

SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY FOR COPELAND 2010-2021/26

Leisure Needs Assessment

Final Report April 2011



Leisure and the Environment
sport • art • recreation • community

CONTENTS

Executive Summary		3
Chapter 1	Introduction	14
Chapter 2	A Profile of Copeland	18
Chapter 3	Consultation Phase One	28
Chapter 4	Needs Assessment - Sports Halls	30
Chapter 5	Swimming Pools	43
Chapter 6	Health & Fitness Centres	57
Chapter 7	Indoor Bowls	64
Chapter 8	Indoor Tennis	71
Chapter 9	Artificial Grass Pitches	76
Chapter 10	Athletics Tracks	84
Chapter 11	Golf Facilities	89
Chapter 12	Other Sports	93
Chapter 13	Options and Issues	95
Chapter 14	Consultation Phase Two	100
Chapter 15	Strategy	103
Chapter 16	Implementation, Planning and Funding Guidance	109
Chapter 17	Review and Monitoring	113
Appendix 1	Key to Maps	114
Appendix 2	Consultation Responses (Phases 1 & 2)	115
Appendix 3	Small Community Halls	135
Appendix 4	Action Plan	150

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

VISION - The overall vision for the Facilities Strategy established from the outset is:

We will work with our partners to plan and provide a network of sporting facilities to meet the needs of Copeland citizens of today and the future.

To achieve the vision the following objectives have been agreed:

- *Increase and sustain participation, through appropriate provision for increased activity and identified priority groups*
- *Create opportunities for young people and provide wider value to local communities e.g. through development of community sports hubs*
- *Facilitate improved health and quality of life, for those living in and working in, or visiting Copeland, as well as those who will live there in the future*
- *Contribute to social cohesion, and enjoyment, particularly in areas of economic and social deprivation*
- *Facilitate with our partners high performance and training and seamless pathways to achieve potential e.g. through specialist centres of national/ regional importance*
- *Bring economic benefit to the borough*
- *Be delivered through innovative, strong and long term partnerships*
- *Maximise available resources for investment and development of provision*
- *Be supported by strong, coaching and appropriate support services and programming*
- *Have facilities that are sustainable and manageable*

CONTEXT

Any proposals for sports facility provision in Copeland must consider the following factors:

- The borough is located on the edge of the county and country, and links with facilities and services in neighbouring LA area are not good, except possibly in the north with Allerdale.
- There is a concentration of population in the four main towns of the borough and facilities already in existence are accessible to most local residents, but the rural areas (albeit that population is sparse) are remote from facilities. Millom is also detached from other opportunities and has to be self sufficient for sport.
- The population is slightly younger than the average, but is anticipated to age rapidly over the timeframe of the strategy. There is limited housing and therefore population growth envisaged, and the sport playing age groups will decline in numbers.
- The current population has an unusual majority of males over females, with different patterns of participation in and propensity for sport.
- The existing and likely future population is mainly white and there are few cultural influences from minority ethnic groups
- The existing health of local residents in Copeland is varied, but levels of obesity among both adults and young people are high
- Deprivation levels overall are higher than average and some wards are very disadvantaged, particularly in and around Whitehaven, with associated impacts on sport.
- There is a robust but declining economic base with heavy reliance on Sellafield, where wages are high, but which is subject to significant downsizing in the future.
- Participation in sport is relatively low, and there is less volunteering and coaching activity than the average. However school based sport and PE is undertaken with higher regularity than the average, and this is a pointer to subsequent participation by adults in sport.
- The predominant market segments in the borough are those with low activity levels in sport

CONSULTATION

Consultation was undertaken at two stages of the study and the full and summarised results of these exercises are set out in more detail in the study and appendix 2

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Sports Halls

- There are 9 main sports halls and 2 ancillary halls in Copeland at present, although some are on school and education sites and may not offer full community access at all times. In reality, there are large 4+ court halls with full community access at Whitehaven SC and Millom RC, comprising 13 courts, main halls on school/education sites with mainly club use at St Bees, Whitehaven, St Benedict's Schools and West Lakes Academy with 20 courts and a further 1 courts at Seascales with limited public use. If an allowance is made for halls not in secured community use (50% for school halls with access for club bookings and similar, and 25% for all other halls), there are in effect 23 courts (or the equivalent of nearly 6 4-court sports halls) available for use in the borough.
- Anticipated demand from within the borough from SFC is for about 5 4-court halls. The FPM suggests that there is a small amount of export of demand to sports halls outside the borough, but this is insignificant, and almost all demand is met locally.
- There is slightly above average supply of sports halls in Copeland compared with the average. Despite the rural nature of the borough, accessibility is good and most residents are within a reasonable driving distance of a sports hall, although inevitably walking access is poorer. Relative share for local residents is quite high. Satisfied demand overall is lower than average, because of accessibility issues particularly in outlying areas, but there is insufficient unmet demand in total over the whole borough at present to justify any additional sports halls. Capacity is still sufficient overall and in all individual facilities to accommodate all demand.
- Current provision of sports halls is therefore adequate in broad terms, but this relies on all existing halls being available in some degree to community use. If the main LA halls (Whitehaven and Millom) are considered alone, there is a deficit in provision. Better use of school halls is required to maintain this level of provision at present, and avoid existing halls being overused. There is no indoor sports space in Cleator Moor, and consideration should be given to such provision, especially in view of the likely accommodation of workers for the new nuclear building programme
- Overall quality –The sports hall stock in general would benefit from some improvements to its quality, programming and other factors, but in its current state is unlikely to be fully fit for purpose by the end of the study period.
- Based on the results of each of the planning tools, there is a demand for about 5 4-court sports halls in regular community use, and the existing provision of the equivalent of 6 halls is therefore sufficient to meet demand, so long as the school halls contribute towards this.
- The desirable and current level of provision therefore is the equivalent of about 1 4-court hall per 12,500 people.
- Future provision - On the basis of the current level of provision above any future requirement needs to take into account the likely population levels in 2021/2026. Based on the information available from Cumbria CC, and analysed above, the population is likely to increase by 4.1% to 2021 and 5.7% by 2026, but the active population (i.e. those between the ages of 5 and 55) is likely to drop by 5.7% or 8.5%. Even if increased participation in accordance with local and SE targets is achieved, it is unlikely that additional sports hall space will be required in the next 10-15 years.

Swimming pools

- There are 5 indoor pools (4 main, 1 learner) on 4 sites within Copeland, with a total water space of 883.5m². Three of these pools are accessible to the public on a pay and play basis, and the remaining two are pools on school sites where access is mainly for clubs and organised teaching, with some limited casual use. There are also understood to be other pools at existing holiday centres and at Wellbank Swimming Pool Bootle (small 15 x 5m pool available to local groups to book on a timeshare basis)
- 71% of the total water space is available on a pay and play basis, and the remainder (29%) to clubs and local groups. If an allowance (50%) is made for pools not in secured community use (St Bees and Millom), there is in reality 756m² available to the community, the equivalent of about 3.5 4-lane pools.
- Anticipated demand from within the borough from SFC is for about 672 m²/13 lanes of water or the equivalent of just over 3 4-lane pools in community use. The FPM suggests that there is a small amount of export of demand to pools outside the borough, but this is insignificant, and almost all demand is met locally.
- There is below average supply of pools in Copeland compared with the average. Because of the rural nature of the borough, accessibility is limited - most residents are within a reasonable driving distance of a pool but inevitably walking access is poorer. Relative share for local residents is low compared with the average. Satisfied demand overall is lower than average, because of accessibility issues particularly in outlying areas, but there is insufficient unmet demand in total over the whole borough at present to justify any additional pools. Capacity is still sufficient overall and in all individual facilities to accommodate all demand.
- Overall quality –The swimming pool stock in general requires substantial improvement in the short term, and is unlikely to be fully fit for purpose by the end of the study period.
- Current provision of swimming pools is therefore broadly adequate overall throughout the borough, although there may well be local difficulties of access to groups requiring usage at a particular time. There is also an issue of age and functionality with some pools, all of which were built before the mid 1980s albeit that some refurbishment has taken place. The location of the Whitehaven facility is not ideal to meet demand. Conversely some pools that could meet a local need, such as Millom and St Bees, could provide a more valuable community function. There is a case to consider the refurbishment, rationalisation or replacement of existing pools in a strategic context, and to seek more intensive use of the smaller school pools not considered in this assessment.
- Based on the results of each of the planning tools, the ideal total requirement for current swimming need is about 700m² of water to reflect the demand from the SFC. There are about 630m² in the main ‘public’ pools in Copeland and Egremont and a need to ensure that the remainder is available at St Bees and Millom. Millom is a particular case and is considered below.
- This level of provision would equate to about 1 4-lane pool per 21000 people
- Future provision - As with sports halls, future need is dependent on any increase in population, which is mitigated by the ageing of the population. Even if increased participation in accordance with local and SE targets is achieved, it is unlikely that additional water space will be required in the next 10-15 years over and above any planned increases at the present.

Health and Fitness

- There are 305 stations on 11 health and fitness sites within Copeland. These are a mixture of local authority, pay and play, members only and sports club sites, although the

proportion of pay and play centres is higher than usual. There is a lack of large commercial health club facilities, and no such facility with a pool.

- Overall the quality of health and fitness centres can be said to be good, with only two centres not having been built or refurbished in the last 25 years, and most since 2000.
- Anticipated demand from within the borough from the FIA methodology is for about 415 stations. There is no indication of significant import or export of demand. Evidence from LA managers of their own facilities suggests that it is likely that some centres are used to capacity. It is also apparent that some operators have plans to improve their gym facilities. Relative provision in regional and national terms is very low, although accessibility to centres is good, especially for those by car and for town residents on foot.
- There is therefore some justification for additional health and fitness clubs at this stage, to meet a variety of needs – pay and play, local authority, and probably some scope for a larger commercial facility in Whitehaven. Millom provision is also lacking.
- The local potential for additional health and fitness provision has been flagged up in previous studies. Discussions with North Country Leisure (NCL) have consistently identified the potential for additional high quality health and fitness provision in Whitehaven, particularly to cater for the older age groups.
- The potential for small gym and leisure club (small pool, sauna / steam) in Whitehaven town centre, as part of any stadium development, has been identified previously. The key would be to ensure this was developed on a co-ordinated basis so as not to conflict with the WLC. Consultation with NCL as part of this work has reiterated this view.
- Furthermore, the provision of other new sporting facilities a new health and fitness suite can provide great opportunities for cross-selling and marketing and help to increase participation in other sports and activities and therefore should always be considered as an 'add-on' when considering other new sporting provision. Within Whitehaven there would appear to be a case.
- Health and fitness provision may also be critical to any pool development in Millom and the town might be able to support a small high quality facility. Partnership working is essential and any development needs to be seen as a project for Millom
- Additional provision to meet the anticipated total of 415 stations might therefore be justified in a number of locations. The desirable level of provision of facilities available to the community is therefore the equivalent of about 1 50-station centre per 8500 people
- Future provision - As with other facilities, future need is dependent on any increase in population, which is mitigated by the ageing of the population. Even if increased participation in accordance with local and SE targets is achieved, it is unlikely that additional stations will be required in the next 10-15 years over and above any planned increases at the present.

Indoor Bowls

- There is one indoor bowls centre in the borough with 5 rinks, centrally located in the most populous part of the borough. It is owned by the local authority and managed by North Country Leisure, with the principal objective of providing a service to the community by promoting flat green bowls to all sections of the community, including casual users, younger bowlers and clubs. Coaching sessions are available. There are a no other similar centres within 45 minutes of the edge of Copeland.
- Existing provision for indoor bowls in the borough exceeds the county and national average, and is well in excess of the regional average. The supply/demand and personal share ratios are also higher than average. Cumbria is a geographical area of strength in bowls, with the highest number of clubs than any other North West county area, and the

market segmentation data demonstrates the dominant age groups being of the older generation of which bowls is historically known as a popular sport played by such age groups

- The centre is considered to be in good condition, and likely to remain fit for purpose over the duration of the study so long as it is maintained well.
- Because of the good provision for indoor bowls here, existing levels of local provision are therefore considered adequate to meet demand. Previous studies have not identified the need among consultees and others for additional bowls provision. No additional indoor bowls centres are therefore considered necessary at present.
- The current level of provision is the equivalent of about 1 6-rink centre per 85,000 people.
- Future provision - as with other facilities, future need is dependent on any increase in population, which is mitigated by the ageing of the population. Conversely it is the ageing population that might offer an opportunity to increase bowls provision. However, even if increased participation in accordance with local and SE targets is achieved, it is unlikely that additional rink space will be required in the next 10-15 years over and above provision at the present.

Indoor Tennis

- There are no indoor tennis courts in Copeland and the nearest alternatives are at least 30 minutes from the southern boundary. Potential players in the main population centres in the north of the borough are not accommodated.
- On the basis of the average provision in the county or region of 0.02 courts per 1000, there is shortfall of about 1-2 courts. Similarly using LTA data on the average court provision required to accommodate demand, there is a shortfall of up to 3 courts
- Previous studies have highlighted that the NGB sets out a hierarchical provision in terms of clubs and when compared to this, the need appears to be a focus on the accreditation of a main focus tennis clubs within West Cumbria as currently there are none. The Regional Strategic Facility Evidence Base supports this stating the needs and priorities for Cumbria appear to be around developing the club base.
- Consultation with local authorities and the NGB as part of the development of the Regional Strategic Facility Evidence Base have not indicated any further required need for indoor tennis provision in Cumbria or specifically in Allerdale or Copeland.
- There is a strategic facility provision gap in evidence in West Cumbria but it appears that there is little NGB support for closing this gap. Tennis is one of the most popular sports in terms of number of clubs although this is not as strong when looking at the sports highlighted by the market segmentation analysis on propensity to participate.
- Discussion held previously with the LTA have confirmed that any dedicated indoor provision was unlikely to be supported given location, demographics, tennis infrastructure and concerns about sustainability. A community tennis project would be far more appropriate i.e. outdoor floodlit tarmac courts with changing provision. The LTA would be prepared to look at investing at this scale of scheme. However there are other tennis developments in Copeland namely Cleator Moor and these need to be developed on a coordinated basis.
- There is therefore little justification for the provision of indoor tennis at the present time in Copeland.
- Future provision - As with other facilities, future need is dependent on any increase in population, which is mitigated by the ageing of the population. However, even if increased participation in accordance with local and SE targets is achieved, it is unlikely that additional indoor tennis court space will be required in the next 10-15 years.

Artificial Grass pitches

- Historically the demand for AGPs has been based on a general standard from Sport England, which for many years was based on one pitch per 50-60,000 people, and provision in the early development of AGPs was broadly in accordance with this. The development of 3G (3rd generation) pitches and the requirement for all competitive hockey to take place on AGPs has increased demand. Advice from the Football Association (FA) requires a standard of 1 pitch per 25,000 for 3G pitches, most suitable for football. The existing provision of 3 full size pitches meets the FA standard of 1 pitch per 25000, though 2 of the existing pitches are sand based and unsuitable for football at a competitive level.
- The SFC calculation suggests that there are more than enough pitches in the borough to meet the normally expected levels of demand from within the borough.
- The FPM assessment concludes that there is insufficient unmet demand within the borough at present to justify additional AGP provision.
- The assessment produced in the separate Playing Pitch Assessment has however identified the following possible local demands:
 - One additional AGP (3G surface) to meet identified needs. 3G pitches are also suited for Rugby League training and Rugby League is the second most popular sport in terms of number of clubs in West Cumbria. Consultation in the West Cumbria strategy with the governing body for Rugby League identified priorities for 2 pitches in West Cumbria – at Seaton (Allerdale) and Kells (Copeland). Given the local needs assessment, the provision of 2 new pitches in West Cumbria may appear unsustainable given the limited population catchments and further dialogue is required on the specific needs and locations for Rugby League particularly the rationale for such specific locations and potential links with the local professional rugby league clubs. However a further pitch at Kells (or wherever) might be considered in Copeland
 - An additional AGP in Egremont to provide a facility for club use and training, and for use by the Academy to deliver curriculum sport, given the lack of outdoor pitches at the venue.
 - Training pitches (small or half size) in other locations
- The ultimate provision of 5 AGPs of provision would equate to about 1 full size AGP per 14000 people – this is high compared with other areas but can be justified on the basis of local factors.
- Future provision - As with other facilities, future need is dependent on any increase in population, which is mitigated by the ageing of the population. Even if increased participation in accordance with local and SE targets is achieved, it is unlikely that additional pitches will be required in the next 10-15 years over and above any planned increases at the present.

Athletics

- Existing provision for athletics in Copeland is good compared with other parts of the county and region. Accessibility to the track, despite the rural nature of the borough is good, and the track fulfils an important role for the whole of West Cumbria.
- The Regional Facilities Strategy identified Cumbria as a geographical area with little activity in comparison to other areas in the North West. Consultation suggested that the priority project was an 8-lane track as part of the Workington Sports Village in Allerdale. There is only one 8-lane track in Cumbria but the county has the second lowest number of clubs in the region. Cumbria has the lowest level of track facilities per 1,000 population

- There is a strategic gap in Copeland with regards to 8-lane athletics tracks outside a catchment of 20 minutes. However the RFS also notes that the existing 6-lane track at the Cumbria Sports Academy in Whitehaven serves athletics needs well and the upgrade of this track would adequately meet the priority needs of Athletics in Copeland. This supports current proposals at the Academy, which meet the needs and should provide the focus for Athletics across the borough.
- There is therefore some justification (subject to feasibility) to consider the enhancement of the existing track to 8-lanes to meet this wider need.
- This desirable current level of provision is the equivalent of about 1 8-lane per 70,000 people.
- Future provision - As with other facilities, future need is dependent on any increase in population, which is mitigated by the ageing of the population. Even if increased participation in accordance with local and SE targets is achieved, it is unlikely that additional tracks/lanes will be required in the next 10-15 years over and above any planned increases at the present.

Golf

- Provision for golf in Copeland and indeed the whole of Cumbria is very high, compared with the average, and accessibility to main golf courses, available for pay and play, is good. Ancillary facilities such as par 3 courses and driving ranges, which are more suitable for developing skills and practice, are accessible to the main population centres in the north of the borough.
- The West Cumbria analysis previously undertaken suggested that there was no priority for additional course and other golf facilities at the present. There is no evidence of waiting list at existing clubs or other indicators of unmet or talent demand, and no additional facilities are therefore required at the current time in Copeland.
- The current level of provision is the equivalent of about 1 18-hole golf course per 17,500 people.
- Future provision - As with other facilities, future need is dependent on any increase in population, which is mitigated by the ageing of the population. Even if increased participation in accordance with local and SE targets is achieved, it is unlikely that additional facilities will be required in the next 10-15 years over and above any provision at the present.

Other sports are addressed and considered in a similar way.

OPTIONS AND ISSUES

After the initial assessment a range of issues and options for further consideration were identified as a basis for further consultation (see main report), and lead on to proposals for the actual strategy.

STRATEGY

Proposed strategy for sports halls

- Retain the provision of a main 8-10 court sports hall in Whitehaven as a main focus for a variety of sports, either by upgrading or refurbishing the existing sports centre (including the provision of additional ancillary halls) or by redeveloping a new sports centre on an alternative site in the town (see below for locational requirements)

- Consider in the short term some readjustment to the programming of Whitehaven SC by accommodating adult 5-a-side football outdoors (see below), to release some spare capacity for other activities in the peak periods
- Retain, maintain and enhance the availability of existing school sports halls at Whitehaven, St Benedict's and St Bees Schools, to ensure continued community use and long term sustainability, and in particular use by clubs and associations, and more specialised use, in the evenings, at weekends and during school holidays
- Retain, maintain and improve the use of Millom Sports Centre as a local facility for the southern part of the borough, including ongoing maintenance and improvements
- Consider the provision of an indoor sports space in Cleator Moor, possibly in conjunction with the Bowls Centre.
- Ensure continued and managed access to smaller halls in the borough, including school halls, village halls and community centres for particular activities
- Coordinate (possibly through NCL) the management and promotion of all sports halls throughout the borough to ensure optimum availability for all sectors – casual, club, specialist, training and competition
- Develop and manage a framework for the usage of all sports halls (particularly school halls) to ensure community use by the wider community, sports clubs and other users, including defining particular halls for specialist use by clubs in a particular activity (e.g. netball, basketball)
- Ensure that all sports halls are maintained and fit for purpose over the whole term of the strategy to 2026 and make arrangements for their upgrade or replacement when required

Proposed strategy for swimming pools

- Retain the provision of a main 6 lane pool in Whitehaven as the main focus for a variety of water sports, either by upgrading or refurbishing the existing Copeland Pool or by redeveloping a new 6-8 lane pool on an alternative site in the town (see below for locational requirements)
- Retain and improve where feasible the existing pool at Egremont and develop its usage as a satellite to the main Copeland Pool. In the longer term consider the feasibility of a major investment to rebuild/replace the pool by 2026.
- Promote the more intensive usage of the St Bees School pool by the community for a range of lessons, training, casual and recreational uses in conjunction with the school and develop a joint marketing programme for all sports facilities on site
- Consider in accordance with a previously prepared feasibility study the replacement of the existing school pool in Millom by a purpose built new 25m 4-lane facility fully available to the community
- Promote the provision of a small pool in conjunction with a commercial pay and play health and fitness centre as an alternative/addition to existing pool provision
- Establish a hierarchy of pools within the borough to ensure that all needs for learning, teaching, improvement, excellence, and other related activities are met
- Coordinate the management and promotion of all pools throughout the borough to ensure optimum availability for all different users

Proposed strategy for health and fitness

- Maintain the current level and mix of facilities in Copeland
- Maintain and improve where necessary the quality of facilities in the borough

- Consider in the short to medium term the provision of up to 100 additional stations, preferably in Whitehaven as part of a high quality commercial centre which also includes a small pool, and available for a wide range of the population
- Improve health and fitness facilities in Millom by the provision of a small centre of 50 stations, in conjunction with either a new swimming pool or the existing sports centre, or preferably coordinated with the management of both facilities
- Consider in the longer term the provision of additional stations in accordance with identified future demand, in accessible locations throughout the borough, preferably in conjunction with other sports and community facilities including sports halls (especially on schools sites), pools, AGPs and community halls, to ensure that all facilities are sustainable in financial terms
- Extend where necessary existing facilities where a need has been identified
- Ensure that all health and fitness facilities are accessible to the widest range of users, including young people, women and the disabled, by improved management and publicity

Proposed strategy for indoor bowls

- Secure the existing centre as the sole provider of indoor bowls in the borough and ensure its continuing viability through a programme of planned maintenance and improvement
- Continue to promote the sport throughout the borough as an activity which is particularly suitable for older people, given the future demographics of the area, while at the same time encouraging more participation by younger people
- Consider the multi use of the existing centre and any new facility at times when indoor bowls is out of season e.g. play schemes, other activities

Proposed strategy for indoor tennis

- Additional indoor tennis facilities are unlikely to be required in Copeland despite the strategic gap in this part of West Cumbria, unless there is a need for them identified by the governing body
- Instead support a community tennis project with outdoor floodlit tarmac courts and changing provision, possibly in the Cleator Moor area

Proposed strategy for AGPs

- Ensure more comprehensive community usage of existing pitch at Whitehaven Amateurs
- In the short term consider the replacement of the surface at Cleator Moor pitch
- Seek the provision in the short term of 1 additional new pitch, built to 3G specification with a 60mm surface to meet FA performance requirements, in the Whitehaven area, and undertake a feasibility study to determine the preferred location, on a school site or where community access is best elsewhere (e.g. Kells)
- In the longer term to 2026, seek the provision of an additional AGP, which meets the requirements of local users of an appropriate surface, located in Egremont, preferably at West Lakes Academy.
- Consider the provision of small 3G AGPs in appropriate areas as venues for training and development, in particular for football and rugby league
- Consider the promotion of a facility suitable for the development of small sided football in the short term in Whitehaven
- Ensure that any new pitches are associated with any necessary changing and clubhouse facilities to facilitate club development
- Require that all pitches are maintained with a sinking fund in place, to ensure that the surface is replaced at least every 10 years, and all pitches remain fit for purpose

- Embrace any new technology which ensures that new pitches can be used by a wider range of sports e.g. 4th Generation pitches

Proposed strategy for athletics

- Undertake more extensive promotion of the existing track for competitive/recreational use. Consider the feasibility of developing an 8 lane track at Cumbria Sports Academy. As an alternative retain the existing 6-lane track, but provide a smaller satellite facility (J track or training facility) elsewhere in the borough, preferably on a school site. In any event, maintain the existing track as fit for purpose throughout the duration of the strategy, and facilitate any improvements to the spectator and other facilities in accordance with better promotion of its use

Proposed strategy for golf

- Maintain the current level, number and type of golf facilities in the borough, including pay and play and members' courses.
- Consider the provision of a small driving range at Seascales GC
- Ensure that there is a coordinated system of facility provision which allows golfers of all levels and ages to take part in the sport, develop their skills and compete at higher levels.

Proposed strategy for specialist facilities

- Pending more detailed consultation with NGBs in the area, there may be the opportunity to accommodate larger scale specialist facilities in the main sports centre in Whitehaven
- Specialist requirements for table tennis, badminton, netball or other sports should be incorporated in a hierarchy of sports halls (see elsewhere) in a coordinated manner, particularly on school sites where management would be facilitated.
- In the longer term a feasibility study should be undertaken to consider the provision of a purpose built indoor netball centre or outdoor courts with a temporary cover in winter (which would also be suitable for tennis)
- Consideration should be given to the provision of a cycling track in conjunction with the Cumbria Sports Academy
- Purpose built facilities for boxing and gymnastics should be addressed if a multi use sports facility is proposed within Whitehaven, which could also accommodate new (glass backed) courts for Whitehaven Squash Club.

Locational considerations for Whitehaven

The location of additional or replacement sports facilities in Whitehaven now and up to 2026 will depend on a number of factors not all related to the optimum location for sport itself. A number of options are available and it will be for the Council and all other providers to determine the best spatial strategy. The debate is required to consider whether facilities should be concentrated or dispersed and if the former where the best locations are. A section is included on the merits of concentration of facilities or dispersal in the town, and various sites.

IMPLEMENTATION, FUNDING AND PLANNING GUIDANCE

A detailed section is included which highlights potential means of implementing the strategy, funding sources, planning policies and guidance on the formulation of developer contributions

REVIEW AND MONITORING

Advice is provided on the need to review and monitor the strategy over its lifetime.

ACTION PLAN

A detailed action plan is included which will need to be updated as the strategy's implementation proceeds.

1. INTRODUCTION

Why the need for a strategy?

In June 2006, the Audit Commission's report; "Public sports and recreation services – making them fit for the future" made a number of criticisms regarding the strategic planning of facilities, resulting in poor provision in terms of location, quality and failure to meet changing needs and customer expectations. The report's recommendations identified a need to ensure that Local Authorities improved their strategic planning of sport and recreation provision by assessing current and future needs, collaborating with other sectors and working across boundaries in the procurement, planning and delivery of services. In addition, there was a need for Local Authorities to appraise options for facility provision in a transparent way, testing the market to ensure that the best options were identified.

Traditional means of facility funding such as the Lottery and more recently Building Schools for the Future (BSF), are diminishing. Although new investment is occurring via developer contributions and the Private Finance Initiative (PFI), without a clear strategic vision and direction at the local level, the impact of such investment will fail to be maximised.

The advent of a new planning system involving the preparation of Local Development Frameworks, and lessons learnt from early examinations of these suggest that a comprehensive needs and evidence base is necessary to ensure that future requirements are planned for accurately. The Strategy produced should comprise, or lead to, defensible planning guidance for sport, including an improved evidence base for the identification of the level of developer contributions required to meet the Council's strategic objectives for sport.

Sport England's Facilities Improvement Service, through which this strategy was managed, aims to help local authorities improve the ways in which they plan for sport and recreation, enabling them to use key strategic planning tools such as Active Places Power which will allow authorities to develop a robust understanding and assessment of need which will then underpin Local Authorities planning for sport.

These form the drivers for the current strategy's preparation.

Producing the Strategy

The strategy was prepared for the Council with the assistance of consultants. Comprehensive use was made in the initial assessment of the variety of strategic planning pools available from Sport England (see below) and others, managers and operators of sports facilities were contacted at an early stage, and the local sports community was given ample opportunity to contribute at two distinct stages of the process – at the initial scoping and when the assessment had identified options and issues leading to the final strategy. The whole process is set out in this report, including the detailed responses from the consultation exercises.

Strategy Vision

The overall vision for the Facilities Strategy established from the outset is:

We will work with our partners to plan and provide a network of sporting facilities to meet the needs of Copeland citizens of today and the future.

To achieve the vision the following objectives have been agreed:

- *Increase and sustain participation, through appropriate provision for increased activity and identified priority groups*
- *Create opportunities for young people and provide wider value to local communities e.g. through development of community sports hubs*
- *Facilitate improved health and quality of life, for those living in and working in, or visiting Copeland, as well as those who will live there in the future*
- *Contribute to social cohesion, and enjoyment, particularly in areas of economic and social deprivation*
- *Facilitate with our partners high performance and training and seamless pathways to achieve potential e.g. through specialist centres of national/ regional importance*
- *Bring economic benefit to the borough*
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- *Maximise available resources for investment and development of provision*
- *Be supported by strong, coaching and appropriate support services and programming*
- *Have facilities that are sustainable and manageable*

Strategy Scope

The purpose of this strategy is to provide a framework for the prioritisation, provision and development of sports facilities in the borough. By highlighting deficiencies and opportunities for improvement, it will set the context for decisions about the priority and delivery of local sports facilities up to 2021 and 2026.

The scope of this strategy is to consider all built sports facilities which meet the needs of the wider community, including sports halls, swimming pools, health and fitness centres, indoor bowls and tennis, artificial grass pitches and athletics tracks, and any specialist sports facility needs identified. A separate study has been done at the same time of playing pitches and other outdoor sports facilities.

Developing the Strategy

The strategy has been informed by an assessment of all the built sports facilities across the district. A range of Sport England tools have also been used to identify supply and demand and this is explained below. An audit and assessment of outdoor sports pitches was undertaken as part of a wider sport and open space strategy, and this has been used to inform this report where appropriate.

Use of Sport England Planning Tools

Active Places Power

The Active Places Power website has been developed to provide a planning tool for sports facilities. It has been designed to assist in investment decisions across Government and to help local authorities carry out audits of their sports provision and develop local strategies. It will also help national governing bodies of sport in identifying and planning where they need to improve and invest in facilities for their

participants. Active Places Power has a single database that holds information on sports facilities throughout England. It includes local authority leisure facilities, as well as commercial and club sites.

The site gives users enhanced capabilities for analysing the data on the system. These include standard reports, census data based thematics and a series of push-button analyses (based on the complex modelling functionality developed by the University of Edinburgh) designed to examine the catchments of existing and potential facilities. The site includes tools for detailed analysis, including thematic maps, reports, advanced queries and strategic planning tools, all of which have been utilised in this study

Sports Facilities Calculator

The SFC has been created by Sport England to help local authorities quantify how much additional demand for the key community sports facilities (swimming pools, sports halls and artificial turf pitches), is generated by populations of new growth, development and regeneration areas. It is designed to be used to estimate the facility needs of discrete populations, such as sports hall and swimming pool created by a new community of a residential development.

Whilst the SFC can be used to estimate the swimming and sports hall needs for whole area populations, such as for a whole local authorities, there are dangers in how these figures are subsequently used at this level in matching it with current supply for strategic gap analysis.

The SFC does not take account of:

- Facility location compared to demand
- Capacity and availability of facilities - opening hours
- Cross boundary movement of demand
- Travel networks and topography
- Attractiveness of facilities

For these reasons total demand figures generated by the SFC should not simply be compared with facilities within the same area. The SFC is therefore used in this study to give an overall indication of demand, but is only used in conjunction with other tools to assess the adequacy of existing provision, and highlight future needs

Facilities Planning Model

The FPM is a computer model (developed and used on licence from Edinburgh University), which helps to assess the strategic provision of community sports facilities. So far the work has concentrated on the major community sports facilities of sports halls, swimming pools and synthetic turf/artificial grass pitches.

The Model has been developed as a means of:

- Assessing requirements for different types of community sports facilities on a local, regional or national scale
- Helping local authorities determine an adequate level of sports facility provision to meet their local needs
- Testing 'what if' scenarios in provision and changes in demand, this includes testing the impact of opening, relocating and closing facilities and the impact population changes would have on the needs of the sports facilities.

In its simplest form the model seeks to assess whether the capacity of existing facilities for a particular sport are capable of meeting local demand for that sport taking into account how far people are prepared to travel to a facility. In order to estimate the level of sports facility

provision in an area, the model compares the number of facilities (supply), by the demand for that facility (demand) that the local population will produce.

The level of participation is estimated using national participation rates and applying them to the number of people who live in the local area.

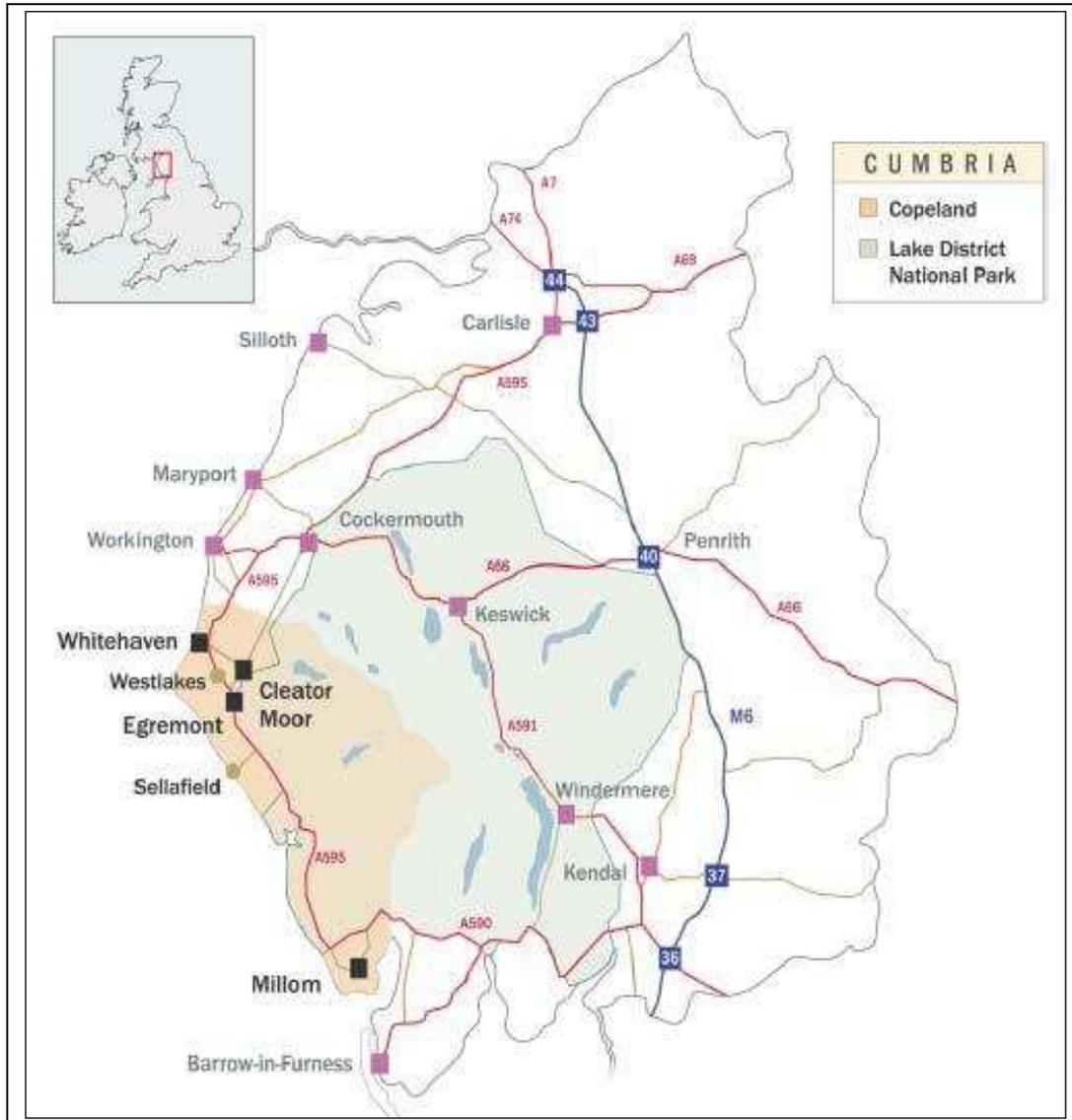
The outputs considered in this study are from Sport England's National Facilities Audit Dataset as of January 2010.

Small Community Halls

Small halls and community venues (such as village halls and community centres) host a variety of recreation and social/community activities. These venues come in all shapes and sizes, and whilst some may not be suited to hosting any formal sports activity, they can provide important local venues for social contact, meetings, crèches, keep fit and other such activities satisfying important local needs.

The local value of these facilities has been acknowledged through inclusion of an Appendix 3 dealing with their existing and desirable future provision.

2. A PROFILE OF COPELAND



Map 1 Location of Copeland

Location and Geography

Copeland is in the Western Lake District area of Cumbria, the most north-western county in England. The borough is home to 70,400 people and covers an area of 284 square miles, two thirds of which lie in the Lake District National Park. The Borough consists of four towns, Whitehaven, Cleator Moor and Egremont in the north, and Millom in the south of the borough. The Georgian town of Whitehaven is the largest settlement in the borough and has a population of 25,500 people. There are a number of smaller settlements providing housing, shops and local services, including Cleator, Frizington, Bigrigg and Drigg. Outside the four main towns, the borough is predominantly rural in character.

The borough contains England's highest mountain and its deepest lake, and includes 50 miles of coastline, which at St Bees Head incorporates the only section of Heritage Coast in North West England.

Population and Population Projections.

The combined effect of a variety of economic issues is seen in the long period of population decline experienced in Copeland over the last 50 years. Despite generally high birth rates, equally high death rates and out migration resulted in an overall loss of 5.7% between 1961 and 2001, much of which was concentrated among the younger age groups. However the Borough is slowly moving towards a more stable population, with the population increasing by 1.6% during 2001-2009.

The population is estimated to increase over the next 10-15 years by up to about 5% by 2026

AGE GROUP	2010	%	2021	%	2026	%
0-4	3.8	5.4	3.6	4.9	3.5	4.7
5-9	3.5	5.0	3.8	5.2	3.8	5.1
10-14	4.0	5.7	4.1	5.6	3.9	5.2
15-19	4.2	6.0	3.5	4.8	3.8	5.1
20-24	3.6	5.1	2.9	4.0	2.8	3.8
25-29	3.8	5.4	3.8	5.2	3.5	4.7
30-34	3.6	5.1	4.4	6.0	4.1	5.5
35-39	4.3	6.1	4.3	5.9	4.5	6.0
40-44	5.3	7.5	3.9	5.3	4.5	6.0
45-49	5.8	8.2	4.4	6.0	4.1	5.5
50-54	5.3	7.5	5.6	7.6	4.6	6.2
55-59	4.8	6.8	6.1	8.3	5.7	7.7
60-64	5.1	7.2	5.5	7.5	6.1	8.2
65-69	4.0	5.7	4.6	6.3	5.3	7.1
70-74	3.4	4.8	4.7	6.4	4.3	5.8
75-79	2.6	3.7	3.4	4.6	4.2	5.6
80-84	1.8	2.6	2.5	3.4	2.8	3.8
85-89	1.0	1.4	1.5	2.0	1.8	2.4
90+	0.4	0.6	0.8	1.1	1.1	1.5
All ages	70.4		73.3		74.4	

Other demographic characteristics which impinge on sport include the following :

- There is a slight majority of males over females which is unlike the regional and national picture
- The population is generally slightly younger than the average
- The population is 99% white compared with 93% regionally and 90% nationally, and the lack of minority ethnic groups means that conventional sports activities are likely to be more prevalent

The population is also expected to age considerably. This will have significant implications for activity rates in sport. While the overall population will increase by 4.1% by 2021 (5.7% by 2026), the active population (i.e. those within the 6-55 age group used by Sport England for planning purposes) will decrease by 5.7%/8.5%. The non active proportion of the population (those aged under 6 and over 55) will increase as a proportion of total population from 38% to 46% by 2026.

		2010		2021		Change 2010 to 2021 %	2026		Change 2010 to 2026 %
Non active	0-5	4500		4360		-3.1	4260		-5.3
Active population	6 to 55	43660	62%	41160	56%	-5.7	39960	54%	-8.5
Non active	>55	22140		27880		25.9	30160		36.2
Total population		70400		73300		4.1	74400		5.7

All population estimates are 2008-based ONS projections.

Accessibility

The proportion of local residents in Copeland without access to a car is 20.2%, which compares with 19.5% in England and 22.4% in the region (figures taken from Sport England's FPM outputs 2010). Walking accessibility to sports facilities in the main towns is relatively good because of the size of the main settlements, but those without use of a car in the rural areas effectively have limited access to sports opportunities, which mainly exist in the towns.

Health

The headline figures for health in Copeland are taken from the 2009 Health Profiles produced annually by the Association of Public Health Observatories and funded by the Department of Health.

The health of people in Copeland is varied. Just over half of the indicators are significantly worse than the England average, including obesity in adults (an estimate), which is the sixth worst rate in England, and GCSE achievement. There are also a number of indicators that are similar to the average, such as deaths from smoking. A few indicators are significantly better, such as drug misuse. There are inequalities by deprivation and gender. For example, men and women in the least deprived areas can expect to live around eight years longer than men and women in the most deprived areas. Over the last ten years there have been decreases in death rates from all causes and in early death rates remain above the national averages and early deaths from heart disease and stroke, and cancer. The rates from cancer have decreased slower than average. The health of children and young people is generally worse than the England average, including breast-feeding initiation and teenage pregnancy. However, the percentage of children who are physically active is significantly better than average.

In more detail, the obesity levels in Copeland are higher than the national and regional averages, both for adults and young people

Area	Adult Obesity		Childhood Obesity	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Copeland	14.7	26.9%	0.1	11.9%
North West	1,286.3	23.4%	6.8	9.6%
England	10,005.6	24.2%	48.6	9.6%

Source: Department of Health: Year: 2006-2008 (Adults) 2008/09 (Children)

Life expectancy in Copeland is lower for women but about average for men

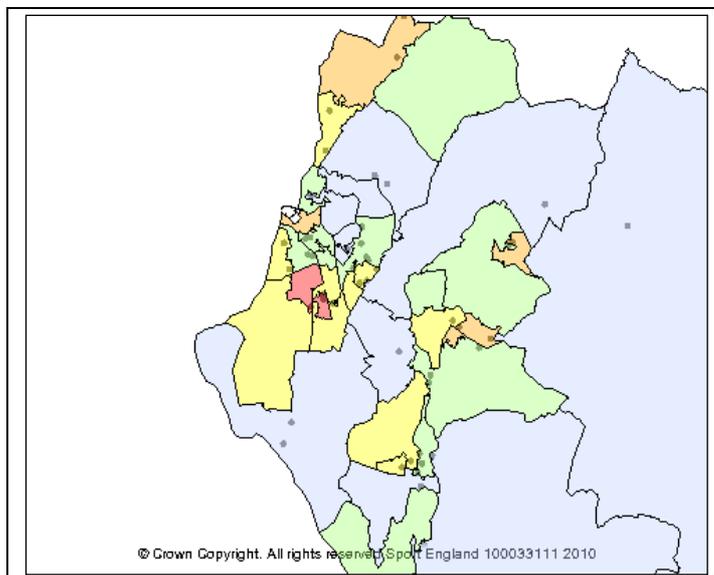
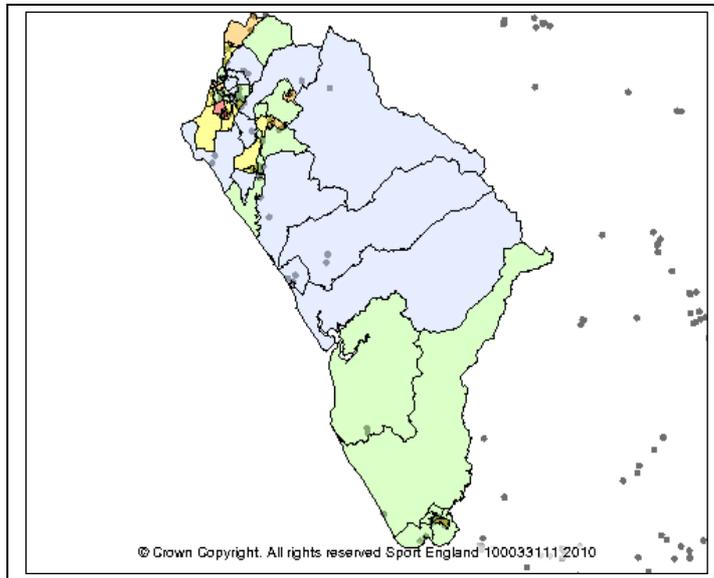
Area	Life Expectancy	
	Male	Female
Copeland	77.2	79.8
North West	76.3	80.6
England	77.9	82.0

Source: Department of Health: Year: 2006-2008: Measure: Life expectancy in years

Deprivation

Copeland ranks 78th out of 354 councils on the indices of multiple deprivation (IMD 2007), just outside the top 20%. In particular areas - such as skills and education, health and disability, and total employment – Copeland is relatively more deprived than indicated by the overall IMD.

The most deprived wards overall are Sandwith (just outside the worst 1% nationally), Mirehouse, Cleator Moor and Harbour (all within the worst 10% nationally)



Maps 2 & 3 Deprivation levels in Copeland (2004 IMD)

Economic profile.

In common with many other areas of the country, Copeland has experienced structural change in industry over the last 30 years. There have been job losses in mining, engineering, manufacturing, chemicals and more recently the nuclear sector. The borough is home to Sellafield, the largest nuclear reprocessing site in Europe. Over the past 40–50 years the site has provided the majority of opportunities in the borough for local people to train and gain qualifications and has stimulated the development of new

businesses in related fields. The Sellafield site contains more than 1,000 facilities all performing a wide range of tasks related to decommissioning the UK's nuclear legacy and fuel recycling, manufacture and waste management. Complete decommissioning of the Sellafield site could take more than 50 years, although effects are likely to be felt much sooner, with jobs expected to reduce from 10,500 to 4,000 by 2018. Decommissioning of the site will have major repercussions for the borough.

The economically active population in Copeland is 77.9%, which is above the average for the North West (76.7%) but below the average for Great Britain (78.6%).

In March 2008 the borough had a lower unemployment rate (4.2%) than both West Cumbria (4.3%) and the North West 5.7%. The low unemployment rate masks pockets of higher unemployment at ward level particularly in North Copeland, with just under half the wards in Copeland appearing in the worst 20% nationally. The latest unemployment data suggests that unemployment is rising.

Geography	Unemployed	Economically Active	Rate
Copeland	3.2	35.5	9.1%
North West	287.1	3,366.9	8.5%
England	2,029.0	26,305.2	7.7%
Source: Annual Population Survey Year: 2009			

The mean annual income of residents in Copeland in 2007 was £23,280, significantly higher than the average mean annual income of residents in Allerdale (£20,360), Cumbria (£20,570) and throughout the North West (£22,147). This is due mainly to the impact of Sellafield.

Copeland's Sports Participation Profile

Participation in sport.

The Active People Survey undertaken by Sport England is the largest ever survey of sport and active recreation to be undertaken in Europe. [Active People Survey 3](#) (2008/9) was completed in October 2009, and enables comparisons to be made with similar data gathered in previous surveys. The survey provides by far the largest sample size ever established for a sport and recreation survey and allows levels of detailed analysis previously unavailable. It identifies how participation varies from place to place and between different groups in the population.

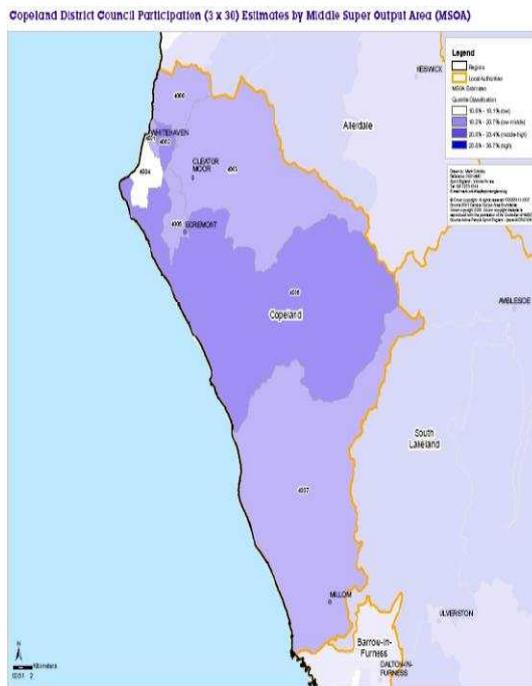
The table below shows the proportion of adults in Copeland who undertake 30 minutes moderate intensity sport in various frequencies (as measured over a 28 day period), compared with the national and north west average. This is the measure of NI8 participation. (these figures do not include recreational walking or infrequent recreational cycling).

Indicator	Year	Copeland			North West			England		
		All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female
0 days / 0x30	2005/06	56.3%	52.3%	60.1%	51.9%	46.1%	57.2%	50.0%	45.1%	54.6%
	2007/09	55.7%	52.7%	58.6%	49.4%	43.3%	55.1%	47.8%	42.4%	53.0%
1-3 days	2005/06	6.9%	7.7%	6.0%	8.0%	8.5%	7.6%	8.8%	9.5%	8.1%
	2007/09	6.8%	8.7%	*	8.0%	8.4%	7.6%	9.0%	9.8%	8.3%
4-7 days /	2005/06	10.1%	8.4%	11.8%	11.4%	12.0%	10.9%	12.0%	12.8%	11.3%

Copeland Leisure Needs Assessment Final Report April 2011

1x30	2007/09	12.2%	9.9%	14.5%	12.1%	13.2%	11.1%	12.7%	13.5%	11.9%
8-11 days / 2x30	2005/06	7.4%	9.6%	*	7.9%	8.7%	7.1%	8.0%	8.7%	7.3%
	2007/09	5.5%	*	*	8.7%	9.5%	8.0%	8.7%	9.5%	7.9%
12-19 days / 3x30	2005/06	7.9%	8.8%	7.0%	9.6%	10.9%	8.4%	9.6%	10.9%	8.4%
	2007/09	8.7%	10.1%	7.4%	10.9%	12.4%	9.5%	10.7%	12.2%	9.3%
12+ days / 3x30 - NI8	2005/06	19.5%	21.8%	17.2%	20.8%	24.6%	17.2%	21.3%	24.0%	18.7%
	2007/09	20.0%	23.7%	16.1%	21.7%	25.5%	18.2%	21.8%	24.8%	18.9%
20+ days / 5x30	2005/06	11.6%	13.2%	10.0%	11.2%	13.7%	8.9%	11.7%	13.1%	10.3%
	2007/09	11.3%	13.7%	8.9%	10.9%	13.1%	8.7%	11.1%	12.6%	9.7%
Source: Active People Survey, Year: 2005/06 (APS1), 2007/09 (APS2/3) or 2008/09 (APS3) if LA sample is boosted, Measure: NI8 participation										

The comparable measure is 3 x 30 minutes per week as highlighted, and Copeland's participation is slightly below the national and regional average for both males and females.



Map 4 Activity rates by Super Output Area (from Sport England)

Within the borough, activity levels are lowest in the southern part of Whitehaven and highest in the central parishes.

Compared with the levels of activity that might be expected from the socio economic characteristics of the borough, participation 3 times per week is slightly less than expected.

Expected Participation	Copeland		North West		England	
	2005/06	2007/09	2005/06	2007/09	2005/06	2007/09
Expected	20.2%	21.4%	21.0%	22.5%	21.9%	22.5%
Observed	19.5%	20.0%	20.8%	21.7%	21.3%	21.8%
Difference	-0.7%	-1.4%	-0.2%	-0.7%	-0.6%	-0.7%
Source: Mindshare, Year 2005/06-2007/9, Measure: 3x30 minute sport sessions a week (NI8)						

Active People data only measures activity rates among the adult population 16 and over. The PE and Sport Strategy for Young People (PESSYP) aims to offer children and young people in England at least five hours of high quality PE and sport every week (for those aged 5-16 years). It is hoped that this will lead to a significant increase in the number of young people taking part in high quality club sport on a regular basis. The strategy is delivered on a local level through collaboration between [School Sport Partnerships](#), [County Sports Partnerships \(CSPs\)](#) and sports clubs accredited as meeting recognised national minimum standards such as Clubmark or equivalent operating standards by the NGBs to which they are affiliated. Data on participation by young people in PE and sport is collected on a regular basis, and the most recent relevant data for Copeland is set out below.

School year	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Total curriculum time in PE per week (average minutes = 115)	116	121	124	119	120	120	127	126	127	93	77
3 hours high quality PE and out of school sport per week (average 58%, national 57%)	67	78	73	76	79	79	42	39	35	45	34
Total number of pupils in inter-school competition (average 58%, national 49%)	25	62	56	75	80	76	64	66	43	47	27
Regular participation in competitive inter school sport (average 38%, national 23%)			35	46	51	51	41	39	34	30	19
Number of sports offered by school	Average 19.52										
Pupils participating in school club links (average 44%, national 33%)		44	49	64	58	52	44	40	35	31	28

The Copeland data suggests that activity rates and other indicators of participation in school based sport and PE in Copeland are above the national average.

APP has also measured other key performance indicators including volunteering, club membership, tuition and coaching received and satisfaction with local sports provision. Overall in all respects Copeland has lower levels than the national or regional average. The changes over the 3 years if significant are not large.

Indicator	Copeland			North West			England		
	2005/ 06	2007/ 08	2008/ 09	2005/ 06	2007/ 08	2008/ 09	2005 / 06	2007 / 08	2008/ 09
KPI2 - Volunteering at least one hour a week	4.6%	3.8%	4.5%	4.6%	5.0%	4.8%	4.7%	4.9%	4.7%
KPI3 - Club Membership in the last 4 weeks	19.8%	19.1%	20.1%	24.9%	24.2%	24.2%	25.1%	24.7%	24.1%
KPI4 - Received tuition / coaching in last 12 mths	13.3%	12.6%	13.5%	16.4%	16.5%	15.9%	18.0%	18.1%	17.5%
KPI5 - Took part in organised competition in last 12 months	14.3%	11.9%	13.5%	14.5%	14.5%	14.2%	15.0%	14.6%	14.4%
KPI6 - Satisfaction with local provision	64.6%	63.2%	66.4%	70.1%	66.5%	68.1%	69.5%	66.6%	68.4%

Source: Active People Survey , Year: 2005/06-2008/09, Measure: Key Performance Indicators 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

APS also shows the top 5 participant sports in each local authority, once per month regardless of duration or intensity. In Copeland these sports are set out in the table below. Swimming and cycling are also high participant sports at national and regional level, though not to the same degree as in Copeland. Gym participation is lower in Copeland than the average, and golf is higher.

Sport	Copeland		North West		England	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Cycling	8.0	14.7%	577.4	10.5%	4,983.3	12.0%
Swimming	8.6	15.6%	709.3	12.9%	5,352.0	12.9%
Gym	2.6	4.7%	588.5	10.7%	4,380.8	10.6%
Football	3.6	6.5%	452.7	8.2%	3,016.2	7.3%
Golf	2.3	4.3%	194.4	3.5%	1,449.0	3.5%
Remaining	30	54.2%	2,986	54.2%	22,236	53.7%

Source: APS3, Population data ONS Annual Population Survey 2008

Market Segmentation

Sport England has developed nineteen sporting segments to help understand the nation's attitudes and motivations – why they play sport and why they don't. The segments provide the knowledge to influence people to take part. This work is part of a drive by Sport England to get two million people doing more sport by 2012. Each segment can be explored at differing geographic levels. It is possible to find out what people's sporting habits are in a particular street, community, local authority or region.

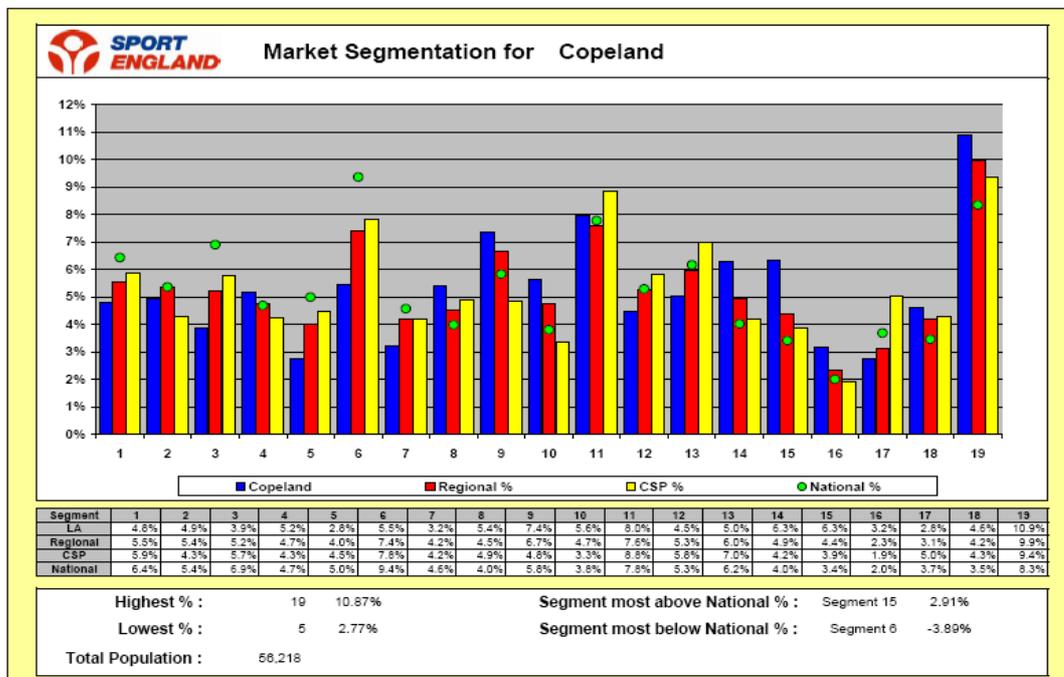
Name	Description	Copeland		North West		England	
		Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Ben	Competitive Male Urbanites	1.8	3.2%	216.9	4.0%	1,989.1	4.9%
Jamie	Sports Team Drinkers	2.6	4.8%	301.6	5.6%	2,162.9	5.4%
Chloe	Fitness Class Friends	1.5	2.7%	186.6	3.5%	1,896.5	4.7%
Leanne	Supportive Singles	2.2	3.9%	243.9	4.5%	1,711.6	4.3%
Helena	Career Focused Females	2.0	3.7%	232.7	4.3%	1,829.8	4.5%
Tim	Settling Down Males	3.2	5.7%	389.0	7.2%	3,554.0	8.8%
Alison	Stay at Home Mums	1.3	2.3%	175.2	3.2%	1,766.4	4.4%

Copeland Leisure Needs Assessment Final Report April 2011

Jackie	Middle England Mums	3.0	5.4%	285.1	5.3%	1,965.0	4.9%
Keve	Pub League Team Mates	4.1	7.3%	366.6	6.8%	2,386.6	5.9%
Paula	Stretched Single Mums	2.1	3.8%	207.2	3.8%	1,507.3	3.7%
Philip	Comfortable Mid-Life Males	5.0	8.9%	467.5	8.7%	3,480.0	8.6%
Elaine	Empty Nest Career Ladies	3.3	6.0%	327.8	6.1%	2,443.9	6.1%
Roger & Joy	Early Retirement Couples	3.2	5.7%	350.6	6.5%	2,723.7	6.8%
Brenda	Older Working Women	4.3	7.7%	337.2	6.3%	1,976.8	4.9%
Terry	Local 'Old Boys'	3.5	6.3%	248.5	4.6%	1,484.5	3.7%
Norma	Later Life Ladies	1.8	3.2%	135.0	2.5%	855.0	2.1%
Ralph & Phyllis	Comfortable Retired Couples	1.9	3.5%	174.7	3.2%	1,700.2	4.2%
Frank	Twilight Year Gents	3.0	5.3%	248.7	4.6%	1,612.9	4.0%
Elsie & Arnold	Retirement Home Singles	5.8	10.4%	497.3	9.2%	3,206.3	8.0%

Overall in Copeland, the predominant participation groups are as follows (these groups comprise more than 7% of the local population):

- Elsie and Arnold (segment 19) – retirement home singles, least active and oldest group, interested in walking, bowls and dancing, but unlikely to participate in much sport because their health is often not good enough
- Philip (segment 11) – comfortable mid life professional male, health conscious and interested in badminton, cycling and cricket, most active in his age group
- Brenda (segment 14) - Older Working Women, in factory job, with little interest in sport, although might go swimming if the opportunity arose
- Keve (segment 9) - Pub League Team Mates, self employed and technical, one of least active in his age group though might train with the local football team, favourite sports football, pool and tenpin bowling



Market Segmentation in Copeland (2007 data)

Generally these dominant groups are relatively inactive (with the exception of Philip) and not the types of groups where sports facilities are particularly important. They represent about one third of the total adult population of the borough, and the types of facilities that might attract them include swimming pools, pitches and sports halls for badminton. By contrast the segments nationally with the highest participation rates in sport (Ben, Jamie, Helena, Tim and Ralph and Phyllis) are relatively poorly represented in Copeland. This distribution of user types has significant implications for facility provision.

Overall conclusions

Any proposals for sports facility provision in Copeland must consider the following factors:

- The borough is located on the edge of the county and country, and links with facilities and services in neighbouring LA area are not good, except possibly in the north with Allerdale.
- There is a concentration of population in the four main towns of the borough and facilities already in existence are accessible to most local residents, but the rural areas (albeit that population is sparse) are remote from facilities. Millom is also detached from other opportunities and has to be self sufficient for sport.
- The population is slightly younger than the average, but is anticipated to age rapidly over the timeframe of the strategy. There is limited housing and therefore population growth envisaged, and the sport playing age groups will decline in numbers.
- The current population has an unusual majority of males over females, with different patterns of participation in and propensity for sport.
- The existing and likely future population is mainly white and there are few cultural influences from minority ethnic groups
- The existing health of local residents in Copeland is varied, but levels of obesity among both adults and young people are high
- Deprivation levels overall are higher than average and some wards are very disadvantaged, particularly in and around Whitehaven, with associated impacts on sport.
- There is a robust but declining economic base with heavy reliance on Sellafield, where wages are high, but which is subject to significant downsizing in the future.
- Participation in sport is relatively low, and there is less volunteering and coaching activity than the average. However school based sport and PE is undertaken with higher regularity than the average, and this is a pointer to subsequent participation by adults in sport.
- The predominant market segments in the borough are those with low activity levels in sport

3. CONSULTATION PHASE ONE

A wide-ranging consultation exercise was undertaken as part of the wider PPG17 study, and a full report is given as part of that work. Specific interviews and focus group discussions were undertaken with individuals and groups involved in sport at an initial stage of the strategy process, and these discussions are summarised below and set out in more detail in the Appendix 2.

Sports Focus Group (Millom) - for a small town Millom is considered to have a good supply of facilities. The weaknesses are the lack of a swimming pool fit for purpose, the need to coordinate all facilities in the town and the reliance on voluntary effort, particularly at the Recreation centre. Millom is an isolated community and future facility provision should recognise this rather than adopt the normal 'urban' model of provision.

Sports Focus Group (Whitehaven) - the main facilities in Whitehaven are centrally located with good accessibility to residents. There may be some capacity issues with the main public pool and sports halls. School sports facilities are available but dominated by football training. The main weaknesses of existing provision are the lack of coordination of provision and management by the main providers, the geographical dispersal of the main facilities and the lack of AGPs for community use. Future facility provision might be concentrated in one location and there are arguments for Hensingham and the town centre/Pow Beck

NCL (operators of the main 'public' facilities) – there is a lack of indoor sports space in Cleator Moor, an unmet demand for gym provision in Whitehaven and a need for a smaller hall/activity space at the leisure centre. Most facilities are considered of good quality though there is an ongoing need for significant maintenance. The main issue is the lack of a comprehensive strategy for sport and leisure in Copeland. School facilities are underused and should be managed cooperatively, in conjunction with all sports facilities in the borough.

Copeland Borough Council Cultural Services – facilities are considered broadly adequate, though the pool and sports centre are perceived at capacity. Maintenance of the main facilities is good, but further development of the pool and sports centre is difficult to achieve for a number of reasons. An overall strategy for future sports facility provision is urgently needed. The use of school facilities by the community should be maximised

Copeland Stadium/Cumbria Sports Academy – the existing facilities in the town are perceived to be at capacity and there is a need for additional facilities, as well as a good stadium in Whitehaven. The Academy has a major aspiration to build a multi use complex on the existing site but there is no apparent coordination with the plans and intentions of the Borough Council.

School Sports Partnership – school facilities for sport are considered to be adequate to deliver the curriculum and after school activities, though there are some quality issues. There is a need to ensure the community usage of primary schools to fill some existing gaps in provision. A fundamental rethink is required on facility provision in Whitehaven and possible future location within the town.

Millom Network Centre/Millom Swimming Pool Group – both organisations have a vision to seek the provision of a new pool in Millom, together with health and fitness facilities, for which

they see a clear demand. Joint management of existing and new sports facilities in the town would be supported.

Millom Recreation Centre – Millom is well provided for sports facilities, but these are dispersed across the town. The need for a new pool is supported but there is an issue about the best location for new gym facilities

Cumbria NHS Health Improvement – there is a need for more facilities at a lower level (e.g. at community centres, village halls and primary school) and outreach programmes to encourage more residents to become more active in general

Parish Council – access in rural areas is poor to the main town facilities and the availability of all facilities (not just those specifically designed for sport) should be enhanced and advertised.

Whitehaven Squash Club – a dedicated squash facility with fitness centre and 4 glass backed courts is a priority, possibly on a school site

Lakeland Sprinters Cycling Club – there is a need for a purpose built cycle track with a hard surface and available for other users when not required by cycling

Copeland Netball League – the league requires additional facilities to enable to sport to continue to develop, in the long term comprising 4 indoor and 4 outdoor court centres.

Football – requires more indoor (training) facilities during the peak periods and high season.

Summary of main points

Although the consultation resulted in a relatively small response, there were a number of recurring themes which were important to consider when undertaking the assessment and subsequent strategy:

- The generally good level of existing sports provision and relatively good quality
- Poor accessibility outside the main settlements and the potential role of village halls and primary schools
- The need to maximise the community usage of school sports facilities
- A demand for specialist facilities in the area
- Locational issues for new facilities in Whitehaven
- The need to treat Millom almost as a special case in view of its isolation and remoteness
- The apparent lack of coordination between different providers and the need for a clear forward strategy for future facility provision and the management of existing facilities

These issues have been carried forward to the next stage of assessing the current and future demand for a range of facilities in the borough.

4. NEEDS ASSESSMENT

SPORTS HALLS

The data and assessments are taken from a variety of sources including local authority records, and Sport England’s planning tools, including Active Places Power, Facilities Planning Model, and Sports Facilities Calculator. The data have been analysed separately, partly because the criteria for each tool differ slightly, but are brought together in the final assessment. The assessment deals with the following topics – supply/quantity, demand, accessibility and quality. The context for the assessment refers to previous studies undertaken for sports facilities in the Copeland area and referred to above in the report.

PREVIOUS STUDIES

West Cumbria Sports Facility Analysis - Both Allerdale and Copeland have a quantifiable provision well above the national average standard used by the SFC. The Regional Strategic Evidence Base states that there is no one local authority area where the level of unmet demand justifies new sports hall provision now or by 2018 whilst the FPM analysis suggests there is limited unmet demand in terms of amount of courts - the equivalent of only 3 courts across each of the whole local authority areas.

It therefore appears that there is no quantifiable evidence for the provision of a new sports hall within West Cumbria. Similar to swimming pools (below), the issues going forward may be the ageing stock and enhancement of existing sports hall provision, combined with rationalisation and replacement as appropriate. In addition, the functionality of some of the older small size halls some of which are in good strategic locations particularly in Cleator Moor may appear to be an issue that needs to be addressed.

CURRENT STUDY

ACTIVE PLACES POWER

Supply

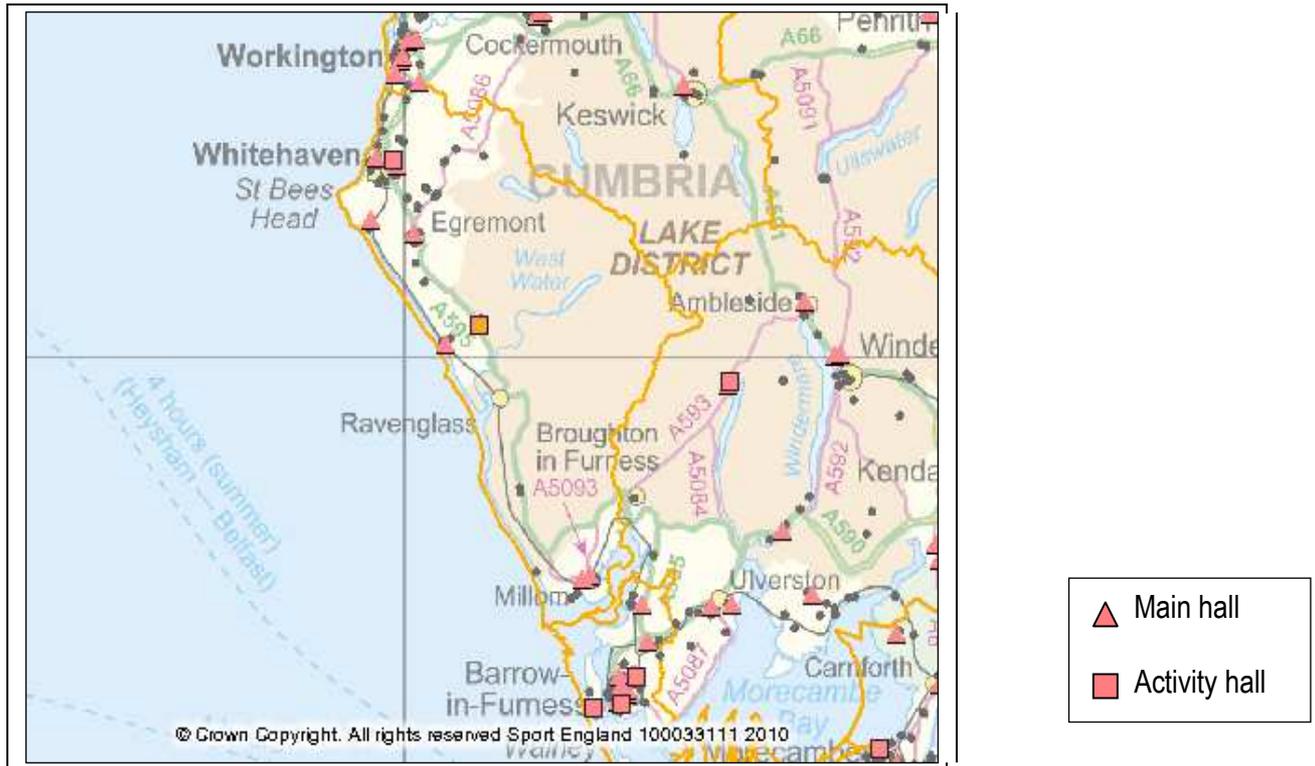
There are 9 main sports and a further 2 ancillary halls on 9 sites within Copeland, with a total floor space of 5931m² (one hall is now understood to have closed). Only one of these is owned by Copeland Council although 2 halls are accessible to the public on a pay and play basis. The remainder are mainly sports halls on school sites which allow public access outside of school times, mainly booked to clubs and local groups. Three halls (one closed) are private.

Site Name	Ward	Courts	Size	Ownership/ management	Access	Year Built/ refurb
MILLOM RECREATION CENTRE	Main	Newtown	4	594m ²	Local Authority /in house	Pay and Play 1984/ 2003
WHITEHAVEN SPORTS CENTRE	Main	Harbour	9	1600m ²	Local Authority /trust	Pay and Play 1976/ 2007
SEASCALE SPORTS HALL	Main	Seascale	1	180m ²	Local Authority/ community organisation	Sports Club / Community Association 1982

Site Name		Ward	Courts	Size	Ownership/ management	Access	Year Built/ refurb
ST BEES SCHOOL	Main	St. Bees	4	561m ²	Other Independent School/in house	Sports Club / Community Association	1987/ 2007
ST BENEDICT'S HIGH SCHOOL	Main	Hensingham	4	420m ²	Voluntary Aided School in house	Sports Club / Community Association	1976/ 2008
ST BENEDICT'S HIGH SCHOOL	Activity	Hensingham	-	200m ²	Voluntary Aided School /in house	Sports Club / Community Association	1976
WEST LAKES ACADEMY	Main	Egremont South	6	918m ²	Academies /in house	Sports Club / Community Association	1990
WHITEHAVEN SCHOOL	Main	Hensingham	6	918m ²	Community school /in house	Sports Club / Community Association	1996
WHITEHAVEN SCHOOL	Main	Hensingham	1	180m ²	Community school /in house	Private Use	1996
BLACK COMBE JUNIOR SCHOOL	Main	Holborn Hill	1	180m ²	Community school /in house	Private Use	1971
HARECROFT HALL SCHOOL (closed)	Activity	Gosforth	-	180m ²	Other Independent School/in house	Private Use	1925
Total				5931m²			

37% of the total floor space is available on a pay and play basis, and most of the remainder (54%) to clubs and local groups. Some of the halls are single court facilities, which limits the range of activities that can take place. However there are 6 halls with four or more courts, including three with 6 courts or more.

If only halls with 4 courts or more and in full community usage are included (Whitehaven SC and Millom RC), and an allowance (50%) is made for halls not in secured community use (St Bees, Whitehaven, St Benedict's, and West Lakes Academy), there are in reality 23 courts available to the community, the equivalent of nearly 6 full size (4-court) halls



Map 5 Location of sports halls in and around Copeland

In addition, there are a number of other 4 court sports halls outside Copeland but within 20 minutes drive of the edge of the borough, as follows:

- Lakes College West Cumbria
- Stainton School and Science College, Workington
- Southfield Technology College, Workington
- Workington Leisure Centre

There are other main halls in Ulverston, Dalton and Barrow, but these are outside a reasonable 20-minute drive of the southern edge of Copeland.

DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING SPORTS HALLS

Whitehaven Sports Centre was originally built as a 10-court main hall, but currently has 9 courts, with an area set aside for children’s play. There is ancillary accommodation for a spinning room, meeting room suitable also for parties, crèche, 4 squash courts, corridors with space for table tennis, storage (inadequate for current requirements) and an extensive health and fitness centre, 150m² dance studio, family and other changing, steam room, viewing areas and offices and administrative areas. As might be expected of a main sports centre, there is a wide range of activities in the main and ancillary halls, but a heavy emphasis on 5 and 6 a side football, which occurs every evening. Junior schools use during the daytime, but the centre is relatively quiet during the day, albeit very busy at peak times in the evening. Recent surveys of the condition of the centre indicate that there are significant maintenance needs over the next few years, with work required to the roof and other areas.

Millom Recreation Centre was built in 1984 and has been recently refurbished. It is a conventional 4-court hall with adequate height clearance for most sports – the main hall also

includes a dividing net and cricket nets. Storage is inadequate for all users. There are ancillary facilities including meeting room, entrance hall, vending area and administration space, and a small health and fitness gym is currently located in a former storage area with plans to move this to the upstairs storage and viewing area. Usage is quite comprehensive and comprises a range of casual, club, training and coaching activities including cricket, football, badminton, table tennis, dance, aerobics and circuit training, as well as children's play activities. The management have plans for a wider range of activities but are constrained by space and finance.

West Lakes Academy Sports Hall is a 6-court hall, with associated school gym (1 court) and climbing wall. The main hall is used by the local community from 5.30 to 9.30 for a variety of activities mainly football training, badminton and netball, on a block booking system and at an hourly rate of £20. There is an apparent lack of demand for usage at the weekends and no use is made in the school holidays owing to the lack of supervisory site staff. The hall was built in 21990 and there are ongoing problems with the roof, while the lights are understood to be substandard.

Whitehaven School Sports Hall was built in 1996, and comprises 6 badminton courts/2 basketball or 1 netball. There is also a school gym and school hall with some outside use by local groups. The hall is let to a range of local clubs and managed through the school office. Hourly bookings are taken mainly for football and rugby training as well as netball. Hourly letting rates are £20 but there is no changing or showers. Community hours are from 5.00 to 9.00 most evenings, 6.30 on Fridays, and current usage is about 50% of capacity, though increasing over the school year. Hours are constrained by caretaking issues, and there are also problems with noise. The hall is not available either to the school or community at exams times at Christmas and in the early summer.

St Benedict's School Sports Hall is a small 4 court hall and there is also a small gymnasium. The sports halls is currently used 2 night a week for a small number of hours by local badminton and rugby clubs, and year round by a local cricket club for nets. Whitehaven Gymnastics Club uses the gym twice a week but there is little interest on other evenings. Although a local judo club have made inquiries. Letting of the halls includes the use of changing facilities. The PE and sports hall area is separate from the main school with a different alarm system, and capable of more community usage. .

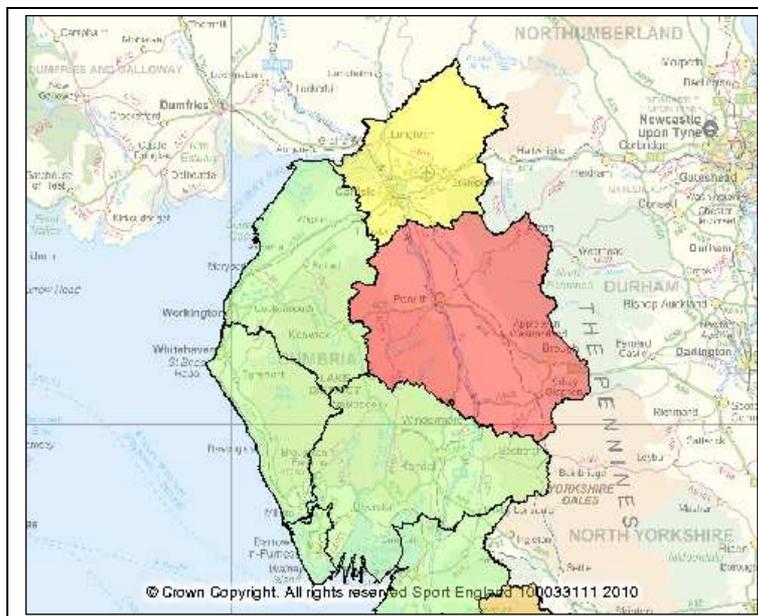
St Bees School Sports Hall was originally built over 20 years ago and has recently been upgraded. It is a conventional 4 court hall with adequate height clearance, and the overall facilities on site also include a small health and fitness gym, 2 squash courts and a climbing wall on 1 wall of the main hall. Community use is available during weekday evenings from 5.00 to 8.30 and the main hirers are football clubs from as far afield as Whitehaven and Sellafield, who hire in 10 week blocks throughout the year, and a local cricket club who use the hall for a few weeks after Easter every year. There is no weekend use and limited holiday use. Changing facilities for males and females are available in addition to school facilities in the main school

Facilities per 1000 population - APP enables a comparison to be made with other local authority areas by benchmarking sports hall provision per 1000 population.

m ² per 1000 population	
Copeland	85.58
Cumbria	94.93
NW region	83.02
England	81.22
Best in region (Eden)	134.39

The relative supply of sports halls (all sizes above 1 court) in Copeland is therefore slightly above the regional and national average, though lower than the average for Cumbria, and only about 2/3 of the best provided LA in the region. Copeland provision is 18th best in the region of 43 LAs but actually the lowest of the 6 LAs in the county.

Relative supply is better than average when only 4 court halls and larger are taken into account (though more detailed statistics are not available from APP).



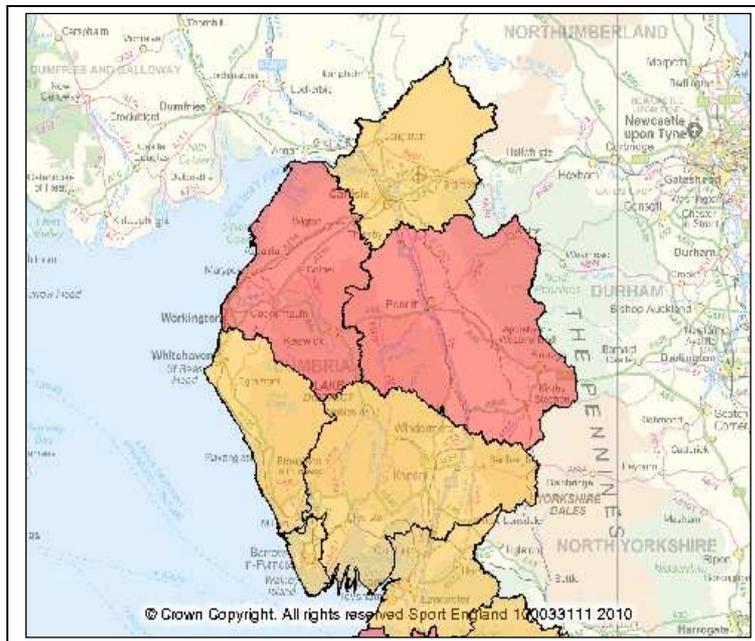
Map 6 Sports halls per 1000 in Cumbria – all halls (* see key in Appendix1)

Overall therefore sports hall provision in terms of relative supply and compared with other areas is quite high.

Local Supply and Demand Balance - this tool allows an assessment to be made of supply against the demand generated within the borough itself. A score of 100% indicates that demand is being met (in statistical terms), although a ratio of 130% would accommodate a 'comfort' factor. This measure does not take into account the import and export of demand between Local Authority areas, the location of facilities within the borough or the condition of facilities, and should be treated as a rough indicator of the adequacy of sports halls.

% demand met	
Copeland	137%
Cumbria	164%
NW region	139%
England	134%
Best in region (Eden)	209%

The local supply demand balance in Copeland is around the national and regional average, though below the average for the county and only 2/3 of Eden which has the best provision in the region. Copeland is ranked 23/43 in the region and 5/6 in Cumbria.



Map 7 Local supply and demand - all halls in community use (* see key in Appendix 1)

This supply and demand balance can also be assessed by access to different types of halls as follows.

Ownership	Percentage of Demand Met			
	Copeland	England	NW region	Cumbria
Local Authority and School/college	136%	131%	135%	164%
Local Authority only	78%	31%	35%	36%

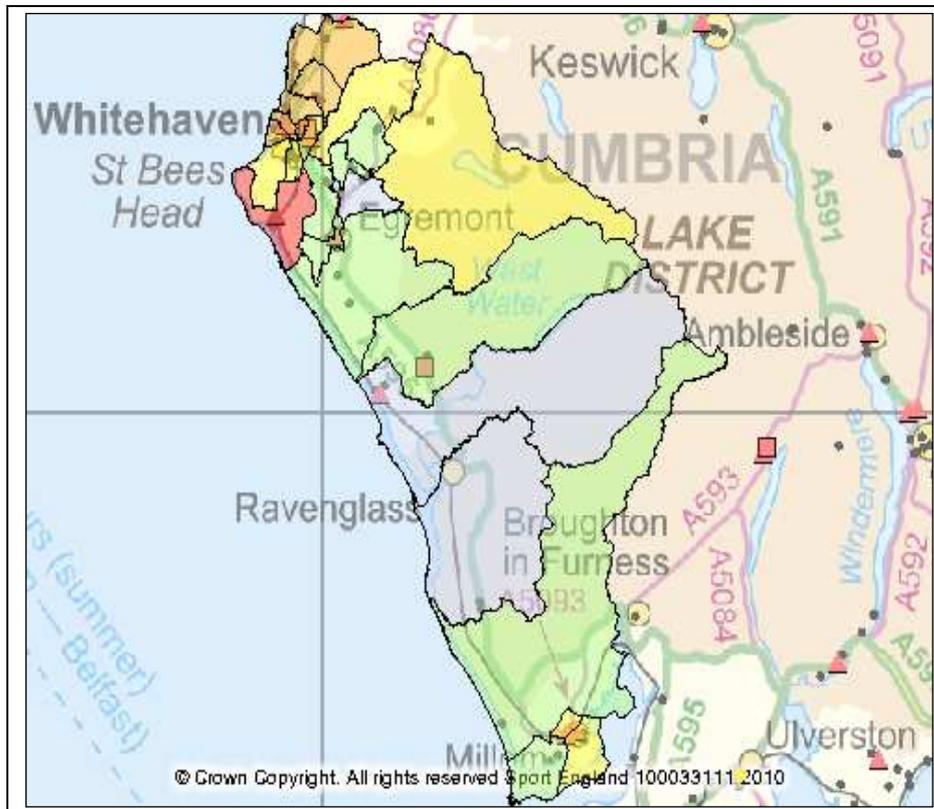
Overall the figures suggest that if all halls with some community use (including schools) are included, there is sufficient capacity to accommodate the demand for sports halls from within the borough itself (this assessment however does not take into account the availability of halls in neighbouring local authority areas). There is insufficient capacity within LA halls alone to meet local demand, though in fact Copeland provision in the LA sector is well above average.

Personal Share – this tool compares the potential share of sports hall space per person (in an output area) in terms of the ‘capacity of facilities’, and shows which residents have good access to facilities. The higher the Personal Share, the more generous the provision of sports hall space for an individual living in this location. The assessment has some shortcomings, but as it considers the nearest facility, and runs across local authority boundaries, it is an advance on the previous measure. Personal share is expressed in m².

Personal share	
Copeland	1.46
Cumbria	1.62
NW region	1.41
England	1.37

Personal share is therefore above the regional and national average, though below that for Cumbria, and this reflects the previous indicators. The map indicates the areas of high personal share indicated in red compared to areas of low

personal share in blue. The best personal share is in the Whitehaven and St Bees area where although there is the highest population, there is good supply of sports halls. Lowest PS is in the rural parts of the borough where there are few facilities.



Map 8 Personal share for sports halls in Copeland (* see key in Appendix 1)

When personal share is assessed by access to local authority halls only, a similar picture emerges as above – Copeland has a much higher personal share to LA halls, and the highest personal share is again in the Whitehaven area, but also in the Millom ward, where the Millom Sports Centre is treated in the assessment as a LA hall.

Personal share	
Copeland	0.76
Cumbria	0.36
NW region	0.35
England	0.31

Personal share takes into account access to facilities in adjacent local authority areas, in this case mainly Allerdale, but the location of facilities there that are accessible to Copeland residents make little difference to overall provision.

Quality

Quality assessments have been undertaken using two sources – a detailed visual survey of the main sports halls, and data from Active Places Power on the date of construction and whether the facility has been refurbished, which is a useful proxy for quality

Visual survey – during site inspections of all the main halls, a scoring assessment of the quality of these was undertaken, using a range of criteria.

	Max	Whitehaven SC	Millom SC	West Lakes Acad	Whitehaven S	St Benedict's Sch	St Bees Sch
Maintenance and condition	5	4	4	3	3	3	4
Cleanliness	3	3	3	2	2	2	3
Playing area	5	4	4	3	3	3	4
Changing	5	4	3	3	3	3	4
Entrance	3	3	2	1	1	1	2
Toilets	5	4	4	3	3	3	3
Disabled access	5	5	4	2	2	2	3
Car park and access	3	3	3	2	3	3	2
Transport links	3	3	2	2	2	2	1
Programme	3	3	2	1	1	1	1
Security/lighting	3	3	2	1	1	1	1
Information	3	2	2	1	1	1	1
Total	46	41	35	24	25	25	29
Percentage		89%	76%	52%	54%	54%	71%

APP data – of the 9 halls currently available for community use, none was built after 1996, though 4 older halls have been refurbished in the last 7 years

Date	Number
Up to 1980	4 (2 refurb in 2007/2008)
1980-1989	3 (2 refurb in 2003/2007)
1990-1999	2
2000 and after	0

Overall quality – none of the halls in Copeland has been built within the last 15 years, though the main public halls and some school halls have been refurbished more recently. Whitehaven Sports Centre is considered to be in the best condition, taking into account a variety of quality and usage criteria, and Millom and St Bees also score quite highly. The other school halls are considered of lower quality, mainly because the halls are part of a larger school site, with less ease of operation than the ‘public’ halls, though to some extent these problems can be overcome. The sports hall stock in general would benefit from some improvements to its quality, programming and other factors, but in its current state is unlikely to be fully fit for purpose by the end of the study period.

Accessibility

APP allows accessibility to be assessed by the use of 2 tools. ‘Travel Time to facilities’ shows personal access to the nearest facility through the minimum, maximum and average distance/time by walking, car or public transport to the chosen facility type. This tool includes facilities by all access types (Pay & Play, Private) and also includes facilities that are outside of the Borough. ‘Population characteristics within facility catchment’ produces similar maps, but based on 10-minute bands, which enables comparisons between different facility types, and is used here. This tool also has the added advantage of analysing the characteristics of people living within these travel catchments, by age, gender, social groups, ethnicity and other factors.

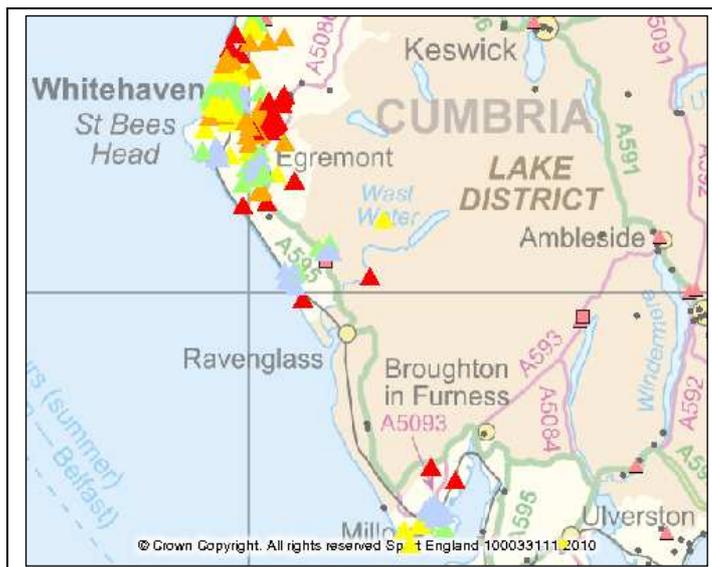
The map and the table below demonstrate that despite the rural nature of the borough, almost all the population can access a sports hall within a 20-minute drive, and most of these within 10 minutes. The areas with the poorest accessibility are in the rural eastern parts of the borough where existing facilities are remotest but population is lowest (populations are based on 2001 Census).



Map 9 Accessibility by car (*see key in Appendix 1)

In more detail, the proportions of residents within each band are as follows (populations are based on 2001 Census).

The following map shows the time taken to walk to the nearest sports hall – the key is similar to above. Many residents that live in the main towns of Whitehaven, Egremont and Millom are able to walk to a sports hall within 20 minutes, but outside the main towns, walk time is inevitably above the accepted travel time of 20 minutes.



Map 10 Accessibility on foot (*see key in Appendix 1)

In more detail, the proportions of residents within each band are as follows (populations are based on 2001 Census).

	Population	%
0-10 mins by car	63633	92%
10-20 mins	5333	7%
20-30 mins	428	1%

	Population	%
0-10 mins on foot	18458	30%
10-20 mins	13862	22%
20-30 mins	12789	21%
30-45 mins	8622	14%
45+ mins	8616	14%

Accessibility to sports halls in Copeland therefore follows the normal pattern of good access by car throughout the borough, both to Copeland facilities and those in Allerdale, but poorer access on foot for those outside the main towns, and who have no access to a car or rely on public transport.

SPORTS FACILITIES CALCULATOR

The SFC is primarily intended to estimate the demand for facilities in discrete areas e.g. it is useful in determining the likely demand for halls from the residents of new housing growth. With some provisos it can be used to give a broad estimate of the demand over a local authority area, though it takes no account of demand across LA boundaries, quality of facilities and detailed opening times.

The SFC estimates that at present (with the latest population estimate of 70400 in 2010) there is sufficient demand in Copeland at normal participation rates for 4.8 sports halls, or about 19 courts (the equivalent of about 2950m² of floor space) in community use.

This compares with current provision of 5931m² of sports hall space (in the APP assessment) or 5000 m² of floor space in halls of 4+ courts halls/courts (reduced to the equivalent of about 3600m² in full community usage). Clearly there is sufficient floor space in total to meet this expected demand from Copeland residents, but a fuller assessment is required to take into account the actual availability of sports halls throughout the day, hours of usage, location in terms of demand, age and condition. This assessment is set out below under the FPM section.

FPM ASSESSMENT

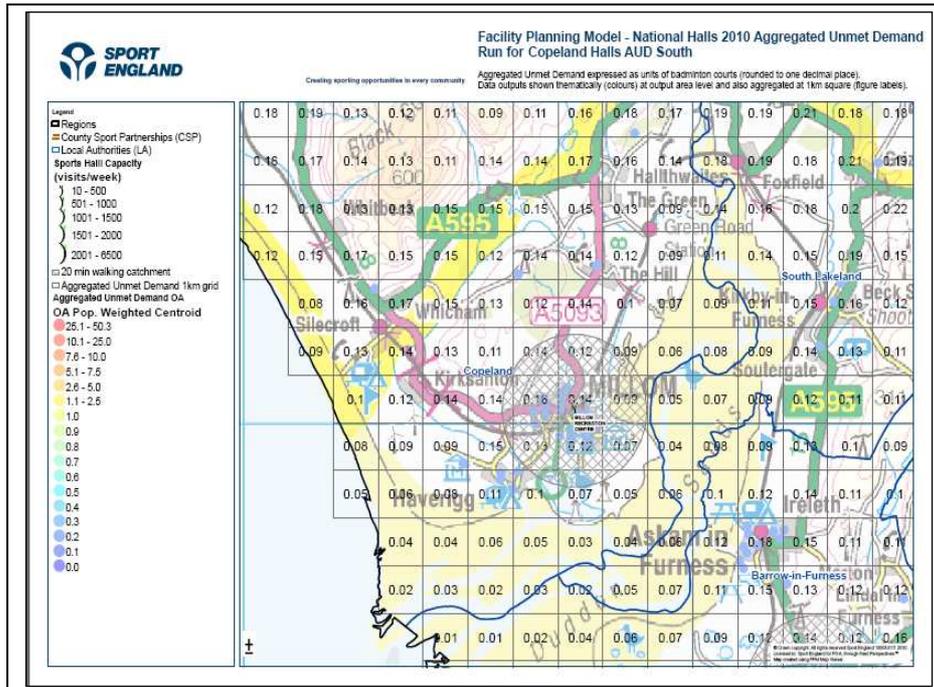
Sport England's FPM runs undertaken as part of the National Facilities Audit were first produced in April/May 2008, and have recently been refreshed (May 2010). The assessment for sports halls includes all halls of 3+ courts, and in Copeland's case this includes the main sports centres, and a number of schools, which are weighted to reflect lower usage. The analysis is based on national participation rates for sport, although Active People suggests that local participation is below the national average. The great benefit of this tool is that it assesses demand and supply across LA boundaries and takes into account catchments and capacities of existing centres. It is based on the database of facilities contained in APP current at the time (April 2010).

This assessment deals with fewer facilities than the APP analysis above and excludes sports halls that are deemed to be either solely for private use, too small (i.e. less than 3 court size) or there is a lack of information, particularly relating to hours of use. The facilities therefore excluded are Seascale Sports Hall, St Benedict's School and Black Combe JS).

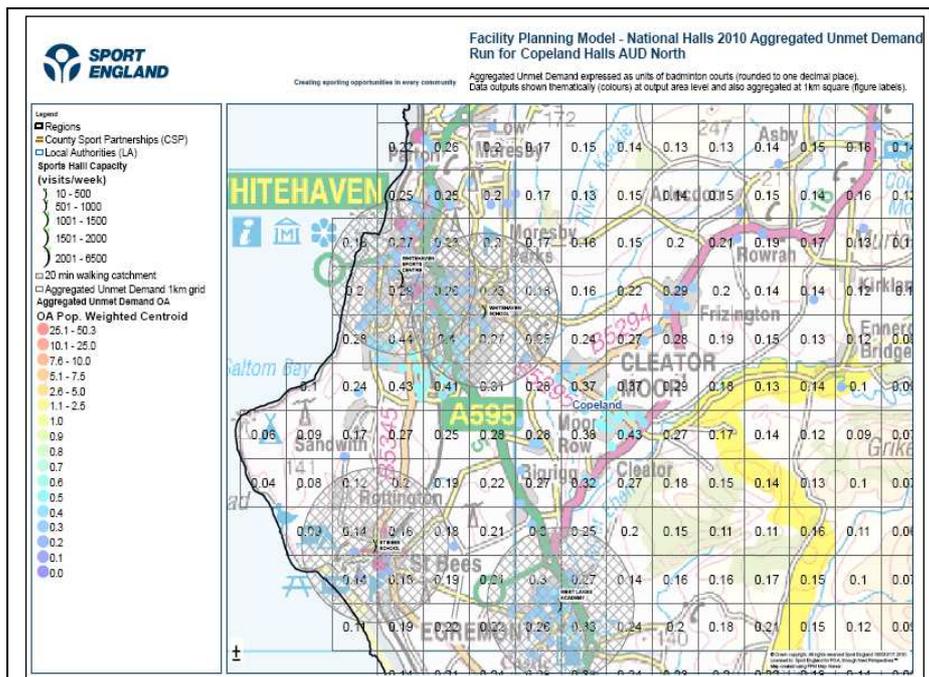
Name of facility	Dimensions	Courts	Hrs in NPP	Community hours available	% capacity used
MILLOM RECREATION CENTRE	33 x 18	4	29	59	73%
ST BEES SCHOOL	33 x 17	4	33	41.5	28%
WEST LAKES ACADEMY	34 x 27	6	25	25	71%
WHITEHAVEN SCHOOL	34 x 27	6	20	20	60%
WHITEHAVEN SCHOOL	18 x 10	1	20	20	
WHITEHAVEN SPORTS CENTRE	40 x 40	9	40.5	61.5	48%

Overview of current sports hall provision from FPM

- There are 6 (5 main +1 ancillary) sports halls in Copeland on 5 sites providing for the needs of the wider community, although 4 are on school sites, with limited access, and only 2 are traditional local authority 'public' halls.
- There is a significant surplus of overall supply compared with demand (of about 50%), though this is less marked when 'comfortable' levels of use and actual hours available are considered.
- Satisfied demand is actually quite low compared with the average, and unmet demand consequently higher. All of this unmet demand is caused by the distance/time that residents have to travel to halls, particularly for those without a car.
- Although the unmet demand is the equivalent of about 3 courts, there is insufficient unmet demand in any one location to justify additional halls for this reason
- Relative share of sports halls confirms that Copeland residents' availability is higher than national average
- Overall throughput at existing halls is generally well below 'comfortable' levels of use, and no halls are operating at or beyond their capacity.
- Copeland exports a very small amount of demand outside of the borough, probably to Allerdale. 95% of total demand generated in the borough is met and retained there
- **The level of satisfied demand for sports halls in Copeland, although relatively low compared with the average, is at a level that is unlikely to be exceeded (it is never possible to meet all demand, mainly for reasons of accessibility). Additional halls in other locations cannot be justified at the present time, as they would do little to reduce unmet demand, which is distributed across much of the borough. Overall throughput at existing halls is generally well below 'comfortable' levels of use, and no halls are operating at or beyond their capacity. At the present time additional sports halls are not required either to meet demand or overcome any over-crowding.**



Map 11 Aggregated unmet demand for sports halls 2010 – south Copeland (* figures in squares relate to units of badminton courts)



Map 12 Aggregated unmet demand for sports halls 2010 – north Copeland

OVERALL CONCLUSION FOR SPORTS HALLS

There are 9 main sports halls and 2 ancillary halls in Copeland at present, although some are on school and education sites and may not offer full community access at all times. In reality, there are large 4+ court halls with full community access at Whitehaven SC and Millom RC, comprising 13 courts, main halls on school/education sites with mainly club use at St Bees,

Whitehaven, St Benedict's Schools and West Lakes Academy with 20 courts and a further 1 courts at Seascales with limited public use. If an allowance is made for halls not in secured community use (50% for school halls with access for club bookings and similar, and 25% for all other halls), there are in effect 23 courts (or the equivalent of nearly 6 4-court sports halls) available for use in the borough.

Anticipated demand from within the borough from SFC is for about 5 4-court halls. The FPM suggests that there is a small amount of export of demand to sports halls outside the borough, but this is insignificant, and almost all demand is met locally.

There is slightly above average supply of sports halls in Copeland compared with the average. Despite the rural nature of the borough, accessibility is good and most residents are within a reasonable driving distance of a sports hall, although inevitably walking access is poorer. Relative share for local residents is quite high. Satisfied demand overall is lower than average, because of accessibility issues particularly in outlying areas, but there is insufficient unmet demand in total over the whole borough at present to justify any additional sports halls. Capacity is still sufficient overall and in all individual facilities to accommodate all demand.

Current provision of sports halls is therefore adequate in broad terms, but this relies on all existing halls being available in some degree to community use. If the main LA halls (Whitehaven and Millom) are considered alone, there is a deficit in provision. Better use of school halls is required to maintain this level of provision at present, and avoid existing halls being overused. There is no indoor sports space in Cleator Moor, and consideration should be given to such provision, especially in view of the likely accommodation of workers for the new nuclear building programme

This later assessment of need agrees with the previous findings of other studies above.

Overall quality –The sports hall stock in general would benefit from some improvements to its quality, programming and other factors, but in its current state is unlikely to be fully fit for purpose by the end of the study period.

Based on the results of each of the planning tools, there is a demand for about 5 4-court sports halls in regular community use, and the existing provision of the equivalent of 6 halls is therefore sufficient to meet demand, so long as the school halls contribute towards this.

The desirable and current level of provision therefore is the equivalent of about 1 4-court hall per 12,500 people.

Future provision

On the basis of the current level of provision above any future requirement needs to take into account the likely population levels in 20021/2026. Based on the information available from Cumbria CC, and analysed above, the population is likely to increase by 4.1% to 2021 and 5.7% by 2026, but the active population (i.e. those between the ages of 5 and 55) is likely to drop by 5.7% or 8.5%. Even if increased participation in accordance with local and SE targets is achieved, it is unlikely that additional sports hall space will be required in the next 10-15 years.

5. SWIMMING POOLS

The data and assessments (as with sports halls) are taken from a variety of sources including local authority records, and Sport England's planning tools, including Active Places Power, Facilities Planning Model, and Sports Facilities Calculator. The data have been analysed separately, partly because the criteria for each tool differ slightly, but are brought together in the final assessment.

PREVIOUS STUDIES

West Cumbria Sports Facility Analysis There is a higher supply in Allerdale than Copeland in terms of both number of facilities and facilities per 1,000 population. The Regional Strategic Evidence Base states that the priority investment for swimming pools is enhancement of existing stock, based on rationalisation / replacement and not new provision. However, it does identify Copeland as one of the priority locations if any replacement facilities are developed.

With regards to the ASA vision for a 6 lane x 25m pool in each Local Authority area, the two Local Authorities of Allerdale and Copeland already meet this vision through pool provision at Workington and Whitehaven.

Overall, there appears to be enough pools in good locations within both authority areas. This is supported by the catchment analysis with a significant amount of the population are within close proximity of a swimming pool. However the issues going forward may be the ageing stock and, although providing a local community facility, the functionality of some of the older small size pools (i.e. smaller than 25m x 4 lanes) of which some are in good strategic locations e.g. Millom Pool which is the only pool in the south of Copeland. Therefore the overall priorities for swimming pools will be to focus on refurbishment and replacement where required.

Millom Swimming Pool Review The review can point to a strategic rationale and need for a new pool in Millom, in line with the scale set out in the report (i.e. 25m x 4 lane pool). However given the catchment there will always be a risk, (which partners will have to balance and ultimately decide upon), in terms of long-term sustainability. A standalone pool development will struggle to be sustainable, health and fitness provision is critical and Millom could support a small high quality facility. Partnership working is essential and any development needs to be seen as a project for Millom.

CURRENT STUDY

ACTIVE PLACES POWER

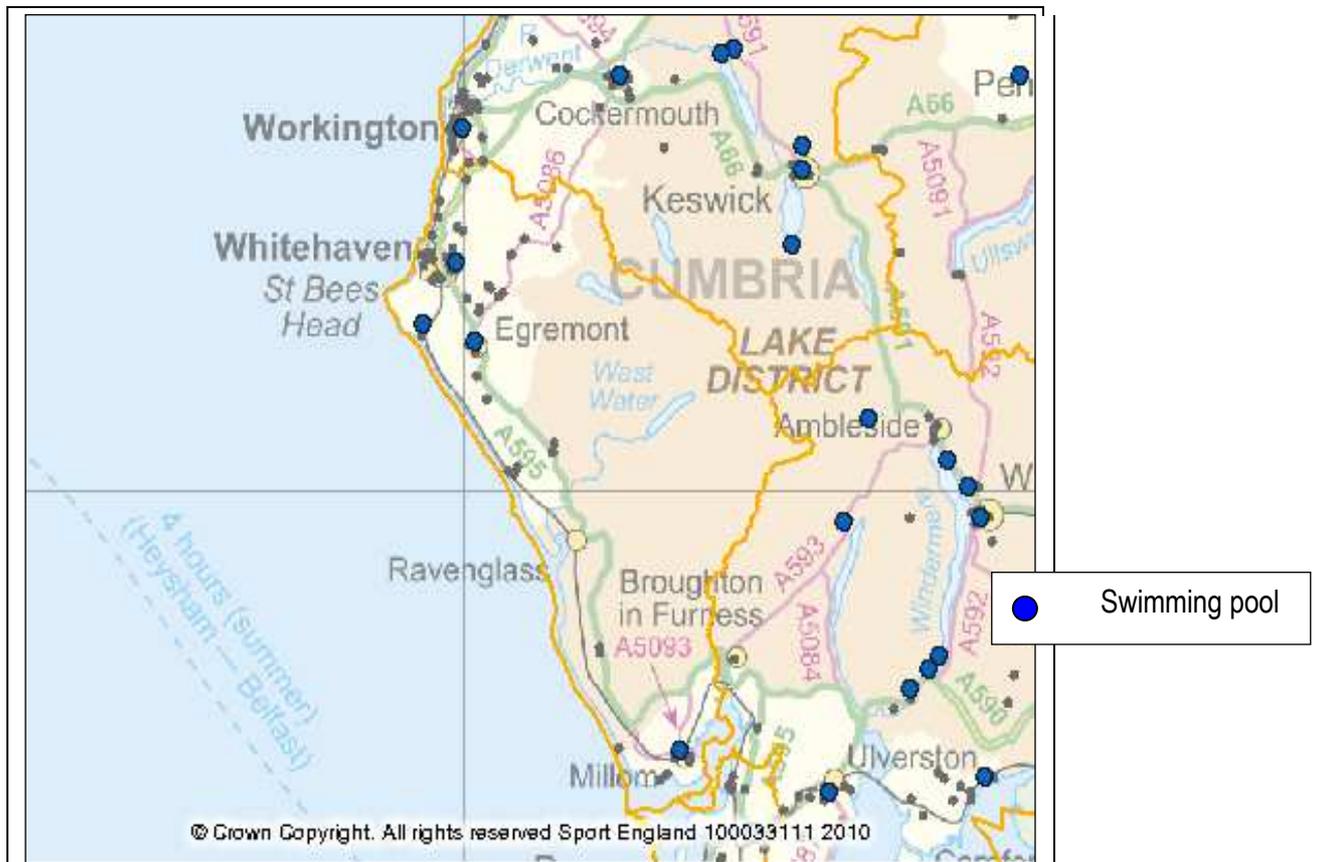
Supply

There are 5 indoor pools (4 main, 1 learner) on 4 sites within Copeland. Three of these pools are accessible to the public on a pay and play basis, and the remaining two are pools on school sites where access is mainly for clubs and organised teaching, with some limited casual use.

There are also understood to be other pools at existing holiday centres and at Wellbank Swimming Pool, Bootle (small 15 x 5m pool available to local groups to book on a timeshare basis) and at Mayfield Special School (hydrotherapy pool).

Site Name	Type	Ward	Lanes	Size	Ownership/management	Access	Year Built/refurb
COPELAND SWIMMING POOL	Main	Hensingham	6	25 x 13m (325m ²)	Local Authority /trust	Pay and Play	1986/1997
COPELAND SWIMMING POOL	Learner	Hensingham	-	13 x 7m (91m ²)	Local Authority /trust	Pay and Play	1986
EGREMONT SWIMMING POOL	Main	Egremont South	4	25 x 8.5m (212.5m ²)	Community school /trust	Pay and Play	1966
MILLOM SCHOOL	Main	Holborn Hill	5	17 x 8m (136m ²)	Community school /in house	Sports Club / Community Association	1957
ST BEES SCHOOL	Main	St. Bees	4	17 x 7m (119m ²)	Other Independent School/in house	Sports Club / Community Association	1908/2009
Total				883.5m²			

71% of the total water space is available on a pay and play basis, and the remainder (29%) to clubs and local groups. If an allowance (50%) is made for pools not in secured community use (St Bees and Millom), there is in reality 756m² available to the community, the equivalent of about 3.5 4-lane pools.



Map 13 Location of swimming pools in and around Copeland

In addition, there are a number of other pools outside Copeland but within 20/30 minutes drive of the edge of the borough, as follows:

Workington Leisure Centre (25 m x 4 lanes plus learner pool)

Cockermouth LC (25m x 4 lane)

Netherhall SCS (20m x 4 lane)

There are other pools in Coniston, Ulverston, Dalton and Barrow, but these are well outside a reasonable 20-minute drive of the southern edge of Copeland.

DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING SWIMMING POOLS

Copeland Pool comprises a main 25m x 6 lane pool and a learner pool of 13 x 7m. It was originally built in 1986 and has had substantial and regular refurbishment over the years. The pool is managed by North Country Leisure (sports trust). There is a wide range of swimming and related activities at the pool, including casual public swimming, lessons, club use, summer activities and specific programmes such as adult only swimming, parent and toddler sessions, inflatable fun time and swimming for the over 50s. The pool is open from 7.00 to 22.00 most days and a recent experiment to open at 6.30 resulted in 25 additional swimmers on the first day. Current annual attendance at the pool is 210,000 with a particular increase in under-16 participation, and the pool is considered to operate at capacity. Plans for the future would ideally include a leisured element, a moving floor and possibly more water space (if feasible), though an additional pool in the area is not considered justified.

Egremont Pool was built as a school pool in the 1960s and is now managed by the Egremont and District Pool Trust. It is a 4 lane 25m pool with an additional rectangular area at one end with a diving board. The facilities in the pool centre comprise male, female and disabled changing, viewing gallery, entrance hall and staff office and rest room. Activities include public swimming and lessons, and there is an extensive programme of school swimming throughout the year. The annual throughput including schools is about 55000. There is little demand for swimming at the weekends and the pool is only open on Saturday mornings. Additional work has been done to the pool since construction (to the pool itself, services and new roof) but the pool is quite old and unlikely to be fit for purpose by 2021

Millom Pool was built as an outdoor pool for the school in the 1950s and subsequently covered with a semi permanent roof. The pool is a 4-5 lane 17m pool and primarily used by the school with community usage during the week. The current programme offers junior swimming three times a week, aqua fitness on Monday evening, ladies swimming on Wednesday morning and adult beginners on Thursday evening. The pool is available for parties on an hourly basis, including lifeguard. There is no club attached to the pool. The community in Millom is keen to see the construction of a new pool in the town.

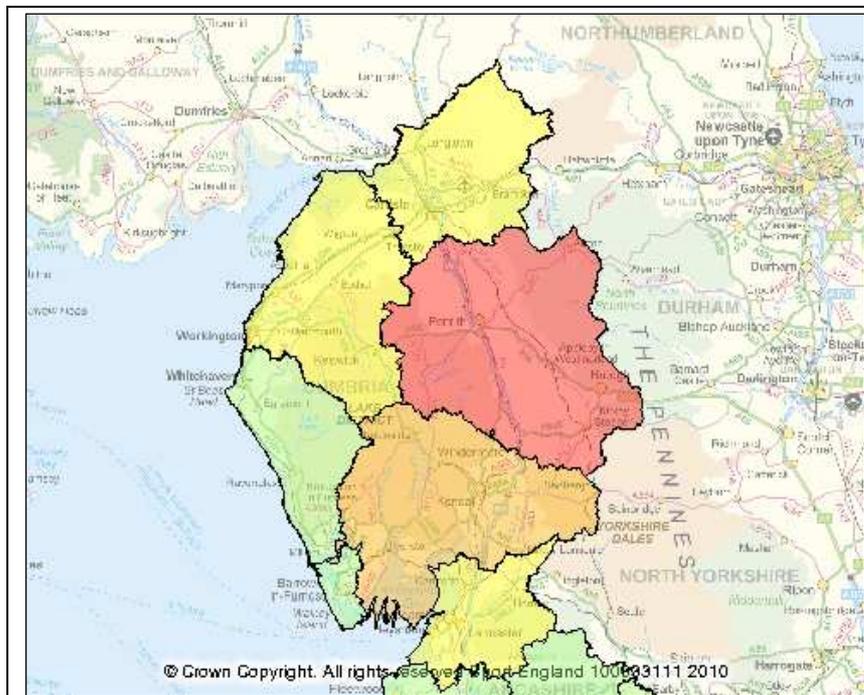
St Bees Pool was originally built in 1908 but substantially modernised in 2009. It comprises a 15m x 4 lane pool with a depth of 1.5 to 2m. The building includes electronic timing but no competitions are held there. Current use includes daytime use by local primary schools, lessons, some public use and outside bookings in the evenings and possible outside bookings at weekends (e.g. Aquasplash with supplied lifeguards) though there has been very little take up. The pool is acknowledged as being under used and under promoted. There is therefore relatively little community use of the pool, but a new manager is keen to develop this significantly. The pool is owned and managed by St Bees School.

Facilities per 1000 population - APP enables a comparison to be made with other local authority areas by benchmarking swimming pool provision per 1000 population.

	m² per 1000 population
Copeland	12.7m ²
Cumbria	20.0m ²
NW region	17.0m ²
England	19.2m ²
Best in region (Chester)	34.1m ²

The relative supply of pools (all water) in Copeland is therefore substantially below the county, regional and national averages, and only about 1/3 of the best provided LA in the region. Copeland provision is 35th best in the region of 43 LAs, and 4th of 6 LAs in the county.

Relative supply is better than average when only 4 lane pools halls and larger are taken into account – Copeland is 12th of all LAs in the region (though detailed statistics are not available from APP).



Map 14 Swimming pools per 1000 in Cumbria – all pools (* see key in Appendix 1)

Overall therefore swimming pool provision in terms of relative supply and compared with other areas is low, though the high proportion of pools in the ‘public’ sector means that under this criterion the situation is better than overall.

Local Supply and Demand Balance - this tool allows an assessment to be made of supply against the demand generated within the borough itself. A score of 100% indicates that demand is being met (in statistical terms), although a ratio of 130% would accommodate a ‘comfort’ factor. This measure does not take into account the import and export of demand between Local Authority areas, the location of facilities within the borough or the condition of facilities, and should be treated as a rough indicator of the adequacy of pools.

	% demand met
Copeland	148%
Cumbria	177%
NW region	181%
England	175%
Best in region (Chester)	371%

The local supply in Copeland appears to be sufficient to more than meet demand in the borough (with the provisos set out above), but the balance is much less than the national, regional and county average, and only about 40% of the best provision in the region. Copeland is ranked 31/43 in the region and actually 6/6 in Cumbria.



Map 15 Local supply and demand - all pools in community use (* see key in Appendix 1)

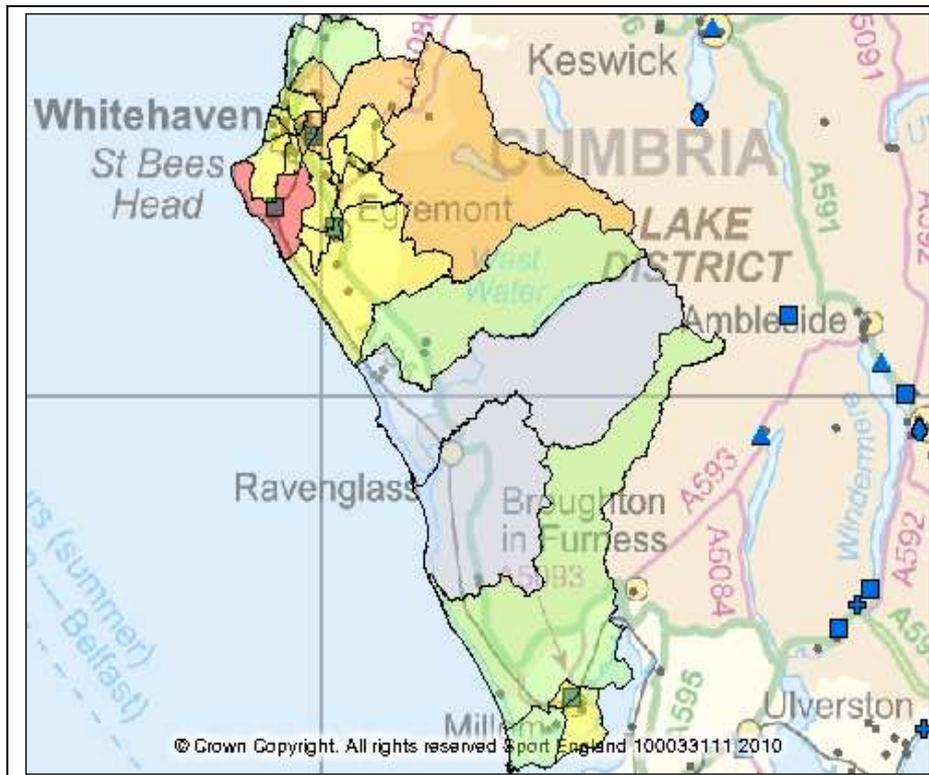
This supply and demand balance can also be assessed by access to different types of halls as follows.

Ownership	Percentage of Demand Met			
	Copeland	England	NW region	Cumbria
Local Authority and School/college	148%	128%	119%	136%
Local Authority only	84%	87%	93%	80%

All the pools in Copeland are either LA or school facilities – there are no commercial pools in Copeland at for example health and fitness clubs. Overall the figures suggest that if all pools with some community use (including schools) are included, there is broadly sufficient capacity to accommodate the demand for pools from within the borough itself (this assessment however does not take into account the availability of halls in neighbouring local authority areas). There is insufficient capacity within LA pools alone to meet local demand, though in fact Copeland provision in the LA sector is still about average – this is not uncommon.

Personal Share – as with halls, this tool compares the potential share of pool space per person (in an output area) in terms of the ‘capacity of facilities’, and shows which residents have good access to facilities. The higher the Personal Share, the more generous the provision of water space for an individual living in this location. The assessment has some shortcomings, but as it considers the nearest facility, and runs across local authority boundaries, it is an advance on the previous measure. The personal share is expressed in m².

Personal share	
Copeland	1.5
Cumbria	1.79
NW region	1.81
England	1.75



Map 16 Personal share for pools in Copeland (* see key in Appendix 1)

Personal share is therefore below the Cumbria, regional and national average, and this reflects the previous indicators. The map indicates the areas of high personal share indicated in red compared to areas of low personal share in blue. The best personal share is in the St Bees area, where there is relatively small population but good access to a pool. Millom, Egremond and Whitehaven also have a relatively good share, where other pools exist, while the central rural wards have low share with poor accessibility to pools despite low population.

When personal share is assessed by access to local authority halls only and LA and school pools, Copeland’s relative share improves, mainly because all pools are in these categories and most in the LA sector, whereas elsewhere there are commercial pools at health and fitness centres and the like.

Personal share		
	LA pools	LA and school pools
Copeland	0.88	1.49
Cumbria	0.81	1.33
NW region	0.93	1.19
England	0.87	1.28

Personal share takes into account access to facilities in adjacent local authority areas, in this case mainly Allerdale, but the location of facilities there that are accessible to Copeland residents make little difference to the overall share

Quality

Quality assessments have been undertaken using two sources – a detailed visual survey of the main pools, and data from Active Places Power on the date of construction and whether the facility has been refurbished, which is a useful proxy for quality

Visual survey – during site inspections of all the main pools, a scoring assessment of the quality of these was undertaken, using a range of criteria.

	Max	Copeland Pool	Egremont Pool	Millom Pool	St Bees Sch pool
Maintenance and condition	5	4	2	2	4
Cleanliness	3	3	2	3	3
Pool area	5	4	3	2	2
Changing	5	4	3	2	3
Entrance	3	3	2	1	2
Toilets	5	4	3	2	3
Disabled access	5	5	2	2	2
Car park and access	3	3	2	2	2
Transport links	3	2	2	2	1
Programme	3	3	1	1	1
Security/lighting	3	3	1	1	2
Information	3	2	1	1	1
Total	46	40	24	21	26
Percentage		87%	52%	46%	57%

APP data – of the 5 pools currently available for community use, none was built after 1986, though 2 pools have been refurbished in the last 13 years

Date	Number
Up to 1980	3(1 refurb in 2009)
1980-1989	2(1 refurb in 1997)
1990-1999	0
2000 and after	0

Overall quality – none of the pools in Copeland has been built within the last 25 years, though the main public pool and the smaller facility at St Bees School have been refurbished more

recently. The Copeland pool is considered to be in the best condition, taking into account a variety of quality and usage criteria, but the three other pools score less than 50% of the maximum, a combination of inadequacy in size and facilities, lack of programmed usage and age and overall condition. The swimming pool stock in general requires substantial improvement in the short term, and is unlikely to be fully fit for purpose by the end of the study period.

Accessibility

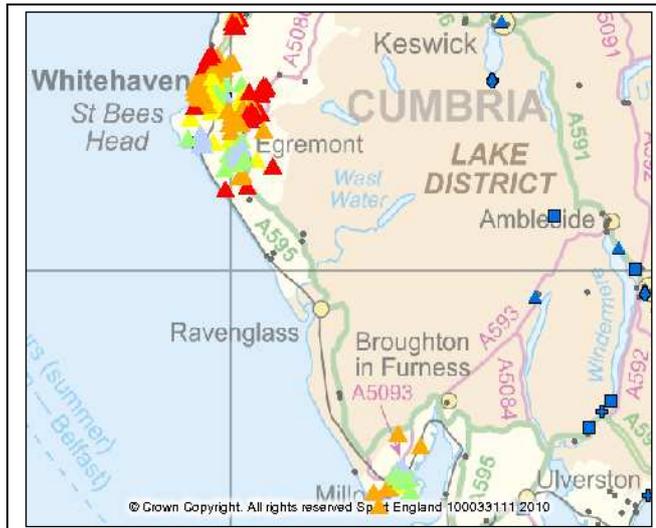
APP assesses accessibility with the use of the same tools as with sports halls.

The map and the table below demonstrate that despite the rural nature of the borough, almost all the population can access a pool within a 20-minute drive, and most of these within 10 minutes. The areas with the poorest accessibility are in the rural eastern parts of the borough where existing facilities are remotest but population is lowest (populations are based on 2001 Census).



Map 17 Accessibility by car (* see key in Appendix 1)

The following map shows the time taken to walk to the nearest pool – the legend is similar to above. Accessibility to pools on foot is poorer than for halls owing to the smaller number of pools, although they are distributed relatively equally throughout the borough. Only a third of local residents live within a reasonable walk of a pool, and about half more than 30 minutes walk. Clearly the accessibility of those in towns is better than in the rural areas, but even in Whitehaven and Egremont walking accessibility is limited. The Copeland pool in Hensingham is not the optimum location for Whitehaven residents without access to a car.



Map 18 Accessibility on foot (* see key in Appendix 1)

In more detail, the proportions of residents within each band are as follows (populations are based on 2001 Census).

	Population	%
0-10 mins on foot	9737	17%
10-20 mins	10401	18%
20-30 mins	9120	16%
30-45 mins	18843	33%
45+ mins	9097	16%

	Population	%
0-10 mins by car	50199	72%
10-20 mins	17604	25%
20-30 mins	1421	2%
30-45 mins	250	<1%

Accessibility to sports halls in Copeland therefore follows the normal pattern of good access by car throughout the borough, both to Copeland facilities and some of those in Allerdale, but poorer access on foot for those even in the main towns, and who have no access to a car or rely on public transport.

SPORTS FACILITIES CALCULATOR

The SFC is primarily intended to estimate the demand for facilities in discrete areas e.g. it is useful in determining the likely demand for pools from the residents of new housing growth. With some provisos it can be used to give a broad estimate of the demand over a local authority area, though it takes no account of demand across LA boundaries, quality of facilities and detailed opening times.

The SFC estimates that at present (with the latest population estimate of 70400 in 2010) there is sufficient demand in Copeland at normal participation rates 672 m²/13 lanes of water or the equivalent of just over 3 4-lane pools in community use.

This compares with current provision of 883.5m² of pool space overall(in the APP assessment) or about 756 m² in full community usage. Clearly there is sufficient floor space in total to meet this expected demand from Copeland residents, but a fuller assessment is required to take into account the actual availability of sports halls throughout the day, hours of usage, location in terms of demand, age and condition. This assessment is set out below under the FPM section.

FPM ASSESSMENT

Sport England's FPM runs undertaken as part of the National Facilities Audit were first produced in April/May 2008, and have recently been refreshed (May 2010). The assessment for swimming pools includes all pools over 20m in length or 160 m² in water area, in community use, but excludes outdoor pools and those temporarily closed. In Copeland's case this includes the three main public pools at Whitehaven and Egremont, but not the pools at Millom or St Bees, which are too small. The analysis is based on national participation rates for sport, which are higher than local rates for Copeland. The great benefit of this tool is that it assesses demand and supply across LA boundaries and takes into account catchments and capacities of existing centres. The database used is that contained in APP at the time of the assessment (April 2010)

Overview of current swimming pool provision from FPM

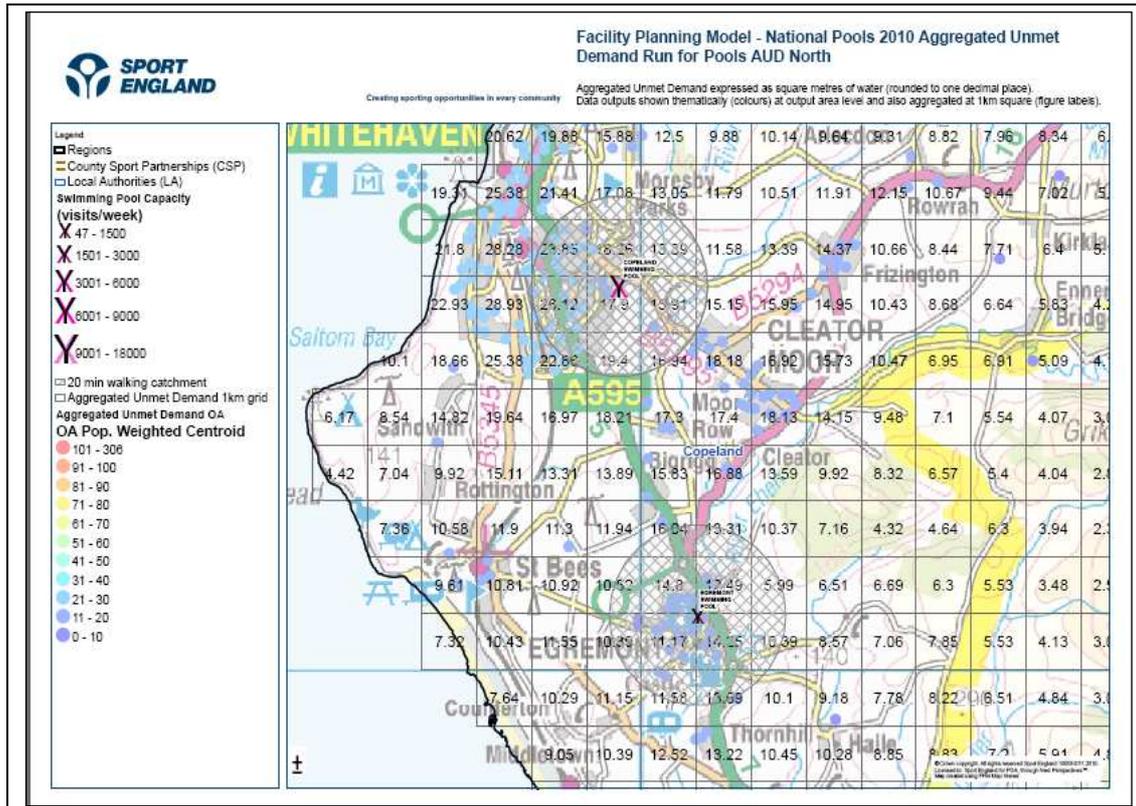
- In the FPM assessment, there are 3 pools on 2 sites in Copeland, both of which are 'public pools', run by local trusts albeit in different ownership. Per capita provision is only about 2/3 the county, regional or national average, and personal share is 32% below the norm. Supply of swimming pools is therefore low in Copeland.

Name of facility		Dimensions	Area	Year built/ refurb	Hours in NPP	Community hours available	% capacity used
COPELAND SWIMMING POOL	Main/ General	25 x 13	325	1986/ 1997	51.25	88.75	60%
COPELAND SWIMMING POOL	Learner/ Teaching/ Training	13 x 7	91		51.25	88.75	59%
EGREMONT SWIMMING POOL	Main/ General	25 x 9	213	1966	30.33	34	61%

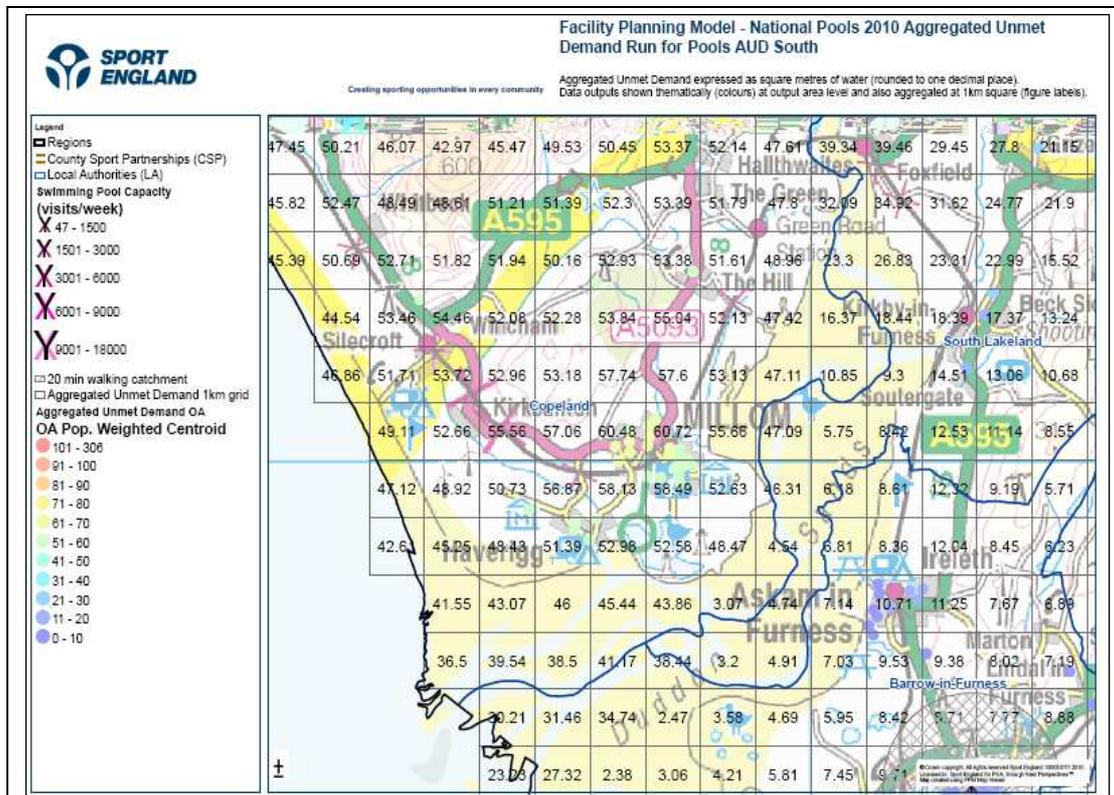
- Location – The pool sites are concentrated to the north west of the Borough in and around the urban areas of Whitehaven and Egremont. The Copeland swimming pool is actually located further to the south east of Whitehaven itself on the edge of the urban area on a stand-alone site (located just within the settlement boundary).
- Supply and capacity exceed demand overall, but there is a small shortfall if comfort levels and actual hours of usage are taken into account.
- Satisfied demand is only 70%, compared with almost 90% regionally or nationally or 82% in Cumbria. This measure of demand is more realistic than that considered under APP above, as it takes into account facilities and residents in adjoining LA areas.
- Unmet demand is therefore relatively high compared with the average, and equates to almost a 4-lane pool if comfort levels are included. However this is spread over much of the borough. There is no one grid (see map) that would justify a new facility to meet unmet demand, but the areas where the greatest amount of unmet demand would be met are located further to the south of the borough in and around Millom, again where only the small school pool exists. Even here, the largest level of aggregated unmet demand within

one of the grids is around 60 m². For comparison purposes a 20m 4-lane community pool measures approximately 170 m².

- Copeland is a very small net exporter of demand, probably to Allerdale. However 96% of the demand that is satisfied is met in the borough.
- Only about 60% of total capacity of pools is used overall, and all pools have a similar level of usage according to the model. This is much less than the comfortable capacity of 70%.
- Accessibility to pools by local residents affected by car ownership. One fifth of the population is without access to a car which could raise issues in terms of the proximity and accessibility of facilities to the local population.
- Age – Copeland swimming pool was originally built in 1986 and refurbished in 1997 (although there are no details as to what this refurbishment consisted of). The Egremont Swimming pool was built over 40 years ago and according to the Model has not been refurbished during this period. This raises an issue about the age and quality of the swimming pool stock, particularly in terms of this latter facility (the model gives this facility a low attractiveness weighting on this basis).
- **Demand slightly exceeds supply if a comfort factor and actual hours available are considered, and the total amount of unmet demand in the borough equates to about 1 additional pool. However this is spread thinly across the whole of Copeland, and there is no one location which could justify an additional pool for this reason. No pools are used at or approaching capacity, and the main reason for unmet demand is relative inaccessibility, both by car in the rural areas, and on foot in the main towns. Quality is not good, and all pools were built at least 25 years ago. There may be a case for improvement and refurbishment to existing pools, and an argument for additional water space in the south of the borough to meet a local need.**



Map 19 Aggregated unmet demand for pools 2010 – north Copeland
(* figures in squares relate to m² of water)



Map 20 Aggregated unmet demand for pools 2010 – south Copeland
(* figures in squares relate to m² of water)

OVERALL CONCLUSION FOR SWIMMING POOLS

There are 5 indoor pools (4 main, 1 learner) on 4 sites within Copeland, with a total water space of 883.5m². Three of these pools are accessible to the public on a pay and play basis, and the remaining two are pools on school sites where access is mainly for clubs and organised teaching, with some limited casual use. There are also understood to be other pools at existing holiday centres and at Wellbank Swimming Pool Bootle (small 15 x 5m pool available to local groups to book on a timeshare basis)

71% of the total water space is available on a pay and play basis, and the remainder (29%) to clubs and local groups. If an allowance (50%) is made for pools not in secured community use (St Bees and Millom), there is in reality 756m² available to the community, the equivalent of about 3.5 4-lane pools.

Anticipated demand from within the borough from SFC is for about 672 m²/13 lanes of water or the equivalent of just over 3 4-lane pools in community use. The FPM suggests that there is a small amount of export of demand to pools outside the borough, but this is insignificant, and almost all demand is met locally.

There is below average supply of pools in Copeland compared with the average. Because of the rural nature of the borough, accessibility is limited - most residents are within a reasonable driving distance of a pool but inevitably walking access is poorer. Relative share for local residents is low compared with the average. Satisfied demand overall is lower than average, because of accessibility issues particularly in outlying areas, but there is insufficient unmet demand in total over the whole borough at present to justify any additional pools. Capacity is still sufficient overall and in all individual facilities to accommodate all demand.

Overall quality –The swimming pool stock in general requires substantial improvement in the short term, and is unlikely to be fully fit for purpose by the end of the study period.

Current provision of swimming pools is therefore broadly adequate overall throughout the borough, although there may well be local difficulties of access to groups requiring usage at a particular time. There is also an issue of age and functionality with some pools, all of which were built before the mid 1980's albeit that some refurbishment has taken place. The location of the Whitehaven facility is not ideal to meet demand. Conversely some pools that could meet a local need, such as Millom and St Bees, could provide a more valuable community function. There is a case to consider the refurbishment, rationalisation or replacement of existing pools in a strategic context, and to seek more intensive use of the smaller school pools not considered in this assessment.

This later assessment of need broadly agrees with the previous findings of other studies referred to above.

Based on the results of each of the planning tools, the ideal total requirement for current swimming need is about 700m² of water to reflect the demand from the SFC. There are about 630m² in the main 'public' pools in Copeland and Egremont and a need to ensure that the remainder is available at St Bees and Millom. Millom is a particular case and is considered below.

This level of provision would equate to about 1 4-lane pool per 21000 people.

Future provision

As with sports halls, future need is dependent on any increase in population, which is mitigated by the ageing of the population. Even if increased participation in accordance with local and SE targets is achieved, it is unlikely that additional water space will be required in the next 10-15 years over and above any planned increases at the present.

6. HEALTH AND FITNESS CENTRES

Sport England defines health and fitness suites as those facilities providing fitness stations for both cardiovascular and strength training, more commonly known as gym, and excludes spaces for aerobics and dance activities. The assessment below is based as before on the tools available from Sport England (although these are more limited than for other facilities) and local data from the Council.

PREVIOUS STUDIES

West Cumbria Sports Facility Analysis There is a significantly higher supply in Allerdale per 1,000 population than Copeland and as a result the provision within Allerdale is above both the national and regional averages where as Copeland is below both the national and regional averages.

Access to health and fitness facilities is very good in both local authority areas. In Allerdale, 99% of output areas are within 22-minute drive time (93% within 13 mins) of a fitness facility and in Copeland 96% are within 19 minutes (89% within 13 mins) of a fitness facility.

There appears to be no justifiable need to focus on further health and fitness facilities with significant proportions of the population within easy reach of an accessible health and fitness suite. However, with the provision of other new sporting facilities a new health and fitness suite can provide great opportunities for cross-selling and marketing and help to increase participation in other sports and activities and therefore should not be discounted as an 'add-on' when considering other new sporting provision.

Millom Swimming Pool Review As a standalone pool development will struggle to be sustainable, health and fitness provision is critical and Millom could support a small high quality facility. Partnership working is essential and any development needs to be seen as a project for Millom.

Pow Beck Valley Stadium Development - Sport and Leisure Needs Assessment It is evident that in terms of facilities per 1,000 population provision in Copeland is well below both the national and regional averages per 1,000 population. Comparing Copeland with other similar authorities (ONS Comparison & Classification Report below) Copeland has the lowest number of fitness facilities compared to other 'similar' authorities and second lowest in terms of facilities per 1,000 population although the differences between the 3 lowest are minimal.

The local potential for additional health and fitness provision has been flagged up in previous studies. Discussions with North Country Leisure (NCL) have consistently flagged up the potential for additional high quality health and fitness provision in Whitehaven, particularly to cater for the older age-groups.

In 2007 the health and fitness facilities at Whitehaven Leisure Centre were refurbished, this saw an increase in membership of 25 – 30%. In 2007 the membership was 1,214 members for the 82 stations. Whilst this is good NCL feel there is potential for further health and fitness given the catchment, quality of the Leisure Centre (which is still not ideal or purpose built) and market sectors, such as older people, which could be attracted to a high quality purpose built facility (in line with participation profile).

NCL have identified previously the potential for small gym and leisure club (small pool, sauna / steam) in town centre, as part of stadium phase. The key would be to ensure this was developed on a co-ordinated basis so as not to conflict with the WLC. Consultation with NCL as part of this work (see below) has reiterated this view.

In terms of space planning the norm is to allow 5 m² per piece of equipment, this would require a facility of circa 100 – 200 m² based on the provision of a health and fitness facility to accommodate anything from 20 to 40 stations. Flexible dance studios in line with the market segmentation findings may also be appropriate.

Furthermore, the provision of other new sporting facilities a new health and fitness suite can provide great opportunities for cross-selling and marketing and help to increase participation in other sports and activities and therefore should always be considered as an 'add-on' when considering other new sporting provision. Within Whitehaven there would appear to be a case.

ACTIVE PLACES POWER

Supply

There are 17 health and fitness venues providing a total of 697 health and fitness stations across the borough. Of these six are available on a pay and play basis, seven are for registered members, one is club based and three are located on school sites and for private use only.

Site Name	Ward	Stations	Ownership/ management	Access	Year Built/refurb
WHITEHAVEN SPORTS CENTRE	Harbour	66	Local Authority/trust	Pay and Play	1976/2007
MILLOM RECREATION CENTRE	Newtown	11	Local Authority /in house	Pay and Play	1988/2005
CUMBRIA SPORT ACADEMY	Hensingham	15	Local Authority/other	Pay and Play	1989/2007
POWERHOUSE AND PHOENIX	Hensingham	85	Commercial	Pay and Play	2000
FITNESS FACTORY	Egremont South	40	Commercial	Pay and Play	1999/2003
WATH BROW HORNETS ARLFC	Cleator Moor South	20	Sports Club	Pay and Play	2004
HENSINGHAM AMATEUR RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB	Hensingham	12	Sports Club	Sports Club / Community Association	1995
KELLS ARLFC	Kells	15	Local Authority/sports club	Sports Club / Community Association	1980

Site Name	Ward	Stations	Ownership/ management	Access	Year Built/refurb
MIREHOUSE FOOTBALL CLUB	Mirehouse	7	Local Authority /in house	Sports Club / Community Association	2010
THE FALCON COMPLEX	Egremont North	28	Sports Club	Registered Membership use	2001/2006
ST BEES SCHOOL	St. Bees	6	Other Independent School/in house	Private Use	1986
Total		305			

In terms of availability for the wider community, 237 stations are there for pay and play use (78%) either in LA, club or commercial management, 28 are for registered members (9%), 34 on club sites (11%) and 6 (2%) are privately used. On the basis that members clubs and those used by local sports clubs are not necessarily available to the wider the community (and therefore weighted down 50%), the effective number of 'public' stations in the borough is 268.



Map 21 Health and Fitness Centres in and around Copeland

In addition, there are a number of other centres outside Copeland but within 20 minutes drive of the edge of the borough, as follows:

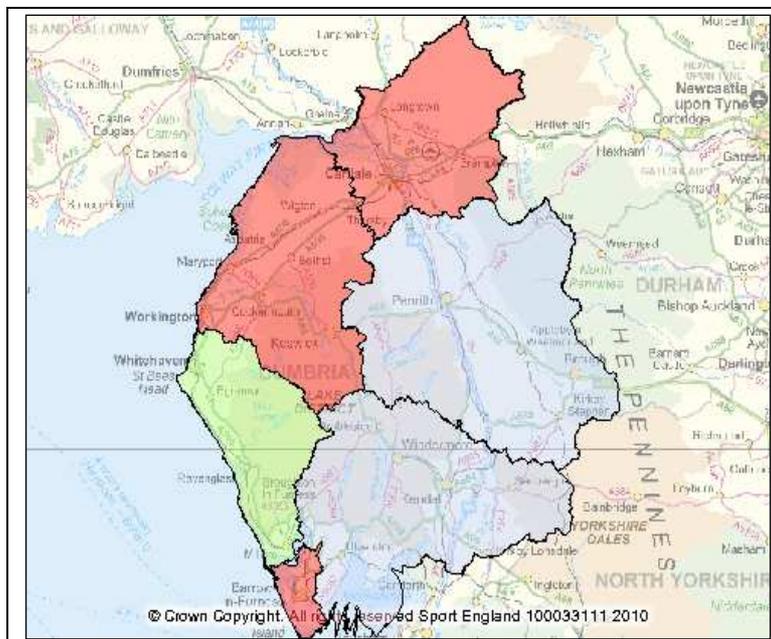
- Lakes College West Cumbria (24 stations)
- St Josephs College, Workington (16)
- Energize, Workington (66)
- Oval centre (30)
- Intrim, Workington (93)
- Workington LC and Pool (50)

There are other pools in Coniston, Askam, Dalton and Barrow, but these are well outside a reasonable 20-minute drive of the southern edge of Copeland.

Facilities per 1000 population - APP enables a comparison to be made with other local authority areas by benchmarking health and fitness provision per 1000 population.

Stations per 1000 population	
Copeland	4.4
Cumbria	6.5
NW region	6.2
England	5.7
Best in region (West Lancs)	9.5

The relative supply of fitness stations in Copeland is therefore only 2/3 of the county, regional and national averages, and less than 50% of the best provided LA in the region. Copeland provision is 38th best in the region of 43 LAs, and 4th of 6 LAs in the county.



Map 22 Health and Fitness centres per 1000
(* see key in Appendix 1)

QUALITY

Information on the quality of facilities in Copeland is taken from one main source – APP which highlights age of facility, and refurbishment, and enables this aspect to be used as a proxy for quality. It was not possible to undertake a more detailed audit of overall quality owing to the lack of access to all facilities

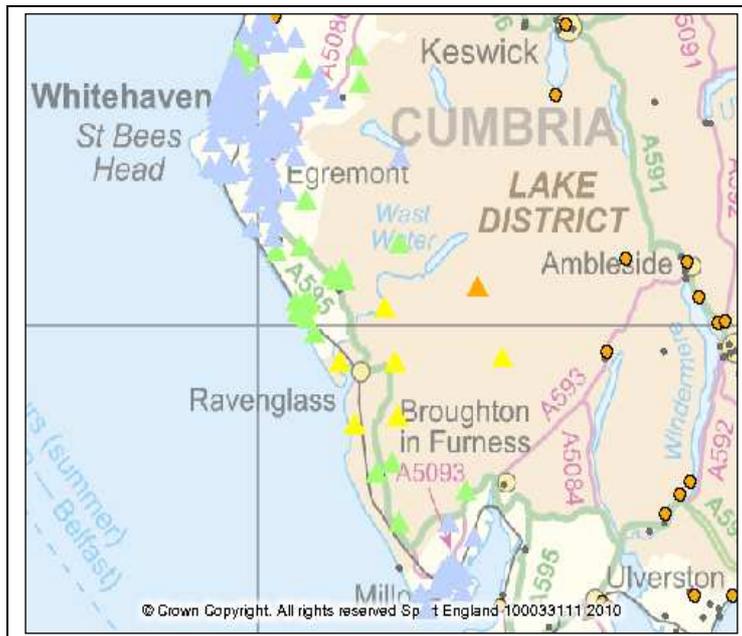
APP data – of the 10 centres currently available for community use, 6 have been built since 1990, and 3 of the older centres have also been refurbished. Only one centre is significantly old and has not been improved over the years.

Date	Number
Up to 1990	1 (1 refurb in 2007)
1980-1989	3 (2 refurb in 2005/2007)
1990-1999	2 (1 refurb in 2003)
2000 and after	4 (1 refurb in 2006)

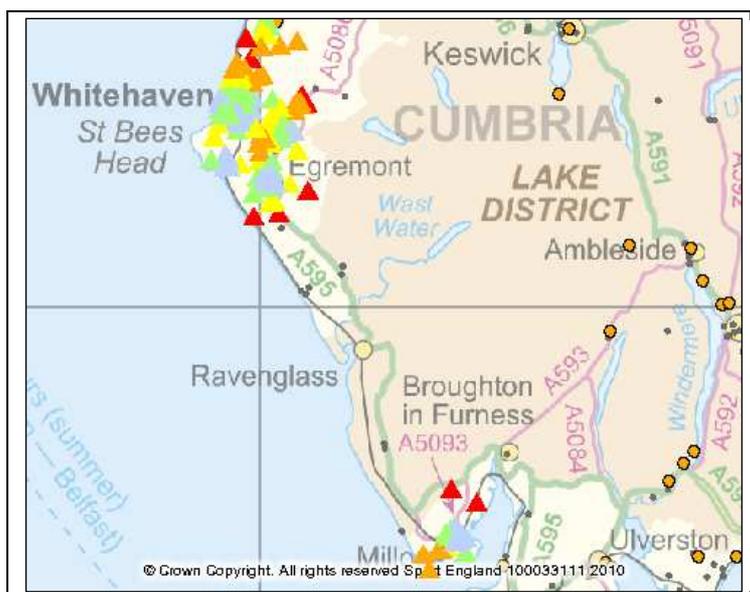
Overall the quality of health and fitness centres can be said to be good, with only two centres not having been built or refurbished in the last 25 years, and most since 2000.

Accessibility

The following maps and tables shows the time taken by local residents to drive/walk to health and fitness suites located in the borough or outside.



Map 23 Accessibility by car (* see key in Appendix 1)



Map 24 Accessibility on foot (* see key in Appendix 1)

The table below sets out these figures in more detail.

	Car		Walk	
0-10 mins	60621	87%	24299	41%
10-20 mins	6895	10%	16209	27%
20-30 mins	1628	2%	9202	15%
30-45 mins	250	<1%	7427	12%
45+ mins			2714	5%

As with most other facilities, accessibility to health and fitness centres is determined by the location of the facility, and the distribution of the population. Car access is good, but a significant proportion of those living outside the main towns cannot gain ready access to centres. Walking access is only good in the main towns where the centres exist.

DEMAND ASSESSMENT

Active Places Power or the FPM do not consider health and fitness in the same degree of detail as other facilities, and there is no 'ready reckoner' for assessing demand. The Fitness Industry Association has devised a model that provides guidance on the supply of stations against the current anticipated demand.

The model defines health and fitness users as all people participating in health and fitness, including private club members and users of local authority facilities. The model is based on peak period demand, and the peak times are identified as follows:

Mon-Fri, 6pm – 10pm

Sat-Sun, 12pm – 4pm

For modelling purposes, it is assumed that 65% of the total weekly usage occurs at the busiest (peak) time periods. Based on research with health and fitness operators it has been assumed that the average member/user visits the facility 2.4 times per week.

Sport England's Active People Survey has been used to understand the percentage of the population participating in health and fitness. Nationally, Active People shows that 10.6% of the population participate in health and fitness on a weekly basis – this figure has been used to reflect the local situation, based on APS data.

Standard	Value	Total
Population		70,400
% of population participating in health and fitness	10.6%	74624
Average number of visits per week	2.4	17909
No. of visits in peak time	65%	11641
No. of visits on one hour of peak time	28	415
TOTAL NO. OF STATIONS REQUIRED (PEAK TIME)		415

This shows that, on this basis, a total of 415 stations are required during the peak time period to accommodate current levels of demand. According to Active Places Power the current supply is 305 (or 268 if relative accessibility to the public is included), which equates to a significant deficit of 100-150 stations.

OVERALL CONCLUSION FOR HEALTH AND FITNESS

There are 305 stations on 11 health and fitness sites within Copeland. These are a mixture of local authority, pay and play, members only and sports club sites, although the proportion of pay and play centres is higher than usual. There is a lack of large commercial health club facilities, and no such facility with a pool.

Overall the quality of health and fitness centres can be said to be good, with only two centres not having been built or refurbished in the last 25 years, and most since 2000.

Anticipated demand from within the borough from the FIA methodology is for about 415 stations. There is no indication of significant import or export of demand. Evidence from LA managers of their own facilities suggests that it is likely that some centres are used to capacity. It is also apparent that some operators have plans to improve their gym facilities. Relative provision in regional and national terms is very low, although accessibility to centres is good, especially for those by car and for town residents on foot.

There is therefore some justification for additional health and fitness clubs at this stage, to meet a variety of needs – pay and play, local authority, and probably some scope for a larger commercial facility in Whitehaven. Millom provision is also lacking.

The local potential for additional health and fitness provision has been flagged up in previous studies. Discussions with North Country Leisure (NCL) have consistently identified the potential for additional high quality health and fitness provision in Whitehaven, particularly to cater for the older age groups.

The potential for small gym and leisure club (small pool, sauna / steam) in Whitehaven town centre, as part of any stadium development, has been identified previously. The key would be to ensure this was developed on a co-ordinated basis so as not to conflict with the WLC. Consultation with NCL as part of this work has reiterated this view.

Furthermore, the provision of other new sporting facilities a new health and fitness suite can provide great opportunities for cross-selling and marketing and help to increase participation in other sports and activities and therefore should always be considered as an 'add-on' when considering other new sporting provision. Within Whitehaven there would appear to be a case.

Health and fitness provision may also be critical to any pool development in Millom and the town might be able to support a small high quality facility. Partnership working is essential and any development needs to be seen as a project for Millom

Additional provision to meet the anticipated total of 415 stations might therefore be justified in a number of locations. The desirable level of provision of facilities available to the community is therefore the equivalent of about 1 50-station centre per 8500 people

Future provision

As with other facilities, future need is dependent on any increase in population, which is mitigated by the ageing of the population. Even if increased participation in accordance with local and SE targets is achieved, it is unlikely that additional stations will be required in the next 10-15 years over and above any planned increases at the present.

7. INDOOR BOWLS

The assessment below is based as before on the tools available from Sport England (although these are more limited than for other facilities).

PREVIOUS STUDIES

West Cumbria Sports Facility Analysis When compared against the SFC, Allerdale (with no provision) is well below the national average standard used by the SFC. Copeland however with a supply of 5 indoor bowls rinks is slightly above the national average standard. The evidence above shows potential gaps in Allerdale, particularly given the market segmentation data analysis of dominant age groups being of the older generation of which bowls is historically known as a popular sport played by such age groups

The market segmentation data analysis of likely popular sports includes bowls as one of the most popular. In addition Cumbria is a geographical area of strength with the highest number of clubs than any other North West county area.

Club data survey demonstrates the popularity of bowls in Allerdale.

There are a number of other 'similar' comparable authorities with more provision in terms of number of facilities and facilities per 1,000 population than both Copeland and Allerdale. There are significantly more output areas and therefore population in Allerdale outside a 20-minute catchment of a bowls hall than Copeland. The indoor bowls facility in Copeland nearly meets 100% of the local demand. However in Allerdale, 0% of the demand is met with no indoor bowls provision and yet the demand is estimated to be higher than that of Copeland, probably mainly due to the higher population but similar demographics.

Overall, there is a potential highlighted need for a new indoor bowls facility in Allerdale given the above factual information but more detailed local analysis and consultation would have to be undertaken particularly given consultation with local authorities as part of the Regional Strategic Facility Evidence Base didn't identify any facility priorities in Allerdale or Copeland.

Pow Beck Valley Stadium Development - Sport and Leisure Needs Assessment The regional evidence base makes the following specific commentary on indoor bowls provision - Cumbria is a geographical area of strength with the highest number of clubs than any other North West county area

Consultation with local authorities didn't identify any facility priorities in Copeland over and above the existing facility at Cleator Moor

ACTIVE PLACES POWER

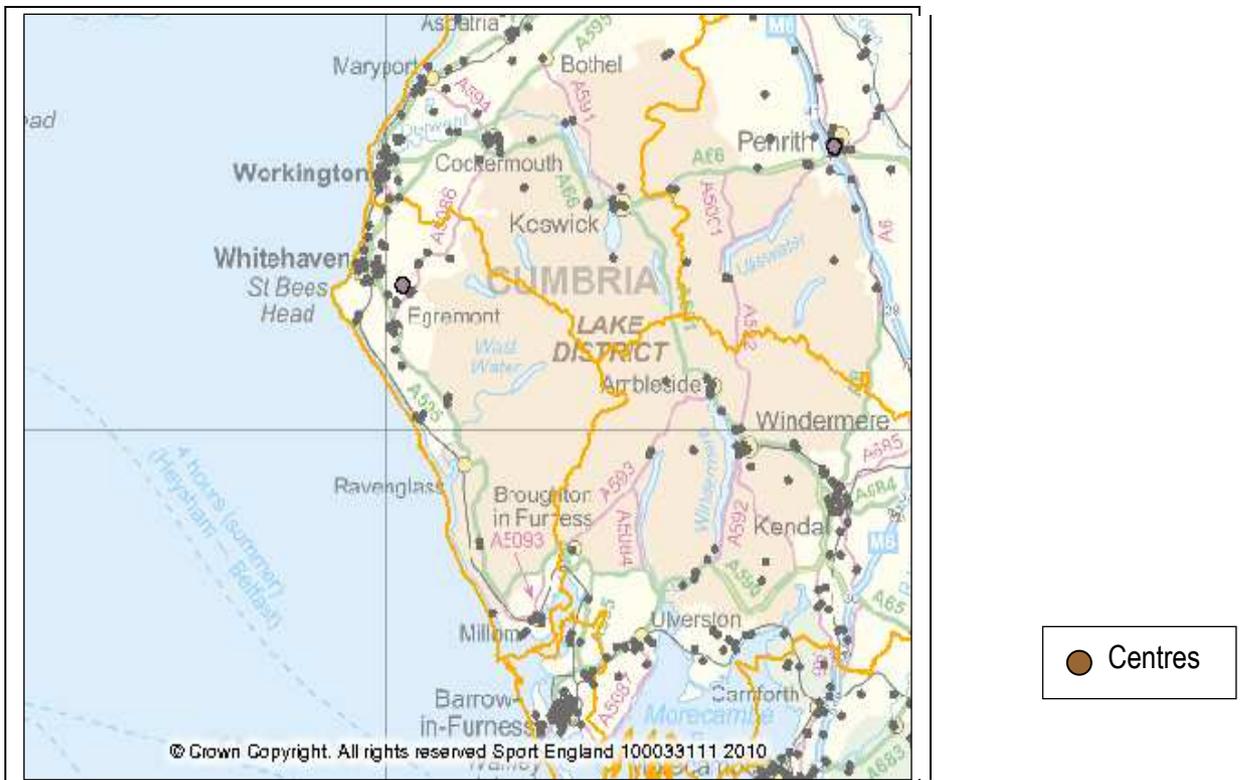
Supply

Site Name	Ward	Rinks	Ownership/management	Access	Year Built/refurb
NCL COPELAND INDOOR BOWLS CENTRE	Cleator Moor North	5	Local Authority/Trust	Pay and Play	1991/2004

There is one pay and play bowls facility within Copeland providing 5 rinks.

DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING BOWLS CENTRE

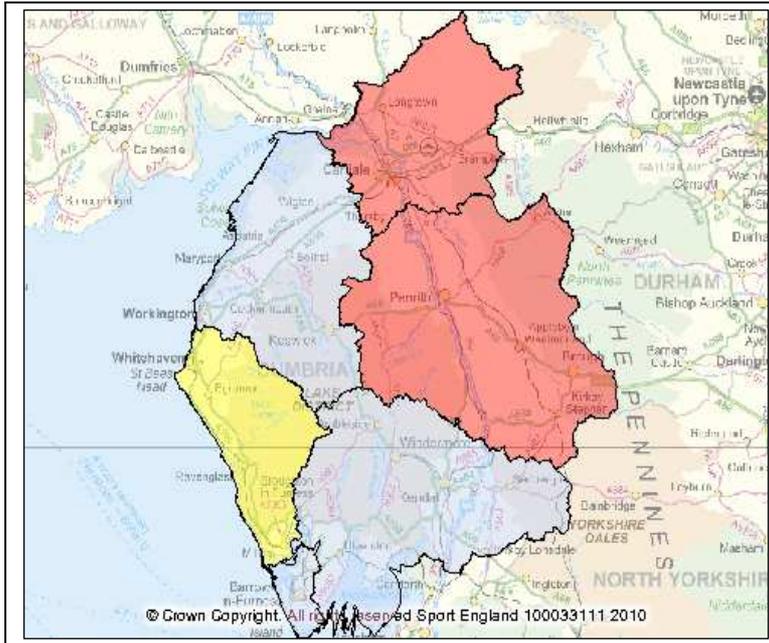
Copeland Bowls and Sports Centre comprises a main 5/6 rink hall and ancillary facilities including function room, bar, changing and other amenities. It was originally built in 1991 and has been upgraded more recently, including new seating and lighting and a new carpet. There are about 23,000 bowlers using the centre each year, which is available for use between September and April. The centre has over 270 members about 75% men, with few juniors, though the centre would like to encourage younger members to join and take up bowling with games played for fun or competitively. Leagues are played at the centre, including men's, ladies' and mixed leagues that are open to all members – there are currently 14 leagues, though this has been 21 in the recent past (with peak membership of 350 bowlers). The centre has a wider than local catchment the nearest similar centres being some distance away. The centre is part of a multi use facility which also includes an artificial grass pitch and new tennis courts .



Map 25 Indoor bowls centres in and around Copeland

There is only one other indoor bowls centre within an hour's drive of Copeland at Dalston in Carlisle, and one in Penrith

Facilities per 1000 population - APP enables a comparison to be made with other local authority areas by benchmarking indoor bowls provision per 1000 population.



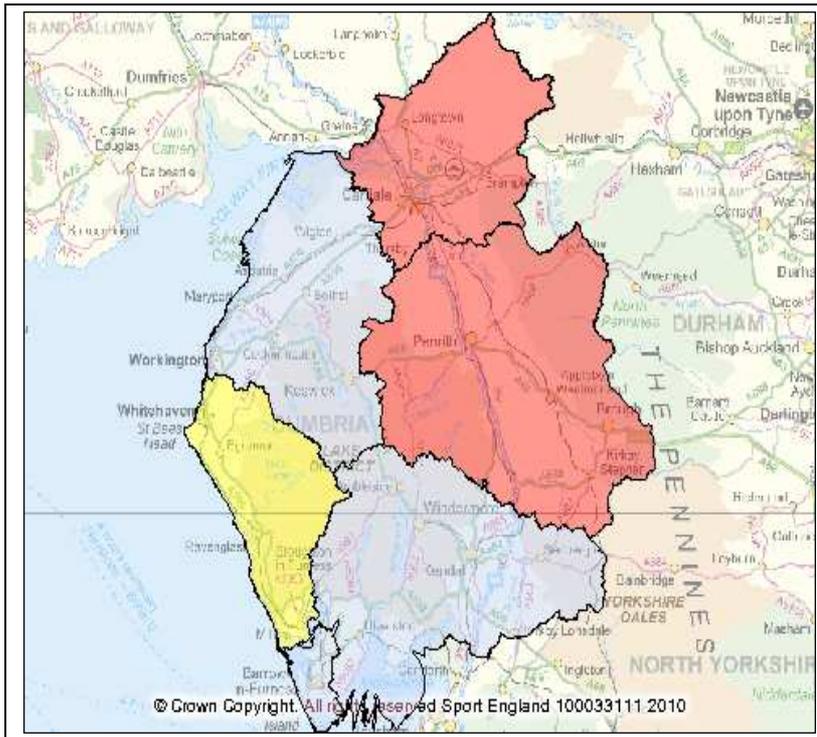
Map 26 Indoor bowls per 1000 in Cumbria
 (*see key in Appendix 1)

Rinks per 1000 population	
Copeland	0.07
Cumbria	0.05
NW region	0.01
England	0.04
Best in region (Eden)	0.12

Copeland provision per 1000 is the 4th highest in the region and 3rd in Cumbria. Relative provision in this region is low compared with the national average, with some regions having twice this level of provision. Nonetheless Copeland has almost twice the national average provision.

Local Supply and Demand Balance - This tool allows us to assess whether there are enough indoor bowl rinks in Copeland to meet demand generated in the Borough. A score of 100% indicates that demand is being met (in statistical terms). This does not take into account the import and export of demand between Local Authority Areas, location of facilities within the Borough or the condition of facilities.

% demand met	
Copeland	82%
Cumbria	65%
NW region	9%
England	59%
Best in region (Carlisle)	181%



Map 27 Local supply and demand – indoor bowls
 (*see key in Appendix 1)

The local supply demand balance in Copeland is better than the national and county average, and well in excess of the regional average. Carlisle and Eden meet the most demand in the region, and Copeland is 3rd best in the county and 4th in the region. Indoor bowls is not well provided for throughout the region and only six LAs meet any of the demand expressed within their own area.

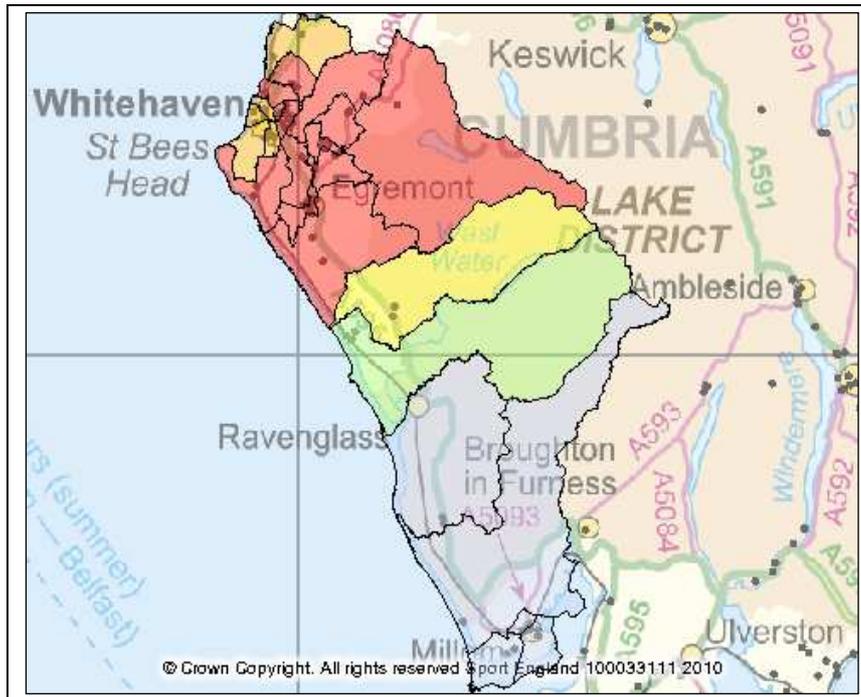
Personal Share – as with halls and pools, this tool compares the potential share of indoor bowls per person (in an output area) in terms of the ‘capacity of facilities’, and shows which residents have good access to facilities. The higher the Personal Share, the more generous the provision of rink space for an individual living in this location. The assessment has some shortcomings, but as it considers the nearest facility, and runs across local authority boundaries, it is an advance on the previous measure. The personal share is expressed in number of rinks

Copeland’s personal share for indoor bowl rinks is 0.67 rinks per person. As with supply and demand this is higher than the average, and reflects the good local provision and the relatively small population in the area sharing these facilities.

Area Averages	Personal Share
Copeland	0.67
Cumbria	0.64
Region	0.09
National	0.59

The map indicates the areas of high personal share indicated in red compared to areas of low personal share in blue. Clearly the areas nearest the existing bowls centre in Cleator Moor

have highest personal share – outside the northern part of the borough the personal share is below the national average.



Map 28 Personal share for bowls in Copeland
(*see key in Appendix 1)

Quality

The existing bowls centre was built in 1991 and has been refurbished in 2004. A visual inspection suggests the following quality assessment.

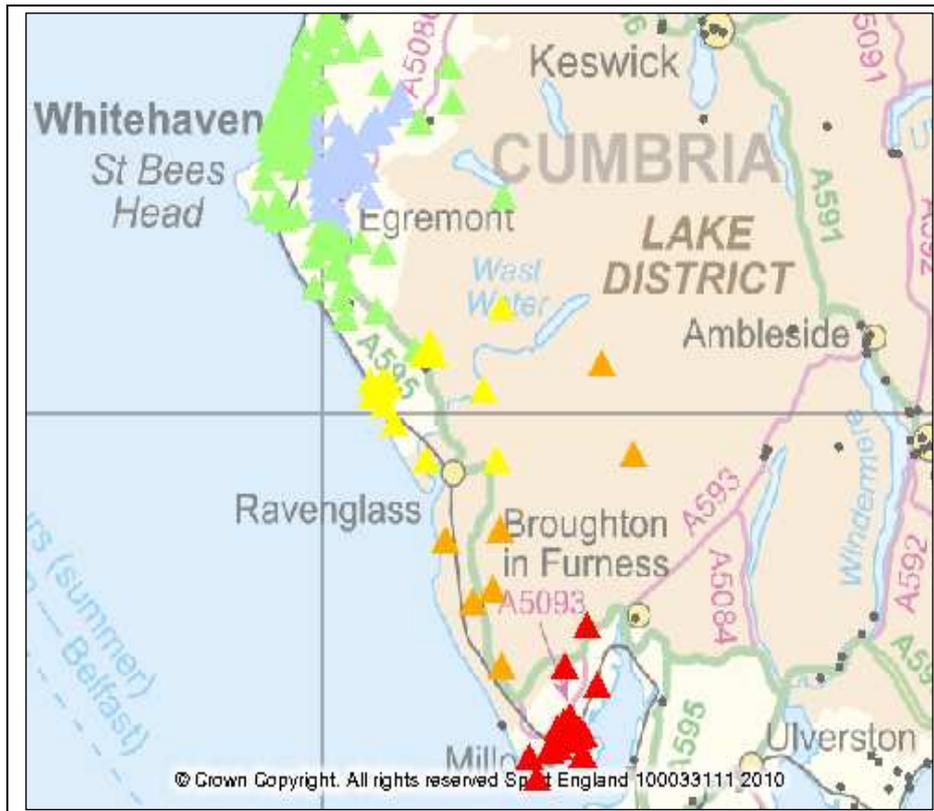
	Max	Copeland Bowls and Sports centre
Maintenance and condition	5	4
Cleanliness	3	5
Hall area	5	3
Changing	5	4
Entrance	3	2
Toilets	5	4
Disabled access	5	5
Car park and access	3	2
Transport links	3	2
Programme	3	3
Security/lighting	3	2
Information	3	2
Total	46	38
Percentage		83

The centre is therefore considered to be in good condition, and likely to remain fit for purpose over the duration of the study so long as it is maintained well.

Accessibility

This has been determined by the use of APP tools, mainly by car ((walking catchments have not been assessed due to the relative distribution of centres, and the age profile of many of those who participate). The map legends are similar to those used above.

The following map shows the time taken by Copeland residents to drive to an indoor bowls centre located in the area (these may be outside the borough). The majority indicated in green, blue and yellow are able to drive to a rink within 20 minutes. Overall accessibility to indoor bowls within Copeland is good, particularly in the main towns



Map 29 Accessibility by car
(*see key in Appendix 1)

The table below shows this in more detail.

	Population	%
0-10 mins	20015	29%
10-20 mins	34722	50%
20-30 mins	4080	6%
30-45 mins	1800	3%
45+ mins	8777	13%

Accessibility to indoor bowls is therefore not as good as for other facilities, due to the relative lack of indoor bowls centres both in Copeland and in adjacent boroughs. However over $\frac{3}{4}$ of the local population can still access a bowls centre within a 20-minute drive.

SPORTS FACILITIES CALCULATOR

The SFC is primarily intended to estimate the demand for facilities in discrete areas e.g. it is useful in determining the likely demand for halls from the residents of new housing growth. With some provisos it can be used to give a broad estimate of the demand over a local authority area, though it takes no account of demand across LA boundaries, quality of facilities and detailed opening times.

The SFC estimates that at present (with the latest population estimate of 70400 in 2010) there is sufficient demand in Copeland at normal participation rates for 0.9 centres, or about 5 rinks in community use.

This compares with current provision of one 5-rink centre. There appears to be a balance between supply and demand for indoor bowls from this assessment, but a fuller analysis is required to take into account the actual availability of sports halls throughout the day, hours of usage, location in terms of demand, age and condition. Bowls is not considered in Sport England's FPM and alternative means must therefore be found.

OVERALL CONCLUSION FOR INDOOR BOWLS

There is one indoor bowls centre in the borough with 5 rinks, centrally located in the most populous part of the borough. It is owned by the local authority and managed by North Country Leisure, with the principal objective of providing a service to the community by promoting flat green bowls to all sections of the community, including casual users, younger bowlers and clubs. Coaching sessions are available. There are no other similar centres within 45 minutes of the edge of Copeland.

Existing provision for indoor bowls in the borough exceeds the county and national average, and is well in excess of the regional average. The supply/demand and personal share ratios are also higher than average. Cumbria is a geographical area of strength in bowls, with the highest number of clubs than any other North West county area, and the market segmentation data demonstrates the dominant age groups being of the older generation of which bowls is historically known as a popular sport played by such age groups

The centre is considered to be in good condition, and likely to remain fit for purpose over the duration of the study so long as it is maintained well.

Because of the good provision for indoor bowls here, existing levels of local provision are therefore considered adequate to meet demand. Previous studies have not identified the need among consultees and others for additional bowls provision. No additional indoor bowls centres are therefore considered necessary at present.

The current level of provision is the equivalent of about 1 6-rink centre per 85,000 people.

Future provision

As with other facilities, future need is dependent on any increase in population, which is mitigated by the ageing of the population. Conversely it is the ageing population that might offer an opportunity to increase bowls provision. However, even if increased participation in accordance with local and SE targets is achieved, it is unlikely that additional rink space will be required in the next 10-15 years over and above provision at the present.

8. INDOOR TENNIS

The assessment below is based as before on the tools available from Sport England (although these are more limited than for other facilities).

PREVIOUS STUDIES

West Cumbria Sports Facility Analysis With no indoor tennis provision in both Allerdale and Copeland both fall below the national and regional averages.

The NGB sets out a hierarchical provision in terms of clubs and when compared to this, the need appears to be a focus on the accreditation of a main focus tennis clubs within West Cumbria as currently there are none. The Regional Strategic Facility Evidence Base supports this stating the needs and priorities for Cumbria appear to be around developing the club base.

Consultation with local authorities and the NGB as part of the development of the Regional Strategic Facility Evidence Base have not indicated any further required need for indoor tennis provision in Cumbria or specifically in Allerdale or Copeland.

However looking at the strategic mapping of indoor tennis locations a facility provision gap may be evident in West Cumbria but further detailed analysis and consultation would be required. This is particular the case given that tennis is one of the most popular sports in terms of number of clubs although this is not as strong when looking at the sports highlighted by the market segmentation analysis on propensity to participate.

Pow Beck Valley Stadium Development - Sport and Leisure Needs Assessment In terms of tennis analysis of the sub-regional strategic context and consultation stresses the importance of considering local needs. There are no standards of provision for indoor tennis however it is possible to consider the theoretical sustainability of an indoor tennis centre in Copeland on the Pow Beck Valley.

In 'Priority Project Funding, Policy and Operational Procedures', the LTA states that one indoor court can serve 200 regular tennis players. The Active People Survey found that 1.27% of adults regularly participate (once per week) in tennis, although this figure is lower in the north west region at only 0.85%. Given the lack of tennis infra-structure in Copeland this figure is likely, however if we use a figure of 1% we can then apply this to the likely catchment as follows 20 minute drive time of site = 64,908 total population (adult population) = 52,253, 1% of 52,253 = 522.53 divide by 200 = potential for 2.6 courts

0

We know there are no indoor courts in the area therefore anything between a 2 and 4 court facility could be sustainable in theory. However the Active People data also sets out how many regular players (the 522) become members of tennis clubs. The national figure is 29%. Therefore within the catchment population, 151.53 people are likely to become tennis members. If the proposed indoor hall is to be operated on a membership basis this could question its sustainability.

Subsequent discussions were held with the LTA. They confirmed that any dedicated indoor provision was unlikely to be supported given – location, demographics, tennis infrastructure and concerns about sustainability. The issues highlighted earlier in the report. The LTA

concluded a community tennis project would be far more appropriate i.e. outdoor floodlit tarmac courts with changing provision. The LTA would be prepared to look at investing at this scale of scheme. However there are other tennis developments in Copeland namely Cleator Moor and these need to be developed on a coordinated basis.

ACTIVE PLACES POWER

Supply

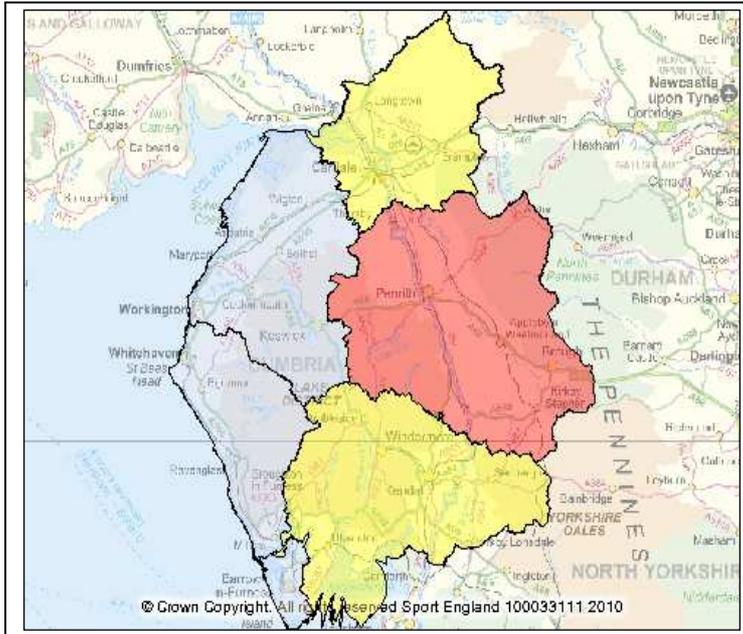
There are no indoor tennis centres in Copeland, the nearest being in Ulverston (4 court framed fabric tennis hall), which is 30 minutes from the southern edge of the borough.



Map 30 Indoor tennis centres around Copeland

Facilities per 1000 population – There are no courts in Copeland but the following table is provided for comparison. There is indoor tennis provision in 22/43 LAs in the region and in 3 LAs in Cumbria.

Area Averages	Indoor tennis per 1000 population
Copeland	0
County	0.02
Region	0.02
National	0.03
Best in Region (Ellesmere Port)	0.098

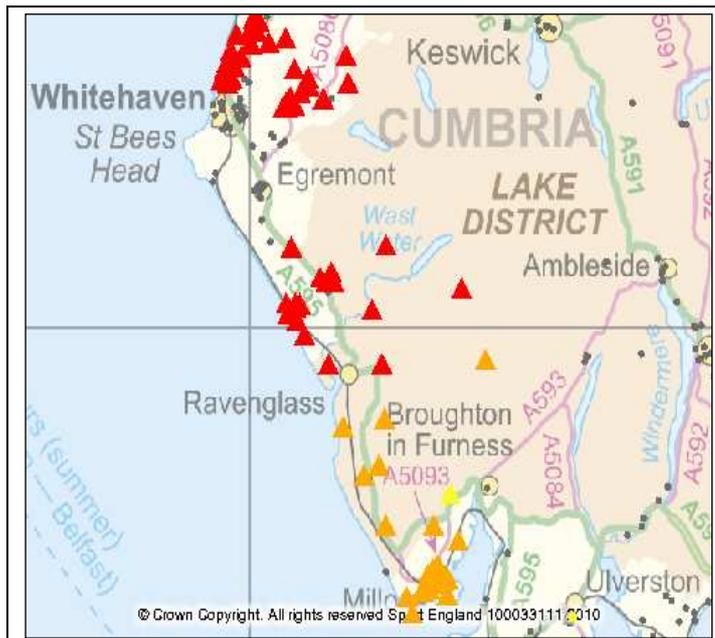


Map 31 Indoor tennis per 1000
 (*see key in Appendix 1)

Accessibility

Although there are no indoor tennis centres in Copeland, local residents are able to access facilities elsewhere outside the borough.

The following map shows the time taken to drive to the nearest indoor tennis centre (walking catchments have not been assessed due to the relative distribution of centres). The legend is the same used above. The map shows that all there is in fact very poor accessibility to indoor tennis, and only those residents in the southern part of the borough are within even a 30-minute catchment.



Map 32 Accessibility by car (*see key in Appendix 1)

In more detail, the following table highlights the proportion of local residents who live within various 10-minute car travel bands of a centre. None lives within a 20-minute drive of a centre, and very few within 30 minutes. This is significantly outside the Comprehensive Performance Assessment recommendation that all residents should be able to travel to a facility within 20 minutes. Nearly 2/3 of Copeland residents live more than an hour's drive from an existing centre, and this clearly precludes any involvement in this activity.

	Population	%
0-10 mins	0	0%
10-20 mins	0	0%
20-30 mins	290	<1%
30-45 mins	10037	14%
45 -60 mins	15056	21%
60+ mins	45000	64%

DEMAND ASSESSMENT

Active Places Power or the FPM do not consider indoor tennis in the same degree of detail as some other facilities, and there is no 'ready reckoner' for assessing demand. It is possible however to assess demand in broad terms by reference to LTA data, as follows.

In 'Priority Project Funding, Policy and Operational Procedures', the LTA states that one indoor court can serve 200 regular tennis players. The Active People Survey found that 1.27% of adults regularly participate (once per week) in tennis, although this figure is lower in the north west region at only 0.85%. Given the lack of tennis infrastructure in Copeland this figure is likely. However on the basis of a figure of say 1% activity rate, applied to the borough's current population (70,400), there is potential for $70,400 \times 0.8$ (adult population) $\times 1\%$ divided by 200 = 2.8 courts for the whole borough.

There are currently no courts available in Copeland, and on the basis of this calculation, there is some justification to suggest that there is a local demand for up to 3 courts.

OVERALL CONCLUSION FOR INDOOR TENNIS

There are no indoor tennis courts in Copeland and the nearest alternatives are at least 30 minutes from the southern boundary. Potential players in the main population centres in the north of the borough are not accommodated.

On the basis of the average provision in the county or region of 0.02 courts per 1000, there is shortfall of about 1-2 courts. Similarly using LTA data on the average court provision required to accommodate demand, there is a shortfall of up to 3 courts

Previous studies have highlighted that the NGB sets out a hierarchical provision in terms of clubs and when compared to this, the need appears to be a focus on the accreditation of a main focus tennis clubs within West Cumbria as currently there are none. The Regional Strategic Facility Evidence Base supports this stating the needs and priorities for Cumbria appear to be around developing the club base.

Consultation with local authorities and the NGB as part of the development of the Regional Strategic Facility Evidence Base have not indicated any further required need for indoor tennis provision in Cumbria or specifically in Allerdale or Copeland.

There is a strategic facility provision gap in evidence in West Cumbria but it appears that there is little NGB support for closing this gap. Tennis is one of the most popular sports in terms of number of clubs although this is not as strong when looking at the sports highlighted by the market segmentation analysis on propensity to participate.

Discussion held previously with the LTA have confirmed that any dedicated indoor provision was unlikely to be supported given location, demographics, tennis infrastructure and concerns about sustainability. A community tennis project would be far more appropriate i.e. outdoor floodlit tarmacadam courts with changing provision. The LTA would be prepared to look at investing at this scale of scheme. However there are other tennis developments in Copeland namely Cleator Moor and these need to be developed on a coordinated basis.

There is therefore little justification for the provision of indoor tennis at the present time in Copeland.

Future provision

As with other facilities, future need is dependent on any increase in population, which is mitigated by the ageing of the population. However, even if increased participation in accordance with local and SE targets is achieved, it is unlikely that additional indoor tennis court space will be required in the next 10-15 years.

9. ARTIFICIAL GRASS/SYNTHETIC TURF PITCHES

Sport England, the FA, RFU, RFL and England Hockey have just agreed to change the name of synthetic turf pitches to artificial grass pitches (see guidance note produced July 2010 and available on the Sport England website). As with halls and pools, there is a variety of information available on AGPs from the full range of Sport England planning tools, and this assessment incorporates all of these.

PREVIOUS STUDIES

West Cumbria Sports Facility Analysis Copeland has a higher provision than Allerdale in terms of number of facilities and facilities per 1,000 population. However, there appears to be sufficient overall provision against Sport England national standards but the national FA provision standards suggests there may be potential for additional 3G pitch.

Given the catchment and local needs analysis it could be argued the best provision for any additional 3G pitch could be in Workington. In addition, and supporting the potential new provision, is the fact that football is the most popular sport in both local authority areas in terms of club data and also within the 'propensity to participate sports' in the market segmentation data.

However 3G pitches are also suited for Rugby League training and Rugby League is the second most popular sport in terms of number of clubs in West Cumbria. Consultation with the governing body for Rugby League, as part of the Regional Strategic Facility Evidence Base, identified priorities for 2 pitches – at Seaton (Allerdale) and Kells (Copeland). Given the local needs assessment above the provision of 2 new pitches may appear unsustainable given the limited population catchments and further dialogue is required on the specific needs and locations for Rugby League particularly the rationale for such specific locations and potential links with the local professional rugby league clubs.

Pow Beck Valley Stadium Development - Sport and Leisure Needs Assessment. The evidence base states with regards to artificial grass pitches (AGPs) that future investment on sub-regional significant facilities i.e. sites where there are 2 AGPs together on one site as more regional and county strategic focus points, should focus on north and south Cumbria, in particular South Lakeland and Barrow in the South Carlisle local authority area in the North.

The stadium proposals currently set out the possibility of having two pitches on site, the existing pitch at Whitehaven Amateurs and an additional fourth generation pitch for the rugby league club. In strategic terms the RFS would appear to question this in terms of Whitehaven being an ideal site for a two pitch sub-regional facility. Analysis of local needs and sport specific needs would be needed to draw this issue out further.

With regards to each sport played on AGPs the evidence base makes the following commentary with regards to priorities:

- Hockey: Cumbria is a geographical area with little activity and this is supported by the regional club survey data where only 1 club was identified.
- Rugby League: Identified priorities include a 3rd Generation pitch for training at Seaton (Allerdale) just north of Workington and a 3rd Generation pitch at Kells (Copeland) in the southern coastal part of Whitehaven.

- Rugby Union: access to better quality training facilities. No specific commentary on Cumbria.

At sub-regional level it therefore appears that there could be something in the potential of a 3rd /4th generation AGP within Whitehaven as a focus for rugby league. However this will need to be looked at further in the context of existing supply and issues of local need.

ACTIVE PLACES POWER

Supply

Copeland has a total of 3 full size Artificial Grass Pitches, all of which are floodlit. One is located on a school site, one is run by a sports club and one is owned by the LA and managed by a trust. Two are sand based and one is 3G. Two of the pitches have pay and play access whilst the remaining one is used mainly by Sports Clubs and Community Associations.

Site Name	Ward	Type	Size	Ownership/ management	Access	Year Built
NCL COPELAND INDOOR BOWLS CENTRE	Cleator Moor North	Sand based	100 x 60m	Local Authority/ Trust	Pay and Play	1995
WHITEHAVEN AFC	Kells	Rubber crumb pile (3G)	100 x 60m	Sports Club	Pay and Play	2005
MILLOM SCHOOL	Holborn Hill	Sand based	100 x 60m	Community school /in house	Sports Club / Community Association	2006

DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING AGPs

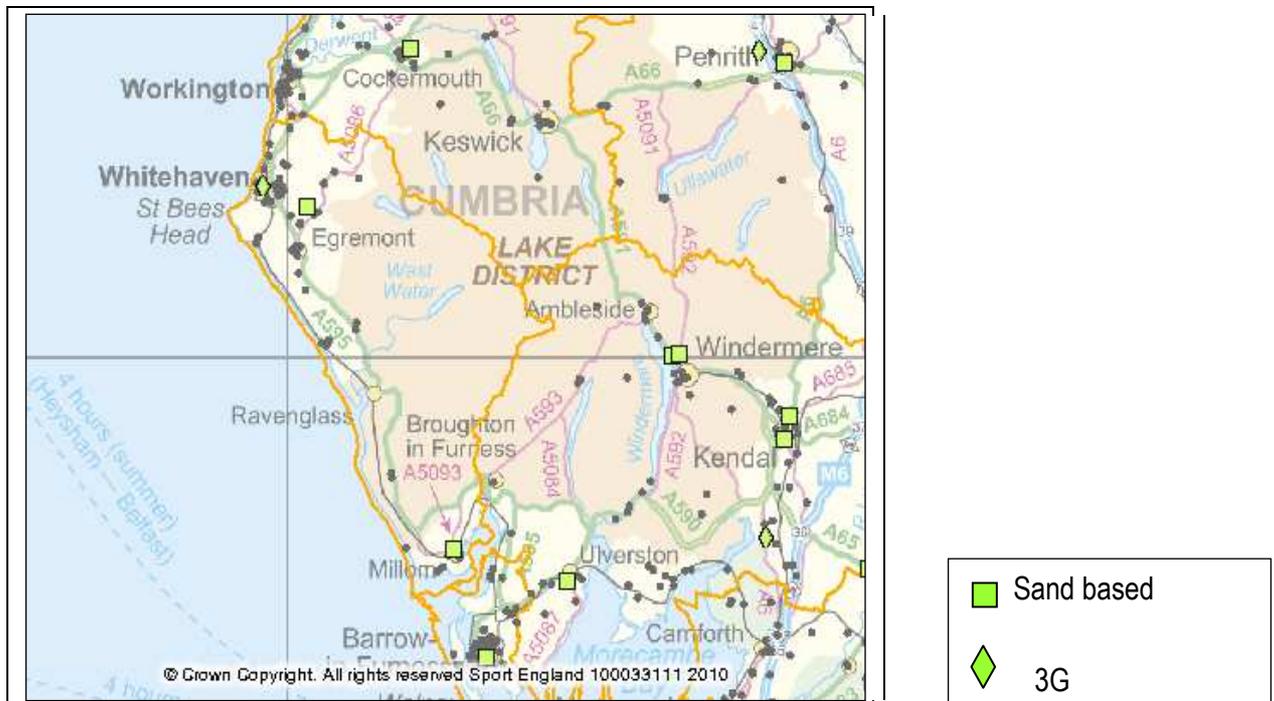
Cleator Moor – the pitch at Cleator Moor Indoor Bowls centre was built in 1995 and is a sand based surface suitable for hockey and recreational football and rugby. The pitch is used by Western Lakes Hockey Club for junior development and matches, and by a variety of local football and rugby clubs for training as well as some local schools. There are summer activities organised by Copeland Sports Development team. There is considered to be some spare capacity at times. The pitch is broadly in good condition though there are problems with some lines and the surface will require replacement in the short term.

Whitehaven Amateurs – a 3G pitch was provided in Whitehaven in 2005 as the result of funding from Sport England and others, and the pitch is operated and owned by Whitehaven Amateur FC, with a secured usage arrangement to allow community access throughout the week. There is some contention whether this access meets original requirements. The pitch is in good condition.

Millom School – a sand based pitch was built at Millom School in 2006 largely as the result of a major grant from the Big Lottery Fund to Cumbria County Council for the pitch and associated changing. The school has the main use of the pitch but a community use agreement is in place, though the actual usage of the pitch by outside teams and others is not known.

There is a smaller 3G pitch of an irregular size at Cumbria Sports Academy, as well as a smaller (38 x 17m) 3G pitch in Egremont.

In addition, there are full size AGPs within a 30-minute drive of Whitehaven at Cockermouth and Netherhall Schools in Allerdale, and within a 45-minute drive from the southern part of the borough in Ulverston, Barrow and Windermere.



Map 33 Location of AGPs in and around Copeland

Facilities per 1000 population - the table and map below show the available Artificial Grass Pitch facilities per 1000 population.

	Pitches per 1000 population
Copeland	0.04
Cumbria	0.05
NW region	0.04
England	0.04
Best in region (Ribble Valley)	0.09

The relative supply of AGPs in Copeland is therefore about the county, regional and national averages, although less than half of the best provided LA in the region. Copeland provision is 24th best in the region of 43 LAs, and 4th of 6 LAs in the county.

The relative provision of 3G and sand based pitches is similar as in both Copeland and overall there are more sand based pitches

Overall therefore AGP provision in terms of relative supply and compared with other areas is about average.



Map 34 AGPs per 1000
(*see key in Appendix 1)

Quality

Although no detailed audits have been undertaken of the quality of existing pitches, it is possible from APP to estimate this aspect by adopting the age of existing pitches as a proxy for quality. The database contains detailed information on when each pitch was originally constructed and whether it has been refurbished since then.

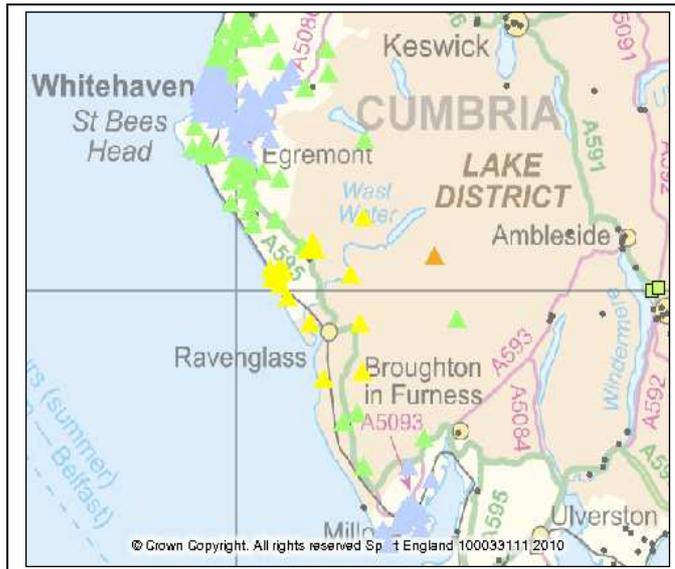
Of the three pitches currently available, 1 was built in 1995 and two in 2005/6. No major refurbishment has taken place of any pitch since construction.

In all cases, it must be acknowledged that over the term of this strategy, all facilities will become up to 15 years older, and even if in good quality at the present, may eventually through normal usage no longer be fit for purpose by 2021 or 2016. AGPs require regular maintenance of their surface, and it is normally recommended that these are replaced at least every 10 years.

Accessibility

APP assesses accessibility with the use of the same tools as with other facilities.

The map and the table below demonstrate that despite the rural nature of the borough, most of the population can access a pitch within a 20-minute drive, and over 2/3 of all within 10 minutes. The areas with the poorest accessibility are in the rural eastern parts of the borough where existing facilities are remotest but population is lowest (populations are based on 2001 Census).

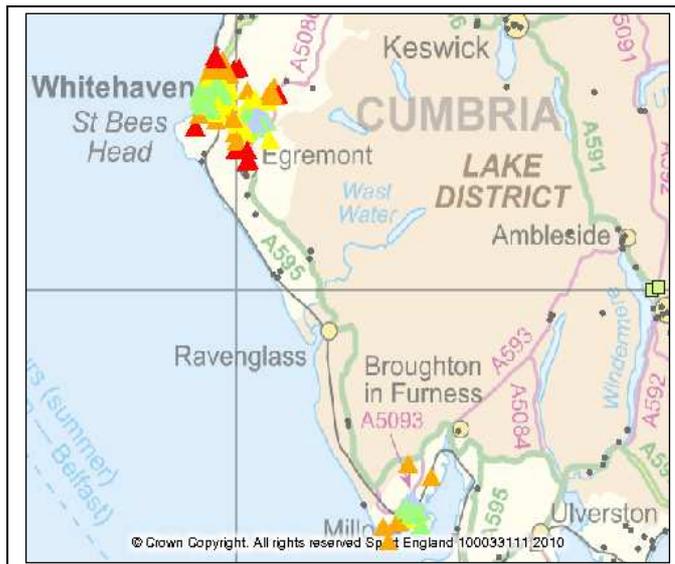


Map 35 Accessibility by car
 (*see key in Appendix 1)

In more detail, the proportion of people who live within each 10-minute car time band is set out below

	Population	%
0-10 mins	48169	69%
10-20 mins	16342	24%
20-30 mins	4633	7%
30-45 mins	250	<1%

The following map shows the time taken to walk to the nearest pool – the legend is similar to above. This is provided for comparison only – in a rural area with a relatively low supply of pitches, it is not reasonable to expect high accessibility on foot to pitches.



Map 36 Accessibility on foot
 (*see key in Appendix 1)

In more detail, the proportions of residents within each band are as follows (populations are based on 2001 Census).

	Population	%
0-10 mins	10464	22%
10-20 mins	13900	29%
20-30 mins	12006	25%
30-45 mins	8759	18%
45+ mins	2948	6%

Accessibility to AGPs on foot is poorer than for halls and pools owing to the smaller number of facilities, although they are distributed within the main population centres of the borough. Despite the rural nature of Copeland, over 50% of residents live within a reasonable (i.e. 20 minutes) walk of a pitch, and $\frac{3}{4}$ within 30 minutes.

Overall therefore despite the small number of facilities, accessibility to local AGPs is relatively good, especially by car, and also for the most part on foot, though the rural areas and parts of the main towns are outside a 20-30 minute walking catchment.

SPORTS FACILITIES CALCULATOR

The SFC is primarily intended to estimate the demand for facilities in discrete areas e.g. it is useful in determining the likely demand for AGPs from the residents of new housing growth. With some provisos it can be used to give a broad estimate of the demand over a local authority area, though it takes no account of demand across LA boundaries, quality of facilities and detailed opening times.

The SFC estimates that at present (with the latest population estimate of 70400 in 2010) there is sufficient demand in Copeland at normal participation rates for 2.1 pitches in community use.

This compares with current provision of 3 pitches (in the APP assessment) in full community usage. From this crude assessment, there is sufficient pitch space in total to meet this expected demand from Copeland residents, but a fuller assessment is required to take into account the actual availability of pitches throughout the day, hours of usage, location in terms of demand, age and condition. This assessment is set out below under the FPM section.

FPM ASSESSMENT

Sport England's facility planning model runs undertaken as part of the National Facilities Audit were first produced for AGPs in April 2009, and repeated in 2010. The assessment for AGPs includes all full size pitches contained in the database at the time, as below (this corresponds with the current database above).

Site Name	Type	Size	Usage/ management	Year Built	Capacity vpw	Hours available	Demand as % of capacity
NCL COPELAND INDOOR BOWLS CENTRE	Sand based	100 x 60m	Local Authority/ Trust/pay & play	1995	703	31/77	81%

Site Name	Type	Size	Usage/ management	Year Built	Capacity vpw	Hours available	Demand as % of capacity
WHITEHAVEN AFC	Rubber crumb pile (3G)	100 x 60m	Sports Club/pay & play	2005	740	34/91	88%
MILLOM SCHOOL	Sand based	100 x 60m	Community school /in house./club use	2006	740	34/49	38%

The main conclusions of the AGP assessment were:

- Per capita provision is higher the average, and personal share is 75% above average. There is thus good provision per capita of AGPs.
- Supply and capacity exceed demand by about 50%.
- Satisfied demand is 89%, well above the national and regional average, and in excess of the Cumbria average.
- Unmet demand is only 11%, the equivalent of a fraction of one pitch, and lower than the average. Some of this is caused by lack of capacity at existing pitches that are operating at high levels, but most by inaccessibility to pitches.
- Because of the location of pitches and the relative lack of AGPs in neighbouring boroughs, there is small net import of demand (12%), probably in small amounts to all the pitches. Nearly all the local demand is met within the borough.
- Throughput at pitches is relatively low – only 68% of capacity is used, and no pitches are operated near capacity.

Conclusions - relative provision of AGPs in Copeland is above the average. Supply exceeds anticipated demand by a significant amount, although there is some small element of demand imported from adjacent LA areas. Unmet demand is low, and probably distributed across the whole borough. All pitches are operating below their capacity. Based on the findings of the FPM it is difficult to make the case for additional AGPs at this stage.

OVERALL CONCLUSION FOR AGPs

Historically the demand for AGPs has been based on a general standard from Sport England, which for many years was based on one pitch per 50-60,000 people, and provision in the early development of AGPs was broadly in accordance with this. The development of 3G (3rd generation) pitches and the requirement for all competitive hockey to take place on AGPs has increased demand. Advice from the Football Association (FA) requires a standard of 1 pitch per 25,000 for 3G pitches, most suitable for football. The existing provision of 3 full size pitches meets the FA standard of 1 pitch per 25000, though 2 of the existing pitches are sand based and unsuitable for football at a competitive level.

The SFC calculation suggests that there are more than enough pitches in the borough to meet the normally expected levels of demand from within the borough.

The FPM assessment concludes that there is insufficient unmet demand within the borough at present to justify additional AGP provision.

The assessment produced in the separate Playing Pitch Assessment has however identified the following possible local demands:

- One additional AGP (3G surface) to meet identified needs. 3G pitches are also suited for Rugby League training and Rugby League is the second most popular sport in terms of number of clubs in West Cumbria. Consultation in the West Cumbria strategy with the governing body for Rugby League identified priorities for 2 pitches in West Cumbria – at Seaton (Allerdale) and Kells (Copeland). Given the local needs assessment, the provision of 2 new pitches in West Cumbria may appear unsustainable given the limited population catchments and further dialogue is required on the specific needs and locations for Rugby League particularly the rationale for such specific locations and potential links with the local professional rugby league clubs. However a further pitch at Kells (or wherever) might be considered in Copeland
- An additional AGP in Egremont to provide a facility for club use and training, and for use by the Academy to deliver curriculum sport, given the lack of outdoor pitches at the venue.
- Training pitches (small or half size) in other locations

The ultimate provision of 5 AGPs of provision would equate to about 1 full size AGP per 14000 people – this is high compared with other areas but can be justified on the basis of local factors.

Future provision

As with other facilities, future need is dependent on any increase in population, which is mitigated by the ageing of the population. Even if increased participation in accordance with local and SE targets is achieved, it is unlikely that additional pitches will be required in the next 10-15 years over and above any planned increases at the present.

10. ATHLETIC TRACKS

PREVIOUS STUDIES

West Cumbria Sports Facility Analysis The existing track provided at Copeland Athletics Stadium in Whitehaven will provide a large 45-minute catchment area that covers the main populated areas of Copeland and Allerdale. However there may be justification for an additional facility in Workington should we apply the national NGB standards and treat Whitehaven and Workington as main urban areas. In addition and as a satellite to the main facility there would appear to be definite need for some form of co-ordinated athletics training facilities in West Cumbria to meet the NGB aspirations.

The Regional Strategic Facility Evidence Base identified through consultation of Local Authorities the desire for an 8-lane track as part of the proposed Workington Sports Village in Allerdale. The mapping of 8-lane facilities across the region also highlights a potential gap in West Cumbria and the report suggests that investment in outdoor grass roots facilities (possibly training facilities) are required particularly where the club base has potential to grow, highlighting Cumbria as one of these areas. However Cumbria already meets the nationally set provision standards by the governing body of one 8-lane track per county (currently provided at Sheepmount).

In addition it is also worth considering that if there is a need and desire for an 8-lane track in the West Cumbria region that this could also easily be provided through an upgrade of the existing 6-lane track in Whitehaven.

Overall, if there is any facility need for new and additional athletics provision, the needs and evidence base suggests this should be within Allerdale, possibly around the Workington area and as a minimum could be in the form of a satellite training facility. This is particularly the case given the catchment analysis and that the number of athletics clubs is higher in Allerdale. However, Cumbria is also a geographical area with relatively little activity in comparison to other areas in the North West so the questions around sustainability and demand are there to be answered and further explored.

Pow Beck Valley Stadium Development - Sport and Leisure Needs Assessment The regional evidence base makes the following specific commentary on athletics provision - Cumbria is a geographical area with little activity in comparison to other areas in the North West. Consultation identified that in Cumbria the priority project was an 8-lane track as part of the Workington Sports Village in Allerdale. There is only one 8-lane track in Cumbria but the county has the second lowest number of clubs in the region. Cumbria has the lowest level of track facilities per 1,000 population.

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There is a strategic gap in Copeland with regards to 8-lane athletics tracks outside a catchment of 20 minutes. However the RFS also notes that the existing 6-lane track at the Cumbria Sports Academy in Whitehaven serves athletics needs well and the upgrade of this track would adequately meet the priority needs of Athletics in Copeland. This supports current proposals at the Academy, which meet the needs and should provide the focus for Athletics across the borough

ACTIVE PLACES POWER

Supply

There is one athletics track in Copeland at the Cumbria Sports Academy, formerly known as Copeland Athletics Stadium.

Site Name	Ward	Lanes	Floodlit	Ownership/management	Access	Year Built/refurbish
CUMBRIA SPORTS ACADEMY	Hensingham	6	Yes	Local Authority/other	Pay and Play	1989/2005



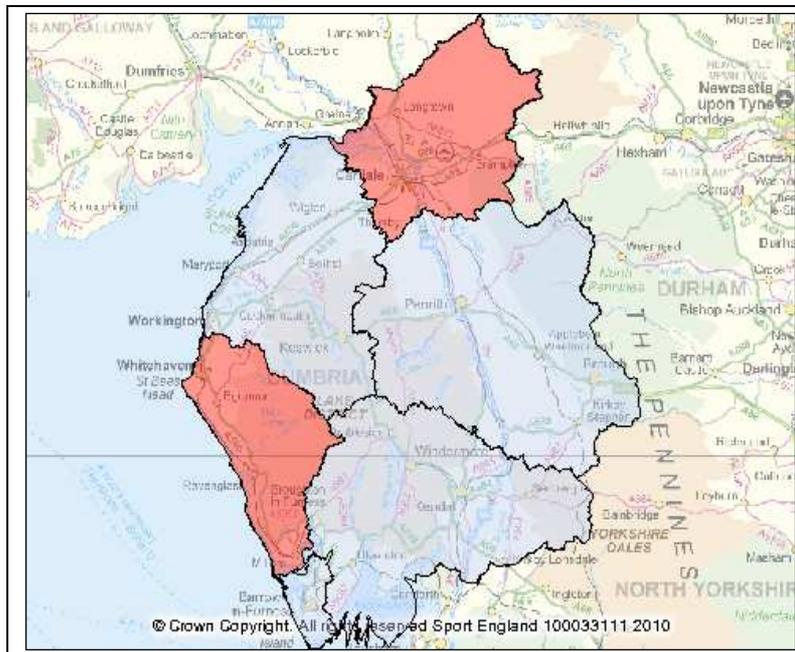
Map 37 Athletics tracks in and around Copeland

Description of existing athletics track

The track was originally cinder. It was upgraded to synthetic by British Nuclear Fuels (whose main site Sellafield is just outside Whitehaven) and opened on 22 Jul 1989 and they also funded its running cost for five years. In 2005 the track was refurbished and it is now managed on a mainly voluntary basis by the Cumbria Academy of Sport, a Trust on behalf of the local community, with some funding from the local authority. The academy site also includes a main building containing conference and social areas, gym and changing rooms, a small AGP, and outdoor pitches. There is a main stand with spectator facilities. The track itself is used on a number of evenings a week by local running and athletics clubs. The Trust has ambitious plans to develop a major sports facility on the site which comprises the track and a range of other built facilities.

There are no other tracks within an hour's drive of the edge of the borough. There is only one other track in Cumbria, an 8-lane track at Sheepmount Stadium in Carlisle.

Facilities per 1000 population - This tool shows the available athletics facilities in lanes per 1000 population. Relative provision in Copeland is very good compared with the average, and local provision is best in Cumbria and 6th/43 LAs in the region.



Map 38 Athletics tracks per 1000
(*see key in Appendix 1)

	Lanes per 1000 population
Copeland	0.09
Cumbria	0.03
NW region	0.05
England	0.05
Best in region (Vale Royal)	0.16

These figures should be considered with some caution as they reflect all tracks, including synthetic, cinder and permanent grass

Quality

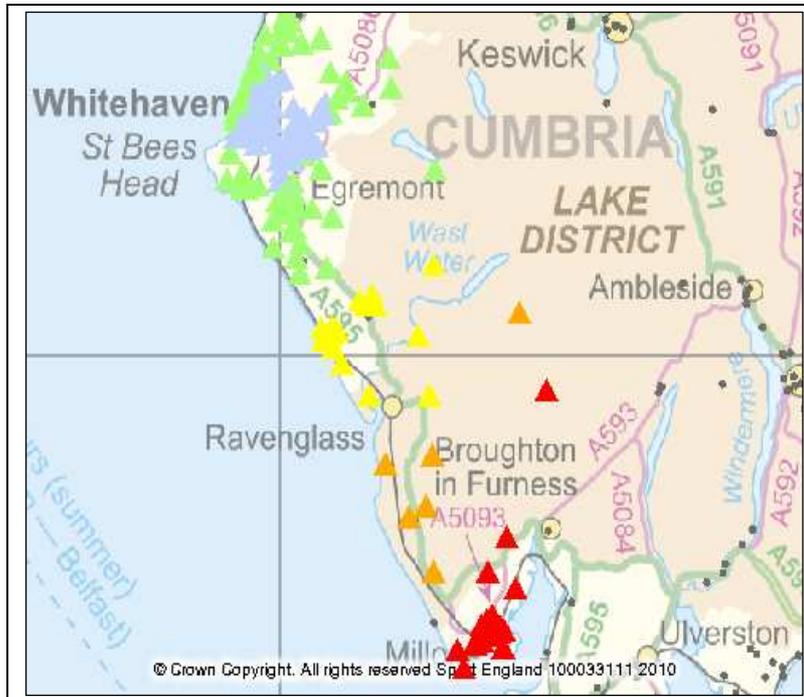
Using APP data, it is possible to estimate the quality and condition of the pitch from date of construction. The track was built in 1985 and has been refurbished more recently in 2005. Visual inspection confirms that the track is generally in good condition.

Accessibility

Despite the existence of only one facility, accessibility to tracks is good, with almost 80% of the population within a 20-minute drive. Inevitably accessibility is best in the main towns in the north of the borough – Millom and the rural areas south are generally outside a reasonable driving catchment

In more detail, the proportions of residents within each band are as follows (populations are based on 2001 Census).

	Population	%
0-10 mins	321574	46%
10-20 mins	22323	32%
20-30 mins	4337	6%
30-45 mins	1642	2%
45+ mins	8935	13%



Map 39 Accessibility by car
(*see key in Appendix 1)

OVERALL CONCLUSION FOR ATHLETICS

Existing provision for athletics in Copeland is good compared with other parts of the county and region. Accessibility to the track, despite the rural nature of the borough is good, and the track fulfils an important role for the whole of West Cumbria.

The Regional Facilities Strategy identified Cumbria as a geographical area with little activity in comparison to other areas in the North West. Consultation suggested that the priority project was an 8-lane track as part of the Workington Sports Village in Allerdale. There is only one 8-lane track in Cumbria but the county has the second lowest number of clubs in the region. Cumbria has the lowest level of track facilities per 1,000 population.

There is a strategic gap in Copeland with regards to 8-lane athletics tracks outside a catchment of 20 minutes. However the RFS also notes that the existing 6-lane track at the Cumbria Sports Academy in Whitehaven serves athletics needs well and the upgrade of this track would adequately meet the priority needs of Athletics in Copeland. This supports current proposals at the Academy, which meet the needs and should provide the focus for Athletics across the borough.

There is therefore some justification (subject to feasibility) to consider the enhancement of the existing track to 8-lanes to meet this wider need.

This desirable current level of provision is the equivalent of about 1 8-lane per 70,000 people.

Future provision

As with other facilities, future need is dependent on any increase in population, which is mitigated by the ageing of the population. Even if increased participation in accordance with local and SE targets is achieved, it is unlikely that additional tracks/lanes will be required in the next 10-15 years over and above any planned increases at the present.

11. GOLF FACILITIES

PREVIOUS STUDIES

West Cumbria Sports Facility Analysis Cumbria has the second highest provision (number of golf holes) in the region and above regional and national averages. More specifically in West Cumbria, Allerdale has a higher provision ratio per 1,000 population than Copeland but both authorities have a higher provision ratio than the national and regional averages. Copeland has the joint highest number of facilities (with Allerdale) and the highest in terms of facilities per 1,000 population when compared with its 'similar' authorities

Access within both areas to golf courses is very good. In Allerdale it appears the whole coastal area apart from the far north is within 15 minutes drive time of a golf course and this also appears to be the case for the coastal area of Copeland as well.

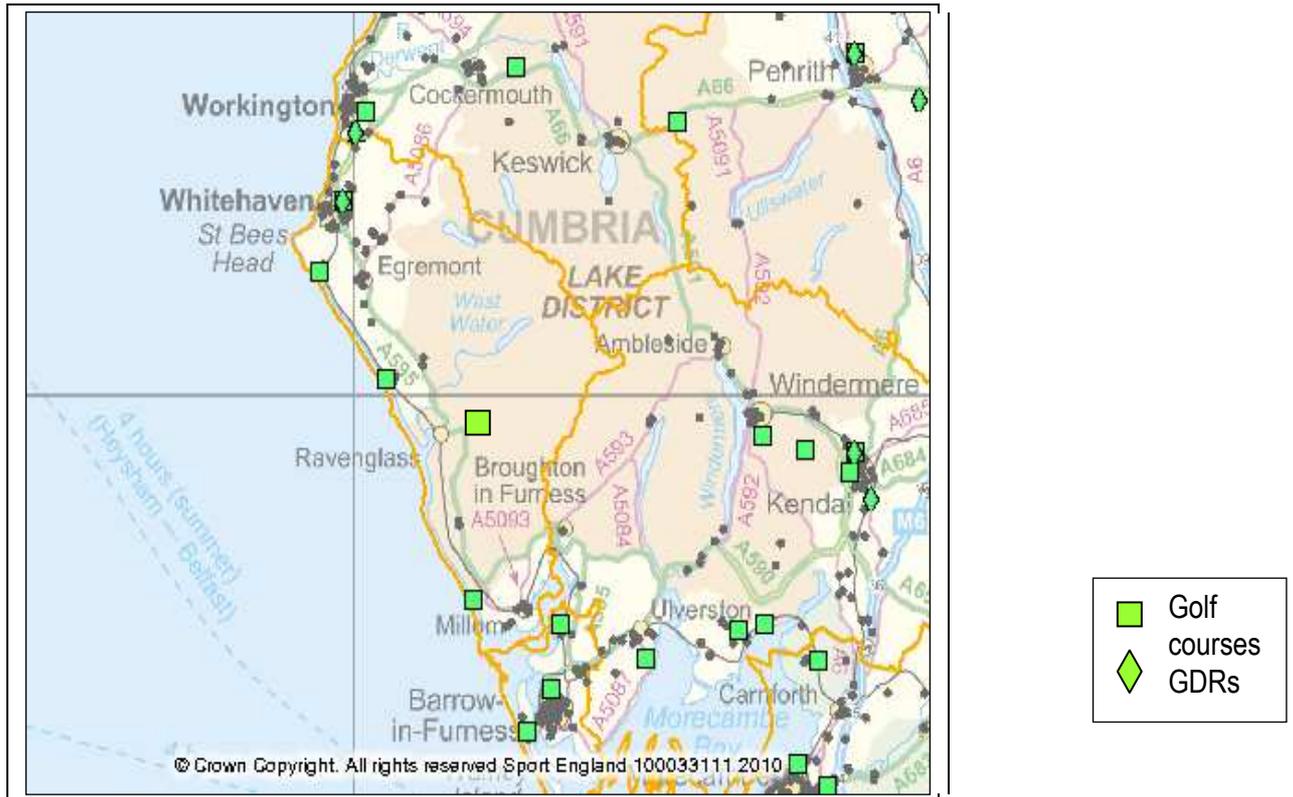
Therefore the provision and investment in golf facilities is unlikely to be a high priority supported by the fact that golf is one of the least sports mentioned in the market segmentation analysis when looking at 'propensity to participate' of the dominant market segments.

ACTIVE PLACES POWER

Supply

There are 8 golf facilities on 6 sites comprising three 18-hole standard courses, two 9-hole, one par 3 and two golf driving ranges. Most facilities are available primarily on a pay and play basis, and Silecroft GC is also freely available for wider community use on payment of green fees.

Site Name	Ward	Type	Holes / Bays	Ownership/ management	Access	Year Built
SEASCALE GOLF CLUB	Seascale	Standard	18	Sports Club	Pay and Play	1893
ST BEES GOLF CLUB	St. Bees	Standard	9	Other Independent School/in house	Pay and Play	1906
WHITEHAVEN GOLF CLUB	Hensingham	Standard	18	Commercial /sports club	Pay and Play	2000
SILECROFT GOLF CLUB	Millom without	Standard	9	Sports Club	Sports Club / Community Association	1903
ESKDALE GOLF CLUB	Bootle	Standard	18	Commercial	Pay and play	NK
DISTINGTON GOLF DRIVING RANGE	Distington	Par 3	9	Commercial	Pay and Play	1990
DISTINGTON GOLF DRIVING RANGE	Distington	GDR	16	Commercial	Pay and Play	1990
WHITEHAVEN GOLF CLUB	Hensingham	GDR	16	Commercial	Pay and Play	2006



Map 40 Golf facilities in and around Copeland

There are other golf courses within a half hour drive from the edge of the borough at Workington GC (18 holes), Cockermouth GC (18 holes) and Dunnerholme GC, Askam (10 holes).

Facilities per 1000 population

Relative provision of standard golf holes is shown in the table below.

	Holes per 1000 population
Copeland	0.78
Cumbria	0.99
NW region	0.67
England	0.68
Best in region (Vale Royal)	1.77

The figure for Copeland excludes Eskdale – if this is included the number of holes per 100 in the borough is 1.04. This places Copeland about 9th of all LAs in the region and third in the county. Average provision in Cumbria is higher than the average, and Copeland has a high relative supply of standard golf holes.



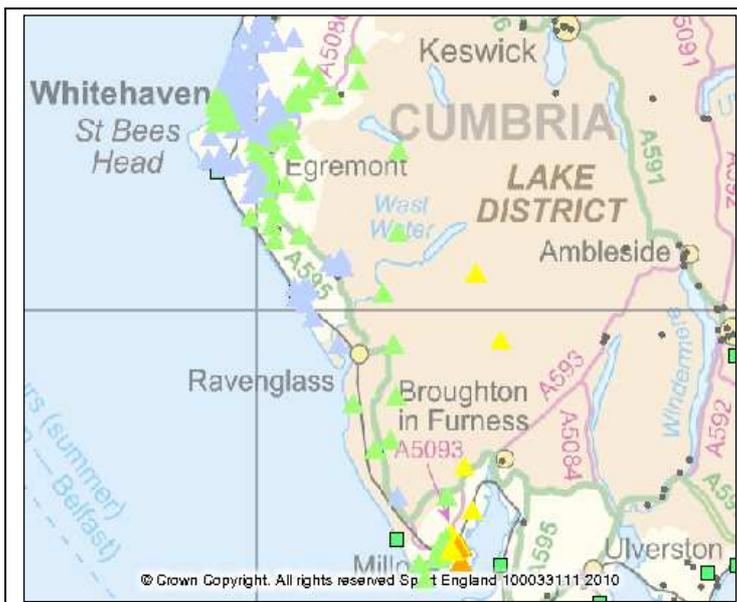
Map 41 Standard golf courses per 1000
 (*see key in Appendix 1)

Quality

Most golf courses tend to be maintained in good condition, and their age (unlike other sports facilities) is usually no indicator of their quality. For the record, three facilities were originally built over 100 years ago, and are well established, while newer facilities (mainly pay and play and the relocated Whitehaven club) date from 1990 onwards.

Accessibility

Accessibility to all golf facilities is good – the map below does not include Eskdale, though the population served by this course is relatively small.



Map 42 Accessibility by car to all golf facilities
 (*see key in Appendix 1)

In more detail, the proportions of residents within each band are as follows (populations are based on 2001 Census).

	Population	%
0-10 mins	39189	56%
10-20 mins	24815	38%
20-30 mins	4297	6%
30-45 mins	1093	2%

Only 8% of the Copeland population can therefore not reach a golf facility within a 20-minute drive.

OVERALL CONCLUSION FOR GOLF

Provision for golf in Copeland and indeed the whole of Cumbria is very high, compared with the average, and accessibility to main golf courses, available for pay and play, is good. Ancillary facilities such as par 3 courses and driving ranges, which are more suitable for developing skills and practice, are accessible to the main population centres in the north of the borough.

The West Cumbria analysis previously undertaken suggested that there was no priority for additional course and other golf facilities at the present. There is no evidence of waiting list at existing clubs or other indicators of unmet or talent demand, and no additional facilities are therefore required at the current time in Copeland.

The current level of provision is the equivalent of about 1 18-hole golf course per 17,500 people.

Future provision

As with other facilities, future need is dependent on any increase in population, which is mitigated by the ageing of the population. Even if increased participation in accordance with local and SE targets is achieved, it is unlikely that additional facilities will be required in the next 10-15 years over and above any provision at the present.

12. OTHER SPORTS

While the strategy has concentrated on the main sports facility types, consultation and document research have uncovered some specific facility requirements for other specialist sports.

Previous studies have highlighted a number of specialist sports facilities in the region and in West Cumbria

:

- **Badminton:** improved/replacement multi-purpose sports halls meeting badminton playing requirements.
- **Basketball:** fit for purpose 2 court facilities across the NW given current lack of such provision. No specific Cumbria commentary.
- **Handball:** access to multi-purpose 8 badminton court halls also meeting needs of handball. No specific Cumbria commentary.
- **Netball:** more sports hall facilities which meet the needs of netball for indoor training and competitive play. No specific Cumbria commentary.
- **Table Tennis:** 4 regional training centres identified as priority none of which are in Cumbria. Otherwise more access and improved access to current facilities to enable development of clubs.
- **Volleyball:** Low participation in Cumbria; more sports hall access appropriate for volleyball use and designated programming

NCL in consultation would also be interested in considering other commercial propositions such as 10 pin bowling, climbing / bouldering walls etc. At present there are no ten pin bowling facilities in Copeland, the nearest provision being in Workington. In terms of provision standards, operators work on a ratio of 2,300 people per lane. The demographics and lack of competition would appear to lend itself to a small ten-pin facility.

Squash - Although not a sports hall sport, squash facilities are often concurrent to the provision of sports halls. The evidence base in the regional study recognised the importance of Windscale Squash Club based on 4 courts at the Falcon Complex as a high performance centre and prioritises additional squash courts to assist in re-building club bases particularly in Lancashire and Cumbria. In addition there are 4 courts at Whitehaven Sports Centre, and 2 at St Bees School. Whitehaven Squash club would like a dedicated squash facility with a fitness centre and a minimum of four glass back courts (an all glass show court would also be appreciated). The glass-back courts would allow for easier viewing both by spectators and coaches. They would also like a seated viewing area for all four courts to encourage parents and other players to watch the games. They consider that this would work well near a school so that the school could also benefit from it and have already tentatively spoken to St Benedict's school who would be happy to accommodate the facility if funding could be found.

Netball - Copeland Netball League requires 4 indoor courts x 35 weeks per year (ideally 6.30 to 9.30 one evening per week (a large space such as WSC or any new tennis centre would

suffice) in the short term plans (1 – 2 years) to allow the continuation of a successful League. In the medium (3 – 5 years) there are ambitions to secure more court time (either additional venues or increased time at current sites). Longer-term ambitions are for 4 indoor courts (for the winter league) and 4 outdoor courts, preferably built within a school area (but run by NCL or a Trust). A large indoor area could host:

4 x netball	4 x tennis	4 x 5-a-side
12 x badminton	2 or 4 x hockey	Rugby training
Cultural events – plays, concerts	Circuit classes	Football training
Archery	Roller skating	Kids clubs

Climbing wall – there is a climbing wall at West Lakes Academy, used by West Lakes Climbing club in winter but some uncertainty about its wider availability – the wall is under-valued and under used. A smaller wall has also recently been provided as part of the Whitehaven harbour project.

Cycle track - Lakeland Sprinters Cycling Club currently uses Rowrah Kart track and ideally need a circuit. Rough Specifications for a cycle track include a hard surface such as tarmac, length from 400m up 1.6km., Width – mainly about 3m wide, with a wider finish area about 4 to 5m, flexible shape, use for other activities including jogging and wheelchair use. A cycle circuit could fit on to the spare land to the side of the athletics track and beside the football pitch.

Motorsports - motorsport is very strong in the county and the Rowrah kart track is a star facility. The Cumbria Kart Club does a lot to increase participation and allow other sports to use their facility.

Gymnastics – West Cumbria Gym Club currently operate from the small gym at St Benedict's School, where they are constrained for space and have no permanent equipment. Additional purpose built accommodation is ideally required.

Boxing The Whitehaven Boxing Club is currently located in premises in Mirehouse, and has a big involvement with young people in target groups for participation. Their facilities, like those for gymnastics, currently limit their expansion yet they are very popular, do good work in schools and are run well.

Where possible and appropriate these specialist facility requirements are addressed in subsequent chapters.

13. OPTIONS AND ISSUES

As a result of the foregoing assessment, a range of issues and optional solutions to these issues was identified after discussion between interested parties, and these are set out below. They form the basis of consultation with local groups, clubs and others (set out in the following chapter).

HALLS - ISSUES FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE PROVISION

- The assessment demonstrates that in principle there are sufficient sports halls to meet the needs of the community but that this depends on the availability of school facilities in Whitehaven and Egremont. Is this a reasonable reflection of the current situation? Do you agree that the current number and distribution of sports halls is adequate to meet local demand? Is there a good balance of 'public', school and other facilities?
- Is there a sufficient range of halls of various sizes to allow all different activities to take place, including competitions?
- What is the future of the main sports centre at Whitehaven as it ages?
 - Redevelop within the current site & the current footprint. Current parking issues and limit to land holding on the site make any aspirations for more facilities on site difficult to achieve. Also rebuild on the existing site will require significant closure time - what will happen to the customer base during this period? Could this have a significant impact on membership?
 - Relocate to another site in the town? Where would the new hall be built e.g. Pow Beck or in conjunction with the pool and track in Hensingham?
 - Refurbishment and rationalisation of the existing programme of sports e.g. decant some football to other indoor and outdoor halls?
- School sports halls at St Bees, Whitehaven, St Benedict's and West Lakes Academy offer a good opportunity for community use, but there is considered to be ample scope to increase usage. How do we improve community access to school halls in the evening and at weekends/school holidays? Is there a role for management of community time to be coordinated throughout the borough, possibly with the involvement of NCL?
- If all secondary schools sports halls are developed fully, is there the opportunity for each hall to have a different function – e.g. specialist facility for a particular sport?
- Should all sports halls use be coordinated by some central agency to ensure optimum usage?
- The BSF programme of school improvement offered some possible assistance to new/enhanced sports hall provision, but this is no longer available in its current form. Will the replacement school capital/modernisation programme offer any potential for improved school sports halls in the future?
- In the current financial climate, what is the best way of funding new sports halls/improvements if these are necessary?

- Overall quality is considered to be adequate, but the strategy extends to 2021/26 when all facilities will be 15 years older. Will existing sports halls still be fit for purpose by then?

POOLS - ISSUES FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE PROVISION

- The assessment concludes that although there is relatively low provision, it is difficult to justify any more pools in the borough to meet current need. Do you agree with this in terms of meeting the demand for recreational swimming, teaching, coaching, swimming clubs and other activities? Does the current range of pools allow this full range of uses? Do swim clubs and others still experience difficulty of gaining access at their preferred times?
- There is some evidence that the main pool in Whitehaven is at capacity. How can this situation be resolved if true?
- Some pools that could meet a local need, such as the pool at St Bees School, could provide a more valuable community function. Is there a case to consider the refurbishment, rationalisation or replacement of existing pools in a strategic context, and to seek more intensive use of the smaller pools not considered in this assessment?
- Given the remoteness of Millom, and its limited catchment population and therefore questions about sustainability, is a new pool here feasible? Should the particular problems of Millom's remoteness be disregarded when considering a new pool here?
- The location of the Whitehaven facility is not ideal to meet demand, being located on the edge of Whitehaven and poorly served by public transport. Is there a case for relocating the pool elsewhere in the town (e.g. Pow Beck), and what size and type should this pool be if so?
- The assessment scores pool quality as adequate overall. There is an issue of age and functionality with some pools, all of which were built before the mid 1980's, although some refurbishment has taken place. The quality of pools is very important. Do you agree with the assessment?
- The strategy extends to 2021/26 when all facilities will be 15 years older. Will existing pools still be fit for purpose by then?
- In the current financial climate, what is the best way of funding new pools/pool enhancements?
- Over the next 15 years, as pools get older, is there a need to radically change the distribution of pools throughout the borough?
- Should all pools be coordinated by some central agency to ensure optimum usage?

H&F - ISSUES FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE PROVISION

- There appears to be a shortfall of health and fitness stations in accordance with industry calculations, and when benchmarking against other areas, to the order of about 100 stations. Is there any local evidence to support this shortfall?
- Is there is a wide range and choice of provision at present in Copeland?
- Is existing access to health and fitness centres equitable for the whole community? Are there enough health and fitness facilities available on a pay and play basis? Are all sections of the population catered for – e.g. young people, senior residents?
- Is accessibility to gym equipment/health clubs adequate for those with a disability? Do all operators (CBC and private) need to do more to publicise the availability of their facilities and suitable equipment for those with a disability?
- There is no large health and fitness centre in the borough with a pool and other facilities. Is there scope for such provision in Whitehaven or any other town?
- The scale and size of new health and fitness centres will be determined by demand, and the need to make other provision sustainable. Therefore, developers and others are only likely to build a new facility if it is economically viable and sustainable to do so as part of other provision e.g. as part of existing sports facility site refurbishment. Is this a good approach?
- The optimum size of health and fitness centres may depend on a range of factors, and there is no ideal number of stations per centre. Do you agree?
- There may be a specific issue about additional health and fitness centres in Millom. Should any additional provision be made in conjunction with the sports hall, the existing or any future pool or a combination of both?

INDOOR BOWLS ISSUES FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE PROVISION

- While there is considered adequate provision to meet anticipated demand, is there any evidence that membership/usage is at capacity at the existing centre. Is a more detailed feasibility required to ascertain whether additional rinks are required at the present? Does the existing facility have plans to expand?
- While quality is generally considered good at present, the plan projects need to 2021/26 when the existing centre will be significantly older. Will it still be fit for purpose by then?
- Indoor bowls is a very specialist facility and does not easily allow other sporting usage on the same site. Is it preferable to link to other forms of bowls (outdoor, short mat) and other appropriate sports?
- Is there a need to explore participation rates and facts relating to the ageing population – are the assumptions of this being an older persons' sport still appropriate?

INDOOR TENNIS - ISSUES FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE PROVISION

- There is a strategic gap for indoor tennis facilities in West Cumbria, but the NGB are unlikely to support additional provision, because of sustainability, location and demographic factors. Is this considered a reasonable approach or should a further feasibility study be undertaken to consider the case for a small centre?
- Is it feasible to combine limited indoor tennis provision in the future with other new sports facility development on a joint site? There may be a need for large halls for other sports e.g. netball – could these be combined?
- If so where is the best location for such facilities?
- What types of surface or structure might be appropriate?
- Is there a need to link any new such provision with existing outdoor provision for tennis?
- Is the preferred approach to follow NGB guidance – i.e. a community tennis project with outdoor floodlit tarmac courts and changing provision?

AGPs - OPTIONS FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE PROVISION

- Is the assessment about the adequacy of current provision correct?
- Is it reasonable to give more emphasis to previous reports and consultation responses than the desk based exercise?
- Is there a quality issue with the Cleator Moor pitch for hockey competition and practice, which needs to be resolved?
- The Whitehaven Amateurs pitch is considered unavailable for much community use owing to pricing – is this the case in reality and what solutions might exist?
- There is a great deal of football played at indoor venues, much of which could be decanted outdoors if facilities existed. Is this a justification for additional pitches?
- While quality is generally considered good at present, the plan projects need to 2021/26 when all facilities will be significantly older. It is imperative that arrangements are made for a sinking fund for each to allow replacement of the surface after say 10 years. Is this approach agreed?
- Is there a case for the following:
 - One additional AGP (3G surface) to meet identified needs. 3G pitches are also suited for Rugby League training and Rugby League is the second most popular sport in terms of number of clubs in West Cumbria. Consultation in the West Cumbria strategy with the governing body for Rugby League identified priorities for 2 pitches in West Cumbria – at Seaton (Allerdale) and Kells (Copeland). Given the local needs assessment, the provision of 2 new pitches in West Cumbria may appear unsustainable given the limited population catchments and further dialogue is required

on the specific needs and locations for Rugby League particularly the rationale for such specific locations and potential links with the local professional rugby league clubs. However a further pitch at Kells (or wherever) might be considered in Copeland

- An additional AGP in Egremont to provide a facility for club use and training, and for use by the Academy to deliver curriculum sport, given the lack of outdoor pitches at the venue.
- Training pitches (small or half size), and in which locations?

ATHLETICS - OPTIONS FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE PROVISION

- There appears to be a potential justification for an 8-lane track in West Cumbria. Is the extension of the existing track in Whitehaven a feasible option?
- Are there any alternative locations that offer better potential?
- Is there a sports development need for additional provision given the low levels of activity in athletics in the area?
- Is the voluntary management of the existing track capable of accommodating any additional usage?
- Is there any justification for the provision of an additional smaller facility to be provided in another part of the borough to improve accessibility overall e.g. J track or training track? Would a school site be the best location for such a facility as a supplement to the existing track?

GOLF - OPTIONS FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE PROVISION

- Is there any evidence of local demand for golf that is not being met – e.g. waiting lists at existing clubs, over-used courses?
- Are all sections of the population catered for by existing provision – young people, learners, etc?
- Is there a need for additional start-up facilities including par 3, pitch and putt or driving ranges with open access?

OTHER SPORTS - OPTIONS FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE PROVISION

- Is Copeland a good location for countywide specialist facilities?
- Should some or all of these facilities be located in Copeland, either in conjunction with other facility types considered above or free standing?
- Is the provision of a large indoor area suitable for netball, tennis and other activities a realistic possibility within the term of the strategy?

14. CONSULTATION PHASE TWO

Following the identification of issues and options arising from the assessment, a further round of consultation was undertaken with individuals and groups involved in sport at this further stage of the strategy process, and these discussions are summarised below and set out in more detail in the **Appendix 2**.

Sports Focus Group Whitehaven

- There was widespread agreement that existing sports halls were at capacity, with additional demand not being accommodated. School facilities are available but cost, lack of equipment, exams and other issues militate against their more intensive use. A possible solution is that adult 5 a side football to go outside.
- AGPs are currently at stretch. Issues regarding community use of Whitehaven Amateurs' pitch were raised. St Benedict's school cannot use the pitches at certain times because of changing issues. There may be a possible justification for 2 astros. 1 3G in Whitehaven and 1 sand based in Egremont. The sand based one at Cleator Moor needs re-surfacing.
- Copeland Stadium – Lack of communication between the council and the stadium. Stadium needs backing by the council and more external help to move forward. The group would like an update with regards to the regeneration of POW BECK, where is the funding coming from for this development. If there was a facility at Hensingham instead there are lots of transport issues from South Whitehaven, Seascale area. A central facility will benefit south Whitehaven more and the more rural locations. In Kells there is possible a new community facility available at Storey homes are building 800 new homes.
- Pools – Copeland Pool is over busy. There are transport issues for getting to the pool at St Bees.
- There are enough Golf Courses for the Borough, but there is a need to increase junior membership.
- In the short term there is a need to improve what exists due to the geography of the Borough. Village halls must be retained and promoted.
- There are specific issues with gymnastics, boxing, athletics, squash and archery
- There needs to be someone who coordinates overall use of all the facilities.
- In the long term there should be some form of sports village format.

Bowls National Governing Bodies – bowls is an important sport in the area, but the comments relate more to outdoor bowls which is addressed in a separate strategy

Cumbria Motor Sport Group - the sports strategy document does not include motorsport, along with other missing sports. Motorsport is very strong in the county and the Rowrah kart track is a star facility. The Cumbria Kart Club does a lot to increase participation and allow other sports to use their facility.

Cumbria Sport - Much of the participation data is presented in either slightly out of date (School Sport Survey 2009-10 is available) or going to be out of date soon (APS4 national headline data should be with us in December). The comments from those partners who have already provided feedback could be included as appendices to help reduce the overall text of the Strategy and perhaps an Executive Summary is prepared.

Cumbria Sports Academy - The Trustees of Cumbria Sports Academy are interested in having a full size floodlit AstroTurf sited at the academy - the site is ideally suited for development without restrictions, there is capacity and space and the site is accessible. The Trust is having talks with The Cumberland FA with regards to relocating their offices from Workington (Allerdale) to our site. Their proposal is for new office accommodation and the possibility of an indoor training area.

Lakeland Sprinters. A cycle circuit could fit on to the spare land to the side of the athletics track and beside the football pitch. There is a need for a climbing wall in the Whitehaven area. There are no public climbing walls in West Cumbria. As well as being used by local people, a good wall would attract visiting climbers on wet Lake District days.

Whitehaven Harbour Youth Project –

- Main areas of interest are not in traditional facility based sports being discussed, although a new 22 metre X 13 metre sports hall, including a 13m X 5m climbing wall has been newly installed. The project works with between 900 and 1000 young people each year over the last three years, using outdoor adventure activities as a vehicle for personal development.
- The leisure needs assessment gets into a narrowed down focus on built facilities! As an organisation we have been banging on doors and will continue to try and get more of the innovative and joined up approach.
- There is a massive need for effective coordination and leadership, a rallying of sporting interests in the area where blinkers are taken off and real progress made on this agenda.
- Local flavour – there is a higher number of paddlers, orienteers, fell runners, climbers, fell walkers etc. locally, than in other parts of the country, Take into account the visitors to the area – ‘The lake district’, and there is scope for more local flavour than the uniform Sport England approach.
- We are looking at sailing developments based at the harbour. The Energy Coast has a vision which a water sports centre fits with – this has real credibility and we are looking at the sailing side and already offer the sea kayaking side with other aspects which could be developed
- Climbing walls! The inaccessibility of the Egremont one is a scandal and although we have installed our own we still need other wall(s) (see local flavour above) so will go to Keswick, Kendal and Penrith with hordes of kids.
- As part of our action plan for development of our sports hall we chose table tennis as a sport to promote and have had this up and running for the past 18 months and are working with the Sports partnership to deliver in schools.

Whitehaven Miners FC

- The outdoor development is inextricably linked with built facilities in terms of 3G pitches. The current facility run by Whitehaven Amateurs is not a community facility and does not meet the purpose it was built for. Consequently, we do not have the 3G pitch provision we need in West Cumbria. Consequently, we would support the suggestion of an additional full size 3G surface centred on RL training but available for youth football fixtures at week-ends.
- The Copeland Athletics Stadium is an excellent facility in danger of never achieving its potential and currently not being properly used. It desperately needs some paid staff time put into it. Money to build things in the next few years seems likely to be limited, few people in West Cumbria expect to see any Olympic legacy or dividend up here; we expect the exact opposite. Therefore, we need to make use of what is already here.
- I would wholeheartedly support the development or opening up of facilities for gymnastics which seems to be thriving, and equally for boxing. Squash has had a big boom in participation because, similar to gymnastics and boxing, of some excellent and inspirational coaches. The squash coach at Whitehaven proves the importance of getting good coaches to improve not just the top quality players, but also the rates of participation.
- The Council needs to come clean about Pow Beck. If they have some private development to come in then maybe it can go ahead. I would support the development at Pow Beck if they can piggy back a re-vamped Sports Centre and pool there and I agree that a good quality stadium that gives the prospect of Super League RL is a great aspiration for the area. A modest stadium at the heart of a municipal sports complex close to the town centre I believe would provide the strongest promotion of health, fitness and participation and give the RL community some strength and realism for their aspirations.

Summary of main points

Although the consultation resulted in a relatively small response, there were a number of recurring themes which are important to consider when developing the subsequent strategy:

- The existing main 'public' sports facilities are considered to be at capacity, particularly sports halls, swimming pools and artificial grass pitches, and additional provision can be justified
- There are specific needs for specialist facilities for example for cycling, climbing and squash
- There is a need to coordinate the provision of future facilities - in Whitehaven for example development at the stadium and Pow Beck are considered mutually exclusive
- Some sort of sports village may be desirable in the longer term
- There is merit in maximising the use of informal facilities outside the normal Sport England model – for example small recreation halls, the use of the area's natural resources and village halls and community centres.

These issues have been carried forward to the next stage of outlining a draft strategy for sports facilities in Copeland

15. STRATEGY

Proposed strategy for sports halls

- Retain the provision of a main 8-10 court sports hall in Whitehaven as a main focus for a variety of sports, either by upgrading or refurbishing the existing sports centre (including the provision of additional ancillary halls) or by redeveloping a new sports centre on an alternative site in the town (see below for locational requirements)
- Consider in the short term some readjustment to the programming of Whitehaven SC by accommodating adult 5-a-side football outdoors (see below), to release some spare capacity for other activities in the peak periods
- Retain, maintain and enhance the availability of existing school sports halls at Whitehaven, St Benedict's and St Bees Schools, to ensure continued community use and long term sustainability, and in particular use by clubs and associations, and more specialised use, in the evenings, at weekends and during school holidays
- Retain, maintain and improve the use of Millom Sports Centre as a local facility for the southern part of the borough, including ongoing maintenance and improvements
- Consider the provision of an indoor sports space in Cleator Moor, possibly in conjunction with the Bowls Centre.
- Ensure continued and managed access to smaller halls in the borough, including school halls, village halls and community centres for particular activities
- Coordinate (possibly through NCL) the management and promotion of all sports halls throughout the borough to ensure optimum availability for all sectors – casual, club, specialist, training and competition
- Develop and manage a framework for the usage of all sports halls (particularly school halls) to ensure community use by the wider community, sports clubs and other users, including defining particular halls for specialist use by clubs in a particular activity (e.g. netball, basketball)
- Ensure that all sports halls are maintained and fit for purpose over the whole term of the strategy to 2026 and make arrangements for their upgrade or replacement when required

Proposed strategy for swimming pools

- Retain the provision of a main 6 lane pool in Whitehaven as the main focus for a variety of water sports, either by upgrading or refurbishing the existing Copeland Pool or by redeveloping a new 6-8 lane pool on an alternative site in the town (see below for locational requirements)

- Retain and improve where feasible the existing pool at Egremont and develop its usage as a satellite to the main Copeland Pool. In the longer term consider the feasibility of a major investment to rebuild/replace the pool by 2026.
- Promote the more intensive usage of the St Bees School pool by the community for a range of lessons, training, casual and recreational uses in conjunction with the school and develop a joint marketing programme for all sports facilities on site
- Consider in accordance with a previously prepared feasibility study the replacement of the existing school pool in Millom by a purpose built new 25m 4-lane facility fully available to the community
- Promote the provision of a small pool in conjunction with a commercial pay and play health and fitness centre as an alternative/addition to existing pool provision
- Establish a hierarchy of pools within the borough to ensure that all needs for learning, teaching, improvement, excellence, and other related activities are met
- Coordinate the management and promotion of all pools throughout the borough to ensure optimum availability for all different users

Proposed strategy for health and fitness

- Maintain the current level and mix of facilities in Copeland
- Maintain and improve where necessary the quality of facilities in the borough
- Consider in the short to medium term the provision of up to 100 additional stations, preferably in Whitehaven as part of a high quality commercial centre which also includes a small pool, and available for a wide range of the population
- Improve health and fitness facilities in Millom by the provision of a small centre of 50 stations, in conjunction with either a new swimming pool or the existing sports centre, or preferably coordinated with the management of both facilities
- Consider in the longer term the provision of additional stations in accordance with identified future demand, in accessible locations throughout the borough, preferably in conjunction with other sports and community facilities including sports halls (especially on schools sites), pools, AGPs and community halls, to ensure that all facilities are sustainable in financial terms
- Extend where necessary existing facilities where a need has been identified
- Ensure that all health and fitness facilities are accessible to the widest range of users, including young people, women and the disabled, by improved management and publicity

Proposed strategy for indoor bowls

- Secure the existing centre as the sole provider of indoor bowls in the borough and ensure its continuing viability through a programme of planned maintenance and improvement
- Continue to promote the sport throughout the borough as an activity which is particularly suitable for older people, given the future demographics of the area, while at the same time encouraging more participation by younger people
- Consider the multi use of the existing centre and any new facility at times when indoor bowls is out of season e.g. play schemes, other activities

Proposed strategy for indoor tennis

- Additional indoor tennis facilities are unlikely to be required in Copeland despite the strategic gap in this part of West Cumbria, unless there is a need for them identified by the governing body
- Instead support a community tennis project with outdoor floodlit tarmac courts and changing provision, possibly in the Cleator Moor area

Proposed strategy for AGPs

- Ensure more comprehensive community usage of existing pitch at Whitehaven Amateurs
- In the short term consider the replacement of the surface at Cleator Moor pitch
- Seek the provision in the short term of 1 additional new pitch, built to 3G specification with a 60mm surface to meet FA performance requirements, in the Whitehaven area, and undertake a feasibility study to determine the preferred location, on a school site or where community access is best elsewhere (e.g. Kells)
- In the longer term to 2026, seek the provision of an additional AGP, which meets the requirements of local users of an appropriate surface, located in Egremont, preferably at West Lakes Academy.
- Consider the provision of small 3G AGPs in appropriate areas as venues for training and development, in particular for football and rugby league
- Consider the promotion of a facility suitable for the development of small sided football in the short term in Whitehaven

- Ensure that any new pitches are associated with any necessary changing and clubhouse facilities to facilitate club development
- Require that all pitches are maintained with a sinking fund in place, to ensure that the surface is replaced at least every 10 years, and all pitches remain fit for purpose
- Embrace any new technology which ensures that new pitches can be used by a wider range of sports e.g. 4th Generation pitches

Proposed strategy for athletics

Undertake more extensive promotion of the existing track for competition and recreational use

Consider the feasibility of developing an 8 lane track at Cumbria Sports Academy

As an alternative retain the existing 6-lane track, but provide a smaller satellite facility (J track or training facility) elsewhere in the borough, preferably on a school site

- In any event, maintain the existing track as fit for purpose throughout the duration of the strategy, and facilitate any improvements to the spectator and other facilities in accordance with better promotion of its use

Proposed strategy for golf

Maintain the current level, number and type of golf facilities in the borough, including pay and play and members' courses.

Consider the provision of a small driving range at Seascales GC

Ensure that there is a coordinated system of facility provision which allows golfers of all levels and ages to take part in the sport, develop their skills and compete at higher levels.

Proposed strategy for specialist facilities

- Pending more detailed consultation with NGBs in the area, there may be the opportunity to accommodate larger scale specialist facilities in the main sports centre in Whitehaven
- Specialist requirements for table tennis, badminton, netball or other sports should be incorporated in a hierarchy of sports halls (see elsewhere) in a coordinated manner, particularly on school sites where management would be facilitated.

- In the longer term a feasibility study should be undertaken to consider the provision of a purpose built indoor netball centre or outdoor courts with a temporary cover in winter (which would also be suitable for tennis)
- Consideration should be given to the provision of a cycling track in conjunction with the Cumbria Sports Academy
- Purpose built facilities for boxing and gymnastics should be addressed if a multi use sports facility is proposed within Whitehaven, which could also accommodate new (glass backed) courts for Whitehaven Squash Club.

Locational considerations for Whitehaven

The location of additional or replacement sports facilities in Whitehaven now and up to 2026 will depend on a number of factors not all related to the optimum location for sport itself. A number of options are available and it will be for the Council and all other providers to determine the best spatial strategy. The debate is required to consider whether facilities should be concentrated or dispersed and if the former where the best locations are.

- Concentration vs. dispersal – facilities in Whitehaven at present are dispersed throughout the town. There is a concentration of swimming pool, athletics track and pitches and school sports facilities in Hensingham, but otherwise the main facilities are dispersed around the town, town centre and Pow Beck. Concentration has the advantages of economies of scale in construction and the availability of shared ancillary facilities (such as parking and management areas), the opportunity to promote and market facilities more efficiently, the chance for families with different sports interests to take part in these on the same site at the same time and perhaps most importantly the opportunity to develop a local community sport hub or sports village, where particular attention can be paid to holistic provision of sports, health related and other leisure activities on one site. Conversely dispersal means that people particularly those without transport may be more able to access individual facilities on foot, land and building assembly is easier to achieve and individual facilities may be more likely to develop as centres of excellence on their own.
- If the decision is taken to concentrate future facilities on one site, there are a number of possible options as follows:
 - Hensingham – plenty of available land but public transport poor, and remote from main part of town. Would allow synergies between existing, established facilities including pool, track, schools etc, better parking and would ease traffic flow into town. Hard to park at pool as no space when busy. The existing stadium at the Academy could form the centre-piece of any redevelopment in this area, and the Trust which currently operates this has already published proposals for a major sports development on the site. The possibility of funding has not in reality been closely explored.
 - Town centre location – poor existing parking at Whitehaven SC, and lack of free spaces which may deter users. Potential traffic congestion, but better public transport, other things to do for family while others use sports facilities. People who work in town centre can use sports facilities after work. Lack of available space to provide many other sports facilities.

- Pow Beck – plenty of land, though there are potential flooding problems. Would allow new facilities to be developed to modern and long-term spec, and area is accessible. However public transport is not good (would need to involve the bus company in providing accessible routes to this area of town). Concentration here would allow a mix of indoor and outdoor sports facilities to be co-located, including an improved stadium for rugby league. The main advantage of this area would be the opportunity to regenerate the whole Pow Beck area through sport, in accordance with plans already drawn up, and the possibility of funding being more easily available.

The Council has paid much attention to Pow Beck over recent years, and an SPD was produced in 2007 setting out possible proposals for the implementation of sports, housing and employment plans for the area. Funding has been identified in principle and the results of option appraisals and the spending intentions of the Energy Coast Masterplan were awaited at the time of writing this report. The redevelopment of Whitehaven Rugby League Club's stadium was a key plank in the overall plan, and there is some uncertainty about the current viability of this. Decisions on Pow Beck should take into account the sports facility needs identified in this strategy.

16. IMPLEMENTATION, FUNDING AND PLANNING GUIDANCE

Funding and procurement

The funding of additional sports facilities has historically been a role for local authorities. Circumstances have changed in recent years, and consideration of alternative procurement methods is now important, particularly in the delivery of larger schemes. These options could include:

- Private sector funding
- Land disposal deals with private partner
- A sport and leisure fund
- Procurement competitions
- Joint venture arrangements, including public/private partnerships.
- New planning legislation, such as the Community Infrastructure Levy

More specifically, the following routes are particularly favoured in some areas:

- Prudential Borrowing - the Local Government 2003 sets out Government legislation that governs local authority capital expenditure. This replaces previous capital controls. In short the new powers enable local authorities to borrow capital for investment purposes. This covers all services, not just sport and leisure.
- Grant aid - applications can be made to grant aiding organisations, such as the Football Foundation, Sports Lottery Fund, Foundation for Sport and the Arts, local trusts, Local Strategic Partnership, etc to obtain partnership funding for new provision. Funding agencies are now more likely to consider proposals for sports facilities where they are in accordance with a strategy for sport, which should emanate from the current document
- Local funding – in Copeland’s case the regeneration of the area as part of the major ‘Energy Coast’ initiative (£2bn package of funding), the Nuclear New Build programme and opportunities arising from nuclear decommissioning may provide funding for sports facility provision which contributes towards the general regeneration of the borough, in terms of improving the quality of life and the attractiveness of the area to potential inward investors. At a more local level, the Copeland Community Fund has been set up with a £10m. endowment from the NDA and will be available for a range of community projects of varying scales.

Recent changes by the new government have severely depleted sources of potential funding which offered much opportunity for capital funding for sports facilities. The Government’s Building Schools for the Future and Primary Capital Programmes were two capital investment programmes at the heart of school developments over the next 15 years, but have since been abandoned. However, a school modernisation programme is likely to be announced in due course, and there may be a new school capital programme to replace BSF (although this is likely to be on a smaller scale). Schools in the borough will require investment to modernise during the period of the strategy regardless of BSF closure. The Government and the Learning and Skills Council also announced a programme to transform the Further Education estate nationally. While this has also been cancelled, there may be the opportunity for some form of capital spending in the future, if future development of sports facilities for community use can be linked to Further Education provision.

More than ever, in these times of financial stringency, there is a particular need to develop partnerships, to deliver the identified deficiencies, and specifically improve access to existing provision. The priority for this is internal partnerships within the Council, including leisure services, planning, asset management, parks and children and young people's services. Externally the key partners are local commercial providers, other local authorities including the County Council and parish councils, Sport England, the Football Foundation, governing bodies of sport, local regeneration agencies and grant distributors such as the Copeland Community Fund.

Planning implications

Perhaps most importantly, it is becoming recognised that in order to develop sustainable new communities, it is increasingly the responsibility of developers to contribute towards meeting additional demands for sport and other facilities generated by the occupants of new housing. While there is limited growth envisaged in the borough, there is some scope in devising a system of developer contributions to community infrastructure through S106 agreements in association with new housing (and other) development.

All of this must be predicated on the basis of sound planning policies, which are based on evidence of need, as set out in this study. The emerging LDF should contain positive planning policies which seek to implement the findings of this study. The following are the types of policy required in the appropriate local development document:

- The Council will seek to retain the existing provision of community sports halls, swimming pools and other sports facilities, where there is an evident existing and future need. Furthermore the Council will seek to improve accessibility to facilities based on the catchment area of facilities (walking catchment for local facilities, driving for more strategic facilities) both now and in the future.
- Based on the Council's development of a needs and evidence base for sports halls, swimming pools and other facilities up to 2021/26 and beyond, the Council has identified there is a need to provide additional provision either at existing sites, or at new site(s) to ensure there is greater access to sports facilities by the Copeland population.
- Based on the Council's needs and evidence base findings, the Council has identified a need to improve the quality of the existing sports hall, swimming pool and other facility stock. This will also help to meet the Council's sports development objectives and contribute to the Council's objectives of increasing adult participation in accordance with the LAA target/NI8.
- Based on the needs assessment, the preferred option settlement hierarchy set out in Core Strategy consultation should ensure that sports facilities are related in scale to the hierarchy, with the main borough wide facilities concentrated on the principal town (Whitehaven), a range of less strategic facilities such as small pools and sports halls being encouraged in the key service centres (Cleator Moor, Egremont and Millom), local sports provision being made in the local service centres with limited provision outside settlement boundaries, where other factors apply (e.g. golf courses).

- In meeting these policies the Council will seek to achieve financial contributions to the development of sports hall and other facilities to improve provision, improve the quality and enhance accessibility.
- The Council will adopt the Sport England design and technical guidance advice for the quality standard for sports halls.

Planning standards and developer contributions

In order to achieve contributions towards new or improved community infrastructure such as sports facilities through an SPD, it will be necessary for the policy background to this to be set out in the LDF Core Strategy and other documents. It is strongly advised that as the LDF proceeds, positive policies for sports facility provision be set out, based on the recommendations for current and future provision highlighted in this study, which incorporate the following:

- The development of planning standards in accordance with the guidance set out in PPG17, which include advice on the quantity, quality and accessibility of sports facilities.
- Recommended **quantity standards** which are derived from the future assessments set out above, as follows:
 - **Sports halls** 1 4-court hall per 12,500 people or 47.5 m² per 1000 people/0.048 m² per person
 - **Swimming pools** 1 4-lane pool per 21,000 people or 10.12 m² per 1000 people/0.010 m² per person
 - **Health and Fitness** 1 50-station centre per 8,500 people or 5.9 stations per 1000 people.
 - **Indoor Bowls** 1 6-rink centre per 85,000 people or 0.07 rinks per 1000 people
 - **AGPs** 1 pitch per 14,000 people or 0.07 pitches per 1000 people
 - **Athletics** 1 8-lane track per 70,000 people or 0.09 lanes per 1000 people.
 - **Golf** 1 18-hole course per 17,500 or 1.03 holes per 1000 people
- Additional work required identifying **quality standards** (e.g. all facilities should be built to conform to the design and layout requirements of Sport England, or the relevant National Governing Body of Sport).
- **Accessibility standards** required to ensure that all residents of Copeland are within a reasonable travel time of sports facilities, for example in line with the requirements of the Audit Commission that all facilities in an urban area are within a 20 minute walking catchment, or 20 minutes drive outside the main towns
- Identification of preferred locations for the recommended future facility needs highlighted in this study, which will depend on the location of existing sports facilities, current plans under

way to relocate some facilities and the scale and distribution of proposed new housing in the future

Turning these into a contribution

The development of costings for developer contributions, based on Sport England advice on the current (Q1 2010) costs of facility provision, is set out below. This should be treated with some caution, as the actual costs will depend on the circumstances prevailing at the time, and the information is given solely as guidance on sources and a recommended methodology. It is also imperative to determine what sports facilities are appropriate to consider as part of a developers' contribution package. Further information is available from the planning kitbag available on the Sport England website.

- **Sports halls** 47.5 m² per 1000 people x £5,601 per m² = £266,047 per 1000, or £266 per person/£665 per dwelling
- **Swimming pools** 10.12 m² per 1000 people x £13,161 per m² = £133,189 per 1000 or £133 per person/£333 per dwelling
- **Health and Fitness** 5.9 stations per 1000 people x (say) £10,000 per station = £59,000 per 1000 or £59 per person/£148 per dwelling.
- **Indoor Bowls** 0.07 rinks per 1000 people x £258,333 per rink = £18,083 per 1000 or £18 per person/£45 per dwelling
- **AGPs** 0.07 pitches per 1000 people x £585,000/725,000 per pitch = £45850 (average) per 1000 or £46 per person/£115 per dwelling

The total cost of providing this infrastructure, if attributed solely to the developer, would be in excess of £1300 per dwelling, and residual land values are unlikely to be sufficient to justify this. However these calculations can be used to develop as a basis for negotiation on an infrastructure plan in association with all other potential funders, and developers' contributions to other infrastructure items.

17. REVIEW AND MONITORING

This strategy has been produced to enable the development of sports facilities within the borough to be provided for in a planned and co-ordinated way that meets the needs of Copeland's population and satisfies areas of greatest demand.

It is proposed that this strategy be reviewed on an annual basis in (month) each year by a strategy steering group. The findings of this review will be reported to the Copeland CSN at their subsequent meeting (month) and to the Council. Each review will compare achievements against priorities, taking account of changes in circumstances and potential new opportunities. An annual review will allow any slippage to be recognised and priorities re-timetabled accordingly. The review will also provide an updated facility audit of indoor and outdoor facilities and this information will be fed into the Active Places database.

A comprehensive review of the strategy will need to be undertaken in 2015 to allow sufficient time for a subsequent strategy to be produced.

An initial action plan is set out in the **Appendix 4**.

APPENDIX 1

KEY TO MAPS

The following key applies to all maps except accessibility and FPM

	Lowest values
	
	Highest value

Accessibility map key

Symbol	Range
	0 - 10
	10.1 - 20
	20.1 - 30
	30.1 - 45
	45.1 - 60

APPENDIX 2

CONSULTATION RESPONSES – PHASE ONE

Sports Focus Group, Millom (attended by 8 people from local clubs and organisations)

Existing facilities (good points)

For a small town, Millom has a relatively good level of sports facility provision:

- Recreation Centre (4 court) plus small fitness suite,
- Pool (albeit not in good condition and not well used by the community),
- Devonshire Road outdoor pitches etc - rugby league (oldest amateur RL club in the world), football and pigeon club,
- Small members gym/health and fitness facility at Rugby Club
- School pitches at the High School (including AGP), with large area of grass (though possible flooding) and at Black Combe JS
- 2 private cricket clubs – Haverigg and Millom CC, with high quality well maintained pitches, clubs playing at relatively high level (N Lancs. and Cumbria League)
- Haverigg RUFC – 1 senior rugby, 1 junior rugby and 2 senior football pitches
- Haverigg Prison Officers Club – 1 SF with changing, main building with squash court (now closed)
- Millom Park which has a MUGA, Tennis courts and Bowls green
- Golf courses in the wider area at Eskdale and Silecroft (latter is part of Cumbria Golf Partnership and working with Copeland SDOs)
- There are also smaller facilities in outlying villages, including bowls and football in Bootle, small 'time share' pool at Wellbank (near Bootle), small pools at Underwood Hotel and Brockwood Hotel, Whicham Valley (private but with some public use),
- Village halls in Thwaites, The Green, Bootle, Waberthwaite with some use by local groups for sport (e.g. wrestling, judo) and various church and other halls in the two main towns

Weaknesses and problems/ means of improving these

- Recreation centre is an important local resource, but requires voluntary effort and limited staff resources to keep it going. Plans are afoot to improve the 'offer' – e.g. upgrade the gym by moving upstairs to an existing balcony and rationalise the changing areas. This appears to conflict with the recent feasibility study for Millom Pool which requires a gym/health and fitness suite to make it viable and sustainable.
- Pool at the school is clearly not fit for purpose and wider public use. There was a feeling (particularly from those representing the views of younger people) that a new rectangular pool in Millom would not be attractive to young people, and that they would continue to visit facilities at Barrow Leisure Pool, which were more attractive - slide, inflatables, etc (there was no representation from the Millom Swimming Group despite the apparent interest in this issue in the town)
- Facilities in Millom are dispersed across a number of sites. In the absence of being able to relocate these, there is some merit in operating and managing jointly to offer economies of scale and cross subsidy of loss making and revenue generating uses. Great need for all organisations to work together in the common good.
- There seem to be enough pitches within the south of the borough but they are not up to a good standard with problems around drainage.

- Parks in Millom offer little sporting opportunities and casual usage is not encouraged – MUGA is substandard, and there are ‘keep off the grass’ signs deterring kickabouts.
- There was a feeling that although there are in some cases insufficient people available in the catchment to justify additional built facilities (e.g. pool), there is a strength of local effort and independence in the town that warrants a different approach to be taken to facility provision than normal. Millom is isolated and always will be and some special recognition should be made of this in an attempt to make local facility provision more responsive to local demand (albeit smaller in quantitative terms) than an equivalent urban model.

Sports Focus Group Whitehaven (attended by 22 people from local clubs and organisations)

Existing facilities

- Good points in general – main facilities in Whitehaven are centrally located, and there is generally good access
- Copeland swimming pool – perceived to have a capacity problem, and is very busy at peak times. Specific problem for existing canoe club – restricted to a small number of boats (25), lack of storage, would like to do canoe polo but currently constrained
 - St Bees swimming pool - Lack of knowledge of this facility, need to advertise more but they have no money to do this – this will start when more people start to use it, people would use it as you have to travel around Copeland to use facilities anyway
 - Sports halls – WSC considered to fulfil an important function, and the quality of the facility is good, but there is a heavy reliance on 5 a side football in the programme. Some considered this could be relocated to outdoor facilities, but a feeling that there was little spare capacity elsewhere. Also some users (e.g. young people) particularly in winter require an indoor facility. Gym facilities and circuits are very good and well attended. Squash courts quality ok
- School sports halls available, but again used predominantly by football clubs for training etc. Exam use in December (and presumably May/June) precludes use then. Netball league now using West Lakes Academy as central venue. School halls not available in school holidays.
- AGPs – Cleator Moor is considered fully booked for most potential users particularly football and rugby. Hockey club have some usage and would like to become better established. Whitehaven Amateurs AGP not considered to represent a community facility, despite conditions of SE lottery grant – other clubs have to pay a premium price to use (£90 per full pitch per hour). There is considered to be a shortfall of AGPs
- Climbing wall at West Lakes Academy is under-valued and under used.
- Academy has some good facilities, but there is a lack of awareness of their existence – track is used by athletics clubs, people not aware of pitches/small 3G AGP and health and fitness stations. There is also a Nordic walking track there. Lots of great spare land around it which could be use in development

Weaknesses and problems/ means of improving these

General

- Need for all leisure providers (CBC, NCL, schools, other providers) to talk to each other, and coordinate provision and programming. Also applies to the three pool managers – NCL/CBC, Egremont Trust, St Bees School, to ensure that there is a coordinated approach to swimming provision.
- Main centres in separate places – e.g. having a big family that needs dropped off in various places can be a hassle travelling across town

- Facilities need to think who/what are their main users and needs e.g. storage for equipment
- There are lots indoor halls to use but always fully booked and floors not in good conditions (including school halls). Schools waiting lists are very long and can be on for ages. Indoor halls always team up with 5-side football, badminton due to lack of flood lit areas outside. Can only block book out indoor halls and astro pitches can't do casual usage
- Outdoor facilities seem always booked up and long term
- Need for more AGP/AGPs for football training/competitions/etc and for hockey – i.e. need to consider surface. There is little development at present for hockey and a relatively new club with developmental potential. Existing AGP at Cleator Moor – lines are 'dangerous'.

Specific

- Athletics track/stadium - No coordination with other sports in the borough. Difficult to book facility – Don't know who to contact or the number is hard to get hold of to contact. Hard to ensure someone available to come down and open facility. Unusual sized astro pitch
- Copeland pool - changing is considered adequate, and there is considered not to be a need to improve these, though showers not good. Timetable not a good combination – especially for general swim (for casuals), too busy especially when free swim was on. Ladies only sessions are also very busy – not enough room to swim properly. Pool size not suitable for big canoe sessions and games
- WLC - Squash courts need glass-backed courts. Some quality issues at the WLC – spinning room, SH floor. The environment can be negative – can be too loud at times, very noisy especially when coaching sessions are on and the music can be too loud. No air con when spinning classes are on. Storage for equipment lacking.

Possible future scenarios

- Location options if facilities re-located:
 - Hensingham – plenty of available land but public transport poor. Would allow synergies between existing pool, stadium, schools etc, better parking and would ease traffic flow into town. Hard to park at pool as no space when busy.
 - Town centre location – poor existing parking (lots of parking fines given, nowhere for Whitehaven sports centre users to park free, Morrison's available but you can be fined). Traffic congestion, but better PT, other things to do for family while others use sports facilities. People who work in town centre can use sports centre after work,
 - Pow Beck – plenty of land (?), would allow new facilities to be developed to modern and long-term spec, and area is accessible. However PT not good (would need to get the bus company on board to make accessible routes to this area of town)

Individual comments following the focus groups

Local Parish Council - Most participants seemed to be concerned with Whitehaven in particular and there was hardly a mention of Cleator Moor, Frizington, and the outlying villages such as Ennerdale, Lamplugh, Arlecdon etc. They would almost certainly favour future sports facilities to be developed closer to them (the Swimming Pool area). Otherwise it seemed we wanted lots of the biggest and best, and the most advanced, of just about everything which will hardly happen! It would certainly be helpful to publish in some detail a summary of what is currently available to the public in and around the locality in the way of sporting and recreational opportunities. St Bees and the Stadium are good examples.

Whitehaven Squash club - The club would like a dedicated squash facility with a fitness centre and a minimum of four glass back courts (an all glass show court would be lovely though). The glass-back courts would allow for easier viewing both by spectators and coaches. They would also like a seated viewing area for all four courts to encourage parents and other players to watch the games. They think this would work well near a school so that the school could also benefit from it and have already tentatively spoken to St Benedict's school who would be happy to accommodate the facility if funding could be found.

Lakeland Sprinters Cycling Club - club currently uses Rowrah Kart track, ideally need a circuit. Rough Specifications for cycle track -

- Surface – hard surface such as tarmac – so suitable for most types of bikes, disabled bikes/trikes and wheelchairs
- Length – from 400m up – Tameside (Manchester) is 1km, Salt Ayre (Lancaster) is 1.3km, Preston 1.6km. A longer circuit could have cut-throughs (as at Tameside and Preston) or have the 2 sides running close together at one place (as at Salt Ayre which is almost a figure of 8) – this makes it easier to have shorter races suitable for really young children.
- Width – mainly about 3m wide, with a wider finish area about 4 to 5m
- Shape – this is flexible. Some wiggles and bends (not tight ones) would be good.
- Other uses – when not in use for cycle racing, it could also be used by walkers, joggers, wheelchair users (Mayfield Special School is close by if built near swimming pool and athletics track). It could also be used for disabled cycling projects such as the Wheels for All.
- Alternatively – there are several places around the country where banked cycle tracks have been built round the edge of athletics tracks (e.g. Hales Owen). I haven't been to Copeland athletics track for some time, so I don't know if that would be feasible or cheaper or make the planning process easier.

Copeland Netball League – require 4 indoor courts x 35 weeks per year (ideally 6.30 to 9.30 one evening per week (a large space such as WLC or any new tennis centre would suffice)

Short term plans (1 – 2 years)

- Continue to run a successful League
- 1 hour fixtures
- Proactive working committee
- Secure another venue
- Increase number of qualified umpires / coaches for the League
- 3 teams from Copeland in Cumbria Premier League (played at Keswick)
- 1 team from West Cumbria in regional league (played throughout north west)
- Increase participants via 'Back to Netball' sessions
- Celebrate success
- Increase publicity – local media, website, Facebook
- Join Sports Focus Group

Medium (3 – 5 years)

- More court time (either additional venues or increased time at current sites)
- Increase number of qualified umpires / coaches – at least 1 of each per team
- Promote 'clubs' to provide outlet for coaches
- CAP's status (national body club mark scheme)
- More teams in League
- Junior league with suitably qualified coaches & umpires

- 4 teams from Copeland in Cumbria Premier League (include matches at a west coast venue)
- 2 teams in regional league (perhaps 1 senior & 1 junior)
- Be at the forefront of women's sport in West Cumbria
- Still have a Netball Development Officer based in Copeland

Long term (5 – 15 years)

- West Cumbria League (covering Millom – Aspatria – Keswick)
- 4 indoor courts – winter league
- 4 outdoor courts (even if it's just 2 courts over split sites – summer league)

The Future: If a 4 court facility could be built within a school area (but run by NCL or a Trust) it could be used 12 months of the year – daytime 50% school / public. Evenings 100% public.

Outdoor space (pitches) could also be run by NCL or similar.

Large indoor area could host:

4 x netball	4 x tennis	4 x 5-a-side
12 x badminton	2 or 4 x hockey	Rugby training
Cultural events – plays, concerts	Circuit classes	Football training
Archery	Roller skating	Kids clubs

Could be used for county/regional competitions (links in with tourism) to bring people to the area.

Lots of activities under one roof given plenty of options of participation in a variety of activities. One of the reasons clubs lose players (potential participants), coaches and general volunteers is due to lack of indoor facilities. School facilities are vastly oversubscribed with long waiting lists – and can't be used outside term time.

Football

Wants/ needs more indoor facilities during peak times and high season when it is dark and cold outside

Other consultations

John Maude, Chief Executive, North Country Leisure

NCL (a charitable trust) operate the Leisure Centre and Pool in Whitehaven, the Bowling Centre and all weather pitch at Cleator Moor (the Copeland Bowls and Sports Centre) and have been involved in discussions with other facility operators e.g. Millom and Egremont Pools. They also operate a number of centres in the Northumberland County Council area. User numbers overall have increased by 35% since initiation of the partnership and a financial surplus has been generated each year for reinvestment into the service. Contract is for 10 years with an option for a further 5 years.

Quantity - are there sufficient facilities and opportunities to meet known needs?

Cleator Moor lacks an indoor sports space – there is not even a hall to play badminton in. There is considered to be an unmet demand for gym provision in the Whitehaven area and for space to cater for gymnastics. There is also a demand for smaller hall/activity space within the leisure centre that can't be met at present due to its current configuration.

Quality - Are facilities and opportunities of sufficient quality?

Quality of the 'trust' facilities is good. The 10-court sports hall in Whitehaven (built in 1976) had some improvements carried out in 2006/7 and it has a maintenance spend requirement of £1.2m up to 2016.

Although relatively old it is a cost effective, spacious facility trading at a surplus. The work carried out recently provided further gym space and rationalised the courts slightly to help with programming. Now has 1550 gym club members and usage increased by over 40,000 per annum following the refurbishment.(132,444 2006/7 to 184,000 2009/10) Refurbishment + better marketing and programming are thought to have helped increase usage. Although the quality of the gym equipment is good the space it's in (spectator gallery) is poor.

Quality of other facilities in the area patchy, Millom pool dated and inadequate, Egremont Pool managed by another charitable trust but desperately short of money. St Bees school pool small facility but does have some swimming lessons and public use.

Copeland pool was built in 1986 and is in better condition but needs a spend of £500,000 on maintenance up to 2016. Total pool usage has increased from 137,719 2006/7 to 207,000 2009/10. The more recent increase is mainly due to the introduction of free swimming and the increase may not now be sustainable due to the cessation of the free swimming initiative.

Cleator Moor Bowls and Sports Centre built in 2006 needs a maintenance spend of £25,000 up to 2016.

Access - are facilities and opportunities easy to reach and use by different sections of the community?

Swimming pool in an out of town location, with easy access by car but less easy by public transport, although it is adjacent to a school.

Access to facilities generally a problem in the area, Whitehaven relatively well served but elsewhere, particularly in the south less so.

Copeland has a strong culture of traditional sport, which tends to dominate provision.

NCL have extensive programmes and discount schemes to encourage disadvantaged/unwaged users.

Women are less well represented in usage figures and NCL is keen to try and address that, the availability of suitable spaces is the issue here i.e. either to provide for the block booking groups (mainly 5 a side) or to provide opportunities in facilities closer to home or less daunting than a leisure centre. The better use of school facilities and the provision of new space linked to existing facilities would help.

There is currently no GP referral scheme in place.

Priorities - does your organisation have any of its own priorities for encouraging the development of, improving quality, or improving access to recreational facilities or opportunities?

Use of the beActive and beActive plus Leisure cards to provide discounts for regular users and target groups. Continual review and refinement of programming is intended to address imbalances and address opportunities with the aim of improving access for all potential users.

Any other issues?

Main issue is the lack of a comprehensive development strategy for sport and leisure particularly facility planning. The continued prevarication over Pow Beck is having a serious knock on effect. The changes made to the main leisure centre were limited in nature as the Pow Beck scheme was thought to be imminent when NCL were brought in 2006. Further investment is required to capitalise on the space available at WLC and increase usage e.g. mezzanine floor to improve the fitness offer, a number of smaller activity rooms, space for gymnastics. That investment i.e. 10 year planning can't be made when the Pow Beck scheme

is still being pursued. The current 10 court hall is unique in terms of capacity and any new facility at Pow Beck would be very unlikely to replicate the space and therefore the opportunities available. **A clear decision is required sooner rather than later as continuing delays means the centre risks losing its competitive edge.**

NCL have made proposals to improve the general offer by providing a £650,000 extension to the pool to incorporate a fitness suite and activity rooms and other facilities could be added to the Bowls centre as there is space available.

The use of school sites for genuine community use seems to be an opportunity that hasn't been explored. Again this should be managed on a comprehensive basis to provide for borough wide programming and to ensure that any gaps in provision are filled appropriately.

Any strategy must include a consideration of school sites. Whitehaven School is understood to be looking at providing a community block to support youth activities. Such initiatives should be looked at in the context of wider provision to prevent duplication and to maximise their benefit. NCL are keen to be involved in that process and are would be happy to provide management advice and support to assist in providing a quality sensibly programmed service. Opportunities for comprehensive management and programming include Whitehaven School and St Benedict's (sports halls), St Bees and Mayfield Schools (pools), the complete leisure mix at Millom (Pool, Sports Hall and All Weather pitch + the Network Centre) and the Towns sports hall.

The Stadium is linked to the Pow Beck initiative- it provides the only athletics track in the area and a small 3G pitch and is a substantial facility. The facilities are adequate but not of a high standard. It is run by volunteers and it is unlikely that there is the capacity to secure and sustain a major redevelopment.

This all reinforces the fragmented nature of sports and leisure provision , the lack of consistency, duplication of effort and an apparent inability to determine and deliver what is actually needed.

There is financial pressure on the trust to try and reduce the subsidy provided by the council but that is more difficult to achieve if the future tenure is uncertain and there is no clear view of the provision needed. I.e. the need for a comprehensive approach to facilities to make better use of what's available.

There is a shortage of coaches in the area and the labour market is seriously skewed by the Sellafield effect i.e. the high wages paid make it difficult for other local employers to recruit and retain good staff because they are unable to compete on the wages front.

The Copeland Pool is working at capacity with over 800 on the register for swimming lessons across all ranges. To be able to programme use across more of the available water space across the borough would allow for further development and, through increasing the capacity, more even usage.

There is no GP referral scheme operating in the borough in spite of continued efforts to initiate one.

Sports development is managed by the borough.

Would a more dispersed approach to leisure provision, rather than concentrating everything at a small no of sites(i.e. Pow Beck) be better for Copeland to reflect the more dispersed nature of the population?

Chris Davidson, (Acting) Cultural Services manager, Copeland BC

Has staff responsibilities for sports development and client side management, arts development. SD staff (2) delivering development activity. Additional funding for SD projects has been attracted from the wider agenda (e.g. worklessness, deprivation, rurality, health improvement), deliver a range of activities across the whole borough (currently holiday activities in priority wards etc)

Quantity - are there sufficient facilities and opportunities to meet known needs?

Built sports facilities generally considered adequate in distribution, though the sports centre and pool in Whitehaven are perceived as at saturation point e.g.. the health and fitness gym has recently been increased in scope but is still short of stations to meet need at certain points
Cleator Moor has an acknowledged lack of outdoor pitches and most teams have to play/train on the astro

Quality - are facilities and opportunities of sufficient quality?

Whitehaven SC – as good condition as it has ever been, with heavy investment over the years. Main and ancillary facilities are good, but they cannot be developed further because of a town centre site and discussion over Pow Beck developments.
Copeland Pool – similar, pool and plant good, changing a bit tired. Cannot extend easily the water area.

Access - are facilities and opportunities easy to reach and use by different sections of the community?

Physical access – access to facilities in the main towns is good, but there is a perception of lack of accessibility within Whitehaven and in surrounding villages e.g. town centre residents won't necessarily travel to the pool on the top of the hill, spare capacity in St Bees would not be used by Whitehaven people.
Financial accessibility – CBC operates a leisure card for certain facilities, which reflects benefits and the ability to pay, but facilities for sports are generally considered to be fairly priced.

Priorities - does your organisation have any of its own priorities for encouraging the development of, improving quality, or improving access to recreational facilities or opportunities?

General priorities set out in strategic and corporate documents, which seek to improve the quality of life for local residents, which include sports facilities. PPG17 study seen as key planning document. Leisure needs study is an essential document in guiding the LA to make future decisions about the quantity, quality and accessibility of sports facilities over the coming years.

Any other issues?

CD highlighted some high activity rates – may be down to the same people doing different activities (see APS data). LA delivering more activities year on year which he feels are not being reflected in APS data.

There is an issue in Copeland of engagement – parents are not seen as investing in their children.

5 a side football very popular in the borough – delivered at Stadium 3G, Pow Beck 3G, Cleator Moor astro (all run by venue) plus Whitehaven SC. Is there scope to get this out of WSC to free up space?

Whitehaven School – little CU of sports hall (6 court), but local LTC has use of courts at school
West Lakes Academy – currently being redeveloped, but existing 6 court hall and climbing wall to remain

St Benedict's School – 4 court hall but limited non school use

St Bees School – public use of sports hall and pool by village groups

Seascale Sports Hall – 1 court hall run by PC (provided by BNFL?)

Millom Pool – local demand for new pool

Copeland Pool – up to capacity, timetable reviewed (45 minute sessions from previous 1 hour to extend capacity)

Egremont Pool – on school site, managed by pool trust with SLA gap funding from CBC. Pool is 25m in length with diving area (still used)

St Bees Pool – on school site and some local usage outside school

Tommy Thompson, Secretary of Academy and of Copeland Stadium Trust.

Trust is the GB of the facility, CSA manages and runs it. CSA formed in 2000 to develop the facilities and opportunities. CST has 7 trustees including those from BARLA, CBC and others. Gets grant/SLA from CBC of £5k pa (for 10 years). CSA has committee of 14 – 5 trustees and 9 other volunteers. The whole set up is run by volunteers except for 2 part time staff (cleaner and odd job)

Main interest of organisation re PPG 17 Assessment/Sports Facilities Study

CSA is interested in contributing towards joined up thinking in the delivery of sport/open space/etc in Whitehaven/Copeland

Quantity - are there sufficient facilities and opportunities to meet known needs?

TT considers that the following apply in the area:

Copeland pool is at maximum capacity. It is apparent that it is crowded, all opening hours are used, galas take up much pool time and there is extensive club time

Sports hall – again there is a shortfall in hall space, much of which is taken up with 5 a side. There is a pitch at CSA but this would only decant a little of the demand

AGPs – there is considered to be little spare capacity at the existing astros and AGPs (including one at CSA)

Stadium – there is a need for a good stadium in Whitehaven, and CSA would be prepared to accommodate Whitehaven RLFC and other users here at the CSA, as part of a community stadium.

Health and fitness – there is an anticipated shortage of gyms in Whitehaven, (although one is understood to have recently closed and the stadium's own facility lies unused)

There may be a need for indoor tennis in the area as the nearest other courts are far distant.

Quality - are facilities and opportunities of sufficient quality?

Existing facilities (pool and main sports hall) are generally good, but coming to the end of their useful life.

Cleator Moor pitch has problems with its surface

Access - are facilities and opportunities easy to reach and use by different sections of the community?

Some geographical inaccessibility in rural area

Financial accessibility – CSA currently charges £40 for astro, same for track per session, although there are also block bookings. Athletes attending alone are charged £2.50 per session – considered reasonable.

Priorities - does your organisation have any of its own priorities for encouraging the development of, improving quality, or improving access to recreational facilities or opportunities?

There is a major aspiration to develop a multi million pound complex in this area.

History – the track was built in 1989 with funding from BNFL, CBC and Open Cast Mining. Originally run by BNFL, who employed a manager and 2 other staff until 1999. Then the

Cumbria ARLA took over and ran. Couldn't make it pay so in 2000 Trust formed which is still in existence. BARLA was involved through one of trustees and funding was obtained from them and others (CBC, UK Athletics, Coalfields Regen) for a centre of excellence for rugby league, including drainage of pitch, renovation of track, new equipment, a new second pitch, a small astro and an extension to the building, the total cost being £1.4m. The facility is generally in good condition and well used (see elsewhere). Annual attendance is about 20,000 users, turnover is £30k and the facility is in the black. However there is a lack of use of some of the facilities, because of the lack of promotion, day-to-day management and other issues. In 2009, with the potential regeneration of the Pow Beck area at a standstill, and as the result of the enthusiasm of the trustees, a competition was held to design a major facility in this area, which resulted in a preferred design by eminent architects at no cost to the trust. This scheme is currently being promoted, though no feasibility work has been undertaken on the overall concept. The current scheme comprises a major pool (to replace Copeland pool), a large sports hall (ditto), a stadium (with no end user in mind but a willingness to accommodate Whitehaven RLC and other community groups – capacity 25000) and conference and ancillary facilities.

Any other issues?

CSA have ambitious scheme to redevelop the existing facility to include a sports hall, main stadium, swimming pool – seen as an ideal location because of space available and status of existing facilities. Pow Beck scheme is seen as dependent on access (in ownership of CISWO and originally dependent on ASDA now lost to Workington), funding and an overall masterplan which appears to change regularly. There are also considered to be flooding problems in that area.

Need for a dialogue in Whitehaven between all interested parties to ensure that facilities are planned strategically

Funding for whatever happens in the town will become an even more difficult issue – BNFL successors (??), NWDA funding now limited, Cumbria Community Fund.

If the CSA is to become a base for future facilities, CSA would be prepared to relinquish control over the current site in the best interests of the wider development

Steve Chambers, PDM for local Schools Sports Partnership

SSP comprises 4 secondary schools (Whitehaven, St Benedict's, West Lakes Academy and Millom), special school (Mayfield) and 39 primary schools. The partnership has no specialist sports college (nearest is in Maryport). Keen to work with Copeland to help the development of sports facilities in the borough – pitches and indoor facilities, as a part of school and out of school participation.

Quantity - are there sufficient facilities and opportunities to meet known needs?

Generally sports facilities (at schools) are broadly adequate in number for their purpose of delivering curriculum sport, and out of school activities. There are some issues with particular schools, and some sport is delivered despite a lack of some facilities. The 5 hour offer (i.e. at least 5 hours of sport every week, comprising at least 2 hours high quality PE in the curriculum (5-16 year olds) and the opportunity for at least a further 3 hours sport beyond the school day delivered by a range of school, community and club providers (5-19 yr olds)) depends on club involvement, and some club facilities need improvement.

Quality - are facilities and opportunities of sufficient quality? Schools

Whitehaven – school sports facilities poor in some instances (pitches flood, constraining school and community use), redgra unplayable, pitches on 3 levels and cause flooding, sports hall is OK

St Ben's – redgra area OK, some investment put into flood protection of pitches, tennis courts good and used by Whitehaven TC, sports hall OK

West Lakes Academy – poor redgra area, only 1 grass pitch, new MUGA to be built, sports hall OK. School currently being rebuilt as part of Academy process

Millom School – AGP in school management, pool on school site but very poor, pitches good and large potential area for additional (? sport village in Millom). Recreation centre managed by local trust on separate site.

Access - are facilities and opportunities easy to reach and use by different sections of the community? Normal problems of geographical access in rural areas, and also lack of real community use at school facilities

Priorities - does your organisation have any of its own priorities for encouraging the development of, improving quality, or improving access to recreational facilities or opportunities? Build up facilities on primary school sites e.g. hard play areas, small synthetic grass MUGA on each site. Community use of rural school facilities in the absence of purpose provided facilities in the village

Any other issues?

BSF programme originally for £88m, reduced to £66m, now scrapped

School facilities – managerial issues, need also to research hiring costs (need to speak to individual schools)

Whitehaven School – proposal at some stage in the past for a 3G pitch and dojo, etc (document is available – speak to John Barrett at school)

Cumbria Sports Academy – SSP generates many activities at the track and pitches there (athletics track, gym, 3G ¾ sized pitch, 2 grass pitches). Current track is in good condition.

There are plans for substantial redevelopment of site. Site originally BNFL funded, partnership with CARLA and BARLA, base for amateur rugby. Originally intended as 8-lane track with full-length stand.

Hensingham – a pool and the track are in close proximity, and also close to local schools. There are good (?) links to town, including a bus route. This could be a good location for a multi use sports facility if existing facilities are rationalised

Paul Stewart/Roland Woodward

Paul Stewart is manager of Millom Network Centre, an independent company limited by guarantee and a registered charity. The vision for the Centre was assisted by the identified need for regeneration infrastructure. £1m was raised through the Market Towns Initiative and the centre built on the HS site. It is concerned with lifelong learning, business growth, developing a business culture and education and training, including an interest in tourism and sport linked to regeneration. Its mission is to *support the sustainable regeneration of the local area through the provision of lifelong learning opportunities and the development of a local enterprise culture*. The centre provides a range of facilities to support local businesses at all stages, from providing opportunities for people to return to learning and enhance their personal and employability skills, to assisting businesses and organisations to use Information Technology and gain a variety of business advice using agencies and events held at the Centre. It is located on the Millom HS site and is among other things assists with bookings. Pool belongs to Millom School and pool staff are employed by Millom School.

Roland Woodward is a leading member of the Millom Swimming Pool group that has been seeking the provision of a new pool here for some years. He has long link with regeneration in the town, and previously worked at the school

Main interest of organisation re PPG 17 Assessment/Sports Facilities Study

To secure the provision of a swimming pool Complex/Fitness Centre in the town, and ensure that the results of previous studies on feasibility etc are considered in the PPG17 and leisure needs study. Also to merge open space and recreation provision with the overall regeneration remit of the MNC

Quantity - are there sufficient facilities and opportunities to meet known needs?

Pool – specifically there is a recognised local demand (?need) for a new pool in the town. Generally there is perceived to be a shortage in Millom of opportunities for sport for women – plenty of men’s clubs (e.g. cricket, rugby). There is scope for additional health and fitness – small gym at the Rec Centre and at various sports clubs in town for members

Quality - are facilities and opportunities of sufficient quality?

Quality considered generally good, except pool.

Access - are facilities and opportunities easy to reach and use by different sections of the community?

Outside Millom public transport poor, affecting accessibility to facilities in town. Not aware that cost is a constraint to participation though on prompting think it probably is.

Priorities - does your organisation have any of its own priorities for encouraging the development of, improving quality, or improving access to recreational facilities or opportunities?

Swimming pool

MNC runs an adult education programme which includes an activity initiative e.g. ‘Healthy Heart’, will be working with Millom Rec Centre. Also ‘Walking for Health’ initiative to be re-introduced, and cycling initiatives in conjunction with South Copeland Tourism group
Need to accept that facilities and opportunities will be difficult to justify in the Millom area if the real costs are taken into account – e.g. there needs to be some flexibility when determining the actual feasibility of a pool in view of the remoteness of the town, and the cost of accessing other opportunities which are currently 20-30 miles away. Also need to include other less tangible benefits arising from such provision.

Any other issues?

Sport has important role in this area as a contributor towards economic and community regeneration – self esteem of the community, employment, health, etc
Sports events important to tourism and regeneration, and the provision of a swimming pool in this areas improves the critical mass which can stimulate activity
Background to pool – built in 1957 as a school pool. CCC makes annual contribution of £20k towards its upkeep. Needs health and fitness to make a new pool viable. Studies have looked at other sites in Millom, including Rec Centre, but school has many advantages. Possibility of incorporating other facilities on site - e.g. large school playing fields could accommodate ‘sports village. Access road to MNC (I think you are referring to the entrance apron which was installed for access for the building of the All Weather Pitch – was not for MNC) still in place, opens up school site and fields and offers alternative access to facilities without using school entrance (there is considered to be an institutional reluctance of some people to use school

facilities after leaving school). MSG willing to consider joint management of all sports facilities in the town (including pool, sports hall, health and fitness, AGP, pitches, if necessary). There are some considerable economies of scale if all facilities can be so managed. Some promises of funding for construction appear to have been made, but need to check whether still current (£100k already provided for the studies up to now by regeneration agencies). AGP on school site managed by school and used by local groups. £1.6m scheme including changing rooms.

Marion Giles/Julie Forrest, Trustee and member of staff of Recreation Centre.

History – group of interested individuals in 1988 (including CBC member, TC members, volunteers and enthusiasts) persuaded CBC that sports centre required in Millom. Subsequently the Council built the centre to their spec, and in the early stages ran and owned it with the assistance of a manager and aerobics instructor, but struggled for viability. In 1990 the Millom Recreation Centre trust was formed – a charitable trust and limited company with 4 original directors, and has owned the centre and leased the building since then. Turnover is now about £50k, with annual usage of 49,900. The Council through a SLA contributes £7800 pa. Projects are funded through grant applications (e.g. Wren £15k, CCC £12k. The centre serves an area including Millom and the rural hinterland to Broughton and Waberthwaite.

Main interest of organisation re PPG 17 Assessment/Sports Facilities Study

Interested in ensuring that the needs of the Millom area are considered in any assessment of sports facilities in Copeland – Millom is distant from the main towns in the borough, and remote from services and facilities

Quantity - are there sufficient facilities and opportunities to meet known needs?

With a sports centre and a pool (albeit in poor condition), Millom is well provided with built sports facilities. There is also a good selection of outdoor facilities and open space, and many teams in Millom 'punch above their weight' (e.g. cricket and rugby Clubs).

Quality - are facilities and opportunities of sufficient quality?

The pool is in poor condition but the sports hall (given its age) is relatively well kept and in good condition.

Access - are facilities and opportunities easy to reach and use by different sections of the community?

Accessibility to facilities in Millom and Haverigg is good for those who live in the towns, but the area suffers from rural inaccessibility. The main towns (Whitehaven, Barrow) are 30 miles away, and specialist facilities are hard to get to. Cost of facilities considered to be reasonable and no block to participation

Priorities - does your organisation have any of its own priorities for encouraging the development of, improving quality, or improving access to recreational facilities or opportunities?

The centre has plans to make some internal changes to the centre to improve the health and fitness facilities – moving them from a small storage area to an upstairs balcony and rationalise the toilets and changing (which meet original requirements but are not used much). Ideally would also like a soft play facility (like Jumping Jack's in Whitehaven) but there is not room within the building. Space is available around the centre for an extension, but cost is the main problem

The centre supports the need in Millom for a new pool, and was originally happy to see this located alongside the centre. Since then the land has been sold and developed. The centre

sees some conflict in a pool elsewhere including health and fitness facilities for revenue support, as these are required at the centre for the same reason. The centre is very willing to work with other groups in the town to coordinate future sports facility provision.

Any other issues?

New management staff brought in about 1 year ago, replacing long standing manager. Trying to introduce a fuller and more varied programme of activities – cricket nets, football training and games, badminton, table tennis, dance/zumba, aerobics, circuit training, summer activities for kids, tri-golf, dodgeball, go-karting. Staff not trained in leisure management and very keen to do courses etc

Kate Mahone Locality Health Improvement Specialist

North Cumbria NHS, responsible for diet and physical exercise though now working on a locality basis offering NHS services across the board

Main interest of organisation re PPG 17 Assessment/Sports Facilities Study Primarily concerned with 'more people, more active, more often', dealing with all aspects of physical activity. Sport is one part of this but generally left to sports experts. Involved in 'Let's get moving', an exercise referral scheme. PPG17 offers the opportunity to develop activities throughout Copeland which meet these objectives

Quantity - are there sufficient facilities and opportunities to meet known needs?

Sports facilities – need for more facilities at a local level e.g. community centres, primary schools available to the community, village halls. Need all schools to throw doors open to the community e.g. Whitehaven School has adult education use but little else.

Quality - are facilities and opportunities of sufficient quality?

Sports facilities – NCL facilities run for CBC are considered good (fabric, upkeep, etc) but may require some updating to keep abreast of the times. Location at Pow Beck (or elsewhere) would provide the opportunity to upgrade facilities.

Access - are facilities and opportunities easy to reach and use by different sections of the community?

Sports facilities – all sports facilities in Whitehaven are considered accessible though they are on separate sites. The swimming pool is less so (not on a convenient bus route?). There is some merit in relocating facilities on a central site (e.g. Pow Beck or Cumbria Academy). There is a high degree of 'social' inaccessibility – some people would not go into a sports centre (seen as alien)

Priorities - does your organisation have any of its own priorities for encouraging the development of, improving quality, or improving access to recreational facilities or opportunities?

Strategic priority is access to activity and opportunities for this. Probably a quarter of current clients are interested in physical activity as opposed to other activity (so relatively limited potential – compare APS data). NHS support need to improve sports and open space facilities through PPG17 study. Particular issue in Copeland (as elsewhere) is the ageing population – there continues to be a high emigration rate among local 20 year olds with the lack of employment prospects

Any other issues?

Outreach to village communities in village halls and MUGAs also important in a rural area like Copeland e.g. portable equipment (dance mats etc)
No formal exercise referral schemes in the area due to funding. Cardiac referral unit originally a HAZ initiative became a social enterprise after funding – based at Maryport, use Kells gym
NCL – might be interested after discussion in developing a partnership on health and exercise
All NHS and PCT funding now routed through Locality Board (headed by local GP). LB priorities: respiration, smoking and car homes (all important links to exercise and health improvement)

CONSULTATION RESPONSES – PHASE TWO

Sports Focus Group Whitehaven (attended by 20+ people from local clubs and organisations)

- Are there enough sports hall? Netball League cannot get in any halls, all full. There is still a demand for further space – everyone agreed. St Benedict's school is full. The weekend is expensive to cover staff time. Cannot let out the sports hall before school and there is currently a waiting list. Mock exams take priority. At Whitehaven school you cannot hire the equipment i.e. netball/football posts, and the floor is not adequate. Possible solution – adult 5 a side football to go outside.
- Possible x2 3G's needed for North Copeland. The issues at Whitehaven Amateurs were raised again. Immediate issue to look at the situation at Whitehaven Amateurs as full community use is not happening. The pricing is very expensive at £35 for half a pitch for an hour. St Benedict's school cannot use the pitches at certain times because of changing issues. The 3G at Egremont RUFC is for community use only. The rugby teams do not use it for training. There may be a possible justification for 2 astros. 1 3G in Whitehaven and 1 sand based in Egremont. The sand based one at Cleator Moor needs re-surfacing.
- Copeland Stadium – Lack of communication between the council and the stadium. Stadium needs backing by the council and more external help to move forward. They cannot understand why the council is backing a development on a flood plain. The group would like an update with regards to the regeneration of POW BECK, where is the funding coming from for this development. If there was a facility at Hensingham instead there are lots of transport issues from South Whitehaven, Seascale area. A central facility will benefit south Whitehaven more and the more rural locations. In Kells there is possible a new community facility available at Storey homes are building 800 new homes.
- Pools – Copeland Pool is over busy and Copeland Residents seem to join Carlisle Leisure Limited facilities as they are all on 1 site. There are transport issues for getting to the pool at St Bees.
- There are enough Golf Courses for the Borough, but there is a need to increase junior membership overall and there is a desire for a driving range at Seascale GC.
- Everyone agreed that in the short term we need to improve what we have due to the geography of the Borough. Village halls need retained and promoted.

- Gymnastics currently takes place in St Benedict's School Gym, the area is not big/wide enough and there are issues with storage.
- Boxing – needs more space as they are oversubscribed, and existing hall in poor condition.
- Athletics need indoor space for winter training, including sprung track.
- Squash – junior coaching – need glass back courts at the sports centre. There are 4 at the Falcon club and 2 at St Bees School.
- St Benedict's school have a new space and would like ideas on what that space should be.
- There needs to be someone who coordinates overall use of all the facilities.
- Archery – indoor space is an issue, a 3 hr session is needed with a 30m long sports hall. Pricing is an issue for them as they work with small numbers.
- The group agreed that in the long term there should be some form of sports village format.

Bowls National Governing Bodies

- Background to Bowls Development Alliance – see <http://www.eiba.co.uk/bda/background.php>. As part of my work for Indoor Bowls, I am currently working with our Outdoor and Shortmat colleagues on a Sport England funded "Facilities Intervention". A section of this project relates to the need for our Sport to have a closer working relationship with the owners of our Bowls Facilities, in particular Local Authorities and Leisure Operators.
- Indoor Clubs I can concur with your conclusions outlined on page 69 of the Strategy document. I would however be grateful if you could elaborate further on the comments made on:
 - Page 64, under the heading of "West Cumbria Sports Facility Analysis where it is stated that: "Club data survey demonstrates the popularity of bowls in Allerdale"
 - Page 64, under the heading of "Pow Beck Valley Stadium Development" where it is stated that: "Cumbria is a geographical area of strength with the highest number of clubs than any other North West county area". Is it possible for you to share the databases of "Clubs" with the Bowls Associations? Does it include short-mat Clubs?
- Outdoor Bowls Whilst I appreciate that "Outdoor Bowls" is not captured via the Sport England "Facility Planning Model" and "Sports Facility Calculator", I am disappointed that no mention is made of the Outdoor Grass Bowls Greens that are listed below:
 - Flat Green Outdoor Clubs in Copeland - Cleator Moor BC, Stirling Green, Crossfield Road, Cleator Moor, CA25 5BY (Private), Egremont BC, Egremont (Public), Frizington BC, Frizington (Public), Seascale BC, Gosforth Road, Seascale, CA20 1PU (Private)
 - Crown Green - BCGBA Club in Copeland Bootle (Millom) Playing Fields, Beck Brow, Bootle, Millom, LA19 5UJ

Cumbria Motor Sport Group

I see the sports strategy document does not include motorsport, along with other missing sports. Motorsport is very strong in the county and the Rowrah kart track is a star facility. The Cumbria Kart Club does a lot to increase participation and allow other sports to sue their facility.

Cumbria Sport

Much of the participation data you have presented is either slightly out of date (School Sport Survey 2009-10 is available from Steve or myself) or going to be out of date soon (APS4 national headline data should be with us in December).

Cumbria Sports Academy

- The Trustees of Cumbria Sports Academy would like to record a motion of interest in having a full size floodlit AstroTurf sited at the academy as part of the consultation work you are doing for Copeland Borough Council. Our site is ideally suited for development without restrictions. We have capacity and area and are situated close to two of Copland's three secondary schools (walking distance), we are also within easy access of Whitehaven housing areas, are only 3 miles from Cleator Moor, 5 miles from Egremont, 4 miles from Distington.
- The Trustees are having talks with The Cumberland FA with regards to relocating their offices from Workington (Allerdale) to our site. Their proposal is for new office accommodation and the possibility of an indoor training area. This facility along with the AstroTurf would enable the site to facilitate for Coach education programmes, referee training, representative matches, training sessions, player development and use by general users for recreational purposes. The AstroTurf would eliminate the restriction we have at present regarding use of our grass pitches. During the day the local schools could utilise the AstroTurf, and at weekends and evenings the pitch could be used for local club use, and general public use.

Lakeland Sprinters

I realised that the local climbing/mountaineering club had not sent a representative. There is a need for a climbing wall in the Whitehaven area. There are no public climbing walls in West Cumbria. As well as being used by local people, a good wall would attract visiting climbers on wet Lake District days.

Also, since the meeting, I have visited Copeland Athletics Stadium and a cycle circuit could fit on to the spare land to the side of the athletics track and beside the football pitch.

Whitehaven Harbour Youth Project

- Main areas of interest are not in traditional facility based sports being discussed. Manage a youth project with its own facilities including a new 22 metre X 13 metre sports hall, including a 13m X 5m climbing wall – newly installed £37,000. We work with between 900 and 1000 young people each year over the last three years. We use outdoor adventure activities as a vehicle for personal development. We are committed to the Every Child Matters agenda including being healthy, enjoying and achieving. We have 6 staff with a good background in sport, outdoor activities and youth development. We do not fit in to the conventional Sport and Leisure stereotype as discussed at the meeting – more the adventure racing, triathlon, mountain marathon, canoe and kayak racing, surfing, sailing and climbing types! We work with a lot of hard to reach young people off the estates who

do not access the conventional facilities as outlined at the meeting and we believe that we are making a significant contribution to the health and leisure education of the next generation.

- The leisure needs assessment gets into such a narrowed down focus on built facilities! What it says about “assessing current and future needs, collaborating with other sectors and working across boundaries,” suggests more than just looking at conventional sports facilities. The objectives (page 5) includes words like innovative, suggests creating opportunities for young people, increasing participation etc, etc. All the stats suggest that Copeland is in dire need (which most of us can see on a daily basis) yet this approach will simply look at offering more of the same sort of thing which hasn't worked particularly well over the past 20 years – yes we might get a few more to swim if a bus route goes that way but, in my view, there's not enough of an innovative approach or local flavour which will bring about significant change.
- As an organisation we have been banging on doors and will continue to try and get more of the innovative and joined up approach. LA is just too busy to take on a wider vision of activity to bring about the greater participation. The information we receive is too last minute for us to attend, or we just don't hear about meetings. There is a culture problem, we work with the full range of young people many of whom are hard to reach or have little interest in conventional sport yet when we have offered that access to young people, offered our Sports Hall and asked for joined up support in making more things happen for young people nothing significant has followed. This is a massive overlooked opportunity.
- Our new though only 3 badminton court sports hall could be worthy of a mention. It is targeted towards young people (but other users welcome) and therefore it is a leisure opportunity for young people which could be included. I don't believe that there is an understanding of the lack of aspiration and family support which blocks many kids from participation at the Sports Centre and even the pool.
- As illustrated at the meeting there is a massive need for effective coordination and leadership, a rallying of sporting interests in the area where blinkers are taken off and real progress made on this agenda. I feel that there is too much of the narrow view of leisure and not a clear enough vision or any real leadership to make the desired progress
- Local flavour – there are a high number of paddlers, orienteers, fell runners, climbers, fell walkers etc. locally, than in other parts of the country, which must mean that the other part of the population living on the estates are even more inactive and not engaging in activity which fits with all the health, social and deprivation indices. Take into account the visitors to the area – ‘The lake district’, and there is scope for more local flavour than the uniform Sport England approach – what does for Basildon does for Whitehaven!
- We are looking at sailing developments based at the harbour. The Energy Coast has a vision which a water sports centre fits with – this has real credibility and we are looking at sailing and already offer sea kayaking with other aspects which could be developed
- Climbing walls! The inaccessibility of the Egremont one is a scandal and although we have installed our own we still need other wall(s) (see local flavour above) so will go to Keswick,

Kendal and Penrith with hordes of kids. It's a scandal when there is a good wall at Egremont, albeit with a big need to be re routed for wider range of users.

- As part of our action plan for development of our sports hall we chose table tennis as a sport to promote and have had this up and running for the past 18 months and are working with the Sports partnership to deliver in schools. This through Sport Unlimited (Sport England funded). I noted somewhere in your report to date mention for developing table tennis – again strange that our efforts to date aren't covered.

Whitehaven Miners FC

- I appreciate there is a separate consultation on the outdoor pitches, and I would appreciate a note on where to send my comments on this issue, but I see the outdoor development being inextricably linked with built facilities in terms of 3G pitches. I have made my views clear at 2 meetings now that the current facility run by Whitehaven Amateurs is not a community facility and does not meet the purpose it was built for. It is in practice the Whitehaven Amateurs pitch and is rarely and only expensively available to other youth teams at prime times for week-end fixtures. Consequently, we do not have the 3G pitch provision we need in West Cumbria. As our outdoor pitch quality is poor we have large numbers of postponements for many youth teams and it is my view on purely anecdotal evidence that this also restricts the recruitment of more players and the retention of coaches because of the lack of consistency and routine to fixture scheduling and the availability of pitches for more teams to play on.. Consequently, we would support the suggestion on p81 of an additional full size 3G surface centred on RL training but available for youth football fixtures at week-ends.
- The Copeland Athletics Stadium is an excellent facility in danger of never achieving its potential and currently not being properly used. It desperately needs some paid staff time put into it and I am frankly at a loss to understand how the money CBC found for staff in Leisure and Sport development, I think mainly through the SPAA, went on all sorts of posts but none went to the development of this facility and linking it more closely to the Borough plans. The current volunteers do a good job but they are out of their depth with the facility which has very poor marketing and is virtually impossible to book. Money to build things in the next few years seems likely to be limited, few people in West Cumbria expect to see any Olympic legacy or dividend up here; we expect the exact opposite. Therefore, we need to make use of what is already here.
- I would wholeheartedly support the development or opening up of facilities for gymnastics which seems to be thriving and equally for boxing. The Whitehaven Boxing Club does a great job with some young people in target groups for participation. Their facilities, like those for gymnastics, currently limit their expansion yet they are very popular do good work in schools and are run on the right lines. The current Squash facilities at the Sports Centre are limited, the facilities at the Falcon are those of a private fee paying club. Squash has had a big boom in participation because, similar to gymnastics and boxing, of some excellent and inspirational coaches. The squash coach at Whitehaven is very, very good and proves to me the importance of getting good coaches to improve not just the top quality players, which he has done, but also the rates of participation.
- The Council needs to come clean about Pow Beck. If they have some private development to come in then maybe it can go ahead. I would support the development at Pow Beck if they can piggy back a re-vamped Sports Centre and pool there and I agree that a good

quality stadium that gives the prospect of Super League RL is a great aspiration for the area. Junior RL in this area is very popular and produces top quality players. In these terms this is a super league area; a modest stadium at the heart of a municipal sports complex close to the town centre I believe would provide the strongest promotion of health, fitness and participation and give the RL community some strength and realism for their aspirations. My concern is whether CBC has the wherewithal and will, never mind the cash, to bring this off.

APPENDIX 3

SMALL COMMUNITY HALLS

General

Small halls and community venues (such as village halls and community centres) host a variety of recreation and social/community activities. These venues come in all shapes and sizes, and whilst some may not be suited to hosting any formal sports activity, they can provide important local venues for social contact, meetings, crèches, keep fit and other such activities satisfying important local needs.

The existing provision of village halls is shown on the map below, with an accompanying table which can be cross referenced. Generally speaking the best levels of provision per capita are found in the sparsely populated rural areas, where even the existence of a single hall has a big effect on the level of provision per capita.

Use, access, quality

The community survey highlighted that the Borough's village/community halls are used regularly by significant numbers with 22% of respondents using them at least fortnightly.

However the survey suggests that people feel this type of facility needs to be much more locally available before they will be used more. Around 30% of survey respondents would not wish to travel more than ten minutes to access such facilities. Walking and cycling are the norm to access local facilities, including village halls.

The community survey also highlights a view that local facilities like community/village halls are generally of good quality.

Discussions with Borough Council locality workers confirm that most villages have a village hall and/or can access a local school hall for community use – but rural schools are under threat – their loss would reduce access to indoor halls for community use.

The workers also suggest (in contrast to the views from the community survey) that the quality of village halls is variable – with many of poor quality. However some are of a very good standard (such as the recently refurbished facility at Drigg). There are a number of youth clubs/initiatives that meet in village/community halls across the Borough, and Harbour Youth Club has excellent indoor youth provision (including sports hall and climbing wall) in Whitehaven.

The survey conducted of parish councils suggested that there is some scope to further use certain small halls for sport if required. For example, Haile and Wilton Parish Council, and Wasdale Parish Council suggest their respective halls could be better used for sport if the interest existed. Waberthwaite Parish Council also said there was scope for using the school and village hall more for community recreation activities. The Bootle Parish Community Action Plan (2009) highlighted that the Bootle Station Village Hall should be used more for recreational activities including a youth club and yoga and fitness classes.

Copeland Leisure Needs Assessment Final Report March 2011

Ref	Hall Name	Location	Details
1	Adams Memorial Hall	Arlecdon	Large hall
2	Beckermeth Reading Rooms	Beckermeth	Not used for sport
3	Bigrigg Village Hall	Bigrigg	Large hall
4	Bootle Station Village Hall	Bootle Station	Large hall
5	British Legion (Bransty) Hall	Bransty	Large relatively modern facility with function room for hire
6	Browfoot Room	Ulpha	
7	Calderbridge & Ponsonby Village Hall	Calderbridge	Large hall
8	Cleator Moor Civic Hall	Cleator Moor	Large multi purpose hall
9	Distington Community Centre	Distington	Large hall
10	Drigg & Carleton Village Hall	Drigg	Large hall
11	Egremont Market Hall	Egremont	Main hall used for sports, 2 smaller rooms
12	Egremont Methodist Church Hall	Egremont	Hall used by youth club for indoor sports
13	Ennerdale & Kinniside Community Centre	Ennerdale Bridge	Large hall. Can be used for sports
14	Gosforth Public Hall	Gosforth	Large hall
15	Greenbank Community Centre	Whitehaven	Small hall
16	Haile & Wilton Village Hall	Haile	Small, but could be used for sports
17	Holmrook Reading Room	Holmrook	Small hall
18	Jubilee Community Hall	Cleator	Small hall with limited sports hall
19	Kirkland Community Mission Hall	Kirkland	Small hall with limited sports use
20	Kirksanton Village Hall	Kirksanton	Large hall
21	Lamplugh Village Hall	Lamplugh	Too small for most sports
22	Lowca Village Hall	Lowca	Two large halls
23	Millom Palladium	Millom	Theatre and community hall
24	Mirehouse Community Centre	Whitehaven	Fitness suite
25	Muncaster Parish Hall	Ravenglass	large hall
26	Old School Community Hall	Nether Wasdale	Could be used for sports, but no interest
27	Parton Village Hall	Parton	Large hall
28	Red Lonning Community Centre	Red Lonning	
29	Santon Bridge Village Hall	Santon Bridge	Large hall
30	Seascale Sports and recreation Association	Seascale	Primarily for social/classes activity
31	Seascale Sports Hall	Seascale	Suitable for classes/activities
32	Seascale Village Hall	Seascale	
33	Silecroft Village Hall	Silehouse	
34	Sneckyeat Community Centre	Hensingham	Small hall
35	St Andrew's Church Hall	Whitehaven	Large hall
36	St Bees Village Hall	St Bees	Large hall
37	St Bega's Church Hall	Eskdale	Large hall
38	St Joseph's Church Hall	Frizington	Large multi purpose hall large multi purpose hall
39	St. James Community Centre	Whitehaven	Small hall with fronting offices next to school
40	The Hill Village Hall	The Hill	Small hall
41	Thornhill Hall/Social Club		Small hall complex of 1950s design/construction
42	Thwaites Village Hall	The Green	Large hall
43	Waberthwaite, Corney & District Village Hall	Waberthwaite	Large hall
44	Whitehaven Civic Hall	Whitehaven	2 large halls and 1 meeting room
45	Cleator Moor Bowls Club	Cleator Moor	Small hall with limited sports use
46	Cleator Moor Celtic	Cleator Moor	Large multi purpose hall
47	Wath Brow Hornets	Cleator Moor	Small hall with limited sports use
48	Cleator Moor Methodist Church Hall	Cleator Moor	Large multi purpose hall
49	St John's Church Hall	Cleator Moor	Large multi purpose hall
50	Cleator Moor Boys Club	Cleator Moor	Small hall
51	Keekle Village Hall	Keekle	Small hall
52	Masonic Hall, Egremont	Egremont	Large hall

Standard for Small Community Halls

Quantity Standard	Access Standard
1 venue per 2500 people in principal settlements	480 metres (10 minutes straight line walk time)
1 venue per 1000 people in other service settlements (Arlecdon/Rowrah, Beckermeth, Bigrigg, Cleator, Distington, Frizington, Haverigg, Kirkland/Ennerdale Bridge, Lowca/Parton, Moor Row, Moresby Parks, Seascale, St Bees)	480 metres (10 minutes straight line walk time)
1 venue per 400 people to service small settlements	480 metres (10 minutes straight line walk time) as an ideal although drive-time might be acceptable in very remote areas.

Existing National and Local Policies

There are no existing national or local standards or related guidance relating specifically to the provision of community buildings and halls.

General justification for a local standard

There is no 'one size fits all' solution to providing community hall venues. Generally speaking the larger the local population, the bigger and more accommodative a facility needs to be, as larger populations will tend to generate a greater and more diverse level of activities. However, even small populations can sustain simple and attractive venues. Even small villages with populations of less than 400 can have well used and managed halls.

A modern well-equipped small community hall might be expected to provide:

- A main hall that can be used for dances, reception, meetings, and sports activities such as carpet bowls and table tennis.
- A small meeting/committee room
- Kitchen
- Storage
- Car parking

Overall a total net floor space of 500m² could be used as a guide.

Quantity

The current level of provision of small halls shows great variance across the Borough- from between c.300 and c.5000 persons/hall (on a ward by ward basis). Realistically, the per capita level of provision in more densely populated areas cannot be expected to match the levels in rural areas. However, the latter will often face issues in respect of access to facilities from outlying areas. Generally speaking, the *quantity* of existing provision appears to be meeting current needs, with little concern about any under-provision being expressed through the community survey.

A three-tiered 'quantity' standard is proposed to reflect these points.

Accessibility

480 metres straight-line distance (or about 10 minute walk time), which is consistent with the results of the public consultation. However, this will be impossible to achieve in the rural areas in terms of access from outlying areas. In such circumstances travel by car is anticipated.

Quality

Further guidance should be provided by the Council, but provision should include:

- A hall sufficiently large to be used for a variety of recreation and social activities, of at least 18 x 10m.
- A small meeting/committee room
- Kitchen
- Storage
- Toilets
- Provision for disabled access and use
- Car parking

The standard should be applied and interpreted flexibly to best meet local circumstances. The aim should not be (for example) to create a proliferation of small community venues in areas of growth where fewer larger venues would be more appropriate. Contributions arising from this standard could also be used towards the enlargement/improvement of existing venues where appropriate. This might include joint provision on school sites with ensuing shared costs and benefits.

Application of Standard

Quantity

For the main settlements it is difficult to assess existing provision relative to the proposed standards as up to date local area population data are available only on a ward basis and does not wholly coincide with settlement boundaries. However, the following is the closest approximation that can be achieved (using the 1 hall per 2,500 persons)

Whitehaven	Population	Number of small halls	Persons per small halls	Halls required by standard (1:2500 persons)
Bransty Ward	5088	1	5088	
Harbour Ward	4014	2	2007	
Hensingham Ward	4244	1	4244	
Hillcrest Ward	2565	1	2565	
Kells Ward	2369	0	0	
Mirehouse Ward	4579	2	2289	
Sandwith Ward	2537	1	2537	
	25396	8		10.15
Egremont	All Ages	Number of small halls	Persons per small halls	Halls required by standard (1:2500 persons)
Egremont North Ward	4247	1	4247	
Egremont South	3712	3	1237	

Copeland Leisure Needs Assessment Final Report March 2011

Ward				
	7959	4		3.18
				Halls required by standard (1:2500 persons)
Cleator Moor	All Ages	Number of small halls	Persons per small halls	
Cleator Moor North Ward	4240	4	1060	
Cleator Moor South Ward	2764	4	691	
	7004	8		2.8
				Halls required by standard (1:2500 persons)
Millom	All Ages	Number of small halls	Persons per small halls	
Holborn Hill Ward	2534	1	2534	
Newtown Ward	3518	0	0	
	6052	1		2.42

Egremont and Cleator Moor compare with the standard, but there is a deficit in other cases.

For the next tier of settlements (where the standard is 1 hall per 1000 persons) the problem of assessing the population of a given settlement becomes even more difficult. The only statistics easily available to help estimate the population of very small areas will be 2001 Census data at combined Output Area level, which is now somewhat dated. However, it is to be noted that the following settlements in this tier do not have a hall at all: Haverigg (South Copeland Locality); Moresby Parks (Whitehaven & Howgate/Distinguon Locality); Moor Row (North East Copeland Locality).

At the lowest tier (1 hall per 400 persons) the following settlements are those for which the absence of a hall is most significant: Sandwith/Rotting don (Whitehaven & Howgate/Distinguon Locality); Bootle (South Copeland Locality), although there is good provision at Bootle Station.

A fuller assessment relative to population could perhaps be made when the new 2011 Census figures are available at the local level. This exercise might be combined with the recommended detailed audit of small hall provision, discussed earlier.

Quality

Time and resources have not permitted a detailed check existing provision relative to the 'quality' component of the standard. However, even a cursory assessment of provision reveals a huge range in both age, quality, features on offer. Some halls provided sufficient space to cater for various contemporary popular activities, but others don't. Most older halls have been altered in some way to meet the basic requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act. Storage is likely to be a problem at many venues – providing secure and convenient storage for semi-permanent users such as playgroups can often be an issue for both users and managers alike.

As resources permit it is recommended that a full assessment of community halls be conducted, perhaps with the support of Voluntary Action Cumbria (VAC), to assist in identifying future areas for new and improved provision. It is also recommended that information from this study relating to small halls, when finalised, is passed on to VAC to assist in the further compilation of their own facilities database.

Accessibility (by foot)

The following five maps show access by foot to identified small halls within each locality.

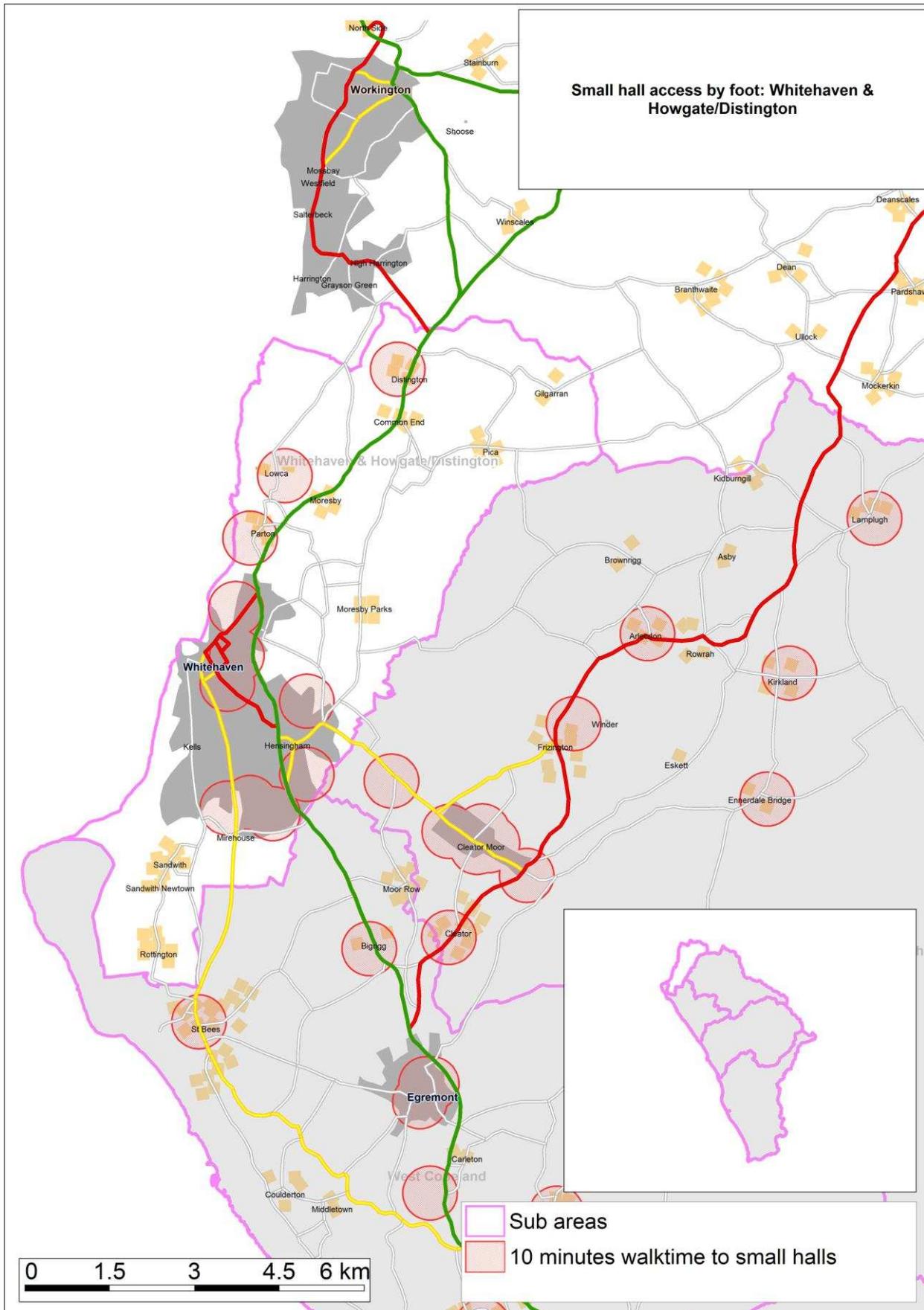
Whitehaven & Howgate/Distinguon Locality: parts of central Whitehaven do not appear to be well serviced by acknowledged community halls. Although there will be other venues which may serve a similar function. The problem might be more acute in outlying settlements such as Moresby Parks and Sandwith, which do not appear to have provision.

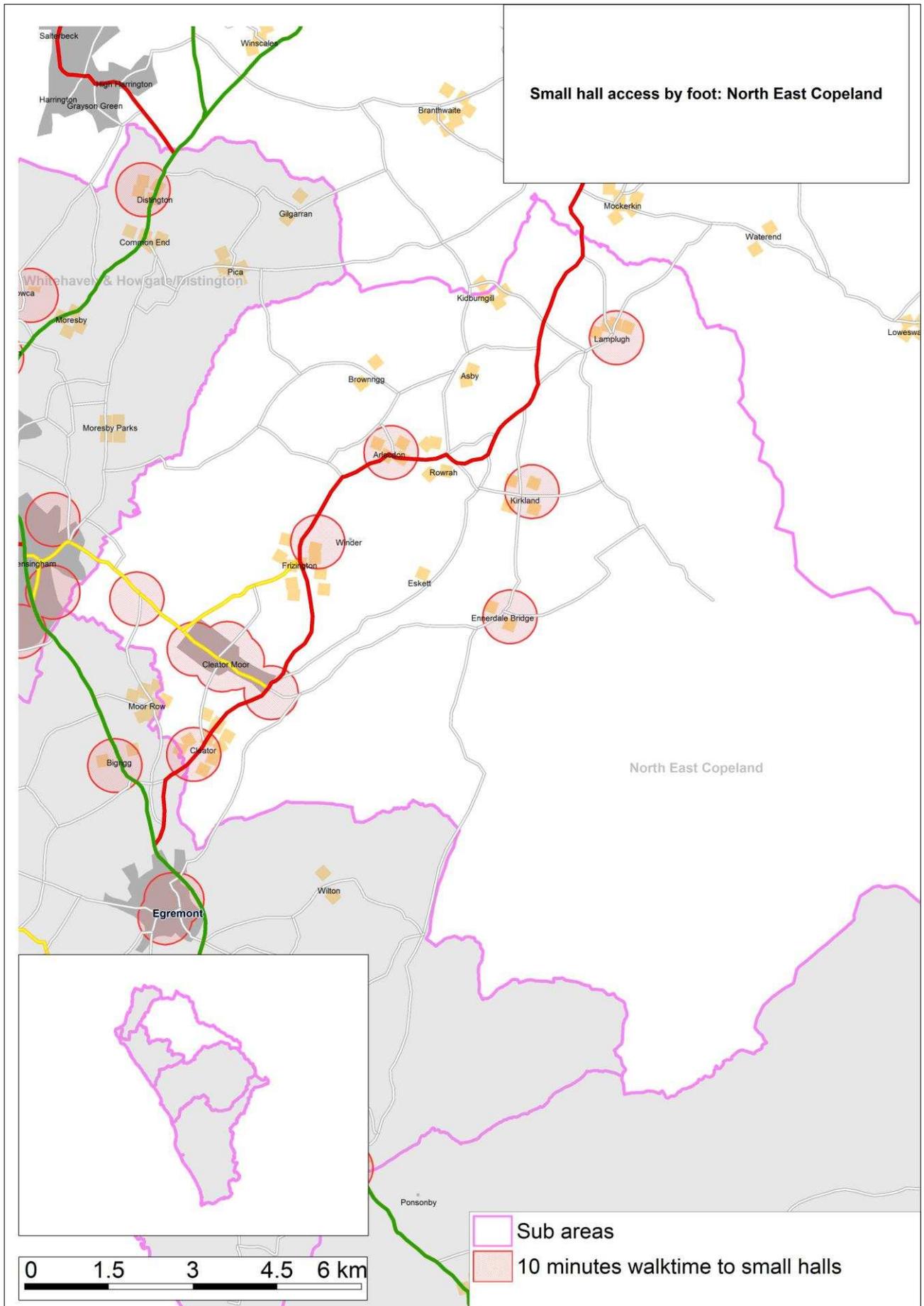
North East Copeland Locality: the main settlements seem have provision which is largely accessible. But the small villages like Rowrah (combined with Arlecdon as a Local Centre in the local plan), Brownrigg, Asby, Eskett do not.

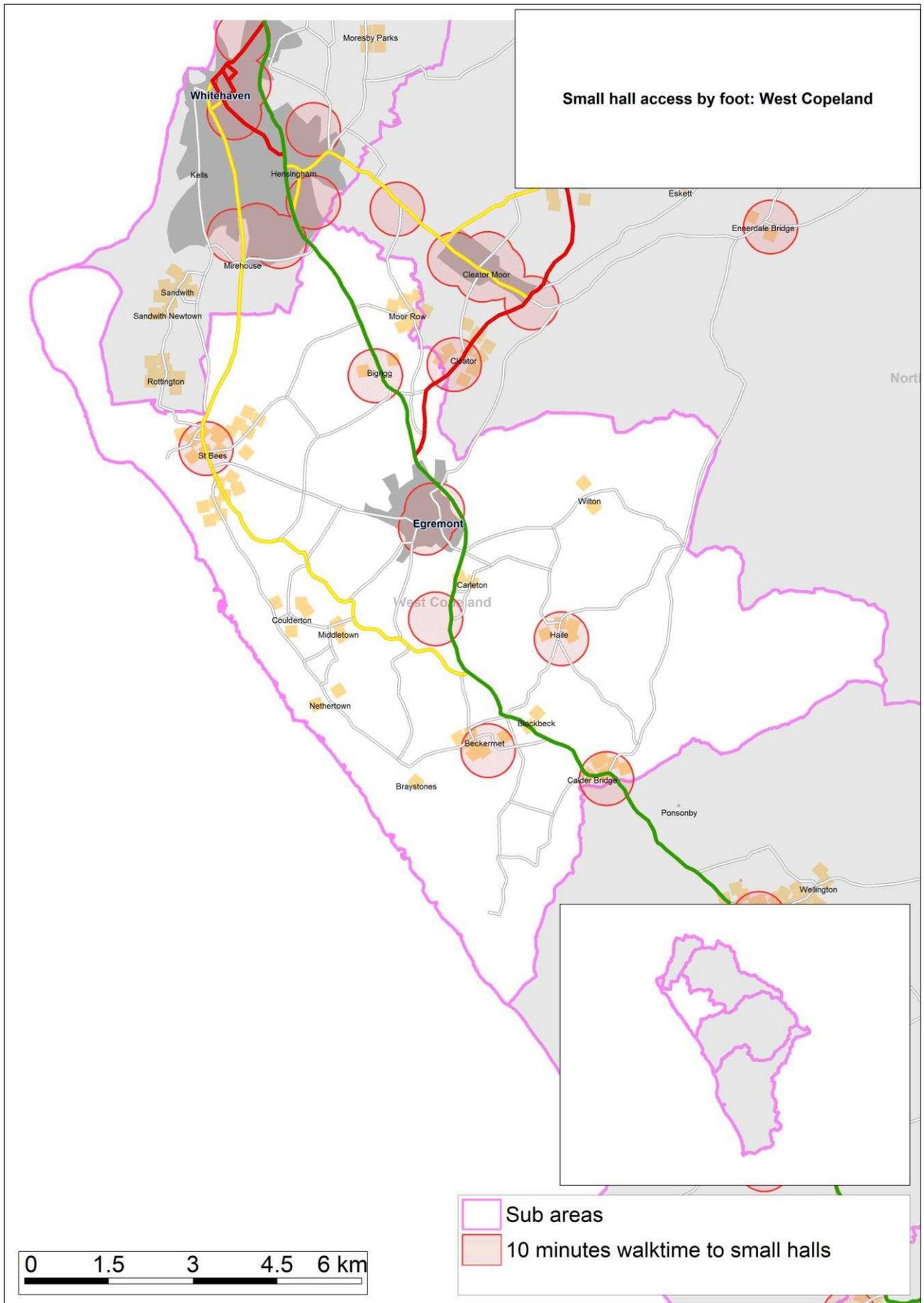
West Copeland Locality: the main settlements appear to be quite well served, but not so the small villages such as Couderton, Middleton, Moor Row (defined as a Local Centre in the local plan), and Wilton.

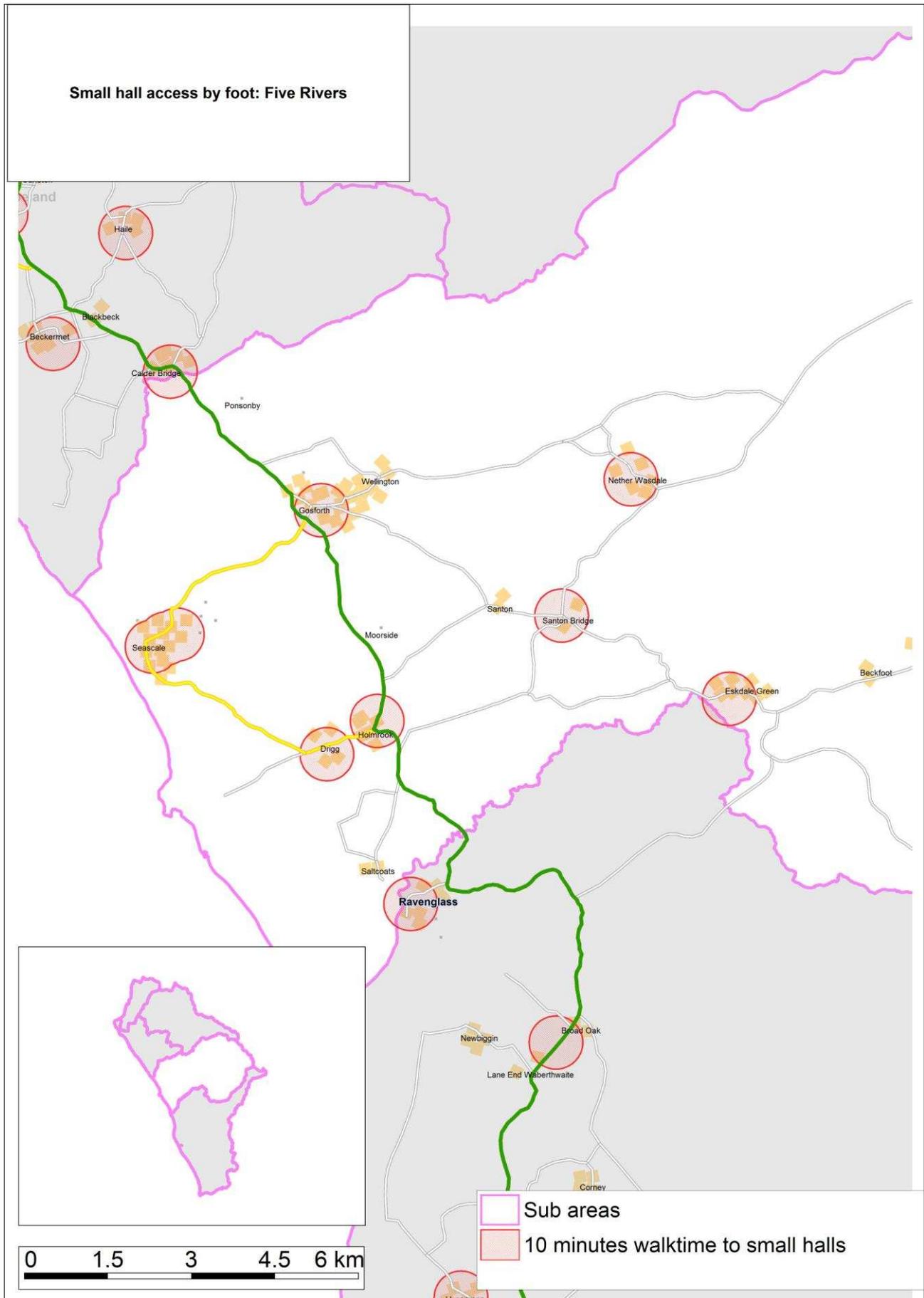
Five Rivers Locality: Parts of Wellington are not well covered, and neither are small villages such as Santon and Beckfoot.

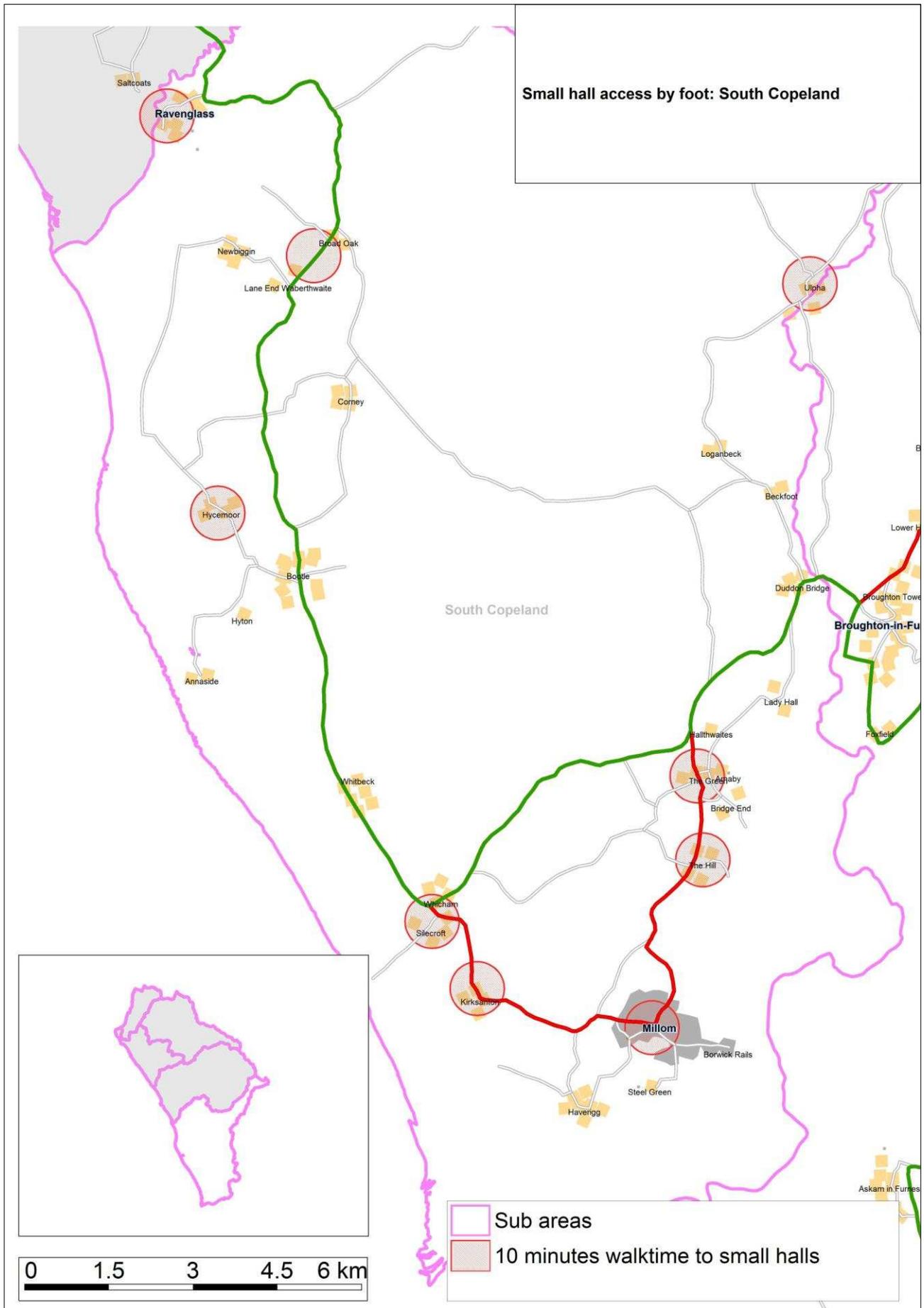
South Copeland Locality: Settlements such as Haverigg, Whitbeck and Bootle do not have community halls, although sports and social clubs in these areas may provide alternative provision of sorts. (There is also provision at Bootle Station).





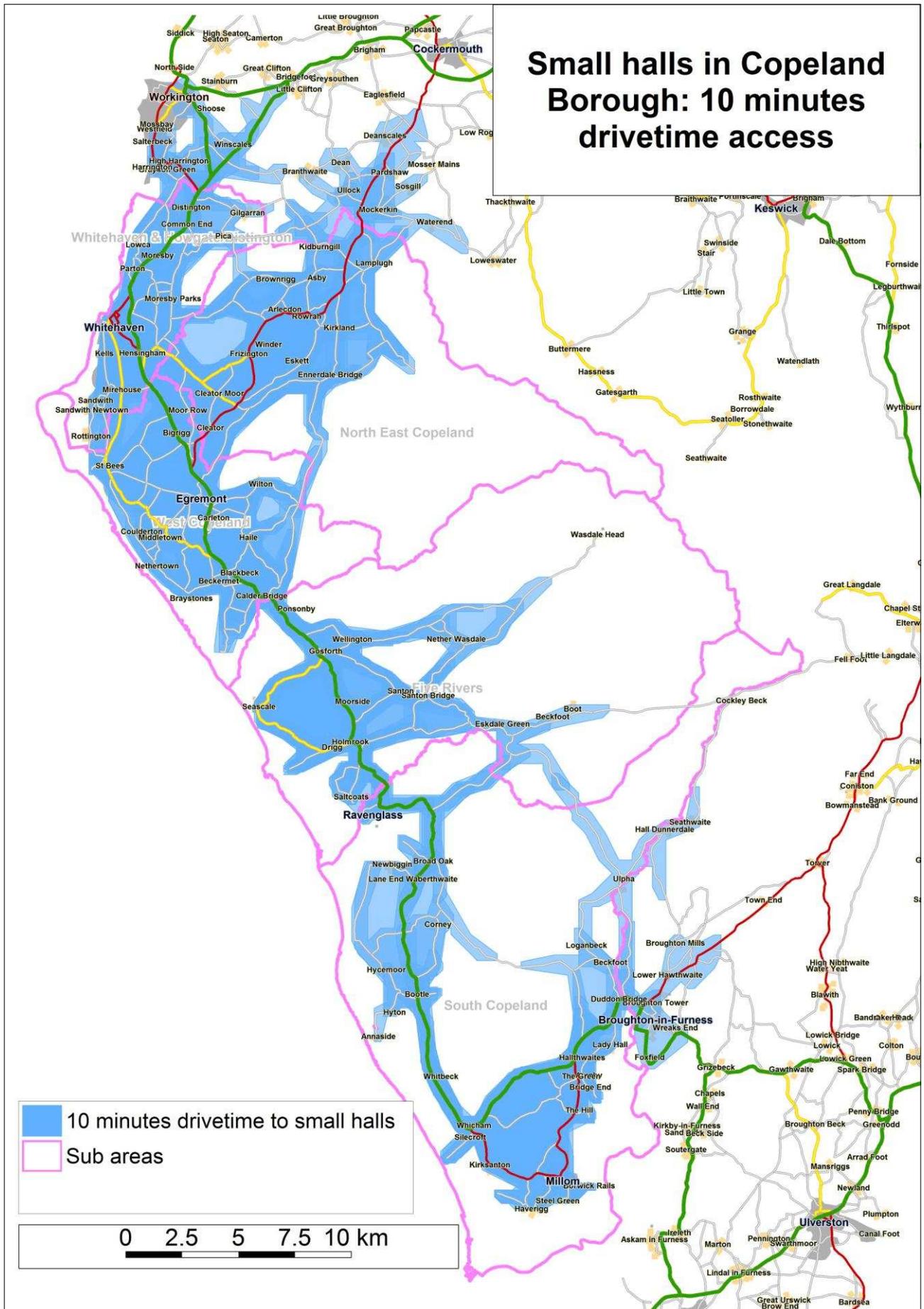






Accessibility (*driving*)

In contrast, the following map shows access by 10 minute drive-time in recognition of the fact that many outlying areas can never realistically be provided with a facility within easy walking distance. On this basis it will be seen that all but the most isolated and sparsely populated parts of the Borough are within reach of some form of village or community hall. Obviously, dependency on car travel militates against those who don't have access to one for reasons of age, income or disability. Often public transport is not a viable alternative.



Future Demand for Small Halls

Future demand for small halls (as with other recreation facilities) is comprised of several causal factors, and these are rehearsed elsewhere in the overall study. However, some factors will have a far more profound impact than others. The biggest impact on the demand for use of small halls is likely to be in those areas where new development (and therefore population increase) is proposed. 47% of planned new growth is earmarked for the Whitehaven area, with the other Key Service Centres (Cleator Moor, Egremont and Millom) receiving smaller but still significant allocations. 12 Local Centres are to receive smaller allocations averaging 84 dwellings per settlement over the next 15 years (the size of these smaller allocations will in practice vary between local centres).

Development is likely to be distributed over several sites within each of the earmarked settlements, and these have yet to be determined. *What is unclear at this stage is the extent to which new housing will be occupied by residents new to the area- it is very likely that much of the new stock will be occupied by existing local residents simply changing house. It is therefore impossible at this stage to predict exact scale of planned new development, occupancy rates, or the demographic character of new occupants.* However, using some assumptions it is possible to 'model' future scenarios based on the anticipated location and scale of new development.

For example, an assumption could be made of a) an overall occupancy rate of 2 people per household; and, b) that half the new occupants can be treated as a net gain in the local population (as opposed to simply changing house locally- this may still be an optimistic assumption). *Clearly, the assumptions need to be further examined and modified to best reflect projected circumstances, but the principles remain the same.* However, when these figures are applied to the suggested standards it generates the following provision.

Settlement	Number of New Homes	Locality	New Population based on 2 persons/dwg and 50% being 'new' to the area	Outdoor sports space (based on 1 hall (500m ²) /2,500 persons
Whitehaven	2,256	Whitehaven & Howgate/Distinguon	2256	0.97 halls/485m ²
Cleator Moor	480	North East Copeland	480	0.19 halls/96m ²
Egremont	480	West Copeland	480	0.19 halls/96m ²
Millom	576	South Copeland	576	0.23 halls/115m ²
Local centres	84 (average/settlement)	various	84 (average/settlement)	0.03 halls/16m ²

For the largest individual sites forming part of the major allocations it may be desirable to provide some new provision 'on site' in order to be reasonably accessible to residents as users. However, there will be the prospect of providing some opportunities 'off-site', either through new provision; or else through improvements to existing provision. These will help meet the needs of both new as well as existing residents. Smaller scale allocations (such as in the Local Centres) may incrementally generate additional demands, and it is important to recognise this- especially in rural areas. The above approach can also be applied to such developments.

APPENDIX 4

ACTION PLAN

	Timescale	By whom?
Proposed strategy for sports halls		
Retain the provision of a main 8-10 court sports hall in Whitehaven as a main focus for a variety of sports, either by upgrading or refurbishing the existing sports centre (including the provision of additional ancillary halls) or by redeveloping a new sports centre on an alternative site in the town (see below for locational requirements)	Medium	Copeland Council
Consider some readjustment to the programming of Whitehaven SC by accommodating adult 5-a-side football outdoors (see below), to release some spare capacity for other activities in the peak periods	Short	NCL
Consider the provision of an indoor sports space in Cleator Moor, possibly in conjunction with the Bowls Centre.	Medium	Copeland Council
Develop and manage a framework for the usage of all sports halls (particularly school halls) to ensure community use by the wider community, sports clubs and other users, including defining particular halls for specialist use by clubs in a particular activity (e.g. netball, basketball)	Short	All providers and managers including schools
Proposed strategy for swimming pools		
Retain the provision of a main 6 lane pool in Whitehaven as the main focus for a variety of water sports, either by upgrading or refurbishing the existing Copeland Pool or by redeveloping a new 6-8 lane pool on an alternative site in the town (see below for locational requirements)	Medium	Copeland Council
Retain and improve where feasible the existing pool at Egremont and develop its usage as a satellite to the main Copeland Pool. In the longer term consider the feasibility of a major investment to rebuild/replace the pool by 2026.	Long	Egremont Pools Trust and others
Promote the more intensive usage of the St Bees School pool by the community for a range of lessons, training, casual and recreational uses in conjunction with the school and develop a joint marketing programme for all sports facilities on site	Short	St Bees School
Consider in accordance with a previously prepared feasibility study the replacement of the existing school pool in Millom by a purpose built new 25m 4-lane facility fully available to the community	Short	Millom Pool Group

Promote the provision of a small pool in conjunction with a commercial pay and play health and fitness centre as an alternative/addition to existing pool provision	Medium	Copeland Council, NCL and commercial providers
Coordinate the management and promotion of all pools throughout the borough to ensure optimum availability for all different users	Short	All providers and managers
Proposed strategy for health and fitness		
Consider in the short to medium term the provision of up to 100 additional stations, preferably in Whitehaven as part of a high quality commercial centre which also includes a small pool, and available for a wide range of the population	Short/medium	Copeland Council, NCL and commercial providers
Improve health and fitness facilities in Millom by the provision of a small centre of 50 stations, in conjunction with either a new swimming pool or the existing sports centre, or preferably coordinated with the management of both facilities	Short	Millom Pool Group Millom Recreation Centre
Consider in the longer term the provision of additional stations in accordance with identified future demand, in accessible locations throughout the borough, preferably in conjunction with other sports and community facilities including sports halls (especially on schools sites), pools, AGPs and community halls, to ensure that all facilities are sustainable in financial terms	Long	All providers and managers
Proposed strategy for indoor bowls		
Consider the multi use of the existing centre and any new facility at times when indoor bowls is out of season e.g. play schemes, other activities	Short	Copeland Council and NCL
Proposed strategy for indoor tennis		
Instead support a community tennis project with outdoor floodlit tarmac courts and changing provision, possibly in the Cleator Moor area	Medium	NGB and local clubs
Proposed strategy for AGPs		
Ensure more comprehensive community usage of existing pitch at Whitehaven Amateurs	Short	Whitehaven Amateurs FC
Consider the replacement of the surface at Cleator Moor pitch	Short	Copeland Council and NCL
Seek the provision of 1 additional new pitch, built to 3G specification with a 60mm surface to meet FA performance requirements, in the Whitehaven area, and undertake a feasibility study to determine the preferred location, on a school site or where community access is best elsewhere (e.g. Kells)	Short	All providers, including schools
In the longer term to 2026, seek the provision of an additional AGP, which meets the requirements of local users of an appropriate surface, located in Egremont, preferably at West Lakes Academy.	Long	West Lakes Academy

Consider the provision of small 3G AGPs in appropriate areas as venues for training and development, in particular for football and rugby league	Medium	All providers
Consider the promotion of a facility suitable for the development of small sided football in the short term in Whitehaven	Short	Commercial and other providers
Proposed strategy for athletics		
Undertake more extensive promotion of the existing track for competition and recreational use	Short	Cumbria Sports Academy Trust
Consider the feasibility of developing an 8 lane track at Cumbria Sports Academy	Medium	Cumbria Sports Academy Trust
As an alternative retain the existing 6-lane track, but provide a smaller satellite facility (J track or training facility) elsewhere in the borough, preferably on a school site	Medium	Cumbria Sports Academy Trust/schools
Proposed strategy for golf		
Consider the provision of a small driving range at Seascales GC	Short	Seascales GC
Proposed strategy for specialist facilities		
Specialist requirements for table tennis, badminton, netball or other sports should be incorporated in a hierarchy of sports halls (see elsewhere) in a coordinated manner, particularly on school sites where management would be facilitated.	Medium	All providers
In the longer term a feasibility study should be undertaken to consider the provision of a purpose built indoor netball centre or outdoor courts with a temporary cover in winter (which would also be suitable for tennis)	Long	NGBs/local clubs and leagues
Consideration should be given to the provision of a cycling track in conjunction with the Cumbria Sports Academy	Medium	CSA/local clubs/NGB
Purpose built facilities for boxing and gymnastics should be addressed if a multi use sports facility is proposed within Whitehaven, which could also accommodate new (glass backed) courts for Whitehaven Squash Club.	Long	Local clubs and NGBs