

INTERIM STRATEGY FOR HARROW'S SPORT, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE – CONSULTATION DRAFT

PART A – INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

2.0 Sport, Recreation And Open Space In Harrow

The terms sport, recreation and open space can encompass a range of activities and provision. Within Harrow there are a number of leisure opportunities on offer, including indoor sports facilities, swimming pools, outdoor sports pitches, parks and open spaces, play ground facilities, basketball courts, tennis courts, a skate park, bowling greens, informal kick about areas and two athletics tracks. Many of these are provided directly by the local authority, whilst community groups or the private sector operate the remainder.

2.1 Benefits

Council recognises that participation in positive sport and recreation activities by individuals and groups has multiple spin-offs for other aspects of people's lives and the community. These benefits can be categorised as personal, social, economic and environmental.

2.1.1 **Personal benefits**

- Pleasure and enjoyment, freedom and spontaneity
- Improved physical and mental health
- Development of skills and qualities
- Opportunities for learning, achievement, spiritual development and self development
- Building confidence, independence, self esteem and status
- Constructive/meaningful use of free time
- Aesthetic appreciation, creative expression

2.1.2 Social Benefits

- Cultural awareness
- Family and community kinship
- Social cohesion
- Shared values and goals, sense of belonging
- Common identity and pride
- Productive schools, workplaces, communities
- Vehicle for interaction and communication.

2.1.3 Economic Benefits

- Enhanced lifestyles that attract and retain a skilled population and businesses necessary for economic growth
- Commercial opportunities
- Employment opportunities

2.1.4 Environmental Benefits

- Stewardship for future generations
- Development of environmental consciousness

2.3 Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation

The wide variety of sport, recreation and open spaces in Harrow makes a valuable contribution to the quality and character of the borough. They contribute to the positive image of Harrow as a place to live, work and visit. They give places their identity and have an important role to play in promoting regeneration objectives. However, planning and management

of these facilities and physical activities face a number of problems and increasing pressures are being placed on them. The increasing Harrow population is placing a bigger demand on current services and without adequate investment to improve and then maintain the quality of the provision, participation rates in sport and recreation will decline, which will have a negative impact on our communities overall health and well-being. There is also a growing awareness of the need for open spaces, which are safe, accessible and sustainable and which will perform a range of functions and benefit the local communities.

Creating and managing high quality sport, recreation facilities and open spaces is essential to delivering an urban renaissance in Harrow and therefore it is important that a framework is developed to allow the borough to plan and manage changes to the built and open environment.

By developing a consistent supported approach to planning across Harrow, we can effectively utilise the resources available and provide good quality, accessible sport and recreation facilities/activities and open spaces to the residents and visitors of Harrow.

2.3.1 Planning Policy Guidance (17)

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister produced a Planning Policy Guidance (17) in 1991, which sets out the Government's national policies and objectives on planning for open space; sport and recreation, which are fundamental, to delivering broader Government objectives:

This document has recently been updated (July 2002) and advises the local planning authorities to take account of the community's need for recreational space.

The guidance requires Councils to undertake an assessment of need and audit of provision for these aspects of the borough.

The long term outcomes of the Planning Policy Guidance (17) aims to deliver are:

- Networks of accessible, high quality open spaces and sport and recreation facilities, in both urban and rural areas, which meet the needs of residents and visitors, are fit for purpose and economically and environmentally sustainable.
- An appropriate balance between new provision and the enhancement of existing provision
- Clarity and reasonable certainty for developers and land owners in relation to the requirements and expectations of local planning authorities in respect of open space and sport and recreation provision.

2.4 Sport, Recreation And Open Space Background Research

The Planning Policy Guidance (17) guideline outlines the National Planning policies, which all local authorities should follow to ensure effective planning of open space, sport and recreation.

These include:

- Undertaking assessments of needs and opportunities
- Setting local standards based on the assessment of needs and opportunities
- Establishing and maintaining an adequate supply of open space and sports and recreation facilities
- If there is a need, identifying and planning for new open space, sports and recreational facilities
- Process for seeking planning obligations to remedy local deficiencies in the quantity or quality of open space, sports and recreational provision.

In August 2004, external advisors, Strategic Leisure was engaged to undertake a study on the supply and demand for open space, sport and

recreational facilities in Harrow and to set local standards based on the assessment of needs and opportunities, which are the first two objectives of the Planning Policy Guidance (17).

The study covered provision in the public, educational (primarily Local Education Authority Schools), commercial and voluntary sectors

2.4.1 Methodology and Process

Ten categories were adopted to reflect local provision across Harrow. These were based on The Planning Policy Guidance (17) Companion Guide recommendations, the London Plan and also the Harrow Unitary Development Plan.

Table 1: Sport, Recreation and Open Space Categories

1	Indoor Sports Facilities	Formal facilities designed and used for sporting activity
2	Community Centres/Halls	Indoor facilities with some current and potential sporting use
3	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Participation in outdoor sports such as pitch sports, tennis, bowls, athletics or water sports
4	Sport and Physical Activity	Programming and activities, partnerships with internal departments and external agencies, sports development, target groups
5	Provision for children and young people	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters
6	Parks and Gardens	Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events, including woodlands, wildlife conservation,

		bio diversity, ecological, and environmental education awareness
7	Green Chains	Walking, cycling or horse riding whether for leisure purposes or travel opportunities for wildlife migration.
8	Green Belt	Opportunities for informal recreational activities. Wildlife conservation, bio diversity and environmental education awareness
9	Allotments	Opportunities for people who wish to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion
10	Nature conservation sites (<i>small local parks under 2 hectares</i>)	Sites of specialist nature supporting wildlife/natural habitats/rare flora and fauna

NB The use of cemeteries as open spaces has not yet been fully explored in the Interim Strategy, however it was included in the overall study conducted by Strategic Leisure. The value of cemeteries as sources of open space will be included in the final Strategy document.

a). Audit Process

Strategic Leisure carried out site audits and surveys of public, commercial, education and voluntary open space, sport and leisure facilities, which were broken down and analysed under the recommended categories. The audit process assessed the quality (condition, value for money), accessibility (cost, physical access to the site, parking, bus routes, opening times) and quantity of sites/facilities (supply and location).

b). Mapping

The results recorded from the site audits were mapped using Arc View GIS software and presented as pictorial maps to display the following:

- Location, quality and catchment profiles of Indoor Sports Facilities – (private, public, voluntary and schools)
- Location, quality and catchment profiles of Nature Conservation Areas
- Location, quality and catchment profiles of Semi Natural and Natural Open Space
- Location, quality and catchment profile of Parks and Gardens
- Location and quality of Community Centres/Halls
- Location and quality of Play Provision for Young People
- Location and catchment profiles of relevant surrounding authority indoor sports facilities/open spaces

c). Consultation

The council has a clear commitment to consult with its residents and this has been reflected within the production process of this interim strategy. A considerable amount of consultation and research around sport, recreation and open space within Harrow and the surrounding boroughs has been carried out in the last year and this information has been used to inform the interim strategy process.

Strategic Leisure utilised a range of consultation methods with various stakeholders, residents, users, target groups,

Harrow Council officers and Councillors to support or challenge the data that had been collected and presented through the audit and mapping process. The consultation methods used were:

- Door to Door surveys – non users
- Exit Surveys – users
- School and Sports Club Questionnaires
- Focus Groups
- Challenge Days
- Youth Conference
- Portfolio Holders

3.0 Sport, Recreation And Open Space Interim Strategy

3.1 The Need for a Interim Sport, Recreation and Open Space Strategy

A consistent approach is needed in planning for and delivering sport, recreation and open space. The development of a Sport, Recreation and Open Space Strategy assists in providing good quality, fit for purpose facilities and associated programmes and activities that meet the needs of Harrow's diverse communities and individuals.

Harrow's Interim Strategy for Sport, Recreation and Open Space will help identify gaps in existing provision so that future investment can be effectively targeted into areas of greatest need and achieve maximum benefit through the development of sport, recreation and open space within the borough.

Harrow's Interim Sport, Recreation and Open Space Strategy sets out what the local authority seeks to achieve or influence in order

to improve opportunities for participation, performance and quality of provision for all sectors of the community.

3.2 Format of the Interim Strategy

Utilising the background research undertaken by Strategic Leisure the interim strategy continues to use the 10 categories as recommended by The Planning Policy Guidance (17) Companion Guide and the Harrow Unitary Development Plan.

Each category includes a short statement of the role and definition of the category title and follows on with the qualitative and quantitative findings of the current situation in Harrow and its surrounding boroughs. The proposed strategies and actions are directly linked with the stated findings and include a prioritisation rating of 0 – 3.

- 0 = Currently initiated
- 1 = short term aspiration
- 2 = medium term aspiration
- 3 = long term aspiration

3.3 Council's Role

The Borough Council is a major contributor to sport and leisure activities and therefore as a democratic organisation, it represents the wider interests and ambitions of the sporting and leisure community.

Harrow Council takes on various roles to achieve the principles of (PPG) 17.

Provider	Council provides pools, leisure centre, sports fields, casual outdoor recreation/sport facilities (netball, tennis and basketball courts) and 3 golf courses for public benefit.
Partner	Council assists others through partnership arrangements eg with schools to meet sports needs.
Funder	Council gives funding to others to support sport initiatives/programmes and to provide sport facilities. Funding is through grants (grants for operational costs and/or capital developments)).
Leader	Council has a leadership role in planning for the future of sport. This is achieved through understanding and analysing sports needs, advocating the interests of BME groups, addressing disadvantage, encouraging innovation, and taking a regional perspective.
Facilitator	Council assists others to provide sports facilities and services through loans, loan guarantees, resource consent waiver fees, rates remission, rental subsidies, sport advisory and sports field allocation.
Communicator and Promoter	Council provides communication about sporting opportunities available in the city.
Advocate	Council uses its knowledge of sport facility needs to advocate to other agencies and the private sector.

3.4 Other Roles

The influence of Harrow's sporting and leisure community can be difficult to measure because of the large number of individuals, organisations and agencies involved.

There is a strong tradition of voluntary sector support and provision, which is a valued and necessary source and needs to be nurtured and supported by Council. This can be achieved via Council adopting the role of facilitator, partner and funder (through the grant advisory board) and ensuring the voluntary sector has the opportunity to be involved in the future direction of the sport and leisure service.

Council recognises that it is not the lead agency in all areas of sport and leisure. In these cases this is highlighted by the inclusion of **(Other)** in brackets in the Strategy and Actions section (Part C).

It is anticipated that all organisations and individuals who have a commitment to sport, recreation and open space will take on board the recommendations within this interim strategy. The strategy will provide direction and the agreed themes will enable resources to be effectively targeted, and a more co-ordinated programme of sport, recreation and open space provision can be delivered to meet all local objectives.

4.0 Strategic Context

4.1 About Harrow

The borough is located in the northwest of London and is 12 miles from central London. The 2001 census shows that Harrow has an increasing population that has put pressure on the environment and it's services. The population stood at 206,814 of which over 41% belonged to a black or minority ethnic group. This influx and growth of black or minority ethnic groups has contributed in making Harrow rich with a mix of cultures spread throughout the borough.

Over 37% of the population in Harrow are aged 45 and over and 14.5% are aged over 65. This is balanced by the fact that 23% of residents are 17 and under. Well over half of all people aged over 16 are married and just over a third of households in Harrow have dependent children. Lone parent households with dependent children make up 5.6% of all households in the borough.

4.2 Changing Population

The community of Harrow has changed significantly over the last 30 – 40 years. The main changes are:

- Increased number of ethnic communities
- Increasingly diverse cultural communities
- Growing population
- Increasing numbers of young people
- Changing locations for community focus as a result of new residential developments
- Higher expectations of the quality and range of leisure provision, and of individual facilities

It is imperative that future developments and programming takes into consideration the changes in population and trends to be able to effectively plan for emerging sports and be adaptable to peaks and troughs in demand.

4.3 Relevant Policies and Strategies

This strategy is closely linked with the following National and Regional Plans and Council strategies

a). The London Plan

The Mayor's London Plan (2004) endorses the Government's purposes and positive objectives for London's open spaces, sport and recreation provision. The London Plan notes that open spaces should be 'protected and enhanced so that growth can benefit the city's breathing spaces'. The plan sets out how the Mayor will work with boroughs and other partners to protect and promote London's network of open space. The Plan also places emphasis on individual local authorities to develop open space strategies. The strategic work by the GLA and work at local authority level will identify where there is a deficit of open space across the capital, requirements for improvements and where opportunities lie to provide new sites.

b). Corporate Priorities

Strengthening Harrow's Communities relates to building stronger communities, better relations between communities, ensuring that everyone has access to our services, becoming better and 'smarter' at the way that we

engage with the community and delivering appropriate services to people through all life stages.

Understanding and responding to our customers is integral to being a successful organisation. **Valuing Harrow's Customers** relations to improving the quality of, and access to, the services we provide to residents, joining up with other service providers so that users receive a seamless service, tailoring the services we provide to meet the needs of specific areas in the borough, service development to a high standard and becoming better at the way we communicate with the community

Sport and Leisure also fits within the corporate priority of **Harrow – a true learning community**. This priority relates to creating a community with the necessary skills to enhance life opportunities and adapt to future life changes.

c). Community Strategy

Themes and Policies relating to the objectives of the Interim Sport and Leisure Strategy

i) Empowering Local Communities

- Promoting principles of community cohesion
- Equality of access to services and opportunities for all
- Enhancing the quality of life for older people
- Working with the voluntary and community sectors as equal partners

ii) Children and Young People

- To ensure that all children and young people have good physical and mental health and lead healthy lifestyle
- To help children and young people enjoy their lives and achieve their educational and social potential
- To involve children and young people in the community by encouraging their positive contributions to the life and development of local people

iii) Greener Harrow

- Making open spaces more attractive and protecting biodiversity
- Tackling transport and air pollution issues
- Encourage more sustainable development in Harrow

iv) Healthy Harrow

- Tackling health inequalities

v) Learning for All

- Target education services, support and opportunities for individual children and families
- Regenerating and empowering the community through learning
- Making effective use of resources for education and learning

vi) Regenerating Harrow

- Improving and renewing the physical environment
- Economic and social regeneration

d). Cultural Strategy

The Harrow Cultural Strategy (2003 – 2008) was developed by the Harrow Partnership and Harrow Council. The overall objectives of the strategy are to:

- Help to improve the quality of life
- Promote the conditions for a culturally inclusive Harrow
- Stimulate the cultural economy and its contribution to making Harrow a vibrant and exciting place
- Promote Harrow's cultural assets – people, buildings, spaces and achievements

e). Harrow Unitary Development Plan

Harrow's Open Space policy aims to 'protect and where appropriate enhance the borough's open spaces, regardless of ownerships'. This policy incorporates a presumption against development, except in cases where limited and small-scale facilities are required to aid the proper functioning of that open space. In addition, the Unitary Development Plan states that where development adjacent to open areas will have an adverse impact on the function or character of the area, then that development should not be permitted without proper mitigation. Furthermore the Unitary Development Plan outlines the Council's commitment to increasing the amount of public

open space whilst improving its distribution across the borough.

The Harrow Unitary Development Plan, Outdoor Sports Policy recommends the following:

- To seek further provision of outdoor sports facilities that are limited in supply by encouraging public and private recreational schemes and where appropriate, providing outdoor sports facilities when laying out public open space. The Council will also support proposals for intensive use pitches and multi use games areas in accessible locations other than in the green belt, provided that no adverse impact on residential amenity or the environment occurs.
- To encourage dual and multi-purpose use of new and existing public and private recreation facilities and undertake modifications to council premises as resources permit to improve their potential for dual and multi purpose recreation use. Recreational and cultural facilities in new school developments should be designed to enable dual use of facilities and community access.
- To promote informal recreation by supporting and encouraging proposals to improve access to open spaces and where appropriate the council will encourage proposals for new or improved indoor sports facilities at suitable locations which promote and improve the accessibility, quality and range of facilities available.

PART B

INTERIM STRATEGY FOR HARROW'S SPORT, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

5.0 Introduction

This chapter outlines the Strategy's Vision and Strategic Objectives and provides a background detail on the qualitative and quantitative findings regarding facilities, sporting opportunities and trends so that detailed recommendations can be made.

5.1 Vision

The Vision outlines the priorities for future management, protection and enhancement of sport, leisure and open space in Harrow.

'A Borough where open space, indoor and outdoor recreation provision are protected, and improved access is afforded to them through provision of a wide range of quality facilities and effective management within available resources, which facilitates increased use and creates a greener, sustainable and more attractive Harrow'

5.2 Strategies

To implement Harrow's vision for Sport, Recreation and Open Space the Interim Strategy has been broken into the 10 categories and associated strategies and actions based on the consultation and audit process and through consideration of the relevant national, regional and local policies and strategies.

The associated actions are desirable to deliver the strategy and they have been prioritised with the restricted budget and resources available in mind.

5.3 Principles of Provision, Development and Management

1.31 Sustainable

The Council will ensure leisure resources are managed in a sustainable manner

1.3.2 Regional Perspective

The Council will adopt a cross borough perspective on the provision and use of leisure facilities

1.3.3 Involving Others

The Council will build on the experience and expertise of others

1.3.4 Inequalities

The Council will recognise inequalities of access generated by differences in ability, physical accessibility and income

INDOOR SPORT FACILITIES

6.0 INDOOR SPORT FACILITIES RESEARCH FINDINGS

Daily activity is fundamental to the maintenance and improvement of quality of life and sport and active recreation can play a role in this. Sport England's aim is that 3 x 30 minutes of sport and recreation per week becomes a lifestyle choice for the majority of Londoners.

6.1 Role of Indoor Sport Facilities

Indoor sport and leisure facilities have a vital role to play in facilitating, encouraging and maintaining participation in sport and physical activity at a local level.

Indoor Sports facilities comprise formal and informal provision, on either a pay and play system or programmed use. Indoor facilities include; swimming pools, sports halls and health and fitness provision. Sports halls can cater for sports such as indoor tennis, aerobics, squash, badminton, indoor basketball and general space, which can be used for table tennis, martial arts etc.

6.2 Qualitative and Quantitative Findings

The audit undertaken by Strategic Leisure Limited has identified the following commercial, public, schools and voluntary indoor sport provision in Harrow.

Table 1 – Number of Community Accessible and Inaccessible Indoor Sports Facilities in Harrow

Type	Community Access				No Community Access		Total Sites
	Public	Education	Private	Voluntary	Education	Private	
<i>Swimming Pool Sites</i>	2	1	3		2	1	9
<i>Indoor Sport Hall Sites</i>	1	4	2		5	1	13
<i>Health and Fitness</i>	1	3	6		1	1	12
<i>Indoor Tennis</i>	1						1
<i>Squash Courts</i>	1						1
<i>Gymnastics</i>				1			1
<i>Indoor Bowls</i>				1			1
	6	8	9	2	7	3	38

The associated list of indoor sports facilities is attached as **Appendix One**

a). Supply meets demand

There is a lack of swimming pool provision in both the West and East of the borough. Ealing Borough Council is currently re-developing the Northolt Swimarama site, due for completion in 2006, which is located near the boroughs border in the south. Map 1 shows that a 2km catchment of Northolt Swimarama would encompass the wards of Roxeth and Roxbourne and the location of Vale Farm Sports Centre in Brent provides access for the lower half of Harrow on the Hill ward, however there is still a deficiency of water space in Harrow .

There is no provision for informal “fun” water sports in the borough.

There is a demand for a further three indoor sports halls. The size of a sports hall is equivalent to four badminton courts. The audit

identified that there are gaps in the south, west and north east of the borough.

b). Accessible (price, programming, Disability Discrimination Act, close proximity to public transport and access roads)

The audit demonstrated that the majority of indoor provision is in the central area, where the two Harrow Council facilities are situated (Hatch End Swimming Pool, Harrow Leisure Centre). There is no local authority owned sports halls or swimming pools in the West and East of the borough. There is one privately owned indoor leisure facility in the west of the borough.

Access by Council's target groups e.g. asylum seekers and children at risk, to private facilities are impeded due to the higher entry costs and the membership process.

In the East of the borough the only non-private facility is the Canons Sports Centre (education facility). The Canons Sports Centre provides a swimming pool, sports hall and fitness suite. Notwithstanding Canons Sports Centre there is limited access to school facilities in the East. No partnerships exist, other than with Canons High School to look at opening up the remaining high school facilities for community use. The school sports coordinators and sport development officers would need to play a key role in liaising with the school's management and the community.

The Central area has the highest number of both public and commercial provision, and also the highest number of education facilities, which have community use (16 out of a total 24). The central area also has the lowest number of people living in it of the three areas in the Borough (66,825, Census 2001).

Hatch End Swimming Pool and Harrow Leisure Centre are currently not fully compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act and require significant investment to address the access issues. Hatch End Swimming Pool has no reception area and small and inadequate changing provision. There is also limited parking close to the facility and the pedestrian access is very poor due to lack of footpaths and uneven surfacing. Harrow Gymnastics Club has expressed a desire to increase their accessibility for people with disabilities but require funding assistance and support from Harrow Council to do so.

Opening hours, pricing and access for young people at Harrow Leisure Centre are inadequate for their needs. The access times for young people to access the fitness suite inhibit their ability to use the facilities after school hours.

There is no exclusive use for women in the Harrow Leisure Centre even though the consultation undertaken with women and previous research shows that a participation barrier for many women due to cultural restraints and the insecurity of working out in a mixed gym, particular for members who have just started taking part in physical activity. Many private gyms have recognised this barrier and have taken the step forward to providing women only sessions and facilities.

Seventy percent of Harrow Leisure Centres users/members are summarised as self reliant, independent, successful professionals with older children. Leisure Connection's membership system of direct debit targets groups who have sustainable income. Groups who do not fit into these categories such as young people and asylum seekers are unable to commit to a direct debit membership system; therefore the ability to access the facility is decreased.

There is a need to ensure there is equality of access for all residents to leisure activities in the borough.

The leisure card system is not currently being used effectively because of the lack of marketing to youth in schools and there is minimal promotion of alternative provision such as school facilities and programming at community halls/centres.

It is currently difficult to access Harrow Leisure Centre and ASPIRE by public transport due to the bus routes and frequency being inappropriate. Included within the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital development proposal additional transport routes to the site will be provided, which will accommodate ASPIRE. The timeframe for the hospital redevelopment is approximately 2 – 3 years (2008/2009)

Emphasis is placed on encouraging residents to utilise the Council's existing indoor leisure facilities, which at times is not appropriate for select user group's e.g. older people due to transport difficulties. In addition Community Centres/Halls and school facilities are not used proactively to provide for these select groups. This would require additional resources towards programming and marketing of the activities.

- c). Fit for purpose and meets the community it serves e.g. Adequate changing room and toilet facilities, spectator viewing area, good signage, adequate and well-lit car park

Notwithstanding the investment by Leisure Connection in 2001, Harrow Leisure Centre and Hatch End Swimming Pool, continue to suffer from a history of long-term poor maintenance and lack of investment.

- Poor internal signage at Hatch End Swimming Pool
- Inadequate placement of external information and directional signage at Hatch End Swimming Pool
- Poor internal information and directional signage at Harrow Leisure Centre
- Lack of and poorly maintained parking at Hatch End Swimming Pool.
- Poor lighting in Harrow Leisure Centre's car park, which raises concerns by users about their safety and security, particularly early in the morning and late at night which are the peak times
- Lack of a clear designated entrance for Hatch End Swimming Pool and Harrow Leisure Centre's entrance design inhibits views into the centre, which increases people's feeling of security as they approach the centre
- The existing facilities do not provide for the range of cultural needs e.g. private changing rooms for single parent families and activity areas which are not over looked for Muslim women

d). Multi purpose and flexible (sports hall a minimum size of 4 badminton courts)

Sport England recommends that sports halls should ideally be the size equivalent of 4 badminton courts to ensure they are flexible and appropriate for multi sports. Stanmore College and Whitmore School both have small halls (1 badminton court) and John Lyon's sports hall is the equivalent of 3 badminton courts. Due to the size of these facilities, their use is restricted.

- e). The indoor sports provision is supported by pro-active sport development programmes

Through the New Opportunities Fund the sport and leisure facilities at Whitmore High School and Canons High School have been upgraded to provide improved changing room facilities, suitable flooring and new fitness suites. A component of the New Opportunities Fund grant has been set aside to employ a Community Development Officer to work alongside Harrow Council and the schools to proactively open up the facilities to the community and establish a development plan.

This initiative is not currently extended to the independent schools, which are not directly aligned to Harrow Council, John Lyon's School, Harrow School and North London Collegiate School. Select community halls/centres are also not being adequately used as alternative sport and leisure sites. There is minimal work being carried out with the management of these schools, and no sports development plan has been developed to date in partnership with these schools to encourage target groups who are unable to utilise the Leisure Centre due to access issues.

Formal links have yet to be developed between Harrow High School and the independent secondary schools in Harrow.

Close liaison between PE Advisors, school management and the Sports and Leisure Unit is critical to ensure the success of opening up school facilities as community venues and maintaining the ongoing participation by youth in sports through linking with sports clubs and promoting informal physical activity opportunities.

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6.3 STRATEGY FOR INDOOR SPORT FACILITIES

Utilising the findings and research in Part B of the Interim Strategy for Harrow's Sport, Recreation and Open Space and the Indoor Sport Facilities Research and Findings, four strategies associated with indoor sport facilities have been developed.

These are:

- Provide and support a network of affordable indoor sport and recreational facilities to serve the geographical catchments of Harrow and meet the needs for different sport and physical activity
- Maintain the affordability of leisure facilities for all members of the community
- Improve the physical accessibility of indoor sport facilities by meeting legal requirements for access and endeavouring to reduce other physical barriers
- Manage the leisure facilities effectively and efficiently and create a synergy with partners in the management of facilities

Under each strategy outlined in section 6.3.1 specific actions describe how Council or our partners can meet these needs.

6.3.1 Proposed Strategies and Actions

Table 2 Proposed Strategies and Actions for Indoor Sport Facilities

Strategies	Actions	Priorities
Provide and support a network of affordable indoor sport and recreational facilities to serve the geographical catchments of Harrow and meet the needs for different sport and physical activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in partnership with Warden Housing to develop a Community Centre and Sports Hall on the Rayners Lane Estate 	0
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace Hatch End swimming pool whilst maintaining its current catchment area and ensure it meets the Disability Discrimination Act 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and facilitate the initiation of sport development plans at Whitmore High School, Canons High School and Harrow High School 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish formal links with Harrow High School and develop a sport development plan in partnership with the school to target key community groups 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the provision options for women only swimming and sport hall sessions 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a small <u>local</u> swimming pool facility in the borough, which provides for informal “fun” water sports and is not in direct competition with existing swimming pool provision. 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiate an arrangement with Ealing Council for Harrow residents to gain access to Northolt Swimarama 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a guidance document to support future section 106 contributions towards improving and developing new sport and leisure facilities 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote existing programmes and activities at the local community centres/halls 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage and support Sports Clubs to improve the provision of their facilities for disabled people 	3	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore partnership opportunities with Harrow's independent to open their sport and recreation facilities for community use 	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a youth/women's fitness suite at Harrow Leisure Centre 	3
Maintain the affordability of leisure facilities for all members of the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reassess the pricing policy to reflect the corporate priorities and direction 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and extend the role of the Leisure Card to maximise the take up by key target groups 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an effective marketing programme in partnership with Leisure Connection to promote the Leisure Card. 	1
Improve the physical accessibility of indoor sport facilities by meeting legal requirements for access and endeavouring to reduce other physical barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake improvements to Harrow Leisure Centre to ensure it is compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend the youth opening hours at the fitness suite in Harrow Leisure Centre 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the balance between casual and club use in Harrow's swimming facilities, to ensure the needs of both are met and that times for casual swimming are accessible to local people 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redesign and enhance the entrance way to Harrow Leisure Centre to improve views and security of the centre 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a feasibility study for increasing the frequency of buses to Harrow Leisure Centre 	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and deliver a business case study to Transport for London for extending the frequency and routes to Aspire and Harrow Leisure Centre 	3
Manage the leisure facilities effectively and efficiently and create a synergy with partners in the management of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the management agreement with Leisure Connection to agree more robust set of performance indicators 	0
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify Leisure Connection's contribution to Sport Development in the Borough 	0
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the pricing policy for Council's indoor leisure facilities in partnership with Leisure Connection 	1

facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adapt the current changing room provision at Harrow Leisure Centre to cater for cultural needs 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the day to day maintenance provision at Harrow Leisure Centre and Hatch End Swimming Pool 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the transfer of maintenance responsibilities for the Harrow Leisure Centre to Leisure Connection once all catch up life cycled preventative maintenance has been completed by Harrow Council 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out improvements and replacements to the plant and equipment as identified in the condition surveys 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the Harrow Leisure Centre's car park surfacing, allocation of line markings and lighting 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the signage provision at Harrow Leisure Centre and Hatch End swimming pool in line with the themed parks and open spaces signs 	2

COMMUNITY CENTRES/HALLS

7.0 COMMUNITY CENTRES/HALLS RESEARCH FINDINGS

Sport can make an important contribution to the physical infrastructure of communities and provide a social focus. It is important to have communities that are locally independent, socially more cohesive and that have access to affordable and appropriate sport and leisure activities

7.1 Role of Community Centres/Halls

Community halls/centres are the smallest buildings that can accommodate a sports programme alongside the customary social and arts pursuits. There are a wide variety of types and sizes, all with the following in common – a main activity and assembly space together with changing room/toilet facilities and general smaller space rooms.

7.2 Qualitative and Quantitative Findings

The audit identified 28 community halls in the Borough, which includes Youth Centres, Church Halls, Community Associations, Culturally Specific Facilities and Activity Centres. Many of these venues accommodate a range of recreational activities ranging from aerobics and keep fit to indoor bowls and recreational badminton.

a). Evenly distributed across the Borough

Existing community centre/hall provision is reasonably well distributed across the Borough.

There is a lack of appropriate Youth Centre provision in Rayners Lane, East and West Harrow; however there are proposals

through Warden Housing to develop new Youth Provision, on the redeveloped Rayners Lane Estate. This will encompass indoor and outdoor areas e.g. Multi Use Games Areas.

Young people stressed that community facilities need to be local as they don't want to 'move out of their patch' to access provision. Community centres provide an opportunity to utilise an existing local resource to provide physical activity and specific programmes.

Barriers exist for asylum seekers and looked after young people in accessing existing Youth Centre provision, due to the limited number of centres currently available and the distance required to travel to these. (3 – Cedars, Pinner and Wealdstone)

Wealdstone Youth Centre has limited indoor space for sport and physical activity programmes and no outdoor space available. Therefore at the Wealdstone Youth Centre youth workers are unable to capitalise on the social benefits of sport and physical activity within their youth programmes.

b). Accessible e.g. opening times, proximity to public transport

Opening times and access arrangements vary greatly, from facilities with managed opening times to those where opening is on demand.

Community centres are often seen as more 'accessible' for certain sectors of the community, due to being local, may be free or low cost and are perceived more welcoming. The community often takes pride and ownership of their local facilities and therefore are more likely to use it. However Community Centres and Halls are currently not promoted as alternative informal sport and recreation facilities.

There is no central co-ordinator or promoter of the activities, which take place in the community centres/halls. A number of residents are unaware of the programmes available to them and the community groups who are organising the events/activities are restricted by the financial cost of ongoing advertising.

c). Multi purpose

The Community Centres/Halls are used for a variety of informal recreational activities including Yoga, play groups, badminton, residents meetings, club/interest activities in addition to local community events and exhibitions.

Young people commented that there is a need for additional indoor youth focussed facilities, where they can feel warm and safe and want access to a range of activities including sport.

Community centres are restricted on the type of indoor formal sport provision they can provide due to their scale and size, however there is potential to host less formal activities, which are targeted at the local community.

7.3 STRATEGY FOR COMMUNITY CENTRES/HALLS

Utilising the findings and research in Part B of the Interim Strategy for Harrow’s Sport, Recreation and Open Space, two strategies associated with community centres/halls have been developed, These are:

- To encourage and support the use of community halls/centres for informal recreational activity

Under each strategy outlined in section 7.3.1 specific actions describe how Council or our partners can meet these needs.

7.3.1 Proposed Strategies and Actions

Table 4: Proposed Community Centres/Halls Strategies and Actions

Strategies	Actions	Priority
To encourage and support the use of community halls/centres for informal recreational activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the development of a youth centre/community hall in the Rayners Lane Estate that has sufficient indoor and outdoor space to support sport and physical activity programmes 	0
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate and encourage the development of recreational activities at Community Centres/Halls by community groups and individuals who have the required qualifications. 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a centralised advertising page on Harrow’s website which is co-ordinated and updated internally. 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a marketing and development plan for improving and promoting access to existing and new youth centres for young asylum seekers and looked after young people 	3

OUTDOOR PITCHES

8.0 OUTDOOR PITCHES RESEARCH AND FINDINGS

Playing pitches are important as recreational and amenity features and provide open space in both urban and rural landscapes. Their development for purposes other than recreation has serious repercussions, not only through the reduction of leisure facilities and the resulting increase in pressure on those remaining, but also in the visual impact created by loss of open space.

8.1 The Role of Outdoor Pitches

In the face of pressure to find land for housing to meet regeneration objectives, the protection of London's open spaces has sometimes been seen as a lesser priority. It is generally accepted that there has been a significant loss of playing fields in London in the last few decades. Between 1991 and 1998, 42 per cent of all open space lost to development in London was categorised as playing fields. Harrow in general has gone against this trend and has not had a significant loss of Council owned land to date.

Playing fields and open spaces are important as training facilities for sports men and women, but they also play a role in addressing social exclusion, promoting health, education, sustainability and regeneration.

8.2 Qualitative and Quantitative Findings

Inspections were undertaken on a total of 84 outdoor pitches across 23 sites, using Sport England's' Playing Pitches scoring matrix. Playing Pitches are defined as a delineated space, which are used for football, rugby, cricket, hockey, baseball, softball, gaelic football, hurling, polo, lacrosse or rounders.

- 73% football pitches are owned and maintained by LBH
- 63% of cricket pitches are managed by LBH
- 58% of rugby pitches are managed by LBH
- 0% of hockey pitches are owned and managed by LBH

a). Provision of changing room facilities and toilets

There is a demand for improved pavilion and changing room provision in the borough for both Football and Bowls. Existing changing room facilities are generally unkempt, not fit for purpose i.e. lack of showers and are vandalised. Games held at Whitchurch Playing Fields have been cancelled due to the changing rooms being unusable from vandalism. There is a lack of provision for women and girls at Roxbourne and Hatch End Playing Fields.

b). Fit for purpose

The results of the self-ratings of school facilities showed that only 27% of schools felt that their sport pitches were good or very good. Sports Clubs were slightly higher at 39%.

Harrow has 121 **tennis** courts. Fifty-one of these courts are provided by Council in the parks and are evenly distributed across the borough. Sixty one percent of the park courts are not fit for purpose due to lack of nets, fencing and uneven surface. No Council owned tennis courts provide ancillary facilities for users i.e. pavilions.

Roger Bannister **Athletics** Track is in need of additional ancillary facilities and ongoing maintenance to support the development and competitive work of the club and provide better quality facilities for training and competition.

The consultation exercise identified **bowling** greens as being in generally good condition but have poor provision of pavilions and ancillary facilities. None of the greens are floodlit, which limits usage at the beginning and end of the summer playing season

Through the enhancement of outdoor pitches there will be a need for an increase in revenue spends to ensure the improvements are adequately maintained.

c). Supply meets demand

The demand for junior **football** pitches surpasses the supply during peak periods i.e. Sunday. During this peak time there is a theoretical surplus of senior pitches. If the surplus of senior pitches were re-designated as junior and mini pitches there would be sufficient pitches to meet the identified deficiencies.

A number of teams choose to access pitches outside of the borough or their local area for their home games. This demonstrates a latent demand for football i.e. where residents would like to participate more in football but are not able to due to poor accessibility to local or good quality pitches.

Council provides and maintains “community level” football pitches. There is an expressed demand by clubs for higher quality pitches to cater for the expanding and higher level clubs. The current pricing policy does not include a hierarchy of field qualities. Therefore the variances in maintenance costs are not included in the pricing policy.

Based on the GLA population projections and Team Generation Rates, there will be additional demand for mini pitches in 2011 and 2021, less demand for junior pitches but an increase in demand for men senior pitches. It is imperative that the present level of playing fields is maintained and additional pitches are identified over the next 10 years to accommodate the increase in mini and senior pitch demand. There are 41 football pitches in the borough, which are not open to community use. Not all of these pitches are at the required standard to accommodate community use and require significant investment.

Council manages fifteen out of twenty-four **cricket** pitches with the remaining pitches being provided by private clubs (9). There is a level of ad hoc based cricket in the borough where informal teams throughout the playing season generate a demand for pitches periodically. It is necessary to have a slight surplus of provision to ensure that this type of demand is provided for. Future demand for junior boys cricket is anticipated to increase with an additional demand for 17 pitches in 2021.

Table 5: Supply and Demand of Tennis Courts in Harrow

Population		Demand		Supply	
Population	Tennis Pop*	Courts	Floodlit	Courts	Floodlit
206,814	4,136	92	63	121	20

*LTA standard of 2% of total population will participate in tennis

The LTA specification indicates that 92 **tennis** courts are sufficient for the anticipated tennis users in the Borough. Harrow has a total of 121 courts; and therefore there is surplus of 29 courts. This indicates that there is more tennis courts in the borough than is currently required.

The current supply of floodlit **tennis** courts in the borough compared to the broad national standards of provision shows a significant deficiency in outdoor floodlit courts, 43. The total number provided at present is 20 floodlit courts. Council provides none of these floodlit courts.

Some tennis courts within parks have had **basketball** hoops erected. The desire to participate in basketball informally in parks was frequently mentioned by young people through out consultation.

There are three privately owned **Synthetic Turf Pitches** and a lack of Multi Use Games Area's in the Borough. Harrow High School provides four floodlit Multi Use Games Area's, which are available for community use 6pm-9pm, Monday-Friday and all day Saturday-Sunday. Harrow High School is currently looking at improving the quality of their Multi Use Games Area's.

There is a deficient provision of Synthetic Turf Pitches in the south of the Borough and there is a need for an additional three new Multi Use Games Area's in the south, west and east of the borough in 'destination' or 'district' parks.

Based on the General Household Survey and CACI analysis, 1.3% of the adult population in Harrow participate in **Bowls**. On the basis of this calculation there is a need to accommodate for 2,689 bowls participants on a regular basis. There are 10 Council owned greens available, which are able to accommodate this amount of participants.

There are five **golf** courses in Harrow, three of which are privately owned, Grimsdyke Golf Course (18 holes), Harrow School Golf Club (9 holes) and Brockley Hill Golf Park (9 holes). Two are owned by Harrow Council, and are leased to the golf clubs, Pinner Hill Golf Club (18 holes) and Stanmore Golf Course (18 holes). At these two facilities community use agreements are in place.

Due to the change in work and leisure times, golf clubs are experiencing a decline in the number of annual members who have family commitments. This is due to the longer working hours and days during the week and therefore less time available to spend with their families. Societal expectations have also changed where now males take a more leading role in the upbringing of children.

There are no bowls or golf development plans in place, which are supported by Harrow Council, which focus on encouraging young people to become involved in golf and bowls and facilitate an increase in participation rates.

d). Sport pitch provision is supported by pro active sport development programmes

Minimal development work is being carried out in partnership with the Public Realm Maintenance Team to enhance and maximise the use of existing sports pitches.

Recent bids for Community Sports Coaches have been submitted, which if successful (October 2005), will allow skilled coaches to be employed to focus on developing skills and opening up the various sports to juniors and women.

Through the lack of floodlit pitches, opening hours are reduced and opportunities to develop sport development initiatives to support the growth and development of sports clubs and individuals are decreased.

This page consists of an ordnance survey map which is not available electronically.

8.3 STRATEGY FOR OUTDOOR PITCHES

Utilising the findings and research in Part B of the Interim Strategy for Harrow's Sport, Recreation and Open Space and the outdoor pitches research findings, four strategies associated with outdoor pitches have been developed, These are:

- To upgrade, enhance and/or utilise existing Council sport facilities
- Support or pro-actively develop partnerships with other organisations or educational institutions that utilise existing facilities
- To provide new Council sports facilities where there are gaps in provision
- To promote awareness and encourage use of existing sports facilities and opportunities

Under each strategy outlined in section 8.3.1 specific actions describe how Council or our partners can meet these needs.

8.3.1 Proposed Strategies and Actions

Table 6: Outdoor Pitches Proposed Strategies and Actions

Strategy	Actions	Priority
To upgrade, enhance and/or utilise existing Council sport facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve and develop new amenities to increase utilisation, including male and female changing rooms, umpires rooms, storage, first aid facilities, meeting rooms, pavilions and floodlighting 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and encourage future applications by sports clubs to develop existing on site pavilions to a usable state, which will further enhance the growth of the sports club and the use of the outdoor pitch 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the provision of long term leases to sports clubs for onsite pavilions to allow the club to seek external capital development funding 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade the grass pitches and ancillary facilities at Newton Farm Park to a higher quality pitch 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a strategy to look at enhancing, developing and rationalising tennis courts 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a rolling programme of improvements based on the prioritised sports field action plan 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate options of converting and lighting outdoor hard courts to provide all weather training facilities to take pressure off sports fields 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convert six tennis courts strategically placed across the borough into basketball courts, where existing provision is not provided to provide for informal casual basketball at Harrow's District and Destination Parks. 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a pricing review, which is in line with the corporate priorities and takes into account the increase cost of providing higher level pitches 	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a strategy to look at developing and rationalising bowls pitches, including the development of pavilions 	3

Support or pro-actively develop partnerships with other organisations or educational institutions that utilise existing facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and renegotiate Stanmore Golf Club's lease to ensure the required rental rate reflects the current market and trends in golf participation 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a playing pitch strategy and supporting sports development plans to maximise the use of existing sports fields 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the voluntary sports sector to partner with schools in using school facilities for training e.g. sports fields 	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the option of providing additional sports fields through partnership agreements with education institutions and private football clubs. Options for increasing the utilisation of current school sports fields include, improving the field surface, floodlighting, assisting with maintenance and providing changing facilities. 	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate franchising out a new Multi Use Games site as a power league facility and adopt a community use agreement to ensure local casual use is maintained. 	3
To provide new Council sports facilities where there are gaps in provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a Multi Use Games Area in the south and east of the borough, together with appropriate access arrangements, floodlighting and equipment. 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a Multi Use Games Area in the west of the borough, together with appropriate access arrangements, floodlighting and equipment. 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a new Synthetic Turf Pitch and the associated ancillary facilities in the south of the borough to provide training and competition facilities 	3
To promote awareness and encourage use of existing sports facilities and opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-ordinate and provide advice to the local Bowls Clubs to develop a development programme to encourage participation by younger people 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-ordinate and provide advice to the local golf clubs to develop a development programme to encourage participation by younger people 	3

SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

10.0 SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY RESEARCH FINDINGS

Sport and physical activity is a powerful vehicle. Through careful targeted work, sport development programmes can promote social inclusion amongst disaffected groups, promote healthy lifestyles amongst the physically inactive and provide diversionary activities to help reduce youth crime and vandalism.

10.1 Role of Sport and Physical Activity

Decreasing levels of physical activity is an increasing concern in most westernised countries. It is the result of multiple factors such as the increased influence of technology, urban planning which restricts opportunities for physical activity, increased reliance on motorised transport, increased working hours, increasing demand on public open space, increased demands on the education curriculum and changing leisure patterns.

Sport is widely regarded as a key component of the cultural identity of both individuals and communities as a whole, with sports provision contributing to improving the quality of life within a local community. Whether participating, volunteering, supporting or watching sport, there is an intrinsic pleasure derived from sport and physical activity.

The core aim of the Sports and Leisure Unit is to create and enhance sporting opportunities that lead to higher percentage rates in sport and physical activity, particularly amongst young people and under represented target groups. This aim is comparable to the objectives and aims of Sport England's London Plan for Sport and Physical Activity. These target groups include girls and women, disabled people, BME groups and older people.

10.2 Qualitative and Quantitative Findings

- a). The sporting and physical activity needs of the local community are addressed to encourage an increase in participation in community based sport and physical activity

The sport and physical activity role of Harrow Council's sport and leisure team is to promote, facilitate, advise, fund and deliver sport and physical activity opportunities, which meets the needs of the residents of Harrow.

Currently the Sport and Leisure unit focuses on youth provision, through school holiday programmes, links between schools and sports clubs, the London Youth Games and social inclusion programmes for youth. Other target groups, which are not being met, are older people, disabled people, women/girls, BME groups and asylum seekers.

Programming and activities are currently focused on established sport and leisure facilities e.g. Harrow Leisure Centre, Hatch End Swimming Pool, Canons School and Whitmore High School. Alternate venues across the borough are not promoted as potential sport and recreation venues for local communities.

Parks are viewed as community hubs but are not being utilised for programmed sport development activities.

- b). Programmes and activities are collaborated and co-ordinated across departments

The Sport and Leisure Unit currently works alongside Youth Connexions and the PE Advisor to co-ordinate and deliver

holiday programmes, links between clubs and schools and youth specific programmes.

There is no one organising body in Harrow which provides a co-ordination role between the various organisations/groups that provide sport and physical activity opportunities e.g. Mencap, POP, Harrow PCT, Youth Connexions, Harrow Sports Council and the Sport and Leisure Unit.

Resources are not being effectively pulled together to ensure maximum impact and a reduction in overlap and administration resources. The Sport and Leisure Unit based in Harrow Council is the only dedicated sport and leisure resource in Harrow.

- c). Decisions are based on information received and sound evaluation and research

The Harrow Sports Council's formal role is to liaise with the sports clubs in Harrow and facilitate the flow of information between the sports clubs and Harrow Council. Due to the poor membership rates of Harrow Sports Council and the inability for the working volunteers of the Sports Council to dedicate full time resources, there is a breakdown in this flow of information.

- d). Voluntary organisations, sports clubs and coaches are supported by the local authority

Harrow Sports Council is an independent voluntary body, which represent the voluntary sports club sector. The role of the Harrow Sports Council is to ensure the sports clubs needs are fed back to the Council's Sport and Leisure Unit and provide advice on club development, structure, funding

applications and management. Sports Clubs membership to the Harrow Sports Council is low.

The Sport and Leisure Unit work in partnership with the London Active Partnership and West London Sports Trust to provide coach education programmes to the sports clubs to help further develop sport in the community.

The voluntary sector is not celebrated in the borough via award schemes and recognition events and there is a lack of formal recognition of the accomplishments of sports clubs and individual volunteers.

10.3 STRATAEGY FOR SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Utilising the findings and research in Part B of the Interim Strategy for Harrow's Sport, Recreation and Open Space, and the sport and physical activity research findings, five strategies associated with Sport and Physical Activity have been developed. These are:

- Employ a coordinated, cross sector approach, to the planning, delivery and review of physical activity initiatives
- To encourage participation in sport and physical activity and ensure opportunities are available equally to all sectors of the community
- To develop and deliver a range of targeted sports development initiatives, which seek to raise participants quality of life
- To support the continual development and education of coaches, sports leaders and volunteers, in order to ensure a sufficient range of sporting opportunities are available throughout the borough
- To ensure initiatives to increase physical activity are based on need and their effectiveness is monitored and evaluated

Under each strategy outlined in section 10.3.1 specific actions describe how Council or our partners can meet these needs.

10.3.1 Proposed Strategies and Actions

Table 7: Sport and Physical Activity Proposed Strategies and Actions

Strategies	Actions	Priority
Employ a coordinated, cross sector approach, to the planning, delivery and review of initiatives that impact on physical activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the Interim Sport and Leisure Strategy 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilise parks as community venues for sport and physical activity 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish the Sport and Leisure unit as a first contact point and co-ordinator for community groups and Council internal departments 	2
To encourage participants in sport and physical activity and ensure opportunities are available equally to all sectors of the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and implement the Physical Activity Strategy developed in partnership with Harrow Primary Care Trust 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement programmes and services that respond to the needs of the identified target groups as established in the Sport and Leisure annual service plan 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the sport and leisure unit's service plan annually to reflect the corporate priorities, the changing population and emerging sports and trends 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in partnership with schools and clubs to facilitate young people to participate in the annual London Youth Games 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organise an annual event, which recognises achievements and innovation by individuals and organisations that promote good practice in the field of physical activity through an award ceremony 	2

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively market local programmes and venues for sport and physical activity 	2
To develop and deliver a range of targeted sports development initiatives, which seek to raise participants quality of life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote sport as a vehicle to tackle social exclusion and disaffection amongst young people with local agencies and organisations 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend the venues for GP referrals and support Harrow Primary Care Trust to co-ordinate GP referrals 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver sports outreach sessions in targeted locations to ensure access to sporting opportunities are available in the most deprived communities as defined by the Vitality Profiles 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train local individuals to become qualified community based instructors 	3
To support the continual development and education of coaches, sports leaders and volunteers, in order to ensure a sufficient range of sporting opportunities are available throughout the borough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate the effectiveness of the service level agreement with Harrow Sports Council 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a sports forum that is involved in steering groups of identified projects to increase community engagement 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide advice and annual training programmes to the sports clubs through the vehicle of a sports forum 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage the sports grant scheme internally to ensure grants provided are aligned to the Councils corporate priorities and strategic framework 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver and promote an annual programme of Coach Education and Training that is based on local demand 	3
To ensure initiatives to increase physical activity are based on need and their	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake a biannual user and non user survey to ensure key issues, needs and changing population profiles are understood 	2

effectiveness is monitored and evaluated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate the effectiveness of targeted programmes and services on participation rates 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate, undertake and contribute to research in areas where knowledge gaps exist 	3

PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (OUTDOOR)

11.0 PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE RESEARCH AND FINDINGS

Play is essential to children and youth's happiness, health and development. Play is instinctive, arising from children and youth's innate need to express themselves and explore their world.

11.1 Role of Children and Young People's Outdoor Play Provision

Outdoor play has developmental and therapeutic benefits for all children. It is fun, helps to keep children healthy, develops an awareness of risk and danger and is important for building social, emotional and life skills.

Children's play grounds provide an atmosphere where children can engage in make believe in the fresh air or outdoors and through effective design can enhance the children's fine and gross motor skills.

Provision for Children and Young People consists of equipped play areas and specialist provision for young people, including skate parks, Multi-use Games Areas and Teenage Friendly Areas.

Provision for children's play is sub-divided into three defined categories in line with the National Playing Fields Association play:

Table 8 – National Playing Fields Association Play Categories

Play Category	Definition
LAP	A local area for play is a low-key small play area, which serves a small local catchment. The playground caters for ages 6 upwards
LEAP	A local equipped area for play that has a minimum of 5 different types of different types of play equipment available and serves the local community
NEAP	A neighbourhood equipped area for play, which has at least 8 different types of equipment and has opportunities for ball games or wheeled activities. This playground serves a larger neighbourhood catchment

11.2 Qualitative and Quantitative Findings

Priority areas to address and improve play areas are:

- Provision of bins, seating and signage and shelter
 - A cleaner environment
 - Reduced levels of vandalism and graffiti
 - Better quality range of equipment and facilities for children with a disability
 - Greater range of equipment for the different age groups
- a). Accessible, local play provision in all wards within walking distance

The audit of play provision demonstrated that there is a gap in the East of the borough for all levels of children, particularly for youth (12 years plus). The play provision that is provided for children in

the East on average is poorer quality in comparison to the remaining areas of the borough.

The consultation undertaken suggests that most users walk to access local provision. Therefore children and youth who reside in the East of the borough have minimal access to good quality play provision within walking distance and are forced to travel longer distances.

Based on Strategic Leisure's audit the current gaps are:

- There are only four Locally Equipped Play Areas in the East of the Borough.
- Kenton Recreation Ground has a small area for local area play.
- The Destination Parks, Harrow Recreation Ground, Headstone Manor Recreation Ground, Byron Recreation Ground and Pinner Memorial Park provide locally equipped play areas
- There is no youth provision in the East of the borough e.g. multi use games areas, teenage friendly zones, basketball hoops.
- 75% of the Borough's youth provision (12+) is in the central area and 25% in the west area.

The audit process identified that the overall provision for teenage play is poorer than that for toddlers and juniors, with the exception of West Harrow Recreation Ground. The majority of toddler play area sites rated as poor/below average, with the exceptions of Roxeth Recreation Ground, The Cedars, Kenton Recreation

Ground, Centenary Park and Harrow Recreation Ground which rated average.

b). Provides separate areas for different age levels

The consultation highlighted that there is a demand for additional facilities for young people, such as kick about areas, skateboard parks, basketball hoops and “free” play areas that provide a sheltered and safe area to use. These facilities need to be appropriate and provide for all cultural needs and accessible for those with a disability.

c). Accessible for disabled children

The Croft, Stanmore Recreation ground, Pinner Recreation Ground and Newton East scored very poor on disabled access. The remaining sites scored poor due to inadequate surface between the equipment, gates were unsuitable for wheelchair access and the pathways were uneven and poorly surfaced. No sites were fully compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act.

d). Sheltered and protected from weather elements

Only two out of the total 31 sites audited had an element of shelter available for the playground users. Roxeth Recreation Ground, Montesoles Playing Fields and Byron Recreation Ground have no form of shade available. Younger children’s skin is very susceptible to burning from the sun, which can lead to life threatening skin cancer later in life.

e). Vandalism and graffiti free

The study highlighted that a number of play provision sites are currently badly vandalised and covered with graffiti. Priestmead Recreation Ground, Chandos Recreation Ground and Kenmore Park scored 0 for the condition of the play area, whilst only three sites received the maximum score of 2 out of a total of 31 sites. The presence of graffiti and poor condition of equipment creates an unwelcome ambience and discourages parents and caregivers to allow or take their children to the park. People also voiced their concern over the presence of dogs in parks and the level of safety within the children's play area.

f). Provision of suitable amenities e.g. adequate signage, bins, seating for parents/caregivers

The play areas, which scored low in quality, were found to be lacking in basic signage, benches, and bins. A number also lacked age separation, appropriate maintenance and were not accessible for disabled children. Many of the play areas did not provide a mix of sensory and motor stimulation; and the educational component of provision was minimal.

This page consists of an ordnance survey map which is not available electronically.

11.3 STRATEGY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Utilising the findings and research in Part B of the Interim Strategy for Harrow's Sport, Recreation and Open Space and the Research Findings on the provision for children and young people in Harrow, six strategies associated with youth and children's provision have been developed. The strategies and actions have been split into general actions, children under 12 actions and youth 12+.

The strategies are:

General

- Ensure adequate provision for children and youth, by providing a wide range of good quality and safe facilities
- Ensure all sites contain adequate signage identifying site details and contact numbers
- All play provision is accessible for children with a disability

Children – Under 12

- Ensure adequate provision for children, by providing a wide range of good quality and safe facilities.

Youth – 12+

- Ensure adequate provision for youth, by providing a wide range of good quality and safe facilities.
- Engage youth in the future design and placement of play provision

Under each strategy outlined in section 11.3.1 specific actions describe how Council or our partners can meet these needs.

11.3.1 Proposed Strategies and Actions

Table 9 – Proposed Strategies and Actions for Children and Young People

Strategy	Actions	Priority
Ensure adequate provision for children and youth, by providing a wide range of good quality and safe facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remedy the problems of graffiti, vandalism and cleanliness at Queensbury Park, The Cedars, The Croft, Pinner Village Gardens, Roxbourne Park, Stanmore Recreation Ground and Montesole Playing Fields 	0
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a rolling programme of improvements 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake a health and safety audit of all playgrounds in Harrow 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to maintain fencing surrounding playground sites, whilst ensuring sightlines into the playground are enhanced to increase the safety level 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure all play grounds are shaded from the sun 	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install low level lighting at all neighbourhood play ground sites to increase security and usability 	3
Ensure all sites contain adequate signage identifying site details and contact numbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce a specification for signage improvement across the borough 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a rolling programme of signage expansion across the Borough's play sites 	2
All play provision is accessible for children with a disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve disabled access at The Croft, Stanmore Recreation Ground, Newton East and Pinner Recreation Ground 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a sensory play area at Harrow Recreation Ground and involve young disabled people in the design and project management 	1

Table 6 – Proposed Strategies and Objectives for Children

Strategy	Objectives	Priority
Ensure adequate provision for children, by providing a wide range of good quality and safe facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance existing playgrounds or develop new playgrounds at Canons Park, Harrow Recreation Ground and Byron Recreation Ground to a Neighbourhood Equipped Play Area, which are fully compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the playground sites at Pinner Memorial Park, Headstone Manor Recreation Ground to a Neighbourhood Equipped Play Area, which are fully compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-develop Kenton Recreation Ground from a small play area to a Local Equipped Play Area 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the quality of toddlers play provision to provide both fine and motor stimulation 	2

Table 7 – Proposed Strategies and Objectives for Youth – 12+

Strategy	Objectives	Priority
Ensure adequate provision for youth, by providing a wide range of good quality and safe facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop two new Multi Use Games Area in the east and south of the borough, together with appropriate access arrangements, floodlighting and equipment. 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a Multi Use Games Area in the west of the borough, together with appropriate access arrangements, floodlighting and equipment. 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend the availability of Harrow High School’s Multi Use Games Areas for the community for pay and play use. 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For all District and Destination parks to have a localised, visual casual sports area for youth, which allows users to play casual ball sports e.g. basketball 	2

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a local skate park at Chandos Recreation Ground and West Harrow Recreation Park 	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate utilising and promoting bridleway tracks as mountain biking tracks 	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a BMX zone in association with a stake park at West Harrow Recreation 	3
Engage youth in the future design and placement of play provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the Youth Council involve young people locally in the design and development process 	1

PARKS AND GARDENS

12.0 PARKS AND GARDENS RESEARCH FINDINGS

Open spaces are wildlife havens and act as a focal point for healthy exercise and community interaction. They also make a key contribution to the image, identity and status of our Borough.

12.1 Role of Parks and Gardens

Well-designed and maintained parks and green spaces have an essential role to play in enhancing the quality of life in urban environments. They provide interesting and diverse places for walking, cycling, informal recreation and social interaction. They also have an important role to play in education, promoting healthy living and well-being, supporting biodiversity and reducing surface water run-off in urban areas.

Harrow Council provides 61 parks/open spaces, including Green Belt Sites and Nature Conservation Sites. These can be further split into the following groupings.

i) **Destination Parks**

Destination parks provide a range of specialised facilities or features of importance for a wide range of cultures and life spans.

Destination Parks are strategically spread across the borough and users choose to travel further to use these parks due to the increased level of provision.

The Planning Policy Guidance 17 study undertaken by Strategic Leisure highlighted the following eight parks as potential destination parks.

▪ **Harrow Weald Common - Countryside and Historic Park**

- Circular Walk
- Grims Dyke Grounds and Hotel
- Nature Conservation Site

▪ **Canons Park - Historic Park**

- Heritage Value
- Family orientated
- Informal recreation focused park

▪ **Byron Recreation Ground - Sport and Recreation Park**

- Harrow Leisure Centre
- Skate Park
- Hard Court area
- Tennis Courts
- Indoor and outdoor bowls
- Harrow Gymnastics Club

▪ **Pinner Memorial Park - Ornamental and Wildlife Park**

- Relaxing and aesthetically pleasing

▪ **Stanmore Country Park - Countryside Park**

- Habitat interests
- Viewpoints

▪ **Harrow Recreation Ground - Sport and Recreation Park**

- Family orientated park
- Sensory Garden

- **West Harrow Recreation Ground - Sport and Recreation Park**

- Accessible 24 hours
- Young person focused

- **Headstone Manor Recreation Ground - Historic Park**

- Heritage centre and conference facilities

- ii) District Parks (12)

A wider catchment area (up to 1km) due to the provision of 1 or 2 specialised facilities

- iii) Local Parks (21)

Small catchments (approximately 400m) and provide for the local community. Local parks are valued for their open space amenity more than the facilities provided.

- iv) Pocket Parks (20)

Small areas of open space that contain no facilities and contribute to the visual amenity of the urban streetscape.

12.2 Qualitative and Quantitative Findings

- a). Range and balance of facilities/opportunities for all ages

There is a demand for a borough wide spread of specialised parks and a distribution of smaller more local parks and open spaces, which provide amenity value, wildlife habitats and contribute to the character and attractiveness of the area.

The door to door survey identified that 47% of users visit their local park/open space for children's play and 20.4% of users said that they used parks for sport. Those aged 16-19 and 20-24 being the most likely to use parks for sport. There is a lack of identified youth provision in the east of the borough.

There is a lack of multi use games areas, fit for purpose outdoor tennis courts, skate parks, informal hard courts and kick about areas in Harrow's destination and district parks, which are located in a prominent position in the park and are safe, visible and welcoming.

- b) Infrastructure is in place - Coherent information signs, amenities provided – benches, bins, toilets, historic features maintained and preserved.

Signs based in the parks throughout the borough are incoherent, inconsistent and poorly maintained.

One out of the total eight destination parks provide toilet facilities (Headstone Manor). There are no formal car parking facilities at Canons Park, however Canons underground station and the public bus network serve this park.

Key issues regularly identified by survey respondents included:

- The need for improvements to lighting, safety and security
- The need to improve general maintenance and upkeep to provide a better environment
- Better facilities for those with a disability

Through enhancing and developing parks infrastructure there will be a need for an annual increase in revenue spend to ensure the improvements are adequately maintained.

c). Readily available to all, e.g. walking distance

Parks are community owned facilities that are the core of each community's sense of place. The consultation identified that residents often walk to their closest park and rarely utilise parks and open spaces that are not within their house catchment, unless the park is a 'destination park'.

It is important that the surrounding parks community are able to gain access to their park and then whilst there, are able to move around the park, particularly for people with a disability.

Parks, which rated poor in roads, pathways, cycle ways and access, were:

- Canons Park
- Greenway Open Space
- Grovfields War Memorial
- Sylvia Avenue Open Space

Canons Park is currently undergoing restoration, which will improve access for people with a disability.

When applying the proposed local provision standard all dwellings should be within 400m of a good quality Pocket, Local, District or Destination Parks. This provision standard is based on the London Plan's guidance for open space provision.

72% of consultees felt that there was sufficient provision of parks and gardens in the borough with a further 34% felt there was no need for

additional provision of this type of facility, however existing provision needs to be maintained. Map 6 shows the application of the 400m standard of provision. The map shows that there are open space deficiencies in the wards, Harrow on the Hill and Headstone North.

Catchment areas for some groups will be smaller, e.g. disabled people and parents with young children. The accessibility of open spaces will also be affected by the design of entrances as well as their location. For example narrow gates and steps may mean that some people would have to travel further to enter an open space.

d). Design reflects special needs of particular groups, BME, elderly, young and disabled

Within the consultation process, 68% of those surveyed in the door-to-door survey indicated that they had used parks and open spaces in the last year. However particular sections of the community are not using parks/gardens as much as they would like to e.g. older people, younger people and BME groups, particularly Indian origin. This is due to inadequate infrastructure i.e. toilets, sports facilities (surface of tennis courts) and perceived safety.

There is the potential to link the provision of open space with the developing public art policy for the Borough. Open space provides an opportunity for public art, which may be more accessible to people who would not choose to visit more formal exhibitions and galleries.

e). Proactive and targeted marketing

Harrow Council does not currently provide comprehensive marketing material on the availability of facilities or location of parks and gardens in the borough. The parks pages of the Harrow Council website provides minimal information and needs further development

and updating. Signage throughout the borough is inconsistent and could be enhanced by developing a 'themed' parks sign, which reflects Harrow's communities and environment.

f). Feels safe e.g. visible open entrance to the park, clear sightlines

By increasing activity in the park through organised formal activities e.g. walking groups or access to informal play areas the increased presence will make the park feel safer and more welcoming.

This page consists of an ordnance survey map which is not available electronically.

12.3 STRATEGY FOR PARKS AND GARDENS

Utilising the findings and research in Part B of the Interim Strategy for Harrow's Sport, Recreation and Open Space and the Parks and Gardens Research Findings, six strategies associated with parks and gardens have been developed. These are:

- Develop a framework to guide the future direction and use of public open spaces in the borough and maximise the sport and leisure opportunities
- To improve or create parks in areas of deficiency to ensure parks and open spaces are accessible and welcoming
- To continue to audit and test the quality and “performance” of parks
- To support and work well with communities and local groups when planning new facilities, implementing work on site and maintaining existing facilities
- To provide a range and balance of facilities/opportunities for all ages at Destination Parks and District Parks
- To ensure that people of all ages and ethnic groups are able to take part in an appropriate range of events and activities throughout the Borough

Under each strategy outlined in section 12.3.1 specific actions describe how Council or our partners can meet these needs.

12.3.1 Proposed Strategies and Actions

Table12: Parks and Gardens Proposed Strategies and Actions

Strategies	Actions	Priority
Develop a framework to guide the future direction and use of public open spaces in the borough and maximise the sport and leisure opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an Open Space Plan to improve parks vitality, leisure and recreation opportunities 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the priorities for the development of Park Management Plans 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a rolling programme of developing Park Management Plans across the borough 	2
To improve or create parks in areas of deficiency to ensure parks and open spaces are accessible and welcoming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the overall cleanliness of Queensbury Park and reduce the level of graffiti 	0
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake access audits for all destination parks and district parks to ensure they are accessible for people with disabilities 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install toilet facilities at Byron Recreation Ground, Pinner Memorial Park, Harrow Weald Common, Stanmore Country Park, Canons Park and Harrow Recreation Ground 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the outdoor tennis courts at West Harrow Recreation Ground to encompass improved tennis and informal basketball provision and further promote its status as a youth focused destination park 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the pathways at Canons Recreation Ground 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For all destination parks to be patrolled by wardens 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a multi use games area on the Centenary Park outdoor tennis courts 	2

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance the outdoor tennis courts and informal hard court area at Bryon Recreation Ground to further promote its status as a sports destination park 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake a feasibility study on opening West Harrow Recreation Ground as a 24 hour destination park 	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the condition of the pathways at Greenway Open Space, Grove fields War Memorial and Sylvia Avenue Open Space 	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop the 'District Park' Roxeth Recreation Ground into a 'Destination Park' to cater for the south of the borough 	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate partnership opportunities in the north west of the borough to fill the open space provision gap identified in Map 5 	3
To continue to audit and test the quality and "performance" of parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roll out the Green Flag award to three parks – Roxeth Recreation Ground, Harrow Recreation Ground and Canons Park 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake a biannual user and non user survey to demonstrate that the service reflects user needs and that future provision reflects the diversity of the Borough 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update parks/gardens audit proforma biannually 	2
To support and work well with communities and local groups when planning new facilities, implementing work on site and maintaining existing facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake public consultation on the future development and enhancement of Bryon Recreation Ground and Roxeth Recreation Ground 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage surrounding residents of parks and target groups where new major developments and enhancement programmes are being undertaken 	2

To provide a range and balance of facilities/opportunities for all ages at Destination Parks and District Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote and programme ‘Sport and Recreation’ destination parks as venues for physical activity such as cycling, tai chi, walking and informal games 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and extend all levels of Youth Provision facilities at Byron Recreation Ground and Canons Park 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and extend children’s and youth play areas at Harrow Recreation Ground 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and prioritise future developments of play provision at ‘district parks’ 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop additional signed walking routes, which link pocket and local parks with district and destination parks 	3
To ensure that people of all ages and ethnic groups are able to take part in an appropriate range of events and activities throughout the Borough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update and enhance the parks pages on the Council’s website 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce and install coherent and branded signage for all open spaces and parks at strategic locations, which provide essential information for users. 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce a parks and open spaces brochure detailing the location and range of facilities available within Harrow 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake a consultation exercise on participation barriers to Harrow’s parks and open spaces with Harrow’s various culture groups 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information in various formats e.g. variety of languages, blind and partially sighted. 	3

GREEN CHAINS

13.0 GREEN CHAIN RESEARCH FINDINGS

Green Chains contribute to the provision of recreational open space and to the overall provision of natural and semi natural Open Space.

13.1 Role of Green Chains

Green Chains are linked open spaces, which normally follow a river or other linear feature such as a former railway line. They are accessible to the public and provide way-marked paths and pedestrian routes between and through open spaces.

Green Chains provide valuable facilities for a range of passive and active recreation. They provide venues for walking, cycling and horse riding amongst other uses. Often they can provide a key “green” link and offer travel routes for both local residents and local wildlife migration.

As pressure for development in built-up areas increases, opportunities for walking and cycling in peaceful, natural surroundings away from traffic are likely to become increasingly important to maintaining quality of life in urban areas. The provision of Green Chains in the Borough can provide a level of escapism for residents.

The River Pinn and Yeading green chains continue across the borough boundary into Hillingdon.

13.2 Qualitative and Quantitative Findings

The audit revealed four Green Chains in Harrow. These chains do not exist in isolation but comprise of a number of green open spaces in the Borough, which link to form a green route between various areas of Harrow.

- Belmont Walk Former Railway Line
- Montrose Walk
- River Pinn Open Space
- Yeading Walk Open Space

- a). The Green Chain's are signposted throughout and directional signs are provided to guide people along the way

The four chains audited are all poorly signposted, but have a number of access points along the routes.

- b). The Green Chains interlink and improve access between open spaces, footpaths, bridleways and disused railways.

The distribution of the audited Green Chains is disjointed across the borough even though there is at least one chain in each area (West, Central, East). There is no link between each chain and open space except for the Belmont Walk Former Railway Line, which starts at Byron Recreation Ground.

Yeading Walk is not currently promoted as a green travel alternative to the North Harrow Station from Roxbourne Park.

The River Pinn Open Space is currently inaccessible to the public at some points along the chain and the nearby streets are utilised as an alternative route.

Green Chains are currently not suitable as alternative transport links for people with physical disabilities due to poorly maintained pathways.

- c). Leaflets/brochures are available to promote the availability of green chains and access points

There are no leaflets or brochures produced to display and promote the green chain walks throughout the borough. The green chains cannot be promoted until they are maintained, accessible and well signposted.

Through the increased use of the green chains by commuters and tourists, “visual policing” of the area will increase and thus the perceived safety level.

- d). Amenities provided to enhance the users experience

All of the audited green chains need the installation of benches to allow users to rest. There is also limited provision access to toilets along the green chains.

13.3 STRATEGY FOR GREEN CHAINS

Utilising the findings and research in Part B of the Interim Strategy for Harrow's Sport, Recreation and Open Spaces and the Green Chains research findings, two strategies associated with green chains have been developed. These are:

- To enhance and extend the green network in Harrow

- To increase and broaden the community use of green chains as informal recreation and transport routes

Under each strategy outlined in section 13.3.1 specific actions describe how Council or our partners can meet these needs.

13.3.1 Proposed Strategies and Actions

Table 13: Green Chains Proposed Strategies and Actions

Strategy	Actions	Priority
To enhance and extend the green network in Harrow	• Negotiate the right of way for the Belmont Walk Former Railway Line access through Stanmore Golf Club	1
	• Extend the Former Railway Line to Stanmore Common	1
	• Clear the Belmont Walk Former Railway Line of excess scrub and trees	2
	• Develop and roll out a management plan for the green chains to ensure general maintenance and upkeep of the environment	2
	• Develop green chains at Brockley Hill Open Space and Stanmore Park	3
To increase and broaden the community use of green chains as informal recreation and transport routes	• Develop a Walking Plan for the Borough	1
	• Develop leaflets on the walking routes available via green chains and highlight the accessible public toilet facilities	1
	• Signpost each green chain, using themed signs, throughout the green space and urban area and highlight the access points	2
	• Extend and enhance Yeading walk to the North Harrow station and Roxbourne Park.	2
	• Extend and enhance River Pinn Open Space to Pinner Station and install directional signage to link Pinner Park Farm (Green Belt)	3

This page consists of an ordnance survey map which is not available electronically.

GREEN BELT

14.0 GREEN BELT RESEARCH AND FINDINGS

Harrow is privileged to contain 11 square kilometres of Green Belt. The Green Belt provides a number of opportunities for recreation, sports and relaxation that support individual's mental and physical well-being.

14.1 Role of the Green Belt

The benefits of the Green Belt are significant and wide-ranging. They include opportunities for recreation, sports, education, food production, and biodiversity. The Green Belt also provides links to the wider countryside, a gathering ground for water supplies, and a 'green lung', which contributes to improved air quality and helps to combat climate change.

The Green Belt is used for a number of different informal and formal recreational activities e.g. walking, horse riding, rambling, cycling and fishing.

14.2 Qualitative and Quantitative Findings

The Green Belt plays an important role in the character of the Borough. It contributes significantly to the open space provision at local level, and affords the Borough status for nature conservation, and heritage sites. It is therefore important to ensure that planning policies protect this area, and seek to enhance its current provision of public access, to facilitate use by the local community.

a). Accessible

The various access points to the Green Belt are not adequately signed or provided with disabled parking.

Older people, youth and people with disabilities demonstrated a latent demand throughout the consultation period for accessing the greenbelt. However there is inadequate provision of toilets, disabled car parking and signage.

Pedestrian and cycle links between green belt sites in the West and Central areas of the borough are poor i.e. Pinner Park and Copse Farm.

There are several cycle routes through the Green Belt, however these are limited to the western and central areas. To the east of the A409 (Common Road) there is no formal cycle access. This is one of the most inaccessible areas of the Borough for cyclists.

There is no publicly accessible green belt in the West of the Borough. This creates a barrier for those who live in the West and who want to access the Green Belt.

b). Provides a range of opportunities

Public and private golf courses occupy 8% of Harrow's total Green Belt area. There are three golf courses located within the Green Belt. Two of the golf courses are private (Pinner Hill and Grim's Dyke) and one is public (Brockley Hill). These golf courses are evenly spread across the study area, with Pinner Hill in the West, Brockly Hill in the East and Grim's Dyke located centrally adjacent to Oxhey Lane.

Five percent of the Green belt is made up of sports ground. Council owns 80% of these sports grounds in the Green Belt area. The Roger Bannister Sports Centre provides an athletic track in the area, which caters for much of the Borough. The remaining sites are sports fields with associated buildings. The private playing field is owned by the Raghuvanshi Charitable Trust and backs onto Pinner Park Farm.

The Green Belt is a popular location for horse riding and several bridleways run through the area. A new horse stable has recently opened at Grove Farm. Any increase access to the Green Belt for informal recreation such as walking and horse riding needs to be managed so as not to impact negatively on the open space and the specific sites for nature conservation e.g. SSSIs and SINCs.

A network of footpaths runs through the Green Belt although some areas are more accessible than others due to better signage and car parking facilities.

In addition to the general network of footpaths, there are several local and national trails. The London Loop crosses from Brockley Hill Farm in the east to Pinner Wood Farm in the west, and is a designated National Trail. There are also several Harrow Heritage Trails which run in part through the study area, including:

- Grim's Dyke Trail
- Hatch End Trail
- Pinner Trail
- Stanmore Trail

c). Management regimes/plans in place

There are currently proposed residential developments on the former BAE and RNOH sites. If these developments are approved the number of people located in the vicinity of the Green Belt will increase. This will place an increased pressure on current infrastructure and a bigger demand for sport, leisure and open space provision. This means that there will be an increased need to provide appropriate local access to open space and leisure facilities e.g. play provision for youth - multi use games areas.

Separate volunteer groups, management groups and wardens manage each section of the Green Belt. There is a need to co-ordinate the management of the Green Belt.

d). Infrastructure is in place

Grims Dyke Open Space is categorised as a historic park and garden but is currently not equipped to support or encourage visitors and residents to access the grounds. There are no toilets, benches, bins, signage or information boards on the grounds. If we wish to encourage more people to access the Green Belt and explore Harrow's history we need to provide the infrastructure.

This page consists of an ordnance survey map which is not available electronically.

14.3 STRATEGY FOR THE GREEN BELT

Utilising the findings and research in Part B of the Interim Strategy for Harrow’s Sport, Recreation and Open Space, the Green Belt research findings and the Harrow Green Belt Management Strategy, three strategies associated with the Green Belt have been developed. These are:

- To take a co-ordinated approach to the management of the Green Belt

- To make the Green Belt more accessible for informal recreational activities, whilst protecting existing wildlife and conservation areas.

- To seek to protect and enhance existing Green Belt sites

Under each strategy outlined in section 14.3.1 specific actions describe how Council or our partners can meet these needs.

14.3.1 Proposed Strategies and Actions

Table 14: The Green Belt’s Proposed Strategies and Actions

Strategy	Actions	Priority
To take a co-ordinated strategy approach to the management of the Green Belt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt and implement the Green Belt Management Strategy 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a management (maintenance) plan for the Green Belt that can be utilised by the separate management groups, wardens and volunteers 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a master plan for Bentley Priory 	1
To make the Green Belt more accessible for informal recreational activities, whilst protecting existing wildlife and conservation areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a “Walking Plan” for the borough, in order to optimise the existing network of footpaths and right of ways and identify new routes. 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop themed signage, which can be applied to all open spaces to promote recognition of publicly accessible open space 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce seating along major foot paths and viewpoints 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a feasibility study on extending the bridleway network and improving the surface and fencing in Stanmore Common 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the local voluntary groups in the production and distribution of leaflets and information about walking tracks (other) 	2

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve and install additional signage at existing sites to include information about walking routes, scheduled monuments and nature conservation 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a feasibility study to improve pedestrian and cycle access between Pinner Park and Copse Farm Pastures 	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an indoor area and spectator seating at Roger Bannister Sports Centre 	3
To seek to protect and enhance existing Green Belt sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support local Volunteer Wardens and Groups in the protection and maintenance of existing Green Belt sites through Officers attending regular meetings (other) 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop management plans for the Green Belt sites, which identify the necessary management regimes required for conservation, biodiversity and landscaping of the area 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the value and need of producing a Supplementary Planning Document, which links to the Green Belt Management Strategy 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend Stanmore Country Park into Wood Farm 	2

ALLOTMENTS

15.0 ALLOTMENTS RESEARCH FINDINGS

Gardening is active living. It is one of the top 10 physical activities undertaken in United Kingdom, it offers the opportunity for lifelong participation, and can be a positive contributor to the natural environment.

15.1 The Role of Allotments

Allotments form an important part of the borough's network of open space.

As the borough intensifies and private open space is reduced there will be an increased need to provide a public space where residents can learn about plants, re-connect with the environment and share a space where they can relax and socialise.

Allotments provide opportunities for local enterprise, such as horticulture work skills, provide educational resources within the community, promote environmental awareness and also have a therapeutic potential for people with mental and physical disabilities.

15.2 Qualitative and Quantitative Findings

There are 32 **active** allotment sites in Harrow, providing 1,325 plots. Currently 70% of these sites are occupied (928).

Strategic Leisure Limited audited 31 sites. One site was not audited (Vale Croft Allotment) as access to the site was unavailable.

When assessing the needs of each allotment site in the borough it is important to not view them in isolation. For example Church Fields Allotment is inaccessible to the general community and is utilised by local residents,

whose houses back onto the site. Therefore there is not a demand for on site facilities such as toilets and plot sheds as plot holders can use their house facilities. Kenton Recreation Ground Allotment is a small site with 8 plots. This site is used by a small local catchment and would not be able to support a trading hut on site.

a). Maintained, vibrant and locally accessible allotments

In 2002 a survey of plot holders undertaken by Council identified that a large number of plot holders recognise the need for investment in the allotments, in terms of infrastructure e.g. parking and toilets. The 2004/2005 audits revealed that the allotment infrastructure is not adequately being provided and therefore plot holders are not maximising their value for money. This could affect the number of plots occupied and increase the latent demand for allotments.

Community involvement is crucial to promote well-maintained and vibrant allotments.

Table 15 – Existing Horticulture and Allotment Organisations

Belmont Horticulture Society	Weston Drive Allotment	East
Headstone Allotment and Garden Association	Headstone Allotment	Central
Headstone Horticultural Society	Headstone Allotment	Central
Newton Park Horticultural Society	Newton Park East and West Allotment	West
Roxbourne Horticultural Society	Yeading Avenue Allotment	West
West Harrow Allotment and Garden Association	West Harrow Large Allotment	West
Harrow in Leaf	HQ located at West Harrow Large Allotment	West

Table 15 demonstrates that there is strong community support in the West of the borough.

There are no trading huts located in the East of the Borough and only one in the Central area. This further supports the theory that the East and Central areas of the borough are not as well supported by the community as the West.

There is a lack of support by Harrow Council in helping the allotment groups to provide proactive information sharing, marketing of the allotment availability and encouraging cross allotment work and support to ensure allotments are vibrant and maintained.

b). Safe and secure access to site, which is easily accessed by people with disabilities

The audit revealed that access to allotment sites across the borough is poor for disabled gardeners. Although the pathways are generally good, there is no specialist provision on the allotment sites, such as raised beds and disabled toilets.

Vandalism is a concern for many plot holders. Over half of the societies consulted regard improvement of on-site facilities (storage sheds) and fencing as the key priority for the future to help alleviate this threat. Dense fencing can create the atmosphere of allotments to be private and inaccessible to the local community.

c). Plot holders amenities such as toilets, waters support, benches, storage sheds, communal areas and art to increase the allotment value as community centres

The findings revealed that 97% of allotment sites do not have toilets and 50% do not have access to formal car parking provision. The lack of these facilities restricts potential users e.g. disabled people due to inadequate access and no toilet facilities.

Allotment spaces have the potential to encourage social interaction, which can be achieved through design and placement of seating, picnic tables and/or small weatherproof areas with basic tea/coffee making facilities. By creating an atmosphere that plot owners enjoy at a social level as well as their own personal gardening, this will also increase the length of on site activity and the development of informal plot watch schemes. Allotments are not currently used as potential community centres due to poor design and lack of communal areas.

- d). Public information boards providing information about activities taking place on site and management techniques being used

There is currently little formalised marketing activity to inform residents of vacant plots, events and management practices.

The average age of plot holders is weighted towards the older person, 50+. It is important to bring in the younger generation to ensure the sustainability of future allotment culture.

Retention is an important element of maintaining the level of used plots. There is a need to regularly inform plot owners of management techniques and for Council to proactively maintain the sites. The frequency of the rolling maintenance programme needs to be increased from 2 to 4 times a year to ensure the retention of plot holders is maintained.

- e). Site huts, which can serve as meeting place for plot holders, storage of bulk materials and as a centre for sale or distribution of seeds and equipment

There are 13 allotment sites that provide and support trading huts, with 12 of these being located in the West of the borough.

Trading huts are dependent on community support to run them and provide the merchandise. It is not feasible or sustainable to provide a trading hut for every site. There are a deficient number of accessible trading huts in the East to help foster and support the growth of allotments in the East of the borough.

This page consists of an ordnance survey map which is not available electronically.

15.3 STRATEGY FOR ALLOTMENTS

Utilising the findings and research in Part A of the Interim Strategy for Harrow’s Sport, Recreation and Open Space and the Allotment research findings, two strategies associated with Allotments have been developed. These are:

- To improve and enhance the existing allotment provision in the Borough
- To encourage the use of allotments and ensure allotments are accessible equally for all sections of the community

Under each strategy outline in section 15.3.1 specific actions describe how Council or our partners can meet these needs.

15.3.1 Proposed Strategies and Actions

Table 16: Allotments Proposed Strategies and Actions

Strategies	Actions	Priority
To improve and enhance the existing allotment provision in the Borough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the frequency of the rolling maintenance programme to four times a year. 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop pilot programmes at Newton East and West Allotments, Rayners Mead and Roxeth Allotment sites to target increase use by youth and disabled people 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake improvement works at Newton Park East and West Allotments and Headstone Allotment to improve appearance, access, viability, signage and usage. 	2

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To utilise defensive planting (black berry bushes) as fencing to improve the security of plots and also allow viewing of the activities on site 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Harrow in Leaf to develop a trading hut at Kenton Lane Allotment. 	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Harrow in Leaf to identify two pilot sites in the borough that could be enhanced through the addition of benches and communal area. 	3
To encourage use of allotments and ensure allotments are equally accessible for all sections of the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate access to allotments by MENCAP and day care centres to provide health related projects at available sites 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and improve the mechanism for the allocation of vacant plots 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a formal marketing plan for the allotment sites with high vacancies 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate links between the allotment associations and groups with local schools and community groups to provide education and health opportunities (other) 	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a rolling programme of investment in increasing provision and access for the disabled 	3

NATURE CONSERVATION SITES

16.0 NATURE CONSERVATION RESEARCH FINDINGS

Nature conservation is concerned with acting for the benefit of wildlife and, in doing so, acting for the benefit of people and the environment as a whole.

16.1 The Role of Nature Conservation Sites

Nature Conservation sites provide wildlife with valuable habitats and have enormous value in their own right. Conserving Harrow's plants and animals and their habitats supports bio-diversity, an essential element of the sustainable development. It is important that there is a careful balance between visitor access, wildlife conservation and development.

16.2 Qualitative and Quantitative Findings

Table 17: Harrow's Nature Conservation Sites

Site Name	Description of Site	Size of Site (Ha)	Harrow Ward
Bentley Priory	SSSI	66.16	Stanmore Park
Harrow Weald Common	Open Common Land	19.30	Harrow Weald
Newton Park East	Ecology Park	2.65	Roxbourne
Stanmore Common	Open Common Land	48.84	Stanmore Park
Stanmore Country Park	Open Countryside Area	31.56	Stanmore Park
Stanmore Marsh*	Wetland area potential	2.5	Stanmore Park

* Assume 2.5ha

The distribution of the nature reserve sites reflects the geographical nature of the borough. The West and Central areas of the borough have only one site in each, Newton Park East and Harrow Weald Common. This reflects the slightly higher density and increased traffic congestion, noise and air pollution. This environment is less conducive to conservation and enhancement of the natural environment. The East area has the largest number of nature conservation sites, all of which form part of the large Green Belt area, Bentley Priory, Stanmore Common, Stanmore Country Park and Stanmore Marsh.

a). Active Management to ensure the protection of wildlife habitat and sustain biodiversity

Harrow does not currently have a Biodiversity Action Plan or a coordinated management regime in place to ensure the increased access to the sites are balanced with preservation and protection of habitats and species. Because of the lack of planned conservation and maintenance of the nature conservation sites, Stanmore Common was de-notified of its SSSI status in the early 90's.

b). Sites provide education to children and adults concerning the value of wildlife found in the area

The consultation process identified a demand for opportunities to learn about nature conservation and the environment. Information and interpretation material is needed to enable understanding and enjoyment of sites of wildlife interest where there is public access.

By promoting greater awareness and understanding of the habitats and wildlife present within the borough the community may become increasingly interested and involved in protecting and understanding the nature of these sites.

c). Volunteers are celebrated and supported

There is a heavy reliance on volunteers to manage and protect the nature conservation sites in the Borough. Newton Park East, Stanmore Common, Stanmore Country Park, and Bentley Priory are all managed and maintained by volunteers. Harrow Weald Common is managed by the Harrow Common Conservatives, which receive an annual grant from Council. This grant helps to pay for a warden.

d). Is accessible without compromising environmental value

The Nature Conservation sites currently have limited provision of benches and toilets, poor signage and poor provision of parking. The lack of these amenity facilities inhibits access by key sections of the community i.e. schools, older people and parents/care givers. Signage is required to provide information on what is within the site to educate site users and school children. Older people and parents/caregivers require toilet facilities and benches to be close to hand.

Due to the specific characteristics of this category i.e. site of specialist characteristic/ability to support a specific form of wildlife, it is not appropriate to set recommended standards of provision. It is however important that all sites are protected under planning policy, and wherever possible, the opportunity to enhance existing, or create new sites is taken.

This page consists of an ordnance survey map which is not available electronically.

16.3 STRATEGY FOR NATURE CONSERVATION SITES

Utilising the findings and research in Part B of the Interim Strategy for Harrow's Sport, Recreation and Open Space and the research findings of Nature Conservation Sites in Harrow, three strategies associated with Nature Conservation Sites have been developed. These are:

- To protect the existing wildlife sites within the Borough
- To increase local awareness, involvement and interest in nature conservation
- To identify and extend the network of nature conservation areas in Harrow

Under each strategy outlined in section 16.3.1 specific actions describe how Council or our partners can meet these needs.

16.3.1 Proposed Strategies and Actions

Table 18: Nature Conservation Sites Proposed Strategies and Actions

Strategies	Actions	Priority
To protect the existing wildlife sites within the Borough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a Biodiversity Action Plan for the borough 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appoint an operational Green Spaces officer for the borough that has specialised nature conservation knowledge and experience 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop co-ordinated management and maintenance programmes for each nature conservation site to reflect their natural characteristics 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that existing sites are protected through the Local Development Framework 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put in place maintenance regimes to bring Stanmore Common back to a SSSI status 	2
To increase local awareness, involvement and interest in nature conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Stanmore Common and Newton Park East as education sites 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce and install interpretation signs for all conservation and semi natural sites 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a feasibility study and business case for the development of a Education/resource centre, based on Ground works criteria and Land Use Consultants recommendations 	3

To identify and extend the network of nature conservation areas in Harrow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify new sites, which can be developed as Nature Conservation sites in partnership with Volunteer Wardens and Harrow Conservation Forum 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake a feasibility study to develop Stanmore Marsh into a wetland site 	3

17.0 GLOSSARY

Catchment Area	An area of land surrounding a facility
Destination Parks	Parks which have either distinctive natural, cultural, sporting or historical interest or a combination of the above and which are sufficiently well developed and managed to be able to cope with increased use
Disability Discrimination Act	The Disability Discrimination Act is a UK parliamentary act of 1995, which makes it unlawful to discriminate against people in respect of their disabilities in relation to employment, the provision of goods and services, education and transport. It is a civil rights law.
District Parks	A wider catchment area (up to 1 km) due to the provision of 1 or 2 specialised facilities e.g. tennis courts
Floodlighting	Lights an area e.g. tennis courts to allow the facility to be used after daylight hours
Green Belt	An extensive area of largely undeveloped or sparsely occupied land associated with a community set aside to contain development, preserve the character of the countryside and community and provide open space
LAP	Small catchment local playground facility with minimal equipment

LEAP	Locally Equipped Play Area, has a minimum of 5 pieces of equipment and provides for a local community catchment
Local Parks	Small open spaces which provide for the local community and are valued for their open space amenity more than the facilities provided
Multi Use Games Area	An area that has all weather surfacing and permits a variety of activities and sports to take place on the flexible surface, i.e. tennis, 5 a side football and basketball
NEAP	Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play, has a minimum of 8 pieces of equipment and provides for a neighbourhood catchment
Open Space	All land use in Harrow that is predominately undeveloped other than by buildings or structures, which are ancillary to the open space use, whether in public or private ownership and whether public access is unrestricted, limited or restricted. This definition does not include private residential gardens or incidental areas, such as road verges
Outdoor Pitches	Outdoor Pitches are defined as a delineated space, which are used for football, rugby,

cricket, hockey, baseball, softball, Gaelic football, hurling, polo, lacrosse or rounders, tennis, athletics, outdoor bowls and golf. Outdoor pitches includes artificial and synthetic turf.

Pocket Parks

Small areas of open space that contain no facilities and contribute to the visual amenity of the urban streetscape

Physical Activity

Any form of exercise or movement. Physical activity may include planned activity such as walking, running, basketball, or other sports.

Playing Pitches

Playing Pitches are defined as a delineated space, which are used for football, rugby, cricket, hockey, baseball, softball, Gaelic football, hurling, polo, lacrosse or rounders.

Sport

Sport means all forms of physical activity which through casual or organised participation aim at expressing or improving fitness and mental well-being, forming social relationships or obtaining results in competition at all levels

SSSI

Site of Specific Scientific Interest. An area identified by English Nature for protection by reason of the rarity of its nature conservation or wildlife features.

Strategic Leisure

Harrow Council commissioned Strategic

Leisure Limited in 2004 to undertake an audit and consultation exercise on Harrow and surrounding borough's sport, recreation and open space provision. Strategic Leisure is a consultancy based in Manchester, UK

Synthetic Turf Pitch

A specialised surface all weather pitch for a single sport, can be used for training or competition purposes

Voluntary Sector

Not for profit groups who are formed to manage, provide or direct sport, recreation and open space provision

Appendix 1 - Indoor Sport Facilities

	COMMUNITY ACCESS				NO COMMUNITY ACCESS	
	Public	Private	Education	Voluntary	Education	Private
Swimming Pool Sites	Harrow Leisure Centre Hatch End Swimming Pool	Aspire Gold's Gym Fitz Health Club	Canons School Sports Centre		Harrow School Sports Centre Heathfield School	John Lyons Sports Centre
Indoor Sport Hall Sites	Harrow Leisure Centre	Aspire Kodak Eastmans	Canons School Sports Centre Gristwood Sports Centre Harrow High School Sports Centre Whitmore School		Harrow College Harrow School Sports Centre Heathfield School Park High Sports Centre Stanmore College	John Lyon Sports Centre
Indoor Tennis Sites	Harrow Leisure Centre					
Gymnastics				Harrow Gymnastics Centre		
Squash Courts Sites	Harrow Leisure Centre				Harrow School Sports Centre	

Health and Fitness Suite Sites	Harrow Leisure Centre	Body Talk Blitz Gym Fitness First Health Club Harrow Fitness First Health Club Pinner Fitz Health Club Slaughter Gym	Harrow High School Sports Centre Whitmore School Canons School Sports Centre		Harrow School Sports Centre	John Lyons Sports Centre
Indoor Bowls Sites				Herga Bowls		