

4 Leisure & Recreation Facilities

Introduction

- 4.1 Sport England has an ambition to get two million people more active in sport by 2012 and to make sure that participation is sustained. Supported by the Government, this can only be achieved if suitable facilities for sports and leisure are available.
- 4.2 The London borough of Lewisham supports this objective in its Physical Activity, Sports and Leisure Strategy – 2006. This is a five year plan to bring together organisations to work together in partnership to develop and sustain sport and physical activity in the borough.
- 4.3 The SIF Model looks at 3 key components of leisure and recreation facilities – swimming pools, sports activity courts and indoor bowls rinks.

Swimming Pools

Existing Capacity

- 4.4 Table 4.1 below outlines the existing level of capacity in the borough. The Council is currently renewing some swimming facilities and developing new centres, causing a changeable picture over the coming years. This has been considered in Table 4.1 below.

Table 4.1

Building	Ownership	2007 Capacity		2012 Capacity	
		Pools	Sq m	Pools	Sq m
The Bridge Leisure Centre	Council	2	346	2	346
Forest Hill Pools	Council	2	502	2	436
Ladywell Leisure Centre	Council	2	542	0	-
Loampit Vale	Council	0	-	2	585
Wavelengths Leisure Centre	Council	1	518	2	843
Downham Lifestyles Centre	Council	2	455	2	455
St Dunstons College	School	1	346	1	346
Bannatynes Leisure Club	Private	1	325	1	325
LA Fitness	Private	1	63	1	63
TOTAL		12	3,097	13	3,399

Forecast Requirements

- 4.5 To support service provision, Sport England set standards for indoor facilities including swimming pools. This standard is applied in the SIF model. See Table 4.2 below.

Table 4.2

Facility	Measure	Standard
Swimming Pools	Sq.m of water per 1000 popn	10.99

- 4.6 The SIF model calculates standards for number of lanes and number of swimming pool buildings by assuming a 25m lane length, 4 lanes per pool and 1 pool per building.

Analysis

- 4.7 Table 4.3 compares existing and planned facilities with forecast provision and highlights the difference.

Table 4.3

Year	Sq m			Lanes			Pools / Buildings		
	Existing / Planned	Required	Difference	Existing / Planned	Required	Difference	Existing / Planned	Required	Difference
2007	3,106	2,692	+414	n/a	50.7	n/a	12	12.7	-0.7
2012	3,399	2,754	+645	n/a	51.8	n/a	13	13.0	0

Note: Lewisham has buildings with multiple pools, whereas the SIF model assumes 1 pool per building. Therefore the capacity figures for Buildings / Pools contains data for pools and the requirements contain data for buildings.

- 4.8 The data suggests that the borough currently has sufficient swimming pool water provision, with a surplus availability of 13%. This is due to increase to a surplus of 196% by 2012 with the redevelopment of Forest Hill and Wavelengths pools and the replacement of Ladywell Leisure Centre with Loampit Vale.
- 4.9 3 of the available pools are not council owned, but supplied by a school and private companies. St Dunstons College pool is reserved for pupils use during college hours in term times, but is available in holidays, weekends and evenings, providing a valid resource for residents. Bannatynes Leisure Club and LA Fitness are considerably more expensive than the council owned pools, but are well utilised by local residents. This causes a decrease in the public requirement, but does not affect the geography of the available facilities in the borough.

Spatial Distribution

- 4.10 Map 4.1 shows the spatial distribution of swimming pools in Lewisham.

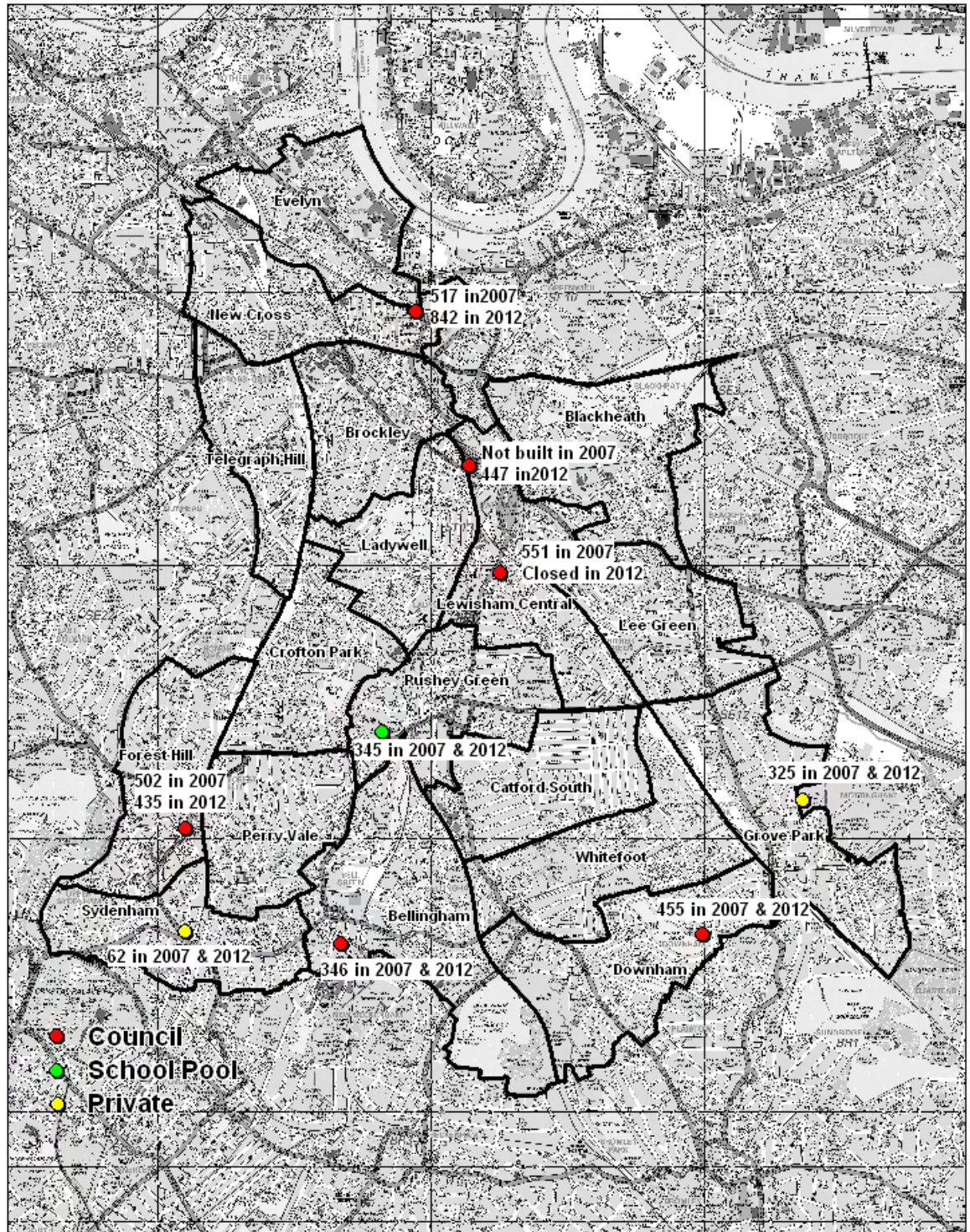
Conclusions

- 4.11 Provision Summary: Adequate quantity of facilities, with an increasing amount of provision in the near future.
- 4.12 Key in the boroughs strategy in the coming years is to increase participation in activity through ensuring swimming facilities are of good quality and easily accessible. This is a vital element of the Council's Physical Activity, Sports and Leisure Strategy – 2006 and work has been initiated with Sport England.
- 4.13 Discussions are continuing to establish how planning can assist in the development of participation.

Map 4.1

Swimming Pools in Lewisham - 2007

Pool Size in Sq .m. 2007 and 2012



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Sports Halls

Existing Capacity

- 4.14 Table 4.4 below shows the current level of provision in the borough broken down by ward (N.B. further work needed with Leisure Recreation Services).

Table 4.4

Ward	Courts	Buildings
Bellingham	10	8
Blackheath	6	3
Brockley	2	2
Catford South	0	0
Crofton Park	10	3
Downham	9	6
Evelyn	1	1
Forest Hill	5	3
Grove Park	0	0
Ladywell	4	1
Lee Green	1	1
Lewisham Central	0	0
New Cross	10	3
Perry Vale	7	4
Rushey Green	4	1
Sydenham	3	1
Telegraph Hill	6	2
Whitefoot	8	5
Total	86	44

Forecast Requirements

- 4.15 To support service provision, Sport England set standards for indoor facilities including sports courts. This standard is applied in the SIF model. See Table 4.5 below.

Table 4.5

Facility	Measure	Standard
Sports Courts	Courts per 1000 popn	0.28

- 4.16 The SIF Model calculates the standard for the number of buildings required by assuming that there are 4 sports courts per building.

Analysis

- 4.17 Table 4.6 compares existing and planned facilities with forecast provision and highlights the difference.

Table 4.6

Year	Courts			Buildings		
	Existing / Planned	Required	Difference	Existing / Planned	Required	Difference
2007	86	68.6	+17.4	44	26.8	+17.2
2012	86	70.2	+15.8	44	26.4	+17.6

Note: Lewisham has buildings with multiple pools, whereas the SIF model assumes 1 pool per building. Therefore the capacity figures for Buildings / Pools contains data for pools and the requirements contain data for buildings.

- 4.18 The data suggests that Lewisham has an ample supply of sports and activity courts, with 20% more capacity than is required by the SIF Model in 2007. By 2012, the requirements are still a long way short of capacity, with a surplus of 18%.
- 4.19 It is not relevant to compare the numbers of buildings as the model assumes that there are 4 courts per building, whereas in Lewisham this average is just under 2. This means that there are considerably more buildings in Lewisham than expected, improving the chances of residents having a local facility.
- 4.20 Key to sports facilities is accessibility and therefore it is important to understand the type of provision supplied. Table 4.7 explores this further.

Table 4.7

Provision Type	Courts	Buildings
Pay and Play	37	15
Private Use	8	5
Registered Membership Use	1	1
Sports Club / Community Association	40	23
Total	86	44

- 4.21 Of the boroughs 86 courts, 37 are available on a pay and play basis, ensuring they are accessible to all residents. 40 are also available to all residents, but are owned / run by a sports club or community association. The impact of private use and members only courts is minimal and the borough would not reach capacity if they were discounted from the data.
- 4.22 It should also be noted that many sports courts are provided by schools. The BSF programme for secondary schools has encouraged shared community use of facilities. This means that some of the provision is not available for public use during the week days, but is available during peak evening and weekend times.

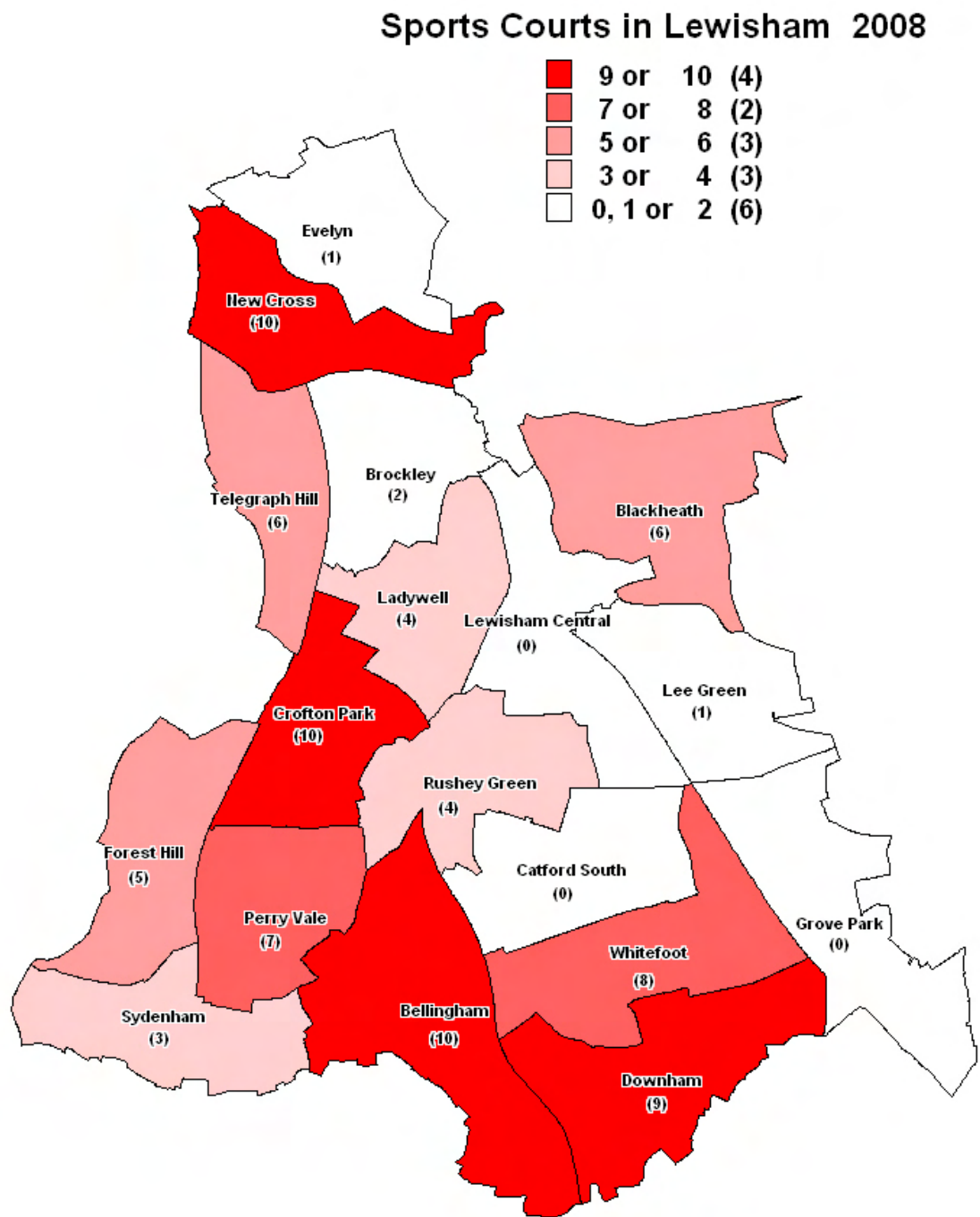
Spatial Distribution

- 4.23 Map 4.2 shows the spatial distribution of sports courts in the borough. Provision is not evenly distributed. There are large areas in the centre and east of the borough that have little or no local provision.

Conclusions

- 4.24 Provision Summary: There are excellent provision levels in the borough, with some disparity in terms of distribution.
- 4.25 Lewisham's Physical Activity, Sports and Leisure Strategy – 2006 focuses on the quality and accessibility of provision. In support of this, work is underway to ensure that facilities are available and used by all sections of society.
- 4.26 Further work is required to source opportunities for provision in wards where it is lacking.

Map 4.2



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Indoor Bowling Rinks

Existing Capacity

- 4.27 Lewisham contains only 1 indoor bowling facility with 6 rinks. It is located in the ward of Sydenham in the south west of the borough.

Forecast Requirements

- 4.28 To support service provision, Sport England set standards for indoor facilities including indoor bowling rinks. This standard is applied in the SIF model. See Table 4.8 below.

Table 4.8

Facility	Measure	Standard
Rinks	Rinks per 1000 popn	0.064

- 4.29 The SIF model calculates the standard for the number of buildings required by assuming that there are 6 rinks per building.

Analysis

- 4.30 Table 4.9 compares current and planned provision to forecast provision and highlights the surplus / deficit in place.

Table 4.9

Year	Rinks			Buildings		
	Existing / Planned	Required	Difference	Existing / Planned	Required	Difference
2007	6	15.7	-9.7	1	2.6	-1.6
2012	6	16.1	-10.1	1	2.7	-1.7

- 4.31 With only 1 indoor bowls facility, the borough falls significantly short of the standard adopted in the SIF Model. Two further buildings would be required to increase the level of infrastructure to the SIF Model standard.
- 4.32 Although it is not considered within the SIF model, it should be taken into account that the borough also has 4 outdoor bowling facilities. Between them they provide 24 rinks for 7 months of the year (approx April to October).
- 4.33 Demand for bowling facilities in the borough is not considered to be high, possibly due to Lewisham's relatively young population. This is supported by the recent closure of a fifth outdoor bowling club in Rushey Green, the centre of the borough, due to a lack of membership.

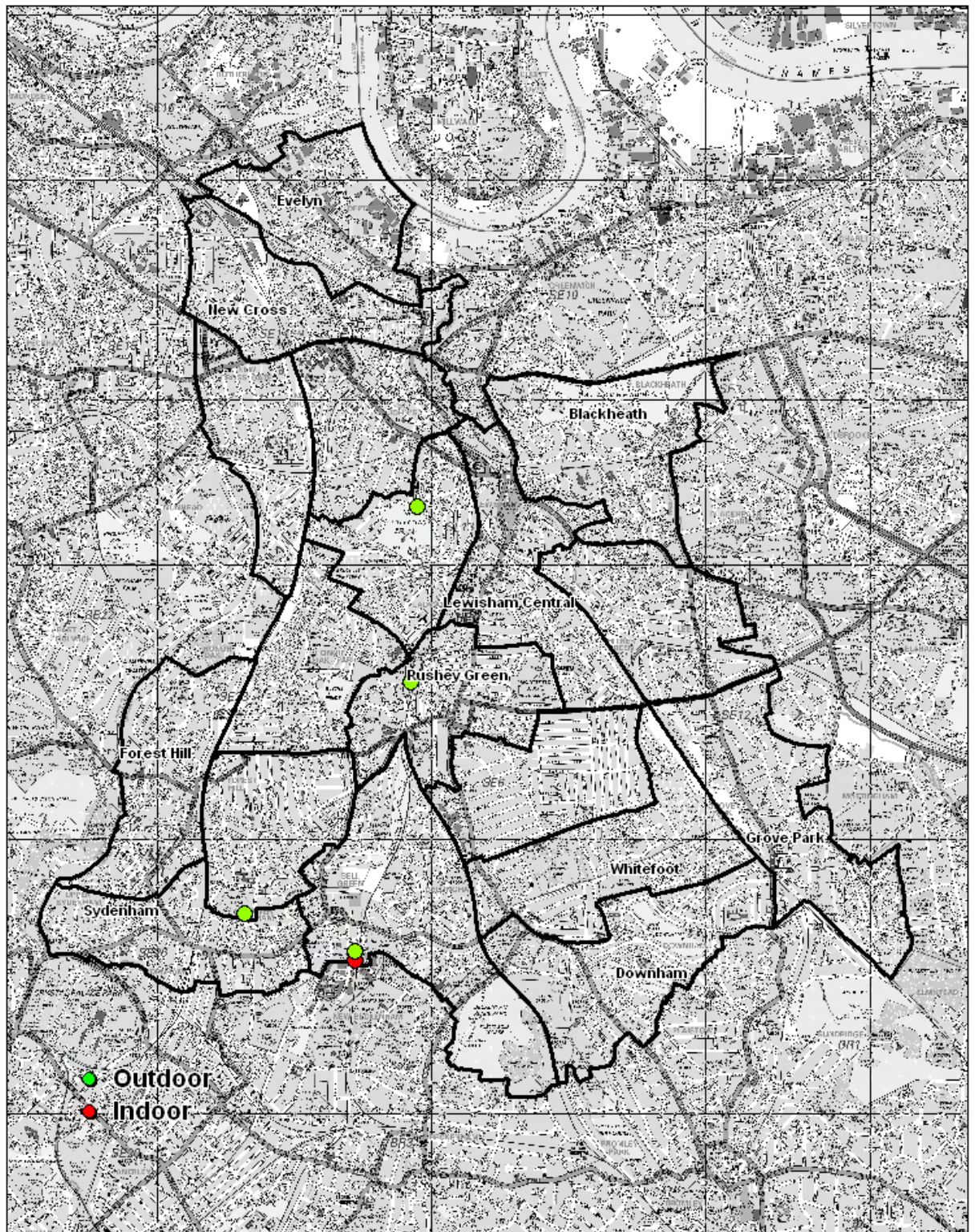
Spatial Distribution

- 4.34 Map 4.3 shows the distribution of indoor and outdoor bowling facilities in the borough.

Conclusions

- 4.35 Provision Summary: There is a considerable shortfall against the recommended provision levels of bowling facilities in the borough. Analysis of the facilities usage suggests that there is a low level of supply driven by a low level of demand.
- 4.36 The Councils Sport and Active Recreation Team will continue to monitor the usage of bowling facilities in Lewisham.

Bowls Centres in Lewisham - 2008



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5 Community Services

- 5.1 It is important to look at the infrastructure that creates a community and offers it space to meet, be active and learn. A lack of such facilities can lead to a number of problems and is significant in the level of deprivation of an area. In some cases crime rates can be affected and there are regular links associated between availability of community facilities and antisocial behaviour. A shortfall of provision can also contribute towards social exclusion for the more vulnerable sectors of the community. Two key elements of community services are studied in this report; community centres and libraries.

Community Centres

- 5.2 The Council actively supports organisations that provide premises for use by the community through the Lewisham Community Strategy and its Community Sector Unit. It is, however, difficult to define a community centre / meeting place in the scope of the study. Centres can be provided by a wide selection of groups, organisations and places of worship and may or may not be funded or part-funded by the Council. In addition to this, meeting space is provided across the borough by businesses, such as pubs, clubs, restaurants and hotels, but this is not considered in the SIF model.

Existing Capacity

- 5.3 The Community Sector Unit hold a Portfolio of Community Premises that can be broken down into 5 types of provision:
- Directly Managed
 - Premises Management Organisation Managed (PMO)²
 - Voluntary Sector Managed
 - Offices Occupied by Voluntary Organisations
 - Stock Transfer Premises
- 5.4 Table 5.1 below outlines the existing level of capacity in the borough.

Table 5.1

Provision Type	Buildings	Buildings with Sq m known	Sq m
Directly Managed	17	15	3,743
Premises Management Organisation Managed (PMO)	12	10	2,706
Voluntary Sector Managed	5	2	557
Offices Occupied by Voluntary	11	4	515

² A Premises Management Organisation is a community association that manages council premises within a localised area and in exchange for the building being handed to the community through Lewisham Council, the organisation takes on a duty to manage the day-to-day operations in line with a formal management agreement. This type of organisation elects a Premises Management Committee (PMC) from its membership to manage a designated community building in partnership with the Community Sector Unit.

Organisations			
Stock Transfer Premises	4	0	0
TOTAL	49	31	7,521

5.5 The Council does not currently hold size measurements for 18 of the centres, although a full audit of this information is expected in 2008.

5.6 The 31 sites with area measurements provide 7,521 Sq m at an average of 242.6 Sq m per site. If the 18 unmeasured sites were of the same average size, 49 would provide 11,888 Sq m.

Forecast Requirements

5.7 The Milton Keynes SPG – Social Infrastructure Planning Obligations, provides the standard used in the SIF model.

Table 5.2

Facility	Measure	Standard
Space Requirement	Sq m per 1,000 persons	61

Analysis

5.8 Table 5.3 compares existing and planned facilities with forecast provision and highlights the difference.

Table 5.3³

Year	Community Centre Sq m		
	Existing / Planned	Required	Difference
2007	7,521 (11,888)	14,938	7,417 (3,050)
2012	7,521 (11,888)	15,282	7,761 (3,394)

5.9 The data shows that even with the unmeasured sites included at the average size, community centre space in the borough is short of that required by the SIF Model by more than 3,000 Sq m.

5.10 This evidence is backed up by looking at the level of need for community space. There are currently 23 active premises requests from a variety of sources, such as clubs, community projects and charities. Additionally, there is an approved waiting list for space of 13 organisations, including 2 educational services, 2 creative services and 8 church services.

5.11 There is concern over a number of the existing stock of community centres as they are located on housing estates and are not easily accessible for large parts of the estate community or the wider public. Often in a state of disrepair, they can be lacking facilities and thus underused.

³ Note : Data shown in brackets is calculated by including the 18 unmeasured community centres at the average size of the measured 31.

Spatial Distribution

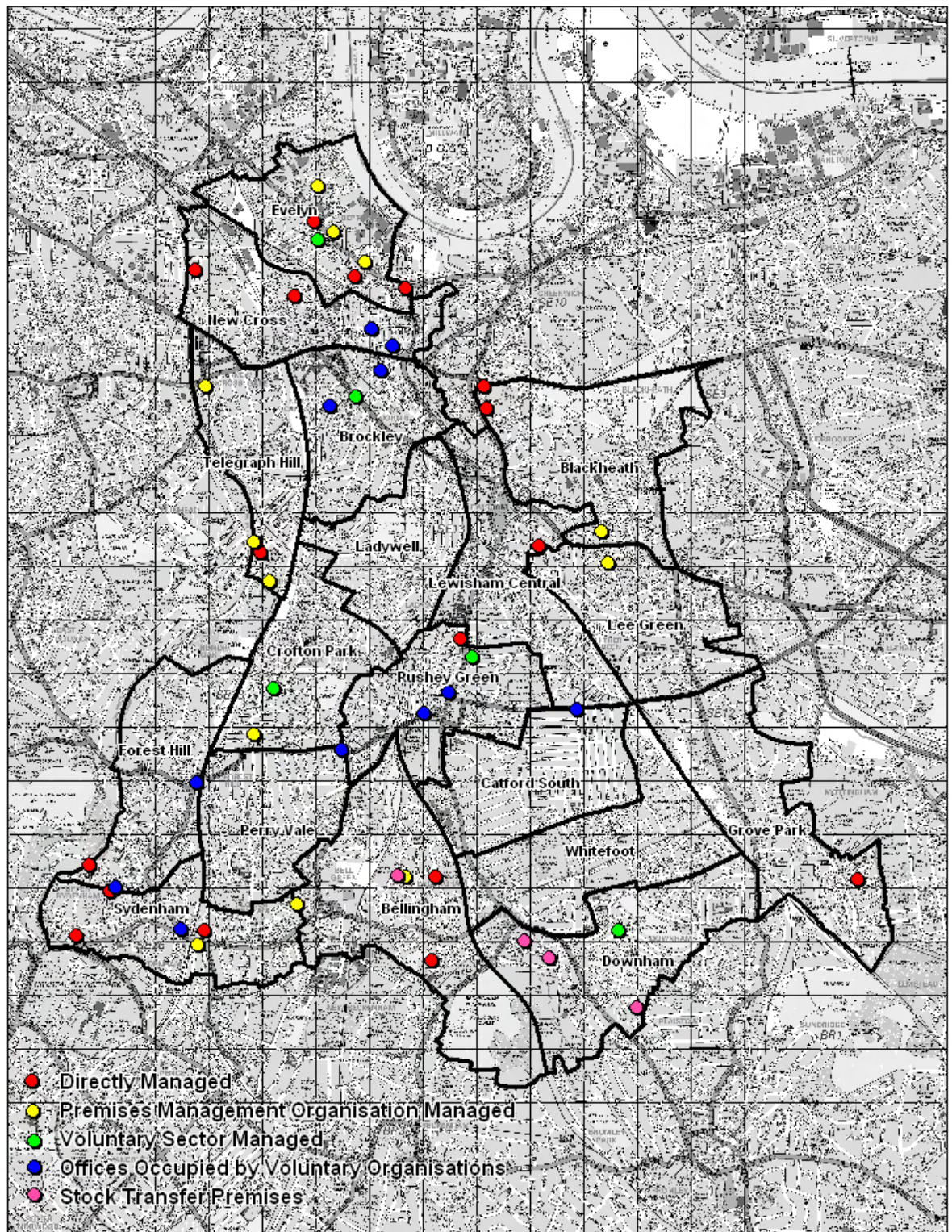
- 5.12 Map 5.1 shows the spatial distribution of Community Centres in Lewisham. Many of the facilities are located in town or district centres, but are largely concentrated around housing estates. There are fewer occurrences in the east of the borough where private renting and ownership of housing is more prevalent than social housing.

Conclusions

- 5.13 Provision Summary: The data suggests that there is a considerable shortfall in the amount of community centre provision in the borough, which needs to be addressed.
- 5.14 Officers consider that much of the existing stock of community centres is underutilised. An audit of usage to confirm this belief would be beneficial.
- 5.15 Assuming that any audit supports the idea of under-use, further work is required to improve existing facilities and equip them with the provisions required to encourage use. This must happen alongside an understanding of the types of use that are required in community centres, e.g. youth groups, faith groups etc.
- 5.16 As redevelopment occurs, there is an opportunity to create more community facilities. This will be carefully monitored by the planning and community centres teams.

Map 5.1

Community Centres in Lewisham - 2008



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Libraries

Existing Capacity

- 5.17 Lewisham has 12 libraries of varying size, spread across the borough. Table 5.4 below shows the current level of provision.

Table 5.4

Library	Sq m
Blackheath	381
Catford	632
Crofton Park	363
Downham	668
Forest Hill	389
Grove Park	275
Lewisham	2,143
Manor House	720
New Cross	431
Sydenham	502
Torridon Road	388
Wavelengths	711
Total	7,603

Forecast Requirements

- 5.18 The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) set a standard in the year 2000 and LTGSIF research has been used to uplift this figure.

Table 5.5

Facility	Measure	Standard
Space Requirement	Sq m per 1,000 persons	26.5

Analysis

- 5.19 Table 5.6 compares existing and planned facilities with forecast provision and highlights the difference.

Table 5.6

Year	Library Sq m		
	Existing / Planned	Required	Difference
2007	7,603	6,477	+1,126
2012	7,603	6,626	+977

- 5.20 With 7,603m² of library space, according to the standards adopted in the SIF Model, the borough has a 17% surplus of provision in 2007. By 2012 this has reduced, though only to a level of 15% surplus.
- 5.21 There is currently a commission headed by the Mayor of Lewisham looking at libraries in the borough. In its early stages, it will run for at least the rest of 2008. The information gathered for this report will be shared with the commission.

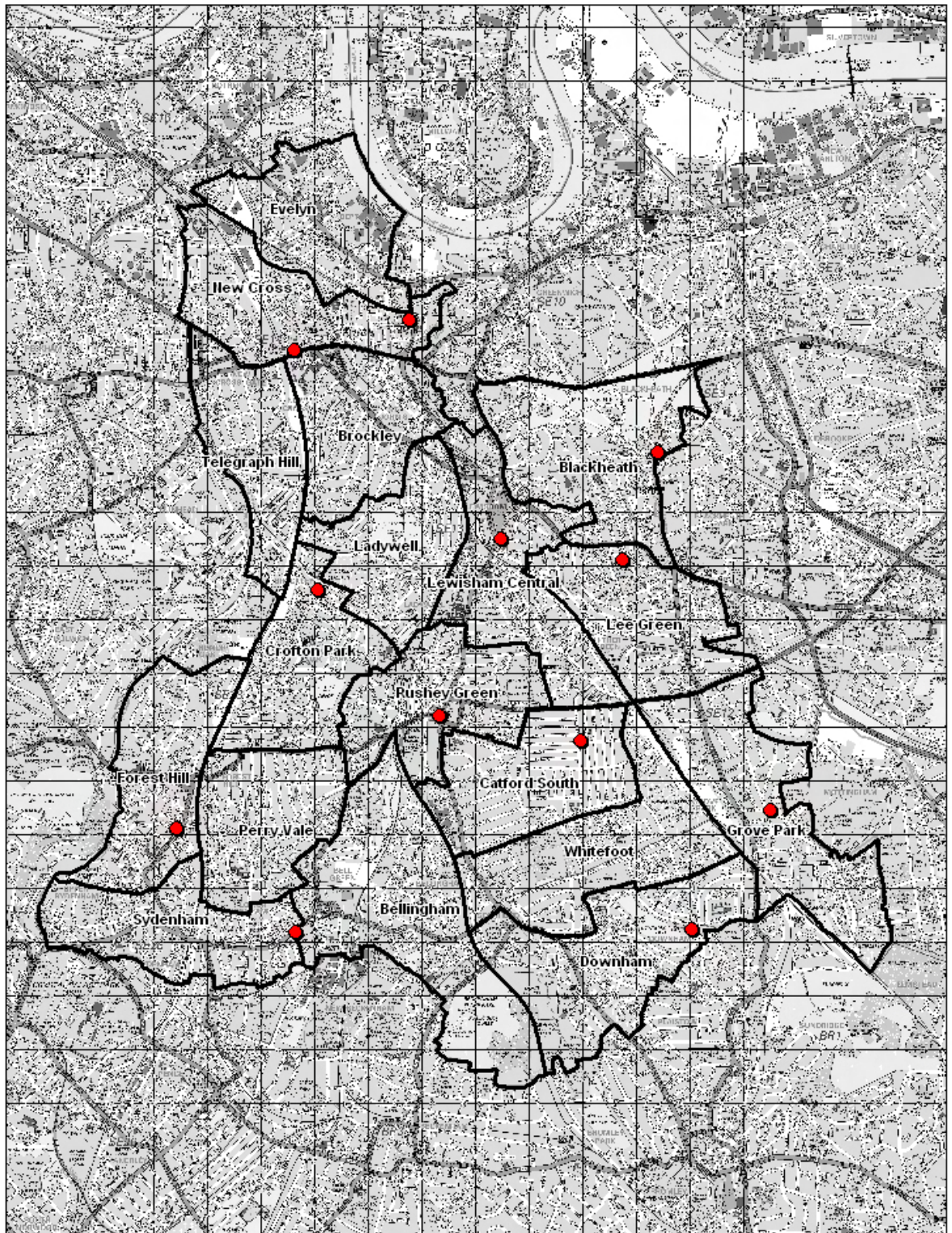
Spatial Distribution

- 5.22 Map 5.2 shows the spatial distribution of libraries in the borough. There does not appear to be any significant grouping of libraries. An even distribution is in place, focussed on the boroughs metropolitan and district centres.

Conclusions

- 5.23 Provision Summary: The SIF Model data indicates ample provision of libraries over the foreseeable future.
- 5.24 The library service is focussed on the quality and accessibility of facilities. Work is planned to refurbish five of the boroughs 12 libraries in the next few years.
- 5.25 The planning and library teams are committed to continued liaison regarding the sufficiency of services, in particular in areas of big redevelopment in the near future.

Libraries in Lewisham - 2008



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