and council preferably on a school site.		<p>Many of the children’s mothers like to exercise while their children are training. Over the years a few have run or walked around the track at Burren GAA Club. This has not worked well due to the congestion. We like to encourage the mothers in this activity. An improved facility would encourage participation by these ladies.</p> <p>We would like to propose dust tracks around council facilities at Milltown, Warrenpoint and Derryleckagh playing fields.</p> <p>A lit track in Kilbroney would be very welcome for all runners.</p> <p>Strongly agree with proposal to engage with schools. The use of the grass around the playing fields at St. Mark’s High School, Warrenpoint would be wonderful for the running community – especially if lighting could be installed.</p> <p>Athletic Clubs and individual runners across the community would have more access to facilities located in public/council grounds rather than in private Clubs. We would like the Council and Sport NI to consider this when allocating funds.</p>	
DERRYLECKAGH PLAYING FIELDS	Sports Hub	<p>Crotlieve</p> <p>Not feasible due to planning issues</p>		<p>2 no. full size 3G soccer pitches (in existing pitches location) 1 no. 3G full size Gaelic pitch (in existing pitch location)</p> <p>New facilities required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> no. 3G rugby pitch - located in new area of land beside existing pitches no. small 3G multi use pitch - located in new area of land beside existing pitches. Sports hall and changing as required 	
NEWRY RUGBY CLUB		Crotlieve		<p>We have in the past two years hosted the Newry Agricultural Society’s show at no direct fee to the Society. In addition we have also provided, free of charge, use of our premises to various Church based groups and welcomed a recently formed group of local archers to enable them practice for national events. Having listened carefully to the expressed needs of so many other local Sports Clubs it strikes me that we have some capacity at Newry Rugby Football Club to make our pitches and facilities available to other sports. We are keen to build bridges. Perhaps this is something that can be discussed further.</p> <p>Outside of anything which will be identified by the “Club Improvement” programme there are a number of immediate challenges which we would like to address.</p>	

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ORGANISATION OR SITE	LOCATION AND CATEGORY	DEA	PRIORITY	FACILITIES REQUIRED	PARTNERSHIPS
	Grass Pitch	Crotlieve	2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The numbers involved in underage rugby are such that our current facilities are inadequate. This is especially true when we host visiting sides. The situation would be eased if we had access to the public pitches at Derryleckagh on Saturday mornings from 9-30am to mid-day during the season of September to April. The provision of rugby goal posts is not necessary for the younger age groups though some pitch marking would be welcomed. 2. Our finances are such that we struggle to cut the grass on our fields. At present one of our members uses his own ride-on lawn mower. This is not a sustainable position. Similar to your assisting Newry Agricultural Society by cutting our pitches, we wonder if it would be possible for NM&DDC to undertake this function when their equipment is in use at the adjoining public pitches. 3. We are considering employing a Club & Community Rugby Officer to engage with schools and our communities. Local school principals and head teachers have written to us requesting rugby tuition. The Ulster Branch will generously provide half of the funding required. Currently we struggle to find the remainder of approx £2,000 and wonder if there are any council schemes/ programmes that we can lock into. 4. We struggle with our current facilities, especially in light of our ever-increasing Youth demands. We need increased pitches, improved flood lighting and especially more changing facilities to better cater for U10's changing at the same time as U18's as well as accommodating boys and girls at the same time. Going forward, we intend maintaining close working relations with Ulster Branch to achieve success when applying for more central funding to remedy these. We welcome your professional input to assist with same. Please add us to your email distribution list on such matters. <p>The IRFU have bid to host the 2023 Rugby World Cup. Irish Rugby is increasingly confident that this bid will be successful. Newry is geographically well placed to be involved and would greatly benefit commercially in this world event. It would be a significant on-going boost to the area if the rugby-playing facilities available locally were fit to accommodate the training and residential needs of a visiting national team.</p>	
ST MARK'S HIGH SCHOOL AND ST PETER'S GAA (STRATEGIC ALLIANCE)	Sports Hub	Crotlieve	1	Facilities Strategic Alliance Agreement from 7 October 2011. After review in November 2012, Facilities Strategic Alliance Agreement extended for 5 further years to 30 November 2017. Evolving from this Strategic Alliance, initial discussions held on 26 March 2013 re exploring possibility of community sports hub at St. Mark's, involving two lead partners, St. Mark's & CPN. Outline Joint Proposal adopted by Board of Governors and CPN in February 2014.	

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ORGANISATION OR SITE	LOCATION AND CATEGORY	DEA	PRIORITY	FACILITIES REQUIRED	PARTNERSHIPS
				<p>Full planning permission sought in April 2014 and approved July 2014. Formal meeting with Sport NI on 12 August 2014.</p> <p>The facility requirements are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two Lead Partners: St. Mark's and CPN with Associate partners Warrenpoint Town Football Club, and at least two further associate partners from tennis, gymnastics, judo, netball etc. • All Weather 3G Floodlit Full Size GAA pitch, incorporating markings for full size soccer pitch and stand-alone dressing rooms/toilets/store and office. • Refurbished Floodlit Tennis/Netball outdoor courts. • Opening up use of specialist indoor sports hall for community use. • Opening of outdoor GAA grass pitch for community use. <p>Facilities would be open to the community outside school hours (after 5pm on school days) and from 9am to 10pm on non-school days.</p>	
BALLYHOLLAND GAC	AGP	Crotlieve	3	<p>The Club has plans for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new full-size, floodlit playing field to complement Fr Lynch Park. • A 4G floodlit training field. • A 4G warm-up area on the old Kieran Sands Park. • Extended parking. • Improved access from the Innisfree Park to the Club's facilities, and to the Community 	
TENNIS COURTS	Tennis	Crotlieve	There is a perceived need to protect Warrenpoint Tennis Courts and replace the pavilion which is shared use. St Mark's School are planning to resurface their tennis courts	Council must keep tennis courts at Warrenpoint.	
GLEN GAC	Grass Pitch	Crotlieve	2	Upgrade existing grass pitch and changing rooms.	
	Changing Room/Pavilion		2		

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ORGANISATION OR SITE	LOCATION AND CATEGORY	DEA	PRIORITY	FACILITIES REQUIRED	PARTNERSHIPS
WARRENPOINT FC	AGP Pavilion and Changing Rooms	Crotlieve	2 2	To replace the current grass pitch at Milltown and construction of a 3G 'All Weather' pitch involving the removal of existing sand based surface and installation of a dynamic drainage base with tarmac topping and installation of synthetic carpet thereon with silicate sand based anchor material topped up with a rubber crumb to create the appropriate shock pad for the playing of sports. The pitch will have new surround fencing installed and importantly the floodlights will be upgraded to an approx. 500 lux level. Significant Club house extension with changing facilities, showers, toilets, meeting rooms, coaching tuition room, social area, office and storage rooms.	LOCAL COMMUNITY AND LOCAL SCHOOLS AS WELL AS LOCAL SOCCER LEAGUES
NEWCASTLE TENNIS CLUB (ULSTER TENNIS – JUNIOR TENNIS CLUB 2015)	Tennis	The Mournes	1	Current playing surface will be required to be replaced within the next 3 – 5 years. All weather facilities require the purchase of a seasonal double skinned dome covering two courts and an upgrade of the lighting system. This would increase the range of activities the Club has to offer. Increasing access and participation will require an upgrade to the existing tennis pavilion with regards to toilet and changing facilities, social and meeting areas. The existing roof void could be developed for a social meeting space and the ground floor space for improved access, showering, changing and toilets. There is a need to develop practice facilities for members of all ages. This includes a practice wall and additional courts at the end of the existing courts.	NEWCASTLE TENNIS CLUB (ULSTER TENNIS – JUNIOR TENNIS CLUB 2015)
NEWCASTLE CENTRE	Swimming Pools	The Mournes	1	Consultation identified need for updating replacing facilities and a need for swimming provision for those families that cannot afford to travel or have the means to travel to swimming facilities further away.	NEWCASTLE CENTRE
DONARD PARK	Pavilion & Changing Rooms	The Mournes	1	New improved changing and community access to the sports hub	DONARD PARK
BRYANSFORD GAC	AGP	The Mournes	3	The Club is based in St Patrick's Park, Newcastle which is owned by Down County GAA Board. One full sized playing pitch with seated stand and floodlighting, currently up for sale by County Board. One undersized pitch, suitable for juvenile games up to age 14 on adjacent land owned by parish. The Club has no formal lease on this pitch which is also used by St Mary's Primary School. Clubrooms comprising social Club, sports hall and four male dressing rooms. These Clubrooms are owned by Bryansford GAC.	BRYANSFORD GAC

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ORGANISATION OR SITE	LOCATION AND CATEGORY	DEA	PRIORITY	FACILITIES REQUIRED	PARTNERSHIPS
	Pavilion & Changing Rooms	The Mournes	3	<p>The Club urgently requires additional playing pitches to meet the sporting needs of its 16 teams. These need to be centred in Newcastle, preferably as close to St Patrick's Park as possible.</p> <p>The Club needs to upgrade/increase dressing rooms to the level of being gender specific. Bryansford GAC is the largest sporting group in Newcastle yet has no Council provided facilities/ pitches to assist its teams. Bowls, tennis, soccer, hockey are all facilitated on Council property in Newcastle. Bryansford campaigned with Down District Council to provide playing fields in the Castlewellan Road area as far back as the early 1980's. It was claimed that such provision would not be possible until the Burren River flood alleviation scheme was concluded. When this scheme was eventually finished the identified land was sold for housing - no pitches were ever provided! At this stage Bryansford re-opened discussions with Down District Council re. Provision of Gaelic pitches in Donard Park - no such pitches have as yet been provided. Bryansford GAC has the only sports hall in Newcastle. In addition to its own membership use the Club has made the hall available to a wide range of sporting, social and cultural groups within the Newcastle area. In doing so Bryansford is fulfilling a need which should, perhaps, be the responsibility of Council. The Club strongly feels that a rates bill of £12-£13k per annum is punitive and urges Council to become pro-active in the campaign for Sports Clubs to be zero rated.</p> <p>The feeling within the Club is that it is being financially punished for its altruism. Council might also acknowledge the Club's input into the health and well-being of the local community by examining ways of working with the Club. Assistance with supervision, care taking etc might be a starting point. Grass-cutting and maintenance is another area where the Council have the equipment and expertise to lend assistance.</p>	
BRYANSFORD GAC, NEWCASTLE NOMAD HOCKEY CLUB, NEWCASTLE FC AND NEWCASTLE AC	Sports Hub	The Mournes	2	<p>Leisure Centre in Newcastle encompassing a 4 court sports hall, fitness suite, health and well-being offices, swimming pool (likely tourist friendly) outside floodlit synthetic pitch and bowling green – preferred site Girls School Shan Sieve Drive</p> <p>Sports Hub in Newcastle encompassing 6 changing rooms, referees rooms, medical room, training rooms, counselling rooms, and crèche and kitchen facilities – preferred site Donard Park Newcastle.</p> <p>Enhanced facilities at Castlewellan Lake – changing facilities, slip ways, storage areas for canoeing, iron man competitions, triathlon etc – it was apparent at the meeting that the lake is used for major University competitions.</p>	BRYANSFORD GAC, NEWCASTLE NOMAD HOCKEY CLUB, NEWCASTLE FC AND NEWCASTLE AC

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ORGANISATION OR SITE	LOCATION AND CATEGORY	DEA	PRIORITY	FACILITIES REQUIRED	PARTNERSHIPS
				<p>Mountain bike trail – upper demesne area at Donard Park, Newcastle – mountain bike trail with discrete lighting etc - partners newly formed bikers group and council – priority two – this is a sport, health and well-being and tourism potential (economic development) project.</p> <p>Jogging facilities – lower demesne area at Donard Park, Newcastle – jogging trails with discrete lighting etc – partner’s athletic Club and council - priority two – this is a sport, health and well-being project.</p> <p>4G pitch of an appropriate size for Gaelic games – two – one in each of North and South areas of council – pitch with floodlighting, changing facilities and even stand facilities – partner’s GAA, IFA, IRFU Ulster Branch, local GAA, Soccer, Rugby and other Sports Clubs plus Council – priority one – this is a sport, health and wellbeing, capacity building and sports development and economic regeneration (tourism visiting teams etc) project.</p> <p>Athletics track – within district – most likely centrally located – partners all athletics Clubs and Council – priority one – this is a sports, health and well-being and economic development potential (tourism) project.</p> <p>Cycle lanes at council facilities and parks – to encourage young people to cycle in safety – partners Council and community groups – health and well-being benefits – priority two/three – this is a health and wellbeing project encouraging participation</p> <p>Enhanced yachting and wet sports facilities at our various harbours but specifically Annalong, Newcastle, Dundrum – Kilkeel, Ardglass and Warrenpoint would be considered too busy – to encourage water sports – partners would be council, yacht Clubs and community groups - priority two/three – this would be a sport and recreation, health and well-being project with tourism benefits</p> <p>Better use of Newry Canal as a wet sports centre – canoeing etc – partners would be council and community groups possibly chamber of commerce – priority 1 – this would be a tourist and recreation project.</p> <p>Better use of disused quarries for diving and water sports – in safety! – Partners council and communities - priority 3 – this would be a sports project with an element of excellence, tourism and possibly economic in terms of developing a business.</p> <p>Existing changing facilities at Donard Park, Newcastle are totally inadequate – at present there are three pitches with six teams playing most Saturdays. The current changing facilities are in excess of 45 years old and were</p>	

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ORGANISATION OR SITE	LOCATION AND CATEGORY	DEA	PRIORITY	FACILITIES REQUIRED	PARTNERSHIPS
				<p>designed for just two teams. They are virtually obsolete and do not meet current standards around for example child protection. They require immediate replacement, not least to encourage additional participation, in sport and any project that provides for additional/replacement changing facilities should be considered a priority. The lack of adequate changing provision in Donard Park has stifled the development of a number of Clubs including Tollymore United FC, Newcastle FC, Newcastle Nomads HC, Newcastle Athletics and Bryansford GAC. For example Clubs cannot facilitate as many underage teams as they would like because of concerns around the existing facilities. Bryansford GAC rarely use the Donard Park because of inadequate changing facilities and likewise Newcastle Athletics Club is unable to hold various events because the current changing facilities are not able to cope with the large numbers of runners.</p>	
NEWCASTLE HARBOUR SPORT AND RECREATION CLUB	Water Sports	The Mournes	2	<p>Facilities Required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Toilets ● Changing facilities ● Showers ● Storage ● Meeting room ● Harbour Masters Office ● Winter sea swimmers' north pier shelter <p>RESOURCES FOR REFURBISHMENT & CREATION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NI Waters' Sewage Generator and surrounding ground which is no longer in use. Ownership of property has been reverted to NM&D Council. ● Watch House: NIEA Scheduled monument. In private ownership. ● Ground adjacent to external north pier slip to install a shelter for open sea swimmers. This situation is at start of the Granite Trail. A replica the granite workers' shelter is suitable. 	NEWCASTLE HARBOUR SPORT AND RECREATION CLUB
KILCOO COMMUNITY – KILCOO GAC	Sports Hall	The Mournes	3	<p>The following facilities have been identified as priorities within the local community consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Multi-purpose hall for functions, sports etc; ● Gym; ● Learning/training facilities; ● Community computer/IT area; ● Meeting facilities; 	KILCOO COMMUNITY – KILCOO GAC

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ORGANISATION OR SITE	LOCATION AND CATEGORY	DEA	PRIORITY	FACILITIES REQUIRED	PARTNERSHIPS
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Community/Social area; ● Facilities for advice clinics; ● Stores; ● Kitchen/Catering Facilities; ● Changing facilities; and ● Office. <p>The proposed site for the Community Centre has recently been acquired by Kilcoo GAC. The site is an abandoned residential building site which lies adjacent to the playing fields of Kilcoo GAC. The site is surrounded on three sides by Kilcoo GAC sports grounds.</p> <p>As a community-based volunteer organisation, Kilcoo GAC already use our significant volunteer capacity and support to work with all other local organisations on a range of community projects.</p> <p>The Community Centre will unlock the full potential of the adjacent Kilcoo GAC playing fields. At present, the playing fields at Kilcoo GAC comprise two full size pitches and a smaller training field. The playing fields are currently underused, due to constraints with the changing facilities on site.</p> <p>Currently the playing fields are serviced by two changing rooms, neither of which provide suitable facilities for children, females and persons with reduced mobility.</p> <p>Whilst there is huge demand for the Kilcoo playing fields, scheduling constraints are regularly imposed on the use of the pitches to uphold our player welfare policies.</p> <p>The additional changing facilities provided within the Community Sports Centre, which will comply with best practice provision for all users, including female’s children and people with mobility impairment, will eliminate these scheduling constraints to achieve maximum use of the existing playing fields.</p> <p>The Community Centre will be accessible and inclusive to all sections of our local community and will provide much needed infrastructure (meeting rooms and suitably equipped training rooms) to support, strengthen and grow the work of a wide existing local organisations including, Kilcoo Community Association; St Malachy’s Primary School, Kilcoo; Evergreen (Senior Citizen) Club; the Gateway Club; and the local community magazine “The Magpie”, the Apostolic Society; St Malachy’s Band; Kilcoo Vintage Club; Kilcoo Walking Club; Kilcoo Running Club; and South & East Down Free Wheelers – cross community cycling Club.</p>	

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ORGANISATION OR SITE	LOCATION AND CATEGORY	DEA	PRIORITY	FACILITIES REQUIRED	PARTNERSHIPS
PROPOSAL FOR A MULTI SPORTS VENUE AT KILKEEL HIGH SCHOOL LEISURE CENTRE TO SERVE KILKEEL TOWN	Sports Hub	The Mournes	1	Renewal of hockey pitch and floodlights, land available and unused by Kilkeel High School – possible use small sided football pitches, relocate tennis courts and provide improved changing accommodation, possible new 3G pitch	
KILKEEL HOCKEY CLUB & MOURNE SPORTS	AGP	The Mournes	3	It is the belief of the Club that its existing 2G pitch and the floodlighting is at the end of its useful life and its replacement is a matter of critical importance. Without the availability of a synthetic playing surface in Kilkeel, the Club will decline. The 2G pitch and the floodlights require replacing. Playing Fields are leased to Ballyvea FC	KILKEEL HOCKEY CLUB & MOURNE SPORTS
BALLYVEA FC	Sports Pavilion Grass Pitch	The Mournes	2 1	The Requirements for the future are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New full sized grass pitch • Changing facilities – current changing for 4 teams need changing for 10 teams • New Fencing both external/internal surrounding the pitch • Improve facility layout i.e. entrance/exit, parking, etc. • Connect lighting for training purposes • Ball stops 	BALLYVEA FC
ST LOUIS GRAMMAR SCHOOL	Sports Hub	The Mournes	1	We would aspire to have the following facilities open to the community: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a 3G training area for Gaelic, Soccer and Rugby • a walking track • multi-purpose commercial gym / fitness suite • showers & changing rooms • a sports hall to accommodate basketball, netball, football, yoga, Pilates, a dance studio (Irish, modern) etc <p>We would also open our current Gaelic Football pitch for us by the local community.</p> <p>There is also an opportunity in the long term to purchase land adjacent to the school from a farmer for additional pitches.</p>	ST LOUIS GRAMMAR SCHOOL

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ORGANISATION OR SITE	LOCATION AND CATEGORY	DEA	PRIORITY	FACILITIES REQUIRED	PARTNERSHIPS
MOURNE GAA CLUBS – ATTICALL GAC LONGSTONE GAC BALLYMARTIN GAC CATHAOIRLEACH AN RIOCHT CLG	AGP	The Mournes	2	We believe there is a real need for a site to be developed in the Mourne area with GAA pitch (es) and changing rooms to provide the youth of this district with the chance to play Gaelic Games on a more regular basis. Overall, between the five Clubs there are approximately fifty playing teams ranging from Under 8 to Senior level in Gaelic football, camogie and ladies football and currently we have eight pitches to use. As you can imagine it is not easy to fit fifty teams into eight pitches for training and games over the season.	
ANNALONG	AGP	The Mournes	2	Provision of a 4G pitch.	
ANNALONG BOWLING CLUB	Pavilion	The Mournes	1	Upgrading to existing council owned facility	
KILKEEL BOWLING GREEN PAVILION	Changing Rooms And Pavilion	The Mournes	1	Upgrade and extension needed to the indoor hall and pavilion. There are no disabled toilets in the facility and a lot of wheel chair users play indoor bowls at the pavilion. Possibly as part of the Kilkeel sports hub.	
KILKEEL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION	Walking And Cycling	The Mournes	2	A walking/cycling trail form Greencastle via Cranfield to Kilkeel town	KILKEEL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
ASSUMPTION GRAMMAR SCHOOL	Ballynahinch – Sports Hub	Rowallane	1	The school currently provides community use of its facilities but considers that to satisfy demand from the community it requires: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional grass pitch with floodlights (land is available next to the school) • Provision of changing facilities external to the school building. The existing 2 changing rooms are insufficient • Provision of 8 lane running track • Enhancement of existing bitmac surface for tennis and possible a bowling green • Provision of floodlighting to existing MUGA 	
SAINTFIELD UTD	Saintfield - AGP	Rowallane	2	Saintfield Utd have submitted plans that provide for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new 65m x 95m sand mattress football pitch with floodlights and including run offs and 1.1m spectator fencing. • New 35m x 65m grass pitch including run offs and floodlights • New 30m x 40m grass mini soccer pitch including run offs and floodlights • 5m high security fence around site • Extended pavilion • New car park (58 spaces) 	NMDDC are in ownership of lands located on the Belfast Road, Saintfield – the identified site of a new community/leisure facility for Saintfield. This site holds the potential to meet the need of a 3G pitch; a need which was further identified in the business case and community consultation (number one need identified) documents for the site.

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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SAINTFIELD HOCKEY CLUB	Saintfield - AGP	Rowallane	2	<p>All weather pitch facility required Potential synergies with the Saintfield High School and Academy Primary School will ensure that there is not a missed opportunity for complementary facilities, whereby the school can use the facilities during the day and beyond the school day the facilities can be made available to the community at large.</p> <p>The facility will act as a focal point for developing community activity in the town of Saintfield:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to improving the health and well-being of the local population; • Further enhance links with the local community, schools and neighbouring communities through participation in sport and wider community activity; • Improved participation in sport and community activity at all age levels and grades • Provide a community and sporting facility that contributes towards enhancing community relations the sporting facility hockey pitch will be all inclusive to members of the community of Saintfield. 	
ACTIVE SAINTFIELD	Saintfield – Sports Hub	Rowallane	1	<p>Active Saintfield is a Rowallane Community sport hub to provide a home for sport. We focus on the Clubs and other local organisations that want to work together to improve the sport offered in our town and the wider environment. With a playing membership of 689 its catchment extends throughout the Rowallane District taking in the towns of the Rowallane Neighbourhood Area and is situated in the northern part of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area covering the towns of Saintfield, Killyleagh and Crossgar and includes the villages of Kilmore and Darragh Cross and the outlying area. Offering coaching from aged 5 to aged 50+ the Clubs have an intake of juniors every year. A programme of sports activities is available.</p> <p>Active Saintfield will be based at the proposed Belfast Road indoor multi-sports facility and will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A home where a range of local Sports Clubs and groups can work together (cricket, hockey, football, GAA and other sporting activities) • A welcome and safe place to take part in sport and physical activity • An integrated approach from local partners (Sports Clubs, Saintfield Community Association, schools and Down District Council) • A social environment that engages members of the community • A demonstration of genuine community engagement and leadership 	

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ORGANISATION OR SITE	LOCATION AND CATEGORY	DEA	PRIORITY	FACILITIES REQUIRED	PARTNERSHIPS
				<p>Active Saintfield will also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve access for local people and Sports Clubs at affordable prices • Integrate with any local/Council facility planning and programming • Offer more opportunities to participate in sport and physical activity • Help Sports Clubs/organisations be self-sustainable <p>For the Active Saintfield Sports Grouping the need to be addressed is a lack of a fit for purpose outdoor pitches for the creation of opportunities for sport in the Saintfield Area (shale hockey, poorly drained Gaelic Pitch no synthetic cricket training area/ nets and securing a natural turf soccer match pitch, having a football training pitch) which in turn will address the lack of activities for the over 50's, the disabled and women.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Football/Soccer - Development proposal 1 x training size floodlit 3G - 70m x 40m/1 x grass match pitch with optional floodlights • Gaelic Games/Football/Camogie/Hurling - Development proposal a separate training ground 90m x 145m • Hockey - Development Proposal one artificial turf pitch 101m x 63m • Cricket - Development Proposal New 4 lane synthetic cricket wicket training area plus nets 18m x 22m 	
KILLYLEAGH Y.C.FOOTBALL CLUB.	Killyleagh - AGP	Rowallane	2	<p>The Club's vision is for a full sized 3G floodlit pitch surrounded with a running track on a new site (field towards Killinchy) adjacent to the facilities we have but out of the flood plain our existing main pitch and small youth pitch sit in.</p> <p>During the winter we have to cancel matches due to our main pitch being flooded. Our youth pitch needs lifted out of the flood plain as matches also are called off but this would cost approx. £150,000 to do, but this would be an option if funding was available. (This is floodlit but lighting would need upgraded).</p> <p>We know this would be used by many Clubs/schools in our neighbourhood as we have seen with our 3G training facility. At present our older youth teams have to use the Bridge Centre pitch and we cannot always get the time slots we need due to other Clubs from other districts using it also.</p> <p>We would also have space for an outdoor gym/children's small play area.</p>	

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ORGANISATION OR SITE	LOCATION AND CATEGORY	DEA	PRIORITY	FACILITIES REQUIRED	PARTNERSHIPS
ST COLMAN'S HIGH AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE	Ballynahinch – Sports Hall	Rowallane	3	<p>We have identified a very real need for a Sports Hall to complement the training and playing requirements in our area.</p> <p>St Colman's have undertaken, with CCMS and the Department of Education Architectural Plans and a preliminary feasibility study.</p> <p>The school does have a designated area adjacent to the existing 2G floodlit pitch that could accommodate such a facility.</p> <p>With the present hiatus in educational funding partnership once again with the Council could be a realistic option.</p>	
LANGLEY ROAD, BALLYNAHINCH	Grass Pitches	Rowallane	1	Needs additional drainage works	
SPA GOLF CLUB BALLYNAHINCH	Water Sports/ Walking And Cycling And Golf	Rowallane	1	Disability golf is growing the course requires a practice facility. A new foot path to the Club along the riverside is proposed to link with the rugby Club.	
STRANGFORD LOUGH AND LECALE PARTNERSHIP	Water Sports, Walking And Cycling	Rowallane	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor recreation activities feature in the Sports Development plans Water based recreation development Co-ordinated training and support for paddling, canoeing, rowing and sailing - especially for young people Development of the use of the Council's modular AquaDock pontoon system across the area and any related infrastructure/shore docking Support for community coastal rowing Community walks around settlements – public realm improvements, signage and activities coastal walks Sustainable beach activities and related issues relevant to public realm, water quality etc. Areas for particular consideration: Tyrella, Kilclief, Ballyhornan, Killough 	
STRANGFORD LOUGH COASTAL WORLD SKIFF ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS	Stranford Lough – Water Sports Walking And Cycling	Rowallane	1	Insufficient access to the Lough and Clubs require storage facilities along the Lough.	
MAGERADOLL BOWLING CLUB	Changing Rooms/Pavilion	Rowallane	3	Mageradoll Bowling Club changing rooms are a temporary Portacabin structure approximately 70 years old and in need of replacement in order to accommodate the Club and visiting Clubs to their midweek league.	

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ORGANISATION OR SITE	LOCATION AND CATEGORY	DEA	PRIORITY	FACILITIES REQUIRED	PARTNERSHIPS
DROMARA GAC	Dromara – Sports Hall	Slieve Croob	2	<p>The proposed development is required over the next 2 – 3 years shall include [but not limited to]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4Nr additional changing rooms [2 x ladies and 2 x gents] • Indoors sports facility • Increased size of committee room • External play area for younger members • Improved car parking and associated lighting. 	
MURLOUGH ATHLETICS CLUB	Dundrum	Slieve Croob	1	<p>Essential to develop and improve runners but also very useful for fitness training (e.g. Interval and sprints) among other sports such as GAA and soccer. There are no facilities in Downpatrick to encourage running/athletics among our many young people attending local schools.</p> <p>Running is perfect as a healthy sport option to people who either don't like or feel they are no hood at team sports or ball sports. No safe place to run at night, especially for women and children. Running training often involves frequent fast interval/sprint runs over short periods and runners are a safety hazard to all other pedestrians (and cars) during this type of training.</p> <p>A running track would solve this.</p>	
LIATROIM FONTENOYS G.A.C	Castlewellan - AGP	Slieve Croob	3	<p>The Clubs 5 year development plan states</p> <p>“In five years our Club will be able to say:</p> <p><i>Our players and members continue to enjoy the very best possible facilities in the area both on and off the pitch.</i>”</p> <p>Whilst we know that land is never just created we must always ensure that we are utilising the optimum space we have.</p> <p>Liatroim Fontenoys GAC have made great progress over several decades with the building of the new Club rooms, new training pitch, the enlargement of the main pitch and the purchasing of adjacent lands.</p> <p>It is hoped that this land can be developed as a new larger training area complete with floodlighting, ball stops, fencing, car parking etc. It is also a key aim to provide an all-weather training surface to the rear training field complete with new flood lighting.</p>	

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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AUGHLISNAFIN GAC'S	Annsborough AGP	- Slieve Croob	3	<p>At present we don't own any facilities and depend solely on the hiring of the Council Fields in Annsborough of which we have part time use. The current facilities are outdated and do not cater for our Clubs needs at present in terms coaching and games etc for all of our teams. Current facilities at present: one Gaelic football field unfenced and small outdated Portacabin for changing facilities approx 40 years old.</p> <p>Areas identified in our Club development plan for the next 5 years.</p> <p>In order for us to sustain and develop our Club, an upgrading of the current Council grounds and facilities in Annsborough will be required.</p> <p>The entire Council grounds to be enclosed with secure perimeter fencing while maintaining a local walkway for the local community's needs in Annsborough. (i.e. walking dogs etc).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ball catchers behind each set of goal posts ● the large river to the south of the field to be fenced off ● dug outs to be provided ● flood lights to facilitate training and games ● provision of a 3G surface, together with adequate lighting to cater for outdoor activity on an all year round basis. ● changing facilities : male/female changing rooms also to cater for disabled needs ● storage facilities for equipment ● large gym area/fitness suite to cater for indoor training/coaching ● car park enlargement and resurfacing ● indoor facility to cater for meetings and functions associated with youth tournaments and other competitions. ● Small miscellaneous equipment, i.e. flags, line markers, nets. 					

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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SHIMNA ANGLING CLUB	Other	Slieve Croob	1	<p>In relation to Altnadua Lough, Dublin Road, Castlewellan provide additional fishing stands for able bodied and disabled anglers (Club members and visiting anglers), also walkways to and where necessary around the perimeter of the Lough to ensure the safety of anglers.</p> <p>Improvement of access bridge over Burren River.</p> <p>Possible provision of a limited amount of off-road car parking in the form of hard standing.</p>	
CASTLEWELLAN GAC	Castlewellan Pavilion And Changing Rooms AGP	Slieve Croob	1 2	<p>We have 2 locations in Castlewellan. Our Home Pitch is St Malachy's Park and also have our Dublin Rd Pitches next to the Council Bann Rd Playing fields.</p> <p>Bann Rd</p> <p>Our Dublin Rd Pitch is a full sized Gaelic Pitch alongside a smaller training pitch and are both floodlit.</p> <p>This was completed using Club funds and Sport NI funding and a smaller donation from the Council.</p> <p>However as stated these were built without changing facilities which are now essential in order to provide games on this site.</p> <p>The changing facilities at the adjacent Council pitches are insufficient and the Council has already marked them as a priority. We would wish to work with local bodies to ensure facilities are provided that meets the needs of all the community.</p> <p>Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing Rooms – essential now, would need to incorporate storage and referees rooms • Leasing of Gaelic Pitch to develop a Floodlit 3G pitch with secondary support from Ladies and Camogie, County development Squads, High School and possible school boards. This has already been discussed with the Council • Access and suitable parking for these facilities are also a Priority. <p>Additional Plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do we wish to make install a PA system at our Dublin Rd Pitch and require storage facilities too at the pitch? The changing facilities at the Council pitches would be sufficient if planned correctly but it would still need pitch side storage if these changing rooms are far from the pitch. 	Castlewellan GAC, Castlewellan High School, East Down Development.

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ORGANISATION OR SITE	LOCATION AND CATEGORY	DEA	PRIORITY	FACILITIES REQUIRED	PARTNERSHIPS
	Changing Rooms And Pavilion		3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As we are attracting more parents and spectators to games. We would also wish to upgrade spectator facilities to ensure teams can be watched safely. <p>St Malachy's Park We have been carrying out improvements to our facilities on a piecemeal basis. The greatest upgrade was in the 1970s when the pitch was resurfaced, changing rooms built and the social Club was opened. We again improved the social Club in late 1990s and resurfaced the pitch and had a stand built with changing rooms underneath at the start of the Century.</p> <p>St Malachy's Park Pitch and Playing Facilities</p> <p>Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roof on stand New Changing Rooms? - should they be male female too? Ball wall – we have many members interested in AG Handball and coaches have stated they would be interested in starting a Club but we do not have the facilities. It could also be used to develop hurling and football. <p>Additional Plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PA system – needs replacing soon Storage – This has never been adequately allowed for in any of our developments to date and more room is required. As the number of players and teams have grown and continue to do so, so has our need for storage space. Developing parking facilities within Club grounds from Newcastle Rd entrance <p>St Malachy's Park - Clubrooms</p> <p>Short term Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Running Costs and Energy – We have always managed our costs well but these have a major impact on what we can do and provide. We need initiatives for Clubs and local bodies that provide for the community where they can avail or more modern equipment to light, heat and run their Clubs. We cannot invest in new equipment due to the initial outlay. <p>We have longer term view for our facilities and see a need to develop.</p> <p>We have provided local stage productions in our Club, laically performed and written and see that as an area of focus as demand grows.</p>	

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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	Sports Hall		3	<p>We have organised an annual Lenten programme and attracted over 90 people to participate in a large selections of activities eg Yoga, Pilates, Ballroom Dancing, Zumba. Circuits Bowls etc. Again we were limited by our facilities as we had sufficient coaches and we had to limit the numbers.</p> <p>Our Clubrooms are now used for a wider variety of purposes and we wish to provide more for our members and community.</p> <p>Long Term Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need access to a Large Hall, we use the High school as much as we can in winter and would use in summer too but difficult to get time and expensive. We have more players and teams but also we want to provide more for our members and community. If possible the hall should also be able to host Stage events and full productions. • Smaller Sports room for group or classes. • Spinning room - for members and team. We want our teams to avail of this but this can also be made available to members and community. • Gym - for teams and members. This year we build a small temporary gym for our senior players and have been amazed at the demand for it. This is an area of growth and our members wish to use it. It is already much too small for our current needs and we also need something permanent and supported with better equipment. • Suitable Changing rooms, internal and not just for teams, these would need to be male and female specific. <p>Our plans are indeed ambitious but we have the demand and also we have the volunteers. In addition to what has been listed further "support" facilities are needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reception/Office • A drop in area, room for people to meet or wait on others • Communication LED Boards at the front of the building • Upgraded kitchen facilities • Meeting room for Club/GAA • STORAGE – As previously stated properly thought and planned storage space, usually an after thought <p>Running costs cannot be ignored and we are working on a plan that would allow us to achieve this us by including elements in the redevelopment of our Clubrooms.</p>	

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office rooms for local bodies or agencies to rent A commercial space at front or side 	
BALLYNAHINCH RUGBY	Sports Hub	Slieve Croob	1	As a result of the DEA meeting the Club and the forum asked for this site to be looked at as a possible sports hub and running track. There is a grass pitch with floodlights that could be converted to a 3G pitch to provide for rugby, GAA and soccer.	Ballynahinch Rugby Club, Drumaness GAA Club and soccer Clubs from Ballynahinch.
LOUGHINISLAND GAC	Grass Pitch	Slieve Croob	2	Aim of the Club is to:	
	AGP		3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide top class playing facilities for the development of our Gaelic Football Club and to enhance the facilities available to the local community. Maintain and grow the membership of the Club Build on our recent senior football teams sporting success Provide facilities on a par with other Co. Down Gaelic Clubs Be at the heart of the Local Community Ensure the future of the Club for the next generation of players 	
	Walking Trial/Outdoor Gym		1	<p>Facilities Required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Championship size pitch grass 135m x 80m with drainage, New dugouts and 1.2m high fencing, existing goal and catch nets moved, new floodlighting, flag poles and scoreboard. New 4G pitch 52m x 26m, 2m enclosed fencing, 2 no. five a side nets and floodlighting. New rebound wall 24m x 12m artificial playing surface, fencing, 2 no junior 5 a side nets, 5m high rebound wall. Running/walking track – path around perimeter of pitch, 3.5 laps = 2 miles, 10 lane 50m sprint area, all weather multi-purpose area between the Clubhouse and the main pitch. Exercise Stations – 4 stations to include 50m sprint, overhead ladder and parallel bars, balance/jump beams and rings, horizontal bars and sit up push up bench. Spectator Terracing – 6 tier raised terrace with barriers and fencing. Playground – Children’s activity equipment, soft impact surface with 1.2m high fence. Car Parking and landscaping – Additional car parking, grass, shrub and tree planting. 	

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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CAMLOUGH LAKE	Water sports	Slieve Gullion	1	CamLough Lake association/partnership, require toilets, changing rooms and improvement to access to lake Storage facility	NMDDC ERT Dept
FORK HILL AND DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION	Sports Hub	Slieve Gullion	4	Support FADDA in the development of sports facilities as part of the phased development in particular a multi-use games area and other outdoor running and gym trails.	FORK HILL AND DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
FORKHILL PAEDAR O'DOIRNIN GAA	Grass pitch	Slieve Gullion	2	Murdock Park soccer field which is in the process of being sold to the GAA Club requires extensive drainage and safety surrounding works.	
RING OF GULLION AONB	Walking and Cycling	Slieve Gullion	1	Support the further development of outdoor activity – through walking, cycling, climbing and canoeing activities to encourage participation in physical activity using the natural features of the Ring of Gullion AONB	RING OF GULLION AONB
CLOVER HILL GOLF CLUB	Golf	Slieve Gullion	2	Need for golf driving range and teaching facilities.	
KICK BOXING	Changing and Pavilion	Slieve Gullion	3	Kick Boxing is not a recognised sport but needs assistance from the Council to find facilities to use and requires storage facilities.	
KILEAVEY GAC	AGP	Slieve Gullion	3	Full planning permission was agreed November 2015 to replace the existing all weather pitch with a 3G rubber crumb pitch with an outdoor gym space and jogging space around the 3G pitch.	
CARRICKCRUPPEN GAA	AGP	Slieve Gullion	3	In the winter months Jan, Feb March, the training pitch can be closed and or have restricted use due to ground conditions. The nearest facility is as St Colman's in Newry but it is usually oversubscribed. We believe that Carrickcruppen has sufficient footfall in its immediate hinterland to justify the expansion of current grounds to have an all-weather facility with lights, possibly a walking track and the completion of the gym facility. Furthermore this facility could and would service the next 3-5 mile hinterland supporting outlying areas that could possibly not generate the critical mass of users required to justify the investment as a standalone proposal in their own right. The facility could possibly be used by St Paul's High school (subject to a more formal arrangement) as they currently have no further space to expand.	
CROSSMAGLEN RANGERS GAA	Crossmaglen	Slieve Gullion		This project is 'shovel ready'. Full planning approval has already been obtained to replace our current changing rooms building with a modern, fit for purpose facility.	

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ORGANISATION OR SITE	LOCATION AND CATEGORY	DEA	PRIORITY	FACILITIES REQUIRED	PARTNERSHIPS
	Sports Hub		4	<p>'one calendar year' fixture plan goes ahead.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of alternative provision - there is currently only one other fully floodlit ground in Armagh County (Athletic Grounds, Armagh). Terracing the existing gravel bank on the Lismore side of the grounds will increase our ground capacity from its current limit of 5150 to approx 9000 – 10,000. Opens up the venue to further fixtures eg National Leagues, provincial Club fixtures as well as Ladies Football and Camogie on a Provincial and National level. <p>Resurfacing the Main Car Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To comply with the safety of Sports Grounds regulations and comply with health and safety obligations we will need to resurface the car park area and gravel areas inside the turnstiles. Required to ensure safe access and egress from the venue. The car park is currently is a very poor state of repair and is a potential hazard. Loose gravel areas inside the ground are also in need of remedial work. <p>Future Potential</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are 2 areas of adjacent land currently on offer to the Club for purchase With the right investment strategy Crossmaglen could be developed in the longer term into a regional hub for the association, something that is currently lacking in this region. 	
CAMLROUGH ROVERS FC	Camrough - AGP	Slieve Gullion	3	<p>New car park to support 3G pitch built in 2014.</p> <p>Additional 3G pitch – stand to hold 200 spectators, additional toilet facilities and 2 turnstiles.</p> <p>Require facilities to move into Irish League Championship 2.</p>	
MULLAGHGLASS PM SCHOOL	AGP	Slieve Gullion	2	<p>New AGP for school and community usage</p>	
DERRYMORE HOUSE	Walking Trail	Slieve Gullion	1	<p>As part of the rural Development within the ERT Dept this site has been identified as a possible walking trail</p>	

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

KEY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

4.96 Based on the analysis, consultation feedback and the key issues identified, there are a number of key challenges and opportunities to consider in planning for future provision of sports facilities in Newry, Mourne and Down District:

Table 4.11: Key Issues, Challenges and Opportunities in Planning for Future Sports Facility Provision

FACILITY TYPE/ISSUE	KEY CHALLENGE	KEY OPPORTUNITY
PLAYING PITCHES	<p>Lack of grass pitches; poor quality of existing stock</p> <p>Need for additional AGPs/3Gs/MUGAs, particularly at specific sites/in specific areas</p> <p>Specific Club needs and future support of the Local Authority</p>	<p>There are a number of identified sites where AGPs/3G pitches could be developed, often in partnership with local Clubs. Some of the larger Clubs have significant needs for training and playing facilities to accommodate growing numbers of junior players; given the aim of increasing participation, these are important opportunities to engage young people in active lifestyles which they will continue into later life.</p>
HIGH PERFORMANCE/TRAINING FACILITIES	<p>Future revenue funding and operational sustainability</p>	<p>Potential funding for multi-sport hubs (SNI)</p> <p>There are a number of potential sports hubs. The Local Authority would like to support a Sports Hub in each of the DEA areas.</p> <p>Provision of these Sports Hubs will include AGP Pitches and will increase overall usage. Therefore, minimising the need for grass pitch upgrade to higher standards.</p>
NEED FOR ADDITIONAL FACILITIES - SWIMMING POOLS, FITNESS FACILITIES, GAPS/3GS	<p>Population growth will increase demand for sports facilities at local level; the challenge is resourcing these needs (capital and revenue) and ensuring investment is evidence-based.</p>	<p>Population growth provides the opportunity of additional planning gain resources; priority investment projects will benefit from these monies, so sport needs to 'be at the table'.</p>
EXISTING LOCAL AUTHORITY SPORTS FACILITIES.	<p>The Newry and Down Leisure Centre are being replaced with new facilities.</p>	<p>The Newcastle Centre is ageing and requires a new facility. This should be a number 1 priority going forward to look at indoor sports and swimming provision in Newcastle.</p>

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

FACILITY TYPE/ISSUE	KEY CHALLENGE	KEY OPPORTUNITY
CROSS BOUNDARY USE/PROVISION	The scale and geography of NI means that communities access provision outside of the Council area in which they live.	The scale and geography of NI means there is a real opportunity to plan strategically for sports facilities and specifically those of a larger scale, across boundaries. Newry, Mourne and Down have an opportunity to discuss facility provision with its neighbouring authorities.
COMMUNITY PLANNING AGENDA	Ensuring provision of sports facilities and participative opportunities is highlighted as a priority in this process, given the contribution they make to healthy lifestyles and reducing health inequalities.	The new planning process provides a real opportunity to further endorse the role and importance of sport, sports facilities and physical activity as part of active lifestyles and to secure resources to support their ongoing provision.
NEED FOR A RANGE OF OUTDOOR FACILITIES – WATER SPORTS, WALKING, CYCLING, BMX, ADVENTURE AND URBAN TRAILS	There is a need to provide informal sports facilities which facilitate physical activity as part of everyday life, the need for additional outdoor sports facilities has been identified	There is an opportunity to develop additional trails and routes which could provide for both specific activities e.g. water sports and facilitate access between existing provisions, as well as e.g. transport hubs. This has potential as the means to link a number of sites in a multi-sport hub.

4.97 It should be noted that sporting Clubs have the opportunity to lease or purchase Council Facilities; however the following guidance must be used:

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL - LEASING OF PLAYING PITCHES GUIDANCE

4.98 Leasing of playing pitch or court sites and related facilities to Sports Clubs or sports organisations will need to be underpinned by the following principles:

- **Regularise sports and community facility management and leasing procedures;**
- **Empower and improve the capacity of our local communities;**
- **Improve Sports and Community Development opportunities for all;**
- **Encourage Sporting Clubs and Community organisations to play a greater role in the management of facilities.**
- **Support improved Health and Wellbeing outcomes.**

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

- **Any proposal must promote social, economic or environmental well-being and support the aims and priorities of the Council.**
- **Newry, Mourne and Down District Council will not guarantee exclusivity on a first come first served basis when considering any application from a sports group and will consider other expressions of interest, as appropriate from other groups and organisations.**
- **Any proposal must deliver agreed benefits for local people.**
- **The playing pitches and related facilities have in the past for a minimum of 5 years been used by one single Club e.g. bowls Club, tennis Club, soccer Club, rugby Club, GAA Club.**
- **The playing pitches are deemed to be underutilised and alternative provision has been agreed with existing users.**
- **No multi sports pitch/facilities or individual sites, pitches that have a high and multi Club usage shall be considered for leasing.**
- **Exceptional circumstances will be, for example, Down County Board want to utilise a pitch for their centre of excellence etc.**

4.99 Any interested parties will have to comply with the Council's Sports and Community Facility Management and Leasing Policy and Procedures. Further information and guidance available from the Council's Administration or Leisure and Sports Departments.

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

5. SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

INTRODUCTION

- 5.1. Newry, Mourne and Down has a wide range of sports facilities across the area, the majority of which are of good quality. There are, however, existing facilities which do not benefit the local community because access to education sites cannot be secured outside of curriculum time. There is a need to provide formal community use agreements with schools for the use of their sporting facilities. At the same time the Council has to recognise that there may well be a cost to the Council to get schools to open facilities during the evenings and weekends.
- 5.2. The Council recognises that the existing Newcastle Centre and Tropicana Swimming Pools in Newcastle require significant investment to bring them up to modern standards. A feasibility study should be undertaken to consider the options which also include tourism options.
- 5.3. The local population is growing which will increase demand for provision. Existing Newry, Mourne and Down communities are generally healthy, although obesity is increasing, they are generally mobile and have the means to participate.
- 5.4. Current participation levels compare well with the NI average.

SUMMARY OVERVIEW AND ANALYSIS

- 5.5. The community consultation process for this Strategy has highlighted need for additional provision of indoor sports facilities in Newcastle. Illustrative quantitative supply and demand assessments based on population levels, building on 'Bridging the Gap 2009 and 2014' identify current and future under supply of sport halls, pools and fitness stations. However, assessment of accessibility highlights that the majority of the Newry, Mourne and Down communities are within the catchment area of a community accessible sports facility. There are specific sports needs for sports hall facilities; for basketball and gymnastics and trampolining in Newry which will be addressed with the new Newry Leisure Centre. There is also a need to put in place formal community use agreements to ensure use of school sports halls. By implementing community use agreements with schools this will ensure the required supply of sports hall facilities across Newry, Mourne and Down meets demand now and in the future.
- 5.6. Some existing facilities are unavailable for community access because they are on education sites and there needs to be a drive to put in place formal community use agreements for school facility use.
- 5.7. One of the major issues resulting from the strategic assessment of need is the quality or perceived lack of playing pitches in the district, both grass and AGP. The larger football, rugby and GAA Clubs have growing junior sections and insufficient facilities to train and play. In addition there is a need for improved outdoor playing pitch changing facilities. From the work undertaken in this strategy regarding sports provision and the need for artificial grass pitches and grass pitches along with other sports provision provides the opportunity to consider the development locally of facilities which provide for 4-5 different sports on one site. These could facilitate increased participation at community level and potentially be more efficient and effective to operate given that revenue costs could be spread across the facility operation and remove the need for duplication of infrastructure eg car parking, across a number of sites.

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

- 5.8. It is proposed to provide a Sports Hub in each of the DEAs over a period of time.
- 5.9. The provision of a Sports Hub would be required to meet certain criteria. This is to ensure sustainability and meet Sport NI key principles of providing Sports Hubs across NI. The proposed sports hub criteria is as follows:

CRITERIA	SITE NAME	SITE NAME	SITE NAME	SITE NAME
<p>1. The proposed development must have considered the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The perceived needs of Newry, Mourne and Down Sports Clubs identified within the Sports Facility Strategy. (ii) Other Local Authorities Sports Facility developments and strategies and (iii) The Northern Ireland 10 year Sports Facility Plan 2016. <p>Meets Sport NI KP1, KP2, KP3 and KP5</p>	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No
<p>2. Is the land currently in the ownership of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council or Education Ownership (reduced land holding costs)</p> <p>Use of Education sites meets Sport NI KP7</p>	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No
<p>3. Proposed Sports Hub is already known as a sport and leisure destination and has some existing sports and leisure facilities (previously known as a sports destination)</p>	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No
<p>4. The proposed Sports Hub must have a high proportion of population within a 20 minute drive time in the individual DEA (Major catchment) with accessible transport routes to and from.</p> <p>Meets Sport NI KP3</p>	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No
<p>5. Does the sports hub provide the opportunity to provide for high performance facilities?</p> <p>Meets Sport NI KP5</p>	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

CRITERIA	SITE NAME	SITE NAME	SITE NAME	SITE NAME
<p>6. Partnership arrangements must be in place for the operation and use of the Sports Hub (This could be Local Authority, Education and Schools, Sports Clubs or Community Centers).</p> <p>Minimum of 4 different Sports Clubs and sports to be involved in the partnership. All Sports Club users must be Members of SAND Meets Sport NI KP2, KP3 and KP7 (if education site utilised).</p>	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No
<p>7. A sustainable business case with a long term sports development plan must be in place with a sink fund for the provision of 3G pitches at any Sports Hub</p> <p>Meets Sport NI KP4</p>	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No

- 5.10. Other identified facility needs were highlighted as a need for athletic facilities and improved tennis and bowls facilities. The need for extended walking and cycling trails and routes and adventure provision.

PRIORITIES

- 5.11. The following priorities have been identified through the Strategy analysis, needs assessment and consultation:

1. **Development of new and improved playing pitches to a 'Good' Standard.**
2. **Consideration of providing additional water space to 2037. (Newcastle).**
3. **Consider the provision of a Tennis Bubble to provide all year round tennis facilities at Newry Tennis Club/Newcastle Tennis Club.**
4. **Consider a shared partnership approach with a school to provide a 400m 6 lane athletics facility in the Downpatrick/Newcastle area.**
5. **Review previous work undertaken to identify the needs and requirements of indoor sports facilities in Newcastle.**
6. **Potentially some support for Club-led projects (could be to assist with match funding for grant applications, or a one off capital grant).**

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

- 7. Development of cycling and walking trails – investment to create additional trails, open up riverside and canal trails, link into national cycling network, (this reflects a priority in the NI-wide Sports Facilities Strategy); development of an urban/adventure trail, potentially linking sports sites as part of a multi-sports hub.**
- 8. Investment in areas of under provision particularly rural areas – MUGAS.**
- 9. Review of existing Community centers – How they can provide for sport and physical activity in the rural areas.**
- 10. Development of further partnership working across the local sports sector to ensure Newry, Mourne and Down’s resources are targeted where most impact will result in terms of participation and that future investment is both strategic and sustainable.**
- 11. Ensure that provision of sports facilities and participative opportunities are a priority in the Newry, Mourne and Down Community Plan, so that wherever possible planning gain resources can be secured for investment at local level.**

5.12. Based on the above priorities, the following recommendations are made for future sports facility provision in Newry, Mourne and Down:

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION 1

A feasibility study is undertaken to consider the options for the Newcastle Centre and sports facilities in Newcastle in the future.

RECOMMENDATION 2

Consider providing additional and improving 'Poor' and 'Standard' quality rated playing pitches – football and Gaelic to meet a 'Good' standard of provision which allows for pitches to have the capacity to provide for 3 games a week.

RECOMMENDATION 3

The Council to provide refurbished or new pavilion changing rooms where the strategy has identified the need at outdoor sports facilities.

RECOMMENDATION 4

The Council to provide capacity building, funding application and business and sports development planning advice to Sports Clubs and sports and community organisations.

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

RECOMMENDATION 5

Newry, Mourne and Down to consider the opportunity to designate a multi-sport hub within each of the DEAs. Designation of a multi-sports hub should also involve the provision of support services for High Performance training, operating as a satellite from the Sports Institute NI.

(There are a number of management proposals to look at and a need to talk to Clubs every hub would be different as each DEA is different)

DEA	SITE LOCATION	PRIORITY SCORING	CURRENT STATUS
Crotlieve	St Mark's/St Peter's GAA	1	Planning permission has been approved and Partnership agreed.
Slieve Gullion	No Sites Identified	-	-
Rowallane	Assumption Grammar	1	Existing community use and all stakeholders to be established.
Rowallane	Active Saintfield	1	Initial stage of identifying Partnerships and funding.
Downpatrick	Down High School	2	Initial stage of identifying Partnerships and funding. Restricted in number of sports.
Mournes	Kilkeel High School/Leisure Centre	1	Initial stage of identifying Partnerships and stakeholders.
Mournes	Donard Park, Newcastle	2	Initial stage of identifying Partnerships and funding. Restricted in number of sports.
Mournes	St Louis Grammar	1	Initial stage of identifying Partnerships and stakeholders.
Newry	Newry High School	2	Initial stage of identifying Partnerships and funding. Restricted in number of sports.
Newry	St Joseph's High School	2	Initial stage of identifying Partnerships and funding. Restricted in number of sports.
Newry	Newry Leisure Centre	1	Initial stage of identifying Partnerships and stakeholders.
Slieve Croob	Ballynahinch Rugby Club	1	Initial stage of identifying Partnerships and stakeholders.

RECOMMENDATION 6

Newry, Mourne and Down undertakes a review of its community centres to assess the options for the long term of sports and physical activity provision at these facilities; as well as the locations for future provision, given the population growth expected.

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

RECOMMENDATION 7

Newry, Mourne and Down works with external partners to develop outdoor provision comprising walking and cycling routes/trails linking sports facilities and transport.

RECOMMENDATION 8

Areas of population growth/areas without access to other formal sports facilities should have access to a MUGA or outdoor recreational grass sports area as minimum provision.

RECOMMENDATION 9

Partnership working should underpin all future investment in sports facility provision to ensure it 'fits' with and addresses identified needs of the district and can maximize access to and securing of, all available external and internal funding opportunities.

RECOMMENDATION 10

Newry, Mourne and Down should consult and work with neighboring authorities and other providers on an ongoing basis on future sports facility provision to ensure there is no duplication of provision.

RECOMMENDATION 11

Consider a partnership approach to the development of a bubble to cover 2 tennis courts at either Newry Tennis Club or Newcastle Tennis Club to provide a facility within the local authority that provides for all year round tennis.

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

RECOMMENDATION 12:

Consider a shared approach with a school to deliver a 400m 6 lane track with ancillary facilities in the Downpatrick/Newcastle area.

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

APPENDIX 1

(Below is the list only of Consultees who attended Roadshows during August/September 2015)
(It should be noted other Organisations have given their input to the Document)

Organisation

An riocht GAA
Annalong Rovers Youth F.C
Ardglass Golf Club
Assumption Grammar School
Aughlisnafin GAC
Ballyholland Development Association
Ballyholland Harps G.A.C
Ballyhornan District Community Association
Ballynacross F.C
Ballynahinch Olympic FC
Ballynahinch RFC
Ballyrea F.C
Bishopscourt Racing Circuit
Bryansford GAC
Burren A.C
Burren Community Association
Burren Cycling
Burren Vision
Camlough Rovers F.C
Carnbane Football League
Carrickcruppen G.F.C
Castlewellan Community Partners
Castlewellan Town FC
Castlewellan Youth Club
Cedar Foundation
Celtic Bhoys F.C

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Clonduff GAA
Cloverhill Golf Club
Co Down Junior Quad Club
Crossmaglen Rangers G.F.C
Cullyhanna Community Group
Damolly FC
Darragh Cross GAC
Down Handball
Downpatrick F.C
Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal
Downpatrick School of Lifesaving
Downpatrick Tennis Club
Downpatrick Youth Football League
Drumaness and Spa Community
Drumaness GAC
Dundrum CC
East Down Athletic Club
Evolve Muay Thai, Newry
Excel Gymnastics Club
Forkhill and District Development
Friends of the Rock Pool
Glasdrumman GAC
Kilclief Ben Dearg G.A.C
Kilcoo Community Association
Kilcoo GAC
Kilkeel F.C
Kilkeel Hockey Club
Kilkeel Rowing Club
Killeavy G.A.C
Killough F.C
Killough Youth and Community Hall
Killowen Celtic FC

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Killyleagh G.A.C
Killyleagh Rowing Club
Killyleagh Y.C F.C
Lagan Valley Orienteers
Langley Road Community Association
Lecale Amateur Swimming Club
Lecale Conservation
Lecale Swimming Club
Liatrom Fontenoys GAC
Longstone GAC
Loughinisland G.A.C
Midway UTD F.C
Motor Cycle Racing Association
Mountaineering Ireland
Mourne Heritage Trust
Mourne Motorcycle Club
Mourne Sports
Murlough AC
Murlough Athletics Club
Newcastle AC
Newcastle AC Juniors
Newcastle Bowling Club
Newcastle Football Club
Newcastle Football League
Newcastle Harbour Regeneration
Newcastle Karate Club
Newcastle Nomids Hockey
Newcastle Swimmers
Newcastle Yacht Club
Newry Basketball Club
Newry Bowling Club
Newry City A.F.C

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Newry Fliers Basketball
Newry High School
Newry Ladies Netball Club
Newry Mitchels G.F.C
Newry Rugby Club
Newry Triathlon Club
Newry, Mourne and Down
North East Mugged Kickboxing
Perfect Fitness Centre Newry
Ring of Gullion AONB
Ropewalk Synthetic Pitch Facility
Rostrevor Rovers
Sacred Heart Boxing Club
Saintfield Bowling Club
Saintfield C.E.P
Saintfield Development Association
Saintfield Hockey Club
Saintfield Ladies Hockey
Saintfield Sports Club
Saintfield United F.C
Saval G.A.C
SDLP
SDLP Councillor
SF. Sports Community
Shimna Angling Club
Shimna Stars Special Olympics
Silverbridge Harps G.A.C
St Malachy's GAC Castlewellan
St Malachy's Primary School, Kilcoo
St Marys Youth Club
St Patricks GAC
St Peter and Pauls Bowling Club

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

St Peters GAA, Warrenpoint
St. Bronaghs GAA
St. Louis Grammar School
St. Marys G.A.C
Strangford Coastal Rowing Club
Teconnaught GFC
Temple Rangers FC
Thomas Davis G.F.C
Three Ways Community Association
Tir Na Nog Trampoline Club
Ulster Barbarians Wheelchair RC
Ulster Hockey
Ulster Small Arms Shooting Club
Valley Rangers
Warrenpoint Handball
Warrenpoint Tennis Club
Warrenpoint Town F.C
Whitecross G.A.C
Whole Moon Engagement
Windmill Stars F.C

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

APPENDIX 2

Demand Assessment Table - Health and Fitness Facilities (Newry, Mourne and Down)

Calculation used to calculate demand

- 1 Total population 16+
- 2 Number of potential members/users of health and fitness clubs
- 3 2 above shown as % of total adult population 1. above
- 4 Average user attends 1.5 times per week or six times per month number of visits per week
- 5 Number of visits per week in peak times = 65% of total number of visits
- 6 Number of visits in one hour of peak time = total visits during peak time /34

2016
139,131

2016
13.7%
19,061

2016
28,591
18,584
547

A total number of 547 stations would be required to cater for the predicted demand by potential members/users of any health and fitness facility

2016 demand for Health and Fitness Facilities

547

Current Supply

838

Current Surplus / Deficit in supply

291	Surplus
-----	---------

The model is based on the premise that for the supply to be sufficient, it must be large enough to cater for the maximum demand at any one time. Maximum demand is described as the demand during a peak hour session

Penetration of fitness users is defined using the UK FIA 2015 Parameters

The average health and fitness session is one hour
65% of use is during peak times

- 35 Andy Ward Leisure Ballynahinch
- 30 Burrendale Hotel
- 25 Musclevorx Gym
- 30 Elite Fitness
- 22 Ballymotee
- 25 De La Salle School
- 32 Down Leisure Centre
- 90 Newry Sports Centre
- 32 Kilkeel LC
- 20 Lifebuilders Centre Kilkeel
- 20 An Riocht
- 20 Newcastle Centre
- 90 Carrickdale Hotel Newry
- 80 Sculpt Newry
- 80 Rite Fitness Newry
- 100 Canal Court Newry
- 60 Gym Tech Newry

SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

47 Cross Fit Castlewellan
838

APPENDIX 3

Demand Assessment Table - Health and Fitness Facilities (Newry, Mourne and Down)

2037

Calculation used to calculate demand

- 1 Total population 16+
- 2 Number of potential members/users of health and fitness clubs
- 3 2 above shown as % of total adult population 1. above
- 4 Average user attends 1.5 times per week or six times per month number of visits per week
- 5 Number of visits per week in peak times = 65% of total number of visits
- 6 Number of visits in one hour of peak time = total visits during peak time /34

2037
164,160

2037
13.7%
22,490

2016
33,735
21,928
645

A total number of 645 stations would be required to cater for the predicted demand by potential members/users of any health and fitness facility

2037 demand for Health and Fitness Facilities

645

Current Supply

838

Current Surplus/ Deficit in supply

193

Surplus

The model is based on the premise that for the supply to be sufficient, it must be large enough to cater for the maximum demand at any one time. Maximum demand is described as the demand during a peak hour session

Penetration of fitness users is defined using the FIA 2015 Parameters

The average health and fitness session is one hour
65% of use is during peak times

