

Meeting	<b>CABINET</b>
Time/Day/Date	5.00 pm on Tuesday, 16 December 2025
Location	Abbey Room, Stenson House, London Road, Coalville, LE67 3FN
Officer to contact	Democratic Services (01530 454512)

All persons present are reminded that the meeting may be recorded and by attending this meeting you are giving your consent to being filmed and your image being used. You are kindly requested to make it known to the Chairman if you intend to film or record this meeting.

The Monitoring Officer would like to remind members that when they are considering whether the following items are exempt information under the relevant paragraph under part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 they must have regard to the public interest test. This means that members must consider, for each item, whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption from disclosure outweighs the public interest in making the item available to the public.

## **AGENDA**

<b>Item</b>		<b>Pages</b>
<b>1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>		
<b>2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</b>	Under the Code of Conduct members are reminded that in declaring interests you should make clear the nature of that interest and whether it is a disclosable pecuniary interest, registerable interest or other interest.	
<b>3. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION</b>		
<b>4. MINUTES</b>	To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2025	<b>3 - 6</b>
<b>5. SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, VIREMENTS AND CAPITAL APPROVALS</b>	The report of the Strategic Director of Resources Presented by the Corporate and Finance Portfolio Holder	<b>7 - 14</b>

<b>6. GENERAL FUND FINANCE UPDATE - 2025/26 QUARTER 2</b>	
Report of the Strategic Director of Resources Presented by the Corporate and Finance Portfolio Holder	<b>15 - 44</b>
<b>7. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) FINANCE UPDATE - 2025/26 QUARTER 2</b>	
Report of the Strategic Director of Resources Presented by the Housing, Property and Customer Services Portfolio Holder	<b>45 - 56</b>
<b>8. CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE STRATEGY 2026-2028</b>	
Report of the Strategic Director of Resources Presented by the Housing, Property and Customer Services Portfolio Holder	<b>57 - 96</b>
<b>9. PLAYING PITCHES, BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITY), AND OPEN SPACES STRATEGIES</b>	
Report of the Strategic Director of Communities Presented by the Community and Climate Change Portfolio Holder	<b>97 - 414</b>
<b>10. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC</b>	
The officers consider that the press and public should be excluded during consideration of the following items in accordance with Section 100(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 as publicity would be likely to result in disclosure of exempt or confidential information. Members are reminded that they must have regard to the public interest test and must consider, for each item, whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption from disclosure outweighs the public interest in making the item available.	
<b>11. PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACT AWARD OF WASTE AND RECYCLING CONTAINERS</b>	
Report of the Strategic Director of Communities Presented by the Community and Climate Change Portfolio Holder	<b>415 - 422</b>

Circulation:

R Blunt (Chair)  
M B Wyatt (Deputy Chair)  
T Gillard  
K Merrie MBE  
N J Rushton  
A C Saffell  
A C Woodman

MINUTES of a meeting of the CABINET held in the Abbey Room, Stenson House, London Road, Coalville, LE67 3FN on TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Present: Councillor R Blunt (Chair)

Councillors M B Wyatt, T Gillard, K Merrie MBE, Mr A C Saffell and A C Woodman

In Attendance: Councillors

Officers: Mrs A Thomas, Mr J Arnold, Mr A Barton, Mr P Stone, Ms K Hiller, Mrs C Hammond, Ms H Panter and Ms B Leonard

## **70. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor N Rushton.

## **71. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

There were no interests declared.

## **72. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**

There were no questions received.

## **73. MINUTES**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 28 October 2025.

It was moved by Councillor T Gillard, seconded by Councillor T Saffell and

**RESOLVED THAT:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 October 2025 be approved and signed by the Chair as an accurate record of proceedings.

**Reason for decision:** The Cabinet (Executive) Procedure Rules required that the minutes of the previous meeting are considered and confirmed as a correct record.

## **74. COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN - PERFORMANCE REPORT - 2025/26 QUARTER 2**

Before considering the report, the comments from Corporate Scrutiny Committee on the Quarter One report were considered in turn.

The Housing, Property and Customer Services Portfolio Holder presented the report.

Members of the Cabinet provided updates to areas of their portfolios. This included Economic Regeneration, Tourism, the Vitality Fund, performance of planning applications, performance of local food businesses, the Recycling Container Project, the Disability Grant for Private Landlords and the Tree Management Strategy.

**RESOLVED THAT:**

The report was noted and members were thanked for their comments.

**Reason for decision:** To make members aware of the progress of the plan.

## 75. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2025 - 2028

The Finance and Corporate Portfolio Holder presented the report.

It was moved by Councillor K Merrie, seconded by Councillor T Saffell and

RESOLVED THAT:

- 1) The report was noted
- 2) Cabinet delegated authority to the Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate to finalise and publish the draft Budget proposals for consultation.

**Reason for decision:** Under the Finance Procedure Rules, the Section 151 Officer is responsible for reporting to Cabinet in respect of the Medium Term Financial Plan. This report is to enable Cabinet to consider the risks and challenges in relation to the Medium Term Financial Plan 2025- 2028 as part of the budget setting process.

Under the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules, Cabinet is responsible for finalising and publishing the draft budget proposals for consultation. This report seeks to delegate that responsibility to the Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance to commence the budget consultation period for the Council's budget 2026/27 earlier.

## 76. REGULATOR SOCIAL HOUSING INSPECTION

The Housing, Property and Customer Services Portfolio Holder presented the report.

Members of the Cabinet commented on the Council being awarded a C2 grading; and expressed keenness to aim higher and tackle key issues. It was added that good effort was made by Officers and Members across all parties to achieve these improvements in Housing.

It was moved by Councillor A Woodman, seconded by Councillor M Wyatt and

RESOLVED THAT:

- 1) The outcome of the Social Housing Regulators judgement on the Council's Landlord Services as set out in the report was noted.
- 2) The creation of an action plan to address the issues set out in the report which once drafted will be brought to Corporate Scrutiny Committee and then to Cabinet, was noted.
- 3) The Housing Improvement Board will monitor the action plan with Cabinet being updated annually on progress.

**Reason for decision:** Cabinet is responsible for monitoring the functions of the Council, within their remit, and contributing to any Council aims, objectives and policies. It is also responsible for determining policies and objectives for any Council services, within their remit, reviewing the extent to which they are met, and agreeing any necessary action, as well as ensuring the effective and efficient management of any services and resources, within their remit.

## 77. LIST OF LOCAL HERITAGE ASSETS: RAILWAY STRUCTURES

The Infrastructure Portfolio Holder presented the report.

It was moved by Councillor T Saffell, seconded by Councillor R Blunt and

RESOLVED THAT:

The Cabinet adopted the revised list of Railway Structures.

**Reason for decision:** Adoption of the revised local list of railway structures would support the aims of the Council Delivery Plan 2023-28 relating to planning and regeneration in providing an effective planning service to our communities, including the protection of heritage assets. This decision is the responsibility of the Cabinet, under Part 2, Section E, paragraph 10.3.6 of the constitution (the adoption of “non-development plan documents”).

## 78. JOINT BUILDING CONTROL SERVICE

The Infrastructure Portfolio Holder presented the report.

It was moved by Councillor T Saffell, seconded by R Blunt and

RESOLVED THAT:

- 1) The Building Control function continued to be delivered by Charnwood Borough Council;
- 2) Authority be delegated to Charnwood Borough Council to deliver Building Control services on behalf of North West Leicestershire District Council and in accordance with the terms of a delegation agreement which is to be agreed by both authorities;
- 3) Authority be delegated to the Strategic Director of Place, to negotiate and finalise the terms of the delegation agreement with Charnwood Borough Council

**Reason for decision:** To extend the period for the provision of Building Control service functions from North West Leicestershire District Council to Charnwood Borough Council for a further five years and three months.

To ensure the costs of setting up the Building Safety Levy collection for North West Leicestershire is funded.

The meeting commenced at 5.00 pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 5.26 pm



## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET – TUESDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2025



<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, VIREMENTS AND CAPITAL APPROVALS</b>	
<b>Presented by</b>	Councillor Keith Merrie Finance and Corporate Portfolio Holder  PH Briefed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	
<b>Background Papers</b>	<u>Council 20 February 2025:</u> <u>General Fund Budget and Council Tax</u> <u>2025/26</u>	<b>Public Report:</b> Yes  <b>Key Decision:</b> Yes
<b>Financial Implications</b>	Appendix 2 provides information on the supplementary estimates requiring approval, while paragraph 3.4 explains the virements.  <b>Signed off by the Section 151 Officer:</b> Yes	
<b>Legal Implications</b>	No legal implications arising from this report.  <b>Signed off by the Monitoring Officer:</b> Yes	
<b>Staffing and Corporate Implications</b>	Any staffing implications of this report are detailed in the body of the report and the attached appendices.  <b>Signed off by the Head of Paid Service:</b> Yes	
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To seek approval of the supplementary estimates, virements and capital scheme movements.	
<b>Reason for Decision</b>	The Council's Financial Procedure Rules, Section 2, paragraphs A24 to A28 stipulate the procedures for virements and supplementary estimates, whilst the Council's Capital Strategy sets out the Governance of the Capital Programme.	
<b>Recommendations</b>	<p><b>THAT CABINET:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>APPROVES THE SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES DETAILED IN APPENDIX 2 THAT ARE ABOVE £10K AND BELOW £250K AND COUNCIL FUNDED.</b></li> <li><b>APPROVES THE VIREMENTS DETAILED AT PARAGRAPH 3.4 THAT ARE ABOVE £100K AND BELOW £250K.</b></li> <li><b>APPROVES THE MOVEMENT OF CAPITAL SCHEMES DETAILED IN PARAGRAPH 4.2 FROM THE DEVELOPMENT POOL TO ACTIVE PROGRAMME.</b></li> </ol>	

## 1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This report seeks approval for virements and supplementary estimates, as required under the Council's Constitution. This is a regular report to Cabinet to enable the approval of virements and supplementary estimates in a timely manner for the efficient operation of the Council. It also sets out proposed changes to the Capital Programme.
- 1.2 This report covers items in respect of the General Fund.

## 2.0 SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES

- 2.1 A supplementary estimate is an addition to the Council's agreed budget and should only be considered after all other options such as virements or savings have been considered.
- 2.2 Supplementary estimates include budgets fully funded by external grants or contributions.
- 2.3 Supplementary estimate levels were approved as part of the Constitution by Council in February 2025. These approval levels are detailed in Appendix 1.
- 2.4 All supplementary estimates above £250k require Council approval. Any above £10k and under £250k that will be Council-funded require Cabinet approval, whereas those fully externally funded are reported to Cabinet below £100k but require approval over £100k.
- 2.5 Table 1 below provides a summary of the supplementary estimates by approval category, with additional information on each supplementary estimate available in Appendix 2.

**Table 1: Supplementary Estimates Summary**

	Revenue £	Capital £
Externally Funded: Between £0 and £9,999 (For Information Only)	-	-
Externally Funded: Between £100,000 and £249,999 (For Cabinet Approval)	-	-
Externally Funded: Over £250,000 (Requires Council Approval)	-	-
<b>Total Externally Funded</b>	-	-
Council Funded: Between £0 and £9,999 (For Information Only)	-	-
Council Funded: Between £10,000 and £249,999 (For Cabinet Approval)	311,057	-
Council Funded: Over £250,000 (Requires Council Approval)	-	-
<b>Total Council Funded</b>	<b>311,057</b>	-

### **3.0 VIREMENTS**

- 3.1 A virement is where one or more budget(s) are reduced to fund an increase in another budget(s). There is no net change in the total budget agreed by Council arising from a virement.
- 3.2 Virement approval levels were approved as part of the Constitution by Council in February 2025. These approval levels are detailed in Appendix 1.
- 3.3 Virement requests require approval by Cabinet if they are over £100k but less than £250k. All virements over £250k require full Council approval.
- 3.4 There are two virements that require Cabinet approval:
  - a) £122,310 – movement from the contingency budget to financial planning to cover the additional costs for agency for vacant posts.
  - b) Increased insurance costs of £141,900 of which an estimated £67,330 is to be recharged to HRA and the balance of £74,570 vired from contingency.

### **4.0 CHANGES TO THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

- 4.1 Schemes in the capital programme are grouped under two categories, and these are:

Development Pool: These are schemes not yet fully costed, or funding sources identified. A full business case is required to be prepared and presented to the Capital Strategy Group for consideration before the scheme can go ahead.

Active Programme: Schemes in this category have been approved (by Capital Strategy Group, Cabinet or Council), fully funded and are being delivered.

- 4.2 Table 2 below provides details of schemes for Cabinet approval to move from the development pool to the active projects.

**Table 2: Movements from Development Pool to Active Programme**

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Fund</b>	<b>Budget £</b>	<b>Comments</b>
UK Shared Prosperity Investment Plan Programme	General	145,859	Approved by Capital Strategy Group – 27/11/25
Wide Area Network (WAN)	General	50,000	Approved by Capital Strategy Group – 27/11/25
Refuse Bins and Recycling Containers (Annual Programme)	General	200,000	Approved by Capital Strategy Group – 27/11/25
Moira Furnace	General	250,000	Approved by Capital Strategy Group – 27/11/25

<b>Policies and other considerations, as appropriate</b>	
Council Priorities:	- A well-run council
Policy Considerations:	The Council's Financial Procedure Rules, sections A24 – A28, set out the details of the virement and supplementary estimates, as shown in Appendix 1 of this report.
Safeguarding:	N/A
Equalities/Diversity:	N/A
Customer Impact:	N/A
Economic and Social Impact:	N/A
Environment, Climate Change and Zero Carbon:	N/A
Consultation/Community/Tenant Engagement:	None
Risks:	This report helps maintain compliance with the Council's constitution and reduces the risk of unauthorised spending.
Officer Contact	Anna Crouch Head of Finance <a href="mailto:anna.crouch@nwleicestershire.gov.uk">anna.crouch@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</a>

## Extract from 'The Council's Constitution' March 2025 Version

### Virement

A.24 **Full Council** is responsible for agreeing procedures for **Virement** of expenditure between **Budget** headings. The definition of a Virement is set out in Section 5 of the **Policy & Budget Framework** as follows:

*Steps taken by the Cabinet, a Cabinet Member, a group of the Cabinet, or Officers, or Joint Arrangements to implement Council policy shall not exceed the budgets allocated to each relevant Budget head. However, such bodies or individuals shall be entitled to vire across Budget heads within such limits as shall be laid down in the Financial Procedure Rules. Beyond those limits, approval to any Virement across Budget heads shall require the approval of the Full Council.*

*A Virement is defined as where one or more Budget(s) are reduced to fund an increase in another Budget(s). There is no net change in the total Budget agreed by Council arising from a Virement.*

A.25 The table below sets out the approval level required based on the value of the **Virement**.

Value	Approval Level Required		
	Within a Budget Head	Between Budget Heads in same Directorate	Between Directorates
Between £0 - £4,999	Heads of Service	Heads of Service	Heads of Service
Between £5,000 and £24,999	Heads of Service and Strategic Directors	Strategic Directors and <b>Portfolio Holder(s)</b>	Strategic Directors and <b>Portfolio Holder(s)</b>
Between £25,000 and £99,999	Strategic Directors and <b>Portfolio Holder(s)</b>	Strategic Directors and <b>Portfolio Holder(s)</b>	Strategic Directors and <b>Portfolio Holder(s)</b>
Between £100,000 and £249,999	Cabinet	Cabinet	Cabinet
£250,000 and over	Full Council	Full Council	Full Council

Notes:

1. In all circumstances Virements require approval by the S151 Officer.
2. All relevant parties listed above must be in agreement.
3. Virements should not be artificially disaggregated.
4. Virement rules apply to capital and revenue.

## Supplementary Estimates

A.26 A supplementary estimate is an addition to the Council's agreed **Budget**. Supplementary estimates can be one-offs, or recurring. In either case, supplementary estimates should only be considered after all other options, such as **Virements**, or savings, have been considered. Supplementary estimates include budgets fully funded by external grant or contribution.

A.27 The table below sets out the approval level required based on the value of the supplementary estimates.

Value	Approval Level Required	
	Fully Externally Funded	Requires Council Funding
Between £0 and £9,999	S151 Officer	S151 Officer
Between £10,000 and £99,999	Head of Service [then reported to Cabinet at next meeting]	Cabinet
Between £100,000 and £249,999	Cabinet	Cabinet
£250,000 and over	Full Council	Full Council

Notes:

1. In all circumstances Supplementary Estimates require approval by the S151 Officer.
2. Council funding includes (but is not limited to) revenue budget, reserves, Section 106, capital receipts and borrowing. S151 Officer decision will undertake an assessment.
3. Supplementary Estimates should not be artificially disaggregated.
4. Supplementary Estimates rules apply to capital and revenue.

A.28 Where in exceptional or unexpected circumstances a Directorate is faced with a material increase in its net expenditure, which cannot reasonably be contained within its resource allocation figure for the year, the **Chief Executive** or **Strategic Directors** must (wherever possible, prior to incurring the expenditure) submit a request to **Cabinet** or **Council** for a supplementary estimate to cover the additional expenditure. The Cabinet or Council will also decide how the expenditure will be funded, e.g. from grant, revenue, reserve, loan or otherwise.

## Supplementary Estimates - General Fund, HRA &amp; Special Expenses (Capital &amp; Revenue)

Capital/ Revenue	General Fund/HRA/ Special Expenses	Directorate	Service	Recurring/ One-Off	Amount £	Funded By	Reason For Request
Externally Funded							
<b>Between £0 and £99,999 (For Information Only)</b>							
<b>Between £100,000 and £249,999 (For Cabinet Approval)</b>							
<b>Over £250,000 (Requires Council Approval)</b>							
<b>TOTAL EXTERNALLY FUNDED</b>					-		
Council Funded							
<b>Between £0 and £9,999 (For Information Only)</b>							
<b>Between £10,000 and £249,999 (For Cabinet Approval)</b>							
Revenue	General	Resources	Business Change	One off	11,700	MTFP Reserve	Scanning of documents held in old council offices
Revenue	General	Resources	Financial Planning	Recurring	26,000	MTFP Reserve	Managed service for Unit 4 to be funded from MTFP, will be added to base budget for 2026/27 (£22,500)
Revenue	General	Chief Executives	Human Resources	One off	17,907	MTFP Reserve	Mandatory Customer Care training sessions across the Council.
Revenue	General	Resources	Exchequer Services	One Off	172,000	MTFP Reserve	CIPFA support with Unit 4 and Exchequer Services
Revenue	General	Resources	Financial Planning/Exchequer Services	One offs & recurring	83,450	MTFP Reserve	Various additional IT costs, eg Proactis, PaySuite and a shortfall in U4 budget. Some of these are one-offs and some recurring. Any recurring costs will be submitted as a budget proposal for 26/27.
<b>Over £250,000 (Requires Council Approval)</b>							
<b>TOTAL COUNCIL FUNDED</b>					<b>311,057</b>		
<b>TOTAL SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES</b>					<b>311,057</b>		

This page is intentionally left blank

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET – TUESDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2025



<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>GENERAL FUND FINANCE UPDATE - 2025/26 QUARTER 2</b>	
<b>Presented by</b>	Councillor Keith Merrie Finance and Corporate Portfolio Holder <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <span>PH Briefed</span> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; border-radius: 5px; text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> </div> </div>	
<b>Background Papers</b>	<b>Council 20 February 2025:</b> <a href="#"><u>General Fund Budget and</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Council Tax 2025/26</u></a>  <b>Cabinet 26 August 2025:</b> <a href="#"><u>2025/26 Quarter 1 General</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Fund Finance Update</u></a>	<b>Public Report:</b> Yes  <b>Key Decision:</b> Yes
<b>Financial Implications</b>	Any financial implications of this report are detailed in the body of the report and the attached appendices.  <b>Signed off by the Section 151 Officer:</b> Yes	
<b>Legal Implications</b>	No legal implications arising from this report.  <b>Signed off by the Monitoring Officer:</b> Yes	
<b>Staffing and Corporate Implications</b>	Any staffing implications of this report are detailed in the body of the report and the attached appendices.  <b>Signed off by the Head of Paid Service:</b> Yes	
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To provide Cabinet with an update on the financial position on the General Fund as at Quarter 2 2025/26.	
<b>Reason for Decision</b>	The Council's Financial Procedure Rules state that the S151 Officer must monitor and control expenditure against budget allocations and report to Cabinet on the overall position on a regular basis.	
<b>Recommendations</b>	<p><b>CABINET IS RECOMMENDED TO:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. NOTE THE FORECAST UNDERSPEND ON GENERAL FUND FOR 2025/26 OF £496K BASED ON QUARTER 2 INFORMATION.</b></li> <li><b>2. NOTE THE SPECIAL EXPENSES FORECAST OUTTURN FIGURES FOR 2025/26 BASED ON QUARTER 2 INFORMATION.</b></li> <li><b>3. NOTE THE GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME DETAILED IN APPENDIX 5.</b></li> </ol>	

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report updates Cabinet on the General Fund spending from 1 April to 30 September 2025, with a focus on significant variances from approved budgets. Due to finance system backlog and delays in closing the 2024/25 accounts, detailed analysis was not possible; therefore, only major variances are reported based on available information and discussions with Finance and budget holders. The finance team is prioritising completion of the 2024/25 Statement of Accounts, scheduled for release in the coming weeks.

1.2 A series of meetings have taken place with portfolio holders, providing an opportunity to discuss the financial positions relevant to their respective portfolios in detail. These discussions have been instrumental in refining the overall understanding of both current and anticipated pressures across the Council.

## 2.0 GENERAL FUND REVENUE

2.1 Table 1 below summarises the second quarter position summarised by Directorate. The current projections are that an underspend of £496k on the overall General Fund budget is expected for 2025/26.

**Table 1 – General Fund Revenue 2025/26 Quarter 2 Forecast Outturn Position**

Directorate	Revised Budget £'000	Forecast £'000	Variance £'000
Chief Executive Directorate	3,013	3,080	67
Place Directorate	2,247	2,359	112
Community Services Directorate	7,951	8,514	563
Resources Directorate	5,432	5,863	431
Corporate & Democratic Core & Other Budgets	506	303	(203)
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES</b>	<b>19,150</b>	<b>20,120</b>	<b>970</b>
Net Recharges from General Fund	(1,714)	(2,055)	(341)
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES AFTER RECHARGES</b>	<b>17,436</b>	<b>18,065</b>	<b>629</b>
Total Corporate Items and Financing	1,638	979	(659)
<b>NET REVENUE EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>19,074</b>	<b>19,044</b>	<b>(30)</b>
Contribution to/(from) Balances/Reserves	(0)	(0)	0
<b>NET EXPENDITURE (AFTER RESERVE CONTRIBUTIONS)</b>	<b>19,074</b>	<b>19,044</b>	<b>(30)</b>
<b>FUNDING TOTAL</b>	<b>(19,074)</b>	<b>(19,540)</b>	<b>(466)</b>
<b>FORECAST (UNDERSPEND) / OVERSPEND</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>(496)</b>	<b>(496)</b>

2.2 Cabinet should note that the position is a forecast and could change by 31 March 2026. The forecast underspend will be transferred to the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Reserve at year-end.

2.3 There are several variances that make up the forecast outturn detailed above. Appendix 1 provides a detailed analysis of the forecast outturn variances by service.

2.4 The 2025/26 budget incorporated savings totalling £573k. These have been reviewed to establish delivery against set targets and updated according to a RAG rating system as follows: green achieved, amber on track to be achieved, red at risk of non-delivery. £19k savings have been achieved (green) whilst £527k savings are on track to be achieved (amber). The detailed proposals are in Appendix 2.

2.5 While there is an underspend, the Council has incorporated mitigations in the budget proposals for 2026/27 to address some of the financial challenges. The challenges the Council faces are significant and common across all local authorities, indicating that the Council is not unique in this regard. The Council's focus will be on mitigating overspends in specific areas, for example, utilising market supplements for the difficult to recruit to posts.

2.6 Whilst suboptimal, the Council remains committed to ensuring financial sustainability over the medium term. The Council's transformation programme will aid in developing proposals that ensure that services deliver value for money. Departments will continue to review budgets to achieve necessary savings, despite the challenging and volatile climate and the rising demand for our services.

### **3.0 SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS**

3.1 Section 106 agreement funds of £6.5m were held by the Council as at 31 March 2025. During the financial year, the Council has received an additional £456k contributions and £91k has been spent so far by the Police Authority, Healthcare, River Mease and Recreations/Parks. A breakdown of the £6.9m balance as at 30 September 2025 is provided at Appendix 3.

### **4.0 GENERAL FUND RESERVES**

4.1 The Council holds reserves that are earmarked for a particular purpose and are set aside to meet known or predicted future expenditure in relation to that purpose. The reserves are monitored alongside the budget as part of budget monitoring.

4.2 Assuming that reserves are utilised in line with the timescales agreed as part of their approval, reserves represent an effective means of utilising surpluses and underspends whilst also ensuring delivery of projects. There is a significant reduction in the business rates reserve, this is due to the Council's strategy of utilising reserves to fund the capital programme. Whilst the balance reduced to approximately £1m at the end of the year, a contribution to the reserve is expected to support future years capital investments.

4.4 Table 2 below summarises the forecasted position in respect of earmarked reserves and other reserves held by the Council. Full details by service can be found in Appendix 4.

4.5 The balance of the business rates reserve is forecast to be £11.8m by the 31 March 2026. Most of this balance (£10.3m) has been committed within the approved capital programme for 2026/27 and 2027/28 and an additional £0.8m in revenue one off proposals.

**Table 2 – General Fund Usable Revenue Reserves Quarter 2 Forecast**

	Provisional Balance as at 01/04/25 £'000	In Year Movements £'000	Forecasted Balance as at 31/03/26 £'000
Service Earmarked Reserves	4,142	(548)	3,593
Business Rates	9,269	(8,332)	937
MTFP	6,716	(722)	5,993
Special Expenses	99	(35)	64
<b>Total Earmarked Reserves</b>	<b>20,226</b>	<b>(9,638)</b>	<b>10,587</b>
General Fund Balance	1,544	-	1,544
Special Expenses	83	-	83
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>21,853</b>	<b>(9,638)</b>	<b>12,214</b>

## 5.0 GENERAL FUND CAPITAL

5.1 The revised budget for the General Fund Capital Active Programme for 2025/26 is £10.9m. The actual spend from April to September 2025 was £905k, representing 8% of the revised budget. The forecast outturn is £3m representing 27% of the revised budget and £7.9m of the budget will slip into future years. The majority of the slippage, £7.5m, into 2026/27, is due to the long lead time in procuring specialist vehicles within the fleet replacement programme.

5.2 Table 3 shows the expenditure and forecast against the budget at quarter two, with a more detailed information in Appendix 5.

**Table 3 – Quarter 2 2025/26 Outturn on the General Fund Capital**

Project	Revised Budget £'000	Actual Expenditure £'000	Forecast Outturn £'000	Variance £'000	Slippage to 2026/27 £'000
Coalville Regeneration Projects	1,061	81	875	-186	250
UK Shared Prosperity Investment Plan	146	146	146	-	-
Zero Carbon	300	0	250	-50	-
Systems/ICT Systems	220	95	220	-	-
Vehicles, Plant and Equipment	7,736	37	237	-7,499	7,499
New Construction or Renovation	1,441	545	1,277	-164	164
<b>Total Active Programme</b>	<b>10,904</b>	<b>905</b>	<b>3,020</b>	<b>-7,883</b>	<b>7,913</b>
<b>Total REFCUS</b>	<b>2,255</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>-1,276</b>	<b>1,276</b>
<b>Total Special Expenses</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2</b>	

## 6.0 CAPITAL PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS

6.1 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Capital Prudential Indicators are a set of forward-looking measures required under the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, designed to ensure that local authority capital investment plans are affordable, prudent, and sustainable. They form part of the statutory framework under the Local Government Act 2003 and are closely linked to Treasury Management indicators. They provide transparency and accountability for capital investment decisions, support strategic planning and risk management and ensure borrowing and investment decisions are taken in accordance with good professional practice.

6.2 The key Capital Prudential Indicators are:

### 1. Estimates of Capital Expenditure

- Forecast of planned capital spending for the forthcoming and following years.
- Shows the scale of investment and its impact on resources.

### 2. Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)

- Represents the underlying need to borrow for capital purposes.
- Increases when capital expenditure is financed via borrowing and decreases as debt is repaid, via Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP).

### 3. External Debt Indicators

- **Operational Boundary:** The expected maximum level of external debt during the year (borrowing + long-term liabilities).
- **Authorised Limit:** The statutory upper limit on external debt that must not be breached without Council approval.
- **Actual External Debt:** The real position at a point in time.

### 4. Affordability Indicator

- **Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream:** Shows the proportion of revenue budget used for debt charges.

6.3 It is a requirement of the CIPFA Prudential Code that these are reported on a quarterly basis. The Capital Prudential Indicators for quarter two can be found in Appendix 6.

## 7.0 SPECIAL EXPENSES

7.1 Table 6 below summarises the forecast outturn position for the Special Expense areas. Further information is contained within Appendix 7 which provides a more detailed analysis.

**Table 6 - Special Expenses 2025/26 Quarter 2 Monitoring and Forecast Outturn Position**

	Approved Budget £'000	Forecast Outturn £'000	Variance
Expenditure Requirement	646	656	10
Precept	(639)	(639)	-
Transfer to/(from) reserves	(7)	(17)	(10)

7.2 At the end of the second quarter, Coalville special expenses are forecast to be £4k under budget, Hugglescote special expenses £10k over budget and Whitwick special expenses £3k over budget, with other special expense areas forecasting minor variances. It is forecast that budget shortfalls will be funded from balances where available or if not recovered through future years budget setting process.

7.3 The major variances are summarised in table 7 below:

**Table 7 – Special Expenses Major Variances**

<b>Special Expenses - Major Variances</b>		<b>£'000</b>
<b><u>Coalville</u></b>		
Cemetery – increased income from burial and monument fees		(1)
Parks, Recreational Grounds, Open Spaces - increased repairs and maintenance		2
Events – reduced salaries and overtime		(5)
<b><u>Hugglescote</u></b>		
Cemetery – increased repairs and maintenance		3
Cemetery – reduced income from burial fees		7
<b><u>Whitwick</u></b>		
Cemetery – increased repairs and maintenance		2
Cemetery – increased water charges		2
Cemetery – increased income from burial and monument fees		(2)

7.4 The provisional balances as at 1 April 2025 and the forecast outturn as at 31 March 2026 are shown in Table 8 below. Two of the current Special Expense areas are forecast to be in a deficit position. The deficits for current special expenses will be recovered over future years to ensure that a minimum of 10% balances are retained.

**Table 8 - Forecasted Special Expense Balances 2025/26**

	Provisional Balances 01.04.25 Surplus/ (Deficit) £	Forecast Contribution to/(from) Balances £	Forecast Balances 31.03.26 Surplus/ (Deficit) £
<b><u>Current</u></b>			
Coalville	46,655	34,508	81,163
Whitwick	(4,934)	(16,280)	(21,214)
Hugglescote/Donington Le Heath	44,645	(42,965)	1,680
Coleorton	348	583	931
Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe and Acresford	(10,578)	7,015	(3,563)
Ravenstone	1,520	(39)	1,481
<b><u>Previous</u></b>			
Lockington/Hemington	2,286	-	2,286
Measham	1,940	-	1,940
Stretton	(1,719)	-	(1,719)
Appleby Magna	2,608	-	2,608

7.5 A list of the Special Expense earmarked reserves as at the end of September 2025 are shown in table 9 below. Appendix 8 gives a more detailed analysis.

**Table 9 - 2025/26 Special Expenses Earmarked Reserves**

	Balances 01.04.25 £	Spend to date £	Forecast Spend £	Forecast Balance as at 31.03.26 £
Coalville	97,480	12,300	21,272	63,908
Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe and Acresford	1,660	-	1,660	-
	<b>99,140</b>	<b>12,300</b>	<b>22,932</b>	<b>63,908</b>

## 8.0 TREASURY MANAGEMENT

8.1 The following outlines the Treasury position and variance to budget of the Council's Treasury Management function. The Council's Treasury Management Strategy for 2025/26 was approved at a Council meeting on 20 February 2025. The Council has invested substantial sums of money and is, therefore, exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of risk remains central to the Council's Treasury Management Strategy.

8.2 Table 10 shows the progression of investment income and borrowing interest as at 30 September 2025.

**Table 10 – Treasury Management Forecast Outturn 2025/26**

	Budget £'000	Forecast £'000	Variance £'000
Investment Interest Income:			
General Fund	(150)	(809)	(659)
Housing Revenue Account	(294)	(436)	(142)
S106 Deductions	-	(271)	(271)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(443)</b>	<b>(1,515)</b>	<b>(1,071)</b>
Borrowing:			
Interest Expenditure	1,920	1,920	-
Principal Repaid	1,297	1,297	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,217</b>	<b>3,217</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net Financing Costs</b>	<b>2,774</b>	<b>1,702</b>	<b>(1,071)</b>

8.3 Investment interest income is forecast to increase from £0.4m to £1.24m (excluding S106 deductions) due to the authority holding higher than forecast balances, which have been mainly invested in well-paying Money Market Funds.

8.4 Borrowing interest expenditure is forecast be in line with budget.

8.5 Table 11 shows a summary of the Council's external investments and borrowing along with the interest rate of return/borrowing.

**Table 11 – Treasury Summary**

	Balance 01.04.25 £'m	Movement £'m	Balance 31.03.25 £'m	Rate at 30.09.25 £'m
Long-Term borrowing	53.8	-	53.8	3.54%
Short-term borrowing	1.3	(0.6)	0.7	2.24%
<b>Total borrowing</b>	<b>55.1</b>	<b>(0.6)</b>	<b>54.5</b>	<b>3.51%</b>
Long-term investments	-	-	-	0.00%
Short-term investments	10.0	8.0	18.0	4.20%
Cash and Cash Equivalents	19.5	(6.5)	13.0	4.27%
<b>Total investments</b>	<b>29.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>31.0</b>	<b>4.23%</b>
<b>Net borrowing</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>(2.1)</b>	<b>23.5</b>	

8.6 Further information on the Council's borrowing and investments can be found in Appendix 9.

8.7 During the reporting period the Council has paid back £0.6m in principle on its Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) loans. It is forecast to repay £1.29m in PWLB loan principle by the end of the year. There is no intention to borrow to replace these loans as the Council currently has the resources to absorb this.

<b>Policies and other considerations, as appropriate</b>	
Council Priorities:	A well-run council The spending from the budget provides funding for the Council to deliver against all its priorities.
Policy Considerations:	None.
Safeguarding:	None.
Equalities/Diversity:	None.
Customer Impact:	None.
Economic and Social Impact:	None.
Environment, Climate Change and Zero Carbon:	None.
Consultation/Community/Tenant Engagement:	None.
Risks:	<p>Although inflation has decreased, the impact of the high inflation means the real purchasing power of the Council's reserves steadily erodes, meaning the same amount of money can purchase progressively fewer goods and services. This erosion of value poses a challenge to the organisation's ability to maintain financial stability and achieve its long-term financial objectives.</p> <p>The budgets will continue to be monitored throughout the year to ensure the Council remains within its funding envelope.</p>
Officer Contact	Anna Crouch Head of Finance & Deputy S151 Officer <a href="mailto:anna.crouch@nwleicestershire.gov.uk">anna.crouch@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</a>

This page is intentionally left blank

**North West Leicestershire District Council**  
**2025/26 Quarter 2 Variances**

Service	Revised Budget £	Forecast £	Variance £	Comments on major variances
Chief Executive	225,330	231,040	5,710	
Human Resources	806,150	853,130	46,980	
Legal & Support Services	1,981,250	1,996,060	14,810	
<b>Chief Executive Directorate</b>	<b>3,012,730</b>	<b>3,080,230</b>	<b>67,500</b>	
Strategic Director of Place	154,560	153,980	(580)	
Property and Economic Regeneration	828,905	854,277	25,372	
Planning & Infrastructure	1,260,020	1,383,880	123,860	Overspend of £126k in relation to Development Management incurred due to elevated expenses associated with urban design initiatives, the "Our Place" project, and related publicity activities.
Joint Strategic Planning	3,870	(32,940)	(36,810)	
<b>Place Directorate</b>	<b>2,247,355</b>	<b>2,359,197</b>	<b>111,842</b>	
Head of Community Services	123,600	120,940	(2,660)	
Community Services	7,235,680	7,698,890	463,210	<p><b>Environmental Protection</b> - There has been no increase or decrease in staff numbers and this relates to the service not being able to meet the vacancy target.</p> <p><b>Markets Reduced Income</b> Lower than forecasted footfall into Newmarket is reflected in the reduced number of traders being attracted to Newmarket, this is also the case regarding outdoor markets on Friday and Saturdays although the one-off special events are proving popular. Two events have needed to be cancelled due to high winds in the last quarter.</p> <p><b>Reduced air quality</b> There is less spend on the equipment budget for monitoring air quality across the district which reflects in part the fact that Air Quality Management areas are now reduced to one in the district</p> <p><b>Increased CCTV monitoring costs</b> This reflects rising operational costs being experienced by the Council's contractor which the Council has a legal obligation to meet.</p> <p><b>Reduced HVO costs</b> Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil has been gaining popularity as a cleaner alternative to fossil diesel. However, recent market dynamics are leading to a reduction in its pricing due to increased global production capacity, technological advancements, government incentives and policy support. As of September 2024, global bunker fuel prices have been trending downward, with notable declines driven by a combination of weaker demand and improved supply conditions.</p> <p>Our ordering remains currently every two to three weeks dependent on demand, and our orders remain at between 18,000 and 20,000 litres each occasion. This frequency and ordering pattern remains consistent with historical ordering patterns for NWLDC.</p> <p><b>Leisure Services Grounds Maintenance</b> - This is down to the increased requests in one-off works from Housing Services for jobs to be undertaken that aren't covered as part of the Service Level Agreement. The team has limited additional capacity to undertake these works and so the majority are either delivered as overtime, by casuals, or they are sub-contracted out. However, the income generated through the charges for these works is greater than the additional expenditure paid out on overtime, casuals and external contractors</p> <p>Leisure contractor reduced utility benchmarking. The reduction in utility benchmarking payments to Everyone Active is down to three elements;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Utility rates for our leisure partner, Everyone Active, have reduced significantly following a period of them being extremely high</li> <li>•Electricity consumption at Ashby Leisure Centre and Lido has reduced due to the installation of LED lamps throughout the building and a refinement of the Building Management System (BMS) so that pumps can be ramped down more effectively overnight and at quieter times.</li> <li>•Electricity consumption at Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre has reduced due to the installation of 400 solar panels and storage batteries</li> </ul>
Strategic Housing	592,206	694,410	102,204	A projected overspend of £72k in Rough Sleeping is mainly attributed to higher third-party service costs and salaries surpassing available grant funding. Similarly, an £86k overspend is expected due to staff costs not covered by the Homelessness Prevention Grant, although this figure could decrease if asylum grant funding is obtained in the second half of the year. Conversely, Housing Strategy and Homelessness shows a £56k underspend thanks to additional received grant funding.
<b>Community Services Directorate</b>	<b>7,951,486</b>	<b>8,514,240</b>	<b>562,754</b>	
Strategic Director of Resources	258,040	261,350	3,310	
Audit	160,600	159,580	(1,020)	
Finance	1,303,670	1,743,100	439,430	The Council has hired agency staff to address its financial reporting backlog, publishing three sets of accounts since December 2024. Efforts have been made to upgrade the Unit4 system to meet requirements. Agency costs are funded from the MTFP reserve and additional investment income, which helps offset these expenses. Some of these costs are also recharged to the HRA.
Revenues and Benefits	1,288,820	1,207,370	(81,450)	Additional £92k summons income.
ICT	1,300,080	1,393,350	93,270	Due to sickness and resignations within the ICT, additional agency costs have been incurred, partially offset by a reduction in staffing costs. Recruitment for permanent roles is ongoing, with start dates at the end of January 2026. A £36K print charge overspend likely, results from insufficient internal charges to cover lease costs, potentially compounded by reduced Council-wide printing; a review with Finance is planned. The £56K overspend is split between 6DG cloud/datacentre contract overlap and general price increases, though costs should decrease as the new contract progresses.
Customer Services	1,114,340	1,094,510	(19,830)	
Business Change	6,280	4,010	(2,270)	
<b>Resources Directorate</b>	<b>5,431,830</b>	<b>5,863,270</b>	<b>431,440</b>	
Contingency	210,504	0	(210,504)	
Corporate & Democratic Core & Other Budgets	295,950	303,210	7,260	
<b>Corporate &amp; Democratic Core &amp; Other Budgets</b>	<b>506,454</b>	<b>303,210</b>	<b>(203,244)</b>	
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES</b>	<b>19,149,855</b>	<b>20,120,147</b>	<b>970,292</b>	
Recharges to/(from) Other Funds	(1,713,876)	(2,055,190)	(341,314)	
<b>Net Recharges from General Fund</b>	<b>(1,713,876)</b>	<b>(2,055,190)</b>	<b>(341,314)</b>	
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES AFTER RECHARGES</b>	<b>17,435,979</b>	<b>18,064,957</b>	<b>628,978</b>	
Net Financing Costs	1,788,071	1,788,071	0	
Investment Income	(150,360)	(809,000)	(658,640)	
<b>Total Corporate Items and Financing</b>	<b>1,637,711</b>	<b>979,071</b>	<b>(658,640)</b>	
<b>NET REVENUE EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>19,073,690</b>	<b>19,044,028</b>	<b>(29,662)</b>	
Contribution to/(from) Balances/Reserves	0	0	0	
<b>NET EXPENDITURE (AFTER RESERVE CONTRIBUTIONS)</b>	<b>19,073,690</b>	<b>19,044,028</b>	<b>(29,662)</b>	
<b>FUNDING TOTAL</b>	<b>(19,073,690)</b>	<b>(19,539,750)</b>	<b>(466,060)</b>	
<b>FORECAST (UNDERSPEND) / OVERSPEND</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(495,722)</b>	<b>(495,722)</b>	

This page is intentionally left blank

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE SAVINGS PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE AT QUARTER 2 2025/26

	Service	Proposal Description & Service Impact	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2025/26 Achieved £'000	2025/26 On Track £'000	2025/26 At Risk of Non Achievement £'000	Comments
Community Services	Community Services	<b>Savings Agreed</b> Deletion of Leisure Officer post at Measham Leisure Centre.	(18)		(18)	0	0	Post deleted and savings fully achieved.
Community Services	Community Services	Deletion of Community Focus post.	(53)		0	0	(53)	Vacant post has now been filled on a three year contract. Savings will not be achieved.
Community Services	Community Services	Disabled Facilities Grant service provision saving	(1)		(1)	0	0	Saving Achieved
Community Services	Community Services	Everyone Active changes in line with contract	26	(38)	26	0	0	Growth provided in 2025/26, savings for 2026/27 are on track.
Place	Property and Economic Regeneration	Funding of regeneration salaries – capitalisation of salaries which provides a saving on the revenue budget	(500)		0	(500)	0	On track to be achieved.
Various	Various	De minimis budgets ranging from £2k to £10k including subscriptions and additional income	(27)		0	(27)	0	On track to be achieved.
		<b>Total Savings</b>	(573)	(38)	7	(527)	(53)	

This page is intentionally left blank

## Section 106 Quarter 2 2025/26 Position

Legal Agreements under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act secure developer contributions to mitigate the impacts of the development on the local area. The District Council holds funds generated from legal agreements on behalf of the Council and third parties, such as the Healthcare bodies or the National Forest Company. The Council then holds those funds in an interest-bearing account until they are spent by the body responsible for implementing the requirements in the legal agreement which secured them.

The table below summarises the position at 30 September 2025 for the various types of contributions included in agreements.

Type of Contribution	Provisional Opening Balance £	Contributions Received £	Contributions Paid to Third Parties £	Closing Balance £
River Mease - Available	302,255	0	(11,976)	290,279
River Mease - Retain	27,042	0	0	27,042
Air Quality	56,598	0	0	56,598
Leicestershire County Council	0	332,664	0	332,664
Police	137,440	0	(11,513)	125,927
Recreation/Play Areas/Leisure	760,974	0	(24,198)	760,974
Parish Councils	0	0	0	0
Affordable Housing	2,523,964	75,000	0	2,598,964
National Forest - Available	14,067	0	0	14,067
Healthcare	944,086	48,545	(43,432)	949,198
Highways	1,604,313	0	0	1,604,313
Network Rail	19,294	0	0	19,294
CCTV	13,035	0	0	13,035
Land & Open Space	98,226	0	0	98,226
	<b>6,501,294</b>	<b>456,209</b>	<b>(91,120)</b>	<b>6,866,382</b>

\*River Mease monies are split in to two pots. Those in the 'Retain' pot is where payment has been made upon the grant of planning permission, but the requirement was for money to be paid at commencement of development. Therefore, until development commences this money cannot be used. If it was and the development did not start, the applicant would be able to reclaim the money.

*Please note that the financial data currently presented is subject to ongoing updates due to a processing backlog within the finance system. Consequently, the figures may not yet represent the most current or complete position. We recommend taking this into account when reviewing the information. Further updates will be communicated once the backlog has been fully resolved.*

This page is intentionally left blank

**North West Leicestershire District Council**  
**Estimated Reserves as at 31st March 2026**

Service Area	Provisional Balance as at 01/04/2025	Forecasted Movement (From)/To Reserves 2025/26	Forecasted Balance as at 31/03/2026
	£	£	£
Chief Executive	100	(75)	25
Human Resources	30	(14)	16
Legal & Support Services	86	12	98
Community Services	1,042	(233)	809
Strategic Housing	394	0	394
Planning & Infrastructure	871	(62)	809
Property and Economic Regeneration	420	(11)	409
Joint Strategic Planning	172	0	172
Director of Resources	80	(1)	79
Customer Services	7	(3)	4
Business Change	549	(118)	431
ICT	0	23	23
Internal Audit	0	0	0
Finance	346	(66)	279
<b>Service Earmarked Reserves</b>	<b>4,097</b>	<b>(548)</b>	<b>3,548</b>
Business Rates	9,356	2,421	11,777
MTFP	6,716	(720)	5,996
Special Expenses	99	(35)	64
<b>Total Earmarked Reserves</b>	<b>20,268</b>	<b>1,118</b>	<b>21,385</b>
<b>Unallocated</b>			
General Fund	1,544	0	1,544
Special Expenses	83	0	83
<b>Total Reserves - General Fund &amp; Special Expenses</b>	<b>21,895</b>	<b>1,118</b>	<b>23,012</b>

This page is intentionally left blank

GENERAL FUND CAPITAL 2025/26 QUARTER 2

Project Name	2025/26 Revised Budget	Actual Expenditure	Forecast Outturn	Variance	Slippage to 2026/27	Funding				Comments
						Grant	Revenue	Business Rates Reserve	Total	
<b>ACTIVE PROGRAMME</b>										
<b>Coalville Regeneration Projects</b>										
Marlborough Square Improvements	61,039	71,556	125,200	64,161	-			125,200	<b>125,200</b>	Final account being settled, this is an estimate. Overspend to be funded from Business Rates Reserve.
Marlborough Centre Purchase and Renovation	500,000	9,212	250,000	- 250,000	250,000			250,000	<b>250,000</b>	Delay in starting the Preconstruction services agreement, balance will be slipped into 26/27
Capitalisation of Salaries	500,000	-	500,000	-	-			500,000	<b>500,000</b>	Salaries will be capitalised at year end
<b>Total Coalville Regeneration Projects</b>	<b>1,061,039</b>	<b>80,768</b>	<b>875,200</b>	<b>- 185,839</b>	<b>250,000</b>			<b>875,200</b>	<b>875,200</b>	
<b>UK Shared Prosperity Investment Plan Programme (UKSPF)</b>										
Moira Furnace	145,859	145,859	145,859	-	-		145,859		<b>145,859</b>	
<b>Total Vehicles, Plant and Equipment</b>	<b>145,859</b>	<b>145,859</b>	<b>145,859</b>				<b>145,859</b>	-	<b>145,859</b>	
<b>Zero Carbon</b>										
Solar EV Hub Moneyhill	300,000	-	250,000	- 50,000	-	250,000			<b>250,000</b>	Scheme to be covered by grant, £50k additional contribution from reserves unlikely to be needed
<b>Total Zero Carbon</b>	<b>300,000</b>	-	<b>250,000</b>	<b>- 50,000</b>	-	<b>250,000</b>	-	-	<b>250,000</b>	
<b>Systems/ICT Systems</b>										
Laptop Replacement	92,000	49,284	92,000	-	-			92,000	<b>92,000</b>	
Replacement Windows Server	50,000	-	50,000	-	-			50,000	<b>50,000</b>	
Wide Area Network (WAN)	50,000	46,168	50,000	-	-			50,000	<b>50,000</b>	
Replacement Audit Visual Equipment	27,554	-	27,554	-	-			27,554	<b>27,554</b>	
<b>Total Systems/ICT Systems</b>	<b>219,554</b>	<b>95,452</b>	<b>219,554</b>					<b>219,554</b>	<b>219,554</b>	
<b>Vehicles, Plant and Equipment</b>										
Refuse Bins and Recycling Containers (Annual Programme)	200,000	-	200,000	-	-			200,000	<b>200,000</b>	
Food Waste Collections	1,154,138	-	-	- 1,154,138	1,154,138				-	Expenditure delayed until 26/27 due to procurement delays.
Refuse Bins and Recycling Containers (Project)	1,674,000	37,114	37,114	- 1,636,886	1,636,886			37,114	<b>37,114</b>	Expenditure delayed until 26/27 due to procurement delays.
Fleet Replacement Programme	4,708,000	-	-	- 4,708,000	4,708,000				-	Expenditure delayed until 26/27 due to procurement delays.
<b>Total Vehicles, Plant and Equipment</b>	<b>7,736,138</b>	<b>37,114</b>	<b>237,114</b>	<b>- 7,499,024</b>	<b>7,499,024</b>			<b>237,114</b>	<b>237,114</b>	
<b>New Construction or Renovation</b>										
The Courtyard Roof Repair	200,000	-	200,000	-	-			200,000	<b>200,000</b>	
Service Road Resurfacing	500,000	-	500,000	-	-			500,000	<b>500,000</b>	
Car Park Resurfacing	164,000	-	-	- 164,000	164,000				-	Work unlikely to be completed in 25/26, will be carried forward to 26/27
Customer Contact Centre Refurbishment	17,450	-	17,450	-	-			17,450	<b>17,450</b>	
Moira Furnace	266,741	259,601	266,741	-	-			266,741	<b>266,741</b>	
St John Ambulance Building	270,000	270,000	270,000	-	-			270,000	<b>270,000</b>	
New Print and Post Room (WBC)	23,000	-	23,000	-	-			23,000	<b>23,000</b>	
Hermitage Recreation Eco Park - Tree Planting	-	15,900	16,000	16,000	-			16,000	<b>16,000</b>	Budget to be carried forward from 2024/25 as part of the closedown of the accounts.
<b>Total New Construction or Renovation</b>	<b>1,441,191</b>	<b>545,501</b>	<b>1,293,191</b>	<b>- 148,000</b>	<b>164,000</b>			<b>1,293,191</b>	<b>1,293,191</b>	
<b>TOTAL ACTIVE PROGRAMME</b>	<b>10,903,781</b>	<b>904,694</b>	<b>3,020,918</b>	<b>- 7,882,863</b>	<b>7,913,024</b>		<b>395,859</b>	-	<b>2,625,059</b>	<b>3,020,918</b>

REFCUS

Project Name	2025/26 Revised Budget	Actual Expenditure	Forecast Outturn	Variance	Slippage to 2026/27	Funding				Comments
						Grant	Revenue	Business Rates Reserve	Total	
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Disabled Facilities Grants	1,614,059	222,381	728,333	- 885,726	885,726	728,333			728,333	
Castle Donington 3G Pitch Development	250,000	-	250,000	-	-			250,000	250,000	
Rural England Prosperity Fund	140,699	-	-	- 140,699	140,699				-	
Local Nutrient Mitigation Fund	250,000	-	-	- 250,000	250,000				-	
<b>Total REFCUS</b>	<b>2,254,758</b>	<b>222,381</b>	<b>978,333</b>	<b>- 1,276,425</b>	<b>1,276,425</b>	<b>728,333</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>250,000</b>	<b>978,333</b>	
<b>SPECIAL EXPENSES</b>										
Coaville Cemetery - Meadow Lane (Broomley's)	22,000	-	20,000	- 2,000	-	20,000		20,000	Project to be delivered £2k under budget	
<b>TOTAL SPECIAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>22,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>- 2,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20,000</b>	
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME</b>	<b>13,180,539</b>	<b>1,127,075</b>	<b>4,019,251</b>	<b>- 9,161,288</b>	<b>9,189,449</b>	<b>1,124,192</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>2,875,059</b>	<b>4,019,251</b>	

## Prudential Indicators Quarter Two 2025/26

The Council measures and manages its capital expenditure, borrowing and commercial investments with references to the following indicators.

It is now a requirement of the CIPFA Prudential Code that these are reported on a quarterly basis.

**Capital Expenditure:** The Council has undertaken and is planning capital expenditure as summarised below.

	2024/25 draft outturn* £'m	2025/26 forecast £'m	2026/27 budget £'m
General Fund services	4.3	3.9	6.4
Council housing (HRA)	5.2	17.2	15.1

\* 2024/25 figures are based on the draft outturn position and may be subject to change.

The main General Fund capital projects to date have included Coalville regeneration project £1.1m, Disabled Facility Grants (DFG) £0.7m and Fleet replacement programme and food waste collections £7.5m. HRA capital expenditure is recorded separately and to date includes New Supply £5.7m, Home Improvement Projects £9.7m and Other HRA Projects £2.8m.

**Capital Financing Requirement:** The Council's cumulative outstanding amount of debt finance is measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). This increases with new debt-financed capital expenditure and reduces with Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)/loans fund repayments and capital receipts used to replace debt. The actual CFR is calculated on an annual basis.

	2024/25 draft outturn* £'m	2025/26 forecast £'m	2026/27 budget £'m
General Fund services	34	32.6	31.3
Council housing (HRA)	54.9	55.4	61.9
<b>TOTAL CFR</b>	<b>88.9</b>	<b>88.6</b>	<b>93.2</b>

\* 2024/25 figures are based on the draft outturn position and may be subject to change

**Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement:** Statutory guidance is that debt should remain below the capital financing requirement, except in the short term. The Council has complied and expects to continue to comply with this requirement in the medium term as is shown below.

	2024/25 draft outturn* £'m	2025/26 budget £'m	2026/27 budget £'m	Debt at 30.09.25 £'m
Debt (incl. PFI & leases)	55.1	53.8	52.5	54.5
Capital Financing Requirement	88.9	88.6	93.2	

\* 2024/25 figures are based on the draft outturn position and may be subject to change.

**Debt and the Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary:** The Council is legally obliged to set an affordable borrowing limit (also termed the Authorised Limit for external debt) each year. In line with statutory guidance, a lower “operational boundary” is also set as a warning level should debt approach the limit.

	Maximum debt 2025/26	Debt at 30.09.25	2025/26 Authorised Limit	2025/26 Operational Boundary	Complied? Yes/No
Borrowing	55.1	54.5	100.8	90.8	Yes
PFI & Finance Leases	0.0	0.0	2.0	2.0	Yes
<b>Total debt</b>	<b>55.1</b>	<b>54.5</b>	<b>102.8</b>	<b>92.8</b>	<b>Yes</b>

Since the operational boundary is a management tool for in-year monitoring it is not significant if the boundary is breached on occasions due to variations in cash flow, and this is not counted as a compliance failure.

**Proportion of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream:** Although capital expenditure is not charged directly to the revenue budget, interest payable on loans and MRP / loans fund repayments are charged to revenue. The net annual charge is known as financing costs; this is compared to the net revenue stream i.e. the amount funded from Council Tax, business rates and general government grants.

	2024/25 Forecast*	2025/26 Budget	2026/27 Budget
<u>General Fund</u>			
Net Financing Costs (£m)	1.6	1.9	1.8
Proportion of net revenue stream	8%	10%	11%
<u>Housing Revenue Account</u>			
Net Financing Costs (£m)	1.3	1.9	2.1
Proportion of net revenue stream	6%	9%	9%

\* 2024/25 figures are based on the draft outturn position and may be subject to change.

**Treasury Management Indicators:** These indicators (Liability Benchmark, Maturity Structure of Borrowing, Long-Term Treasury Management Investments and other voluntary indicators are within the Audit and Governance Committee 12 November 2025 – Treasury Management Update Report – Quarter 2.

This page is intentionally left blank

## Special Expenses 2025/26 Q2 Monitoring &amp; Forecast Outturn Position

COALVILLE SPECIAL EXPENSES	Approved Budget £	Forecast Outturn £	Variance £
Parks, Recreation Grounds & Open Spaces	£ 326,670	328,900	2,230
Broomley's Cemetery & Closed Cemetery	21,330	20,550	(780)
Coalville in Bloom	5,000	5,000	0
Coalville Events	98,340	93,390	(4,950)
<b>SPECIAL EXPENSES (NET COST OF SERVICE)</b>	<b>451,340</b>	<b>447,840</b>	<b>(3,500)</b>
Service Management recharges/Admin Buildings	92,710	92,710	0
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES AFTER RECHARGES</b>	<b>544,050</b>	<b>540,550</b>	<b>(3,500)</b>
Contribution to/(from) Balances/Reserves	31,008	34,508	3,500
<b>MET FROM COUNCIL TAX (Budget Requirement)</b>	<b>575,058</b>	<b>575,058</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>FUNDED BY:</b>			
Precept	(575,058)	(575,058)	0
EMR not required - returned to balances	0	0	0
	<b>(575,058)</b>	<b>(575,058)</b>	<b>0</b>

OTHER SPECIAL EXPENSES	Approved Budget £	Forecast Outturn £	Variance £
Whitwick	£ 22,390	24,900	2,510
Hugglescote	43,620	53,980	10,360
Coleorton	1,100	1,110	10
Ravenstone	1,150	1,150	0
Oakthorpe & Donisthorpe	4,370	4,660	290
<b>OTHER SPECIAL EXPENSES (NET COST OF SERVICE)</b>	<b>72,630</b>	<b>85,800</b>	<b>13,170</b>
Service Management recharges/Admin Buildings	29,770	29,770	0
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES AFTER RECHARGES</b>	<b>102,400</b>	<b>115,570</b>	<b>13,170</b>
Contribution to/(from) Balances/Reserves	(38,516)	(51,686)	(13,170)
<b>MET FROM COUNCIL TAX (Budget Requirement)</b>	<b>63,884</b>	<b>63,884</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>FUNDED BY:</b>			
Precept	(63,884)	(63,884)	0
EMR not required - returned to balances	0	0	0
	<b>(63,884)</b>	<b>(63,884)</b>	<b>0</b>

This page is intentionally left blank

## 2025/26 Special Expenses Earmarked Reserves

Reserve	Balances 01.04.25 £	Spend to date £	Forecast Spend £	No Longer Required £	Forecast Balance as at 31.03.26 £
<u>Coalville - Earmarked Reserve (S106)</u>	£	£	£	£	£
Western Ave Rec Grd Improvements	42,970	5,100	0	0	37,870
Ongoing Grds Mtce - various sites	33,238	7,200	0	0	26,038
	<b>76,208</b>	<b>12,300</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>63,908</b>
<u>Coalville - PPM Earmarked Reserve</u>					
Scotlands Recreation - Repairs to potholes	1,903	0	1,903	0	0
Broomleys Cemetery - Path repairs (sealing)	8,634	0	8,634	0	0
Play Areas (various) - Painting of Equipment	5,400	0	5,400	0	0
Bardon match funding - Cropston drive/Sharpley Ave play areas	5,335	0	5,335	0	0
	<b>21,272</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21,272</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Coalville</b>	<b>97,480</b>	<b>12,300</b>	<b>21,272</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>63,908</b>
<u>Oakthorpe &amp; Donisthorpe - PPM Earmarked Reserve</u>					
Play Area - Painting of Equipment	1,660	0	1,660	0	0
<b>Total Oakthorpe &amp; Donisthorpe</b>	<b>1,660</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,660</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Earmarked Reserves</b>	<b>99,140</b>	<b>12,300</b>	<b>22,932</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>63,908</b>

This page is intentionally left blank

## Appendix 9

### Treasury Management – Borrowing and Investments

#### Borrowing

Table 1 below shows the breakdown of the types of external borrowing held by the Council:

**Table 1 – Borrowing summary**

	31.03.25 Balance	Net Movement	30.09.25 Balance	30.09.25 Weighted Average Rate %	30.09.25 Weighted Average Maturity (years)
	£m	£m	£m		
Public Works Loan Board	51.1	-0.6	50.5	3.41%	13.5
Banks (fixed-term)	3.9	0.0	3.9	0.34%	2.1
Local authorities (long-term)	0.1	0.0	0.1	3.14%	0.0
Local authorities (short-term)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00%	0.0
<b>Total borrowing</b>	<b>55.1</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>54.5</b>	<b>3.48%</b>	<b>15.6</b>

Since the beginning of the reporting period the Council has paid £0.96m in interest on borrowing. The forecast amount to be spent on interest on loans for the financial year 25/26 in total is £1.9m. The overall interest rate on borrowing is 3.48%.

During the reporting period the Council has paid back £0.6m principal on its loans. It is forecasting to repay £1.3m in PWLB loan principal by the end of the year. £1.29m is for the annuity loans whereby regular payments are made throughout the lifetime of the loan. There is no intention to borrow to replace these loans as the Council currently has the resources to absorb this. The budget for borrowing principal repayments was in line to be met.

#### Investments

The breakdown of external investments held by the Council and movement since 31 March 2025 are shown in Table 2 below:

**Table 2 – Investment summary**

	31.3.25 Balance	Net Movement	30.09.25 Balance	30.09.25 Income Return	30.09.25 Weighted Average Maturity (days)
	£m	£m	£m	%	
Banks & building societies (unsecured)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00%	0
Government (incl. local authorities)	0.0	18.0	18.0	4.20%	8
Money Market Funds	19.5	-6.5	13.0	4.27%	1
<b>Total investments</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>31.0</b>	<b>4.23%</b>	<b>9</b>

The Council has budgeted £0.44m in interest income from investments after S106 deductions in 2025/26. Actual income received by 30 September 2025 was £0.98m. We are now forecasting the risk adjusted interest received by 31 March 2026 to be £1.51m and after S106 deductions income to be £1.24m.

The updated forecast of £1.24m will be split between the General Fund (GF) and Housing Revenue Account (HRA). This split will be 65% to the GF and 35% to HRA. The percentage

split is worked using the investment balances for both funds throughout the year as a percentage of the overall investment fund.

Interest forecasts are notoriously difficult to predict and are subject to change particularly in an unstable interest rate environment and constantly changing economic environment. These forecasts are likely to change again over the coming months as such an 80% risk adjustment is placed on anticipated income to avoid overreliance on interest return on budgets.

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET – TUESDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2025



<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) FINANCE UPDATE - 2025/26 QUARTER 2</b>	
<b>Presented by</b>	Councillor Andrew Woodman Housing, Property and Customer Services Portfolio Holder  PH Briefed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	
<b>Background Papers</b>	<b>Council 22 February 2025:</b> <a href="#">Housing Revenue Account (HRA)</a> <a href="#">Budget and Rent Setting 2025/26</a>  <b>Cabinet 26 August 2025:</b> <a href="#">2025/26 Quarter 1 Housing Revenue</a> <a href="#">Account (HRA) Finance Update</a>	<b>Public Report:</b> Yes  <b>Key Decision:</b> No
<b>Financial Implications</b>	Any financial implications of this report are detailed in the body of the report and the attached appendices. <b>Signed off by the Section 151 Officer:</b> Yes	
<b>Legal Implications</b>	No legal implications arising from this report. <b>Signed off by the Monitoring Officer:</b> Yes	
<b>Staffing and Corporate Implications</b>	Any staffing implications of this report are detailed in the body of the report and the attached appendices. <b>Signed off by the Head of Paid Service:</b> Yes	
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To provide Cabinet with an update on the financial position on the Housing Revenue Account as at Quarter Two 2025/26.	
<b>Reason for Decision</b>	The Council's Financial Procedure Rules state that the S151 Officer must monitor and control expenditure against budget allocations and report to Cabinet on the overall position on a regular basis.	
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>THAT CABINET:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>NOTES THAT A BREAK-EVEN POSITION IS CURRENTLY FORECAST ON THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR 2025/26 BASED ON QUARTER 2 INFORMATION.</b></li> <li><b>NOTES THE REVISED HOUSING CAPITAL FORECAST DETAILED IN APPENDIX 2.</b></li> </ol>	

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report updates Cabinet on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) spending from 1 April to 30 September 2025, with a focus on significant variances from approved budgets. Due to finance system backlog and delays in closing the 2024/25 accounts, detailed analysis was not possible; therefore, only major variances are reported, based on available information and discussions between the finance team and budget

holders. The finance team is prioritising completion of the 2024/25 Statement of Accounts, scheduled for release in the coming weeks.

1.2 In addition to the Revenue Account, there is an update on the HRA capital programme for the period 1 April 2025 to 30 September 2025 on the proposed resourcing of the capital programme and the level of Council capital resources available, including capital receipts.

## 2.0 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

### HRA Income and Expenditure

2.1 Table 1 below shows the summary income and expenditure forecast outturn and variance for the HRA which is currently forecasting spending to budget at Quarter 2.

**Table 1 – HRA 2025/26 Quarter 2 Forecast Outturn Position**

	Budget £'000	Forecast £'000	Variance £'000
Income	(21,930)	(21,912)	18
Operating Expenditure	19,164	19,468	305
<b>Operating (surplus)/deficit</b>	<b>(2,766)</b>	<b>(2,444)</b>	323
Appropriations	2,766	2,443	(323)
<b>Net (surplus)/deficit</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	-

2.2 Appendix 1 contains a more detailed table of the Quarter Two forecast position.

2.3 The Council continues to work actively to improve services delivered by the HRA and ensure the impact on tenants is considered in all service delivery. Work on this so far has included:

- Commissioning an independent review of processes.
- Commissioning contractors to assist in delivering against repairs backlogs.
- Working on reconfiguration of IT systems to improve efficiency and facilitate improved processes.
- Preparing a plan for further actions within the service in response to the recent Regulator of Social Housing inspection outcome.

2.4 Variances include:

- £380k forecast overspend on repairs and maintenance, primarily reflecting progress made in addressing historic work-in-progress and outstanding repairs.
- There is a £67k forecasted overspend on supervision and management due to a £233k saving from staff vacancies in some areas, which partly offsets a £341k rise in recharged costs from GF to HRA from higher service cost apportionment and other minor variances.
- £142k interest income received over and above that budgeted, due to continuing elevated market interest rates.

### **HRA Reserves**

2.5 The HRA provisionally has a balance of £20.1m. A minimum balance of £1.0m is maintained to ensure the HRA has sufficient funding to cover unforeseen revenue expenditure, £2.1m is held in Earmarked Reserves and the remaining balances are to be used for capital projects and for the repayment of debt.

2.6 Table 2 below shows a summary of usable HRA reserves.

**Table 2 – HRA Usable Reserves forecast 2025/26**

<b>Reserve</b>	<b>Provisional Balance at 31/03/25 £'000</b>	<b>In Year Changes £'000</b>	<b>Forecast Balance at 31/03/26 £'000</b>
HRA Earmarked Reserves	2,115	-	2,115
HRA General Balance	1,098	-	1,098
HRA Capital Receipts	6,575	-	6,575
Major Repairs Reserve	2,840	-	2,840
HRA Debt Repayment Reserve	6,218	1,290	7,508
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18,846</b>	<b>1,290</b>	<b>20,136</b>

### **Capital Programme**

2.7 The revised 2025/26 budget for the Active Programme HRA Capital Programme is £14.9m. Actual spend at the end of Quarter 2 was £1.4m and forecast outturn is £17.2m, representing 115% of the revised budget resulting in £2.3m overspend which will be covered by budget slippage from previous years.

2.8 Table 3 shows the expenditure and forecast against the budget at quarter two, with a more detailed information in Appendix 2.

**Table 3 – HRA Capital Active Programme**

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Revised Budget £'000</b>	<b>Qtr 2 Actual £'000</b>	<b>Forecast Outturn £'000</b>	<b>Variance £'000</b>
Stock Investment	9,715	511	9,577	-138
New Supply	2,338	65	5,226	2,888
Estate Improvements	500	150	510	10
Fleet Replacement	100	-	-	-100
Sheltered Scheme Improvements	700	-	400	-300
Scheme Lighting	350	-	150	-200
Tunstall System	-	40	40	40
Major Aids and Adaptations	400	191	450	50
Passive Fire Safety	800	369	800	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,903</b>	<b>1,357</b>	<b>17,153</b>	<b>2,250</b>

2.9 Within the HRA Active Projects are:

- Stock Investment – This is a project with a revised budget of £9.7m. Actual spend, as at the end of the quarter, was £0.5m representing 5% of the revised budget and the forecast spend is £9.6m up to the end of the 2025/26 financial year, representing 99% of the revised budget. The slippage of £100k anticipated is for roof replacement for smaller schemes will be carried out in 2026/27, as the aim is to address the larger schemes in 2025/26.
- The New Supply programme with a budget of £2.3m, has spent to date of £65k. The forecast outturn is £5.2m (more information is included within Appendix 2), the overspend of £2.9m will be funded by previous years underspend. Much of this slippage is not in direct control of the Council – for example S106 development delays and delivery partner delays.
- Fleet replacement programme with a budget of £100k. This will slip into future years due to a delay in acquiring the new vehicles.
- Sheltered scheme improvements with a budget of £0.7m and nil spend to date. This is predicted to slip £0.3m into future years due to internal resource not being able to complete the procurement process and deliver works onsite.
- A scheme lighting project with a budget of £350k and nil spend to date is forecast to spend £150k in year and £200k to slip into future years. This project is facing delays due to internal resource not being able to complete the procurement process and deliver works onsite.
- There are overspends totalling £0.1m within the Tunstall System and Major Aids and Adaptations which will be covered from underspends elsewhere within the programme.

<b>Policies and other considerations, as appropriate</b>	
Council Priorities:	<p>A well-run council</p> <p>The spending from the budget provides funding for the Council to deliver against all its priorities.</p>
Policy Considerations:	None
Safeguarding:	None
Equalities/Diversity:	None
Customer Impact:	None
Economic and Social Impact:	None
Environment, Climate Change and Zero Carbon:	The Council is forecast to invest £800k on Zero Carbon Home Improvements.
Consultation/Community/Tenant Engagement:	None
Risks:	<p>Although inflation has decreased, the impact of the high inflation means the real purchasing power of the Council's reserves steadily erodes, meaning the same amount of money can purchase progressively fewer goods and services. This erosion of value poses a challenge to the organisation's ability to maintain financial stability and achieve its long-term financial objectives.</p> <p>Real returns (i.e. after inflation) are and have been negative despite investment returns rising. So even if the Council changed its policy to add interest earnings to reserves it still would not solve the whole problem. Indeed, very few investment returns are beating inflation and in general if you wanted higher returns the Council would need to invest for a longer period and/or with riskier assets. This is not something the Council has decided to do.</p> <p>The budgets will continue to be monitored throughout the year to ensure that Council expenditure remains within its funding envelope.</p>
Officer Contact	<p>Anna Crouch            Head of Finance and Deputy S151 Officer  <a href="mailto:anna.crouch@nwleicestershire.gov.uk">anna.crouch@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</a></p>

This page is intentionally left blank

## 2025/26 HRA QUARTER 2 FORECAST OUTTURN POSITION

	Revised Budget (£'000)	Forecast (£'000)	Variance (£'000)	Comments
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Repairs and Maintenance	9,003	9,383	380	The overspend is due to the progress in addressing historic work-in-progress and outstanding repairs.
Supervision and Management	4,328	4,395	67	The overspend is due to recharged costs into the HRA for support services being higher than originally budgeted. Measures continue to be put in place to address this.
<b>CAPITAL CHARGES</b>				
Depreciation	4,162	4,162	0	
Debt Management Expenses	3	3	0	
Provision for Doubtful Debts	100	100	0	
Capital Financing and Debt Management	1,862	1,862	0	
Investment Income	(294)	(436)	(142)	Interest income related to HRA balances is ahead of budget due to continued elevated interest rates.
	<b>5,833</b>	<b>5,691</b>	<b>(142)</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>19,164</b>	<b>19,468</b>	<b>305</b>	
<b>INCOME</b>				
Rent and Service Charges	(21,609)	(21,609)	0	
Non-Dwelling Rents	(64)	(64)	0	
Garages & Sites	0	0	0	
Other Income	(257)	(238)	18	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>(21,930)</b>	<b>(21,912)</b>	<b>18</b>	
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES</b>	<b>(2,766)</b>	<b>(2,444)</b>	<b>323</b>	
<b>APPROPRIATIONS</b>				
Transfer to/from reserves	1,290	1,290	0	
Revenue Contribution to Capital	1,476	1,153	(323)	
	<b>2,766</b>	<b>2,443</b>	<b>(323)</b>	
<b>NET (SURPLUS)/DEFICIT</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>(0)</b>	

This page is intentionally left blank

## HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) CAPITAL PROGRAMME QUARTER 2

Project Name	2025/26 Revised Budget	Actual Expenditure	Forecast Outturn	Variance	Comments
<b>ACTIVE PROGRAMME</b>					
<b>Stock Investment</b>					
Home Improvement Programme	4,500,000	182,072	4,500,000	-	Internal Repairs Team projected spend of £2.2m with Wates (external building contractor) delivering £2.3m by March 2026.
Asbestos	400,000	-	200,000	- 200,000	Asbestos removals have been completed under the Home Improvement Programme as extensive removals have been identified to a value of approx. £120k. A further £40k will be spent on communal sites. Various other removals will be required on other projects taking the overall expenditure to £200k for the year.
Roofs	500,000	-	400,000	- 100,000	Park View Roof replacement estimated at £400k. Remainder to be spent on smaller blocks is feasible or rolled over to the next financial year.
Commercial Boilers	250,000	-	200,000	- 50,000	£200k to be spent on ad hoc boiler programme by end of the year. £50k surplus as one commercial site for upgrade now included within Zero Carbon grant funding on Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund 2.2, Warmer Homes Wave 3 (WH:SHF Wave 3).
Stock Condition Surveys	65,000	76,998	76,998	11,998	

Project Name	2025/26 Revised Budget	Actual Expenditure	Forecast Outturn	Variance	Comments
Zero Carbon	4,000,000	252,352	4,200,000	200,000	£800k to be spent on remainder of Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund 2.2, Warmer homes Wave 3 has a minimum committed spend of £4.2m for 25/26 with an expected £3.4m to be spent by the end of March 2026.
<b>Total Stock Investment</b>	<b>9,715,000</b>	<b>511,422</b>	<b>9,576,998</b>	<b>- 138,002</b>	
<b>New Supply</b>					
New Supply	2,338,000	64,721	5,226,018	2,888,018	<p>Main Street Oakthorpe - £1,400,000.00 - DA to be signed by close of play Friday 17 October.</p> <p>Standard hill - £1,884,986.00 - DA to be signed, awaiting response from developer.</p> <p>Queen Street - £1,139,666.39 - Due to go out to tender October/November with contractor appointment January.</p> <p>Woulds Court - £10,680.00 - Feasibility undertaken.</p> <p>27 St Saviours - £27,610.62 - Works to commence 13 October 2026.</p> <p>4 The Paddocks - £61,934.33 - 90% completed on site, costs incorrectly allocated against Aids and Adaptations - to be journalized.</p> <p>6 Clarke Road - £179,000.00 - Property purchased August 2025.</p> <p>63 Normanton Road - £123,190.00 - Property purchase August 2025.</p> <p>Forest Road - £360,550.00 - Handover expected March 2026.</p>
<b>Total New Supply</b>	<b>2,338,000</b>	<b>64,721</b>	<b>5,226,018</b>	<b>2,888,018</b>	

Project Name	2025/26 Revised Budget	Actual Expenditure	Forecast Outturn	Variance	Comments
<b>Estate Improvements</b>					
Off-Street Parking	300,000	104,800	300,000	-	
Estate Projects	100,000	-	70,000	- 30,000	External door replacement programme to schemes and blocks. Rollover required to next year and increase in budget to accommodate all sites.
Garage Demolition	50,000	-	90,000	40,000	Budget and costs incurred to be moved out of capital assets and into in-year expenditure
Footpaths and Unadopted Roads	50,000	77,180	50,000	-	Miscoding to budget taking the spend over and should allocated to Off Street Parking
<b>Total Estate Improvements</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>181,980</b>	<b>510,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	
<b>Fleet Replacement</b>					
Vehicles	100,000	-	-	- 100,000	Procurement delays
<b>Total Fleet Replacement</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 100,000</b>	
<b>Other Capital Schemes</b>					
Sheltered Scheme Improvements	700,000		400,000	- 300,000	Procurement still in progress for a contractor to be in place. Works expected to start in some capacity before the end of the year with an expenditure forecast of £400k before the end of March 2026.
Passive Fire Safety	800,000	368,935	800,000	-	
Scheme Lighting	350,000	-	150,000	- 200,000	Procurement about to be finalised on setting a contractor to deliver. Approximate value of electrical works delivered expected to be £150k by the end of March 2026.
Major Aids and Adaptations	400,000	190,589	450,000	50,000	
Tunstall System	-	39,681	40,000	40,000	

Project Name	2025/26 Revised Budget	Actual Expenditure	Forecast Outturn	Variance	Comments
<b>Total Other Capital Schemes</b>	<b>2,250,000</b>	<b>599,205</b>	<b>1,840,000</b>	<b>- 410,000</b>	
<b>TOTAL ACTIVE PROGRAMME</b>	<b>14,903,000</b>	<b>1,357,328</b>	<b>17,153,016</b>	<b>2,250,016</b>	<b>-</b>

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET – TUESDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2025



Title of Report	CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE STRATEGY 2026-2028	
Presented by	Cllr Woodman Housing, Property and Customer Services	PH Briefed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
Background Papers	<a href="#"><u>Customer Experience</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Strategy 2026-2028 -</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Cabinet 28 October 2025</u></a>	<b>Public Report:</b> Yes <b>Key Decision:</b> Yes
Financial Implications	There are no financial implications arising from this report.	
		<b>Signed off by the Section 151 Officer:</b> Yes
Legal Implications	There are no legal implications arising from this report.	
		<b>Signed off by the Monitoring Officer:</b> Yes
Staffing and Corporate Implications	There are no staffing and corporate implications arising from this report.	
		<b>Signed off by the Head of Paid Service:</b> Yes
Purpose of Report	To provide Cabinet with the Council's revised Customer Experience Strategy that has been through a period of public consultation during the period 31 October 2025 to 20 November 2025 and to note the outcomes of the consultation.	
Reason for Decision	The Council's Constitution states that Cabinet is responsible for the development of strategy for the Council and reviewing strategies.	
Recommendations	<b>THAT CABINET:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. NOTES THE OUTCOME OF THE CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN DURING THE PERIOD 31 OCTOBER 2025 – 20 NOVEMBER 2025</li> <li>2. CONSIDERS THE COMMENTS MADE BY CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AT ITS MEETING ON 4 DECEMBER 2025</li> <li>3. APPROVES THE CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE STRATEGY 2026-2028</li> </ol>	

## **1.0 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Council's current Customer Experience Strategy (the "Strategy") covers the period 2022 to 2025. Its core objective is to place customers at the heart of everything the Council does, ensuring that every interaction is accessible, consistent, efficient, and simple.
- 1.2 The Strategy aims to transform how the Council interacts with its diverse customer base including residents, businesses, visitors, partners, and suppliers by:
  - Modernising customer service through digital innovation.
  - Empowering staff to deliver excellent service tailored to customer needs.
  - Improving accessibility for all, including support for those less confident with digital channels.
  - Ensuring value for money by streamlining services and using data effectively.
  - Embedding customer experience into the Council's core values and operations
- 1.3 It builds on previous achievements such as website accessibility improvements, telephony upgrades and Customer Service Excellence accreditation, while responding to challenges such as reduced government funding and changing customer expectations.
- 1.4 In light of evolving priorities and the Council's forward-looking agenda, the Customer Experience Strategy now requires a refresh to ensure alignment with the Council's strategic direction for the next three years. This update will guarantee that customer-centric principles remain integral to our ongoing transformation and service delivery.

## **2.0 CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE STRATEGY 2026-2028**

- 2.1 The Customer Experience Strategy 2026 – 2028 sets out the Council's approach to transforming how it serves its customers over the next three years. The document explains that customer experience is now seen as a responsibility for the whole organisation, not just one team, and is central to the Council's vision and values. It describes how the Council has already made significant progress, including the introduction of digital forms, a modern website and high levels of customer satisfaction, while maintaining face-to-face and telephone services for those who need them.
- 2.2 The Strategy recognises the challenges posed by financial pressures, rising demand for services and the rapid pace of technological change. It highlights the need to harness digital technology and artificial intelligence to improve efficiency, accessibility and service quality, while ensuring that no one is excluded from accessing council services. The document outlines the Council's aims to make every customer interaction positive, accessible, consistent and efficient, and sets out principles such as putting the customer first, promoting digital inclusion and using data to drive improvements.
- 2.3 A three-year plan is included focusing on reducing avoidable contact, expanding digital services, embedding customer standards and exploring the use of AI. The strategy also emphasises the importance of staff training, community engagement and continuous measurement of success through customer satisfaction and service improvements. Overall, the strategy aims to create a modern, responsive and inclusive council that puts customers at the heart of everything it does.
- 2.4 A draft of the Strategy is shown at Appendix One.

### **3.0 CONSULTATION**

- 3.1 It is considered good practice to consult on strategy documents, particularly when the strategy will have a direct impact on the Council's residents, customers and partners. Engaging with stakeholders during the development of a strategy ensures that their views, needs and concerns are understood and taken into account. This collaborative approach helps to build trust, foster transparency and increase the legitimacy of the Strategy, making it more likely to gain broad support and be successfully implemented.
- 3.2 Consultation enables the Council to identify potential challenges, unintended consequences, or areas for improvement that may not have been apparent from an internal perspective alone. It also demonstrates a commitment to inclusivity and responsiveness, ensuring that the Strategy aligns with the diverse needs of the community. By involving residents and partners early on, the Council can co-create solutions, enhance service delivery and ultimately achieve better outcomes for everyone affected by the strategy.
- 3.3 The public consultation period has run from 31 October 2025 to 20 November 2025 using a range of media to engage with residents and communities and staff. A total of 863 responses were received.
- 3.4 In summary, the responses indicated that the preferred ways to contact the Council are by phone or via website/online forms, though email and in-person options remain important. Key priorities include clear information, speaking to a real person, and fast responses. While many rate their online experience highly, some find it only fair or poor due to unclear information and lack of responsiveness indicating room for improving digital services, further details are shown in Appendix Two.

### **4.0 COMMENTS BY CORPORATE SCRUTINY ON 4 DECEMBER 2025**

- 4.1 At its meeting on 4 December 2025, the Corporate Scrutiny Committee made comments which are set out in Appendix Three for Cabinet's consideration.

<b>Policies and other considerations, as appropriate</b>	
Council Priorities:	A well-run council
Policy Considerations:	Relevant policy considerations include the Council's Transformation Delivery Plan, which closely aligns with the Customer Experience Strategy due to its focus on digitalisation. The integration of digital services, reduction of avoidable contact, and the adoption of innovative technologies such as artificial intelligence are all central to both documents, ensuring a coordinated and modern approach to improving customer service and organisational efficiency.
Safeguarding:	None.
Equalities/Diversity:	<p>It is important to ensure that the Strategy promotes fair and inclusive access to services for all individuals, regardless of their background or characteristics. This involves identifying and addressing potential barriers faced by people with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010. This includes ensuring digital services are accessible to all, including those with disabilities or limited digital literacy, by providing alternative contact methods and accessible online platforms.</p> <p>An equality impact assessment has been completed.</p>
Customer Impact:	<p>By aligning with the Council's Transformation Delivery Plan and focusing on digitalisation, customers will benefit from more efficient and accessible services. The Strategy aims to reduce avoidable contact and streamline interactions through innovative technologies such as artificial intelligence, making it easier for customers to get the help they need quickly and effectively. Furthermore, the strategy emphasises fair and inclusive access for all individuals. This means that services will be designed to cater to people with diverse needs, including those with disabilities or limited digital literacy. Customers will have access to alternative contact methods and accessible online platforms, ensuring that no one is left behind and everyone can engage with council services comfortably.</p>

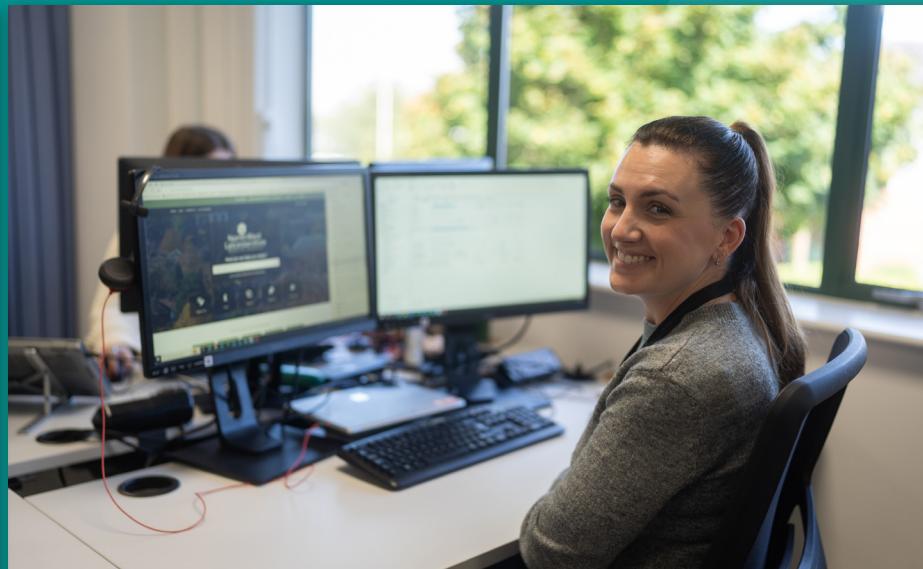
Economic and Social Impact:	<p>By streamlining interactions and embracing digitalisation—such as reducing avoidable contact and adopting innovative technologies like artificial intelligence—the strategy can lead to increased organisational efficiency and cost savings. Improved efficiency allows resources to be reallocated towards service enhancements or other priority areas, potentially supporting local employment and economic development.</p> <p>Additionally, as services become easier to access and more responsive, customer satisfaction may increase, which can further enhance the reputation of the Council and attract investment or partnerships.</p>
Environment, Climate Change and Zero Carbon:	<p>By prioritising digitalisation and reducing the need for physical interactions—such as paper-based correspondence and in-person visits—the strategy contributes to lowering the organisation's overall carbon footprint. Moving services online and utilising innovative technologies, such as artificial intelligence, not only streamlines customer interactions but also reduces energy consumption associated with traditional service delivery.</p> <p>Additionally, the strategy's focus on efficient processes and resource allocation can lead to indirect environmental benefits. By minimising unnecessary travel and physical resource use, the Council supports its commitments to sustainability and zero carbon targets.</p> <p>The adoption of accessible digital platforms ensures that these environmental benefits are achieved without compromising inclusivity or service quality, aligning environmental responsibility with improved customer outcomes.</p>
Consultation/Community/Tenant Engagement:	There has been a period of consultation with residents and staff throughout November 2025.
Risks:	Without a clear customer experience strategy, services may become inconsistent, difficult to access, or unresponsive to residents' needs, leading to frustration and diminished trust in the Council. Absence of strategic direction can result in fragmented processes, duplicated efforts, and missed opportunities for digitalisation, which may increase costs and reduce overall efficiency.
Officer Contact	Paul Stone Director of Resources <a href="mailto:paul.stone@nwleicestershire.gov.uk">paul.stone@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</a>

This page is intentionally left blank



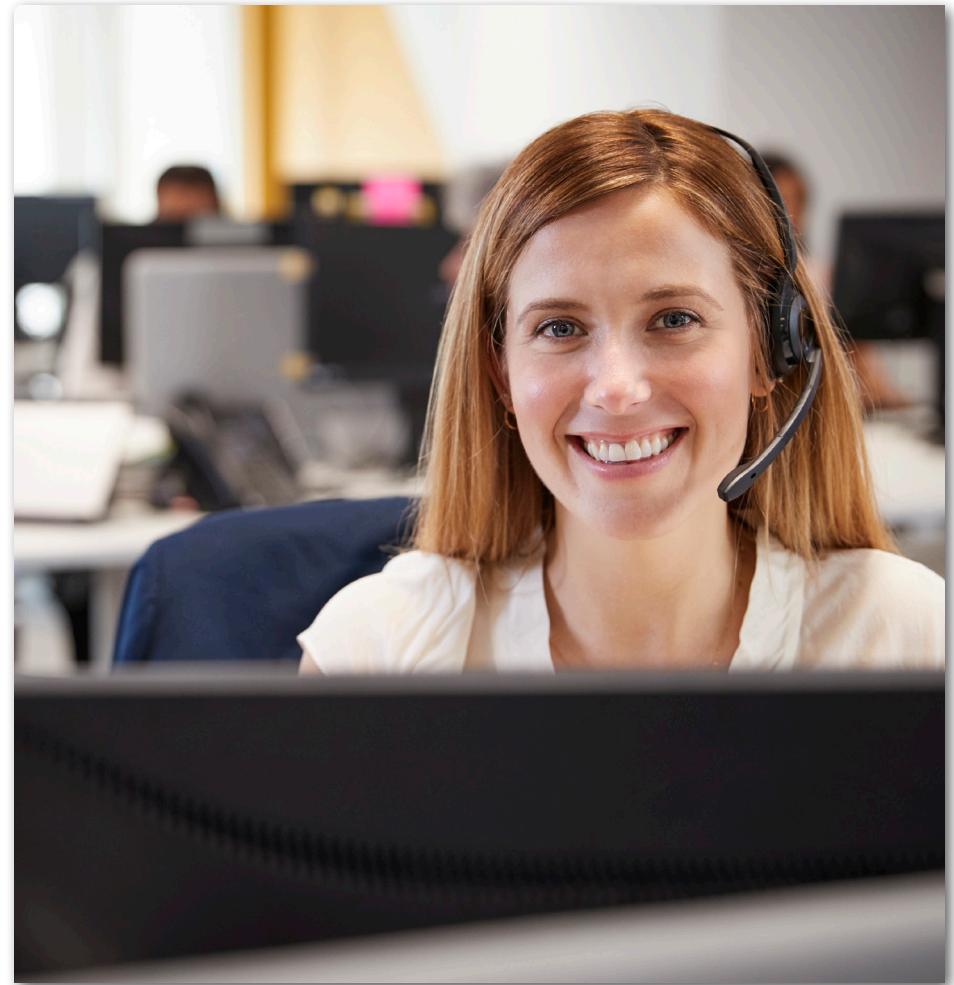
# Customer Experience

## Strategy 2026-2028



# CONTENTS

Forward .....	3
Executive summary.....	4
Introduction.....	5
Customer Service – our journey so far.....	6
Customer Service in numbers.....	9
Current challenges and opportunity for change.....	10
Corporate Strategy – The golden thread.....	13
Our aims, principles, and objectives.....	20
2 The three year plan .....	25



# FORWARD

As Portfolio Holder for Customer Services, I am proud to introduce North West Leicestershire District Council's Customer Experience Strategy 2026-2028.

This strategy sets out our vision for delivering excellent customer experiences for everyone who interacts with the council—residents, businesses, visitors, and partners alike. In a time of rapid technological change and evolving customer expectations, we are committed to ensuring our services are accessible, efficient, and responsive to the needs of our community.

We recognise that outstanding customer service is not just the responsibility of one team, but a shared commitment across the whole council. By embracing digital innovation, listening to our customers, and supporting those who need us most, we will continue to put people at the heart of everything we do.

I am confident that this strategy will help us build on our achievements so far and ensure that North West Leicestershire remains a place where everyone receives the highest standard of service.

**Cllr Woodman**

Portfolio Holder - Customer Services

Delivering excellent customer experiences is at the heart of our ambition for North West Leicestershire District Council. This strategy marks an important step forward in how we serve our community, ensuring that every interaction—whether digital, face-to-face, or by phone—reflects our values of trust, respect, and excellence.

Our environment is changing rapidly, with new technologies and rising expectations shaping the way people want to access services. As an organisation, we are committed to adapting and innovating, making the best use of our resources while ensuring no one is left behind.

This strategy is the result of collaboration across the council and with our partners. It sets out clear aims and practical steps to improve the way we listen, respond, and deliver for our customers. I am grateful to our staff for their dedication and to our customers for their feedback, which continues to drive our improvement.

Together, we will ensure that North West Leicestershire remains a council that puts people first and delivers services our community can be proud of.

**Allison Thomas**

Chief Executive

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**North West Leicestershire District Council (NWLDC) is transforming the way it interacts with its customers. This strategy provides the vision and principles to continue this transformation and in doing so, outlines our ambition and appetite to meet our customers' needs.**

This strategy sets out how we will achieve the best possible experience for our customers, whoever they are (residents, businesses, visitors, partners, or suppliers) and whenever they deal with us.

Effective management of a customer relationship is not only about how responsive, efficient, and technologically advanced services are, but is equally about the emotion, feeling and impression a person experiences when interacting with an organisation.

This strategy enables us to move away from the perspective that customer service is the responsibility of a team or department, instead recognising it is a cross-cutting theme that spans the whole organisation and links intrinsically with our wider plans. It reaffirms the importance of customer experience, and its place within our core vision and values that every officer subscribes to. This strategy raises the profile of the customer, ensuring that our plans, decisions, and business actions, are customer-centric.

We are aware that both the technological landscape and our customers' preferences are changing at an ever-accelerating pace, with artificial intelligence (A.I.) and online self-service becoming an integrated part of our everyday lives. This coincides at a time where resources available to Local Government are decreasing. Now more than ever, we need to harness digital technology to find new, innovative, and efficient ways to enable and empower our customers to interact with NWLDC, whilst at the same time releasing our capacity to support those customers that to see us face to face.

The strategy outlines how we will deliver this change and reinforces our commitment to providing fair and open access to our services here at North West Leicestershire District Council. It is published at a significant time of technological change and advancement, with this change transforming the way we can communicate and serve our customers. This strategy outlines how we will continue to go above and beyond for our customers, and how they continue to be at the heart of what we do.

# INTRODUCTION

As we advance further into the 21st century, the way that the council, people, and businesses communicate and interact with one another is changing at an unprecedented pace. Alongside the continued movement towards a cashless society, the increase of online services, and the increase in people's online presence, the way in which people contact us, and how we contact others is evolving. The realms of social media, improvements with technological advancements, A.I. and handheld devices are transforming how customers interact with each other.

North West Leicestershire District Council, like other councils, central government, and other service providers, has increasingly made more of its services available online. This move towards having a larger online footprint will continue, with people finding it convenient and beneficial to access services in this way. For those who find this transition difficult, support will be provided to help. Where online provision isn't possible, we will continue to provide support to customers to make all our services inclusive.

With Government funding falling, we at NWLDC will continue to strive to get the best value for every penny we receive. As a result of customers increasingly accessing our services online, they help us save money and support us in maintaining the public services that people across the district rely on and enjoy every day.

Our Customer Experience Strategy places our customers at the heart of the organisation. It seeks to modernise and improve the authority's approach to customer service, through investing in material, human and technological resources, in response to rapidly changing customer expectations.

To date the authority has made targeted attempts at improving customer experience through various programmes and initiatives; significant investment has been made in developing digitalisation and the online customer experience. NWLDC is also in the initial phases of exploring the use of A.I., and how it can be utilised to improve the customer experience. The strategy builds upon this previous work to deliver the systematic change required to continue transforming our customers' experience and realise the benefit of previous investment.

This strategy outlines the underlying principles, foundation, design, and recommended approaches to transforming the way in which we interact with our customers. Its adoption will enable systematic change required to transform the organisation's customer services over the 2026 – 2028 period.

## CUSTOMER SERVICE – OUR JOURNEY SO FAR

Over the past three years, we have strived to improve the way we work to meet the needs of our customers. We have implemented some key improvements to the way customers interact with us and how we communicate with them. This includes:

89  
**01**

Introduction of e-forms to help respond to customer queries

**02**

The opening of our Customer Centre in Coalville town centre

**03**

Maintained our Customer Service (CSE) accreditation

# CUSTOMER SERVICE – OUR JOURNEY SO FAR

## Digital e-forms

As part of the previous Customer Experience Strategy, we set out an ambitious goal to develop a programme of Digital Transformation across the council, reviewing customer facing process / transactions end to end. This included the continued development of digital e-forms. Created and maintained by our Customer Experience Team, we now use a wide array of digital e-forms; a valuable resource customers are able to use daily. Instead of making a call to our Customer Contact Centre, customers can quickly fill out one of our e-forms. These forms have a wide range of functions including requesting for replacement recycling containers to Council tax change of occupancy, which enables the Customer Services team to:

- Be freed up, empowering them to serve more residents, which enables a more efficient and effective service
- Support all residents who prefer online communication in comparison to face to face and phone conversations
- Support residents who are unable to reach our Customer Centre due to geographic location within the district

Overall, e-forms enable us to reach a wider array of customers, whilst still delivering the high-quality customer service standards we aspire to reach for all residents.

## Our online and digital services

Our website is modern and fully mobile-responsive, meaning people can access it easily from any digital device and receive the same great experience. Our website is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and provides easy access to a wealth of information and an ever-increasing number of forms thanks to our Customer Experience Team.

In 2024/25 we had more than 2.1 million unique page views on our website and more than 65,000 online e-forms were completed.

In addition, we share information through a range of social media platforms, most predominantly Facebook. Across Facebook, throughout the 2024/25 period, our posts were viewed by 2.7 million people.



# CUSTOMER SERVICE – OUR JOURNEY SO FAR

## Our Customer Centre

Our Customer Services Team deals with a wide range of face-to-face enquiries. In recent years, this team has embraced and used a wide range of digital forms and online provision whilst continuing to deliver excellent customer service. The team also answers a wide range of questions from people who visit the Customer Centre, on behalf of services ranging from waste services, elections and housing benefits.

In 2024/25, 8,088 people visited the Customer Centre. This number, along with those of previous years, reflects a consistent increase in the number of people visiting the centre in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, with 8,495 visiting in 2023/24, 6,009 people visiting in 2022/23, and 2,239 in the 2021/22 year. These numbers represent the vital role the Customer Centre and Customer Services team play in serving residents across the district, providing excellent customer service.

## Our customer care commitments

In December 2024, the Customer Services Team was reassessed and maintained the Customer Service Excellence (CSE) accreditation. Customer Service Excellence is designed to:

- Drive continuous improvement for customer-facing services
- Enable individuals and teams to explore and acquire new skills in the area of customer focus and customer engagement
- Offer an independent validation of achievement

The achievement of this accreditation highlights the commitment of NWLDC to delivering high quality, customer-focused services.

## Our customer satisfaction

NWLDC has consistently maintained high levels of customer satisfaction. This is reflected in our 2024/25 figures, achieving 94% satisfaction across phone and face to face conversations.

However, there is always more we can do to improve so we will consider how we can make it easier and simpler for our customers to give feedback.



## CUSTOMER SERVICE IN NUMBERS

The diagram below shows the number of interactions our customers have had with us in 2024/25:



**72,845**

calls to the Customer Centre



**2,100,000**

website page visits



**8,088**

visits to the Customer Centre



**65,047**

completed online forms



**94%**

customer satisfaction

**2,700,000**

views on Facebook

# CURRENT CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITY FOR CHANGE

The council faces several challenges in the coming years, which also present us with an opportunity to change the way we do things.

## Financial

NWLDC's financial position has a balanced budget proposed for the 2025/26 financial year. However, there is a funding gap over the medium term.

The council is experiencing increased demand across several key services. For instance, there is a growing need for housing services, driven by rising homelessness and the demand for affordable housing.

We are also seeing higher demand for waste management services, particularly with the introduction of food waste collections.

Despite the balanced budget, NWLDC is grappling with reduced central government funding, necessitating a 2.5% increase in council tax to maintain service levels as well as finding significant savings. Additionally, inflationary pressures and increased demand for services are straining resources.

These challenges highlight the need for strategic financial planning to ensure the council can continue to deliver essential services while navigating fiscal constraints.

## Technology

We must harness the opportunities that digital technology provides us across our organisation.

Technology has, and will continue to advance at a significant pace, providing opportunities to streamline the ways we work, and providing customers with self-serve opportunities at a time and place that meets their needs.

Using technology, including software such as Microsoft Teams and online shopping has completely changed the ways in which we all work, live, and operate, with no sign of this slowing down. As indicated in a report by Statista, around 60 million users access the internet in the UK, with this number projected to rise to 63 million by 2028.

<sup>1</sup>Ani Petrosyan, "Internet usage in the United Kingdom (UK) – Statistics & Facts" Statistica, Dec 19, 2023, accessed Mar 12, 2025, <https://www.statista.com/topics/3246/internet-use-in-the-uk/#topicOverview>

This trend is reflected throughout NWLDC in the ways our customers use our technology and digital services, with customers becoming accustomed to the benefits and flexibility that 24/7/365 online services provide them. This means they can access the things they require at a time and place that suits their individual needs.

# CURRENT CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITY FOR CHANGE

## Artificial intelligence (A.I.)

Alongside the progress that is being made in technological advancements, A.I., and the development of Large Language Models (LLM) such as Microsoft CoPilot and Chat GPT is transforming the digital world as we know it.

NWLDC is currently undertaking an evaluation of the ways in which we can best use A.I. to best serve our customers.

Learning from work done by other authorities, including exploring the potential of using A.I. within the Customer Centre, we are optimistic that A.I. software can be used to significantly aid the customer experience.

Ultimately, this technology will empower us to become a more efficient council, enabling us to provide outstanding customer service to more of our customers in the coming years.

## Data and processes

The Council sits in the middle of a web of information. The range and diversity of our services generates a huge quantity of data held about our customers across a variety of back-office systems.

Understanding our data is hugely beneficial in helping us to; make services more targeted and effective, allocate resources to where we can have the biggest impact and save officer time in front and back-office processes, as well as providing insight into the cause of and solutions to costly social problems. We will consider ways to use this untapped information source when redesigning and developing our processes to attain the outlined benefits

## Customer needs

Customer needs, expectations and priorities are ever evolving. These changes in needs pose a number of specific challenges that we will need to address to ensure that we can continue to provide a positive customer experience.

As we strive to offer those who can self-serve an opportunity to do so 24/7, are also seeing an increasing number of complex and cross cutting issues that people need our help to address.

# CURRENT CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITY FOR CHANGE

## New ways of working

Alongside the new offices at Whitwick Business Centre, we have a councillor hub at Stenson House where our public meetings take place and our Customer Centre at the heart of Coalville Town Centre, ensuring we can make face to face contact with residents across the district.

Hybrid working, is now also the norm for NWLDC employees. We encourage our staff to work in an environment that works best for them, ensuring they can be as productive as possible and serve customers well.

↗

## The Transformation Team

Our Transformation Team plays a pivotal role in supporting opportunities for change. Established in 2024, this team focusses on opportunities for change, creating a more efficient and value for money council which delivers for the community it serves.

The team works with all of the council's services to make sure that the impact on the customer is being taken into account. This includes support for the Improving Customer Contact and focusses on transforming the way we interact with our customers, reducing avoidable contact and making our services more efficient and effective.



# CORPORATE STRATEGY – THE GOLDEN THREAD

NWLDC's Council Delivery Plan (CDP) was refreshed and updated following the district council elections in May 2023. The CDP outlines four priorities that are key to the district's success:

1. **Planning and regeneration** – Economic growth and physical development of our district.
2. **Communities and housing** – Looking after our tenants and keeping our community safe.
3. **Clean, green and zero carbon** – Looking after the environment we live in.
4. **A well-run council** – Making sure that our services are provided in a positive and friendly way, that we provide good value for money and that our finances are in good order.

Underpinning these priorities, our values have remained consistent.

These are:

- **Trust** – We are honest, fair and transparent and we value trust
- **Respect** – We respect each other and our customers in a diverse, professional and supportive environment
- **Excellence** – We will always work to be the best that we can be
- **Pride** – We are proud of the role we play in making North West Leicestershire a happy, healthy and vibrant place to live and work
- **Growth** – We will work together to grow and continue to improve.

Reflecting the refreshed CDP, Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) have been refocused.

The development of the Customer Experience Strategy will support NWLDC to achieve its aims under each of these priorities.

We also recognise that there are financial challenges for local government and that this will continue. Consequently, we will use these challenges as an opportunity to transform NWLDC, becoming a more efficient, effective, and innovative organisation.



# CORPORATE STRATEGY – THE GOLDEN THREAD

## ICT Roadmap and Technology Strategy (2022 – 2027)

The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) strategy sets out a medium to long term vision of how ICT will develop to support the council's business requirements, its future vision for its customers, and its members.

Setting out the principles and objectives required to create a modern workplace digital environment, this strategy pulls together integrated data, enabling automated transactions and a council which is 'open' 24/7/365 for self-service.

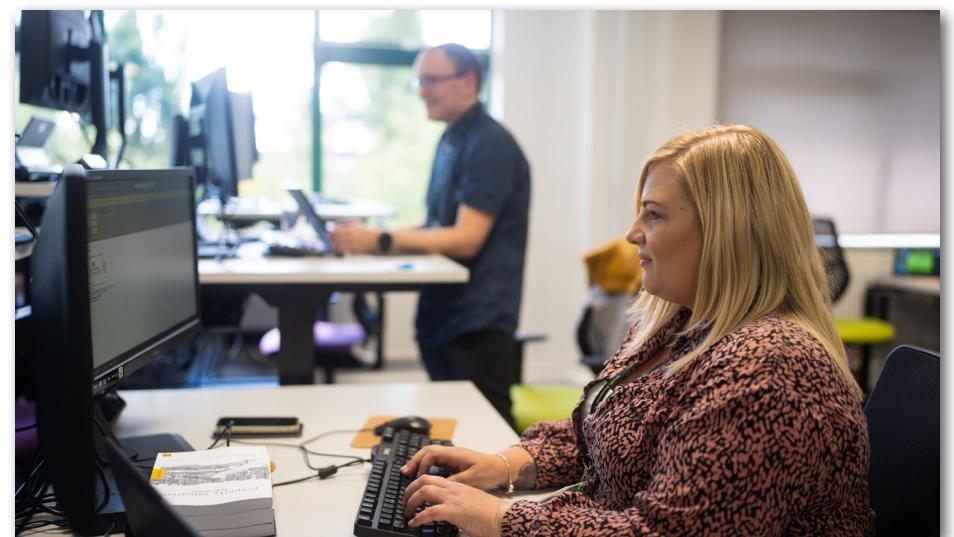
The ICT roadmap is also the link between the People Plan, the Customer Experience Strategy, the Future Operating Model and the Council Delivery Plan.

NWLDC makes full use of technology and data to meet the organisation's needs, adopting a more commercial approach where possible.

In line with the 'well-run council' priority in our CDP, we aim to ensure our services provide good value for money, with each penny being spent as efficiently as possible.

The ICT strategy is purposely designed to be 'built for change' and will be refined, updated and changed as the council's needs develop in the coming years to.

Looking back at the Covid-19 pandemic, it has proven that change, improvements and efficiencies are possible and are required to create and ensure an agile and flexible council that benefits members of staff and those living throughout the district.



# CORPORATE STRATEGY – THE GOLDEN THREAD

## The People Plan

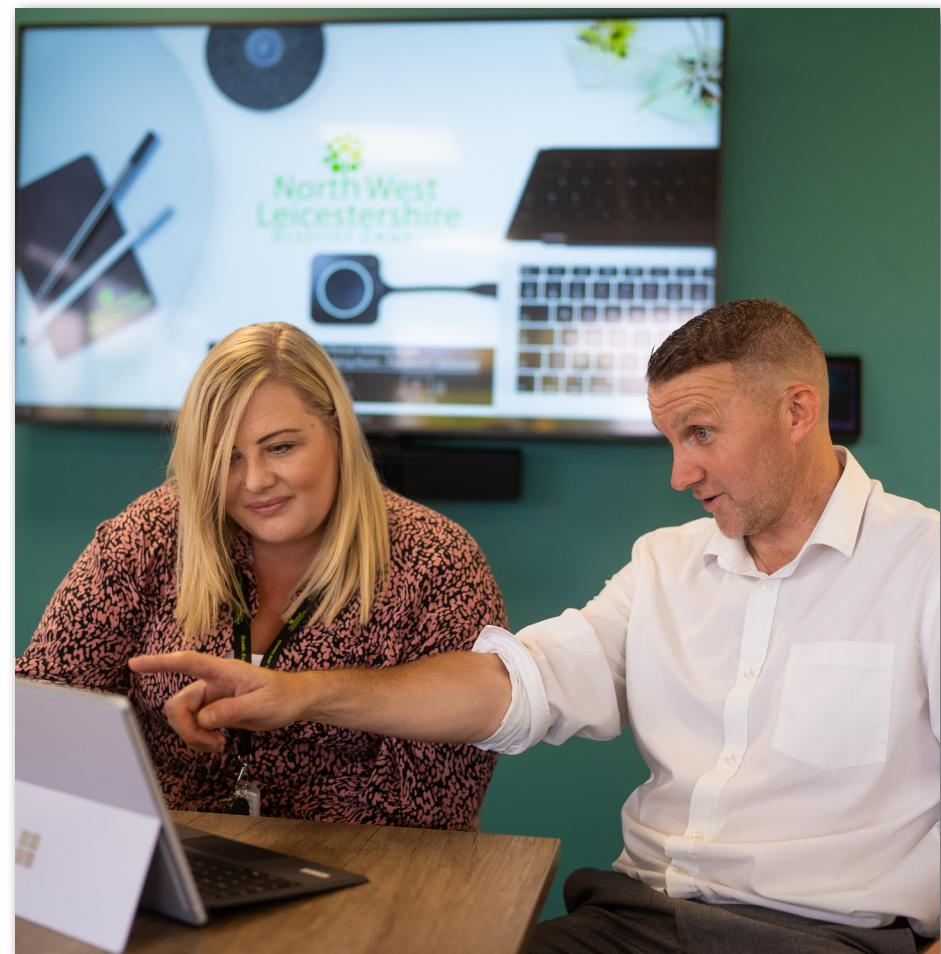
The People Plan sets out NWLDC's ambition to ensure we have a sustainable, ambitious, effective and efficient workforce that reflects the local communities we serve.

Building a culture of empowerment that encourages innovation and rewards excellent service will enable the council to deliver its ambitions as set out within the delivery plan.

The plan focusses on five key thematic areas:

- Being and employer of choice
- Developing and supporting staff
- Leadership
- Happy and healthy workforce
- Communicate and listen.

The People Plan is part of a wider organisation development approach seeking to effect cultural change and performance improvement across the council.



# CORPORATE STRATEGY – THE GOLDEN THREAD

## Our customers

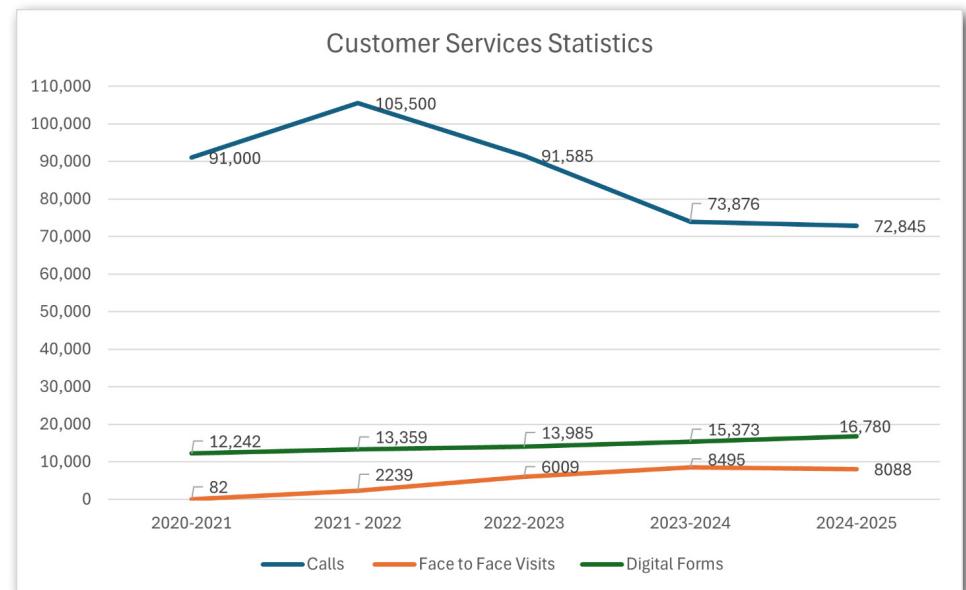
As of 2023, North West Leicestershire has more 110,000 residents. Our customers have a wide and varying range of needs, with 17.8% of our residents aged 65+. Almost 63% are of working age (16-64) and 17.7% are 15 and under.

Since the pandemic we have seen a significant change in the way our customers access our services. Alongside the opportunity for customers to engage face-to-face with staff at our Customer Centre and contacting us over the phone, our Customer Experience Team has played a significant role in encouraging and creating alternative methods of contact for our residents. One example of this is the use of e-forms.

In 2024/25, Customer Services receiving 72,845 calls, served 8,088 customers at our Customer Centre, and completed 16,780 e-forms.

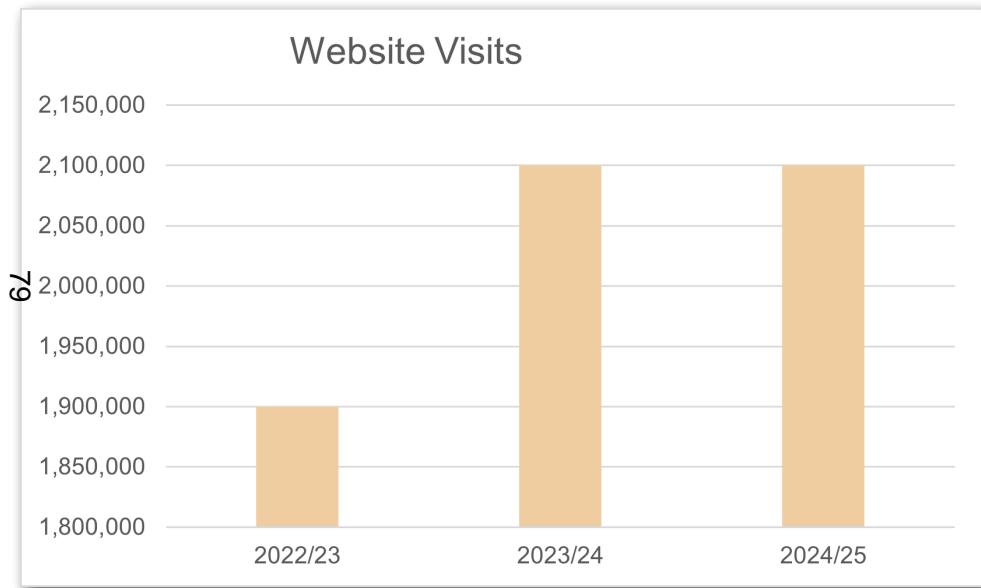
When comparing this data to previous years, it creates a visual representation of the transformation that has taken place in how customers access our services, with phone calls decreasing and the use of online services increasing. This is represented in the following diagrams:

1. The change in the number of customers using our phone channel, with an increase in our use of online forms happening concurrently. Face to face numbers have also increased in the years following the Covid-19 pandemic, demonstrating excellent use of the Customer Centre by the Customer Services Team.



# CORPORATE STRATEGY – THE GOLDEN THREAD

2. Year-on-year increase in the number of customers visiting our website.



## The national position

The average cost of customer interactions:

- Face-to-face interactions: £8.62
- Telephone interactions: £2.83
- Digital (online) interactions: £0.15

The migration to more digital and self-service channels provides an opportunity to increase the accessibility of our services whilst creating efficiencies.

It is also positive to see how the attitudes that customers have towards technology is more positive than ever before. This has developed significantly in recent years, and is demonstrated through data gathered in the Lloyds Bank 2024 Consumer Digital Index, highlighting that across the UK:

- 8.6 million more people have the highest digital capability, with around 1 million people having moved from the lowest digital capability in 2024 alone
- The number of people that are digitally disadvantaged has also steadily decreased, with now just 3% of people being offline. This is 3.9 million fewer people than in 2016
- Digital skills in older demographic groups have also improved, with 7.2 million people between the ages of 70-79 being online. Within this group, 42% believe that their digital skills have improved in the last year.

<sup>2</sup>Lloyds Bank, 2024 Consumer Digital Index (London: Lloyds Bank, 2024), 4, accessed Mar 12, 2025, [ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ct/publication/documents/2025-01/lb-consumer-digital-index-2024-report\\_1.pdf](https://ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ct/publication/documents/2025-01/lb-consumer-digital-index-2024-report_1.pdf)

<sup>3</sup>Lloyds Bank, 2024 Consumer Digital Index, 4.

## CORPORATE STRATEGY – THE GOLDEN THREAD

Despite these positive steps however, it is also important to acknowledge that when it comes to digital capability, there are still hurdles to overcome and improvements that can be made. The Consumer Digital Index report further highlights this, emphasising how:

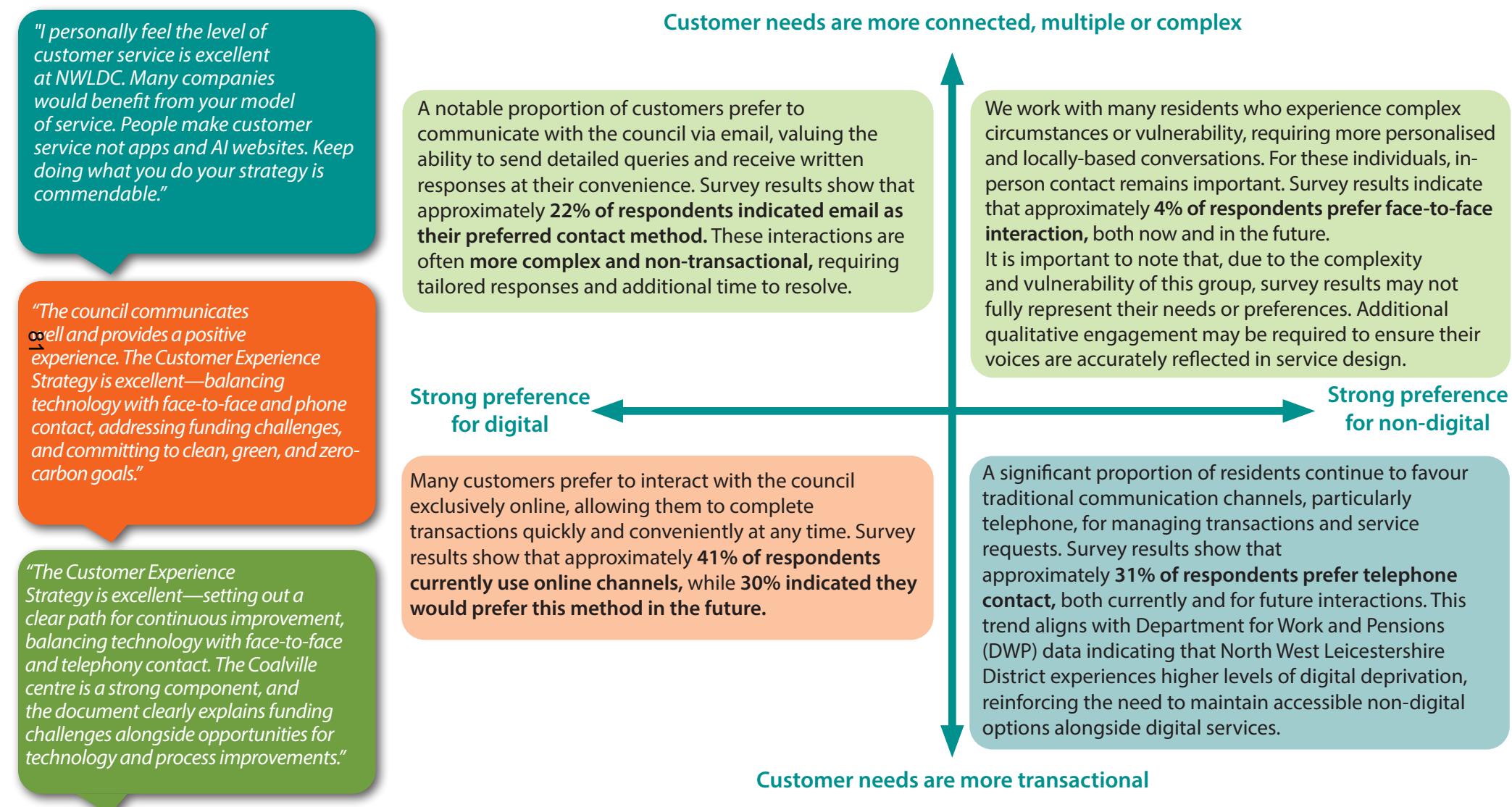
- Around 12 million people (23%) cannot use the cloud to access their content from different devices
- Around Six million people (11%) cannot recognise what content online may not be trustworthy
- Around 16 million adults (30%) could benefit from building their online safety.<sup>3</sup>

Overall, this report reflects the significant progress and positive steps that have been made in the increased uptake of people using digital services. However, it is important to acknowledge that significant action is needed to improve the user experience, to educate users further, and increase their capability in the ever-increasing digital age.



## How customers prefer to contact us

Our customers have different preferences for how they contact and interact with the council, based on their circumstances, needs and their level of digital skills. The chart below shows how these preferences can vary in different situations. We will make it easy for customers who want to interact with us digitally to do so. For those who rely on contacting us by phone or in person, we will make our services more personalised and accessible.



# CORPORATE STRATEGY – THE GOLDEN THREAD

## The North West Leicestershire position

At NWLDC, we are also seeing and embracing the benefits that digital technology can bring to improving the customer experience.

A few examples can be seen when focusing on the current digital initiatives we have running council wide:

- Digital Forms – 65,047
- Website views – 2.1 million views
- Social media engagement – 2.7 million people viewing our posts.

The use of these services has further trended upwards in recent years and is reflected in the above tables. Based on the upsurge in digital engagement nationally, and the advancement of technology, we are exploring the use of A.I. throughout the council, and the benefits it can bring to supporting our customers across the district, alongside enhancing the experience and communication they have with us.

We are also focusing on improving the ways we provide resources to our customers digitally, ensuring further resources and information are available online. In turn, this will improve the customer experience and reduce the amount of avoidable contact customers have with North West Leicestershire.

A wholesale review our website content and improvements to the resources we provide online will enable our Customer Service Team to continue to deliver high quality customer experience, whilst saving people time through convenience and availability of resources on our digital platforms.

This work does not mean our face to face and over the phone services are any less important. Alongside digital innovation, we are aware of the tens of thousands of customers who prefer to engage with our staff directly. This is shown by the 8,088 visitors we had to our Customer Centre in 2024/25, and the 72,845 phone calls our team received in the same period.

Despite our movement towards digital interactions, this will not come at the expense of our other forms of contact with residents. Consequently, our Customer Centre and our engagement with residents over the phone will be stronger than ever and continue to deliver for all our residents.

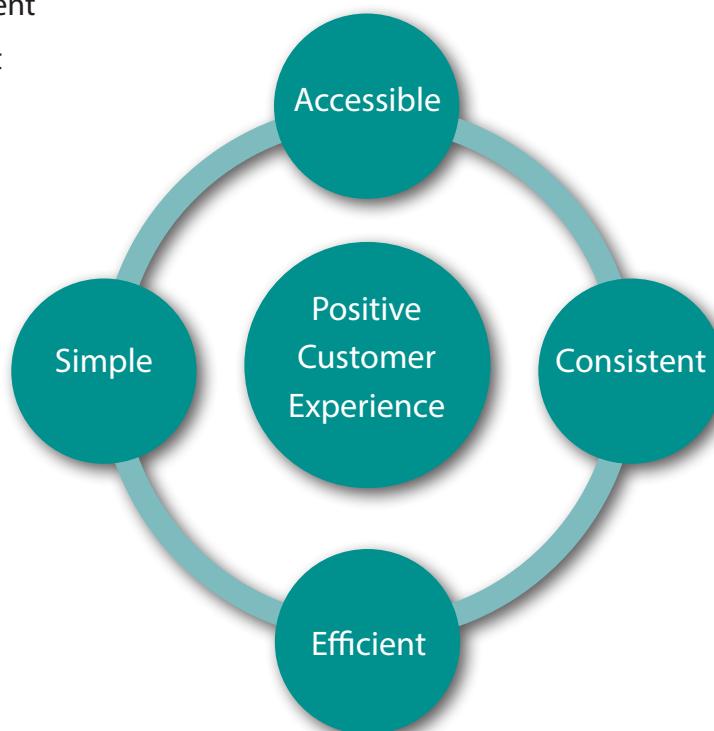
Overall, the council will take a balanced and innovative approach. Whilst still connecting with residents who prefer and rely on our face to face and phone service, we will continue to provide for residents through the use of our digital services, whilst also looking to the future, and at the 'what if' regarding A.I., and how it will enable us to deliver an even better customer experience for the people of North West Leicestershire.

# OUR AIMS, PRINCIPLES, AND OBJECTIVES

## Aims

The aim of our strategy is to put our customers at the heart of everything we do, ensuring that every form of engagement we provide delivers a positive experience for the customer, making sure these interactions are also:

- Accessible
- Consistent
- Efficient
- Simple



## Principles

The strategy draws upon the following principles and themes in its design:

**Customer First:** We prioritise our customers by placing them at the core of our organisation. We empower staff to deliver exceptional customer experiences tailored to what our customers truly want and need.

**Accessible:** A modern, fresh approach to customer experience and spaces, whether physical or digital. Light, clean and welcoming environments.

**Digital by design:** Digital experiences so good that they are the channel of choice.

**Inclusive:** Recognising our customers' unique circumstances and in doing so ensuring that those that need our services are not excluded.

**Customer insight:** Consistently measuring our customer experiences. Knowing our customers and their needs. Understanding why things go wrong and learning from this to improve our services.

**Value for money, efficient and delivering a return on investment:** Recognising the financial climate, benefit focused outcomes, business minded decision making.

# OUR AIMS, PRINCIPLES, AND OBJECTIVES

## Objectives

### Putting our customers at the heart of what we do.

By putting customers at the heart of what we do we will create a consistent positive customer experience whilst providing services that meet their needs.

We will include our customer when redesigning our services, looking through the lens of our customer to ensure the design meets their needs:

To achieve this, we will:

- Redesign our processes from end to end, reducing the number of times we transfer customers between teams and focusing on resolving issues at first point of contact
- Identify appropriate channels for service delivery – whilst most customers will be encouraged to access services online, we will provide alternative routes for those who need additional support and work with partners to increase our access channels where appropriate, such as face-to-face appointments

- Increase self-service and automate first (where appropriate)
- Ensure customers are involved in the development of our services and the redesign process
- Use the data we hold about our customers to inform the way we improve our processes and deliver our services
- Improve the efficiency of our services, which will ultimately reduce costs and increase quality
- Ensure services are inclusive and respond to equality needs
- Enable customers to give feedback on processes and services
- Eliminate paper where possible responding to our responsibility to be Clean, Green and Zero Carbon, as stated in the Council Delivery Plan.

# OUR AIMS, PRINCIPLES, AND OBJECTIVES

## Digital inclusion

As more and more services are made available online, we must ensure that those customers who have limited digital skills and access to technology are supported and encouraged to develop their skills to take advantage of the numerous benefits associated with being online.

We recognise that addressing the digital skills gap is not the responsibility of one organisation, and we will look to work with local and national organisations to play our part in improving the lives of our customers.

To do this, we will:

- Work with partners to create a Digital Inclusion Network, to identify organisations that offer support, skills training, and equipment
- Introduce Digital Champions concept across the council, providing more opportunities for people to access digital support
- Create and embed a 'triage and signposting system' to help identify customers' needs and signpost them to appropriate support

- Centralise all information about digital skills in the district in one place, such as the NWLDC website, making it easier for people to find what they need
- Support our customers to self-serve in the first instance to help develop their knowledge, skills and confidence in accessing services in digital ways
- Offer free access to our wifi network when on council premises or in Coalville and Ashby de la Zouch town centres
- Continue to offer free access to our public access computers in our Customer Centre
- Recognise that not all customers will be able to use our digital services and for those customers we will continue to offer telephone and face to face conversations.

# OUR AIMS, PRINCIPLES, AND OBJECTIVES

## Harnessing digital technology

Harnessing the power of digital technology will enable us to increase accessibility and flexibility for our customers, delivering efficient and effective low-cost services whilst freeing up our resources to support those customers with more specific needs.

To do this, we will:

- Make online channels convenient and easy to use so that customers choose this as their preferred method of contact with us
- Design all online forms to enable system integration and automation
- Use new technology such as artificial intelligence to deliver services in a more efficient way where appropriate
- Continue and increase the use of our social media channels
- Use telephone for supported and complex transactions only, reducing the use for low need and simple transactions
- Provide face-to-face service only where needed to meet complex and specific customer needs and offer appointments as our default approach
- Review the current relationship management system to ensure we maximise system functionality which supports customers to self-serve and manage their transactions online.

## Involving the whole organisation

Customer service goes far beyond the Customer Services Team and we recognise that every employee has a part to play in delivering a positive customer experience.

Every phone call, email, and face to face interaction provides the ability to shape the perception of NWLDC and what it is trying to achieve.

To do this, we will:

- Use our customer satisfaction results and complaints feedback to develop and improve our services, sharing learning and development with employees
- Develop and embed a customer promise across the organisation to provide a consistent experience for all customers
- Ensure employees have access to appropriate support and training to provide them with the tools and skills to deliver positive customer experiences.

# OUR AIMS, PRINCIPLES, AND OBJECTIVES

## Measuring success

Adopting this strategy will lead to better outcomes for our customers. We will look to change the way we currently measure our performance; these changes will be considered as part of the development of the next Council Delivery Plan.

Success measures will consider what our customers have said is important to them, and the aims of this strategy. The measures will focus on:

- Improving customer satisfaction
- Getting it right first time
- Making things quick and easy
- Increasing and improving our digital services
- Improving digital capability.

## Our journey

This strategy will be delivered over the next three years.

Our three year plan below set out an indicative but ambitious approach to delivering the Customer Experience Strategy.

Each element of the journey needs to be assessed individually to ensure it is responsible to the fast-changing environment of the digital world and our customer expectations.



# THE THREE-YEAR PLAN

## Year 1 (2026)

- To develop a project that focuses on customer contact, and how we can reduce avoidable contact
- To continue the development of e-forms
- To embed our Customer Standards across the organisation
- To continue to explore the use of Artificial Intelligence across the council and how it can benefit our customers
- To continue to embed the importance of 'One team, one council,' ensuring departments work with customer
- For services to understand the important role they play in the customer experience
- To enhance the quality and accessibility of services provided to the community, leveraging technology and innovative practices
- To establish forums for ongoing dialogue with residents and businesses to align the council's efforts with community priorities.

## Year 2 (2027)

- For the customer contact project to be making progress in reducing avoidable contact
- To be actively using a form of Artificial Intelligence that helps improve the customer experience
- To continue the development of e- forms
- To embed 'digital champions' across the district and increase our digital literacy level
- To introduce of a telephony system change that would incorporate the use of AI technology to support our Customer Service Team.

# THE THREE-YEAR PLAN

## Year 3 (2028)

- To continue our digital transformation journey to digital transformation to improve service delivery
- To continue using AI to foster a more agile, responsive council structure that can adapt to changing community needs
- To enhanced community engagement and co-design of services
- To ensure that our workforce is fully equipped with the digital tools and technologies needed to deliver modern, efficient, and responsive public services by 2028/29

68

- **Seamless access to integrated digital platforms** that streamline workflows, reduce duplication, and enhance collaboration across departments
- **Responsible adoption of artificial intelligence (AI)** to automate routine tasks, improve decision-making, and free up staff time for more strategic and community-focused work
- **Data-driven service delivery**, enabling employees to anticipate needs, personalise support, and respond more effectively to residents
- **Mobile and remote working capabilities**, ensuring flexibility and resilience in how services are delivered



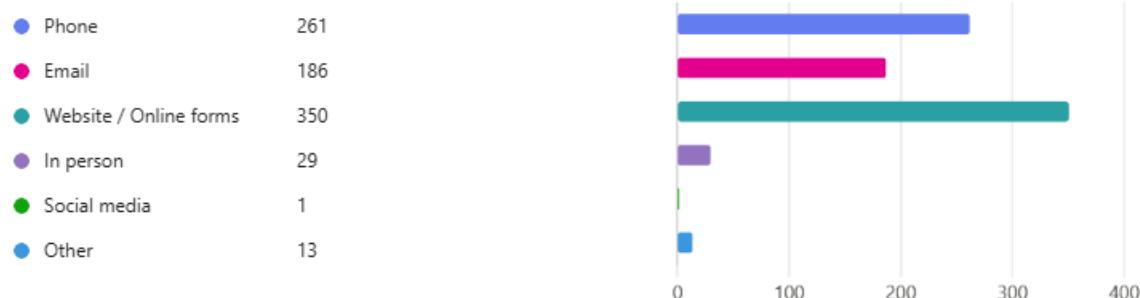
## **Appendix 2 – Consultation responses**

### **1. Usual Contact Method with the Council (% of total responses)**

- **Website / Online forms: 41.67%**
- **Phone: 31.07%**
- **Email: 22.14%**
- **In person: 3.45%**
- **Other (Letter, Social media, etc.): Each less than 0.25%**

---

#### **1. How do you usually contact the council?**

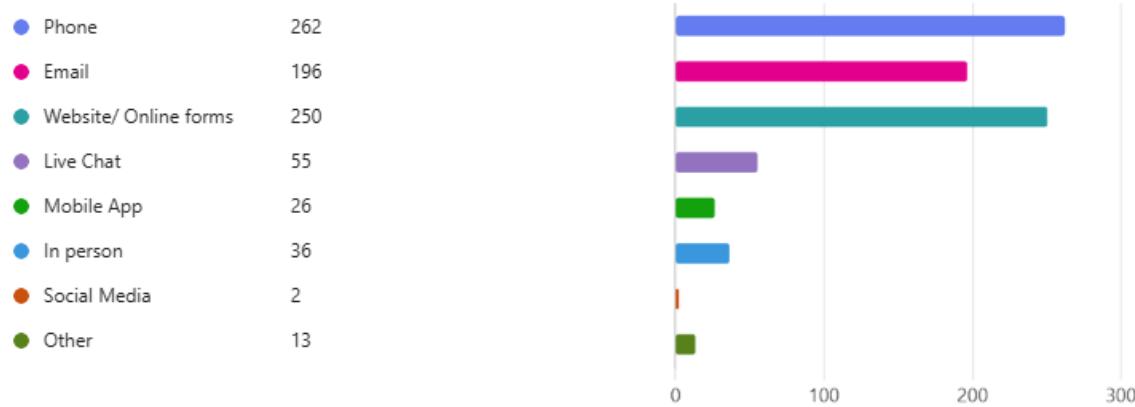


### **2. Preferred Contact Method for the Future (%)**

- **Phone: 31.19%**
- **Website / Online forms: 29.76%**
- **Email: 23.33%**
- **Live Chat: 6.55%**
- **In person: 4.29%**
- **Mobile App: 3.10%**
- **Other (Social Media, Letter, etc.): Each less than 0.25%**

---

2. How would you *prefer* to contact the council in future



3. Online Service Experience (%)

- **Good (Generally easy to use, mostly clear, met your needs): 39.29%**
- **Fair (Some difficulties or unclear areas, partially met your needs): 35.12%**
- **Poor (Hard to use, confusing information, did not meet your needs): 10.12%**
- **Excellent (Very easy to use, clear information, fully met your needs): 7.38%**
- **Very Poor (Very difficult to use, unclear or missing information, did not meet your needs at all): 6.67%**

---

4. Recent Customer Service Experience (%)

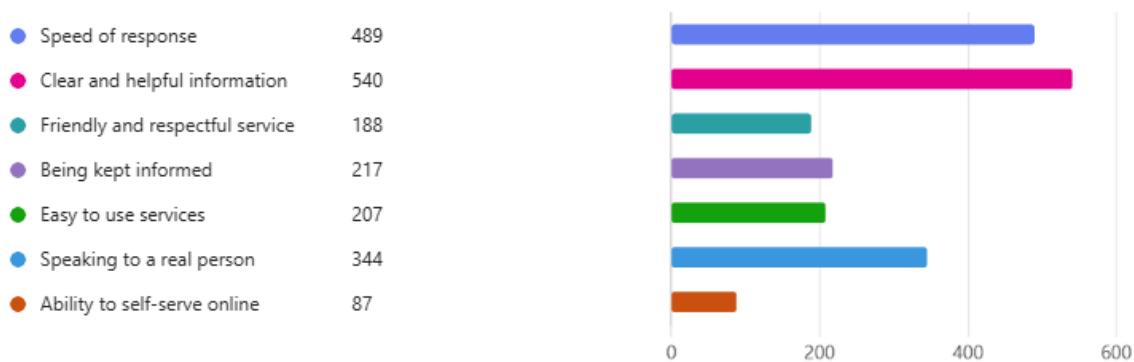
- **Good: 34.76%**
- **I haven't contacted the council recently: 19.76%**
- **Average: 19.40%**
- **Excellent: 10.48%**
- **Poor: 10.00%**
- **Neutral: 5.60%**

---

## 5. Registered Disability (%)

- **No: 86.67%**
- **Yes: 11.07%**
- **Other (specific conditions, in process, etc.): Each less than 0.25%**

### 4. When contacting the council, what is most important to you?



- The most preferred methods for contacting the council are 'Phone' and 'Website / Online forms', with 'Email' and 'In person' also frequently mentioned. This suggests a strong need to maintain both digital and traditional contact options.
- The most important factors when contacting the council are 'Clear and helpful information', 'Speaking to a real person', and 'Speed of response'. These themes are echoed in both the structured and open-ended responses, highlighting the value placed on clarity, responsiveness, and human interaction.
- While many respondents rate their online experience as 'Good' or 'Excellent', a significant number report only 'Fair' or 'Poor' experiences, often citing difficulties with unclear information or lack of responsiveness. This indicates opportunities to improve digital service usability and communication.

These findings suggest that enhancing clarity of information, ensuring prompt responses, and maintaining accessible human support channels are critical for improving customer experience.

This page is intentionally left blank

## ITEM - CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE STRATEGY 2026 - 2028

### Appendix 3 - Comments on the Customer Experience Strategy 2026 – 2028 made by the Corporate Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 4 December 2025

Date considered by Cabinet: 16 December 2025

CG

	Comments from Scrutiny	Advice provided by Officers at the Meeting	Cabinet Response
C1	<b>Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Digital Tools:</b> Questions about the role and future use of AI in Customer Services, specifically regarding telephony and its limitations.	Officers explained initial AI adoption (Microsoft Co-Pilot), successes in saving officer time, and plans to explore AI for telephony and avoidable contact, aiming to free up staff for higher-value tasks.	
C2	<b>Customer Service Culture:</b> The shared responsibility for customer service across all teams was welcomed, hoping for improved effectiveness and accountability.	Officers described mandatory customer contact standards training, culture change towards customer focus, and ongoing internal initiatives to improve complaints handling and empathy.	
C3	<b>Digital Exclusion:</b> concerns raised about the exclusion of those unable to access digital methods. The importance of continuing face to face contact where needed was emphasized.	Officers agreed on the importance of not excluding digitally challenged residents, rolling out clear response time standards, and embedding empathy in service delivery.  Officers acknowledged the need to retain face-to-face options for those unable to use digital services and recognized loneliness as a factor for some in-person	

		visits. They assured the committee that digital transformation would not exclude vulnerable groups.	
C4	<b>Response Time Standards:</b> Emphasized the need for clear expectations for customers on waiting and call-back times.	Officers confirmed that new customer contact standards have been developed, including clear response times for different channels. These will be communicated internally and externally, with performance tracked against these KPIs.	
C5	<b>Celebrating Success and Staff Morale:</b> Raised the importance of celebrating internal successes to boost morale.	Officers agreed with the importance of sharing positive feedback and successes internally to maintain morale and reinforce good service delivery.	

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET – TUESDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2025



<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>PLAYING PITCHES, BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITY), AND OPEN SPACES STRATEGIES</b>	
<b>Presented by</b>	Cllr Michael Wyatt Portfolio Holder for Community Services  PH Briefed: Yes	
<b>Background Papers</b>	None	<b>Public Report:</b> Yes  <b>Key Decision:</b> Yes
<b>Financial Implications</b>	There are no financial implications within the strategies to be considered. If specific projects are to be delivered, then separate business cases will be developed for these, and the appropriate approvals will be sought in line with the Council's Constitution prior to delivery. The strategies will give the Council, parish and town councils an evidence base for securing developer and other financial contributions to help support the delivery of projects.	
	<b>Signed off by the Section 151 Officer:</b> Yes	
<b>Legal Implications</b>	None	
	<b>Signed off by the Monitoring Officer:</b> Yes	
<b>Staffing and Corporate Implications</b>	None	
	<b>Signed off by the Head of Paid Service:</b> Yes	
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	<b>To make Cabinet aware of the key points highlighted in the North West Leicestershire Playing Pitches and Outdoor Sports, Built Facilities and Open Spaces strategies and to outline the proposed next steps.</b>	
<b>Reason for Decision</b>	To allow for further engagement on the strategies so they can be refined and finalised prior to reporting to Cabinet on 28 April 2026 with a further report to seek approval for the strategies to be adopted by the Council and used as an evidence base in the revised Local Plan.	

<b>Recommendations</b>	<p><b>THAT CABINET:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1) PROVIDES COMMENTS ON THE KEY POINTS HIGHLIGHTED IN THE NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCHES AND OUTDOOR SPORTS, BUILT FACILITIES, AND OPEN SPACES STRATEGIES.</b></li> <li><b>2) APPROVES THE NEXT STEPS AS HIGHLIGHTED IN SECTION 8 OF THE REPORT.</b></li> </ol>
------------------------	--

## 1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 Access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities. The Council's emerging Local Plan has a key role to play in achieving this as it sets out a long-term strategy for the district. The National Planning Policy Framework advises that "*Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision*".

1.2 In order to support the Local Plan and understand where current and future gaps in provision are likely to be, and to cost and prioritise these, the Council procured Kavanagh, Knight, and Page (KKP) in November 2024 to develop the following strategies for the district:

- Playing Pitches and Outdoor Sports, to include:
  - Football
  - Artificial Grass Pitches
  - Rugby union
  - Hockey
  - Cricket
  - Tennis
  - Netball
  - Athletics
  - Bowls
- Built Facilities (Sports and Community), to include:
  - Sports halls
  - Swimming pools
  - Fitness rooms
  - Gymnastics
  - Squash
  - Indoor tennis
  - Indoor bowls
  - Community facilities
- Open Spaces, to include:
  - Parks and gardens (urban parks and formal gardens)
  - Natural and semi-natural greenspace (sites providing wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness)
  - Amenity greenspace (informal recreation spaces and other incidental spaces that offer opportunities for informal activities)
  - Provision for children and young people (play provision)
  - Allotments
  - Cemeteries and churchyards

1.3 The strategies will also assist with development across the district by creating an evidence base. This will initially support the preparation of the new Local Plan and provide evidence to seek contributions from new development towards the provision of additional open spaces, sport and recreation facilities. It will also support the Council, parish/town councils, and other stakeholders to be able to seek contributions from other funding streams, in order to help secure the additional infrastructure required to support the growth of the district.

1.4 Whilst having a district-wide approach, the strategies have a focus on the following localities:

- Ashby-de-la Zouch
- Castle Donington/Kegworth
- Coalville
- Ibstock
- Measham

1.5 As part of the development of the strategies, KKP was also asked to have a specific focus on the following:

- The feasibility of a potential 'Sports Village' or Hub in Ashby
- The feasibility of sports hall provision in Castle Donington

## **2.0 PLAYING PITCHES AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY (PPOSS)**

2.1 The PPOSS and associated Action Plan can be found at **Appendix A**. The strategy is awaiting final sign off from a number of outstanding National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGB's), although it is not anticipated that there is likely to be any significant changes due to the engagement process undertaken.

2.2 The key headlines within the PPOSS, broken down into sports, are:

### **Football**

- Currently there is capacity for adult full-size pitches and children's mini-pitches across the district, but there is a shortfall in youth pitches across the district.
- Future demand created by population increases in line with the Local Plan, club development aspirations, and potential growth in football teams that reflects the same level of growth since the last PPOSS was undertaken in 2017 would potentially lead to pitch shortfalls across the district for all pitch types other than adult pitches.
- Shortfalls in provision can be mitigated by improving pitch quality, through improved drainage and maintenance.
- Shortfalls can be reduced further by the reinstatement of unused pitches across the district.
- Consequently, recommendations in the Action Plan include:
  - Protect the existing quantity of pitches
  - Work to accommodate future demand at sites which are not operating at capacity
  - Work to improve pitch quality to alleviate identified overplay on grass football pitches
  - Monitor future growth levels to determine when and where new grass pitches may be required
  - Ensure that any housing development considers potential increases in provision either on-site or through contributions to improve existing sites

- Where a development is of a size to justify on-site football provision, focus on the creation of multi-pitch sites with community use that reduce existing shortfalls, with accompanying clubhouse provision

### **3G Pitches**

- There is currently a shortfall of five full-sized 3G pitches across the district.
- Future demand created by population increases in line with the Local Plan and potential growth in football teams that reflects the same level of growth since the last OSPPS was undertaken in 2017 would potentially lead to a shortfall of just over seven 3G pitches across the district.
- The only area that does not have a shortfall in 3G pitches and is unlikely to with future demand factored in is Castle Donington/Kegworth.
- Consequently, recommendations in the Action Plan include:
  - Work with relevant partners to deliver additional 3G pitches specifically in the Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Ibstock and Measham areas
  - Explore the feasibility of any new 3G pitch to support rugby union.

### **Rugby Union**

- There is currently a shortfall of pitch provision in Coalville and Ashby which increases further when future demand is factored in.
- Current and future demand can be predominantly met through improving pitch quality, installing lighting, and/or through the provision of a rugby compliant 3G pitch.
- Consequently, recommendations in the Action Plan include:
  - Improve pitch quality at all sites
  - Explore installation of additional sports lighting across the sites used by clubs
  - Explore the feasibility of creating a Rugby compliant 3G pitch.

### **Hockey**

- Current and future demand is met with existing pitch provision.

### **Cricket**

- There is currently a shortfall in natural turf wickets at peak times on Saturdays.
- Demand across the district as a whole at other times is met, despite there being localised shortfalls in provision in the Castle Donington/Kegworth, Coalville, and Ibstock areas.
- Future demands and club development aspirations would lead to further shortfalls in provision.
- Shortfalls in provision could be mitigated against by improving pitch quality, considering hybrid or non-turf wickets, or bringing unused provision back into use.

### **Tennis**

- Current and future demand is met with existing court provision.
- There is a shortfall of seven Padel courts across the district.

### **Netball**

- Current and future demand is met with existing court provision. However, consideration should be given to increasing the number of lit facilities to help develop the sport.

### **Athletics**

- Whilst there is demand for athletics provision, it is deemed that a 400m track would be unsustainable. Therefore, consideration should be given to a NewGen Track, which could be a compact facility, a mini track, or an active track in a nature environment which would be bespoke to the district to meet demand and to be sustainable.

#### **Outdoor Bowls**

- Current and future demand is met with existing provision.

### **3.0 Built Facilities Strategy (BFS)**

3.1 The BFS and associated Action Plan can be found at **Appendix B**. The strategy is awaiting final sign off from a number of outstanding National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGB's), although it is not anticipated that there is likely to be any significant changes due to the engagement process undertaken.

3.2 The key headlines of the BFS broken down into facility areas are:

#### **Sports Halls**

- Whilst demand across the district as a whole exceeds supply currently, there is an unmet demand in the Castle Donington area.
- Whilst modelling suggests that there is a current provision surplus and no shortfall, consultation indicates there is unmet demand in Ashby. However, this demand would be met with additional sports hall provision in the Isley Woodhouse and Castle Donington areas.
- Future demand creates a shortfall in provision across the district of ten badminton courts, the majority of which would be met with additional sports hall provision in the Isley Woodhouse and Castle Donington areas, subject to these facilities having adequate community access arrangements in place.

#### **Swimming Pools**

- There is currently a surplus of pool provision across the district which should meet future demand.
- There is a localised unmet demand in the Castle Donington/Kegworth area, but not enough to justify additional pool provision.

#### **Fitness Rooms**

- Current and future demand is met by the current supply.

#### **Gymnastics**

- There is one dedicated gymnastics facility located in Coalville, and anecdotal evidence to support additional facilities in the Ashby and Castle Donington/Kegworth areas.

#### **Squash**

- Whilst there is a shortfall in current provision that will increase with future demand, current supply levels have the capacity to meet current and future demand.

#### **Indoor Tennis**

- Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) analysis and local clubs indicate demand for indoor tennis.
- Population and housing growth is likely to create increased demand for indoor tennis.

### **Indoor Bowls**

- There is no demand currently or in the future for an indoor bowls facility in the district.

### **Community Facilities**

- There is a requirement for additional community facilities in the Ashby area.

## **4.0 OPEN SPACES STRATEGY (OSS)**

4.1 The OSS can be found at **Appendix C**.

4.2 The key headlines within the OSS are:

- Other than in the Coalville area, there is a shortfall of parks and gardens in all other localities across the district, with none in the Castle Donington/Kegworth and Ibstock areas.
- Other than in the Ibstock area, there is a shortfall of natural and semi-natural greenspace in all other localities across the district, with none in the Ashby, Castle Donington/Kegworth and Measham areas. However, this shortfall is offset by the National Forest and other local amenity spaces.
- There is a shortfall of amenity greenspace in the Coalville and Ibstock areas.
- There is consistent play provision coverage for children and young people across all localities with Ashby, Castle Donington/Kegworth and Ibstock having slightly less provision than Coalville and Measham.
- There is a shortfall of allotment provision in the Ashby, Coalville and Measham areas with waiting lists in the Castle Donington/Kegworth, Coalville and Measham areas.
- In terms of provision of cemeteries and churchyards, mapping demonstrates a fairly even distribution across the area. Quality is not assessed due to the unique role of these assets.

## **5.0 ASHBY SPORTS HUB**

5.1 As part of developing the strategies, KKP was asked to consider the potential feasibility of developing a Sports Village or Hub in the Ashby area. This can be broken down into two elements: the demand for sports provision/facilities and the desire of sports clubs to be part of the Hub.

5.2 **Appendix G** highlights the key points made by KKP in relation to sports provision/facilities and the desire of sports clubs. This is summarised at a high level below:

- There are identified shortfalls for various sports within Ashby, but most of these can be addressed without providing a new dedicated sports hub site (grass football pitches, grass rugby union pitches, cricket).
- New facilities that are required in the area include two 11v11 size 3G pitches (one potentially being World Rugby compliant), padel courts, a NewGen athletics track, and a community space.
- There is also a desire to have indoor tennis courts (although not necessarily within a building as they could be outdoor courts covered with a dome), archery, and cycling provision.
- Neither football clubs, the rugby club, cricket clubs, or bowls clubs have a desire to relocate from their current sites.
- There is a future shortfall of ten badminton courts across the district. If four court sports halls were developed in the new settlement at Isley Woodhouse as

proposed as part of the emerging Local Plan, and Castle Donington, this would still leave a future shortfall of two badminton courts across the district. However, the demand is likely to be met in Ashby with the additional provision in Isley Woodhouse and Castle Donington.

- Alternative options should also be explored as to whether the shortfalls for new provision identified could potentially be addressed at current sporting sites within Ashby that already have some level of established infrastructure.
- This could include putting an air dome over the tennis courts at Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club and the creation of one 11v11 size 3G pitch at either Ashby Ivanhoe Football Club or Ashby Rugby Football Club, with both of these options replacing grass pitches.
- If the above can be achieved, a smaller new site could be developed which accommodates the remaining provision required.
- A wider feasibility study is required to fully understand if this facility mix could form a new dedicated sports hub site.

## **6.0 SPORTS HALL PROVISION IN CASTLE DONINGTON**

- 6.1 KKP was also asked to consider if there was sufficient demand to facilitate a sports hall in the Castle Donington area.
- 6.2 The BFS identified a need for a one court sports hall in Castle Donington to meet current and future demand. However, based on guidance from the Department for Education on pupil numbers and school curriculum need, there is a requirement for a three-court sports hall at Castle Donington College, and a proposed expansion of the College is scheduled to include provision of a 3-court sports hall.
- 6.3 KKP also identified it would be desirable to increase this school provision to a four-court sports hall, if possible, as this would help meet the future demand of ten courts across the district, as well as allowing local netball and basketball clubs to train and play matches.
- 6.4 It is suggested in the strategy that the sports hall development be linked to the potential expansion of Castle Donington School to enable it to increase capacity.
- 6.5 It is recommended the Council work with Castle Donington College and Castle Donington Parish Council to explore the feasibility of securing funding to be able to deliver the provision.

## **7.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There are no financial implications within the strategies to be considered. If specific projects are to be delivered, then separate business cases will be developed for these, and the appropriate approvals will, in line with the Council's Constitution, be sought prior to delivery.
- 7.2 The strategies will give the Council, parish and town councils an evidence base for securing developer and other financial contributions to help support the delivery of projects. The Council's new Local Plan will need to include any policy requirements, whether they be of a generic nature or more site specific. This will be addressed through the work of the Local Plan Committee.

## 8.0 NEXT STEPS

8.1 The proposed next steps are highlighted in the table below:

Date	Body	Reason
6 January until 25 January 2026	Parish/Town Councils	To sense check the strategies following previous engagement and consultation with parish and town councils during their development.
28 January 2026	Local Plan Committee	To present the findings from the strategies and to highlight any implications for the new Local Plan.
26 February 2026	Community Scrutiny Committee	To highlight the key points within the strategies and to invite comments for consideration by Cabinet at their meeting on 28 April.
28 April 2026	Cabinet	To seek approval to adopt the final strategies and to include them as an evidence base within the Local Plan.
TBC	Full Council	To agree the Local Plan

8.2 If any amendments are made to any of the strategies during the above proposed timeline, then these will be highlighted to Cabinet at its meeting on 28 April 2026.

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Planning and regeneration</li> <li>- Communities and housing</li> <li>- A well-run council</li> </ul>
Policy Considerations:	Local Plan NWL Health and Wellbeing Strategy
Safeguarding:	None
Equalities/Diversity:	Ensuring all residents have access to adequate and well-maintained facilities
Customer Impact:	Ensuring there are adequate facilities of a reasonable standard to meet the needs of the district and its residents
Economic and Social Impact:	Creating an evidence base to support the Local Plan and to allow for developer and other funding contributions to be accessed to be able to ensure the infrastructure can be enhanced and developed in order to meet the needs of a growing local population
Environment, Climate Change and Zero Carbon:	None
Consultation/Community/Tenant Engagement:	Parish and Town Councils Sports Clubs Schools Elected Members Sport England National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGB's)

Risks:	Failure to have an evidence base within the Local Plan will mean the Council may struggle to justify requesting developer contributions from new housing developments. This will impact on the Council's ability to ensure the infrastructure is enhanced and developed to meet the needs of a growing local population.
Officer Contact	Jason Knight Leisure Services Team Manager <a href="mailto:jason.knight@nwleicestershire.gov.uk">jason.knight@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</a>

This page is intentionally left blank

## APPENDIX A

### NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### DRAFT STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN REPORT DECEMBER 2025

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

**Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd**  
Company No: 9145032 (England)

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Registered Office: 1-2 Frecheville Court, off Knowsley Street, Bury BL9 0UF  
T: 0161 764 7040 E: [mail@kkp.co.uk](mailto:mail@kkp.co.uk) [www.kkp.co.uk](http://www.kkp.co.uk)



Cert Num: 6543-QMS-001

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

---

ABBREVIATIONS .....	1
PART 1: INTRODUCTION .....	2
PART 2: VISION AND AIMS .....	6
PART 3: HEADLINE FINDINGS .....	8
PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....	11
4.1: Football – grass pitches .....	11
4.2: Third Generation turf (3G) pitches .....	23
4.3: Rugby union - grass pitches .....	27
4.4: Hockey pitches (sand/water-based AGPs) .....	34
4.5: Cricket pitches .....	35
4.6: Tennis courts .....	40
4.7: Netball .....	42
4.9: Athletics .....	43
4.10: Bowls .....	45
4.11: Ashby Sports Hub .....	46
PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS .....	50
PART 6: ACTION PLAN .....	62
ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH ANALYSIS AREA .....	65
CASTLE DONINGTON / KEGWORTH ANALYSIS AREA .....	72
COALVILLE ANALYSIS AREA .....	78
IBSTOCK ANALYSIS AREA .....	86
MEASHAM ANALYSIS AREA .....	90
PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS .....	94
PART 8: DELIVER THE STRATEGY AND KEEP IT ROBUST AND UP-TO-DATE .....	102
APPENDIX ONE: SPORTING CONTEXT .....	106
APPENDIX TWO: HOUSING SCENARIO MAPS .....	116

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

---

### **ABBREVIATIONS**

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
AP	Active Partnership
ASC	All Stars Cricket
BAFA	British American Football Association
BC	Bowls Club
BE	Bowls England
CC	Cricket Club
CFA	County Football Association
CFS	County Facilities Strategy
DCMS	Department for Culture, Media & Sport
ECB	England & Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
EN	England Netball
FA	Football Association
FIT	Fields in Trust
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GPMF	Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund
GMA	Grounds Maintenance
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HC	Hockey Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh & Page
LFFP	Local Football Facility Plan
LMS	Last Man Stands
LRCF	Leicestershire & Rutland Cricket Foundation
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
MUGA	Multi use games area
NC	Netball Club
NGB	National Governing Body of Sport
NHS	National Health Service
NFFS	National Football Facilities Strategy
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RDO	Rugby Development Officer
RFU	Rugby Football Union
S106	Section 106 Agreement
SE	Sport England
TBTT	Transforming British Tennis Together
TC	Tennis Club

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

---

### **PART 1: INTRODUCTION**

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) has been appointed by North West Leicestershire District Council to deliver a Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS). This covers all formal playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities across the Authority to assist it to strategically plan for the future.

Building upon the preceding Assessment Report, this Strategy and Action Plan provides a clear, strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing playing pitch and accompanying ancillary facilities up to 2042 (in line with the current expectations for the emerging Local Plan). It has been developed to provide:

- ◀ Relevant planning policy information to inform the review of the Local Plan.
- ◀ Assessment of current supply against demand and established best practice standards across the District and in specific localities, having regard to the Settlement Hierarchy.
- ◀ Consideration of accessible facilities in neighbouring authorities.
- ◀ Identification of any current and projected shortfalls across the District and within specific localities.
- ◀ Assessment of current stock condition.
- ◀ Assessment of future supply against demand, considering cross-boundary access and based on the location of proposed housing developments and growth in population.
- ◀ Options for increasing provision to meet current and future demand shortfalls.
- ◀ Prioritisation and costings for increasing provision.

The Strategy is delivered in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Guidance (for playing pitch sports) and Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (for "non-pitch" sports). Sport England's PPS Guidance details a stepped approach, separated into five distinct sections:

- ◀ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach.
- ◀ Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision.
- ◀ Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views.
- ◀ Stage D: Develop the Strategy.
- ◀ Stage E: Deliver the Strategy and keep it robust and up-to-date.

This report represents Stage D of the process, with stages A-C covered in the preceding Assessment Report and Stage E ongoing once the study is complete.

The ANOG has a similar staged approach, as follows:

- ◀ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach.
- ◀ Stage B: Gather information on supply and demand.
- ◀ Stage C: Assessment – bringing the information together.
- ◀ Application: Application of an assessment.

The PPOSS delivers the evidence required to ensure that sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future outdoor sport requirements. Its robust evidence base should inform and be implemented into planning policy and other relevant corporate strategies to enable local policies, planning and sport development criteria to work efficiently and effectively. It is capable of:

- ◀ Providing a clear framework for all playing pitch and outdoor sport providers, including the public, private and third sectors.
- ◀ Clearly addressing the needs of all identified sports within the area, highlighting particular local demand issues.

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

---

- ◀ Addressing issues of population growth and major growth/regeneration areas.
- ◀ Addressing issues of cross boundary facility provision.
- ◀ Addressing issues of accessibility, quality and management with regard to facility provision.
- ◀ Standing up to scrutiny at a public inquiry as a robust study.
- ◀ Supporting funding applications.
- ◀ Providing realistic aspirations which are implementable within the local authority's budgetary position and procurement regime.

The Strategy and Action Plan also recommends a number of priority projects relating to sports provision which should be realised over the Local Plan period. It provides a framework for improvement and, although resources may not currently be in place to implement all aspects, potential partners and possible sources of external funding.

Partner organisations in North West Leicestershire have a vested interest in ensuring that existing playing pitches, outdoor sports facilities and ancillary provision are protected and enhanced. As such, many of the objectives and actions within this document need to be delivered and implemented by a wide range of bodies such as national governing bodies of sport (NGBs), sports organisations and education establishments. In some instances, North West Leicestershire will not be the organisation which delivers these actions or recommendations as the PPOSS is not solely just for the Council to act upon. It applies to/for all the stakeholders and partners involved.

The lifespan of a PPOSS is considered to be three years, although this can be increased if it updated.

### **Scope**

The scope of the PPOSS focuses geographically on all local provision, regardless of ownership and management arrangements. Sports included within the project are as follows:

- ◀ Football.
- ◀ Rugby union.
- ◀ Rugby league.
- ◀ Hockey (artificial grass pitches AGPs).
- ◀ Cricket.
- ◀ Tennis (including padel and pickleball).
- ◀ Athletics.
- ◀ Flat green bowls.
- ◀ Netball.
- ◀ Other sports where appropriate (such as American football, lacrosse etc).

In addition, a bespoke 3G pitch section is included within this report, mainly focusing on football activity but also taking into account other sports that can use the surface type (e.g., rugby union and rugby league).

Sport England's PPS guidance applies to football, both rugby codes, cricket and hockey as well as any other grass pitch sports identified for inclusion. The ANOG guidance applies to the remaining sports (as these are "non-pitch").

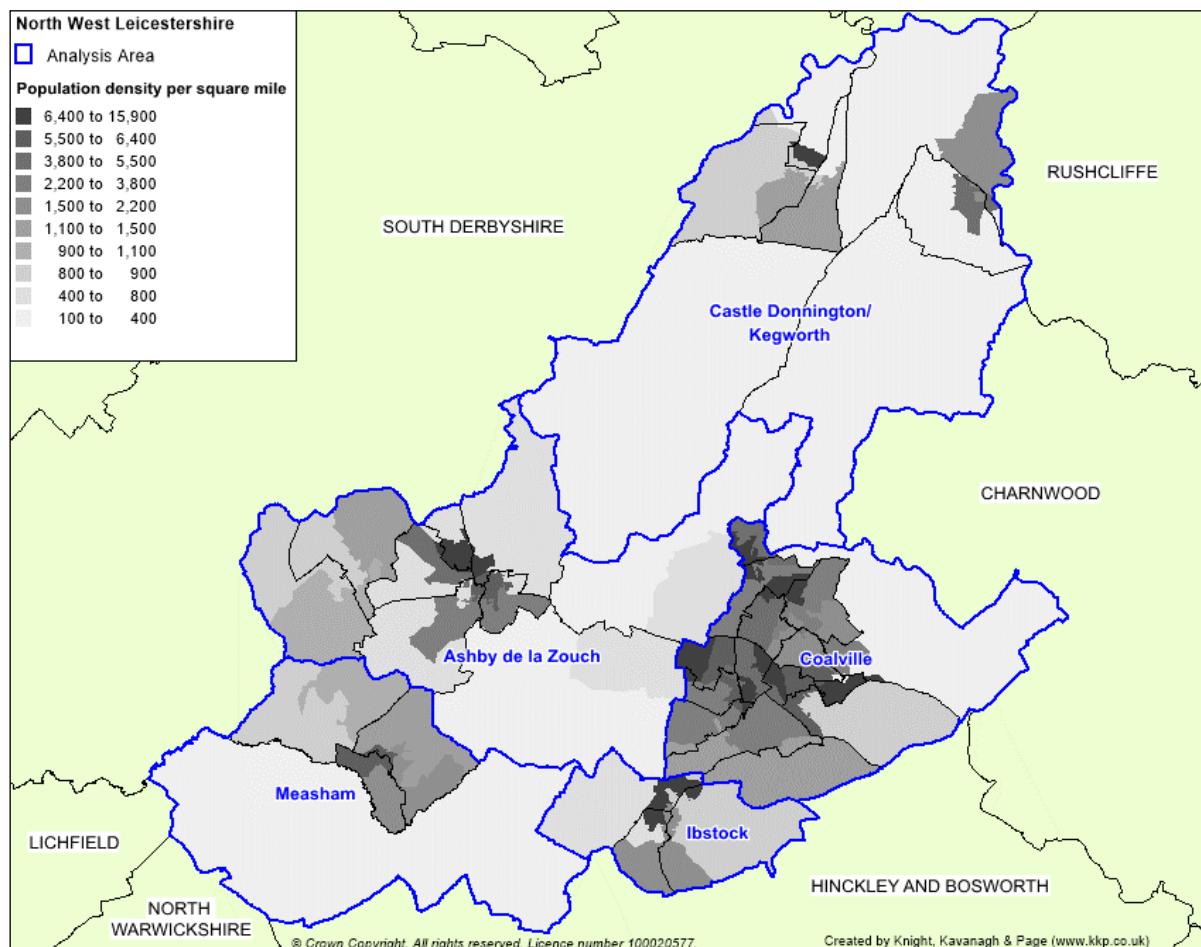
# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### Study area

The study area comprises the whole local authority area, with analysis areas (or sub areas) also used to allow for a more localised analysis. The sub-areas of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Castle Donington/Kegworth, Coalville, Ibstock and Measham can be seen via the table and figure below. These analysis areas align to the previous PPOSS iteration.

Figure 1.1: Analysis area map



It should be noted that the PPOSS also includes analysis on imported and exported demand to/from the District. This includes the surrounding local authorities of South Derbyshire, Rushcliffe, Charnwood, Hinckley and Bosworth, North Warwickshire, Lichfield and Erewash.

### Context

The Council developed a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) in 2017 (which has been refreshed), alongside a Built Sports and Recreation Facilities Framework (2017-2021). The Council is seeking to update these documents through a full review, with the addition of community facilities and open spaces, across the District. The intention is to understand current provision, where current and future gaps in provision are likely to be, and to cost and prioritise these.

The Council also requires an evidence base to support the developing Local Plan (2042) and development across the District in order to be able to seek developer contributions and other funding streams. This is to be able to secure the infrastructure required to support the growth of the District.

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

---

More broadly, the PPOSS will ensure that North West Leicestershire conforms to requirements set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). One of the core planning principles of this is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.

Section eight of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities, with Paragraph 103 stating that “planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.”

Paragraph 104 sets three criterion that ensures existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields and formal play spaces, should not be built on unless:

- a) An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- b) The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- c) The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

### PART 2: VISION AND AIMS

#### Vision

A vision has been set out to provide a clear focus with desired outcomes for the PPOSS.

*" To ensure that North West Leicestershire Council has a robust future proof Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy to ensure the appropriate provision of community facilities for active sport, providing exercise opportunity for all."*

#### Aims

To help achieve the overall vision, the following overarching aims are based on the three Sport England planning objectives. It is recommended that they are adopted by the Council and partners to enable delivery of the overall PPOSS vision and Sport England planning objectives.

##### AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of outdoor sport facilities where it is needed to meet current and future needs.

##### AIM 2

To **enhance** outdoor sport facilities and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites.

##### AIM 3

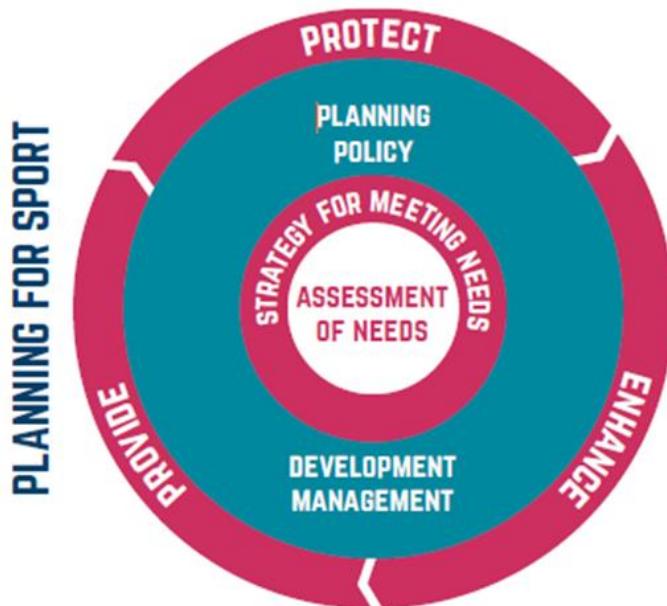
To **provide** new outdoor sport facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.

These can be further visualised via Figure 2.1 overleaf.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

Figure 2.1: Sport England planning objectives



Source: Sport England, Planning for Sport Guidance (April 2024)

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

### PART 3: HEADLINE FINDINGS

The table below highlights the current quantitative shortfalls for each main pitch sport included within the PPOSS, as identified in the preceding Assessment Report, both across North West Leicestershire and on a sub area basis. For qualitative findings and site-specific findings, please see Part 4: Sport Specific Recommendations and Scenarios, and Part 6: Action Plan.

MES stands for match equivalent sessions and has been used as the comparable unit for natural grass pitches. Converting both the amount of play a site can accommodate (its carrying capacity) and how much play takes place there (its current use) into the same unit of demand enables a comparison to be undertaken. Pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected. As the main usage of pitches is for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions.

Based on how the sports tend to be played, the match equivalent session unit for football, hockey and rugby union pitches relates to a typical week within the season for each sport, whereas for cricket, the number of match equivalent sessions is over the course of a season. This is because how much play a cricket pitch can accommodate is primarily determined by the number and quality of wickets on a square, with only one match generally played per pitch per day and with the wickets rotated throughout a season to reduce wear and to allow for repair. Each wicket is therefore able to accommodate a certain amount of play per season as opposed to a week.

For 3G pitches, the carrying capacity of the provision is much higher, meaning how much play can be accommodated is primarily determined by availability, rather than how usage adversely affects quality, as is the case with grass pitches. Therefore, the total number of pitches required is instead used to form an analysis.

Future demand in the Assessment report has been determined by using Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator which looks at population change over a predetermined period. For North West Leicestershire, this has been set to forecasted population rates in 2042 in line with the emerging Local Plan.

Please note the below figures are in reference to North West Leicestershire as a whole, the individual analysis area shortfalls can be found in the relevant tables in Part 6: Action Plan.

Table 3.1: Quantitative headline findings (pitch sports)

Sport	Pitch type	Current supply/demand balance (MES)	Future supply/demand balance (MES)
Football	Adult	12.5	7
Football	Youth 11v11	-4	-17.5
Football	Youth 9v9	-8.5	-16
Football	Mini 7v7	5	-2
Football	Mini 5v5	5	1
Football	3G 11v11	-4.5	-6.25
Cricket	Senior (Saturday)	-25	-121
Cricket	Senior (Sunday)	23	11
Cricket	Junior (midweek)	89	47
Rugby union	Senior	-9.5	-13.25

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Sport	Pitch type	Current supply/demand balance (MES)	Future supply/demand balance (MES)
Hockey	AGP	4	4

For the remaining (non-pitch) sports, quantitative shortfalls can be more difficult to determine, with capacity guidance differing and with focus often away from formal activity. The current and future picture for each sport across North West Leicestershire is therefore instead summarised in the table below.

Table 3.2: Headline findings (remaining sports)

Sport	Headline findings
<b>Tennis</b>	The supply of tennis provision in North West Leicestershire is currently sufficient to meet club-based demand, with no capacity issues identified and capacity existing for growth. However, it is likely that other forms of demand are not being adequately met, particularly given a lack of sports lighting at parks courts particularly at Coalville Park within the Coalville Analysis Area and Ravenstone Recreation Ground within the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area.
<b>Padel</b>	There is currently an absence of padel courts across North West Leicestershire with a need for seven courts based on the LTA methodology.
<b>Netball</b>	There are 15 community available netball courts across six sites in North West Leicestershire. Of these, six are rated as good quality and nine as standard quality. Six courts located at Ashby School and Sixth Form and Ibstock Leisure Complex benefit from sports lighting. Whilst the overall number of community available courts is encouraging, the limited availability of sport -lit courts is a concern. This shortfall likely restricts evening access during the winter months, creating a barrier to participation for some clubs and potentially hindering the growth of netball across the District.
<b>Bowls</b>	With no clubs reporting any capacity issues, it is considered that there is a sufficient supply of provision of bowling greens in North West Leicestershire. It is therefore considered that there is not a need for an increase in the supply of bowling greens, also given that there is an unused green at Moira Miners Welfare.
<b>Athletics</b>	Evidence suggests there is demand for athletics in North West Leicestershire, particularly from local clubs; however, much of this activity currently occurs outside formal track settings, such as on roads and in parks. While neighbouring authorities offer accessible athletics tracks that partially meet local needs, the current level of demand does not justify the development of a traditional 400m track. Nonetheless, this does not eliminate the need for formal provision alternative options like NewGen or Active Track facilities should be considered.

### **Conclusions**

The existing position for all outdoor sports is either that demand is being met or that there is a shortfall. Moreover, for most sports played on natural turf grass pitches there are identified shortfalls. As such, there is a clear need to protect all existing provision until all demand is met, or there is a requirement to replace provision to an equal or better quantity and quality before it is lost, in line with the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy.

Where demand is being met, this does not equate to a surplus of provision, with any spare capacity instead considered to be a solution to overcoming shortfalls. Linked to this, most of the current shortfalls identified can be met by better utilising current provision, such as through improving quality, installing additional sports lighting, improving ancillary facilities, increasing match play on 3G pitches, and enabling access to existing unused provision, such as at unavailable school sites. However, future demand needs to be monitored as the need for new provision or need to bring disused provision back into use may be greater, especially

## **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

---

in relation to football where the level of growth is expected to exceed what is projected through population growth (based on recent regional and national trends).

In regard to artificial pitches, there is a clear quantified shortfall of 3G pitches for football training that can only be rectified through the installation of new facilities. The development of 3G pitches could also help to alleviate identified grass pitch shortfalls via the transfer of play. Additionally, quality improvements alone will likely not address all the current shortfalls on rugby union pitches, meaning there could be a need for additional pitch provision to accommodate demand, although this could also at least partly be achieved through 3G provision.

There is also a need for padel courts to be developed to support the national and regional growth in demand.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In this section, in order to help develop recommendations and actions for each sport, and to understand their potential impact, a number of relevant scenario questions are tested against the key issues identified in the preceding Assessment Report for each sport. This will then inform sport specific recommendations.

Specific reference is also made in parts to Ashby-de-la-Zouch given current aspirations within localised sporting organisations to develop a sports hub within the area.

#### 4.1: Football – grass pitches

##### *Assessment Report summary*

###### **Supply and demand summary**

- ◆ Actual spare capacity totals 37.5 equivalent sessions per week and is found across 43 pitches at 19 sites in North West Leicestershire, whilst overplay equates to match equivalent sessions 27.5 across 23 pitches and 13 sites.
- ◆ There are currently shortfalls across youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches, whereas spare capacity exists on adult, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches.
- ◆ When incorporating future demand, spare capacity is reduced on adult pitches whereas shortfalls worsen in the case of youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches. Elsewhere, shortfalls are established across mini 7v7 pitches.
- ◆ When findings are compared to the previous PPOSS study completed in 2017, the supply and demand picture is worse. Current spare capacity previously existed on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches whereas a significant shortfall is now calculated for both.

###### **Supply summary**

- ◆ The audit identifies a total of 111 grass football pitches across 46 sites in North West Leicestershire. Of these, 103 pitches across 38 sites are identified as being available for community use
- ◆ Since the previous PPOSS was completed in 2017, the overall number of pitches has decreased by 14 and the number of community available pitches has decreased by one.
- ◆ Ashby Ivanhoe FC has planning permission to change the use of adjoining land at Ashby Ivanhoe Football Club (LE65 1TS) to recreation use including the formation of additional pitches, parking area and landscaping (22/01811/FULM).
- ◆ Of the 103 community available pitches in North West Leicestershire, 40 are managed by sports clubs (39%), 23 are managed by parish council's (22%) 19 are managed by education sites (18%) whilst the District Council and Other management types manage eight (8%) pitches each. The remaining five pitches (5%) are managed by town councils.
- ◆ Within North West Leicestershire, most pitches are assessed as standard quality (54 pitches or 52%), 27 pitches assessed as good quality (26%) and 22 assessed as poor quality (22%).
- ◆ Across the District, many sites provide good and/or standard quality provision, although two sites provide poor facilities.

###### **Demand summary**

- ◆ A total of 308 teams from 33 affiliated clubs are identified as playing in North West Leicestershire. As a breakdown, this equates to 50 adult teams, 98 youth 11v11 teams, 57 youth 9v9 teams, 56 mini 7v7 teams and 47 mini 5v5 teams.
- ◆ There are currently six women's teams and 31 dedicated girls' teams playing football in North West Leicestershire. This represents 12% of all demand across the District
- ◆ Since the previous study was completed in 2017, the number of teams within North West Leicestershire has increased from 172 to 308, representing a growth of 44%.
- ◆ Five teams from five clubs within North West Leicestershire play within the NLS, Coalville Town FC (Step 6), Heather St John's FC (Step 6), Ashby Ivanhoe FC (Step 5), Ingles FC (Step 6).
- ◆ Within North West Leicestershire, FCV Academy (LE67 5UG – Castle Donington / Kegworth Analysis Area) accommodates some imported demand from the neighbouring authority of Charnwood. The site, which was Grace Dieu Manor School until 2020, accommodates training demand from Shepshed Dynamo Youth & Junior FC.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- ◆ In total, based on 2024/25 affiliation data, there are 27 teams which currently export their competitive demand outside of North West Leicestershire to surrounding local authorities
- ◆ Nine responding clubs from North West Leicestershire report latent demand in that they report they could field more teams if certain facility-related issues were resolved.
- ◆ Future demand from population growth (to 2042) predicts an increase of 79 teams across the playing formats (39.5 match equivalent sessions). Totalling 13 adult, 25 youth 11v11, 15 youth 9v9, 14 mini 7v7 and 12 mini 5v5 teams.

### Scenarios

#### *Alleviating overplay/improving pitch quality by one increment*

In total there are 23 pitches overplayed in North West Leicestershire across 13 sites, equating to 27.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Improving the quality of these pitches (i.e., through increased maintenance or improved drainage) will increase capacity at the sites and consequently reduce both current and future shortfalls.

To illustrate the above, Table 4.1 overleaf highlights the current levels of overplay that would be alleviated if quality improved by one increment at each site. As a reminder, the capacity rating for each type and quality rating is as follows:

Adult pitch quality	Adult matches per week	Youth pitch quality	Youth matches per week	Mini pitch quality	Mini matches per week
Good	3	Good	4	Good	6
Standard	2	Standard	2	Standard	4
Poor	1	Poor	1	Poor	2

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 4.1: Overplay if all pitches were improved by one increment (match equivalent sessions)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Current quality	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (MES)	Improved quality (by one increment)	Capacity rating (MES)	Spare capacity in peak period
1	Albert Village Junior Football Club	Measham	Standard	(9v9)	1	-2	Good	0	-
1	Albert Village Junior Football Club	Measham	Standard	Adult	1	-2.5	Good	-1.5	-
5	Ashby Ivanhoe FC	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Standard	Adult	1	-2	Good	-1	-
6	Hood Park	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Standard	Adult	1	-1	Good	0	-
6	Hood Park	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Standard	(11v11)	1	-0.5	Good	1.5	0.5
9	Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields)	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Poor	(9v9)	1	-1	Standard	0	-
23	Coalville FC (Owen Street)	Coalville	Poor	(9v9)	1	-1	Standard	0	-
23	Coalville FC (Owen Street)	Coalville	Standard	(11v11)	1	-2.5	Good	-0.5	-
36	Ivanhoe School	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Standard	(9v9)	1	-0.5	Good	1.5	0.5
36	Ivanhoe School	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Standard	(11v11)	2	-0.5	Good	3.5	0.5
41	Measham Community and Recreation Centre	Measham	Poor	(9v9)	2	-0.5	Standard	1.5	1.5
42	Measham Road Recreation Ground	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Poor	(11v11)	1	-3	Standard	-2	-
48	Oakthorpe Recreation Ground	Measham	Poor	(11v11)	1	-1	Standard	0	-
52	Scotland's Playing Fields	Coalville	Poor	Adult	2	-3	Standard	-1	-
52	Scotland's Playing Fields	Coalville	Standard	(9v9)	1	-3	Good	-1	-
55	Spital Park	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Standard	Adult	1	-1	Good	0	-
61	The Newbridge School	Coalville	Standard	(9v9)	1	-0.5	Good	1.5	-
63	Western Park	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Poor	Adult	2	-1	Standard	1	1
64	Westfields Recreation Ground	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Poor	Adult	1	-1	Standard	0	-

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

The impact of improving overplayed pitches by one increment is shown in the table above. In the main, overplay would be alleviated across five sites providing nine pitches, leaving seven pitches played to capacity located at Albert Village Junior Football Club, Hood Park, Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields), Coalville FC (Owen Street), Oakthorpe Recreation Ground, Spital Park and Westfields Recreation Ground. Although the quality improvements increase the capacity, only four MES of peak time spare capacity are created for additional play.

As seen in the table below, if quality was improved by one increment, overplay would be reduced resulting in actual spare capacity identified across all pitch types. Shortfalls would still remain when factoring in future demand however these would be less, particularly on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitch types.

Table 4.2: Overall impact of improving quality (match equivalent sessions per week)

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult	24	-11.5	12.5	5.5	7
Youth 11v11	3.5	-7.5	-4	13.5	-17.5
Youth 9v9	-	-8.5	-8.5	7.5	-16
Mini 7v7	5	-	5	7	-2
Mini 5v5	5	-	5	4	1
<b>If improvements are made</b>					
Adult	25	-3.5	21.5	5.5	16
Youth 11v11	8.5	-2.5	6	13.5	-7.5
Youth 9v9	4.5	-1	3.5	7.5	-4
Mini 7v7	5	-	5	7	-2
Mini 5v5	5	-	5	4	1

Based on the above findings, the impact has also been applied to pitches specifically within the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area to assess the impact of improving pitch quality by one increment.

Table 4.3 Impact of improving pitch quality within Ashby-de-la-Zouch

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future / exported demand	Future total
<b>Ashby-de-la-Zouch</b>					
Adult	6	-5	1	1	-
Youth 11v11	-	-4	-4	4 <sup>1</sup>	-4
Youth 9v9	-	-1.5	-1.5	2	-3.5
Mini 7v7	-	-	-	1.5	-1.5
Mini 5v5	-	-	-	1.5	-1.5
<b>If improvements are made</b>					
Adult	7	-1	6	1	5
Youth 11v11	5	-2	3	4 <sup>2</sup>	-1
Youth 9v9	1.5	-	1.5	2	-0.5
Mini 7v7	-	-	-	1.5	-1.5
Mini 5v5	-	-	-	1.5	-1.5

<sup>1</sup> Includes 0.5 match equivalent sessions of exported demand

<sup>2</sup> Includes 0.5 match equivalent sessions of exported demand

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

---

As seen, improving pitch quality by one increment will alleviate overplay of youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches within Ashby-de-la-Zouch with a total of 2.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity created. However, when factoring in future and exported demand, shortfalls are still established across most pitch types, with the exception being adult.

### *Alleviating overplay/improving pitch quality to good*

This table below illustrates the position if all overplayed pitches in North West Leicestershire were improved to good quality (rather than just by one increment). This is the highest threshold a pitch can score. As can be seen, overplay would be alleviated across all but four sites and four pitches.

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 4.4: Overplay if all pitches were good quality

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Current quality	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (MES)	Good quality rating (MES)	Spare capacity in peak period
1	Albert Village Junior Football Club	Measham	Standard	(9v9)	1	-2	0	-
1	Albert Village Junior Football Club	Measham	Standard	Adult	1	-2.5	-1.5	-
5	Ashby Ivanhoe FC	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Standard	Adult	1	-2	-1	-
6	Hood Park	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Standard	Adult	1	-1	0	-
6	Hood Park	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Standard	(11v11)	1	-0.5	1.5	0.5
9	Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields)	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Poor	(9v9)	1	-1	2	1
23	Coalville FC (Owen Street)	Coalville	Poor	(9v9)	1	-1	2	0.5
23	Coalville FC (Owen Street)	Coalville	Standard	(11v11)	1	-2.5	-0.5	-
36	Ivanhoe School	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Standard	(9v9)	1	-0.5	1.5	0.5
36	Ivanhoe School	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Standard	(11v11)	2	-0.5	3.5	0.5
41	Measham Community and Recreation Centre	Measham	Poor	(9v9)	2	-0.5	5.5	2
42	Measham Road Recreation Ground	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Poor	(11v11)	1	-3	0	-
48	Oakthorpe Recreation Ground	Measham	Poor	(11v11)	1	-1	2	-
52	Scotland's Playing Fields	Coalville	Poor	Adult	2	-3	1	2
52	Scotland's Playing Fields	Coalville	Standard	(9v9)	1	-3	-1	-
55	Spital Park	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Standard	Adult	1	-1	0	-
61	The Newbridge School	Coalville	Standard	(9v9)	1	-0.5	1.5	-
63	Western Park	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Poor	Adult	2	-1	3	2

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Current quality	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (MES)	Good quality rating (MES)	Spare capacity in peak period
64	Westfields Recreation Ground	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Poor	Adult	1	-1	1	1

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

In the main, overplay would be alleviated across eight sites and 12 pitches, leaving just four pitches played to capacity located at Albert Village Junior Football Club, Hood Park, Measham Road Recreation Ground and Spital Park. Furthermore, seven match equivalent sessions of peak time spare capacity are created to accommodate additional play.

Table 4.5: Overall impact of improving quality to good (match equivalent sessions per week)

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult	24	-11.5	12.5	5.5	7
Youth 11v11	3.5	-7.5	-4	13.5	-17.5
Youth 9v9	-	-8.5	-8.5	7.5	-16
Mini 7v7	5	-	5	7	-2
Mini 5v5	5	-	5	4	1
<b>If improvements are made</b>					
Adult	29	-2.5	26.5	5.5	21
Youth 11v11	10.5	-0.5	10	13.5	-3.5
Youth 9v9	12.5	-1	11.5	7.5	4
Mini 7v7	5	-	5	7	-2
Mini 5v5	5	-	5	4	1

As seen in the table above, if quality was improved to good quality, overplay would be reduced resulting in actual spare capacity identified across all pitch types. However, shortfalls would still remain when factoring in future demand, albeit these would be less, particularly on youth 11v11 pitches.

Similar to the previous scenario, based on the above findings, the impact has also been applied to pitches specifically within the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area. As seen, this will alleviate overplay of youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches, with a total of 5.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity created. When factoring in future demand, this remains the case although shortfalls remain on mini pitch types.

Table 4.6 Impact of improving pitch quality to good within Ashby-de-la-Zouch

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future / exported demand	Future total
<b>Ashby-de-la-Zouch</b>					
Adult	6	-5	1	1	-
Youth 11v11	-	-4	-4	4 <sup>3</sup>	-4
Youth 9v9	-	-1.5	-1.5	2	-3.5
Mini 7v7	-	-	-	1.5	-1.5
Mini 5v5	-	-	-	1.5	-1.5
<b>If improvements are made</b>					
Adult	11	-1	10	1	9
Youth 11v11	5	-	5	4 <sup>4</sup>	1
Youth 9v9	3.5	-	3.5	2	1.5
Mini 7v7	-	-	-	1.5	-1.5
Mini 5v5	-	-	-	1.5	-1.5

<sup>3</sup> Includes 0.5 match equivalent sessions of exported demand

<sup>4</sup> Includes 0.5 match equivalent sessions of exported demand

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

### *Reinstating unmarked pitches*

As mentioned in the proceeding Assessment Report, there are a number of disused football sites across North West Leicestershire. All disused provision is summarised in the table below.

Table 4.7: Summary of disused unmarked provision within North West Leicestershire

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Format previously accommodated	Comments
2	Appleby Magna Recreation Ground	Measham	(9v9)	<b>Unmarked pitch</b> – Site still in use, previously provided an additional youth 9v9 pitch <i>circa 2018</i>
8	Ashby Road Playing Fields	Ibstock	(9v9)	<b>Unmarked pitch</b> – Site still in use, previously provided an additional youth 9v9 pitch <i>circa 2018</i>
12	Bardon Hill Sports Ground	Coalville	(9v9)	<b>Unmarked pitch</b> – Site still in use, previously provided an additional youth 9v9 pitch <i>circa 2018</i>
17	Bosworth Road Recreation Ground	Measham	(11v11)	<b>Unmarked pitch</b> – Site still in use, previously provided one youth 11v11 pitch <i>circa 2018</i>
31	Hermitage Recreation Ground	Coalville	(9v9) (7v7)	<b>Unmarked pitch</b> – Site still in use, previously provided an additional youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitches <i>circa 2018</i>
43	Melrose Recreation Ground	Coalville	Adult	<b>Unmarked pitch</b> – Site still in use, previously provided one adult pitch <i>circa 2018</i>
50	Parsonwood Hill	Coalville	(7v7)	<b>Unmarked pitch</b> – Site still in use, previously provided one mini 7v7 pitch <i>circa 2018</i>
51	Ravenstone Recreation Ground	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	(9v9) (7v7) (5v5)	<b>Unmarked pitch</b> – Site still in use, previously provided an additional youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitch <i>circa 2018</i>
52	Scotland's Playing Fields	Coalville	(9v9)	<b>Unmarked pitch</b> - Site still in use, previously provided an additional youth 9v9 pitch <i>circa 2018</i>
60	The Connery	Measham	(11v11)	<b>Unmarked pitch</b> – Site still in use, previously provided one youth 11v11 pitch <i>circa 2018</i>
65	Donisthorpe Woodland Centre	Measham	(9v9) (7v7) (5v5)	<b>Unmarked pitch</b> – Site still in use, previously provided one youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitch <i>circa 2018</i>

The table below examines what the impact would be on the overall supply and demand analysis if all these pitches were brought back into use established to a minimum of standard quality with secured tenure.

Table 4.8: Impact on supply and demand balance from reinstating unmarked provision

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

Pitch/facility type	Current capacity (MES)	Potential capacity (MES)
Adult	12.5	13.5
Youth 11v11	-4	-1
Youth 9v9	-8.5	-1.5
Mini 7v7	5	9
Mini 5v5	5	7

As seen in the table above, if all disused pitches were to be reinstated, this would reduce shortfalls on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches, whilst spare capacity is increased across adult, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches.

Using these findings, when reinstating pitches located in the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area specifically (at Ravenstone Recreation Ground), shortfalls reduce across youth 9v9 pitches, whilst spare capacity is established for mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches.

Table 4.9: Impact on reinstating pitches within Ashby-de-la-Zouch

Pitch type	Current capacity (MES)	Potential capacity (MES)
<b>Ashby-de-la-Zouch</b>		
Adult	1	1
Youth 11v11	-4	-4
Youth 9v9	-1.5	-0.5
Mini 7v7	-	1
Mini 5v5	-	1

Notwithstanding the above, as there are eight sites that have only one pitch, further feasibility should be considered to judge the value in re-instating these (one pitch sites can be difficult to sustain). Contrarily, the three sites which previously provided multiple pitches are likely to provide a better offering if reinstated.

#### *Accounting for club future demand aspirations*

During consultation, seven clubs report aspirations to increase their number of teams, equating to a predicted growth of 37 teams (four adult, six youth 11v11, 12 youth 9v9, two mini 7v7 and 16 mini 5v5) over the next five years. This is relatively substantial but has previously been discounted from calculations as it is considered to be more aspirational than future growth predicted via population growth.

If achieved, future demand from clubs will exacerbate existing shortfalls on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches, whilst establishing shortfalls on mini 5v5 pitches and reducing spare capacity across adult and mini 7v7 pitches. This is shown further in the following table.

Table 4.10: Impact of future demand from clubs on supply

Pitch type	Current capacity (MES)	Potential future demand (club aspirations)	Potential capacity (MES)
Adult	12.5	2	10.5
Youth 11v11	-4	3	-7
Youth 9v9	-8.5	6	-14.5
Mini 7v7	5	1	4
Mini 5v5	5	8	-3

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

When looking at club aspirations specifically within the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area, shortfalls worsen in the case of youth 9v9 pitches whilst they are established across mini 7v7 pitches.

Table 4.11: Impact of future demand from clubs in Ashby-de-la-Zouch

Pitch type	Current capacity (MES)	Potential future demand (club aspirations)	Potential capacity (MES)
<b>Ashby-de-la-Zouch</b>			
Adult	1	-	1
Youth 11v11	-4	-	-4
Youth 9v9	-1.5	1	-2.5
Mini 7v7	-	1	-1
Mini 5v5	-	-	-

### *Future demand through trend based growth*

This scenario examines the impact of future demand for football pitches based on the percentage of growth from the previous PPOSS until now. With 172 teams identified in the previous study rising to 308, this represents a 44% increase in demand, which is particularly substantial.

An increase in 44% up over the next PPOSS period would result in an additional 136 teams being created and 68 match equivalent sessions per week. On this basis, participation increases reported by clubs during consultation is significantly lower than those identified through forecasting growth via this method.

If the above future demand through forecasted growth was to be realised over the next five years, this would reduce spare capacity on adult pitches, exacerbate existing shortfalls on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches, and create shortfalls on mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches. This is shown further in the table below.

Table 4.12: Current supply and demand if growth trends continued

Pitch type	Current capacity (MES)	Potential capacity (MES)
Adult	12.5	1.5
Youth 11v11	-4	-26
Youth 9v9	-8.5	-21.5
Mini 7v7	5	-7
Mini 5v5	5	-5

It should be noted that the future demand has been accredited to the pitch type based on the overall percentage of that type of demand playing within North West Leicestershire. For example, currently 14% of all demand in the Authority plays on adult pitch types therefore 14% of 68 match equivalent sessions (ten match equivalent sessions) has been attributed.

In the case of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, demand has risen from 33 teams since the previous PPOSS to 83 teams, with this representing a 60% increase in team figures. Should demand continue to increase at this rate, this would result in an additional 37 teams and 18.5 match equivalent sessions per week. When applying the same methodology as shown in the table above, shortfalls are evident across all pitch types.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

Table 4.13: Current supply and demand in Ashby-de-la-Zouch if growth trends continued

Pitch type	Current capacity (MES)	Potential capacity (MES)
<b>Ashby-de-la-Zouch</b>		
Adult	1	-1
Youth 11v11	-4	-10.5
Youth 9v9	-1.5	-5.5
Mini 7v7	-	-3
Mini 5v5	-	-3

Given the current shortfalls identified for grass football pitches, this further evidences the need to improve pitch quality at overplayed and poor quality sites and to potentially develop more pitches (which could include 3G pitches) to better support this anticipated growth in demand.

Given the differing levels of future growth identified, actual growth should be further monitored regularly via Stage E updates to fully understand which growth scenario (population forecasts, continuation of growth trends or club aspirations) is likely to be the most accurate.

#### *Loss of access to unsecure sites*

The table below outlines sites in North West Leicestershire which are accessed by community clubs where tenure is unsecure, although this only applies to two which is a comparatively low number. In instances where clubs do not have formal tenure agreements in place, clubs could theoretically be asked to vacate at any time which would result in each requiring alternate provision to service existing levels of demand.

Table 4.14: Demand taking place on grass pitches at unsecure sites

Site	Club	Teams
Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields)	Ashby United Community FC	13
Kegworth Primary School	Kegworth Imps	2

There are 15 teams from two clubs accessing the two sites with unsecure tenure, with both being education sites. The impact on removal of these two sites for community access is highlighted in the table below.

Table 4.15: Current supply and demand balance without unsecure sites

Pitch/facility type	Current capacity (MES)	Potential capacity (MES)
Adult	12.5	12.5
Youth 11v11	-4	-5.5
Youth 9v9	-8.5	-9.5
Mini 7v7	5	2.5
Mini 5v5	5	2.5

As can be seen, if access to unsecure sites was to be lost, shortfalls worsen across youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches, with spare capacity reducing across mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches. Therefore, it is necessary to do everything possible to ensure that the grass pitches at unsecure sites continue to stay open for community use.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Removing access to Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields) within the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area would see shortfalls worsen in the case of youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches and establish shortfalls across mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches.

Table 4.16: Current supply and demand balance in Ashby-de-la-Zouch without unsecure sites

Pitch type	Current capacity (MES)	Potential capacity (MES)
<b>Ashby-de-la-Zouch</b>		
Adult	1	1
Youth 11v11	-4	-5.5
Youth 9v9	-1.5	-2.5
Mini 7v7	-	-2.5
Mini 5v5	-	-1.5

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect the existing quantity of pitches (unless replacement provision meets NPPF and Sport England Playing Field Policy requirements and is agreed upon and provided).
- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and assessed as poor or standard quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain use and improve quality.
- ◀ Utilise the Football Foundation's PitchPower app to assist in the improvement and ongoing maintenance of provision.
- ◀ Work to accommodate future demand at sites which are not operating at capacity.
- ◀ Work to alleviate identified overplay on grass football pitches, particularly those at youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitch format through improvement of pitch quality.
- ◀ Explore options to reinstate disused / unused provision in order to alleviate identified shortfalls / provide capacity for future growth.
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so and where it can benefit the wider footballing offer, prioritising club-led sites, multi-pitch sites and sites which play key strategic roles for adult football and women and girls' participation.
- ◀ Monitor future growth levels to determine when and where new grass pitches may be required.
- ◀ Ensure that any housing development considers potential increases in demand for the sport and that new provision or contributions are properly sought through utilisation of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator.
- ◀ Where a housing development is not of a size to justify on-site football provision, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality, with priority placed on priorities and needs identified in the PPOSS Action Plan and the LFFP.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site football provision, focus on the creation of multi-pitch sites with community use that reduce existing shortfalls, with accompanying clubhouse provision (subject to viability).

## **4.2: Third Generation turf (3G) pitches**

### **Assessment Report summary**

#### **3G – supply and demand summary**

- ◀ There is a current shortfall of 3G pitch provision within North West Leicestershire to meet football requirements, meaning a clear need to develop additional pitches.
- ◀ 3G provision for rugby union may be warranted to provide a solution to the identified overplay of grass pitches.
- ◀ With no other activity identified that could feasibly utilise the 3G pitch stock, no other sporting requirements for access are identified or need to be considered at this time.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### 3G - supply summary

- ◆ The audit identifies four 11v11 size 3G pitches, all of which are sports lit and available for community use. This equates to two in the Castle Donington/ Kegworth Analysis Area and two in the Coalville Analysis Area.
- ◆ There are also eight smaller size 3G pitches within the District, two of which are each located within Ashby-de-la-Zouch and Measham analysis areas, one within Coalville Analysis Area and three within the Castle Donington/ Kegworth Analysis Area. Similarly to the 11v11 3G pitches, all of the smaller pitches are available for community use and are serviced with sports lighting.
- ◆ There are clear aspirations from both Ashby RFC and Castle Donington RFC to access WR compliant 3G provision. As Coalville RFC did not respond to consultation its ambitions are unknown, however, due to its proximity to Ashby-de-la-Zouch it would be able to potentially access any future provision created by Ashby RFC to alleviate any grass pitch shortfalls.
- ◆ In North West Leicestershire, three of the four 11v11 3G pitches are on the FA's 3G pitch register (Castle Donington College is not), whilst none of the smaller sized 3G pitches on the pitch register.
- ◆ No pitches are World Rugby compliant.
- ◆ In North West Leicestershire, three of the four pitches are within their recommended lifespan. As such, they are all assessed as good quality, with no major issues identified. The pitch at The Newbridge School has surpassed its recommended lifespan, however, is still on the FA pitch register with no notable issues identified through consultation and is rated as standard quality.
- ◆ The changing rooms at Coalville Town FC have been rated as standard quality, through consultation the Club states that the youth clubhouse is dated and needs investment. These include four changing rooms with self-contained showers and toilets as well as an official's changing room with the same facilities.

### 3G - demand summary

- ◆ The 3G pitch stock currently servicing North West Leicestershire is operating at or close to capacity at peak times during midweek, especially in winter months for training demand.
- ◆ All demand is currently football-related, with it being particularly intensive at Coalville Town FC (Owen Street) with the Club having 79 teams.
- ◆ A total of seven football clubs report that they require additional access to 3G provision, with these representing 107 teams (no unmet demand is identified from other sports).
- ◆ Using population forecasts to 2042, an additional 79 football teams are expected to be generated that could require access to 3G provision.
- ◆ In addition, although no rugby union demand currently accesses 3G pitches, it is clear that future access could provide a solution to the grass pitch deficits identified.

### Scenarios

#### Accommodating football training demand

In order to satisfy current football training demand (based on the FA's scenario of one 11v11 3G pitch equivalent being able to cater for 38 community football teams), the table below explores current requirements in North West Leicestershire.

Table 4.17: Current demand for 3G pitches in North West Leicestershire (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Analysis area	Current demand (number of teams)	Potential 11v11 pitch requirements	Current number of 11v11 pitch equivalents	Potential 11v11 pitch shortfall
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	84	2.25	0	-2.25
Castle Donington/ Kegworth	51	1.5	1.5	-
Coalville	113	3	2.75	-0.25
Ibstock	42	1.25	0	-1.25
Measham	45	1.25	0	-1.25

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

With 335 teams affiliated to clubs based in North West Leicestershire, there is an overall need for 9.25 11v11 size 3G pitches. With 4.25 pitches currently provided and contributing to community use need, this leaves a shortfall of five pitches. The deficits exist in four of the five analysis areas (demand is being met in the Castle Donington / Kegworth Analysis Area), with the largest shortfall found in the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area (2.25 pitches).

When factoring in future demand from population increases, the overall need is projected to increase to 10.5 11v11 3G pitches, meaning a potential shortfall of 6.25 pitches.

Table 4.18 Future shortfall of 3G pitches to meet football training demand

Analysis area	Future demand (number of teams)	Potential 11v11 pitch requirements	Current number of 11v11 pitch equivalents	Potential 11v11 pitch shortfall
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	103	2.75	0	-2.75
Castle Donington/ Kegworth	59	1.5	1.5	-
Coalville	136	3.5	2.75	-0.75
Ibstock	50	1.25	0	-1.25
Measham	53	1.5	0	-1.5

*Accounting for future demand via anticipated future growth rate (44% growth rate)*

The table below shows the total need for 3G pitches when accounting for the growth rate trend for football in North West Leicestershire. This growth rate achieves a higher participation total than when compared to the ONS population projections which has already been applied in this report and via using club aspirations (as detailed in the grass pitch scenarios).

Table 4.19: Future demand (44% growth rate) for 3G pitches in North West Leicestershire

Future number of teams	3G requirement	Current number of 11v11 size 3G pitch equivalents	Future shortfall
444	11.75	4.25	-7.5

When considering this anticipated future demand for an additional 136 teams (based on growth identified in Part 2 of this report), there is potential demand for 11.75 11v11 3G pitches overall (rounded up from 11.68), which means a theoretical future shortfall of 7.5 pitches.

*Moving football mini match play demand to 3G pitches*

To further the use of 3G pitches for matches, the FA is particularly keen to work with local authorities and providers within local authorities to understand the potential demand for 11v11 size sports lit 3G pitches to cater for different formats of match play.

The FA has an ambition to transfer 50% of mini play on to 3G pitches nationally. Thus, a programme of play has been created for North West Leicestershire to determine how many 3G pitches would be required to accommodate this, given that peak time for both mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 football is Sunday mornings.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

Table 4.20: Moving all mini matches to 3G pitches

Time	AGP	Total games/teams
9.30am – 10.30am	4 x 5v5	4/8
10.30am – 11.30am	2 x 7v7	2/4
11.30am – 12.30pm	2 x 7v7	2/4
12.30pm – 1.30pm	2 x 7v7	2/4

With 56 teams currently playing 7v7 football and 47 teams playing 5v5 football, based on the above programming and separate start times for mini 5v5 and mini 7v7 matches, the overall need is for seven 11v11 size 3G pitches to accommodate all current mini match play demand. Therefore, with 4.25 11v11 size pitches presently provided in North West Leicestershire, this scenario cannot currently be achieved without 2.75 additional pitches being provided. However, by meeting training requirements, this could be implemented.

Below tests a similar scenario for youth 9v9 football. Such demand could be accommodated using five 11v11 3G pitches, meaning a need for just one additional pitch. This is based on 57 teams currently playing this format within North West Leicestershire at peak time.

Table 4.21: Moving all 9v9 matches to 3G pitches

Time	AGP	Total games/teams
10am – Noon	1 x 9v9	1/2
Noon – 2pm	1 x 9v9	1/2
2pm – 4pm	1 x 9v9	1/2

### *World Rugby compliant 3G pitches*

World Rugby produced the ‘performance specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby’, more commonly known as ‘Regulation 22’ that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union. The RFU generally support the development of 3G pitches which support rugby union where grass rugby pitches are over capacity and where a pitch would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and education establishments.

Within North West Leicestershire there are currently no World Rugby compliant 3G pitches. However, there is a current shortfall on grass pitches of 9.5 match equivalent sessions per week to meet rugby union demand. This equates to a shortfall of four match equivalent sessions in the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area and six matches equivalent sessions in the Coalville Analysis Area (0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity exist in the Castle Donington/ Kegworth Analysis Area).

Based on the above, it is likely that a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch would be particularly beneficial to help alleviate these shortfalls, especially with both Ashby RFC and Coalville RFC expressing aspirations to create a full-size pitch. There is evidence that there is a need specifically within the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area, although further research is required to understand the strategic location. There is no identified need for such provision within the Coalville Analysis Area.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect current stock of 3G pitches, in line with national (i.e. the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy) and local planning policy.
- ◀ Work with relevant partners to deliver additional 3G pitches in the District to cater for demand, specifically the Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Ibstock and Measham analysis areas.
- ◀ Work with partners such as the FA, FF, RFU, Sport England and other NGBs as applicable to identify the most suitable locations to build new 3G pitches to alleviate known shortfalls using the findings from the PPOSS.
- ◀ Explore the feasibility of any new 11v11 size 3G pitch to provide World Rugby/ compliancy to support RFU training demand.
- ◀ Aim that any new 3G pitches have community use agreements in place through engagement with operators of pitches and the Council with assistance provided by relevant NGBs as required.
- ◀ Aim that all 11v11 and small size pitches of substantial area are on the FA register where they meet criteria and are re-tested when required to sustain certification, through engagement with operators of pitches not currently registered and when existing certification is nearing expiry.
- ◀ Ensure that all current and future providers have in place a pitch replacement fund to ensure long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Aim that all new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA quality performance standards.
- ◀ Engage with 3G providers to replace halogen sports lighting to LED systems to improve energy efficiency, reduce costs and reduce light spill.
- ◀ Explore opportunities for multi-sport use and cross sport compliancy of 3G pitches where new are required / in need of refurbishment to help meet shortfalls for rugby league, rugby union and other pitch sports where present.

### **4.3: Rugby union - grass pitches**

#### **Assessment Report summary**

##### **Rugby union – supply and demand summary**

- ◀ In North West Leicestershire only one pitch is considered to have actual spare capacity with this coming from the pitch at Spital Park with 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week of actual spare capacity.
- ◀ Five pitches across two sites in North West Leicestershire are overplayed by a total of ten match equivalent sessions per week.
- ◀ The Coalville Analysis Area accommodates the largest amount of overplay, equating to six match equivalent sessions at Coalville RFC. The remaining four match equivalent sessions of overplay take place in the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area at Ashby RFC. This overplay is due to a substantial amount of demand with limited capacity due to pitch quality.

##### **Rugby union – supply summary**

- ◀ The audit identifies a total of nine senior rugby union pitches located across four sites within North West Leicestershire, all of which are available for community use
- ◀ Since the previous study was completed, there has been the reduction of seven senior and six age grade pitches. This is because pitches located at Castle Donington College, Ivanhoe College and The Newbridge School are no longer formally marked out. Moreover, the closure of Grace Dieu Manor School has resulted in the loss of three age grade pitches, elsewhere these are no longer marked out with this activity likely to take place on senior pitches.
- ◀ Ashby RFC and Coalville RFC are both considered to have security of tenure at their home sites with both clubs having a freehold. Ashby RFC states that it has established a long-term lease agreement with Ashby Town Council for use of Ashby Memorial Grounds with the Club marking these out for formal use in the coming seasons.
- ◀ Castle Donington RFC has a long-term agreement with Castle Donington Parish Council for use of the senior rugby pitch at Spital Park, whilst also allowing them to train on the sports lit area. On match days, the Club uses the pitch and changing rooms.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- ◆ In North West Leicestershire, there are currently eight standard quality pitches and one poor quality pitch, with this located at Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields). No pitches are rated as good quality.
- ◆ In North West Leicestershire, the quality of the ancillary provision at the three club sites is generally of a good/ standard quality with all clubs having access to good quality ancillary provision.

## Rugby union – demand summary

- ◆ There are currently three clubs operating in North West Leicestershire fielding a total of 35 teams. These are Ashby RFC (Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area, Castle Donington RFC (Castle Donington/ Kegworth Analysis Area) and Coalville RFC (Coalville Analysis Area). Broken down this equates to five senior men's, two senior women's, 14 age grade boys, four age grade girl's and ten age grade mixed teams.
- ◆ Both Ashby RFC and Coalville RFC accommodate 17 teams each, with both clubs having dedicated female participation with a total of two senior women's and four age grade girls' teams, as well as a full age grade mixed section.
- ◆ Since the previous study, there has been overall growth of one team, with this being the introduction of a senior women's team at Ashby RFC, elsewhere demand levels have remained relatively similar.
- ◆ In North West Leicestershire, Ashby RFC has one sports-lit pitch at its home site and use it for training activity. Coalville has a sports-lit training area provided by backlighting off the fully lit pitch. Also, Coalville RFC uses the artificial pitch at Coalville Town FC for age-grade training; it is not WRReg22 and only accommodates non-contact activity.
- ◆ Future demand from population projections forecast a growth of one senior men's, one senior women's, four age grade boys, one age grade girl's and one age grade mixed teams across North West Leicestershire.
- ◆ Ashby RFC states that it aspires to add a third senior men's teams as well as grow the women's and girl's section of the Club, with it hopeful that through the increased access to provision this can be achieved.
- ◆ Castle Donington RFC aspires to field a second senior men's team from the 26/27 season, with the Club putting emphasis on recruiting players for this.

## Scenarios

### Improving pitch maintenance and drainage

Maintenance and drainage solutions are an integral method in improving pitch quality at rugby union sites, ensuring that pitches can accommodate demand throughout the season. Locally, there are four sites which are identified as being overplayed and the following scenario explores what impact improving both the level of maintenance and installation of drainage solutions would have on the capacity of provision.

The table below illustrates the RFU pitch quality scoring methodology which ascertains the capacity of pitches based on the scoring criteria.

Table 4.21: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments

Drainage	Maintenance Poor (M0)	Maintenance Adequate (M1)	Maintenance Good (M2)
Natural Inadequate (D0)	0.5	1.5	2
Natural Adequate or Pipe Drained (D1)	1.5	2	3
Pipe Drained (D2)	1.75	2.5	3.25
Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	2	3	3.5

The table overleaf looks at what capacity benefits would be ascertained through improvement of both maintenance and drainage solutions in one increment on the above

## **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

---

technical criteria. It further looks at the benefit of maximum improvements to both drainage and maintenance to explore maximum benefits.

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 4.22: Improving maintenance and drainage on all sites pitches by one increment (based on RFU technical criteria)

Site ID	Site name	Number of senior pitches	Current technical score	Quality	Sports lighting?	Pitch capacity (sessions per week)	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Training equivalent sessions (per week)	Capacity rating	Improved technical score	Improved quality score	Improved capacity rating
7	Ashby RFC	1	M1 / D1	Standard	Yes	2	1	3	-2	M2 / D2	Good	-0.75
7	Ashby RFC	1	M1 / D1	Standard	No	2	1.5	-	0.5	M2 / D2	Good	1.75
7	Ashby RFC	1	M1 / D1	Standard	No	2	4	-	-2	M2 / D2	Good	0.75
9	Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields)	1	M0 / D1	Poor	No	1.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	M1 / D2	Standard	1.75
24	Coalville RFC	1	M1 / D1	Standard	Yes	2	-	7	-5	M2 / D2	Good	-3.75
24	Coalville RFC	1	M1 / D1	Standard	No	2	1.5	-	0.5	M2 / D2	Good	1.75
24	Coalville RFC	1	M1 / D1	Standard	No	2	2.5	-	-0.5	M2 / D2	Good	0.75
24	Coalville RFC	1	M1 / D1	Standard	No	2	2.5	-	-0.5	M2 / D2	Good	0.75
55	Spital Park	1	M1 / D1	Standard	No	2	0.5	0.5	1	M2 / D2	Good	2.25

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

---

The improvement of maintenance and drainage by one increment would increase capacity ratings at all sites. At Ashby RFC and Coalville RFC, overplay on some of the clubs pitches is alleviated, but remains on others.

Overall, the current overplay levels across the sites would reduce from 9.5 match equivalent sessions to 4.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Notwithstanding this, despite the overall reduction in shortfalls, there would still be a deficit in mid-week capacity for training demand for Ashby RFC and Coalville RFC, with little changing in this regard. This is because all sports-lit pitches would remain overplayed despite pitch quality improvements.

### *Installing additional sports lighting in addition to pitch improvements*

Much of the existing overuse on grass rugby union pitches within North West Leicestershire is due to club-based training demand taking place on the sports-lit provision at club sites. As this demand can only take place with sports lighting, it cannot currently be transferred away from what is presently used as no suitable alternative exists for either club.

The table below shows the supply and demand balance should all pitches be improved by one increment in addition to sports lighting installed on one additional pitch at Ashby RFC and all pitches at Coalville RFC. The creation of more lighting allows for a greater dispersal of training demand across multiple pitches rather than just one.

As seen, overplay would be fully alleviated at Ashby RFC whereas shortfalls at Coalville RFC would reduce from 3.75 match equivalent sessions to just 1.25 match equivalent sessions.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 4.23: Potential capacity of pitches with additional sports-lit provision and pitch improvements

Site ID	Site name	Current technical score	Quality	Sports lighting?	Pitch capacity sessions (per week)	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Training equivalent sessions (per week)	Capacity rating	Improved technical score	Improved quality score	Improved capacity rating
7	Ashby RFC	M1 / D1	Standard	Yes	2	1	3	-2	M2 / D2	Good	-0.75
7	Ashby RFC	M1 / D1	Standard	No	2	1.5	-	0.5	M2 / D2	Good	1.75
7	Ashby RFC	M1 / D1	Standard	No	2	4	-	-2	M2 / D2	Good	0.75
24	Coalville RFC	M1 / D1	Standard	Yes	2	-	7	-5	M2 / D2	Good	-3.75
24	Coalville RFC	M1 / D1	Standard	No	2	1.5	-	0.5	M2 / D2	Good	1.75
24	Coalville RFC	M1 / D1	Standard	No	2	2.5	-	-0.5	M2 / D2	Good	0.75
24	Coalville RFC	M1 / D1	Standard	No	2	2.5	-	-0.5	M2 / D2	Good	0.75
<b>With additional sports lighting</b>											
7	Ashby RFC	M1 / D1	Standard	Yes	2	1.5	1.5	-1	M2 / D2	Good	0.25
7	Ashby RFC	M1 / D1	Standard	Yes	2	1.5	1.5	-1	M2 / D2	Good	0.25
7	Ashby RFC	M1 / D1	Standard	No	2	3.5	-	-1.5	M2 / D2	Good	-
24	Coalville RFC	M1 / D1	Standard	Yes	2	-	3	-1	M2 / D2	Good	0.25
24	Coalville RFC	M1 / D1	Standard	Yes	2	1.5	1.25	-0.75	M2 / D2	Good	0.5
24	Coalville RFC	M1 / D1	Standard	Yes	2	2.5	2	-2.5	M2 / D2	Good	-1.25
24	Coalville RFC	M1 / D1	Standard	Yes	2	2.5	0.75	-1.25	M2 / D2	Good	-

It should be noted that improving pitches to an M2/D2 rating, as well as installing sports lighting on most club pitches, may not be considered feasible due to cost implications. Additionally, these enhancements do not create sufficient enough capacity to accommodate future demand referenced below. Therefore, options should be explored on how additional capacity can be created including the creating and/or accessing of WR compliant 3G pitch.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

### *Future demand*

The overall future demand identified within Assessment Report equates to four match equivalent sessions across North West Leicestershire. The demand, as it is based on ONS population projections, can only be attributed District wide and not by individual analysis areas.

Table 4.24: Overall supply and demand balance with quality improvements

Demand	Capacity (MES per week)	
	Current total	Potential future total
Current	-9.5	-1.25
Future	-13.5	-4.25

As seen in the table above, even with pitch improvements and additional sports lighting there would be shortfalls. Therefore options to increase capacity for rugby union should be explored through the creation/access of WR compliant 3G provision.

### *Accessing World Rugby compliant 3G provision*

As an alternative means to alleviating overplay, securing access to a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch could be sought, with no existing provision within North West Leicestershire. This is especially the case given that maximising quality and sports lighting across the grass pitch stock could be considered unrealistic from an investment and maintenance perspective and given that some level of overplay would still remain.

Due to the above, there is clear evidence to warrant the creation of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch which can be utilised by Ashby RFC and Coalville RFC, with the latter already accessing the 11v11 3G pitch at Coalville FC (Owen Street) for training purposes despite it not being World Rugby Compliant. Linked to this, the 3G element within this section of the report (above) presents the potential for new 11v11 3G provision in Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of pitches in line with national and local planning policy.
- ◀ Improve pitch quality at all sites used by clubs through improved maintenance and/or the installation of drainage systems.
- ◀ Support clubs in undertaking PitchPower assessments of sites to explore technical requirements to improve pitch quality to address overplay.
- ◀ Explore installation of additional sports lighting across the sites used by clubs.
- ◀ Given the amount of overplay identified for rugby union that is caused by midweek training demand, seek to develop a WR22 3G pitch to reduce shortfalls.
- ◀ Explore the feasibility of creating a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch within Ashby-de-la-Zouch and the impact that would have on the wider supply and demand analysis.
- ◀ Ensure future demand can be adequately accommodated, particularly in regard to women's and girls' demand.
- ◀ Ensure ancillary facilities are of sufficient quality and can enable inclusive access.
- ◀ Retain the stock of pitches at education sites for continued curricular access.
- ◀ Ensure that any housing development considers potential increases in demand for the sport and that new provision or contributions are properly sought through utilisation of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### 4.4: Hockey pitches (sand/water-based AGPs)

#### *Assessment Report summary*

##### **Hockey – supply and demand summary**

- ◆ Given that there are currently ten senior men's and women's teams fielded by Ashby HC and two teams imported by Charnwood HC and Sutton Bonington HC, there is a need for two full-size pitches. With two pitches currently provided, supply is therefore considered to be sufficient to meet demand in quantitative terms.
- ◆ Based on this, it is important for the existing supply of hockey suitable pitches to be protected to meet current and future levels of demand.

##### **Hockey – supply summary**

- ◆ The audit identifies two full-size hockey suitable AGPs with North West Leicestershire, of which, both are sports lit and available for community use with one pitch located within the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area at Ivanhoe School, whilst the second pitch is located within the Coalville Analysis Area at The Castle Rock School.
- ◆ In addition, the audit also identifies two smaller size hockey suitable AGPs at Ibstock Leisure Complex and Ibstock Miners Welfare, both of which are located within the Ibstock Analysis Area, available for community use and sports lit.
- ◆ Since the previous study was completed in 2017, the former smaller size AGPs at Castle Donington College and Oakthorpe Recreation Ground have since been converted to 3G surfaces.
- ◆ The AGPs at The Castle Rock School and Ivanhoe School are both managed internally by the respective schools.
- ◆ Ashby HC has a community use agreement in place with Ivanhoe School for the usage of the AGP which provides security of tenure. The Club also utilise The Castle Rock School on occasions to accommodate some match demand, however, this is more informal with the Club renting this on an ad-hoc basis.
- ◆ In North West Leicestershire, the AGP at The Castle Rock School has been assessed as standard quality with this significantly surpassing the recommended life span, despite this, no quality issues are reported. Elsewhere, the AGP at Ivanhoe School is rated as good quality, with this resurfaced in the last three years.
- ◆ A planning application has been submitted REF: 24/00732/FULM for the redevelopment of The Castle Rock School, in line with this, it has been speculated that as part of the redevelopment the AGP will be resurfaced.
- ◆ Ashby HC states that it has no specific clubhouse to access on match days with it known to share the Ashby RUFC's clubhouse, which has recently been refurbished. Despite this, the rugby club is up to a ten minute drive from where the AGP is located and comes at a cost. The Club has also used public houses for post-match hospitality, although found it is not suitable.

##### **Hockey – demand summary**

- ◆ There is currently one club identified as playing hockey within North West Leicestershire. Ashby HC fields four senior men's, four senior women's, four junior boys and four junior girls as well as two mixed teams.
- ◆ All the Club's training demand takes place on the AGP at Ivanhoe School, with senior men's activity on Thursday evenings and senior women's activity on Tuesday evenings both of which have two hour sessions. Junior activity is then split across Wednesday's, Thursday's and Sundays.
- ◆ In the previous PPOSS, Coalville Town HC and Rangers HC were also identified as playing hockey within North West Leicestershire. This is no longer the case, with both folding (both clubs used the AGP at The Castle Rock School).
- ◆ Membership and team figures at Ashby HC have stayed at similar levels since the previous PPOSS, with current membership at 285 and 18 teams. Despite this, due to the loss of Coalville Town HC and Rangers HC, this suggests an overall decline of hockey demand within the District
- ◆ In relation to club aspirations, Ashby HC would like to grow the number of its teams, however, states that limitation of slots available on the AGP at Ivanhoe School restricts this growth. The Club states that 5-aside football also takes place on the AGP and has struggled to negotiate more training slots with the school.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- ◀ In North West Leicestershire, Ashby HC offers Walking Hockey sessions on Thursday evenings from. However, no other initiatives are currently known to be in operation.

### **Scenarios**

#### *Meeting demand for hockey suitable AGPs*

It is suggested that a full-size hockey suitable, sports-lit AGP can accommodate up to four matches on one day, providing no usage limitations are in place. With teams playing on a home and away basis, this equates to one pitch being able to cater for eight 'home' teams at peak time (which is Saturdays for seniors and Sundays for juniors). Using this, on the basis that there are currently two full size hockey suitable pitches in North West Leicestershire, this provides a theoretical opportunity to accommodate up to 16 senior teams at peak time across the District.

Given that there are currently ten senior men's and women's teams fielded by Ashby HC and two teams imported by Charnwood HC and Sutton Bonington HC, there is a need for two full-size pitches. With two pitches currently provided, supply is therefore considered to be sufficient to meet demand in quantitative terms. However, it should be noted that the AGP at Ivanhoe School is currently played to capacity and whilst this has recently been resurfaced, usage should be monitored to ensure that it remains sustainable.

Further to the above, the AGP at The Castle Rock School is highlighted for a resurface as part of a wider planning application to redevelop the school. As such, emphasis should be placed on this taking place to improve its overall quality and ensure that hockey demand at this site can continue to be accommodated and absorb any potential future demand.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect the AGPs at The Castle Rock School and Ivanhoe School for continued hockey use.
- ◀ Ensure the AGP at The Castle Rock School is resurfaced as part of a wider planning application to redevelop the school.
- ◀ Ensure a sinking fund is in place at all hockey sites for any future refurbishment.
- ◀ Ensure that Ashby HC continues to have security of tenure for access of the AGP at Ivanhoe School.
- ◀ Ensure that any housing development considers potential increases in demand for the sport and that new provision or contributions are properly sought through utilisation of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator.

### **4.5: Cricket pitches**

#### *Assessment Report summary*

##### **Cricket – supply and demand summary**

- ◀ Based on the supply and demand analysis, there are shortfalls of natural turf cricket squares to meet demand within North West Leicestershire. When broken down and assessing each analysis area, there is overplay within Castle Donington/Kegworth, Coalville and Ibstock analysis areas.
- ◀ When looking at the peak periods, there is currently an insufficient capacity of natural turf cricket squares to meet demand especially in the case of Saturday cricket, this is as a result of overplayed sites whereas actual spare capacity exists for additional Sunday and midweek demand.

##### **Cricket – supply summary**

- ◀ In total, there are ten grass wicket cricket squares in North West Leicestershire across ten sites all of which are available for community use.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- ◆ There are also seven non-turf pitches (NTPs) across North West Leicestershire all of which are also available for community use. Of these, four accompany grass wicket squares, whilst the remaining three are standalone NTPs.
- ◆ Both the Castle Donington/Kegworth and Coalville analysis areas have the greatest number of squares with three each (30%), the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area has two squares (20%), whilst the Ibstock and Measham analysis areas have one square each (10%).
- ◆ Since the previous PPOSS was completed in 2017, it has been identified that two sites formerly provided grass cricket provision with one square each at Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields) and Long Whatton Cricket Club. It should be noted that the latter still has one active square onsite.
- ◆ The position in North West Leicestershire is that all clubs operate with security of tenure at their respective grounds.
- ◆ The audit of grass wicket squares in North West Leicestershire found eight (80%) squares to be good quality and two (20%) to be standard quality. No squares are rated as poor quality within North West Leicestershire.
- ◆ Since the previous PPOSS was completed in 2017, the quality of squares across North West Leicestershire has improved, with the poor quality square at Western Park eradicated as well as an increase to five good quality squares.
- ◆ In relation to NTPs across North West Leicestershire , four are assessed as good quality and three are assessed as poor quality, no NTPs are rated as standard quality within the District.
- ◆ The following sites are considered suitable to accommodate women's and girl's demand; Appleby Magna Recreation Ground (Appleby Magna CC), Bardon Hill Sports Club (Bardon Hill CC), Bath Grounds (Ashby Hastings CC), Broomleys Cricket Club (Broomleys CC).
- ◆ In total, seven sites supply a total of 13 fixed-lane practice net provision.

### Cricket – demand summary

- ◆ There are ten clubs in North West Leicestershire which collectively provide 61 teams. When broken down this equates to 32 senior men's, three senior women's, 22 junior boys and four junior girls' team.
- ◆ Ibstock CC is the largest club within the District with 12 teams, whilst Castle Donington CC and Packington CC are the smallest with one senior men's team each.
- ◆ Coalville Analysis Area accommodates the most demand with 17 (29%) teams identified. The area with the least amount of cricket demand is the Measham Analysis Area with eight teams (14%).
- ◆ Since the previous PPOSS was completed in 2017, the overall number of teams has increased by eight representing a 14% increase. Half of this figure is represented by a growth of women's and girl's demand with the increase of two senior women's teams and two junior girls' teams.
- ◆ Through completing the audit, it has been identified that one team is exporting demand outside of the District to accommodate match demand with this being Broomley CC 3<sup>rd</sup> senior men's team
- ◆ The total amount of future demand based on ONS population projections is anticipated to equate to eight senior men's, one senior women's, six junior boys' and one junior girl's teams.

### Scenarios

#### *Addressing overplay*

Although a regular, sufficient maintenance regime can sustain sites with minimal levels of overplay a reduction in play is recommended to ensure there is no detrimental effect on quality of cricket squares over time.

In North West Leicestershire, overplay is identified on three squares at three sites. The scenario below looks at the impacts of quality improvements as a solution to reducing or alleviating overplay. As a reminder, for good quality squares, capacity is five matches per grass wicket per season, whilst for a standard quality square, capacity is four matches per wicket per season. For poor quality squares, no capacity is considered to exist as such provision is not deemed safe for play, although it should be noted that no squares are rated as poor in North West Leicestershire.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Of the overplayed squares, two are rated as good quality already, whereas one square is assessed as standard quality, which means the position will improve. The impact of improving quality to good is shown below.

Table 4.25: Impact on overplay if all overplayed squares were improved to good quality

Site ID	Site name	Club	No. of squares	Square quality	No. of wickets	Current overplay (matches per season)	Potential position (matches per season)
19	Broomleys Cricket Club	Broomleys CC	1	Standard	10	-13	-3
34	Ibstock Town Cricket Club	Ibstock Town CC	1	Good	10	-11	-11
40	Long Whatton Cricket Club	Long Whatton CC	1	Good	6	-13	-13

As seen in the table above, overplay would still remain across the three sites, albeit capacity will marginally improve Broomleys Cricket Club. As a result, alternative methods should be examined to alleviate shortfalls.

### *Non-turf pitches*

Cricket squares can be accompanied by non-turf pitches (NTPs), made of a synthetic material that allows users to play on a usable wicket all year round whilst not contributing towards playing demand on natural turf wickets (grass wickets). By the nature of its design, an NTP can accommodate significantly more demand than a natural cricket wicket, meaning it can contribute towards addressing overplay issues on grass cricket squares.

Currently, the squares located at Broomleys Cricket Club and Long Whatton Cricket Club are not serviced by an NTP and both could theoretically benefit from such provision as a way of reducing identified overplay. Ibstock Town Cricket Club already has an accompanying NTP provided, meaning it should look to increase the use of its existing NTP for junior teams as to reduce overplay.

The ECB highlights that non-turf pitches which follow its TS6 guidance<sup>5</sup> on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play and are considered able to take 60 matches per season, although this may include training sessions via the use of mobile nets. Typically, however, play would be more suited to junior teams as senior leagues typically stipulate the use of natural turf wickets.

### *Hybrid wickets*

One potential solution to improving the overall quality of squares, particularly at local authority sites is the installation of hybrid wickets. A hybrid wicket combines natural turf grass with less than 5% of uniquely engineered, soft polyethylene yarn, which has already been used to improve golf tees, tennis courts and pitch surrounds. These wickets are to offer a greater capacity in addition to reducing time on repair works with a faster recovery time. Reports found that hybrid wickets improve surface stability, reduced wear, reduced bowler foot holes and significantly extended hours of playing time.

Ideally, once these become more readily available for community cricket clubs and have gone through the required testing, they could act as a way to increase levels of playing

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.cag.org.uk/docs/ecb-non-turf-pitches-t145final-328.pdf>

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

capacity on overplayed squares. This would be particularly beneficial for those sites which are limited on space and cannot create additional wickets due to restrictions on things such as boundary length or ball strike.

Although it is difficult at this stage to understand what impact hybrid wickets could have on each site's capacity. This assumes that more senior demand can take place on the hybrid wickets allowing for the outer senior wickets to be used/converted for junior demand. It should also be noted that this approach is currently a rather expensive means of reducing overplay.

In addition, it should also be noted that hybrid wickets have generally been designed to support high quality provision. It is said that only sites achieving a 'good' quality are suitable.

### *Bringing unused provision back into use*

The unused cricket square identified at Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields) in the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area has not had wickets prepared for a few years and is now used to accommodate football, meaning it is still an active playing field servicing other sports. The square previously provided eight wickets. On the assumption this was brought back into use at a minimum of standard quality, there is theoretical capacity to accommodate 32 match equivalent sessions per season. Moreover, the site is serviced with a pavilion which includes changing rooms and toilet facilities.

As Ashby School (Range Road Playing Field) is used to accommodate football demand, there is the possibility to re-introduce cricket at the site, if it was deemed beneficial enough to support the current need for cricket. That being said, if the site were to be re-introduced, this would have to consider the current demand using the space alongside any new cricket demand. Furthermore, the site will most likely need higher levels of capital to get back into a sufficient quality position for use (albeit this would need to be fully determined via an agronomy report undertaken by a turf specialist)

In addition, security of tenure would need to be secured for any clubs accessing the site in order to create spare capacity due to it being managed by an Education provider.

### *Ancillary provision (women's and girls' focus)*

For women's and girls' cricket to thrive in North West Leicestershire, it is essential that existing facilities evolve to better meet their growing demand. Due to the current overplay of cricket squares within the District, it is essential for an increase in capacity of grass wicket provision to accommodate the growth of women's and girl's teams. As of the 2025 season, Appleby Magma CC, Broomleys CC, Grace Dieu Park CC, Ibstock CC and Kegworth CC club offer competitive opportunities for women and girls, with a total of eight dedicated teams.

To ensure a more inclusive and welcoming environment, the key criteria for women's and girls' cricket provision include:

- ◀ **Separate changing and showering facilities**, incorporating enhanced privacy features such as private changing and shower cubicles.
- ◀ **Secure storage options**, such as lockers, to safeguard personal belongings.
- ◀ **Gender-specific toilets** to ensure comfort and accessibility.
- ◀ **Appropriate umpire facilities** to accommodate both male and female officials.

Enhancing provisions will be vital in fostering the growth of cricket across North West Leicestershire. The table below outlines two sites which are serviced by poor quality ancillary provision.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

Table 4.26: Poor quality ancillary provision cricket sites within North West Leicestershire

Site ID	Site	Club	Ancillary provision quality
63	Western Park	Packington CC	Poor
66	Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club	Grace Dieu Park CC	Poor

Notwithstanding the sites included within the table above, ancillary facility improvements may also be required at those sites rated as standard quality such as Bath Grounds (Ashby Hastings CC) Ibstock Town Cricket Club (Ibstock CC) King George V Playing Field (Kegworth) (Kegworth CC), Long Whatton Cricket Club (Long Whatton CC) and Moira Dale Sports Ground (Castle Donington CC).

If funding is to be invested into ancillary provision, improvements to key strategic cricket sites (including sites where a multi-sport benefit could be introduced) should be targeted through consultation with Leicestershire & Rutland Cricket Foundation and the ECB.

### *Accommodating future demand*

In North West Leicestershire, three clubs expressed aspirations to increase teams at specific ages, as seen in the table below. This has previously been discounted due to being considered more aspirational than future growth through population increases, although it does require consideration as it is feasible for it to be achieved.

Table 4.27: Future demand expressed by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys	Junior girls
Bardon Hill CC	Coalville	-	-	1	-
Ibstock Town CC	Ibstock	1	-	-	1
Kegworth Town CC	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	-	1	-	-
-	<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

For reference and as identified in the Assessment Report, the average number of matches for senior men's cricket (Saturday) is 12 match equivalent sessions per season, for senior women's cricket (Sunday) it is ten match equivalent sessions per season and for junior cricket (Midweek) it is six match equivalent sessions per season.

Only future demand reported by Bardon Hill CC can currently be accommodated at its home ground. Ibstock Town CC and Kegworth Town CC do not have spare capacity at the relevant peak times.

Even if all spare capacity is utilised across North West Leicestershire, there would be a shortfall of capacity to cater for all club aspirational demand, particularly for women and girls activity. This is further compounded with the need to improve some of the ancillary provision at cricket sites in the District, as outlined above, to better accommodate this demographic.

As only four club sites have a NTP (Appleby Magma Recreation Ground, Bath Grounds, Ibstock Town Cricket Club and King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)), a potential option to increase capacity for future growth would be to install a NTP, particularly for junior demand which could assist in providing additional capacity.

Further to the above, only Moira Dale Sports Ground in the Castle Donington/ Kegworth Analysis Area and Western Park in the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area have capacity for

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

additional senior men's cricket (Saturdays). The only options for growth, further to those listed above, would be reinstating the unused provision at Ashby School (Range Road Playing Field). Further investigation is required to understand the feasibility of creating new provision and whether or not there is/will be enough demand to sustain its longevity.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of cricket squares, in line with national (i.e. the NPPF and sport England's Playing Fields Policy) and local planning policy.
- ◀ Improve quality at sites assessed as standard quality and ensure quality is sustained at sites assessed as good through partnership working with LRCF particularly at Broomleys Cricket Club and Western Park.
- ◀ Install additional NTPs to accompany grass wicket squares (where space allows), particularly at club sites without.
- ◀ Pursue improved security of tenure for clubs without ownership or a long-term lease arrangement in place, particularly those engaging in lease renewals.
- ◀ Improve the changing and ancillary facilities where there is a need to do so, especially to cater for women and girls demand.
- ◀ Explore the feasibility of reinstating unused provision at Ashby School (Range Road Playing Field) to assist in alleviating overplay and creating future capacity for growth in North West Leicestershire.
- ◀ Consider options to increase and improve stock of suitable practice facilities to support the growth of demand.
- ◀ Continue to support ECB initiatives such as All Stars and Dynamos and ensure unaffiliated demand and recreational cricket is provided for.
- ◀ Ensure that any housing development considers potential increases in demand for the sport and that new provision or contributions are properly sought through utilisation of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator.

### **4.6: Tennis courts**

#### **Assessment Report summary**

##### **Tennis - supply and demand summary**

- ◀ The supply of tennis provision in North West Leicestershire is currently sufficient to meet club-based demand, with no capacity issues identified and capacity existing for growth.
- ◀ It is likely that other forms of demand are not being adequately met, particularly given a lack of sports lighting at parks courts particularly at Coalville Park within the Coalville Analysis Area and Ravenstone Recreation Ground within the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area.
- ◀ Demand for padel is not being met. This is because no padel courts are currently provided.

##### **Tennis - supply summary**

- ◀ There are 32 tennis courts identified in North West Leicestershire across 12 sites. Of these, 31 courts across 11 sites are available for community use (the court at St Hardulph's C of E Primary School is unavailable for community use).
- ◀ The Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area contains the most courts with 12 (39%) whilst the Ibstock Analysis Area has the least number of courts with two (5%). The Measham Analysis Area has no courts.
- ◀ Ashby School and Sixth Form previously provided five poor quality sports lit courts, although in April of 2025 these were resurfaced to four sports lit netball courts.
- ◀ There are currently no padel courts provided across North West Leicestershire.
- ◀ It should be noted that an initial planning application REF: 24/00732/FULM has been submitted for the rebuild of Castle Rock School which includes the creation of three new tennis and netball courts. *(It is identified that as of November 2025, this now has planning permission)*
- ◀ Across North West Leicestershire, ownership and management of tennis courts is varied; education sites have the most with 12 (38%), whilst the remaining courts are split between the Council and sports clubs with ten each (31%).

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- ◆ In the case of Ashby Castle and Oaks & District tennis clubs, both clubs own its respective courts.
- ◆ Within North West Leicestershire 23 courts (72%) have a macadam surface. The remaining courts consist of six (19%) with an artificial turf surface and three (9%) offering clay.
- ◆ In North West Leicestershire, 10 (31%) of tennis courts are serviced by sports lighting, with all courts across four sites available for community use
- ◆ In North West Leicestershire, 15 (47%) courts are assessed as good quality, 17 (53%) rated as standard quality courts. No courts are rated as poor quality. The good quality courts include all three clubs in North West Leicestershire.
- ◆ Ancillary facilities are generally good at club sites but poor at non-club sites.
- ◆ Oaks & District TC states that it has some issues in relation to parking, with it situated in a rural area access is limited. Similarly, Ashby Castle states that its parking situation can be an issue due to a limited number of spaces at the site, notwithstanding that a public car park is available for overflow.

### Tennis - demand summary

- ◆ There are three tennis clubs within North West Leicestershire, across all clubs where known, membership totals 418 representing a moderate level of demand with Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club as the largest within the District
- ◆ There is no Parks Tennis League operating in North West Leicestershire currently.
- ◆ No padel usage is taking place due to no courts existing, although take up is likely to be high as and when provision is established with reported demand for seven courts existing.
- ◆ No clubs report any unmet or latent demand, meaning any that does exist is for non-club activity.
- ◆ Ashby Castle and Oaks & District tennis clubs wish to grow the number of members within the respective clubs. Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club quantifies this growth as 20 members, ten of both senior and junior members, whilst Oaks & District Tennis Club wishes to increase by 40 members, equating to 20 seniors and 20 junior members.

### Scenarios

#### *Improving the recreational tennis offer*

Increasing recreational tennis demand is currently a priority for the LTA, with twice as many people playing casually rather than at clubs. In North West Leicestershire, Coalville Park (Coalville Analysis Area) has recently been improved as part of the LTA Parks Investment Strategy, including the refurbishment of two courts.

Although not currently identified for improvement, options could be explored to invest further in provision at Ravenstone Recreation Ground and Whitwick Memorial Park. If these courts are improved, in addition to the aforementioned Coalville Park, this would increase the quality of community available courts not in a club environment.

#### *Padel courts*

The LTA Padel Provision Calculator indicates demand for seven padel courts within North West Leicestershire to meet local needs, there are currently none provided across the District. Given the rapid growth of padel as a sport and the identified demand, strategic investment in padel provision should be considered to enhance local access and support North West Leicestershire residents' participation in this emerging sport.

#### *Indoor Community Tennis Projects<sup>6</sup>*

Although not specifically within the remit of a PPOSS, it should be noted that North West Leicestershire has been identified by the LTA as a priority area within the Midlands for the development of indoor/covered tennis courts. Options should therefore be explored on

<sup>6</sup><https://www.lta.org.uk/roles-and-venues/venues/tennis-facility-funding-advice/indoor-community-tennis-projects/>

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

where such provision could be developed. This could include finding solutions to cover established courts including but not limited to; King George V Playing Field (Kegworth), Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club, or create dedicated provision at new developments such as a proposed sports hub in Ashby-de-la-Zouch or large scale housing development such as Isley Woodhouse.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of tennis courts, in line with national (i.e. the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy) and local planning policy.
- ◀ Explore options to invest in community accessible tennis courts at Ravenstone Recreation Ground and Whitwick Memorial Park in order to provide suitable accessible provision outside of a club environment.
- ◀ Explore options to improve the parking situation for Oaks and District Tennis Club.
- ◀ Look consult with Kegworth Tennis Club to identify any capacity issues as part of the Stage E process as it didn't respond within the PPOSS consultation period.
- ◀ Explore options to develop indoor community tennis provision within North West Leicestershire.
- ◀ Support the development of padel courts within North West Leicestershire, as long as they do not impede on other sporting provision.
- ◀ Aim to put sinking funds in place by providers for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Ensure that any housing development considers potential increases in demand for the sport and that new provision or contributions are properly sought through utilisation of the Sport England Sports Facilities Calculator.

### **4.7: Netball**

#### **Assessment Report summary**

##### **Netball – supply and demand summary**

- ◀ Within North West Leicestershire, there is a significant demand for outdoor netball with seven clubs and one league.
- ◀ Whilst there are a good amount of community available courts the number of these which are sports lit is low in comparison.

##### **Netball – Supply summary:**

- ◀ In total, there are 27 outdoor netball courts located across 15 sites in North West Leicestershire. Of these, 15 courts across six sites are open to community access, representing 56% of all outdoor courts.
- ◀ Across North West Leicestershire, 25 (93%) of the 27 courts have a macadam surface.
- ◀ Across North West Leicestershire most courts are managed in house by education sites equating to 25 (93%) of the 27 courts.
- ◀ Most netball provision in North West Leicestershire is standard quality. However, of the 15 accessible courts, six are good quality (26%), nine are of a standard quality (70%) with no poor quality courts.
- ◀ It should be noted that an initial planning application REF: 24/00732/FULM has been submitted for the rebuild of Castle Rock School which includes the creation of three new tennis and netball courts. (*It is identified that as of November 2025, this now has planning permission*)

##### **Netball – Demand summary:**

- ◀ There are several netball clubs (Ashby / Castle Donington / Whitwick / Sence Valley / Measham / Coalville Fireflies and Papura) that access outdoor provision in North West Leicestershire.
- ◀ NWL Netball League – operates every Sunday at Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre, using the main 8 court hall. It currently caters for 36 teams, with limited scope to increase this number due to court availability. It reports a need for more court time at the centre, ideally on a Saturday to be able to meet demand.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### Scenarios

#### *Increasing the number of sports lit community accessible courts*

Table 4.28 below outlines the available sports lit courts broken down by analysis area. As can be seen, of the 27 netball courts identified within North West Leicestershire, only six of 15 community available courts are currently sports lit, with these being at Ashby School and Sixth Form and Ibstock Leisure Complex.

Table 4.28: Sports lit community accessible netball provision

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of courts	Sports lit?	Quality
<b>Sports lit courts</b>						
10	Ashby School and Sixth Form	Ashby-de-la Zouch	4	Yes	Yes	Good
32	Ibstock Leisure Complex	Ibstock	2	Yes	Yes	Standard
<b>Non-sports lit courts</b>						
20	Castle Donington College	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	2	Yes	No	Standard
21	The Castle Rock School	Coalville	2	Yes	No	Standard
38	King Edward VII Science and Sports College	Coalville	2	Yes	No	Standard
61	The Newbridge School	Coalville	3	Yes	No	Standard

As there are no community accessible sports lit courts currently in the Castle Donington/ Kegworth and Coalville analysis areas, both analysis areas could be looked at as an area to improve to grant residents in these analysis areas with improved access to provision.

A site such as The Newbridge School in the Coalville Analysis Area has three community accessible non-sports lit courts. It also has community accessible football pitches and an 11v11 3G pitch that are accessed, meaning the site is accustomed to letting its sports facilities to the general public. Similarly, Castle Donington College in the Castle Donington/ Kegworth Analysis Area has two community accessible non-sports lit courts as well as an 11v11 3G pitch. These sites should therefore be viewed as a potential site for fitting sports lights to better service the Castle Donington/ Kegworth and Coalville analysis areas.

Notwithstanding the above, all sites with non-sports lit community accessible courts receive demand from clubs within the District and as such should not be omitted from potentially providing sports lighting in the future, if planning allows. Efforts should also be made to utilise sports lit community accessible courts for England Netball initiatives such as Back to Netball and Walking Netball to further develop netball across North West Leicestershire.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of courts in line with national and local planning policy.
- ◀ Consider establishing additional sports lighting at additional venues such as Castle Donington College, The Castle Rock School, King Edward VII Science and Sports College and The Newbridge School to increase the supply of useable, supplementary provision.
- ◀ Ensure the standard quality courts across the District are monitored and resurfaced when required to continue to provide community accessible netball provision.

### **4.9: Athletics**

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### Assessment Report summary

#### Athletics – supply and demand summary

- Initial evidence suggests that sufficient demand exists for a traditional 400m track to be established within North West Leicestershire based on the demand from the aforementioned clubs. This being said, some of this demand takes place away from track provision on local roads, parks etc. Additionally, there are a number of athletics tracks in neighbouring authorities which are considered accessible to service the partial amounts of demand within North West Leicestershire.
- Therefore, it is considered that a traditional 400m track would be unsustainable based on current levels of demand.
- It is important to emphasise that this does not mean there should be no formal athletics provision. Instead of a traditional track, alternative options such as a NewGen or Active Track facility should be explored.

#### Athletics – supply summary

- North West Leicestershire currently has no formal athletics facilities with the closest traditional 400m tracks in surround areas such as Loughborough University (Paula Radcliffe Stadium) in Charnwood, Saffron Lane Stadium in Leicester and at The Pingles Stadium in Nuneaton.
- EA suggest that there is no need for a traditional 400m track, however, has identified North West Leicestershire for a NewGen facility or Active Track.

#### Athletics – demand summary

- England Athletics (EA) affiliation data there are three clubs in North West Leicestershire namely, Coalville Triathlon Club, Hermitage Harriers and Ivanhoe Robins Junior Athletics Club.
- Coalville Triathlon Club has 25 male, 24 female and one U18s member totalling 50 people and aspires to increase by 15 male, 16 female and 15 juniors. Hermitage Harriers has approximately 100 members.
- Ivanhoe Robins Juniors Athletics Club is the junior section of Ivanhoe Runners Club which has a wider running remit and is based at Ivanhoe College/Hood Park Leisure Centre.

### Scenarios

#### NewGen Tracks

England Athletics identifies North West Leicestershire as a priority area for a NewGen track<sup>7</sup>. This is based on a detailed analysis of current supply and demand for existing outdoor synthetic facilities using a 20 minute (Urban) and 30 minute (Rural) drive time catchment zone.

North West Leicestershire is not currently serviced by a 400-metre athletics track. However, nearby facilities are located at Loughborough University (Paula Radcliffe Stadium) in Charnwood, Saffron Lane Stadium in Leicester and at The Pingles Stadium in Nuneaton.

Given the scale of the housing developments taking place within North West Leicestershire, considerations should be made to develop supplementary provision such as a play track, compact track, mini track or active track. These facilities cater for a more recreational and informal offer for athletics and general health and wellbeing opportunities. They are currently a focus area for England Athletics, particularly in areas not currently serviced by formal provision.

For reference the below broadly outlined NewGen facility concepts as identified by England Athletics.

#### Track & Field (Run/Jump/Throw)

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.englandathletics.org/clubs-and-facilities/facilities/newgen-tracks/>

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- ◀ **Play Track:** The simple animation of dated playground surfaces using colourful painted lines and markings to (KS1 & KS2) – encouraging participation in run/jump/throw activities by creating challenging and inspiring environments.
- ◀ **CompactTrack:** A sports-lit, multiple lane, synthetic sprint straight with optional jumps and throws provision.
- ◀ **MiniTrack:** A sports-lit synthetic “mini” running oval, with sprint straight, multi-sport “infield” and optional jumps and throws provision.

### *Recreational Running/Endurance Running/Multi sport*

- ◀ **Active Track:** A free to access, macadam running / cycling circuit designed to be sympathetic to the local environment and support the recreational needs of local communities.
- ◀ Ideally lit by low level lighting / solar columns, ActiveTracks can be introduced to existing parks, open spaces and playing fields<sup>8</sup> or integrated into the master planning of new housing developments.
- ◀ Sport England Case Study: ActiveTrack: [Sowerby Sports Village](#).

Evidence from the Assessment Report suggests that the proposed sports hub development in Ashby-de-la-Zouch, along with the large-scale housing development in Isley Woodhouse, presents opportunities to develop such provision. However, alternative options should also be considered during the Stage E process.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Support clubs, running groups, events and England Athletics initiatives such as Park Run and pursue increased participation, where possible.
- ◀ Continue to increase participation both within affiliated clubs and the wider running market, building on the success of Park Run and look to increase other initiatives such as RunTogether groups and Couch to 5k.
- ◀ Consider the need to include NewGen facilities within strategic housing allocations to provide formal athletics offer within North West Leicestershire, including but not limited to the Isley Woodhouse development.
- ◀ If a dedicated sports hub is to be established within Ashby-de-la-Zouch explore options to include a NewGen facility which can be managed by an overarching operator.

## **4.10: Bowls**

### ***Assessment Report summary***

#### **Bowls – supply and demand summary**

- ◀ Overall, with no clubs reporting any capacity issues, it is considered that there is a sufficient supply of provision of bowling greens in North West Leicestershire. It is therefore considered that there is not a need for an increase in the supply of bowling greens, also given that there is an unused green at Moira Miners Welfare
- ◀ Further interrogation of demand should also be pursued regarding clubs that have been unresponsive to this study to ensure the findings can be extrapolated in relation to them.

#### **Bowls – supply summary**

- ◀ There are 13 flat bowling greens identified in North West Leicestershire across 12 sites. The Coalville Analysis Area has the largest amount of bowling greens with six (46%) whereas the Measham Analysis Area has the least number of greens with one (8%).
- ◀ Within North West Leicestershire, tenure of bowling clubs at their respective sites is deemed to be secure with the majority of these managed by North West Leicestershire District Council, or local Parish and Town Councils.

<sup>8</sup> It should be noted that Sport England will not support the development of Active Tracks where they conflict with the Playing Field Policy.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- ◆ The audit of greens identifies eight to be of a good quality (62%) and two greens to be standard quality (15%) as well as three (23%) poor quality greens identified.

### Bowls – demand summary

- ◆ There are 11 bowls clubs in North West Leicestershire. Of the seven clubs that have responded to consultation requests, the total membership equates to 307 members. This comprises of 316 senior male, 87 senior female and four junior members.
- ◆ Total future demand identified across the three clubs result in 74 new members.
- ◆ All clubs report that existing membership can be accommodated on the current level of provision available and that no potential members are being turned away due to capacity issues.

### Scenarios

#### Accommodating current and future demand

Bowls England does not have any specific guidance on bowling green capacity, stating that it can vary from site-to-site and from club-to-club. However, it states that any green operating with a membership of over 60 may need additional resource to ensure that it is meeting the required level of demand. In North West Leicestershire, where membership is known, only Ashby Bowls Club is currently above this as the Club has 76 members.

When accounting for future demand (club aspirations), Kegworth Bowls Club will also be operating above Bowls England capacity guidelines, if ambitions are achieved. As such, the capacity level of Ashby Bowls Club and Kegworth Bowls Club should be monitored over the upcoming years to ensure clubs can continue to accommodate its current demand. No existing issues are reported, suggesting that supply is currently sufficient.

### Recommendations

- ◆ Protect existing quantity of currently used greens and, as a minimum, sustain quality.
- ◆ Look to improve all utilised poor quality greens to a minimum standard quality.
- ◆ Ensure that any proposed development of currently used greens is in line with NPPF and local planning policy.
- ◆ Assist clubs, where possible, with any future ancillary provision improvements.
- ◆ Monitor capacity levels at Ashby Bowls Club and Kegworth Bowls Club to ensure demand continues to be adequately accommodated.
- ◆ Support clubs with plans to increase membership so that growth can be maximised.

### 4.11: Ashby Sports Hub

As part of the PPOSS process, the feasibility of establishing a sporting hub site within the locality of Ashby-de-la-Zouch has been explored. This includes the relocation of clubs from their current sites to one dedicated facility.

The table below is a summary of sports clubs, both outdoor and indoor, operating within Ashby-de-la-Zouch and the findings from the consultation carried out as part of the PPOSS and the accompanying Indoor and Built Facility study.

Table 4.29: Summary of findings for Ashby based sports clubs from consultation

Demand	Comments
Football	None of the football clubs consulted report aspirations to relocate to a hub site and prefer to improve their current facilities. There is an identified shortfall of grass youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches, however, these can be mainly alleviated through grass pitch improvements. Additionally, assistance can be provided to Ashby Ivanhoe FC and Ashby United Community FC to

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Demand	Comments
	create new provision at Ashby Ivanhoe Football Club and Ashby School / Ashby RFC, respectively.
Rugby union	Ashby RFC does not state an aspiration to relocate and instead aspires to develop its own facilities, such as improving pitch quality.
3G pitches	Clear identified shortfall of two 11v11 size 3G pitches within the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area. This can only be alleviated through the creation of new provision at existing or new sites depending on feasibility. The option to make at least one of the 3G pitches World Rugby compliant should be explored to alleviate rugby union grass pitch shortfalls.
Rugby league	No demand.
Hockey	Demand from Ashby HC is catered for on the AGP at Ivanhoe School if tenure and quality can be sustained. Any increase in demand can be accommodated on the AGP at The Castle Rock School with no requirement for new provision.
Cricket	Cricket demand within Ashby-de-la-Zouch can be catered for with the current stock of provision although some enhancements to pitch and ancillary provision is required (Western Park). Neither Packington CC nor Ashby Hastings CC indicate an aspiration to relocate. To increase capacity options to reinstate the square at Ashby School should be considered instead of creating a new square.
Tennis (Padel)	The LTA identifies a shortfall of indoor tennis provision and Padel courts across North West Leicestershire. Ashby Castle Lawn TC state an aspiration to access indoor tennis courts.
Bowls	No identified demand for relocation.
Netball	Outdoor provision has recently been improved at Ashby School & Sixth Form to provide additional capacity for the NWL Netball League and Ashby Netball Club.
Archery	Ivanhoe Archers currently use Ivanhoe School indoor sports hall during the winter, and the school grounds during the summer. The Club would like its own indoor dedicated facility. Current issues: storage at the school, need more sports hall slots, currently has a waiting list.
Cycling	Ashby Ivanhoe Road Cyclists would like a dedicated off road 'closed' circuit, either at the leisure centre or at one of the schools. Without this, it feels its junior section will struggle to exist.
Athletics	There is an identified need for athletics provision in the form of a NewGen or Active Track facility across North West Leicestershire as a whole. Ivanhoe Robins Junior AC has clear ambitions to establish provision to service its demand with the current lack of provision restricting its growth.
Sports halls	There is evidence of a shortfall of sport hall provision to service Ashby-de-la-Zouch, however, with potential developments at Castle Donington and Isley Woodhouse demand on Ashby is likely to be lessened (clubs in the North will be catered for in the North and not need to travel to Ashby). It is anticipated that developments at one or both locations would address the issue.  There is also a need to address hours of availability at Ivanhoe School. Increasing the opening hours of current sport hall stock, particularly within the evenings, in order to provide additional capacity for sports such as basketball and badminton.
Swimming	There is evidence of a need for additional pool capacity.
Open space	As a sports hub the provision of open space for public use is unlikely to be warranted. However, for reference the Ashby area is noted as having potential shortfalls in allotments and play areas.

Based on the evidence above, there are identified shortfalls for various sports within the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area. However, most of these can be addressed without providing a new dedicated sports hub site (grass football, grass rugby union, hockey, cricket). For example, strategic quantitative and qualitative improvements at existing sites, in addition

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

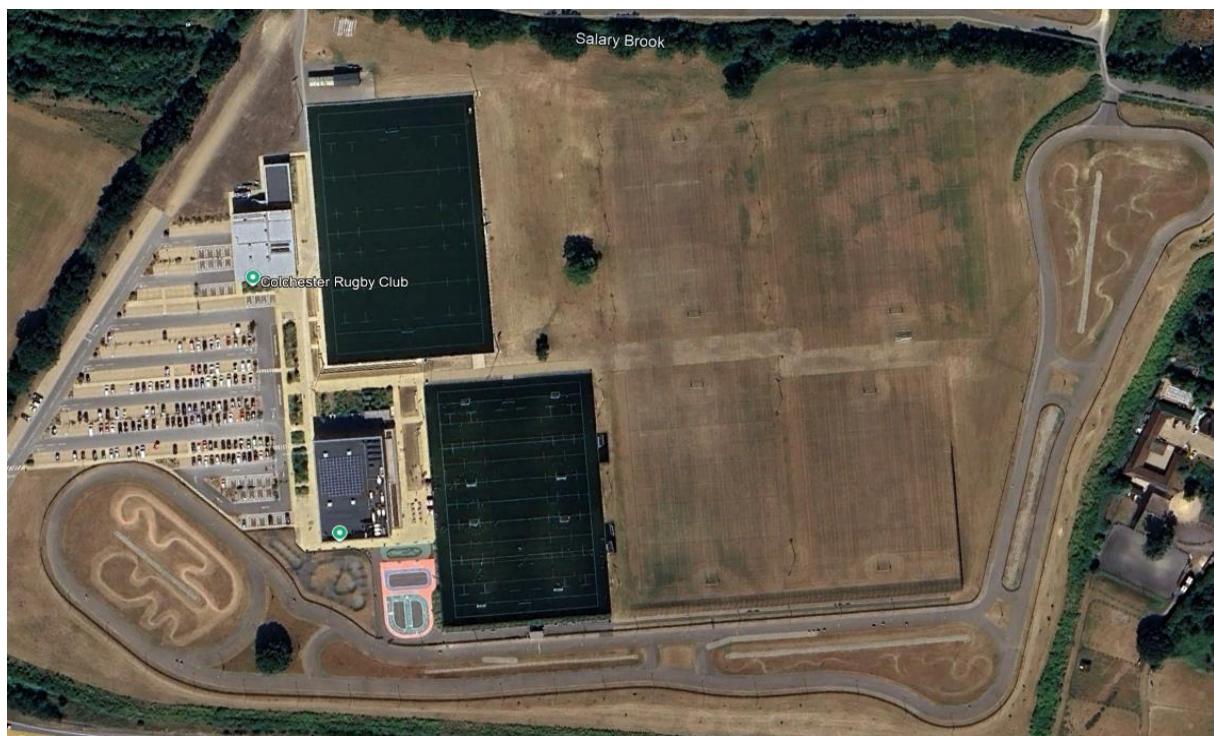
to the creation of provision outside of the area (sports halls), can provide capacity to accommodate current and future levels of demand.

At a minimum the new facilities that are required in the Area include two 11v11 size 3G pitches to meet a shortfall for football training, with one potentially being World Rugby compliant, to address current and grass pitch rugby union shortfalls.

Although not strategically required, based on identified shortfalls within the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area, there is the opportunity to alleviate North West Leicestershire area wide shortfalls at a proposed Ashby Sports Hub. This could include indoor/covered tennis courts, as well as potentially padel courts, a NewGen athletics track, cycling provision and a community space.

A wider feasibility study is required to fully understand if this facility mix could form a new dedicated sports hub site (akin to a small version of Colchester Sports Park<sup>9</sup>). This would require finding a suitably sized site which could accommodate the sporting provision and relevant infrastructure such as car parking and ancillary provision.

Figure 4.1: Example of sports hub site (Colchester Sports Park)



Alternative options should also be explored as to whether the shortfalls for new provision identified could potentially be addressed at current sporting sites within the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area that already have some level of established infrastructure. These could include, but not limited to the following:

- ◀ Ashby Ivanoe FC (LE65 1TS).
- ◀ Hood Park (LE65 1HU).
- ◀ Ashby RFC (LE65 1DP).
- ◀ Ashby School – Range Road Playing Fields (LE65 1EB).
- ◀ Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club (LE65 1BQ).

<sup>9</sup> <https://colchestersportspark.co.uk/>

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

---

The above examples could include putting an air dome over the tennis courts at Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club and the creation of one 11v11 size 3G pitch at either Ashby Ivanoe FC or Ashby RFC, with both of these options replacing grass pitches.

If the above can be achieved, a smaller new site could be developed which accommodates the remaining provision required. For example, with a facility mix which includes one 11v11 size sports lit 3G pitch with a potential NewGen athletics facility and adjacent cycling facility and tennis/padel courts.

It should be noted that given its proximity to Ashby, contribution from the Money Hill development could go to the development of Ashby Sports Hub, if the project moves forward.

### ***Recommendations***

- ◀ Based on levels of identified demand there is a need to create additional sporting provision within Ashby, however, options need to be explored on whether this should be a bespoke sports hub / development of current sites or both.
- ◀ A feasibility study would be required to understand the site and facility mix for any proposed sports hub.
- ◀ If a dedicated sports hub is to be created within Ashby explore obtaining relevant funding from S106 from surrounding housing development, such as Money Hill, to contribute to its development.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

### PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The strategic recommendations for the Strategy have been developed via the combination of information gathered during consultation, site visits and analysis which culminated in the production of an assessment report, as well as key drivers identified for the Strategy. They reflect overarching and common areas to be addressed, which apply across playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities and may not be specific to just one sport.

#### AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of outdoor sport facilities and ancillary facilities where it is needed for meeting current and future needs.

##### Recommendations:

- a. Ensure, through the use of the PPOSS, that outdoor sport facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.
- b. Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.
- c. Maximise community use of education facilities where needed.

##### **Recommendation (a) – Ensure, through the use of the PPOSS, that outdoor sport facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.**

The PPOSS shows that all existing playing field and outdoor sport sites cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. As such, all provision requires protection or replacement until all identified shortfalls have been overcome. This includes disused (including any which may not have been identified in this document) underused and poor quality sites as there is a requirement for such provision to help meet and alleviate the identified shortfalls.

When shortfalls are evident, provision can only be permanently lost when the current picture changes to the extent that the site in question is no longer needed as a result of no shortfalls existing, or unless replacement provision is provided and agreed upon by all stakeholders. NPPF paragraph 104 states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields and formal play spaces, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- ◀ The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

The PPOSS should be used to help inform development management decisions that affect existing or new playing pitch provision and accompanying ancillary facilities. All applications are assessed by the Local Planning Authority on a case-by-case basis taking into account site specific factors. In addition, Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications that affect or prejudice the use of playing field used within the last five years. They will use the PPOSS to help assess the planning application against its Playing Fields Policy as set out below.

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

---

### *Policy Exception E1:*

'A carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs has demonstrated to the satisfaction of Sport England that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport'.

Where the PPOSS cannot demonstrate that the site, or part of a site, is clearly surplus to requirements then replacement of the site, or part of a site, will be required to comply with the remaining Sport England policy exceptions.

### *Policy Exception E2*

'The proposed development is for ancillary facilities supporting the principal use of the site as a playing field and does not affect the quantity and quality of playing pitches or otherwise adversely affect their use'.

### *Policy Exception E3*

The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming part of a playing pitch and does not:

- ◀ Reduce the size of any playing pitch;
- ◀ Result in the inability to use any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins and run-off areas);
- ◀ Reduce the sporting capacity of the playing field to accommodate playing pitches or the capability to rotate or reposition playing pitches to maintain quality;
- ◀ Result in the loss of other sporting provision or ancillary facilities on the site;
- ◀ Prejudice the use of any remaining areas of playing field on the site'.

### *Policy Exception E4:*

'The playing field or fields to be lost as a result of the proposed development would be replaced, prior to the commencement of development, by a new playing field site or sites:

- ◀ of equivalent or better quality and
- ◀ of equivalent or greater quantity;
- ◀ in a suitable location and;
- ◀ subject to equivalent or better management arrangements.

### *Policy Exception E5*

The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor facility for sport, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss, or prejudice of use, of the area of playing field'.

Disused sites should also be protected from development or replaced in accordance with Sport England's policy exceptions as they may provide a solution to reducing identified shortfalls. Any disused playing fields are included within this Action Plan together with a recommendation in relation to bringing the site back into use or to mitigate the loss on a replacement site to address the shortfalls identified.

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

---

It may be appropriate to consider rationalisation of certain low value playing pitch sites (i.e. one or two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment and focus resources towards creating bigger and better quality venues (hub sites). Such sites could then be re-purposed to meet other recreational needs or, if appropriate and agreed, could be developed for other uses. It is vital, however, that there is no net loss of facilities and that replacement provision is in place and available for use prior to existing provision being lost.

### **Recommendation (b) – Secure tenure and access to sites through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.**

Much like some authorities nationally, there is reliance on the education sector to provide for most of the demand for playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities in North West Leicestershire. However, where this is the case, it is imperative that future opportunities to secure tenure for clubs is explored and progressed where possible. The following schools provide community use to clubs.

- ◀ Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields)
- ◀ Ashby School and Sixth Form
- ◀ Castle Donington College
- ◀ The Castle Rock School
- ◀ Ivanhoe School
- ◀ Kegworth Primary School
- ◀ The Newbridge School

Not having fully formalised usage presents a risk for those clubs using these sites as community use could technically be terminated at any time.

For unsecure sites, NGBs, Sport England and other appropriate bodies such as England Hockey, Football Foundation and Leicestershire FA can often help to negotiate and engage with providers where the local authority may not have direct influence. This is particularly the case at sites that have received funding from these bodies or are going to receive funding in the future as community access can be a condition of any agreement.

The Council and private landlords (as relevant) should further explore opportunities where security of tenure could be granted via lease agreements (minimum 25 years as recommended by Sport England and NGBs) so that clubs are in a position to apply for external funding. This is particularly the case at poor quality sites, possibly with inadequate or no ancillary facilities, so that quality can be improved and sites developed.

Local sports clubs should be supported by partners including the Council (where relevant), parish and town councils and NGBs to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work. For example, club development should be supported and clubs should be encouraged to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate income via their facilities.

#### *Alternative management models*

The Council could explore possible alternative options for the future management of some sites within its playing field portfolio, including leasehold or Community Asset Transfer (CAT). Potential benefits of this include reducing costs which may allow for the retention and possible improvement of other retained sites within the portfolio, as well as potentially opening up new routes to improvement of sites and access to external funding opportunities through club-led management models.

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

---

Local sports clubs should be supported by partners including the Council and National Governing Bodies to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work. For example, support club development and encourage clubs to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate income via their facilities. All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)<sup>10</sup>. They should also be encouraged to work with partners locally – such as volunteer support agencies or local businesses.

The Council could establish a series of core outcomes to derive from clubs taking on a lease arrangement to ensure that the most appropriate clubs are assigned to sites. As an example, outcomes may include:

- ◀ Increasing participation.
- ◀ Supporting the development of coaches and volunteers.
- ◀ Commitment to quality standards.
- ◀ Improvements (where required) to facilities, or as a minimum retaining existing standards.

In addition, clubs should be made fully aware of the associated responsibilities/liabilities when considering leases of multi-use public playing fields. It is important in these instances that the site, to some degree, remains available for other purposes or for other users.

### *Community Asset Transfer*

Another way of ensuring tenure long term tenure for clubs is through a Community Asset Transfer (CAT). This is the transfer of management and/or ownership of public land and buildings from its owner (usually a local authority) to a community organisation (such as a Development Trust, a Community Interest Company or a social enterprise) for less than market value – to achieve a local social, economic or environmental benefit.

Community based organisations are often much more effective at engaging people than other types of organisation because they are close to and directly accountable to their community.

Communities that come together to plan and deliver services can make them more inclusive and responsive than state run services. Communities can mobilise a lot of volunteer time and energy. Asset transfer can, for example:

- ◀ Help local authorities meet policy objectives.
- ◀ Make better use of underused assets.
- ◀ Open and increase opportunities for clubs/organisations to access grant funding for which local authorities cannot apply (e.g. Football Foundation Grass Maintenance Fund).
- ◀ Improve assets through increased time and resource (both financial and volunteer) than what the local authority may be able to contribute.
- ◀ Give sports clubs and community organisations more security and sustainability and help transition clubs away from being funding dependent. Opens opportunities to revenue generation and greater self-dependence.
- ◀ Enable people to protect the assets in their communities – including iconic heritage buildings and open spaces. Reducing costs to the local authority and protection against further budgetary cuts.
- ◀ Involve people in designing and running the services from which, they benefit.
- ◀ Be a catalyst for getting people more involved as volunteers.

---

<sup>10</sup> [Link to CASC benefits](#)

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

---

- ◀ Keep money in the local economy through enterprise and locally owned assets.

The Sport England Community Sport Asset Transfer Toolkit is a bespoke, interactive web based tool that provides a step-by-step guide through each stage of the asset transfer process should this be an option for the Council to consider. It can be accessed here: [Link to Sport England Community assets and rights](#)

### **Recommendation (c) - Maximise community use of education facilities where needed**

To maximise community use, a more coherent, structured relationship with schools and higher/further education establishments is recommended. The ability to access good facilities within the local community is vital to any sports organisation, yet many clubs struggle to find good quality places to play and train. In North West Leicestershire, pricing policies at facilities can be a barrier to access at some education sites but physical access, poor quality and resistance from providers to open up provision is also an issue.

A large number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the venues and local clubs, as well as helping to reduce identified shortfalls. It is, however, common for provision not to be fully maximised for community use, even on established community use sites.

In some instances, facilities are unavailable for community use due to poor quality and therefore remedial works will be required before it can be established. The low carrying capacity of these facilities sometimes leads to them being played to capacity or overplayed simply due to curricular and extra-curricular use, meaning they cannot accommodate any additional use by the community.

As outlined in the scenarios above the following schools do not allow community access to some or all of their facilities:

- ◀ Ashby Hill Top Primary School
- ◀ Ashby Willesley County Primary School
- ◀ Belton Church of England Primary School
- ◀ Broom Leys Primary School
- ◀ Orchard Community Primary School
- ◀ St Clares Primary School
- ◀ St Hardulphs C of E Primary School
- ◀ Thringstone Primary School

Gaining access to some, or all of these sites, could have a significant impact in alleviating shortfalls for a variety of sports. It should be noted this may also include qualitative improvements.

The Council, with assistance from NGBs and SE, needs to work towards gaining secured access to more educational sites in order to provide additional capacity for community sports. This should include ensure relevant policies are contained within strategic documents such as the emerging local plan.

There are a growing number of academies over which the Council has little or no control, yet it is still important to understand the significance of such sites and to work with the providers where there are opportunities for community use. In addition, relevant NGBs have a role to play in supporting the Council to deliver upon this recommendation and communicating with schools where necessary to address shortfalls in provision.

As detailed earlier, NGBs and Sport England can often help to negotiate and engage with providers where the local education authority may have limited direct influence. This is

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

particularly the case at sites that have received funding from the relevant bodies or are going to receive investment in the future as community access can be a condition of the funding agreement.

Sport England's Use our School<sup>11</sup> campaign provides guidance on how the Council could obtain access to educational sites including providing relevant information surrounding potential operating models, legal and governance / finance / marketing and operating information.

Where new schools are provided, they should be designed to facilitate community access, with opportunities for meeting the community's outdoor sports needs explored at the outset to maximise the potential impact of the provision. An example of this is ensuring the provision of youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 grass football pitches, given current shortfalls and their suitability for the playing format of students, or multi-use provision such as courts that can accommodate for sports such as tennis.

### AIM 2

To **enhance** outdoor sports facilities and ancillary facilities through improving the quality and management of sites.

#### **Recommendations:**

- d. Maintain quality and seek improvements where necessary
- e. Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to the management and improvement of sites.
- f. Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding
- g. Secure developer contributions

#### **Recommendation (d) – Improve quality**

There are several ways in which it is possible to improve pitch quality and these are explored below.

#### ***Available support programmes***

##### *Ground Management Association (GMA) Pitch Advisory Service*

With quality of grass pitches becoming one of the biggest influences on participation, the Pitch Advisory Service (PAS, formerly the Grounds and Natural Turf Improvement Programme) was launched in 2014 and is funded by the GMA and its partners; the Football Foundation, Sport England, FA, ECB, RFU and RFL.

Its aim is to raise the standards of sports surfaces as well as the understanding of sports turf management practices among grassroots clubs across England and Wales. The PAS provides an enhanced network of support and expertise available to those maintaining natural turf pitches, particularly at a local level.

The service can be utilised by grassroots clubs, organisations and local authorities with the simple aim of improving the quality of grass pitches. The key principles behind the service

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.sportengland.org/funding-and-campaigns/use-our-school>

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

---

are to provide members of the programme with advice/practical solutions via a report which will also identify the key enhanced maintenance works required along with machinery requirements.

Pitch providers are encouraged to complete a self-assessment of pitches using the Football Foundation PitchPower (PP) app. In August 2022, PitchPower was re-launched, with enhanced capability to support use beyond football pitches and is now accessible for the assessment of natural turf pitches for cricket, rugby league and rugby union. It should be noted that with cricket in particular, more PitchPower assessments are planned to be carried out, therefore, there is a need to review quality as part of the Stage E process of this PPOSS.

In relation to cricket specifically, maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of the sport. If the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and, in some instances, become dangerous. The ECB recommends full technical assessments of wickets and pitches available through a Performance Quality Standard (PQS) assessment. The PQS assessment assesses a cricket square to ascertain whether it meets the standards that are benchmarked by the Ground Management Association.

### *Football Foundation PitchPower Assessment*

The Premier League, The FA and the Football Foundation are increasing efforts to improve the quality of grass pitches in England with the launch of the PitchPower app. Launched in 2020 alongside the Football Foundation Pitch Preparation Fund, the app is a new digital self-assessment tool to allow reports and recommendations to be made more quickly and easily once submitted for review by GMA regional pitch advisors.

In North West Leicestershire, Leicestershire FA plays a proactive role as the County FA, supporting clubs, schools and pitch operators, to engage in the pitch power process, monitoring uptake and new potentials to access funding support, from the Football Foundation.

The tool across web app and desktop is open to access by all providers, for example clubs, schools and local authorities. Following a PitchPower Assessment Report, organisations can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches.

In addition to non-technical assessments, clubs and education sites across North West Leicestershire continue to undertake PitchPower assessments as a means of improving the quality of provision. Consequently, it should be recommended through the PPOSS process for the local authority to support delivering any improvement to new sites that undertake PitchPower assessments.

### *Football Foundation Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund (GPMF)*

Eligible clubs and organisations can also utilise the report as an evidence base to acquire potential funding streams, for example, to obtain the required maintenance equipment. If a PitchPower assessment categorises pitches as 'poor' or 'basic' they are then eligible to apply for funding through the Football Foundation Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund<sup>12</sup>, a fund offering six-year tapered grants to help clubs enhance or sustain the quality of their grass pitches.

The fund is a key part of the Football Foundation's Grass Pitch Improvement Programme - an ambition to deliver 20,000 good quality grass pitches by 2030. Clubs with good or standard quality pitches can also apply for a lower level of funding to improve and sustain quality. All applicants must have, as a minimum, landowners permission to accept investment or ideally long term security of tenure and have received a PitchPower Pitch Assessment

---

<sup>12</sup> <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/grant/grass-pitch-maintenance-fund>

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

Report, with the fund currently open to football clubs, leagues, charities, community organisations, education providers and town and parish councils. Local authorities are not currently eligible applicants, however, eligible organisations using local authority sites can apply provided they have landowners permission as stated above.

However, the Council, can undertake technical assessment of pitches using the PitchPower app. Opportunities to access the fund to support presently Council managed sites include establishment of a service level agreement with a resident club for maintenance responsibilities, or transfer of long-term management to the club/organisation through leasehold or Community Asset Transfer (CAT), both enabling the club/organisation to apply to the fund.

Furthermore, the Football Foundation also launched a Groundskeeping Community online platform in 2019 which provides a resource of expert advice for grounds staff, enabling them to connect with peers, discover new tips and tricks and share advice on best industry practice. Users can seek guidance from the GMA regional pitch advisors, who are available to answer questions and update members on changes to industry standards.

### ***Addressing overplay***

In order to improve the overall quality of the outdoor facility stock; it is necessary to ensure that provision is not overplayed beyond recommended carrying capacity. This is determined by assessing quality (via a non-technical site assessment) and allocating a match limit to each (daily for hockey, weekly for football, rugby league and rugby union and seasonal for cricket).

The FA, RFU, RFL, ECB and EH all recommend a number of matches that pitches should take based on quality, as seen in the table below. For other grass pitch sports, no guidelines are set by the NGBs although it can be assumed that a similar trend should be followed.

Table 5.3: Recommended capacity of pitches

Sport	Pitch type	No. of matches (Good quality)	No. of matches (Standard quality)	No. of matches (Poor quality)
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Football	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Football	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
Rugby union	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
Rugby union	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
Rugby union	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Rugby league	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Rugby league	Junior pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
Cricket	One synthetic wicket	60 per season	60 per season	60 per season
Hockey	Full size AGP	4 per day	4 per day	4 per day

It is imperative to engage with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity. Where overplay is identified, play should be encouraged to transfer to alternative

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

---

venues that are not operating at capacity. Alternatively quality, should be improved to increase capacity to appropriate levels. Where play is transferred, this may include transferring play to 3G pitches or to sites not currently available for community use but which may be in the future.

For cricket, an increase in the usage of NTPs is key to alleviating overplay as this allows for the transfer of junior demand from grass wickets. It also does not require any additional playing pitch space as NTPs can be installed adjacent to existing squares.

For rugby union, overplay can be reduced but not resolved through improvements to pitch maintenance and increase sports lighting. There is a clear need for the creation of WR complaint 3G provision across North West Leicestershire to transfer some demand off match pitches and alleviate overplay on grass pitches.

As mentioned earlier, there are also sites that are poor quality that are not overplayed. These should not be overlooked as often poor-quality sites have less demand than others but demand could increase if the quality were improved. It does, however, work both ways as potential improvements may make sites more attractive and therefore more popular, which in the long run can lead again to them becoming poor quality pitches if not properly maintained.

### *Improving changing provision*

There is a need to address changing provision at some sites in North West Leicestershire (these are detailed further in the Action Plan), for example, the changing provision at Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club and Western Park are poor quality with users stating the need to redevelop the ancillary facilities as the current facilities are outdated. As previously mentioned, without appropriate, fit for purpose ancillary facilities, good quality pitches may be underutilised.

Changing facilities form the most essential part of this offer and therefore key sites should be given priority for improvement such as, multi-sport pitch sites, club managed sites and sites which are strategically important for adult and/or women and girls participation.

### **Recommendation (e) – Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to the management and improvement of sites**

To allow for facility developments to be programmed on a phased basis the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of outdoor sport sites and associated facilities. Please refer to Part 6: Action Plan (contained in a separate document) for the proposed hierarchy. Developer contributions, where relevant to the development and appropriate, could be informed by this hierarchy.

### **Recommendation (f) – Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding**

Partners should ensure that appropriate funding secured for improved sports provision is directed to areas of need, underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in outdoor sport provision and accompanying ancillary facilities.

To address community need a coordinated approach to strategic investment is required. In delivering this recommendation, the Council should maintain a regular dialogue with local partners through the PPOSS Steering Group.

Although some investment in new provision will not be made by the Council directly, it is important that the Steering Group directs and leads a co-ordinated approach to facility development whether made at/by education sites, NGBs, sports clubs and the commercial

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

---

sector. This is to ensure that the extent to which it addresses community need is optimised and duplication is avoided.

One of sport's key contributions is its positive impact on public health. It is therefore important to lever investment from other sectors such as, for example, health and wellbeing. Sport and physical activity can have a profound effect on peoples' lives, and plays a crucial role in improving community cohesion, educational attainment and self-confidence.

### **Recommendation (g) – Secure developer contributions**

It is important that this strategy informs policies and supplementary planning documents by setting out the approach to securing outdoor sport and recreational facilities through development contributions.

For playing pitches, it is recommended the Council continue to use Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator as a tool for helping to determine the additional demand for pitches and to estimate the likely developer contribution required linking to sites within the locality. This should form part of the Council working with Sport England to develop a process and guidance for obtaining developer contributions.

The calculator uses the current number of teams by sports pitch type contained within the Assessment Report and calculates the percentage within each age group that play that sport. That percentage is then applied to the population growth.

The additional teams likely to be generated are then converted into match equivalent sessions and associated pitch requirements in the peak period, with the associated costs (both for providing the pitch/facility and for its life cycle) then given. The calculator splits the requirement into peak time demand for natural turf pitches, training demand for artificial grass pitches, and the number of new changing rooms required.

The PPOSS should be used to help determine the likely impact of a new development on demand and the capacity of existing sites in the area, and whether there is a need for improvements to increase capacity of existing provision or if new provision is required. Where a development is located within access of existing high-quality provision, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further provision or improvement to existing provision, as additional demand arising from the development is likely to result in increased usage (which can result in overplay or quality deterioration).

Where it is determined that new provision is required to accompany a development, priority should be placed on providing facilities that contribute towards alleviating existing shortfalls within the locality. To determine what supply of provision is provided, it is imperative that the PPOSS findings are taken into consideration and that for particularly large developments consultation takes place with the relevant NGBs and Sport England.

This is due to the importance of ensuring that the stock of facilities provided is correct to avoid provision becoming unsustainable and unused. The preference is for multi-pitch and potentially multi-sport sites to be developed, supported by a clubhouse and adequate parking facilities which consider the potential for future AGP development. This is because single-pitch facilities are more likely to become under-used (or unused), unviable and unsustainable.

It is recognised that consultation cannot take place with NGBs for every development due to resource restrictions. Instead, it is recommended that such discussions take place within PPOSS Steering Group meetings, which should take place regularly following adoption of the Strategy as part of the ongoing monitoring and evaluation process. It is recommended

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

that these take place every 6-12 months and inform the annual review/update (see Part 8 for further information).

The guidance should form the basis for negotiation with developers to secure contributions to include provision and/or enhancement of appropriate provision and subsequent maintenance. S106 contributions could also be used to improve the condition and of the pitches in order to increase pitch capacity to accommodate more matches.

Sport England recommends that a number of objectives should be implemented to enable the above to be delivered:

- ◀ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a S106 agreement or equivalent must be completed that should specify, when applied, the amount that will be linked to Sport England's Building Cost Information Service from the date of the permission and timing of the contribution/s to be made.
- ◀ Contributions should also be secured towards the first ten years of maintenance on new pitches (lifecycle costs) as a minimum, the cost of which is indicated by the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator. NGBs and Sport England can provide further and up-to-date information on the associated costs.
- ◀ External funding should be sought/secured to achieve maximum benefit from the investment into appropriate facility enhancement, alongside other open space provision, and its subsequent maintenance.
- ◀ Where new provision is provided, appropriate changing rooms and associated car parking should be located on site, where possible and appropriate.
- ◀ All new or improved outdoor sports facilities on school sites should be subject to community use agreements.

### AIM 3

To **provide** new outdoor sport facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.

#### Recommendations:

- h. Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock.
- i. Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand.

#### Recommendation (h) - Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock

The Council and its partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the preceding Assessment Report and the sport-by-sport specific recommendations (Part 4) as well as the following Action Plan (Part 6).

It is important that the current levels of provision are protected, maintained and enhanced to secure provision both for now and in the future. Maximising use of existing provision through a combination of the following will help to reduce shortfalls and accommodate future demand:

- ◀ Improving quality in order to improve the capacity to accommodate more demand.
- ◀ Transferring demand from overplayed sites to sites with spare capacity.
- ◀ The re-designation of facilities e.g. converting an unused pitch (or pitch type) for one sport to instead cater for another sport (or another pitch type).
- ◀ Securing community use at school sites including those currently unavailable.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

- ◀ Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage.

Unmet demand, changes in sport participation and trends, and proposed housing growth should be recognised and factored into future facility planning. Assuming an increase in participation and housing growth occurs, it will impact on the future need for certain types of sports facilities. Sports development work also approximates unmet demand which cannot currently be quantified (i.e. it is not being suppressed by a lack of facilities) but is likely to occur.

Furthermore, retaining some spare capacity allows some pitches to be rested to protect overall pitch quality in the long-term. Therefore, whilst in some instances it may be appropriate to redesignate a senior pitch, where there is low demand identified a holistic approach should be taken to re-designation for the reasons cited. The site-by-site action plan will seek to provide further clarification on where re-designation is suitable.

The PPOSS identifies priority sites that should be focused upon, including those that are presently overplayed and/or poor quality, or unused sites that are particularly large. It also advises how issues can be overcome.

### **Recommendation (i) - Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand**

The Steering Group should use and regularly update the Action Plan within this Strategy. The Action Plan lists recommendations for each site, focused upon both qualitative and quantitative improvements, which if delivered will lessen the need for new provision.

Linked to the above and as evidenced in Part 4, although there are identified shortfalls of match equivalent sessions, most current and future demand is currently being met and most shortfalls can be addressed via quality improvements and/or improved access to sites that are presently used minimally or that are currently unavailable. Adding to the current stock, particularly in the short term, is therefore not recommended as a priority, except for 3G pitches and padel courts, the shortfall for which cannot be reduced without new stock.

In addition, for rugby union, shortfalls would still be present even if the existing stock was improved to its maximum potential. As such, there may be a need for new rugby union provision, although this could also be provided for via 3G provision (World Rugby compliant).

Large scale housing developments and the establishment of new schools may also necessitate the need for new provision. Where new schools are developed, there is an opportunity to combine the building of the school to the development of a new multi-sport site that will be of a benefit to the school as well as the wider community.

For housing developments, as outlined in Recommendation (g), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can be used as a guide to inform requirements. See Part 7 for further information.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

## PART 6: ACTION PLAN

The site-by-site action plan seeks to address key issues identified in the preceding Assessment Report. It provides recommendations based on current levels of usage, quality and future demand, as well as the potential of each site for enhancement. It is organised by Analysis Area and includes information pertaining to the sub sections below.

### ***Site hierarchy***

The Council should make it a high priority to work with NGBs and other partners to comprise a priority list of actions based on local priorities, NGB priorities and available funding. As stated in Recommendation (e), to allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach, the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities.

The identification of sites is based on their strategic importance in a regional context i.e., they accommodate the majority of demand, or the recommended action has the greatest impact on addressing shortfalls identified either on a sport-by-sport basis or across the Council area as a whole.

Table 6.1: Proposed tiered site criteria

Criteria	Hub sites	Key centres	Local sites
Site location	Strategically located in the Borough. Priority sites for NGBs.	Strategically located within the analysis area.	Services the local community.
Site layout	Accommodates three or more grass pitches, generally including provision of an AGP (or with the potential).	Accommodates two or more grass pitches.	Accommodates one or two pitches.
Type of sport	Multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision.	Generally single sport provision but may cater for two.
Management	Management control allows for wide community use, i.e., through the local authority, a leisure operator or a school with a community use agreement.	Management control generally allows for wide community use but may include sites that are owned or leased by clubs/other organisations.	Management control can be via the local authority, schools and clubs
Maintenance regime	Maintenance regime aligns or could align with NGB guidelines.	Maintenance regime aligns or could align with NGB guidelines.	Standard maintenance regime or an in-house maintenance contract.
Ancillary facilities	Good quality ancillary facilities on site (or potential), with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches; may include wider social/function facilities.	Good quality ancillary facility on site (or potential), with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Limited or no changing room access on site.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

**Hub sites** are of District wide importance where users are willing to travel to access the range and high quality of facilities offered and are likely to be multi-sport. These have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment.

**Key centres** are more community focused, although some are still likely to service a wider analysis area (or slightly wider); however, there may be more of a focus on a specific sport i.e., a dedicated site.

It is considered that some financial investment may be necessary to improve the facilities at both hub sites and key sites. This could be to improve the provision, create additional provision (e.g., a 3G pitch) or to enhance the ancillary facilities in terms of access, flexibility (i.e., single-sex changing if necessary) and quality as well as ensuring that they meet the rules and regulations of local competitions.

**Local sites** refer to those sites offering minimal provision or that are of minimal value to the wider community. Primarily they are sites with one pitch/facility or a low number of pitches/facilities that service just one or two sports (e.g., bowling green sites).

For local sites, consideration should be given, on a site-by-site basis, to the feasibility of a club taking on a long-term lease (if not already present), in order that external funding can be sought. Such sites will require some level of investment, either to the outdoor sport facilities or ancillary facilities and it is anticipated that one of the conditions of offering a hire/lease is that the Club would be in a position to source external funding to improve/extend the provision.

Other sites considered in this tier may be primary school sites or secondary school sites that are not widely used by the community or that do not offer community availability.

## **Partners**

The column indicating partners in the Action Plans below refers to the main organisations that the Council (or the relevant provider) would look to work with to support delivery of the actions.

Given the extent of potential actions, it is reasonable to assume that partners will not necessarily be able to support all the actions identified but where the action is a priority and resource is available the partner will endeavour to assist.

As all sites sit within the local authority area, the Council is considered to be a partner for each identified action (as the column indicates partners for the Council) and is therefore not included. However, it is acknowledged that it will take on more of a leading role for some specific sites and some specific actions (e.g., at council venues), and a supporting role at others (such as private sites/schools etc).

## **Priority**

Although hub sites are mostly likely to have **high** level actions, as they have wide importance, high priority sites have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the key issues identified in the assessment. Therefore, some key centres and local sites are also identified as having a high priority level. It is these projects/sites which should generally, if possible, be addressed within the short term (1-2 years).

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

The majority of key centres have **medium** priority actions. These have analysis area importance and are identified on the basis of the impact that they will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment, although not to the same extent as high priority actions.

The **low** priority actions tend to be for single pitch or single sport sites and are often club or education sites with local specific importance but that may also contribute to addressing the issues identified in the assessment for specific users. Whilst low priority, there may be opportunities to action some of the recommendations made against such sites relatively quickly e.g., through S106 funding.

## **Costs**

The strategic actions have also been ranked as low, medium or high based on relative cost. The brackets are:

- (L) - Low - less than £150k.
- (M) - Medium - £150k-£750k.
- (H) - High £750k and above.

These are based on Sport England's estimated facility costs<sup>13</sup>.

## **Timescales**

The Action Plan has been created to be delivered over a ten-year period and the information within the Assessment Report, Strategy and Action Plan will require updating as developments occur. The indicative timescales relate to anticipated delivery times and are not priority based:

- ◀ (S) - Short (1-2 years).
- ◀ (M) - Medium (3-5 years).
- ◀ (L) - Long (6+ years).

## **Aim**

Each action seeks to meet at least one of the three Sport England aims of the Strategy; **Enhance, Provide, Protect**.

---

<sup>13</sup> [Facility cost guidance | Sport England](#)

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH ANALYSIS AREA

### Area summary – pitch sports<sup>14</sup>

Area	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES <sup>[1]</sup>	Future capacity total in MES (2042) <sup>15</sup>
<b>Football (grass)</b>	-	-	-
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Adult	1	-
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Youth 11v11	-4	-4
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Youth 9v9	-1.5	-3.5
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Mini 7v7	-	-1.5
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Mini 5v5	-	-1.5
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Youth 11v11</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>-17.5</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Youth 9v9</b>	<b>-8.5</b>	<b>-16</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Mini 7v7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-2</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Mini 5v5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Football (3G)</b>	-	-	-
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	11v11	-2.25	-2.75
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>11v11</b>	<b>-4.5</b>	<b>-6.25</b>
<b>Cricket</b>	-	-	-
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Saturday	-	-
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Sunday	24	-
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Midweek	30	-
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>-25</b>	<b>-121</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Midweek</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Rugby union</b>	-	-	-
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Senior	-4	-
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Senior</b>	<b>-9.5</b>	<b>-13.25</b>
<b>Hockey</b>	-	-	-
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>AGP</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>

<sup>[1]</sup> MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

<sup>15</sup> It should be noted that this future demand figure is at a Authority wide level, and some analysis areas may have greater shortfalls than others.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

## Area summary – non-pitch sports

Sport	Headline findings
Tennis	Ashby Castle LTC has capacity to accommodate 46 additional members, when factoring in future demand this reduces to 26.
Netball	Ashby School and Sixth Form provides four good quality community available sports lit courts.
Athletics	N/A
Bowls	Ashby BC is currently oversubscribed by 16 members, when factoring in future demand this worsens to 41. This is considered manageable but needs to be monitored as part of the Stage E process.

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
3	Ashby Hastings Primary School	30009924	LE65 2AX	Netball	Education	One standard quality macadam netball court that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality for curricular use.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
4	Ashby Hill Top Primary School	6015305	LE65 2NF	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for curricular use.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
4	Ashby Hill Top Primary School	6015305	LE65 2NF	Netball	Education	One standard quality macadam netball court that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality for curricular use.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
5	Ashby Ivanhoe FC	30002770	LE65 1TS	Football	Sport Club	One adult pitch of standard quality, one mini 7v7 pitch of good quality and one mini 5v5 pitch of good quality. The adult pitch is overplayed by two MES per week whilst the mini pitches are played to capacity at peak time.  Ashby Ivanhoe FC has planning permission to change the use of adjoining the site to recreation use including the formation of additional pitches, parking area and landscaping (22/01811/FULM).  The site is serviced by good quality ancillary and changing provision although the Club has planning permission (REF:24/00754/VCU) and is currently in the process of extending its existing clubhouse to include raising the roof height to provide first floor accommodation, dormer windows and a balcony with the erection of a single storey building to provide changing room facilities.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to reduce overplay.  Support the Club's development plans to enhance ancillary provision and provide additional playing field provision to alleviate overplay and accommodate future demand on site.  Explore the feasibility of the Club's 3G aspirations to assist with local 3G shortfalls.	Sport Club CFA FF	Local	M	L	H	Protect Enhance Provide
6	Hood Park	1004048	LE65 1HU	Football	Parish Council	One adult and one youth 11v11 pitch. The adult pitch is overplayed by one MES per week whilst the youth 11v11 pitch is overplayed by 0.5 MES per week.  The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision although changing facilities are reported to be unsuitable for senior demand requiring showering facilities.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.  Explore the feasibility of improving changing facilities on site.	Parish Council CFA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
6	Hood Park	1004048	LE65 1HU	3G	Parish Council	Two small-size 3G pitches that are sports lit and available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment when necessary.	Parish Council CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
7	Ashby RFC	1208811	LE65 1DP	Rugby Union	Sport Club	Three senior rugby union pitches of standard (M1/D1) quality. One of the pitches is serviced by sports lighting. Two of the three pitches, including the sports lit pitch, are each overplayed by two MES per week whilst the third pitch is played to capacity at peak time.  The pitches on site are well maintained although the Club is in the process of clearing its current drainage system as it is not currently functioning sufficiently.  The site is serviced by good quality ancillary and changing provision.  Ashby RFC states that it aspires to lay down a World Rugby compliant 11v11 3G pitch at its site, the Club is currently in the process of planning for this with the recent upgrade of its clubhouse and additional car parking area as well as liaising with Ashby Town Council.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to reduce overplay.  Explore the feasibility of the Club's 3G aspirations to assist with local 3G and RFU pitch shortfalls.	Sport Club RFU CFA FF	Local	H	L	H	Protect Enhance Provide
9	Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields)	50000410	LE65 1EB	Football	Education	One youth 11v11 pitch of good quality, one youth 9v9 of poor quality, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch, both of standard quality.  The youth 9v9 pitch is overplayed by one MES per week whilst all other pitch types are played to capacity at peak time.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.	School CFA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
9	Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields)	50000410	LE65 1EB	Rugby Union	Education	One senior rugby union pitch of poor (M0/D1) quality that is available to the community although spare capacity is discounted due to poor pitch quality and unsecure tenure.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.  Look to formalise community use agreement to provide security of tenure.	School RFU	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
10	Ashby School and Sixth Form	1004017	LE65 1DD	Football	Education	Two good quality adult football pitches with discounted spare capacity due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Look to formalise community use agreement to provide security of tenure.	College CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
10	Ashby School and Sixth Form	1004017	LE65 1DD	Netball	Education	Four good quality sports lit macadam netball courts that are available for community use. The College reports it is in the process of submitting a planning application to allow the usage of its lighting until 21:30 to allow for greater community usage.	Sustain court quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Support the college with its planning application to extend period of sports lighting to allow for greater community usage.	College EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
11	Ashby Willesley County Primary School	6015315	LE65 2QG	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for curricular use.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
11	Ashby Willesley County Primary School	6015315	LE65 2QG	Netball	Education	One good quality macadam netball court that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality for curricular use.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
13	Bath Grounds	6001833	LE65 2GL	Cricket	Sport Club	One good quality cricket square with 17 grass wickets and a poor quality NTP. The square has actual spare capacity for Sunday and midweek cricket. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision and a two-lane, fixed bay practice net that is ECB approved.	Sustain square quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Explore the option of resurfacing the NTP to accommodate junior demand or division nine senior men's demand.	Sport Club ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
13	Bath Grounds	6001833	LE65 2GL	Bowls	Ashby Town Council	One standard quality flat bowling green that is home to Ashby BC. The green is operating above the recommended capacity, with this expected to be exacerbated when considering the Club's potential growth. The green is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Improve green quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Monitor green quality and ensure operating above capacity does not cause green quality to deteriorate.	Town Council BE	Local	M	L	L	Protect
16	Blackfordby Football Field	30004618	DE11 8AW	Football	Town Council	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch with discounted spare capacity due to poor pitch quality.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Town Council CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
22	Champneys Springs	1009103	LE65 1TG	Football	Commercial	One standard quality adult football pitch with one MES of actual spare capacity per week.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Commercial CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
36	Ivanhoe School	1004051	LE65 1HX	Football	Education	Two youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch, all of standard quality. Both pitch types are overplayed by 0.5 MES per week.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.	School CFA FF	Key	M	S	L	Protect Enhance

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
36	Ivanhoe School	1004051	LE65 1HX	Hockey	Education	One good quality, full-size, hockey suitable AGP that is sports lit and available for community use. Ashby HC reports that changing facilities on site are insufficient for current demand and inaccessible on Sundays.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment when necessary. Explore the feasibility of expanding ancillary provision on site.	School EH	Key	M	L	M	Protect Enhance
36	Ivanhoe School	1004051	LE65 1HX	Tennis	Education	Four standard quality macadam tennis courts that are available for community use but without sports lighting.	Sustain court quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Explore sports lighting potential to allow for greater community usage.	School LTA	Key	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
36	Ivanhoe School	1004051	LE65 1HX	Netball	Education	Four standard quality macadam courts that are unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality for curricular use.	School EN	Key	L	L	L	Protect
42	Measham Road Recreation Ground	6021026	DE12 6AA	Football	Sport Club	One adult, one youth 11v11, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch, all of poor quality. The youth 11v11 pitch is overplayed by three MES per week. The adult and mini 7v7 pitches have discounted spare capacity due to poor pitch quality whilst the mini 5v5 pitch is played to capacity at peak time.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.	Sport Club CFA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
46	Moira Miners Welfare	6004411	DE12 6BP	Football	Community Organisation	Two standard quality adult football pitches with two MES of actual spare capacity per week.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Community CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
46	Moira Miners Welfare	6004411	DE12 6BP	Bowls	Community Organisation	One poor quality bowling green that is not utilised by any club.	Explore the feasibility of merging the screen with the rest of the site in accordance with Sport England guidelines and if the green is deemed as surplus to requirement.	BE Community	Local	L	L	L	Protect
47	Moira United Football Club	30004675	DE12 6DJ	Football	Sport Club	One standard quality adult football pitch with one MES of actual spare capacity per week.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Sport Club CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
51	Ravenstone Recreation Ground	6020388	LE67 2AU	Football	Parish Council	Two standard quality adult football pitches with two MES of actual spare capacity per week. A youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitch were previously marked on site.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Parish Council CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
51	Ravenstone Recreation Ground	6020388	LE67 2AU	Tennis	Parish Council	One standard quality macadam tennis court that is available for community use but without sports lighting.	Sustain court quality and explore the option of providing sports lighting to allow for greater community usage.	Parish Council LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
56	Spring Cottage Recreation Ground	30005901	DE12 6ND	Football	Town Council	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch with discounted spare capacity due to poor pitch quality.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Town Council CFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
63	Western Park	6001830	LE65 2FA	Football	Town Council	Two poor quality adult football pitches that are overplayed by one MES per week. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision although requires significant quality improvements to ensure they are suitable for women's and girl's demand. The site currently hosts girl's teams.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay. Explore the feasibility of improving ancillary provision on site.	Town Council CFA FF	Local	M	L	M	Protect Enhance
63	Western Park	6001830	LE65 2FA	Cricket	Town Council	One standard quality cricket square with eight grass wickets. The square has actual spare capacity for Sunday and midweek cricket. The site is serviced by poor quality ancillary provision which is unsuitable for women and girl's.	Improve square quality through enhanced levels of maintenance to increase square capacity. Explore the option of improving ancillary provision to better cater for women's and girl's demand.	Town Council ECB	Local	M	L	M	Protect Provide Enhance
64	Westfields Recreation Ground	6001832	LE65 2LD	Football	Town Council	One adult football pitch that is overplayed by one MES per week. The site is serviced by poor quality ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.	Town Council CFA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
78	Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club	-	LE65 1BQ	Tennis	Sport Club	Four artificial turf and three clay tennis courts, all of which are good quality, sports lit and available for community use.	Sustain court quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Sport Club LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## CASTLE DONINGTON / KEGWORTH ANALYSIS AREA

### Area summary – pitch sports<sup>16</sup>

Area	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES <sup>[1]</sup>	Future capacity total in MES (2042) <sup>[17]</sup>
<b>Football (grass)</b>	-	-	-
Castle Donington / Kegworth	Adult	6	4.5
Castle Donington / Kegworth	Youth 11v11	-	-1
Castle Donington / Kegworth	Youth 9v9	-	-0.5
Castle Donington / Kegworth	Mini 7v7	0.5	-
Castle Donington / Kegworth	Mini 5v5	0.5	-
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>7</b>
North West Leicestershire	Youth 11v11	-4	-17.5
North West Leicestershire	Youth 9v9	-8.5	-16
North West Leicestershire	Mini 7v7	5	-2
North West Leicestershire	Mini 5v5	5	1
<b>Football (3G)</b>	-	-	-
Castle Donington / Kegworth	11v11	-	-
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>11v11</b>	<b>-4.5</b>	<b>-6.25</b>
<b>Cricket</b>	-	-	-
Castle Donington / Kegworth	Saturday	-1	-
Castle Donington / Kegworth	Sunday	11	-
Castle Donington / Kegworth	Midweek	47	-
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>-25</b>	<b>-121</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Midweek</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Rugby union</b>	-	-	-
Castle Donington / Kegworth	Senior	0.5	-

<sup>[1]</sup> MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

<sup>[17]</sup> It should be noted that this future demand figure is at a Authority wide level, and some analysis areas may have greater shortfalls than others.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Area	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES <sup>[1]</sup>	Future capacity total in MES (2042) <sup>[17]</sup>
North West Leicestershire	Senior	-9.5	-13.25
Hockey	-	-	-
North West Leicestershire	AGP	4	4

## Area summary – non-pitch sports

Sport	Headline findings
Tennis	Oaks & District TC has capacity to accommodate 136 additional members, when factoring in future demand this is reduced to 96. Further research is required to uncover membership figures for Kegworth TC
Netball	Castle Donington College provides two good quality community available courts although these are not sports lit.
Athletics	N/A
Bowls	Kegworth BC has capacity to accommodate an additional four members, however after factoring in future demand it becomes over subscribed by 13.

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
14	Belton Church of England Primary School	30004286	LE12 9TS	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for curricular use.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
14	Belton Church of England Primary School	30004286	LE12 9TS	Netball	Education	One poor quality macadam netball court that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for curricular use.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
15	Belton Recreation Ground	6006279	LE12 9TS	Football	Community Organisation	One youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7, both of poor quality. The youth 9v9 pitch is played to capacity whilst the mini 7v7 pitch has discounted spare capacity due to poor pitch quality.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Community CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
20	Castle Donington College	1003583	DE74 2LN	Football	Education	Two standard quality adult football pitches with two MES of actual spare capacity per week.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	College CFA FF	Key	L	L	L	Protect
20	Castle Donington College	1003583	DE74 2LN	3G	Education	One good quality, full-size 3G pitch that is sports lit, available to the community and features on the FA register. There are also two small-size 3G pitches on site that are sports lit and available to the community.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment when necessary.	College CFA FF	Key	L	L	L	Protect
20	Castle Donington College	1003583	DE74 2LN	Netball	Education	Two good quality macadam netball courts that are available for community use. The courts are not currently serviced with sports lighting.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore options to provide sports lighting at the site to allow for greater community usage.	College EN	Key	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
27	FCV Academy	1008342	LE67 5UG	3G	Commercial Management	One good quality, full-size 3G pitch that is sports lit, available for community use and features on the FA register. There is also one small-size 3G pitch on site that is sports lit and available to the community.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment when necessary.	College CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
30	Hemington Sports Ground	30007781	DE74 2RF	Football	Sport Club	One adult and one mini 5v5 pitch, both of good quality. The adult pitch is played to capacity whilst the mini 5v5 pitch is played to capacity at peak time. Hemington Hammers FC is seeking match funding from the Football Foundation for pitch drainage and reconstruction of pitches. This is recommended by the GMA due to undulations and existing poor drainage. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Support the Club's aspirations to rectify drainage and undulations on the existing pitches.	Sport Club CFA FF	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
30	Hemington Sports Ground	30007781	DE74 2RF	Cricket	Sport Club	A good quality, standalone NTP that is available for community use.	Sustain NTP quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	Sport Club ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
37	Kegworth Primary School	30004751	DE74 2DA	Football	Education	One standard quality mini 5v5 pitch with discounted spare capacity due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Look to formalise community use agreement to provide security of tenure.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	6020300	DE74 2FH	Football	Trust	One poor quality adult football pitch that is played to capacity. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Trust CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	6020300	DE74 2FH	Cricket	Trust	One good quality cricket square with 14 wickets and a good quality NTP. The site has actual spare capacity for an increase in midweek demand. The site is serviced by an ECB approved fixed bay practice net with two lanes. Kegworth Town CC aspires to add an additional lane to its practice net facility. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision although changing facilities are not suitable for women's and girl's demand.	Sustain quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore the option of improving changing facility offering to better cater for women's and girl's demand.	Trust ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	6020300	DE74 2FH	Tennis	Trust	Three good quality macadam tennis courts that are sports lit and available for community use.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	Trust LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	6020300	DE74 2FH	Bowls	Sport Club	One good quality flat bowling green that is home to Kegworth BC. The green currently has capacity for four additional members although Kegworth BC has extensive future demand aspirations. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision.	Sustain green quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Monitor membership levels at the Club to ensure capacity does not deteriorate green quality.	Sports Club	Local	L	L	L	Protect
40	Long Whatton Cricket Club	1040885	LE12 5DF	Football	Sport Club	One standard quality adult football pitch with one MES of actual spare capacity per week.	Sustain pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Sports Club CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
40	Long Whatton Cricket Club	1040885	LE12 5DF	Cricket	Sport Club	<p>One good quality cricket square with six grass wickets. The square is overplayed by 13 matches per season.</p> <p>The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision, with the clubhouse considered to be of good quality although changing facilities are unsuitable for women's and girls' demand.</p> <p>The site is serviced by an ECB approved fixed bay practice net with two lanes. Long Whatton CC aspires to refurbish its fixed-lane practice nets.</p>	<p>Sustain square quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.</p> <p>Explore the option of improving ancillary facilities to better cater for women's and girl's demand.</p>	Sports Club ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
45	Moira Dale Sports Ground	30004716	DE74 2PJ	Football	Parish Council	Two good quality adult football pitches with two MES of actual spare capacity per week.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Parish Council CFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
45	Moira Dale Sports Ground	30004716	DE74 2PJ	Cricket	Parish Council	<p>A good quality grass cricket square with ten wickets. The square has actual spare capacity at all peak times.</p> <p>The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities although the social facilities are in need of updating and the changing facilities are not suitable for women's and girls' demand.</p> <p>Castle Donington CC aspires to provide a mobile cage on site.</p>	<p>Explore the option of improving ancillary facilities to better cater for women's and girl's demand.</p> <p>Support Castle Donington CC with its aspiration to provide training facilities on site.</p>	Parish Council	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
49	Orchard Community Primary School	30007600	DE74 2QU	Netball	Education	One standard quality netball court that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality for curricular demand.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
55	Spital Park	6005161	DE74 2NQ	Football	Parish Council	<p>Three adult, two youth 9v9, three mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches. One of the adult pitches and the mini 7v7 pitches are of standard quality whilst all remaining pitches are of good quality.</p> <p>The standard quality adult pitch is overplayed by one MES per week whilst the youth 9v9 pitches are played to capacity at peak time. The good quality adult pitches have two MES of actual spare capacity per week whilst both mini pitch formats both have 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity per week.</p>	<p>Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.</p> <p>Explore the feasibility of reallocating demand on site to alleviate overplay.</p>	Parish Council CFA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
55	Spital Park	6005161	DE74 2NQ	Rugby Union	Parish Council	One senior rugby union pitch of standard (M1/D1) quality that is available for community use. The pitch has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity per week. Castle Donington RFC states that the pitch at Spital Park is undergoing a drainage assessment. It suspects the existing French drain is blocked and consultants are being brought in to reassess and improve the drainage system to prevent future flooding issues. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision.	Sustain pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Support Castle Donington RFC to rectify drainage concerns on site.	Parish Council RFU	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
58	St Hardulphs C of E Primary School	6015155	DE73 8AN	Tennis	Education	One standard quality macadam tennis court that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality for curricular demand.	School LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
58	St Hardulphs C of E Primary School	6015155	DE73 8AN	Netball	Education	One standard quality macadam netball court that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality for curricular demand.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## COALVILLE ANALYSIS AREA

### Area summary – pitch sports<sup>18</sup>

Area	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES <sup>[1]</sup>	Future capacity total in MES (2042) <sup>[19]</sup>
<b>Football (grass)</b>	-	-	-
Coalville	Adult	1	-1
Coalville	Youth 11v11	0.5	-4.5
Coalville	Youth 9v9	-4.5	-7.5
Coalville	Mini 7v7	2	-1
Coalville	Mini 5v5	2.5	1.5
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Youth 11v11</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>-17.5</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Youth 9v9</b>	<b>-8.5</b>	<b>-16</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Mini 7v7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-2</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Mini 5v5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Football (3G)</b>	-	-	-
Coalville	11v11	-0.25	-0.75
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>11v11</b>	<b>-4.5</b>	<b>-6.25</b>
<b>Cricket</b>	-	-	-
Coalville	Saturday	-13	-
Coalville	Sunday	-1	-
Coalville	Midweek	17	-
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>-25</b>	<b>-121</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Midweek</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Rugby union</b>	-	-	-
Coalville	Senior	-6	-
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Senior</b>	<b>-9.5</b>	<b>-13.25</b>
<b>Hockey</b>	-	-	-
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>AGP</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>

<sup>[1]</sup> MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

<sup>[19]</sup> It should be noted that this future demand figure is at a Authority wide level, and some analysis areas may have greater shortfalls than others.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

## Area summary – non-pitch sports

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Headline findings</b>
<b>Tennis</b>	N/A
<b>Netball</b>	The Castle Rock School, King Edward VII Science and Sports College and The Newbridge School each provide standard quality community accessible courts however are not serviced with sports lighting.
<b>Athletics</b>	N/A
<b>Bowls</b>	Whitwick BC and Coalville BC each have spare capacity to accommodate additional members and this remains when factoring in future demand.

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
12	Bardon Hill Sports Club	6002413	LE67 4BS	Football	Sport Club	<p>Two youth 11v11, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch, all of good quality. The youth 11v11 pitches are played to capacity at peak time whilst the mini 7v7 pitch has one MES of actual spare capacity per week. The mini 5v5 pitch has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity per week.</p> <p>The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision and standard quality changing facilities.</p> <p>The site previously included a youth 9v9 pitch that is no longer marked.</p>	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Sport Club CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
12	Bardon Hill Sports Club	6002413	LE67 4BS	Cricket	Sport Club	<p>One good quality cricket square with 12 wickets. The square has actual spare capacity for Sunday and midweek cricket.</p> <p>The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision.</p> <p>The site is serviced by an ECB approved fixed bay practice net with two lanes.</p>	Sustain square quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	Sport Club ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
18	Broom Leys Primary School	30003845	LE67 4DB	Football	Education	Two poor quality mini 7v7 pitches that are unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for curricular use.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
18	Broom Leys Primary School	30003845	LE67 4DB	Netball	Education	One standard quality macadam netball court that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality for curricular use.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
19	Broomleys Cricket Club	1041810	LE67 4RN	Cricket	Sport Club	<p>One standard quality cricket square with ten wickets. The square is overplayed by 13 matches per season.</p> <p>The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision.</p> <p>The site is serviced by an ECB approved fixed bay practice net with two lanes.</p>	Explore option to improve square quality through enhanced levels of maintenance to reduce overplay at the site.	Sport Club ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
21	The Castle Rock School	1013799	LE67 4BR	Football	Education	Three youth 11v11 pitches of standard quality. The pitches have three MES of actual spare capacity per week.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
21	The Castle Rock School	1013799	LE67 4BR	Hockey	Education	<p>One standard quality, full-size, hockey suitable AGP that is sports lit and available for community use. The pitch has capacity for an additional four teams at peak time, The pitch significantly exceeds the recommended lifespan although no quality issues are reported.</p> <p>A planning application has been submitted REF: 24/00732/FULM for the redevelopment of the site. It has been speculated that as part of the redevelopment the AGP will be resurfaced.</p> <p>Changing and toilet facilities are currently accessible although will no longer be accessible to teams utilising the AGP if redevelopment plans move forward.</p>	<p>Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.</p> <p>Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment when necessary.</p>	School EH	Local	L	L	L	Protect
21	The Castle Rock School	1013799	LE67 4BR	Tennis	Education	Two standard quality macadam tennis courts that are available for community use. The courts are not serviced with sports lighting.	Sustain court quality. Explore the option to provide sports lighting to allow for greater community usage.	School LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
21	The Castle Rock School	1013799	LE67 4BR	Netball	Education	Two standard quality macadam netball courts that are available for community use. The courts are not serviced with sports lighting.	Sustain court quality. Explore the option to provide sports lighting to allow for greater community usage.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
23	Coalville FC (Owen Street)	6011709	LE67 3DA	Football	Sport Club	<p>One adult, one youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and three mini 5v5. The youth 9v9 and one mini 5v5 pitch are of poor quality. All remaining pitches are of standard quality.</p> <p>The adult pitch and poor quality mini 5v5 pitch are played to capacity whilst the youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches are overplayed by 2.5 and one MES per week respectively. The mini 5v5 pitches have two MES of actual spare capacity per week.</p> <p>The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.</p> <p>Coalville Town FC is exploring options to provide a new clubhouse on site to better accommodate youth demand.</p>	<p>Improve pitch quality through enhance maintenance regime to reduce overplay.</p> <p>Explore options to reallocate some demand away from the site to alleviate overplay.</p>	Sport Club CFA FF	Local	H	S	L	Protect Enhance

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
23	Coalville FC (Owen Street)	6011709	LE67 3DA	3G	Sport Club	One good quality full-size 3G pitch that is sports lit, available for community use and features on the FA register.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment when necessary.	Sport Club CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
24	Coalville RFC	1208813	LE67 5PF	Rugby Union	Sport Club	Four senior rugby union pitches, all of standard (M1/D1) quality. One of the pitches is serviced by sports lighting. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision. The sports lit pitch is overplayed by five MES per week whilst two of the three pitches without lighting are overplayed by 0.5 MES per week. The final pitch is played to capacity at peak time.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to reduce overplay. Explore the feasibility of reallocating training demand away from the match pitches to alleviate overplay on site.	Sport Club RFU	Local	H	S	L	Protect Enhance
28	Greenhill Recreation Ground	6007271	LE67 4HS	Football	District Council	One poor quality adult football pitch that is played to capacity at peak time.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	Council CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
31	Hermitage Recreation Ground	30010320	LE67 5FU	Football	District Council	Three adult football pitches of standard quality that have three MES of actual spare capacity per week. The site previously provided a youth 9v9 and a mini 7v7 pitch that are no longer marked. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Council CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
31	Hermitage Recreation Ground	30010320	LE67 5FU	3G	District Council	One small-size, sports lit 3G pitch that is available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Council CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
35	Ingles Football Club	6011708	LE67 8LL	Football	Sport Club	One standard quality adult football pitch that is played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Sport Club CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
38	King Edward VII Science and Sports College	1004056	LE67 4UW	Netball	Education	Two standard quality macadam netball courts that are available for community use.	Sustain court quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	College EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
43	Melrose Road Recreation Ground	1040882	LE67 8NH	Football (unused)	District Council	One adult pitch that is no longer marked. Work is being carried out to engage with the Football Foundations Home Advantage Programme to bring football back to this site and transfer on a 25 year lease to Ingles FC.	Support aspirations to reinstate the pitch on site.	Council CFA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Provide

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim	
44	Millfield Recreation Ground	6017649	LE67 2GB	Football	Parish Council	One standard quality adult football pitch with 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity per week. The site is serviced by poor quality ancillary provision. Significant quality improvements are required to suitably accommodate women's and girl's demand.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Explore the feasibility of improving ancillary provision on site.	Council CFA FF	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance	
50	Parsonwood Hill	30004576	LE67 5AT	Football (unused)	District Council	One mini 7v7 pitch that is no longer marked on site.	Retain as strategic reserve if an increase in demand warrants reinstating the provision. Ensure any permanent loss of provision meets national planning policy requirements.	District Council, CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect	
52	Scotlands Playing Fields	6007318	LE67 3JD	Football	District Council	Two poor quality adult football pitches, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch, both of standard quality. The adult and youth 9v9 pitch types are both overplayed by three MES per week whilst the mini 7v7 pitch is played to capacity. The site previously hosted a youth 9v9 pitch that is no longer marked. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision and poor quality changing facilities. Significant quality improvements are required to suitably accommodate women's and girl's demand.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to reduce overplay. Look to reintroduce the second youth 9v9 pitch on site to alleviate overplay. Explore the feasibility of improving ancillary provision on site.	Council CFA FF	Local	H	M	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
57	St Clares Primary School	30011064	LE67 3SF	Football	Education	One mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch, both of poor quality and unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for curricular use.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect	
61	The Newbridge School	6013965	LE67 3SJ	Football	Education	Two adult, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch, all of standard quality. The adult pitches are played to capacity whilst the youth 9v9 pitch is overplayed by 0.5 MES per week. The mini 7v7 pitch has one MES of actual spare capacity per week.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.	School CFA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance	
61	The Newbridge School	6013965	LE67 3SJ	3G	Education	One good quality full-size 3G pitch that is sports lit, available for community use and features on the FA register.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect	

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
61	The Newbridge School	6013965	LE67 3SJ	Cricket	Education	A standalone NTP of poor quality that is available for community use.	Improve NTP quality to better cater for curricular demand and allow for greater community use.	School ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
61	The Newbridge School	6013965	LE67 3SJ	Netball	Education	Three standard quality macadam netball courts that are available for community use. The courts are not serviced with sports lighting.	Sustain court quality through detailed levels of maintenance. Explore the option to provide sports lighting to allow for greater levels of community use.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
61	The Newbridge School	6013965	LE67 3SJ	Tennis	Education	Three standard quality macadam tennis courts that are available for community use. The courts are no serviced with sports lighting.	Explore the option to provide sports lighting to allow for greater levels of community use.	School LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
62	Thringstone Primary School	30003770	LE67 8LJ	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for curricular use.	School CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
62	Thringstone Primary School	30003770	LE67 8LJ	Tennis	Education	One standard quality macadam tennis court that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality for curricular use.	School LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
66	Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club	-	LE67 8LR	Cricket	Sport Club	One good quality cricket square with eight grass wickets. The square has actual spare capacity for an additional midweek team. The site is serviced by poor quality ancillary provision with changing rooms deemed unsuitable for women's and girls' demand despite the Club fielding a women's team. The site is serviced by a one-lane, fixed bay training net that is ECB approved.	Sustain square quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore options to improve the quality of ancillary facilities at the site to better cater for women's and girl's demand.	Sport Club ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
74	New Lount Bowls Club	-	LE67 8JF	Bowls	Sport Club	One good quality flat bowling green that is home to New Lount BC. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Sustain green quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	Sport Club BE	Local	L	L	L	Protect
79	Thringstone Bowling Club	-	LE67 8LR	Bowls	Sport Club	One good quality flat bowling green that is home to Thringstone BC. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Sustain green quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	Sport Club BE	Local	L	L	L	Protect
81	Whitwick Memorial Park	-	LE67 5HA	Tennis	Whitwick Parish Council	Two standard quality macadam tennis courts that are available for community use. The courts are not serviced with sports lighting.	Explore options to provide sports lighting to allow for greater levels of community use.	Parish Council LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
81	Whitwick Memorial Park	-	LE67 5HA	Bowls	Whitwick Parish Council	One poor quality flat bowling green that is home to Whitwick BC. The green has capacity for an additional 29 members.	Improve green quality through enhanced levels of maintenance to better cater for community demand.	Parish Council BE	Local	L	L	L	Protect

192

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.							
82	Coalville Town Bowling Club	-	LE67 4FA	Bowls	Sport Club	Two flat bowling greens of good quality that are home to Coalville BC. The greens have capacity for an additional 68 members. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision although the Club aspires to refurbish its kitchen and toilets.	Sustain green quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	Sport Club BE	Local	L	L	L	Protect

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## IBSTOCK ANALYSIS AREA

### Area summary – pitch sports

Area	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES <sup>[1]</sup>	Future capacity total in MES (2042) <sup>[20]</sup>
<b>Football (grass)</b>	-	-	-
Ibstock	Adult	6	5.5
Ibstock	Youth 11v11	-	-1
Ibstock	Youth 9v9	-	-0.5
Ibstock	Mini 7v7	2.5	1
Ibstock	Mini 5v5	1	0.5
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Youth 11v11</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>-17.5</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Youth 9v9</b>	<b>-8.5</b>	<b>-16</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Mini 7v7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-2</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Mini 5v5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Football (3G)</b>	-	-	-
Ibstock	11v11	-1.25	-1.25
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>11v11</b>	<b>-4.5</b>	<b>-6.25</b>
<b>Cricket</b>	-	-	-
Ibstock	Saturday	-11	-
Ibstock	Sunday	-11	-
Ibstock	Midweek	-11	-
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>-25</b>	<b>-121</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Midweek</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Rugby union</b>	-	-	-
Ibstock	Senior	-	-
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Senior</b>	<b>-9.5</b>	<b>-13.25</b>
<b>Hockey</b>	-	-	-
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>AGP</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>

<sup>[1]</sup> MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

<sup>[20]</sup> It should be noted that this future demand figure is at a Authority wide level, and some analysis areas may have greater shortfalls than others.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

## Area summary – non-pitch sports

Sport	Headline findings
Tennis	N/A
Netball	Ibstock Leisure Complex provides two standard quality courts which are serviced with sports lighting.
Athletics	N/A
Bowls	Ibstock BC has spare capacity to accommodate additional members and when factoring in future demand this remains.

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim	
8	Ashby Road Playing Fields	6021191	LE67 6HB	Football	Sport Club	Two youth 11v11, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch, all of standard quality. The youth 11v11 pitches are played to capacity at peak time whilst both mini pitch formats have one MES of actual spare capacity per week.  The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision. The site previously hosted a youth 9v9 pitch that is no longer marked.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Sport Club CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect	
26	Ellistown FC	6002325	LE67 1GD	Football	Sport Club	Two good quality adult football pitches with two MES of actual spare capacity per week.  The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Sport Club CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect	
29	Heather St Johns FC (St Johns Park)	6020352	LE67 2QJ	Football	Sport Club	Four adult, two youth 9v9 and two mini 7v7 pitches. The youth 9v9 pitches are of standard quality whilst all remaining pitches are of good quality.  The adult pitches have four MES of actual spare capacity per week whilst the mini 7v7 pitches have 1.5 MES of actual spare capacity per week. The youth 9v9 pitches are played to capacity at peak time.  Heather St Johns FC receives assistance from Leicester City Football Club for maintenance, including aeration to improve drainage on match pitches.  The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision.  Heather St Johns FC aspires for an 11v11 3G pitch to be provided at St Johns Park with supporting changing and storage facilities.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.  Explore the feasibility of installing a full-size 3G pitch on site to support local shortfalls.	Sport Club CFA FF	Local	H	L	L	H	Protect Provide
32	Ibstock Leisure Complex	1004050	LE67 6NE	Hockey	Council	Two small-size, hockey suitable AGPs of good quality that are available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.  Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment.	Council EH	Local	L	L	L	Protect	
32	Ibstock Leisure Complex	1004050	LE67 6NE	Tennis	Council	Two standard quality, artificial turf tennis courts that are sports lit and available for community use.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels and ensure a sinking fund is in place for resurfacing when required.	Council LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect	
32	Ibstock Leisure Complex	1004050	LE67 6NE	Netball	Council	Two standard quality, artificial turf netball courts that are sports lit and available for community use.	Sustain court quality through appropriate levels and ensure a sinking fund is in place for resurfacing when required.	Council EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect	

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim	
33	Ibstock Miners Welfare Site	6001366	LE67 6HN	Football	Parish Council	One standard quality adult football pitch that is unavailable for community use. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Parish Council CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect	
33	Ibstock Miners Welfare Site	6001366	LE67 6HN	Hockey	Parish Council	One small-size, hockey suitable AGP of standard quality that is available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment.	Parish Council EH	Local	L	L	L	Protect	
33	Ibstock Miners Welfare Site	6001366	LE67 6HN	Bowls	Parish Council	One standard quality flat bowling green that is home to Ibstock BC. The green has capacity for an additional 15 members. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Sustain green quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	Parish Council BE	Local	L	L	L	Protect	
34	Ibstock Town Cricket Club	1040883	LE67 6NN	Cricket	Sport Club	One good quality cricket square with ten grass wickets and a good quality NTP. The square is overplayed by 11 matches per season. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision although changing facilities are deemed to be of standard quality and unsuitable for women's and girls' demand. The site is serviced by an ECB approved fixed bay practice net with two lanes. Ibstock Town CC aspires to have an additional mobile cage or one extra lane on its fixed-lane practice nets.	Sustain square quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore the option of improving ancillary facilities at the site to better cater for women's and girl's demand.	Sport Club ECB	Local	L	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
68	Battram Bowls Club	-	LE67 1GD	Bowls	Sport Club	One good quality flat bowling green that is home to Battram BC. The green has capacity for an additional 40 members. Despite being rated as good quality, Battram BC states that due to dry weather and excessive heat, the green has dried out and become harder than usual. The Club states it can be expensive to use water on the green to help with this issue. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision although Battram BC indicates the windows need replacement whilst the changing facilities are in need of expansion and upgrading.	Sustain green quality through appropriate levels of maintenance to ensure this remains as good. Support the Club with improving its access to water to ensure appropriate levels can be carried out.	Sport Club BE	Local	L	L	L	L	Protect

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## MEASHAM ANALYSIS AREA

### Area summary – pitch sports

Area	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES <sup>[1]</sup>	Future capacity total in MES (2042) <sup>[2]</sup>
<b>Football (grass)</b>	-	-	-
Measham	Adult	-1.5	-2
Measham	Youth 11v11	-0.5	-3
Measham	Youth 9v9	-2.5	-4
Measham	Mini 7v7	-	-0.5
Measham	Mini 5v5	1	0.5
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Youth 11v11</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>-17.5</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Youth 9v9</b>	<b>-8.5</b>	<b>-16</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Mini 7v7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-2</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Mini 5v5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Football (3G)</b>	-	-	-
Measham	11v11	-1.25	-1.5
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>11v11</b>	<b>-4.5</b>	<b>-6.25</b>
<b>Cricket</b>	-	-	-
Measham	Saturday	-	-
Measham	Sunday	-	-
Measham	Midweek	6	-
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>-25</b>	<b>-121</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Midweek</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Rugby union</b>	-	-	-
Measham	Senior	-	-
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>Senior</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>13.25</b>
<b>Hockey</b>	-	-	-
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>AGP</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>

<sup>[1]</sup> MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

<sup>[2]</sup> It should be noted that this future demand figure is at a Authority wide level, and some analysis areas may have greater shortfalls than others.

## **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

---

---

### **Area summary – non-pitch sports**

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Headline findings</b>
<b>Tennis</b>	N/A
<b>Netball</b>	N/A
<b>Athletics</b>	N/A
<b>Bowls</b>	Measham BC has spare capacity to accommodate an additional 33 members and when factoring in future demand, this remains the same.

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
1	Albert Village Junior Football Club	30007523	DE12 7PY	Football	Sport Club	One adult, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch, all of standard quality. The adult pitch is overplayed by 2.5 MES per week whilst the youth 9v9 pitch is overplayed by two MES per week. Both mini pitch formats are played to capacity at peak time.  The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to reduce overplay.  Explore options to reallocate some demand away from the site to alleviate overplay.	Sport Club CFA FF	Local	H	S	L	Protect Enhance
2	Appleby Magna Recreation Ground	6001808	DE12 7BE	Football (unused)	Appleby Parish Council	The site previously provided a youth 9v9 pitch that is no longer marked.	Retain as strategic reserve if an increase in demand warrants reinstating the provision.  Ensure any permanent loss of provision meets national planning policy requirements.	Parish Council, CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
2	Appleby Magna Recreation Ground	6001808	DE12 7BE	Cricket	Appleby Parish Council	One good quality grass cricket square with eight wickets and a good quality NTP. The square has actual spare capacity for midweek cricket. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision.	Sustain square quality through appropriate levels of maintenance.	Parish Council ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
17	Bosworth Road Recreation Ground	30004585	DE12 7LG	Football (unused)	District Council	The site previously provided a youth 11v11 pitch that is no longer marked.	Retain as strategic reserve if an increase in demand warrants reinstating the provision.  Ensure any permanent loss of provision meets national planning policy requirements.	District Council, CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
25	Donisthorpe Memorial Grounds	6001231	DE12 7PX	Football (unused)	Parish Council	One adult and one youth 11v11 pitch, both of standard quality. The youth 11v11 pitch has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity whilst the adult pitch has one MES of actual spare capacity.  The site is without ancillary provision.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime.	Parish Council CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
41	Measham Community and Recreation Centre	1003602	DE12 7HR	Football	Parish Council	Two youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch, all available for community use. The mini 5v5 pitch is of standard quality whilst all remaining pitch types are of poor quality.  The youth 9v9 pitches are overplayed by 0.5 MES per week whilst the mini 7v7 pitch has discounted spare capacity	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.	Parish Council CFA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						due to poor pitch quality. The mini 5v5 pitch has one MES of actual spare capacity per week.							
41	Measham Community and Recreation Centre	1003602	DE12 7HR	3G	Parish Council	One small-size 3G pitch that is sports lit and available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment when necessary.	Parish Council CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
41	Measham Community and Recreation Centre	1003602	DE12 7HR	Bowls	Parish Council	One poor quality flat bowling green that is home to Measham BC. The green has capacity for an additional 33 members. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Improve green quality through enhanced levels of maintenance to allow for greater community use/	Parish Council BE	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
48	Oakthorpe Recreation Ground	6001230	DE12 7RG	Football	Parish Council	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch that is overplayed by one MES per week. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.	Parish Council CFA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
48	Oakthorpe Recreation Ground	6001230	DE12 7RG	3G	Parish Council	One small-size 3G pitch that is sports lit and available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment when necessary.	Parish Council CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
60	The Connery	6020507	DE12 7DB	Football (unused)	District Council	One youth 11v11 pitch that is no longer marked on site.	Retain as strategic reserve if an increase in demand warrants reinstating the provision. Ensure any permanent loss of provision meets national planning policy requirements.	District Council, CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
65	Donisthorpe Woodland Centre	-	DE12 7PX	Football (unused)	District Council	The site previously provided a youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitch that are no longer marked.	Retain as strategic reserve if an increase in demand warrants reinstating the provision. Ensure any permanent loss of provision meets national planning policy requirements.	District Council, CFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

## PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

The PPOSS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sports based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2042 (in line with the emerging Local Plan), with this future demand then translated into teams likely to be generated. Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator adds to this, updating the likely demand generated for pitch sports based on housing increases before converting the demand into match equivalent sessions and the number of pitches that may be required to meet the growth. It also gives the associated costs of supplying the increased pitch provision and splits the total pitch requirement into natural turf pitches to meet peak period demand, artificial grass pitches to meet training demand, and the additional number of changing rooms required.

Similarly, the Sports Facilities Calculator identifies the potential need for tennis courts from the population growth associated to housing developments. This element has therefore also been added to this section of the document. However, it does not calculate a need for netball, athletics or bowls, which are also covered in the scope of the PPOSS. Instead, it is recommended that need for this type of provision is determined using other relevant context within the Strategy.

The scenarios below are provided as a guide to show the potential additional demand for pitch sports that could be generated from housing growth in North West Leicestershire, thus showing how the calculators work and what data they provide. Figures are taken from emerging North West Leicestershire Local Plan. The occupancy rate of 2.33 has been used, which is in line with the 2021 census for North West Leicestershire.

### 7.1: Scenario One – IW1 New Settlement (Isley Woodhouse) 4,250 dwellings (9,903 new population)

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 4,250 dwellings with an occupancy rate of 2.33 people per household (based on a national average) is 9,903 people. The table below identifies what this equates to in terms of pitch demand.

This population increase equates to 14.76 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 0.7 match equivalent sessions on a hockey suitable AGPs and 47.71 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket. Training demand equates to 27.1 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches, 1.32 match equivalent sessions on a sports lit grass pitch for rugby union and 1.51 hours on a hockey suitable AGP.

Table 7.1: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from an additional 9,903 people

Pitch sport	Match demand per week <sup>22</sup>	Training demand <sup>23</sup>
Adult football	2.21	27.10 hours
Youth football	6.83	As above
Mini soccer	4.51	As above
Rugby union	1.21	1.32 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0	0 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.35	1.06 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.35	0.45 hours
Cricket	47.71	-

<sup>22</sup> As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

<sup>23</sup> Hours equate to access to an 11v11 sports lit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

To quantify this, the table below translates estimated demand into new pitch provision with associated capital and lifestyle costs.

Table 7.2: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost <sup>24</sup>	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>25</sup>	Number of changing rooms	Capital cost
Adult football	2.21	£256,512	£51,124	4.42	£930,859
Youth football	6.83	£661,615	£133,646	8.63	£1,816,559
Mini soccer	4.51	£138,002	£27,324	0	£0
Rugby union	1.21	£215,998	£39,960	2.42	£509,139
Rugby league	-	-	-	-	-
Cricket	1.07	£393,791	£72,458	2.14	£451,219
Sand based AGPs	0.12	£119,410	£3,105	0.23	£49,256
3G pitches	0.71	£872,910	£25,674	1.43	£300,063
Tennis courts	1.28	£149,707	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>17.94</b>	<b>£2,807,945</b>	<b>£353,291</b>	<b>19.27</b>	<b>£4,057,095</b>

Overall, an additional 17.94 pitches would be required to meet additional demand arising from an additional 9,903 people living in Isley Woodhouse. This consists of 15.83 grass pitches, 0.83 artificial pitches and 1.28 outdoor tennis courts. This would require an expected capital cost of £2,807,945 and a lifecycle cost per annum of £353,291. To facilitate the increased provision, 19.27 changing rooms would need to be provided at a capital cost of £4,057,095.

## 7.2: Scenario Two – A5 Money Hill, Ashby 1,200 dwellings (2,796 new population)

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 1,200 dwellings with an occupancy rate of 2.33 people per household (based on a national average) is 2,796 people. The table below identifies what this equates to in terms of pitch demand.

This population increase equates to 4.46 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 0.2 match equivalent sessions on a hockey suitable AGPs and 13.47 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket. Training demand equates to 7.65 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches, 0.37 match equivalent sessions on a sports lit grass pitch for rugby union and 0.43 hours on a hockey suitable AGP.

Table 7.3: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from an additional 2,796 people

Pitch sport	Match demand per week <sup>26</sup>	Training demand <sup>27</sup>
Adult football	0.62	7.65 hours
Youth football	1.93	As above
Mini soccer	1.27	As above
Rugby union	0.34	0.37 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0	0 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.1	0.3 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.1	0.13 hours

<sup>24</sup> [Link to Sport England cost guidance](#)

<sup>25</sup> Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

<sup>26</sup> As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

<sup>27</sup> Hours equate to access to an 11v11 sports lit 3G pitch<sup>203</sup>hockey suitable AGP

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Pitch sport	Match demand per week <sup>26</sup>	Training demand <sup>27</sup>
Cricket	13.47	-

To quantify this, the table below translates estimated demand into new pitch provision with associated capital and lifestyle costs.

Table 7.4: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost <sup>28</sup>	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>29</sup>	Number of changing rooms	Capital cost
Adult football	0.62	£73,269	£14,434	1.25	£262,813
Youth football	1.93	£186,800	£37,734	2.44	£512,900
Mini soccer	1.27	£38,961	£7,714	0	£0
Rugby union	0.34	£60,988	£11,283	0.68	£143,757
Rugby league	-	-	-	-	-
Cricket	0.3	£111,182	£20,457	0.61	£127,396
Sand based AGPs	0.03	£33,715	£877	0.07	£13,907
3G pitches	0.2	£246,715	£7,249	0.4	£84,718
Tennis courts	0.36	£42,268	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>5.05</b>	<b>£793,898</b>	<b>£99,748</b>	<b>5.45</b>	<b>£1,145,491</b>

Overall, an additional 5.05 pitches would be required to meet additional demand arising from an additional 2,796 people living at the Money Hill development. This consists of 4.46 grass pitches, 0.23 artificial pitches and 0.36 outdoor tennis courts. This would require an expected capital cost of £793,898 and a lifecycle cost per annum of £99,148. To facilitate the increased provision, 5.45 changing rooms would need to be provided at a capital cost of £1,145,491.

*It should be noted that the development known as Land off Stephenson Green, Coalville is also for a collective 1,200 dwellings (2,796 new population) and would therefore have the same figures in the above tables.*

## 7.3: Scenario Three – CD10 West of Castle Donington 1,076 dwellings (2,507 new population)

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 1,076 dwellings with an occupancy rate of 2.33 people per household (based on a national average) is 2,507 people. The table below identifies what this equates to in terms of pitch demand.

This population increase equates to 3.74 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 0.18 match equivalent sessions on a hockey suitable AGPs and 12.08 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket. Training demand equates to 6.86 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches, 0.31 match equivalent sessions on a sports lit grass pitch for rugby union and 0.38 hours on a hockey suitable AGP.

<sup>28</sup> [Link to Sport England cost guidance](#)

<sup>29</sup> Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces document (2012)

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

Table 7.5: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from an additional 2,507 people

Pitch sport	Match demand per week <sup>30</sup>	Training demand <sup>31</sup>
Adult football	0.56	6.86 hours
Youth football	1.73	As above
Mini soccer	1.14	As above
Rugby union	0.31	0.31 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0	0 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.09	0.27 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.09	0.11 hours
Cricket	12.08	-

To quantify this, the table below translates estimated demand into new pitch provision with associated capital and lifestyle costs.

Table 7.6: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost <sup>32</sup>	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>33</sup>	Number of changing rooms	Capital cost
Adult football	0.56	£65,692	£12,941	1.12	£235,635
Youth football	1.73	£167,509	£33,837	2.19	£459,937
Mini soccer	1.14	£34,931	£6,916	0	£0
Rugby union	0.31	£54,681	£10,116	0.61	£128,891
Rugby league	-	-	-	-	-
Cricket	0.27	£99,686	£18,342	0.54	£114,223
Sand based AGPs	0.03	£30,232	£786	0.06	£12,471
3G pitches	0.18	£220,980	£6,499	0.36	£75,692
Tennis courts	0.32	£37,899	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.54</b>	<b>£711,610</b>	<b>£89,437</b>	<b>4.88</b>	<b>£1,026,849</b>

Overall, an additional 4.54 pitches would be required to meet additional demand arising from an additional 2,507 people living at Park Lane, Castle Donington. This consists of 4.01 grass pitches, 0.21 artificial pitches and 0.32 outdoor tennis courts. This would require an expected capital cost of £711,610 and a lifecycle cost per annum of £89,437. To facilitate the increased provision, 4.88 changing rooms would need to be provided at a capital cost of £1,026,849.

## The most appropriate way to meet the estimated demand

It is important that the above results are looked at alongside the findings of the Assessment Report, and the recommendations and actions of the Strategy. By doing so, the most appropriate way of meeting the estimated needs can be determined and any resulting proposals justified. This should include:

- ◀ Using the Assessment Report and related Strategy to understand the nature of the playing pitch and tennis sites within an appropriate catchment of the new population along with issues, recommendations and actions relevant to that area.

<sup>30</sup> As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

<sup>31</sup> Hours equate to access to an 11v11 sports lit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

<sup>32</sup> [Link to Sport England cost guidance](#)

<sup>33</sup> Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces document (2012)

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

- ◀ Looking at the different ways in which the needs could be met, including for example:
  - ◀ Enhancing existing provision to increase capacity, supported by suitable management and maintenance arrangements to ensure the greater capacity is maintained over the longer term;
  - ◀ Undertaking works, and ensuring long term maintenance and access arrangements, to secure new or greater community use of existing provision;
  - ◀ Providing new pitches as an extension on current sites.
  - ◀ Providing new (natural and/or artificial grass pitches).

If the decision is taken to provide new pitches, then the calculator takes the estimated needs for matches and training activity and converts this into an estimate of the likely pitch provision required to meet the needs of population projections. Indicative costs are also provided to provide this level of pitch provision in addition to costing for associated changing room provision.

## Summary (Scenario One)

Experience shows that only significantly large housing sites are likely to generate demand for new provision to be created on site. However, in North West Leicestershire, this certainly applies to Scenario One (Isley Woodhouse), with this being of sufficient size to warrant on site outdoor sports provision given the proposed development of 4,250 dwellings.

Where new pitches are required, consideration should be given to providing multi-pitch sites with suitable ancillary provision, including appropriate clubhouse/changing facilities and car parking. Single pitch sites which have been provided traditionally by developers are not considered to offer long-term sustainability. As such, if numerous developments in an area warrant new pitch provision, consideration should be given to pooling resources to create one larger site, rather than numerous smaller sites.

Scenario One indicates that the following is needed:

- ◀ One tennis court – can be located at the secondary school site and overmarked with netball.
- ◀ Two adult football pitches.
- ◀ Seven youth football pitches.
- ◀ Five mini football pitches – instead of creating these pitches contributions could go towards the 11v11 size sports lit 3G pitch.
- ◀ One Sports lit 3G pitch.
- ◀ One cricket square.
- ◀ 19.27 changing rooms.

Based on initial designs within the current outline planning application<sup>34</sup> (25/00865/OUTM), the proposal for playing field land to be provided is adjacent to the secondary school could accommodate the majority of the provision above as long as curricular, extracurricular and community accessibility is incorporated into the design process. An additional playing field area may be required for the cricket square, and potentially some of the youth pitches, with accompanying ancillary facilities.

For the remaining sports of hockey and rugby union, only minimal demand is identified, meaning off sites contributions are more appropriate to improve existing, nearby facilities. For rugby union, to avoid the creation of a single pitch, contributions could go pitch improvement or creation of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch, particular to service the Ashby-de-la-Zouch and Coalville areas.

---

<sup>34</sup> Correct at the time of writing October 2025 206

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

---

It should be noted that based on these scenarios, using current supply and demand data, any future development over 1,000 dwellings should be examined for potential onsite provision using relevant evidence within the PPOSS. This approach would need to be regularly examined with updated data throughout the Stage E process.

## **Summary (remaining scenarios)**

For the remaining scenarios, the tables above show that through housing growth, demand will be generated for each pitch sport to a lesser or greater extent. However, it is unlikely there will be a requirement for new provision onsite. Each of the scenarios are indicating a need for either a youth or mini football pitch; however, to avoid creating single pitch sites (as mentioned above), in addition to evidence within the PPOSS, off site contributions are recommended.

Demand for the remaining sports generated from the housing growth does not equate to a whole pitch for any of the sports, with contributions therefore better focused on improving existing sites to increase capacity to an appropriate level. The PPOSS including the Action Plan, as well as continued/future consultation with NGBs, should be used to inform this (e.g. to select suitable sites).

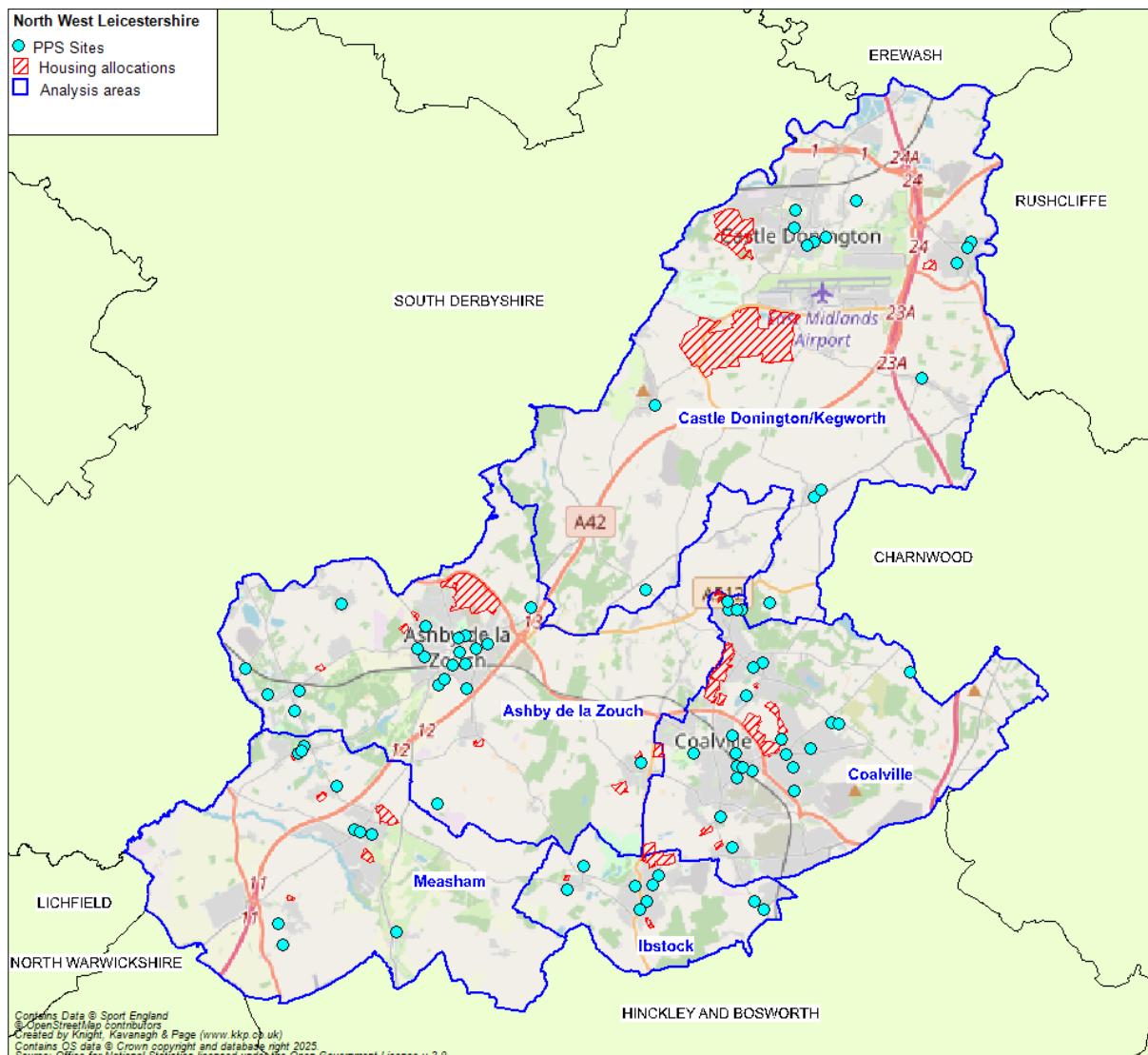
In addition, as the calculators only include the main pitch sports and tennis, there may also be a requirement to consider other pitch and non-pitch sports such as netball, bowls and athletics. Therefore, securing developer contributions to deliver improvements/new provision should be guided by this Strategy and in particular the site-by-site Action Plan and in consultation with the relevant NGBs through the PPOSS Steering Group.

The Figure overleaf identifies all the playing pitch locations within the North West Leicestershire PPOSS with an overlay of the abovementioned housing sites. This assists in identifying which sites maybe be better suited.

For a more detailed breakdown via analysis area please see Appendix Two: Housing Scenarios Maps.

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Figure 7.1: Summary of playing pitch sites in North West Leicestershire with key housing sites



An alternative approach to obtaining contributions for each individual housing development and allocating them to improving localised sporting sites identified for improvement within the PPOSS, is to pool them together. This would allow for greater levels of investment into sports provision, where needed, for more significant enhancements such drainage or ancillary expansions or even the creation of artificial pitches. Additionally, this would also allow for the collating of contributions from smaller developments to maximise the benefit they can provide to sporting sites across North West Leicestershire.

The pooling of contributions could also lead to the creation of new provision where strategically relevant to address significant shortfalls identified, such as the following:

- ◀ Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area – youth 11v11, youth 9v9, 3G pitches, rugby union.
- ◀ Castle Donington / Kegworth Analysis Area – youth 11v11, youth 9v9.
- ◀ Coalville Analysis Area – youth 11v11, youth 9v9, 3G pitches, rugby union, cricket squares.
- ◀ Ibstock Analysis Area – 3G pitches and cricket squares.
- ◀ Measham Analysis Area – adult pitches, youth 11v11, youth 9v9, 3G pitches.

## **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

---

Pooling of contributions should be done strategically and ought to be localised to the analysis area in which they reside, and even potentially within their key settlements. This is to ensure that the S106 monies are spent on improving the sporting infrastructure that the new population will utilise.

*Furthermore, it should be noted that the above is based on current supply and demand evidence (2024/25). It is anticipated that as some of these housing allocations begin to be developed, such as Isley Woodhouse, updated supply and demand data will need to be factored into the scenarios as per Sport England Guidance which may alter the recommendations above. Additionally, as progress begins more bespoke recommendations can be made following consultation with NGBs and Sport England as priorities from these stakeholders may alter in the future.*

*As a result, it is advised that the above recommendations and accompanying housing growth scenario is refreshed on a regular basis to ensure validity and so that any developments in the sporting landscape across North West Leicestershire are factored in.*

*In the first instance there will need to be a greater exploration of supply and demand requirements for the first delivery phase of any housing where a stronger outline on what needs to be provided can be achieved. This would coincide with a longer term vision/scope on what the long term need could be. Again, it would be for the Local Plan review alongside an updated PPOSS to then provide the exact level of need at that point.*

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

---

## **PART 8: DELIVER THE STRATEGY AND KEEP IT ROBUST AND UP-TO-DATE**

The section below sets out a generalised approach on how to deliver a PPOSS whilst also keeping it robust and up-to-date. However, a more tailored approach should also be considered and designed for North West Leicestershire based on the requirements and priorities of the Steering Group. This could also link to what is done in other authorities locally.

### ***Delivery***

The PPOSS seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across North West Leicestershire. By addressing the issues identified in the Assessment Report and using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of the Borough can be satisfied. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and recommends how best to resolve this in the future. This document should be regarded as part of the planning process as a material consideration.

It is important that this document is used in a practical manner, is used to engage with partners and encourages partnerships to be developed, and to ensure that outdoor sports facilities are regarded as a vital aspect of community life which contribute to the achievement of Council priorities.

The success of this Strategy and the benefits that are gained are dependent upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a strategic approach. Each member of the steering group should take the lead to ensure the PPOSS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence.

To help ensure the PPOSS is well used, it should be regarded as the key document within the study area guiding the improvement and protection of playing pitch and outdoor sport provision. It needs to be the document people regularly turn to for information on the how the current demand is met and what actions are needed to improve the situation and meet future demand.

The process of preparing the PPOSS will hopefully have already resulted in a number of benefits that will help with its application and delivery. These may include enhanced partnership working across different agendas and organisations, pooling of resources along with strengthening relationships and understanding between different stakeholders and between members of the steering group and the sporting community. The drivers behind the PPOSS and the work to develop the recommendations and action plan will have also highlighted, and helped the steering group to understand, the key areas to which it can be applied and how it can be delivered.

### ***Monitoring and updating***

It is important that there is regular monitoring and review against the actions identified in the Strategy. This monitoring should continue to be led by the local authority and supported by all members of, and reported back to, the Steering Group. Understanding and learning lessons from how the PPOSS has been applied should also form a key component of monitoring its delivery. It is possible that in the interim between reviews the Steering Group could also operate as a 'virtual' group; prepared to comment on suggestions and updates electronically when relevant.

## **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

---

The Council is responsible for keeping the database and background supply and demand information up-to-date in order that area-by-area action plans can be updated. This should be carried out in consultation with the NGBs, particularly around affiliation time when information is updated.

As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPOSS being signed off by the steering group, then Sport England and the NGBs would consider it and the information on which it is based to be out of date. The nature of the supply and in particular the demand for provision is likely to change year-on-year, meaning that without any form of review and update it would be difficult to make the case that the supply and demand information and assessment work is sufficiently robust.

An annual review should not be regarded as a particularly resource intensive task. However, it should highlight:

- ◀ How the delivery of the recommendations and action plan has progressed and any changes required to the priority afforded to each action (e.g., the priority of some may increase following the delivery of others).
- ◀ Any changes to particularly important sites and/or clubs in the area (e.g., the most used or high quality sites for a particular sport) and other supply and demand information, what this may mean for the overall assessment work and the key findings and issues.
- ◀ Any development of a specific sport or particular format of a sport.
- ◀ Any new or emerging issues and opportunities.

Once the PPOSS is complete the role of the Steering Group should evolve so that it:

- ◀ Acts as a focal point for promoting the value and importance of the PPS and playing pitch provision in the area
- ◀ Monitors, evaluates and reviews progress with the delivery of the recommendations and action plan
- ◀ Shares lessons learnt from how the PPOSS has been used and how it has been applied to a variety of circumstances
- ◀ Ensures the PPOSS is used effectively to input into any new opportunities to secure improved provision and influence relevant programmes and initiatives
- ◀ Maintains links between all relevant parties with an interest in playing pitch provision in the area.
- ◀ Reviews the need to update the PPOSS along with the supply and demand information and assessment work on which it is based. Further to review the group should either:
  - ◀ Provide a short annual progress and update paper;
  - ◀ Provide a partial review focussing on particular sport, pitch type and/or sub area; or
  - ◀ Lead a full review and update of the PPOSS document (including the supply and demand information and assessment details).

Alongside regular steering group meetings a good way to keep the strategy up-to-date and maintain relationships is to hold sport specific meetings with the NGBs and other relevant parties. These meetings look to update the key supply and demand information, if necessary amend the assessment work, track progress with implementing the recommendations and action plan and highlight any new issues and opportunities.

These meetings could be timed to fit with the annual affiliation process undertaken by the NGBs which would help to capture any changes in the number and nature of sports clubs in the area. Other information that is already collected on a regular basis such as pitch booking records for local authority and other sites could be fed into these meetings.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

The NGBs are also able to indicate any further performance quality assessments that have been undertaken within the study area.

## Checklists

In order for this Strategy to be signed off by the steering group, a Stage D Checklist: Develop the Strategy has been prepared which indicates where a step has been completed or if further action may be required.

		Tick 	
Stage D Checklist: Develop the Strategy		Yes	Requires Attention
<b>Step 7: Develop the recommendations and action plan</b>			
1.	Have a number of study area specific scenarios been looked at to help explore key issues and findings along with possible recommendations and actions?		
2.	Have any recommendations and actions regarding AGP provision taken into account the guidance in the 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface' document and any NGB specific information?		
3.	Do the recommendations reflect the drivers, vision and objectives of the work?		
4.	Are the recommendations precise enough to enable the development of clear individual area, sport and site specific actions to help achieve them?		
5.	Have all relevant parties been engaged with the development of, and are signed up to the delivery of, the recommendations and actions?		
6.	Are the recommendations and actions clearly presented?		
7.	Has particular attention been paid to the situation at priority sites and those which are being significantly overplayed?		
8.	Have area, sport and site specific solutions been proposed to protect, enhance, and provide playing pitch provision to meet the current and future demand?		
9.	Has guidance on the future of any sites highlighted as being at risk been provided?		
10.	Do the recommendations and actions seek to make the best use of existing pitches?		
11.	Has the detriment and benefit of proposals to relocate provision been presented?		
12.	Has the level and type of any new playing pitch provision required been presented?		
13.	Has the importance of providing appropriate and fit for purpose ancillary facilities been highlighted in order to maximise the potential benefit to sport of any pitches?		
14.	Have the recommendations sought to ensure an adequate amount of spare capacity in the provision of accessible pitches with secured community use?		
15.	Does the PPS provide a steer as to the future of any spare capacity and any provision that may be genuinely surplus to requirements (paragraphs D12 to D15)?		
16.	Does the action plan cover the points listed in paragraph D17?		
17.	Does the action plan provide the most appropriate actions to improve provision in the study area rather than just those which the local authority can deliver?		
18.	Does the action plan represent an infrastructure plan for playing pitches with deliverable area, sport and site specific actions and projects?		

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Step 8: Write and Adopt the Strategy	✓	
1. Does the PPS document provide the reader with a clear understanding of the areas listed in paragraph D20?		
2. Is it clear from the PPS document why the recommendations and actions have been included, how they are to be delivered and what they will achieve?		✓
3. Does the PPS document indicate how it should be used and applied in different areas and circumstances along with the benefits of doing so?	✓	
4. Has the PPS document been subject to appropriate consultation?	✓	
5. Do all members of the steering group and other relevant parties endorse the PPS and recognise its lead role in guiding the improvement of pitches in the study area?	✓	
6. Has the PPS document been formally adopted by the local authority and is its status recognised across all relevant departments?		✓

To help ensure the PPOSS is delivered and is kept robust and up-to-date, the steering group can refer to the new methodology Stage E Checklist: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up-to-date:

Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up-to-date	Tick ✓	
	Yes	Requires Attention
<b>Step 9: Apply and deliver the strategy</b>		
1. Are steering group members clear on how the PPS can be applied across a range of relevant areas?		
2. Is each member of the steering group committed to taking the lead to help ensure the PPS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence?		
3. Has a process been put in place to ensure regular monitoring of how the recommendations and action plan are being delivered and the PPS is being applied?		
<b>Step 10: Keep the strategy robust and up-to-date</b>		
1. Has a process been put in place to ensure the PPS is kept robust and up-to-date?		
2. Does the process involve an annual update of the PPS?		
3. Is the steering group to be maintained and is it clear of its on-going role?		
4. Is regular liaison with the NGBs and other parties planned?		
5. Has all the supply and demand information been collated and presented in a format (i.e. single document that can be filtered accordingly) that will help people to review it and highlight any changes?		
6. Have any changes made to the Active Places Power data been fed back to Sport England?		

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

## APPENDIX ONE: SPORTING CONTEXT

The following section outlines a series of national, regional and local policies pertaining to the study and which will have an important influence on the Strategy.

### National context

The provision of high quality and accessible community outdoor sports facilities at a local level is a key requirement for achieving the targets set out by the Government and Sport England. It is vital that this strategy is cognisant of and works towards these targets in addition to local priorities and plans.

#### ***Department of Culture, Media and Sport Get Active: A Strategy for the Future of Sport and Physical Activity (2023)***

The Government published its new strategy for sport in August 2023. The 2015 government sport strategy, Sporting Future: A New Strategy for a More Active Nation, was a fundamental re-framing of sport and physical activity in the UK. It set out five outcomes delivered by sport and physical activity:

- ◀ Physical wellbeing
- ◀ Mental wellbeing
- ◀ Individual development
- ◀ Social and community development
- ◀ Sustainable economic development

This new strategy builds on the foundations of Sporting Future and retains these five outcomes at its core. In order to measure its success in producing outputs which accord with these aims it has also adopted a series of three core priorities, with seven indicators to achieve these priorities as follows:

- ◀ **Being unapologetically ambitious in making the nation more active**
  - ◀ Ensuring everyone is focused on increasing physical activity, meaning fewer inactive children, and narrowing the gap on inactivity where groups are not being reached, with visible progress across the country by 2030
  - ◀ Focusing on evidence, data and metrics
  - ◀ Setting the future direction for facilities and spaces where people can be active
- ◀ **Making sport and physical activity more inclusive and welcoming for all that everyone can have confidence that there is a place for them in sport**
  - ◀ Helping the sector to be welcoming to all
  - ◀ Improving how issues and concerns are dealt within the sector
- ◀ **Moving towards a more sustainable sector that is more financially resilient and robust**
  - ◀ Supporting the sector to access additional, alternative forms of investment
  - ◀ Working towards a more environmentally sustainable sector

Delivering against these priorities will help create a more active nation and a more sustainable sport sector. These aims are complementary; greater participation, stronger governance and confidence in the sector will help to drive investment, which in turn helps to attract new audiences. The vision is to make sport and physical activity accessible, resilient, fun and fair, for now and the years to come – for the benefit of individuals and the country.

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

---

## ***Sport England Uniting the Movement: Our 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport (2021-2031)***

Sport and physical activity makes people happier and healthier, and movement is the lens through which we can make that happen. It does the same thing for our communities, with life-changing, sustainable benefits that have huge economic and social value. That's why Sport England wants sport and physical activity to be recognised as essential to help overcome these national challenges.

The Strategy recognises the need to invest in sport and physical activity through NGBs, other sports bodies and local sports clubs, organisations and community groups to increase engagement for different groups as part of our core purpose. It states that there is now a need to go further in promoting movement in general as the means to unlock sport and activity for some people.

### ***Tackling inequalities***

There are deep-rooted inequalities in sport and physical activity, which means that there are people who feel excluded from being active because the right options and opportunities aren't there. These inequalities are at the very core of the Uniting the Movement.

Sport England plans on having a laser focus on tackling inequalities in all that it does, because providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity is vitally important.

### ***National Planning Policy Framework (2024)***

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out planning policies for England. It details how these changes are expected to be applied to the planning system. It also provides a framework for local people and their councils to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

The NPPF states the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It identifies that the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

The 'promoting healthy communities' theme identifies that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficiencies or surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite the NPPF states existing open space, sports and recreation buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown that the open space, buildings or land is surplus to requirements.
- ◀ The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location.
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

In order for planning policies to be 'sound' local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities.

## ***The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28)***

The Football Association's (FA) National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS) provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a ten-year period.

The Strategy sets out shared aims and objectives it aims to deliver on in conjunction with The Premier League, Sport England and the Government, to be delivered with support of the Football Foundation.

These stakeholders have clearly identified the aspirations for football to contribute directly to nationally important social and health priorities. Alongside this, the strategy is clear that traditional, affiliated football remains an important priority and a core component of the game, whilst recognising and supporting the more informal environments used for the community and recreational game.

Its vision is: "*Within 10 years we aim to deliver great football facilities, wherever they are needed*"

£1.3 billion has been spent by football and Government since 2000 to enhance existing football facilities and build new ones. However, more is needed if football and Government's shared objectives for participation, individual well-being and community cohesion are to be achieved. Nationally, direct investment will be increased – initially to £69 million per annum from football and Government (a 15% increase on recent years).

The NFFS investment priorities can be broadly grouped into six areas, recognising the need to grow the game, support existing players and better understand the different football environments:

- ◀ **Improve 20,000 Natural Turf pitches**, with a focus on addressing drop off due to a poor playing experience;
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 3G AGP 'equivalents'** (mix of full size and small sided provision, including MUGAs - small sided facilities are likely to have a key role in smaller / rural communities and encouraging multi-sport offers), enhancing the quality of playing experience and supporting a sustainable approach to grass roots provision;
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 changing pavilions/clubhouses**, linked to multi-pitch or hub sites, supporting growth (particularly in women and girls' football), sustainability and providing a facility infrastructure to underpin investment in coaching, officials and football development;
- ◀ **Support access to flexible indoor spaces**, including equipment and court markings, to support growth in futsal, walking football and to support the education and skills outcomes, exploiting opportunities for football to positively impact on personal and social outcomes for young people in particular;
- ◀ **Refurbish existing stock** to maintain current provision, recognising the need to address historic under-investment and issues with refurbishment of existing facilities;
- ◀ **Support testing of technology and innovation**, building on customer insight to deliver hubs for innovation, testing and development of the game.

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

---

## ***The FA: A Thriving Grassroots Game (2024-28)***

This new strategy aims to enhance participation, improve facilities and create a more inclusive and enjoyable environment for players, coaches, volunteers and officials.

The strategy focuses on five main areas:

- 1. Improving Playing Choice and Opportunity**  
Creating diverse and flexible playing options to cater to all individuals.
- 2. Delivering Equal Opportunities for Women and Girls**  
Ensuring every woman and girl has access to football in a safe and enjoyable setting.
- 3. Building and Improving Facilities**  
Increasing the quality and quantity of grassroots football pitches and facilities.
- 4. Tackling Poor Behaviour**  
Reducing incidents of poor behaviour and discrimination, promoting positive conduct.
- 5. Developing a Valued Network of Volunteers, Coaches, and Referees**  
Growing and supporting the grassroots workforce to sustain the game's future.

To achieve these priorities, the FA has identified three key drivers:

- ◀ **Supporting Thriving Community Clubs**  
Assisting clubs to grow sustainably and provide excellent football experiences.
- ◀ **Connecting and Serving Participants**  
Enhancing digital services to offer personalized and accessible opportunities.
- ◀ **Progressing the Game's Governance**  
Implementing high governance standards to serve all football participants effectively.

These initiatives are developed in collaboration with County FAs to ensure local needs are met.

The FA's strategy aims to transform grassroots football by addressing key challenges, investing in facilities, and promoting inclusivity and positive behaviour.

## ***The FA: Inspiring Positive Change Through Football (2024-28)<sup>35</sup>***

The FA launched its new Strategy which aims to 'take English football forward, with clear focus on the biggest opportunities and challenges that need to be addressed'.

To achieve this, eight key strategic priorities are identified which include four 'Game Changer' objectives and four 'Drivers' objectives as detailed below. The strategy also outlines how The FA's plans to achieve these objectives.

Game Changers:

- ◀ Win tournaments
  - ◀ Develop pathways
  - ◀ Support elite players
  - ◀ Enhance environments
  - ◀ Collaborate and influence
- ◀ A game free from discrimination
  - ◀ Boost representation
  - ◀ Drive more inclusion
  - ◀ Tackle discrimination
- ◀ Equal opportunities for women & girls
  - ◀ Increase school participation
  - ◀ Increase club participation
  - ◀ Enhance women's competitions
  - ◀ Support female coaches and referees

---

<sup>35</sup> [FA Strategy 2024-2028: The Football Association](#)<sup>217</sup>

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

- ◀ Transform the pitch landscape
  - ◀ Sustain and grow high-quality grass pitches
  - ◀ Deliver new 3G pitches
  - ◀ Support inclusivity accessibility and environmental sustainability of facilities
- ◀ Drivers:
  - ◀ Thriving community clubs
    - ◀ Develop club opportunities
    - ◀ Support the current and future generation of club leaders
    - ◀ Equip clubs to add long-term value to local communities
  - ◀ World-class FA cups
    - ◀ Broaden commercial appeal
    - ◀ Evolve the Adobe Women's FA Cup format
  - ◀ Participant led
    - ◀ Place participants at the centre of decision making
    - ◀ Create flexible models to meet participants needs
    - ◀ Provide digital tools to improve experiences
  - ◀ Progressive governance
    - ◀ Support integration of women's and girls' football
    - ◀ Support governance of the NLS
    - ◀ Support our County Football Associations (CFAs)

## ***The FA: Reaching Higher (2024-28)<sup>36</sup>***

The FA's 2020-2024 strategy, 'Inspiring Positive Change', coincided with record growth across the sport, with more women and girls playing, coaching, officiating and supporting the flourishing professional game than ever before.

This strategy aims to build on the success achieved to date and strives to continue working to unlock the full potential of the women's and girls' game. The strategy outlines four strategic priorities as seen below.

1. **Build and Protect the Uniqueness of the Women's Game:** Continue to honour the history of women's football and recognise those who have contributed towards making it so unique, whilst ensuring the distinct qualities and unique culture of the women's game are valued and protected.
2. **Win a Major Tournament:** Continue to be world-leaders both on and off the pitch, developing players and building an inclusive talent pathway system to make football more equal and accessible at every level of the game, ensuring the England pathway and teams represent society.
3. **Build Robust, High-Quality Competition:** Create compelling competition structures and support clubs to develop to the appropriate level within the game, while enabling people to grow and develop within The FA's competition structures.
4. **Deliver Equal Opportunities for Women and Girls to Play:** Sustain growth in schools whilst tackling inequalities. Continue to grow the number of female teams and deliver vibrant league offers whilst extending and enhancing the sessional football offer. The ambition is for 90% of schools to deliver equal access for girls to play football in key stages two and three.

---

<sup>36</sup> [The FA Womens & Girls Football Strategy 2024-28](#)

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

---

There are five golden threads which weave through each of the four strategic priorities and across all levels of the women's and girls' game, which will be instrumental for delivering the next phase of growth by 2028:

1. **Female Health and Wellbeing:** Develop the game to support women and girls with their health and wellbeing needs, providing them with environments in which they can thrive.
2. **Safeguarding:** Support the evolution of an ever-safer culture across the women's and girls' game.
3. **Refereeing:** Grow and nurture a new generation of referees who are representative of our society.
4. **Coaching:** Support and develop brilliant coaches capable of unleashing every player's potential in a safe and inclusive game.
5. **Diversity and Inclusion:** Ensure the game is more reflective of our society.

## *Inspiring Generations – Cricket's Game-wide Strategy (2025 – 28)<sup>[1]</sup>*

In October 2024 the ECB released its updated strategy Inspiring Generations – Cricket's Game-wide Strategy (2025 – 28). Cricket in England and Wales has seen transformative growth since the publication of its previous strategy Inspiring Generation (2020-24). Its new strategy represents an evolution of its plans, however, many of its previous themes are still relevant. Its main purpose is to say 'Cricket is a game for me' through its vision:

- ◀ To become the most inclusive team sport
- ◀ To grow and unite the game
- ◀ Lead the game through global transformation

It aims to obtain this vision through six key objectives

- ◀ Make cricket diverse, inclusive and accessible
- ◀ Transform Women's and Girl's cricket
- ◀ Connect communities through play
- ◀ Inspire through winning England teams
- ◀ Support a thriving and sustainable men's and women's professional game
- ◀ Win the battle for attention

Underpinning these six ambitions are a series of enablers that cut-across multiple areas of the game, alongside Cricket's Core Values.

## *The Rugby Football Union Strategy 2021 Onwards*

Through the strategy, the RFU aims to enrich lives, introduce more people to rugby union and develop the sport for future generations. The goal is to achieve this by strengthening and uniting rugby union in England and producing consistently winning England teams.

Eight key strategic priorities are identified with all investment decisions aligned to these. The strategy also outlines the RFU's core activities which form the backbone of its business operations and services to the game.

The priorities include four 'Game Objectives' and four 'Driving Objectives' as detailed below.

---

<sup>[1]</sup><https://resources.ecb.co.uk/ecb/document/2024/10/22/19a925d7-3c92-4a36-8e7b-f49cb470377f/ECB-Inspiring-Generations-2025-2028.pdf>

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

---

## **Game Objectives:**

- ◀ Enjoyment – enable positive player experiences on and off the field
- ◀ Winning England – create the best possible high-performance system for England Rugby
- ◀ Welfare – enhance player welfare to protect and support the wellbeing of players
- ◀ Flourishing rugby communities – support clubs to sustain and grow themselves and to reflect society

## **Driving Objectives:**

- ◀ Diversity & Inclusion – drive rugby union in England to reflect the diversity of society
- ◀ Understand – build a deep understanding of players, volunteers and fans to shape the future of the game
- ◀ Connect – connect with and grow the rugby community and create exceptional experiences
- ◀ Commercial and operational excellence – ensure a sustainable and efficient business model delivered by an inspired workforce

## ***England Hockey Strategy (2023 – 2028)***

England Hockey's Facilities Strategy can be found [here](#).

Aiming to make hockey more noticeable, relevant, and accessible to all, England Hockey have launched their new strategy 'Creating a Future for Our Game Together' on 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

The new strategy is a continued effort to re-engage with the current hockey community and to reach out to potential newcomers to introduce them to hockey.

Underpinning the strategy and of importance to the hockey community are four values, "collaborate inclusively, care for people and places, play with spirit win with grace and resilient in everything we do".

The strategy is the culmination of two years consultation with various stakeholders across the sport and larger sporting sector. Hockey will be guided by five key objectives over the next five years.

1. Lead Positive Change: to create and champion positive change within the community by broadening and widening the engagement of the sport and making it more ethnically and culturally diverse.
2. Meaningful Growth: to make sure that our sport thrives and grows into the future, we want to nurture a love of hockey within a more diverse group of young players and communities to reflect society.
3. Drive Visible Impact: to produce and release high-quality, engaging content that shares the love of the game, captures the passion, builds a deep connection and amplifies the voices of the hockey community with new and existing participants.
4. Responsible Leadership: to provide forward thinking, compassionate and inclusive leadership. Leadership that fosters trust within physically and psychologically safe environments and which puts players, the community and sustainability at heart of every decision.
5. Inspirational International Success: inspirational club and national teams delivering podium success in Europe and on the world stage, underpinned by a thriving talent system and domestic game.

The strategy aligns with Sport England's 'Uniting the movement' strategy and UK Sport's 'Powering Success, Inspiring Impact' strategic plan.

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

---

## **Tennis in Britain - LTA Strategy**

The LTA's vision for 2019 – 2023, Tennis Opened Up includes seven strategies relating to three objectives which are built around its mission 'to grow tennis by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable'.

### **Objectives:**

- ◀ Increase the number of fans on our database from [623,602] to [1,000,000] by 2023.
- ◀ More people playing more often:
  - ◀ Increase the number of adults playing tennis each year from [7.7% (4,018,600)] of the population to [8.5% (4,420,460)], and the frequency of adults playing tennis twice a month 2.5% 1,311,800 to 1.9% 1,500,000 by 2023.
  - ◀ The number of children playing tennis once a week from 550,000 to 700,000 (7.9% to 10% of the population) by 2023.
- ◀ Enable 5 new players to break into the top 100 by 2023 and inspire the tennis audience.

### **Strategies:**

1. Visibility -Broaden relevance and increase visibility of tennis all year round to build engagement and participation with fans and players.
2. Innovation - Innovate in the delivery of tennis to widen its appeal.
3. Investment - Support community facilities and schools to increase the opportunities to play.
4. Accessibility - Make the customer journey to playing tennis easier and more accessible for anyone.
5. Engagement - Engage and collaborate with everyone involved in delivering tennis in Britain, particularly coaches and volunteers to attract and maintain more people in the game.
6. Performance - Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.
7. Leadership - Lead tennis in Britain to the highest standard so it is a safe, welcoming, well-run sport.

## ***England Athletics Facility Strategy (2018 – 2025)***

The purpose of this document is to set out our long term vision for athletics facilities in England. Facilities form a vital component of the overall England Athletics strategy.

The development, protection and enhancement of facilities will support our strategic plan and help England Athletics contribute to the delivery of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport Get Active: A Strategy for the Future of Sport and Physical Activity (2023) and Sport England Uniting the Movement: Our 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport (2021-2031). Appropriate facilities help to attract and inspire new participants and provide the foundation and focus for a significant proportion of the England Athletics family.

The England Athletics Strategic Plan notes that the sport increasingly needs to become financially sustainable and that a business-like and innovative approach is a vital component of its future success. Facilities are fundamental, but they are also expensive to create and to maintain. The sport therefore faces a significant challenge to develop, improve and maintain facilities, most of which are currently operated and funded by third parties.

This strategy sets out a challenge to all those involved with the delivery of the sport to be innovative and business like in the operation and development of facilities at a time of financial challenge, as it aims "To create an innovative and inspiring network of sustainable athletic facilities, with the capacity to meet both current and future demand across England".

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

---

## ***England athletics strategy plan 2021 – 2032: Athletics and runners at the heart – creating opportunities, enhancing experiences and powering potential***

This strategy ensures a robust and clearly defined future direction for the sport which places athletics and runners at the heart of everything we will do over the 12 year period to 2032.

England Athletics overarching purpose and visions are:

**Purpose:** 'To inspire more athletics and runners of all abilities and backgrounds to fulfil their potential and to have a lifelong love for the sport.'

**Vision:** 'For athletics to become an inclusive sport where everyone belongs and can flourish.'

At the heart of this plan, and the focal point for everything England Athletics do, are the people and communities involved in athletics across the following five areas:

1. Clubs, Club Leaders and facilities
2. Competition
3. Coaches and officials
4. Participation: young people and running
5. Talented athletes

Each has its own unique challenges and opportunities, yet also the opportunity to positively influence the success and growth of the other areas.

There are four key supporting activities that will be essential in enabling us to deliver the strategic priorities and ultimately achieve goals:

- ◀ Provide strong leadership that builds trust and respect by creating an open and positive culture.
- ◀ Embrace technology and reduce our environmental impact by putting digital first and encouraging innovation and creativity.
- ◀ Ensure greater engagement through sharing of high-quality insight, information and content.
- ◀ Develop commercial minds to maximise funding opportunities and diversify income.

## ***England Netball***

In November 2021 England Netball launched a 10-year 'Adventure Strategy' for the game with a new brand identity for the organisation.

England Netball's 'Adventure Strategy' shares a purpose-led ambition for the game, to build on the momentum the sport has seen in recent years and take it to new heights for the decade ahead.

The 'Adventure Strategy' outlines the intention to:-

- ◀ accelerate the development and growth of the game at every level, from grassroots to the elite,
- ◀ elevate the visibility of the sport, and
- ◀ lead a movement to impact lives on and beyond the court.

At the heart of its purpose, England Netball, with its proud and unique female foundations, will remain dedicated to increasing opportunities for women and girls to play the game as a priority, working tirelessly to address the gender participation gap in sport that has widened since the global pandemic.

Underpinned by years of engaging with and delivering netball for female communities, the organisation pledges to understand, support and nurture women and girls more deeply at every life stage, at every age.

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY**

---

The organisation is also committed to opening the sport to new audiences in every community, so netball better represents the rich diversity of the country it proudly represents, and ensures the sport continues to evolve and adapt to thrive in the future, helping to create a truly inclusive sport for all where everyone can belong, flourish and soar. A recent partnership announcement with England Men's and Mixed Netball Association (EMMNA) to help develop and grow male participation in the game, supports this commitment as England Netball pledges to promote difference and embrace the opportunity to make the sport a possibility within everyone's reach.

Transforming netball for children and young people is a strategic priority to protect the future of the sport. Working with schools and policy makers to extend physical literacy within, and after the school day with a focus on netball specific provision will pave the way for greater community participation. The organisation will accelerate the expansion of its Bee Netball programme for young children, whilst supporting teens and young women to stay in the game to keep them physically active and in the game for life.

The elite game is in focus too, with the ambition for the Vitality Roses to be the best female sports team in the world, supporting the national team to consistently win on the world stage, with an outstanding talent pathway in place to fuel sustainable successes on court, and setting new standards for netball. The professionalisation of the game over the next decade is a priority, focusing on growing world-leading international and domestic competitions and events, and creating more careers in the sport.

Grounded in feedback from the Netball Family, with over 3,000 members and stakeholders consulted as part of the strategic process to understand what they wanted netball to 'look like' in 2031, the plan is aspirational and ambitious and sees the organisation pledge to continue to be a trailblazer for women's sport as it embarks on its new adventure.

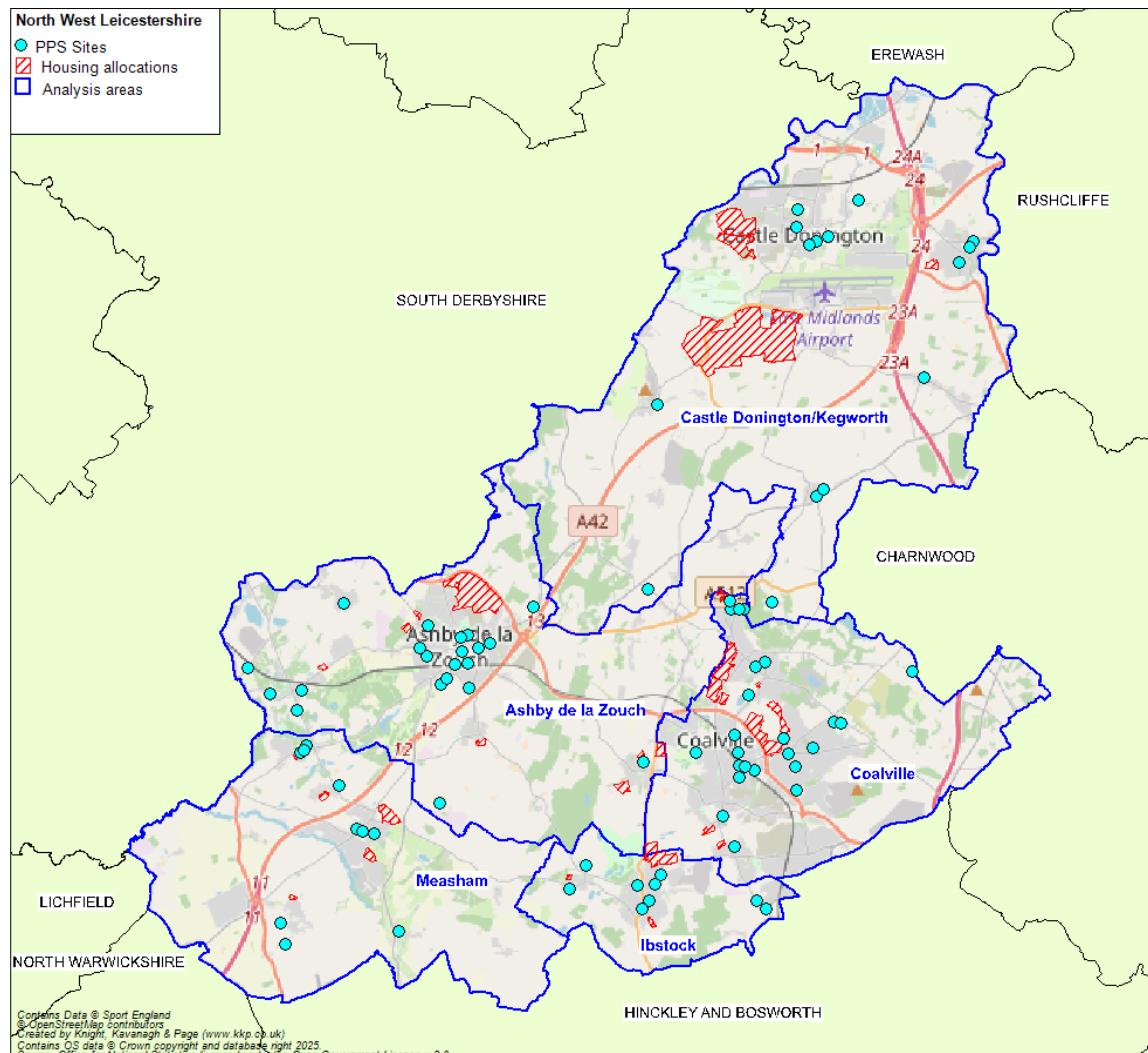
## *Facility Development*

The facility development aspirations stated within the Strategy are to:-

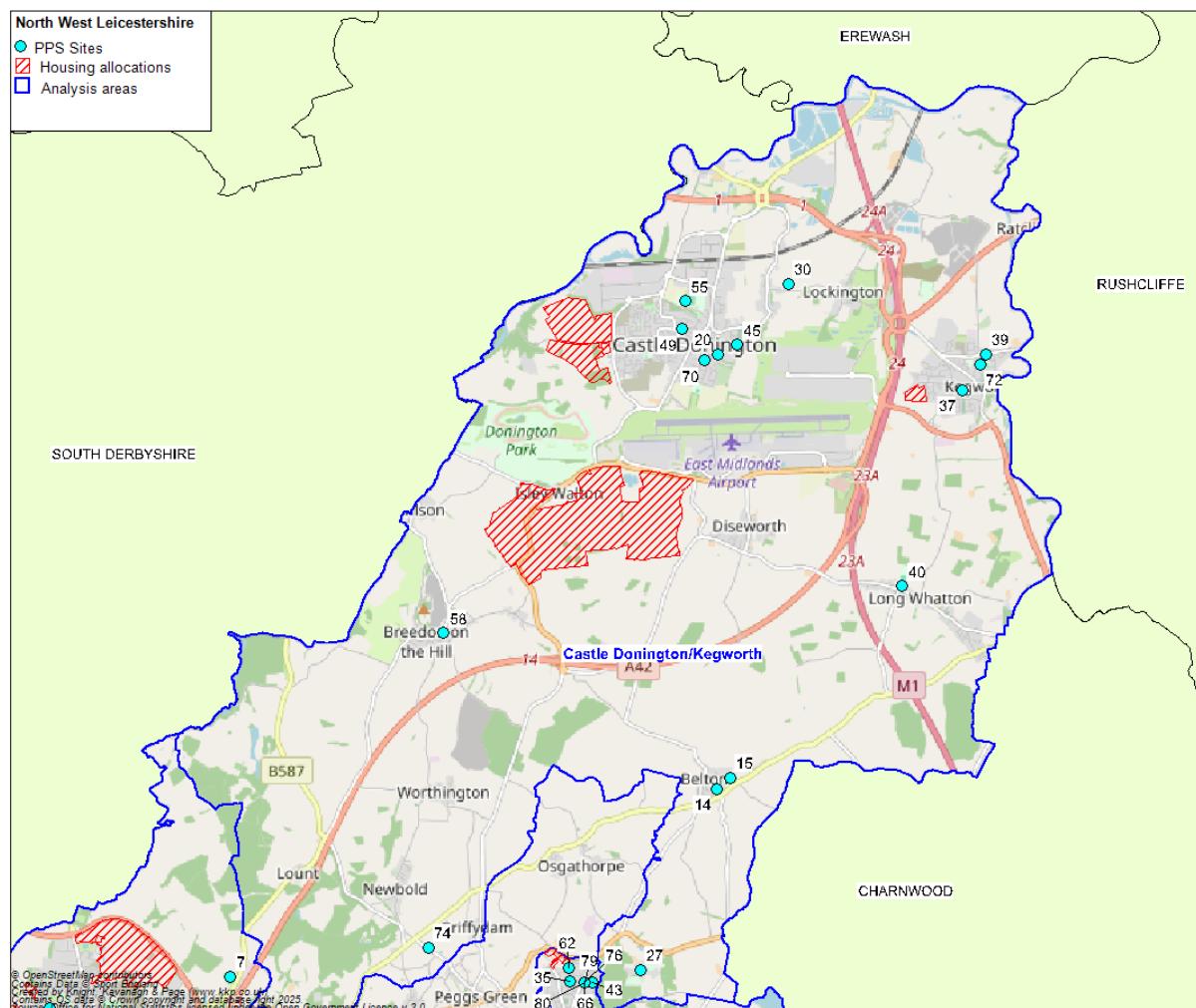
- ◀ Take a fresh look at the spaces required to support the sport, creating accessible places in every community to allow netball to be incorporated into how and where women and girls live their lives;
- ◀ Protect, enhance, and extend the network of homes that house the sport at a local and regional level;
- ◀ Develop an elite domestic professional competition that supports full time athletes underpinned by a world class infrastructure and environments.
- ◀ For England Netball to achieve its ambitions to make the game accessible to wider audiences and in every community, it encourages Local Authorities to adopt policies within Playing Pitch Strategies and Built Facilities Strategies that:-
- ◀ Facilitates informal netball activity within neighbourhood multi use games areas for example by installing combined outdoor basketball and netball goals and art courts in Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs).
- ◀ Incorporates the cultural and health needs of women and girls within any designs for improved or new facilities.
- ◀ Protects and enhances netball facilities within all Primary and Secondary School environments so they offer a positive first experience of the sport for students and the wider community during out of school hours.
- ◀ Supports the installation of floodlights on outdoor courts to increase all year-round use.
- ◀ Facilitates the development of netball growth programmes, club training and competition within public leisure centres.
- ◀ Where appropriate, supports the development of netball homes and performance environments that enable local women and girls to pursue a career in netball as an elite athlete, official, coach or administrator.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## APPENDIX TWO: HOUSING SCENARIO MAPS

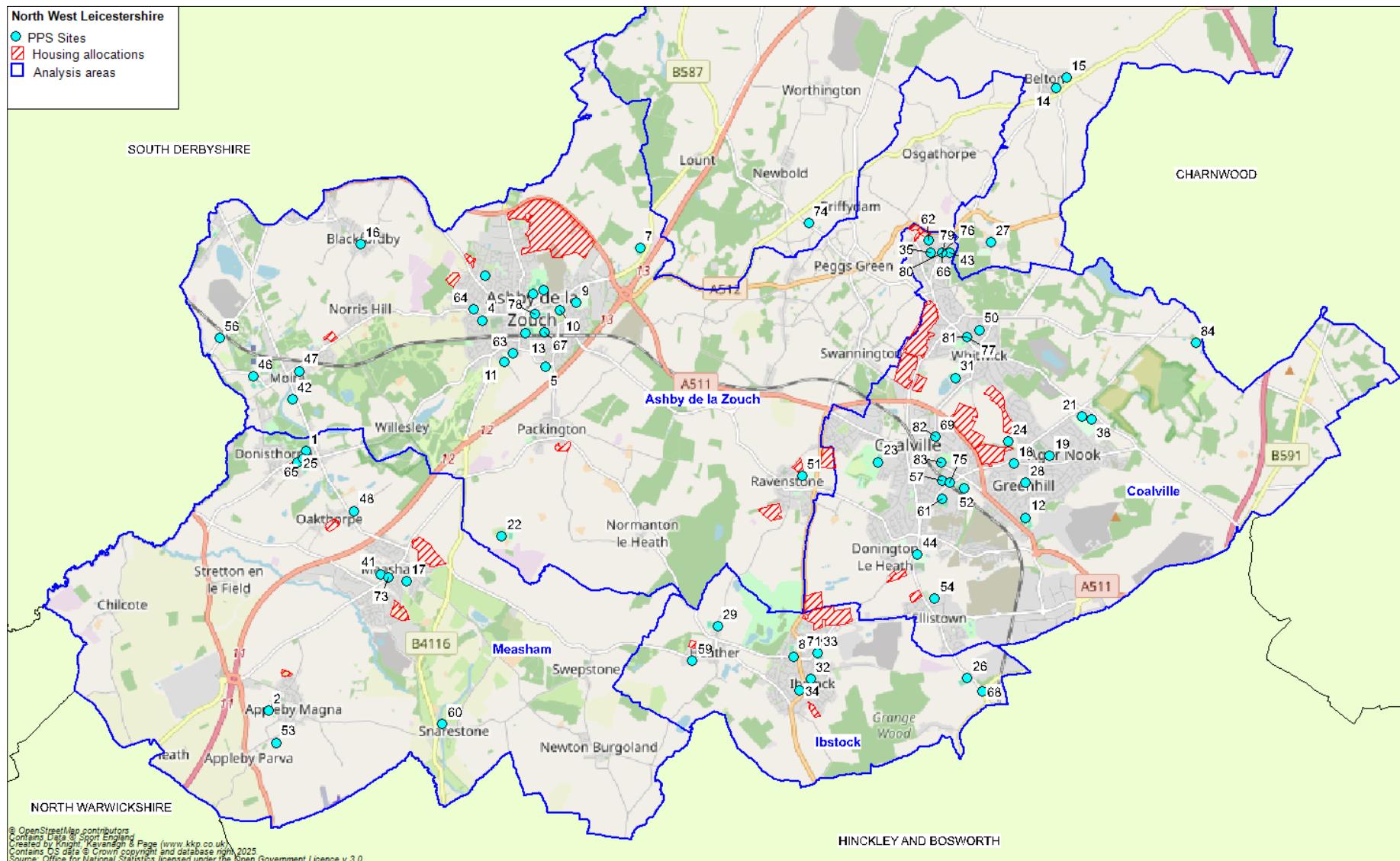


# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY



# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

226



## APPENDIX C

### NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

### OPEN SPACE STUDY

NOVEMBER 2025

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

**Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd**  
Company No: 9145032 (England)

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Registered Office: 1 -2 Frecheville Court, off Knowsley Street, Bury BL9 0UF  
T: 0161 764 7040 E: [mail@kkp.co.uk](mailto:mail@kkp.co.uk) www.kkp.co.uk



6543



# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

### Contents

PART 1: INTRODUCTION .....	1
1.1 Report structure .....	2
1.2 National context .....	3
1.3 Local context .....	6
PART 2: METHODOLOGY .....	7
2.1 Analysis area .....	7
2.2 Auditing local provision .....	8
2.3 Open space standards .....	10
2.4 Quality and value .....	10
2.5 Quality and value thresholds .....	12
2.6 Accessibility catchments .....	13
PART 3: SITE AUDIT .....	15
3.1 Audit overview .....	15
3.2 Quality .....	15
3.3 Value .....	16
PART 4: PARKS AND GARDENS .....	17
4.1 Introduction .....	17
4.2 Current provision .....	17
4.3 Accessibility .....	18
4.4 Quality .....	20
4.5 Value .....	21
PART 5: NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACE .....	23
5.1 Introduction .....	23
5.2 Current provision .....	23
5.3 Accessibility .....	24
5.4 Quality .....	26
5.5 Value .....	27
PART 6: AMENITY GREENSPACE .....	29
6.1 Introduction .....	29
6.2 Current provision .....	29
6.3 Accessibility .....	29
6.4 Quality .....	33
6.5 Value .....	34
PART 7: PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE .....	36
7.1 Introduction .....	36
7.2 Current provision .....	36
7.3 Accessibility .....	37
7.4 Quality .....	40
7.5 Value .....	42

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **OPEN SPACE STUDY**

---

<b>PART 8: ALLOTMENTS .....</b>	<b>43</b>
8.1 Introduction .....	43
8.2 Current provision.....	43
8.3 Accessibility.....	43
<b>PART 9: CEMETERIES/CHURCHYARDS.....</b>	<b>46</b>
9.1 Introduction .....	46
9.2 Current provision.....	46
9.3 Accessibility.....	46
<b>PART 10: PROVISION STANDARDS.....</b>	<b>49</b>
10.1: Quality and value.....	49
10.2: Accessibility.....	50
10.3: Quantity.....	53
10.4: Identifying priorities and recommendations.....	56

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **OPEN SPACE STUDY**

---

### **Glossary**

DPD	Development Plan Document
FIT	Fields in Trust
FOG	Friends of Group
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LAP	Local Area for Play
LEAP	Local Equipped Area for Play
LDF	Local Development Framework
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
MHCLG	Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government
MUGA	Multi-use Games Area (an enclosed area with a hard surface for variety of informal play)
NEAP	Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NSALG	National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners
ONS	Office of National Statistics
OSNA	Open Space Needs Assessment
PPG	Planning Practice Guidance
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
SOA	Super Output Areas
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **OPEN SPACE STUDY**

---

### **PART 1: INTRODUCTION**

North West Leicestershire District Council commissioned Knight Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) to deliver an Open Space Study. This document focuses on reporting the findings of the research, site assessments, data analysis and GIS mapping that underpin the study. It provides details regarding what provision exists in the area, its condition/quality, provision gaps and future needs.

The document can facilitate the direction on the future provision of accessible, high quality, sustainable open spaces. It can help to inform the priorities for open space provision as part of future population distribution and planned growth. Open spaces contribute to the health, well-being, cultural heritage, landscape, education, climate change mitigation, biodiversity and movement for people and wildlife. It is therefore vital for local authorities to know what provision currently exists and what the priorities and requirements are for the future.

In order for planning policies relating to open space to be 'sound', local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of the need for open space, sport, and recreation facilities. We follow the methodology to undertake such assessments by best practice including the Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17) Companion Guidance; Assessing Needs and Opportunities<sup>1</sup> published in September 2002.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has replaced PPG17. However, assessment of open space facilities is still normally carried out in accordance with the Companion Guidance to PPG17, as it remains the only national best practice guidance on the conduct of an open space assessment.

Under paragraph 103 of the NPPF, it is set out that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative and qualitative deficiencies and surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

---

<sup>1</sup> [Assessing Needs and Opportunities](#)

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

The table below details the open space typologies included within the study:

Table 1.1: Open space typology definitions

Typology	Primary purpose
Parks and gardens	Parks and formal gardens, open to the general public. Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.
Natural and semi-natural greenspaces	Supports wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.
Amenity greenspace	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas.
Provision for children and young people	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people.
Allotments	Opportunities to grow own produce. Added benefits include the long term promotion of sustainable living, health and social inclusion.
Cemeteries, churchyards and other burial grounds	Provides burial space but is considered to provide a place of quiet contemplation and is often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.

Any site recognised as sports provision but with a clear multifunctional role (i.e., where it is also available for wider community use as open space) is included in this study. Provision purely for sporting use are the focus of other studies such as the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS). On dual use sites, the pitch playing surfaces are counted as part of the overall site size as they are considered to contribute to the total open space site and reflect its multifunctionality.

### 1.1 Report structure

This study considers the supply and demand issues for open space provision across North West Leicestershire. Each part contains relevant typology specific data. Further description of the methodology used can be found in Part 2. The Study as a whole covers the predominant issues for all open spaces as defined in best practice guidance:

- ◀ Part 3: Open space summary
- ◀ Part 4: Parks and gardens
- ◀ Part 5: Natural/ semi-natural greenspace
- ◀ Part 6: Amenity greenspace
- ◀ Part 7: Provision for children/ young people
- ◀ Part 8: Allotments
- ◀ Part 9: Cemeteries/churchyards

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **OPEN SPACE STUDY**

---

### **1.2 National context**

#### **National Planning Policy Framework, (DLUHC)**

The [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (NPPF) sets out the planning policies for England. It details how these are expected to be applied to the planning system and provides a framework to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

The NPPF states that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development (paragraphs 7-9). It establishes that the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

Paragraph 103 of the NPPF establishes that access to a network of high-quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for health and well-being. It states that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficiencies and surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite, paragraph 104 of the NPPF states existing open space, sports and recreation sites, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown the site to be surplus to requirements; or
- ◀ The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

#### **National Planning Practice Guidance (DLUHC and MHCLG)**

National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) is a web-based resource which brings together planning guidance on various topics into one place. It was launched in March 2014 and adds further context to the (NPPF). It is intended that the two documents should be read together.

The guidance determines that open space should be taken into account in planning for new development and considering proposals that may affect existing open space. It is for local planning authorities to assess the need for open space and opportunities for new provision in their areas. In carrying out this work, they should have regard to the duty to cooperate where open space serves a wider area.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

### **Creating great spaces for all: Fields in Trust (2024)**

As part of its protection work, Fields in Trust (FiT) offers guidance on open space provision and design. This is to ensure that provision of outdoor sport, play and informal open space is of a sufficient size to enable effective use; is in an accessible location and in close proximity to dwellings; and of a quality to maintain longevity and to encourage its continued use.

Creating great spaces for all sets out a range of benchmark guidelines on quantity, quality and accessibility for open space and equipped play. It also offers some recommendations to minimum site sizes.

### **Planning for Sport Guidance (2019), Sport England**

Sets out how the planning system can help provide opportunities for everyone to be physically active. It highlights the vital role planning systems play in shaping environments (including open spaces) which offer opportunities to take part in sport and physical activity. To help with this, the guidance sets out 12 planning-for-sport principles to be embraced.

Table 1.2: 12 planning for sport principles

<b>Overarching</b>
Recognise and give weight to the benefits of sport and physical activity.
Undertake, maintain and apply robust and up-to-date assessment of need and strategies for sport and physical activity provision, and base policies, decisions and guidance upon them.
Plan, design and maintain buildings, developments, facilities, land and environments that enable people to lead active lifestyles.
<b>Protect</b>
Protect and promote existing sport and physical activity provision and ensure new development does not prejudice its use.
Ensure long-term viable management and maintenance of new and existing sport and physical activity provision.
<b>Enhance</b>
Support improvements to existing sport and physical activity provision where they are needed
Encourage and secure wider community use of existing and new sport and physical activity provision.
<b>Provide</b>
Support new provision, including allocating new sites for sport and physical activity which meets identified needs.
Ensure a positive approach to meeting the needs generated by new development for sport and physical activity provision.
Provide sport and physical activity provision which is fit for purpose and well designed
Plan positively for sport and physical activity provision in designated landscapes and the green belt.
Proactively address any amenity issues arising from sport and physical activity developments.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

### Green Infrastructure Framework (2023), Natural England

Launched by Natural England, the Green Infrastructure Framework (GIF) provides a structure to analyse where greenspace in urban environments is needed most. It aims to support equitable access to greenspace across the country, with an overarching target for everyone being able to reach good quality greenspace in their local area.

The GIF comprises of principles, standards, mapping tools, planning and design guides. The principles are set out for consideration to reflect the importance of providing multi-functional and well-designed provision.

Principle
Why 1 – Nature rich beautiful places
Why 2 – Active and healthy places
Why 3 – Thriving and prospering communities
Why 4 – Understanding and managing water environment
Why 5 – Resilient and climate positive places
What 1 - Multifunctional
What 2 - Varied
What 3 - Connected
What 4 - Accessible
What 5 - Character
How 1 – Partnership and vision
How 2 - Evidence
How 3 – Plan strategically
How 4 - Design
How 5 – Managed, valued, monitored and evaluated

### Summary of the national context

Policies set out within the NPPF state that local and neighbourhood plans should both reflect needs and priorities within a local community and be based on robust and current assessments of open space, sport and recreational facilities. Encouraging better levels of physical literacy<sup>2</sup> and activity is a high priority for national government. For many people, sport and recreational activities have a key role to play in facilitating physical activity. Therefore, ensuring that open space creates an active environment with opportunities and good accessibility is important. In line with national policy recommendations, this study makes an assessment of open space provision from which recommendations and policy can be formulated.

---

<sup>2</sup> Physical literacy is the motivation, confidence, physical competence and understanding to value and take responsibility for engagement in physical activities

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **OPEN SPACE STUDY**

---

### **1.3 Local context**

#### **Local Plan**

The vision set out within the current Local Plan (2011-2031) states that the district will continue to be a place where people choose to live and settle, within communities that get their strength and attraction from vibrant, accessible places centred around award-winning housing developments.

The Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan, to cover the 2024-2042 period. This will update existing policies and address changes in national planning policy and local circumstances. The preparation and review of all policies must be underpinned by relevant and up-to-date evidence. This document, in terms of open space provision, forms part of the Council's Local Plan evidence base.

#### **Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018 – 2028**

In relation to the benefits of the open spaces, the Council has a Health and Wellbeing Strategy which aims to “measurably improve the health and wellbeing of everyone in North West Leicestershire”. This aim will be achieved through core principles and an action plan.

The importance of open spaces to health and wellbeing is shown through the strategy action plan, as it mentions the development of a comprehensive open space needs assessment and strategy that provides detailed insights into the quality and value of open spaces, play facilities, and green infrastructure across the district.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

### PART 2: METHODOLOGY

This section details the methodology undertaken as part of the study. The key stages are:

- ◀ 2.1 – Analysis areas
- ◀ 2.2 – Auditing local provision
- ◀ 2.3 – Open space provision standards
- ◀ 2.4 – Quality and value
- ◀ 2.5 – Quality and value thresholds
- ◀ 2.6 – Accessibility standards

#### 2.1 Analysis area

The study area comprises the whole district of North West Leicestershire. However, the focus is on the six settlement areas with greater population density. In order to address supply and demand on a more localised level, analysis areas (consisting of electoral wards which align with other work streams) have been utilised.

Table 2.1: Analysis areas and populations

Analysis area	Population <sup>3</sup>
Ashby de la Zouch	15,356
Castle Donington	7,328
Coalville	39,564
Ibstock & Ellistown	11,009
Kegworth	5,085
Measham	5,443
Rural	23,887
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>107,672</b>

Figure 2.1 shows the district broken down by ward into these analysis areas in tandem with population density. The sustainable villages are also shown on the map for context.

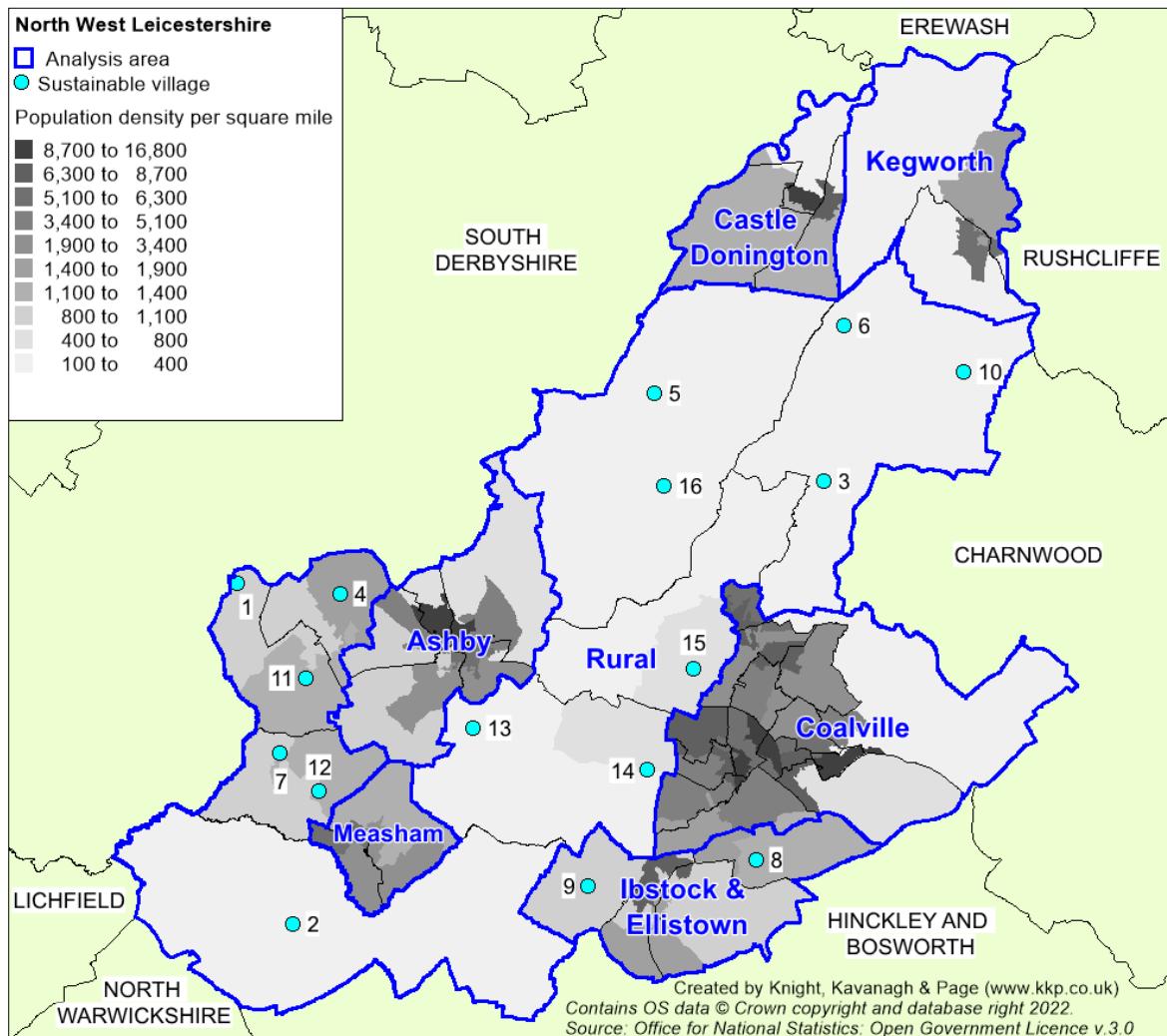
Sustainable Villages (Map ID)
Albert Village (1), Appleby Magna (2), Belton (3), Blackfordby (4), Breedon on the Hill (5), Diseworth (6), Donisthorpe (7), Ellistown (8), Heather (9), Long Whatton (10), Moria (11), Oakthorpe (12), Packington (13), Ravenstone (14), Swannington (15) and Worthington (16)

---

<sup>3</sup> Mid-Year Estimates (2022), Office for National Statistics

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STUDY

Figure 2.1: Map of North West Leicestershire including analysis areas



## 2.2 Auditing local provision

Open space sites (including provision for children and young people) are identified, mapped and assessed to evaluate site value and quality. Only sites publicly accessible are included in the quality and value audit (i.e., private sites or land, which people cannot access, are not included). The focus for the audit is on sites within the six settlement areas with greater population density. Sites outside these six areas are not identified as part of the audit.

Each site is classified based on its primary open space purpose, so that each type of space is counted only once. The audit and the study, analyse the following typologies in accordance with the Companion Guidance to PPG17.

1. Parks and gardens
2. Natural and semi-natural greenspace
3. Amenity greenspace
4. Provision for children and young people
5. Allotments
6. Cemeteries/churchyards

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

### Site size threshold

In accordance with recommendations from the Companion Guidance to PPG17, a size threshold of 0.2 hectares is applied to the typologies of amenity greenspace and natural/semi-natural greenspace.

It is recognised that it would be impractical to capture every piece of land that could be classed as open space. They are often too small to provide any meaningful leisure and recreational opportunities to warrant a full site assessment. However, spaces smaller than 0.2 hectares can provide amenity to local neighbourhoods and stepping-stones for wildlife.

Table 2.2: Site size thresholds for each open space typology

Typology	Site size threshold
Allotments	None
Amenity greenspace	0.2ha
Cemeteries	None
Parks and gardens	None
Provision for children and young people	None
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	0.2ha

If required, these amenity greenspaces and natural sites below 0.2 hectares should be assessed on a site-by-site basis (to assess potential community, biodiversity and visual value), for example, a request for development be made upon such a site in the future. Planning policies relating to the consideration of the loss of open space could still apply to such sites, even if they are not specifically included in the audit.

It should be noted that some sites below the threshold i.e., those that are identified as having particular significance and considered to provide an important function, as well as play space for children and young people, are included in the audit process.

### Database development

All information relating to open spaces is collated in the Project Open Space Database (supplied as an Excel electronic file). All sites identified and assessed as part of the audit are recorded within the Database. The Database details for each site are as follows:

Data held on open spaces database (summary)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ KKP reference number (used for mapping)</li><li>◆ Site name</li><li>◆ Ownership (if known)</li><li>◆ Management (if known)</li><li>◆ Typology</li><li>◆ Size (hectares)</li><li>◆ Site audit data</li></ul>

Sites are primarily identified by KKP in the audit using official site names, where possible, and/or secondly using road names and locations.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

### 2.3 Open space standards

To identify specific needs and quantitative and qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space in a local area, provision standards focusing on Quality, Quantity and Accessibility are set and applied later in the document (Part 10).

<b>Quality</b>	Ability to measure the need for enhancement of existing facilities. Aimed at identifying high quality provision for benchmarking and low quality provision for targeting as part of improvements. The Quality Standard is based on the audit assessment scores.
<b>Quantity</b>	Are there enough spaces in the right places? Aimed at helping to establish areas of surplus and deficiency and, where appropriate, to understand the potential for alternative uses and/or key forms of provision.
<b>Accessibility</b>	Distance thresholds aimed at improving accessibility factors (e.g., so people can find and get to open spaces without undue reliance on using a car) and helping to identify potential areas with gaps in provision. Shown via maps.

### 2.4 Quality and value

Through the audit process each type of open space receives separate quality and value scores. This allows for the application of a high and low quality/value matrix to further help determine prioritisation of investment and to identify sites that may be surplus within and to a particular open space typology.

Quality and value are fundamentally different and can be unrelated. For example, a site of high quality may be inaccessible and, thus, be of little value; whereas a rundown (poor quality) site may be the only one in an area and thus be immensely valuable. As a result, quality and value are also treated separately in terms of scoring.

#### Analysis of quality

Data collated from site visits is initially based upon criteria derived from the Green Flag Award scheme (a national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales, operated by Keep Britain Tidy). This is utilised to calculate a quality score for each site visited. Scores in the database are presented as percentage figures.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

The quality criteria used for the open space assessments carried out for all open space typologies are summarised in the following table.

Quality criteria for open space site visit (score)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Physical access, e.g., public transport links, directional signposts.</li><li>◆ Personal security, e.g., site is overlooked, natural surveillance.</li><li>◆ Access-social, e.g., appropriate minimum entrance widths.</li><li>◆ Parking, e.g., availability, specific, disabled parking.</li><li>◆ Information signage, e.g., presence of up-to-date site information, notice boards.</li><li>◆ Equipment and facilities, e.g., assessment of both adequacy and maintenance of provision such as seats, benches, bins, toilets.</li><li>◆ Location value, e.g., proximity of housing, other greenspace.</li><li>◆ Site problems, e.g., presence of vandalism, graffiti.</li><li>◆ Healthy, safe and secure, e.g., fencing, gates, staff on site.</li><li>◆ Maintenance and cleanliness, e.g., condition of general landscape &amp; features.</li><li>◆ Groups that the site meets the needs of, e.g., elderly, young people.</li><li>◆ Site potential e.g., possible enhancements to improve a site.</li></ul>

For the provision for children and young people, criteria are also built around Green Flag. It is a non-technical visual assessment of the whole site, including general equipment and surface quality/appearance plus an assessment of, for example, bench and bin provision.

This differs, for example, from an independent Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) review, which is a more technical assessment of equipment in terms of play and risk assessment grade.

### Analysis of value

Site visit data plus desk-based research is calculated to provide value scores for each site identified. Value is defined in Companion Guidance to PPG17 in relation to the following three issues:

- ◆ Context of the site i.e., its accessibility, scarcity value and historic value.
- ◆ Level and type of use.
- ◆ The wider benefits it generates for people, biodiversity and the wider environment.

In addition, the NPPF refers to attributes to value such as the beauty and attractiveness of a site, its recreational value, historic and cultural value and its tranquility and richness of wildlife.

Children's and young people's play provision is scored for value as part of the audit assessment. Value, in particular, is recognised in terms of the size of sites and the range of equipment it offers. For instance, a small site with only one or two items is likely to be of a lower value than a site with a variety of equipment catering to wider age ranges.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

The value criteria set for audit assessment is derived from:

<b>Value criteria for open space site visits (score)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Level of use (observations only), e.g., evidence of different user types (e.g. dog walkers, joggers, children) throughout day, located near school and/or community facility.</li><li>◆ Context of site in relation to other open spaces.</li><li>◆ Structural and landscape benefits, e.g., well located, high quality defining the identity/area.</li><li>◆ Ecological benefits, e.g., supports/promotes biodiversity and wildlife habitats.</li><li>◆ Educational benefits, e.g., provides learning opportunities on nature/historic landscapes.</li><li>◆ Social inclusion and health benefits, e.g., promotes civic pride, community ownership and a sense of belonging; helping to promote well-being.</li><li>◆ Cultural and heritage benefits, e.g., historic elements/links (e.g., listed building, statues) and high-profile symbols of local area.</li><li>◆ Amenity benefits and a sense of place, e.g., attractive places that are safe and well maintained; helping to create specific neighbourhoods and landmarks.</li><li>◆ Economic benefits, e.g., enhances property values, promotes economic activity and attracts people from near and far.</li></ul>

### 2.5 Quality and value thresholds

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by Companion Guidance to PPG17); the results of the site assessments are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The primary aim of applying a threshold is to identify sites where investment and/or improvements are required. It can also be used to set an aspirational quality standard to be achieved at some point in the future and to inform decisions around the need to further protect sites from future development (particularly when applied with its respective value score in a matrix format).

A site rating lower for quality should not automatically be viewed as being fit for development. It is also necessary to understand its value, access and role within the community it serves. It may, for example, be the only site serving an area and should therefore be considered a priority for enhancement.

The most recognised national benchmark for measuring the quality of parks and open spaces is the 66% pass rate for the Green Flag Award. This scheme recognises and rewards well-managed parks and open spaces. Although this Open Space Study uses a similar assessment criteria to that of the Green Flag Award scheme, it is inappropriate to use the Green Flag benchmark pass for every open space as they are not all designed or expected to perform to the same exceptionally high standard. For example, a park would be expected to feature a greater variety of ancillary facilities (seating, bins, play equipment) and manicured landscaping and planting, etc., in contrast to an amenity greenspace serving a smaller catchment and fewer people.

Furthermore, a different scoring mechanism is used in this study to that of the Green Flag scheme (albeit criteria for this study is derived from the Green Flag scheme). For each open space typology, a different set and / or weighting for each criterion of quality is used. This is to better reflect the different roles, uses and functions of each open space type. Consequently, a different quality threshold level is set for each open space typology.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

Quality thresholds in this study are individual to each open space typology. They are based on the average quality score arising from the site assessments and set using KKP's professional judgment and experience from delivering similar studies. The score is to help distinguish between higher and lower quality sites; it is a minimum expectation as opposed to an absolute goal. This works as an effective method to reflect the variability in quality at a local level for different types of provision. It allows the Council more flexibility in directing funds towards sites for enhancements which is useful if funds are geographically constrained with respect to individual developments.

Reason and flexibility are needed when evaluating sites close to the average score / threshold. The review of a quality threshold is just one step for this process, a site should also be evaluated against the value assessment and local knowledge.

There is no national guidance on the setting of value thresholds, and instead a 20% threshold is derived from KKP's experience and knowledge in assessing the perceived value of sites.

A high value site is one deemed to be well used and offering visual, social, physical and mental health benefits. Value is also a more subjective measure than assessing the physical quality of provision. Therefore, a conservative threshold of 20% is set across all typologies. Whilst 20% may initially seem low - it is a relative score. One designed to reflect those sites that meet more than one aspect of the criteria used for assessing value (as detailed earlier). If a site meets more than one criterion for value it will score greater than 20%. Consequently, it is deemed to be of higher value.

Table 2.2: Quality and value thresholds by typology

Typology	Quality threshold	Value threshold
Amenity greenspace	45%	20%
Parks and gardens	60%	20%
Provision for children and young people	50%	20%
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	45%	20%

### 2.6 Accessibility catchments

Accessibility catchments can be used as a tool to identify deficiencies of open space in a local area. This is achieved by applying them to create a distance catchment. The study displays the results of the catchment to highlight any potential deficiencies in access to provision.

There is an element of subjectivity resulting in time/distance variations. This is to be expected given that people walk at different speeds depending on a number of factors including height, age, levels of fitness and physical barriers on route. Therefore, there will be an element of 'best fit'.

The accessibility catchments from FIT are used to show how far residents are likely to be willing to travel to access different types of open space provision.

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

Table 2.3: Accessibility catchment times/distances

Open space type	Catchment
Parks & Gardens	9-minute walk time (710m)
Natural & Semi-natural Greenspace	9-minute walk time (720m)
Amenity Greenspace	6-minute walk time (480m)
Provision for children and young people (LAP)	1-minute walk time (100m)
Provision for children and young people (LEAP)	5-minute walk time (400m)
Provision for children and young people (NEAP)	12.5-minute walk time (1000m)
Provision for children and young people (Other provision e.g., MUGA, Skate park)	9-minute walk time (700m)
Allotments	No standard set
Cemeteries	No standard set

Most typologies have an accessibility standard of a 9-minute walk time. No standard is set for the typologies of allotments or cemeteries. For cemeteries, provision should be determined by demand for burial space.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

### PART 3: SITE AUDIT

#### 3.1 Audit overview

Within North West Leicestershire there are a total of 199 sites equating to 321 hectares of open space. The largest contributor to provision is natural greenspace (164 hectares), accounting for 51%.

Note the figures do not include the National Forest which covers a significant proportion of North West Leicestershire. At 200 square miles in size, it is acknowledged as a major contribution in terms of access to provision.

Table 3.2.1: Overview of open space provision

Open space typology	Number of sites	Total amount (hectares) <sup>4</sup>
Allotments	15	20
Amenity greenspace	60	58
Cemeteries/churchyards	18	22
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	10	164
Park and gardens	9	49
Provision for children & young people	87	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>321</b>

#### 3.2 Quality

The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for open spaces.

Table 3.2.1: Quality scores for assessed open space typologies

Typology	Sites below typology threshold	Sites above typology threshold
Amenity greenspace	29	31
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	2	3
Park and gardens	4	4
Provision for children & young people	27	59
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>97</b>

Majority of the open space sites across all typologies rate above the quality threshold. This is reflected in 61% of the sites assessed scoring above their set threshold for quality.

---

<sup>4</sup> Rounded to the nearest whole number

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

### 3.3 Value

The methodology for assessing value is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for open spaces.

Table 3.3.1: Value scores for assessed open space typologies

Typology	Sites below typology threshold	Sites above typology threshold
Amenity greenspace	11	49
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	0	5
Park and gardens	0	8
Provision for children & young people	4	82
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>144</b>

Nearly all sites (91%) are assessed as being above the threshold for value, reflecting the role and importance of open space provision to local communities and environments.

A high value site is considered to be one that is well used by the local community, well maintained (with a balance for conservation), provides a safe environment and has features of interest, for example, good quality play equipment and landscaping. Sites that provide for a cross-section of users and have a multi-functional use are considered a higher value than those offering limited functions and viewed as unattractive.

There are a handful of sites that score especially high for quality and value. Their quality and value scores are shown below in Table 3.4.2.

Table 3.4.2: High quality and value sites

KKP Ref	Site Name	Typology	Quality Score	Value Score
137	Scotlands Recreation Ground	Amenity greenspace	85.2%	33.0%
147	Snibston Colliery Park	Parks and gardens	82.3%	40.9%
65	Hermitage Ecopark and Lakeside	Natural greenspaces	81.5%	43.6%
36	Coalville Park	Parks and Gardens	77.0%	50.0%
107	Millfield Recreation Ground	Amenity greenspace	74.4%	33.0%
70	Hood Park	Amenity greenspace	71.8%	45.0%
34	Coalville Adventure Park	Parks and Gardens	70.8%	37.3%
16	Bath Grounds	Parks and Gardens	70.8%	50.0%

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

### PART 4: PARKS AND GARDENS

#### 4.1 Introduction

This typology often covers urban parks and formal gardens (including designed landscapes), which provide accessible high-quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.

#### 4.2 Current provision

There are nine sites classified as parks and gardens, the equivalent to 49 hectares (see Table 4.1). No site size threshold has been applied and, as such, all sites have been included within the typology. The names of the parks and their analysis area are listed in Table 4.2.

Table 4.1: Current parks and gardens provision

Analysis area	Number	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Ashby	2	8.21	0.53
Castle Donington	-	-	-
Coalville	4	40.38	1.02
Ibstock & Ellistown	-	-	-
Kegworth	-	-	-
Measham	3	0.75	0.14
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>49.34</b>	<b>0.46</b>

For parks and gardens, there is a current provision level of 0.46 hectares per 1,000 head of population. The largest site and therefore the biggest contributor to this provision is Snibston Colliery Park (27.82 ha), located in the Coalville Analysis Area. The next largest sites are Coalville Adventure Park (7.21 ha), also in Coalville Analysis Area, and Bath Grounds (4.99 ha) in the Ashby Analysis Area.

It is important to note that within the category of parks and gardens, there are two distinct types of sites. Some are significant in size and act as destinations offering greater recreational facilities and uses, which people will often be willing to travel further to access. Examples of such parks include Snibston Colliery Park and Coalville Adventure Park. Other sites within the typology of parks and gardens are smaller in size and are classed as local parks. For example, Ashby Community Garden in the Measham Analysis Area.

Fields in Trust (FIT) suggests 0.80 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Table 4.1 shows that overall, North West Leicestershire is below this. However, the Coalville Analysis Area is above with 1.02 hectares, whereas the remaining areas all fall below the standard.

Parks provision, particularly 'destination' parks, are often only going to exist in areas of greater population density. Consequently, some analysis areas being below the FIT suggestion does not mean a true deficiency exists. It is therefore important to also consider accessibility and quality of provision.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STUDY

## 4.3 Accessibility

An accessibility catchment of a 9-minute walk time has been set across North West Leicestershire. Figure 4.1 shows parks and gardens mapped with the accessibility catchment. This should be treated as an approximation as it does not take into account topography or walking routes. Each site has been allocated its own ID number (shown in Figure 4.1).

Figure 4.1: Parks and gardens mapped with a 9-minute (710m) walk catchment

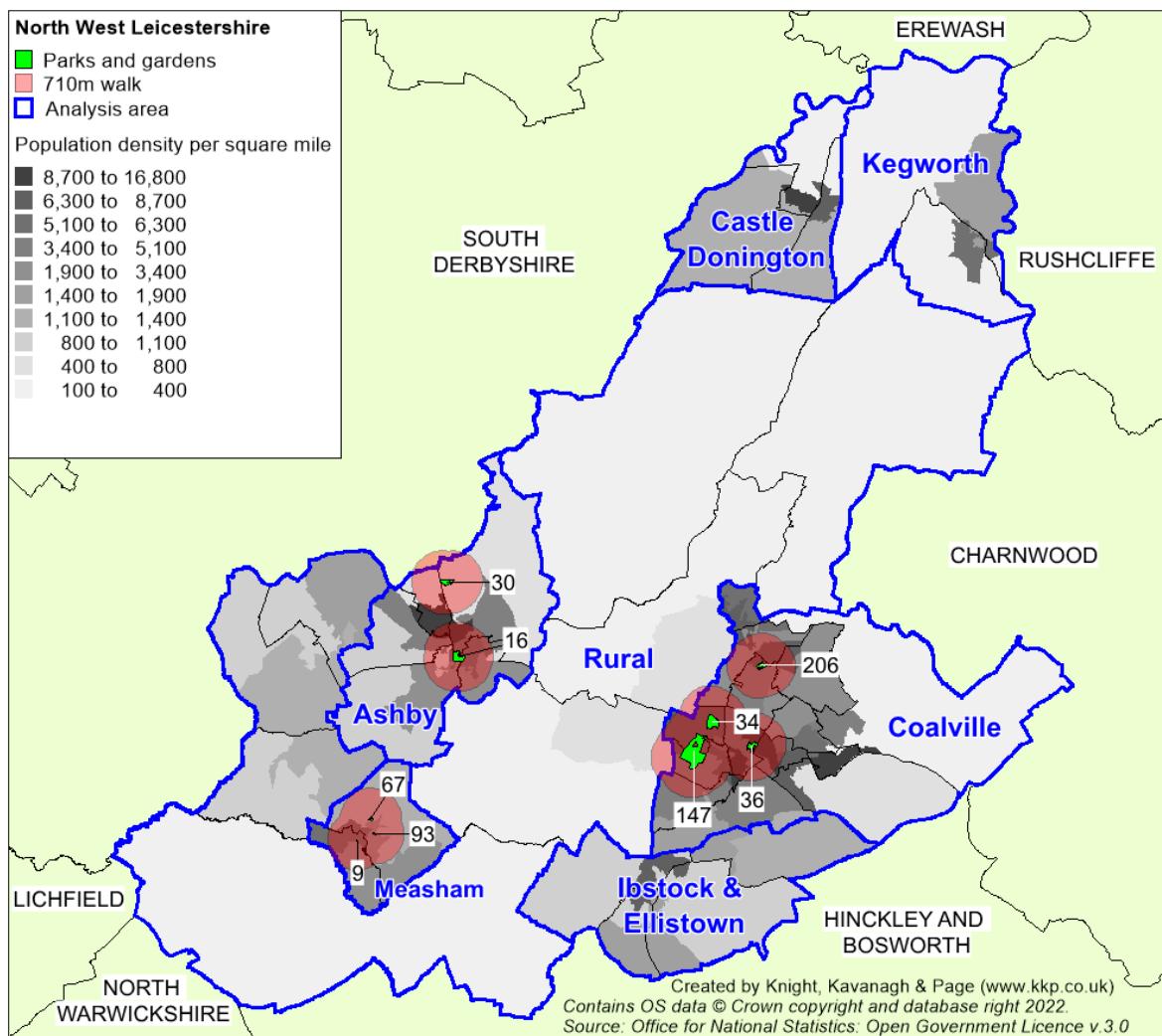


Table 4.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
9	Ashby Community Garden	Measham	0.05	47.1%	37.3%
16	Bath Grounds	Ashby	4.99	70.8%	50.0%
30	Cliftonthorpe Activity Park	Ashby	3.22	42.3%	41.8%
34	Coalville Adventure Park	Coalville	7.22	70.8%	37.3%
36	Coalville Park	Coalville	3.14	77.0%	50.0%

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE STUDY

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
67	High Street Park, Measham	Measham	0.52		
93	Measham Garden of Remembrance	Measham	0.18	35.8%	50.9%
147	Snibston Colliery Park	Coalville	27.82	82.3%	40.9%
206	Whitwick Park	Coalville	2.19	45.4%	39.1%

High Street Park in Measham was not assigned a quality or value score. At the time of visit, the site was observed to be in a neglected condition, characterised by overgrown grass and a significant presence of dead trees.

In general, there is reasonable coverage of parks based on a 9-minute walk time in areas with greater population density. However, gaps are noticeable in some areas. This is noticeable to areas of greater population density such as Ashby, Castle Donington, Coalville, Ibstock & Ellistown and Kegworth. Many of these gaps are served by other forms of open space provision such as amenity greenspace and natural and semi natural greenspace. Such sites may not meet the criteria of parks provision but are likely to offer similar opportunities and access to recreational activities often associated with parks. Exploring the potential to formalise features associated with parks provision at some of these sites could be considered to increase a sites secondary function as a park.

Table 4.3: Other open spaces serving gaps in park catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Ashby	Highgate (ID 68) Hood Park (ID 70) School Lane (ID 134) Westfields Recreation Ground (ID 197) Willesley Recreation Ground (ID 207)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
Castle Donington	Bentley Road (ID 17) Goddards Drive (ID 49) Merchantman Mews (ID 102) Moira Dale Recreation Ground (ID 112) Spital Park (ID 150) Stonehill (ID 173)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
Coalville	Ashburton Road Recreation ground (ID 5) Gracedieu Wood (ID 52) Greenhill Open Space (ID 57) Greenhill Rec Ground (ID 59) Hermitage Ecopark and Lakeside (ID 65) Kirkhill Close (ID 83) Melrose Recreation Ground (ID 98) Millfield Recreation Ground (ID 107) Olive Grove (ID 119) Sharpley Avenue Recreation Ground (ID 140)	Amenity Natural Amenity Amenity Natural Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
Ibstock & Ellistown	Church View Recreation Ground (ID 26) Coronet Drive (ID 38) Frances Way (ID 45) Leicester Road Park (ID 84) Mill Hill Wood Way (ID 105) New Row (ID 115)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
	Usbourne Way (ID 190) Water Meadow Park (ID 193)	Amenity Amenity
Kegworth	Sideley Recreation Ground (ID 143) Whatton Road (ID 200)	Amenity Amenity
Measham	No gap	-

## 4.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance), scores from site assessments are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for parks. A threshold of 60% is applied to segregate high from low quality parkland. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology). The score is to help distinguish between higher and lower quality sites; it is a minimum expectation as opposed to an absolute goal.

Table 4.4: Quality ratings for assessed parks and gardens

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<60%	>60%
Ashby	42%	57%	71%	1	1
Castle Donington	-	-	-	-	-
Coalville	45%	77%	82%	1	3
Ibstock & Ellistown	-	-	-	-	-
Kegworth	-	-	-	-	-
Measham	36%	41%	47%	2	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>

The highest scoring sites for quality are Snibston Colliery Park (82%) and Coalville Park (77%). The former site is highlighted as being an excellent country park for walkers and cyclists, with quality trails, a variety of colliery buildings on site, and is well maintained and used by the local community. The site contains signage, seating, bins, and wide entrances, further adding to its benefits. Coalville Park rates highly as the site is also very well maintained, has clear signage, and is a park that appears used regularly by locals to exercise and relax. Additionally, it has an area set aside for wildlife pollinators and has a marked jogging route, which further adds to the quality of the site.

The criteria used to assess parks and gardens is intended to be high, reflecting the Green Flag Award assessment. As such, not all park and garden sites would be expected to score above the threshold set for such a prestigious award. It is more likely for the flagship 'destination' sites to score highly.

Currently there are three park sites identified as having a Green Flag Award. These are Snibston Colliery Park and Coalville Park, in Coalville, and Bath Grounds in Ashby.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

Measham Garden of Remembrance (36%), located in Measham, ranks the lowest out of all sites for quality, however, there are no major quality issues. It is small in size and offers a place for locals to pay their respects and tributes. The site serves its purpose of being a memorial garden as it includes a memorial pillar. As it is a small memorial garden, it does not feature some ancillary provisions such as toilets, as it would be deemed inappropriate.

Cliftonthorpe Activity Park, in Ashby, rates below the quality threshold. Observed as more of a local park situated at the end of houses. It features a small play area but lacks other ancillary facilities as it lacks signage, seating, and litter bins.

### 4.5 Value

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance), the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for parks. A threshold of 20% is applied to divide high from low value. Further explanation of how the value scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 4.5: Value ratings for assessed parks and gardens

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Ashby	42%	46%	50%	0	2
Castle Donington	-	-	-	-	-
Coalville	37%	43%	50%	0	4
Ibstock & Ellistown	-	-	-	-	-
Kegworth	-	-	-	-	-
Measham	37%	44%	51%	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>

All park and garden sites rate above the value threshold. The highest scoring sites are:

- ◀ Measham Garden of Remembrance (51%)
- ◀ Coalville Park (50%)
- ◀ Bath Grounds (50%)

All of these sites have high amenity and social value due to reasons ranging from recreational and exercise opportunities to cultural and heritage benefits. The sites also score highly for visual and landscape benefits, which can be attributed to a wide variety of factors, such as cleanliness and maintenance that is above adequate.

Coalville Park (Coalville) and Bath Grounds (Ashby) offer enhanced amenities and health benefits, featuring a range of play equipment.

Measham Garden of Remembrance is a site that has high educational value as well as cultural and heritage significance due to being a war memorial for fallen soldiers. It contains 54 trees to mark each fallen soldier.

## **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STUDY**

---

All park and garden sites provide opportunities for a wide range of users and demonstrate the high social inclusion, health benefits and sense of place that parks can offer. One of the key aspects of the value placed on parks provision is their function as a multipurpose provision. Parks provide opportunities for local communities and individuals to socialise and undertake a range of different activities, such as exercise, dog walking and taking children to the play area. Consequently, sites with a greater diverse range of features and ancillary facilities rate higher for value.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

### PART 5: NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACE

#### 5.1 Introduction

The natural and semi-natural greenspace typology can include woodland (coniferous, deciduous, mixed) and scrub, grassland (e.g., down-land, meadow), heath or moor, wetlands (e.g., marsh, fen), wastelands (including disturbed ground), and bare rock habitats (e.g., quarries) and commons. For the purpose of this study, the focus is on sites providing wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.

The typology of natural and semi-natural greenspace has a relatively low-quality threshold compared to other open space typologies. This is to reflect the characteristics of this kind of provision. For instance, many natural and semi-natural sites are intentionally without ancillary facilities to reduce misuse/inappropriate behaviour whilst encouraging greater flora and fauna activity.

#### 5.2 Current provision

In total, there are 10 natural and semi-natural greenspace sites, equating to over 164 hectares.

Table 5.1: Current natural and semi-natural greenspace

Analysis area	Number	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Ashby	-	-	-
Castle Donington	-	-	-
Coalville	9	46.81	1.18
Ibstock & Ellistown	1	117.65	10.67
Kegworth	-	-	-
Measham	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>164.46</b>	<b>1.53</b>

These totals do not include all provisions in the area as a site size threshold of 0.2 hectares has been applied. Sites smaller than this are likely to be of less or only limited recreational value to residents. However, they may still make a wider contribution to local areas, in relation to community viability, quality of life and health and wellbeing. Furthermore, they may provide 'stepping stones' for flora and fauna, enabling freedom of movement for wildlife. There are however four sites less than 0.2 hectares in Coalville which are included due to being initially identified with the data.

The two largest sites are Sence Valley Forest Park (118 hectares), in Ibstock and Ellistown, and Hermitage Ecopark and Lakeside (23 hectares) in Coalville. The two make up 86% of the natural/semi-natural provision. Fields in Trust (FIT) suggests 1.80 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Within the district, there is an overall provision of 1.53 hectares per 1,000 head of population, which is below the FIT guidelines.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STUDY

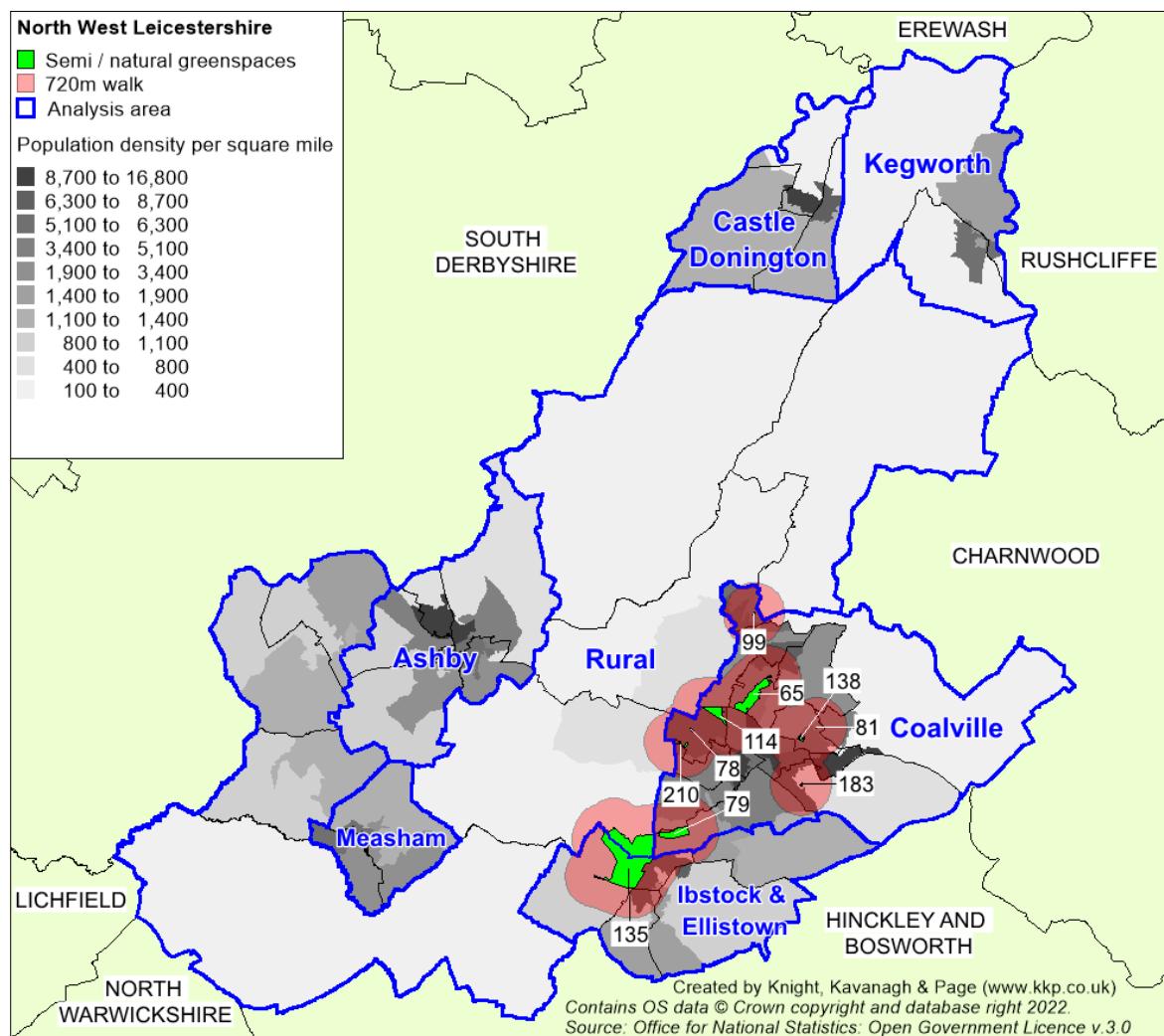
It is important to recognise the role of the National Forest locally in terms of access to natural greenspace. At 200 square miles in size, it covers a large proportion of North West Leicestershire.

It is also important to acknowledge that other open spaces, such as parks and amenity greenspace often provide opportunities associated with natural greenspace. Furthermore, some sites can bridge the definition of typologies, such as natural greenspace and amenity greenspace. For example, a grassed area left unmaintained can start to have characteristics associated with natural greenspace.

## 5.3 Accessibility

An accessibility standard of a 9-minute walk time has been set across North West Leicestershire for natural and semi-natural greenspace. This is based on FIT catchments. Figure 5.1 shows natural greenspace mapped against the accessibility catchments.

Figure 5.1: Natural greenspace mapped with a 9-minute (720m) walk catchment



# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

Table 5.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
65	Hermitage Ecopark and Lakeside	Coalville	23.29	81.5%	43.6%
78	Kendrick Close	Coalville	0.16		
79	Kelham Nature Bridge Reserve <sup>5</sup>	Coalville	12.42		
81	Kingfisher Close	Coalville	0.02		
99	Melrose Road	Coalville	0.16		
135	Sence Valley Forest Park	Ibstock & Ellistown	117.65	67.5%	48.2%
114	Nature Alive	Coalville	8.64	43.9%	29.1%
138	Sharpley Avenue	Coalville	0.88	48.4%	43.6%
183	The Oval	Coalville	0.19		
210	Woodlands Reach NSN	Coalville	1.05	24.0%	30.0%

Most areas with greater population density are served by the 9-minute walk time. However, noticeable gaps are observed across all analysis areas with a greater population density.

Gaps are generally served by other forms of open space provision. Such sites may offer similar opportunities and access to activities associated with natural greenspace. The potential to increase a sites secondary function as natural greenspace should be explored.

Table 5.3: Other open spaces serving gaps in natural catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Ashby	Bath Grounds (ID 16) Cliftonthorpe Activity Park (ID 30) Highgate (ID 68) Hood Park (ID 70) Memorial Field (ID 101) Prior Park Road Field (ID 125) School Lane (ID 134) Stuart Way (ID 175) Ulleswater Crescent (ID 189) Western Park (ID 195) Westfields Recreation Ground (ID 197) Willesley Recreation Ground (ID 207)	Parks Parks Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
Castle Donington	Bentley Road (ID 17) Goddards Drive (ID 49) Merchantman Mews (ID 102) Moira Dale Recreation Ground (ID 112) Spital Park (ID 150) Stonehill (ID 173)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
Coalville	Ashburton Road Recreation ground (ID 5) Kirkhill Close (ID 83) Millfield Recreation Ground (ID 107)	Amenity Amenity Amenity

<sup>5</sup> No quality/value score as site could not be accessed at time of visit

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
	Olive Grove (ID 119) Scotlands Recreation Ground (ID 137) Stadium Open Space (ID 167)	Amenity Amenity Amenity
Ibstock & Ellistown	Church View Recreation Ground (ID 26) Leicester Road Park (ID 84) New Row (ID 115) Water Meadow Park (ID 193)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
Kegworth	Sideley Recreation Ground (ID 143) Whatton Road (ID 200)	Amenity Amenity
Measham	Ashby Canal Trail (ID 7) Ashby Community Garden (ID 9) Greenfield Road (ID 54) High Street Park, Measham (ID 67) Measham Garden of Remembrance (ID 93) Measham Recreation Ground (ID 94) Potters Way (ID 123) Wigeon Drive (ID 205)	Amenity Parks Amenity Parks Parks Amenity Amenity Amenity

## 5.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance), scores from the site assessments are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for natural and semi-natural greenspace. A threshold of 45% is applied to divide high from low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology). The score is to help distinguish between higher and lower quality sites; it is a minimum expectation as opposed to an absolute goal.

Table 5.4: Quality ratings for assessed natural and semi-natural greenspace

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<45%	>45%
Ashby	-	-	-	-	-
Castle Donington	-	-	-	-	-
Coalville	24%	49%	82%	2	2
Ibstock & Ellistown	67%	67%	67%	0	1
Kegworth	-	-	-	-	-
Measham	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

Quality of assessed sites is mixed with three sites rating above the quality threshold and two rating below. The lower scoring sites are:

- ◀ Woodlands Reach NSN (24%)
- ◀ Nature Alive (44%)

Sites scoring below the quality threshold tend to be devoid of basic ancillary features such as signage and benches. Woodlands Reach NSN lack a minimum entrance width of 1.5 metres, posing challenges for some users.

Although Nature Alive (44%) rates just below the quality threshold, it is noted as having a variety of high quality characteristics such as an accessible entrance, accessibility within and through the site, personal security (as it is overlooked) and quality paths that are pleasant to walk on.

In some instances, natural and semi-natural sites can be intentionally managed without ancillary facilities to reduce misuse/inappropriate behaviour whilst encouraging greater conservation.

The highest scoring natural and semi-natural sites for quality are:

- ◀ Hermitage Ecopark and Lakeside (82%) (Coalville)
- ◀ Sence Valley Forest Park (67%) (Ibstock & Ellistown)
- ◀ Sharpley Avenue (48%) (Coalville)

These sites, alongside other high scoring sites, have the added benefit of ancillary features such as bins and boundary fencing. The sites are also observed as having reasonable to good access for all, with well-maintained pathways.

### 5.5 Value

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance), scores from site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for natural and semi-natural greenspace. A threshold of 20% is applied to divide high from low value. Further explanation of how the value scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 5.5: Value ratings for assessed natural and semi-natural greenspace

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Ashby	-	-	-	-	-
Castle Donington	-	-	-	-	-
Coalville	29%	37%	44%	0	4
Ibstock & Ellistown	48%	48%	48%	0	1
Kegworth	-	-	-	-	-
Measham	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

All assessed natural and semi-natural sites score above the threshold for value. The majority of sites have high ecological value, contributing to flora and fauna, as well as providing habitats for local wildlife.

As well as ecological value, these sites provide benefits to the health and wellbeing of residents and those visiting from further afield. This is a result of the exercise opportunities they provide, for example, through walking trails. Furthermore, they break up the urban form creating peaceful space to relax and reflect. The high levels of natural features also support with improving air quality, particularly in built up areas.

The highest scoring natural and semi-natural sites for value are:

- ◀ Sence Valley Forest Park (48%)
- ◀ Hermitage Ecopark and Lakeside (44%)
- ◀ Sharpley Avenue (44%)

These sites offer high amenity and social value due to good recreation and exercise opportunities.

Sharpley Avenue has additional amenity and social value due to featuring play areas and skate ramps, further adding to its benefits. The site also has high quality paths, making it a good site to walk. All three sites are well located and of high quality, providing attractive landscapes and enhancing structural and landscape benefits.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

### PART 6: AMENITY GREENSPACE

#### 6.1 Introduction

Amenity greenspace is defined as sites offering opportunities for informal activities close to home, work or enhancement of the appearance of residential and other areas. It includes informal recreation spaces and other incidental spaces.

#### 6.2 Current provision

There are 60 amenity greenspace sites, equating to over 58 hectares of provision. Sites are most often found within areas of housing and function as informal recreation space or along highways, providing a visual amenity. A number of recreation grounds and playing fields are also classified as amenity greenspace.

Table 6.1: Distribution of amenity greenspace sites

Analysis area	Number	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Ashby	10	11.58	0.75
Castle Donington	6	14.35	1.96
Coalville	29	20.01	0.51
Ibstock & Ellistown	8	3.75	0.34
Kegworth	2	1.16	0.23
Measham	5	7.20	1.32
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>58.05</b>	<b>0.54</b>

This typology has a broad range of purposes and, as such, varies significantly in size. For example, Barr Crescent, located in Coalville, at 0.013 hectares acts as a visual/communal amenity for local residents. In contrast, Spital Park, in Castle Donington, at 7.56 hectares, is a greenspace offering a range of recreational opportunities.

Fields in Trust (FIT) suggests 0.60 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Table 6.1 shows that overall, the district is below this. However, the analysis areas of Ashby, Castle Donington and Measham are above the suggested figure.

It is important to highlight that it is not always clear to distinguish a site's primary typology. Some sites can bridge the definition of typologies, such as natural greenspace and amenity greenspace. For example, a grassed area left unmaintained can start to have characteristics associated with natural greenspace.

#### 6.3 Accessibility

An accessibility standard of a 6-minute walk time has been set across North West Leicestershire for amenity greenspace. Figure 6.1 shows amenity greenspace mapped against accessibility catchment.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STUDY

Figure 6.1: Amenity greenspaces with a 6-minute (480m) walk catchment

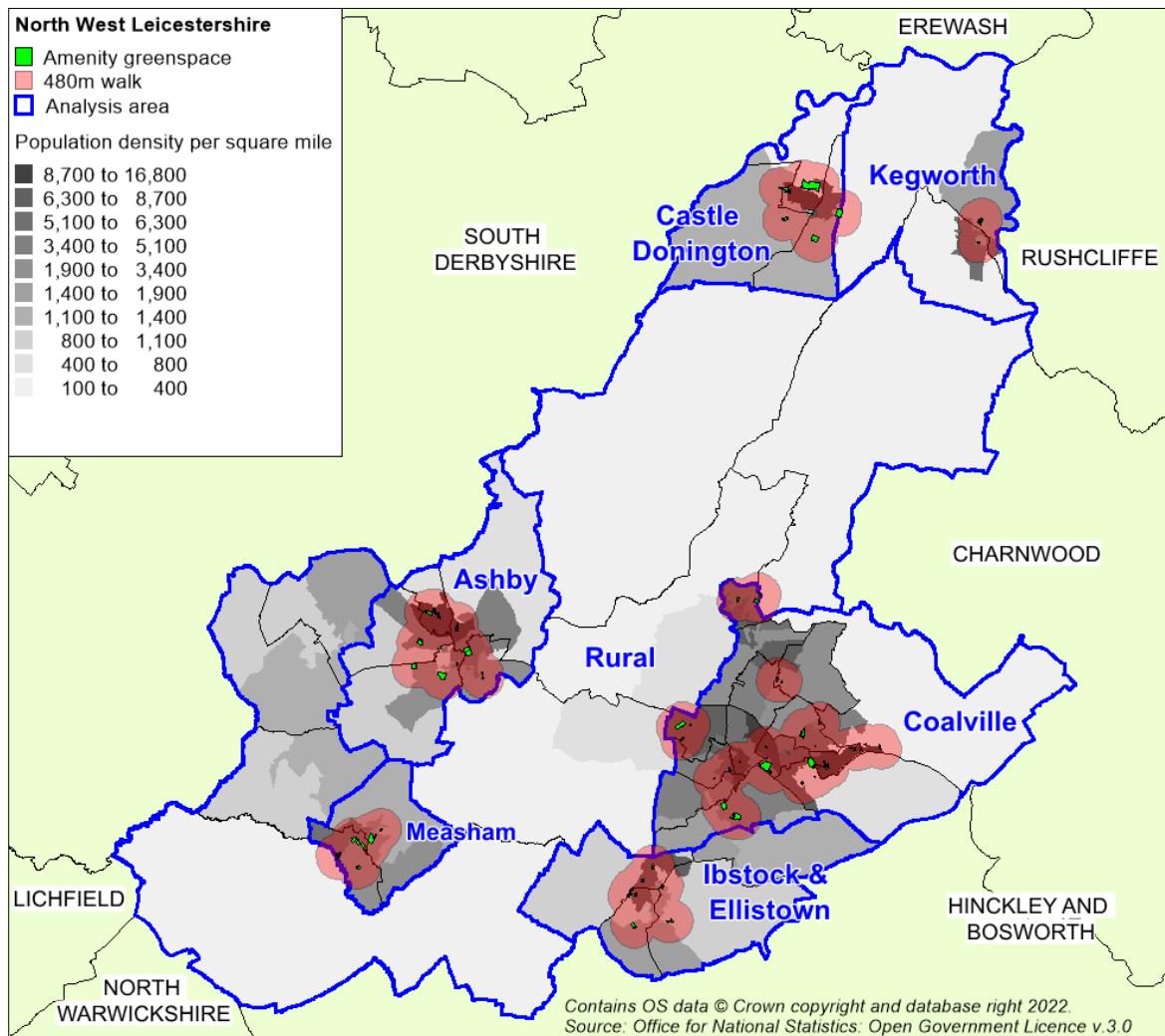


Table 6.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
1	Adam Morris Way	Coalville	0.06	36.9%	18.0%
5	Ashburton Road Recreation Ground	Coalville	1.60	51.4%	25.0%
7	Ashby Canal Trail	Measham	2.99	45.7%	33.0%
15	Barr Crescent	Coalville	0.01	41.0%	12.0%
17	Bentley Road	Castle Donington	0.40	40.5%	38.0%
26	Church View Recreation Ground	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.81	45.4%	26.0%
29	Clark Close	Coalville	0.15	31.9%	15.0%
32	Clover Place	Coalville	0.44	41.5%	28.0%
38	Coronet Drive	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.23	47.1%	33.0%
39	Cropston Drive	Coalville	0.30	51.6%	38.0%

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
43	Ferrers Road	Coalville	0.12	33.4%	18.0%
45	Frances Way	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.47	50.4%	43.0%
49	Goddards Drive	Castle Donington	0.70	46.0%	28.0%
54	Greenfield Road	Measham	0.18	29.8%	33.0%
57	Greenhill Open Space	Coalville	0.97	49.1%	23.0%
59	Greenhill Rec Ground	Coalville	2.60	58.2%	33.0%
68	Highgate	Ashby	0.99	53.1%	28.0%
70	Hood Park	Ashby	0.61	71.8%	45.0%
80	Kenmore Crescent	Coalville	0.09	31.9%	18.0%
82	Kingfisher Close (b)	Coalville	0.06	32.9%	17.0%
83	Kirkhill Close	Coalville	0.47	37.4%	28.0%
84	Leicester Road Park	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.46	63.9%	38.0%
88	London Road/Broom Leys Road	Coalville	0.04	55.8%	23.0%
94	Measham Recreation Ground	Measham	2.56	58.2%	33.0%
98	Melrose Recreation Ground	Coalville	0.90	43.5%	33.0%
101	Memorial Field	Ashby	1.29	23.8%	32.0%
102	Merchantman Mews	Castle Donington	1.33	46.0%	26.0%
105	Mill Hill Wood Way	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.96	56.2%	55.0%
107	Millfield Recreation Ground	Coalville	2.69	74.4%	33.0%
112	Moira Dale Recreation Ground	Castle Donington	2.32	41.8%	44.0%
115	New Row	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.40	25.3%	38.0%
119	Olive Grove	Coalville	0.30	43.8%	39.0%
122	Oxford Street	Coalville	0.07	35.9%	18.0%
123	Potters Way	Measham	0.46	47.0%	21.0%
125	Prior Park Road Field	Ashby	1.62	22.8%	38.0%
127	Ravenstone / Ashby Road	Coalville	0.04	47.7%	18.0%
128	Ravenstone Road Recreation Ground	Coalville	1.82	54.6%	33.0%
131	Romans Crescent	Coalville	0.14	39.0%	28.0%
134	School Lane	Ashby	1.22	53.0%	23.0%
137	Scotlands Recreation Ground	Coalville	4.45	85.2%	23.0%
140	Sharpley Avenue Recreation Ground	Coalville	1.46	51.1%	33.0%
143	Sideley Recreation Ground	Kegworth	0.99	68.3%	43.0%
150	Spital Park	Castle Donington	7.56	58.9%	40.0%
153	Springfield Estate	Coalville	0.23	34.9%	22.0%
155	St Faiths Drive	Coalville	0.04	27.8%	15.0%

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
167	Stadium open space	Coalville	0.47	47.4%	28.0%
169	Staples Drive	Coalville	0.07	28.8%	15.0%
173	Stonehill	Castle Donington	2.04	58.5%	28.0%
175	Stuart Way	Ashby	0.18	27.8%	28.0%
182	The Oval	Coalville	0.18	46.0%	23.0%
189	Ulleswater Crescent	Ashby	0.30	39.0%	38.0%
190	Usbourne Way	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.32	51.8%	43.0%
193	Water Meadow Park	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.09	28.8%	23.0%
195	Western Park	Ashby	2.72	54.3%	33.0%
197	Westfields Recreation Ground	Ashby	1.37	51.8%	33.0%
200	Whatton Road	Kegworth	0.17	28.8%	28.0%
205	Wigeon Drive	Measham	1.02	42.0%	21.0%
207	Willesley Recreation Ground	Ashby	1.29	34.6%	43.0%
208	Windsor Close	Coalville	0.01	25.3%	17.0%
209	Woodlands Reach AGS	Coalville	0.22	44.5%	33.0%

Mapping demonstrates a good distribution of amenity greenspace provision. However, some areas of higher population density (e.g. Ashby and Coalville) have gaps in amenity greenspace provision (based on a 480m catchment). It is recognised that these gaps are predominantly covered and served by other forms of open space provision.

Table 6.3: Other open spaces serving gaps in amenity greenspace catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Ashby	Cliftonthorpe Activity Park (ID 30)	Parks
Castle Donington	No significant gap	-
Coalville	Coalville Adventure Park (ID 34) Coalville Park (ID 36) Hermitage Ecopark and Lakeside (ID 65) Snibston Colliery Park (ID 147) Melrose Road (ID 99) Woodlands Reach (ID 210)	Parks Parks Natural Parks Natural Natural
Ibstock & Ellistown	No significant gap	-
Kegworth	No significant gap	-
Measham	No significant gap	-

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

### 6.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance), the scores from site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for amenity greenspaces. A threshold of 45% is applied to divide high from low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology). The score is to help distinguish between higher and lower quality sites; it is a minimum expectation as opposed to an absolute goal.

Table 6.4: Quality ratings for assessed amenity greenspaces

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<45%	>45%
Ashby	23%	43%	72%	5	5
Castle Donington	40%	49%	59%	2	4
Coalville	25%	44%	85%	17	12
Ibstock & Ellistown	25%	46%	64%	2	6
Kegworth	29%	49%	68%	1	1
Measham	30%	45%	58%	2	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>31</b>

Just over half of assessed amenity greenspaces (52%) rate above the quality threshold. The highest scoring sites for quality are:

- ◀ Scotlands Recreation Ground (85%) (Coalville)
- ◀ Millfield Recreation Ground (74%) (Coalville)
- ◀ Hood Park (72%) (Ashby)
- ◀ Sideley Recreation Ground (68%) (Kegworth)

All four sites are noted for having good entrances, accessibility, and user safety. Each location includes ancillary amenities such as benches and litter bins. With the exception of Scotlands Recreation Ground, the sites also offer picnic tables. Additionally, Hood Park, Millfield Recreation Ground, and Scotlands Recreation Ground have dedicated parking facilities, enhancing ease of access for visitors.

Hood Park (72%) benefits from an on-site toilet that is accessible to disabled users. The site also features a path network, a children's play area, a skate park, astro turf pitches, and a football field.

Sideley Recreation Ground (68%) is recognised for its high level of maintenance and is well-regarded by local residents. Despite its relatively modest size, it offers a diverse range of facilities, including a designated, fenced area for dogs.

Larger amenity greenspace sites often lend themselves to sporting opportunities such as football. These sporting opportunities as well as other added features on site, such as good quality play areas, provide increased reasons for people to visit such provision.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

Over half (48%) of assessed amenity greenspaces rate below the quality threshold. The lowest scoring amenity greenspace sites for quality are:

- ◀ Prior Park Road Field (23%) (Ashby)
- ◀ Memorial Field (24%) (Ashby)
- ◀ Windsor Close (25%) (Coalville)

All three sites are noted as lacking key features such as information boards and signage, benches, picnic tables, and litter bins. Furthermore, accessibility at Prior Park Road Field and Memorial Field is limiting. Windsor Close, while easily accessible due to its location alongside a road, offers limited public and community value as a green space.

Despite receiving a low overall score, Memorial Field holds significant quality and value owing to its status as a memorial site, which lends it considerable cultural and heritage importance.

### 6.5 Value

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance), site assessments scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results. A threshold of 20% is applied to divide high from low values. Further explanation of the value scoring and thresholds can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 6.5: Value ratings for assessed amenity greenspace

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Ashby	23%	34%	45%	0	10
Castle Donington	26%	34%	44%	0	6
Coalville	12%	25%	39%	11	18
Ibstock & Ellistown	23%	37%	55%	0	8
Kegworth	28%	36%	43%	0	2
Measham	21%	28%	33%	0	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>49</b>

The majority of assessed sites (82%) rate above the value threshold. The highest scoring sites are Mill Hill Wood Way (55%) in Ibstock & Ellistown, Hood Park (45%) in Ashby and Moira Dale Recreation Ground (44%) located in Castle Donington. These sites are recognised for providing accessible, high-quality recreational and exercise opportunities for a broad range of users.

All three sites are perceived as well-used, delivering significant amenity and health benefits. Their ecological value is also enhanced through the presence of mature trees and diverse wildlife habitats.

Amenity greenspace should be recognised for its multi-purpose function, offering opportunities for a variety of leisure and recreational activities. It can often accommodate informal recreational activities such as casual play and dog walking. Many sites offer a dual function and are amenity resources for residents, as well as being visually pleasing.

## **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STUDY**

---

These attributes add to the quality, accessibility, and visibility of amenity greenspace. Combined with the presence of facilities (e.g., benches, landscaping and trees), this means that the better-quality sites are likely to be more respected and valued by the local community.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

### PART 7: PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

#### 7.1 Introduction

Provision for children and young people includes areas designated primarily for play and social interaction, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.

Provision for children is deemed to be sites consisting of formal equipped play facilities typically associated with play areas. This is usually perceived to be for children under 12 years of age. Provision for young people can include equipped sites that provide more robust equipment catering to older age ranges, incorporating facilities such as skate parks, BMX, basketball courts, youth shelters and MUGAs.

#### 7.2 Current provision

A total of 87 play locations is identified as provision for children and young people. This combines to create a total of over eight hectares. No site size threshold has been applied, and as such, all provision is identified and included within the audit.

Table 7.1: Distribution of provision for children and young people

Analysis area	Number	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Ashby	10	0.92	0.06
Castle Donington	11	0.57	0.08
Coalville	36	4.72	0.12
Ibstock & Ellistown	15	0.88	0.08
Kegworth	8	0.31	0.06
Measham	7	0.73	0.13
<b>Total</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>8.13</b>	<b>0.08</b>

Play areas can be classified in the following ways to identify their effective target audience utilising Fields in Trust (FIT) guidance.

FIT provides widely endorsed guidance on the minimum standards for play space.

- ◀ LAP - a Local Area of Play. Usually small landscaped areas designed for young children. Equipment is normally age group specific to reduce unintended users.
- ◀ LEAP - a Local Equipped Area of Play. Designed for unsupervised play and a wider age range of users; often containing a wider range of equipment types.
- ◀ NEAP - a Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play. Cater for all age groups. Such sites may contain MUGA, skate parks, youth shelters, adventure play equipment and are often included within large park sites.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STUDY

## 7.3 Accessibility

An accessibility catchment of a 100m, 400m, 1000m and 700m has been set for different types of play provision. Figure 7.1 shows play provision mapped with the catchments.

Figure 7.1: Play provision with different applied catchments mapped

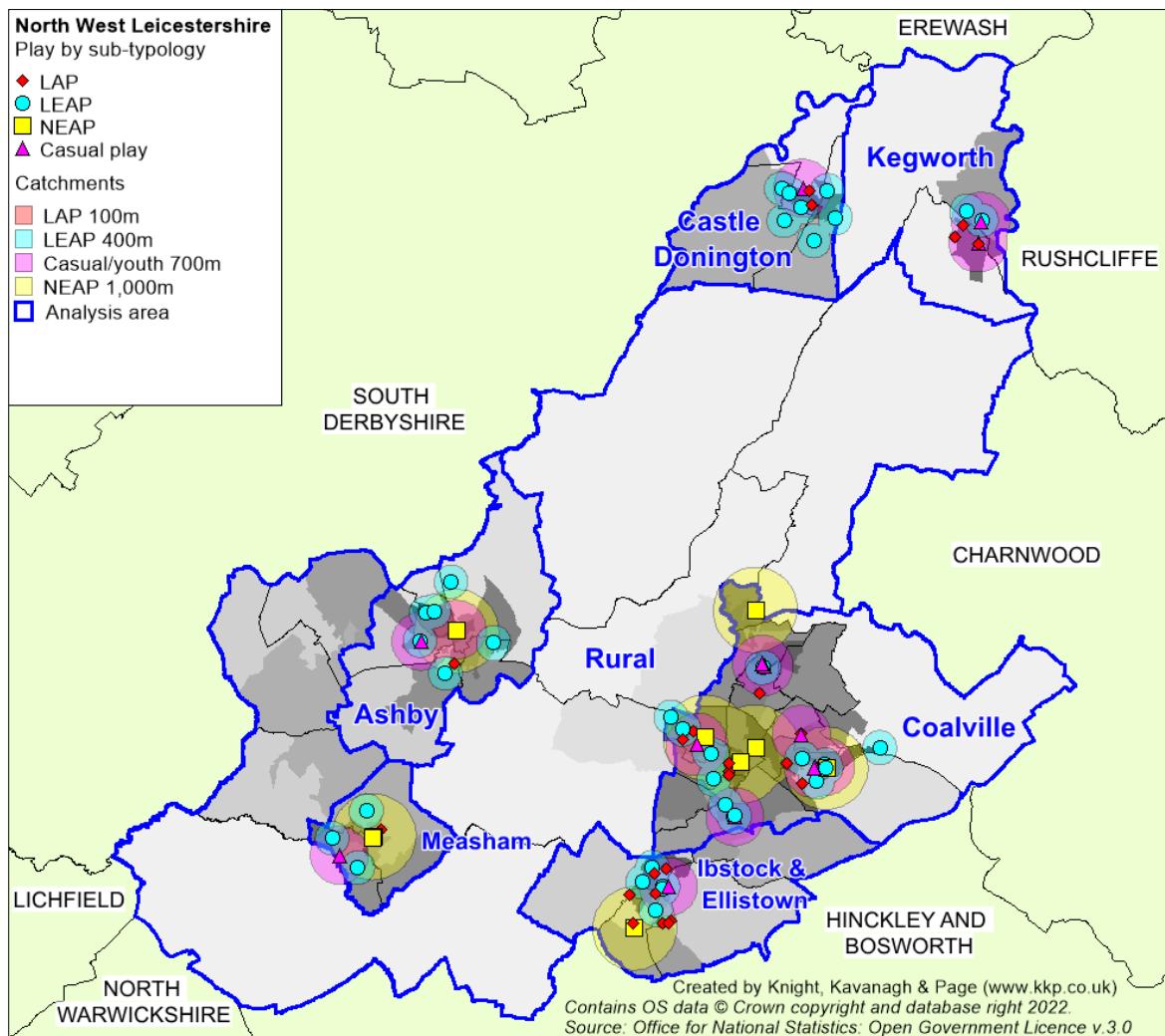


Table 7.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
30.1	Cliftonthorpe Activity Park play area	Ashby	0.04	50.5%	20.0%
63	Hastings Playground	Ashby	0.22	67.7%	40.0%
68.1	Highgate play area	Ashby	0.06	52.6%	38.2%
70.1	Hood Park play area	Ashby	0.24	75.6%	45.5%
70.2	Ashby de la Zouch skatepark	Ashby	0.11	63.2%	60.0%
134.1	School Lane play area	Ashby	0.07	51.2%	21.8%
176	Stuart Way play area	Ashby	0.04	63.6%	47.3%

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
195.1	Western Park play area	Ashby	0.06	63.2%	30.9%
197.1	Westfields Recreation Ground play area	Ashby	0.05	46.7%	47.3%
197.2	Westfields Recreation Ground basketball	Ashby	0.02	46.7%	47.3%
17.1	Queensway play area	Castle Donington	0.02	59.8%	47.3%
42	Ferrers Close play area	Castle Donington	0.05	65.6%	47.3%
48	Glover Road play area	Castle Donington	0.10	65.6%	36.4%
49.1	Goddards Drive play area	Castle Donington	0.04	58.8%	29.1%
49.2	Goddards Drive kickabout area	Castle Donington	0.06	58.8%	29.1%
53	Grange Drive play area	Castle Donington	0.05	60.8%	47.3%
102.1	Merchantman Mews play area	Castle Donington	0.05	74.2%	40.0%
111	Moira Dale play area	Castle Donington	0.07	65.3%	21.8%
150.1	Spital Park play area	Castle Donington	0.02	83.5%	29.1%
150.2	Spital Park skatepark	Castle Donington	0.05	74.6%	47.3%
173.1	Stonehill play area	Castle Donington	0.05	72.2%	29.1%
1.1	Adam Morris Way play area	Coalville	0.12	50.9%	47.3%
4	Ascot Drive play area	Coalville	0.11	65.6%	12.7%
5.1	Ashburton Road Recreation Ground play area	Coalville	0.08	55.0%	27.3%
21	Burgess Road play area	Coalville	0.08	61.9%	16.4%
28	Claremont Drive play area	Coalville	0.10	32.0%	12.7%
36.1	Coalville Park play area	Coalville	0.41	93.1%	63.6%
39.1	Cropston Drive play area	Coalville	0.02	49.1%	21.8%
57.1	Greenhill play area	Coalville	0.03	49.8%	47.3%
57.2	Greenhill basketball	Coalville	0.04	46.4%	43.6%
57.3	Greenhill youth shelters	Coalville	0.01	49.8%	47.3%
59.1	Greenhill Rec Ground basketball	Coalville	0.04	40.9%	47.3%
59.2	Greenhill Rec Ground BMX	Coalville	0.20	40.9%	47.3%
59.3	Bardon skatepark	Coalville	0.01	39.9%	38.2%
65.1	Hermitage Lakeside play area	Coalville	0.03	46.0%	12.7%
78.1	Kendrick Close play area	Coalville	0.08	69.8%	21.8%
90	Manning Avenue play area	Coalville	0.15	51.2%	38.2%
99.1	Melrose Road play area	Coalville	0.27	64.3%	56.4%
107.1	Millfield Recreation Ground play area	Coalville	0.08	50.9%	38.2%
107.2	Millfield Recreation Ground MUGA	Coalville	0.03	50.9%	38.2%

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STUDY

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
107.3	Millfield Recreation Ground fitness equipment	Coalville	0.01	50.9%	38.2%
119.1	Olive Grove play area	Coalville	0.09	56.7%	38.2%
128.1	Ravenstone Road Recreation Ground play area	Coalville	0.35	37.1%	29.1%
140.1	Sharpley Avenue play area	Coalville	0.03	46.4%	29.1%
140.2	Sharpley Avenue skate park	Coalville	0.03	36.1%	38.2%
147.1	Snibston Colliery Park play area	Coalville	0.40	86.6%	72.7%
147.2	Snibston Colliery Park Bike Trail/Pump Track/Skill	Coalville	0.96	81.4%	45.5%
156	St Faiths Drive play area	Coalville	0.06		
167.1	Stadium Close play area	Coalville	0.04	56.7%	30.9%
167.2	Stadium open space play area 2	Coalville	0.03	65.6%	30.9%
170	Staples Drive play area	Coalville	0.43	62.2%	30.9%
177	Sunningdale Road play area	Coalville	0.13	71.1%	21.8%
182.1	The Oval play area	Coalville	0.02	58.1%	21.8%
206.1	Whitwick Park play area	Coalville	0.16	63.9%	47.3%
206.2	Whitwick Park skate ramps	Coalville	0.02	42.3%	38.2%
206.3	Whitwick Park outdoor gym	Coalville	0.02	50.9%	47.3%
209.1	Woodlands Reach play area	Coalville	0.06	64.3%	56.4%
25	Chandlers Croft play area	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.15	61.9%	38.2%
26.1	Church View Recreation Ground play area	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.18	45.7%	38.2%
45.1	Frances Way play area	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.06	55.7%	58.2%
84.1	Leicester Road Park play area	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.04	59.1%	25.5%
84.2	Leicester Road Park skatepark	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.03	59.1%	25.5%
84.3	Leicester Road Park MUGA	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.04	59.1%	25.5%
97	Melbourne Road play area	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.07	32.0%	47.3%
105.1	Mill Hill Wood Way play area	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.03	54.0%	40.0%
115.1	New Row play area	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.01	33.0%	34.5%
124	Pepper Drive play area	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.03	64.9%	56.4%
178	Swifts Close play area	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.03	36.4%	38.2%
185	Thomas Street play area	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.10	42.3%	38.2%
190.1	Usbourne Way play area	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.08	59.8%	47.3%
192	Victoria Road play area	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.02	45.4%	38.2%
193.1	Water Meadow Park play area	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.01	40.9%	32.7%
72	Hoyte Drive play area	Kegworth	0.09	50.5%	56.4%

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
113	Munnmore Close play area	Kegworth	0.02	41.9%	47.3%
143.1	Sideley Recreation Ground play area	Kegworth	0.04	70.8%	38.2%
143.2	Sideley Recreation Ground skatepark	Kegworth	0.02	70.8%	38.2%
143.3	Sideley Recreation Ground basketball	Kegworth	0.03	70.8%	38.2%
200.1	Whatton Road play area	Kegworth	0.03	58.4%	29.1%
200.2	Whatton Road basketball	Kegworth	0.03	58.4%	29.1%
203	Whiteholmes Grove play area	Kegworth	0.05	42.6%	47.3%
41	Dysons Close play area	Measham	0.05	47.4%	47.3%
54.1	Greenfield Road play area	Measham	0.02	37.8%	47.3%
94.1	Measham Recreation Ground play area	Measham	0.34	57.7%	49.1%
94.2	Measham Recreation Ground skatepark	Measham	0.14	57.7%	49.1%
117	New Street play area	Measham	0.11	67.0%	56.4%
123.1	Potters Way play area	Measham	0.05	54.6%	40.0%
205.1	Wigeon Drive MUGA	Measham	0.03	42.3%	40.0%

Some sites have been assessed under the same assessment form where there are multiple forms of play provision.

Only one site, St Faiths Drive play area, does not receive a quality/value score. At the time of visits the equipment had been removed and whether it is to be replaced or repurposed is under review.

There is overall a good spread of play provision. Areas with a greater population density are generally within a walking distance catchment for play provision. Consequently, no significant gaps in catchment mapping are highlighted.

## 7.4 Quality

In order to determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guide), the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for play provision for children and young people. A threshold of 50% is applied to divide high from low quality. Further explanation of the quality scoring and thresholds can be found in Part 2 (Methodology). The score is to help distinguish between higher and lower quality sites; it is a minimum expectation as opposed to an absolute goal.

The quality assessment of play sites does not include a detailed technical risk assessment of equipment. For an informed report on the condition of play equipment, the Council's own inspection reports should be sought.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

Table 7.4: Quality ratings for provision for children and young people

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<50%	>50%
Ashby	47%	59%	76%	2	8
Castle Donington	59%	68%	84%	0	11
Coalville	32%	56%	93%	13	22
Ibstock & Ellistown	32%	47%	62%	7	8
Kegworth	42%	53%	71%	2	6
Measham	38%	51%	67%	3	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>59</b>

Over two thirds (69%) of assessed play sites rate above the quality threshold. Some of the highest scoring sites are:

- ◀ Coalville Park play area (93%) (Coalville)
- ◀ Snibston Colliery Park play area (87%) (Coalville)
- ◀ Spital Park play area (84%) (Castle Donington)

These sites are observed as being safe and secure with sufficient litter bins (contributing to the site's cleanliness), seating and good quality play equipment. Out of the three sites, Spital Park is the only site without signage. The sites generally offer a variety of equipment in good condition/quality. All three score highly for maintenance and drainage, with the additional benefit of car parking and sufficient disabled access. The wider Coalville Park is noted as having a Green Flag Award.

Noticeably, there are some sites which contain provision catering for older age ranges such as skateparks, MUGAs and/or pump tracks. For example, Leicester Road Park (Ibstock & Ellistown) contains a play area, skatepark, and a MUGA.

Other high scoring sites include Hood Park play area (76%) in Ashby, Merchantman Mews play area (74%), and Stonehill play area (72%) both in Castle Donington. All three sites have good entrances, safe crossings, high personal security, benches and litter bins, further adding to their quality. They all also have disabled parking, increasing their accessibility. Additionally, the sites are observed as containing good quality equipment and perceived as popular, well-used sites. Hood Park also contains a skatepark.

There are 27 (31%) sites rating below the threshold. Sites rating lower for quality are often due to maintenance/appearance observations and/or the range and quality of equipment on site. Some of the lower scoring sites are:

- ◀ Claremont Drive play area (32%)
- ◀ Melbourne Road play area (32%)
- ◀ New Row play area (33%)

The sites are all noted as lacking signage and seating. Claremont Drive play area (Coalville) has no play equipment or noticeable ancillary facilities. Melbourne Road play area (Ibstock & Ellistown) is identified as having tired looking equipment. New Row play area (Ibstock & Ellistown) has limited play offer as it only contains a couple of pieces of equipment.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

### 7.5 Value

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance), site assessment scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table overleaf summarises the results of the value assessment for children and young people. A threshold of 20% is applied to divide high from low value. Further explanation of the value scoring and thresholds can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 7.5: Value ratings for provision for children and young people

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Ashby	20%	39%	60%	0	10
Castle Donington	22%	37%	47%	0	11
Coalville	13%	37%	73%	4	31
Ibstock & Ellistown	25%	41%	58%	0	15
Kegworth	29%	44%	56%	0	8
Measham	40%	47%	56%	0	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>82</b>

The majority of play sites (95%) in North West Leicestershire are rated as being above the threshold for value. This demonstrates the role play provision provides in allowing children to play, but also the contribution sites make in terms of giving children and young people safe places to learn, for physical and mental activity, to socialise with others, and in creating aesthetically pleasing local environments.

Sites scoring particularly high for value tend to reflect a good range of quality equipment available at sites. Some of the highest scoring sites for value are:

- ◀ Snibston Colliery Park play area (73%) (Coalville)
- ◀ Coalville Park play area (64%) (Coalville)
- ◀ Asby de la Zouch skatepark (60%) (Ashby)

The sites are observed as being well maintained with a good to reasonable variety of equipment, as well as having sufficient access. The sites are also assumed to be well used, given their range and quality of equipment and maintenance. Coalville Park play area has two dedicated units for inclusive play, which improves its value score.

Diverse equipment to cater for a range of ages and abilities is important and can significantly impact on value. Provision such as skate park facilities and MUGAs are often highly valued forms of play.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

### PART 8: ALLOTMENTS

#### 8.1 Introduction

The allotments typology provides opportunities for people who wish to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social interaction.

#### 8.2 Current provision

There are 15 sites classified as allotments, equating to almost 20 hectares. No site size threshold has been applied to allotments, and as such, all provision is identified and included within the audit.

Table 8.1: Distribution of allotment sites

Analysis area	Number	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Ashby	1	1.72	0.11
Castle Donington	1	4.52	0.61
Coalville	5	6.05	0.15
Ibstock & Ellistown	2	2.93	0.27
Kegworth	5	4.34	0.85
Measham	1	0.24	0.04
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>19.83</b>	<b>0.18</b>

The largest site is Turf Allotments (4.52 hectares) in Castle Donington. This is followed by Allotments off Central Road (2.37 hectares) in Coalville

The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) suggests a national standard of 20 allotments per 1,000 households (20 per 2,000 people based on two people per house or one per 100 people). This equates to 0.25 hectares per 1,000 population based on an average plot size of 250 square metres (0.025 hectares per plot).

North West Leicestershire, based on its current population (107,672) is below the NSALG standard. Using this suggested standard, the minimum amount of allotment provision is 26.92 hectares. The existing provision of 19.83 hectares, therefore, does not meet this guideline. However, the analysis areas of Castle Donington, Ibstock & Ellistown and Kegworth have a current provision above the NSALG standard.

#### 8.3 Accessibility

Figure 8.1 shows allotments mapped across North West Leicestershire

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STUDY

Figure 8.1: Allotments mapped

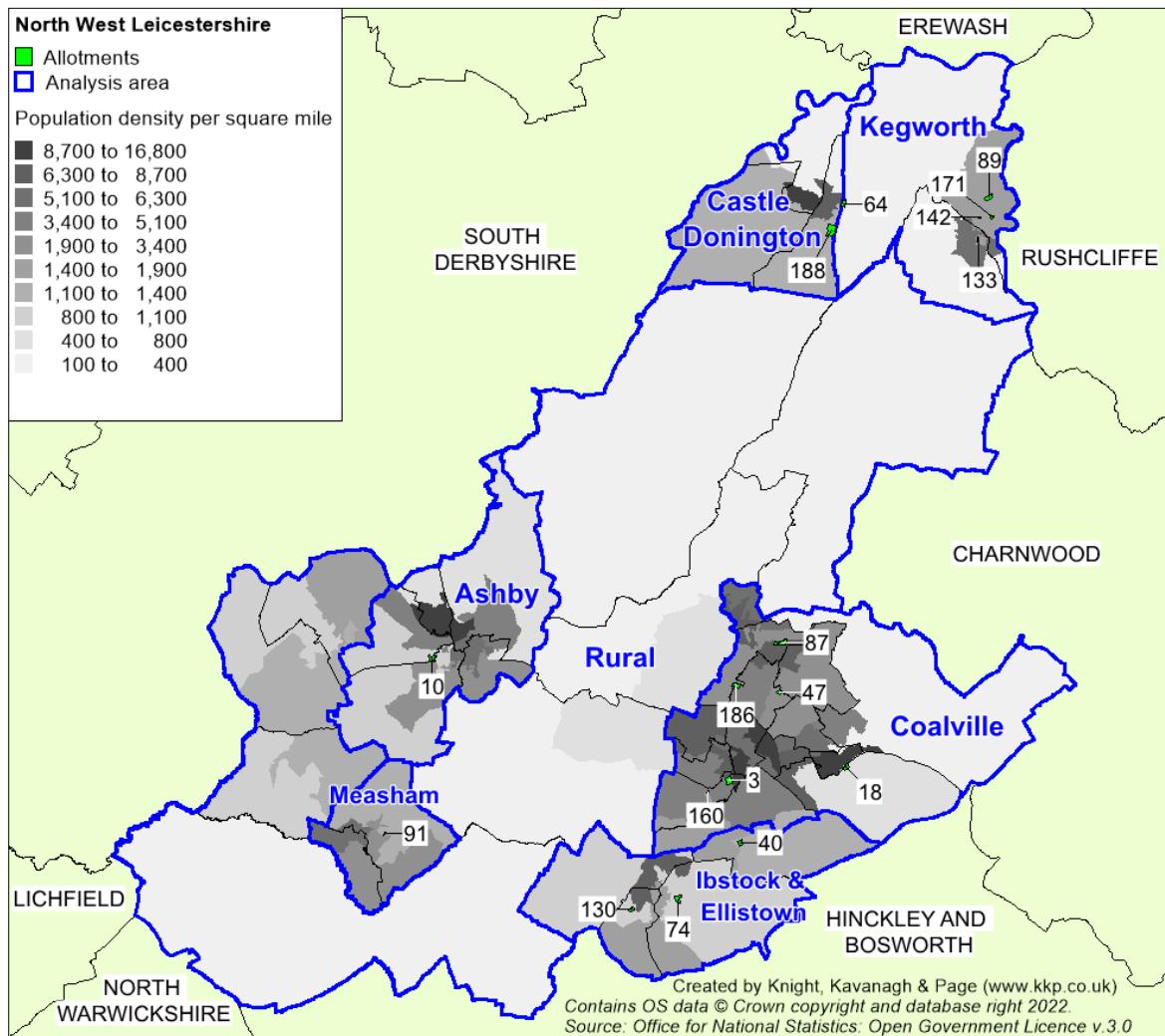


Table 8.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)
3	Allotments off Central Road	Coalville	2.37
10	Ashby de la Zouch Allotments	Ashby	1.72
18	Bradgate Drive Allotments	Coalville	1.09
47	George St Allotments	Coalville	0.75
64	Hemington Hill Allotments	Kegworth	1.35
74	Ibstock Allotments	Ibstock & Ellistown	2.06
89	Long Lane Allotments	Kegworth	2.09
91	Measham Allotments	Measham	0.25
130	Riley Drive Allotments	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.88
133	School Alley Allotments	Kegworth	0.31
142	Side Ley Allotments	Kegworth	0.14

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)
160	St Marys Avenue Allotments	Coalville	0.22
171	Station Road Allotments	Kegworth	0.45
186	Thornborough Road Allotments	Coalville	1.63
188	Turf Allotments	Castle Donington	4.52

### **Demand**

Parish and Town Councils were asked for any known plot and waiting list numbers. For those that responded, the table demonstrates that supply is generally good. However, instances of waiting lists are noted at some sites.

Table 8.3: Waiting lists (2025)

Parish/Town Council	Analysis Area	Plot Numbers	Waiting list number
Measham Parish Council	Measham	17	14
Heather Parish Council	Coalville	14	0
Swannington Parish Council	Coalville	40	0
Hugglescote & Donington Le Heath	Coalville	6	5
Oakthorpe Donisthorpe & Acresford Parish Council	Coalville	12	6
Ibstock Parish Council	Ibstock & Ellistown	90	0
Castle Donington Parish Council	Castle Donington	200	14
<b>Total</b>		<b>370</b>	<b>39</b>

For allotments no quality/value assessments have taken place. Allotments are often difficult to assess due to being accessible for plot members only. However, allotments should generally be considered as highly valued as they are often identified by the local community as important forms of open space provision.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

### PART 9: CEMETERIES/CHURCHYARDS

#### 9.1 Introduction

Cemeteries and churchyards include areas for quiet contemplation and burial of the dead. Sites can often be linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.

#### 9.2 Current provision

There are 18 sites classified as cemeteries/churchyards, equating to over 21 hectares of provision. No site size threshold has been applied, and as such all identified provision is included within the audit.

Table 9.1: Distribution of cemeteries

Analysis area	Number of sites	Total hectares (ha)
Ashby	1	3.12
Castle Donington	2	1.78
Coalville	8	10.63
Ibstock & Ellistown	2	2.03
Kegworth	3	1.96
Measham	2	1.97
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>21.53</b>

The largest contributor to burial provision is Coalville (Hugglescote) Cemetery equating to 3.2 hectares. This is followed by Ashby Cemetery (Ashby) at 3.1 hectares,

Cemeteries and churchyards are important resources, offering both recreational and conservation benefits. As well as providing burial space, cemeteries and churchyards can also offer important low impact recreational benefits (e.g. dog walking, wildlife watching).

#### 9.3 Accessibility

No accessibility standard is set for this typology and there is no realistic requirement to set such standards. Provision should be based on burial demand.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STUDY

Figure 9.1: Cemetery sites mapped

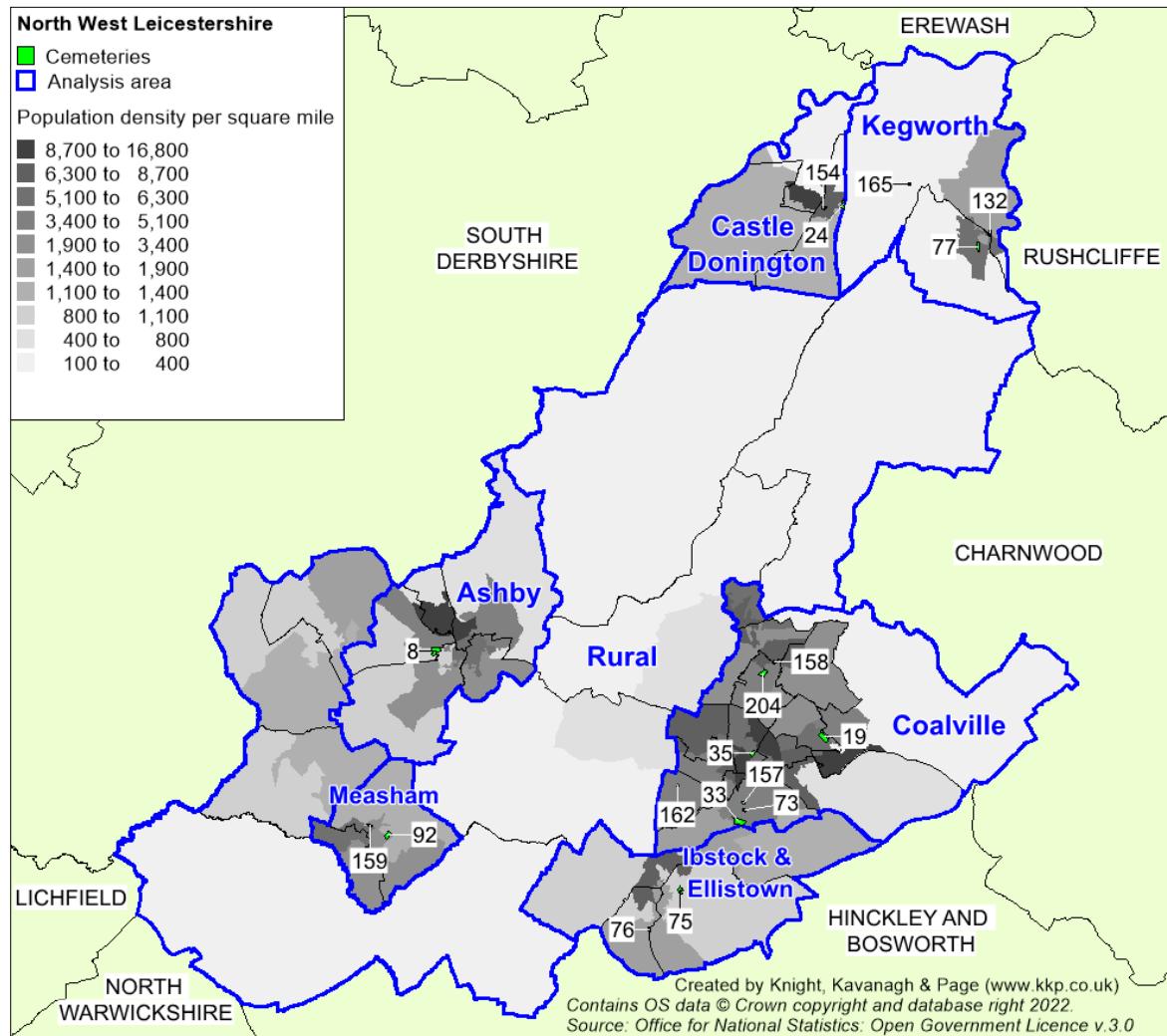


Table 9.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Size (ha)
8	Ashby Cemetery	Ashby	3.13
19	Broomleys Cemetery	Coalville	2.92
24	Castle Donington Cemetery	Castle Donington	1.37
33	Coalville (Hugglescote) Cemetery	Coalville	3.220
35	Coalville London Road Cemetery	Coalville	0.96
73	Hugglescote Cemetery	Coalville	0.36
75	Ibstock Cemetery	Ibstock & Ellistown	1.74
76	Ibstock St Denys	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.29
77	Kegworth Cemetery	Kegworth	1.01
92	Measham Cemetery	Measham	1.46
132	Saint Andrew's Parish Church, Kegworth	Kegworth	0.59

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Size (ha)
154	St Edward's Church	Castle Donington	0.42
157	St John Baptist Parish Church, Hugglescote	Coalville	0.24
158	St John the Baptist, Whitwick	Coalville	0.41
159	St Laurence Measham	Measham	0.51
162	St Marys, Snibston	Coalville	0.18
165	St Nicholas, Lockington	Kegworth	0.37
204	Whitwick Cemetery	Coalville	2.34

In terms of provision, mapping demonstrates a fairly even distribution across the area. As noted earlier, the need for additional cemetery provision should be driven by the requirement for burial demand and capacity.

For cemeteries no quality/value assessments have taken place. The role of cemeteries is unique in comparison to other types of open space; one which is difficult to assess in terms of quality and value.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

### PART 10: PROVISION STANDARDS

The provision standards are used to determine deficiencies and surpluses for open space. These are set in terms of quality, accessibility, and quantity.

#### 10.1: Quality and value

Each type of open space receives a separate quality and value score. This also allows for application of a high and low quality/value matrix to further help determine prioritisation of investment and to identify sites that may be surplus as a particular open space type.

##### Quality and value matrix

Assessing the quality and value of open spaces is used to identify those sites which should be given the highest level of protection, those which require enhancement and those which may no longer be needed for their present purpose. When analysing the quality/value of a site, it should be done in conjunction with regard to the quantity and/or accessibility of provision in the area (i.e., whether there is a deficiency).

The high/low classification gives the following possible combinations of quality and value:

	High Quality	Low Quality
High Value	All sites should have an aspiration to come into this category. Many sites of this category are likely to be viewed as key forms of open space provision.	The approach to these sites should be to enhance their quality to the applied standard. The priority will be those sites providing a key role in terms of access to provision.
Low Value	The preferred approach to a site in this category should be to enhance its value in terms of its present primary function. If this is not possible, consideration to a change of primary function should be given (i.e., a change to another open space typology).	The approach to these sites in areas of identified shortfall should be to enhance their quality provided it is possible also to enhance their value. In areas of sufficiency a change of primary typology should be considered first. If no shortfall of other open space typologies is noted than the site may be redundant/ 'surplus to requirements'.

There is a need for flexibility to the enhancement of low-quality sites. In some instances, a better use of resources and investment may be to focus on more suitable sites for enhancement as opposed to trying to enhance sites where it is not appropriate or cost effective to do so. Please refer to the individual typology sections as well as the supporting excel database for a breakdown of the matrix.

## 10.2: Accessibility

Accessibility catchments are a tool to identify communities currently not served by existing facilities. It is recognised that factors underpinning catchment areas vary from person to person, day to day and hour to hour. For the purposes of this process the concept of 'effective catchments' are used, defined as the distance that most users would travel. The accessibility catchments do not consider if a distance is on an incline or decline. They are therefore intended to act as an initial form of analysis to help identify potential gaps.

Table 10.2.1: Accessibility catchments

<b>Open space type</b>	<b>Catchment</b>
Parks & Gardens	9-minute walk time (710m)
Natural & Semi-natural Greenspace	9-minute walk time (720m)
Amenity Greenspace	6-minute walk time (480m)
Provision for children and young people (LAP)	1-minute walk time (100m)
Provision for children and young people (LEAP)	5-minute walk time (400m)
Provision for children and young people (NEAP)	12.5-minute walk time (1000m)
Provision for children and young people (Other e.g., MUGA, skate park)	9-minute walk time (700m)
Allotments	No standard set
Cemeteries	No standard set

No catchments are suggested for allotments or cemeteries. For cemeteries, it is better to determine need for provision based on locally known demand.

If an area does not have access to provision (consistent with the catchments) it is deemed deficient. KKP has identified instances where new sites may be needed, or potential opportunities could be explored in order to provide comprehensive access (i.e., a gap in one form of provision may exist but the area in question may be served by another form of open space). Please refer to the associated mapping to view site catchments.

The following tables summarise the deficiencies identified from the application of the accessibility standards. In determining any subsequent actions for identified gaps, the following are key principles for consideration:

- ◀ Increase capacity/usage in order to meet increases in demand, or
- ◀ Enhance quality in order to meet increases in demand, or
- ◀ Commuted sum for ongoing maintenance/repairs to mitigate impact of new demand

These principles are intended to mitigate for the impact of increases in demand on existing provision. An increase in population will reduce the lifespan of certain sites and/or features (e.g., play equipment, maintenance regimes etc). This will lead to the increased requirement to refurbish and/or replace such forms of provision.

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

Table 10.1.2: Sites helping to serve gaps in park catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Ashby	Highgate (ID 68) Hood Park (ID 70) School Lane (ID 134) Westfields Recreation Ground (ID 197) Willesley Recreation Ground (ID 207)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
Castle Donington	Bentley Road (ID 17) Goddards Drive (ID 49) Merchantman Mews (ID 102) Moira Dale Recreation Ground (ID 112) Spital Park (ID 150) Stonehill (ID 173)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
Coalville	Ashburton Road Recreation ground (ID 5) Gracedieu Wood (ID 52) Greenhill Open Space (ID 57) Greenhill Rec Ground (ID 59) Hermitage Ecopark and Lakeside (ID 65) Kirkhill Close (ID 83) Melrose Recreation Ground (ID 98) Millfield Recreation Ground (ID 107) Olive Grove (ID 119) Sharpley Avenue Recreation Ground (ID 140)	Amenity Natural Amenity Amenity Natural Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
Ibstock & Ellistown	Church View Recreation Ground (ID 26) Coronet Drive (ID 38) Frances Way (ID 45) Leicester Road Park (ID 84) Mill Hill Wood Way (ID 105) New Row (ID 115) Usbourne Way (ID 190) Water Meadow Park (ID 193)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
Kegworth	Sideley Recreation Ground (ID 143) Whatton Road (ID 200)	Amenity Amenity
Measham	No significant gap	-

Table 10.1.3: Sites helping to serve gaps in natural greenspace catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Ashby	Bath grounds (ID 16) Cliftonthorpe Activity Park (ID 30) Highgate (ID 68) Hood Park (ID 70) Memorial Field (ID 101) Prior Park Road Field (ID 125) School Lane (ID 134) Stuart Way (ID 175) Ulleswater Crescent (ID 189) Western Park (ID 195) Westfields Recreation Ground (ID 197) Willesley Recreation Ground (ID 207)	Parks Parks Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STUDY

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Castle Donington	Bentley Road (ID 17) Goddards Drive (ID 49) Merchantman Mews (ID 102) Moira Dale Recreation Ground (ID 112) Spital Park (ID 150) Stonehill (ID 173)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
Coalville	Ashburton Road Recreation ground (ID 5) Kirkhill Close (ID 83) Millfield Recreation Ground (ID 107) Olive Grove (ID 119) Scotlands Recreation Ground (ID 137) Stadium Open Space (ID 167)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
Ibstock & Ellistown	Church View Recreation Ground (ID 26) Leicester Road Park (ID 84) New Row (ID 115) Water Meadow Park (ID 193)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
Kegworth	Sideley Recreation Ground (ID 143) Whatton Road (ID 200)	Amenity Amenity
Measham	Ashby Canal Trail (ID 7) Ashby Community Garden (ID 9) Greenfield Road (ID 54) High Street Park, Measham (ID 67) Measham Garden of Remembrance (ID 93) Measham Recreation Ground (ID 94) Potters Way (ID 123) Wigeon Drive (ID 205)	Amenity Parks Amenity Parks Parks Amenity Amenity Amenity

Table 10.1.4: Sites helping to serve gaps in amenity greenspace catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Ashby	Cliftonthorpe Activity Park (ID 30)	Parks & Gardens
Castle Donington	No significant gap	-
Coalville	Coalville Adventure Park (ID 34) Coalville Park (ID 36) Hermitage Ecopark and Lakeside (ID 65) Snibston Colliery Park (ID 147) Melrose Road (ID 99) Woodlands Reach (ID 210)	Parks Parks Natural Parks Natural Natural
Ibstock & Ellistown	No significant gap	-
Kegworth	No significant gap	-
Measham	No significant gap	-

### 10.3: Quantity

Quantity standards can be used to identify areas of shortfalls and help with determining requirements for future developments.

#### Setting quantity standards

The setting and application of quantity standards is necessary to determine shortfalls in provision and to help inform what new developments should contribute to the provision of open space across the area.

It is useful to compare existing quantity standards against current levels of provision, and national benchmarks.

Guidance on quantity levels is published by FIT in its document “Creating great spaces for all” (2024). The guidance provides standards for three types of open space provision: parks and gardens, amenity greenspace and natural and semi-natural greenspace. FIT also suggests a guideline quantity standard for equipped/designated playing space.

For allotments, the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) suggests a national standard of 20 allotments per 1,000 households, an equivalent of 0.25 hectares per 1,000 population.

Table 10.3.1 sets out the figures for existing quantity standards, current provision levels identified and national benchmarks.

Table 10.3.1: Comparison of quantity standards (hectares per 1,000 population)

Typology	Current provision	National benchmarks
Parks & gardens	0.48	0.80
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	1.53	1.80
Amenity greenspace	0.54	0.60
Provision for children & young people	0.08	0.25
Allotment	0.18	0.25

The North West Leicestershire Local Plan (2021) cites the NSALG and FIT standards. However, the FIT standards referred to are the old National Playing Fields Association standards. These have since been superseded by the 2024 FIT standards.

## **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STUDY**

---

It is therefore recommended that the FIT standards approach is retained.

Table 10.3.2: Recommended quantity standards (hectares per 1,000 population)

<b>Typology</b>	<b>Recommended Quantity Standard</b>
Parks & gardens	0.80
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	1.80
Amenity greenspace	0.60
Provision for children & young people	0.25
Allotments	0.25

The recommended standards can be used to help inform the contributions from new developments to the provision of open space across the area.

The current provision levels are used to highlight potential shortfalls across different areas. Table 10.3.3 shows the position for each sub-area as to whether it is sufficient or identified as having a shortfall for each type of open space.

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STUDY

Table 10.3.3: Current provision shortfalls by analysis area (hectares per 1,000 population)

Typology	Parks and gardens		Natural & Semi-Natural		Amenity greenspace		Allotments		Play provision	
<b>Current total provision level</b>	<b>0.46</b>		<b>1.53</b>		<b>0.54</b>		<b>0.18</b>		<b>0.08</b>	
Analysis area	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -
Ashby	0.53	+0.07	-	-	0.75	+0.21	0.11	-0.07	0.06	-0.02
Castle Donington	-	-	-	-	1.96	+1.42	0.61	+0.43	0.08	Level
Coalville	1.02	+0.46	1.18	+0.35	0.51	-0.03	0.15	-0.03	0.12	+0.04
Ibstock & Ellistown	-	-	10.67	+9.14	0.34	-0.20	0.27	+0.09	0.08	Level
Kegworth	-	-	-	-	0.23	-0.31	0.85	+0.67	0.06	-0.02
Measham	0.14	-0.32	-	-	1.32	+0.78	0.04	-0.04	0.13	+0.05

Most analysis areas are observed as having shortfalls in some form of open space. The exception is Castle Donington which is not highlighted as having a shortfall in a provision type. However, it does not have any park or natural greenspace provision.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

### 10.4: Identifying priorities and recommendations

Several quantity shortfalls in the open space typologies are highlighted. Creating new provision to address these existing shortfalls (particularly any quantity shortfalls) is often challenging (as significant amounts of new forms of provision would need to be created). Often a more realistic approach is to ensure sufficient accessibility and quality of existing provision. However, it highlights the need for new housing developments to provide new open space provision to ensure shortfalls are not exacerbated.

Exploring opportunities to enhance existing provision and linkages to sites should be endorsed. Further insight to the shortfalls is provided within each provision standard summary (Parts 10.1, 10.2 and 10.3).

Quantity levels should be utilised to indicate the potential lack of provision any given area may have. However, this should be done in conjunction with the accessibility and quality of provision in the area.

#### Recommendations

The following provides a summary on the key findings through the application of the standards. It incorporates and recommends what the Council should be seeking to achieve in order to help address the issues highlighted.

#### Recommendation 1

- ◀ Sites helping, or with the potential to help, serve areas identified as having gaps in catchment mapping should be prioritised as opportunities for enhancement

Part 10.2 identifies sites that help or have the potential to serve existing identified gaps in provision.

Table 10.4.1: Summary of sites helping to serve catchment gaps

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Typology	Helps to serve provision gap in:
5	Ashburton Road Recreation Ground	Coalville	Amenity	Parks, Natural
7	Ashby Canal Trail	Measham	Amenity	Natural
9	Ashby Community Garden	Measham	Parks	Natural
16	Bath Grounds	Ashby	Parks	Natural
17	Bentley Road	Castle Donington	Amenity	Parks, Natural
26	Church View Recreation Ground	Ibstock & Ellistown	Amenity	Parks, Natural
30	Cliftonthorpe Activity Park	Ashby	Parks	natural, amenity
34	Coalville Adventure Park	Coalville	Parks	Amenity
36	Coalville Park	Coalville	Parks	Amenity
38	Coronet Drive	Ibstock & Ellistown	Amenity	Parks

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Typology	Helps to serve provision gap in:
45	Frances Way	Ibstock & Ellistown	Amenity	Parks
49	Goddards Drive	Castle Donington	Amenity	Parks, Natural
54	Greenfield Road	Measham	Amenity	Natural
57	Greenhill Open Space	Coalville	Amenity	Parks
59	Greenhill Rec Ground	Coalville	Amenity	Parks
65	Hermitage Ecopark and Lakeside	Coalville	Natural	parks, amenity
67	High Street Park, Measham	Measham	Parks	Natural
68	Highgate	Ashby	Amenity	Parks, Natural
70	Hood Park	Ashby	Amenity	Parks, Natural
83	Kirkhill Close	Coalville	Amenity	Parks, Natural
84	Leicester Road Park	Ibstock & Ellistown	Amenity	Parks, Natural
93	Measham Garden of Remembrance	Measham	Parks	Natural
94	Measham Recreation Ground	Measham	Amenity	Natural
98	Melrose Recreation Ground	Coalville	Amenity	Parks
99	Melrose Road	Coalville	Natural	Amenity
101	Memorial Field	Ashby	Amenity	Natural
102	Merchantman Mews	Castle Donington	Amenity	Parks, Natural
105	Mill Hill Wood Way	Ibstock & Ellistown	Amenity	Parks
107	Millfield Recreation Ground	Coalville	Amenity	Parks, Natural
112	Moira Dale Recreation Ground	Castle Donington	Amenity	Parks, Natural
115	New Row	Ibstock & Ellistown	Amenity	Parks, Natural
119	Olive Grove	Coalville	Amenity	Parks, Natural
123	Potters Way	Measham	Amenity	Natural
125	Prior Park Road Field	Ashby	Amenity	Natural
134	School Lane	Ashby	Amenity	Parks, Natural
137	Scotlands Recreation Ground	Coalville	Amenity	Natural
140	Sharpley Avenue Recreation Ground	Coalville	Amenity	Parks
143	Sideley Recreation Ground	Kegworth	Amenity	Parks, Natural
147	Snibston Colliery Park	Coalville	Amenity	Amenity

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Typology	Helps to serve provision gap in:
150	Spital Park	Castle Donington	Amenity	Parks, Natural
167	Stadium open space	Coalville	Amenity	Natural
173	Stonehill	Castle Donington	Amenity	Parks, Natural
175	Stuart Way	Ashby	Amenity	Natural
189	Ulleswater Crescent	Ashby	Amenity	Natural
190	Usbourne Way	Ibstock & Ellistown	Amenity	Parks
193	Water Meadow Park	Ibstock & Ellistown	Amenity	Parks, Natural
195	Western Park	Ashby	Amenity	Natural
197	Westfields Recreation Ground	Ashby	Amenity	Parks, Natural
200	Whatton Road	Kegworth	Amenity	Parks, Natural
205	Wigeon Drive	Measham	Amenity	Natural
207	Willesley Recreation Ground	Ashby	Amenity	Parks, Natural
210	Woodlands Reach NSN	Coalville	Natural	Amenity

These sites potentially help to meet the identified catchment gaps for other open space typologies. Where possible, the Council may seek to adapt these sites to provide a stronger secondary role, to help meet the gaps highlighted.

Often this is related to parks, amenity greenspace and natural and semi-natural greenspace. The Council should explore the potential/possibility to adapt these sites through formalisation and/or greater provision of features linked to other types of open space. This is to provide a stronger secondary role as well as opportunities associated with other open space types. This may, in some instances, also help provide options to minimise the need for creation of new provision to address any gaps in catchment mapping.

These sites should therefore be viewed as open space provision that are likely to provide multiple social and value benefits. It is also important that the quality and value of these sites is secured and enhanced (Recommendation 2).

### Recommendation 2

- ◀ Ensure low quality/value sites helping to serve potential gaps in accessibility catchments are prioritised for enhancement

The approach to these sites should be to enhance their quality/value to the applied standards. A list of low quality and/or value sites currently helping to serve catchment gaps in provision is set out in Table 10.4.2 below. This also includes sites without a quality/value rating.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

These sites should first look to be enhanced in terms of quality. Consideration should be given to changing the primary typology or strengthening the secondary function of these sites, to one which they currently help to serve a gap in provision, even if their quality cannot currently be enhanced. For some sites, such as natural and semi-natural greenspace, the ability to adapt or strengthen secondary roles may be limited due to the features and characteristics of the site.

Table 10.4.2: Summary of low quality/value sites helping to serve catchment gaps

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Typology	Helps to serve provision gap in:
9	Ashby Community Garden	Measham	Parks	Natural
17	Bentley Road	Castle Donington	Amenity	Parks, Natural
30	Cliftonthorpe Activity Park	Ashby	Parks	Natural, amenity
54	Greenfield Road	Measham	Amenity	Natural
67	High Street Park, Measham	Measham	Parks	Natural
83	Kirkhill Close	Coalville	Amenity	Parks, Natural
93	Measham Garden of Remembrance	Measham	Parks	Natural
98	Melrose Recreation Ground	Coalville	Amenity	Parks
99	Melrose Road	Coalville	Natural	Amenity
101	Memorial Field	Ashby	Amenity	Natural
112	Moira Dale Recreation Ground	Castle Donington	Amenity	Parks, Natural
115	New Row	Ibstock & Ellistown	Amenity	Parks, Natural
119	Olive Grove	Coalville	Amenity	Parks, Natural
125	Prior Park Road Field	Ashby	Amenity	Natural
175	Stuart Way	Ashby	Amenity	Natural
189	Ulleswater Crescent	Ashby	Amenity	Natural
193	Water Meadow Park	Ibstock & Ellistown	Amenity	Parks, Natural
200	Whatton Road	Kegworth	Amenity	Parks, Natural
205	Wigeon Drive	Measham	Amenity	Natural
207	Willesley Recreation Ground	Ashby	Amenity	Parks, Natural
210	Woodlands Reach NSN	Coalville	Natural	Amenity

Inevitably, over time changes in provision occur through creation of new provision, loss of existing provision and/or alterations to sites through planned works/enhancements. Consequently, identifying sites for offsite contributions should reflect any such changes which may supersede this report.

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **OPEN SPACE STUDY**

---

For example, a site may be highlighted as being of a low quality within the study and could therefore benefit from enhancement. If, however, works to improve the site have already taken place, an alternative site might be better placed for enhancement.

### **Recommendation 3**

- ◀ Review areas with sufficient provision in open space and consider how they may be able to meet other areas of need

This study identifies 72 sites currently below their quality and/or value thresholds. For an area with a quantity sufficiency in one type of open space, where opportunities allow, a change of primary typology could be considered for some sites of that same type.

For instance, the Measham Analysis area has a potential sufficiency in amenity greenspace but a potential shortfall in parks. Consequently, the function of some amenity greenspace could look to be strengthened to act as parks provision.

It is important that other factors, such as the potential typology change of a site creating a different catchment gap and/or the potential to help serve deficiencies in other types of provision should also be considered. The Council may also be aware of other issues, such as the importance of a site for heritage, biodiversity or as a visual amenity that may also indicate that a site should continue to stay the same typology.

### **Recommendation 4**

- ◀ Keep data, reports and supporting evidence base up to date to reflect changes

This study provides a snapshot in time. Whilst significant changes are not as common for open space provision, inevitably over time changes in provision occur through creation of new provision, loss of existing provision and/or alterations to site boundaries and management. Population change and housing growth are also another consideration to review when undertaking any form of update as this may impact on quantity provision levels and standards. It is therefore important to undertake regular reviews of the data and/or actions informed by it.

### **Recommendation 5**

- ◀ Recommended standards to inform future growth requirements

The draft Local Plan proposes an annual housing requirement of 686 dwellings per year between 2024 and 2042.

The housing requirement will be met through a combination of existing housing commitments (sites under construction or sites with planning permission) and new Local Plan housing allocations. The number of new dwellings expected to be built from 1 April 2024 (a combination of commitments and allocations) are set out in Table 10.4.4.

The indicative population figures in Table 10.4.4 are based on the assumption that population growth will average 2.4 persons<sup>6</sup> per dwelling. Note the figures can be updated as required over the Local Plan period to reflect changes in population projections and dwelling numbers.

---

<sup>6</sup> ONS, Families and households in the UK (2024)

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

On this basis, using the recommended quantity standards<sup>7</sup>, the open space requirements for each growth commitment are calculated.

Table 10.4.3: Recommended quantity standards

Typology	Recommended Quantity Standard (hectares per 1,000 population)
Parks & gardens	0.80
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	1.80
Amenity greenspace	0.60
Provision for children & young people	0.25
Allotment	0.25

---

<sup>7</sup> recommended quantity standard (ha per 1,000 population) x population increase / 1000 = estimated requirement

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STUDY

Table 10.4.4: Open space requirements (hectares) by future housing growth commitments plus proposed local plan allocations<sup>8</sup>

Settlement area	Committed number of dwellings	Parks	Natural	Amenity	Play	Allotments
Coalville Urban Area	5,486	10.53	23.70	7.90	3.29	3.29
Ashby de la Zouch	1,922	3.69	8.30	2.77	1.15	1.15
Castle Donington	1,299	2.49	5.61	1.87	0.78	0.78
Ibstock	496	0.95	2.14	0.71	0.30	0.30
Kegworth	421	0.81	1.82	0.61	0.25	0.25
Measham	876	1.68	3.78	1.26	0.53	0.53
Ravenstone	135	0.26	0.58	0.19	0.08	0.08
Isley Woodhouse (up to 2042)	1,950	3.74	8.42	2.81	1.17	1.17
Isley Woodhouse (total)	4,250	8.16	18.36	6.12	2.55	2.55

For the Isley Woodhouse development, two sets of figures are presented to reflect the different stages and dwelling numbers covered as part of the Local Plan period.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

Future need will also be generated by smaller scale developments. Therefore, future requirements should not just focus on quantity requirements of new residential developments. In some instances, a new residential development may not warrant on-site provision but instead could contribute towards developing and/or enhancing the amenities of an existing site in proximity.

The following steps sets out the process that should be considered when determining contributions in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility of open space provision. The provision standards (Table 10.4.3) should be used to help determine the requirements for open space provision as part of a development.

- Step 1.** Calculate population generated by housing development
- Step 2.** Calculate open space requirement generated by housing development
- Step 3.** Determine if provision should be on-site or off-site
- Step 4.** Calculate the financial off-site contribution
- Step 5.** Identify which sites could benefit from an off-site contribution

### **Step 1. Calculate population generated by housing development**

To determine the requirements for open space provision, the starting point is to calculate the level of demand (additional population) generated by that development.

Housing figures are provided in terms of the number of dwellings allocated per development. The indicative population figures are based on the assumption that population growth will average 2.4<sup>9</sup> persons per dwelling. If available, occupancy rates for different dwelling sizes could be used.

### **Step 2. Calculate open space requirement generated by housing development**

To then determine the open space requirement for each form of open space the associated population is multiplied by the recommended quantity standards for each relevant typology. The following calculation should be used:

New/additional population from development x quantity standard / 1000 = hectares required  
(To convert to square metres required = hectares required x 10,000)

For example, a hypothetical development of 50 dwellings would require the following amount of amenity greenspace:

New/additional population from development (50 x 2.4 = 120) x amenity greenspace quantity standard (0.60) / 1000 = 0.072 hectares  
(=720 sqm)

---

<sup>9</sup> ONS, Families and households in the UK (2024)

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE STUDY

### Step 3. Determine if provision should be on-site or off-site

Whether provision should be made on-site or via an off-site contribution is dependent on the size and scale of the development. In the case of larger-scale residential developments, it is expected that provision will be provided on-site. Larger residential developments will have a critical mass of population and should provide all typologies of open space on-site in order to serve the additional population as a result of the development. In contrast, smaller developments may not meet minimum area thresholds required to deliver usable and sustainable open space on-site.

Best practice guidance from organisations like FIT, recommends that provision below certain sizes should not be provided as on-site provision as this can result in fragmented, low-value spaces that are difficult to maintain over time. To avoid this, minimum area thresholds should look to be applied to determine when on-site provision is appropriate. Where these thresholds are not met, off-site contributions should be directed to enhance existing provision within the relevant accessibility catchment.

This approach ensures that open space is delivered at a strategic scale while also supporting the creation of high-quality, accessible, and sustainable environments.

The following suggested minimum area sizes for when new provision is to be provided on-site are cited within best practice.

Table 10.4.5: Suggested minimum site areas

Typology	Source	Minimum area (hectares)
Open space	Companion guide to PPG17	0.2
Equipped Children's Play Space	FIT	0.01 (LAP) 0.04 (LEAP) 0.10 (NEAP/Casual)
Allotments	NSALG	0.25

Provision requirements for any development which does not trigger the on-site contribution should generally be sought as off-site contributions. However, if the development is not within reach of an existing site than on-site provision may be warranted regardless of the small size of the development.

It is also important that developments consider the needs of all ages to help deliver mixed, healthy and sustainable communities. Therefore accessible / inclusive child friendly spaces should be considered within schemes.

### Step 4. Calculate the financial off-site contribution

If an off-site contribution is required in lieu of on-site provision, a financial contribution should be calculated.

A development needs to make appropriate provision of services, facilities and infrastructure to meet its own needs. New forms of equipment/provision will add to the existing management and maintenance pressures of sites.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE STUDY

---

Consequently, there should be a requirement on developers to demonstrate that where new provision is to be provided it will be managed and maintained accordingly. Developers may therefore be required to submit a sum of money to pay for the costs of the site's future maintenance.

### **Step 5. Identify which sites could benefit from an off-site contribution**

The new population arising from a development will result in increased demand to existing forms of provision; subsequently off-site contributions may need to be used to enhance the quality of and/or access to existing provision within an acceptable distance to the development.

Sites identified as being low quality and value are identified in the Open Space Assessment. Consequently, these sites may benefit most from some form of enhancement. It is also important to engage with parish and town councils to ensure an up to date understanding of local needs and quality concerns.

There is a need for flexibility to the enhancement of low quality and/or value sites within proximity to a new housing development. In some instances, a better use of resources and investment may be to focus on facilities further away which offer more suitable sites for enhancement as opposed to trying to enhance a site that is not appropriate or cost effective to do so closer by. However, in some instances, a site (regardless of quality/value) may be the only form of provision serving that area.

Also consider those sites identified as helping to serve 'gaps' in provision. Such sites play an important role in ensuring access to open space provision. Consequently, such sites may be better suited for off-site contributions if there are agreed ways to improve them. This will help to ensure efficient use of contributions and maximise enhancements.



This page is intentionally left blank

## APPENDIX B

### NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

### INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) NEEDS ASSESSMENT

REPORT: DECEMBER 2025

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

**Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd**  
Company No: 9145032 (England)

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Registered Office: 1 -2 Frecheville Court, off Knowsley Street, Bury BL9 0UF  
T: 0161 764 7040 E: [mail@kkp.co.uk](mailto:mail@kkp.co.uk) www.kkp.co.uk



Cert Num: 6543-QMS-001

<b>Quality assurance</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>
Report origination	Paul Barrett / Rachel Burke	22 May 2025
Quality control	John Eady	23 May 2025
Client comments	Paul Barrett / Rachel Burke	17 July 2025
Final Client comments	Jason Knight/Joanne Althorpe	2 November 2025
Final approval	Jason Knight	4 December 2025

## CONTENTS

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Introduction .....	1
1.2: Scope of the project .....	1
1.3: Background .....	2
1.4: Report structure .....	3
SECTION 2: BACKGROUND .....	5
2.1: National context .....	5
2.2: Local context .....	13
2.3: Demographic profile .....	19
SECTION 3: SPORTS FACILITIES ASSESSMENT .....	31
3.1: Methodology.....	31
3.2: Site visits.....	32
3.3: Catchment areas .....	33
SECTION 4: SPORTS HALLS .....	35
4.1: Supply .....	35
4.2: Demand .....	48
4.3: Future demand and the Sport England Sports Facilities Calculator (SFC).....	55
4.4: Summary of key facts and issues .....	56
SECTION 5: SWIMMING POOLS.....	59
5.1: Supply .....	59
5.2: Demand .....	69
5.3: Sport England's Facilities Calculator (SFC).....	69
5.4: Summary of key facts and issues .....	71
SECTION 6: HEALTH AND FITNESS SUITES.....	73
6.1: Supply .....	73
6.2: Demand .....	82
6.3: Dance studios .....	83
6.4: Summary of key facts and issues .....	86
SECTION 7: SQUASH.....	87
7.1 Supply .....	87
7.2: Demand .....	89
7.3: Summary of key facts and issues .....	89
SECTION 8: INDOOR BOWLS.....	90
8.1: Supply .....	92
8.2: Demand .....	93

8.3: Summary of key facts and issues .....	93
<b>SECTION 9: INDOOR TENNIS.....</b>	<b>94</b>
9.1: Supply .....	94
9.2: Demand .....	95
9.3: Summary of key facts and issues .....	96
<b>SECTION 10: GYMNASTICS AND TRAMPOLINING .....</b>	<b>97</b>
10.1: Supply .....	98
10.2: Demand .....	99
10.3: Summary of key facts and issues .....	100
<b>SECTION 11: COMMUNITY BUILDINGS.....</b>	<b>102</b>
11.1: Introduction .....	102
11.2: Supply of community facilities.....	102
11.3 Demand .....	105
11.4 Summary of key facts and issues .....	110
<b>SECTION 12: INITIAL STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS.....</b>	<b>112</b>

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

---

## **SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Introduction**

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) was appointed by North West Leicestershire District Council (NWLDC) to produce a playing pitch strategy (PPS) and a built sports facilities strategy (BFS). This work will provide key evidence to support development of an updated NWL Local Plan.

This is the BFS. It will support the implementation of Local Plan policies related to the protection, enhancement and provision of community sport and physical activity facilities and provide an evidence-based framework to support negotiations with developers which may provide funding or other assistance to improve local provision. It will also provide a robust evidence base to support funding bids from bodies such as Sport England and national governing bodies of sport (NGBs).

The Council's stated objectives for this work, are to:

- ◀ Undertake a local authority wide assessment of indoor sport and recreation facilities, building upon existing information, to establish the quantity and quality of existing provision and any additional provision required to meet future needs to 2042.
- ◀ Develop a strategy and realistic action plans for indoor sports provision. The action plan must be prioritised and realistic in recognition of diminishing public resources and limited budgets.
- ◀ Follow best practice advice including Sport England's: Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (ANOG).
- ◀ Provide a robust evidence base to ensure the timely and sound preparation of the NWL Local Plan dates and other planning policy documents and to provide parameters for developing a toolkit for the Council/developers.
- ◀ Provide clear and justified conclusion and direction on where future investment from the Council or external sources should go in the NWLDC area.
- ◀ Provide advice and guidance on how to maintain an up-to-date record of existing provision in terms of condition, demand, aspirations of clubs etc.

This report is, thus, a detailed assessment of current provision of indoor and built sports facilities located within and adjacent to NWLDC, identifying needs (demand) and gaps (deficiencies in provision). It:

- ◀ Incorporates a robust up to date needs assessment which supports the Council and meets the requirements of the amended National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- ◀ Reflects and addresses the needs and demands of the local population that will grow in line with the changes defined by the future Local Plan.
- ◀ Should underpin action for NWLDC and key stakeholders with regard to potential joint investment in sport and physical activity facilities.

The underpinning audit was conducted in February 2025. Where access to facilities was not available KKP carried out non-technical quality assessments via desk research. Where possible the quality of this was supplemented utilising virtual 'walk arounds' of the relevant venues and/or videos and photos present on operators' websites or in discussion with operators.

### **1.2: Scope of the project**

This report provides detail as to what exists in NWL district, its condition, location, availability and overall quality. It considers demand for facilities based on population distribution, planned growth, and takes into consideration health and economic deprivation. The facilities/sports covered include sports halls (and associated indoor sports), swimming pools, health and fitness, dance/aerobic studios, squash, indoor tennis, indoor bowls, and gymnastics and trampolining.

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

---

In delivering this report KKP has:

- ◀ Individually audited identified sports halls (conventional i.e., 3+ court halls) swimming pools (minimum size 160m<sup>2</sup>), health and fitness facilities (including, within reason, dance studios), squash courts, gymnastics facilities, indoor tennis courts, and indoor bowls facilities.
- ◀ Analysed supply and demand to identify gaps and opportunities to improve provision.
- ◀ Sought to identify the extent to which delivery of leisure facilities is undertaken referencing Council corporate strategies and other relevant strategic influences.
- ◀ Identified areas of good practice and opportunities for improved service in order to drive up participation levels.

This evidence-based report thus provides a quantitative and qualitative audit-based assessment of the facilities identified above. It is a robust, up-to-date assessment of need and identifies opportunities for new, enhanced, and rationalised provision. Specific deficiencies and surpluses are identified to inform the provision required. The specific objectives are to:

- ◀ Review relevant Council strategies, plans, reports, corporate objectives.
- ◀ Review the local, regional, and national strategic context.
- ◀ Undertake a demographic analysis of the local population at present and in the future (up to 2042).
- ◀ Audit indoor facilities provided by public, private, voluntary and education sectors.
- ◀ Consider potential participation rates and model likely demand.
- ◀ Analyse the balance between supply of, and demand for, sports facilities plus identification of potential under and over-provision – now and in the future.
- ◀ Identify key issues to address in the future provision of indoor sports facilities.

As noted above, Sport England's ANOG methodology for assessing indoor sports need, developed by Sport England has been applied. It also accords with relevant paragraphs of the most up-to-date version of the NPPF and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).

## **1.3: Background**

NWL is one of seven local authorities in the County of Leicestershire (not including Rutland). The main settlements in the district are the Coalville Urban Area (the district's Principal Town), Ashby-de-la-Zouch and Castle Donington (Key Service Centres) and Ibstock, Kegworth, and Measham (Local Service Centres).

NWL also borders six local authorities. Some of the key settlements within NWL will serve residents from these authorities (and vice versa) due to the proximity, such as Ashby and East Staffordshire and Castle Donington and Erewash.

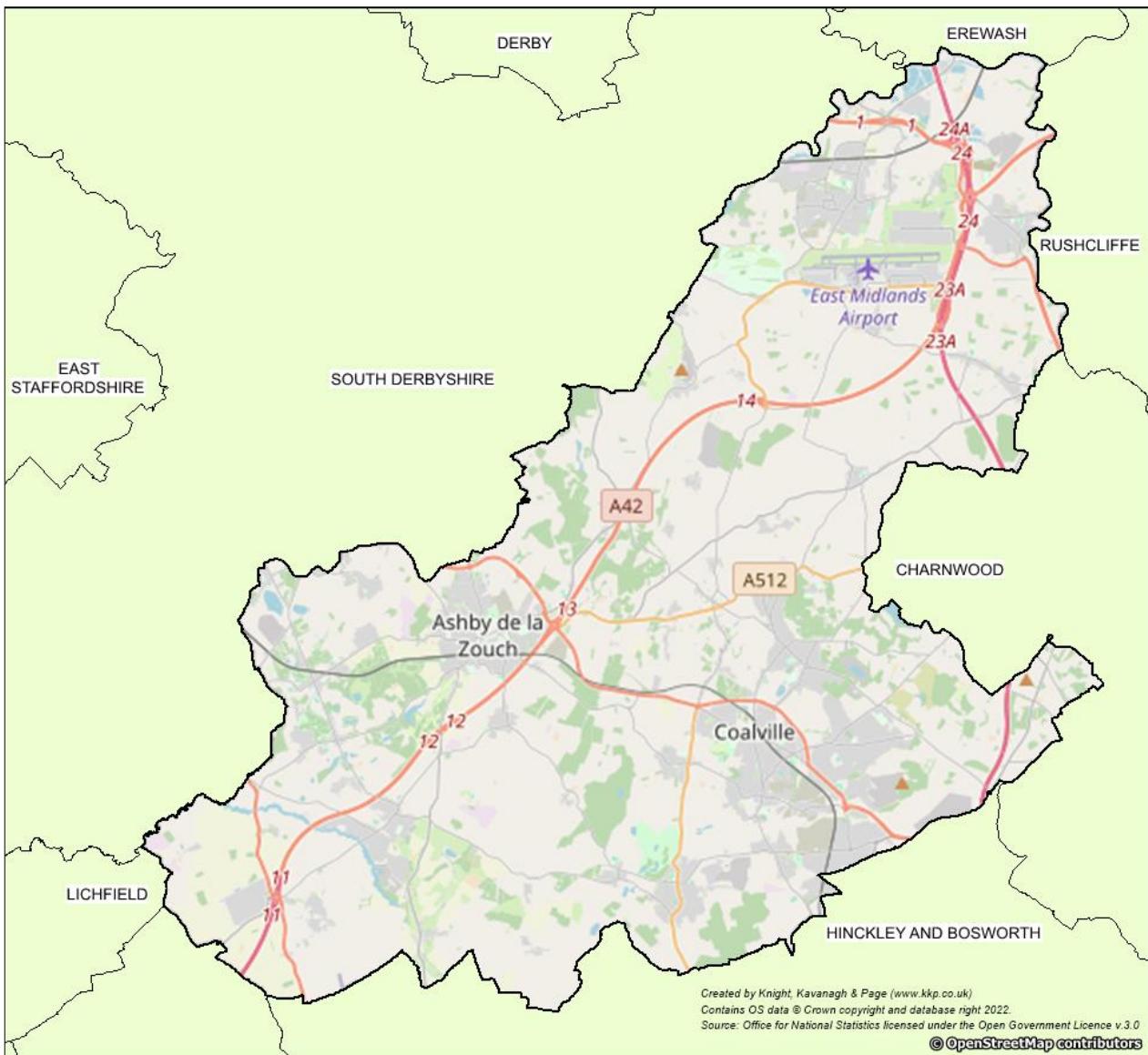
The M1 motorway runs through the Authority north to south, along with the A42, (which connects the north of the authority to Ashby and Measham). Other key roads include the A5111, connecting Ashby to Coalville, and A512 connecting Ashby to Loughborough, in the Authority of Charnwood.

Located in the north is East Midlands Airport, which not only serves as a busy passenger airport but is also the UK's main freight airport. This has resulted in several key businesses being located in and around the site, including DHL.

About 56% of North West Leicestershire lies within the National Forest; this includes the Coalville Urban Area as well as Ashby de la Zouch, Ibstock and Measham. The National Forest is a key tourist facility for the East Midlands and in North West Leicestershire, includes Hicks Lodge Cycle Centre, Moira Furnace, Sence Valley Country Park and Conkers. Other local key destination sites include Snibston Colliery Park and the 1620s House & Garden (a medieval manor house, believed to date back to around 1290).

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Figure 1.1: North West Leicestershire with main roads and neighbouring authorities



## 1.4: Report structure

The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) in a report entitled 'Strategic Planning: Effective Co-operation for Planning Across Boundaries (2015)' puts the case for strategic planning based on six general principles:

- ◀ Have focus.
- ◀ Be genuinely strategic.
- ◀ Be spatial.
- ◀ Be collaborative.
- ◀ Have strong leadership and
- ◀ Be accountable to local electorates.

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

---

KKP has paid due regard to these strategic principles and this needs assessment report is, thus, structured as follows:

- ◀ Section 2 - review of background policy documentation (national/regional/local) and a profile of the population and socio-demographic characteristics of the Authority.
- ◀ Section 3 - description of methodology employed to assess provision.
- ◀ Section 4 - assessment of sport halls provision.
- ◀ Section 5 - assessment of swimming pool provision.
- ◀ Section 6 - assessment of health and fitness provision.
- ◀ Section 7 - assessment of squash.
- ◀ Section 8 – assessment of indoor bowls.
- ◀ Section 9 – assessment of indoor tennis
- ◀ Section 10 – assessment of gymnastics and trampolining.
- ◀ Section 11 – community buildings
- ◀ Section 12 – initial strategic recommendations.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## SECTION 2: BACKGROUND

### 2.1: National context

It is important to note that a change of UK Government took place in July 2024. The majority of strategies and policies to which reference is made below were set in place prior to June 2024 and it is, thus, likely that over the period of time to which this strategy applies, some changes will be made.

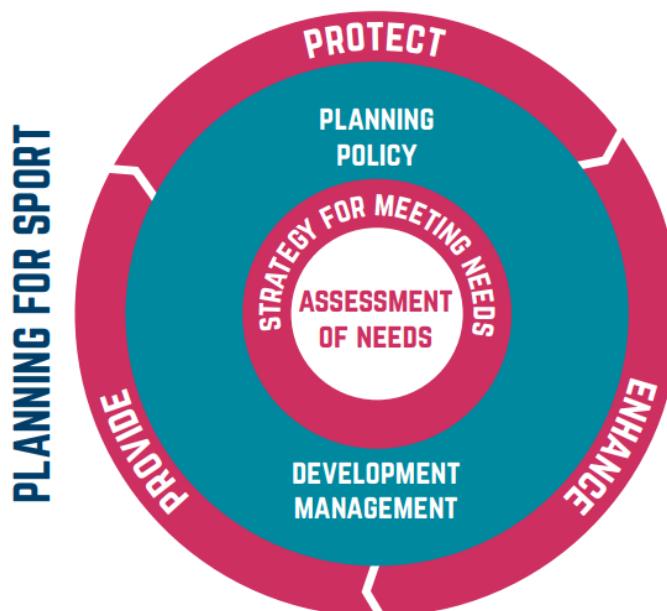
The Government ['Get Active: A strategy for the future of sport and physical activity'](#) has the focus on increasing physical activity, making sport more welcoming and inclusive, and ensuring the long-term financial and environmental sustainability of the sector. In addition, the recently launched cross-departmental National Physical Activity Taskforce has a focus on environmental sustainability in the sector, clear targets for increasing physical activity rates and a new vision for leisure facilities in 2023.

Get Active sets out how the government will work with the sector to achieve these aims by ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to get active. Central to this is a focus on ensuring that children establish a lifetime of engagement with sport and physical activity. This is accompanied by the introduction of national targets for participation to help hold Government and the sector to account for delivering the change that is needed.

### Sport England

Sport England aims to ensure positive planning for sport, enabling the right facilities to be provided in the right places, based on up-to-date assessment of needs for all levels of sport and all sectors of the community. This assessment report has been produced for NWLDC applying the principles and tools identified in ANOG.

Figure 2.1: The Sport England Planning for Sport Model



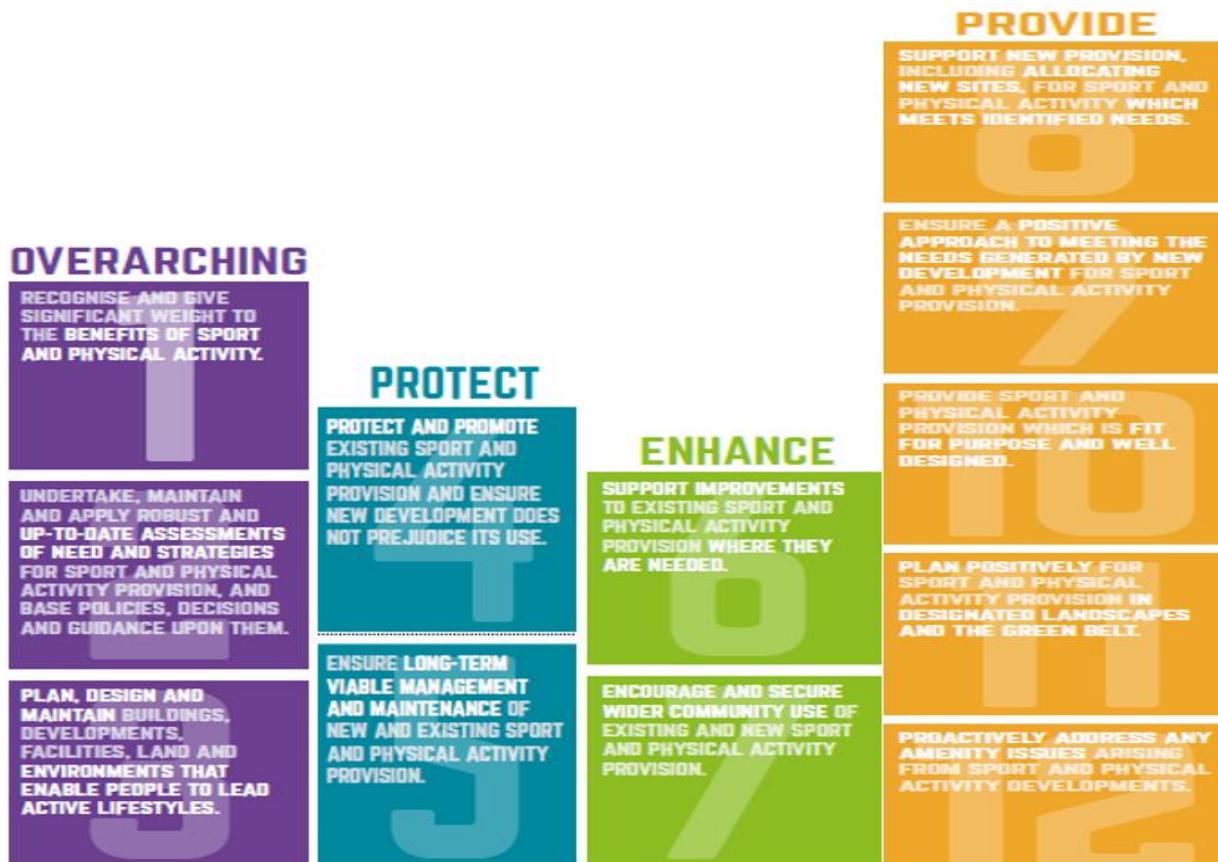
Assessment of need is core to planning for sporting provision. It is underpinned by 12 planning-for-sport principles which help the planning system to contribute to sustainable development by fulfilling the key role of the NPPF in creating strong, vibrant and healthy communities.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Applying them ensures that the planning system plans positively to enable and support healthy lifestyles, delivers community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs, and provides opportunity for all to experience the benefits that taking part in sport and physical activity brings.

They apply to all areas of the planning system and to planning at local authority and neighbourhood levels. As such they are of relevance to all involved in, or looking to engage with, the planning system.

Figure 2.2: Sport England's 12 planning principles



## Sport England: Uniting the Movement 2023

Sport and physical activity have a major role to play in improving the physical and mental health of the nation, supporting the economy, reconnecting communities, and rebuilding a stronger society for all following the global pandemic. Reflecting this, Sport England's Uniting the Movement strategy sets out its 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity.

It seeks to tackle the inequalities that it states are long seen in sport and physical activity noting that 'providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity, has never been more important'. The three key Strategy objectives are:

1. Advocating for movement, sport and physical activity.
2. Joining forces on five big issues.
3. Creating the catalysts for change.

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

---

As well as being an advocate for sport and physical activity, through the building of evidence and partnership development, the Strategy identifies five big issues that communities and people need to address by working together. They are described as the major challenges to England being an active nation over the next decade as well as being the main opportunities to make a lasting difference. They are designated as a building blocks that individually would make a difference but tackled collectively could change things profoundly. The issues are:

- ◀ Recover and reinvent: recovering from the biggest crisis in a generation and reinventing as a vibrant, relevant, and sustainable network of organisations providing sport and physical activity opportunities that meet the needs of different people.
- ◀ Connecting communities: focusing on sport and physical activity's ability to make better places to live and bring people together.
- ◀ Positive experiences for children and young people: unrelenting focus on positive experiences for all children and young people as the foundations for a long and healthy life.
- ◀ Connecting with health and wellbeing: strengthening the connections between sport, physical activity, health, and wellbeing, so more people can feel the benefits of, and advocate for, an active life.
- ◀ Active environments: creating and protecting the places and spaces that make it easier for people to be active.

To address these five big issues, the right conditions for change need to be created: across people, organisations, and partnerships to help convert plans and ideas. This will include a range of actions, including development of effective investment models and applying innovation and digital technology to ensure sport and physical activity are more accessible.

The specific impact of the strategy will be captured via funded programmes, interventions made, and partnerships forged. For each specific area of action, key performance indicators will be developed to help evidence the overall progress being made by all those involved in supporting sport and physical activity.

## **Total annual social value of sport and physical activity in England 2024<sup>1</sup>**

Sport and physical activity are widely recognised as making people happier, healthier, and fostering stronger communities. This is why creating more opportunities for those who need them most is central to Sport England's Uniting the Movement strategy.

The social and economic value of community sport and physical activity in England 2020<sup>2</sup> created an evidence base to better understand the value of taking part in sport and physical activity. Sport England, in partnership with social value experts State of Life, sports economists from the Sport Industry Research Centre (SIRC) at Sheffield Hallam University, and the Institute of Sport at Manchester Metropolitan University, developed an updated national model to quantify the social value of community sport and physical activity.

The October 2024 report breaks down the social and economic impact of community sport and physical activity into two parts. Part one focuses on the primary benefits, such as physical and mental health improvements, while part two explores the broader value to society.

Community sport and physical activity contributed £107.2 billion annually to the UK in 2023/2024, through both social and economic benefits. Of this, £96.7 billion is attributed to primary value, with

<sup>1</sup> [Link to Sport and physical activity generates over £100 billion in social value | Sport England](#)

<sup>2</sup> Link to Social and economic value of community sport and physical activity in England 2020

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

---

individual wellbeing improvements driven by adult volunteering, youth participation, and adult participation.

This underscores the profound impact of sport and physical activity on quality of life, as improved health and wellbeing positively influence relationships, social connections, and productivity.

It also generated £10.5bn in secondary value; of which £9.3bn is associated with the 'active population' and £1.2bn of the 'fairly active' population through reduced GP visits and mental health service usage. Over three million cases of non-communicable diseases or chronic health conditions were prevented, including depression (1.3 million cases), back pain (0.9 million) and type 2 diabetes (0.6 million). A total of £130 million spent treating injuries related to sport and physical activity participation.

There would be an estimated £15.6 billion more annual social value created by sport and physical activity if the wider adult population, including those with 1 or 2+ characteristics of inequality, were active at the same levels as those with zero characteristics of inequality. This would equate to over four million more 'active' adults in England.

## **Sport England: The Future of Public Sector Leisure (2023)**

Engagement by Sport England with the public leisure sector has highlighted that the Covid 19 Pandemic has accelerated the appetite for local authorities to look at leisure services and re-examine the purpose of their provision, delivery against local community outcomes and consider their alignment with broader strategic outcomes, particularly health.

Key insights from the report ([\*\*Sport England: The Future of Public Sector Leisure\*\*](#)) include that:

- ◀ 68% of sports halls and swimming pools were built 20+ years ago. Although more than £150m was invested in the opening of new public leisure and swimming facilities in 2018/19<sup>3</sup>, with another £200m worth of assets in construction or planning there remains significant levels of ageing public leisure stock.
- ◀ 72% of all school swimming lessons take place in a public leisure facility, which included both the statutory learn to swim programme and the water safety curriculum across primary schools. Swimming club usage is also predominantly based at public leisure facilities.

The leisure sector emerged from the pandemic in a fragile state. Emergency funding<sup>4</sup> helped to avert financial catastrophe and enabled the additional costs of maintaining public assets and reopening services to be met. This funding is, however, finite and is largely exhausted. At best, financial pressures risk limiting the ability of stakeholders to deliver against their commitments; at worst they may result in the permanent closure of some services or facilities.

In respect of the recovery of the sector to pre-Pandemic participation levels, data generated via the [\*\*Moving Communities\*\*](#) platform suggests that in October 2021, throughput levels (13.2 million) were still lower than the monthly average in 2019 (17.8 million). Recovery of participation levels across different activities has been imbalanced and has leaned towards those activities which deliver a faster return to pre-pandemic revenue levels.

Sites refurbished in the last 10 years saw throughput recovery of 68% compared with a recovery of 62% for those last refurbished 20+ years ago, suggesting that investment in newer facilities

---

<sup>3</sup> 2 Mintel Report on Leisure Centres and Swimming Pools (September 2019)

<sup>4</sup> Local authorities invested £160 million The National Leisure Recovery Fund £100m, Leisure operators drew on £171 million of reserves alongside further relief measures such as the Government's furlough scheme.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

---

creates spaces that have greater appeal, increase user confidence levels and provide a more relevant offer to meet current customer demands.

To address these significant challenges, a repositioning of the traditional offer of public leisure into one akin to an **active wellbeing service** is advocated focusing on added value and supporting delivery of key local priorities, alongside wider government policy around Levelling Up, net zero and health inequalities.

## Chief Medical Officer Physical Activity Guidelines 2019

This updated the 2011 physical activity guidelines issued by the four chief medical officers (CMOs) of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. They drew upon global evidence to present guidelines for different age groups, covering the volume, duration, frequency and type of physical activity required across the life course to achieve health benefits.

Since 2011, evidence of the health benefits of regular physical activity for all groups has become more compelling. In children and young people, regular physical activity is associated with improved learning and attainment, better mental health and cardiovascular fitness, also contributing to healthy weight status. In adults, there is strong evidence to demonstrate the protective effect on physical activity on a range of many chronic conditions including coronary heart disease, obesity and type 2 diabetes, mental health problems and social isolation.

Regular physical activity can deliver cost savings for the health and care system and has wider social benefits for individuals and communities. Key factors for each age group are as follows:

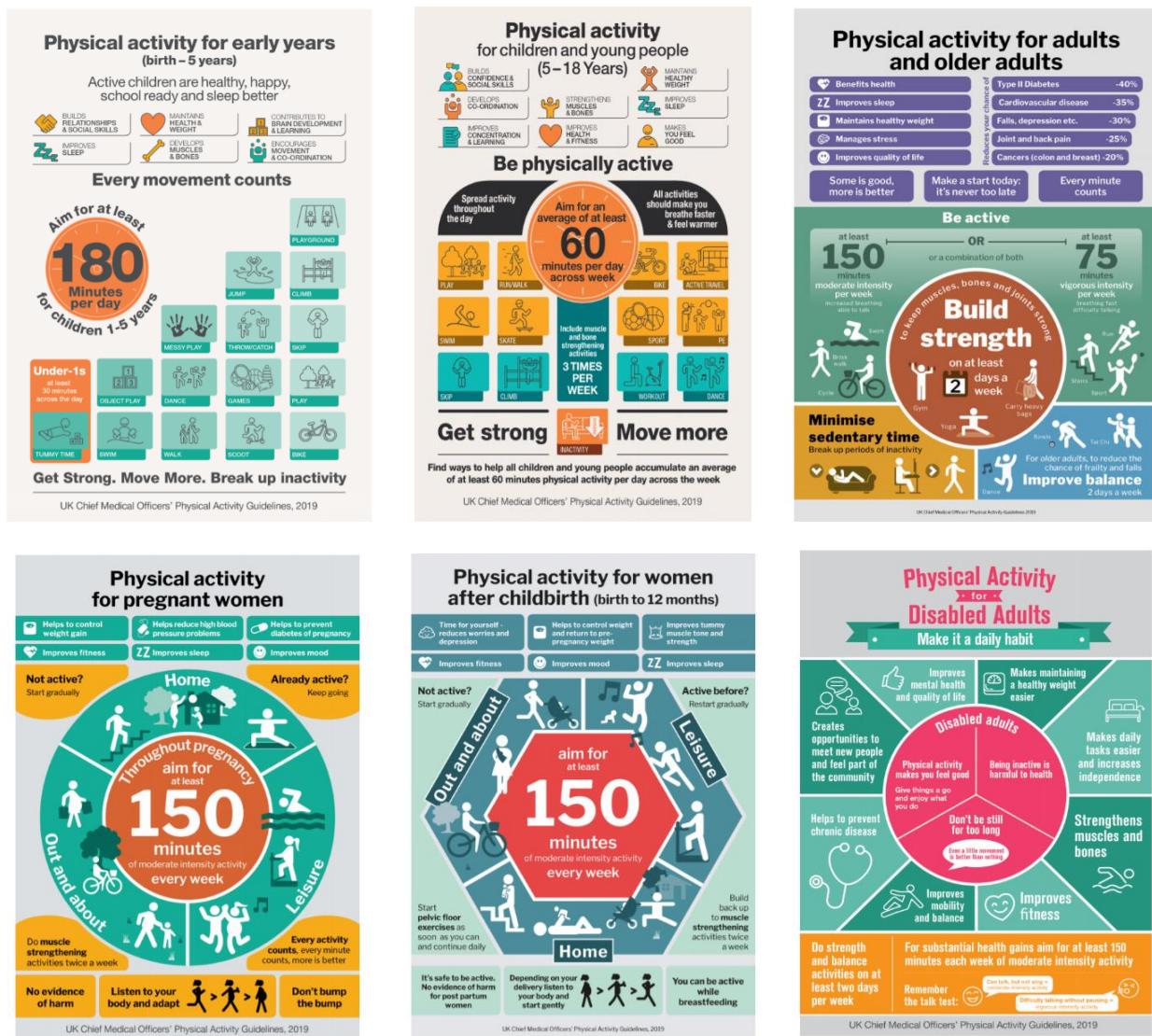
- ◀ Under-5s (infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers): should spend at least 180 minutes (3 hours) per day in a variety of different exercises, whereas infants should be physically active several times every day in a variety of ways, including interactive floor-based activities.
- ◀ Children and young people (5-18 years): should engage in moderate-to-vigorous intensity physical activity for an average of at least 60 minutes per day across the week.
- ◀ Adults (19-64 years): for good physical and mental health, adults should aim to be physically active every day. This could be 150 minutes of moderate exercise, 75 minutes of vigorous exercise or even shorter durations of very vigorous intensity activity, or a combination of moderate, vigorous and very vigorous intensity activity.
- ◀ Older adults (65+): should participate in daily physical activity to gain health benefits, including maintenance of good physical and mental health, wellbeing, and social functioning. Each week older adults should aim to accumulate 150 minutes (two and a half hours) of moderate intensity aerobic activity.

The report also recognises an emerging evidence base for the health benefits of performing very vigorous intensity activity performed in short bouts interspersed with periods of rest or recovery (high intensity interval exercise, HIIT). Available evidence demonstrates that high intensity interval exercise has clinically meaningful effects on fitness, body weight and insulin resistance. This option has therefore been incorporated into the recommendation for adults.

It, thus, emphasises the importance of regular activity for people of all ages. It presents additional guidance on being active during pregnancy, after giving birth, and for disabled adults. The new guidelines are consistent with previous ones, introducing some new elements and allowing flexibility in achieving recommended physical activity levels for each age group.

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

Figure 2.3: Physical activity guidelines



Joseph Rowntree Foundation UK Poverty 2025 report

This report notes that poverty in the UK has now increased to close to pre-pandemic levels. Available data provides evidence that more than one in five people now live in poverty (including 4.3 million children. Of these, 40% are described as being in 'deep poverty', with an income considerably below the standard poverty line. Certain groups of people face particularly high levels of poverty. They include (figures relate to 2022/23 unless otherwise stated):

- Larger families – where 45% of children in families with 3 or more children were in poverty.
- Families whose childcare responsibilities limit their ability to work – 44% of children in lone-parent families were in poverty.
- Many minority ethnic groups – many households have higher rates of child, very deep and persistent poverty.
- 30% of disabled people are in poverty. This rate is higher (at 38%) for people with a long-term, limiting mental health condition.
- 28% of informal carers (those with caring responsibilities). They have limited ability to work and unpaid social-care givers experience an average pay penalty of nearly £5,000/annum.

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

---

- ◀ Families not in work – more than half of working-age adults (56%) in workless households are in poverty - compared with 15% in working households. Around two-thirds of working-age adults in poverty actually live in a household where someone is in work.
- ◀ Part-time workers and the self-employed - the poverty rate for part-time workers was nearly triple that of full-time workers (22% compared with 8%).
- ◀ 43% of people living in rented accommodation and 35% of private renters are in poverty after housing costs.
- ◀ Poverty rates of people claiming different income-related benefits are much higher than the national average poverty rate.

## **Environmental sustainability**

The UK Government net zero strategy 'Build Back Greener' was published in October 2021. This sets out how it intends the UK to meet its target for decarbonisation by 2050. It focuses on interventions such as:

- ◀ A fully decarbonised power system by 2035 with all electricity coming from 'low carbon sources'.
- ◀ Improved efficiency of heating for homes and buildings, aiming for all new heating appliances to be based on low carbon technologies, such as electric heat pumps or hydrogen boilers.
- ◀ Low carbon fuel supply – by scaling up the production of low carbon alternatives including hydrogen and biofuels.

[Sport England](#) reports that <sup>5</sup>climate change and the increased occurrence of extreme weather that it brings are already affecting sports facilities, meaning that the sector needs to build greater resilience to counter this very real threat.

It proposes that a wide range of issues should be considered when approaching project development to, and the resultant environmental impact of, say, new swimming pool development. This applies to determining whether to refurbish an existing building with its carbon already embedded or to build anew<sup>6</sup>. In establishing a sustainability strategy early on Sport England suggests some key principles as part of a 'pathway to sustainability' and net zero carbon in respect of building design and operation.

- ◀ Reduce energy consumption as a first measure to reduce carbon emissions/energy costs.
- ◀ Change behaviour, eliminate energy waste and operate energy control systems more effectively at no extra cost.
- ◀ Passive design - building orientation and placement on site is critical to achieving net zero targets. Harness a site's natural resources to benefit cross ventilation, natural lighting, solar gain, shelter or shading.
- ◀ Fabric efficiency Maximise the building fabric and glazing performance.
- ◀ Minimise initial energy demand to reduce demand on plant and technologies incorporated.
- ◀ Efficient systems Invest in appropriate energy-efficient products including heating, ventilation, fittings, controls, sensors, heat pumps and recovery systems.
- ◀ On-site renewables Incorporate low and zero carbon (LZC) technologies to produce energy on site.
- ◀ Off-site renewables - only use energy providers who use renewable energy.

---

<sup>5</sup>[Sport England Environmental Sustainability policy](#)

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

---

## **Investment in school sport (may need to be updated)**

In 2021 the Department for Education announced a £10.1 million funding package to help more schools open their facilities to the public post Pandemic. The funding was administered by Sport England and distributed via the Active Partnership Network will help schools deliver extra-curricular activities and open their facilities outside of the school day during evenings, weekends and school holidays.

In March 2023, The Government announced that a funding package to boost equal opportunities in school sport to both boys' and girls' sport. Schools that successfully deliver equal opportunities for girls and boys will be rewarded through the School Games Mark, which will assess parity of provision in PE and extracurricular sport.

Schools are also being asked to offer a minimum of two hours curriculum PE time and Government will provide support to schools on how to do this through the upcoming refresh of the School Sport Action Plan. This is backed by a package of cross-government funding to help boost sport and activities both inside and outside school hours including the confirmation of over £600 million in funding over the next two academic years for the PE and Sport Premium and £22 million for the School Games Organisers (SGO) network.

## **The Physical Literacy Consensus Statement for England – Sport England (2023)**

This was developed to facilitate a shared understanding of physical literacy for those working in the sport, education, physical activity, recreation, play, health and youth sectors. It offers a broad overview of physical literacy, why it matters and how it can be developed and supported.

Developing a consensus on the term physical literacy has been a priority, as understanding what impacts people's relationship with movement and physical activity throughout life will enable those working in the sector to ensure their offer is as appealing as possible.

In essence, physical literacy represents the extent to which individuals have a positive relationship with movement and physical activity. The Youth Sport Trust has published findings evidencing that a total of 4,000 hours of physical education (PE) has been lost from the curriculum of state-funded secondary schools. PE hours have fallen victim to more time spent online, poor school attendance and declining health and wellbeing levels in young people. Since 2012, the amount of PE in England has fallen by more than 12%.

Evidence also shows that children with high levels of physical literacy are twice as likely to engage in sport and physical activity. In later life, adults who feel they have the opportunity, ability and enjoy being physically active are more likely to be so. To increase physical activity in both children and adults, it is important to consider the cultural and environmental factors which affect physical activity levels alongside the influence of previous experiences.

Ensuring good quality and regular PE in schools is considered to be essential to improving the mental and physical wellbeing of young people and will enable young people to develop new skills, achieve greater academic success and live longer, happier, healthier lives.

## **Sport England Swimming Pool Support Fund**

In 2023, a funding pot of £63 million was announced to ease the pressure on leisure centres with managing the cost of operating, maintaining and heating swimming pools. This is being managed by Sport England and is available to all pools run by councils and charities and all those run on behalf of councils. NWLDC received £242k funding for Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre in March 2025 through the Sport England Swimming Pool Support Fund.

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

---

## **Revised National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024)**

The NPPF sets out planning policies for England. It details how these changes are expected to be applied to the planning system. It also provides a framework for local people and their councils to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities. It states that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It identifies the need to focus on three themes of economic, social, environmentally sustainable development:

A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making, the NPPF states that local plans should meet objectively assessed needs. It is clear about sport's role delivering sustainable communities through promoting health and well-being. Sport England, working within the provisions of the NPPF, wishes to see local planning policy protect, enhance and provide for sports facilities based on robust and up-to-date assessments of need, as well as helping to realise the wider benefits that participation in sport can bring.

The promoting healthy communities theme identifies that planning policies should be based on robust, up-to-date assessment of need for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs, quantitative/qualitative deficiencies and surpluses should be identified and used to inform provision requirements in an area.

### **Summary of national context**

In the context of the challenging economic environment, there is a need to reconnect communities, reduce inequality and create stronger societies. The aim is to catalyse change, with sport/physical activity a key driver and people in all age groups either getting or remaining active. Ensuring adequate suitable facility supply to support this is a key requirement of the planning system in line with national policy recommendations.

### **2.2: Local context**

#### **North West Leicestershire District Council (NWLDC) Delivery Plan 2023 -2028**

In summary, the NWLDC Delivery Plan 2023-2028 sets out a clear direction for council work over the next five years, focusing on key areas such as planning, economic growth, communities, the environment, and effective governance. It emphasises a collaborative approach and a commitment to delivering positive outcomes for the residents and businesses of the district. It serves as a roadmap for how the council will work towards its vision of making NWL a place where people and businesses feel they belong and are proud to call home.

Key priority areas:

- ◀ **Planning and regeneration:** this is about shaping the future development of the district, including housing, infrastructure, and economic growth. It may include policies related to land use, building regulations, and the creation of vibrant places.
- ◀ **Economic growth and the physical development of the district:** this focuses on fostering a thriving local economy, attracting businesses, and supporting job creation. It also encompasses the physical development of the area, potentially including commercial and industrial spaces.
- ◀ **Communities and housing:** this area centres on the well-being of residents, looking after council tenants, and ensuring community safety. It likely includes services related to housing provision, community support, and crime prevention.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

---

- ◀ **Clean, green and zero carbon:** this priority emphasises environmental sustainability, aiming to protect and enhance the natural environment and work towards reducing carbon emissions. It could involve initiatives related to waste management, energy efficiency, and green spaces.
- ◀ **A well-run council:** this focuses on the internal workings of the council, ensuring efficient and effective service delivery, providing value for money, and maintaining sound financial management. It also includes a commitment to positive and friendly customer service.

Overarching themes and principles:

- ◀ **Putting residents first:** the Council aims to act as a custodian of the district's welfare and prioritise the needs of its communities.
- ◀ **Creating the right environment for growth:** similar to the National Forest analogy used in the document, the Council intends to foster conditions that allow communities and businesses to thrive.
- ◀ **Working in partnership:** recognising that it cannot achieve its goals alone, the Council emphasises the importance of collaboration with various partners and communities.
- ◀ **Continuous improvement:** the Council is committed to monitoring its performance and striving for ongoing improvement in the services it provides.
- ◀ **Listening and responding:** the Council acknowledges the need to be better at listening to residents and responding to their feedback.

## North West Leicestershire (NWL) Local Plan

This is a crucial document that sets out the long-term vision and framework for development within the district. It guides decisions on planning applications and aims to shape the future of the area by addressing various needs and challenges.

Purpose and scope:

- ◀ The current Local Plan (adopted in November 2017) covers the period 2011 to 2031. It outlines the current strategy for delivering homes, jobs, and infrastructure needed in the district.
- ◀ The Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan, to cover the 2024 to 2042 period. It will update existing policies and address changes in national planning policies and local circumstances.

Key elements and objectives (based on the ongoing review and existing plan):

- ◀ **Housing:** identifying the amount and location of new housing required to meet the needs of the growing population. The new Local Plan is currently being prepared to meet a housing requirement of 686 dwellings per year. The plan period has now been amended to cover the 2024 to 2042 period.
- ◀ **Employment:** planning for economic growth by allocating land for employment uses and supporting job creation. A consultation in March-May 2025 acknowledged a potential shortfall in general needs employment land up to 2042.
- ◀ **Infrastructure:** ensuring that necessary infrastructure, such as transport links, schools, healthcare facilities, and utilities, is in place to support new development.
- ◀ **Sustainability:** promoting sustainable development principles, including addressing climate change through energy efficiency and renewable energy, protecting the environment, and promoting healthy lifestyles.
- ◀ **Settlement hierarchy:** defining a hierarchy of settlements within the district (e.g., principal town, key service centres, local service centres) to guide the location and scale of development.
- ◀ **Limits to development:** defining boundaries to manage urban sprawl and protect the character of existing settlements and the countryside.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

---

- ◀ **Design quality:** ensuring that new development is of high-quality design and respects the local context.

The preparation and review of all policies should be underpinned by relevant and up-to-date evidence. This should be adequate and proportionate, focused tightly on supporting and justifying the policies concerned. This document forms part of the Council's Local Plan evidence base.

Current status and review process:

- ◀ The adopted Local Plan 2011-2031 forms part of the current development plan.
- ◀ The Council began reviewing the Local Plan shortly after its adoption.
- ◀ Several rounds of consultation have taken place as part of the new Local Plan's preparation, including on development strategy options (2022) and proposed policies and site allocations (February-March 2024).
- ◀ A consultation on additional proposed housing and employment site allocations took place between March and May 2025.
- ◀ The Council is working to submit the new Local Plan for examination before the end of December 2026.

In summary, the NWL Local Plan is a vital strategic document that guides development in the district and provides a framework for making decisions on planning applications. It is used by developers, landowners, residents, and the council to understand what kind of development is appropriate and where. Neighbourhood plans, prepared by local communities, must be in general conformity with the Local Plan.

## NWL Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2023-2026

This aims to improve the health and wellbeing of people living and working in the district. It was created through collaboration with NHS Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, stakeholders, and local residents to identify key priorities and issues. It will inform the broader Leicestershire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and address health needs at a neighbourhood level.

Key features and priorities:

**Collaborative development:** the plan was developed collaboratively with various stakeholders and the community, ensuring that local needs and perspectives were considered.

**Informed by data:** The nine key priority areas were identified in February 2023 through stakeholder engagement and were supported by local data from teams working directly with residents. The plan focuses on the following nine areas:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◀ Cancer prevention</li><li>◀ Hip fracture prevention</li><li>◀ Dementia</li><li>◀ Breastfeeding</li><li>◀ Carers support</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◀ Obesity/overweight</li><li>◀ Mental health</li><li>◀ Learning disabilities / special educational needs</li><li>◀ Diabetes</li></ul>
---	---

These nine priorities are being addressed over the three-year period of the plan:

**Year 1:** cancer prevention, hip fracture prevention, obesity/overweight, and mental health.

**Year 2:** breastfeeding, dementia, and learning disabilities.

**Year 3:** carers support and diabetes.

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

---

The NWL plan feeds into the Leicestershire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, ensuring a coordinated approach to improving health across the wider region. This Joint Strategy for Leicestershire (2022-2032) has a 10-year scope and is reviewed every three years. It emphasises a person-centred approach, prevention, enabling independence, equal access to services, and prioritizing both mental and physical health.

The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy adopts a life course approach, considering health and wellbeing needs across different stages of life:

- ◀ Best start for life (pre-natal to 19/25 years).
- ◀ Staying healthy, safe and well (19/25 years plus).
- ◀ Living and supported well (older people and those with health needs).
- ◀ Dying well (end of life).

A key aim of the broader strategy, to which the local plan contributes, is to ensure equal access to services and reduce health inequalities across Leicestershire.

The plan is designed to respond to health priorities at a local level, allowing for targeted interventions and community-specific actions.

**Monitoring and review:** the council monitors its performance against the objectives of the broader Delivery Plan (2023-2028), which would probably include elements related to this Health and Wellbeing Plan. The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy is also reviewed every three years to reflect changing needs.

## **Active Together**

Active Together is the county wide Active Partnership for Leicestershire. It has the aim to make sport and physical activity not only more accessible but part of everyday life. It is one of 43 active partnerships in England which work with public and local partners to transform lives through sport and physical activity.

The Active Together Partnership Physical Activity Framework 2022-2031 is a ten-year strategy for Leicestershire, Leicester, and Rutland (LLR). It aims to increase physical activity levels and reduce health inequalities across the region, particularly for those who find it most challenging to be active. The stated vision is 'to make physical activity a part of daily life for everyone in LLR, leading to healthier and happier lives'.

Physical activity, encompassing sport and everyday movement, is essential for healthier and happier lives and delivers positive societal outcomes such as improved mental health, reduced social isolation, and a lower carbon footprint. Key strategy principles are set out in the table overleaf.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Key principles:

Principle	Description
Putting people and place first	Taking a community-centred approach to develop local solutions.
Working as a system	Collaborating with key partners to integrate physical activity into everyday life.
Extending and strengthening reach	Identifying new partners to create more opportunities for activity.
Developing an active environment	Promoting sporting assets and helping communities' benefit from them.
Reducing carbon footprint	Encouraging behaviours that contribute to tackling climate change.
Developing leaders and workforce	Addressing diversity challenges and building a skilled workforce.
Being dynamic	Adopting a flexible approach to respond to the changing environment.
Connecting and collaborating	Developing a common purpose with partner organisations.
Thinking long term	Addressing the root causes of inactivity barriers.
Prioritising reducing inequality	Directing resources to those who will benefit most.
Being brave	Encouraging innovation and bold action.

The framework focuses on "our people" "our places," and "our partnerships," emphasising a life-course approach, place-led delivery, and system-wide collaboration. It intends to track progress in increasing physical activity and reducing inactivity levels within the LLR population.

Most of these principles are addressed through programme delivery through a partnership approach with other organisations (such as Everyone Active). An example includes the **Holidays Together Programme**. The programme promotes physical activity and healthy eating during holiday periods. There is a particular focus to deliver these in areas of high deprivation. In North West Leicestershire, the settlement areas are Agar Nook, Ibstock & Ellistown and Hugglescote & Bardon Hill.

## NWLDC Climate Emergency Declaration and Zero Carbon Roadmap (2019)

This, along with the accompanying action plan, was adopted on 31 March 2020. NWLDC targets are to be a net zero carbon council by 2030 and a net zero carbon district by 2050. As noted above, a "clean, green and zero carbon district" is a strategic priority in the [Council Delivery Plan](#). The action plan focuses on carbon emissions, their sources and how to reduce them and identifies recommended actions to achieve net zero carbon status.

## East Midlands Airport (EMA) Sustainable Development Plan (SDP) 2025

EMA is currently consulting on this plan which outlines its vision for growth and operations over the next 20 years while minimising environmental impact and maximising benefits for the region. The overarching vision is to:

- ◀ Develop the airport responsibly and sustainably, working with partners to minimise disturbance and reduce emissions.
- ◀ Deepen EMA's role in the Midlands by driving growth through better connectivity, creating jobs, and attracting investment.
- ◀ Enable passengers to enjoy travel from their local airport and to consolidate EMA's position as the UK's leading global gateway for express freight.

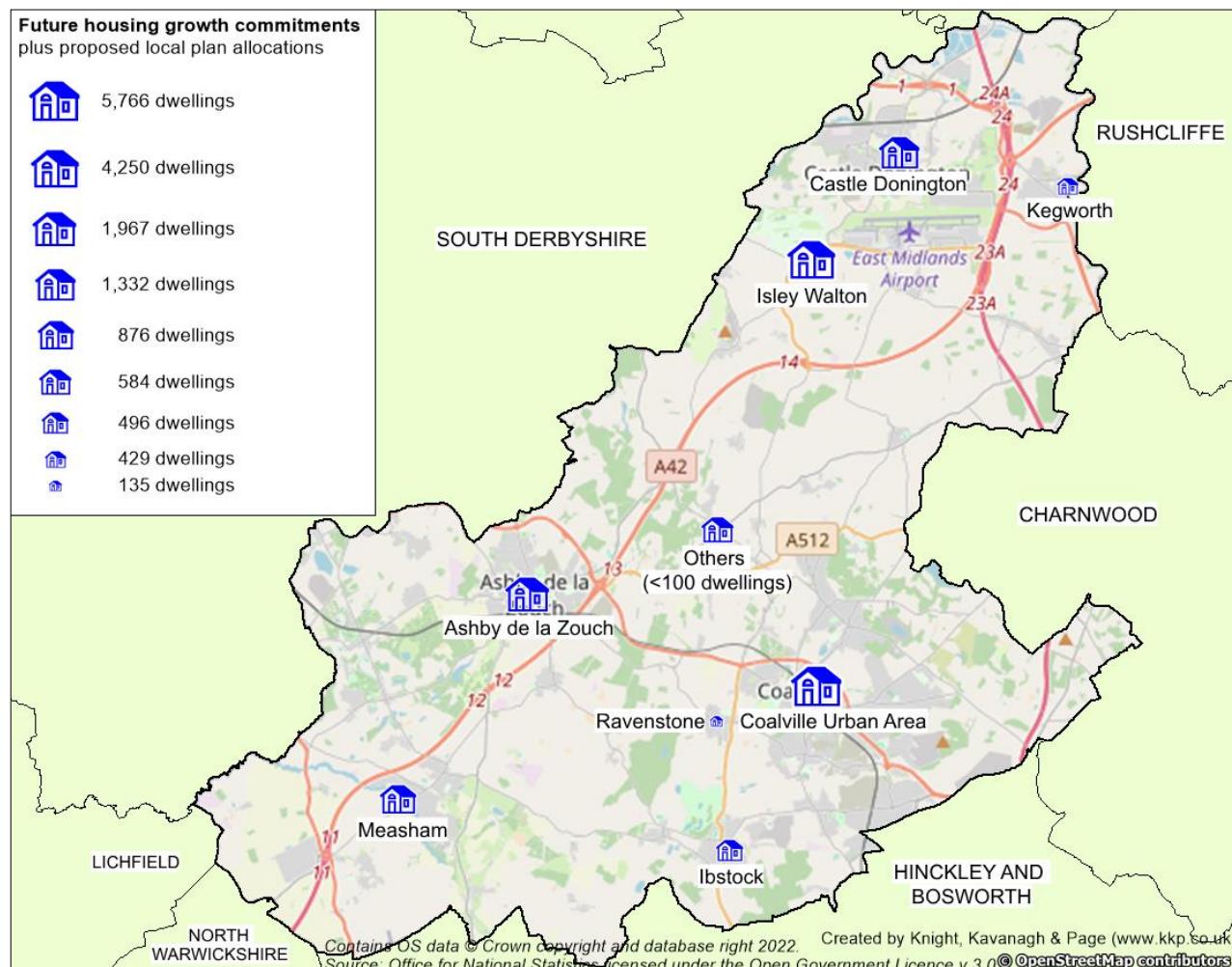
# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## Local housing growth

The draft Local Plan (2024 to 2042) proposes a total housing requirement of 17,710 dwellings (as agreed 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024). 2,285 have either already been completed or building has commenced, resulting in 15,425 still required.

The map and table overleaf illustrate future housing growth commitments plus proposed local plan allocations along with associated planned facilities. It suggests that only one new sports facility is planned - located in the north in the area of Isley Walton. This new settlement is likely to include provision for sports pitches and infrastructure including schools (two primary/one secondary (or possibly an all through), a sport/community hub, shops and GP services. Dates for construction are not yet known.

Figure 2.4: Future housing growth commitments plus proposed local plan housing allocations in NWL



# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

---

Table 2.1: Future housing growth commitments plus proposed local plan allocations (as at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024)

Settlement area	Committed number of dwellings	Additional proposed sports facilities
Coalville Urban Area	5,486	
Ashby de la Zouch	1,922	
Castle Donnington	1,299	
Ibstock	496	
Kegworth	421	
Measham	876	
Ravenstone	135	
Isley Walton	4,250*	One secondary school and sports/community hub.
Others (<100 dwellings)	540	
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,425</b>	

\* 4,250 planned in total- 1,950 will be delivered up to 2042

## Leisure operators within the Authority

Everyone Active manages the two key leisure centres in the District, Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre and Ashby Leisure Centre & Lido. Its 25-year contract to manage the facilities, commenced in 2019. Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre is a relatively new facility, which opened in 2022, replacing Hermitage Leisure Centre.

Other leisure facilities are managed by academy educational trusts; the main one being Life Multi Academy Trust which manages Ashby School, Ibstock Community College and Ivanhoe School.

## 2.3: Demographic profile

### Population (Data source: 2022 Mid-Year Estimate MYE, ONS)

The total population of NWL is 110,316 comprising 54,178 males and 56,138 females. As illustrated in the chart below, there is a lower proportion of 5-29 year-olds (NWL: 27.9%, East Midlands: 30.0%), but more in the age groups from 45-64 (NWL: 27.1%, East Midlands: 25.8%). The population density map below is based on lower super output areas (LSOAs) from the most recent ONS Census.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Figure 2.5: Population density 2021 Census: NWL (LSOAs)

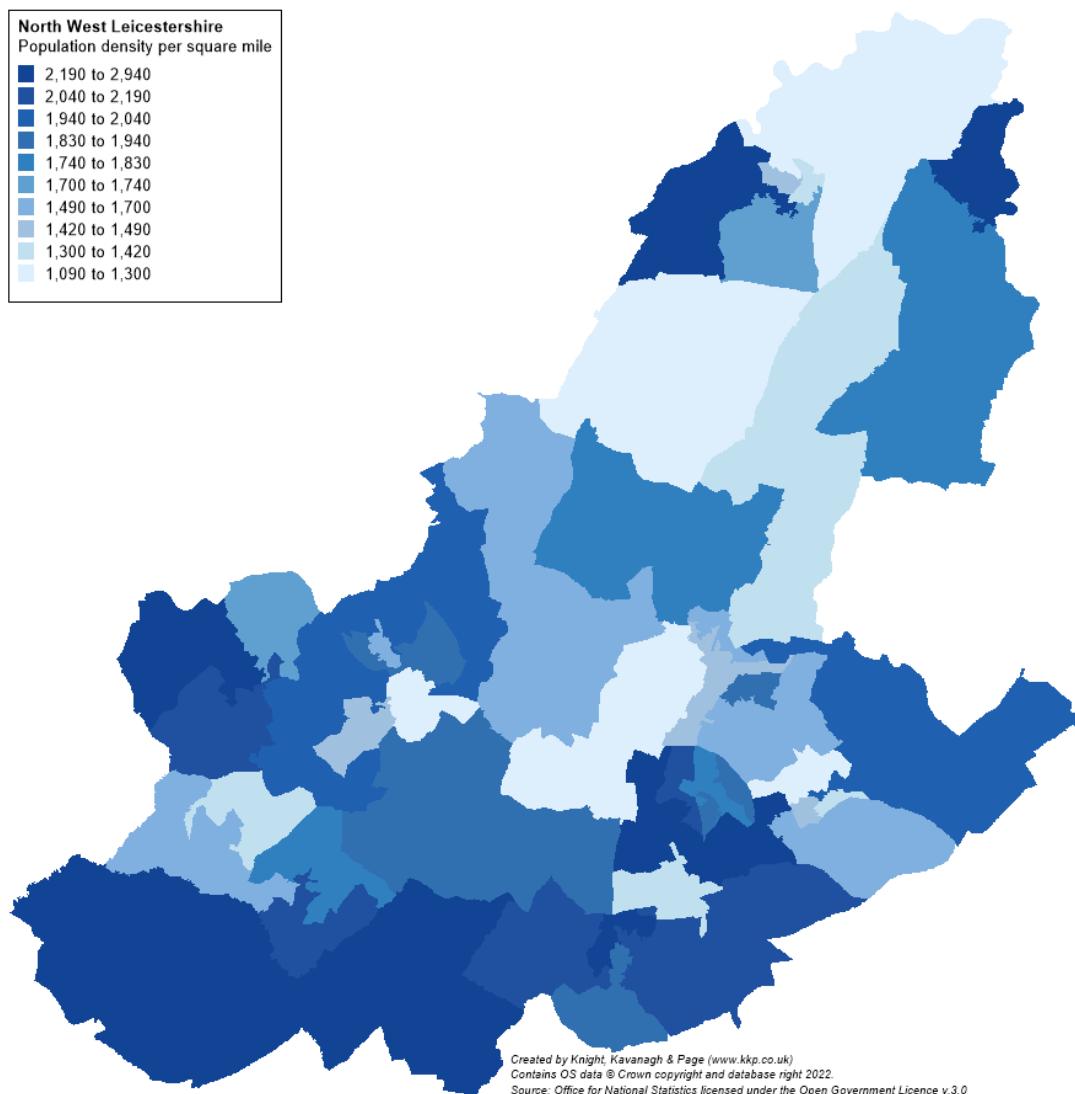
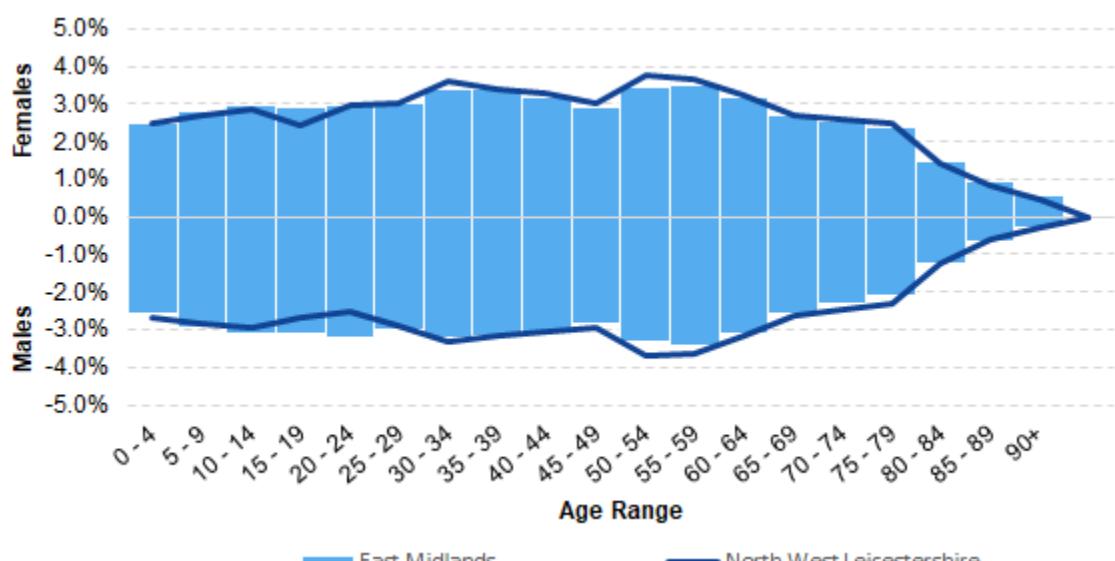


Figure 2.6: Comparative age/sex pyramid for NWL and the East Midlands



# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

---

## Population projections (Data source: 2018-based population projections, ONS)

Projections indicate a rise of 33.3% (+34,028) in NWL's population from 2018 to 2042. Over this extended timeframe:

- ◀ The number of 0-15 year olds, rises by +2,680 (+14.3%) over the first half of the projection -to 2031.
- ◀ There is also a predicted increase in the number of 16-24 year olds, +13.3% in the first period (+1,258) followed by a further increase of +3.3% (+316) in the second period.
- ◀ There is a continuous increase in the numbers of persons aged 65+. This represents a rise of +65.7% (+13,547) between 2018 and 2042.

Figure 2.7: Projected population change (2018 – 2042)

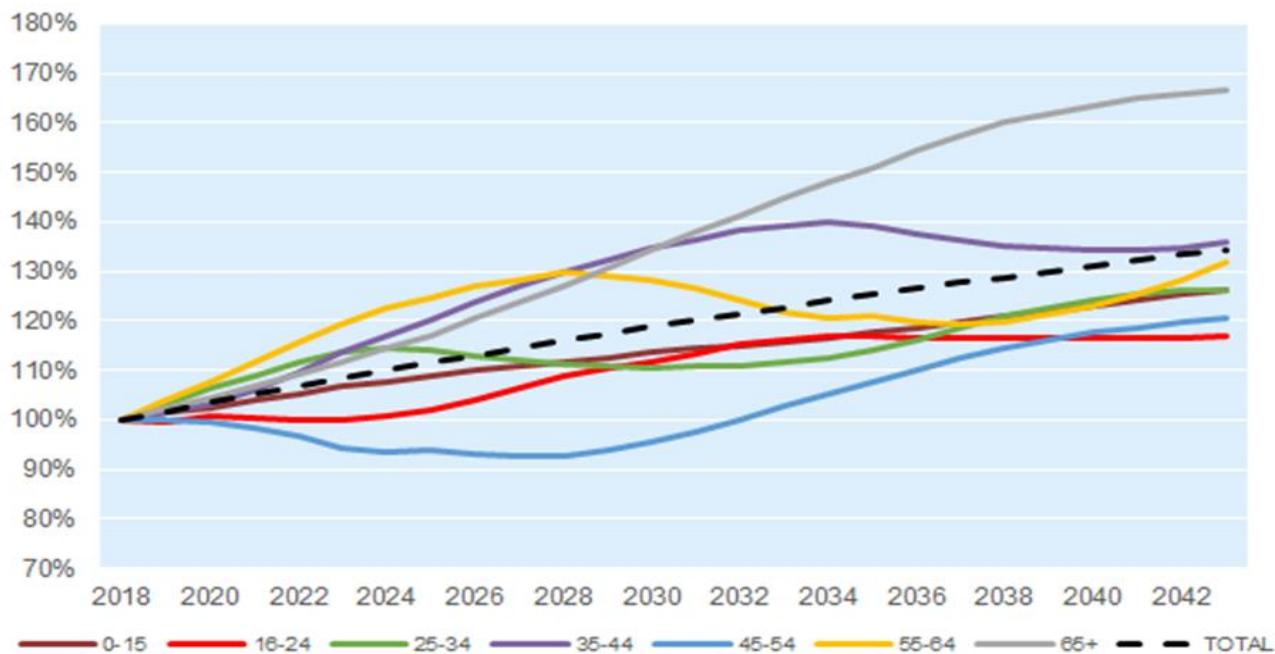


Table 2.2: NWL – ONS projected population (2018 to 2042)

Age (years)	2018 #	2031 #	2042 #	2018 %	2031 %	2042 %	2031 Change	2042 Change
0-15	18,751	21,431	23,476	18.4%	17.5%	17.2%	114.3%	125.2%
16-24	9,483	10,741	11,057	9.3%	8.8%	8.1%	113.3%	116.6%
25-34	11,972	13,260	15,086	11.7%	10.8%	11.1%	110.8%	126.0%
35-44	12,392	16,896	16,710	12.1%	13.8%	12.3%	136.3%	134.8%
45-54	15,998	15,589	19,187	15.7%	12.7%	14.1%	97.4%	119.9%
55-64	13,163	16,646	16,894	12.9%	13.6%	12.4%	126.5%	128.3%
65+	20,367	28,078	33,744	19.9%	22.9%	24.8%	137.9%	165.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>102,126</b>	<b>122,641</b>	<b>136,154</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>120.1%</b>	<b>133.3%</b>

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## Ethnicity (Data source: 2021 Census, ONS)

NWL's ethnic composition does not reflect that of England as a whole. According to the 2021 Census, the largest proportion (95.9%) of the local population classified its ethnicity as White; this is considerably higher than the comparative England rate of 81.0%. The next largest population groups (by self-classification) are Asian and Mixed with 1.5% each. These are much lower than the national equivalents of 9.6% (Asian) and 3.0% (Mixed).

Figure 2.8: Ethnicity in NWL and England

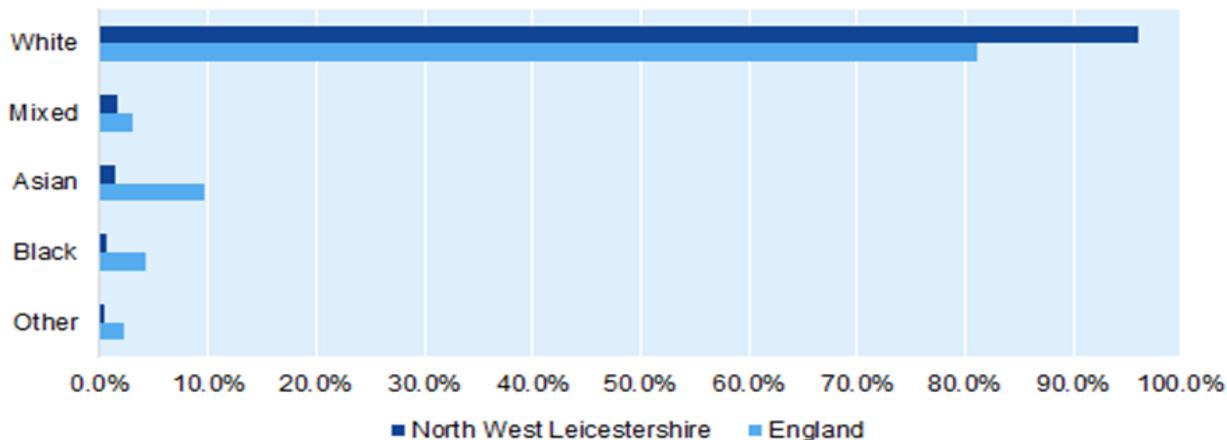


Table 2.3: Ethnic composition – NWL and England

Ethnicity	NWL #	NWL %	England #	England %
White	100,449	95.9%	45,783,401	81.0%
Mixed	1,592	1.5%	1,669,378	3.0%
Asian	1,543	1.5%	5,426,392	9.6%
Black	642	0.6%	2,381,724	4.2%
Other	481	0.5%	1,229,153	2.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>104,707</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>56,490,048</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## Car and van ownership (Data source: 2021 Census, ONS)

In total, 39,303 households (87.4%) in NWL have at least one car or van. This is higher than the equivalent rate of 80.9% in the East Midlands and 76.7% in England and Wales. 35.4% of NWL households have access to two or more cars/vans.

Table 2.4: Comparative car and van ownership: NWL, East Midlands and England & Wales.

Car / van ownership	NWL #	NWL %	East Midlands #	East Midlands %	England #	England %
No cars or vans	5,670	12.6%	389,858	19.1%	5,777,962	23.3%
1 car or van	17,109	38.0%	833,573	40.9%	10,236,901	41.3%
2 cars or vans	15,937	35.4%	600,766	29.5%	6,485,729	26.2%
3 or more cars or vans	6,257	13.9%	213,135	10.5%	2,282,601	9.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>44,973</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>2,037,332</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>24,783,193</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

---

## **Crime** (Data source: Crime in England and Wales year ending June 2023, ONS)

Crime data is only available for police force areas. NWL is in the Leicestershire Police Force Area, which comprises nine local authorities (Blaby, Charnwood, City of Leicester, Harborough, Hinckley and Bosworth, Melton, NWLDC, Oadby and Wigston, and Rutland). The population of NWL accounts for 9.6% of the Leicestershire Police Force Area.

During the 12 months to September 2024 the number of recorded crimes per '000 persons in the Leicestershire Police Force Area was 83.5. (2023 MYE) This is lower than the equivalent rate for England and Wales as a whole which was 88.2. The number of recorded crimes in the Leicestershire area has fallen significantly (by 9.7%) since September 2023 (2022 MYE). The number for England and Wales fell by 5.0% over the same period.

## **Income and benefits dependency** (Data source: Nomis 2023)

The median figure for full-time earnings (2024) in NWL is £39,770; the comparative rate for the East Midlands is £35,573 (-10.6 %) and for Great Britain is £37,950 (-4.6%). 1,390 people in NWL claimed out of work benefits in December 2024- an increase of 3.3% when compared to December 2023 (1,345).

## **Deprivation** (Data source: 2019 indices of deprivation, MHCLG)

Relative to other parts of the country NWL experiences low levels of deprivation; one in 15 of the district's population (6.9%) falls within areas covered by the country's three most deprived cohorts compared to a national average of c.30%. Conversely, 44.3% live in the three least deprived groupings in the country, this compares to a 'norm' of c.30%.

The pattern is broadly replicated for health but not to the same extent. Almost one sixth of NWL's population (15.4%) falls within the areas covered by the three most deprived cohorts, this compares to a national average of c.30%. Conversely, 34.2% live in the three least deprived groupings compared to a 'norm' of c.30%.

Table 2.5: IMD cohorts – multiple deprivation in NWL

<b>10% bands</b>	<b>Population in band</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Cumulative %</b>
Most deprived - 10.0	3,170	3.3%	3.3%
20.0	0	0.0%	3.3%
30.0	3,522	3.6%	6.9%
40.0	12,269	12.6%	19.5%
50.0	8,233	8.5%	28.0%
60.0	8,249	8.5%	36.5%
70.0	18,638	19.2%	55.7%
80.0	19,591	20.2%	75.9%
90.0	15,552	16.0%	91.9%
Least deprived - 100.0	7,874	8.1%	100.0%

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Figure 2.9: Map of multiple deprivation

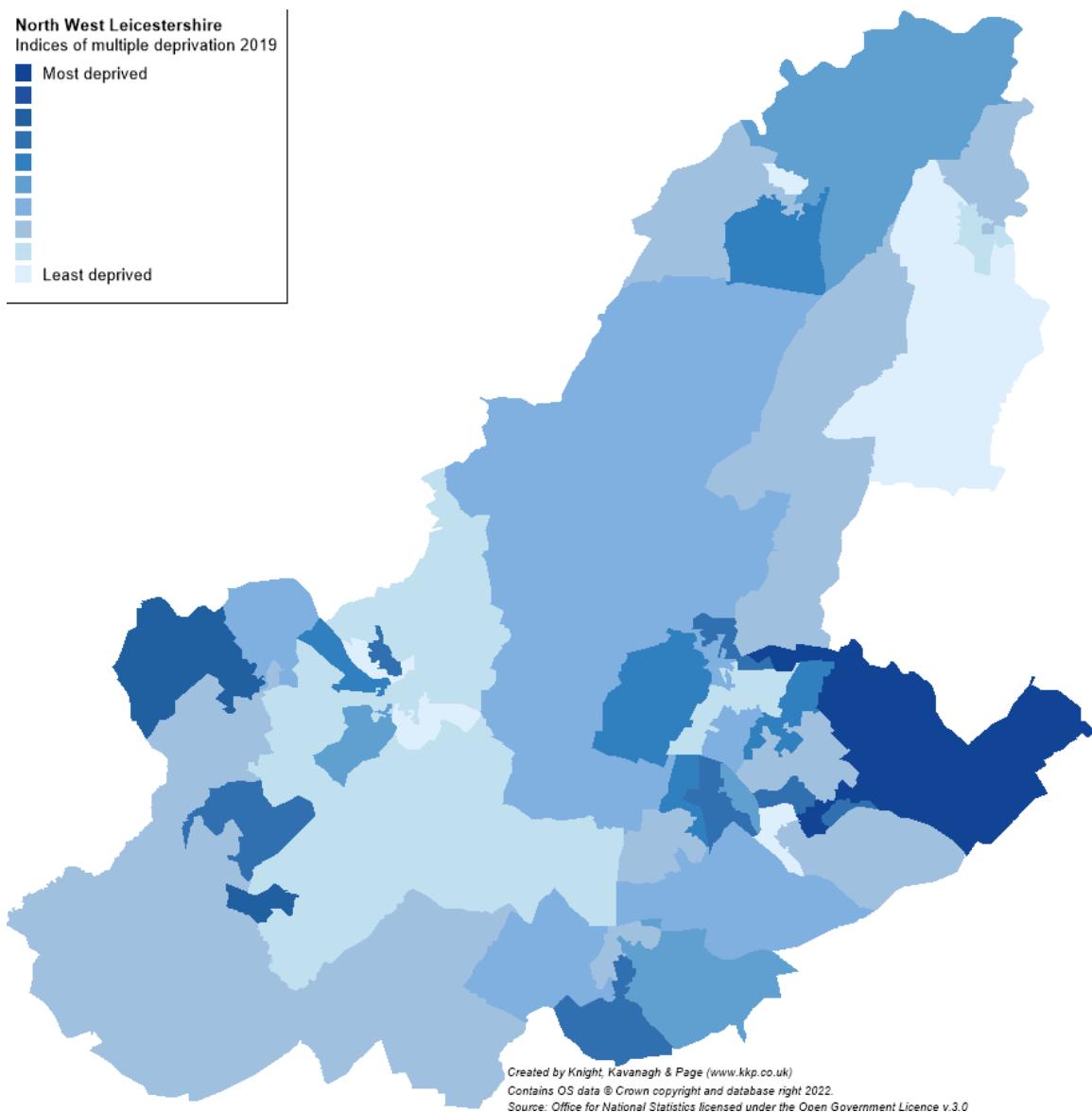
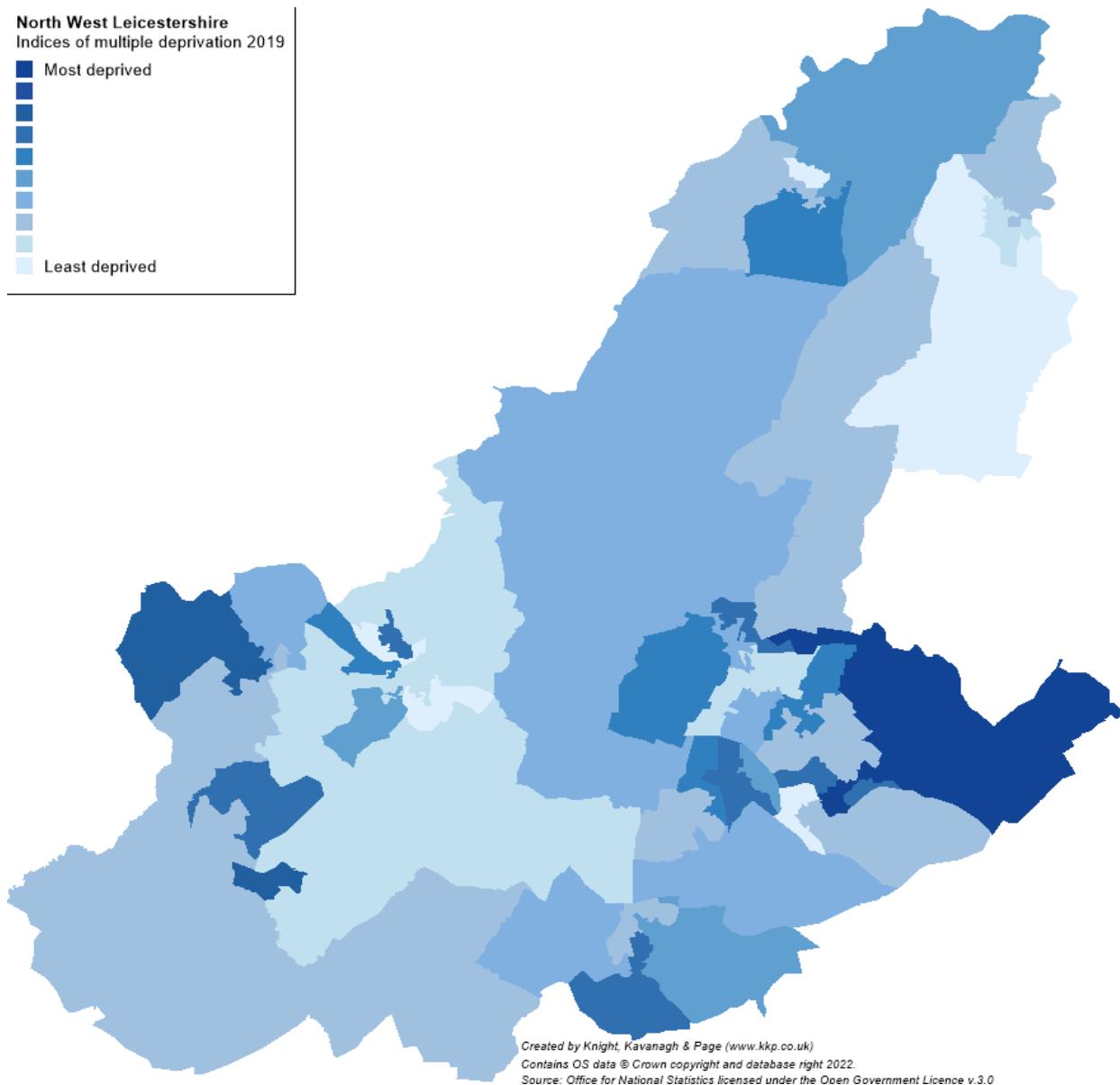


Table 2.6: IMD cohorts – health deprivation in NWL

10% bands	Population in band	%	Cumulative %
Most deprived - 10.0	0	0.0%	0.0%
20.0	1,495	1.5%	1.5%
30.0	13,411	13.8%	15.4%
40.0	11,997	12.4%	27.7%
50.0	12,793	13.2%	40.9%
60.0	11,383	11.7%	52.6%
70.0	12,857	13.2%	65.8%
80.0	15,068	15.5%	81.4%
90.0	18,094	18.6%	100.0%
Least deprived - 100.0	0	0.0%	100.0%

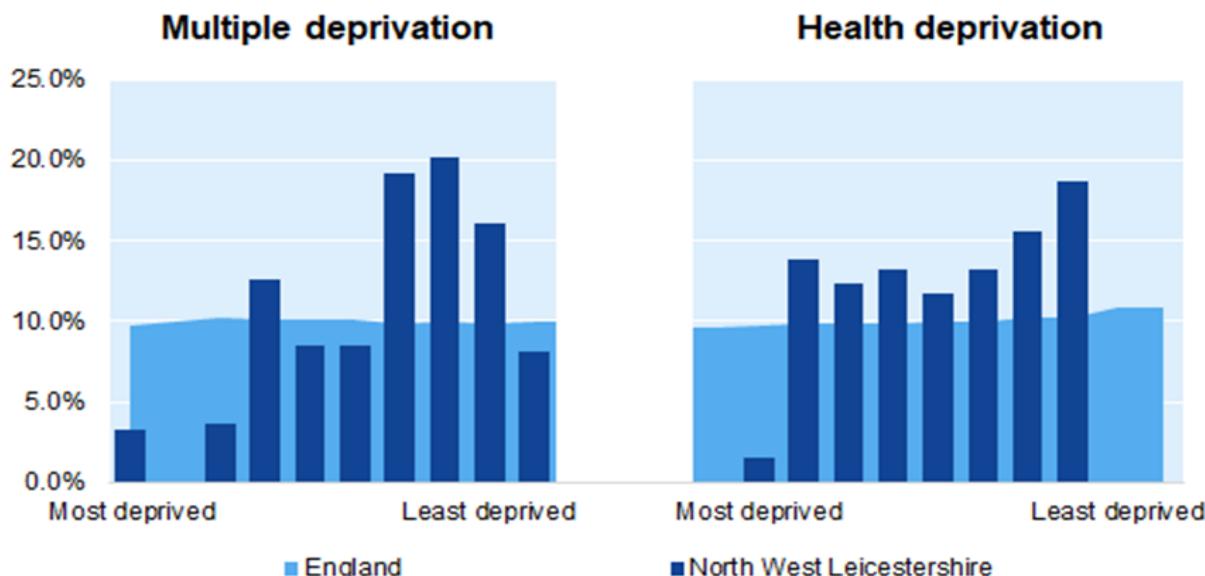
# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Figure 2.10: Map of health deprivation



# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Figure 2.11: Index of multiple and health deprivation



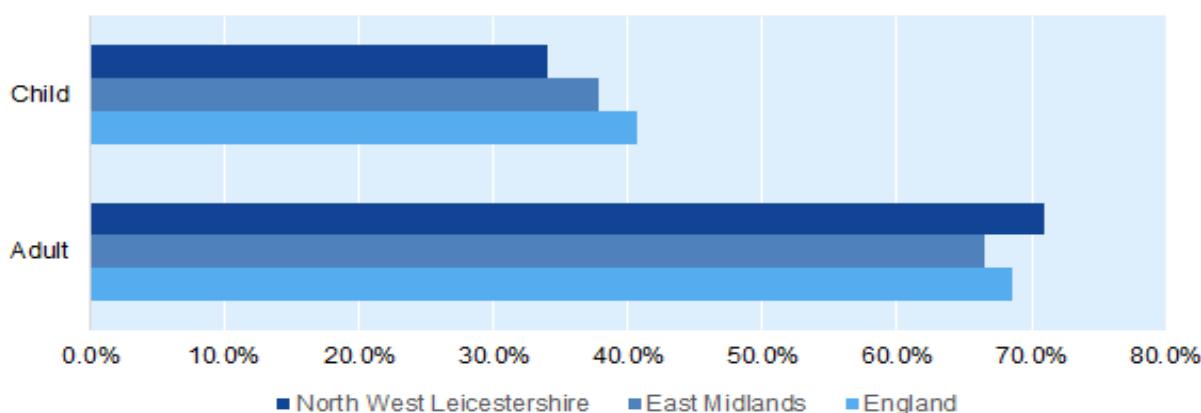
## Health data (Data source: ONS)

In keeping with patterns seen alongside lower levels of health deprivation, life expectancy in NWL is higher than the national figure; the male rate is currently 79.7 compared to 79.4 for England, and the female equivalent is 83.5 compared to 83.1 nationally<sup>7</sup>.

## Weight and obesity (Data sources: NCMP<sup>8</sup> and NOO<sup>9</sup>)

Obesity is widely recognised to be associated with health problems such as type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer. At a national level, the resulting NHS costs attributable to overweight and obesity are projected to reach £9.7 billion by 2050, with wider costs to society estimated to reach £49.9 billion per year. These factors combine to make the prevention of obesity a major public health challenge.

Figure 2.12 – Adult and child overweight and obesity rates



Adult rates of obesity or overweight in NWL are above national and regional rates. However, child rates are below both national and regional rates.

<sup>7</sup> Office of National Statistics: *Life Expectancy at Birth by local areas in the United Kingdom, 2020*.

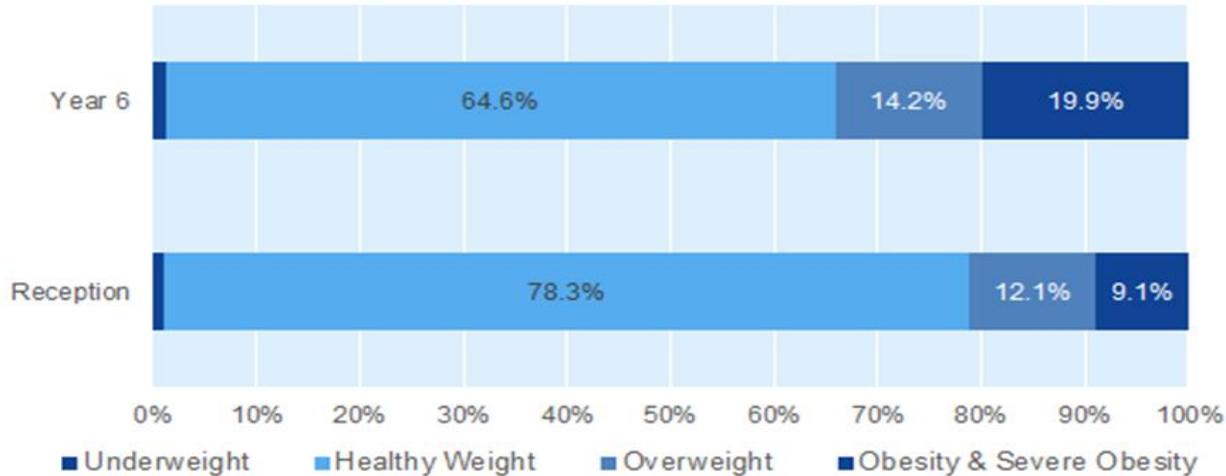
<sup>8</sup> National Child Measurement Program

<sup>9</sup> National Obesity Observatory

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

---

Figure 2.13: Child weight – reception and year 6



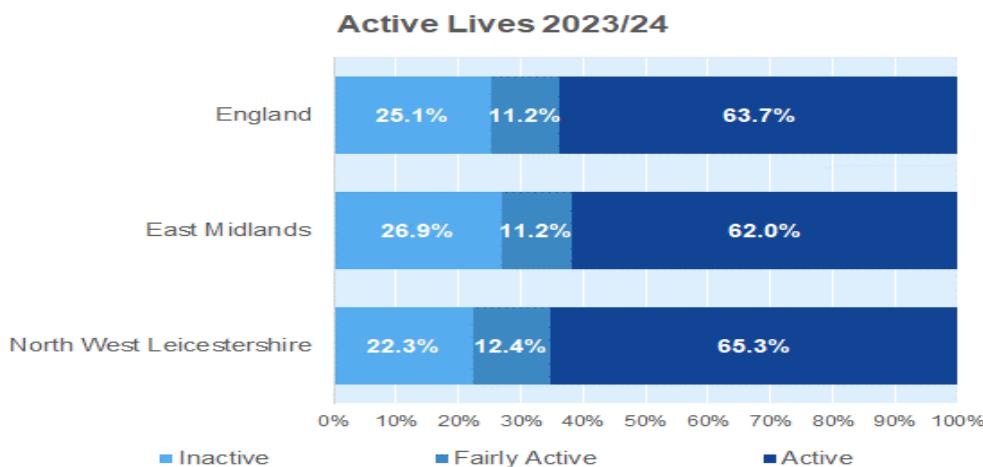
As with many other areas, obesity rates increase significantly between the ages of 4-11. Around 1 in 11 children (9.1%) in NWL are obese in their reception year at school and 12.1% are overweight. By Year 6 these figures rise to one in five (19.9%) obese and 14.2% overweight. In total by Year 6 more than one third (34.1%) are either overweight or obese.

## Active Lives Survey (Data Source: Sport England November 2023/24)

This is based on 16+year olds taking part in walking, cycling, fitness, dance and other sporting activity. A higher percentage of NWL population is inactive relative to England and similar to East Midlands. A lower percentage of the North West Leicestershire population is inactive compared to England and the East Midlands and a higher percentage (65.3%) is considered to be active. This is specified by Sport England as follows:

- ◀ Inactive - <30 minutes per week.
- ◀ Fairly Active – 30-149 minutes per week.
- ◀ Active – 150+ minutes per week.

Figure 2.14: Levels of activity (Active Lives 2021-2022)



The rate/population totals for sport and physical activity levels (excluding gardening) of adults (16+) in English local authority areas are shown below.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## Popular sports (Data Source: Sport England Active Lives Survey November 2020/21)

This enables identification of the top five sports within NWL. As with many other areas, fitness and cycling are among the most popular activities and are known to cut across age groups and gender; in NWL, over a fifth of adults take part in fitness activities, on average, at least twice a month. The next most popular activity is cycling which 13.4% of adults participate in on a relatively regular basis.

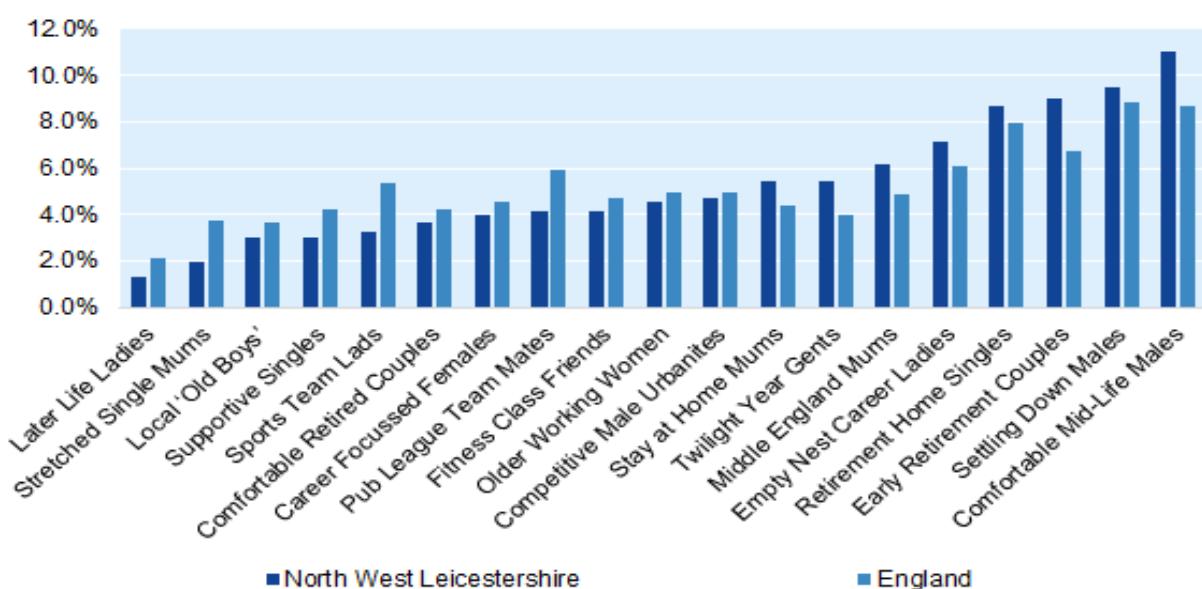
Table 2.7: Most popular sports in NWL

Sport	NWL #.	NWL %	East Midlands #	East Midlands %	England #	England %
Fitness	17,900	20.9%	890,900	22.5%	11,374,600	24.9%
Cycling	11,500	13.4%	572,600	14.4%	7,472,900	16.4%
Athletics	10,600	12.3%	471,600	11.9%	6,252,000	13.7%
Swimming	2,300	2.7%	142,100	3.6%	2,001,600	4.4%
Football	2,200	2.6%	113,400	2.9%	1,451,700	3.2%

## Sporting segmentation (Data source: Sport England Sports Market Segmentation web tool)

Sport England classifies the adult population via a series of 19 market segments which provide an insight into the sporting behaviours of individuals throughout the country. Knowing which segments are most dominant in the local population can help direct provision and programming. Segmentation also enables partners to make tailored interventions, communicate effectively with target market(s) and better understand participation in the context of life stage and lifecycles.

Figure 2.15: Sport England Market Segmentation – NWL compared to England



The segmentation profile for NWL indicates that 'Comfortable Mid-Life Males' is the largest segment of the adult population at 11.1% (8,068) compared to a national average of 8.7%. This is closely followed by 'Settling Down Males' (9.5%) and 'Early Retirement Couples' (9.0%). At

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

the other end of the spectrum, there are fewest 'Later Life Ladies with only 1.3%, 'Stretched Single Mums' (1.9%) and 'Local 'Old Boys" (3.0%).

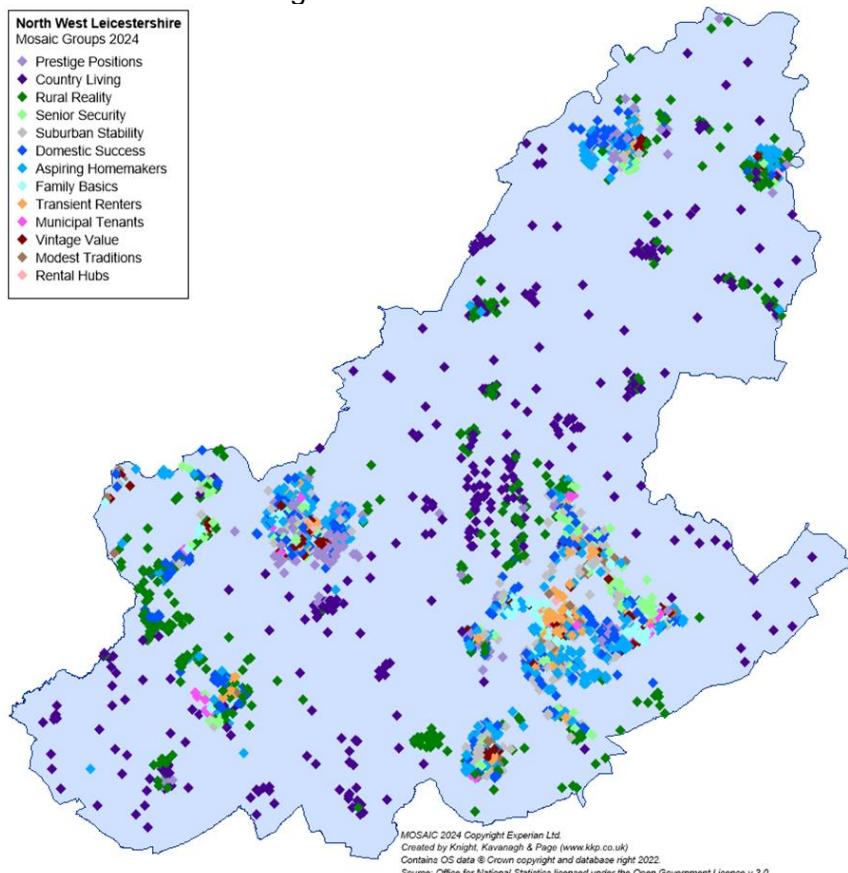
## Mosaic (Data source: 2022 Mosaic analysis, Experian)

This is a similar consumer segmentation product. It classifies all 28.6 million UK households into 15 groups, 66 household types and 238 segments. This data is used to paint a picture of UK consumers lifestyles, culture and behaviour. The dominance of these five can be seen inasmuch as they represent of around two-thirds (66.5%) of the population compared to a national equivalent rate of just over 4 in 10 (40.2%).

Table 2.8: Mosaic – main population segments in NWL

Mosaic group description	NWL #	NWL %	National %
1 - Aspiring Homemakers	21,159	19.4%	10.9%
2 - Rural Reality	16,683	15.3%	6.1%
3 - Domestic Success	15,576	14.3%	9.1%
4 - Suburban Stability	10,642	9.8%	5.0%
5 - Family Basics	8,341	7.7%	9.1%

Figure 2.16: Distribution of Mosaic segments in NWL

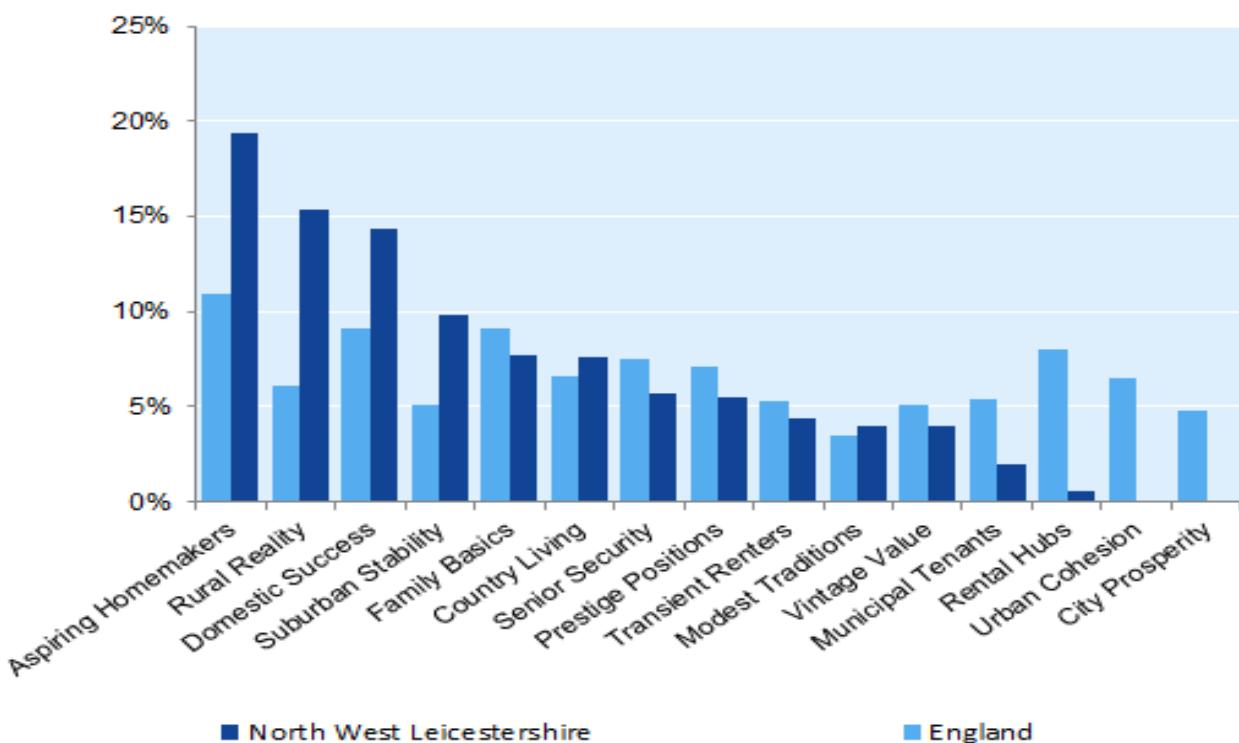


# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Table 2.9: Dominant Mosaic profiles in NWL.

<b>Aspiring Homemakers</b>	Younger households who have, often, only recently set up home. They usually own their homes in private suburbs, which they have chosen to fit their budget.
<b>Rural Reality</b>	People who live in rural communities and generally own their relatively low-cost homes. Their moderate incomes come mostly from employment with local firms or from running their own small business.
<b>Domestic Success</b>	High-earning families who live affluent lifestyles in upmarket homes situated in sought after residential neighbourhoods. Their busy lives revolve around their children and successful careers in higher managerial and professional roles.

Figure 2.17: Mosaic segmentation 2024 – NWL compared to nationally



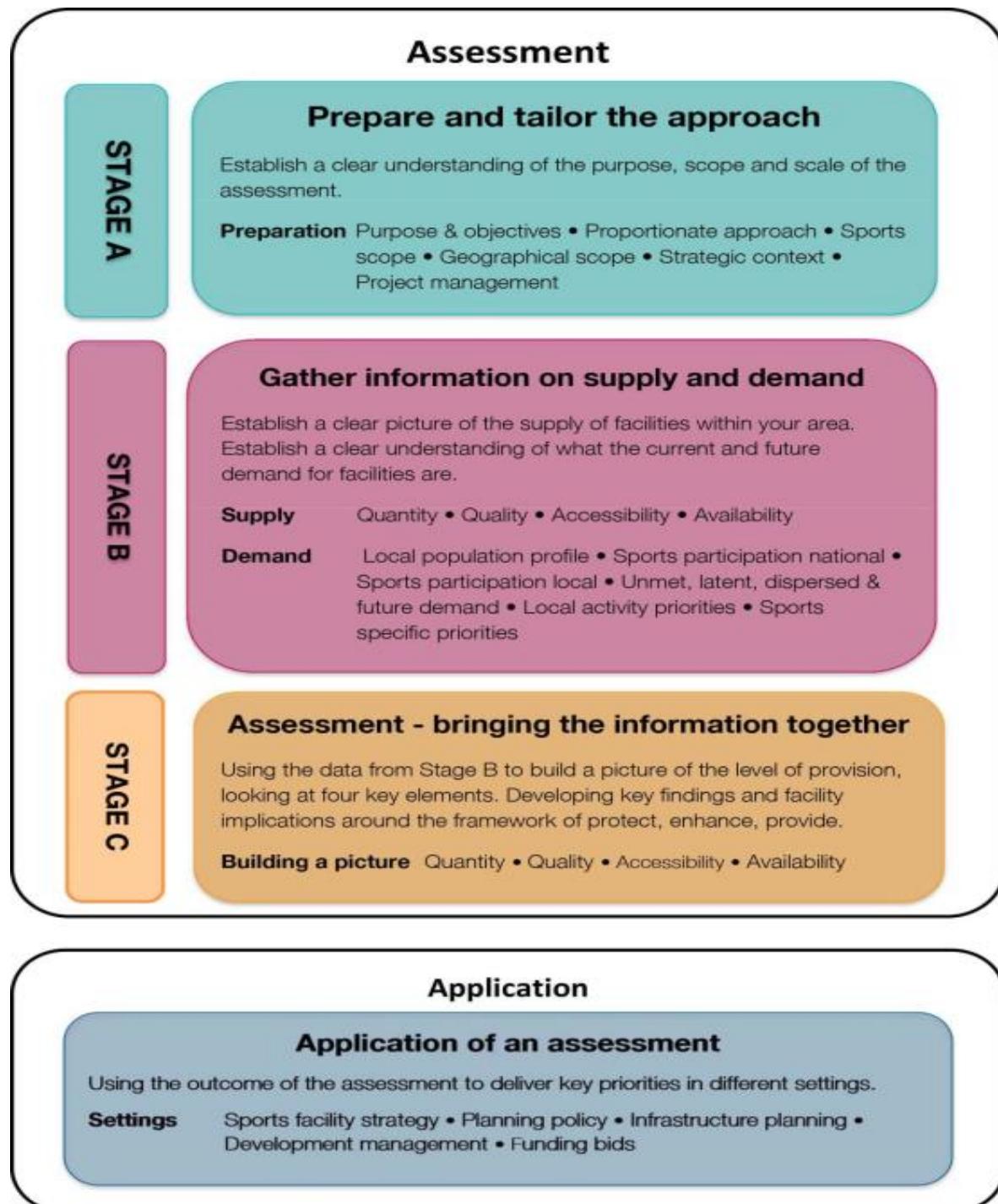
# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## SECTION 3: SPORTS FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

### 3.1: Methodology

As noted above, assessment of provision is based on the ANOG methodology. This is the recommended approach to undertaking robust assessments of need for indoor and outdoor sports facilities. (It excludes playing pitch provision which is assessed separately within the PPS and applies Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance).

Figure 3.1: Recommended approach



# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

---

ANOG has been produced to help (local authorities) meet the requirements of the Government's NPPF, which states that 'access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.' (NPPF, Paragraph 104).

Provision assessment involves analysis of quality, quantity, accessibility and availability for the identified facility types (e.g., sports halls and swimming pools). Each venue is considered on a 'like for like' basis within its own facility type, to enable it to be assessed for adequacy.

Demand background, data and consultation is variable, depending upon levels of consultation garnered. In some instances, national data is available whilst in others, it is possible to drill down and get some very detailed local information. This is evident within the demand section.

The report considers the distribution of and interrelationship between facility types in the Authority and provides a clear indication of areas of high demand. It identifies where there is potential to provide improved and/or additional facilities to meet this demand and, where appropriate, to protect or rationalise the current stock.

## **3.2: Site visits**

Active Places Power (APP) is used to provide baseline data to identify facilities in the study area. Where possible, assessments are undertaken in the presence of facility staff. This tends to add value as it enables access to be gained to more areas within venues and more detailed in-situ discussion of issues such as customer perspectives, quality, maintenance etc. Where possible it adds value to the audit (which is a 'snapshot' visit) enhancing the accuracy of insight gathered about the general user experience.

Site visits to key indoor facilities, those operated by other partners and the voluntary sector were undertaken. Where a physical visit was not possible a telephone consultation with the facility/site manager was delivered. Via the audit and via informal interviews with facility managers this report identifies 'relevance' and 'condition' and describes (e.g.):

- ◀ Facility and scale.
- ◀ Usage/local market.
- ◀ Ownership, management and access arrangements (plus, where available, facility owner aspirations).
- ◀ Management, programming, catchments, user groups, gaps.
- ◀ Location (urban/rural), access and accessibility.
- ◀ Condition, maintenance, existing improvement plans, facility 'investment status' (lifespan in the short, medium and long term).
- ◀ Existing/ planned adjacent facilities.

The assessment forms utilised capture quantity and quality data on a site-by-site basis and feeds directly into the main database allowing information to be stored and analysed. Quality assessments undertaken are rated in the categories set out in Table 3.1 overleaf. These ratings are applied throughout the report, regardless of facility type.

Ratings are based on non-technical visual assessments. These consider facility age and condition. Surfaces, tiles and walls, line markings and safety equipment are considered and problem areas such as mould, damage, leaks etc. are noted. The condition of fixtures, fittings and equipment is recorded.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Maintenance and facility 'wear and tear' is considered as is compliance with the Equality Act although this is not studied in detail for the purposes of this report. When all data is collated, key facility elements receive an overall quality rating.

Table 3.1: Quality ratings of indoor sports facilities using ANOG

Quality rating	Description
Good	Facility is new (less than 5 years old) or recently invested in, up to date, clean, well maintained and presented. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are new or relatively new with little if any wear and tear. They are well-lit with a modern feel. Ancillary facilities are new or well maintained, fit for purpose, modern and attractive.
Above average	Facility is in reasonable condition and is well maintained and presented. May be older but it is fit for purpose and safe. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are in an acceptable condition but may show some signs of wear and tear. Ancillary facilities are good quality but potentially showing signs of age and some wear and tear.
Below average	Facility is older and showing signs of age/poor quality. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces show signs of wear and tear. It is usable, but quality could be improved. The facility is not as attractive to customers and does not meet current expectations. Ancillary facilities are deteriorating, reasonable quality, but usable.
Poor	The facility is old and outdated. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are aged, worn and/or damaged. The facility is barely usable and at times may have to be taken out of commission. The facility is unattractive to customers and does not meet basic expectations. Ancillary facilities are low quality and unattractive to use.

## 3.3: Catchment areas

Applying catchments areas for facility types listed in Table 3.2 enables identification of areas currently not served. These vary from person to person, day to day, hour to hour. This problem is overcome by accepting the concept of 'effective catchment'; the distance travelled by around 75-80% of users (used in the Sport England Facilities Planning Model - FPM).

Sport England data indicates that most people will travel up to 20 minutes to access sports facilities. This, coupled with KKP's experience of working in/with leisure facilities and use of local data enables identification of catchment areas for sports facilities as follows.

Table 3.2: Facility catchment areas

Facility type	Identified catchment area
Sport halls, swimming pools, health and fitness, and squash courts	20-minutes' walk/ 20 minutes' drive
Indoor bowls, indoor tennis, and gymnastics.	30-minutes' drive

## 3.4: Facilities Planning Model Local Run Assessment

Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) helps to assess the strategic provision of community sports facilities. It has been developed as a means of:

- Assessing requirements for different types of community sports facilities on a local, regional or national scale.
- Helping local authorities determine an adequate level of sports facility provision to meet local need.

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

---

- ◀ Testing 'what if' scenarios with regard to provision and changes in demand, this includes testing the impact of opening, relocating and closing facilities and the impact population changes may have on need for sports facilities.

In its simplest form the FPM seeks to assess whether the capacity of existing facilities for a particular sport is capable of meeting local demand considering how far people are prepared to travel to a facility (using the integrated transport network). To estimate the level of sports facility provision in an area, the model compares the number of facilities (supply) with the demand for that facility (demand) that the local population will generate.

For the purpose of this study, NWLDC has commissioned an FPM local run assessment for both swimming pool and sports hall provision. Analysis looks at the following aspects :

- ◀ A baseline assessment of existing sports hall provision using 2018 population (ONS) in order to assess how the supply of facilities is meeting demand in NWLDC.
- ◀ A baseline assessment of existing swimming pool provision using 2018 population (ONS) in order to assess how the supply of facilities is meeting demand in NWLDC.

Within this report, FPM national run data (2025) for both swimming pool and sports hall provision. This is used alongside KKP mapping and audit information to provide a balanced summary of supply and demand across these facility types.

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

## **SECTION 4: SPORTS HALLS**

Indoor multi-purpose sports halls are prime venues for community sport enabling a range of sport and recreational activities to be played. The standard methodology for measuring sports halls is the number of badminton courts contained within the floor area.

They are generally considered to be of greatest value if they are of at least 3 or more badminton courts in size with sufficient height to allow games such as badminton to be played. However, 4+ court sports halls provide greater flexibility as they can accommodate major indoor team sports such as football (5-a-side and training), basketball and netball. They also tend to have sufficient length to accommodate indoor cricket nets and indoor athletics and, thus, offer more sports development flexibility than their 3-court counterpart. There is often variance in the dimensions of 4-court halls, and only those which meet current Sport England Design Guidance of 34.5m x 20m can accommodate the full range of indoor sports, especially competition/league activities.

Larger halls, for example those with six or eight courts, can accommodate higher level training and/or competition and meet day-to-day need. They also provide an option for more than one pitch/court increasing flexibility for training and competition and hosting of indoor central venue leagues for sports such as netball. This assessment considers all 3+ court facilities in NWL. Halls that function as specialist sports venues (e.g., dance studios) are excluded.

There are a range of halls of differing sizes across the District, located in a variety of venues. Below lists all facilities which either have a facility which can accommodate one or more badminton courts, or have a usable space linked to larger facilities., such as an assembly hall /activity hall in a school alongside a 4-court hall. All other halls are listed in the Community Buildings section (see Section 11).

### **4.1: Supply**

#### **Quantity**

There are 14 sports halls accommodating 43 badminton courts in the District.

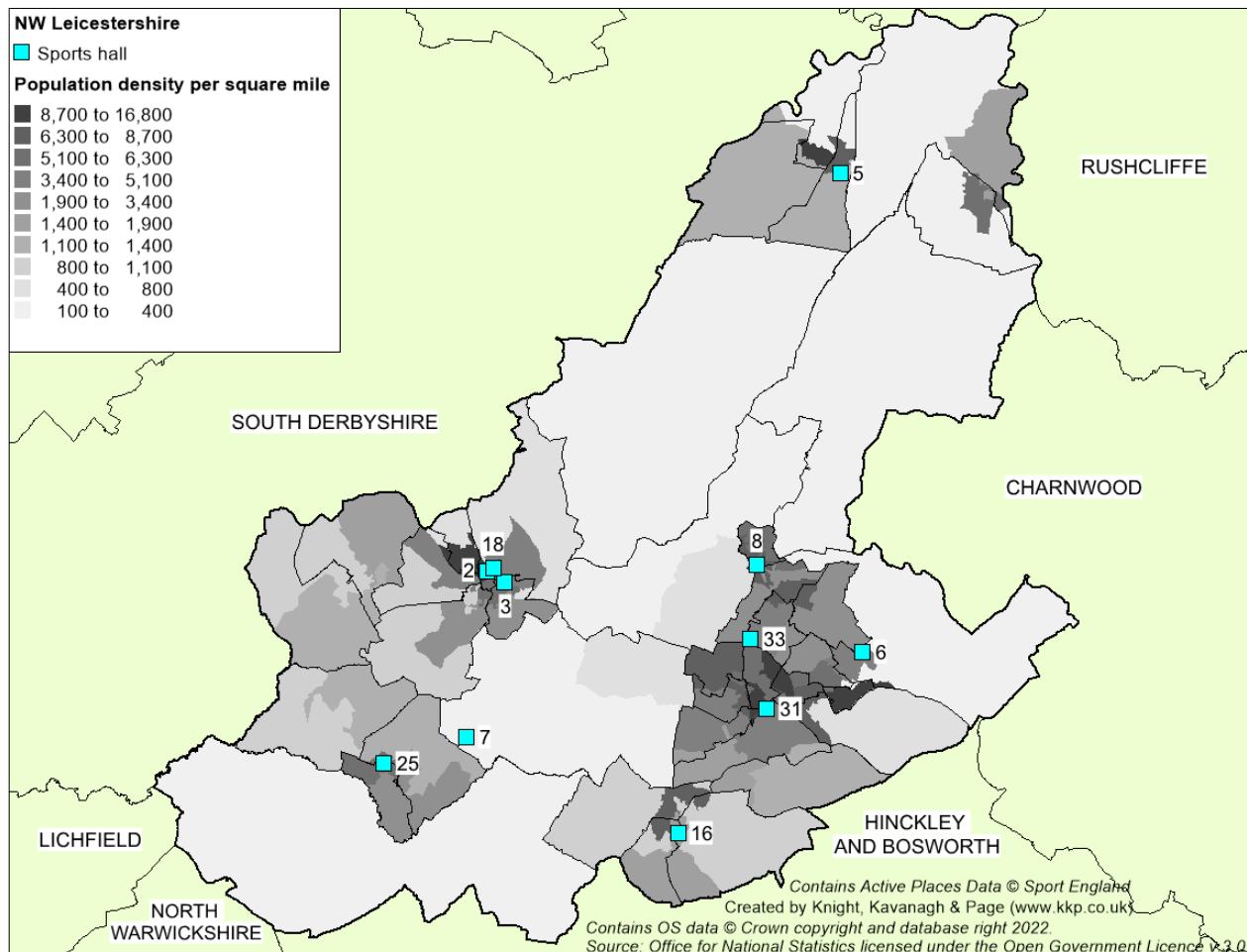
Table 4.1: All sports / activity halls in NWL

<b>ID</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Courts</b>
2	Ashby Leisure Centre and Lido	4
3	Ashby School and Sixth Form	4
3	Ashby School and Sixth Form	1
5	Castle Donington College	1
6	Castle Rock High School	4
6	Castle Rock High School	4
7	Champneys Springs	1
8	Charles Booth Centre	1
16	Ibstock Leisure Complex	5
18	Ivanhoe School	0
18	Ivanhoe School	4
25	Measham Community and Recreation Centre	2
31	The Newbridge School	4
33	Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre	8
<b>Total</b>		<b>43</b>

(0 court halls identified in Active Places but not large enough to accommodate 1 badminton court)

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Figure 4.1: All sports / activity halls in NWL – regardless of size



The majority of halls are located in the south of the district, serving residents of either Ashby (southwest) or Coalville (southeast).

There are six sports/activity halls with two or fewer badminton courts marked out. While often appropriate for mat sports, exercise to music and similar provision, the size of these smaller halls limits the range and scale of recreational/sporting activity that can be accommodated. All halls which cannot accommodate a badminton sized hall are listed in section 11, however, the smaller hall at Ivanhoe School is not a stand-alone community building and is referenced in this section.

Only sites with sports halls containing three or more marked badminton courts were subject to assessment for the purpose of the needs assessment. The reason for this is that, as described above, halls of this scale can accommodate a range of sports and be potentially used by the community depending on the access policy.

As shown in Figure 4.2 (overleaf), eight sports halls in NWL have 3+ marked badminton courts. Between them they offer a total of 37 badminton courts. All the sports halls with 3+ courts are located in the south of the authority, mainly serving both Coalville and Ashby. There is no larger sports hall in the north of the authority serving either Castle Donnington or Kegworth. This is likely to be limiting sporting opportunity for indoor sports in the north of the authority.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

In common with most local authorities the 4-court sports hall is the most common size. A larger sports hall (one of 4+ courts in size) can cater for sports that require more floor space such as futsal and handball or can offer multiple courts for events and competitions. The largest sports hall is at Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre; it has eight marked badminton courts.

Figure 4.2: Sports halls with 3+ courts on population density

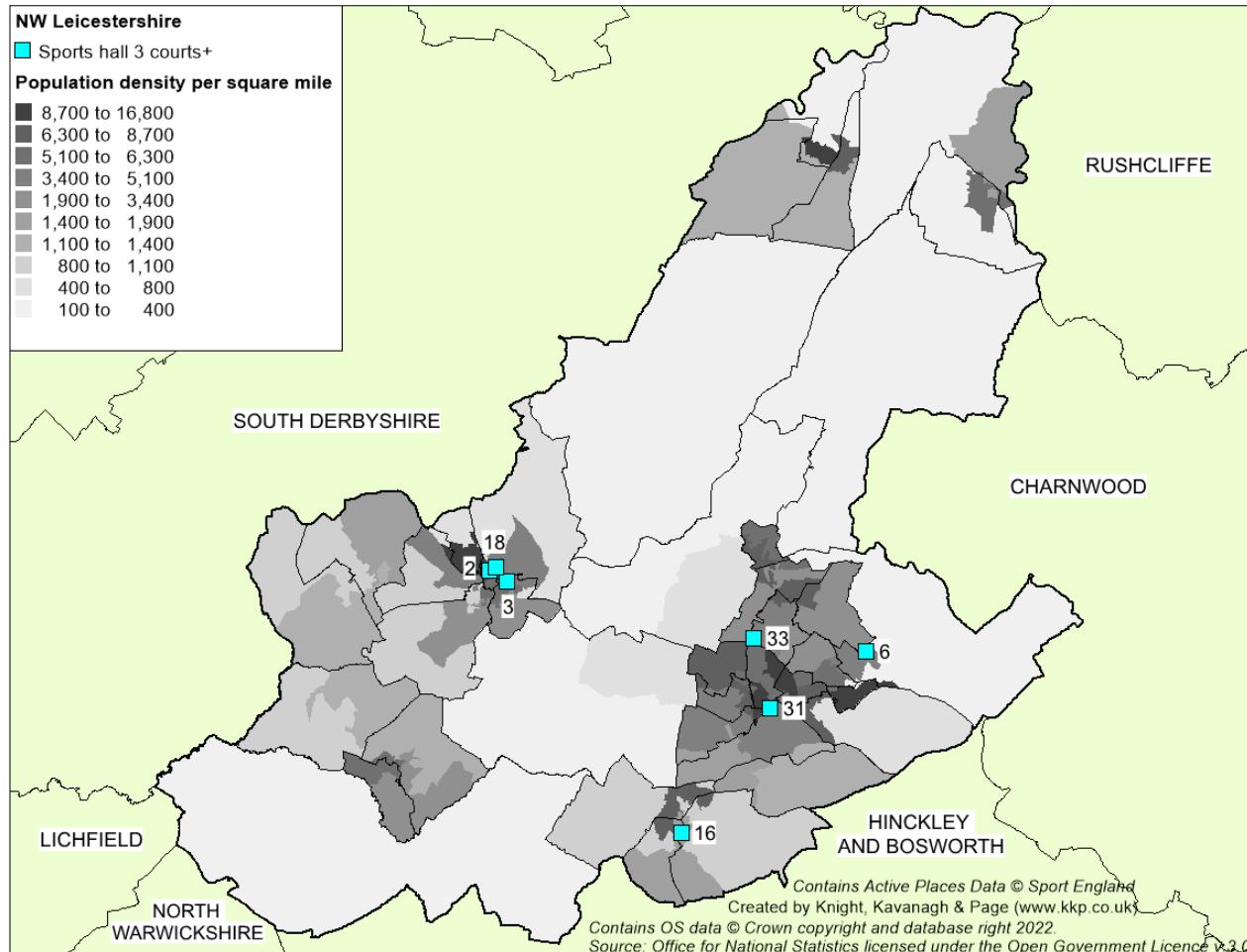


Table 4.2: Sports halls with 3+ badminton courts

ID	Site	Courts
2	Ashby Leisure Centre and Lido	4
3	Ashby School and Sixth Form	4
6	Castle Rock High School	4
6	Castle Rock High School	4
16	Ibstock Leisure Complex	5
18	Ivanhoe School	4
31	The Newbridge School	4
33	Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre	8
<b>Total</b>		<b>37</b>

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

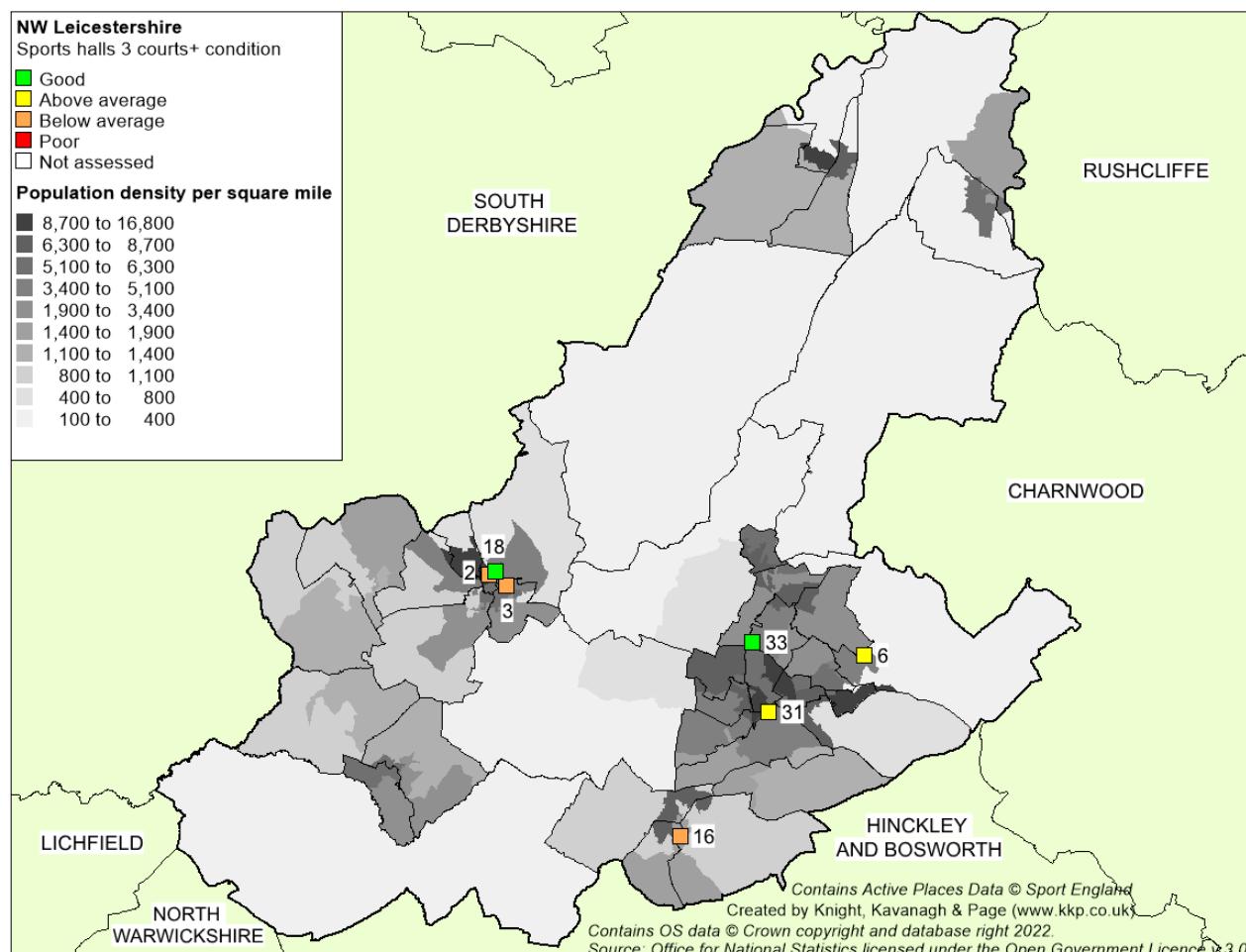
## Facility quality

All 3+ court sports halls were subject to non-technical assessment to ascertain quality. These took place in February 2025. Any investment made after this date is not accounted for. Known or planned investment is mentioned in the site notes.

Table 4.3: Quality of 3+ sports halls

ID	Site	Courts	Condition
2	Ashby Leisure Centre and Lido	4	Below average
3	Ashby School and Sixth Form	4	Below average
6	Castle Rock High School	4	Above average
6	Castle Rock High School	4	Below average
16	Ibstock Leisure Complex	5	Below average
18	Ivanhoe School	4	Good
31	The Newbridge School	4	Above average
33	Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre	8	Good

Figure 4.3: Quality of 3+ sports halls on population density



Of the eight 3+ court sports halls in NWLDC, two are rated good, two above average and four below average. Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre opened in 2022 - replacing the former

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Hermitage Leisure Centre. Ivanhoe School opened in 2024. Both are well presented, have bright attractive halls with sprung floor surfaces. Residents of Ashby and Coalville thus both have access to good quality rated sports halls.

The sports halls at Ashby School, Ibstock Leisure Complex and Ashby Leisure Centre all require investment to upgrade their concrete floors to sprung modern surfaces. Castle Rock School's second sports hall has a sprung floor, but it is showing signs of wear and tear and it requires refurbishment throughout. Ibstock residents only have access to below average facilities.

Table 4.4: Audit findings quality information

Site name	Rating	Audit findings
Ashby Leisure Centre and Lido	Below average	This has received limited investment since being built and looks tired as a result. The floor is concrete with a thick lacquer on it. A sprung floor is the preferred modern recommendation.
Ashby School and Sixth Form	Below average	Flooring is dated and in need of a replacement.
Castle Rock High School	Below average	A dated sports hall in need of modernisation. The floor was replaced five years ago. Both the sports halls have white walls and are not conducive for sports such as badminton.
Ibstock Leisure Complex	Below average	This older style sports hall is in need of modernisation. It requires a new (ideally sprung) floor.

Table 4.5: Date of opening and refurbishment of sports halls

Site	Year built / opened	Last refurbished	Age since opened/refurbished
Ashby Leisure Centre and Lido	1985	-	39
Ashby School and Sixth Form	1983	2015	9
Castle Rock High School	2006	-	9
Castle Rock High School	1970	2019	5
Ibstock Leisure Complex	1982	-	42
Ivanhoe School	2024	-	1
The Newbridge School	2010	-	15
Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre	2022	-	3

There is a symbiosis between the age of a sports hall and its quality rating. Halls built over 30 years ago generally receive below average ratings. In terms of recorded investment, only Ashby School has received some form of significant investment (a roof upgrade) since it opened - as identified via consultation. The remaining halls have no record of recent investment.

## Accessibility

Sports hall accessibility is influenced by how far people are willing and able to travel to and from them. Walk and drive-time catchments are applied to determine facility accessibility to different communities. The normal (industry) standard is a 20-minute walk time (one-mile radial catchment) for urban areas and a 20-minute drive time for rural areas. 12.6% of the population do not have access to a car (2021 Census). This means that 5,670 people in NWL are reliant on public transport or walking/cycling to get to a sports hall. This can add to the cost of participation.

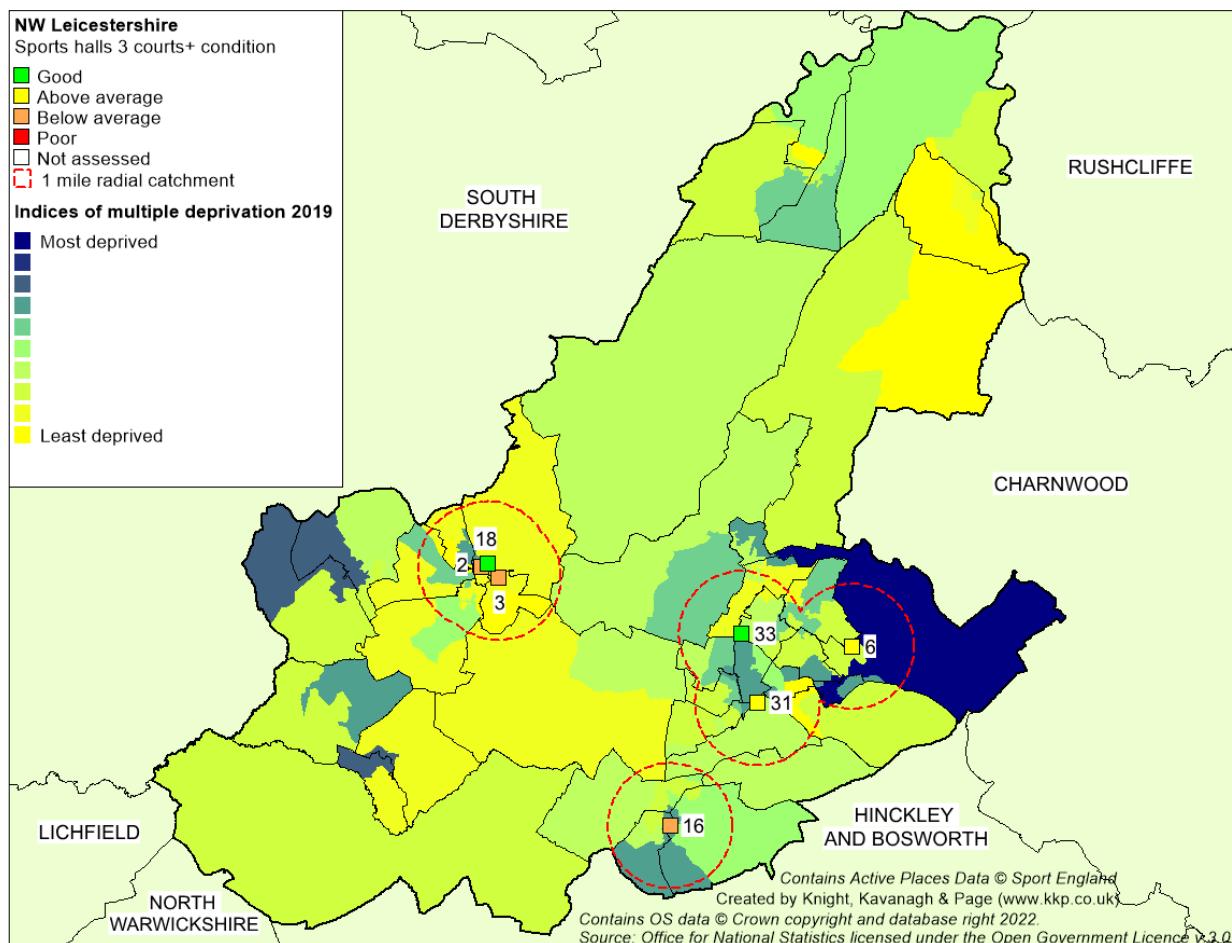
# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

All eight facilities included in Figure 4.4 offer community use. In NWLDC, 42.8% of residents live within a one-mile walk of a sports hall with three or more courts and community use. This figure increases to 100% when applying a 20-minute drivetime catchment as shown in Figure 4.5.

Community use is defined as facilities in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) recorded as available for hire and currently in use by clubs.

6,692 people in NWLDC live in defined areas of higher deprivation (0-30% IMD bands); 1,834 (27%) live within one mile of a 3+ court sports hall. There are gaps, which are focused to the east of Coalville and to the west of Ashby.

Figure 4.4: All 3+ court sports halls on IMD with one-mile radial catchments



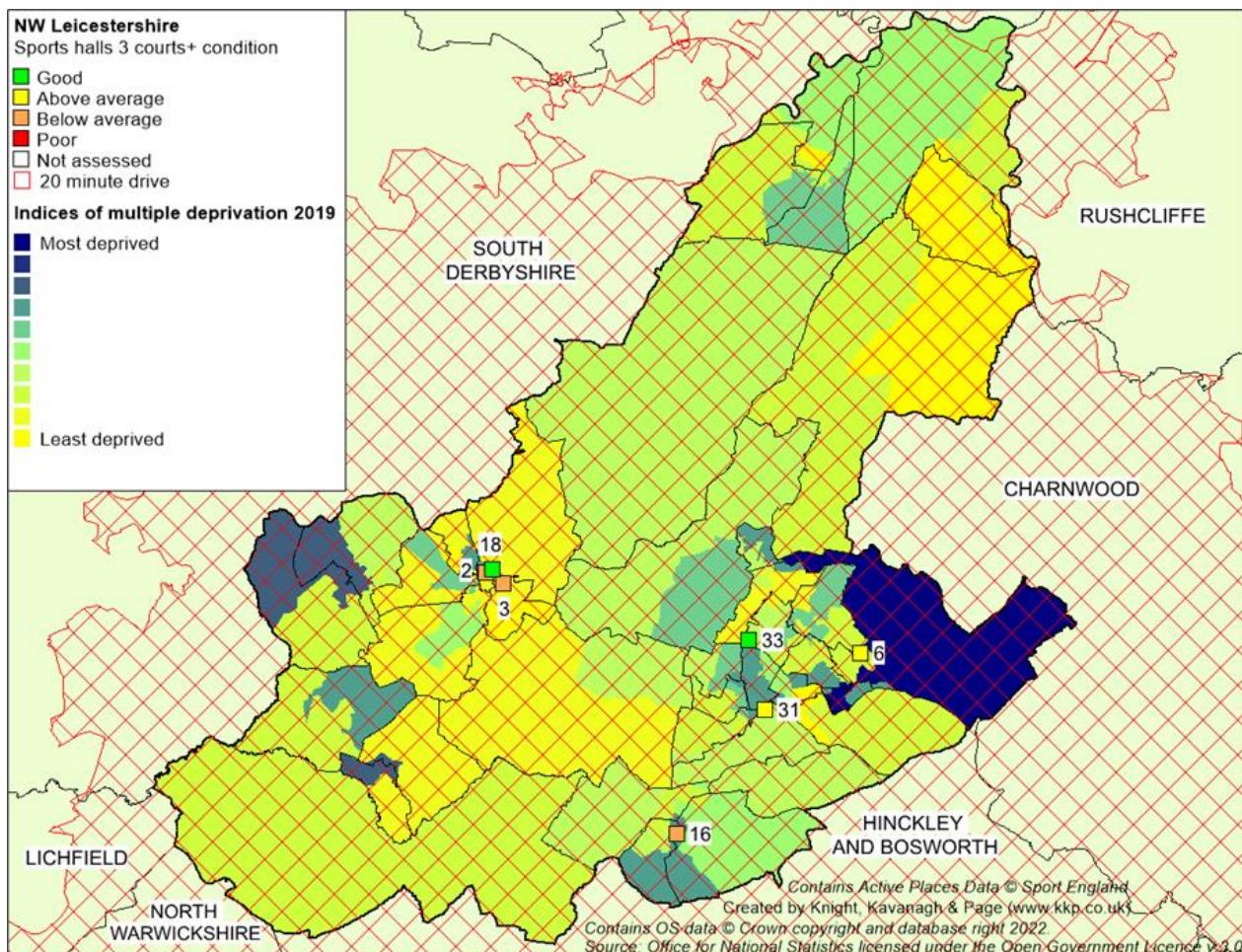
Whilst walk time accessibility to sports halls is relatively low, the high level of car ownership and strong drivetime catchment figures suggests that sports hall provision is sufficient in the south of the authority. The challenge is for those in the north where they are on the outskirts of the drive time. It may be more convenient for these residents to access facilities in neighbouring authorities than it is to drive south.

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

Table 4.6: Accessibility to community use sports halls with 3+ courts

IMD 10% bands	Persons	Population %	Persons inside catchment	Population inside (%)	Persons outside catchment	Population outside (%)
0 - 10	3,170	3.3%	1,834	1.9%	1,336	1.4%
10.1 - 20	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
20.1 - 30	3,522	3.6%	0	0.0%	3,522	3.6%
30.1 - 40	12,269	12.6%	9,405	9.7%	2,864	2.9%
40.1 - 50	8,233	8.5%	4,608	4.7%	3,625	3.7%
50.1 - 60	8,249	8.5%	3,694	3.8%	4,555	4.7%
60.1 - 70	18,638	19.2%	6,263	6.5%	12,375	12.7%
70.1 - 80	19,591	20.2%	6,304	6.5%	13,287	13.7%
80.1 - 90	15,552	16.0%	4,846	5.0%	10,706	11.0%
90.1 - 100	7,874	8.1%	4,601	4.7%	3,273	3.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>97,098</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>41,555</b>	<b>42.8%</b>	<b>55,543</b>	<b>57.2%</b>

Figure 4.5: Sports halls on IMD background based 20-minute drive time catchment.



# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## Facilities in neighbouring authorities

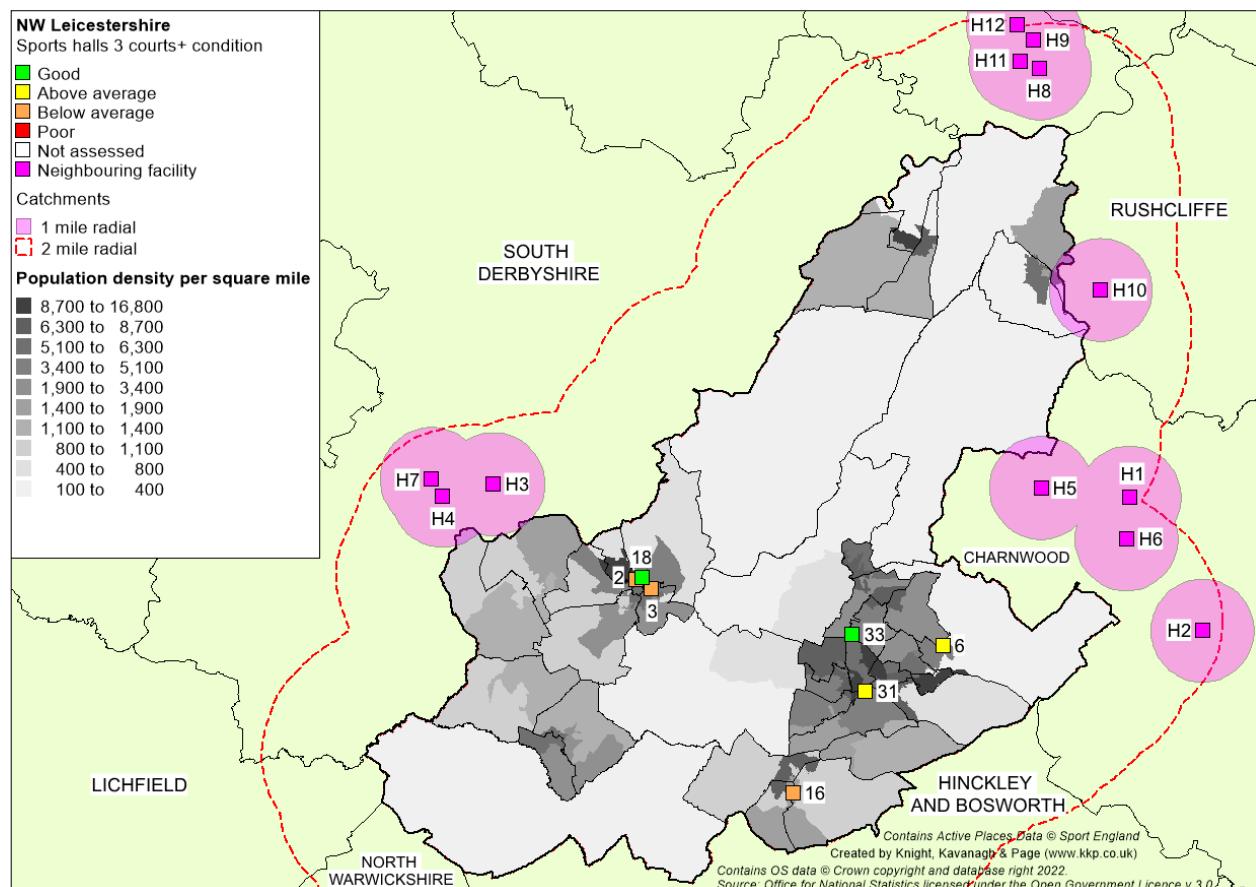
Accessibility is influenced by facilities located outside the Authority. Twelve 3+court sports halls (57 courts) on 14 sites are located within two miles of the district boundary.

Table 4.7: Sports halls (3+ courts) in neighbouring authorities

ID	Site	Courts	Access	District
H1	Charnwood College	2 x 4	Sports club / CA	Charnwood
H2	Garats Hay	4	Sports club / CA	Charnwood
H3	Granville Academy	3	Sports club / CA	South Derbyshire
H4	Green Bank Leisure Centre	6	Pay and play	South Derbyshire
H5	Iveshead School	2 x 4	Sports club / CA	Charnwood
H6	Loughborough University (Holywell Fitness Centre)	4	Reg. membership	Charnwood
H7	Pingle Academy	4	Sports club / CA	South Derbyshire
H8	The Long Eaton School	4	Sports club / CA	Erewash
H9	Trent College	4	Sports club / CA	Erewash
H10	University of Nottingham (Sutton Bonington SC)	4	Sports club / CA	Rushcliffe
H11	West Park Leisure Centre (Long Eaton)	4	Pay and play	Erewash
H12	Wilsthorpe Community School	4	Sports club / CA	Erewash

CA – Community association

Figure 4.6 Sports halls (3+courts) located within two miles of the NWLDC boundary



# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

---

## Availability and facility management

Management and ownership vary. NWLDC's two 3+court sports halls are both managed by Everyone Active. The remainder are located at school sites and are owned and managed in house.

Table 4.8: Ownership and management of 3+ court sports halls

Site name	Ownership	Management
Ashby Leisure Centre and Lido	NWLDC	Everyone Active
Ashby School and Sixth Form	Life Multi Academy Trust	In-house
Castle Rock High School	Lionheart Educational Trust	In-house
Ibstock Leisure Complex	Life Multi Academy Trust	In-house
Ivanhoe School	Life Multi Academy Trust	In-house
The Newbridge School	Lionheart Academy Trust	In-house
Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre	NWLDC	Everyone Active

Only two sites (Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre and Ashby Leisure Centre and Lido) offer daytime (off peak) availability to community users.

Availability during the day and relevant programming can be important (and attractive) for residents who wish to use facilities at such times (such as older people and shift workers). Given that the number of older people in the Authority is increasing, providing adequate daytime available sports hall space is essential.

Both the public leisure centre sites are located in the south of the authority. There is no provision in the north of NWL and the need for daytime access should be taken into account should the opportunity to develop new provision in the north of the district arise.

All eight halls are available seven days per week. Table 4.9 details the community use hours available. Figures are calculated using intelligence gathered via the audit.

Table 4.9: Opening hours and activities in sports halls 3+ courts in NWL

Community use hours	Site	Courts	Main sports played
34	Ivanhoe School	4	Netball, basketball and athletics.
39	Ibstock Leisure Complex	5	Indoor cricket, indoor football, badminton and indoor rugby.
39	The Newbridge School	4	Pickleball, badminton, indoor football, basketball and indoor futsal.
41	Ashby School and Sixth Form	4	Cricket, netball, basketball and badminton.
41	Castle Rock High School	4+4	Badminton, indoor football, basketball, netball, Rugby tots and indoor cricket.
78	Ashby Leisure Centre	4	Pickleball, archery, badminton and gymnastics
78	Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre	8	Volleyball, pickleball, badminton, and netball.

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

---

## **Sport England Facilities Planning Model (FPM)**

NWLDC commissioned an initial assessment of its current supply and demand for the provision of sports halls in the District in 2025. The report was produced in June 2025 with the principle findings stating that accessible supply exceeds the demand for sports halls in North West Leicestershire, unmet demand for sports halls is negligible with in the majority of population having access to a hall and satisfied demand is high (met demand at sports halls within the District).

### **Key findings**

- ◀ The total sports hall space in North West Leicestershire is the equivalent of 42.6 badminton courts, of which 35.1 courts the courts are available during the weekly peak period. The court space unavailable for community use equates to 7.5 badminton courts.
- ◀ The resident population generates demand for 8,231 visits in the weekly peak period, which equates to 28.0 badminton courts with a comfort factor included. This demand amounts to less than the District's available supply of 12,921 visits in the weekly peak period. Consequently, the FPM calculates surplus of courts (7.1 courts).
- ◀ In 2025, 97% of the demand for sports halls from North West Leicestershire residents is met. This is the higher than the regional average of 96% and the national average of 95%.
- ◀ Of North West Leicestershire's satisfied demand, 74% is met at sports halls within the District.
- ◀ Unmet demand totals less than one badminton court. Residents who are too far from a sports hall account for all the unmet demand.
- ◀ The location in North West Leicestershire where the most unmet demand can be met is at Junction 24 of the M1, at 0.7 courts. However, this amount is insufficient to consider building a new sports hall at this location. This does not take account of future changes in demand (e.g. housing growth), which would need to be considered separately in a bespoke report. This is illustrated below in Figure 4.7.
- ◀ The estimated utilisation of the sports hall sites in North West Leicestershire at peak times ranges from 25% to 96%. The distribution of demand, and the attractiveness of Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre, means that this site is estimated to be uncomfortably full at peak times.

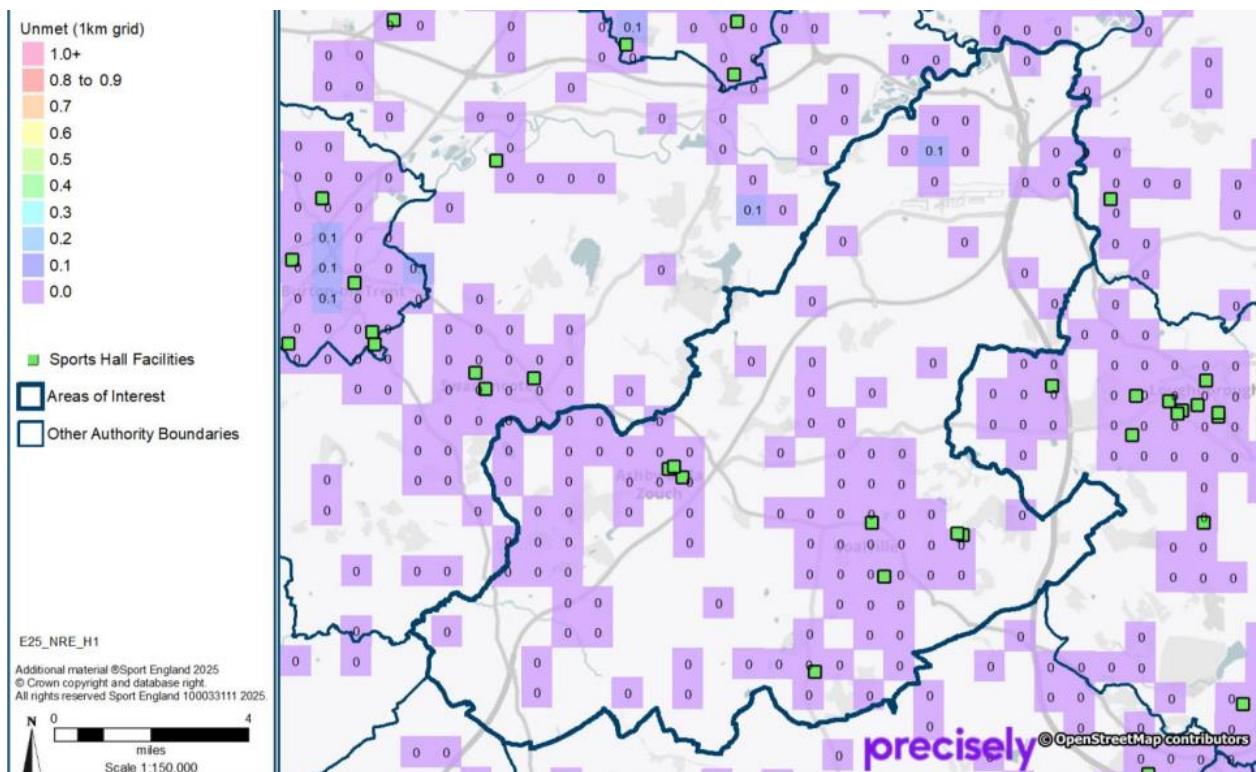
### **Overview**

- ◀ Overall, the sports halls are fit-for-purpose and the offer is extensive. There are sports hall in all the main settlements. Five educational sites have 4-court halls, and one has a 5-court hall. Two sites in Ashby-de-la-Zouch also each have an activity hall.
- ◀ Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre is the most recent public sports hall to open in 2022 and, therefore, is the most attractive of all the sites in North West Leicestershire.
- ◀ Demand for sports halls is highest in Coalville. This sports hall is available for the maximum peak period hours, meaning that there is no scope to increase its capacity at peak times and lower its proportion of used capacity to a more comfortable level.
- ◀ There are no other sports halls in North West Leicestershire that are uncomfortably full at peak times (over 80% of capacity used). Ashby Leisure Centre and Lido is estimated to be comfortably utilised, at 57% in the weekly peak period. It was built in 1985 and is unmodernised.
- ◀ Increasing usage at the educational sites in Coalville could reduce the utilisation of Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre. However, all three sites in this area are managed in-house, which makes them more difficult for residents to access; one also needs modernisation.
- ◀ There is a high commitment to community use across the educational sites. This needs to be protected to maintain the positive supply and demand balance. If a Community Use Agreement (CUA) is not already in place to protect this accessibility, then one should be negotiated. Sport England can advise on the process for setting up a CUA. Once in place it

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

should be monitored by North West Leicestershire District Council to ensure that community use is delivered.

Figure 4.7: Unmet Demand for Sports Halls in 2025



## Used capacity

Non-technical site audits identify the used capacity of each sports hall. Used capacity is the percentage of available community use hours used. Sport England identifies 80% as a 'comfortably full' benchmark.

Table 4.9 details used capacity at each site. The percentages were determined based on booking information provided by the site information gained through consultation. It is not possible to exactly gauge used capacity due to the changing nature of bookings on a week-by-week basis, the seasonality of sports and the varied levels of use of some sports halls for school exams.

Table 4.10: Used capacity of sports halls

Used capacity	Site
70%	Ashby Leisure Centre and Lido
70%	The Newbridge School
80%	Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre
80%	Ashby School and Sixth Form
85%	Castle Rock High School
80%	Ibstock Leisure Complex
90%	Ivanhoe School
90%	Castle Rock High School

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

---

(80% -Sport England's guidance threshold which is considered to be a "comfortably full" sports hall)

Therefore, the audit identified, of the eight sports halls in the Authority, six are currently operating at or above the Sport England threshold. The remaining two operate just below this. (Castle Rock High School is listed twice due to having two halls on site). This challenges the FPM findings, as the FPM states that there is spare capacity across the network apart from at Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre. However, the FPM looks at an average across the year, whereas this audit is based on a snapshot in time, and will not account for the seasonal changes in bookings. For example- there maybe fewer bookings in the summer, compared to the winter (this audit was undertaken in February).

The audit identified that all sports halls are well used in NWL and have good availability for community use (all are available for 30+ hours per week). This suggests that there is limited availability to accommodate increased demand as they are already available for a substantial number of hours outside their school use and all are busy.

One daytime available sports hall has some spare capacity, but it is limited. Ashby Leisure Centre has limited available booking slots on Friday evenings and Sunday afternoons, however, it is well used during the day and on weekday evenings. Bookings include pickleball in the daytime and evening use through a number of sports clubs, including Ashby Badminton Club.

The increased demand generated by the residents of new housing will increase pressure on existing provision where there is already limited scope to accommodate the additional demand.

## **Future developments**

There are two known potential indoor sports hall developments in NWL as part of the housing development. These are as follows:

### **Castle Donington College**

Due to the planned housing growth in Castle Donnington, the College has a vision to increase student population by (potentially) c.1,500 from a current base of 750 students based on the proposed allocations at the time of audit (January 2025). Consequently, there would be a requirement to expand its facilities, which include a new dining area, new classrooms, a 11v11 3G pitch and a new PE and fitness department. (Pending Leicestershire County Council approval and subject to funding being available to support the development).

As part of its new sports/fitness provision, it would have a requirement to develop a new 3-court sports hall based on DfE guidelines for a school based on the new capacity calculations. However, it would prefer to develop a 4-court sports hall, creating more flexibility to accommodate a much wider range of sports, such as netball and basketball. This would also be subject to the removal of the Sure Start (County Council building).

The College will face significant daytime and early evening demand for a sports hall (up to 18.00). It is keen to explore options for community use and would welcome a partnership agreement with Castle Donington Parish Council should the Parish Council be able to contribute additional funds to increase the size of the sports hall from 3-courts to a more flexible and community useable 4-court sized facility. This could be funded through developer receipts from the local housing growth.

The College is currently constructing a new floodlit 11v11 3G pitch and small-scale fitness gym. NWLDC has contributed financially to both the developments and Castle Donington Parish Council has also contributed to the 3G pitch. Both these venues will be available for community

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

---

use on weekday evenings and at weekends. The College has been required to commit to a community use agreement with NWLDC as part of the development. It is the intention that the sports hall, when constructed, will also be available for community use. There are plans in place to book, manage and operate the facilities out of school hours. The addition of the sports hall will only necessitate a very limited increase in staffing as it will be an addition to the community available facilities already under construction.

## **Isley Woodhouse development**

As part of the proposed new settlement at Isley Woodhouse, there are plans to create a secondary school which will include a community sports hub. No further plans have been released; however, a minimum of a three-court sports hall would be required as part of any future secondary school development, which should be available for the community to use. . that the sports hub will have a sports hall, with a minimum of three courts and will be available for community use.

## **Potential other**

Castle Donington Parish Council has commissioned a study to determine the need for and the best possible location for a sports hall in the area. One potential site is Castle Donington College. If an alternative location to the College is identified it could be a direct competitor to the College's planned facility. It is considered unlikely that there is sufficient local demand for two sports halls so a partnership approach creating one 4-court facility at the College would appear to be a better outcome. The Parish Council is currently considering the options presented.

## **Derby Trailblazers Basketball Club**

This club aspires to develop its own facility and has recently been pursuing a potential opportunity in Castle Donington (industrial premises); however, it is being met with challenges related to the change of use from a warehouse to a sporting venue. It would consider other site location options but not if based at a school site. It currently does this and is hindered with access at key times of the year in the playing season (e.g. exams, parents' evenings, school events, etc.) and it does not want to replicate having to face these challenges moving forward. To be able to grow, the Club has identified that it requires its own facility. Its ambition is to develop a facility on a similar scale to that of the Leicester Riders Basketball Club.

It has a private investor who is keen to work with a partner to source a new site and has some specific facility requirements and non-negotiables which include that it needs:

- ◀ To be of three basketball court size (12 badminton courts).
- ◀ Access to the facility all year round without limitations.
- ◀ Sports hall use 18.00-22.00 four evenings per week and at weekends until 22.00.
- ◀ Bleacher and spectator seating.
- ◀ Provision for educational and performance sport (classrooms)
- ◀ To retain the Derby name – it cannot become a Leicestershire club due to the club boundaries and agreements in place.

This development would provide limited opportunity for the local community outside of club use and would primarily serve Derbyshire residents (the existing basketball players/teams it serves).

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

---

## **4.2: Demand**

### **NGB consultation**

NGBs and active clubs were consulted to ascertain current use, participation trends and the needs/challenges facing sports halls in the area.

#### **Badminton England (BE)**

BE is the national governing body of sport (NGB) for badminton. Its latest strategy, Discover Badminton 2017-2025 presents a vision for the sport to become one of the nation's most popular and to consistently win medals at world, Olympic and Paralympic levels. To achieve this, it has identified three key objectives:

- ◀ Grow grassroots participation.
- ◀ Create a system that identifies and develops player potential to deliver consistent world class performers.
- ◀ Build financial resilience to become a well governed organisation and demonstrate compliance with the UK governance code.

It applies a specific strategy model to assess court quality and sufficiency by local authority. the statistics for NWL are presented below.

Table 4.11: Overall statistics for NWL

<b>Description</b>	<b>Number</b>
Number of sites	12
Number of courts	37
Private use courts	0
Supply and demand balance (2019)	+1.4 courts
Supply and demand balance (2030)	+0.4 courts

Badminton England facilities modelling indicates that there is a small current and future surplus in terms of the supply and demand for badminton courts.

It should be noted that KKP's assessment is based on 3+ court sports hall facilities, whereas BE's assessment identifies all facilities which have halls with marked badminton courts (sports halls with one and two courts). BE is also basing its information on 2019 data.

### **Strategic overview**

BE reports that there are four clubs in NWL of which three (Foresters Badminton Club, Ashby Badminton Club and Whitwick Badminton Club) are affiliated the NGB. A no strings attached session is delivered at Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre, in partnership with Whitwick Badminton Club. The unaffiliated club is reported to be based in the north of the authority but there is no trace of its activities being publicly promoted. It may be that the group is purely social and recreational or it may no longer exist.

### **Club consultation**

*Foresters Badminton Club* – is based at Castle Rock School, it hosts two training sessions per week (Monday and Thursday). It currently has 40 members and competes in the Leicester Badminton League (entering one male and one mixed team). It reports having a good relationship with the school, however it is concerned about the increasing cost of hiring courts, as annual hire

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

---

costs have been increased at above inflation levels. Its key challenge is recruiting younger, preferably junior, members as the average member age is currently 50+ years.

*Whitwick Badminton Club* - currently has c.40 members. It hires Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre for two sessions per week. Similar to Foresters Badminton Club, it competes in the Leicester Badminton League, where it has two adult male teams, and two junior teams. Its main focus currently is to develop a strong junior section. This is evidenced via the delivery of a weekly junior coaching pay and play session for young people aged 4-16 years.

It also works in partnership with Everyone Active to run a 'no strings attached' session for adults also on a Wednesday evening, following the junior sessions.

*Ashby Badminton Club* – was contacted on numerous occasions however, no response was received. Desk research indicates that it offers opportunities for all ages and abilities and runs several competitive teams (men's and mixed). It is based at Ashby School and its training night is on Tuesday evenings and match nights are Thursday evenings. In the summer months it runs a club night on Tuesday evenings only.

## **Netball**

In November 2021, England Netball (EN) launched a ten-year 'Adventure Strategy' for the game along with a new organization brand identity. Its new strategy shares a purpose-led ambition for the game; to build on the momentum the sport has seen in recent years and to take it to new heights for the decade ahead. This outlines its intention to:

- ◀ Accelerate development and growth of the game to every level (grassroots to the elite).
- ◀ Elevate the visibility of the sport, and;
- ◀ Lead a movement to impact lives on and beyond the court.

At the heart of its purpose, EN commits to remaining dedicated to increasing opportunities for women and girls to play the game as a priority and to work to address the gender participation gap in the sport which has widened since the Pandemic. Underpinned by years of engaging with and delivering netball for female communities, EN pledges to understand, support and nurture women and girls more deeply at every life stage, at every age.

It is committed to opening the sport to new audiences in every community, so netball better represents the diversity of England, and continues to evolve, adapt and thrive in the future, helping to create an inclusive sport for all where everyone can belong and flourish. A recent partnership announcement with England Men's and Mixed Netball Association (EMMNA) to help develop and grow male participation in the game, supports this commitment as EN pledges to promote difference and embrace the opportunity to make the sport available to all.

Transforming netball for children and young people is a strategic priority to help protect the future of sport. EN is working with schools and policy makers to extend physical literacy within, and after the school day with a focus on netball specific provision. It is committed to accelerating the expansion of its Bee Netball programme for young children, whilst supporting teens and young women to stay in the game.

The elite game is also a focus. EN's ambition is that the Vitality Roses will be the best female sports team in the world. It thus has to support the national team to win consistently on the world stage and to have an outstanding talent pathway in place to fuel sustainable successes on court and set new standards. Professionalisation of the game over the next decade is a priority – with a specific focus on growing world-leading international and domestic competitions and events and creating more careers in the sport.

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

---

The Adventure Strategy was developed on the back of feedback from the Netball Family, with over 3,000 members and stakeholders consulted as part of the strategic process to understand what they wanted netball to 'look like' in 2031, the plan is aspirational and ambitious, and sees EN pledge to continue as a trailblazer for women's sport.

## **Facility development**

Facility development aspirations stated within EN's Strategy are to:

- ◀ Take a fresh look at the spaces required to support the sport, creating accessible places in every community to allow netball to be incorporated into how and where women and girls live their lives.
- ◀ Protect, enhance, and extend the network of homes that house the sport at a local and regional level.
- ◀ Develop an elite domestic professional competition that supports full-time athletes underpinned by a world-class infrastructure and environments.

For EN to achieve its ambitions to make the game accessible to wider audiences and in every community, it encourages local authorities to adopt policies within outdoor and indoor sports facilities strategies that:

- ◀ Facilitate informal netball activity within neighbourhood multi-use games areas, neighbourhood equipped areas for play (NEAPs).
- ◀ Incorporates the cultural and health needs of women and girls within any designs for improved or new facilities.
- ◀ Protects and enhances netball facilities within all primary and secondary school environments so they offer a positive first experience of the sport for students and the wider community during out-of-school hours.
- ◀ Supports the installation of floodlights on outdoor courts to increase all-year-round use.
- ◀ Facilitates the development of netball growth programmes, club training and competition within public leisure centres.
- ◀ Where appropriate, supports development of netball homes and performance environments to enable local women and girls to pursue a career in netball as an elite athlete, official, coach or administrator.

EN reports that the sport is growing fast nationally. Its YouGov<sup>10</sup> report indicated that the 2019 World Cup inspired 160,000 adult women to take up the sport. In addition, at the time when the report research was undertaken, 71% of clubs reported that more people had shown an interest in playing netball than before the tournament started.

Netball is played both indoors and outdoors. For outdoor provision please refer to the NWL PPS 2025. Current indoor provision in the Authority is as follows:

- ◀ Back 2 Netball sessions are designed to re-introduce players to the sport. Sessions are run by qualified coaches. Two 'Back 2 Netball' sessions are being delivered in NWL. One at Ashby Leisure Centre (in partnership with Ashby Netball Club) and one at Castle Rock School (in partnership with Whitwick Netball Club).
- ◀ Walking Netball (netball played at a walking pace). This is designed so that anyone can play it regardless of age or fitness level. Similar to the 'Back 2 Netball' sessions, two walking netball session are delivered in partnership with Whitwick Netball Club at Castle Rock School every

---

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.uploads.cksuk.org/10/02/netball-world-cup>

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

---

Wednesday evening, utilising the second sports hall at the site and another is run at Ashby Leisure Centre in partnership with Ashby Netball Club.

There are several netball clubs in NWL; the following responded to consultation requests:

**Ashby Netball Club** - a large club which currently has 216 members and accommodates both junior and senior teams. It delivers training sessions at several schools, including Ivanhoe School, Repton School (South Derbyshire), Ashby School and Grandville Academy (South Derbyshire).

Winter training is held inside, whereas summer training occurs outdoors across all sites. It competes in several leagues including the NWL Netball League, Burton Netball League and the Loughborough Netball League.

The Club states that it has significant issues with capacity, storage and availability of sports halls across the Authority, and that it has, as a consequence, had to seek venues outside NWL to accommodate training demand. It is operating a waiting list and cannot reduce this without additional access to sport halls. Its growth is being hindered by the lack of suitable (i.e., minimum 4+court) sports hall availability.

**NWL Netball League** operates every Sunday at Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre, using the main 8 court hall. It currently caters for 36 teams, with limited scope to increase this number due to court availability. It reports a need for more court time at the centre, ideally on a Saturday to be able to meet demand.

There are plans to upgrade the existing four floodlit outdoor courts at Ashby School with a new surface and improved lighting making it available for the community to use in the evenings. Should this go ahead, the League is interested in hiring these. Consultation with the School reports that several planning restrictions are presenting challenges to the development due to the proximity to the nearby Ashby Castle. At the time of writing, it is working with the Council to address any potential challenges prior to submitting this for planning approval.

**Castle Donington Netball Club** - founded in 2018 has one team. It trains on a Monday evening for one hour. In the winter it travels to Long Eaton to train in a sports hall and in the summer (April – August) it trains at Castle Donington College (outdoors). It reports that in the summer it typically has c.25 members and in winter it struggles - with c.10 players (reportedly due to the additional travel requirements). All matches are played at Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre.

It wishes to grow but is hindered by the lack of available (indoor and outdoor) netball courts. It aspires to develop a junior section; however, there are insufficient facilities available to accommodate this. There used to be three outdoor courts at Castle Donington College on which it played, however the building expansion means that only one outdoor court is now available.

It would ideally like to be able to hire a sports hall for two hours per week (Monday evening) to accommodate its current membership and would increase to three hours to accommodate a junior session should an appropriate facility (preferably indoor) be available. This would enable it to increase its membership all year round as well as developing a junior section. Outdoor courts would only enable an increase in summer months.

**Whitwick Netball Club** - is based at Castle Rock School and runs three senior ladies' teams which compete in the NWL Netball League. It delivers one club session every Wednesday, along with a Walking Netball and Back to Netball session on the same night. It uses the indoor facilities all year round. It is hoping to expand the sessions once the new netball courts which are part of

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

---

the new planned development are in place at Castle Rock School (in 2026). These plans include three netball/tennis outdoor courts.

**Sence Valley Netball Club** – is based in Ibstock at Ibstock Leisure Complex. It was founded in 2002 by a group of friends and offers fun and competitive opportunities. It offers netball for mixed abilities and runs two teams which compete in the Loughborough Town Netball League. It offers training sessions from August to May on Wednesday evenings. Its first team competes in the premier division and the 2<sup>nd</sup> team in division three.

**Measham Netball Club** – is based at Ibstock Leisure Complex. It trains on Monday evenings and has matches on Sundays. It runs two teams which compete in the NWL Netball League. It is currently actively recruiting new players.

**Coalville Fireflies Netball Club** - is an affiliated club which was established from a Back to Netball session. It has an adult section and a legends (over 40) section. They play in the NWL League and the Loughborough Town League and enter local competitions. Training takes place on a Tuesday at Newbridge High School. It is actively recruiting new players. It competes at County level.

**Papura Netball Club** – is an affiliated adult club based at Castle Rock School. It is an adult club competing in local leagues. It trains on a Tuesday evening. It is actively recruiting new players.

**Grace Dieu Netball Club** - is an affiliated junior and senior club established in 2015. It trains at Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre. It runs six junior teams and five senior teams playing in the NWL Netball League and the Leicestershire Youth League.

## **Basketball (BBE)**

Basketball England (BBE) is the NGB for the sport in England. Its latest strategy, Transforming Basketball in Britain Together (2016 - 2028) aims to improve basketball from grassroots to GB teams, by adopting a whole sport approach and working closely with the basketball community. To achieve this, a series of key objectives have been identified:

- ◀ Develop successful GB teams.
- ◀ Build high-quality men's and women's leagues and teams.
- ◀ Support talented players, officials and coaches and coach development pathways.
- ◀ Drive increased awareness and profile of the sport.
- ◀ Increase opportunities to play the game at every level.
- ◀ Transform the leadership and culture of the sport.

To increase opportunity to play the game at every level, BBE has produced a facilities strategy which aims to create community hubs including, where appropriate, arenas that sit at the heart of communities and are homes for the leading British Basketball League (BBL), Women's British Basketball League (WBBL) and community clubs. The stated intent is that as part of its facilities strategy implementation, BBE will regularly monitor provision in schools, colleges, universities, clubs and at local authority sites and identify any gaps, looking to improve connections between these organisations to increase the availability and affordability of facilities of the right quality.

Consultation with BBE was not gained, however, desktop research states that there are two affiliated clubs in NWL; Derby Trailblazers Basketball Club and Aztecs Basketball Club.

## **Club consultation**

**Derby Trailblazers Basketball Club** identified that it used to hire the existing (one badminton court) sports hall at Castle Donington College and then the outdoor basketball courts during the

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

---

Covid-19 Pandemic as a satellite session for the club. However, it has since moved its sessions away from the area due to the small size of the sports hall and the lack of indoor basketball (full size) court provision available locally.

It is a large club with c.500 members. It runs 19 teams for players aged 5 years upwards. It also has an academy run in conjunction with Derby College via which it offers access to courses and performance coaches, nutritional advice etc.

It has been based at Noel Baker Academy (Derby) for 24 years as its main site and hires nine other sports halls in the Derby area. Eight of these are at educational sites which presents the Club with challenges when school events, exams etc., take place and during school holidays.

**Ashby Aztecs Basketball Club** – currently hires Ashby School's sport hall for both training and matches. It currently has a senior men's team playing in Division 3 of the Leicester Basketball League and junior teams competing in the Leicester Youth Basketball league. Currently, it has 20 seniors and c. 50 junior members. Until recently, it had a women's team, however, interest in the women's game has faded and now there is insufficient demand. It would like to re-instate the women team in future should demand increase.

The Club reports that investment is required at Ashby School's sports hall, as the floor is dated and there is a lack of good quality storage at the site. It would also like to hire Ivanhoe School for matches, as this sports hall has been specifically designed for basketball so is more suitable. The hall, however, is not available after 21:00, which is not suitable for hosting matches, particularly for adult clubs travelling longer distances as matches need to start later in the evening. Plus, in addition, the Club reports the cost of hiring Ivanhoe School is significantly higher than using Ashby School which deters the Club from using the venue.

**Burleigh Basketball Club** - numerous attempts were made to contact it but no response was gained. Desk research indicates that it is based at Castle Rock School and runs two teams which play in the Leicestershire Basketball League.

**Ashby Sport**- is a collaboration between sports clubs and associations in Ashby and the surrounding area. Consultation was undertaken with the organisation, representing indoor sports (netball, swimming, basketball and indoor tennis). It reported that sports halls, at the key three sites in the town, are at capacity, which is restricting club growth, particularly for netball and basketball.

It states Ashby School requires redevelopment of its outdoor sports facilities. An outdoor year-round netball facility would alleviate sports hall capacity for netball and provide possible additional options for the *NWL Netball League*.

It would also encourage Ivanhoe School to extend its hall opening hours till 22:00, to allow Ashby Aztecs Basketball Club to play matches at the site. This would allow the site to be used for matches and also enable other organisations to access to the site.

Lastly, it reports that additional sports hall space is required to support the key clubs in the town, including Ashby Netball Club and Ashby Aztecs Basketball Club. Ashby Sport stated that it has aspirations for a new indoor sports area and has identified potential land available. However, no feasibility study has taken place and there is currently no funding allocated to the development.

**Burleigh Basketball Club** - numerous attempts were made to contact it but no response was gained. Desk research indicates that it is based at Castle Rock School and runs two teams which play in the Leicestershire Basketball League.

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

---

## **Other sports**

Other sports utilising / with demand sports halls in NWL include:

### **Volleyball- Hermitage Volleyball Club**

Hermitage Volleyball Club - affiliates to England Volleyball. It hires Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre two nights a week (Tuesday and Thursday) for training and matches. It currently has 80 members and competes in the Leicester and East Midlands Volleyball League. It has its own storage at the site.

It would like to expand but it currently lacks the workforce to allow this. In addition, there is limited sports hall availability at the leisure centre to enable an expansion. It would also like to host competitions, including pre-season events. It prefers to use the 8-court hall, as it has the required run offs for matches, however, it also seeking smaller venues with line markings and posts to supports its growth.

### **Cricket - Castle Donington Cricket Club**

It is based at Castle Donington Village Hall grounds where it trains and plays matches. It uses the Village Hall for its ancillary provision. It has recently been refurbished and a new garage installed at the site for Club use.

In the winter, it hires the indoor cricket nets in both neighbouring settlements of Melbourne and Kegworth. It hires two nets on a Tuesday evening for two hours January to March only, as the rest of the training takes place outdoors. Typically, it has c.8 players per session and players pay £5.00 to access the nets.

The Club reports that recently its performance has decreased and that it lost a number of players during the Covid-19 Pandemic. It has, since, been trying to re-build.

It reports demand for a sports hall (with cricket nets) in Castle Donington to service its winter training demand. It would need two indoor cricket nets, for two hours January to March.

### **Playing Pitch Strategy Cricket Club Consultation**

Of the North West Leicestershire cricket clubs which responded to Playing Pitch Strategy cricket survey, 10 use indoor facilities (sports halls) for winter training. Two of these use facilities in the Authority, Ibstock Leisure Complex and Ashby School. Both clubs were happy with the facilities and provided no further comment. It must be noted that several clubs use the indoor performance centre at Loughborough University(Charnwood) during the winter season, as a preferred option, as this is a designated indoor cricket venue which is within a 30 minute drive for many local clubs.

### **Castle Donington Football Club**

It currently has 21 teams aged from under 7s to under 18s. It also runs a soccer school on a Saturday morning for children aged 4-6 years. It is based at Spital Park where it leases its pavilion and pitches from Castle Donington Parish Council.

In terms of demand for a sports hall, now that its football team training needs will be accommodated on the new 3G pitch at Castle Donnington College, its main need for sports hall access would be to service its soccer school requirements. However, to meet the cost of hiring the 3G pitch, player subscriptions will be increasing, and it does not want to increase them further

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

---

to incorporate sports hall hire. It is of the opinion that it cannot afford to hire a sports hall in addition to the 3G pitch.

**Archery (Ivanhoe Archery Club)-** The Club currently has 100 members and uses Ashby Leisure Centre (during the winter months) twice a week. Its main challenge is that it would like additional storage capacity, particularly with key equipment such as targets, stands, and nets.

The Club is operating at capacity and currently has a small waiting list. The hire cost of the indoor facility is also a challenge and something that has careful consideration when looking to expand its offer to balance cost of hire and income from sessions.

It uses Ivanhoe School in the summer months for outdoor training.

It has aspirations for a dedicated indoor/outdoor archery facility in Ashby to enable the Club to grow.

**Martial arts** - consultation was undertaken with Ashby and Coalville Martial Arts Club. It currently operates across two sites: Ashby Hastings Primary School and Broom Leys Primary School (Coalville). It currently has c. 115 students with no current waiting list; however, it has capacity issues in some of the classes, with instructors having to juggle class times to accommodate participants.

The Club's main challenges are lack of storage, flooring quality and the increasing hiring cost of facilities. It would like to have a dedicated facility which could address some of these concerns. It is confident that other martial arts clubs would also support this.

## 4.3: Future demand and the Sport England Sports Facilities Calculator (SFC)

The SFC helps quantify additional demand for community sports facilities generated by new growth populations, development and regeneration areas. It is used to estimate facility needs for whole area populations but should not be applied for strategic gap analysis as it has no spatial dimension and does not take account of:

- ◀ Facility location compared to demand.
- ◀ Capacity and availability of facilities – opening hours.
- ◀ Cross boundary movement of demand.
- ◀ Travel networks and topography.
- ◀ Attractiveness of facilities.

Table 4.12: Sport England: Sports Facilities Calculator

	<b>Population 2018: (ONS)</b>	<b>Population estimate: 2042 (ONS)</b>
ONS population projections	102,126	136,154
Population increase		34,028
Facilities to meet additional demand	-	+8.75 courts (+2.19 halls)
Estimated cost*	-	£6,492,764

(Build costs as of Q3 2024)

As the population is expected to increase, the calculated demand for sports halls will also rise. By 2042, the SFC estimates that an additional 8.75 badminton courts (2.19 halls) will be required in NWL.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

---

Table 4.13: Strategic housing impact- proposed allocations

Housing growth increases from strategic sites (500+ houses to 2042)	Average number of people per owner occupying household (England)	Population increase due to proposed housing	Additional sports hall space required	Estimated cost (£)
13,125*	2.4	31,500	+8.1 courts 2.02 halls	£6,010,406

(Build costs as of Q3 2024)

\*this includes the total amount delivered to 2042 (1,950 houses) for Isley Walton

The FPM states there is currently not a need for additional sports hall capacity, with a surplus of nearly two 4-court halls (7.1 courts), however, it is important to ensure sites attractiveness is prioritised and current supply remains as accessible as possible, including all the educational sites. This also includes certain educational sites expanding opening times, to increase capacity.

ONS population growth does not account for growth generated through housing growth (shown in Table 4.13), therefore it is useful to show the demand generated through both calculations (population growth (SFC) and housing growth). When combining the two, it is calculated that there is a need for c.16.85 courts by 2042.

With the current surplus of courts across the current stock and the two potential proposed halls in the key areas of growth, it is anticipated no additional halls will be required. However, based on the audit's findings, further feasibility surrounding capacity in Ashby could be considered as demand currently exceeds supply at the time of the audit.

## 4.4: Summary of key facts and issues

Facility type	Sports halls	-
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
<b>Quantity</b>	NWL has 16 halls containing 43 badminton courts. It has eight sports halls with 3+ courts (37 courts).	<p>There is no 3+ court sports hall in the north of the authority serving Castle Donington and Kegworth. However, proposed developments in the area include potential plans to address this.</p> <p>The FPM states there is a current surplus of 7.1 courts. In addition, accessible supply exceeds the demand for sports halls in North West Leicestershire in 2025. Met demand is very high, and unmet demand is negligible. Three-quarters of the satisfied demand is met within the District.</p> <p>Future population growth and housing growth, through the SFC, calculated the need for c.16.75 additional courts up to 2042.</p> <p>The proposed developments in the North along with the current surplus could absorb the majority of the identified future shortfall (housing growth and population growth).</p>
<b>Quality</b>	Four of the 3+ court halls, are rated below average, two above average and two good quality.	The four sites below average halls need refurbishment. It is important to maintain the high sports hall quality at Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Facility type	Sports halls	-
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
<b>Accessibility</b>	42.5% of the population lives within 1 mile of a community accessible sports hall. All live within a 20-minute drive of a community sports hall.	Walk time accessibility to sports halls is relatively low, but high levels of car ownership and strong drivetime catchment figures counterbalance this. Currently for residents in the north of the district, there is a need to travel (a considerable distance) by car or public transport to access sport hall provision in the Authority.
<b>Availability (Management and usage)</b>	All 3+court halls offer some form of community use. Four operate above Sport England's threshold of 'comfortably full'.  Two leisure centre sites (Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre and Ashby Leisure Centre and Lido) offer daytime availability.	Sports hall utilisation is high. Almost all are operating at close to or above the comfortably full benchmark. Four are at full capacity. Clubs report that servicing existing demand and enabling growth is being hindered by the lack of available sports halls. This was a particular issue in Ashby.  Demand based future population and housing growth cannot be accommodated by the existing stock. Schools need to continue to offer peak time community use for sports clubs and, where possible, to increase the number of hours made available.  Any new developments need to be accompanied by strong community use agreements to ensure full community access to sports hall facilities.

## Strategic summary

- ◀ Each facility is important to the community served and all venues need to be protected in accordance with paragraph 104 of the NPPF.
- ◀ Population growth calculated through population growth and housing growth will create an additional demand of c. 17 courts by 2042. This could be addressed through the current FPM calculated surplus and potential new sports hall developments in the north of the Authority.
- ◀ The largest areas of growth will be in the North. It is anticipated the new facilities in Isley Walton and Castle Donington (minimum of three courts at each site) will address the planned growth in this area.
- ◀ Should sports hall provision be developed in the north of the Authority in the near future, there is a need for sport development support to enable sports clubs to become established.
- ◀ Existing sports hall stock serves some NWL communities, however, several facilities are rated below average. Investment is required at the below average sites to improve quality.
- ◀ Sport hall use/demand is strong; four sites are at capacity and four approaching it. It is recommended that NWLDC liaises with schools to increase capacity via (e.g.) longer opening hours or moving certain bookings into other venues (e.g., moving football outdoors). This is particularly relevant to Ivanhoe School. Other options could be exploring if a key holder arrangement could be put in place with Ashby Aztecs Basketball Club.
- ◀ There is no provision in the north of the Authority. While demand from clubs and others in these areas is low this may (at least in part) be a function of the absence of facilities in the area. Where clubs do exist (e.g. netball), there is keen-ness to develop junior sections and expand - thus increasing demand. It is, thus, being suppressed by the lack of facilities.
- ◀ Ashby Sports has aspirations to develop new indoor provision supporting sports such as basketball and netball.

## **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

---

- ◀ There are several potential developments – at/by Castle Donnington College, Isley Woodhouse, Castle Donington Parish Council and Trailblazers Basketball. It is, for all, unclear what size they will be and what the timescales for delivery may be.

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

---

## **SECTION 5: SWIMMING POOLS**

A swimming pool is defined as an “enclosed area of water, specifically maintained for all forms of water-based sport and recreation”. It includes indoor and outdoor pools, freeform leisure pools and specific diving tanks used for general swimming, teaching, training and diving. Many small pools are used solely for recreational swimming and will not necessarily need to strictly follow the NGB recommendations. It is, however, generally recommended that standard dimensions are used to allow appropriate levels of competition and training and to help meet safety standards. Relatively few pools need to be designed to full competition standards or include spectator facilities.

Training for competition, low-level synchronised swimming, and water polo can all take place in a 25m pool. With modest spectator seating, pools can also accommodate competitive events in these activities. Diving from boards, advanced synchronised swimming and more advanced sub-aqua training require deeper water. These can all be accommodated in one pool tank, which ideally should be in addition to the main pool.

The NGB responsible for administering diving, swimming, synchronised swimming and water polo in England is **Swim England**.

Swim England’s report ‘A Decade of Decline: The Future of Swimming Pools in England’ provides a national analysis of the current swimming pool stock across England. It notes that the average age of a pool built from 1960 onwards is 43 years. On this basis it suggests that many of these pools are now coming to the end of their lifespan.

Many pool operators were placed in a serious financial situation during the pandemic, when many local authorities provided emergency financial support through direct grants, deferred payments or loans to subsidise pool operators who had suffered loss of income due to pool closures.

UK Government’s £100 million National Leisure Recovery Fund also provided assistance to enable pools to re-open once restrictions had been lifted. Despite this, **Swim England** reports that 206 pools (including 68 public pools) closed, either permanently or temporarily over the period of the Pandemic.

In preparing for the future, **Swim England** recommend that local authorities conduct analysis of their pool stock to understand if they have the right pools in the right places to meet the needs of the local community. In the light of the fact that leisure facilities account for over 40% cent of some councils’ direct carbon emissions it advocates capital investment in the renewal of pool stock to support efforts to reach net zero targets, alongside combating the predicted overall future deficit of water space nationally.

### **5.1: Supply**

This assessment is mostly concerned with larger pools available for community use for lane swimming/swimming lessons (no restrictions to accessing the pool as a result of membership criteria). Those with less than 160m<sup>2</sup> (4 lanes x 20m in length) and/or located at private member clubs are deemed to offer limited value in relation to community use and delivery of outcomes related to health and deprivation. It is recognised that smaller pools can accommodate learning/teaching sessions, but they are, for modelling/needs assessment purposes, deemed unable to offer a full swim programme and, thus, eliminated from the supply evaluation, when considering accessibility and availability later in this section.

Initially, all pools are listed to illustrate the overall supply, however, pools greater or equal to 160m<sup>2</sup> which are available for community use are taken forward as part of the study. Further analysis is undertaken of these swimming pools when considering the various access policies.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## Quantity

The audit identifies 12 swimming pools (including all pools irrespective of size and access) at 10 sites. They comprise five learner/teaching pools, one leisure pool and six main pools.

Figure 5.1: All swimming pools in NWL

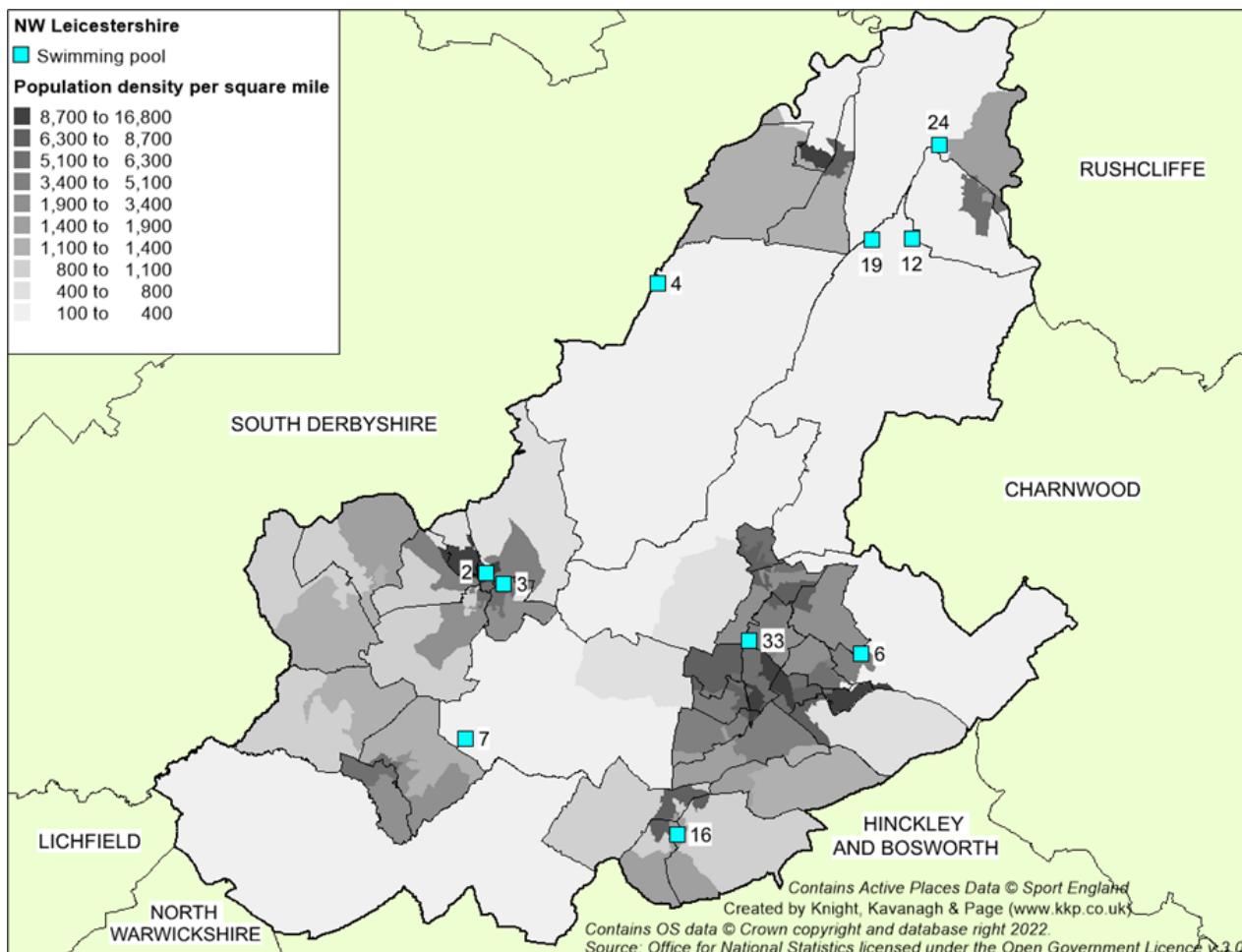


Table 5.1: All swimming pools in NWL

ID	Site	Sub-type	Lanes	Length	Area
2	Ashby Leisure Centre and Lido	Main/general	4	25	213
2	Ashby Leisure Centre and Lido	Learner/teaching/training	0	13	98
3	Ashby School and Sixth Form	Main/general	4	25	213
4	Breedon Priory Health Club	Learner/teaching/training	0	14	112
6	Castle Rock High School	Main/general	4	25	250
7	Champneys Springs	Leisure pool	0	25	225
12	Halsa Health Club	Learner/teaching/training	0	12.5	75
16	Ibstock Leisure Complex	Main/general	4	25	250
19	Juvenile (East Midlands Airport)	Learner/teaching/training	0	10	50
24	Livingwell Health Club	Main/general	1	16	160
33	Whitwick & Coalville Leisure Centre	Main/general	8	25	425

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

33	Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre	Learner/teaching/training	0	17	119
----	---------------------------------------	---------------------------	---	----	-----

Due to the importance of the learner pools at Ashby and Whitwick and Coalville leisure centres, they are included as part of the full audit as the learn to swim programme assist with programming (and income generation). This audit, thus, considers nine pools at seven sites.

Swimming facilities are well located across NWL, with provision supporting the main areas of population of Ashby, Castle Donnington and Coalville. The main provision is, however, in the south; Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre (southeast) and Ashby Leisure Centre (southwest).

Ashby Leisure Centre also has a lido which is not included in the audit as it does not provide year-round access (it is also not included in the Sport England FPM report for the same reasons). The lido pool is 33m in length, has five lanes and is open offering recreational and lane swimming from May until September. Everyone Active has aspirations to upgrade the facility to potentially have a retractable roof, which could provide year-round swimming opportunities. This is currently aspirational, with no detailed costs/design work undertaken. Funding would need to be sought to deliver this.

Figure 5.2: Ashby outdoor lido



## **Quality**

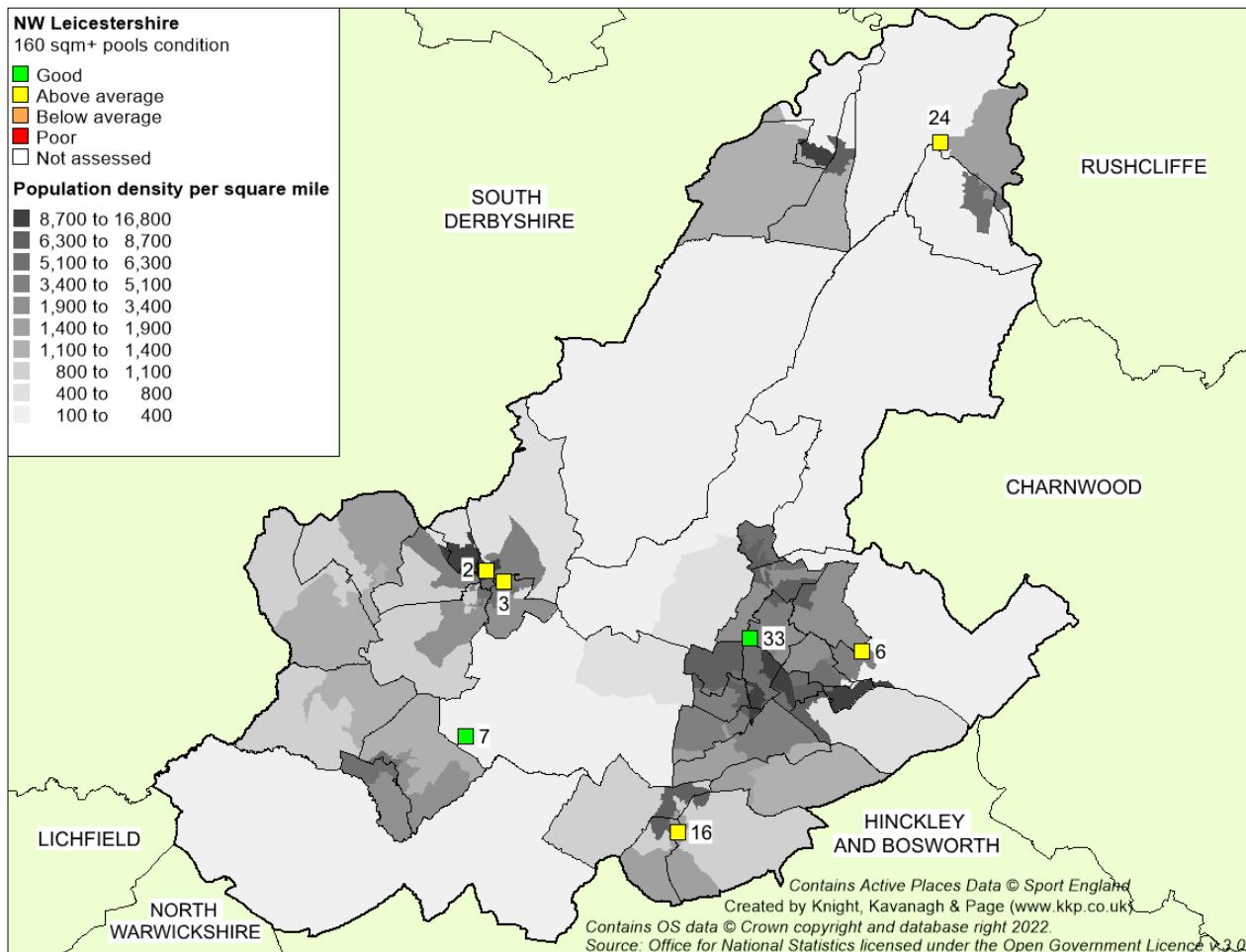
Of the nine swimming pools included in this assessment, three are rated good quality and remaining (six) are rated as above average. No pools were rated as below average or poor.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Table 5.2: Quality ratings of 160m<sup>2</sup> swimming pools.

ID	Site	Sub-type	Pool condition	Changing
2	Ashby Leisure Centre and Lido	Main/general	Above average	Above average
2	Ashby Leisure Centre and Lido	Learner/teaching/training	Above average	Above average
3	Ashby School and Sixth Form	Main/general	Above average	Not assessed
6	Castle Rock High School	Main/general	Above average	Not assessed
7	Champneys Springs	Leisure pool	Good	Above average
16	Ibstock Leisure Complex	Main/general	Above average	Not assessed
24	Livingwell Health Club	Main/general	Above average	Above average
33	Whitwick & Coalville LC	Main/general	Good	Good
33	Whitwick & Coalville LC	Learner/teaching/training	Good	Good

Figure 5.3: Swimming pools larger than 160m<sup>2</sup> in length with quality ratings



The Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre swimming pool (opened in 2022) is the main strategic swimming facility in the Authority. It supports all users, including hosting galas for local swimming competitions.

The main and learner pools at Ashby Leisure Centre (which is the main facility for residents in Ashby) are approaching 25 years of age but are well presented and attractive. It has no main structure or plant issues.

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

---

The third main pool in the Authority is at Ibstock Leisure Complex. It offers (pay and play) lane and recreational swimming for residents in the south of the Authority. Similar to Ashby Leisure Centre, its last recorded investment was in 2001, however, it is well looked after and received an above average quality rating.

Two other pools of note are Ashby School and Sixth Form and Castle Rock High School. Although neither offers pay and play access, they are reportedly well used by the community, by private swim companies and swim clubs. Both rate above average and report no maintenance issues.

The remaining pools are linked to commercial gyms and are located at hotels. Livingwell Health Club is rated above average and Champneys Springs is rated as good. The Livingwell site is the sole site located in the north, it offers registered membership access to residents from Castle Donnington and as far as Coalville.

Figure 5.4: Ibstock Leisure Complex swimming pool



Table 5.3: Age of swimming pools (160m<sup>2</sup>+ ) and refurbishment dates (where applicable)

<b>Site name</b>	<b>Year built/ opened</b>	<b>Year last refurbished</b>	<b>Age (years) since built/refurbished</b>
Ashby Leisure Centre and Lido	2002		23
Ashby School and Sixth Form	1983	2017	8
Castle Rock High School	1995	2011	14
Champneys Springs	2001	2016	9
Ibstock Leisure Complex	1992	2002	23

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

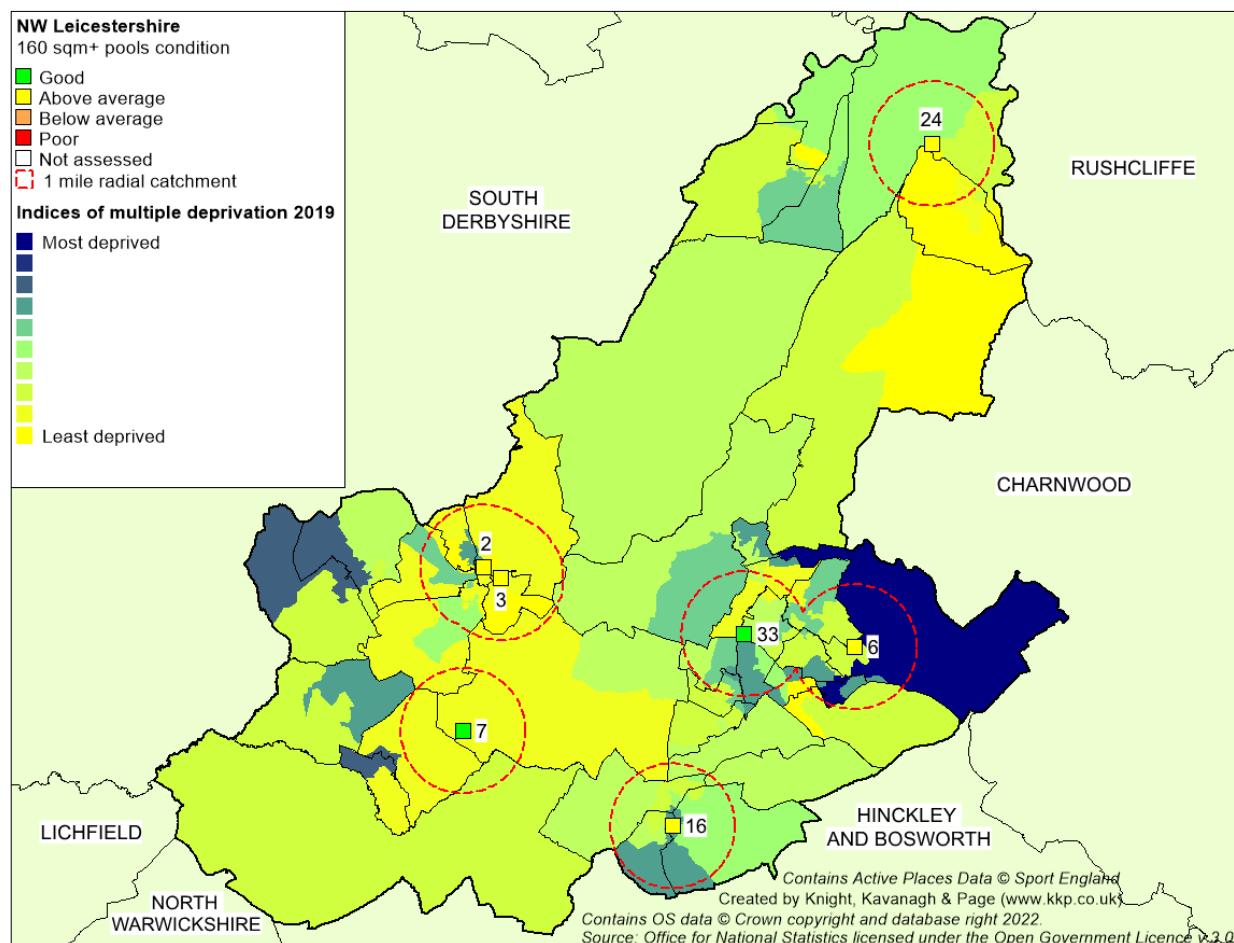
Site name	Year built/ opened	Year last refurbished	Age (years) since built/refurbished
Livingwell Health Club (East Midlands)	1999	-	26
Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre	2022	-	3

## Accessibility

Swimming pool accessibility is influenced by physical traits such as the built environment. Appropriate walk and drive-time catchments are applied to determine accessibility to communities. The normal acceptable standard is 20-minutes' walk time (1-mile radial catchment) for an urban area and a 20-minutes' drive time for a rural area. This enables analysis of the adequacy of coverage and helps identify areas currently not serviced by existing provision.

Figures 5.4 and 5.5 plus Table 5.4 illustrate the walk and drivetime based accessibility of all swimming pools in NWL. This includes facilities which do not offer pay and play access.

Figure 5.5: Accessibility of swimming pools in NWL (with a one-mile radial catchment)



Catchment analysis indicates that 40.7% of the population lives within one mile of a swimming pool of a 160m<sup>2</sup>+ or larger. Of the 6,692 people living in areas of higher deprivation in NWL (i.e., those in the 30% most deprived areas nationally), 27.4% live within one mile of a swimming pool.

Access to pay and play accessible pools in NWL is more limited. Only 28% of residents live within one mile of a pay and play accessible swimming pool, and no one living in the Authority's most deprived areas lives within a mile of a pay and play pool. Key provision gaps are to the east of

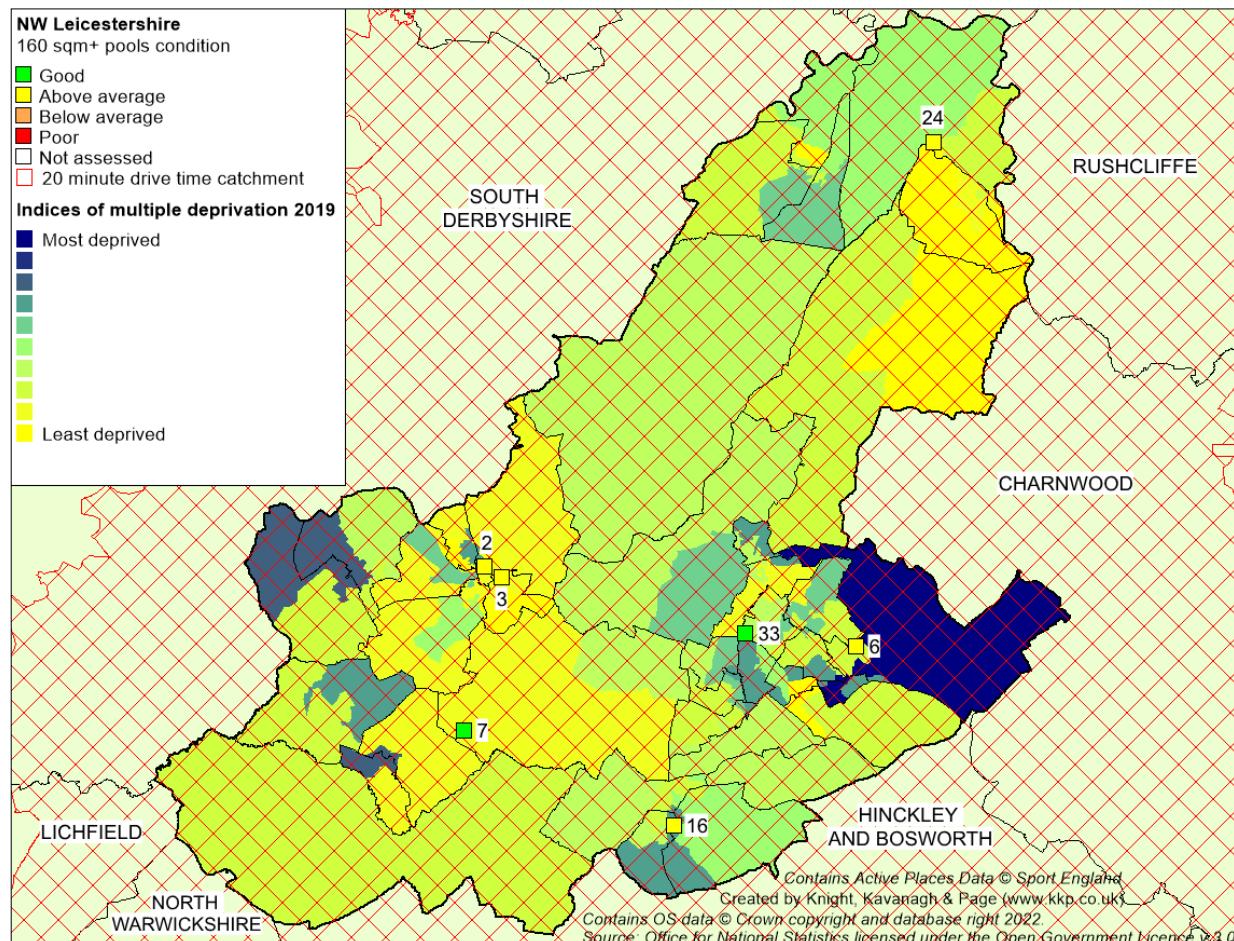
# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Coalville on the border with the authority of Charnwood and to the west of Ashby. The whole NWL population lives within a 20-minute drive of a swimming pool.

Table 5.4: Accessibility of swimming pools in NWL

IMD 10% bands	Persons	Population %	Persons inside catchment	Population inside (%)	Persons outside catchment	Population outside (%)
0 - 10	3,170	3.3%	1,834	1.9%	1,336	1.4%
10.1 - 20	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
20.1 - 30	3,522	3.6%	0	0.0%	3,522	3.6%
30.1 - 40	12,269	12.6%	8,125	8.4%	4,144	4.3%
40.1 - 50	8,233	8.5%	4,297	4.4%	3,936	4.1%
50.1 - 60	8,249	8.5%	3,957	4.1%	4,292	4.4%
60.1 - 70	18,638	19.2%	4,212	4.3%	14,426	14.9%
70.1 - 80	19,591	20.2%	6,318	6.5%	13,273	13.7%
80.1 - 90	15,552	16.0%	7,391	7.6%	8,161	8.4%
90.1 - 100	7,874	8.1%	3,364	3.5%	4,510	4.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>97,098</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>39,498</b>	<b>40.7%</b>	<b>57,600</b>	<b>59.3%</b>

Figure 5.6: Accessibility of swimming pools in NWL (20-minute drivetime catchment)



# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

## **Availability of swimming pools**

All facilities audited offer some form of public access.

Table 5.5: Access policy of swimming pools

<b>Site name</b>	<b>Access policy</b>
Ashby Leisure Centre and Lido	Pay and play
Ashby School and Sixth Form	Sports club / CA
Castle Rock High School	Sports club / CA
Champneys Springs	Registered membership
Ibstock Leisure Complex	Pay and play
Livingwell Health Club (East Midlands)	Registered membership
Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre	Pay and play

(NB: Sports club/CA = Sports club/community association use)

Three pools can be accessed on a pay and play basis: the two public leisure centre sites (Ashby Leisure Centre and Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre) plus Ibstock Leisure Complex. Castle Rock High School and Ashby School are available via pre-arranged block bookings and are mainly used by swimming clubs and private swim school operators.

The remaining sites are accessible via registered membership. For example, accessing the pool at Livingwell Health Club is part of a gym membership package which costs £55.00 per month.

## **Facilities in neighbouring authorities**

Accessibility is influenced by facilities located outside an authority. Seven pools (160m<sup>2</sup>+ ) at seven sites are located within two miles of the NWL boundary; three in Erewash, two in South Derbyshire and one in Charnwood. Two are available for casual use/are pay and play accessible.

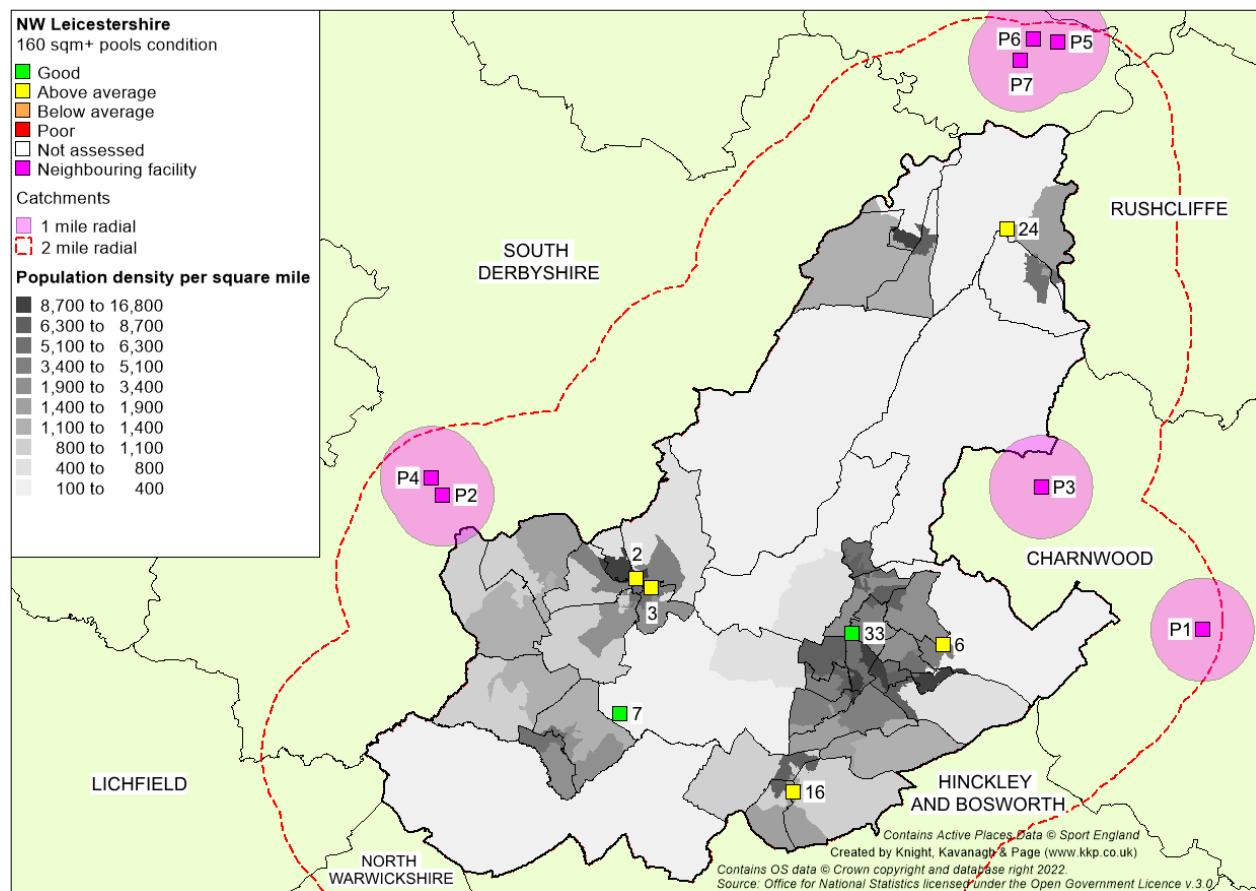
Publicly accessible pay-and-play swimming pools are unavailable in the Authority's northern area. Consequently, West Park Leisure Centre in Long Eaton, providing recreational, lane swimming, and swimming lessons, is thought likely to be serving many residents from this northern region and absorbing NWL-based demand. In some circumstances, provision in a neighbouring authority is nearer than travelling to the district venues in the south of the Authority.

Table 5.6: Neighbouring authority-based community available main pools within 2-miles of NWL

<b>ID</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Access</b>	<b>District</b>
P1	Garats Hay	6 lanes x 25m	Sports club / CA	Charnwood
P2	Green Bank Leisure Centre	5 lanes x 25m	Pay and play	South Derbyshire
P3	Iveshead School	4 lanes x 23m	Sports club / CA	Charnwood
P4	Pingle Academy	4 lanes x 20m	Sports club / CA	South Derbyshire
P5	The Clifford Health Club & Spa	3 lanes x 22m	Reg. membership	Erewash
P6	Trent College	4 lanes x 23m	Sports club / CA	Erewash
P7	West Park Leisure Centre (Long Eaton)	5 lanes x 25m	Pay and play	Erewash

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Figure 5.7: Swimming pools located within 2 miles of the NWL boundary



Source: Active Places Power 16/01/2025

## Sport England Facilities Planning Model (FPM)

NWLDC commissioned an initial assessment of its current supply and demand for the provision of swimming pools in the District in 2025. The report was produced in June 2025 with the key finding stating that the accessible supply of swimming pools can meet North West Leicestershire's demand comfortably in 2025. However, the public leisure centres attract most demand and are estimated to be uncomfortably full at peak times.

### **Key findings**

The total water space in North West Leicestershire is 1,952 sqm of water. When scaled against the amount available during the weekly peak period, this reduces to 1,786 sqm of water. In 2025, 9% of the water space is unavailable for community use in the weekly peak period, which equates to 166 sqm of water.

Both public leisure centres are available for the maximum 52.5 hours in the weekly peak period. There is no scope to increase availability and capacity at these sites to accommodate more demand at peak times.

The resident population generates demand for 7,564 visits in the weekly peak period, which equates to 1,244 sqm of water with a comfort factor included. This demand amounts to less than the North West Leicestershire available supply of 1,786 sqm of water.

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

---

In 2025, 97% of the demand for swimming pools from North West Leicestershire residents is met. This is higher than both the regional average of 94% and the national average of 93%.

Of North West Leicestershire's satisfied demand, 80% is met at swimming pools within the District. Five of the swimming pool sites are located in areas of high demand. Only the two commercial pools are located in areas where there is no demand.

Unmet demand is the equivalent of 39 sqm of water with a comfort factor included. Residents who are too far from a swimming pool account for 99% of the unmet demand.

The location in North West Leicestershire where the most unmet demand can be met is at Junction 24 of the M1, at 72 sqm of water. This amount is insufficient to consider building a new swimming pool at this location. This does not, however, take account of future changes in demand, which would need to be considered separately in a bespoke report.

The overall estimated used capacity of swimming pools in North West Leicestershire during the weekly peak period is 58%. However, the distribution of demand and the attractiveness of the public leisure centres means that they are uncomfortably full at peak times. Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre is 78% utilised in the weekly peak period, and Ashby Leisure Centre and Lido is 74% utilised.

Imported demand accounts for 35% of the used capacity of North West Leicestershire's swimming pools. Altogether, the sites meet 3,141 visits in the weekly peak period from residents of neighbouring local authorities.

## *Strategic Overview*

Overall, there is sufficient capacity to meet North West Leicestershire's demand for swimming pools. However, there is an issue within this strategic overview in that the two public leisure centres are estimated to be uncomfortably full at peak times and are already available for the maximum peak period hours.

The data from the National FPM Run does not identify how much of North West Leicestershire's demand comes from which other local authority area or swimming pool; it only provides the total figure for imported demand. That said, there is high demand in South Derbyshire close to the border with North West Leicestershire and, across the study area, South Derbyshire exports the most visits that are met in other local authorities.

Overall, there is sufficient capacity within North West Leicestershire to meet demand, and the findings for the public leisure centres should be viewed in this context. No other swimming pool sites are estimated to be uncomfortably full.

The intervention is to try and reduce the proportion of used capacity at the public leisure centres at peak times by increasing usage of the educational sites, which are less attractive due to their age.

Finally, it is important to review whether there is a need for modernisation at Ashby Leisure Centre and Lido in order to maintain the quality of the offer and the attractiveness of this swimming pool site.

## **Future enhancements / new developments**

As of the audit date, no known new swimming pool developments are planned in the area.

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

---

## **5.2: Demand**

Consultation was undertaken with Swim England. It recommends that all pools need to remain community accessible, including those at educational sites, making water space available for everyone. If required, its Business Engagement Team is available to assist agencies to maximise operations at sites struggling to offer community access.

**Coalville Swimming Club** – is the sole Swim England affiliated club in the Authority. Its main base is Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre which it uses four hours a week. It also hires pools for 10 hours per week at Ashby Leisure Centre, Castle Rock School and Ibstock Leisure Complex. It reports having a good relationship with Everyone Active along with the academy trusts and has the ability to access more pool hours should it wish to.

It currently has 157 members, ranging from juniors to masters, and competes in the Leicester and District Swimming League plus the Leicester Masters League for adult swimmers. It also hosts standalone trophy galas.

As noted, it reports having access to the facilities it needs and that their quality meet its needs. Ideally, it would like more of a visible presence at Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre with an office, and community noticeboards to promote the club.

**Coalville Triathlon Club** – a British Triathlon affiliated adult club open to men and women of all fitness levels. For its swim sessions it hires Ibstock Leisure Complex on a Tuesday 20:00 - 21:00 and Ashby School 06:30 – 07:30. Its run and bike ride sessions do not necessitate facility hire. In the summer (April – September) it trains in open water at Spring Lakes Water Sports (Long Eaton).

### **Swimming lessons**

Three main operators deliver swimming lessons within the Authority. Everyone Active runs lesson programmes at both Ashby Leisure Centre and Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre. It reports operating at 81% capacity and having limited spare capacity.

Ibstock Leisure Complex offer swimming lessons delivered through the Academy Trust. Based on 10-week course cycles, these run Monday-Friday between 16.00-19.00 and are at 80% capacity.

Castle Rock High School also has an in-house learn to swim offer. It is reported to be operating at 70% and has capacity to increase the number of swimming lessons it runs should demand rise.

## **5.3: Sport England's Facilities Calculator (SFC)**

As noted above, this aids local planning authorities to quantify additional demand for community sports facilities generated by new growth populations, development and regeneration. It can be used to estimate facility need for whole area populations but should not be applied for strategic gap analysis as it has no spatial dimension as it does not take account of:

- ◀ Facility location compared to demand.
- ◀ Capacity and availability of facilities – opening hours.
- ◀ Cross boundary movement of demand.
- ◀ Travel networks and topography.
- ◀ Attractiveness of facilities.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Table 5.8: Sports facilities calculator

Factor	Population 2018 (ONS)	Population estimate 2042 (ONS)
ONS population projections	102,126	136,154
Population increase		34,028
Facilities to meet change in demand	-	+6.81 lanes (+1.7 pools)
Estimated Cost		£7,722,180

Calculations assume that the current swimming pool stock remains available for community use and the quality remains the same. The projected increase in population will lead to an increase in demand for swimming space. The SFC indicates a requirement for an additional 6.81 lanes (equivalent to 1.7 swimming pools), up to 2042 (estimated cost: £7,722,180).

Table 4.13: Strategic housing impact

Housing growth increases from strategic sites (500+ houses to 2042)	Average number of people per owner occupying household (England)	Population increase due to proposed housing	Additional sports hall space required	Estimated cost (£)
13,125*	2.4	31,500	+6.31 lanes 1.58 pools	£7,148,485

(Build costs as of Q3 2024)

\*this includes the total amount delivered to 2042 (1,950 houses) for Isley Walton

Based on the current requirements as calculated by the FPM, there is sufficient water space, however, this is dependent on all school pools remain open and increase accessibility to more than just private swim schools and swimming clubs.

However, it is worth illustrating population growth when coupled with the growth generated through housing growth as a combined figure. ONS population growth does not consider the Council's housing growth as a factor when generating its estimate.

The SFC's calculated need (6.81 lanes) combined with the growth generated through housing growth (6.31 lanes) should be absorbed by the current surplus (c.13 lanes), resulting in a supply/demand balance (no further requirement of provision). This must not detract from the need to invest in the current supply of facilities ensuring they remain as attractive and accessible as possible. Should Ashby Leisure Centre's currently lido become covered and operate as a year-round facility, this will alleviate some of the pressure off the public leisure stock and further increase supply.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## 5.4: Summary of key facts and issues

In summary, the above consultation and analysis indicates that NWL is in the following position with regard to its swimming pool provision:

Facility type	Swimming pools	
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
<b>Quantity</b>	There are 12 pools across 10 sites. Nine of the seven pools are larger than 160m <sup>2</sup> (4 lanes x 20m) or are at a site with a larger pool which is of strategic importance for the learn to swim offer.	<p>The FPM calculates a current surplus of water space based on the pools at the two Everyone Active sites, along with pools across the educational sector.</p> <p>The SFC coupled with the population growth generated through housing growth states that there will be a need for additional capacity by 2043, however, this should be absorbed by the current surplus.</p> <p>The current operator aspires to develop Ashby Leisure Centre's Lido into a year round venue. This will further increase the pay and play supply and reduce pressure on the public leisure stock.</p>
<b>Quality</b>	All pools are generally rated either good or above average. No pools received a below or poor-quality rating.	Whilst all key sites are rated as good or above average quality, NWLDC should work with Everyone Active and the respective academy trusts to ensure that the required long-term maintenance schedules are delivered to maintain quality of all facilities.
<b>Accessibility</b>	<p>40.7% of the population lives within a one-mile walk of a swimming pool (160m<sup>2</sup>+ in size) in the Authority.</p> <p>The whole population lives within 20-minutes' drive of a (160m<sup>2</sup>+) swimming pool.</p> <p>Pay and play access is available within a 1-mile walk for approximately 30% of residents.</p>	<p>Whilst walking distance accessibility is generally low, the high level of car ownership and strong drivetime catchment figures suggests that swimming pool provision is sufficient in NWL.</p> <p>For residents in the north of the district where there is no public accessible pay and play facility, provision in a neighbouring authority is likely to be nearer/ more accessible than travelling to the south of the authority.</p>
<b>Availability (Management and usage)</b>	Three pools are available for pay and play access. A further two can be accessed for swimming lessons on a block booking basis. The remainder are commercial hotel provision accessed via registered membership.	Review public leisure centre pool programming to ensure a balance between club, learn to swim and casual swimming. Ensure that the two school pools which are available through a block booking basis remain accessible, as this provides additional learn to swim capacity and helps cater for club training demand.

## Strategic summary

- ◀ Swimming pool quality in NWL is generally good. There are three pay and play pools. The remaining pools are available for community use through a block booking basis

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

---

- ◀ Everyone Active has aspirations to enhance the lido at Ashby Leisure Centre to become a year round facility. The operator may require support with this proposal.
- ◀ The FPM currently calculates a surplus of c.13 lanes. This is based on both pay and play pools and pools which are available via block bookings.
- ◀ This surplus should take account of need in the north of the Authority, supporting the proposed new settlement at Isley Woodhouse (4,250 new dwellings). It is recommended that further feasibility work is undertaken to calculate future capacity requirements. (1,950 is planned to be delivered by 2042, the remaining balance at a later date.)
- ◀ Given the rise in those aged 65+ in NWL by 2043, NWLDC should consider options to provide specific incentives to encourage swimming pool access and expand usage levels during quieter periods as seen in other local authority areas.

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

---

## **SECTION 6: HEALTH AND FITNESS SUITES**

According to the most recent ALS data<sup>11</sup>, around 11.4 million adults regularly engage in some form of fitness type activity (i.e., using gym equipment, a weights session, fitness class, or interval session). The popularity of fitness activities is reflective of their taking place across wide range of facilities including larger gyms (run on behalf of the local authority by companies and/or Trusts, managed in-house or private sector operators), and also other smaller activity spaces such as village and community halls.

Fitness studios also vary in their size and function, from relatively large rooms within leisure centres often containing a sprung floor, to smaller spaces (often within community and village halls) which may serve as dedicated spinning (indoor cycling) studios or to hold virtual fitness classes. Studio based timetabled classes such as Pilates, yoga, dance, step, boxercise and Zumba usually generate a significant amount of activity within publicly operated provision and comprise a core benefit of a health and fitness membership.

In terms of trends in the market, prior to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the UK health and fitness industry was enjoying a strong period of growth. It had more gyms, more members and a greater market value than ever before. The State of the Fitness Industry Report UK for 2022 found that membership levels dropped by around 5% since 2019 as a result of the Pandemic and numbers of facilities had also reduced. This correlates with ALS data which measured regular pre-Pandemic activity levels at around 14 million. Pure Gym and GLL remain the UK's leading operators (by number of gyms and members).

Health and fitness facilities are a core element within the transitioning of public leisure facilities towards delivering on wider health improvement outcomes. A leisure operator's role in providing for people with long term health conditions, including via exercise referral is critical. Fitness studios may 'double up' as spaces where NHS services such as physiotherapy, health screening, and weight management can take place alongside gentle exercise classes.

Larger health and fitness gyms containing a mix of flexible spaces (such as cardio, free weights and boxing equipment, (80 stations +<sup>12</sup>) remain central to the financial viability of public sector leisure centres. When combined with multiple studio facilities offering a good mix (and sufficient number) of classes, these usually offer the most profitable spaces within a typical leisure centre.

The past decade or so has also seen a growth in the prevalence of operators offering 'functional fitness' type equipment and activities. This form of fitness is a type of strength training that readies your body for daily activities and includes lifting, loading, pushing, pulling, squatting and hauling. This is manifested both in terms of small private facilities, and the incorporation of functional fitness spaces within publicly operated health and fitness facilities.

### **6.1: Supply**

#### **Quantity**

There are 21 health and fitness facilities in NWL: a total of 1,108 stations. Generally, they are located in the district's more densely populated areas such as Coalville and Ashby. Spatially, there is a good spread across the authority, with all main population centres being served.

---

<sup>11</sup> [Active Lives adult survey Nov 20-21 report](#)

<sup>12</sup> A health and fitness 'station' is defined as a piece of static fitness equipment – KKP normally audits facilities of 20 stations or more.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Figure 6.1: All health and fitness gyms on population density

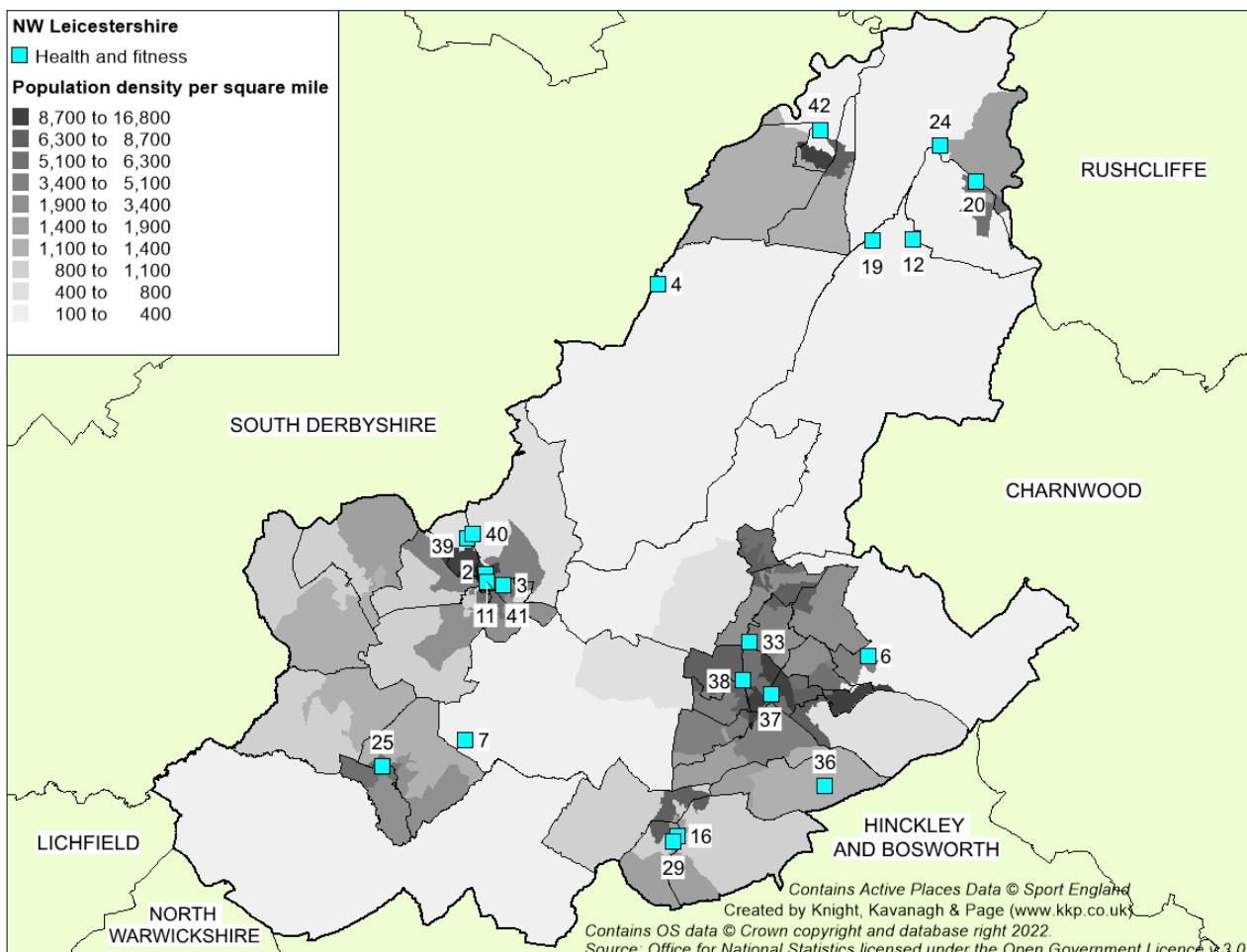


Table 6.1: All health and fitness gyms in NWL

ID	Site	Stations	ID	Site	Stations
2	Ashby Leisure Centre and Lido	75	25	Measham Comm. & Rec. Centre	34
3	Ashby School and Sixth Form	17	29	Rise Fitness Clubs (Ibstock)	75
4	Breedon Priory Health Club	35	33	Whitwick & Coalville Leisure Centre	110
6	Castle Rock High School	32	36	Premier Gym	100
7	Champneys Springs	24	37	Physique Fitness	50
11	Fitness Republic	27	38	Pure Gym (Coalville)	220
12	Halsa Health Club	14	39	Muscle HQ Fitness Gym	60
16	Ibstock Leisure Complex	20	40	Bluestone Fitness	60
19	Juvenile (E. Midlands Airport)	20	41	Fitness Republic	40
20	Kegworth Hotel	25	42	The Workhouse Gym	50
24	Livingwell (East Midlands)	20	<b>Total</b>		<b>1,108</b>

Facilities with fewer than 20 stations or sites not community accessible (Castle Rock and Ashby schools) are typically not assessed/considered large enough to be a community gym although they can service small sections of the community. Removing these smaller/non community accessible facilities from the supply leaves 18 facilities with 20+ stations (1,045 stations in total).

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## Quality

All health and fitness sites received a non-technical quality assessment.

Figure 6.2: Health and fitness gym quality

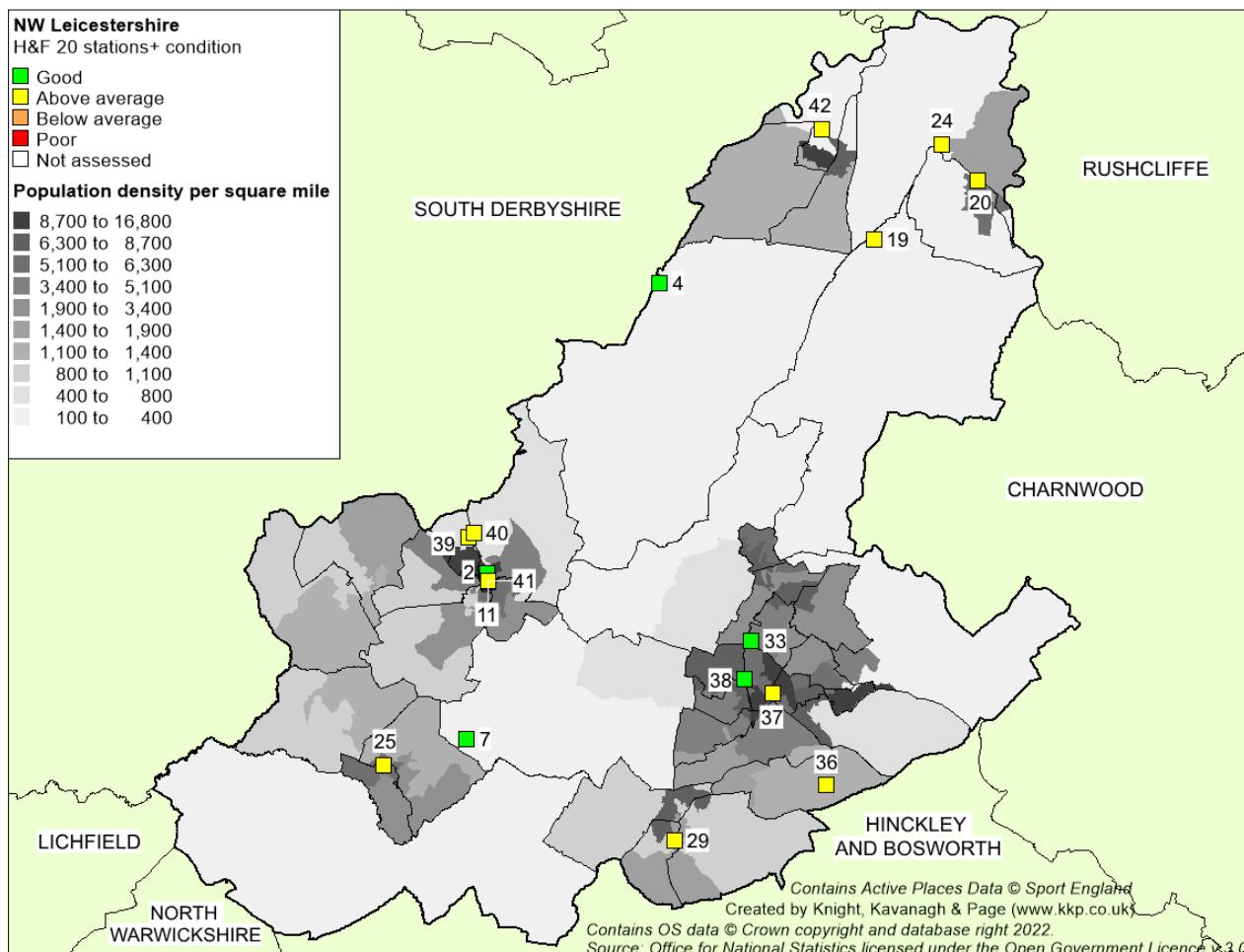


Table 6.2: Health and fitness suites by condition

ID	Site	Stations	Condition
2	Ashby Leisure Centre and Lido	75	Good
4	Breedon Priory Health Club	35	Good
7	Champneys Springs	24	Good
11	Fitness Republic	27	Above average
16	Ibstock Leisure Complex	20	Above average
19	Juvenate (East Midlands Airport)	20	Above average
20	Kegworth Hotel	25	Above average
24	Livingwell Health Club (East Midlands)	20	Above average
25	Measham Community and Recreation Centre	34	Above average
29	Rise Fitness Clubs (Ibstock)	75	Above average
33	Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre	110	Good
36	Premier Gym	100	Above average
37	Physique Fitness	50	Above average
38	Pure Gym (Coalville)	220	Good

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

39	Muscle HQ Fitness Gym	60	Above average
40	Bluestone Fitness	60	Above average
41	Fitness Republic	40	Above average
42	The Workhouse Gym	50	Above average

Four venues are rated as good quality and seven above average. No facilities were rated either below average or poor. The five gyms in NWL of good quality are at Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre, Ashby Leisure Centre and Lido, Breedon Priory Health Club, Pure Gym and Champneys Springs.

Pure Gym (Coalville) is the largest facility, located in the centre of the town. The second largest is at Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre. Ashby Leisure Centre received a £1.2million refurbishment in 2019. This included creation of a new exercise studio. NWLDC, with Everyone Active, was keen to ensure that both its flagship sites are of the highest standards.

## Accessibility

The Sport England classification of access type defines registered membership use facilities as being publicly available. For health and fitness suites, this generally means payment of a monthly membership fee which can vary considerably. Private operators have no contractual obligation to, for example, offer exercise referral nor do they necessarily actively target people/ communities who face barriers to participation. It is also acknowledged that some memberships are expensive while others are cheaper than those offered by public sector venues. There is little doubt that various private operators can take pressure off more available public facilities.

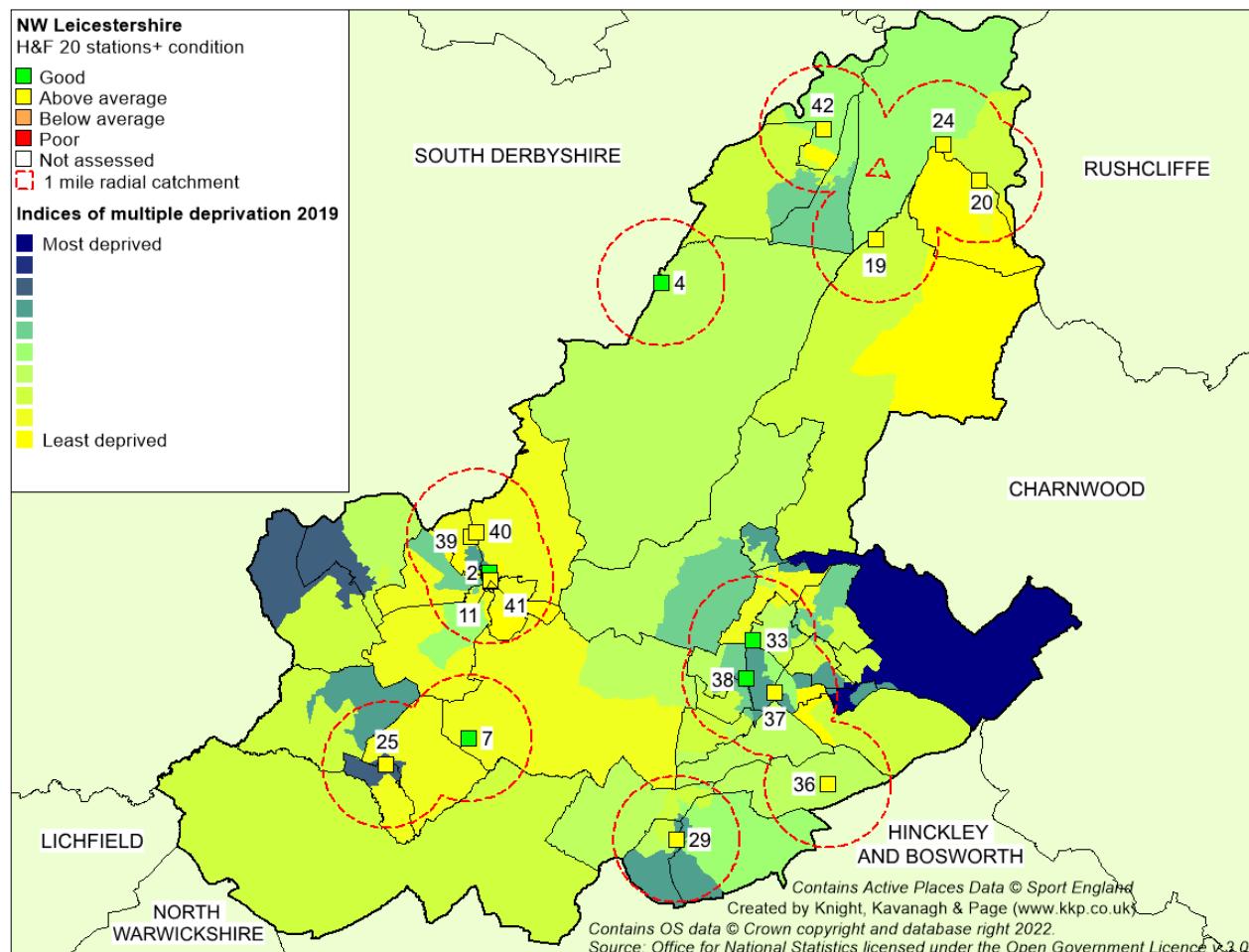
Appropriate walk and drive-time accessibility standards are applied to health and fitness suites to determine provision deficiencies or surpluses. The normal acceptable standard for an urban area is a 20-minutes' walk time and 20-minute drive time for a rural area.

Table 6.3: Health and fitness 20+ stations with 1-mile radial catchment

IMD 10% bands	Persons	Population %	Persons inside catchment	Population inside (%)	Persons outside catchment	Population outside (%)
0 - 10	3,170	3.3%	285	0.3%	2,885	3.0%
10.1 - 20	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
20.1 - 30	3,522	3.6%	1,723	1.8%	1,799	1.9%
30.1 - 40	12,269	12.6%	8,521	8.8%	3,748	3.9%
40.1 - 50	8,233	8.5%	5,457	5.6%	2,776	2.9%
50.1 - 60	8,249	8.5%	5,555	5.7%	2,694	2.8%
60.1 - 70	18,638	19.2%	8,583	8.8%	10,055	10.4%
70.1 - 80	19,591	20.2%	7,433	7.7%	12,158	12.5%
80.1 - 90	15,552	16.0%	10,314	10.6%	5,238	5.4%
90.1 - 100	7,874	8.1%	6,412	6.6%	1,462	1.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>97,098</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>54,283</b>	<b>55.9%</b>	<b>42,815</b>	<b>44.1%</b>

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Figure 6.3: Health and fitness gyms 20+ stations+ with 1-mile radial catchment



Just over half of the NWL population (55.9%) lives within 20 minutes' walk of a health and fitness facility. Whilst this figure is relatively low, the high percentage (87.4%) of households with access to a minimum of one car or van places increased importance on drivetime accessibility. The whole NWL population lives within a 20-minute drive of a health and fitness facility.

For the 6,692 people living in areas of higher deprivation (IMD bands 0-30%) in NWL, just under one third (30.1% - 2,008 people) live within a 20-minute walk of a health/fitness facility. As with the distribution of swimming pools, there are gaps to the east of Coalville and to the west of Ashby.

## Neighbouring facilities

Health and fitness facility users do not just use venues in their own authority. Because of this, those within two miles of the border are considered. There are nine health and fitness venues within two miles of NWL. One (West Park Leisure Centre in Long Eaton) offers pay and play access whilst the remaining sites all require some form of membership to access the facilities.

Table 6.4: Community available health and fitness (20+ stations) within 2 miles of NWL

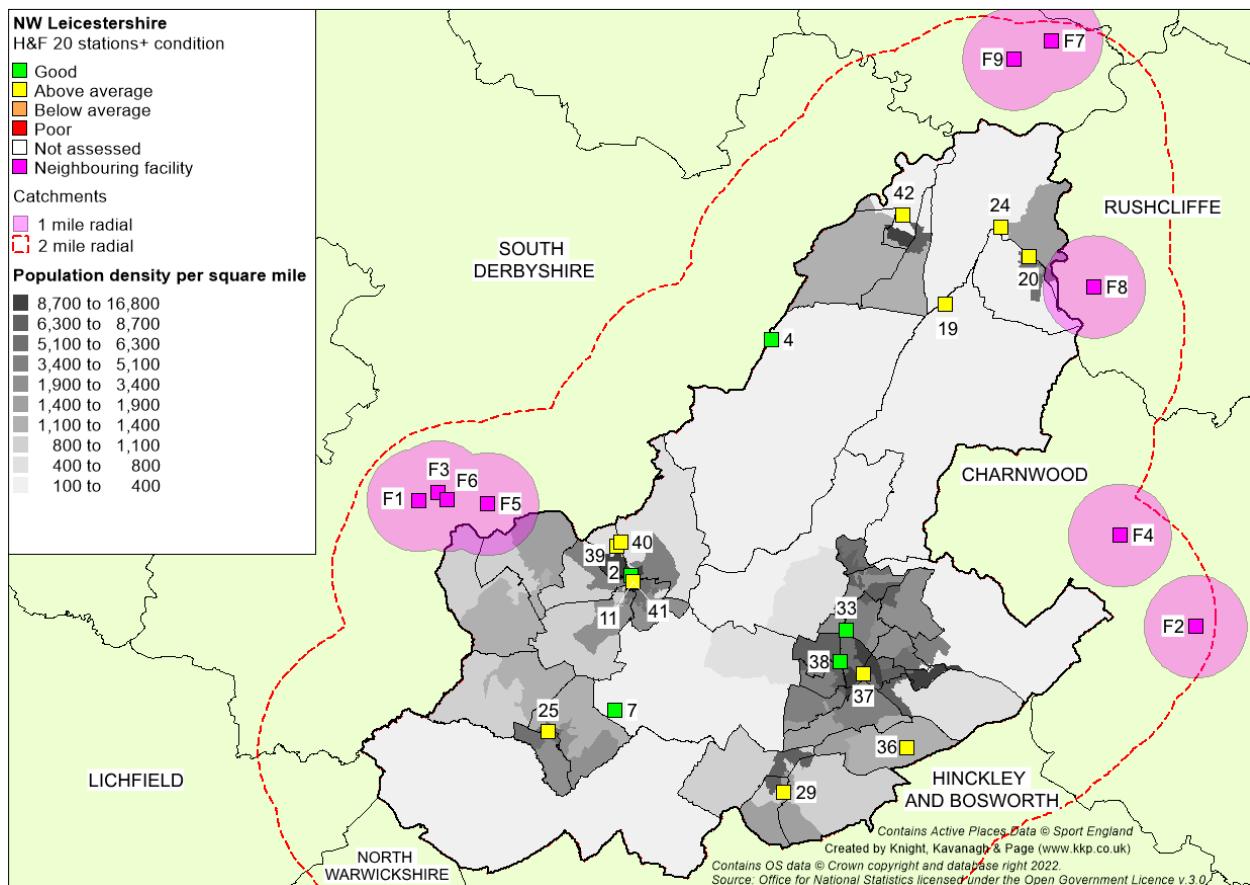
ID	Site	Stations	Access	District
F1	Anytime Fitness (Swadlincote)	90	Reg. membership	South Derbyshire
F2	Garats Hay	26	Sports club / CA	Charnwood

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

ID	Site	Stations	Access	District
F3	Green Bank Leisure Centre	100	Pay and play	South Derbyshire
F4	Loughborough University (Holywell Fitness Centre)	150	Reg. membership	Charnwood
F5	Shredz Fitness Centre	50	Reg. membership	South Derbyshire
F6	Snap Fitness (Swadlincote)	150	Reg. membership	South Derbyshire
F7	The Clifford Health Club & Spa	100	Reg. membership	Erewash
F8	University of Nottingham (Sutton Bonington Sports Centre)	28	Sports club / CA	Rushcliffe
F9	West Park Leisure Centre (Long Eaton)	80	Pay and play	Erewash

Source: Active Places Power 07/01/2025

Figure 6.4: Health and fitness suites with walk and drive time catchment on IMD



## Availability and programming

Sport England's classification of access type defines registered membership use facilities as publicly available. However, the cost of monthly membership fees can vary considerably. It is acknowledged that those which may be considered expensive offer access to different market segments and can ease pressure on facilities which offer cheaper membership options.

Of the 18 health and fitness suites in NWL, all offer some form of community use. Four can be accessed on a pay and play basis and remainder requires registered membership. Both the

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Council's main sites provide a pay and play option along with Ibstock Leisure Complex and Measham Community Centre. It must be noted, all the pay and play facilities are located in the south, with no accessible health and fitness facilities in the north, particularly around Castle Donington and Kegworth. Residents may access facilities in neighbouring authorities to access a pay and play gym, with the nearest one at West Park Leisure Centre in Erewash.

Table 6.5: Access policy of fitness gyms

ID	Site	Stations	Access
2	Ashby Leisure Centre and Lido	75	Pay and play
4	Breedon Priory Health Club	35	Registered membership use
7	Champneys Springs	24	Registered membership use
11	Fitness Republic	27	Registered membership use
16	Ibstock Leisure Complex	20	Pay and play
19	Juvenate (East Midlands Airport)	20	Registered membership use
20	Kegworth Hotel	25	Registered membership use
24	Livingwell Health Club	20	Registered membership use
25	Measham Community & Recreation Centre	34	Pay and play
29	Rise Fitness Clubs (Ibstock)	75	Registered membership use
33	Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre	110	Pay and play
36	Premier Gym	100	Registered membership use
37	Physique Fitness	50	Registered membership use
38	Pure Gym (Coalville)	220	Registered membership use
39	Muscle HQ Fitness Gym	60	Registered membership use
40	Bluestone Fitness	60	Registered membership use
41	Fitness Republic	40	Registered membership use
42	The Workhouse Gym	50	Registered membership use

Table 6.6: Pricing structure of community available health and fitness suites with 20+ stations

Site name	Pay & play	Annual	12-month DD	Notes
Ashby Leisure Centre and Lido	£9.25	£524.90 £232 Junior	£52.49 £23.20 Junior	Includes gym, swimming and sauna. Junior rate for 11-15 years old
Breedon Priory Health Club		£745.00	£69.00	
Champneys Springs				Price not available online
Fitness Republic		£340.00	£34.00	
Ibstock Leisure Complex	£4.35		£30.90 £23.20 Junior	Includes gym, swimming. Junior rate for 11-15 years old.
Juvenate (East Mids Airport)		£340.00	£34.00	Gym and swim
Kegworth Hotel				Hotel guest use only
Livingwell Health Club (East Midlands)			£55.00	
Measham Comm.& Recreation Centre		£330.00	£30.00	
Rise Fitness Clubs (Ibstock)		£290.00	£29.00	

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Site name	Pay & play	Annual	12-month DD	Notes
Whitwick & Coalville Leisure Centre	£9.25	£524.90 £232 Junior	£52.49 £23.20 Junior	Same as Ashby Leisure Centre and Lido
Premier Gym	£8.00		£42.00	£75 couples membership £20 week pass
Physique Fitness	£7.00		£33.50	Weekly option available £16.00
Pure Gym (Coalville)			£22.99	£29.99 plus membership includes bring a friend 4x a month.
Muscle HQ Fitness	£7.00	£300.00	£35.00	Weekly option £15.00 also available.
Bluestone Fitness			£41.99	£56.99 Bluestone plus (sauna, classes and full body scanning)
Fitness Republic		£340.00	£34.00	
Workhouse Gym	£7.00	£250.00	£35.00	

*\*Pricing as advertised in April 2025*

As shown, the cost of accessing health and fitness facilities varies across the Authority.

Ashby and Whitwick and Coalville leisure centres offers the most comprehensive membership, this includes gym, swim and class use with prices varying depending on circumstances – junior, concessionary, etc. Many sites provide a pay and play option, however, the Everyone Active sites access requires online registration, and places can only be guaranteed when booked through the website. The cost of accessing these sites is £9.25 per person per visit.

The price point for pay and play access to public leisure facilities in the Authority varies from £4.25 at Ibstock Leisure Complex to £9.25 per session (a level which arguably discourages pay and play-based participation). It is, in line with many operators' practices, in effect designed to incentivise people to join direct debit based monthly registered membership schemes.

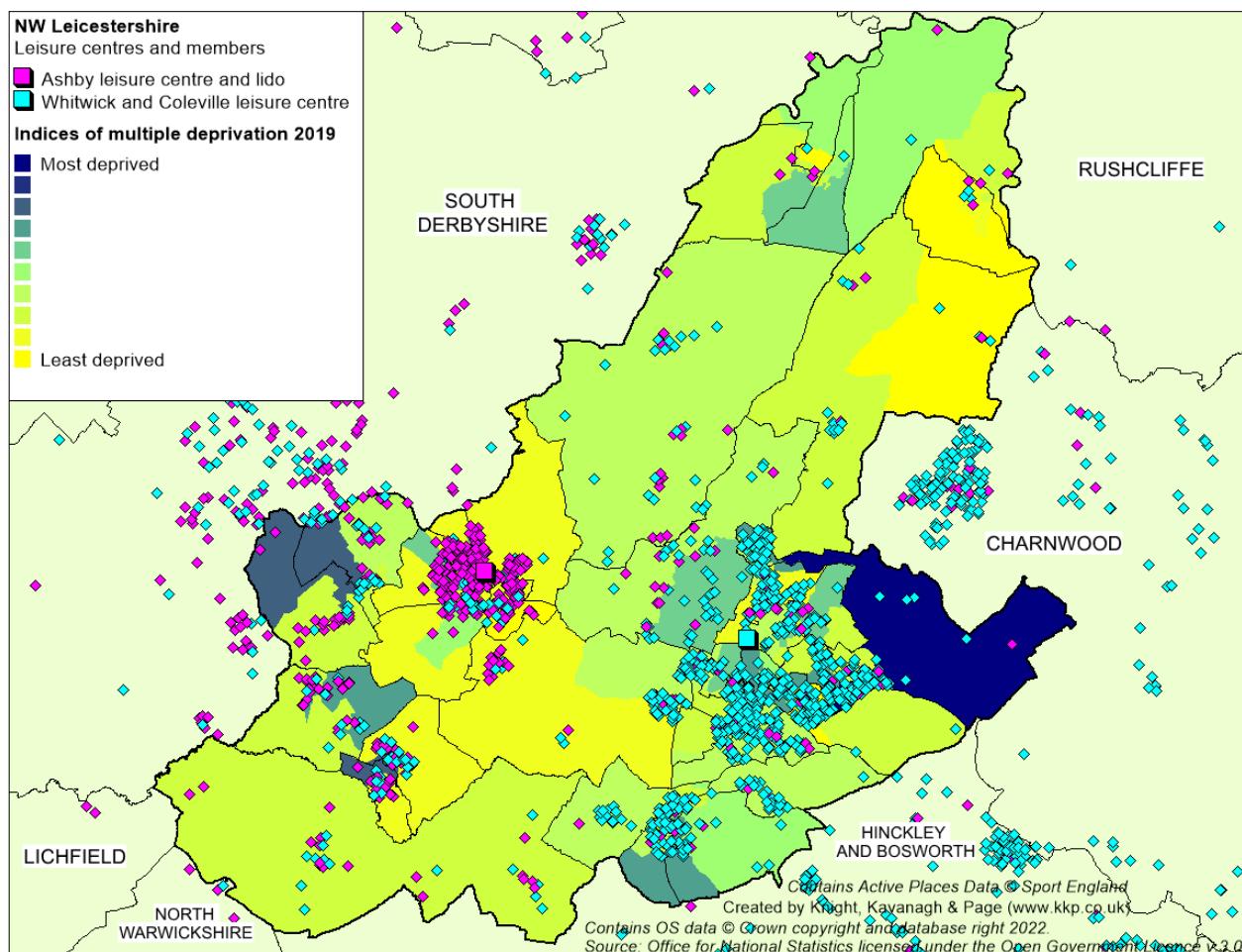
This price point plus the requirement to pre-register online to pay for facility use does effectively mean that there is no realistic 'pay and play' option at public leisure sites (apart from Ibstock Leisure Complex). This potentially excludes older people and local residents from the district's less affluent communities. The need to engage with these groups is recognised in the Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy so this may be an issue that merits further consideration.

Pure Gym is the cheapest monthly direct debit option while Champney Springs is the most expensive. Those looking to access regular gym provision benefit financially from acquiring a registered membership as opposed to attending on a pay and play basis.

KKP requested current membership data from Everyone Active to analyse where current members reside in relation to the two centres. A total of 4,896 records was provided, of these 4,885 (99.8%) had suitable postcodes for mapping.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Figure 6.5: Ashby/ Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre membership distribution by centre



The information provided indicates that:

- ◀ 3,668 (75.1%) of the Everyone Active managed centres live within NWL.
- ◀ 1,030 (21.1%) live in neighbouring districts and the remainder (187 - 3.8%) live elsewhere.
- ◀ 1,243 (33.8%) are members at Ashby Leisure Centre.
- ◀ 2,425 (66.2%) are members at Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre.

Table 6.7 illustrates where members live in relation to the two leisure centres. The majority reside around and adjacent to the respective site, however, Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre also has a wider appeal. Due to its size and age, it draws members from several neighbouring authorities, including Charnwood (9.4%) and Hinckley and Bosworth (10%). Tables 6.7 and 6.8 show where members live in relation to the IMD most deprived bandings (1-30%). On a centre-by-centre basis, Whitwick and Coalville Leisure centre is attracting more people from these bands than Ashby Leisure Centre. 6.9% of the Authority population reside in areas of higher deprivation.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Table 6.7: Ashby gym membership users in relation to IMD

IOD 2019 10% bands	NW Leicestershire (mid-2015)	NW Leicestershire %	Ashby LC #	Ashby LC %
Most deprived 0-10	3,170	3.3%	8	0.6%
10.1-20	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
20.1-30	3,522	3.6%	42	3.4%
30.1-40	12,269	12.6%	133	10.7%
40.1-50	8,233	8.5%	102	8.2%
50.1-60	8,249	8.5%	59	4.7%
60.1-70	18,638	19.2%	156	12.6%
70.1-80	19,591	<b>20.2%</b>	150	12.1%
80.1-90	15,552	16.0%	435	<b>35.0%</b>
Least deprived 90.1-100	7,874	8.1%	158	12.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>97,098</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1,243</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Table 6.8: Whitwick and Coalville gym membership users in relation to IMD

IOD 2019 10% bands	NW Leicestershire (mid-2015)	NW Leicestershire %	Whitwick & Coalville LC #	Whitwick & Coalville LC %
Most deprived 0-10	3,170	3.3%	86	3.5%
10.1-20	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
20.1-30	3,522	3.6%	17	0.7%
30.1-40	12,269	12.6%	326	13.4%
40.1-50	8,233	8.5%	204	8.4%
50.1-60	8,249	8.5%	154	6.4%
60.1-70	18,638	19.2%	642	<b>26.5%</b>
70.1-80	19,591	<b>20.2%</b>	496	20.5%
80.1-90	15,552	16.0%	347	14.3%
Least deprived 90.1-100	7,874	8.1%	153	6.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>97,098</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>2,425</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

As shown in the catchment map, the two leisure centres are primarily catering for members in the south of the Authority and from neighbouring authorities. They have a limited number of members from the north of the Authority.

## Future developments

The audit identified that Castle Donington College is currently constructing a new health and fitness facility which is partnership funded by NWLDC, Castle Donington Parish Council and Castle Donington College. It will have community availability and is expected to open in the summer of 2025. The number of stations is yet to be confirmed however it is understood to be small in scale around 20 stations.

### 6.2: Demand

Exercising in a gym or class environment is a highly popular form of exercise, appealing to men and women across a range of age groups. To identify the adequacy of provision a demand calculation based upon the assumption that 'UK penetration rates' will increase slightly in the

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

future is applied. Population increases are also factored in to enable a calculation of whether current supply will meet future demand.

Table 6.9: UK penetration rates; health/fitness in NWL (ONS Data)

	Current (2018) ONS	Future (2042) ONS
Adult population (16+ years)	83,375	112,678
UK penetration rate	16%	17%
Number of potential members	13,340	19,155
Number of visits per week (1.75/member)	23,345	33,522
% of visits in peak time	65	65
No. of visits in peak time (equated to no. of stations required i.e., no. of visits/39 weeks*65%)	389	559
<b>Number of stations (with comfort factor applied)</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>838</b>

Model applies 1.75 visits/week by members and 65% usage for 39 weeks of the year. (Figures rounded up/down)

Based upon UK penetration rates there is current need for 584 stations in NWL. This will grow to 838 by 2042, taking account of a comfort factor (particularly at peak times). When comparing the current number of community available stations (1,045) and accounting for the comfort factor, there is a current surplus of stations. Should all current facilities remain *in-situ*, this surplus will continue till 2042.

Fitness facilities are an important facet of leisure provision and a successful addition to sports centres over the past three decades. Income derived can offset the cost/underpin the viability of provision such as swimming pools or targeted programmes (i.e., GP referral).

## 6.3: Dance studios

Dance studios are an important element of the wider health, fitness and conditioning market. They vary in size, shape, quality of environment, access to sprung wooden floors and quality of ancillary facilities. There has been an increase in the number of people accessing fitness classes as identified in increased UK penetration rates. Activity types offered also vary from low impact classes such as Pilates and yoga to dance, step, boxercise and Zumba. It is worth noting that dance classes/clubs are key users of studio spaces throughout the country.

There are 13 studios in NWL. All can be accessed via either pay and play or via a registered membership. Both Ashby and Whitwick and Coalville leisure centres have dedicated spin studios along with additional studios which accommodate classes such as Zumba, circuits and body combat.

Studios are predominantly located in the south of the authority with only Beedon Priory Health Club with two studios serving the north. It is likely that village/community halls are serving the needs of these communities. See the community/village halls needs assessment report).

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Figure 6.6: Studios in NWL

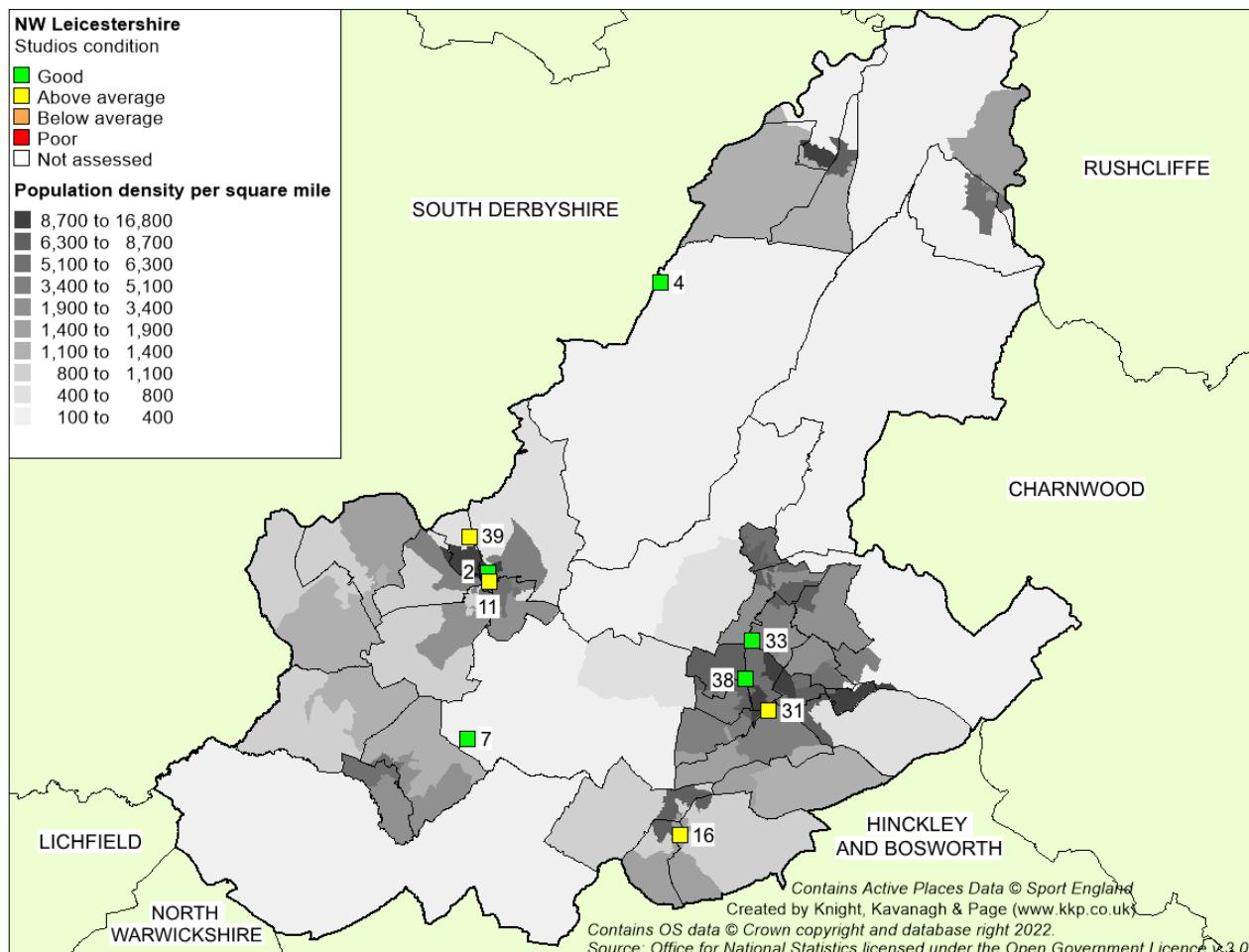


Table 6.10: Table of studios in NWL

ID	Site	Sub-type	Access	Condition
2	Ashby Leisure Centre and Lido	Fitness	Pay and play	Good
2	Ashby Leisure Centre and Lido	Fitness	Pay and play	Good
4	Breedon Priory Health Club	Fitness	Pay and play	Good
4	Breedon Priory Health Club	Cycle	Pay and play	Good
7	Champneys Springs	Fitness	Reg. membership	Good
7	Champneys Springs	Fitness	Reg. membership	Good
11	Fitness Republic	Fitness	Reg. membership	Above average
16	Ibstock Leisure Complex	Fitness	Pay and play	Above average
31	The Newbridge School	Fitness	Sports club / CA	Above average
33	Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre	Fitness	Pay and play	Good
33	Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre	Fitness	Pay and play	Good
33	Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre	Cycle	Pay and play	Good
38	Pure Gym (Coalville)	Fitness	Reg. membership	Good
39	Muscle HQ Fitness Gym	Fitness	Reg. membership	Above average

(NB: Sports club/CA= Sports club / community association use)

## **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

---

Studios are good quality, there are no below average or poor facilities in the Authority. Given proposed housing developments, there will be a need to review the need for studios in the north of the authority.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## 6.4: Summary of key facts and issues

Facility type	Health & fitness	-
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
<b>Quantity</b>	<p>There are 21 health and fitness suites containing 1108 stations.</p> <p>18 have community use and have 20+ stations – a total of 1,045 stations.</p> <p>There is a current (c.460) and future (c.200) modelled positive supply demand balance of facilities in the area.</p>	<p>There is a new fitness gym in development at Castle Donington College. It will be available to the community in summer 2025.</p>
<b>Quality</b>	All 18 of the 20+ station health and fitness suites are of good or above average quality.	<p>There is a need to provide and maintain high quality provision across the stock.</p>
<b>Accessibility</b>	<p>55.9% of NWL residents live within one mile of a health and fitness suite. The whole population lives within a 20-minute drive of a community accessible facility.</p> <p>Some of the nine gyms within 2 miles of NWL in neighbouring authorities are of significant size and scale (100+ stations) and are national chains.</p>	<p>Walking accessibility in NWL is low, however, as car ownership is good, it is assumed that the majority of people are able to access a facility by car.</p> <p>Membership of the Everyone Active managed public leisure centres draw primarily from the south of the authority and adjoining authorities, not the north of NWL.</p>
<b>Availability</b> (Management and usage)	<p>There are four publicly accessible pay and play health and fitness facilities with 20+ stations in NWL.</p> <p>Everyone Active charges £9.25 for a pay and play session. This price point may discourage certain users.</p> <p>Ibstock Leisure Centre offers casual access at a more affordable rate of £4.35.</p> <p>The remaining venues can be accessed both via pay and play and registered membership.</p>	<p>Although there are four pay and play facilities in the authority, there are none in the north, including Castle Donnington. The new facility at Castle Donnington College should help to address this.</p>

## Strategic summary

- ◀ Current and future demand is well catered for given the quantity and quality of existing health and fitness suites in the Authority.
- ◀ Generally, sites are rated good quality, providing high quality fitness provision for residents across the authority.
- ◀ There is no pay and play facility in the north, particularly around Castle Donington and Kegworth settlements however this is likely to change with the new facility at Castle Donington College.
- ◀ The price point and requirement to pre-pay online prior to entry at the public leisure sites Ashby and Whitwick and Coalville could potentially digitally and/or financially exclude some groups of local people.

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

---

## **SECTION 7: SQUASH**

Squash is now on a new strategic path, implementing a rebrand and undergoing a major restructure. England Squash (ES) has achieved core strategic goals agreed with Sport England and is committed to supporting the traditional infrastructure of county associations, clubs, coaches and officials to grow the game via key programmes (e.g., Squash101) and campaigns (e.g., Squash Girls Can) but will be apportioning resources in a significantly different manner.

Table 7.1: England Squash strategic aims:

<b>Element</b>	<b>Aim</b>
Governance	Adhere to the highest standards of organisational governance.
Membership	Provide a membership model that caters to and provides benefits for anyone interested in playing and coaching squash irrespective of their ability.
Programmes	Enabling and supporting partners to be at the forefront of adult and player recruitment and retention.
Talent & high performance	Provide a support and development programme that identifies, develops and delivers world leading individuals and teams.
Commercial	Create a diversified and effective revenue model that minimises risk and reduces dependency on funding.

Squash In a Changing World (2021-2025) outlines the vision, principles and strategic pillars for ES. Its vision for the future of squash in England is a thriving, diverse and growing community. Its Purpose is to serve as custodians of the game's past, its present and its future. It is to serve as a catalyst for positive change across the sporting community at home and abroad. The 2021-2025 strategy sets six key objectives:

- ◀ Drive increased participation in the game, with a radical advance in equality, diversity and inclusion.
- ◀ Inspire and train a community of world class coaches, referees and volunteers at every level, who drive participation and increase engagement in the game.
- ◀ Sustain world-leading talent pathways and programmes for high performing players who achieve success on the global stage and inspire others to realise their potential.
- ◀ Empower creativity and innovation in the game and in ES's culture, using ideas and technology to support the squash community and to engage with new audiences.
- ◀ Spearhead new and creative ways to enhance the visibility and appeal of squash at local, national and international levels, including the pursuit of Olympic inclusion.
- ◀ Provide leadership for the game nationally and internationally, including addressing the Climate and Ecological Crisis.

ES has set a benchmark of one court per 10,000 people in each local authority in order for squash to thrive. It estimates that there is currently one court per 12,617 people in England. This reflects the significant number of court closures and/or non-replacements when new facilities are developed to replace older venues - seen over the past two decades.

NWL District has five courts. The ES model would suggest demand for an additional six. Taking future population growth (to 2043) into account using this model there is a need for 13 courts.

### **7.1 Supply**

There are five squash courts in the Authority, three glass-back courts at Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre and two glass-back courts at Ashby Leisure Centre.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Figure 7.1: Location of squash courts and within surrounding authorities (20-minute drive)

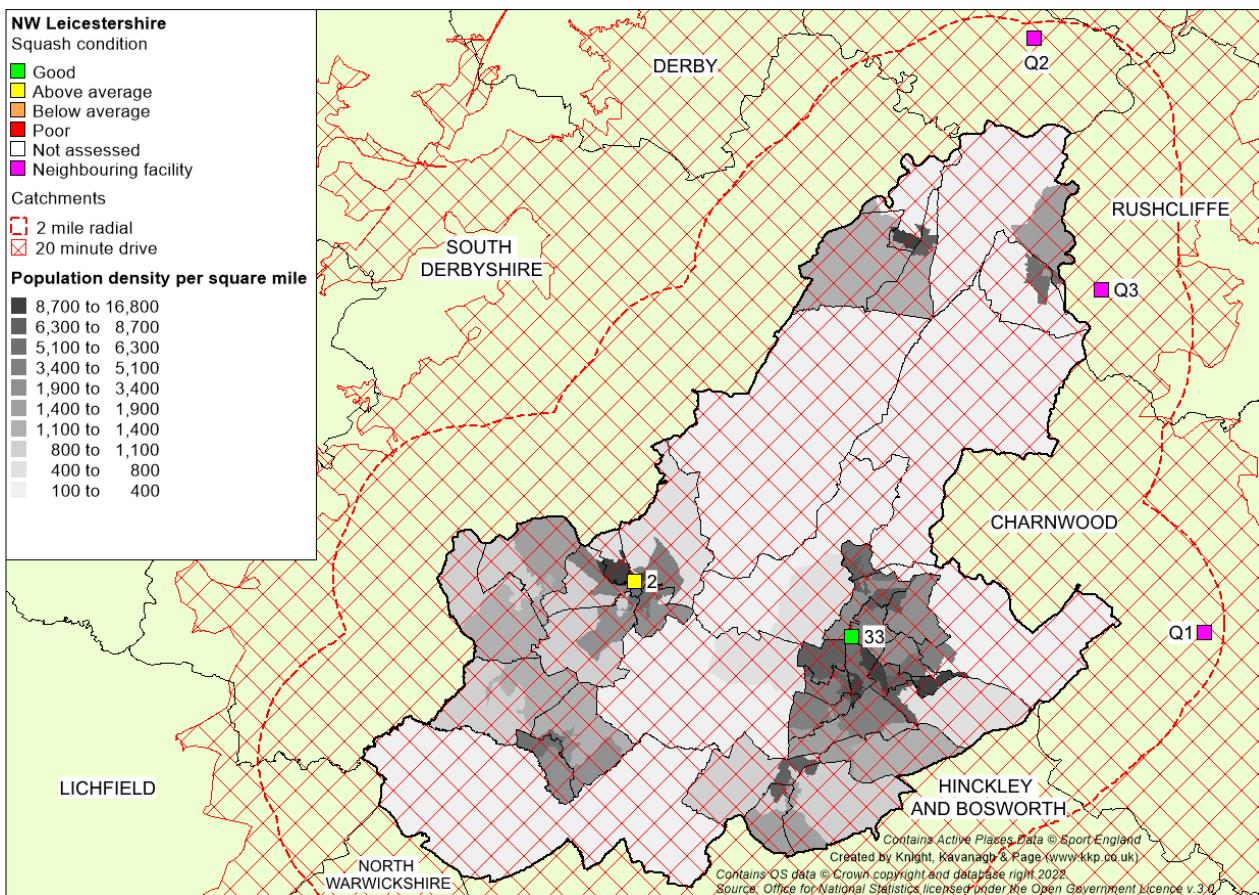


Table 7.1: Squash courts in NWL District

ID	Site	Courts	Sub-type	Condition
2	Ashby Leisure Centre and Lido	2	Glass-backed	Above average
33	Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre	3	Glass-backed	Good

Table 7.2: Squash courts in neighbouring authorities within 20 minutes' drive time of NWL

ID	Site	Type	Courts	Access	District
Q1	Garats Hay	Glass-backed	4	Sports club / CA	Charnwood
Q2	Trent College	Normal	1	Sports club / CA	Erewash
Q3	University of Nottingham (Sutton Bonington Sports Centre)	Glass-backed	2	Sports club / CA	Rushcliffe

Source: Active Places Power 13/03/2025

## Quality

The three squash courts at Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre are good quality. Ashby Leisure Centre has two courts which are rated above average. All are maintained regularly, including repainting back walls and lines. The lighting is LED and good quality and there are no issues with the floors or the structure of the courts.

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

---

## **Accessibility and availability**

All residents in NWL live within a 20-minute drive of a squash facility. A further seven courts (on three sites) can be accessed within 20-minutes' drive time. All courts are available on a pay and play basis and via a membership and courts can be accessed during the day and in the evening and at weekends.

All of the sites in neighbouring authorities (within the 20 minutes' drive time catchment) can only be accessed via membership of a squash club. None can be accessed on a pay and play basis.

## **Future developments / changes to provision**

There are no known plans to make changes to squash provision.

### **7.2: Demand**

Both leisure centres reported good participation levels and both sites promote the courts, run informal leagues and initiatives to increase participation.

England Squash was invited to take part in consultation with regard to squash provision in NWL, however, no response was received.

#### Club consultation

Numerous attempts were made to contact Hermitage Squash Club and Ashby Squash Club. No response has been received.

### **7.3: Summary of key facts and issues**

<b>Facility type</b>	<b>Squash</b>	-
<b>Elements</b>	<b>Assessment findings</b>	<b>Specific facility needs</b>
<b>Quantity</b>	There are five glass-back squash courts in the Authority. A further seven courts can be accessed within a 20-minute drivetime.	Based on the ES benchmark, NWLDC has an under supply of six squash courts. This will increase to eight courts by 2043. The audit identified spare demand at both sites, as no clubs responded to consultation, club need for additional courts could not be ascertained.
<b>Quality</b>	Two courts are rated above average quality and three are good quality.	Continue the current maintenance programme to ensure court quality remains high.
<b>Accessibility</b>	All residents live within a 20-minute drive of a squash facility.	-
<b>Availability (Management and usage)</b>	All courts offer pay and play and membership options.	Continue to ensure that courts are well used and available at peak and off-peak times.

## **Strategic summary**

Continue to provide good quality accessible courts and regularly promote the sport to ensure high participation levels.

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

---

## **SECTION 8: INDOOR BOWLS**

The five forms of bowls that are played indoors (flat/level green, crown green, long mat, short mat and carpet mat) each require a different venue and each format of the game has a different technical specification for their indoor facility.

Indoor flat/level green bowls is played on a purpose-built indoor green which complies with the laws of the sport of bowls. The NGB is English Indoor Bowling Association (EIBA). It requires a standard bowling green; a flat area 31-40 metres long divided into playing areas called rinks. The number of these varies, depending on the width of the green.

Crown green bowls requires a standard crown green, artificial grass (carpeted) area of approximately 38m square which is crowned i.e. higher in the centre than round the perimeter. Indoor crown greens are relatively rare – substantially less common than those provided for flat green bowls. The NGB is the British Crown Green Bowling Association (BCGBA).

Carpet bowls is played on a rectangular carpet (45 x 6 feet) that is rolled out. It can be accommodated in any indoor space large enough to accommodate the mats which come in different lengths. It tends to be played at a recreational level. The NGB is the English Carpet Bowls Association (ECBA).

Short mat bowls is typically played in sports halls, parish council rooms, outdoor bowls club pavilions and on indoor flat green bowls club greens. The NGB is the English Short Mat Bowling Association (SMBBA). Long mat bowls is played on a rolled carpet typically laid on a sports hall floor. There are no ditches in this game. It is typically found in areas of low flat-green supply and/or where crown green bowls is played outdoors. There is no NGB for this version of the game.

An indoor bowling centre typically comprises a single flat green with a number of rinks and ancillary accommodation such as changing rooms, lounge/bar, viewing area, kitchen, office/ meeting rooms and stores plus designated car parking. Ancillary accommodation scale varies according to the number of rinks available. A successful indoor bowls centre requires a combination of the right location, design, and financial and general management. Sport England<sup>13</sup> guidelines on catchment for indoor bowls centres are set out to be interpreted in the light of local circumstances:

- ◀ Assume the majority of users live locally and not travel more than 30 minutes.
- ◀ Assume that 90% of users will travel by car or public transport, with the remainder by foot.
- ◀ As a guide, calculate demand on the basis of one rink per 14,000-17,000 total population.
- ◀ The number of rinks required can be related to the estimated number of members, assume 80-100 members per rink.

EIBA stated priorities are:

- ◀ Recruitment of participants.
- ◀ Retention of participants.
- ◀ Clubs are recommended to:
  - ◀ Develop and implement a robust sports development plan
  - ◀ Actively review the Sport England 'Buddle' website.
  - ◀ Actively promote the club in the local community amongst those who are able bodied and disabled. Wheelchair users and visually impaired people are particularly keen on the sport of bowls.
- ◀ Retention and improvement of facilities.
- ◀ New indoor facilities in areas of low-supply and high-demand.

---

<sup>13</sup> Sport England Design Guidance Note Indoor Bowls 2005

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

---

## EIBA Vision 2025-2027

This plan focuses on: recruit and retain 45+ and recruit and retain 70+. Both markets require growth. The idea is that people aged 45+ need new versions/formats of the game to play and the 70+ will wish to continue with current formats. Its focus areas are:

- ◀ Recruit and Retain.
- ◀ Facilities – Build, Improve, Retain
- ◀ Inclusion
- ◀ Communications
- ◀ Commercial Activities
- ◀ Competitions
- ◀ Performance
- ◀ Governance

The EIBA “Recruit and Retain Strategy” is to concentrate on the family aspect of our Sport. This means that we are keen for all of our Clubs to avail themselves of opportunities for “increasing participation” and “improving the experience” of all able-bodied or disabled participants in Bowls across all ages and gender.

Running alongside this is the Sport England funded development work provided jointly by the Indoor NGB (EIBA); Outdoor NGB (Bowls England) and the “Bowls Development Alliance” (BDA). Each NGB has two directors on the Board of BDA.

The Sport England funding for the 2022-2025 period, focuses on the delivery of:

- ◀ **Club hubs:** ensure that all clubs remain sustainably positioned at the heart of the communities, and there are good pathways to increase membership.
- ◀ **Communities:** develop healthy bowling communities, with good quality competitions, options to increase coaches and volunteers and healthy relationships between clubs.
- ◀ **Health and wellbeing:** support clubs promote health and wellbeing of members with a range of programmes and activities.
- ◀ **Inclusion:** ensure clubs are as inclusive as possible, promoting the sport to all including females and people from diverse communities.

Alongside these core objectives the BDA works with key partners on:

- ◀ **Safeguarding:** ensuring the sport is safe for everyone to play by working across all five National Governing Bodies (NGBs) [BE, EIBA, British Crown Green BA, English Short Mat BA and English Bowling Federation] to have policies and processes in place. Training is available to support the network of club safeguarding officers.
- ◀ **Disability:** the BDA works in partnership with Disability Bowls England, Activity Alliance, BE and the EIBA to ensure everyone regardless of disability can access the sport of bowls.
- ◀ **Women Can:** the BDA are driving a campaign alongside BE and the EIBA to encourage more women to play bowls, coach bowls and volunteer in bowls.
- ◀ **Equality & Diversity:** the BDA, BE and the EIBA are all striving to ensure the sport of bowls is as diverse as it can be.

## BDA Vision and Strategy 2022-2027

This Strategy focuses on the new era of collaboration across the bowls network.

Its vision is to place bowls at the heart of every community as an accessible sport for all. It has also outlined strategic priorities, which as follows:

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

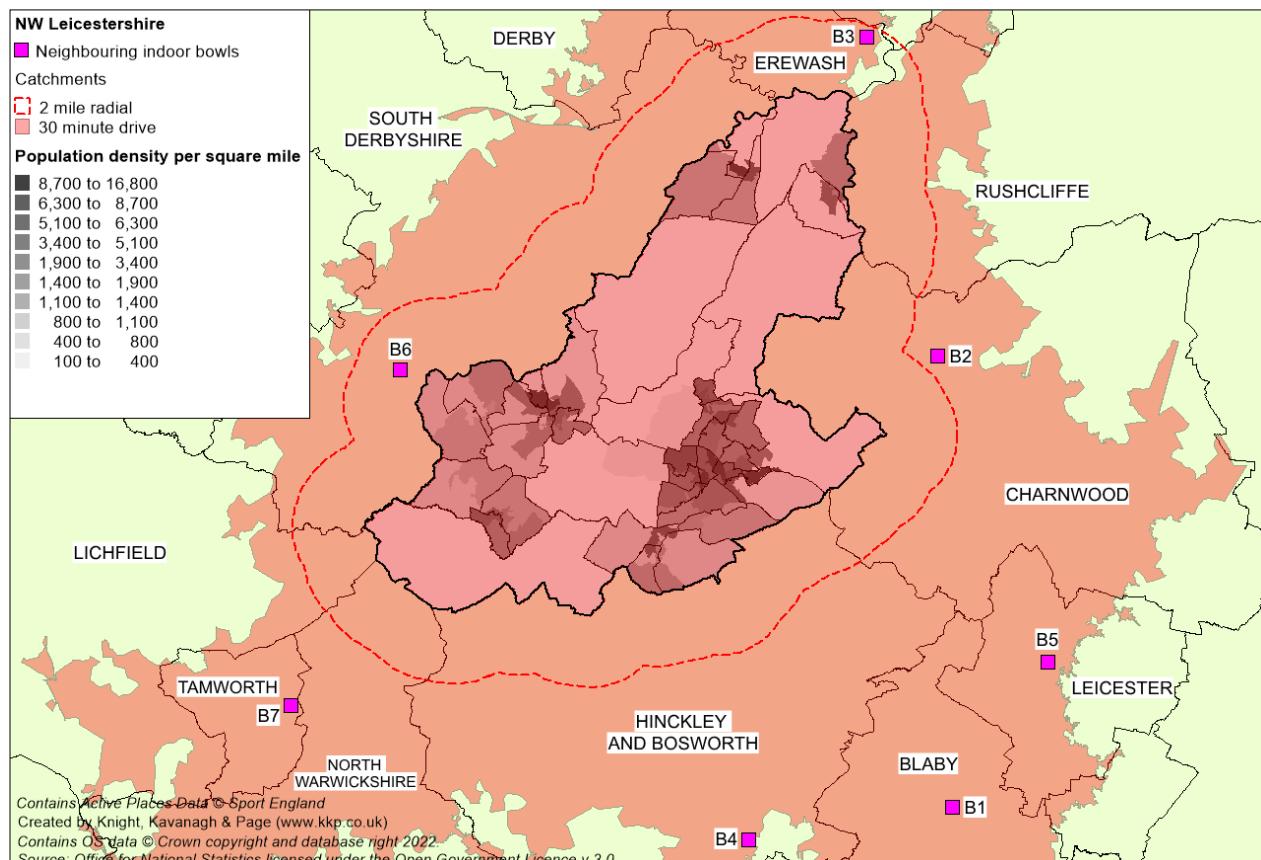
- ◀ **Build Partnerships and Communities:** To ensure our role in the bowls family preserves the important connection with our partners and key stakeholders through the continuation of shared goals and objectives, aligning to our organisation's vision of transforming bowls into an accessible sport for all.
- ◀ **Educate and Empower:** To Increase the impact we have on tackling inequalities through a more connected and educated volunteer workforce who fully support our efforts at a local level and who represent a younger, more diverse group of people, ensuring the sport has sustainability into the future.
- ◀ **Diversify and innovate:** To continue to take the lead on driving inclusion with the view to improving the culture of our sport through more inclusive and innovative practices on the ground, linking into the whole sport inclusion strategy.
- ◀ **Sustain and Grow:** To ensure we have tried and tested sustainability plans in place to recruit and retain volunteers and grow participation at our clubs, working closely with our wider network to broaden our reach and influence.

## 8.1: Supply

### Quantity and quality

There is no indoor bowls facility within the Authority. There are, however, seven indoor bowls facilities with a total of 52 rinks located within 30 minutes' drive of the NWLDC boundary.

Figure 8.1: Indoor bowls facilities in NWL & within 30 minutes' drive time



Source: Active Places Power 29/04/2025

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

---

Table 8.1: Indoor bowls facilities within a 30-minutes' drive

ID	Site name	Rinks	Access type	Authority
B1	Enderby Leisure And Golf Centre	6	Pay and Play	Blaby
B2	Charnwood Indoor Bowls Club	8	Sports Club / CA	Charnwood
B3	Erewash Indoor Bowls Club	9	Sports Club / CA	Erewash
B4	Barwell Cricket And Sports Club	6	Sports Club / CA	Hinckley and Bosworth
B5	Leicester Indoor Bowls & Social Club	9	Sports Club / CA	Leicester
B6	Gresley Old Hall	8	Sports Club / CA	South Derbyshire
B7	Tamworth Indoor Bowls Club	6	Sports Club / CA	Tamworth

## Accessibility

Drive time catchment modelling suggests that the whole NWL population lives within a 30-minute drive of the indoor bowls facility located within a neighbouring authority which are well distributed around the outer edge of the authority.

## Availability

Enderby Leisure Centre (Map ID B1) is the only facility with pay and play opportunities available. All the other facilities require a membership of the respective club to access the facilities.

### 8.2: Demand

Consultation with EIBA indicates that there is sufficient provision within the recommended drive time of 30 minutes to accommodate both current and future demand. (Demand for indoor bowls facilities identified from outdoor bowls clubs will be captured be in the NWL PPS 2025).

### 8.3: Summary of key facts and issues

Facility type	Indoor bowls	
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
<b>Quantity</b>	There is no indoor bowls facility in NWL District. Seven sites in neighbouring authorities are accessible to borough residents.	There is no identified need for indoor bowls provision within the area, there is sufficient capacity within 30 minutes' drive time catchment.
<b>Quality</b>		
<b>Accessibility</b>	All residents live within a 30-minute drive time of an indoor bowls facility in a neighbouring authority.	
<b>Availability</b> (Management and usage)		

## Strategic summary

There is no requirement for additional purpose-built indoor bowls facilities in the district now or in the near future. The increasing number of older people makes it likely that demand will increase but not to the extent that new provision is required.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

---

## SECTION 9: INDOOR TENNIS

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the NGB for all tennis provision within the UK. It administers the sport at national and regional level. Its most recent vision for the sport Tennis Opened Up' (2024 – 6) has been developed against the backdrop of rising levels of participation in the sport. The number of adults playing at least once a year has increased by 44% since January 2019 , with growth in participation across both men and women, all age groups, and all socioeconomic groups.

The LTAs focus is on making tennis welcoming to all, and a truly inclusive sport by reaching new audiences through its grassroots programmes whilst creating a more diverse tennis workforce. It intends to invest in high quality facilities with a focus on parks, covered courts, Community Indoor Tennis Centres, and padel. This will be supported through the following key funding objectives:

- ◀ Funding through interest free loans.
- ◀ Investing in venues that have a proven record of increasing participation.
- ◀ Investing where there is thorough community engagement.
- ◀ Support venues that encourage participation growth.
- ◀ Target investment that is demand led.
- ◀ Invest in venues that are financially sustainable.
- ◀ Support venues that have successfully sourced partnership funding.

Central to any investment will be the provision of a sustainable business case.

The LTA uses two terms to describe indoor building types:

- ◀ **Traditional** - A permanent structure made of traditional materials using traditional construction techniques. This commonly takes the form of steel or timber portal frame spanning the full length of the court (including run backs) clad in a material to suit local conditions e.g. metal cladding, brickwork or timber boarding.
- ◀ **Non-traditional** - A permanent or non-permanent structure made of non-traditional materials using non-traditional construction techniques. Three types of structure fall into this category; air supported structures (air halls), framed fabric structures and tensile structures.

### 9.1: Supply

Indoor tennis facilities appeal beyond local authority boundaries. This report considers provision within a 30-minutes' drive time. There are no indoor tennis courts in NWL District but there are 28 courts (on six separate sites) 30 minutes' drive of the NWLDC boundary.

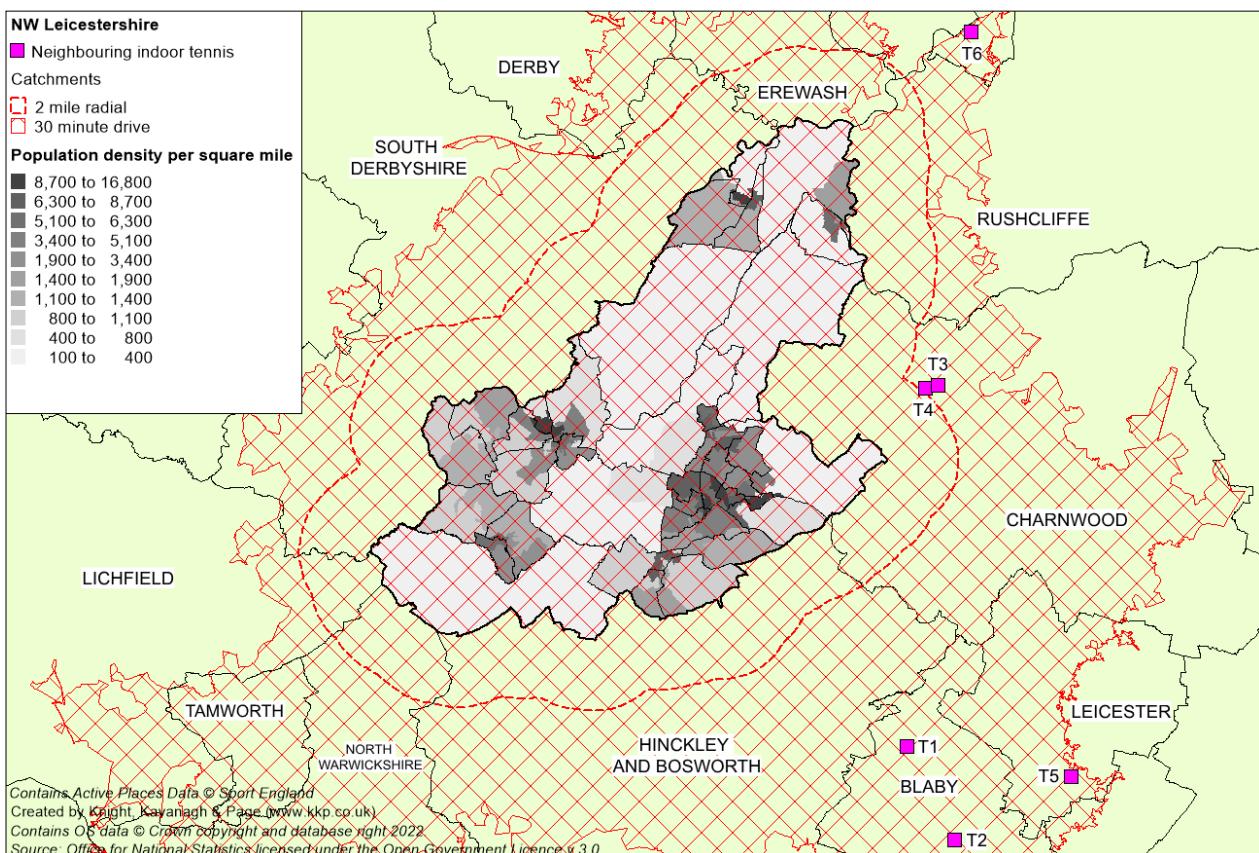
Table 9.1: Indoor tennis provision in neighbouring authorities

ID	Site	Sub-type	Courts	Surface	Access	District
T1	Leicester Forest East Tennis Club	Airhall	2	Acrylic	Sports club/CA	Blaby
T2	David Lloyd (Leicester Narborough)	Framed Fabric	6	Textile	Reg. membership	Blaby
T3	Loughborough Lawn Tennis Club	Airhall (seasonal)	2	Macadam	Sports club/CA	Charnwood
T4	Loughborough University Netball & Badminton Centre	Traditional	10	Acrylic	Sports club/CA	Charnwood
T5	Sir Jonathan North College	Traditional	4	Acrylic	Sports club/CA	Leicester
T6	Clifton Sports Hub	Framed fabric	4	Acrylic	Pay and play	Nottingham

Source: Active Places Power 29/04/2025

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Figure 9.1: Indoor tennis provision in neighbouring authorities with 30-minute drivetime catchment



## Accessibility and availability

All NWL residents live within 30-minutes' drive of an indoor tennis facility, however, none of the 28 courts located within a 30-minute drivetime are available on a pay and play basis. There are no known new indoor tennis facility developments in the Authority.

### 9.2: Demand

The LTA strategy is to target key focus areas to grow participation. Planned investment is based on analysis of potential demand. Of the 72 priority target areas identified for development of indoor courts NWL is one. Demand for indoor tennis courts at outdoor venues is assessed in the PPS.

Consultation with the LTA identified that it is interested in exploring possible options with NWLDC to identify sites for a dedicated indoor venue. One option could be to explore outdoor sites identified within the Playing Pitch Strategy 2025 to see which sites would be most suitable / aspires for, indoor tennis provision. Consultation with Ashby Sport and Ashby Tennis Club also expressed a desire for an indoor tennis facility in the town.

The LTA has also conducted demand analysis for the sport of Padel. The analysis shows North West Leicestershire can sustain seven Padel courts. Currently, the Authority does not have any padel courts.

Consultation indicates that Bluestone Fitness is currently exploring options for installing two courts at its site, however, has yet to receive planning permission.

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

---

## **9.3: Summary of key facts and issues**

<b>Facility type</b>	<b>Indoor tennis</b>	
<b>Elements</b>	<b>Assessment findings</b>	<b>Specific facility needs</b>
<b>Quantity</b>	There is no indoor tennis court in NWL. 28 courts in neighbouring authorities are within a 30-minute drive of the NWLDC boundary.	The LTA has identified North West Leicestershire as a priority authority for an indoor facility. There is also calculated demand for seven padel courts.
<b>Accessibility</b>	All residents live within a 30-minute drive of indoor tennis facilities.	-
<b>Availability</b>	No pay and play options are available within a 30-minute drive for NWLDC residents.	Work with the LTA to develop an indoor facility which offers pay and play access..

The LTA has identified North West Leicestershire as a priority area for an indoor tennis facility and also states there is calculated demand for seven padel courts. The Authority does not have any padel courts currently.

Ashby Sport and Ashby Tennis Club both report aspirations for indoor tennis provision.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

---

## SECTION 10: GYMNASTICS AND TRAMPOLINING

In 2023 British Gymnastics released its new strategy – Leap Without Limits: A New Vision for a New Era. The strategy is developed as a shared vision for gymnastics across all four home nations.

To help achieve the vision It focuses on five 'leaps':

- ◀ **The Why Leap** - Nurturing and celebrating the positive impact of gymnastics on individuals, communities and wider society.
- ◀ **The Empowerment Leap** – Supporting everyone involved in gymnastics to play their part in making a positive difference.
- ◀ **The Experience Leap** – Making positive experiences and memories central to everything we do, at every stage, in every role.
- ◀ **The Creative Leap** – Encouraging and welcoming new ideas to support meaningful change.
- ◀ **The Together Leap** – Uniting the community, existing and new partners to maximise impact, learning and growth.

To bring the vision to life, British Gymnastics are working on the following actions:

- ◀ **Membership** – Develop a new more relevant membership offer that provides value for all its members, and an improved membership system.
- ◀ **Education** - Implement a reformed and reimagined approach to supporting the learning and development of the gymnastics workforce, ensuring it feels valued and supported by British Gymnastics and the clubs and delivery environments you operate within.
- ◀ **Community** – Celebrate and recognise the contribution and stories of those in the gymnastics community on British Gymnastics channels and more widely, including further developing the British Gymnastics Awards as an annual platform for this.
- ◀ **Reform** - Deliver all of the 40 actions British Gymnastics has committed to in Reform '25 over the next two years to create safe, positive and fair experiences for all in gymnastics, including a major Safe Sport campaign.
- ◀ **Events** - Work with its Technical Committees to agree a clearly defined and sustainable long-term national event programme for each discipline and develop new competitions and events at a recreational level.
- ◀ **Disability** - Work to build international support for our ambition for gymnastics to become a Paralympic sport, with the aim of agreeing a plan and pathway for this to become a reality.

The new strategy outlines six key impacts:

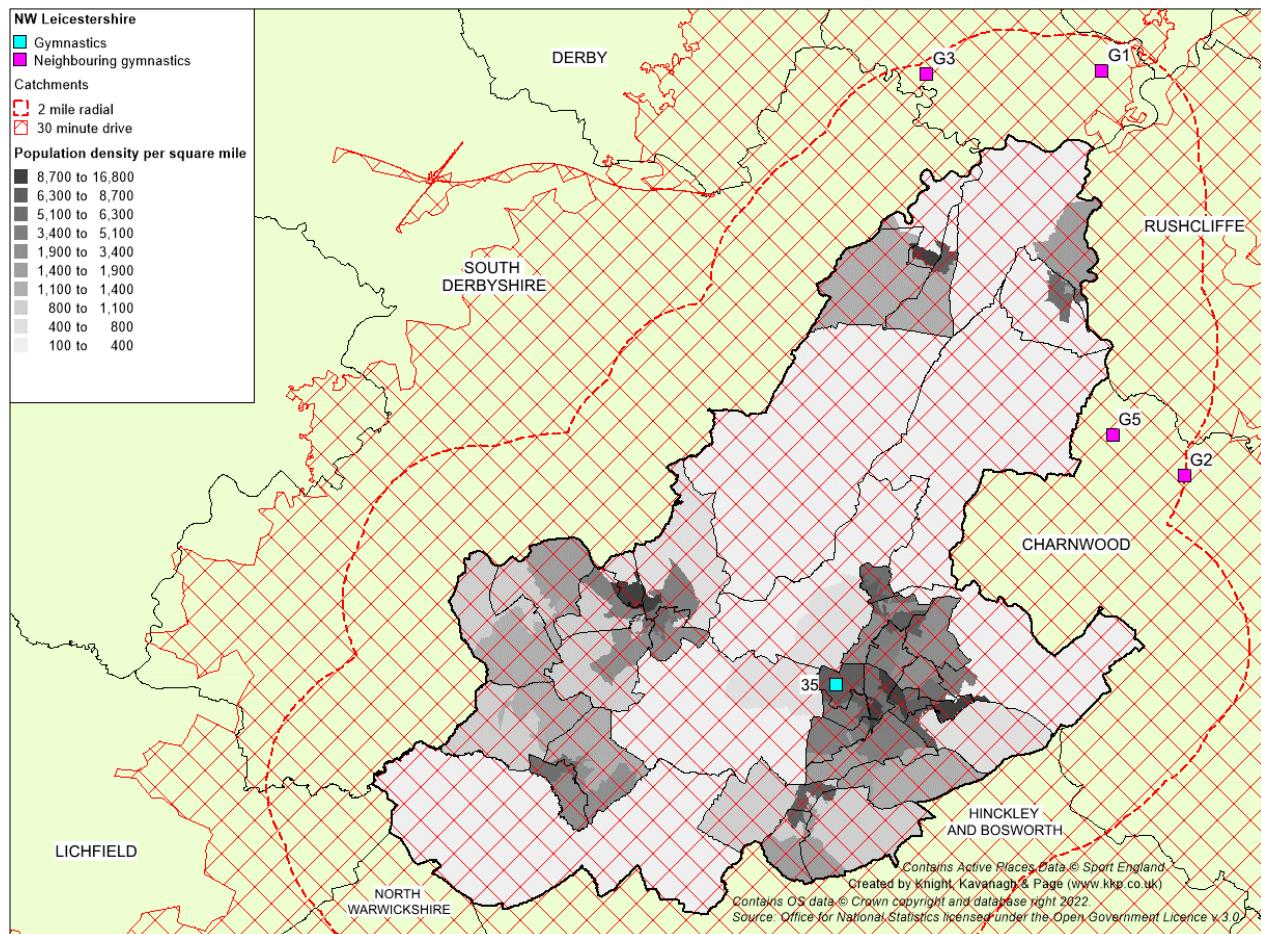
- ◀ More people enjoying the sport and its benefits, across all abilities, ages, and backgrounds, and as a gymnast, coach, club owner, official or fan.
- ◀ Everyone is safe, supported and is able and confident to speak up, whatever their role or involvement in gymnastics.
- ◀ More inspirational moments that are seen, shared and enjoyed by more people.
- ◀ The NGB membership experience is a positive one, which meets your needs, is easy from start to finish. and being a member of British Gymnastics is something that provides you with both pride and value.
- ◀ Members/participants feel connected to British Gymnastics and trust it to be positive custodians of this incredible sport.
- ◀ A united sport, where everyone is working together to ensure that collectively we deliver an uplifting gymnastics experience for all.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## 10.1: Supply

There is one dedicated gymnastics site in NWL and a further four within a 30 minute drive of the Authority.

Figure 10.1: Dedicated gymnastics provision with a 30minute drive time



ID	Club
35	Coalville Gymnastics
G1	Erewash Valley Gymnastics Club
G3	The Mill Gymnastics Academy
G5	Upstarts Gymnastics
G2	Loughborough Acrobatics G.C

The facilities at the Coalville Gymnastics facility include a full-sized competition floor, numerous sets of bars, beams, vault, tumble track and a sunken trampoline. There is also a pit area, and a U pit (slash pit) area manufactured especially for the metal bar.

In addition, there are two gymnastics clubs based at non dedicated facilities. Desk research to identify the following: Head over heels Academy and Tumble Tots Baby and Toddler Gymnastics. Both hire space at Ashby Leisure Centre.

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

---

Within a 30 minute drive of the Authority, there are four dedicated facilities, all located to the north or east of NWLDC. There are no facilities to the south or west. All four are accessible through a paid membership and are affiliated to British Gymnastics.

In summary, there is a gymnastics offer in both Ashby and Coalville, however, there isn't an offer in the north. It would be assumed that demand in the north is addressed through clubs north of the Authority, including Erewash Valley Gymnastics Club in Long Eaton.

## **Accessibility and availability**

Gymnastics facilities appeal beyond local authority boundaries. This report considers provision within a 30-minute drive time catchment to demonstrate accessibility (Sport England suggests that drive time to specialist sports facilities be modelled at 30 minutes as opposed to the 20 minutes modelled for sports halls and swimming pools). As shown in Figure 10.1 the whole NWL's population lives within 30 minutes' drive of a gymnastics facility.

## **10.2: Demand**

British Gymnastics reports that participation in gymnastics is increasing rapidly. It also reports substantial demand and that many clubs have waiting lists - restricting access to gymnastic activity due to lack of time within dedicated and generic facilities.

A key part of the NGB's strategy to increase participation is to support clubs, leisure providers and other partners to move to their own dedicated facilities, offering more time and space for classes. It provides a range of products and programmes and expert assistance to support local delivery; gymnastic activities which are successfully driving membership growth and retention across the country.

## **Club consultation**

Clubs were contacted for consultation however no response was received from:

**Coalville Gymnastics Club** was established in 1972 and provides gymnastics to children and adults of all abilities. It is affiliated to British Gymnastics. It offers:

- ◀ Adult gymnastics
- ◀ Disability gymnastics
- ◀ Pre-school gymnastics
- ◀ Recreational gymnastics
- ◀ Women's artistic gymnastics.

Its website shows waiting lists at all recreational classes (beginners, intermediate and advanced). It reports waiting lists to be of 2.5 to 3 years in duration.

There are also waiting lists for its parent and toddler sessions and pre school sessions of c. one year. Spaces are reported to be available for the Teen Adult classes on a Wednesday evening one of the two disability sessions (Sunday morning).

The Club has a large workforce of 26 coaches, assistants and young leaders.

**Head over Heels Academy** is a recreational gymnastics club. It offers gymnastic opportunities for children aged 5 years to 18 years as well as birthday parties and dance parties. The Club operates from three locations, Ashby de la Zouch, Mountsorrel (Leicestershire) and Birstall (Charnwood) over six days per week, 45 weeks per year.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

---

**Sharecroft Gymnastics Club** is a British Gymnastics affiliated club offering acrobatic gymnastics, Preschool sessions, recreational sessions, tumbling and rise gymnastics. It also offers sessions at Blackfordby Village Hall and at Green Bank Leisure Centre (Derbyshire).

## Other demand

Consultation took place with Trudy Fastlane who formerly operated a recreational gymnastics club at Castle Donington College (Castle Donington Gymnastics) and latterly at village halls locally (Hemmington and Lockington). She reported high demand for gymnastics; however, all the facilities hired were unsuitable due to lack of ceiling height and storage and size and scale.

College sessions were reported to attract 40-50 attendees at each. Unfortunately, due to the Covid Pandemic, the Club lost access to the College and then it hired the village halls.

It was reported that the club was required to pay the hire cost for the time it took to set up and set down gymnastics equipment, but due to the lack of available space it could not accommodate sufficient numbers of attendees to make the sessions viable.

Trudy reported a need for a dedicated gymnastics facility with performance space and that there are challenges with making a school sports hall work from a gymnastics perspective. Her view is that a viable club would wish to deliver pre-school gymnastics and have early evening access (say from 16.00) to a facility to deliver a comprehensive after school programme for primary aged children.

The cost associated with putting equipment out and down and also the potential for damage limits the viability of a comprehensive gymnastics programme being developed in a school sports hall.

Her ambition is that, in the near future, a dedicated facility can be sourced in the area and that gymnastics can be provided to cater for local demand which is reportedly there. To make this viable there is a need for access to a suitable facility with sufficient capacity to enable it to operate with a paid and volunteer workforce.

## 10.3: Summary of key facts and issues

Elements	Assessment findings	Specific needs
<b>Quantity</b>	<p>There is one dedicated facility in NWLDC. This is at Coalville Gymnastics Club.</p> <p>There is a gymnastics provision in Ashby at the Leisure Centre. It hosts both Head over Heels Academy and Tumble Tots.</p> <p>There is no offer in the north.</p> <p>In addition, there are four dedicated sites within 30 minutes of the Authority.</p>	<p>Coalville Gymnastics Club reports waiting lists of 1-3 years for virtually all its sections.</p> <p>Although there is not an offer in the north, there is provision within the 30 minute drive time catchments in neighbouring authorities.</p>
<b>Quality</b>	Equipment at existing sites is good quality.	-
<b>Accessibility</b>	All NWLDC residents reside within a 30-minute drive time of a club/venue within the Authority.	-

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

<b>Elements</b>	<b>Assessment findings</b>	<b>Specific needs</b>
<b>Availability</b> (Management & usage)	Coalville Gymnastics Club reports a waiting list. Castle Donington no longer has provision.	Support existing clubs and facilities to expand and absorb existing latent demand via increasing capacity and workforce at existing provision. Source suitable facilities for new provision with sport development support where required. This is a priority in the north of the Authority.

## **Strategic summary**

- ◀ Assist local clubs to work with British Gymnastics to gain access to suitable facilities and recruit qualified paid/volunteer staff to accommodate their operation and help club development.
- ◀ Support Coalville Gymnastics Club to increase capacity and reduce its waiting lists. It would benefit from receiving BG and NWLDC support to identify potential funding opportunities to expand (possibly via the establishment of satellite clubs).

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

---

## **SECTION 11: COMMUNITY BUILDINGS**

### **11.1: Introduction**

Community centres are important recreational facilities, especially in rural areas that, in some instances, may lack access to purpose-built sports facilities. They are usually multi-functional, providing places for meetings, weddings, socialising and for sports and recreational clubs and activities. In more isolated areas, a church hall or a sports pavilion can also serve a range of functions depending on its size.

### **11.2: Demand**

The audit identified a total of 45 community facilities located evenly throughout the District, serving both urban and rural settlements. Sites were identified via a combination of community consultation and desktop research.

No national guidance exists on what is an acceptable level for community facilities. Therefore, to determine if an area has a shortfall, it was agreed to identify any gaps in provision utilising the NWLDC settlement hierarchy. NWLDC has the following settlement hierarchy classification, as illustrated in the North West Leicestershire District Council Settlement Study 2021: Population areas are assigned to the different settlement classifications due to a number of factors, including; population size and services available

- ◀ 1. Principal town
- ◀ 2. Key Service Centre
- ◀ 3. Local Service Centre
- ◀ 4. Sustainable Villages
- ◀ 5. Local Housing Needs Village
- ◀ 6. Other Villages / Settlements

To identify if any area has sufficient community facilities, it was agreed that a minimum of one hireable community facility should be present in each of the settlements which fall into category 1-4 of the hierarchy. There may be a number of factors why a settlement within the categories do not have a community facility, such as other larger facilities in the settlement, however, this was deemed as the most suitable approach. It would also be assumed that settlements classed as either 1 or 2, would have a larger number of hireable facilities. However, determining how many per category is also difficult due to a lack of best practice guidance available.

From the analysis most settlements do have a minimum of one hireable facility, with only three of the Sustainable Villages not having a facility. These are Worthington, Albert Village, and Ellistown. A breakdown of facilities per settlement is listed in table 11.1. There are four facilities which are listed in settlement hierarchy 5 and 6.

Consultation with Ashby Town Council highlights its view that the town does not have a sufficiently large, dedicated facility with layout, capacity and car parking to cater for the needs and demands of its larger organisations and activities. The Town Council also highlights several local organisations which report that existing community facilities in the town do not offer the size, configuration, nature of management or accessibility that makes them fit to cater for the range of purposes for which venues are needed.

In consultation for this report, Ashby Town Council asserted that there is demand for such a facility given the current size of the town and potential future growth. It also reported as being in the process of developing its own business plan and feasibility study to demonstrate the need for a

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

larger community facility. If and when this is completed it may provide some of the more granular detail about the level of local need for a facility of this type.

This study does not incorporate a detailed feasibility study appraisal of demand in Ashby. This said, based on the size of the town and future population growth projections, it would be unusual for it not to have a (sufficiently) large, multi-functional community building to service local need.

There is also potential to develop additional community facilities in other large housing growth areas, including Isley Woodhouse. Based on the level of population, the new settlement of Isley Woodhouse is likely to be within category 2 (Key Service Centre) or 3 (Local Service Centre) of the settlement hierarchy. On this basis, the developer should look to have a community building facility which can offer an important role in meeting the requirements of the local community.

In terms of accessibility, radial catchment modelling estimates that nearly half of North West Leicestershire's population 44.8% (45,927) lives within 800 metres walk of a community facility.

Figure 11.1: Village/community halls in North West Leicestershire with 800m radial catchment

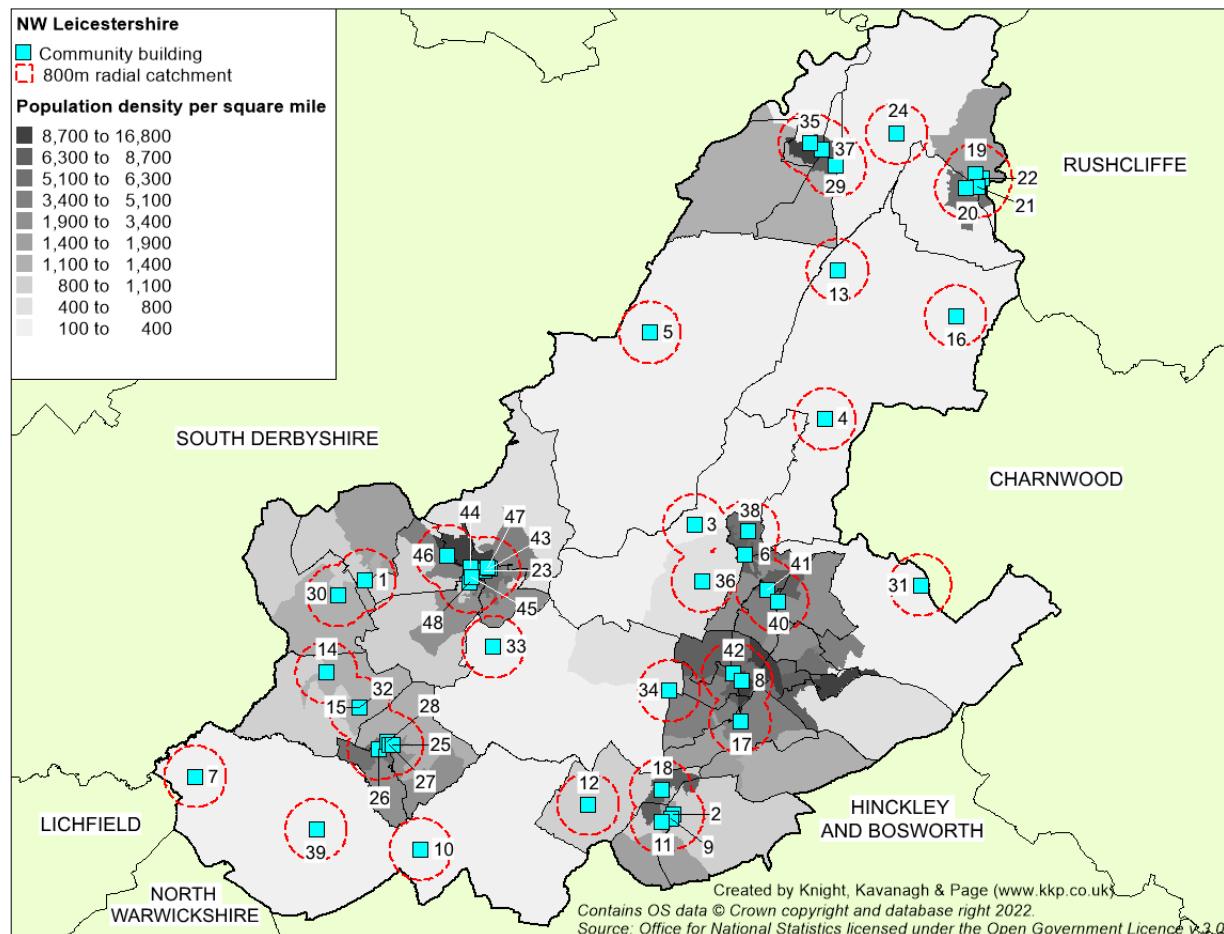


Table 11.1: List of all community facilities and the aligned settlement

Settlement type	Settlement name	ID	Venue
1. Principal town	Coalville Urban Area	6	Charles Booth Centre (formerly Thringstone Community Centre)
		8	Coalville Adult School Hall
		38	Thringstone Miners Social Centre

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Settlement type	Settlement name	ID	Venue
		49	The Marlene Reid Centre
		40	Whitwick Constitutional Club
		41	Whitwick Park Hall
		6	Hugglescote Community Centre
		8	Ravenstone Village Hall
2.Key Service Centre	Ashby	23	Legion House
		43	St Helen's Community Centre
		48	Ivanhoe Socail Club
		44	Ashby Methodist Church Hall
		45	Our Lady of Lourdes
		46	The Beeches, Ashby
		47	Lyric Rooms
	Castle Donington	29	Moira Dale Village Hall
		35	Spital Park Pavilion
		37	The Community Hub
3.Local Service Centre	Ibstock	18	Ibstock Scout Hut
		11	Ibstock Town Cricket Club
	Kegworth	20	Kegworth Community Library
		21	Kegworth St Andrews Church
		22	Kegworth Village Hall
	Measham	25	Measham Church
		26	Measham Leisure Centre
		27	Measham Mental Health Care Café & Age UK
		28	Measham Village Hall
		5	Measham Church
4.Sustainable Villages	Moira (including Norris Hill)	30	Moira Village Hall
		1	Ashby Woulds Community Hub
	Ellistown		
	Long Whatton	49	Long Whatton Friendship Centre
	Donisthorpe	14	Donisthorpe Woodlands Centre
		16	Friendship Centre
	Packington	33	Packington Memorial Village Hall
	Belton	4	Belton Village Hall
	Breedon on the Hill	5	Breedon Village Hall
	Oakthorpe	32	Oakthorpe Leisure Centre
		15	East Midlands Satellite Centre
	Blackfordby	8	Blackfordby Village Hall

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Settlement type	Settlement name	ID	Venue
	Diseworth	13	Diseworth Village Hall
	Swannington	36	Swannington Village Hall
	Heather	12	David Taylor Memorial Hall Slepstone Road
	Appleby Magna	39	Appleby Magna Village Hall
	Appleby Magna	10	Conery Pavilion
	Coleorton (Lower Moor Road Area)	3	Beaumont Social Centre
	Coleorton (Lower Moor Road Area)	50	St Mary The Virgin's Church
	Worthington		
	Albert Village		

Table 11.2: Community facilities in category 5 & 6 of settlement hierarchy classification

		ID	Venue
5. Local Housing Needs Village	Lockington/ Hemington	24	Lockington and Hemington Village Hall
	Osgathorpe	51	Harley Hall
6. Other Villages / Settlements	Chilcote	7	Chilcote Village Hall
	Charley	31	Oaks Storer Hall

## **Availability**

All facilities listed are self-managed either by the parish/town council itself or via a charitable organisation. Most are open during the day and all during evenings/weekends, offering a range of activities serving their respective communities.

## **11.3 Supply**

As mentioned earlier, all 25 town and parishes councils were contacted as part of the audit via a community survey or a Teams call. A total of 15 responded. The consultation requested.

- ◀ What facilities were available to hire in each area,
- ◀ Whether there is sufficient supply to meet current need,
- ◀ The types of users currently hiring facilities
- ◀ Whether there are any issues with the listed facilities.

For parishes/town councils which did not respond, desktop research was utilised to assess the types of activities (if listed) on offer at any identified facility. The table below presents a breakdown of the data collated. Blank boxes indicate where no information was obtained.

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Table 11.3: List of facilities, known activities and associated comments (as per settlement)

Settlement	ID	Site	Known activities	Consultation comments
Coalville Urban Area	6	Charles Booth Centre (formerly Thringstone Community Centre)		
	8	Coalville Adult School Hall		
	38	Thringstone Miners Social Centre		
	49	The Marlene Reid Centre		
	40	Whitwick Constitutional Club		
	41	Whitwick Park Hall		
	6	Hugglescote Community Centre	Church Lads & Church Girls Brigade. Mothers Union. Table Tennis. Zumba. Ballet Dance & Tap. Toddler Groups.	
	8	Ravenstone Village Hall	Boot camps, wellbeing groups, pre-school, fitness groups.	
	23	Legion House	It has three rooms, of which two are suitable for groups. the third is small and only used for meetings. Activities are; children's parties, yoga, anti-natal groups, baby massage, baby sensory.	The main facility in Ashby town centre available to hire for the community. Legion House operates at 80-90% capacity. It has concerns regarding the size of the space available and the limited car parking.
	23	St Helen's Community Centre/Heritage Centre	Limited usage- one health class and a couple of social groups hire the facility	Site has two rooms to hire, and has plenty of spare capacity
Ashby	50	Ivanhoe Social Club		
	48	Ashby Methodist Church Hall		
	44	Our Lady of Lourdes		
	45	The Beeches, Ashby		
	46	Lyric Rooms		
	29	Moira Dale Village Hall		

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL  
INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

<b>Settlement</b>	<b>ID</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Known activities</b>	<b>Consultation comments</b>
	35	Spital Park pavilion	Predominantly used by football clubs using the Spital Park.	
	37	The Community Hub	Community library, café, community groups, nursery.	
Ibstock	18	Ibstock Scout Hut		
	11	Ibstock Town Cricket Club		
Kegworth	20	Kegworth Community Library		
	21	Kegworth St Andrews Church		
	22	Kegworth Village Hall	Cubs/beavers, dance, line dancing, parish council events.	
Measham	25	Measham Church	Children's parties, community meetings, group events	
	26	Measham Leisure Centre	Children's parties, yoga, dance, martial arts.	
	27	Measham Mental Health Care Café and Age UK	Group events	
	28	Measham Village Hall	Cubs/brownies, baby classes, community cafe.	
	5	Measham Church	Children's parties, community meetings, group events	
Moira (including Norris Hill)	29	Moira Dale Village Hall	Dance, yoga, nursery, baby groups.	
	30	Moira Village Hall	Holiday clubs, children's parties, community café.	
	1	Ashby Woulds Community Hub		
Woodville (Part)	45	Woodhouse Community Hall		

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Settlement	ID	Site	Known activities	Consultation comments
Donisthorpe	14	Donisthorpe Woodlands Centre	Community meetings, birthday parties, weddings, school groups.	Although technically available to hire, it is more of a formal venue for company away days, weddings, community meetings etc.
	16	Friendship Centre	Community café, yoga, dance.	
Packington	33	Packington Memorial Village Hall	Large one hall venue. It hosts community events, parties and fitness clubs.	
Belton	4	Belton Village Hall	Play groups, Pilates, community group bookings, amateur dramatics society	-
Breedon on the Hill	5	Breedon Village Hall	Boggle, yoga, keep fit, women's institute	
Oakthorpe	32	Oakthorpe Leisure Centre		
	15	East Midlands Satellite Centre	Circuits, holiday clubs, spiritual stretch, cycle bugs, dance classes, baby gymnastics.	Site access is difficult for wheelchair users. Changing facilities/ car parking needs to be expanded to cater for football teams using Church Street Football Fields
Blackfordby	8	Blackfordby Village Hall		
Diseworth	13	Diseworth Village Hall	Table tennis, martial arts, amateur dramatics society, boxing fitness.	
Swannington	36	Swannington Village Hall		
Heather	12	David Taylor Memorial Hall	Yoga, baby gymnastics, craft clubs, brownies/rainbows.	Hall usage is increasing with additional capacity required in the medium term.
Appleby Magna	39	Appleby Magna Village Hall		
	10	Conery Pavilion		
Coleorton (Lower Moor Road Area)	3	Beaumont Social Centre	Yoga, aerobics, children's parties, over 70s social sessions.	It can accommodate up to 50 people. It has a large outdoor space and a large car park.
	41	St Mary The Virgin's Church		

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Settlement	ID	Site	Known activities	Consultation comments
Lockington/ Hemington	24	Lockington and Hemington Village Hall		
Osgathorpe	51	Harley Hall		
Chilcote	7	Chilcote Village Hall		
Charley	31	Oaks Storer Hall		

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

Information gathered from the community survey/desk research indicates that community facilities in North West Leicestershire are well used serving small sports clubs, community organisations and local families. Six consultees noted that their facilities were at capacity and that additional space is required.

It was also highlighted that certain facilities need to be upgraded/modernised to meet local need. Beaumont Social Centre in Coleorton is, for example, in a poor condition and requires urgent investment to ensure it can continue to provide a service in/to the local community, and Harley Hall in Osgathorpe requires investment to ensure it is Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant.

## **11.4 Summary of key facts and issues**

<b>Facility type</b>	<b>Village halls</b>	
<b>Elements</b>	<b>Assessment finding</b>	<b>Specific facility needs</b>
<b>Quantity</b>	There are 45 community facilities in North West Leicestershire. There is an even spread serving both urban and rural communities. Most settlements have a minimum of one community facility.	Three settlements, as part of the analysis, do not have a facility available to hire. There is an opportunity to work with the relevant parish councils to identify possible demand for a facility and seek possible s.106 developer contributions if additional community facilities are deemed to be required. It must be noted that this was not identified in the parish council survey.  Consider the potential requirement for community centres as part of new housing developments and then how these facilities fit within the wider recreational/sporting mix. Using the demand statement above, it is anticipated that Isley Woodhouse should have a minimum of one community facility.  Ashby Town Council is currently exploring/developing a business plan to help secure funding for a new large community facility potentially as part of the Money Hill development.
<b>Quality</b>	No quality rating has been produced for any site, however consultation indicated that some sites require investment to improve quality. These include the Beaumont Social Centre in Coleorton.	
<b>Accessibility</b>	44.8% (45,927) of the population lives within 800m of a community centre/village hall.	Increase accessibility via identifying opportunity for new centres within housing growth sites.
<b>Availability (Management and usage)</b>	Most centres are managed by town/parish councils/or via community associations. Activities range between halls but are broadly considered to reflect local need. A wide range of social and community services are offered.	Support the work of community hall managing agencies to ensure that activities provided each centre reflect/support need in the respective community. Identify funding, should it be required.

# NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Facility type	Village halls	
Elements	Assessment finding	Specific facility needs
<b>Summary</b>	<p>There are 45 community facilities in North West Leicestershire serving both urban and rural communities.</p> <p>Three settlements (Worthington, Albert Village, and Ellistown) as part of the analysis do not have a facility available to hire.</p> <p>Venue utilisation is strong and reflects community need.</p> <p>A variety of different activities is offered ranging from baby groups, to martial arts.</p> <p>There is a need to support parishes/town councils where the quality of community buildings is rated below average and particularly where they are deemed to be poor.</p> <p>Consider allocating developer contributions to installing new/upgrading existing community facilities in areas of housing growth and where there are gaps in provision. Investment should be designed to make new community facilities attractive to sport/physical activity organisations. This is pertinent in Isley Woodhouse, as it is suggested that a minimum of one facility is developed as part of the new settlement.</p> <p>Ashby Town Council reports the need for a large, dedicated facility and is looking to establish an evidence/business case to help secure provision/funding.</p>	

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) - NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

---

## **SECTION 12: INITIAL STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS**

The strategy which follows will take account of the findings of this needs assessment, the Authority's demographic make-up and the Council's vision. There is a general requirement to continue to invest in the primary sports facilities in NWL to ensure that they are fit for purpose for the 21st Century (e.g., welcoming, clean, attractive, flexible spaces, wide programme offer, ability to learn to swim cost-effective to manage and operate etc). This should lead to increased participation and a more active district. Strategy recommendations are likely to be predicated upon some or all of the following:

- ◀ In line with NWLDC's carbon reduction targets, ensure that existing facilities are made as energy efficient as possible by carrying out regular and modern maintenance work. Any new developments should consider energy efficiency as a high priority.
- ◀ Although there is not a current shortage of both pools and halls, as calculated by the FPM, there is a need to continue to maintain existing facilities for the residents of NWLDC by regular maintenance, and refurbishment to protect and enhance existing sports facilities.
- ◀ The Council should continue to collaborate with education sites to ensure that sports facilities remain open and accessible for community use. Any new developments require binding community use agreement. They should be designed both to minimise time lost due to exams and to enable some daytime access for those people wishing to use them during the day (older people, shift workers, unemployed etc).
- ◀ Housing development in the north of the Authority presents an opportunity to build new sports hall provision. It is necessary for it to meet the current Sport England specification, for netball, basketball, badminton and volleyball requirements.
- ◀ Explore the opportunity to consider convert Ashby Leisure Centre's lido into a year round facility to decrease the demand on public swimming provision.
- ◀ Ensure that memberships for the Authority's main leisure centres are available to people living in NWL's more deprived communities via enabling low cost, increased use of community facilities (e.g., activity halls and community centres).
- ◀ Pay and play access at the Everyone Active managed public leisure sites is costly in comparison to a monthly membership and requires online registration and payment. This is most likely to adversely impact older people and less affluent members of society who may be financially or digitally excluded by the requirement to go through these processes. These are key target groups identified by the Council in its Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Consideration should be given to reinstating the option to pay on arrival at public leisure facilities - to better support people in these groups to remain physically active.
- ◀ Consider options to aid gymnastics clubs looking to expand. The Council should support this and any other developments (via planning, developer contributions and officer expertise) to increase levels of sport and physical activity in the wider community.
- ◀ Work with the LTA to explore options for an indoor tennis facility in the Authority. The NGB states that North West Leicestershire is a priority Authority to develop an indoor facility in. There is also calculated demand for seven padel courts. Developing padel opportunities as part of the indoor tennis offer should also be considered.
- ◀ Work with local sports clubs and NGBs to ensure facility and workforce development programmes are geared to meeting the needs of all clubs and residents. There will be a need to deliver sport development opportunities in the North of the Authority ahead of sports hall development.
- ◀ Consider allocating developer contributions to both upgrading and increasing community facilities. Investment should be designed to make community facilities attractive to sport/physical activity organisations. Based on the settlement hierarchy analysis, there is a need for a facility in Isley Woodhouse.

Likely to contain exempt information under paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank