

Strategic Assessment of Need for Sports Halls Provision in Bromsgrove

Facility Planning Model Local Runs

Final Report

23/06/2014

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report assesses the current supply and demand of Sports Hall provision in Bromsgrove and the potential impact of closing the four court sports hall at the Dolphin Centre which is being considered as part of the Council's plans to replace existing leisure provision. The report uses Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) and data from the National Facilities Audit run (as of January 2014). Appendix 1 sets out the facilities in Bromsgrove that have been included within this analysis.
- 1.2 The report aims to inform Bromsgrove District Council's decisions on future investment in Sports Hall provision and addresses three key questions which are:
 - a) What is the current supply and demand for sports halls in Bromsgrove?
 - b) What is the potential impact of closing the 4 court sports hall at the Dolphin Leisure Centre?
 - c) What policy options are available for addressing access to sports hall provision?
- 1.3 In order to assess the above two FPM scenarios have been modelled which are:
 - a) Run 1 - the current (2014) position on sports halls;
 - b) Run 2 - the current (2014) position but with the closure of the four court sports hall at Dolphin Leisure Centre in Bromsgrove.
- 1.4 This report, and the data presented in the main outputs and maps, should not be considered in isolation and it is recommended that this analysis should form part of a wider assessment of provision at the local level, using other available information and knowledge including consultation with clubs and relevant National Governing Bodies for Sport (NGBs).

2 SUPPLY OF HALLS

Bromsgrove	WEST MIDLANDS REGION	RUN 1	RUN 2
Table 1 - Supply	2014	2014	2014
Number of halls	588	16	15
Number of hall sites	413	9	8
Courts marked out	2294.5	48	44
Supply of hall space in courts, scaled by hours available in the pp	1710.11	37.06	33.31
Supply of total hall space in VPWPP	346297	7504	6744
Courts per 10,000	4.01	6.4	6.0

- 2.1 There are currently 16 Sports Halls in Bromsgrove spread across 9 sites with 48 courts marked out for use. A map showing the location of Sports Halls in Bromsgrove and their catchment areas is shown on the next page.
- 2.2 The closure of the sports hall at the Dolphin Centre in Run 2 reduces the number of Sports Halls to 15 on 8 sites with the number of marked courts reducing from 48 to 44.
- 2.3 When the supply of Sports Hall space is scaled by hours available in the peak period the number of courts reduces from 48 to 37 in Run 1. In Run 2 this figure reduces from 44 courts to 33.
- 2.4 The standard unit for measuring and comparing supply and demand is the number of visits per week in the peak period (vpwpp) and the total supply of Sports Halls in Run 1 is 7,500 vpwpp. This reduces by 10% in Run 2 to 6,750 vpwpp with the exclusion of the Dolphin Leisure Centre.
- 2.5 In terms of courts per capita Bromsgrove has 6.4 courts per 10,000 people which reduces to 6 per 10,000 in Run 2. This compares to a regional average of 4 courts per 10,000 people which suggests that Bromsgrove currently has a good supply of Sports Halls.

3 DEMAND FOR HALLS

Bromsgrove	WEST MIDLANDS REGION	RUN 1	RUN 2
Table 2 - Demand	2014	2014	2014
Population	5726783	95225	95225
Visits demand -vpwpp	259388	3998	3998
Equivalent in courts - with comfort factor included	1601.16	24.68	24.68
% of population without access to a car	24.1	11.6	11.6

- 3.1 Section 3 sets out demand data for Sports Halls in Bromsgrove which do not change with the exclusion of the Dolphin Centre in Run 2.
- 3.2 The population in Bromsgrove is estimated to be 95,000 in 2014, a figure derived from ONS-based projections based on the 2011 census.
- 3.3 The FPM estimates that demand for sports halls from this population is nearly 4,000 vpwpp (visits per week in the peak period) using standard model parameters. When expressed as courts (with an 80% comfort factor included) the Model estimates that demand is equivalent to nearly 25 courts.
- 3.4 Table 3 below shows demand as vpwpp per 1000 persons for Bromsgrove and the surrounding LAs, the West Midlands Region and England as a whole. Bromsgrove has a demand per head which is lower than the national or regional averages. Wychavon and Stratford-on-Avon have similar rates, whereas Redditch and Birmingham South have higher rates. These rates reflect the age structure of the population.

Table 3 – vpwpp by Local Authority	vpwpp/1000
Bromsgrove	42.0
Dudley	44.5
South Staffordshire	42.2
Redditch	46.0
Birmingham South	47.6
Solihull	43.5
Wyre Forest	43.1
Stratford-on-Avon	41.9
Wychavon	42.0
WEST MIDLANDS TOTAL	45.3
ENGLAND TOTAL	45.6

- 3.5 In Bromsgrove 11.6% of the population has no access to a car, compared to a regional average of 24% meaning that residents in Bromsgrove are more mobile.

4 SUPPLY & DEMAND BALANCE

Bromsgrove	WEST MIDLANDS REGION	RUN 1	RUN 2
Table 4 - Supply/Demand Balance	2014	2014	2014
Supply - Hall provision (courts) scaled to take account of hours available for community use	1710.11	37.06	33.31
Demand - Hall provision (courts) taking into account a 'comfort' factor	1601.16	24.68	24.68
Supply / Demand balance	108.95	12.38	8.63

- 4.1 Section 4 compares the supply and demand for courts in Bromsgrove with the supply figure scaled to reflect the number of hours available in the peak period and the demand including an 80% 'comfort factor'.
- 4.2 In Run 1 the supply is 37 compared to a demand for nearly 25 giving a 'surplus' of just over 12 courts. With the exclusion of the sports hall at the Dolphin Centre the supply reduces to just over 33 courts while demand remains constant at 25 courts leading to a reduction in the estimated surplus from 12 courts to 8.
- 4.3 In both Runs 1 and 2 there is a surplus of supply over demand which suggests that Bromsgrove has a good level of Sports Hall provision.
- 4.4 It should be noted, however, that the supply demand balance measure only provides a 'global' view of provision and does not take account of the location, nature and quality of facilities in relation to demand; how accessible facilities are to the resident population (by car and on foot); nor does it take account of facilities in adjoining Local Authorities. These are covered in the following sections on Satisfied Demand and Unmet Demand.

5 SATISFIED DEMAND

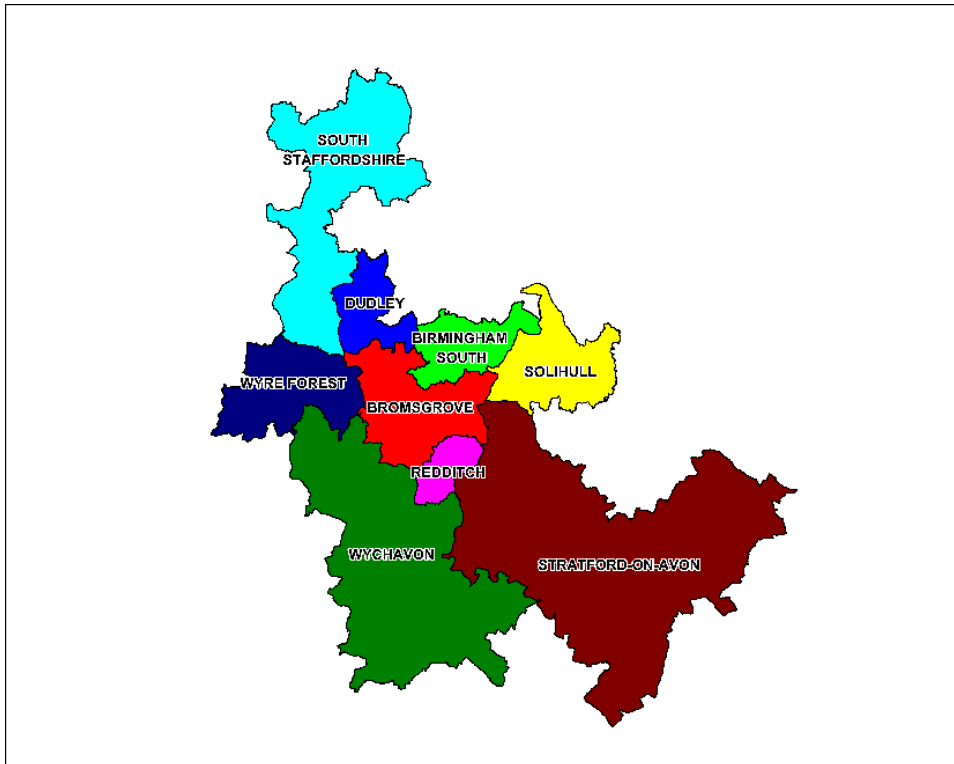
Bromsgrove	WEST MIDLANDS REGION	RUN 1	RUN 2
Table 5 - Satisfied Demand	2014	2014	2014
Total number of visits which are met	238121	3861	3849
% of total demand satisfied	91.8	96.6	96.3
Total Annual Throughput	-	278739	263828
% of demand satisfied who travelled by car	78.02	85.8	86.4
% of demand satisfied who travelled by foot	13.99	10.9	10.3
% of demand satisfied who travelled by public transport	8	3.3	3.3
Demand Retained	235619	2653	2557
Demand Retained -as a % of Satisfied Demand	98.9	68.7	66.4
Demand Exported	2502	1208	1292
Demand Exported -as a % of Satisfied Demand	1.1	31.3	33.6

- 5.1 Section 5 assesses satisfied demand or the estimated number of visits by residents in Bromsgrove which can be satisfied. In Run 1 the model estimates that 96.6% of demand in Bromsgrove is satisfied and that this reduces slightly to 96.3% (a reduction of 12 vpwpp) in Run 2 as a result of the reduction in supply. The level of Satisfied Demand is significantly higher than the regional average of 91.8%.
- 5.2 There are minor changes to the pattern of satisfied demand by transport mode with a slight reduction in the demand satisfied by residents walking to facilities in run 2. This is due to residents who currently walk to the Dolphin Centre who cannot walk to an alternative.
- 5.3 A good measure is the level of retained demand or the proportion of satisfied demand from residents in Bromsgrove which is met by facilities within the District. In Run 1 just over two-thirds of Bromsgrove's satisfied demand is retained; a figure which decreases slightly in Run 2, as would be expected.
- 5.4 The model estimates that approximately a third of satisfied demand is met through demand being exported to adjoining Local Authorities. Most of this demand goes to Birmingham South (about 18% of satisfied demand), with lesser amounts to Redditch (about 4%), Dudley (3%) and Solihull (2%). The export to Birmingham South increases by about 1 percentage point in Run 2 (42 vpwpp). The export to Redditch increases by 0.5 percentage points (19 vpwpp).
- 5.5 The import:export maps and the pie charts on the following page illustrate this in more detail.

Export Run 1



Export Run 2



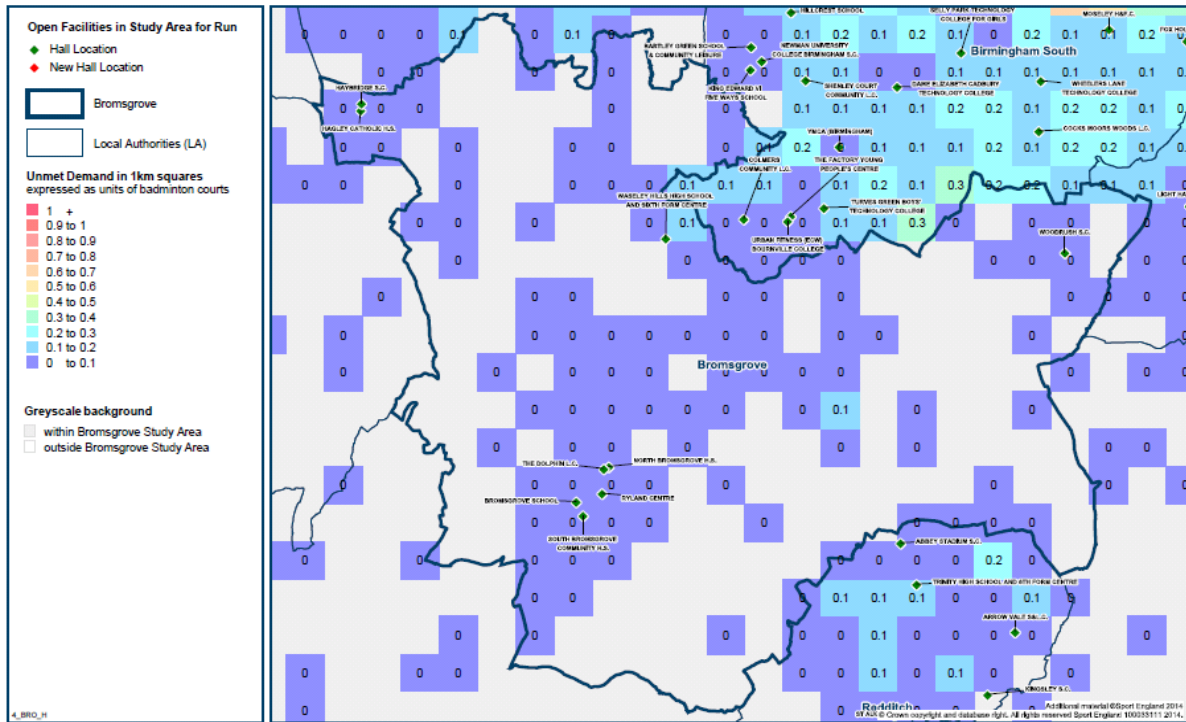
6 UNMET DEMAND

Bromsgrove	WEST MIDLANDS REGION	RUN 1	RUN 2
Table 6 - Unmet Demand	2014	2014	2014
Total number of visits in the peak, not currently being met	21267	137	149
Unmet demand as a % of total demand	8.2	3.4	3.7
Equivalent in Courts - with comfort factor	131.28	0.85	0.91
% of Unmet Demand due to ;			
Lack of Capacity -	19	7.0	7.4
Outside Catchment -	81	93.0	92.6
Outside Catchment;	81	93.0	92.6
% Unmet demand who do not have access to a car	73.73	82.2	81.9
% of Unmet demand who have access to a car	7.27	10.8	10.7
Lack of Capacity;	19.0	7.00	7.40
% Unmet demand who do not have access to a car	17.71	4.70	5.00
% of Unmet demand who have access to a car	1.29	2.30	2.40

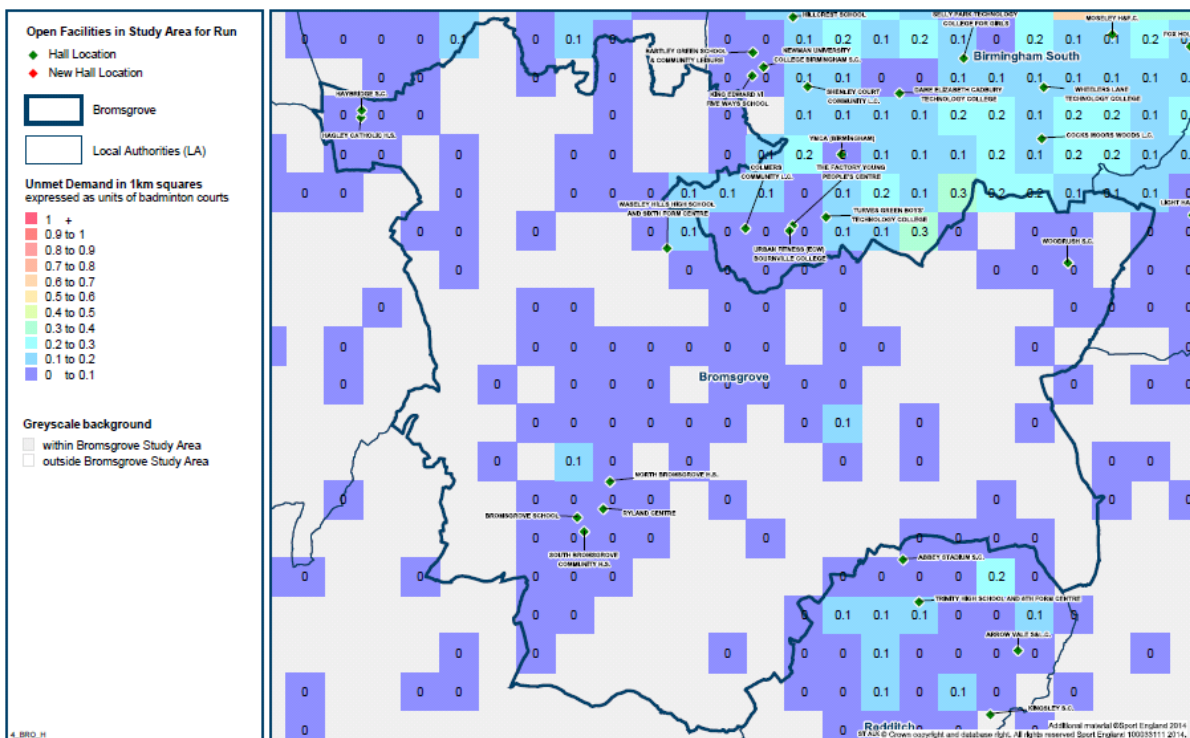
- 6.1 This section identifies the estimated demand from residents in Bromsgrove that is currently not being met. In Run 1 total unmet demand is only 137 vpwpp (3.4% of total demand) and this increases slightly (by 0.3%) in Run 2 to 149 vpwpp.
- 6.2 This level of unmet equates to less than 1 court in both Run 1 and 2 although it should be remembered this is spread across the District.
- 6.3 The vast majority of unmet demand (93%) is due to residents living outside the catchment area of a hall and the majority of this unmet demand is due to residents who do not have access to a car. Only 7% of unmet demand is due to lack of capacity eg sports halls being full.
- 6.4 The exclusion of the Dolphin LC results in a small increase in unmet visits from walkers (approx. 9 vpwpp) with no access to an alternative facility while impact on car users is negligible. .

6.5 The maps of unmet demand below show a small increase in unmet demand in Run 2 in the vicinity of the Dolphin LC which is to be expected since the Dolphin LC is close to other sites, even for walkers (see catchment maps).

Map 2: Unmet Demand in Run 1



Map 3: Unmet Demand in Run 2



7 USED CAPACITY

Bromsgrove	WEST MIDLANDS REGION	RUN 1	RUN 2
Table 7 - Used Capacity	2014	2014	2014
Total number of visits used of current capacity	238619	4594	4367
% of overall capacity of halls used	68.9	61.2	64.8
% of visits made to halls by walkers	14	9	8.9
% of visits made to halls by road	86	91	91.1
Visits Imported;			
Number of visits imported	3001	1941	1810
As a % of used capacity	1.3	42.2	41.4
Visits Retained:			
Number of Visits retained	235619	2653	2557
As a % of used capacity	98.7	57.8	58.6

- 7.1 Overall, the Halls in Bromsgrove are just over 61% utilised in Run 1, increasing to just under 65% in Run 2. This compares to Sport England's guidance threshold of 80% which is considered to be a 'comfortably full' Sports Hall.
- 7.2 Utilisation in Bromsgrove is lower than in the surrounding authorities with the exception of Stratford-on-Avon and Wychavon and indicates there is scope to absorb additional demand for Sports Hall provision within the District. It should be remembered, however, that utilisation of facilities vary and this is shown in Table 8 on the next page. .
- 7.3 It can be seen that utilisation at North Bromsgrove HS and the Ryland Centre increase substantially in Run 2. These facilities are the closest to the Dolphin LC. Utilisation also increases at South Bromsgrove HS and Bromsgrove School which are slightly further away.
- 7.4 Utilisation in Redditch increases at Abbey Sports Stadium and Trinity HS, both of which are close to the Bromsgrove border (detail not shown here). Although there is an increase in export to Birmingham South in Run 2 (see Section 5), utilisations there do not actually change since nearly all the facilities are already fully utilised. Instead, there is a knock-on effect where demand originating in Birmingham South is displaced to elsewhere in the region (see also Section 9).
- 7.5 The high utilisations in surrounding authorities, coupled with good road links, mean that a large amount of demand (over 40%) is imported into

Bromsgrove. Import is mainly from Birmingham South (about 15%), with 8% from Dudley and 7% from Redditch.

Table 8: Used Capacity by Sports Hall and Wider Study Area

STUDY AREA	RUN 1	RUN 2
Utilised Capacity	2014	2014
FPM TOTAL	68	68
ENGLAND TOTAL	69	69
WEST MIDLANDS TOTAL	69	69
AREA TOTAL	79	80
Bromsgrove	61	65
BROMSGROVE SCHOOL	32	38
HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL	39	40
HAYBRIDGE SPORTS CENTRE	46	46
NORTH BROMSGROVE HIGH SCHOOL	83	100
RYLAND CENTRE	78	94
SOUTH BROMSGROVE COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL	57	66
THE DOLPHIN LEISURE CENTRE	84	0
WASELEY HILLS HIGH SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE	64	68
WOODRUSH SPORTS CENTRE	97	98
Dudley	84	85
South Staffordshire	70	70
Redditch	75	77
Birmingham South	98	98
Solihull	82	82
Wyre Forest	75	75
Stratford-on-Avon	55	56
Wychavon	62	63

8 ANNUAL THROUGHPUT

STUDY AREA	RUN 1	RUN 2	
Individual Sites (projected annual th'put)	2014	2014	Difference
FPM TOTAL	161156276	161154081	-2195
ENGLAND TOTAL	158939270	158937076	-2194
WEST MIDLANDS TOTAL	16288622	16286427	-2195
AREA TOTAL	4437238	4432944	-4294
Bromsgrove	278739	263828	-14911
BROMSGROVE SCHOOL	28350	33177	4827
HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL	10494	10665	171
HAYBRIDGE SPORTS CENTRE	27378	27817	439
NORTH BROMSGROVE HIGH SCHOOL	33996	41033	7037
RYLAND CENTRE	46489	55711	9222
SOUTH BROMSGROVE COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL	20575	23876	3301
THE DOLPHIN LEISURE CENTRE	41539	0	-41539
WASELEY HILLS HIGH SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE	16585	17611	1026
WOODRUSH SPORTS CENTRE	53333	53939	606
Dudley	855049	855839	790
South Staffordshire	195872	195884	12
Redditch	212692	218616	5924
Birmingham South	1260836	1261811	975
Solihull	690933	691588	655
Wyre Forest	371173	371858	685
Stratford-on-Avon	309720	310356	636
Wychavon	262224	263162	938

- 8.1 The table above shows annual throughput for facilities in Bromsgrove and the totals for the surrounding areas.
- 8.2 Within Bromsgrove there is a decrease in throughput of 14,911 annual visits between Runs 1 and 2.
- 8.3 Overall, at regional level, there is a net decrease in throughput of 2,195 annual visits a year which would have been made to Dolphin LC and do not get accommodated elsewhere.
- 8.4 There is a notable increase in throughput in Redditch in Run 2 as demand is redirected there. The facilities in Birmingham South are already very heavily utilised, so there is less scope there for an increase in throughput (see also Section 7).

9 CONCLUSIONS

What is the current supply and demand for sports halls in Bromsgrove?

9.1 In Run 1 the FPM analysis indicates that Bromsgrove has a very good level of Sports Halls provision characterised by:

- A very good level of supply (6.4 courts per 10,000 people) which is significantly higher than the regional average (approx. 4 courts per 10,000 people).
- The estimated supply (7,504 vpwpp) is considerably higher than the demand from this population (4,000 vpwpp) with the model indicating that supply exceeds demand by approximately 12 courts. [Please note caution needs to be taken in how this 'surplus' is treated].
- Very high levels of satisfied demand (nearly 97%) meaning that the vast majority of residents that want to use a Sports Hall are able to satisfy their demand. There is a small amount of unmet demand (just over 3%) which is due to residents living outside the walking catchment of a Sport Hall who do not have access to a car.
- Modest levels of utilised capacity (approx. 60%) across the Sports Halls network in Bromsgrove, which when compared to Sport England's figure of 80% when a hall is considered comfortably full, would suggest there is capacity to absorb additional demand. It should be noted that used capacity does vary by facility and that some facilities such as North Bromsgrove HS, Dolphin LC and Woodrush School are already above the 80% comfort factor figure.
- There is an interesting pattern of import - export with Bromsgrove exporting approximately a third of its total demand to neighbouring Local Authorities and importing over 40% of its used capacity. This reflects the good transport links with neighbouring areas and the relatively high level of mobility.

9.2 The headlines from this Run suggests that there may be scope to reduce/ rationalise the current level of Sports Hall provision in Bromsgrove but the scale, location and accessibility of any changes would need to be carefully considered.

What is the potential impact of closing the 4 court sports hall at the Dolphin Leisure Centre?

9.3 Run 2 modelled current provision in Bromsgrove but with the closure of the existing four court hall at the Dolphin LC. The Run 2 analysis would suggest that the potential impact of the closure of the hall is fairly minimal:

- The level of supply is reduced by approximately four courts (when hours available in the peak period is factored in) which is a reduction of 10% (or 750 vpwpp). The level of supply does reduce from 6.4

courts/10,000 to 6 courts/10,000 but this is still significantly higher than the regional average of 4 courts/10,000.

- The level of supply is still greater than the estimated level of demand (6,700 vpwpp supply vs 4,000 vpwpp demanded) with a notional 'surplus' (i.e. supply exceeding demand) of 8 courts.
- The impact on the level of satisfied demand is small (from 96.7% to 96.3% in Run 2) with the vast majority of residents still able to satisfy their demand. There is a very small increase in unmet demand (12 vpwpp) which is due to residents who live outside the walking catchment of the Dolphin centre and do not have access to a car.
- There is a small increase in the level of utilised capacity (from 61% to 64%) with scope to absorb additional demand. The facilities closest to the Dolphin LC show the largest increases in utilisation, with N Bromsgrove HS reaching 100% of capacity.

9.4 While the headline figures from the Run 2 analysis would suggest that there is scope to reduce the amount of Sports Hall provision in the District the closure of the Dolphin LC would mean that all of the publicly accessible Sports Halls would be on School sites apart from the Ryland Centre which is a Local Authority (County Council) facility.

What policy options are available for addressing access to sports hall provision?

9.5 The Dolphin LC is an important 'pay and play' facility in the District which meets the need for casual (i.e. non club) usage. With the closure of the Dolphin LC the only pay and play facilities are the Ryland Centre and Woodrush School with the remaining facilities operating a 'club usage' model with little or no casual pay and play usage. Some thought needs to be given on what policy options are available for addressing this.

9.6 It is recommended that the District Council works with Schools, other providers and relevant National Governing Bodies for Sport (NGBs) to:

- Review the current programme at the Dolphin LC to identify the requirements of clubs and the demand for casual 'pay and play' usage.
- Develop a plan to relocate existing usage (both club and pay and play') from the Dolphin LC to other Sports halls ensuing continuity of use.
- Develop a balanced and co-ordinated programme of usage across the District which provides:
 - Access (where possible) for club and casual usage during daytime/off peak hours.
 - An appropriate level of provision for casual pay and play usage.

Appendix 1

Site	Yr Build	Yr Refurb	Weight	Public / Comm	L / H Man. Curve	Hrs in pp	Total Hrs	Capacity (vpwpp)
BROMSGROVE SCHOOL	2012		0.50	P	L	20.5	23	1640
HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL	2008		0.49	P	L	15	15	533
HAYBRIDGE SPORTS CENTRE	1999		0.46	P	L	35	39	1120
NORTH BROMSGROVE HIGH SCHOOL	2007		0.98	P	H	33	46	660
RYLAND CENTRE	1967	2010	0.84	P	H	34.5	75	690
SOUTH BROMSGROVE COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL	1950	2007	0.75	P	H	20	20	721
THE DOLPHIN LEISURE CENTRE	1989	2004	0.90	P	H	38	56.25	760
WASELEY HILLS HIGH SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE	1950	2010	0.42	P	L	13	20	390
WOODRUSH SPORTS CENTRE	1996	2008	0.48	P	L	33	39	990