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Meeting	**COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**
Time/Day/Date	6.30 pm on Wednesday, 25 February 2026
Location	Stenson House, London Road, Coalville, LE67 3FN
Officer to contact	Democratic Services (01530 454512)

AGENDA

Item **Pages**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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.

3. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

To receive questions from members of the public under rule no.10 of the Council Procedure Rules. The procedure rule provides that members of the public may ask any question on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties which affect the District, provided that three clear days' notice in writing has been given to the Head of Legal and Support Services.

4. MINUTES

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2025. **3 - 6**

5. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS UPDATE

To consider any outstanding items from previous meetings. **7 - 10**

6. CABINET RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS

To report on cabinet's response to recommendations made by the Community Scrutiny Committee. **11 - 12**

7. LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Report of the Head of Community Services **13 - 40**

8. PLAYING PITCHES, BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITY), AND OPEN SPACES STRATEGIES

Report of the Head of Community Services **41 - 574**

9. STENSON SQUARE GARDENS - PRESENTATION OF DESIGNS POST PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND APPROVAL TO FUND AND SUBMIT PLANNING APPLICATION(S)

Report of the Head of Economic Regeneration and Property **575 - 580**

10. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

To consider any items to be included in the work programme. The plan of forthcoming Cabinet decisions and the current work programme are attached for information. **581 - 586**

Circulation:

Councillor T Eynon (Chair)
Councillor A Barker (Deputy Chair)
Councillor M Ball
Councillor D Bigby
Councillor M French
Councillor K Horn
Councillor S Lambeth
Councillor P Lees
Councillor E Parle
Councillor L Windram

MINUTES of a meeting of the COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the Stenson House, London Road, Coalville, LE67 3FN on THURSDAY, 11 DECEMBER 2025

Present: Councillor T Eynon (Chair)

Councillors A Barker, M Ball, C Beck (Substitute for Councillor S Lambeth), D Bigby, E Parle and L Windram

In Attendance: Councillors J Legrys and P Moult

Portfolio Holders: Councillor M Wyatt.

Officers: Mr J Arnold, Mr Z Fazil, Ms K Hiller, Mr J Knight, Mr P Sanders, Mrs E Trahearn and Mrs R Wallace

17. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M French, K Horn, S Lambeth and P Lees.

18. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

19. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

None.

20. MINUTES

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2025.

It was moved by Councillor A Barker, seconded by Councillor L Windram and

RESOLVED THAT:

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2025 be approved as an accurate record of proceedings.

21. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS UPDATE

The Chair introduced the new standing item and explained the process for future meetings.

In relation to an action on storage location solutions for Coalville Market, it was questioned if the proposed location was suitable as the distance was of little difference to where storage is currently located. The Strategic Director of Place explained that a review of the use of the Market would be brought to the committee next civic year, and this would be the opportunity to look at the matter in more detail.

In relation to an action on issues with electric scooters around Hermitage Lake, the Leisure Services Team Manager explained that the matter was discussed at bimonthly meetings involving police and Community Safety Team. It was acknowledged that this was a work in progress.

22. CABINET RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS

The Chair introduced the new standing item for the agenda and explained the process for future meetings.

Members welcomed the new item introduced in accordance with the Cabinet/Scrutiny Protocol.

23. COMMUNITY GRANTS ANNUAL REPORT

Councillor M Wyatt, Portfolio Holder, presented the report and thanked Emma Trahearn and Ben Dawson for the work undertaken. The Committee were shown supporting videos for several groups and organisations in receipt of a grant.

During discussion several questions of clarity were asked by Members and responses provided by officers.

Members emphasised the significant positive impact of community grants, especially for vulnerable groups, and expressed disappointment at recent budget cuts. They argued that the savings were minor compared to the benefits delivered from these groups.

Members noted the fluctuating numbers of residents receiving support by Age UK and it was acknowledged that this was a result of changing client circumstances. It was suggested that more detail be included in future reports. Following discussions on the crucial role the organisation played for isolated older people, it was recommended that Cabinet reinstate the grant provided to Age UK to its previous level of £22,000. All Members agreed.

In relation to the Citizens Advice Bureau, Members raised concerns about the high demand and limited capacity at drop-in sessions, noting that some residents were turned away as the service was oversubscribed. Members asked for more information to be included in future reports in relation to service usage, waiting times, ward level reach and a breakdown of how the grant was spent for future reports. It was requested that this type of information be brought to committee earlier in the year in future to allow budget planning. Following further discussions, it was suggested that officers and Cabinet consult with the grant recipients, especially Citizens Advice Bureau and Age UK, about funding needs and impact before making budget decisions.

Members praised the success of the Community Lottery in raising funds for local groups, but some concerns were expressed about its sustainability after the Council's transition following Local Government Reorganisation. During discussion on the cost of running the Community Lottery it was acknowledged that there was no dedicated staff costs due to the work being absorbed within existing roles. Members requested that more clarity be included in future reports estimating officer time spent on the project to ensure a true picture of the net benefit.

RECOMMENDED THAT CABINET:

Reinstates the £22,000 grant funding to Age Uk as part of the 2026/27 budget proposals**.**

24. LEISURE CENTRES ANNUAL REVIEW

Councillor M Wyatt, Portfolio Holder, presented the report to Members.

The Committee were played a supporting video and short presentation from the Everyone Active Contract Manager.

During discussion several questions of clarity were asked by Members and responses provided by officers.

Comments were made on the 'green agenda' moving forward and Members were provided an update on future plans; it was noted that the Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre was a standout centre across all other Everyone Active contracts in this area. Members hoped to see more about the reduction of gas usage and installation of solar panels in future reports.

A discussion was had on the recent investigations into mine water heating and Members were in support of progressing it. Reference was made to the recommendation on the matter made by the Corporate Scrutiny Committee at its last meeting, Members supported the approach and therefore made the same recommendation as follows:

'Recommended that Cabinet allocate the £80,000 as required to fund stage three of the mine water heating feasibility study as part of the Council's 2026/27 budget.'

In relation to usage figures, it was acknowledged that there had been an impact following the opening of alternative nearby facilities, however, now that there was more data available to provide a better picture, plans were in place with the aim to increase numbers. Members accepted reassurance that contract finances remained stable and that reduced membership numbers posed no threat to service viability.

It was commented that there were no comparable figures for deprived areas against other areas, it was suggested that this be included in the future. Officers noted that it was a challenge to reach deprived areas, but they would continue to drive up the increase where possible, although it may be minimal.

Positive comments were made about the NHS use of the leisure centres, including cardiac rehabilitation sessions, exercise referrals and blood donation clinics. It was noted that it was an area of focus and the signs were already encouraging.

Members commented on rural accessibility challenges due to the poor travel links. Officers acknowledged the challenges which were complex but by working with stakeholders and partners, they were trying to work on ways to improve the infrastructure.

Members mentioned the leisure provision available across the district and asked if in future the report could be wider to get a fuller picture. Following discussion, it was acknowledged that as this provision was not supplied by the Council then it would be difficult to provide this type of information.

RECOMMENDED THAT CABINET:

Allocate the £80,000 as required to fund stage three of the mine water heating feasibility study as part of the Council's 2026/27 budget.

25. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to the future work programme, and it was noted by Members.

Members discussed an ongoing issue with Section 106 agreements in particular; ensuring parish councils were the default managers of new open spaces, reducing cases where developers revert responsibility to private management companies, improving interpretation and consistency of Section 106 drafting to avoid ambiguity, and concerns that agreements were sometimes not completed for years after estate completion.

Officers advised that policy aspects should be directed to the Local Plan Committee and compliance issues should be considered by Audit and Governance Committee. Officers also suggested that these matters be considered by the Planning Cross Party Working Group in the first instance.

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.12 pm

Chair's initials

Community Scrutiny Committee

Outstanding Actions

Key: **GREEN** – completed
AMBER – working towards completion
RED – to be completed

Item	Action	Comments	Responsible Officer/ Portfolio Holder	Target dates/ rationale for delays	Last Updated	Action Status
Meeting held on 11 September 2025						
6	**Marlborough Square Project Review** To provide the committee with the final accounts from the project once the contractor account has been settled including a commercial breakdown and final outturn figures.	Final project close-down figures will be provided once defects have been remedied by the contractor, final account agreed and sums paid. This is anticipated to be during the 26/27 financial year.	Paul Wheatley/ James Arnold	26/27 to be confirmed (see comments)	01/12/25	Amber
6	**Marlborough Square Project Review** Recommended that: 1 – Negotiations be undertaken with LCC Highways re setting up a blanket road closure to remove the cost barrier to potential event providers.	This matter requires further discussion with LCC Highways to determine what is possible within their policies prior to development of local guidance notes for event organisers.	Paul Wheatley/ James Arnold	26/27	01/12/25	Amber

Item	Action	Comments	Responsible Officer/ Portfolio Holder	Target dates/ rationale for delays	Last Updated	Action Status
	2 – assessments be carried out on the colours of the surface areas in relation to the safety of visually impaired users. The Committee suggested 'Vista' to undertake the assessment.	A further road safety audit has been completed and the scheme has been inspected by LCC Highways who have confirmed the surface has been completed in accordance with standing Highways policies and design guides.	Paul Wheatley/ James Arnold	Closed	01/12/25	Green
	3 – Checks be made with LCC Highways on pedestrian and highway safety for the square. In particular the number of slips, trips and falls reported and any traffic or speeding concerns.					Amber
7	**Coalville Regeneration Framework – 2025 Update** During discussions re the finances of the capital projects, as it would form of the finance papers moving forward, it was agreed that the financial information be tabulated and include timelines.	Regeneration project capital funding will be included in the Council's Capital monitoring papers. Both Portfolio holders and Shadow Portfolio holders are already provided with regular project progress information. For 26/27 a programme of live projects will be provided as an information paper to members.	Paul Wheatley	26/27	01/12/25	Amber

Item	Action	Comments	Responsible Officer/ Portfolio Holder	Target dates/ rationale for delays	Last Updated	Action Status
7	**Coalville Regeneration Framework – 2025 Update** To consider the following issues at the next Scrutiny Work Programming Group for possible future items:					
	1 – Receiving the data on the footfall I the town once the measurable data is available from the external provider.	Sufficient data not yet recorded. Data will be provided once available.	James Arnold	-	01/12/25	Amber
	2 – Storage location solutions for event equipment such as stalls/gazebos.	The Council is developing a new storage facility at Forest Road that can accommodate stalls and gazebos. Officers planned to undertake a 2-year review of market and bring a report to committee, storage to be included. This report is due Autumn 2026.	James Arnold	closed	7/01/26	Green
	3 – Issues with electric scooters and cycles travelling at an excessive speed around Hermitage Lake	Officers to report the issues to the Police at the partnership meeting and will be reported back to committee in due course.	Jason Knight	-	7/01/26	Amber

Item	Action	Comments	Responsible Officer/ Portfolio Holder	Target dates/ rationale for delays	Last Updated	Action Status
Meeting held on 11 December 2025						
8	**Community Grants Annual Report** The committee requested that future reports are brought to committee earlier in the year so that any budget recommendations can be provided in good time for budget considerations.	Officers acknowledged the request for the next civic year.	Paul Sanders	-	12/12/25	Green
9	**Leisure Centres Annual Review** The committee requested that future reports include more detail on the reduction of gas usage and installation of solar panels.	Officers acknowledged the request for the next civic year.	Jason Knight	-	12/12/25	Green

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – WEDNESDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2026

ITEM 6 – CABINET RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS

Date considered by Cabinet: 13 January 2026

Scrutiny comments made on: Leisure Centre Annual Review

	Comments/recommendations from scrutiny	Advice provided by officers at the Scrutiny meeting	Cabinet response
R1	**Recommendation:** That Cabinet allocate £80,000 as required to fund stage 3 of the mine water heating feasibility study as part of the council 2026/27 budget.	-	The recommendation will be taken into account as part of the wider budget proposals and cost pressures for the 2026/27 financial year. Cabinet will formally consider these matters at its meeting on 3 February.

Scrutiny comments made on: Community Grants Annual Report

	Comments/recommendations from scrutiny	Advice provided by officers at the Scrutiny meeting	Cabinet response
R1	**Recommendation:** That Cabinet reinstate the £22,000 grant funding to Age Uk as part of the Council 2026/27 budget.	-	The recommendation will be taken into account as part of the wider budget proposals and cost pressures for the 2026/27 financial year. Cabinet will formally consider these matters at its meeting on 3 February.

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NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – WEDNESDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2026

Title of Report	**LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD CAMPAIGN UPDATE**	
Presented by	Councillor M Wyatt Community and Climate Change Portfolio Holder	
Background Papers	Community Scrutiny report on Thursday 4 April 2024 on update on zero litter campaign and launch of love your neighbourhood Cabinet report on Tuesday 23 April 2024, update on zero litter and launch of love your neighbourhood	**Public Report:** Yes
Financial Implications	Year One Budget (2024-25) A total of £2,000 was allocated from the general fund budget for the first year. Of this amount, £450 was spent during the campaign period. The remaining funds were allocated back to the general fund budget. Year Two Budget (2025-26) For the second year, £2,000 was again allocated from the general fund budget, with £1,300 spent. The remaining funds were allocated back to the grants budget. In addition, £10,000 was secured through the budget process, all of which has been allocated and is scheduled to be fully spent by the end of March 2026. Anticipated Budget for Year Three (2026-27) The projected budget for year three includes £2,000 from the general fundbudget, specifically available for community groups to apply for. A further £10,000 from the general fund budget is also earmarked to support enhanced community engagement activities, including the provision of litter picking equipment, additional bulky waste collections, school engagement initiatives, and communications work.	
	Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: Yes	
Legal Implications	The grants constitute subsidies and are subject to the requirements of the Subsidy Control Act 2022. Therefore, the Council has considered the grants, assessed them in accordance with the subsidy control regime and has complied with the requirements within the Act.	

	Signed off by the Deputy Monitoring Officer: Yes
Staffing and Corporate Implications	The Love Your Neighbourhood (LYN) project is a Council-wide initiative, meaning that many activities undertaken as part of the campaign such as litter picking and environmental crime workshops are integrated into the Council's regular operations, but are promoted under the LYN banner. This approach helps to highlight and reinforce ongoing efforts to improve local environments, while ensuring that routine work receives additional recognition and community engagement through the campaign.
	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes/
Purpose of Report	The purpose of this report is to inform Community Scrutiny about the progress and outcomes of the Love Your Neighbourhood campaign during its first two years, highlighting the various initiatives and achievements that have taken place. In addition, the report outlines the proposed plans for year three, ensuring that Community Scrutiny is fully updated and able to provide feedback and comments on the draft action plan for the campaign's next phase.
Recommendations	**THAT COMMUNITY SCRUTINY NOTES THE PROGRESS MADE IN YEARS ONE AND TWO OF LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD AND PROVIDES COMMENTS FOR OFFICERS TO CONSIDER ON THE DRAFT YEAR THREE ACTION PLAN.**

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 Love Your Neighbourhood (LYN) is an environmental campaign focused on bringing North West Leicestershire residents together to create cleaner, greener neighbourhoods we can all be proud of.

1.2 In April 2024, the concept and overall action plan for LYN was presented to Community Scrutiny. It is a three-year campaign building on the success of the Council's Zero Litter campaign, focusing on four key themes:

- Changing behaviour
- Enforcement
- Community engagement
- Week of action

1.3 Year one ran from April 2024 to March 2025. It saw several initiatives implemented to improve the area of North West Leicestershire and allow residents, groups and businesses to participate in that achievement.

1.4 The main part of year one was a weekend of action. This event saw people from all over the district get together to help in their areas. A range of activities were undertaken including group litter picks, improving gardens and clearing fly-tips.

1.5 Year two ran from April 2025 to March 2026. The LYN team has evaluated year one and made improvements to year two and some of the highlights are shown below.

2.0 DETAILS OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND SUCCESSES IN YEAR ONE AND TWO

2.1 Year One

Year one of LYN was successful with several initiatives and events held throughout the year. Some of the successes and achievements are detailed below:

- 20 schools engaged in workshops educating pupils on enviro crime and recycling, reaching over 1,200 children
- Over 600 residents engaged across five events to raise awareness of enviro crime and recycling
- 404 Officer hours resulting in 23 fines issued for littering, following proactive patrols
- Six new volunteer litter pickers registered during the Keep Britain Tidy Great British Spring Clean
- 194 inspections were made on businesses during the campaign to ensure safe and legal waste disposal. 97.9% were compliant
- Two InTouch magazine articles published and distributed with a reach of approximately 4,100 council properties
- Plastic bags and wrapping collection trial launched with 195 residents at 18 communal sites
- Recycling bins implemented for 16 residents at Holly Court, Measham.
- 96 bulky waste collection leaflets and 145 recycling leaflets/letters provided to tenants
- 32 residents engaged with face-to-face through door-knocking and meetings.

2.2 In its first year, LYN focused on the 'Weekend of Action', which involved community groups and Council staff in various environmental activities. The community engagement was across the district, however, efforts were concentrated on three targeted locations: Greenhill, Thringstone and Measham. These were picked due to the comparatively high numbers of fly tips, litter and environmental crime in these areas compared to the district as a whole. The activities carried out included:

- Two pop-up repair cafés organised in Thringstone and Greenhill.
- In Greenhill, volunteers collected six bags of rubbish and revitalised the community garden, sparking ongoing interest in further community gardening projects.
- In Thringstone, children actively participated in litter picking around the park and engaged with officers, while the waste services team cleared fly-tipping from the estate.
- In Measham, untidy land and fly-tipped waste were cleared, noticeably improving the appearance of the estate.

- 60 litter picking kits were distributed and a total of 84 bags of litter were collected. Community groups led events across the district, contributing 822 volunteer hours over 21 separate events during the weekend.

The activities were supported by the Council's Environmental Protection, Community Focus, Waste, and Housing (both housing officers and residential involvement) teams.

2.3 Year Two

In its second year, LYN expanded on its initial successes by launching various initiatives and events while tracking data for increases in activities like events held, litter collected, and volunteer participation. Key achievements from this period are listed below.

- 20 local schools were invited however, only one so far has engaged in a workshop to educate pupils on enviro crime and recycling.

- 303 Officer hours resulting in 19 fines issued for littering, following proactive patrols.

- 210 new volunteer litter pickers registered so far and a total of 8,892 bags have been given out to local volunteers and groups.

- Enforcement patrols around Hermitage Lake were increased during the bird-nesting season, along with new signs reminding visitors to keep dogs on leads. As a result, there were no reported dog-related attacks this season, which was a positive outcome for wildlife and the community.

- A total of 141 Duty of Care inspections were carried out on businesses to ensure safe and legal waste disposal, with a current compliance rate of 97.8%.

- The Council led a countywide litter campaign called 'Litter lives on' - a social media-driven campaign that aimed to spark real change by showing how litter impacts the environment, and how small actions can lead to big transformations. All district, borough councils and Leicester City was involved.

2.4 In year two, the Council expanded from a weekend to a full 'Week of Action' in response to staff feedback, allowing more groups, including schools, to participate. Grants continued to support community initiatives. The week ran from Monday 30 June to Sunday 6 July, with daily events across several district locations such as Castle Donington and Kegworth to southern areas including Bardon and Appleby Magna.

- 19 organisations took on environmental activities

- £1,298 LYN funding provided to organisations to support various environmental activities such as litter picking, planting, bird and bat boxes.

- 387 volunteers supported the LYN initiative.

- 1,906 volunteering hours across the week.

- 60 litter pickers and LYN branded hi-vis waistcoats were provided to groups across the district.
- 146 bags of litter were collected by volunteers.
- 37 bulky waste items were collected around the Greenhill area.
- 20 fly tips were dealt with in Measham and Greenhill.
- 1.18 tonnes in total for the bulky waste items.

2.5 While there was a slight decrease in the number of events held across the district (21 in 2024 compared to 19 planned for 2025), overall volunteer engagement increased significantly—from 248 volunteers in 2024 to 387 in 2025—with total volunteer hours rising from 855 to 1,906. Furthermore, there was an increase in grant funding distributed (£450 in 2024 versus £1,298 in 2025).

3.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 During the first year, £2,000 from the Small Grant budget was made available to support LYN grants. Any unused funds were returned to the Small Grant budget for redistribution.

3.2 Additional expenses during LYN's first year were covered by existing budgets. As a result, the 60 extra litter picking kits distributed were funded through Environmental Protection's current budgets, as well as a leaflet included in the council tax bills and school engagement. It is also worth noting that several staff took part in the weekend of action, generating costs that were treated as part of their normal duties. In the second year, this was revised to a week of action, which provided more time to reach goals.

Year One (2024-2025)		
Team	**Activity/Description**	**Cost**
Environmental Protection	Printed leaflets sent out in the Council Tax promoting LYN	£ 1,425
Environmental Protection	Leaflets for school enviro crime workshops	£ 48
Community Focus	Grants awarded linked to LYN	£ 450
Environmental Protection	12 litter picking kits (inc 5 litter pickers, 5 hi vis, 1 hoop, 200 bags)	£ 1,794
	TOTAL	**£ 3,717**

3.3 Waste and Parks service charges for Melrose, Greenhill, and Robins Nest were separate to the grant and covered by the Housing Revenue Account.

3.4 In the second year, a budget of £10,000 was allocated to cover extra costs that services were taking on, as well as to support some additional projects. Additionally, £2,000 from the Small Grant budget was set aside for LYN grants. Any money that was not used was returned to the Small Grant budget.

Year Two (2025-2026)		
Team	**Activity/Description**	**Cost**
Environmental Protection	Goodie bags for enviro crime workshops in schools	£ 537
Environmental Protection	12 litter picking kits (inc five logo hi vis, five litter picks and 200 bags)	£ 1,331
Communications	LYN banners	£ 248
Street Cleansing	Additional work in the Greenhill area	£ 1,537
Community Focus	Grants awarded linked to LYN	£ 1,298
	TOTAL	**£ 4,951**

3.5 Street Cleansing received payment for extra work at Greenhill via the additional budget for LYN, but Park costs were not included since related tasks fell under the Housing Service Level Agreement for that area.

3.6 Of the £10,000, the remaining £6,347 has been designated for the cleaning of approximately 60 bus shelters owned and maintained by the Council.

4.0 YEAR THREE PROPOSALS

4.1 Year three of LYN is looking to build on the successes of years one and two and further expand the reach of this initiative by having a full 'Month of Action' to be held in June, rather than just a week. The Council will continue to work with community groups, schools and external partners. Grants will be provided to continue to support community initiatives. Key data will be collected as in previous years so that successes and achievements can be measured and allow analysis to see where further improvements can be made.

4.2 Full details of the proposed year three actions are attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

4.3 Full details of the week of action undertaken in year two are attached as Appendix 2 to this report.

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	Clean, Green and Zero Carbon.
Policy Considerations:	Any enforcement action taken will follow the Council's approved enforcement policy.
Safeguarding:	Any safeguarding concerns raised will be referred as appropriate.
Equalities/Diversity:	An equality impact assessment has been completed.
Customer Impact:	Residents will have the opportunity to take part in improving the environment they live in.
Economic and Social Impact:	The LYN campaign is targeting areas where there are reduced recycling rates, comparatively high levels of littering and fly tipping compared to the district average. These communities will have an opportunity to apply for funding through grants.
Environment, Climate Change and zero carbon:	The work will contribute towards improving the environment in North West Leicestershire by reducing environmental crime and educating the residents.
Consultation/Community Engagement:	The LYN campaign will involve working with communities to improve the environment.
Risks:	As part of its Corporate Governance arrangements, the Council must ensure that Risk management is considered and satisfactorily covered in any report put before elected Members for a decision or action. Volunteer litter pickers are acting in an individual capacity, however, because the Council supports them by providing litter picking equipment, guidance is provided by the Council on litter picking safely
Officer Contact	Paul Sanders Head of Community Services Paul.Sanders@nwleicestershire.gov.uk

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LYN Year Three 2026/27 Action Plan

Theme one	Task	Action				Outcome/ Measurable	Lead team
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
Changing behaviour	Working with schools delivering a series of enviro crime and Recycling workshops.	Contact schools and local groups e.g. Scouts to arrange delivery of two workshops on enviro crime and recycling. Produce a detailed project campaign plan with communication plan.	Confirm the schools and local groups for the workshop. Prepare workshop materials. liaising with the Recycling Officers.	Deliver the series of workshops.	Send out questionnaires to the schools and local groups that participated to evaluate the use of the workshops.	Workshops delivered in 5-10 primary school classes and local groups e.g. Scouts.	Environmental Protection
	Deliver recycling and enviro crime awareness at public events.	Identify the events in the district and prioritise those with the greatest opportunity for impact e.g. Picnic in the park. Produce information for engagement with the public at the events liaising with the Senior Enforcement Officers.	Attend the events throughout the district.	Evaluate campaign – how effective was the use of attending events.		Level of engagement at event Measure footfall to the stands and engagement. Number of events attended.	Waste Services Development Officer

		Produce a detailed project campaign plan with communication plan.					
	Attend team briefings to encourage staff to report incidents of enviro crime and to highlight that littering offences are civil with no court attendance. To encourage people to become a volunteer litterpicker	Develop a presentation on reporting enviro crime and engaging as a volunteer litter picker. . Engage with Comms to produce an intranet briefing on how to report enviro crime.	Attend team briefings To encourage reporting Enviro crime and becoming a volunteer litter picker. Supply information on the quantity of litter picked by staff volunteers Publish the presentation on the staff intra-net so staff that could not attend can access the information.	Attend team briefings. To encourage reporting Enviro crime and becoming a volunteer litter picker Supply information on the quantity of litter picked by staff volunteers. Publish the presentation on the staff intra-	Evaluate number of individual and group litter picks. Number of reports made to enviro Team.	Increased number of enviro crime reports received from members of staff to help tackle enviro crime. Staff, numbers at Team Briefings attended and number of staff and group litter picks.	Environmental Protection

				net so staff that could not attend can access the information.			
	Deliver Enviro Crime Information Sessions to the NWL town and parish councils.	Create a presentation for NWL town and parish councils, focusing on practical strategies for reporting environmental crimes—such as, fly-tipping, littering, abandoned vehicles and promoting active community involvement through volunteer litter-picking schemes. During this quarter, deliver one enviro crime session to NWL town and parish councils.	Evaluate using surveys and informal discussions to assess the clarity, relevance, and impact of the content. Key performance indicators will include the number of environmental crimes reported post-presentation, the increase in volunteer litter-picking participation, and the number of councils that initiate or expand local	During this quarter deliver another enviro crime session to NWL town and parish councils.	Evaluate using surveys and informal discussions to assess the clarity, relevance, and impact of the content. Key performance indicators will include the number of environmental crimes reported post-presentation, the increase in volunteer litter-picking participation, and the number of councils that initiate or expand local	The aim is to raise awareness with NWL town and parish councils to address enviro crime issues effectively but also inform their local residents in order to take action, and foster a cleaner, safer local environment.	Environmental Protection and Community Focus

			clean-up campaigns.		clean-up campaigns.		

Theme two	Task	Action				Outcome/ Measurable	Lead team
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
Enforcement	Deliver fly tipping campaign targeting rural and private land. To highlight the issue of abandoned vehicles through social media and Councillor and parish councils.	Identify hot spot areas through analysing data and encourage landowners to report fly tipping on their land.	Support and work with landowners. Raise awareness on social media. It's all Fly-tipping. Install cameras on private land to support landowners.	Continue to support and work with landowners. Raise awareness on social media. It's all Fly-tipping Install cameras on private land to support landowners.	Evaluate campaign. Evaluate the use of cameras on private land.	Number of private landowners, compare with previous years. Have cameras worked as a deterrent? and number of offences captured.	Environmental Protection
	Countywide Litter Campaign	Lead and deliver on a two-week countywide anti-littering campaign with all LA's in Leicestershire,	Agree dates with Leicestershire Enforcement Group for a two-week campaign	Deliver tool kit for the 'It's All Littering' campaign to all seven local authorities in	Collect data from all LA's who participated to evaluate and publish data.	No action required	Environmental Protection

		with a view to raising awareness and using enforcement to reduce littering across the county.		Leicestershire and the City			

Theme three	Task	Action				Outcome/Measurable	Lead team
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
Community Engagement	Work with Housing Associations and NWL housing team to change waste disposal behaviours.	Produce a detailed project campaign plan with communication plan. Develop a working group with Recycle More, Housing, Environmental Protection and Communications teams. Work collaboratively wit	Work alongside existing Recycle More projects which identify hotspot s and educational interaction within that community. Engage with NWLDC tenants and social housing residents to change waste disposal behaviours.	Engage with NWLDC tenants and social housing residents to change waste disposal behaviours. Use social media outlets to highlight issues, share success and progress.	Evaluate campaign	Reduction in fly tipping. Increase use of bulky waste services. Encourage re-use. Increased recycling.	Waste Services

		h the NWL housing team and Housing Associations to identify the issues, hot spots and opportunities for engagement.					
	Update the website and compile a document that consolidates all current NWLDC approaches to graffiti and litter management.	Share the updated website and document with the various council departments for their review and feedback.	Revise the website and document as necessary and then share the updates with the Portfolio Holder.	Distribute the weblink and document to all members, as well as to parish and town councils.	No action.	Review, edit, and combine the various approaches to graffiti and litter from different council departments into a single document, then publish it on one webpage.	Community Focus and Environmental Protection
	Hold a series of Housing events to receive feedback from residents about their neighbourhoods, promote involvement, and provide an opportunity to work with Recycle More, may be looking to include other areas of housing.	Events to be held in a minimum of two locations. Work alongside Recycle More to promote this. Gather feedback and ideas for neighbourhood involvement.	Housing Roadshow Event to be held in a minimum of one location. Work alongside Recycle More to promote this. Gather feedback and ideas for neighbourhood involvement.	Work alongside Recycle More to promote this. Gather feedback and ideas for neighbourhood involvement.	Housing Roadshow Event to be held in a minimum of one location. Work alongside Recycle More to promote this. Gather feedback and ideas for neighbourhood involvement.	Promote Resident Involvement and engage with tenants at a neighbourhood level. Promote the importance of recycling on our housing estates.	Housing Services – Resident Involvement and Housing Management Teams. Recycle More Team

	Housing to reintroduce Tenant Estate Evaluators	Resident Involvement Team are hoping to launch Spring 2025. We will be training volunteers Spring 2025 and driving recruitment for more evaluators	Estate Evaluations to take place in represented areas. Recruit Estate Evaluators across as many areas that have communal areas with NWLDC Housing units.	Estate Evaluations to take place in represented areas. Continue to recruit and promote role of Estate Evaluator – Intouch.	Continue to recruit and promote role of Estate Evaluator – Intouch. Potential Training session – depending on interest.	Continue to recruit and promote role of Estate Evaluator – Intouch. Potential Training session – depending on interest	Building Safety and Tenant Involvement

Theme four	Task	Action				Outcome/ Measurable	Lead team
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
Month of action	To hold a month of action across the district. Encouraging engagement with voluntary, community, residents and councillors to support environmental improvements across the district. Look into offering events run by NWLDC for residents who are not part of a group to get involved – staff	Review data to identify NWLDC hot spot areas across the district. Data sets to include fly tipping, street cleansing rounds, volunteer litter pick areas, recycling rates, complaints. Look at areas in year three which have had little engagement but	Develop a plan for the month of action to include working with ward members, local community groups, town/parish councils, schools, parks and open spaces, waste services, businesses enviro Crime, volunteer litter pickers, housing estate teams,	Deliver the month of action. Promote using social media/ radio	Evaluate the month of action. Number of people/groups engaged during the month. Number of bulbs/trees planted/bags of rubbish collected	Month of action held Opportunity to engage with residents on issues specific to each area Through community engagement, evaluate the impact of the month of action	Environmental Protection, Housing Resident Involvement and Community Focus

	opportunity to take part too (TBD with HR)	have data showing high enviro crime. If there is budget, to consider a grant scheme for those wishing to be involved in month of action. This may include litter picking equipment (grabbers and hi vis). Promotion will need to happen in March 2026 and then applications in April and May 2026 ready for the month of action in June.	community focus, comms officer. Key themes to tackle will include dog fouling, littering, fly tipping and taking pride in the area. Use this as an opportunity for other services within the Council to promote their services. Promote other initiatives e.g. free trees/bulbs that are appropriate at the time. NWLDC Tenants' Garden Competition using feedback from Estate Evaluators and Housing Management		Consider a celebration/thanks for the involvement.	and gauge the buy-in from the community. Leave behind a legacy for residents to "Love their Neighbourhood" Recycling rates. Number of volunteers. Number of dog fouling, littering and fly tipping reports. Number of bulky waste collections.	

Love Your Neighbourhood Week of Action

July 2025

North West Leicestershire District Council

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

Background

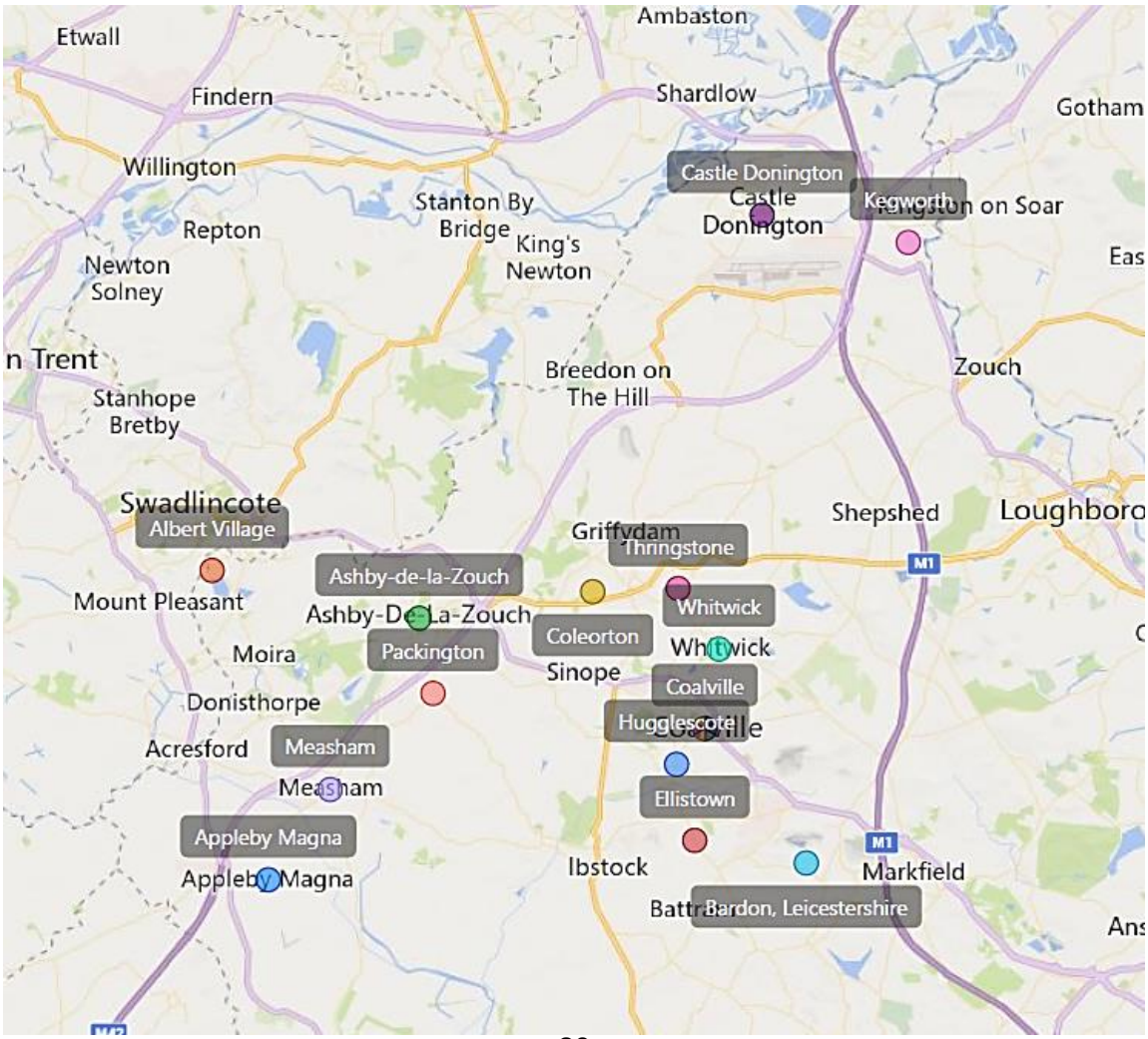
This is the second year of Love Your Neighbourhood (LYN) project. The initiative expanded from a weekend of action to a full week, enabling greater participation from organisations, including schools. The week of action took place from Monday 30 June to Sunday 6 July.

Leading up to the LYN week, extensive engagement and promotion was conducted with schools, voluntary groups, community organisations, and businesses. Additionally, groups had the opportunity to apply for up to five litter-picking kits, as well as grants of up to £500 and up to £100 to support environmental activities and projects.

This report highlights activities, key statistics, and outcomes from this year's initiative. While there was a slight decrease in the number of events held across the district (21 in 2024 compared to 19 planned for 2025), overall volunteer engagement increased significantly—from 248 volunteers in 2024 to 387 in 2025—with total volunteer hours rising from 855 to 1,906. Furthermore, there was an increase in grant funding distributed (£450 in 2024 versus £1,298 in 2025).

LYN Week of Action 30 June to 6 July.

Events took place daily across the district. The map below displays all events held in various locations, indicating participation from northern areas such as Castle Donington and Kegworth to southern areas including Bardon and Appleby Magna.



Statistics from the LYN Week of Action

19 organisations took on environmental activities during the week

£1,298 LYN funding provided to organisations to support various environmental activity

387 volunteers supported the LYN initiative

1906 volunteering hours across the week

60 litter pickers and hi vis were provided to organisations across the district

146 bags of litter were collected by volunteers across the district!

37 bulky waste items were collected around the Greenhill area

20 fly tips were dealt with in Measham and Greenhill

1.18 tonnes in total for the bulky waste items

Click here for the video showcasing the week's activities

Statistics in more detail

An overview of some activities conducted during LYN week are outlined below. A wide range of community groups and individuals, businesses and schools participated in the event.

Day	Organisation	Activity
Monday	Friends of Ashby Bath Ground	Litter pick / cleaning signs and benches
	4th Coalville Scout Group	Litter pick
	Charles Booth Centre	Planting and hedge cutting
Tuesday	East Midland Housing Coalville	Litter pick and bulky waste clearance
	Newbridge School	Planting, installing planters, Litter pick
	NWLDC, Enrych, Holcim, residents	Weeding Greenhill garden
Wednesday	Platform Housing	Litter pick / planting around Holly Court Measham
	Coalville CAN	Litter pick
Thursday	NWLDC	Litter pick / road sweep / bus stop clean / communal hedge cutting
	Whitwick Parish Council	Litter pick
Friday	Holcim UK	Litter pick
Saturday	Ellistown & Battleflat Parish Council	Litter pick
	Castle Donington wombles	Litter pick
	Ashby Woulds Litter Heros	Litter pick
	1st Appleby and Measham Scout Group	Community litter pick /planting
	One Kegworth (with a number of other organisations in Kegworth throughout the week)	Litter pick / planting / cleaning / basket hanging / build and place bug, bat and bird boxes across the village
Sunday	The Pheonix Childrens Foundation	Litter pick

ORGANISATIONS THAT TOOK PART IN LITTER PICKING ACROSS THE DISTRICT

1st Appleby and Measham Scout Group with McDonalds
4th Coalville Scout Group
Ashby Woulds Litter Heroes
Castle Donington Litter Wombles
Charles Booth Centre
Coalville CAN
Coleorton Litter Wombles
Ellistown and Battleflat Parish Council
Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds
Friends of Thringstone
Holcim UK
Hugglescote and Donington le Heath Parish Council
Kegworth Litter Wombles
Newbridge High School
NWLDC Waste Services
Platform Housing Group
The Phoenix Childrens Foundation
Whitwick Parish Council

1st Appleby and Measham Scouts litter pick

Kegworth Litter Wombles

Castle Donington Litter Wombles

Ashby Woulds Litter Heros

Whitwick Parish Council

Grants

Organisations awarded a £500 grant are listed below:

Organisation	Activity	Collaboration with	Awarded
One Kegworth	Litter picking, planting hanging baskets, clearing areas, bird, bat and bug boxes	Kegworth Scouts Kegworth Library Kegworth Primary School Kegworth Plan Group Litter Wombles Kegworth Imps Football Club Kegworth Cricket Club One Kegworth	£500
Charles Booth Centre	Cut back hedges and planting	Charles Booth preschool Volunteers from the community	£498

One Kegworth

Photo showing a few of the bird, bat and bug boxes made by various groups, and a couple of volunteers who helped to display them around Kegworth village

Charles Booth Centre

Organisations awarded the £100 LYN Grants are listed below:

Photos showing Charles Booth Centre volunteers and a preschool child tidying the Charles Booth site

Organisation	Activity	Grant for	Awarded
Newbridge School	Litter picking, plants, hanging baskets	Compost, gardening equipment, plants	£100

1st Appleby and Measham Scout Groups	Litter picking and planting – engaged with McDonalds from Appleby Magna	Fruit trees, fruit bushes, compost	£100
Ellistown & Battleflat Parish Council	Litter picking	Litter picking hoops, more litter pickers	£100

1st Appleby and Measham Scout Group litter pick and planting

Litter bags

Location	Bags of Litter Filled
Albert Village	17
Castle Donington	67
Measham	4

Whitwick	48
Woodstone Primary School	10
Total	**146**

Bulky waste collections in Greenhill

Prior to the LYN Week of Action, Recycle More Officers distributed bulky waste leaflets to 1,174 properties in Greenhill. A total of 37 items were registered for collection. The breakdown of these items is provided below.

Item	Number
2 Seater sofa	4
3 Seater sofa	5
4 Seater/corner suite sofa	2
BBQ (no gas)	1
Chest of drawers	2
Cooker	2
Dishwasher	2
Double/King mattress	4
Fridge freezer	7
Microwave	1
Recliner chair (non-electric)	2
Single bed base	2
TV	1
Washing machine	2

Fly tips in Greenhill and Measham

The Environmental Protection team was proactive and visited Greenhill to note any fly tips that were not part of the bulky waste collection. Measham Parish Council also did a walkabout and noted a few fly tips which were dealt with the during the LYN Week of Action.

Untidy Land

As a result of the initial patch walk, there is one untidy land case booked opened, with the owner occupier working with an enforcement officer to come to a satisfactory resolution.

All fly tips were collected and the cases were closed.

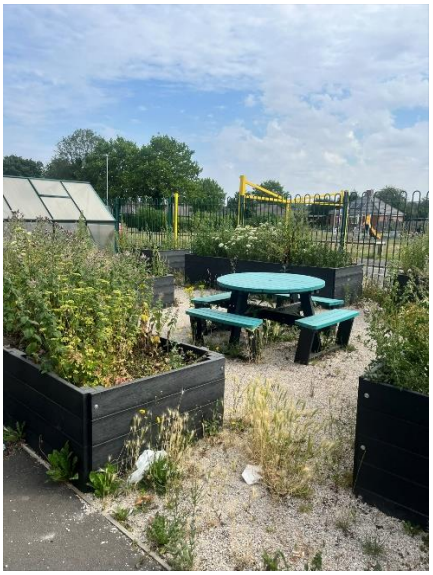
Category	Location	Cases/Incidents	Status/Notes
Untidy land	Not specified	1	Owner occupier working with Enforcement Officer
Fly tipping	Bradgate Drive	3	
Fly tipping	Cropston Drive	5	Multiple fly tip removed from old garage block site
Fly tipping	Haslyn Walk	1	
Fly tipping	Beacon Crescent	4	
Fly tipping	Longcroft Road	1	
Fly tipping	Northfield Drive	1	
Fly tipping	Peldar Place	1	
Fly tipping (Measham)	Eagle Close	2	
Fly tipping (Measham)	Raven Close	1	

Some examples of the fly tips below.

Greenhill Community Garden

The resident Involvement team attended the Greenhill Community Garden on 1 July 2025, where with the support of Enrych staff, Holcim staff and a number of residents/tenants, they tidied the garden area.

Before



After

Communication engagement

The Communications Team highlighted LYN Week of Action by sharing updates via social media and by visiting groups to document community environmental efforts across the district.

Hashtags were created on social media so community groups could tag themselves and notify the Council of their involvement.

#LoveYourNeighbourhood #WeekOfAction #NWLDC #CommunityPower #NorthWestLeicestershire

There were nine posts on the 'This Is NWLeics' Facebook page, and several other organisations and community groups posted with the hashtags.

Two press releases were posted – before and after the event – and a thank you video was created which was posted on Facebook and Instagram.

The Communication Team also created a certificate signed by Portfolio Holder, Councillor Wyatt, and Chairman, Councillor Lees for. all organisations that took part.

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – WEDNESDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2026

Title of Report	**PLAYING PITCHES, BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITY), AND OPEN SPACES STRATEGIES**	
Presented by	Cllr Michael Wyatt Portfolio Holder for Community Services	
Background Papers	None	**Public Report:** Yes
Financial Implications	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. Any future projects arising from these strategies will be subject to separate reports, full financial appraisal and approval in accordance with the Council's Constitution.	
	Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: Yes	
Legal Implications	The strategies will form part of the Council's evidence base for the emerging Local Plan. Evidence bases must be "robust and up-to-date" under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Adoption of these strategies will support compliance with planning legislation and guidance by ensuring infrastructure planning is based on appropriate assessment. Failure to adopt a sufficiently rigorous evidence base may weaken the Council's position in defending planning decisions or securing developer contributions.	
	Signed off by the Deputy Monitoring Officer: Yes	
Staffing and Corporate Implications	Delivery of the strategies will require ongoing officer time across Planning Policy, Leisure Services, and Community Services. This is expected to be managed within existing resources but will require cross-departmental coordination as projects develop.	
	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes/	
Purpose of Report	**To make Community Scrutiny Committee aware of the key points highlighted in the North West Leicestershire Playing Pitches and Outdoor Sports, Built Facilities and Open Spaces strategies and to seek members views and comments.**	

Recommendations	**THAT COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE NOTES AND PROVIDES FEEDBACK ON THE NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PLAYING PITCHES AND OUTDOOR SPORTS, BUILT FACILITIES, AND OPEN SPACES STRATEGIES TO INFORM CABINET'S CONSIDERATION OF THE STRATEGIES ON 28 APRIL 2026.**

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

1.6 In order to develop the strategies, KKP undertook the following approach:

- Consultation with key stakeholders such as National Governing Bodies of Sport, sports clubs, parish and town councils, schools, and other facility owners to understand supply and demand issues
- Quantity and quality assessments of existing infrastructure
- Supply and demand assessments considering current use, potential future use, user mapping, and potential housing and population growth
- Scenario testing
- The development of Needs Assessment reports for Playing Pitches and Outdoor Sports and Built Facilities
- The development of the strategies and associated action plans
- The checking and challenging of the various documents with the Council and National Governing Bodies of Sport for accuracy

2.0 PLAYING PITCHES AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY (PPOSS)

2.1 The PPOSS and associated Action Plan can be found at **Appendix A** and the Needs Assessment at **Appendix B**.

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 though 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 PPOSS 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 C** and the Needs Assessment at **Appendix D**.

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 E**.

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 F** 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 with adequate community access, 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 three-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 PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON

7.1 Parish and Town Councils were consulted by KKP as part of the development of the strategies.

7.2 Following completion of the strategies, all parish and town councils were sent copies of the strategies and were invited to comment on the back of the consultation and engagement they had during the process.

7.3 Out of the thirty parish and town councils, only two responded. Their comments are attached as **Appendix G**, with the Council's responses below each comment.

8.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 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.

8.2 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.

9.0 NEXT STEPS

9.1 The Strategies will be presented to Cabinet at their meeting on 28 April 2026, alongside any further comments for consideration from Community Scrutiny Committee, with a view to seeking approval for the Strategies to be adopted corporately and to be included as an evidence base within the Local Plan.

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	- Planning and regeneration - Communities and housing - A well-run council
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 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 jason.knight@nwleicestershire.gov.uk

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Appendix A

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN REPORT
JANUARY 2026

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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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

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.

- 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).

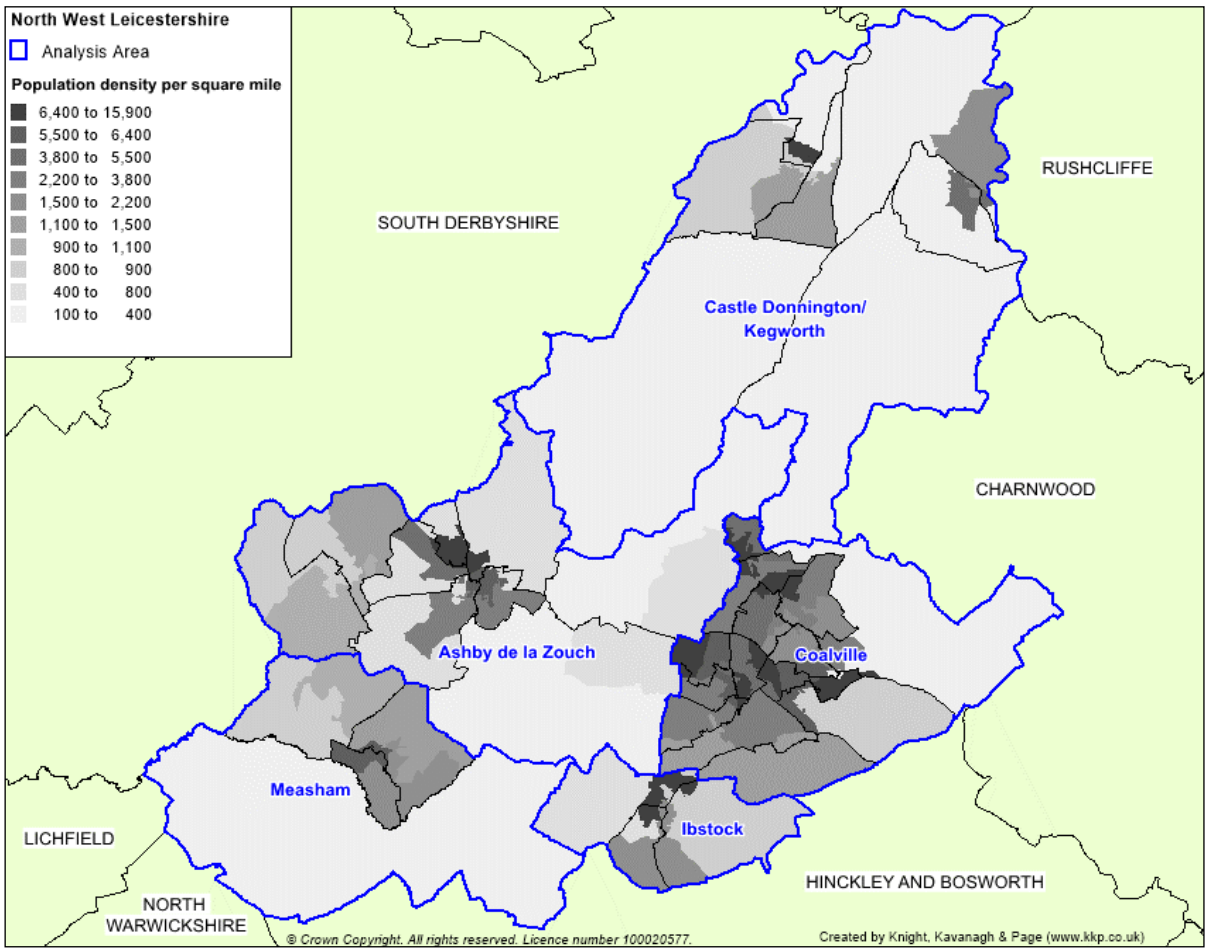
In addition, a bespoke 3G pitch section is included within this report, mainly focusing on football activity but also taking into account other sports that can use the surface type (e.g., rugby union and rugby league).

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").

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 authorites 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.

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.

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, he 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

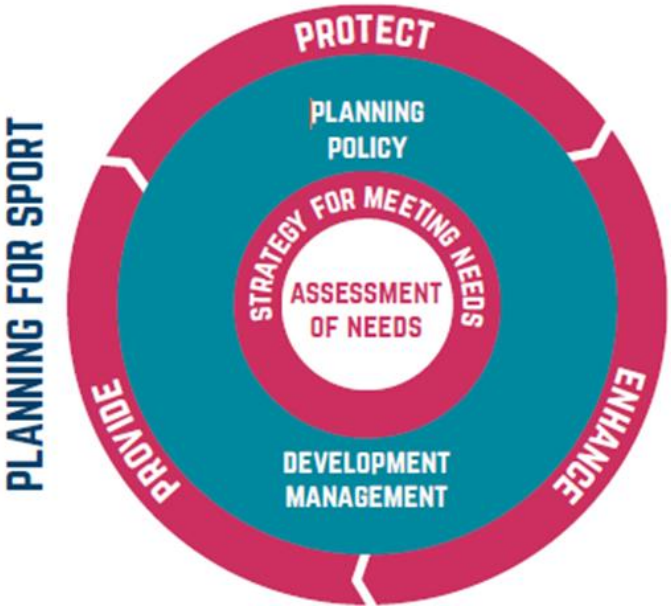
To **enhance** outdoor sport facilities and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites.

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.

Figure 2.1: Sport England planning objectives



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

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

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
Tennis	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.
Padel	There is currently an absence of padel courts across North West Leicestershire with a need for seven courts based on the LTA methodology.
Netball	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.
Bowls	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.
Athletics	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

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.

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.

- 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

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	-

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**
If improvements are made					
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
Ashby-de-la-Zouch					
Adult	6	-5	1	1	-
Youth 11v11	-	-4	-4	4[1]	-4
Youth 9v9	-	-1.5	-1.5	2	-3.5
Mini 7v7	-	-	-	1.5	-1.5
Mini 5v5	-	-	-	1.5	-1.5
If improvements are made					
Adult	7	-1	6	1	5
Youth 11v11	5	-2	3	4[2]	-1
Youth 9v9	1.5	-	1.5	2	-0.5
Mini 7v7	-	-	-	1.5	-1.5
Mini 5v5	-	-	-	1.5	-1.5

[1] Includes 0.5 match equivalent sessions of exported demand
[2] Includes 0.5 match equivalent sessions of exported demand

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.

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
64	Westfields Recreation Ground	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Poor	Adult	1	-1	1	1

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**
If improvements are made					
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
Ashby-de-la-Zouch					
Adult	6	-5	1	1	-
Youth 11v11	-	-4	-4	4[3]	-4
Youth 9v9	-	-1.5	-1.5	2	-3.5
Mini 7v7	-	-	-	1.5	-1.5
Mini 5v5	-	-	-	1.5	-1.5
If improvements are made					
Adult	11	-1	10	1	9
Youth 11v11	5	-	5	4[4]	1
Youth 9v9	3.5	-	3.5	2	1.5
Mini 7v7	-	-	-	1.5	-1.5
Mini 5v5	-	-	-	1.5	-1.5

[3] Includes 0.5 match equivalent sessions of exported demand
[4] Includes 0.5 match equivalent sessions of exported demand

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)	**Unmarked pitch** – Site still in use, previously provided an additional youth 9v9 pitch *circa 2018*
8	Ashby Road Playing Fields	Ibstock	(9v9)	**Unmarked pitch** – Site still in use, previously provided an additional youth 9v9 pitch *circa 2018*
12	Bardon Hill Sports Ground	Coalville	(9v9	**Unmarked pitch** – Site still in use, previously provided an additional youth 9v9 pitch *circa 2018*
17	Bosworth Road Recreation Ground	Measham	(11v11)	**Unmarked pitch** – Site still in use, previously provided one youth 11v11 pitch *circa 2018*
31	Hermitage Recreation Ground	Coalville	(9v9) (7v7)	**Unmarked pitch** – Site still in use, previously provided an additional youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitches *circa 2018*
43	Melrose Recreation Ground	Coalville	Adult	**Unmarked pitch** – Site still in use, previously provided one adult pitch *circa 2018*
50	Parsonwood Hill	Coalville	(7v7)	**Unmarked pitch** – Site still in use, previously provided one mini 7v7 pitch *circa 2018*
51	Ravenstone Recreation Ground	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	(9v9) (7v7) (5v5)	**Unmarked pitch** – Site still in use, previously provided an additional youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitch *circa 2018*
52	Scotland's Playing Fields	Coalville	(9v9)	**Unmarked pitch** - Site still in use, previously provided an additional youth 9v9 pitch *circa 2018*
60	The Connery	Measham	(11v11)	**Unmarked pitch** – Site still in use, previously provided one youth 11v11 pitch *circa 2018*

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

Pitch/facility type	Current capacity (MES)	Potential capacity (MES)
Adult	**12.5**	**13.5**
Youth 11v11	**-4**	**-1**
Youth 9v9	**-8.5**	**-2.5**
Mini 7v7	**5**	**8**
Mini 5v5	**5**	**6**

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)
Ashby-de-la-Zouch		
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**

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-dela-Zouch

Pitch type	Current capacity (MES)	Potential future demand (club aspirations)	Potential capacity (MES)
Ashby-de-la-Zouch			
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.

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

Pitch type	Current capacity (MES)	Potential capacity (MES)
Ashby-de-la-Zouch		
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.

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)
Ashby-de-la-Zouch		
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.

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.
- The 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 it 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 Leicester (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

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.

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 Worlds 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.

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

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

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.

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
-	**With additional sports lighting**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
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.

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.

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 Bonnington 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.

- 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 Bonnington 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

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[5] 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 the 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 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 undertake 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.

[5] http://www.cag.org.uk/docs/ecb-non-turf-pitches-ts6-final-328.pdf

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.

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	-	-
-	**Total**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**

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 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%).
- 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[6]

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 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 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.

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

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.

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
	Sports lit courts					
10	Ashby School and Sixth Form	Ashby-de-la Zouch	4	Yes	Yes	Good
32	Ibstock Leisure Complex	Ibstock	2	Yes	Yes	Standard
	Non-sports lit courts					
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.

4.8: Athletics

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[7]. 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)

- **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, mutli-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[8] 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.

[7] https://www.englandathletics.org/clubs-and-facilities/facilities/newgen-tracks/

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

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.

4.9: 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.
- 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.

4.10: 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 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.

Demand	Comments
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 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[9]). 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).

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.

[9] https://colchestersportspark.co.uk/

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.

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.

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.

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 tenue 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.

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)[10]. 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.
- Keep money in the local economy through enterprise and locally owned assets.

[10] Link to CASC benefits

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 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[11] 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.

[11] https://www.sportengland.org/funding-and-campaigns/use-our-school

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 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[12], 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.

[12] https://footballfoundation.org.uk/grant/grass-pitch-maintenance-fund

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 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 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 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 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.
- 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.

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.

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 is it 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).

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[13].

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.**

[13] Facility cost guidance | Sport England

ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH ANALYSIS AREA

Area summary – pitch sports[14]

Area	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES[1]	Future capacity total in MES (2042) [15]
Football (grass)	**-**	**-**	**-**
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
North West Leicestershire	**Adult**	**12.5**	**7**
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**
Football (3G)	**-**	**-**	**-**
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	11v11	-2.25	-2.75
North West Leicestershire	**11v11**	**-4.5**	**-6.25**
Cricket	**-**	-	-
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Saturday	-	-
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Sunday	24	-
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Midweek	30	-
North West Leicestershire	**Saturday**	**-25**	**-121**
North West Leicestershire	**Sunday**	**23**	**11**
North West Leicestershire	**Midweek**	**89**	**47**
Rugby union	-	**-**	**-**
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Senior	-4	-
North West Leicestershire	**Senior**	**-9.5**	**-13.25**
Hockey	-	-	**-**
North West Leicestershire	**AGP**	**4**	**4**

[1] MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)
[15] It should be noted that this future demand figure is at an Authority wide level, and some analysis areas may have greater shortfalls than others.

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.

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	Everyone Active	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

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	Everyone Active	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.	Everyone Active 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

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 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	Sport Club	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.	Sport Club 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

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

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 girls.	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

CASTLE DONINGTON / KEGWORTH ANALYSIS AREA

Area summary – pitch sports[16]

Area	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES[1]	Future capacity total in MES (2042) [17]
Football (grass)	**-**	**-**	**-**
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	-
North West Leicestershire	**Adult**	**12.5**	**7**
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**
Football (3G)	**-**	**-**	**-**
Castle Donington / Kegworth	11v11	-	-
North West Leicestershire	**11v11**	**-4.5**	**-6.25**
Cricket	**-**	-	-
Castle Donington / Kegworth	Saturday	-1	-
Castle Donington / Kegworth	Sunday	11	-
Castle Donington / Kegworth	Midweek	47	-
North West Leicestershire	**Saturday**	**-25**	**-121**
North West Leicestershire	**Sunday**	**23**	**11**
North West Leicestershire	**Midweek**	**89**	**47**
Rugby union	-	**-**	**-**
Castle Donington / Kegworth	Senior	0.5	-
North West Leicestershire	**Senior**	**-9.5**	**-13.25**

[1] MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)
[17] It should be noted that this future demand figure is at an Authority wide level, and some analysis areas may have greater shortfalls than others.

Area	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES[1]	Future capacity total in MES (2042) [17]
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.

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
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

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
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

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	One good quality cricket square with six grass wickets. The square is overplayed by 13 matches per season. 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. 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.	Sustain square quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Explore the option of improving ancillary facilities to better cater for women's and girl's demand.	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	A good quality grass cricket square with ten wickets. The square has actual spare capacity at all peak times. 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. Castle Donington CC aspires to provide a mobile cage on site.	Explore the option of improving ancillary facilities to better cater for women's and girl's demand. Support Castle Donington CC with its aspiration to provide training facilities on site.	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	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. 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.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay. Explore the feasibility of reallocating demand on site to alleviate overplay.	Parish Council CFA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance

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

COALVILLE ANALYSIS AREA

Area summary – pitch sports[18]

Area	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES[1]	Future capacity total in MES (2042) [19]
Football (grass)	**-**	**-**	**-**
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
North West Leicestershire	**Adult**	**12.5**	**7**
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**
Football (3G)	**-**	**-**	**-**
Coalville	11v11	-0.25	-0.75
North West Leicestershire	**11v11**	**-4.5**	**-6.25**
Cricket	**-**	-	-
Coalville	Saturday	-13	-
Coalville	Sunday	-1	-
Coalville	Midweek	17	-
North West Leicestershire	**Saturday**	**-25**	**-121**
North West Leicestershire	**Sunday**	**23**	**11**
North West Leicestershire	**Midweek**	**89**	**47**
Rugby union	-	**-**	**-**
Coalville	Senior	-6	-
North West Leicestershire	**Senior**	**-9.5**	**-13.25**
Hockey	-	-	**-**
North West Leicestershire	**AGP**	**4**	**4**

[1] MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)
[19] It should be noted that this future demand figure is at an Authority wide level, and some analysis areas may have greater shortfalls than others.

Area summary – non-pitch sports

Sport	Headline findings
Tennis	N/A
Netball	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.
Athletics	N/A
Bowls	Whitwick BC and Coalville BC each have spare capacity to accommodate additional members and this remains when factoring in future demand.

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	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. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision and standard quality changing facilities. The site previously included 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
12	Bardon Hill Sports Club	6002413	LE67 4BS	Cricket	Sport Club	One good quality cricket square with 12 wickets. The square has actual spare capacity for Sunday and midweek cricket. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision. The site is serviced by an ECB approved fixed bay practice net with two lanes.	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	One standard quality cricket square with ten wickets. The square is overplayed by 13 matches per season. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision. The site is serviced by an ECB approved fixed bay practice net with two lanes.	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

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	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. 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. Changing and toilet facilities are currently accessible although will no longer be accessible to teams utilising the AGP if redevelopment plans move forward.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment when necessary.	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	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. 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. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision. Coalville Town FC is exploring options to provide a new clubhouse on site to better accommodate youth demand.	Improve pitch quality through enhance 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

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

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	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

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

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

IBSTOCK ANALYSIS AREA

Area summary – pitch sports

Area	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES[1]	Future capacity total in MES (2042) [20]
Football (grass)	**-**	**-**	**-**
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
North West Leicestershire	**Adult**	**12.5**	**7**
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**
Football (3G)	**-**	**-**	**-**
Ibstock	11v11	-1.25	-1.25
North West Leicestershire	**11v11**	**-4.5**	**-6.25**
Cricket	**-**	-	-
Ibstock	Saturday	-11	-
Ibstock	Sunday	-11	-
Ibstock	Midweek	-11	-
North West Leicestershire	**Saturday**	**-25**	**-121**
North West Leicestershire	**Sunday**	**23**	**11**
North West Leicestershire	**Midweek**	**89**	**47**
Rugby union	-	**-**	**-**
Ibstock	Senior	-	-
North West Leicestershire	**Senior**	**-9.5**	**-13.25**
Hockey	-	-	**-**
North West Leicestershire	**AGP**	**4**	**4**

[1] MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)
[20] It should be noted that this future demand figure is at an Authority wide level, and some analysis areas may have greater shortfalls than others.

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.

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	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

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	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	Protect

MEASHAM ANALYSIS AREA

Area summary – pitch sports

Area	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES[1]	Future capacity total in MES (2042) [21]
Football (grass)	**-**	**-**	**-**
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
North West Leicestershire	**Adult**	**12.5**	**7**
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**
Football (3G)	**-**	**-**	**-**
Measham	11v11	-1.25	-1.5
North West Leicestershire	**11v11**	**-4.5**	**-6.25**
Cricket	**-**	-	-
Measham	Saturday	-	-
Measham	Sunday	-	-
Measham	Midweek	6	-
North West Leicestershire	**Saturday**	**-25**	**-121**
North West Leicestershire	**Sunday**	**23**	**11**
North West Leicestershire	**Midweek**	**89**	**47**
Rugby union	-	**-**	**-**
Measham	Senior	-	-
North West Leicestershire	**Senior**	**9.5**	**13.25**
Hockey	-	-	**-**
North West Leicestershire	**AGP**	**4**	**4**

[1] MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)
[21] 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.

Area summary – non-pitch sports

Sport	Headline findings
Tennis	N/A
Netball	N/A
Athletics	N/A
Bowls	Measham BC has spare capacity to accommodate an additional 33 members and when factoring in future demand, this remains the same.

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	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.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.	Parish Council CFA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						The youth 9v9 pitches are overplayed by 0.5 MES per week whilst the mini 7v7 pitch has discounted spare capacity 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

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[22]	Training demand[23]
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	-

[22] As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.
[23] Hours equate to access to an 11v11 sports lit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

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[24]	Lifecycle Cost (per annum)[25]	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	-	-	-
Total	**17.94**	**£2,807,945**	**£353,291**	**19.27**	**£4,057,095**

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[26]	Training demand[27]
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

[24] Link to Sport England cost guidance
[25] 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)
[26] As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.
[27] Hours equate to access to an 11v11 sports lit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

Pitch sport	Match demand per week[26]	Training demand[27]
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[28]	Lifecycle Cost (per annum)[29]	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	-	-	-
Total	**5.05**	**£793,898**	**£99,748**	**5.45**	**£1,145,491**

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.

[28] Link to Sport England cost guidance
[29] 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)

Table 7.5: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from an additional 2,507 people

Pitch sport	Match demand per week[30]	Training demand[31]
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[32]	Lifecycle Cost (per annum)[33]	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	-	-	-
Total	**4.54**	**£711,610**	**£89,437**	**4.88**	**£1,026,849**

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.

[30] As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.
[31] Hours equate to access to an 11v11 sports lit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP
[32] Link to Sport England cost guidance
[33] 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)

- 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[34] (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.

[34] Correct at the time of writing October 2025

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.

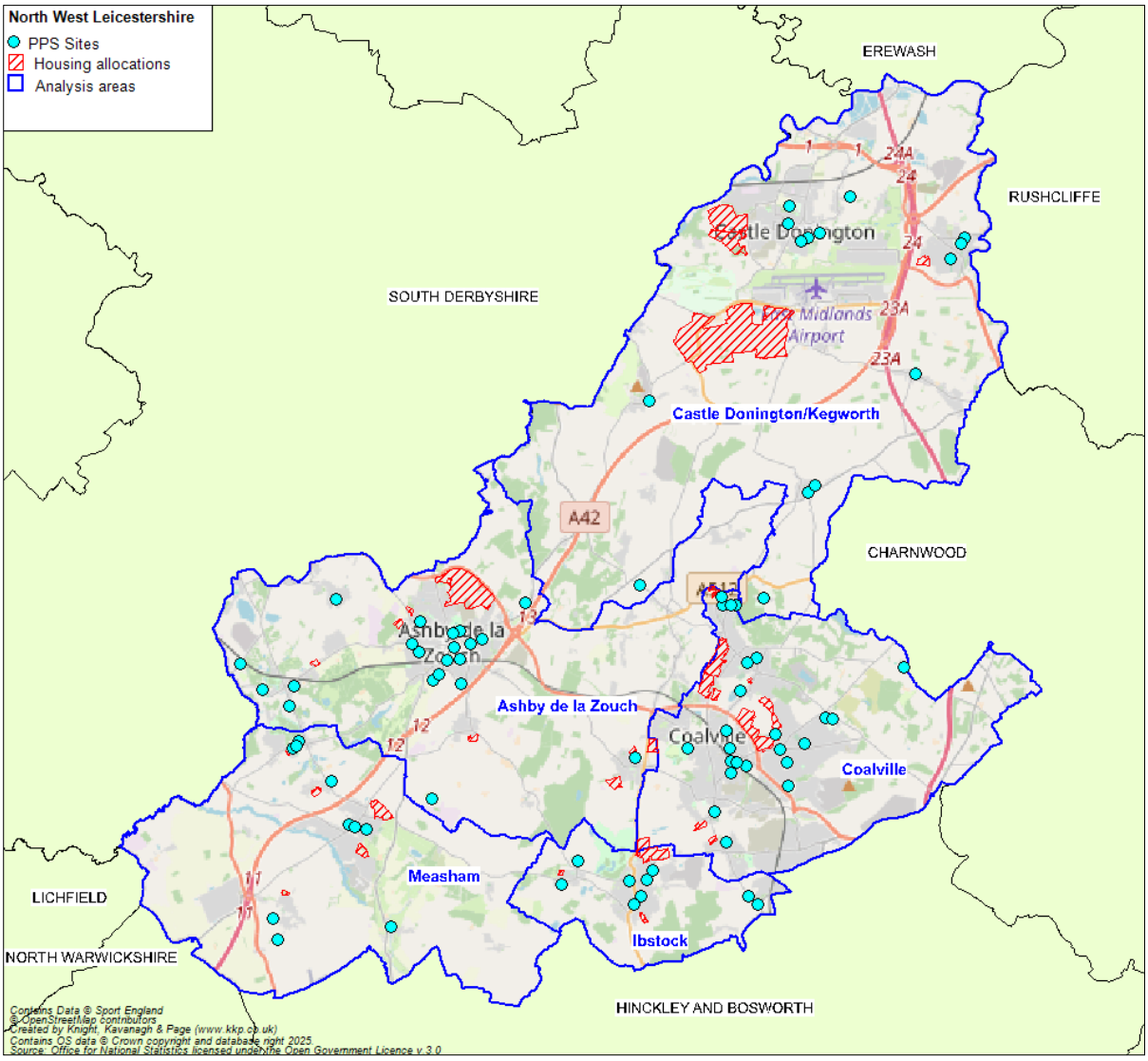
Demand for the remaining sports generated from the housing growth does not equate to a whole pitch for any of the sports, with contributions therefore better focused on improving existing sites to increase capacity to an appropriate level. The PPOSS including the Action Plan, as well as continued/future 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Stage D Checklist: Develop the Strategy	**Tick ✓**	
	Yes	Requires Attention
Step 7: Develop the recommendations and action plan 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?	✓	

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
Step 9: Apply and deliver the strategy 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?		
Step 10: Keep the strategy robust and up-to-date 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?		

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.

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.

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.

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)[35]

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

[35] FA Strategy 2024-2028: The Football Association

- 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)[36]

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.

[36] The FA Womens & Girls Football Strategy 2024-28

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)[1]

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.

[1] https://resources.ecb.co.uk/ecb/document/2024/10/22/19a925d7-3c92-4a36-8e7b-f49cb470377f/ECB-Inspiring-Generations-2025-2028.pdf

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 3rd 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.

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".

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.

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.

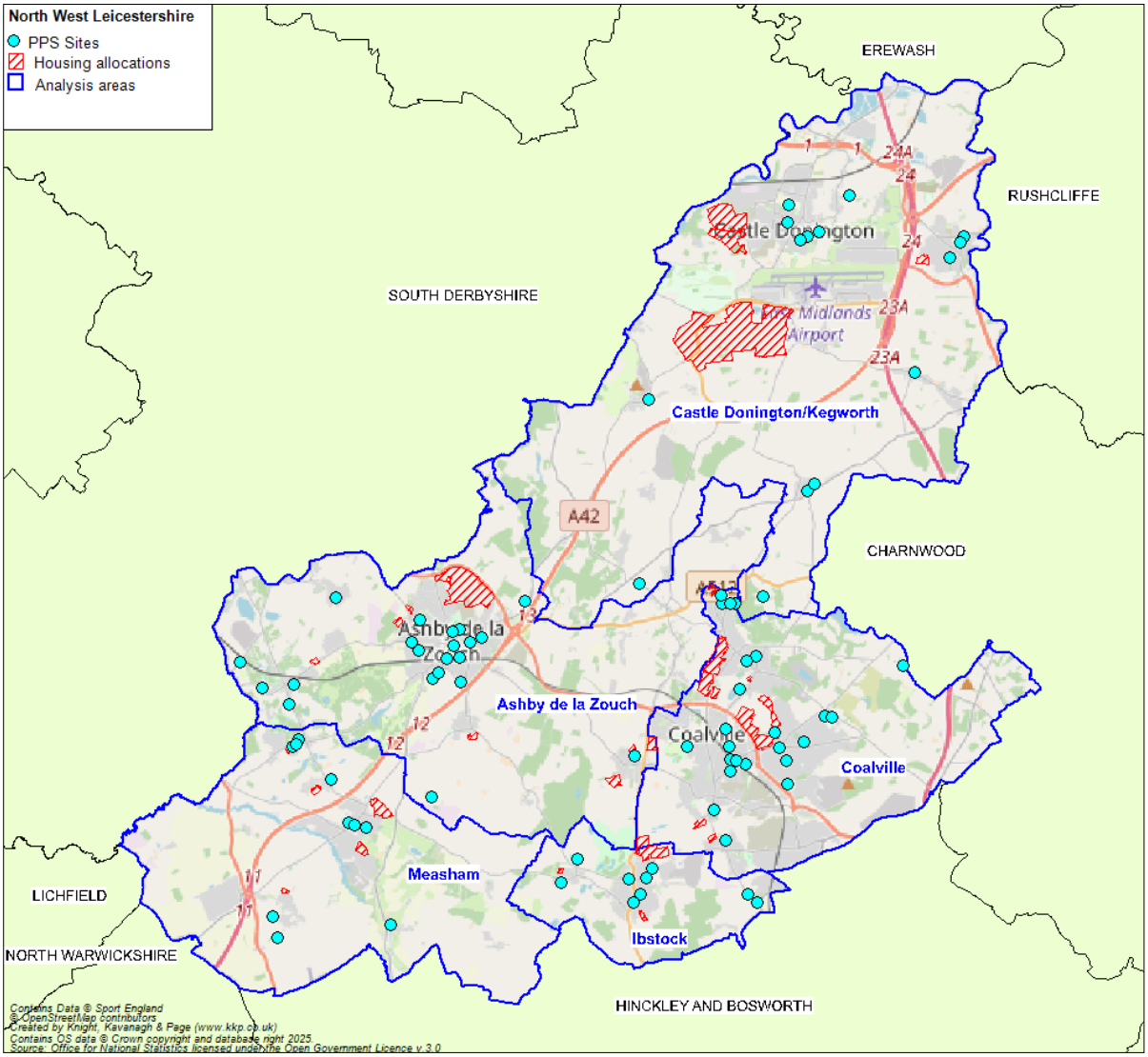
Grounded in feedback from the Netball Family, with over 3,000 members and stakeholders consulted as part of the strategic process to understand what they wanted netball to 'look like' in 2031, the plan is aspirational and ambitious and sees the organisation pledge to continue to be a trailblazer for women's sport as it embarks on its new adventure.

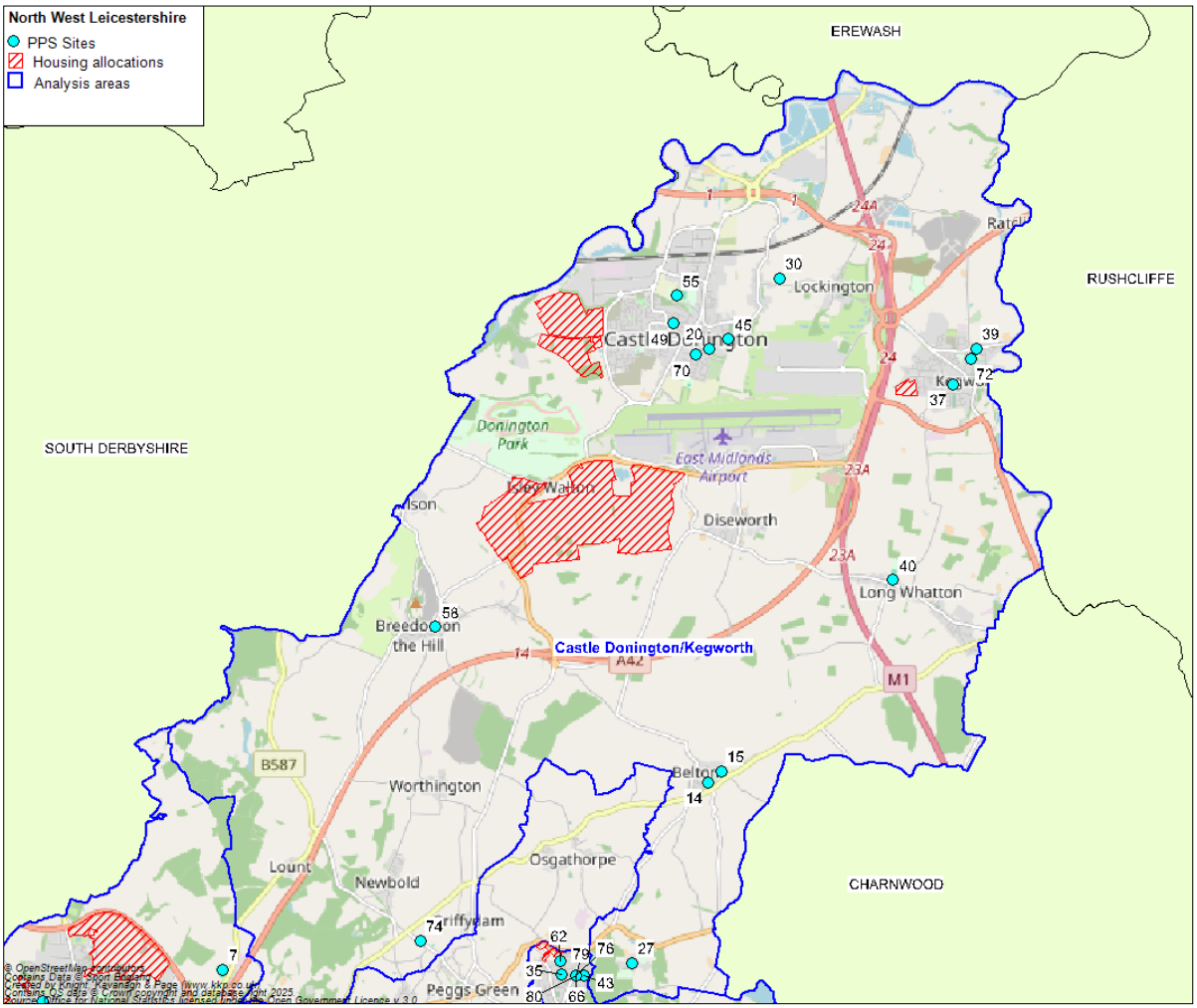
Facility Development

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.

APPENDIX TWO: HOUSING SCENARIO MAPS

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PPS Sites
Housing allocations
Analysis areas
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RUSHCLIFFE
SOUTH DERBYSHIRE
CHARNWOOD
Castle Donington/Kegworth
Lockington
Diseworth
Long Whatton
Breedon on the Hill
Worthington
Osgathorpe
Newbold
Lount
Peggs Green
Belton
Donington Park
East Midlands Airport
M1
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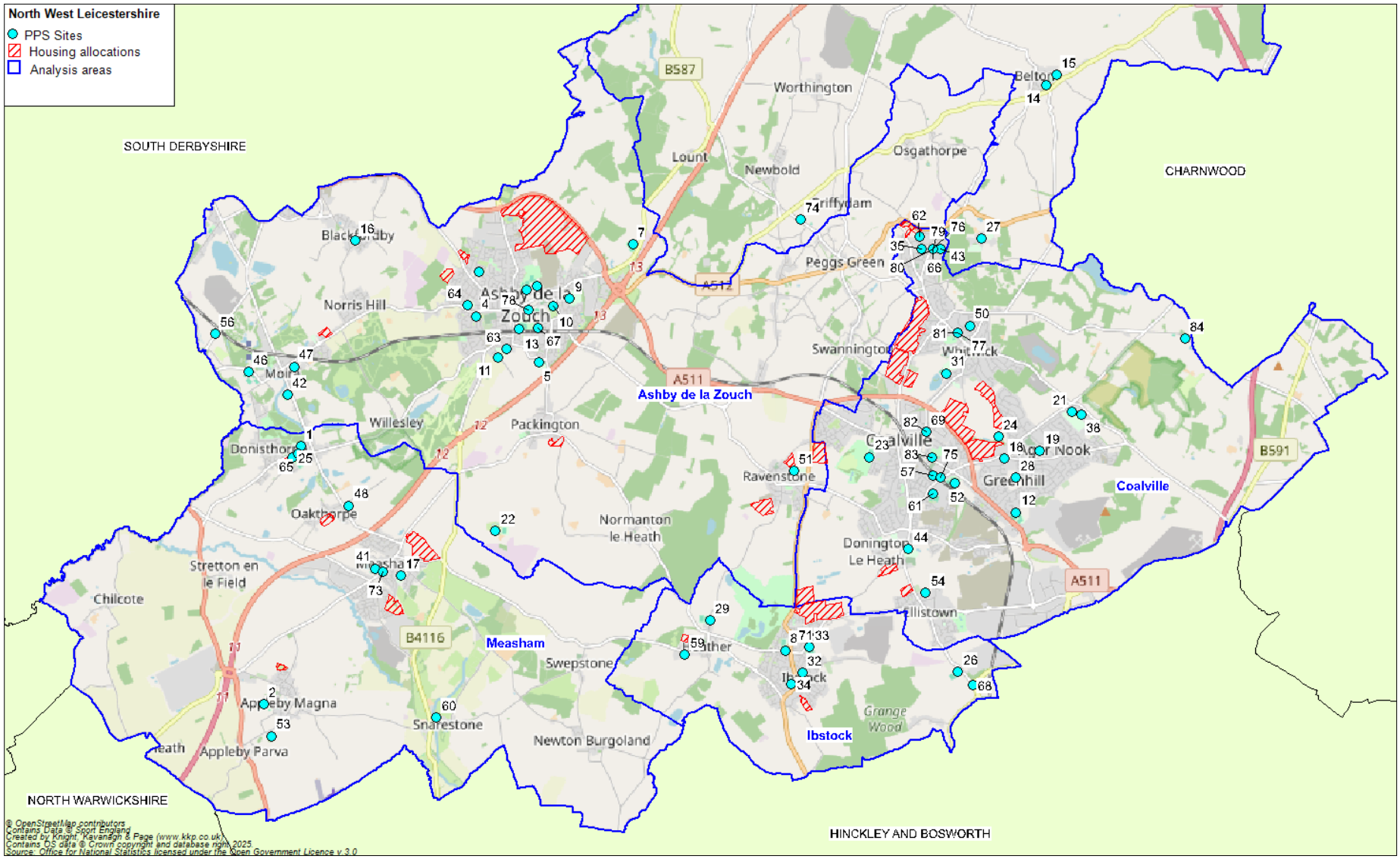
24A
23A


North West Leicestershire
PPS Sites
Housing allocations
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SOUTH DERBYSHIRE
CHARNWOOD
NORTH WARWICKSHIRE
HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH
Ashby de la Zouch
Coalville
Measham
Ibstock
Worthington
Lount
Newbold
Osgathorpe
Peggs Green
Swannington
Norris Hill
Packington
Willesley
Donisthorpe
Oakthorpe
Normanton le Heath
Ravenstone
Donington Le Heath
Stretton en le Field
Chilcote
Appleby Magna
Appleby Parva
Snarestone
Swepstone
Newton Burgoland
Grange Wood
A511
B4116
B587
B591

Appendix B

KNIGHT, KAVANAGH & PAGE

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

ASSESSMENT REPORT
DECEMBER 2025

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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

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Cert Num: 6543-QMS-001

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GLOSSARY

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

PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

1.1: Introduction

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) has been commissioned by North West Leicestershire District Council to undertake a Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS). This report (known as the Assessment Report, the first of two published documents) presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities within the District and 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

Stages A to C are covered in this report, with stage D covered in the proceeding strategy document and Stage E ongoing once the work has been adopted. This relates to the ongoing work that will be required when the PPOSS has been approved and adopted.

For ''non-pitch" sports, Sport England's 'Assessing Needs & Opportunities Guide (ANOG) is followed. This has a similar staged approach:

- 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 will replace the previous PPS for North West Leicestershire which was completed in 2017. It should be noted that the PPOSS will follow the same structure as the previous study with the production of an Assessment Report and a Strategy & Action Plan.

The PPOSS is being completed in conjunction with an Indoor Built Facilities Strategy and Open Space Assessment. The inter-relationship between the studies needs to be recognised due to the crossovers that occur e.g., sports clubs using both outdoor and indoor facilities.

1.2: Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach

Why the strategy is being developed

The Council developed a Playing Pitch Strategy in 2017 (which has been refreshed), and 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.

These studies will also provide an evidence base that identifies the infrastructure required to support the growth required by the emerging Local Plan (2024 to 2042); whether that is through onsite provision, S106 developer contributions or other funding streams.

The strategy is expected to address and respond to the following key objectives:

- To inform emerging planning policy under 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 shortfall across the District and within localities.
- Assessment of current stock condition.
- Assessment of future supply against demand, considering cross-boundary access – based on the location of proposed housing developments and growth in population (Local Plan).
- Options for increasing provision to meet current and future demand shortfalls.
- Prioritisation and costings for increasing provision.

Local context

North West Leicestershire Council Delivery Plan 2023 -2028

In summary, the NWL Council 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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.

Active Together

Active Together is the active partnership for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) which 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 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’.

National Context

One of the core planning principles of the NPPF 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:

- 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 benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.

Paragraphs 106, 107, and 108 set the parameters for the designation of Local Green Space. Such spaces may include playing fields and outdoor sport facilities.

Management arrangements

A project team from North West Leicestershire District Council has worked with KKP to ensure that all relevant information is readily available and to support the consultants as necessary to ensure that project stages and milestones are delivered on time, within the cost envelope and to the required standard to meet Sport England guidance.

Further to this, a Steering Group is and has been responsible for the direction of the PPOSS from a strategic perspective. Its role is also to support, check and challenge the work of the project team. The Steering Group comprises representatives from the Council, Sport England and the relevant national governing bodies of sport (NGBs).

It will be important for the Steering Group to continue once the PPOSS has been finalised for several reasons, including a continuing responsibility to:

Be a champion for playing pitch provision in the area and promote the value and importance of the PPOSS
Support implementation of the PPOSS and its recommendations and action plan.
Monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the PPOSS
Ensure that the PPOSS is kept up to date and refreshed

Scope

The scope of the PPOSS will focus geographically on all local provision, regardless of ownership and management arrangements. The scope of work is as follows:

- Football.
- Football (3G pitches).
- Rugby union.
- Rugby league.
- Hockey (artificial grass pitches AGPs).
- Cricket.
- Tennis/padel/pickleball.
- Athletics.
- Crown/flat bowls.
- Netball.
- Other sports where appropriate (such as American football, lacrosse etc).

In addition, other grass pitch sports are also generally included where supply and/or demand has been recognised; however, none are currently identified within North West Leicestershire. Where a sport has not been included, this is because its presence has not been evidenced, although that is not to say that it is not played informally or that localised demand does not exist.

A section dedicated to third generation turf (3G) pitches is also included due to the number of sports such provision can accommodate. This predominately pertains to football but is also relevant to rugby and potentially other grass pitch sports.

Sport England's PPS guidance applies to football, rugby union, cricket and hockey as well as the other grass pitch sports identified. ANOG guidance applies to the remaining 'non-pitch' sports

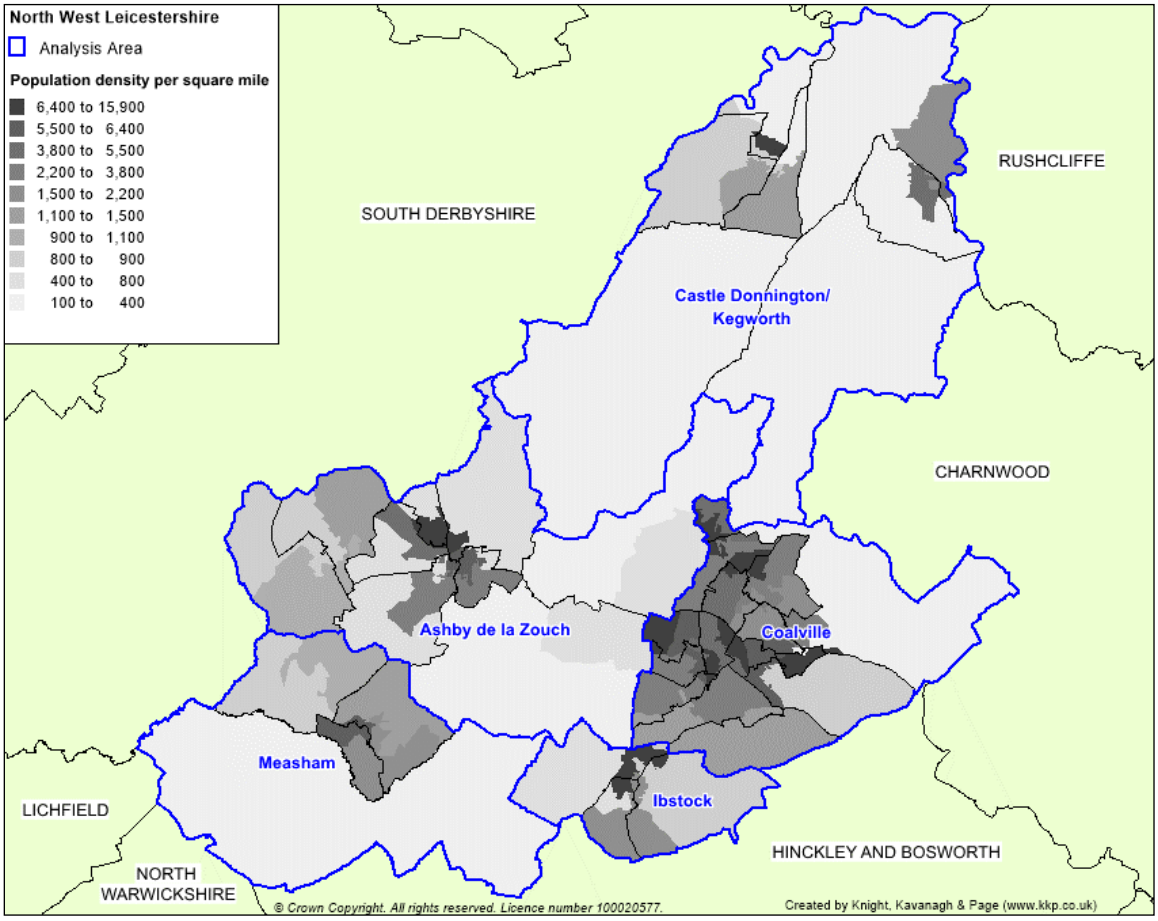
Study area

The study area comprises the whole local authority area, with analysis areas (or sub areas) also used to allow for a more localised analysis. For consistency and comparison purposes, the analysis areas have remained as per the previous study (taking into account any ward boundary changes), with the Steering Group content with this approach and reporting that they work well in terms of how sport is played in the District.

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 PPS iteration and are further illustrated in Figure 1.1.

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 authorites of South Derbyshire, Rushcliffe, Charnwood, Hinckley and Bosworth, North Warwickshire, Lichfield and Erewash.

1.3: Stage B: Gather information and views on supply of and demand for provision

A clear picture of supply and demand for outdoor sports facilities in North West Leicestershire needs to be provided to include an accurate assessment of quantity and quality. This is primarily achieved through consultation and site assessments, as further outlined below.

Quantity

Where known, all outdoor sports facilities are included within the PPOSS, irrespective of ownership, management and use. Sites were initially identified using North West Leicestershire's previous PPOSS and Sport England's Active Places web-based database, with the Council and NGBs supporting this process by checking and updating this initial data as well as by supplying their own affiliation data and booking information.

For each site, the following details are recorded in the project database:

- Site name, address (including postcode) and location.
- Ownership and management type.
- Security of tenure.
- Community availability.
- Total number, type and quality of provision.
- Usage levels.

For playing pitch sports, Sport England's guidance uses the following definitions of a playing pitch and playing field. These definitions are set out by the Government in the 2021 'Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Order'.

- ***Playing pitch*** – a delineated area which is used for association football, rugby, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, rounders, baseball, softball, American football, Australian football, Gaelic football, shinty, hurling, polo or cycle polo
- ***Playing field*** – the whole of a site of at least 0.2ha or more which encompasses at least one playing pitch

Although the statutory definition of a playing field sets out a minimum size, this study also takes into account smaller size sites that contribute to the supply side. For example, a site containing a mini 5v5 football pitch. This study counts individual grass pitches (as a delineated area) as the basic unit of supply and the definition of a playing pitch also includes artificial grass pitches (AGPs).

As far as possible, this report aims to capture all of the outdoor sports facilities within North West Leicestershire. However, there may be instances, for example, on school sites, where access was not possible and has led to omissions within the report (although facilities at sites not accessed are still included within the PPOSS where provision is known to exist from other data sources). Where pitches have not been recorded within the report they remain as pitches and for planning purposes continue to be so. Furthermore, exclusions of a pitch does not mean that it is not required from a supply and demand point of view.

Accessibility

Not all outdoor sports facilities offer the same level of access to the community. The ownership and accessibility of provision also influences actual availability for community use. Each site is assigned a level of community use as follows:

- **Community use** - facilities in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) recorded as being available for hire and currently in use by teams/members/individuals (depending on the sport).
- **Available but unused** - facilities that are available for hire but are not currently used externally; this most often applies to school sites but can also apply to sites which are expensive to hire or particularly poor quality.

- **No community use** - facilities which are, as a matter of policy or practice, unavailable for external hire. This includes professional club pitches along with some semi-professional club pitches where play is restricted to the first or second team of the host club.
- **Disused** – any sites where facilities were once provided but are no longer in place, yet they remain undeveloped and could therefore be brought back into use.

In addition, there should be a good degree of certainty that provision will be available to the community for at least the following three years. If this is not the case, the provision is still included within the assessment but is noted as having unsecure tenure. A judgement is made based on the information gathered and a record of secured or unsecured community use is put against each site.

Quality

The capacity of provision to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by their quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of provision affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of a sport. In extreme circumstances it can result in a facility being unable to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times.

It is not just the quality itself which has an effect on its capacity but also the quality, standard and range of ancillary facilities. The quality of both the outdoor sports facility and ancillary facilities will determine whether provision is able to contribute to meeting demand from various groups, and for different levels and types of play.

The quality of all outdoor sports facilities identified in the audit and the ancillary facilities supporting them are assessed regardless of ownership, management or availability. Along with capturing any details specific to the individual facilities and sites, a quality rating is also recorded within the audit for each. These ratings are used to help estimate the capacity to accommodate competitive and other play within the supply and demand assessment.

For the purposes of quality assessments, the PPOSS refers to playing facilities and ancillary facilities separately as being of 'good', 'standard' or 'poor' quality. However, some good quality sites may have poor quality elements and vice versa (e.g., a good quality pitch may be serviced by poor quality changing facilities).

Good quality refers to facilities with, for example, good grass cover, even surfaces and that are free from vandalism and litter. For ancillary facilities, it refers to access for disabled people, sufficient provision for referees, juniors/women/girls and appropriate showers, toilets and car parking. Facility age can also have a significant bearing on the overall quality rating.

Standard quality refers to playing provision that has, for example, adequate grass cover, minimal signs of wear and tear and goalposts that may be secure but in need of minor repair. In terms of ancillary facilities, standard quality refers to adequately sized changing rooms, storage provision and the provision of toilets, although some level of improvement/ modernisation may be required.

Poor quality refers to playing provision with, for example, inadequate grass cover, uneven surfaces and waterlogging issues, whilst for ancillary facilities it may relate to changing rooms with no showers (or communal showers), no running water and old, dated interiors. They are often unsuitable for mixed gender use.

To ensure accurate findings, site assessments for each sport are carried out during the playing season for that sport. As such, site assessments for sports played in the winter are generally conducted between November and February, whilst the sports played in the summer are assessed between July and August. This also enables sufficient play to be carried out on the provision before the assessments take place by means of providing an accurate picture regarding the impact of demand.

In addition to undertaking non-technical assessments (using the templates provided within the guidance), users and providers have also been consulted on the quality as well as the Council and relevant NGBs. In some instances, the quality rating has been adjusted to reflect feedback (thus establishing an “agreed quality rating”).

Furthermore, technical assessments have also been provided, where undertaken, such as those carried out by the Grounds Maintenance Association (GMA), which now provides technical assessments across football, rugby union, rugby league and cricket (known as PitchPower reports). PitchPower reports where carried out have informed the quality assessments for the PPOSS to ensure the findings align (unless there is a clear reason for a differential e.g., recent improvements).

Gather demand information and views

Current demand

Presenting an accurate picture of current demand for outdoor sports facilities (i.e. recording how and when provision is used) is important when undertaking a supply and demand assessment. To that end, demand for outdoor sports facilities in North West Leicestershire tends to fall within the following categories:

- Organised competitive play.
- Organised training.
- Informal play.
- Unofficial use.

Current and future demand for outdoor sports facilities is presented on a sport-by-sport basis within the relevant sections of this report. In addition, unmet, latent, imported and exported demand for provision is also identified within each section.

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to provision. It is usually expressed, for example, when a team is in training but is unable to access a match pitch, or when a club has a waiting list due to a lack of provision, which in turn is hindering the growth of the competition. In comparison, latent demand is defined as the number of additional teams (or members) that could be accommodated if access to a sufficient number of outdoor sports facilities (and ancillary provision) was available.

Exported and imported demand refers to those that are playing outside of their local authority area of choice. This therefore includes North West Leicestershire-based demand that travels outside of the District to access provision (exported demand), as well as demand from nearby authorities that travel into the District (imported demand). This can often be linked to capacity and/or quality issues within an authority, although nationally some leagues and competitions operate a central venue system that can necessitate the displacement.

A variety of consultation methods were used to collate such demand information. Firstly, face to face consultation was carried out with key clubs from each sport, thus allowing for the collection of detailed demand information and an exploration of key issues to be interrogated and more accurately assessed. For all remaining clubs, an online survey (converted to postal if required) has been utilised.

Key providers and other users of provision have also been contacted, including, schools and further/higher education establishments. This involves face-to-face meetings with secondary schools, colleges and universities and an online survey being sent to primary and special schools.

Future demand

Alongside current demand, it is important for a PPOSS to assess whether the future demand for provision can be met. One method for calculating this is by using Office of National Statistics (ONS) population projections and proposed housing growth to provide an estimate of the likely future demand for relevant facilities. Assumptions can then be made as to whether existing provision can cater for such growth via the use of team/member generation rates. This involves using an existing participation ratio and applying it to predicted growth to help estimate the change in demand for each sport that may arise in the future.

Other information sources used to help identify future demand include:

- Recent trends in the participation.
- The nature of the current and likely future population and their propensity to participate.
- Feedback from clubs on their plans to develop additional teams / attract additional members.
- Any local and NGB specific sports development targets (e.g. women's and girls' activity).

All future demand projections across the PPOSS for North West Leicestershire cover the period up until 2042, in line with the Council's emerging Local Plan.

1.4: Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views

Supply and demand information gathered is used to assess the adequacy of playing pitch and outdoor sport provision in North West Leicestershire and to identify key issues, challenges and aspirations. This forms the basis of this report.

Understand the situation at individual sites

Qualitative pitch ratings are linked to a pitch capacity rating derived from NGB guidance and tailored to suit a local area. For playing pitch sports, the quality and use of each pitch is assessed against the recommended pitch capacity to indicate how many match equivalent sessions could be accommodated.
Each pitch is then said to have potential spare capacity, be at capacity, or be overplayed – as follows:

Potential spare capacity: Play is below the level the site could sustain.	
At capacity: Play is at a level the site can sustain.	
Overused: Play exceeds the level the site can sustain.	

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 likely to be for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions but may for example include training sessions and informal use. One team accessing one whole pitch is considered to use the pitch for 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week based on them playing home and away fixtures on an alternate basis (therefore only requiring access to their home pitch every two weeks).

As a guide, the NGBs for football, cricket, rugby union and hockey have set a standard number of matches that each pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its quality. Given how the sports operate, this is per week for football and rugby union, per day for hockey and per season for cricket. It is further detailed in the table below.

Table 1.3: Capacity of playing pitches

Sport	Pitch type	No. of match equivalent sessions		
		Good	Standard	Poor
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	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
	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season	60 per season	60 per season

For other grass pitch sports (e.g. American football), no guidelines are set by the NGBs although it can be assumed that similar principles should be followed.

For non-pitch sports, capacity is not linked to the number of matches taking place but rather the number of members (and other users) attracted to a site. For example, for tennis, a sports-lit hard court is said to have capacity for 60 members, whereas a non-lit has court has capacity for 40 members (this varies for grass courts). Other sport specific capacity guidance is detailed within the relevant sections of this report.

Develop the current and future picture of provision

Once capacity is determined on a site-by-site basis, actual spare capacity is calculated on a District-wide and an area-by-area basis via further interrogation of peak time demand (i.e., the day/time demand is most likely to exist). This then identifies whether there is overall spare capacity or whether there is a shortfall.

Although spare capacity may be identified at some sites and in some areas, it does not necessarily mean that there is surplus provision. For example, spare capacity may not be available when it is needed (actual spare capacity) or a site may be retained in a ‘strategic reserve’ to enable rotation and to reduce wear and tear. There may also be a need to discount some capacity, for example at poor quality sites that should not be used until they are improved or at unsecure sites where long-term access cannot be guaranteed.

Conversely, where a shortfall of capacity is identified, this does not necessarily mean there is a need for increased provision via new facilities. Instead, it may be possible for deficits to be overcome through better utilisation of the existing stock, such as via quality improvements or through improving community access.

Once current capacity is determined, future capacity can be calculated via incorporating the future demand identified plus any unmet, latent and exported demand.

Identify the key findings and issues

The Assessment Report, which is this document, is drafted and presented on a sport-by-sport basis, with data analysis undertaken on both a Council-wide and sub-area basis. This focuses on reporting research findings, consultation, site audit information and data analysis supported by detailed GIS mapping. It is agreed and 'signed off' prior to moving on to the strategy and action plan development stages.

Each included section (from Part 2 onwards) summarises the local administration of the included sport (or facility type). Each provides a summary of the supply of and demand for provision, with key issues identified and an overall supply and demand analysis undertaken.

1.5: Stage D: Develop the strategy

The Strategy follows the production of this Assessment Report, once it has been finalised and signed off by the Steering Group. It will feature:

- Headline findings.
- An overall vision and associated aims for the PPOSS.
- Sport-by-sport recommendations and scenarios.
- Strategic recommendations.
- A site-by-site and area-by-area action plan.
- Housing growth scenarios.

Additionally, it will provide detail as to how to deliver the PPOSS and keep it robust and up-to-date (Stage E).

It should be noted that Rugby league was included in the scope of this document with relevant consultation carried out with the RFL. As no dedicated demand or supply could be found within North West Leicestershire it has not been included in the sport by sport analysis below.

PART 2: FOOTBALL

2.1: Introduction

The organisation responsible for the development of football in North West Leicestershire is the Leicestershire & Rutland County FA. It is also responsible for the administration, in terms of discipline, rules and regulations, cup competitions and representative matches, development of clubs and facilities, volunteers, referees and delivering national football schemes.

Facility development for football is largely the responsibility of the Football Foundation (FF), which is a charity, linked to and funded by the Premier League, The FA and the Government (via Sport England). Working in partnership with Leicestershire & Rutland County FA, the FF helps communities improve their local football facilities through grant funding.

This section of the report focuses on the supply and demand for grass football pitches, where formal demand is generally defined through five formats of play and five pitch types, linked to the age of teams and players. Please refer to the table below for more detail relating to this.

Table 2.1: Football grass pitch formats

Format/pitch type	Age range	Recommended pitch size (metres)	Recommended pitch size including runoff (metres)
Adult	U17s+	100 x 64	106 x 70
Youth 11v11	U15s-U16s	91 x 55	97 x 61
Youth 11v11	U13s-U14s	82 x 50	88 x 56
Youth 9v9	U11s-U12s	73 x 46	79 x 52
Mini 7v7	U9s-U10s	55 x 37	61 x 43
Mini 5v5	U7s-U8s	37 x 27	43 x 33

It should be noted that as of the 2026/27 season football grass pitch formats are changing, with the introduction of 3v3 games. More information relating to this can be found in the subsequent Strategy & Action Plan.

Part 3 captures supply and demand for third generation pitches (3G pitches), which is the preferred artificial surface type for football.

Local Football Facility Plans (LFFPs)

To support in delivery of both the current and superseding FA National Game Strategy, the FA commissioned a nationwide consultancy project which has now been completed. As part of this, a LFFP has been produced for every local authority across England, with each plan being unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation.

The LFFP is strategically aligned to the National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS); a 10-year plan to change the landscape of football facilities in England. The NFFS represents a major funding commitment from the national funding partners (the FA, Premier League and Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)) and is delivered through the Football Foundation (FF) to inform and direct an estimated one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next ten years.

Each LFFP builds upon PPOSS findings (where present and current) regarding the formal and affiliated game. The LFFP also incorporates consultation with groups outside of formal football, as well as under-represented communities. This includes those which may be key partners with regards to using football for behavioural change, plus groups which may be key drivers of FA priorities around participation in the likes of women and girls' football and disability football.

The LFFP for North West Leicestershire was updated in May 2025. LFFPs identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require potential funding through the FF.

Notwithstanding the above, it is important to recognise that the LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential FF investment; it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Consequently, it cannot be used in place of a PPOSS and is not an accepted evidence base for site change of use or disposal. An LFFP does, however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans.

Consultation

In total there are 308 football teams from across 33 clubs based in North West Leicestershire. Following face to face and video consultation with key clubs and an electronic survey being sent to all others (distributed and supported by Leicestershire & Rutland County FA), a team response rate of 77% has been achieved (42% of clubs).

2.2: Supply

The audit identifies a total of 111 grass football pitches across 46 sites in North West Leicestershire. Of these, 102 pitches across 38 sites are identified as being available for community use at some level (although not necessarily used), as shown in the table below.

Table 2.2: Number of grass football pitches available for community use by analysis area

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	14	6	3	3	3	**29**
Castle Donington/Kegworth	10	-	3	4	4	**21**
Coalville	11	6	3	3	4	**27**
Ibstock	6	2	2	3	1	**14**
Measham	2	2	3	2	2	**11**
Total	**43**	**16**	**14**	**15**	**14**	**102**
2017 Total	**46**	**8**	**19**	**16**	**14**	**103**

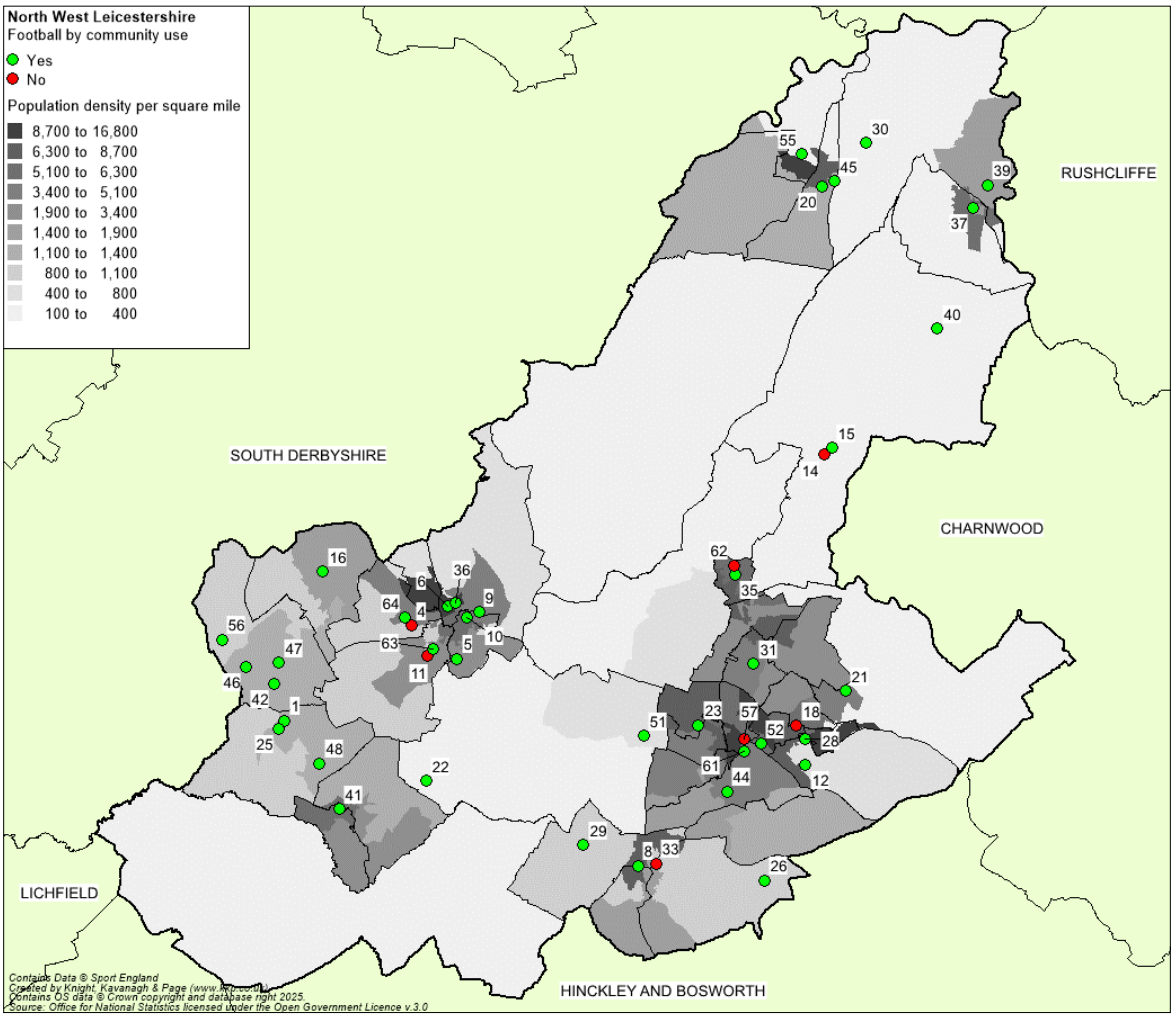
As seen, most community available pitches can be found in the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area, with 29 pitches provided (28%). The Measham Analysis Area provides the least number of community available pitches with 11 (11%).

There are significantly more adult pitches (43) identified when compared to other pitch sizes, which suggests high demand for adult football. However, it should be noted that youth 11v11 demand is significantly higher, despite there being fewer youth 11v11 pitches. This is common nationally, with many youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches, although this can be due to a lack of dedicated provision rather than through preference.

Since the previous PPOSS was completed in 2017, the overall number of pitches has decreased by 16 and the number of community available pitches across North West Leicestershire has decreased by one. Despite this, there has been some changes in the number of pitches, especially youth 11v11 pitches which have since doubled from the previous study, elsewhere adult, youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitches have decreased albeit a minimally. This is linked to some pitches no longer being actively marked which is outlined in greater detail below.

Figure 2.1 identifies all grass football pitches currently servicing North West Leicestershire, regardless of community use. For a key to the map, see Table 2.17.

Figure 2.1: Map of sites with football pitch provision within North West Leicestershire



Future developments

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

During consultation the larger football clubs (Ashby Ivanhoe / Ashby United Community FC / Marlborough Rovers) expressed an interest in developing 3G pitch provision within the area, however, none suggest a desire to fully relocate from their current sites Ashby Ivanhoe FC, Western Park, Ashby School and Measham Road Recreation Ground respectively. In fact, Ashby Ivanhoe FC has planning permission to change the use of adjoining at land Ashby Ivanhoe Football Club (LE65 1TS) to recreation use including the formation of additional pitches, parking area and landscaping (22/01811/FULM).

Ashby United Community FC currently uses provision at Ashby School and aspires to improve the quality of pitches on the site rather than relocate. It also wants to gain greater access to 3G provision and potential work with Ashby RFC to create a 9v9 pitch on its land.

As outlined in greater detail below, pitch and ancillary provision is generally either standard or good quality, with some minor exceptions, with clubs such as Ashby Ivanhoe planning to improve its own clubhouse.

Disused/ unmarked provision

There are several grass football pitches which are disused in North West Leicestershire, either at sites where no formal sports pitches are now provided, or where sites have previously accommodated football pitches but now only accommodate other sports. In total, 13 pitches across 10 active sites that were previously provided within the District have been identified.

In addition, it should be noted that some pitches have also been lost at some school sites, primarily due to re-configuration; however, this is not included in the table as it does not represent disuse.

Table 2.3: 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)	**Unmarked pitch** – Site still in use, previously provided an additional youth 9v9 pitch *circa 2018*
8	Ashby Road Playing Fields	Ibstock	(9v9)	**Unmarked pitch** – Site still in use, previously provided an additional youth 9v9 pitch *circa 2018*
12	Bardon Hill Sports Ground	Coalville	(9v9	**Unmarked pitch** – Site still in use, previously provided an additional youth 9v9 pitch *circa 2018*
17	Bosworth Road Recreation Ground	Measham	(11v11)	**Unmarked pitch** – Site still in use, previously provided one youth 11v11 pitch *circa 2018*

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Format previously accommodated	Comments
31	Hermitage Recreation Ground	Coalville	(9v9) (7v7)	**Unmarked pitch** – Site still in use, previously provided an additional youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitches *circa 2018*
43	Melrose Recreation Ground	Coalville	Adult	**Unmarked pitch** – Site still in use, previously provided one adult pitch *circa 2018*
50	Parsonwood Hill	Coalville	(7v7)	**Unmarked pitch** – Site still in use, previously provided one mini 7v7 pitch *circa 2018*
51	Ravenstone Recreation Ground	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	(9v9) (7v7) (5v5)	**Unmarked pitch** – Site still in use, previously provided an additional youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitch *circa 2018*
52	Scotland's Playing Fields	Coalville	(9v9)	**Unmarked pitch** - Site still in use, previously provided an additional youth 9v9 pitch *circa 2018*
60	The Connery	Measham	(11v11)	**Unmarked pitch** – Site still in use, previously provided one youth 11v11 pitch *circa 2018*

Broken down this equates to one adult, two youth 11v11, six youth 9v9, three mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch.

The Council report that Melrose Recreation Ground is a currently disused site, however, 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.

Management

Of the 103 community available pitches in North West Leicestershire, 40 are managed by sports clubs (39%), 23 are managed by parish councils (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.

Table 2.4: Summary of pitch management (number of community available pitches)

Education	District Council	Parish Council	Town Council	Sports clubs	Other
19	8	23	5	40	8

Security of tenure

Clubs are generally considered to have secure tenure where they have freehold, leasehold or formally secured use of their site/s for the next three or more years (i.e., via a community use agreement). In addition, most council sites in North West Leicestershire ensure long-term security of tenure as part of their ongoing commitment to providing a leisure offering.

Based on the above, tenure of sites in North West Leicestershire is generally secure, with all council and club sites providing long-term access guarantees as well as several

schools that have access arrangements secured via planning conditions. This is the case at Ivanhoe School, Castle Donington College and The Newbridge School.

Tenure is considered to be unsecure at the remaining education sites, In the main schools are able to state their own policies relating to community use, therefore making them more likely to restrict levels of access.

Pitch quality

Pitch quality primarily influences the carrying capacity of a site; often pitches lack the drainage and maintenance necessary to sustain use. Pitches that receive little to no ongoing repair or post-season remedial work are likely to be assessed as poor, therefore limiting the number of games they can accommodate each week without it having a detrimental effect on quality. In contrast, well maintained pitches are likely to be of a higher standard and capable of taking a number of matches without a significant reduction in surface quality.

Private sites (e.g. sports clubs) typically offer better quality facilities than local authority parks/playing fields and school pitches. In general, such sports clubs tend to have dedicated ground staff or volunteers working on pitches and the fact that they are often secured by fencing prevents unofficial use. Such provision is also likely to receive greater amounts of external investment. The maintenance of council sites tends to be less frequent and unofficial use of these sites can further exacerbate quality issues.

The quality of football pitches across North West Leicestershire has been assessed via a combination of site visits (carried out in March 2025), PitchPower reports (see section below), and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating on a scale of good, standard and poor (for the full site assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2).

The table below summarises the quality of community available pitches. As seen, 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%).

Table 2.5: Summary of pitch quality by pitch type (community available)

Pitch type	Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Adult	13	23	8
Youth 11v11	3	10	3
Youth 9v9	2	6	6
Mini 7v7	4	9	3
Mini 5v5	5	6	2
Total	**27**	**54**	**22**
2017 Total	**4**	**70**	**29**

The good quality community available pitches are located at:

- Ashby Ivanhoe FC.
- Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields).
- Ashby School and Sixth Form.
- Bardon Hill Sports Club.
- Ellistown FC.
- Heather St Johns FC (St Johns Park).
- Hemington Sports Ground.
- Moira Dale Sports Ground.
- Spital Park.

Despite being rated as good quality (as supported by the PP reports), Hemmington Hammers is seeking match funding from the Football Foundation for pitch drainage and reconstruction of pitches at Hemington Sports Ground. The Club has already consulted with the Grounds Maintenance Association which recommend this due to undulations and existing poor drainage.

Coalville Town FC and Heather St Johns FC receive assistance from Leicester City Football Club for maintenance, including aeration to improve drainage on match pitches.

Since the previous study was completed, the number of good quality pitches across North West Leicestershire has increased significantly, whilst the number of poor quality pitches has reduced by six. Many clubs and operators state that this change is a result of increased pitch maintenance and the carrying out of more detailed PitchPower assessments and the associated/resultant funding.

In contrast, the poor quality pitches that have been identified are at:

- Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields).
- Belton Recreation Ground.
- Blackfordby Football Field.
- Coalville FC (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium).
- Greenhill Recreation Ground.
- King George V Playing Field (Kegworth).
- Measham Community and Recreation Centre.
- Measham Road Recreation Ground.
- Oakthorpe Recreation Ground.
- Scotland's Playing Fields.
- Spring Cottage Recreation Ground.
- Western Park.
- Westfields Recreation Ground.

In the main, poor quality pitches show significant signs of wear and tear, with many also having waterlogging problems. There is a mixture of management types which maintain these pitches including District, parish/town councils as well as sports clubs.

Coalville Town FC states that as a result of building a 3G pitch at its site (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium) the 1st team pitch has subsequently suffered with drainage issues. The Club is also working with Leicester City Football Club to improve this, similar to Heather St Johns FC.

For a full breakdown of quality ratings at each site, please refer to Table 2.16.

PitchPower

The FA has a Pitch Improvement Programme aimed at improving the standard of grass pitches across the Country. For the programme, clubs can utilise the services of the FF's PitchPower app to carry out a free on-site assessment of their pitches. This then provides the Grounds Management Association (GMA) with the detail needed to create a personalised, informative report to advise on improvements. Clubs then receive bespoke advice and support to help with any future actions, funding applications and equipment.

The web app is open to access by all providers, including clubs, schools and local authorities. Following a PitchPower report, organisations can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches. Applicants are required to submit a PitchPower assessment for each of their pitches as a condition of a grant funding application for FF grass pitch investment, such as the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund (detailed later in this section).

PitchPower is less restricted by the seasonal window of in-season play than the non-technical assessments, instead being able to be undertaken at any time in the year, with assessments completed and submitted within one of three windows: July - October, November – March or April – June.

As well as the completion of other supporting information such as detail of volunteer training and what maintenance equipment is available, the assessment requires the taking of images and a single soil sample at each assessment site. There are three assessment sites for adult and youth pitches at each goal area and the centre circle, whilst for mini pitches there are two sites at the centre circle and one goal area.

The PitchPower assessments use a new five step Performance Quality Standard (PQS) rating system developed by the GMA, with the FF and Sport England agreeing alignment with the capacity guidance within the existing PPS guidance. This alignment is shown in the table below.

Table 2.6: Agreed equivalent PPOSS quality rating for PQS ratings

PQS Rating	PPOSS Quality Rating
Poor	Poor
Basic	Standard
Good	Good
Advanced	Good
High	Good

In North West Leicestershire, the following sites have received PitchPower reports (up to March 2025):

- Ashby Ivanhoe FC (Oakthorpe Recreation Ground) – *Poor.*
- Ashby Ivanhoe FC – *Good / Basic.*
- Bardon Hill Sports Club – *Good / Advanced.*
- Coalville Town FC (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium) – *Basic / Poor.*
- Donisthorpe Memorial Grounds – *Basic.*
- Ellistown FC – *Good.*
- Heather St Johns FC (St Johns Park) – *Good / Basic.*
- Hemmington Sports Ground – *Advanced.*
- King George V Playing Field (Kegworth) – *Poor.*
- Measham Community and Recreation Centre – *Basic.*
- Moira Dale Sports Ground – *Good / Advanced.*
- Spital Park – *Good / Advanced / Basic.*

The above have been accounted for within the PPOSS quality ratings to ensure the findings align, unless there is a clear reason for a difference (e.g., quality alterations since the PitchPower assessments took place). This is also supported through user consultation.

It should be noted that Scotland's Playing Fields has recently received a PP (13th June 2025) which indicates that pitches range from basic (One youth 9v9 and two youth 11v11 pitches) to good quality (one youth 9v9 pitch). For the purposes of the Assessment report the quality score referenced below will be those of the non-technical assessment as these took place in the season. This will be updated within the Strategy & Action Plan.

The Leicestershire & Rutland County FA identifies that it would be beneficial for all local authority-managed sites to undergo an assessment in the near future.

Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund (GMPF)

With quality of grass pitches becoming one of the biggest influences on participation in football, the FA has made it a priority to work towards improving quality of grass pitches across the country. This has resulted in the creation of the GPMF. As part of this, grass pitches identified as having quality issues can apply to access funding to improve pitches to good quality or sustain them at good quality.

Once a PitchPower grass pitch assessment report has been produced for the site, eligible organisations can then apply for grant funding support through the GPMF, a fund offering six-year tapered grants to help eligible organisations such as clubs and leagues enhance or sustain the quality of their grass pitches. The fund is a key part of the FF's Grass Pitch Improvement Programme - an ambition to deliver 20,000 quality grass pitches by 2030. If a site is categorised as 'poor' or 'basic' then organisations can apply for funding to enhance pitch quality, whilst clubs with good or standard quality pitches can also apply for a lower level of funding to sustain quality.

All applicants must have the landowner's permission (as a minimum) and have received a PitchPower Assessment Report, with the fund currently open to football clubs (excluding stadia pitches used for National League System play), leagues, education establishments and parish and town councils.

In relation to the above, Hemmington Hammers is seeking match funding from the Football Foundation for pitch drainage and reconstruction at Hemington Sports Ground. The Club has already consulted with the Grounds Maintenance Association which recommend this due to undulations and existing poor drainage. Hemmington Hammers aspire to be a community club.

Ancillary facilities

Ancillary facility ratings are primarily influenced by the type of amenities which are available on a site accompanied by their quality, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, car parking, dedicated official and spectator facilities. Although the size and configuration of ancillary provision may alter based on the sports using the provision, and the number of pitches it services, generally the same principles are recommended to allow for varied use from all demographics:

- Accessible changing areas which can be separated, or are private/self-contained, to allow for separate male/female/all gender or senior/junior separation.
- A private accessible changing room (with relevant changing and showering provision) for someone who requires assistance.
- Separate female / male / all gender toilet provision.
- Suitably designed and specified showering cubicles to all users to maintain dignity and privacy whilst showering.
- Separate provision for officials.

Open planned changing rooms, toilets and particularly showers can provide a significant barrier to many people resulting in them either not taking part or having a poorer sporting experience. As a result, those ancillary facilities that do not meet the above criteria cannot be rated anything higher than standard quality for the purposes of this document.

The table below summarises the clubhouse and changing room quality across community available sites in North West Leicestershire (note some education sites are not included as access could not be achieved). As seen, many sites provide good and/or standard quality provision, although two sites provide poor facilities and two are without facilities.

Table 2.7: Ancillary provision of the clubs that responded to consultation

Site ID	Site name	Overall quality	Changing room quality	Playing formats accommodated
1	Albert Village Junior Football Club	Standard	Standard	5v5, 7v7, 9v9,11v11 and adult
5	Ashby Ivanhoe FC	Good	Good	5v5, 7v7, 9v9 and 11v11
6	Hood Park	Standard	Standard	9v9, 11v11 and adult
8	Ashby Road Playing Fields	Good	Good	5v5, 7v7, 9v9 and 11v11
12	Bardon Hill Sports Club	Good	Standard	5v5, 9v9, 11v11 and adult
23	Coalville FC (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium)	Standard	Standard	5v5, 7v7, 9v9, 11v11 and adult
25	Donisthorpe Memorial Grounds	N/A	N/A	11v11
26	Ellistown FC	Standard	Standard	Adult
29	Heather St Johns FC (St Johns Park)	Good	Good	5v5, 7v7, 9v9, 11v11 and adult
30	Hemington Sports Ground	Good	Good	5v5, 7v7, 9v9 and adult
31	Hermitage Recreation Ground	Standard	Standard	Adult
33	Ibstock Miners Welfare Site	Standard	Standard	11v11
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	Standard	Standard	11v11
44	Millfield Recreation Ground	Poor	Poor	11v11
48	Oakthorpe Recreation Ground	Standard	Standard	11v11
52	Scotland's Playing Fields	Standard	Poor	7v7, 9v9 and 11v11
63	Western Park	Poor	Poor	11v11
64	Westfields Recreation Ground	Poor	Poor	11v11

The poor quality ancillary facilities are found at Millfield Recreation Ground and Westfields Recreation Ground. The provision is rated as poor quality due to the condition of the provision being a container, with it also not meeting mixed gender usage requirements. In addition, there are six girls' teams playing across Millfield Recreation Ground and Scotland's Playing Fields as well Western Park, these sites would need to see significant quality improvements to ensure they are suitable for women's and girl's demand.

Ashby Ivanhoe 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.

Heather St Johns FC has high quality clubhouse facilities including changing rooms, a manager's office, boardroom and bar, with this well equipped to accommodate match days. Despite this, changing rooms are primarily used by the first team and development team and U18s to avoid overcrowding with the younger age groups.

Hemmington Hammers is currently constructing a new clubhouse on its primary site at Hemmington Sports Ground which will include 220 square metres of changing rooms with cubicle showers, toilets, community room, fully equipped kitchen and parking facilities. It will also include disabled access facilities and official's room.

Ashby United Community FC states that the changing facilities at Hood Park are of a standard/ poor quality, with these not suitable for senior teams needing to access shower provision.

Coalville Town FC states that it is in the early planning stages of a new clubhouse at its primary site Coalville FC (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium), with the Club stating that it wishes to improve this for the youth teams to match the rest of the site.

Donisthorpe Memorial Grounds and Scotland's Playing Fields is without supporting ancillary facilities, the former with minimal demand whilst the latter accommodates 26 teams.

2.3: Demand

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. This is further summarised below.

It should be noted that the above demand refences teams that are North West Leicestershire based and does not include imported or exported demand which is referenced later in the section.

Table 2.8: Summary of competitive teams currently playing in North West Leicestershire

Age group	No. of teams
Adult Men's 11v11 (18-45)	44
Adult Women's 11v11 (18-45)	6
Youth Boys 11v11 (12-17)	78
Youth Girls 11v11 (12-17)	20
Youth Boys 9v9 (10-11)	46
Youth Girls 9v9 (10-11)	11
Mini Mixed 7v7 (8-9)	56
Mini Mixed 5v5 (6-7)	47
Total	**308**

Football in North West Leicestershire is played predominately in the Coalville Analysis Area with a total of 99 teams (32%), followed by the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area with 83 teams (27%). The Ibstock and Measham analysis areas have the least amount of demand within the District with 41 and 40 teams (13%) respectively.

Table 2.9: Summary of number of competitive football teams playing affiliation matches

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	10	28	17	14	14	83
Castle Donington/Kegworth	15	10	6	7	7	45
Coalville	13	38	18	16	14	99
Ibstock	5	10	7	12	7	41
Measham	7	12	9	7	5	40
Total	**50**	**98**	**57**	**56**	**47**	**308**
2017 Total	**43**	**52**	**29**	**22**	**26**	**172**

Participation trends

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% despite no change in community available pitch supply over the same period. Further broken down, the increase equates to an overall rise of seven adult, 46 youth 11v11, 28 youth 9v9, 34 mini 7v7 and 21 mini 5v5 teams.

In connection with the above, more clubs report a growth in demand in recent years compared to those reporting a decrease. Interestingly, 50% of responding clubs report an increase in their number of youth teams and mini teams whilst 43% reported an increase in adult teams. Only 21% of clubs report any form of decrease.

Women's and girls' demand

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. Key clubs and organisations presently fielding female teams include Coalville Town Ravens, Heather Juniors, Ibstock United Juniors, Albert Village Junior, Ashby Ivanhoe, Castle Donington and Marlborough Rovers.

The FA currently has a drive to increase women's and girls' participation as part of its Inspiring Positive Change Strategy. As such, it is imperative that sufficient facilities are suitable for female access, particularly in relation to toilets and appropriate changing facilities.

National League System demand

The National League System (NLS) is a series of interconnected leagues for adult men's football clubs in England. It begins below the Football League (from the National League at Step 1) and comprises of six steps, with various leagues at each level and more leagues lower down the system than at the top. The NLS has a hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the steps, allowing even the smallest club the theoretical possibility of rising to the top of the system.

Clubs playing within the NLS must adhere to Stadium Accreditation[1] requirements set out by the FA. The higher the level of football being played the higher the requirements. Clubs cannot progress into the league above if the ground grading requirements do not meet the correct specifications. Stadium Accreditation assesses grounds from Grade 1 to 7, which aligns with Step 1 clubs down to Step 6 clubs making the transition from Regional Feeder League. Please refer to the FA website[2] for the full specifications for each.

[1] https://premierleaguestadiumfund.co.uk/stadium-accreditation-programme
[2] http://www.thefa.com/get-involved/player/ground-grading

Four teams from four clubs within North West Leicestershire play within the NLS as seen in the table below.

Table 2.10: Summary of teams playing within the NLS

Team	League	Level
Coalville Town FC First	United Counties Football League	Step 6
Heather St. John's First	Midland Football League	Step 6
Ashby Ivanhoe First	United Counties Football League	Step 5
Ingles First	Midland Football League	Step 6

Correspondingly there is a Women's National League System, similar to the adult men's that provides structure to the women's game. This ranges from Tier 1 to Tier 6 with each level requiring differing ground grading requirements.

Although women's clubs still need to meet ground requirements set out by the FA, these differ from the men's National League System. Ratings range from grade A to C each with differing minimum requirements. Tier 1 and 2 in the Women's National League System is akin to Tier 3 and 4 of the men's National League System, although not exactly the same.

There are currently no women's team fielded by clubs within North West Leicestershire which are part of the system.

Walking football

Walking football[3] is an alternate version of football than the format which is governed by The Walking Football Association. The sport has picked up popularity in recent years and has a typical demographic of over 50s for men and over 40s for women. It provides a less physically demanding version of the usual game due to the rules not allowing for any contact or fast-paced movement thus providing a more inclusive game for participants.

Whist the game is governed by The Walking Football Association, and it provides competitive structures through national cup competitions. Much of the activation work undertaken nationally for this activity type is promoted by professional football club community organisations or by leading community grassroots football clubs.

Walking football sessions take place at Ashby Leisure Centre & Lido on the smaller size 3G pitches on Wednesday mornings. Additional sessions are held at Coalville Town FC and Castle Donington College on Monday evenings.

Imported demand

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.

The Club only uses the 3G pitch and will therefore not feature within the grass pitch supply and demand analysis below, however, it will be referenced in Part 3: Third Generation Turf (3G) Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs).

[3] https://thewfa.co.uk/who-plays-walking-football/
https://thewfa.co.uk/womens-walking-football/

Exported demand

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, these are summarised in the table below.

Table 2.11: Summary of exported demand

Team	Format	Gender	Site	Authority
Albert Village Junior U12 Harriers	9v9	Male	Pingle Academy	South Derbyshire
Albert Village Junior U14 Hurricanes	11v11	Male	Shobnall Leisure Complex	East Staffordshire
Albert Village Junior U15 Vulcans	11v11	Male	Shobnall Leisure Complex	East Staffordshire
Albert Village Junior Albert Village Ladies	6v6	Female	Pingle Academy	South Derbyshire
Albert Village Junior Albert Village FC Ladies Whites	6v6	Female	Pingle Academy	South Derbyshire
Ashby Ivanhoe U13 Warriors	11v11	Mixed	Richard Wakefield C Of E Primary Academy	East Staffordshire
Coalville Town Ravens U8 Ravenettes Saturday	5v5	Female	Leisure United Derby Racecourse	Derby
Coalville Town Ravens U9 Ravenettes Saturday	7v7	Female	Leisure United Derby Racecourse	Derby
Coalville Town Ravens U10 Ravenettes Saturday	7v7	Female	Leisure United Derby Racecourse	Derby
Coalville Town Ravens U11 Ravenettes Saturday	9v9	Female	Leisure United Derby Racecourse	Derby
Coalville Town Ravens U11 Rookettes Saturday	7v7	Female	Leisure United Derby Racecourse	Derby
Coalville Town Ravens U12 Ravenettes Saturday	9v9	Female	Leisure United Derby Racecourse	Derby
Ibstock United Juniors U16 Phantoms	5v5	Male	Crown Hills Community College	Leicester
Ingles U7 Reds	5v5	Mixed	Little Haw Lane	Charnwood
Ingles U8 Reds	5v5	Mixed	Little Haw Lane	Charnwood
Ingles U9 Whites	7v7	Mixed	Little Haw Lane	Charnwood
Ingles U10 Reds	7v7	Mixed	Little Haw Lane	Charnwood
Ingles U11 Reds	9v9	Mixed	Little Haw Lane	Charnwood
Ingles U12 Reds	9v9	Mixed	Little Haw Lane	Charnwood
Ingles U15 Reds	11v11	Mixed	Little Haw Lane	Charnwood
Ingles Veterans	11v11	Male	Little Haw Lane	Charnwood
Kegworth Imps U8	5v5	Mixed	Kegworth Imps Fc (Moor Lane)	Rushcliffe
Kegworth Imps U9	7v7	Mixed	Kegworth Imps Fc (Moor Lane)	Rushcliffe
Kegworth Imps U9 Kegworth Imps U9 Vikings	7v7	Mixed	Kegworth Imps Fc (Moor Lane)	Rushcliffe
Kegworth Imps U10	7v7	Mixed	Kegworth Imps Fc (Moor Lane)	Rushcliffe
Kegworth Imps U11	9v9	Mixed	Kegworth Imps Fc (Moor Lane)	Rushcliffe
Kegworth Imps U12	9v9	Mixed	Kegworth Imps Fc (Moor Lane)	Rushcliffe

Through consultation it has been identified that demand from Ingles FC (Coalville Analysis Area), Albert Village Junior (Measham Analysis Area), apart from the two women 6v6 teams, and Ashby Ivanhoe (Ashby-de-la Zouch Analysis Area) would prefer to play their competitive fixtures within North West Leicestershire, if suitable provision could be found. This totals one adult men's, four youth 11v11, three youth 9v9, two mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 teams.

The remaining teams referenced either play at central venues or are located at sites within close proximity to their home venues and therefore access them as a matter of convenience such as Kegworth Imps at Kegworth Imps FC (Moor Lane) in Rushcliffe. This demand is likely to remain exported for the foreseeable future.

The exported demand referenced above will be factored into the supply and demand analysis below where relevant.

Latent/unmet demand

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. This is further summarised in the following table.

Table 2.12: Summary of latent demand

Club	Need for more match pitches	Need for more/better training facilities	Need for better/more appropriate changing provision
Ashby Ivanhoe FC	Yes	Yes	No
Ashby United Community FC	Yes	Yes	No
Heather St Johns FC	Yes	Yes	No
Hemmington Hammers FC	Yes	Yes	No
Whitwick Athletic FC	No	Yes	No
Bardon Hill Juniors FC	Yes	No	No
Kegworth Imps	Yes	Yes	No
Ibstock United Juniors & Youth	Yes	No	No
Coalville Town FC	Yes	Yes	No

Future demand

Future demand can be defined via several ways, including through participation increases and by using population forecasts. In addition, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate additional demand that could arise from housing developments across North West Leicestershire.

Population growth

Based on population projections to 2042 (in line with the Council's emerging Local Plan), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can estimate the likely additional demand for grass football pitches that will arise from any growth (using ONS-2018 based projections). This is through using the current and future populations in each of the relevant age groups together with the current team numbers. Team generation rates have then been established to understand how much growth is required to establish one new team.

The table below shows the number of new football teams that are predicted to be generated by the population forecasts and the requisite match equivalent sessions that this will create. As seen, this amounts to 79 teams across the playing formats (39.5 match equivalent sessions).

Table 2.13: Authority wide team generation rates

Age group	Team generation rate	No. of new teams generated by the new population	No. of new teams generated by the new population - rounded figure	No. of match equivalent sessions per week[4]
Adult Men's (18-45)	1:417	11.36	11	5.5
Adult Women's (18-45)	1:3,219	1.55	2	1
Youth Boys (12-17)	1:34	20.14	20	10
Youth Girls (12-17)	1:125	5.16	5	2.5
Youth Boys (10-11)	1:29	11.88	12	6
Youth Girls (10-11)	1:113	2.84	3	1.5
Mini Mixed (8-9)	1:44	14.46	14	7
Mini Mixed (6-7)	1:56	12.14	12	6

In total, future demand from population increases amounts to 13 adult, 25 youth 11v11, 15 youth 9v9, 14 mini 7v7 and 12 mini 5v5 teams. As the 79 teams expect to be generated (equating to 39.5 match equivalent sessions per week) are authority wide and not accredited to any analysis area.

When the above is broken down by analysis area this demand is marginally dissipated to represent the following:

Table 2.14: Team generation rates by Analysis Area in North West Leicestershire based on population projections

Analysis area	Adult	11v11	9v9	7v7	5v5
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	1	3.5	2	1.5	1.5
Castle Donington/Kegworth	1.5	1	0.5	0.5	0.5
Coalville	1.5	4.5	2	2	1.5
Ibstock	0.5	1	0.5	1.5	0.5
Measham	0.5	1.5	1	0.5	0.5
Total	**5**	**11.5**	**6**	**6**	**4.5**

The figures in the table above will be added onto the overall supply and demand total for each pitch type within the 'Supply and demand analysis' section later.

Participation growth

Of responding clubs, seven report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide, totalling a predicted growth of 36 teams. This is summarised below.

[4] Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, one team accounts to 0.5 match equivalent sessions on their relevant pitch type.

Table 2.15: Potential team increases identified by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Gender	Number of teams	Pitch size	MES per week[5]
Ellistown FC	Ibstock	Men's	1	Adult	0.5
Ellistown FC	Ibstock	Girl's	1	9v9	0.5
Coalville Town FC	Coalville	Men's	2	Adult	1
Coalville Town FC	Coalville	Women's	1	Adult	0.5
Coalville Town FC	Coalville	Boy's	3	11v11	1.5
Coalville Town FC	Coalville	Boy's	4	9v9	2
Coalville Town FC	Coalville	Girl's	3	11v11	1.5
Coalville Town FC	Coalville	Girl's	3	9v9	1.5
Coalville Town FC	Coalville	Mixed	5	5v5	2.5
Kegworth Imps	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Boy's	1	11v11	0.5
Kegworth Imps	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Mixed	2	5v5	1
Bardon Hill Juniors FC	Coalville	Boy's	1	9v9	0.5
Bardon Hill Juniors FC	Coalville	Mixed	2	5v5	1
Ibstock United Juniors & Youth FC	Ibstock	Mixed	1	5v5	0.5
Hemmington Hammers	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Mixed	2	5v5	1
Ashby Ivanhoe	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Boy's	2	9v9	1
Ashby Ivanhoe	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Mixed	2	7v7	1
-	-	**Totals**	**36**	-	**18**

The total future demand expressed by the clubs listed above amounts to 18 match equivalent sessions per week (as two teams equates to one match equivalent session per week playing on a home and away basis).

Broken down by pitch type, 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week are identified on adult pitches, 3.5 match equivalent sessions per week on youth 11v11 pitches, 5.5 match equivalent sessions per week on youth 9v9 pitches, one match equivalent session on mini 7v7 and six match equivalent session per week on mini 5v5 pitches.

In light of FA aspirations to increase female participation in football through the establishment and foreseen future effect of the FA Wildcats programme and Inspiring Positive Change Strategy, it is likely that the growth in affiliated women's and girls' teams may exceed that shown through team generation rates.

To what extent is not currently quantifiable, however, this increase in female demand is likely to be captured within the club aspirational future demand figures expressed in Table 2.14.

In addition to participation growth via population increases, several clubs in North West Leicestershire report aspirations to increase their number of teams. As this is considered to be more aspirational than future demand identified above, it is not considered within this element of the PPOSS; however, it will be included in the proceeding Strategy as a scenario to determine facility requirements if it was to be realised.

[5] Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, 0.5 pitches can therefore be seen in the table where there is latent demand for one team.

Similarly, the proceeding Strategy document will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate additional demand that could arise from housing developments across North West Leicestershire.

2.4: Capacity analysis

The capacity for pitches to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affect the playing experience and people's enjoyment. In extreme circumstances, it can result in the inability of a pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off peak times.

As a guide, The FA has set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without it adversely affecting its quality. Taking into consideration the guidelines on capacity, the following ratings were used in North West Leicestershire:

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

Table 2.17 applies the above pitch ratings against the actual level of weekly play recorded to determine a capacity rating as follows:

Potential capacity	Play is below the level the site could sustain
At capacity	Play matches the level the site can sustain
Overplayed	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain

Match equivalent sessions per week

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 likely to be for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions but may for example include training sessions and informal use.

Education sites

To account for curricular/extra-curricular use of education pitches it is likely that the usage at such sites will need to be adjusted. The only time this would not happen is when a school does not use its pitches at all, and the sole use is community use. The adjustment is typically dependent on the amount of play carried out, the number of pitches onsite and whether there is access to an onsite AGP.

In some cases, where there is no identified community use, there is a little capacity to accommodate further play. Internal usage often exceeds recommended pitch capacity, which is further exacerbated by basic maintenance regimes that may not extend beyond grass cuttings and line marking.

Table 2.17 shows community usage of available pitches. Where not overplayed because of community use, school sites are considered to have no spare capacity to accommodate further usage based on assumed curricular and extracurricular activity.

For school sites which are available for community use but that currently do not have any external hirers, one match equivalent session per week, per pitch has been accredited to indicate use for curricular and extracurricular activity as opposed to them being completely unused.

Peak time

Spare capacity can only be considered as actual spare capacity if pitches are available at peak time. In North West Leicestershire, peak time for all pitch types is Sunday mornings.

In the capacity analysis, please note that, on occasions, spare capacity in the peak period is identified despite the pitch being played to capacity or overplayed or more spare capacity is identified in the peak period that what exists overall. This is because most of the use on those particular pitches occurs outside of the peak period, therefore the identified spare capacity at peak time should not be utilised over and above overall capacity unless quality improvements are made that increases overall capacity.

A pitch is only said to have 'actual spare capacity' if it is available for community use and available at the peak time for that format of play. Any pitch not meeting this criterion is therefore not considered to have additional capacity, although it may have capacity outside of peak time.

There may also be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

Pitches that are of a poor quality are not deemed to have actual spare capacity due to the already low carrying capacity of the pitches. Any identified spare capacity should be retained in order to relieve the pitches of use, which in turn will aid the improvement of pitch quality.

Furthermore, any pitches with unsecured tenure are not considered to have actual spare capacity as no further play should be encouraged on such sites given that future access cannot be guaranteed.

The table below identifies the way capacity balance is represented in Table 2.17.

Table 2.16: Capacity balance examples

Spare capacity in peak period (examples)	Explanation of capacity balance
1	Highlighted in green with a number denotes that the pitches have actual spare capacity at peak time.
-	With a dash, this indicates that the pitch is unavailable in the peak period. If it were to be made available, actual spare capacity could exist.
0	Highlighted in orange with a zero, this indicates the pitch is played to capacity, either overall or during the peak period.
1	Not highlighted with a number, this indicates that the pitch has spare capacity in the peak period; however, capacity has been discounted. This may be due to unsecure tenure and/or poor pitch quality.

Spare capacity in peak period (examples)	Explanation of capacity balance
1	Highlighted in red with a number denotes that the pitches are overplayed and have no spare capacity across the week. This includes at peak time, despite any availability at peak time which may exist.

Table 2.17: Grass football pitch capacity analysis

Site ID	Site name	Post code	Analysis area	Com use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play[6]	Carrying capacity[7]	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
1	Albert Village Junior Football Club	DE12 7PY	Measham	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	2	4	2	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
1	Albert Village Junior Football Club	DE12 7PY	Measham	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	4	2	-2	-	Pitch is overplayed by 2 match equivalent sessions.
1	Albert Village Junior Football Club	DE12 7PY	Measham	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	4.5	2	-2.5	1	Pitch is overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions.
1	Albert Village Junior Football Club	DE12 7PY	Measham	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	3	4	1	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
4	Ashby Hill Top Primary School	LE65 2NF	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor pitch condition.
5	Ashby Ivanhoe FC	LE65 1TS	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Good	4	6	2	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
5	Ashby Ivanhoe FC	LE65 1TS	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	4	2	-2	1	Pitch is overplayed by 2 match equivalent sessions.
5	Ashby Ivanhoe FC	LE65 1TS	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Good	4	6	2	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
6	Hood Park	LE65 1HU	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Everyone Active	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	3	2	-1	1	Pitch is overplayed by 1 match equivalent sessions.
6	Hood Park	LE65 1HU	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Everyone Active	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	2.5	2	-0.5	0.5	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
8	Ashby Road Playing Fields	LE67 6HB	Ibstock	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Standard	3	4	1	-	Pitches are played to capacity at peak time.
8	Ashby Road Playing Fields	LE67 6HB	Ibstock	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	2	4	2	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
8	Ashby Road Playing Fields	LE67 6HB	Ibstock	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	2	4	2	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
9	Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields)	LE65 1EB	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	3.5	4	0.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
9	Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields)	LE65 1EB	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	2	1	-1	1	Pitch is overplayed by 1 match equivalent sessions.
9	Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields)	LE65 1EB	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Good	2.5	4	1.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
9	Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields)	LE65 1EB	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	2.5	4	1.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
10	Ashby School and Sixth Form	LE65 1DD	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Adult		2	Good	2	6	4	2	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
11	Ashby Willesley County Primary School	LE65 2QG	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor pitch condition.
12	Bardon Hill Sports Club	LE67 4BS	Coalville	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Good	0	6	6	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
12	Bardon Hill Sports Club	LE67 4BS	Coalville	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Good	0.5	6	5.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.

[6] Match equivalent sessions per week
[7] Match equivalent sessions per week, based on pitch quality - the FA recommends a maximum number of match equivalent sessions to be accommodated per pitch type. Please refer to Section 2.4 for the full breakdown.

Site ID	Site name	Post code	Analysis area	Com use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play[6]	Carrying capacity[7]	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
12	Bardon Hill Sports Club	LE67 4BS	Coalville	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Good	4.5	8	3.5	-	Pitches are played to capacity at peak time.
14	Belton Church of England Primary School	LE12 9TS	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor pitch condition.
15	Belton Recreation Ground	LE12 9TS	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	Community Organisation	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	1	1	0	0.5	Pitch is played to capacity.
15	Belton Recreation Ground	LE12 9TS	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	Community Organisation	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	0.5	2	1.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch condition.
16	Blackfordby Football Field	DE11 8AW	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Town Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	0	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch condition.
18	Broom Leys Primary School	LE67 4DB	Coalville	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Poor	2	4	2	2	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor pitch condition.
20	Castle Donington College	DE74 2LN	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	Education	Secure	Adult		2	Standard	2	4	2	2	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
21	Castle Rock High School	LE67 4BR	Coalville	Yes	Education	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	3	Standard	3	6	3	3	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
22	Champneys Springs	LE65 1TG	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Commercial Organisation	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	0	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
23	Coalville FC (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium)	LE67 3DA	Coalville	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	2	1	-1	0.5	Pitch is overplayed by 1 match equivalent sessions.
23	Coalville FC (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium)	LE67 3DA	Coalville	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	4.5	2	-2.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions.
23	Coalville FC (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium)	LE67 3DA	Coalville	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	2	2	0	1	Pitch is played to capacity.
23	Coalville FC (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium)	LE67 3DA	Coalville	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	2	2	0	1	Pitch is played to capacity.
23	Coalville FC (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium)	LE67 3DA	Coalville	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Standard	4.5	8	3.5	2	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
25	Donisthorpe Memorial Grounds	DE12 7PX	Measham	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
25	Donisthorpe Memorial Grounds	DE12 7PX	Measham	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
26	Ellistown FC	LE67 1GD	Ibstock	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		2	Good	1	6	5	2	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
28	Greenhill Recreation Ground	LE67 4HS	Coalville	Yes	District Council	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	1	1	0	1	Pitch is played to capacity.
29	Heather St Johns FC (St Johns Park)	LE67 2QJ	Ibstock	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Standard	2.5	4	1.5	-	Pitches are played to capacity at peak time.
29	Heather St Johns FC (St Johns Park)	LE67 2QJ	Ibstock	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		4	Good	3.5	12	8.5	4	Actual spare capacity at peak time.

Site ID	Site name	Post code	Analysis area	Com use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play[6]	Carrying capacity[7]	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
29	Heather St Johns FC (St Johns Park)	LE67 2QJ	Ibstock	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Good	5.5	12	6.5	1.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
30	Hemington Sports Ground	DE74 2RF	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Good	1	6	5	-	Pitch played to capacity at peak time.
30	Hemington Sports Ground	DE74 2RF	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Good	3	3	0	1	Pitch is played to capacity.
31	Hermitage Recreation Ground	LE67 5FU	Coalville	Yes	District Council	Secure	Adult		3	Standard	1	6	5	3	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
33	Ibstock Miners Welfare Site	LE67 6HN	Ibstock	No	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Unavailable for community use.
35	Ingles Football Club	LE67 8LL	Coalville	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	2	2	0	1	Pitch is played to capacity.
36	Ivanhoe School	LE65 1HX	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Education	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	2.5	2	-0.5	0.5	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
36	Ivanhoe School	LE65 1HX	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Education	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Standard	4.5	4	-0.5	0.5	Pitches are overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
37	Kegworth Primary School	DE74 2DA	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	1	4	3	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	DE74 2FH	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	Trust	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	1	1	0	1	Pitch is played to capacity.
40	Long Whatton Cricket Club	LE12 5DF	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
41	Measham Community and Recreation Centre	DE12 7HR	Measham	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	0.5	2	1.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch condition.
41	Measham Community and Recreation Centre	DE12 7HR	Measham	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Poor	2.5	2	-0.5	2	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions
41	Measham Community and Recreation Centre	DE12 7HR	Measham	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
42	Measham Road Recreation Ground	DE12 6AA	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch condition.
42	Measham Road Recreation Ground	DE12 6AA	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	1.5	2	0.5	-	Pitch played to capacity at peak time.
42	Measham Road Recreation Ground	DE12 6AA	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch condition.
42	Measham Road Recreation Ground	DE12 6AA	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	4	1	-3	-	Pitch is overplayed by 3 match equivalent sessions.
44	Millfield Recreation Ground	LE67 2GB	Coalville	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
45	Moira Dale Sports Ground	DE74 2PJ	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		2	Good	1.5	6	4.5	2	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
46	Moira Miners Welfare	DE12 6BP	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Community Organisation	Secure	Adult		2	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	2	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
47	Moira United Football Club	DE12 6DJ	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
48	Oakthorpe Recreation Ground	DE12 7RG	Measham	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	2	1	-1	-	Pitch is overplayed by 1 match equivalent sessions.
51	Ravenstone Recreation Ground	LE67 2AU	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		2	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	2	Actual spare capacity at peak time.

Site ID	Site name	Post code	Analysis area	Com use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play[6]	Carrying capacity[7]	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
52	Scotland's Playing Fields	LE67 3JD	Coalville	Yes	District Council	Secure	Adult		2	Poor	5	2	-3	2	Pitch is overplayed by 3 match equivalent sessions.
52	Scotland's Playing Fields	LE67 3JD	Coalville	Yes	District Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	5	2	-3	-	Pitch is overplayed by 3 match equivalent sessions.
52	Scotland's Playing Fields	LE67 3JD	Coalville	Yes	District Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	3	4	1	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
55	Spital Park	DE74 2NQ	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	3	Standard	2.5	12	9.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
55	Spital Park	DE74 2NQ	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Good	2	12	10	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
55	Spital Park	DE74 2NQ	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		2	Good	3	6	3	2	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
55	Spital Park	DE74 2NQ	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	3	2	-1	1	Pitch is overplayed by 1 match equivalent sessions.
55	Spital Park	DE74 2NQ	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Good	2	8	6	-	Pitches are played to capacity at peak time.
56	Spring Cottage Recreation Ground	DE12 6ND	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Town Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	0	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch condition.
57	St Clares Primary School	LE67 3SF	Coalville	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor pitch condition.
57	St Clares Primary School	LE67 3SF	Coalville	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor pitch condition.
61	The Newbridge School	LE67 3SJ	Coalville	Yes	Education	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	3	4	1	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
61	The Newbridge School	LE67 3SJ	Coalville	Yes	Education	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	2.5	2	-0.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
61	The Newbridge School	LE67 3SJ	Coalville	Yes	Education	Secure	Adult		2	Standard	4	4	0	2	Pitches are played to capacity.
62	Thringstone Primary School	LE67 8LJ	Coalville	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor pitch quality.
63	Western Park	LE65 2FA	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Town Council	Secure	Adult		2	Poor	3	2	-1	2	Pitch is overplayed by 1 match equivalent sessions.
64	Westfields Recreation Ground	LE65 2LD	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Town Council	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	2	1	-1	1	Pitch is overplayed by 1 match equivalent sessions.

Actual spare capacity

Actual spare capacity totals 37.5 equivalent sessions per week and is found across 42 pitches at 19 sites in North West Leicestershire. This is summarised on a site-by-site basis below.

Table 2.18: Summary of actual spare capacity by site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match equivalent sessions per week)
8	Ashby Road Playing Fields	Ibstock	5v5	1	1
8	Ashby Road Playing Fields	Ibstock	7v7	1	1
12	Bardon Hill Sports Club	Coalville	7v7	1	1
12	Bardon Hill Sports Club	Coalville	5v5	1	0.5
20	Castle Donington College	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Adult	2	2
21	Castle Rock High School	Coalville	11v11	3	3
22	Champneys Springs	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Adult	1	1
23	Coalville FC (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium)	Coalville	5v5	2	2
25	Donisthorpe Memorial Grounds	Measham	11v11	1	0.5
25	Donisthorpe Memorial Grounds	Measham	Adult	1	1
26	Ellistown FC	Ibstock	Adult	2	2
29	Heather St Johns FC (St Johns Park)	Ibstock	Adult	4	4
29	Heather St Johns FC (St Johns Park)	Ibstock	7v7	2	1.5
31	Hermitage Recreation Ground	Coalville	Adult	3	3
40	Long Whatton Cricket Club	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Adult	1	1
41	Measham Community and Recreation Centre	Measham	5v5	1	1
44	Millfield Recreation Ground	Coalville	Adult	1	1
45	Moira Dale Sports Ground	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Adult	2	2
46	Moira Miners Welfare	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Adult	2	2
47	Moira United Football Club	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Adult	1	1
51	Ravenstone Recreation Ground	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Adult	2	2
55	Spital Park	Castle Donington/Kegworth	7v7	3	0.5

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match equivalent sessions per week)
55	Spital Park	Castle Donington/Kegworth	5v5	2	0.5
55	Spital Park	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Adult	2	2
61	The Newbridge School	Coalville	7v7	1	1
-	-	-	**Total**	**43**	**37.5**

Most actual spare capacity is found on adult pitches (24 match equivalent sessions per week), whilst none is evident on youth 9v9 pitches. The Coalville Analysis Area contains the most actual spare capacity (11.5 match equivalent sessions per week), whereas the Measham Analysis Area contains the least actual spare capacity with only a total of 2.5 match equivalent sessions.

Table 2.19: Summary of actual spare capacity (in match equivalent sessions per week)

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	6	-	-	-	-	**6**
Castle Donington/Kegworth	7	-	-	0.5	0.5	**8**
Coalville	4	3	-	2	2.5	**11.5**
Ibstock	6	-	-	2.5	1	**9.5**
Measham	1	0.5	-	-	1	**2.5**
Total	**24**	**3.5**	**-**	**5**	**5**	**37.5**

Overplay

In North West Leicestershire, 23 pitches across 13 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 27.5 match equivalent sessions per week, as seen below.

Table 2.20: Summary of overplay of grass football pitches

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match equivalent sessions per week)
1	Albert Village Junior Football Club	Measham	9v9	1	-2
1	Albert Village Junior Football Club	Measham	Adult	1	-2.5
5	Ashby Ivanhoe FC	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Adult	1	-2
6	Hood Park	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Adult	1	-1
6	Hood Park	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	11v11	1	-0.5
9	Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields)	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	9v9	1	-1
23	Coalville FC (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium)	Coalville	9v9	1	-1
23	Coalville FC (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium)	Coalville	11v11	1	-2.5
36	Ivanhoe School	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	9v9	1	-0.5

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match equivalent sessions per week)
36	Ivanhoe School	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	11v11	2	-0.5
41	Measham Community and Recreation Centre	Measham	9v9	2	-0.5
42	Measham Road Recreation Ground	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	11v11	1	-3
48	Oakthorpe Recreation Ground	Measham	11v11	1	-1
52	Scotland's Playing Fields	Coalville	Adult	2	-3
52	Scotland's Playing Fields	Coalville	9v9	1	-3
55	Spital Park	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Adult	1	-1
61	The Newbridge School	Coalville	9v9	1	-0.5
63	Western Park	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Adult	2	-1
64	Westfields Recreation Ground	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Adult	1	-1
-	-	-	**Total**	**23**	**-27.5**

Most overplay is situated in the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area (10.5 match equivalent sessions per week) closely followed by Coalville Analysis Area (10 match equivalent sessions per week). By pitch type, overplay is mostly on adult pitches (11.5 match equivalent sessions per week), whilst none is found on mini 7v7 or mini 5v5 pitches.

Table 2.21: Summary of overplay (in match equivalent sessions per week)

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	5	4	1.5	-	-	**10.5**
Castle Donington/Kegworth	1	-	-	-	-	**1**
Coalville	3	2.5	4.5	-	-	**10**
Ibstock	-	-	-	-	-	**-**
Measham	2.5	1	2.5	-	-	**6**
Total	**11.5**	**7.5**	**8.5**	**-**	**-**	**27.5**

Much of the overplay is generated from poor quality provision, with 7.5 of the overplayed pitches being assessed as such. Moreover, none are assessed as good quality.

2.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify current demand (i.e., spare capacity taking away overplay) in each of the analysis areas for each pitch type, based on match equivalent sessions. As stated earlier, future demand, at this stage, is calculated based on what has been identified through population growth. Club exported demand has also been included where aspirations to return to the Authority are known.

Adult pitch capacity

There is currently actual spare capacity of 12.5 match equivalent sessions per week on adult pitches in North West Leicestershire, with only the Measham Analysis Area showing a minimal shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week. When factoring in future / exported demand, actual spare capacity reduces to seven match equivalent sessions.

Table 2.22: Summary and demand for adult pitches (match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future / exported demand	Future total
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	6	-5	1	1	-
Castle Donington/ Kegworth	7	-1	6	1.5	4.5
Coalville	4	-3	1	2[8]	-1
Ibstock	6	-	6	0.5	5.5
Measham	1	-2.5	-1.5	0.5	-2
Total	**24**	**-11.5**	**12.5**	**5.5**	**7**

Youth 11v11 pitch capacity

There is currently a shortfall of four match equivalent session per week on youth 11v11 pitches in North West Leicestershire, with this attributed to deficits in the Ashby-de-la-Zouch and Measham analysis areas. The Coalville Analysis Area provides minimal spare capacity.

When factoring in future / exported demand, the shortfall across youth 11v11 pitches increases to 17.5 match equivalent sessions.

Table 2.23: Supply and demand for youth 11v11 pitches (match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future / exported demand	Future total
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	-	-4	-4	4[9]	-
Castle Donington/ Kegworth	-	-	-	1	-1
Coalville	3	-2.5	0.5	5[10]	-4.5
Ibstock	-	-	-	1	-1
Measham	0.5	-1	-0.5	2.5[11]	-3
Total	**3.5**	**-7.5**	**-4**	**13.5**	**-17.5**

Youth 9v9 pitch capacity

There is currently a shortfall of 8.5 match equivalent sessions per week on youth 9v9 pitches in North West Leicestershire. This is due to shortfalls within the Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Coalville and Measham analysis areas whilst Castle Donington/ Kegworth and Ibstock analysis areas are at capacity.

When factoring in future / exported demand, shortfalls increase to 16 match equivalent sessions.

[8] Includes 0.5 match equivalent sessions of exported demand
[9] Includes 0.5 match equivalent sessions of exported demand
[10] Includes 0.5 match equivalent sessions of exported demand
[11] Includes one match equivalent sessions of exported demand

Table 2.24: Supply and demand for youth 9v9 pitches (match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future / exported demand	Future total
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	-	-1.5	-1.5	2	-3.5
Castle Donington/ Kegworth	-	-	-	0.5	-0.5
Coalville	-	-4.5	-4.5	3[12]	-7.5
Ibstock	-	-	-	0.5	-0.5
Measham	-	-2.5	-2.5	1.5[13]	-4
Total	-	**-8.5**	**-8.5**	**7.5**	**-16**

Mini 7v7 pitch capacity

Mini 7v7 pitches are currently operating with actual spare capacity of five match equivalent sessions existing within the Castle Donington/ Kegworth, Coalville and Ibstock analysis areas. When factoring in future / exported demand, a small shortfall is created, with this totalling two match equivalent sessions.

Table 2.25: Supply and demand for mini 7v7 pitches (match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future / exported demand	Future total
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	-	-	-	1.5	-1.5
Castle Donington/ Kegworth	0.5	-	0.5	0.5	-
Coalville	2	-	2	3[14]	-1
Ibstock	2.5	-	2.5	1.5	1
Measham	-	-	-	0.5	-0.5
Total	**5**	**-**	**5**	**7**	**-2**

Mini 5v5 pitch capacity

There is currently a minimal actual spare capacity equating to five match equivalent sessions per week on mini 5v5 pitches in North West Leicestershire. When factoring in future / exported demand, a minor spare capacity of one match equivalent session remains.

Table 2.26: Supply and demand for mini 5v5 pitches (match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future / exported demand	Future total
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	-	-	-	1.5	-1.5
Castle Donington/ Kegworth	0.5	-	0.5	0.5	-
Coalville	2.5	-	2.5	1[15]	1.5
Ibstock	1	-	1	0.5	0.5
Measham	1	-	1	0.5	0.5
Total	**5**	**-**	**5**	**4**	**1**

[12] Includes one match equivalent sessions of exported demand
[13] Includes 0.5 match equivalent sessions of exported demand
[14] Includes one match equivalent sessions of exported demand
[15] Includes one match equivalent sessions of exported demand

2.6: Conclusion

Using the supply and demand tables above, the table below summarises the overall North West Leicestershire analysis by pitch type. As seen, there are currently shortfalls across youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches, whereas spare capacity exists on adult, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches. Overplay on youth 11v11 pitches is significant with this also applying to the actual spare capacity on adult pitches.

When incorporating future / exported demand, spare capacity is reduced on adult and mini 5v5 pitches whereas shortfalls worsen in the case of youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches. Elsewhere, shortfalls are established across mini 7v7 pitches.

Table 2.27: Summary of analysis for grass football pitches (match equivalent sessions)

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future / exported demand	Future total
Ashby-de-la-Zouch					
Adult	6	-5	1	1	-
Youth 11v11	-	-4	-4	4[16]	-4
Youth 9v9	-	-1.5	-1.5	2	-3.5
Mini 7v7	-	-	-	1.5	-1.5
Mini 5v5	-	-	-	1.5	-1.5
Castle Donington/Kegworth					
Adult	7	-1	6	1.5	4.5
Youth 11v11	-	-	-	1	-1
Youth 9v9	-	-	-	0.5	-0.5
Mini 7v7	0.5	-	0.5	0.5	-
Mini 5v5	0.5	-	0.5	0.5	-
Coalville					
Adult	4	-3	1	2[17]	-1
Youth 11v11	3	-2.5	0.5	5[18]	-4.5
Youth 9v9	-	-4.5	-4.5	3[19]	-7.5
Mini 7v7	2	-	2	3[20]	-1
Mini 5v5	2.5	-	2.5	1[21]	1.5
Ibstock					
Adult	6	-	6	0.5	5.5
Youth 11v11	-	-	-	1	-1
Youth 9v9	-	-	-	0.5	-0.5
Mini 7v7	2.5	-	2.5	1.5	1
Mini 5v5	1	-	1	0.5	0.5
Measham					
Adult	1	-2.5	-1.5	0.5	-2
Youth 11v11	0.5	-1	-0.5	2.5[22]	-3
Youth 9v9	-	-2.5	-2.5	1.5[23]	-4

[16] Includes 0.5 match equivalent sessions of exported demand.
[17] Includes 0.5 match equivalent sessions of exported demand.
[18] Includes 0.5 match equivalent sessions of exported demand.
[19] Includes one match equivalent sessions of exported demand.
[20] Includes one match equivalent sessions of exported demand.
[21] Includes one match equivalent sessions of exported demand.
[22] Includes one match equivalent sessions of exported demand.
[23] Includes 0.5 match equivalent sessions of exported demand.

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future / exported demand	Future total
Mini 7v7	-	-	-	0.5	-0.5
Mini 5v5	1	-	1	0.5	0.5
North West Leicestershire					
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**

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.

Table 2.28: Comparison of analysis from previous PPOSS (match equivalent sessions)

Pitch type	2017 findings (current total)	2025 findings (current total)
Adult	**2.5**	**12.5**
Youth 11v11	**1**	**-4**
Youth 9v9	**1.5**	**-8.5**
Mini 7v7	**3.5**	**5**
Mini 5v5	**0.5**	**5**
Total	**9**	**10**

The overall reduction in spare capacity is likely to be a combination of increasing demand levels with not enough supply levels to accommodate.

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, 102 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 at land Ashby Ivanhoe Football Club (LE65 1TS) to recreation use including the formation of additional pitches, parking area and landscaping (22/01811/FULM).
- A total of 13 pitches across 10 active sites that were previously provided within the District have been identified.

- 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.
- 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.

PART 3: THIRD GENERATION TURF (3G) ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES (AGPS)

3.1: Introduction

Competitive football can take place on 3G surfaces that have been FIFA or International Matchball Standard tested and approved by the FA for inclusion on the FA 3G Pitch Register. As such, in addition to training demand, a growing number of 3G pitches are now used for competitive match play, providing that the performance standard meets FIFA quality requirements.

World Rugby produced the 'Performance Specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby union, more commonly known as 'Regulation 22', which provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for the sport. The artificial surface standards identified allows contact training and matches to be played on surfaces that meet the required standard, meaning full contact activity, including tackling, rucking, mauling and lineouts, can take place.

Competitive rugby league play and contact practice is permitted to take place on 3G pitches which are deemed by the Rugby Football League (RFL) to meet its Performance Standard. Pitches fall under two categories; community club pitches which require retesting every two years and elite stadia pitches which require an annual retest. Much of the criteria within the RFL performance standard test also forms part of the World Rugby test, meaning World Rugby certified 3G pitches are considered by the RFL to be able to meet rugby league requirements, subject to passing an additional RFL performance standard test.

Other sports that are suitable to be accommodated on 3G pitches for training and match play include American football and lacrosse. Many test contractors offer reduced rates through efficiency savings to carry out multiple performance tests in the same session, therefore providers seeking 3G pitch compliancy for a number of sports would be recommended to consider this opportunity.

EH's Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy (June 2016) advises that 3G pitches should not be used for hockey matches or training and that they can only be used for lower level hockey (introductory level) as a last resort when no sand-based or water-based AGPs are available.

3.2: Supply

The recommended dimensions for an 11v11 3G artificial grass pitch for football are 100 x 64 metres, extending to an area of 106 x 70 metres with the recommended minimum three metre run off area included (these dimensions allow for all age group match play to take place including adult, youth 11v11 and younger age groups via overmarked pitches e.g., the marking out of two youth 9v9 pitches for U11/12s). For rugby union, the required dimensions are a maximum of 100 x 70 metres and a minimum of 98 x 64 metres, with ideally a 5-metre run off area and a 6-metre in goal area.

If a new pitch is proposed to measure below the recommended dimensions for the relevant sport/s, then justification must be provided for this in relation to the identified needs it will provide for and/or site constraints. In doing so, the impacts of a reduced pitch size in meeting current and future needs must be considered e.g., a pitch not providing the recommended dimensions for adult match play and/or only being able to accommodate one rather than two overmarked youth 9v9 pitches.

Across North West Leicestershire, there are currently 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, as summarised below.

Table 3.2: Summary of 11v11 size 3G pitches in North West Leicestershire

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Com use?	Sports lit?	Size (metres)	FA approved?
20	Castle Donington College	DE74 2LN	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	Yes	Yes	91 x 55	31/05/2028 (FIFA)-
23	Coalville FC (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium)	LE67 3DA	Coalville	Yes	Yes	100 x 64	31/05/2027
27	FCV Academy	LE67 5UG	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	Yes	Yes	100 x 67	31/05/2027
61	The Newbridge School	LE67 3SJ	Coalville	Yes	Yes	98 x 65	31/05/2027

In addition to the 11v11 3G pitches, there are also eight smaller size 3G pitches within the District, two of which are each located within the Ashby-de-la-Zouch and Measham analysis areas, one within the Coalville Analysis Area and three within the Castle Donington/ Kegworth Analysis Area. Similarly to the 11v11 3G pitches, all of the smaller size pitches are available for community use and are serviced with sports lighting although are not on the FA pitch register.

Whilst not large enough to accommodate adult match play, smaller size provision can be used to accommodate youth and mini matches, in addition to training demand, providing that they are on the FA Pitch Register (see further detail below), of an adequate size and with appropriate run-off areas. More commonly, however, they are used to accommodate commercial football leagues and social/recreational play.

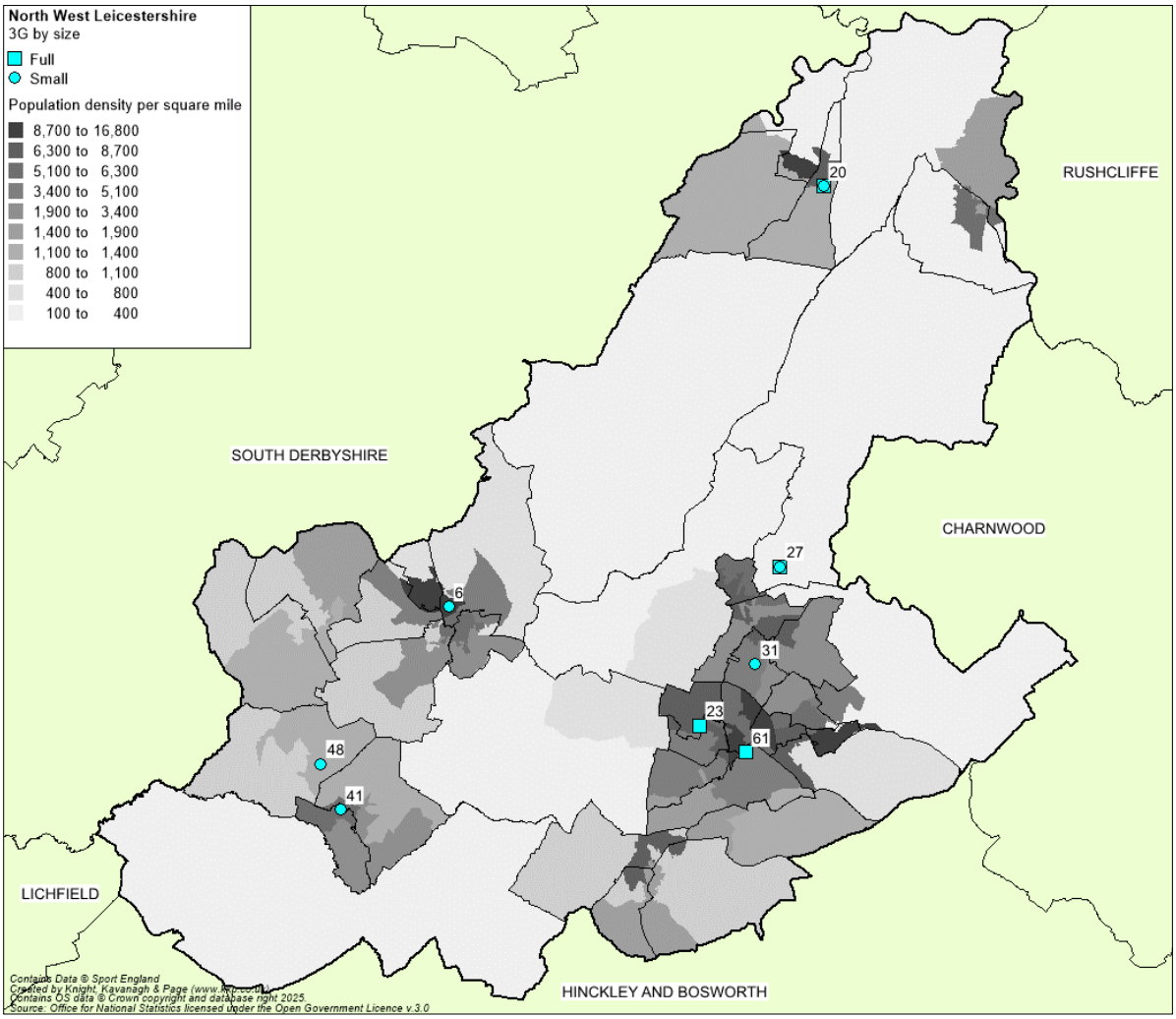
Table 3.3: Additional supply of 3G pitches

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	No of pitches	Com use?	Sports lit?	Size (metres)
6	Hood Park	LE65 1HU	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	2	Yes	Yes	36 x 18
20	Castle Donington College	DE74 2LN	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	2	Yes	Yes	36 x 18
27	FCV Academy	LE67 5UG	Castle Donington/Kegworth	1	Yes	Yes	50 x 37
31	Hermitage Recreation Ground	LE67 5FU	Coalville	1	Yes	Yes	88 x 42
41	Measham Community and Recreation Centre	DE12 7HR	Measham	1	Yes	Yes	35 x 35
48	Oakthorpe Recreation Ground	DE12 7RG	Measham	1	Yes	Yes	40 x 20

Since the previous PPOSS was completed in 2017, the number of 11v11 and smaller sized 3G pitches within North West Leicestershire have both increased by two.

Figure 3.1 overleaf shows the location of all 3G pitches within North West Leicestershire, regardless of size.

Figure 3.1: Location of 3G pitches in North West Leicestershire



FA Pitch Register

In order for competitive matches to be played on 3G pitches, the pitch should be FIFA or IMS tested and approved and added to the FA pitch register, which can be found at: http://3g.thefa.me.uk/.

Pitches undergo testing to become a FIFA Quality pitch or a FIFA Quality Pro pitch, with provision commonly constructed, installed and tested in situ to achieve either accreditation. The differences between the accreditations are that FIFA quality pitches are designed to accommodate substantial levels of regular usage, whereas FIFA Quality Pro pitches are more for high level performance, with usage levels therefore more limited to protect the standard.

For pitches used by affiliated grassroots football clubs (below regional feeder leagues) and clubs in the women's football pyramid (Tier 3), the minimum requirement of testing is the FA Register Test. However, matches played at Step 1 to 6 of the men's national league system must follow more stringent testing, with this including a minimum pitch size of 100 x 64 metres, a run-off area of between 1.83 metres (Step 2-6) and 2.25 metres (Step 1), a consistent playing surface shade of green and line markings must be in accordance with the Laws of Association Football. In addition, FA testing must take place annually rather than every three years. As for 3G pitches used in the women's football pyramid - at Tier 1, matches cannot be played on a 3G pitch, whilst existing 3G pitches at Tier 2 must be accredited to the FIFA Recommended Quality performance standard.

Generally, FIFA Quality pitches can be typically used for 60-85 hours per week, whereas FIFA Quality Pro pitches are able to accommodate 20-30 hours. To remain accredited, pitches must be reassessed every three years to ensure that quality has not deteriorated beyond acceptable levels, although this is required annually for clubs using 3G pitches within the football pyramid.

In North West Leicestershire, all four 11v11 3G pitches are on the FA's 3G pitch register, with Castle Donington College being FIFA certified, whilst none of the smaller sized 3G pitches on the pitch register.

World Rugby compliant pitches

To enable 3G pitches to accommodate competitive rugby union matches, World Rugby has developed the Rugby Turf Performance Specification. This is to ensure that the surfaces can replicate the playing qualities of good quality grass pitches, provide a playing environment that will not increase the risk of injury and are of an adequate durability.

The specification includes a rigorous test programme that assesses ball/surface interaction and player/surface interaction and has been modified to align the standard with that of FIFA. Any 3G pitch used for any form of competitive rugby and full contact training must comply with this specification and must be tested every two years to retain compliance. There are currently no World Rugby compliant 3G pitches in North West Leicestershire.

Management

The 11v11 3G pitches at Castle Donington College, FCV Academy and The Newbridge School are all managed by education providers. Elsewhere the pitch at Coalville FC (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium) is managed in house by the sports club.

Availability

Where known, three of the four 11v11 size 3G pitches are widely accessible throughout the week, as summarised in the following table.

Table 3.4: Summary of 3G pitch availability

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Availability
20	Castle Donington College	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	Available to the community 18:00 until 21:00 Monday – Friday and 09:00 until 17:00 Weekends.
23	Coalville FC (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium)	Coalville	Available to the community 17:00 until 21:00 Monday – Friday and 09:00 until 17:00 Weekends.

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Availability
27	FCV Academy	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	*Uknown*
61	The Newbridge School	Coalville	Available to the community 17:00 until 21:00 Monday – Thursday, 17:00 until 20:00 Friday and 09:00 until 17:00 Weekends.

Due to the commercial/private management of FCV Academy, information relating to its availability and usage figures were not obtained.

Quality

Depending on use, it is considered that the carpet of an AGP usually lasts for approximately ten years, and it is the age of the surface, combined with maintenance levels, which most commonly affects quality. It is therefore recommended that sinking funds are put into place by providers to enable long-term sustainability, ongoing repairs and future refurbishment beyond this period.

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 New bridge 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.

Table 3.5: Age and quality of 11v11 3G pitches

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Year installed/ resurfaced	Quality (2017)	Quality (2024)
20	Castle Donington College	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	2025	-	Good
23	Coalville FC (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium)	Coalville	2024	-	Good
27	FCV Academy	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	2024	-	Good
61	The Newbridge School	Coalville	2024	Good	Good

Ancillary facilities

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.

No issues have been identified elsewhere, although the remaining pitches located at education sites are tailored towards accommodating curricular demand.

3.3: Demand

The 3G pitch stock currently servicing North West Leicestershire is operating at or close to capacity at peak times, particularly during midweek and especially in winter months when grass pitches cannot be used for training or recreational demand (due to a lack of sports lighting). This applies to both mid-week training demand and weekend usage given that the full-size community available stock is also FA approved to host competitive matches.

Currently, it is considered that all of the community-based activity on the 3G pitches is football related. Most of the capacity is being taken up by clubs for training and match play purposes, although there is also a strong presence of recreational football activity taking place (e.g., via unaffiliated groups).

The above is particularly intensive at Coalville FC (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium) due to it being operated by a large club. Coalville Town FC has 79 teams that have access to its pitch. This leaves little capacity for other users.

The table below summarises usage levels of the 11v11 3G provision in North West Leicestershire based on information and/or booking sheets supplied by the operators. This is compared against availability at peak time, using Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM), which applies an overall peak period of 34 hours per week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00). During midweek timeslots, availability is considered to exist if any booking slots are available, either for a whole pitch or part of a pitch (based on how pitches are divided), whilst weekend availability is based on whole pitch availability as this is more likely to be required to support match play.

Table 3.6: Current usage of 11v11 3G pitches during peak time across North West Leicestershire

Site ID	Site name	Midweek availability (hours)	Midweek usage (hours)	Weekend availability (hours)	Weekend usage (hours)
20	Castle Donington College	14	*Unknown*[24]	16	*Unknown*
23	Coalville FC (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium)	18	18	16	14
27	FCV Academy	*Limited*[25]	*Limited*	*Limited*	*Limited*
61	The Newbridge School	18	18	16	16
-	**Total**	**50**	**36**	**48**	**30**

In the case of the 11v11 3G pitch at Castle Donington College, usage figures are currently unknown due to the pitch being constructed in the spring of 2025, further information relating to the booking information of this pitch will be required to populate the table above.
Due to the commercial/ private management of FCV Academy, information relating to the availability and usage figures were not able to be obtained.

Football

As mentioned in Part 2: Football, there are aspirations in Ashby-de-la-Zouch from the local clubs to establish at least one 11v11 3G pitch within the area to support training and match play demand. Potential site options for this will be explored in greater depth in the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan.

Albert Village Junior FC based in the Measham Analysis Area currently exports demand outside of the District to access 11v11 3G pitch provision. The Club wishes to retain its demand within Measham, however, there are currently no 11v11 3G pitches within this Analysis Area.

[24] The pitch is not operational, with bookings not available until September.
[25] The pitch receives training demand from community clubs however exact usage is unknown. Due to private nature of the site it is seen to be limited with accessibility.

Heather St Johns FC which plays within the Ibstock Analysis Area aspires for an 11v11 3G pitch to be provided at St Johns Park with supporting changing and storage facilities. The Club states that this could accommodate more training sessions and alleviate overplay on its grass pitches. In addition to club utilisation, it states that this would be a welcomed community asset as schools, and the college already use the site for some fixtures.

Rugby union

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.

Castle Donington RFC has been in contact with Castle Donington College and Sport England regarding the installation of a shock pad to the 11v11 3G pitch which has recently been installed at the college; however, the cost was deemed too high to make it World Rugby compliant.

When the training area is unavailable at Spital Park, the Club uses the Castle Donington College's indoor sports hall and small 3G football pitches for training.

Discussed in greater detail in Part 4: Rugby Union, Coalville RUFC uses the 11v11 size 3G pitch at Coalville FC for non-contact training demand as it is not WR complaint.

Unmet/latent demand

Getting access to good quality, affordable training facilities is a problem for many football clubs throughout the country. In the winter months, midweek training is only possible at sports lit facilities, with 3G provision preferred by the FA and most clubs.

Across North West Leicestershire, seven football clubs that responded to the consultation report that they require additional access to 3G provision, with this representing a proportion of unmet demand although it is relatively minimal compared to other local authorities. Some of the clubs with unmet demand are training on 3G pitches but do not have capacity for all of their teams, or do not have access at preferred times. Others are not training on 3G pitches at all and are instead using sand-based or grass pitches either at their home grounds or elsewhere.

Across the clubs, 107 teams are represented that are without existing 3G pitch access. The clubs expressing this demand are as follows:

- Ashby Ivanhoe FC.
- Ashby United Community FC.
- Coalville Town FC.
- Heather St Johns FC.
- Hemmington Hammers FC.
- Kegworth Imps FC.
- Whitwick Athletic FC.

No unmet or latent 3G demand has been identified for any sport other than football.

Exported/imported demand

There is some anecdotal evidence provided by clubs during consultation which indicate travelling to 3G pitches in neighbouring authorities, however, this has not been quantified. This being said the exported demand referenced in Part 2: Football of 27 teams has been included in the analysis below.

There are also known levels of imported training demand, primarily by Shepshed Dynamo Youth & Junior FC at FCV Academy. This has not been factored into the scenario below. The recent Local Football Facilities Plan for Charnwood (where the club is based) recommends a 3G development within the locality of Shepshed to cater for the club's demand. Therefore, the inclusion of its demand within North West Leicestershire would inflate the need for 3G provision when aspirations are for it to return to its original local authority.

Future demand

As set out in Part 2 of this report, potential growth from population projections equates to 66 football teams to 2042 (in line with the Council's emerging Local Plan). If this growth was realised, and if all additional teams wanted or needed to train on 3G provision, it will increase demand for 3G pitches. However, it should also be noted that the ONS projections do not account for the potential for future demand to be higher, which could be the case particularly if recent growth trends continue. Further increases will therefore be subject to scenarios in the Strategy document.

In addition, although no rugby union demand currently accesses 3G pitches (with non-suitable for such activity), it is clear that future access could provide a solution to the deficits identified in Part 4 of this report as well as accommodating midweek training demand.

3.4: Supply and demand analysis

Football

The FA considers high quality 3G pitches as an essential tool in promoting coach and player development, with the pitches considered to be great assets on account of being able to support intensive use and use during inclement weather. Primarily, such facilities have been installed for social use and training, however, they are increasingly being used for competition, which the FA wholly supports.

Training demand

To quantify the 3G pitch shortfalls for football, the FA has established a training model, which suggests that one 11v11 3G pitch can accommodate 38 affiliated teams (with capacity also built in for other forms of demand). This is based on an aspiration for all teams to train once per week on a 3G pitch.

For the model, in addition to 11v11 size pitches being included, nationally some smaller sized pitches are also incorporated as many are suitable for accommodating training demand, especially larger ones. The contribution each pitch makes towards the modelling in North West Leicestershire is therefore summarised in the table below, which then informs the proceeding modelling tables, tables 3.8 and 3.9.

Table 3.7 Summary of 11v11 3G adult pitch equivalents

Site name	Analysis area	Size (metres)	Comments	11v11 adult pitch equivalents
11v11 size				
Castle Donington College	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	91 x 55	Available for community use	1
Coalville FC (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium)	Coalville	100 x 64	Available for community use	1

Site name	Analysis area	Size (metres)	Comments	11v11 adult pitch equivalents
FCV Academy	Castle Donington/Kegworth	100 x 67	Limited community availability.	0.5
The Newbridge School	Coalville	98 x 65	Available for community use	1
Smaller size				
Hood Park	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	36 x 18	Discounted due to size.	-
Hood Park	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	36 x 18	Discounted due to size.	-
Castle Donington College	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	36 x 18	Discounted due to size.	-
Castle Donington College	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	36 x 18	Discounted due to size.	-
FCV Academy	Castle Donington/Kegworth	50 x 37	Limited community availability.	-
Hermitage Recreation Ground	Coalville	88 x 42	Available for community use	0.75
Measham Community and Recreation Centre	Measham	35 x 35	Discounted due to size.	-
Oakthorpe Recreation Ground	Measham	40 x 20	Discounted due to size.	-
-	-	-	**Total**	**4.25**

With current demand in North West Leicestershire totalling 335 teams, it is feasible that 9.25 11v11 size 3G pitches could be required (rounded down to the nearest 0.25 from 8.91). This means that there is an existing theoretical shortfall of five pitches.

Table 3.8: Current shortfall of 3G pitches to meet football training demand

Current demand (number of teams)	Potential 11v11 pitch requirements	Current number of 11v11 pitch equivalents	Potential 11v11 pitch shortfall
335[26]	9.25	4.25	-5

When considered by analysis area, the potential shortfall equates to 2.25 pitches in the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area, 1.25 pitches in both the Ibstock and Measham analysis areas and 0.25 in the Coalville Analysis Area. Elsewhere the Castle Donington/ Kegworth Analysis Area is sufficiently serviced by 3G pitches.

Table 3.9: Current demand for 3G pitches by analysis area (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

[26] This figure includes the 27 exported teams referenced in Part 2: Football

Analysis area	Current demand (number of teams)	Potential 11v11 pitch requirements	Current number of 11v11 pitch equivalents	Potential 11v11 pitch shortfall
Measham	45	1.25	0	-1.25

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 3.10: 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

When compared to the previous study completed in 2017, the overall need has increased due to a growth in the number of football teams.

Match play demand

Improving grass pitch quality is one way to increase the capacity at sites but given the cost of doing such work and the continued maintenance required (and associated costs), alternatives need to be considered that can offer a more sustainable model for the future of football. The substitute to grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches for competitive matches, providing that the pitch is one the FA 3G Pitch Register, sports lit and available for community use during the peak period.

In North West Leicestershire, three of the four 11v11 size 3G pitches are FA approved to host competitive matches, with 19 affiliated teams identified as using the provision currently. there are likely to be opportunities for it to be further increased, particularly if accreditation could be achieved at Castle Donington College.

In addition, as the number of 3G pitches increases in line with meeting training demand shortfalls, so should the number of teams utilising the provision for matches, which in turn should further relieve grass pitches of use. As such, whilst the number of 3G pitches needed for matches will never outweigh the number of 3G pitches needed for training (as they would not be sustainable without midweek usage), maximising the pitches that are in place and that are proposed should be fully supported.

The use of 3G pitches for matches also emphasises the importance of maintaining good quality pitches. Should pitches become poor quality, they will likely lose accreditation to accommodate fixtures. This will then result in all teams using the provision needing to transfer to grass pitches, adding to their usage, reducing their capacity and further diminishing their quality.

The role of sand/water-based pitches

The above section assumes that all football demand should take place on 3G pitches. However, in practice, there is a national need for a proportion of football training demand to be retained on hockey suitable AGPs to maintain the financial and commercial sustainability of such provision. This is particularly the case in North West Leicestershire given that the sand-based pitch at Castle Rock High School receives minimal community hockey demand (see Part 5).

Rugby union

There are currently no World Rugby compliant 3G pitches within North West Leicestershire, meaning no rugby union activity takes place across the stock of pitches. However, given the shortfalls identified in Part 4 of this report, evidence exists to suggest a full-size World Rugby compliant pitch would be beneficial in better meeting demand in the District. Moreover, through consultation it has been identified that on occasions Castle Donington RUFC utilise the smaller sized 3G pitches at Castle Donington College to accommodate some training demand during adverse weather conditions and will utilise the recently installed 11v1 3G pitch here.

As mentioned above, there are clear aspirations from both Ashby RFC and Castle Donington RFC to access WR compliant 3G provision. It is known through information provided by the Football Foundation and RFU, that Coalville RFC access the 3G pitch at Coalville FC (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium) to meet some of its training demand.

Linked to the above, It has been confirmed by the Technical Project team at the Football Foundation, FA and the RFU that the 11v11 3G pitch at Coalville is not WR22 Compliant. The Football Foundation would strongly advise that pitch is not used for contact Rugby moving forwards, strengthening the position that a World Rugby compliant 11v11 3G pitch is required within North West Leicestershire to accommodate training demand.

Other sports

With no other activity identified in North West Leicestershire that could feasibly utilise the 3G pitch stock, no other sporting requirements for access are identified or need to be considered at this time.

3.5: Conclusion

There is a current shortfall of 3G pitch provision within North West Leicestershire to meet requirements, as evidenced through the levels of unmet demand identified for football and via using the FA training model. As such, an increase in the number of pitches is clearly required, in particular within the Ashby-de-la-Zouch area which is supported by demand and club aspirations. Options for future 3G developments will be explored in greater detail in the Strategy & Action Plan.

Away from football, no clear demand has been identified. However, the provision of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch could provide a resolution to rugby union shortfalls given the large grass pitch deficits that have been identified.

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.

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.
- The 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 size 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, do it 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 New Bridge 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 (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium) 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.

PART 4: RUGBY UNION

4.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is split into four areas across the country with a workforce team that covers development, coaching, governance and competitions. It governs a variety of formats and programmes, including 15-aside, 10-aside, 7-aside and Tag rugby as well as the O2 Touch programme. Its aim is to increase and retain participation within the game, with facilities needing to be appropriate, affordable and accessible in order to enable this.

For traditional rugby union, there are generally three playing formats, based on the age of the players involved. These are now known as age grade mixed rugby (previously mini), age grade boys/girls rugby (previously junior) and senior rugby.

The rugby union playing season operates from September to May.

Consultation

There are three rugby union clubs in North West Leicestershire. Consultation with Ashby RFC and Castle Donington RFC has been undertaken whilst Coalville RFC has been unresponsive to requests to engage.

4.2: Supply

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 (although are not necessarily used).

Table 4.1: Supply of rugby union pitches available for community use

Analysis area	No. of senior pitches	No. of age grade pitches	Total
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	4	**-**	**4**
Castle Donington/ Kegworth	1	-	**1**
Coalville	4	-	**4**
Ibstock	-	-	**-**
Measham	-	-	**-**
Total	**9**	**-**	**9**

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.

As seen, the Ashby-de-la-Zouch and Coalville analysis areas have the greatest number of pitches with four, whilst the Castle Donington/ Kegworth Analysis Area has one. No grass rugby union pitches are located within the Ibstock or Measham analysis areas.

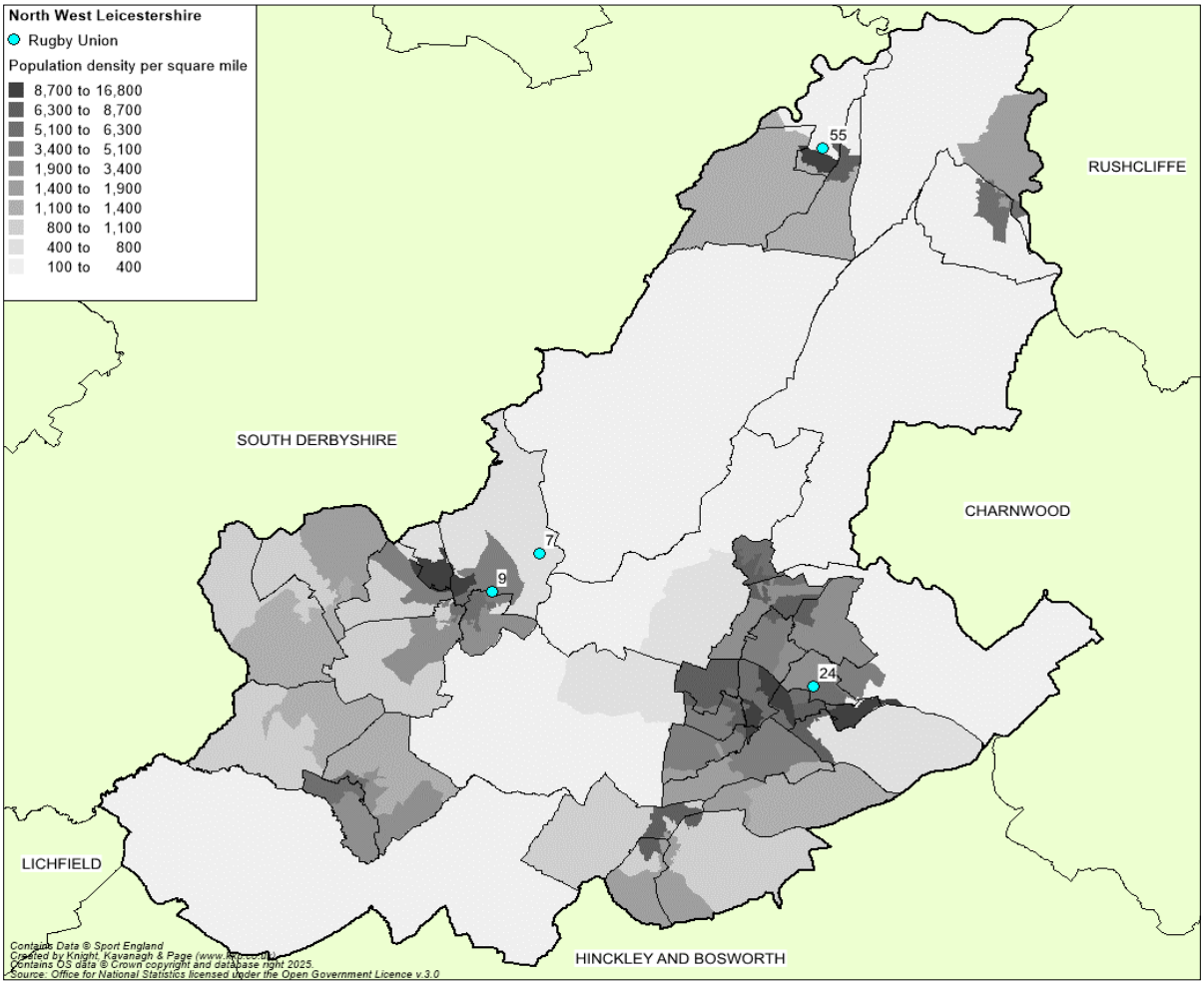
The audit only identifies dedicated, line marked pitches that are serviced by goalposts. However, nationally, there are some additional spaces that are used, without goalposts, particularly for age grade rugby. It is also common for age grade matches to be played on senior pitches via the use of cones. Recommended pitch dimensions for all formats of play are shown in the table below.

Table 4.2: Pitch dimensions

Age	Playing format	Maximum pitch dimensions (metres)[27]
U7	Age grade mixed	20 x 12
U8	Age grade mixed	45 x 22
U9	Age grade mixed	60 x 30
U10	Age grade mixed	60 x 35
U11	Age grade mixed	60 x 43
U12	Age grade mixed	60 x 43
U13	Age grade boys/girls	90 x 60 (60 x 43 for girls)
U14	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U15	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U16	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U17	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U18	Colts	100 x 70
Senior	Senior	100 x 70

Figure 4.1 shows the location of all rugby union pitches within North West Leicestershire, regardless of community use. For a key to the map, see Table 4.12.

Figure 4.1: Location of rugby union pitches within North West Leicestershire



[27] *Recommended run off area for all pitch types requires five-metres each way and a minimum in-goal length of six metres.*

Future developments

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

Regarding rugby, the relevant club (Ashby RUFC) during consultation express an interest in developing World Rugby compliant 3G provision within the area, however, do not suggest a desire to fully relocate from its site. As outlined in greater detail below, pitch and ancillary provision is generally either standard or good quality, with some minor exceptions.

Security of tenure

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 the 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.

Pitch quality

The assessment of rugby union pitch quality looks at two key elements; the maintenance programme and the level of drainage on each pitch. For maintenance, each pitch is given a maintenance rating of M0, M1 or M2, based on the regime that is usually undertaken, with the definitions of these shown in the table below.

Table 4.3: Definition of maintenance categories

Category	Definition
M0	Action is significant improvements to maintenance programme
M1	Action is minor improvements to maintenance programme
M2	Action is no improvements to maintenance programme

For drainage, a rating of D0, D1, D2 or D3 is assigned to each pitch. This is based on whether drainage is adequate and considers the presence of an operational system. The figures are based upon a pipe drained system at 5m centres that has been installed in the last eight years and a slit drained system at 1m centres installed in the last five years.

Table 4.4: Definition of drainage categories

Category	Definition
D0	Action is pipe drainage system is needed on pitch
D1	Action is pipe drainage is needed on pitch
D2	Action is slit drainage is needed on pitch
D3	No action is needed on pitch drainage

An overall quality based on both drainage and maintenance can then be generated, as seen in the following table.

Table 4.5: Quality ratings based on maintenance and drainage scores

		Maintenance		
		Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)
Drainage	Natural Inadequate (D0)	Poor	Poor	Standard
	Natural Adequate (D1)	Poor	Standard	Good
	Pipe Drained (D2)	Standard	Standard	Good
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	Standard	Good	Good

For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

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.

Table 4.6: Quality of rugby union pitches in North West Leicestershire

Analysis area	Good	Standard	Poor
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	-	3	1
Castle Donington/ Kegworth	-	1	-
Coalville	-	4	-
Ibstock	-	-	-
Measham	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**8**	**1**
2017 total	**-**	**11**	**8**

Ashby RFC states that it allocates a budget for an external contractor to maintain the pitches at its site. General maintenance consists of cutting, line marking, aeration, seeding and post season remedial work. Notwithstanding this, the Club is clearing out the current drainage to improve this as during wet weather conditions, surface water collects and floods. The are also issues relating to overplay of the pitches identified.

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. Castle Donington Parish Council uses external contractors for pitch maintenance which carry out spiking, irrigating and reseeding. There is a routine maintenance plan in place to ensure the pitch remains in a playable condition.

In relation to a separate area that Castle Donington RFC utilise for training demand, the Club states that this suffers from overuse, especially during winter months. It is the only sports lit grass area in Castle Donington, used by multiple teams across a number of sports every night of the week, leading to damage and occasional restrictions by the Council to allow recovery.

For a site-by-site summary of pitch quality, see the table overleaf.

PitchPower assessments

Launched in 2020 for football and re-launched in 2022 with functionality for cricket, rugby league and rugby union pitches, PitchPower is a digital self-assessment tool that allows reports and recommendations to be made more quickly and easily once submitted for review by GMA regional pitch advisors. The web app is open to access by all providers, including 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 North West Leicestershire, the following sites have received PitchPower reports (up to January 2025):

- Ashby RFC – *Basic.*
- Coalville RFC – *Basic.*

The above have been accounted for within the PPOSS quality ratings to ensure the findings align, unless there is a clear reason for a difference (e.g., quality alterations since the PitchPower assessments took place). This is also supported through user consultation.

Table 4.7: Site quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Tenure	Management	Community use?	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Sports lighting?	Non-technical assessment score	Quality rating
7	Ashby RFC	LE65 1DP	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Secure	Sports Club	Yes	1	Senior	Yes	M1 / D1	Standard
7	Ashby RFC	LE65 1DP	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Secure	Sports Club	Yes	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
7	Ashby RFC	LE65 1DP	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Secure	Sports Club	Yes	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
9	Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields)	LE65 1EB	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Unsecure	Education	Yes (Unused)	1	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
24	Coalville RFC	LE67 5PF	Coalville	Secure	Sports Club	Yes	1	Senior	Yes	M1 / D1	Standard
24	Coalville RFC	LE67 5PF	Coalville	Secure	Sports Club	Yes	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
24	Coalville RFC	LE67 5PF	Coalville	Secure	Sports Club	Yes	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
24	Coalville RFC	LE67 5PF	Coalville	Secure	Sports Club	Yes	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
55	Spital Park	DE74 2NQ	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Secure	Parish Council	Yes	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard

Ancillary facilities

Ancillary facility ratings are primarily influenced by the type and quality of amenities which are available on a site, such as a clubhouses, changing rooms, car parking, and dedicated official and spectator facilities. Good quality ancillary facilities are particularly important for rugby clubs as they can assist with income generation. Furthermore, it is becoming increasingly important for the provision to be inclusive, particularly due to growing women's and girls', disability and junior/mini demand.

Although the size and configuration of ancillary provision may alter based on the sports using the provision, and the number of pitches it services, generally the same principles are recommended to allow for varied use from all demographics:

- Accessible changing areas which can be separated, or are private/self-contained, to allow for separate male/female/all gender or senior/junior separation.
- A private accessible changing room (with relevant changing and showering provision) for someone who requires assistance.
- Separate female / male / all gender toilet provision.
- Suitably designed and specified showering cubicles to all users to maintain dignity and privacy whilst showering.

Open planned changing, toilets and particularly showering facilities can provide a significant barrier to many people resulting in them either not taking part or having a poorer sporting experience. As a result, those ancillary facilities that do not meet the above criteria cannot be rated anything higher than standard quality for the purposes of this document.

In North West Leicestershire, the quality of the ancillary provision at the three club sites is generally of a good/ standard quality. Further detail regarding these sites is provided below (other sites have not been included as no community demand exists).

Table 4.8: Ancillary provision of clubs within North West Leicestershire

Site ID	Site name	Users	Overall building quality	Changing room quality	Comments
7	Ashby RFC	Ashby RFC	Good	Good	The Club has recently invested in upgrades to the clubhouse onsite which has improved accessibility for women's and girl's teams as well as modernising its facilities. The clubhouse includes a large social space, bar and kitchen. There are six multi-sex changing rooms with self-contained shower and toilet facilities as well as three officials changing rooms and a physio room.

Site ID	Site name	Users	Overall building quality	Changing room quality	Comments
24	Coalville RFC	Coalville RFC	Good	Good	Coalville RFC has six spacious changing rooms in their clubhouse. Two of the largest have their own showers, and there's a large open-planned shower room for the rest. Additional facilities include a bar/ kitchenette, function room. weights room, referees' room, physio room and viewing balcony.
55	Spital Park	Castle Donington RFC	Good	Good	The Spital Pavilion includes a small kitchenette and a projector. The changing rooms have been recently refurbished and of good quality. They are suitable for the club, accommodating a match day squad of 20 with individual showers and sufficient space. The club uses a local pub, the Cross Keys, for post-match food and drinks, as the pavilion does not serve as their clubhouse.

4.3: Demand

Competitive play

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.

At the other end of the scale, Castle Donington RFC fields only one senior men's team.

Table 4.9: Summary of club demand

Club	Analysis area	Men's	Women's	Age grade boys'	Age grade girls'	Age grade mixed	Total
Ashby RFC	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	2	1	5	4	5	17
Castle Donington RFC	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	1	-	-	-	-	1

Club	Analysis area	Men's	Women's	Age grade boys'	Age grade girls'	Age grade mixed	Total
Coalville RFC	Coalville	2	1	5	4	5	17
	Total	**5**	**2**	**10**	**8**	**10**	**35**
	2017 total	**6**	**1**	**9**	**6**	**12**	**34**

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.

Training demand

Throughout the Country, many rugby union teams train at their home ground on match pitches. As a result, usage is concentrated, which reduces the capacity for match play on these pitches and means they are more likely to be overplayed. A key factor in determining the extent of training on match pitches is the presence of sports lighting.

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.

Elsewhere Castle Donington RFC has a sports lit training area, although this is not formally marked out.

Similar to the above, Ashby RFC has a sports lit training area at its site which the Club utilise to accommodate its junior demand.

Use of artificial pitches

An alternative to training on sports-lit grass pitches is via a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch, although none are currently provided within the District. For an AGP to be suitable for contact rugby, it must have a 3G surface and must be approved by World Rugby. A World Rugby compliant pitch also enables the transfer of match demand from grass pitches onto 3G pitches, which alleviates overplay of grass pitches and as a result protects quality.

As mentioned in greater detail above there are clear ambitions to create a World Rugby compliant 11v11 3G pitch by Ashby RFC. Castle Donington RFC additionally has been in contact with Castle Donington College and Sport England regarding the installation of a shock pad to the 11v11 3G pitch which has recently been installed at the college; however, the cost was deemed too high to make it World Rugby compliant.

Despite this, the Club will continue to use the 11v11 3G pitch at the college when the training pitch is unavailable. When the training area is unavailable at Spital Park, the Club uses the Castle Donington College's indoor sports hall and small 3G football pitches for training. See Part 3 of this report for further information.

Exported / imported demand

There is no imported or exported demand relating to grass pitch usage.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined via several ways, including through participation increases and by using population forecasts. In addition, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate additional demand that could arise from housing developments across North West Leicestershire.

Population growth

Based on population projections to 2042 for North West Leicestershire (in line with the Council's emerging Local Plan), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can estimate the likely additional demand for grass rugby pitches that will arise from any growth (using ONS-2018 projections as a base). This is by using the current and future populations in each of the relevant age groups together with the current team numbers, with team generation rates then established to understand how many new teams will be established.

The table below shows the number of new teams predicted to be generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions that this will create. As seen, it anticipates 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.

Table 4.10: District-wide team generation rates

Age group	Team generation rate	Number of new teams generated by the new population	Number of new teams generated by the new population - rounded figure	Match equivalent sessions [28]
Men (19-45yrs)	1:753	1.29	1	0.5
Women (19-45yrs)	1:2,000	0.52	1	0.5
Boys (13-18yrs)	1:72	3.62	4	2
Girls (13-18yrs)	1:237	1.03	1	0.5
Mixed (7-12yrs)	1:379	1.29	1	0.25

When studied on an analysis area basis, no new teams are predicted due to how dispersed the population growth is. It is therefore considered more likely that any increases will be absorbed within existing teams.

Notwithstanding the above, it should be noted that team generation rates do not account for specific development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as NGB initiatives. As such, increased future growth is still considered possible despite population projections indicating that there will only be minimal growth. A growth in women and girls' rugby is thought to be particularly likely given current RFU aspirations and due to the upcoming 2025 Rugby World Cup.

Women's Rugby World Cup 2025

For the first time ever, the expanded showcase event will be hosted across eight venues and cities around England (Brighton & Hove, Bristol, Exeter, London, Manchester, Northampton, Sunderland and York) with 16 teams competing to be crowned world champions. The countrywide format makes it the most accessible Women's Rugby World Cup ever, offering an unparalleled opportunity for fans to see, engage with and support the stars of the women's game in towns and cities around England.

[28] Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, one team accounts to 0.5 match equivalent sessions on their relevant pitch type.

Based on current demand and ancillary facilities, it is considered that any growth in women and girls demand in North West Leicestershire is likely to arise at Ashby RFC and Coalville RFC.

Participation increases

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.

The peak period

In order to fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established for all types of rugby. For senior teams, it is considered to be Saturday PM whilst peak time for mini and junior rugby is Sunday AM.

4.4: Capacity analysis

The capacity for pitches to regularly accommodate competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of playing rugby. In extreme circumstances, it can result in the inability of a pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times.

To enable an accurate supply and demand assessment of rugby pitches, the following assumptions are applied to site by site analysis:

- All sites that are used for competitive rugby matches (regardless of whether this is secured community use) are included on the supply side
- Use of school pitches by schools increases demand by one match equivalent session
- All competitive play is on senior sized pitches (except for where mini pitches are provided).
- From U13 upwards, all teams use a full pitch
- Mini teams (U6-U12) play on half of a senior pitch i.e. two teams per senior pitch or a dedicated mini pitch
- For senior and youth teams the current level of play per week is set at 0.5 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis (assumes half of matches will be played away)
- For mini teams playing on a senior pitch, play per week is set at 0.25 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis and playing across half of one senior pitch
- Senior men's rugby generally takes place on Saturday afternoons
- Senior women's rugby generally takes place on Sunday afternoons
- Junior rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings
- Mini rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings
- Training that takes place on club pitches is reflected by the addition of match equivalent sessions to current usage levels

As a guide, the RFU has set a standard number of matches that each pitch should be able to accommodate, set out below.

Table 4.11: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments

		Maintenance		
		Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)
Drainage	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

Capacity is based upon a basic assessment of the drainage system and maintenance programme ascertained through a combination of the quality assessment and consultation. This guide, however, is only a very general measure of potential pitch capacity. It does not account for specific circumstances at time of use and it assumes average rainfall and an appropriate end of season rest and renovation programme.

Table 4.12: Capacity table for community available rugby union pitches in North West Leicestershire

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Tenure	No. pitches	Pitch type	Sports lighting?	Non-technical assessment score	Quality rating	Pitch Capacity (sessions per week)	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Training equivalent sessions (per week)	Capacity rating	Actual spare capacity at peak time	Comments
7	Ashby RFC	LE65 1DP	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Secure	1	Senior	Yes	M1 / D1	Standard	2	1	3	-2	1	Overplayed.
7	Ashby RFC	LE65 1DP	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Secure	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2	1.5	-	0.5	0	Played to capacity within the peak period.
7	Ashby RFC	LE65 1DP	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Secure	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2	4	-	-2	0	Overplayed
9	Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields)	LE65 1EB	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Unsecure	1	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor	1.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor pitch quality.
24	Coalville RFC	LE67 5PF	Coalville	Secure	1	Senior	Yes	M1 / D1	Standard	2	-	7	-5	1	Overplayed.
24	Coalville RFC	LE67 5PF	Coalville	Secure	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2	1.5	-	0.5	0	Played to capacity within the peak period.
24	Coalville RFC	LE67 5PF	Coalville	Secure	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2	2.5	-	-0.5	0	Played to capacity within the peak period.
24	Coalville RFC	LE67 5PF	Coalville	Secure	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2	2.5	-	-0.5	0	Played to capacity within the peak period.
55	Spital Park	DE74 2NQ	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Secure	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2	0.5	0.5	1	0.5	Actual spare capacity within the peak period.

Actual spare capacity

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.

All remaining pitches are at capacity or have potential spare capacity; however, this has been discounted due to poor quality and/or unsecure tenure. Furthermore, none of the site are likely to receive community demand due to the club-centric nature of existing activity.

Overplay

Five pitches across two sites in North West Leicestershire are overplayed by a total of ten match equivalent sessions per week. This is summarised further in the table below.

Table 4.13: Summary of overplay on rugby union pitches

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	Number of pitches	Overplay (match equivalent sessions per week)
7	Ashby RFC	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Senior	1	-2
7	Ashby RFC	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Senior	1	-2
24	Coalville RFC	Coalville	Senior	1	-5
24	Coalville RFC	Coalville	Senior	1	-0.5
24	Coalville RFC	Coalville	Senior	1	-0.5
-	-	-	**Total**	**5**	**-10**

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.

4.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the table below identifies the overall spare capacity in each of the analysis areas for senior rugby union pitches based on match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 4.14: Overall supply and demand balance for rugby union (match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity[29]	Overplay	Current total
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	-	-4	**-4**
Castle Donington/ Kegworth	0.5	-	**0.5**
Coalville	-	-6	**-6**
Ibstock	-	-	**-**
Measham	-	-	**-**
Total	**0.5**	**-10**	**-9.5**

As seen, there is a current shortfall of 9.5 match equivalent sessions per week on senior rugby union pitches to meet current demand. This can be attributed to overplay in the Ashby-de-la-Zouch and Coalville analysis areas as a result of heavy usage Ashby RFC and Coalville RFC, both of which therefore require solutions.

[29] In match equivalent sessions per week

The future picture is harder to ascertain, with small growth predicted from population increases equating to 3.75 match equivalent sessions and because some aspirations from clubs has not been quantified. However, it is clear that the existing deficits are likely to worsen without action being taken.

When compared to 2017 findings, the shortfalls have increased substantially, with a deficit of two match equivalent sessions previously identified. This is due to factoring in midweek training demand from clubs within the District.

4.6: Conclusion

There is a substantial shortfall of rugby union capacity based on current supply and demand levels, with this resulting in the overuse of pitches by both Ashby and Coalville rugby clubs, primarily a consequence of large levels of demand and pitches being used to accommodate both match play and training activity.

A solution for both clubs is therefore required with options to create additional capacity further explored in the proceeding strategy document with focus upon maintenance and drainage improvements as well as increased access to sports lighting and potential World Rugby compliant 3G pitch provision.

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.
- 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.

PART 5: HOCKEY

5.1: Introduction

Hockey in England is governed by England Hockey (EH) and is administered locally by the Leicestershire and Rutland Hockey Association.

Competitive league hockey matches and training can only be played on sand filled, sand dressed or water based artificial grass pitches (AGPs). Although competitive, adult and junior club training cannot take place on third generation turf pitches (3G), 40mm pitches may be suitable at introductory level, such as school curriculum low level hockey. EH's Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy details suitability of surface type for varying levels of hockey, as shown below.

Table 5.1: England Hockey guidelines on artificial surface types suitable for hockey

Category	Surface	Essential Playing Level	Desirable Playing Level
1	Water surface approved within the FIH Global/National Parameters	International hockey (training and matches).	Domestic National Premier League competition; Higher levels of player pathway (performance centres and upwards).
2	Sand dressed surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	Domestic National Premier League competition; Higher levels of player pathway (academy centres and upwards).	All adult and junior league hockey; Intermediate or advanced school hockey; EH competitions for clubs and schools.
3	Sand based surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	All adult and junior club training and league hockey; EH competitions for clubs and schools; Intermediate or advanced school hockey.	Lower level hockey (introductory level).
4	All 3G surfaces	No hockey.	Lower level hockey (introductory level) when no category 1-3 surface is available.

For senior teams, a full-size pitch for competitive matches must measure at least 91.4 x 55 metres excluding surrounding run off areas which must be a minimum of two metres at the sides & three metres at the ends. EH's preference is for four metre side and five metre end run offs, with a preferred overall area of 101.4 x 63 metres though a minimum overall area of 97.4 x 59 metres is accepted.

It is considered that a hockey pitch can accommodate a maximum of four matches on one day (peak time) provided that the pitch has sports lighting. Training is generally midweek and requires access to a pitch and floodlights.

Consultation

One hockey club is identified as playing hockey in North West Leicestershire: Ashby HC and has been consulted to inform this section of the report.

Since the previous study was completed in 2017, there has been a loss of two hockey clubs within the District which are no longer identified as fielding teams, including Coalville Town HC and Rangers HC.

5.2: Supply

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 Castle Rock High School.

Table 5.2: Full size hockey suitable pitches in North West Leicestershire

Site ID	Site name	Post code	Analysis area	Community use?	Sports-lit?	Size (metres)
21	Castle Rock High School	LE67 4BR	Coalville	Yes	Yes	91 x 55
36	Ivanhoe School	LE65 1HX	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Yes	91 x 55

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.

Notwithstanding the above, the smaller size pitches do not currently cater for any community hockey demand and are not conducive to such activity due to their size. As such, they are discounted from this point forward, although it is noted that they can meet some curricular needs as well as being used for other sporting purposes.

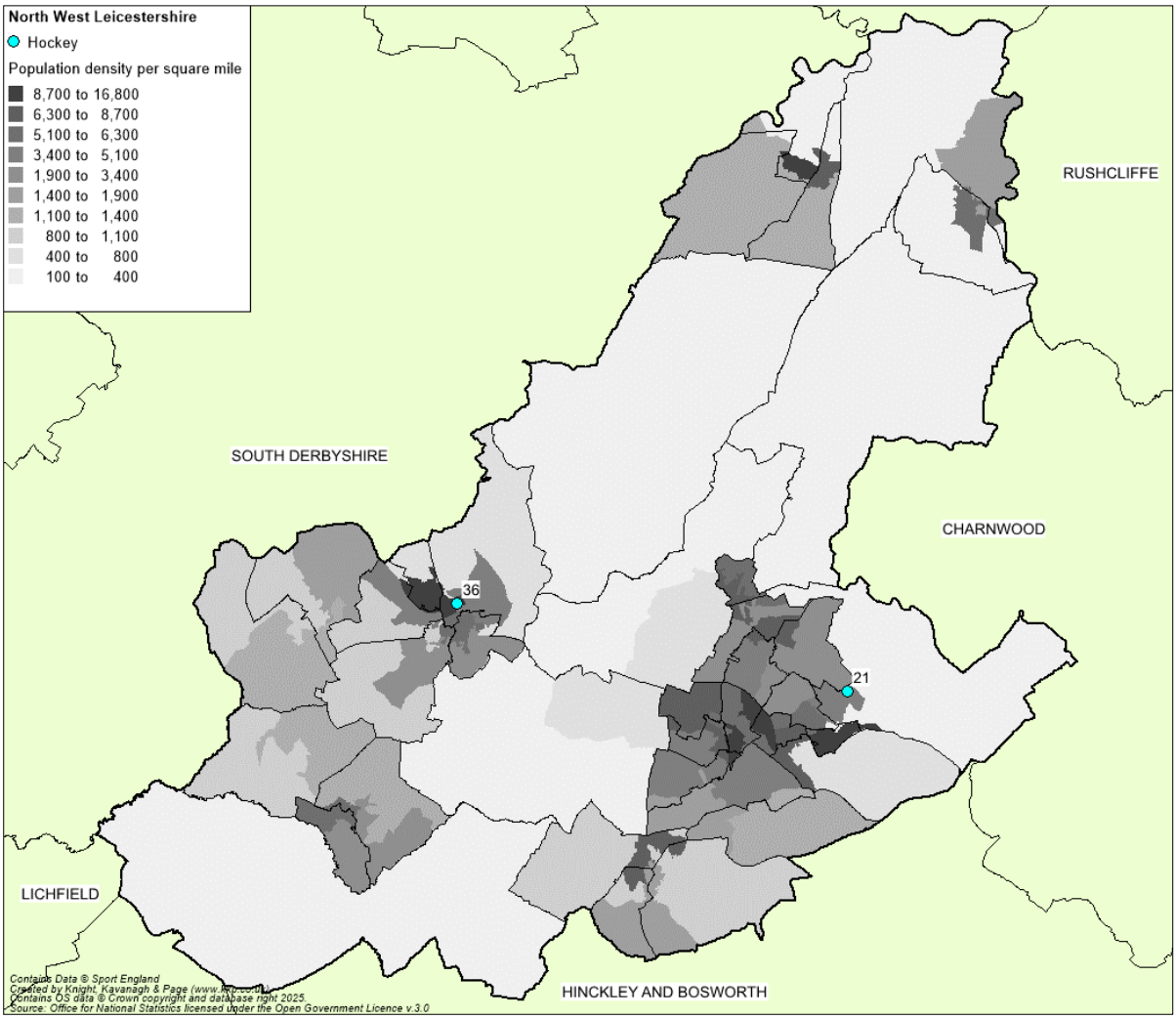
Future developments

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

Regarding hockey, Ashby HC did not indicate any aspirations to relocate from its main site at Ivanhoe School. However, this pitch is at capacity with options needed to explore how to support the Club with its future demand. This will be explored further in the following Strategy & Action Plan.

Figure 5.1 overleaf shows the location of full-size hockey suitable AGPs currently servicing North West Leicestershire.

Figure 5.1: Location of hockey suitable AGPs in North West Leicestershire



Management and security of tenure

The AGPs at Castle Rock High 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 Castle Rock High School on occasions to accommodate some match demand, however, this is more informal with the Club renting this on an ad-hoc basis.

Availability

Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours per week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00). Using this, both pitches in North West Leicestershire have good availability with these available for use at all times within the peak period.

Quality

Depending on use, it is considered that the carpet of an AGP usually lasts for approximately ten years and it is the age of the surface, together with maintenance levels, that most commonly affects quality. An issue for hockey nationally is that many providers did not financially plan to replace the carpet when first installed.

In North West Leicestershire, the AGP at Castle Rock High 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.

Quality is further summarised on a site-by-site basis below.

Table 5.3: Age and quality of full-size AGPs

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Year installed/ resurfaced	Quality
21	Castle Rock High School	Coalville	2005	Standard
36	Ivanhoe School	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	2022	Good

A planning application has been submitted REF: 24/00732/FULM for the redevelopment of Castle Rock High School, in line with this, it has been speculated that as part of the redevelopment the AGP will be resurfaced.

In relation to the quality of smaller size AGP provision with North West Leicestershire, the pitch at Ibstock Leisure Complex is rated as good quality (Installed in 2019) whereas the pitch at Ibstock Miners Welfare Site is identified as standard quality (Installed in 2005). No quality issues in relation to either pitch have been identified, although no hockey demand exists on either pitches.

Ancillary provision

Ancillary provision accompanying the full-size hockey suitable AGPs within North West Leicestershire is provided by both education sites, with this often tailored towards curricular demand rather than a sports club with multiple teams. Ashby HC has access to two changing rooms as well as male, female and accessible toilets at Ivanhoe School, with these located in the school sports centre next to the pitch. The Club states that two changing rooms isn't enough, with these often given to travelling away teams on match days, additionally these are not accessible on Sunday's.

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.

Changing room and toilet facilities are currently available at Castle Rock High School, however, pending it redevelopment these will not be accessible for teams utilising the AGP.

5.3: Demand

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.

For matches, the majority take place at Ivanhoe School. However, Castle Rock High School is also used as an overspill venue due to one pitch being insufficient to accommodate all demand.

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 Castle Rock High School).

Participation trends

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 which EH reports that the reduction is primarily due to a loss of junior members.

Table 5.4: North West Leicestershire hockey affiliate demand figures

Club	Senior men	Senior women	Junior boys	Junior girls	Total
Ashby HC	72	51	84	78	**285**

Imported/exported demand

It has been identified that Charnwood Forest HC of Charnwood Borough and Sutton Bonnington HC from the Rushcliffe Local Authority, import one team each for match demand to Castle Rock High School. This has not displaced any hockey demand from Ashby HC which also utilise this as an overspill venue.

No exported team demand from Ashby HC has been identified through consultation, notwithstanding this there is potential for some exported player demand to clubs in neighbouring authorities.

Future demand

Growing participation is a key aim within EH's Strategic Plan and key drivers include working with clubs, universities, schools and regional and local leagues as well as developing opportunities for over 40s and delivering a quality programme of competition. Overall, it has an aim to double participation over the next ten years, meaning it does not consider team generation rates to provide an accurate representation of potential growth.

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.

Additional demand

In addition to club-based hockey activity, there are also various initiatives for hockey which are promoted by EH. These can add to the demand in a local authority and also necessitate the need for further pitch capacity. They include:

- Back to hockey.
- Flyerz Hockey.
- Hockey Heroes.
- In2Hockey.
- Quicksticks.
- Rush Hockey.
- Walking Hockey.

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.

Other demand

Nationally, many hockey suitable AGPs are widely used to accommodate football training demand, which can be both a positive and a negative. Often, football usage helps with the financial sustainability of the provision where limited hockey demand is received; conversely, it can impact on availability for hockey demand when levels are high.

In North West Leicestershire, the AGP located at both Castle Rock High School and Ivanhoe School are also used for recreational and training demand from local football teams. As previously mentioned, Ashby HC states that it competes with football demand from Ashby Ivanhoe for evening slots to accommodate its club training demand.

Peak time demand

For matches, all senior hockey matches in North West Leicestershire take place on a Saturday, whereas most junior activity occurs on a Sunday. For training, peak time is considered to be any midweek evening, although preference is generally given for Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays due to Mondays and Fridays being too close to matchday activity.

5.4: Supply and demand analysis

The below examines both match play and training demand across North West Leicestershire considering both current and future levels of demand.

Match play analysis

It is suggested that a full-size hockey suitable, sports lit AGP can accommodate four match equivalent sessions on one day. 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 (one team requires 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week on its ‘home’ AGP).

Using the above calculations, on the basis that there are currently two full size hockey suitable pitches in the District, this provides a theoretical opportunity to accommodate up to 16 senior teams at peak time across the Authority.

The table below therefore further explores the level of capacity provided, for senior hockey (i.e., on a Saturday).

Table 5.4 Summary of hockey pitch capacity for peak time match play (Saturday)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Potential capacity in teams	Actual capacity in teams	Number of hockey teams using the provision at peak time	Capacity balance
21	Castle Rock High School	Coalville	1	8	8	4	4
36	Ivanhoe School	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	1	8	8	8	-
-	**-**	**-**	**2**	**16**	**16**	**12**	**4**

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 Bonnington 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. Notwithstanding this, it should be noted that the AGP at Ivanhoe School is currently played to capacity and whilst this has recently been resurfaced and can accommodate minimal levels of overuse, this is not recommended by England Hockey and as such should be monitored to ensure that this is sustainable.

For junior hockey, the provision of two full-size AGPs is also considered sufficient to accommodate match play demand. This is because there are fewer junior teams and because there is no conflict with senior demand as matches are mostly played on a Sunday. Furthermore, some of the younger aged participants only require half of a pitch, meaning multiple matches can be played at the same time should demand increase to a point where that becomes necessary.

5.5: Conclusion

There are two full-size hockey pitches required in North West Leicestershire to meet demand from Ashby HC and imported demand by Charnwood HC and Sutton Bonnington HC, with this currently being met by the supply of two facilities. 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.

As a result of the above, options for the refurbishment of the pitch at Castle Rock High School need to be explored as a matter of importance, in order to explore if this can be included within the rebuild of the wider facility.

The above position remains relatively unaltered from the previous PPOSS, although some pressure has been alleviated via the loss of two clubs in the District. Option on how best to accommodate future demand will be explored in the Strategy & Action Plan.

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 Bonnington 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 Castle Rock High 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 Castle Rock High 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 Castle Rock High 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 Castle Rock High 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 Castle Rock High 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 Castle Rock High 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.
- 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.

PART 6: CRICKET

6.1: Introduction

The Leicestershire & Rutland Cricket Foundation (LRCF) is the main governing and representative body for cricket within the County, including North West Leicestershire. Its aim is to promote the game at all levels through partnerships with professional and recreational cricketing clubs as well as other appropriate agencies. Working closely with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), it is responsible for the management and development of every form of recreational cricket for men, women and children within the area. It is also currently working with the ECB on delivering its refreshed Strategy, Inspiring Generations.

For senior cricket in North West Leicestershire, there are three main offerings (Saturday, Sunday and midweek cricket), whilst the youth league structure tends to be club-based matches which are generally played mid-week, although Sunday activity is also common.

County Facilities Strategy

The Leicestershire & Rutland Cricket Foundation (LRCF) produced a County Facilities Strategy in 2024. These are being produced by individual county cricket boards across the Country, unique to their geographic areas and based upon inputs from diverse representation. They are viewed as long-term plans and involve engagement with key stakeholders, including clubs, leagues, active partnerships, county pitch advisors and Sport England.

The County Facilities Strategy (CFS) is an investment strategy of priority projects for potential investment for cricket; it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. It cannot be used in place of a PPS and is not an accepted evidence base for development proposals that need to be judged against the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Field Policy.

To inform the strategies, the ECB has set guidelines to ensure that the following facilities are considered in development:

- Traditional facilities (pitches, outfields, pavilions, practice areas).
- Non-traditional facilities (multi-use games areas, tapeball/softball spaces, courts/cages).
- Indoor facilities (multi use halls, cricket specific halls, match play venues).

The strategies will be used to shape investment priorities, ensuring that decision-making processes are clearly explained before a list of priority projects is produced. To inform this process, each strategy will utilise findings from PPOSS-related work, where in place, as a 'high quality' evidence base.

Consultation

The audit identifies that there are ten cricket clubs located in North West Leicestershire. Of these, all have responded to consultation requests to date, resulting in a 100% response rate.

In order to help secure responses from clubs, Leicestershire & Rutland Community Foundation has assisted with sending out surveys on behalf of KKP.

Table 6.1: Summary of consultation

Club	Analysis area	Club response
Appleby Magna CC	Measham	Yes
Ashby Hastings CC	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes
Bardon Hill CC	Coalville	Yes
Broomleys CC	Coalville	Yes
Castle Donington CC	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes
Grace Dieu Park CC	Coalville	Yes
Ibstock Town CC	Ibstock	Yes
Kegworth Town CC	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes
Long Whatton CC	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes
Packington CC	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes

6.2: Supply

In total, there are ten grass wicket cricket squares in North West Leicestershire across ten sites all of which are available for community use. There are also seven non-turf pitches (NTPs) across North West Leicestershire all of which are also available for community use with exception to the NTP at The Newbridge School. Of these, four accompany grass wicket squares, whilst the remaining three are standalone NTPs.

As seen in the table below, 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%).

Table 6.2: Summary of all cricket provision

Analysis area	No. of squares	No. of NTPs
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	2	2
Castle Donington/ Kegworth	3	2
Coalville	3	1
Ibstock	1	1
Measham	1	1
Total	**10**	**7**
2017 Total	**12**	**7**

Non-turf pitches (NTPs)

As previously stated, there are seven NTPs identified across North West Leicestershire located across as many sites. Of these, four accompany grass wicket squares at Appleby Magna Recreation Ground, Bath Grounds, Ibstock Town Cricket Club and King George V Playing Field (Kegworth). Whereas the remaining three are standalone NTPs, located at:

- Hemmington Sports Ground.
- Ivanhoe School.
- The Newbridge School.

NTPs, particularly when located at club sites, can also aid with training and practice, and can help reduce overplay on grass wickets when used for matches. The ECB highlights that NTPs which follow its TS6 guidance on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play. NTPs are also frequently used for junior matches across the country, and there are some instances of this in North West Leicestershire.

From a school perspective, NTPs provide a reliable cricket offer, without the need for specific cricket preparation to be taken on natural turf playing field. In many instances, schools do not have the resource or expertise to prepare natural turf wickets so NTPs provide a resource to ensure cricket can remain a key element of curricular sport.

The map overleaf shows the location of all cricket squares (grass and non-turf) currently servicing North West Leicestershire. See Table 6.3 for a key.

Figure 6.1: Location of cricket pitches in North West Leicestershire

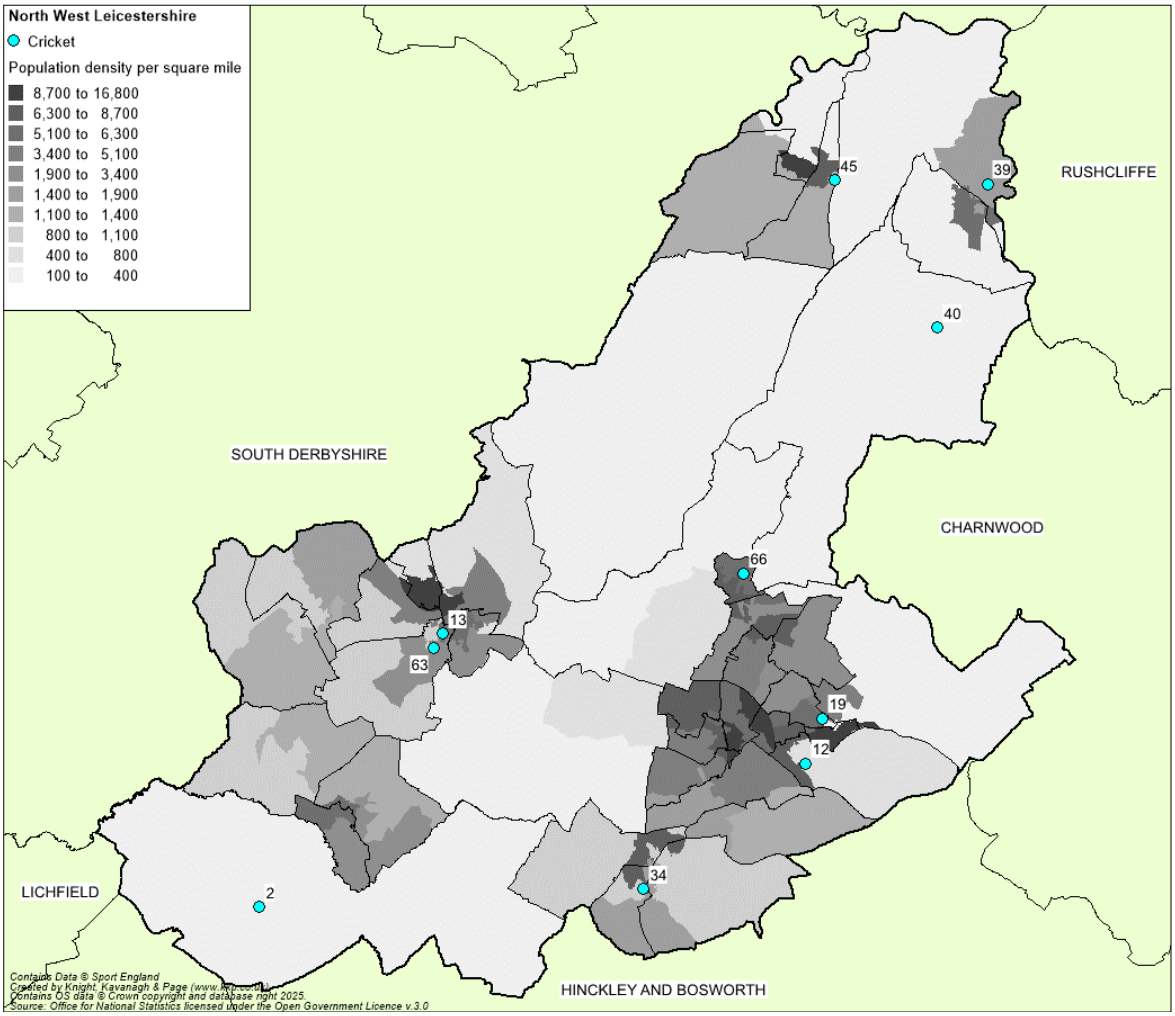


Table 6.3 Key to map of cricket provision within North West Leicestershire

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	No. of wickets	No. of NTPs
2	Appleby Magna Recreation Ground	DE12 7BE	Measham	Yes	1	8	1
12	Bardon Hill Sports Club	LE67 4BS	Coalville	Yes	1	12	
13	Bath Grounds	LE65 2GL	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	1	17	1
19	Broomleys Cricket Club	LE67 4RN	Coalville	Yes	1	10	-
30	Hemington Sports Ground	DE74 2RF	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	-	-	1
34	Ibstock Town Cricket Club	LE67 6NN	Ibstock	Yes	1	10	1
36	Ivanhoe School	LE65 1HX	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	-	-	1
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	DE74 2FH	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	1	14	1
40	Long Whatton Cricket Club	LE12 5DF	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	1	6	-
45	Moira Dale Sports Ground	DE74 2PJ	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	1	10	-
61	The Newbridge School	LE67 3SJ	Coalville	Yes	-	-	1
63	Western Park	LE65 2FA	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	1	8	-
66	Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club	LE67 8LR	Coalville	Yes	1	8	-

Unused provision

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.

Future developments

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

Regarding cricket, Ashby Hastings CC did not indicate any aspirations to relocate from its main site at Bath Grounds. This will be explored in the following Strategy & Action Plan.

Security of tenure

The table below outlines the tenure agreements of the ten cricket clubs at their primary sites across North West Leicestershire. Where provision is managed by parish/town councils and either rented or leased to clubs, unless otherwise known, it is considered that this provision is secure and will be provided over the lifespan of the PPOSS.

The position in North West Leicestershire is that all clubs operate with security of tenure at their respective grounds. It should be stated that in many cases clubs have been accessing their sites for several years and despite not having long term agreements in place the understanding is the site shall continue to service cricket for the foreseeable future (and as a minimum over the lifespan of the PPOSS). This is detailed club-by-club in the following table.

Table 6.4: Summary of club tenure arrangements (North West Leicestershire)

Club	Site	Tenure	Security of tenure	Management
Appleby Magna CC	Appleby Magna Recreation Ground	Lease agreement with Appleby Parish Council. Next review date is in 2030.	Secure	Parish Council
Ashby Hastings CC	Bath Grounds	Lease agreement with Ashby Town Council for 50 years.	Secure	Town Council
Bardon Hill CC	Bardon Hill Sports Club	Lease agreement from Bardon Quarry for 20 years.	Secure	Sports Club
Broomleys CC	Broomleys Cricket Club	Owned by the Club.	Secure	Sports Club
Castle Donington CC	Moira Dale Sports Ground	Rented from Castle Donington Parish Council.	Secure	Parish Council
Grace Dieu Park CC	Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club	Owned by the Club.	Secure	Sports Club
Ibstock Town CC	Ibstock Town Cricket Club	Owned by the Club.	Secure	Sports Club
Kegworth Town CC	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	Lease agreement with Kegworth Parish Council.	Secure	Parish Council

Club	Site	Tenure	Security of tenure	Management
Long Whatton CC	Long Whatton Cricket Club	Lease agreement with Whatton Estate for seven years (with renewals).	Secure	Sports Club
Packington CC	Western Park	Rented from Ashby Town Council.	Secure	Town Council

Pitch quality

The quality of cricket pitches has been assessed via a combination of site visits carried out in August 2025 (using non-technical assessments as determined by the ECB) user consultation and ground grading scores provided by the LRCF to reach and apply an agreed rating on a scale of good, standard and poor. The full assessment criteria can be seen via Appendix 2.

Maintaining high square quality is the most important aspect of cricket; if the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and can, in some instances, become dangerous. As an example, if a square is poor quality, a ball can bounce erratically on a wicket and become a danger to players.

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.

Table 6.5: Summary of quality for grass wicket squares

Good	Standard	Poor
8	2	-

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.

Despite the square at Ibstock Town Cricket Club being rated as good quality, the Club states that it is at capacity and needs access to a second square should it wish to grow. Additionally, it also states that quality has overall quality has decreased upon previous seasons because of the number of games played.

Appleby Magna Cricket Club states that despite the pitch being located within a public area, the local community respect the square and outfield by and large. Notwithstanding this, the Club consider the outfield undersized, despite it meeting minimum requirements.

All clubs responded to consultation stating that there have been fixture cancellations during the 24/25 due to weather conditions, mainly relating to these matches being rained off.

Table 6.6: Quality ratings for grass wicket squares (site by site)

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of squares	Square quality	Outfield quality
2	Appleby Magna Recreation Ground	Measham	1	Good	Good
12	Bardon Hill Sports Club	Coalville	1	Good	Good
13	Bath Grounds	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	1	Good	Good
19	Broomleys Cricket Club	Coalville	1	Standard	Good

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of squares	Square quality	Outfield quality
34	Ibstock Town Cricket Club	Ibstock	1	Good	Good
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	Castle Donington/Kegworth	1	Good	Good
40	Long Whatton Cricket Club	Castle Donington/Kegworth	1	Good	Good
45	Moira Dale Sports Ground	Castle Donington/Kegworth	1	Good	Standard
63	Western Park	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	1	Standard	Poor
66	Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club	Coalville	1	Good	Good

Grass Pitch Improvement Fund[30]

To coincide with the utilisation of PitchPower (PP) for cricket the ECB in partnership with Sport England and National Lottery has released the Grass Pitch Improvement Fund (GPIF). The GPIF aims to tackle inequalities by providing improved access to good quality, safe playing facilities for targeted groups.

The Sport England Lottery Fund will provide funding for projects in England with projects in Wales supported by the England and Wales Cricket Trust. Priority will be given to applications which support cricket for the following groups:

- Women's and girls' cricket.
- Cricket in diverse communities.
- Disability cricket.
- Low socio-economic groups (LSEG).

Investment will be targeted into three main areas:

- Improving the quality of squares and outfields (for grass pitches rated 'unsuitable' or 'basic' to improve to at least 'good').
- Creating sustainable management of sites (through irrigation and machinery improvements).
- Installing hybrid pitches to increase playing capacity.

The fund will run until March 2027, or whenever the funding is full allocated, whichever is sooner.

PitchPower Assessment

PitchPower (a technical assessment of quality) for cricket began to be used in 2024 with the initial reports being produced towards the end of the season. More information surrounding PitchPower, and its functionality is available in Part 2: Football. The main difference for the analysis of cricket is that both the outfield and square are assessed for quality.

The outfield focusing on analysing grass height, grass coverage, weed coverage, root depth, thatch depth, undesirable grasses, surface debris and percentage of pest and disease. In comparison the square evaluation includes most of the above in addition to surface evenness, core profile, root break, worm casts, pitch markings and post-match repairs.

[30] https://resources.ecb.co.uk/ecb/document/2024/07/23/a754a60b-a11a-4dee-aa7e-06fbdc040297/GPIF-guidance-notes.pdf

PitchPower assessments use a new five step Performance Quality Standard (PQS) rating system developed by the GMA, with the FF and Sport England agreeing alignment with the capacity guidance within the existing PPS guidance. This alignment is shown in the table below.

Table 6.7: Agreed equivalent PPOSS quality rating for PitchPower ratings

PitchPower Rating	PPOSS Quality Rating
Poor	Poor
Basic	Standard
Good	Good
Advanced	Good
High	Good

PitchPower assessments will be implemented into the PPOSS process moving forward and as they come on board, and it is likely they will supersede non-technical assessments as they are more comprehensive and can provide detailed strategic recommendations on how facilities can be improved.

As a result, quality scores for cricket and recommendations within the PPOSS Strategy & Action Plan should be reviewed and updated as part of the Stage E process to reflect new technical assessments evidence and information when available.

Non-turf wickets

In relation to NTPs across North West Leicestershire, three are assessed as good quality and four are assessed as poor quality, no NTPs are rated as standard quality within the District. This is summarised by site, below.

Table 6.8: Summary of NTPs within North West Leicestershire

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of NTPs	Position	NTP quality
2	Appleby Magna Recreation Ground	Measham	1	Square	Good
13	Bath Grounds	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	1	Standalone	Poor
30	Hemington Sports Ground	Castle Donington/Kegworth	1	Standalone	Good
34	Ibstock Town Cricket Club	Ibstock	1	Square	Good
36	Ivanhoe School	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	1	Standalone	Poor
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	Castle Donington/Kegworth	1	Square	Good
61	The Newbridge School	Coalville	1	Standalone	Poor

Whilst rated as poor quality, the NTP at Appleby Magna Recreation Ground this is due to be resurfaced in spring 2026, subject to funding allocation from the ECB.

The estimated lifespan of an NTP is around ten years, depending on levels of use, and a sinking fund should be put into place for refurbishment beyond this timeframe.

Ball strike

Where there is either new cricket provision being put in place, or more commonly where there is a development which may prejudice the use of an existing cricket facility, there is a requirement for a full ball strike risk assessment to be undertaken and appropriate mitigation put in place as part of the development. As such, the ECB recommends that the affected or at-risk clubs and organisations seek to have a ball strike risk assessment undertaken. Further information can be provided by the ECB.

Ancillary facilities

The extent of ancillary facilities required differs between times of play. For example, senior teams playing at weekends typically need to access clubhouse and kitchen facilities to provide teas, whereas this is often not required for junior and short format senior matches, where the need is more for access to suitable changing and/or toilet facilities.

Quality and access to required match day and preparatory facilities across the District is varied, with clubs playing at privately managed or sports club sites generally better served than those playing at community managed provision.

Ancillary facility rating is primarily influenced by the type and quality of amenities which are available on a site, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, showering provision, car parking, dedicated umpire, spectator facilities and boundary fencing. Provision of high-quality ancillary facilities is a key aspect of the ECB's Inspiring Generations Strategy, to meet the expectations of the core participation base as well as key growth markets such as women and girls, South Asian and BAME communities and All Stars and Dynamos cricket (detailed later in the section).

The audit of ancillary facilities at community available grass pitch cricket sites in North West Leicestershire determines that three (30%) are accompanied by good quality provision, five (50%) are accompanied by standard quality provision and two (20%) are serviced by poor quality provision. The table overleaf provides a site by site breakdown, together with comments from consultation with the clubs.

None of the ancillary facilities at sites within North West Leicestershire are currently considered suitable to accommodate women's and girl's demand. The LCRF state that in order for a clubs' facilities to be suitable it must meet the following criteria;

- Separate changing room(s) additional to the two existing rooms (for females who play "open" senior cricket with men).
- Lockable shower rooms or cubicles.
- Separate female toilets (ideally in close proximity to female changing spaces).
- Female sanitary products & hygienic bins available in female toilets.

Table 6.9: Changing room quality by site

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of squares	Ancillary facility quality	Comments
2	Appleby Magna Recreation Ground	Measham	1	Good	Appleby Magna CC states that its clubhouse facilities are of a good quality including changing rooms and toilets. In addition, one official's changing room is available. However, it states that it has issues with vandalism of its covers and sightscreens. Despite being good quality, these facilities are not suitable for women's and girl's demand.
12	Bardon Hill Sports Club	Coalville	1	Good	Bardon Hill CC states that the overall clubhouse facilities are of a good quality including changing rooms and toilets, although are not considered suitable for women's and girls' demand. Official's changing is not available at this site.
13	Bath Grounds	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	1	Standard	Ashby Hastings CC states that the overall clubhouse facilities are of a standard quality including changing rooms and toilets, although these are not suitable for women's and girls' demand. Officials changing is also available. Particular issues related to the overall look of the clubhouse which is in need of development which the Club are hopeful of completing.
19	Broomleys Cricket Club	Coalville	1	Good	Broomleys CC identifies that the clubhouse facilities are of a good quality although are not considered suitable for women's and girls' demand. Notwithstanding this, the Club highlights that it would like to carry out some work to the toilets and changing rooms. Officials changing is also available.
34	Ibstock Town Cricket Club	Ibstock	1	Standard	Ibstock CC states that the overall clubhouse and social area is of a good quality, however, the condition of the toilets and changing rooms are standard, with these not suitable for women's and girls. The clubhouse also includes one official's changing room.
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	Castle Donington/Kegworth	1	Standard	Kegworth Town CC states that overall clubhouse facilities are standard across the board including changing rooms and toilets, although not suitable for women's and girls. Official's changing is also available.
40	Long Whatton Cricket Club	Castle Donington/Kegworth	1	Standard	Long Whatton CC states that the overall clubhouse facilities are of a good quality however the changing rooms are not considered to be suitable for women's and girls' demand as well as no official's changing being available.
45	Moira Dale Sports Ground	Castle Donington/Kegworth	1	Standard	Castle Donington CC states that the overall clubhouse is of a standard quality, however its social space needs updating. The changing rooms and toilets are of a standard quality also, although not suitable for women's and girls' demand. The Club states its had issues with vandalism of its covers and sightscreens.
63	Western Park	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	1	Poor	Packington CC states that the overall clubhouse is of a poor quality. Similarly, the toilet facilities on site are also rated as poor. Despite having four changing rooms and official's changing, these are rated as standard. The Club also report damage to its sightscreens. Facilities are not considered suitable for women's and girls'
66	Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club	Coalville	1	Poor	Grace Dieu Park CC states that the overall clubhouse and facilities within it such as toilets and changing rooms are of a poor quality. No officials changing is available at the site and the facilities are not considered suitable for women's and girl's demand despite having a senior women's team.

From the table shown above, the main concerns across the sites within North West Leicestershire are the lack of suitable facilities for women and girls', poor or standard quality of ancillary facilities at several locations, absence of officials' changing rooms at some sites and recurring issues with vandalism and damage to equipment including covers and sightscreens. These issues could impact participation, especially for female players and highlight areas for investment and improvement in club infrastructure.

Training facilities

Access to cricket nets is important, particularly for pre-season/winter training. Clubs access both indoor and outdoor provision before the season commences, whilst during the season, outdoor training provision supplies most of the use. In North West Leicestershire, the table below summarises the sites that currently contain fixed-lane practice nets. In total, there are seven sites supplying 13 bays.

Table 6.10: Summary of training facilities

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Practice nets?	Number of bays?	ECB approved?
2	Appleby Magna Recreation Ground	Measham	No	-	-
12	Bardon Hill Sports Club	Coalville	Yes	2	Yes
13	Bath Grounds	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	2	Yes
19	Broomleys Cricket Club	Coalville	Yes	2	Yes
34	Ibstock Town Cricket Club	Ibstock	Yes	2	Yes
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	Yes	2	Yes
40	Long Whatton Cricket Club	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	Yes	2	Yes
45	Moira Dale Sports Ground	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	No	-	-
63	Western Park	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	No	-	-
66	Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club	Coalville	Yes	1	Yes

Notwithstanding the above, according to the ECB Coaches Safety Pack, fixed lane practice nets should ideally have between 6-8 participants. Taking that into account clubs ideally should look to have at least three lanes if they have two or more senior teams. Within North West Leicestershire Ashby Hastings CC, Bardon Hill CC, Broomleys CC, Ibstock CC, Kegworth CC and Long Whatton CC all have two or more teams. Therefore, the clubs may need to increase the number of its fixed lane practice nets.

Based on consultation feedback, the following clubs report demand for new, improved and/or additional training facilities:

- Appleby Magma CC
- Castle Donington CC.
- Ibstock Town CC.
- Kegworth Town CC.
- Long Whatton CC.

Table 6.11: Summary of demand for additional training facilities

Site ID	Site name	Club	Comments
2	Appleby Magna Recreation Ground	Appleby Magma CC	Club has expressed desire to have two fixed-lane practice nets at the site with recent conversations held with the LCRF to discuss where these should be located on site.

Site ID	Site name	Club	Comments
34	Ibstock Town Cricket Club	Ibstock Town CC	Club aspire to have an additional mobile cage or one extra lane on its fixed-lane practice nets.
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	Kegworth Town CC	Club aspire to have an additional lane on its fixed-lane practice nets
40	Long Whatton Cricket Club	Long Whatton CC	Club aspire to refurbish its fixed-lane practice nets
45	Moira Dale Sports Ground	Castle Donington CC	Club aspire to have an additional mobile cage

All remaining responsive clubs report that they are satisfied with their current practice provision, although some report a need for access or improved access to indoor facilities for winter training purposes. Whilst this falls outside the remit of this study, it is something that should be considered moving forward, with many clubs reporting that they do not have access to sports halls or must access them at undesirable times.

Indoor facilities

Whilst the PPOSS only considers outdoor playing pitches, a cricket training programme includes accessing indoor net facilities over winter months in preparation for the start of the season. More information on this can be found in the Indoor Built Facilities Report being carried out in parallel to this study. The table below highlights the clubs that utilise indoor provision and where this takes place.

Table 6.12: Summary of indoor provision accessed by clubs

Club	Access indoor provision?	Name of site(s) used
Appleby Magna CC	Yes	Ivanhoe School
Ashby Hastings CC	No	-
Bardon Hill CC	No	-
Broomleys CC	No	-
Castle Donington CC	Yes	Sinfin Moor School
Grace Dieu Park CC	Yes	Grace Dieu Manor Castle Rock High School
Ibstock Town CC	Yes	Ibstock Leisure Complex
Kegworth Town CC		Loughborough Grammar School ECB National Performance Centre – Loughborough University
Long Whatton CC	Yes	ECB National Performance Centre – Loughborough University
Packington CC	Yes	Ashby School

Seven clubs within North West Leicestershire currently access indoor nets, while three do not. Notably, all clubs without indoor access do have fixed-lane practice nets available.

6.3: Demand

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.

Table 6.13: Summary of number of competitive teams by club

Club name	Analysis area	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys'	Junior girls'	Total
Appleby Magna CC	Measham	3	1	3	1	**8**
Ashby Hastings CC	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	3	-	5	-	**8**
Bardon Hill CC	Coalville	4	-	-	-	**4**
Broomleys CC	Coalville	5	1	1	1	**8**
Castle Donington CC	Castle Donington/Kegworth	1	-	-	-	**1**
Grace Dieu Park CC	Coalville	3	1	2	-	**6**
Ibstock Town CC	Ibstock	5	-	6	1	**12**
Kegworth Town CC	Castle Donington/Kegworth	3	-	3	1	**6**
Long Whatton CC	Castle Donington/Kegworth	4	-	2	-	**6**
Packington CC	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	1	-	-	-	**1**
-	**Total**	**32**	**3**	**22**	4	**61**
-	**2017 Total**	**23**	**1**	**27**	**0**	**51**

As seen in the table below, the 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%).

Table 6.14: Summary of number of competitive teams by analysis area

Analysis area	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys'	Junior girls'	Total
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	4	-	5	-	**9**
Castle Donington/ Kegworth	8	-	5	1	**14**
Coalville	12	2	3	0	**17**
Ibstock	5	-	6	1	**12**
Measham	3	1	3	1	**8**
Total	**32**	**3**	**22**	**3**	**60**

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 three junior girls' teams. Contrastingly, junior boys' demand has decreased by five teams.

It should be noted that The Leicestershire & Rutland Cricket League have recently updated their criteria for playing in their top two divisions and that those teams must have an active (playing matches that are recorded on the ECB Play-Cricket website) girls' team.

Exported demand

Through completing the audit, it has been identified that there is no exported demand from North West Leicestershire to neighbouring authorities.

Additional activity

The ECB run several initiatives across the Country which results in additional cricket demand and use of cricket facilities. Whilst these do not generally utilise grass wickets, they can impact upon availability when sessions are being held due to use of cricket outfields, making squares unusable during these periods. The most relevant initiatives currently being delivered are detailed below.

All Stars cricket

In partnership with the ECB and Chance to Shine, cricket clubs can register to become an ECB All Stars Cricket Centre. Once registered, a club delivers programmes which introduce cricket to children aged from five to eight. Subsequently, this may lead to increased interest and demand for junior cricket at clubs. The programme seeks to achieve the following aims:

- Increase cricket activity for five- to eight-year-olds in the school and club environment.
- Develop consistency of message in both settings to aid transition.
- Improve generic movement skills for children, using cricket as the vehicle.
- Make it easier for new volunteers to support and deliver in the club environment.
- Use fun small-sided games to enthuse new children and volunteers to follow and play the game.

The table below details the 2025 participation figures.

Dynamo's cricket

A key development area for the ECB in delivering on the outcomes of 'Inspiring Generations' will be the Dynamos programme for 8–11-year-olds. It plans on building on the significant growth of the All-Stars programme and will develop the pathway to retain juniors which progress. It should be noted that this can also be conducted as a girl's only program.

Where All Stars seeks to engage children in cricket activity and learning the skills, Dynamo's seeks to engage children in learning how to play, introducing a modified softball format as competitive progression with a view to eventual transition through to hardball cricket.

The programme will be strongly linked to The Hundred, a short format competition which also launched in 2022. The table below details the 2025 participation figures.

Softball cricket

Softball is an ECB initiative aimed at women and girls to increase female participation in cricket.

The aim of softball cricket sections is enjoyment and participation, without pads, a hardball, a heavy bat and limited rules. Sessions are generally played on the outfield of a square and follow a festival format with each session running for a maximum of two and half hours, shorter than traditional formats. The table below details the 2025 participation figures.

Table 6.15: Summary of All Stars, Dynamos and Softball participation

Club	All Stars participation figures (2025)	Dynamos participation figures (2025)	Softball participation figures (2025)
Appleby Magna CC	7	8	18
Ashby Hastings CC	-	20	-

Club	All Stars participation figures (2025)	Dynamos participation figures (2025)	Softball participation figures (2025)
Broomleys CC	24	23	16
Grace Dieu Park CC	-	-	12
Ibstock Town CC	20	12	17
Kegworth Town CC	35	30	-
Long Whatton CC	20	15	-
Total	**106**	**108**	**63**

As shown in the table above, across North West Leicestershire a total of seven clubs offer either All Stars, Dynamos or Softball participation.

Disability cricket

The ECB wishes to support cricket clubs to deliver cricket opportunities for those with disabilities and has setup the Disability Cricket Champion Club Programme to support clubs through guidance, resource and equipment. This is to enable them to welcome individuals with additional needs and varying abilities to support them to play, follow, officiate and volunteer.

There are currently no Disability Cricket Champion clubs in North West Leicestershire. It is, however, suggested that this could be targeted moving forward.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through club ambitions and using population forecasts. In addition, the Strategy that follows this report will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate the additional demand for cricket arising from housing development plans within North West Leicestershire.

Population growth

Based on population projections to 2042 (in line with the Council's emerging Local Plan), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can estimate the likely additional demand for cricket pitches that will arise from any growth (using ONS-2018 based projections). This is through using the current and future populations in each of the relevant age groups together with the current team numbers. Team generation rates have then been established to understand how much growth is required to establish one new team.

The table below shows the number of new teams generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions.

Table 6.16: Team generation rates based on population growth (2042)

Age group	Team generation rate	No. of new teams generated by the new population	No. of new teams generated by the new population - rounded figure
Senior Men's (18-55)	1:780	8.26	8
Senior Women's (18-55)	1:8,705	0.77	1
Junior Boys (7-18)	1:354	5.68	6

Age group	Team generation rate	No. of new teams generated by the new population	No. of new teams generated by the new population - rounded figure
Junior Girls (7-18)	1:3,674	0.52	1

The total amount of future growth is anticipated to equate to eight senior men's, one senior women's, six junior boys' and one junior girl's teams. As these figures cannot be accredited to any one analysis area, they will be added onto the overall supply and demand total for each pitch type.

Notwithstanding the above, it is important to acknowledge that there are plans and strategies in place to increase the number of teams at some formats beyond what current trends and population changes would suggest. For example, consultation with the ECB suggests that further development of women and girl's participation in cricket in North West Leicestershire is likely as it is currently a national priority. This also applies to potential increased growth in junior cricket, linked to the abovementioned All Stars and Dynamos initiatives.

Participation growth

Through consultation only three clubs express their desire to increase the number of teams they field by a total of four teams, one within each category. Details of a breakdown of this potential growth is listed in the table below.

Table 6.17: Future demand expressed by clubs (in teams)

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

In addition to the above, from the 2026 season, Ashby Hastings CC will have a Super 8s (hardball) & a softball team playing league cricket in the East Midlands Women's League

As seen in the table above, aspirational club growth is dispersed across the Castle Donington/ Kegworth, Coalville and Ibstock analysis areas. No future demand is identified within the Ashby-de-la-Zouch or Measham analysis areas.

Future demand summary

In the supply and demand analysis at the end of this section of the report, only demand identified through population growth is taken forward, with club demand considered to be more theoretical and aspirational. This is to avoid any potential double counting and also factors in that some club context is unquantified.

Notwithstanding the above, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain a scenario that will consider the impact if club aspirations are also realised. It will also take into account the expected rise in women's and girls' activity.

Peak time demand

An analysis of match play identifies that peak time demand for senior cricket in North West Leicestershire is Saturday, although several teams also play on a Sunday including senior women's teams. As such, both are considered within the supply and demand analysis later in the section. For junior cricket, peak time is considered to be midweek.

6.4: Capacity analysis

Capacity analysis for cricket is measured on a seasonal rather than a weekly basis. This is due to playability (as only one match is generally played per square per day at weekends or weekday evening) and because wickets are rotated throughout the season to reduce wear and tear and to allow for repair.

The capacity of a square to accommodate matches is driven by the number and quality of wickets. This section of the report therefore presents the current pitch stock available for cricket and illustrates the number of competitive match equivalent sessions per season per square that is available and that currently takes place.

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.

The number of matches played by each team has been derived from consultation with the clubs. Where consultation was not possible, or where the level of play was not made clear, an assumption has been made that all senior teams play between 10 and 12 home matches per year and all junior teams play between four and eight matches per year depending on their age and level of competition.

The above is used to allocate capacity ratings as follows:

Potential capacity	Play is below the level the site could sustain
At capacity	Play matches the level the site can sustain
Overused	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain

The capacity analysis assumes that all clubs rotate their wickets evenly. However, this may not be the case at all sites, with central wickets potentially used more commonly than outer wickets that are closer to a boundary, especially for senior matches. The idea of this is to showcase what the capacity is or could be if best practice is followed for the whole square, rather than doing it on a wicket-by-wicket basis.

Please note that NTPs have been discounted from the analysis by means of not distorting the findings. This is because no NTPs are currently being used more than their recommended capacity, which is 60 match equivalent sessions per season (0 match equivalent sessions when poor quality). With no NTPs being overused, this translates to overall actual spare capacity for junior play.

However, this is not considered to be actual spare capacity for senior weekend cricket due to league requirements generally not allowing usage.

With regard to midweek capacity, a maximum capacity rating of 36 match equivalent sessions per season has been set for one square. This is calculated on the understanding that a square is to be rested at least two days during the week in order to enable necessary maintenance and reduce overplay. Therefore, on a home and away basis of three nights a week, a square has been set the capacity of six sessions per season for midweek play, multiplied by six (the average number of matches a junior team plays). Any square showing potential spare capacity for midweek demand shall be allocated six match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity per season, due to the fewer number of fixtures within a junior calendar.

Table 6.17 Capacity analysis of grass cricket squares

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community availability	Users	Security of tenure	Pitch quality	Type of wicket	No. of grass wickets[31]	Capacity (match equivalent sessions)	Current use (match equivalent sessions)	Capacity balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential spare capacity/ availability for Saturday cricket	Potential spare capacity/ availability for Sunday cricket	Potential spare capacity/ availability for midweek cricket
2	Appleby Magna Recreation Ground	Measham	Yes	Appleby Magna CC	Secure	Good	Senior	8	40	29	11	No	No	Yes
12	Bardon Hill Sports Club	Coalville	Yes	Bardon Hill CC	Secure	Good	Senior	12	60	27	33	No	Yes	Yes
13	Bath Grounds	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Ashby Hastings CC	Secure	Good	Senior	17	85	39	46	No	Yes	Yes
19	Broomleys Cricket Club	Coalville	Yes	Broomleys CC	Secure	Standard	Senior	10	40	53	-13	No	No	Yes
34	Ibstock Town Cricket Club	Ibstock	Yes	Ibstock Town CC	Secure	Good	Senior	10	50	61	-11	No	No	No
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	Kegworth Town CC	Secure	Good	Senior	14	70	24	46	No	No	Yes
40	Long Whatton Cricket Club	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	Long Whatton CC	Secure	Good	Senior	6	30	43	-13	No	No	Yes
45	Moira Dale Sports Ground	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	Castle Donington CC	Secure	Good	Senior	10	50	10	40	Yes	Yes	Yes
63	Western Park	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Packington CC	Secure	Standard	Senior	8	32	21	11	Yes	Yes	Yes
66	Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club	Coalville	Yes	Grace Dieu Park CC	Secure	Good	Senior	8	40	33	7	No	No	Yes

[31] Please note the number of wickets indicated are those which have been identified for actual competitive usage.

Actual spare capacity

A square is only considered to have actual spare capacity if it is available for further usage during a particular peak period, has security of tenure and is at least standard quality. Using the capacity analysis, this section considers the level of actual spare capacity available for each playing format.

Notwithstanding the above, it should be noted that the actual spare capacity on Saturdays, Sundays and during midweek should not be viewed collectively as utilising it across different days may result in overplay. For example, a site with 12 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity per season theoretically has capacity for one additional senior team and two additional junior teams; however, it does not have capacity for both. As such, this needs to be taken into consideration on a site-by-site basis as and when demand grows.

Taking the above into consideration the square at Moira Dale Sports Ground has potential capacity to accommodate further demand.

Potential spare capacity for additional cricket demand on a Saturday has been discounted at Western Park (at capacity).

Table 6.18: Site by site breakdown of spare capacity (Saturday demand)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Capacity rating (MES)	Number of additional teams that could be accommodated in the peak period	Actual spare capacity required for additional teams in the peak period (MES)
45	Moira Dale Sports Ground	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	40	1	12

The total of actual spare capacity on Saturday equates to 12 match equivalent sessions per season with this falling in the Castle Donington/ Kegworth Analysis Area.

Table 6.19: Actual spare capacity for senior cricket (Saturday) by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (MES)
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	-
Castle Donington/ Kegworth	12
Coalville	-
Ibstock	-
Measham	-
Total	**12**

Sunday cricket

Sunday capacity provides capacity for additional senior men's demand to be accommodated outside of the peak period whilst still being able to play within a competitive format. Moreover, it provides peak time availability for senior women's cricket (both hardball and softball) and for some junior demand.

Similar to Saturday cricket, a square on a Sunday is only considered to have actual spare capacity if it is not already used by two teams at this time, has secure tenure and is not over, at, or close to capacity. Taking this into consideration, there are three squares across the same sites in North West Leicestershire that have potential capacity to accommodate further demand.

Potential spare capacity for additional cricket demand on a Saturday has been discounted at Western Park (at capacity).

Table 6.20: Summary of actual spare capacity for Sunday cricket by site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Capacity rating (MES)	Number of additional teams that could be accommodated in the peak period	Actual spare capacity required for additional teams in the peak period (MES)
12	Bardon Hill Sports Club	Coalville	33	1	12
13	Bath Grounds	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	46	2	24
45	Moira Dale Sports Ground	Castle Donington/Kegworth	40	2	24

Total actual spare capacity on a Sunday equates to 60 match equivalent sessions per season. The Ashby-de-la-Zouch and Castle Donington/Kegworth analysis areas have the most actual spare capacity totalling 24 match equivalent sessions a season each.

Table 6.21: Actual spare capacity for senior cricket (Sunday) by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (MES)
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	24
Castle Donington/ Kegworth	24
Coalville	12
Ibstock	-
Measham	-
Total	**60**

Junior cricket (midweek)

For midweek cricket, most squares with spare capacity have actual spare capacity for an increase in demand. This is because matches can be spread across numerous days, meaning capacity is not limited to two teams. Moreover, the presence of junior wickets at certain sites, as well as NTPs, provide further capacity that is generally not available to senior demand.

For a square to have actual spare capacity for midweek cricket, it must have secure tenure, not be overplayed and have more than six match equivalent sessions of spare capacity as this is the average number of matches an additional junior team would play. However, a square is not considered to have capacity for an increase in demand if it is already used by six midweek teams or more as availability is then assumed to be limited (on average, clubs are able to play fixtures on three nights per week, with other nights reserved for other activity such as All Stars and Dynamos).

Taking the above into consideration there are seven squares across seven sites in North West Leicestershire that have potential capacity to accommodate further demand during midweek.

Potential spare capacity for additional cricket demand midweek has been discounted at Broomleys Cricket Club (overplayed and Long Whatton Cricket Club (overplayed).

Table 6.22: Summary of actual spare capacity for midweek cricket by site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Capacity rating (MES)	Number of additional teams that could be accommodated in the peak period	Actual spare capacity required for additional teams in the peak period (MES)
2	Appleby Magna Recreation Ground	Measham	11	1	6
12	Bardon Hill Sports Club	Coalville	33	4	24
13	Bath Grounds	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	46	4	24
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	Castle Donington/Kegworth	46	4	24
45	Moira Dale Sports Ground	Castle Donington/Kegworth	40	6	36
63	Western Park	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	11	1	6
66	Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club	Coalville	7	1	6

The total actual spare capacity midweek equates to 126 match equivalent sessions a season with most of this being located in the Castle Donington/Kegworth Analysis Area with 60 match equivalent sessions a season.

Table 6.23: Actual spare capacity for midweek cricket by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (MES)
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	30
Castle Donington/Kegworth	60
Coalville	30
Ibstock	-
Measham	6
Total	**126**

Overplay

Overplay translates to a site accommodating more demand than it can sustain based on the number of wickets provided and the quality of the square.

Table 6.24: Summary of overplay

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Type of wicket	Overplay (MES)
19	Broomleys Cricket Club	Coalville	Senior	13
34	Ibstock Town Cricket Club	Ibstock	Senior	11
40	Long Whatton Cricket Club	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Senior	13

In North West Leicestershire, three squares are overplayed across three sites equating to 37 match equivalent sessions per season. The Castle Donington/Kegworth and Coalville analysis areas have the most amount of overplay with 13 match equivalent sessions per season each.

For all three sites, demand from the respective clubs, Broomley CC, Ibstock Town CC and Long Whatton CC is the main reason for the overplay, although Broomley CC square is rated as standard which impacts its overall capacity.

6.5: Supply and demand analysis

Consideration must be given to the extent to which current provision can accommodate current and future demand for both senior and junior cricket. This section therefore looks at actual spare capacity on grass wicket squares considered against overplay and identified future demand. Match equivalent sessions for future demand are calculated using the average number of matches played per season (12 matches for Saturday and Sunday and eight matches for midweek junior teams).

Saturday supply and demand analysis

The table below looks at the supply and demand balance during the peak period for senior men's cricket (Saturday). For actual spare capacity, please note that this is converted from the number of match equivalent sessions identified above to the number of match equivalent sessions that could feasibly be utilised by a growth in demand. This is calculated by using the average number of matches played per season by senior teams (12) multiplied by the number of additional teams that can be fielded at peak time (two teams per square that is available). The entirety of the spare capacity at each site is not used as this number of matches may not be able to be accommodated at peak time.

Table 6.25: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for senior cricket (Saturday) in match equivalent sessions per season

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future Total
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	-	-	**-**	-	**-**
Castle Donington/Kegworth	12	-13	**-1**	-	**-**
Coalville	-	-13	**-13**	-	**-**
Ibstock	-	-11	**-11**	-	**-**
Measham	-	-	**-**	-	**-**
Total	**12**	**-37**	**-25**	**96**	**-121**

As seen in the table above, there is overplay of grass wicket squares in North West Leicestershire on Saturday's amounting to 25 match equivalent sessions per season. This is located in the Castle Donington/Kegworth Coalville and Ibstock analysis areas.

After considering future demand of eight senior men's team derived from population growth, the Authority wide shortfall worsens significantly to 121 MES of overplay. As the future demand has not been broken down by Analysis Area it has been applied to the entire Authority.

Sunday cricket supply and demand analysis

The table below looks at the supply and demand balance for Sunday cricket, which is peak time for senior women's demand but also relevant to some senior men's and junior teams.

Table 6.26: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for Sunday cricket in match equivalent sessions per season

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future Total
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	24	-	**24**	-	**-**
Castle Donington/ Kegworth	24	13	**11**	-	**-**
Coalville	12	13	**-1**	-	**-**
Ibstock	-	11	**-11**	-	**-**
Measham	-	-	**-**	-	**-**
Total	**60**	**37**	**23**	**12**	**11**

As seen in the table above, there is a current overall spare capacity of grass wicket squares in North West Leicestershire on Sunday's amounting to 23 match equivalent sessions per season.

After considering future demand of one senior women's team derived from population growth, the Authority wide actual spare capacity reduces to 11 match equivalent sessions per season. As the future demand has not been broken down by analysis area it has been applied to the entire District.

Junior cricket supply and demand analysis (midweek)

For the junior supply and demand analysis, actual spare capacity equates to the total spare capacity at each available site or, if it is lower, the total number of additional junior teams that could be fielded on each available square (on the assumption that one square can accommodate six midweek teams), multiplied by six (the average number of matches a junior team plays). This is because junior demand at peak time is not limited to one day, although some capacity should be reserved for activity such as All Stars and Dynamos.

Table 6.27: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for midweek cricket in match equivalent sessions per season

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future Total
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	30	-	**30**	-	**-**
Castle Donington/Kegworth	60	13	**47**	-	**-**
Coalville	30	13	**17**	-	**-**
Ibstock	-	11	**-11**	-	**-**
Measham	6	-	**6**	-	**-**
Total	**126**	**37**	**89**	**42**	**47**

As seen in the table above, there is a current spare capacity of grass wicket squares in North West Leicestershire for midweek cricket amounting to 89 match equivalent sessions per season, despite a shortfall in the Ibstock Analysis Area.

After considering future demand derived from population growth, the spare capacity lessens to 47 match equivalent sessions per season once the growth of six junior boys' and one junior girls' teams is accounted for.

6.6: Conclusion

Based on the supply and demand analysis provided above, 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.

Table 6.28: Capacity balance of grass cricket squares summary in match equivalent sessions per season

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Saturday	12	37	**-25**	**96**	**-121**
Sunday	60	37	**23**	**12**	**11**
Midweek	126	37	**89**	**42**	**47**

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. When factoring in future demand, shortfalls for Saturday cricket worsen significantly and spare capacity is reduced but still present for Sunday and Midweek cricket albeit minimal in the case of Sunday.

In comparison to the previous study completed in 2017, the picture for cricket remains the same with shortfalls for the Saturday peak period. In addition, there is exported demand from North West Leicestershire, which is likely to want to return, this will be explored further in the Strategy & Action Plan.

The subsequent Strategy and Action Plan will provide scenarios and recommendations for how best to alleviate these shortfalls, accommodate exported demand and ensure appropriate provision for cricket exists for the future in North West Leicestershire.

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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

PART 7: TENNIS

7.1: Introduction

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the organisation responsible for the governance of tennis as well as Padel and administers the sport locally across North West Leicestershire. The LTA has recently restructured its strategic approach to target a number of national focus areas, with a priority on developing park sites, covered courts, sports lighting and Padel courts.

Consultation

Three tennis clubs have been identified within North West Leicestershire. Of these clubs, Ashby Castle and Oaks & District tennis clubs have responded to consultation requests, resulting in a 67% response rate. Kegworth TC has been unresponsive to consultation requests.

Table 7.1: Summary of consultation

Club name	Responded?
Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club	Yes
Kegworth Tennis Club	No
Oaks & District Tennis Club	Yes

7.2: Supply

There are 32 tennis courts identified in North West Leicestershire across 12 sites. Of these, 31 courts across 10 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.

Table 7.2: Summary of the number of courts by analysis area

Analysis area	Number of courts available for community use	Number of courts unavailable for community use	Total
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	12	-	**12**
Castle Donington/Kegworth	6	1	**7**
Coalville	11	-	**11**
Ibstock	2	-	**2**
Measham	-	-	**-**
Total	**31**	**1**	**32**

Please note that courts are classified as being available for community use provided that they are deemed to be easily accessible to the general population, either via pay and play or through a membership at a club (or a mixture of both).

The mapping below identifies the location of the courts currently servicing North West Leicestershire. For a key to this, see Table 7.3.

Figure 7.1: Location of tennis courts in North West Leicestershire

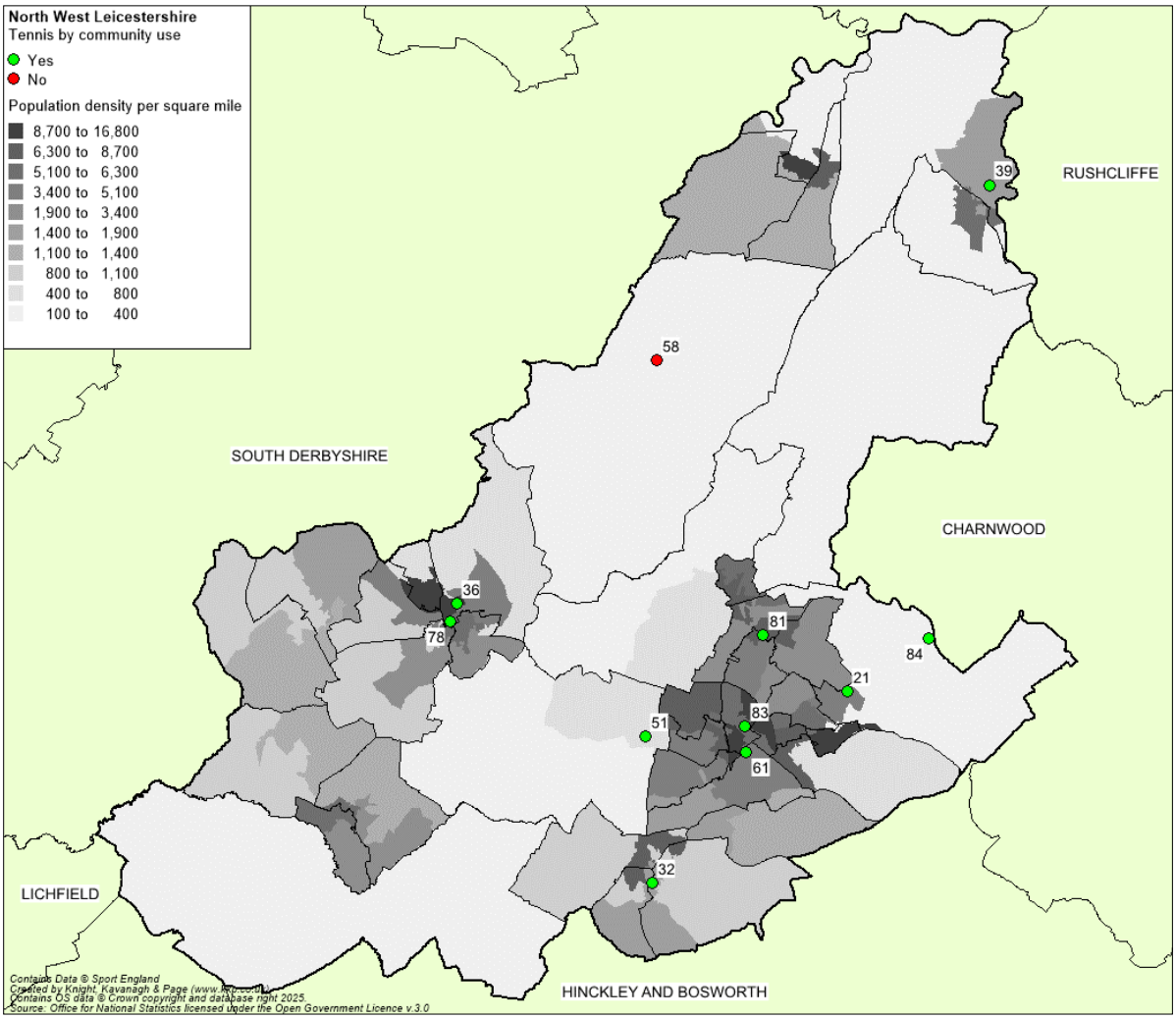


Table 7.3: Summary of provision site by site

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Management	Community use?	No. of courts	Overmarked?	Sports lit?	Court type
21	Castle Rock High School	LE67 4BR	Coalville	Education	Yes	2	No	No	Macadam
32	Ibstock Leisure Complex	LE67 6NE	Ibstock	Council	Yes	2	Yes	Yes	Artificial Turf
36	Ivanhoe School	LE65 1HX	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Education	Yes	4	No	No	Macadam
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	DE74 2FH	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	Council	Yes	3	No	Yes	Macadam
51	Ravenstone Recreation Ground	LE67 2AU	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Council	Yes	1	No	No	Macadam
58	St Hardulphs C of E Primary School	DE73 8AN	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	Education	No	1	No	No	Macadam
61	The Newbridge School	LE67 3SJ	Coalville	Education	Yes	5	No	No	Macadam
78	Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club	LE65 1BQ	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Sport Club	Yes	4	No	Yes	Artificial Turf
78	Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club	LE65 1BQ	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Sport Club	Yes	3	No	Yes	Clay
81	Whitwick Memorial Park	LE67 5HA	Coalville	Council	Yes	2	No	No	Macadam
83	Coalville Park	LE67 3JB	Coalville	Council	Yes	2	No	No	Macadam
84	Oaks & District Tennis Club	LE12 9YD	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	Sport Club	Yes	3	No	Yes	Macadam

Disused provision

Ashby School and Sixth Form previous provided five poor quality sports lit courts, although in April of 2025 these were resurfaced to four sports lit netball courts.

Future developments

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

Regarding tennis, Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club did not indicate any aspirations to relocate from its main site. This will be explored in the following Strategy & Action Plan.

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 unknown at this stage whether these will be sports lit and available for community use.

Ownership and management

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%). In the case of Ashby Castle and Oaks & District tennis clubs, both clubs own its respective courts. The position for Kegworth Tennis Club is currently unknown.

The unavailable court located at St Hardulph's C of E Primary School is managed by an education provider.

Table 7.4: Summary of court ownership within North West Leicestershire

Community use?	Sports club	Council	Education
Available	10	10	9
Unavailable	-	-	1
Total	**10**	**10**	**12**

Court type

Within North West Leicestershire 23 courts (72%) have a macadam surface. The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels. To ensure courts can continue to be used beyond this time frame, it is recommended that a sinking fund is put into place for eventual refurbishment. The LTA reports that this should cost £1,200 a year per macadam court (which includes on-going maintenance costs).

The remaining courts consist of six (19%) with an artificial turf surface and three (9%) offering clay. Such provision generally allows for greater levels of access, especially during inclement weather spells, as well as requiring less frequent maintenance. Nevertheless, the cost of resurfacing the courts is more expensive despite the lifespan being similar.

Sports lighting

Courts with sports lighting enable use throughout the year and are identified by the LTA as being a key priority for growing participation nationally. In fact, the LTA reports that sports lighting allows for a 35% increase in available court time on an annual basis.

In North West Leicestershire, 10 (31%) of tennis courts are serviced by sports lighting, with all courts across four sites available for community use as seen in Table 7.3. The largest number of sports-lit courts fall within the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area with seven (47%), whereas the Ibstock Analysis Area has the least number of sports lit courts with two (13%).

Table 7.5: Summary of the number of courts which have sports lighting by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of courts which have sports lighting	No. of courts which don't have sports lighting
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	2	10
Castle Donington/ Kegworth	6	1
Coalville	-	11
Ibstock	2	-
Measham	-	-
Total	**10**	**22**

Nationally, access to courts with sports lighting is considered particularly key at parks and club sites as it allows for more usage of provision. In North West Leicestershire, all three clubs have access to sports-lit courts.

Regarding Council owned/managed provision a total of five out of ten courts are sports lit. These are located at Ibstock Leisure Complex (Ibstock Analysis Area) and King George V Playing Field (Castle Donington/ Kegworth). There are no sport lit Council courts in the remaining analysis areas of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Coalville and Measham.

Additionally, no school courts across North West Leicestershire are currently serviced by sports lighting, with this being a key reason as to why many are unavailable for community.

Over marking

Tennis courts, particularly within schools, are often over marked by netball, basketball and/or football courts. Courts which are over marked tend to receive higher level of use which can be detrimental to quality over time, as well as creating capacity issues if there is community demand from more than one sport.

Across North West Leicestershire, only two courts are overmarked by basketball, netball and/or 5-aside provision, with these located at Ibstock Leisure Complex, however, these are not used to accommodate any club demand.

Quality

The quality of tennis courts is informed through non-technical site assessments carried out in August 2025 and consultation with providers to assign each court a rating of good, standard or poor. Key aspects informing the findings include surface quality, grip underfoot, line marking quality, evenness, and evidence of inappropriate use such as vandalism and littering (for the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2).

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.

Table 7.6: Summary of tennis court quality

Community available	Good	Standard	Poor
Available	**15**	**16**	**-**
Unavailable	**-**	**1**	**-**
Total	**15**	**17**	**-**

The good quality courts include all three clubs in North West Leicestershire, which reflects that maintenance is often more regular and sophisticated at club-based sites. Good quality courts are also located at Coalville Park.

For a detailed breakdown of quality at each site with tennis courts, please see the table below.

Table 7.7: Site by site quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of courts	Court quality
21	Castle Rock High School	Coalville	Yes	2	Standard
32	Ibstock Leisure Complex	Ibstock	Yes	2	Standard
36	Ivanhoe School	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	4	Standard
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	Yes	3	Good
51	Ravenstone Recreation Ground	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	1	Standard
58	St Hardulphs C of E Primary School	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	No	1	Standard
61	The Newbridge School	Coalville	Yes	5	Standard
78	Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	4	Good
78	Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	3	Good
81	Whitwick Memorial Park	Coalville	Yes	2	Standard
83	Coalville Park	Coalville	Yes	2	Good
84	Oaks & District Tennis Club	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	Yes	3	Good

Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club states that it has a plan to resurface and repair its courts on a rolling program, with the Club securing funding via membership loans, small grants applications and a sinking fund. In addition, the Club received a grant from Sport England to aid with this project.

Renovation fund[32]

The LTA has secured a £22 million investment fund to be put into park tennis courts across Britain, together with an £8.5 million investment from the LTA. This will see thousands of public park tennis courts that are in poor or unplayable condition improved for the benefit of the local communities.

[32] Renovation Fund for tennis facilities (lta.org.uk)

The LTA's ambition is to drive participation across park tennis sites, as well as ensuring the future sustainability of these facilities. As well as paying for the refurbishment of public park courts, the new investment will also pay for the implementation of sustainable operating models for the facilities, with specialist programmes and support to ensure courts are both affordable and utilised.

LTA Quick Access Loan Scheme[33]

The LTA's mission is to grow tennis and padel by making them accessible, welcoming, and enjoyable. Ensuring local communities have access to quality facilities is critical to attracting and retaining more players. As such, the LTA's Quick Access Loan Scheme aims to provide interest-free loans to support venues investment in facilities, prioritising the installation and construction of covered courts. The objectives of the fund are to:

- Provide covered or sports-lit playing facilities to encourage community accessible play all year.
- Retain and increase the number of participants at the venue.
- Offer and increase both non-members pay and play usage and coaching opportunities.
- Grow the numbers of adults and juniors on the coaching programme.
- Provide seamless booking of tennis courts and lessons through an online booking system

As part of the fund, the LTA will fund:

- Lighting upgrades to LED (outdoor and indoor).
- New sports lights.
- New court provision.
- Outdoor padel courts.
- Covered padel (courts and cover).
- Covered tennis courts.

Ancillary provision

For club-based tennis, the ancillary facilities provided are generally of a standard/ good quality, with neither of the responding clubs reporting any significant issues. Ashby Castle and Oaks & District tennis clubs both state that the supporting pavilions have changing rooms available with these also suitable for female participation.

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 this a public car park is available for overflow.

LTA Youth provision

LTA Youth provides children with an opportunity to learn the fundamentals of tennis at an early age. It utilises smaller courts, nets and rackets as well as lower-bouncing tennis balls to develop vital tennis skills and techniques. This has five levels, with the LTA stating that each stage has key aims and goals as follows:

- Blue: Learn the Basics – tennis lessons for ages 4-6.
- Red: Serve, Rally and Score – tennis lessons for ages 6-8.
- Orange: Develop a Rounded Game - tennis lessons for ages 8-9.

[33] Quick Access Loan Scheme for tennis facilities (lta.org.uk)

- Green: Test your Skills - tennis lessons for ages 9-10.
- Yellow: Take your Skills Further – tennis lessons for ages 10+.

Within North West Leicestershire, no youth provision is provided although It should also be noted that full size courts can also be used via the use of temporary markings and/or cones.

Padel

Padel tennis is relatively new to Great Britain and is growing in popularity, particularly since its recognition as a sport and integration within the LTA. It is played mainly in a doubles format on an enclosed court about a third of the size of a tennis court and can be played in groups of mixed ages and abilities. The rules are broadly the same as tennis, although you serve under-arm and the walls are used as part of the game with the ball allowed to bounce off them.

In order to grow the sport, the LTA is focused on improving the infrastructure and the coach education pathway. At the end of 2020, there were 87 courts, 350 in 2023 with 500 courts in 2024. There is a projected growth of 1,000 courts in 2026. It is therefore envisaged that, with growing infrastructure, participation in padel will increase significantly in the next five years.

Since 2021, the LTA has invested £6 million to grow padel infrastructure and in 2023 129,000 players were reportedly playing padel. Building on from this, LTA has outlined a Padel Strategy (2024-2029). The key objectives are to:

- Grow the visibility of padel to increase awareness from 20% to 40% of the population, interest in playing from 7.5% to 15% and boost participation.
- Increase the number of annual padel players from 129,000 to 400,000, and monthly players from 65,000 to 200,000.
- Increase the number of padel courts from 350 to 1,000.
- Grow the padel coach and activator workforce from 40 to 700.
- Enable 10 players to break into the top 200 and two players into the top 100 and inspire the padel audience.

The LTA states that padel court development at leisure centre sites can be particularly beneficial as provision can be tied into other sports facilities and profit from an already established operating model. Furthermore, it identifies that they can benefit clubs and particularly those that may be otherwise struggling due to the additional revenue that they can provide.

Notwithstanding the above, the LTA also states that it is not encouraging clubs or operators to convert existing tennis courts to padel courts, unless it can be shown that they have the capacity to support this. This is to ensure that the provision of tennis courts remains sufficient.

There are currently no padel tennis courts within North West Leicestershire, the nearest courts are in Charnwood at Loughborough University.

Indoor provision

Whilst not included within the scope of this study, it is recognised that tennis activity also takes places via indoor provision, particularly in sports halls and outside of summer months. More information in relation to this can be found in the Built Sports Facilities Strategy which is being undertaken in conjunction with the PPOSS.

Notwithstanding the above, Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club has expressed its desire to access covered/ indoor tennis courts to accommodate training and fixture demand during the winter months.

7.3: Demand

Competitive tennis

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. In the case of Ashby Castle and Kegworth tennis clubs, a breakdown of senior and junior membership is unknown.

Table 7.8: Summary of club membership

Name of club	Number of members		
	Seniors	Juniors	Total
Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club	*Unknown*	*Unknown*	374
Kegworth Tennis Club	*Unknown*	*Unknown*	*Unknown*
Oaks & District Tennis Club	42	2	44
Total	**42**	**2**[34]	**418**

Participation trends

Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club states that it has seen increases in its club-specific demand within the last few years, stating membership figures have increased due to word of mouth and its high standard of coaching. Elsewhere, Oaks & District Tennis Club states that its senior membership has remained the same, whilst junior membership has decreased which the Club reports is due to the loss of its junior coach.

Informal and parks tennis

Across North West Leicestershire, Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club allow for pay and play usage of their courts from non-members.

Away from clubs, community usage can be difficult to quantify as it is not always monitored. Demand for such provision is generally at its highest during summer months, especially following events such as Wimbledon, but significant capacity is likely to exist outside of this.

To help grow the use of tennis courts, the LTA has developed a package of support for local authorities and other providers by removing key barriers to participation. This is via three products known as ClubSpark, LTA Play and Gate Access. In North West Leicestershire, these are in place at the following sites.

- Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club.
- Coalville Park.
- Ravenstone Recreation Ground.
- Whitwick Park.

Each product is further summarised below.

[34] Limited breakdown of membership available for Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club

ClubSpark – Improving the booking process

ClubSpark is a flexible and simple venue management platform with multiple products and applications to help venues, local authorities and coaches manage their sport. ClubSpark is a tool that is offered for free as part of LTA venue registration and allows administrators to manage all functions at their venue(s), including:

- Managed website - create and manage a mobile friendly website tailored to LA/club requirements to promote events and activities.
- Managed coaching – set up coaching lessons and courses online.
- Membership management - improve membership engagement by making it easier for the venue and for members to pay, renew and keep in touch (includes online payments, direct debits and the monitoring of revenue streams; membership modules can also be used to take season ticket payments for venues operating a non-traditional annual facility fee).
- Organise payments - set the way payments are taken, whether it's immediate pay and play, or bookable as part of a membership package.
- Court bookings – reduced administration for managing bookings; give staff, coaches, members and the general public access to book and pay for courts, classes or other resources online.
- Scheduling - set unique booking and price rules to suit the venue and enable lights to switch on/off automatically when linked to the LTA Premium Gate Access system.
- Book and pay remotely - customers can make bookings and payments for a venue anytime, anywhere via the real-time booking app.
- Reporting - ClubSpark allows administrators to view reports highlighting income, court usage, revenue and number of members and season ticket holders; this allows for identification of trends and patterns and evidence to demonstrate participation levels and impact.

LTA Play

LTA Play is an aggregator that collects all booking and coaching information via ClubSpark pages and displays it for participants in one easy to view page. It allows players to search for venues close to them and provides booking options, removing the barriers of not knowing where courts are or how to book.

LTA Play provides a helpful customer journey, with a personal profile to review and manage bookings, and helpful reminders. Courts can be set to book for free of charge or at a fee agreed by the provider.

Smart Access

The LTA has developed two Smart Access gate access systems that work in association with ClubSpark to secure courts and to allow access to booked customers only. Members of the public can book a court online (making payment if required) and receive a four digit access code via email to enter using a courtside keypad. The gate access system then allows entry for the time booked if a correct code is entered.

There are two gate options available: SmartAccess Premium and SmartAccess Lite. The demands and needs of users plus the setup of the venue determines the most appropriate system for each site.

Nationally, the LTA report that in the last three years, sites with a gate access system installed have attracted 64,841 unique players, leading to 609,671 courts being booked. This has generated income of over £1 million.

Additional demand

The LTA operates various tennis initiatives across the Country which results in some courts receiving additional demand. Furthermore, there are other formats away from traditional tennis that can result in increased usage. These are all detailed below.

Parks tennis leagues

Parks tennis leagues are less formal in comparison to established club play, offering greater flexibility and an opportunity for all abilities to engage in competition at local venues. The leagues are run by Local Tennis Leagues and are available to all aged 18 years and above, with administration and support based online. Players are organised into mixed sex leagues of eight based on similar ability levels, with matches arranged between the two players at whatever time and court is agreed. The flexibility of play is conducive to the use of park sites which are typically more easily accessible. In North West Leicestershire, there are no Park Tennis Leagues that takes place currently.

Free Parks Tennis

Free Park Tennis is a new programme for all park tennis operators, offering people the chance to play tennis for free and providing an entry point for more players to get involved in the sport. This has been developed due to the following needs:

- Player Trends:
  - 35% of people who play tennis once per year or more do so in a park.
  - The most common type of play for park players is socially with friends or family.
- Barriers:
  - 25% of players cite not having anyone to play with as a barrier to playing more tennis.
  - 24% of players cite having nowhere to play or difficulty in accessing local courts as reasons why they do not play tennis more often.
  - 32% of these players say local courts are not affordable.
  - 75% of parks players consider themselves to be of beginner (41%) or improver (36%) standard, which is significantly lower than club players.
  - 22% of players state that a lack of equipment prevents them from playing tennis.

The key points of the sessions are:

- Free for all players to book and attend.
- Run by a minimum of two trained and DBS checked Activators.
- Sessions should run all year round (weather depending).
- Run on a Saturday or Sunday morning at 10.00-11.00am.

Court requirements are for three courts minimum in parks that have this many, or two courts at two court sites (a three court site can have up to 34 players attending). The sessions are designed for those aged eight and over, but under eights can attend when accompanied by a parent.

Within North West Leicestershire, there are currently no free parks tennis offerings.

LTA Youth Programmes

The LTA provides children with the perfect opportunity to learn the fundamentals of tennis at an early age. Designed for children aged between 4-10, mini tennis utilises smaller courts, nets and rackets as well as lower-bouncing tennis balls to develop vital tennis skills and techniques.

The game is split out into five levels, with the LTA stating that each stage has key aims and goals as follows:

- Blue Stage: Age 4-6 – learn the basics.
- Red Stage: Age 6-8 – serve, rally and score.
- Orange Stage: Age 8-9 – develop a rounded game.
- Green Stage: Age 9-10 – test your skills.
- Yellow Stage: Age 10+ - take your skills further.

Within North West Leicestershire no mini tennis courts have been identified, sessions may also be running on full size courts elsewhere, particularly at club sites.

Padel

In 2022, 90,000 people reportedly play padel more than once a year in England - a 493% year on year increase compared to 2021 data (15,000). This then reportedly increased to 129,000 players in 2023, exemplifying the continued growth of the sport and the need to ensure that such demand is being adequately catered for.

Building on from the above, LTA has outlined a Padel Strategy (2024-2029). The key demand objectives are to:

- Grow the visibility of padel to increase awareness from 20% to 40% of the population, interest in playing from 7.5% to 15% and boost participation.
- Increase the number of annual padel players from 129,000 to 400,000, and monthly players from 65,000 to 200,000.
- Grow the padel coach and activator workforce from 40 to 700.
- Enable 10 players to break into the World top 200 and two players into the top 100 and inspire the padel audience.

Despite the above, there are currently no padel courts in North West Leicestershire, meaning no activity is taking place. However, that is not to say that there is no demand. Several operators have aspirations to establish provision and this would likely result in significant usage when considering national and regional trends. 109,075

Furthermore, to assist local authorities in strategically planning padel provision, the LTA has established, by authority, the number of padel courts that can be sustained based on population density and padel demand. In North West Leicestershire, this identifies a need for four courts, which is based on 20% of the population (21,815) being interested in padel (taken from a YouGov survey), penetration levels of 4%, and one court being able to accommodate up to 200 players.

The figures provided form a start point for conversation and strategic planning. It does not mean that the suggested number should be seen as a cap, but that the has LTA confidence that there is sufficient demand for the number of courts identified. Some areas where the sport is more established will create higher levels of demand.

The above also only represents the first stage in strategic planning for padel by local authority boundary. The second phase is to begin to look at potential locations and the demography of the catchment and how they overlay, which will in many instances cut across boundary lines.

Latent/unmet demand

Latent demand for tennis nationally is reported to be high by the LTA, which has an insight tool that suggests that 18% of the five million players that pick up a racket each year would play more often if key barriers such as poor promotion of opportunities to get on court, unclear booking journeys (especially those that are 'offline') and low quality facilities were addressed.

Furthermore, the LTA conducted some research to understand how the public feels about tennis and the main barriers to accessing the sport. The research was split into club, community and education sectors, with headline findings as follows:

- Around five million people play once per year with the majority of this in parks.
- 46% of tennis played by those 14 years is on park courts.
- 80% of those that do not play tennis but would like to see parks as their first option.
- Barriers preventing use of courts located in parks include the quality of the courts, ease of booking and the number of courts available to play.
- Demand for tennis amongst those who stopped playing in the last five years is from 14 upwards.
- Although there is demand for tennis amongst working class individuals, the highest latent demand is from upper middle, middle and lower middle classes.

Further research carried out by the LTA also suggests that many more people would play tennis if they knew where courts were located, particularly local authority courts. Its assertion is that better promotion would increase demand.

Notwithstanding the above, the responding clubs report that existing membership can be accommodated on the current level of provision available to them and that no potential members are being turned away due to capacity issues. As such, no clubs report any latent or unmet demand in North West Leicestershire. This suggests that the latent demand identified through other methods is for non-club activity, or that other barriers aside from club facilities are preventing usage.

Future demand

In the case of future demand within the District, through consultation it was identified that both 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

In addition, the LTA also expects future growth via its insight tools, with much of this demand likely to include participation outside of the club environment. To ensure that this can be meet, it is imperative that the facility stock, particularly at park sites, is of an adequate quantity and quality.

Sports Facility Calculator (SFC)

The Sports Facility Calculator helps quantify additional demand for community sports facilities and is 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.

Table 7.9: Sports Facility Calculator summary

Factor	Population 2022	Population 2042
ONS population projections	104,794	137,239
Population increase	-	32,445
Facilities to meet change in demand	-	4.19

*based on Q3 2022 build costs

Calculations assume that the current tennis court 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 tennis courts. The SFC indicates a requirement for an additional 4.19 courts, up to 2042.

7.4: Supply and demand analysis

For club-based tennis, the LTA suggests that non-sports lit courts can accommodate a maximum of 40 members, whereas courts with sports lighting can accommodate 60 members. Using this, the table below identifies the capacity balance at all sites currently used by clubs, taking into account current demand.

Table 7.10: Capacity analysis (club courts)

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Club users	No. of courts	Court type	No. of sports lit courts	Capacity (members)	Current demand (members)	Current capacity balance (members)	Future demand (members)	Future capacity balance (members)
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Kegworth TC	3	Macadam	3	180	*Unknown*	-	*Uknown*	-
78	Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Ashby Castle LTC	7	Artificial turf (4) Clay (3)	7	420	374	46	20	26
84	Oaks & District Tennis Club	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Oaks & District TC	3	Macadam	3	180	44	136	40	96

As seen in the table above, there is a sufficient supply of tennis courts within North West Leicestershire across two of the club sites where membership is known to accommodate current demand, with overall spare capacity existing for each when accounting for quantified future demand.

For non-club courts, capacity is more difficult to determine as exact demand levels are not known. However, in North West Leicestershire, quality is comparatively good to other authorities, although it is clear that usage will be being impacted upon by several factors. Primarily, those that are provided and are not serviced by sports lighting will be limiting capacity with only Ibstock Leisure Complex serviced outside of the three clubs.

There is also likely to be demand for padel that is not being met. This is because no padel courts are currently provided across the District with a total current need for four courts.

7.5: Conclusion

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.

There is also an absence of padel courts with a need for four courts based on the provided LTA methodology.

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 10 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 previous 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.
- 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%).
- 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 problematic 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 this 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 four 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.

PART 8: NETBALL

8.1: Introduction

England Netball is the governing body for the sport across England. Levels of participation are quickly increasing, with over 100,000 affiliated members and at least 1 million women and girls playing during a typical week. Its aim is to provide its members and partners with the best possible service and experience in sport.

Whilst often played indoors, there are far more outdoor courts provided and in use by the netball community than there are indoor. Nationally, England Netball reports that a key challenge is that the supply of outdoor netball courts is generally not of a good enough standard for use by the community, whilst accessibility and a lack of sports lighting can also be problematic.

Consultation

Several netball clubs have been identified as operating outdoors in North West Leicestershire. Consultation with these clubs and England Netball as well as desk based research has been used to inform this section of the report.

8.2: Supply

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. Tables 8.1 and 8.2 below, outline the total supply of provision within North West Leicestershire with these mapped in Figure 8.1.

The Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area provides 11 community use courts which also has the majority of unavilable courts. Elsewhere, the Castle Donington/Kegworth Analysis Area has the least amount of courts whilst the Measham Analysis Area does not have any courts.

Table 8.1: Summary of the number of courts by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of courts available for community use	No. of courts unavailable for community use
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	4	7
Castle Donington/ Kegworth	2	3
Coalville	7	2
Ibstock	2	-
Measham	-	-
Total	**15**	**12**

Figure 8.1 below shows the location of the courts servicing North West Leicestershire, regardless of community use. For a key to the map, see Table 8.3.

Figure 8.1: Overview of netball court locations

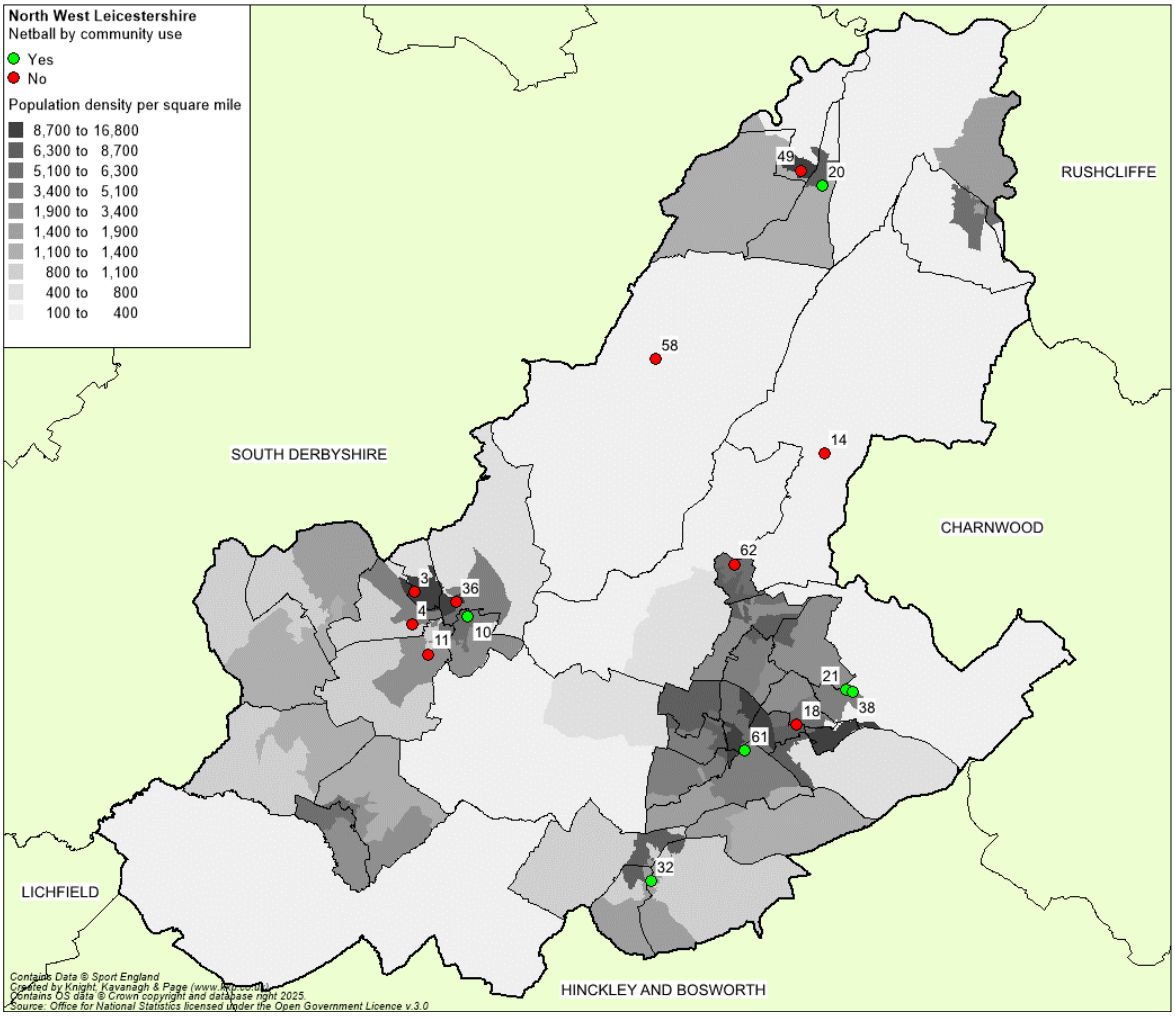


Table 8.2: Summary of supply

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	No. of courts	Sports lit?	Court type
3	Ashby Hastings Primary School	LE65 2AX	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	No	Education	1	No	Macadam
4	Ashby Hill Top Primary School	LE65 2NF	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	No	Education	1	No	Macadam
10	Ashby School and Sixth Form	LE65 1DD	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Education	4	Yes	Macadam
11	Ashby Willesley County Primary School	LE65 2QG	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	No	Education	1	No	Macadam
14	Belton Church of England Primary School	LE12 9TS	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	No	Education	1	No	Macadam
18	Broom Leys Primary School	LE67 4DB	Coalville	No	Education	1	No	Macadam
20	Castle Donington College	DE74 2LN	Castle Donington /Kegworth	Yes	Education	2	No	Macadam
21	Castle Rock High School	LE67 4BR	Coalville	Yes	Education	2	No	Macadam
32	Ibstock Leisure Complex	LE67 6NE	Ibstock	Yes	Council	2	Yes	Artificial turf
36	Ivanhoe School	LE65 1HX	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	No	Education	4	No	Macadam
38	King Edward VII Science and Sports College	LE67 4UW	Coalville	Yes	Education	2	No	Macadam
49	Orchard Community Primary School	DE74 2QU	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	No	Education	1	No	Macadam
58	St Hardulphs C of E Primary School	DE73 8AN	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	No	Education	1	No	Macadam
61	The Newbridge School	LE67 3SJ	Coalville	Yes	Education	3	No	Macadam
62	Thringstone Primary School	LE67 8LJ	Coalville	No	Education	1	No	Macadam

Disused provision

Castle Donington College previously had a third court; however, this was lost due to the recent development of a college building.

Future developments

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

From a netball perspective Ashby Netball Club did not indicate any aspirations to relocate from its main site at Ashby School and Sixth Form. This will be explored in the following Strategy & Action Plan.

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 unknown at this stage whether these will be sports lit and available for community use.

Overmarking

Whilst it does help with usage levels and sustainability, an issue for netball nationally is that many of its courts are dual use tennis courts. This limits accessibility (especially during the summer when tennis nets are often permanently in place) and can impact on quality due to higher levels of wear and tear. More often than not, are overmarked with tennis markings and multi-use facilities. Of the courts across North West Leicestershire, only the two courts at Ibstock Leisure Complex are overmarked with tennis courts.

Surface type

Across North West Leicestershire, 25 (93%) of the 27 courts have a macadam surface, the estimated lifespan of a macadam court and an artificial court is 10 years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels. The two courts at Ibstock Leisure Complex are artificial turf.

Management

Across North West Leicestershire most courts are managed in house by education sites euqating to 25 (93%) of the 27 courts. The two courts at Ibstock Leisure Complex are managed by the Council.

Sports lighting

Outdoor netball courts that are serviced by sports lighting enable all year round evening use, thus allowing outdoor winter netball activity to take place as well as the more common summer netball activity. In North West Leicestershire six courts are sports-lit which are located at Ashby School and Sixth Form (four) and Ibstock Leisure Complex (two). Ashby School and Sixth Form report it is in the process of submitting a planning application to allow the usage of its lighting until 21:30 to allow greater community useage.

An absence of sports lighting on courts is an issue nationwide, with England Netball's national database identifying that only 1,941 of 5,108 outdoor netball courts are with sports lighting throughout the Country (38%). This percentage is significantly higher than in North West Leicestershire, where 15% of courts are serviced.

Quality

The quality of netball courts across North Leicestershire has been assessed via a combination of site visits completed in August 2024 (using non-technical assessments) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- Good.
- Standard.
- Poor.

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments are as follows: Good (>80%), Standard (70-80%), Poor (<70%).

Maintaining high court quality is an important aspect of netball and therefore the non-technical assessment (and consultation agreements) assesses several factors which evidence court quality. The criteria for the non-technical assessment consists of; court surface grip underfoot, damage to a court surface, line markings, evidence of moss/lichen, slope of courts, disability access, fencing and courts being of an appropriate size.

As can be seen in the table below, most netball provision in North West Leicestershire is standard quality. However, of the 14 accessible courts, seven are good quality (26%), 19 are of a standard quality (70%) and one poor quality court (4%). The poor quality courts are deemed so due to issues such as poor grip underfoot, damaged surfaces and a general need for surface replacements.

Table 8.3: Quality summary

Site ID	Site name	No. of courts	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Quality
3	Ashby Hastings Primary School	1	No	No	Standard
4	Ashby Hill Top Primary School	1	No	No	Standard
10	Ashby School and Sixth Form	4	Yes	Yes	Good
11	Ashby Willesley County Primary School	1	No	No	Good
14	Belton Church of England Primary School	1	No	No	Poor
18	Broom Leys Primary School	1	No	No	Standard
20	Castle Donington College	2	Yes	No	Good
21	Castle Rock High School	2	Yes	No	Standard
32	Ibstock Leusre Complex	2	Yes	Yes	Standard
36	Ivanhoe School	4	No	No	Standard
38	King Edward VII Science and Sports College	2	Yes	No	Standard
49	Orchard Community Primary School	1	No	No	Standard
58	St Hardulphs C of E Primary School	1	No	No	Standard
61	The Newbridge School	3	Yes	No	Standard
62	Thringstone Primary School	1	No	No	Standard

Ancillary facilities

Nationally, ancillary provision is generally considered to be problematic for community netball. Whilst most sites provide changing facilities and/or toilets, they are generally not specific for netball and are often too far away from the courts to be realistically used. Moreover, given that most courts are located at schools, the facilities predominately service sports halls or grass pitches and are therefore not readily available or suited to netball court users. Access can then also be limited, even at sites that allow for community use as this may entail opening the main school buildings.

Indoor provision

Whilst not included within the scope of this study, it is recognised that netball activity also takes places via indoor provision, particularly in sports halls and outside of summer months. More information in relation to this and demand information can be found in the Built Sports Facilities Strategy which is being undertaken in conjunction with the PPOSS.

8.3: Demand

There are several netball clubs that access outdoor provision in North West Leicestershire; 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 and Ashby School and Sixth Form. The Club also access provision outside of the District at Grandville Academy (South Derbyshire) and Repton School (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.

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 on the outdoor courts at Castle Donington College. It reports that in the summer it typically has 25 members and in winter it struggles with ten 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 recent devenlopnent means that only two outdoor courts ar now available.

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 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*nd* 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.

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.

Upgrades took place on the four sportslit outdoor courts at Ashby School and Sixth Form with a new surface and improved lighting making it available for the community to use in the evenings. The League is interested in hiring these.

Additional demand

Play Netball

Play Netball is Britain's largest social netball league provider and arranges fixtures, league tables, umpires, netballs and bibs so players can focus on playing. People can join as individuals to find a team, a group to join the same team or produce their own team of 7 or 10 people.

There are no Play Netball sessions identified within North West Leicestershire, with the nearest session taking place in Charnwood at Humphrey Perkins School.

Back to Netball

Back to Netball is a scheme put into place by England Netball in 2010, with participation increasing ever since. Sessions are running weekly by qualified coaches across England with the aim of re-introducing female players over the age of 16 to the sport.

Two 'Back 2 Netball' sessions are being delivered in North West Leicestershire. 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

Walking netball is a slower version of the sport, designed so that anyone can play regardless of age or fitness level. It can give those who are isolated an outlet, provide an activity for those who do not deem themselves fit enough and offer a stepping-stone for those looking for a pathway back into traditional netball.

Similar to the 'Back 2 Netball' sessions, two walking netball session are delivered in partnership with Whitwick Netball Club at Castle Rock School every Wednesday evening, utilising the second sports hall at the site and another is run at Ashby Leisure Centre in partnership with Ashby Netball Club.

Netball Now

Netball Now is a simple, straight forward way to play netball. It is not a competition led by rules or scores but rather a simple session where players can play a variety of positions and even have a go at umpiring.

There are no Netball Now sessions identified within North West Leicestershire.

Bee Netball

Bee Netball is a programme for children all about friendship, inclusion, fair play and teamwork. However, there are no sessions identified within North West Leicestershire.

8.4: Supply and demand analysis

Table 8.4: Summary of existing sports lit community use supply

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

As can be seen in Table 8.4 there are 15 community use netball courts within North West Leicestershire provided across six sites. Six courts are assessed as good quality and nine are standard quality. Six courts across the district are sports lit at Ashby School and Sixth Form and Ibstock Leisure Complex.

8.5: Conclusion

Within North West Leicestershire, there is a significant demand for outdoor netball with seven clubs and one league accessing the provision identified in the table above. Whilst there are a good amount of community available courts the number of these which are sports lit is low in comparison. This is likely to be limiting the access to courts in the evenings during winter months for some clubs which may cause a barrier to participation and stop the sport from growing across the District.

The subsequent Strategy & Action Plan provides scenarios and recommendations for increasing sports lighting at community available courts in North West Leicestershire.

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 euqating to 25 (93%) of the 27 courts.
- most netball provision in North West Leicestershire is standard quality. However, of the 14 accessible courts, seven are good quality (26%), 19 are of a standard quality (70%) and one poor quality court (4%).

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.

PART 9: ATHLETICS

9.1: Introduction

England Athletics (EA) is the not-for-profit membership and development body responsible for grassroots athletics and running in England. EA supports 1,750 affiliated clubs and organisations (covering track and field, road running, fell, hill, trail and cross-country clubs), 147,000 registered athletes, 18,700 licensed coaches and leaders, 3,800 officials and 6.2m regular running participants. EA's Athletics purpose is to inspire more athletes and runners of all abilities and backgrounds to fulfil their potential and to have a lifelong love for the sport. Their vision is for athletics and running to become an inclusive sport where everyone belongs and can flourish.

Consultation

Based on 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. Attempts were made, with assistance from England Athletics, to consult with the club with only Coalville Triathlon Club responding to an online survey. It should be noted that the number of clubs has increased since the previous PPS in 2017 which only identified Ivanhoe Robins Junior Athletics Club.

9.2: Supply

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 indicate that most of the athletics demand (72%) in North West Leicestershire is within a 30 minute drive time of a facility which is within a recommended drive time catchment are for rural areas. The District is also serviced well by indoor athletics provision at Harvey Hadden Stadium (Nottingham) and Loughborough University.

As a result of the above, EA suggest that there is no need for a traditional 400metre track, however, has identified North West Leicestershire for a NewGen facility or Active Track.

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

Although the Club did not respond to consultation, there is evidence that Ivanhoe Robins Junior Athletics Club has ambitions to create some form of athletics provision. This could potentially be located at a development within Ashby-de-la-Zouch; however, this will be explored in the following Strategy & Action Plan.

It should be noted that UK Athletics does have a quality assurance known as TrackMark to understand the current quality of 400 metre facilities.

TrackMark[35]

TrackMark is UK Athletics' quality assurance scheme for outdoor track and field athletics facilities. A venue that achieves TrackMark is recognised by UK Athletics as having well managed, compliant facilities that are accessible to participants of all abilities. From 2021, venues that actively choose not to pursue accreditation are not eligible to apply for a competition licence at any level.

Future provision

EA's strategic position is that in most areas of the country there is a sufficient supply of traditional synthetic outdoor 400m tracks to meet club and competition needs and that there should focus on protecting and maintaining this provision. In addition to traditional facilities, EA is keen to support the development of a new generation of innovative athletics & running facilities (NewGen), as well as a country-wide network of indoor athletics facilities developed as part of future indoor multisport projects.

Priority for both NewGen and indoor developments will be given to those areas that sit outside EA's recommended drivetime catchment of existing facilities or where there is additional, demonstrable demand. As detailed earlier, NW Leicestershire is identified for a NewGen facility or Active Track by EA.

NewGen facility concepts

Track & Field (Run/Jump/Throw)

- **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, mutli-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[36] or integrated into the master planning of new housing developments.
- Sport England Case Study: ActiveTrack: Sowerby Sports Village.

9.3 Demand

For the purposes of this study, athletics demand is considered to come in various forms, rather than just traditional track and field activity. As such, running clubs are also considered, as are organised running events and various running initiatives, some of which are governed by England Athletics. It is also acknowledged that recreational running forms a large part of demand, although this is difficult to measure.

[35] https://www.uka.org.uk/about/what-we-do/facilities/
[36] Its should be noted that Sport England will not support the development of Active Tracks where they conflict with the Playing Field Policy.

Coalville Triathlon Club

The 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. It states participation has increased post Covid running dedicated recruitment sessions. The majority of its demand uses provision at Loughborough Grammar School due to a lack of local provision within Coalville. It has some use of general open space at Ashby School & Sixth Form and Ibstock Leisure Centre, however, references it would prefer for some form of athletics provision to be in Coalville.

Hermitage Harriers

Hermitage Harriers is a friendly and inclusive running club based in Coalville, welcoming runners of all abilities—from beginners to competitive athletes. The Club offers structured weekly training sessions, including Tuesday runs from Whitwick & Coalville Leisure Centre and social Thursday runs from local venues. Members benefit from England Athletics affiliation, race discounts, and access to various social activities such as pub nights, trail runs, and group outings. With over 100 members, Hermitage Harriers combines a supportive community with opportunities for both social and competitive running.

Ivanhoe Robins Junior Athletics Club

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.

As there are no athletics tracks within North West Leicestershire the Club uses Newbridge High School Academy as its home base. The Club reports accessing the School's four court sports hall, multi-use games area and multiple grass pitches to meet is current demand.

Based on evidence within the previous study the Club feels it is restricted for future growth due to the fact it does not have local access to a dedicated athletics track. It regularly has to travel 16.3 miles (30 minutes) outside the District to access facilities based in Leicester with the most used being Saffron Lane Athletics Stadium. The Club reports that due to the restrictions on suitable provision many active members have moved to other clubs outside of North West Leicestershire to access track provision.

Park Run

Park Run is a series of 5k runs held on Saturday mornings in areas of open space around the UK. They are open to all, free, and are safe and easy to take part in. For those aged between 4 and 14, junior Park Run events are also available. In order to take part, runners must first register online in order to access a printed barcode which gives them access to all Park Run events.

In North West Leicestershire, there are three Park Run events which takes place at Conkers Park, Bath Yard and Sence Balley Forest every Saturday morning at 9am. There are currently no junior Park Run events.

Couch to 5k

Couch to 5k is a national health initiative promoted by the National Health Service (NHS) to encourage absolute beginners get into running as part of establishing and maintaining and active and healthy lifestyle including regular exercise.

The plan consists of three runs per week and a day of rest in between, with a different schedule for each of the nine weeks to completion. It starts with a mix of running and walking, to gradually build up fitness and stamina, in order to create realistic expectations and a sense of achievability to encourage participants to stick with it. The end goal of the plan is for the participant to be able to run 5k.

Through the Couch to 5k plan the NHS particularly promotes the health benefits of running and regular exercise which underpin the initiative, such as improved heart and lung health, weight loss and possible increases in bone density which can help protect against bone diseases such as osteoporosis. This also includes mental benefits of running through goal setting and challenge setting, which can help boost confidence and self-belief. Furthermore, running regularly has been linked to combating depression.

Future demand

England Athletics reports that there is current trend of growth being experienced in relation to athletics and running, both within and outside of the club environment. It expects this increase to continue in the coming years.

Notwithstanding the above, Coalville Triathlon Club state that it plans to increase by 15 male, 16 female and 15 junior members with no active waiting list in place.

9.4 Supply and demand analysis

It is considered that for an athletics track to be sustainable, a club membership of circa 200 is required. This is based on figures and consultation provided by England Athletics. If demand figures for the running clubs are similar to those in previous study it is considered that there would be sufficient demand to sustain traditional athletics provision. This does not include any recreational / infrequent demand or potential usage from local schools.

9.5: Conclusion

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 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 consider unsustainable based on current levels of demand.

It is important to emphasize 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. This will be examined in greater detail in the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan.

Away from track and field, emphasis should also be placed on supporting the other activities taking place in North West Leicestershire, with a focus on retaining and increasing participation and growing the various initiatives that are in place.

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 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 consider unsustainable based on current levels of demand.
- It is important to emphasize 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 400metre 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.

PART 10: FLAT GREEN LAWN BOWLS

10.1: Introduction

Outdoor bowls in North West Leicestershire is played on flat greens, with a typical season running in the Summer from May until September. Bowls England is the NGB with overall responsibility for ensuring effective governance of the sport.

Crown green bowling is another version of bowls played in England, governed separately by The British Crown Green Bowling Association (BCGBA). This format of the sport is played predominately in the North of England and there is a no presence of this locally.

Consultation

Consultation has been undertaken with bowls clubs in North West Leicestershire to gain an understanding about issues relating to supply and demand. In total, there are 11 bowls clubs identified as using facilities in North West Leicestershire.

Seven clubs have been consulted through online surveys giving a current response rate of 64%. A low response rate can be common in relation to bowls.

Table 10.1: Summary of consultation

Club name	Club response?
Ashby Bowls Club	Yes
Battram Bowls Club	Yes
Castle Donington Bowls Club	No
Coalville Town Bowls	Yes
Ibstock Bowls Club	Yes
Kegworth Bowls Club	Yes
Measham Bowls Club	Yes
New Lount Bowls Club	No
Scotlands Park Bowls Club	No
Thringstone Bowls Club	No
Whitwick Park Bowls Club	Yes

10.2: Supply

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%). The Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Castle Donington/Kegworth and Ibstock analysis areas all contain two greens each (15%).

Table 10.2: Summary of the number of greens by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of greens
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	2
Castle Donington/ Kegworth	2
Coalville	6
Ibstock	2
Measham	1
North West Leicestershire	**13**

Figure 10.1 shows the location of all bowling greens currently North West Leicestershire. For a key to the map, see Table 10.3.

Figure 10.1: Location of bowling greens in North West Leicestershire

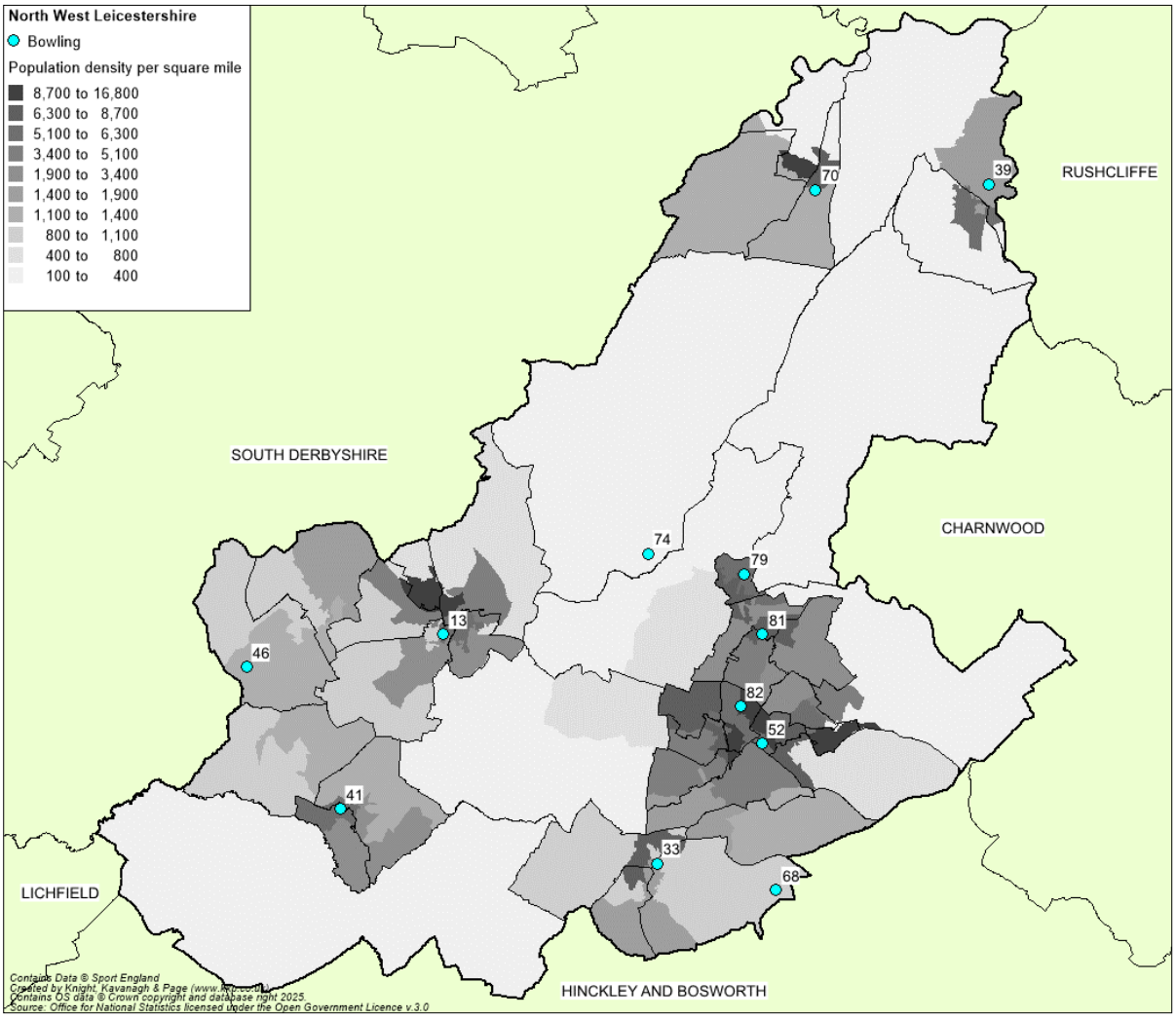


Table 10.3: Location of all bowling greens

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Associated club	Analysis area	No. of greens
13	Bath Grounds	LE65 1BJ	Ashby BC	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	1
33	Ibstock Miners Welfare Site	LE67 9HN	Ibstock BC	Ibstock	1
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	DE74 2FH	Kegworth BC	Castle Donington/Kegworth	1
41	Measham Community and Recreation Centre	DE12 7HR	Measham BC	Measham	1
46	Moira Miners Welfare	DE12 6BP	-	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	1
52	Scotlands Playing Fields	LE67 3JD	Scotlands BC	Coalville	1

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Associated club	Analysis area	No. of greens
68	Battram Bowls Club	LE67 1GD	Battram BC	Ibstock	1
70	Castle Donington Bowls Club	DE74 2LQ	Castle Donington BC	Castle Donington/Kegworth	1
74	New Lount Bowls Club	LE67 8JF	New Lount BC	Coalville	1
79	Thringstone Bowling Club	LE67 8LR	Thringstone BC	Coalville	1
81	Whitwick Memorial Park	LE67 5HA	Whitwick BC	Coalville	1
82	Coalville Town Bowling Club	LE67 3FA	Coalville BC	Coalville	2

Unused provision

Non-technical assessments confirm that the bowling green located at Moira Miners Welfare is unused, with no bowls club utilising the green or any informal/ recreational demand taking place. Given the site also accommodates three croquet greens and is home to Ashby Croquet Club, it is likely that the green is utilised to accommodate some of this demand.

Future developments

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

Regarding bowls, Ashby BC did not indicate any aspirations to relocate from its main site at Bath Grounds. However, this green is at capacity with options needed to explore how to support the Club with accommodating its future demand. This will be explored in the following Strategy & Action Plan.

Indoor provision

Whilst not included within the remit of this study, it should be noted that bowls is commonly played within indoor facilities as well as on outdoor greens. This can be via dedicated centres, or within smaller spaces such as leisure centre sports hall and community centres. These can add to the capacity for the accommodation of bowls demand, particularly during winter months when outdoor provision is unusable.

Management and security of tenure

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.

The table below showcases the management of bowls sites within North West Leicestershire.

Table 10.4: Summary of management and club users (where known)

Site ID	Site name	Club users	Management
13	Bath Grounds	Ashby BC	Sports club
33	Ibstock Miners Welfare Site	Ibstock BC	Ibstock Parish Council
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	Kegworth BC	Sports club

Site ID	Site name	Club users	Management
41	Measham Community and Recreation Centre	Measham BC	National Coal Board
68	Battram Bowls Club	Battram BC	Sports club
81	Whitwick Memorial Park	Whitwick BC	Whitwick Parish Council
82	Coalville Town Bowling Club	Coalville BC	Sports club

Of the unresponsive clubs, current tenure position is unknown.

Quality

The quality of bowling greens across North West Leicestershire have been assessed via a combination of site visits which took place in August 2025 (using non-technical assessments) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- Good.
- Standard.
- Poor.

For bowling greens, the non-technical assessment considers several attributes of the site including the surrounding hard surfaces to the green, disability access, evenness, grass coverage and signs off unofficial use.

The overall stock of bowling green provision in North West Leicestershire is of a good quality. 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.

Table 10.5: Summary of bowling green quality

Site ID	Site name	Club	No. of greens	Quality
13	Bath Grounds	Ashby BC	1	Standard
33	Ibstock Miners Welfare Site	Ibstock BC	1	Standard
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	Kegworth BC	1	Good
41	Measham Community and Recreation Centre	Measham BC	1	Poor
46	Moira Miners Welfare	-	1	Poor
52	Scotlands Playing Fields	Scotlands BC	1	Good
68	Battram Bowls Club	Battram BC	1	Good
70	Castle Donington Bowls Club	Castle Donington BC	1	Good
74	New Lount Bowls Club	New Lount BC	1	Good
79	Thringstone Bowling Club	Thringstone BC	1	Good
81	Whitwick Memorial Park	Whitwick BC	1	Poor
82	Coalville Town Bowling Club	Coalville BC	2	Good

In relation to the standard and poor quality green, issues with highly worn areas of the green, inadequate condition of ditches and boarding and undulations were present, contributing to the quality score given.

Coalville Town BC, Kegworth BC, Measham BC and Whitwick BC all state that their greens have improved in quality upon previous seasons, largely due to the increased number of volunteers and improved maintenance regimes carried out.

Ibstock Bowls Club states that its green has gotten poorer since the previous season because of reduced maintenance during the winter months by Ibstock Parish Council. Similarly, Ashby Bowls Club also states its green has gotten poorer due to too much sand being applied to the surface, which tends to move in wet weather, as well as worm casts causing an issue to the smoothness of the green.

Despite being rated as good quality, Battram Bowls Club 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.

Ancillary provision

Most clubs which responded to consultation have access to some form of clubhouse/pavilion on site or through an adjoining public house. The quality of these vary from purpose built brick pavilions to basic wooden huts and shelters. Generally, ancillary facility quality across North West Leicestershire is seen as standard quality.

The table below outlines the quality of ancillary provision for each club site.

Table 10.6: Summary of club ancillary provision

Site ID	Site name	Club	Analysis area	Quality
13	Bath Grounds	Ashby BC	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Standard
33	Ibstock Miners Welfare Site	Ibstock BC	Ibstock	Standard
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	Kegworth BC	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Good
41	Measham Community and Recreation Centre	Measham BC	Measham	Standard
46	Moira Miners Welfare	-	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Good
52	Scotlands Playing Fields	Scotlands BC	Coalville	Good
68	Battram Bowls Club	Battram BC	Ibstock	Good
70	Castle Donington Bowls Club	Castle Donington BC	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Standard
74	New Lount Bowls Club	New Lount BC	Coalville	Standard
79	Thringstone Bowling Club	Thringstone BC	Coalville	Standard
81	Whitwick Memorial Park	Whitwick BC	Coalville	Standard
82	Coalville Town Bowling Club	Coalville BC	Coalville	Good

Ibstock Bowls Club has secured funding to relay paving slabs around the perimeter of its green which in recent times has become a trip hazard. In addition, the Club has also acquired funding to clad part of the clubhouse to improve insulation.

Ashby Bowls Club receieved funding from East Midlands Airport and a local business to assist with the purchase of a new lawn mower, as well as receving small grants from Nort West Leicestershire District Council and Ashby Town Council. The Club has aspiration long term for a new clubhouse which it wishes to obtain grant funding for.

Coalville Town Bowls Club aspires to refrubish its kitchen and toilets, the Club states that funding is yet to be applied for and that this is in the early planning stage.

Battram Bowls Club states that it is in need of major works to the clubhouse, such as the windows needing replaced as well as upgrades to the changing facilities which it states are not big enough. Despite this, funding is yet to be applied for.

Sports lighting

None of the greens provided in North West Leicestershire are serviced by sports lighting, and no clubs expressed any interest in fitting sports lighting during consultation.

Greens with sports lighting offer opportunities to access provision for training and matches during evenings outside of the summer months. However, they are relatively uncommon across the Country, meaning the levels identified in North West Leicestershire are comparative to the national picture of sports lighting supply and should not be of any particular concern.

10.3: Demand

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, as shown in the table below.

The average membership across clubs is 44 members representing average demand within the District. The highest membership figures are at Ashby BC, with 76 members, whilst the lowest known figures are found at Battram BC with 20 members.

Table 10.7: Summary of club membership

Club name	Analysis area	Men	Women	Junior's	Total
Ashby BC	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	55	20	1	**76**
Battram BC	Ibstock	18	2	0	**20**
Castle Donington BC	Castle Donington/Kegworth	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*
Coalville BC	Coalville	34	18	0	**52**
Ibstock BC	Ibstock	35	10	0	**45**
Kegworth BC	Castle Donington/Kegworth	26	27	3	**56**
Measham BC	Measham	22	5	0	**27**
New Lount BC	Coalville	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*
Scotlands BC	Coalville	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*
Thringstone BC	Coalville	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*
Whitwick BC	Coalville	26	5	0	**31**
Total	**-**	**216**	**87**	**4**	**307**

Additional demand

Play Bowls and Bowls Bash

Play Bowls[37] is a new product designed to assist clubs in attracting more casual, pay and play participants. Clubs are now able to sign up to the scheme, with booking slots for access then able to be secured and paid for via the Play Bowls website. The aim is for this to help the sport become much more accessible whilst making it easy for clubs to evolve and

[37] https://play-bowls.com/

manage the demand from the casual audience. Bowls Bash[38] offers a shortened format normally played in teams of two, with players delivering 30 bowls each per match.

Both schemes are being delivered across the country as a means of growing participation for lawn bowls.

Pay and play

Pay and play refers to the opportunity for residents to turn up to existing facilities and access them on a casual, commitment free basis. Locally, only Ashby BC offer pay and play to residents (which were responsive to consultation). All other clubs do not offer pay and play with the general rationale being that there is nobody on site able to collect fees.

Latent demand

Latent demand refers to potential demand; clubs that would like to gain more members but currently do not do so. This can be for a variety of reasons including a lack of provision, appropriate facilities, and qualified coaches. Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to provision. It is usually expressed, for example, when a team is already playing for a club but is unable to access a match green, or when a league has a waiting list due to a lack of pitch provision, which in turn is hindering the growth of the league.

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. As such, no clubs report any latent or unmet demand, with the majority are actively trying to recruit new members.

Future demand

Using ONS population projections, the number of persons aged 65 and over is likely to significantly increase for the period up to 2042. Due to this age band being the most likely to play bowls, demand for greens could increase, although exactly to what extent is unclear.

Due to this age band being the most likely to play bowls, it can be said that demand for bowling greens in North West Leicestershire is likely to increase with additional pressure placed on the existing stock of provision. In addition, consultation identifies three clubs which quantify their aspirations to increase membership numbers. Details of this are provided in the table below. Total future demand identified across the three clubs result in 74 new members.

Table 10.8: Future demand aspirations

Club name	Seniors	Juniors	Total
Ashby BC	25	0	**25**
Kegworth BC	12	5	**17**
Coalville BC	20	12	**32**
Total	**57**	**17**	**74**

It should also be noted that Measham and Whitwick bowls clubs aspire to increase the number of its members however do not quantify the number.

In addition, Bowls England is actively working to negate the stereotype that bowls is a sport is for the older generation and is taking active steps at both county and national level to

[38] https://www.bowlsengland.com/bowlsbash/

encourage younger players to participate. This could see the emergence of junior players in North West Leicestershire that is not accounted for within the above aspirations.

It should be noted that future demand expressed by clubs is purely aspirational and such increases in membership is not expected to materialise as stated by the clubs

10.4: Supply and demand analysis

The capacity of a bowling green is very much dependent on the leagues and the day that they operate. A green may have no spare capacity in the afternoon or evening when a popular league operates but may be underused for the rest of the week.

However, in many cases, greens are used during the afternoons by club members which bowl socially, with access a potential issue during peak times if membership is particularly high.

Bowls England has no specific guidance on bowling green capacity, stating that it can vary from site-to-site and from club-to-club. However, as a guide, it states that any green used by at least 20 members is generally considered to be sustainable, whilst any green operating with a membership of over 60 may need additional resource to ensure that it is meeting its required level of demand.

Therefore, capacity ratings for bowling greens in North West Leicestershire are classified as follows:

Within capacity range	Membership ensures green is sustainable without capacity issues
Outside capacity range	Membership is below or above the recommended capacity range

Following this, the table below highlights the level of usage each green in North West Leicestershire receives, where the information is known. Where no membership information is known, further communication is required with clubs to fully understand their needs and any potential capacity or sustainability issues.

Table 10.9: Bowling green supply and demand analysis (where membership figures are known)

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Club user/s	No. of greens	Capacity threshold	Number of members	Current capacity	Future capacity
13	Bath Grounds	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Ashby BC	1	60	76	-16	-41
33	Ibstock Miners Welfare Site	Ibstock	Ibstock BC	1	60	45	15	15
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Kegworth BC	1	60	56	4	-73
41	Measham Community and Recreation Centre	Measham	Measham BC	1	60	27	33	33
68	Battram Bowls Club	Ibstock	Battram BC	1	60	20	40	40
81	Whitwick Memorial Park	Coalville	Whitwick BC	1	60	31	29	29
82	Coalville Town Bowling Club	Coalville	Coalville BC	2	120	52	68	84

The table above shows that five clubs (six greens) are operating within a ‘sustainable’ capacity range. When factoring in future demand, this remains the same.

10.5: Conclusion

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. However, 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.

For clubs which are operating over Bowls England sustainability guidelines, none note a need for increased access to provision, albeit these should be monitored to ensure that they remain to have sufficient capacity in the future as the typical demographic of user increases in line with population estimates.

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.
- 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.

APPENDIX 1: 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.

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 (updated 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

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

The FA: Inspiring Positive Change Through Football (2024-28)[39]

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
- 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)

[39] FA Strategy 2024-2028: The Football Association

The FA: Reaching Higher (2024-28)[40]

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.

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 – 2028)

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

[40] The FA Womens & Girls Football Strategy 2024-28

- 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 Strategic Plan (2021)

The RFU has released its new strategic vision, which is to achieve 'a successful and thriving game across England'. The strategy can be found here.

It identifies four 'Game Objectives' and four 'Driving Objectives', to form priority focuses for the strategy. It believes that these objectives will make the greatest substantive improvements to the game and investment will be aligned to these areas.

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 players 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 & operational excellence –*** Ensure a sustainable and efficient business model delivered by an inspired workforce

A number of aims, identified as key to the achievement of these main objectives, are particularly relevant to facilities. The provision of good quality and suitable rugby union facilities will help to achieve these aims and in turn objectives:

- *Enjoyment* – Improve accessibility for women and girls across the game
- *Enjoyment* – Make the game inclusive and attractive for 14 to 18 year olds
- *Flourishing rugby communities* – Provide support to help clubs maximise the benefit from their facilities and assets
- *Diversity & Inclusion* – Improve the diversity of all facets of our game and continue to create and inclusive environment for all

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 3rd 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.

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
- 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.

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.

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 sports lights 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

The LTA's Vision and Mission 2024 - 2026[41]

Tennis Opened Up

The vision is 'Tennis Opened Up'. These three words are at the heart of the work and shape everything done. Tennis is an amazing sport. Anyone can play; whatever their motivation or ability, from all communities and backgrounds. At any age and for a whole lifetime, tennis provides physical, social and mental rewards both on and off the court. The LTA wants tennis and these fantastic benefits it provides to be open to as many people as possible, across the whole of Britain.

Mission

- Grow tennis by making it welcoming, enjoyable and inspiring to everyone
- Our mission is to grow tennis by making it welcoming, enjoyable and inspiring to everyone. We have the focus and determination that, coupled with the support of everyone in tennis, will really make a difference
- Volunteers, coaches, officials and tennis venues all play an essential role in the future of our sport; without them, tennis can't exist. We're committed to supporting them and working with a whole range of other organisations and individuals connected to our sport, so that together we can grow tennis and open it up to many more people

Work

The LTA is here to govern and grow tennis in Britain, from grassroots participation through to the professional game. The work it does falls into three main areas:-

- Participation - making tennis a sport for anyone to play, through increasing participation and access – for instance, through LTA Youth, the innovative junior programme created to help more children enjoy the benefits of playing and staying in tennis; through Open Court, the successful disability tennis programme which is one of the largest of its kind across any sport and has helped a record number of disabled people enjoy the benefits of tennis; through SERVES, the ground-breaking programme that takes tennis right in to the heart of new communities across Britain; or through the range of national, regional and local tennis competitions that are delivered and support for hundreds of thousands of players throughout the year

- Performance - becoming one of the most respected nations in the world for player development – for example, through the Player Pathway that is supporting an nurturing the next generation of elite British players with programmes such as our Pro Scholarship Programme that's helped the likes of Emma Raducanu and Cam Norrie break into the world's top 100; though the ITF Gold Standard National Tennis Centre which has been equipped with world class courts and facilities, and provides a base for Britain's top tennis and wheelchair tennis players to train; or through the increased number of international tournaments we are staging across Britain throughout the year as part of the LTA Performance Competitions Calendar as well as summer major events, providing more opportunities for professional British players to compete and win on home soil

[41] lta-strategy-2024-2026.pdf

- Transformation - transforming tennis in Britain by working with everyone in the sport – for instance, through the Inclusion Strategy for tennis in Britain that aims to see tennis to lead the way for inclusion and diversity in sport; through the award-winning safeguarding work that has put tennis at the forefront of safeguarding in sport, ensuring it remains safe for all; by working with Government and local authorities to deliver a multi-million pound investment programme in parks tennis facilities for local communities across the country; or through the development of padel as an exciting new form of tennis that is easy to play, fun for all ages and abilities and extremely sociable, and will help to engage new audiences

England Athletics Strategic Plan – Athletics & Running: for everyone, forever – 2017 and beyond

This plan sets out England Athletics' mission, vision and strategic priorities that will direct how they work as an organisation during the coming years: what they do and how they will do it. **Vision:** Make athletics and running the most inclusive and popular sport in England, led by a network of progressive clubs and organisations and supported by a sustainable, respected and trusted governing body.

For England Athletics to achieve this vision, they will focus on three values:

- Pride – taking pride in their work and demonstrating to athletes that they recognise the importance of their role in bettering athletics.
- Integrity – demonstrate integrity to earn respect and to build effective partnerships.
- Inclusivity – promote inclusivity in all their actions.

Mission: To grow opportunities for everyone to experience athletics and running, to enable them to reach their full potential.

In order to achieve their mission, England Athletics will have three strategic priorities.

1. To expand the capacity of the sport by supporting and developing its volunteers and other workforce. The target is to achieve a 6% increase every year of licensed leaders, coaches and officials.
2. To sustain and increase participation and performance levels in our sport. To achieve this, England Athletics'' current targets are to increase the number of club registered athletes from (149,000 to 172,000), engage 135,000 people through the RunTogether programme and to increase athlete performance levels across all events and disciplines by 1% every year.
3. To influence participation in the wider athletics market. Their target here is to increase the number of regular athletes or runners by at least one million.

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”.

APPENDIX 2: NON TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT SHEETS

Grass football pitch non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Football

Please complete one form per pitch

Site reference:		**Site Name:**	
6 figure grid reference		**Pitch ID(s):**	
Number of football pitches on site:		**Pitch size:**	(Adult 11v11, Youth 11v11, 9v9, 7v7 Mini, 5v5, 7v7)
Availability		**Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch?**	
		If yes, please indicate what pitches are overmarked? (i.e. one youth pitch is overmarked on a adult pitch) in Pitch Issues	
Weather at time of visit & date of visit			
Pitch Issues:			

Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)

Element (Gathered via a non technical site assessment)	**Rating**						**Guidance notes**	**Comments**
Playing surface								
Grass Cover	Good >80%		Adequate 60-80%		Poor <60%		Advice is to walk through the middle of the pitch	
Does the pitch meet The FA minimum size?	Yes - as per the FA recommended size		Within FA recommended guidelines		No		See size chart below for recommended dimensions	
Slope of pitch (gradient and cross fall)	Flat		Moderate		Severe			
Length of grass	Good		Too long		Too short		Good 30mm-50mm, Too long 51mm plus, Too short 29mm less	
Evenness of pitch	Good		Adequate		Poor			
Problem Areas: Evidence of dog fouling/glass/litter/vehicle tracks	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots			
Problem Areas: Evidence of unofficial use/damage to the surface	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots			
Problem Areas: Evidence of poor drainage	No evidence of standing water or poor drainage		Some evidence of poor drainage		Yes, poor drainage			
Maintenance programme (information from maintenance schedule/grounds team/club survey)								**Section total**
Grass cutting	Yes, as required		Yes, but not frequent enough		No			
Seeded	Yes, as required		Not known		No			
Aerated (per year)	Three or more times		Once/ twice		No			
Sand dressed	Within the last 12 months		Within the last 2 years		No			
Fertilised	Within the last 12 months		Within the last 2 years		No			
Weed killed	Within the last 12 months		Within the last 2 years		No			
								Section total

NB If none of this information is provided you should assume that only the grass is being cut and the rest of the maintenance items should be marked with the lowest score option.

PITCH SCORE	0.0%	**RATING**	Poor

Grass rugby pitch non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Rugby Union

Please complete one form per pitch

Site reference		**Site Name**	
6 figure grid reference		**Pitch ID(s)**	
Date of assessment		**Pitch size**	(Senior, Mini/Midi)
Number of pitches on site		**Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch?**	
Availability		*If yes, please indicate what pitches are overmarked? (i.e. one mini/ midi pitch is overmarked on a senior pitch) in Pitch Issues*	
Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused			
Weather at time of visit			
General comments/observations			

Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)

Qualitative information (gathered on site)	**Rating**						**Guidance notes**	**Comments**
Grass Coverage	Good		Adequate		Poor		>90% = good. <80% = poor	
Size of pitch	Acceptable (between recommended minimum and maximum sizes)		Flag for further investigation (below recommended minimum size)		Unacceptable (above maximum size)		Maximum size = width 70m, goal line to goal line 100m, in goal area 22m, run offs 5m where practical. Recommended minimum size = width 68m, goal line to goal line 94m, in goal area 6m, run offs 5m where practical.	
Length of grass	Too Long		Good		Too short		Too long = >75mm. Too short = <50mm	
Problem Areas: Evidence of glass/litter/vehicle tracks/dog fouling	None		Yes - some		Yes lots			
GOALPOSTS								
Are goalposts installed?	Yes		No					
Is there any obvious danger on posts?	Yes		No					
Are the posts stable in the ground?	Yes		No					
Is the crossbar fixed securely?	Yes		No					
Is there evidence of rust on the posts?	Yes		No					
ANCILLARY								
Is the pitch floodlit?	Yes		No					
Is there changing accommodation for the pitch?	Yes		No					
Is an appropriate level of car parking available?	Yes		No					
Pitch maintenance (information gathered via club survey/ pitch provider consultation) - refer to the guidance notes below								
Aerated (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never			
Sand dressed (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never			
Fertilised (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never			
Weed killed (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never			
Chain harrowed	every week		fortnightly		monthly		never			
									Pitch Maintenance Score
Drainage	Natural (inadequate) **SCORE D0**		Natural (adequate) **SCORE D1**		Pipe drained **SCORE D2**		Pipe and slit drained **SCORE D3**		Unknown **SCORE D0**		**Natural (adequate)** = 3 or less training/match cancellations per season **Natural (inadequate)** = 4 or more training match cancellations per season *Based on a **pipe drained** system at 5m centres that has been installed in the previous eight years **Based on a **slit drained** system at 1m centres completed in the previous five years.	

Artificial grass pitches non-technical assessment (including third generation turf pitches)

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Artifical grass pitches

Site reference		**Site Name**					
6 figure grid reference		**Pitch ID**					
Number of AGPs on site		**Pitch size**	Full (i.e., 100m x 60m)		Half (i.e., 60m x 40m)		
Availability							

Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused

Type of pitch	**Long Pile 3G** (65mm with shock pad)		**Medium Pile 3G** (55-60mm)		**Short Pile 3G** (40mm)		
	Sand Dressed		**Sand Filled**		**Water based**		

Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)

Element	Rating								Guidance notes	Site comments
Age of Surface	less than 2 years		2-5 years		5-10 years		over 10 years			
Evidence of moss/lichen (all surfaces)	None		Yes - some				Yes - lots			
Loose gravel (macadam surface)	None		Yes - some				Yes - lots			
Holes or rips in surface (macadam, art. grass or polymeric surfaces)	None		Yes - some				Yes - lots			
Grip underfoot	Good		Adequate				Poor			
Line markings - quality	Good		Adequate				Poor			
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None		Yes - some				Yes - lots			
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use	None		Yes - some				Yes - lots			
Problem Areas: Evidence of damage to surface	None		Yes - some				Yes - lots		If no evidence, assume none.	
Access for disabled players. i.e.: ramps onto courts, width of gates	Good		Adequate				Poor			
Condition of posts/ nets/ goals	Good		Adequate				Poor			
Surrounding fencing	Good		Adequate				Poor			
Adequate safety margins (where appropriate)	Yes - fully		No- but adequate				No - not adequate			
Is the AGP floodlit?	Yes				No					
Is the AGP left open at all times?	Yes				No					
Are there dug outs?	Yes				No					
Are there youth shelters/spectator seating around AGP?	Yes				No					
Is there changing accommodation for the AGP?	Yes				No					

Maximum score	**93**	**Scoring:**	Poor	<=50	Total Score **0**
			Standard	51-79	
			Good	80+	Potential Rating **Poor**

Cricket non-technical assessment

Element	Rating						Guidance notes	Comments (use the guidance notes to help complete)
About the cricket outfield								
Grass coverage	Good		Acceptable		Poor		<80% falls below the ECB basic standard	
Length of grass	Good		Acceptable		Poor		Ideally 12mm - 25mm	
Evenness	Even				Uneven		Ball should run without deviation or ramp	
Evidence of Dog fouling/glass/stones/litter?	None		Yes		Immediate action required		May also wish to refer to user survey. If yes, refer to ground owner/site manager	
Evidence of Unofficial use?	None		Yes		Immediate action required		eg informal, casual use, unbooked use, kids kicking about etc. May also wish to refer to user survey. If yes, refer to ground owner/site manager	
Evidence of Damage to surface?	None		Yes		Immediate action required		eg from vermin/animals - rabbit, gulls and foxes etc may also wish to refer to user survey	
Artifical wickets								
Is the wicket and surrounds married in	Yes				No		There should be no trip points	
Evenness of wicket	Even				Uneven		There should be no undulations in surface levels	
Stump holes	Yes				No		Should be no wider than a standard cricket ball	
Moss or materials in the surface	Yes				No		There should be none	
Rips or surface lifting	Yes				No		If "yes" contact site manager	
Surface worn in high traffic areas - creases	Yes				No		If "yes" contact site manager	
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down?	Yes				No			
Grass wickets								
Presence of line markings	Yes				No			
Evidence of rolling - is wicket smooth and uniform	Yes				No			
Evidence of straight cut and height	Yes				No		3mm on match wicket/12mm rest of square	
Evidence of repair work on old wickets	Yes				No			
Grass coverage (square and wickets)	Yes				No		<80% falls below the ECB basic standard	
Hardness - does a cricket ball thrown straight down into the surface rebound?	Yes				No			
Changing/ Pavilion								
Umpires provision	Yes				No			
Toilets	Yes				No			
Hot/cold water	Yes				No			
Heating	Yes				No			
Condition of building	Good		Acceptable		Requires attention			
NTP								
Is the wicket and surrounds married in (no trip points)	Yes				No			
Evenness of wicket (no contours in surface levels)	Even				Uneven			
Stump holes (no wider than a standard cricket ball)	Yes				No			
Moss or materials in the surface (should be none)	Yes				No			
No rips or surface lifting	Yes				No			
Surface worn in high traffic areas - crease	Yes				No			
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down	Yes				No			
Is the steel frame/posts upright?	Yes				No			
Are steel cross members detached?	Yes				No			
Are all posts and net fixings in place?	Yes				No			
Can a ball pass through any part of the netting?	Yes				No			
Is appropraite safety/supervisory signage present?	Yes				No			

Court non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Tennis/ Netball/ Basketball Courts

KKPref									
Site name:									
Number of courts -	**Tennis**		**Netball**		**Basketball**		**Five-a-side**		
General Playground or specific sports court area?									
Court surface		**Management**				**Community Use?**			
	Artificial turf, Clay, Grass, Macadam, Polymeric, Shale		Club, LA - Parks, Parish Council, Public, School						

Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)

Element	Rating												Comments
About the courts													
Evidence of moss/lichen (all surfaces)	None			Yes - some			Yes - lots						
Loose gravel (macadam surface)	None			Yes - some			Yes - lots						
Holes or rips in surface (macadam, art. grass or polymeric surfa	None			Yes - some			Yes - lots						
Grip underfoot	Good			Adequate			Poor						
Line markings - quality	Good			Adequate			Poor						
Surrounding fencing	Good			Adequate			Poor						
Size of courts	Yes - fully			No- but adequate			No - not adequate						
Adequate safety margins	Yes - fully			No- but adequate			No - not adequate						
Slope of courts	Flat		Slight		Gentle		Moderate		Severe				
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None			Yes - some			Yes - lots						
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use	None			Yes - some			Yes - lots						
Access for disabled players - ie: ramps onto courts, width of gat	Good			Adequate			Poor						
Changing Accomodation													
Changing Accomodation	Yes					No							
About the equipment													
Posts and net	Good			Adequate			Poor						
Are the courts locked when not in use?	Yes					No							
Practice wall	Yes					No							

Bowling green non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Bowling green

KKPref			
Site name:			
Number of greens			
Flat/crown		**Community Use?**	

Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)

Element	Rating						Comments
About the greens							
Grass cover	Over 70%		40-69%		less than 40%		
Evenness of surface	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Signs of wear and tear	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots		
Condition of ditches/boarding	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Surface of surrounding hard areas	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Is the green and surrounding area fenced?	Yes				No		
Fencing around the green and ancillaries	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Problem areas: litter, glass, fouling, leaf fall on the green	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots		
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use on the green	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots		
Access for disabled players/spectators - ie: ramps onto greens, width of gates	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Ancillary facilities							
Changing Accomodation	Yes				No		
Toilets	Yes				No		
Car parking	Yes				No		

General comments about the site:

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Appendix C

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

DECEMBER 2025

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

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Quality assurance	Name	Date
Draft report origination	Paul Barrett/Rachel Burke	10 September 2025
Initial comments	Jason Knight/Joanne Althorpe	24 October 2025
Final draft report	Paul Barrett/Rachel Burke	12 November 2025
Quality control	John Eady	17 November 2025
Final approval	Jason Knight	4 December 2025

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NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE: INDOOR & BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This strategy and action plan (2025-2042) has been prepared following a commission from North West Leicestershire District Council (NWLDC). It has been developed working closely with the Council and partners including its leisure operator, Everyone Active. It builds upon the findings and initial conclusions identified in the linked needs assessment[1]. Both documents were prepared by specialist sport and leisure consultancy, Knight Kavanagh and Page (KKP).

The needs assessment and the strategy were both prepared in accordance with Sport England's ANOG (Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance - for Indoor Sports Facilities) and in consultation with NWLDC, Sport England, national governing bodies of sport (NGBs), local sports clubs and key stakeholders. Sport England's ANOG guidance for indoor facilities follows a four-stage approach:

- 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.

NWLDC is one of seven local authorities in the County of Leicestershire (not including Rutland). Its main settlements 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).

It is an attractive place to live, with low concentrations of both socio economic and health deprivation and a high proportion of physically active residents compared to regional and national averages. There are, however, small pockets of deprivation located east of Coalville and to the west of Ashby.

East Midlands Airport which is located in NWL services both commercial flights and freight. A substantial number of companies, including for example, DHL are based there. It is, thus, a key local employer.

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 indoor leisure provision, forms part of the council's Local Plan evidence base.

Together, this strategy/action plan and the aforementioned needs assessment report provide key evidence related to protecting, sustaining and improving NWL's stock of indoor sports facilities over the period to 2042 to meet the needs of a growing population and adapt to the ageing local demographic profile.

Built upon a comprehensive, up-to-date evidence base, it sets out a strategic, action plan-based approach to the enhancement of existing, and creation, of potential new sporting provision. This will ensure that residents can be physically active, healthier and, where appropriate, achieve their physical, sporting, health, and wellbeing ambitions in the local community.

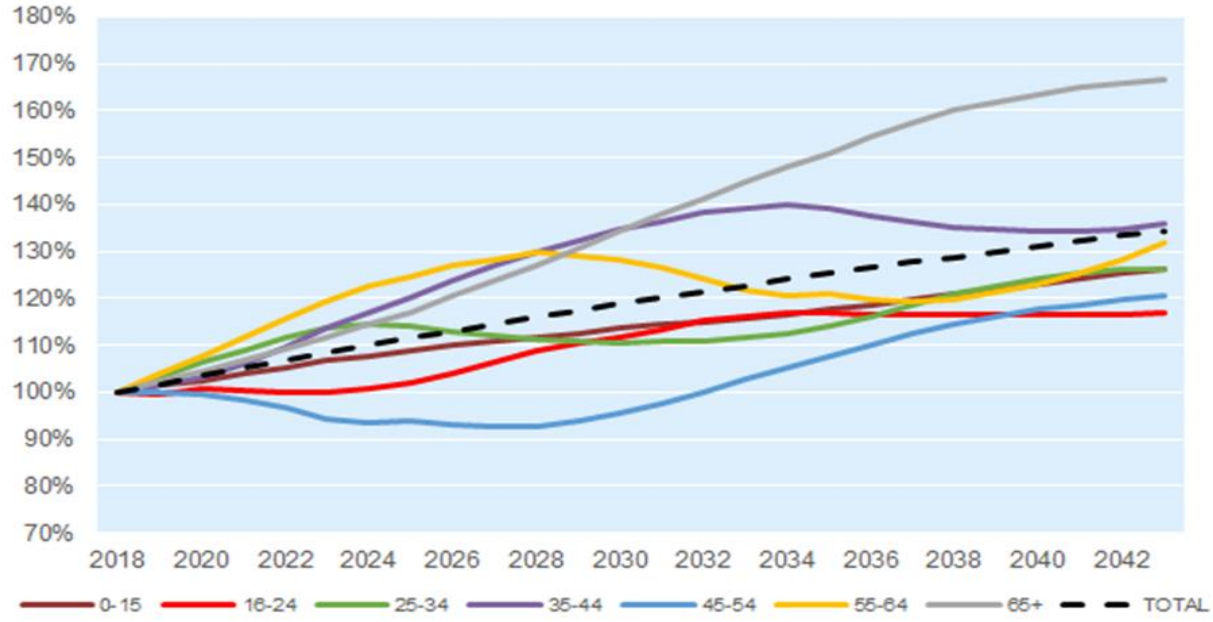
[1] North West Leicestershire Indoor & Built Facilities (Sports & Communities) Needs Assessment Report (August 2025)

PART 2: LOCAL AREA CONTEXT

The population of NWL is 110,316 (54,178 males and 56,138 females)[2]. Population projections[3] indicate that there will have been a rise of 33.3% (+34,028) in the district's population over the period from 2018-2042. Over this extended timeframe it is predicted that:

- The number of 0–15-year-olds will have risen by +2,680 (+14.3%) by 2031.
- The number of 16–24-year-olds will have risen by +13.3% by 2031 (+1,258) and see a further increase of +3.3% (+316) in the second period.
- The increase in the numbers of persons aged 65+ will continue throughout rising by of +65.7% (+13,547) over the full period between 2018-2042.

North West Leicestershire - projected population change. Source ONS 2018



The median figure for full-time earnings (2024) in NWL is £39,770 (10.6% higher than the East Midlands Region and 4.6% above the Great Britain average)[4]. 1,390 people in NWL claimed out of work benefits in December 2024. This is an increase of 3.3% compared to December 2023 (1,345).

As noted above, relative to other parts of the country NWL has low levels of deprivation; just under 7% of its population lives in areas covered by the country's three most deprived cohorts, while 34.2% live in the three least deprived groupings[5]. In respect of health, just 15.4% of the population resides in areas covered by the three most deprived cohorts while 34.2% live in the three least deprived groupings.

Life expectancy for males and females in NWL is higher than the national figure; the male rate is 79.7 and the female equivalent; 83.5[6].

[2] Data source: 2023 Mid-Year Estimate (MYE), ONS.
[3] Data source: 2018-based population projections, ONS
[4] Data source: Nomis 2024
[5] Data source: 2019 indices of deprivation, MHCLG
[6] Office of National Statistics: Life expectancy at birth by local areas in the United Kingdom, 2020.

Adult obesity and/or overweight levels in NWL are above national and regional rates. Child rates are below both the national and regional rates[7] [8].

One quarter (24.1%) of adults in NWL take part in fitness activities, on average, at least twice a month[9]. The next most popular activity is cycling at 16.4%.

The housing requirement will be met through a combination of meeting existing housing commitments (sites under construction or sites with planning permission) and new Local Plan allocations. The number of new dwellings expected to be built from 1 April 2024 (a combination of commitments and allocations) is set out below:

- Coalville Urban Area 5,486
- Isley Woodhouse New Settlement 4,250 planned in total (1,950 by 2042).
- Ashby de la Zouch 1,922
- Castle Donington/Kegworth 1,299

Two known strategic sports facilities are planned as part of two key growth areas.

Based upon information provided during consultation, due to planned local housing growth, Castle Donington College capacity is predicted to rise by (potentially) c.1,500 from a current base of 750 students. There will, thus, be a requirement to expand its facilities. This expansion is scheduled to include a new PE and fitness department which, based on current plans, will be serviced by a DFE (Department of Education) modelled scale 3-court sports hall. This is pending Leicestershire County Council approval and subject to funding and space being available and allocated on site for such a development. A master planning exercise has been undertaken by Castle Donington College.

An outline planning application has been submitted south of East Midlands Airport for the new Isley Woodhouse settlement of up to 4,250 new homes. In addition to the new homes, the application also includes provision of a large local community centre, a new secondary school and two new primary schools. No further detail about the scale or format of the new secondary school is as yet in the public domain, however, the DfE modelled secondary school requirement is for a three-court sports hall which should also be available for the community to use.

[7] National Child Measurement Program
[8] National Obesity Observatory
[9] Data source: Active Lives Survey: November 2023/24

PART 3: AUDIT FINDINGS

General findings

Headline audit findings confirm overall that NWL's core-built leisure facilities (sports halls, swimming pools and health and fitness suites) are well located to meet the current demand generated by the local population.

NWLDC's flagship leisure centre, Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre (opened 2022), replaced the former Hermitage Leisure Centre. It is the council's main leisure venue featuring a large (8-court) sports hall, an 8-lane x 25m competition swimming pool along with a substantive fitness offer (110 stations) and three squash courts. Ashby Leisure Centre is the other council owned public leisure centre. These two are supported by five educational sites, three of which offer both sports hall and pool provision.

The south of the authority (which includes the areas of Coalville, Ashby and Ibstock) is well served in terms of swimming pools and sports halls although KKP's consultation indicates that there is some unmet sports hall demand in Ashby. Conversely, provision in the north, serving Castle Donington and Kegworth settlements is limited.

Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) identifies that based on **current overall demand** there is surplus of water space and sports halls (of 7.1 badminton courts) in the district. However, its calculation with regard to future sports hall requirements (which relates to both anticipated general population plus housing-based growth (to 2042) is that the additional demand for sports hall space created by this growth will equate to c.17 badminton courts across the district.

Subtracting the current surplus from the anticipated future shortfall confirms the need for 10 additional badminton courts by 2042. Neither the FPM nor KKP's analysis indicates a requirement for additional pool or health and fitness provision now or in the future (to 2042).

Sports halls

Provision

Eight sports halls in the district have three or more courts. Those at Ashby and Whitwick and Coalville leisure centres (both of which offer pay and play access) are managed by Everyone Active on behalf of the Council. The six other sports halls; at Ashby School, Ibstock Leisure Complex, Ivanhoe School, Castle Rock High School (which has two 4-court halls) and the Newbridge School are dual use venues. All are available for community use however, none has a formal agreement in place.

Four of the eight require investment to improve quality. Ashby Leisure Centre, Ashby School and Sixth Form, Ibstock Leisure Complex and one of Castle Rock High School's two 4-court sports halls are all rated as below average quality. Upgrading generally incorporates improvements to sports hall floor surfaces and line markings, lighting and/or their general décor.

In terms of location, there is a good accessibility; 42.8% of residents live within a one-mile walk of a 3+ court sports hall and 100% live within 20 minutes' drive time of one which meets the minimum size threshold.

While walk time accessibility is relatively low, high levels of car ownership and strong drivetime catchment figures suggest that provision is sufficient in the south of the authority

The key challenge is faced by people living in the north, on the outskirts of the drive time catchment. For some of these residents it may, at present, be more convenient to access facilities in neighbouring authorities than it is to drive south within NWL.

The two public leisure sites offer weekday daytime access; this is of increasing importance given the rising number of older people in the area, the number of shift workers and the increase in home working.

As noted above, Sport England's FPM calculates that, across the district, there will be future demand for an additional 17 courts. Subtracting the current surplus (7.1 courts) from this leaves a future shortfall of 10 badminton courts.

Demand

A range of sports; netball, basketball, volleyball, pickleball, badminton and archery is played in the Authority's sports halls. Demand is high. KKP consultation indicates that all but two are operating above the comfortably full threshold (80% of their available capacity) particularly at the times of year when demand tends to be greatest.

Because of its 8-court hall (and good condition), Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre is a key strategic facility for the NWL Netball League along with Hermitage Volleyball Club.

Opportunities

There is an opportunity for NWLDC and partners to take advantage of the imminent/ planned development of school-based sports hall facilities in the north of the authority to address both the overall future NWL sports hall shortfall (10 courts) and the specific issue appertaining to provision in this part of the district.

The scale of overall planned housing growth in the north (more than 5,000 new dwellings) albeit that only two thirds of this number is scheduled to be in place by 2042 will create a substantially greater level of local demand. This sits alongside the current unmet demand in this area of the authority. Consultation undertaken to inform the needs assessment and this strategy indicates that some of the demand generated in the north of the district is presently serviced at sports halls located in the south.

The proposed expansion of Castle Donington College is scheduled to include provision of a 3-court sports hall. An extension of this sports hall based upon supplementary investment by Castle Donington Parish Council and partners is further validated by the level of local demand in Castle Donington/Kegworth. (see Appendix 3).

In addition, development of a new secondary school, also including provision of a 3-court sports hall is part of the infrastructure which will accompany the Isley Woodhouse residential development. This too could, for example via the effective use of developer contributions, be extended to be a 4-court facility.

While provision of 3-court halls at these two school sites would, technically service some of this demand, their proposed scale would largely negate their use for two of the sports for which local demand is greatest - netball and basketball.

Investing in extending both of the proposed sports halls to 4-courts, ensuring that they fully, meet standard Sport England specifications and accompanying such investment with binding 51-week access-based community use agreements (CUAs) would address most of the district's future sports hall shortfall. It would also deliver more for the sporting and local community, be more commercially feasible and be a better proposition for both schools' curricular and extra-curricular PE and sports offers.

By providing additional capacity to match NWL's future requirements, it should also reduce the extent to which clubs and individual users need to travel from the north of the district to occupy slots at both Coalville and Ashby leisure centres - with the concomitant beneficial impact on NWL's carbon footprint.

Committing to do this alongside initiating an immediate process to extend community use hours at some of the existing secondary school-based sports hall facilities – in particular those serving the Ashby catchment, should get the authority close to addressing the overall projected future sports hall provision deficit and tackle some of its more pressing needs.

Swimming pools

Provision

There are seven main swimming pools (20m+ in length x 4 lanes or larger) in NWL. Two are located in public leisure centres, three at educational sites and the other two at commercial fitness gyms.

Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre is the district's flagship site. It has an 8-lane 25m pool plus a teaching/learner pool. It supports a range of users, including Coalville Swimming Club, a well-attended learn to swim programme, lane and recreational swimming.

Pool quality in the district is generally good, all sites are rated either good or above average in quality. The key public sector leisure centre pools at Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre and Ashby Leisure Centre are rated good and above average, respectively.

Three sites are available to the community on a casual usage (pay and play) access basis. These are the two public leisure centres (Ashby and Whitwick and Coalville), plus Ibstock Leisure Complex (at Ibstock Community College). The other two school swimming pools (at Ashby High School and Castle Rock School) are available on the basis of block bookings serving either private swimming bookings or swimming clubs.

In terms of accessibility, just over 40% of the population lives within a one-mile walk of a main swimming pool in NWL. The whole population lives within 20-minutes' drive of a main swimming pool. Pay and play access is available within a one mile walk for approximately 30% of district residents.

Demand

In terms of water space requirements, the Sport England FPM indicates a current surplus of 542m^2 (equivalent to c.13 lanes of a 20m pool). Sport England's Sports Facilities Calculator (SFC) suggests that population growth across the whole district will create demand for an additional 6.81 lanes while additional demand based on housing growth will add up to 6.31 lanes.

The highest local level of unmet demand is in Castle Donington (72m^2). This does not justify new provision – even when factoring in planned housing growth in the north (including Isley Woodhouse). As a consequence, residents in this part of the district will continue to need to travel either to the facilities in the south of NWL or into neighbouring authorities to access a pay and play swimming facility.

Based upon this future demand (for an additional 13 lanes) can be catered for by current provision presuming that supply remains constant and that the district's schools-based pools which offer community use continue to do so.

Opportunity

Management at Ashby Leisure Centre is seeking funding to install a retractable roof over the lido, which would enable year-round use. (It is currently available seasonally, typically from May through to September).

Health and fitness

NWL currently has 21 health and fitness gyms of 20+ stations in size. Of these, eighteen are available for community use. All are rated either good or above average. The key facilities at Whitwick and Coalville and Ashby leisure centres are both rated good quality.

Based on UK market penetration rates, there is a current (by c.460) and future (by c.30) modelled positive supply demand balance of facilities in the area up to 2042.

Just over half (55.9%) of NWL residents live within one mile of a health and fitness suite while the whole population lives within a 20-minute drive of a community accessible facility. Walking accessibility in the district is low although this is to a degree counterbalanced by high car ownership levels.

Of the four pay and play fitness facilities in the authority, none is in the north. However, at the point in time when the needs assessment was undertaken plans to develop a new fitness facility at Castle Donington College were under way. This will improve the geographic spread of pay and play fitness venues in NWL.

Gymnastics

The one dedicated gymnastics facility in the district is Coalville Gymnastics Club. It is located to the west of the town, in a converted industrial unit. Four gymnastics facilities are located within 30 minutes' drive of NWL - to the north and east of the Authority. Coalville Gymnastics Club has a reported waiting list for a range of its classes - from recreational to advanced.

Squash

The five squash courts in the area are located at the public leisure centres, Whitwick and Coalville has three and Ashby Leisure Centre two. Courts at both sites are rated either good or above average. They offer recreational and competitive opportunity and are utilised by Hermitage and Ashby Squash Club.

All NWL residents live within a 20-minute drive of a squash facility in the district. A further seven courts (on three sites) can be accessed within 20-minutes' drive time in neighbouring authorities.

Indoor tennis

Although there is no indoor tennis provision in the Authority, there are 28 courts (across six sites) at venues in neighbouring authorities within a 30-minute drive of the NWLDC boundary. None of these is available on a pay and play basis.

The LTA identifies NWL as a priority authority for investment in an indoor facility, however, no site has been identified. Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club along with Ashby Sport have expressed a desire to see an indoor tennis facility in the town.

The LTA identifies a need for seven (indoor/outdoor) padel courts. This should be considered as part of any planned indoor tennis centre development.

Indoor bowls

There is no indoor bowls facility in the authority but there are seven within a 30-minute drive of the district (one of which; Enderby Leisure and Golf Centre, is pay and play). They are well distributed around the outer edge of the authority boundary.

Consultation with the English Indoor Bowls Association indicates that there is no requirement for additional purpose-built indoor bowls facilities in the district now or in the near future. Although the number of older people is increasing, demand is not expected to rise to a level that would merit new provision.

Community buildings

There are 55 community buildings available to hire across the district. These are evenly spread serving both urban and rural communities. The majority of settlements have access to at least one facility - only three (Worthington, Albert Village, and Ellistown) do not.

They are usually multi-functional, providing places for meetings, weddings, socialising and for physical activity, sport and recreational clubs and activities. Generally, they support activities which require smaller premises, such as martial arts, fitness classes, yoga, etc.

Community consultation indicates that several current facilities are rated as poor. These include buildings in Coleorton and Osgathorpe.

Ashby Town Council highlight a lack of a sufficiently large community facility with adequate parking/layout which can support the town as the population increases in line with the Local Plan. It is currently in the process of developing a business plan and feasibility study to demonstrate the need for such a facility.

As would be expected, larger settlements tend to have more facilities. Coalville has eight, Ashby has 12 and Castle Donington has three available to hire. There is an expectation that Isley Woodhouse will be provided with some form of community facility, based upon the level at which it will feature in NWLDC's settlement hierarchy.

PART 4: VISION AND STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Vision:

By 2042, NWL will via innovative, sustainable and collaborative development provide inclusive, high-quality, energy-efficient indoor sports facilities that meet the needs of its growing and ageing population, promote active lifestyles and support community wellbeing.

Overarching strategic recommendations

Address built facility shortfalls

Based on the 2042 end date of the Local Plan period, NWLDC will have neither a current nor a future shortfall of swimming pool or health and fitness provision. Planned housing and population growth will, however, create a sport hall capacity shortfall which equates to 10 badminton courts.

NWLDC and partners have the option to both address this overall sports hall capacity shortfall and the specific shortage of provision in the north of the district.

Based upon DfE guidance related to pupil numbers and school curriculum need, Castle Donington College will require a 3-court sport hall. This development is directly linked to the expansion of the school to increase its capacity. (This follows the very recent investment in a new dining area, new classrooms, a full-sized 3G floodlit pitch and a fitness gym).

Based on the Castle Donington and Kegworth FPM calculation and factoring in the demand from local sports clubs (needs assessment report) it is considered to be desirable and feasible that this development (tied to a binding 51-week community use agreement - CUA) be upgraded to be a 4-court sports hall.

This will, for example, enable it to establish and accommodate local netball and basketball club training and matchplay, support the College's educational output and increase sustainability as a result of the trading advantages of a 4-court hall relative to its 3-court counterpart.

It is anticipated that funding for the 3-court hall will come from developer contributions and that Castle Donington Parish Council will provide some funding to support the capital cost of the additional (fourth) court using developer receipts from local housing growth.

The second growth area in the north of NWL is the new Isley Woodhouse settlement. This incorporates plans to create a new secondary school including a community sports hub.

This is, first and foremost, required to service the new school's requirements. However, the modelled requirement based on the full housing allocation in this area and encompassing the need generated by both Local Plan period-based housing growth and the number to be developed after 2042 confirms the community need for this 3-court hall.

In a similar vein to the proposed Castle Donington development and based upon local consultation undertaken to inform the needs assessment, upgrading the proposed 3-court hall to four is considered to deliver a solution which offers best value for money and better accommodates key sports in the area, including badminton, netball, basketball and volleyball.

Upgrading to a 4-court hall would also further alleviate the district's future shortfall and enable the school to make the facility available to a more varied and comprehensive range of local community groups, support the establishment and growth of local sports clubs, and ensure greater operational and financial sustainability.

It is anticipated that developer contributions will fund the 3-court hall and recommended that NWLDC and partners seek the additional funding required to add the extra court.

This option is further validated by the fact that there is currently no sports hall provision in the area, despite identified demand.

Increasing sports hall capacity in the north of the district should relieve pressure on (and thus increase capacity at) facilities in the south and reduce net travel times. Consultation suggests that clubs such as Derby Trailblazers Basketball Club which moved out of Castle Donington College because of its under-sized (1-court) hall would be likely to return to the district to use an appropriately specified 4-court facility.

Appendix 1 is a planning gain toolkit for NWLDC to use when developing sports facilities. Appendix 2 provides indicative costs for the indoor and built sports facilities proposed.

Other facilities

Based upon the needs assessment, consultation and the ambitions of certain NGBs and Town Councils, there is a case to be made for a new dedicated gymnastics hub, an indoor tennis centre and additional community facilities.

- The need for additional gymnastics provision is primarily predicated on the fact that the main club in the district has a sizable waiting list.
- Proposals for indoor tennis are based upon the LTA ambition to develop an indoor tennis facility in NWLDC as part of its national strategy.
- The need for additional community provision in Isley Woodhouse is predicated upon settlement hierarchy assumptions set out in the needs assessment.
- Ashby Town Council highlights a need for a large, dedicated community facility in Ashby.

Applying the England Squash blanket ratio, the needs assessment also notes a calculated current shortfall of c. six squash courts which will rise to eight by 2042. The England Squash model simply maps out population-based assumptions and does not take account of consultation-assessed demand. Discussion with Everyone Active indicates that, in respect of the district's public play and play squash courts there is spare capacity at both sites. The key driver for squash is, thus, generating demand at a level that makes full use of the available courts.

The table overleaf sets out the facilities required by 2042, the anticipated cost and the justification. The Planning Gain Contribution Toolkit (Appendix 1) can be used to calculate contributions from individual sites.

Table 4.3: Facility type and calculated current and future shortfall

Facility type	Facility option	Justification	Location	Indicative overall cost	Cost: NWLDC & partners
Sports hall	1x 4 court	Population/housing growth/local demand	Castle Donington	£3,005,000	@ 25-30% £750-900k
	1x 4 court	Population/housing growth/local demand	Isley Woodhouse	£3,005,000	@ 25-30% £750-900k
Swimming pool	Not required				
Fitness	Not required				
Indoor tennis	Minimum 4 courts	NGB aspiration	Area wide- no location identified	£4,090,000	Not known
Gymnastics	1 x additional provision	NGB/club aspiration	No location identified	Purchase/ lease	Not calculatable
Indoor bowls	Not required				
Squash	Not required				
Community buildings	1 facility	Settlement plan threshold	Isley Woodhouse	*	Not calculatable
	1 facility	Consultation/Town Council need [10]	Ashby	*	Not calculatable

**dependent upon size and scale- see SE Design Guidance (see hyperlink- Appendix 2)*
***cost guidance unknown*

Increase indoor sports capacity in Ashby

Although Sport England FPM modelling states that there is a *current* sports hall capacity surplus in the district, consultation with several clubs indicates that, in Ashby, demand outweighs supply. The sports halls in this locality are reportedly at capacity during key demand times and this is restricting participation in and the growth of sports like netball and, in particular, basketball.

There is an immediate opportunity to increase capacity by extending peak time opening hours. At present, the sports hall at Ivanhoe School is only open until 20.30 on weekday evenings. Extending this to 22.00 (even just from, Monday-Thursday) would, for example, enable Aztecs Basketball Club to play matches at the site rather than being restricted to only doing so at Ashby School.

In the longer term, Ashby Sports Forum is keen to develop new indoor sports hall provision.

However, the district's future shortfall will largely be tackled if the proposed developments set out in this strategy - at Castle Donington College and the new secondary school at Isley Woodhouse - progress.

However, to reflect local ambition in Ashby it is worth noting that, should LTA interest in developing an indoor tennis facility in NWL be realised, consideration could be given to

[10] Ashby Town Council is currently undertaking a business plan to determine demand and requirements for a dedicated community facility.

assessing the feasibility (and desirability from a NWLDC and the LTA's perspective) of attaching an additional sports hall to this.

Although the FPM deems swimming to be adequately catered for in NWL, given that EA is exploring the possibility of installing a retractable roof for the lido at Ashby Leisure Centre – and making swimming available all year-round it may be of value to commission a feasibility study to assess the potential for this and its likely impact on other district venues.

Invest in facilities to ensure they contribute to the Council's net zero target.

NWLDC is committed to be a net zero carbon (NCZ) council by 2030 and a NZC district by 2050. To ensure that this target is reached, existing council facilities should be assessed and upgraded for energy efficiency and decarbonisation where possible. This includes retro fitting existing buildings and ensuring all new facilities have modern, sustainable technologies and materials to reduce their environmental impact and operating costs.

These upgrades will not only support broader climate goals but also make facilities more economically viable in the long term.

There is a concurrent desire to ensure that all sites are as accessible as possible through active travel. To achieve this, adequate provision should be considered, including improved cycle parking and walking routes.

Ensure facility attractiveness and accessibility of education facilities is maintained

The position with regard to the supply of sports halls and swimming pools in NWL depends upon all schools-based venues continuing to be available, on weekday evenings and at weekends, for community use. This is particularly pertinent in Ashby, where demand for sports hall capacity is high.

There are no formal CUAs in place, despite all NWL secondary schools allowing community access to their facilities. It is important that they are drawn up to clarify, confirm and safeguard these largely positive existing arrangements to help guarantee long-term access.

(Any change which reduces the current level of access would adversely affect the supply demand balance for both pools and halls).

Four sport halls in NWL are rated as being of below average quality. Investment in them is required. In respect of the school sites, there is a need to work with partners to unearth funding options to improve quality. Developer contributions from housing growth in Ashby could (within the parameters of S.106 arrangements) be secured to invest in improving the sports hall floor at Ashby Leisure Centre. Ideally, this would be upgraded to be a sprung wood floor to safeguard existing clients and encourage new users, such as dance and cheerleading groups.

Increasing gymnastics capacity

Coalville Gymnastics Club reports having unmet demand, has a waiting list and would benefit from additional capacity (possibly an additional facility) within the district either to service satellite area demand or increase capacity in Coalville itself.

There is an opportunity to work with the club and British Gymnastics to identify options to raise capacity via increasing the number of satellite sessions and exploring the feasibility of adding to the dedicated gymnastics provision - subject to club appetite.

Ensure that indoor and built facilities are protected and enhanced through the NWLDC Local Plan and planning system.

Future sport and physical activity facility needs in NWL should to be met via protecting and sustaining existing provision and delivering investment in strategically located new provision.

Existing and projected levels of demand for swimming pools and sports halls means that all existing facilities should be protected from inappropriate development/disposal via the planning system.

Looking forward, NWLDC should ensure that it has policies in place to determine the level of developer contributions linked to the improvement of existing, or addition of new built sports hall facilities.

Continue to ensure that opportunities to access leisure provision are maximised for more vulnerable residents, including those with long term health conditions, people with disabilities, older people and those who are financially/digitally disadvantaged.

In respect of its corporate commitment to improving the wellbeing of its residents, NWLDC should support further expansion of the heath referral programmes at Ashby and Whitwick and Coalville leisure centres. This should include providing the necessary support to facilitate networking with public and primary health contacts.

NWLDC should work with Everyone Active to review and ensure that the pricing, concessionary discounting, and the means of access to memberships and activities at the two leisure centres are accessible to older residents, those living in the rural areas of the authority and those classed as being financially and digitally disadvantaged.

BDC owned sports facility access

15% of children aged under 16 in the district live in defined low-income households. One third of the Authority's year 6 pupils are classified as overweight or obese. Corporately, in the NWL Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2023-2026 the council commits *to ensure equal access to services and reduce health inequalities* and *respond to health priorities at a local level, allowing for targeted interventions and community-specific actions*.

NWL has, what is relative to the systems in place in many local authorities a clear and well-presented process for enabling discounted access (at a level of 25%) to key resident groups including those on means-tested benefits, disabled users (and carers), pensioners, students and GP referrals and residents caring for foster children. While, as noted, this is both a positive and well-presented offer, there is a need to fully evaluate take up and consider:

- How effectively messages about this are getting through to the residents for which this is intended and the level of take-up.
- Whether levels of membership/activity price discounting fully reflect the capacity of people living in poverty (and facing other personal and financial barriers) in NWL to pay or further consideration is needed.

- Establishment of MECC (making every contact count) mechanisms whereby trusted partners (such as housing associations, health professional and others) can be enabled to directly refer residents in poverty or with particular needs to gain access to this.

Assess the feasibility of developing new and improving existing community facilities

Based upon the needs assessment settlement analysis and also identified above, there is a need for a new community facility in Isley Woodhouse. NWLDC should work with key community partners to identify existing/future community demand at a more granular level to determine the appropriate size and functions of a potential facility. Ashby Town Council is also undertaking a feasibility study and business case to justify a new large facility in Ashby.

In addition, several village halls/community centres facilities are currently of poor quality. NWLC should work with the respective partners (parish councils) to identify and secure funding to enable improvements. Options could include Section 106 from nearby developments or other sources.

PART 5: INDOOR AND BUILT FACILITIES STRATEGY ACTION PLAN

The action plan contains three sections:

1. Overarching recommendations.
2. Site specific recommendations.
3. Sport and community facility specific recommendations.

In respect of timescales, short term refers to 1-2 years; medium is 3-5 years and long-term equates to 5-10 years. Action plan priorities are categorised either as protect, enhance or provide in line with Sport England objectives. The Sport England definitions for these 'headings' are as follows:

- **Protect** - to protect the right opportunities in the right places.
- **Enhance** - to enhance opportunities through better use of existing provision.
- **Provide** - to provide new opportunities to meet the needs of current and future generations.

NB: Responsibility for actions set out in the plan are not solely the responsibility of NWLDC and are assigned across a number of agencies including NWLDC, Leicestershire County Council, schools, the Active Partnership for Leicestershire (Active Together), NGBs and sports clubs. This reflects the fact that, while the strategy was commissioned by the local authority, a partnership approach will be required to deliver its recommendations.

Table 5.1: Overarching objectives

Strategic objective	Recommended actions	Timescale	Responsibility
Local Plan	Ensure that the Local Plan contains suitably worded policies to protect existing provision in line with NPPF (paragraph 104).	Short	NWLDC
Address future sports hall shortfalls	Ensure that appropriate (4-court) sports hall facilities are provided at the Isley Woodhouse new settlement and Castle Donington: – Assess the feasibility of partnering with Castle Donington Parish Council to increase size of the planned sports hall at Castle Donington College from 3 to 4 courts. Evaluate the extent to which the funds required to achieve this can be secured from the Parish Council or alternative sources. – Assess whether developer contributions can be secured to extend the proposed 3-court sports hall to 4-courts and the extent to which other funds may be required to enable this.	Short/medium	NWLDC/ LCC/ CDPC
Indoor tennis centre	Work with the LTA commission a feasibility study to assess the viability of an indoor tennis centre in the district.	Medium	NWLDC/ LCC/ CDPC
Community centre – Isley Woodhouse	Evaluate the settlement calculation, assess likely demand levels, and consider whether and how a community facility could be provided to serve the new Isley Woodhouse development. To include (e.g.) evaluating appropriate locations (including the new school) and assessing the extent to which S106 funding can be ringfenced for this.	Long	NWLDC/new school/ community partners
Community centre – Ashby	Support any funding opportunities following Ashby Town Council's completion of a viable business plan and feasibility study for a new large community facility.	Long	Ashby TC/NWLDC
Increase sports facility capacity in Ashby	Assess the feasibility of extending weekday evening sports hall opening hours at Ivanhoe School. In tandem with the proposed indoor tennis facility feasibility, consider whether it could be adapted/extended to accommodate sports such as netball and archery. Investigate the feasibility of installing a retractable roof on the current lido to extend usage to year-round. This includes business modelling, feasibility, planning and the sourcing funding.	Short-medium Medium Medium	NWLDC / School NWLDC / Ashby Sports / LTA / MATI NWLDC/EA
Invest in facilities to ensure they contribute to the Council's net zero target.	Ensure that existing (and/or new) sports facilities are made as energy efficient as possible. This should involve: – Continuing to improve the performance of NWLDC sports facilities to achieve Net Zero Carbon (NZC) emissions. – Ensure that all newly constructed council-controlled/influenced buildings, extensions and refurbishments are designed to achieve NZC emissions by 2050 (in line with the NWLDC pledge). – Move away from oil/natural gas and install energy saving measures (i.e., solar panels, air-source heat pumps. – Deliver 'invest to save' energy efficiency projects to reduce overall emissions/reduce running costs. – Maximise onsite renewable energy generation. – Modernise the swimming pool plant room at Ashby Leisure Centre. – Install electric vehicle charging points at public leisure sites. – Support schools, in particular the three with swimming pools to reduce emissions.	Ongoing Ongoing	NWLDC / EA NWLDC/ academy trusts NWLDC/LCC/academy trusts

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) – STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Strategic objective	Recommended actions	Timescale	Responsibility
Ensure school sports hall/pool facility attractiveness and accessibility is maintained	Support schools to ensure they all remain open for community use and, if appropriate, make use of external support, such as Swim England's Business Engagement Team, to provide them with options to maximise external revenue from swimming pools. (Sensitively given the present positive position with schools) draw up and secure binding CUAs to ensure long term access. Work with Ashby School, Castle Rock High School, Ibstock Leisure Complex - with partners - to explore funding options to deliver the required sports hall facility improvements.	Ongoing Short Short-medium	NWLDC/academy trusts/Swim England NWLDC / Active Together / academy trusts / Sport England etc.
Improve concessionary priced, pay and play and digital access to leisure provision for more vulnerable residents.	Explore the option to expand the scale and remit of the heath referral programme at Whitwick and Coalville and Ashby leisure centres, including providing the necessary support to facilitate networking with public and primary health contacts. Ensure that the concessionary membership and pay and play pricing alongside the means of access to memberships and activities are fully accessible to older residents, those living in the rural areas of the authority and people classed as financially disadvantaged.	Short/medium Short	NWLDC/ EA NWLDC/EA
Regular engagement with parish and town councils regarding community provision.	Maintain regular dialogue with parish and town councils to ensure that local community facilities are of a high quality and support the needs of the local community.	On-going	NWLDC/parish and town councils.
Monitor and review	Keep this strategy relevant and up to date by completing a light touch annual review. Deliver a complete review within 5 years of adoption.	Long	NWLDC

Table 5.2: Site specific actions

Facility	Management	Overview	Action	Lead agency	Timescale
Ashby Leisure Centre and Lido	Everyone Active	A key strategic public leisure site. It has a 6-lane swimming pool (plus learner teaching pool), 4-court sports hall, two squash courts and a 75-station fitness gym. It also has an outdoor lido which is operational over the summer months. All facilities are rated above average quality apart from the sports hall which is below average. The sports hall operates at 70% capacity (has limited availability) catering for sports including pickleball, gymnastics, archery and badminton. It is one of the two halls in the authority available during the daytime.	Invest in upgrading the sports hall to a sprung wood surface. Explore the feasibility of installing a retractable roof for the lido. Ensure that it offers suitable programme variety (evening and daytime) and that all activities are priced accordingly.	NWLDC / EA NWLDC / EA NWLDC / EA	Short / medium Short / medium Ongoing
Ashby School	Life Multi Academy Trust	A sports hall rated below quality along plus a swimming pool (20m x 4-lanes) rated above average. The sports hall floor is dated and will require replacing in the short term. Both the swimming pool and sports hall are available for community use and are well used. The sports hall is operating at 80% used capacity and accommodates netball and basketball (including Aztecs Basketball Club) while the swimming pool accommodates several private swim schools.	Invest in improving the quality of sports hall décor and floor (upgrade to a sprung floor) to ensure it operates safely and is attractive to modern users. This will better meet current users needs and allow more activities at the site, including dance/cheerleading, for example. Ensure both hall and pool facilities remain community accessible particularly given the level of demand in Ashby	NWLDC / Life Multi Academy Trust	Short / medium & ongoing
Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre	Everyone Active	The facility which opened in 2022 has an 8-lane 25m swimming pool (plus learner pool), 8-court sports hall, 110- station fitness gym, three fitness studios, a small climbing area and three squash courts. All elements are rated good quality. It supports a range of clubs and users, including Coalville Swimming Club and the NWL Netball League. The learn to swim programme is approaching capacity.	Maintain the facility to its current standard to ensure that it continues to provide high quality facilities to the Authority's residents. Ensure that it offers suitable programme variety (evening and daytime) and that all activities are priced accordingly.	NWLDC / EA NWLDC / EA	Ongoing Ongoing
Castle Rock High School	The Lionheart Educational Trust	It has two 4-court sports halls (one above average, the other below average) plus a 4-lane x 25m pool rated above average quality. It is a well-used and is in high demand. Both the pool and the above average quality sports hall are operating at capacity; only limited time slots are available at the below average rated hall. Significant investment in the school building is planned. At present this is not scheduled to include its sports facilities.	Secure additional investment to modernise, paint and improve the quality of the below average sports hall.	The Lionheart Educational Trust	Short / medium

Facility	Management	Overview	Action	Lead agency	Timescale
Ibstock Leisure Complex	Life Multi Academy Trust	This community facility has an above average quality rated 4-lane 25m swimming pool and a below average rated 5-court sports hall. The sports hall floor needs to be replaced in the short term The pool is available during the day and evenings/weekends, whereas the sports hall is only available on weekday evenings and at weekends due to school usage. The pool offers a learn to swim programme, pay and play access and club swimming. The sports hall is used by the local cricket, football and badminton club and operates near to capacity.	Invest in replacing the sports hall floor and improve the décor. Consideration should be given to upgrading to a sprung wood floor. This will better meet current users needs and encourage other activities at the site.	NWLDC / Life Multi Academy Trust	Short / medium
Ivanhoe School	Life Multi Academy Trust	Located in the centre of Ashby, the school has recently (2024) invested in a new (good quality) netball/basketball specification 4-court sports hall. It is operating at 90% capacity but opening hours are restricted, which limits community use opportunity.	Maintain the facility at its current standard to ensure that it continues to support the Authority's residents. Work to extend sports hall community hours and explore the possibility to supporting this via a keyholder arrangement.	Ivanhoe School/ NWLDC / Active Together	Short
The Newbridge School	New Bridge Multi Academy Trust	School site with an above average rated 4-court sports hall. It has limited availability to take on increased usage. It caters for pickleball, badminton, indoor football, basketball and indoor futsal.	Maintain facility to its current standard to ensure that it continues to meet demand from district residents.	New Bridge MAT / NWLDC	Long
Coalville Gymnastics	Coalville Gymnastics	A standalone gymnastics facility includes a full-sized competition floor. It also has numerous sets of bars, beams, vault, tumble track and a sunken trampoline. There is a waiting list for the majority of its programme.	Work with British Gymnastics and the club to explore options to increase capacity. This could take the form of additional provision in Coalville or satellite provision across the district. (Other, smaller clubs may also be interested in this).	Coalville Gymnastics Club / British Gymnastics / NWLDC	Short

Table 5.3: Sport specific overview and recommendations

Sport	Overview and challenges	Recommended actions	Lead agency	Timescale	Objective
Swimming	There are 12 swimming pools at 10 sites. The three key sites are at Ashby and Coalville leisure centres and Ibstock Leisure Complex. Other (school/commercial) pools have a limited offer. The main challenges are: **Geographic imbalance** –publicly accessible pay and play pools are in the south of the district (Ashby, Coalville & Ibstock). Residents in the north must travel to the south/neighbouring authorities to access provision (within 20 minutes' drive time). **Capacity and utilisation** – public leisure centre pools are 'uncomfortably full' at peak times. School pools provide additional capacity but are mainly block booked for clubs/swim lessons. **Accessibility and inclusion** – 28% of residents (but none from its most deprived communities) live within one mile walk of a pay and play accessible pool. Digital/financial exclusion may also be limiting participation for certain groups.	**Maintain and upgrade existing pools** – prioritise long-term maintenance/ refurbishment at all key sites especially Ashby Leisure Centre & Lido and Ibstock Leisure Complex. Explore the feasibility of converting Ashby Lido into a year-round facility to relieve pressure on other swimming pools. **Expand access and community use:** keep all school pools open/accessible for club activity/swimming lessons. **Monitor/plan growth:** review supply/demand data. **Promote inclusion:** develop pricing/payment options to protect digitally/financially vulnerable groups. Incentivise swimming during off-peak times, especially for older adults. Support clubs/operators to expand swimming lesson capacity and effectively promote learn to swim options to, in particular young people - from underrepresented groups. **Partnerships and programming**: maintain a balance of club/school use, swimming lesson and casual swimming.	NWLDC, EA, academy trusts, Swim England.	Ongoing	Protect Enhance Provide
Sport	**Overview and challenges**	**Recommended actions**	**Lead agency**	**Timescale**	**Objective**
Squash	There are five good/above average glass-back squash courts in NWL at Whitwick & Coalville and Ashby leisure centres. All are available on via pay-and-play and membership offering daytime evening access. Both leisure centres report good participation levels. **Main challenges**: Existing courts are well maintained, but ongoing investment is needed to keep standards high. There is a need to increase participation.	Continue regular maintenance and investment to ensure courts remain attractive and in good condition. Engage with local clubs to gauge current/future need especially as the population grows. Promote squash opportunity/informal leagues to grow use. Consider benchmark shortfall in future facility planning, if club demand increases or waiting lists develop. Retain pay-and-play access to support casual/new players.	NWLDC; EA., England Squash, squash clubs	Short	Protect Enhance Provide

Sport	Overview and challenges	Recommended actions	Lead agency	Timescale	Objective
Sports hall sports	There are eight 4-court+ sized sports halls in NWL. There will be a requirement for c.10 additional badminton courts to accommodate Local Plan specified population growth. Key sports halls sports are: **Basketball** - played primarily at Ashby, Ivanhoe and Castle Rock schools and Whitwick & Coalville Leisure Centre. There are three clubs in the area, Derby Trailblazers, Ashby Aztecs and Burleigh. **Badminton**- established in NWL but has facility access, cost, and quality challenges plus a need to recruit younger players. Three of four clubs affiliate to Badminton England. They report regular league participation, steady membership and wish to develop junior sections. **Netball** - very popular with several active large clubs. Whitwick and Coalville LC accommodates the 36 team NWL Indoor Netball League but it cannot expand further due to lack of court time. Other key venues are Ashby Leisure Centre and Castle Rock School. Several clubs also source time at venues outside NWL **Indoor cricket** - three sports halls currently cater for local clubs. **Main challenges**: **Facility access/suitability** – clubs report sports halls to be at/near capacity. Rising costs can also deter participation. Ivanhoe School's hall is well-designed for basketball but has limited evening availability and higher hire costs. Ashby School's hall is dated and lacks adequate storage. Hall floors at Ibstock and Ashby leisure centres need refurbishment. **Geographic gaps** – insufficient sports halls in the north of NWL. **Growth and participation** – Clubs' expansion (especially for junior and women's sections) is limited by facility availability and cost.	**Improve the existing stock of sports halls:** Prioritise refurbishment of below-average sports halls, focusing on modernising floors, décor (e.g., wall painting) and ancillary facilities (e.g., storage). This will safeguard current users and encourage other activities at the respective sites. **Expand capacity and community use:** Encourage schools to increase community hours during evenings and weekends. This includes: -Extending weekday evening opening hours at Ivanhoe School. -Look at ways to expand options for NWL Netball League. -Secure and monitor CUAs to ensure consistent access. **Support club/league development:** to identify and address barriers to growth, including facility access, cost and scheduling. Facilitate partnerships between clubs, schools and NWLDC to share resources and coordinate programming. Work with operators to ensure that hire costs remain affordable and cost effective. Ensure sites support indoor cricket with regular maintenance of nets and enabling club access to halls during the winter period. **Plan for future growth:** adopt a partnership approach to deliver provision in the north, seeking all opportunities to ensure that the (4-court) sports halls developed meet the needs of (e.g.) netball, basketball and indoor cricket.	Respective academy trusts/NWLDC, Respective academy trusts/NWLDC Respective NGBs NWLDC/LCC/ Housing developers/CDC/CDPC	Short/ medium Short Ongoing Medium/ long	Provide/Enhance Provide/ Enhance Provide/ Enhance Provide
Gymnastics	Coalville Gymnastics Club has a dedicated facility. It reports high demand with a reported waiting list. **Capacity constraints** – Coalville Gymnastics Club, is operating at capacity with insufficient provision to meet demand. **Facility suitability** –There is a need to expand the club's workforce and recruit new volunteers to support growth.	**Develop new facilities**: Work with the club and key partners to explore options for an additional dedicated facility in the district. In addition, seek funding for new / expanded provision. **Workforce development:** support volunteer recruitment to ensure ratios are met should gymnastics expand.	NWLDC British Gymnastics; clubs, schools.	Short/ medium	Enhance Provide

Sport	Overview and challenges	Recommended actions	Lead agency	Timescale	Objective
Indoor tennis	There are no indoor courts in NWL. None of the 28 in neighbouring authorities (within 30 minutes drivetime) offer pay and play or casual use options. The LTA identifies NWL as a priority authority for an indoor facility. There are no padel courts but there is calculated demand for seven. Ashby Sport and Ashby Tennis Club are both keen to see indoor tennis provision developed in the town. Bluestone Fitness is exploring the installation of two outdoor padel courts (pending receipt of planning permission). **Main challenges**: Residents must travel outside the district for indoor tennis, and there is no pay-and-play option within a 30-minute drive. LTA analysis and local clubs indicate clear demand for indoor tennis and padel courts. Population and housing growth is likely to create increased demand for indoor tennis and padel	With the LTA, identify a site and develop an indoor tennis centre in the district. A location accessible to the majority of NWLDC's population would be the optimum. Ashby Sport is keen to explore options in Ashby. Support planning and funding for padel courts, responding to LTA demand analysis and local interest. Collaborate with local clubs, the LTA, and facility operators to secure investment and ensure that any indoor facilities developed meet community needs. Consider other sports for which facilities could be incorporated in/attached to a new indoor tennis venue. If/when a facility is developed, prioritise pay-and-play access to encourage wider participation and reduce barriers for new players.	LTA / NWLDC /	Medium	Provide

Table 5.4: Site specific community facilities

Community area	Overview and challenges	Recommended actions	Lead agency	Timescale	Objective
Isley Woodhouse	Based on the settlement criteria identified in the needs assessment, it is recommended that Isley Woodhouse has a minimum of one community facility. This is in addition to the proposed new sports hall.	Work with developers to ringfence funding for a community facility, utilising Sport England Design Guidance Note[11]. Management of a new facility will need to be sought. Consider whether linking it to the secondary school sports facilities would be a viable option.	NWLDC/respective new parish council?	Medium	Provide
Ashby	Ashby Town Council highlight a lack of a sufficiently large community facility with adequate parking/layout which can support the town as the population increases in line with the Local Plan..	Support any funding opportunities where possible following Ashby Town Councils development of a viable business plan and feasibility study for a large community facility.	Ashby TC/NWLDC	Long	Provide
Worthington, Albert Village, and Ellistown.	As part of the settlement analysis, the three parish councils currently do not have a community facility.	Work with the respective parish councils to determine if there is sufficient demand for a facility within these parishes through feasibility studies. .	Worthington, Albert Village, and Ellistown parish councils/NWLDC	Medium	Provide
Coleorton	As identified through the parish/town council survey, a few sites require investment to bring these up to a required standard. The survey highlighted that Beaumont Social Centre in Coleorton requires investment.	Work with Coleorton Parish Council to seek funding to support the upgrade of specific facilities. Funding could come from developer contributions, where applicable.	Coleorton parish council/NWLDC	Ongoing	Enhance
Osgathorpe	In addition, Harley Hall in Osgathorpe requires investments to make it DDA compliant.	Work with Osgathorpe Parish Council to seek funding to support the upgrade of specific facilities. Funding could come from developer contributions, where applicable.	Osgathorpe Parish Council/NWLDC	Ongoing	Enhance

[11]https://rbwm.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s68220/Appendix%20-%20Village%20and%20Community%20Hall%20-%20Design%20Guidance%20Note%20Sport%20England.pdf

PART 6: MONITORING AND REVIEW

This Strategy identifies and recommends the investment and actions required to deliver and maintain high-quality built facilities infrastructure for the NWL administrative area for the period up until 2042.

It is important that it is (and is treated as) a live document and is used in a practical manner to prioritise investment, develop key work programmes and partnerships, guide planning gain investment and ensure that built sports facilities are a vital component contributing to the quality of life of district residents.

Strategy production is just the start of the process and there is a requirement for all partners to engage in ongoing dialogue and review to ensure that a considered perspective and approach is maintained throughout the strategy period.

It will be important for NWLDC and its partners to develop a 3–5-year action plan based around the strategy and for this to be annually monitored and reviewed. This should not only evaluate progress made against the objectives set out in the action plan but should identify actual/potential changes in supply and demand in the district. This is on the basis that the strategy is as much about how facilities are used as it is about ensuring that local infrastructure is of a good quality.

The annual review process should include:

- Annual review of progress in respect of actions taken with regard to action plan recommendations made; taking account of any changes required to the priority of each action (e.g. the priority of some may increase/reduce following implementation of others).
- Lessons learnt throughout the period.
- New facilities coming on stream (or being made newly available to the community) which will need to be taken into account.
- Any specific changes in the accessibility of, or usage levels at, key sites (e.g., sport specific specialisms of sites, changes in availability, etc.).
- Any specific changes in demand at/for particular facilities and/or clubs in the area (e.g., reduction or increase in club numbers, new housing growth).
- New formats of traditional sports that may need to be considered (such as padel).
- Any other new or emerging issues and opportunities.

Annual review outcomes should be to develop an updated short/medium-term action plan for indoor and built sports facilities across the Authority.

APPENDIX 1: PLANNING GAIN CONTRIBUTION TOOLKIT

Introduction

The purpose of this toolkit is to ensure that planning gain contribution sought from an individual development is based on a tailored approach, using the robust evidence bases provided as part of the North West Leicestershire Indoor Built Facilities Strategy and Action Plan. This will help to clearly justify the needs arising from the development and how they are to be met.

It provides a step-by-step guide which should be used by those stakeholders which are directly involved in negotiating developer contributions either local authority case officers or housing developers/planning consultants acting on their behalf.

The following processes should be followed in order to inform the potential additional demand that a new housing development generates. This sets out the process for leisure facilities.

There is also a checklist summary for the process which should be completed as evidence of working through each step. In terms of social sustainability, a series of questions to explore are provided with possible options to consider.

For all developments (regardless of size) developer contributions should be sought towards social, sport and open space facilities. Where a development may be considered too small to provide a contribution, consideration should be given to where a number of small developments may have a cumulative impact on the community infrastructure and refer to local planning policy.

In instances where a development may fall within two or more local authorities it is recommended that the demand from the more urban area or locally reflective area are applied in calculating the requirements. This is in order to reflect the on the ground use of provision in the context of its setting. If provision is to be provided on the outskirts of an urban settlement and therefore is to act as an extension of that settlement, it is justifiable to utilise the demand/standards most appropriate.

The suite of evidence documents which should be used to assess demand includes:

- North West Leicestershire Indoor Built Facilities Strategy - Needs Assessment Report
- North West Leicestershire Indoor Built Facilities Strategy – Strategy Report

Process

Step 1	Determine the key indoor sports facility requirement resulting from the development	Navigation
	The key tools to assess this are provided within Sport England's Sports Facility Calculator which is accessed via the Active Places Power website. https://www.activeplacespower.com/ This will enable you to determine the demand for sports halls, swimming pools and indoor bowls facilities that the new population from a development generates.	Access to the calculator is restricted and requires a username and password to be set up.

The North West Leicestershire Strategy provides an estimate of future demand for key indoor sports facilities based on population forecasts as a result of key housing growth areas. This key demand is translated into units of badminton courts, swimming pool lanes and indoor bowls rinks.
As the exact number of units are identified from specific housing developments then the Council will need to apply the household occupancy rate to this to determine the total population.

Number of dwellings x household occupancy rate[12] = associated population

This is the population that is applied within the Sports Facilities Calculator (SFC) to determine the additional provision that is required to meet the additional demand. The SFC is a modelling tool designed to assist local planning authorities to quantify how much additional demand is generated by increasing populations and new housing areas. The model has no spatial qualities or dimension and can only be used to estimate the facility needs for whole area populations. The model makes no reference to:

- Location of existing facilities compared to demand.
- Capacity and availability of facilities (i.e. opening hours, how well they are used).
- Cross boundary movements of demand.
- Travel networks and topography.
- The attractiveness of the existing facility network.

The SFC uses information that Sport England has gathered on who uses facilities and applies this to the population profile of the local area. This ensures that the calculations take on board the population profile (e.g. age, gender, etc) of the local area.

The SFC then turns this estimation of demand (visits per week) into the equivalent amount of facility which is needed to meet these visits. For swimming pools, it uses 25m lane equivalents and for sports halls it uses the number of badminton courts.

Registration is required to access Active Places Power (APP) and therefore the SFC. If you are not already registered, you can register for free via the link under the login button on the APP homepage.

Please note the SFC is one tool and should not be used on its own to determine the need for sports facilities from a single development.

Step 2	**Determine the other indoor sports and community facilities required as a result of the development**	**Navigation**
	Use the Indoor Built Facilities Strategy to identify level of need that may be generated from new development(s) for indoor sporting provision not included within the SFC.	Indoor and built facilities strategy

There is no clear calculation of the requirements for other indoor sports provision and community centre facilities (not covered by SFC) as a result of a new housing development. In this instance, the Indoor & Built Facilities Strategy should be used to determine the need for additional facilities within any specific area within the Authority. This should take into account the requirement for other dedicated sports facilities if the Strategy identifies this.

The Assessment Report (in specific sections) identifies need for other provision. This results from consultation with specific clubs and organisations, sports facility managers and NGBs. It

[12] National occupancy rate of 2.3 persons per household is used

also takes account of the size, scale, and quality of existing provision. Facilities identified within the Assessment Report are determined by the scope of the study which the Council commissions. This will also be informed by how busy existing facilities are. As an example, if an existing leisure centre (adjacent to the new housing development) is fully programmed with high demand for space, it is unrealistic to expect this facility to accommodate the demand generated from the new development. Therefore, additional provision will be required.

Step 3	Demonstrate an understanding of what else the development generates demand for	Navigation
	Consideration also needs to be given to the other infrastructure that will be generated as a result of the development. As an example, this could include primary and secondary schools, health centres, library, etc. The key focus here is to determine where there may be duplication of facilities and where there may be opportunities for shared provision.	Consultation with other council services, partners and developers

In reality, it will take a significantly large development to generate the requirement for a new stand-alone wet and dry leisure centre. Therefore, it is important to identify where other provision may be required as a result of the development in order to determine if this could replace or supplement the need to provide sports facilities or community facilities.

A key example of this is the requirement for primary and secondary school provision as a result of the development. A primary school will require a multi-purpose indoor hall, playground and playing field space to deliver its national curriculum requirements for PE. A secondary school will require at least a three-court sports hall and playing field space in order to deliver its national curriculum requirements for PE.

Therefore, further investigation should be undertaken to identify if there is an opportunity to ensure that community use of school sports facilities can be guaranteed, thus minimising potential duplication.

In this instance the ‘contribution’ associated with the increased demand for sports facilities could be used to enhance the school provision to ensure it was appropriate for community use (e.g., extend fitness facilities, community access arrangements, etc.).

In relation to other service (e.g. library, health centre, etc) there is a need to consider how these could be co-located with alongside sports and community facilities, thus creating a community hub. This is a key driver for sports facilities in attracting users that might not otherwise use these types of facilities.

The financial, social, and sporting benefits which can be achieved through development of strategic sites (also known as hub sites) are significant. Sport England provides further guidance on the development of community sports hubs at:

https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/

Step 4	Consider whether existing facilities within close proximity could be enhanced or extended to accommodate increased demand.	Navigation
	Further investigation is required to determine if there is an existing facility that is close enough to the development site which, if extended /refurbished / remodelled could accommodate the increased demand generated from the new development.	Facility mapping within the Indoor and Built Assessment Report

Detailed analysis of facilities within the vicinity of the new development should be undertaken to assess the suitability of these facilities to accommodate the increased demand generated from the development.

As an example, the following information should be pulled together in order to determine if this is an appropriate solution to accommodate the increased demand:

- Is the facility close enough to the development to accommodate the increased demand?
- The quality of the facility……does it need investment?
- Is there capacity to accommodate increased demand……how well used is the facility?
- Are there any restrictions in access to the facility?
- Are there plans in place to maintain or refurbish the facility?
- What type of activities are accommodated within the facility?
- Are the current management arrangements appropriate to accommodate changes or increased demand at the facility?
- Are there opportunities to co-locate other services alongside or within the facility?

In addition to the above, it will also be important to assess the potential impact of the additional demand on clubs and organisations within the vicinity. As an example, some clubs and organisations may already be at capacity; therefore, there may be no capacity to accommodate increased demand within the existing infrastructure.

Step 5	Consider the design principles for new provision	Navigation
	The exact nature and location of provision associated with either onsite or off-site developments should be fully determined in partnership with leisure and community specialists (e.g. NGBs, local authority, advisers, etc.) and community groups themselves.	Sport England design and cost guidance

It is important to ensure that the design of new or extended facilities is in line with the needs of local clubs and organisations as well as relevant design guidance. It will be important that any design reflects best practice design guidance taking into account all the key considerations which will be relevant to each facility. As an example, this will include aspects such as: health and safety, safeguarding, storage, sport specific design features, etc.).

Where an extension or refurbishment of an existing facility takes place, it will be important to ensure that the local community is involved in that design. It will also be important to ensure that continuity of provision is also considered as clubs and organisations will need alternative accommodation during the construction period associated with a refurbishment or extension. This is important in ensuring these organisations continue to exist in the longer term.

Development of community hubs is a key focus for many organisations as benefits derived from facility co-location are often greater than those derived from stand-alone facilities. There is a need for developers and stakeholders to consider how different facilities may ‘fit’ together. This could, for example, include the following which may be required as part of a development:

- Indoor and outdoor sports facilities.
- Primary and secondary schools.
- Health centres and GP surgeries.
- Library.
- Early years provision.
- Community centre.
- Children's play areas.
- Allotments and community growing areas.
- Local retail centres.

The master plan for new developments need to consider the strategic location of facilities and the clustering and co-location of facilities in order to maximise the benefit for the local community. There is also a need to ensure that the location of outdoor sports pitches and ancillary facilities are appropriately located in the context of indoor sports provision (if also being provided onsite) to ensure a cohesive approach to the whole sporting offer.

Step 6	Strategic pooling of financial contributions to deliver new provision	Navigation
	Consideration needs to be given to the multiple developments across the local authority or a combination of local authorities in order to determine if the combined increased demand is sufficient to warrant a contribution to a strategic leisure development.	Wider housing growth strategies.

If the authority considers each housing growth area in isolation, then it is unlikely that there will be sufficient demand generated from a single development to warrant a new stand-alone leisure provision, especially swimming pools.

As such the Council needs to consider how the cluster of housing developments within the local authority boundary, or relevant cross border area should make a contribution to strategic sport and leisure facilities. As discussed previously, this may be to provide new provision or to enhance existing in order that it can accommodate increased demand.

This in turn requires the Council and developer to consider the wider housing growth within the area which may also include that within a neighbouring authority. Where the combined increased demand generates the requirement for a strategic facility this should be pooled via developer contributions to a strategic development. However, it should be noted that the contribution may go towards a facility which is outside of the local authority boundary but reflects how people will live their live within that specific development.

In order to calculate the contribution from each housing development into a strategic leisure facility fund the Council should use the Sport England Sports Facilities Calculator. Using the population growth and process identified from stage 1 this will provide a basis for negotiation with developers on the contribution from each development.

Active Places Power
Sport England Design and cost guidance

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) – STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Checklist summary

Prompt	Evidence	Navigation
Step 1: *Determine the indoor sports facility requirement resulting from the development*	-	Active Places Power
Step 2: *Determine the other indoor sports and community facilities are required as a result of the development*	-	Leisure Strategy
Step 3: *Demonstrate an understanding of what else the development generates demand for*	-	Consultation with other council services, partners, and developers)
Step 4: *Consider if there are existing facilities within close proximity that could be enhanced or extended to accommodate increased demand.*	-	Facility mapping within the Sports Facilities Assessment Report
Step 5: *Consider the design principles for new provision*	-	Consultation Sport England Design and cost guidance
Step 6: *Strategic pooling of financial contributions to deliver new provision*	-	Active Places Power Sport England Design and cost guidance

APPENDIX 2: INDICATIVE COSTINGS

Indicative costs

The indicative costs of implementing key elements of the Action Plan are detailed below. (Further detail available on the Sport England website Sport England facility cost guidance) The costs outlined below are for the development of community sports facilities. These rounded costs are based on schemes most recently funded through the Lottery (and therefore based on economies of scale), updated to reflect current forecast price indices provided by the Building Cost Information Service (BCIS), prepared by Technical Team Lead of Sport England. The latest facility costs should be used at the time of calculating contribution.

Facility capital costs

These are calculated using estimates of what it typically costs to build modern sports facilities, including fees and external work, naturally taking into account varying conditions, inflation and regional adjustments. Costs are updated regularly in conjunction with information provided by the BCIS (Building Cost Information Service) and other Quantity Surveyors. The document is often referred to as the Planning Kitbag costs as the figures are often used by planners and developers when reviewing potential planning contributions to site developments.

Facility type/details	Area (m^2)	Capital cost (£)
Affordable sports halls		
1 Court (18m x 10m)	382	905,000
2 Court (18m x 17m)	515	1,030,000
4 Court (34.5m x 20m)	1,532	3,005,000
5 Court (40.6m x 21.35m)	1,722	3,260,000
6 Court (34.5m x 27m)	1,773	3,300,000
8 Court (40m x 34.5m)	2,240	4,125,000
10 Court (40.6m x 42.7m)	2,725	4,960,000
12 Court (60m x 34.5m)	3,064	5,465,000
Affordable community swimming pools		
25m Pool 4 Lane (25m x 8.5m)	1,084	4,685,000
25m Pool 5 Lane (25m x 10.5m)	1,344	5,670,000
25m Pool 6 Lane (25m x 12.5m)	1,543	6,155,000
25m Pool 6 Lane (25m x 12.5) plus secondary pool (13m x 7m)	1,850	7,335,000
25m Pool 8 Lane (25m x 17m)	1,878	7,420,000
25m Pool 8 Lane (25m x 17m) plus secondary pool (17m x 7m)	2,226	8,515,000
Affordable sports centres with community 25m pool		
4-lane pool, 4-court hall, 50-station gym, studio	2,879	10,060,000
6-lane pool, 4-court hall, 100-station gym, 2 studios	3,553	11,805,000
6-lane pool, learner pool, 4-court hall, 100-station gym, 2 studios	3,906	13,000,000
8 lane pool, learner pool, 5-court hall, 100-station gym, 2 studios	4,509	14,400,000
Indoor bowls centre		
6 Rink (excludes Club/Function Room)	1,914	2,730,000
8 Rink (includes Club/Function Room)	2,500	3,570,000
Indoor tennis centre		
3 court	2,138	3,085,000
Extra court	-	1,005,000

NB – The costs for:

- Affordable sports halls.
- Affordable community swimming pools.
- Affordable sports centres with community 25m pool options.
- Affordable sports centres with 50m pool options.

Align with the costs included within Sport England publications of the same name updated to 3Q2025. The reader is referred to these documents and their Appendices for further information on sizes and general arrangement layouts.

The costs for other facilities include:

- External works (car parks, roads, paths, services connections etc) are included at an average cost of 12% in addition to the costs of the works.
- 12 months maintenance/grow in costs for grass pitches.
- Allowance for fees inclusive of PM, SI, planning, and associated fees.

The costs exclude the following:

- Project specific details/information, including poor ground conditions, difficult access, long service connections.
- Natural turf pitches exclude the costs for site remodelling, pump and sump systems and SUDS attenuation.
- Inflation beyond 3Q2023.
- VAT.
- Land acquisition costs.
- Regional cost variations in materials and labour.

Lifecycle costs

Lifecycle costs are how much it costs to keep a facility open and fit-for-purpose during its lifetime. They include costs for major replacement and planned preventative maintenance (PPM) day-to-day repairs. The costs are expressed as a percentage of the capital cost.

The importance of regular maintenance should not be underestimated nor should the expense associated with maintaining a facility throughout its life.

The table below provides typical annual allowances expressed as a percentage of the overall estimated total project cost per annum based on a 25-year cost model.

Facility type/details	Sinking fund (%)	Maintenance (%)
Multi – use sports hall		
Good quality sports hall – irrespective of size	0.7	0.5
Affordable community swimming pools		
Good quality community swimming pool, irrespective of size	0.4	1.1

Sinking Fund

Major replacement costs. Typical items for consideration include:

- Scheduled replacement of major systems and components, i.e. upgrades/replacement of mechanical and electrical equipment (HVAC, tanks, filtration/chlorination/dosing plant, CCTV and the like). Re-configuration of wet areas, replacement of sports flooring, reception refurbishment.
- Scheduled refurbishment and adaptations, including replacement of sports specific equipment/netting. Re-sealing / re-lining of sports flooring, replacing carpets and signage, replacement of external seating and fittings.
- Cyclical redecoration.

Maintenance

Day to day repairs and planned preventative maintenance (PPM). Planned preventative maintenance includes the costs for servicing and maintaining mechanical and electrical plant and systems in accordance with recommended standards/frequencies and statutory/mandatory inspections (i.e. legionella, lift and boiler insurance inspections etc).

Day to day repairs include:

External walls

Repairs to external walls, cladding, glazed screens, external doors and windows. Roofs Repairs to roofs, roof lights and the like, together with all associated work such as roof flashings, DPC's, gutters and downpipes.

Other items; repairs to ducts, internal doors and frames and the like, fittings and fixtures, repairs to fitted cupboards, seating, notice boards, shelving, worktops and the like. Excludes loose furniture such as chairs, curtains/blinds etc.

Other items

Repairs to ducts, internal doors, and frames and the like.

Fittings and fixtures

Repairs to fitted cupboards, seating, notice boards, shelving, worktops and the like. Excludes loose furniture such as chairs, curtains/blinds etc.

Internal finishes

Repairs to internal floor, wall and ceiling finishes.

Plumbing and internal drainage

Repairs and PPM to plumbing and internal drainage including work to; rising mains, storage tanks and cisterns; hot and cold-water services; sanitary ware; waste, soil, overflow, and vent pipes; internal manholes, rodding eyes, and access covers.

Heating and ventilation

Repairs and PPM to fuel tanks, boilers, flues, plant, pump, motors, filters, switches, expansion tanks, pipework up to and including calorifiers, radiators, ducts, valves, fans and heating and other HVAC equipment.

Power and lighting

Repairs and PPM to electrical switch gear, fuse boxes, busbars, casings, wiring and conduit to lighting and power supply.

Other M&E services

Repairs and PPM to other M&E services which are part of the building, such as filtration/ chlorination/dosing plant, fire alarm and bell systems, emergency lighting, clock systems, PA systems, firefighting equipment, flood lighting and lighting conductors.

External Works

General grounds maintenance, repairs to car parks and external paving.

Exclusions*:*

Operation, occupancy, end of life costs, fees, and VAT are excluded from the allowances. The definition of these are provided below:

Operation costs: The cost of operating the facility rather than its occupancy excluding maintenance costs. Includes utility costs, administrative costs, overheads, and taxes etc.

Occupancy cost: User support costs relating to the occupation of the facility e.g. security.

End of life: Notional costs payable and credits accruing after 25 years. Includes disposal inspection and reinstatement to meet potential contractual requirements.

APPENDIX 3: SFC TABLES: SPORTS HALL NEED BASED ON HOUSING GROWTH

This illustrates the additional future sports hall space required based on housing growth in these localities. It does not cover the overall future district requirement – simply that specific to these areas.

Recommendations made in the strategy relate to the opportunity that NWLDC and partners has to 'piggy-back on school developments to both address future provision shortfalls and ensure that they are met in the form of 4-court sports halls which will be cater both for the needs of those schools and the NWL community.

Castle Donington and Kegworth housing impact – sports halls (SFC)

Castle Donington and Kegworth housing growth	Additional sports hall space required	Estimated cost (£)*
1,728	1.08 courts	£1,408,916

*based on 3Q2024 build costs

Isley Woodhouse housing impact – sports halls (SFC)

Isley Woodhouse housing growth	Additional sports hall space required	Estimated cost (£)*
4,250	2.67 courts	£1,978,664

*based on 3Q2024 build costs

Appendix D

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES (SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES) NEEDS ASSESSMENT

REPORT: DECEMBER 2025

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd
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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.

In delivering this report KKP has:

- Individually audited identified sports halls (conventional i.e., 3+ court halls) swimming pools (minimum size 160m^2), 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).

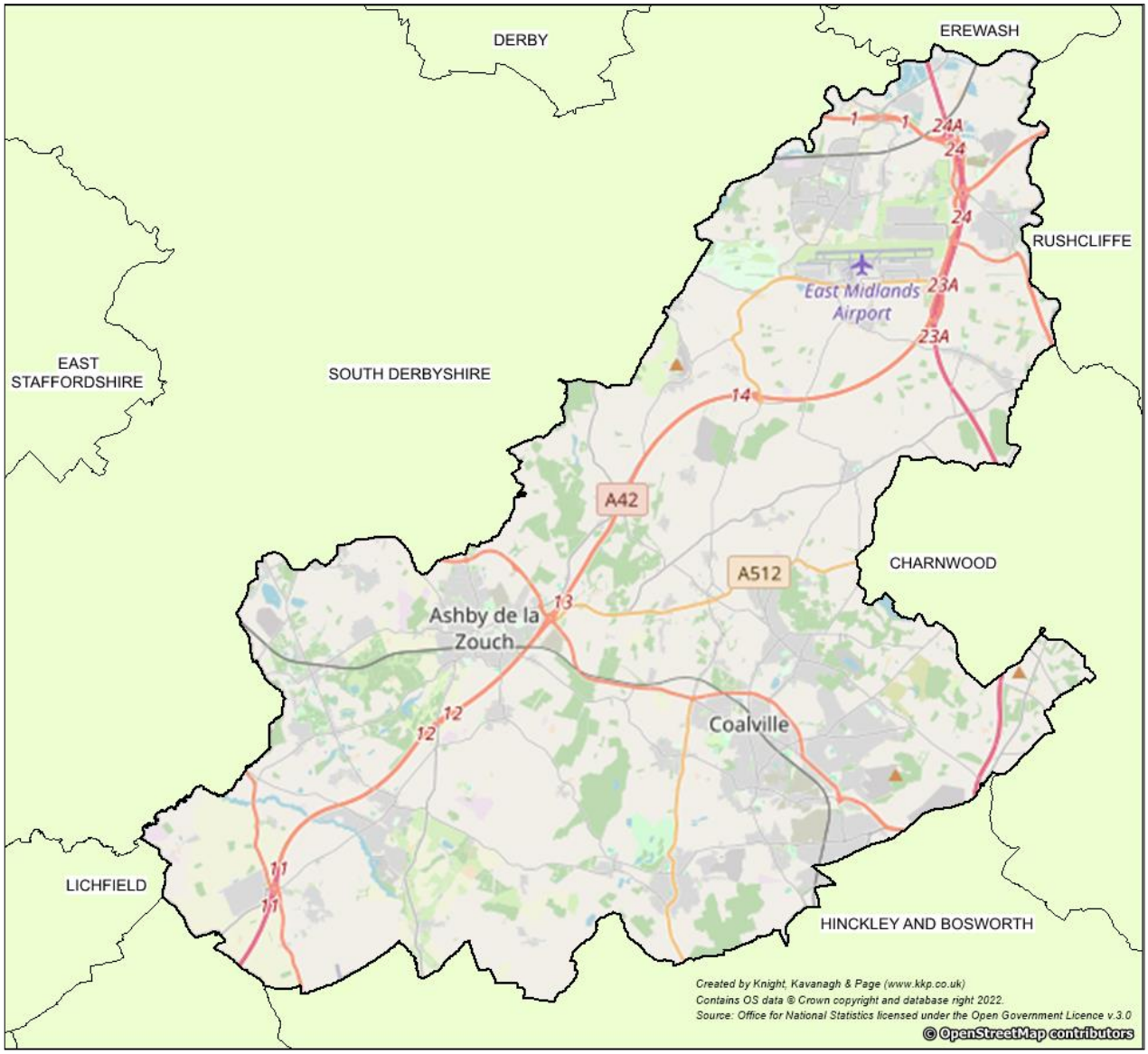
NWL also borders six local authorities. Some of the key settlements within NWL will serve residents from these authorities (and vice versa) due to the proximity, such as Ashby and East Staffordshire and Castle Donington and Erewash.

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).

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.

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.

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.

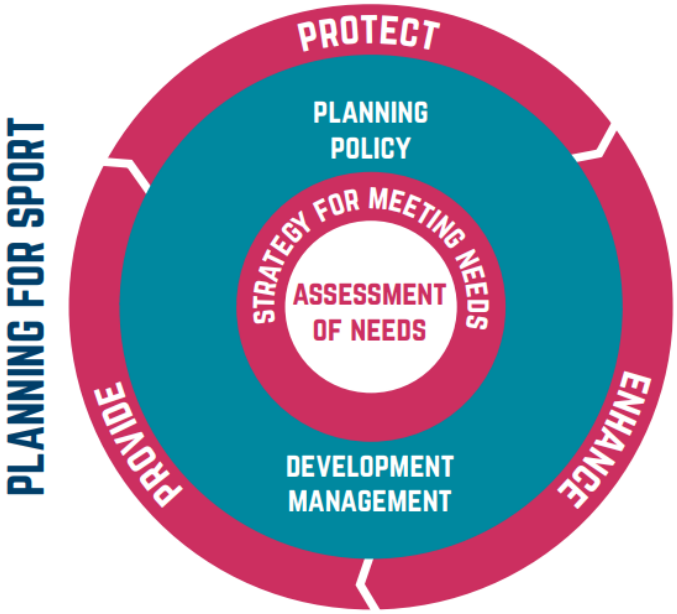
The Government Get Active: A strategy for the future of sport and physical activity' has the focus on increasing physical activity, making sport more welcoming and inclusive, and ensuring the long-term financial and environmental sustainability of the sector. In addition, the recently launched cross-departmental 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.

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.

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[1]

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[2] 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

[1] Link to Sport and physical activity generates over £100 billion in social value | Sport England
[2] Link to Social and economic value of community sport and physical activity in England 2020

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[3], 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[4] 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 leant 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

[3] 2 Mintel Report on Leisure Centres and Swimming Pools (September 2019)
[4] 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.

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.

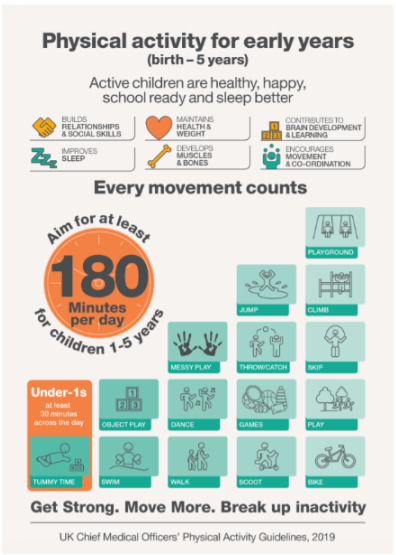
Regular physical activity can deliver cost savings for the health and care system and has wider social benefits for individuals and communities. Key factors for each age group are as follows:

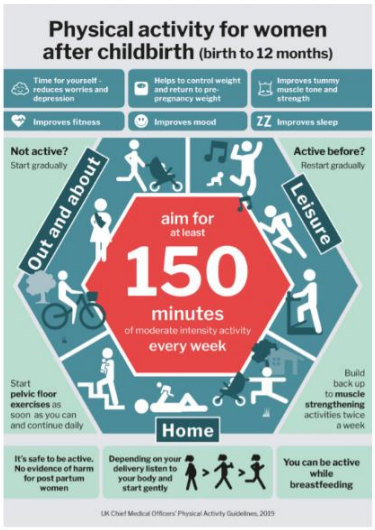
- Under-5s (infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers): should spend at least 180 minutes (3 hours) per day in a variety of different exercises, whereas infants should be physically active several times every day in a variety of ways, including interactive floor-based activities.
- Children and young people (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.

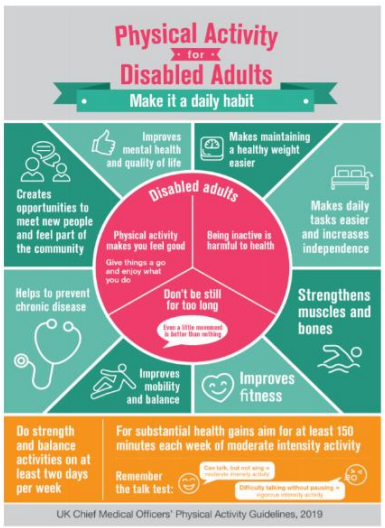
The report also recognises an emerging evidence base for the health benefits of performing very vigorous intensity activity performed in short bouts interspersed with periods of rest or recovery (high intensity interval exercise, HIIT). Available evidence demonstrates that high intensity interval exercise 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.

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.

- 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 [5]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[6]. 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.

[5]Sport England Environmental Sustainability policy

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.

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.

- **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.

- **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:

- Cancer prevention
- Hip fracture prevention
- Dementia
- Breastfeeding
- Carers support
- Obesity/overweight
- Mental health
- Learning disabilities / special educational needs
- Diabetes

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.

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.

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.

Local housing growth

The draft Local Plan (2024 to 2042) proposes a total housing requirement of 17,710 dwellings (as agreed 1st 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

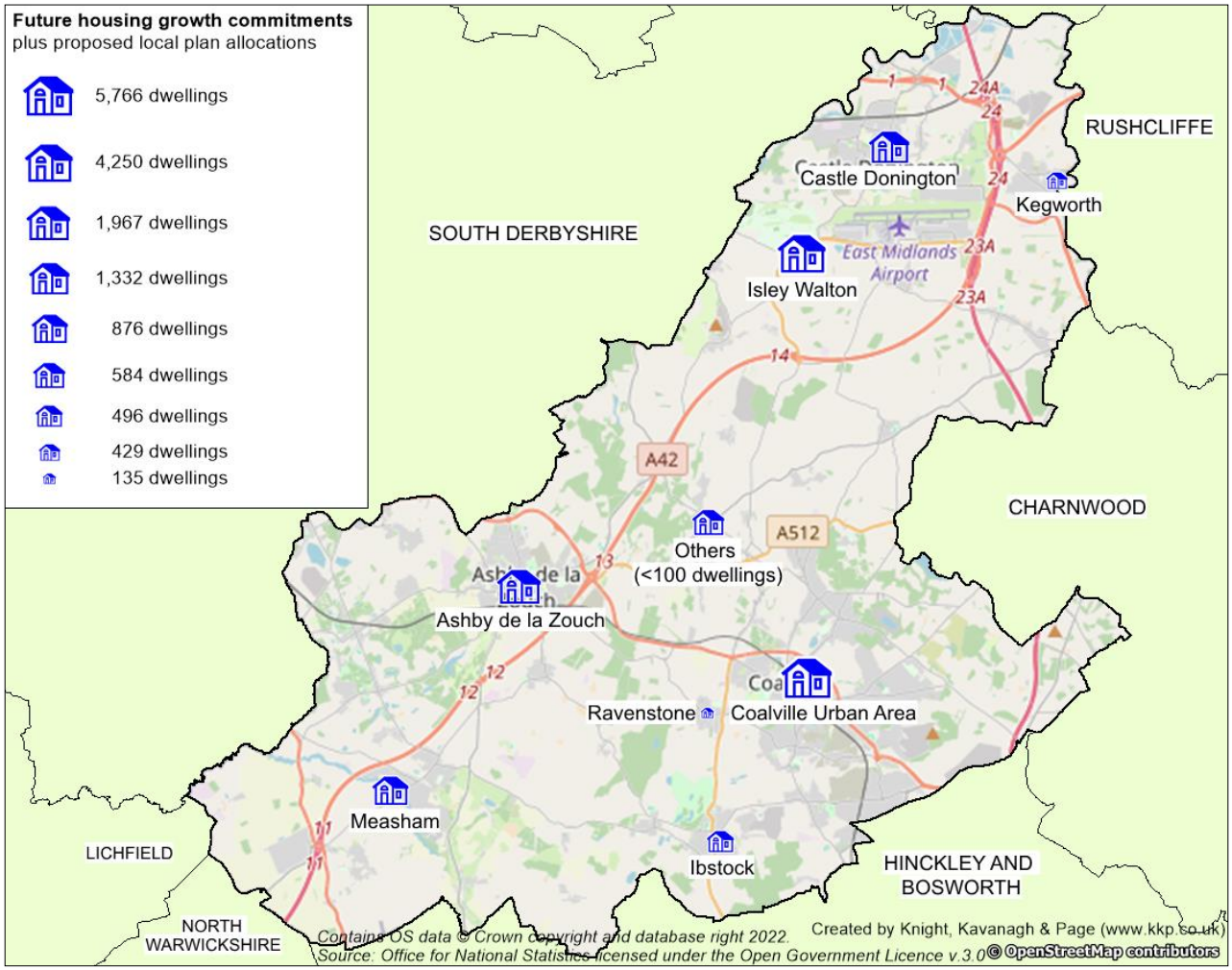


Table 2.1: Future housing growth commitments plus proposed local plan allocations (as at 1st April 2024)

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	
Total	15,425	

** 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.

Figure 2.5: Population density 2021 Census: NWL (LSOAs)

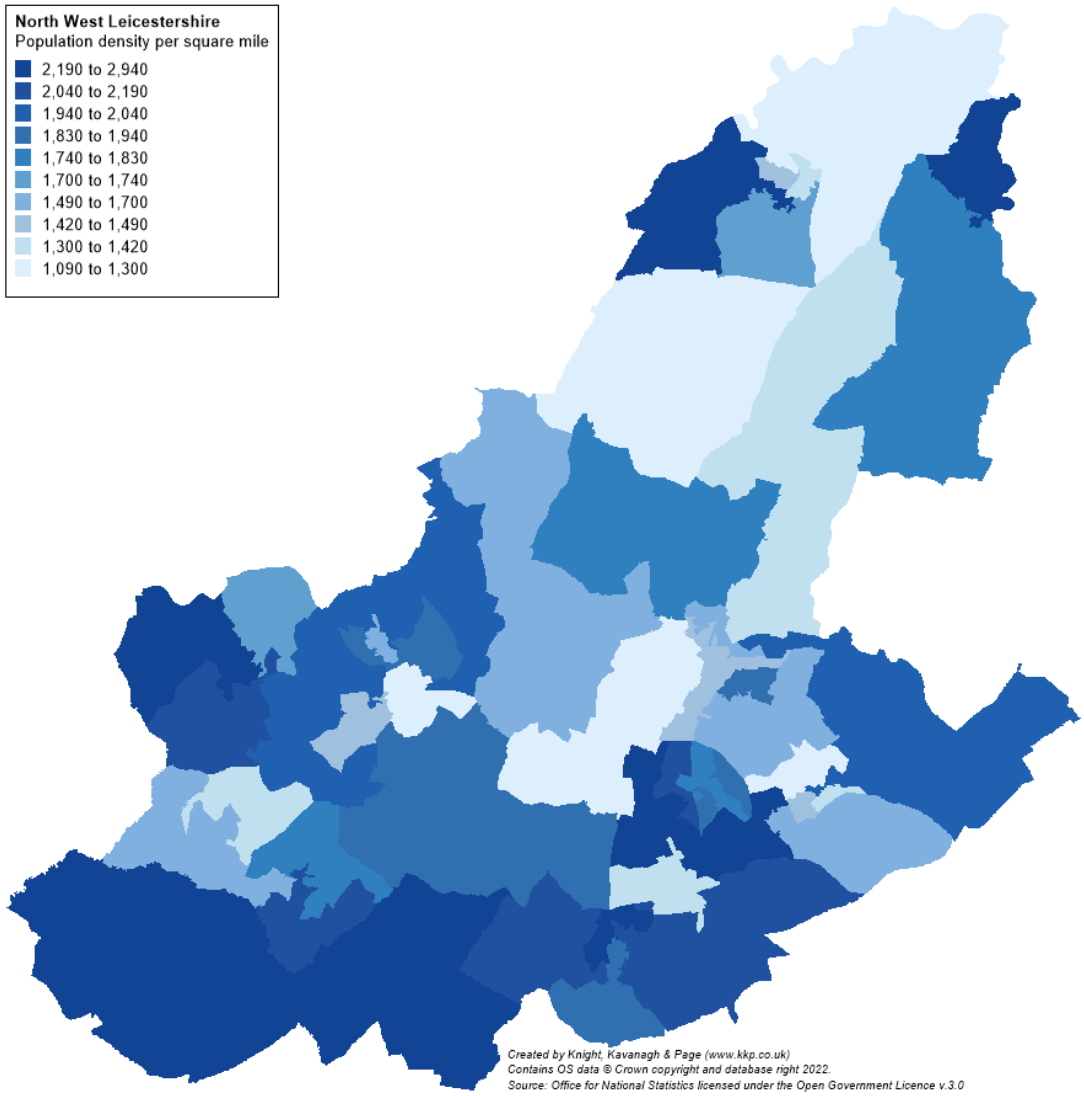
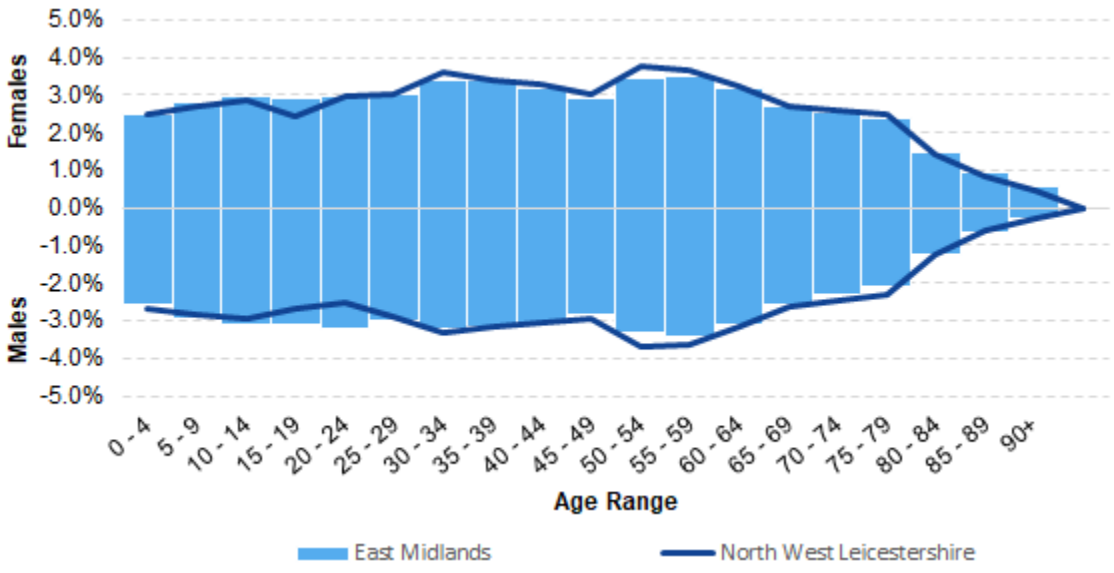


Figure 2.6: Comparative age/sex pyramid for NWL and the East Midlands



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

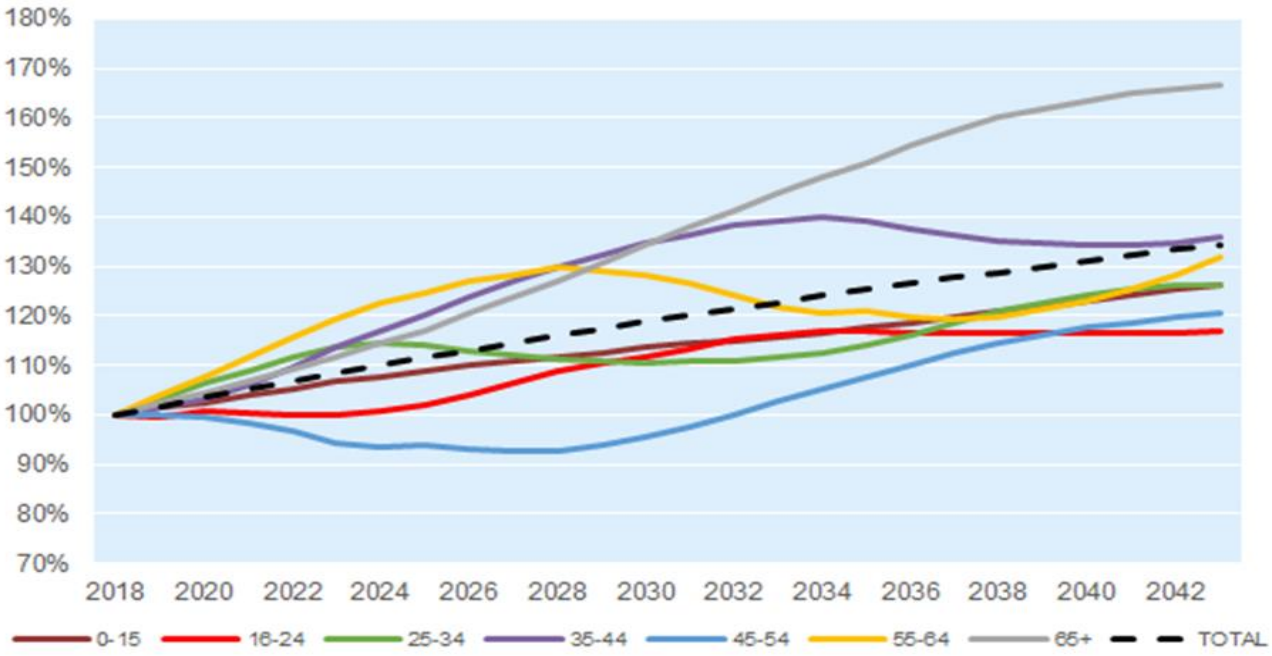


Table 2.2: NWL – ONS projected population (2018 to 2042)

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%
Total	**102,126**	**122,641**	**136,154**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**120.1%**	**133.3%**

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

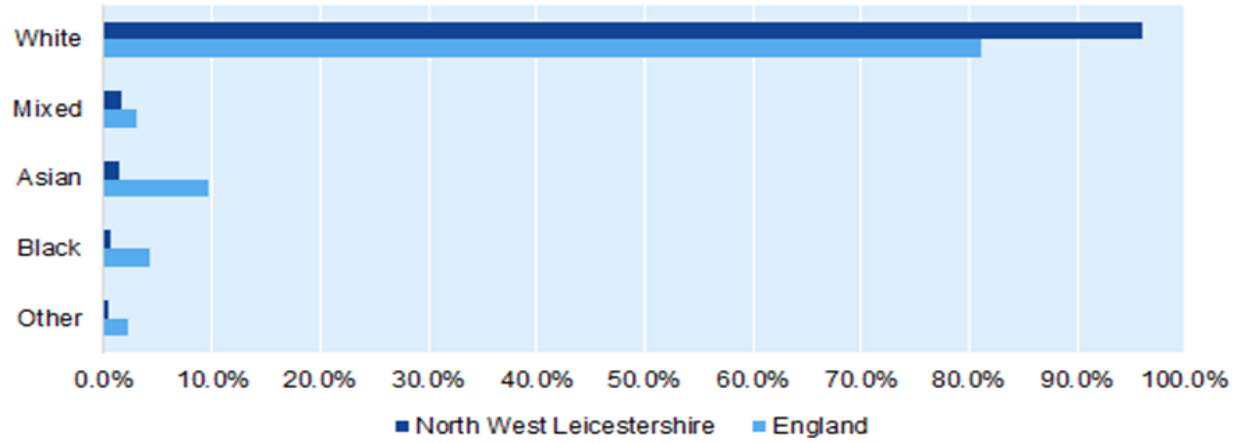


Table 2.3: Ethnic composition – NWL and England

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%
Total	**104,707**	**100.0%**	**56,490,048**	**100.0%**

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%
Total	**44,973**	**100.0%**	**2,037,332**	**100.0%**	**24,783,193**	**100.0%**

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

10% bands	Population in band	%	Cumulative %
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%

Figure 2.9: Map of multiple deprivation

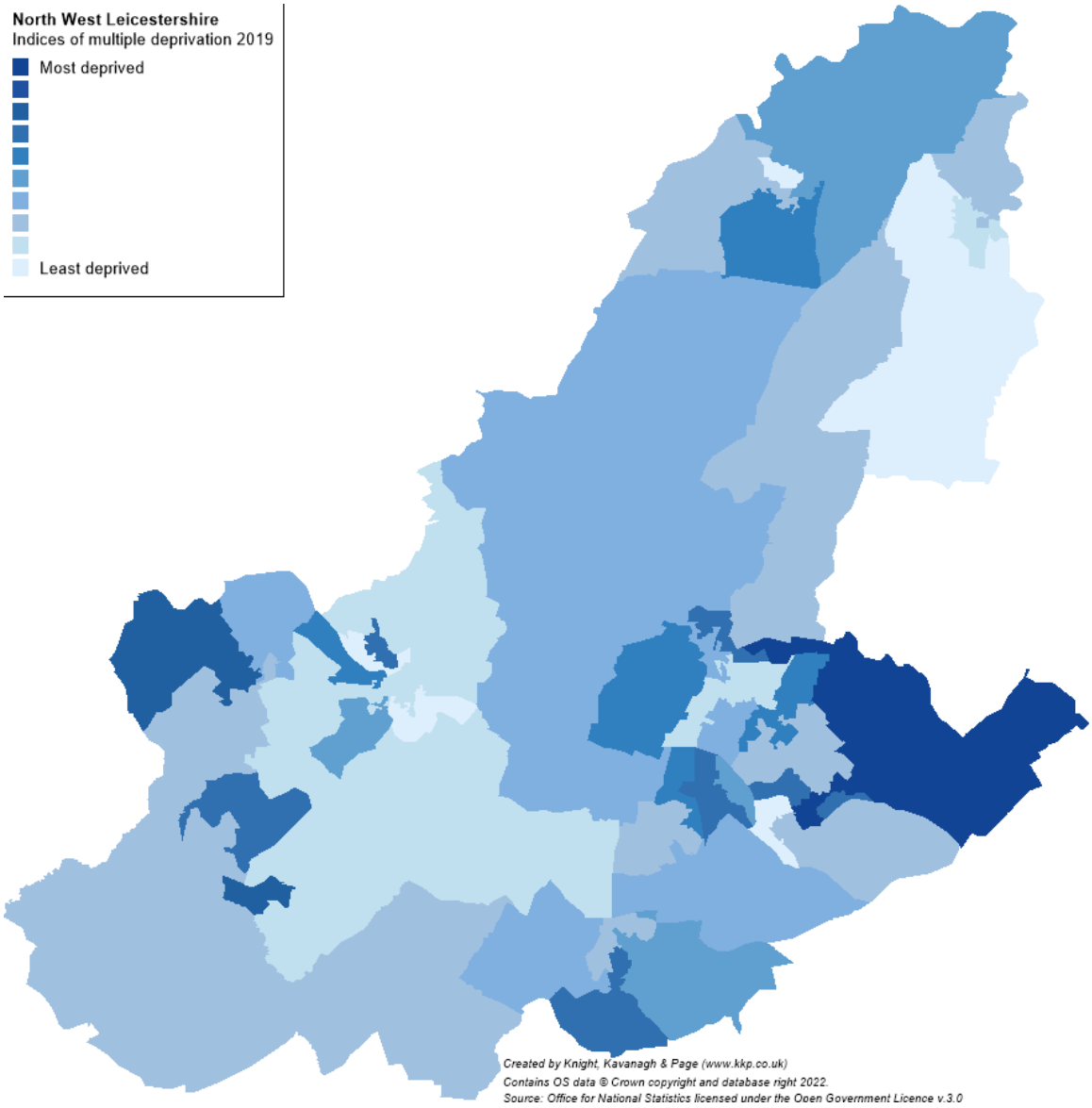


Table 2.6: IMD cohorts – health deprivation in NWL

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%

Figure 2.10: Map of health deprivation

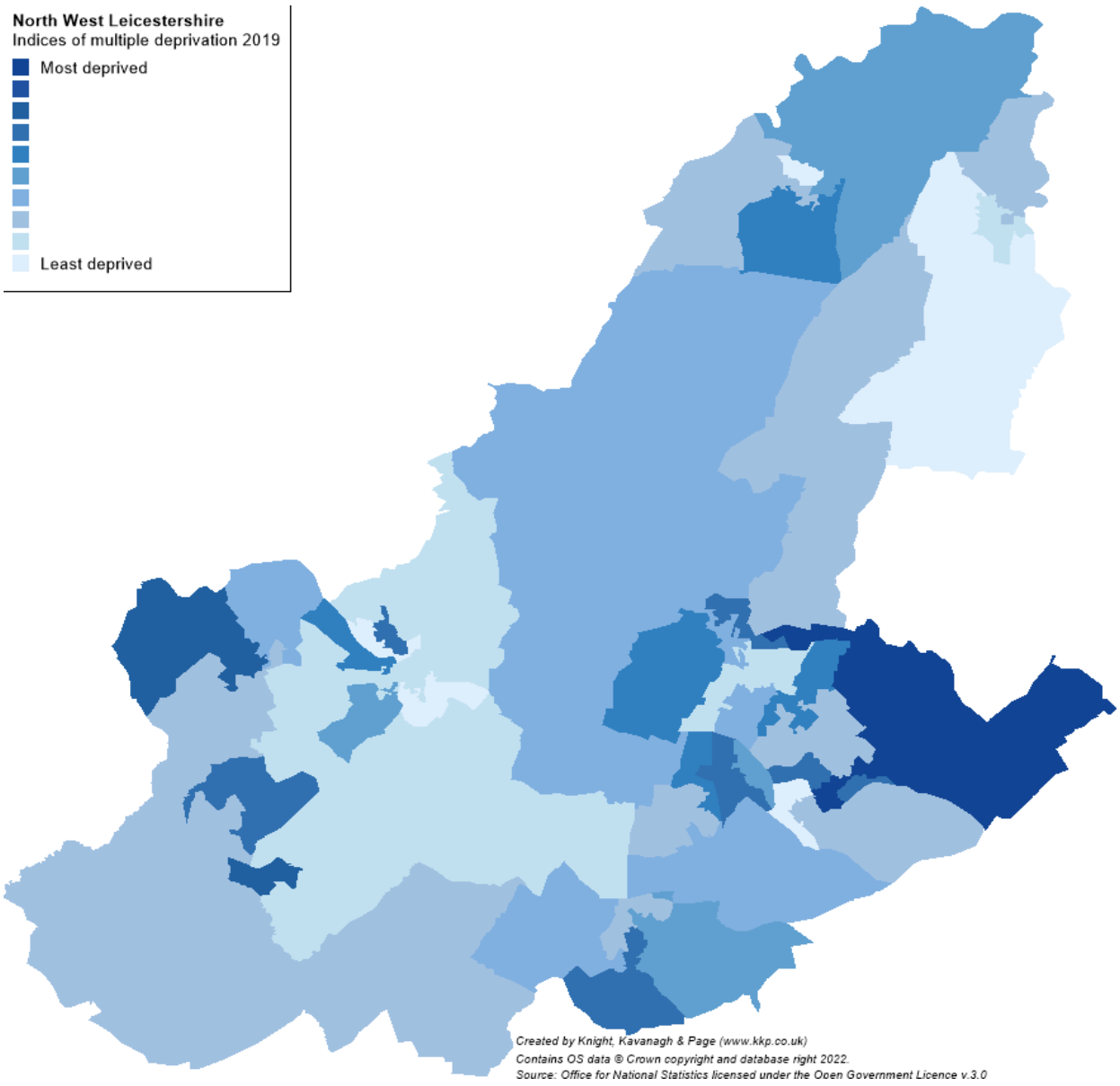
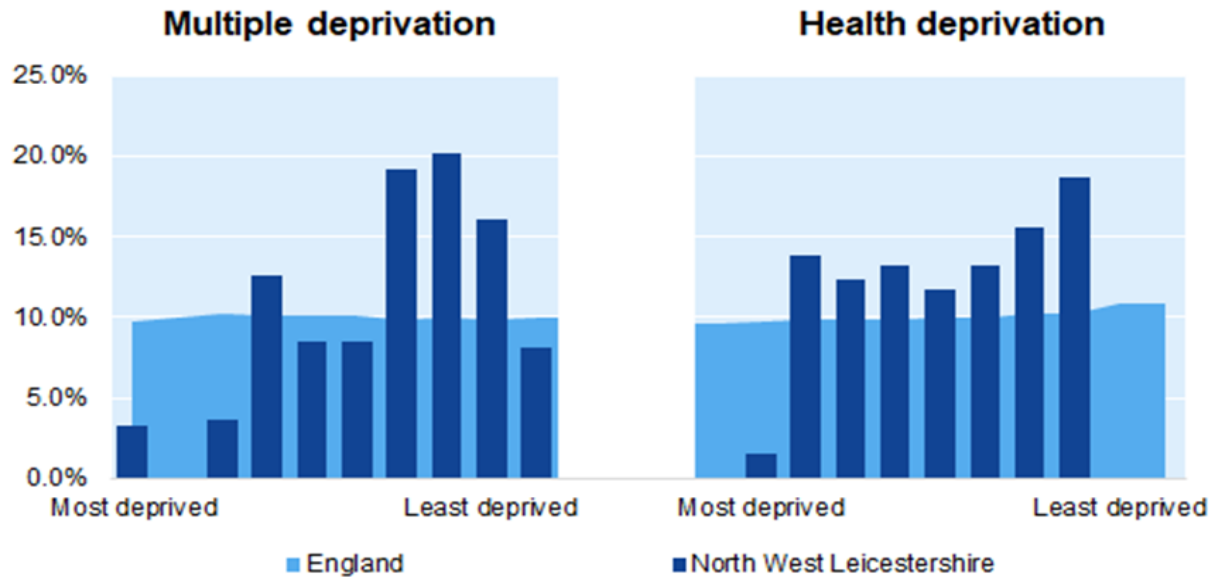


Figure 2.11: Index of multiple and health deprivation



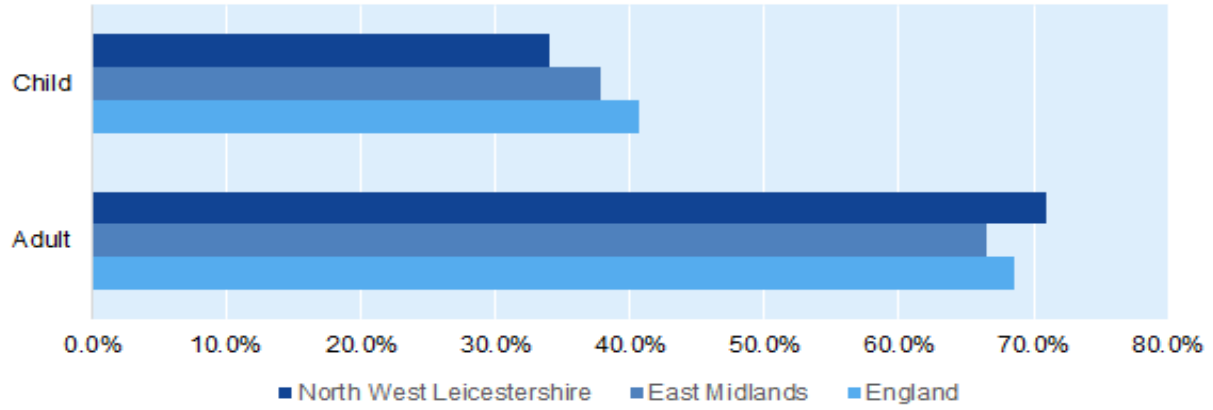
Health data (Data source: ONS)

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[7].

Weight and obesity (Data sources: NCMP[8] and NOO[9])

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.

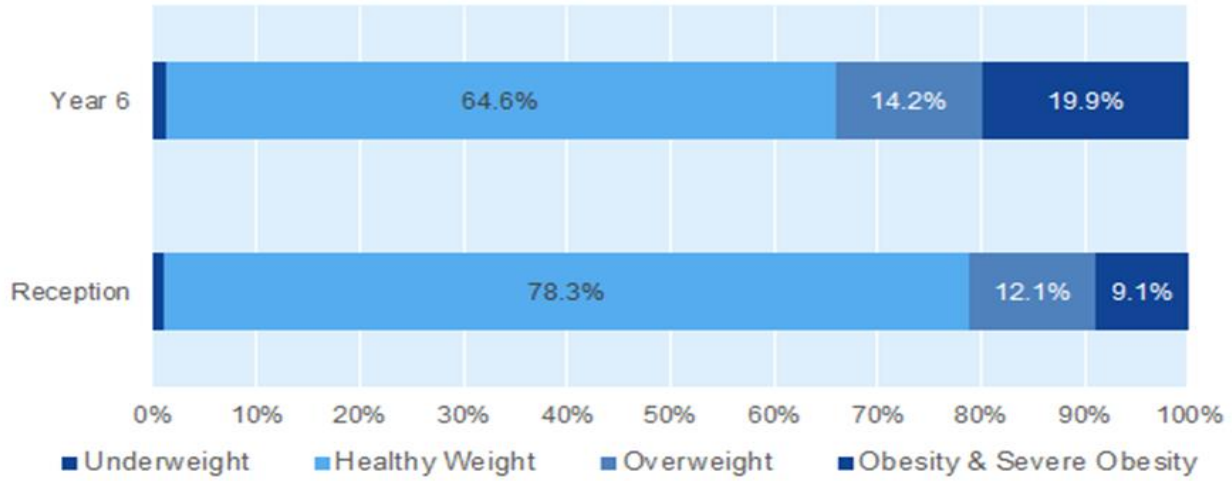
Figure 2.12 – Adult and child overweight and obesity rates



Adult rates of obesity or overweight in NWL are above national and regional rates. However, child rates are below both national and regional rates.

[7] *Office of National Statistics: Life Expectancy at Birth by local areas in the United Kingdom, 2020.*
[8] *National Child Measurement Program*
[9] *National Obesity Observatory*

Figure 2.13: Child weight – reception and year 6



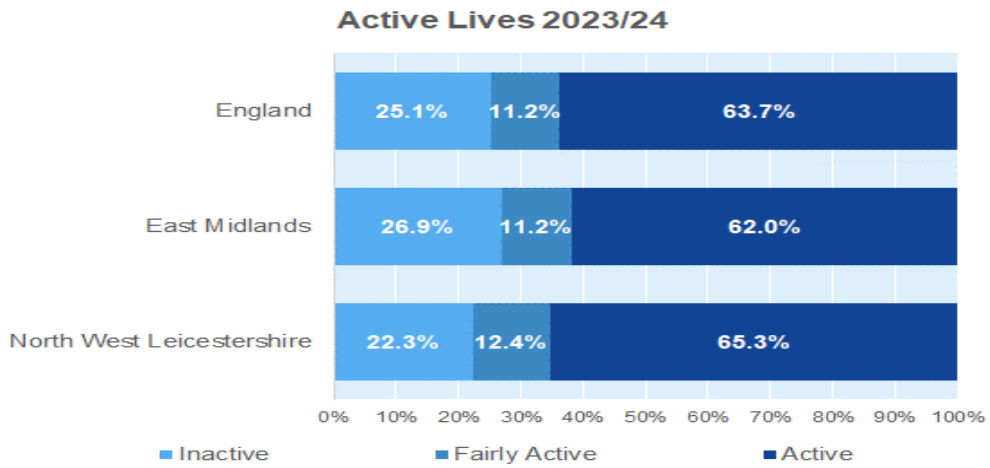
As with many other areas, obesity rates increase significantly between the ages of 4-11. Around 1 in 11 children (9.1%) in NWL are obese in their reception year at school and 12.1% are overweight. By Year 6 these figures rise to one in five (19.9%) obese and 14.2% overweight. In total by Year 6 more 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.

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.

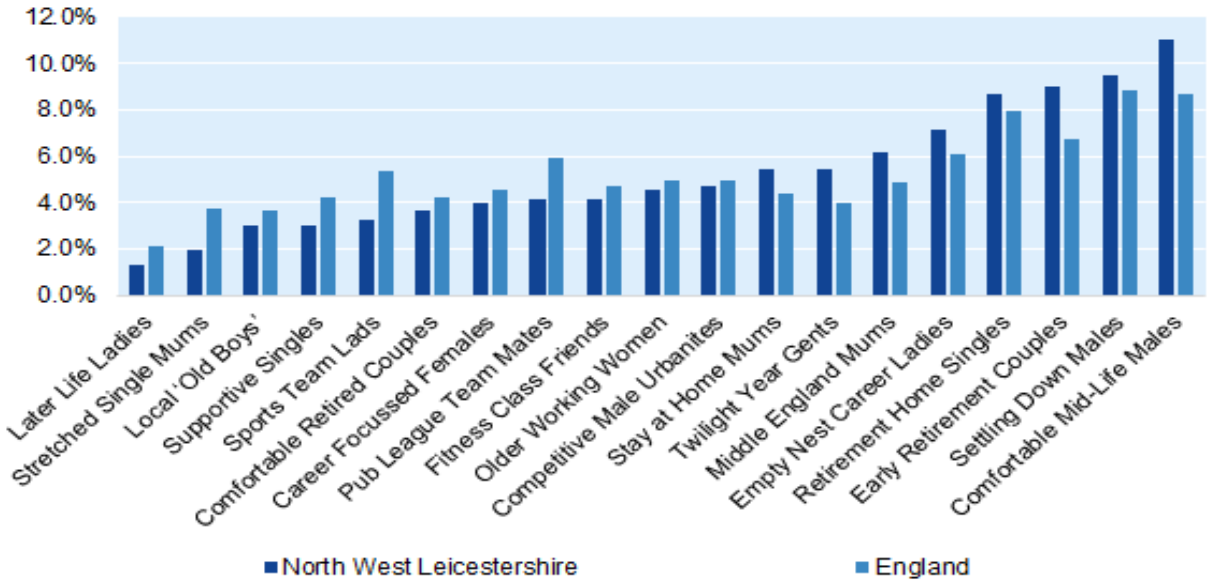
Table 2.7: Most popular sports in NWL

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

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

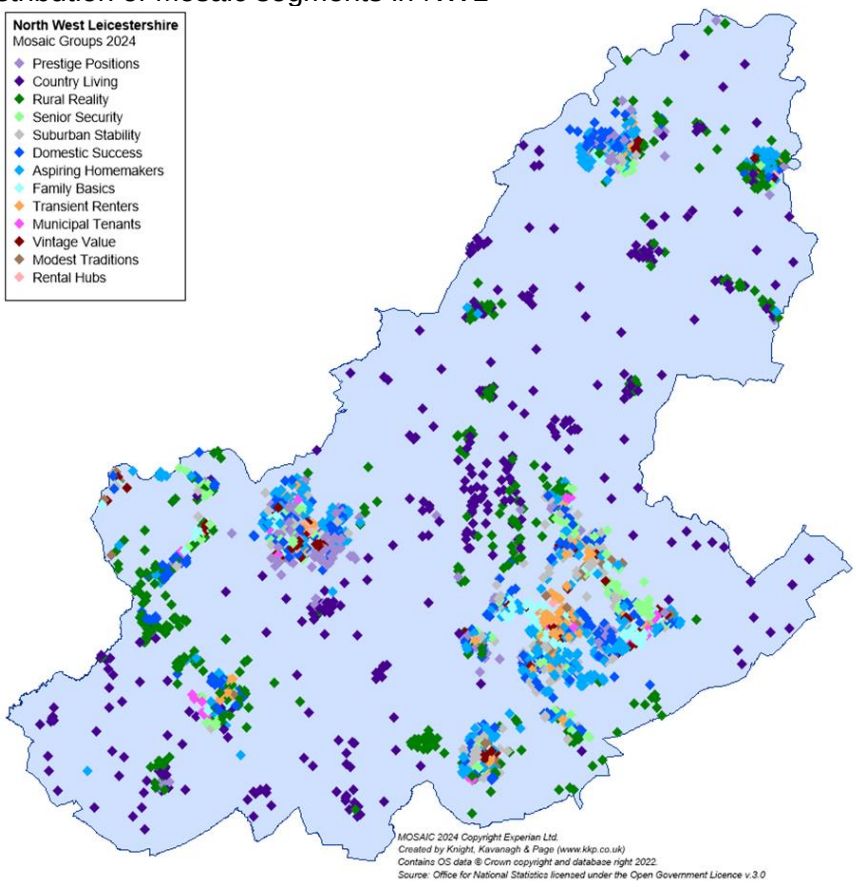
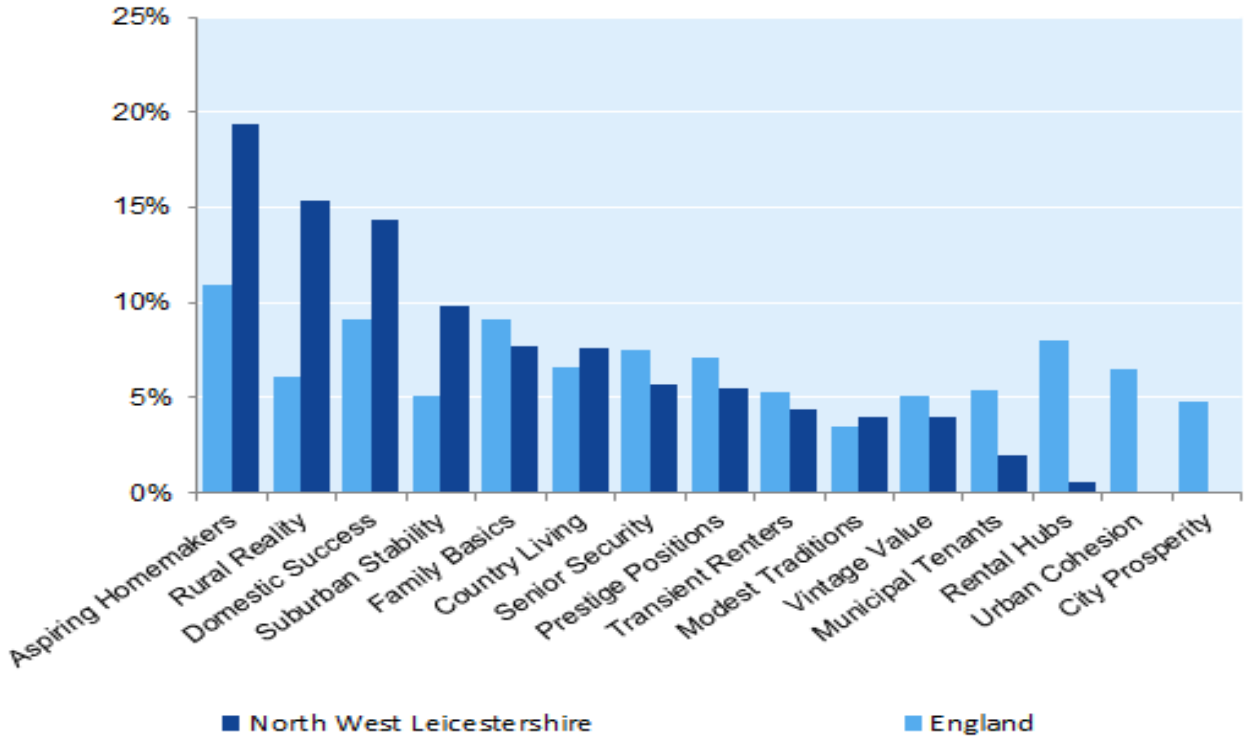


Table 2.9: Dominant Mosaic profiles in NWL.

Aspiring Homemakers	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.
Rural Reality	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.
Domestic Success	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

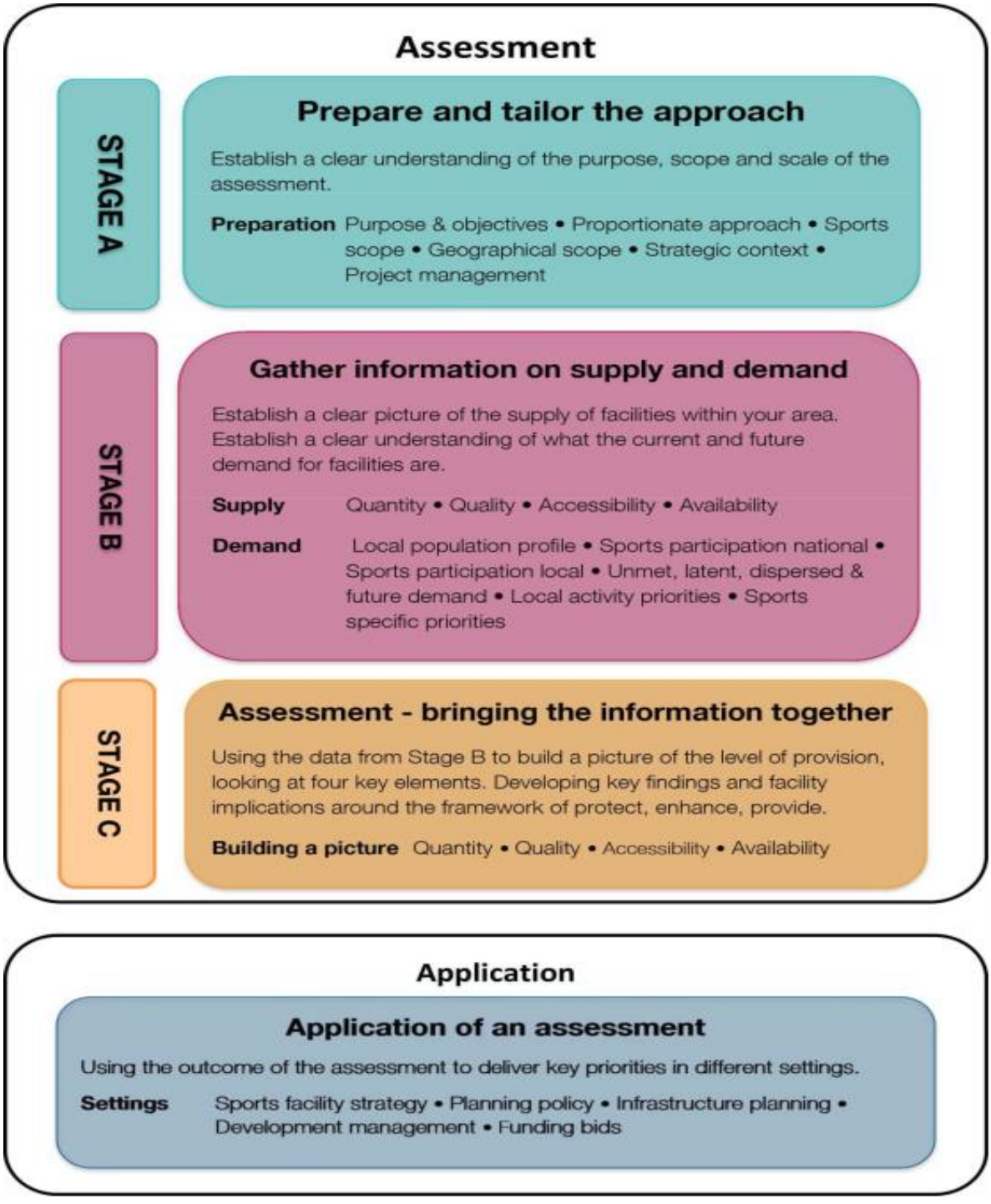


SECTION 3: SPORTS FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

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



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.

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.

- 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.

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

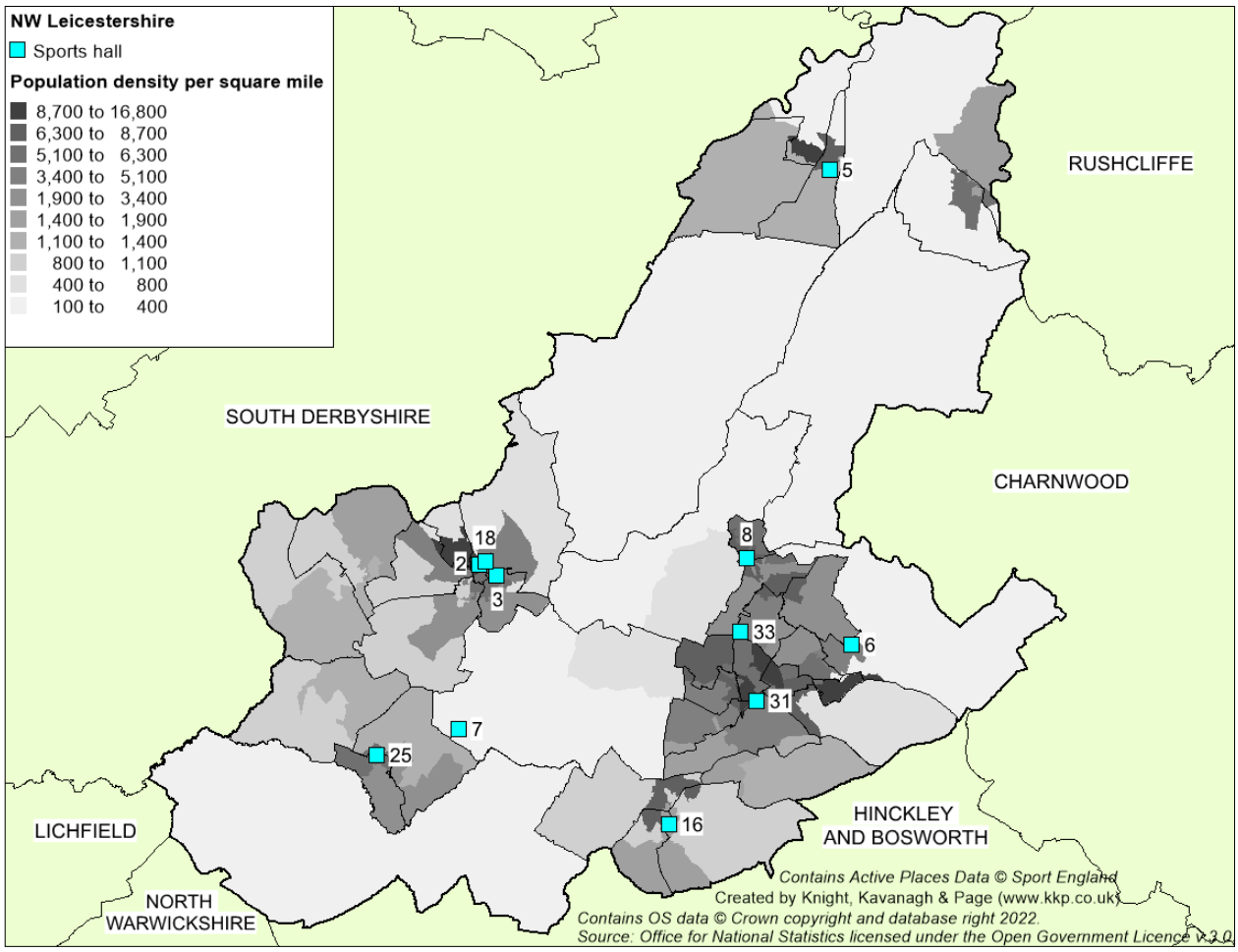
There are 14 sports halls accommodating 43 badminton courts in the District.

Table 4.1: All sports / activity halls in NWL

ID	Site	Courts
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
	Total	**43**

(0 court halls identified in Active Places but not large enough to accommodate 1 badminton court)

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.

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

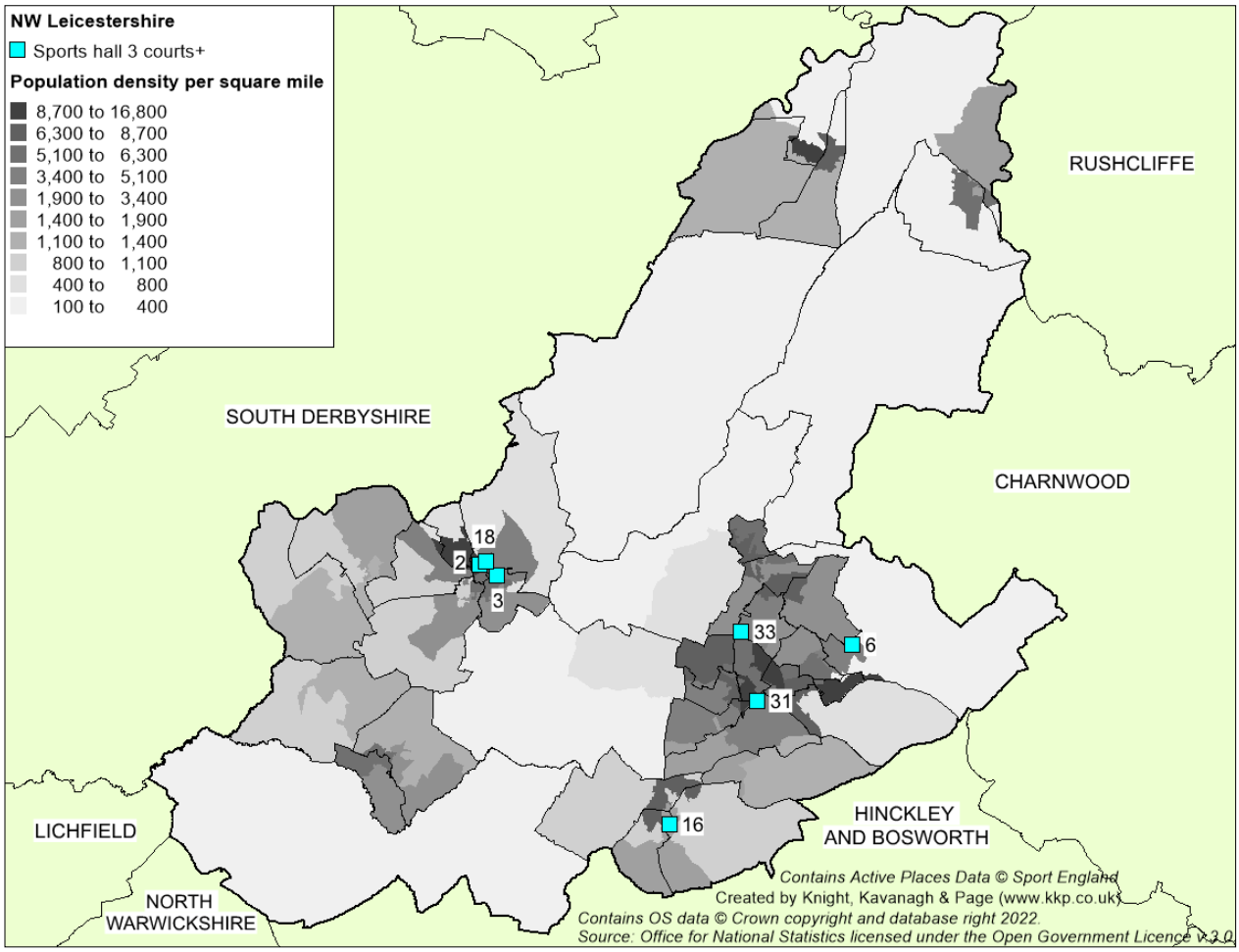


Table 4.2: Sports halls with 3+ badminton courts

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
	Total	**37**

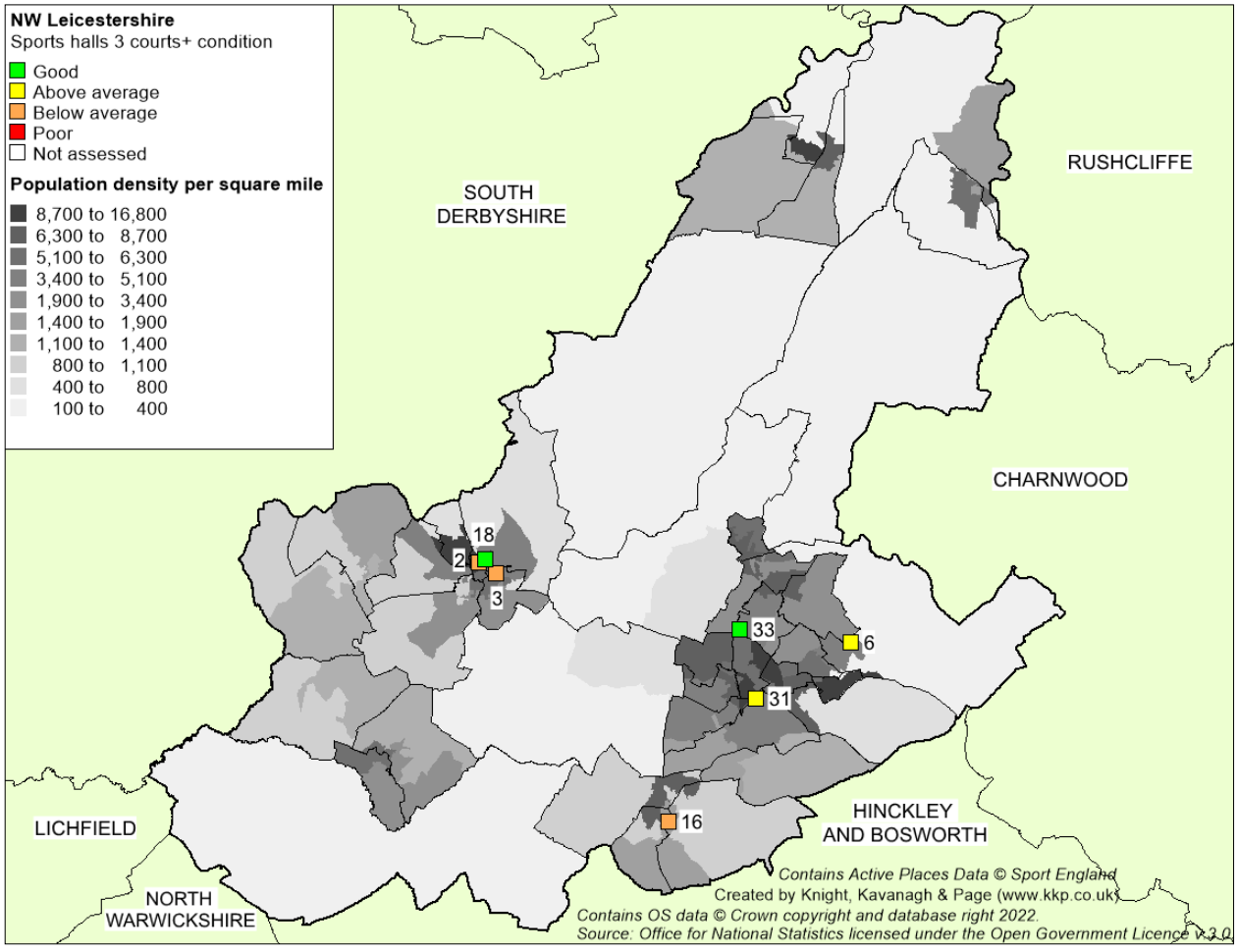
Facility quality

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 popoulation 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

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

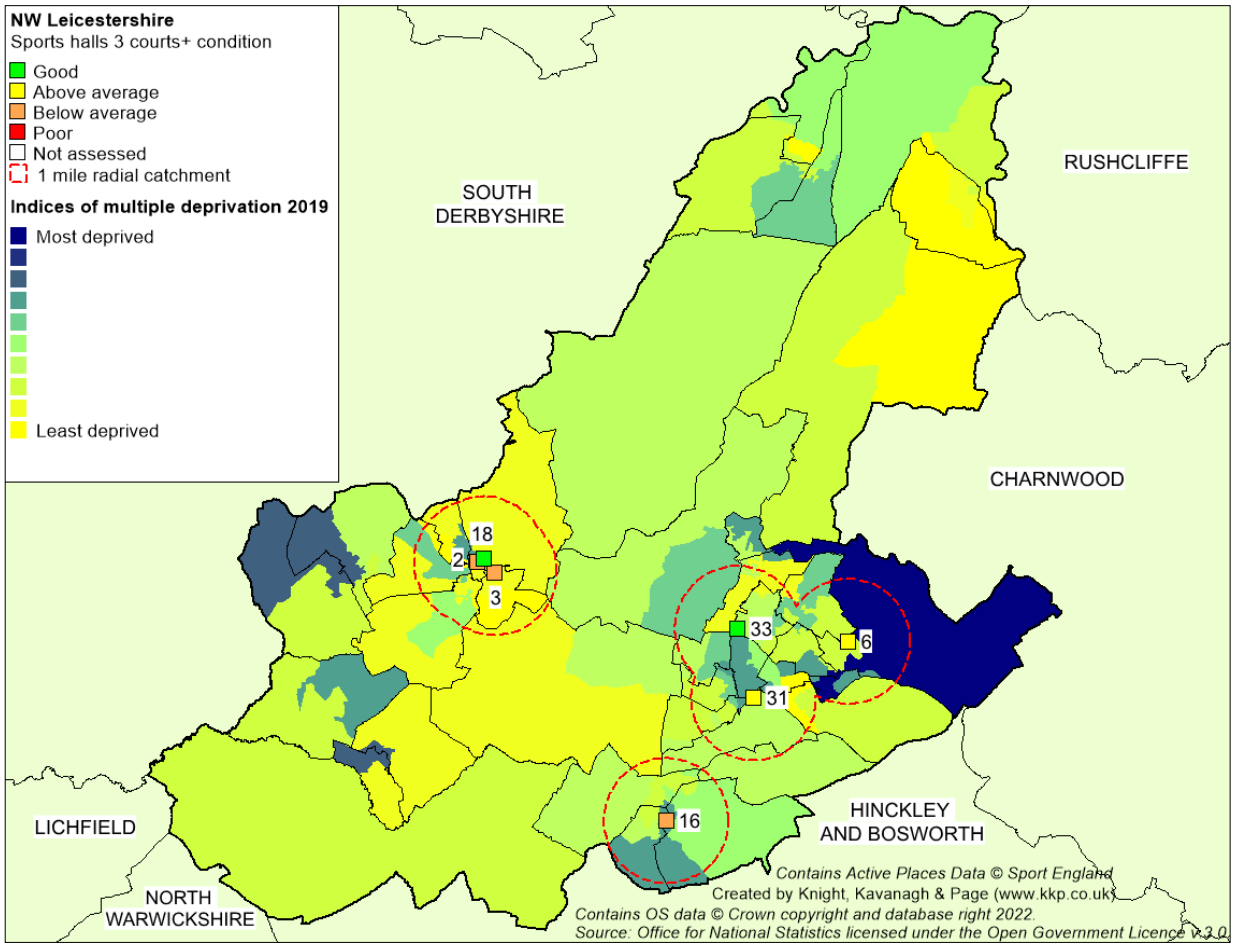
Sports hall accessibility is influenced by how far people are willing and able to travel to and from them. Walk and drive-time catchments are applied to determine facility accessibility to different communities. The normal (industry) standard is a 20-minute walk time (one-mile radial catchment) for urban 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.

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

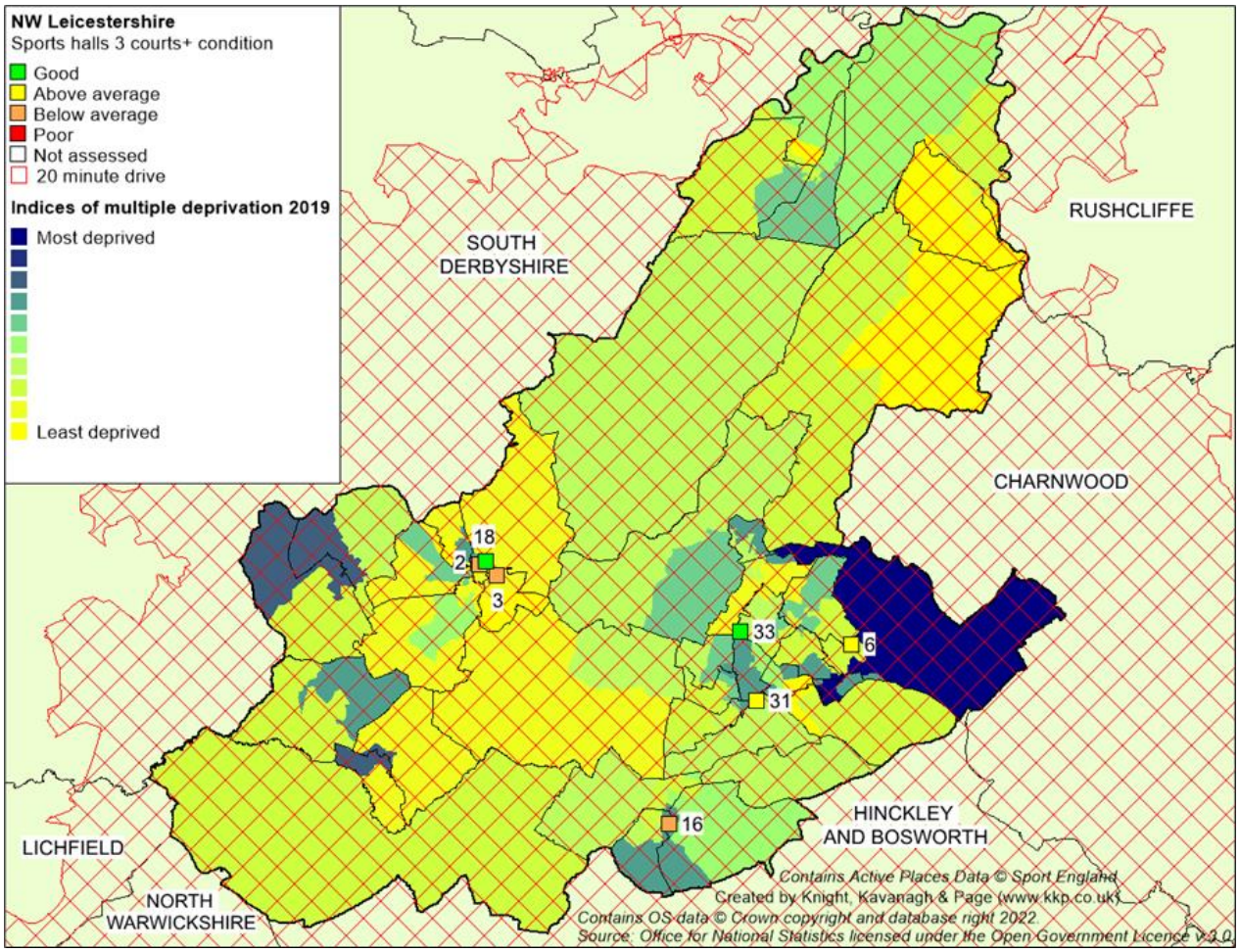


Whilst walk time accessibility to sports halls is relatively low, the high level of car ownership and strong drivetime catchment figures suggests that sports hall provision is sufficient in the south of the authority The challenge is for those in the north where they are on the outskirts of the drive time. It may be more convenient for these residents to access facilities in neighbouring authorities than it is to drive south.

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%
Total	**97,098**	**100.0%**	**41,555**	**42.8%**	**55,543**	**57.2%**

Figure 4.5: Sports halls on IMD background based 20-minute drive time catchment.



Facilities in neighbouring authorities

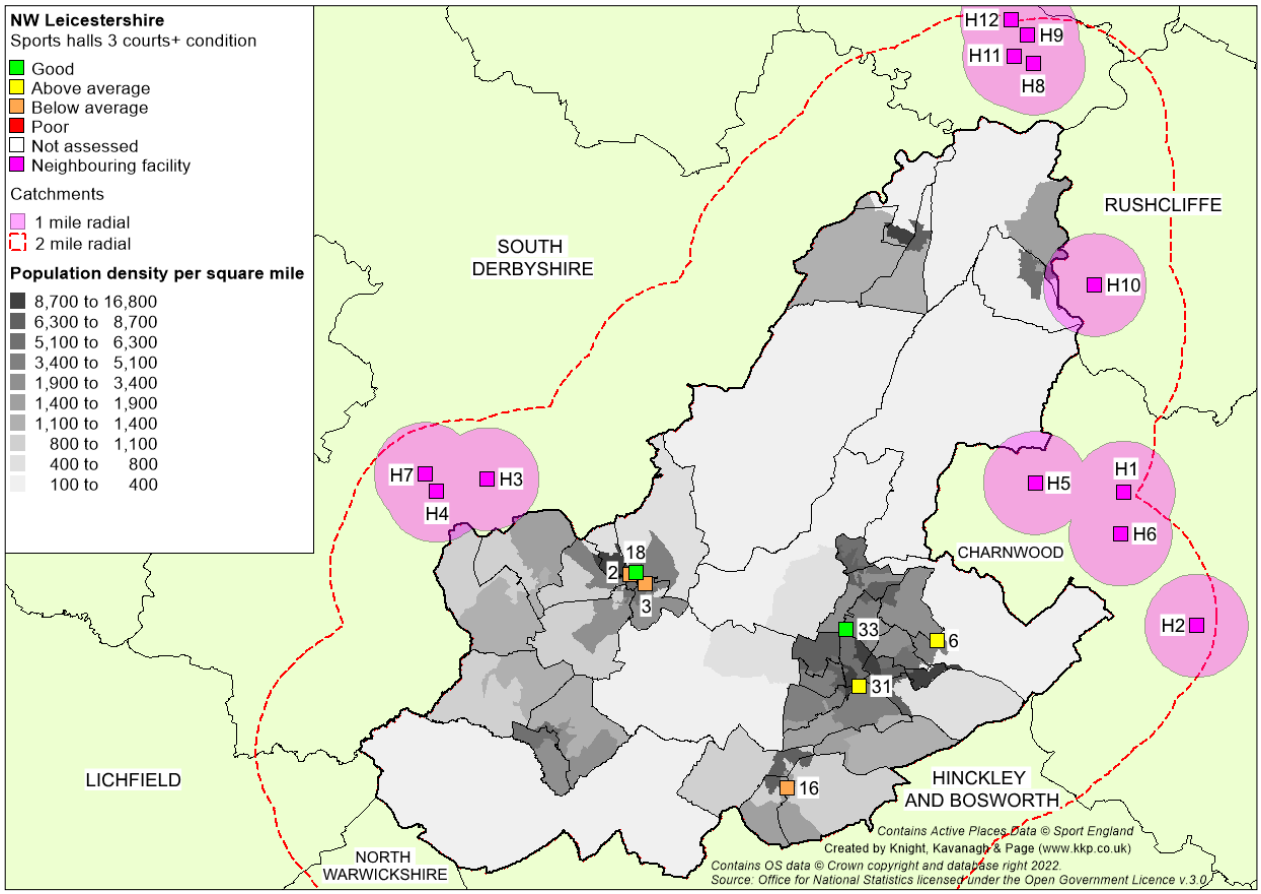
Accessibility is influenced by facilities located outside the Authority. Twelve 3+court sports halls (57 courts) on 14 sites are located within two miles of the district boundary.

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



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.

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

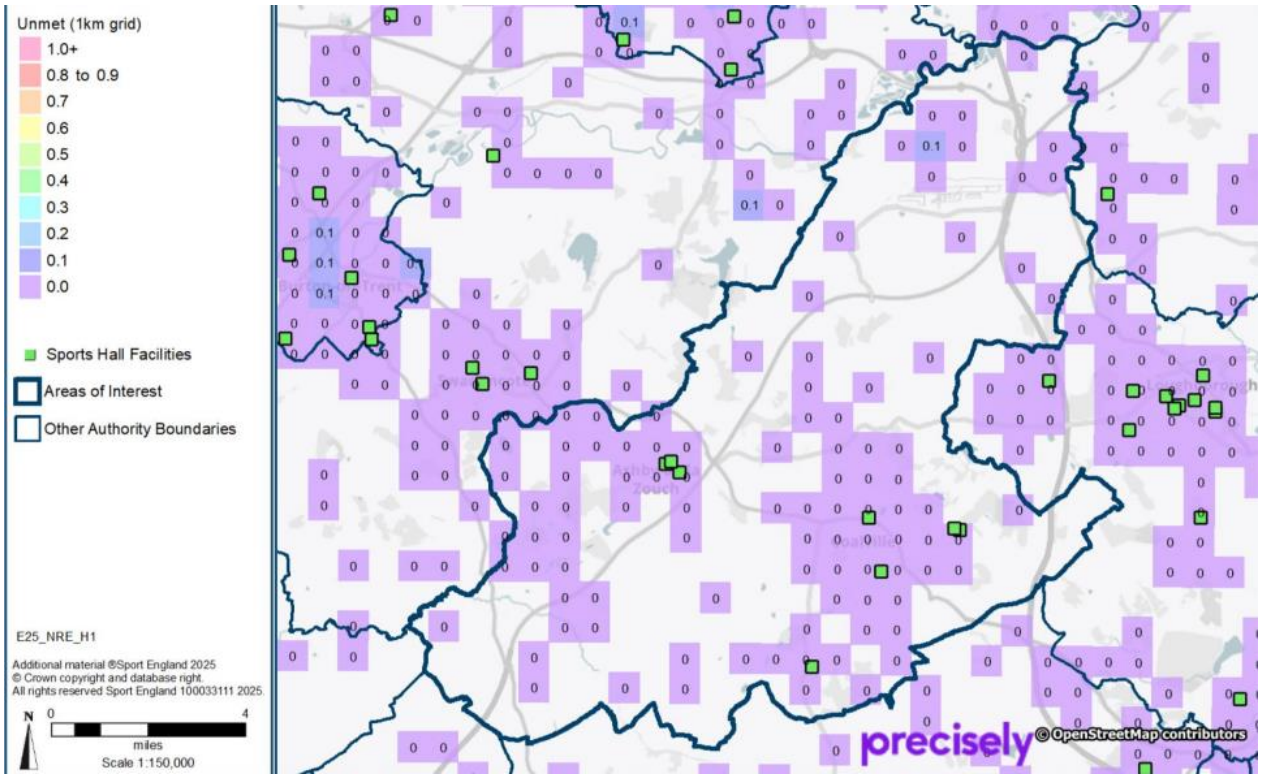
- The total sports hall space in North West Leicestershire is the equivalent of 42.6 badminton courts, of which 35.1 courts the courts are available during the weekly peak period. The court space unavailable for community use equates to 7.5 badminton courts.
- The resident population generates demand 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

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

(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

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).

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

Description	Number
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

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.

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[10] 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

[10] https://www.uksport.gov.uk/news/2019/10/02/netball-world-cup

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

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 2nd 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

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.

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

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

	Population 2018: (ONS)	Population estimate: 2042 (ONS)
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.

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**
Quantity	NWL has 16 halls containing 43 badminton courts. It has eight sports halls with 3+ courts (37 courts).	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. 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. Future population growth and housing growth, through the SFC, calculated the need for c.16.75 additional courts up to 2042. 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).
Quality	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 Coaclville Leisure Centre.

Facility type	Sports halls	-
Elements	**Assessment findings**	**Specific facility needs**
Accessibility	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.
Availability (Management and usage)	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.

- 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.

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. Its latest strategy, One Swim England published in December 2024 aims to *'lead and serve an aquatics community to enable safe, enjoyable and successful experiences'*. It also has a facilities strategy being published in 2026.

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^2 (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^2 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.

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

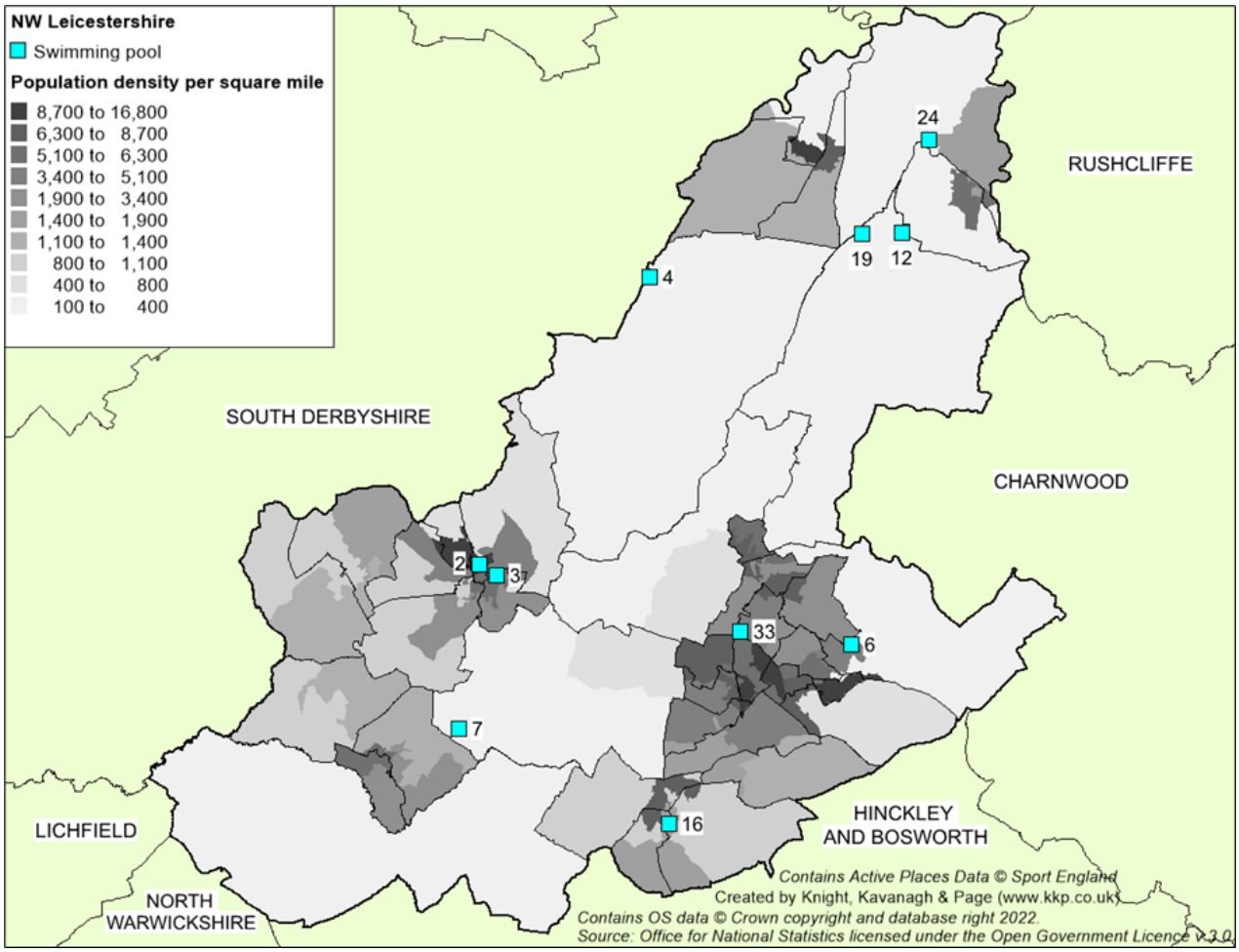


Table 5.1: All swimming pools in NWL

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	Juvenate (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
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

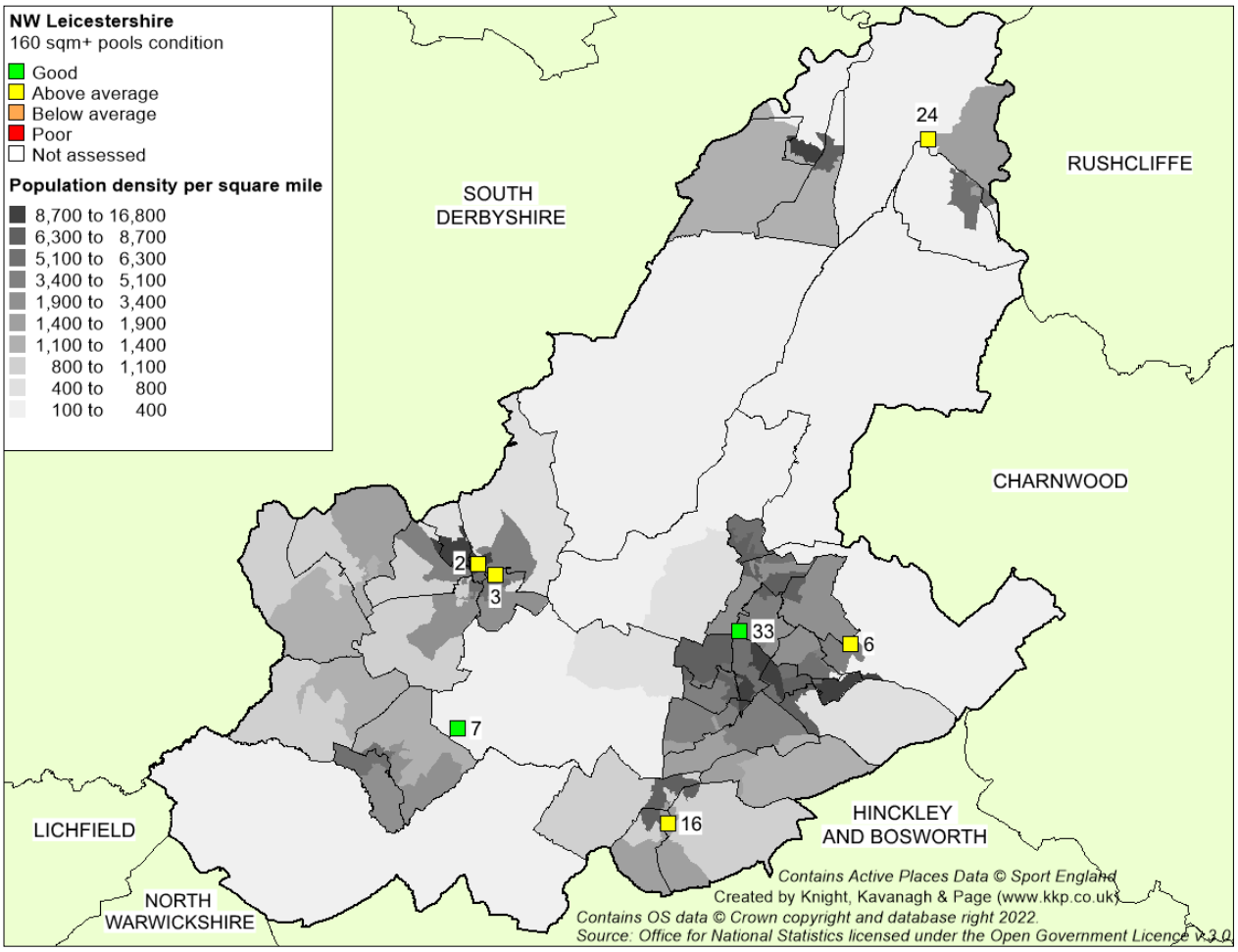
Quality

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.

Table 5.2: Quality ratings of 160m^2 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^2 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.

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^2+) and refurbishment dates (where applicable)

Site name	Year built/ opened	Year last refurbished	Age (years) since built/refurbished
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

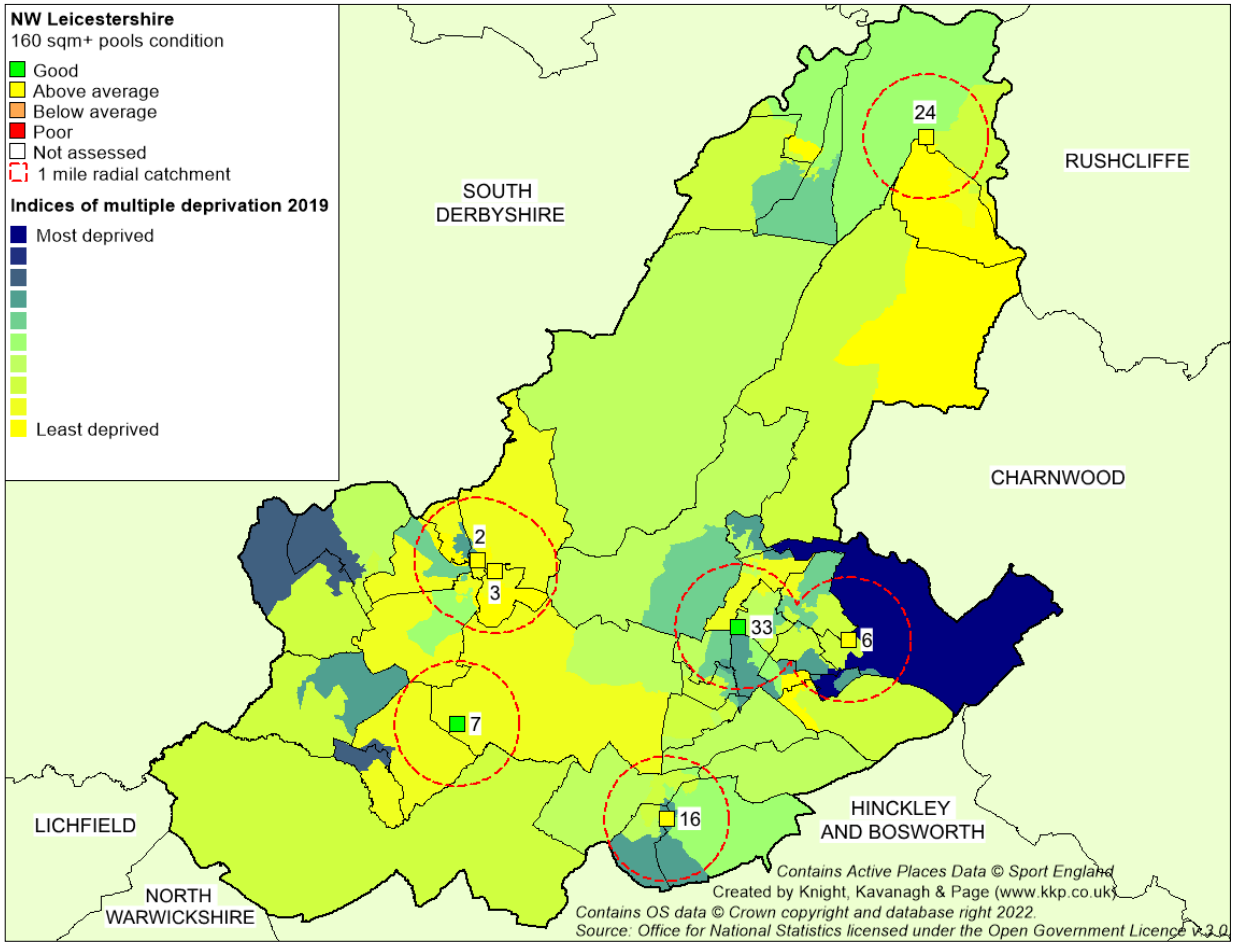
Site name	Year built/ opened	Year last refurbished	Age (years) since built/refurbished
Livingwell Health Club (East Midlands)	1999	-	26
Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre	2022	-	3

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^2+ 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.

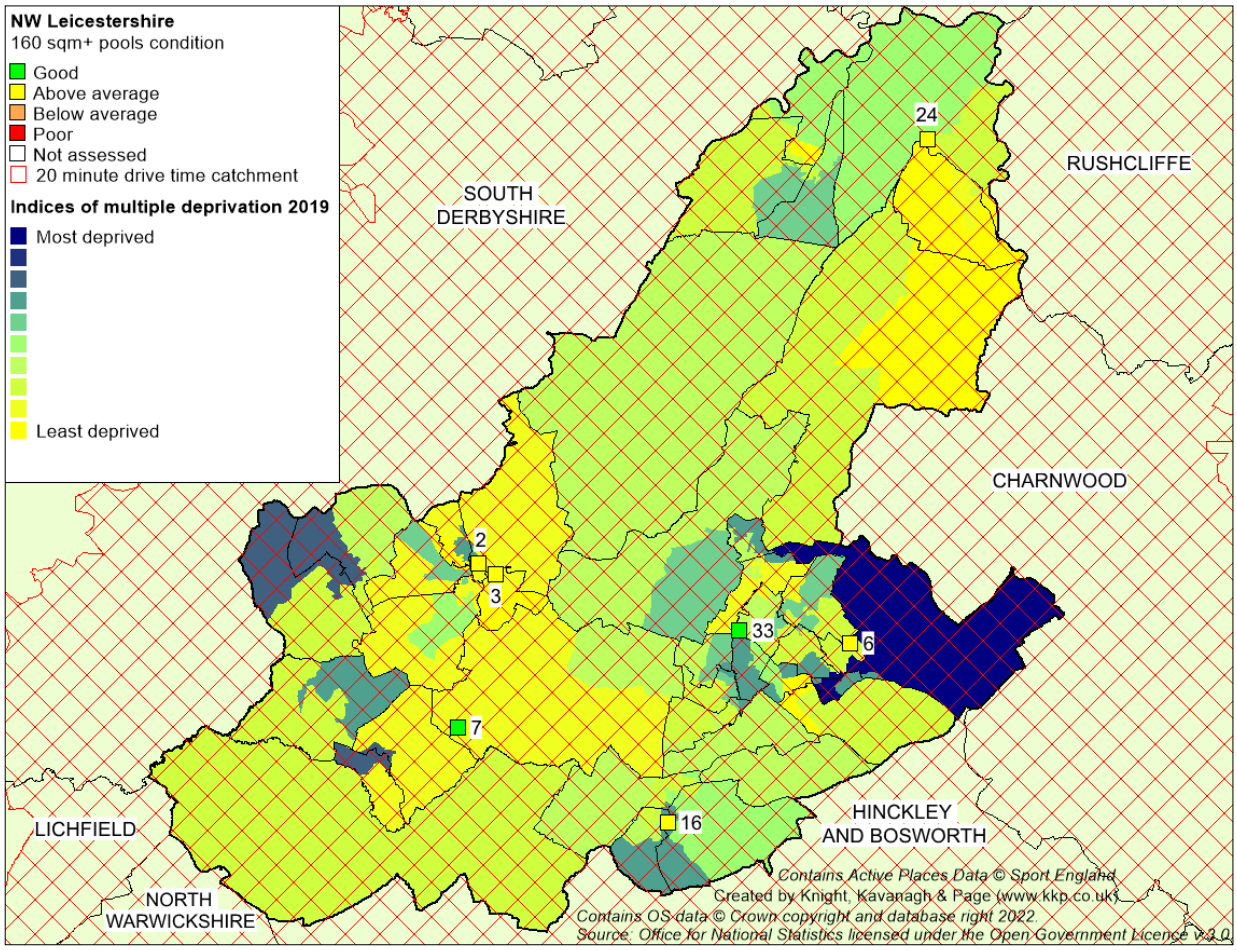
Access to pay and play accessible pools in NWL is more limited. Only 28% of residents live within one mile of a pay and play accessible swimming pool, and no one living in the Authority's most deprived areas lives within a mile of a pay and play pool. Key provision gaps are to the east of

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%
Total	**97,098**	**100.0%**	**39,498**	**40.7%**	**57,600**	**59.3%**

Figure 5.6: Accessibility of swimming pools in NWL (20-minute drivetime catchment)



Availability of swimming pools

All facilities audited offer some form of public access.

Table 5.5: Access policy of swimming pools

Site name	Access policy
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

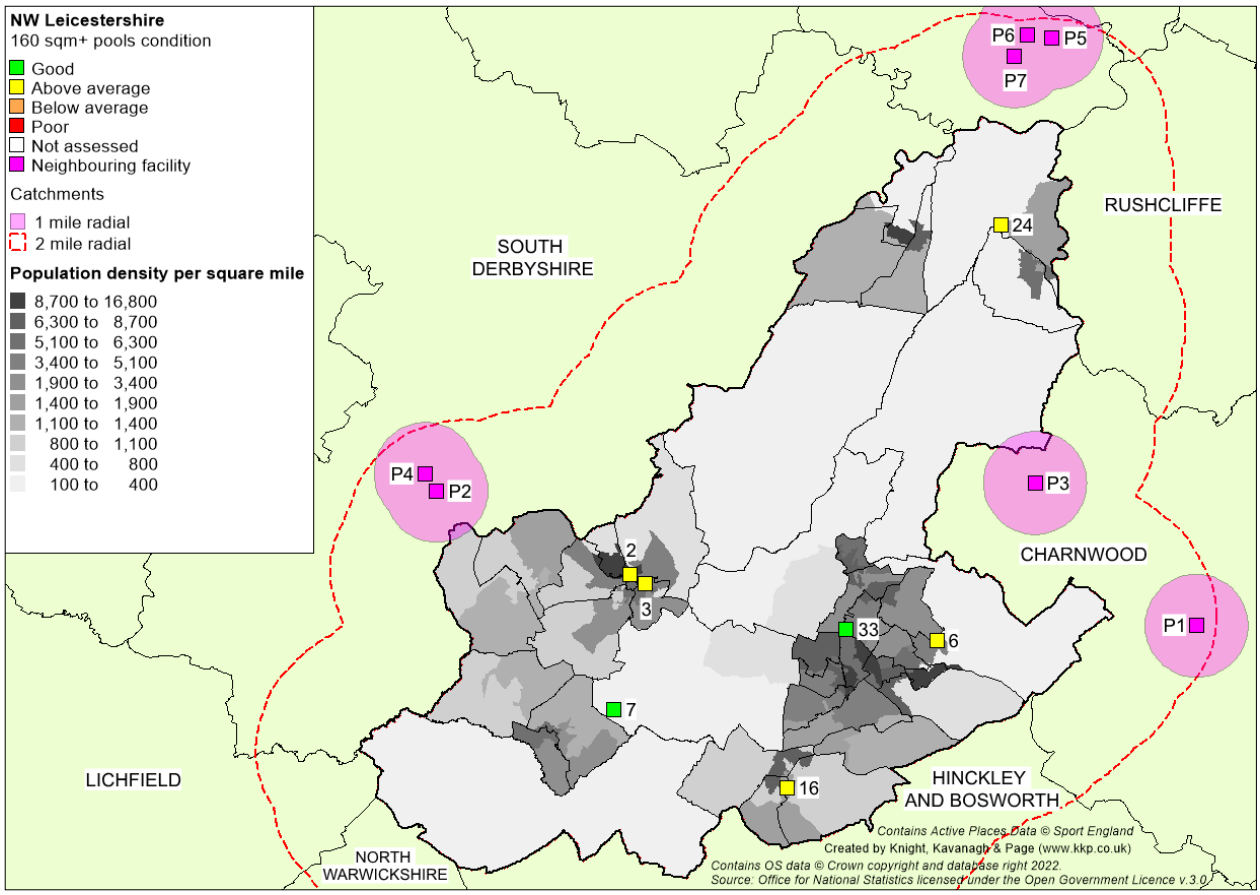
Accessibility is influenced by facilities located outside an authority. Seven pools (160m^2+) at seven sites are located within two miles of the NWL boundary; three in Erewash, two in South Derbyshire and one in Charnwood. Two are available for casual use/are pay and play accessible.

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

ID	Site	Size	Access	District
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

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. These 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.

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.

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 and offer technical advice 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.

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.

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**
Quantity	There are 12 pools across 10 sites. Nine of the seven pools are larger than 160m^2 (4 lanes x 20m) or are at a site with a larger pool which is of strategic importance for the learn to swim offer.	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. 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. 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.
Quality	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.
Accessibility	40.7% of the population lives within a one-mile walk of a swimming pool (160m^2+ in size) in the Authority. The whole population lives within 20-minutes' drive of a (160m^2+) swimming pool. Pay and play access is available within a 1-mile walk for approximately 30% of residents.	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. 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.
Availability (Management and usage)	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

- 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.

SECTION 6: HEALTH AND FITNESS SUITES

According to the most recent ALS data[11], 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 +[12]) 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.

[11] Active Lives adult survey Nov 20-21 report
[12] A health and fitness 'station' is defined as a piece of static fitness equipment – KKP normally audits facilities of 20 stations or more.

Figure 6.1: All health and fitness gyms on population density

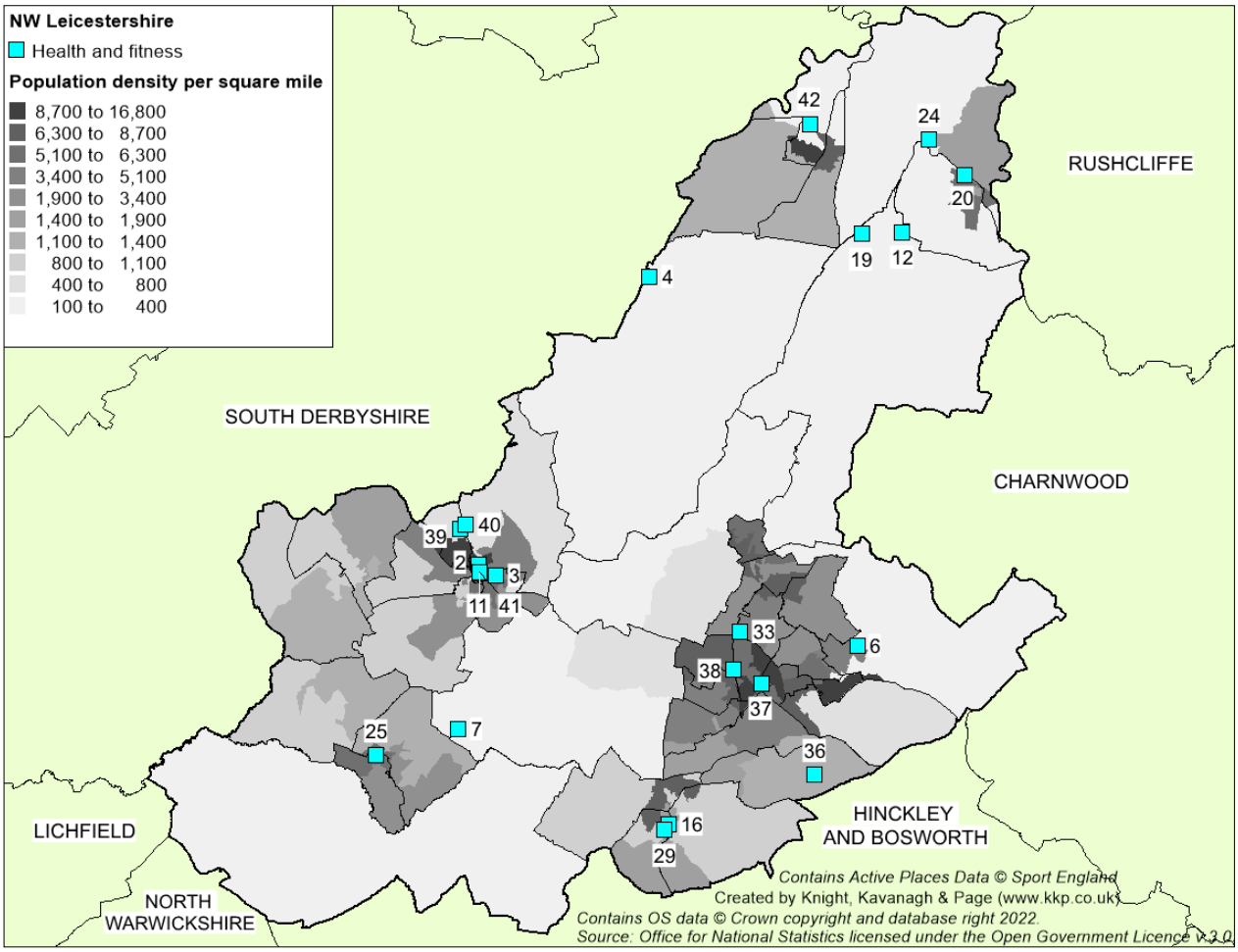


Table 6.1: All health and fitness gyms in NWL

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	Juvenate (E. Midlands Airport)	20	41	Fitness Republic	40
20	Kegworth Hotel	25	42	The Workhouse Gym	50
24	Livingwell (East Midlands)	20	**Total**		**1,108**

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).

Quality

All health and fitness sites received a non-technical quality assessment.

Figure 6.2: Health and fitness gym quality

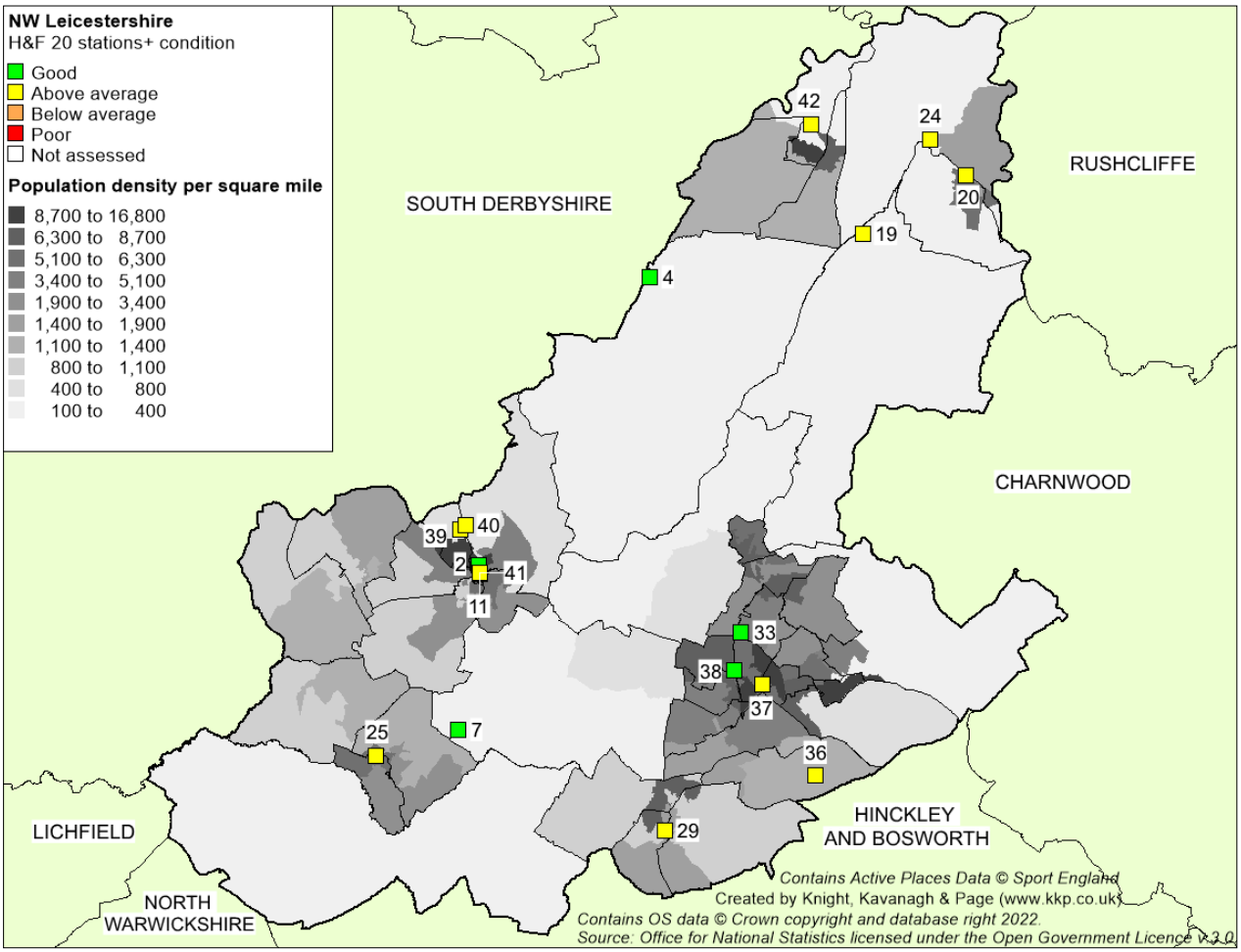


Table 6.2: Health and fitness suites by condition

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

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

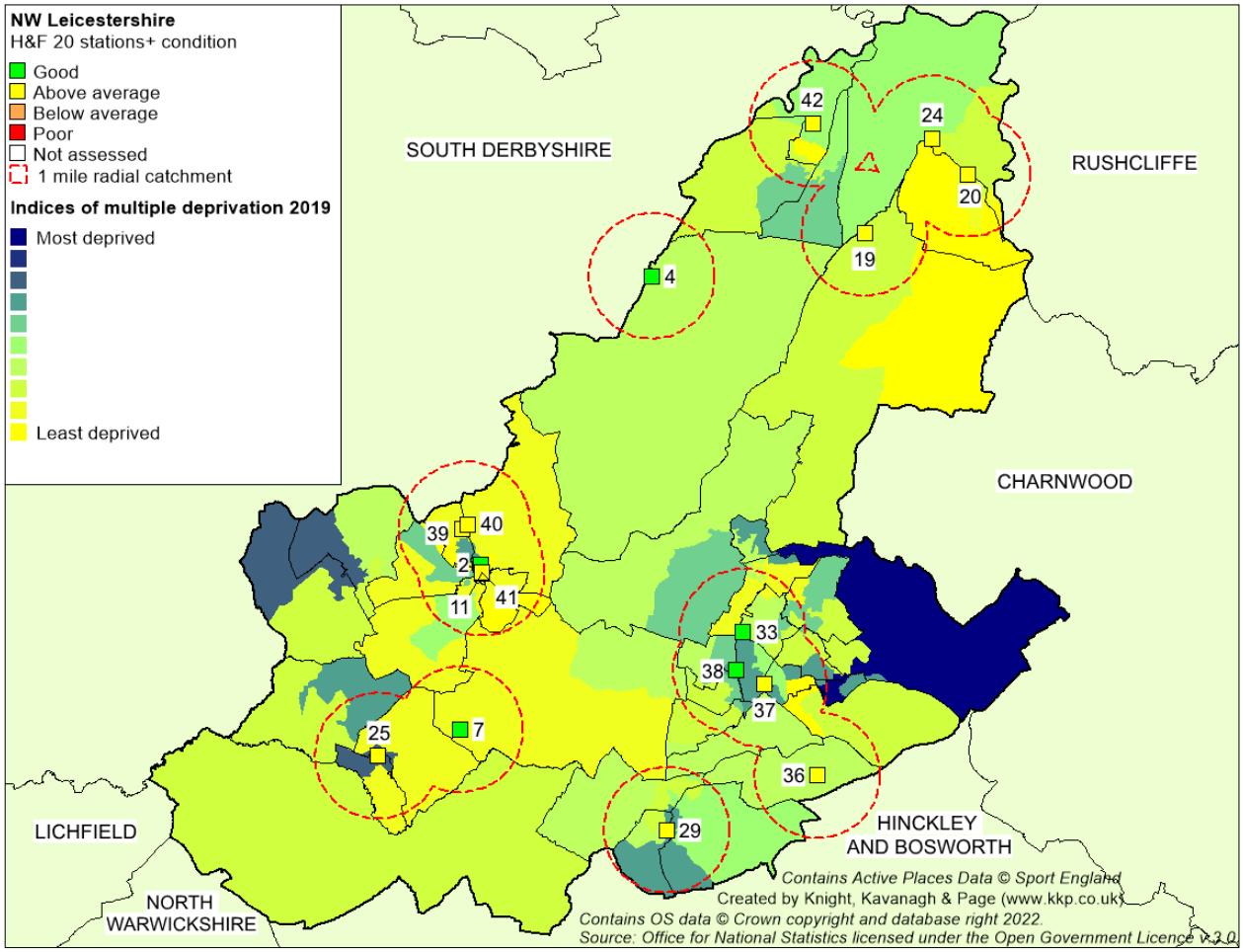
The Sport England classification of access type defines registered membership use facilities as being publicly available. For health and fitness suites, this generally means payment of a monthly membership fee which can vary considerably. Private operators have no contractual obligation to, for example, 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%
Total	**97,098**	**100.0%**	**54,283**	**55.9%**	**42,815**	**44.1%**

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.

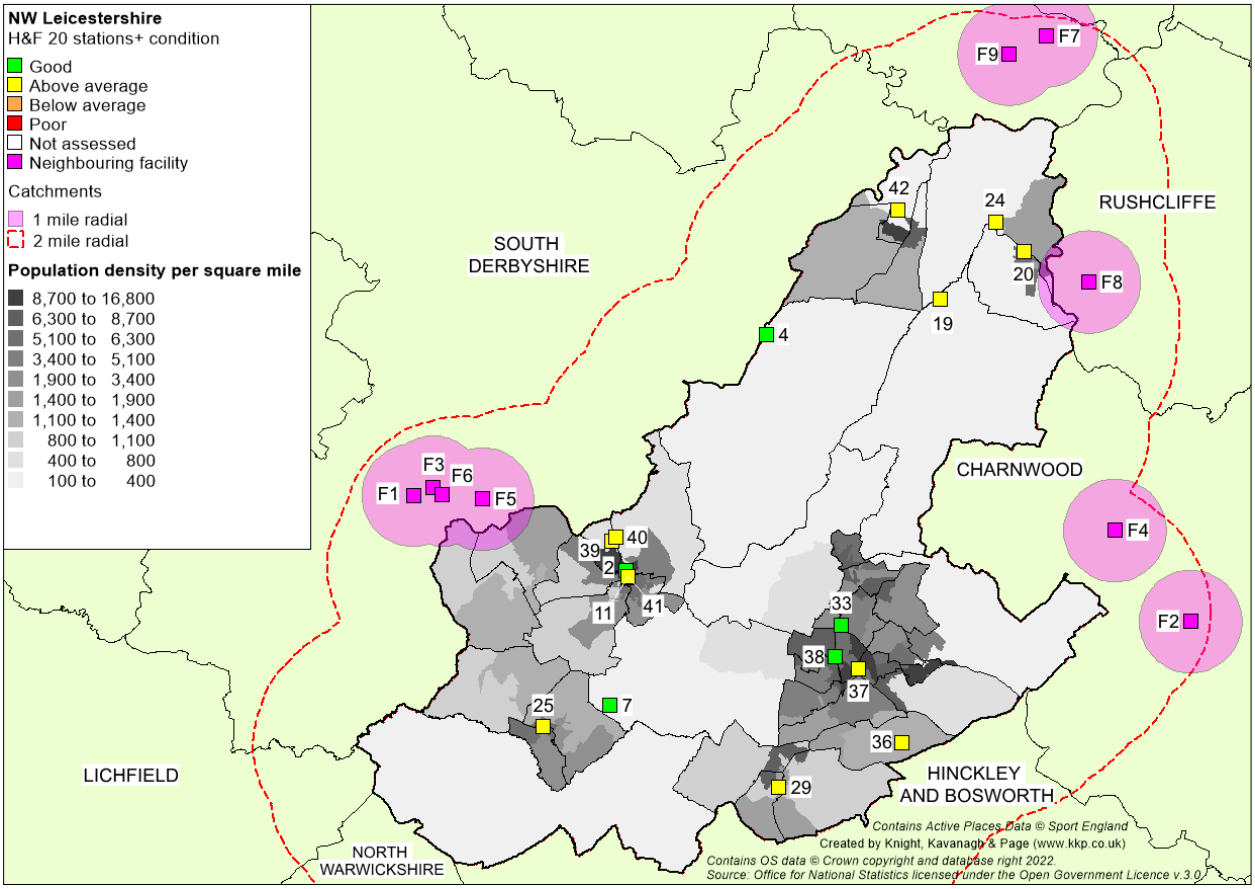
Table 6.4: Community available health and fitness (20+ stations) within 2 miles of NWL

ID	Site	Stations	Access	District
F1	Anytime Fitness (Swadlincote)	90	Reg. membership	South Derbyshire
F2	Garats Hay	26	Sports club / CA	Charnwood

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

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	

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.

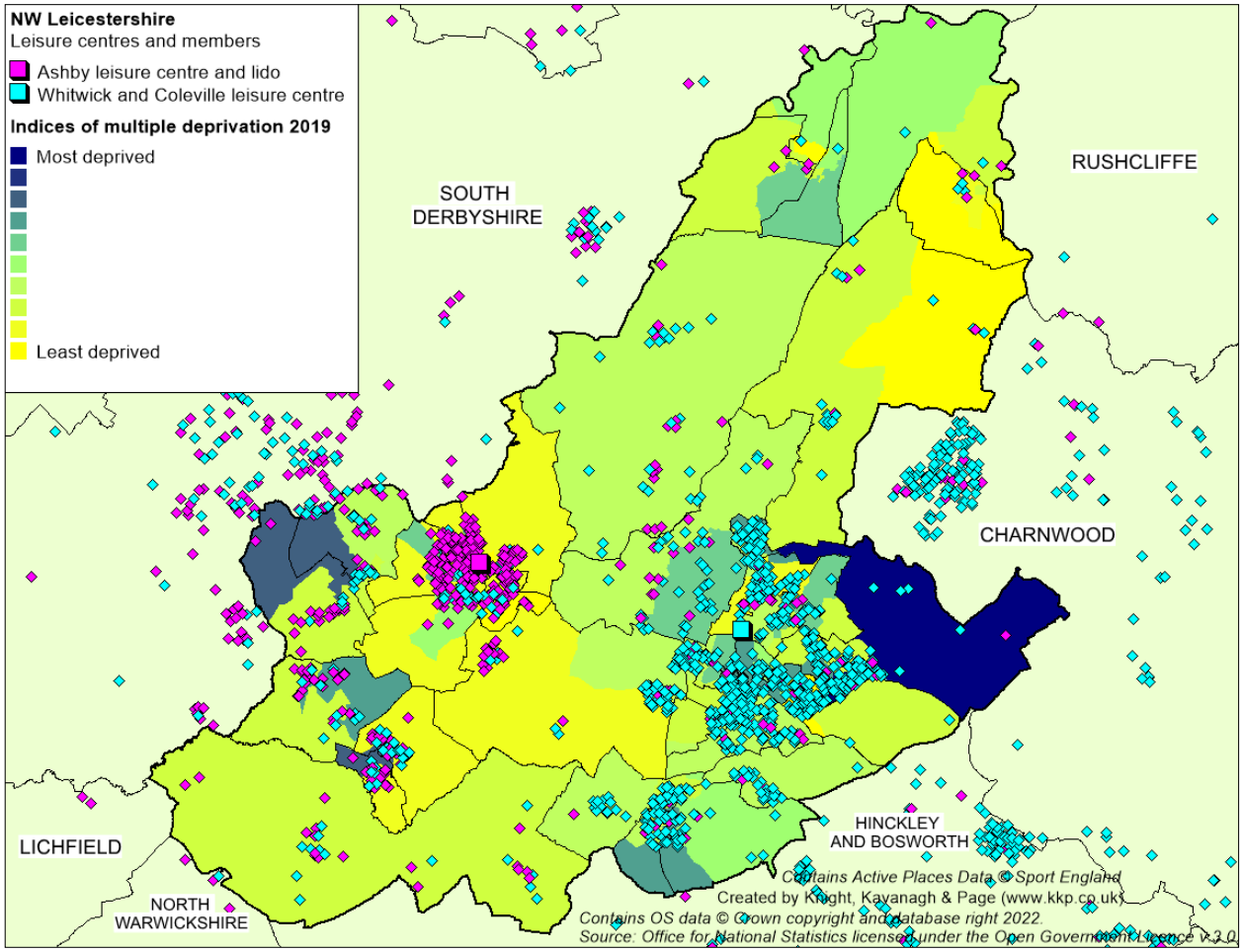
The price point for pay and play access to public leisure facilities in the Authority varies from £4.25 at Ibstock Leisure Complex to £9.25 per session (a level which arguably discourages pay and play-based participation). It is, in line with many operators' practices, in effect designed to incentivise 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.

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 in from several neighbouring authorities, including Charnwood (9.4%) and Hinkley 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.

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	**20.2%**	150	12.1%
80.1-90	15,552	16.0%	435	**35.0%**
Least deprived 90.1-100	7,874	8.1%	158	12.7%
Total	**97,098**	**100.0%**	**1,243**	**100.0%**

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	**26.5%**
70.1-80	19,591	**20.2%**	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%
Total	**97,098**	**100.0%**	**2,425**	**100.0%**

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

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)

	Curent (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
Number of stations (with comfort factor applied)	**584**	**838**

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).

Figure 6.6: Studios in NWL

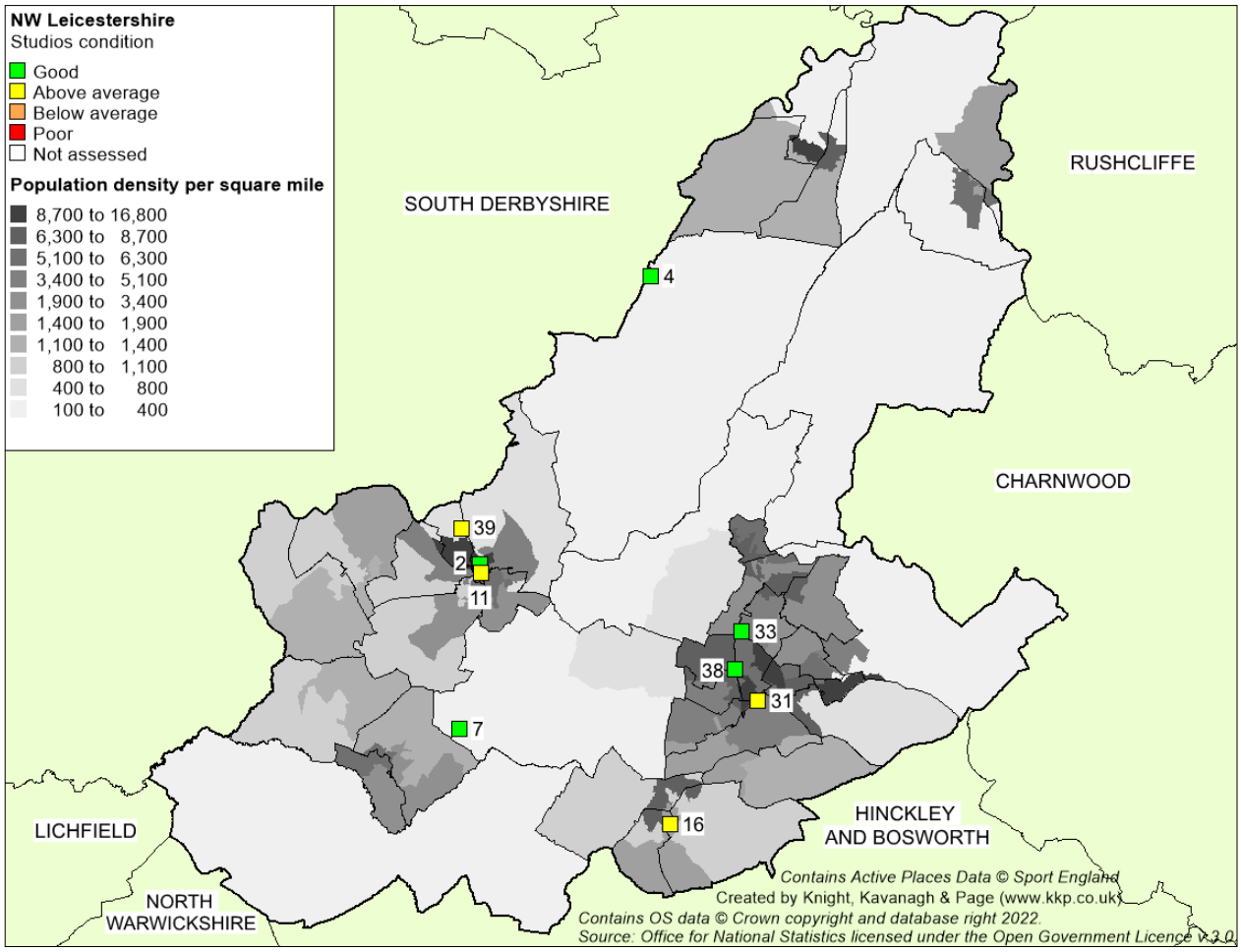


Table 6.10: Table of studios in NWL

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)

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.

6.4: Summary of key facts and issues

Facility type	Health & fitness	-
Elements	**Assessment findings**	**Specific facility needs**
Quantity	There are 21 health and fitness suites containing 1108 stations. 18 have community use and have 20+ stations – a total of 1,045 stations. There is a current (c.460) and future (c.200) modelled positive supply demand balance of facilities in the area.	There is a new fitness gym in development at Castle Donington College. It will be available to the community in summer 2025.
Quality	All 18 of the 20+ station health and fitness suites are of good or above average quality.	There is a need to provide and maintain high quality provision across the stock.
Accessibility	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. 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.	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. 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.
Availability (Management and usage)	There are four publicly accessible pay and play health and fitness facilities with 20+ stations in NWL. Everyone Active charges £9.25 for a pay and play session. This price point may discourage certain users. Ibstock Leisure Centre offers casual access at a more affordable rate of £4.35. The remaining venues can be accessed both via pay and play and registered membership.	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.

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.

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:

Element	Aim
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, it's 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.

Figure 7.1: Location of squash courts and within surrounding authorities (20-minute drive)

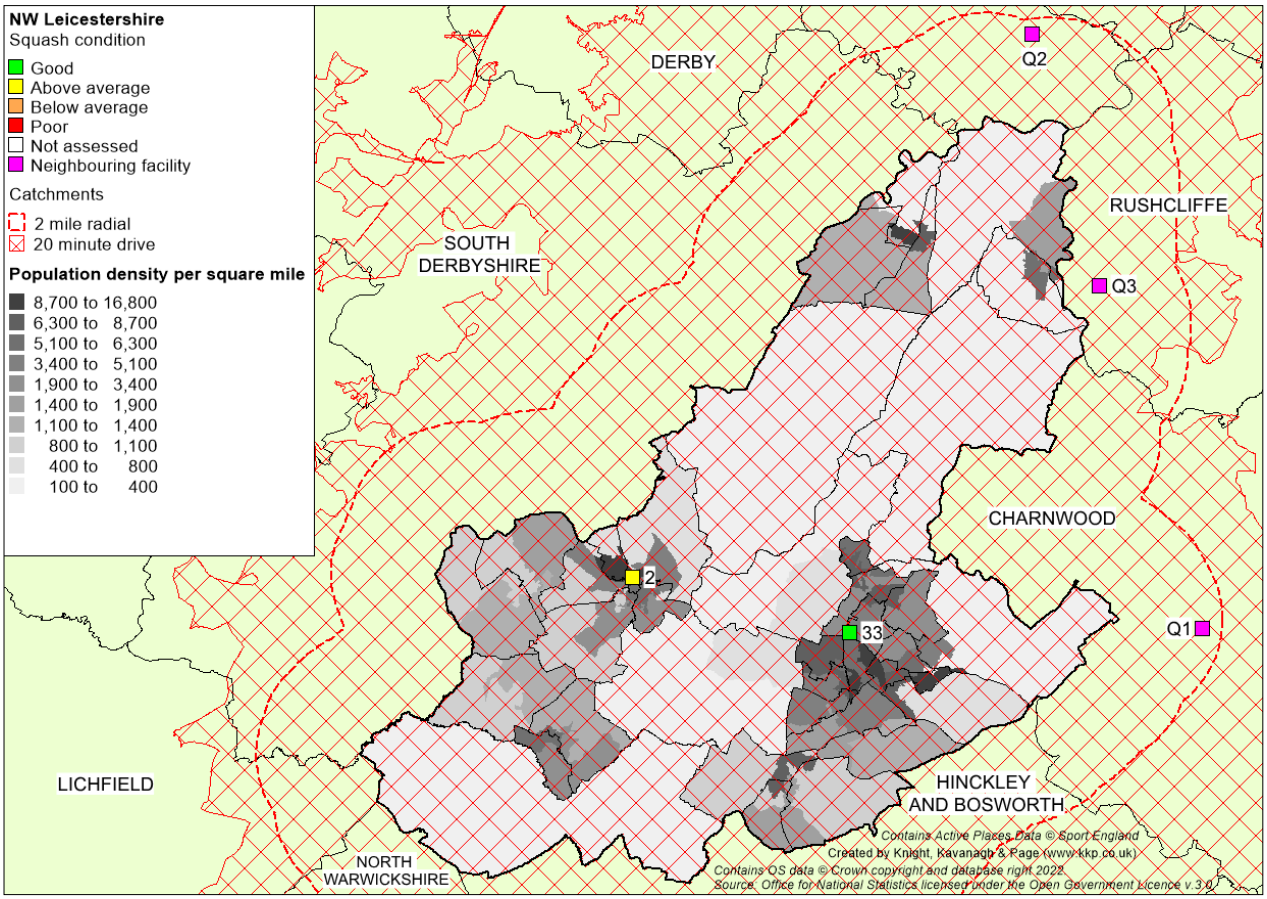


Table 7.1: Squash courts in NWL District

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 re-painting 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.

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

Facility type	**Squash**	**-**
Elements	**Assessment findings**	**Specific facility needs**
Quantity	There are five glass-back squash courts in the Authority. A further seven courts can be accessed within a 20-minte 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.
Quality	Two courts are rated above average quality and three are good quality.	Continue the current maintenance programme to ensure court quality remains high.
Accessibility	All residents live within a 20-minute drive of a squash facility.	-
Availability (Management and usage)	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.

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 (SMBA). 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[13] 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.

[13] Sport England Design Guidance Note Indoor Bowls 2005

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: d**evelop 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:

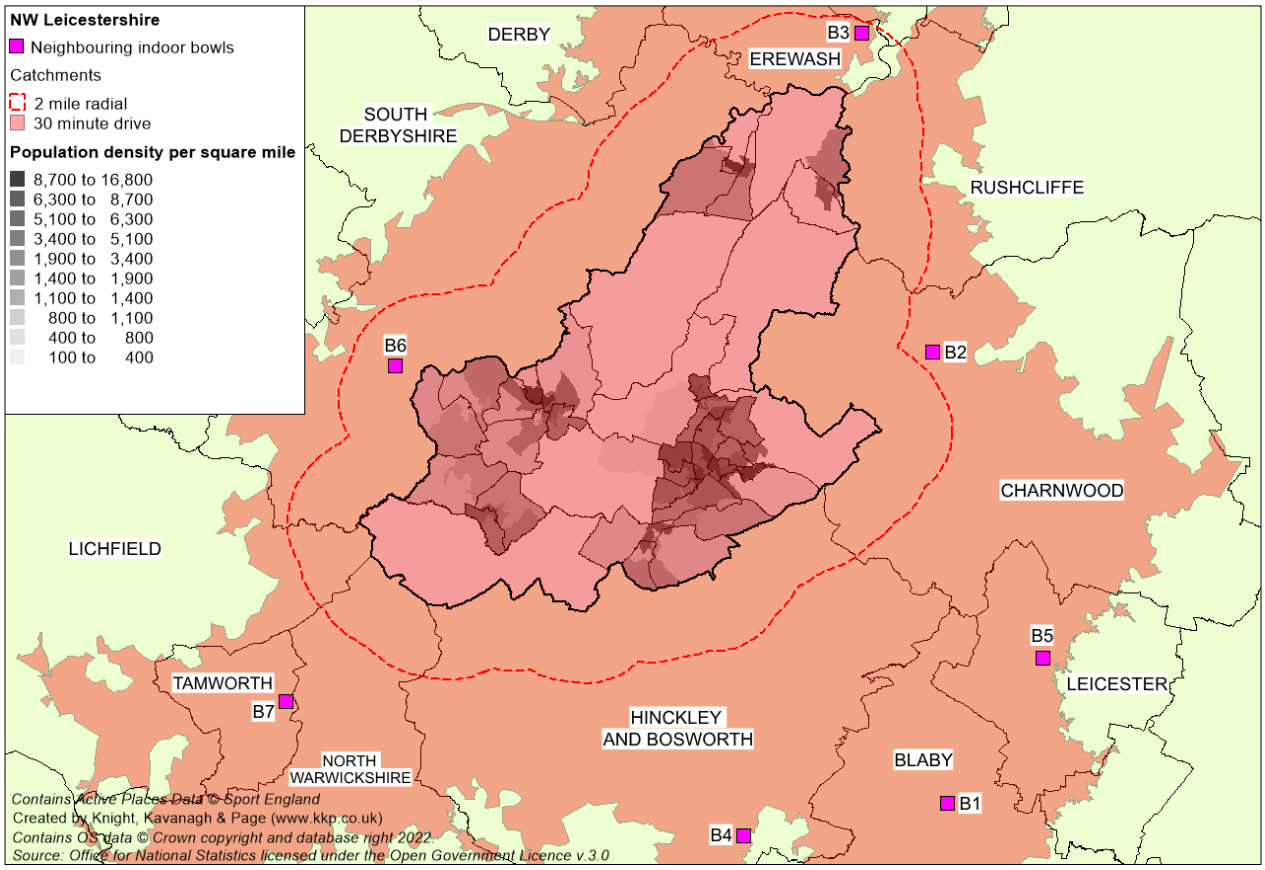
- **Build Partnerships and Communities**: To ensure our role in the bowls family preserves the important connection with our partners and key stakeholders through the continuation of shared goals and objectives, aligning to our organisation's vision of transforming bowls into an accessible sport for 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

Table 8.1: Indoor bowls facilities within a 30-minutes' drive

ID	Site name	Rinks	Access type	Authority
B1	Enderby Leisure And Golf Centre (supports Carlton IBC)	6	Sports Club / CA	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

All 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**
Quantity	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.
Quality		
Accessibility	All residents live within a 30-minute drive time of an indoor bowls facility in a neighbouring authority.	
Availability (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.

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

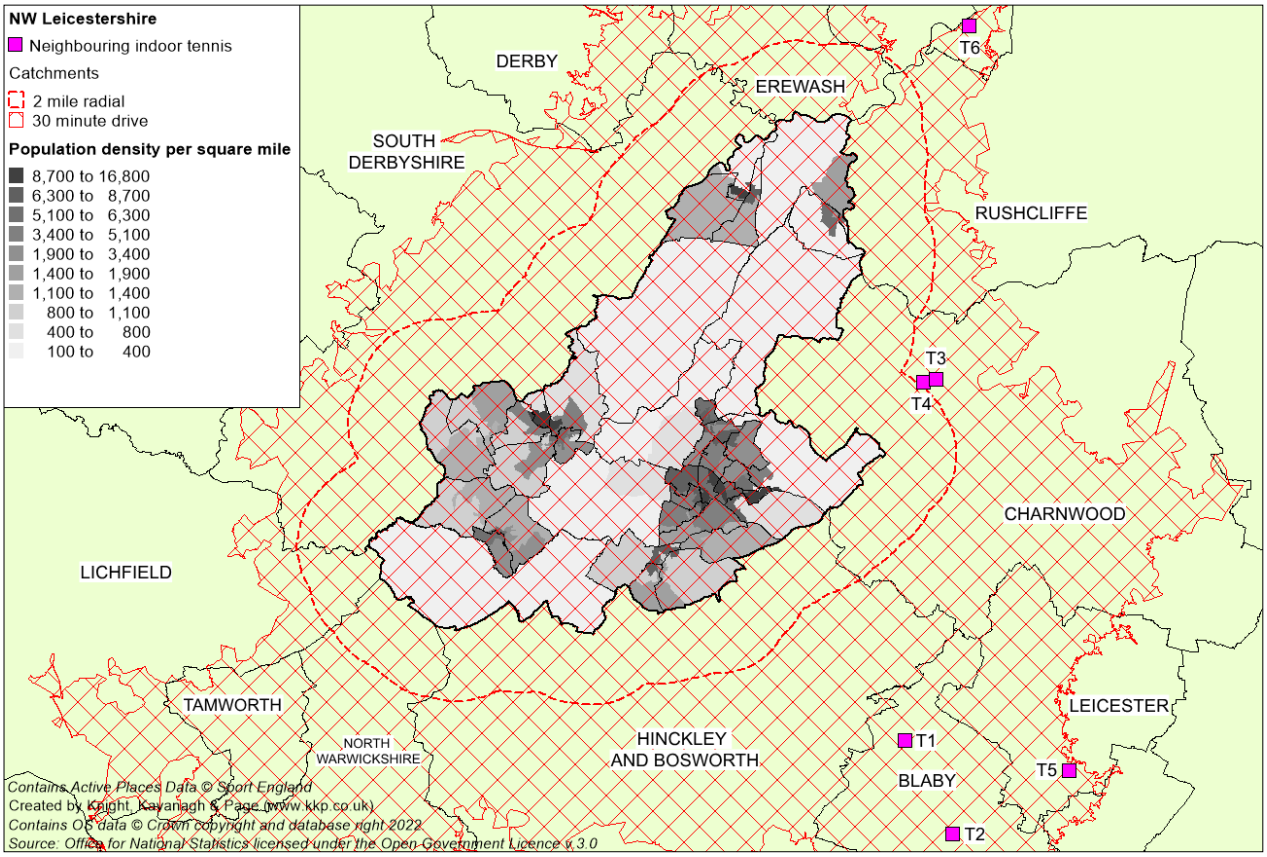
Indoor tennis facilities appeal beyond local authority boundaries. This report considers provision within a 30-minutes' drive time. There are no indoor tennis courts in NWL District but there are 28 courts (on six separate sites) 30 minutes' drive of the NWLDC boundary.

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

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.

9.3: Summary of key facts and issues

Facility type	Indoor tennis	
Elements	**Assessment findings**	**Specific facility needs**
Quantity	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.
Accessibility	All residents live within a 30-minute drive of indoor tennis facilities.	-
Availability	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.

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.

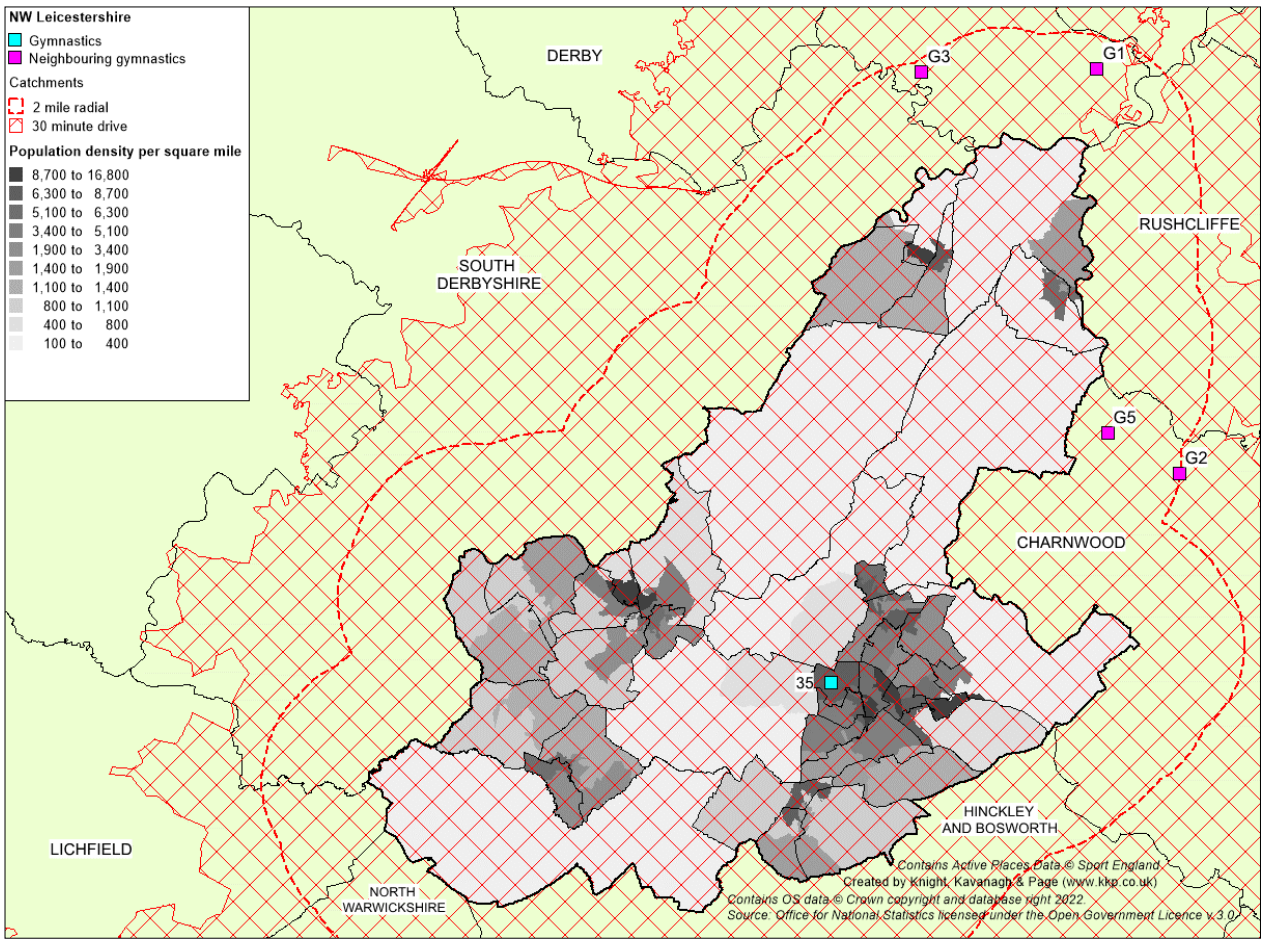
The new strategy outlines six key impacts:

- 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.

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.

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.

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
Quantity	There is one dedicated facility in NWLDC. This is at Coalville Gymnastics Club. There is a gymnastics provision in Ashby at the Leisure Centre. It hosts both Head over Heels Academy and Tumble Tots. There is no offer in the north. In addition, there are four dedicated sites within 30 minutes of the Authority.	Coalville Gymnastics Club reports waiting lists of 1-3 years for virtually all its sections. Although there is not an offer in the north, there is provision within the 30 minute drive time catchments in neighbouring authorities.
Quality	Equipment at existing sites is good quality.	-
Accessibility	All NWLDC residents reside within a 30-minute drive time of a club/venue within the Authority.	-

Elements	Assessment findings	Specific needs
Availability (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).

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 55 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 identity 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

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

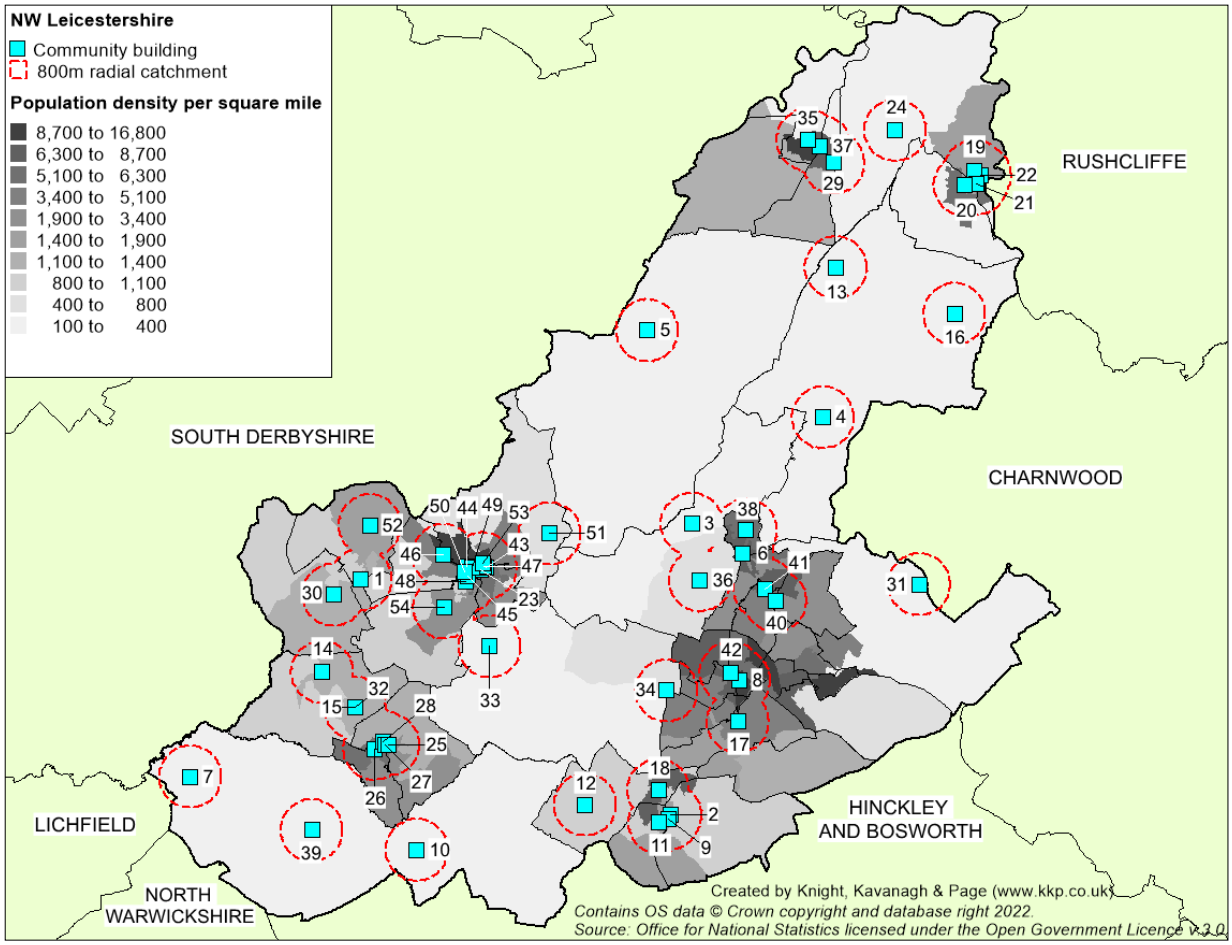


Table 11.1: List of all community facilities and the aligned settlement

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
		17	Hugglescote Community Centre

Settlement type	Settlement name	ID	Venue
		34	Ravenstone Village Hall
		38	Thringstone Miners Social Centre
		40	Whitwick Constitutional Club
		41	Whitwick Park Hall
		42	The Marlene Reid Centre
2.Key Service Centre	Ashby	23	Legion House
		43	St Helen's Community Centre
		44	Ashby Methodist Church Hall
		45	Our Lady Lourdes
		46	The Beeches, Ashby
		47	Lyric Rooms
		48	Ivanhoe Social Club
		49	Ashby Baptist Church
		50	Ashby Congregational Church
		51	Ashby Rugby Club.
		53	Venture Theatre
		54	Willesley Golf Club
	Castle Donington	29	Moira Dale Village Hall
		35	Spital Park Pavilion
		37	The Community Hub
3.Local Service Centre	Ibstock	2	Baptist Church
		9	Community College
		11	Ibstock Town Cricket Club
		18	Ibstock Scout Hut
	Kegworth	19	Kenworth Bowls Club
		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
4.Sustainable Villages	Moira (including Norris Hill)	1	Ashby Woulds Community Hub
		30	Moira Village Hall
	Ellistown		
	Long Whatton	16	Long Whatton Friendship Centre
	Donisthorpe	14	Donisthorpe Woodlands Centre

Settlement type	Settlement name	ID	Venue
	Packington	33	Packington Memorial Village Hall
	Belton	4	Belton Village Hall
	Breedon on the Hill	5	Breedon Village Hall
	Oakthorpe	15	East Midlands Satellite Centre
		32	Oakthorpe Leisure Centre
	Blackfordby	52	Blackfordby Village Hall
	Diseworth	13	Diseworth Village Hall
	Swannington	36	Swannington Village Hall
	Heather	12	David Taylor Memorial Hall Swepstone Road
	Appleby Magna	10	Conery Pavilion
		39	Appleby Magna Village Hall
	Coleorton (Lower Moor Road Area)	3	Beaumont Social Centre
	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	55	Harley Hall
6. Other Villages / Settlements	Chilcote	7	Chilcote Village Hall
	Charley	31	Oaks Storer Hall

Availability

Most of the 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.

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		
	17	Hugglescote Community Centre	Church Lads & Church Girls Brigade. Mothers Union. Table Tennis. Zumba. Ballet Dance & Tap. Toddler Groups.	
	34	Ravenstone Village Hall	Boot camps, wellbeing groups, pre-school, fitness groups.	
	38	Thringstone Miners Social Centre		
	40	Whitwick Constitutional Club		
	41	Whitwick Park Hall		
	42	The Marlene Reid Centre		
Ashby	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.
	43	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
	44	Ashby Methodist Church Hall		
	45	Our Lady of Lourdes		
	46	The Beeches, Ashby		
	47	Lyric Rooms		
	48	Ivanhoe Social Club		
	49	Ashby Baptist Church		
	50	Ashby Congregational Church		
	51	Ashby Rugby Club.		

Settlement	ID	Site	Known activities	Consultation comments
	53	Venture Theatre		
	54	Willesley Golf Club		
Castle Donington	29	Moira Dale Village Hall	Dance, yoga, nursery, baby groups	
	35	Spital Park pavilion	Predominantly used by football clubs using the Spital Park.	
	37	The Community Hub	Community library, café, community groups, nursery.	
Ibstock	2	Baptist Church		
	9	Community College		
	11	Ibstock Town Cricket Club		
	18	Ibstock Scout Hut		
Kegworth	19	Kegworth Bowls Club		
	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.	
Moira (including Norris Hill)	1	Ashby Woulds Community Hub		

Settlement	ID	Site	Known activities	Consultation comments
	30	Moira Village Hall	Holiday clubs, children's parties, community café.	
Long Whatton	16	Friendship Centre	Community café, yoga, dance.	
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.
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	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
	32	Oakthorpe Leisure Centre		
Blackfordby	52	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	10	Conery Pavilion		
	39	Appleby Magna Village Hall		

Settlement	ID	Site	Known activities	Consultation comments
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. Social Centre is in a poor condition and requires investment.
Lockington/ Hemington	24	Lockington and Hemington Village Hall		
Osgathorpe	55	Harley Hall	Dance classes, fitness sessions and Parish Council meetings	Site requires investment to ensure it is fully accessible.
Chilcote	7	Chilcote Village Hall		
Charley	31	Oaks Storer Hall		

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

Facility type	**Village halls**	
Elements	**Assessment finding**	**Specific facility needs**
Quantity	There are 55 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.
Quality	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.	
Accessibility	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.
Availability (Management and usage)	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**
Summary	There are 55 community facilities in North West Leicestershire serving both urban and rural communities. Three settlements (Worthington, Albert Village, and Ellistown) as part of the analysis do not have a facility available to hire. Venue utilisation is strong and reflects community need. A variety of different activities is offered ranging from baby groups, to martial arts. 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. 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. 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.	

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.

Appendix E

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE STUDY

NOVEMBER 2025

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd
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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[1]' 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.

[1] Assessing Needs and Opportunities

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

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.

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

Overarching
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.
Protect
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.
Enhance
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.
Provide
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.

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[2] 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.

[2] Physical literacy is the motivation, confidence, physical competence and understanding to value and take responsibility for engagement in physical activities

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.

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

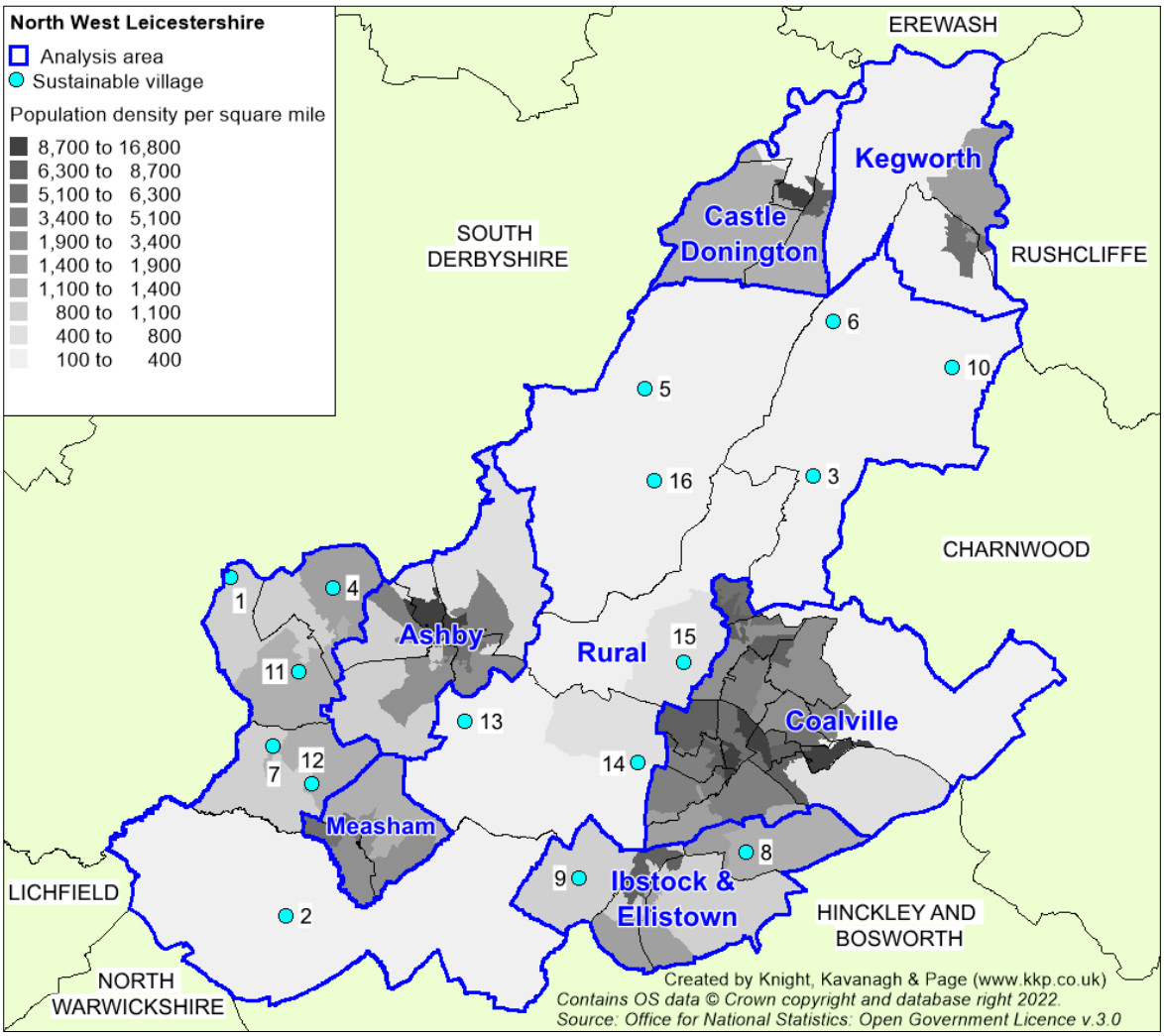
Analysis area	Population[3]
Ashby de la Zouch	15,356
Castle Donington	7,328
Coalville	39,564
Ibstock & Ellistown	11,009
Kegworth	5,085
Measham	5,443
Rural	23,887
North West Leicestershire	**107,672**

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)

[3] Mid-Year Estimates (2022), Office for National Statistics

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

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)
◂ KKP reference number (used for mapping) ◂ Site name ◂ Ownership (if known) ◂ Management (if known) ◂ Typology ◂ Size (hectares) ◂ Site audit data

Sites are primarily identified by KKP in the audit using official site names, where possible, and/or secondly using road names and locations.

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).

Quality	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.
Quantity	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.
Accessibility	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.

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)
◂ Physical access, e.g., public transport links, directional signposts.
◂ Personal security, e.g., site is overlooked, natural surveillance.
◂ Access-social, e.g., appropriate minimum entrance widths.
◂ Parking, e.g., availability, specific, disabled parking.
◂ Information signage, e.g., presence of up-to-date site information, notice boards.
◂ Equipment and facilities, e.g., assessment of both adequacy and maintenance of provision such as seats, benches, bins, toilets.
◂ Location value, e.g., proximity of housing, other greenspace.
◂ Site problems, e.g., presence of vandalism, graffiti.
◂ Healthy, safe and secure, e.g., fencing, gates, staff on site.
◂ Maintenance and cleanliness, e.g., condition of general landscape & features.
◂ Groups that the site meets the needs of, e.g., elderly, young people.
◂ Site potential e.g., possible enhancements to improve a site.

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.

The value criteria set for audit assessment is derived from:

Value criteria for open space site visits (score)
◂ 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. ◂ Context of site in relation to other open spaces. ◂ Structural and landscape benefits, e.g., well located, high quality defining the identity/ area. ◂ Ecological benefits, e.g., supports/promotes biodiversity and wildlife habitats. ◂ Educational benefits, e.g., provides learning opportunities on nature/historic landscapes. ◂ Social inclusion and health benefits, e.g., promotes civic pride, community ownership and a sense of belonging; helping to promote well-being. ◂ Cultural and heritage benefits, e.g., historic elements/links (e.g., listed building, statues) and high-profile symbols of local area. ◂ Amenity benefits and a sense of place, e.g., attractive places that are safe and well maintained; helping to create specific neighbourhoods and landmarks. ◂ Economic benefits, e.g., enhances property values, promotes economic activity and attracts people from near and far.

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.

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 KKPs 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.

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.

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)[4]
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
TOTAL	**199**	**321**

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
Total	**62**	**97**

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.

[4] Rounded to the nearest whole number

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
Total	**15**	**144**

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%

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
Total	**9**	**49.34**	**0.46**

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.

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

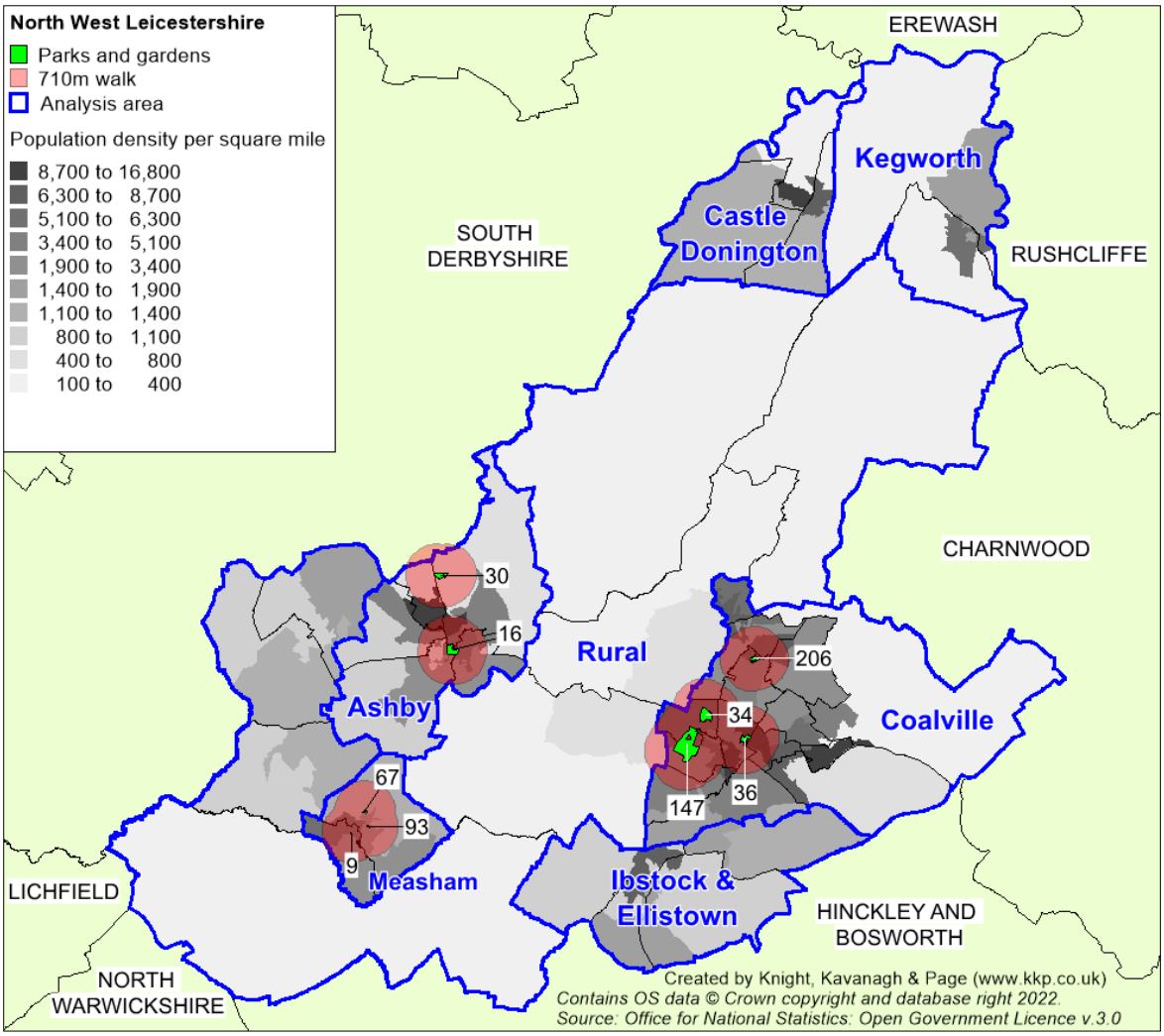


Table 4.2: Key to sites mapped

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%

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

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
Total	**36%**	**59%**	**82%**	**4**	**4**

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.

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
Total	**37%**	**43%**	**51%**	**0**	**8**

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.

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.

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	-	-	-
Total	**10**	**164.46**	**1.53**

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.

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

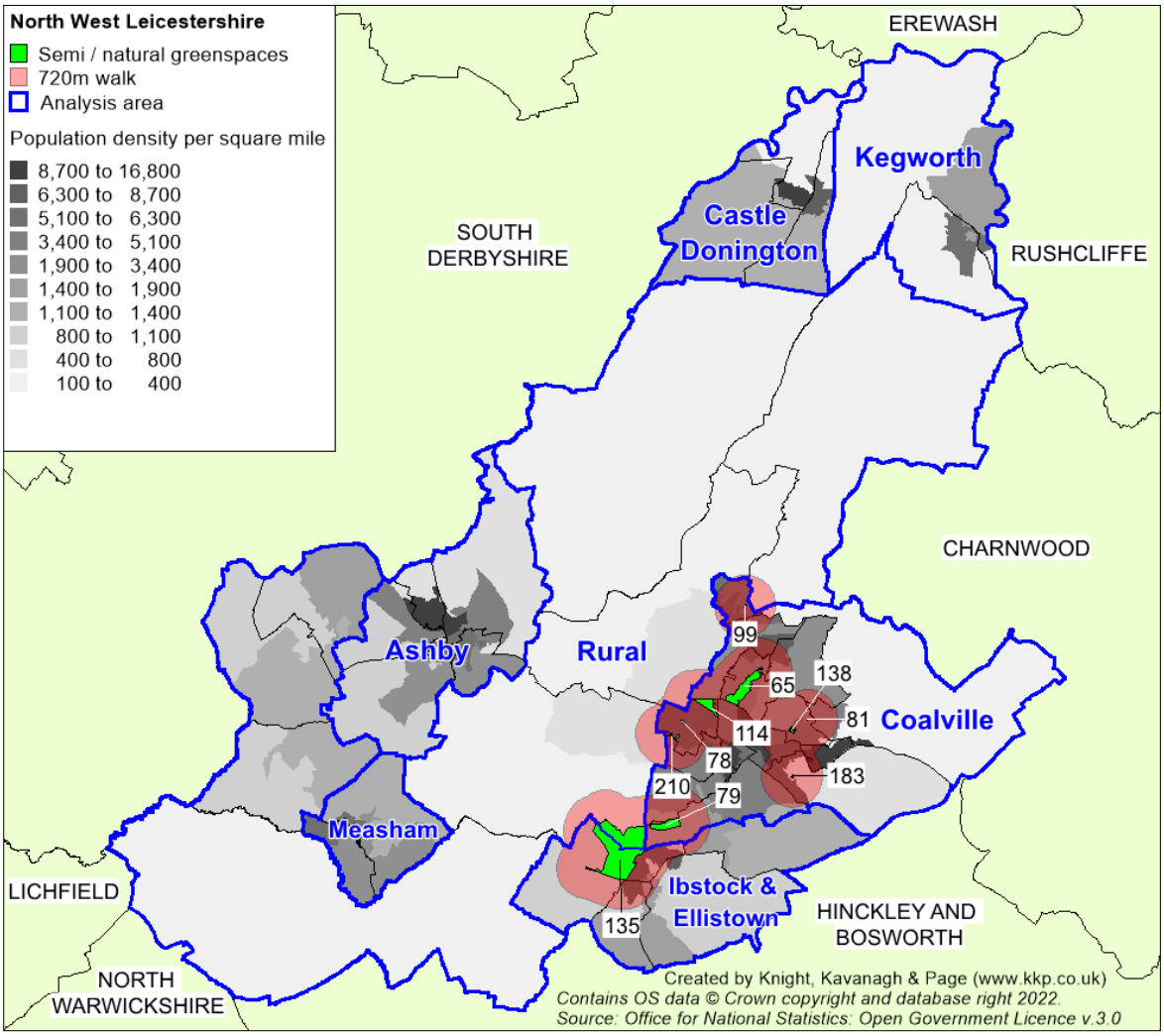


Table 5.2: Key to sites mapped

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[5]	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)	Parks
	Cliftonthorpe Activity Park (ID 30)	Parks
	Highgate (ID 68)	Amenity
	Hood Park (ID 70)	Amenity
	Memorial Field (ID 101)	Amenity
	Prior Park Road Field (ID 125)	Amenity
	School Lane (ID 134)	Amenity
	Stuart Way (ID 175)	Amenity
	Ulleswater Crescent (ID 189)	Amenity
	Western Park (ID 195)	Amenity
	Westfields Recreation Ground (ID 197)	Amenity
	Willesley Recreation Ground (ID 207)	Amenity
Castle Donington	Bentley Road (ID 17)	Amenity
	Goddards Drive (ID 49)	Amenity
	Merchantman Mews (ID 102)	Amenity
	Moira Dale Recreation Ground (ID 112)	Amenity
	Spital Park (ID 150)	Amenity
	Stonehill (ID 173)	Amenity
Coalville	Ashburton Road Recreation ground (ID 5)	Amenity
	Kirkhill Close (ID 83)	Amenity
	Millfield Recreation Ground (ID 107)	Amenity

[5] No quality/value score as site could not be accessed at time of visit

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	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**24%**	**53%**	**82%**	**2**	**3**

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	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**29%**	**39%**	**48%**	**0**	**5**

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.

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
Total	**60**	**58.05**	**0.54**

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.

Figure 6.1: Amenity greenspaces with a 6-minute (480m) walk catchment

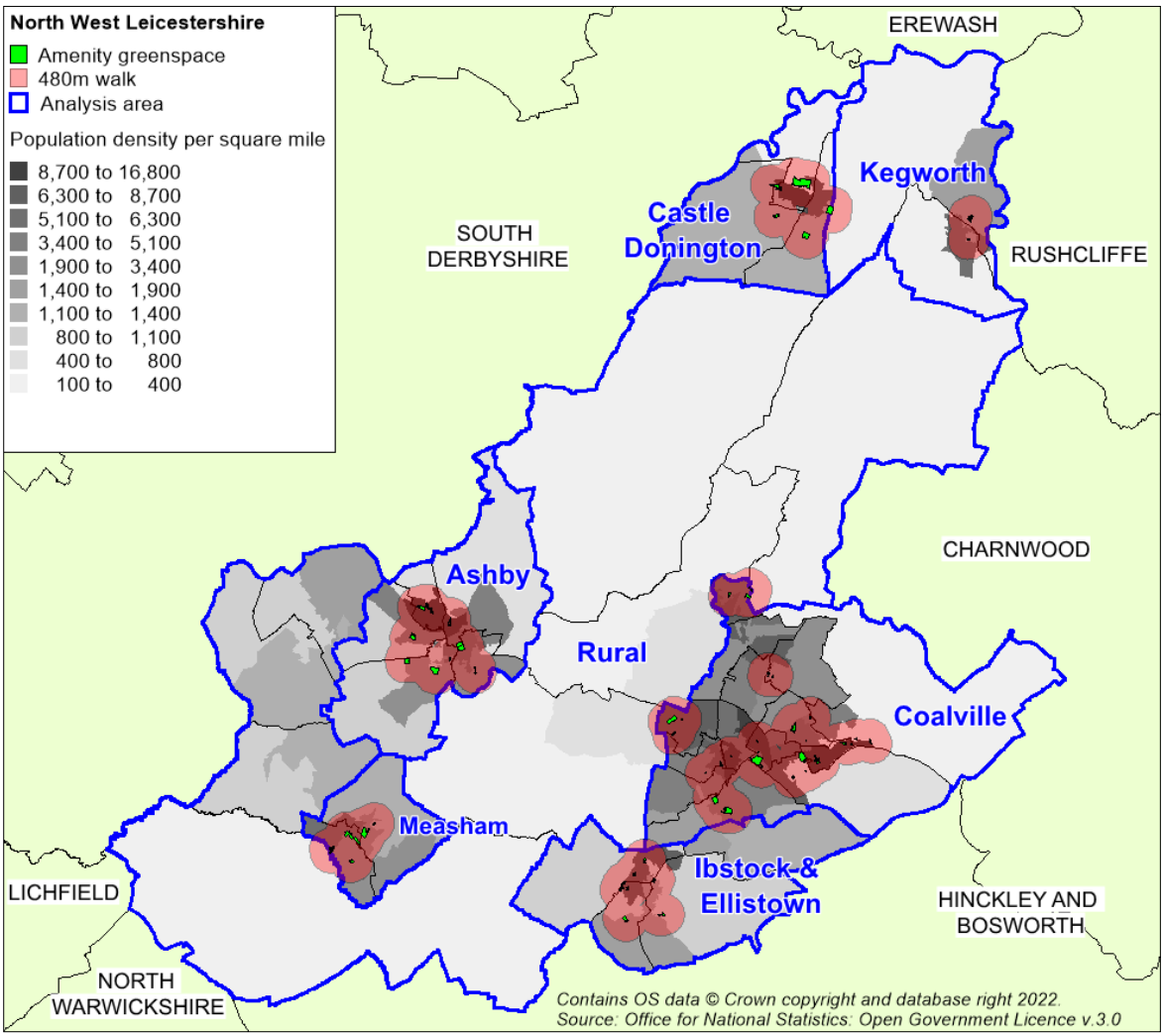


Table 6.2: Key to sites mapped

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%

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%

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	-

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
Total	**23%**	**45%**	**85%**	**29**	**31**

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.

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
Total	**12%**	**30%**	**55%**	**11**	**49**

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.

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.

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
Total	**87**	**8.13**	**0.08**

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.

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

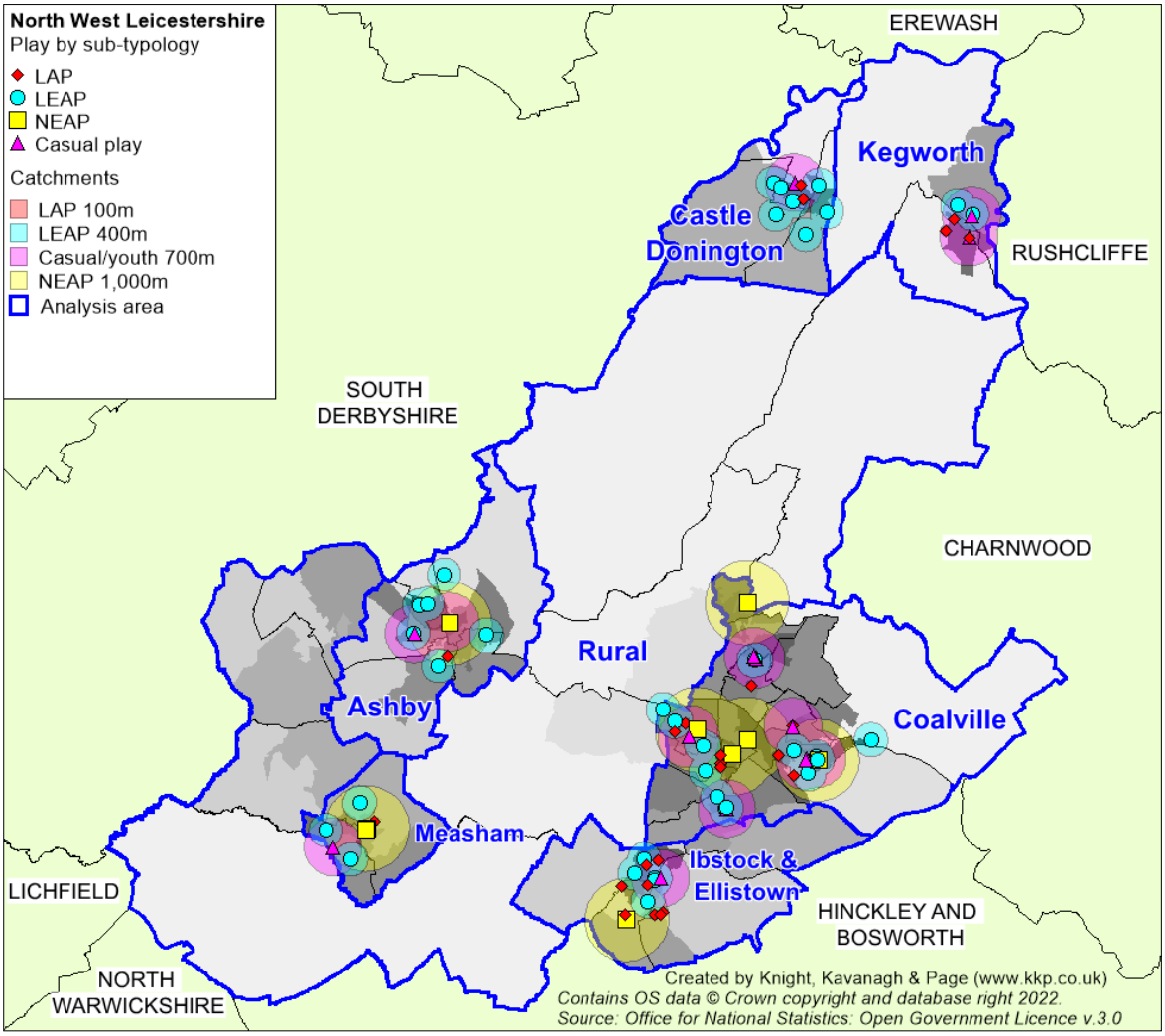


Table 7.2: Key to sites mapped

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%

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%

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%

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.

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
Total	**32%**	**56%**	**93%**	**27**	**59**

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.

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
Total	**13%**	**39%**	**73%**	**4**	**82**

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.

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
Total	**15**	**19.83**	**0.18**

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

Figure 8.1: Allotments mapped

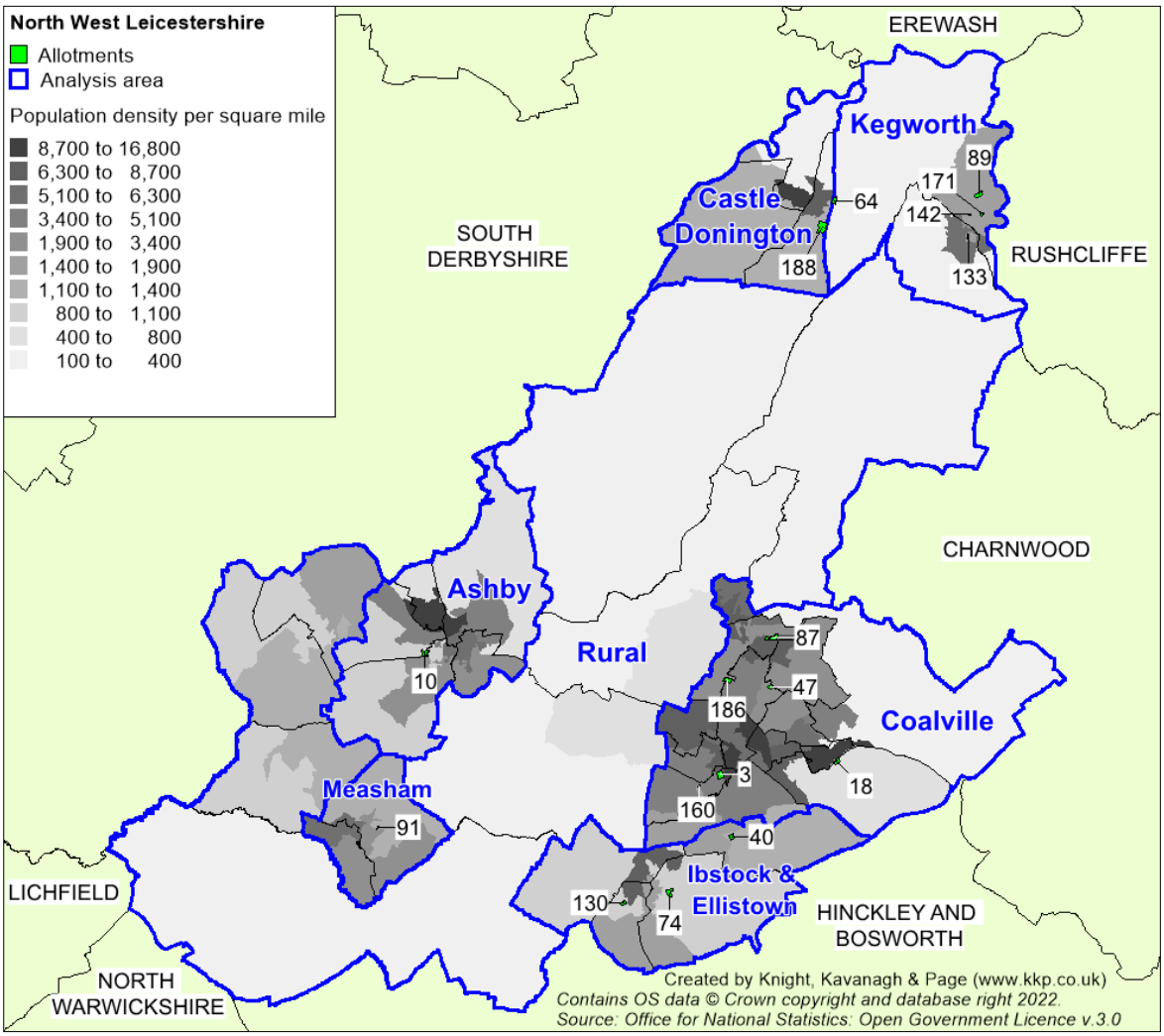


Table 8.2: Key to sites mapped

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

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
Total		**370**	**39**

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.

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
Total	**18**	**21.53**

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.

Figure 9.1: Cemetery sites mapped

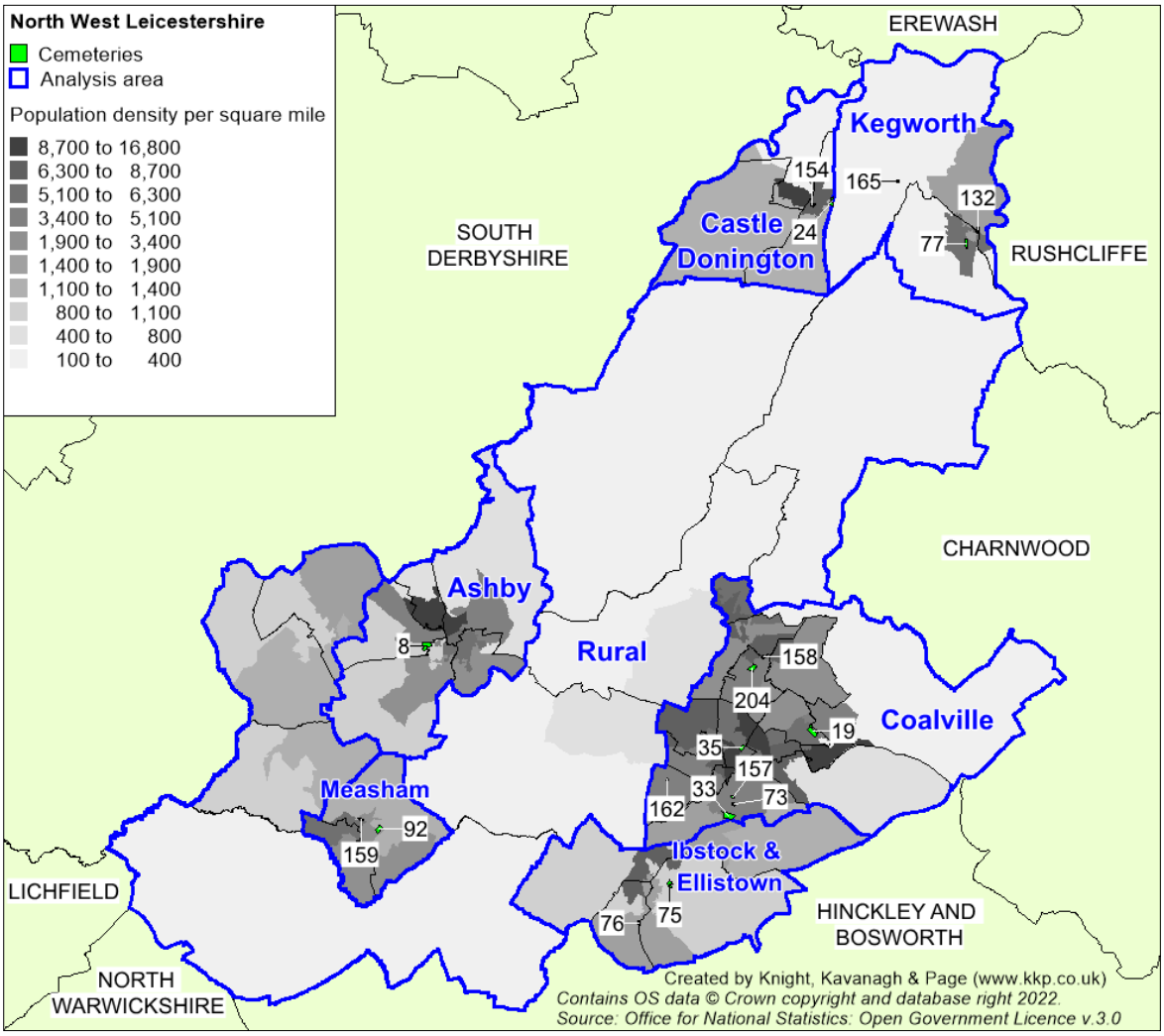


Table 9.2: Key to sites mapped

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

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.

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

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 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.

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

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.

It is therefore recommended that the FIT standards approach is retained.

Table 10.3.2: Recommended quantity standards (hectares per 1,000 population)

Typology	Recommended Quantity Standard
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.

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	
Current total provision level	**0.46**		**1.53**		**0.54**		**0.18**		**0.08**	
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.

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

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

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.

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.

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[6] per dwelling. Note the figures can be updated as required over the Local Plan period to reflect changes in population projections and dwelling numbers.

[6] ONS, Families and households in the UK (2024)

On this basis, using the recommended quantity standards[7], 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

[7] recommended quantity standard (ha per 1,000 population) x population increase / 1000 = estimated requirement

Table 10.4.4: Open space requirements (hectares) by future housing growth commitments plus proposed local plan allocations[8]

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.

[8] As of 1st April 2024

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[9] 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)

[9] ONS, Families and households in the UK (2024)

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 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.

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.

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Ashby Sports Hub

Key Points

- 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).
- New facilities that are required in the Area include two 11v11 size 3G (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, archery, and cycling provision.
- A wider feasibility study is required to fully understand if this facility mix could form a new dedicated sports hub site.
- 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.
- 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 Ivanhoe 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. This could be accompanied by a multipurpose community room within accompanying ancillary facilities.

Sports Facilities

Football

- There is currently a shortfall in youth 11v11 and 9v9 pitch sizes in the Ashby area. All other pitch sizes meet demand.
- Future demand based on population growth aligned to the Local Plan would lead to a shortfall in all pitch sizes except adult pitches.
- If small quality improvements were made to the pitches (maintenance and drainage), then there would be no current shortfalls.
- However, with small quality improvements there would still be future shortfalls in all pitch sizes except adults.
- If quality improvements were made to pitches that got them all to a standard of ‘good’, then there would only be future shortfalls in children’s 7v7 and 5v5 pitch sizes.
- If clubs develop as per their aspirations, then this would lead to future shortfalls in youth 11v11 and 9v9 as well.
- If the number of football teams in Ashby grow at the same rate as they have since 2017 then there would be a shortfall in all pitch sizes.

3G Pitches

- There is currently a shortfall of just over tw0 full-size 3G pitches in the Ashby area.

- With future demand, this shortfall increases to just under three full-size 3G pitches.
- A rugby compliant 3G pitch would remove the future shortfall for rugby union pitches.

Rugby Union

- There is a current shortfall in rugby union pitch provision in the Ashby area, which will increase with future demands.
- If pitch quality improvements were made, this would effectively meet current shortfalls, but there would still be a future shortfall.
- If lighting were installed on all pitches, this would meet future demand.
- If a rugby 3G compliant pitch was developed, this would also meet future demand.

Hockey

- Demand is currently met in Ashby.
- Future demand is likely to create a shortfall in provision in the Ashby area, although this could be met in the Coalville area. Therefore, there is no need for new provision.

Cricket

- Current cricket demand in Ashby is met.
- Future demand is likely to create a shortfall in provision on Saturdays.
- This shortfall could be met by reinstating unused cricket squares

Tennis

- There is no shortfall of outdoor tennis courts in Ashby either currently or in the future.
- There is a shortfall of seven padel courts across the district.
- There Lawn Tennis Association identifies a shortfall of indoor tennis provision in Ashby with Ashby Castle Lawn TC also stating an aspiration to access indoor tennis courts

Netball

- Current and future demand in Ashby is met by current provision

Athletics

- There is demand for a New;Gen facility in the district

Bowls

- Current demand in Ashby is met by current provision, although future demand may create a shortfall in provision.

Sports Halls

- Whilst there is adequate provision to meet demand in Ashby, consultation indicates there is an unmet demand.
- Future demand may also create a shortfall.
- However, if sports hall provision is delivered in Castle Donington and Isley Woodhouse, this will likely meet future demand.

Swimming Pools

- Current and future demand for swimming pools is met by current provision.
- Supply could be increased with the temporary covering of Ashby Lido.

Fitness Rooms

- Current and future demand for fitness rooms is met by current provision.

Gymnastics

- There is a potential shortfall of a purpose built gymnastics facility in the district.

Squash

- Current and future demand for squash is met by current provision.

Community Buildings

- There is a shortfall of a larger community facility in the Ashby area
- Ashby Town Council have secured land for a facility as part of the Moneyhill development and are developing an evidence base to support the need for such a facility

Open Space

- The Ashby area is noted as having potential shortfalls in allotments and play areas.

Sports Clubs

Football

- None of the football clubs consulted report aspirations to relocate to a hub site and prefer to improve their current facilities.
- Assistance can be provided to Ashby Ivanhoe FC and Ashby United Community FC to 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.

Cricket

- Neither Packington CC nor Ashby Hastings CC indicate an aspiration to relocate.

Tennis

- Ashby Castle Lawn TC state an aspiration to access indoor tennis courts.

Bowls

- No identified demand for relocation.

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

- Ivanhoe Robins Junior AC has clear ambitions to establish provision to service its demand with the current lack of provision restricting its growth.

The recognition of the shortage of 3G pitch provision for football, hockey and rugby union in Ashby de la Zouch is welcomed. However, the report is unclear on how this can be alleviated and some more concrete proposals would have been helpful.

This was not part of the scope for the work and it is not standard practice to identify site-specific projects at strategy stage without full feasibility and viability assessment. At this stage, strategies should focus on establishing high-level need and priorities rather than committing to specific sites.

Priorities are more appropriately refined during the initial delivery stage once feasibility, deliverability, and long-term sustainability can be tested. This work is typically undertaken in partnership with the relevant National Governing Bodies to ensure strategic alignment and sport-specific requirements are met.

Alignment with Football Foundation priorities and the Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) is also considered at this delivery stage, enabling an evidence-led and fundable pipeline of projects while reducing delivery risk.

It is stated that some shortfalls can be met by improving the quality of pitches. It needs to be recognised that this may require a higher level of skill to maintain these pitches. We are particularly concerned about the pitches managed by the Town Council where additional resources will be required.

This is just one option to meet shortfalls and the town council will need to identify which option is best for them.

Part 5: Strategic Recommendations, Recommendation D (Improve Quality), identifies a range of support mechanisms available to assist in improving pitch quality. These include the Ground Management Association Pitch Advisory Service, Pitch Power, the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund, and the Groundskeeping Community Online.

In addition, Part 7: Housing Scenarios highlights the potential to secure Section 106 contributions from local housing developments to fund off-site pitch improvements.

The recommendations are intentionally broad to ensure applicability across a range of asset holders, including the Council, Parish and Town Councils, education providers, and sports clubs. Furthermore, the Action Plan identifies key partners for each site and pitch typology, who are expected to work collaboratively to deliver the recommendations.

On page 67 it is stated that the Town Council manages the 3G pitch in Hood Park. This is not the case. It is managed by NWLDC.

This has been amended.

On page 69 reference is made to the Cricket Club and Bowls Club on the Bath Grounds. In one instance it is stated that management is undertaken by the Sport Club and in the other Ashby Town Council. Ashby Town Council owns the Bath Grounds and the two sports grounds. The Bowls and Cricket clubs lease their grounds from the Town Council and the clubs are responsible for management of the grounds, although the public has access to some parts of the cricket ground when matches are not being played.

This has been amended.

Appendix B

Section 11 discusses Community Buildings. It is disappointing that the report does not give a clear definition of a community facility. This has resulted in inconsistencies between the venues identified for the different settlements, making realistic comparisons very difficult and misleading.

The introduction intends to encapsulate what a community facility is for the purposes of the study. It states 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"*. This is considered to reflect the fluid and varied nature of such provision.

The report states that identified venues are self-managed either by the parish/town council itself or via a charitable organisation but of the seven venues identified in Ashby, two are clearly not charities (The Beeches and Lyric Rooms). I'm not sure whether a similar discrepancy exists for other settlements.

This has been amended to "most" to be consistent with the wording elsewhere in the strategy.

Of the seven venues identified for Ashby, the Lyric Rooms is a commercial event space and the Beeches is a room attached to a public house. No other venues of this type have been identified for other settlements. A further two are churches with limited capacity and one is a membership social club. Only two of the seven could be considered as community facilities as generally recognised (Legion House and St Helen's Community Centre). Both of these have limited capacity for a settlement the size of Ashby.

Part 11.3 sets out the approach as to how sites were identified for inclusion. The sites listed/mentioned above are considered to fall within the facility roles set out in the introduction.

The listing of these venues is misleading when compared with other settlements and arises from no clear definition of a community facility.

See above.

Section 11.2 states the number of venues is 45 when there are 46 listed. In the associated Strategy & Action Plan it is stated there are 53 venues (page 8). The same page says there are 10 venues in Ashby (an inflated 7 listed previously) and Coalville has 4 (8 listed). Clearly the comparisons are highly misleading and give completely the wrong impression.

Numbers cited have been amended to ensure consistency.

We are also disappointed that the report makes no effort to quantify the shortfall of community facilities in the various settlements and relies on work being undertaken by Ashby Town Council. Why is a different approach taken for all other types of facility and settlements? Our understanding was that the whole purpose of the report was to undertake the required analysis.

Part 11.2 details that, unlike other sports facilities, there is no national guidance or advice as to what an acceptable level for community facilities is. The section sets out the method used (p102). The work being undertaken by Ashby Town is recognised and signposted to as this

will clearly quantify the demand initially highlighted by the town council. The paragraph at top of p103 also states that given the size of the town, it would be unusual for there not to be a large, multifunctional community building to service local need.

Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe and Acresford Parish Council

Donisthorpe currently has three playing pitches, two of which are located off Ramscliffe Avenue/Church Street. These pitches are used regularly by registered football teams and by local residents. Despite this high level of use, the site has no dedicated parking and no changing facilities, which causes severe parking congestion at the pitch entrance and throughout the Ramscliffe estate on match days and during training sessions.

This is generally not within the scope of a Playing Pitches and Outdoor Sports Strategy as these focus on grass pitches and not ancillary facilities such as changing and parking provision. If guided by National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGB's), consideration may be given to them but this would only be for larger scale sites with multiple facilities. Assessment of the suitability of these elements and, if pertinent, an evidence base to support the need for enhanced ancillary facilities would be highlighted through the Football Foundation's Local Football Facilities Plan (LFFP). Council officers will contact the Football Foundation to endeavour to ensure inclusion within the most recent version of the LFFP.

As with many pieces of land in the village, the field suffers from waterlogging and drainage problems. This has been raised consistently over the years and continues to affect playability, maintenance requirements, and long-term pitch quality. Proper drainage infrastructure will be essential for any future improvement works.
However, drainage projects of this scale bring significant cost implications, which have historically prevented action from being taken. Addressing drainage must therefore form part of any future investment strategy alongside improved facilities.

Part 5: Strategic Recommendations, Recommendation D (Improve Quality), identifies a range of support mechanisms available to assist in improving pitch quality. These include the Ground Management Association Pitch Advisory Service, Pitch Power, the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund, and the Groundskeeping Community Online.

In addition, Part 7: Housing Scenarios highlights the potential to secure Section 106 contributions from local housing developments to fund off-site pitch improvements.

The recommendations are intentionally broad to ensure applicability across a range of asset holders, including the Council, Parish and Town Councils, education providers, and sports clubs. Furthermore, the Action Plan identifies key partners for each site and pitch typology, who are expected to work collaboratively to deliver the recommendations.

A further concern is the lack of accessibility for physically disabled residents and visitors. There is currently no hard standing, pathway or accessible route to the pitches, meaning wheelchair users, those with mobility difficulties, and families with pushchairs are unable to safely or independently reach the field.
Creating inclusive, accessible access routes must be a priority within any future development plans to ensure the site is usable for the whole community, not only for those able to navigate uneven grassed areas.

This is generally not within the scope of a Playing Pitches and Outdoor Sports Strategy as these focus on grass pitches and not ancillary facilities. Assessment of the suitability of

these elements and, if pertinent, an evidence base to support the need for enhanced ancillary facilities would be highlighted through the Football Foundation's Local Football Facilities Plan (LFFP). Council officers will contact the Football Foundation to endeavour to ensure inclusion within the most recent version of the LFFP.

Given the longstanding challenges, the Parish Council believes that future development within Donisthorpe provides a vital opportunity to secure developer contributions.

The strategies will give the evidence base to be able to secure developer contributions for those elements contained within them.

The Parish Council would also like to highlight the potential for outdoor exercise equipment to be installed around the perimeter of the field. This would provide free, accessible fitness opportunities for residents of all ages and increase year-round use of the space. Developer funding provides a practical way to deliver these improvements.

This was not within the scope of any of the strategies commissioned.

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – WEDNESDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2026

Title of Report	**STENSON GARDENS UPDATE**	
Presented by	Richard Blunt Leader of the Council	
Background Papers	Cabinet October 2024 Coalville Regeneration Framework (2023) Council Delivery Plan Council 22 February 2023	**Public Report:** Yes
Financial Implications	It is proposed that the next stages of work for Stenson Gardens are funded from the Council Regeneration Capital programme where an allocation has previously been agreed at Council on 22 February 2023.	
	Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: Yes	
Legal Implications	The Stenson Square site is predominately located on land owned by North West Leicestershire District Council. At its periphery the proposals extend on to Leicestershire County Council Highways land. Public realm works will be undertaken using Permitted Development rights so do not require a specific planning consent. All procurement activity associated with consultant appointments, the preparation of RIBA Stage 4–5 documentation, and subsequent contractor procurement will be undertaken in accordance with the Procurement Act 2023.	
	Signed off by the Deputy Monitoring Officer: Yes	
Staffing and Corporate Implications	The project will be delivered using existing Economic Regeneration staff resources.	
	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes	
Purpose of Report	To introduce the Stenson Gardens project to the Community Scrutiny Committee, setting out the business case, progress to date and providing an opportunity for Members to comment on the RIBA Stage 3 design proposals for the public realm.	

Recommendations	THAT COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: **1) NOTES THE FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSION CARRIED OUT 8 OCTOBER 2025** **2) PROVIDES COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS ON STENSON GARDENS DRAFT RIBA STAGE 3 PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION BY CABINET AT ITS MEETING ON 24 MARCH 2026.**

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 The regeneration of Coalville is a key priority within the Council Delivery Plan and the Stenson Gardens project is one of the flagship schemes highlighted in the Coalville Regeneration Framework.

1.2 The creation of Stenson Gardens will contribute to the Council's long held ambition to deliver the Prince's Foundation '4 squares' strategic vision for Coalville.

1.3 The Stenson Gardens project comprises two principal parts; firstly the creation of a new public realm to the front of Stenson House, incorporating London Road car park, and secondly the redevelopment of the now cleared former Council offices site for residential use.

1.4 Through work by Ove Arup (a leading land use consultancy), the public realm element of this project has been progressed to RIBA Stage 3 designs (a level of design evolution sufficient to show general arrangements and material choices). The associated proposals for residential development on the former Council offices site have been developed in parallel up to RIBA Stage 2, also by Ove Arup. RIBA Stage 2 residential designs are concept design only.

1.5 The project has benefited from cross-party input from members during the design process to date.

1.6 There has also been input from stakeholders such as the Registrar's service, Citizens Advice Bureau and Council staff that work from Stenson House to inform the design. In addition, a public engagement session was held on 8 October 2025. The feedback report is appended here at Appendix 1 and a draft response to comments raised at the engagement session is appended at Appendix 2.

1.7 Engagement with the Council's Planning Service has clarified that the public realm proposals that have been developed to RIBA Stage 3 do not require the making of a separate planning application but can be delivered under Permitted Development rights.

2.0 NEXT STEPS - PUBLIC REALM

2.1 To move from the current stage of development towards construction, it is necessary to undertake RIBA Stage 4 activities including preparation of a detailed Specification of Works and other documents that can be used to procure a contractor (tendering exercise).

2.2 At this stage it is anticipated that, subject to advice from the procurement team, the contractor will be procured using a mini competition or direct award from a framework.

2.3 Any procurement route selected, whether through a framework mini-competition or compliant direct award, will be assessed and documented in accordance with the Procurement Act 2023 duties of fairness, equal treatment, and integrity.

3.0 NEXT STEPS - RESIDENTIAL

3.1 The next stage to progress the residential element of the project is to make an outline planning application for this part of the site. This will derisk the residential development project and give confidence to potential purchasers when the site is placed on the market as well as increasing the land value.

3.2 There is not sufficient internal capacity and expertise to take forward the residential development in-house, so it is intended to place the land on the market with planning consent.

3.3 Consultancy support will be required to make and progress the outline residential planning application including commissioning all supporting documentation e.g. Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy.

4.0 FINANCE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Ove Arup has provided a fee quotation of £156,258 to progress the public realm element of the project to the point at which a Construction Contractor can be appointed.

4.2 As described in Section 2 above, this quotation is believed to offer good value to the Council because of retained knowledge and project continuity. The fee can be met from the existing capital programme allocation subject to moving the required sum from the development pool to the active programme.

4.3 A full report on the cost of construction will be presented to Cabinet on completion of contractor procurement prior to the award of contract.

4.4 It is expected that the net proceeds from sale of the former Council Offices site will make a significant contribution towards recovering the public realm works costs.

5.0 PROJECT OUTCOMES

5.1 The desired outcomes for the Stenson Gardens project are as follows:

- To create a high quality visually attractive arrival point in the town, at the junction between two key roads and outside Stenson House.

- To create a space from which residents can draw civic pride, but which can also be used for socialising.

- To link the London Road public car park (adjacent) to Stenson House.

- To support the use of Stenson House particularly by the Registrars Service by providing an attractive environment for wedding photographs etc.

- To guide pedestrians towards the town centre and the town's other public places such as Memorial Square, and Marlborough Square.

- To create a wider attractive environment for high quality residential accommodation on the former Council Offices site.

- To create an attractive street scene on Whitwick Road.

- To continue to provide vehicular access for residents on Park Road.

- To continue to provide vehicular access for the Coalville Bowls Club.

- To ensure through good design that the residential development and Stenson House and Stenson Square Gardens operate in a co-ordinated way.

6.0 PUBLIC REALM PROPOSAL - DETAILED OVERVIEW

6.1 The draft general layout arrangement and designs for the public realm are set out in the attached appendices (Appendices 3-7).

7.0 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK

7.1 A community engagement exercise was conducted to seek input from the public and stakeholders into the Stenson Gardens project. Key takeaways from the exercise include:

- Suggestion to include a water pump – given that the town pump was located in the vicinity of Stenson Gardens.
- Desire to ensure that any public realm improvements are properly maintained in the future
- Concerns that the public realm works will attract anti-social behaviour
- No strong support for either the public realm or the housing elements of the scheme, largely citing that Council funds could be better spent elsewhere.
- Opinion was divided regarding the best form of tenure new housing could take (e.g. social housing or market housing).

7.2 Please see both the post engagement feedback report and the 'you said, we did' document appended at Appendices 1 and 2. These comments have been taken on board by the design team when preparing the RIBA Stage 3 draft designs.

8.0 LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL HIGHWAYS

8.1 Part of the RIBA 3 design proposals include proposed resurfacing work to Leicestershire County Council (LCC) footways on Whitwick Road and London Road, adjacent to the Stenson Gardens site. Approval for resurfacing of the public footway with a material consistent with that proposed to be used in Stenson Gardens will require LCC consent and approval for this is now being sought.

9.0 PROJECT RISKS

9.1 Detailed project risks are identified in the RAID Risk Register and include materials availability, contractor pricing, further pandemics, Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), inflation etc.

9.2 The project timetable has been assessed in the context of the anticipated LGR timeline, and a delivery plan will be maintained to ensure continuity should governance arrangements change.

10.0 PROJECT TIMESCALES

10.1 Ove Arup have advised us as part of their fee proposal for RIBA Stage 4-5 that they are likely to require 15 weeks from appointment to prepare documentation ready for contractor procurement.

11.0 APPENDICES

The appendices can be viewed by following the links below:

Appendix 1 – Public engagement feedback report

Appendix 2 – Draft Response to Engagement

Appendix 3 – Draft General arrangement drawing

Appendix 4 – Draft Outline specification

Appendix 5 – Draft Stage 3 Design Report

Appendix 6 – Draft Stage 3 Lighting Design Report

Appendix 7 – Illustrative drawing of Stenson gardens

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	Planning and regeneration
Policy Considerations:	Coalville Regeneration Framework
Safeguarding:	Principles of safeguarding have been taken into account through the design process
Equalities/Diversity:	The public realm has been designed for all users
Customer Impact:	Creation of new public amenity space for enjoyment and relaxation (wellbeing/quality of life)
Economic and Social Impact:	Outline planning permission for circa 40 new dwellings in Coalville Creation of new public amenity space for enjoyment and relaxation (wellbeing/quality of life)
Environment, Climate Change and zero carbon:	Climate resilient planting in Stenson Gardens public realm Tree planting Sustainable Urban Drainage Greening of London Road car park Provision of 4 EV charging points Bio diversity improvements
Consultation/Community Engagement:	Community engagement event undertaken on 8 October 2025 – please see attached feedback report Engagement with stakeholders undertaken as part of RIBA 3 design works e.g. Leicestershire Police Designing Out Crime Officer, Registrars Service, Citizens Advice Bureau, NWLDC staff using Stenson House
Risks:	See 9.0 Project Risks section
Officer Contact	Paul Wheatley Head of Property and Regeneration paul.wheatley@nwleicestershire.gov.uk

Community Scrutiny Committee – WORK PROGRAMME (as at 17/02/26)

Date of Meeting	Item	Lead Officer	Witnesses	Agenda Item Duration
April 2026				
23 April 2026	**Recommendations of the Water Management in the Coalville Strategic Growth Area Task and Finish Group** To consider the review undertaken by the task and finish group and make recommendations to Cabinet	James Arnold, Strategic Director	-	30 minutes
June 2026				
25 June 2026	**Scrutiny Annual Report** To present the work of the two scrutiny committees for the 2025/26 civic year.	James Arnold, Strategic Director of Place	-	30 minutes
25 June 2026	**Resident Involvement Process** Following a request from the Scrutiny Work Programming Group, the Committee are asked to consider the resident involvement process following its review.	Gary Hall, Head of Housing	-	30 minutes

Work requests considered by the Scrutiny Work Programming Group

Work Request	Status/Progress	Committee date to be considered (provisional)
National Forest Line	Nothing further to update since cancellation of RYR programme. <u>Previous Updates</u> <u>Update September 2024 (from DfT)</u> • The Chancellor announced the cancellation of the RYR programme in her statement on 29 July 2024. • The RYR projects will now come to an orderly close and no further funding will be provided through the programme. • Where projects are not currently live, no new work will be started. For projects which have development or design work in progress, DfT are considering the best way to bring these projects to a close. • For Ivanhoe, this will mean that no new work will start. • The Chancellor also announced that the Transport Secretary will be undertaking a review of the Department's investment portfolio, including individual RYR projects. • DfT Capital Review underway and is considering alignment of individual infrastructure projects with government's priorities of growth, housing, jobs and value for money. • The review is being progressed in two phases – the first will consider RYR projects plus other Network North proposals, the second will have a larger scope. The outputs will help to inform a wider Spending Review in 2025 however some announcements could be made before then. <u>December 2023</u> It was agreed that there would be further review by Community Scrutiny following item in December 2023 to seek to provide support to the	-

	Ivanhoe/National Forest Line.	
S106 agreements and the transfer of open space and sustainable urban drainage systems	A scrutiny topic suggestion form was considered by the Scrutiny Work Programming Group on June 2025. The Head of Planning was invited to the meeting to assist with the discussion and help scope the proposed scrutiny topic. It was recommended that a first step would be to consult Parish Councils and understand the level of interest and also clarify current approach being followed by the Council which is set out in the current local plan. Agreed that an information paper be prepared by Planning to set out the current position and enable further discussion by the Work Programming Group and to decide on further action.	-
Matters reserved for future consideration		
Housing Assistance Policy for NWLDC	At the Scrutiny Work Programming Group in November 2025, a request was made for a report to committee due to concerns on the delivery of the grants. It was acknowledged that any discussions with Leicestershire County Council would be difficult at this stage of the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) process. It was agreed for further discussions on the matter in Autumn 2026 following formal agreement of the LGR proposals.	TBC
Scoping work on Warehouse Design	At the Scrutiny Work Programming Group meeting in December 2024, a request was made to examine the design of warehouses around the district, given the significant number of them within the district and with further growth projected. It was agreed that scoping work for further discussion will be carried out after the submission of the Local Plan in 2026.	TBC

Principles and Criteria used for Assessing Items Put Forward

Identify Issues for consideration by Scrutiny

- Consulting with members of Scrutiny Committees, senior officers, Cabinet members – horizon scanning on policy development
- Looking at the corporate priorities, Council Delivery Plan and Cabinet Forward plan – identify key issues/topics for investigation/inquiry
- Considering events and decisions in the Council's calendar which could require an input/consultation via scrutiny – eg budget setting, CDP development
- Considering requests from members – eg via another forum or scoping report submitted
- Evaluating the Council's performance – eg quarterly reports, end of year reports, reviewing success of a particular scheme or initiative
- Reviewing any follow up work required after previous scrutiny work

Prioritise the potential list of scrutiny topics based on factors including

- the resources required to deliver it (from members, offices and financially)
- the value and level of impact which could be achieved
- link to the council's priorities
- whether it is a regular recurring item which requires consideration before Cabinet/Council approval
- consideration of the guidance for selecting scrutiny topics

Topics **are** suitable for Scrutiny when	Topics **are not** suitable for Scrutiny when
Scrutiny could have an impact and add value	The issue is already being addressed elsewhere and change is imminent
The topic is of high local importance and reflects the concerns of local people	The topic would be better addressed elsewhere (and will be referred there)
The resources are available that would be required to conduct the review – staff and budget	Scrutiny involvement would have limited or no impact on outcomes
It avoids duplication of work elsewhere	The topic would be sub-judice or prejudicial to the councils interests
The issues is one that the committee can realistically influence	The topic is too broad to make a review realistic
The issue is related to an area where the council or one of its partners is not performing well	New legislation or guidance relating to the topic is expected in the next year

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