June 2022

Cork City Council

Active Recreation Infrastructure Needs Study - Volume 1

Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí
Cork City Council

CORK CITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022–2028

We are Cork.

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June 2022

Note
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Contents

Glossary

We set out below a glossary of the sporting abbreviations/acronyms used within this Study.

- AGP – Artificial Grass Pitch
- BAME – Black Asian and Ethnic Minority
- Carrying Capacity – Amount of play a site can regularly accommodate
- COB – City of Bristol
- CSP – Cork Sports Partnership
- Exported Demand – Play by teams or other users of sports pitches from within the study area
- FPM – Facility Planning Model
- FTP – Fine Turf Pitch
- Future Demand – Informed estimate made of the likely future demand of pitches
- IMD- Index of Multiple Deprivation
- Latent Demand – Demand that evidence suggests may by generated from the current population
- LSOA's – Lower Super Output Areas
- MTU – Munster Technology University
- NGB's – National governing Body's
- Overplay – When a pitch is used over the amount of that carrying capacity
- PPS – Playing Pitch Strategy
- SDCC – South Dublin County Council
- SDDP – South Dublin Development Plan
- SDZ's – Strategic Development Zones
- SE – Sport England
- SI – Sport Ireland
- SPS – Sports Pitch Strategy
- UCC – University College Cork
- Unmet Demand – Demand that exist but unable to accommodate on current supply

01 Introduction

Overview

Turley Ireland and LK2 Sport & Leisure Ltd (hereafter the 'Study Team'), in partnership, and following a competitive tendering process, were instructed by Cork City Council (hereafter 'CCC') to prepare an Active Recreation Infrastructure Needs Study for Cork City (hereafter 'the Study').

Purpose

The Study seeks to provide CCC with an up-to-date understanding of the quantity and quality of existing Active Recreation Infrastructure (hereafter 'ARI') within the recently enlarged administrative boundary of CCC and to identify the current and future ARI needs of the City up to 2028, and beyond to 2040.

Need for the Study

The requirement for this Study is due to a number of factors, namely :

- The requirements of Section 10 of the Planning and Development Act 2000.
- The outdated nature of the Cork Recreational Needs Study 2003 and the need for the Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028 to include a framework and relevant objectives for the development of necessary ARI across the City to meet the needs of existing and future populations.
- Objective 11.3 - Active Recreational Needs Study of the Cork City Development Plan 2015-2021 (hereafter 'the CCDP') which contains a commitment for CCC to progress a review of the Recreational Needs Study 2003.

The Study forms a key input to inform the Draft Cork City Development Plan 2022 – 2028 as well as the final adopted version of the Cork City Development Plan 2022 – 2028 and any subsequent Local Area Plans and area-specific development strategies.

The Study will also help to inform: Development Contribution Schemes for the City to enable land purchase and infrastructure provision; strategic investment in capital and revenue budgetary decisions by state, private sector, third sector organizations and collaborations between multiple parties; bids for necessary capital funds required to deliver strategic and local recreational infrastructure ; and any ongoing Local Sports Plans.

It is further noted that Cork City Council is also preparing a Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) Study in parallel with this Study.

Study Area

The Study Area is the geographical extent of Cork City Council's administrative area, which includes the recent extension, of May 2019, and the new areas of Douglas, Rochestown, Ballincollig, Blarney, Glanmire and etc. Figure 1.1 (overleaf) identifies the extent of the Study Area.

City Profile

Cork City, being Ireland's second largest city, is a unique and vibrant place that has been designated as a 'World Health Organisation Healthy City' since January 2012.

In terms of its overarching role, Cork City performs well as a major urban centre in Ireland and the City has positioned itself as an emerging medium-sized European centre of growth and innovation.

Cork City is expected to grow by approx. 125,000 people between 2016 (210,000 people) and 2040 (to approx. 335,000 people[1]). Noting this, it is important that CCC seeks to plan for, and deliver, a healthy, green and connected City with appropriate levels of ARI along with inter-connected parks, open spaces, greenways and public transport to ensure a high quality of life for the City and its surrounding suburbs and hinterlands.

Objective of the Study

This Study is a valuable piece of strategic work that seeks to provide a clear evidence based approach with respect to identifying and enhancing Cork City's ARI needs and assets.

The Study comprises a total of four stages, as outlined below:

- Stage 1: Project Inception
- Stage 2: Desktop Investigation, Surveys, Consultation and Mapping
- Stage 3: Draft Report
- Stage 4: Final Report

The specific requirements for each stage of the Study, as required by the Study Brief, are outlined in **Appendix 1**.

Importance of ARI

The provision of appropriate levels of ARI is an important contributor to, and underpins, the 'quality of life' offering of a successful city and can help to make a city more attractive for residents, businesses and visitors / tourists.

This Study demonstrates that there are clear and significant economic, social and environmental benefits associated with protecting, maintaining, promoting, improving and investing in existing and new ARI to meet the current and growing needs of the Study Area (see Section 3 for further details).

Indeed, a successful network of ARI will help to ensure that Cork City is a healthy and happy city by contributing to good physical and mental health as well as sporting achievement and excellence.

Structure of the Study

The remainder of Volume 1 of this Study is structured as follows:

- Section 2 – Methodology
- Section 3 – Active Recreation Infrastructure
- Section 4 – Study Context
- Section 5 – Active Recreation Infrastructure – Audit
- Section 6 – Stakeholder Engagement
- Section 7 – Comparative Analysis
- Section 8 – Spatial Analysis of Existing ARI
- Section 9 – Projected Need
- Section 10 – Sub City Analysis
- Section 11 – Strategic Objectives and Recommendations
- Section 12 – Active Recreation and Planning Policy Objectives

The Study is also accompanied by the following Appendices which can be found in Volume 2 along with the associated mapping:

- Appendix 1: Study Brief
- Appendix 2: Stakeholder Audit List [2]
- Appendix 3: Planning Policy Review
- Appendix 4: Copy of Online Survey Audit
- Appendix 5: Copy of Detailed Comments to Questions 19 and 35 of the Online Survey Audit
- Appendix 6: Minutes of the One-to-One Stakeholder Engagement Meetings
- Appendix 7: Mapping for Section 8 of the Study
- Appendix 8: Mapping for Section 9 of the Study
- Appendix 9: Mapping for Section 10 of the Study
- Appendix 10: Detailed Breakdown of ARI within eachSub City Area

[1] *See Figure 2.6: of the Draft City Development Plan 2022-2028 entitled 'Population Trends and Targets, 1991-2040'.*

[2] *A cleansed GDPR compliant version of the Stakeholder Audit List is appended to this Study – it is noted that a detailed version including contact names and details has been issued directly to CCC.*

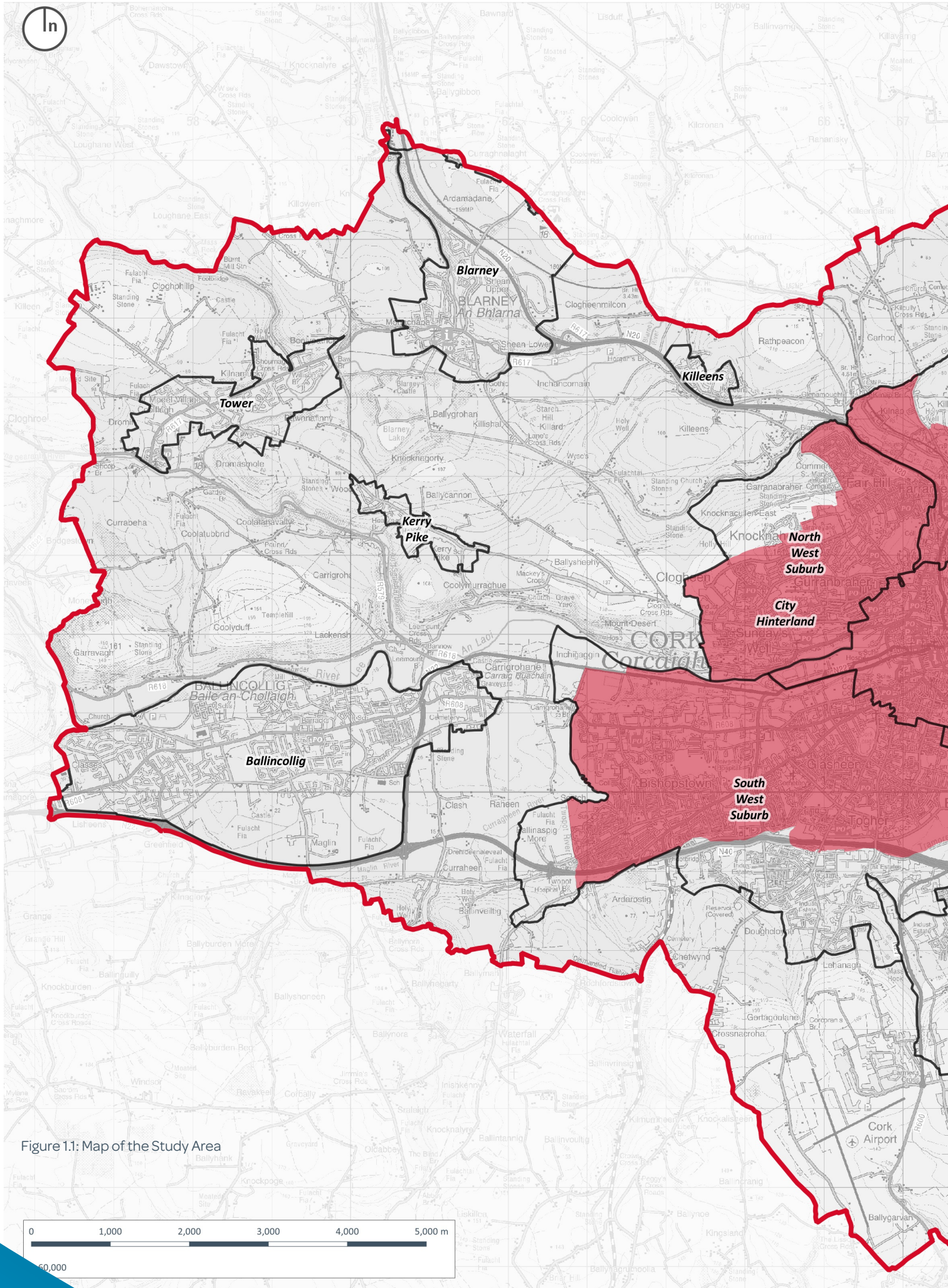
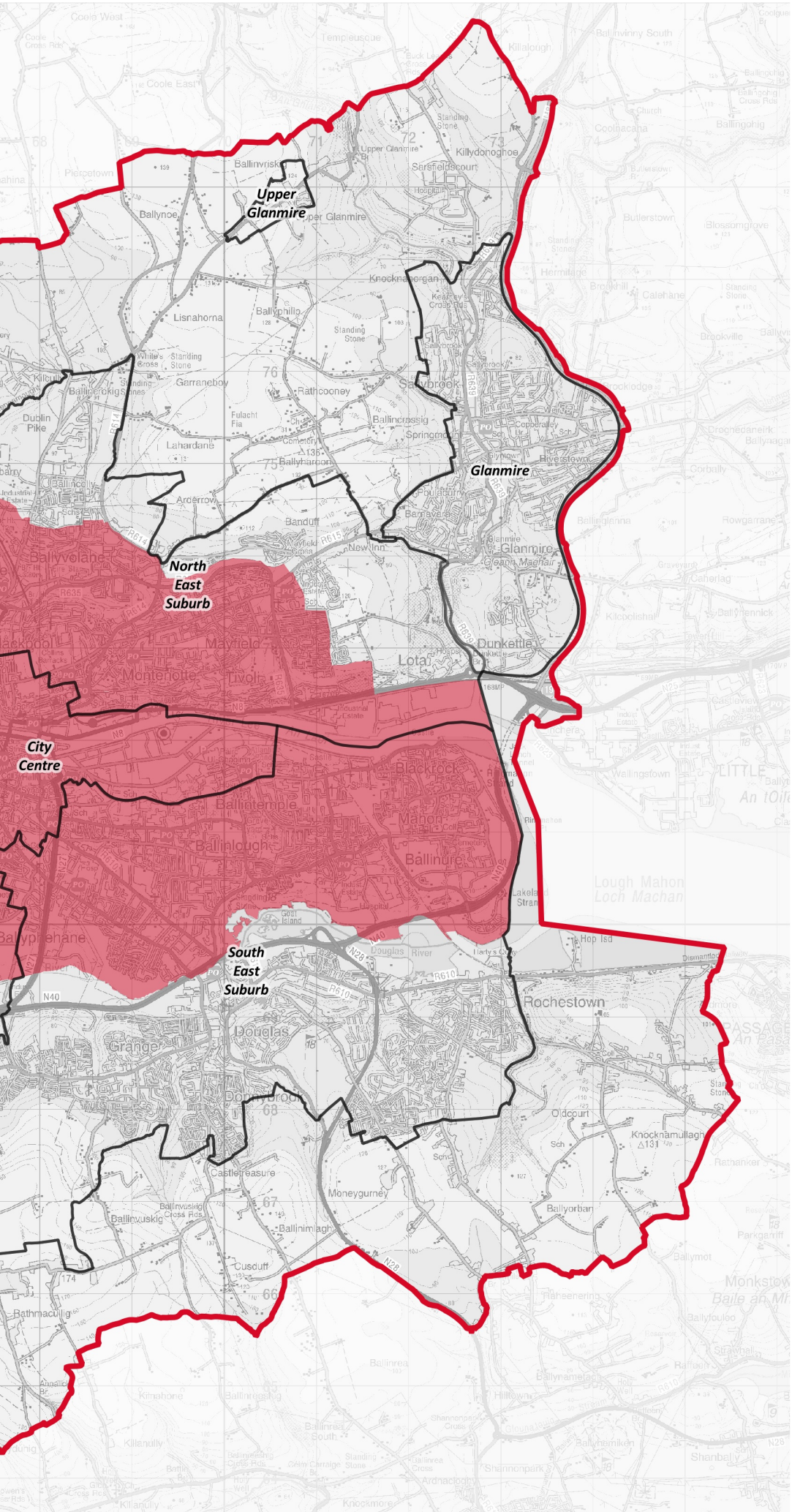


Figure 1.1: Map of the Study Area



Cork City Boundary Extention 2019

Development Plan Areas

Previous Cork City Boundary

CLIENT:
Cork City Council

PROJECT:
Cork City Active Recreation Infrastructure Study - Final Report Mapping

DRAWING:
Cork City Boundary Extention 2019

PROJECT NUMBER:
CORB3006

DRAWING NUMBER:
GIS_600

CHECKED BY:
SD

REVISION:
1.0

STATUS:
Draft

DATE:
February 2022

SCALE:
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02 Methodology

We outline below the agreed methodology and steps undertaken to prepare the Study.

Inception Meeting

An inception meeting was held with Cork City Council's (CCC) Project Team and the Study Team on 5 November 2020 to:

- agree the scope of the Study;
- agree project methodology;
- agree comparative cities for benchmarking;
- agree the Study programme in accordance with the Tender Brief; and
- identify information/inputs required from CCC to help progress the Study.

Preliminary Data Collection and Analysis

The Study Team undertook initial desktop research and analysis to help inform the Study and obtain a comprehensive understanding of the relevant international, national, regional and local planning and recreation/sport/health policy context and relevant requirements.

Comparative Analysis

A detailed desktop comparative analysis exercise was also undertaken by the Study Team to help benchmark the ARI provision in Cork City with Bristol City and South Dublin County Council. Further details and findings with respect to the comparative analysis exercise can be found in Section 7 of the Study.

Stakeholder Audit

CCC provided the Study Team with a list of over 400 recreation and sporting organisations located within the Study Area and provided contacts for a number of these organisations.

On review of the list, it was noted that a number of contact details were obsolete. In light of this, the Study Team undertook a holistic audit of the stakeholder list, which represented a significant body of work, and gathered updated and new contact details, where available.

In addition, the Study Team arranged the various organisations within the stakeholder audit by sport type.

A cleansed GDPR compliant version of the Stakeholder Audit List is appended to this Study (See **Appendix 2**) and it is noted that a detailed version including contacts names and details has been issued directly to CCC. The updated stakeholder audit is an important database resource that will act as a baseline for future studies.

Active Recreation Infrastructure (ARI) Audit

The audit of ARI represents a core component of the Study Brief. The Study Team intended to undertake in-person surveys of the ARI located within the Study Area to complete this Study requirement.

However, due to Covid-19 travel restrictions, and noting the requirement for CCC to progress its Draft Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028, the Study Team proposed to adapt the previously agreed methodology by using online/digital data gathering, engagement and recruitment tools.

The Study Team prepared an amended Consultation Plan outlining the new strategy and issued this to CCC on 29 January 2021 for review and agreement.

Following CCC approval of the amended consultation and audit methodology/strategy, the stakeholder engagement components of the Study (i.e. the online survey and one-to-one meetings) were expanded to enable the Study Team to progress the ARI Audit and deliver the scope of work outlined in the Study Brief.

Online Survey Audit

The Online Survey Audit (OSA) was published on freeonlinesurveys.com and it was live for two weeks from 8 February 2021 to 21 February 2021. A total of 156 responses were received from a diverse range of active recreation and sporting organisations across the Study Area.

Survey Content

The OSA was expanded to incorporate a total of 38 qualitative and quantitative questions and designed in a manner to help enable the Study Team to:

- Audit the quality and quantity of existing ARI in the City;
- Understand the needs of Cork City's active recreation organisations; and to
- Advise on the level of ARI required for the future.

The OSA also provided an opportunity to obtain important information on existing sporting organisations (such as their: size; requirements; contact details; etc), the location where they carry out active recreation (i.e. to identify ARI) and their opinions on the quantity and quality of ARI in the Study Area.

Survey Recruitment

Noting that in-person/physical surveys of the ARI within the Study Area were precluded due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Study Team applied a pro-active approach with respect to recruiting survey activity/responses.

This pro-active approach included the following:

- Emailing the survey details and link directly to all active recreation/sporting organisations listed in the Stakeholder Audit with an email contact; and
- Developing and agreeing a social media strategy with CCC.

The social media strategy was designed to target specific respondents including representatives/members of active recreation and/or sporting organisations to drive traffic to the portal and participation in the survey.

A series of Facebook and LinkedIn advertisements ran to further promote the OSA to key stakeholders and members of relevant organisations in the Study Area and these ads reached a total of 63,278 people.

During the consultation period, the OSA experienced 1,471 page views overall. The top traffic sources to the survey website were Facebook (79%), Direct Traffic (20%) and Organic Searches (0.1%).

Survey Findings

The Study Team prepared a report which reviewed and highlighted the key quantitative findings from the OSA responses. This report was provided to CCC for review and agreement under Stage 2 of the Study.

Section 5 of this Study provides an overview of the quantitative findings from the OSA. The qualitative findings from the OSA have informed:

- our spatial analysis of ARI within Section 6 of the Study;
- our understanding of ARI requirements as set out in Section 9 of the Study; and
- our conclusions and recommendations outlined in Sections 11, 12 and 13 of the Study.

Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder consultations represent another key component of, and input to, the Study. The Study Team agreed the following list of key stakeholders with CCC in terms of undertaking focused consultations to help inform the Study:

In tandem with the online survey, the Study Team issued a letter to the above-mentioned key stakeholders to arrange one-to-one meetings.

Key Sport/Active Recreation Stakeholders in Cork City	
Munster and Cricket Ireland	Cork Sports Partnership
Munster Cricket	Former Cork City FC
Hockey Ireland	University College Cork
Athletics Ireland	Ireland Rowing
Munster Rugby	Cork GAA
Munster Technology University	Ladies Gaelic Football Association

Again, noting the on-going Covid-19 restrictions, in-person meetings were precluded. Thus, the Study Team adapted and utilised video conferencing and telephone tools to enable the meetings to be undertaken.

The focused consultations with key stakeholders allowed the Study Team to obtain important insights and information with respect to a number of strategic areas with respect to ARI within the Study Area, as detailed further in Section 7 of the Study.

The one-to-one meetings also enabled the Study Team to validate initial findings from our desktop analysis, the comparative analysis exercise and initial feedback from the online survey responses.

Workshops with CCC

Following completion of the preceding tasks, the Study Team held a workshop with CCC to review and discuss the findings from the online survey and one-to-one meetings with key stakeholders.

CCC reviewed and agreed the relevant outputs and the Study progressed to the Draft Report writing stage.

Review of the Draft Report

CCC undertook a review of the Draft Report and provided the Study Team with focused comments to help guide and prepare the Final Study.

To address the comments provided by CCC, the scope of Section 10 of the Study has been increased to include an analysis of the larger scale Sub City Areas rather than the Major Development Areas only. In addition, Sections 8 and 9 of the Study have been updated to provide a more detailed analysis of existing ARI and an overview of ARI requirements.

To deliver these enhanced and updated sections, and noting the restrictions caused by Covid-19, the Study Team undertook a desktop based aerial survey[3] of existing ARI within the Study Area to supplement the information obtained through responses to the Online Survey Audit and through the key sport stakeholder consultations.

Focus of the Study

The Study focuses predominantly on the requirements of the most popular pitch and non-pitch based sports within the Study Area as outlined below:

Most Popular Pitch Based Sports	
GAA	Rugby Union
Soccer	Cricket
Hockey	Athletics
Most Popular Non-Pitch Based Sports	
Tennis	Gym / Physical Fitness
Basketball	Swimming
Multi-Purpose	Boxing

The findings from the Online Survey Audit, the stakeholder consultations, the comparative analysis exercise and the desktop based aerial survey have been combined to develop a Study Area specific ARI ratio for the above-mentioned pitch based and non-pitch based sports.

The development of a Study Area specific ARI ratio has enabled the Study Team to provide an overview of likely ARI requirements for each of these sports up to 2028, and beyond to 2040. The Study also provides an overview of water-based ARI requirements in Sections 8, 9 and 10, where relevant information is available.

Margin of Error

Given the data challenges outlined above, a defined margin of error rate has not been applied to the results of the calculations used to determine the current and future supply of ARI. Investigations were limited to the data that was made available for analysis, including Council data, active recreation organisation survey responses and national participation rates. In cases where assumptions have been made for local participation, these are not expected to have a material impact on the future provisioning recommended in the Study.

3 *Noting the inherent limitations of a desktop based aerial survey, there is potential that not all ARI has been captured/accounted for within the Study Area.*

03 Active Recreation Infrastructure

What is Active Recreation Infrastructure (ARI)?

ARI, as a term, is not explicitly referred to, or defined, in the relevant national, regional or local planning policy context (see Section 4 of this Study).

However, we note that ARI, in its simplest sense, is an all-encompassing umbrella term which relates to a range of outdoor and indoor physical infrastructure (including pitches, courts, tracks, halls, grounds, facilities, buildings, etc) that provides opportunities for, and enables, people to undertake active recreation.

To help understand what ARI is, one needs to understand what active recreation is. From our policy review, it is clear that there is no single/fixed definition for active recreation. Indeed, from our policy review, we note that multiple, and sometimes conflicting, definitions are cited in various plans, assessments and strategies.

In light of this, and for the purposes of this Study, we consider active recreation *to be an individual and/or team activity that is either structured or organised and which utilises specific/formal infrastructure such as pitches, courts, tracks, halls, grounds, facilities, buildings, equipment and etc.*

Hence, for the purposes of this Study, we consider all other types of recreation to be passive recreation which falls outside the remit of this Study.:

Noting the above, infrastructure such as public roads/highways/ footpaths used by walkers, joggers, runners and cyclists and informal open space/play areas are excluded from the scope of this Study.

Why is ARI Important?

The international, national, regional and local recreation/ sport/health/planning policy documents cited in this Study (see Section 4) collectively recognise the importance of ARI and note that it is an essential component of successful place making.

There are a number of economic, social and environmental benefits of investing in ARI and we identify a number of these below to help outline why ARI is important. Indeed, investment in ARI will:

- Align with national, regional and local planning policies, priorities and objectives, identified in Section 4 of this Study, particularly:
  - Strategic Investment Priorities in the NPF and NDP which relate to 'Culture, Heritage and Sport';
  - NPF objective for Ireland's Cities, i.e. 'Focusing investment to improve the collective 'offer' within each of the four cities, i.e. infrastructure, quality of life... and amenities';
  - Regional Policy Objectives 198 and 199 of the Southern Regional Assembly's Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy;
  - Policy Objective 21b of the Cork Metropolitan Strategic Plan by supporting the role of Cork as a WHO Healthy City and by supporting the delivery of a "healthy heart" for the Cork Metropolitan Area;
  - Policy Objective 21d of the Cork Metropolitan Strategic Plan by supporting 'Healthy Ireland' objectives;
  - Strategic vision principles and objectives of the City Development Plan summarised in Figure 3.1 on the next page.


01. Compact Liveable Growth
02. Delivering Homes and Communities
03. Transport and Mobility
04. Climate and Environment
05. Green and Blue Infrastructure, Open Space and Biodiversity
06. Economy and Employment
07. Heritage, Arts and Culture
08. Environmental Infrastructure
09. Placemaking and Managing Development

Compact growth

Integrate land-use and transport planning to achieve a compact city with 50% of all new homes delivered within the existing built-up footprint of the City on regenerated brownfield, infill and greenfield sites identified in the Core Strategy, and to achieve higher population densities aligned with strategic infrastructure delivery.

Sustainable and active travel

To implement the Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Study (CMATS) and develop a transformed sustainable transport system with a significant shift toward walking, cycling and public transport and to enshrine this principle in all developments across the City.

A strong and diverse economy

Support Cork City's role as the economic driver for the region and the creation of a strong, resilient, diverse and innovative economy.

A healthy, inclusive and diverse city

Build on Cork City's status as a World Health Organisation designated Healthy City, offering an inclusive and vibrant environment for all whilst promoting healthy living and wellbeing.

A city of neighbourhoods and communities

Develop a sustainable, liveable city of neighbourhoods and communities based on the 15-minute city concept, ensuring that placemaking is at the heart of all development.

Enhanced built and natural heritage

Protect, enhance, support and develop our built and natural heritage, our open spaces and parks, and our green and blue infrastructure, and expand our built heritage with new buildings, townscapes and public spaces achieved through the highest standards of architecture and urban design.

A resilient City

Contribute to a framework for the transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient City, resilient to extreme weather events, pandemics, economic cycles and other potential shocks.

A connected City

Cork City will continue to be a highly connected city providing local, regional, national and international connectivity.

A city of learning and culture

To build on Cork's designation as a UNESCO Learning City and the city's rich cultural heritage and to foster learning, culture, heritage and the arts throughout the City.

Figure 3.1: Draft Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028: Strategic Vision Principles

- Align with the policies, priorities, objectives, targets, actions and goals established in the international, national, regional and local sport, recreation and health documents, also identified in Section 4 of this Study;
- Ensure that the residents of Cork City and its surrounding hinterlands will have access to high quality recreational and sporting facilities;
- Improve community infrastructure and the 'quality of life' credentials of Cork City and its surrounding hinterlands as well as making these places more attractive for residents, businesses and visitors;
- Contribute to good physical and mental health, sporting achievement and excellence and to wider social, cultural and economic benefits for our communities;
- Support physical activity and provide improved/additional physical activity opportunities which will help to encourage residents to make healthy choices and live healthier lives which can help to reduce rates of obesity in children, teenagers, adults and the elderly;
- Create economic value by appealing to a skilled workforce and attracting innovative companies;
- Help to complement and reinforce the impact of investment in sustainable public transport networks and previous ARI and other amenity investments;
- Provide additional rationale and purpose for the designation of Green Belts and green spaces in our urban areas which can help to support biodiversity, delineate settlements and contribute to additional resilience with respect to drainage/flooding and climate change strategies/initiatives;
- Augment Cork City's appeal with respect to tourism and international capital;
- Play an important role in supporting and enhancing the primacy, vitality and viability of a successful City Centre; and
- Play a role in the regeneration of areas by making them more liveable and providing new uses for vacant/derelict buildings and/or sites.

04 Study Context

Study Area

The Study Area is based on the geographical extent of Cork City Council's administrative area, which includes the recent extension, of May 2019.

The newly extended Cork City Council boundary is illustrated in Figure 4.1 below and now includes the following new areas: White Cross; Ballyvolane; Glanmire, Rochestown; Douglas; Grange; Donnybrook, Frankfield; Cork Airport; Togher; Curraheen; Ballincollig; Kerry Pike; Tower; Blarney and Kileens.

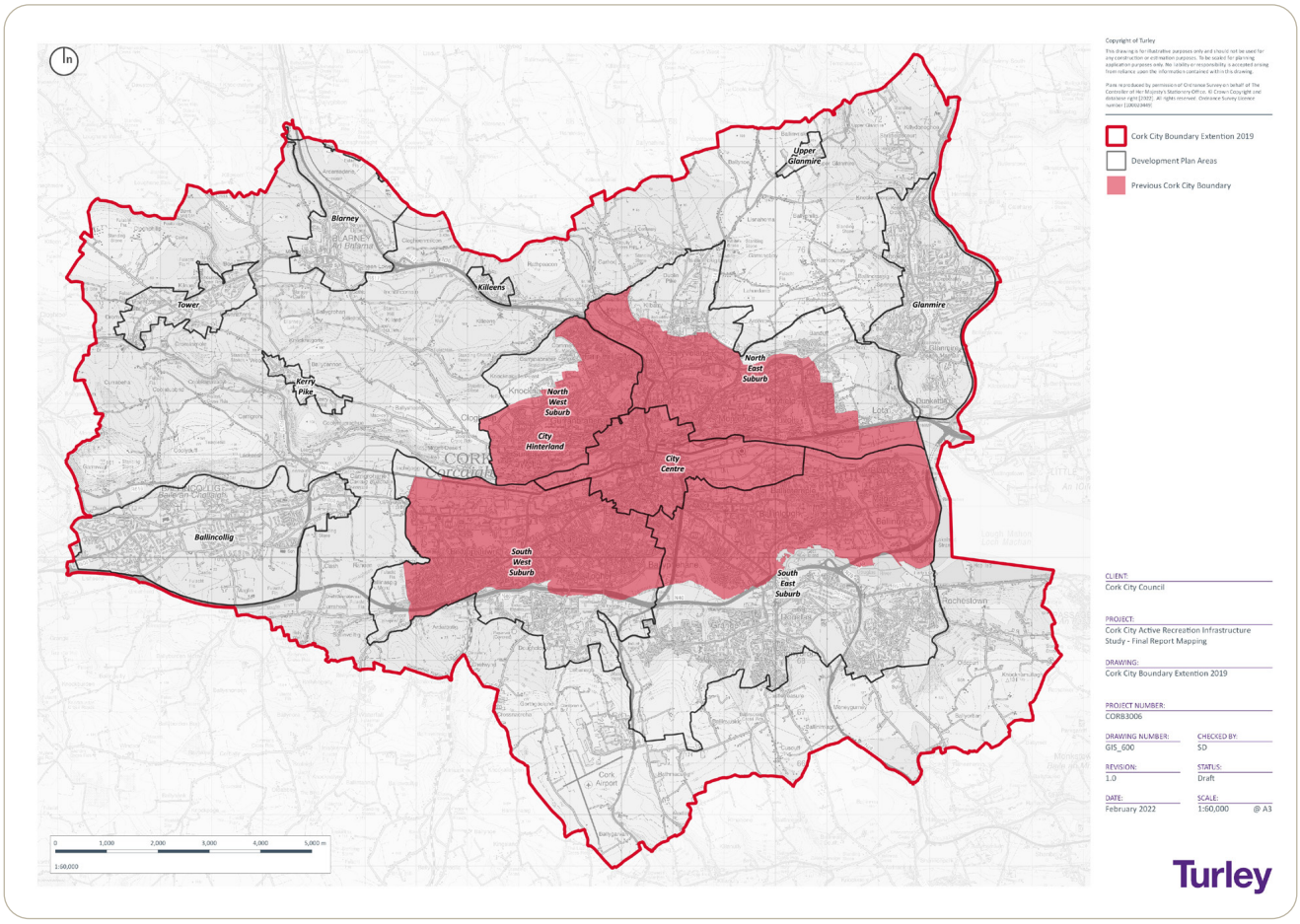


Figure 4.1:Map showing the Overall Extent of the Study Area

Cork City Profile

Introduction

Cork City, being Ireland's second largest city, is a unique and vibrant place fuelled by the creativity, diversity and energy of its communities.

Cork has been a designated WHO Healthy City since January 2012. This designation places an obligation on the local authority to commit to good health outcomes and implement a process and structure to achieve this.

Cork City Profile

The info graphic below, which has been extracted from the Cork Healthy Cities website, provides a useful overview of Cork City's profile

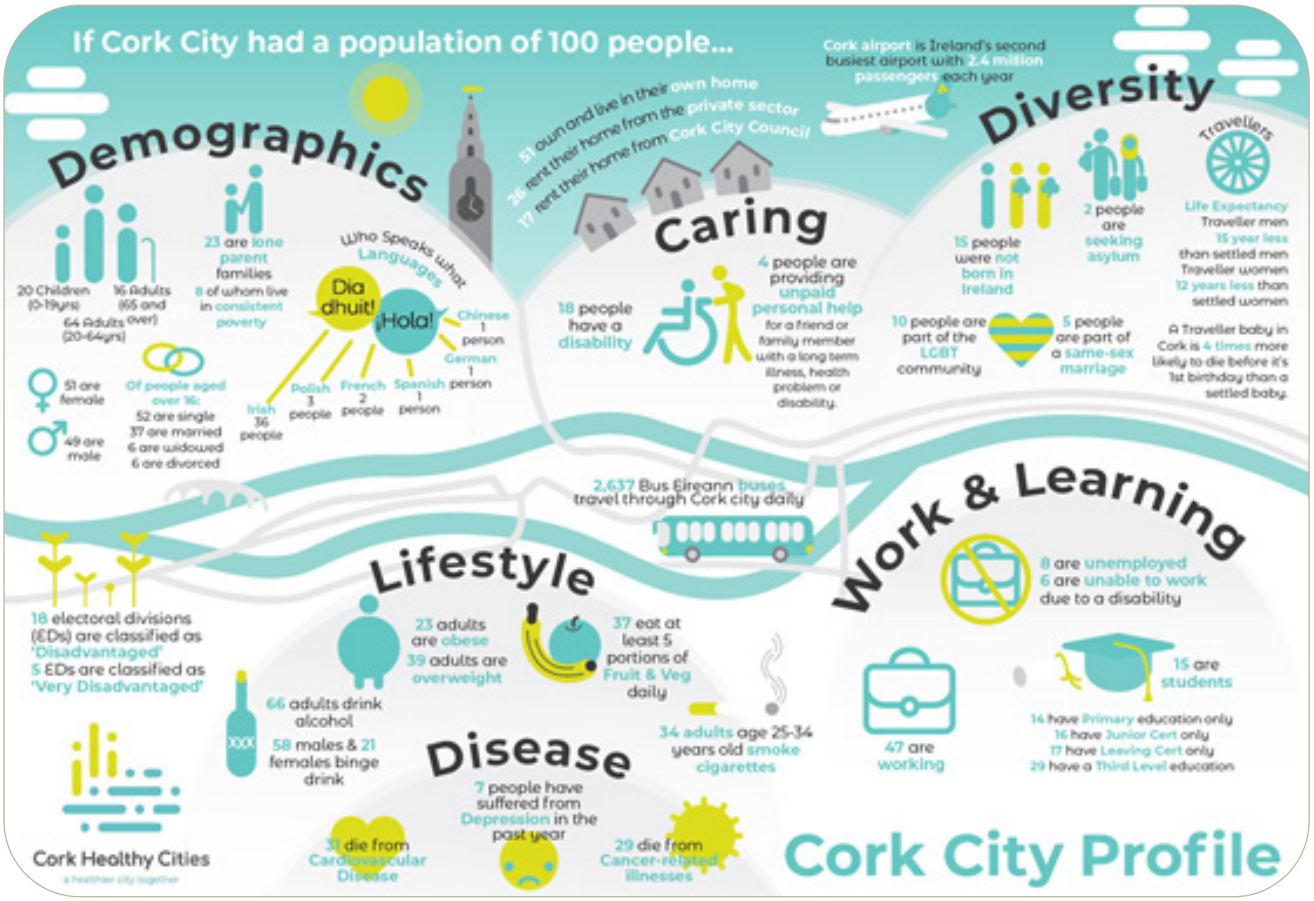


Figure 4.2:Info graphic of Cork City in 2018 Source: Cork Healthy Cities - Action Plan - Phase VII 2020 - 2030 [4]

4 *Available Online at: https://corkhealthycities.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/CHC-Action-Plan-Report-FINAL.pdf*

Function/Role

In terms of its overarching role, Cork City performs well as a major urban centre in Ireland and the City has positioned itself as an emerging medium-sized European centre of growth and innovation.

The national and regional plans[5] identify Cork as an emerging international centre of scale and outline that it is well placed to complement Dublin. However, to more fully achieve these roles, the City requires significantly accelerated and urban-focused growth.

Strategic Challenge

In terms of challenges, Ireland's National Planning Framework (NPF) cites the long term decline of the Cork City's urban population as being as one of the City's greatest challenges in achieving significant growth to move the City and its metropolitan region to the next level.

Consequently, Cork City is to undergo targeted interventions over the next 20 years at a national level as part of Project Ireland 2040 with significant funding and growth being directed to the City and its hinterlands to develop increased scale and critical mass as well as an enhanced urban environment and capacity.

Planned Growth

Cork City has been attributed a planned rate of growth of between two to three times the national average (i.e. 50% to 60%) over the next 20 years in the NFP. As a result, Cork City's population is expected to grow by approx. 125,000 people between 2016 (210,000 people) and 2040 (to approx. 335,000 people).

Existing ARI

It is not surprising that Cork City is steeped in sporting history and glory noting that it is home to nationally and regionally important ARI, including, but not exclusive to:

- Páirc Uí Chaoimh (GAA);
- Turners Cross Stadium (Soccer);
- Bishopstown Training Ground (Soccer);
- Musgrave Park (Rugby);
- University College Cork Sports Grounds (Mixed); and
- Munster Technological University (formerly CIT) Sports Grounds (Mixed);
- Cork County Cricket Club (Cricket);
- LeisureWorld (indoor health, fitness and recreation facilities) at Bishopstown, Churchfield and Douglas;
- Glen Resource and Sports Centre (outdoor adventure centre); and
- Water-based ARI including boat clubs, slipways on the Marina and proximity to national rowing centre in Iniscarra, sailing in lower harbour and traditional rowing.

Additionally, Cork City has a great range of city/local level ARI with a range of playing surfaces (including grass, artificial grass, asphalt, indoor, etc) with respect to sport pitches, courts, courses, tracks, halls, etc.

These national, regional and city/local scale ARI assets have multiple uses throughout the year ranging from sport/recreation/leisure and provide significant benefits to the local and wider population in terms of physical and mental health.

Planned/Committed Investment in/ Development of ARI

It is further noted that Cork City's existing network of ARI is to be supplemented in the coming years with planned/committed investments and developments, such as:

- FAI Centre of Excellence in Glanmire;
- Munster Technology University and Athletic Ireland's elite level/multi-purpose indoor arena and high-performance athletics centre;
- Cork City Docklands Regeneration Area;
- Tivoli Docks Regeneration Area; and
- Opportunities for ARI developments within the Major Development Areas of City Docks, Tivoli Docks, Ballincollig, Ballyvolane, South Glanmire and Blarney.

Need for Additional/Improved ARI

Noting the significant quantum of growth that is planned for Cork City over the next 20 years, it is important that CCC plans for/supports/encourages the delivery of new ARI and the improvement of the existing ARI network to ensure a healthy, green and connected City with appropriate levels of ARI along with inter-connected parks, open spaces, greenways and public transport.

5 *These being:*
- Project Ireland 2040 - National Planning Framework;
- Project Ireland 2040 - National Development Plan;
- Southern Regional Assembly's Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020-2031; and
- Southern Regional Assembly's Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan Cork 2020-2031

Legislative Context

Section 10 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) requires Development Plans to include objectives for the following:

- 'the zoning of land for the use solely or primarily of particular areas for particular purposes whether... recreational, as open space or otherwise';
- 'the integration of the planning and sustainable development of the area with the social, community and cultural requirements of the area and its population'; and
- 'the preservation, improvement and extension of amenities and recreational amenities'.

The Development Plan Guidelines for Planning Authorities (June, 2007), refer to the above objectives as 'mandatory objectives' and the Guidelines advise the following:

- 'The requirements of the planning authority for public open space and recreation space provision in connection with development proposals, particularly residential development, should be set out in the development plan; and
- The planning authority's own specific objectives in this regard should also be indicated'.

Planning Policy Context

As part of this Study, we have undertaken a critical review of the following national, regional and local planning policy documents, as they relate to ARI and Cork City:

- Project Ireland 2040 - National Planning Framework;
- Project Ireland 2040 - National Development Plan;
- Southern Regional Assembly
  - Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020-2031
  - Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan Cork 2020-2031
- Cork City Development Plan 2015 – 2021
- Draft Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028
  - Issues Paper
  - Chief Executive Report on Public Consultation

A detailed review of these planning policy documents can be found at **Appendix 3** of this Study, and we outline some of the headline findings below:

National Planning Policy

- The relevant national planning policy context of the Study is established by the 'Project Ireland 2040 - National Planning Framework' (NPF) and the 'Project Ireland 2040 - National Development Plan' (NDP).

Cork

- Cork is identified by the NPF as a major urban centre in Ireland that is performing well and it is stated that the City has positioned itself as an emerging medium-sized European centre of growth and innovation.
- The importance of Cork City is highlighted by the NPF as it confirms that 'Building on this potential is critical to further enhancing Ireland's metropolitan profile'.In terms of challenges, the NPF states that 'One of the greatest challenges in achieving significant growth that will move the Cork metropolitan region to the next level is addressing the long term decline of the City's urban population'.
- The NPF confirms that the population of Cork City and Suburbs stood at 208,669 people at the time of the 2016 Census and it identifies a population growth target for Cork City and Suburbs of 105,000 - 125,000 people by 2040 which would bring the overall population to at least 315,000 people.

The NPF identifies a number of key future growth enablers for Cork including the need to support infrastructure and urban amenity projects. The NPF hen tasks the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy process with preparing a Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) for the Cork Metropolitan Area, including Cork Harbour.

Active Recreation Infrastructure (ARI)

- As stated previously, the 'term' ARI is not specifically referred to, or defined, within the NPF or the NDP. However, both documents make references to 'recreation infrastructure', 'sport', and 'amenities' under a number of outcomes, objectives and priorities.

Indeed, National Strategic Outcome (NSO) 7 of the NPF, entitled 'Enhanced Amenity and Heritage', is of particular note with respect to ARI as it seeks to ensure '*...that our cities, towns and villages are attractive and* ***can offer a good quality of life***'... which requires investment in ***'...recreational infrastructure...'*** **(our emphasis)**.

The NDP states that '*Investment in culture, heritage* ***and sports****, appropriately aligned with other NSOs included in the NPF,* ***can play a very important role in improving amenities and the attractiveness and liveability*** *of different areas, whether in cities, other urban areas, small towns and rural areas*' **(our emphasis)**.

The NPF and NDP outline a number of benefits of investing in ARI (outlined in the preceding Section of this Study). Thus, National Policy Objective (NPO) 27 seeks to '*Ensure the integration of safe and convenient alternatives to the car into the design of our communities, by* ***prioritising walking and cycling accessibility*** *to both existing and proposed developments, and* ***integrating physical activity facilities for all ages'*** **(our emphasis)**.

In recognition of the vital role of culture, heritage and sport in our national life, the NDP allocates in excess of €1 billion to strategic investment priorities in this area.

So far as sport is concerned, the Plan advises that '*Over €100 million in capital funding has been allocated for the Sport Capital Programme (SCP) for the coming four years*' and that '*This programme will be further expanded over the period 2022 to 2027 which will allow for the continued development of new and improved sports facilities*'.

The NDP describes the SCP as '*...the primary mechanism for providing funding to sport and community organisations at local, regional and national level*' and it recognises that '*Enhanced sports facilities represents a significant improvement to the community infrastructure in these areas making them more attractive places to live, work and visit*'.

The NDP outlines that '*...a new Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund of €100 million is being established for larger sports projects where the proposed Government contribution exceeds amounts available under the SCP*'.

The outcomes, objectives and priorities of the NPF and NDP are also supported by Urban and Rural Regeneration and Development Funds which are aimed at supporting '*...* ***transformational public realm initiative****s to give* ***city*** *and town centre areas back to citizens, encouraging greater city and town centre living,* ***enhanced recreational spaces*** *and attractiveness from a cultural, tourism and promotional perspective*' (our emphasis).

Regional Planning Policy

The relevant regional planning policy context of this Study is established by Southern Regional Assembly's Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) 2020-2032 which includes the Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) for Cork.

Active Recreation Infrastructure - RSES

Similar to the NPF, the RSES does not make specific reference to 'Active Recreation Infrastructure', however, it embraces the many factors which determine a 'quality of life' including infrastructure investment in sporting facilities.

The importance of recreation and sporting facilities is highlighted with the inclusion of a dedicated section in the RSES (i.e. Section 7.2.5) entitled 'Regional Recreational and Sporting Facilities'.

Within this section, the RSES states that '*Our parks, **sporting arenas and facilities are essential to the quality of life** of all our communities. The quality of recreational and sporting facilities contributes to good physical and mental health, sporting achievement and excellence and to wider social, cultural and economic benefits for our communities*'.

The RSES then confirms that it '*...supports the development of new regional scale recreational and sporting facilities including new stadiums and provision of public parks and green areas. In addition, the RSES supports the **development of new and upgraded local sporting and recreational facilities***'.

The following Regional Policy Objectives (RPOs) are of note with respect to ARI:

- **RPO 198 - Sport and Community Organisations:** *It is an objective to support investment in sport and community organisations in the Region through the Sports Capital Programme including development of shared local and regional sports and community facilities by local authorities. Local authorities shall support the vision and objectives of the National Sports Policy, including working with local sports partnerships, clubs, communities and partnerships within and beyond sport, to increase sport and physical activity participation levels locally.*
- **RPO 199 - Larger Sports Projects:** *It is an objective to support investment in the sustainable development of larger sports projects in the Region under the Large-Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund. Local authorities should ensure that decision-making in relation to the development of recreational and sporting infrastructure is informed by an appropriate level of environmental assessment.*

RPO 176 entitled **'10-minute City and Town Concepts'** is another notable objective which promotes sustainable compact settlements whereby a range of community facilities and services are accessible in short walking and cycle timeframes from homes or are accessible by high quality public transport services by connecting people to larger scaled settlements delivering these services.

Other RPOs of the RSES that are of note with respect to ARI include RPO 9, 54, 174, 200 and 201.

Active Recreation Infrastructure – MASP for Cork

The Cork MASP acknowledges that '*The NPF explicitly states that significant accelerated and urban focused growth is needed to fulfil [Cork City's] potential, along with accelerated investment, **physical and social infrastructure**, and protection and enhancement of the natural environment*' **(our emphasis)**.

The MASP's vision for Cork City places an emphasis on a healthy City with a high standard of physical and community infrastructure offering a high quality of life for all.

So far as 'Active Recreation Infrastructure' is concerned, we note that the Cork MASP does not specifically use this terminology. Nevertheless, Policy Objective 17 of the Cork MASP is important to note as it seeks a healthy, green and connected metropolitan area with green infrastructure, inter-connected parks, sports and recreation facilities and greenways.

Policy Objective 17 also makes reference to the preparation of a Metropolitan Open Space, Recreation and Greenbelt Strategy which may include the sustainable development of key recreation, sports and community facilities across Metropolitan Cork (among other things).

Local Planning Policy

Cork City Development Plan (CCDP) 2015-2021

The current local planning policy context for this Study is established in the CCDP 2015-2021, which came into effect on 20th April 2015.

It is noted that on 31 May 2019, the administrative area of Cork City Council was expanded, growing to nearly five times its current size and taking in areas including Douglas, Rochestown, Ballincollig, Blarney and Glanmire. As part of this planned expansion, the population of the city grew by 85,000 people to an overall population of 210,000 people.

As the extant CCDP 2015-2021 was adopted prior to the City boundary expansion, it does not contain specific objectives, policies or land use zonings for the new areas of the City. Thus, the emerging Draft Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028 will be required to include relevant objectives, polices and land zonings for these new areas.

So far as ARI is concerned, Chapter 11 of the CCDP entitled 'Recreational Infrastructure' is of particular note. Chapter 11 acknowledges that recreational assets are not only important to the City and its constituent neighbourhoods but to the wider metropolitan area, as well as the City's appeal for tourism and international capital.

Furthermore, the CCDP highlights that recreational assets are also of wider significance in relation to drainage / flooding and climate change.

The CCDP advises that Cork has made significant improvements to its recreational infrastructure over the last 10 years including active sports facilities such as sports pitches at Mahon, all-weather pitches at The Glen and changing pavilions at Pophams Park and Fair Field. However, the CDDP recognises that a number of challenges remain in terms of protecting and improving the level of ARI in the City.

In light of this, the CCDP outlines the following strategic approach to help achieve a green, connected and fit-for-purpose Cork with sustainable neighbourhoods in line with the Core Strategy:

- Introduce an open space strategy;
- Create sustainable connectivity between green areas;
- Provide for the recreational infrastructure needs of the city, its neighbourhoods and catchment, and related biodiversity needs of the city; and
- Provide the resources to deliver and manage the recreational infrastructure required by the city.

Objective 11.1 sets out a number of Strategic Objectives with respect to Recreational Infrastructure which have informed the recommendations of this Study (see Sections 11 and 12), such as the need to ensure that playing pitches and active sports infrastructure meets the needs of Cork's population.

Objective 11.3 - Active Recreational Needs Study of the CCDP is also of note as it contains a commitment to '*...progress a review of the Recreational Needs Study 2003 to inform the Open Space Strategy for Cork City and project development*'. The CCDP advises that the study will seek to determine the gaps in active recreational provision (including playing pitches and organised sport) taking into account current and future needs based on an assessment of population growth.

This Study has also had regard to the following objectives contained in Chapter 11:

- Sports Facilities and Grounds - Objectives 11.8, 11.9 and 11.10
- Water Sports – Objective 11.2
- City Centre Recreational Infrastructure – Objective 11.8

Draft Cork City Development Plan (DCCDP) 2022-2028

CCC is currently reviewing the Cork City Development Plan 2015-2021 and preparing a new City Development Plan (DCCDP) which will cover the period from 2022-2028.

The new City Development Plan, when adopted, will replace the CCDP 2015-2021, the Cork County Development Plan 2014 and the Municipal District Local Area Plans 2017 (solely for the former County Council areas now within the Cork City boundary including Ballincollig, Blarney, Glanmire and Tower).

We note that CCC undertook a Pre-Draft Consultation stage which concluded on 21 August 2020.

The Issues Paper (IP) that accompanied the Pre-Draft Consultation Stage advises that Cork City is to grow by an additional 125,000 people by 2040 and that this growth can only be achieved if Cork continues to be a great place to live which requires an appropriate mix of cultural, sports and recreational amenities (among other things).

The IP acknowledges the importance of both outdoor and indoor recreational facilities particularly their contribution towards good physical and mental health, for all age groups and abilities.

The Chief Executive's Recommendations (CER) report, which was prepared following the completion of the Pre-Draft Consultation Stage, notes that CCC commissioned an Active Recreation Infrastructure Needs Study which it identifies as being a key input into the DCCDP as it will help to identify active sports requirements for the City and its constituent communities.

Volume 1 of the CER report contains the following recommendations with respect to recreation:

- Protect and enhance our waterways and their corridors and to promote the integration of the City and the waterways through the development of the public realm, amenity spaces and use of waterways for sport and recreation;
- Support the sports and recreation facilities, institutes, clubs and amenities across the City; and
- Ensure that green and blue infrastructure, open space, sport and recreation and biodiversity are considered in all developments, commensurate to scale and context, at the earliest stages of design.

Recreation, Sport and Health Policy Context

The objectives, policies and goals contained within the preceding planning policy documents are aligned with and reinforced by the relevant body of international, national/ regional and local policy with respect to recreation, sport and health.

Indeed, the following documents provide a clear basis for the promotion/improvement of, and investment in, existing and new ARI to meet the current and growing needs the Study Area:

International

- United Nations - The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020.
- World Health Organisation (Europe) - Health 2020: A European Policy Framework and Strategy for the 21st Century.
- European Union - BOSS: Benefits of Outdoor Sports for Society.
- Copenhagen Consensus of Mayors - Healthier and Happier Cities for All: A transformative approach for safe, inclusive, sustainable and resilient societies.

National/Regional

- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage - the National Marine Planning Framework.
- Sport Ireland - Policy on Sport and Physical Activity in the Outdoors 2020.
- Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport - National Sports Policy 2018 - 2027.
- Coillte - Outdoors Recreation Plan for Public Lands and Water in Ireland 2017-2021.
- Department of Health - National Physical Activity Plan for Ireland 2016 - Get Ireland Active.
- Department of Health - Healthy Ireland: A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013 - 2025.
- Department of Social Protection, Community & Rural Development and the Islands - National Countryside Recreation Strategy.
- Teenspace National Recreation Policy for Young People - 2007.
- Ready, Steady, Play! A National Play Policy - 2004.
- A Parks' Policy for Local Authorities - 1987.

Local

- Cork Healthy Cities - Action Plan Phase VII - 2020 - 2030.
- Cork City Council - Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) 2016 - 2021 - "Pure Cork - An Action Plan for the City".
- Cork City Council - Cork Recreational Facilities Needs Study - 2003.
- Cork City Parks Strategy - 2000.

05 Active Recreation Infrastructure - Audit

Introduction

The audit of Active Recreation Infrastructure (ARI) represents a core component of the Study Brief. As outlined above, the Study Team intended to undertake in-person surveys of the ARI located within the Study Area to complete this Study requirement.

However, due to Covid-19 travel restrictions, and noting the requirement for CCC to progress its Draft Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028, the Study Team was required to adapt the previously agreed methodology by using online/digital data gathering, engagement and recruitment tools.

The Study Team prepared an amended Consultation Plan outlining the new strategy and issued this to CCC for review and agreement. The updated Consultation Plan package comprised the following documents:

- Detailed Consultation Plan;
- Updated Stakeholder Audit List;
- Online Survey Audit;
- Letter for Key Stakeholders (setting up one-to-one virtual meetings);
- Set of Questions for Key Stakeholder Meetings; and
- Comparative Analysis Strategy.

Following CCC approval of the amended Consultation Plan, the stakeholder engagement components of the Study (i.e. the Online Survey Audit and one-to-one meetings) were expanded to enable the Study Team to progress the ARI Audit and deliver the scope of work outlined in the Study Brief.

Online Survey Audit Methodology

The Online Survey Audit (OSA) was published on freeonlinesurveys.com and it was live for two weeks from 8 February 2021 to 21 February 2021. A copy of the survey questions can be found at **Appendix 4** of this Study.

Survey Content

The OSA was expanded to incorporate a total of 38 qualitative and quantitative questions and designed in a manner to help enable the Study Team to:

- Audit the quality and quantity of existing ARI in the City;
- Understand the needs of Cork City's active recreation organisations; and to
- Advise on the level of ARI required for the future.

The OSA also provided an opportunity to obtain important information on existing sporting organisations (such as their size, requirements, contact details, and etc), the location where they carry out active recreation (i.e. to identify ARI) and their opinions on the quantity and quality of ARI in the Study Area.

Survey Recruitment

Noting that in-person/physical surveys of the ARI within the Study Area were precluded due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Study Team applied a pro-active approach with respect to recruiting survey activity/responses.

This pro-active approach included the following:

- Emailing the survey details and link directly to all active recreation/sporting organisations listed in the Stakeholder Audit with an email contact; and
- Developing and agreeing a social media strategy with CCC.

The social media strategy was designed to target specific respondents including representatives/members of active recreation and/or sporting organisations to drive traffic to the portal and participation in the survey.

A series of Facebook and LinkedIn advertisements ran to further promote the OSA to key stakeholders and members of relevant organisations in the Study Area and these ads reached a total of 63,278 people.

During the consultation period, the OSA experienced 1,471 page views overall. The top traffic sources to the survey website were Facebook (79%), Direct Traffic (20%) and Organic Searches (0.1%).

Online Survey Audit Findings

A total of 156 responses were received from a diverse range of active recreation and sporting organisations across the Study Area.

The detailed responses to the OSA have been provided to CCC directly and do not form part of this Study due to GDPR requirements. Nevertheless, we provide an overview of the OSA responses to each of the questions below to inform the findings of this Study.

It is noted that some organisations did not provide a response to every question in the survey. It is further noted that the analysis contained within this Section of the Study is based on the responses to the OSA by various organisations throughout the Study Area. However, it may not represent every organisation due to the challenges posed by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, such as the need to recruit participation of the OSA through digital means.

The following sub-sections provide an analysis of the key findings from the two distinct components of the OSA, these being:

- OSA findings with respect to the active recreation/sporting organisations within the Study Area; and
- OSA findings with respect to the ARI that these organisations use.

Online Survey Audit Findings – ARI Organisations

We set out below a textual and visual analysis (using bar, column and pie charts) of the OSA findings with respect to the ARI organisations within the Study Area taken from the responses to Questions 1 – 9 of the OSA.

Variety of Recreation Organisations

Q1 of the OSA was designed to enable the Study Team to obtain an understanding of the type of organisations active in the Study Area. Figure 5.1 illustrates the diverse range of organisation types identified by respondents.

Noting the nature of the Study, and the implemented OSA recruitment strategy, it is not surprising that the majority of respondents selected 'Sports' to describe their organisation type and that the next highest category selected was 'Leisure/ Active Recreation'. It is noted that all respondents answered this question.

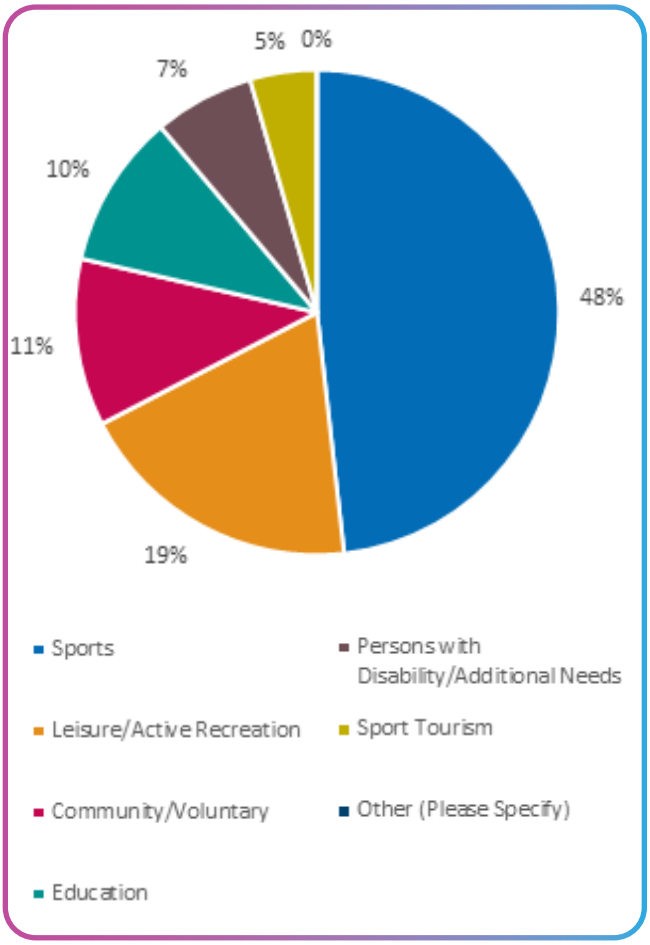


Figure 5.1: Responses to '*Please select from the below the option(s) that best describes your organisation*'.

Sports/Activities Promoted

Question 2 of the OSA then asked respondents to indicate the activity/sport promoted by their organisation. Again, all respondents answered this question of the OSA.

GAA (football/hurling/camogie) was selected the most making it the clear overall winner in terms of activities/sports promoted by the respondent organisations. 'Indoor Health & Fitness Provision' and 'Soccer' were the next most common sports/activities promoted.

Table 5.1 provides CCC with an overview of the 'Top 10' sports/activities promoted by respondents to the OSA with respect to: all activities/sports cited; pitch based activities/sports cited; and non-pitch based activities/sports cited.

Rank	All	Pitch Based	Non-Pitch Based
1	GAA	GAA	Indoor Health & Fitness
2	Indoor Health & Fitness	Soccer	Walking
3	Soccer	Athletics	Athletics
4	Walking	Hockey	Rowing
5	Athletics	Golf	Swimming
6	Rowing	Cricket	Informal Activity/Play
7	Swimming	Rugby	Basketball
8	Informal Activity/Play	Tennis	Yoga
9	Basketball	American Football	Canoeing/Kayaking
10	Hockey	Bowling (outdoor)	Dance

Table 5.1: 'Top 10' Activities/Sports Promoted by Respondent Organisations

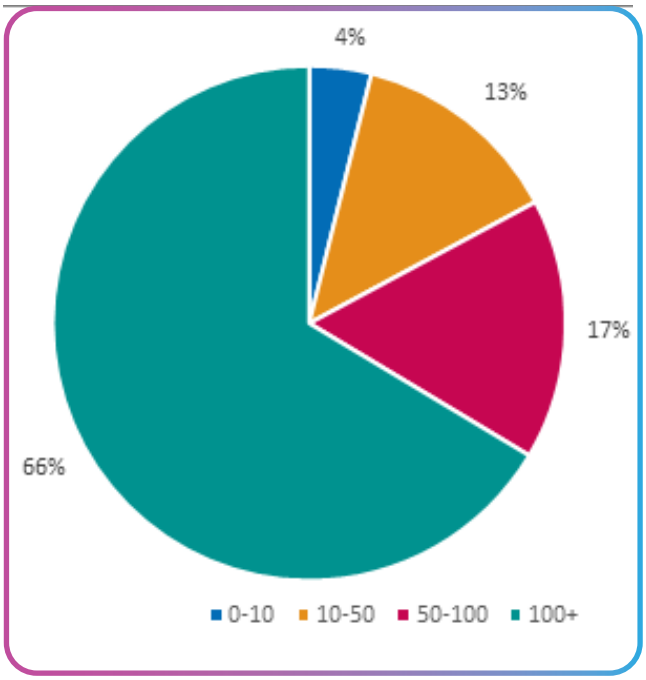


Figure 5.2: Responses to *'Please indicate the level of membership of your organisation'*.

Membership Levels

To obtain an understanding of the size of the recreation/sporting organisations active within the Study Area, Question 3 asked respondents to indicate their membership level. A total of 125 responses were received for this question.

As illustrated in Figure 5.2 below, the majority (66%) of respondents identified a membership level of more than 100 people which demonstrates that the City is home to a range of large scale recreation/sporting organisations.

Age Profile

Delving deeper into the composition of the recreation/sporting organisations, Q4 asked respondents to provide a breakdown of their members in terms of the quantum of members in each age category.

Not all respondents answered this question and for those that did answer the question a number of anomalies arose, such as some organisations providing percentages (rather than membership numbers) without providing the overall number of members, some organisations had multiple responses but with vary membership numbers and others provided total figures but not a breakdown of membership ages.

Nevertheless, having reviewed the raw data responses, we can confirm that out of the organisations that identified overall membership numbers that the following represent the top five in terms of largest membership base (in order of the highest) and together account for a total of 65,000 plus members:

- Munster Technological University;
- LesiureWorld;
- Cork Ladies GAA;
- Munster Football Association; and
- Ballincollig Parkrun.

Furthermore, Figure 5.3 provides a breakdown of the overall age profiles of the organisations' members as identified by the OSA respondents. The 18-24 years old (30%) and 24-65 (30%) years old cohorts represent an equal proportion of the membership bases. It is also noted that the 5-12 years old (16%) and 12-18 years old (18%) cohorts make a positive contribution to the overall membership bases but the 65+ cohort (5%) represents a low overall proportion.

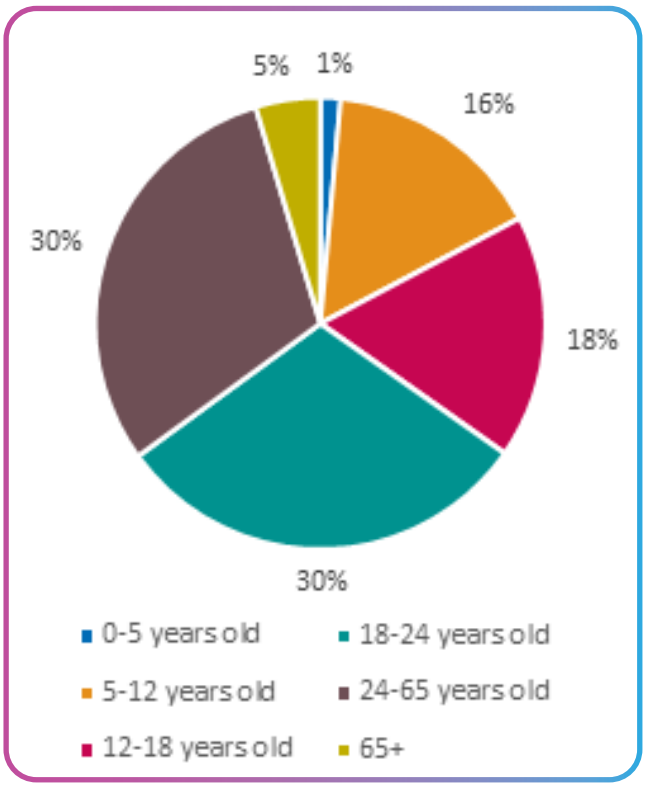


Figure 5.3: Responses to *'Please indicate the age profile of your organisations members'*.

Organisation Growth

The next question of the OSA (i.e. Question 5) sought to explore and understand the growth expectations of the recreation/sporting organisations to help inform the need for additional/improved ARI within the Study Area.

Noting the ever increasing importance and popularity of recreation and sporting activities, as well as the growing population of the Study Area, it is not surprising that the majority (88%) of respondents expect their organisation to also grow in membership numbers over the next six years. A total of 127 responses were recorded for this question.

Figure 5.4 provides evidence that there is a need to provide additional and/or improved ARI within the Study Area to accommodate this expected increase in membership levels.

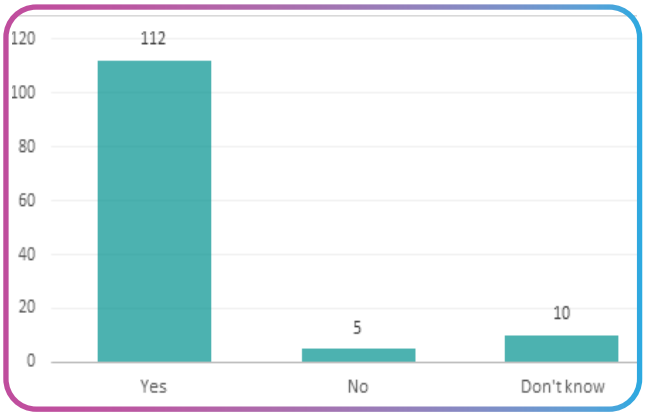


Figure 5.4: Responses to *'Is it expected that your organisation will grow in membership over the next 6 years'*?

Question 6 of the OSA seeks to understand the level of growth expected by the ARI organisations. Similar to Question 4 of the OSA, not all respondents answered this question and for those that did answer the question a number of anomalies arose, such as some organisations providing percentages (rather than membership numbers) without providing the overall number of members and some organisations had multiple responses but with varying growth predictions indicated.

Out of the 101 organisations that provided a responses to this question, all indicated growth in their membership bases. Indeed, a total growth of 26,338 new members was identified by respondents.

In terms of the organisations that indicated the largest predicted membership growth of the next six years, the top five are set out below:

- Cork Ladies Gaelic Football Association – 3,000 new members;
- LeisureWorld – 3,000 new members;
- Hockey Ireland – 2,760 new members;
- Parkrun – 2,000 new members; and
- Munster Football Association – up to 1,800 new members.

In terms of overall organisation growth, Cork City SUP expect to grow its membership by 100% over the next six years with Brian Dillons GAA Club and Douglas Community Centre expecting a 50% growth in membership numbers over the same period.

In addition to this, a number of organisations identified that their growth would require, or could be accelerated by, additional facilities, including:

- Hockey Ireland;
- Innishvilla Soccer Club;
- Highfield RFS;
- Belvedere Hockey Club.

Adequacy of ARI in the Study Area

Having identified and exploring the future need for additional ARI, the OSA then focused on the quantum of existing ARI within the Survey Area by asking respondents to confirm if there is adequate ARI to support their organisations.

Despite the significant quantum of ARI distributed throughout the Study Area (as identified in Map 1), more than three quarters (76%) of respondents do not feel that there is adequate ARI within Cork City to support their organisation. A total of 123 responses were recorded for this question.

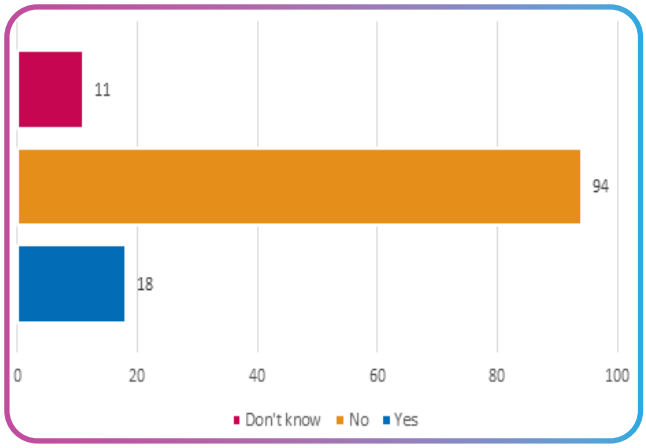


Figure 5.5: Responses to '*Do you feel there is adequate active recreation infrastructure within Cork City to support your organisation*'?

Spatial Needs/Issues of ARI Organisations

Questions 8 and 9 of the Online Survey Audit were included to help identify the spatial needs, and the current issues, of recreation/sporting organisations within the Study Area and to help identify any gaps in ARI provision to inform the Study recommendations relating to planning policy and investment priorities.

To avoid duplication within this Study, we provide further discussion and analysis of Questions 8 and 9 of the Online Survey Audit within the next Section of the Study, entitled 'Active Recreation Infrastructure - Spatial Analysis' (i.e. Section 6).

However, the following is of note with respect to Questions 8 and 9:

- Q8 – 122 (i.e. 78%) of the 156 OSA respondents identified a spatial need; and
- Q9 – 118 (i.e. 75.6%) of the 156 OSA respondents identified a specific ARI issue.

Online Survey Audit Findings – ARI Used by Respondent Organisations

We set out below a textual and visual analysis (using bar, column and pie charts) of the OSA findings with respect to ARI that the respondent ARI organisations use within the Study Area, as extracted from the responses to Questions 10 – 38 of the OSA.

ARI Types

Responses to Questions 10 and 25 of the OSA help the Study Team to understand the types of ARI located within the Study Area. Figure 5.6 illustrates the responses to this question and it is clear that 'Outdoor' ARI is the most prevalent within the Study Area followed by 'Indoor' and 'Aquatic' type ARI. A total of 168 responses were recorded for this question as some respondents selected more than one answer.

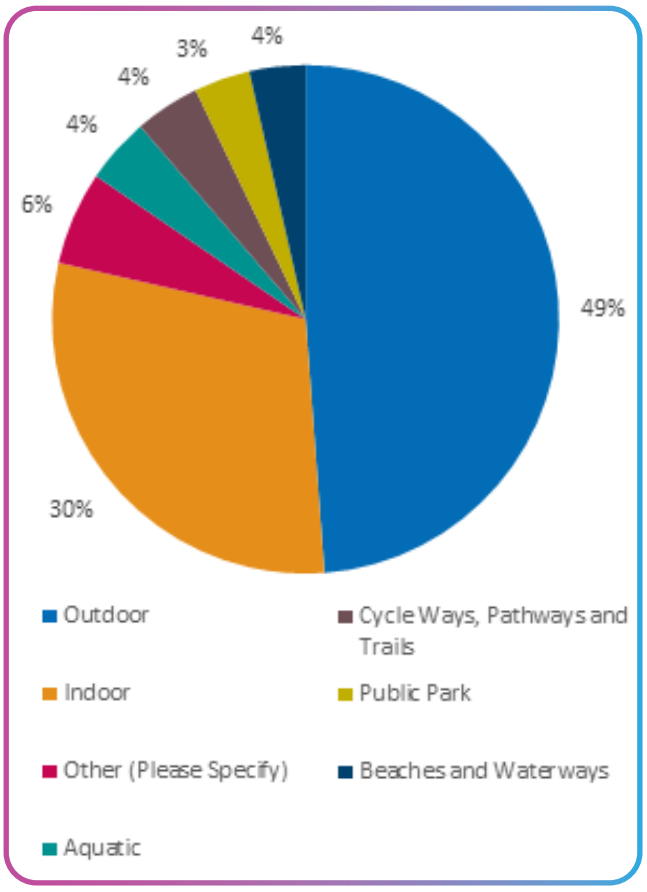


Figure 5.6: Responses to '*Please select from the below the option that best describes the facility type*'.

ARI Ownership

Respondents were then asked to indicate ownership details of the ARI that they use to enable the Study Team to compile an overall ownership profile.

It is clear from Figure 5.7 below that the majority of ARI is owned directly by the 'Club / Organisation' (i.e. 43 responses/36%) and that a quarter of respondents indicated that the ARI is 'Public property/Local Authority' owned (i.e. 30 responses/25%). It is also clear that a significant amount of respondents utilise ARI owned by educational organisations. A total of 121 responses were recorded for this question.

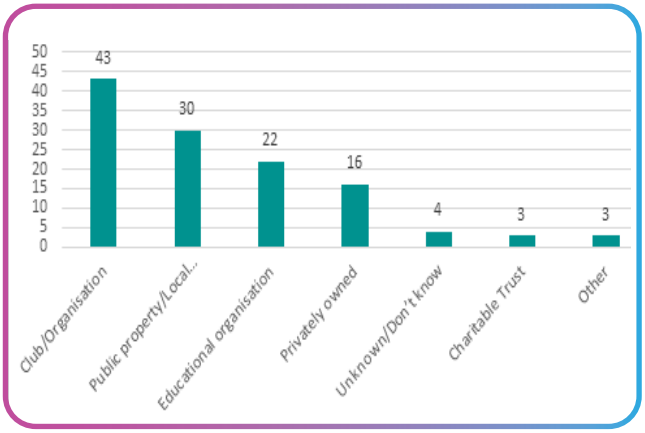


Figure 5.7: Responses to '*Who owns the facility*'?

ARI Management, Maintenance and Refurbishment

Questions 12 and 27 of the OSA asked respondents to identify who is responsible for maintaining/managing the ARI with the majority of ARI being maintained/managed by an 'In-house Team' followed by 'Local Authority). A total of 115 responses were recorded for this question.

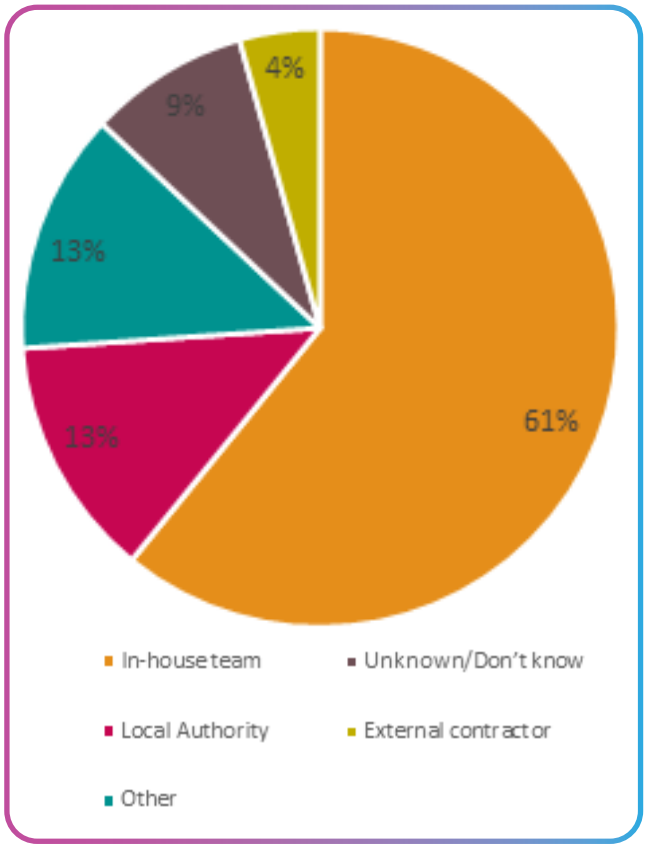


Figure 5.8: Responses to '*Who is responsible for maintaining/ managing the facility*'?

Questions 15 and 31 seek to formulate an understanding of the level of satisfaction that respondents have with respect to the quality of ARI maintenance. Positively, over half of respondents indicated a 'Very Well Maintained' and 'Well Maintained' response with a further 29% indicating an 'Adequately Maintained' response.

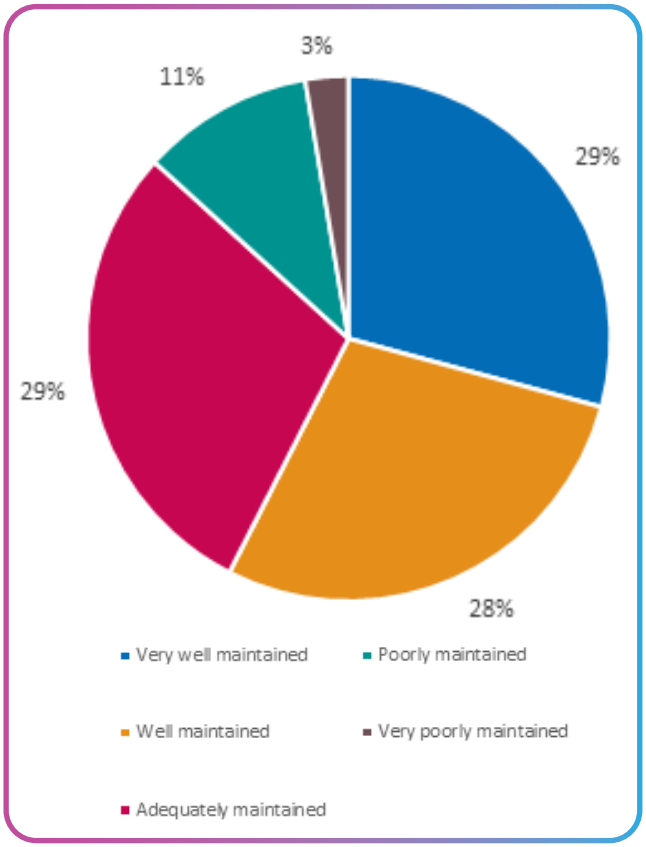


Figure 5.9: Responses to '*How well do you feel the facility is maintained*'?

In addition to the foregoing, Questions 17 and 32 of the OSA asked respondents to confirm if the ARI that they use requires refurbishment and/or improvement.

Interestingly, and despite the majority of respondents indicating a positive maintenance satisfaction rating, 80 (67%) respondents, out of the 119 that provided a response to these questions, consider their facility needs to be refurbished/improved.

This is an important finding of the OSA and provides additional rationale for policy and funding to support the continued improvement of existing ARI within the Study Area.

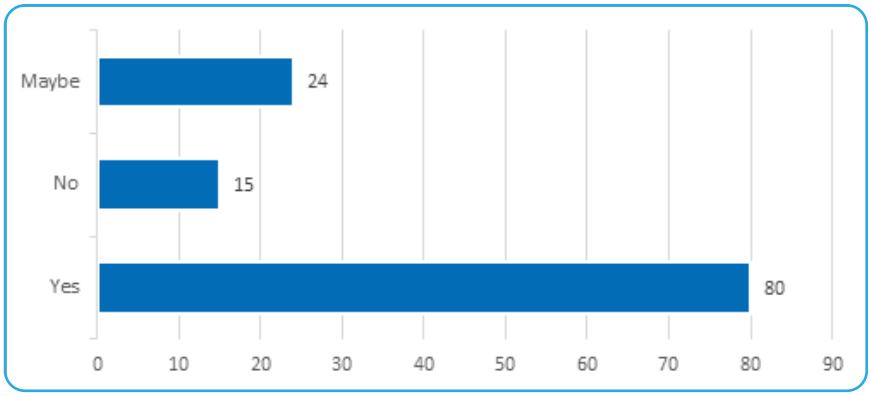


Figure 5.10: Responses to *'Do you feel the facility needs to be refurbished/improved'*?

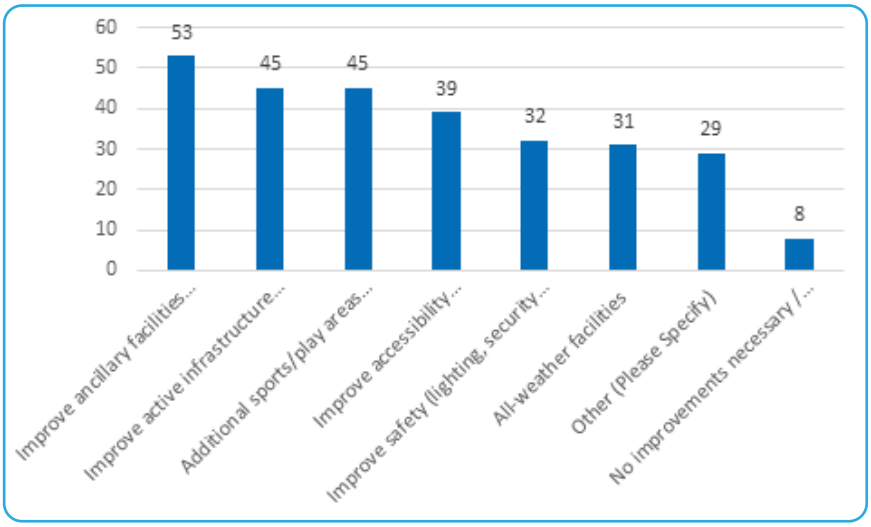


Figure 5.11: Responses to *'Please specify what works are required'*.

In terms of the specific works required to refurbish/improve the existing ARI used by the respondent organisations, the most selected upgrades selected include 'Improve Ancillary Facilities (changing areas, car parking, etc)' followed by 'Improve Active Infrastructure (pitch, play area, nets, etc) and 'Additional Sports/Play Areas (additional pitches, activity areas, etc).

Ancillary ARI Provision

Questions 13, 16, 29 and 30 of the OSA seek to enable the Study Team to develop an understanding of the types of ancillary facilities that either form part of the existing ARI offer within the Study Area, or that respondents would like to see developed as part of the ARI that they use.

A number of ancillary/support facilities typically associated with ARI were identified under Questions 13, 16, 29 and 30 and respondents were asked to tick the ancillary/support facilities relevant to the ARI that they use.

Responses to Questions 16 and 29 identify 'Car Parking', 'Toilets' and 'Changing Rooms' as the top ancillary uses provided as part of the ARI offer within the Study Area.

Interestingly, and as identified in Figure 5.12, these ancillary facilities are also ranked highest among the additional ancillary facilities that respondents would like to see developed as part of the ARI that they use (identified by the responses to Questions 13 and 30).

These findings highlight that while a significant proportion of the ARI within the Study Area provide these types of ancillary facilities, respondents consider that they can be improved/increased.

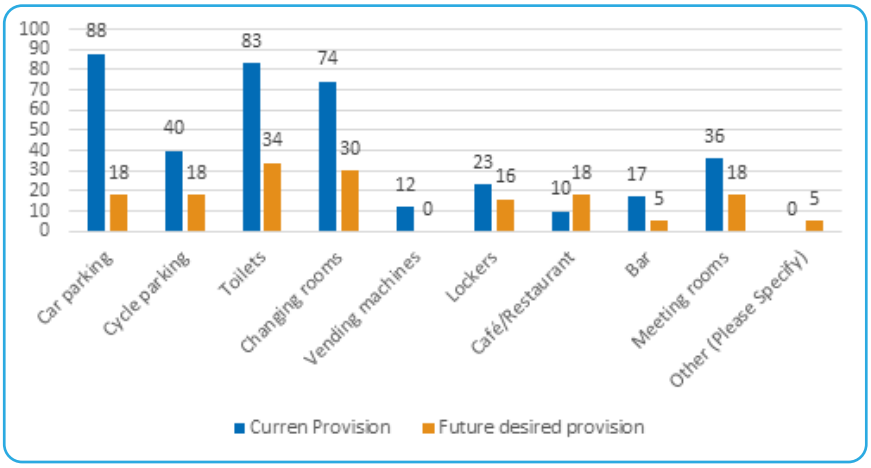


Figure 5.12: Responses to *'What ancillary provision does the facility currently provide?' compared with responses to 'What other/additional ancillary uses would you like to see developed at the facility?'*

ARI User Accessibility

Respondents were then asked to identify ARI user accessibility. The responses to Questions 13 and 28 of the OSA indicate that the ARI is most commonly accessible to 'Members Only' and a less proportion accessible to the wider 'Public'.

Positively, a large proportion of the ARI used has been identified as a 'Shared-Use' facility. However, it is not clear if the organisations who use the shared facilities, such as school grounds, allow all of the community or members only to access the facilities.

Nevertheless, Figure 5.13 shows that there is still some work to do in terms of ensuring equal access by all to the ARI within the Study Area.

Figure 5.13: Responses to '*Who is the facility accessible to*'?

ARI Accessibility

Questions 19 and 35 asked respondents to confirm if they consider there to be adequate footpaths, cycleways and/or roads serving their ARI to allow for safe access. Positively, 80% of the 91 respondents that selected a quantitative response, i.e. either 'Yes, 'No, 'Maybe or 'Don't Know', feel there is adequate footpaths, cycleways or roads serving the facility to allow for safe access.

It is noted that a further 24 respondents provided detailed comments with respect to accessibility of the ARI that they utilise and these comments are reproduced at **Appendix 5** for reference.

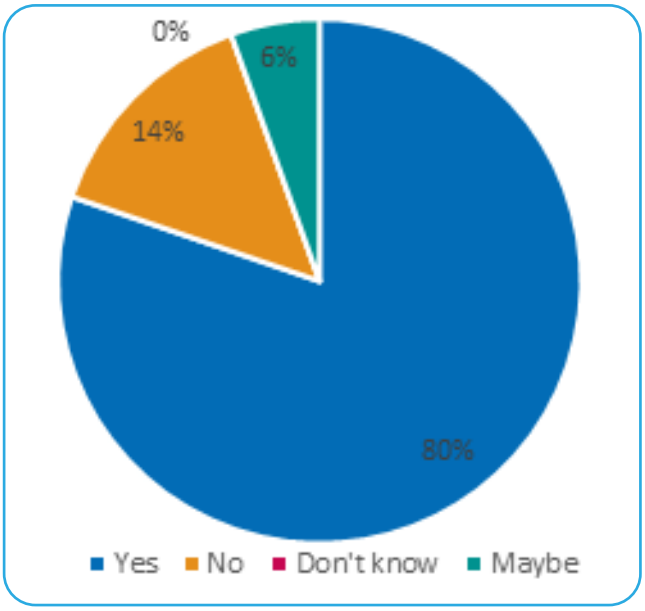


Figure 5.14: Responses to '*Do you feel there is adequate footpaths, cycleways or roads serving the facility to allow for safe access*'?

In terms of mode of transport, an overwhelming majority (76%) of the 115 respondents to Questions 20 and 34 of the OSA indicated that they use the private car to travel to the ARI with active travel modes scoring the next highest (i.e. walking and cycling with a combined 20%). Public transport (i.e. the bus) received a worryingly low score (3.5%).

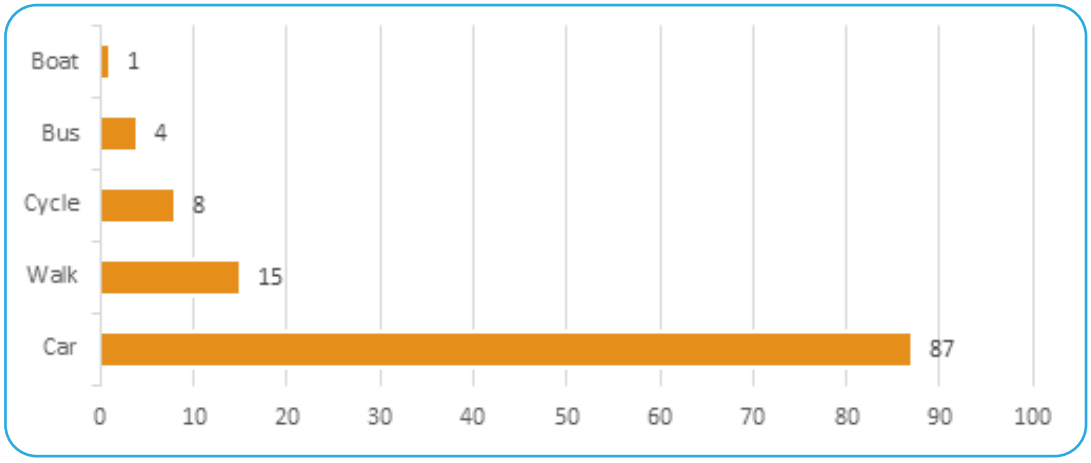


Figure 5.15: Responses to '*How do you normally travel to the facility*'?

ARI Utilisation

The remaining questions of the OSA, i.e. Questions 21/36, 22/37 and 23/38, sought responses from the respondents to help the Study Team understand usage and capacity trends with respect to the ARI identified.

Questions 21 and 36 of the OSA asked respondents to describe the number of users of the ARI that they use. The responses to these questions indicate that the majority of ARI cited has either a 'Very high number of users (Too many users/waiting list)' (22%) or a 'High number of users' (43%). This is further evidence of the need to deliver new and/or improved ARI within the Study Area. A total of 126 responses were received for this question.

In terms of ARI usage, weekends were selected as the most popular day for organisations but there is also a strong usage demand during weekdays.

In terms of usage peaks, the responses to Questions 23 and 38 indicate that there is an almost even spread of usage demand throughout the different times of day that organisations typically use their facility.

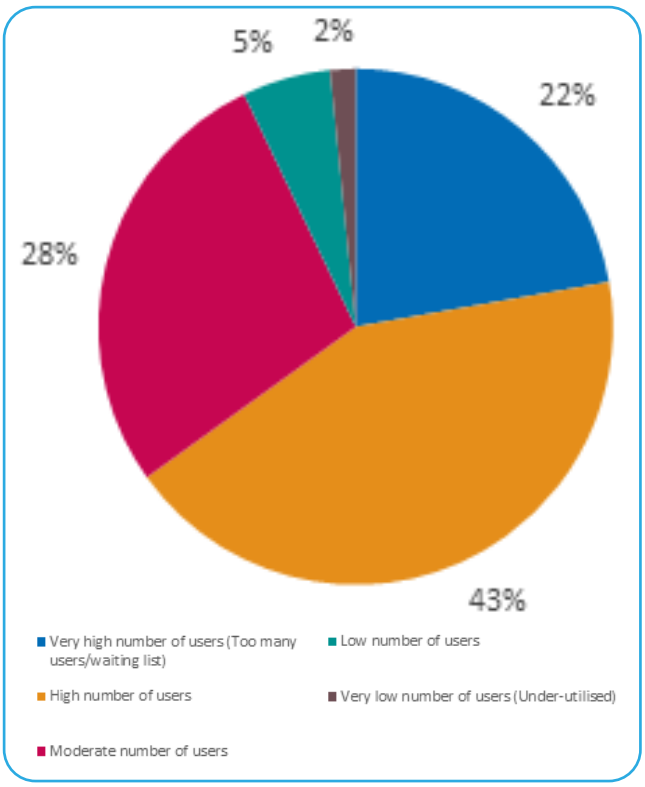


Figure 5.16: Responses to *'Please select from the below, the option(s) that best describes the number of users of the facility'*.

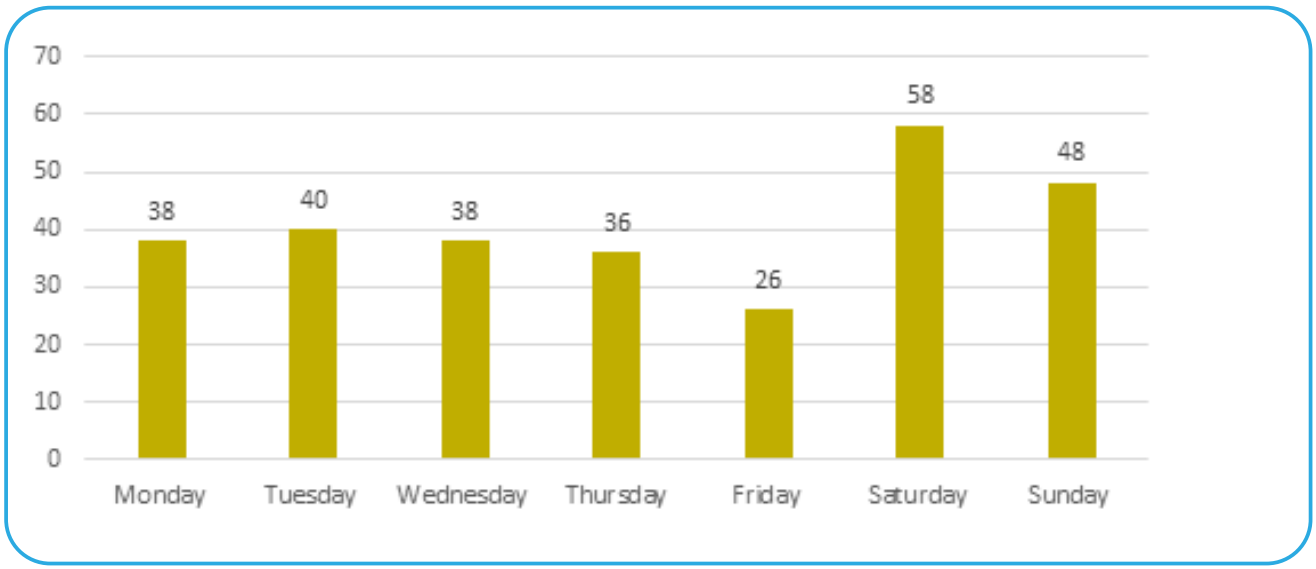


Figure 5.18: Responses to *'What time of day does your organisation normally use the facility? Please select all that apply.'*

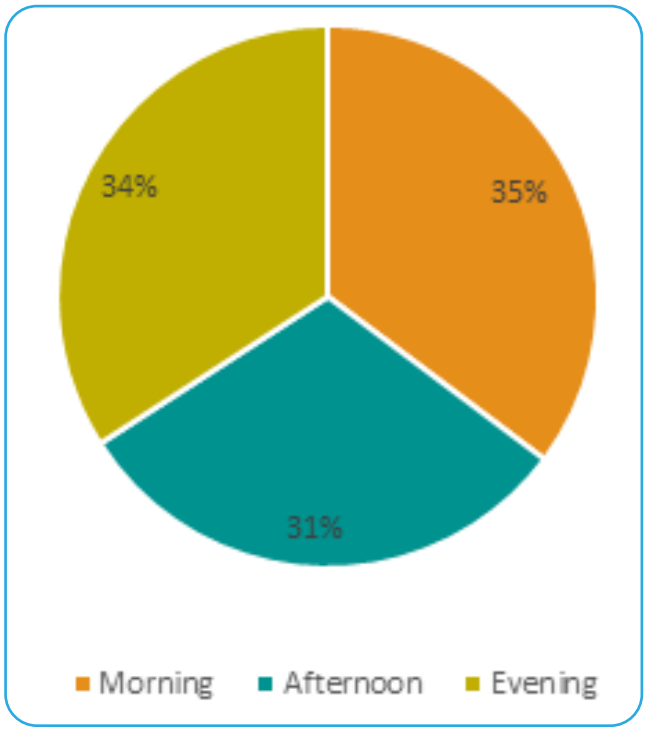


Figure 5.17: Responses to *'What days of the week does your organisation normally use the facility? Please select all that apply'*?

OSA – Findings and Recommendations

In terms of the Online Survey Audit (OSA), the following strategic findings are noted:

- 76% of the respondents indicated that the ARI within Cork City is not adequate to support their organisations;
- 88% of the respondents expect their organisation to grow its membership over the next six years; and
- 65% of respondents advised that their facilities have either a 'Very High Number of Users (Too Many Users/Waiting List)' (22%) or a 'High Number of Users' (43%).

The above responses demonstrate a clear strategic and spatial need for continued investment to improve/upkeep existing ARI and to deliver new ARI which will help to:

- support the existing recreation/sporting organisations;
- alleviate the existing demand for recreation/sporting facilities; and
- accommodate the growing recreation/sporting membership base.

06 Stakeholder Engagement

Introduction

Stakeholder Engagement was undertaken as one-to-one meetings[6] with key sporting/recreation stakeholders active in Cork City to help our understanding of the:

- Quantity and quality of existing Active Recreation Infrastructure in Cork City;
- Future recreational needs of the City up to 2028 and beyond; and
- Views of active recreation infrastructure users and their support networks

Methodology

We identify below the key elements of the agreed methodology with respect to the one-to-one stakeholder meetings:

- The following list of key active recreation/sporting stakeholders was identified by the Study Team following the completion of the Stakeholder Audit exercise.

List of Key Stakeholders Agreed with Cork City Council (CCC)	
Hockey Ireland	Cork GAA
Athletics Ireland	Rowing Ireland
Munster and Cricket Ireland	Munster Technology University
Munster Rugby	University College Cork
FAI and Soccer	Cork Sports Partnership
Ladies Gaelic Football Association	

- A set of questions was prepared by the Study Team in accordance with the Tender Brief requirements to obtain additional and strategic information to support the Online Survey Audit and address other elements of the Study.
- The list of key stakeholders and set of questions were issued to CCC for review and approval.
- CCC's Project Team approved the list of key stakeholders and the set of questions.
- Following approval from CCC, the stakeholders were contacted via email to arrange one-to-one meetings via an internet conferencing network such as Microsoft Teams and Zoom.
- The key stakeholder consultations were undertaken in tandem with the Online Survey Audit, which was distributed to clubs, groups, and organisations throughout the City, as detailed previously in Section 5.0.
- Following completion of the key stakeholder consultations, the Study Team provided CCC with a copy of the minutes to help identify initial findings and discussion points and commenced a detailed review of the feedback/comments provided.

Importantly, these consultations have enabled the Study Team to make key conclusions and recommendations with respect to the following strategic themes:

- Sporting Organisation Growth
- Funding Opportunities
- Role of NGBs and Educational Establishments
- Active Recreation Infrastructure Provision
- Active Recreation Infrastructure Demand/Need
- Cork City Activity Levels
- Active Recreation Trends
- Active Recreation Hubs
- Role of Cork City Development Plan
- Sport and Leisure Tourism

6 *Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, these consultations were undertaken via remote video conferencing.*

Key Stakeholder Consultations

We set out below a detailed list of the organisations and the relevant personnel (name and role) who attended the one-to-one meetings and provided valuable insights/feedback/commentary to help inform the Study and our recommendations:

Sport or Group	Stakeholder	Contact Name	Role
Cricket	Munster and Cricket Ireland	Joseph Moynihan	General Manager of Munster Cricket / Regional Development Officer Cricket Ireland
Cricket	Munster Cricket	David Griffin	Chairman of Munster Cricket
Hockey	Hockey Ireland	Phil Oakley	Coach Education Manager / Munster RDM
Athletics	Athletics Ireland	Hamish Adams	Chief Executive Officer
Rugby	Munster Rugby	Philip Quinn and Ian Dunne	Chief Operating Officer / Facilities Manager
Higher Education	Munster Technology University	Cian O'Neil	Head of Department – Sport, Leisure and Childhood Studies
Higher Education	Munster Technology University	Paul Gallagher	Senior Management Team
Higher Education	Munster Technology University	Andrea Bickerdike	Assistant Lecturer – Health and Wellbeing Initiative
Sports Partnership	Cork Sports Partnership	Kristine Meenaghan	Coordinator
Sports Partnership	Cork Sports Partnership	Kate Feeney	Sports Inclusion Disability Officer
Sports Partnership	Cork Sports Partnership	James Kirby	Sports Development Officer
Sports Partnership	Cork Sports Partnership	Craig Harrington	Athletics Development Officer
Soccer	Former Cork City FC	Paul Wycherley	Former CEO of Cork City FC
Higher Education	University College Cork	Morgan Buckley	Head of Sport & Physical Activity
Higher Education	University College Cork	Christine O'Donnell	Senior Management Team
Higher Education	University College Cork	Emma Martin	Senior Management Team
Rowing	Ireland Rowing	Derek Bowen	Development Manager Lead
GAA	Cork GAA	Kevin O'Donovan	Secretary/CEO
LGFA	Ladies Gaelic Football Association	John Henchion	Member of Field Sub Committee

Overview of One-to-One Stakeholder Consultations

The table below provides an overview of the one-to-one stakeholder consultations carried out by the consultancy team. A detailed copy of the minutes can be found at **Appendix 6** of the Study

Stakeholder	Consultation Summary	Specific ARI Needs
Hockey Ireland	This consultation was undertaken with Phil Oakley who is the National Coach Education Manager for Hockey Ireland and the developmental manager for hockey within Munster. Hockey Ireland is the governing body for field hockey in both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Hockey Ireland are currently in the development of a new strategic plan with a playing membership of around 4,000 within the Munster province alone (up from 2,000 12 years ago). This plan at a national and regional level will focus on the growth of the junior game with particular emphasis on the male pathway. Within Cork there are a total of 7 active clubs playing at 6 local facilities, as well as using additional school facilities on an ad-hoc basis when required. With this lack of playing facilities their current clubs are currently at capacity for new members, especially with respect to female hockey teams. These restrictions have resulted in waiting lists for clubs, especially within the southern portion of the City/Study Area where the majority of hockey is played. The overall quality of the facilities is good with two sites needing to be resurfaced within the next couple of years, potentially through capital funding grants. Due to the lack of playing facilities for hockey, there is an obvious need to increase the stock of AGP pitches that are available in order to cater for the current and predicated growth in hockey membership numbers. It is anticipated that playing numbers will grow by an additional 10% over the next 5 years, and possibly more, if the senior teams have a positive outcome in the Olympics. In total, 2 additional pitches should be created, one more pitch for club use and one pitch to act as a regional training centre and home for hockey within Munster, but which can be used by schools and clubs when possible as well as senior training and match sessions. Hockey Ireland is also a supporter of the multi-use hub site approach, which was referenced by a number of the stakeholder consultees, and which was said to be a successful model used in many European countries. Through building and fostering relationships between different sporting organisations opportunities can be explored where ARI and other sport infrastructure can be shared for the benefit of all and to maximise ARI sites, particularly in areas where land is limited.. This approach which seeks to develop synergies between sporting organisations can help to secure s=additional ARI through the development of stronger business cases for capital funding. Higher educational entities, such as UCC and MTU, can also form part of, and be important members of, a multi-purpose sporting hub approach, particularly if they have specific ARI needs to be addressed.	2 no. additional hockey pitches. An additional pitch is required specifically for club use and a further pitch is required which can act as a regional training centre and home for Hockey within Munster, but which can also be used by schools and clubs, when possible, as well as senior matches and training, when possible. Specific need identified within the southern portion of the City/Study Area. Expressed interest in exploring potential opportunity to deliver a multi-sport hub to cater for a range of sport needs, including hockey.

Athletics Ireland	This consultation was undertaken with Hamish Adams who is the CEO of Athletics Ireland. Athletics Ireland is the governing body for athletics in Ireland, with athletics defined as including track and field athletics, road running, race walking, cross country running, mountain running and ultra-distance running. Athletics has a strong base within Cork City with including community participation use throughout the City at various locations that are hired by clubs. Similar to other sports, there is a lack of accessible facilities to cater for the current and predicted future demand of athletics within the City. Currently a number of clubs have waiting lists to access club provision which inhibits the growth of certain key target areas through the national strategy. Athletics Ireland wish to communicate the continued need for improvements to athletic facilities throughout the City in addition to the construction of a new athletics centre at MTU, which will be used for the community and student body. The 1st phase of this project, to be completed in 2021 will include a dual use indoor and outdoor track and associated ancillary facilities. In regard to future trends, it is expected that athletics will continue to grow and develop post Covid-19 due to the highlighted growth of walking and running activities during recent 'lockdown' restrictions. Athletics Ireland is looking to capitalise on this latent demand by turning these informal activities into formal clubs and groups to increase the athletics membership base.	Need for additional accessible facilities to cater for the current and predicted future demand of athletics within the City, which is in addition to the new athletics centre at MTU. Upgrades to existing athletic facilities also identified as a priority to cater for growing interest in athletics, particularly the growth in walking and running levels during the 'Covid-19' pandemic.

Munster Cricket Union and Cricket Ireland	This consultation was undertaken with David Griffan, Chairman at Munster Cricket Union and Joseph Moynihan who is the Regional Cricket Manager at Munster Cricket Union and Developmental Officer for Cricket Ireland. Munster Cricket Union is one of five provincial governing bodies for cricket in Ireland. Along with the Connacht, Northern, Leinster and North West unions, it makes up the Irish Cricket Union, the supreme governing body of Irish cricket. The Irish Cricket Union, operating under the brand Cricket Ireland is the sport's governing body in Ireland, and organises the international team. There are currently 3 cricket clubs located within the Study Area with all of these clubs currently operating at capacity due to a lack of available cricket pitches. These clubs comprise 16 teams in total throughout the senior and junior sections which equates to approx. 450 members, which can vary from season to season. Work is currently ongoing between the regional governing bodies and local schools to grow the membership base and interest in the sport. An example of this is the work being undertaken directly with 6 primary schools and coaching being provided to 10/12 children per school. The aim is to secure a 30-40% retention rate from these children which would see them wanting to join local clubs. Programmes like these are expected to increase following the appointment of a new cricket Development Officer. Cricket Ireland is also adopting a similar type of strategy nationally to help promote the support and encourage growth in its membership base. There is a demand for new cricket pitches, both grass and artificial, within the Study Area, which is reinforced by the fact that new cricket members are currently being put on waiting lists for the 3 cricket clubs, partly due to the lack of pitches and also due to issues relating to the lack of availability of support staff. It is noted that the national and regional governing bodies are seeking to develop the women and girls' game as well as participation by BAME groups. Munster Cricket Union and Cricket Ireland has identified a need for at least one more grass pitch and one artificial pitch to cope with this future demand and for clubs to lease on an ad-hoc basis when needed. This additional pitch provision should be in addition to, and in conjunction with, plans to develop a regional Munster Cricket site to act as a training and match day site for the Munster teams, club training, schools use, youth blitz and summer camps. Munster cricket are supportive of a collaborative ad joined up working approach, particularly with other NGB's who wish to explore the option of delivering a multi-sport hub site to provide a more robust business case going forward. Sports identified as having potential synergies, due to the physical space needed and seasonal requirements/demands, could include hockey, rugby and soccer. A Regional Cricket facility could have the added benefit of providing facilities, and act as an attraction, for the sport and leisure tourist by accommodating touring cricket sides and bringing a new tourism opportunity into the City.	Need for at least 1 no. new grass pitch and 1 no. new artificial pitch to cope with current demand and anticipated future growth in participation levels. In addition, a need has been identified for a regional Munster Cricket site to act as a training and match day site for the Munster teams, club training, schools use, youth blitz and summer camps. Expressed interest in exploring potential opportunity to deliver a multi-sport hub to cater for a range of sport needs, including cricket.

Munster Rugby	This consultation was undertaken with Philip Quinn, Chief Operating Officer of Munster Rugby and Ian Dunne who is the Facilities Manager at Munster Rugby. Munster Rugby is one of the four professional provincial rugby teams from the island of Ireland. They compete in the United Rugby Championship and the European Rugby Champions Cup. The team represents the IRFU's Munster Branch, which is responsible for rugby union throughout the Irish province of Munster. There are currently 8 clubs within the Cork City region and 4 Secondary schools who are in formal cup competitions. This equates to an estimate membership base of over 3,000 players, which includes 200 female members/players/coaches/etc. Munster rugby also run extensive school development programs through their Regional Officers which include 14 national schools, 6 girls' secondary schools and 11 boy's secondary schools with an estimated 1,700 pupils, based on 2019 figures. These figures demonstrate an extensive supply of rugby members within the City, but it has been stated that the existing clubs are struggling to meet the demands for playing pitches. This is especially important in the ever growing female sections of the sport which require additional changing facilities as well as additional pitch space. It is noted that the National Women's Development plan and age grade participation programmes in Girls Secondary Schools are a key part of the rugby development strategy in Cork City. There is currently only one WR22 artificial grass pitch currently available in Cork City, located at Musgrave Park. This pitch is available for community use and is not limited to just rugby union as it is also used by soccer and some GAA clubs. New AGP rugby pitches have been identified as an urgent additional development need to help cater for increasing participation numbers. These new AGP pitches should be floodlit to cater for winter training demand and evening match playing times. The potential for a community rugby hub site should also be explored in collaboration between Munster Rugby, local clubs, and educational establishments (such as MTU and UCC) as all of these organisations are looking for pitch improvements. There is an opportunity to develop a business case for this community rugby hub in collaboration with other compatible sports as this could help to provide a stronger business case for grant aid funding applications noting the ability to share ancillary facilities. This type of collaboration and development of high quality multi-sport hubs would also help to enhance Cork City's credentials as a sport and leisure destination and it could also help to facilitate touring teams and could be a potential venue for international games.	At least 2 new AGP rugby pitches have been identified as an urgent additional development need to help cater for increasing participation numbers. The new AGP pitches should be floodlit to cater for winter training demand and evening match playing times. It was noted that the Study Area is benefited by a number of good quality and accessible pitches but there are some pitches that are underutilised due to a lack of involvement in the sport in the surrounding area and/or a lack of AGP facilities. Expressed interest in exploring potential opportunity to deliver a multi-sport hub to cater for a range of sport needs, including hockey.

FAI and Soccer	This consultation was held with Paul Wycherly, being the CEO of Cork City Football Club. Paul has excellent knowledge of the local soccer context within the Study Area and can provide an overview of development trends and needs. Soccer has been identified as being potentially one of the largest sports within the City, in terms of clubs and playing numbers with roughly circa 10,000 playing members in a variety of age groups. Similar to other sports, there is a lack of accessible and quality playing facilities within the City, especially in regard to winter training provision on artificial grass pitches. Due to winter weather and the poor quality at some sites, a number of matches have been called off as a result of drainage/flooding issues. To counter these issues a number of artificial grass pitches should be installed to allow for more training demand to be allocated to these surfaces. If more training was allocated on AGP pitches this would allow grass pitches to recover better and enable more maintenance to be performed. Outlined a need for a more joined up/unified approach among the different sports types and ARI provision within the Study Area to help ensure better quality pitches are provided along with ancillary facilities which could cater for a range of sports and groups. The FAI is still in discussion and plans to construct a centre of excellence within the area.	Need for additional accessible and quality playing pitches and facilities within the City, particularly artificial grass pitches for winter training. No specific number stated. Expressed interest in exploring potential opportunity to deliver a multi-sport hub to cater for a range of sport needs, including soccer. FAI is still considering plans to construct a centre of excellence within the Study Area.
Ladies Gaelic Football Association	Ladies Gaelic football is a rapidly growing and developing sport within the area and wider region. In 2019, Ladies Gaelic Football was the fastest growing sport in Ireland and is likely to continue to be so for the next number of years. In 2019, Cork County Board had 77 clubs affiliated with a total membership of 12,986 being an increase of over 23% over the previous 4 years. New clubs continue to affiliate, and the number is now over 80. Almost 10,000 of those members are under the age of 18 years where numbers continue to grow which will see increases in adult playing population on a large proportion over the next 10 years. Such growth, while extremely welcome, gives Cork County Board a serious challenge to provide games and support to ensure that all girls get to continue to participate in this sport. Cork has the second largest membership, being second only to Dublin and having more members than all other Munster Counties combined. Cork field teams at all competition grades to include Senior, Under 21, Minor (Under18), Under 17, Under 16 and Under 14, as well as having development squads at Under 15 and Under 13 ages. Development Squads are also arranged on a regional basis for Under 13s and Under 15s to promote the skills of all girls while Summer Camps take place throughout the County using the experience of the Inter County players. Cork teams train at a myriad of grounds relying on the hospitality of local clubs as well as incurring significant costs in excess of €20,000 in hiring facilities such as from UCC at The Farm, CIT, Mallow and Cloughduv. In terms of future development trends and facility needs, the anticipated growth is expected to be planned for an excess of 15,000 members by 2023. One of the obvious ways to account for this growth would be to develop a bespoke training ground / hub site for the development of the sport and capable of holding events across all age groups and standards. This multi pitch hub site will be used for training and match play and would potentially have 3G and Sand based AGP pitches, grass pitches and associated ancillary facilities. Other sports have not been approached to present an aligned bid, but the association is open to this discussion. There is capital potential from the selling of other land outside of the Study Area to accommodate rezoning of current land within the Cork City boundary.	Need to develop a bespoke training ground / hub site for the development of the ladies GAA which is capable of holding events across all age groups and standards. The multi pitch hub site will be used for training and match play and would potentially have 3G and sand based AGP pitches, grass pitches and associated ancillary facilities. Noted potential land available to the west of the City which could accommodate new facilities. Expressed interest in exploring potential opportunity to deliver a multi-sport hub to cater for a range of sport needs, including ladies GAA football.

Cork GAA	This consultation was undertaken with Kevin O'Donovan who is the acting secretary and CEO of Cork GAA. The Cork County Board of the Gaelic Athletic Association or Cork GAA is one of the 32 county boards of the GAA in Ireland, and is responsible for Gaelic games in County Cork and the Cork county teams. It is one of the constituent counties of Munster GAA. GAA is a key sport, and one of the highest participated sports, within the Study Area. GAA has a traditional base within the Study Area and requires local players to play for their local teams. As a result, the location of new and larger housing developments could dramatically impact on the capacity of existing clubs. Many clubs within the Study Area are currently at capacity in terms of playing numbers. There is a need for an increase in artificial pitches for training demand to help alleviate pressure on existing grass pitches. There has also been a longstanding and strong connection between Cork GAA and local education establishments which is expected to continue with additional revenue being targeted towards appointing more development coaches in schools. Younger and juvenile teams are more flexible In their ability to play and train on altered pitches and artificial pitches compared to senior teams.	Need outlined for additional playing pitches particularly in areas where new growth is anticipated and new/ large residential developments will be delivered. Need for additional artificial pitches to accommodate training requirements and help to protect the grass pitches which can be overused. GAA is unique in that the need is localized noting that players are required to play for their 'local' club based on their address of residence.
Rowing Ireland	This consultation was undertaken with Derek Bowen who is the Get Rowing Program Manager and Roisin Merz the Local Development Officer and Club Member within Cork. Rowing Ireland is the governing body of rowing for Ireland. It is a cross-border organisation administering the sport in both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Rowing participation within the Study Area is considered to be strong, particularly within the club and educational circuit due to the location of UCC on the River Lee and near the docklands. Growth and development are particularly strong within the junior section which runs to Under-18. Female participation tends to be lower than males participation after the Under-15 age group. The biggest barrier for rowing within the Study Area is considered to be the lack of equipment and coaches available creating waiting lists for clubs. Rowing Ireland is working on this with hosting coaching courses and online platforms but many of these coaches are volunteers. A physical barrier for the sport within the Study Area is accessibility issues in terms of and the lack of ancillary uses to get to the marina location with a large cohort of members and equipment. Outlined interest in pursuing a collaborative approach with other water based ARI clubs within the marina and docklands areas to explore the potential to create/deliver a hub site that could connect with and complement any Active Travel proposals and the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy. The hub site could be used for a range of activities including rowing regattas, walking, running and outdoor activities with involvement from local businesses and community organisations welcomed.	Scope to explore additional need for a new slipway along the River Lee. Need identified for ancillary facilities such as access, parking, equipment storage, changing areas/toilets/ showers, etc. The Marina and Dockland areas identified as being particularly underdeveloped. Expressed interest in working collaboratively with other water based sports to explore the potential opportunity to deliver a hub site that could tie in with Active Travel and Green Infrastructure strategies.

Munster Technology University (MTU)	This consultation was conducted with Dr Cian O'Neil and Paul Gallagher who make up part of the Senior Management team at Munster Technology University (MTU). MTU is a multi-campus technological university, consisting of six campuses in Cork and Kerry. It was established in January 2021 following the merger between the two Institutes of Technology, i.e. Cork Institute of Technology and IT Tralee. MTU comprises over 18,000 students and 2,000 members of staff. MTU is anticipating significant growth over the next 10 – 15 years and notes that their sports and leisure facilities strategy will need to align with this anticipated growth to accommodate the future needs. It is noted that a number of the MTU's sport pitches and facilities are used by the local community and national/regional governing bodies. This arrangement has enabled strong connections to be created with the community and this collaborative partnership allows for MTU to seek capital funding grants. MTU is currently in Phase 1 of constructing a bespoke athletic facility for community use and is working/collaborating closely with Athletics Ireland. The new facility will be available to hire by schools, clubs and other community groups as well as by the university. MTU is aware of the need to increase AGP pitch provision in order to cater for winter training and to allow grass pitches to be protected and used specifically for matches. MTU has advised that there is land located close to the university which is available but that this land would need to be rezoned to deliver a connected sport and leisure hub. MTU envisages that this new land, if rezoned, could be linked with a Science Park for the university and allow for the creation of a new campus to locate a number of departments into a single location and provide floorspace for shared workspaces. MTU are exploring opportunities to support active travel measures between its campus and the City Centre as well as to student accommodation locations off campus. This approach seeks to create a more active and healthier student campus and provide a synergy between the City and University.	Need to rezone land located in close proximity to the MTU campus to deliver additional ARI and to cater for future growth in student numbers and subsequent demand for ARI. MTU seeking to deliver AGP pitches where possible to protect the quality of grass pitches and enable higher usage for training requirements.

University College Cork (UCC)	This consultation was conducted with the Sport & Physical Activity group of UCC which included Morgan Buckley, Christine O'Donnell and Emma Martin. UCC has a student population of just over 21,000 and is located in close proximity to Cork City Centre (to the south east)., UCC has a large sport club membership base with over 50 clubs which equates to roughly 5,000 members covering a range of outdoor and indoor sports. Much like many other higher educational establishments, UCC is expecting a growth in students over the next 10 years and will need additional ARI to cater for this anticipated growth and subsequent demand for facilities/services. UCC consider the existing ARI provision on campus to be quite limited and note that student clubs have to utilise many community pitches and sites throughout the City to accommodate their training and match requirements. UCC has expressed a particular need for more artificial grass pitches across all sports, which are floodlit, to meet the current provision and latent demand. Being a higher educational institution, UCC is unable to directly apply for capital grant funding. Consequently, UCC is seeking to develop relationships with local clubs and NGBs to enable it to prepare and submit applications for grant funding to deliver ARI. UCC owns lands which can accommodate new ARI and proposals are to be developed further along with the ongoing campus masterplan.	Need for more artificial grass pitches across all sports, which are floodlit, to meet the current and latent demand. UCC are seeking to develop relationships with local clubs and NGBs to enable applications for grant funding to deliver ARI. UCC owns lands which can accommodate new ARI and proposals are to be developed further along with the ongoing campus masterplan.
Cork Sports Partnership (CSP)	This consultation was undertaken with Ciaran O'Sullivan - Head of Development and Basketball Development Officer within Basketball Ireland, Craig Harrington -Athletics Development Officer, James Kirby Sports - Development Officer and Kate Feeney - Sports Inclusion and Disability Officer. Cork Local Sports Partnership CLG was established as part of a national network of 29 Local Sports Partnerships (LSPs) to help people to get active and remove barriers to participation in sport and physical activity for all. CSP delivers many important ARI schemes throughout the City and County. CSP has a core focus of developing sport in disadvantaged and deprived areas CSP is also focused on creating links between primary and secondary schools and local clubs and school development officers have been appointed to help improve sport participation In terms of direct barriers to sport participation, CSP have outlined a need for additional indoor ARI facilities across the Study Area as a number of clubs are considered to be at capacity. Investment should be made into additional indoor ARI provision as the existing number of indoor facilities is considered to be a barrier that is restricting the growth of many clubs and sports associations within the City. There is also a need for additional AGP pitches and other outdoor ARI facilities across the City. Detailed supply and demand modelling is needed throughout the City to understand if multi-purpose and multi-use hub sites can be created and what project partners can come together to develop/progress these facilities. CSP's development trends focus on many similar trends outlined by the national governing bodies such as the identifying deficiencies/gaps in AR provision to improve participation levels for women, youth at risk and those with disabilities/mobility restrictions. CSP work closely with these groups to help increase participation levels.	Need for additional indoor ARI facilities across the Study Area. Reiterated overarching need for more AGP pitches throughout the Study Area for a range of different sports. Outlined that future ARI provision within the Study Area should be multi-functional, multi-purpose and multi-sport.

Key Strategic Themes

We set out below our findings, overall conclusions and recommendations with respect to the following key themes that emerged from our one-to-one key stakeholder meetings :

- Sporting Organisation Growth
- Funding Opportunities
- Role of NGBs and Educational Establishments
- Active Recreation Infrastructure Provision
- Active Recreation Infrastructure Demand/Need
- Cork City Activity Levels
- Active Recreation Trends
- Active Recreation Hubs
- Role of Cork City Development Plan
- Sport and Leisure Tourism

Sporting Organisation Growth

From stakeholder consultations, it appears that there is a considerable amount of latent demand with respect to the key sport types covered. This should be considered when identifying short, medium and long-term growth targets for each sport type. It is noted that latent demand can accrue due to a number of factors including accessibility issues, under provision of ARI, increased growth in built up areas, especially where land availability is limited, etc.

It is noted that a number of sports, such as Hockey, Athletics and Cricket, have long term growth targets due to recent international success of the senior sides and development trends/targets set out by their respective national governing bodies. Through consultation with the NGBs/RGBs, we understand that these sports currently have issues with respect to the quantum of ARI available with many clubs described as being 'at capacity' and others having long waiting lists of potential members waiting to join. Inadequate provision of ARI for these sports could act as a barrier as it can negatively affect/restrict long term growth targets.

Stakeholder consultations have enabled us to identify a need for additional ARI within the Study Area which will inform the recommendations of this Study. The delivery of the new ARI within the Study Area should enable the continued growth of sport participation levels and provide for existing and future ARI needs, noting that the overall population within the Study Area is expected to grow by 24,790 (10.5%)[7] up to 2028.

As highlighted in the preceding table, significant growth is anticipated across all sports and age groups. This expected rise in participation levels is due to a number of factors as reported by the relevant stakeholders, including:

- International success within the relevant sport such as Rowing and Hockey;
- Increasing population which translates to growing playing base;
- Focused effort by the national government bodies of sport and Sport Ireland to target and develop the previously underdeveloped female market; and
- National strategies to increase in grassroots participation.
- Increased investment in sport through elite pathways and external grants (EU Funds)

Through our consultations with the national and regional governing bodies for the 'core' pitch based sports (i.e. Soccer, GAA, Cricket, Hockey, Rugby Union and Athletics), a recurring problem has been reported with respect to a high number of incidents where matches and training sessions have been cancelled due to flooding/drainage issues and pitch quality and maintenance issues (overuse).

The development of more AGP type pitches will help to resolve this issue by reducing the amount of matches and training sessions that need to be cancelled and it will also help to cater for an increased demand/usage by future populations (up to 2028 and beyond).

Indeed, the need for new AGP pitches has been confirmed by a number of the RGBs/NGBs, such as Munster RFU and Cork GAA, who have identified areas in the western and central parts of the City as requiring new ARI and also a need for a collaborative and joined up approach among existing clubs.

We set out below some advantages associated with artificial grass pitches (AGPs):

- Greater durability;
- More efficient use of space;
- Increase usage;
- Flexibility;
- Better overall value for money;
- Defined performance characteristics; and
- A further advantage is that less maintenance is required for a given level of use when compared to natural grass.

7 *Using the Draft City Development Plan 2022-2028 population figures of 235,643 in 2022 and 260,433 in 2028.*

Strategic Theme Conclusion

AGP pitches are becoming increasingly common throughout the sporting and recreation landscape as they can cater for a greater number of matches and training sessions via the local community. These facilities are a cost-effective investment for local clubs or local authorities are a robust business case can be generated from the year round usage.

Strategic Theme Recommendation

New ARI pitches and facilities should be provided, and existing ARI pitches and facilities should be upgraded, in accordance with the needs identified by the respective sporting RGBs/ NGBs (see previous table) to accommodate increasing participation levels and forecasted growth in membership numbers which will coincide with the overall population increase within the Study Area.

Ancillary facilities should also be made available and/or adapted to allow for the growth of the female demographic throughout the Study Area. This is based on consultation with the major NGB's such as Rugby Union, GAA and Soccer who identified these target markets. Older ancillary facilities do not cater for the specific needs of female teams in terms of correct changing and showering facilities. These facilities should be retrofitted and adjusted to allow for a separation of teams, particularly younger teams.

Funding Opportunities

The Sports Capital Programme (SCP) is the primary funding vehicle by Government with respect to supporting the development of ARI and the purchase of non-personal sports equipment throughout the country. Its objectives are to:

- Assist voluntary and community organisations, national governing bodies (NGBs) of sport;
- Local authorities and Education and Training Boards and schools to develop high quality, accessible, safe, well-designed, sustainable facilities in appropriate locations and to provide appropriate equipment to help maximise participation in sport and physical recreation; and
- Prioritise the needs of disadvantaged areas and groups (such as people with disabilities) in the provision of sports facilities encourage the sharing of sports facilities by clubs, community organisations and national governing bodies of sport.

An example of a multi-use stakeholder approach is evident with Munster Technology University and Athletic Ireland co-ordinating resources to develop an indoor arena and high-performance athletics centre for community and elite level training. This complex is being delivered in two phases to provide a robust and unique facility with multiple uses. This complex has been part funded through the capital project associated with Project Ireland 2040.

Strategic Theme Conclusion

The key funding channel of the capital funding can be allocated to clubs and organisations who want to deliver sustainable and robust facilities to future proof any growth within the Study Area.

Strategic Theme Recommendation

Clubs and organisations should be encouraged to work in combination with education sites such as MTU and UCC to develop multi use models to unlock further funding potential.

Further multi-use hubs and development models should be focused on to allow for greater community and club use.

Develop a robust Feasibility Study to ascertain which capital grant funding opportunities/avenues should be targeted and what strategic relationships should be prioritised (between clubs, schools and national governing bodies) to address ARI gaps/deficiencies within the Study Area.

Role of NGBs and Educational Establishments

There is a clear opportunity to further develop greater links between NGB's and local educational establishments to enhance community links between clubs and organisations.

There are already good examples of this within the Study Area, such as Athletic Ireland and MTU. This model should be mirrored by other sports clubs/bodies as much as possible, particularly where strategic/sporting synergies are evident. This approach will help to develop strategic partnerships, which can benefit all parties in terms of developing stronger business cases for new ARI and increasing the chances of submitting successful applications for capital funding grants. Example partnerships could include:

- Hockey Ireland and Cricket Ireland working in combination to develop a community and regional high-performance hub; and
- UCC and MTU working with national governing bodies of sport to develop school – club links and allow preparation and submissions of joint capital grand aid funding submissions.

There also appears to be few formal community user agreements in place to allow for secured tenure between clubs, schools and universities. The agreement between MTU and Athletics Ireland is an example of this type of arrangement with both parties forming part of a joint venture approach to develop new indoor and outdoor facilities that are open to the university population and the local community. There are clear benefits associated with this type of approach such as ensuring maximum usage of the new ARI facilities, both during the day and in the evening.

Strategic Theme Conclusion

There are significant benefits associated with improving relationships between the major sport and educational establishments. These partnerships can unlock additional funding opportunities and help to ensure maximum utilisation of existing ARI throughout both the day and evening usage periods.

Strategic Theme Recommendation

A Sports Development Officer should be appointed by CCC to identify, promote, establish and maintain important relationships between educational establishments, national government bodies and local clubs.

A Feasibility Study should be undertaken to gather information on potential school-club links and also develop an options appraisal to highlight key partnerships.

Active Recreation Infrastructure Provision

The key stakeholders have indicated a low level of overall satisfaction with respect to the current level of ARI provision within the Study Area due to a perceived lack of accessible ARI pitches/facilities and need to deliver more ARO to accommodate anticipated growth in membership numbers/ participation levels.

The key stakeholders have also indicated that more could be done at a strategic level to help accommodate existing ARI demand and to ensure that strategies/plans are developed which clearly outline how and where additional need associated with the forecasted population growth will be met. A more joined up approach between local clubs, national and regional governing bodies and CCC has been recommended.

Strategic Theme Conclusion

The majority of clubs and organisations within the Study Area are said to be currently at capacity, especially within the sports of Hockey and Cricket with these clubs having growing waiting lists from players wishing to participate in these sports.

The key stakeholders have asked that additional work is undertaken by CCC to facilitate a more cohesive, collaborative and joined up approach between the relevant sporting clubs/ bodies so as to ensure a strategic approach to ARI facility planning across the various organisations and sports.

The overall quality of pitch and non-pitch based sports are considered to be standard but this will reduce in quality up to 2028 due to the increase in use which will occur with the population increase, especially in the major MDA areas.

Strategic Theme Recommendation

Coordinate and develop workshops and other forms of communication with external key stakeholders to account for current needs and needs associated with future population growth to 2028 and beyond.

Active Recreation Infrastructure Demand/Need

There is currently a high demand/need with respect to new/improved ARI throughout the Study Area where a lot of clubs are currently over capacity, particularly the 'smaller' sports of hockey and cricket due to a lack of facilities.

It is anticipated that there will be a need for new ARI to address existing demand within the Study Area as identified by the key stakeholders and to address the demand that is likely to arise with the forecasted growth in population over the next 6 years to 2028 and beyond to 2040, particularly within/nearby major residential growth areas.

Section 9 of this Study reviews the anticipated ARI needs for the Study Area up to 2028 and beyond to 2040. Please refer to this Section for more information on this component of the Study.

Strategic Theme Conclusion

The key ARI stakeholders have identified an overall need for new ARI provision within the Study Area with respect to the core pitch based sports. This new provision will help to accommodate existing demand, which is reinforced by the growing membership waiting lists, and the anticipated growth in membership levels due to the growing population base within the Study Area and targeted measures/strategies by the respective governing sport bodies to grow their sport bases.

Strategic Theme Recommendation

CCC should explore the potential to develop a Sports Pitch Strategy (SPS), similar to SDCC, with respect to the core pitch based sports identified within the section of the Study. The SPS should be developed closely with the key sport stakeholders (identified at the start of this section) and relevant clubs located within the Study Area. This approach will help to enable a targeted approach with respect to ARI development needs and support funding bids for new ARI as well as for maintenance/improvements of existing ARI.

Cork City Activity Levels

When discussing activity levels with key stakeholders it was generally accepted that Cork currently has a high level of activity. It was considered that Cork City's strong younger membership base and the overall supply of clubs/facilities within the Study Area has supported and enabled these activity levels.

However, as stated above, many clubs are currently at capacity with waiting lists indicating latent demand in activity/ participation levels.

Cork Sports Partnership provided the greatest insight into activity levels due to their close work with many community groups and noting their significant presence within schools. We outline headline activity figures below, which help to provide an overview of activity levels within the Study Area:

- Over 43% of people are active in Cork on a weekly basis.
- 47,735 participants took part in NGB sport programmes supported by the CSP.
    - 26,176 of these participants were new to the sport.
- 7,105 participants with disabilities took part in a Cork Sport Ability programme.
- Over 20,000 participants have taken part in a community sport & physical activity programmes and initiatives since 2014.

In terms of comparing Cork's overall sport activity level against the overall national sport activity level, a recent 2021 report published by Sport Ireland is of note.[8]

This report outlines that the number of people taking part in sport in Ireland has risen during 2021 from 35% in Q1 2021 to 41% in Q2 2021, and that this rise in activity levels has been largely driven by increases in the number of people cycling, swimming, playing golf and playing popular team sports. However, the report also notes that overall sport participation rates are still behind the 2019 levels of 46%.

Noting the above, Cork's activity level is currently above the national average but it is slightly behind the previously recorded national 2019 activity levels.

Strategic Theme Conclusion

Activity levels within the Study Area are above the current national average which is a significant and positive finding with respect to the overall quantum and quality of ARI located within the Study Area.

However, it is noted that national and regional governing bodies have advised that clubs located within the Study Area currently have waiting lists for players wishing to participate in their club/ sport, particularly with respect to female and junior aged players.

Strategic Theme Recommendation

CCC and Cork Sports Partnership should liaise closely to obtain a better understanding of latent ARI demand by interrogating in greater detail the capacity levels of the various clubs which are reporting waiting lists. This will help to identify if existing facilities are being utilised to their maximum level of efficiency, such as looking at scheduling and usage improvements as well as the potential to convert grass pitches to AGP pitches and/or deliver new AGP pitches.

This approach will also help to identify any existing clubs/sports which could develop symbiotic relationships with other clubs/ sports in terms of sporting/locational/facility synergies to form the basis of a joined-up robust funding bid for a new shared/ multi-sport/multi-use/multi-purpose sports hub.

Active Recreation Trends

A significant barrier for organisations, such as Soccer, GAA and Rugby Union, is the lack of available space for winter training demand on artificial pitches. Throughout the winter months a number of matches are cancelled or postponed due to the quality of playing surfaces (drainage/flooding issues) and due to over use/play from training and matches.

This leads to a number of games being called off throughout the year which negatively affects game scheduling and league completion as well as creating extra resourcing issues for local clubs.

This barrier is not only reserved for playing pitches but it is also linked to ancillary and changing room space, especially with respect to female activities. For many NGBs, the female game is rapidly growing due to key strategic aims of Sport Ireland and national strategies. Due to this barrier certain growth targets are not being met.

8 *Available Online at: https://www.sportireland.ie/news/2021-irish-sports-monitor-mid-year-report*

A number of additional barriers have been identified by the key stakeholders with respect to certain demographic and player groups based upon accessibility and availability of ARI facilities.

Older/aged/dated ancillary ARI facilities, such as changing rooms and other amenities, reduces the opportunities for female members to access clubs and participate. Many NGB's and clubs are targeting this market segment to increase participation.

Stakeholders also advised that barriers exist with respect to certain minority groups who wish to participate in sports but follow non-traditional hours of play as a result of work and shift patterns.

In terms of positive data trends, key stakeholders have reported an increase in participation levels across the core sports due to a number of factors, such as international and Olympic success (Hockey and Rowing) or sustained development (GAA, Rugby Union).

The provision of new ARI such as the MTU Arena will help to further diversify and improve the overall quantum and quality of ARI within the Study Area. Indeed, it is noted that Phase 1 of the MTU Arena, which is to be completed before July 2022 and includes a new multi-sports hall and gym. The diversity of ARI within the Study Area will be improved further with Phase 2 which will include an indoor high performance athletics centre being developed jointly with Athletics Ireland and is set to commence in early 2023.

Strategic Theme Conclusion

There are positive recent trends with respect to the quality, quantity and diversity of ARI provision within the Study Area.

However, key stakeholders have advised that more ARI is needed which is of a high quality and which is highly accessible to those seeking to participate in certain sports and become members of local clubs.

The first perceived barrier is a need for new quality/accessible sites and the second is perceived barrier relates to older/dated/aged ancillary ARI facilities associated with existing pitches/clubs, such as changing rooms. The second barrier has been identified as reducing opportunities for females to participate in certain sports/clubs.

Strategic Theme Recommendation

CCC should seek to assist local clubs in preparing bids to seek funding for delivering improvements to their existing facilities and to convert underutilised lands/grass pitches to artificial grass pitches which will allow for better usage and membership levels and potentially remove traffic from the grass pitches to improve their overall quality.

CCC should seek to support investment in older ancillary ARI facilities, such as changing rooms, to accommodate female members and other minority groups. This is based on feedback form the key stakeholders and is a requirement in national strategies such as Sport Ireland. CCC should liaise with the relevant key stakeholders to explore the potential to deliver bespoke changing room facilities so as to address any current deficiencies.

Active Recreation Hubs

In combination with the City-Wide approach to AGPs, there is a need to develop a multi-use hub model that can greatly increase the ARI in Cork City at a City, County and Regional level.

During our stakeholder consultations, a number of different NGBs and sporting/recreation organisations expressed a clear willingness to co-operate and work together with different NGB's and organisations in order to identify opportunities for multi-use hubs and to co-ordinate/seek funding to deliver these opportunities.

This is especially relevant for the more non-traditional sports due to a smaller membership/player base as they would benefit from a joint venture approach which would enable them to support each other.

There is an opportunity to develop a multi-use hub / sport model between different organisations, which is a similar model to many organisations within Europe and the UK, such as:

- Sports & Wellness Hub at the University of Warwick.
- Manadon Sports Hub – Plymouth.
- Parklife Football and Sports Hub – London.

These multi-use/sport hubs should not be restricted to only one club or organisation but should be open to any community member or club who wishes to use the facility. In addition, they should be designed in a manner and scale that allows them to host regional / national competitions.

The multi-use/sport hub approach also benefits members due to future proofing certain sites and creating a more robust

business plan and sustainable model to achieve more grant funding from the Government. Stakeholders consider that the wider region is currently lacking in regional hub sites for many organisations which restricts growth/opportunity for development of higher level competition.

Multi-use/sport hubs can be used at a regional level to support the growth of higher-level sport and leisure provision by allowing certain sports such as hockey, cricket and rugby to base their representative teams here for training and matches.

Regional/strategic multi-use/sport hubs have the potential to act as a significant ARI focal point and as a destination venue. Noting this, and that they tend to serve a wider/regional catchment, a suitably accessible site should be considered if there are significant physical constraints/obstacles and/or limited land available within the City Centre.

Professional and community based clubs can also be located within these facilities and they can also include a variety of pitch and surface types, changing rooms, club houses, meeting rooms, gyms, café, parking space, offices and external user programs. The size and mix of these facilities can vary depending on the specific ARI and ancillary facility requirements and they can typically range in size from between 7 – 10 hectares.

Further analysis, assessments and consultation would be required to identify potential sports and locations for a multi-use/sport hub. As mentioned previously, a number of stakeholders made specific comments with respect to the potential of, and opportunity to create/deliver, strategic/ regional multi-use/sport hubs.

Potential locations for these multi-use/sport regional and/or local hub sites should align with CCC's Core Strategy in terms of future growth locations but also being located as close as possible to any existing demand/established neighborhoods/ communities.

A robust feasibility study would need to be undertaken to further investigate, and advise on, suitable locations based on relevant factors to be agreed with CCC and the relevant sporting bodies. These could include:

- Sport and pitch needs/mix;
- Ancillary facilities;
- Associated users and organisations;
- Accessibility; and
- Key Growth Areas/locations of new housing developments.

An example facility mix could include Hockey, Cricket and Ladies Gaelic Football and each of these sports could be accommodated through multiple pitch markings and a robust schedule of use. Shared ancillary facilities could allow multiple users to access different pitches and surfaces at the same time. There may also be efficiencies in terms of different peak demand periods with traditional winter and summer-based sports, which would be a positive component of a business case as this would ensure that the ARI hub sites would be in use all year.

Strategic Theme Conclusion

There is an opportunity to develop a multi-use hub / sport model between different organisations, which is a similar model that has been utilised in Europe and the UK. Some UK examples include:

- Sports & Wellness Hub at the University of Warwick.
- Manadon Sports Hub – Plymouth.
- Parklife Football and Sports Hub – London.

This multi-use/sport and shared/joined up approach could help to develop more robust business cases/plans to secure funding to deliver new ARI.

An example of a multi-use/sport venture could be hockey, cricket and LGFA as each of these organisations are looking for a regional site as well as an improved level of ARI.

This multi-use/sport hub model could also improve the Study Area's credentials with respect to attracting sport and leisure tourists. To do this, new and existing facilities should be designed in a manner to deliver high quality facilities that can host a number teams as well as spectators.

Strategic Theme Recommendation

A Feasibility Study should be undertaken to gather information on potential sports that could form part of a regional/strategic multi-use/sport hub and to identify potentially suitable locations, these most likely areas would be within the MDA's.

Role of Cork City Development Plan

The key stakeholders agreed that the City Development Plan should ensure that all communities are supported by a range of ARI, including sporting facilities and high-quality open spaces, parks (including playing pitches and other ARI) and dedicated playing fields that are fit for purpose, accessible to all and adaptable to meet future needs.

CCC should seek to continue its work in growing existing, and develop new, relationships and partnerships with local communities, recreation/sports groups and private parties to identify and support opportunities to deliver new and/or improved ARI in the City.

Strategic Theme Conclusion

CCC's Draft City Development Plan 2022-2028 should seek to continue to support local communities, recreation/sports clubs and private parties in developing new and or improved ARI, for both the core pitch based sports and also the minority/ alternative sports in the City.

Strategic Theme Recommendation

Planning policy recommendations are set out in Section 12 of this Study to help inform the upcoming Cork City Development Plan.

Sport and Leisure Tourism

As stated above, the sport and leisure tourist and tourism industry can prove to be an important part of the local economy in Cork due to its regional location and close ties with many regional and national based organisations.

Cork is either directly or indirectly linked with many provincial teams and groups who are looking to the City to host international and national tournaments or games at an elite level. This filters down to the club groups and organisations too by appealing to international competitions and being training venues for international clubs and teams.

There is currently elite level competition and professional teams touring within Cork, either directly due to games in the area such as opponents of Munster Rugby (Musgrave Park) or touring international sides looking for a training and preparation venue.

Strategic Theme Conclusion

There is currently a lack of first class and elite level facilities in the region in certain sports such as hockey and cricket which restrict the development aims of the regional authorities. As a result of this there are fewer opportunities to host international and national competitions.

Strategic Theme Recommendation

Align strategic feasibility studies, such as those relating to exploring the potential to deliver multi-use/sport hubs, to incorporate elite level facilities to host international and national level competition.

Overarching Stakeholder Engagement Recommendations

We set out below our key recommendations from the stakeholder engagement exercise:

Land Use Planning Actions

- CCC should seek to encourage an increase in the quantity of artificial grass pitches (AGPs) within the Study Area either by delivering new AGPs and/or converting underutilised/ poor quality grass pitches to AGPs. This is considered to be particularly important for the dominant sports of GAA, Soccer and Rugby Union.
- CCC should seek to align its health and wellbeing strategies with the strategic plans of the national and regional governing sport and community bodies.
- CCC should consider undertaking a Feasibility Study to determine the scope, facility mix and suitable location for the delivery of up to 3 multi-use sport hubs to cater for existing and future ARI needs up to 2028 and beyond. Key sports to consider are GAA, Rugby Union and Soccer.

Sport Development Actions

- CCC should seek to continue to support clubs and organisations in terms of identifying opportunities for capital grant funding and identifying best practice/lessons learned in terms of successful applications.
- CCC's Sports Development Officers should continue to identify, promote, establish and maintain important relationships between educational establishments, national government bodies and local clubs.
- CCC should ensure that its sporting and planning strategies with respect to ARI align with the overall vision of the Healthy Ireland Initiative and Sport Ireland's National Strategy (2018 – 2027).
- CCC should seek to co-ordinate and develop ongoing workshops with external key stakeholders, such as the national/regional governing sport bodies (NGB's) and key educational institutions including MTU and UCC so as to identify possible synergies/efficiencies in terms of ARI needs and ARI funding bids.

07 Comparative Analysis

Introduction

A comparative analysis exercise has been undertaken by the Study Team to help benchmark the ARI provision in Cork City with Bristol City and South Dublin County Council (SDCC).

The table below provides an overview of key metrics for each of these areas with respect to ARI as well as providing a high level overview of the level of pitch based, non-pitch based and water based ARI within each of the respective Study Areas.

Table 7.1: Matrix of Comparative Analysis Area Metrics

	Cork City	South Dublin	Bristol City
Population (current)	235,643	278,767	467,099
Population (2028)	260,194	329,000	493,599
Accessibility	Excellent transportation to Dublin and other cities via the M8 motorway, national roads and rail.	Excellent transportation links with the M50 and rail options to the City of Dublin	Excellent transportation links with the M4 and M5 and with direct access to Cardiff
Land Area	187 km²	222.7 km²	110 km²
Density of Study Area (per hectare)	12.6 people per ha	12.5 people per ha	42 people per ha
Outdoor/Pitch Based ARI	473	720	270
Pitches per 50,000 (current population)	100	128	29
Non – Pitch Based/Indoor ARI	84	86	49
Non-Pitch ARI per 50,000 (current population)	18	16	5
Water Based ARI	7 – including slip way, boathouses and clubs	Water based recreational activity undertaken in local lakes and water bodies	8 – Boathouses and Associated Clubs

Bristol City and SDCC have been selected as comparator Study Areas primarily due to their similar characteristics with respect to grass pitch and non-grass pitch based ARI provision. Furthermore, like Cork City, Bristol is also benefitted by access to a river, i.e. the River Avon, which bisects the City, and provides opportunities for water based ARI.

It is noted that SDCC does not share this same river/water based ARI characteristic with Cork City and Bristol City. However, SDCC was selected as a comparator Study Area as it has recently completed a Sports Pitch Strategy (concluded in January 2020) and so represents one of the few local authorities within Ireland that has an up-to-date strategy.

It is noted that a key difference between the SDCC's SPS and CCC's ARI Needs Study is that SDCC's SPS focused solely on key pitch based activities and detailed site visits were conducted to all sites to designate a quality score for each site noting that the field work was undertaken prior to the Covid-19 pandemic.

To assist CCC in understanding likely current and future ARI requirements for non-pitch, based sports, the Study Team has also completed a comparative analysis of the 'Core Cities' in the UK, these being Birmingham, Leeds, Sheffield, Manchester, Liverpool, Bristol, Nottingham and Newcastle. Please refer to Section 9 of the Study for further information on this analysis.

It is noted that a water based ARI analysis was not provided as part of the 'Core Cities' case study analysis as water based ARI needs are rarely included as part of ARI/sport studies within the UK.

Purpose of the Comparative Analysis Exercise

This comparative analysis exercise is important as it enables a better understanding of ARI provision within this Study Area by benchmarking the level/quantum/quality of ARI against the ARI provision in other Study Areas. This exercise will also help to identify any best practice examples/approaches within the two comparator Study Areas, which CCC can consider adopting/implementing within its own administrative area.

This comparative analysis exercise seeks to:

- Understand how active the population of Cork City compared to the two comparator Study Areas;
- Compare the level of ARI provision within the Study with the two comparator Study Areas;
- Identify any potential opportunities and/or deficiencies in the current level of ARI provision at a citywide/district/neighbourhood level and benchmark this against international good practice, where applicable;
- Highlight good practice and successful approaches with respect to ARI provision which could be applied by CCC with respect to the proposed new Major Development Areas (i.e. City Docks, Tivoli Docks, Ballyvolane, Ballincollig (Maglin), Blarney (Stoneview), South Glanmire;
- Identify any relevant comparisons with respect to the strategic themes that emerged from the stakeholder consultations outlined in Section 6; and
- Inform the recommendations of this Study with respect to the need for new and/or improved ARI.

Comparative Analysis Methodology

To help inform the overall Study, a set of questions was developed by the Study Team and CCC to help guide the comparative analysis exercise and obtain information on key/desired comparator ARI indicators.

The key questions that the comparative analysis exercise seeks to answer are set out below[9]:

- Is Active Recreation promoted by the settlement and/or its organisations? Who are the key players?
- How active is the population of Cork compared with the two comparator Study Areas?
- Does Policy provide for and/or encourage the provision of new/improved ARI within the two comparator Study Areas?
- Does ARI policy align with any wider health and wellbeing strategies?
- Do the two comparator Study Areas have ARI that is considered to be more accessible that in Cork City?
- Is existing ARI within the two comparator Study Areas considered to be of a better quality?
- Is existing ARI within the two comparator Study Areas considered to be better integrated as part of new developments and/or urban extensions, if relevant?
- What are the key ARI challenges that the other two comparator Study Areas have experienced in recent years?
- What are the key ARI trends within the other two comparator Study Areas?
- What are the key ARI learnings, if any, and how can Cork City improve in terms of its approach to the provision of ARI?

It is important to note for any comparative analysis exercise that unique local circumstances can lead to differences in terms of outcomes/findings/approaches that are not directly transferable to, or relevant for, the subject Study Area. Noting this inherent limitation, the Study Team has endeavoured to focus on the strategic similarities of each of the Study Areas to draw comparisons and identify relevant recommendations, where available.

Indeed, it is noted that the fundamental aims of improving ARI and increasing participation in sport are consistent between all three Study Areas.

9 *The Study Team has endeavored to provide information with respect to each question/key ARI indicator, where this information was publicly available. Unfortunately, this was not always the case.*

South Dublin – Comparative Analysis/ Benchmarking

South Dublin County Council (SDCC) is a relevant benchmarking example for Cork City noting that it seeks to further develop health, wellbeing and sport strategies for its administrative area, and noting that it is also seeking to deliver new growth within strategically designated development zones (i.e. SDZs) which are to include all necessary and supporting social/community infrastructure, such as new/improved ARI.

Another key comparative indicator is that SDCC and CCC are only two of seven cities/counties within Ireland[10] that form part of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network[11].

As stated previously, SDCC has also recently completed a Sports Pitch Strategy (SPS) which aligns with a key strategic policy aim of the Council, i.e. to review current and future trends with respect to grass pitch and artificial grass pitch provision within the Council's administrative area.

SDCC Sports Pitch Strategy (SPS)

The SPS focused specifically on facilities used by the following sports:

- Soccer;
- GAA;
- Rugby Union;
- Hockey;
- Cricket; and
- Athletics.

Figure 7.1 below identifies the key indicators/findings from the SPS which were used to inform recommendations for SDCC and its emerging Draft County Development Plan. These key indicators/findings are of note as they highlight best practice examples that can be used by CCC to inform its sporting strategies with respect to ARI and its upcoming City Development Plan.

Figure 7.1: SDCC Sports Pitch Strategy Key Findings/Indicators

10 *Available Online at: https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/f8f21e-healthy-cities-and-counties/*

11 *Available Online at: https://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health/urban-health/who-european-healthy-cities-network*

SDCC is identified as a key area in the SPS due to its economic significance, growing population, role as an infrastructure hub and on-going appeal to people from within and outside Ireland. A number of Strategic Development Zones (SDZs) have been identified within SDCC including the Adamstown SDZ.

SDCC's SDZs comprise a specific Planning Scheme or Masterplan which provide for a phased approach to the delivery of residential and associated supporting infrastructure developments.

Of note for CCC, is that SDCC requires new developments within the SDZs to promote walkable neighbourhoods that are located close to high-quality public transport and community infrastructure links, such as ARI. Of course this approach aligns with the Draft CCDP 2022-2028 which also seeks to promote the '15-minute city' and 'walkable neighbourhoods' model to help deliver compact and liveable growth in the City.

Similar to this Study, SDCC's SPS was: also informed by consultations with sport groups and teams; prepared to help inform a new Development Plan; and it sought to identify specific sport/ARI needs within the Study Area.

Noting this, SDCC's SPS is a useful resource to help identify comparisons between the two local authority areas in terms of the growth of sports teams, the requirement for additional ARI and associated infrastructure requirements. Figure 7.2 below highlights a number of key trends and statistics within SDCC.

Figure 7.2: SDCC Analysis and Key Trends

Source: https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/sport-and-recreation/playing-pitches/adopted-sports-pitch-strategy.pdf

Much like Cork City, SDCC has a growing population and is expecting at least another 5% growth over the lifetime of the new County Development Plan. Similarly, Cork City is also experiencing a population increase, especially amongst the younger demographic.

Cork City's population rose by 5% between 2011 and 2016, higher than the southern regional area average (3% increase). Table 2.1 of the NPF identifies a population increase for Cork City and Suburbs of 105,000-125,000 people up to 2040, which will be higher than the South Dublin region. It is noted that the current demographic and population trends for SDCC cover up to 2031 only.

Cork City and SDCC have similarities with respect to population growth and also have similarities in terms of areas of deprivation, with both Cork City and SDCC having five 'very disadvantaged' areas within their respective administrative areas.

The majority of these areas of deprivation are located within the North West Suburb of the Study Area and follow similar trends to SDCC in terms of an apparent lack of accessible facilities for the local population. To address similar issues, SDCC has introduced a greater amount of free public amenities and informal play areas such as multi-use games areas and outdoor gyms within public parks/spaces.

Population growth and areas of deprivation are important factors to be considered in the development of a sport strategies as well as Development Plans and Local Area Plans.

Specific areas of deprivation within South Dublin and Cork City can be compared and contrasted to identify best practices that can help to inform approaches/strategies for CCC. For example, Tallaght within SDCC and East of Knocknabeeny within Cork City's administrative area are comparable with respect to the Pobal HP deprivation index.

Specific programmes should be implemented to help encourage increased participation levels within these areas and to understand/reduce potential activity barriers. SDCC is seeking to increase the sport and leisure offer within the Tallaght area by providing well lit greenways/walkways and new artificial grass pitches. Targeting areas with higher deprivation should form part of a collaborative approach between the local authority and County Sports Partnerships, which generally has coaches and educators based in the local communities.

Additionally, to help improve the accessibility credentials of ARI for those living in deprived areas, new ARI should be located within a short walking and/or cycling distance (up to 10/15 minutes) from these areas and/or within close proximity to a public transport route.

Locating new ARI within close walking/cycling distance to existing, proposed and planned residential growth areas will align with CCC's ambition to deliver 'walkable neighbourhoods' in accordance with the '15-minute city' model and will also help to reduce the reliance on the private car.

It is noted that 80% of the respondents to the Online Survey Audit indicated that there is adequate footpaths, cycleways or roads serving the ARI within the Study Area and that this allows for safe access to the ARI. Section 8 of this Study provides mapping which spatially illustrates the accessibility of existing infrastructure within the Study Area, i.e. that it is relatively accessible with a large portion of facilities and pitches located within a 10 minute cycle and walk time from one another and the major population areas.

It is clear that both CCC and SDCC are anticipating a population growth that is in excess of the national average. Noting this, it is important that CCC, like SDCC, develops specific strategies to help plan for and deliver the necessary social infrastructure to cater for the growing population base, such as new/improved ARI and active travel infrastructure, which includes walkways, greenways and blueways.

Table 7.2 below sets out a number of key trends/performance indicators which SDCC is seeking to target/improve upon during the lifetime of its Development Plan and through which it intends to measure success.

Table 7.2: SDCC Analysis and Key Trends

#	Key Indicator/Trend
1	With 50% of the population under 34, and over a third under 24 years of age, there is also a clear need to ensure services and supports for this age group
2	One of 7 Irish cities or counties awarded WHO Healthy City Network (Cork being another)
3	SDCC has the fifth highest by population density at 1,250 per km2 and the 4th largest in terms of population (278,749)
4	Access to amenities and services – not all areas have equal access to amenities such as parks and services
5	South Dublin County scored itself a healthier than the national average on the reported health question in census 2016
6	The 2016 census indicated a high population growth rate within SDCC at 5.1%
7	The actual population rise of 13,562 people in its population which is the joint fifth fastest growing local authority.
8	In 2016 a total of 54,085 individuals lived in Small Areas of Population classified as being 'disadvantaged
9	Tallaght: 21 areas that were categorised as very disadvantaged
10	Clondalkin: 1 area of extreme disadvantage and 23 areas that were categorised as very disadvantaged

Policy Alignment to Provide for Active Recreation Infrastructure

SDCC's existing County Development Plan contains an objective to encourage and support development of new social/community infrastructure and facilities for the benefit of the local population. The SDDP also seeks to cater for the growing population with a particular emphasis on the role of Strategic Development Zones (SDZs) with respect to delivering new social/community infrastructure in tandem with new developments.

Community/social facilities are identified as being an essential requirement for the local population and this includes community centres, sports centres, playgrounds, active and passive recreation facilities. The strategy also highlights the importance of community facilities in terms of being a focal point for the community and which can be used to foster community spirit/relationships.

The following key recommendations and objectives of the SDDP are relatable to Cork City noting that both Study Areas possess similar facility and club trends:

- Provide multifunctional community and indoor centres to provide a focal point for community activities.
- Produce policy that ensures all communities are supported by a range of sporting facilities that are fit for purpose, accessible and adaptable.
- Work in close relationship with supporting stakeholders for future grant funding and capital projects to expand the infrastructure offer.
- To promote and support communities and clubs in developing minority sports in the County by providing indoor and outdoor spaces for the pursuance of these activities.
- To encourage the co-location of community and sporting facilities.
- To support and provide a framework for the improvement, maintenance, upgrade and refurbishment of existing community-based facilities, within the County, to meet current and future needs.

Key Challenges and Trends Identified for SDCC

A number of ARI challenges have been identified within SDCC which are similar to the challenges arising within the subject Study Area, as confirmed by consultations with stakeholders and submissions from sporting clubs to the Online Survey Audit.

One challenge faced by both SDCC and CCC is the need to provide additional and/or improved ARI for the significant forecasted population growth in both jurisdictions up to 2028, and beyond to 2040, as well as the forecasted growth in the younger demographic cohorts. Typically, younger people (under 45) tend to be more active with a higher proportion playing sports competitively, which can generate an increased need for additional ARI when compared to growth in the older demographic cohorts.

Similar to Cork, SDCC is expecting a marked increase in the demand for additional playing pitches, especially with respect to the more traditional pitch based sports, such as GAA, Soccer and Rugby Union.

SDCC is aware that this expected increase in demand will lead to an additional strain on playing and training resources. Noting this, SDCC undertook a SPS to understand how best to address the growing demands of pitch based ARI within its administrative area.

Having completed the SPS, SDCC is now seeking to deliver additional artificial grass pitches to help reduce pressure on the traditional grass pitch stock. SDCC is also seeking to encourage clubs to utilise artificial pitches as much as practicable for training and match purposes.

Table 7.3 below highlights some of the key challenges identified in both Study Areas and examples of recommendations that can be applied by CCC.

Table 7.3: Challenges and Recommendations from the Comparative Analysis

Challenge Identified	Recommendation examples
Increase in the overall population base within the Study Area, specifically within the younger demographic cohort.	Specific feasibility studies and options appraisals to better understand and quantify the exact ARI demands likely to be generated by this forecasted growth in population, in addition to any existing demands/needs, particularly with respect to the most popular pitch based and non-pitch based sports within the Study Area. These studies should also focus on the ability for the new growth areas to accommodate new ARI requirements.
Overuse of grass pitches for core sports which leads to a reduction in overall quality.	Undertake an Artificial Grass Pitch Feasibility Study to allocate best placement and management of pitches to allow for maximum community use. User agreements should also be implemented with larger clubs and organisations to allow for continued use.
Review the maintenance procedures to ensure optimal use across facilities.	Cork City Council and other partners should work closely with the open space and leisure team for a joint approach to the targeted maintenance of specific sites and facilities, in conjunction with national and regional sporting bodies/organisations.
Implement a community focused ancillary ARI facility provision programme and indoor facility options appraisal.	Approach capital funding investment from the community aspect and ancillary provision as this can provide additional indoor space for non-traditional sports and community groups.

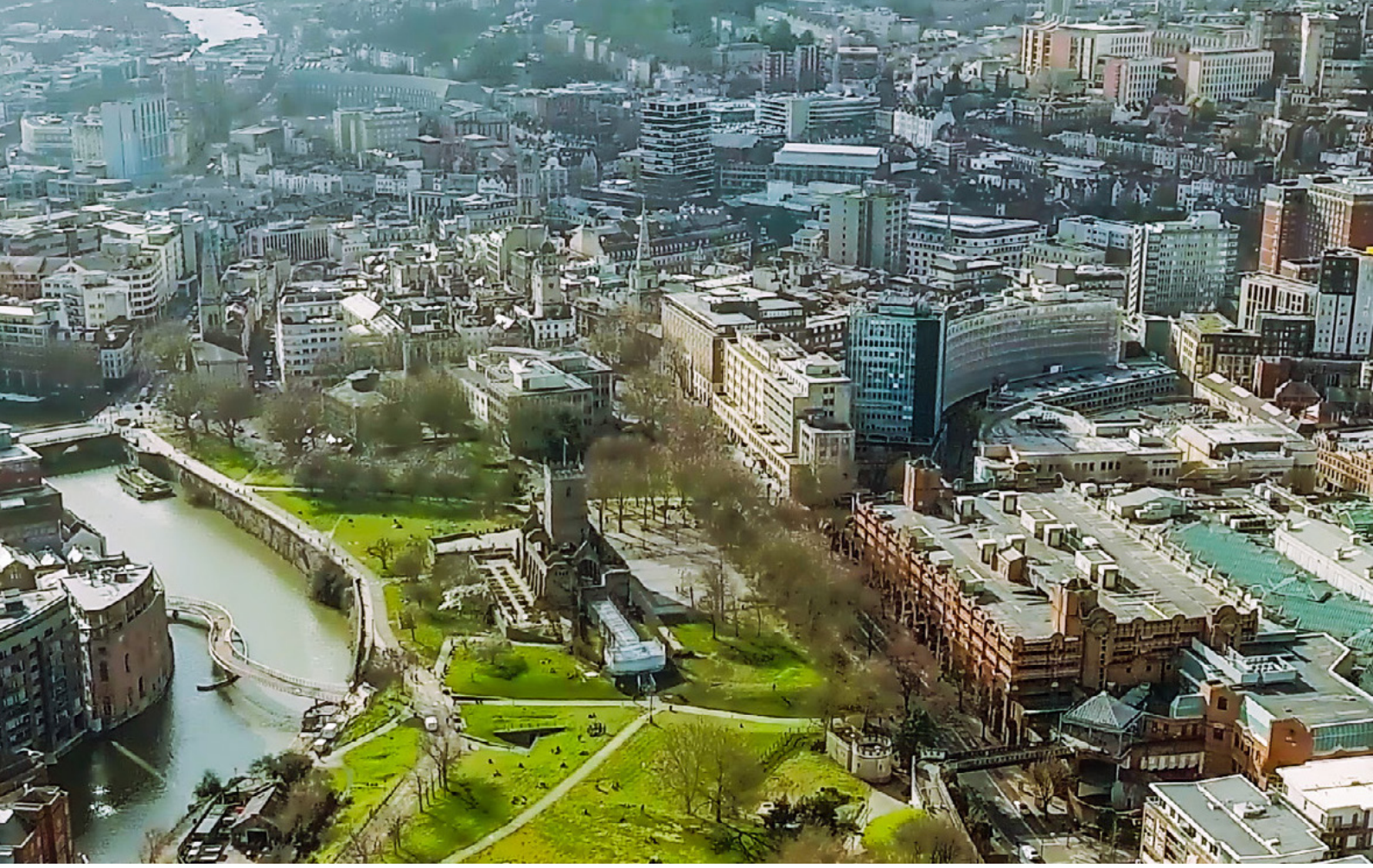
Active Recreation Infrastructure Integrated in Development Zones/ Urban Extensions

SDCC is developing Strategic Development Zones (SDZs), similar to the proposed Major Development Areas that are being considered by CCC to help accommodate the future population growth within the Study Area.

Clonburris is an example of an SDZ approach by SDCC. The SDZ Planning Scheme lands cover a total area of approx. 280 hectares and are located between the established communities of Lucan, Clondalkin and Liffey Valley. This SDZ seeks to deliver sustainable growth and includes for the development of over 9,000 new homes along with a range of new social/community infrastructure, including the delivery of 90+ hectares of parks and open spaces as well as a high quality 3km canal frontage.

The Adamstown SDZ is another useful example of the approach adopted by SDCC with respect to planning for future growth. These SDZ lands are strategically located, highly connected and have been designated as a Major Urban Housing Development Site within the Dublin Region. Similar to the Clonburris SDZ, this SDZ also seeks to deliver significant growth in tandem with associated and necessary social/community infrastructure in a planned and phased manner to deliver a new sustainable community.

These SDZ examples are useful resources for CCC as it seeks to plan for the delivery of new growth areas within strategically located/designated Major Development Areas.



City of Bristol Comparative Analysis

Like SDCC, the City of Bristol is also a useful comparator for Cork City, as it offers many commonalities such as forecasted population growth and similar characteristics with respect to grass pitch and non-grass pitch ARI provision. Furthermore, like Cork City, Bristol is also benefitted by access to a river, i.e. the River Avon, which bisects the City, and which provides opportunities for water based ARI.

The City of Bristol is also considered to be a relevant benchmarking example for Cork City noting that it too seeks to further develop health, wellbeing and sport strategies for its administrative area.

The population of Bristol City is estimated to be 463,400 people in 2021 and is expected to rise to 544,799 in 2039. Bristol is the largest City in the south west of England and one of the ten 'Core Cities'[12] in Great Britain. Following a period of population decline in the post war years, the population stabilised in the 1990s and increased substantially during the 2000s. If recent trends continue, Bristol's population will increase to over half a million usual residents by mid-2031.

As noted previously, the level of deprivation within a Study Area is an important factor to consider with respect to developing ARI/sport strategies. Similar to Cork City, 29.2% of Bristol City's population is within the National Statistic Socio-Economic Classification (NS SEC) classification 6-8 (lower socio-economic groups).

The City of Bristol and CCC share a common goal with respect to seeking to improve the health and wellbeing of its residents while also seeking to improve and grow the level of ARI within the City. In 2020, Bristol completed a new Sports Strategy in response to lower than average physical activity levels. This Sports Strategy includes the following vision:

> *'To ensure that all Bristol Citizens have the encouragement, opportunity and environment they need to lead active, healthy and fulfilling lives. By working collaboratively and cooperatively, as a whole system, we will seek to transform attitudes and behaviours and make it easier for residents to enjoy sport and physical activity and embed it into their everyday lives.'*

This vision is aligned with the 'A Plan for Bristol to 2050', being Bristol's first ever One City Plan, which also contains a strong emphasis on improving health and wellbeing as highlighted by its overarching shared vision, as follows:

> *'In 2050 Bristol is a fair, healthy and sustainable city. A city of hope and aspiration, where everyone can share in its success'.*

12 *A core city within the UK is an economic and social hub which drives trade with key aims to reduce deprivation and increase activity amongst the community.*

The City of Bristol Sports Strategy highlights (within theme 3) the need to develop 'Active Environments' and it also sets out the following 5 specific objectives:

- To design and implement a sustainable travel plan for all schools;
- To increase physical activity in all parks and open spaces;
- To positively influence planning developments to support increased physical activity;
- To provide safe places to engage in physical activity e.g. riding bikes for pleasure; and
- To improve the quality and safety of streets and neighbourhood 'grey spaces' for healthy physical activity and play.

These objectives are linked to objectives relating to Active Places, Active Partnerships and Active People. The strategy also contains four long term outcomes, as per the table below.

City of Bristol Sports Strategy Outcomes	
Outcome 1	Through physical activity, reduce health inequalities and the health life expectancy gap by 10% between the most affluent wards by 2025
Outcome 2	50% more people living in wards where there are the greatest levels of socioeconomic deprivation, are doing more than 30 minutes physical activity per week by 2025
Outcome 3	Halt the rise in levels of childhood and adult obesity by 2025
Outcome 4	Bristol will be the most active core city in the country, with at least 65% of people in all parts of the city achieving the recommended amount of physical activity by 2025.

The City of Bristol has a young population. The median age of people living in the City is 33.4 years old which is 5.5 years below the national average. The single largest age range in the City according to the last census data in 2011 was 20-29 year olds, closely followed by 30-39 year olds. People in these age brackets are deemed to have high a propensity to take part in sport and physical activity.

As a 'Core City', Bristol has high levels of economic activity and this is reflective of the high levels of affluence across the population. As affluence is also a significant factor with respect to physical activity levels, this is an important comparison for Cork.

The sports and facilities listed below highlights the current provision of ARI facilities within the City of Bristol according to their latest playing pitch and infrastructure strategies (2016).

Football

- The City of Bristol has a total of 569 teams, which is comparable to local areas of a similar size.
- Over the last 10-years there has been a significant national increase in the number of large multi-team football clubs. In Bristol, 12 clubs have more than 10 registered teams.
- 13 fine turf pitches (FTP's) with a demand requirement of 2 more.
- The Bristol Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) identifies 270 grass football pitches with varying format sizes, of which just 3% are rated as good quality and 75% as standard quality. The total proportion of pitches in Bristol rated as poor quality represents 22%.

Sports Halls

- 34 Sports Halls of at least 27m x 17m with full community access.

Swimming Pools

- 15 indoor swimming pools of at least 20m x 8m with community access.

Athletic Tracks

- There is only one 8 lane athletics track in the City boundary.

Indoor Tennis

- There are 3 indoor tennis centres and 183 outdoor courts.

Water Sports Centres

- There are 6 water sport centres covering rowing, canoeing and sailing.

Bowls

- There are 25 outdoor bowls facilities and one indoor facility.

It is also helpful to compare Bristol's once a week participation in sport with that of the other seven Core Cities. Manchester is home to the largest proportion of adults who participate in sport once a week (40.3%), followed by Newcastle (37.8%). Bristol ranks third and the lowest performing 'Core City' is Birmingham (34.5%).

As Bristol has a relatively young and active adult population, it is not surprising that two of the five largest market segments in Bristol are from the 18-25 age group (Jamie and Leanne) and three of the five largest segments are particularly active for their age group (Jamie, Tim and Philip). The top 5 market segments which account for the largest proportion of Bristol's population are set out below, together with the sports and activities most likely to appeal to them:

Market Segment	Description	Activity Most Likely to appeal
Jamie (9.3%)	Young blokes enjoying football, pints and pool.	Basketball, Football, Weight Training, Badminton, Boxing, Martial Arts
Elsie and Arnold (7.9%)	Retired singles or widowers, predominantly female, living in sheltered accommodation	Walking, Dancing, Bowls, Low- impact exercise
Tim (7.9%)	Sporty male professionals, buying a house and settling down with partner	Canoeing, Cricket, Cycling, Squash, Skiing, Golf, Football
Philip (7.4%)	Mid-life professional, sporty males with older children and more time for themselves	Sailing, Football, Badminton, Cycling, Gym, Jogging, Golf, Cricket
Leanne (6.6%)	Young busy mums and their supportive	Swimming, Gym, Aerobics, Ice Skating, Dance Exercise, Body Pump, Utility Walking

The table above highlights potential key market segmentation groups which could also be of relevance for Cork City with respect to similar age bands and noting that expected increase particularly within the younger demographic cohort.

Sport4Life and Sport England's Market Segmentation research identified the following main barriers which prevent, or are likely to prevent, people in Bristol from participating in sport and active recreation as:

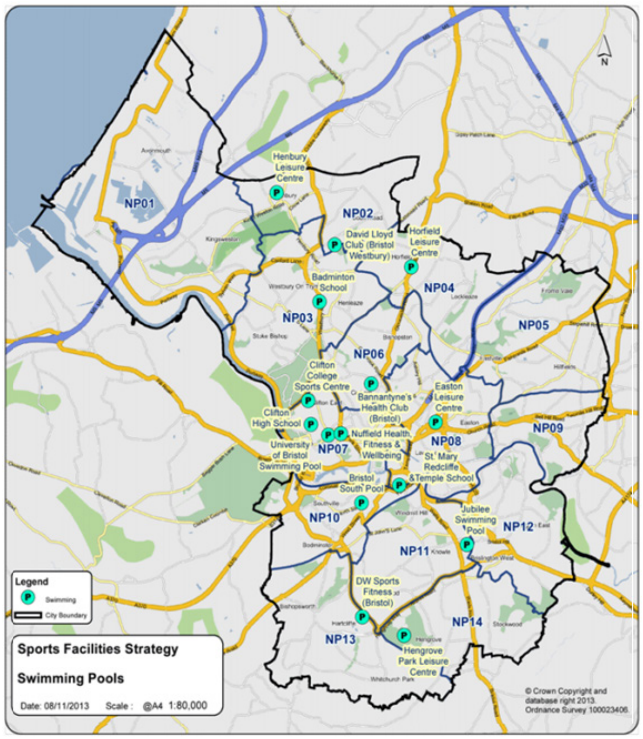
- Lack of free time;
- Cost of participating;
- Work commitments and pressures;
- Lack of motivation & confidence;
- Ill health or disability; and
- Lack of transport.

These general barriers are also of note for CCC and can help to inform future sport/ARI strategies.

The City of Bristol is also considered to have an adequate supply of water-based ARI provision, such as an adequate level of pool supply (assuming the new pool proceeds as planned at Bristol Brunel Academy). The existing unmet demand in Bristol is comparatively small and relates mainly to residents who are outside the walking catchment of existing swimming and do not have access to a car.

It is considered that Bristol's stock of pools currently have capacity to accommodate the needs of its increasing population. Figure f.3 below identifies the location of swimming pools within Bristol.

Figure 7.3: Location of Swimming Pools in Bristol



Source: https://www.bristolactivecity.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/A-Sport-and-Active-Recreation-Facility-Strategy-for-Bristol-SaARFS.pdf

Swimming pool provision is considered to be a potential area for improvement within Cork City, particularly for the proposed new City Docks Major Development Area. CCC should consider undertaking a feasibility study to ascertain the usage patterns and demand for a new swimming complex which would be open for community use. Noting the significant capital cost for a new facility a robust evidence base would need to be prepared.

Overarching Comparative Analysis Findings

We set out below key findings and recommendations with respect to the comparative analysis exercise:

- The three Study Areas (i.e. SDCC, Bristol City and Cork City) are considered to exhibit similar characteristics in terms of pitches per total population, population trends, focus on increasing participation levels and availability of water based ARI (excluding SDCC).
- The SDCC Sports Pitch Strategy and the City of Bristol's Playing Pitch Strategy and Sport and Active Recreation Facility Strategy provide useful examples/resources for CCC to consider in terms of how other Councils are aiming to enhance activity levels and deliver new and/or improved ARI.
- CCC should conduct a robust Pitch Based Sports Strategy which reviews in detail the carrying capacity and quality of individual sites, with respect to the core pitch based sports, such as GAA, soccer and rugby union to enable CCC to accurately determine current and future needs, much like the SPS completed by SDCC.
- Following the completion of a pitch-based sport specific strategy further work can then be undertaken to explore and develop option appraisals and site specific feasibility studies.
- CCC should continue to liaise with schools and other community groups to explore the opportunity to utilise their facilities after official hours for wider community and club use which will help to establish greater links between the schools, the community and local clubs. This will also allow CCC to reduce capital expenditure on new pitches and sites if utilisation of current facilities can be maximised in a more efficient manner.
- The City of Bristol work closely with national governing bodies and regional sports partnerships to develop its sport/ARI strategies and goals/targets with respect to participation levels. CCC should continue to liaison with similar sporting bodies and increase opportunities to communicate, where possible, to develop closer relationships with these entities and to align targets. This can include a Council Officer becoming a Member of the new Cork Sport 2040 group.
- CCC should further explore detailed feasibility studies for large capital builds such as swimming pools and leisure centres within the Sub-City areas to determine the correct size and facility mix.
- CCC should consider adopting a similar SDZ approach for the new Major Development Areas which clearly identify the land use capacity and requirements within these areas and associated social infrastructure.


4
9

08 Spatial Analysis of Existing ARI

Introduction

This Section of the Study seeks to provide a high level spatial overview of ARI within CCC's administrative area (at the Study Area level).

Having undertaken an Online Survey Audit, key stakeholder engagement and a comparative analysis exercise, the Study Team is able to provide a spatial analysis of Active Recreation Infrastructure (ARI) within the Study Area.

Mapping has been prepared to assist and inform this spatial analysis of ARI at a Study Area level[13], within the administrative area of Cork City Council (CCC) and to help inform Section 9 of this Study with respect to strategic ARI requirements.

Study Area Profile

The Study Area is based on the geographical extent of Cork City Council's administrative area, which includes the recent extension, of May 2019.

The newly extended Cork City Council boundary is illustrated in Figure 8.1 below, along with the old Cork City boundary for comparison purposes.

Cork City Council's administrative area now includes the following new areas: White Cross; Ballyvolane; Glanmire, Rochestown; Douglas; Grange; Donnybrook, Frankfield; Cork Airport; Togher; Curraheen; Ballincollig; Kerry Pike; Tower; Blarney and Kileens.

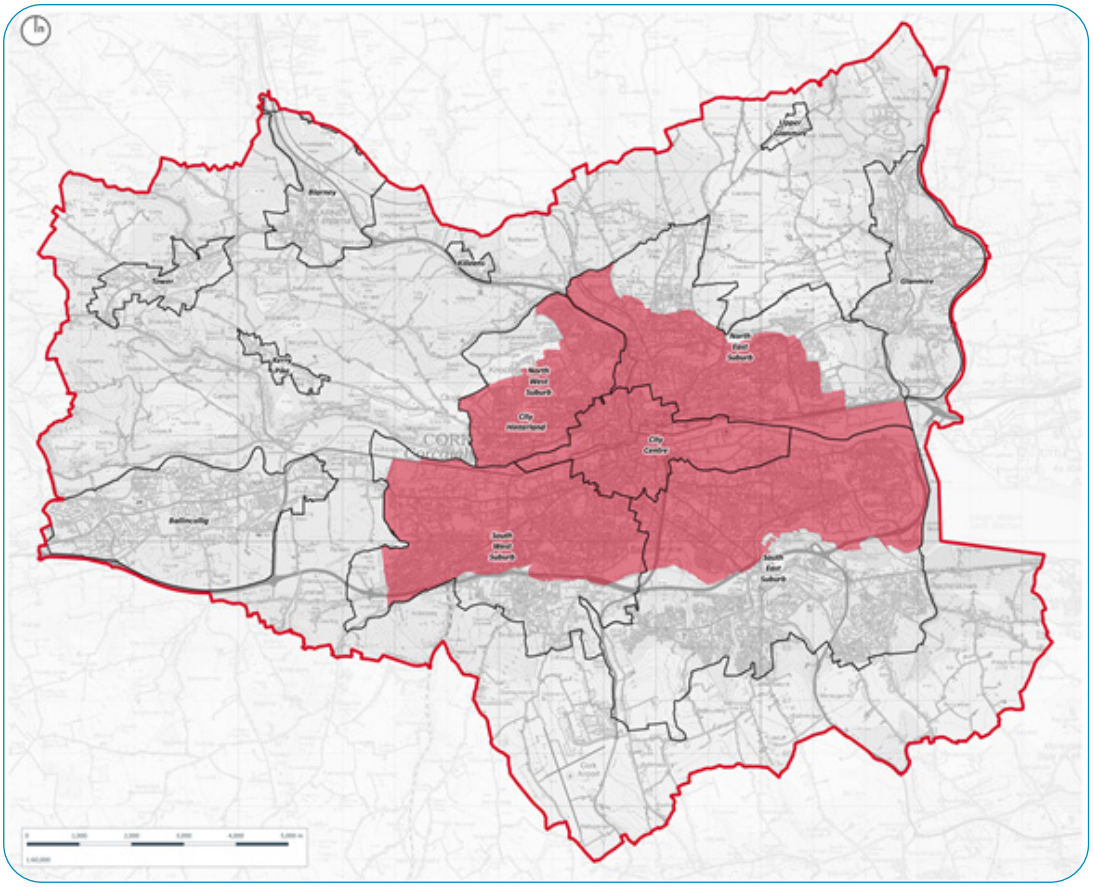


Figure 8.1: Extent of Study Area

13 *Section 10 of the Study provides an ARI analysis at the Sub City level.*

Cork City is steeped in sporting history and glory noting that it is home to nationally and regionally important ARI, including, but not limited to:

- Páirc Uí Chaoimh (GAA);
- Turners Cross Stadium (Soccer);
- Bishopstown Training Ground (Soccer);
- Musgrave Park (Rugby);
- University College Cork Sports Grounds (Mixed); and
- Munster Technological University (formerly CIT) Sports Grounds (Mixed);
- Cork County Cricket Club (Cricket);
- LeisureWorld (indoor health, fitness and recreation facilities) at Bishopstown, Churchfield and Douglas; and
- Glen Resource and Sports Centre (outdoor adventure centre).

These national, regional and city/local scale ARI assets have multiple uses throughout the year ranging from sport, recreation and leisure and provide significant benefits to the local and wider population in terms of physical and mental health.

Additionally, the Study Area has a great range of city/local level ARI with a range of playing surfaces (including green field and all-weather) with respect to sport pitches, courts, courses, tracks, etc. Table 8.1 below provides a list of ARI located within the Study Area. The ARI has been identified via the responses to the Online Survey Audit and/or via a desktop aerial survey of the entire Study Area. It should be noted that each count within Table 8.1 represents an individual piece of ARI, such as a pitch, a court, a facility/hall/centre, etc.

ARI - Sport Type	Study Area
Soccer	146
GAA	110
Tennis	72
Basketball	63
Rugby	35
Multi-Purpose (Indoor)	18
Multi-Purpose (Outdoor)	10
Gym / Physical Fitness	27
Swimming	14
Hockey	11
Boxing	9
Pitch and Putt	8
Golf	6
Rowing	5
Athletics	3
Bowling Outdoor	3
Cricket	3
Skateboarding	2
Skating	2
Walking	2
Kayaking	1
BMX	1
Boating	1
Climbing	1
Gymnastics	1
Informal Activity Play	1
Martial Arts	1
Orienteering	1
Paddle Boarding	1
Park Run	1
Petanque	1
Squash	1
Taekwon-Do	1
Volleyball	1
Total	563

Table 8.1: List of Existing ARI Located within the Study Area

The information provided in Table 8.1 has been utilised to identify the top pitch sports and non-pitch sports within the Study Area, which are listed in Table 8.2 and Table 8.3 respectively. It is evident from Table 8.2 that Soccer and GAA are the dominant pitch sports within the study area. With regards to non-pitch sports, the top five sports include: tennis, basketball, multi-purpose facilities; gym / physical fitness; and swimming.

Top Non-Pitch Sports		
1	Tennis	72
2	Basketball	64
4	Gym / Physical Fitness	27
3	Indoor Multi-Purpose	18
5	Swimming	14
6	Boxing	9

Table 8.2: List of Top Non Pitch Sports within the Study Area

Top Pitch Sports		
1	Soccer	146
2	GAA	110
3	Rugby	35
4	Hockey	11
5	Cricket	3
6	Athletics	3

Table 8.3: List of Top 6 Pitch Based Sports within the Study Area

It is noted that Cork City's existing network of ARI is to be supplemented in the coming years with planned/committed investments and developments, such as:

- FAI Centre of Excellence in Glanmire;
- Munster Technology University and Athletic Ireland's elite level/multi-purpose indoor arena and high-performance athletics centre;
- Marina Park – Cork City Docklands;
- Cork City Docklands Regeneration Area; and
- Tivoli Docks Regeneration Area.

The population within the Study Area is expected to grow by 47,238 (22%) up to 2028. To account for this growth, a certain level of sport and strategic facilities should be created to cater for the growth of sport and leisure provision, especially within the core pitch and indoor based sports.

With 50% of the population within the Study Area under 34, and over a third under 24 years of age, there is also a clear need to ensure services and supports for this age group. Noting the significant quantum of growth that is planned for Cork City over the next 20 years and the age profile of the Study Area, it is important that CCC plans for/seeks to improve the existing ARI network and deliver new ARI to ensure a healthy, green and connected City with appropriate levels of ARI along with inter-connected parks, open spaces, greenways and public transport.

Map 1 – Location of ARI within the Study Area[14]

Map 1 plots the location of ARI within the Study Area as identified by respondents to the Online Survey Audit (orange dots) and as identified by the Study Team's review of aerial mapping with respect to outdoor playing pitches and other ARI facilities within the Study Area, which comprises approx. 563 points (see Figure 8.2).

Map 1 assists in identifying the spatial distribution of ARI within the Study Area. Indeed, it illustrates that there is a significant quantum of ARI located within the Study Area and that the ARI is concentrated within Cork City and its surrounding suburban footprint, with the remainder of ARI being located in Ballincollig and spread throughout the City's wider/hinterland areas.

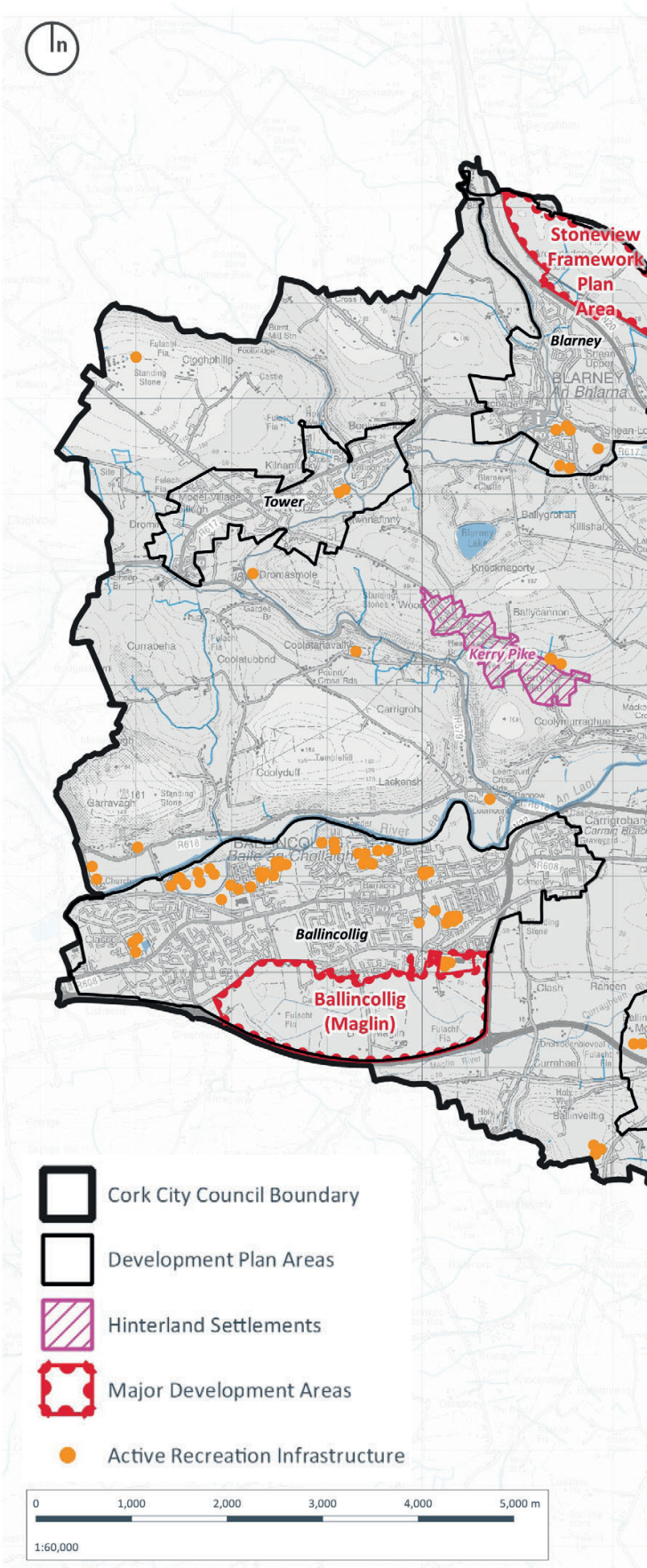
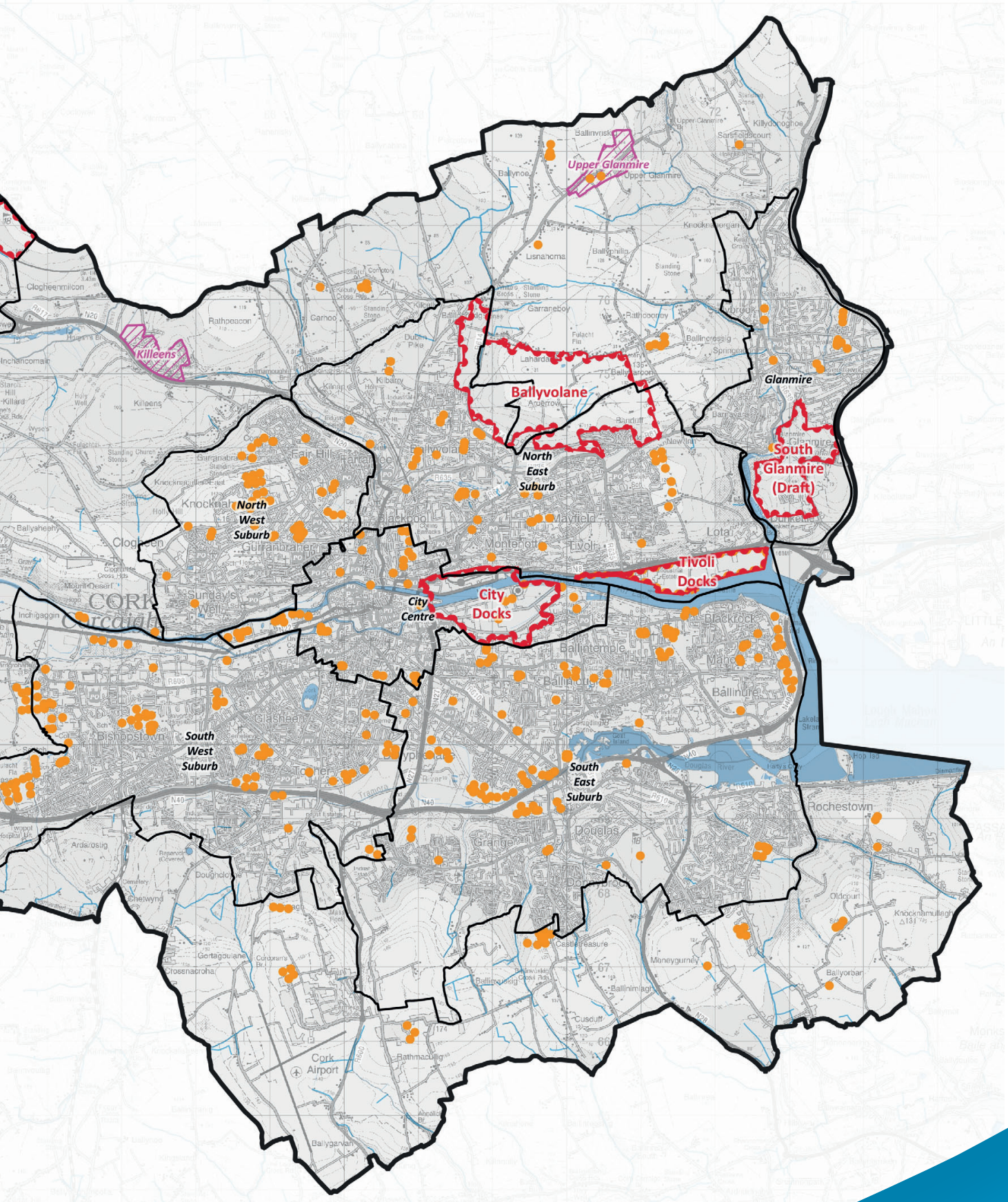


Figure 8.2: Map 1 – Location of ARI within the Study Area

[14] *Please refer to Appendix 7 for larger versions of the Maps contained within this Section of the Study.*


Upper Glanmire
Killeens
Ballyvolane
North East Suburb
Glanmire
South Glanmire (Draft)
North West Suburb
Tivoli Docks
City Centre
City Docks
South West Suburb
South East Suburb
Cork Airport

Map 2 – Study Area Locations within a Reasonable Cycling Distance from Existing ARI

Map 2 is similar to Map 1 but with a 2.7km/10 minute[15] cycle distance buffer plotted around the existing ARI to identify parts of the Study Area that are not located within a reasonable cycling distance from the existing ARI (see Figure 8.3).

Interestingly, the majority of the Study Area is located within a reasonable cycling distance to some form of existing ARI, apart from the following area:

- a semi-rural area with one-off housing at the north western fringe of the Study Area and which includes part of the Waterloo area and the River Martin Park Area.

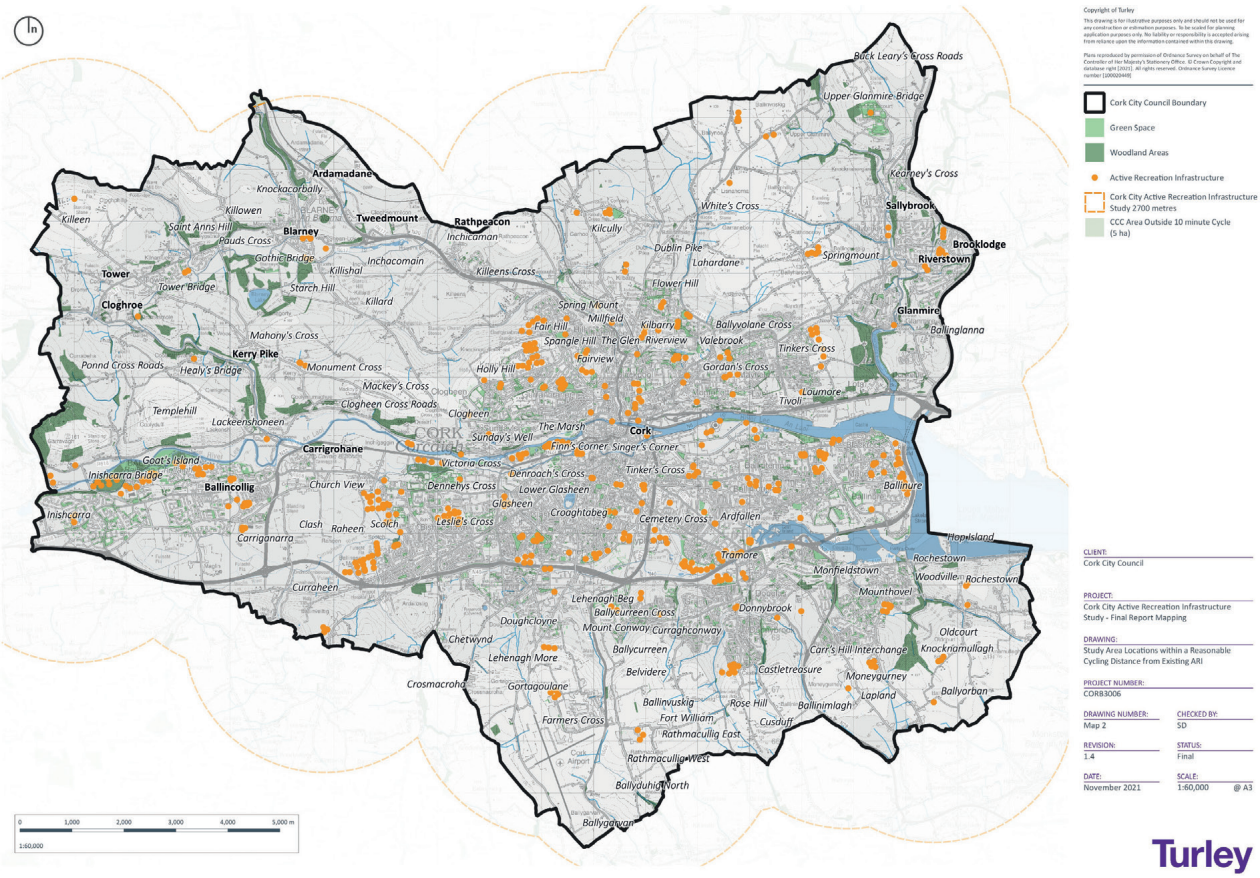


Figure 8.3:Map 2 – Locations within a Reasonable Cycling Distance from Existing ARI

15 *Widely accepted to represent a reasonable cycling distance.*

Map 3 – Study Area Locations within a Reasonable Walking Distance from Existing ARI

Map 3 is similar to Map 1 but with an 800m/10 minute[16] walking distance buffer plotted around the existing ARI to help identify parts of the Study Area that are not located within a reasonable walking distance from the existing ARI (see Figure 8.4).

It is noted that all of the City Centre is located within a reasonable walking distance to some form of existing ARI. However, a number of suburban/hinterland areas are not located within reasonable walking distance to existing ARI.

To obtain a more holistic understanding of the walkability of existing ARI, we must first overlay Map 3 with public transport data such as bus routes and bus stops. Please see commentary under Map 4 below.

16 *Widely accepted to represent a reasonable walking distance.*

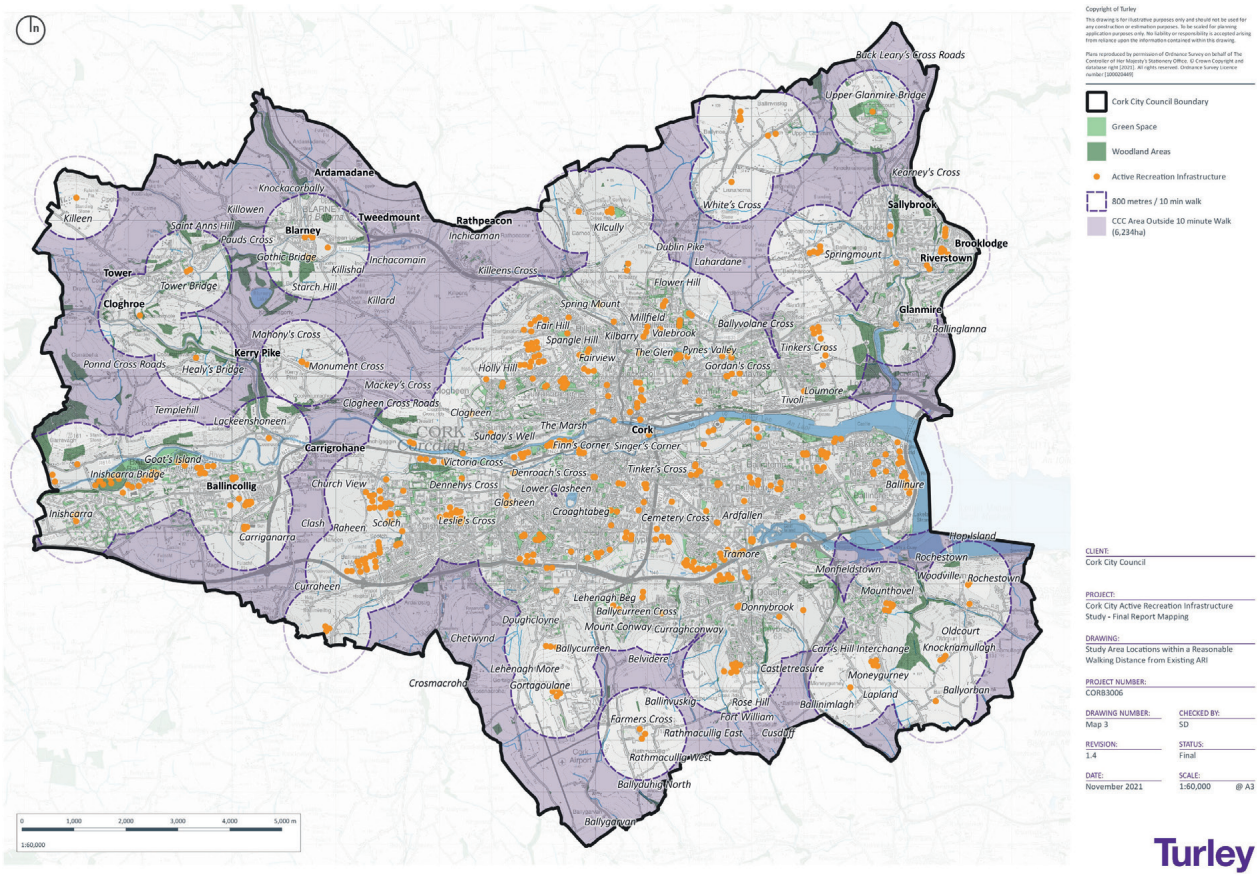


Figure 8.4:Map 3 – Locations within a Reasonable Walking Distance from Existing ARI

Map 4 – Study Area Locations with Public Transport Accessibility to Existing ARI

Map 4 is similar to Map 3 but with an overlay of bus routes and bus stops and an additional buffer plotting an 800m/10 minute walking distance from the bus stops (see Figure 8.5).

It is noted that Map 4 illustrates a reduction in terms of those locations within the Study Area that are not within a reasonable walking distance to existing ARI either by foot or by public transport.

Interestingly, the majority of the urban and suburban areas appear to be within a reasonable walking distance to ARI. The areas that are not located within a reasonable walking distance, either by foot or public transport, appear to be less populated rural areas with predominately open countryside/agricultural lands. These areas appear to form a natural green belt around the settlements/built up areas.

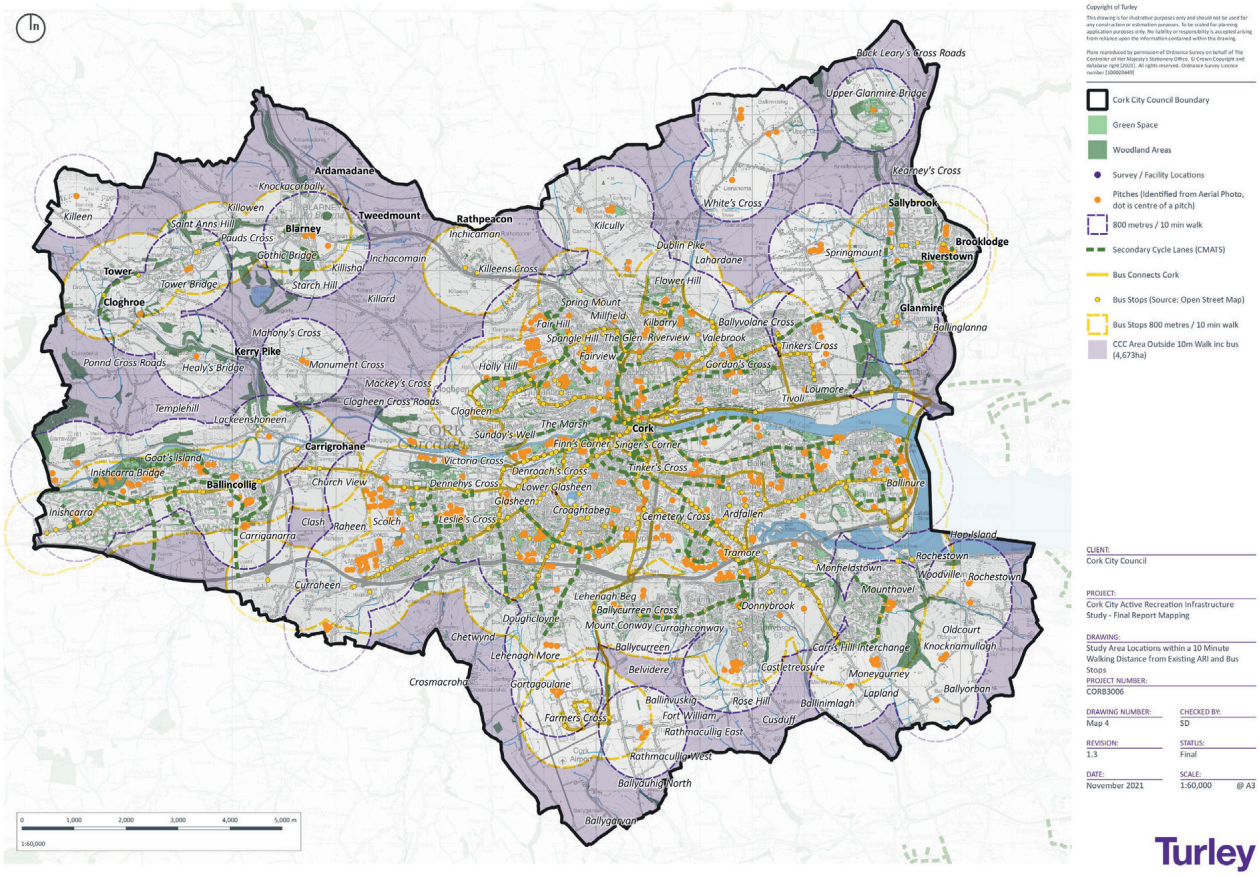


Figure 8.5:Map 4 – Locations within a 10 Minute Walking Distance from Existing ARI and Public Transport

Map 5 – Interrelationship of Green & Blue Infrastructure and ARI within Study Area

Map 5 is similar to Map 1 but with additional Green and Blue Infrastructure layers, which have been prepared as part of the Green and Blue Infrastructure Study that is being undertaken by CCC in tandem with this Study (see Figure 8.6).

Map 5 illustrates the current inter-relationship of Green and Blue Infrastructure and ARI within the Study Area. Please refer to Section 11 for further commentary and findings with respect to this inter-relationship.

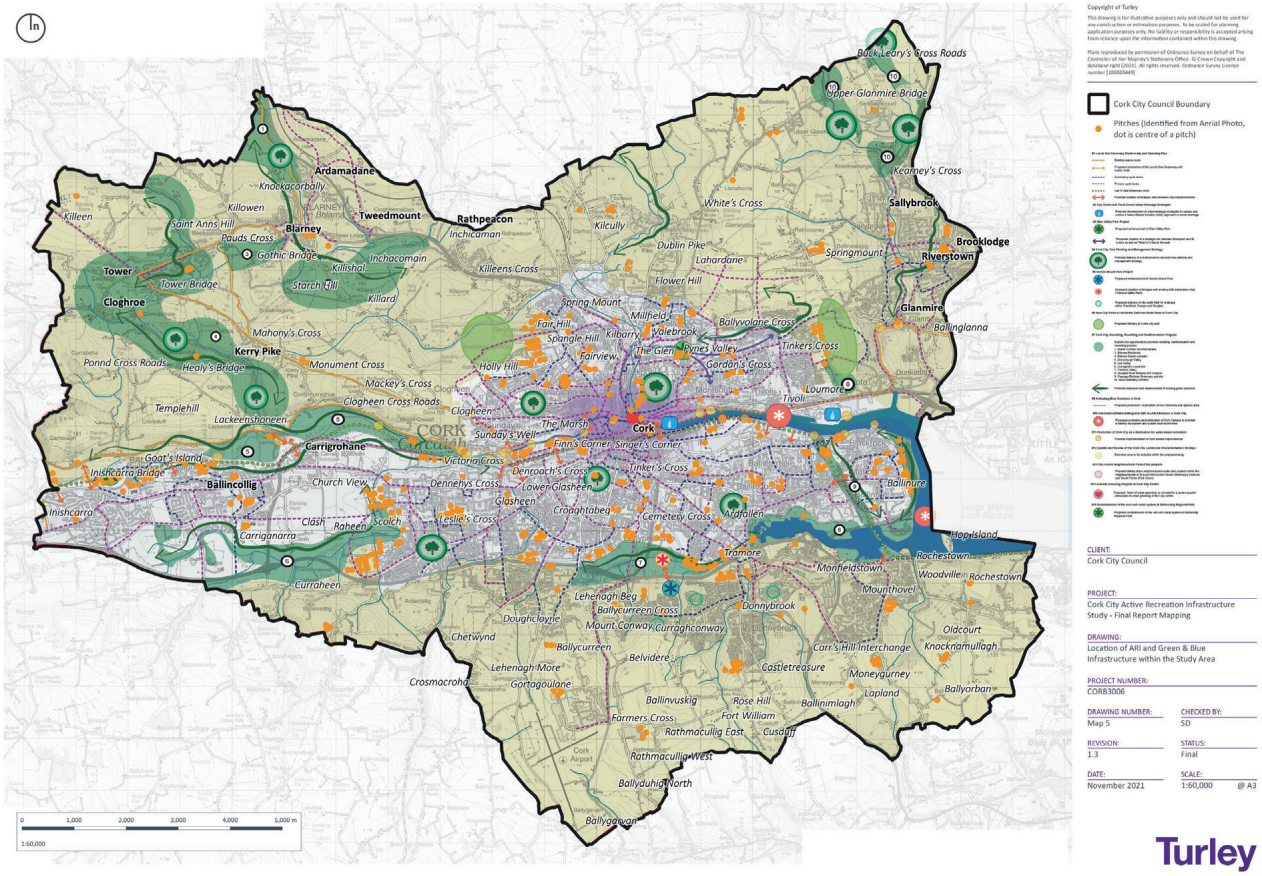


Figure 8.6: Map 5 – The current interrelationship of Green and Blue Infrastructure and ARI within the Study Area

Map 6 – Location of ARI within the Study Area and Slipways/Water Access Points

Map 6 is similar to Map 1 but with the location of slipways/water access points included (see Figure 8.7). This map uses a colour coded symbol to identify the following:

- Locations requiring new slipway/water access infrastructure;
- Locations of existing slipway/water access infrastructure requiring improvements; and
- Locations of existing slipway/water access infrastructure not open to the public.

It is noted that new slipway/water access infrastructure have been identified as being required in a number of locations along the River Lee and Glashaboy River, in addition to improvements to existing slipway/water access infrastructure.

If delivered, the new and/or improved infrastructure will help to improve accessibility to the River Lee and Glashaboy River. However, CCC should first investigate the potential to secure public access via those areas that are not currently open to the public, as these have the potential to address current needs in the short to medium term; specifically along the River Lee in Ballincollig and along the Glashaboy River between Glanmire and the North East Suburb.

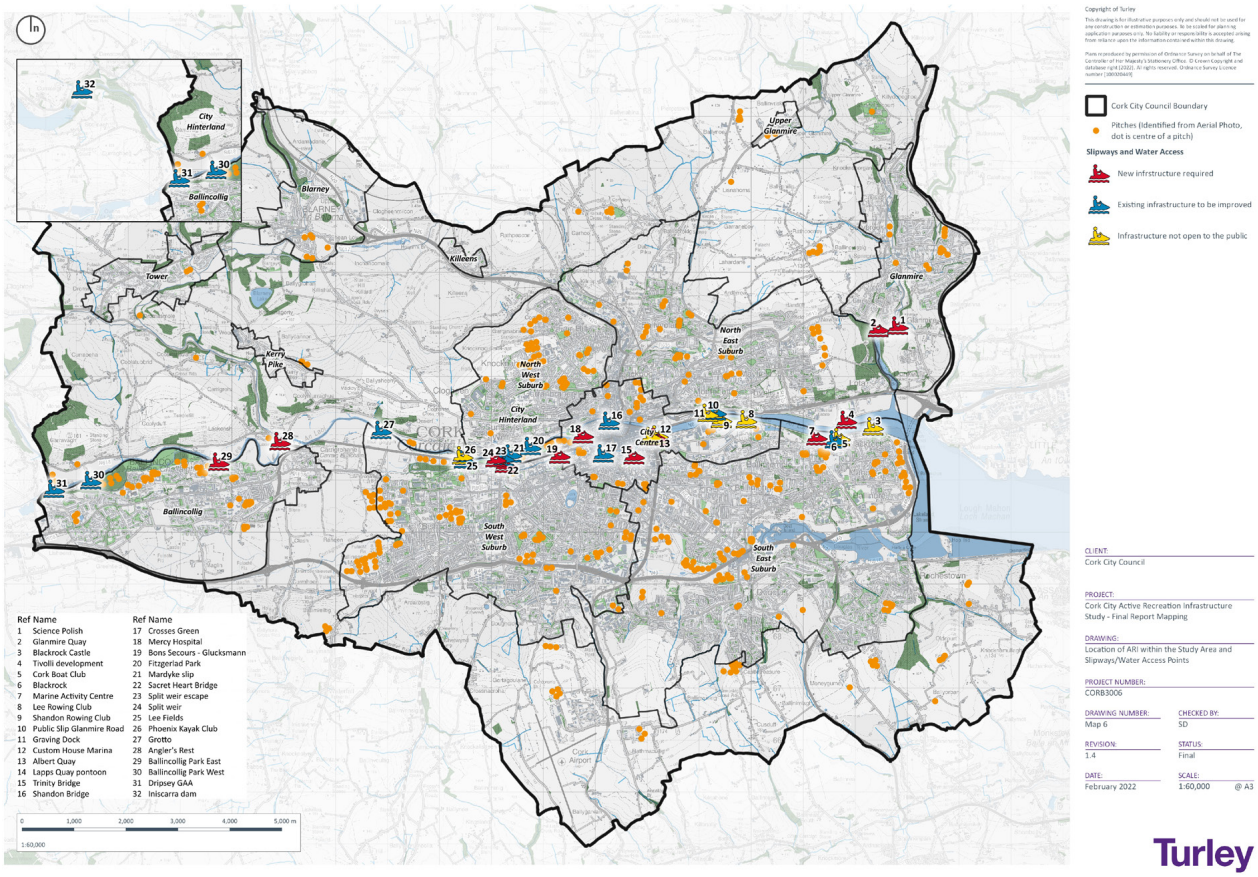


Figure 8.7: Map 6 – Location of ARI within the Study Area and Slipway Water Access Points

Map 7 – Study Area Locations within a Reasonable Walking Distance from Soccer Pitches

Map 7 includes an 800m/10 minute walking distance buffer plotted around the existing soccer pitches to help identify parts of the Study Area that are not located within a reasonable walking distance from the existing soccer pitches (see Figure 8.8).

Approximately half of the urban and suburban areas appear to be within a reasonable walking distance to ARI. The areas that are not located within a reasonable walking distance, appear to be in the east of the city centre, in the periphery of the suburb areas, and in less populated rural areas with predominately open countryside/agricultural lands.

The areas with a low concentration / lack of soccer pitches within a reasonable walking distance include: the west of Tower: the south-west of Ballincollig: the south, east and north of Glanmire; the south and centre/east of the South East Suburb; the south of the South West Suburb; and the east of the City Centre. The areas with no soccer pitches include Blarney, Kerry Pike, Killeens and Upper Glanmire.

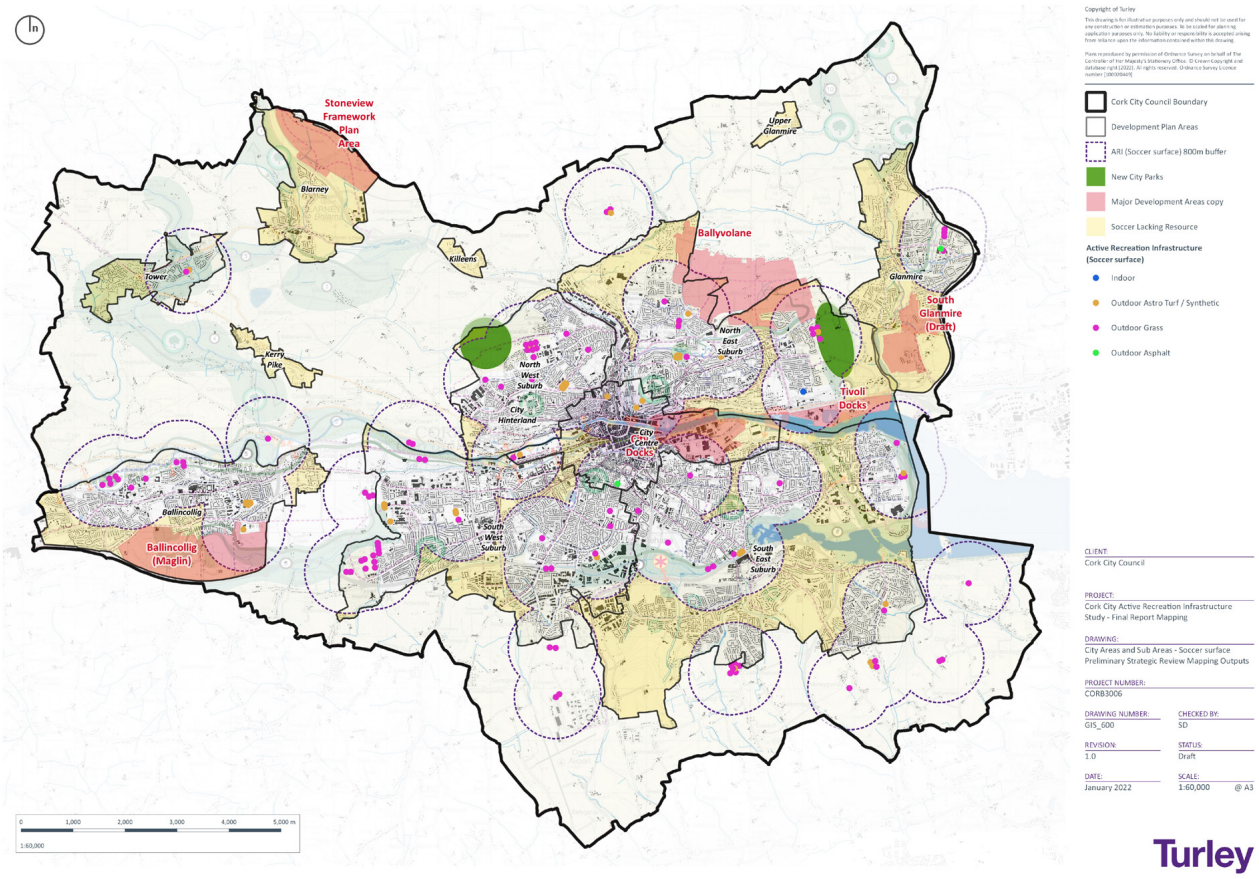


Figure 8.8: Map 7 – Study Area Locations within a Reasonable Walking Distance from Soccer Pitches

Source: Tony Noonan - Local GAA Photographer

Map 8 – Study Area Locations within a Reasonable Walking Distance from GAA Pitches

Map 8 includes an 800m/10 minute walking distance buffer plotted around the existing GAA pitches to help identify parts of the Study Area that are not located within a reasonable walking distance from the existing GAA pitches (see Figure 8.9).

As per the soccer pitches, approximately half of the urban and suburban areas appear to be within a reasonable walking distance to GAA pitches. The areas that are not located within a reasonable walking distance, appear to be in the south and east of the city centre, in the periphery of the suburb areas, and in less populated rural areas with predominately open countryside/agricultural lands.

The areas with a low concentration / lack of GAA pitches within a reasonable walking distance include: the north of Blarney; the south of Ballincollig; the south of Glanmire; the south of South East Suburb; and the south and east of the City Centre. The areas with no GAA pitches include: Tower; Kerry Pike; Killeens; and Upper Glanmire. Notwithstanding, there are GAA pitches located outside of the Study Area that are within a reasonable walking distance of Kerry Pike and Upper Glanmire.

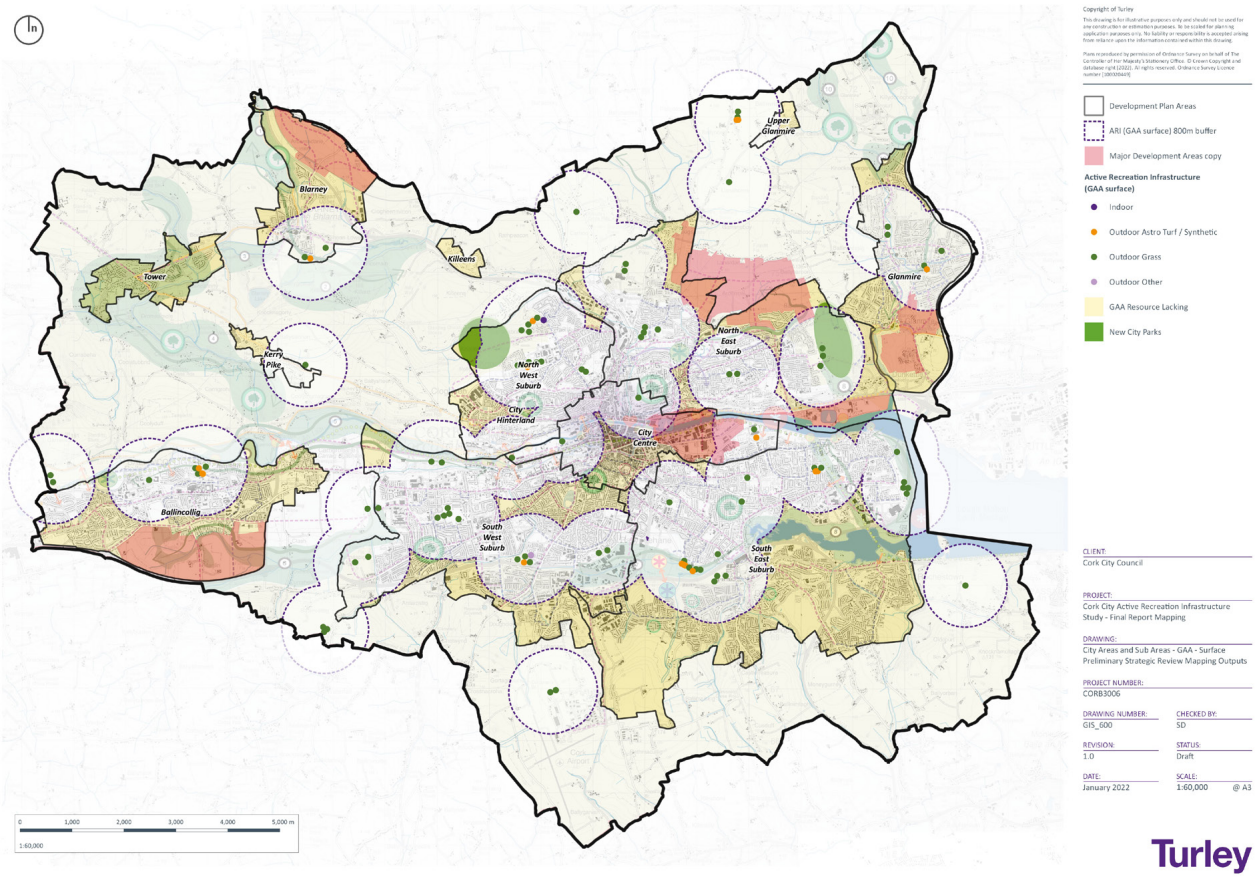


Figure 8.9: Map 8 – Study Area Locations within a Reasonable Walking Distance from GAA Pitches

Map 9 – Study Area Locations within a Reasonable Walking and Cycling Distance from Rugby Union Pitches

Map 9 includes an 800m/10 minute walking distance buffer plotted around the existing rugby union pitches to help identify parts of the Study Area that are not located within a reasonable walking distance from the existing rugby union pitches (see Figure 8.10).

Interestingly, the majority of the urban and suburban areas appear to be outside of a reasonable walking distance to rugby union pitches. The areas that are located within a reasonable walking distance appear to be concentrated in a linear formation from the west of the South West Suburb to the north-east of the South East Suburb. Only small areas in the north of the City Centre and west of Ballincollig are facilitated by rugby union pitches, with the remainder of these Sub City Areas being located outside of a reasonable walking distance from the existing rugby union pitches.

The areas with no rugby union pitches include; North West Suburb; North East Suburb; Tower; Blarney; Kerry Pike; Killeens; Upper Glanmire; and Glanmire. Notwithstanding, there are a number of rugby union pitches within the City Centre which are within a reasonable walking distance to areas within the south-west of the North East Suburb and rugby union pitches which are within a reasonable cycling distance of the north-east of the North East Suburb, Upper Glanmire, and Glanmire.

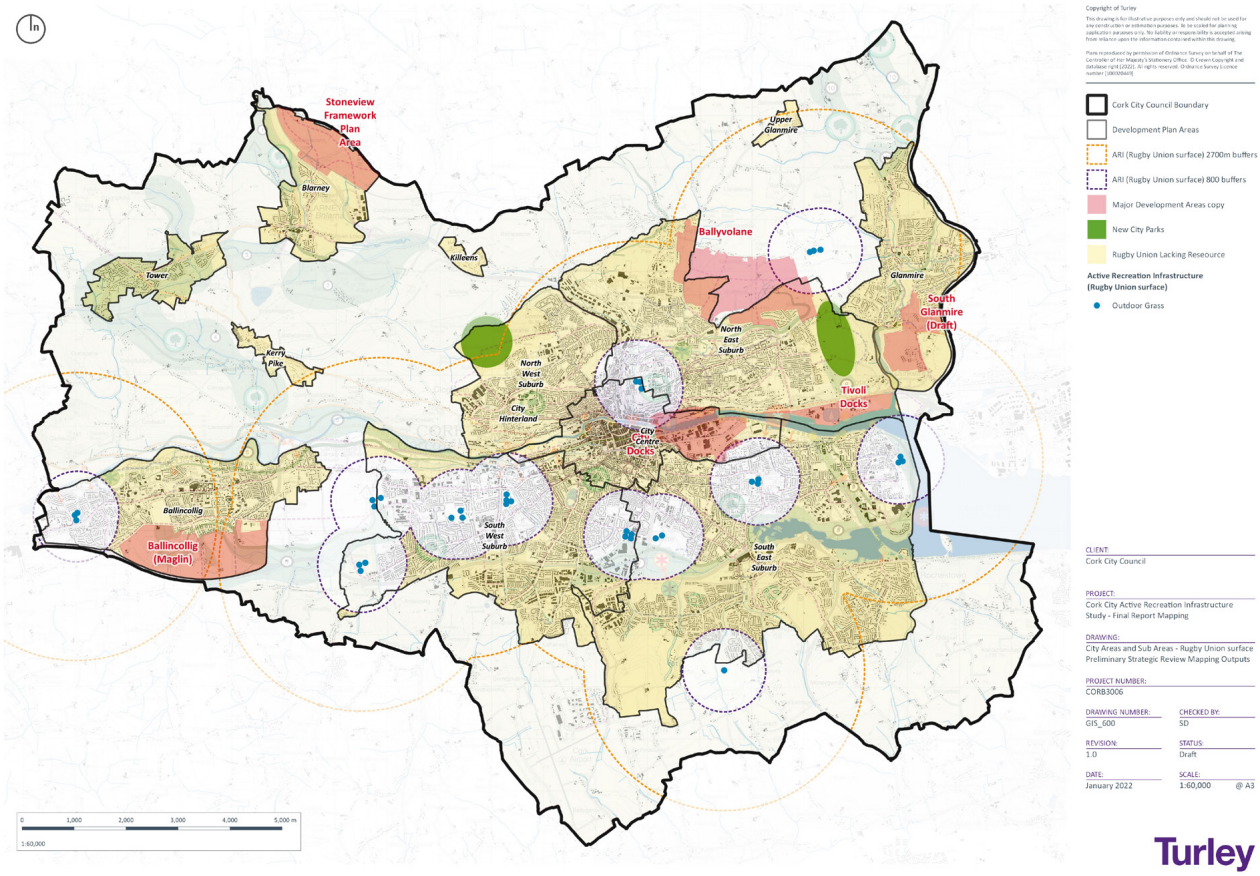


Figure 8.10: Map 9 – Study Area Locations within a Reasonable Walking Distance from Rugby Union Pitches

Map 10 – Study Area Locations within a Reasonable Walking and Cycling Distance from Hockey Pitches

Map 10 includes an 800m/10 minute walking distance buffer and a 2.7km/10 minute cycle distance buffer plotted around the existing hockey pitches to help identify parts of the Study Area that are not located within a reasonable walking or cycling distance from the existing hockey pitches (see Figure 8.11).

As per the rugby union pitches, the majority of the urban and suburban areas appear to be outside of a reasonable walking distance to hockey pitches. The areas that are located within a reasonable walking distance appear to be concentrated in the centre / north of the South West Suburb and the north of Ballincollig. Only small areas within the north of the City Centre, north and centre of the North-West Suburb, north-west and south-east of the South East Suburb and north of Ballincollig are facilitated by hockey pitches; with the remainder of these Sub City Areas being located outside of a reasonable walking distance from existing hockey pitches. Interesting, the major of the above listed Sub City Areas do have hockey pitches located within a reasonable cycling distance.

The areas with no hockey pitches include: North East Suburb; North West Suburb; Tower; Blarney; Kerry Pike; Kileens; Upper Glanmire; and Glanmire. Notwithstanding, there are a number of hockey pitches within Ballincollig, the South West Surburb and City Centre that are within a reasonable walking or cycling distance of Kerry Pike, the North East Surburb and North West Suburb respectively.

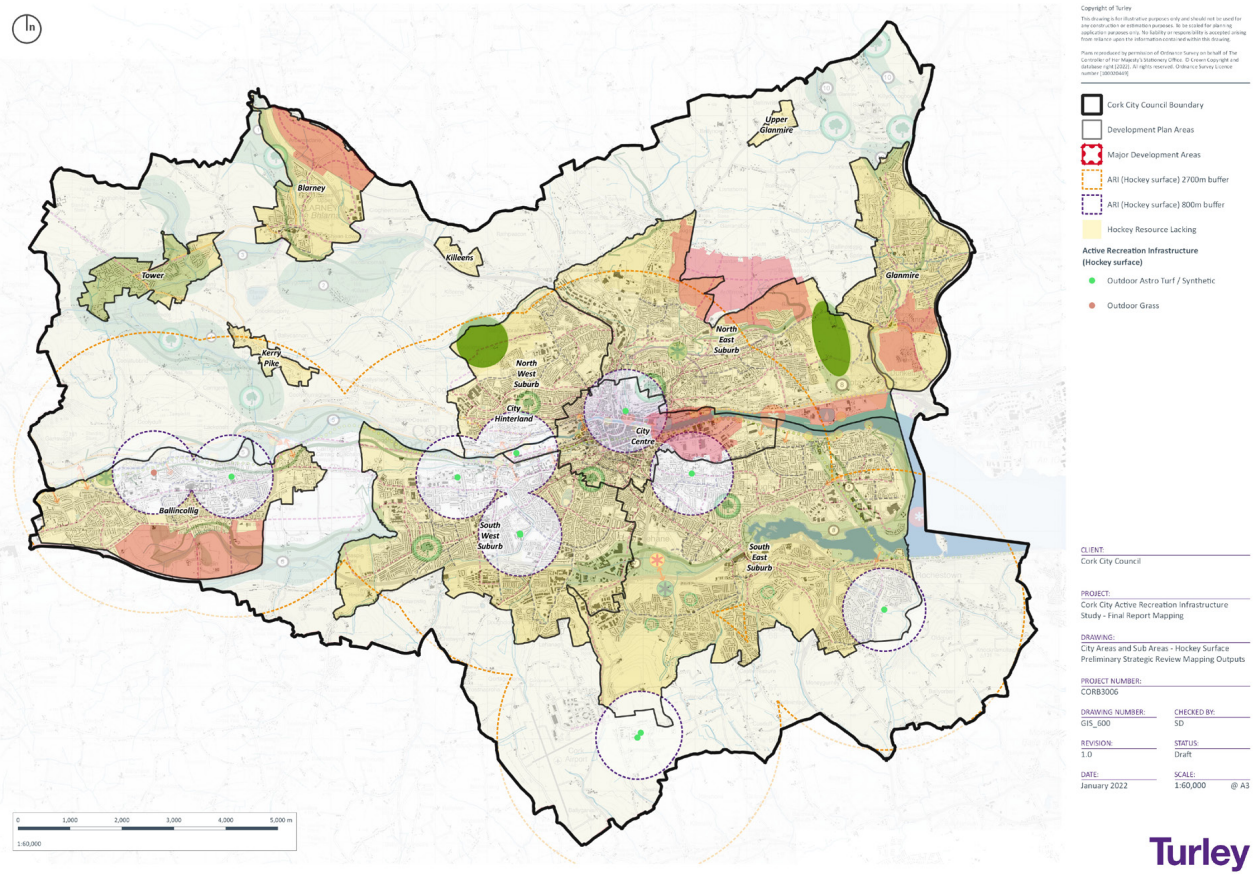


Figure 8.11: Map 10 – Study Area Locations within a Reasonable Walking and Cycling Distance from Hockey Pitches

Map 11 – Study Area Locations within a Reasonable Walking and Cycling Distance from Cricket Pitches

Map 11 includes an 800m/10 minute walking distance buffer and a 2.7km/10 minute cycle distance buffer plotted around the existing cricket pitches to help identify parts of the Study Area that are not located within a reasonable walking or cycling distance from the existing cricket pitches (see Figure 8.12).

It is evident that there is a limited number of cricket pitches located within or adjacent to the Study Area. The majority of the urban and suburban areas is outside of a reasonable walking or cycling distance of a cricket pitch. Only small areas within the west of the City Centre and south-west of the South-West Suburb and South East Suburb are facilitated by cricket pitches. The majority of the City Centre, North West Suburb and South West Suburban are located within a reasonable cycling distance from an existing cricket pitch.

The areas with no cricket pitches include: North East Suburb; North West Suburb; South East Suburb; Ballincollig; Tower; Blarney; Kerry Pike; Kileens; Upper Glanmire; and Glanmire. Notwithstanding, as per the North West Suburb, there is a cricket pitch situated within a reasonable cycling distance of the South East Surburb, which is located just outside the south-west boundary of the South East Suburb.

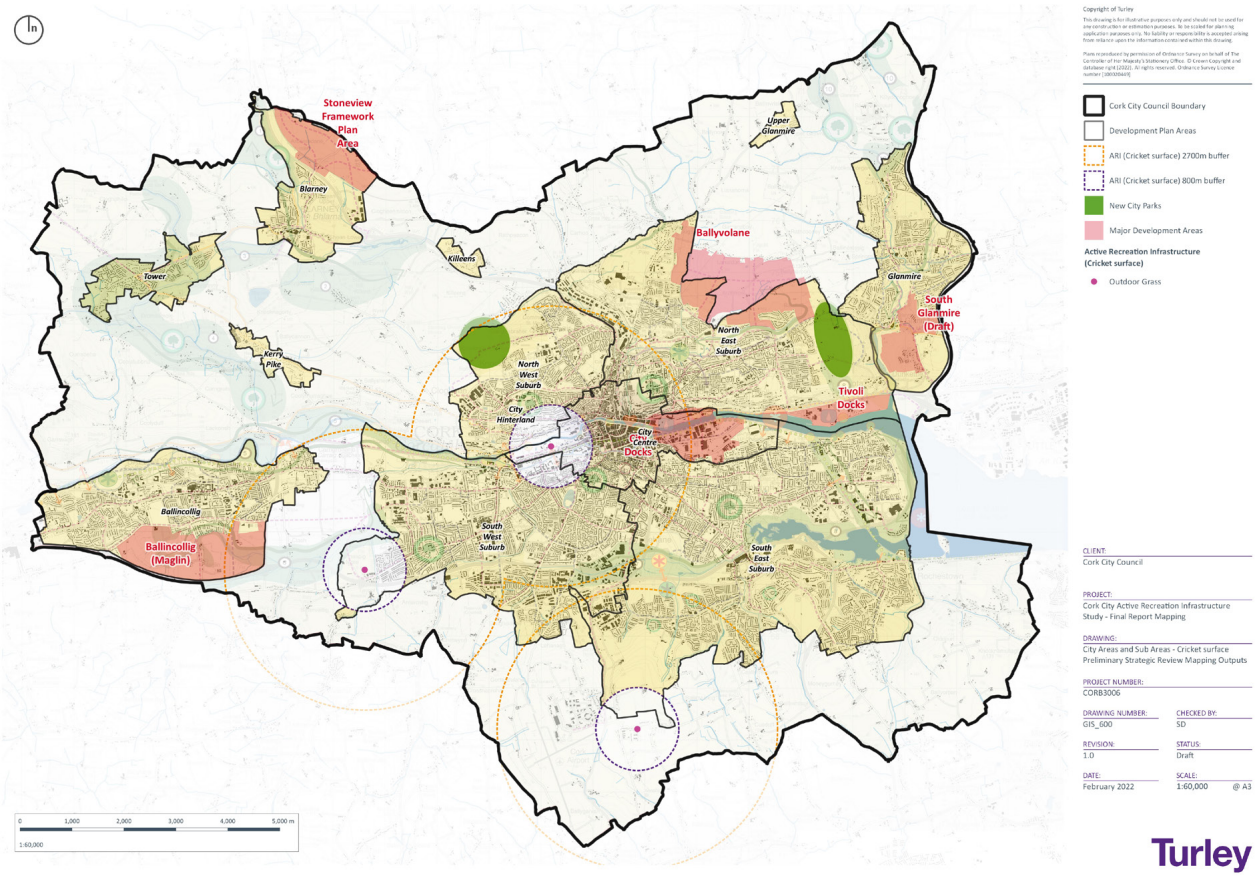


Figure 8.12: Map 11 – Study Area Locations within a Reasonable Walking and Cycling Distance from Cricket Pitches

Map 12 – Study Area Locations within a Reasonable Walking and Cycling Distance from Athletics Pitches

Map 12 includes an 800m/10 minute walking distance buffer and a 2.7km/10 minute cycle distance buffer plotted around the existing athletic pitches to help identify parts of the Study Area that are not located within a reasonable walking or cycling distance from the existing athletic pitches (see Figure 8.13).

As per the cricket pitches, it is evident that there is a limited number of athletic pitches located within or adjacent to the Study Area. Most of the urban and suburban areas is outside of a reasonable walking or cycling distance of an athletic pitch. Only small areas within the west and south of the City Centre and west of the South-West Suburb are facilitated by cricket pitches. The majority of the City Centre, North West Suburb, South West Suburban, the north-west of the South East Suburb and the south-west of the North East Suburb are located within a reasonable cycling distance from an existing athletics pitch.

The areas with no athletics pitches include: North East Suburb, North West Suburb, South East Suburb, Ballincollig, Tower; Blarney, Kerry Pike, Kileens, Upper Glanmire, and Glanmire.

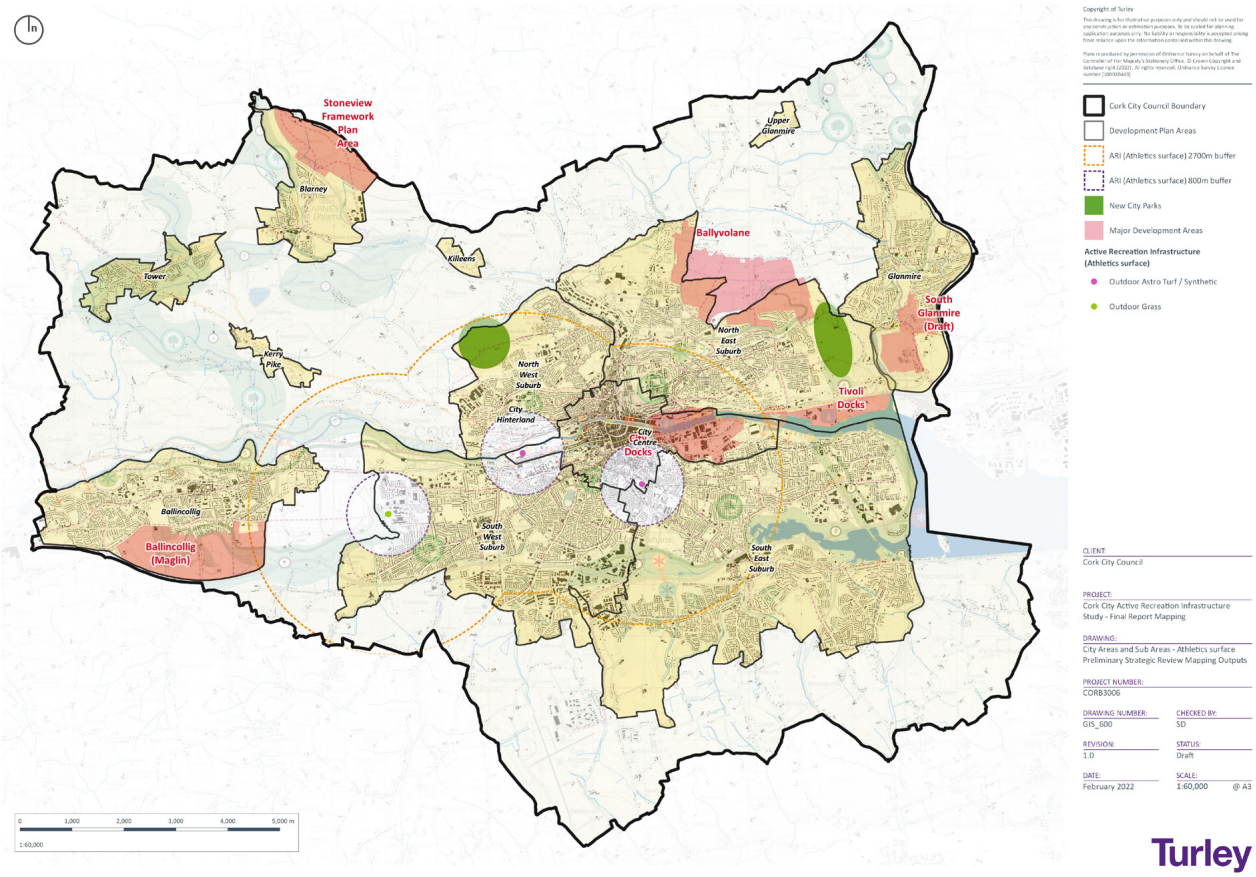


Figure 8.13: Map 12 – Study Area Locations within a Reasonable Walking and Cycling Distance from Cricket Pitches

Map 13 – Study Area Locations within a Reasonable Walking and Cycling Distance from Tennis Courts

Map 13 includes an 800m/10 minute walking distance buffer and a 2.7km/10 minute cycle distance buffer plotted around the existing tennis courts to help identify parts of the Study Area that are not located within a reasonable walking or cycling distance from the existing tennis courts (see Figure 8.14).

The existing tennis courts are generally dispersed throughout the Study Area. Large parts of the urban and suburban areas appear to be within a reasonable walking distance of tennis courts. The areas that are not located within a reasonable walking distance, appear to be in the periphery of the suburb areas, and in less populated rural areas with predominately open countryside/agricultural lands. Notwithstanding, the tennis courts located within or adjacent to the Study Area are within a reasonable cycling distance of the majority of the Sub City Areas.

The areas with a low concentration / lack of tennis courts within a reasonable walking distance include: the east of the City Centre; the west of the North West Suburb; the east and north of the North East Suburb; the west of Kerry Pike; the east, south and west of the South East Suburb; the north, south and east of the South West Suburb; the east, west and south of Ballincollig; the north, south and west of Glanmire; and the north of Blarney. The areas with no tennis courts within a reasonable walking or cycling distance include Tower, Blarney, Killeens, and Upper Glanmire.

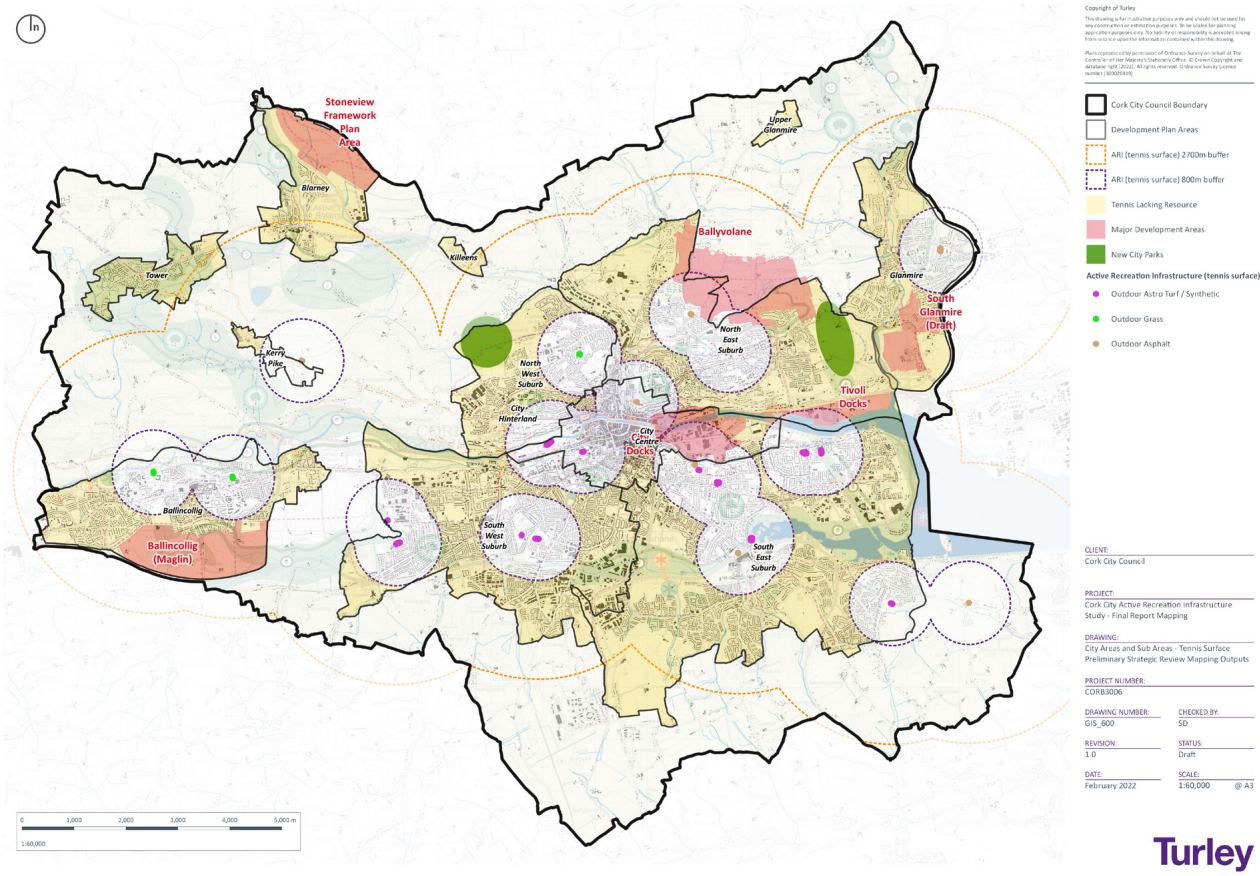


Figure 8.14: Map 13 – Study Area Locations within a Reasonable Walking and Cycling Distance from Tennis Courts

Map 14 – Study Area Locations within a Reasonable Walking and Cycling Distance from Basketball Courts

Map 14 includes an 800m/10 minute walking distance buffer and a 2.7km/10 minute cycle distance buffer plotted around the existing basketball courts to help identify parts of the Study Area that are not located within a reasonable walking or cycling distance from the existing basketball courts (see Figure 8.15).

As per the tennis courts, the existing basketball courts are generally dispersed throughout the Study Area. Large parts of the urban and suburban areas appear to be within a reasonable walking distance of basketball courts. The areas that are not located within a reasonable walking distance, appear to be in the periphery of the suburb areas, and in less populated rural areas with predominately open countryside/agricultural lands. Notwithstanding, the basketball courts located within or adjacent to the Study Area are within a reasonable cycling distance of the majority of the Sub City Areas.

The areas with a low concentration / lack of basketball courts within a reasonable walking distance include: the east of the City Centre; the east of the North East Suburb; the south-east and west of the South East Suburb; the south, east and west of the South West Suburb; the west of Kerry Pike; the south and north-east of Ballincollig; the north of Blarney; the north and south of Glanmire; and the north of Blarney. The areas with no basketball courts within a reasonable walking or cycling distance include Tower and Killeens.

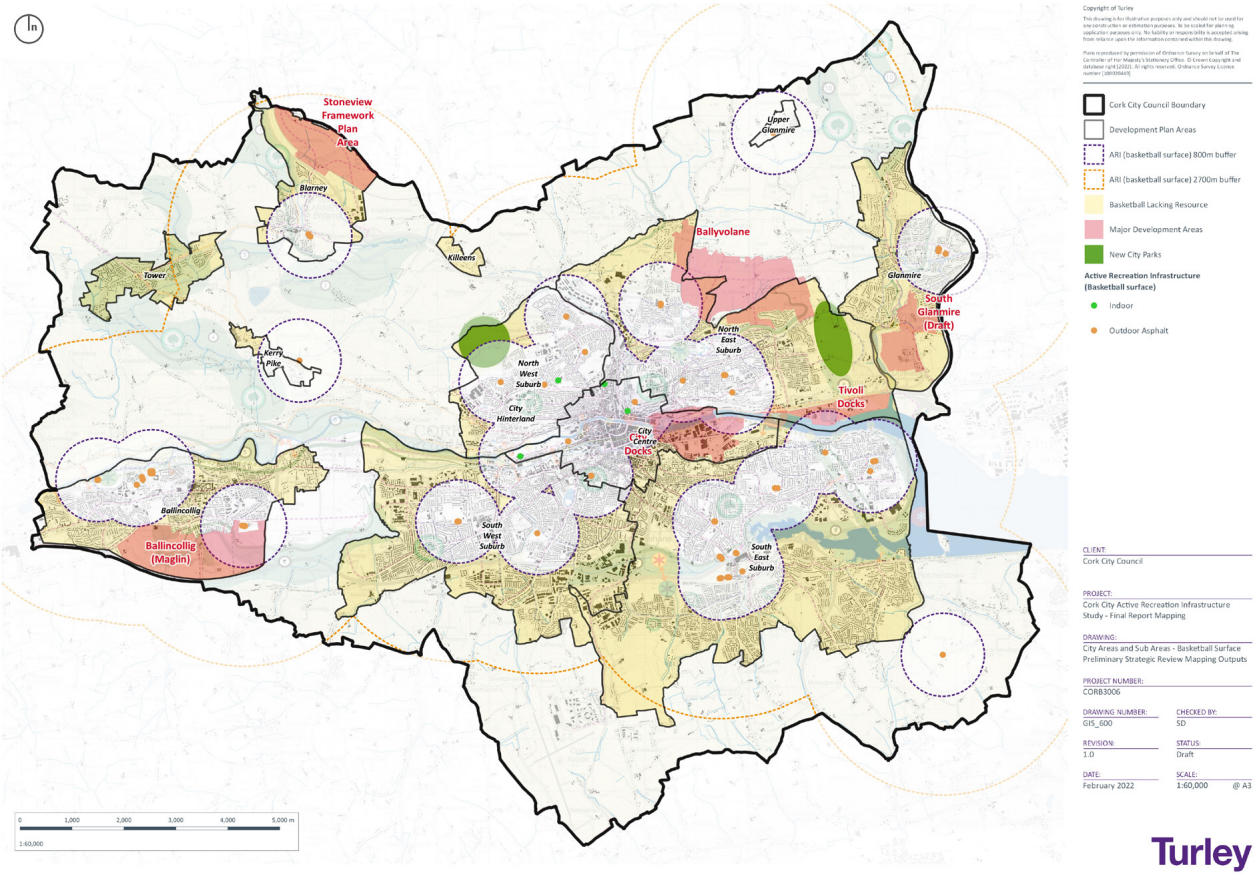


Figure 8.15: Map 14 – Study Area Locations within a Reasonable Walking and Cycling Distance from Basketball Courts

Map 15 – Study Area Locations within a Reasonable Walking and Cycling Distance from Gym / Physical Fitness Facilities

Map 15 includes an 800m/10 minute walking distance buffer and a 2.7km/10 minute cycle distance buffer plotted around the gym / physical fitness facilities to help identify parts of the Study Area that are not located within a reasonable walking or cycling distance from the existing gym / physical fitness facilities (see Figure 8.16).

As per the tennis and basketball courts, the existing gym / physical fitness facilities are generally dispersed throughout the Study Area. Large parts of the urban and suburban areas appear to be within a reasonable walking distance to gym / physical fitness facilities. The areas that are not located within a reasonable walking distance, appear to be in the periphery of the suburb areas, and in less populated rural areas with predominately open countryside/agricultural lands. Notwithstanding, the gym / physical fitness facilities located within or adjacent to the Study Area are within a reasonable cycling distance of the majority of the Sub City Areas.

The areas with a low concentration / lack of gym / physical fitness facilities within a reasonable walking distance include: the south-east, south-west and north of the South East Suburb; the south, east and center of the South West Suburb; and the south of Ballincollig. The areas with no gym / physical fitness facilities within a reasonable walking or cycling distance include: Tower, Blarney, Kerry Pike, Killeens, Glanmire and Upper Glanmire.

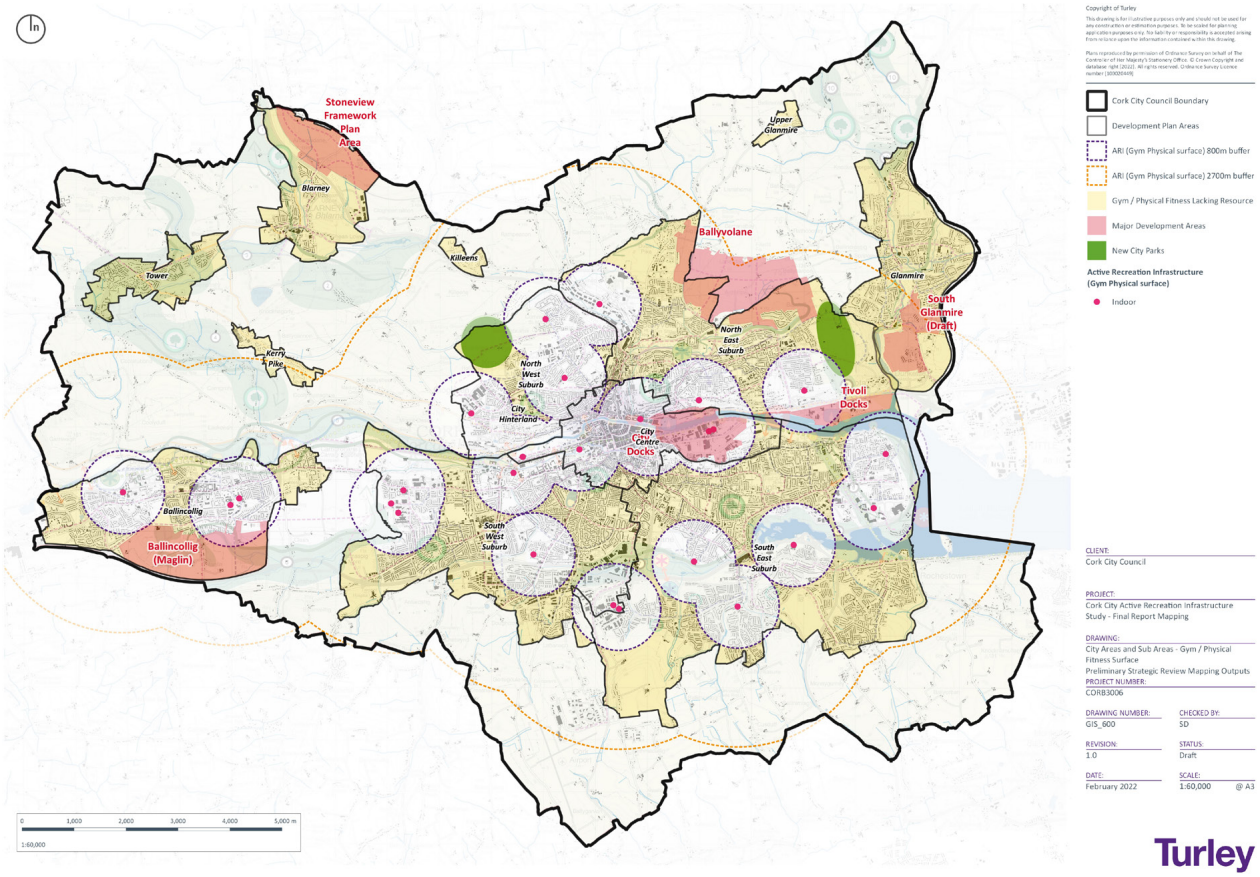


Figure 8.16: Map 15 – Study Area Locations within a Reasonable Walking and Cycling Distance from Gym / Physical Fitness Facilities

Map 16 – Study Area Locations within a Reasonable Walking and Cycling Distance from Indoor Multi-Purpose Facilities

Map 16 includes an 800m/10 minute walking distance buffer and a 2.7km/10 minute cycle distance buffer plotted around the multi-purpose fitness facilities to help identify parts of the Study Area that are not located within a reasonable walking or cycling distance from the existing multi-purpose facilities (see Figure 8.17).

The existing multi-purpose facilities appear to be concentrated in the centre and east of the Study Area. Large parts of the urban and suburban areas appear to be within a reasonable walking distance to gym / physical fitness facilities. Only small areas within the west and north-west of the Study Area are facilitated by multi-purpose facilities. Interesting, the major of the Study Area does have multi-purpose facilities located within a reasonable cycling distance.

The areas with a low concentration / lack of multi-purpose facilities within a reasonable walking distance include: the east of the City Centre; the majority of the North West Suburb and South West Suburb; the north and east of the North East Suburb; the north-west and south-east of the South East Suburb; the north and south of Glanmire; and the west of Ballincollig. The areas with no multi-purpose facilities within a reasonable walking or cycling distance include Tower, Blarney, Kerry Pike, and Kileen.

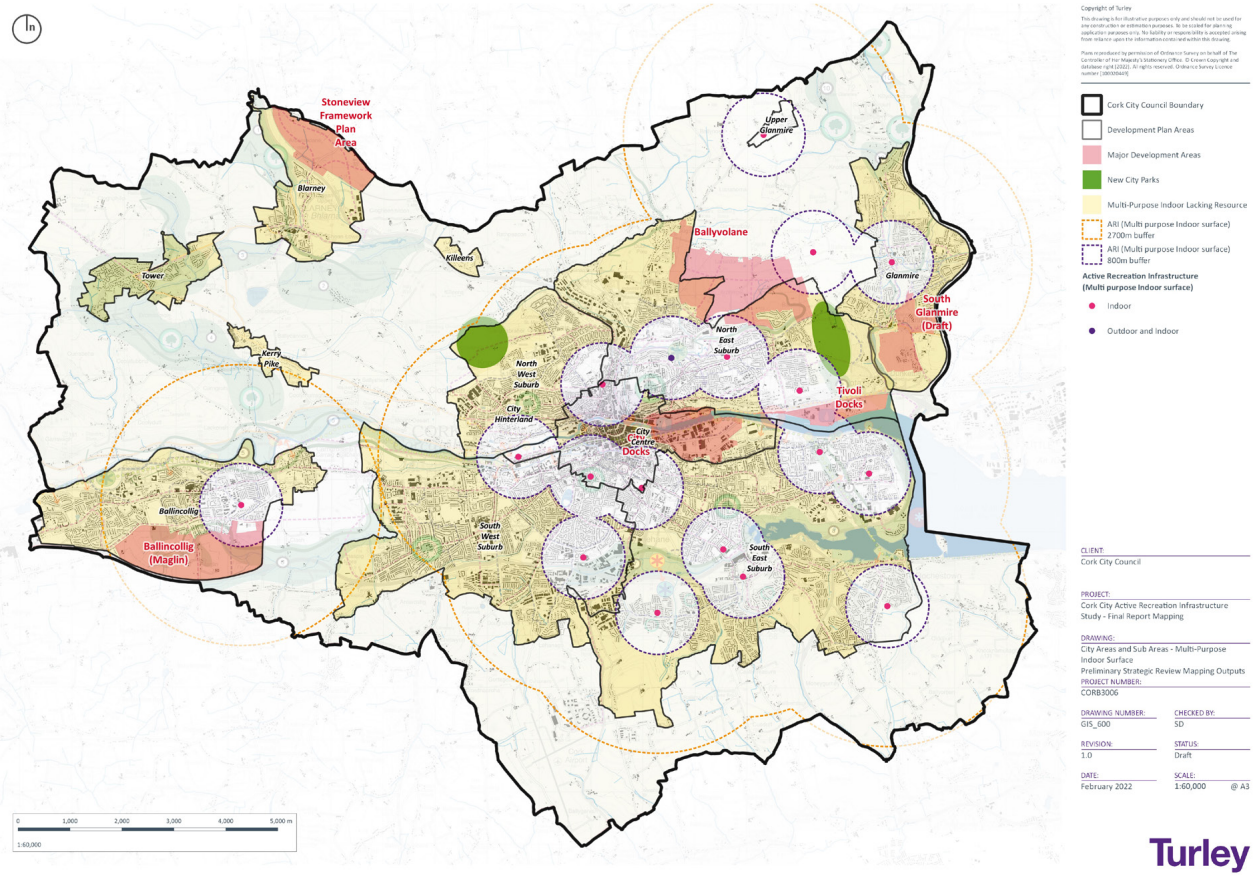


Figure 8.17: Map 16 – Study Area Locations within a Reasonable Walking and Cycling Distance from Indoor Multi-Purpose Facilities

Map 17 – Study Area Locations within a Reasonable Walking and Cycling Distance from Swimming Facilities

Map 17 includes an 800m/10 minute walking distance buffer and a 2.7km/10 minute cycle distance buffer plotted around the swimming facilities to help identify parts of the Study Area that are not located within a reasonable walking or cycling distance from the existing swimming facilities (see Figure 8.18).

The existing swimming facilities appear to be concentrated in the centre of the Study Area. Large parts of the City Centre, North East Suburb and South East Suburb appear to be within a reasonable walking distance to swimming facilities. Only small areas within the South West Suburb and South East Suburb are facilitated by multi-purpose facilities. Interesting, the major of the Study Area does have swimming facilities located within a reasonable cycling distance.

The areas with a low concentration / lack of multi-purpose facilities within a reasonable walking distance include: the majority of the South East Suburb and South West Suburb; the north and east of the North East Suburb; and the east of the North West Suburb. The areas with no swimming facilities within a reasonable walking or cycling distance include Ballincollig, Tower, Blarney, Kerry Pike, Kileen, Glanmire and Upper Glanmire.

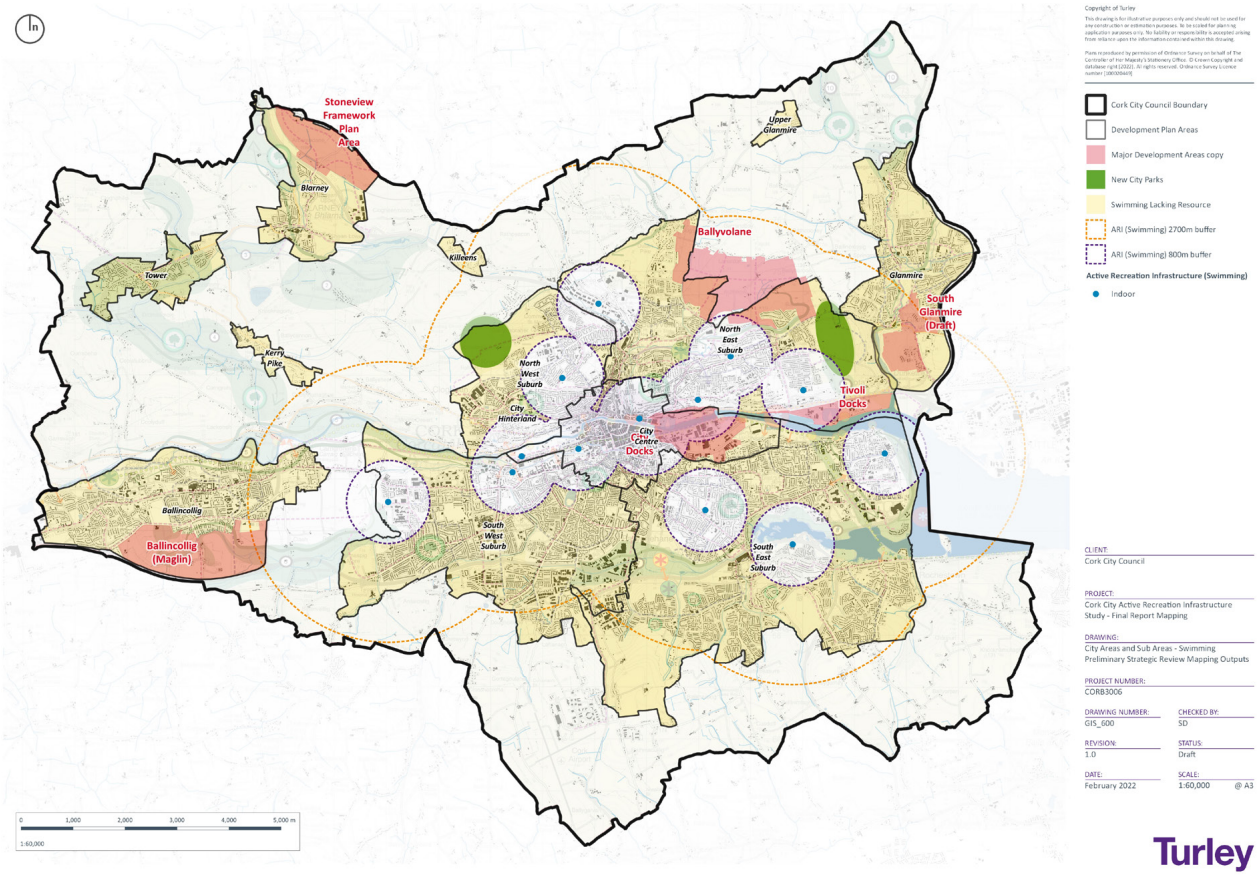


Figure 8.18: Map 17 – Study Area Locations within a Reasonable Walking and Cycling Distance from Swimming

Map 18 – Study Area Locations within a Reasonable Walking and Cycling Distance from Boxing Facilities

Map 18 includes an 800m/10 minute walking distance buffer and a 2.7km/10 minute cycle distance buffer plotted around the boxing facilities to help identify parts of the Study Area that are not located within a reasonable walking or cycling distance from the existing boxing facilities (see Figure 8.19).

The existing boxing facilities appear to be concentrated in the centre of the Study Area; predominately in the west of the City Centre and south-west of the North East Suburb. Only small areas within the east of the South West Suburb and the south of the South East Suburb are facilitated by boxing facilities. Interesting, the major of the Study Area does have boxing facilities located within a reasonable cycling distance.

The areas with a low concentration / lack of multi-purpose facilities within a reasonable walking distance include: the majority of the North-West Suburb, South East Suburb and South West Suburb; the east of the North East Suburb; and the north and south of Glanmire. The areas with no boxing facilities within a reasonable walking or cycling distance include Ballincollig, Tower, Blarney, Kerry Pike, Kileen, and Upper Glanmire.

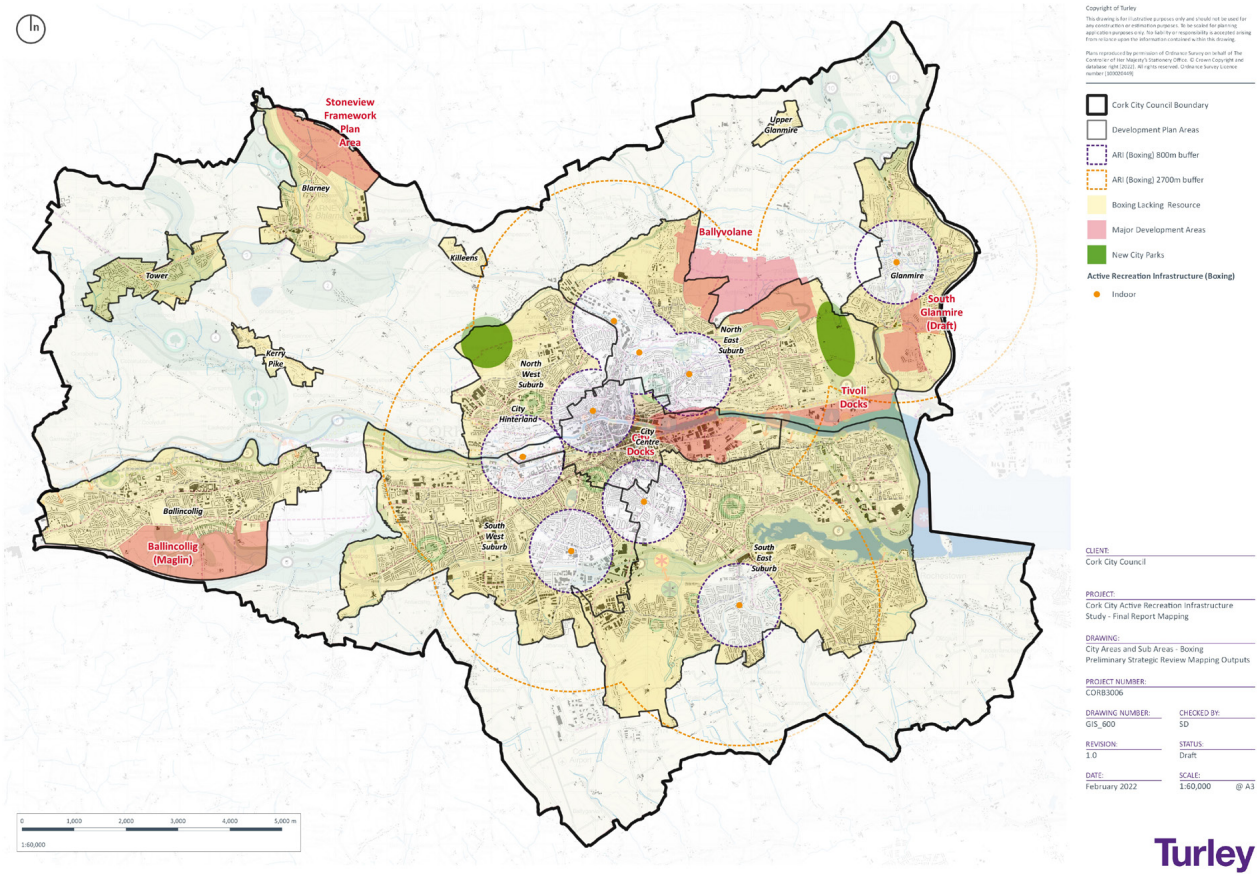


Figure 8.19: Map 18 – Study Area Locations within a Reasonable Walking and Cycling Distance from Boxing Facilities

Map 19 – Location of ARI with a Spatial Need as identified by Survey Respondents

Map 19 is based on Question 8 of the OSA, plots the location of ARI which respondents identified as having a spatial need (see Figure 8.20).

It is noted that 84 of the 100 facilities cited during the OSA have been identified as having a spatial need. Demand for a number of additional facilities was also reflected in the qualitative responses to Question 8 of the OSA, with the following requirements of note[17]:

- Municipal Athletic Facility;
- Outdoor Climbing Facility;
- Facilities for roller hockey (min halls area of 50m x 40m cited)
- Land/Space;
- Pitches;
- All weather facilities;
- Improved playing surfaces;
- Training facilities;
- Parking areas
- Storage and changing facilities;
- Club houses; and
- Greenways/Pedestrian/Cycle Paths.

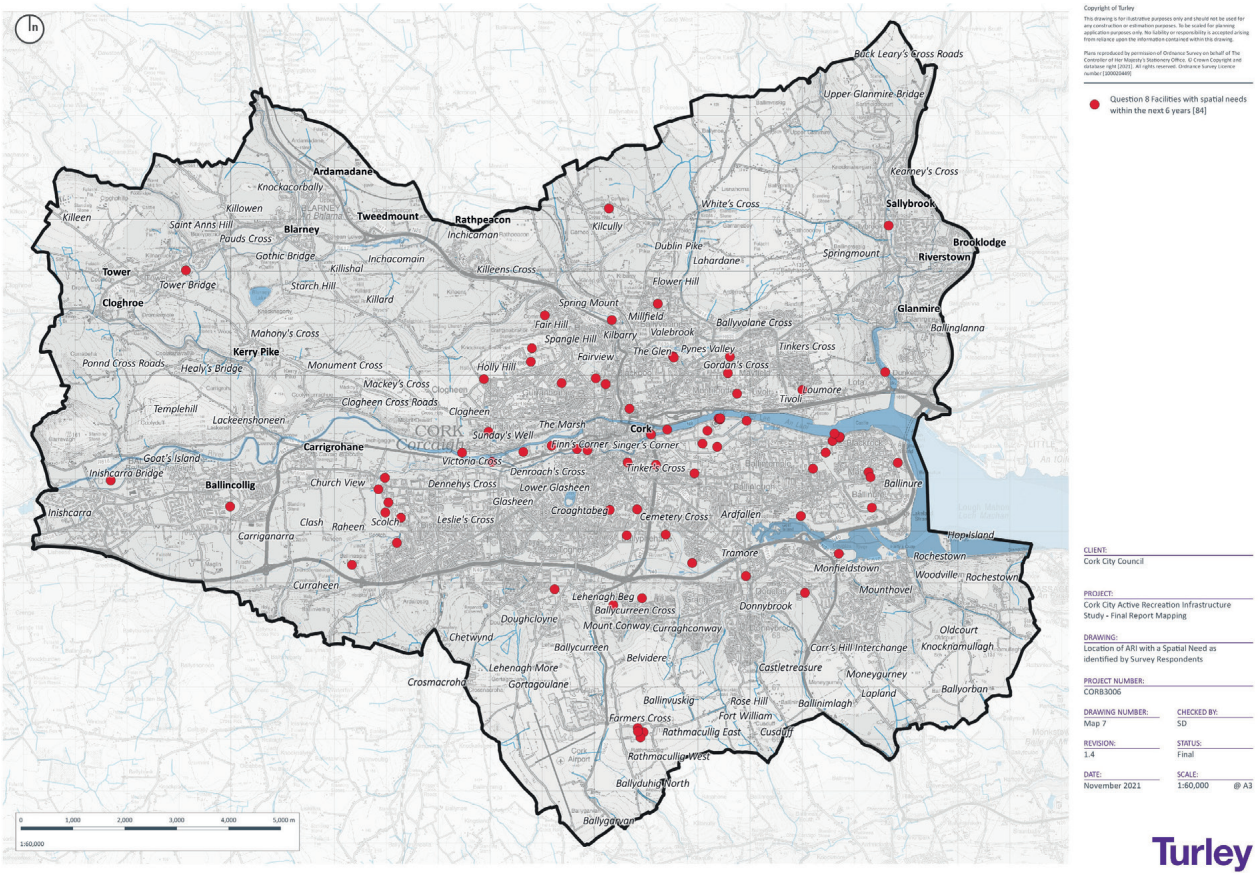


Figure 8.20: Map 19 – Location of ARI with a Spatial Need as identified by the Survey Respondents

Question 9 of the OSA asked respondents to identify the key issues facing clubs and organisations in terms of ARI. Out of the 118 responses to this question, 29 respondents indicated a need for more space and 22 respondents require access to all weather pitches.

The demand for water access/slipways was also relatively high with 15 respondents highlighting it as key issue. This was followed by issues relating to financial costs (13 respondents) and lack of changing facilities (12 respondents). A number of other issues were also raised which are highlighted in Figure 8.21.

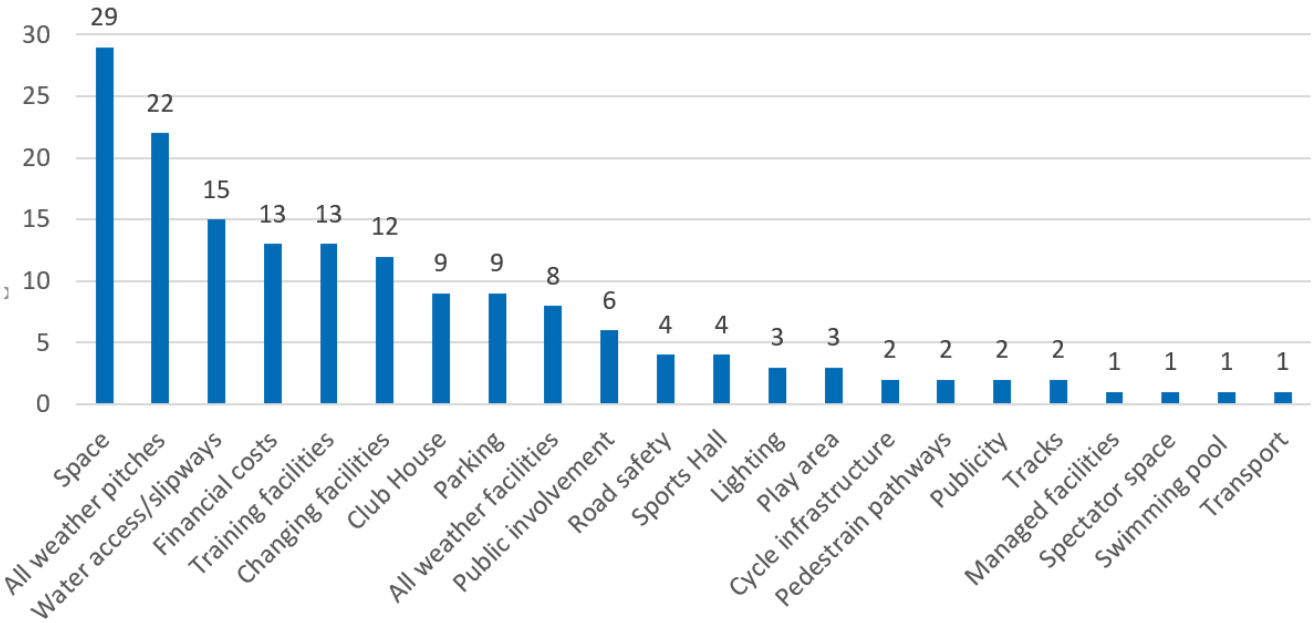


Figure 8.20: Responses to 'What are the key issues for your club/organisation in terms of active recreation infrastructure'?

17 *Does not include water-based ARI requirements, please refer to Water-Based ARI Requirements section below for these details*

Map 20 – Location of ARI requiring Refurbishment Improvement as identified by Survey Respondents

Map 20 is based on Questions 17 and 32 of the OSA, plots the location of ARI which respondents identified as requiring 'Refurbishment/ Improvement' and those facilities with an 'Unsure' response provided (see Figure 8.22). It is noted that 64 of the 100 facilities cited during the Online Survey Audit have been identified as requiring refurbishment/improvement with an additional 21 selecting 'Unsure'.

In terms of the work that might be required to refurbish or improve facilities, half of the qualitative responses to this question highlighted the need for the modernisation of facilities.

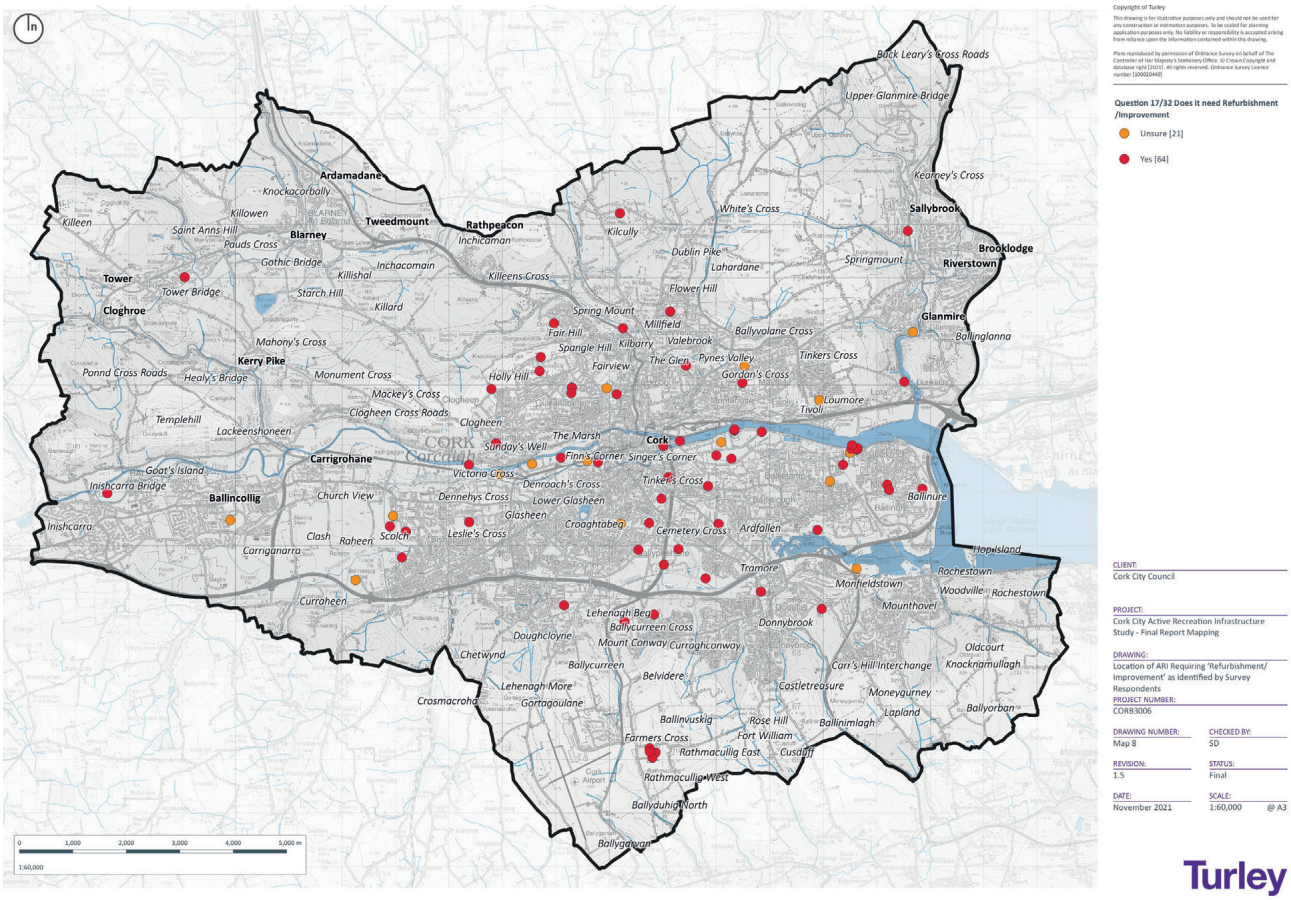


Figure 8.22: Map 20 – Location of ARI requiring Refurbishment Improvement as identified by Survey Respondents

Map 21 – Location of ARI with a Potential Accessibility Access Safety Issue as identified by the Respondents

Map 21 is based on Questions 19 and 35 of the OSA, plots the location of ARI which respondents identified as having an accessibility/access safety issue as well as those facilities which received an 'Unsure' and 'Other' response (see Figure 8.23).

It is noted that out of the 101 responses to this question, only 9 of the 96 facilities cited during the Online Survey Audit have been identified as requiring accessibility/access safety improvements. It is further noted that 5 'Unsure' responses were received and 22 respondents selected 'Other'. Nevertheless, the majority of respondents (i.e. 65) consider there to be adequate footpaths, cycleways and/or roads serving their ARI to allow for safe access.

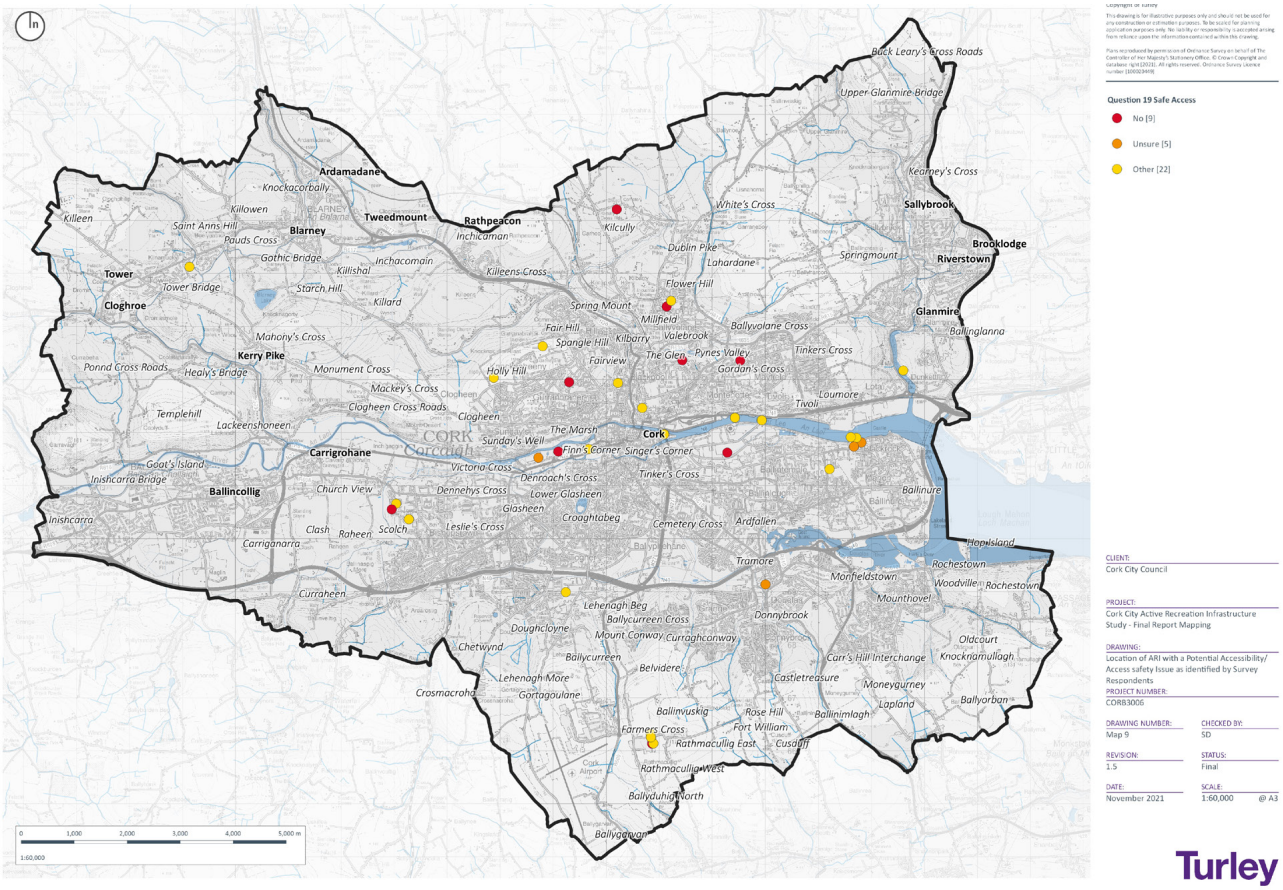


Figure 8.23: Map 21 – Location of ARI with a Potential Accessibility Access Safety Issue as identified by the Respondents

Summary

This Section of the report provides an overview and spatial analysis of the existing pitch, non-pitch and water-based ARI located with the Study Area.

As presented in this Section, most of the existing pitch and non-pitch ARI is generally dispersed throughout the Study Area; with the minority pitch sports of cricket and athletics being exceptions. Therefore, it is considered that the Study Area contains a wide variety of accessible ARI.

Soccer, GAA, tennis and basketball are the most accessible ARI within the Study Area; with these sports being within a reasonable walking distance of the vast majority of the Study Area.

Notable areas lacking ARI include: the east of the City Centre; in the periphery of the suburban Sub City Areas areas; and the smaller Sub City Areas of Tower, Blarney, Killeen, Upper Glanmire. Areas lacking specific ARI include:

- **Soccer:** The east of the City Centre; the south and centre/ east of the South East Suburb; the south of the South West Suburb; the south-west of Ballincollig; the south and north of Glanmire; and Tower, Blarney, Kerry Pike, Killeen and Upper Glanmine (the smaller Sub City Areas).
- **GAA:** The south and east of the City Centre; the south of South East Suburb; the south of Ballincollig; the south of Glanmire; and the smaller Sub City Areas.
- **Rugby Union:** All Sub City Areas apart from: the north of the City Centre; the west of Ballincollig; and along the linear concentrated of pitches from the west of the South West Suburb to the north-east of the South East Suburb.
- **Hockey:** All Sub City Areas apart from: the north of the City Centre; the north and centre of the North-West Suburb; the north-west and south-east of the South East Suburb; and north of Ballincollig.
- **Cricket:** All Sub City Areas apart from: the west of the City Centre; and south-west of the South West Suburb.
- **Athletics:** All Sub City Areas apart from: the south and west of the City Centre; and the east of the South West Suburb.
- **Tennis:** The east of the City Centre; the west of the North West Suburb; the east and north of the North East Suburb; the east, south and west of the South East Suburb; the north, south and east of the South West Suburb; the west and south of Ballincollig; the north and south of Glanmire; and the smaller Sub City Areas.
- **Basketball:** The east of the City Centre; the east of the North East Suburb; the south-east and west of the South East Suburb; the south, east and west of the South West Suburb; the south and north-east of Ballincollig; the north and south of Glanmire; and the smaller Sub City Areas.
- **Gym / Physical Fitness Facilities:** The south-east, south-west and north of the South East Suburb; the south, east and center of the South West Suburb; the south of Ballincollig; Glanmire; and the smaller Sub City Areas.
- **Multi-Purpose Facilities:** The east of the City Centre; the majority of the North West Suburb and South West Suburb; the north and east of the North East Suburb; the north-west and south-east of the South East Suburb; the north and south of Glanmire; the west of Ballincollig; and the smaller Sub City Areas.
- **Swimming:** The majority of the South East Suburb and South West Suburb; the north and east of the North East Suburb; the east of the North West Suburb; Ballincollig; Glanmire; and the smaller Sub City Areas.
- **Boxing:** The majority of the North-West Suburb, South East Suburb and South West Suburb; the east of the North East Suburb; the north and south of Glanmire; and the smaller Sub City Areas.

Recommendations based on Spatial Analysis of Existing ARI

It is recommended that the Study Area should be facilitated/ supported by the following:

- Maximise the efficiency of pitch provision across the sub city area by protecting and expanding upon the current facility stock.
- Maintaining relationships with schools that are currently key to the delivery of facilities including soccer and GAA.
- Require the development of small scale ARI, such as linear parks, outdoor linear play/gym areas, MUGAs, etc, within larger developments and public realm improvement schemes, to augment the existing provision of ARI.
- Require large scale developments, particularly for residential and mixed use residential/office/commercial/retail developments, to:
  - deliver ARI required to address the existing under provision for the Study Area, particularly if the development is so large that it requires new ARI to be provided to address the new population of residents; and/ or
  - contribute to a development contribution set up by CCC to deliver ARI required to address the existing under provision for the Study Area, as identified within Tables 10.2 and 10.3 above.
- Adopt a flexible and positive approach in planning policy with respect to the change of use of existing buildings and lands, particularly underutilised industrial buildings and lands for use as ARI as well as roof tops.
- Support investment in/improvement of existing park areas, to incorporate additional ARI provision.
- Promote investment in/improvement of existing footpaths/ cycle ways to enhance usage and to form part of a wider urban network of active travel and recreation infrastructure.
- Encourage investment in/improvement of existing and additional access points to the rivers located within the Study Area, including the River Lee, to improve accessibility and enhance water-based ARI opportunities.
- Explore potential to deliver additional water-based infrastructure such as new access points/slipways to the rivers within the Study Area and support the establishment of new community boat clubs, school rowing clubs, etc


Source: Tony Noonan - Local GAA Photographer
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09 Strategic Need

Introduction

This Section of the Study seeks to provide a high-level overview of the current and future ARI requirements within CCC's administrative area (at the Study Area level).

The findings within this Section, which relate specifically to pitch based, non-pitch based and water based ARI, have been informed by the preceding sections of this Study, particularly the following components:

- Responses to the Online Survey Audit from sporting clubs located within the Study Area;
- Consultations with key sport stakeholders;
- Findings/learnings from the comparative analysis exercise; and
- Spatial analysis of ARI within the Study Area.

Methodology

There is no data currently available in Ireland which allows Local Planning Authorities to readily calculate or quantify ARI requirements. Noting this, CCC requested the Study Team to develop a ratio that could be applied to future population growth forecasts to help identify new ARI requirements.

The Study Team combined the findings from the desktop based aerial survey and the responses to the Online Survey Audit to develop a Study Area specific ARI ratio for the pitch based and non-pitch based sports identified within Table 9.1, which, from our analysis, appear to be the most popular sports within the Study Area.

#	Top Pitch Based Sports	Top Non-Pitch Based Sports
1	Soccer	Tennis
2	GAA	Basketball
3	Rugby	Multi-Purpose (Indoor)
4	Hockey	Gym / Physical Fitness
5	Cricket	Swimming
6	Athletics	Boxing

Table 9.1: Top 6 Pitch Based and Non-Pitch Based Sports within the Study Area

Table 9.2 sets out the Study Area specific ratios for each of the above-mentioned popular pitch based sports, while Table 9.3 sets out the same information but for the top 6 most popular non-pitch based sports. These ratios have been developed by dividing the 2022 population figure of the Study Area (i.e. 235,643 people[18]) by the number of facilities[19] for each of the popular sports listed.

Sport	ARI in 2022 [20]	2022 Population	ARI Ratio
Soccer	146	235,643	1,614
GAA	110	235,643	2,142
Rugby Union	35	235,643	6,733
Hockey	11	235,643	21,422
Athletics	3	235,643	78,548
Cricket	3	235,643	78,548

Table 9.2: Pitch Based ARI Ratios based on Existing ARI Provision

[18] *See Figure 2.6: Population Trends and Targets, 1991-2040 of the Draft Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028.*

[19] *Existing ARI provision within the Study Area is based on the ARI identified in the responses to the OSA and from a desktop based aerial survey. There is potential that not all ARI has been captured/accounted for within the Study Area.*

[20] *ARI includes pitches, courts, pools, tracks, facilities, etc.*

Sport	ARI in 2022	2022 Population	ARI Ratio
Tennis	72	235,643	3,273
Basketball	63	235,643	3,740
Gym / Physical Fitness	27	235,643	8,728
Multi-Purpose (Indoor)	18	235,643	13,091
Swimming	14	235,643	16,832
Boxing	9	235,643	26,183

Table 9.3: Non-Pitch Based ARI Ratios based on Existing ARI Provision

The methodology applied/developed in this Study to calculate future ARI requirements assumes that the overall existing level and mix of ARI within the Study Area represents an adequate provision.

The Study Team considers this to be generally the case when considering the findings of the preceding sections of this Study, particularly the finding that Cork City has a higher activity level (43%) than the current national average (41%).

While it is noted that key sporting stakeholders reported growing waiting lists in certain sports/for certain clubs, it is considered that there is an opportunity to provide further capacity within the Study Area for these sports/clubs through improvements to, and efficiencies in, usage, management and scheduling of existing ARI as well as relationships between schools and clubs/communities. Indeed, this is one of the key strategic findings/recommendations of this Study.

The following sub-sections set out the current and future ARI requirements for pitch based, non-pitch based and water based sports within the Study Area.

Source: Tony Noonan - Local GAA Photographer

Pitch Based ARI Requirements

This section of the Study provides an overview of the current and future ARI needs within the Study Area with respect to pitch based sports.

Current Pitch Based ARI Needs

We set out below a list of current ARI requirements with respect to the 6 most popular pitch based sports as identified in the feedback received during the key stakeholder consultations (see Section 6).

- **GAA:** Need outlined for additional playing pitches particularly in areas where new growth is anticipated and new/large residential developments will be delivered. Need for additional artificial grass pitches to accommodate training requirements and help to protect the grass pitches, which can be overused. GAA is unique in that the need is localized noting that players are required to play for their 'local' club based on their address of residence.
- **Ladies GAA:** Need to develop a bespoke training ground / hub site for the development of the ladies GAA which is capable of holding events across all age groups and standards. The multi pitch hub site will be used for training and match play and would potentially have 3G and sand based AGP pitches, grass pitches and associated ancillary facilities. Noted potential land available to the west of the City which could accommodate new facilities. Opportunity to explore potential to deliver a multi-sport hub to cater for a range of sport needs, including ladies GAA football.
- **Soccer:** Need for additional accessible and quality playing pitches and facilities within the City, particularly artificial grass pitches for winter training. No specific number stated. Opportunity to explore potential to deliver a multi-sport hub to cater for a range of sport needs, including soccer. FAI is still considering plans to construct a centre of excellence within the Study Area.
- **Rugby Union:** At least 2 No. new AGP rugby pitches have been identified as an urgent additional development need to help cater for increasing participation numbers. The new AGP pitches should be floodlit to cater for winter training demand and evening match playing times. It was noted that the Study Area is benefited by a number of good quality and accessible pitches but there are some pitches that are underutilised due to a lack of involvement in the sport in the surrounding area and/or a lack of AGP facilities. Opportunity to explore potential to deliver a multi-sport hub to cater for a range of sport needs, including rugby union.
- **Hockey:** 2 No. additional hockey pitches. An additional pitch is required specifically for club use and a further pitch is required which can act as a regional training centre and home for Hockey within Munster, but which can also be used by schools and clubs, when possible, as well as senior matches and training, when possible. Specific need identified within the southern portion of the City/Study Area. Opportunity to explore potential to deliver a multi-sport hub to cater for a range of sport needs, including hockey.
- **Cricket:** Need for at least 1 No. new grass pitch and 1 No. new artificial pitch to cope with current demand and anticipated future growth in participation levels. In addition, a need has been identified for a regional Munster Cricket site to act as a training and match day site for the Munster teams, club training, schools use, youth blitz and summer camps. Opportunity to explore potential to deliver a multi-sport hub to cater for a range of sport needs, including cricket.
- **Athletics:** Need for additional accessible facilities to cater for the current and predicted future demand of athletics within the City, which is in addition to the new athletics centre at MTU. Upgrades to existing athletic facilities also identified as a priority to cater for growing interest in athletics, particularly the growth in walking and running levels during the 'Covid-19' pandemic.

Additional pitch-based ARI requirements were also identified in the responses to the Online Survey Audit. However, as these requirements are more site/club/local area specific, they are reproduced in Section 10 below, entitled 'Sub City ARI Analysis'.

Future Pitch Based ARI Needs

The figures outlined in Tables 9.7 and 9.8 below are indicative calculations only based on grass pitch equivalents. Further sport specific feasibility studies, which should be undertaken in close liaison with the relevant national and regional governing sport bodies and local clubs, will be required to confirm the exact level of future ARI for each sport type.

Table 9.4 applies the methodology outlined at the start of this section to provide an overview of the future pitch based ARI needs within the Study Area based on the predicted 2028 population figure of 260,194[21] people, as follows:

- Column 1: identifies the non-pitch based sport type.
- Column 2: identifies the population in 2028 as outlined in 'Table 2.2: Core Strategy Table 2022-2028' of the Draft Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028
- Column 3: reproduces the typical per capita average ARI ratio for each sport type provided in Table 9.2 above.
- Column 4: identifies the ARI needs for each of the sport types in 2028 by dividing the population in 2028 by the per capita average ARI ratio for each sport.
- Column 5: identifies the quantum of ARI within the Study Area in 2022.
- Column 6: provides a figure for the potential additional ARI requirements of each sport within the Study Area between 2022 and 2028.

Sport	2028 Population	ARI Ratio	ARI Needs in 2028	ARI in 2022	New ARI 2022-2028
Soccer	260,194	1,614	161	146	15
GAA	260,194	2,142	121	110	11
Rugby Union	260,194	6,733	39	35	4
Hockey	260,194	21,422	12	11	1
Cricket	260,194	78,548	3	3	0
Athletics	260,194	7,8548	3	3	0

Table 9.4: Pitch Based ARI Needs between 2022 and 2028

[21] *See Table 2.2: Core Strategy Table 2022-2028 of the Draft City Development Plan 2022-2028*

Table 9.4 identifies an overall need of: 15 new soccer pitches; 11 new GAA pitches; 4 new rugby union pitches; and 1 hockey pitch within the Study Area between 2022 and 2028, if the current level of pitch based ARI provision is to be maintained.

Table 9.5 below provides a similar analysis as Table 9.4, but moves the ARI needs analysis forward by providing an overview of the future pitch based ARI needs within the Study Area between 2028 and 2040 based on the predicted 2040 population figure of 335,853[22] people.

Sport	2040 Population	ARI Ratio	ARI Needs in 2040	ARI Needs in 2028	New ARI Pitches 2028-2040
Soccer	335,853	1,614	208	161	47
GAA	335,853	2,142	157	121	35
Rugby Union	335,853	6,733	50	39	11
Hockey	335,853	21,422	4	12	4
Cricket	335,853	78,548	16	3	1
Athletics	335,853	7,8548	4	3	1

Table 9.5: Pitch Based ARI Needs between 2028 and 2040

Table 9.5 identifies an overall need of: 47 new soccer pitches; 35 new GAA pitches; 11 new rugby union pitches; 4 new hockey pitches; 1 new cricket pitch; and 1 athletics track within the Study Area between 2028 and 2040, if the current level of pitch based ARI provision is to be maintained.

Table 9.6 below converts the level of new ARI potentially required within the Study Area between 2022 and 2028, and between 2028 and 2040, into an indicative land area requirement (in hectares) by multiplying the quantum of new ARI by the average size of a new pitch/track for each sport.

It should be noted that the area per pitch/track relates to average size requirements and does not include areas for ancillary/supporting infrastructure such as access, parking, club house, changing facilities, stands, etc as these will need to be determined on a site by site basis.

Sport	Ha per pitch/track (estimated)	ARI Land Requirement 2022-2028 (ha)	ARI Land Requirement 2028 - 2040 (ha)
Soccer	0.7	10.6	32.8
GAA	1.5	17.2	53.0
Rugby Union	1	3.6	11.2
Hockey	1.2	1.4	4.2
Cricket	1.6	0	1.5
Athletics	1.65	0	1.6
Total	-	32.9	104.4

Table 9.6: Pitch Based ARI Needs in 2028 and 2040 in Hectares (Ha)

Table 9.6 identifies an overall potential land requirement of at least 32.9ha to cater for new pitch based ARI between 2022 and 2028 with a further additional requirement of 104.4ha to cater for new pitch based ARI between 2028 and 2040.

The 1.65ha figure used for athletics in Table 9.6 is based on a 'Type A' athletics facility, being a competition track that is suitable for international competitions. 'Type A' facilities feature eight single lanes and a football pitch or grass sports field. This type of facility can accommodate a standard football pitch size of 105m × 68m, as recommended by FIFA and UEFA.

It is noted that there are two other athletic facility types, these being:

- **Type B** - Ambitious Runners (1.55ha): can hold regional and inter-regional sporting events while also meeting the demanding needs of high-performance athletes. Just like Type A facilities, Type B areas feature an oval 400-m Tartan track, however, they only features six individual track lanes. Here, too, the large sports field corresponds to the standard dimension of 105m x 68m.
- **Type C** – Suitable for Schools (1.42ha): suitable for less competitive recreational sports or for schools. Feature four 400-m long individual track lanes, as well as four to six straight sprint and hurdle track lanes. A large 105m x 68m football pitch can also be created.

Cork Athletics has recently confirmed[23] that planning permission was granted by Cork County Council for a new multi-purpose sports facility, including a new athletics track, by Carrigaline Athletic Club and Carrigaline Rugby Football Club. In this same article, Cork Athletics provides an update on other athletic facilities with planning permission granted last year for a new athletics track in Mallow, and work having already started on Bandon Athletic Club's track, with further developments in Bweeng, while West Muskerry Athletics Club continue their plans at Ummera Macroom.

While it is noted that the abovementioned developments are located outside of the Study Area, any future ARI provision with respect to athletics within the Study Area should take account of additional athletics facilities within the wider region, particularly noting that participants of minority sports tend to travel further to access facilities.

Cricket and hockey are also considered to be minority sports within the Study Area, and similar to athletics, the exact amount of new ARI/quantum of land needed for the provision of new ARI should be validated through detailed discussions with the national governing sport bodies for these sports and local clubs to align with their specific growth strategies.

New grass pitches for the other sports (GAA/Soccer/Rugby Union) should incorporate a mix of senior and juvenile sizes with an emphasis on juvenile pitches where ARI is delivered adjacent to, and in conjunction with, new large residential areas.

22 *See Figure 2.6 of the Draft City Development Plan 2022-2028 entitled: Population Trends and Targets, 1991-2040*

23 *See Table 2.2: Core Strategy Table 2022-2028 of the Draft City Development Plan 2022-2028.*

Non-Pitch Based ARI Requirements

Current Non-Pitch Based ARI Needs

We set out below a list of current ARI requirements with respect to the 6 most popular non-pitch based sports as identified in the responses to the Online Survey Audit (see Section 5) and in the feedback received during the key stakeholder consultations (see Section 6):

- **Tennis:** no specific comments provided with respect to tennis. CCC should undertake consultations with Tennis Ireland to better understand the quality and quantity of tennis ARI within the Study Area and this NGBs strategic goals with respect to overall growth of the sport and tennis participation levels.
- **Basketball:** is considered to be heavily reliant on the existing network of school basketball ARI, and so, there may be opportunities to deliver new dedicated basketball facilities for club use as part of any future plans to develop new multi-use and multi-sport hub facilities.
- **Multi-Purpose:** Cork Sports Partnership has identified a need for additional multi-purpose indoor ARI facilities across the Study Area as well as a need for more multi-purpose AGPs that can accommodate a range of different sports.
- **Gym / Physical Fitness:** no specific comments provided with respect to gyms/physical fitness. These facilities are normally provided by the private sector as gaps in the market arise.
- **Swimming:** no specific comments provided with respect to swimming. CCC should undertake consultations with Swim Ireland to better understand the quality and quantity of swimming ARI within the Study Area and this NGBs strategic goals with respect to overall growth of the sport and swimming participation levels.
- **Boxing:** no specific comments provided with respect to boxing. CCC should undertake consultations with Irish Athletic Boxing Association to better understand the quality and quantity of boxing ARI within the Study Area and this NGBs strategic goals with respect to overall growth of the sport and boxing participation levels.

Cork Sports Partnership advised that any future ARI provision within the Study Area should be multi-functional, multi-purpose and multi-sport.

Additional non-pitch based ARI requirements were also identified in the responses to the Online Survey Audit. However, as these requirements are more site/locale/club specific, they are reproduced in Section 10 below, entitled 'Sub City ARI Analysis'.

Future Non-Pitch Based ARI Needs

The figures outlined in Tables 9.7 and 9.8 below are indicative calculations only and further sport specific feasibility studies, which should be undertaken in close liaison with the relevant national and regional governing sport bodies and local clubs, will be required to confirm the exact level of future ARI for each sport type.

Table 9.7 applies the methodology outlined at the start of this section to provide an overview of the future non-pitch based ARI needs within the Study Area based on the predicted 2028 population figure of 260,194[24] people, as follows:

- **Column 1:** identifies the non-pitch based sport type.
- **Column 2:** identifies the population in 2028 as outlined in 'Table 2.2: Core Strategy Table 2022-2028' of the Draft Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028
- **Column 3:** reproduces the typical per capita average ARI ratio for each sport type, provided previously in Table 9.3 above.
- **Column 4:** identifies the ARI needs for each of the sport types in 2028 by dividing the population in 2028 by the per capita average ARI ratio for each sport.
- **Column 5:** identifies the quantum of ARI within the Study Area in 2022.
- **Column 6:** provides a figure of potential additional ARI requirements for each sport within the Study Area between 2022 and 2028.

Sport	2028 Population	ARI Ratio	ARI Needs in 2028	ARI in 2022	New ARI Facilities 2022-2028
Tennis	260,194	3,273	80	72	8
Basketball	260,194	3,740	70	63	7
Gym / Physical Fitness	260,194	8,728	30	27	3
Multi-Purpose (Indoor)	260,194	13,091	20	18	2
Swimming	260,194	16,832	15	14	1
Boxing	260,194	26,183	10	9	1

Table 9.7:Non-Pitch Based ARI Needs in 2028

Table 9.7 identifies an overall need of: 8 new tennis courts; 7 new basketball courts, 3 new gyms/physical fitness facilities; 2 new multi-purpose indoor sports facilities; 2 new swimming pools; and 1 new boxing ring/club between 2022 and 2028, if the current level of non-pitch based ARI provision is to be maintained.

[24] *See Table 2.2: Core Strategy Table 2022-2028 of the Draft City Development Plan 2022-2028.*

Table 9.8 below provides a similar analysis as Table 9.7, but moves the ARI needs analysis forward by providing an overview of the future non-pitch based ARI needs within the Study Area between 2028 and 2040 based on the predicted 2040 population figure of 335,853 [25] people.

Table 9.8 identifies an overall need of: 23 new tennis courts; 20 new basketball courts, 9 new gyms/physical fitness facilities; 8 new multi-purpose indoor sports facilities; 4 new swimming pools; and 3 new boxing rings/clubs between 2028 and 2040, if the current level of non-pitch based ARI provision is to be maintained.

Sport	2040 Population	ARI Ratio	ARI Needs in 2040	ARI Needs in 2028	New ARI 2028-2040
Tennis	335,853	3,273	103	80	23
Basketball	335,853	3,740	90	70	20
Gym / Physical Fitness	335,853	8,728	38	30	9
Multi-Purpose (Indoor)	335,853	13,091	26	18	8
Swimming	335,853	16,832	20	15	4
Boxing	335,853	26,183	13	10	3

Table 9.8: Non-Pitch Based ARI Needs in 2040 in Numbers

[25] *See Figure 2.6 of the Draft City Development Plan 2022-2028 entitled: Population Trends and Targets, 1991-2040.*

Table 9.9 below converts the level of new ARI potentially required for tennis, basketball, swimming and boxing within the Study Area between 2022 and 2028, and between 2028 and 2040, into an indicative land area requirement (in hectares) by multiplying the quantum of new ARI required by the average size of a court/pool/club.

The hectare areas used relate to average size requirements and does not include areas for ancillary/supporting infrastructure such as access, parking, club house, changing facilities, stands, etc as these should be determined on a site by site basis.

Table 9.9 identifies an overall potential land requirement of at least 3.3ha to cater for new non-pitch based ARI associated with the 6 most popular non-pitch based sports within the Study Area between 2022-2028 with a further additional requirement of 11.6ha to cater for new non-pitch based ARI for the same sports between 2028-2040.

Sport	Ha per pitch/track (estimated)	ARI Land Requirement 2022 - 2028 (ha)	ARI Land Requirement 2028 - 2040 (ha)
Tennis	0.05	0.4	1.2
Basketball	0.07	0.5	1.4
Gym / Physical Fitness	0.4	1.1	3.5
Multi-Purpose (Indoor)	0.65	1.2	5.2
Swimming	0.05	0.1	0.2
Boxing	0.03	0.0	0.1
Total	-	3.3	11.6

Table 9.9: Non-Pitch Based ARI Needs in 2028 and 2040 in Hectares (Ha)

In addition to the foregoing analysis, the Study Team reviewed a recent non-pitch based UK report of the 'Core Cities' in the UK, these being Birmingham, Leeds, Sheffield, Manchester, Liverpool, Bristol, Nottingham and Newcastle. The data used to inform the Core City comparison has been sourced from the Bristol Playing Pitch Strategy, Active Places Power website, Sport England and relates to 2017 figures.

Not all sports identified in the Core Study analysis are of relevance to this Study Area. Noting this, Table 9.10 is focused on similar non-pitch ARI between this Study and the 'Core Cities' Study to allow comparisons to be made.

Sport	ARI in Study Area in 2022	ARI Required by Core City Analysis in 2022	Difference
Tennis (outdoor)	72	33	+39
Gym / Physical Fitness	27	25	+2
Multi-Purpose	18	18	0
Swimming [26]	6	6	0

Table 9.10: Non-Pitch Based ARI in Study Area Compared with Core Cities Analysis

The Study Area currently contains more outdoor tennis courts and gym/physical fitness facilities when compared with the average quantum of facilities per capita located within the UK's 8 'Core Cities' and the same amount of indoor multi-purpose sports halls and 25m swimming facilities compared with the 'Core Cities' in England. This finding helps to reinforce the approach adopted by this Study and outlined at the start of this section, i.e. that the existing level of ARI represents an adequate provision.

26 *Based on 25m swimming pools only.*

Water-Based ARI Requirements

The Study Area is benefited by existing water based ARI, particularly along the River Lee and Glashaboy River, which is a unique selling point for the City.

There is not as much information available with respect to water based ARI requirements compared with pitch and non-pitch based ARI. As outlined in Section 7 – Comparative Analysis, water based ARI has not traditionally formed part of ARI studies/strategies in other Council areas.

Nevertheless, the Study Team has been tasked by CCC to provide an overview of the quantity and quality of water based ARI within the Study Area and to identify new ARI requirements.

To help provide this overview, this sub-section relies on: information provided by CCC with respect to water based ARI; the responses to the Online Survey Audit which relate specifically to water based ARI; and the feedback provided during the key stakeholder consultations, particularly Rowing Ireland.

No.	Item/Location	No.	Item/Location
1	Science Polish	17	Crosses Green
2	Glanmire Quay	18	Mercy Hospital
3	Blackrock Castle	19	Bons Secours - Glucksmann
4	Tivolli development	20	Fitzgerlad Park
5	Cork Boat Club	21	Mardyke slip
6	Blackrock	22	Sacret Heart Bridge
7	Marine Activity Centre	23	Split weir escape
8	Lee Rowing Club	24	Split weir
9	Shandon Rowing Club	25	Lee Fields
10	Public Slip Glanmire Road	26	Phoenix Kayak Club
11	Graving Dock	27	Grotto
12	Custom House Marina	28	Angler's Rest
13	Albert Quay	29	Ballincollig Park East
14	Lapps Quay pontoon	30	Ballincollig Park West
15	Trinity Bridge	31	Dripsey GAA
16	Shandon Bridge	32	Iniscarra dam

Table 9.11: Water Based ARI Items/Locations in the Study Area

Current Water Based ARI

CCC provided the Study Team with helpful information, including a Position Paper by Meitheal Mara, on existing water based ARI within the Study Area. The Study Team used this information to generate the below list of water based ARI items/locations within the Study Area.

In addition, Study Team used the information provided by CCC to generate the below map (see Map 1 of Appendix 8 for full scale version), which plots the location of each of the 32 no. items/locations listed in Table 9.11 and which identifies the following:

- 12 no. locations where new water based ARI is required to enable better access to the rivers and facilitate additional water based active recreation opportunities;
- 12 no. locations where existing water based ARI should be improved to help improve opportunities for additional water based active recreation; and
- 8 no. locations where existing water based ARI is not currently open to the public, but if opened, would help to facilitate additional water based active recreation opportunities.

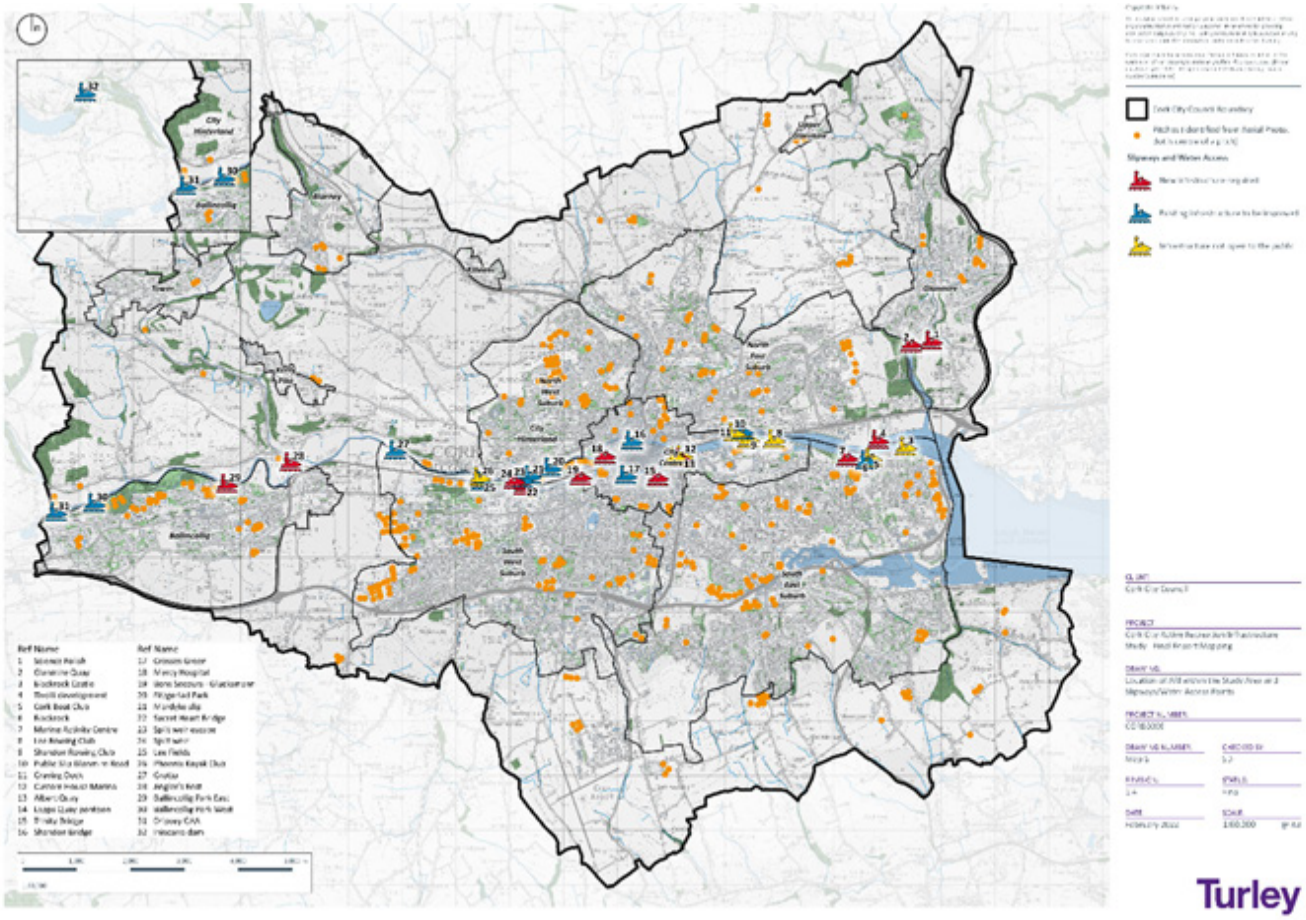


Figure 9.1: Map 1 of Appendix 8 –Water Based ARI Items/Locations within the Study Area

Online Survey Audit (OSA) – Water Based ARI Findings

The responses to the OSA enables the Study Team to better understand the level of water based ARI within the Study Area and to provide further insights with respect to current and future requirements.

The OSA was completed by a total of 37 no. organisations, identified in Table 9.12 below, which promote water-based active recreation, such as boating, canoeing/kayaking, fishing/angling, rowing, sailing, surfing, swimming and stand-up paddle boarding.

Bádóireacht Youth Programme, Meitheal Mara	Inniscarra tourism and development ltd	Rowing Ireland
Blackrock Rowing Club	Lee Rowing Club	Scoil Mhuire agus Eoin
Blackrock Sailing Club (Cork City Sailing Club)	Leisure World	Shandon Boat Club
Cork Boat Club	Meitheal Mara	St Aloysius School
Cork City SUP	MTU (Cork)	St Finbarre's NS
Cork Dragons	Munster Provincial Council, Irish Federation of Sea Anglers	St. Aloysius School
Cork Harbour Festival	Munster Technological University	Subowti
Cork Sports Partnership	Naomhóga Chorcai	Sundays Well Swimming Club
Cork Sub Aqua Club	North Cork Tri Club	The Health Club At The Kingsley
Corkumnavigation	North Presentation Primary School	UCC Rowing Club
Dolphin SC	Paddle the Owenabue	
Gaelscoil Mhachan	Phoenix Kayak Club	

Table 9.12: Water Based ARI Organisations in Cork City that Responded to the OSA

The majority of responses to the OSA identified a need for additional ARI and/or a need for additional ancillary facilities, including:

- Public slipway;
- Additional launch area;
- Rescue boat launch facilities;
- Pontoon and marina storage;
- Additional space/land for storage (boats, equipment, personal belongings, etc), repairs, changing areas, car parking (for users), etc;
- Additional car parking by the Marina for events such as regattas;
- Additional club house and boathouse facilities/space; and
- Additional meeting and training rooms.

In terms of key issues facing water-based sport clubs/organisations, the following were also cited:

- Need for public slipways to enable safe access to the water for all, including those with disabilities, mobility challenges, children and older members;
- Need for readily available access points to the River Lee which can be accessed without a key and at any tidal state;
- Need for buoy markings along the channel;
- Need for lighting improvements at the Marina;
- Need for portage facilities at Trinity Bridge and Waterworks Weir and portage points by some of the bridges in the City;
- Opportunity to clean up and renovate old ferry slip on Lower Glanmire Road;
- Need for improved access to the River Lee from the Lee Fields to Blackrock area;
- Need for improved pedestrian and cyclist access to Lapps Quay;
- Need for expansion of Lapps Quay and slipways in the City to launch larger boats (Blackrock Village currently used to launch larger boats);
- Need for expansion of Lapps Quay and slipways in the City to accommodate all water users during peak periods such as the summer months;
- Need for sheltered/covered space at Lapps Quay to enable instructors to provide health and safety advice/guidance/ instructions to participants before entering the water and to debrief participants following completion of the activity;
- Need for changing facilities and bathrooms at Lapps Quay pontoon;
- Need for buildings to store boats and take part in indoor training;
- Need for additional facilities to provide for, and enable the growth of sailing clubs;
- Need for funding support to purchase new boats to enable the growth of sailing clubs, etc.;
- Need for access to swimming pools and class rooms to train new divers;
- Need for a 50m pool (Limerick cited as nearest location);
- Need for on water and white-water facilities such as a canoe polo pitch, slalom facilities, etc.;
- Focus on 'Competitive/racing' boating clubs and need for non-competitive water sports in Cork to be provided with better facilities to accommodate growing demand; and
- Assistance with identifying and securing finance/funding and growing/developing links and relationships with other sporting/recreation organisations.

Stakeholder Consultations – Water Based ARI Findings

In addition to the foregoing, a detailed consultation has been undertaken with Rowing Ireland, who extensively use the current water ways and river system. Rowing Ireland identified the following key requirements for the Study Area:

- Encouragement to combine school programs within the local rowing clubs;
- Improvement of current car parking and access for boat clubs and facilities;
- Provision of coaching courses and training programs within the docks area;
- Encourage more Regatta type events;
- Encourage clubs to establish community links; and
- Incorporate detailed consultations and club development plans as part of any future/wider Active Recreation/Water-Based strategies.

Summary

This Section of the report provides an overview of the current and future pitch, non-pitch and water based ARI needs of the Study Area based on a predicted population growth of approx. 24,551 people within the Study Area between 2022 and 2028 and a further population increase of 75,659 people between 2028 and 2040.

With an average sports participation level that is higher than the current national average, it is considered that the Study Area contains a healthy quantum, quality and mix of ARI. Indeed, our analysis has identified an overall quantum of 563[27] items of ARI within the Study Area which cover 34 different pitch, non-pitch and water based sport types (see Table 8.1 of Section 8 – Spatial Analysis).

Soccer is the most popular overall sport, and pitch based sport, within the Study Area, based on the quantum of ARI available, and this is closely followed by GAA. Tennis and basketball are the most popular non-pitch based sports within the Study Area, based on the quantum of ARI available.

This Section sets out a bespoke and Study Area specific analysis which seeks to provide CCC with an overview of likely future ARI requirements of the most popular pitch and non-pitch based sports within the Study Area to help inform future sport strategies and land use planning policies up to 2028, and beyond to 2040. Please refer to the foregoing tables for indicative quantum of new ARI and land requirements.

As anticipated in the earlier sections of this Study, new ARI will be required over the lifetime of the City Development Plan 2022-2028, and beyond, to ensure that the Study Area continues to provide a desirable quantum and quality of ARI to maintain, and improve upon, its current participation levels. Indeed, a significant quantum of new ARI is also likely to be required between 2028 and 2040 to address the accelerated population growth levels forecasted for those years.

However, equally important is **the need for CCC to explore the potential to deliver improvements in existing ARI and efficiencies in usage, management, scheduling and relationships between schools and clubs/communities to help improve and unlock existing ARI capacity.** This approach will likely reduce the overall level of need for new ARI within the Study Area, and will likely require the conversion of existing poor quality and/or underutilised grass pitches to AGPs, in addition to providing new AGPs.

This Section seeks to build on the spatial analysis provided in Section 8 of this Study by identifying a quantum of ARI required over the lifetime of the new City Development Plan 2022-2028 and which can be directed to areas identified in Section 8 as lacking in a specific item of ARI and/or which have capacity/ available lands to accommodate new ARI provision.

However, to better understand the exact pitch, non-pitch and water based requirements of the Study Area, CCC should undertake additional bespoke and focused studies with respect to each of these three specific areas and further detailed consultations with local clubs, community groups, schools and national/regional governing sport bodies.

27 *Based on the responses to the OSA and the desktop aerial survey of ARI within the Study Area.*

10 Sub City Analysis

Introduction

This Section of the Study provides an overview and analysis of the ARI located within each of the following Sub-City Areas and provides recommendations for CCC to inform the future ARI Strategies and the emerging City Development Plan 2022-2028 with respect to ARI:

- **Sub City Area 1:** City Centre and City Docks Major Development Area
- **Sub City Area 2:** North East Suburb, Tivoli Docks Major Development Area and Ballyvolane Major Development Area
- **Sub City Area 3:** North West Suburb
- **Sub City Area 4:** South East Suburb
- **Sub City Area 5:** South West Suburb
- **Sub City Area 6:** Ballincollig and Ballincollig (Maglin) Major Development Area
- **Sub City Area 7:** Blarney and Blarney (Stoneview) Major Development Area
- **Sub City Area 8:** Glanmire and South Glanmire Major Development Area
- **Sub City Area 9:** Tower
- **Sub City Area 10:** City Hinterland Settlements (10a Kerry Pike, 10b Kileens, 10c Upper Glanmire)
- **Sub City Area 11:** City Hinterland (everywhere outside of the urban/settlement areas, i.e. the rural/countryside areas)

This Section also identifies future ARI requirements for pitch and non-pitch based sports by applying the Study Area averages to the Sub City level. Commentary is also provided on water based ARI within each Sub City Area and any specific qualitative requirements identified during the Online Survey Audit.

Each Sub City Area analysis contains specific recommendations with respect to Suitable Areas for Zoning ARI to complement Section 8, and general/City wide recommendations with respect to Suitable Areas for Zoning ARI are provided at the end of this Section to help inform CCC's overall 'Core Strategy' and 'Land Use Zoning Strategy'.

The locations and extents of each of the abovementioned Sub City Areas within the Study Area are identified in Figure 10.1 below[28], as well as the relationship of each of the Major Development Areas (being future growth areas within the Study Area) with the wider Sub City Areas that they are located within and/or adjacent.

[28] *All mapping within this Section is reproduced at a larger scale in Volume 2 of the Study – see Appendix 9.*

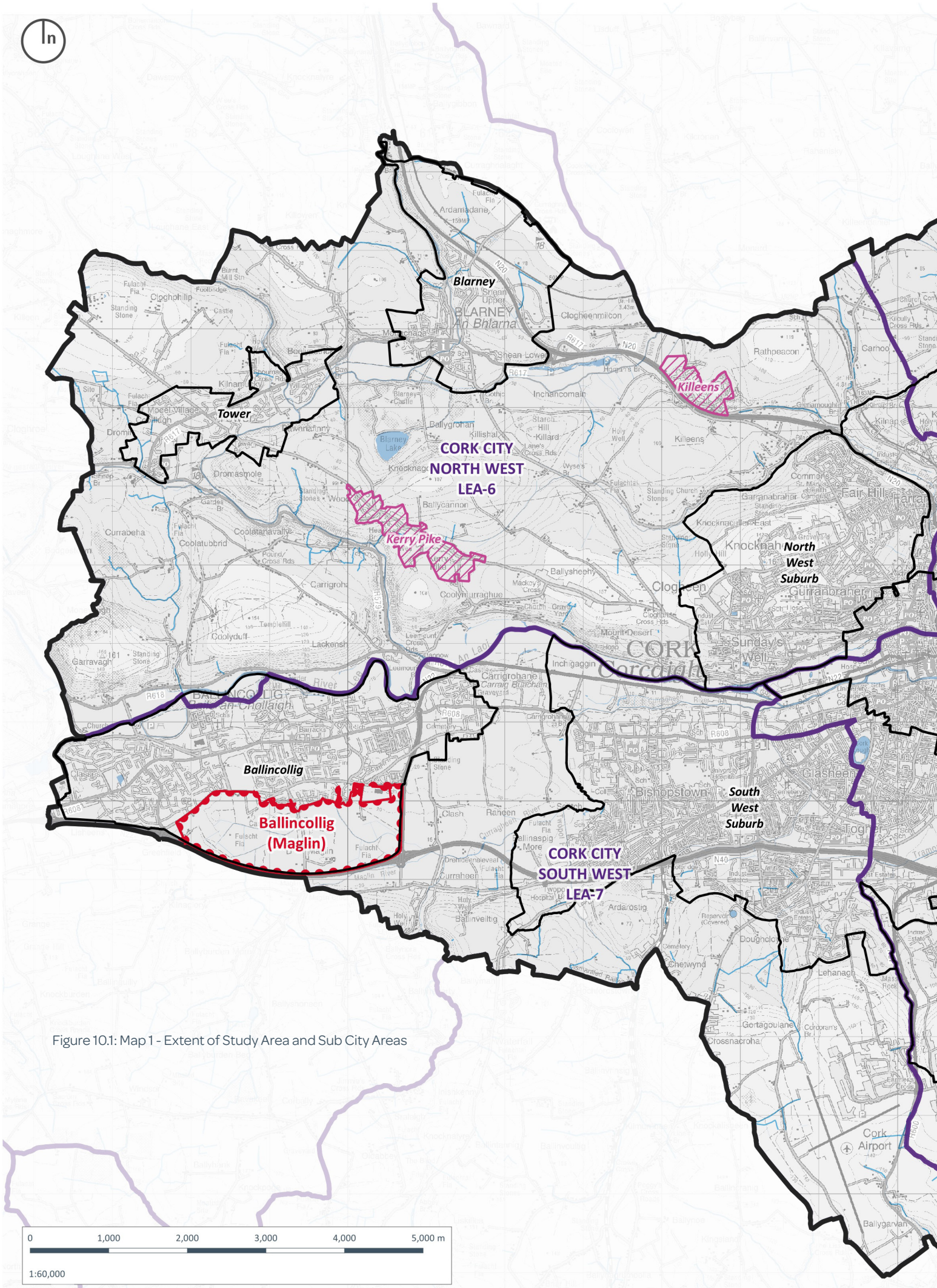
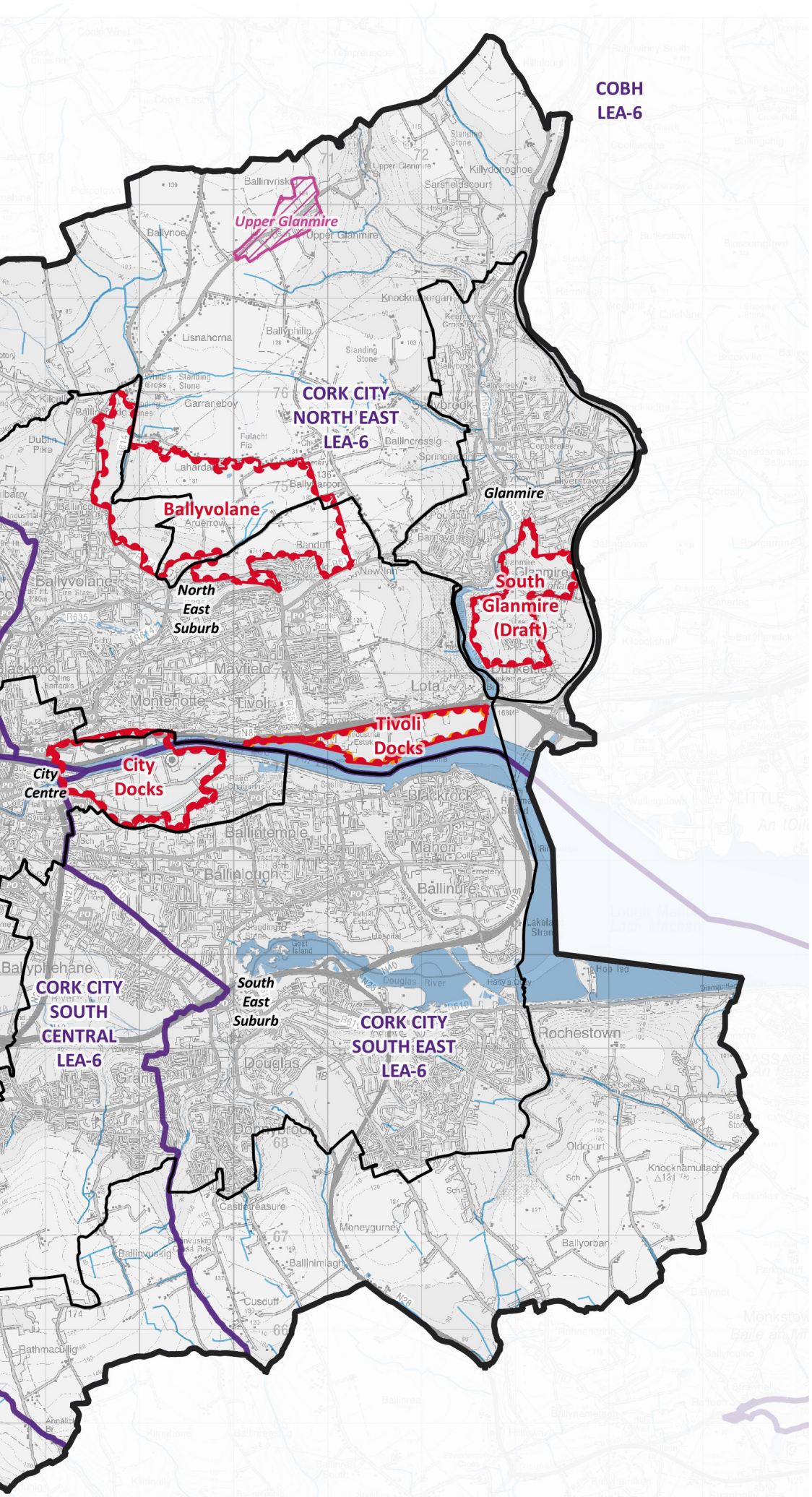


Figure 10.1: Map 1 - Extent of Study Area and Sub City Areas



- Cork City Council Boundary
- Local Electoral Areas (LEA)
- Development Plan Areas
- Hinterland Settlements
- City Docks
- Tivoli Docks
- Major Development Areas

CLIENT:
Cork City Council

PROJECT:
Cork City Active Recreation Infrastructure Study - Draft Report Mapping

DRAWING:
City Areas and Sub Areas
Preliminary Strategic Review Mapping Outputs

PROJECT NUMBER:
CORB3006

DRAWING NUMBER: GIS_600

CHECKED BY: SD

REVISION: 1.0

STATUS: Draft

DATE: September 2021

SCALE: 1:60,000 @ A3

Turley

Methodology

To assist with the Sub City Area analysis, the Study Team applied the same methodology outlined in Section 9 of this Study to each Sub City Area, by:

- dividing the population of each Sub City Area in 2028[29] by the Study Area average ARI ratio for each of the 6 most popular pitch and non-pitch based sports to identify an ARI requirement in 2028 for each of the popular sport types and each Sub City Area; and
- subtracting the ARI requirement in 2028 for each Sub City Area and each popular sport type by the existing ARI within the Sub City Area for the respective popular sport types to identify either an undersupply, oversupply or adequate supply of ARI for each sport type when compared with the Study Area average.

It is noted that the population figures provided by CCC for each of the Sub City Areas represent a total population of 264,402 people in 2028, which is approx. 4,208 people more than the 2028 population (i.e. 260,194 people) identified in the Draft Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028.

Importantly, Section 9 of this Study, which identifies the overall guiding ARI requirements for the Study Area with respect to each of the 6 most popular pitch and non-pitch based sports, is based on the 2028 population figure in the Draft Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028.

This Section seeks to align the Sub City ARI requirements with the overall guiding ARI requirements outlined previously in Section 9.

The following tables provide an overview of the 6 most popular pitch and non-pitch based sport types considered in this analysis as well as the Study Area wide average ARI ratios for each sport type, as previously outlined in Section 9 of this Study.

#	Top Pitch Based Sports	Top Non-Pitch Based Sports
1	Soccer	Tennis
2	GAA	Basketball
3	Rugby	Multi-Purpose (Indoor)
4	Hockey	Gym / Physical Fitness
5	Cricket	Swimming
6	Athletics	Boxing

Table 10.1: Top 6 Pitch Based and Non-Pitch Based Sports within the Study Area

Sport	ARI in 2022 [30]	2022 Population	ARI Ratio
Soccer	146	235,643	1,614
GAA	110	235,643	2,142
Rugby Union	35	235,643	6,733
Hockey	11	235,643	21,422
Athletics	3	235,643	78,548
Cricket	3	235,643	78,548

Table 10.2: Pitch Based ARI Ratios based on Existing ARI Provision

[29] *CCC provided the Study Team with population projections for each Sub City Area in 2028.*

[30] *ARI includes pitches, courts, tracks, pools, facilities, etc.*

Sport	ARI in 2022	2022 Population	ARI Ratio
Tennis	72	235,643	3,273
Basketball	64	235,643	3,740
Gym / Physical Fitness	27	235,643	8,728
Multi-Purpose (Indoor)	18	235,643	13,091
Swimming	14	235,643	16,832
Boxing	9	235,643	26,183

Table 10.3: Non-Pitch Based ARI Ratios based on Existing ARI Provision

Methodology Caveats

We note the following caveats/limitations/assumptions which have informed the methodology for this Section of the Study:

- Analysing ARI at a 'Sub City level' narrows the focus of the overall study into specific areas which does not take into account efficiencies in provision at a wider 'Study Area level', such as adjoining or nearby ARI located outside the boundary of a Sub City Area but which services the sporting needs of that Sub City Area (and other Sub City Areas).
- ARI ratios/multipliers are based on best available information for Cork City but may need to be supplemented by further work to provide business case justification for specific ARI.
- A proportionate breakdown of the overall Study Area ARI requirement is applied to the Sub City Areas with an ARI need to ensure that requirements align with the overall quantums identified in Tables 9.4 and 9.7 of this Study.
- Sports facilities located within a Sub City Area may serve a wider catchment, especially where they relate to sports clubs, schools and sports with a 'city-wide' membership base rather than a 'local' membership base.
- The ARI of the City and the Sub City Areas may vary significantly, and so the stated need may exceed the level of need outlined in the Study.
- ARI needs identified by responses to the Online Survey Audit should be reviewed through further discussions with the relevant sporting bodies/clubs to confirm the extent of the perceived need and to identify any opportunities to better utilise existing ARI to address any ARI needs cited.
- The exact quantum and type/mix of new ARI should be confirmed though further studies, such as a Sport Pitch Based Strategy and robust site specific/ARI specific feasibility studies, as well as through consultations with national/regional sporting bodies, local clubs and relevant education/community stakeholders.
- Pitch-based ARI needs could be met by one or more of the following ways: land acquisition and provision of new pitches; capital investment to enable existing facilities to be used more intensively (e.g. AGP / AWP), etc.
- The numbers cited in each of the tables within this section are based on grass pitch equivalents.

Sub City Area 1 - City Centre and City Docks Major Development Area

Sub City Area Profile

Sub City Area 1, which is identified in Figure 10.2 below, comprises Cork City Centre and the City Docks Major Development Area (MDA). It is located centrally within the Study Area and covers an area of approx. 553 ha.

The extent of Sub City Area 1 is also illustrated in Figure 10.1 and it is clear that it is defined by the boundaries of the following adjacent Sub City Areas: North West Suburb; North East Suburb; South East Suburb; and the South West Suburb.

This Sub City Area contains a mix of land uses including Cork City Centre, Port of Cork lands, Kent Train Station lands, the River Lee, industrial/ commercial/ retail/ leisure/ recreation uses, residential areas, car parking areas and infrastructure such as roads, bridges, railway, river access, etc. Figure 10.1 identifies the location of the City Docks MDA within the central and eastern section of this Sub City Area, and which covers an area of approx. 133 ha.

With a population of 24,399 people in 2016, this Sub City Area is the most densely populated area within the Study Area with approx. 44 people per hectare in 2016.

The population of this Sub City Area is predicted to increase by approx. 9,058 people by 2028 to a total population of 33,457 people, including an additional 5,572 people in the City Docks MDA. CCC's future long term growth ambition for the City Docks MDA is to have 23,000 people living there by 2040, which represents a significant population growth to be planned for over the coming years.

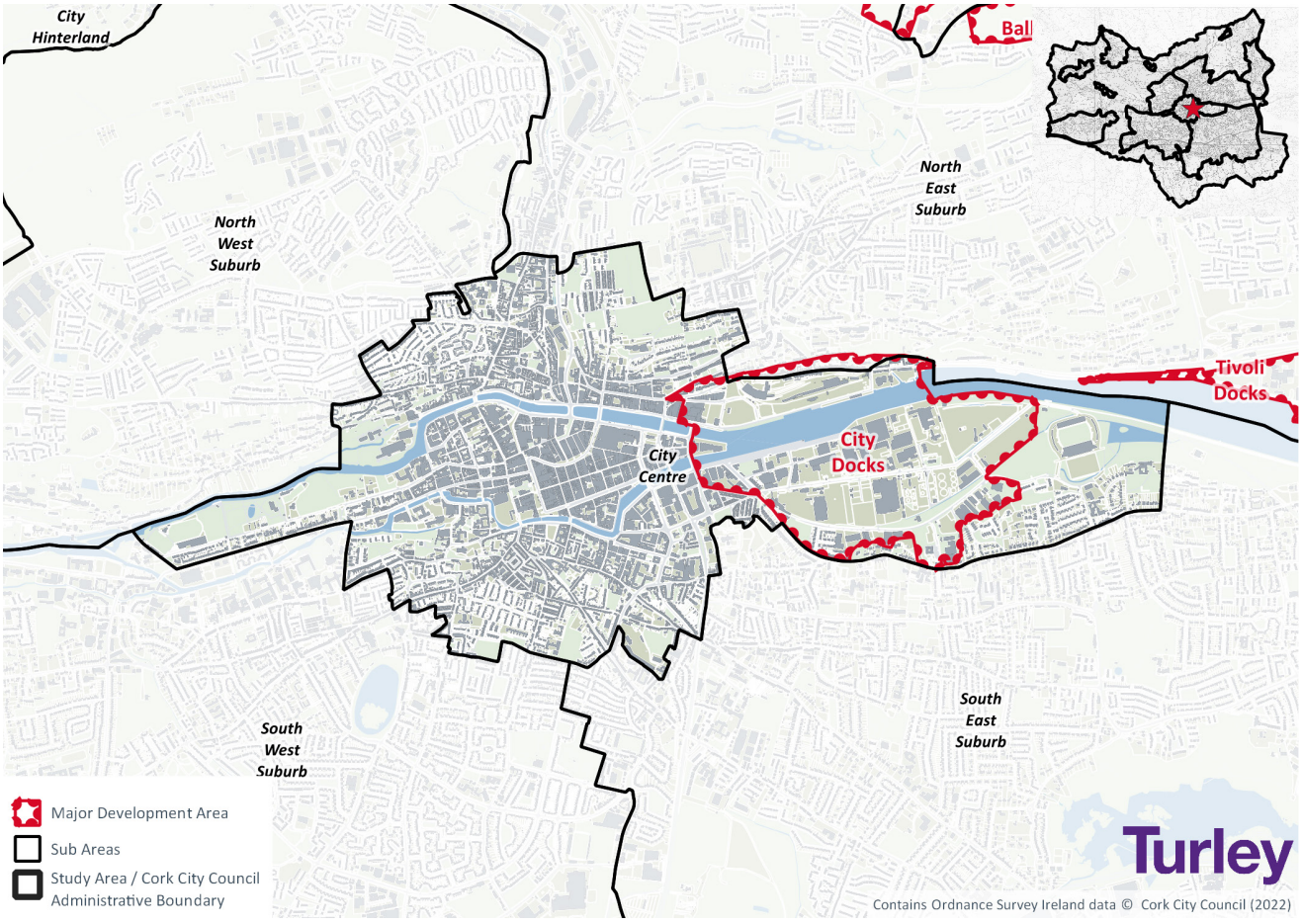


Figure 10.2: Map 2 - Extent of Sub City Area 1

Existing ARI Provision

Appendix 10 [31] provides a detailed breakdown of the 64 items of ARI located within this Sub City Area as identified via the responses to the Online Survey Audit and/or via a desktop aerial survey of the Sub City Area .

Figure 10.3 below plots the location of ARI within Sub City Area 1 as listed in **Appendix 10** by sport type to help provide a spatial overview of the distribution/mix of ARI.

Table 10.4 below provides an overview/summary of the quantum of ARI within this Sub City Area for the 6 most popular pitch based sport types within the overall Study Area.

Table 10.5 below provides an overview/summary of the quantum of ARI within this Sub City Area for the 6 most popular non-pitch based sport types within the overall Study Area.

In addition to the above sports, this Sub City Area also comprises ARI with respect to Rowing, Skateboarding, Skating, Paddle Boarding, Squash and Volleyball.

Importantly, Sub City Area 1 contains a mix of outdoor and indoor ARI with a range of pitch types, such as astro turf/ synthetic, asphalt, grass, etc and a mix of ARI types, including 25m swimming pools, sports grounds, arenas, leisure centres, fitness clubs, rowing clubs and etc.

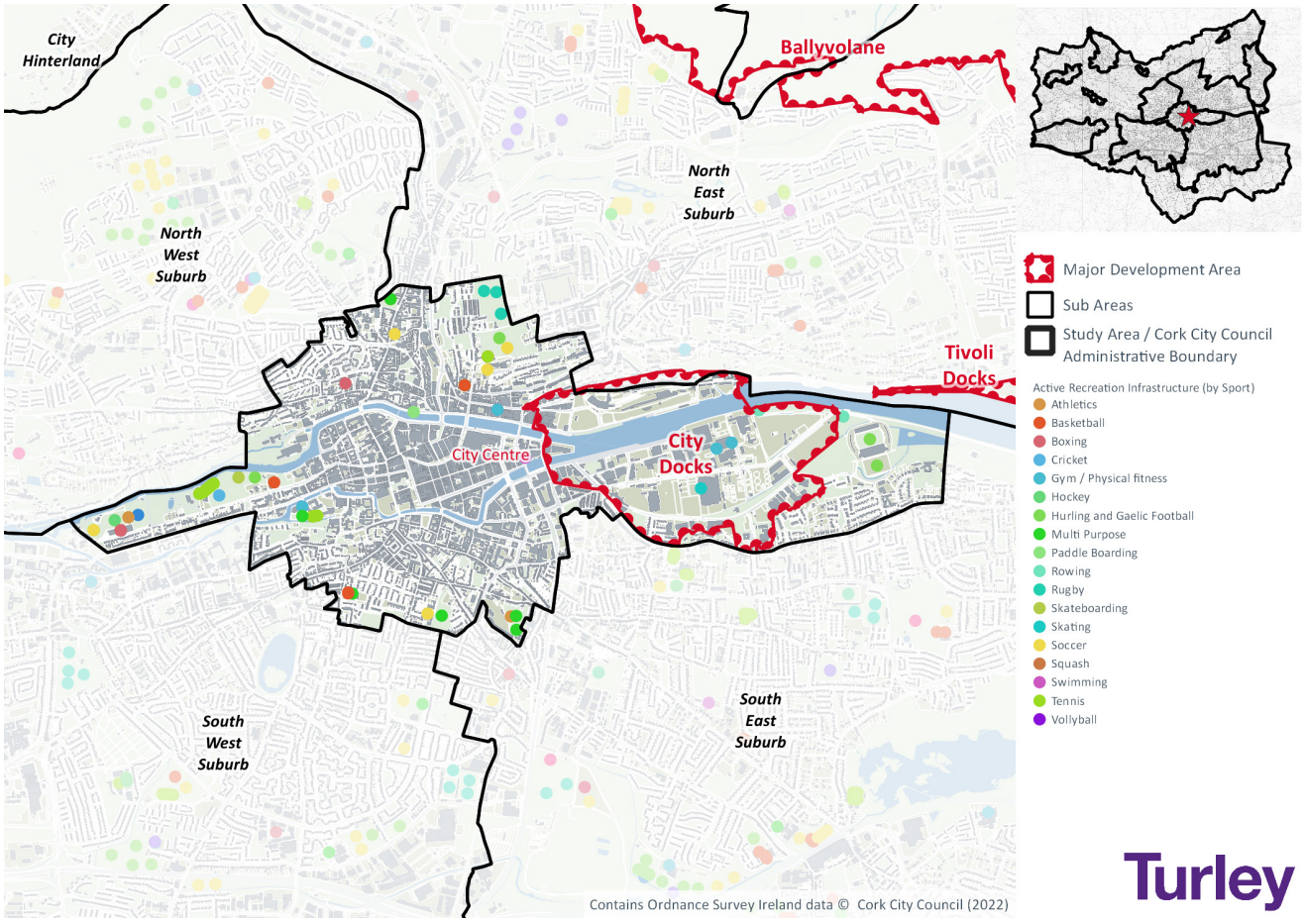


Figure 10.3: Map 3 - Location of Existing ARI Provision within Sub City Area 1

[31] *Each row within Appendix 10 represents an individual piece of ARI, such as a pitch, a court, a track, a facility/hall/centre, etc.*

Pitch Based Sport Type	ARI
Soccer	6
GAA	5
Rugby	3
Hockey	2
Athletics	2
Cricket	1
Total	19

Table 10.4: Existing Pitch Based ARI in Sub City Area 1

Non-Pitch Based Sport Type	ARI
Tennis	12
Basketball	7
Multi-Purpose (Indoor)	6
Gym / Physical Fitness	4
Swimming	4
Boxing	2
Total	35

Table 10.5: Existing Non-Pitch Based ARI in Sub City Area 1

In terms of water based ARI, there are a number of locations and/or items of ARI within this Sub City Area noting its proximity to the River Lee, which include:

- Lee Rowing Club: Infrastructure Not Open to the Public.
- Shandon Rowing Club: Infrastructure Not Open to the Public.
- Public Slip Glanmire Road: Existing Infrastructure to be Improved.
- Graving Dock: Infrastructure Not Open to the Public.
- Custom House Marina: Infrastructure Not Open to the Public.
- Albert Quay: New Infrastructure Required.
- Lapps Quay pontoon: Infrastructure Not Open to the Public.
- Trinity Bridge: New Infrastructure Required.
- Shandon Bridge: Existing Infrastructure to be Improved.
- Crosses Green: Existing Infrastructure to be Improved.
- Mercy Hospital: New Infrastructure Required.

Future ARI Requirements

This Sub City Area requires the following new ARI to align with the Study Area average by 2028 based on population projections provided by CCC:

- 6 no. soccer pitches
- 5 no. GAA pitches
- 1 no. basketball court

Sub City Area 1 does not appear to require any new ARI/has an adequate supply of ARI up to 2028 for athletics facilities, cricket pitches, tennis courts, gym/physical fitness facilities, multi-purpose facilities, swimming pools, and boxing facilities based on the Study Area averages.

However, noting the forecasted growth of 9,058 people between 2016 and 2028, and the long term predicted population growth of 23,000 additional people between 2028-2040 within the City Docks MDA, **CCC should consider undertaking a detailed feasibility study with respect to delivering 2 no. 10,000 people capacity sport centres for Sub City Area 1**. These sport centres should be multi-use, multi-sport and multi-purpose to help diversify sporting opportunities within the area.

Sub City Area 1 is benefitted by 3 no. multi-purpose playing pitches which could reduce the overall need for new playing pitches. These multi-purpose pitches are located at Loughmahon Community Park, Old Christians Rugby Football Club and the Gaelcholaiste Mhuire A.G. North Monastery.

However, it is noted that the Páirc Uí Chaoimh stadium represents 1 of the 5 existing GAA pitches identified within this Sub City Area and that this pitch is not available for regular club training or fixtures.

Online Survey Audit – Key Issues Raised

According to the Online Survey Audit responses, the key issues raised for Sub City Area 1 include:

- Lack of grass (pitch) based facilities;
- Unsafe public access to the water (public slipway required) and insufficient storage for boats;
- Insufficient space and incorrect surface for cricket;
- Need for a large indoor facility to cater for various sports and age groups – winter training, hire space, competitions etc.; and
- Poor accessibility – better public transport to sports facilities and safer environments for walking and cycling.

Suitable Areas for Zoning ARI

We set out below Sub City specific recommendations with respect to Suitable Areas for Zoning ARI, which have been informed by the Sub City Analysis. The following locations are considered to represent suitable areas for CCC to consider ARI zonings as part of its overall Core Strategy and Land Use Zoning Strategy:

- **Sub City Area 1:** Locations within the City Docks MDA which are to undergo significant regeneration and transformation, such as the former Port of Cork lands and Kent Train Station. The development of these lands over the next 20 years (and beyond) should be informed by a strategic Masterplan approach which clearly identifies appropriate locations and quantums for new ARI.

General recommendations with respect to Suitable Areas for Zoning ARI are provided at the end of this Section, which CCC should also consider as part of its overall Core Strategy and Land Use Zoning Strategy.

Sub City Area 2 – North East Suburb, Tivoli Docks MDA and Ballyvolane MDA

Sub City Area Profile

Sub City Area 2, which is identified in Figure 10.4 below, comprises the North East Suburb and the Tivoli Docks and Ballyvolane MDAs. It is located within the central north eastern portion of the Study Area and covers an area of approx. 1,439 ha making it the 4th largest Sub City Area. It also contains a challenging sloping topography in parts, particularly within the Ballyvolane MDA.

The North East Suburb predominantly comprises the residential suburbs of Cork City as well as park lands, local schools, local sports clubs and local services. The Collins Barracks Military Museum is also located within this suburb.

CCC predicts the population of this suburb to grow from 26,841 people in 2016 to 35,561 people in 2028 (an increase of 8,720 people) and the long-term growth target is identified as being approx. 41,731 people in 2040 (an increase of 6,170 people on the 2028 growth target).

The Ballyvolane MDA predominately comprises greenfield/ agricultural lands with a number of residential (mix of one-off and multi-unit housing developments), and farming/agricultural land uses.

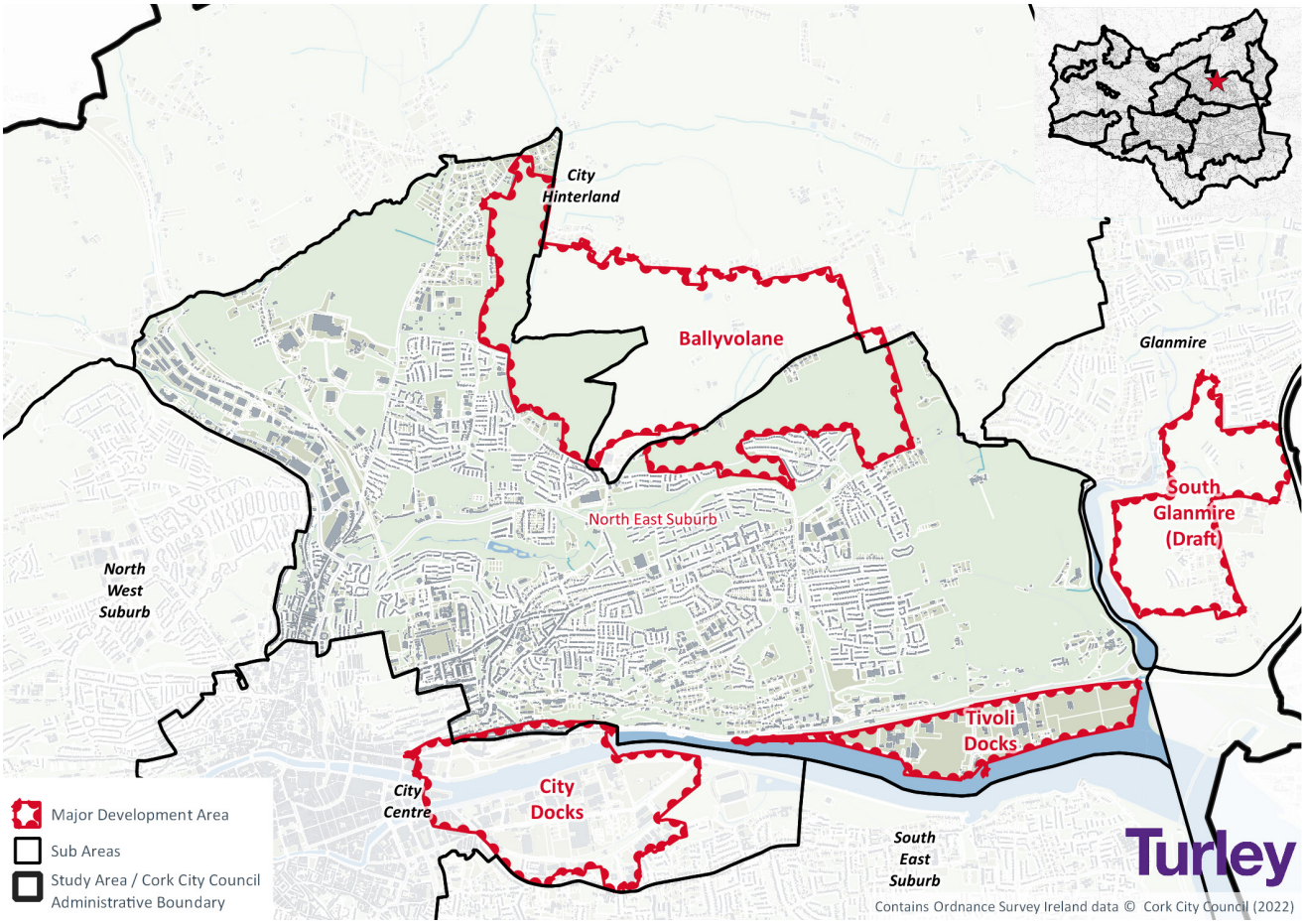


Figure 10.4: Map 4 - Extent of Sub City Area 2

The topography of the area generally slopes to the south/south east with the most pronounced falls located along the eastern and southern sections of the MDA. The topography along the northern sections of the site appear to be relatively level.

The Ballyvolane MDA has been identified by CCC as a major growth area which will accommodate up to 4,208 residents by 2028 and up to 12,786 residents by 2040. In addition, 3,400 jobs are expected to be delivered within the wider Ballyvolane Local Area Plan area.

The Tivoli Docks MDA comprises the Tivoli Docks and Industrial Estate area which is owned by the Port of Cork. With the transfer of container traffic and other services to the new Cork Container Terminal at Ringaskiddy, these lands are now available for development/regeneration.

This MDA predominately comprise built-on/brownfield/hard surfaced areas, however there are some greenfield/open space and landscaped areas located within the MDA, most notably the narrow/linear east to west oriented Port of Cork 200 Garden. As expected with a dock/industrial estate, a number of haulage, distribution/storage and transport uses are located here along with large car parking areas and shipping/dock infrastructure.

The area is befitted by approx. 3km of accessible waterfront and provides an opportunity to deliver a series of linked green and blue spaces that can provide a broad range of well-designed recreational facilities, including access points to the River Lee.

The Tivoli Docks MDA has also been identified as a major growth area for the City which will accommodate up to 498 new residents by 2028 and up to 12,000 residents by 2040 along with 5,000 new jobs among other land uses and infrastructure, such as a new train station.

This overall Sub City Area had a population of 26,841 people in 2016 and this population base is expected to grow to a total of 40,267 people by 2028 and 67,417 people by 2040, growing practically 2.5 times in population over 34 years.

Existing ARI Provision

Appendix 10 provides a detailed breakdown of the 59 items of ARI located within this Sub City Area as identified via the responses to the Online Survey Audit and/or via a desktop aerial survey of the Sub City Area .

Figure 10.5 below plots the location of ARI within Sub City Area 2 as listed in **Appendix 10** by sport type to help provide a spatial overview of the distribution/mix of ARI.

There is currently no ARI provision within the Tivoli Docks and Ballyvolane MDAs. This is not surprising noting that the Ballyvolane MDA is a new growth area comprising greenfield/ agricultural lands and noting that the Tivoli Docks MDA's current industrial and commercial land uses due to it being a working docklands.

Table 10.6 below provides an overview/summary of the quantum of ARI within this Sub City Area for the 6 most popular pitch based sport types within the overall Study Area

Pitch Based Sport Type	ARI
Soccer	20
GAA	15
Rugby	0
Hockey	0
Athletics	0
Cricket	0
Total	35

Table 10.6: Existing Pitch Based ARI in Sub City Area 2

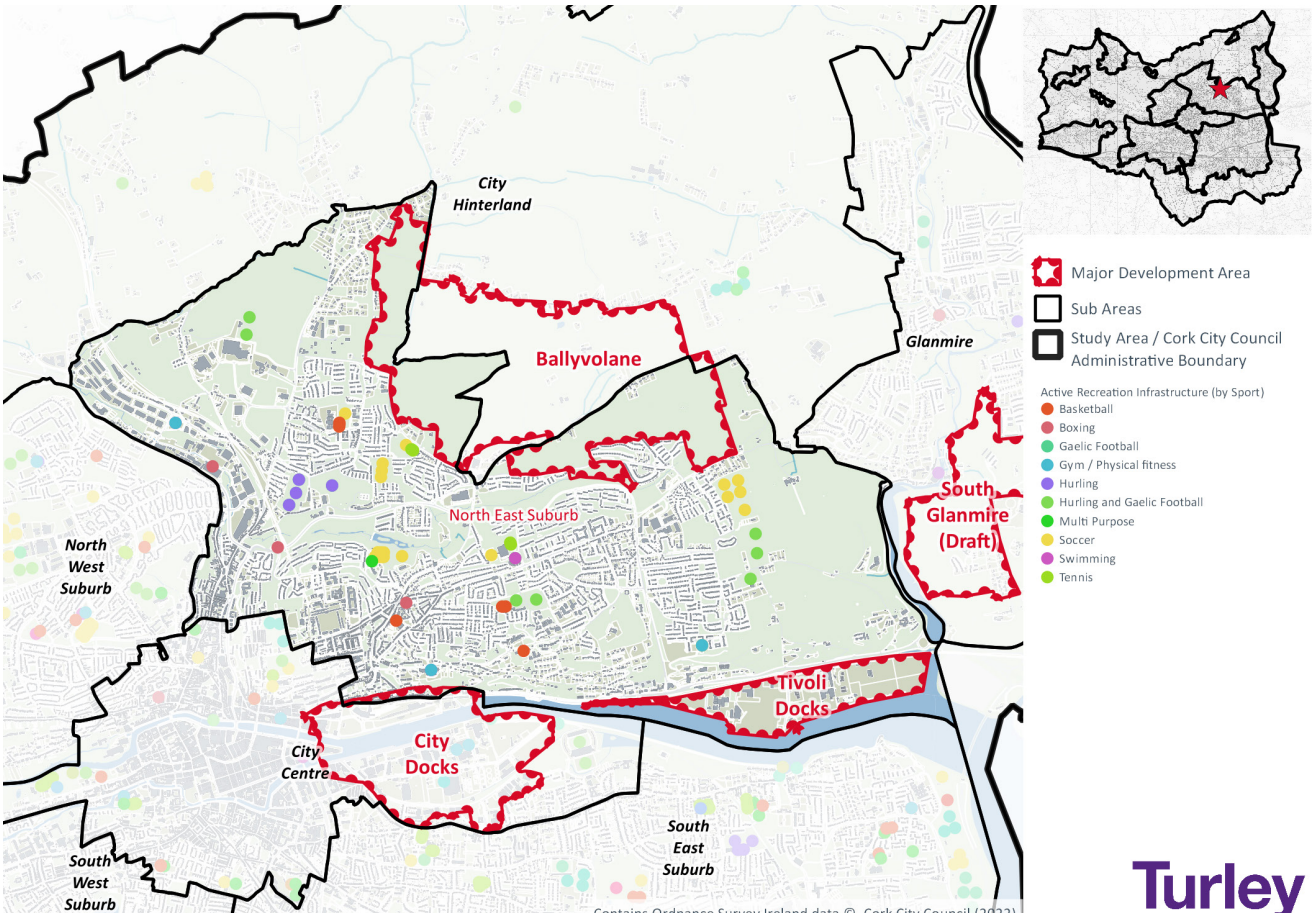


Figure 10.5: Map 5 - Location of Existing ARI Provisions within Sub City Area 2

Table 10.7 below provides an overview/summary of the quantum of ARI within this Sub City Area for the 6 most popular non-pitch based sport types within the overall Study Area.

Non-Pitch Based Sport Type	ARI
Tennis	4
Basketball	7
Gym / Physical Fitness	3
Multi-Purpose (Indoor)	3
Swimming	4
Boxing	3
Total	24

Table 10.7: Existing Non-Pitch Based ARI in Sub City Area 2

Future ARI Requirements

This Sub City Area requires the following new ARI to align with the Study Area averages by 2028 based on population projections provided by CCC:

- 2 no. soccer pitches
- 2 no. GAA pitches
- 1 no. rugby union pitch
- 1 no. hockey pitch
- 3 no. tennis courts
- 1 no. basketball court
- 1 no. gym/physical fitness facility

Sub City Area 2 does not appear to require any new ARI/has an adequate supply of ARI up to 2028 with respect to cricket, athletics, boxing, swimming or multi-purpose facilities based on the Study Area averages.

Noting the forecasted growth of 13,426 people between 2016 and 2028, and the long term predicted population growth of 27,150 additional people between 2028-2040, **CCC should consider undertaking a detailed feasibility study with respect to delivering 2 no. 10,000 people capacity sport centres for Sub City Area 2.** These sport centres should be multi-use, multi-sport and multi-purpose to help diversify sporting opportunities within the area.

There do not appear to be any formal water based ARI facilities within this Sub City Area which is surprising noting that it southern and eastern boundary adjoin the River Lee and Glashaboy River. As part of the Study Area wide water based feasibility study, CCC should explore opportunities within this Sub City Area to deliver new access points to the River Lee and Glashaboy River to enable water based recreation.

Online Survey Audit – Key Issues Raised

According to the Online Survey Audit responses, the key issues raised for this Sub City Area 2 include:

- Need for a hurling alley or all weather pitch;
- Lack of access to a 50m swimming pool;
- Requirement for changing rooms at parks and for clubs;
- Promotion of health and wellbeing through sport;
- Need for a large indoor facility to cater for various sports and age groups – winter training, hire space, competitions etc.;
- Poor accessibility – better public transport to sports facilities and safer environments for walking and cycling.

Suitable Areas for Zoning ARI

We set out below Sub City specific recommendations with respect to Suitable Areas for Zoning ARI, which have been informed by the Sub City Analysis. The following locations are considered to represent suitable areas for CCC to consider ARI zonings as part of its overall Core Strategy and Land Use Zoning Strategy:

- **Sub City Area 2:** Locations within the Tivoli Docks MDA which is guided by a strategic masterplan for these lands, particularly the former Port of Cork lands and Kent Train Station lands as it undergoes significant transformation and regeneration over the next 8 to 18 years.
- **Sub City Area 2:** Locations within the Ballyvolane MDA which is guided by a strategic masterplan for these lands as it undergoes significant transformation and regeneration over the next 8 to 18 years.

General recommendations with respect to Suitable Areas for Zoning ARI are provided at the end of this Section, which CCC should also consider as part of its overall Core Strategy and Land Use Zoning Strategy.

Sub City Area 3 – North West Suburb

Sub City Area Profile

Sub City Area 3, which is identified in Figure 10.6 below, comprises the North West Suburb of the Study Area. It is located within the central north west portion of the Study Area and covers an area of approx. 658ha. The topography of the central portion of this Sub City Area is elevated in comparison to the lands to the north, east south and west.

The North West Suburbs has experienced significant changes in the last decade. Blackpool has added large scale mixed retail, office, leisure and residential developments with a number of other prominent sites still available for further regeneration.

The North-West Quarter Regeneration plan for Knocknaheeny and Hollyhill is well underway, while new mixed tenure housing is proposed on a City Council owned site at Old Whitechurch Road.

The North West Suburb has been identified for significant public transport intervention as part of the Cork Metropolitan Area Transportation Strategy (CMATS) including a new commuter railway station and high frequency bus routes.

The population of this Sub City Area is expected to grow by only 603 people from a population of 23,125 in 2016 to a population of 23,728 in 2028.

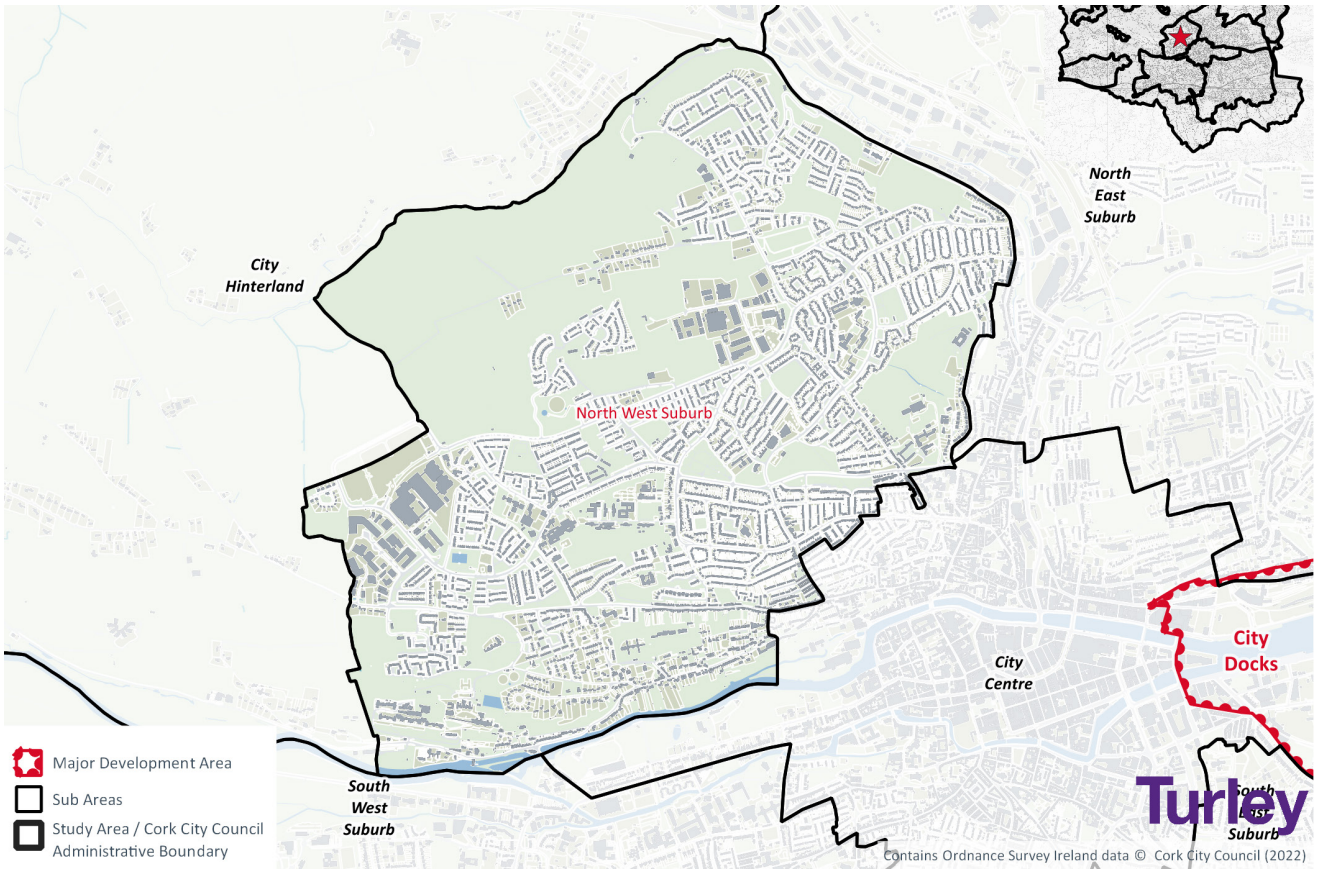


Figure 10.6: Map 6 - Extent of Sub City Area 3

Existing ARI Provision

Appendix 10 provides a detailed breakdown of the 51 items of ARI located within this Sub City Area as identified via the responses to the Online Survey Audit and/or via a desktop aerial survey of the Sub City Area .

Figure 10.7 below plots the location of ARI within Sub City Area 3 as listed in **Appendix 10** by sport type to help provide a spatial overview of the distribution/mix of ARI.

Table 10.8 below provides an overview/summary of the quantum of ARI within this Sub City Area for the 6 most popular pitch based sport types within the overall Study Area.

Pitch Based Sport Type	ARI
Soccer	21
GAA	14
Rugby	0
Hockey	0
Athletics	0
Cricket	0
Total	35

Table 10.8: Existing Pitch Based ARI in Sub City Area 3

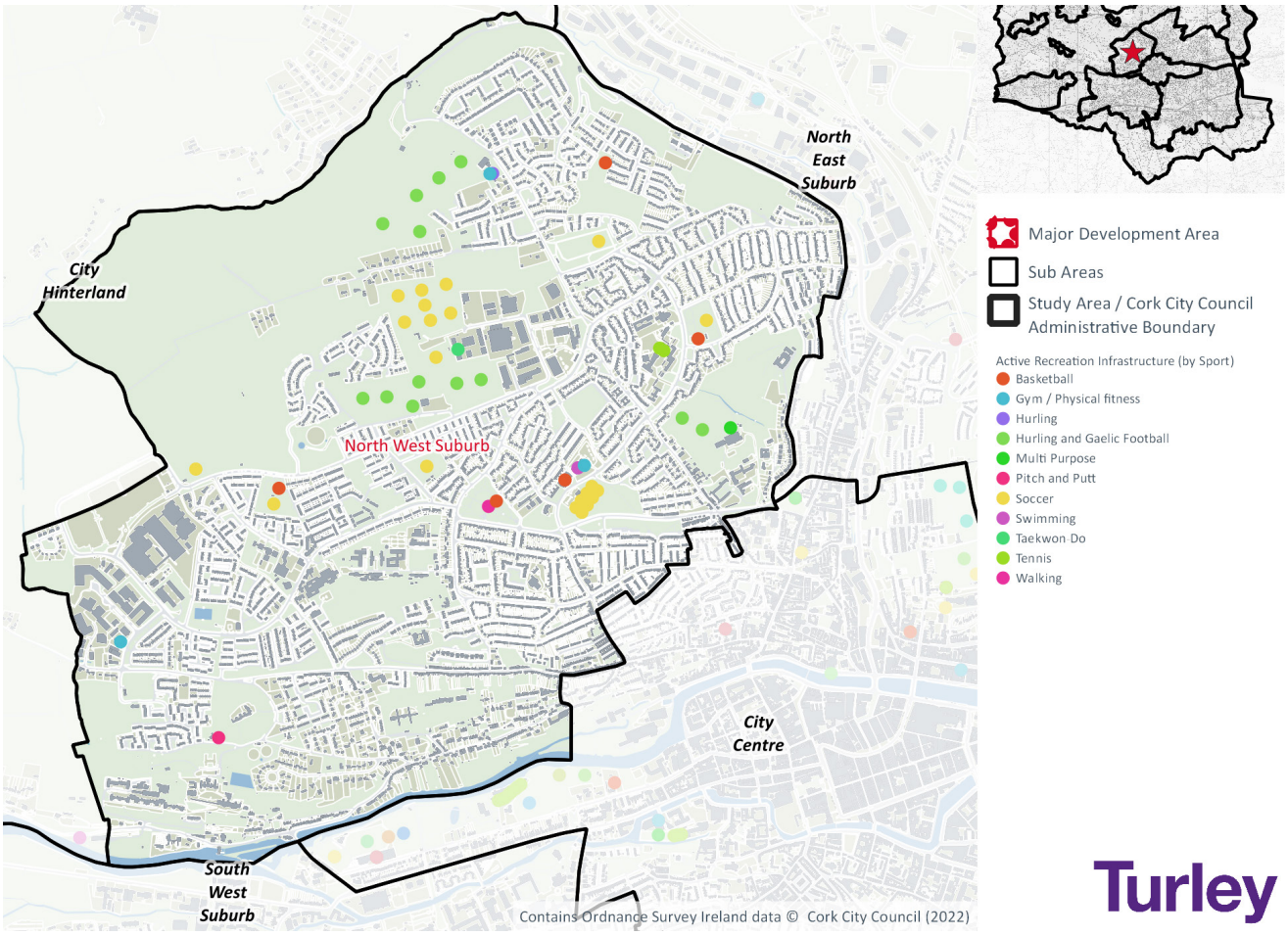


Figure 10.7: Map 7 - Location of Existing ARI Provisions within Extent of Sub City Area 3

Table 10.9 below provides an overview/summary of the quantum of ARI within this Sub City Area for the 6 most popular non-pitch based sport types within the overall Study Area.

Non-Pitch Based Sport Type	ARI
Basketball	2
Gym / Physical Fitness	5
Tennis	3
Multi-Purpose (Indoor)	0
Swimming	1
Boxing	0
Total	11

Table 10.9: Existing Non-Pitch Based ARI in Sub City Area 3

In addition to the above sports, this Sub City Area also comprises ARI with respect to Pitch and Putt and Taekwon-Do.

In terms of water based ARI, the Phoenix Kayaking Club is located within this Sub City Area.

Future ARI Requirements

This Sub City Area requires the following new ARI to align with the Study Area averages by 2028 based on population projections provided by CCC:

- 1 no. rugby union pitch
- 2 no. tennis courts
- 1 no. basketball court
- 1 no. multi purpose (indoor) facility

Sub City Area 3 does not appear to require any new ARI/has an adequate supply of ARI up to 2028 with respect to soccer, GAA, hockey, cricket, athletics, gym/physical fitness, swimming or boxing facilities based on the Study Area averages.

This Sub city Area is also benefitted by a multi-purpose pitch located at Gaelcholaiste Mhuire A.G. North Monastery which may be capable of accommodating future ARI needs for a number of pitch based sports.

Online Survey Audit – Key Issues Raised

According to the Online Survey Audit responses, the key issues raised for this Sub City Area 3 include:

- Lack of useable white water features. The respondent advised that there are many suitable options for developments which would lead to massive improvement in facilities all around Cork City and the county;
- General requirement for additional active infrastructure/ facilities; and
- Requirement for changing facilities at existing GAA pitches and school grounds.

Suitable Areas for Zoning ARI

We set out below Sub City specific recommendations with respect to Suitable Areas for Zoning ARI, which have been informed by the Sub City Analysis. The following locations are considered to represent suitable areas for CCC to consider ARI zonings as part of its overall Core Strategy and Land Use Zoning Strategy:

- **Sub City Area 3:** Existing undeveloped land to the north west of the Sub City Area (lands between Kilmore Heights and Nashs Boreen).

General recommendations with respect to Suitable Areas for Zoning ARI are provided at the end of this Section, which CCC should also consider as part of its overall Core Strategy and Land Use Zoning Strategy.

Sub City Area 4 – South East Suburb

Sub City Area Profile

Sub City Area 4, which is identified in Figure 10.8 below, comprises the south-east suburban area of Cork city. It is located the central south-east of the Study Area and covers an area of approx. 2,370 ha.

The extent of Sub City Area 4 – South East Suburb is defined by the boundaries of the following adjacent Sub City Areas: City Centre (City Docks); North East Suburb (Tivoli Docks); South East Suburb; and the City Hinterland

This Sub City Area is primarily a residential area but also contains a mix of land uses including the River Lee and River Douglas, industrial/ commercial/ retail/ leisure/ recreation uses, car parking areas and infrastructure such as roads, bridges, a greenway, river access, etc.

With a population of 51,605 people in 2016 (the highest population within the study area), this Sub City Area is the fourth most densely populated area within the Study Area with approx. 22 people per hectare in 2016. The population of this Sub City Area is predicted to increase by approx. 6,852 people by 2028 to a total population of 58,457 people; equating to a 13.3% increase in population since 2016.

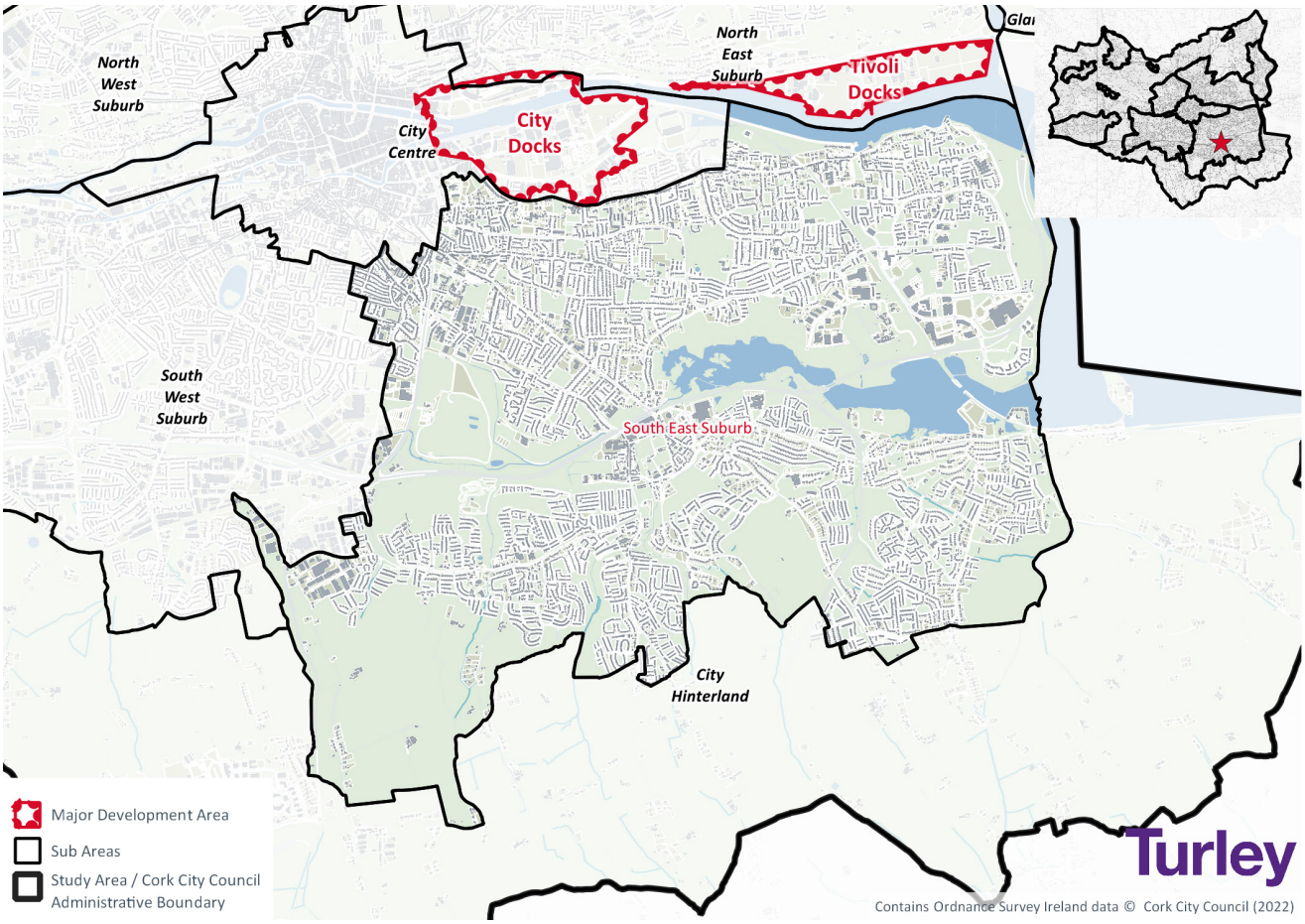


Figure 10.8: Map 8 - Extent of Sub City Area 4

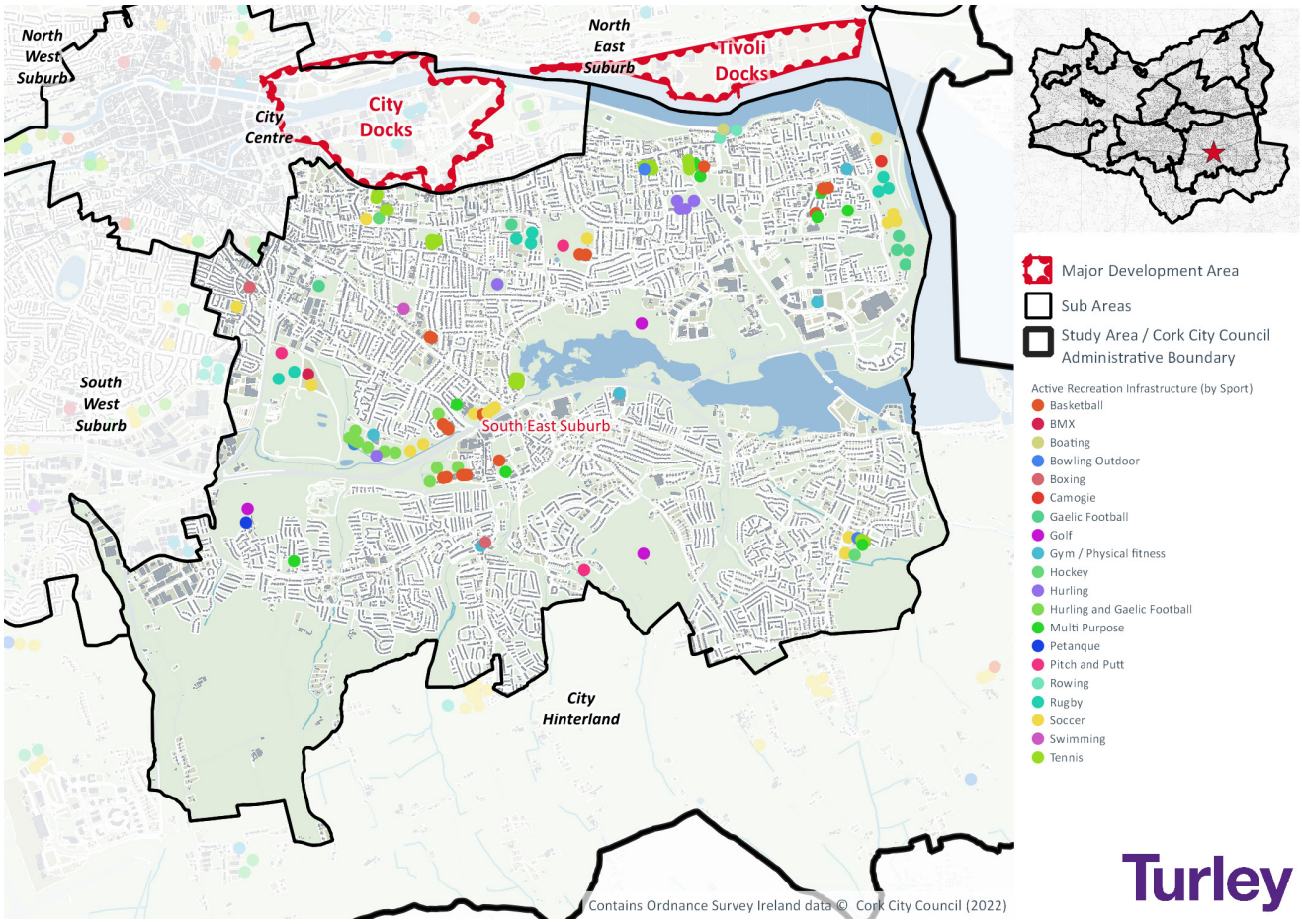


Figure 10.9: Map 9 - Location of Existing ARI Provisions within of Sub City Area 4

Existing ARI Provision

Appendix 10 provides a detailed breakdown of the 146 items of ARI located within this Sub City Area as identified via the responses to the Online Survey Audit and/or via a desktop aerial survey of the Sub City Area .

Figure 10.9 below plots the location of ARI within Sub City Area 2 as listed in **Appendix 10** by sport type to help provide a spatial overview of the distribution/mix of ARI.

Table 10.10 below provides an overview/summary of the quantum of ARI within this Sub City Area for the 6 most popular pitch based sport types within the overall Study Area.

Table 10.11 below provides an overview/summary of the quantum of ARI within this Sub City Area for the 6 most popular non-pitch based sport types within the overall Study Area.

Pitch Based Sport Type	ARI
Soccer	28
GAA	26
Rugby	9
Hockey	2
Cricket	0
Athletics	0
Total	65

Table 10.10: Existing Pitch Based ARI in Sub City Area 4

Non-Pitch Based Sport Type	ARI
Tennis	29
Basketball	19
Gym / Physical Fitness	5
Multi-Purpose (Indoor)	6
Swimming	3
Boxing	2
Total	64

Table 10.11: Existing Non-Pitch Based ARI in Sub City Area 4

In addition to the above sports, this Sub City Area also comprises ARI with respect to Pitch and Putt, Golf, Rowing, Bowling Outdoor, BMX, Boating and Petanque.

In terms of water based ARI, there are a number of accessible locations within this Sub City Area noting its proximity to the River Lee, which include:

- Blackrock Castle: Infrastructure Not Open to the Public
- Tivolli development: New Infrastructure Required
- Cork Boat Club: Infrastructure Not Open to the Public
- Blackrock: Existing Infrastructure to be Improved
- Marine Activity Centre: New Infrastructure Required

Future ARI Requirements

This Sub City Area requires the following new ARI to align with the Study Area averages by 2028 based on population projections provided by CCC:

- 3 no. soccer pitches
- 1 no. gym/physical fitness facility

Sub City Area 4 does not appear to require any new ARI/has an adequate supply of ARI up to 2028 with respect to GAA, rugby union, hockey, cricket, athletics, tennis, basketball, multi-purpose (indoor), swimming and boxing based on the Study Area averages.

Noting the forecasted growth of 6,000 people between 2016 and 2028, **CCC should consider undertaking a detailed feasibility study with respect to delivering a 5,000 people capacity sport centre for Sub City Area 4.** This sport centre should be multi-use, multi-sport and multi-purpose to help diversify sporting opportunities within the area.

It is noted that this Sub City Area is benefitted by 3 existing multi-purpose pitches/courts located at Loughmahon Community Park (Outdoor Asphalt), Scoil na Croise Naofa Primary School (outdoor grass) and Ursulines Secondary School (outdoor astro turf / synthetic). These facilities appear to cater for a range of sport types including soccer, basketball, hockey, etc.

Online Survey Audit – Key Issues Raised

According to the Online Survey Audit responses, the key issues raised for this Sub City Area 4 include:

- Lack of pitches / sports facilities in the vicinity of local schools;
- Need for a new hockey pitches (preferable owned and operated by the hockey clubs -currently leasing pitch from a school);
- Lack of access / storage / changing facilities / club houses for rowing / boating clubs;
- Refurbishment of existing facilities;
- Availability of halls / facilities to hire;
- Need for an additional BMX track / park; and
- Need for a driving range, putting area and short game areas.

Suitable Areas for Zoning ARI

We set out below Sub City specific recommendations with respect to Suitable Areas for Zoning ARI, which have been informed by the Sub City Analysis. The following locations are considered to represent suitable areas for CCC to consider ARI zonings as part of its overall Core Strategy and Land Use Zoning Strategy:

- Sub City Area 4: Locations within Tramore Valley Park and the greenfield sites south of Ballycurreen Industrial Estate and Frankfield which are considered to be appropriate locations for new ARI.
- Sub City Area 4: Locations within Marina Commerical Park, Mahon Industrial Estate and Loughmahon Technology Park which comprise underutilised/vacant/derelict buildings and sites, particularly former industrial warehouses, which could be converted/redeveloped to deliver additional ARI.

General recommendations with respect to Suitable Areas for Zoning ARI are provided at the end of this Section, which CCC should also consider as part of its overall Core Strategy and Land Use Zoning Strategy.

Sub City Area 5 – South West Suburb

Sub City Area Profile

Sub City Area 5, which is identified in Figure 10.10 below, comprises the south-west suburban area of Cork city. It is located south-west within the Study Area and covers an area of approx. 1,482 ha.

Significant growth in housing and population has occurred in the South West Suburbs area over the last ten years. Given its close proximity to the city centre and the range of large employers e.g. University College Cork (UCC), Munster Technological University (MTU) and Cork University Hospital (CUH) and local services, demand for further population and housing growth is high. On this basis the population is expected to grow by approx. 6% between 2016 and 2028 from 40,237 to 42,543 people.

The lands surrounding the Tramore Road and Kinsale Road are largely home to a light industrial and wholesale uses. Given its strategic location, this area may have potential for future urban renewal, if suitable high quality public transport services can be provided.

The former Dairygold site (Kinsale Road) has been earmarked for a possible primary health care centre and residential development, and would be a catalyst for wider regeneration and urban renewal of the area therefore ensuring an adequate supply of ARI provision in this area will be especially important in the coming years.

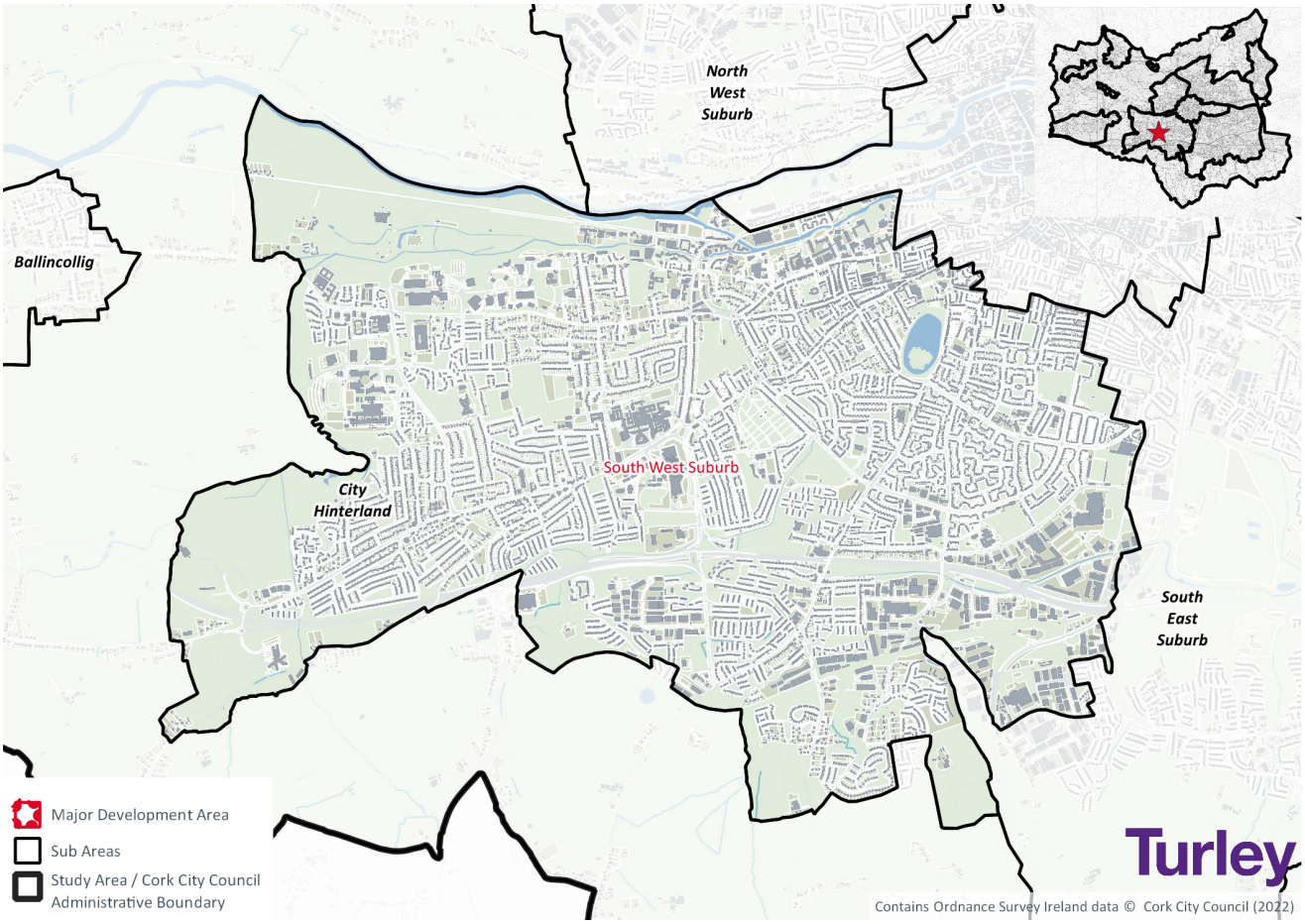


Figure 10.10: Map 10 - Extent of Sub City Area 5

Existing ARI Provision within Sub City Area 5

Appendix 10 provides a detailed breakdown of the 110 items of ARI located within this Sub City Area as identified via the responses to the Online Survey Audit and/or via a desktop aerial survey of the Sub City Area .

Figure 10.5 below plots the location of ARI within Sub City Area 5 as listed in **Appendix 10** by sport type to help provide a spatial overview of the distribution/mix of ARI.

This Sub City Area benefits from a wide variety of sporting clubs and ARI provided by UCC and MTU.

Table 10.12 below provides an overview/summary of the quantum of ARI within this Sub City Area for the 6 most popular pitch based sport types within the Study Area.

Pitch Based Sport Type	ARI
Soccer	34
GAA	19
Rugby	17
Hockey	3
Cricket	1
Athletics	1
Total	75

Table 10.12: Existing Pitch Based ARI in Sub City Area 5

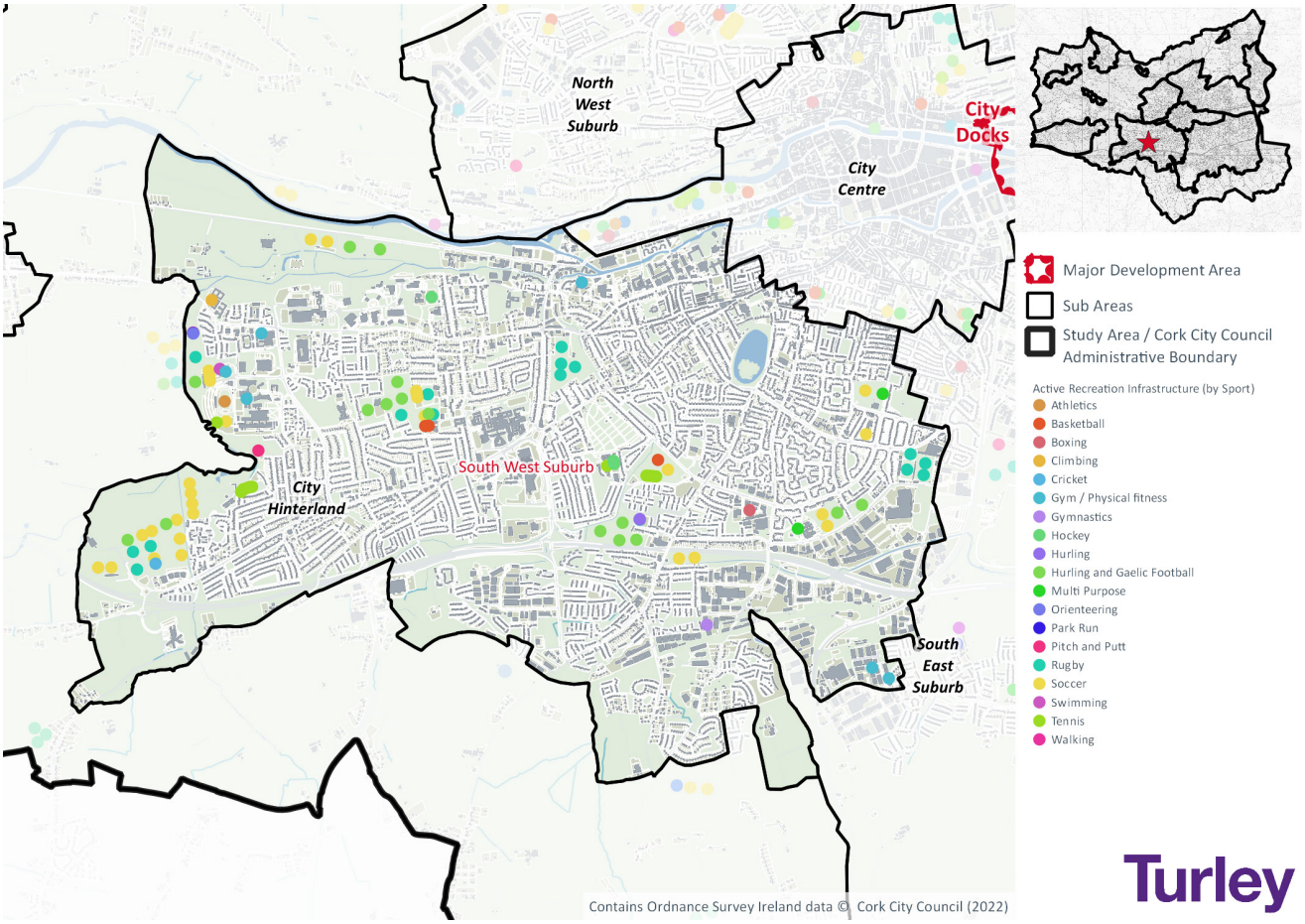


Figure 10.11: Map 11 - Location of Existing ARI Provisions within in Sub City Area 5

Table 10.13 below provides an overview/summary of the quantum of ARI within this Sub City Area for the 6 most popular non-pitch based sport types within the overall Study Area.

Non-Pitch Based Sport Type	ARI
Tennis	13
Basketball	3
Gym / Physical Fitness	7
Multi-Purpose (Indoor)	1
Swimming	2
Boxing	1
Total	27

Table 10.13: Existing Non-Pitch Based ARI in Sub City Area 5

In addition to the above sports, this Sub City Area also comprises ARI with respect Pitch and Putt, Bowling Outdoor, Walking, Climbing, Gymnastics, Orienteering and Park Runs. This Sub City Area also contains the following items/locations which are of note with respect to water based ARI:

- Bons Secours – Glucksmann: New Infrastructure Required
- Fitzgerlad Park: Existing Infrastructure to be Improved
- Mardyke slip: Existing Infrastructure to be Improved
- Sacret Heart Bridge: New Infrastructure Required
- Split weir escape: Existing Infrastructure to be Improved
- Split weir: New Infrastructure Required
- Lee Fields: Existing Infrastructure to be Improved
- Grotto: Existing Infrastructure to be Improved

Future ARI Requirements

This Sub City Area requires the following new ARI to align with the Study Area averages by 2028 based on population projections provided by CCC:

- 3 no. basketball courts
- 1 no. multi purpose (indoor) facility

Sub City Area 5 does not appear to require any new ARI/has an adequate supply of ARI up to 2028 with respect to soccer, GAA, rugby union, hockey, cricket, athletics, tennis, gym/physical fitness, swimming or boxing based on the Study Area averages.

It is noted that this Sub City Area is benefitted by an existing multi-purpose area at Tory Top Park, being an outdoor astro turf/synthetic soccer/basketball area.

Online Survey Audit – Key Issues Raised

According to the Online Survey Audit responses, the key issues raised for this Sub City Area 5 include:

- Lack of outdoor climbing facilities;
- Need for a new municipal athletic facility in the city. The lack of a facility has been particularly apparent during the last year during the Covid 19 restrictions highlighting athletic clubs dependence on the third level institutions UCC & MTU;
- Requirement for additional indoor infrastructure and ancillary facilities;
- With respect to hill walking / orienteering - new / improved car parking areas; Pathways with lighting; new / improved signage; more parks within and near the City to be opened / upgraded.

Suitable Areas for Zoning ARI

We set out below Sub City specific recommendations with respect to Suitable Areas for Zoning ARI, which have been informed by the Sub City Analysis. The following locations are considered to represent suitable areas for CCC to consider ARI zonings as part of its overall Core Strategy and Land Use Zoning Strategy:

- **Sub City Area 5:** The former Dairygold site (Kinsale Road) to the south east of the Sub City Area has been earmarked for a possible primary health care centre and residential development, and would be a catalyst for wider regeneration and urban renewal of the area therefore ensuring an adequate supply of ARI provision in this area will be especially important in the coming years.

General recommendations with respect to Suitable Areas for Zoning ARI are provided at the end of this Section, which CCC should also consider as part of its overall Core Strategy and Land Use Zoning Strategy.

Sub City Area 6 – Ballincollig and Ballincollig MDA

Sub City Area Profile

This Sub City Area, which is identified in Figure 10.12 below, comprises Ballincollig which is the west city hinterland of Cork city. The Ballincollig (Maglin) area has been identified as a Major Development Area (MDA). Sub City Area 6 is located west within the Study Area and covers an area of approx. 918 ha; with the Ballincollig MDA covering an area of approx. 236ha.

The extent of Sub City Area 6 – Ballincollig and Ballincollig MDA is generally defined by the River Lee to the north, the N22 to the south and east and Ovens village to the west.

This Sub City Area is primarily a residential area but also contains a mix of land uses including the business / enterprise / retail parks, retail / commercial units, leisure/ recreation uses, agriculture, car parking areas and infrastructure such as roads and pathways.

The Ballincollig (Maglin) MDA is primarily greenfield (agricultural and private open space), with a cluster of one-off housing along Maglin Road. The former Ballincollig Castle ruins are located within the western section of the MDAand Healy's Honey is located to the west of Maglin Road near the southern boundary of the MDA.

The Ballincollig MDA has been identified as a major growth area within the overall Study Area which will accommodate up to 4,000 homes/11,000 residents. In addition, 4,000 to 8,000 jobs are expected to be delivered within the wider Ballincollig Local Area Plan area.

With a population of 18,159 people in 2016, this Sub City Area is the fifth most densely populated area within the Study Area with approx. 20 people per hectare in 2016.

However, the population of this Sub City Area is predicted to increase by approx. 10,844 people by 2028 to a total population of 29,003 people; equating to a 59.7% increase in population since 2016. This increase in population will result in the area becoming the third most densely populated area within the Study Area.

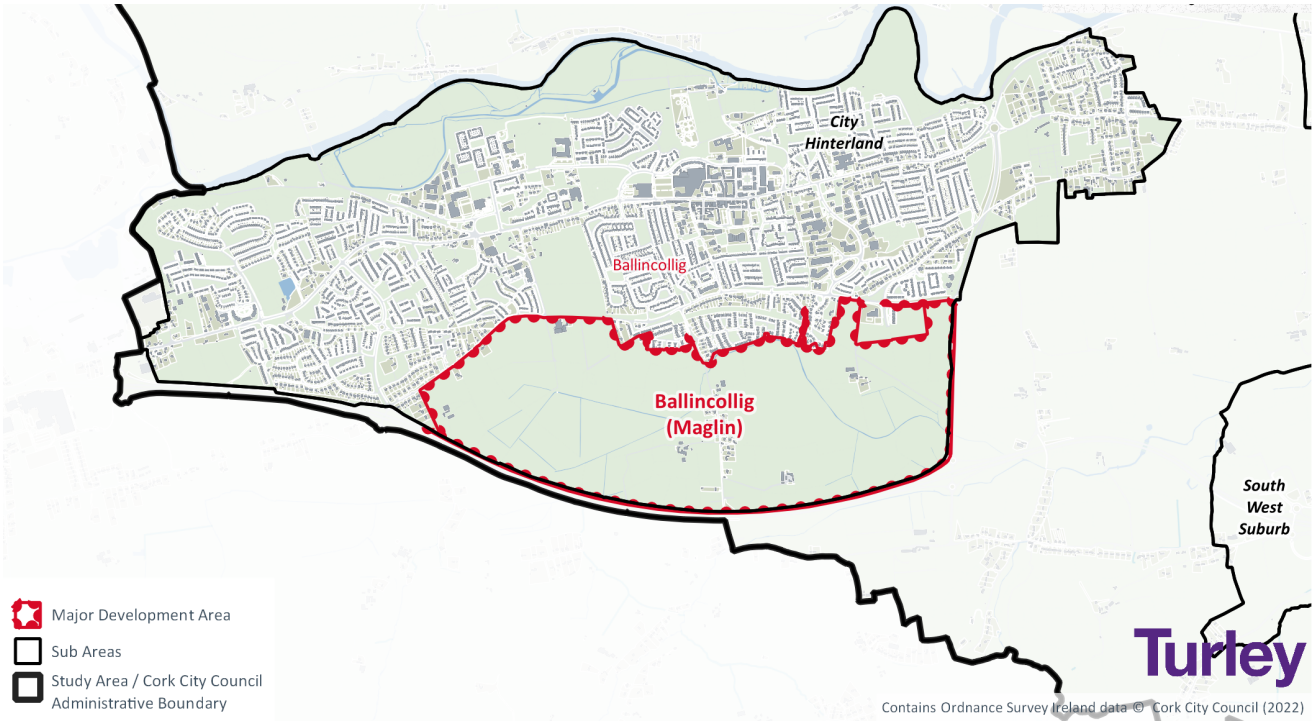


Figure 10.12: Map 12 - Extent of Sub City Area 6

Existing ARI Provision

Appendix 10 provides a detailed breakdown of the 55 items of ARI located within this Sub City Area as identified via the responses to the Online Survey Audit and/or via a desktop aerial survey of the Sub City Area .

Figure 10.13 below plots the location of ARI within Sub City Area 6 as listed in **Appendix 10** by sport type to help provide a spatial overview of the distribution/mix of ARI.

There is currently no ARI located within the boundary of Ballincollig (Maglin) MDA. However, it is noted that there is ARI provision located towards the northern area of Ballincollig within the 10-minute walk time catchment area. This ARI provision is centrally located at community sports clubs such as the Ballincollig Rugby Club.

University College Cork's Curraheen Park and the Bishopstown Campus of the Munster Technological University (MTU) are located to the east just beyond the 10 minute cycling buffer of this MDA.

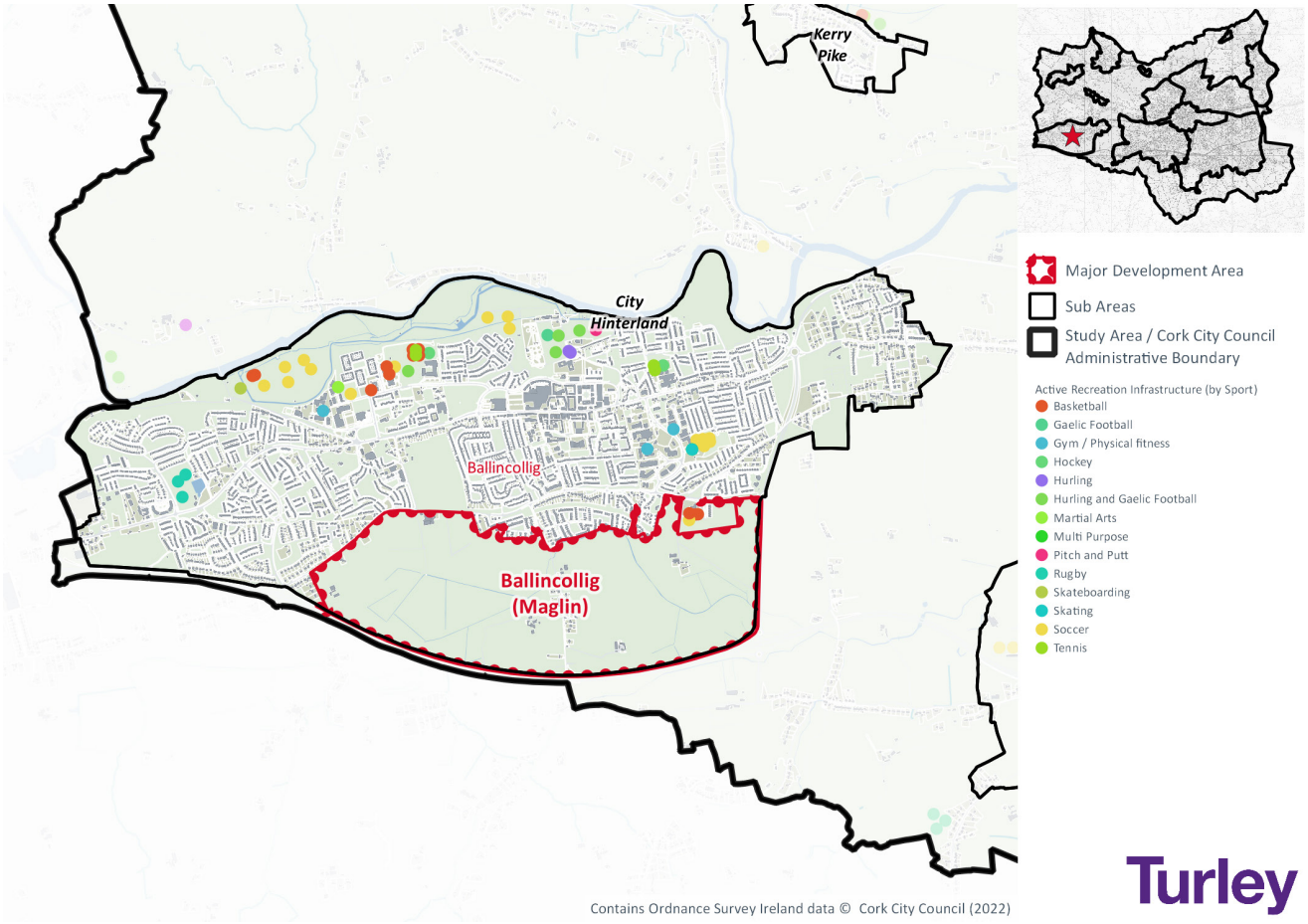


Figure 10.13: Map 13 - Location of Existing ARI Provision within Sub City Area 6

Table 10.14 below provides an overview/summary of the quantum of ARI within this Sub City Area for the 6 most popular pitch based sport types within the Study Area.

Pitch Based Sport Type	ARI
Soccer	18
GAA	7
Rugby	3
Hockey	2
Cricket	0
Athletics	0
Total	30

Table 10.14: Existing Pitch Based ARI in Sub City Area 6

Table 10.15 below provides an overview/summary of the quantum of ARI within this Sub City Area for the 6 most popular non-pitch based sport types within the overall Study Area.

Non Pitch Based Sport Type	ARI
Tennis	5
Basketball	12
Gym / Physical Fitness	3
Multi-Purpose (Indoor)	1
Swimming	0
Boxing	0
Total	21

Table 10.15: Existing Non Pitch Based ARI in Sub City Area 6

In addition to the above sports, this Sub City Area also comprises ARI with respect to Pitch and Putt, Skateboarding, Skating and Martial Arts.

This Sub City Area also contains the following items/locations which are of note with respect to water based ARI:

- Angler's Rest: New Infrastructure Required.
- Ballincollig Park East: New Infrastructure Required.
- Ballincollig Park West: Existing Infrastructure to be Improved.
- Dripsey GAA: Existing Infrastructure to be Improved.

Future ARI Requirements

This Sub City Area requires the following new ARI to align with the Study Area averages by 2028 based on population projections provided by CCC:

- 3 no. GAA pitches
- 1 no. rugby union pitch
- 1 no. tennis court
- 1 no swimming pool
- 1 no. boxing facility

Sub City Area 6 does not appear to require any new ARI/has an adequate supply of ARI up to 2028 with respect to soccer, cricket, athletics, basketball, gym/physical fitness or multi-purpose (indoor) based on the Study Area averages.

Noting the forecasted growth of 10,844 people between 2016 and 2028, and the long term predicted population growth of 11,000 additional people between 2028-2040, **CCC should consider undertaking a detailed feasibility study with respect to delivering a 5,000 to 10,000 people capacity sport centre for Sub City Area 6.** This sport centre should be multi-use, multi-sport and multi-purpose to help diversify sporting opportunities within the area.

It is further noted that this Sub City Area is benefited by a swimming pool facility in the Oriel Hotel, however this existing facility is unlikely to obviate the need for a full-sized public pool. Indeed, a detailed feasibility study would be required to explore and support the need for a new swimming pool.

Online Survey Audit – Key Issues Raised

According to the Online Survey Audit responses, the key issues raised for this Sub City Area 6 include

- Need for the return of the Ballincollig Park Run; and
- Need for toilet facilities in Ballincollig Park (to facilitate the Park Runs and general public).

Suitable Areas for Zoning ARI

We set out below Sub City specific recommendations with respect to Suitable Areas for Zoning ARI, which have been informed by the Sub City Analysis. The following locations are considered to represent suitable areas for CCC to consider ARI zonings as part of its overall Core Strategy and Land Use Zoning Strategy:

- **Sub City Area 6:** Locations within the greenfield site(s) to the north of Castle Street and south of Main Road (R608), and the greenfield sites within the MDA.
- **Sub City Area 6:** Locations within Great Island Industrial Estate, Ballincollig Commerical Park, West Point Business Park and Link Road Business Park which comprise underutilised/vacant/derelict buildings and sites, particularly former industrial warehouses, which could be converted/ redeveloped to deliver additional ARI.

General recommendations with respect to Suitable Areas for Zoning ARI are provided at the end of this Section, which CCC should also consider as part of its overall Core Strategy and Land Use Zoning Strategy.

Sub City Area 7 – Blarney and Stoneview MDA

Sub City Area Profile

Sub City Area 7, which is identified in Figure 10.14 below, comprises Blarney which is the north-west city hinterland of Cork city. The Stoneview area has been identified as a Major Development Area (MDA). Sub City Area 7 is located north-west within the Study Area and covers an area of approx. 429 ha.

The extent of Sub City Area 7 – Blarney and Stoneview MDA is generally defined by a local road perpendicular to Station Road to the north, the southern boundary of Blarney town to the south, the eastern boundary of Blarney Business Park to the east and the western boundary of Blarney town to the west.

This Sub City Area is primarily a residential area but also contains a mix of land uses including the retail / commercial / industrial units (including Blarney Woollen Mills), a business park, leisure/ recreation uses, agriculture, car parking areas and infrastructure such as roads and pathways. The River Martin also runs north / south through the site to Blarney town centre.

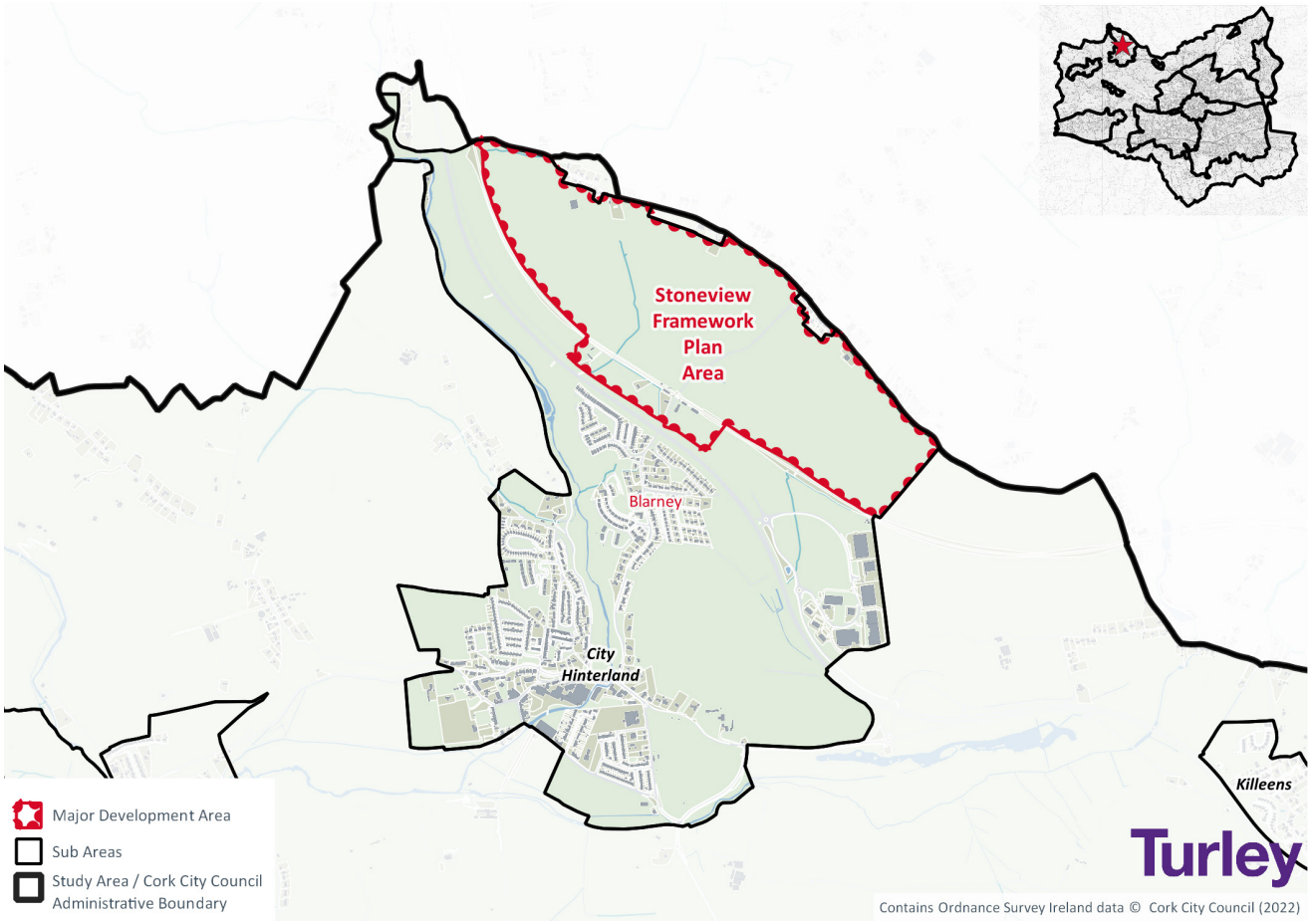


Figure 10.14: Map 14 - Extent of Sub City Area 7

The Stoneview MDA is primarily greenfield (agricultural and private open space), with linear residential development along a local road that bounds the site to the north. There is currently no ARI located within the boundary of the Stoneview MDA Ballincollig (Maglin) MDA.

With a population of 2,550 people in 2016, this Sub City Area is the second least densely populated area within the wider Study Area with approx. 6 people per hectare in 2016.

The projected population of this Sub City Area is predicted to increase by approx. 3,331 people by 2028 to a total population of 5,881 people; equating to a 130.6% increase in population since 2016. This increase in population will result in the area becoming more densely populated at approx. 14 people per hectare but it will remain the second least densely populated area within the wider Study Area

Existing ARI Provision

Appendix 10 provides a detailed breakdown of the 6 items of ARI located within this Sub City Area as identified via the responses to the Online Survey Audit and/or via a desktop aerial survey of the Sub City Area .

Figure 10.15 below plots the location of ARI within Sub City Area 6 as listed in **Appendix 10** by sport type to help provide a spatial overview of the distribution/mix of ARI.

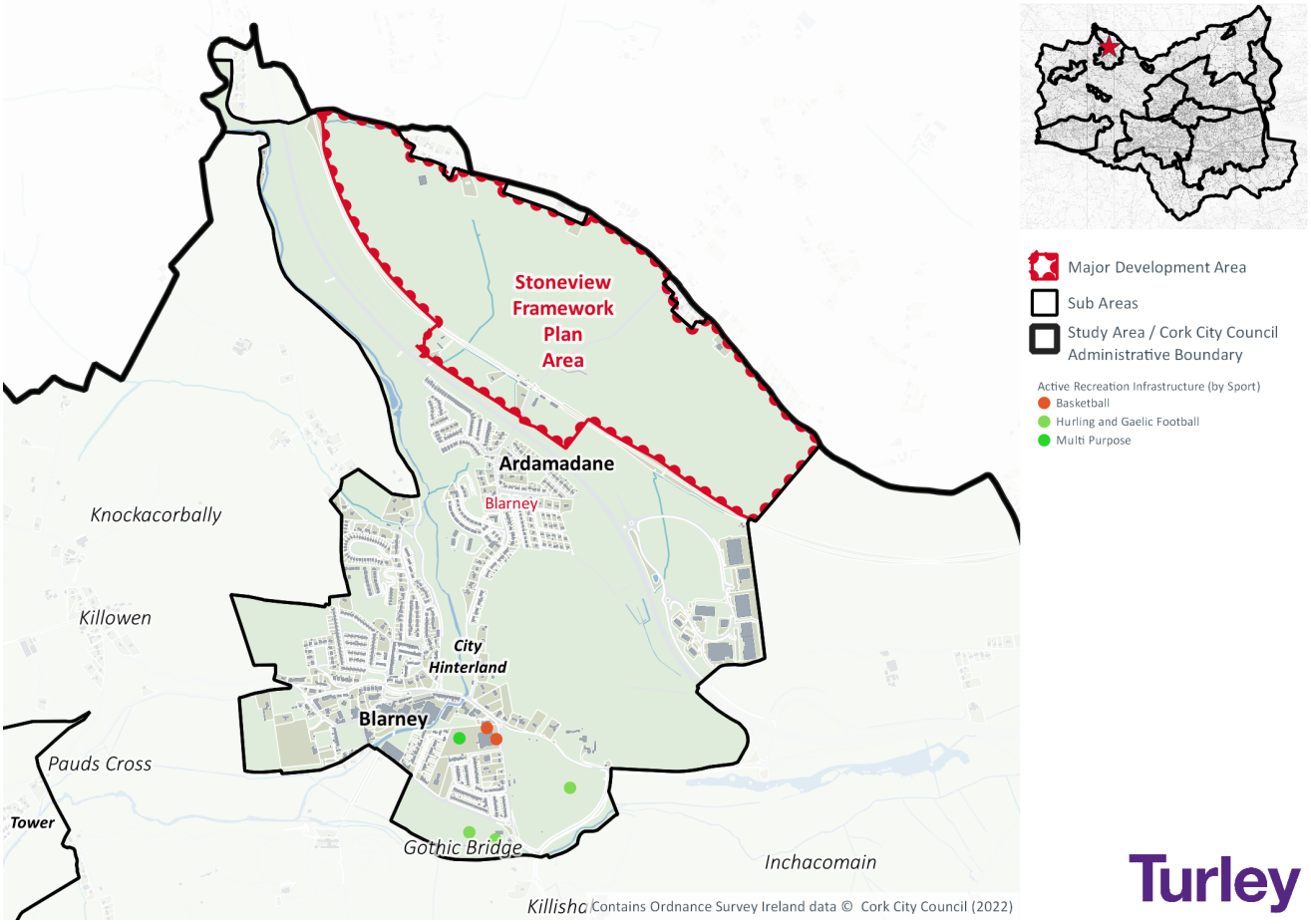


Figure 10.15: Map 15 - Location of Existing ARI Provisions within Sub City Area 7

Table 10.16 below provides an overview/summary of the quantum of ARI within this Sub City Area for the 6 most popular pitch based sport types within the Study Area.

Pitch Based Sport Type	ARI
Soccer	0
GAA	3
Rugby	0
Hockey	0
Cricket	0
Athletics	0
Total	3

Table 10.16: Existing Pitch Based ARI in Sub City Area 7

Table 10.17 below provides an overview/summary of the quantum of ARI within this Sub City Area for the 6 most popular non-pitch based sport types within the overall Study Area.

Non-Pitch Based Sport Type	ARI
Tennis	0
Basketball	2
Gym / Physical Fitness	0
Multi-Purpose (Indoor)	0
Swimming	0
Boxing	0
Total	2

Table 10.17: Existing Non Pitch ARI Needs for Sub City Area 7

There is no water-based ARI located within this Sub City Area.

Future ARI Requirements

This Sub City Area requires the following new ARI to align with the Study Area averages by 2028 based on population projections provided by CCC:

- 2 no. soccer pitches
- 1 no. tennis court

Sub City Area 7 does not appear to require any new ARI/has an adequate supply of ARI up to 2028 with respect to GAA, rugby union, hockey, cricket, athletics, basketball, gym/physical fitness, multi-purpose (indoor), swimming or boxing based on the Study Area averages.

It is noted that the Sub City Area is benefitted by a multi-purpose pitch located at Scoil Mhuire gan Smál which may be able to cater for a number of pitch based sports currently lacking a dedicated pitch.

Noting the future predicted population growth for this Sub City Area, i.e. +3,331 people by 2028 and +7,000 people between 2028-2040, **CCC should consider developing new ARI and/or supporting local funding bids to develop new ARI so as to help diversify sporting opportunities in this Sub City Area.**

It is further noted that Blarney's local soccer club, Blarney United FC, has soccer facilities located within Tower (i.e. Sub City Area 9) which suggests an interrelationship between Tower and Blarney with respect to ARI. Any future ARI strategy for Tower and/or Blarney should involve a joined up approach with inputs from the local clubs and communities in both areas. This approach will also help to strengthen any future funding bids for new ARI.

Online Survey Audit – Key Issues Raised

No responses were received in relation to Sub City Area 7.

Suitable Areas for Zoning ARI

We set out below Sub City specific recommendations with respect to Suitable Areas for Zoning ARI, which have been informed by the Sub City Analysis. The following locations are considered to represent suitable areas for CCC to consider ARI zonings as part of its overall Core Strategy and Land Use Zoning Strategy:

- **Sub City Area 7:** Locations within the greenfield site to the east of Castle Close Land, the greenfield sites surrounding Ring Wood national forest, and the greenfield sites within the MDA.
- **Sub City Area 7**: Locations within and adjacent to Blarney Business Park which comprise underutilised/vacant/derelict buildings and sites, particularly former industrial warehouses, which could be converted/redeveloped to deliver ARI.

General recommendations with respect to Suitable Areas for Zoning ARI are provided at the end of this Section, which CCC should also consider as part of its overall Core Strategy and Land Use Zoning Strategy.

Sub City Area 8 – Glanmire and South Glanmire MDA

Sub City Area Profile

Sub City Area 8, which is identified in Figure 10.16 below, comprises Glanmire which is the north-east city hinterland of Cork city. The South Glanmire area has been identified as a Major Development Area (MDA). Sub City Area 8 is located north-west within the Study Area and covers an area of approx. 647 ha; with the South Glanmire MDA covering approx. 91ha.

The extent of Sub City Area 8 – Glanmire and South Glanmire MDA is generally defined by St Stephens Court to the north, the N8 to the south, the M8 to the east and agricultural fields to the west.

This Sub City Area is primarily a residential area but also contains a mix of land uses including the retail / commercial / industrial units, an industrial estate, leisure/ recreation uses, agriculture, car parking areas, and infrastructure such as roads and pathways. The Glashaboy River also runs north / south through the site.

The South Glanmire MDA consists of: primarily greenfield sites (agricultural and private open space) in the south; and areas under construction (residential development) in the north. The residential development in the north of the MDA was approved by An Bord Pleanála in 2018 with the following description:

"10 year permission for demolition of existing dwelling house and farm buildings and construction of 608 no. residential units, créche, conversion of former coach house to provide retail/professional services, reservation of 1.2ha site for 16 classroom school, road improvements and associated site works."

With a population of 9,903 people in 2016, this Sub City Area is the seventh most densely populated area within the Study Area with approx. 15 people per hectare in 2016.

The projected population of this Sub City Area is predicted to increase by approx. 5,426 people by 2028 to a total population of 15,329 people; equating to a 54.8% increase in population since 2016. This increase in population will result in the area becoming more densely populated at approx. 24 people per hectare but it will remain as the seventh most densely populated area within the Study Area.

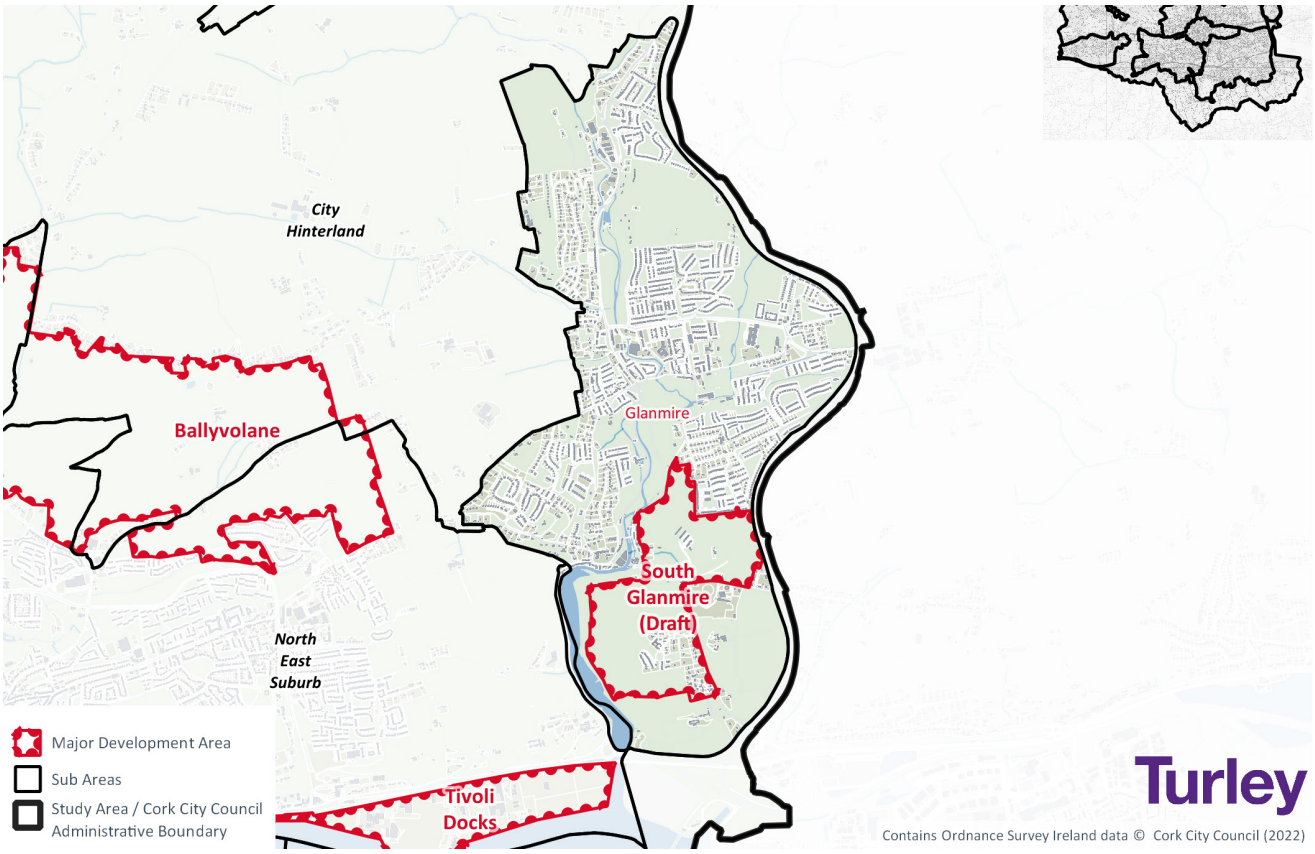


Figure 10.16: Map 16 - Extent of Sub City Area 8

Existing ARI Provision

Appendix 10 provides a detailed breakdown of the 55 items of ARI located within this Sub City Area as identified via the responses to the Online Survey Audit and/or via a desktop aerial survey of the Sub City Area .

Figure 10.17 below plots the location of ARI within Sub City Area 6 as listed in **Appendix 10** by sport type to help provide a spatial overview of the distribution/mix of ARI.

There is currently no ARI located within the boundary of the South Glanmire MDA.

Table 10.18 provides an overview/summary of the quantum of ARI within this Sub City Area for the 6 most popular pitch based sport types within the Study Area.

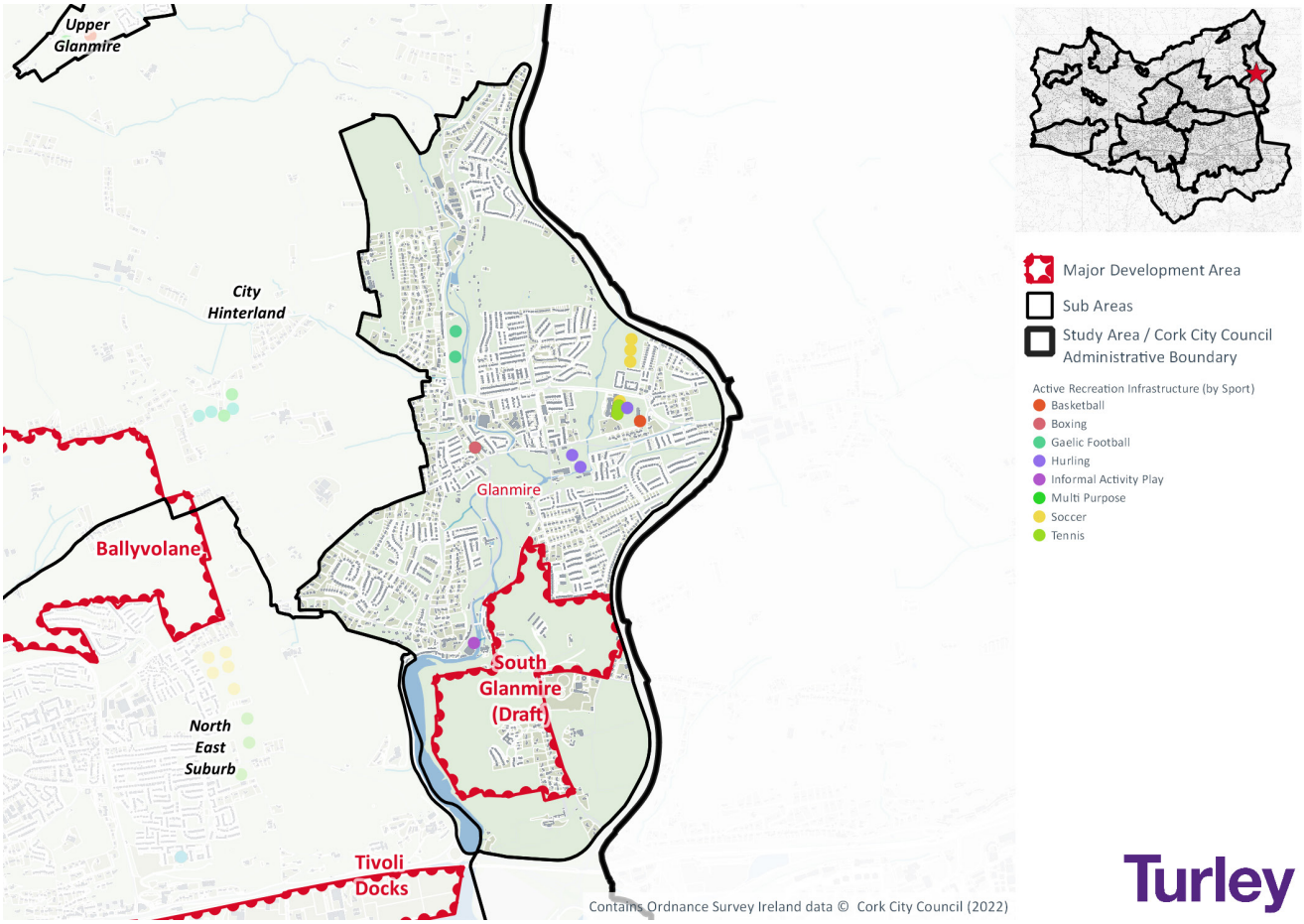


Figure 10.17: Map 17 - Location of Existing ARI Provisions within Sub City Area 8

Pitch Based Sport Type	ARI
Soccer	5
GAA	6
Rugby	0
Hockey	0
Cricket	0
Athletics	0
Total	11

Table 10.18: Existing Pitch Based ARI in Sub City Area 8

Table 10.19 below provides an overview/summary of the quantum of ARI within this Sub City Area for the 6 most popular non-pitch based sport types within the overall Study Area.

Non-Pitch Based Sport Type	ARI
Tennis	4
Basketball	5
Gym / Physical Fitness	0
Multi-Purpose (Indoor)	1
Swimming	0
Boxing	1
Total	11

Table 10.19: Existing Non-Pitch Based ARI in Sub City Area 8

This Sub City Area also contains the following items/locations which are of note with respect to water based ARI:

- Science Polish: New Infrastructure Required.
- Glanmire Quay: New Infrastructure Required.

Future ARI Requirements

This Sub City Area requires the following new ARI to align with the Study Area averages by 2028 based on population projections provided by CCC:

- 2 no. soccer pitches
- 1 no. rugby union pitch
- 1 no. gym/physical fitness facility

Sub City Area 8 does not appear to require any new ARI/has an adequate supply of ARI up to 2028 with respect to GAA, hockey, cricket, athletics, tennis, basketball, multi-purpose (indoor), swimming or boxing based on the Study Area averages.

The existing Glanmire Community Association multi-purpose indoor sports hall also caters for a number of different sports. However, noting the forecasted growth of 5,426 people between 2016 and 2028, and the long term predicted population growth of 6,000 additional people between 2028-2040, **CCC should consider undertaking a detailed feasibility study with respect to delivering a 5,000 people capacity sport centre for Sub City Area 8.** This sport centre should be multi-use, multi-sport and multi-purpose to help diversify sporting opportunities within the area.

Online Survey Audit – Key Issues Raised

According to the Online Survey Audit responses, the key issues raised for this Sub City Area 8 include:

- Lack of access to the water (Glashaboy River); and
- Need for the maintenance and management of existing facilities (especially during holiday periods and on the weekends).

Suitable Areas for Zoning ARI

We set out below Sub City specific recommendations with respect to Suitable Areas for Zoning ARI, which have been informed by the Sub City Analysis. The following locations are considered to represent suitable areas for CCC to consider ARI zonings as part of its overall Core Strategy and Land Use Zoning Strategy:

- **Sub City Area 8:** Locations within the greenfield site to the west and south-east of Sallybrook Industrial Estate, the greenfield sites to the south and south-east of the South Glanmire MDA, and the greenfield sites within the South Glanmire MDA.
- **Sub City Area 8:** Locations within and adjacent to Sallybrook Industrial Estate which comprise underutilised/vacant/derelict buildings/sites, particularly former industrial warehouses, which could be converted/redeveloped to deliver additional ARI.

General recommendations with respect to Suitable Areas for Zoning ARI are provided at the end of this Section, which CCC should also consider as part of its overall Core Strategy and Land Use Zoning Strategy.

Sub City Area 9 – Tower

Sub City Area Profile

Sub City Area 9, which is identified in Figure 10.15 below, comprises the town of Tower which is situated in the north-west city hinterland of Cork City. Sub City Area 9 is located north-west within the Study Area and covers an area of approx. 213 ha.

The extent of Sub City Area 9 – Tower is generally defined by agricultural land to the north, The River Shournagh and Muskerry Golf Club to the south, Bawnafinny and Blarney Castle lands to the east, and Ballyandreen and a regional road (R579) to the west.

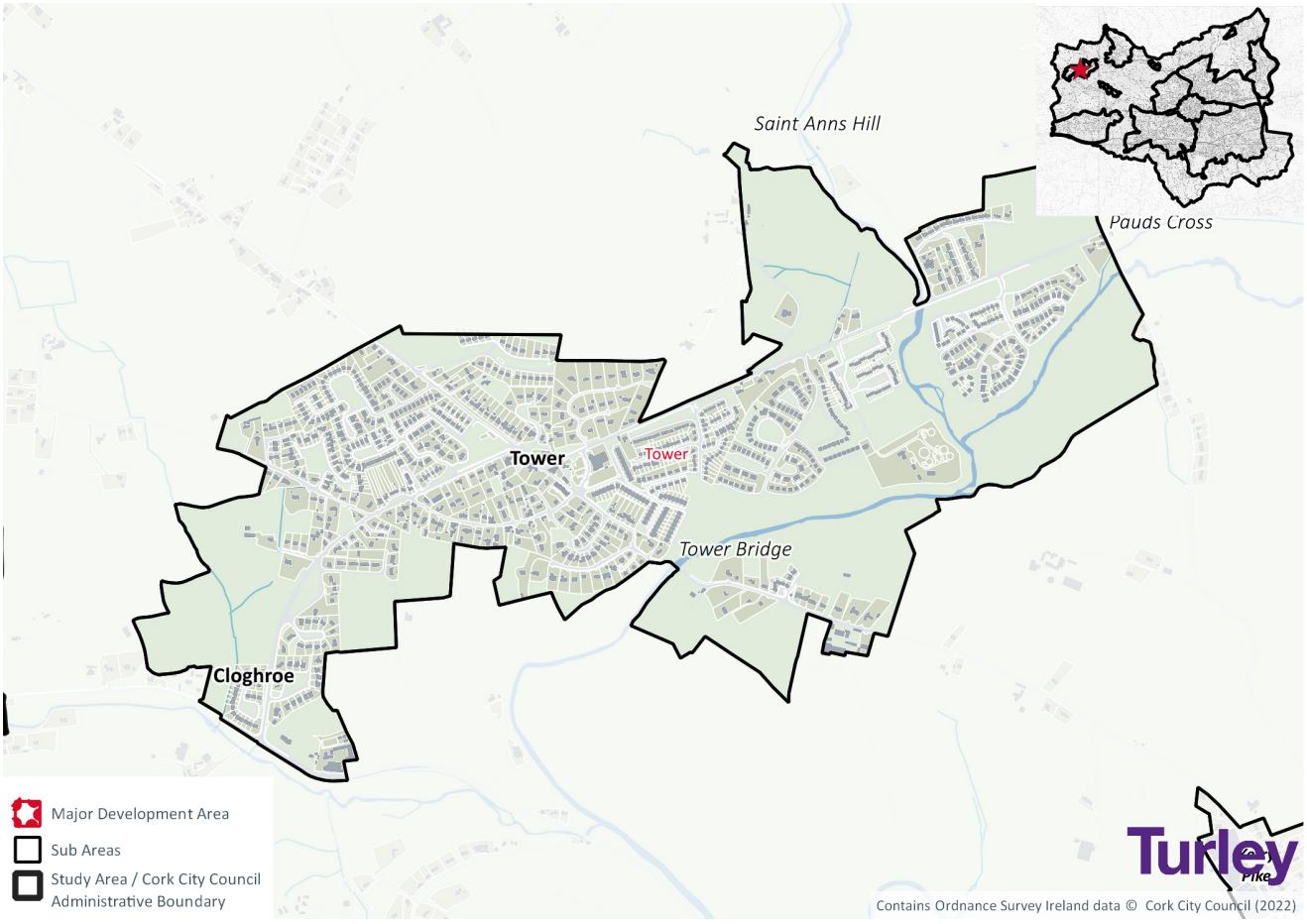


Figure 10.18: Map 18 - Extent of Sub City Area 9

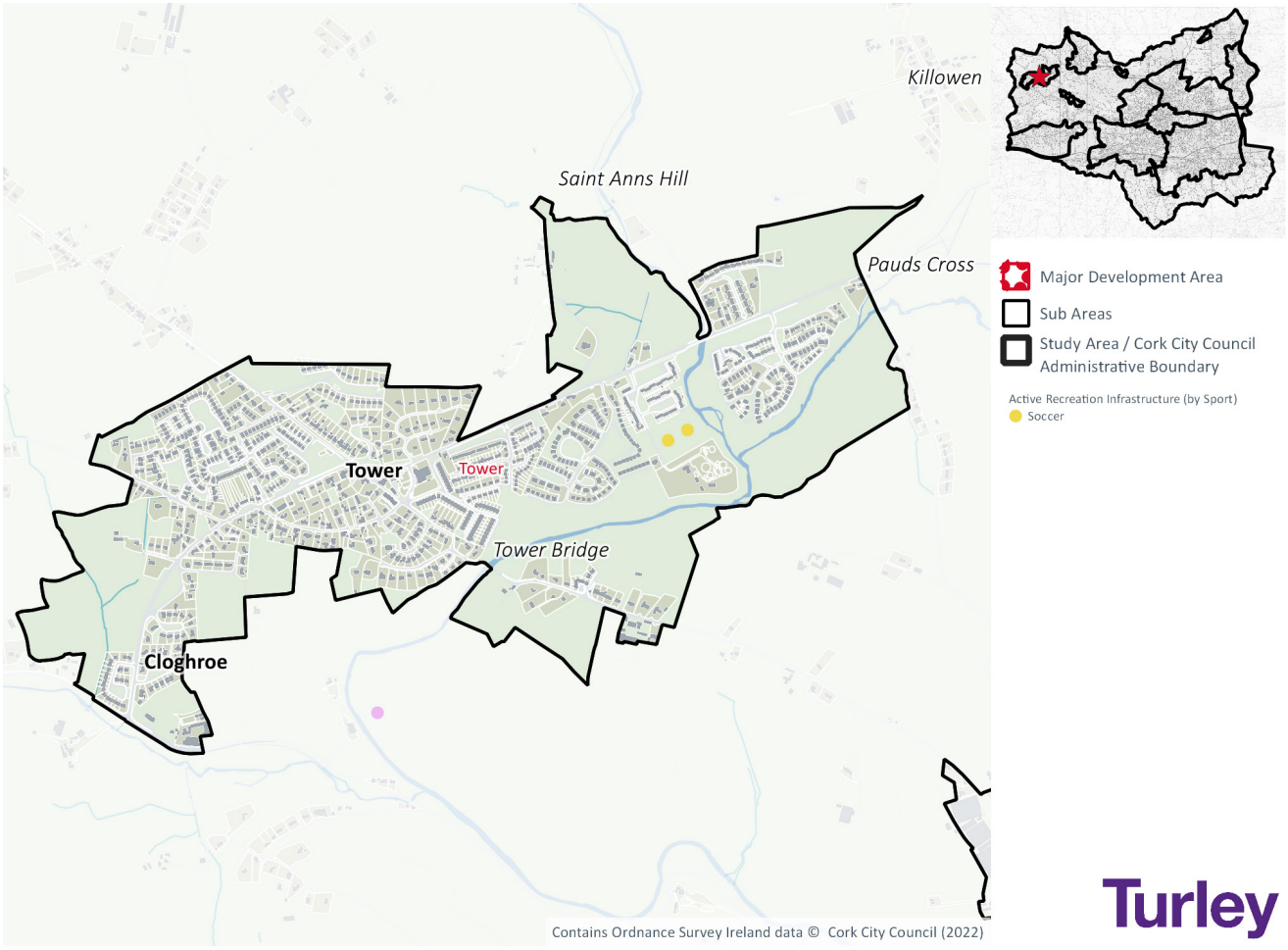


Figure 10.19: Map 19 - Location of Existing ARI Provisions within Sub City Area 9

This Sub City Area is primarily a residential area but also contains a mix of land uses including the retail/ commercial units, leisure/ recreation uses, agriculture, car parking areas, and infrastructure such as roads and pathways. The River Shournagh runs north/ south through the east of the site before running east/ west along the south boundary of the site.

With a population of 3,274 people in 2016, this Sub City Area is the seventh most densely populated area within the Study Area with approx. 15 people per hectare in 2016.

The projected population of this Sub City Area is predicted to increase by approx. 1,163 people by 2028 to a total population of 4,437 people; equating to a 35.5% increase in population since 2016. This increase in population will result in the area becoming more densely populated at approx. 21 people per hectare, but it will drop to the eight most densely populated area within the Study Area; given the greater population / density increase in other areas within the Study Area.

Existing ARI Provision

Table 10.20 below provides a breakdown of the 2 items of ARI located within this Sub City Area. The ARI has been identified via the responses to the Online Survey Audit and/or via a desktop aerial survey of the entire Study Area.

ARI - Sport Type	ARI - Facility Name	ARI - Type
Soccer	Blarney United Football Club	Outdoor Astro Turf / Synthetic
Soccer	Blarney United Football Club	Outdoor Grass

Table 10.20: Existing ARI Provisions within Sub City Area 9

Figure 10.19 plots the location of ARI within this Sub City Area as listed under Table 10.20 by sport type to help provide a spatial overview of the distribution/mix of ARI.

Future ARI Requirements

This Sub City Area requires the following new ARI to align with the Study Area averages by 2028 based on population projections provided by CCC:

- 1 no. GAA pitch
- 1 no. basketball court

Sub City Area 9 does not appear to require any new ARI/has an adequate supply of ARI up to 2028 with respect to soccer, rugby union, hockey, cricket, athletics, tennis, gym/physical fitness, multi-purpose (indoor), swimming or boxing based on the Study Area averages.

Noting the future predicted population growth for this Sub City Area, i.e. +2,500 people by 2028 and +13,000 people between 2028-2040, **CCC should consider developing new ARI and/or supporting local funding bids to develop new ARI so as to help diversify sporting opportunities in this Sub City Area.**

It is further noted that Blarney United Football Club's soccer facilities are located within Tower which suggests an interrelationship between Tower and Blarney with respect to ARI. Any future ARI strategy for Tower and/or Blarney should involve a joined up approach with inputs from the local clubs and communities in both areas. This approach will also help to strengthen any future funding bids for new ARI.

Online Survey Audit – Key Issues Raised

According to the Online Survey Audit responses, the key issues raised for this Sub City Area 9 include:

- Need for the provision of a robust sand-based grass pitch for winter training / playing.

Suitable Areas for Zoning ARI

We set out below Sub City specific recommendations with respect to Suitable Areas for Zoning ARI, which have been informed by the Sub City Analysis. The following locations are considered to represent suitable areas for CCC to consider ARI zonings as part of its overall Core Strategy and Land Use Zoning Strategy:

- **Sub City Area 9:** Locations within the greenfield site between St Ann's Hill and the River Shournagh to the west and south-east of Sallybrook Industrial Estate, the greenfield sites to the south of the River Shournagh along the south boundary of the Sub City Area and the greenfield sites in the east of the Sub City Area (to the west of the regional road (R617) and east of the residential developments of Upper Woodlands and Coolflugh).

General recommendations with respect to Suitable Areas for Zoning ARI are provided at the end of this Section, which CCC should also consider as part of its overall Core Strategy and Land Use Zoning Strategy.

Sub City Area 10 – City Hinterland Settlements

Sub City Area Profile

Sub City Area 10 consists of 3 areas:

- Sub City Area 10a – Kerry Pike neighbourhood which is in the north-west of the Study Area (see Figure 10.21);
- Sub City Area 10b – Kileens neighbourhood which is in the north of the Study Area (see Figure 10.22); and
- Sub City Area 10c – Upper Glanmire neighbourhood which which is in the north-east of the Study Area (see Figure 10.23).

These 3 areas cover a combined area of 130ha. The extent and location of these areas is identified in Figures 10.20, 10.21 and 10.22.

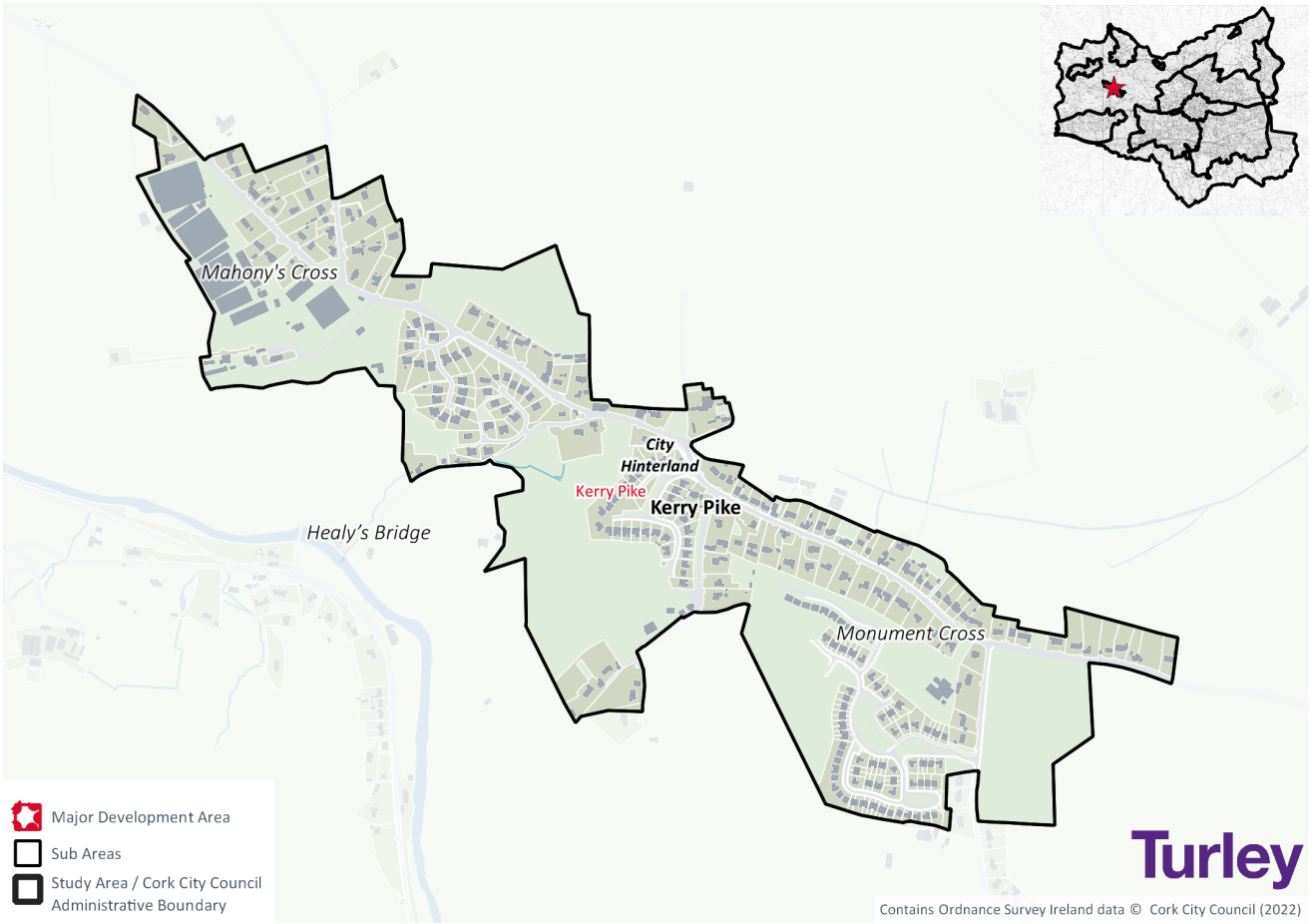


Figure 10.20: Map 20 - Extent of Sub City Area 10a – Kerry Pike

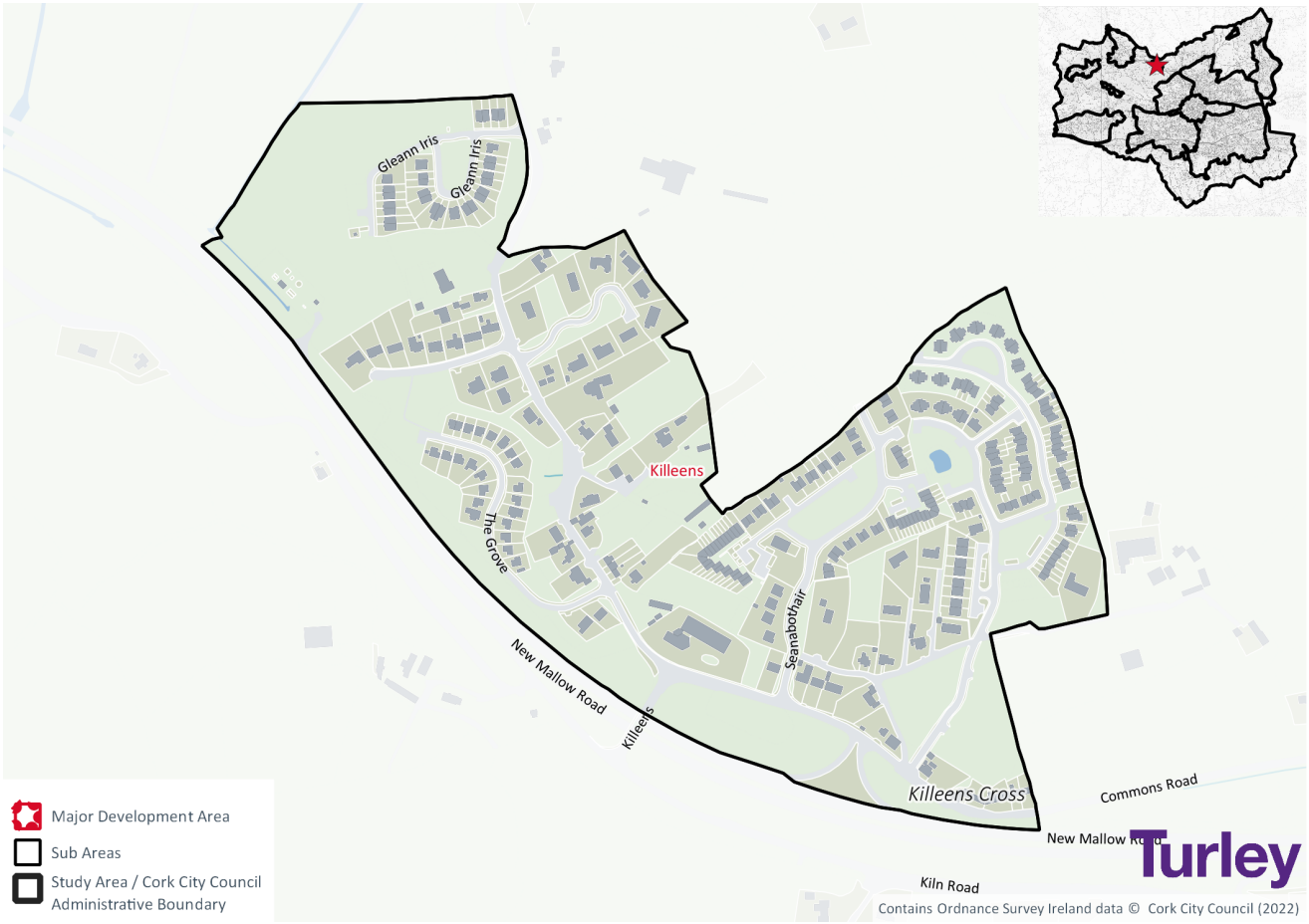


Figure 10.21: Map 21 - Extent of Sub City Area 10b – Kileens

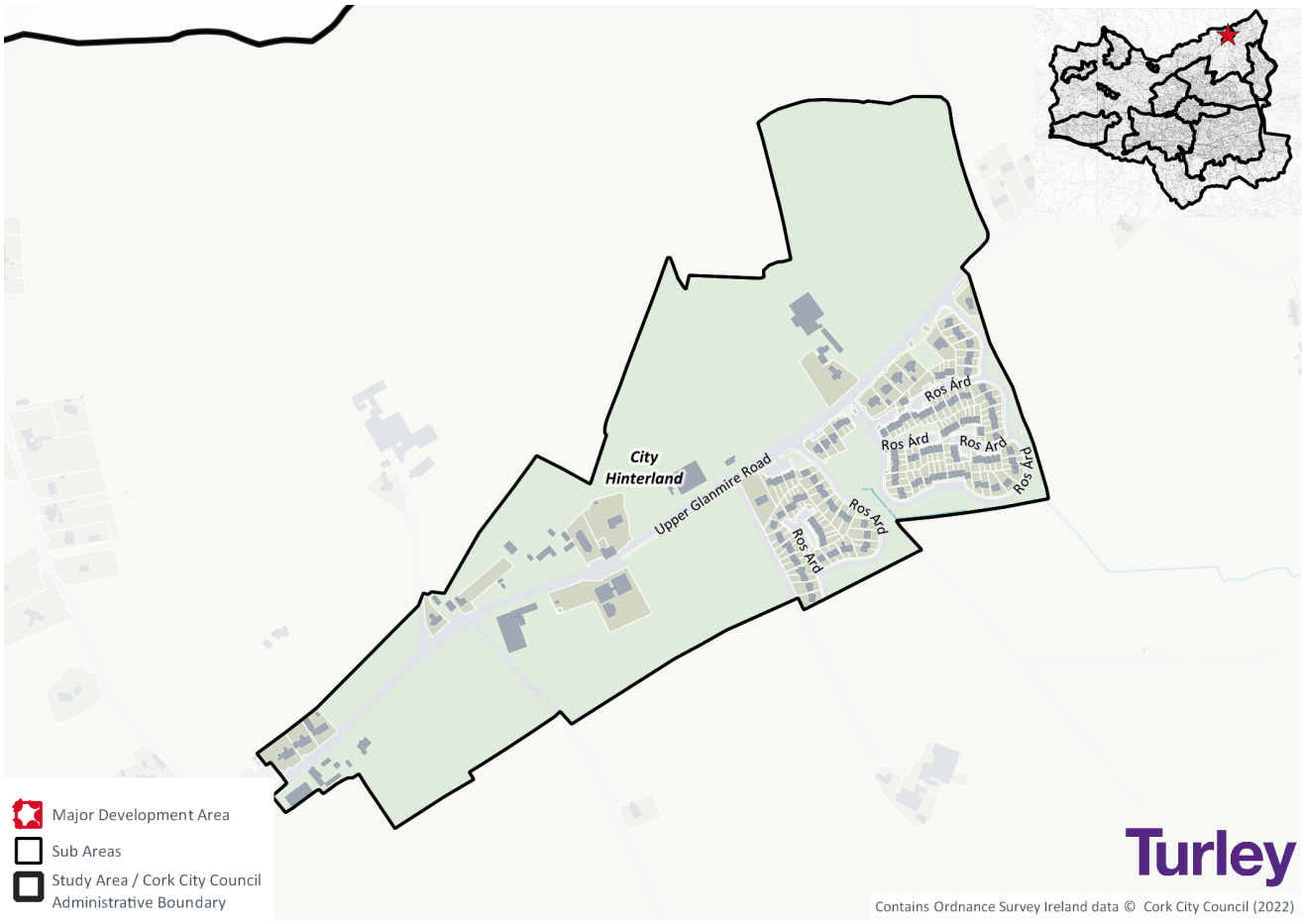


Figure 10.22: Map 22 - Extent of Sub City Area 10c – Upper Glanmire

All 3 areas are primarily residential areas but also contains a mix of land uses including the small scale/local retail/ commercial units, leisure/recreation uses, agriculture, car parking areas, and infrastructure such as roads and pathways.

With a combined population of 1,792 people in 2016, these Sub City Areas represent the ninth most densely populated areas within the Study Area with approx. 14 people per hectare in 2016.

The projected population of these Sub City Areas are predicted to increase by approx. 179 people by 2028 to a total population of 1,971 people; equating to a 10% increase in population since 2016.

Existing ARI Provision

Table 10.21 and Figure 10.23 show that Sub City Area 10a – Kerry Pike contains a GAA pitch adjacent the settlement's northern boundary as well as 2 no. shared tennis and basketball courts. This Sub City Area does not contain any water based ARI.

Sport Type	ARI
GAA	1
Tennis Court/Basket Ball	2
Total	3

Table 10.21: Existing ARI in Sub City Area 10a – Kerry Pike

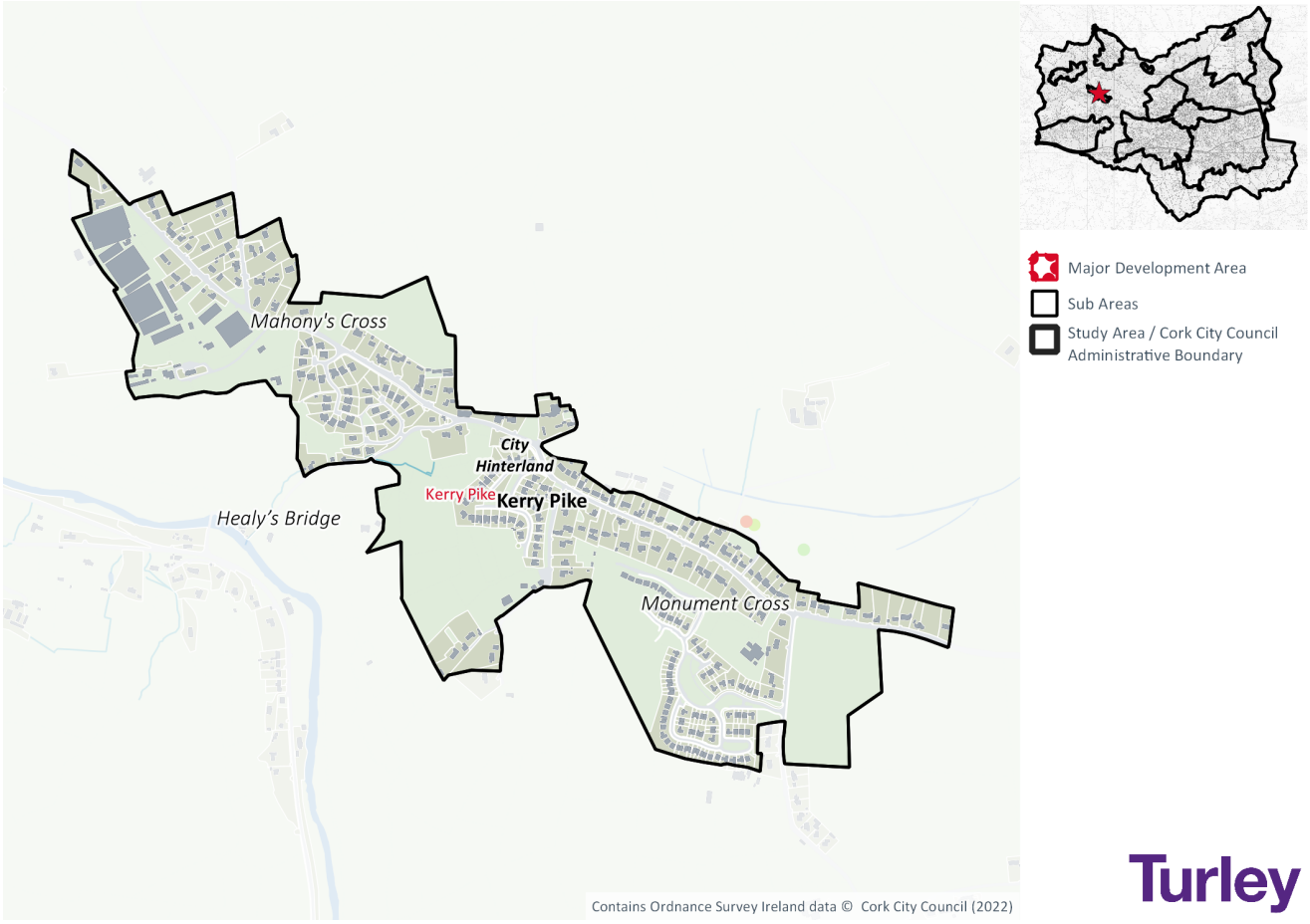


Figure 10.23: Map 23 - Location of Existing ARI Provision within Sub City Area 10a - Kerry Pike

Sub City Area 10b – Kileens does not appear to currently contain any pitch, non-pitch or water based ARI. It is noted that Kileens is located within a short distance from the North West and North East Sub City Areas which contain a significant amount of ARI.

Table 10.22 and Figure 10.24 show that Sub City Area 10c – Upper Glanmire contains a basketball court and a multi-purpose pitch at Upper Glanmire Catholic National School.

It is noted that Sub City Area 10c – Upper Glanmire does not currently contain any ARI.

Sport Type	ARI
Basketball	1
Multi-Purpose	1
Total	2

Table 10.22: Existing Non Pitch Based ARI in Sub City Area 10c

Future ARI Requirements

The forecasted population growth of 179 people by 2028 (10% increase in population since 2016) across these three small rural settlements is unlikely to intensify the demand for pitch, non-pitch or water based ARI needs within each of these Sub City Areas.

Current and future needs should be determined by direct consultations with these rural communities to understand how and where they are accessing ARI to address their sporting needs, and if any local/community level ARI facilities should be prioritised over the next 6 to 18 years.

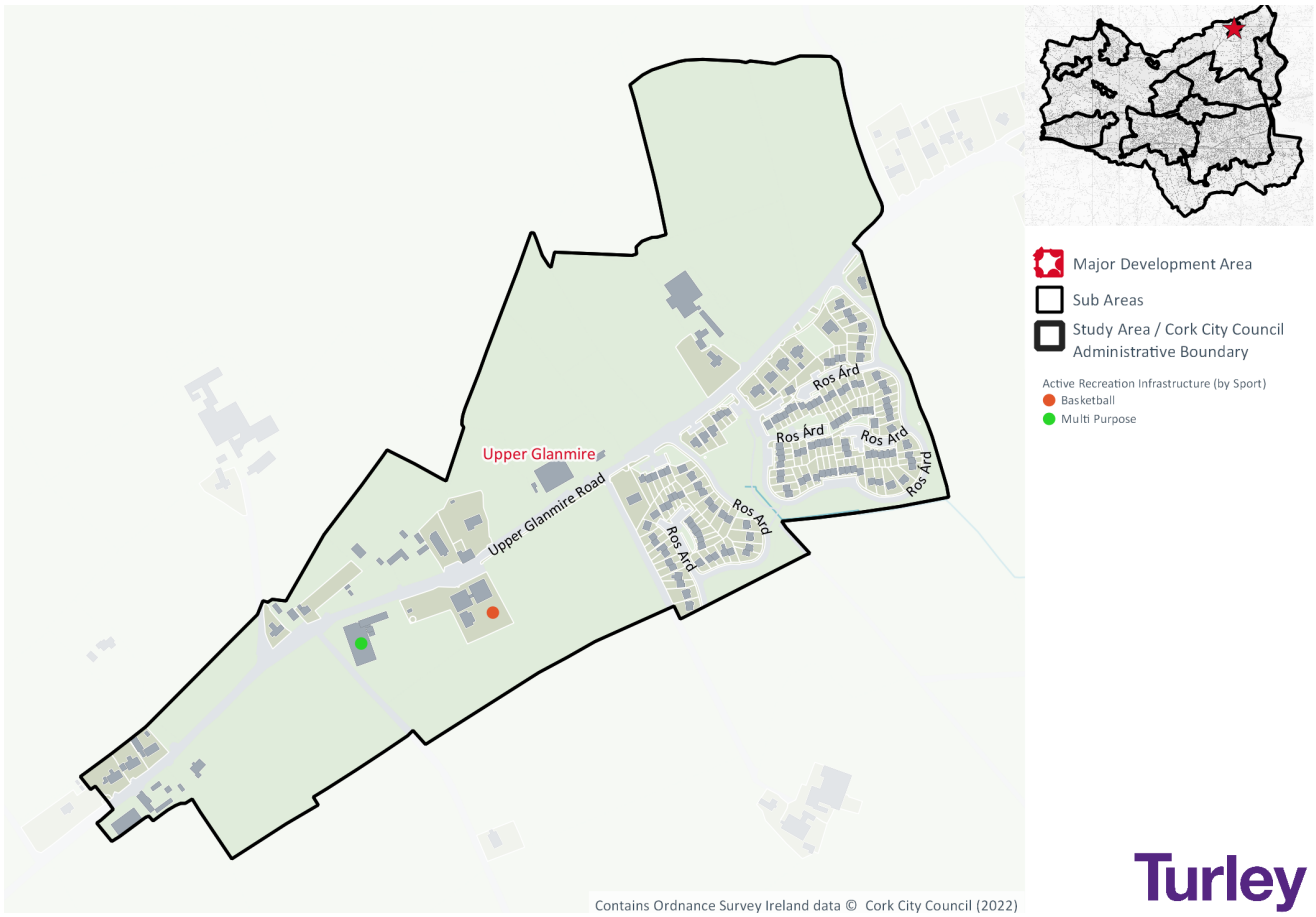


Figure 10.24: Map 24 - Location of Existing ARI Provisions within Sub City Area 10c

Online Survey Audit – Key Issues Raised

No responses were received in relation to Sub City Area 10.

Suitable Areas for Zoning ARI

We set out below Sub City specific recommendations with respect to Suitable Areas for Zoning ARI, which have been informed by the Sub City Analysis, if a site/location is required for a new local/community level ARI in either of these three small rural settlements:

- **Sub City Area 10a** – Kerry Pike: the central greenfield sites located south-west of the residential development of Mitchells Court; the greenfield sites to the east of Ballycannon House; the greenfield sites east of Leemount Terrace; and the brownfield sites to the rear of Kilcrenagh Lodge.
- **Sub City Area 10b** – Kileens: the central greenfield site between Sunset Place and the N20; the central greenfield sites to the rear of Sylvian House and the Sylvian Villas; the greenfield sites to the west of the residential development of Gleann Iris; and the greenfield sites in the east of the Sub City Area.
- **Sub City Area 10c** – Upper Glanmire: the central greenfield sites north and south of Upper Glanmire Road; and the greenfield sites in the north-east and south-west of the Sub City Area.

General recommendations with respect to Suitable Areas for Zoning ARI are provided at the end of this Section, which CCC should also consider as part of its overall Core Strategy and Land Use Zoning Strategy.

Sub City Area 11 – City Hinterland

Sub City Area Profile

Sub City Area 11, which is identified in Figure 10.25 below, comprises the rural/countryside lands that are located outside of the other Sub City Areas and surrounding Cork City. Sub City Area 11 covers an area of approx. 9,833 ha.

This Sub City Area is primarily an agricultural area but also contains other land uses interspersed throughout, such as residential, retail/ commercial/ industrial units, leisure/ recreation uses, car parking areas, and infrastructure such as roads, pathways and bridges. The area also includes a number of watercourses.

With a population of 8,729 people in 2016, this Sub City Area is the least most densely populated area within the Study Area with approx. 0.89 people per hectare in 2016.

The projected population of this Sub City Area is predicted to increase by approx. 600 people by 2028 to a total population of 9,329 people; equating to a 7% increase in population since 2016. This increase in population will result in the area becoming more densely populated at approx. 0.95 people per hectare, but it will remain the least densely populated area within the Study Area in 2028.

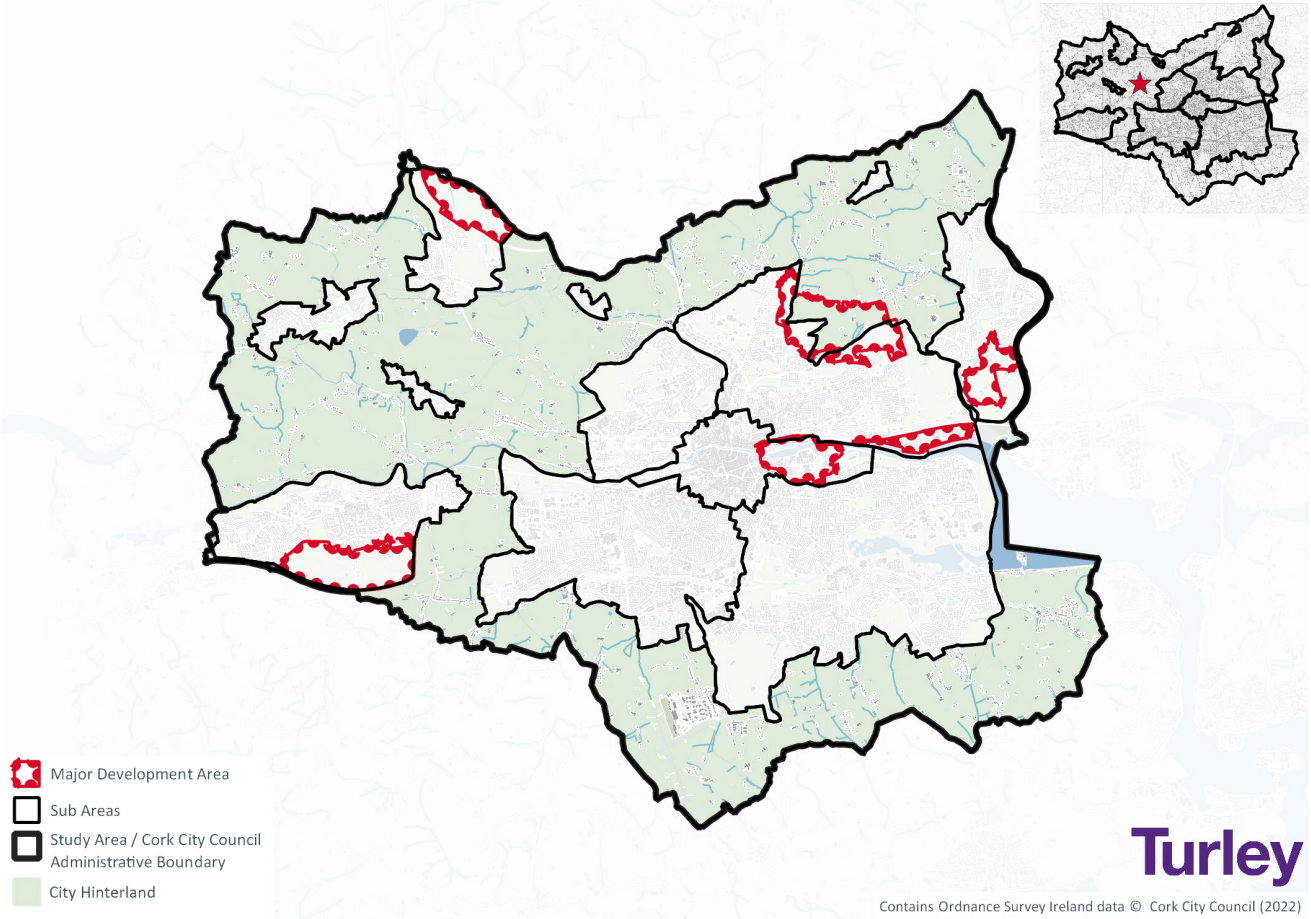


Figure 10.25: Map 25 - Extent of Sub City Area 11

Existing ARI Provision

Appendix 10 provides a detailed breakdown of the 45 items of ARI located within this Sub City Area as identified via the responses to the Online Survey Audit and/or via a desktop aerial survey of the Sub City Area .

Figure 10.26 plots the location of ARI within Sub City Area 11 as listed in **Appendix 10** by sport type to help provide a spatial overview of the distribution/mix of ARI.

Table 10.23 below provides an overview/summary of the quantum of pitch based ARI within this Sub City Area for the 6 most popular pitch based sport types within the Study Area.

Pitch Based Sport Type	ARI
Soccer	12
GAA	14
Rugby	3
Hockey	2
Cricket	1
Athletics	0
Total	32

Table 10.23: Existing Pitch Based ARI in Sub City Area 11

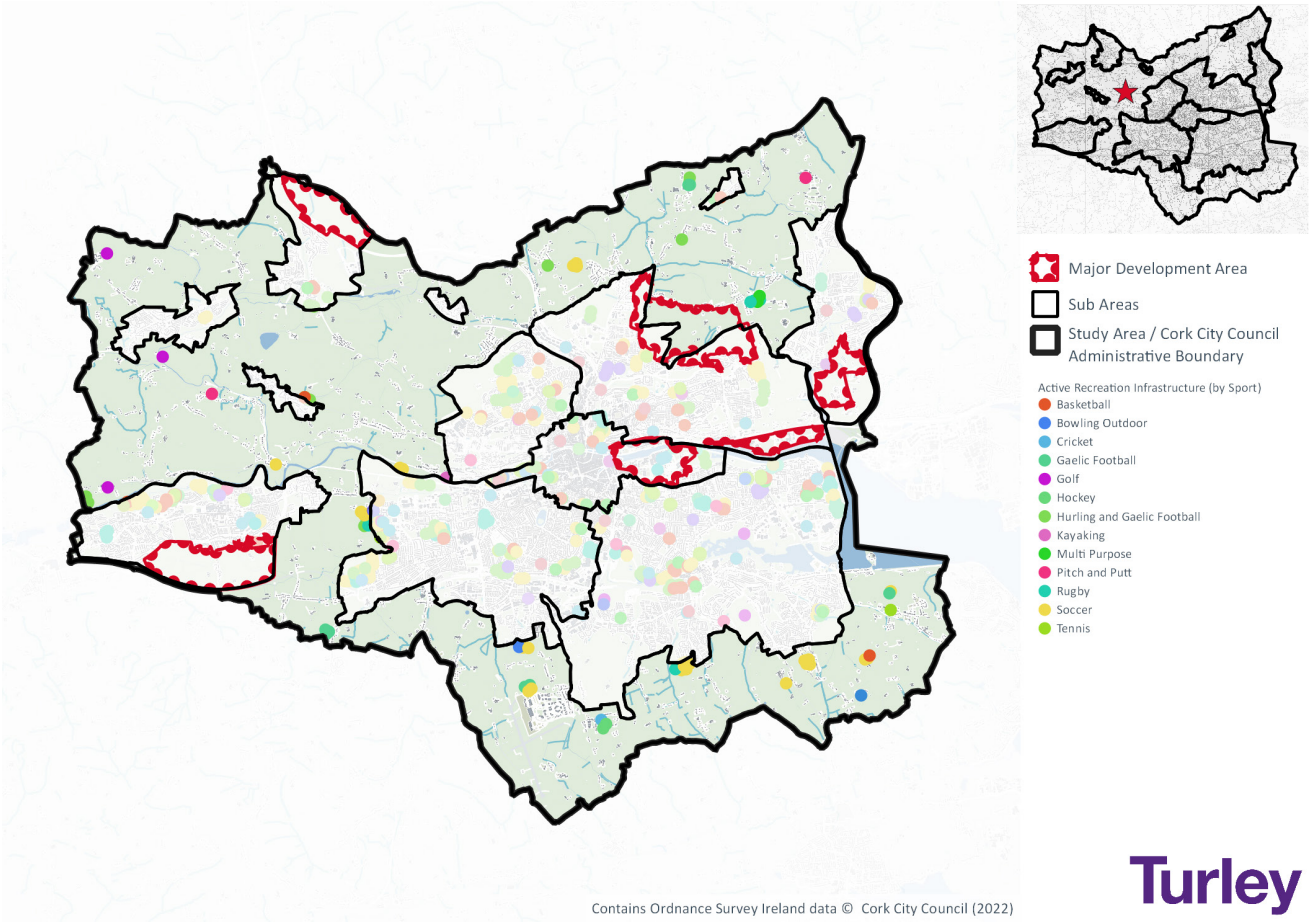


Figure 10.26: Map 26 - Location of Existing ARI Provision within Sub City Area 11

Table 10.24 below provides an overview/summary of the quantum of non-pitch based ARI within this Sub City Area for the 6 most popular non-pitch based sport types within the overall Study Area.

Non-Pitch Based Sport Type	ARI
Tennis	1
Basketball	2
Gym/Physical fitness	0
Multi-Purpose	1
Swimming	0
Boxing	0
Total	4

Table 10.24: Existing Non-Pitch Based ARI in Sub City Area 11

In addition to the above non-pitch based ARI, this Sub City Area is also benefitted with ARI relating to Pitch and Putt, Golf and Kayaking.

Phoenix Kayak Club is located in the west of the Sub City Area on the border between Sub City Area 3 and Sub City Area 11. There does not appear to be any other formal water-based ARI located within this Sub City Area.

Future ARI Requirements

In line with proper planning and sustainable development and CCC's 15 Minute City model, and noting that this Sub City Area is to experience a population increase of only 600 people between 2016 and 2028, and that it represents what is the least dense Sub City Area as well as effectively representing a 'green belt' around existing built up/urban areas within the Study Area, this Study does not seek to recommend additional ARI within this Sub City Area unless:

- There is a specific and/or strategic need for the provision of a new piece of ARI evidenced by a local club/community group and/or national/regional governing sport body which cannot be delivered within the built of footprint of a nearby city/town/village; and/or
- A specific site within this area is identified through a robust feasibility study as being an ideal location for a regional and/or local multi-sport, multi-purpose, shared hub facility and the associated environmental, social and economic benefits of locating such a facility in the countryside are clearly outlined.

Online Survey Audit – Key Issues Raised

According to the Online Survey Audit responses, the key issues raised for this Sub City Area 11 include:

- Lack of useable white water features but many suitable options for cheap development which would lead to massive improvement in facilities all around Cork city and county;
- Access to more multi-purpose astro turf pitches; and
- Need for an additional cricket pitch.

Sub City Analysis Summary

This Section is informed by the spatial analysis and quantitative analysis undertaken in Sections 8 and 9 of this Study, as well as the responses to the Online Survey Audit (OSA) and the findings of the desktop based aerial survey of the entire Study Area.

It provides a Sub City Area specific overview and analysis of ARI and aims to identify future ARI requirements for pitch and non-pitch by applying the Study Area wide average level of ARI provision as developed in Section 9. Commentary is also provided with respect to water based ARI within each Sub City Area and if any specific requirement was identified during the OSA, this is also highlighted.

This Sub City analysis focuses on the 2028 population forecasts as information is not currently available to provide an accurate overall population breakdown for all of the Sub City Areas in 2040.

Table 10.25 provides an overview of the Sub City Areas within the overall Study Area and a breakdown of the forecasted population growth for each Sub City Area between 2016 and 2028.

It is clear that Sub City Areas 1, 2, 4, 6 and 8 will experience the largest total and percentage population increases. **CCC should consider undertaking a detailed feasibility study with respect to delivering a 10,000 people capacity sports centre for Sub City Areas 1, 2 and 6 and a 5,000 people capacity sport centre for Sub City Areas 4 and 8.** These sport centres should be multi-use, multi-sport and multi-purpose.

It is also noted that Blarney will experience a significant percentage population increase of 131%, albeit the overall total increase in population is below the total increase of Sub City Areas 1, 2 4, 6 and 8. **As stated within this Section, any future ARI strategy for Tower and Blarney should involve a joined up approach and inputs from the local clubs and communities of both areas.**

Sub City Areas	2016 Population	2028 Population	# Increase Population 2016-2028	% Increase Population 2016-2028
Area 1 – City Centre + City Docks MDA	24,399	33,457	9,058	37%
Area 2 – NE Suburb + Tivoli Docks MDA + Ballyvolane MDA	26,841	40,267	13,426	50%
Area 3 – NW Suburb	23,125	23,728	603	3%
Area 4 – SE Suburb	51,605	58,457	6,852	13%
Area 5 – SW Suburb	40,237	42,543	2,306	6%
Area 6 – Ballincollig	18,159	29,003	10,844	60%
Area 7 – Blarney	2,550	5,881	3,331	131%
Area 8 – Glanmire	9,903	15,329	5,426	55%
Area 9 – Tower	3,274	4,437	1,163	36%
Area 10 (a, b & C) – City Hinterland Settlements	1,792	1,971	179	10%
Area 11 – City Hinterland	8,729	9,329	600	7%

Table 10.25: Breakdown of Population Growth Forecasts for the Sub City Areas

Table 10.26 provides a summary overview of all the Sub City Areas and identifies the quantum of ARI within each Sub City Area (SCA) with respect to the various sports identified in the responses to the OSA and from a desktop aerial survey.

ARI – Sport Type	Study Area	SCA 1	SCA 2	SCA 3	SCA 4	SCA 5	SCA 6	SCA 7	SCA 8	SCA 9	SCA 10	SCA 11
Soccer	146	6	20	21	28	34	18		5	2		12
GAA	110	5	15	14	26	19	7	3	6		1	14
Tennis	72	12	4	2	29	13	5		4		2	1
Basketball	63	7	7	5	19	3	12	2	5		1	2
Rugby	35	3			9	17	3					3
Multi-Purpose (Indoor)	18	4	3	0	6	1	1	0	1	0	1	1
Multi-Purpose (Outdoor)	10	3	0	1	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Gym / Physical												
Fitness	27	6	3	3	5	7	3					
Swimming	14	4	4	1	3	2						
Hockey	11	2			2	3	2					2
Boxing	9	2	3		2	1			1			
Pitch and Putt	8			1	3	1	1					2
Golf	6				3							3
Rowing	5	2			3							
Athletics	3	2				1						
Bowling Outdoor	3				2	1						
Cricket	3	1				1						1
Skateboarding	2	1					1					
Skating	2	1					1					
Walking	2			1		1						
Kayaking	1											1
BMX	1				1							
Boating	1				1							
Climbing	1					1						
Gymnastics	1					1						
Informal Activity Play	1								1			
Martial Arts	1						1					
Orienteering	1					1						
Paddle Boarding	1	1										
Park Run	1					1						
Petanque	1				1							
Squash	1	1										
Taekwon-Do	1			1								
Volleyball	1	1										
Total	563	64	59	50	146	110	55	6	23	2	5	43

Table 10.26: Overview of ARI within Study Area and Sub City Breakdown

Suitable Areas for Zoning ARI

In addition to the Sub City specific recommendations set out under each Sub City Area, we provide supplementary recommendations below with respect to Suitable Areas for Zoning ARI, which have been informed by the Sub City Analysis. The following locations are considered to represent suitable areas for CCC to consider ARI zonings as part of its overall Core Strategy and Land Use Zoning Strategy:

- Locations along the River Lee to enhance accessibility to the river via new slipways, pontoons, clubs/changing facilities so as to improve the level of, and opportunity for, water based ARI.
- Locations in close proximity to public transport routes/ nodes, public parks and active travel routes/greenways/ walkways/cycleways to align with the compact liveable growth model set out in the Draft Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028.
- Locations which comprise suitable greenfield and/or brownfield sites.
- Locations which comprise underutilised/vacant/derelict buildings, particularly former industrial warehouses, which could be converted/redeveloped to deliver additional ARI.
- Locations which could deliver new buildings and/or convert existing buildings to accommodate ARI at roof level should also be considered. Examples include St. Angela's College 3G Roof Pitch and the former Belfast Telegraph building's proposed rooftop running tack.
- Locations within the Major Development Areas which should be informed and guided by overarching strategic masterplans.

11 Strategic Objectives and Recommendations

Introduction

This Section of the Study sets out strategic objectives and recommendations with respect to the following components, as required by the Study Brief:

- Protecting, Enhancing and Increasing ARI
- Embedding ARI
- Interrelationship of Green and Blue Infrastructure
- Climate Change
- Retrofitting ARI

Protecting, Enhancing and Increasing ARI

We set out below a number of strategic objectives and recommendations which can help to protect, enhance and increase ARI within the Study Area.

Delivery ID	Policy Recommendations for Implementation
1	Consult with the target groups CCC want to work with to develop a better understanding of the barriers they face in terms of access and participation, such as working closely with Cork Sports Partnership and Cork Sport 2040 group. CCC should ensure that their infrastructure reduces these barriers and offers the relevant programs.
2	Be aware of, and signpost people to the wide range of activities/facilities across the city and region.
3	Where gaps in provision exist, offer formal and informal outreach activities and taster sessions in popular venues at the heart of local communities such as community centres, youth clubs, parks, places of worship, day centres etc.
4	Offer concessions and subsidised activities where cost is known to be a barrier to participation, these can be in conjunction with current community or school schemes.
5	Capture appropriate membership/usage data to help CCC record participation/ throughput by priority groups and set targets to pro-actively increase them year on year.
6	Work with partners from health, social care, youth services and/or other relevant sectors/services to provide a joined-up offer for target groups which includes sport and active recreation
7	Ensure marketing messages are simple, targeted, accessible and available via appropriate channels
8	Encourage formal and informal participation in sport and active recreation as early in life as possible
9	Develop and formalise links between school, college or university and accredited local sports clubs, coaches and facility operators to maximise the opportunities available to the student body
10	Develop ways of measuring the impact of your projects on wider social outcomes, this can be in combination with initiatives developed through the Departments of Public Health.

Embedding ARI

In terms of embedding ARI, we note that streets and roads typically make up three quarters of public spaces in most metropolitan cities. Therefore, their appearance and functionality have a significant impact on the lives of people and communities. These active strategies and infrastructure elements should be embedded within the overall Development Plan of the City and be incorporated into daily activities.

Many local authorities have adopted a range of strategies to increase walking in their neighbourhoods. Evidence on links between walking and the physical environment provide some clear messages for planners. It suggests that people walk more in places with mixed land use (such as retail and housing), higher population densities and highly connected street layouts.

Various external studies have studied aspects of increasing cycling these approaches include:

- Intensive intervention with individuals
- Individualised marketing to households
- Improving infrastructure for cycling and
- Multifaceted town level or city level programmes

People living in rural areas and villages may find it as hard to be physically active as people in towns and cities. Difficulties in safely accessing many services by walking, cycling, or by public transport, can pose a real challenge in some rural areas.

A lack of pavements or cycle ways on busy rural roads can discourage use of these travel modes even when moving between towns and settlements not too far apart. A challenge for planners is to consider how access can be improved, and how the needs of walkers and cyclists can be taken into account in the design and planning of the rural road network.

One specific example which promotes physical activity is allowing bicycles on buses, so people can get from one town or village to another and then use their bikes to get around at their destination point.

In addition to the above recommendations with respect to transport infrastructure, there is also the opportunity to further embed ARI within the Study Area by making better use of/improving the network of shared spaces with schools and Green Infrastructure.

Recommendations on how this can be achieved are set out in the preceding Stakeholder Engagement and Comparative Analysis sections of the Study. Indeed, the findings and recommendations from these Sections have informed our planning policy recommendations in Section 12.

Interrelationship of Green and Blue Infrastructure

There is obvious synergy and connection between the active infrastructure study and the green and blue infrastructure study. A typical green and blue infrastructure study can be defined as carefully planning network of high quality natural and semi-natural assets and habitat types of green and blue spaces. This also involves strategically planned environmental features that maintain and delivers ecosystems services.

These green and blue studies typically offer multi-functional benefits integral to the health and wellbeing of communicates and to the ecology and economy of a region. Incorporated within this is the development of active infrastructure such as outdoor sports facilities, playing pitches, parks/open spaces and other active amenities.

One of the biggest crossovers between the strategies would be the connectivity between active infrastructure facilities and greenways / parks / open spaces via active travel and greenway links. These green active travel routes can serve as an attractive option for members of the community to travel between sites and locations whilst reducing the overall carbon footprint and reduce the reliance on cars.

Green active travel routes create attractive places and journeys for people and improve the environment. The deliberate choice to combine natural planting or water systems together with paths for people on foot or bike delivers a range of benefits. From environmental improvements such as increased habitat and biodiversity to improved health and wellbeing for people.

Across the active infrastructure study and the green / blue study there are a number of common themes that can be developed in unison for a combined approach:

- Partnership Working – is highly beneficial and helps ensure successful delivery. Organisations, landowners and other stakeholders are stronger working together around a common vision and can realise efficiencies in mutually desirable outcomes.
- Engagement with local communities – This helps build feelings of ownership of local green active travel routes, increases their use by local people, and offers volunteers opportunities as part of ongoing management of the routes.
- Green surroundings make travel more enjoyable to active destinations - Often resulting in their preferential use of green active travel routes over more direct routes. This also has health and well-being benefits
- Safe environment to access infrastructure – green / blue active travel routes often provide an alternative to busy on-road routes, encouraging feelings of safety and therefore a more diverse range of users (including those new to cycling or with children)
- Retrofitting or newly planned approaches - Whether retrofitting new or enhanced green infrastructure to existing active travel routes, adding new cycle / walking / blue paths to existing greenspace, or newly planning both together from the start as part of a deliberate combined approach

This active travel pathway and active infrastructure is evident in Map 5 (as referenced within Section 6 of this Study) showing the G&B Infrastructure Strategy overlay with the location of ARI. These existing green corridors can be extended and enhanced within Cork to connect population centres such as West of Cork, close to MTU campuses and Ballincollig, which will also help to link up small hub sites of active facilities to other areas.

Other examples of these active greenways can also be seen to the west of cork, linking up the City Centre to Glanmire, which is also a growth area. Further blue initiatives within the waterfront or waterways should be undertaken with further consultation with the organisations of sport and community groups.

Climate Change

We set out principles below which can be applied to help respond to climate change, create sustainable communities and drive industry innovation across the sector.

Sustainability plays a key role in the design and management of ARI. Promoting sustainability can help to drive down running costs and make a contribution to alleviating climate change. It is important to embrace environmental sustainability at the outset of the design process and to treat it as a vital consideration throughout.

We know sport and physical activity is essential to physical and mental wellbeing, and part of encouraging and enabling physical activity is about making positive choices – choosing to get around without using polluting vehicles, improving the accessibility, permeability and connectivity of neighbourhoods by foot and/or by bike and ensuring that routes/linkages are direct and safe.

Applying key concepts such as active design can dramatically reduce the carbon footprint of new projects and encourage more active lifestyles within the Study Area. Walking, running and cycling are some of the easiest ways for people to stay active and the benefits of a walkable community are recognised in planning and design literature.

Local facilities such as shops, schools and open spaces bring residents together, reinforce communities and reduce reliance on private transport. However, the potential for walking and cycling is affected by distance, the nature and quality of a route are important perceptions of safety and security.

It is possible to design communities and new facilities with active design principles to allow for a co-ordinated and holistic approach with respect to active infrastructure.

For example, when constructing new sport facilities, it is important to implement practical measures to make these facilities more comfortable, make more efficient use of energy and other resources.

The bullet points below highlight a possible framework to develop a robust strategy for any facility:

- **Sustainability Strategy** – Identify key issues and set out the vision and target outcomes.
- **Reduce Energy Use** – Reduce energy consumption as the first measure to reduce carbon emissions and energy costs.
- **Passive Design** – Building orientation and placement on site is critical to achieving net zero targets.
- **Fabric Efficiency** – Maximise the building fabric and glazing performance.
- **Efficient Systems** – Invest in appropriate energy-efficient products and logistics.
- **On-site Renewables** – Incorporate low and zero carbon (LZC) technologies to produce energy yon site.
- **Off-Site Renewables** – Only use energy providers who use renewable energy.
- **Carbon Offsets** – If needed, offset remaining carbon by buying carbon credits.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Retrofitting ARI

We set out below a set of recommendations and actions which can help to inform/improve the retrofitting of existing ARI within the Study Area.

In the first instance, active recreation organisations/owners should seek advice from Cork City's Planning Department to determine if planning permission is required for any proposed retrofitting or improvements to their ARI.

Car Parking and Access

If the intention is to refurbish or extend the existing indoor infrastructure, improvements to car parking may be needed to cater for the increased numbers of members and visitors.

The need for overflow car parking for special events or significant match days should also be considered. Provision should be made for safe access across and around the car park and an appropriate quantum of parking should be designated as accessible parking bays.

Pedestrians

Separate routes for pedestrians and vehicles should be provided. Surfaces for pedestrian use should be smooth and even, and suitable for mobility scooters and wheelchairs.

Cyclists

Access roads should be wide enough for cyclists and passing traffic. It is important to discourage cyclists from using pavements or pedestrian areas. Dry, secure bicycle parking facilities should be provided close to the entrance and should not be hidden from public view.

Building and Ancillary Improvements

We set out below a number of recommendations which relate specifically to existing active recreation buildings:

Internal Space

Basic cosmetic changes and improvements to comfort will make the ancillary and indoor provision space a more attractive area to be which can help to retain membership and attract new members.

The layout of the existing clubhouses should be carefully considered and an assessment made in terms of how well it functions. Some minor internal adjustments can have a big impact. For example, increasing the number of changing rooms can enable more matches to be played at peak times, potentially increasing member numbers.

Draught Prevention

Draught-proofing is one of the cheapest and most efficient ways to save energy and money in any type of building.

By sealing gaps and preventing draughts, warm air will be contained and therefore less energy will be needed to heat the building. The most common place for gaps to occur are around poorly fitting doors and windows, but gaps can also occur around loft hatches, electrical fittings or pipework leading to the outside. Draught stripping is cheap and easy to install to block such draughts

Insulation

Insulation reduces heat loss or gain through the walls, roof and windows making temperature control more economical. By maximising the performance of the building fabric, the need for additional energy from gas or electricity to heat or cool the building is minimised. Improving the building fabric is a very effective way to reduce energy consumption

Existing buildings may be draughty and have very little insulation. It is possible to insulate existing floors, walls, windows and roofs and there are various ways to improve these elements depending on the type of construction of the existing building. However, careful positioning of a vapour barriers, detailing and workmanship is required.

- Cavity Wall Insulation: For masonry walls with a cavity at least 50 mm wide, a simple way to insulate is to put insulation into the cavity:
    - Cavity wall insulation is blown into the cavity from the outside of the building.
    - Cavity wall insulation can be made out of mineral wool, beads or granules or foamed insulants.
    - If your walls are exposed to driving rain or you have any areas of damp in your building, this type of insulation is not recommended.
- Internal Solid Wall Insulation: For buildings with solid walls that do not need upgrading on the outside, this is done by fitting rigid insulation boards to the internal face of the external walls:
    - Generally cheaper to install than external wall insulation.
    - Will slightly reduce the floor area of any rooms in which it is applied.
    - It is disruptive but can be done room by room.
    - Requires skirting boards, door frames, pipes, electrical cables and sockets to be removed and reattached.
- External Solid Wall Insulation: For buildings with solid walls that do need upgrading on the outside, this involves fixing a layer of rigid insulation boards to the external surface of the external walls and then covering it with a special type of render or cladding.
    - There are some products where the cladding is combined with the insulation board to make the installation process simpler.
    - Can be applied without disruption to the inside of the building.
    - Avoids reducing internal floor area.
    - Potential need to adjust or replace rainwater fixtures, soffits and treatment to reveals/openings.
    - Improves the weatherproofing and sound resistance • Increases the life of the walls by protecting the brickwork.
    - Renews the external appearance. However, planning permission will be needed.

Improving Thermal Efficiency in Roofs

In terms of a Warm Roof:

- A 'Warm Roof' is where insulation is applied to the underside of, or set within, the roofing structure depth depending on space available and satisfying any ventilation requirements.
- A warm roof has condensation risks at the roof level where warm air can move into the insulation and form condensation when it meets the cold air.
- The recognised way of preventing this is to install a vapour control layer on the warm side of the insulation, which limits the amount of water vapour that can enter the insulation layer from the building.
- The vapour control layer must be continuous, well-sealed at joints and placed behind services, such as electrical cables, to avoid puncturing.
- Care should be taken not to puncture the vapour control layer during roof maintenance.

In terms of a Cold Roof:

- A 'Cold Roof' is where the insulation is laid above the ceiling in the loft. The roof space is therefore above the insulation and is therefore 'cold'.
- A cold roof solution is generally cheaper but again it should be ensured that the loft space is well ventilated to avoid condensation.
- Condensation can occur when warm wet air meets surfaces in the cold roof space.
- The condensation risk is increased where there is a lot of water vapour from showers or from the kitchen and this water vapour passes into the cold roof space and forms water droplets on cold surfaces.
- Ventilating roof spaces and providing adequate ventilation and extract to shower and kitchen areas reduce such condensation risks.

In terms of a 'Flat Roof':

- A flat roof should preferably be insulated from above the waterproof layer.
- A layer of rigid insulation board can be added either on top of the roof's waterproof layer or directly on top of the timber roof surface with a new weather proof layer on top of the insulation. In either case moisture from inside must be prevented from entering the insulation and the risk of interstitial condensation.
- Ideally this should be done when the roof covering is being installed or being replaced. It is not recommended to insulate a flat roof from beneath as this can lead to condensation problems.

Improving Thermal Efficiency in Windows

In the case of windows that are single glazed, consider replacement with double (or triple) glazing. Although installation costs are high, payback can be significant after several years.

The double glazing contains a void (air or gas) that forms an insulating barrier that keeps heat in. This will make the building warmer, quieter and more energy efficient. The cost of secondary glazing or replacement double-glazed panes is generally less than full replacement with new proprietary double glazed units.

If double glazing is not an option, curtains lined with heavy material can reduce heat loss from the room through the window and limit draughts.

The recent rises in energy prices and improvements in technology make the cost benefits more favourable than in the past. For clubhouses, upgrading single glazing to the latest high performance double (or triple) glazing (low-emissivity glass, gas-filled sealed units with warm-edge spacers) will cut heating bills significantly and potentially give a pay-back

Improving Thermal Efficiency in Floors

Older buildings are likely to have suspended timber floors. Timber floors can be insulated by lifting the floorboards and laying mineral wool insulation supported by netting between the joists. Ensure air bricks and sub floor ventilation is not blocked. Some clubhouses will have a ground floor made of solid concrete. A layer of rigid insulation can be laid on top of an existing floor, but be mindful of doors skirtings pipes etc which may need to be refitted.

Having a timber floor insulated professionally, including filling the gaps between the floorboards and around the skirting, depends on the size and shape of the room and the insulation material used. The insulation will make the room feel warmer in the winter and reduce heating bills.

12 Active Recreation and Planning Policy Objectives

The following objectives have been informed by the preceding sections of this Study.

Ultimately, Cork City Council should seek to ensure that all communities are supported by a range of ARI that is fit for purpose, accessible to all and adaptable to meet future needs as well as being connected with and complemented by a wider network of high quality open spaces, parks and active travel greenways/blueways.

To achieve this, we recommend that the following Policy Objectives be incorporated into the relevant chapter of the Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028:

- **Objective 1:** To protect and retain the range and quality of existing active recreation infrastructure within the administrative area of Cork City Council by applying a presumption against the loss of land zoned Active Recreation Infrastructure to other forms of development.
- **Objective 2:** To support the improvement of existing, and the provision of new, Active Recreation Infrastructure within the administrative area of Cork City Council to meet current and future growth needs.
- **Objective 3:** To support the improvement of existing, and the provision of new, Active Recreation Infrastructure within the administrative area of Cork City Council that incorporates universal design principles to ensure accessibility for all ages and abilities and which is designed in a manner to reduce anti-social behaviour.
- **Objective 4:** To support the improvement of existing, and the provision of new, Active Recreation Infrastructure within the administrative area of Cork City Council that is accessible by sustainable and active travel/transport means such as walking, cycling and public transport.
- **Objective 5:** To support the improvement of existing, and the provision of new, Active Recreation Infrastructure within the administrative area of Cork City Council that aligns with the principles of proper planning and sustainable development of the area.
- **Objective 6:** To work in partnership with local communities, recreation/sports groups and private parties to deliver new and/or improved Active Recreation Infrastructure within the administrative area of Cork City Council.
- **Objective 7:** To support local communities, recreation/sports clubs and private parties in developing Active Recreation Infrastructure for minority/alternative sports within the administrative area of Cork City Council by providing indoor and outdoor spaces for the pursuance of these activities.
- **Objective 8:** Promote the multi-use of public and private indoor and outdoor Active Recreation Infrastructure within the administrative area of Cork City Council to accommodate a diverse range of recreational needs and ensure maximum utilisation of existing infrastructure.
- **Objective 9:** To develop a robust and bespoke feasibility study to examine the development of multi-use/sport hub sites within the administrative area of Cork City Council in collaboration with the national governing bodies of sport.
- **Objective 10:** To support community clubs and organisations through the capital grant funding process to help improve existing, and deliver new, Active Recreation Infrastructure within the administrative area of Cork City Council.
- **Objective 11:** To support clubs and organisations in the development of inclusive strategies and improving participation in key demographic groups.
- **Objective 12:** To develop an artificial grass pitch strategy to identify gaps in current provision within the administrative area of Cork City Council and predict future demand.
- **Objective 13:** To zone lands at Lota/Lotamore as open space to support the development of a City Park to the north east of Cork City.
- **Objective 14:** To zone the lands at Hollyhill as open space to support the development of a City Park to the north west of Cork City.
- **Objective 15:** To support the development of Management Plans for current and future parks within the administrative area of Cork City Council to maximise their active recreation credentials while also ensuring the retention, and where possible, the improvement of their natural setting and biodiversity credentials.
- **Objective 16:** To support and facilitate the provision of indoor and outdoor Active Recreation Infrastructure in larger parks within the administrative area of Cork City Council to cater for all age groups and abilities.

- **Objective 17:** To support the development of an integrated and connected network of Active Recreation Infrastructure, Green and Blue Infrastructure and shared walking/cycling paths within the administrative area of Cork City Council.
- **Objective 18:** To require new residential developments (over 10 units) and other major developments to positively contribute to Active Recreation Infrastructure within the administrative area of Cork City Council by ensuring that new Active Recreation Infrastructure forms an integral part of proposed open spaces within the site or by providing financial contributions to enhance existing, or deliver new, Active Recreation Infrastructure in the area.
- **Objective 19:** To commission a 'River Use and Management Plan' to:
    - examine the commercial and recreational potential of the River Lee and Upper Harbour area for all users (i.e. general public, visitors and tourists);
    - identify essential/critical infrastructure gaps and an appropriate location for the delivery of this infrastructure in partnership with key stakeholders and in accordance with national/international best practice/standards, such as a new public slipway(s), pontoon(s) and additional facilities (e.g. club house(s), changing area(s), sheltered area(s), etc);
    - outline a clear strategy for the management and ongoing maintenance of the navigable waterways in the City subject to relevant environmental, social and economic considerations; and
    - outline a clear strategy for achieving optimal active and passive recreational usage of the City's waterways subject to relevant environmental, social and economic considerations.

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CORK CITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022–2028

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