



**MEDWAY COUNCIL  
BUILT FACILITIES STRATEGY  
DRAFT ASSESSMENT REPORT**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**



A DRAFT REPORT BY FMG CONSULTING LTD

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# 1. Executive Summary

## Introduction

- 1.1 The Executive Summary provides a summary of the key findings for each facility from the Built Facilities Strategy ('BFS') Needs Assessment Report. This document is the evidence base for the development of the BFS and Action Plan.
- 1.2 The Needs Assessment report is still in draft form at the time of writing and is currently being reviewed by the Council and key stakeholders, therefore this data is subject to change, depending on the feedback received. There is also still some outstanding data to be provided from National Governing Bodies of Sport that forms part of the assessment, but an initial assessment has been undertaken.
- 1.3 The facilities and associated sports and activities have been set out in Table 1.1 below.

**Table 1.1 – Scope of Facilities in BFS**

Facility Type	Sports / Activities
<b>Sports Hall</b>	Sports Halls
	Basketball courts
	Badminton courts
	Handball courts
	Korfball courts
	Netball courts
	Table tennis provision
	Volleyball courts
<b>Swimming Pools</b>	Swimming pools (including all aquatic based sports)
<b>Health and Fitness</b>	Health and fitness suites (gyms and fitness studios)
	Studios
<b>Squash</b>	Squash courts
<b>Indoor Bowls</b>	Bowling greens (indoors)
<b>Indoor Tennis</b>	Indoor Tennis
	Padel and Pickleball
<b>Athletics</b>	Athletics track and field facilities

Facility Type	Sports / Activities
Gymnastics	Gymnastics
Other Built Facilities (Table)	Archery ranges (indoors and outdoors)
	Climbing walls
	Combat Sports - Boxing gyms and martial arts halls
	Croquet and Pétanque
	Cycling facilities (Tracks, Trails and Pump tracks)
	Golf
	Disability and Inclusive sports
	Ice rinks
	Multi-Use Games Areas
	Orienteering
	Parkour
	Roller sports
	Skating and skateboarding
	Water sports (including sailing, kayaking, rowing etc.)
Winter sports (including skiing and snowboarding)	

### Sports Hall Summary

- 1.4 The sports hall needs assessment has used Sport England’s Facilities Planning Model (‘FPM’) as a key evidence base. This has been supplemented by further analysis undertaken by FMG, including consultation through site visits and surveys, a review of the Council’s leisure portfolio through performance benchmarking, and wider data analysis.
- 1.5 The FPM was produced on behalf of Sport England for Medway in May 2026 by ORH. It was commissioned by the Council in order to provide a current assessment of sports hall provision and provide an evidence base for the supply, demand, and access to sports halls in 2025 (baseline data was from 2025). In order to understand the potential future demand for facilities, FPM runs were also undertaken to identify future need up to 2041.
- 1.6 In 2025, Medway has 45 sports halls across 27 community-accessible sites, with the education sector providing the majority of provision (22 sites). There are three local authority sports halls across Medway; Medway Park Sports Centre, Strood Sports Centre and Lordswood Leisure Centre. Medway Park Sports Centre is the largest and most strategically significant site, with a 12-court hall and a seven-court hall capable of supporting a broad programme and major events.

- 1.7 Sports hall quality is considered reasonable, with a good refurbishment record among older sites. Strood Sports Centre has recently been refurbished, Medway Park is of good quality and capable of hosting major events, and Lordswood Leisure Centre has benefited from recent roof improvements.
- 1.8 Some education sites require investment, notably The Howard School and Brompton Academy where flooring is a maintenance priority, and Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School where refurbishment and repainting would be beneficial.
- 1.9 Accessibility is generally strong, with 78% of residents within a 20-minute walk of a sports hall, including 97% of the most deprived residents.
- 1.10 The FPM indicates that current demand is largely being met. In 2025, 98% of demand is satisfied, with 94% retained within Medway (i.e. not exported to other local authorities), and unmet demand is very low at around 2% or 1.5 courts. The overall used capacity of sports halls is estimated at 55% (this is a measure of usage at sports halls and estimates how well used or how full facilities are), which is lower than the Sport England comfort threshold of 80%. However, some key sites are under greater pressure, particularly Strood Sports Centre, which is modelled as fully utilised, and Medway Park, which is around 80% utilised.
- 1.11 By 2041, population growth is expected to increase sports hall demand by around 3%. However, demand remains broadly manageable, but pressure is expected to increase at sites if no replacement facilities or refurbishments are undertaken, particularly Medway Park Sports Centre, Maritime Academy, Leigh Academy Rainham, St John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School and Strood Academy.
- 1.12 National Governing Body feedback shows a mixed picture across indoor sports. Badminton England considers provision sufficient, with no additional badminton provision required. In contrast, Basketball England identifies limited basketball-priority provision, unmet demand, high hire costs and restricted access to school sites. England Handball highlights the challenge of accommodating full-size 40m x 20m courts, with pricing and travel also identified as barriers.
- 1.13 Therefore, across Medway, current demand can be met by the accessible supply of sports halls in 2026 and 2041. However, there will be a number as most facilities are on education sites, there is a need to maximise community access to education sites and any new school sites should through inclusion of a Community Use Agreement (CUA).

### **Swimming Pool Summary**

- 1.14 The swimming pool needs assessment has used Sport England's Facilities Planning Model ('FPM') as a key evidence base. This has been supplemented by further analysis undertaken by FMG, including consultation through site visits and surveys, a review of the Council's leisure portfolio through performance benchmarking, and wider data analysis.
- 1.15 The FPM was produced on behalf of Sport England for Medway in May 2026 by ORH. It was commissioned by the Council in order to provide a current assessment of swimming pool provision and provide an evidence base for the supply, demand, and access to swimming pools in 2025 (baseline data was from 2025). In order to understand the potential future demand for facilities, FPM runs were also undertaken to identify future need up to 2041.
- 1.16 Medway has a broad swimming pool offer, with 17 pools across ten community-accessible sites in 2025, including public leisure centres, education sites and commercial facilities. The public leisure centres form the core of provision, offering a range of activities including learn to swim, recreational swimming, lane swimming, club development, diving at Medway Park Sports Centre and leisure water at Cozenton Park Sports Centre.

- 1.17 Medway Park remains strategically important as the largest and most versatile aquatics site, providing the Borough's only diving facilities and supporting club activity, galas, school swimming and a large learn to swim programme.
- 1.18 A key issue is the age and quality of the pool stock, especially the local authority stock. The average age of swimming pool sites is 35 years, rising to 39 years for public leisure centres, with Hoo Sports Centre, Medway Park Sports Centre and Strood Sports Centre all dating from the 1970s.
- 1.19 Accessibility is generally good, with residents within a 20-minute drive of at least ten pool sites. However, the northern half of the Borough has limited provision, with Hoo Sports Centre being the only swimming pool site in that area.
- 1.20 Overall, current demand is largely being met, with 96% of demand satisfied in 2025, which is above the national average, and most of the demand is retained within the Borough. This is supported by the performance benchmarking, however, there are localised pressures identified across the assessment. Swim England also believe there is not enough publicly accessible water space across Medway.
- 1.21 Medway Park Sports Centre is a very busy site that needs to compromise with activities to accommodate all users, whilst there is also identified unmet demand, greatest in the south of the Borough, although the scale is not sufficient to justify a new pool in 2025.
- 1.22 Peak-time availability maximised at public leisure centres and commercial sites, meaning there is little scope to increase capacity through additional opening hours. Education pools provide useful supplementary capacity, particularly Hilltop Primary Academy and Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School, although King's School Rochester has more scope to increase availability.
- 1.23 Looking ahead to 2041, Medway's population is projected to increase by 5%, resulting in a 2% increase in swimming pool demand. The assessment indicates that, in theory, sufficient provision exists to meet demand in both 2025 and 2041, although pressure on facilities will increase. In Run 2 of the FPM, where no new provision is added in Medway, unmet demand rises as a result of the age and condition of the sites.
- 1.24 For Runs 3 that include a new pool at Lordswood Leisure Centre, this helps improve capacity and retention of demand within Medway. For Run 4, the replacement of Strood Sports Centre with New Strood Park Sports Centre in Run 4 also supports future provision, although its location slightly impacts unmet demand.
- 1.25 Overall, whilst demand could be met by the current provision both now and in the future, this masks a more challenging operational picture as public leisure centres are already highly utilised at peak times, with no scope to increase opening hours further as facilities are operating at maximum availability. While overall supply is adequate, capacity pressures at key sites mean that many pools are effectively full, limiting flexibility to accommodate future growth or expanded programming.
- 1.26 Therefore, theoretical proposed investment priorities (additional pool in the south of Medway and a new Strood Sports centre) would provide an improved future provision of swimming pool water. In addition, whilst there is no identified need for additional new swimming pool beyond planned investment, the evidence supports the importance of modernising ageing facilities and considering larger or more flexible pool water provision at new centres to increase resilience, reduce peak-time pressure and maintain quality access for residents.

## Health and Fitness Summary

- 1.27 Medway has a substantial health and fitness market, with 34 health and fitness venues, of which 30 are publicly accessible through pay-and-play or membership arrangements. These provide a total of 2,722 accessible fitness stations.
- 1.28 The largest facilities are Rochester Health Club, with 330 stations, JD Gyms at Hempstead Valley and Chatham, each with 250 stations, and PureGym Chatham and The Gym Group Gillingham, each with 220 stations.
- 1.29 Provision is concentrated mainly in the south of the borough, particularly south of the River Medway, with Hoo Sports Centre the only facility in the Peninsula sub-area. Planned developments at Medway Park Sports Centre and Lordswood Leisure Centre will further increase the number of stations at these local authority owned sites.
- 1.30 The overall quality of health and fitness provision is considered good, supported by a competitive commercial market and evidence of recent investment into the area. Of the publicly accessible facilities assessed, 13 have been refurbished since first opening, while around half were built after 2010.
- 1.31 The oldest facilities are Council-owned, including Hoo Sports Centre, Medway Park Sports Centre and Lordswood Leisure Centre, but these sites are subject to ongoing improvement. Site visits identified continued refurbishment at Strood, new or planned gym and functional training areas at Hoo, Medway Park Sports Centre and Lordswood Leisure Centre, and newly opened provision at Cozenton Park Leisure Centre. However, some specific issues remain, including the ongoing flood-related works at Hoo Sports Centre.
- 1.32 Accessibility is strong as Active Places Power analysis indicates that 100% of Medway's population is within a 20-minute drive of a health and fitness facility, with 88% within five minutes. This suggests that the geographical spread of facilities is good and that Council facilities are generally located in the right places to serve residents.
- 1.33 However, the market is heavily dominated by commercial operators. This limits the Council's direct control over pricing and programming across most of the market and may create barriers for some residents.
- 1.34 Current demand analysis indicates that Medway has more than sufficient supply. Against the current supply of 2,722 accessible stations, this indicates an oversupply of around 1,460 stations, before considering the higher capacity of larger commercial gyms. By 2041, even with population growth and increased demand, there is still projected to be an oversupply of around 1,300 stations, meaning Medway is expected to retain sufficient health and fitness capacity.
- 1.35 Despite the overall oversupply, Council leisure facilities perform strongly. Benchmarking shows that Strood Sports Centre, Hoo Sports Centre and Medway Park Sports Centre generate income and memberships per station above benchmark levels, while Cozenton Park slightly below benchmark. However, Medway Sport has more than 10,000 health and fitness members across its four directly managed sites, which is broadly in line with expected public sector market penetration in a highly competitive commercial environment. This suggests that Council facilities remain attractive and relevant, particularly where they provide distinctive offers linked to accessibility, family use, junior gym, wellbeing and community-based programming.

- 1.36 Fitness studio provision is also strong. Medway has 55 purpose-built studios, including 38 publicly accessible studios identified through Active Places Power and a further 15 Pilates and dance studios identified through desktop research. Provision is concentrated in Rochester, Gillingham, Chatham and Rainham, with some gaps in the north of the borough. Studio accessibility is good, with 100% of residents within a 20-minute drive.
- 1.37 The Council manages 11 studio facilities, representing around 20% of total studio stock, while education and commercial providers make up the remainder.
- 1.38 Overall, Medway has ample health and fitness and studio capacity, with good geographical coverage and strong commercial provision.

#### **Squash Court Summary**

- 1.39 The needs assessment has highlighted that there are currently eight squash courts across five sites. The courts are located across Medway, but they are all accessible within a 20-minute drive time. Furthermore, five of the eight courts are on Council sites, although Hoo Sports Centre is currently unavailable, reducing provision to four courts.
- 1.40 One key issue is the age of the stock and despite regular maintenance of the buildings. The sites have not been refurbished for 15 years, with the last built courts in 2000.
- 1.41 The theoretical demand and supply analysis shows there is a significant deficit of courts both now and in the future, totalling 16 courts in 2026 and 20 courts by 2041. This is supported by England Squash who has identified that there is significantly higher number of people to a court than their recommended metrics.

#### **Indoor Bowls Summary**

- 1.42 The needs assessment has highlighted that there are currently two sites with a combined 14 indoor bowls rinks. There is no local authority managed indoor bowls centre, but the Council own the land at Prince Arthur Indoor Bowls Centre and the facility at Deangate Ridge.
- 1.43 The facilities are geographically spread across the district and are accessible for all the Medway population.
- 1.44 Indoor bowls centres, along with swimming pools, are the most important facility type for people aged over 60 years. There are contrasting directions, (1) the sport is losing popularity and participation has declined in recent years at most indoor centres across England but (2) the percentage of the population in the 60 – 75 age range is increasing in Medway (as well as the growing population) and there is the potential to increase participation based on demographic change. Also, indoor bowls offers a lot of scope to increase physical activity through health and well-being programmes. There is the potential to increase physical activity and turn the casual players into participating in the real thing.
- 1.45 The assessment has outlined that the current provision of indoor bowls centres and the number of rinks is adequate for the demand in 2026, but there would be a deficit of 2-3 rinks by 2041. This is supported by previous EIBA consultation who have highlighted the need to protect the two current sites and clubs, but there is no requirement to increase provision.
- 1.46 Despite the theoretical deficit, both clubs are likely to have capacity to be able to support membership, with Prince Arthur IBC currently at circa 50% of their peak membership. As a result, it is anticipated that any growth in demand could be saturated by the existing facilities.

### **Indoor Tennis Summary**

- 1.47 The needs assessment identifies a significant shortfall in indoor tennis provision in Medway, with demand modelling indicating a requirement for around 22 indoor courts and a current deficit of approximately 19 courts.
- 1.48 Existing indoor tennis access is heavily dependent on Avenue Tennis in Gillingham, which is the only significant indoor tennis facility in the area. The LTA recognises Avenue Tennis as valuable in performance terms, particularly through its role in player development, but does not view it as a genuinely inclusive community venue due to likely access constraints associated with the private membership model.
- 1.49 While the site is relatively accessible by car, with 97% of Medway residents within a 20-minute drive time, only 37% are within a 10-minute drive. The proposed transfer of Avenue Tennis to David Lloyd is also likely to reduce its relevance as a community-accessible facility, as future access is expected to be based primarily around private membership and day passes rather than inclusive community use. This creates a risk that affordable and accessible indoor tennis opportunities will decrease further.
- 1.50 However, despite the identified deficit, Medway has not been identified by the LTA as a priority location for a new Community Indoor Tennis Centre. In general, participation data suggests that tennis activity is relatively modest locally, with adult participation in Kent below the South East average and children's weekly participation in Medway below the Kent, South East and national rates.
- 1.51 The LTA are now also considering covered or canopy solutions to outdoor tennis courts (similar to The Thomas Aveling School) as a resolution to providing all year-round tennis facilities. Consultation with the LTA indicates that the principal issue in Medway is not the overall number of outdoor courts, but the lack of year-round, floodlit and covered provision.
- 1.52 The LTA's demand calculator, based on the current population in Medway, identifies a need for 21 padel courts within the study area. This is not seen as a cap, more that the LTA has confidence there is sufficient demand for the number of courts identified.
- 1.53 There are currently ten outdoor padel courts providing in Medway across three sites. This means that there is currently a shortfall of 11 padel tennis courts in Medway based on LTA calculations.

### **Athletics Summary**

- 1.54 Medway has two synthetic 400m athletics tracks: an 8-lane track at Medway Park Sports Centre and a 6-lane track at Deangate Ridge Recreation Ground. Medway Park Sports Centre is the principal formal athletics venue in the borough, providing a competition-standard facility with field event provision and the ability to host regional events. Deangate Ridge is no longer operated as a formal athletics venue but remains in free public use and provides an important safe running environment for the local community.
- 1.55 Together, the two tracks provide strong geographical coverage, with 100% of Medway's population within a 20-minute drive of an athletics track and over half of residents within 10 minutes. There are also limited alternative athletics facilities in neighbouring authorities, with the closest tracks located at Dartford and Ashford. England Athletics' strategic position is that most areas already have sufficient traditional 400m synthetic track provision, and the priority should be to protect, maintain and improve existing tracks, rather than provide additional traditional track facilities.

- 1.56 Therefore, the key issue is not the quantity of provision, but the need to protect, refurbish and sustain the two existing tracks. Medway Park Sports Centre is in reasonable condition but will require planned investment, particularly in lighting and future track maintenance and resurfacing, with England Athletics identifying the need to protect its competition status, maintain UKA TrackMark accreditation and plan for a full track resurface in the longer term.
- 1.57 Deangate Ridge is in poor condition and requires investment if it is to continue fulfilling its community role. Its current informal use demonstrates clear value, with Strava data showing regular use by runners and wider activity around the site. England Athletics views the facility as an asset of significant community value and supports its protection and enhancement, including resurfacing and improved ancillary provision.
- 1.58 Demand for athletics in Medway is relatively strong. Applying the South East track and field participation rate of 0.7% to Medway's adult population generates an estimated 1,309 adult track and field athletes. In addition, participation among children and young people is notably high, with an estimated 3,068 children aged 5–14 years participating weekly in athletics, significantly above Kent, South East and England averages. This demand is likely to be supported by the availability of local facilities and may increase further as housing growth comes forward in Medway and surrounding areas.
- 1.59 On this basis, athletics supply in Medway is expected to be sufficient to meet demand in both 2026 and 2041, provided that both Medway Park Sports Centre and Deangate Ridge are protected and refurbished. There is no identified strategic requirement to retain the infield at Deangate Ridge for athletic use whilst Medway Park Sports Centre is available.

**Gymnastics Summary**

- 1.60 Medway has a club-led gymnastics and trampolining market, with provision delivered through a mix of dedicated gymnastics facilities and education-based spaces. Five main facilities provide broad opportunities across gymnastics and trampolining. This demonstrates that the market is not primarily driven by local authority provision, but by established clubs and commercial or community organisations that have developed specialist programmes and access arrangements.
- 1.61 The quality and suitability of provision vary depending on the type of facility used. Dedicated and purpose-built venues, such as DLJ Gymnastics Club, Meapa and Jumpers Rebound Centre, provide the strongest platform for gymnastics and trampolining because they can accommodate specialist equipment, programmed coaching, storage and discipline-specific activity. These sites are particularly important because gymnastics requires supervised delivery and equipment-rich environments.
- 1.62 Facilities operating from education sites also play an important role, but they are more likely to face constraints associated with shared use, including limited access times, restrictions on the adaptability of space, ceiling height limitations, storage pressures, and less suitable reception, changing and communal facilities.
- 1.63 Accessibility to gymnastics and trampolining provision is generally good, with the 20-minute drive-time catchments covering the most populous areas of Medway and extending into neighbouring areas including Swale, Gravesham and Maidstone. However, availability is more restricted than for many other sports because gymnastics is a coached and programmed activity. Most sessions are delivered through clubs, classes or membership-based arrangements, meaning casual use is limited. Some clubs may also operate waiting lists, which can restrict immediate access for new participants and highlights the importance of protecting existing spaces and supporting clubs to increase capacity where feasible.

- 1.64 Demand for gymnastics is particularly focused on children and young people. National evidence from British Gymnastics identifies strong demand from a young age and supports a mix of dedicated and non-dedicated facilities to meet different needs. In Medway, participation among children remains significant, with an estimated 8,800 young people under 16 taking part in gymnastics, trampolining and/or cheerleading outside school hours in 2023/24.
- 1.65 This suggests that gymnastics and trampolining remain important activities within the local sport and physical activity offer, even though participation is below regional and national levels. Adult participation is lower, reflecting national trends, but there remains an estimated adult gymnastics market in Medway.
- 1.66 Overall, gymnastics and trampolining provision in Medway is shaped by committed clubs and specialist providers using a combination of dedicated and education-based spaces. The focus of future planning should be to safeguard these facilities, improve their functionality, support clubs and enhance shared-use arrangements with schools where community access is already established. This approach will help sustain participation, protect existing capacity and enable clubs to continue meeting local demand.

### Other Built Facilities Summary

Table 1.2 sets out a summary of other built facilities in Medway.

**Table 1.2 – Other Built Facilities Summary**

Other Built Facility	Summary
<p><b>Archery</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two facilities and clubs have been identified in Medway; Bridge Woods Field Archery Club and Medway Archers.</li> <li>Active Lives data identifies that 0.1% of the adult population undertake archery at least twice every 28 days. When equating this to the population for 2026 (235,000 people aged 15 years and above), this equates to 235 people. By 2041, this is expected to increase to 284 people (population of 284,000 over 15 years old).</li> <li>Archery is a club focused activity in Medway. We would not recommend providing any new provision of archery facilities in Medway unless there is specific demand from a new club, or there is a requirement to support expansion or relocation.</li> <li>If demand arises, there could be opportunities to support with indoor provision, but this should be club led and work with the identified provider. There are no requirements for Medway Council to develop specific archery facilities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Climbing</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are a range of climbing facilities available in the market from small independent providers to specialist climbing providers such as the market leaders branded as Clip 'n Climb. Climbing walls have been developed by the commercial market and by the Council at Strood Youth Centre.</li> <li>Active Lives data identifies that 0.8% of the adult population undertake climbing or bouldering at least twice every 28 days in the South East. When equating this to the population for 2026 (235,000 people aged 15 years and above), this equates to 1,880 people.</li> </ul>

Other Built Facility	Summary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By 2041, this is expected to increase to 2,272 people (population of 284,000 over 15 years old).</li> <li>• There is no requirement to provide new climbing facilities in Medway by the Council unless part of a new leisure or youth centre development where a feasibility study identifies demand.</li> <li>• The commercial market will lead the way in any future developments as dedicated climbing facilities.</li> </ul>
<b>Combat Sports (including Boxing Gyms and Martial Arts Halls)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boxing and combat sport provision in Medway is mainly delivered through clubs and class-based facilities in areas such as Chatham, Gillingham and Strood.</li> <li>• There are five England Boxing-affiliated clubs locally, but many operate from older or constrained facilities. Clubs such as St Mary's ABC and Strood ABC would benefit from investment, larger training spaces, improved quality, better accessibility and supporting facilities such as changing rooms and flexible community space.</li> <li>• There are seven dedicated Martial Arts facilities in Medway (analysis does not include spaces that are flexible such as use of a sports hall).</li> <li>• England Boxing believe there is unmet and latent demand, particularly among young people, but club growth is restricted by limited space, low-cost operating models and the affordability challenges associated with serving deprived communities.</li> <li>• Participation using Active Lives data estimates suggest significant demand across boxing, combat sports, martial arts and target sports, with around 8,000 adults and 9,000 children currently participating (17,000 people), rising to over 20,000 people in future demand projections.</li> <li>• There is no requirement to provide new boxing clubs or facilities unless there is specific demand from a new club, or there is a requirement to support expansion or relocation of one of the clubs. The immediate need is to work with the current providers in Medway and support improvements in current facilities or in relocation.</li> </ul>
<b>Croquet and Pétanque</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall, Croquet and Pétanque are a club focused activities in Medway.</li> <li>• Medway Croquet Club were the only club in the area, but they played outside the borough in Maidstone. However, in 2024, they lost their site at K Sports in Maidstone and do not currently have a new location. Lordswood Pétanque Club is based at Lordswood Sports &amp; Social Club and has 22 pistes (pitches).</li> <li>• Active Lives data identifies that less than 0.1% of the adult population undertake Croquet at least twice every 28 days (previous 2023/24 data for South East).</li> </ul>

Other Built Facility	Summary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When equating this to the population for 2026 (235,000 people aged 15 years and above), this equates to 235 people. By 2041, this is expected to increase to 284 people (population of 284,000 over 15 years old). There is no participation data for pétanque.</li> <li>• There is no requirement for new provision of facilities in Medway unless there is specific demand from a new club, or there is a requirement to support expansion or relocation. There are no requirements for Medway Council to develop specific facilities.</li> </ul>
<b>Cycling (Tracks, Trails and Pump tracks)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cycling can be undertaken in a variety of ways from road cycling to safe cycling at pay and play facilities to free use pump tracks. It is difficult to establish a demand model for specific facilities; however, they provide important facilities to the community.</li> <li>• The analysis has identified one dedicated purpose-built cycling facilities within the Medway assessment area, a pump track located at Queen Elizabeth Fields.</li> <li>• There are two affiliated cycling clubs in Medway; Medway Velo CC and Wigmore CC. There are four other identified clubs in Medway.</li> <li>• Most clubs focus on road cycling and do not require dedicated facilities but may use dedicated spaces such as Cyclopark in Gravesend which has a dedicated pay and play facility with BMX Pump Track, BMX Race Track, Mountain Bike Trails and a Closed Road Circuit.</li> <li>• Active Lives data shows that cycling participation in Medway is relatively low, with 9.2% of adults taking part in at least one form of cycling and 8.7% participating in road cycling; both are significantly below Kent, regional and national averages. Participation in more specialist cycling disciplines, such as BMX, track cycling and cyclo-cross, is very limited nationally.</li> <li>• Based on Medway's 2026 population projections, around 17,200 adults are estimated to participate in cycling, although many are likely to cycle recreationally or for travel rather than as a formal sport. Cycling for travel and leisure in Kent is also below regional and national averages, suggesting a relatively modest cycling participation base locally.</li> <li>• Cycling facilities in parks, open spaces and housing developments can include pump tracks, off road trails, outdoor velodromes etc through to low lit cycling paths (which could be linked to England Athletics' Active Track developments). They provide essential, safe spaces for exercise and skill-building and they promote public healthy lifestyles and encourage sustainable transport.</li> <li>• Development of safe cycling facilities are important to activate spaces, and consideration for including pump tracks, BMX tracks, mountain bike trails and safe cycling routes should be considered across green spaces and housing developments in Medway.</li> </ul>

Other Built Facility	Summary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At this stage, there is no requirement for a dedicated cycling facility with a road route due to the accessibility to Cyclopark in Gravesend.</li> </ul>
<b>Golf</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is only one 18-hole standard golf course in Medway located at Gillingham Golf Club.</li> <li>There is one pitch and putt (9 holes) facility located at Haven Kent Coast Holiday Park in Allhallows; however, access is limited. Deangate Ridge Golf Course closed in 2018 due to financial losses.</li> <li>The facility at Gillingham Golf Club is a member owned club. Most users are members; however, visitors can pay and play at certain times of the week.</li> <li>In total, 97% of the population has access to the Gillingham Golf Club within a 20-minute drive time in Medway, with 50% are within a 10-minute drive time. As there is only one course, we have also assessed accessibility when including facilities outside of Medway. As a result, this increases accessibility to 99% with 63% within 10 minutes, However, this assessment details that 42% is met outside the borough across four courses in Gravesham, Swale and Maidstone.</li> <li>Active Lives data indicates that golf participation in Kent is broadly in line with national levels but below the South East average, with 2.4% of adults playing golf at least twice every 28 days and 1.9% participating in full-course golf. Applying participation rates to Medway's population suggests around 5,850 people currently participate in golf, including adults and children. This is projected to rise to around 7,200 people by 2041 as the population grows.</li> <li>Overall, golf in Medway is not significantly represented, with one member's club at Gillingham Golf Club. There is precedent for closure of golf courses due to financial difficulties and low levels of usage at Deangate Ridge. Furthermore, accessibility is not an issue as there are various golf courses within 20-minute drive time of surrounding local authorities.</li> <li>Therefore, there is no demand to develop additional golf courses. However, there is scope for exploring improving the mix of facilities in the study area and offer more entry level style facilities for those who are new to the game, placing particular focus on driving ranges and shorter length courses of which there currently appears to be a low level of supply.</li> </ul>
<b>Ice Rinks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planet Ice Gillingham is the only ice rink in Medway. It is also the only ice rink in Kent, with the closest facility located in Guildford or Bracknell in Surrey.</li> <li>In total, 98% of the population has access to the Planet Ice Gillingham within a 20-minute drive time in Medway, with 46% are within a 10-minute drive time. All the population are within 30 minutes of the site.</li> </ul>

Other Built Facility	Summary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active Lives data indicates that adult ice-skating participation is very low nationally, at 0.2% of adults taking part at least twice every 28 days. Applied to Medway’s adult population, this equates to around 470 adult participants in 2026, rising to 568 by 2041.</li> <li>• Children’s participation is higher, with 1.5% of children and young people in Kent taking part, although this is below regional and national averages. Overall, this suggests around 1,325 ice skating participants in Medway now, rising to around 1,900 by 2041 as the population grows.</li> <li>• However, due to the uniqueness of the facility in the area, the facility is a destination facility, and users will travel further than 30 minutes either for a casual session on an ad-hoc basis, or more regularly if participating as an athlete (ice skating or ice hockey).</li> <li>• Overall, there is one established ice rink in Medway, and this facility is sufficient for Medway and Kent. There is no requirement for additional ice rink facilities in Kent.</li> </ul>
<b>Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGA)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) is a versatile, outdoor sports facility designed to accommodate several different sports and activities in a single location. Typically enclosed by fencing, MUGAs feature combinations of integrated goal posts, basketball hoops, and overlapping court markings.</li> <li>• Outdoor tennis courts are being assessed in the PPS, so focus in this section is on outdoor netball courts, basketball courts and free access facilities.</li> <li>• There are seven sites that are part of the criteria that provide MUGA for hire. The Thomas Aveling School facility is a floodlit MUGA which is covered by a canopy. There are also various free access MUGAs across Medway.</li> <li>• Majority of netball courts are located on education sites, which limits accessibility in day time, but all the key providers have community access. Rainham School for Girls is also a key central venue for Kent and Medway, attracting users from beyond the authority area.</li> <li>• Adult participation in netball and basketball in Kent is relatively modest, with 0.6% of adults playing netball and 0.8% playing basketball at least twice every 28 days. Applied to Medway’s adult population, this equates to around 3,300 adult participants in 2026, rising to around 4,000 by 2041.</li> <li>• Children’s participation is much higher, particularly for basketball, with around 3,200 children playing netball and 9,600 playing basketball in Medway in 2026, rising to around 3,900 and 11,600 respectively by 2041.</li> <li>• In terms of formal MUGA spaces, Medway has a good geographical spread of facilities. There is some good quality facilities located at Rainham School for Girls, Sir Joseph Williamson, The Strand and The Thomas Aveyley School.</li> </ul>

Other Built Facility	Summary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Furthermore, there is aspirations to improve the quality of the facilities at Rainham School for Girls and Brompton Academy.</li> <li>• This details that education facilities play a key role in MUGA provision in Medway, with most formal sites located on education sites. These sites provide important access for netball and wider multi-sport activity, with Rainham School for Girls acting as a key central venue for Kent and Medway netball.</li> <li>• There is no specific requirement for additional formal facilities Future demand is also expected to grow, and this reinforces the need to maintain good-quality, accessible MUGAs, improve lighting and markings where possible, and ensure school and Council-owned sites continue to support both recreational and organised sport.</li> </ul>
<b>Orienteering</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orienteering does not require a specific facility and is based on participants use a detailed map and a compass to navigate unfamiliar terrain, finding their way to a series of specific checkpoints.</li> <li>• Saxons Orienteering Club undertake activities in Medway, Kent and Sussex.</li> <li>• Orienteering does not require any dedicated facilities to participate</li> </ul>
<b>Parkour</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is one Parkour facility in Medway located at The Strand.</li> <li>• Active Lives data identifies that 0.3% of the adult population undertake parkour at least twice every 28 days in the South East (higher than the England average of 0.2%). When equating this to the population for 2026 (235,000 people aged 15 years and above), this equates to 705 people. By 2041, this is expected to increase to 850 people (population of 284,000 over 15 years old).</li> <li>• Parkour is available at The Strand and is accessible for most of Medway. There is no requirement to provide additional facilities, however, there could be consideration as part of any open space or housing developments as a free access elsewhere in authority, such as south or North of Medway.</li> </ul>
<b>Roller Sports</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no dedicated Roller Sports facilities in Medway. There is one club, Medway Roller Dance Club, who use the sports hall at the Woodlands Sports Centre at the Academy of Woodlands.</li> <li>• Active Lives data identifies that 0.4% of the adult population undertake roller sports at least twice every 28 days. When equating this to the population for 2026 (235,000 people aged 15 years and above), this equates to 940 people. By 2041, this is expected to increase to 1,136 people (population of 284,000 over 15 years old).</li> <li>• In addition, 5.2% of children and young people participate in skateboarding, roller skating and blading in Kent, which is lower than South East (5.8%) and England (5.7%). There are 57,000 people aged under 15 years in 2026. Based on the participation rate, this equates to 3,000 children in Medway participating.</li> </ul>

Other Built Facility	Summary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In terms of the future population, there 69,000 people under 15 years old. Applying the same participation rates, this equates to demand of 3,600 children participating in roller sports in 2041.</li> <li>There is demand for roller sports in Medway, with a dedicated club, Medway Roller Dance Club. However, there is no requirement to provide a dedicated facility and clubs and organisations should continue to access facilities such as sports halls.</li> </ul>
<b>Skating and Skateboarding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are six skate parks across Medway that are free access within parks. There is also one indoor dedicated skatepark at Unit 1 Skatepark, also known as the 'Rochester Indoor Skatepark Club.</li> <li>There are various facilities spread across Medway, with access to a facility in all the key sub areas. The majority of Medway is also within 20 minutes drive time of Unit 1.</li> <li>Active Lives data identifies that 0.1% of the adult population undertake skateboarding at least twice every 28 days. When equating this to the population for 2026 (235,000 people aged 15 years and above), this equates to 235 people. By 2041, this is expected to increase to 284 people (population of 284,000 over 15 years old).</li> <li>In addition, 5.2% of children and young people participate in skateboarding, roller skating and blading in Kent, which is lower than South East (5.8%) and England (5.7%). There are 57,000 people aged under 15 years in 2026. Based on the participation rate, this equates to 3,000 children in Medway participating. In terms of the future population, there 69,000 people under 15 years old. Applying the same participation rates, this equates to demand of 3,600 children participating in 2041.</li> <li>Skateboarding is an important activity for younger adults and children. There are various free access facilities across the parks and open spaces in Medway, with an indoor all year around facility at Unit 1 in Rochester.</li> <li>There is no requirement to develop additional skate parks, with various sub areas of Medway having access to a facility. However, there will be a need to protect these facilities and enhance or re-provide as they age.</li> </ul>
<b>Water Sports (including sailing, kayaking, rowing etc)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medway has a broad range of water sports provision reflecting its location on the Thames Estuary and River Medway. Facilities include multi-activity water sports centres, yacht and sailing clubs, a rowing club, cruising clubs, marina-based training providers, and boat/waterski clubs.</li> <li>The offer includes both pay-and-play and membership-based provision. Chatham Maritime Water Sports Centre and Medway Watersports Club provide accessible activities such as sailing, kayaking, paddleboarding, windsurfing, open water swimming, adventure days and group bookings, while more traditional membership clubs support sailing, cruising, rowing, boating and waterskiing.</li> </ul>

Other Built Facility	Summary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many of these sites are long-established traditional clubs, including Medway Towns Rowing Club, founded in 1865, and Wilsonian Sailing Club, founded in 1959.</li> <li>• There is access to a range of training courses and formal development opportunities at many of these venues, particularly through accredited water sports centres and clubs. Elite Sailing, Medway Watersports Club, Medway Yacht Club and Wilsonian Sailing Club all provide structured training, including RYA and Paddle UK courses, powerboat training, youth sailing, safety boat training and introductory sessions.</li> <li>• Overall, Medway has a well-established water sports network and there are no requirements to develop additional water sports facilities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Winter Sports (including skiing and snowboarding)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chatham Snowsports Centre is the only outdoor winter sports facility in Medway. It is also the only facility in Kent, with the closest facility located in Crowborough in Sussex.</li> <li>• In total, 94% of the population has access to the Chatham Snowsports Centre within a 20-minute drive time in Medway, with 53% are within a 10-minute drive time.</li> <li>• Consultation with the operator detailed planning permission is understood to be in progress for works relating to a new tubing offer.</li> <li>• Active Lives data suggests adult participation in snow sports is low, with 0.6% of Kent adults taking part at least twice every 28 days. Applied to Medway's adult population, this equates to around 1,400 adults in 2026, rising to around 1,700 by 2041.</li> <li>• Children's participation is very limited, at 0.1% nationally, equating to around 60 children in Medway in 2026 and 70 by 2041. Overall, this suggests around 1,500 snow sports participants now, rising to around 1,800 by 2041.</li> <li>• However, due to the uniqueness of the facility in the area, the facility is a destination facility, and users will travel further than 30 minutes either for a casual session on an ad-hoc basis, or more regularly if participating as an athlete or in competitions.</li> <li>• Overall, there is one established ski slope in Medway, and this facility provides for Medway and Kent. There is no requirement for additional snow sports facilities in Medway.</li> <li>• Where possible, improvements should be undertaken on the site to increase the long-term sustainability of the site, but this is down to the commercial operator.</li> </ul>