

Gosport Borough Local Plan 2011-2029 Publication Version

Health and Community Facilities Background Paper

June 2014



GOSPORT
Borough Council

Health and Community Facilities Background Paper

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Health and Community Facilities Background Paper

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This background paper has been prepared to support the policies of the draft Gosport Borough Local Plan 2011-2029 (Publication Version July 2014) relating to the Borough's community facilities including health facilities. This background paper sets out the national and local context for both health and community facilities provision and draws out the key conclusions of relevant evidence studies. This paper should be read in conjunction with the Borough Council's Infrastructure Assessment Report (2014) which provides an assessment of the current infrastructure in the Borough, and identifies future infrastructure requirements (where known) as a result of proposed growth over the Local Plan period (2011-2029).
- 1.2 Local community facilities are an integral part of community life, not only do they provide convenience in terms of purchasing local goods and services, they also serve as important social meeting places, contribute towards the mix of local employment opportunities and can provide a locality with its own unique local distinctiveness through a range of services.
- 1.3 The size of the population and its characteristics including the age profile is an important factor when considering the provision of community facilities. The population of the Borough is 82,600 (Census 2011). Hampshire County Council's long-term population forecasts for the Borough show the population is ageing due largely to a longer life expectancy and a low birth rate, this in line with the national trend with the number of over 65's will increase from 17.2% in 2011 to 24.0% in 2029 with the number of residents over 65 increasing by 42.4% over the same period which is approximately 6,000 people.
- 1.4 As part of this trend there is a marked increase in those living beyond 85 with an 82% increase over the plan period (2011-2029). At the same time the number aged under-16 is falling in both proportion and absolute terms. In 2011 18.7% of the population was under 16 by 2029 this is projected to fall to 17.9%. It is projected that there will be a 2.2% fall in the number of people aged under 16. In relation to the traditional working age population (16-64), it is projected that this group will decrease from 64% in 2011 to 58% in 2029. These changes in the overall population will have implications for the provision of services to the community including education, health and leisure services.
- 1.5 It is the Borough Council's objective to provide and promote a range of quality health, education, community, leisure and cultural facilities in locations that are easily accessible. Such facilities include but are not exclusive to:
- Education – nursery, primary and secondary schools and higher education as well as specialist vocational training;
 - Health – hospitals, GPs and health centres, clinics and specialist practices;
 - Care facilities;
 - Sport and leisure centres and other indoor facilities;
 - Cultural facilities – museums, libraries, theatres and youth clubs;
 - Community halls;
 - Places of worship; and
 - Cemeteries.

- 1.6 The provision of good quality local facilities and services are important in helping to deal with a number of issues facing the Borough during the plan period. It is important that health, leisure and care facilities can meet the needs of the local population.
- 1.7 Good education facilities can assist with improving education attainment as well as skills for the workplace which has been identified as a key issue for the Borough. Good health and leisure facilities are important to help tackle some of the significant health issues identified in the Borough in order to assist with an individual's physical and mental well-being.
- 1.8 The provision of local services and infrastructure can also help to reduce car trips and travel by other modes, whereas the loss of facilities can increase car journeys and congestion.
- 1.9 Since the adoption of the Gosport Borough Local Plan Review (2006) a number of key health and community facility infrastructure projects have been delivered these include for example, GP surgeries, Sure Start Centres, crèche and care facilities, a youth centre, improved school facilities, significant improvements to existing open spaces and major projects to support the creation of the Alver Valley Country Park.

2.0 POLICY CONTEXT

National Policy

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

- 2.1 In March 2012 the Government published the NPPF. The NPPF sets out the Government's economic, environmental and social policies.
- 2.2 Town and city centres have an important role in delivering healthy communities with access to a wide range of health and community facilities. Key objectives of the NPPF include:
 - Planning proactively to drive and support sustainable economic development; and
 - Recognising town centres as the heart of (local) communities and pursue policies to support their vitality and viability.
- 2.3 The planning system can play an important role in the development of healthy and inclusive communities and to that end planning policies should seek to:
 - Plan for safe and accessible communities;
 - Plan positively for the provision and use of community open spaces and facilities;
 - Plan positively for the provision and integration of community facilities and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential localities including a proactive and positive role in supporting the future needs of schools;
 - Safeguard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services (including open spaces) – particularly where this would reduce communities ability to meet day-to-day needs;

- Ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernise in ways that benefit the local communities they serve; and
- Ensure an integrated approach is considered for the location of housing, employment and community facilities and services.

National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)

- 2.4 The NPPG provides guidance on the role of health and wellbeing in the planning system as the important links between health and the natural and build environment are widely recognised and are embedded throughout the NPPF. For example, local plans need to take account of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for their local communities and provide sufficient facilities to meet local needs. In meeting development needs for the local area, local plan policies should seek to minimise pollution and to plan positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of the natural environment including green infrastructure all of which have health and community benefits for delivering a high quality environment for people to live and work.
- 2.5 The draft Local Plan seeks to plan positively to provide and promote a range of community facilities (including health) and this is supported by needs identified in the Borough Council's Infrastructure Assessment Report (2014) and accompanying Infrastructure Delivery Plan (2014).
- 2.6 In considering the requirements of the NPPF and the NPPG, the draft Local Plan has undertaken a review of the functions and role of its Principal, District and Neighbourhood centres. As part of this review, the Borough Council has considered what appropriate planning thresholds are appropriate for each type of centre in order to ensure the continued viability of the Borough's centres and allowing them to adapt to the effects of 21st Century retailing patterns. The key factor of this review has been to consider how the role the centres could be expanded to support a greater diversity of retail and community uses supporting local communities. Facilitating greater flexibility for such facilities and services to be provided has been balanced through exercising a degree of control over the proliferation of particular uses for example, fast food outlets which may, in excess be counter-productive to supporting public health. The findings of this review are found in the Retail Background Paper (2014).
- 2.7 The NPPG recognises the value of open space to quality of life and the clear health and recreation benefits that a wide range of types of open space can bring. These open spaces could include local parks and more formal playing fields. Allotments are also included providing opportunities to grow food locally with the associated health and community benefits that doing so can bring. Section 5 of this background paper sets out how the policies in the draft Local Plan as a whole contributes towards delivering healthier communities in Gosport within a planning context.

Other National Guidance

- 2.8 There has been a lot of debate recently about the future of the High Street. The Portas Review (December 2011) examined the future of the High Street and put forward a number of recommendations for Government to consider. One of the aims of the Portas Review is to look at how to reinvigorate town centres as key destinations for 'socialising, culture, health, wellbeing, creativity and learning.'

- 2.9 The Portas Review recognises that the 'new' High Streets are not just places for selling products but where 'shopping is just one small part of a rich mix of activities' (*The Portas Review, 2011, p. 14*).
- 2.10 The Government put together a package of measures following on from the Portas Review recommendations including establishing Town Teams which have access to a wide range of specialist advice and support in order to help reinvigorate town centres. A Town Team was established in Gosport in July 2012. Responsibilities of the Gosport Town Team include overseeing the development and implementation of an Action Plan, and making decisions on the allocation of funds and resources to support its delivery. Further details about the Gosport Town Team can be found on the following website: <http://www.gosporttowncentre.co.uk/>
- 2.11 The role that neighbourhoods play in the lives of local communities are very important. As people grow older the quality of the built environment becomes increasingly an important factor in the quality of their everyday lives. When local shops, services, leisure and community facilities including health facilities are inaccessible, older people can become trapped in their own homes, lose confidence and become isolated.
- 2.12 The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) have published Lifetime Neighbourhoods (December 2011) which was published to help tackle this issue. The document develops the concept of 'Lifetime Neighbourhoods' designed to meet the needs of all members of the communities they serve but with particular emphasis on the challenges facing older people.

Sub Regional Context

- 2.13 South Hampshire Strategy (October 2012)
City and town centres are important elements of community life and urban areas. They provide a vital mix of residential, businesses, services, arts and culture as well as leisure facilities and tourism. They are major contributors to the South Hampshire economy.
- 2.14 The vision in the South Hampshire Strategy aspires that the sub-region will be supported by world class educational facilities, dynamic city and town centres, an impressive portfolio of development opportunities, well managed urban environments and high quality new development. Quality of life will be enhanced by a more diverse retail, leisure and cultural offer, enhanced greenspace and an enriched natural and historic environment.
- 2.15 Urban regeneration is a key objective for delivering the South Hampshire Strategy. The Strategy recognises the key role that city and town centres play in achieving regeneration with older urban areas such as Gosport providing for new employment, housing, health and leisure development in order to meet the needs of their own populations and making an important contribution to the regeneration of South Hampshire. In terms of health provision in Gosport, it is envisaged that the former Royal Hospital Haslar will provide opportunities for medical, health and care related purposes along with other compatible proposals will assist in delivering the strategic aims of the South Hampshire Strategy.

- 2.16 The South Hampshire Strategy promotes the provision of new infrastructure that will support economic growth and the provision of new homes in the sub-region.
- 2.17 New educational facilities at the Centre for Engineering, Manufacturing, Advanced Skills and Training (CEMAST) (operated by Fareham College) will open in September 2014 in the Solent Enterprise Zone at Daedalus. This training facility aims to boost the number of people qualified in engineering and manufacturing including aerospace, aeronautics and marine engineering.

PUSH Green Infrastructure Strategy

- 2.18 The Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) commissioned UE Associates to prepare a Green Infrastructure Strategy for the whole of the South Hampshire area. Green infrastructure (including the provision of quality, accessible open spaces and recreational facilities) is an important part of delivering healthy communities and supporting the economic objectives of the sub-region. Maximising the use of open space and natural space is a key outcome of the Green Infrastructure Strategy. In Gosport the implementation of the Alver Valley Country Park is recognised by PUSH as being of sub-regional significance representing a strategic contribution towards the overall delivery of the South Hampshire green infrastructure network.

Hampshire County Council Partnerships (including Gosport Health and Wellbeing Partnership)

- 2.19 Local plans need to take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. The Borough Council is part of the Hampshire Solent Cultural Trust which will be the vehicle for joint activity and investment in cultural provision in Gosport. The Trust came into effect in April 2014 and will become fully operational later this year.
- 2.20 Under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 Hampshire County Council has a new duty for public health and wellbeing. This is delivered through a Health and Well Being Board which includes a number of partners for example representatives from the Clinical Commissioning Groups including Fareham and Gosport as well representatives from the Hampshire local authorities.
- 2.21 The Health and Well-being Board covers the same geographical area as the County Council and therefore does not include the two cities of Portsmouth and Southampton or the Isle of Wight. As part of this role, the Health and Well Being Board has developed a number of strategies including the Hampshire Joint Health and Well-being Strategy focusing on the key causes of ill health. This document is supported by the Hampshire Joint Needs Assessment (2013). The purpose of these documents is to set the strategic framework to improve health and well-being and reduce health inequalities within Hampshire, working in partnership with other agencies including local authorities.
- 2.22 At a local level, the Borough Council are one of the partners for the Gosport Health and Wellbeing Partnership (GHWBP). The GHWBP includes representatives from statutory agencies, health services and members of the voluntary sector. The GHWBP is currently developing a Gosport Health and Well-being Partnership Priorities Plan. The areas for action within the emerging plan will aim to meet the priorities identified in the Hampshire Joint Health and Well-being Strategy and the partnership will be developing action plans based on this. The GHWBP Plan is supported by the Gosport Healthier Communities

Action Plan, which sets out specific projects or activities which Gosport Borough Council takes the lead on or is a partner organisation with others.

Local Policy

Gosport Borough Local Plan Review (2006)

2.23 Community facilities (including health facilities) are provided by a range of organisations within the Borough. The Local Plan seeks to maintain and improve community facilities and services and support good health by:

- Ensuring the continuing provision of existing community and leisure facilities
- Encouraging the provision of additional and a variety of community and leisure facilities; and
- Requiring the provision by developers of the necessary community and leisure facilities to serve new development.
- Promoting walking and cycling and use of public transport
- Provision and enhancement of open spaces; and
- Protection of allotments.

Links with the Corporate Plan

2.24 The Corporate Plan identifies a number of 'Strategic Priorities', those most applicable to the health and community facilities policies are as follows:

- Regenerating Gosport's Town Centre and Waterfront.
- Promoting health and well-being.
- Improving leisure opportunities and facilities.
- Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour; and
- Improving social inclusion.

Emerging Policy

Proposed changes from Consultation Draft to Publication Version

2.25 Since the publication of the Consultation Draft Local Plan in December 2012, evidence from recent studies in retailing trends including The Portas Review (December 2011) show that the nature of town centres are changing. Town centres will need to support a greater diversity of uses over time (and could include community uses) if they are to remain key hubs for residents to visit for shopping, socialising and undertaking a whole host of other functions. The emerging policies for the Principal, District and Neighbourhood centres will play a central role in meeting these objectives.

2.26 The Borough Council monitors the mix of uses within the centres and the Publication Version of the Local Plan to take on board the policy directions at a national level to encourage a diverse range of uses within centres to reflect changing patterns in health and service provision. Encouraging more diversity of uses within the hierarchy of the Borough's retail centres will assist in enhancing the continued vitality and viability in the retail centres. It allows them to support more community services and facilities, in accessible locations which contribute to their role as key neighbourhood hubs serving the needs of the local communities.

3.0 EVIDENCE

3.1 The Borough Council have prepared an Infrastructure Assessment Report (2014) (IAR) and an Infrastructure Delivery Plan (2014) (IDP) for the Borough. The Health and Community Facilities Background Paper should be read in conjunction with these documents. The IAR identifies current levels of infrastructure provision within the Borough and identifies future requirements for new provision to be made where these are known and sets out priorities for delivery which is carried forward into the IDP. These are key pieces of evidence which have helped to inform policy development. The draft Local Plan identifies the known infrastructure requirements for each of the proposed development sites and it is proposed that some of these sites will include a range of community facilities.

3.2 The Health and Community Facilities background paper identifies a number of key matters emerging which the draft Local Plan seeks to address.

Health

3.3 Gosport is one of the most deprived areas in Hampshire and the lower super output areas (LSOAs) of Gosport Town Centre, Leesland and Grange are within the top 20% most deprived wards in England. There can be strong links between deprivation and ill-health, and it is important to improve education, employment and income to reduce deprivation and therefore help to improve the health of local communities this is an important issue for the local plan to address through a wide range of policies and proposals.

3.4 Although in terms of general health, people in Gosport are generally similar to the England average, there are still some significant health inequalities. For example, life expectancy for women is lower than the England average (by 3.0 years). In the most deprived areas of Gosport life expectancy is 8.3 years lower for men than in the least deprived areas.

3.5 Overweight and obesity presents a key health challenge in the UK as a whole and there are complex reasons for excess weight through social and biological factors. The proportion of adults in Gosport that are overweight and obese is higher than the England average, and the proportion of children that are overweight and obese in Gosport is a concern. Being overweight or obese significantly increases the risks of developing and dying from cardiovascular disease, Type 2 diabetes, cancer and kidney and liver disease. The Hampshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (2013) found that Gosport had one of the highest childhood obesity rates in Hampshire. A Hampshire 'Healthy Weights' Strategy 2012-2015 and Action Plan for children and young people has been published to help respond to this challenge.

3.6 Levels of teenage pregnancy and GCSE attainment are lower than the national average, and Gosport has the highest rate of under 18 conceptions in Hampshire. Smoking and harmful drinking levels in Gosport are higher than in other parts of the County, and healthy eating levels are lower than the national average.

- 3.7 The provision of improved health facilities is one of the Council's Strategic Priorities. The health service providers have undertaken a significant reorganisation of medical facilities with strategic health care being provided at the recently refurbished Queen Alexander Hospital, Cosham. The Queen Alexander Hospital is the key hospital in South East Hampshire. Its services are supported by a network of other facilities in the Borough including the Gosport War Memorial Hospital which has undergone expansion to accommodate a wide range of facilities including the re-provision of a GP surgery and the Blake's birthing centre.
- 3.8 Health is a critical factor in determining an individual's quality of life. The policies in the draft Local Plan will make an important contribution towards improving health within the Borough including:
- Ensuring our communities are served by good quality and accessible health and community facilities;
 - That opportunities for sport, recreation and cultural facilities are preserved and enhanced which are beneficial to a person's physical and mental health;
 - Promoting good access to healthier forms of travel such as cycling and walking;
 - Ensuring the development of good quality housing;
 - Ensuring pollution issues are fully considered; and
 - Ensuring people with disabilities or who are in poor health can easily access facilities; and services, employment opportunities and suitable homes.
- 3.9 With regard to existing health facilities in the Borough it is considered that these facilities should be protected and where possible improved. Such services will need to be appropriately located in relation to the residential area they are intended to serve and, where possible, be located within or adjoining the Gosport, Lee-on-the Solent or Stoke Road centres or other appropriate neighbourhood centres. Medical services will need to be easily accessible to all members of the community including having convenient opening hours. It is clear that in areas where health deprivation is concentrated there is a particular need to ensure that residents can access specialist support. The Borough Council has worked with local service providers to enable the development of a number of new medical practices across the Borough and will continue to assist in developing this network.
- 3.10 The IAR (2014) identified 11 GP practices throughout the Borough and these are supported by 14 pharmacies. In addition, there are 10 dental practices providing dental care under NHS contract arrangements. The IAR (2014) identified 8 optician practices. The Solent Community Solutions, Strategic Service Development Plan (2009) identified a number of key projects required in the Borough and also the potential for future schemes. These are broadly summarised as follows: replacement of the accommodation for the Gosport Community Mental Health Team and the re-provision of Manor Way GP surgery at Lee-on-The-Solent. There may also be opportunities for the development of a number of well-being centres in different locations in the Borough.
- Supported housing facilities
- 3.11 Gosport has 34 nursing and care and nursing homes for the elderly. The Juniper Court Extra Care facility has a facility of 50 Extra Care dwellings. There is a

growing demand for care facilities to support elderly people as the ageing population of the Borough is expected to increase significantly.

- 3.12 In addition to the Extra Care units there are currently 5 sheltered housing schemes owned by the Borough Council. The Borough Council owns Agnew House which has been refurbished as a Family Centre.
- 3.13 In addition to the above, there are 12 leaseholder sheltered/retirement housing schemes which provide some 450 units of accommodation operated by a landlord and management organisation. In these schemes the leaseholder has access to an alarm facility and additional levels of on-site housing management support that vary from scheme to scheme. These schemes are developed largely through the private sector in response to market demand.
- 3.14 Supported accommodation takes a variety of forms and supports a wide range of vulnerable groups in need of accommodation including homeless families, people with sensory/physical impairment and/or disability, people with mental health issues and young people at risk.
- 3.15 It is forecasted that the number of people aged over 65 will increase by almost 6,000 people between 2011 and 2029 representing a 41% increase to just under 20,500 residents (representing just 24.5% of the total population). In terms of those over aged 85 this will from 2,015 in 2011 to 3,727 in 2029. Consequently the demand for Registered Residential Care and Nursing Homes for Older People will significantly increase.
- 3.16 In addition, short-term supported housing services invariably address issues of individuals' vulnerability and their requirements for housing in the short-term and in supporting them to access accommodation to "move on" to. These services are commissioned through the Supporting People programme on a joint-district basis across Gosport and Fareham. Further information can be found in the Infrastructure Assessment Report (2014).

Education

- 3.17 Hampshire County Council is the Local Education Authority (LEA) for the Gosport area and its latest School Places: Framework and Analysis 2012-16 shows that there are a total of 27 primary schools, and 3 secondary schools within the Borough. There are also 3 special schools, 2 of which are attached to primary schools and the Quayside Education Centre. For post 16 education there are a number of providers in Gosport: St Vincent College and Bay House School and Sixth Form. In addition to these providers, Fareport Training also offers 156 full time places post 16-18 and has a large apprenticeship offer; and Gosport College is a collaborative initiative which aims to raise participation in education and training post 16. This initiative is led by Fareham College but its partners include Bay House School, Brune Park Community School, Bridgemary School and Fareport Training. St Vincent College has also recently joined the Executive Board. The partnership offers a number of vocational/technical programmes for young people at a number of sites across Gosport. The CEMAST operated by Fareham College will be open in September. The college aims to boost the numbers of people qualified in engineering and advanced manufacturing including aerospace, automotive and marine engineering which are key employment sectors in the South Hampshire as well as the local area.
- 3.18 Information taken from the latest assessments in the Borough Council's Infrastructure Assessment Report (2014) shows in January 2012 there were a

total of 6,777 places in the Borough (this is up from 6,033 (+12%) in 2010/11). The roll as at Jan 2012 was 5,947 (this was up from 5,893 (+1%) in 2010/11) resulting in an overall surplus of places of 14%.

- 3.19 Over the last ten years there has been a surplus in overall school places in the Borough, however despite this there has been a shortage in the supply in school places in the Lee-on-the-Solent area. This has led to the need to collect developer contributions to expand school facilities in the Lee area. Over the next ten years it is expected that there is likely to be increasing demand for primary places across the Borough due to increasing birth rates and the impact of regeneration in a number of areas across the Borough.
- 3.20 At the moment there are identified pressures in the Gosport South West area although this is expected to ease by 2017. However, in other parts of the Borough these pressures are likely to increase over the next 4-5 years. As a consequence of this some primary schools may be required to expand in order to ensure the supply of school places can meet the anticipated demand over the plan period.
- 3.21 The number of unfilled places will rise (by about 120 places) and it is not anticipated that any additional capacity will be required, although this will be reviewed as the impact of increasing numbers of primary schools work through and when more details are known about the type of housing to be built after 2016.
- 3.22 It is also important to note that there may be issues of distribution between the three schools due to Bay House School being at capacity.

Pre-school education

- 3.23 The majority of pre-school education is available through a network of providers registered with Hampshire County Council's Early Education and Childcare Unit. In Gosport this form of provision equates to 44 places per 100 children of this age range in the Borough. This has been assessed by Hampshire County Council as sufficient early education provision to meet the demand of parents in Gosport, noting 32% of child care places nationally are provided by non-registered carers such as family and friends and accords with the average for Hampshire as a whole.
- 3.24 From April 2008 all local authorities have a new legislative duty to secure sufficient childcare for all parents who chose to use it in their area. As part of this all local authorities have undertaken a "childcare sufficiency assessment" which maps the supply of childcare and assesses the demand. The Early Education and Childcare Unit of Hampshire County Council will be continually monitoring the supply and demand.
- 3.25 According to the latest Sufficiency Report (March 2013), 'there have not been any particular difficulties finding childcare to meet the parents needs in the Gosport area'.
- 3.26 However, due to the nature of provision being demand led, and the likelihood that it will be through privately funded schemes it is difficult to predict future requirements. Therefore there will need to be Local Plan policies to facilitate new facilities.
- 3.27 There are 33 Early Year settings not based in homes in Gosport which provide 1,504 full time equivalent (FTE) places for children 0-5 years of age. This includes:

- 3 Hampshire County Council maintained settings (Haven Children's Centre, Peel Common and Siskin Infant Schools); and
- 30 settings provided from the Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) sector.

3.28 These 33 settings provide 13.8% of the early years provision in the Borough. There are 24 out of school settings providing 808 (FTE) places. There are 139 home based early years registered child minders providing 692 places, of these 26 are able to provide the free 15 hours Early Years Education entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds supported by the National Childminding Association. Twenty nine providers have been approved to provide 10 hours of free early education 38 weeks a year to eligible 2 year olds in the Borough and as of July 2011 291 children received funded places (HCC (2011h) Childcare Synergy database October 2010).

Pupil attainment

- 3.29 Pupil attainment in Gosport is below the Hampshire average in core subject areas at all key stages and below the national average in most subjects. The proportion of pupils achieving 5 GCSE A* to C grades is the lowest within the Hampshire LEA area with 60.25% of the Borough's residents achieving this academic standard compared to the Hampshire average of 71.5%. There are areas of the Borough that fall within the top 20% most deprived areas in England and Wales in terms of education, skills and training. Some areas of Bridgemary North, Peel Common, Forton, Grange and Town Wards are in the Top 10% most deprived areas (super output areas) in England.
- 3.30 Improving the knowledge and skills base that matches the needs of local businesses and improved social inclusion are two of the Borough Council's strategic priorities. The need to improve education and skills levels is an important issue for the Borough.
- 3.31 Table 9.11 of the Gosport Sustainability Profile (2011) shows that 16.8% of Gosport residents achieve a qualification of NVQ4 level or above when compared to the Hampshire average of 31.3%¹. The number of local residents achieving qualifications reaching a NVQ level 3 standard (2+ A levels, 4 AS levels)² is 32.3% compared to the Hampshire average of 52.3%. In addition to this the number of residents who do not have any formal qualifications is also high for Gosport compared to the county average with 9.1% of the Borough's residents having no qualifications compared to 8.8% in Hampshire where this information is available.³
- 3.32 Ensuring that local residents have access to a range of quality educational services are essential for the future of the Borough. Provision of such services and facilities will help individuals to have a better chance of securing skilled jobs and assist in attracting inward investment into the Borough. The draft Local Plan can facilitate this objective by ensuring that there is sufficient land available for educational purposes and that additional provision is provided in association with new development. This can be achieved by protecting and improving existing facilities and enable the development of opportunities for vocational training.

¹ ONS (2011) annual population survey cited by NOMIS (2011)

² ONS (2011) annual population survey cited by NOMIS (2011)

³ ONS (2011) annual population survey cited by NOMIS (2011)

Children and Youth Facilities

3.33 The Borough has a number of deprivation issues relating to children and young people in terms of education achievement, health, child poverty, crime and disorder and access to employment as they grow older. Under the requirements of the Children Act 2004, the 'Every Child Matters' agenda, the Gosport Local Strategic Partnership prepared a Gosport's Children and Young People's Plan (2007-2010). The key objectives of the Children and Young People's Plan are to improve the outcomes for children and young people to help improve their quality of life enabling them to:

- Be healthy;
- Stay safe;
- Enjoy and achieve;
- Make a positive contribution; and
- Enjoy economic well-being.

3.34 By protecting and improving the range of facilities that children and young people can access, the draft Local Plan can make a significant contribution towards delivering the outcomes identified in the Gosport's Children and Young People's Plan. The Borough Council and its partners are currently preparing a review to 2015.

Cultural facilities

3.35 The Borough's main entertainment venue is Thorngate Halls on Bury Road. Larger theatre venues and cinema facilities are located in Portsmouth and Fareham. The Gosport Discovery Centre includes a library, community learning and Information Technology services, museum exhibits, a gallery and a local studies centre. The Borough also has two high quality museums relating to its naval heritage, Explosion! Museum located at Priddy's Hard and the RN Submarine Museum at Blockhouse.

3.36 It is important to recognise the valuable contribution made by community halls and venues across the Borough that are used by a huge range of local groups which are vital for the richness and diversity of local communities.

3.37 In addition to these local facilities it is also accepted that certain types of facilities are of a sub-regional nature and consequently provided in locations outside of Gosport such as Portsmouth and Fareham. In such cases it is important that the Borough Council works closely with service and transport providers to ensure that such facilities are easily accessible for local residents in Gosport.

3.38 It is clear that there is significant alternative provision in neighbouring centres and it is important to protect and improve existing provision to contribute towards a genuinely sustainable community.

Leisure and Recreation and Open Space

3.39 The provision of better leisure services with increased usage is one of the Council's strategic priorities. The Gosport Leisure Park opened at the end of 2012 and includes a new leisure centre featuring swimming pools, sports hall, health and fitness suites and all- weather 5 a side/7 a side pitches. The site was identified in the saved Policy R/CF9 of the Local Plan Review (2006) and has been identified in the draft Gosport Local Plan as a leisure site (draft policy LP9e: Allocations outside the Regeneration Areas: Leisure Community Uses and

Open Spaces). There are also indoor sports facilities at St Vincent College, the three secondary schools and at a number of primary schools. There are also a number of privately operated leisure facilities such as gyms and tennis/squash clubs. Open spaces and parks and gardens make an important contribution to the health and well-being of local people as well as forming a key element of the local distinctiveness of a particular area. The retention and enhancement of open spaces was seen by the local community as an important issue during the consultation stages of the local plan with strong support expressed for open spaces. This issue is considered in more detail in the Green Infrastructure Background Paper which is supported by the Open Space Monitoring Report 2014.

- 3.40 The Borough Council commissioned a review of its indoor facilities and playing pitches strategy. The new study updates earlier assessments and analysis relating to the current level of sports hall, swimming pool, health and fitness and squash court provision in the Borough taking into account future demographic changes over the plan period. The detailed findings of the study have been taken forward into the IAR (2014). In broad terms the findings of the study concluded that as demographic trends continue over the plan period, there will be a need to ensure that sports and recreation facilities are developed to meet the needs of Gosport's population. Facilities will be needed to promote sport and physical activities which will promote health and well-being benefits and contribute towards reducing health inequalities within the Borough.

Cemetery

- 3.41 Cemetery provision within the Borough is currently made up in the following way:

- Anns Hill Cemetery;
- Haslar RN Cemetery; and
- Various Church Yards – a mixture of closed / active sites.

- 3.42 The Borough Council is responsible for providing adequate cemetery facilities and ensuring that a continuous supply of land is available for this purpose. The Borough Council will continue to assess potential sites to determine the most appropriate location for a new cemetery should this be required. Draft policy LP33 safeguards existing facilities from other forms of development and allows for the provision of new facilities provided they meet particular criteria including not having an adverse impact on the amenities of local residents.

4.0 CONSULTATION

Main Consultations to date including:

- Draft Gosport Borough Local Plan 2011-2029 (December 2012);
- Core Strategy: Preferred Options (published by Gosport Borough Council December 2009);
- Issues and Option Consultation (published by Gosport Borough Council in December 2006); and
- The Community Strategy and Local Development Framework: Make Your Mark December 2006 events (held in December 2006 by the Gosport Partnership).

4.1 Consultation was undertaken throughout the various stages that informed the preparation of the draft Local Plan. This includes the Issues and Options, and the Preferred Option stages of the Gosport Core Strategy. The key points that arose can be summarised as follows:

- The provision of future of existing health facilities serving Gosport;
- Health facilities should be provided in accessible locations;
- Local and neighbourhood centres should be allowed to expand to include community and leisure facilities;
- Cultural facilities should be protected and only lost following an assessment of need;
- Developer contributions can support cultural infrastructure;
- The Borough Council should ensure that the site currently earmarked at Grange Farm in the Alver Valley is suitable for a cemetery, as it is likely that there is a high groundwater table in the area;
- Flexibility is needed in the policy to enable public service providers to effectively respond to evolving service needs and this could have implications for health provision; and
- Gosport inhabitants currently leave the Borough for theatre and cinema, and the Plan contains no actions to address this. The Council could do more to encourage a range of cultural activity within the Borough and a suitable venue is needed.

4.2 Key issues raised in the consultation draft version of the Gosport Borough Local Plan 2011-2029 (December 2012) included the following points:

- The Council could do more to encourage a range of cultural activity within the Borough and a suitable venue is needed;
- It is important to have support and protection for existing facilities as well as proposals for new and criteria against the loss of facilities;
- Provision of new open space and improvements to existing open space play an important role in delivering quality of life and wider health benefits to the local community;
- More funding towards parks can greatly improve the image of an area; and
- Provision and enhancements of allotments hold importance benefits for nature conservation.

5.0 KEY ISSUES ADDRESSED BY THE LOCAL PLAN

5.1 As a result of the available evidence, policy framework and comments received from consultation it is clear that the draft Local Plan needs to assist with protecting and enhancing existing community facilities in the Borough and by facilitating new provision in appropriate locations. The Local Plan will significantly contribute towards delivering a better quality environment for Gosport's local communities. The Local Plan will be able to make this contribution towards achieving strategic health and well-being objectives through planning policies. The following policies in the Publication Version of the draft Local Plan show how this can be achieved:

- **Diversifying the role of traditional retail centres** (*policies LP27 and LP28*). These policies allow a wider range of facilities (including, health and community facilities to be accommodated which will help deliver more locally accessible services and facilities and support the roles of the centres as locally important neighbourhood hubs and help to reduce the need to travel further in order to access facilities. The enhancement of health facilities within the Borough is a key consideration for the draft Local Plan. They provide essential community facilities and are appropriate town centre uses. Diversification of uses can contribute towards delivering a wider range of services and facilities to local communities and in the longer term secure the future, particularly for more vulnerable centres.

Draft policy LP28 places restrictions on the amount of uses (other than class A1 (retail) and A2 (financial/professional services)) that can be accommodated in the Borough's shopping centres. There are different thresholds for controlling the mix for the different type of centre. This in part reflects the role of a particular type of centre has in the retail hierarchy and the desire to promote diversity of uses. However specifically in terms of helping to tackle obesity rates in the Borough, it is considered that adopting a threshold approach will also help to control the potential proliferation of A5 (hot food takeaways) uses. In taking a balanced view of this matter, it is important to recognise that A5 uses do have a role to play in supporting the diversity of services within a centre. However, whilst A5 uses have been identified as a particular area of concern regarding access to unhealthy foods and drinks particularly for children; this is something which is not just confined to A5 uses alone. Unhealthy foods and drinks can be easily purchased from class A1 shops that sell convenience foods. Planning restrictions cannot be placed on the types of foods and drinks that can be sold from A1 convenience shops.

- **Facilitating the delivery of new facilities where there is a deficit of provision and protection of existing facilities** (*policies LP18, LP32*). Provision of good and accessible health, sport, recreation and cultural facilities will help to alleviate health deprivation issues and provide opportunities to increase participation rates in leisure, sporting and cultural activities. Provision of new facilities and the protection of existing sites will therefore contribute towards improving physical and mental well-

being and deliver a wider choice of facilities to meet the needs of all members of the local community.

- **Ensuring good access to healthier forms of travel such as cycling and walking** (*policy LP21*). Cycling is very popular way to get around the Borough and to Portsmouth (via the Gosport Ferry). There are key health benefits in promoting cycling as a healthy activity and the draft Local Plan seeks to encourage further opportunities for cycling through improvements to the cycle network and cycle facilities for example the Stokes Bay Cycle Route which forms part of the Sustrans National Cycle Network was completed in 2011. The Transport Delivery Plan 2012-2026 (Solent Transport, 2013) has identified a number of walking and cycling improvement schemes in the Borough these include:
 - Cycle lanes along Marine Parade;
 - Greater waterfront pedestrian/cycling access on the Haslar Peninsula;
 - Improved links to the Bus Rapid Transit corridor and the Gosport Leisure Park;
 - Improvements in and around Gosport Town Centre; and
 - Safer routes to schools.

- **Ensuring the provision of good quality housing including affordable housing** (*policies LP10, LP24*). Access to a choice of good quality housing is a key factor in sustaining and improving the quality of life and meeting local needs for all members of the community. Securing high quality design in place making is essential to creating an attractive living environment, integral to supporting health and well-being.

- **Supporting improvements into continuing education, skills and training to improve employment opportunities** (*policies LP16, LP17, LP20*). Enhancing the Borough's educational and vocational training facilities will significantly help to build on and increase the levels of local skills to meet the demands of new and existing employers in the Borough. Improving local skills base will enhance employment progress and which in turn help to secure improvements to quality of life with the health and well-being benefits that improved levels of participation in education, training and employment bring to peoples' lives. To assist in supporting the employment and training objectives of the Borough, the draft Local Plan policies include measures to deliver:
 - at least 84,000m² of net additional floorspace in a number of key locations;
 - protects key employment assets such as waterfront access, airfield access and specialist on-site facilities;
 - safeguards existing employment land for employment purposes;
 - requires employment and training measures as part of development proposals on appropriate sites;

- protects specialist training facilities; and
- supports where appropriate, the provision of new training facilities.

(Further details to the employment and skills policies in the draft Local Plan are explained in the Employment Background Paper (GBC, 2014).

- **Ensuring pollution issues are fully considered in the planning process** (*policies LP46, LP47, LP48*). Consideration of pollution matters including air and noise pollution are key considerations in the determination of planning applications because of the potentially detrimental effects these can have on the health, safety and well-being of individuals as well as the potential impacts on the wider environment.
- **Access to coast and open spaces (including Alver Valley Country Park, Green infrastructure, allotments and areas for nature conservation)** (*policies LP8, LP34,LP35,LP36, LP37, LP41,LP43,LP44*)

The effective delivery of a green infrastructure network plays a key contribution to delivering a high quality of life for the Borough's residents. A high quality urban environment plays an enormous part in securing health and well-being benefits to local communities. Green infrastructure (GI) can include a wide variety of social, economic and environmental benefits. These are set out in the draft Local Plan in the Green Infrastructure section and include:

- Places for outdoor relaxation and play;
- Space and habitat for wildlife with access to nature for people;
- Climate change adaptation - for example flood alleviation and cooling urban heat islands;
- Environmental education;
- Local food production - in allotments and gardens;
- Improved health and well-being – lowering stress levels and providing opportunities for exercise;
- Providing an attractive environment which can attract economic investment.

GI can include parks & gardens, natural and semi-natural greenspaces, green corridors, outdoor sports facilities, amenity greenspace, provision for younger children and teenagers, cemeteries and churchyards, accessible countryside in urban fringe areas, river corridors, allotments, domestic gardens and green roofs.

A major piece of GI is the creation of the Alver Valley Country Park which is the largest piece of GI in the Borough and has potential linkages to other strategic open spaces such as coastal areas of Stokes Bay, Browdown and Lee-on-the-Solent seafront. It will also be able to link to the wider countryside areas within Fareham Borough between Gosport, Fareham, Stubbington and Lee-on-the-Solent. The Alver Valley Country Park is supported by the Alver Valley Country Park Strategy (2014) which identifies a range of

recreational facilities for members of the local community and visitors to enjoy.

Appendix 1: Evidence Studies and other references

National Guidance

Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) (March 2012) National Planning Policy Framework

www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2

Mary Portas (2011) The Portas Review: an independent review into the future of our high streets

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6292/2081646.pdf

Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) (2011) – Lifetime Neighbourhoods

www.gov.uk/government/publications/lifetime-neighbourhoods--2

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (26 July 2010) - Removing Planning Barriers (Schools)

www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100726/wmstext/100726m0001.htm#1007264000446

Sub Regional Planning Documents

PUSH South Hampshire Strategy (October 2012)

www.push.gov.uk/work/housing-and-planning/south_hampshire_strategy.htm

PUSH Green Infrastructure Strategy, (Adopted June 2010), Partnership for Urban South Hampshire

www.push.gov.uk/push_gi_strategy_adopted_june_10-3.pdf

Hampshire

Hampshire County Council School Place Planning Framework 2013-18

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/education/schools/school-places.htm>

Hampshire Well Being Board (September 2013) Hampshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/healthandwellbeing/healthandwellbeing-board-info.htm>

Joint Health and Well Being Strategy (July 2013)

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/healthandwellbeing/healthandwellbeing-board-info.htm>

Hampshire 'Healthy Weights' Strategy 2012-2015

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/hampshire-healthy-weight-strategy-2012-15-version-final.pdf>

Local Planning Documents

Gosport Borough Council (2006) – Core Strategy: Issues and Options

www.gosport.gov.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?allid=15807

Gosport Borough Council (2009) - Interim SA Report: Core Strategy Preferred Options

www.gosport.gov.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?allid=15847

Gosport Borough Council (2012) Gosport Borough Local Plan 2011-2029 Consultation draft

www.gosport.gov.uk/localplan2029

Gosport Borough Council (2014) Alver Valley Country Park Strategy.

Gosport Borough Council (2014) – Playing Pitch and Sports Facility Assessment, prepared by Strategic Leisure

www.gosport.gov.uk/localplan2029

Gosport Borough Council Infrastructure Assessment Report, (2014)

www.gosport.gov.uk/localplan2029

Gosport Borough Council (2014) Open Space Monitoring Report

www.gosport.gov.uk/localplan2029

Gosport Borough Council (2006) – Gosport Borough Local Plan Review

www.gosport.gov.uk/localplanreview

Gosport Borough Council (2009) – Corporate Plan 2009-2012

www.gosport.gov.uk/EasysiteWeb/getresource.axd?AssetID=15219&type=full&servicetype=Attachment

Gosport Partnership (2007) - Gosport's 2026 Vision : Gosport's Sustainable Community Strategy

www.gosport.gov.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?alld=19159

The Gosport Partnership (2007) - Community Strategy and Local Development Framework: Make your Mark December 2006 Community Consultation Results

Gosport Partnership (2007) - Gosport's Children and Young People's Plan 2007-2010

www.gosport.gov.uk/EasysiteWeb/getresource.axd?AssetID=2752&type=full&servicetype=Attachment

Gosport Borough Council (November 2011 update), Gosport Sustainability Profile

www.gosport.gov.uk/baseline/

Gosport Health and Well Being Partnership (2014) Draft Gosport Health and Wellbeing Partnership Priorities Plan

(No web link available)

Gosport Borough Council is committed to equal opportunities for all.

**If you need this document in large print, on tape, CD,
in Braille or in another language, please ask.**

Published: June 2014

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