## **Action Plans South Norfolk Indoor Tennis Centres**

#### **Action Plan/Indoor Tennis Centres**

# IT 1 South Norfolk District to maintain the existing supply of indoor tennis centres up to 2026.

The needs assessment for indoor tennis centres has identified that supply exceeds demand by 2 courts in 2014 and this decreases to 1 court by 2026. This is based on no changes in the supply of courts up to 2026 and the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) methodology for assessing the demand for indoor tennis.

# **PROTECT**

There is one centre in South Norfolk which is located at Easton College but it does have two individual centres. A traditional structure of 4 courts (opened in 2009) and an air hall also of 4 courts (opened in 2008). So modern centres but all the provision is in one location.

In Norwich there is a deficit of 6 courts in 2014 as it has no provision but there is a surplus of 2 courts in Broadland, again based on the LTA's methodology and a 20 minute drive time catchment area for indoor tennis centres.

Based on this Greater Norwich assessment it is reasonable to assume that some of the Norwich demand can be met by the combined surplus of 4 courts in Broadland and South Norfolk. Leaving a Greater Norwich net deficit of 2 courts.

By 2026 the assessment is that the Norwich deficit has increased to 7 courts. Whilst Broadland and South Norfolk each have a surplus of 1 court so the Greater

## **Action Required**

- The emerging South Norfolk Development Management Policies Document includes policy DM3.17 'Improving the level of community facilities'. The policy aims to the resist the loss of local facilities, including indoor sports provision. The policy supports the provision of new facilities in accessible locations, particularly within defined Development Boundaries, but gives the flexibility to locate sites outside of those Boundaries where this would serve the local community.
- The needs assessment for indoor tennis centres does support the policy in regard to supporting the retention of the existing centre and endorses this policy. The needs assessment has identified that the location/catchment area of the existing indoor tennis centre and the settlement pattern of the district means the existing provision is required to maintain accessibility as well as meet demand up to 2026 and beyond.
- The South Norfolk District Local Plan saved subject policy LE18 is concerned principally with the protection of existing open space, however in principle this would also be applicable to indoor provision. Again the needs assessment for indoor tennis supports this saved policy. Any revision to this saved policy should apply the needs assessment in its revision with retention of the policy.
- Maintain a watching brief on the provision and

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Norwich deficit is assessed as 5 courts by 2026.

The courts per 1,000 population findings for South Norfolk of 0.06 courts compares very favorably with the Regional and England wide provision at 0.02 and 0.03 courts per 1,000 population, so it is twice the regional and England wide level of provision.

Overall whilst there is a favourable supply and demand balance there is need to retain the South Norfolk supply as the favourable balance is only 2 courts now and 1 court by 2026.

The existing location at Easton College does provide reasonable accessibility given a 20 minute drive time catchment area of the centre.

#### **ENHANCE**

IT 2 – Support Easton College in their leadership of improvement and enhancement of the existing centre.

The needs assessment for indoor tennis centres shows a modern and extensive facility based on pay and play access. There will be a continuing and increasing need to maintain and modernise the buildings especially the air hall.

The needs assessment report also sets out the consistent finding across all the Sport England Active People surveys that there is high latent demand for playing of tennis (both outdoor and indoor) and this can often exceed the rate of actual participation. Lack of facilities (indoor and outdoor) is a barrier to creating actual participation, alongside time to play and accessing facilities. Pay and play provides the best opportunities for turning latent demand into actual

## **Action Required**

continuing operation of the indoor tennis centre. Any proposals to increase the size of the centres or any new provision should be supported. This is said despite a projected surplus of 2 courts in 2014 and 1 court by 2016. There is based on the location of demand and drive time catchment of centre.

 On the basis that indoor tennis is an important activity in South Norfolk based on the participation profile and the only pay and play venue across greater Norwich is in the authority then it is important to support the development and improvement of the existing venue by the College.

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participation and therefore the existing centre may experience increasing demand as it is the only pay and play venue across Greater Norwich.	