



10 Year Sport and Physical Activity Strategy - Built/Indoor facilities Assessment and Strategy

October 2020



Table of Contents

1. Executive Summary	1
Aims	1
Principles for Future Provision	2
Priority Investment Needs	4
Summary of Facility Priorities in Copeland	6
Sports Halls	6
Future Demand	6
Swimming Pools	9
Future Demand	9
Health and Fitness	12
Squash	12
Indoor Bowls	12
Gymnastics	13
Active environment	13
Other Priorities and Needs	13
Capital Investment	13
Continued Local Partnership Working with Education Sites	13
Recommendations	14
2. Stage A - Introduction and Scope	20
Introduction	20
Purpose and Objectives in Developing a Sports Facilities study	21
Study Structure	24
Sports and Geographical Scope	25
Proportionate Approach	28
3. Strategic Policy and Context	30
Introduction	30
National Level	30
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2019	30
Sport England Definitions	32
A New Strategy for Sport – Department for Culture, Media and Sport	32
Sport England Strategy 2016- 2021 ‘Towards an Active Nation’	33

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sports and Physical Activity Strategy

Local Level - Copeland Strategic Context	35
What can we do in Copeland to help us to have healthier lives?	41
Future Development in the Borough	52
Copeland Draft Local Plan – Copeland 2017-2035	52
Growth and Development in Copeland	52
Community Infrastructure Levy Charge	54
Population Profiles and Projections	54
3 potential scenarios:	55
Population Profile – Deprivation 2019	55
Population and Demographics	56
Copeland Local Facts	59
Copeland Health and Economic Profile 2019	61
Health and Economic Profile: Millom	61
Health and Economic Profile: Cleator Moor	63
Health and Economic Profile: Whitehaven	64
Health and Economic Profile: Egremont	65
Physical Activity and Participation	67
The Intrinsic Value of Participation	67
Some examples of initiatives and projects in Copeland	68
PhunkyFoods	68
Clear Blue Skies	69
Phoenix Youth Project	69
Mind Ya Marras	70
Whitehaven Harbour Youth Project	70
South Whitehaven Youth Partnership	70
Inclusivity	70
Coastal routes and cycling	71
Current Participation Rates – Physical Activity Participation	73
Physical activity participation - adults	73
Physical activity participation – children and young people	74
Market Segmentation	75

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sports and Physical Activity Strategy

4. Stage B - Existing Facility Provision	77
Introduction	77
Supply of Indoor Sport Facilities in Copeland	78
Catchment Areas	79
Demand for Indoor sports facilities	79
Stage B (ANOG) - Assessment of Existing Sports Facility Provision	81
Operational Management of Copeland Borough Council Leisure Facilities	83
Quality Audits	83
Consultation	84
Schools	84
Clubs	85
Parish Councils	85
Neighbouring Local Authorities and Unitary Status	85
Assessment of Individual Facility Types	87
Sports Halls and Activity Halls	87
Quantity	87
Quality	93
Accessibility	95
Availability	96
National Governing Bodies (NGB's)	97
Sport England Facility Planning Model (FPM)	98
Sports Halls	98
Supply and Demand Analysis	100
Community Halls	102
Swimming Pools	103
Quantity	103
Quality	107
Accessibility	107
Availability	109
National Governing Bodies	110
Sport England Facility Planning Model (FPM)	110
Health and Fitness Facilities	115
Quantity	115
Quality	121
Accessibility	122

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sports and Physical Activity Strategy

Availability	122
Fitness Studios	124
Quantity	124
Quality	127
Accessibility	127
Availability	129
Supply and Demand Analysis – Health and fitness (facilities & studios)	130
Squash	131
Quantity	131
Quality	132
Accessibility	133
Availability	135
NGB Consultation: England Squash	135
Summary of Supply and Demand	135
Indoor Bowls	136
Quantity	136
Indoor Bowls: Summary of Supply and Demand	138
Indoor Tennis	138
Indoor Tennis: Summary of Supply and Demand	139
Gymnastics Centres	140
Quantity	140
NGB Consultation: British Gymnastics and Trampolining	140
5 Penultimate Stage - Applying the Assessment Analysis	142
Facility Specific Analysis	142
Sports Halls	143
Swimming Pools	143
6 Recommendations and Action Plan	153
Overview	153
Vision	153
Aims	154
Principles for Future Provision	155
Priority Investment Needs	155
Other Priorities and Needs	157

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sports and Physical Activity Strategy

Capital Investment	157
Continued Local Partnership Working with Education Sites	157
Planning Policy, Securing Developer Contributions, Planning Obligations, S106 Obligations and the Community Infrastructure Levy – An overview	157
Recommendations	158
Action Plan	161
Disclaimer	168

Table Listings

Table 1.1:	Summary of Facility Priorities	3
Table 1.2:	Future demand/badminton court supply	9
Table 1.3:	Future demand/swimming pool supply	10
Table 3.1:	Copeland Strategic Policies and Strategies	35
Table 3.2:	Key findings linked to access to sport provision- Evidence-Based documents	44
Table 3.3:	Key Partner Bodies	48
Table 3.4:	Comparison of the population make up from 2001 census to 2011 census	56
Table 3.5:	Population estimates for all persons by 5- year age group for 2018	56
Table 3.6:	Copeland Ethnicity	57
Table 3.7:	Copeland Population Projections	59
Table 3.8:	Summary of Market Segmentation for Copeland– top 4 market segments (all Sport England market segments are summarised in Appendix 3)	75
Table 4.1:	Scenario modelling for calculation of future facility provision in Copeland	77
Table 4.2:	Existing Indoor sports facilities – Copeland	78
Table 4.3:	Quality Audit Scoring System	84
Table 4.4:	Supply of Sports Halls in Copeland	89
Table 4.5:	Supply of Activity Halls in Copeland	90
Table 4.6:	Summary of the Quality Assessment of Copeland leisure facilities	93
Table 4.7:	Summary Analysis – Sports Hall and Activity Hall Supply and Demand	100
Table 4.8:	Swimming Pools in Copeland	104
Table 4.9:	Analysis of Swimming Pool Supply in Copeland	105
Table 4.10:	Summary Qualitative Assessments- Swimming Pools	107

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sports and Physical Activity Strategy

Table 4.11:	Summary Analysis – Swimming Pool Supply and Demand	112
Table 4.12:	Fitness Facilities (Fitness Suites) in Copeland	117
Table 4.13:	Analysis of overall Fitness Suite Provision in Copeland	119
Table 4.14:	Summary of Fitness Suite Size	119
Table 4.15:	Summary Qualitative Assessments - Health and Fitness Facilities (fitness suites and studios)	121
Table 4.16:	Fitness Studios in Copeland	126
Table 4.17:	Analysis of overall Studio Supply – Copeland	126
Table 4.18:	Summary of Quality Assessments Studios in Copeland	127
Table 4.19:	Summary Analysis – Health and Fitness Supply and Demand	130
Table 4.20:	Squash Courts in Copeland	132
Table 4.21:	Summary of Quality Assessments Squash Courts in Copeland	132
Table 4.22:	Summary Analysis – Squash Courts Supply and Demand	135
Table 4.23:	Summary Analysis – Indoor Bowling Supply and Demand	138
Table 4.24:	Summary Analysis – Indoor Tennis Supply and Demand	139
Table 4.25:	Summary of Gymnastics Clubs	140
Table 5.1:	Key Issues, Impacts and Implications by Facility Type	147
Table 5.2:	Summary of Facility Priorities	151
Table 6.1:	Summary of Facility Investment Priorities	156
Table 6.2:	Strategy Action Plan	162

Map Listings

Map 2.1:	Copeland Borough Council Location	20
Map 4.1:	Sports Hall sites in Copeland	88
Map 4.2:	Activity Halls in Copeland	92
Map 4.3:	Sports Halls with Pay and Play Community Use Catchment areas in Copeland (20 mins drive time)	95
Map 4.4:	Swimming pools in Copeland	103
Map 4.5:	Community access Swimming Pools in Copeland	106
Map 4.6:	Swimming Pools with Pay and Play Community Use Catchment areas in Copeland (20 mins drive time)	109
Map 4.7:	Health and Fitness Facilities in Copeland	116
Map 4.8:	Community Access Fitness Suites in Copeland	120
Map 4.9:	Community access Fitness Suites within a 20-minute drive time catchment area	123

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sports and Physical Activity Strategy

Map 4.10:	Community access studio facilities in Copeland	125
Map 4.11:	Pay and Play Community Use Studios with a 20-minute drivetime catchment	128
Map 4.12:	Squash Courts by Type in Copeland	131
Map 4.13:	Pay and Play Community Use Squash courts with a 20-minute drivetime catchment	134
Map 4.14:	Indoor Bowls in Copeland	137

Figure Listings

Figure 2.1:	ANOG Stages	24
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Appendices

- 1 National Context
- 2 (2a-2n) Existing Built Facilities - Quality Audits
- 3 NGB Summary Consultation
- 4 Strategy Consultees
- 5 School Consultation Analysis
- 6 Sports Clubs Consultation Analysis
- 7 Parish Council Consultation Analysis
- 8 Sport England Facility Planning Model (FPM) Analysis Swimming Pools and sports halls, and overall summary
- 9 Copeland Bowls Age and Postcode sector of ALL members
- 10 Assessment of Health and Fitness Supply and Demand 2018

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sports and Physical Activity Strategy

Glossary of Terms

Terms	Explanation
Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (ANOG)	The Sport England guidance on preparing and developing needs assessments for built sports facilities, which provides the evidence to support a Local Plan.
Community Use	A facility has community use if it is open for use by sports clubs/community groups and pay and play use (use by individuals in the community).
Community Use Agreement (CUA)	A CUA is a formal agreement between an education facility and a Local Authority (and sometimes also Sport England) for community use of a sports facility on an education site out of school hours.
Affordable Fitness Facilities	These are fitness facilities which may be in the public, private or voluntary sectors, which offer similar prices as those operated by Copeland Borough Council; these facilities are therefore considered to be both affordable and accessible, and providing for at least some of the community, in a way that membership only facilities may not.
Facility Planning Model (FPM)	The FPM is a facility modelling toolkit, developed by Sport England to inform the current and future need for provision of sports halls, swimming pools and all-weather pitches.
Copeland, Copeland Borough or Copeland Borough	Reference to Copeland, or Copeland Borough, means the entirety of the geographic area for which Copeland Borough Council is responsible.
Copeland Town	Reference to Copeland town means the settlement within the wider borough area.
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies and how they are expected to be applied. It covers both plan -making and development management.
Pay and Play	Sports facilities which are available for use by the general public; facilities can be booked by individuals or groups, without membership necessarily being required.
School Lettings	A school open for lettings provides community access but these tend to just be for clubs/groups i.e. pre-organised groups as opposed to individual pay and play use.
Sports Facility Calculator (SFC)	The SFC is a facility modelling toolkit, developed by Sport England to calculate the future need for provision of sports halls, swimming pools and indoor bowls, based on a specified population increase in an identified location.
Strategic Size	Strategic size refers to either a sports hall of minimum 3 badminton courts, or a pool of a minimum 160 sq. m. These are definitions used by Sport England in the FPM.

1. Executive Summary

1.1. The Vision for future provision of sport and leisure in Copeland could be to have:

“A healthier more active population living longer, more independent and happier lives”

1.2. Sustainable, high quality, and accessible facility provision has a critical role to play in delivering these opportunities. Copeland Borough Council (CBC) needs to plan for the investment requirements of its existing facilities, to ensure its health and well-being priorities can be delivered, and work in partnership with other providers and stakeholders to address the other priorities identified through this Strategy.

Aims

1.3. The aim of providing sufficient high quality, fit for purpose and accessible provision, places and spaces is to:

- **Increase the proportion of the population that is physically active; the level of activity undertaken will support efforts to further reduce health inequalities;**
- **Develop additional facility provision where need is evidenced e.g. as a result of population growth;**
- **Design in flexibility; future facility provision may need to be more multi-purpose in nature, reflecting changing participation trends and opportunities;**
- **Encourage new participants to start taking part in physical activity;**
- **Enable opportunities for participation to be provided in a wider range of places and spaces, and particularly at a very local level, using e.g. community centres/halls;**
- **Facilitate the continued development of healthier lifestyles across Copeland’s communities;**
- **Contribute to a reduction in health inequalities, and specifically obesity, reduced inactivity, across Copeland; and**
- **Create active environments where the opportunity to be more physically active is an integral part of everyday life.**

Principles for Future Provision

1.4. The principles that should guide all future sport and leisure facility development in Copeland are:

- **Ensure residents in all areas of Copeland have pay and play access to good quality, local, accessible and affordable provision, whether it is a formal sports hall or a community hall, or other informal provision;**
- **Aim to ensure that any new, sports facilities on education sites provide a balance of opportunities (through a formal agreement) for community access – both pay and play and club use;**
- **Replace / refurbish ageing facilities where new provision is needed; all new and refurbished provision should be designed and developed based on Sport England and (National Governing Body) NGB guidance, and be fully inclusive;**
- **Rationalise existing provision where new fit for purpose facilities can replace/improve existing buildings (but existing levels of provision need to be maintained as a minimum, given some existing facility under-supply going forward);**
- **Invest in existing formal and informal provision to improve quality; and**
- **Invest strategically to ensure economic viability and sustainability of provision.**

1.5. It is important to stress that this BFS study focusses on facility provision in the context of health and wellbeing; CBC will develop a physical activity statement as part of its ongoing work which will set out the priorities to which the facility network will contribute moving forward. These priorities will reflect locally identified needs.

1.6. Based on the facility supply and demand analysis summarised in Table 1.1, there is clearly a need for:

- **Additional ‘Leisure Local’ small swimming pool provision by 2035;**
- **Retaining existing levels of community accessible (including pay and play) sports halls, swimming pools, and fitness stations as a minimum; and**

- **Consideration of enhanced dedicated gymnastics facilities.**

- 1.7. Retaining and improving the quality of provision is important in Copeland to ensure that participation levels are retained and wherever possible increased. Active Lives highlights that 24.2% of the Copeland community is inactive enough to have any health benefit.
- 1.6 The provision of good quality, local community facilities, accessible and affordable to meet identified need, is key to facilitating participation growth, and contributing to a reduction in the health inequalities in the Borough. This reflects Public Health and Copeland Borough Council's health and well-being priorities, to facilitate sustained behaviour change to reduce obesity, improve health, contribute to addressing mental health issues and increase participation.
- 1.7 Based on the quality audits and assessments, and the supply and demand analysis, the priorities for future investment in facility provision are:

Table 1.1: Summary of Facility Priorities

Facility Type	Priority for Future Provision	Location
Sports Halls	Retain provision of existing levels of community accessible and affordable sports hall facilities as a minimum	Boroughwide
	Refurbish/redevelopment of existing ageing facilities	It may also be possible to secure additional access for community pay and play at existing education facilities. Potential to use planning obligations from housing developments to improve facilities. Link to formal community use agreements.
Swimming Pools	Retain provision of existing levels of community accessible and affordable swimming facilities as a minimum	Boroughwide
	A small pool (15m x 8m) should be considered for Millom, potentially co-located and managed with other health and well-being provision	Millom
Health and Fitness	Maintain the provision of pay and play accessible health and fitness provision space, at Whitehaven Sports Centre and Copeland Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre	
Indoor Bowls	Review/feasibility study of Cleator Moor Activity Centre which examines future demand based on demographics and prioritising the needs of Cleator Moor and its wider communities.	Cleator Moor
	The review should also consider long term retention of existing bowling	

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sports and Physical Activity Strategy

Facility Type	Priority for Future Provision	Location
	rinks at Cleator Moor Activity Centre, and establishing if current café and fitness use is compatible with needs of bowlers	
Gymnastics and Trampolining	Potential to explore 2 dedicated gymnastics facilities – at Millom Rec and Whitehaven Sports Centre	Millom Recreation Centre and Whitehaven Sports Centre
Community Centres	Need to provide community centres that can be used for informal sport and physical activity.	Boroughwide
General Provision	Overall, and specifically through the housing growth agenda, provision of more active environments, reflecting active travel, safe cycle routes to school, the need to link existing and new communities with walking/cycling/jogging routes	Boroughwide

1.8 Other future facility provision, linked particularly to long term population growth and housing development, is the development of new and improved walking, jogging and cycling routes/connectivity, to encourage active travel, and provide an environment in which physical activity can be easily integrated into daily life.

Priority Investment Needs

1.9 The average age of sports halls in Copeland is 35 years old. All were built prior to 1996, with the exception of St Benedict's High School which opened in 2019. The quality of current provision is average, mainly due to the age of facilities, Whitehaven Sports Centre is in need of significant investment. Copeland Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre is also in need of refurbishment in the medium-long term. Improving the quality of existing, ageing provision is the priority for future investment.

1.10 Based on the future population growth, and consequent increased demand, there is a need to consider provision of an additional swimming pool in the Borough. Any additional water space that is provided must be sustainable and for this reason, it is that provision of smaller pools is more appropriate within communities of circa 10,000 population e.g. Millom, where the need for water space may be an aspiration but a sustainable business case for a 25 metre pool is hard to justify. Potentially this approach could be eligible for a 'Leisure Local' funding application from Sport England. Alternatively, Mayfield Special School could well benefit from the use of such a pool if it was located in close proximity to their site.

1.11 Fitness facilities, squash and indoor bowls facilities should be maintained at their current level and investment will be required to improve the quality of these facilities as they continue to age. Provision of further indoor bowling provision should be explored. There is also a need to consider future need for

the provision of gymnastics with provision of a dedicated specialist facility or facilities.

Summary of Facility Priorities in Copeland

- 1.12 Overall, Copeland has an average range of existing sport and leisure facilities across the area.
- 1.13 In Copeland, there is sufficient pay and play accessible sports hall and health and fitness provision to meet future demand. There is however a need to increase existing levels of community accessible swimming provision into the future. The existing level of indoor bowling provision should be retained or increased, especially given the ageing population in Copeland.
- 1.14 It is very important that the potential to utilise community centres/halls, and other informal places and spaces well suited for sports hall activities is fully explored, developed and implemented, thereby allowing access locally to those who are elderly, do not have access to a car, have young children, or have a disability, for example.
- 1.15 Some existing facilities on education sites are ageing and will require replacement /refurbishment.

Sports Halls

Future Demand

- 1.16 There are:
- **A total of 6 sports halls and 7 activity halls across 9 sites; and**
 - **6 main halls in total (all strategic size i.e. 3 courts+).**
- 1.17 The sports halls are operated and managed either through Copeland's leisure operator GLL or by a mix of schools/colleges.
1. There are 8 individual sports halls located on 6 sites (for the purposes of the FPM 2 of the activity halls were included as on the same site as strategic sports halls) within Copeland Borough. The total supply of sports halls in badminton courts, is 37 courts, of which 25 are available in the weekly peak period for community use.
 2. There are two public leisure centre sports hall sites: Millom Recreation Centre (4 badminton court main hall); and Whitehaven Sports Centre (9 badminton courts). There are four sports hall sites which are owned by educational institutions. The largest education sports hall site is The Whitehaven Academy, which has a 6 badminton court main hall, plus a one badminton court activity hall. The other 3 education sports hall sites each have a 4 badminton court size main hall: St Bees School; St Benedict's School (also with a one badminton court size activity hall); and West Lakes Academy.

3. The variable education policy and hours for community use of the school venues, is the reason why the total supply of sports halls is 37 badminton courts, but the supply available for community use, is 25 badminton courts, in the weekly peak period. In effect, there is an aggregate total of 12 badminton courts, across the education sites, which are unavailable for community use, this represents 32% of the total supply of badminton courts in Copeland Borough.
4. The average age of the six sports hall sites is 35 years.
5. Five of the six sports hall sites have been modernised and the only unmodernised sports hall is Whitehaven Academy. (Modernisation is defined as one or more of the sports hall floors upgraded to a sprung timber floor, the sports hall lighting replaced, or the changing accommodation modernised).
6. The population of Copeland Borough generates a demand for 18.4 badminton courts in the weekly peak period. This compares to a supply of 24.8 badminton courts which are available for community use in the weekly peak period. So, the Copeland Borough supply exceeds the Copeland Borough demand by 6.4 badminton courts.
7. The total supply of sports halls is 37 badminton courts, and so the total supply of badminton courts exceeds the Copeland demand by 18.6 badminton courts overall.
8. Copeland Borough satisfied demand is 87% of the total demand for sports halls. This means this level of total demand for sports halls is located within the catchment area of a sports hall, and there is enough capacity at the venues to meet this level of total demand. It is a very high level of the total demand for sports halls which can be met.
9. The location and catchment area of the sports hall sites in the Borough are closely correlated with the location of the Copeland demand for sports halls. On the assumption that residents use the nearest sports hall to where they live, then the nearest sports hall for over nine out of ten visits to a sports hall by a Copeland resident, is a venue located in the Borough.
10. Total unmet demand is 13.1% of total demand for sports halls which equates to just 2.4 badminton courts. The unmet demand definition has two parts to it - demand for sports halls which cannot be met because (1) there is too much demand for any particular sports hall within its catchment area; or (2) the demand is located outside the catchment area of a sports hall and is then classified as unmet demand. Of the total unmet demand all 100% is unmet demand located outside the catchment area of a sports hall which is due to the rural nature of Copeland, where there are lots of dispersed small settlements. The unmet demand outside of the catchment of a sports hall is just 2.4 badminton courts across the whole of Copeland; there does not appear to be enough unmet demand in any cluster location of population to consider increasing provision of sports halls to improve accessibility for residents.

1.18 In summary, future demand decreases the current over-supply of 4 badminton courts as follows:

Table 1.2: Future demand/badminton court supply

Scenario	Current over-Supply of Badminton Courts 2020	Unmet Demand for Badminton Courts 2020	Future Additional Demand for Badminton Courts By 2035	Total over Supply of Badminton Courts By 2035
Scenario 1 population increase to 71,508	6.4	2.4	0.83	3.17
Scenario 2 population increase to 74 ,388	6.4	2.4	1.61	2.39
Scenario 3 population increase to 76,548	6.4	2.4	2.19	1.81

1.19 There is no identified need for additional badminton courts in any of the scenarios above. However, it should be noted that if plans to build a gymnastics centre at Whitehaven come to fruition then there would be a loss of 3-4 badminton courts which would then mean a potential undersupply in all of the scenarios, which should be factored in during facility planning.

1.20 Existing community access at education sites needs to be maintained as a minimum and secured wherever possible with a formal Community Use Agreement (CUA), given that the majority of sport halls facilities are on education sites.

1.21 Any new sports halls developed on education sites should provide community access via a planning condition allowing for access to both individuals and clubs/groups.

1.22 Existing sports halls currently unavailable for community access should be made available, where possible.

Swimming Pools

Future Demand

1.23 There are 3 swimming pools in Copeland, Copeland Pool (main pool and learner pool) and a pool located at St Bees School

1.24 Copeland Swimming pool provides pay and play community access to swimming pool provision in Copeland 7 days a week, there is also more limited public access to St Bees School (17m x 4 lanes) for swimming.

1.25 Housing development and population growth in Copeland will increase demand for swimming pool provision. As an indication (using the Sports Facility Calculator (SFC), it is possible to estimate overall future demand for provision of swimming pools, based on this population increase.

Table 1.3: Future demand/swimming pool supply

Scenario	Current Under Supply of Water Space 2020	Unmet Demand for Water Space 2020	Future Demand for Additional Water Space by 2035 (SFC) Population Growth	Total Under-Supply and unmet demand of Water Space By 2035	With St Bees 119 sq. m
Scenario 1 - population increase to 71,508	-266 sq. m	-237 sq. m	30.85 sq. m	-533.85	-414.85
Scenario 2 - population increase to 74,388	-266 sq. m	-237 sq. m	59.47 sq. m	-562.47	-443.47
Scenario 3 - population increase 76,548	-266 sq. m	-237 sq. .m	80.92 sq. m	-583.92	-464.92

(225 sq. m is equivalent to a 4 lanes x 25m pool).

- **Scenario 1 – Under supply in 2035 of -414.85 sq. m of water space;**
- **Scenario 2 – Undersupply in 2035 of approx. -443.47 sq. m of water space; and**
- **Scenario 3 – Undersupply in 2035 of approx. -464.92 sq. m of water space**

1.26 The unmet demand identified in the FPM is not significant; it is predominantly due to location i.e. people living outside the catchment area of a pool in their district/borough. This type of unmet demand will always exist and does not necessarily have to be met as other facilities might be nearer/more accessible for those people outside the 20min drivetime within the borough/district. The FPM findings would support a main pool of 25m x 6 lanes and possibly a larger teaching/learner pool of 120 sq. metre of water. However, if the 119 sq. m of water space at St Bees is taken into account (not included in FPM but is included in SFC) the undersupply of water space becomes considerably less i.e. based on scenario 3 this is – 464.92 sq. m by 2035. This level of undersupply equates to 2.19 x 4 lane x 25m pools.

1.27 However, in considering the need for additional water space in Copeland (with reference to the FPM and SFC calculator above) it is critical to factor in the scale of the Borough, the population distribution, and the ability of the more rural populations to generate sufficient use, and therefore income, to support the operation of a pool. As stated in the FPM, there is no one community in Copeland that demands more water space than another, so if any additional water space is provided, it must be sustainable. For this reason, it is that provision of smaller pools is more appropriate within communities of circa 10,000 population e.g. Millom, where the need for water space may be an aspiration but a sustainable business case is hard to justify. Potentially this approach could be eligible for a 'Leisure Local' funding application from Sport England. Alternatively, Mayfield Special School could well benefit from the use of such a pool if it was located in close proximity to their site.

Health and Fitness

- 1.28 There are 452 fitness stations in total in the borough and a calculated demand of 246 stations. There is therefore a current over-supply of 206 fitness stations.
- 1.29 There is a need to retain the existing level of community access and affordable fitness stations in Copeland, to maintain and grow existing levels of participation, and cater for increased future demand.

Squash

- 1.30 The existing squash courts are provided at Whitehaven Sports Centre, St Bees School (limited pay and play access because it is a school), and SASRA Seascale Community Fitness Centre.
- 1.31 There are 9 squash courts in Copeland, 2 of which are glass-back. 5 courts are available for community access (if Whitehaven Sports Centre courts are repaired). The remaining 4 courts are available for club members at 1 site.
- 1.32 The provision exceeds the NGB requirement of 1 court per 10,000 people (in Copeland currently 1:7,600 approximately), although it is worth noting that if Whitehaven SC courts are not repaired then additional provision could be considered elsewhere.

Indoor Bowls

- 1.33 There is one indoor bowls facility in Copeland which is Cleator Moor Activity Centre which has 5 rinks. There is 1 club, Copeland Bowling Club which is affiliated to the England Indoor Bowls Association (EIBA).
- 1.34 Demand is calculated as one rink per 14,000-17,000 of total population
- **Scenario 1 population increase to 71,508 = additional 1.14 rinks**
 - **Scenario 2 population increase to 74,388 = additional 1.34 rinks**
 - **Scenario 3 population increase to 76,548 = additional 1.52 rinks**

- 1.35 The existing facilities should be reviewed with a specific feasibility study which examines future demand based on demographics and prioritising the needs of Cleator Moor and its wider communities, and considers all available options, including other options for bowling. Developer contributions from new housing would assist in upgrading and refurbishing existing facilities. Further consideration should also be given to providing a café or similar facility to support activities at Cleator Moor.

Gymnastics

- 1.36 There are 3 British Gymnastics affiliated clubs in Copeland: West Cumbria, Millom Rec, and Whitehaven.
- 1.37 There are currently no specialist gymnastics facilities in Copeland. Consideration should be given for specialist facilities at Millom Rec and Whitehaven SC, given the transport limitations and rural nature of the borough.

Active environment

- 1.38 Overall, and specifically through the housing growth agenda, provision of more active environments, reflecting active travel, safe cycle routes to school, the need to link existing and new communities with walking/cycling/jogging routes.

Other Priorities and Needs

Capital Investment

- 1.39 It is clear from the strategy analysis that there is a need for some capital investment in Copeland, to address future needs. Whilst some of this investment relates to additional facility provision (e.g. small pool at Millom), there is also a need to start planning now for the refurbishment of Whitehaven Sports Centre, Copeland Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre, and Cleator Moor Activity Centre. Investment is also required in some of the voluntary sector and education facilities.
- 1.40 It is also clear that delivery of the levels of investment required will only result from a local partnership approach. The development of improved sports facilities, and physical activity environments, will facilitate increased participation, which in turn will benefit individual and community health. The challenge is that the greatest health benefit will be gained by encouraging the inactive, to become active.

Continued Local Partnership Working with Education Sites

- 1.41 In order to deliver the identified Strategy needs, and the key outcome of increased participation to address health inequalities, plus meet demands from increased population, there is an opportunity for some changes in approach to delivery. The development of new/replacement facilities, increasing and

optimising the available capacity in existing education facilities, provides a mechanism to deliver these outcomes.

- 1.42 The key issue to address initially is that of future partnership with education sites, to retain community access for clubs and groups as a minimum, and where possible agree Community Use Agreements (CUAs) which provide balanced access for the community on a pay and play basis. Increasing capacity to offer and deliver increased participative opportunities, particularly for those who are currently inactive, could contribute significantly to a reduction in health inequalities in the Borough.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1 (R1)

The existing levels of community accessible (including pay and play) sports hall, swimming pool and fitness provision in the Borough are retained as a minimum, but these need not necessarily be the same facilities as at present.

(PROTECT)

Recommendation 2 (R2)

There is a need for Copeland Borough Council and partners to plan now for the refurbishment of Whitehaven Sports Centre and Copeland Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre to ensure that it can continue to respond to local health and wellbeing priorities and deliver increased opportunities for participation in physical activity and sport for clubs and the community.

(PROVIDE)

Recommendation 3 (R3)

There is a need for Copeland Borough Council and partners to plan now for the refurbishment of Cleator Moor Activity Centre to ensure that it can continue to respond to local health and wellbeing priorities and deliver increased opportunities for participation in physical activity and sport for clubs and the community. It is recommended that there is a specific review/feasibility study of Cleator Moor Activity Centre which examines future demand based on demographics and prioritising the needs of Cleator Moor and its wider communities.

(PROVIDE)

Recommendation 4 (R4)

Copeland Borough Council to work with funding and delivery partners to identify medium to longer term investment opportunities for additional small swimming pool provision.

(PROVIDE)

Recommendation 5 (R5)

Opportunities to increase access to sports halls for increased levels of pay and play recreational participation should be developed where new housing development demands.

(PROVIDE)

Recommendation 6 (R6)

Copeland Borough Council seek to ensure that any new education provision involving new or enhanced sports facilities has a CUA as part of the planning consent so as to secure pay and play opportunities for clubs and groups.

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

Recommendation 7 (R7)

Consider the opportunity for Copeland Borough Council to work with partners in education to increase community access to existing education sports facilities where community access is currently provided, and where it is not; where possible, seek enhanced provision through a CUA.

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

Recommendation 8 (R8)

Continue to focus resources on the proposal to develop opportunities for walking, cycling and adrenaline sports as part of the Coastal Project

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

Recommendation 9 (R9)

Dialogue is established with Gymnastics NGB and Millom Recreation Centre Gymnastics Club and Whitehaven Gymnastics Club to further explore the potential of facilitating club – led development of additional gymnastics facilities i.e. new additional provision in Millom and/or Whitehaven Sports Centre.

(PROVIDE)

Recommendation 10 (R10)

Where appropriate, Copeland Borough Council and its partners seek to secure developer contributions from strategic developments that could contribute towards the development of strategic facilities, additional and safe walking, running and cycling routes, and where possible to open up other informal, multipurpose places and spaces where people can be active.

(PROVIDE AND PROTECT)

Recommendation 11 (R11)

Copeland Borough Council and all its partners identify the level of capital funding required to address the identified investment needs for sports facilities, and investigate all available sources for capital funding, on a partnership basis. To support this there is an opportunity to create a North Copeland partnership, similar to the existing South Copeland partnership, overseen by Active Cumbria.

(PROVIDE)

Recommendation 12 (R12)

Copeland Borough Council and its partners prioritise investment in the development of high-quality community sports facilities/spaces, with local partners. Increasing available capacity in the local community and therefore opportunities to take part in regular physical activity will contribute to reduced health inequalities, increased participation and better community cohesion.

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

Recommendation 13 (R13)

There should be on-going monitoring of this Strategy through its implementation, but as a minimum, progress should be reviewed and refreshed every five years. On-going monitoring should include partnership working with neighbouring local authorities to keep aware of facility changes and developments.

(PROTECT)

2. Stage A - Introduction and Scope

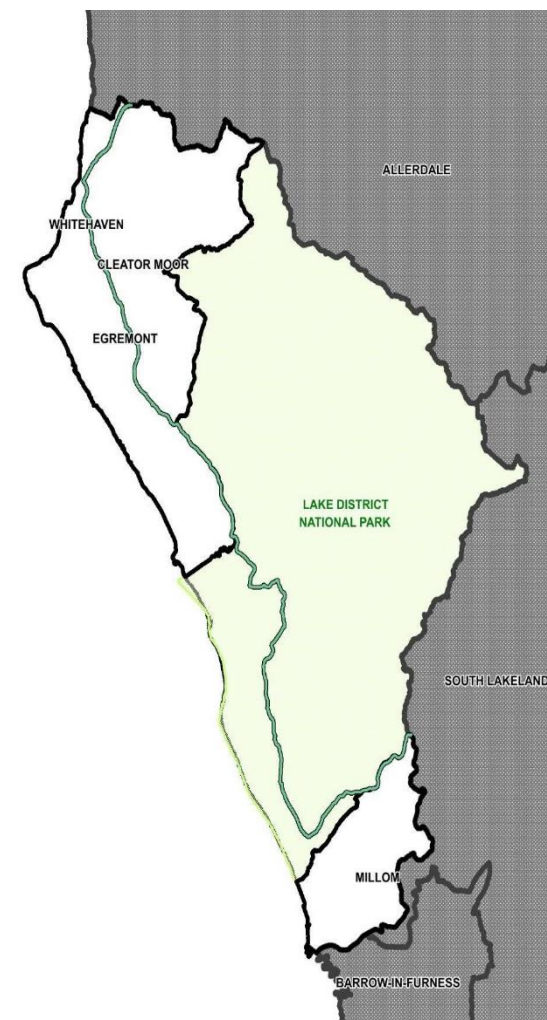
Introduction

- 2.1 This Built Facilities Study (BFS) provides an assessment of the need for built Sports Facilities in Copeland Borough. The BFS will provide the Active Copeland Strategy 2020 to 2030 (sport and physical activity strategy, including a facilities audit) and will guide future provision of indoor sports facilities to serve existing and new communities in Copeland.
- 2.2 This BFS Study is one of three related pieces of work developed for Copeland Borough Council (CBC) (providing an evidence base for the Copeland Local Plan 2017 – 2035), in respect of indoor and outdoor sports facilities (the latter are covered in the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS)). The third piece of work is a high level play strategy.
- 2.3 It is important to stress that this BFS study focusses on facility provision in the context of health and wellbeing; CBC will develop a physical activity statement as part of its ongoing work which will set out the priorities to which the facility network will contribute moving forward. These priorities will reflect locally identified needs.
- 2.4 The Borough of Copeland covers 284 square miles and is located in western Cumbria. With an overall population of 68,424¹, the Borough has one of the lowest population densities within the United Kingdom.
- 2.5 Two thirds of the borough are located within the Lake District National Park, meaning the majority of the borough is rural, but the majority of the population reside within the four market towns of Whitehaven, Cleator Moor, Egremont and Millom. 25,116 people live in Whitehaven², which is the borough's principal town. The villages in the borough identified in the current Core Strategy are: Arlecdon/Rowrah; Beckermeth, Bigrigg, Cleator; Distington; Frizington; Haverigg; Kirkland/Ennerdale Bridge; Lowca/Parton; Moor Row; Moresby Parks; Seascale; St Bees; Thornhill.
- 2.6 The setting is very varied; there is 90km of coastline under the management of CBC. The borough is also home to England's highest mountain, Scafell Pike and the deepest lake, Wastwater.

¹ Source: ONS Mid-Year 2018

² Source: Nomis

Map 2.1: Copeland Borough Council Location



- 2.7 However, the unique geography of Copeland also acts as a challenge to the borough, with the mountains and lakes acting as a natural barrier to land based transport, resulting in a perception that Copeland is remote and difficult to get to.
- 2.8 The map (2.1) to the right shows Copeland and its neighbouring boroughs of Allerdale, South Lakeland and Barrow in Furness.
- 2.9 In terms of employment, the largest industry within the borough is the nuclear sector, which brings in approximately £2 billion annually. Copeland experienced the fastest rate of productivity growth from 2006 to 2016 compared to other Cumbria areas, driven by the fact that manufacturing accounted for an estimated 54 percent of Copeland’s economic output in 2016 and 58.7% of jobs in the area³. Reprocessing is due to end at Sellafield, with the new “missions” changing to the long-term decommissioning and environmental remediation of the site. This can bring a number of opportunities and the development of new skills which can make Copeland a world leader. There is therefore also a need for the borough to diversify into other sectors including tourism and leisure, something which the new Local Plan will help to address.
- 2.8 Copeland remained the most affordable local authority in England and Wales in 2019; the average price paid for properties was estimated to be 2.8 times average annual earnings.⁴ This is skewed somewhat by relatively high salaries in the nuclear sector. However, there is also a large amount of people living in deprivation, with the borough facing significant health, employment and income inequalities.

Purpose and Objectives in Developing a Sports Facilities study

- 2.9 The development of a Built Facility Strategy (BFS) and needs assessment provides a robust evidence base to support and inform the local planning policy. This study has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) and Sport England’s Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (ANOG) throughout; it provides an updated evidence base for the Local Plan 2017-2035 and underpins future priorities for provision.
- 2.10 Having current strategies and strong supporting evidence until 2035 (to coincide with the Council’s Local Plan period from 2017-2035), will secure the continued provision of the appropriate level of valuable community assets, to meet increasing population levels.
- 2.11 The strategies will enable the Council to plan in the longer term, by ensuring the future provision of sustainable sport and leisure facilities across the area.

³ Source: ‘The Economic Impact of Sellafield Ltd, June 2017, Oxford Economics

⁴ Source: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/bulletins/housingaffordabilityinenglandandwales/2019>

2.12 The purpose of this Built Facilities Study (BFS) Study is to:

Review	Review the current supply and demand for indoor sports and recreation facilities in Copeland.
Demand	Model the demand to assess the current and projected over/under supply of facilities using a recognised modelling technique that satisfies the requirements of Sport England e.g. Facilities Planning Model (FPM).
Provide	Provide conclusions and recommendations on policy and proposal development.

2.13 The BFS Study covers the geographical area that Copeland BC has planning jurisdiction over (ie areas outside the Lake District National Park) but references areas outside Copeland boundaries as appropriate. It also reflects the diversity of sport and recreational needs across Copeland and provides a robust evidence base for the Local Plan to 2035.

2.14 The Strategy focusses on the Copeland identified sub areas and the surrounding area as identified in paragraph 2.4 above.

2.15 Copeland Borough Council's Corporate Strategy 2016-2020 sets out CBC's key issues and challenges, its vision, mission, values, ambitions and priorities as well as detailing how CBC is addressing these challenges to ensure the borough is a progressive and vibrant place to live, work and visit and to maintain a strong financial position.

2.16 The Corporate Strategy references a commitment to town centre regeneration, commercialisation, employment, skills and social well-being, and strengthening the way the Council operates.

2.17 The CBC Corporate Strategy sets out the Mission for Copeland to be: **“a better place to live, work and visit.”**

2.18 The Corporate Strategy 2016-2020 identifies the council's priorities:



Our Vision for 2020:

Copeland Borough Council is a commercially focused organisation with a national reputation for high quality services



Our Mission:

To Make Copeland a better place to live, work and visit



Ambition 1:

Town Centre
Regeneration



Ambition 2:

Commercialisation



Ambition 3:

Employment, skills and
social wellbeing



Ambition 4:

Strengthen the way we
operate

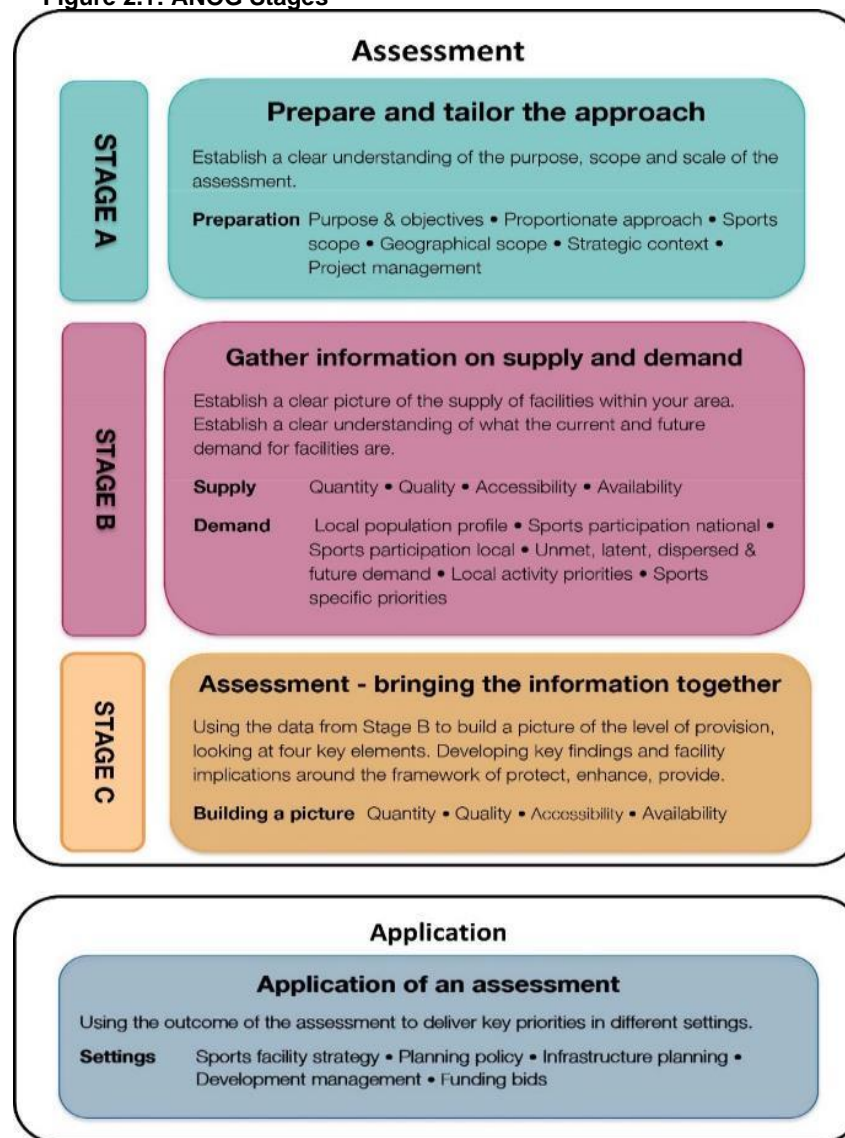
2.19 The Corporate Strategy priorities are implemented through a wide range of Council activities across the Council's service areas and the BFS will reflect this approach. In addition, the BFS will support the Cumbria Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019 – 2029 vision “to enable Cumbrian communities to be healthy and tackle health inequalities”. The Copeland Health and Wellbeing Forum Priorities 2019-2020 identifies the 4 main towns as ‘Healthy Towns’ with priorities in the health areas of dementia, obesity, learning disability and sensory impairment.

2.20 It will also contribute to the Active Cumbria vision “that everyone in Cumbria is appropriately physically active as part of their everyday life.”

Study Structure

- 2.21 The BFS Study has been developed using the Sport England Assessing Needs and Opportunities guidance (ANOG), published in 2014.
- 2.22 The Evidence Base (essentially Stages A-C) – is based on the ANOG approach, as set out in Figure 1.2.
- 2.23 The **subsequent** Strategy (Sections 5 and 6) sets out the proposed response to the issues identified in the Evidence Base (Sections 1-4).

Figure 2.1: ANOG Stages



Sports and Geographical Scope

2.24 The scope of the work includes:

Building on existing material to comprehensively audit all pre-defined sports facilities/facility networks across Copeland Borough;

Assessing the impact of forecast population growth on the future planning for sports facility provision within Copeland Borough;

Assessing the impact that sports facility provision in neighbouring Local Authorities has on future provision and planning for sports facility provision within Copeland Borough; and

Assess the requirements to demonstrate the impact of investing in existing and new facility stock across Copeland Borough in terms of economic, social and health outcomes.

2.25 The scope of this BFS Study includes analysis of the following facility types across Copeland, in line with the geographical area covered by the Local Plan. Facilities owned by the public (including education), private and third sectors are included.

2.26 The project scope includes the following type of facilities:



Swimming pools – indoor and outdoor;



Sports Halls and appropriate school and local community facilities; and



Health and Fitness Facilities.

2.27 The key sports to be covered by the facilities include but not limited to:



2.28 The Strategy will assess and identify the provision of all strategic scale indoor recreation facilities i.e. 3 court sports halls, 20m pools or larger and will focus on key providers such as:

- **Local Authority;**
- **Education (School and Higher Education Based); and**
- **Voluntary and Private Sectors.**

2.29 Outdoor sports facilities and pitches are covered in the 2020 Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS). This Built Facilities Study comprises:

A Strategy and Action Plan, which sets out the full range of findings supported by the evidence, which is fully NPPF compliant;

Technical evidence which sets out the results of the assessment for all built sports facilities;

Location plans of all sites using a GIS mapping system;

Identification of proposals for generic Borough wide issues, sport specific issues and area specific issues;

A list of priority projects for improvements needed to build sport and leisure facilities over the Local Plan period, with information on indicative costs, phasing and proposed delivery mechanisms, where possible; and

Recommendations for policy, local standards, and guidelines.

2.30 In addition to purpose-built facilities, consideration is given to the role of the following in meeting local need:

- **Community assets (community halls); and**
- **Education facilities.**

Proportionate Approach

2.31 The brief developed by Copeland Borough Council identifies the key objectives of the strategy as being to:

Provide	Provide a viable and deliverable model of sports facility stock (type/mix) that meets existing and anticipated future demand;
Understanding	Provide a clear understanding of the overall surpluses and deficiencies across the Borough and any specific geographical and/or individual facility needs;
Establish	Establish the principles to help inform where future resources should be focused and help inform the policy direction of the emerging Local Plan; and
Produce	Produce a sports and physical activity strategy for Copeland which is compliant with Sport England guidance.

2.32 In addition, the Strategy will:

- 1. Identify objectives and actions for addressing and delivering the issues and needs identified in the above preceding study;**
- 2. Provide recommendations to help ensure that existing and future sports needs are met across the Borough. It should identify opportunities for improving existing facilities in terms of their quality, quantity, physical and social accessibility, and current maintenance and management and recommend how shortfalls and future needs should be addressed and where new facilities should be located;**
- 3. Provide recommendations for a suitable mechanism for securing developer contributions towards the delivery of sports and physical activity across Copeland (can be based on locally derived quantity, quality and accessibility standards or other appropriate mechanism). The recommendations should be suitably robust and based on appropriate available evidence; and**

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sports and Physical Activity Strategy

- 4. Give guidance on the cost of recommended actions/proposals and an implementation plan for securing investment and delivering projects, including but not limited to the developer contribution system.**

3. Strategic Policy and Context

Introduction

National Level

3.1 There are a number of key National and Local strategies and policies which inform and influence the development of these strategies. The majority of the National documents are summarised in Appendix 1, Sport and Physical Activity National Context, but the main ones are highlighted below. These National policies inform the approach to current and future provision of sports facilities, linked to health improvement, increased participation, and the appropriate levels of provision of facilities to meet Local needs. From a planning perspective, the National agenda makes the link between National planning policy, a Local Plan and population growth at Local level, and the need to plan for increased demands for infrastructure and provision, linked to Sport England's priorities of Protect, Enhance and Provide.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2019

- 3.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government's planning policies for England. A revised version was published in February 2019. The NPPF provides the framework that must be considered in the preparation of local plans and is a material consideration in determining planning decisions. The NPPF highlights the purpose of the planning system in terms of contributing to the achievement of "sustainable development", and defines the three dimensions of this – economic, social and environmental – which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways.
- 3.3 The Revised NPPF retains the broad policy approach of the previous version, albeit with a stronger emphasis upon housing delivery. The policy wording for sport and recreation is largely unchanged.
- 3.4 Paragraph 96 of the NPPF states that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision.

3.5 Paragraph 97 of the NPPF specifies that:

Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

1. **An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or**
2. **The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or**
3. **The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.**

3.6 The revised NPPF has increased emphasis in relation to health and wellbeing. For example, the increased importance of planning policies and decisions to aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places (para. 91 – in particular 91c) and NPPF para. 92a – planning positively for provision and use of community facilities (including sports venues) and 92b – take into account local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all sections of the community.

3.7 Sport England is a statutory consultee on all planning applications affecting playing fields used in the last 5 years, and a consultee on other applications: it looks to improve the quality, access and management of sports facilities as well as investing in new facilities to meet unsatisfied demand. Sport England requires local authorities to have an up-to date assessment of sports facility needs and an associated strategy including a recommendation that the evidence base is regularly reviewed to keep it up to date and renewed at least every five years.

3.8 The key drivers for the production of the strategy as advocated by Sport England are to protect, enhance and provide sports facilities, as follows:

Protect	To provide evidence to inform policy and specifically to support Site Allocations and Development Management Policies which will protect sports facilities and their use by the community, irrespective of ownership;
Enhance	To ensure that sports facilities are effectively managed and maintained and that best uses are made of existing resources - whether facilities, expertise and/or personnel to improve and enhance existing provision – particularly in the light of pressure on Local authority budgets; and
Provide	To provide evidence to help secure external funding for new facilities and enhancements (if on the Regulation 123 List) and Section 106 agreements. Sport England and the Local authority can then use the strategies developed and the guidance provided in making key planning decisions regarding facility developments in the area.

Sport England Definitions

1. **Protect:**
 - Existing provision should be protected unless an assessment has demonstrated there is an excess of the provision and the specific buildings or land are surplus to requirements, or equivalent or better provision will be provided as replacement;
2. **Enhance:**
 - The use of existing **provision** should be optimised, for example through quality, access and management improvements supported by appropriate ancillary facilities; and
3. **Provide:**
 - Appropriate new **provision** that meets needs and encourages people to play sport and be active should be provided by adapting existing places and through new development.

A New Strategy for Sport – Department for Culture, Media and Sport

3.9 The Department for Culture, Media and Sport, following a consultation paper in 2015, launched the new strategy 'Sporting Future: A new Strategy for an Active Nation' in 2016. The development of the strategy reflects a need to re-invigorate the nation's appetite for participation in sport following what appears to be a significant reduction in participation (highest profile being swimming), following the immediate upsurge after the 2012 London Olympics.

3.10 The sport strategy is targeting five outcomes against which each sports organisation, public or private sector, will be measured:



Physical wellbeing;



Social and
community
development;



Economic
development;



Mental wellbeing;
and



Individual
development.

3.11 Government funding will go toward organisations which can best demonstrate that they will deliver some or all of the five outcomes.

3.12 The delivery of the outcomes will be through three broad outputs:



More people from every background regularly and meaningfully taking part in sport and physical activity, volunteering and experiencing live sport;



A more productive, sustainable and responsible sports sector; and



Maximising international and domestic sporting success and the impact of major sporting events.

Sport England Strategy 2016- 2021 'Towards an Active Nation'

3.13 The Vision for this Strategy is:

'We want everyone in England regardless of age, background or level of ability to feel able to engage in sport and physical activity. Some will be young, fit and talented, but most will not. We need a sport sector that welcomes everyone – meets their needs, treats them as individuals and values them as customers'.

3.14 The Sport England Strategy 'Towards an Active Nation' puts the policies set out in 'A new Strategy for an Active Nation' into practice. This has meant significant change for Sport England and for their partners.

3.15 The strategy sets out how Sport England (SE) will deliver this task. The key changes Sport England have made are:

<p>Focusing more money and resources on tackling inactivity because this is where the gains for the individual and for society are greatest;</p>	<p>Investing more in children and young people from the age of five to build positive attitudes to sport and activity as the foundations of an active life;</p>	<p>Helping those who are active now to carry on, but at lower cost to the public purse over time. Sport England will work with those parts of the sector that serve the core market to help them identify ways in which they can become more sustainable and self-sufficient;</p>	<p>Putting customers at the heart of what we do, responding to how they organise their lives and helping the sector to be more welcoming and inclusive, especially of those groups currently under-represented in sport;</p>
<p>Helping sport to keep pace with the digital expectations of customers;</p>	<p>Working Nationally where it makes sense to do so (for example on infrastructure and workforce) but encouraging stronger Local collaboration to deliver a more joined-up experience of sport and activity for customers;</p>	<p>Working with a wider range of partners, including the private sector, using our expertise as well as our investment to help others align their resources; and</p>	<p>Working with the sector</p>

3.16 SE is currently consulting on a new strategy for a further 5 years, although there is unlikely to be a change in strategic direction.

3.17 There are a number of other Sport and Physical Activity National policy context documents and these are summarised in Appendix 1, Sport and Physical Activity National Policy Context.

Local Level - Copeland Strategic Context

Table 3.1: Copeland Strategic Policies and Strategies

Key Policies / Strategies	Priorities	Strategic Outcomes
<p>Copeland Borough Council</p> <p>Copeland 2020 Corporate Strategy 2016 – 2020.</p> <p>Making Copeland a better place to live, work and visit.</p> <p>NB due to be refreshed this year</p>	<p>Our Vision for 2020: Copeland Borough Council is a commercially focused organisation with a national reputation for high quality services.</p> <p>Our Mission: To Make Copeland a better place to live, work and visit.</p> <p>Ambition 1: Town Centre Regeneration.</p> <p>Ambition 2: Commercialisation.</p> <p>Ambition 3: Employment, skills and social wellbeing.</p> <p>Ambition 4: Strengthen the way we operate.</p>	<p>Strategic Outcome 1: For our towns, villages and streets to reflect the prosperity of the area.</p> <p>Strategic Outcome 2: Grow the commercial activity of the Council to benefit the people of Copeland, ensuring the wealth generated in Copeland, stays in Copeland.</p> <p>Strategic Outcome 3a: Attract businesses, professionals and entrepreneur to Copeland and retain our talented young people.</p> <p>Strategic Outcome 3b: Work with partners to support the most vulnerable in our borough</p> <p>Strategic Outcome 4: Continually review our services to ensure they meet the needs of the people of Copeland and ensure they are efficient, effective and accessible.</p> <p>Strategic Outcome 5: Maximising our opportunities for growth, within the council and with our strategic partners.</p>
<p>Copeland Growth Strategy 2016 - 2020 ‘Open for Business’</p> <p>NB due to be refreshed this year</p>	<p>Vision: By 2025 Copeland will be a sustainable home to a healthy and diverse economy, to support its growing population. It will be a dynamic and innovative hub for growth, internationally recognised as the Centre of Nuclear Excellence (CoNE) and a key driver in the Northern Powerhouse. The area’s population will be well -educated and offer a balance of professional skills to deliver the opportunities evolving on its doorstep. Copeland’s network of thriving communities will reflect the rich cultural heritage and unique natural environment that reinforce its draw as the ultimate destination to come and invest, do business, relax and call home.</p>	<p>Delivering the Growth Strategy:</p> <p>Copeland’s historic economic development has been founded on the principle of strong partnership working to promote investment and growth. As Copeland embarks on a new chapter of growth in new markets and sectors, the principle of collaborative working will continue. This will ensure growth is balanced and quality maintained, leaving a positive legacy that will not only sustain the local economy and incomparable quality of life, but more importantly improve it, creating more opportunities and social equity.</p>

Copeland Borough Council
A 10 Year Sports and Physical Activity Strategy

Key Policies / Strategies	Priorities	Strategic Outcomes
	<p>Priorities:</p> <p>Nuclear Energy: - As the nuclear industry embarks on a worldwide renaissance, Copeland will strengthen its position as the Centre of Nuclear Excellence, developing expertise and innovation.</p> <p>Copeland will provide the full cycle of nuclear services, from expertise in decommissioning and waste management through to securing nuclear new build.</p> <p>Copeland will also support the diversification of the nuclear industry through growing private sector investment in research and development, engineering and new technology.</p> <p>Enterprise and Innovation: Knowledge based growth led by cutting edge research and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) exploitation to foster Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SME) growth and new business start-ups.</p> <p>Workforce Skills and Education: Enabling local people to access to a broad range of personal and professional development opportunities in sectors that are directly underpinning local growth, CoNE and the wider UK economy. Targeting skills and training provision to meet the wide range of employment opportunities in Copeland.</p> <p>Engineering: To continue the ongoing adaption from traditional mining industries to world class engineering sectors to provide sustainable economic growth.</p> <p>Energy Coast: A growing, and strong local economy based on the provision of viable, sustainable energy to the UK and local area, through the development of new skills, technology, site and grid connections.</p>	

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sports and Physical Activity Strategy

Key Policies / Strategies	Priorities	Strategic Outcomes
	<p>Connectivity: To develop and enhance the physical and digital connectivity to support growth and to maximise supply chain investment, employment and SME growth. To ensure our infrastructure encourages sustainable connectivity both to and within Copeland.</p> <p>Visitor Economy: Sustainable and appropriate development of an already amazing place to visit and live. Focusing on the provision of high-quality facilities for both residents and visitors to create a prime location to do business and enjoy leisure time.</p> <p>Vibrant Towns and Communities: To secure a sustainable and viable future for Copeland's four key towns and rural service centres. The priority is to ensure a high-quality built environment and a range of cultural opportunities that meets the needs of current and future residents and businesses.</p> <p>Environment and Sustainability: Building Copeland's resilience to the effects of climate change through effective coastal and flood management. Maximising the opportunities that the natural environment offers to encourage a healthy and vibrant lifestyle for residents and visitors.</p> <p>Quality of Life: To provide a lifestyle of choice for residents, offering great schools, low crime, quality housing, unspoilt nature on the doorstep, community spirit and good neighbours. The ideal place to live.</p>	
<p>Sustainable Community Strategy/ Partnership Plan to 2027</p>	<p>Raise people's aspirations - Health and well-being life chances and aspiration</p> <p>Sustain and develop Copeland as a quality place - Housing and neighbourhood Access to facilities and services</p>	

Copeland Borough Council
A 10 Year Sports and Physical Activity Strategy

Key Policies / Strategies	Priorities	Strategic Outcomes
	<p>Build on Copeland’s prosperity - Local economy Poverty and exclusion</p> <p>Work in partnership across Copeland -Local/community planning and improving joint working</p>	
<p>Future High Streets Fund - Whitehaven</p>	<p>Whitehaven has been shortlisted by the Government to receive up to £25 million funding through the Future High Streets Fund.</p>	<p>Potential projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conversion of the former Whittles building on Duke Street into a community digital hub • Developing a cycle hub on the former Barclays Bank site, offering sales, hire, storage and repairs of bikes and e-bikes, linked with a juice bar and guided tours • Creating a seafood restaurant and cycle-friendly accommodation on Marlborough Street • Developing residential opportunities, focusing on the needs of young professionals and post-graduate students, with access to communal leisure and workspace • Connecting the town centre and the harbour by creating new arcades between King Street and Strand Street, offering food court, artisan and small-scale leisure spaces
<p>Copeland Commercial Strategy 2019 – 2023</p> <p>Proud of Our Past Energised for Our Future.</p>	<p>Vision: “Our vision is for Copeland Borough Council to be a resilient, engaged, innovative and commercially enterprising Council delivering high quality, sustainable community services, exceeding resident expectations and responsive to business needs.”</p> <p>Key aims & objectives:</p> <p>The overarching aims of the strategy are to deliver a financial return that protects frontline services, contributes to the council spending plans and helps to sustain priority outcomes in the local community.</p>	<p>The successful adoption of the strategy will deliver multiple benefits including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring our resources are used sustainably to deliver the outcomes our residents need. • Providing positive social, economic and environmental outcomes. • Developing new, robust and measurable income streams to support services and rebalance the budget.

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sports and Physical Activity Strategy

Key Policies / Strategies	Priorities	Strategic Outcomes
	<p>This will entail developing a programme of work that includes a process for identifying potential opportunities, applies methodologies to further develop those opportunities, has a structure in place to ensure those fledgling opportunities are nurtured and supported, and has the resources and capacity to successfully deliver the outcomes of the strategy.</p> <p>It is also key to develop clearer commissioning intentions and medium-term delivery strategies across all major service areas, e.g. by seeking more innovative approaches to delivery, challenging existing approaches and set a picture of what the Council will look like in 2023.</p> <p>Further identified objectives will be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver a financial return and contribution in order to invest in services we have to run where we cannot recover either adequate or any income, or to invest in new projects; • Help enable non-statutory services to at least cover all their costs including overheads (and potential opportunity cost) in order to reduce risk of closure and be net revenue generating where possible; • Actively engage in market development and market shaping where no such market currently exists and using insight to manage specification and demand; • Explore alternative investment models to support service delivery e.g. Local Authority Trading Company (LATC), Local Asset Backed Vehicle (LABV), through social investment etc.; • Invest and use our financial means to deliver an acceptable and targeted financial return; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate an environment where staff think collaboratively and imaginatively to deliver new ideas and solutions. • Increasing the robustness of the organisation and its collective acumen to ensure long term organisational modernisation, evolution and prosperity. • Providing a robust and inclusive approach to support decision-making processes that will drive future council ambitions. • Create a deeper, more effective understanding of our assets and their future applications. • Inspire staff by embedding a forward thinking, opportunity focused mind-set that can drive wider culture shift and make a positive difference. • Increase transparency and accountability as to how we do business. • Forging successful and trusted relationships with external partners on successful co-investments. • Build organisational strength by investing in the skills and resilience of our own workforce to reduce costs incurred from seeking external support.

Copeland Borough Council
A 10 Year Sports and Physical Activity Strategy

Key Policies / Strategies	Priorities	Strategic Outcomes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that outcomes in the local community are delivered on a sustainable basis; • Strengthen our reputation with residents, local businesses, the Local Government sector, staff, other customers, partners, and stakeholders in general; • Become a services provider to new and existing customers both from within the local authority environment and beyond, particularly where we are uniquely placed to do so; • Use the commercial knowledge acquired through this programme to gain a competitive advantage and take bolder steps towards possibilities /opportunities that previously would have seemed out of reach. 	
<p>Copeland Community Asset Transfer Policy April 2019</p>	<p>Purpose: This document sets out the Council’s policy and guidance on Community Asset Transfers (CATs) and the approach the Council will take to ensure consistent and transparent asset transfer to the voluntary and community sector.</p> <p>It will enable CATs to support the achievement of the Council’s priorities as set out in the Corporate Strategy.</p> <p>It also supports the delivery of the Council’s Social Inclusion Programme.</p> <p>This policy and guidance set’s out the context and rationale for considering CAT - referring to the national, regional and local drivers and priorities; and it describes the principles and processes the Council will use in determining whether an asset is suitable for transfer.</p>	<p>Underpinning Principles</p> <p>In order to ensure that CATs are dealt with in a consistent, fair and transparent way, this policy and guidance set out the principles upon which CATs will be progressed.</p> <p>However, as every transfer and voluntary or community group involved will be different there also needs to be flexibility built into the approach.</p> <p>The principles set out below will allow for consideration on a case-by-case basis; ensure that the well-being benefits to the community are assessed; give consideration to value for money; and will ensure that transfers facilitate the provision of high quality, customer focused services for communities.</p> <p>The principles are:</p>

Copeland Borough Council
A 10 Year Sports and Physical Activity Strategy

Key Policies / Strategies	Priorities	Strategic Outcomes
	<p>This means that voluntary and community groups can be confident that a fair and standardised process will be adopted for CAT but that this will be sufficiently flexible to enable adoption of an individual approach as every transaction is different.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The process for CATs will be clear and transparent with indicative timescales from start to finish. • The criteria used for determining whether an asset is suitable for community transfer will be made publicly available. • Any known costs or liabilities involved e.g. ground rent, sitting tenants, maintenance, essential repairs etc. will be made available to the body the transfer will be made to. • Requests for transfers from the community will be considered using the criteria and process set out when they are received. • The Council will work with voluntary, community and third organisations to achieve asset transfers where appropriate that will enhance community empowerment and engagement and encourage development and sustainability of the sector. • All requests for transfers must be to improve community, wellbeing, support or enhance the current services provided and demonstrate a clear contribution to the Council's priorities and aspirations; as well as support the outcomes in the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Social Inclusion Policy. • Local consultation with Copeland Borough Council Elected Members. • Each asset transfer will be considered on its own merits.
<p>Copeland Health and Wellbeing Forum Priorities 2019 – 2020.</p>	<p>Healthy Towns</p> <p>Whitehaven, Cleator Moor, Egremont, Millom</p> <p>Copeland Priorities – Dementia, Obesity, Learning Disability & Sensory Impairment</p>	<p>What can we do in Copeland to help us to have healthier lives?</p> <p>Make change to the 80% of what makes us healthy and take up opportunities to improve our own health and increase our own health protection.</p>

Copeland Borough Council
A 10 Year Sports and Physical Activity Strategy

Key Policies / Strategies	Priorities	Strategic Outcomes
<p>NB due to be refreshed this year</p>	<p>Millom Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diabetes • Childhood Obesity • Depression • Alcohol • Vascular Disease & Atrial Fibrillation <p>Healthy Weight Declaration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthier food and drink • Healthier vending machines • Public access to water • Guidance for takeaways including planning <p>Social Prescribing (Start in Millom, Seascale and Whitehaven)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back pain, Obesity, Diabetes, Loneliness, Anxiety, Mental Health conditions, Social Isolation • Walking Groups, Swimming, Social, Peer Support, Yoga, Pilates, Singing, Dancing, Activity 	
<p>Cumbria Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019–2029</p>	<p>Vision: “To enable Cumbrian communities to be healthy and tackle health inequalities”.</p> <p>In order to meet these challenges, the strategy identifies four priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting the health of the population as a whole • Providing high quality, person centred care • Tackling the wider determinants of health and wellbeing • Improving health and wellbeing throughout the life course 	<p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People in Cumbria are healthy and make positive choices about their wellbeing • People remain independent and healthy for longer • People access the right services in the right place at the right time • Service demand reduces and satisfaction increases
<p>Current Copeland Local Plan 2013-2028 (Core Strategy and</p>	<p>The Copeland Local Plan 2013- 2028 Core Strategy and Development Management Policies, (referred to in this</p>	

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sports and Physical Activity Strategy

Key Policies / Strategies	Priorities	Strategic Outcomes
<p>Development Management Policies DPD) adopted 2013</p>	<p>document as the Core Strategy) was adopted in December 2013.</p> <p>The Copeland Local Plan is prepared by Copeland Borough Council (the Council) and will be the key document in shaping the planning policy for the borough outside of the Lake District National Park (LDNP) until 2035.</p> <p>This will help to attract investment and growth and guide decisions which enhance quality of life for people living in the borough whilst protecting and enhancing the natural and built environment.</p>	
<p>New Copeland Local Plan 2017 – 2035 (Issues and Adoption Draft), produced 2019 (adoption expected early 2022)</p>	<p>The new Local Plan will replace the current Plan - the Copeland Local Plan 2013- 2028 Core Strategy and Development Management Policies, referred to in this document as the Core Strategy, which was adopted in December 2013. Since then there have been several changes, both to local and national policy and the local context. The new Local Plan must consider these changes and plan for development accordingly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2019) • The Council's new Housing Strategy (2018-2023) • Production of the new Copeland Growth Strategy. • Copeland Vision • The Council's Corporate Plan • Cumbria Local Industrial Strategy • The pause of the Moorside project 	<p>The new Local Plan will be a single document which contains both strategic policies, site allocations and development management policies.</p> <p>A draft settlement hierarchy has been developed for the emerging Local Plan. This outlines a baseline and a growth figure for the number of dwellings required in each settlement over the plan period.</p> <p>Whitehaven: Whitehaven is identified as the Borough's Principal Town. It is anticipated that Whitehaven will provide at least 40% (1008 dwellings) of the required dwellings over the plan period plus 40% of additional anticipated growth (432 dwellings).</p> <p>Cleator Moor, Egremont, and Millom: Cleator Moor, Egremont and Millom are identified as Key Service Centres. It is expected that the three KSCs will provide a total of at least 30% of the required dwellings (756 dwellings) over the plan period, plus 30% of additional anticipated growth (324 dwellings).</p>

Copeland Borough Council
A 10 Year Sports and Physical Activity Strategy

Key Policies / Strategies	Priorities	Strategic Outcomes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to Sellafield’s ‘missions’ and the opportunities that this can provide • Availability of Government funding • Changes to shopping patterns and the role and function of our town centres 	

Table 3.2: Key findings linked to access to sport provision- Evidence-Based documents

Key findings linked to access to sport provision	
Cumbria County Council Copeland Locality Plan 2018 – 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the health and wellbeing of Cumbria’s super ageing population by supporting ‘inactive’ older adults in identified areas to become more regularly active • Contribute to a reduction in health inequalities in our most deprived communities by supporting inactive people of all ages to be more regularly active. • A number of Priority Wards in Copeland are identified for both Older Adults and Low Socio- Economic groups and delivery is being rolled out against the plan’s strategic objectives.
Town Deal Plan - Millom	<p>The Vision for Millom is to become a beacon town for sustainable living.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open space, cycle infrastructure and public realm improvements, supporting access and movement; • Connecting and expanding the experience tourism offer within and around the town, maximising coastal regeneration linkages and developments; • Encourage town centre as a vibrant service centre; • Supporting healthy lifestyles and social prescribing; • Public realm – upgrade the main town square area and provide a central space that can be used for community events / informal leisure space

Key findings linked to access to sport provision

- Leisure – a number of groups are developing a model and business plan for a new facility within the grounds of the secondary school to provide a new location for the existing recreation centre and meet demand for sports and leisure.
- Community Hub – linked to the new leisure facility through bringing into one space a range of local provision to support public/voluntary service delivery including library, financial and digital inclusion, police multi-agency hub activity, plus a venue for community groups and events.
- Tourism routes, footpath/ cycleway plans and designs are being pursued to link the town with the Lake District National Park, the England Coastal Path and offer leisure and tourism opportunities for local and visitor users, including a cycling hub and EV infrastructure.

Town Deal Plan – Cleator Moor

The Vision is for Cleator Moor to become a contemporary market town which drives inclusive growth and celebrates its sporting heritage through reshaping the town, revitalising green spaces, reclaiming main street, refreshing dilapidated and brownfield sites for commercial and residential development and community open spaces.

- A particular focus on enabling space for innovation companies and collaborations through existing and proposed industrial space with a focus on low carbon.
- The strategy looks at the physical welcome into the town, options to improve the experiences within Cleator Moor for local and wider visitors, how to ensure stronger physical connections and movement around the town and improving digital connectivity.
- The Cumbria Industrial Strategy has six key strategic priorities which all fit with the current need and proposed priorities in the Cleator Moor Vision. In relation to leisure, there are 2 priorities which relate specifically:
 1. Work with public and third sector partners to deliver high quality services developing a Cleator Moor Community and Cultural Hub;
 2. Engage actively with the tourism strategy locally and the visitor economy and tourism deal for Cumbria through the Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership (CLEP).

Town vision includes development of the visitor economy and links with the English Lake District World Heritage Site, including green space and cycle infrastructure, including connections into the National Park and to the coast.

Cumbria County Council and the Lake District National Park Authority are also working with Regen North East Copeland Partnership (RNEC) to invest in cycleway connections between Cleator Moor and the Ennerdale Valley, with initial feasibility work being agreed for development.

Key findings linked to access to sport provision	
	<p>Cycle paths – CBC recently secured Coastal Communities Funding to deliver the Connecting Cumbria’s Hidden Coast project to enhance connectivity and encourage cycling and walking for visitors and local residents.</p>
Spatial Framework Documents	<p>Cleator Moor, Egremont and Millom.</p> <p>Cleator Moor - The Framework includes an "Experience Cleator Moor" initiative that promotes the Cleator Moor as a contemporary market town which celebrates its sporting heritage.</p> <p>Opportunities that improve the existing outdoor sports and leisure provision and fill in identified gaps (e.g. cycling, playing fields, walks to the National Park and sports clubs) are identified, particularly in the North East of the town linked to Copeland Bowls and Sports Centre and King George's Field pitches.</p> <p>Egremont - The Framework includes an "Experience Egremont" initiative and identifies opportunities to improve existing sports and leisure provision in the town filling identified gaps e.g. Gill foot Park, football, bowls and public play areas.</p> <p>Millom - The Framework includes an "Experience Millom" initiative which involves the promotion of the town's coastal environment for water sports and related activities including investment in facilities and events. The Southern fringe of the town is identified as an opportunity to create a distinctive leisure, recreation or tourism development facilitating adventure sports.</p>
Interim Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessments (SHLAA)	<p>The Council produced an interim SHLAA in November 2019 which identified sites put forward or identified for assessment in terms of their housing potential.</p> <p>A full SHLAA document will be published to support the Local Plan consultation. This will identify which of these sites are deliverable or developable.</p>
Draft Landscape Character Assessment	<p>The document identifies key areas of green infrastructure within and surrounding the Borough’s towns and villages where development should be restricted.</p> <p>Whitehaven - This has identified the protection of the undeveloped coast, green infrastructure links through the town and prominent hillsides that define the edge of the settlement, keeping it separate from the Keekle Valley and Moresby Parks. It also identifies wooded valleys cutting into the town and high prominent ground to the East and West.</p> <p>The Assessment also identifies strong GI links to surrounding landscapes to the north and potential GI links to the south.</p>

Key findings linked to access to sport provision	
	<p>It also identifies opportunities for development to provide strong landscape links and define the edge of the settlement in some places.</p> <p>The document also identifies key Green Wedges surrounding Cleator Moor, Egremont and Millom.</p>
West Cumbria Retail, Leisure and Town Centre Study	<p>This document assesses the quality, value and amount of open space provision in the Borough's towns and villages and identifies where there are shortages in particular typologies within each compared to the Borough average. The findings from each town are summarised below:</p> <p>Cleator Moor: 30 open spaces/35ha. Below provision levels in terms of children and young people spaces, amenity greenspace and parks.</p> <p>Egremont: 36 open spaces/39ha. Below provision levels in terms of children and young people spaces, parks, amenity greenspaces and semi-natural greenspaces.</p> <p>Millom: 19 open spaces/30ha – under-served when compared to Borough average. Below provision levels in terms of amenity greenspace, allotments and children and young people's spaces.</p> <p>Whitehaven: 94 open spaces/208ha. Below provision levels in terms of allotments and children and young people's spaces.</p>
West Cumbria Retail, Leisure and Town Centre Study	<p>Whitehaven - This identifies retail and leisure provision in Copeland's towns, including Whitehaven. 13% of units are vacant within Whitehaven Town Centre, which could help to contribute towards additional leisure and recreational space.</p> <p>Cleator Moor: Findings of the 2020 Health Check conclude that the town does not have a convenience anchor store, which impacts on footfall and overall the range of retail and services is relatively limited. At the time of survey the town had a vacancy rate of 30%, triple the national average.</p> <p>Egremont - Findings of the 2020 Health Check conclude that the centre is anchored by the Co-op convenience store located on the high street. It was considered that the town was focussed around the Co-op store where footfall was highest. Vacancy rates at the time of survey were 24% more than double the national average.</p> <p>Millom - Findings of the 2020 Health Check conclude that the town centre benefits from Tesco as an anchor store. At the time of survey vacancy rates were at 19.2%, almost double national average.</p>
Housing Needs Study	<p>The Housing Needs Survey identified that: Cleator Moor - This area has 50% more social housing than overall.</p>

Key findings linked to access to sport provision

There are slightly more households which include members with disability or long-term illness.

Average monthly income is a little lower in the area than for Copeland as a whole.

Egremont:

There were higher proportions of housing association tenants in Egremont and Cleator Moor.

There is a higher proportion of single adult households in Egremont than elsewhere in the Borough (54%).

Proportion of retirees is slightly higher in Egremont than elsewhere in the Borough and there are fewer people in the 35-49 age group.

The proportion of housing association tenants that receive benefits is slightly higher in Egremont than elsewhere in the Borough (partly due to the state pension and DLA).

The % of disability within households is slightly higher in Egremont than the borough average.

Average income levels in Egremont are slightly lower than across the Borough, linked to slightly lower employment rates.

Millom:

There are slightly more people over 65.

Employment levels in Millom are lower than elsewhere in the Borough, linked to slightly higher levels of disability.

The number of wheelchair users is slightly higher than elsewhere in the Borough.

Average monthly incomes in Millom are noticeably lower than the Borough as a whole, with fewer people employed in professional occupations.

Receipt of benefits is higher in Millom than elsewhere in the Borough.

Table 3.3: Key Partner Bodies

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sports and Physical Activity Strategy

Body	Priorities	Strategic Outcomes
<p>Active Cumbria</p>	<p>Our Mission</p> <p>To advocate the value of physical activity and increasing opportunities to address inactivity to improve county wide health and wellbeing outcomes.</p> <p>Our Vision:</p> <p>Everyone in Cumbria is appropriately physically active as part of their everyday life</p> <p>Our Values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate in a clear and constructive way • Act with honesty and respect for others • Demonstrate a positive flexible attitude • Take responsibility for our actions • Be committed to 'one Team' <p>Local Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve the health and wellbeing of Cumbria's super ageing population by supporting 'inactive' older adults in identified areas to become more regularly active. • To contribute to a reduction in health inequalities in our most deprived communities by supporting inactive people of all ages to be more regularly active. <p>Priority Wards for Older Adults Copeland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beckermest, Copeland • Cleator Moor, Copeland • Harbour, Copeland • Millom Without, Copeland • Newtown, Copeland <p>Priority Ward for Socio Economic Copeland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mirehouse, Copeland 	<p>Outcomes What we want to achieve by 2021 For Communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased physical activity has contributed to improved health and wellbeing of the people of Cumbria. • Skill levels and knowledge within the workforce in community settings have been raised. • Additional investment into physical activity and sport has been generated. • The importance of physical activity and sport in supporting the achievement of health and wellbeing outcomes has increased. • A sustainable, high performing and efficient organisation exists, which is valued by stakeholders and partners.

Copeland Borough Council
A 10 Year Sports and Physical Activity Strategy

Body	Priorities	Strategic Outcomes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sandwith, Copeland 	

Cumbria Children’s Trust Board	<p>Vision: Cumbria is a great place to grow up and all Children are healthy, safe and achieving.</p> <p>Guiding Principles</p> <p>Key principles which underpin everything we do, all the time, working with children, young people and families.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognising strengths: We work with children, young people and families in a way that recognises strengths and things that are working well - while never losing sight of the concerns and things we are worried about. Voice of Children and Young People - We will seek to ensure that the voice of children, young people and families informs, guides and drives the work we do and that we understand their lived experience. Early intervention and prevention - We will work to prevent problems escalating and intervene at the earliest possible stage to provide the right support to children, young people and families. Think family and community - Where there are worries and concerns, a central consideration will be what resources and support are available within the wider family and community network which can be harnessed to build safety and wellbeing for children and young people. 	<p>Outcomes</p> <p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and young people will have the same opportunity for good health. Children and young people enjoy positive mental and emotional health and wellbeing. Children and young people maintain a healthy weight and good levels of physical activity <p>Safe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and young people live in supportive, resilient and economically secure families. Children and young people are protected from abuse and neglect Children and young people stay safe online <p>Achieving</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and young people achieve their potential for educational attainment Disadvantaged children and young people achieve as well as their peers All children and young people have opportunities and aspirations for the future
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Copeland Borough Council
A 10 Year Sports and Physical Activity Strategy

Body	Priorities	Strategic Outcomes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-production - We will work in partnership with each other as agencies, and children young people and families - recognising that our aspirations are more successfully achieved if we work together rather than assuming one agency or organisation can solve an issue in isolation. We want to see children, young people and families increasing involved in-service design and development, and clearly informing and owning their plans. • Integration - We recognise the importance of integrating services where this would be likely to improve outcomes and/ or the experience of children and families. Our aspiration is to have place based integrated services and a workforce that works together in an integrated way including local approaches based around local communities working together with services in their local area to improve how their needs are met. • Inclusion - We are committed to inclusion in Cumbria. We have a comprehensive inclusion strategy that seeks to meet the needs of all our children and young people across a diverse range of needs. We recognise the barriers that can be faced by some of our children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) for example, in everything we do to support and deliver this plan - inclusion is at the heart. • Poverty - We know the negative impact living in poverty can have upon life chances and outcomes for children and young people - and their ability to be healthy, safe and achieving. Through our child poverty subgroup and the development of our Council Poverty Strategy, we will identify where we can have an impact in addressing this issue. 	
North Cumbria Health and Care	To build a new integrated health and care system together, using our collective capabilities for a healthier and happier population.	Outcomes: Working together we will use our collective capabilities to reduce inequalities, raise standards of care, use our

Body	Priorities	Strategic Outcomes
	<p>We are our communities; the health care of our people run with our people for our people.</p> <p>Our ambition is to develop an integrated health and care system which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improves the health and care outcomes of our local communities and support people of all ages to be in control of their own health. • Builds health and care services around our local communities. • Provides safe and sustainable high-quality services. • Integrates how health and care organisations work together. • We live within our means and spend resources wisely. 	<p>resources wisely and provide positive experiences for our local communities.</p>

3.18 The above strategies/policies are summarised in Appendix 2. Demographic and participation data are summarised below.

Future Development in the Borough

3.19 A key factor influencing the future provision of sports facilities in the Borough (what and where) is the scale and location of future housing development, which impacts on population density and also levels and nature of community demand.

Copeland Draft Local Plan – Copeland 2017-2035

3.20 Consultation on the Local Plan Issues and Options Draft finished on 20th Jan 2020, and currently at the time of writing this strategy Copeland is continuing to progress work on the Local Plan (Preferred Options Draft.). An 8 week public consultation on the Preferred Options Draft will commence on 21st September 2020.

Growth and Development in Copeland

3.21 The new Local Plan settlement hierarchy focuses major development in Whitehaven (Principal town), and encourages complementary and additional development in Cleator Moor, Millom and Egremont (Key Service Centres) and a number of villages. The Borough’s towns will remain the focus for housing

development in the new Local Plan 2017-2035, with the Preferred Options Draft directing 40% of housing development to Whitehaven and 30% to the other 3 towns.

- 3.22 In terms of new housing the Council's SHMA identifies a baseline figure (SNPP 2014) of 25 new houses a year,) an alternative demographic-led figure of 140 new houses a year, (including for uplifts for affordability and baseline employment) and an economic-led growth figure (includes growth figure uplifts for proposed major projects) of 200 new houses a year. The Local Plan proposes that the 140 dwelling figure is used as the housing requirement over the Plan period but that sufficient housing is identified to support the growth figure of 200 houses a year.

Community Infrastructure Levy Charge

- 3.23 CIL was introduced by the Planning Act 2008 as a tool which local authorities can choose to charge on new development within its area, when it is viable to do so. The money raised by the levy helps to provide funds to assist in the delivery of a wide range of infrastructure and support development through financial contributions from certain viable types of development. Although CIL can make a contribution to bridging the infrastructure funding gap, other funding sources are still necessary.
- 3.24 The CIL charge is based on a calculation related to £'s per m² of net additional floorspace and is payable on 'buildings that people normally go into'. The charge applies to development of 100m² or more, or the creation of a single dwelling, even if under 100m². There are a number of exemptions to this; including affordable housing, self-build housing and Starter Homes.
- 3.25 Copeland BC does not currently have a CIL and focuses on developer contributions through Section 106 and Section 278 agreements; consultation on the Local Plan Issues and Options Draft asked for opinions on introducing CIL and there appeared little appetite to introduce a CIL Charging Schedule, therefore given this and the fact that the government's restrictions on pooling of Section 106 monies has now been lifted, the current approach will continue.

Population Profiles and Projections

- 3.26 The current and future population profile of Copeland and the locations of growth are important to understand in relation to planning for the future provision of sport and physical activity.
- 3.27 This Built Facility Strategy uses the Sport England Sports Facility Calculator to project the requirements for sports halls, swimming pools and indoor bowls facilities from new housing developments. The BFS will provide 3 different scenarios for housing and population to 2035.

3 Potential Scenarios:

Table 3.4: Scenario modelling for calculation of future facility provision in Copeland

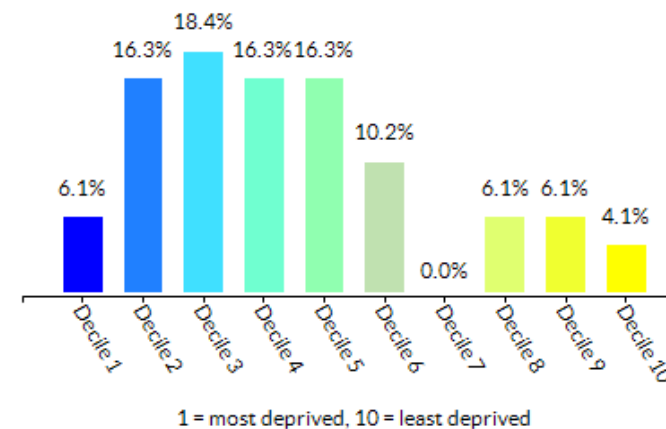
Modelled scenarios	Popn ONS 2018	Total housing completions 2017-2019 popn ⁵	SNPP 2014 60 new dwellings pa for 15 years popn ⁶	SHMA 140 new dwellings pa for 15 years popn ⁷	SHMA 200 new dwellings pa for 15 years popn ⁸	TOTAL POPN
Scenario 1	68,400	948	2,160			71,508
Scenario 2	68,400	948		5,040		74,388
Scenario 3	68,400	948			7,200	76,548

Population Profile – Deprivation 2019

Figure 3.1: Decile of Deprivation⁹

3.28 In 2019 Copeland had the second highest average IMD score in Cumbria; ranking 85th most deprived nationally (27th percentile) and it also falls within the 30% most deprived nationally for overall deprivation. In 2015 Copeland also had the second highest average IMD score, however, the district ranked 72nd most deprived nationally (22nd percentile); this suggests that between 2015 and 2019, Copeland has become much less deprived relative to authorities nationally (+4.7 percentage points).

3.29 In 2019 6.1% of Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) in Copeland were in IMD Decile 1 compared to 12.2% in 2015; moving the district from the 22nd percentile to the 35th percentile. It should be noted that the three specific LSOAs in Copeland that moved out of Decile 1 between 2015 and 2019 still remained within IMD Decile 2 in 2019 (20% most deprived areas). The specific LSOA areas in IMD Decile 1 are Sandwith: North East, Harbour: North and Mirehouse: Central. The three LSOA areas that moved to IMD Decile 2 in 2019 from IMD Decile 1 in 2015 are Frizington: North East, Cleator Moor South: North and Cleator Moor North: East.



Date: 2019 Source: DCLG

⁵ 395 houses completed from 2017-2019 x 2.4 average household = 948

⁶ SNPP 2014 60 dwellings pa x 15 years (=900) x 2.4 average household size (=2160)

⁷ Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) 140 dwellings pa x 15 years (=2,100) x 2.4 average household size (=5,040)

⁸ Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) 200 dwellings pa x 15 years (=3,000) x 2.4 average household size (=7,200)

⁹ Source: Cumbria Intelligence Observatory. The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2019 is the official measure of relative deprivation for small areas (or neighbourhoods) in England. The IMD ranks every small area (Lower Super Output Area) in England from 1 (most deprived) to 32,844 (least deprived). Decile 1 represents the most deprived 10% of LSOAs in England while decile 10 shows the least deprived 10% of LSOAs.

Population and Demographics

3.30 With an overall population of 68,424¹⁰, the Borough has one of the lowest population densities within the United Kingdom. The population of Copeland fell by 1.5% between 2006 and 2016. Over this period the borough lost 9.3% of under 16-year olds and 6% of working age residents. In comparison the percentage of over 65s increased by 24%. The table below compares the population make up from 2001 census to 2011 census.

Table 3.4: Comparison of the population make up from 2001 census to 2011 census ¹¹

Age	2001 census numbers	2001 percentage	2011 census numbers	2011 percentage
0-14	12,750	18.4	11,100	15.7
15-24	7,580	10.9	8,000	11.3
25-44	19,740	28.5	17,100	24.2
45-59	13,940	20.1	15,800	22.4
60 +	15,310	22.1	18,600	26.3

3.31 50% of the population in Copeland are male and 50% are female. The table below shows the population estimates for all persons by 5-year age groups for 2018¹².

Table 3.5: Population estimates for all persons by 5- year age group for 2018¹³

	Copeland	Copeland	Cumbria	Cumbria	England	England
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
0 - 4	3,474	5.1	24,066	4.8	3,346,727	6
5 - 9	3,736	5.5	26,446	5.3	3,523,866	6.3
10 - 14	3,661	5.4	26,606	5.3	3,274,119	5.9
15 - 19	3,288	4.8	25,072	5	3,096,575	5.5

¹⁰ Source: ONS Mid Year 2018

¹¹ Source: ONS 2011

¹² Source: Cumbria Observatory

¹³ Source: Cumbria Observatory

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sports and Physical Activity Strategy

	Copeland	Copeland	Cumbria	Cumbria	England	England
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
20 - 24	3,395	5	24,418	4.9	3,512,654	6.3
25 - 29	4,004	5.9	26,708	5.4	3,815,924	6.8
30 - 34	3,771	5.5	25,737	5.2	3,787,597	6.8
35 - 39	3,770	5.5	26,768	5.4	3,717,483	6.6
40 - 44	3,588	5.2	26,192	5.3	3,390,584	6.1
45 - 49	4,741	6.9	34,951	7	3,799,242	6.8
50 - 54	5,463	8	39,147	7.9	3,915,451	7
55 - 59	5,413	7.9	38,369	7.7	3,573,329	6.4
60 - 64	4,831	7.1	34,234	6.9	3,044,374	5.4
65 - 69	4,417	6.5	33,517	6.7	2,822,593	5
70 - 74	4,127	6	32,374	6.5	2,724,800	4.9
75 - 79	2,851	4.2	22,497	4.5	1,863,126	3.3
80 - 84	2,104	3.1	16,247	3.3	1,403,756	2.5
85+	1,790	2.6	15,539	3.1	1,364,978	2.4

3.32 The table below shows the ethnicity make up of Copeland based on the 2011 Census

Table 3.6: Copeland Ethnicity ¹⁴

	Copeland	Copeland	Cumbria	Cumbria
	Count	%	Count	%
Asian/Asian British	629	0.9	4,066	0.8
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	84	0.1	579	0.1

¹⁴ Source: ONS 2011

Copeland Borough Council
A 10 Year Sports and Physical Activity Strategy

	Copeland	Copeland	Cumbria	Cumbria
	Count	%	Count	%
Minority Ethnic - Total	1,924	2.7	17,734	3.5
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups	339	0.5	2,504	0.5
Other ethnic group	60	0.1	452	0.1
White	69,491	98.4	492,257	98.5

3.33 The population data below has been sourced from the Cumbria Observatory and shows a decrease in population from 2018 to 2041 of 4,500 people and is based on previous trends.

Table 3.7: Copeland Population Projections¹⁵

Year	Copeland
2018	68,700
2019	68,400
2020	68,100
2021	67,800
2026	66,400
2031	64,900
2036	63,500
2041	62,200

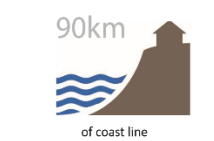
Copeland Local Facts

Figure 3.2: Factual Summary of Copeland

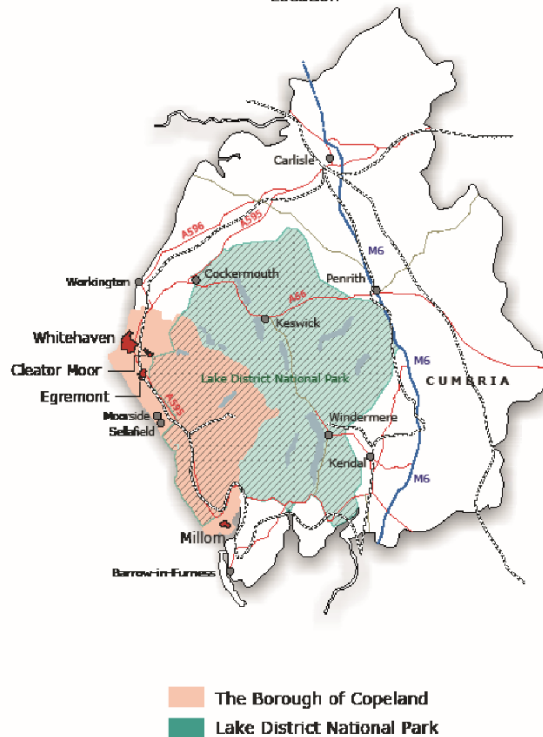
¹⁵ Source: Cumbria Observatory

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sports and Physical Activity Strategy



Location



Copeland Health and Economic Profile 2019

- 3.34 The health of people in Copeland is varied compared with the England average. 14.4% (1,625) of children live-in low-income families. Life expectancy for both men and women is lower than the England average. Life Expectancy and Healthy Life Expectancy in the district (Copeland) is below average.
- 3.35 Life expectancy is 9.4 years lower for men and 10.3 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Copeland than in the least deprived areas.
- 3.36 In Year 6, 25.3% (170) of children are classified as obese, worse than the average for England. The rate for alcohol-specific hospital admissions among those under 18 is 64, worse than the average for England. This represents 8 admissions per year. Levels of breastfeeding and smoking in pregnancy are worse than the England average.
- 3.37 The rate for alcohol-related harm hospital admissions is 705*, worse than the average for England. This represents 511 admissions per year. The rate for self-harm hospital admissions is 219*. This represents 136 admissions per year. Estimated levels of excess weight in adults (aged 18+) are worse than the England average.
- 3.38 The rates of new sexually transmitted infections and new cases of tuberculosis are better than the England average.
- 3.39 The rate of violent crime (hospital admissions for violence) is better than the England average. The rate of under 75 mortality rate from cardiovascular diseases is worse than the England average.

Health and Economic Profile: Millom

- 3.40 Millom is a rural and isolated community, bordered on two sides by the sea, with limited access to a range of key public and key services. Copeland has the lowest rate of business start-ups in the County, with only 6 start-ups in Millom during 2018. Out of work claimant rates for the town are 10.8% compared to the national average (8.2%). Of the population of Millom, 30.4% have no qualifications.

3.41 The key issues for Millom outlined in the indices of multiple deprivation (2017) show:



Health and Economic Profile: Cleator Moor

3.42 The key issues for Cleator Moor outlined in the indices of multiple deprivation (2017) show:

Cleator Moor South ward is within the most deprived 10% of LSOA's nationally, with 17% of children living in low income families and 12% of households experiencing fuel poverty. The Community Wellbeing Index shows poor results for health and voice/participation.

General health in Cleator Moor is poor with 11.3% of residents being very limited in day-to-day activities, against a national average of 8.3%

7.3% of the population classed as long-term sick or disabled, against a national average of 4%.

Out of work claimant rates for the town are 13% compared to the national average of 8.2%. Of the population of Cleator Moor, 30.6% have no qualifications.

Average house prices in 2018 were £109,676 (national average of £322,562). Whilst there is sufficient affordable housing in the town, properties are generally old and energy inefficient stock; unattractive to buy or rent.

There is significant digital exclusion (average of 70%) in Cleator Moor due to lack of physical access to a computer at home. Some have mobile phones but experience poor connectivity and cost barriers.

Health and Economic Profile: Whitehaven

3.43 The key issues for Whitehaven are:

The need to maximise and enhance opportunities for leisure, health and recreation

In terms of sport and leisure provision, Whitehaven is home to Copeland Stadium, Copeland Pool and Whitehaven Leisure Centre. However, the town lacks a national gym with flexible opening hours, and the pool and stadium are outside of the town centre. Measures should be made to ensure improved accessibility and usage of sports facilities.

High traffic flow in the town centre combined with the lack of physical linkages between the harbour and town centre mean that Whitehaven has little pedestrian flow. Opportunities should be taken to improve active transport networks to improve health and reduce reliance on vehicles

20.2% of Whitehaven's population are aged 65+. Measures should be taken to encourage opportunities that improve the health and wellbeing of our elderly population and support them to become more regularly active.

12% of people in Whitehaven are self-reported to have a health condition that significantly limits their day to day activity (Cumbria Observatory). Opportunities to reduce this figure and provide equal opportunities to improve activity levels should be maximised

16.7% of people in Whitehaven are in Decile 1 in the index of deprivation, meaning they are in the most deprived 10% of LSOAs. This can provide a significant barrier to access to sporting, recreation and leisure opportunities and facilities. Therefore, new and existing sport and leisure provision should be made financially accessible

45% of the Whitehaven population are in good health, 2% very bad health and 12% who are activity limited (Source: Cumbria Intelligence Observatory 2011)

Health and Economic Profile: Egremont

3.44 The key issues for Egremont are:

44% of the Egremont population are in good health, 1% very bad health and 11% who are activity limited (Source: Cumbria Intelligence Observatory 2011)

2018 population estimate = 7,771 (50.8% female, 49.2% male) 21.8% aged 65+, 17.4% 15 and under Deprivation

The town has an ageing population. Measures should be taken to encourage opportunities that improve the health and wellbeing of our elderly population and support them to become more regularly active.

A high proportion of residents are self-reported to have a health condition that significantly limits their day to day activity (Cumbria Observatory). Opportunities to reduce this figure and provide equal opportunities to improve activity levels should be maximised

44% of Egremont residents are in good health; 1% are in very poor health

Lower employment rates in the town than elsewhere. This can provide a significant barrier to access to sporting, recreation and leisure opportunities and facilities. Therefore, new and existing sport and leisure provision should be made financially accessible.

Whitehaven has a low provision of certain types of open space. Opportunities should be taken to improve this to encourage good health from a young age, helping to tackle obesity and improve mental and social wellbeing.

The draft proposal for the Borderlands Places Programme Funding identifies that although average wages in the Borough are higher than the UK average due to the presence of Sellafield, 60.7% of Egremont's population is classed as being financially stretched, with 2 super output areas being in the worst 30% re the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). 16% of children live in low income families

There is no access to a train station in the town.

Physical Activity and Participation

The Intrinsic Value of Participation

3.45 The value of participation in sport and physical activity is significant, and its contribution to individual and community quality of life should not be underestimated. This is true for both younger and older people; participation in sport and physical activity delivers:



Opportunities for physical activity, and therefore more ‘active living’;



Health benefits – cardiovascular, stronger bones, mobility;



Health improvement;



Mental health benefits; and



Social benefits – socialisation, communication, inter-action, regular contact, stimulation.

3.46 In addition, participation in sport and physical activity can facilitate the learning of new skills, development of individual and team ability / performance, and provide a ‘disciplined’ environment in which participants can ‘grow’ and develop.

3.47 The benefits of regular and active participation in sport and physical activity will be important to promote in relation to future sport, leisure and physical activity in Copeland.

3.48 There is an existing audience in the Borough, which already recognises the advantages of participation, and a latent community who are ready to take part. The sport, physical activity and leisure offer in the Borough can support the delivery of the desired outcomes across a number of Borough Strategic priorities and objectives.

Some examples of initiatives and projects in Copeland

PhunkyFoods

3.49 This project was commissioned by Cumbria County Council Public Health in March 2017 and is for the provision of a curriculum based, nutrition and physical activity education intervention in primary schools between March 2017 and July 2019. Over the duration of the 2-year contract a total of 44 primary schools and 2 Early Years Settings participated in the PhunkyFoods programme. The PhunkyFoods Programme aims to help early years settings and primary schools to deliver a whole-setting approach to healthy lifestyles and to engage with all pupils, and their families, in promoting tangible health behaviour changes in a fun, lively and positive manner. The aim is to make a real difference to children's health, both in the school environment and out into the extended school community. The programme acknowledges that all schools and nurseries have different priorities and support their individual goals rather than expecting settings to conform to set criteria.

3.50 These are some of the achievements of the project:

- Educating children about their health in 44 primary schools and 2 nurseries where teacher feedback is overwhelmingly positive in all aspects of the programme, with over 90% of teachers agreeing that PhunkyFoods activities are simple and clear to deliver, pitched at the right level and are engaging for children.
- Healthy eating, physical activity, dental health and emotional health & wellbeing key messages utilised throughout delivery.
- All participating schools have attended training in the PhunkyFoods programme and other relevant Public Health England (PHE) initiatives relating to healthy lifestyles and 100% of training participants (n=49) rated their training as either 'Good' or 'Excellent'.
- 30 school staff members across Copeland have achieved the National Level 2 Award in Nutrition and Health of School Aged Children
- 33 Copeland schools (72%) completed the annual evaluation survey. Of these 96% rated the PhunkyFoods service as either good (41%) or excellent (59%).
- 32 Copeland primary schools (70%) have written and signed action plans regarding school improvements around the whole school approach to healthier lifestyles, and of these 11 schools have reviewed their action plans and reported on progress.
- Parent engagement sessions – parent-child cookery clubs; family cook & eat sessions; parent healthy lifestyle workshops; health promotion stalls at parent evenings, school fairs and sports days; supporting school celebration events.

- Peer to peer delivery of key healthy lifestyle messages (PhunkyAmbassadors)
- These schemes have aided the schools in developing healthy tuck shops; lunchbox audits and policy development lead by the children; engagement in local allotments; taste testing stalls for other children to try fruits/vegetables. Videos and case studies available.
- 88% of schools responding to the annual survey stated that they believed that the implementation of the PhunkyFoods Programme had had a positive impact on improving healthy eating behaviours in their children, and they provided a range of observational and anecdotal reports to evidence this change.

3.51 From September 2019, the project has received funding from Sellafield to continue delivery of the programme in Copeland for the next 3 years (until July 2022). The work is being extended into parent engagement and peer to peer support training (PhunkyAmbassadors) to support delivery of the curriculum programme in schools.

3.52 Currently the parent engagement is mainly around healthy eating messages; delivering cookery lessons, workshops and parent/child sessions. There is an opportunity to widen these engagement activities to include sporting/physical activities delivered from schools, for example running walking/running groups after school drop off or after-school parent & child HIIT sessions in the hall that would complement the existing programme if funding was available.

3.53 Other options to extend the programme include funding more Early Years settings to deliver PhunkyFoods, delivery of community cook clubs and providing schools/nurseries with equipment for cookery/food preparation sessions.

Clear Blue Skies

3.54 Clear Blue Skies is an informal wellbeing support group for local residents to help with mental health and wellbeing, which has the potential to operate from the community and cultural hub linked to Cleator Moor Medical Centre. The community group is open to all and has a singing for well-being group, and crafts with the aim to help those with depression, anxiety and stress via by offering information, a sign posting service, and for those socially isolated an opportunity to meet and make new friends.

Phoenix Youth Project

3.55 Phoenix Youth Project (PYP) works with marginalised and disadvantaged young people aged 8 -19 years old in Cleator Moor. PYP provides a voice for young people's involvement in the town and local regeneration. The PYP is an award winning, forward thinking and engaging Youth Work Project. Working with marginalised and disadvantaged young people aged 8 -19 years old in the deprived areas of Cleator Moor, Frizington, and Moor Row, the project

aims to: raise aspirations, develop positive behaviour, encourage healthy lifestyles and reduce crime, discriminatory and anti-social behaviour. This enables the project to serve the social, recreational and emotional needs of the children and young people in the area as well as supporting the wider local community.

- 3.56 One of the charitable objectives is 'to promote for the benefit of children and young people in Copeland, Cumbria and the surrounding area the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupations in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving their conditions of life'.

Mind Ya Marras

- 3.57 A group of volunteers have created a place for men in the community to share stories and experiences at Mirehouse Community Centre community cafe, helping reduce mental health and the stigma surrounding it. This project won a community award in 2019.

Whitehaven Harbour Youth Project

- 3.58 WHYP responds to the needs of young people and families through the delivery of sport, physical activity and outdoor adventures. and through the provision of safe, positive and supportive space to meet. The accessible town centre location of the project and the open access drop-in facilities mean that the project can build long term relationships with young people, giving time for them to feel confident and safe enough to take part in a broader activity programme. The project recently secured external funding for refurbishment of the sports hall and climbing wall.

South Whitehaven Youth Partnership

- 3.59 SWYP is a Youth Work Charity which aims to provide opportunities and activities for young people, while also giving young people a voice, raising aspirations and creating a safe place for young people. There are outreach activities as well as activities based at facilities such as St Benedict RUFC and Kells Welfare.

Inclusivity

- 3.60 Consideration should be given to the inclusivity of facilities and activities in Copeland for disabled people. Accessibility is key when developing activity programmes and facility design so the needs of everyone can be considered, especially amongst an ageing population such as Copeland.
- 3.61 Copeland Disability Forum meets monthly and works for equality for people with physical disabilities. The Forum works with Copeland Borough Council to look at planning applications, suggest improvements to building access, and advise on other equality issues.
- 3.62 Mayfield SEN school has 170 pupils from September 2020 and these pupils access the school from the whole of West Cumbria. Campus Whitehaven is attached to St Benedict's School and provides easy access for Mayfield and there is a usage agreement in place. Facilities include: 4G pitch, netball and

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sports and Physical Activity Strategy

tennis courts, outdoor changing facilities, outdoor pitches, 4 badminton court sports hall, dance studio, and there are facilities which belong to Mayfield: gym/fitness, hydrotherapy pool, rebound room (therapeutic). In addition, there are 2 halls with retractable seating, one belongs to Mayfield and the other to St Benedict's. Mayfield School also has an outdoor gym, 'Mayfield mile' track, and a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA).

- 3.63 Off-site swimming takes place at St Bee's but is not fully accessible and they have also used the swimming pool in Workington. In the summer the school accesses Copeland Stadium athletics track, accessible biking, and athletics.
- 3.64 The school is very happy with the available sports facilities and recognises the importance of physical activity for their pupils

Coastal routes and cycling

- 3.65 Cumbria County Council has employed an officer responsible for encouraging more people to use the coastal paths, especially between Millom and Whitehaven – this will include large scale events such a marathon, ultra, 10km and 2-day walking festival. In collaboration with a current (or new) leisure facility the idea is to increase cycling and walking in the short, medium and long term. This will include new signage, cycle routes and footpaths – “route 72” – and increase the route infrastructure which in turn will lead to increased participation for walking and cycling, for example the route from Whitehaven to Silecroft currently has two ‘gaps’ due to the Irt and Esk estuaries. In phase 1 the programme will support the enhancement of the Irt crossing being developed by Natural England to ensure the crossing is also suitable for cyclists.
- 3.66 The project will also support enhancements to rights of way that link to the coastal paths but do not form part of it. Routes will be identified which merit improved signage, surfacing, replaced stiles and kissing gates. The paths will offer more opportunities for exploring the area and increasing visitor dwell time and will offer some shorter routes and give opportunities for improved circular walks. Signage, way markers, and route counters are all part of the project.
- 3.67 The infrastructure will be promoted by developing a series of maps and digital platforms, including a website and an App.
- 3.68 Despite the landscape, Copeland is currently host to only a small number of outdoor activity providers and very few adrenalin facilities. As part of the physical challenge route and to capitalise on what is a growing market, the project proposes installation of a variety of adrenalin activities along the route, for example Zip Wire. Silecroft hub will eventually offer a base for activity providers using the natural environment for kite surfing or sea kayaking for example, but Copeland's coast has been identified as a need to develop adrenalin attractions.

- 3.69 There is also a plan to develop a Wheels for All Hub; Wheels for All are the national charity promoting cycling for all. This project aims to establish a hub at Copeland Stadium which involves procuring a range of inclusive cycles and providing a Wheels for All trainer to run structured sessions twice / week for 36 weeks to enable people to gain confidence using the equipment and to help set up a local co-ordinating Wheels for All Group. Once established the group will offer sessions on the Challenge Route and linked cycle paths to increase access to the coast for all. Ownership of the purchased adapted cycles would then be transferred to the group.
- 3.70 The project also plans to commission artists to develop works for key sections of the route; these art works are intended to be functional and provide for example bespoke seating / stopping points along the route and at least one sensory art piece accessible to the inclusive cyclists. Exact locations are still to be agreed in discussion with the artists who produce them as it is the location which will inspire each art piece. At a minimum there is expected to be one piece of art for each section of the Challenge Route (seven) plus additional seats for Lowca and Parton to the north of Whitehaven and one to the south of Millom which will encourage exploration of the area and sets the groundwork for the Challenge Route to be extended north and south into neighbouring coastal team areas. There is also intended to be a competition to produce a nationally significant landmark piece of public art.
- 3.71 Although the challenge route will be available year-round the intention is to develop a high profile mass participation event based on the route which will both promote the route and the area. A feasibility study was commissioned by Copeland Borough Council (funded by Sellafield Ltd) to look at the potential for developing an iconic event - Challenge Event (Millom to Whitehaven).
- 3.72 The Viking Way cycle route is intended to link Gosforth (within Copeland but outside the Local Plan area) and Seascale, and possibly also link Cleator Moor with Ennerdale. Promotion of all of the routes will also include targeting people without equipment to also take part, for example to go by train, hire bikes and explore the sea.
- 3.73 Development of the coastal routes and promotion of walking and cycling will increase physical activity but also make Copeland a tourist destination with all the economic benefits this would bring.

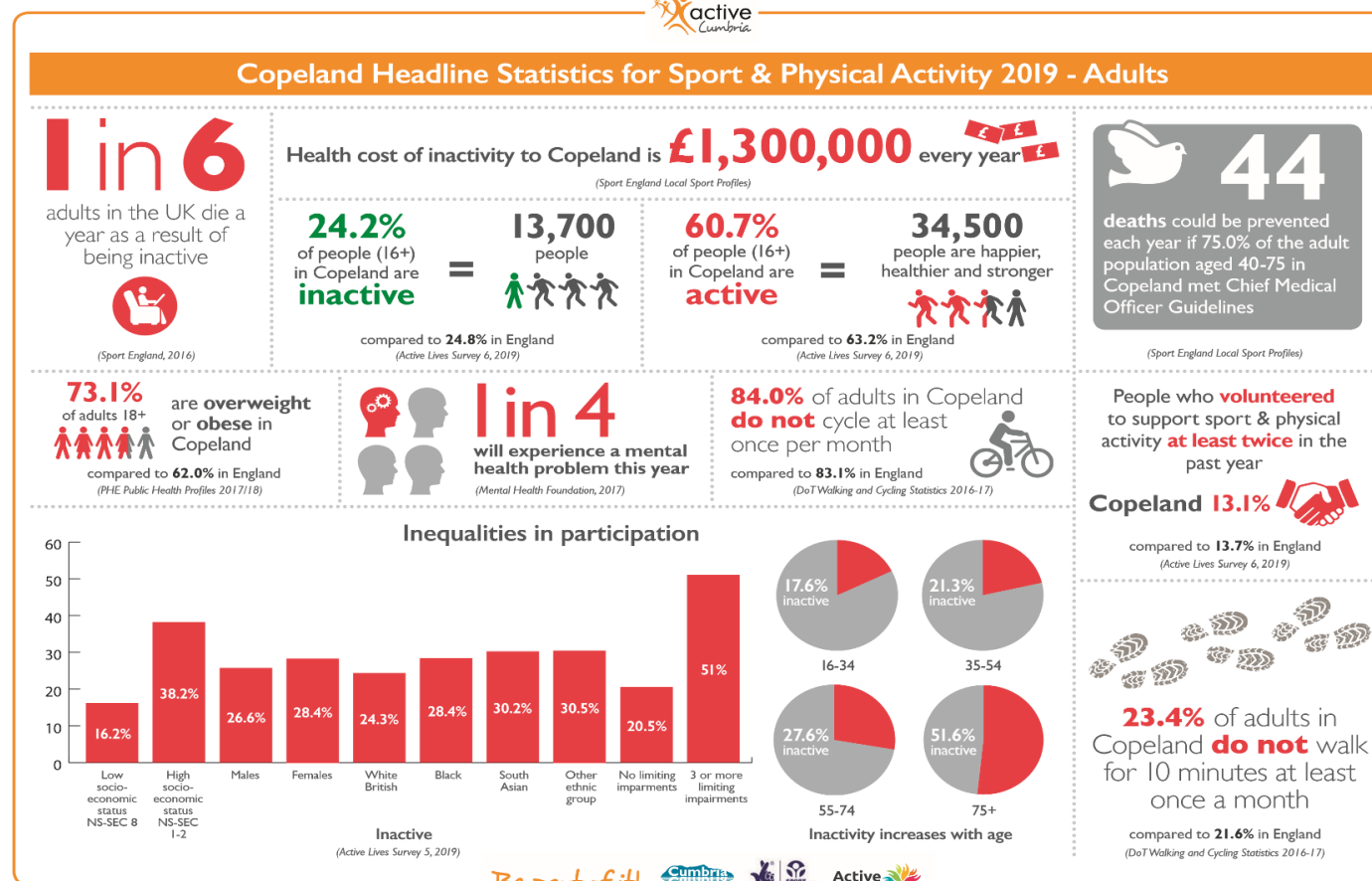
Additional barriers and issues for participation in physical activity

- 3.74 Given the rural nature of Copeland, good transport links that are available and affordable are key as to whether people can access facilities. Over 80% of visits to indoor sports facilities in Copeland are by car, and car ownership is higher than the national average in Copeland. In order to encourage those who are currently inactive, improved transport links would be an imperative.
- 3.75 During the COVID-19 pandemic many people who were previously users at leisure centres and facilities have accessed online classes. It will be useful to consider future usage patterns for current users of the facilities when planning for future provision. The network of village halls and physical activity in community settings can be invaluable for those lacking confidence or feeling uncomfortable using larger bespoke facilities.

Current Participation Rates – Physical Activity Participation

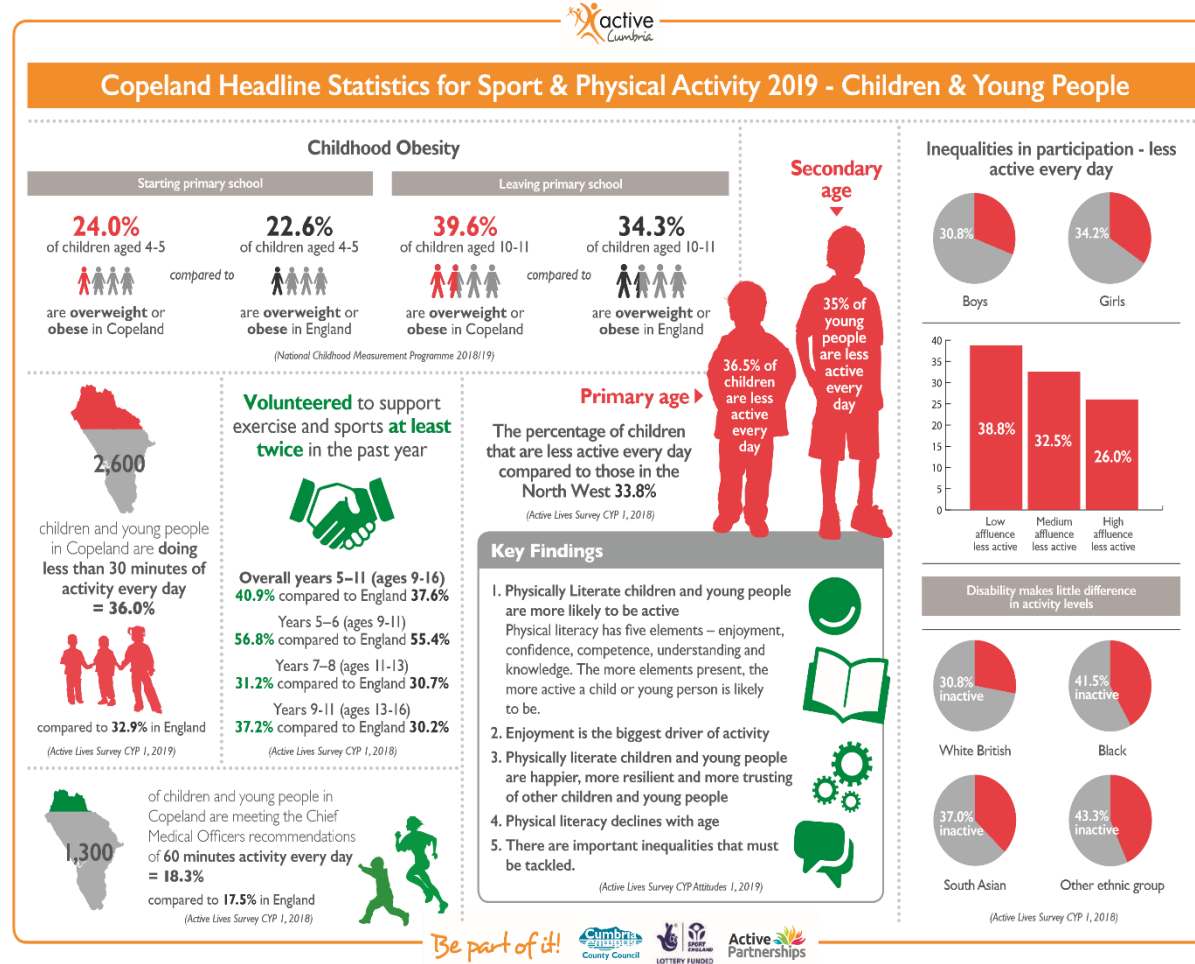
Physical activity participation - adults

Figure 3.3: Adults headline Statistics for Sport and Physical Activity 2019



Physical activity participation – children and young people

Figure 3.4: Children and Young People - headline Statistics for Sport and Physical Activity 2019



Market Segmentation

- 3.74 Sport England’s market segmentation model comprises of 19 ‘sporting’ segments (See Appendix 3). The relevance of Market Segmentation is that it is designed to assist understanding of attitudes, motivations and perceived barriers to sports participation and to assist agencies involved in the delivery of sport and recreation to develop tailored interventions, communicate more effectively with the target market and to better understand participation in the context of life stages and cycles. This in turn helps to inform the nature and extent of facilities that should be provided to meet local need and demand. This approach is being phased out by Sport England and therefore only a brief summary has been included here.
- 3.75 In Copeland, the existing dominant segments are; Elsie and Arnold, Philip, Brenda and Kev. These are described in Table 3.8. Clearly, based on the existing dominant participating segments there is a lack of participation from younger men and women; there is an opportunity to change and develop programmes and activities to encourage participation from these groups.

Table 3.8: Summary of Market Segmentation for Copeland– top 4 market segments (all Sport England market segments are summarised in Appendix 3)

Market Segment	Key Characteristics	% Copeland Population	Activities / Sports That Appeal to Segment
Elsie and Arnold Retirement Home Singles	Retired singles or widowers, predominantly female, living in sheltered accommodation. 10% of this group take part in ‘keep fit/gym’, 7% take part in swimming, and 3% take part in bowls.	10.4%	Keep fit / gym, swimming and bowls.
Philip Comfortable Mid-Life Males	Mid-life professional, sporty male with older children and more time to themselves. Philip’s sporting activity levels are above the national average. The top sports that Philip participates in are cycling and 16% of this segment do this at least once a month, almost double the national average. Philip also enjoys keep fit/gym, swimming, football, golf and athletics (running). His participation in most of his top sports is above the national average, which is indicative of the priority he places on sport.	8.9%	Cycling, keep fit / Gym, Swimming, Football, Golf, Athletics or Running
Brenda Older Working Women	Middle aged women, working to make ends meet, mainly 46 to 65 years, married, working part time. 5% of all adults, 10% of all adult women. Below average levels of sports participation	7.7%	Keep fit/gym, swimming, cycling

Copeland Borough Council
A 10 Year Sports and Physical Activity Strategy

Market Segment	Key Characteristics	% Copeland Population	Activities / Sports That Appeal to Segment
Kev Pub League Teammates	<p>Blokes who enjoy pub league games and watching live sport.</p> <p>14% of this segment take part in keep fit/gym compared to 17% of all adults; 12% of this segment take part in football compared to 4% of all adults. In addition, 11% of people in this segment take part in cycling, and 10% go swimming.</p> <p>Kev may also take part in athletics or running, golf, angling, badminton, archery or martial arts/combat sports.</p>	7.3%	Keep fit/ gym, football, cycling, swimming. Athletics or running, badminton, martial arts.

- 3.76 The market segmentation illustrates, in sports participation terms, the diversity of the Borough, and therefore the need to ensure that future provision addresses local needs, based on population age, structure, health inequalities, and current participation levels, as well as interest, and existing facility infrastructure.
- 3.77 In particular, given that the dominant segments will tend to participate in Keep Fit / Gym, Swimming, Bowls, Cycling, Running and Football, it will be important to retain good quality facilities and therefore opportunities, in the Borough. This is to ensure existing participation levels are retained as a minimum, and wherever possible, increased.

4. Stage B - Existing Facility Provision

Introduction

4.1 The current level and nature of indoor sports facility provision in Copeland, has been assessed across the borough. The minimum population base used for the assessment and analysis has been agreed with Copeland Borough Council Planning Officers at 68,400 (2018) and the scenarios are based on the proposed number of new dwellings required within the Copeland Local Plan 2017 – 2035. These scenarios have been developed using the agreed population base of 68,400 plus the actual house build numbers for 2017, 2018 and 2019 and the average household population for Copeland of 2.4. Scenarios 2 and 3 have been based on the Council’s Strategic Housing Market Assessment figures.

4.2 The actual build figures are:

- **2017 = 134 houses**
- **2018 = 110 houses**
- **2019 = 151 houses**
- **Total = 395 houses**

4.3 The Indoor Sports Facility Needs Assessment will provide 3 different scenarios for housing and population to 2035 as follows:

Table 4.1: Scenario modelling for calculation of future facility provision in Copeland

Modelled scenarios	Popn ONS 2018	Total housing completions 2017-2019 popn ¹⁶	SNPP 2014 60 new dwellings pa for 15 years popn ¹⁷	SHMA 140 new dwellings pa for 15 years popn ¹⁸	SHMA 200 new dwellings pa for 15 years popn ¹⁹	TOTAL POPN
Scenario 1	68,400	948	2,160			71,508
Scenario 2	68,400	948		5,040		74,388
Scenario 3	68,400	948			7,200	76,548

4.4 All of these scenarios are modelled as the basis for calculating future need for facility provision in the borough to 2035 to ensure the impacts of all options are fully understood.

¹⁶ 395 houses completed from 2017-2019 x 2.4 average household = 948

¹⁷ SNPP 2014 60 dwellings pa x 15 years (=900) x 2.4 average household size (=2160)

¹⁸ Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) 140 dwellings pa x 15 years (=2,100) x 2.4 average household size (=5,040)

¹⁹ Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) 200 dwellings pa x 15 years (=3,000) x 2.4 average household size (=7,200)

Supply of Indoor Sport Facilities in Copeland

4.5 The following table summarises the existing indoor sports facilities across Copeland.

Table 4.2: Existing Indoor sports facilities – Copeland

Facilities	Copeland
Sports Hall (3+ Courts)	6
Swimming Pools (Main, Learner & Leisure)	3
Health and Fitness Suites	15
Studios	5
Squash Courts	9
Activity halls	7
Indoor Bowls hall	1

4.6 It is important to highlight from the outset that this strategy is not just about formal sports facility provision, but also looks at opportunities for increased use of informal places and spaces. Community halls can be used for sport and physical activity even if they are not purpose designed nor marked for such use and can often provide an introductory experience of sport and physical activity, or a more accessible option for those who are older, have no access to private transport, or who have commitments which make it hard for them to travel to formal facilities.

4.7 Increased use of the outdoors, open spaces, parks, recreation grounds, and community halls also has significant potential to contribute to increasing levels of participation in physical activity at a very local level, and to addressing rising levels of obesity and other health inequalities.

4.8 Based on the Active Places database, the Sport England Facility Planning Model (FPM), the local sports profile data (Sport England), and the audit undertaken to inform this strategy, the maps used in the following facility assessments show the extent of existing built sport and leisure facility provision in Copeland.

4.9 Users of sport and recreation facilities do not recognise administrative boundaries and will use facilities that are convenient and/or provide a quality/value for money experience. Ownership and management are, in this context, a minor consideration for most users.

4.10 The availability of facilities in neighbouring boroughs can and does influence sports facility usage patterns, as does access to private transport and

availability of public transport. Good public transport means that accessing facilities is easier than in other boroughs.

Catchment Areas

- 4.11 Catchment areas for different types of facilities provide a means of identifying areas currently not served by existing indoor sports facilities. It is however, recognised that catchment areas vary from person to person, day to day, hour to hour, and are also very different in rural and urban areas. This problem is overcome by accepting the concept of 'effective catchment', defined as the distance travelled by around 75-80% of users. The maps in Section 4 demonstrate catchment areas for facility provision in Copeland based on this approach, which uses a 20-minute drive time as a catchment area for sports facilities (the industry guidance from Sport England is a 20 min drive time (car), or a 10-minute walk time).

Demand for Indoor sports facilities

- 4.12 There are two main tools used to inform the assessment of supply and demand, as well as the facility audit (Appendix 7 taken directly from Active Places and used as the baseline data to be checked and challenged through the site visits), quality site visits (Appendix 2 (2a – 2n)), and the demand information gathered through the consultation. These tools are:
- 4.13 The Sport England Facility Planning Model (FPM) – this is only used for sports halls of 3 court size and above and swimming pools larger than 160 m².

The Facilities Planning Model (FPM) is a computer-based supply/demand model, which has been developed by Edinburgh University in conjunction with **sportscotland** and Sport England since the 1980's.

The model is a tool to help to assess the strategic provision of community sports facilities in an area. It is currently applicable for use in assessing the provision of sports halls, swimming pools, indoor bowls centres and artificial grass pitches.

Use of FPM

Sport England uses the FPM as one of its principal tools in helping to assess the strategic need for certain community sports facilities. The FPM has been developed as a means of:

- 1. assessing requirements for different types of community sports facilities on a local, regional or national scale;**
- 2. helping local authorities to determine an adequate level of sports facility provision to meet their local needs;**
- 3. helping to identify strategic gaps in the provision of sports facilities; and**
- 4. comparing alternative options for planned provision, taking account of changes in demand and supply. This includes testing the impact of opening, relocating and closing facilities, and the likely impact of population changes on the needs for sports facilities.**

Its current use is limited to those sports' facility types for which Sport England holds substantial demand data, i.e. swimming pools, sports halls, indoor bowls and artificial grass pitches.

The report sets out the findings under seven headings and includes data tables and maps. The headings are defined at the start and include total supply; total demand; supply and demand balance; satisfied/met demand; unmet demand; used capacity (how full the pools are); and local share of pools. Each heading is followed by a commentary on the findings.

The purpose of the report is to provide Copeland Borough Council with an updated evidence base for sports halls and swimming pools, which the Council can use to inform its strategic planning for the future provision of these facility types. The full FPM reports and appendices are set out in Appendix 6.

The Sports Facility Calculator (SFC)

The Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) provides a quantitative estimate of future need, but unlike the FPM the SFC model analysis does not identify specific locations for future provision. That needs to be informed by the nature and location of future housing development (where locations are known), local geography and accessibility, and, critically, the location of existing facilities. This is because future demand may have the potential to be addressed through facility extension, or refurbishment, as well as new locations. However, in the absence of any other future demand calculator, the SFC provides an indicator of the level of future provision needed. The SFC can be applied to the same facilities as those modelled in the FPM.

- 4.14 The demand (current and future) for facilities other than sports halls and swimming pools is assessed using National Governing Body (NGB) standards if they are available, plus a combination of local factors e.g. how many existing facilities there are, what is the identified demand from schools, clubs, the community etc, what is available immediately outside the authority boundaries to which people may find it easier to travel.

Stage B (ANOG) - Assessment of Existing Sports Facility Provision

4.15 This section sets out the Stage B information required by the ANOG process. It provides a detailed picture of existing facilities in Copeland:



Quantity:
how many of each type there are?



Quality:
their age and condition



Accessibility:
who owns and operates the facilities, facility location and catchment areas?



Availability:
whether the facilities are available to all residents, and whether there is pay and play access

- 4.16 Given the inter-related nature of these four key areas, Section 4 covers each facility type in turn, and assesses it in terms of the above, then pulls together all the data collected to provide an overall summary of each facility type, current and future provision i.e. supply and demand analysis.
- 4.17 Section 5 applies the analysis of the provision to identified needs in Copeland, and Section 6 sets out the recommendations to be implemented through the Action Plan, to address these identified needs and gaps.
- 4.18 Given the range of facilities in Copeland, each type is summarised below and assessed separately, to provide a more detailed picture of the current supply and demand, and critically future need.

4.19 The formal indoor sport facility types assessed include:



Sports Halls

(including schools and community buildings), and covering indoor sports hall sports such as, badminton, martial arts, indoor cricket basketball, netball, table tennis and volleyball



Health & Fitness Centres

(including dance/aerobic studios)



Squash Courts



Swimming Pools



Indoor Bowls Halls

4.20 In addition to the above, reference is also made to the various community halls in the area, which provide informal space for a wide range of physical activity and recreational activities.

4.21 It is important to highlight that community use, and specifically pay and play access is the focus of the facility assessment. Community use applies to clubs, the public and community associations / groups; pay and play community access refers to the public.

4.22 The latter is really important because those who are inactive are highly unlikely to join a club to use a facility; therefore, it is only by ensuring there is sufficient pay and play community access to formal and informal facilities, that participation is likely to increase, and particularly amongst those who are currently inactive. Community use provided for clubs is also very important, given that club members are also part of the overall community, but these

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sports and Physical Activity Strategy

individuals are more likely to be active already.

Operational Management of Copeland Borough Council Leisure Facilities

- 4.23 The Council outsourced the management of its four sports and leisure facilities to North Country Leisure through a 10 year contract with a commencement date of 1st April 2006 and with the ability for the Council to request an extension of the Agreement Period by up to 5 years. The contract ran until the end of March 2016. The contract delivery was externally reviewed and benchmarked at the end of the first five years in 2010. The Council were reassured of the service delivery value for money and service performance.
- 4.24 The Council has built a strong working partnership with North Country Leisure with regular performance management arrangements and the setting up of a local Copeland Board to oversee the delivery of the contract and development of the facilities and associated activities for residents. The joint partnership work between the Council and its contractor has enabled additional project resources to NCL to deliver additional sport and leisure activities targeted at neighbourhoods and specific communities in response to health indices and increased sport and physical activity participation. In particular the B-Active project delivering within communities across Copeland until 2015 supported by the Copeland Community Fund, the GP referral contract held with the Copeland Clinical Commissioning Group, and the Return to Netball and Gymnastics initiative run in the Sports Centre and other community venues. The latter project supported by the sports' national governing bodies and Copeland Community Fund.
- 4.25 NCL became part of Greenwich Leisure Ltd (GLL) in 2015 and the contract was extended in April 2017. The contract is due to be re-procured in 2022.
- 4.26 GLL continue to work in partnership with Copeland Borough Council, sports clubs, stakeholders and partners to deliver innovative programmes that will contribute towards increased participation, providing opportunities from beginner to elite level.
- 4.27 Investment to further enhance the facilities has been identified by GLL, which includes a specialist gymnastics facility (conversion of 3 badminton courts) and a partnership with health to provide treatment rooms for Musculo skeletal services.

Quality Audits

- 4.28 The quality audits comprise an independent visual assessment of the quality and condition of the facilities; results are recorded on the ANOG assessment sheet, developed by Sport England, and scored, based on the Sport England system set out in Table 4.3. Details of the individual audits undertaken are included in Appendix 2 (2a – 2n).

4.29 The audit scores are based on a numerical value, detailed on each assessment sheet, as follows:

Table 4.3: Quality Audit Scoring System

Key	Rating
>80%	Excellent
60% - 80%	Good
40% - 59%	Average
20%-39%	Poor
<20%	Very Poor

4.30 A facility scoring highly in terms of visual quality and condition (good – excellent) is likely to require less investment than one which in a poorer visual condition (average – very poor). The combination of the scores, results in the facility rating, and identification of investment need (significant, moderate etc.).

4.31 It is important to highlight that in undertaking the quality assessments, each element of the facility e.g. sports hall, pool etc is given a qualitative assessment, and the overall facility is also given an overall qualitative mark. Therefore, a sports hall can be of poor quality, but the overall facility score could be good.

Consultation

4.32 The ANOG methodology requires consultation with clubs, schools, neighbouring boroughs, National Governing Bodies (NGBs) and key stakeholders. Schools were consulted via an online survey. Clubs needs are also identified via consultation with NGBs. Neighbouring boroughs were contacted by email and information collected through this medium and combined with SLL’s own knowledge from recent work in relevant areas. NGBs were all contacted by email and asked a series of questions to identify the information required. The consultation responses are set out in detail in Appendix 3.

Schools

4.33 All schools including Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Independent schools in Copeland were contacted and asked to complete a survey about their existing sports facilities, their plans/aspirations for future provision, and the extent and nature of community use of the facilities. 18 schools responded to the survey; a summary of the total responses is included in Appendix 4.

4.34 Schools were contacted to inform the analysis (extent of provision, access and use), and were offered a meeting as part of the qualitative site visit. It is

important to note that the feedback provided by the schools accords with the findings of the supply and demand analysis and the Facility Planning Model (FPM); schools provide for community use by clubs and groups.

- 4.35 Unfortunately, despite following up contact with the schools, many of them did not respond. However, of those which did respond 36% of the schools said they had community use of a sports hall (where one is available) and 50% of schools who have a pool allow community access. There is 100% community access to dance studios. Schools stated that whilst the majority of any increased community usage of school facilities would be for sports activities, wider community use would also be welcomed. In general, education facilities can provide a useful resource for the local community for both sport and community activities. 40% of schools have a plan to improve their sports facilities in the future, funding permitting.

Clubs

- 4.36 25 clubs responded to the survey, with 48% of clubs with more than 80 active members and many with more than 100. 64% have more than 5 volunteers. Membership of clubs was reported to be mainly increasing (56%) with 24% staying the same and 20% decreasing. 2 of the clubs reported that numbers were decreasing due to the lack of facilities or that these were unsatisfactory. However, 58% of clubs predict an increase in membership over the next 5 years with 38% staying the same and only 4% decreasing.
- 4.37 Satisfaction with facilities is generally high with 64% of clubs reporting that the facility they use either completely or mostly suits their club's needs. Changing facilities and toilets were the facilities cited as the most in need of investment or improvement. In terms of accessibility various issues were mentioned including booking procedures for accessing badminton courts for pay and play at Whitehaven Sports Centre being very onerous.

Parish Councils

- 4.38 7 Parishes responded including: Gosforth, Arlecdon and Frizington, Millom, Ennerdale and Kinniside, Wasdale, Ponsonby, and Bootle. The parishes were asked to rate quantity, quality and accessibility of sports facilities and over 65% of responses rated all three factors to be average to very good. Most comments received were regarding Millom recreation Centre where the building is perceived as dated, difficult to divide for use for multi-purpose sports, with poor car parking and difficult to access from street level. A list of desirable facilities was provided, all of which were requested for Millom and range from gymnastics and sprung sports hall floor to health and wellbeing and soft play and climbing wall. Comments were also included about the need for a swimming pool in Millom.

Neighbouring Local Authorities and Unitary Status

- 4.39 In determining the nature, level and location of sports facility provision required for the future in Copeland, it is also important to be aware of how neighbouring local authorities are planning for the future. Given that communities use sports facilities in areas other than where they live, the development of new or improved provision can impact significantly on both participation levels and capacity cross-boundary. Consultation with neighbouring local

authorities is summarised in paragraphs 4.40- 4.42..

- 4.40 Neighbouring local authorities provide sport and leisure facilities, and, given the geography of the local area in and around Copeland it is important to recognise that facilities outside Copeland may be more easily accessible or attractive to Copeland residents, for example Workington Leisure centre which opened in September 2016. Consultations have taken place with Allerdale BC and South Lakeland BC. Allerdale BC is in the early stages of developing a new shared football/rugby stadium in Workington; this is likely to have some community ancillary facilities along the lines of a synthetic pitch, but no detailed plans have been confirmed. Workington Academy has expressed a desire for a synthetic sports pitch but as far as the Council is aware, nothing has been confirmed.
- 4.41 South Lakeland is in the feasibility study stages of a replacement for facilities in Ulverston, which will also combine facilities currently provided at the GSK (Pharmaceuticals company). The Council has undertaken demand studies and recently design and construction feasibility studies and is currently addressing the funding requirements before being able to proceed with the project. The facility mix currently being considered 6 lane 25m Pool with wet change, 2 court sports hall, 60 station fitness suite plus dry change, flexible studio space, 2 outdoor grass pitches, and some refurbishment work. South Lakeland has also expressed a desire to investigate whether there are any efficiencies/benefits through Council joint working with GLL, who also manage SLDC facilities.
- 4.42 CBC is putting together a proposal to send to Government along with Allerdale, Carlisle and Eden local authorities which would form a single authority. There will be also be proposals put forward for a single authority to cover the Barrow/South Lakeland and Lancaster area and for the County Council for a single Cumbrian authority. A White Paper is in October 2020 which will set out the proposals across the country for consultation. It is therefore not anticipated that there will be an agreed unitary authority formed before the Local Plan is adopted in early 2022. The creation of a unitary authority provides an opportunity to look at leisure provision holistically across a much wider area and enable strategic planning for any future developments.

Assessment of Individual Facility Types

Sports Halls and Activity Halls

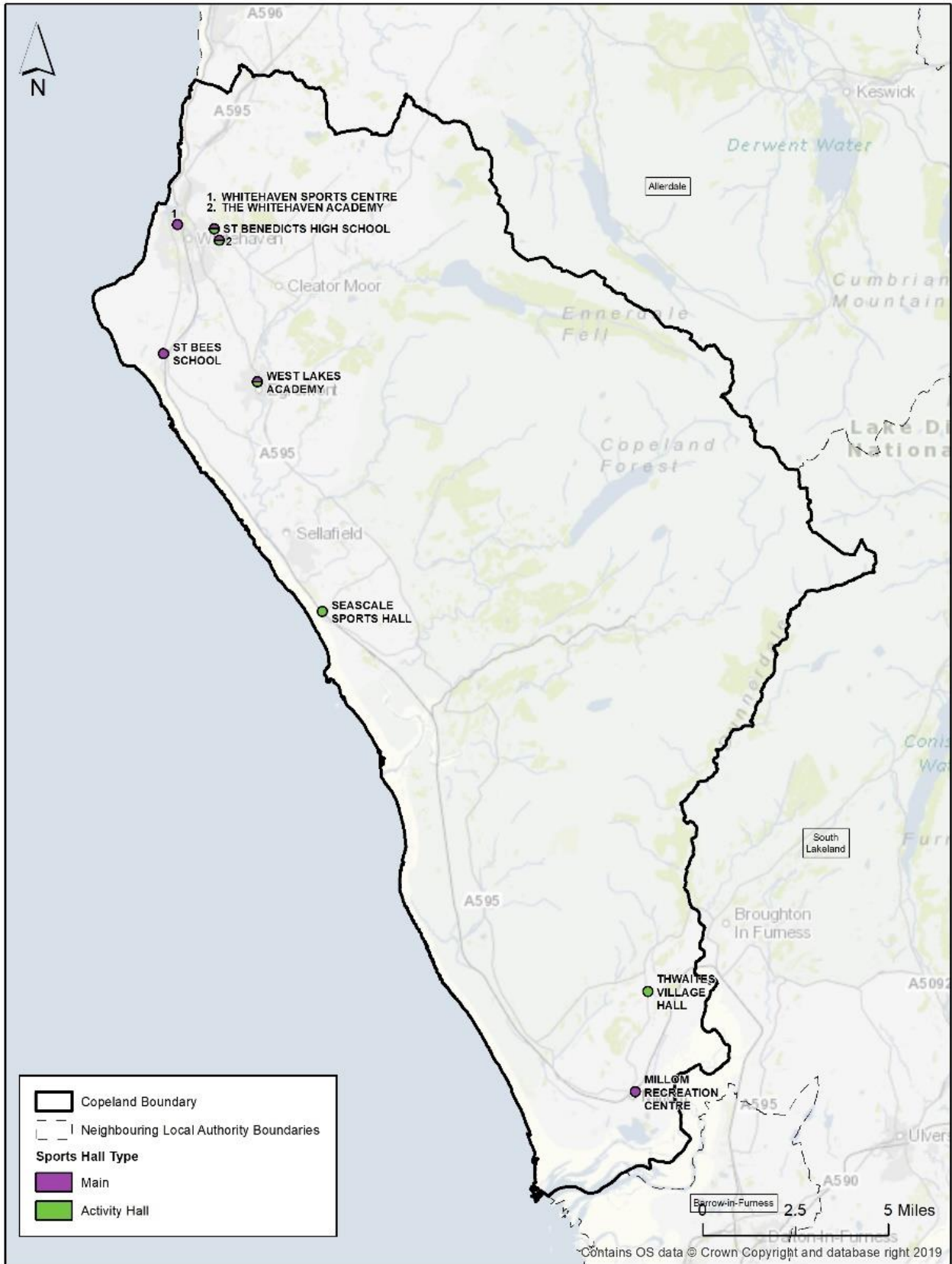
Quantity

- 4.43 The supply analysis identifies that Copeland has a total of 6 sports halls (strategic size 3+ courts) (refer to Map 4.1) and 7 activity halls (refer to Map 4.2). The sports halls and activity halls are provided across 9 sites. Appendix 7 details the sports hall supply and activity in Copeland taken from Active Places (Sport England) and additional research.
- 4.42 There are:
1. A total of 6 sports halls and 7 activity halls across 9 sites;
 2. 6 main halls in total (all strategic size i.e. 3 courts+);
- 4.43 The sports halls are operated and managed either through Copeland's leisure operator GLL or by a mix of schools/colleges.
- 4.44 Strategic size sports halls are shown in Appendix 7 and Table 4.4; those available for pay and play community usage are also shown in Table 4.4 with those available for pay and play community use highlighted in bold. Table 4.5 shows activity halls with those available for pay and play community use highlighted in bold.

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sports and Physical Activity Strategy

Map 4.1: Sports Hall sites in Copeland



Sports halls with community use availability by type in Copeland



Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sports and Physical Activity Strategy

Table 4.4: Supply of Sports Halls in Copeland

Site Name	Post Code	Facility Type	Facility Sub Type	Number Badminton Courts	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Pay and Play	Year Built	Year Refurbished
Whitehaven Sports Centre	CA28 7RJ	Sports Hall	Main	9	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Contractor	✓	1976	2007
Millom Recreation Centre	LA18 4AW	Sports Hall	Main	4	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Contractor	✓	1984	2003
West Lakes Academy	CA22 2DQ	Sports Hall	Main	6	Sports Club / Community Association	Academy	School/College		1990	2012
St Bees School	CA27 0DS	Sports Hall	Main	4	Sports Club / Community Association	Independent	School/College		1987	2007
Whitehaven Academy	CA28 8TY	Sports Hall	Main	6	Sports Club / Community Association	Academy	School/College			N/A
St Benedicts High School	CA28 8UG	Sports Hall	Main	4	Sports Club / Community Association	Voluntary Aided School	School/College		1976	2008

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sports and Physical Activity Strategy

4.45 Map 4.2 shows the 6 sports halls which are available for pay and play (facilities in bold) and community use.

4.46 4 of the 6 strategic size sports halls are on education sites.

4.47 In addition to the formal sports halls, there are 7 activity halls (Table 4.5 below).

Table 4.5: Supply of Activity Halls in Copeland

Site Name	Post Code	Facility Type	Facility Sub Type	Number Badminton Courts	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Pay and Play	Year Built	Year Refurbished
St Bees School	CA27 0DS	Sports Hall	Activity Hall	1	Private use	Independent school	School/college		1987	n/a
Black Combe Junior School	LA18 5DT	Sports Hall	Activity Hall	1	Private use	Community School	School/college		1971	n/a
Seascale Sports Hall	CA20 1PZ	Sports Hall	Activity Hall	1	Sports Club/ Community Association	Local authority	Community organisation		1982	n/a
West Lakes Academy	CA22 2DQ	Sports Hall	Activity Hall	1	Sports Club/ Community Association	Academies	School/College/University (in house)		1990	n/a
Whitehaven Academy	CA28 8TY	Sports Hall	Activity Hall	1	Sports Club/ Community Association	Academies	School/College/University (in house)			n/a

Copeland Borough Council
A 10 Year Sports and Physical Activity Strategy

Site Name	Post Code	Facility Type	Facility Sub Type	Number Badminton Courts	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Pay and Play	Year Built	Year Refurbished
St Benedicts High School	CA28 8UG	Sports Hall	Activity Hall	0	Sports Club / Community Association	Voluntary aided school	School/College		1976	N/A
Thwaites Village Hall	LA18 5HZ	Sports Hall	Activity Hall	1	Sports Club / Community Association	Community organisation	Community organisation		2000	N/A

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sports and Physical Activity Strategy

4.48 The identified activity halls are highlighted because they are on a site included in the Sport England Active Places audit and most are those located on a site where there is also a sports hall offering community access (typically an education site) for sport/physical activity. These activity halls are part of a larger network of community halls in Copeland.

Map 4.2: Activity Halls in Copeland



Activity halls by community use availability in Copeland



Quality

4.49 Detailed quality assessments were undertaken on all the CBC's indoor sports facilities (January 2020) by way of a site visit and visual assessment of the facilities. These are provided in Appendix 2 (2a – 2n) and are summarised in Table 4.6. Black Combe Junior School and West Lakes Academy were visited but it was not possible to get access to the sites.

Table 4.6: Summary of the Quality Assessment of Copeland leisure facilities

Facility Name	Quality Score	Commentary
Whitehaven Sports Centre	Average	Squash courts and functional room all unusable due to water damage and no plan to be repaired and brought back into use. Refurbishment of weight training area, addition of soft play in recent years. Centre is in need of refurbishment to improve quality of provision.
Millom Recreation Centre	Average	Facility in need of major refurbishment, predominantly used as gymnastics centre
West Lakes Academy	Unable to access	
St Bees School	Good	Sports hall is available for hire 7 days a week - and can be booked through schoolhire.co.uk or by calling the school directly. This can include badminton, football, cricket nets, basketball, volleyball and netball
Whitehaven Academy	Poor	£20m has been pledged to build new school site on top of the old one, demolition to start 2020, new school with new sporting facilities expected in 2021
St Benedict's High School	Excellent	Originally opened in 1976, a refurb in 2008 and now has a brand new development, which opened in July 2019 Campus Whitehaven shared sporting facilities between Mayfield and St Benedict's School Currently building new sports facilities next to 4g pitches Access to public after 5pm
Black Combe Junior School	Unable to access	
Seascale Sports Hall	Good	Built in 2017, fitness and activity hall

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sports and Physical Activity Strategy

Facility Name	Quality Score	Commentary
Thwaites Village Hall	Average	1 badminton court size, used for bowling, badminton and general activities/events. No sprung floor. Also, a supper room, kitchen facility. Well used by community. Snooker room and darts. Moderate investment required.

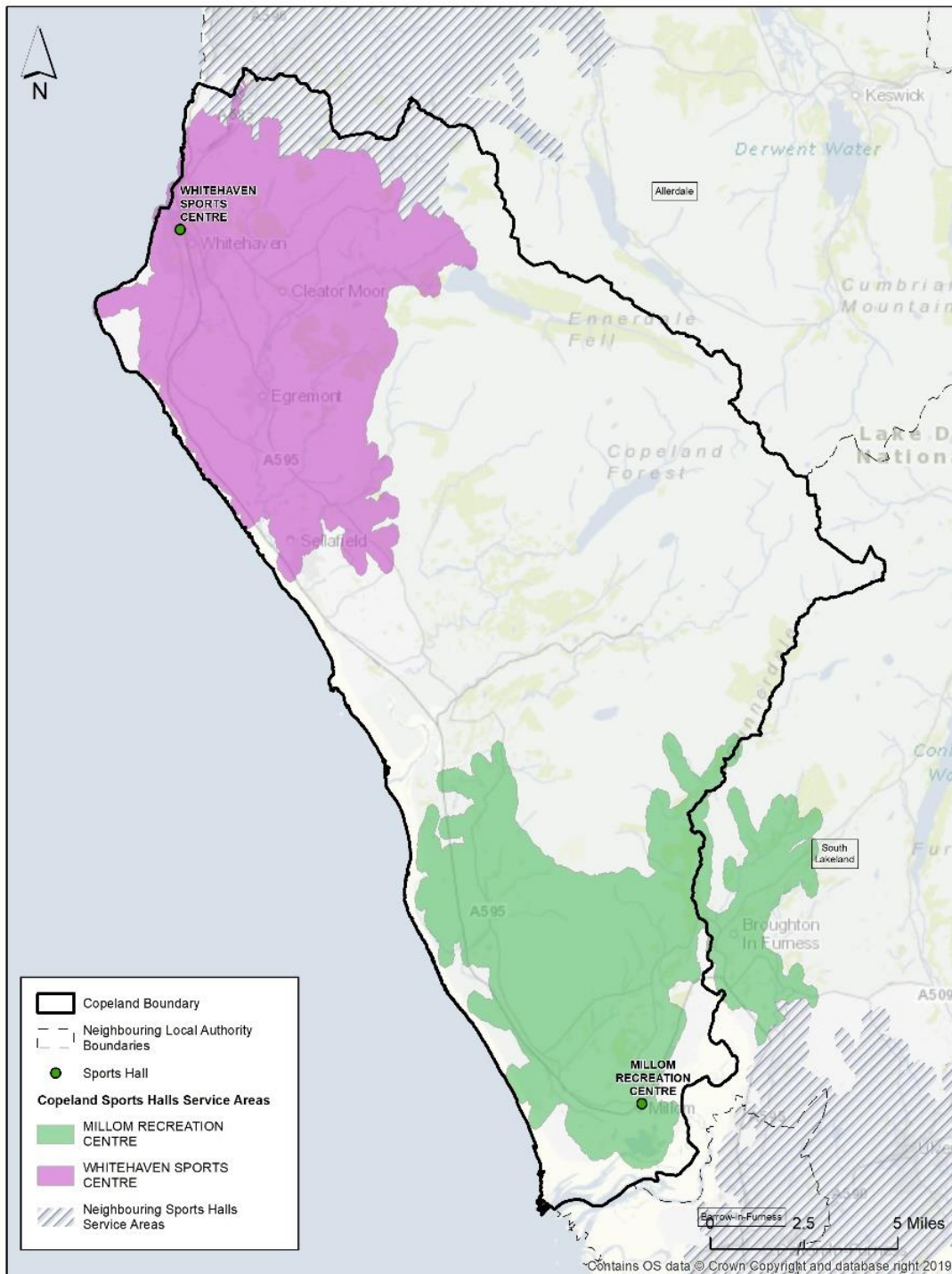
4.50 The activity halls across Copeland are in average/good condition. The average age of sports halls in Copeland is 35 years. The average age span of a public sports facility is 35 – 40 years.

4.51 The activity halls vary in age from 1971 to 2000.

Accessibility

4.52 Map 4.3. shows the geographic distribution of the strategic size pay and play community access sports halls in Copeland, with a catchment area for each of 20 minutes' drive time. (20-minute drivetime (private car)). The 20-minute drive time catchment area of the existing pay and play community sports halls does not cover the whole Copeland Borough area and therefore areas of Copeland are not serviced by an accessible sports hall.

Map 4.3: Sports Halls with Pay and Play Community Use Catchment areas in Copeland (20 mins drive time)



Sports halls with pay and play access service areas in Copeland (up to 20 minutes drive time)



Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sports and Physical Activity Strategy

- 4.53 Existing transport in Copeland is limited, due to the rural nature and physical constraints of its location. The only primary A-road in the borough is the A595, which travels the length of the borough, however there is a potential opportunity for a new Eastern Link Road that will run to the east of Whitehaven. Bus services through Copeland are quite limited and can be quite lengthy due to the nature of the roads in the area. Services are more frequent in the north between Whitehaven and its surrounds and Workington and Maryport to the north and there are services between Millom and Barrow-in-Furness as well. However, services between Whitehaven and Millom, stopping at the villages in between are limited
- 4.54 The numbers of people who own a car is higher than the national average, with 46% of the population travelling 30km or less to work by car.
- 4.55 A journey from Whitehaven to Millom takes approximately 50 minutes by train, from Whitehaven to Carlisle approximately 75 minutes and from Millom to Barrow-in-Furness approximately 35 minutes.
- 4.56 The percentage of the population with or without access to a car is important, because it influences travel patterns to sports halls. If there is a high percentage of the population with access to a car, as there is in Copeland then more visits to sports halls are by car. If the reverse is true, then a network of locally accessible sports halls is important for residents who either walk or use public transport to travel to a sports hall.
- 4.57 The findings for Copeland from Sport England's Facility Planning Model are that 81% of visits to sports halls are by car (up to 20 minutes' drive time), 10% of all visits by walking (20 minutes/1-mile catchment area), and 9% of visits are by public transport (20 minutes catchment area).
- 4.58 It is therefore important to ensure that access is available to sports halls by foot and public transport. As so few sports halls provide community use in the daytime, it is important that those that do provide good access are open for long hours and are affordable to optimise opportunities for participation in sport and physical activity.
- 4.59 Accessibility to activity halls varies across Copeland, given their locations. Activity halls attract far more local use, given that many of them are used for a wide range of activities, including sport and physical activity, arts, community, meetings, lunches, playgroups, events. Many are not marked out as badminton courts so provide informal multi-purpose space which can be used for a wide range of community activities.

Availability

- 4.60 Table 4.4 and Map 4.3 highlight that there is a good level of sports hall and activity hall provision in Copeland. However, the majority are on education sites and some only provide for sports club/association use (usually outside of school hours). Whilst a community access sports hall would typically be open from 7am – 10pm weekdays and 9am – 6pm weekends, a facility on an education site, if open for community use will be open from 6pm – 10pm and at weekends. Opening hours for community halls vary significantly depending on how they are operated but they would typically not be open for as many hours as a community access sports hall.

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sports and Physical Activity Strategy

- 4.61 Of the 6 strategic size sports halls 2 provide all day accessible daytime use. The rest of the centres do not offer access to a strategic size sports hall during the day, because these sports halls are on education sites.
- 4.62 Overall, although there are a number of sports halls in Copeland, access is limited because the majority of sports halls are on education sites without formal community use arrangements. The community access sports halls are open for a good number of hours and are well-used, indicating that for many people access is affordable.
- 4.63 A further aspect of accessibility is programming, opening hours and whether facilities offer community pay and play access. Most of the education sites offer community access on a play and pay basis, the remaining schools allow for sports clubs and associations only.
- 4.64 Not everyone is, can be, or wants to be a member of a sports club, so this type of access does not actually provide for the whole community, and is unlikely to address the needs of the most inactive, or those from the areas of highest deprivation, who are also likely to be those experiencing significant health inequalities.
- 4.65 Access to informal community centre halls is important to ensure access to physical activity opportunities, when there are fewer formal facilities available.
- 4.66 There is therefore an important role for the existing community centre informal hall space across Copeland, in providing physical activity opportunities for specific ethnic/religious communities and those who may choose not to access formal sports facilities. There is also potential to increase capacity for community access pay play usage of existing education-based facilities, which provide for sports clubs and associations.

National Governing Bodies (NGB's)

- 4.67 Consultation was undertaken with National Governing Bodies (NGB's), to identify their views on the need for sports hall provision in Copeland. The views of NGBs (representing sports hall sports) who responded are included in Appendix 3. Unfortunately, there was no response from cricket and volleyball.
- 4.68 The key issues are: badminton has a key aim to support the national development programmes and would particularly like to work with Whitehaven SC to deliver these activities; gymnastics is supporting MRC club to deliver a dedicated gymnastics facility and a proposal from Whitehaven SC to provide a specialist facility there but unfortunately do not have any capital available. Indoor bowls is very keen to see the facility at Cleator Moor retained and would like to see a commitment from the Council and the operator that this will continue, especially given the growing elderly population in the district. Netball identified that access to facilities is expensive at Whitehaven SC, particularly when compared to Workington. Squash England would like to see investment in the current facilities to maintain current participation numbers; there are currently courts out of action at Whitehaven SC which requires major refurbishment of the floors to enable squash to be played there (there are also potential plans to co-locate musculoskeletal (msk) services from the health service at the leisure centre where the squash courts are currently). Tennis is keen to see a community facility comprising 4 outdoor courts provided in the Whitehaven area.

4.69 Swimming has identified that key investment or replacement is required for Copeland pool. The NGB has a strategic plan to develop strong swimming pathways and a wide range of pool-based activities; in Copeland the NGB staff are willing to work with operators to achieve this and to provide funding to grow and develop clubs

Sport England Facility Planning Model (FPM)

4.70 Strategic Leisure was provided with Sport England's Facilities Planning Model National Run Report (April 2020 based on National Run data) for sports hall provision in Copeland. The FPM analysis is based on 6 sports hall facilities and 2 activity halls, because the FPM includes strategic size and 1 court sports halls that are on the same site. Overall, the FPM and the supply and demand analysis include the same facilities, although they are categorised differently i.e. the supply and demand analysis looks at sports halls (6) and activity halls (7), (including the 2 activity halls categorised as sports halls in the FPM, Whitehaven Academy and St Benedict's).

4.71 The population of Copeland is 68,400 people (2018 mid-term population estimate, Cumbria Intelligence Observatory); for the purposes of the FPM Sport England has used the exact figure of 68,373 this population generates a sports hall demand for 5,335 visits in the weekly peak period of weekday evenings (up to 5 hours per day) and weekend days (up to 7 hours per weekend day). The demand in the weekly peak period equates to a total demand for 18.4 badminton courts. The FPM states a current supply of 24.8 courts during this weekly peak period giving a supply demand balance of 6.4 courts (exceeds demand by this number of courts).

4.72 The full and detailed FPM report is included at Appendix 6.

Sports Halls

4.73 The Sport England FPM report sets out an assessment of the current situation regarding sports hall supply, based on a 2018 population of 68,400 (actual figure used 68,373)

1. There are 8 individual sports halls (6 sports halls and 2 activity halls) located on 6 sites within Copeland Borough. The total supply of sports halls in badminton courts, is 37 courts, of which 25 are available in the weekly peak period for community use.
2. There are two public leisure centre sports hall sites: Millom Recreation Centre (4 badminton court main hall); and Whitehaven Sports Centre (9 badminton courts). There are four sports hall sites which are owned by educational institutions. The largest education sports hall site is The Whitehaven Academy which has a 6 badminton court main hall, plus a one badminton court activity hall. The other 3 education sports hall sites each have a 4 badminton court size main hall: St Bees School; St Benedict's School (also with a one badminton court size activity hall); and West Lakes Academy.

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sports and Physical Activity Strategy

3. The variable education policy and hours for community use of the school venues, is the reason why the total supply of sports halls is 37 badminton courts, but the supply available for community use, is 25 badminton courts, in the weekly peak period. In effect, there is an aggregate total of 12 badminton courts, across the education sites, which are unavailable for community use, this represents 32% of the total supply of badminton courts in Copeland Borough.
4. The average age of the six sports hall sites is 35 years.
5. Five of the six sports hall sites have been modernised and the only unmodernised sports hall is Whitehaven Academy. (Modernisation is defined as one or more of the sports hall floors upgraded to a sprung timber floor, the sports hall lighting replaced, or the changing accommodation modernised).
6. The population of Copeland Borough generates a demand for 18.4 badminton courts in the weekly peak period. This compares to a supply of 24.8 badminton courts which are available for community use in the weekly peak period. So, the Copeland Borough supply exceeds the Copeland Borough demand by 6.4 badminton courts.
7. The total supply of sports halls is 37 badminton courts, and so the total supply of badminton courts exceeds the Copeland demand by 18.6 badminton courts overall.
8. Copeland Borough satisfied demand is 87% of the total demand for sports halls. This means this level of total demand for sports halls is located within the catchment area of a sports hall, and there is enough capacity at the venues to meet this level of total demand. It is a very high level of the total demand for sports halls which can be met.
9. The location and catchment area of the sports hall sites in the Borough are closely correlated with the location of the Copeland demand for sports halls. On the assumption that residents use the nearest sports hall to where they live, then the nearest sports hall for over nine out of ten visits to a sports hall by a Copeland resident, is a venue located in the Borough.
10. Total unmet demand is 13.1% of total demand for sports halls which equates to just 2.4 badminton courts. The unmet demand definition has two parts to it - demand for sports halls which cannot be met because (1) there is too much demand for any particular sports hall within its catchment area; or (2) the demand is located outside the catchment area of a sports hall and is then classified as unmet demand. Of the total unmet demand all 100% is unmet demand located outside the catchment area of a sports hall which is due to the rural nature of Copeland, where there are lots of dispersed small settlements. The unmet demand outside of the catchment of a sports hall is just 2.4 badminton courts across the whole of Copeland; there does not appear to be enough unmet demand in any cluster location of population to consider increasing provision of sports halls to improve accessibility for residents.

Supply and Demand Analysis

4.74 Table 4.7 summarises the overall supply and demand analysis for sports halls and activity halls in Copeland.

Table 4.7: Summary Analysis – Sports Hall and Activity Hall Supply and Demand

Facility Type	Assessment Findings						
Sports Halls							
Quantity	There are currently 6 sports halls sites in Copeland (+3 courts and above) and 7 activity halls. 2 sports halls offer pay and play access and 4 offer community use for clubs and organisations;						
	Future Demand						
	Housing development and population growth in Copeland will increase demand for sports hall provision. Using the SFC it is possible to estimate overall future demand for provision of sports halls, based on this population increase.						
	Modelled scenarios	Popn ONS 2018	Total housing completions 2017-2019 popn ²⁰	SNPP 2014 60 new dwellings pa for 15 years popn ²¹	SHMA 140 new dwellings pa for 15 years popn ²²	SHMA 200 new dwellings pa for 15 years popn ²³	TOTAL POPN
	Scenario 1	68,400	948	2,160			71,508
Scenario 2	68,400	948		5,040		74,388	
Scenario 3	68,400	948			7,200	76,548	
	In summary, future demand decrease the current over-supply of 4 badminton courts as follows:						
Scenario	Current over-Supply of Badminton Courts 2020	Unmet Demand for Badminton Courts 2020	Future Additional Demand for Badminton Courts By 2035	Total over Supply of Badminton Courts By 2035			
Scenario 1 population increase to 71,508	6.4	2.4	0.83	3.17			
Scenario 2 population increase to 74,388	6.4	2.4	1.61	2.39			

²⁰ 395 houses completed from 2017-2019 x 2.4 average household = 948

²¹ SNPP 2014 60 dwellings pa x 15 years (=900) x 2.4 average household size (=2160)

²² Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) 140 dwellings pa x 15 years (=2,100) x 2.4 average household size (=5,040)

²³ Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) 200 dwellings pa x 15 years (=3,000) x 2.4 average household size (=7,200)

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sports and Physical Activity Strategy

Facility Type	Assessment Findings				
Sports Halls					
	Scenario 3 population increase to 76,548	6.4	2.4	2.19	1.81
	<p>There is no identified need for additional badminton courts in any of the scenarios above. However, it should be noted that if plans to build a gymnastics centre at Whitehaven come to fruition then there would be a loss of 3-4 badminton courts which would then mean a potential undersupply in all of the scenarios, which should be factored in during facility planning.</p> <p>The unmet demand is a relatively low figure and of the total unmet demand all 100% is unmet demand located outside the catchment area of a sports hall which is due to the rural nature of Copeland, where there are lots of dispersed small settlements.</p> <p>Existing community access at education sites needs to be maintained as a minimum and secured wherever possible with a formal Community Use Agreement (CUA), given that the majority of sport halls facilities are on education sites.</p> <p>Any new sports halls developed on education sites should provide community access via a planning condition allowing for access to both individuals and clubs/groups.</p> <p>Existing sports halls currently unavailable for community access should be made available, where possible.</p> <p>NGBs and local sports clubs highlight:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Badminton England - it would be desirable for a development programme and/or club to be developed at Whitehaven SC. • Gymnastics – MRC club has plans to develop a specialist gymnastics facility (and Whitehaven Sports Centre) and are supported by the NGB. • Majority of the NGB's are supportive of developing sports development/coach education activities rather than identifying a need for more sports halls/badminton courts 				
Quality	<p>The average age of sports halls in Copeland is 35 years old.</p> <p>The quality of current provision is average, mainly due to the age of facilities.</p> <p>All were built prior to 1996, with the exception of St Benedicts High School which opened in 2019.</p>				
Accessibility	Geographically, strategic size sports halls are well distributed across Copeland.				

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sports and Physical Activity Strategy

Facility Type	Assessment Findings
Sports Halls	
	Overall, there is low unmet demand across Copeland for sports halls (2.4 badminton courts). There does not appear to be enough unmet demand in any cluster location of population to consider increasing provision of sports halls to improve accessibility for residents.
Availability	<p>In Copeland there is a high level of sports hall and activity hall provision. However, the majority of sports halls are on education sites, providing for sports club/association use, not pay and play access.</p> <p>The limited daytime access to sports hall provision highlights the importance of the community centres which are available during the day for clubs and pay and play use, particularly for the older population, or those without private transport.</p>

Community Halls

- 4.75 It is important to highlight that this Strategy is not just about formal sports facility provision, but also looks at opportunities for increased use of informal places and spaces. Increased use of outdoor sports facilities and playing pitches, open spaces, parks, recreation grounds, and community halls also has significant potential to contribute to increasing levels of participation in physical activity at a very local level, and to addressing rising levels of obesity and other health inequalities.
- 4.76 Community halls can be used for sport and physical activity even if they are not purpose designed nor marked for such use and can often provide an introductory experience of sport and physical activity, or a more accessible option for those who are older, have no access to private transport, or who have commitments which make it hard for them to travel to formal facilities.
- 4.77 As well as the identified activity halls, there is a range of other community halls/centres, provided by churches, community associations, etc. These are available for community use (however, usually groups/association/private run classes/sessions) but provide for far more than sport and physical activity. Typically, community halls will also be hired for dance classes, arts/crafts events and programmes, events meeting and social gatherings. There is a sports hall facility (2 badminton court size) which hosts the Whitehaven Harbour Youth Project. This organisation focuses on young people and provides activities such as table tennis, climbing, football and a range of outdoor pursuits. The group recently secured external funding to refurbish the hall and the climbing wall facility.
- 4.78 In addition, there are other community halls that offer sport and physical activity such as village halls. There is already some sport and physical activity being delivered in community halls across Copeland; there is an opportunity to increase awareness of this and to extend it, particularly where there are halls available, but no current physical activities take place and there is community access.

Swimming Pools

Quantity

4.75 There are 3 swimming pools in Copeland over 2 sites (see map 4.4). There is a main pool and teaching pool at Copeland Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre and a main pool at St Bees School, although this is 17metres in length. The pool at St Bees is not included in the Sport England Facility Planning Model (FPM) because it is less than 160 sq. m in size.

4.76 Similarly, there are two small pools on separate and private sites in the Millom area; one is at Brockwood Hall (small indoor pool), and the other is at Butterflies Holiday Park (small indoor pool).

Map 4.4: Swimming pools in Copeland



Swimming pools with community use availability by type in Copeland



Copeland Borough Council
A 10 Year Sports and Physical Activity Strategy

Table 4.8: Swimming Pools in Copeland

Site name	Post Code	Facility Type	Lanes	Length	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Pay and Play	Year Built	Year Refurbished
Copeland Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre	CA28 8RW	Swimming Pool	6	25m	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Commercial Management	✓	1986	1997
Copeland Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre	CA28 8RW	Swimming Pool (teaching pool)		13m x 9m	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Commercial Management	✓	1986	N/A
St Bees School	CA27 0D4	Swimming Pool	4	17m	Pay and Play	Other independent school	School/College	✓	1908	2009

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sports and Physical Activity Strategy

4.77 The analysis of the overall swimming pool supply in Copeland is as follows:

Table 4.9: Analysis of Swimming Pool Supply in Copeland

	No of Pools	No of sites
Total Number of Pools	3	2
Community Use Swimming Pools (pay and play and sports clubs/community associations)	3	2
Main Pools	2	2
Learner Pools	1	1
Diving Pools	0	0
Leisure pools	0	0
Education Sector (Sports Clubs and Associations)	0	0
Private Sector/Other	0	0

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sports and Physical Activity Strategy

Map 4.5: Community access Swimming Pools in Copeland



Swimming pools by community use availability in Copeland



Quality

4.78 Detailed quality assessments have been undertaken on all CBC pools in the borough; these are summarised in Appendix 2 (2a – 2n) and Table 4.10.

Table 4.10: Summary Qualitative Assessments- Swimming Pools

Facility	Overall Quantitative Score for Facility %	Qualitative Score for Swimming Pool	Need for Investment-Overall Facility
Copeland Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre (Main pool)	59% Average	Full disabled access in pool & fully fitted new changing facility (independent to main changing) available for online hire. Swimming pool built 1986, refurb date 1997	Moderate
Copeland Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre (teaching pool)	59% Average	Teaching pool available for lessons/parent and toddler swimming etc	Moderate
St Bees	76% Good	4 lane x 17m, 1.6m to 2.8m depth. Built in 1908, refurbished in 2009. Public swimming available evenings and weekends.	Minimal

4.79 CBC’s swimming pools are of reasonable quality with all 3 good/average.

Accessibility

4.80 22.4% of the population is without access to a car which reflects the rural nature of Copeland and the necessity for a car, a higher percentage of visits to pools by car would be expected, the drive time catchment area is 20 minutes travel time. It is also important to ensure that pools are as accessible as possible to those walking or using public transport. As a guide, Sport England recommend that catchment areas should be 10-minute walk time, and/or a 20-minute drivetime (private car). Clearly it is not possible to provide a swimming pool within 10 minutes’ walk time of all residents.

4.81 The findings for Copeland are that, 88% of all visits to pools are by car, with 4% of visits by walking and 8% of visits by public transport (all rounded and actuals in the satisfied demand table). Therefore, the majority of visits to pools are by car, but with 12%, or, one in eight visits to a swimming pool, by a combination of walking and public transport.

4.82 The Borough has an extensive land area that is very much shaped north to south; the findings on low travel patterns to the Copeland pool by walking and public transport are therefore not surprising. There is quite a limited relationship between the pool site location and the public transport areas, hence a greater reliance to travel to the pool site by car.

Copeland Borough Council

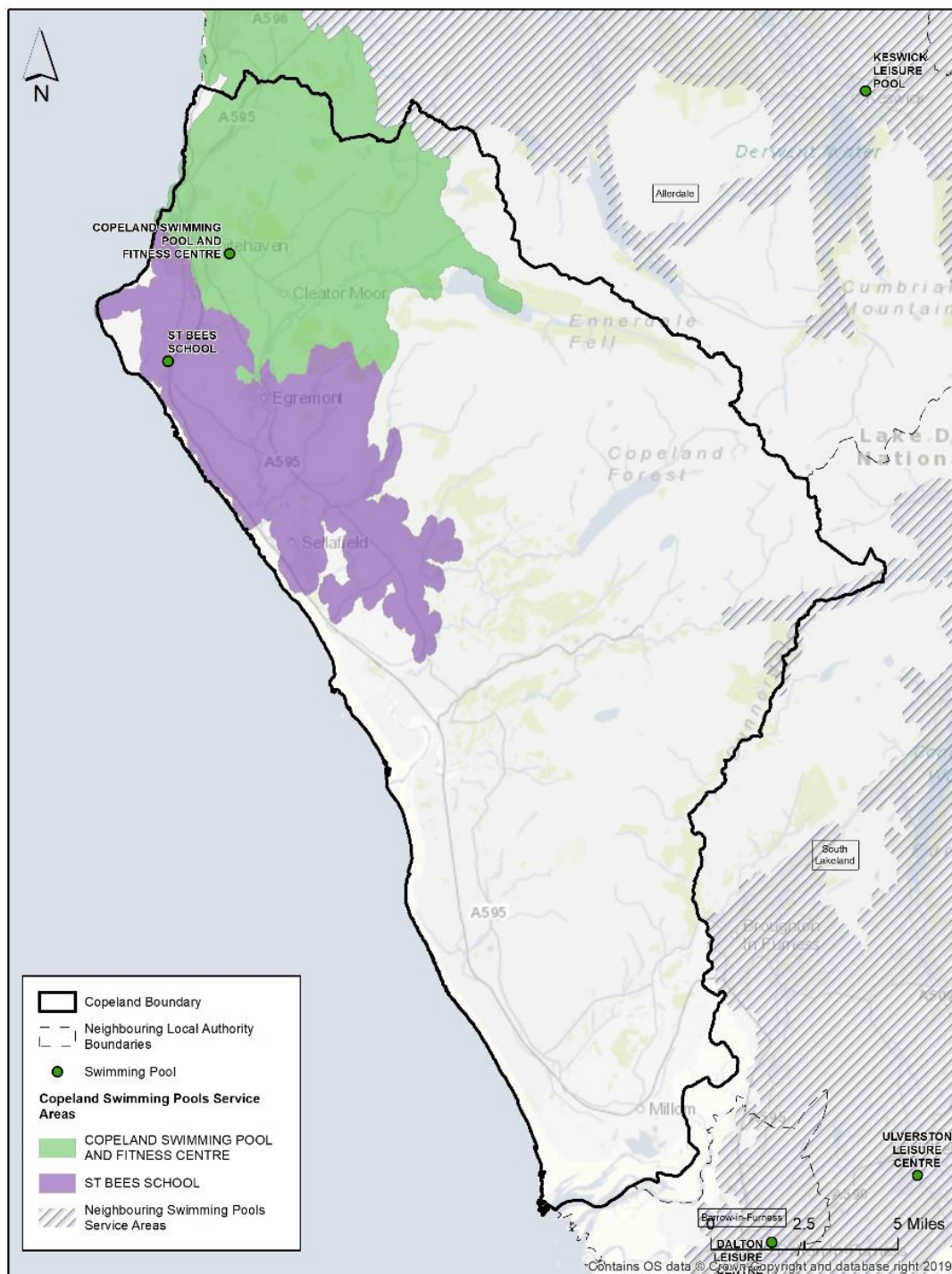
A 10 Year Sport and Physical Activity Strategy

- 4.83 Accessibility to the existing pay and play access pools is challenging for those who live in the south of the Borough, i.e. around the Millom area unless one has access to a private car. Public transport is extremely limited; there is no bus service to and from Millom and the train service is infrequent. To swim in Barrow involves a 25 mile round trip; to swim in Whitehaven involves a 40 mile round trip. There are therefore time, cost and travel barriers for many in the extreme south of the Borough in terms of access to swimming. Given swimming is a life skill, and areas along the coast such as Millom are surrounded by both coastal and inland water, learning to swim is important. This is discussed in more detail in Section 5, Analysis of swimming.
- 4.84 For those without access to private transport there are two small indoor pools in the Millom area; although these are both on private sites (see paragraph 4.72) they offer some limited access for pay and play use. This is used by some local people.

Availability

4.85 In terms of increasing community access to pools in Copeland, there are limited options. Improved access for the public to St Bees swimming pool would be beneficial. Copeland Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre can accommodate the full range of swimming activities of learn to swim, public recreational swimming, lane swimming and fitness swimming activities, and swimming development through clubs.

Map 4.6: Swimming Pools with Pay and Play Community Use Catchment areas in Copeland (20 mins drive time)



Swimming pools with pay and play access service areas in Copeland (up to 20 minutes drive time)



National Governing Bodies

- 4.86 Consultation was undertaken with Swim England, to identify their views on the need for swimming pool provision in Copeland. The views of Swim England are provided in Appendix 3, and below:
- 4.87 The current Copeland swimming pool is a 6 lane 25m deck level pool with a smaller, shallow “teaching pool”. It was built in the mid 1980’s and until very recently was used regularly for Cumbria county championships. The Copeland pool was once, arguably, the leading pool in the county with modern facilities and, for many years, the only electronic timing system in the county. This has now changed; it is now showing its age, is probably expensive to run, and has had some investment (provision of a fitness suite several years ago) but nothing really to the benefit of swimming. It still hosts the two longest running open competitions in the county, one round of the Cumbria Diddy League (for 9-11 year swimmers) and every 2-3 years the Cumbria winter meet (an open competition).
- 4.88 Swim England would support investment in provision of an energy efficient, modern swimming pool to replace the existing that would support the development of swimming across the county and in particular Copeland BC residents. Swim England will work with facility operators and within all sectors of the facility from Learn to Swim to School Swimming creating strong pathways to Club swimming. There is also an opportunity to grow other aquatic disciplines within the sport; Water polo and Artistic swimming (Synchronised Swimming), creating additional opportunities for Copeland residents.
- 4.89 Swim England could work with the operator to ensure pool programmes are maximised and that a range of programmes are available to increase patronage, these could include “Water Well-being”, and Disney Frozen Family fun session. Swim England would help to ensure a wide range of pool-based activities, utilising water space by bringing together many teams from within Swim England (including Health, Strategic Partnerships, Learn to Swim, School Swimming, and Clubs Development). Swim England North West has funds available to support the growth and development of clubs which is available to all clubs throughout the year.

Sport England Facility Planning Model (FPM)

- 4.90 Strategic Leisure was provided with Sport England’s Facilities Planning Model National Run Report (April 2020) for swimming pool provision in Copeland. The FPM analysis is based on 2 individual pool facilities on 1 swimming pool site across Copeland in 2020. NB the FPM does not recognise the pool at St Bees because it is 17m in length and not the required 25m.
- 4.91 The supply analysis identifies that there are 2 strategic sized swimming pools in Copeland at Copeland Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre – this has 2 individual pools, a 25m x 6 lane main pool and a 13m x 9m learner/teaching pool. The pool site opened in 1986, it is 34 years old and it was modernised in 1997.

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sport and Physical Activity Strategy

- 4.92 The public swimming offer at the Copeland site can provide for all the swimming activities of: learn to swim; casual recreational swimming; lane and aqua aerobics fitness swimming activities; and swimming development through clubs; and these activities can take place in dedicated pools.
- 4.93 Across the four local authorities in the Cumbrian area, which includes Copeland Borough, there are 17 swimming pool sites and 21 individual swimming pools. Allerdale and South Lakeland have the highest provision with 6 swimming pool sites and 7 individual swimming pools, whilst Barrow in Furness has 4 swimming pool sites and 5 individual pools.
- 4.94 Based on a Copeland population of 68,373, demand has been calculated at 4,072 visits in the weekly peak period of weekday lunchtimes (1 hour), weekday evenings (up to 5 hours per day) and weekend days (up to 7 hours per weekend day). This equates to a total demand for 676 sq. metres of water. (For context, a 25m x 4 lane pool is between 210 – 250 sq. metres of water, depending on individual lane width). The supply of water space during the peak period is 410 sq. m, and therefore demand exceeds supply by 266 sq. m.
- 4.95 The location and catchment area of the Copeland Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre is very well correlated with the location of the Borough's demand for swimming. This site is the nearest swimming pool site for 92% of the Borough's satisfied demand for swimming; the pool site location and catchment area are accessible to the location of the majority of the Copeland Borough demand for swimming.
- 4.96 65% of the total demand for swimming from Copeland Borough residents is satisfied/met. This is the level of the total demand for swimming, located inside the catchment area of a swimming pool which is accessible to Copeland Borough residents, based on where Copeland residents live, and the 20 minute drive time catchment area of the pool locations outside the Borough.
- 4.97 Given the extensive north to south area of the Borough and the pool being located in the top northwest, there are areas of the Borough which are outside the drive time catchment area of the swimming pool site and this is classified as unmet demand. This unmet demand equates to a total of 237 sq. metres of water but it is NOT clustered in any one location with an unmet demand of least 160 sq. metres of water (and which would equate to a 20m x 4 lane pool), to consider further swimming pool provision so as to increase accessibility to swimming pools for Borough residents.
- 4.98 Undoubtedly residents for whom swimming is an important lifestyle choice, and who live in areas other than Whitehaven, will travel further than 20 minutes' drive time catchment area to swim, such as residents in Millom. However, the unmet demand for swimming in the Millom area only equates to between 60 – 75 sq. metres of water.
- 4.99 The estimated used capacity of the Copeland Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre is 69% of pool capacity used in the weekly peak period which is just below the Sport England benchmark of pools being comfortably full, at 70% of pool capacity used in the weekly peak period. The FPM findings are that there is scope to increase the usage of the pool site, but the individual pools will become fuller more often, and may discourage some participation.

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sport and Physical Activity Strategy

- 4.100 Management of the pool programme and usage over the peak period (week day lunchtimes (1 hour), weekday evenings (up to 5 hours per day) and weekend days (up to 7 hours per weekend day), to encourage more use outside the peak period and accommodate the most popular activities in the peak period, can stagger the usage, whilst still retaining a very high level of usage overall.
- 4.101 Copeland Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre is 34 years and was modernised in 1997. A condition survey may show there is a business case for further modernisation, or, possibly replacement of the swimming pool. The FPM findings would support a main pool of 25m x 6 lanes and possibly a larger teaching/learner pool of 120 sq. metre of water
- 4.102 Table 4.11 summarises the overall supply and demand analysis for swimming pools in Copeland.

Table 4.11: Summary Analysis – Swimming Pool Supply and Demand

Facility Type	Assessment Findings
Swimming Pools	
Quantity	<p>There are 3 swimming pools in Copeland, Copeland Pool (main pool and learner pool) and a pool located at St Bees School (which is not included in the FPM due to the length of the pool not meeting standard requirements).</p> <p>Copeland Swimming pool provides pay and play community access to swimming pool provision in Copeland 7 days a week, however there is public access to St Bees School for swimming and this is referenced in the model for future provision below.</p> <p>The estimated used capacity of the Copeland Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre is 69% of pool capacity used in the weekly peak period which is just below the Sport England benchmark of pools being comfortably full, at 70% of pool capacity used in the weekly peak period.</p> <p>Current Demand</p> <p>Based on a Copeland population of 68,373, demand has been calculated at 4,072 visits in the weekly peak period of weekday lunchtimes (1 hour), weekday evenings (up to 5 hours per day) and weekend days (up to 7 hours per weekend day). This equates to a total demand for 676 sq. metres of water. (For context, a 25m x 4 lane pool is between 210 – 250 sq. metres of water, depending on individual lane width). The supply of water space during the peak period is 410 sq. m, and therefore demand exceeds supply by 266 sq. m.</p> <p>Given the extensive north to south area of the Borough and the pool being located in the top northwest, there are areas of the Borough which are outside the drive time catchment area of the swimming pool site and this is classified as unmet demand. This unmet demand equates to a total of 237 sq. metres of water but it is NOT clustered in any one location with an unmet demand of least 160 sq. metres of water (and which would equate to a 20m x 4 lane pool), to consider further swimming pool provision so as to increase accessibility to swimming pools for Borough residents.</p>

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sport and Physical Activity Strategy

Facility Type	Assessment Findings																																																								
Swimming Pools	<p>Undoubtedly residents for whom swimming is an important lifestyle choice, and who live in areas other than Whitehaven, will travel further than 20 minutes' drive time catchment area to swim, such as residents in Millom. However, the unmet demand for swimming in the Millom area only equates to between 60 – 75 sq. metres of water.</p> <p>Future Demand</p> <p>Three scenarios have been developed to identify increased demand for swimming as a result of increased population from new housing developments (the final column includes St Bees pool):</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Modelled scenarios</th> <th>Popn ONS 2018</th> <th>Total housing completions 2017-2019 popn²⁴</th> <th>SNPP 2014 60 new dwellings pa for 15 years popn²⁵</th> <th>SHMA 140 new dwellings pa for 15 years popn²⁶</th> <th>SHMA 200 new dwellings pa for 15 years popn²⁷</th> <th>TOTAL POPN</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Scenario 1</td> <td>68,400</td> <td>948</td> <td>2,160</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>71,508</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Scenario 2</td> <td>68,400</td> <td>948</td> <td></td> <td>5,040</td> <td></td> <td>74,388</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Scenario 3</td> <td>68,400</td> <td>948</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>7,200</td> <td>76,548</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Housing development and population growth in Copeland will increase demand for swimming pool provision. As an indication (using the Sports Facility Calculator (SFC), it is possible to estimate overall future demand for provision of swimming pools, based on this population increase.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Scenario</th> <th>Current Supply of Water Space 2020</th> <th>Under Water</th> <th>Unmet Demand for Water Space 2020</th> <th>Future Demand for Additional Water Space by 2035 (SFC) Population Growth</th> <th>Total Under-Supply and unmet demand of Water Space By 2035</th> <th>With St Bees 119 sq. m</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Scenario 1 population increase to 71,508</td> <td>-266 sq. m</td> <td></td> <td>-237 sq. m</td> <td>30.85 sq. m</td> <td>-533.85</td> <td>-414.85</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Scenario 2 population increase to 74,388</td> <td>-266 sq. m</td> <td></td> <td>-237 sq. m</td> <td>59.47 sq. m</td> <td>-562.47</td> <td>-443.47</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Scenario 3 population increase 76,548</td> <td>-266 sq. m</td> <td></td> <td>-237 sq. .m</td> <td>80.92 sq. m</td> <td>-583.92</td> <td>-464.92</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Modelled scenarios	Popn ONS 2018	Total housing completions 2017-2019 popn ²⁴	SNPP 2014 60 new dwellings pa for 15 years popn ²⁵	SHMA 140 new dwellings pa for 15 years popn ²⁶	SHMA 200 new dwellings pa for 15 years popn ²⁷	TOTAL POPN	Scenario 1	68,400	948	2,160			71,508	Scenario 2	68,400	948		5,040		74,388	Scenario 3	68,400	948			7,200	76,548	Scenario	Current Supply of Water Space 2020	Under Water	Unmet Demand for Water Space 2020	Future Demand for Additional Water Space by 2035 (SFC) Population Growth	Total Under-Supply and unmet demand of Water Space By 2035	With St Bees 119 sq. m	Scenario 1 population increase to 71,508	-266 sq. m		-237 sq. m	30.85 sq. m	-533.85	-414.85	Scenario 2 population increase to 74,388	-266 sq. m		-237 sq. m	59.47 sq. m	-562.47	-443.47	Scenario 3 population increase 76,548	-266 sq. m		-237 sq. .m	80.92 sq. m	-583.92	-464.92
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²⁷ Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) 200 dwellings pa x 15 years (=3,000) x 2.4 average household size (=7,200)

Copeland Borough Council
A 10 Year Sport and Physical Activity Strategy

Facility Type	Assessment Findings
Swimming Pools	
	<p>225 sq. m is equivalent to a 4 lanes x 25m pool.</p> <p>Scenario 1 –Under supply in 2035 of -414.85 sq. m of water space .</p> <p>Scenario 2 – Undersupply in 2035 of approx. -443.47 sq. m of water space.</p> <p>Scenario 3 – Undersupply in 2035 of approx. -464.92 sq. m of water space</p> <p>The unmet demand identified in the FPM is not significant; it is predominantly due to location i.e. people living outside the catchment area of a pool in their district/borough. This type of unmet demand will always exist and does not necessarily have to be met as other facilities might be nearer/more accessible for those people outside the 20min drivetime within the borough/district. The FPM findings would support a main pool of 25m x 6 lanes and possibly a larger teaching/learner pool of 120 sq. metre of water. However, if the 119 sq. m of water space at St Bees is taken into account (not included in FPM but is included in SFC) the undersupply of water space becomes considerably less i.e in scenario 3 – 464.92 sq. m by 2035. This level of undersupply equates to 2.19 x 4 lane x 25m pools. sq. m. However, in considering the need for additional water space in Copeland it is critical to factor in the scale of the Borough, the population distribution, and the ability of the more rural populations to generate sufficient use, and therefore income, to support the operation of a pool. As stated in the FPM, there is no one community in Copeland that demands more water space than another, so if any additional water space is provided, it must be sustainable. For this reason, it is that provision of smaller pools is more appropriate within communities of circa 10,000 population e.g. Millom, where the need for water space may be an aspiration but a sustainable business case is hard to justify. Potentially this approach could be eligible for a ‘Leisure Local’ funding application from Sport England. Alternatively Mayfield Special School could well benefit from the use of such a pool if it was located in close proximity to their site.</p>
Quality	CBC’s swimming pools are of reasonable quality with all 3 good/average with minimal to moderate investment required.
Accessibility	88% of all visits to pools are by car, with 4% of visits by walking and 8% of visits by public transport (all rounded and actuals in the satisfied demand table). Therefore, the majority of visits to pools are by car, but with 12%, or, one in eight visits to a swimming pool, by a combination of walking and public transport; given the rural nature of the borough these findings on low travel patterns to Copeland pool by walking and public transport are therefore not surprising. There is limited public transport to Copeland Pool, hence a greater reliance to travel to the pool site by car.
Availability	Copeland Swimming Pool provides pay and play community access to swimming pool provision in Copeland 7 days a week, however there is public access to St Bees School for swimming and improved public access here would be beneficial. Copeland Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre can accommodate the full range of swimming activities of learn to swim, public recreational swimming, lane swimming and fitness swimming activities, and swimming development through clubs.

Health and Fitness Facilities

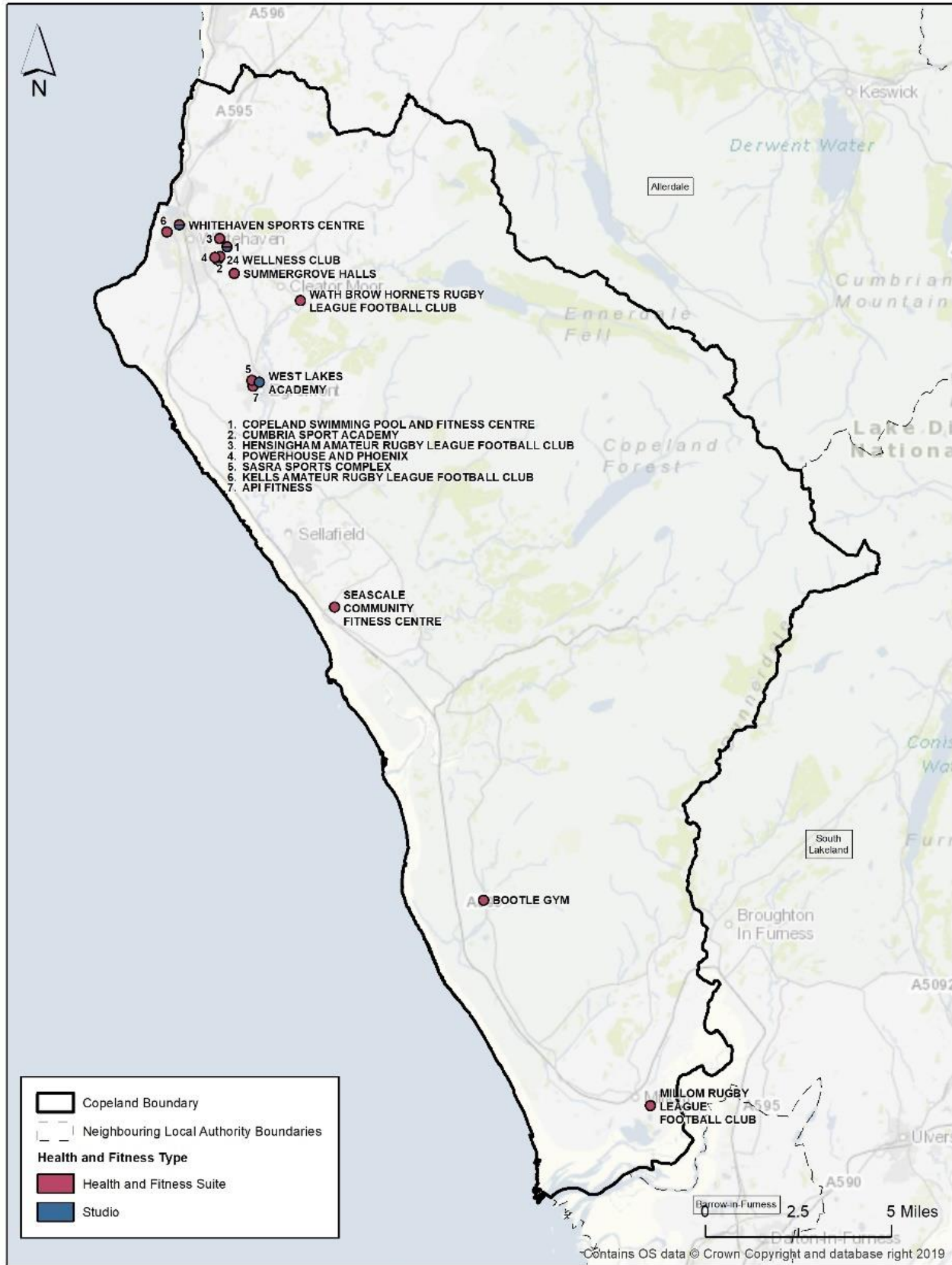
Quantity

- 4.103 A station is a piece of static fitness equipment; health and fitness centres, with over 20 stations are generally able to make a more attractive offer to both members and pay and play users.
- 4.104 The 2019 state of UK Industry report reveals that the membership penetration rate is 15.6%, so one in every 7 people over the age of 16 in the UK is a member of a gym.
- 4.105 The supply analysis identifies that overall there are 16 health and fitness suites in Copeland. In total, the fitness suites provide 437 fitness stations. All fitness suite facilities require some form of payment/membership payment before use, and an induction is required.
- 4.106 There is a reasonable amount of fitness suite provision in Copeland borough. 3 are owned by CBC and managed and operated by GLL (Whitehaven Sports Centre, Copeland Pool and Fitness Centre and Cleator Moor Activity Centre); 2 are private gyms, Summergrovel Hall is also commercially managed, 7 are managed through sports clubs/associations, and 1 is managed by Cumbria Sport Academy.
- 4.107 In Copeland the only pay and play facilities are Whitehaven Sports Centre, Copeland Pool and Fitness Centre, Cumbria Sport Academy, and Summergrove Halls. These facilities do offer memberships.
- 4.108 All fitness suite facilities in the borough. are shown in Table 4.12 and illustrated in Map 4.7.

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Map 4.7: Health and Fitness Facilities in Copeland



Health and fitness facilities with community use availability by type in Copeland



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A 10 Year Sports And Physical Activity Strategy

Table 4.12: Fitness Facilities (Fitness Suites) in Copeland

Site Name	Post Code	Facility Type	Number of Stations	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Pay and Play Community Access facilities	Year Built	Year Refurbished
Cumbria Sport Academy	CA28 8SD	Health and Fitness Suite	15	Pay and Play	Other	Other	✓	1989	2007
Summergrove Halls	CA28 8XZ	Health and Fitness Suite	8	Private	Commercial	Commercial	✓	2014	n/a
API fitness	CA22 2BD	Health and Fitness Suite	40	Private use	Commercial	Private Use		1999	2003
SASRA sports complex (Winscale Squash and Fitness Centre)	CA22 2QN	Health and Fitness Suite	28	Club members	Sports Club	Sports Club		2001	2006
Wath Brow Hornets Rugby League FC	CA23 3EW	Health and Fitness Suite	20	Club members	Sports Club	Sports Club		2004	N/A
Whitehaven Sports centre	CA28 7RJ	Health and Fitness Suite	74	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Contractor	✓	1976	2014
Powerhouse and Phoenix	CA28 8PF	Health and Fitness Suite	91	Private	Commercial	Commercial		2000	2017
Copeland Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre	CA28 8RW	Health and Fitness Suite	30	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Contractor	✓	2014	n/a

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sports And Physical Activity Strategy

Site Name	Post Code	Facility Type	Number of Stations	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Pay and Play Community Access facilities	Year Built	Year Refurbished
Hensingham Rugby league FC	CA28 8TX	Health and Fitness Suite	12	Club members	Sports Club	Sports Club		1995	N/A
Seascale Community Fitness Centre	CA20 1PJ	Health and Fitness Suite	36	Club members	Sports Club	Sports Club		2017	N/A
Kells Rugby League FC	CA28 9EJ	Health and Fitness Suite	30	Club members	Local authority	Sports Club		1980	N/A
St Benedicts Rugby Union FC	CA28 9SH	Health and Fitness Suite	7	Club members	Local authority	Sports Club		2010	N/A
Millom Rugby League FC	LA18 4PG	Health and Fitness Suite	20	Club members	Sports Club	Sports Club		1998	N/A
Bootle Gym	L819 5TJ	Health and Fitness Suite	25	Registered Membership use	Registered Membership use	Registered Membership use			
Cleator Moor Activity Centre	CA25 5AN	Health and Fitness Suite	16	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Contractor	✓	1991	N/A

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sports And Physical Activity Strategy

4.109 CBC provides 30% (135) of the overall supply of 452 fitness stations in the Copeland borough area. There are 2 fitness suites with 50 stations or more. Commercially operated fitness suites require registered membership and operate pre-registered, pre-paid/DD membership schemes. The local authority fitness facilities also operate on this basis in Copeland. The private fitness facilities also offer registered membership.

4.110 Analysis of the overall supply of fitness suites is summarised in Table 4.13:

Table 4.13: Analysis of overall Fitness Suite Provision in Copeland

Total Fitness Suites	15
Total Fitness Stations	452
Pay and Play Fitness Suites	4
Pay and Play / No. of Fitness Stations	135
Registered Membership Fitness Suites	1
Registered Membership no. of Fitness Stations	25
Private use Fitness Suites	3
Private use no. of Fitness Stations	139
Sports club Fitness Suites	7
Sports Club no. of Fitness Stations	153

Table 4.14: Summary of Fitness Suite Size

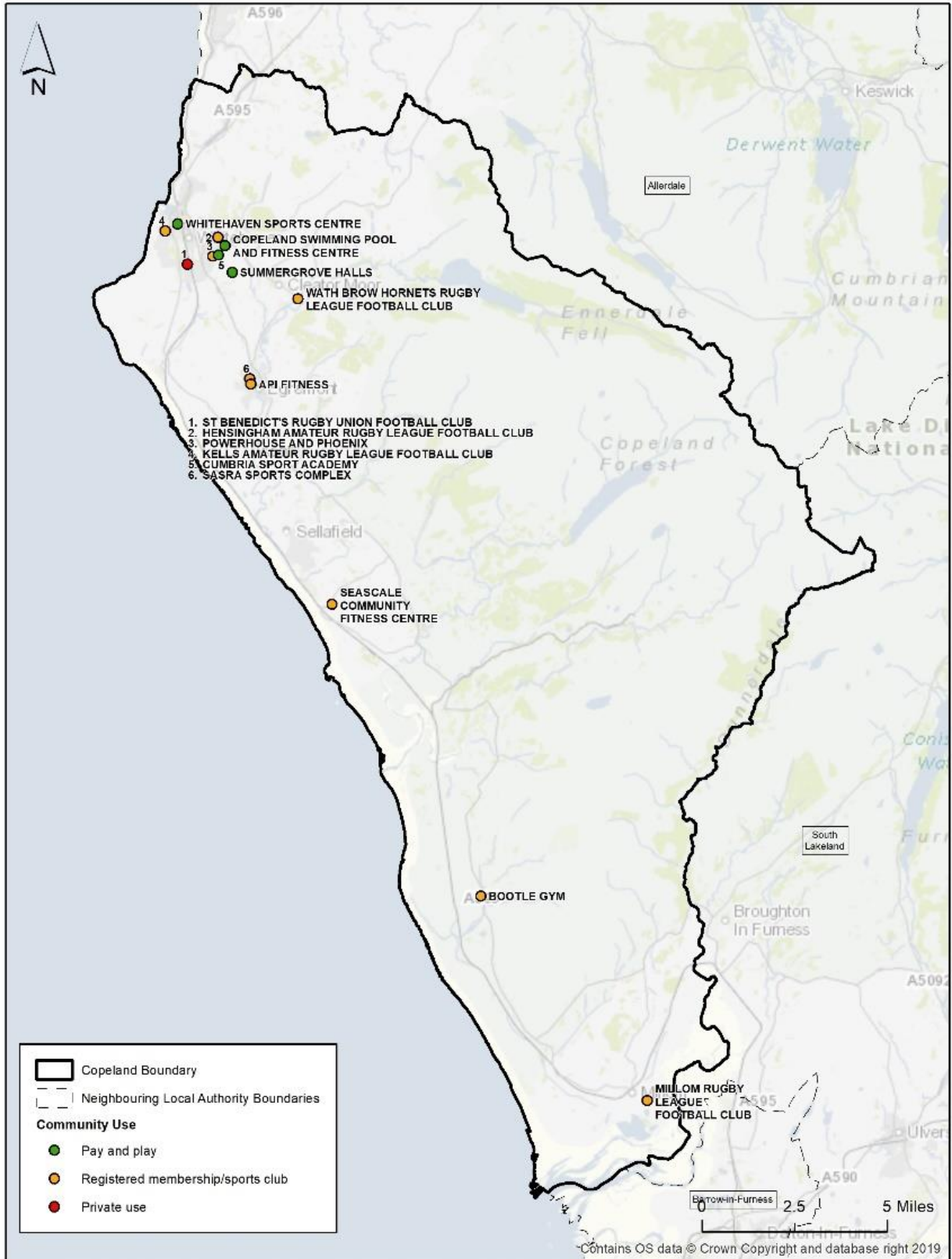
Number of Fitness Stations	No. Fitness Suites
150+	0
100 - 149	0
50 - 99	2
30 - 49	4
29 or less	9

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A 10 Year Sports And Physical Activity Strategy

4.111 The supply of community access fitness suites is shown on Map 4.8.

Map 4.8: Community Access Fitness Suites in Copeland



Health and fitness suites by community use availability in Copeland



Quality

- 4.112 Detailed quality assessments have been undertaken at all health and fitness facilities where access was possible. The quality audits are summarised in Appendix 2 (2a – 2n) and Table 4.15. It was not possible to undertake detailed quality audits on all existing facilities, as commercial operators often do not want these to be undertaken. Therefore, a visual check of these has been undertaken online.
- 4.113 The visual check highlights that overall, the quality of the commercial facilities is average as is generally the case. All have up to date fitness stations, are well-designed and planned facilities, with good quality changing facilities. None of the facilities that were audited were excellent and the majority are average with moderate/significant investment needed to raise the quality of the facilities to meet public expectations.

Table 4.15: Summary Qualitative Assessments - Health and Fitness Facilities (fitness suites and studios)

	Overall Quantitative Score for Facility %	Qualitative Score for Health and Fitness Suite	Need for Investment- Overall Facility
Cumbria Sport Academy	52% Average	Poor	Significant
Summergrove Halls	43% Average	Poor	Moderate
API fitness	39% Poor	Average	Moderate
SASRA sports complex	61% Good	Average	Moderate
Wath Brow Hornets Rugby League FC	50% Average	Average	Moderate
Whitehaven Sports centre	56% Average	Average	Moderate
Powerhouse and Phoenix	46% Average	Average	Moderate
Copeland Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre	59% Average	Good	Moderate
Hensingham Rugby league FC	Unable to visit		
Seascale Community Fitness Centre	73% Good	Good	Moderate
Kells Rugby League FC	52% Average	Average	Significant
St Benedicts Rugby Union FC	Unable to visit		
Millom Rugby League FC	75% Good	Good	Minimal
Bootle Gym	Unable to visit		
Cleator Moor Activity Centre	61% Good	Average	Moderate
Millom Recreation Centre	50% Average	poor	Significant

4.84 The quality of the community access health and fitness facilities is generally average - good.

Accessibility

4.114 It is clear from Map 4.9 that there are areas to the south and east of the district that are outside a 20-minute drive time catchment of a community accessible fitness suite. 22.4% of the Copeland population does not have access to a car²⁸. It is therefore important to ensure that fitness suites are as accessible as possible to those walking or using public transport.

4.115 Existing community access fitness facilities are well-located in Copeland to the population. Commercial fitness facilities are driven by, and rely on, market demand.

Availability

4.116 Of the existing fitness provision in Copeland the commercial sector (private and registered membership) provides 164 of the 452 stations (36%), 153 of the stations (34%) are provided by the sports club sector, and 135 (30%) by the local authority (managed by GLL).

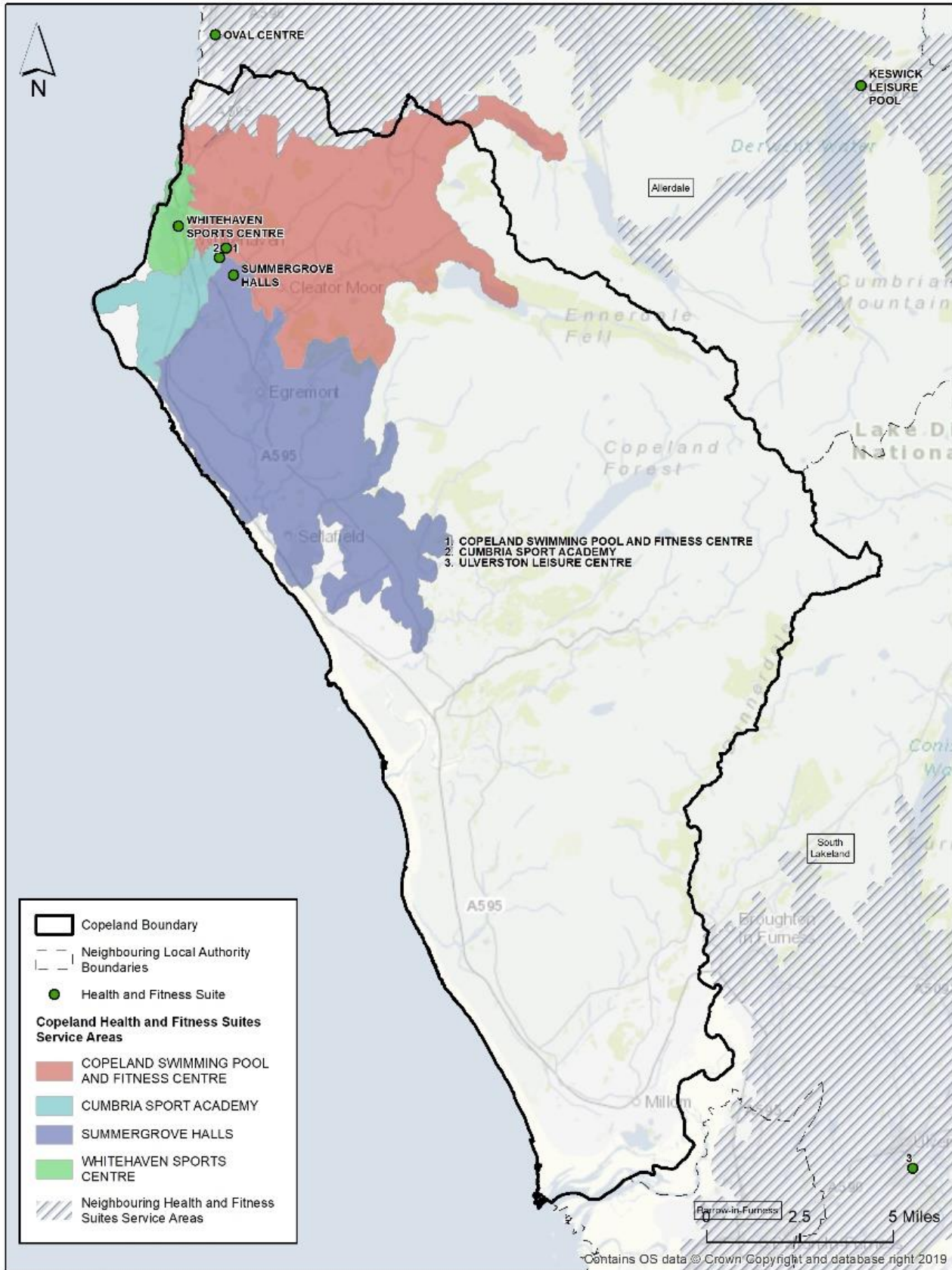
4.117 It is important to highlight that the existing commercial sector fitness suite provision in Copeland is not comprised of high end fitness companies with higher cost memberships and therefore these remain reasonably accessible. The commercial provision, and particularly the lower cost end of the market, therefore, presents a level of competition to the Copeland BC facilities. On this basis, the assessment of the current and future need for fitness facilities reflects the fact that many Copeland residents are likely to use those facilities which offer provision and a membership rate comparable to public sector facilities, because they are more affordable. Appendix 8 includes all the fitness suites in Copeland.

²⁸ Source: 2011 Census

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sports And Physical Activity Strategy

Map 4.9: Community access Fitness Suites within a 20-minute drive time catchment area



Health and fitness suites with pay and play access service areas in Copeland (up to 20 minutes drive time)



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Fitness Studios

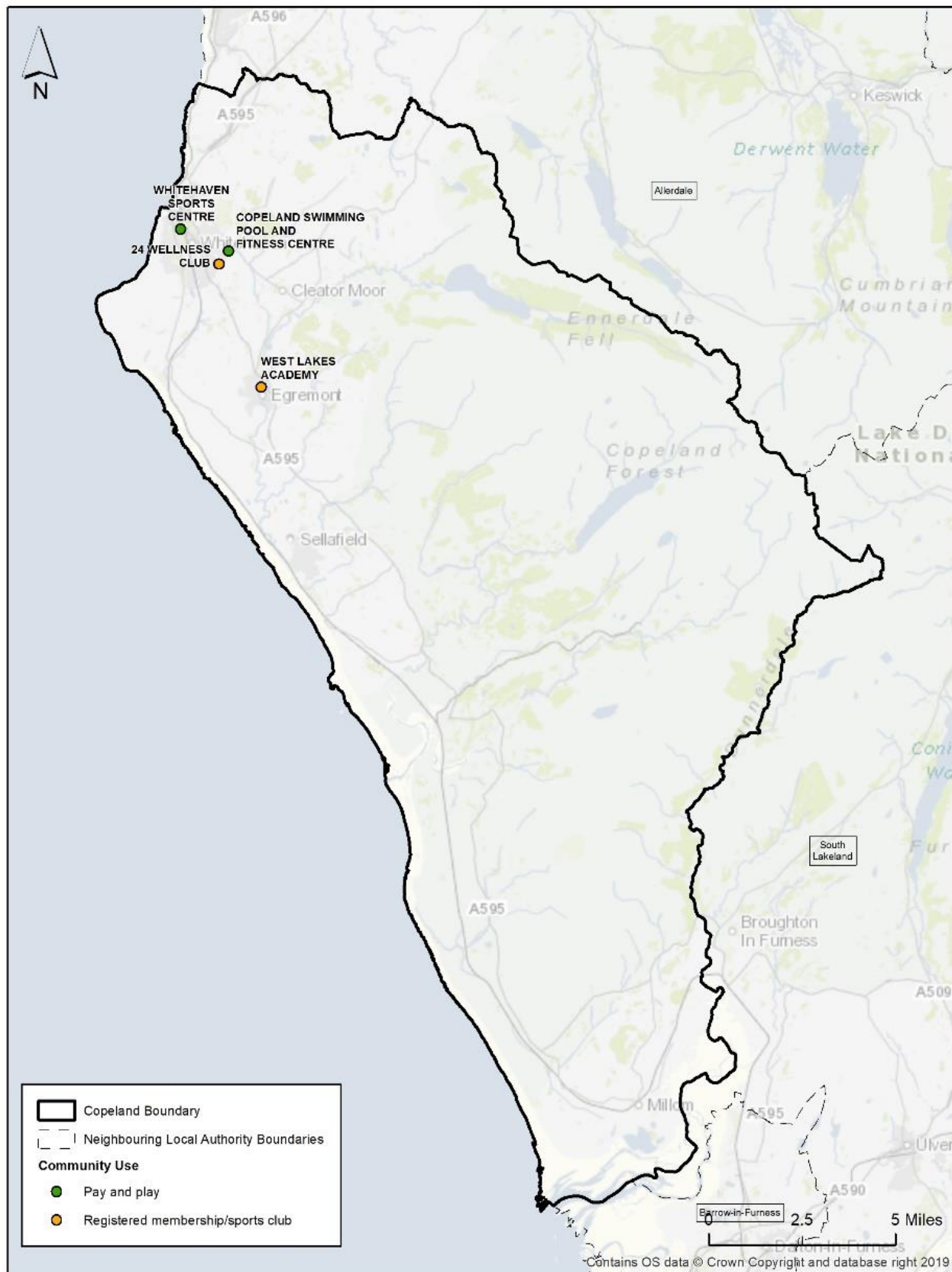
Quantity

- 4.118 There are 5 studios in Copeland, as identified through Sport England Active Places. These are provided as part of a health and fitness offer within facilities, with the exception of 24 Wellness. Studios provide a space in which a range of aerobic, fitness and dance classes plus activities such as yoga and Pilates, can take place as well as martial arts, and boxing. Although requiring some specialist equipment for martial arts and boxing, it is also possible to do a form of these activities in an informal space such as a community hall. Informal halls can also accommodate a range of fitness and dance classes. Informal halls are discussed in the Sports Hall and activity hall section of this assessment.
- 4.119 The studios assessed in this report are multi-purpose studios (no specific size), not those with fixed equipment, or only one use e.g.: spinning.
- 4.120 Many community hall facilities are used by dance schools, and the smaller halls often available on education sites have significant potential to be used for fitness classes as do village halls.
- 4.121 Map 4.7 shows studios as part of the overall health and fitness offer in Copeland. Map 4.10 shows the locations of individual community accessible studios.
- 4.122 The overall provision of studios in Copeland is summarised in Table 4.16.

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A 10 Year Sports And Physical Activity Strategy

Map 4.10: Community access studio facilities in Copeland



Studios by community use availability in Copeland



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A 10 Year Sports And Physical Activity Strategy

Table 4.16: Fitness Studios in Copeland

Site Name	Post Code	Facility Type	Number of Studios	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Pay and Play	Year Built	Year Refurbished
Whitehaven Sports Centre	CA28 7RJ	Studio	1	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Commercial Management	✓	1976	?
Copeland Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre	CA28 8RW	Studio	1	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Commercial Management	✓	2014	n/a
West Lakes Academy	CA22 2DQ	Studio	1	Sports Club / Community Association	Academies	School/college		2012	2019
24 Wellness Club	CA28 8PF	Studio	2	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management			

4.123 There are 5 studios in total; 2 studios are provided through commercial facilities, 1 is on an education site, providing access to community sports clubs through the schools' letting policy and 2 are owned by CBC and managed by GLL. There are other sites at village halls and smaller venues which are not included as part of this study.

4.124 The analysis of the overall studio supply in Copeland is as follows:

Table 4.17: Analysis of overall Studio Supply – Copeland

Total Studios	5
Pay and Play Community Access Studios	2
Commercial Sector Studios	2
Education Sector Studios	1

Quality

4.125 Detailed quality assessments have been undertaken on all Copeland Borough Council sports facilities, plus those facilities shown in Table 4.16 which have studios i.e. a total of 4 facilities. These are summarised in Appendix 2 (2a – 2n) and Table 4.18.

Table 4.18: Summary of Quality Assessments Studios in Copeland

	Overall Quantitative Score for Facility %	Qualitative Score for Health and Fitness Studios	Need for Investment- Overall Facility
Whitehaven Sports Centre	56% Average	Average	Moderate
Copeland Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre	59% Average	Good	Moderate
West Lakes Academy	75% Good	Good	Moderate
24 Wellness Club	71% Good	Good	Minimal

4.126 The quality of studios is generally good with a number of facilities having been refurbished recently.

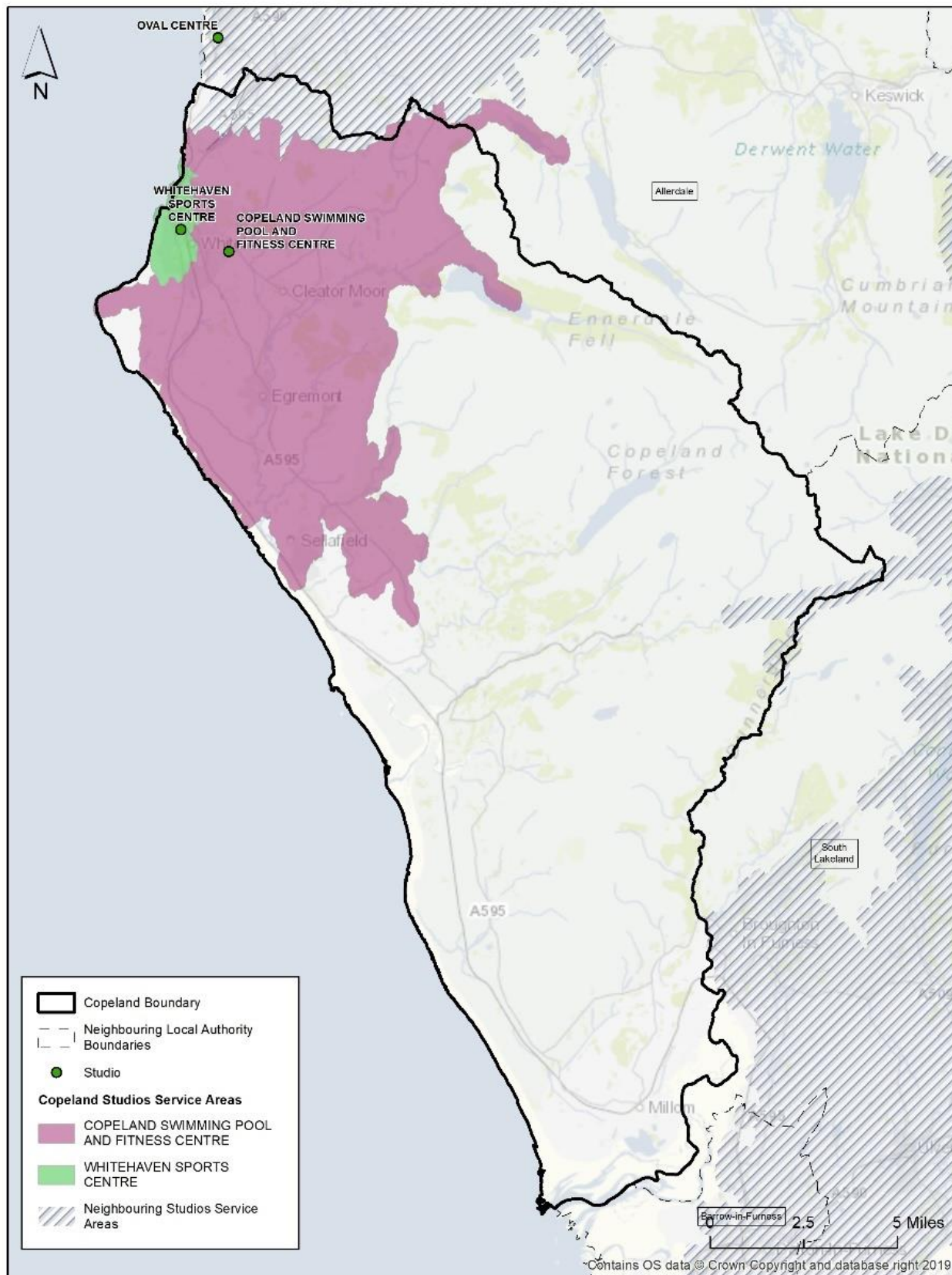
Accessibility

4.127 Health and fitness facilities are located mainly in the north of the borough. Most studios are part of an overall fitness offer, i.e. fitness suite and studio(s) with one commercial facility offering more than one studio.

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A 10 Year Sports And Physical Activity Strategy

Map 4.11: Pay and Play Community Use Studios with a 20-minute drivetime catchment



Studios with pay and play access service areas in Copeland (up to 20 minutes drive time)



Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sports And Physical Activity Strategy

- 4.128 It is clear from Map 4.11 that not all Copeland residents currently have access to a studio within a 20-minute drive time catchment.
- 4.129 22.4% of the Copeland population does not have access to a car²⁹. It is therefore important to ensure that studios are as accessible as possible to those walking or using public transport.
- 4.130 Existing community access fitness facilities are mainly situated in the north of the borough and there are large areas of Copeland which do not have access to these community facilities. In addition to the community access studios, there are other studios (commercial/on education sites) which are also used by residents; overall there is a below average stock of provision in Copeland and they are not all accessible to all local residents given where they are located.

Availability

- 4.131 A comprehensive programme of fitness classes is available on the 4 sites of the studios, and other sporting activities are offered at the community access facilities.
- 4.132 Some commercial operators have membership rates comparable to those at the CBC owned leisure centres.
- 4.133 In addition to the purpose-built studio facilities in Copeland, there are a number of multi-purpose halls, in community centres/village halls; these are also used for activities which could also take place in a studio e.g. aerobics, dance, pilates, yoga etc. Many personal trainers also use village halls as a venue for exercise.

²⁹ Source 2011 Census

Supply and Demand Analysis – Health and fitness (facilities & studios)

Table 4.19: Summary Analysis – Health and Fitness Supply and Demand

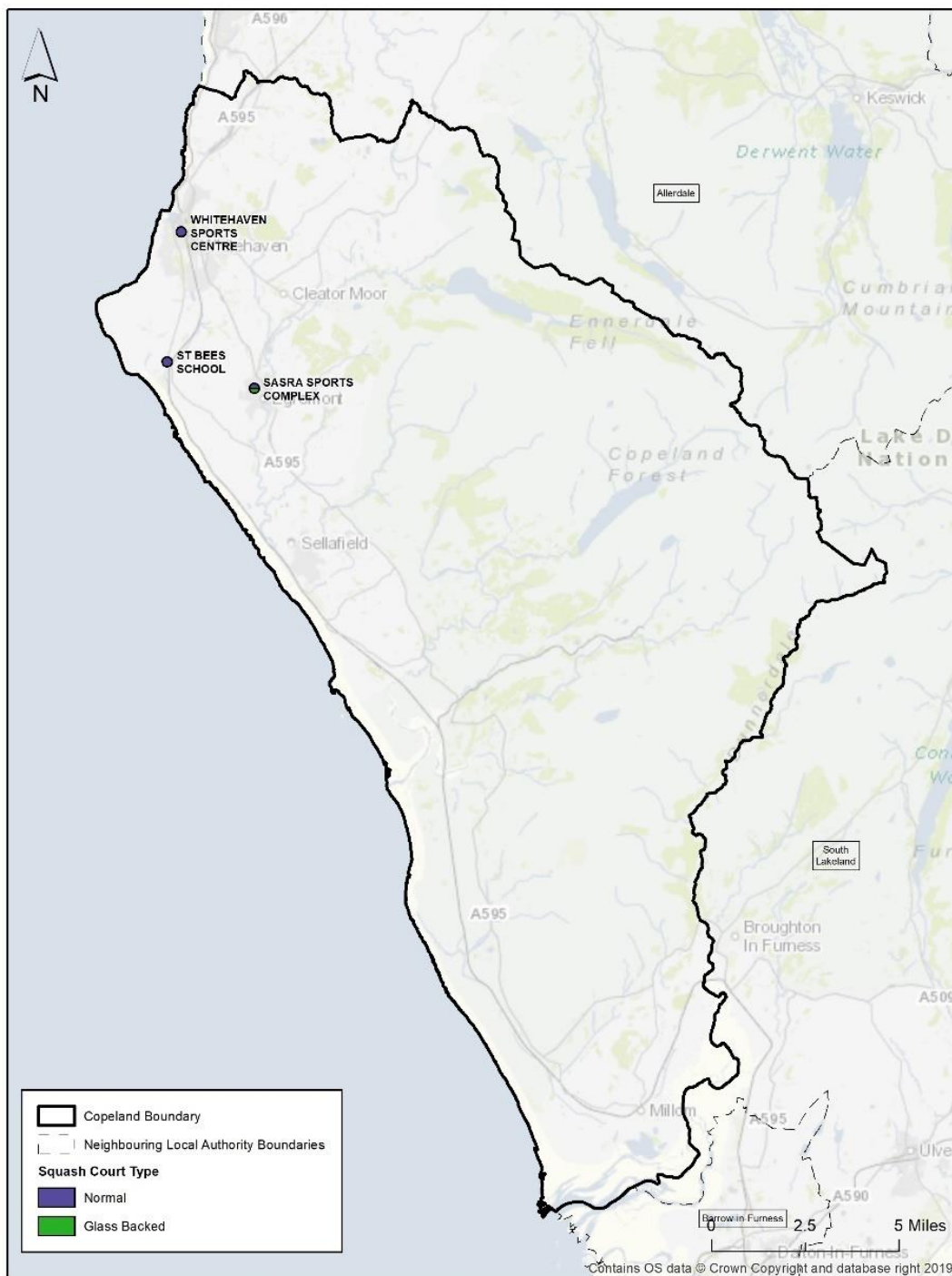
Facility Type	Assessment Findings
Health and Fitness (Fitness Suites and Studios)	
Quantity	<p>There are 15 fitness suites in Copeland, with a total of 452 fitness stations. 3 facilities are owned by CBC and managed by GLL on its behalf and provide 135 of the 452 fitness stations in Copeland. There are 5 studios in Copeland, 2 of which have pay and play community access.</p> <p>Supply and Demand Analysis</p> <p>The existing commercial sector fitness suite provision in Copeland is used by residents. The commercial fitness suites vary in type, but none are considered high end fitness companies, a lot of membership costs are comparable with community facilities. On this basis, the assessment of the current and future need for fitness facilities reflects the fact that Copeland residents are likely to use those facilities which offer provision and a membership rate often comparable to public sector facilities. The assessment of need (See Appendix 8) includes the commercial facilities, as ‘community access ‘on the basis of ‘affordability’ and includes all audited fitness facilities.</p> <p>Current Supply and Demand</p> <p>There are currently 15 fitness centres with 10 fitness centres providing 20 or more fitness stations. There are 452 fitness stations in total in the borough and a calculated demand of 246 stations. There is therefore a current over-supply of 206 fitness stations. (See Appendix 8).</p> <p>There is a need to retain and increase community access and affordable fitness stations.</p>

Squash

Quantity

4.134 There are 3 public pay and play accessible squash courts at Whitehaven Sports Centre (when in full repair), 4 courts at SASRA sports complex where there is a membership system in place, and 2 courts at St Bees school. These are shown on Map 4.12.

Map 4.12: Squash Courts by Type in Copeland



Squash courts with community use availability by type in Copeland



Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sports And Physical Activity Strategy

4.135 The overall supply of squash courts is summarised in Table 4.20.

Table 4.20: Squash Courts in Copeland

Site Name	Post Code	Court Type	Courts	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Pay and Play Community Access facilities	Year Built	Year Refurbished
Whitehaven Sports Centre	CA28 7RJ	Squash Courts	3	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Contractor	✓	1976	2014
SASRA sports complex	CA22 2QN	Squash Courts	2	Registered members	Sports Club	Sports Club		1977	
SASRA sports complex	CA22 2QN	Squash Courts Glass backed	2	Registered members	Sports Club	Sports Club		1988	2015
St Bees School	CA27 0DS	Squash Courts	2	Sports club	Independent school	School/college		1945	

Quality

4.136 A quality assessment was undertaken on following facilities.

Table 4.21: Summary of Quality Assessments Squash Courts in Copeland

	Overall Quantitative Score for Facility %	Qualitative Score for Squash Courts	Need for Investment- Overall Facility
Whitehaven Sports Centre	56%	0%	Moderate
SASRA sports complex	61%	65%	Moderate
St Bees School	76%	76%	Minimal

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sports And Physical Activity Strategy

4.137 The quality of existing squash courts is mixed with significant investment needed in the courts at Whitehaven Sports Centre if they are to be retained for squash; at the time of writing this report all of the courts are out of action with significant investment required to get them back into use. The centre used to have 4 courts but one of these has been converted into a Functional Room for fitness training. The courts at SASRA sports complex and St Bees school are in good condition.

Accessibility

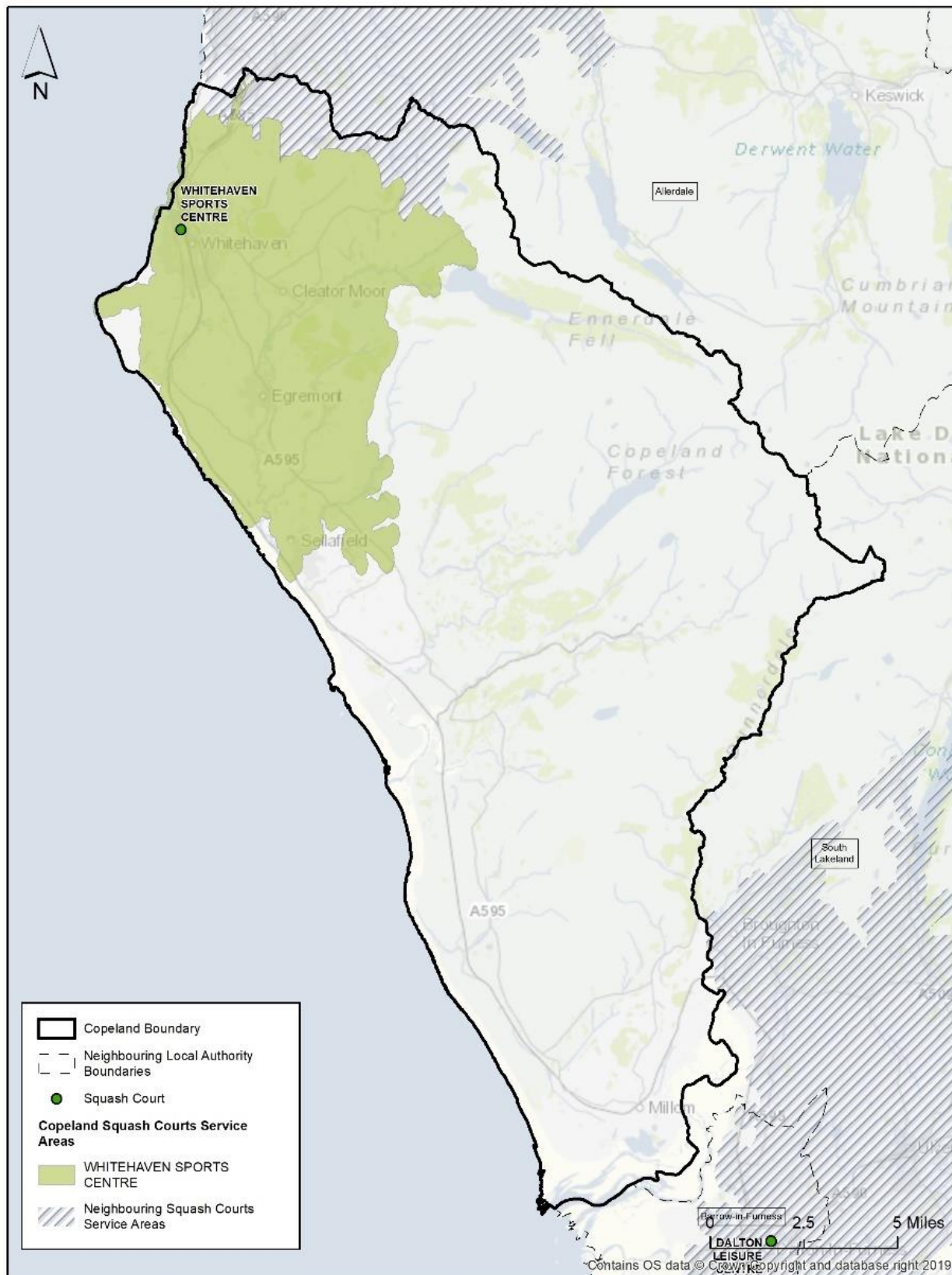
4.138 Squash courts are more specialist facilities, so there are generally fewer of them in any one area. The majority of squash courts nationally are now provided through clubs, as opposed to leisure centres.

4.139 Geographical distribution of squash courts in Copeland is illustrated in Map 4.13.

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sports And Physical Activity Strategy

Map 4.13: Pay and Play Community Use Squash courts with a 20-minute drivetime catchment



Squash courts with pay and play access service areas in Copeland (up to 20 minutes drive time)



Availability

4.140 The courts at Whitehaven Sports Centre would be available for community use and pay and play but currently are out of action at the time of writing this report. The courts at St Bees are bookable by the general public and SASRA sports complex is a member only club.

NGB Consultation: England Squash

4.141 England Squash was consulted as part of this study. There has been investment made into the local County Association and Regional Forum, who have in turn worked closely with local clubs, schools and leisure centres in the county. In comparison to other counties, the need for investment and required impact on deliverers makes Copeland a key area for future delivery and squash participation. The specific demographic within the local area also lend itself to squash participation and target markets for the sport.

4.142 Copeland itself has a population of approximately 70k and, with 4 sites and 9 courts in total, it exceeds the NGB requirement of 1 court per 10,000 people (Currently 1:7,600 approximately), however one venue with 2 courts is owned by a school, which is not fully accessible by the public at all times and currently all 3 courts at Whitehaven Sports Centre are out of action and the remaining courts are for members only. England Squash said that more investment is required into new and existing facilities to maintain these figures.

Summary of Supply and Demand

Table 4.22: Summary Analysis – Squash Courts Supply and Demand

Facility Type	Assessment Findings
Squash Courts	
Quantity	<p>There is a total of 9 courts in Copeland with 2 of these glass-backed squash courts.</p> <p>Future Demand</p> <p>There is no specific methodology for assessing the current and future need for squash courts. Overall participation in squash is increasing at national level, and this is now being seen at a local level. Competitive squash across the country is predominantly now played in clubs, within a club facility and this is replicated in Copeland; demand for community access squash courts has reduced in recent years. Participation is still growing however, but through the club base where juniors can be supported and coached from an early age. The issue for Copeland BC will be whether to retain the courts at Whitehaven Sports Centre or given the supply of courts elsewhere in the district, to continue with plans for co-location of health services and an alternative sporting offer.</p>
Quality	The quality of existing squash courts is generally of a good standard with the exception of Whitehaven Sports Centre.
Accessibility	The existing squash courts are provided at Whitehaven Sports Centre, St Bees School (limited pay and play access because it is a school), and SASRA sports complex.

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sport and Physical Activity Strategy

Facility Type	Assessment Findings
Availability	There are 9 squash courts in Copeland, 2 of which are glass-back. 5 courts are available for community access if Whitehaven Sports Centre courts are repaired. The remaining 4 courts are available for club members at 1 site.

Indoor Bowls

Quantity

- 4.143 An indoor bowls facility comprises a number of indoor rinks (usually a minimum of 3 rinks). Indoor Bowls is a more specialist sport and tends to be participated in by bowlers who play outside in the summer, to practise and compete during the winter months. Indoor bowls is attractive to the older population and those with disabilities (Wheelchair and Visually Impaired).
- 4.144 There is one indoor bowls facility in Copeland which is the Cleator Moor Activity Centre which has 5 rinks. There is 1 club, Copeland Bowling Club which is affiliated to the England Indoor Bowls Association (EIBA).
- 4.145 The Club was opened in 1991, closed in 1998 but reopened in 2002. In addition to providing “recreational bowling” to the local population, they have also provided a number of Finalists for the EIBA National Competitions.
- 4.146 The nearest alternative site is over 60 minute drive from Cleator Moor in Carlisle. Numbers of bowlers using the facility have declined in recent years and consultation with the England Indoor Bowls Association (EIBA) identified that this was a result of the function room/café area being used as a fitness facility and bikes and exercise classes taking place in the bowling area. However, there are two different views on bowling in Copeland; the current contractor GLL who manage the Cleator Moor Activity Centre believes that due to the low numbers of bowlers and the fact that many of these appear to come from outside the area (see Appendix 9 for detail) that further consideration should be given to developing Cleator Moor as a multipurpose centre which provides for short mat bowling as one of the activities. A multipurpose hall would provide the flexibility to provide a variety of activities and cater for a wider age range. However, many bowlers would not welcome this change as short mat bowls is a very different activity from what is currently provided.
- 4.147 It is recommended therefore that there is a specific review/feasibility study of Cleator Moor Activity Centre which examines future demand based on demographics and prioritising the needs of Cleator Moor and its wider communities. Supply and demand for indoor bowls is not assessed in the same way as it is for e.g. swimming pools.

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sports And Physical Activity Strategy

Map 4.14: Indoor Bowls in Copeland



Indoor bowls by community use availability in Copeland



Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sport and Physical Activity Strategy

4.148 As a guide, demand is calculated as one rink per 14,000-17,000 of total population. A 4-5 rink bowling area, therefore, is required for a population of 68,000 although this will be dependent upon the population profile of the area. The number of rinks required can be related to the estimated number of members: assume 80-100 members per rink³⁰. With the potential for the older population in Copeland to increase and the current supply of bowling of 5 rinks, these should be maintained or reviewed in relation to provision of short mat bowls in conjunction with a multipurpose facility. Analysis of future demand suggests an additional 1-2 rinks could be considered if the current facility is retained for bowling.

Indoor Bowls: Summary of Supply and Demand

Table 4.23: Summary Analysis – Indoor Bowling Supply and Demand

Facility Type		
Quantity	There is one indoor bowls facility in Copeland which is Cleator Moor Activity Centre which has 5 rinks. There is 1 club, Copeland Bowling Club which is affiliated to the England Indoor Bowls Association (EIBA).	
Quality	Cleator Moor Activity Centre was built in 1991 and refurbished in 2004. The quality assessment score is 61% and 'good'.	
Accessibility	The centre is located in Cleator Moor with good parking facilities and operates pay and play as well as club time.	
Availability	Cleator Moor Activity Centre is a play and pay facility offering 5 indoor rinks and is also home to Copeland Bowls Club.	
Future Demand	Scenario	Future Demand for Additional Indoor Bowls Rinks By 2035
	Scenario 1 population increase to 71,508	6.14 (additional 1.14)
	Scenario 2 population increase to 74,388	6.34 (additional 1.34)
	Scenario 3 population increase 76,548	6.52 (additional 1.52)

Indoor Tennis

4.149 Indoor tennis courts are considered because they are a completely different facility from outdoor tennis courts, which, unless club courts, tend to be used for recreational tennis. Indoor courts are significantly more expensive to use, and therefore tend to provide for those who are already tennis participants, or who wish to learn to play tennis and can afford private or group coaching.

³⁰ Source: General Statement from EIBA. Not Merton specific

Copeland Borough Council
A 10 Year Sport and Physical Activity Strategy

- 4.150 It is a requirement of the ANOG methodology that indoor tennis courts are covered by an Indoor Facility Strategy to complement the findings of a playing pitch study which assesses needs for outdoor courts.
- 4.151 The Copeland Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) considers all outdoor tennis courts in the borough. There are currently no indoor tennis courts in Copeland.
- 4.152 Based on the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) figure of 12,500 population for 1 indoor court there is a need for 5-6 indoor courts. Any indoor tennis court provision should be led by the LTA and Tennis Club.
- 4.153 There are 2 main tennis clubs in Copeland: Seascale Tennis Club, and Whitehaven Tennis Club which is currently nomadic.
- 4.154 The LTA has identified a lack of indoor facilities in West Cumbria and this is identified in the Facility Strategy for the region. Indoor courts would be a priority for strategic loan funding.

Indoor Tennis: Summary of Supply and Demand

Table 4.24: Summary Analysis – Indoor Tennis Supply and Demand

Facility Type	Assessment Findings
Quantity	<p>There are currently no indoor tennis courts in Copeland.</p> <p>Based on the LTA figure of 12,500 population for 1 indoor court there is a need for 5-6 indoor courts, this will increase if the population increases.</p> <p>Any provision of indoor tennis courts should be LTA and tennis club led.</p>
Quality	N/A
Accessibility	N/A
Availability	N/A

Gymnastics Centres

Quantity

4.155 There are 3 British Gymnastics affiliated clubs in Copeland:

- West Cumbria Gymnastics Club is based at St Bees School and according to British Gymnastics (BG) there are approximately 56 affiliated members of the club.
- Millom Recreation Centre Gym Club (MRC) is based at Millom Recreation Centre and has approximately 248 junior and 16 adult affiliated members, with a further 338 participants at a recreational level. BG is aware of the desire of the club to have a dedicated specialist gymnastics facility and has identified this as a priority.
- Whitehaven Gymnastics Club is based at Whitehaven Sports Centre with 33 affiliated members and many participants at a recreational level. BG supports the development of a specialist facility at Whitehaven Sports Centre.

Table 4.25: Summary of Gymnastics Clubs

Club Name	Address	About the Club
West Cumbria Gym Club	St Bees School	Based at a school, not a dedicated facility.
MRC gym club	Millom Recreation Centre	Based at a recreation centre, not a dedicated facility. Plans to develop a specialist facility.
Whitehaven Gymnastics Club	Whitehaven Sports Centre	Based at a sports centre, not a dedicated facility. Plans to develop a specialist facility.

NGB Consultation: British Gymnastics and Trampolining

4.156 Consultation with British Gymnastics is summarised below:

- **British Gymnastics Facility Development Priorities (for the period 2017 - 2021) outlined are:**
 - Diversify sources of revenue to develop and grow the provision of gymnastics
 - Build the capacity and grow the demand in gymnastics
 - Raise the profile and increase the appeal of gymnastics
 - Support increased capacity within gymnastics through clubs, leisure providers and other delivery providers
 - Guide funding investment through the United Kingdom from British Gymnastics, Home Country Sports Councils, Local Authorities and other potential funders.
 - Maintain and improve the quality of facilities and equipment within existing delivery partners.

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sport and Physical Activity Strategy

- 4.157 Nationally, there is a large demand for more gymnastics opportunities and Clubs all report large waiting lists, which is mirrored in Copeland. A key part of BG's strategy to increase participation is to support Clubs, Leisure Providers and other partners moving into their own dedicated facilities, offering more time and space for classes.
- 4.158 British Gymnastics has no financial capital investment available; however, the facility development team has offered to support, develop and guide clubs, leisure providers and other partners to help achieve their facility requirements.

5 Penultimate Stage - Applying the Assessment Analysis

Facility Specific Analysis

5.1 The demographic profile of Copeland, and the population growth for the Borough, summarised in Section 3, provides an important context for future provision of indoor sports facilities in the Borough, as does the research, consultation, and supply and demand analysis, undertaken to inform this Sport and Physical Activity Strategy. Highlighted below are the key factors and issues taken into account in planning for future facility provision.

- **Population Growth** - Clearly, increased population will result in increased demand for sports facilities; in Copeland, there will be a need to maintain the existing community access to sports halls and additional swimming pool water space needs to be sustainable in the right community setting; there will also be a slightly increased demand for indoor bowls. Accessibility to sports halls is highlighted because although there is an over-supply of sports halls in 2020, this reduces as demand increases. Population will increase as a consequence of new housing development (the extent depends on the specific population growth scenario to 2035 set out in the Local Plan).
- **Housing Development**- one of the principal justifications for provision of additional community sports facilities is because additional residents increase demand for sports facilities. The population of Copeland is set to grow by 8,148 if current housebuilding plans of 200 houses pa are achieved by 2035 (an increase of approximately 12%), and there will be a need to ensure good quality community sport and leisure facilities are available to meet existing and future demand. The potential for investment in additional provision of formal sports facilities and community halls, secured through developer contributions should be explored, given the housing growth planned to 2035. However, linked to housing development is the potential for other infrastructure development e.g. schools, health facilities, which could also link into future provision of sports facilities;
- **Reduction in Health Inequalities** – more active lifestyles will continue to benefit both individual and community health and may become increasingly significant on the post COVID 19 world, given the high levels of deaths recorded, particularly amongst the older population; there are some significant pockets of deprivation in Copeland outlined in sections 2 and 3 of this report and there are some very specific factors to which the provision of quality, affordable and accessible sports facilities can contribute:
 - **Maintenance of active lifestyles;**
 - **Improved mental health;**
 - **Reduced levels of cardiovascular disease; and**
 - **Reductions in levels of obesity**
- **Maintaining and growing participation levels** in sport and physical activity to contribute to more active lifestyles; facilitating more regular activity for the most inactive 24.2% of the Copeland community (Active Lives May 2019) is a priority;
- **Addressing the future supply of sports halls, swimming pools, gymnastics and indoor bowls;**
- **The need to retain and grow participation in physical activity for community health benefits;**

- The need to invest in active environments, where physical activity is the norm;
- The need to improve accessibility to provision at local level, particularly for the 22.4% of the population without access to private transport;
- There is already some sport and physical activity being delivered in community centres/halls across the Borough; there is opportunity to increase awareness of this and to extend it, particularly where there are halls available with pay and play access. This could complement the provision of indoor hall space; and
- The opportunity for investment in ‘active’ infrastructure to facilitate increased provision of cycling, jogging and walking routes in the Borough and West Cumbria, connecting new and existing settlements, education and leisure sites, for example coastal project cycling. Active transport should be a consideration at all housing developments across the Borough where appropriate.

Sports Halls

- 5.2 There are 6 individual sports halls and 7 activity halls within the Copeland Borough.
- 5.3 There are two public leisure centre sports hall sites: Millom Recreation Centre (4 badminton court main hall); and Whitehaven Sports Centre (9 badminton courts). Four sports hall sites are owned by educational institutions with the largest education sports hall site at Whitehaven Academy which has a 6 badminton court main hall, plus a one badminton court activity hall. The other 3 education sports hall sites each have a 4 badminton court size main hall: St Bees School; St Benedict’s School (also with a one badminton court size activity hall); and West Lakes Academy.
- 5.4 The average age of the six sports hall sites is 35 years and the most recent sports hall to open is St Benedict’s School in 2019
- 5.5 Five of the six sports hall sites have been modernised and although there is currently sufficient provision of sports halls, these facilities are old and will require refurbishment and investment to maintain the quality standards expected by the community using the facilities. There are a significant number of sports halls on education sites providing for clubs and groups and to maintain usage levels it is crucial that this community access is maintained and developed.

Swimming Pools

- 5.6 There are 3 swimming pools in Copeland, Copeland Pool (main pool and learner pool) and a pool located at St Bees School
- 5.7 Copeland Swimming pool provides pay and play community access to swimming pool provision in Copeland 7 days a week, there is also more limited public access to St Bees School (17m x 4 lanes) for swimming.

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sport and Physical Activity Strategy

- 5.8 The unmet demand identified in the FPM is not significant; it is predominantly due to location i.e. people living outside the catchment area of a pool in their district/borough. This type of unmet demand will always exist and does not necessarily have to be met as other facilities might be nearer/more accessible for those people outside the 20min drivetime within the borough/district. The FPM findings would support a main pool of 25m x 6 lanes and possibly a larger teaching/learner pool of 120 sq. metre of water. However, if the 119 sq. m of water space at St Bees is taken into account (not included in FPM but is included in SFC) the undersupply of water space becomes considerably less i.e. -402.35 sq. m based on current population and – 464.92 sq. m by 2035. This level of undersupply equates to 2.19 x 4 lane x 25m pools. sq. m.
- 5.9 However, when considering the need for additional water space (as referenced in the FPM and SFC) in Copeland it is critical to factor in the scale of the Borough, the population distribution, and the ability of the more rural populations to generate sufficient use, and therefore income, to support the operation of a pool. As stated in the FPM, there is no one community in Copeland that demands more water space than another, so if any additional water space is provided, it must be sustainable. For this reason, it is that provision of smaller pools which is more appropriate within communities of circa 10,000 population e.g. Millom, where the need for water space may be an aspiration but a sustainable business case for a 25 metre pool is hard to justify. Potentially this approach could be eligible for a 'Leisure Local' funding application from Sport England. Alternatively, Mayfield Special School could well benefit from the use of such a pool if it was located in close proximity to their site.
- 5.6 There is a further challenge to consider in relation to future swimming provision in Millom. The former swimming pool, which was 60 years old, was closed a few years ago on health and safety grounds. Located on the Millom Secondary School site the pool provided for school swimming and swimming lessons; it was never open for public swimming. The pool was originally outdoor but had been covered over.
- 5.7 The loss of the pool has resulted in a campaign in Millom to develop a new swimming pool. Now working together, these two groups are promoting the opportunity of creating a health and well-being hub in the town, comprising a pool, sports hall, fitness suite and studio. This would be a new build, potentially somewhere on the Millom Secondary School site (two possible sites have been identified by Cumbria County Council, but neither has yet been confirmed, because there is also ongoing discussion about i) location, and ii) the impact of also creating a running route around the school field perimeter in partnership with Millom Striders (running club)). The final decision on any location within the school site will need to be given by Millom School Governors and the Department for Education (DfE).
- 5.8 The alternative site would be adjacent to the Millom Recreation Centre, if the opportunity to utilise the site
- 5.9 Immediately outside the Millom School site is a building into which it is proposed the existing library and Revenues and Benefits office is moved; this would then facilitate use of their existing location as an outreach office for Sellafield workers. The Existing Town Council office is likely to be re-located into a disused office building in the centre of Millom.
- 5.10 These proposals would effectively co-locate health and well-being, education, and the library; a café would be included in the library building together with provision of skills, training and learning.

- 5.11 The new health and well-being hub would effectively replace the existing Millom Recreation Centre, an older building whose usage has outgrown its capacity, particularly in relation to gymnastics and fitness. The existing fitness suite at Millom Recreation Centre comprises 6 stations and there is no studio. The other key issue is the gymnastics programme which is incredibly successful and attracts circa 250 members per week. The programme is based from the existing sports hall, which is also used for education curriculum delivery, and a range of other classes and activities, which means the gymnastics equipment has to be put away after each training sessions. Lack of a dedicated gymnastics facility is now impacting on the participants as they are unable to train in the same environment as their peers who live in locations with access to dedicated gymnastic provision.
- 5.12 Provision of a studio space is critical moving forward as this would mean that classes currently taking place in the sports hall could be moved to this space; this would immediately reduce the usage of the hall. If the sports hall programme was reviewed it might be possible to look at a different approach to enable the gymnastics equipment to be left in situ for at least a few sessions a week. A new sports hall would need a sprung floor and adequate storage to assist in the equipment change-overs. Provision of a dedicated gymnastics facility would be ideal; the challenge is the capital cost and its borrowing costs. Co-locating a new pool, studio, fitness and a sports hall would clearly reduce operating costs; the options for managing this proposed facility need to be further considered but there is significant opportunity to link this into the wider management of facilities across the Borough, as long as the specific requirements in Millom were protected. In this context exploring the potential for a dedicated gymnastic space as an add-on to a new sports hall e.g. approx. 2 badminton court size area, in which e.g. a pit and beam, and parallel/high bars etc could be set up permanently, then allowing use of the sports hall for e.g. the floor and tumbling areas which would need to be put away after use should be considered. This option would be a flexible option which would support, improve and grow all existing activities at Millom Recreation Centre.
- 5.13 The proposal to develop a new pool in Millom has focussed on the need for a 25m x 4 lane pool. As set out above, the FPM does not actually support the need for a new pool in any one area of the Borough. The Insight gathered for this Strategy has, however, identified a series of factors which make it particularly difficult to access the existing pools in the Borough offering pay and play access i.e. accessibility, limited public transport, time and cost etc. In considering the need for a new pool in Millom, it is critical to consider long term sustainability; the Millom community itself numbers around 7,000. Taking into account the wider catchment area of the town (the Combe) the population is around 11,000 in total. This is still a small population to make a swimming pool viable.
- 5.14 On this basis it is suggested that a smaller pool is seriously considered; Sport England is shortly to launch its Leisure Local concept. This is a 15m x 8m pool. The running costs of this smaller water space are considerably less than a 25m pool, and yet the same range of activities can be offered in the smaller pool as a 25m pool. The smaller pool is ideal for school swimming lessons, swimming lengths, learn to swim lessons, lane swimming, aqua classes, parents and toddlers etc. Given the significant population children with special educational needs in and around Millom, and the aging demographic of the area, provision of a smaller water space means that it could be heated to a higher temperature without significant additional costs because the body of water is less. This could be advantageous for those who would benefit from swimming in warmer water, or who have special needs which means their participation in mainstream physical activity is limited.
- 5.15 Clearly a smaller pool comes at a reduced capital cost and its operational costs are also less, making it ideal for smaller communities.

- 5.16 The two small indoor, private pools operating near to Millom currently provides for some pay and play use; it is important that the sustain ability of these two facilities is not adversely affected by the development of a new pool in Millom. Both private facilities have been contacted during the development of this study to facilitate consultation, and a reply has now been received from Brockwood Hall Resort. New plans have been submitted for modernising the centre which is currently used by guests and the local community; there are approximately 160 members.
- 5.17 Currently, primary schools in/around Millom are either travelling to Ulverston to swim or are using one of the two private facilities. Unfortunately, to date neither the primary schools nor Millom Secondary School have responded to requests for consultation, so it has not been possible to factor their responses into the analysis of the need for a pool in Millom.
- 5.18 Assuming that provision of a sustainable pool in Millom is the priority, this Strategy strongly advocates the following:
- **That consultation is achieved with the two private facilities to ascertain the potential for them to offer increased public accessibility**
 - **That a small pool (15m x 8m) is the scale considered**
 - **That a small new pool is co-located with other health and well-being provision and the management of the health and well-being hub is through one body**
 - **That serious consideration is given to linking the management of the health and well-being hub into the wider delivery model for the Borough**
- 5.19 It is also strongly advocated that the sports hall offering is looked at specifically to include some dedicated gymnastics space to reduce the amount of time spent setting up/dismantling equipment, as set out above. This has been identified by the governing body as a priority.
- 5.20 Analysis of the specific factors relating to current provision of each facility type is summarised in Table 5.1. The key issues and impacts identified are the priorities to address, and inform the detailed actions to be taken, partnerships and stakeholders to be developed/worked with; these are detailed in the investment priorities and the subsequent Action Plan.

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sport and Physical Activity Strategy

Table 5.1: Key Issues, Impacts and Implications by Facility Type

Facility Type	Key Issue	Impact/Implications
Sports Halls	There are currently 6 sports halls sites in Copeland (+3 courts and above) and 7 activity halls. 2 sports halls offer pay and play access and 4 offer community use for clubs and organisations.	<p>Need to ensure other informal halls provide daytime opportunities for sport and physical activity, to meet needs of e.g. older people not in work, parents looking after young children not in work, shift workers. Existing community access at education sites needs to be maintained as a minimum and secured wherever possible with a formal Community Use Agreement (CUA), given that the majority of sport halls facilities are on education sites.</p> <p>Any new sports halls developed on education sites should provide community access via a planning condition allowing for access to both individuals and clubs/groups.</p> <p>Existing sports halls currently unavailable for community access should be made available, where possible.</p> <p>Need to maintain existing levels of community access sports halls</p> <p>Need to prioritise pay and play use at the Copeland Borough Council sports halls and multi-purpose halls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Badminton England - it would be desirable for a development programme and/or club to be developed at Whitehaven SC. • Gymnastics – MRC club has plans to develop a specialist gymnastics facility (and Whitehaven Sports Centre) and are supported by the NGB. • Majority of the NGB's are supportive of developing sports development/coach education activities rather than identifying a need for more sports halls/badminton courts
	There is no identified need for additional badminton courts in any of the scenarios modelled taking into account future housing developments. However, it should be noted that if plans to build a gymnastics centre at Whitehaven come to fruition then there would be a loss of 3-4 badminton courts which would then mean a potential undersupply in all of the scenarios, which should be factored in during facility planning.	If the development at Whitehaven SC takes place for a specialist gymnastics centre then this would affect the overall supply of badminton courts and this must be taken into account in any future planning decisions.

Copeland Borough Council
A 10 Year Sport and Physical Activity Strategy

Facility Type	Key Issue	Impact/Implications
	<p>St Benedict’s High School has not been included in the FPM as it was only opened in 2019, however, if included this would contribute to the over-supply figure being even higher than indicated in the FPM and SFC. It is important to note however that this facility is only open during evenings and weekends because it is on an education site and therefore access by the local community is not always available.</p>	
	<p>The average age of sports halls in Copeland is 35 years old. All were built prior to 1996, with the exception of St Benedict’s High School which opened in 2019.</p> <p>The quality of current provision is average, mainly due to the age of facilities.</p>	<p>Consideration should be given to seeking developer contributions for refurbishment/redevelopment of existing facilities so that the quality of these facilities can be improved, and the stock of facilities maintained. Formal community use agreements should be a condition of any planning obligations.</p>
<p>Swimming Pools</p>	<p>There are 3 swimming pools in Copeland, Copeland Pool (main pool and learner pool) and a pool located at St Bees School. Copeland Swimming pool provides pay and play community access to swimming pool provision in Copeland 7 days a week, there is also more limited public access to St Bees School (17m x 4 lanes) for swimming</p> <p>Based on the future population growth, and consequent increased demand, there is a need to consider provision of an additional swimming pool in the Borough.</p> <p>The FPM findings would support a main pool of 25m x 6 lanes and possibly a larger teaching/learner pool of 120 sq. metre of water. However, if the 119 sq. m of water space at St Bees is taken into account (not included in FPM but included in SFC) the undersupply of water space becomes considerably less i.e – 464.92 sq. m based on scenario 3 by 2035. This level of undersupply equates to 2.19 x 4 lane x 25m pools. sq. m.</p>	<p>The overall identified future demand for additional swimming pool provision reflects the growth in the population from housing development across the Local Plan period. Therefore, provision of additional swimming provision does need to be considered.</p> <p>Scenario 1 –Under supply in 2035 of -414.85 sq. m of water space . Scenario 2 – Undersupply in 2035 of approx. -443.47 sq. m of water space. Scenario 3 – Undersupply in 2035 of approx. -464.92 sq. m of water space</p> <p>(For context a 4-lane x 25m pool equates to circa 225 sq. m, depending on lane width).</p> <p>In considering the need for additional water space in Copeland it is critical to factor in the scale of the Borough, the population distribution, and the ability of the more rural populations to generate sufficient use, and therefore income, to support the operation of a pool.</p>

Copeland Borough Council
A 10 Year Sport and Physical Activity Strategy

Facility Type	Key Issue	Impact/Implications
		<p>As stated in the FPM, there is no one community in Copeland that demands more water space than another, so if any additional water space that is provided must be sustainable. For this reason, it is that provision of smaller pools is more appropriate within communities of circa 10,000 population e.g. Millom, where the need for water space may be an aspiration but a sustainable business case for a 25 metre pool is hard to justify.</p> <p>Potentially this approach could be eligible for a 'Leisure Local' funding application from Sport England. Alternatively, Mayfield Special School could well benefit from the use of such a pool if it was located in close proximity to their site.</p>
<p>Health and Fitness</p>	<p>There are currently 15 fitness centres with 10 fitness centres providing 20 or more fitness stations with a total of 452 fitness stations.</p> <p>CBC provides 30% (135) of the overall supply of 452 fitness stations in the Copeland borough area. There are 2 fitness suites with 50 stations or more. Commercially operated fitness suites require registered membership and operate pre-registered, pre-paid/DD membership schemes. The local authority fitness facilities also operate on this basis in Copeland. The private fitness facilities also offer registered membership.</p> <p>Copeland is not comprised of high end fitness companies with higher cost memberships and therefore these remain reasonably accessible. The commercial provision, and particularly the lower cost end of the market, therefore, presents a level of competition to the Copeland BC facilities. On this basis, the assessment of the current and future need for fitness facilities reflects the fact that many Copeland residents are likely to use those facilities which offer provision and a membership rate comparable to public sector facilities, because they are more affordable</p> <p>There are 452 fitness stations in total in the borough and a calculated demand of 246 stations. There is therefore a current over-supply of 206 fitness stations.</p>	<p>There is a need to retain and increase community access and affordable fitness stations.</p> <p>No need for additional fitness provision as available facilities are accessible to the community.</p> <p>There is an oversupply of fitness stations in 2019 (246 stations); this level of oversupply will decrease based on population growth between now and 2035.</p> <p>There is a need to retain the existing level of community access and affordable fitness stations in Copeland, to maintain and grow existing levels of participation, and cater for increased future demand.</p>

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sport and Physical Activity Strategy

Facility Type	Key Issue	Impact/Implications
Squash Courts	<p>There are 9 squash courts in Copeland, 2 of which are glass-back. 5 courts are available for community access (if Whitehaven Sports Centre courts are repaired). The remaining 4 courts are available for club members at 1 site.</p> <p>The provision exceeds the NGB requirement of 1 court per 10,000 people (in Copeland currently 1:7,600 approximately).</p> <p>The existing squash courts are provided at Whitehaven Sports Centre, St Bees School (limited pay and play access because it is a school), and SASRA sports complex.</p>	<p>No need for additional provision</p> <p>Need to review existing level of courts. Whitehaven Sports Centre courts are currently (2020) unplayable and therefore in need of refurbishment to ensure the supply of courts as described is available. If the courts were to be redeveloped for other purposes which is currently being discussed by GLL and CBC, there would be an undersupply of courts based on the NGB guidelines of 1 court per 10,000 residents. The issue for Copeland BC will be whether to retain the courts at Whitehaven Sports Centre or given the supply of courts elsewhere in the district, to continue with plans for co-location of health services and an alternative sporting offer.</p>
Indoor Bowls	<p>There is one indoor bowls facility in Copeland which is Cleator Moor Activity Centre which has 5 rinks. There is 1 club, Copeland Bowling Club which is affiliated to the England Indoor Bowls Association (EIBA).</p> <p>Demand is calculated as one rink per 14,000-17,000 of total population</p>	<p>Scenario 1 population increase to 71,508 = additional 1.14 rinks Scenario 2 population increase to 74,388 = additional 1.34 rinks Scenario 3 population increase to 76,548 = additional 1.52 rinks</p> <p>The NGB (EIBA) has identified function room and café alternative uses (e.g. fitness) as evidence for falling numbers of bowlers. Important activity for older population and disabled people; there will be growing populations within these segments.</p> <p>It is recommended therefore that there is a specific review/feasibility study of Cleator Moor Activity Centre which examines future demand based on demographics and prioritising the needs of Cleator Moor and its wider communities. Developer contributions from new housing would assist in upgrading and refurbishing existing facilities.</p>
Gymnastics and Trampolining	<p>There are 3 British Gymnastics affiliated clubs in Copeland: West Cumbria, Millom Rec, and Whitehaven.</p> <p>There are no specialist gymnastics facilities in Copeland.</p>	<p>Millom Recreation Club has approx. 250 affiliated junior members and approximately 340 recreational participants.</p> <p>MRC gymnastics club and Whitehaven Gymnastics Club (based at Whitehaven Sports centre) both have plans for a dedicated gymnastic facility, dependent on funding. These plans are supported by the NGB.</p>

5.21 Based on the supply and demand analysis summarised in Table 5.1, there is clearly a need for:

- **Additional swimming pool provision by 2035; ideally a ‘Leisure Local’, small swimming pool**
- **Retaining existing sports hall provision by 2035;**
- **Retaining existing levels of community accessible (including pay and play) sports halls, swimming pools, squash courts, indoor bowls, and fitness stations as a minimum;**
- **Consideration of enhanced dedicated gymnastics facilities; and**

5.22 Retaining and improving the quality of provision is important in Copeland to ensure that participation levels are retained and wherever possible increased. Active Lives highlights that 24.2% of the Copeland community is inactive enough to have any health benefit.

5.23 The provision of good quality, local community facilities, accessible and affordable to meet identified need, is key to facilitating participation growth, and contributing to a reduction in the health inequalities in the Borough. This reflects Public Health and Copeland Borough Council’s health and well-being priorities, to facilitate sustained behaviour change to reduce obesity, improve health, contribute to addressing mental health issues and increase participation.

5.24 Based on the quality audits and assessments, and the supply and demand analysis, the priorities for future investment in facility provision are:

Table 5.2: Summary of Facility Priorities

Facility Type	Priority for Future Provision	Location
Sports Halls	Retain provision of existing levels of community accessible and affordable sports hall facilities as a minimum	Boroughwide
	Refurbish/redevelopment of existing ageing facilities	It may also be possible to secure additional access for community pay and play at existing education facilities. Potential to use planning obligations from housing developments to improve facilities. Link to formal community use agreements.
Swimming Pools	Retain provision of existing levels of community accessible and affordable swimming facilities as a minimum	Boroughwide
	A small pool (15m x 8m) should be considered for Millom, potentially co-located and managed with other health and well-being provision	Millom
Health and	Maintain the provision of pay and play accessible health and fitness provision space, at	

Copeland Borough Council
A 10 Year Sport and Physical Activity Strategy

Facility Type	Priority for Future Provision	Location
Fitness	Whitehaven Sports Centre and Copeland Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre	
Indoor Bowls	Retain provision of existing bowling rinks at Cleator Moor Activity Centre, establish if current café and fitness use is compatible with needs of bowlers	Cleator Moor
Gymnastics and Trampolining	Potential to explore 2 dedicated gymnastics facilities – at Millom Rec and Whitehaven Sports Centre	Millom Recreation Centre and Whitehaven Sports Centre
Community Centres	Need to provide community centres that can be used for informal sport and physical activity.	Boroughwide
General Provision	Overall, and specifically through the housing growth agenda, provision of more active environments, reflecting active travel, safe cycle routes to school, the need to link existing and new communities with walking/cycling/jogging routes	Boroughwide

5.25 Other future facility provision, linked particularly to long term population growth and housing development, is the development of new and improved walking, jogging and cycling routes/connectivity, to encourage active travel, and provide an environment in which physical activity can be easily integrated into daily life.

6 Recommendations and Action Plan

Overview

- 6.1 Copeland's population will grow by approximately 12% based on potential housing growth over the coming years to 2035, so there is a particular need to ensure sufficient provision of accessible, quality and affordable facilities – formal and informal, and multi-purpose spaces to meet local need.
- 6.2 More, and better, access to physical activity at local level is important for residents, particularly those who are currently inactive, and those without access to private transport, to participate, and become physically active. Many of these inactive people will live in the few, but significantly more deprived areas of the Borough; ensuring those who lead challenging lives are able to be more active for health benefits is critical. Linking facility provision, informal and formal, to opportunities for active travel, and informal places will help to facilitate more active lifestyles for more people.
- 6.3 This is very important given the need to retain and continue to grow existing levels of physical activity in the Borough and address the existing health inequalities across the area.
- 6.4 Overall, Copeland has an average range of existing sport and leisure facilities across the area.
- 6.5 In Copeland, there is sufficient pay and play accessible sports hall and health and fitness provision to meet future demand. There is however a need to increase existing levels of community accessible swimming provision into the future. The existing level of indoor bowling provision should be retained or increased, especially given the ageing population in Copeland.
- 6.6 It is very important that the potential to utilise community centres/halls, and other informal places and spaces better for sports hall activities, which could provide at a more local level, and therefore facilitate participation by those who are elderly, do not have access to a car, have young children, or have a disability, is fully explored, developed and implemented.

Vision

- 6.7 As a minimum, CBC wishes to have good quality, fit for purpose facilities that are considered to be attractive to users, well maintained and sustainable. This includes community sport and leisure facilities, places and spaces for swimming, fitness and sports hall sports/activities available for all residents. This includes both formal and informal multi-purpose spaces e.g. community halls in which to play sport and be physically active.
- 6.8 Facilitating opportunities to be more physically active, more often is also important, to contribute to a reduction in the health inequalities in and across Copeland, to help people to live and age better.
- 6.9 The provision of high quality and accessible facilities, and where appropriate the opening up of other informal places, and spaces, as well as the development of new provision, will contribute to the future overall priority for the development of healthier lifestyles in Copeland, across all age groups. This will contribute towards the Vision 'to enable Cumbrian communities to be healthy and tackle health inequalities'.

6.10 A suggested Vision for future provision of sport and leisure in Copeland could be:

“A healthier more active population living longer, more independent and happier lives”

6.11 Sustainable, high quality, and critically, accessible facility provision has a critical role to play in delivering these opportunities; Copeland Borough Council needs to plan for the investment requirements of its existing facilities, and work in partnership with other providers and stakeholders to address the other priorities identified through this Strategy.

Aims

6.12 The aim of providing sufficient high quality, fit for purpose and accessible provision, places and spaces is to:

- **Increase the proportion of the population that is physically active; the level of activity undertaken will support efforts to further reduce health inequalities;**
- **Develop additional facility provision where need is evidenced e.g. as a result of population growth;**
- **Design in flexibility; future facility provision may need to be more multi-purpose in nature, reflecting changing participation trends and opportunities;**
- **Encourage new participants to start taking part in physical activity;**
- **Enable opportunities for participation to be provided in a wider range of places and spaces, and particularly at a very local level, using e.g. community centres/halls;**
- **Facilitate the continued development of healthier lifestyles across Copeland’s communities;**
- **Contribute to a reduction in health inequalities, and specifically obesity, reduced inactivity, across Copeland; and**
- **Create active environments where the opportunity to be more physically active is an integral part of everyday life.**

Principles for Future Provision

6.13 The principles that should guide all future sport and leisure facility development in Copeland are:

- **Ensure residents in all areas of Copeland have pay and play access to good quality, local, accessible and affordable provision, whether it is a formal sports hall or a community hall, or other informal provision;**
- **Aim to ensure that any new, sports facilities on education sites provide a balance of opportunities (through a formal agreement) for community access – both pay and play and club use;**
- **Replace / refurbish ageing facilities where new provision is needed; all new and refurbished provision should be designed and developed based on Sport England and (National Governing Body) NGB guidance, and be fully inclusive;**
- **Rationalise existing provision where new fit for purpose facilities can replace/improve existing buildings (but existing levels of provision need to be maintained as a minimum, given some existing facility under-supply going forward);**
- **Invest in existing formal and informal provision to improve quality; and**
- **Invest strategically to ensure economic viability and sustainability of provision.**

Priority Investment Needs

6.14 The average age of sports halls in Copeland is 35 years old. All were built prior to 1996, with the exception of St Benedict's High School which opened in 2019. The quality of current provision is average, mainly due to the age of facilities, Whitehaven Sports Centre is in need of significant investment. Copeland Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre is also in need of refurbishment in the medium-long term. Improving the quality of existing, ageing provision is the priority for future investment.

6.15 Based on the future population growth, and consequent increased demand, there is a need to consider provision of an additional swimming pool in the Borough. Any additional water space that is provided must be sustainable and for this reason, it is that provision of smaller pools is more appropriate within communities of circa 10,000 population e.g. Millom, where the need for water space may be an aspiration but a sustainable business case for a 25 metre pool is hard to justify. Potentially this approach could be eligible for a 'Leisure Local' funding application from Sport England. Alternatively, Mayfield Special School could well benefit from the use of such a pool if it was located in close proximity to their site.

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sport and Physical Activity Strategy

6.16 Fitness facilities, squash and indoor bowls facilities should be maintained at their current level and investment will be required to improve the quality of these facilities as they continue to age. Provision of further indoor bowling provision should be explored. There is also a need to consider future need for the provision of gymnastics with provision of a dedicated specialist facility or facilities.

6.17 The identified priorities for future investment in facility provision are:

Table 6.1: Summary of Facility Investment Priorities

Facility Type	Priority for Future Provision	
Sports Halls	Retain provision of existing levels of community accessible and affordable sports hall facilities as a minimum Refurbish/redevelopment of existing ageing facilities	
Swimming Pools	Retain provision of existing levels of community accessible and affordable swimming facilities as a minimum A small pool (15m x 8m) should be considered for Millom, potentially co-located and managed with other health and well-being provision	
Health and Fitness	Maintain the provision of pay and play accessible health and fitness provision space, at Whitehaven Sports Centre and Copeland Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre	
Gymnastics and Trampolining	Potential to explore further club-led provision/partnership provision given high level of members/participation	Millom recreation Centre Gym Club Whitehaven Gym Club
Indoor Bowls	It is recommended that there is a specific review/feasibility study of Cleator Moor Activity Centre which examines future demand based on demographics and prioritising the needs of Cleator Moor and its wider communities. Based on population growth and the need for additional indoor rinks use the Sport England Sports Facility Calculator to identify funding from new housing development to maintain and improve the facility in Copeland.	Cleator Moor Activity Centre
Community Centres	Need to retain community centres that can be used for informal sport and physical activity.	Boroughwide
General Provision	Overall, and specifically through the housing growth agenda, provision of more active environments, reflecting active travel, cycle infrastructure, safe cycle routes to school, the need to link existing and new communities with walking/cycling/jogging routes – all supporting access and movement	Boroughwide

Other Priorities and Needs

Capital Investment

- 6.18 It is clear from the strategy analysis that there is a need for some capital investment in Copeland, to address future needs. Whilst some of this investment relates to additional facility provision (e.g. small pool at Millom), there is also a need to start planning now for the refurbishment of Whitehaven Sports Centre, Copeland Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre, and Cleator Moor Activity Centre. Investment is also required in some of the voluntary sector and education facilities.
- 6.19 It is also clear that delivery of the levels of investment required will only result from a local partnership approach. The development of improved sports facilities, and physical activity environments, will facilitate increased participation, which in turn will benefit individual and community health. The challenge is that the greatest health benefit will be gained by encouraging the inactive, to become active.

Continued Local Partnership Working with Education Sites

- 6.20 In order to deliver the identified Strategy needs, and the key outcome of increased participation to address health inequalities, plus meet demands from increased population, there is an opportunity for some changes in approach to delivery. The development of new/replacement facilities, increasing and optimising the available capacity in existing education facilities, provides a mechanism to deliver these outcomes.
- 6.21 The key issue to address initially is that of future partnership with education sites, to retain community access for clubs and groups as a minimum, and where possible agree Community Use Agreements (CUAs) which provide balanced access for the community on a pay and play basis. Increasing capacity to offer and deliver increased participative opportunities, particularly for those who are currently inactive, could contribute significantly to a reduction in health inequalities in the Borough.

Planning Policy, Securing Developer Contributions, Planning Obligations, S106 Obligations and the Community Infrastructure Levy – An overview

- 6.22 In order to implement the Strategy recommendations and address identified needs for improved and additional facility provision, Copeland Borough Council will need to identify and secure capital funding from a range of sources. Developer contributions through S106 have the potential to form part of this funding moving forward.
- 6.23 The facility investment needs identified in the Strategy and set out in Table 6.1 provide the definitive investment priorities and locations for this investment to 2035. This should inform Local Plan policy, and specifically the priorities against which to secure developer contributions moving forward.

- 6.24 In some cases, new residential developments will not generate the need for a new sports facility. However, where developments are located in areas where additional pressure will be placed on existing sports facilities by the development, Copeland Borough Council should seek contributions, for the enhancement and extension of existing sports in the vicinity of the development.
- 6.25 If larger developments generate a need for and/or are located adjacent to suitable community provision i.e. a new or improved community hall, then these will be considered on a site by site basis having regard to the development proposal, the characteristics of the site and the capacity and condition of existing infrastructure. Off-site contributions may be sought to support nearby existing or new sites, and/or for identified, more strategic sites (such as larger, high quality, leisure facilities serving more than the local need).
- 6.26 It is also important to highlight that the National planning guidance allows for cross boundary and pooled Developers' Contributions, although the latter are severely restricted.³¹ If new housing is to be built on the Borough boundaries then consultation across neighbouring authorities will need to occur to ensure that built sport facility need in any new development are developed appropriately.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1 (R1)

The existing levels of community accessible (including pay and play) sports hall, swimming pool and fitness provision in the Borough are retained as a minimum, but these need not necessarily be the same facilities as at present.

(PROTECT)

Recommendation 2 (R2)

There is a need for Copeland Borough Council and partners to plan now for the refurbishment of Whitehaven Sports Centre and Copeland Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre ensure that it can continue to respond to local health and wellbeing priorities and deliver increased opportunities for participation in physical activity and sport for clubs and the community.

(PROVIDE)

³¹ The Government is currently considering the scrapping of pooled contributions in some instances (e.g. where a local planning authority has an adopted CIL / land values are so low that it cannot be feasibly charged / where development is planned on several strategic sites). See here for further details:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/691182/Developer_Contributions_Consultation.pdf

Recommendation 3 (R3)

There is a need for Copeland Borough Council and partners to plan now for the refurbishment of Cleator Moor Activity Centre to ensure that it can continue to respond to local health and wellbeing priorities and deliver increased opportunities for participation in physical activity and sport for clubs and the community. It is recommended that there is a specific review/feasibility study of Cleator Moor Activity Centre which examines future demand based on demographics and prioritising the needs of Cleator Moor and its wider communities.

(PROVIDE)

Recommendation 4 (R4)

Copeland Borough Council to work with funding and delivery partners to identify medium to longer term investment opportunities for additional small swimming pool provision.

(PROVIDE)

Recommendation 5 (R5)

Opportunities to increase access to sports halls for increased levels of pay and play recreational participation should be developed where new housing development demands.

(PROVIDE)

Recommendation 6 (R6)

Copeland Borough Council seek to ensure that any new education provision involving new or enhanced sports facilities has a CUA as part of the planning consent so as to secure pay and play opportunities for clubs and groups.

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

Recommendation 7 (R7)

Consider the opportunity for Copeland Borough Council to work with partners in education to increase community access to existing education sports facilities where community access is currently provided, and where it is not; where possible, seek enhanced provision through a CUA.

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

Recommendation 8 (R8)

Continue to focus resources on the proposal to develop opportunities for walking, cycling and adrenaline sports as part of the Coastal Project

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

Recommendation 9 (R9)

Dialogue is established with Gymnastics NGB and Millom Recreation Centre Gymnastics Club and Whitehaven Gymnastics Club to further explore the potential of facilitating club – led development of additional gymnastics facilities i.e. new additional provision in Millom and/or Whitehaven Sports Centre.

(PROVIDE)

Recommendation 10 (R10)

Where appropriate, Copeland Borough Council and its partners seek to secure developer contributions from strategic developments that could contribute towards the development of strategic facilities, additional and safe walking, running and cycling routes, and where possible to open up other informal, multipurpose places and spaces where people can be active.

(PROVIDE AND PROTECT)

Recommendation 11 (R11)

Copeland Borough Council and all its partners identify the level of capital funding required to address the identified investment needs for sports facilities, and investigate all available sources for capital funding, on a partnership basis. To support this there is an opportunity to create a North Copeland Partnership, similar to the existing South Copeland Partnership, overseen by Active Cumbria.

(PROVIDE)

Recommendation 12 (R12)

Copeland Borough Council and its partners prioritise investment in the development of high-quality community sports facilities/spaces, with local partners. Increasing available capacity and therefore opportunities to take part in regular physical activity, in the local community, will contribute to reduced health inequalities, increased participation better community cohesion.

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

Recommendation 13 (R13)

There should be on-going monitoring of this Strategy through its implementation, but as a minimum, progress should be reviewed and refreshed every five years. On-going monitoring should include partnership working with neighbouring local authorities to keep aware of facility changes and developments.

(PROTECT)

Action Plan

- 6.27 In order to realise the above Vision and Aims for sport and leisure facility provision in Copeland there are key priorities that need to be addressed and implemented. These are set out below in the Action Plan, based on the recommendations for future provision. The investment costs quoted are based on a combination of our knowledge of new build schemes, industry norms, and Sport England cost guidelines. These are based on sq. m construction costs.

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sport and Physical Activity Strategy

Table 6.2: Strategy Action Plan

Recommendation	Action	Responsibility	Timescale		Resources / Partners
			Short	= 1 – 5 Years	
			Medium	= 5 – 10 Years	
			Long Term	= 10+ Years	
Recommendation 1 (R1) The existing levels of community accessible (including pay and play) sports hall, swimming pool and fitness provision in the Borough are retained as a minimum, but these need not necessarily be the same facilities as at present. (PROTECT)	Ensure the need for existing levels of pay and play sports hall, swimming pools and fitness provision is reflected in the Local Plan.	Copeland Borough Council Officers	Ongoing		Copeland Borough Council Planning and Leisure Officer time;
	Ensure that physical activity remains at the heart of all Town Deal proposals for community regeneration.	Copeland Borough Council Officers; Town Boards	Ongoing		Copeland Borough Council Planning and Leisure Officer time; Town Boards
	Support Phunky Foods, other development activities etc as part of a holistic approach to sustainable community health	Copeland Borough Council Officers; Town Boards	Ongoing		Copeland Borough Council Planning and Leisure Officer time; Town Boards
	Review contract for management of leisure facilities with a view to re-procurement; this needs to reflect the proposals for Unitary authority status in Cumbria	Copeland Borough Council Officers	Short Term		Copeland Borough Council Planning and Leisure Officer time; External consultants
Recommendation 2 (R2) There is a need for Copeland Borough Council and partners to plan now for the refurbishment of Whitehaven Sports Centre and Copeland Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre to ensure that it can continue to respond to local health and wellbeing priorities and deliver increased opportunities for participation in physical activity and sport for clubs and the community. (PROVIDE)	Feasibility study into provision of wet and dry facility on one site to replace Copeland Pool and Fitness Centre and Whitehaven Sports Centre with one facility. An issue for Copeland BC will be whether to retain the courts at Whitehaven Sports Centre or given the supply of courts elsewhere in the district, to continue with plans for co-location of health services and an alternative sporting offer.	Copeland Borough Council Officers;	Short -Medium Term		Copeland Borough Council Planning and Leisure Officer time; Whitehaven Town Board; Copeland Community Fund; Sport England

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sport and Physical Activity Strategy

Recommendation	Action	Responsibility	Timescale		Resources / Partners
			Short	= 1 – 5 Years	
			Medium	= 5 – 10 Years	
			Long Term	= 10+ Years	
<p>Recommendation 3 (R3)</p> <p>There is a need for Copeland Borough Council and partners to plan now for the refurbishment of Cleator Moor Activity Centre to ensure that it can continue to respond to local health and wellbeing priorities and deliver increased opportunities for participation in physical activity and sport for clubs and the community.</p> <p>(PROVIDE)</p>	<p>Review/feasibility study on future use of Cleator Moor Activity Centre based on demographics and priority needs of Cleator Moor vs proposals to improve the existing bowls hall, current café and fitness use to establish if compatible with needs of bowlers at Cleator Moor Activity Centre,</p>	<p>Copeland Borough Council Officers; Cleator Moor Town Board;</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>Copeland Borough Council Planning and Leisure Officer time; Cleator Moor Town Board</p>	
<p>Recommendation 4 (R4)</p> <p>Copeland Borough Council to work with funding and delivery partners to identify medium to longer term investment opportunities for additional small swimming pool provision.</p> <p>(PROVIDE)</p>	<p>A small pool (15m x 8m) should be considered for Millom, potentially co-located and managed with other health and well-being provision.</p> <p>Feasibility study required, including running of Leisure Local model</p> <p>Funding to be explored.</p> <p>Business Plan needed to demonstrate sustainability.</p>	<p>Copeland Borough Council Officers; Millom Town Board; Sport England</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>Copeland Borough Council Planning and Leisure Officer time; Millom Town Board Sport England</p>	
<p>Recommendation 5 (R5)</p> <p>Opportunities to increase access to sports halls for increased levels of play and play recreational participation should be developed where new housing development demands.</p> <p>(PROVIDE)</p>	<p>Identify funding from new housing development to maintain and improve the existing indoor bowls facilities based on population growth and the need for additional indoor rinks - use the Sport England Sports Facility Calculator.</p> <p>Review current capital allocation for Whitehaven SC referencing business case and reduction in provision of badminton courts and squash.</p>	<p>Copeland Borough Council Officers;</p>	<p>Short – Medium Term</p>	<p>Copeland Borough Council Planning and Leisure Officer time;</p>	

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sport and Physical Activity Strategy

Recommendation	Action	Responsibility	Timescale		Resources / Partners
			Short	= 1 – 5 Years	
			Medium	= 5 – 10 Years	
			Long Term	= 10+ Years	
<p>Recommendation 6 (R6)</p> <p>Copeland Borough Council seek to ensure that any new education provision involving new or enhanced sports facilities has a CUA as part of the planning consent so as to secure pay and play opportunities for clubs and groups.</p> <p>(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)</p>	Develop a standard CUA for application in any forthcoming planning obligations	Copeland Borough Council Officers; Sport England	Short - Medium Term		Copeland Borough Council Planning and Leisure Officer time; External consultants
<p>Recommendation 7 (R7)</p> <p>Consider the opportunity for Copeland Borough Council to work with partners in education to increase community access to existing education sports facilities where community access is currently provided, and where it is not; where possible, seek enhanced provision through a CUA.</p> <p>(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)</p>	CBC and its partners work with relevant educational organisations to review, revise and or implement Community Use Agreements, which provide a better balance of pay and play and club use.	Copeland Borough Council and existing relevant education establishments, Sport England.	Short Term		Copeland Borough Council and existing relevant education establishments, Sport England. Time costs for developing Community Use Agreements.
<p>Recommendation 8 (R8)</p> <p>Continue to focus resources on the proposal to develop opportunities for walking, cycling and adrenaline sports as part of the Coastal Project</p> <p>(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)</p>	Continue to develop the Coastal project – cycling infrastructure, promotion, adrenalin activities, Challenge Event, Wheels for All Hub	Copeland Borough Council Leisure and Planning Officers.	Short – Medium Term		Copeland Borough Council Planning and Leisure Officer time; all relevant partners
	Undertake a feasibility study into the potential for the development of an Adrenaline Hub in Copeland	Copeland Borough Council Leisure and Planning Officers. Town Boards in Millom and Whitehaven;	Short – Medium Term		Copeland Borough Council Planning and Leisure Officer time; all relevant partners

Copeland Borough Council
A 10 Year Sport and Physical Activity Strategy

Recommendation	Action	Responsibility	Timescale		Resources / Partners
			Short	= 1 – 5 Years	
			Medium	= 5 – 10 Years	
			Long Term	= 10+ Years	
<p>Recommendation 9 (R9)</p> <p>Dialogue is established with Gymnastics NGB and Millom Recreation Centre Gymnastics Club and Whitehaven Gymnastics Club to further explore the potential of facilitating club – led development of additional gymnastics facilities i.e. new additional provision in Millom and/or Whitehaven Sports Centre.</p> <p>(PROVIDE)</p>	<p>Explore further club-led provision/partnership for specialist gymnastics provision given high level of members/participation.</p>	<p>Copeland Borough Council Leisure and Planning Officers. Town Boards in Millom and Whitehaven;</p>	<p>Short – Medium Term</p>		<p>Copeland Borough Council Planning and Leisure Officer time; Town Boards in Millom and Whitehaven; Copeland Community Fund</p>
<p>Recommendation 10 (R10)</p> <p>Where appropriate, Copeland Borough Council and its partners seek to secure developer contributions from strategic developments that could contribute towards the development of strategic facilities, additional and safe walking, running and cycling routes, and where possible to open up other informal, multipurpose places and spaces where people can be active.</p> <p>(PROVIDE AND PROTECT)</p>	<p>Copeland Borough Council should develop a detailed approach to securing developer contributions to support the emerging local plan e.g. through a Planning Obligations SPD.</p> <p>Sport England's CIL & Planning Obligations Advice Note (or the future Developer Contributions guidance that will supersede it)</p> <p>https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/community-infrastructure-levy-and-planning-obligations-advice-note-nov-2018.pdf?PmR9OYIbVat6HfqmmvtKurJ6o1M3d4Z</p> <p>provides a step by step guide to assist the Council to use the findings of the strategy to secure financial contribution from developers.</p> <p>The use of Sport England's Sports Facility Calculator should specifically be referenced with assisting to identify demand for and financial contributions towards halls and pools.</p>	<p>Copeland Borough Council Leisure and Planning Officers. Sport England</p>	<p>Short – Medium Term</p>		<p>Copeland Borough Council Planning and Leisure Officer time; Developers</p>

Copeland Borough Council

A 10 Year Sport and Physical Activity Strategy

Recommendation	Action	Responsibility	Timescale		Resources / Partners
			Short	= 1 – 5 Years	
			Medium	= 5 – 10 Years	
			Long Term	= 10+ Years	
<p>Recommendation 11 (R11)</p> <p>Copeland Borough Council and all its partners identify the level of capital funding required to address the identified investment needs for sports facilities, and investigate all available sources for capital funding, on a partnership basis. To support this there is an opportunity to create a North Copeland Partnership, similar to the existing South Copeland Partnership, overseen by Active Cumbria.</p> <p>(PROVIDE)</p>	<p>Copeland Borough Council Leisure and Planning Officers to identify potential levels of capital funding from residential development, Towns Fund, Copeland Community Fund.</p> <p>Establish a North Copeland Partnership to provide a co-ordinating point for investment and development, in the same way there is a South Copeland Partnership.</p>	<p>Copeland Borough Council Leisure and Planning Officers. Sport England, local partners</p>	<p>Short – Medium Term</p>		<p>Copeland Borough Council Planning and Leisure Officer time; Developers Town Plan Boards Relevant local partners</p>
<p>Recommendation 12 (R12)</p> <p>Copeland Borough Council and its partners prioritise investment in the development of high-quality community sports facilities/spaces, with local partners. Increasing available capacity and therefore opportunities to take part in regular physical activity, in the local community, will contribute to reduced health inequalities, increased participation better community cohesion.</p> <p>(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)</p>	<p>Copeland Borough Council to work with its local partner providers and relevant identified community partners to ensure provision of, and access to, appropriate community sports facilities and opportunities to provide physical activity in the local community.</p>	<p>Copeland Borough Council Leisure Officers; Public Health and Local Providers and Community Partners</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>		<p>Copeland Borough Council Leisure Officer time; Copeland Borough Council Community Partners; Public Health and Copeland Borough Council Partner providers.</p>

Copeland Borough Council
A 10 Year Sport and Physical Activity Strategy

Recommendation	Action	Responsibility	Timescale		Resources / Partners
			Short	= 1 – 5 Years	
			Medium	= 5 – 10 Years	
			Long Term	= 10+ Years	
<p>Recommendation 13 (R13)</p> <p>There should be on-going monitoring of this Strategy through its implementation, but as a minimum, progress should be reviewed and refreshed every five years. On-going monitoring should include partnership working with neighbouring local authorities to keep aware of facility changes and developments.</p> <p>(PROTECT)</p>	<p>Ensure a monitoring process is in place to refresh the strategy and action plan every 5 years.</p> <p>Ensure ongoing dialogue with neighbouring authorities to be aware of facility changes and developments that may impact on Copeland residents and facility plans for the future.</p> <p>Establish a steering group made up of key stakeholders to take forward the actions in the action plan. This could be the same as the steering group recommended for implementing the PPS but excluding the outdoor playing pitch NGBs.</p>	<p>Copeland Borough Council and all partners</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Copeland Borough Council Leisure Officer time; partner time;</p>	

N.B. It is recognised that any new schools (Recommendations 5, and 6) are currently outside the direct control of Copeland BC. This should not, however, prevent local partnerships for community access.

Disclaimer

Forecasts and recommendations in any proposal, report or letter are made in good faith and on the basis of the information before the Company at the time. Their achievement must depend, among other things, on effective co-operation of the Client and the Client's staff. In any consequence, no statement in any proposal, report or letter is to be deemed to be in any circumstances a representation, undertaking, warranty or contractual condition.

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