

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Sports Facilities, Local Leisure Facilities and Playing Pitch Study

Final report

Part 1: Background and Context

December 2016



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SECTION 1: THE PURPOSE OF THE STRATEGIES

- 1.1 South Oxfordshire has developed a suite of strategies to inform the emerging Local Plan and to guide the requirements which will arise from new housing. These reports address the needs of the existing and future communities for sport, recreation and open space and comprise:

Part 1: Background and context

This summarises the policy background, the anticipated population changes, and the activity characteristics for the district. This part is referenced and used throughout the other parts of the strategy as it applies to all sports, facilities, and open space.

Part 2: Sports facilities strategy

This looks at each of the larger sports facility types in turn, both the larger strategic facilities such as sports halls and swimming pools. Also considered within this strategy report are the countryside and water activities such as rowing, sailing, cycling and horse riding.

Part 3: Playing pitch strategy

This considers grass playing fields plus artificial grass pitches, and primarily considers the needs of football, cricket, rugby and hockey.

Part 4: Local leisure facilities

This considers village halls, outdoor tennis and bowling green provision.

Part 5: Open spaces

This strategy considers the various types of open space across the district such as parks and gardens, amenity green space, provision for children's play and young people and allotments.

- 1.2 The strategies for built facilities and playing pitches follow the formal guidance set down by Sport England. There is currently no national guidance for open space reports, so the approach follows current best practice.
- 1.3 The strategies consider the demand and supply of facilities across the district and specifically the area around Didcot where the growth straddles the boundary with the Vale of White Horse and the area needs to be planned as a whole.
- 1.4 The conclusions and recommendations identify the facility network which will be required within the district to meet the needs of the district as a whole based on the adopted Core Strategy housing numbers. The emerging Local Plan, now at the Preferred Options stage, proposes additional housing in several areas in the district, but the scale and location of the housing has yet to be confirmed. Once the Local Plan has moved

forwards and the implications of the new housing can be better determined, then the suite of strategies will be reviewed to take this into account.



SECTION 2: THE POLICY FRAMEWORK

- 2.1 The priorities of South Oxfordshire District Council are set out in a number of key policy documents and these provide the justification for the authority's and its partners' investment in sport and active recreation and open spaces. These policy documents include national and local planning documents, the Corporate Plan and the Sustainable Community Strategy, plus previous adopted strategies. In a wider context, the plans and relevant strategies of all of the authorities around South Oxfordshire District are also of importance as they will also impact on the future supply and demand for sports facilities.
- 2.2 The strategy modelling is based on the adopted Core Strategy housing numbers, but these are currently being reviewed and new housing proposals are emerging through the Local Plan process. These are at too early a stage to enable them to be taken into account, but once firmed up, there will be a need to update the strategy modelling and subsequent recommendations for the built facilities, local leisure facilities and playing pitch provision.

NATIONAL PLANNING POLICIES

National Planning Policy Framework (2012)

- 2.3 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), published in March 2012 brought in a fundamental change to the strategic planning system. The NPPF is much simpler than the previous national policy, and the policies which relate specifically to leisure, sport and recreation are summarised in Appendix 1.
- 2.4 Under Paragraph 156, the NPPF advises that new Local Plans produced by each planning authority should set the strategic priorities for the area which specifically includes leisure development and *"the provision of health, security, community and cultural infrastructure and other local facilities"*. The Leisure Facilities Strategy will form one part of the evidence base for the emerging South Oxfordshire District Local Plan.
- 2.5 Under para 178, the NPPF states "Public bodies have a duty to cooperate on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries, particularly those which relate to the strategic priorities set out in paragraph 156. The Government expects joint working on areas of common interest to be diligently undertaken for the mutual benefit of neighbouring authorities". This report therefore also takes into consideration the cross-border implications of sport and recreation provision, which is a very significant issue for South Oxfordshire District, particularly where the authority borders the Vale of White Horse District around Didcot and Abingdon, Oxford City, and Reading.
- 2.6 Paragraph 70 of the NPPF reads:
- "To deliver the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should:

- plan positively for the provision and use of shared space, community facilities ... such as sports venues ... to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments
- guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community's ability to meet its day-to-day needs
- ensure that established ... facilities and services are able to develop and modernise in a way that is sustainable, and retained for the benefit of the community
- ensure an integrated approach to considering the location of ...community facilities and services

2.7 Under NPPF para 73 it states:

“Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision are required”.

2.8 Of particular importance at this time is the extent of the proposed growth in housing both within and around the authority. Some of this growth is reasonably well confirmed, such as the housing sites within the Vale of White Horse District which are close to Didcot. Others are less certain, for example the growth in and bordering Oxford. The housing proposals are becoming clearer as the South Oxfordshire District Local Plan process moves forwards. This Strategy is therefore based on the adopted Core Strategy housing proposals of 2012, but will need to be reviewed once the emerging Local Plan process is further ahead.

2.9 Paragraph 74 states:

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

- an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- 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
- the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss”

2.10 Even though the Community Infrastructure Levy for South Oxfordshire is now in place there is still a need to be able to determine what developer contributions are appropriate as part of individual applications under S106. In these assessments, the Council will need to take into account the NPPF policy that planning obligations

(including developer contributions) should only be sought where they meet all 3 tests of NPPF para 204 which links to CIL Regulation 122. The 3 CIL tests are:

- Necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms

If the sport infrastructure is not provided, the impact of the proposal will be unacceptable as it will not meet the needs of the relevant policies, and will lead to increased pressure on the existing facilities, for example by taking them beyond their capacity.

- Directly related to the development

The amount of demand which will be generated by the development will be identified through estimating the number of residents living in the proposed dwellings and applying the local demographic profile. The impact on the local infrastructure will then be determined based on how the development relates to the catchment area for each particular facility, and the existing and future expected balance in the supply of that facility with the new demand.

The contributions sought for sport and recreation will therefore be directly related to the development.

- Fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development

With a known demand for sport and recreation facilities directly related to the development as described above, and an assessment of the impact of the development on the supply and demand balance caused by the development, the contributions sought can be both fairly and reasonably assessed to be in scale and kind to the development.

2.11 NPPF para 196 states “The planning system is plan-led. Planning law requires that applications for planning permission must be determined in accordance with the development plan” and defines the Development plan as “includes adopted or approved development plan documents i.e. the Local Plan and neighbourhood plans”.

2.12 The relevant findings of the strategies need to be clearly part of the Local Plan.

National Planning Practice Guidance

2.13 National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) (PPG 003: Reference ID: 23b-003-20140306) states:

“Policies for seeking obligations should be set out in a development plan document to enable fair and open testing of the policy at examination. Supplementary planning documents should not be used to add unnecessarily to the financial burdens on development and should not be used to set rates or charges which have not been established through development plan policy”.

2.14 The strategies are founded on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for sports and recreation facilities, and opportunities for new provision as required by NPPF para 73. The key policies/recommendations will be set out as part of the new Local Plan, so as to enable fair and open testing of the policy at examination.

2.15 The NPPG reaffirms the importance of meeting these tests, para 004 states:

“Does the local planning authority have to justify its requirements for obligations?”

“In all cases, including where tariff style charges are sought, the local planning authority must ensure that the obligation meets the relevant tests for planning obligations in that they are necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms, directly related to the development, and fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind. Planning obligations should not be sought – on for instance, public art – which are clearly not necessary to make a development acceptable in planning terms. The Government is clear that obligations must be fully justified and evidenced...”

2.16 It is therefore clear that the emerging Local Plan will need to specifically include policies relating to developer contributions for sport and recreation, and to link them to this Strategy, as the evidence base.

Planning Act 2008: Community Infrastructure Levy and Pooling

2.17 The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a planning charge, introduced by the Planning Act 2008 as a tool for local authorities in England and Wales to help deliver infrastructure to support the development of their area. It came into force on 6 April 2010 through the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010, and with effect from 6 April 2015, the CIL regulations restrict the use of section 106 agreements by prohibiting the pooling of contributions from five or more sources. This change came into effect regardless of whether a local planning authority has or has not adopted a CIL charging schedule, which is in now in place for South Oxfordshire.

2.18 Regulation 123 states that:

(2) A planning obligation may not constitute a reason for granting planning permission for the development to the extent that the obligation provides for the funding or provision of relevant infrastructure.

(3) A planning obligation (“obligation A”) may not constitute a reason for granting planning permission to the extent that—

(a) obligation A provides for the funding or provision of an infrastructure project or type of infrastructure; and

(b) five or more separate planning obligations that—

(i) relate to planning permissions granted for development within the area of the charging authority; and

(ii) which provide for the funding or provision of that project, or type of infrastructure, have been entered into before the date that obligation A was entered into.

- 2.19 Therefore, if 5 or more contributions have already been secured since 2010 for a particular item of infrastructure, a local planning authority cannot ask for another contribution.
- 2.20 Sport, recreation and open space are classed as infrastructure. Interpretation of the new regulations are still emerging but it seems the wording suggests a contribution/obligation will either be for the funding or provision of a specific infrastructure project (e.g. a named sports hall) or to provide the funding or provision of a type of infrastructure (e.g. outdoor sport or unspecified “tennis courts”).
- 2.21 The impact of these changes will be that, during negotiations on individual planning applications, local authority planners (and likely applicants) will need to check whether similar obligations have already been requested and secured by section 106 obligations with the local planning authority. The authority will need to audit/review all Section 106 agreements completed in their area since 6 April 2010. Where an authority has included a type of infrastructure (e.g. generic “swimming pools”) on its regulation 123 list, specific projects that fall within that type of infrastructure will not be allowed to be considered. However, the inclusion of specific projects (e.g. a skate park in Town A) on the list would not preclude funding towards other projects of a similar type of infrastructure or types of infrastructure (e.g. another skate park in Town B).

LOCAL PLANNING POLICIES

- 2.22 The adopted Core Strategy and the saved policies of the Local Plan 2011 (adopted 2006) provide the current planning policy base for South Oxfordshire. However, South Oxfordshire is producing a new Local Plan, for which the report strategies will form part of the evidence base, and the process is at the Preferred Options stage.

Emerging Local Plan: Preferred Options (June 2016)

- 2.23 The emerging Local Plan now has a longer end date of 2032, and contains new housing numbers and locations. The Preferred Options document recognises the requirement for the district to meet both its own housing needs and some of Oxford City’s unmet housing need. The working assumption for the latter is 3,750 homes. The total number of dwellings for which the Local Plan now seeks to make provision up to 2032 is 19,500. Existing housing completions and commitments equate to 12,300 dwellings, giving a balance of 7,500 dwellings (rounded) for which the emerging Local Plan needs to make provision.
- 2.24 There remains uncertainty about the exact number of new dwellings that will be required and the location of the “Major strategic housing allocation” has yet to be determined. The Preferred Options table with the housing distribution (para 5.9) gives the following information (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Supply of new homes to come forward by 2032

Location	Net number of units
Completions 2011-2016	2,634
Commitments at 31 March 2016 - sites under construction, with planning permission or resolution to grant planning permission and allocations carried forward from the Core Strategy	8,795
New strategic allocation in the Local Plan 2032	3,500
Brownfield allocations (Oxford Brookes University, Wheatley & Culham No.1)	800
New allocations at Thame and Wallingford for their Neighbourhood Plans	1,025
New allocations in the Larger Villages (inc. 707 roll forward from Core Strategy) for their Neighbourhood Plans	2,465
Sites in smaller villages (Neighbourhood Plans) and windfalls	785
TOTAL	20,004

- 2.25 Once these proposals have been confirmed, then it will be possible to review the strategy documents and update the recommendations in relation to meeting the future needs of the community across the district.

The Core Strategy (adopted 2012)

- 2.26 The Local Plan is made up of a series of documents and policies. The housing targets are presented in the Core Strategy relating to Didcot (Table 7.2), and the Rest of the District (Table 7.3), see Figure 2.
- 2.27 Of these allocations, a number are already in the planning process or have been built out. These include: Great Western Park, North East Didcot, Fairmile Hospital, Chinnor Cement Works, Former Thame United Football Club, and Wallingford greenfield neighbourhood site. A number of recent planning applications have additionally been submitted within the Larger Villages listed in Table 7.2.

Figure 2: Planned housing provision (CS 2012)

Table 7.2 Planned housing provision in Didcot

DIDCOT 2006-2027	Requirement	Supply
Requirement		
Target 2006-2026 (South East Plan target carried forward)	6,000	
Additional housing requirement 2026-2027	300	
Supply		
Completions 2006/07 – 2011/12		322
Existing strategic sites		
Great Western Park		2,587
Ladygrove East		642
Vauxhall Barracks		300
Other deliverable sites as at 31.03.12		132
New strategic allocations in this core strategy		
North east Didcot		2,030
Orchard Centre Phase 2		300
Total 2006 to 2027	6,300	6,313

Table 7.3 Planned housing provision in the Rest of the District

REST OF THE DISTRICT 2006-2027	Requirement	Supply
Requirement		
Target 2006-2027 (South East Plan target carried forward)	4,940	
Additional housing requirement 2006-2027	247	
Supply		
Completions 2006/07 - 2011/12		1,493
<u>Existing strategic sites in Local Plan</u>		
Fairmile Hospital		270
Chinnor Cement Works		77
Mongewell Park		166
Former Thame United Football Club		12
Other deliverable sites as at 31.03.12		442
<u>New strategic allocations in this core strategy</u>		
Wallingford greenfield neighbourhood		555
Site(s) to be allocated in the Thame Neighbourhood Plan		775
Sites to be allocated in the Site Allocations DPD at Henley		400
<u>Sites to be allocated in the Site Allocations DPD for the larger villages</u>		
Benson, Berinsfield, Cholsey, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wheatley, Chalgrove, Chinnor, Goring, Nettlebed, Sonning Common, Watlington, Woodcote and Bayswater Farm		1,154*
Total 2006 to 2027	5,187	5,344

*These allocations should be divided so that at least 500 are provided at Larger Villages in the Central Oxfordshire area. This will secure general conformity with the South East Plan. The Larger Villages in Central Oxfordshire are Benson, Berinsfield, Cholsey, Crowmarsh Gifford and Wheatley. Part of this Central Oxfordshire provision will also be met by an appropriate allocation at Bayswater Farm.

- 2.28 The implications of these housing proposals have been taken into account in the modelling behind the forecast need for sports facilities, playing pitches and open space.

Developers' contributions and infrastructure delivery

- 2.29 The most recent policy setting out the authority's approach towards developers' contributions for infrastructure is set out in the Community Infrastructure Levy CIL Regulation 123 List of April 2016. The introductory paragraphs are extracted below:

Regulation 123 of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended) restricts the use of planning obligations for infrastructure that will be funded in whole or in part by the Community Infrastructure Levy. The Regulation 123 list contains generic types of infrastructure that may be funded using CIL receipts, with the exception of specific on-site infrastructure or direct mitigation measures and specifically of the strategic development sites.

The list below sets out those infrastructure projects that South Oxfordshire District Council may wholly or partly fund by the CIL. The inclusion of a project or type of infrastructure on this list does not signify a commitment from the council to fund (either in whole or in part) the listed project or type of infrastructure through CIL. The order in the table does not imply any order of preference for spend and the council will review this list on an annual basis, as part of its monitoring of CIL collection and spend.

This list will be updated on a regular basis. It is anticipated that CIL receipts will be limited in the first years after adoption, given that contributions are not payable until commencement of development.

In accordance with the CIL Regulation 59A, this council will pass 15% of relevant CIL receipts to the Town/Parish Council for that area, capped at £100 per dwelling on existing dwellings. If the Town/Parish Council adopts a Neighbourhood Plan, this percentage will be increased to 25% (uncapped). This will be passed onto the Town/Parish Councils on a 6 monthly basis in accordance with the CIL Regulations.

- 2.30 The "strategic sites" are North East Didcot site, Didcot Ladygrove site, Didcot, and Site B, Wallingford. The treatment of recreation and leisure in the Regulation 123 list is as in Figure 3. This approach means that some projects will be able to be funded both by S106 monies, particularly from the "strategic sites", and from CIL contributions. It also clarifies that some sport and leisure provision is expected to be delivered on site, as well as contributions being made off site.

Figure 3: Recreation and leisure on the Reg 123 List

Infrastructure type or project (to be funded through CIL)	Exclusions (to be secured through S106 and other statutory provision). The strategic sites North-East Didcot, Ladygrove-East Didcot, and Site B Wallingford are referred to as the Strategic Sites
Recreation, sport and leisure	
Recreation, sports and leisure facilities other than site specific requirements	<p>On-site provision, of recreation, sports and leisure facilities in accordance with policy requirements and to make development acceptable in planning terms.</p> <p>On and off-site provision of recreation, sports and leisure facilities to serve development at the Strategic Sites.</p>
Open space, play, allotment and biodiversity	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Play areas - Allotments <p>Other than site specific requirements</p>	<p>On-site provision of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - open space - play areas - allotments <p>in accordance with policy requirements</p>

- 2.31 Infrastructure Delivery Plans set down the priorities for investment. SODC published an updated Infrastructure Delivery Plan in February 2015. This document includes the infrastructure listed in the Joint Didcot Infrastructure Delivery Plan Live Document 2011. The document stresses that (para 4-7):

4. We are currently in the process of preparing a new South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031, which will look ahead to 2031 and consider the additional requirement for housing and other forms of development arising from the SHMA. The new plan is expect to reach the preferred options stage by the summer of 2015 and fully adopted by the beginning of 2017. The IDP will be reviewed after the preferred options stage to reflect growth envisaged in the emerging plan.

5. The IDP is not intended to be a comprehensive list for community projects or a "shopping list" for developer contributions, nor is it a way of capturing every project being planned by the Council and its partners. It recognises there are other plans and strategies that exist which provides more detail about what and how these elements of infrastructure will be delivered.

6. This document does not set Council policy. It provides information on the infrastructure needed to support development in the district. Information within this document will be superseded if more up to date information becomes available to the Council. This update covers the period from April 2014 to March 2027.

- 2.32 The relevant elements of the February IDP are given in Figure 4.

Figure 4: Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2015 extract

Ref	Project type	Project name	Project locality	Project description	Project location	Responsibility for delivery	Total cost (£000's)	Funding held/secured (£000's)	Remaining funding gap (£000's)
34	Leisure	Didcot leisure centre	Didcot	New leisure centre at Didcot	n/a	SODC	£22,600 (excl land cost)	\$106 = 2,000	£20,600 (excl land cost)
35	Leisure	Berinsfield leisure centre	Berinsfield	New leisure centre at Berinsfield	n/a	SODC	£tbc	-	£tbc
36	Leisure	Indoor & outdoor sports	n/a	Contribution towards the provision, maintenance and enhancement of local indoor and outdoor sports provisions. Requirements to be identified in up to date leisure strategies and policies.	n/a	SODC	£tbc	-	£tbc
37	Community	Community halls	Didcot	Contribution towards 2 additional community halls at Didcot.	n/a	SODC	£tbc	-	£tbc
38	Community	Community facilities and open space	n/a	Contribution towards the provision, maintenance and enhancement of local community facilities, including community halls, allotments, parks, public art and public open space.	n/a	SODC	£tbc	-	£tbc
53	Walking/cycling	Pedestrian & cycling network	n/a	Contribution towards the provision and enhancement of pedestrian and cycling networks, including Sustrans' personalised travel planning projects.	n/a	Oxfordshire County Council	£tbc	-	£tbc
56	Walking/cycling	Cycle Network Improvements	Science Vale	Providing easier and greater connectivity across Science Vale by bike and encouraging more sustainable travel pattern across the area.	n/a	Oxfordshire County Council	£7,407	LGF = £4,520 GPF = £1,887 LSTF = £1,000	£0

Joint Didcot Infrastructure Delivery Plan Live Document (2013)

- 2.33 The Joint Didcot Infrastructure Delivery Plan (Didcot IDP) forms part of the Evidence Base of the South Oxfordshire Core Strategy but was a joint infrastructure plan for Didcot for the two authorities; the Vale of White Horse District and South Oxfordshire District. It is a live document which is expected to be updated throughout the plan period. It is designed to link to the development of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
- 2.34 The document categorises infrastructure as critical, necessary or preferred, with the following definitions:

Risk to the Core Strategy	Definition
Critical	The identified infrastructure is critical, and development cannot commence without it being in place. <i>E.g. transport/utility infrastructure</i>
Necessary	The identified infrastructure is also critical to support new development, but the precise timing and phasing is less critical and development can commence ahead of its provision. <i>E.g. schools/primary health care</i>
Preferred	The delivery of the identified infrastructure is preferred in order to build sustainable communities. Timing and phasing is not critical over the plan period. <i>E.g. libraries, green infrastructure, youth provision.</i>

- 2.35 The key relevant infrastructure requirements the Joint Didcot IDP are:

- Transport
 - Necessary
 - Provision of local pedestrian and cycle links, including to/from schools, shops etc, as a “necessary
 - Science Vale UK Strategic Cycle Network as part of an integrated package of strategic transport schemes
- Social infrastructure
 - Necessary
 - 3 x primary schools
 - 2 x secondary schools at NE Didcot and Great Western Park
 - New Didcot Sports Facility of approx £15m
 - Multi use games areas at one per 5,000 people
 - Preferred
 - 3 x Multi Use Games Areas; one at Didcot Sports Facility; 2 at Great Western Park
 - Improve quality of existing tennis courts and add additional 4 courts
 - 2 x 3G pitches
 - 5 x cricket pitches (2 as a result of new development)
 - 2 x rugby pitches (1 as a result of new development)

- 22 junior/mini pitches (11 as a result of new development)
- Green infrastructure
 - Preferred
 - Each site to demonstrate that they can meet their requirement for Green Infrastructure to a standard to be agreed by the district council or contribution off-site
 - Provision of internal greenways for walkers, cyclists and horse riders.
- Site Specific Infrastructure Need – North East Growth Area (SODC)
 - Necessary
 - Provision of pedestrian and cycle routes within site and linking to local services and the national cycle network
 - 2 x primary schools
 - 1 x secondary school
 - Preferred
 - Good walking and cycling links
 - Neighbourhood centre including a community centre
 - Allotments (1.38 ha) unless no need shown
 - Children’s play (approx 3.7 ha in total)
 - Amenity green space at 10% of the total site area, which can be negotiated to be transferred to the town/parish council with a commuted sum for 15 years at £23.57 per sq m.
- Site Specific Infrastructure Need – Orchard Centre Phase 2
 - Contributions towards school, community facilities etc
 - Preferred
 - Allotments (0.2 ha) unless no need shown
 - Children’s play (approx 0.6 ha in total)
 - Amenity green space at 10% of the total site area, which can be negotiated to be transferred to the town/parish council with a commuted sum for 15 years at £23.57 per sq m.

2.36 The IDP also covers Valley Park which is in the Vale of White Horse district.

2.37 As the IDP is a live document, changes can be made to it. The findings of the strategy reports will be used to update the IDP, as well as informing the Local Plan.

Justifying contributions under S106

2.38 In relation to the justification of developers contributions under S106, the NPPF states that “assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area and information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required”.

2.39 The request for developer contributions must meet the three CIL tests; fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development. There is therefore a need to assess the scale of the contributions from a specific housing development, which in turn

must be based on the amount of anticipated demand for specific sports facilities, playing fields or open space which is expected to be generated by the housing scheme. The “standards of provision” for each facility type and open space are given in the new strategy reports, and will provide this tool once adopted. It is expected that for the largest housing schemes, this assessment will usually lead to a requirement for new provision on site (with suitable land at no cost), for example for new football pitches with their ancillary facilities.

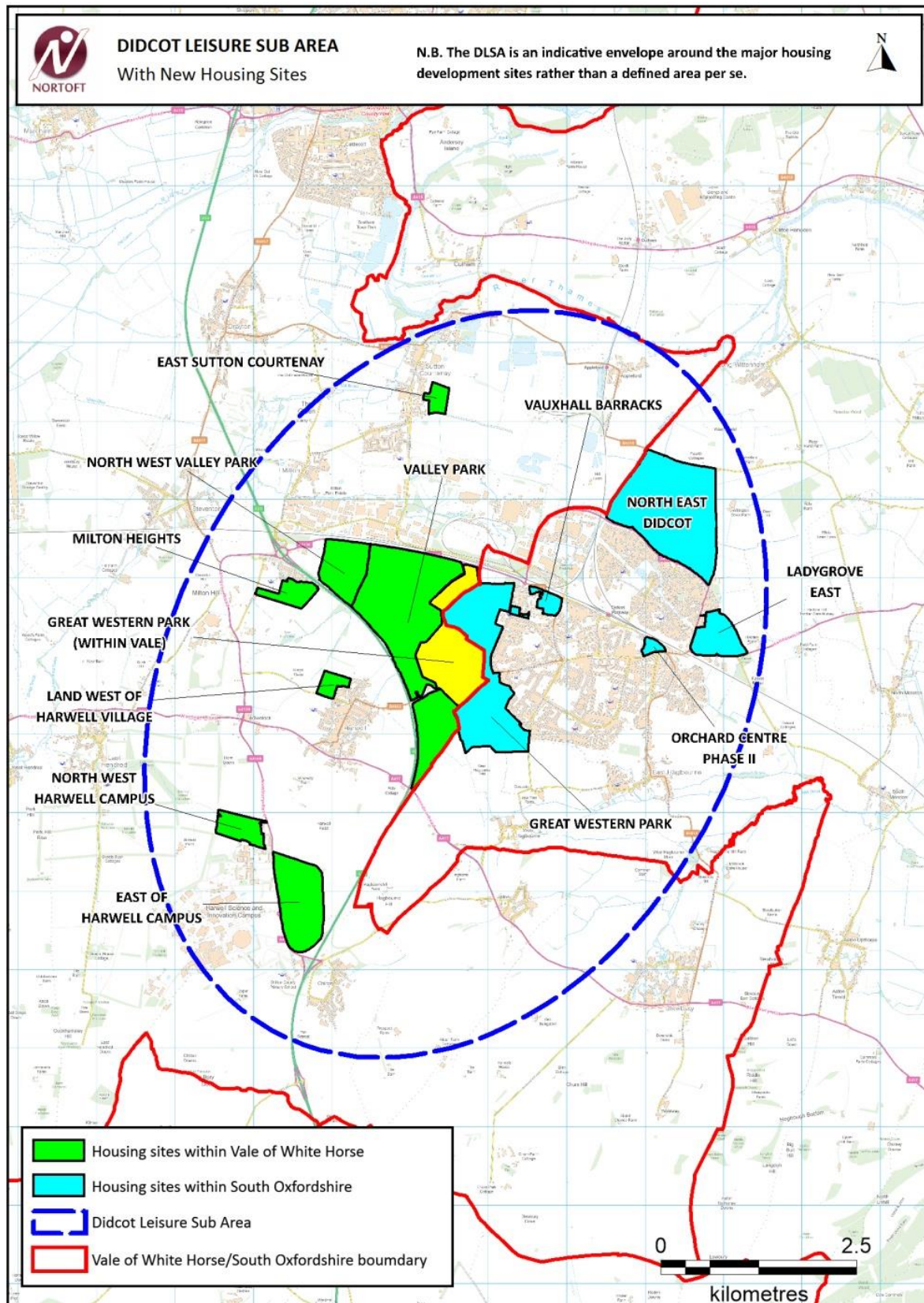
- 2.40 Prior to the adoption of the new standards in the new strategy reports, the S106 assessment of demand generated by a housing scheme will be based on the existing adopted standards. There are a number of detailed standards for sports facilities, playing fields and open space, and these are summarised in Appendix 2.
- 2.41 On some sites where there is sufficient accessible capacity in the locality already to absorb the estimated new demand, but there is a need for investment to improve the quality of existing facilities e.g. improvements to a changing pavilion, pitch quality, or the resurfacing of tennis courts, then the developers contributions under the S106 arrangements will be expected to be allocated towards these off-site improvements.
- 2.42 The need to potentially provide significant suitable areas for sports on site within new developments can have a major impact on both a site’s viability and the options for the masterplanning. Such provision must therefore be considered at the very earliest stages of any development.

Other policies

Didcot Leisure Sub Area

- 2.43 As sport and recreation needs to be considered in a cross-boundary way and there was an earlier need to inform the Vale of White Horse’s Local Plan, a report was produced in 2014 for the Didcot area, known as the Didcot Leisure Sub Area (DLSA). This area broadly covers the new housing growth in and around Didcot, and recognises that the new residents will use facilities within their travel area regardless of administrative boundaries. It is important to note that the Didcot LSA is an indicative envelope around the major new development sites, rather than a defined catchment area per se. The DLSA area is illustrated by Figure 5.
- 2.44 The strategy reports for sports facilities, playing pitches and local leisure facilities each consider the Didcot LSA, and the findings and recommendations update the 2014 report.

Figure 5: Didcot Leisure Sub Area map



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS

2.45 A number of Neighbourhood Plans exist or are being developed in South Oxfordshire. these include those at:

- Aston Rowant
- Beckley and Stowood
- Benson
- Brightwell-cum-Sotwell
- Chalgrove
- Chinnor
- Cholesy
- Clifton Hampden
- Dorchester on Thames
- East Hagbourne
- Garsington
- Goring
- Henley-on-Thames
- Horspath
- Little Milton
- Long Wittenham
- Pyrton
- Sandford-on-Thames
- Sonning Common
- Tetsworth
- Thame
- The Baldons
- Tiddington
- Towersey
- Wallingford
- Warborough and Shillingford
- Watlington
- Wheatley
- Whitchurch-on-Thames
- Woodcote

2.46 Four of the neighbourhood plans have been subject to examination and the relevant details are addressed below.

Berinsfield

2.47 The Berinsfield Neighbourhood Plan was subject to independent examination in April 2016. The plan was found not to meet the basic conditions or the tests for legal compliance. The Parish Council and the District Council are currently discussing the possible ways forward.

- 2.48 The plan included a proposal to redevelop/replace the Abbey Sports Centre for which the preference would be to keep a swimming pool. No mention is made of the existing, poor quality artificial grass pitch in this regard. The grass playing fields and pavilion are recognised as important community facilities, but there are no specific proposals.

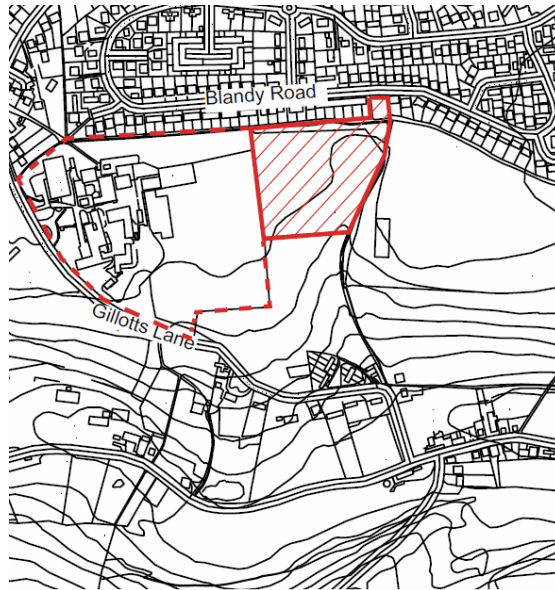
Joint Henley and Harpsden Neighbourhood Plan (Final Submission Version, June 2015)

- 2.49 On 14 April 2016 the Henley and Harpsden Neighbourhood Plan was officially “made”, and as such, forms part of the Development Plan.
- 2.50 The plan responds to the requirement for the area to provide 450 new homes, and the Examiner appears to have supported an increase to 500 houses. Three sites within the neighbourhood plan have implications for pitch sports.

Gillotts School Field (site C)

- 2.51 The neighbourhood plan includes within the proposed housing sites, Gillotts School (3.5 ha), but notes that the 50 proposed housing units are above the number required in the Core Strategy. This proposal will affect sport and recreation through the loss of playing field space. The plan states that the provision of alternative sports facilities will have to be implemented before the release of any playing fields for development. The detailed policy is provided at SP11. The area is shown in the plan, see Figure 6.
- 2.52 The independent examiner confirmed the Gillotts School site as appropriate for development but suggested that there should be a change of wording in Policy SCI2 to read: “The renewal of Gillotts School will be supported subject to it resulting in the provision of alternative enhanced sports facilities to those that currently exist.”
- 2.53 Sport England raised their concerns about the loss of the playing field space at Gillotts School in their submission for the draft Neighbourhood Plan in a letter dated March 2015. Sport England took the view that “unless and until the playing pitch strategy for South Oxfordshire has been completed and clearly identifies playing field land at Gillotts School as being surplus to requirements or a suitable replacement can be identified, the land should not be allocated for housing development in the Neighbourhood Plan.”
- 2.54 No new playing field area has been identified to replace the proposed loss of playing field space at Gillotts School, so this remains a key issue and is addressed in detail within the Playing Pitch Strategy report.

Figure 6: Gillotts School housing proposal
Source: Neighbourhood Plan



357 Reading Road (site J)

- 2.55 The Reading Road proposal will impact upon the changing and car parking which currently service the sports use of Jubilee Park for football, hockey and athletics training. Jubilee Park is directly south of the development site, across the road.
- 2.56 Policy SP5: 357 Reading Road (Site J), see Figure 7 for map, states: Within the area defined on the Neighbourhood Plan Key Diagram the 357 Reading Road site is allocated for: a) Up to 30 residential units; b) Replacement car parking for Henley Hockey and AFC Henley facilities, if required; c) Up to 200sqm retail; d) Permission should not be granted prior to the opening of replacement community sports facilities currently located on the site. The independent examiner confirmed this site for development but clarified the process in relation to point (d) which was recommended to be changed to “Development should not start prior to...”

Figure 7: 357 Reading Road housing proposal
Source: Neighbourhood Plan



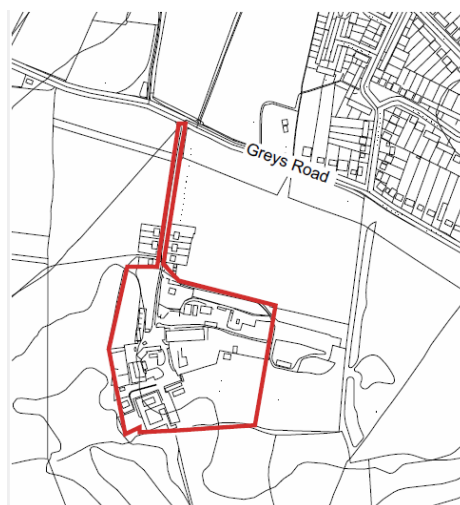
- 2.57 There are no specific proposals on how the car parking will be replaced, and the playing field area protected and enhanced on the Jubilee Park. This is therefore also a key issue to be addressed, and is considered in more detail within the Playing Pitch Strategy report.

Highlands Farm (site M)

- 2.58 This site lies to the south west of the town as is slightly separated from the main urban area. The site is approximately 6.2 ha in total and is largely a brownfield site but which contains a disused single adult size pitch, see Figure 8. The neighbourhood plan policy requires:

- Playing pitches and indoor changing facilities conforming with policy SC11.
- The Design Brief prepared for this site should demonstrate how the proposed development has appropriately 'incorporated and reinforced or reprovided the existing landscaping and pitches.....'

Figure 8: Highlands Farm, Greys Road
Source: Neighbourhood Plan



- 2.59 This site has now been submitted for planning and the detail is therefore being worked up in relation to the proposed future provision for football on the site. In developing the pitches on the site, a qualified and suitably experienced specialist pitch agronomist should be employed to assess the quality of the site and to provide advice on the development of the pitches, which must meet FA standards.
- 2.60 Development should not start prior to the opening of replacement community sports facilities currently located on the site, and;
- a) Pitches to be 2 x U11/U12 junior pitches (dimensions 73m x 46m)
 - b) The pitches are to be set in public open space, and also within a wider flat pitch area (see dark green below) so allowing a surrounding a c3m run off area and flexibility of use.
 - c) Pitch slopes if at all possible to be <1.25% in the direction of play and <2.5% across the field of play.
 - d) The adjacent community centre to have appropriate changing facilities with 2 changing rooms with showers and toilets with separate direct access to the pitch, and an inside space for refreshments with a small kitchenette (the inside space does not need to be separate and should be part of the main community hall facility).
 - e) Storage for goalposts and relevant kit, either as part of the community centre, or in a new secure storage building/structure adjacent.
 - f) Secured long-term community use.
 - g) An agreed and enforceable management plan for the wider open space area so as to allow pitch management balanced with public access.
 - h) Discussion on the site management could be held with AFC Henley. It would be appropriate to have either an established football club or the Parish Council manage the site given the need to manage use.
 - i) As well as providing the land at no cost, and undertaking the capital works up to hand-over in a playable condition, the developer should provide a maintenance

contribution of £77,113 (standard maintenance contribution based on FA's maintenance cost per ha x 0.8135ha x 20 years).

- j) Within the main public open space a Local Equipped Area of Play (LEAP) should be provided to the latest Fields in Trust Status (no Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play (NEAP) is required).
- k) The provision of a suitably located trim trail with 12 items (example: standard range of Kompan equipment).

2.61 In addition, there must be sufficient space provided for parking associated with the use of the pitches at peak time. The potential that Highlands Farm can offer to football is included within the Playing Pitch Strategy report.

Local items for CIL funding

2.62 The local items for CIL funding are, in priority order:

1. Transport Strategy
2. Transport Strategy implementation (including strategic cycle routes)
3. Community hall/multi-service centres (including youth centre component)
4. Outdoor trim trails
5. Playing pitches
6. Skate park

Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan (Final submission version)

2.63 This Neighbourhood Plan was made in October 2016.

2.64 The plan places significant emphasis on the need to address identified sport and recreation deficiencies in the parish and the adjoining parts of Kidmore End and Rotherfield Peppard.

2.65 Identified sports shortfalls include: amenity green space 3.26 ha; community sports hall 30m x 30m (without full height roof); floodlit Artificial Grass Pitch – 60m x 40m; full sized Multi Use Games Area/tennis facility; senior 9 – strip cricket pitch 111.84 x 115.58 with extensive use for cricket; a mix of youth and mini football pitches; space for other activities (fitness trail/outdoor gym) and; sufficient parking for all necessary community use.

2.66 The most significant proposal is for the development of site SON3 opposite Chiltern Edge School, an area of 5.3 ha to provide some additional sports space. The concept for this site includes provision of sports pitches, MUGA, community hall, access and parking (at least 60 spaces). All facilities to Sport England standards. No other details are provided, for example in relation to the amount of playing field space, type of pitch to be provided or provision of changing facilities.

2.67 The Neighbourhood Plan does propose however the sale of part of the current playing fields at Chiltern Edge School for housing. The school has been granted approval from the Department of Education for this disposal.

- 2.68 The existing gymnastics facility, Kennylands Gym, has a long term covenant for the retention of sport on the site.
- 2.69 The importance and options for the SON3 site are addressed within the report recommendations, both the Playing Pitch Strategy and the Sports Facilities Strategy.

Thame Neighbourhood Plan

- 2.70 The Thame Neighbourhood Plan became a made plan in July 2013. The relevant extracts from the plan are given below.

- 2.71 The plan's overall future vision includes:

- An additional 775 homes
- 3 ha of new employment land
- New retail within the town centre
- Potential locations for a community facility
- New and improved connections within the town
- New and improved open spaces

- 2.72 The majority of the new homes are allocated between three sites;

Site C:

South east of the town, close to the Chinnor Road (187 dwellings), including 11.8 ha landscaped publicly accessible open space.

Site D:

South of the town close to Thame Park Road (175 dwellings + 18 dwellings + 12 dwellings), including 13.2 ha landscaped publicly accessible open space.

Site F:

North of Oxford Road (203 dwellings). 9.4 ha of residential space, 17 ha landscaped publicly accessible open space, 1.4 ha for the expansion of Lord Williams's School, 2 ha for a primary school site.

- 2.73 There are also two sites identified within the town, land at

The Elms:

Max of 45 dwellings.

1 ha minimum of landscaped publicly accessible open space.

The Lord Williams's Lower School (LWLS):

Two parts of the proposal: "off site" which is an area of playing fields on the north side of Towersey Road, and "school side" which is on the south side of Towersey Road and comprises education buildings and playing fields.

135 dwellings on the southern part of the site.

1.9 ha of public open space in either the southern area or more likely where there are existing playing fields (on the northern site).

- 2.74 The school wishes to move the Lower School onto the Upper School site. The plan notes that the school amalgamation is still at an early stage of discussion and is not confirmed. Alternatives would be to increase the amount of housing at Oxford Road (site F) and at site C.

Sports facility issues

- 2.75 The proposals to develop the Lord Williams's Lower School site would require the development on two areas of playing fields. The "school side" pitches (south of Towersey Road) are currently used by Chinnor Rugby Club for 2.5 hours per week, but the playing fields are not otherwise booked during the winter months for sport. The loss of playing field space to enable the relocation of the school would need to satisfy the tests set down in the National Planning Policy Framework.
- 2.76 Other uses of the lower school facilities, based on the school bookings September 2014-February 2015, included significant use for gymnastics, basketball, netball, cricket training, and dance, see Appendix 3. The Plan suggests that the sports hall and the Phoenix Centre at the Lord Williams's Lower School site could be retained and refurbished as a community facility if the remainder of the site was developed for housing.
- 2.77 A sports facility strategy was commissioned by Thame Town Council to consider the various implications of the Neighbourhood Plan. The final report (March 2015) has been taken into account within this study. The report was co-ordinated by Thame Town Council and involved Lord Williams's School and local sports clubs including: Chinnor RFC, Thame Hockey Club, Thame Cricket Club, and Thame Football Partnership.
- 2.78 Sport England provided pre-application advice to the school and its agents on 26 November 2015. The letter states that Sport England does not consider the Thame Sports Facility Strategy to be robust. Sport England concludes that the proposed development does not accord with the circumstances described in any of the exceptions in Sport England's Planning Policy Statement or with Paragraph 74 of the NPPF.
- 2.79 Sport England however acknowledges that the principle of residential development on the Lower School site is established in Policy H1 of the Neighbourhood Plan. This is dependent on the production of a Sports Facility Strategy containing recommendations for playing pitches which, in turn, must be included in a Design Brief for the site.
- 2.80 Sport England further states that the emerging district-wide playing pitch strategy will provide a robust and up-to-date assessment of the need for playing pitches. It will contain an action plan for the North-East sub-area, which includes Thame. Once this has been adopted, it should be used to inform both the design brief and a mitigation package for the loss of playing pitches and other sporting facilities on the site.
- 2.81 Sport England reserved the right to object to any subsequent planning application.

- 2.82 It is noted that sports pitches are not generally included within the Thame Neighbourhood Plan as sports facilities, as they are protected by higher level planning policy (National Planning Policy Framework). However, the cricket club site is included, but only in relation to its landscape and visual importance to Thame.
- 2.83 Sports pitch provision for new developments are anticipated to be negotiated by the district council on a site-by-site basis, and may either be on-site provision or a financial contribution to off-site provision.
- 2.84 The implications of the proposed changes at Lord Williams's Upper and Lower Schools are addressed within the report recommendations, both in the Playing Pitch Strategy and the Sports Facilities Strategy.

Woodcote Neighbourhood Plan 2013-2027

- 2.85 The Woodcote Neighbourhood Plan was formally made part of the Council's Development Plan in May 2014. It applies to the Parish of Woodcote, and the plan objectives cover the topics of: housing; environment; pedestrians, traffic and transport; economy; and community. The topic of environment includes the protection and enhancement of the village's open spaces.
- 2.86 The plan area currently has around 2,604 residents, with over 25% being aged 60 years plus.
- 2.87 The plan recognises that the area has good community and recreational facilities including a good village hall.
- 2.88 The plan notes that there is reasonable access to Reading, Henley, Goring and Wallingford for multi-purpose sports halls, hockey, rugby and mini soccer.

New housing

- 2.89 Planning permission will be granted for a minimum of 73 new homes to be built in Woodcote in the period up to 2027. There will be a maximum of 24 new homes on any one site.

CORPORATE DOCUMENTS

Corporate Plan 2012-2016

2.90 This plan sets out the Council's strategic objectives, priorities, measures and targets for the four year period. It sets the framework for the development of detailed service plans and for the allocation of resources. The strategic objectives of the plan are:

- Excellent delivery of key services
- Effective management of resources
- Meeting housing needs
- Building the local economy
- Support for communities.

2.91 The Plan includes references to joint working with the Vale of White Horse District Council in relation to growth around Didcot, the committed development of the new Didcot leisure centre and the area which is designated as Science Vale.

2.92 The Plan has the following relevant specific objectives:

EXCELLENT DELIVERY OF KEY SERVICES

Deliver high performing services with particular emphasis on achieving excellent levels of recycling, keeping streets and public spaces clean and attractive and ensuring good quality sports and leisure provision

- increase the percentage of people who are satisfied with provision of sports and leisure facilities from 64 per cent to 68 per cent by 2016
- achieve ratings of good or excellent for overall satisfaction in sports centre user satisfaction surveys (all centres)

BUILDING THE LOCAL ECONOMY

Bring forward proposals for building a new leisure centre in Didcot that meets the needs of the expanding town

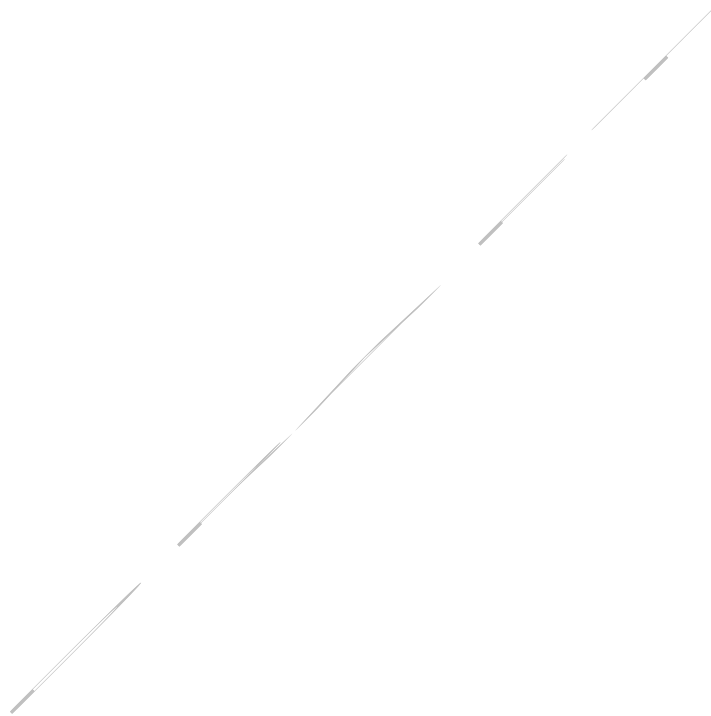
- site for new leisure centre identified and agreed
- facility mix agreed
- funding and planning permission secured
- leisure centre under construction by the end of the corporate plan period

Sustainable Community Strategy

2.93 South Oxfordshire District Council's Sustainable Communities Strategy 2009-2036 "Our place, our future" provides the overarching vision for the district. It balances and integrates the social, economic and environmental aspects of communities across the

district; meets the needs of the existing and future generations; and respects the needs of other communities in the wider region or internationally to make their own communities sustainable.

- 2.94 The vision for the strategy is that South Oxfordshire will be an attractive, successful, vibrant and safe place where people choose to live, work and visit. It will be a place where everyone can enjoy: a good place to live, a strong sense of community where diversity in people and place is respected and valued and access to the services and facilities they need to support good health and social and economic well-being.
- 2.95 The environment priorities include improving the quality of and access to our public open and green spaces. The strong communities' priorities include improving access to services and facilities for local people, particularly those who need support because of deprivation, health or access issues. The healthy communities' priorities include increasing participation in sport and active recreation.



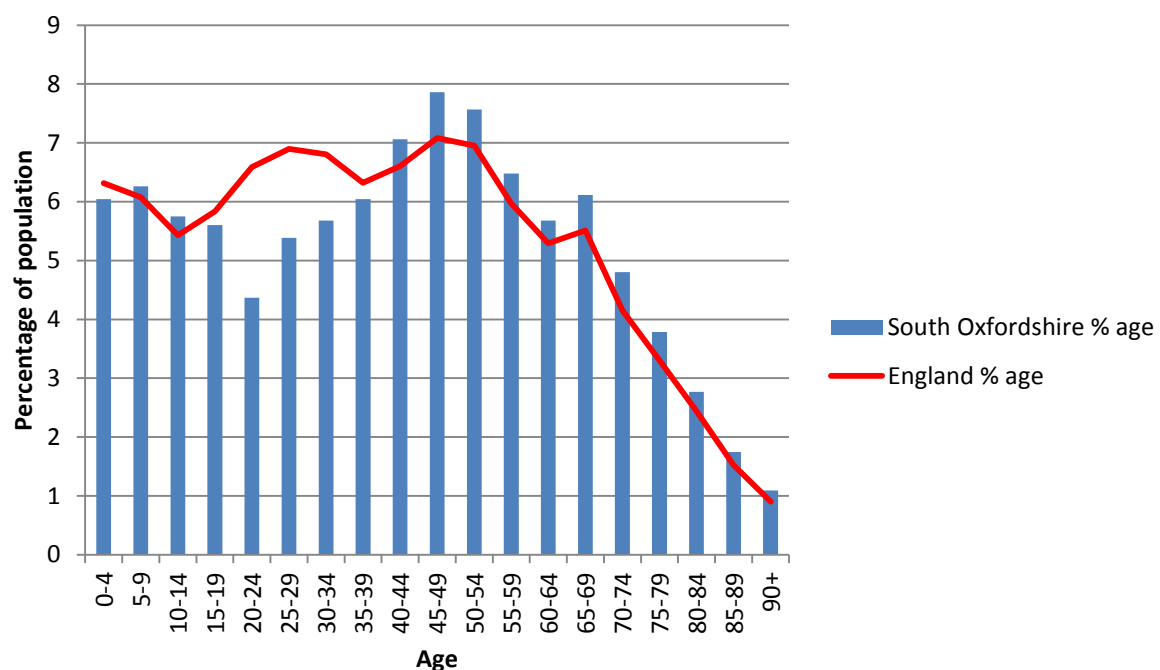
SECTION 3: CHARACTER OF SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS AND CHANGE

Current population

- 3.1 The total population in 2015 (as provided by Oxfordshire County Council in 2014) was estimated to be 138,890, and there is expected to be growth in the period up to 2031. It should be noted that the Oxfordshire County Council estimate is slightly different from that of the ONS which estimated that the population of South Oxfordshire at 2015 as 137,400. In the assessment of sport and recreation, there is no significant difference between these figures, and the most relevant has been used within each assessment, so the ONS figure has for instance been used in the table with the local authority comparators, whilst the ward-based population data from the County Council has been used as the basis for sub-area assessments.
- 3.2 The population structure of South Oxfordshire District is slightly different from that of the England average as at 2015, and this has an impact on the demand for some of the sports facilities. Figure 9 illustrates the current population profile, and the dip in the number of those aged 15 through to 35 years should be noted. This dip is particularly important for the demand for sports halls and in relation to the grass pitch sports of football and rugby. Conversely, the number of people aged 40 and over is higher for each of the 5 year age groups up to about 80+ years, where it is similar to that of England as a whole.

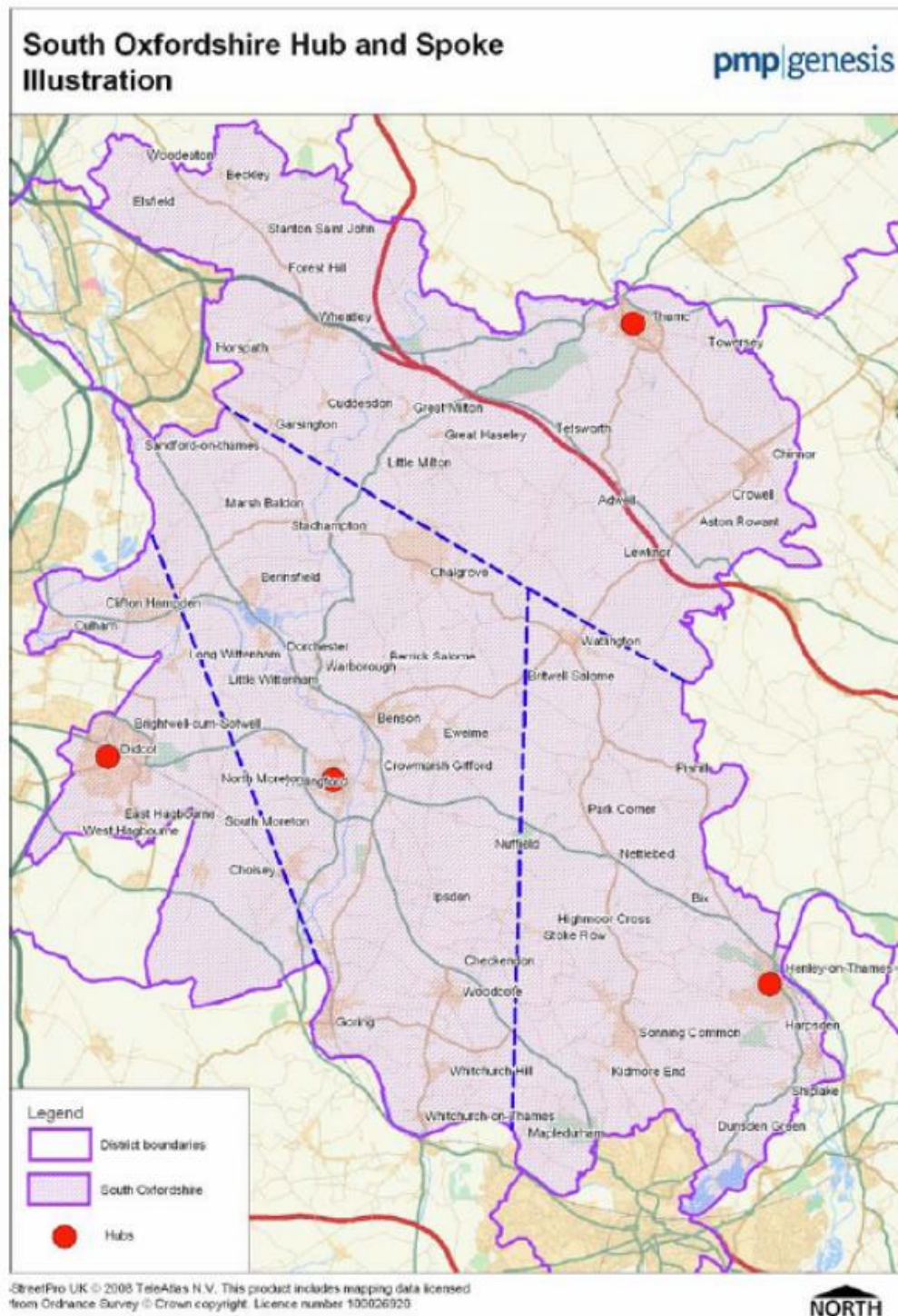
Figure 9: South Oxfordshire current population structure compared to England



Sub areas

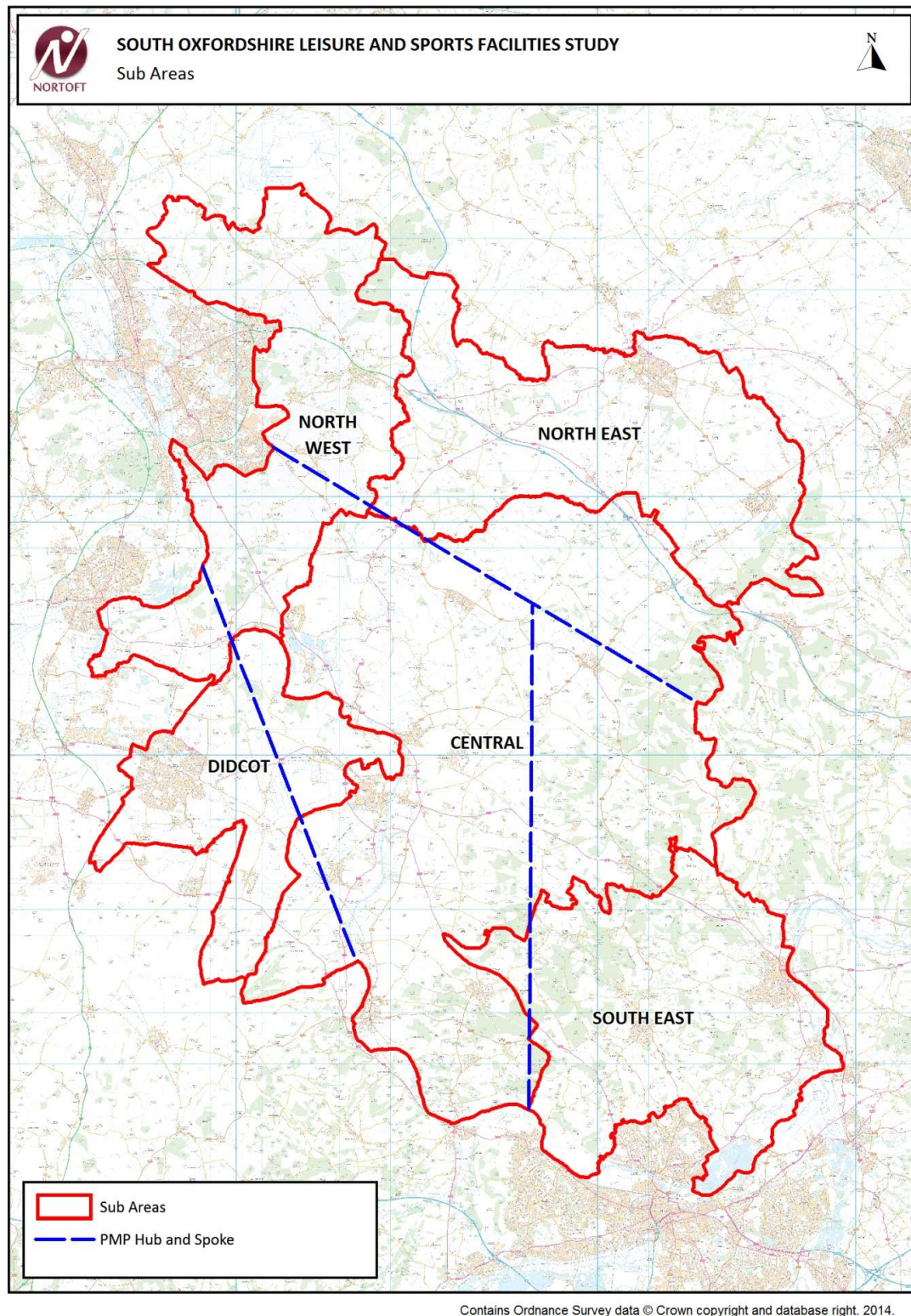
- 3.3 The previous sports strategies for South Oxfordshire District have used a simplistic hub and spoke approach to assessing the balance between the supply and demand for sports facilities. This is best illustrated by the following map, from the Leisure and Sports Facilities Strategy 2011 (Figure 10).

Figure 10: Hub and spoke approach, 2011 Strategy



- 3.4 The authority has found that this approach has broadly worked in terms of strategic planning for sport. However there is now a need for a slightly more focussed approach and for the sub areas to be linked more effectively to the adopted Core Strategy growth scenarios facing the authority. In determining the sub-areas, the key considerations are:
- The current and future demographic forecasts are only available by ward, so wards should be used as the starting point for the sub-area boundaries
 - A Didcot Leisure Sub Area was identified in order to help assess the sports facilities need for this major area of growth, and it is appropriate that this should stay unchanged. This is already based on the ward boundaries, and the demographics are based on ward level information as appropriate from the Vale of White Horse District, or South Oxfordshire District
 - The need to identify the impact of the planned growth around the main centres in South Oxfordshire, and also around Oxford
- 3.5 The sub areas used for this study are therefore:
- North West: Sandford, Garsington, Wheatley, Forest Hill & Holton
 - Central: Berinsfield, Benson, Chalgrove, Crowmarsh Gifford, Cholsey and Wallingford South, Woodcote, Goring, Watlington
 - North East: Thame North, Thame South, Chinnor, Aston Rowant, Great Milton
 - South East: Henley North, Henley South, Chiltern Woods, Sonning Common, Shiplake
 - Didcot: Didcot Ladygrove, Didcot All Saints, Didcot Park, Hagbourne, Brightwell.
- 3.6 The treatment of Watlington is the most obvious change between the 2011 approach and that for 2015. This change reflects the fact that the majority of the population in Watlington Ward live in Watlington itself, which is centrally located, and the residents are most likely to use the Wallingford/Berinsfield sub area facilities for sport and recreation. Any additional housing is also likely to be allocated to Watlington.
- 3.7 The map for the strategy sub areas has been agreed by South Oxfordshire District Council as an appropriate basis for the assessment, and the current differences between them are explored in the following section of the report. The blue lines on the map in Figure 11 are the hub and spoke approach from the 2011 report, which are provided for comparison.

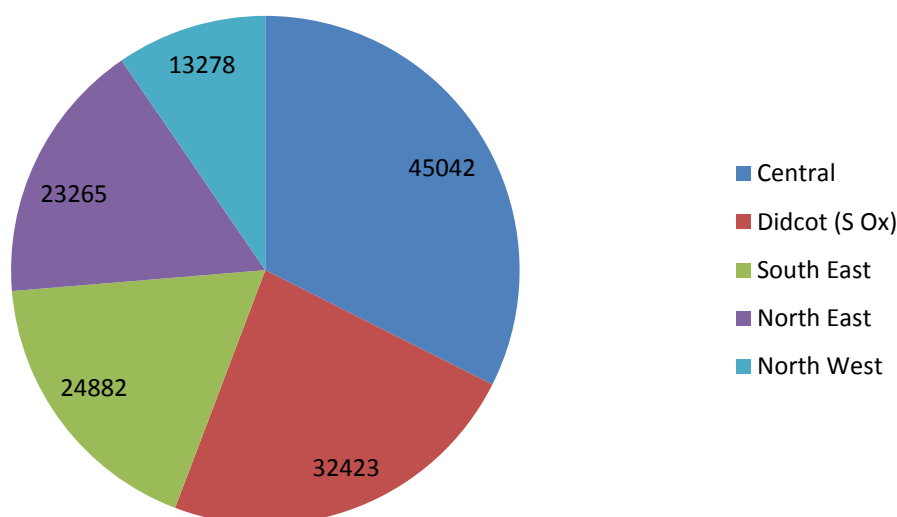
Figure 11: Study sub-areas 2016



Current population differences across South Oxfordshire

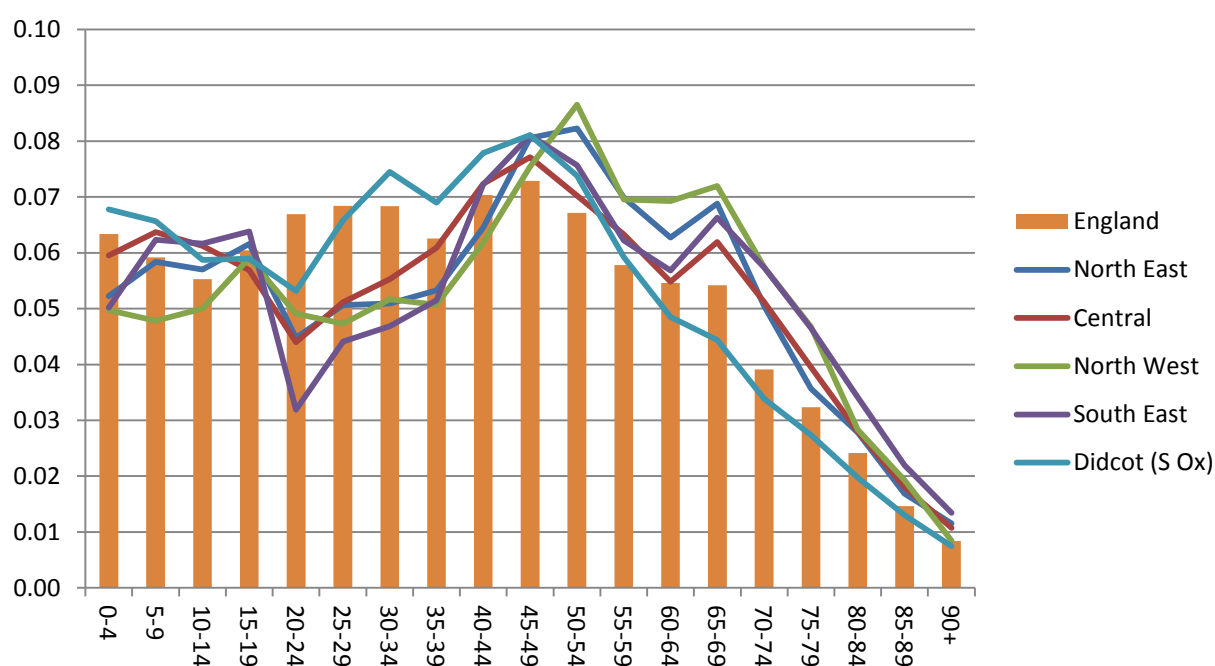
- 3.8 Figure 12 shows that there is currently some difference in population size between the sub areas, with the central area being the largest, and the north west (around Oxford City) currently having the smallest population.

Figure 12: Sub area populations, 2015



- 3.9 However, Figure 13 shows that the population profiles across the sub areas is similar, although the peak adult population for Didcot (area within S Ox) is slightly younger than for the other sub areas, with a comparatively higher number of adults aged 30-45. The dip in those aged between about 15 and 30 years is notable for all of the sub areas with the exception of the north-west area, which is the Oxford boundary. There is a notable second peak for the Central, South East, and North East sub areas at retirement age, which may reflect people moving into these areas following retirement.
- 3.10 Overall the age structure for each of the sub areas of the authority, other than for the Didcot area, shows that there are a lower percentage of people aged 20-44 years than the national average, but higher percentages of people aged over 45 years, including the very old. This age structure will have a significant impact on the demand for different sports facilities, such as playing fields for football and rugby, as well as fitness gyms.

Figure 13: Age profile across sub area compared to England
Percentage of sub area populations at different age groups



Future population projections

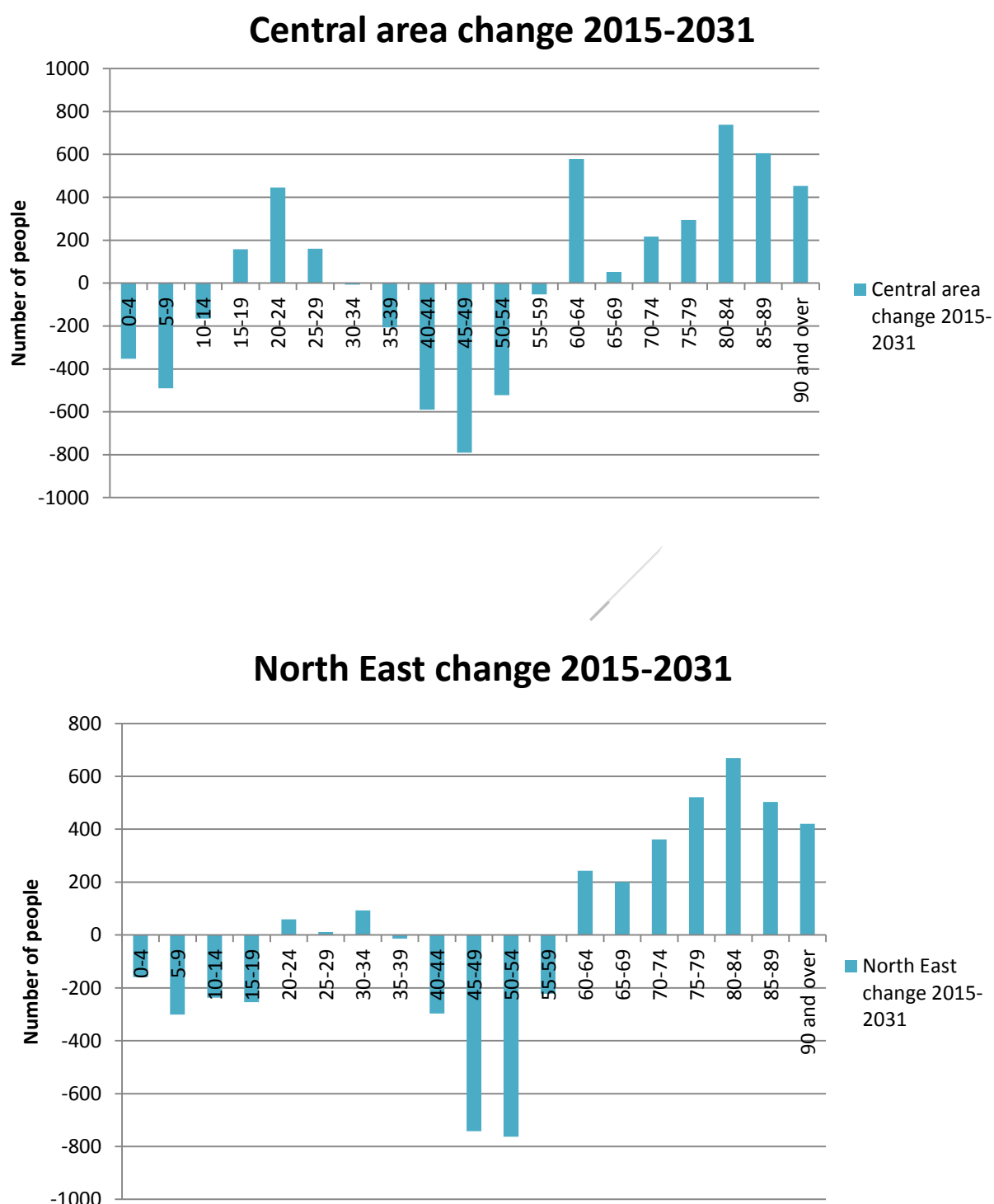
- 3.11 The current housing targets contained in the adopted Core Strategy (2012) include new housing around Didcot and elsewhere. Of these allocations, a number are already in the planning process or have been built out. These include: Great Western Park, North East Didcot, Fairmile Hospital, Chinnor Cement Works, Former Thame United Football Club, and Wallingford Greenfield Site.
- 3.12 The total population of the authority based on the adopted Core Strategy is expected to rise from 254,842 in 2015, to 285,744 by 2026m, and to 282,190 by 2031.
- 3.13 The impact of the population changes as result of the housing site developments in the adopted Core Strategy have been calculated by South Oxfordshire District Council on a ward basis. These ward level population forecasts have been combined to reflect the agreed sub-areas for the strategy. The change in population across the sub-areas can be seen in Figure 14.

Figure 14: Population change by sub area

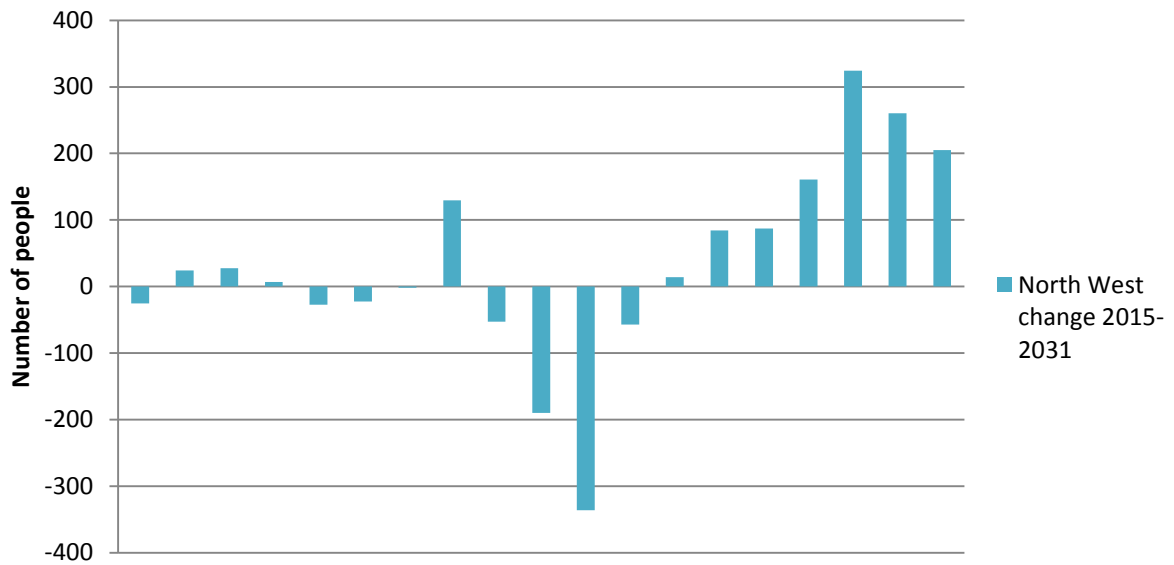
Central			Didcot LSA (S Ox)			North East			North West			South East		
2015	2026	2031	2015	2026	2031	2015	2026	2031	2015	2026	2031	2015	2026	2031
76,796	79,894	78,708	58,718	80,703	80,279	43,212	45,232	44,365	25,828	27,238	27,035	50,287	52,677	51,803

- 3.14 Simplistically, there is therefore limited planned growth in any of the sub-areas other than in Didcot. Figure 15 shows that every sub-area other than the Didcot will have an aging population.

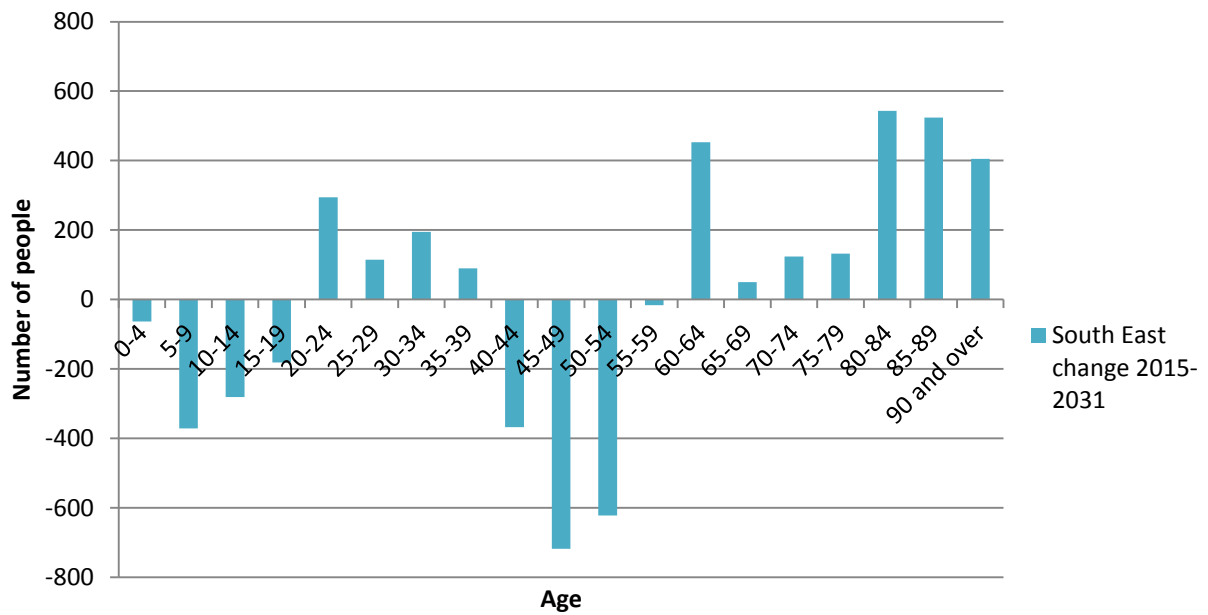
Figure 15: Population structural change 2015-2031



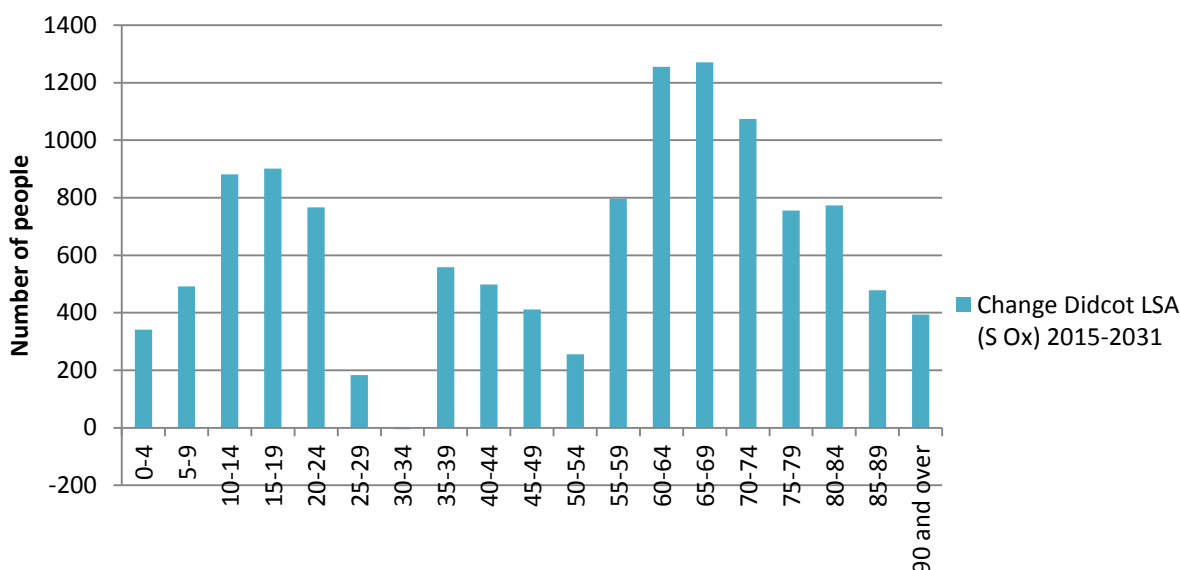
North West change 2015-2031



South East change 2015-2031



Didcot LSA (S Ox) change 2015-2031



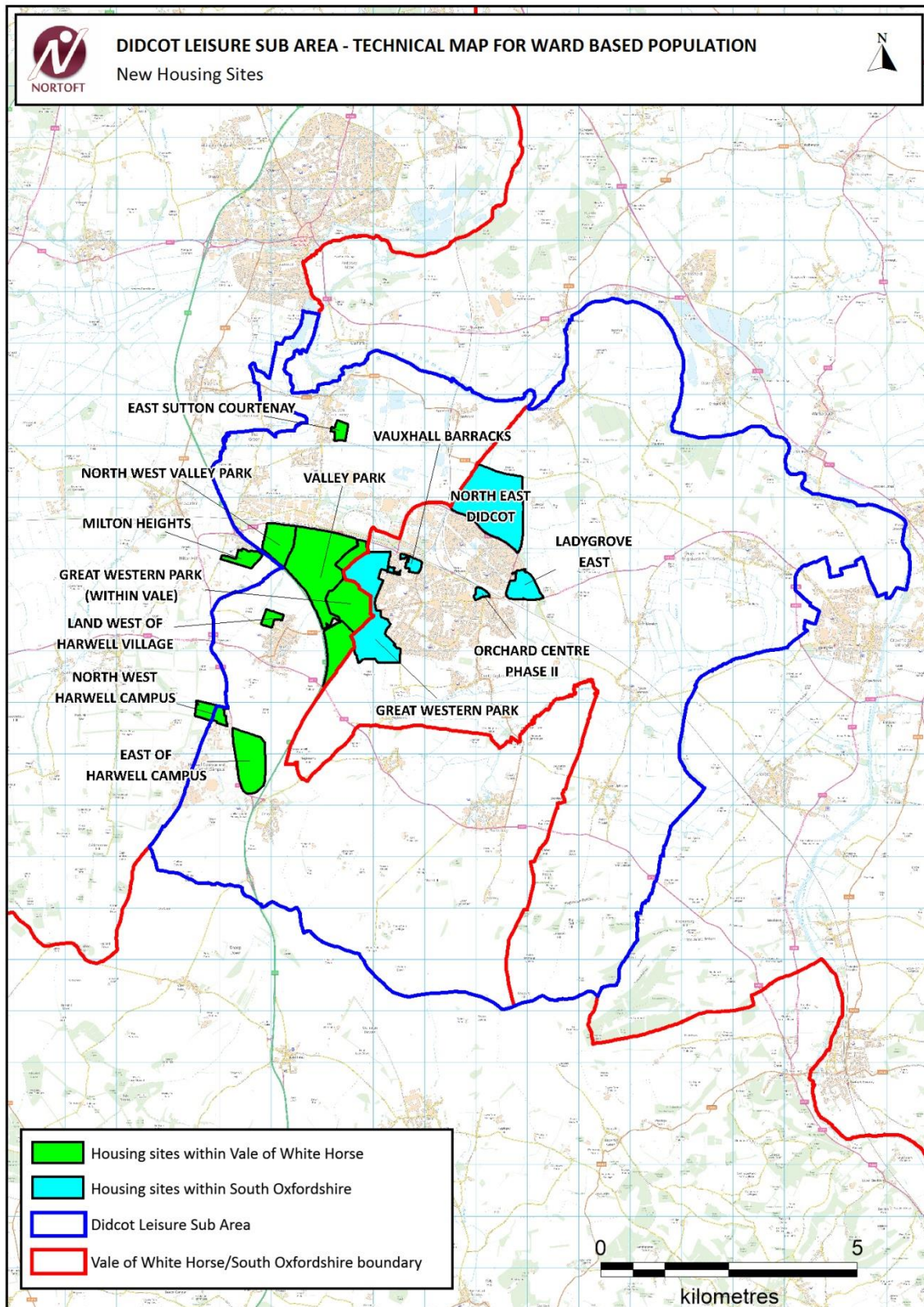
Didcot Leisure Sub Area as a whole

- 3.15 The Didcot Leisure Sub Area (Didcot LSA) population assessment needs to take account of both housing growth in South Oxfordshire and within the Vale of White Horse, and needs to be based on wards which is the base unit for the population forecasting developed by Oxfordshire Insight and made available via the two local authorities. The map showing the boundary of the Didcot LSA (using the amalgamation of wards) is provided as Figure 17, and the population information upon which the assessment is based is given in Figure 16.

Figure 16: Didcot LSA population projections

	2015			2021			2026			2031		
	South	Vale	Total	South	Vale	Total	South	Vale	Total	South	Vale	Total
0-4	2198	514	2712	2440	1301	3742	2676	1954	4630	2540	1940	4480
5-9	2129	553	2682	2495	1003	3498	2767	1754	4520	2620	2277	4897
10-14	1903	537	2440	2626	872	3498	2948	1216	4164	2784	1930	4713
15-19	1912	522	2434	2194	698	2891	2853	954	3807	2813	1245	4058
20-24	1724	422	2146	1713	590	2303	1951	662	2613	2490	858	3349
25-29	2134	522	2656	2336	1132	3468	2295	948	3243	2318	892	3210
30-34	2415	511	2926	2643	1736	4379	2752	1975	4727	2410	1298	3708
35-39	2237	500	2738	2818	1490	4308	3056	2644	5700	2796	2503	5298
40-44	2525	610	3134	2625	933	3558	3209	2007	5216	3023	3066	6089
45-49	2630	742	3372	2743	869	3611	2884	1121	4005	3041	2219	5259
50-54	2393	745	3138	2893	977	3870	2975	983	3958	2649	1184	3832
55-59	1921	746	2667	2783	993	3776	3140	1075	4215	2717	1020	3737
60-64	1573	609	2181	2230	937	3168	2994	1054	4049	2828	1089	3917
65-69	1440	623	2063	1740	747	2487	2416	987	3403	2711	1057	3767
70-74	1098	460	1557	1639	749	2388	1885	766	2652	2171	981	3152
75-79	888	444	1331	1232	523	1755	1705	740	2445	1643	734	2376
80-84	640	316	957	866	455	1321	1210	493	1703	1413	674	2087
85-89	422	187	609	564	321	885	738	380	1117	900	402	1303
90 and over	242	74	316	353	161	513	508	243	750	635	315	951
	32423	9639	42061	38932	16487	55419	44960	21956	66916	44503	25682	70185

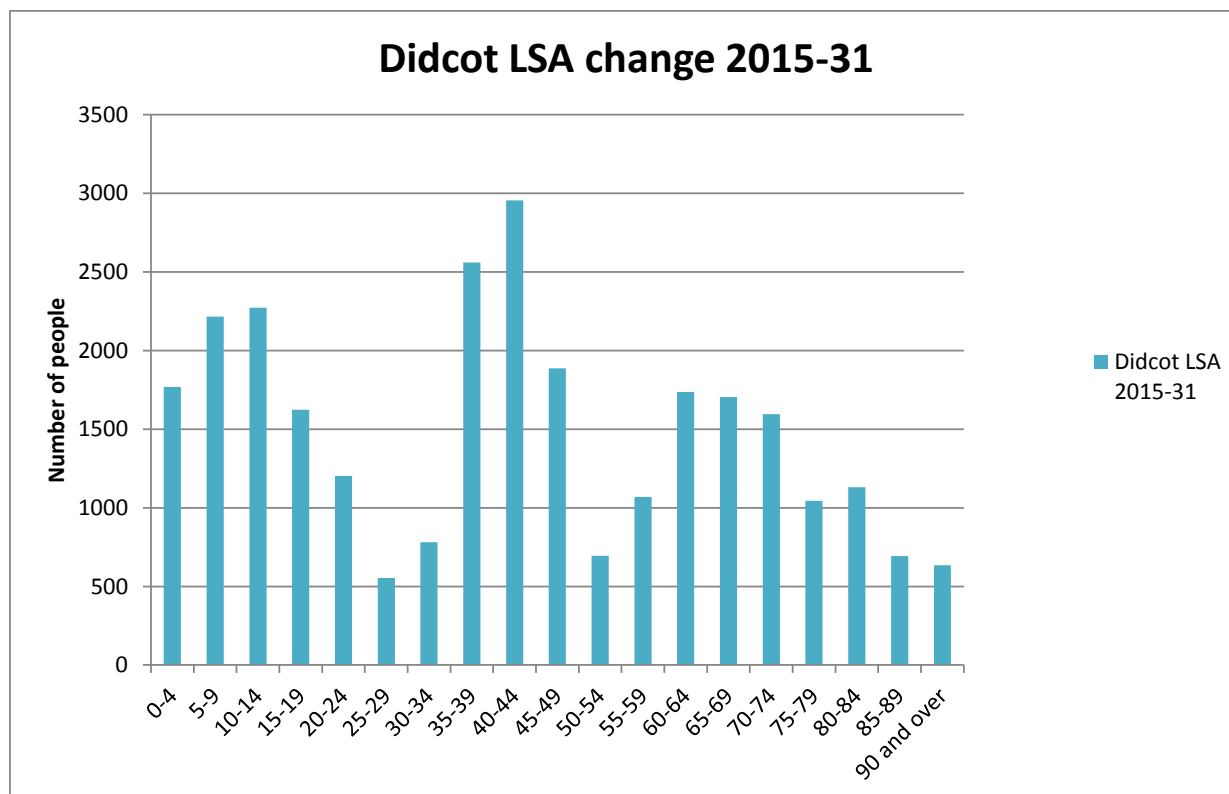
Figure 17: Didcot Leisure Sub Area boundaries



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- 3.16 If the same age profile approach is used to consider the Didcot LSA as a whole as the study sub-areas above, then the following graph emerges (Figure 18). This shows a significant increase in the number of people across all of the age groups up to 2031.

Figure 18: Didcot LSA Vale and South population change



- 3.17 Since the demographic forecast for the Didcot Leisure Sub Area was produced by the district councils, Valley Park has been consented for 4,254 dwellings when the Core Strategy planned figure was for 2,150 dwellings. This will generate a population increase of about 5,029 people by 2037. Within the Core Strategy period up to 2031, this gives an additional 1,852 people, bringing the Didcot LSA Vale of White Horse part up to a total population of 27,534.

Implications of the demographic changes

- 3.18 The demographic findings, based on the adopted Core Strategy 2012 housing numbers, underpin the modelling for each of the sports facilities within the strategies.
- 3.19 In the longer term, the emerging Local Plan 2032 will contain new strategic housing proposals. Once these have been more fully determined, it will be possible to develop new demographic forecasts for the wards, and to reassess the potential need for sports facilities and playing field space across the district. These new demographic forecasts will also be able to take into account those sites which have already come forward outside of the Core Strategy's identified sites.

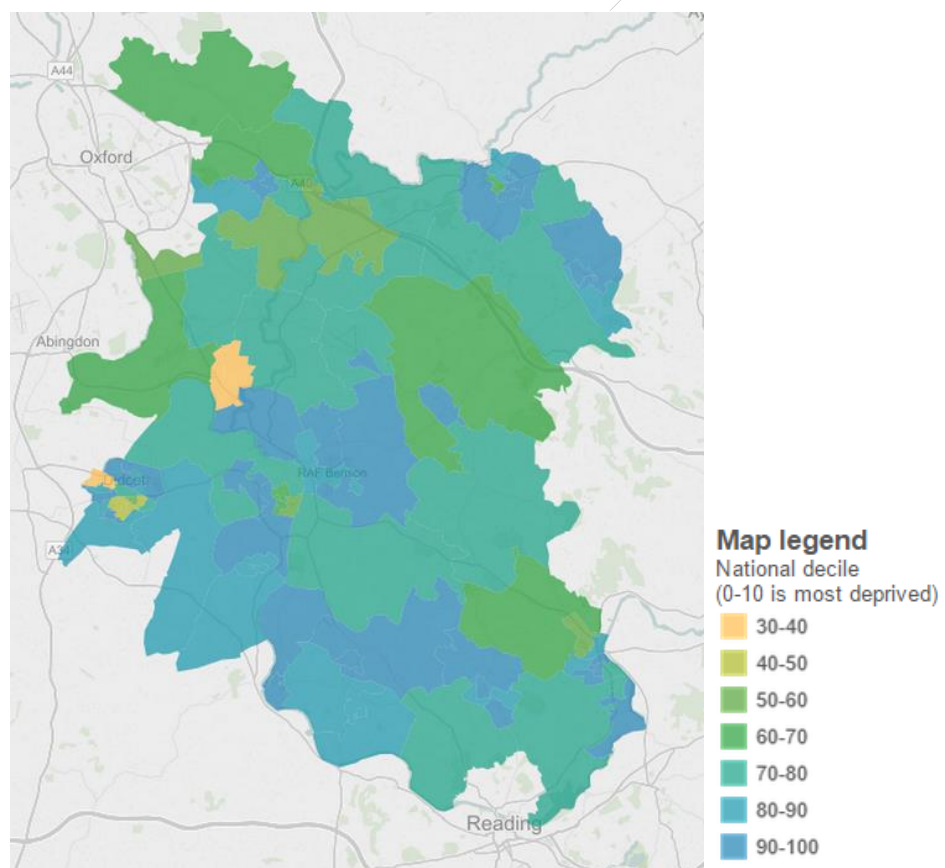
- 3.20 As the future housing proposals in the Local Plan 2032 are still to be confirmed, in principle all sports facilities and playing fields should, at the present time, be retained across the district until the implications of these new housing allocations are clearer.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS

Deprivation

- 3.21 While South Oxfordshire District is generally a relatively affluent area (it is ranked 307 out of 353 in England on the Index of Multiple Deprivation), there are some pockets of more significant deprivation, illustrated by the map in Figure 19, around Berinsfield and Didcot.

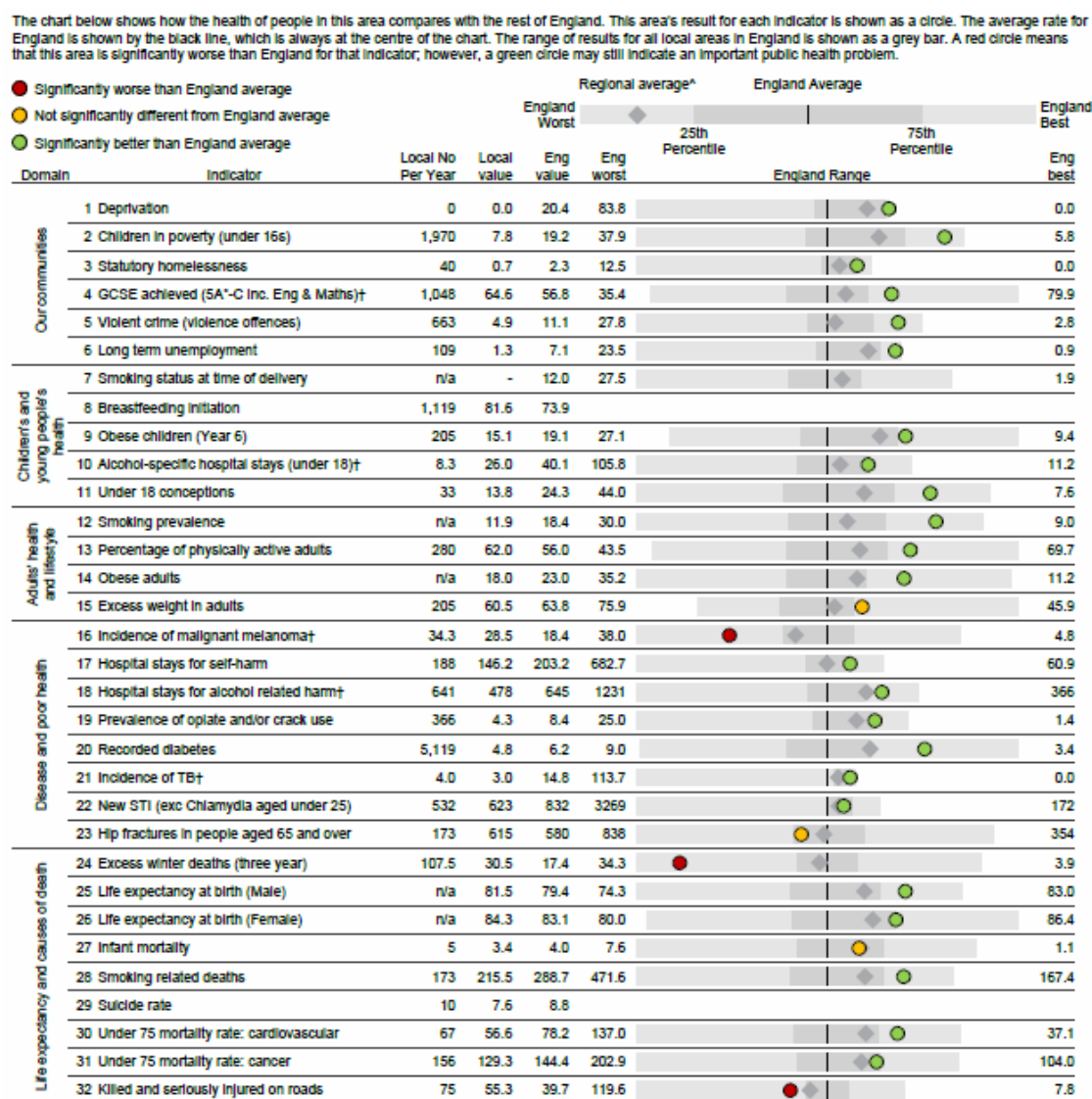
*Figure 19: Map of Index of Multiple Deprivation
(source: Oxfordshire Insight)*



Health

- 3.22 Public Health England's South Oxfordshire Health Profile for 2015 (Figure 20) shows that generally the population is relatively healthy but there are problems in the district relating to cancer, winter deaths and road casualties.

Figure 20: Health profile for South Oxfordshire



- 3.23 The cost of physical inactivity in South Oxfordshire District per 100,000 people per year based on estimates by the British Heart Foundation (source: Sport England Local Profile Tool, May 2015) in 2009/10 was £1,367,630. This is somewhat lower than either the South East average of £1,580,313 or the national average of £1,817,285.

PARTICIPATION IN SPORT AND ACTIVE RECREATION

- 3.24 Sport England has a rolling survey of participation in sport, the Active People Survey (APS). The key findings for the period up to March 2016 show that, adults in South Oxfordshire District taking part in sport once a week are slightly more active than the national average, but that the rate is below that of three of the CIPFA (The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) benchmark authorities. About 45% of residents do no activity, which is about in line with the benchmark authorities, but is much better than the national average (see Figure 21).
- 3.25 Since the first Active People Survey, which ran from October 2005-2006, the number of people taking part in sport at least 3 times per week has increased, but there has been no increase in the number of people taking part only once a week.

Figure 21: Percentage rates of participation in sport and active recreation

	Adult participation (16+ years) in 30 minutes, moderate intensity sport and active recreation	
	% 1 x 30 minutes per week Apr 15- March 16 and change from Oct 05-Oct 06	% No activity April 14- March 16
South Oxfordshire	38.8 No change	45.3
England	36.1 Increase	56.8 Decrease (from APS7)
South East	38.7 Increase	*
East Hampshire	42.1 No change	44.7
East Hertfordshire	42.0 No change	43.7
Test Valley	41.6 No change	46.2
Vale of White Horse	43.8 No change	43.3

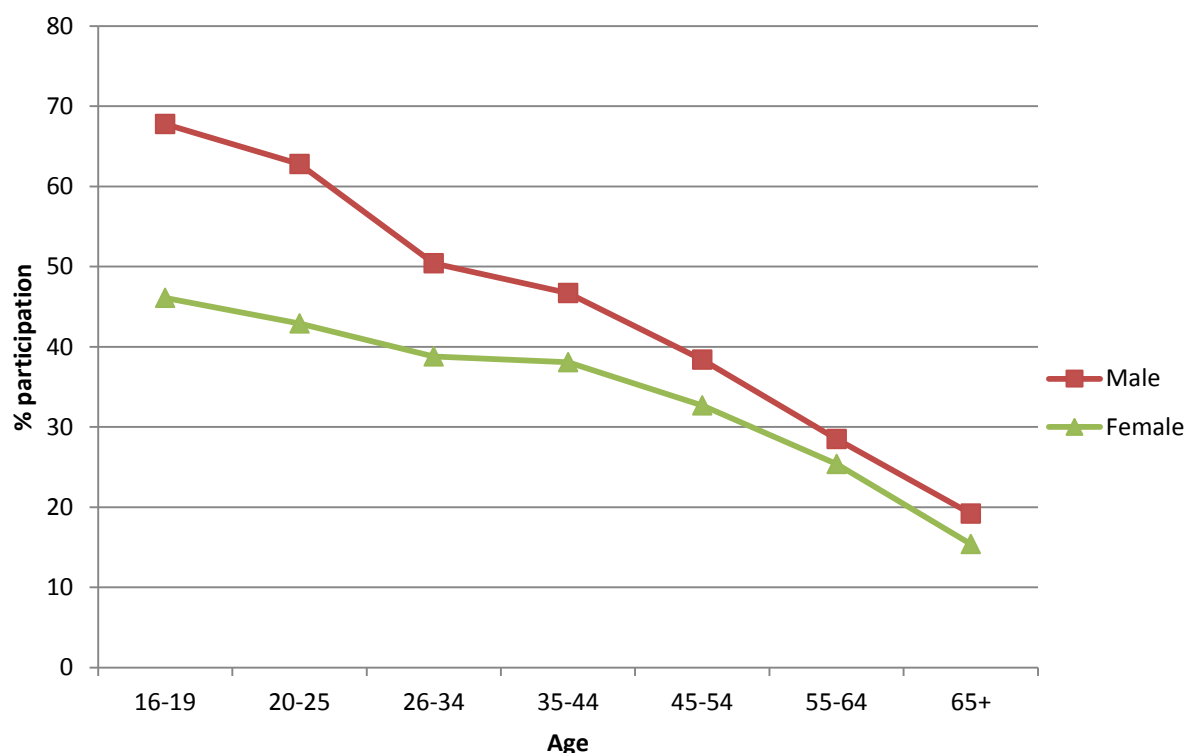
* Statistics not available

Note: These statistics do not include recreational walking or infrequent recreational cycling but does include cycling if done at least once a week at moderate intensity and for at least 30 minutes. It also includes more intense/strenuous walking activities such as power walking, hill trekking, cliff walking and gorge walking.

Please note that the latest results now include moderate intensity participation in a full range of keepfit classes amongst people aged 14-65 years. Previously for some keepfit classes, results had only included participation amongst people aged 65 years or over. For comparison purposes, this change has been consistently applied to results for the entire time series.

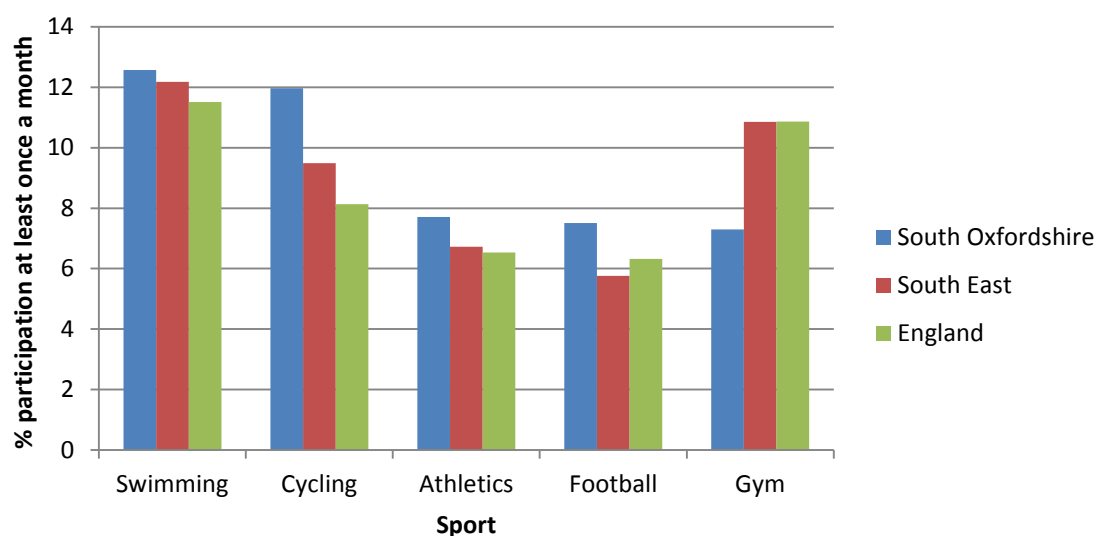
- 3.26 The APS shows that more males are active than females, and that participation in sport and physical activity declines with age. Figure 22 clearly shows this information, using the national level APS data for 2014/15 (APS 9).

Figure 22: Participation once a week by age and gender 16+ years
(Source: Active People Survey, 2014/15, England level)



- 3.27 Figure 23 shows the level of participation in the top five sports of swimming, cycling, athletics (including all running), football and gym. Other than for gym, the rates of participation are higher than the national and regional averages, which probably reflect a combination of low levels of deprivation together with very good access to facilities, particularly swimming pools.
- 3.28 In the Active People Survey, the term “gym” includes gym or studio type activities such as fitness classes, but excludes activities such as weight training, or the use of fitness station equipment such as running machines, or cross training machines which are considered “fitness” activities. Athletics includes all jogging etc, not simply activities on an athletics track.

*Figure 23: Participation in top 5 sports
Percentage of adults taking part at least once a month*



3.29 The APS information is also a useful source of data about the characteristics of people taking part in each sport or type of active recreation. It forms the basis of market segmentation for sport (see below), and also provides a valuable tool for assessing what facilities are likely to be best supported within each area.

3.30 It should be noted that from 2017 Sport England will be adding the following additional activities to their remit, so these will also be reflected from that time in the replacement APS surveys, which will be renamed Active Lives.

- Walking for leisure
- Walking for work
- Cycling for work
- Dance

3.31 In relation to measuring participation and active lifestyles, the following Key Performance Indicators were proposed in the Government's strategy, *Sporting Future, A New Strategy for an Active Nation*:

KPI 1 – Increase in percentage of the population taking part in sport and physical activity at least twice in the last month

KPI 2 – Decrease in percentage of people physically inactive

KPI 3 – Increase in the percentage of adults utilising outdoor space for exercise/ health reasons

KPI 4 – Increase in the percentage of children achieving physical literacy standards

KPI 5 – Increase in the percentage of children achieving swimming proficiency and Bikeability Levels 1-3

KPI 6 – Increase in the percentage of young people (11-18) with a positive attitude towards sport and being active

3.32 There will also be a new set of performance indicators reflecting the five key outcomes of the Government's *Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation*, though these appear to be more generic and of less direct relevance to most local authority strategies:

- physical well-being
- mental well-being
- individual development
- social and community development
- economic development

Market Segmentation

3.33 Sport England has developed nineteen sporting segments to help understand individuals' attitudes and motivations to sports and physical activity and this tool is a useful extension of the other socio-economic mapping available from elsewhere. The information used to develop these segments is derived from information sourced primarily from the Active People Survey, but also from the census, and supplemented with information from other market research surveys.

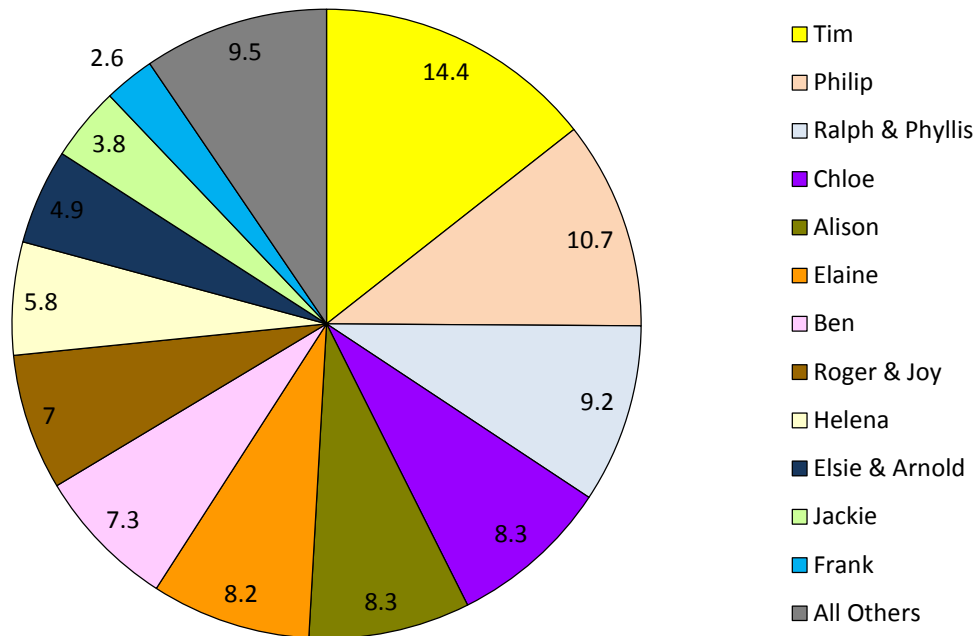
3.34 The intelligence provided by the Market Segmentation tool helps in the understanding of why particular sports have more demand than others in an authority, and highlights any significant differences in areas across the authority. In turn this will help to identify which facility types should be the highest priority in each area. The nineteen segments are as follows (Figure 24).

Figure 24: Market Segments

Segment	Type of person	Name
1	Competitive Male Urbanites	Ben
2	Sports Team Lads	Jamie
3	Fitness Class Friends	Chloe
4	Supportive Singles	Leanne
5	Career Focused Females	Helena
6	Settling Down Males	Tim
7	Stay at Home Mums	Alison
8	Middle England Mums	Jackie
9	Pub League Team Mates	Kiev
10	Stretched Single Mums	Paula
11	Comfortable Mid-Life Males	Philip
12	Empty Nest Career Ladies	Elaine
13	Early Retirement Couples	Roger & Joy
14	Older Working Women	Brenda
15	Local 'Old Boys'	Terry
16	Later Life Ladies	Norma
17	Comfortable Retired Couples	Ralph & Phyllis
18	Twilight Year Gents	Frank
19	Retirement Home Singles	Elsie & Arnold

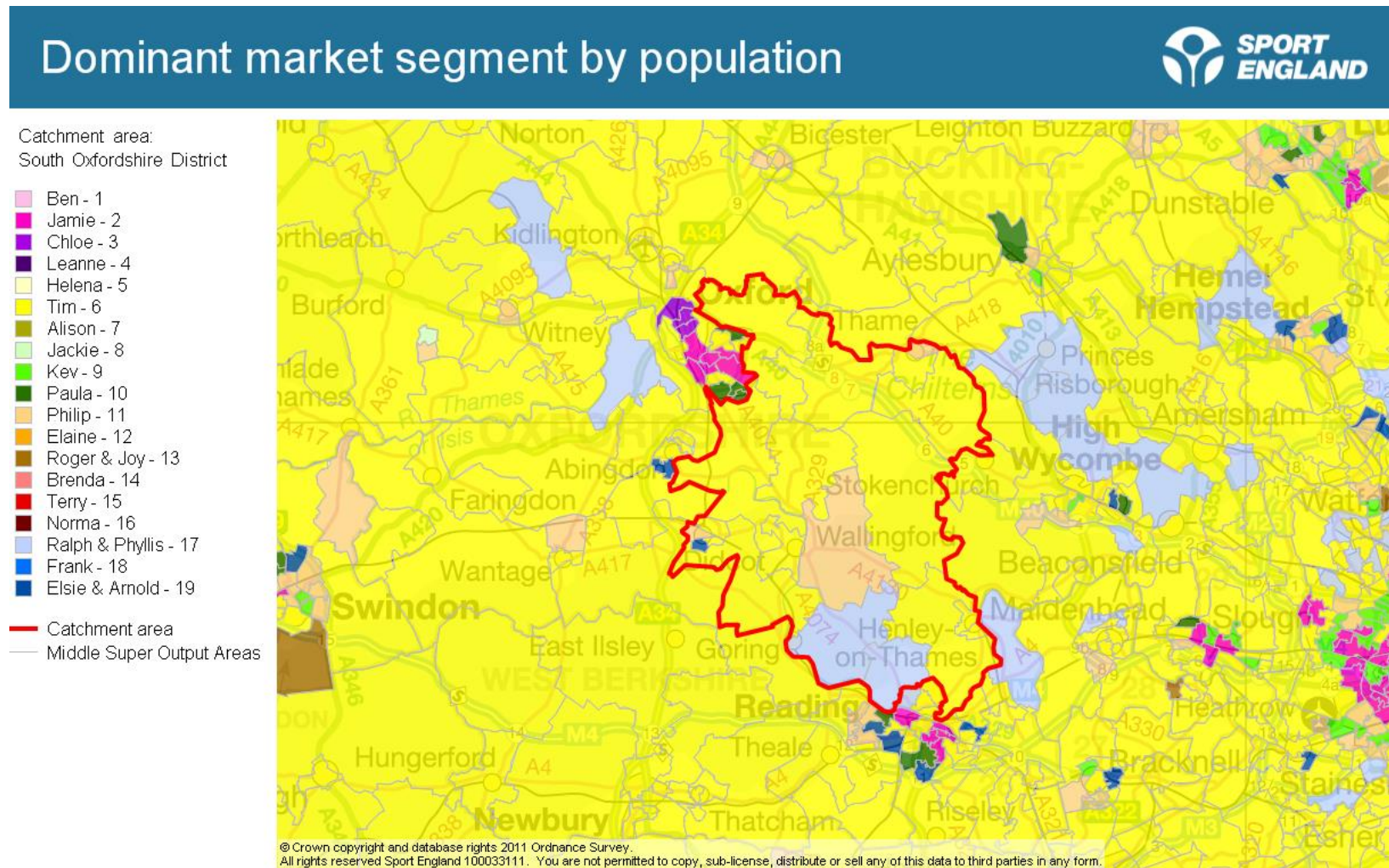
- 3.35 Each of the nineteen segments is identified as having different characteristics in relation to patterns of physical activity. Appendix 4 provides more detail on the types of activities which appeal to each, and their motivation for participating in sport. The market segmentation data is available at local authority level as well as lower and middle super output areas.
- 3.36 Sport England expects the use of the Market Segmentation tool as part of the assessment process for all sports strategies, and in this Strategy the information has been used in three ways.
- An authority-wide overview of the total population as a pie-chart (Figure 25)
 - The geographical distribution of dominant market segments by Middle Super Output Area (MSOA), illustrated by the map at Figure 26.
 - Identification of key sports for the area (Figure 27).
- 3.37 It is important to note from the pie chart in Figure 25 that there are some market segments which do not appear on the map in Figure 26. This is because although they are distributed widely across the authority, they do not dominate in any one area.

*Figure 25: Largest market segments (whole authority)
(And percentage of residents)*



3.38 Figure 26 maps the dominant market segments in each MSOA across the district. It is clear that the “Settling down Males” group (Tim) dominates much of the district, although there is an area dominated by “Comfortable Mid Life Males” (Philip) and another by the “Comfortable Retired Couples” group, (Ralph and Phyllis). As a result, activities such as cycling are more popular than in other areas of the country.

Figure 26: Market Segmentation map



- 3.39 The sports which each market segment group currently take part in, and what they would be attracted to, are given in Figure 27. This figure illustrates the importance of swimming, keep fit/gym and cycling to many of the residents of South Oxfordshire District. Also of note are athletics (which includes jogging), tennis and golf.
- 3.40 It should be noted that the Market Segmentation tool is a snap-shot of the current picture, and unfortunately is not available for forecasting. However it is likely that the general picture presented by this map will remain largely valid, although the groups will age in many areas.
- 3.41 In summary, the Market Segmentation tool provides useful background information on the demographics of an area, and the activities which different communities in different places are likely to be interested in. The tool referred to in each within each of the sports strategy sections, as it gives a guide to the relative importance of different activities at a local and district level.

Figure 27: Market segmentation and interest in sport

Segment	Characteristic	Age	Marital status	Work type	Sports do now, decreasing order top 5					Sports would like to do more of, decreasing order top 5				
					1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Tim	Settling Down Male	26-45	Married or single. May have	Professional	Cycling	Keep fit/gym	Swimming	Football	Athletics	Cycling	Swimming	Keep fit/gym	Athletics	Golf
Philip	Comfortable Mid-Life Male	45-55	Married with children	Full time employment and owner occupier	Cycling	Keep fit/gym	Swimming	Football	Golf	Swimming	Cycling	Keep fit/gym	Golf	Athletics
Ralph & Phyllis	Comfortable Retired Couples	66+	Married/single	Retired	Keep fit/gym	Swimming	Golf	Bowls	Cycling	Swimming	Keep fit/gym	Golf	Cycling	Tennis
Chloe	Fitness Class Friends	18-25	Single	Graduate professional	Keep fit/gym	Swimming	Athletics	Cycling	Equestrian	Swimming	Keep fit/gym	Cycling	Athletics	Tennis
Alison	Stay-at-home mum	36-45	Married with children	Stay-at-home mum	Keep fit/gym	Swimming	Cycling	Athletics	Equestrian	Swimming	Keep fit/gym	Cycling	Athletics	Tennis
Elaine	Empty Nest Career Ladies	46-55	Married	Full time employment and owner occupier	Keep fit/gym	Swimming	Cycling	Athletics	Tennis	Swimming	Keep fit/gym	Cycling	Badminton	Tennis
Ben	Competative Male Urbanites	18-25	Single	Graduate professional	Football	Keep fit/gym	Cycling	Athletics	Swimming	Swimming	Football	Cycling	Tennis	Athletics
Roger & Joy	Early Retirement Couples	56-65	Married	Full time employment or retired	Keep fit/gym	Swimming	Cycling	Golf	Angling	Swimming	Keep fit/gym	Cycling	Golf	Athletics
Helena	Career focussed females	26-45	Single	Full time professional	Keep fit/gym	Swimming	Cycling	Athletics	Equestrian	Swimming	Keep fit/gym	Cycling	Athletics	Tennis
Elsie & Arnold	Retirement Home Singles	66+	Widowed	Retired	Keep fit/gym	Swimming	Bowls	Golf	Cycling	Swimming	Keep fit/gym	Cycling	Tennis	Bowls
Jackie	Middle England Mum	36-45	Married	Part time skilled worker or stay-at-home mum	Keep fit/gym	Swimming	Cycling	Athletics	Badminton	Swimming	Keep fit/gym	Cycling	Athletics	Tennis
Frank	Twilight Year Gents	66+	Married/single	Retired	Golf	Keep fit/gym	Bowls	Swimming	Cycling	Swimming	Cycling	Golf	Keep fit/gym	Bowls

SECTION 4: POLICIES AND STRATEGIES OF NEIGHBOURING AUTHORITIES

- 4.1 It is important to set the South Oxfordshire within the context of the wider regional sub-area. A full summary of the strategy information for each of the adjacent authorities is provided in Appendix 5, and the relevant information is drawn out under each of the facility and pitch sections of this report.

SECTION 5: NATIONAL POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

H M Government Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation

- 5.1 This wide-ranging detailed strategy was launched in December 2015, and the most relevant points to the local authority strategies are summarised below. The government strategy aims to change the way in which sport is considered, from simply how many people take part, to what people get out of participating and what more can be done to encourage everyone to have a physically active lifestyle.
- 5.2 The funding decisions of the government will now be made on the basis of the social good that sport and physical activity can deliver, not simply the number of participants. The five key outcomes which will define success in sport are:
- physical well-being
 - mental well-being
 - individual development
 - social and community development
 - economic development
- 5.3 The primary funding will be focussing on those people who tend not to take part in sport including women and girls, disabled people, those in lower socio-economic groups and older people. All new government funding will go to organisations which can deliver some or all of the five outcomes, and those organisations which show that they can work collaboratively and tailor their work at the local level will be the most likely to receive funding.
- 5.4 The government strategy broadens Sport England's remit so that it becomes responsible for sport outside of school from the age of 5 rather than 14.
- 5.5 The Active People Survey will be renamed Active Lives with a greater focus on how active people are overall rather than participation in a particular sport, and with a new set of performance indicators to reflect the five key outcomes.

- 5.6 Policy will support the value of broader engagement in sport, through volunteering, spectating or the general feel-good factor associated with sporting success. The government has reaffirmed its commitment to Olympic and Paralympic success but also extending support to non-Olympic sports particularly with grassroots investment.
- 5.7 The Government intends to establish a new mandatory governance code to help tackle doping, match-fixing and corruption. There is an intention to make the sport sector stronger and more resilient through changes in governance, developing the workforce, and reducing the reliance on public funding. The establishment of a Sports Business Council was also announced, which will develop a new business strategy to support growth, improve access to finance, and develop skills in the Sport Sector.
- 5.8 The primary role of central government will be to ensure cross-departmental co-ordination, and an annual report to parliament will be produced setting out the progress on implementing the strategy.
- 5.9 The Government's strategy recognises that local government are the biggest public sector investor in sport and physical activity, spending over £1bn per year excluding capital spend. Councils have an important leadership role in forging partnerships, unblocking barriers to participation and improving the local sport delivery system, and local authorities are seen as crucial in delivering sport and physical activity opportunities. As such many councils have integrated physical activity into public health policy with the objective of promoting wellbeing, and have produced health and wellbeing strategies.
- 5.10 In relation to open spaces, the strategy states:
- Being close to where people live, high quality multi-use local green spaces can play a key role as sporting venues and as alternative settings for sport and healthy activity for communities including new audiences that are less likely to use traditional sports centres. The opportunities to realise the multiple benefits that can be achieved for communities by investing in green spaces and routes as venues for sport and healthy activity should be considered whenever they arise.*
- 5.11 The strategy specifically states that support for sport and physical activity infrastructure is not restricted to pitches, sports halls and buildings. In future it should include all types of places where people take part in activity in both rural and urban environments. Providing people with the freedom to use existing facilities and spaces and keeping them in good repair, is seen as important as building new infrastructure.
- 5.12 The government strategy is seeking new ways of supporting local physical activity strategies in selected geographical areas, and expects Sport England, Public Health England and Health and Wellbeing Boards to work closely together on pilot projects. Collaborative and innovative approaches are also being encouraged at the very local

level involving organisations such as housing associations and the police, and Lottery funding policies will be changed to more easily support such projects.

- 5.13 County Sport Partnerships underwent a formal review in relation to their role and remits, this concluded in the summer of 2016.

Sport England: towards an active nation, strategy 2016-2021

- 5.14 Sport England launched its new five year national strategy in May 2016. It responds to the Government's Sporting Future strategy, and as such has a stronger focus on reaching those who are least active, and helping to deliver the wider Government's strategy's outcomes. The key changes that Sport England are making to the way that they work are:

- Focusing more money and resources on tackling inactivity
- Investing more in children and young people from the age of five
- Helping those who are active now to carry on, but at lower cost to the public purse over time
- Putting customers at the heart of what they do, responding to how people organise their lives and helping the sector to be more welcoming and inclusive, especially of those groups currently under-represented in sport
- Helping sport to keep pace with the digital expectations of customers
- 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
- Working with a wider range of partners, including the private sector, using their expertise as well as Sport England investment to help others align their resources
- Working with our sector to encourage innovation and share best practice particularly through applying the principles and practical learning of behaviour change

- 5.15 There will be 7 investment programmes by Sport England which reflect the policy direction set down in the government strategy 'Sporting Future'. These will replace the existing programmes, and are summarised below:

1 Tackling inactivity

This will be the highest priority for investment, and at least 25% of Sport England's total resources (£265m) will be dedicated to this programme. Sport England will set targets for the percentage of inactive people who will benefit from their major investment programmes.

2 Children and young people

Sport England will focus on pre- and post-school activities for children from the age of 5 years.

3 Volunteering – a dual benefit

Sport England will focus on what the volunteer gets out of volunteering, making it easier to fit volunteering in sport into a modern lifestyle and making volunteers more representative of society.

4 Taking sport and activity into the mass market

Sport England will seek out and back the ideas that can help make sport a mass market activity, including making sport more digitally accessible.

5 Supporting sport's core market

Sport England will work with sporting organisations to improve their sustainability and increase efficiency.

6 Local delivery

Sport England will demonstrate the benefits of working in a more joined-up way in some specific places, a mix of urban and rural, where they will pilot new ways of working locally and build long-term collaborations. There will be at least £130m investment over the next 4 years in 10 places in England. The identification of the locations will involve Public Health England and be places where addressing physical activity is a priority in the local health and wellbeing strategies.

7 Facilities

Sport England will continue to invest in all types of facilities, with a strong presumption in favour of multi-sport for their major strategic investments. Locations where sport is located alongside other services such as schools, libraries or doctor's surgeries are also seen as particular opportunities.

- 5.16 Sport England expects every new major facility to have a robust and sustainable business plan, and will offer specialist advice and support to those applying for major capital investment.
- 5.17 The use of existing facilities will be encouraged, particularly the use of schools through the *Use our School* guidance document.
- 5.18 They will also create a new Community Asset Fund to support local infrastructure which will replace the Inspired Facilities and Protecting Playing Fields schemes. This will have a simplified capital grant application process and also include short term revenue grants to support local communities to take ownership of local assets. The grants will be of between £10,000 and £150,000.
- 5.19 In addition to the major facilities and Community Asset Fund scheme, Sport England will continue to invest £18m per year over the next four years in accordance with the football facility investment strategy being developed in association with the Football Association, the Premier League and the Football Foundation. This will include the Parklife project which will create football hubs in more than 20 major cities across the country.



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