

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL BUILT FACILITIES STRATEGY

NEEDS ASSESSMENT – FINAL REPORT

APRIL 2024

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1: Introduction

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) was appointed by Blaby District Council (BDC) to produce its Built Facilities Strategy (BFS) to inform the preparation of the new Local Plan, planning for growth up to 2041.

This needs assessment report (known as the Assessment Report) presents a supply and demand assessment of indoor and built sport facilities across the area and is delivered in accordance with Sport England's 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities' Guidance (ANOG). It is a detailed assessment of current provision of indoor and built sports facilities in the District of Blaby, identifying needs (demand) and gaps (deficiencies).

It is part of a wider series of inter-related documents for sport and recreation that includes a playing pitch strategy assessment report 2024 (PPS).

The inter-relationship between the portfolio of documents must be noted as some sports covered by the PPS also access indoor facilities for matches/training or use such areas on an informal basis. Similarly, there are indoor sports venues which feature playing pitches and/or other outdoor facilities.

The BFS facilities audit was conducted between October and November 2023.

Where access to sites was not available, KKP carried out non-technical quality assessments via desk research, and when possible, quality was accessed via utilising virtual 'walk arounds' of the health and fitness suites or videos and photos present on operators' websites or in discussion with the operator.

1.2: Scope of the project

This report provides detail as to what exists in the Authority, 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 (covering swimming, diving, and water polo), health and fitness, squash, gymnastics, indoor tennis and indoor bowls. In delivering this report KKP has:

- ◀ Individually identified and audited sports halls (conventional i.e., 3+ court halls) swimming pools (minimum size 160m²), health and fitness facilities (including, within reason, dance studios) and the wider range of facilities identified above.
- ◀ 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 with full reference to Council corporate strategies and other relevant strategic influences.
- ◀ Identified areas of good practice and opportunities to improve services and drive up participation levels.

This evidence-based report 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.

In summary, the specific objectives of this audit and assessment are to:

- ◀ Review relevant Council strategies, plans, reports, corporate objectives.

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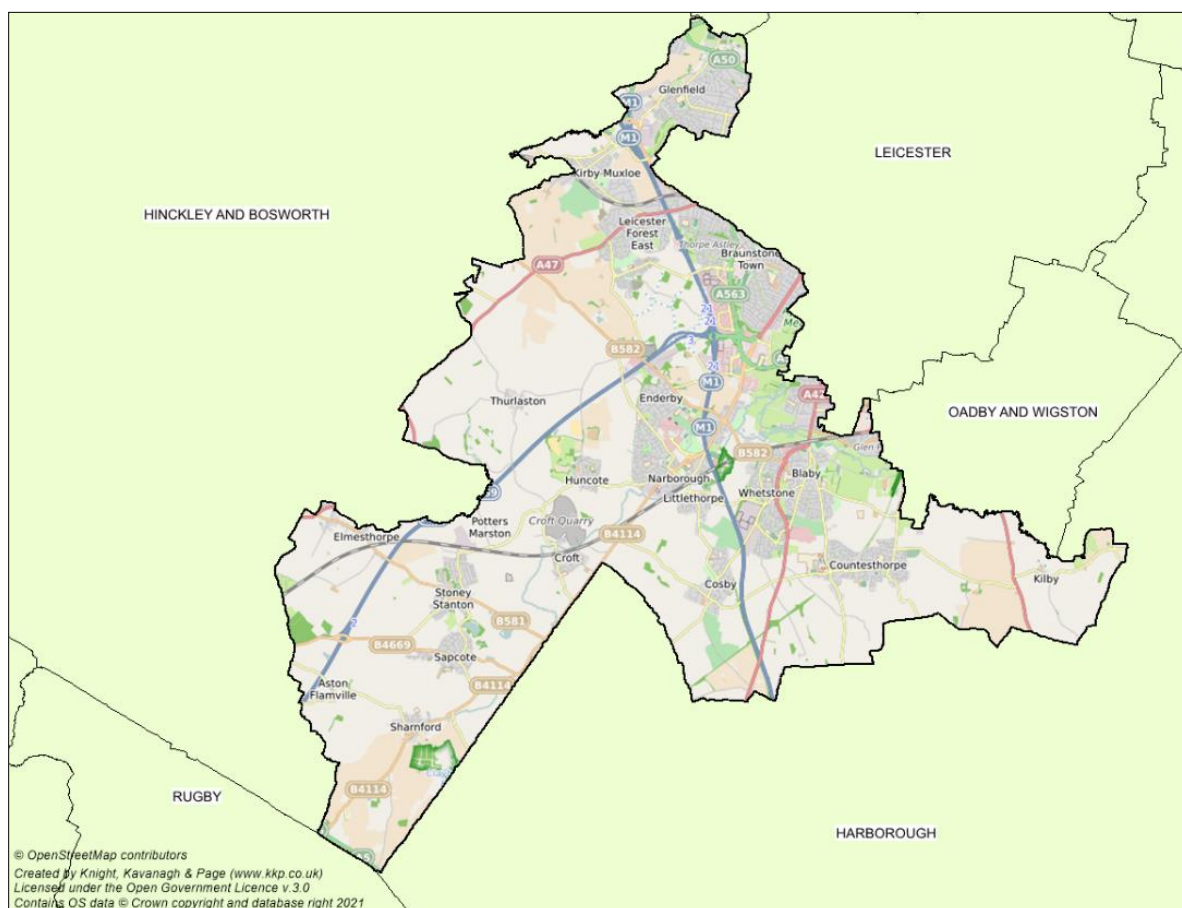
- ◀ Review the local, regional, and national strategic context.
- ◀ Analyse local population demographics at present and in the future (up to 2041).
- ◀ Consider potential participation rates and model likely demand.
- ◀ Audit indoor facilities provided by public, private, voluntary and education sectors.
- ◀ Analyse the balance between supply of, and demand for, sports facilities and identify potential under and over-provision – now and in the future.
- ◀ Identify key issues to address in the future provision of indoor sports facilities.

In addition to conforming to Sport England’s ANOG methodology for assessing indoor sports facilities need, it accords with relevant paragraphs of the most up-to-date version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).

1.3: Background

The District of Blaby is situated in the county of Leicestershire, bordering five authorities: Leicester to the northeast, Oadby and Wigston and Harborough to the east, Rugby to the southwest and Hinkley and Bosworth to the west. It covers a total area of 130.5 km² and is approximately two thirds urban in nature. The district comprises 24 civil parishes, including the parish of Blaby.

Figure 1.1: Blaby with main roads



Several of the urban areas in the north east of the district fall within the Leicester Principal Urban Area and it has a strong spatial relationship with Leicester City. This applies especially to the parishes of Braunstone, Glenfield, Kirby Muxloe, Leicester Forest East and Glen Parva. There are plans to extend this urban area significantly through large scale

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residential development (4,000 dwellings) in the rural parish of Lubbesthorpe and expansion of the industrial area in neighbouring Enderby.

The partnership between the seven local Borough and District Councils, Leicester City Council, Leicestershire County Council and Leicestershire Local Enterprise Partnership will set out an agreed strategy for housing and employment across the county up to 2050. Their Strategic Growth Plan is non-statutory, but the vision set out will be delivered via implementation of individual local authority local plans.

Blaby has good transport links with its neighbouring authorities. Junction 21 of the M1 has recently been a key development area, it includes Fosse Shopping Park, one of the busiest shopping centres in the country. The M1 is the main arterial route running north to south through the authority. From the M1, the M69 runs southwest to Hinkley and Bosworth in the direction of Rugby. Other key routes include the A47, the A426 and the B114. Narborough is home to a train station, offering direct access to Birmingham and Leicester.

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.
- ◀ Be accountable to enable local electorates.

KKP has paid due regard to these strategic principles, and the 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 district.
- ◀ Section 3 - description of methodology employed to assess indoor provision.
- ◀ Section 4 - assessment of sports hall provision.
- ◀ Section 5 - assessment of swimming pool provision.
- ◀ Section 6 - assessment of health and fitness provision.
- ◀ Section 7- assessment of gymnastics.
- ◀ Section 8 - assessment of squash.
- ◀ Section 9 - assessment of indoor bowls.
- ◀ Section 10 - assessment of tennis.
- ◀ Section 11 - assessment of archery.
- ◀ Section 12 - assessment of athletics.
- ◀ Section 13 - initial strategic objectives.

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SECTION 2: BACKGROUND

2.1: National context

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.

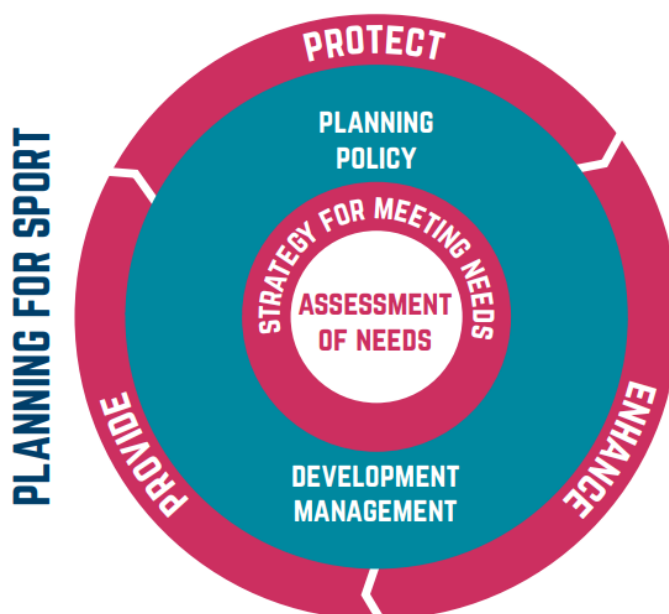
In addition, the recently launched cross-departmental National Physical Activity Taskforce has a focus on environmental sustainability in the sector, clear targets for increasing physical activity rates and a new vision for leisure facilities in 2023.

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 BDC 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

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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



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Sport England: Uniting the movement 2021

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 strategy, Uniting the Movement 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 advocating sport and physical activity via the building of evidence and partnership development, the Strategy identifies five big issues upon which people and communities 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 greatest opportunities to make a lasting difference. They are designated as a building block 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 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.

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Sport England - Understanding the impact of Covid-19 January 2021

Activity levels for adults had been increasing until coronavirus restrictions were introduced in March 2020. This led to unprecedented drops in activity during the first few weeks of full lockdown between mid-March and mid-May 2020. The proportion of the population classed as active dropped by 7.1% (meaning that there were just over 3 million fewer active adults).

Some audiences found it harder to be active before Covid-19 and are finding it hard now. Inequalities between different groups have persisted since lockdown restrictions began in March. Those who found it hardest to stay active include:

- ◀ People with long-term health conditions/disabilities.
- ◀ People from lower socio-economic groups.
- ◀ Women aged 16–34-year-olds and 55 years and above.
- ◀ Black adults, Asian adults, and adults from other ethnic groups

The proportion of children and young people reporting being active during mid-May to late July (the summer term) fell by 2.3%, with just over 100,000 fewer children meeting the recommended level of activity compared to the same period 12 months earlier. The impact was greater for some groups than others. Whilst all were impacted in terms of activity levels, girls fared far better than boys, whilst those from black and mixed backgrounds saw more pronounced drops in activity levels.

Sporting activity saw large decreases with over a million fewer children and young people (16.3%) reporting having taken part in swimming and team sports in the last week* compared to the same period 12 months earlier. Walking, cycling and fitness experienced substantial increases in numbers reporting having taken part in the last week compared to the same period 12 months earlier. 1.6 million more children and young people went for a walk (+22.0%) or did fitness activities (+22.1%), whilst 1.4 million more cycled for fun or fitness (+18.4%).

In addition, lack of disposable income may lead to a reduction in sports sector spend and can have an impact upon the take-up of activities which cater for children and young people as well as adults. Uncertain employment and financial circumstances mean that greater numbers of people will be looking for affordable and flexible opportunities to stay active. Fewer people will be in a position to make an ongoing financial commitment to participate.

Social and economic value of community sport and physical activity in England 2020

Over the three years prior to the production of this report, Sport England focused on bringing together evidence on the contribution of community sport and physical activity to the five outcomes identified in the Government's strategy Sporting Future. These are physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing, individual development, social and community development, and economic development.

Its aim was to assess the evidence base with a view to demonstrating the contribution of community sport and physical activity to the outcomes. Building on this foundation and other previous work, Sport England quantified the social and economic impact of community sport and physical activity. There are two complementary parts to the research. Part one measures the social impact (including physical and mental health) of sport and physical activity while part two measures the economic importance.

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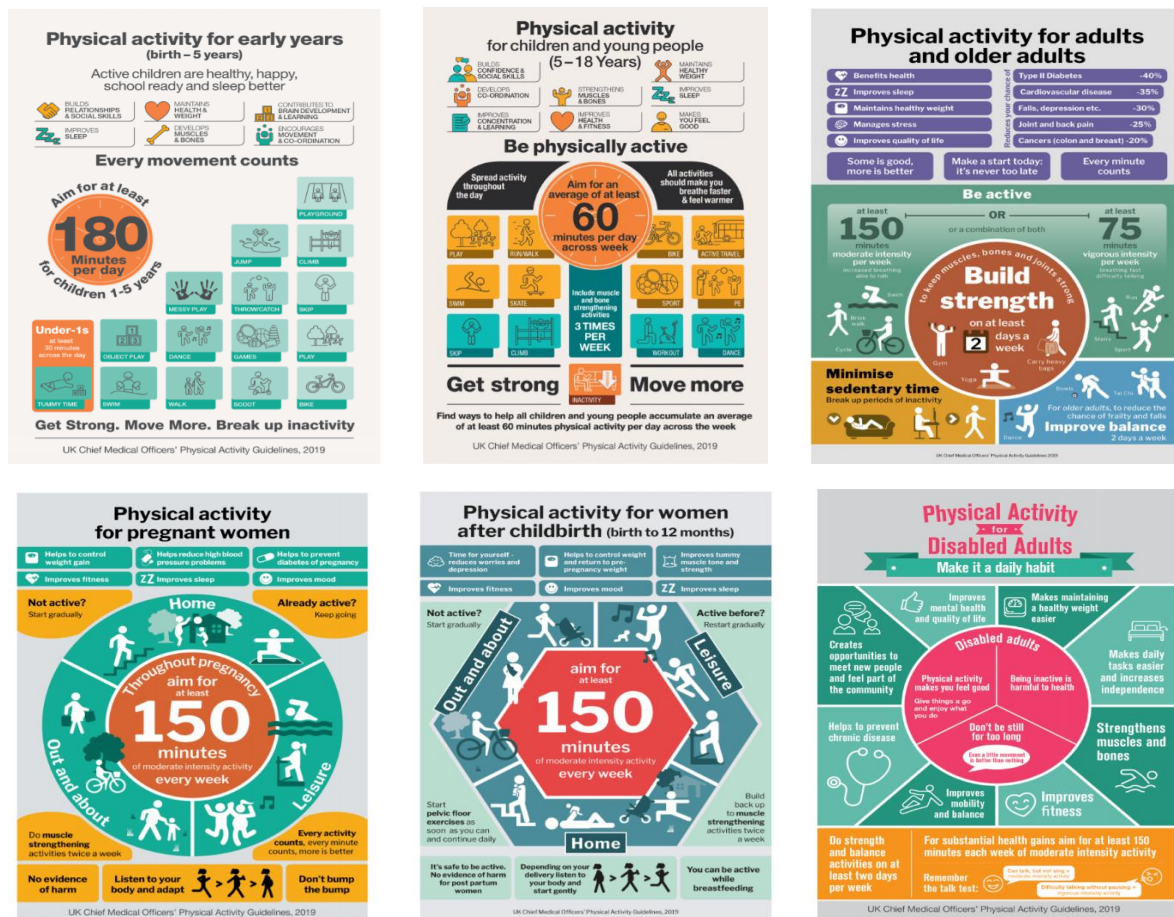
The findings reveal that community sport and physical activity brings an annual contribution of £85.5 billion to the country (in 2018 prices) through social and economic benefits. Its social value – including physical and mental health, wellbeing, individual and community development – is more than £72 billion, provided via routes such as a healthier population, consumer expenditure, greater work productivity, improved education attainment, reduced crime, and stronger communities. It also generates more than £13bn in economic value. The economic value includes more than 285,000 jobs that employ people within the community sport and physical activity sector.

Together, both enable Sport England to demonstrate the contribution of sport and physical activity to the five government outcomes. The research revealed that the combined social and economic value of taking part (participating and volunteering) in community sport and physical activity in England in 2017/18 was £85.5bn. When measured against the £21.85 billion costs of engagement and providing sport and physical activity opportunities, for every £1 spent on community sport and physical activity, a return on investment (ROI) of £3.91 was created for individuals and society in 2017/18.

Chief Medical Officer Physical Activity Guidelines 2019

This updated the 2011 guidelines issued by the four chief medical officers (CMOs) of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. They drew upon global evidence to present revised guidelines for different age groups, covering the volume, duration, frequency and type of physical activity required across the life course to achieve health benefits.

Figure 2.3: Physical activity guidelines



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Since 2011, evidence of the health benefits of regular physical activity for all groups has become more compelling. In children and young people, it 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.

It can also 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:** This is broken down into infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers. They 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):** they 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 recognises the 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). It 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.

Investment in school sport

The School Sport and Activity Action Plan (July 2019) set out the Government's commitment to ensuring that children and young people have access to at least 60 minutes of sport and physical activity per day, with a recommendation of 30 minutes of this delivered during the school day (in line with the CMO guidelines which recommend an average of at least 60 minutes per day across the week). The action plan has three overarching ambitions - that:

- ◀ All children/young people take part in at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day.
- ◀ Children/young people have the opportunity to realise developmental, character-building experiences through sport, competition and active pursuits.
- ◀ All sport and physical activity provision for children/young people is designed around the principles of physical literacy, focuses on fun and enjoyment and aims to reach the least active.

The PE and sport premium can help primary schools to achieve this aim, providing primary schools with £320m of government funding to make additional and sustainable

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improvements to the quality of the PE, physical activity and sport offered through their core budgets. It is allocated directly to schools, so they have the flexibility to use it in the way that works best for their pupils.

In 2021 the Department for Education announced a £10.1 million funding package to help more schools open their facilities to the public once the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic is over. The funding, administered by Sport England and distributed via the Active Partnership Network helps schools deliver extra-curricular activities and open their facilities outside of the school day during evenings, weekends and school holidays.

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. The funding will be managed by Sport England and is available to all pools run by councils and charities and those run on behalf of local authorities. Blaby District Council is not currently a recipient of these funds.

Revised National Planning Policy Framework 2023

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 both of emergence from the global pandemic and the highly challenging economic environment, there is a need to reconnect communities, reduce inequality and create stronger societies. The aim is to create a catalyst for change, with sport and physical activity a key driver and people in all age groups either getting or remaining active. Ensuring an adequate supply of suitable facilities to support this aim is a key requirement of the planning system in line with national policy recommendations.

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2.2: Local context

Blaby District Plan 2024-2028

The District Plan's s out four main challenges facing the district:

- ◀ Climate change,
- ◀ Service delivery,
- ◀ Housing growth
- ◀ Health.

Notably, the challenge relating to service delivery is based on future funding, anticipating reductions and increased demands on the Council. As a result, the Council foresees a budget deficit of £4.9 million by the financial year 2027/2028.

The Blaby District Plan 2024 -2028 outlines five strategic themes that will guide the Council's work:

- ◀ Enabling communities and supporting vulnerable residents
- ◀ Enhancing and maintaining natural and built environment.
- ◀ Growing and supporting the economy.
- ◀ Keeping residents safe and healthy.
- ◀ Ambitious and well managed Council, valuing its people.

Blaby Local Plan

The present Local Plan comprises the Core Strategy (adopted 2013) and Delivery Development Plan Document (adopted 2019). A new plan is being developed. The new Local Plan will set out a blueprint for how the district will grow and change over the next 15 years.

Leicestershire County Council: Delivering good health and prevention services 2022-2027

The County Council's health strategy ambition is to improve the health and wellbeing of all residents and the broader County Council prevention 'offer'. Its stated aim is to protect and improve the health and quality of life of everyone in Leicestershire. To do this it will:

- ◀ Build on strengths of people in its communities - building a network of partners to develop asset-based, community centred approaches.
- ◀ Promote healthy living and healthy places- working with local authorities and partners to address the wider issues that affect health (e.g. housing, built environments, etc).
- ◀ Protect communities and individuals from harm - focusing on tobacco control and smoking cessation, reducing smoking rates and the availability of illegal tobacco.
- ◀ Provide services that meet community needs- commissioning high quality and safe services that are linked with key services in the community.
- ◀ Work in partnership to transform how the County Council deliver services - advocating for prevention with health and care partners at system, place and neighbourhood level.

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Active Together

Active Together is a county wide initiative for Leicestershire which has the aim to make sport and physical activity not only more accessible but part of everyday life. Active Together is one of 43 active partnerships in England. They work with public and local partners to transform lives through sport and physical activity. It has identified the following three priorities to build more active communities across the county in the 'Physical Activity Framework 2023-2024':

- ◀ **Inspire** – Encouraging young people to engage, participate & learn through fun sport & physical activity opportunities that interest and excite them, developing a positive and meaningful relationship with movement and physical activity, acquiring lifelong learning and promoting social & emotional wellbeing.
- ◀ **Develop** – Giving young people opportunities to learn & grow key skills such as confidence, self-belief & determination, as well as improving their physiological & psychological skills in a fun, safe, supportive environment that has key values at its core & engenders a lifelong love of movement.
- ◀ **Excel** – Providing opportunities for young people who aspire towards further progression & success in sport & physical activity, either as an individual or as part of a team, through competition structures, talent pathways & performance programmes.

A healthier you – Leicestershire County Council

Leicestershire County Council offers support and advice on four health related issues:

- ◀ Reach and maintain a healthy weight.
- ◀ Stopping smoking.
- ◀ Get active.
- ◀ First contact plus (information about a range of services all in one place).

Leicestershire 2018-2021 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)

JSNA's enable partners to better understand present and future public health and wellbeing requirements. They are based on collaboration between local authorities, clinical care commissioning groups (CCGs) and other partners. BDC is covered by the County 2022-2025 JSNA

JSNAs analyse the health needs of populations with the purpose of improving community health and wellbeing and reducing inequalities. It should be viewed as a continuous process of strategic assessment and planning with the aim to develop local evidence-based priorities for commissioning which will improve the public's health and reduce inequalities.

The Health and Wellbeing Board of Leicestershire agreed that the 2022-25 JSNA will be published in subject-specific chapters throughout this three-year time period. These chapters will be developed in line with CCG and local authority commissioning cycles. The JSNA chapters will be aligned to Leicestershire County Council's Strategic Outcomes Framework and to the needs of commissioners. The outputs of the JSNA will be:

- ◀ Subject-specific chapters of an assessment of current and future health and social care needs in pdf format.
- ◀ Subject specific dashboards summarising data to do with JSNA themes.

The BDC area is just one within Leicestershire so reports produced may not present a complete picture due to the contrast between its demographics and the county as a whole.

Climate Change Strategy

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BDC’s ambition is for the Council to be Net Zero by 2030, and to support Blaby district to become Net Zero by 2050. It has six key themes:

- ◀ Reducing CO2 emissions.
- ◀ Protecting the environment and enhancing biodiversity.
- ◀ De-carbonising transport and travel.
- ◀ Reducing waste and resource use and moving to a circular economy.
- ◀ Support sustainable communities.
- ◀ Behaviour change and education.

Summary of local policy

The drive to reduce improve the health and wellbeing of residents in Blaby and the wider county is evident through the commitments pledged in the Blaby District Plan.

The Council has identified its vision to have thriving and vibrant communities where people live, work and visit. Housebuilding will be a key factor in attracting people to live in the area. The district’s proximity to Leicester City could be attractive to those who work in the city, as well as those who work in the surrounding rural districts.

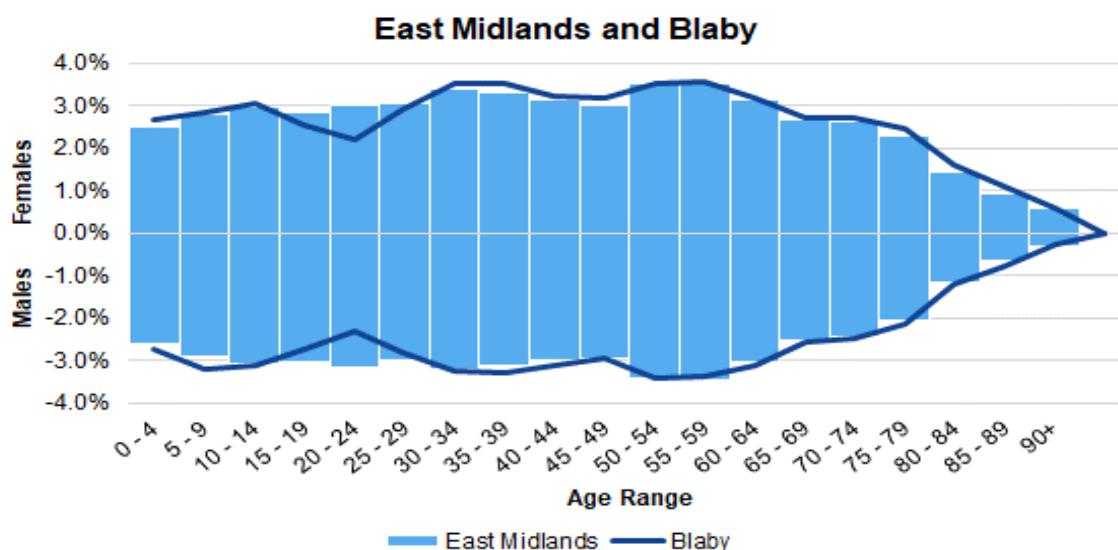
BDC recognises the need for increased physical activity, partnership working and investment in holistic and preventative services. It also has a commitment to reduce carbon emissions and for its assets (including leisure centres) to become Net Zero by 2030.

2.3: Demographic profile

Population and distribution (Data source: 2022 mid-year estimates, ONS)

Blaby’s population (2022 MYE) is 104,182 (51,069 males and 53,113 females). The following chart illustrates its age and gender composition. By overlaying the dark blue line for Blaby on top of the blue bars for the region it is easy to see where one dataset is higher or lower than the other.

Figure 2.4: Comparative age/sex pyramid for Blaby and the East Midlands.

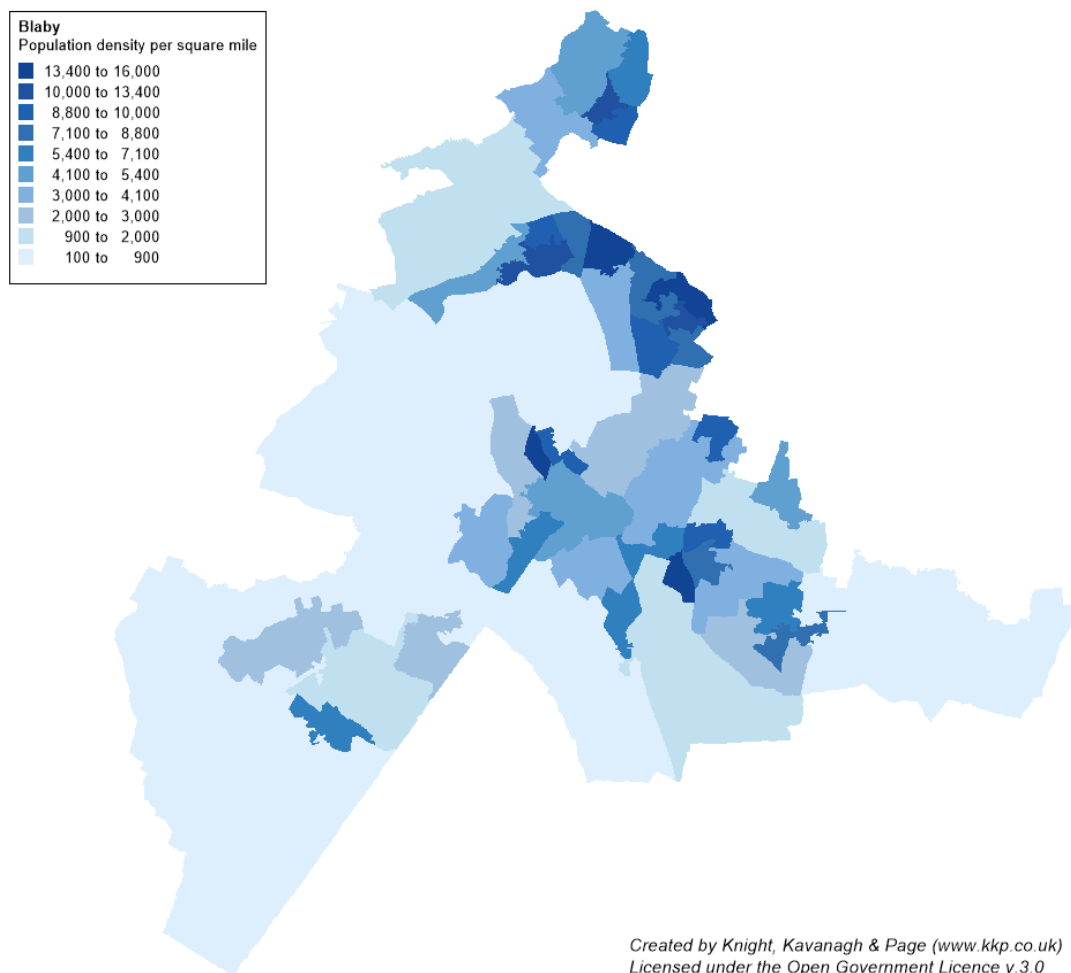


The district has a lower proportion of 15-24 year-olds than the region (Blaby: 9.8%, East Midlands:12.1%) but more in the age groups from 0-9 years (Blaby: 11.4%, East Midlands: 10.8%).

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The population density map below is based on lower super output areas (LSOAs). It covers all parts of the country irrespective of whether the SOA is in an area of high-density housing and flats or one with farms and rural villages. Map shading allows concentrations of population to be easily identified. Urban areas tend to be illustrated via the darkest shading while rural areas, housing adjoining parks and other non-residential land uses tend to be the lightest shades.

Figure 2.5: Population density 2021 Census: Blaby (LSOAs)



Ethnicity (Data source:2021 Census, ONS)

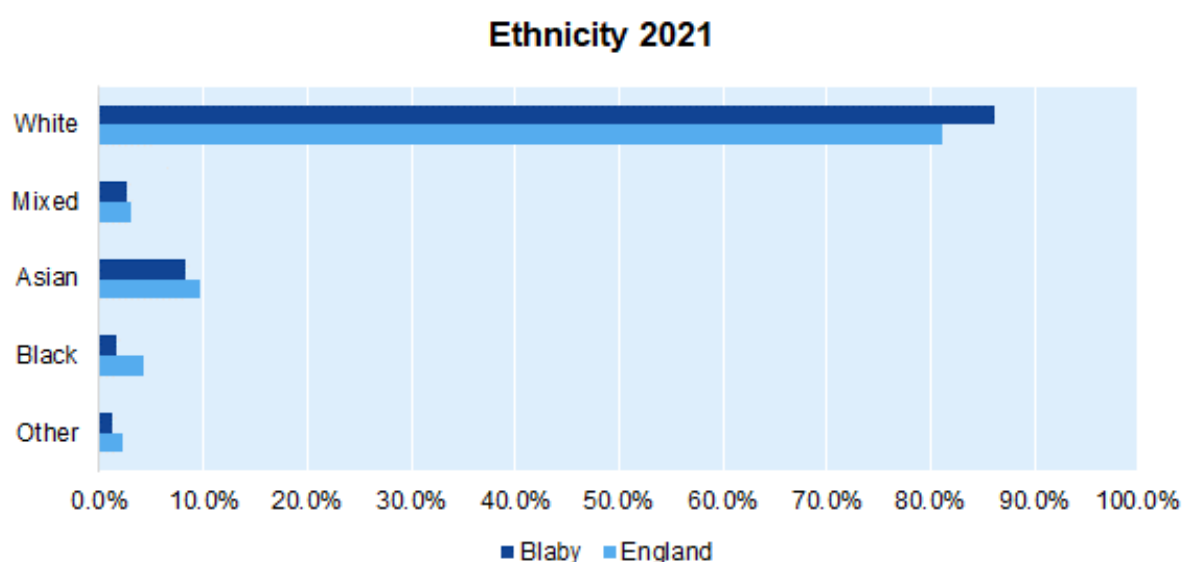
In broad terms, Blaby's ethnic composition reflects that of England as a whole. According to the 2021 Census, the largest proportion (86.2%) of the local population classified its ethnicity as White; this is slightly higher than the comparative England rate of 81.0%. The next largest population group (by self-classification) is Asian, at 8.3% this is lower than the national equivalent (9.6%).

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Table 2.1: Ethnic composition – Blaby and England

Ethnicity	Blaby #	Blaby %	England #	England %
White	88,753	86.2%	45,783,401	81.0%
Mixed	2,765	2.7%	1,669,378	3.0%
Asian	8,497	8.3%	5,426,392	9.6%
Black	1,594	1.5%	2,381,724	4.2%
Other	1,315	1.3%	1,229,153	2.2%
Total	102,924	100.0%	56,490,048	100.0%

Figure 2.6: Ethnicity in Blaby and England



Crime (Data source: Crime in England and Wales year ending June 2023, ONS)

Crime data is only available for whole police force areas. Blaby is in the Leicestershire Police Force Area, which comprises 9 local authorities (Blaby, Charnwood, City of Leicester, Harborough, Hinckley and Bosworth, Melton, North West Leicestershire, Oadby And Wigston, Rutland). The population of Blaby accounts for 9.2% of this area.

During the 12 months to June 2023 the number of recorded crimes per 1,000 persons in the Leicestershire was 94.2. (2021 Census) This is comparable to the rate for England and Wales as a whole which was 93.5. The number of recorded crimes in the Leicestershire area has risen (by 3.0%) since June 2022. (2021 Census) The number for England and Wales has risen by 2.2% over the same period.

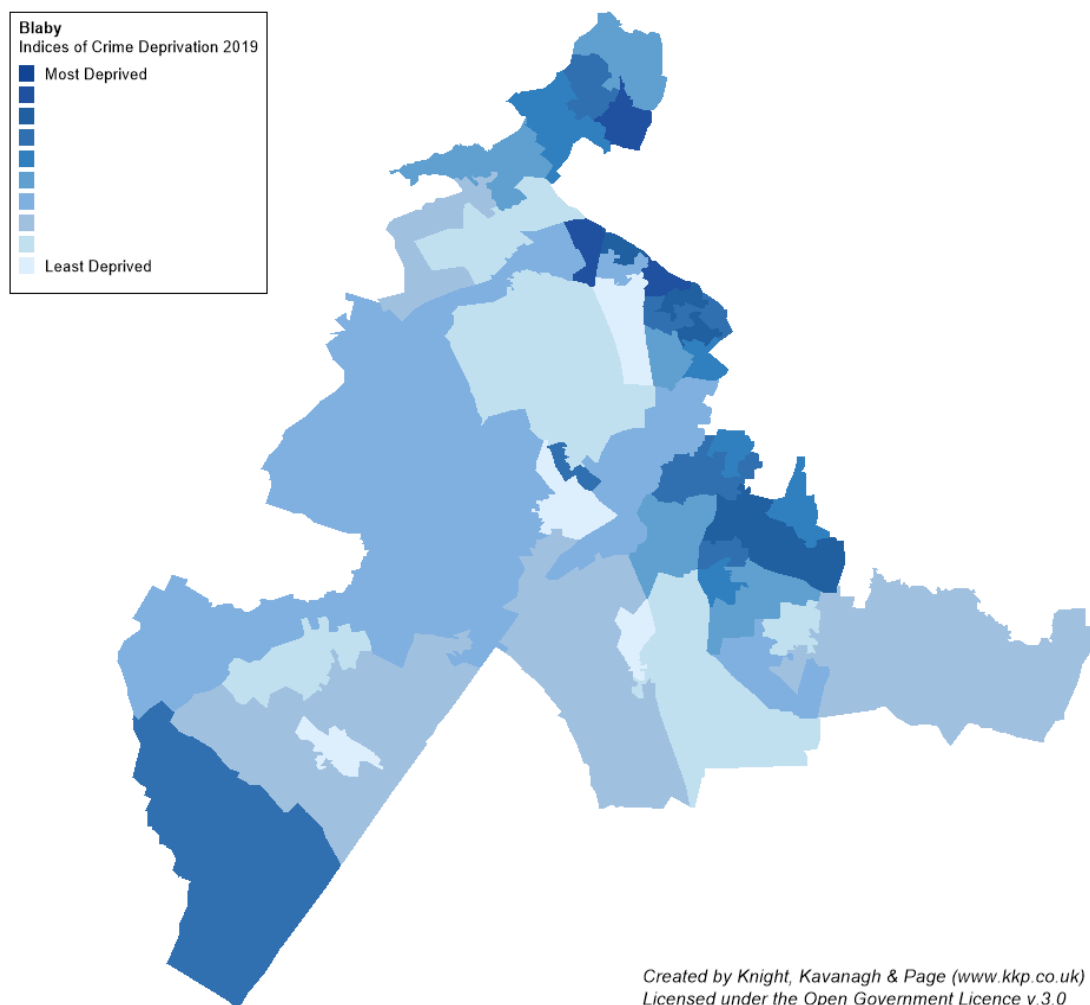
Table 2.2: Comparative crime rates: Crime and England & Wales

Authority/area	Recorded crime (Jul '22 – Jun '23)	Population 2021 Census	Recorded crime per 1,000 population
Leicestershire	105,738	1,121,990	94.2
England & Wales	5,572,143	59,597,529	93.5

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As an alternative to the crime figures for police force areas the Index of Deprivation measures the risk of personal and material crime at a more local level. In Blaby, 12.6% of the population are in the top three cohorts most at risk compared to 30.0% nationally.

Figure 2.7: Map of crime deprivation



Income and benefits dependency (Data source Nomis 2023)

The median figure for full-time earnings (2022) in Blaby is £33,826; the comparative rate for the East Midlands is £31,393 (-7.2%) and for Great Britain is £33,395 (-1.3%). 1,285 people in Blaby claimed out of work benefits¹ in October 2023 - an increase of 42.8% compared to March 2020 (900).

Deprivation (Data source: 2019 indices of deprivation, MHCLG)

Relative to other parts of the country Blaby experiences low levels of deprivation; a small proportion of the district's population (1.5%) falls within areas covered by the country's four most deprived cohorts compared to a national average of c.40%. Conversely, 62.8% live in the three least deprived groupings in the country, this compares to a 'norm' of c.30%.

¹ This includes both Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) and Universal Credit. Universal credit also includes other benefits including employment and support allowance (ESA) and child tax credits.

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This pattern is replicated for health. Only a small proportion of Blaby's population (1.8%) falls within the areas covered by the four most deprived cohorts, this compares to a national average of c.40%. Conversely, 52.8% live in the three least deprived groupings compared to a 'norm' of c.30%.

Table 2.3: IMD cohorts – multiple deprivation in Blaby.

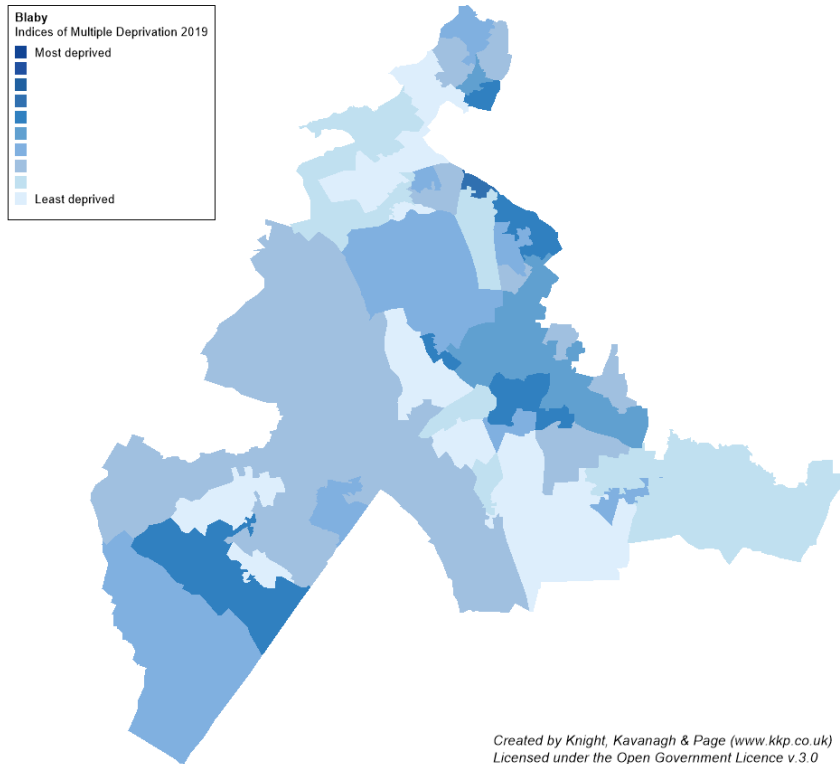
10% bands	Population in band	%	Cumulative %
Most deprived - 10.0	0	0.0%	0.0%
20.0	0	0.0%	0.0%
30.0	0	0.0%	0.0%
40.0	1,473	1.5%	1.5%
50.0	13,121	13.7%	15.2%
60.0	8,922	9.3%	24.5%
70.0	12,215	12.7%	37.2%
80.0	23,002	23.9%	61.1%
90.0	16,631	17.3%	78.4%
Least deprived - 100.0	20,738	21.6%	100.0%

Table 2.4: IMD cohorts – health deprivation in Blaby.

10% bands	Population in band	%	Cumulative %
Most deprived - 10.0	0	0.0%	0.0%
20.0	0	0.0%	0.0%
30.0	0	0.0%	0.0%
40.0	1,697	1.8%	1.8%
50.0	7,860	8.2%	9.9%
60.0	13,949	14.5%	24.5%
70.0	21,841	22.7%	47.2%
80.0	31,870	33.2%	80.3%
90.0	11,664	12.1%	92.5%
Least deprived - 100.0	7,221	7.5%	100.0%

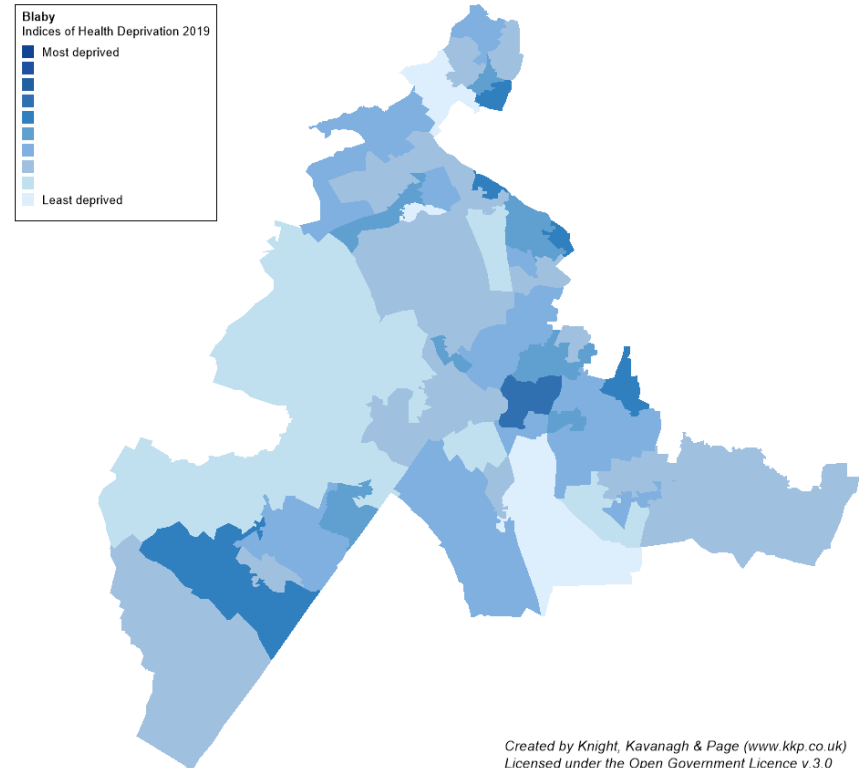
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Figure 2.8: Map of multiple deprivation



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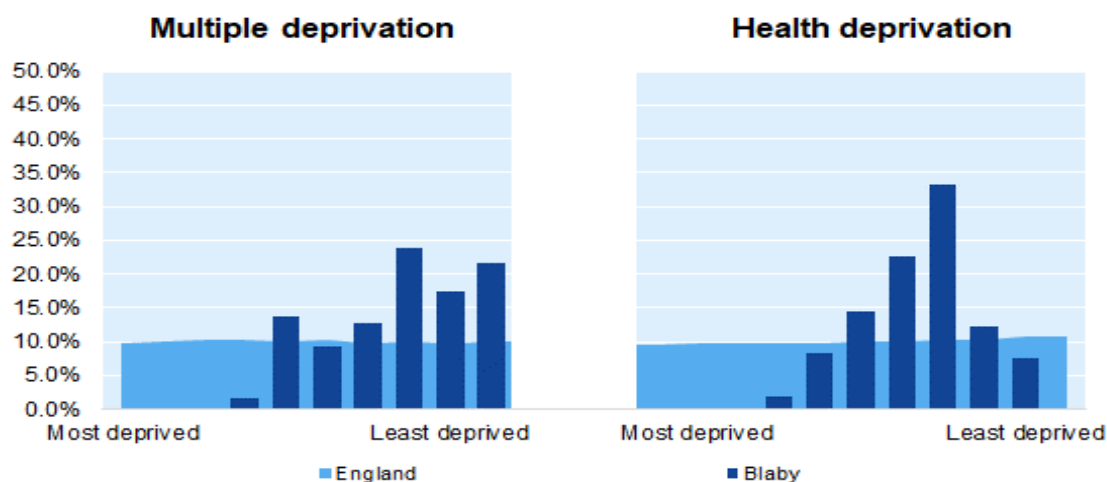
Figure 2.9: Map of health deprivation



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Figure 2.10 Index of multiple and health deprivation



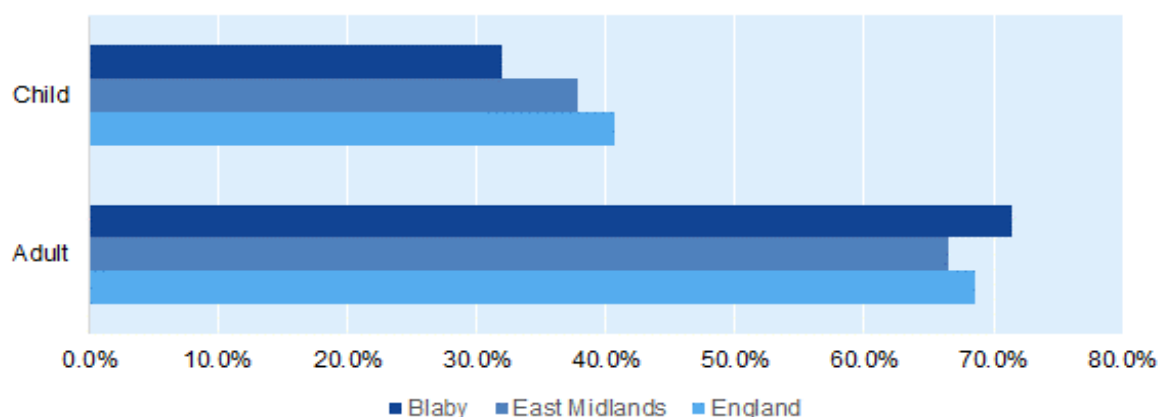
Health data (Data source: ONS)

In keeping with patterns seen alongside lower levels of health deprivation, life expectancy in Blaby is higher than the national figure; the male rate is currently 81.2 compared to 79.4 for England, and the female equivalent is 85.1 compared to 83.1 nationally².

Weight and obesity (Data Sources: NCMP³ and NOO⁴)

Obesity is widely recognised to be associated with health problems such as type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer. At national level, 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 – making its prevention a major public health challenge. Adult rates of obesity or overweight in Blaby are above national and regional rates. However, child rates are below both national and regional rates.

Figure 2.11: Adult and child obesity rates.



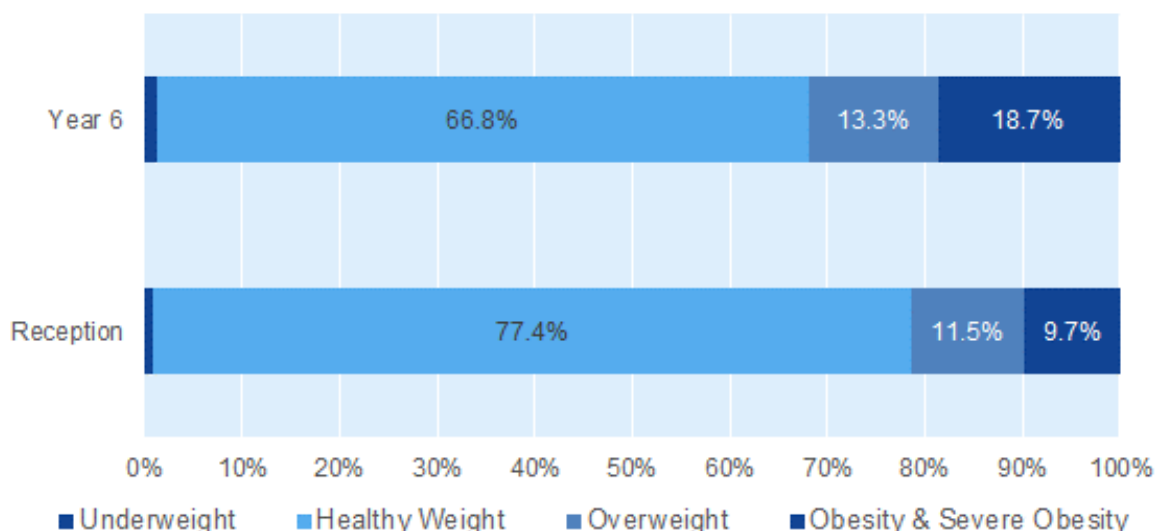
² Office of National Statistics: Life Expectancy at Birth by local areas in the United Kingdom, 2020.

³ National Child Measurement Program

⁴ National Obesity Observatory

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Figure 2.12: Child weight – reception and year 6 (2021-22)



As with many other areas, obesity rates increase significantly between the ages of 4 – 11 years. One in ten children (9.7%) in Blaby are obese in their reception year at school and 11.5% are overweight. By Year 6 this rises to just under one in five (18.7%) being obese and 13.3% being overweight. In total by Year 6 nearly one third (32.0%) are either overweight or obese.

Sport England Active Lives Survey (Data source: Sport England November 2021/22)

This is based on 16+ year olds taking part in walking, cycling, fitness, dance and other sporting activity. As identified in Table 5, a higher percentage of the Blaby population is inactive compared to England and the East Midlands and a lower percentage 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 2.13: Levels of activity (Active Lives 2021-22)

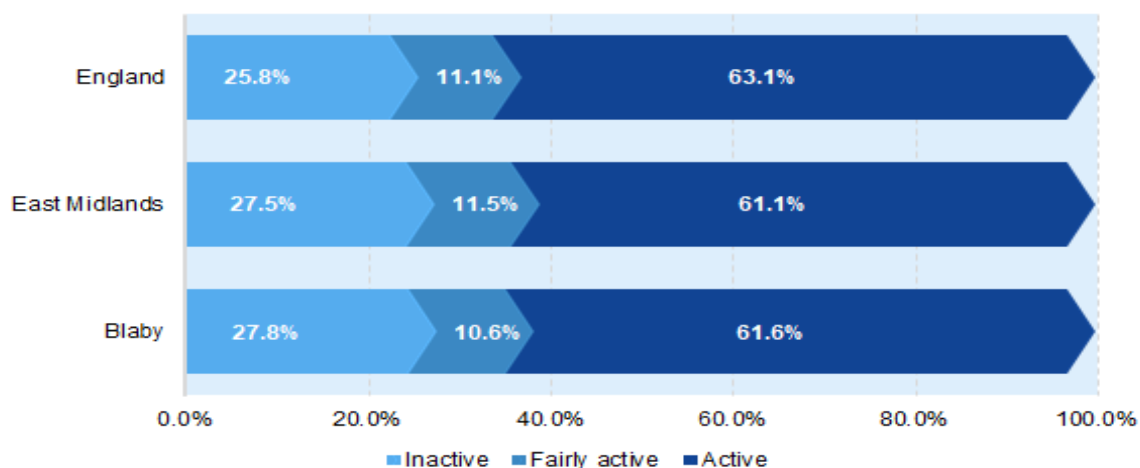


Table 2.5: Active Lives Survey results: November 2021/22.

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	Inactive #	Inactive %	Fairly active #	Fairly active %	Active #	Active %
11,874,800	25.8%	5,131,700	11.1%	29,062,000	63.1%	11,874,800
1,098,500	27.5%	458,000	11.5%	2,442,600	61.1%	1,098,500
23,300	27.8%	8,900	10.6%	51,700	61.6%	23,300

Rate/population totals for sport and physical activity levels (excluding gardening) of adults (16+) in English local authority areas

Popular sports (Data Source: Sport England Active Lives Survey November 2020/21)

ALS enables identification of the top five sports within Blaby. As with many other areas, fitness and athletics are among the most popular activities and are known to cut across age groups and gender; in Blaby around one quarter of adults take part in fitness activities, on average, at least twice a month. The next most popular activity is athletics which 15.0% of adults participate on a relatively regular basis.

Table 2.6: Most popular sports in Blaby.

Sport	Blaby #	Blaby %	East Midlands #	East Midlands %	England #	England %
Fitness	19,200	23.2%	890,900	22.5%	11,374,600	24.9%
Athletics	12,400	15.0%	471,600	11.9%	6,252,000	13.7%
Cycling	11,600	14.0%	572,600	14.4%	7,472,900	16.4%
Swimming	3,800	4.6%	142,100	3.6%	2,001,600	4.4%
Football	3,200	3.9%	113,400	2.9%	1,451,700	3.2%

Sporting segmentation (Data source: Sport England Sports Market Segmentation web tool)

Sport England has classified the adult population via a series of 19 market segments which provide an insight into the sporting behaviours of individuals throughout the country. The profiles cover a wide range of characteristics, from gender and age to the sports that people take part in, other interests, the newspapers that they read etc.

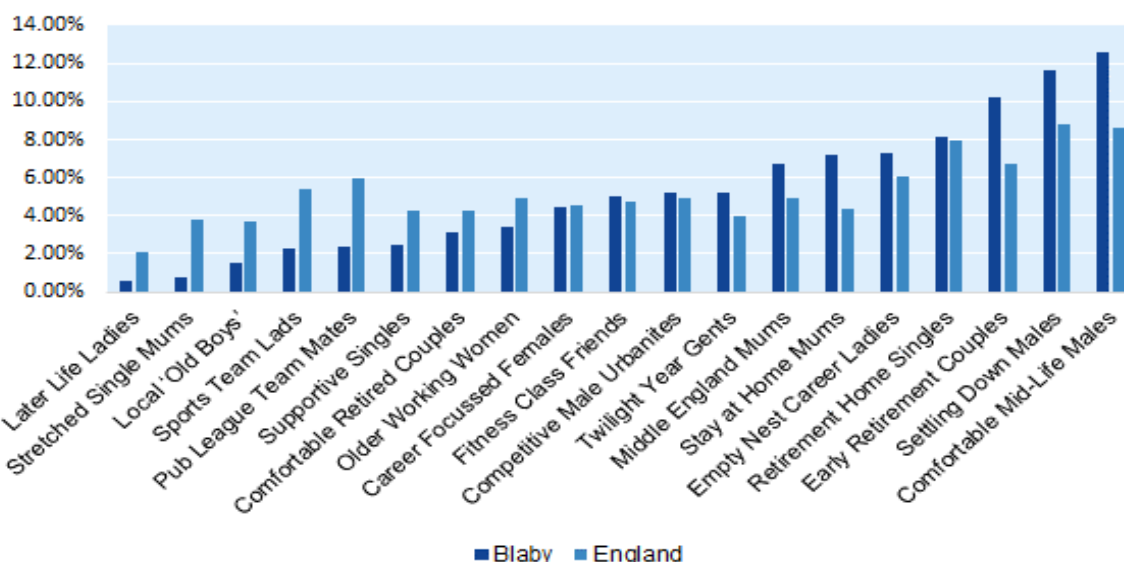
Knowing which segments are most dominant in the local population is important as it can help direct provision and programming. Segmentation also enables partners to make tailored interventions, communicate effectively with target market(s) and better understand participation in the context of life stage and lifecycles.

The segmentation profile for Blaby indicates 'Comfortable Mid-Life Males' to be the largest segment of the adult population at 12.57% (9,118) compared to a national average of 8.65%. This is closely followed by 'Settling Down Males' (11.61%) and 'Early Retirement Couples' (10.18%).

At the other end of the spectrum, there are fewest 'Later Life Ladies with only 0.59%, 'Stretched Single Mums' (0.80%) and 'Local 'Old Boys'' (1.51%).

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Figure 2.14: Sport England market segmentation – Blaby compared to England



Mosaic (Data source: 2022: Mosaic analysis, Experian)

Mosaic 2022 is a similar consumer segmentation product. It classifies all 28.6 million households into 15 groups, 66 household types and 238 segments. This data is then used to paint a picture of UK consumers in terms of their social-demographics, lifestyles, culture and behaviour. The following table shows the top five Mosaic classifications in Blaby compared to the country as a whole. Their dominance can be seen inasmuch as they represent four in five (82.4%) of the population compared to a national equivalent rate of just under four in 10 (38.7%).

Table 2.7: Mosaic – main population segments in Blaby

Mosaic group description	Blaby #	Blaby %	National %
1 - Aspiring Homemakers	29,215	28.2%	10.5%
2 - Domestic Success	17,907	17.3%	8.8%
3 - Suburban Stability	16,566	16.0%	5.6%
4 - Senior Security	13,059	12.6%	6.8%
5 - Prestige Positions	8,602	8.3%	7.0%

Table 2.8: Dominant Mosaic profiles in Blaby

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.
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.
Suburban Stability	Typically, mature couples or families, some enjoying recent empty-nest status and others with older children still at home. They live in mid-range family homes in traditional suburbs where they have been settled for many years.

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Figure 2.15: Mosaic segmentation – Blaby compared to nationally

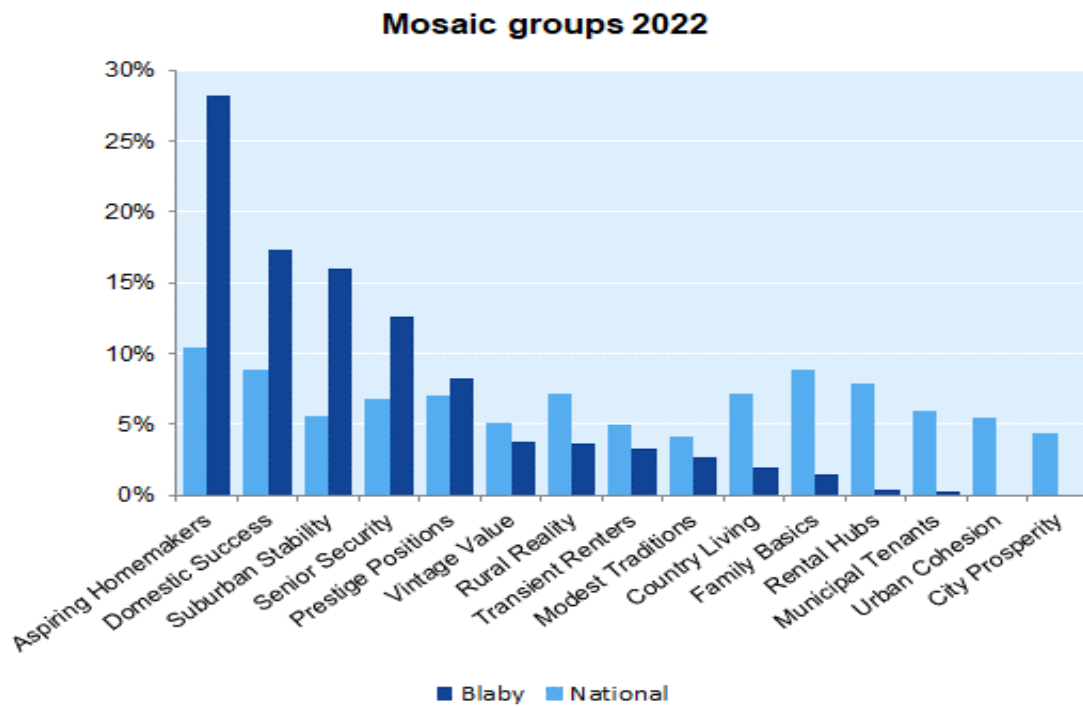
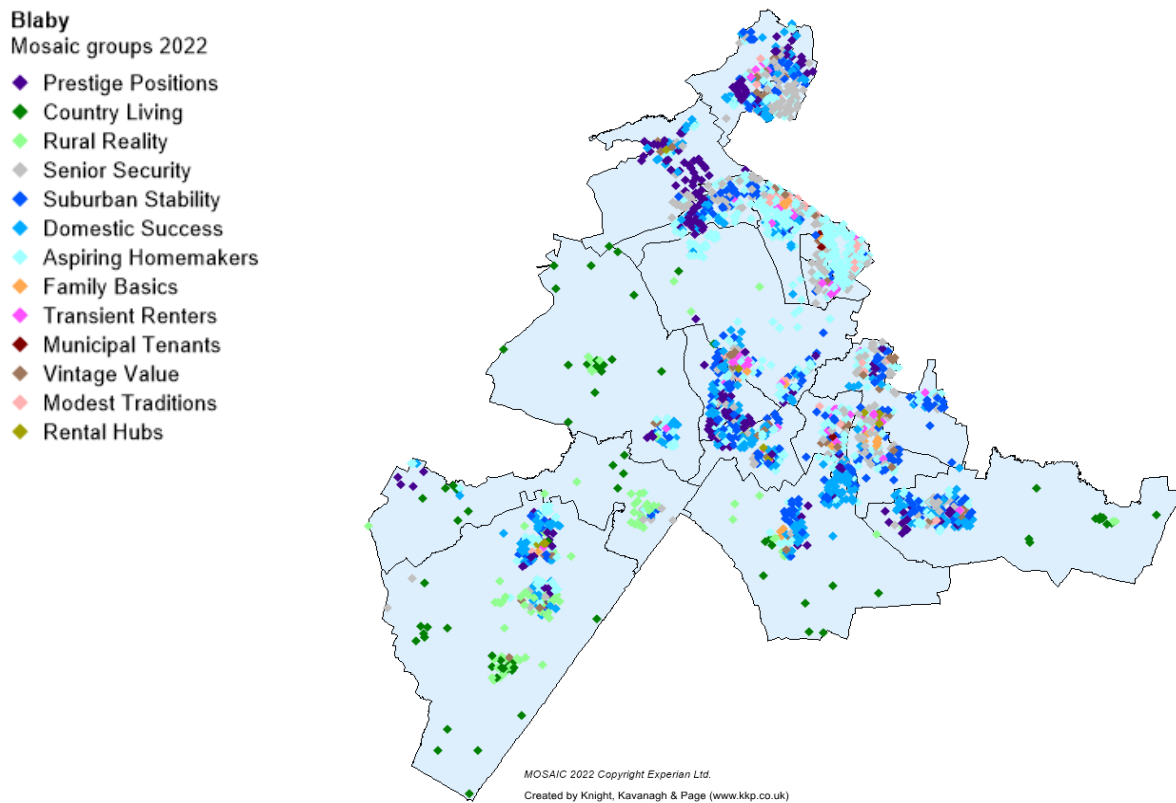


Figure 2.16: Distribution of Mosaic segments in Blaby



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Population projections (Data source: 2018-based population projections, ONS)

Strategic planning: change over 23 years (2018 to 2041)

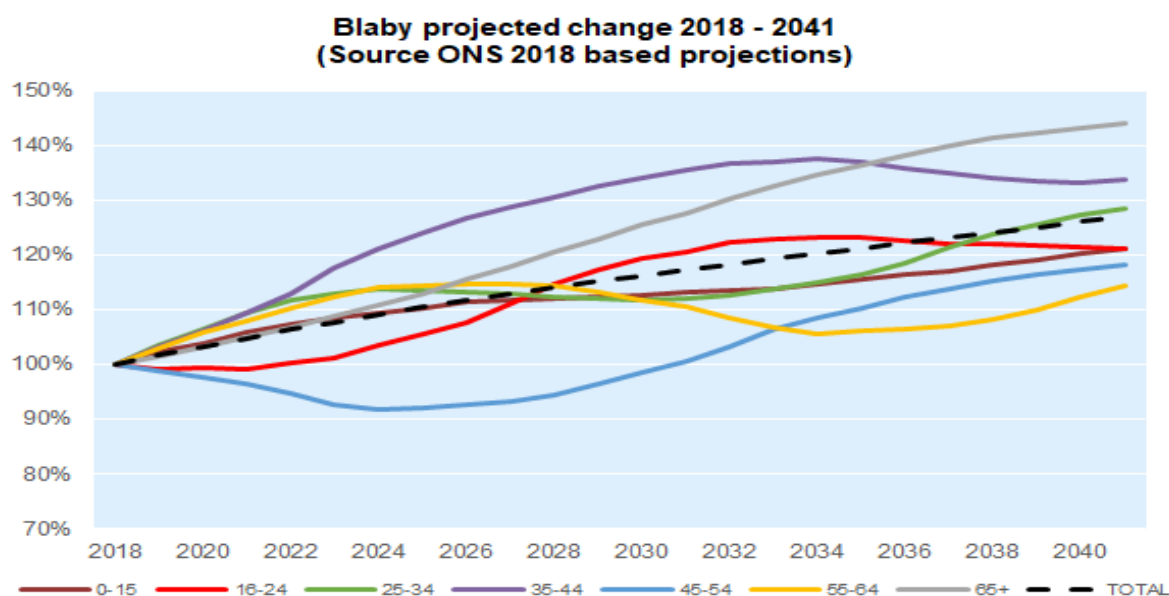
The most recent ONS projections indicate a rise of 27.0% in Blaby's population (+27,069) over the 23 years from 2018 to 2041. Over this extended timeframe there will be fluctuations which lead to rises and falls in the number and proportion of people in the majority of age groups. Several key points for Blaby are outlined below:

- ◀ The number of 35-44 year olds will grow by 4,090 (32.7%) over the first half of the period (by 2029).
- ◀ There is a predicted decrease in the number of 45-64 year olds, by -3.4% in the first period (-501) followed by a growth of 22.4% (+3,159) in the second period.
- ◀ The numbers of persons aged 65+ will rise by +22.9% (+4,662) by 2029 continuing to rise to +44.0% (+8,968) over the whole period 2018-2041. This age group represented 20.3% of Blaby's population in 2018 but is projected to be 23.0% of the total by 2041.

Table 2.9: Blaby – ONS projected population (2018 – 2041)

Age (years)	2018 #	2029 #	2041 #	2018 %	2029 %	2041 %	2029 Change	2041 Change
0-15	19,066	21,414	23,108	19.0%	18.5%	18.1%	112.3%	121.2%
16-24	8,916	10,461	10,792	8.9%	9.0%	8.5%	117.3%	121.0%
25-34	12,294	13,764	15,796	12.2%	11.9%	12.4%	112.0%	128.5%
35-44	12,490	16,580	16,707	12.4%	14.3%	13.1%	132.7%	133.8%
45-54	14,612	14,111	17,270	14.6%	12.2%	13.5%	96.6%	118.2%
55-64	12,653	14,321	14,459	12.6%	12.4%	11.3%	113.2%	114.3%
65+	20,390	25,052	29,358	20.3%	21.7%	23.0%	122.9%	144.0%
Total	100,421	115,702	127,490	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	115.2%	127.0%

Figure 2.17: Projected population change (2018 – 2041)



Blaby District Council Housing Strategy 2021-2026

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The Housing Strategy is an overarching document that covers all the aspects of the Housing Services Team and other housing related activities in the Community Services Team. This includes work with the private and third sector, rural housing, the provision of aids and adaptations, specialist housing, older persons housing, the enabling of new supply and the prevention of homelessness. It is recognised that the plan cannot be delivered without the support and cooperation of partners from the housing, community and health sectors. It is with this collaboration that BDC can build, manage, and sustain its communities and provide the best outcomes for its residents. Strategic priorities include:

- ◀ Increasing the supply of affordable homes.
- ◀ Provide specialist housing for vulnerable groups.
- ◀ Prevent homelessness and end rough sleeping.
- ◀ To minimise the environmental impact of the existing housing stock and future housing development.

The Blaby Housing Needs Assessment (BHNA) considers not only the current position but also factors in population growth, demographic movements of population from other areas and the economic profile of the housing market. Analysing these trends, the BHNA (completed in the summer of 2020) indicates that the 399 affordable units per year are needed in Blaby each year up to 2039 in order to meet both current and future need.

Summary of the demographic profile and population projections

Blaby's population is expected to rise by 27.0% by 2041. A significant factor in this is the continuous rise in the number of people aged over 65. By this date 23% of the population will be over 65 years of age.

A key issue to consider is whether the current stock will be able to accommodate this increase or whether there is sufficient demand in specific areas to justify development of new leisure facilities. There will also be a need to consider how the older population will choose to use its leisure time; this may well lead to changes in levels (and the timing) of demand for different activities.

The importance of ensuring that the proportion of the population which is currently active remains so and that more of the presently inactive become active (sustaining and improving the general health of the local population) will become increasingly relevant.

There will be an increased need for daytime available facilities to accommodate the increase in older people and an increase in demand for activities to accommodate the rise in the number of 35-44 year olds.

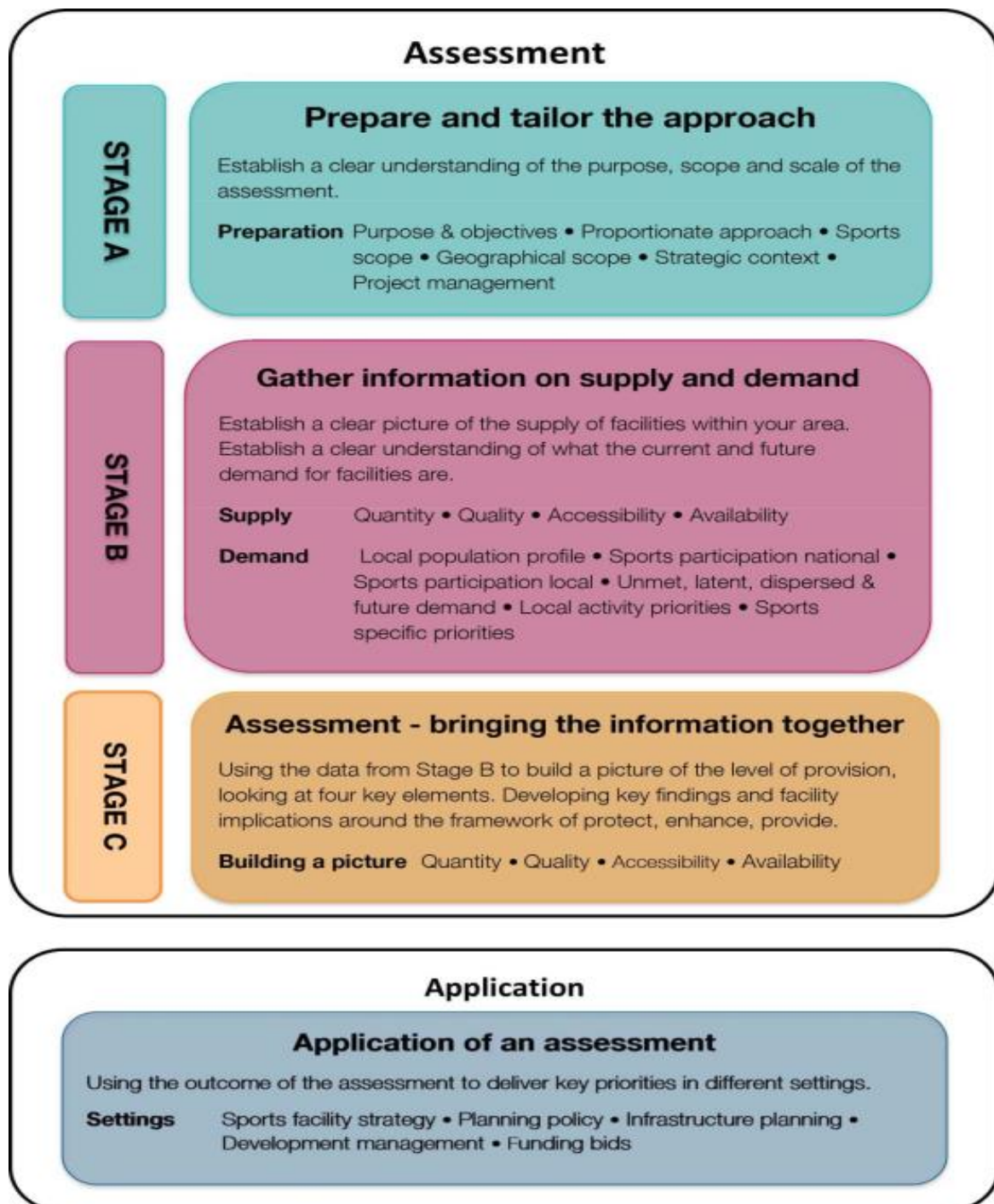
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SECTION 3: INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

3.1: Methodology

Assessment of provision is based on the Sport England Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (ANOG) for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities.

Figure 3.1: Recommended approach



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This is the recommended approach to undertaking a robust assessment of need for indoor and outdoor sports facilities. It has produced to help (local authorities) meet the requirements of the Government's NPPF, the latest version of which states that:

ANOG has been produced to help (local authorities) meet the requirements of the Government's NPPF, which states that: '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 and can deliver wider benefits for nature and support efforts to address climate change. 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.' (NPPF, Paragraph 102).

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 district and provides a clear indication of areas of high demand. It will identify where there is potential to provide improved and/or additional facilities to meet this demand and to, where appropriate, 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 undertaken. 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.

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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 following categories. These ratings are applied throughout the report, regardless of facility type.

Table 3.1: Quality ratings of indoor sports facilities using ANOG

Quality rating	Description
Good	Facility is assessed as being new 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.

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 compliant 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.

3.3 Catchment areas

Applying catchments areas for different provision types 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, health and fitness, swimming pools, squash courts	20-minutes' walk/ 20 minutes' drive
Indoor bowls/tennis centre, dedicated gymnastics centre, athletics track	30-minutes' drive

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SECTION 4: SPORTS HALLS

Indoor multi-purpose sports halls are key sports facilities for community sport and allow a range of sports and recreational activities to be played. The standard methodology for measuring them 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 three badminton court size with sufficient height to allow games such as badminton to be played.

It should be noted, however, that a 4+ court sports hall provides greater flexibility as it can accommodate major indoor team sports such as football (5-a-side and training), basketball and netball. It also has sufficient length to accommodate indoor cricket nets and indoor athletics; as such they tend to offer greater sports development flexibility than their 3-court counterpart.

Larger halls, (e.g., those with 6-8 courts, can accommodate higher level training and/or competition as well as meeting 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 Blaby. Halls that function as specialist venues (e.g., dance studios) are excluded.

4.1: Supply

Quantity

There are 15 sports halls at 12 sites accommodating 31 badminton courts in the Authority.

Figure 4.1: All sports halls in comparison to population density

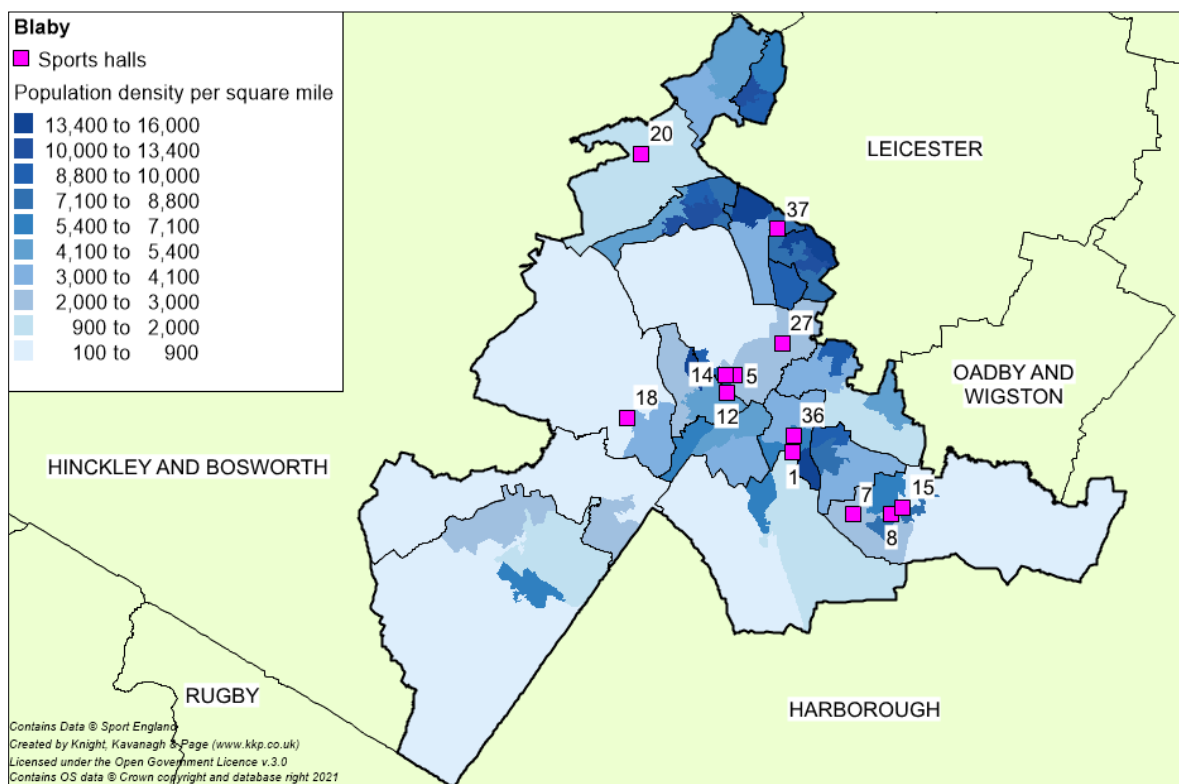


Table 4.1: All sports halls / activity halls in Blaby

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ID	Site name	Courts
1	Blaby & Whetstone Youth Club	1
5	Brockington College	4
5	Brockington College	0
7	Countesthorpe Community College	4
7	Countesthorpe Community College	1
8	Countesthorpe Village Hall	0
12	David Lloyd	2
14	Enderby Leisure & Golf Centre	3
15	Greenfield Primary School	1
18	Huncote Leisure Centre	4
20	Kirby Muxloe Free Church	0
27	Leicestershire Constabulary Police Headquarters	0
27	Leicestershire Constabulary Police Headquarters	3
36	Whetstone United Reformed Church Hall	0
37	The Winstanley School	4
TOTAL		27

(0 court halls identified in Active Places but not considered large enough to accommodate 1 badminton court)

Nine of the sports halls listed in Table 4.1 have two or fewer badminton courts. While often appropriate for mat sports, exercise to music and similar provision their size limits the range and scale of activity that can be accommodated. Table 4.2 identifies the nine halls excluded from the audit and assessment due to size (i.e., they have fewer than three marked badminton courts). The remainder (listed in Table 4.3) have 3+ marked badminton courts.

Table 4.2: Sports halls with fewer than 3 badminton courts

ID	Site name	Courts
1	Blaby & Whetstone Youth Club	1
5	Brockington College	0
7	Countesthorpe Community College	1
8	Countesthorpe Village Hall	0
12	David Lloyd	2
15	Greenfield Primary School	1
20	Kirby Muxloe Free Church	0
27	Leicestershire Constabulary Police Headquarters	0
36	Whetstone United Reformed Church Hall	0
TOTAL		5

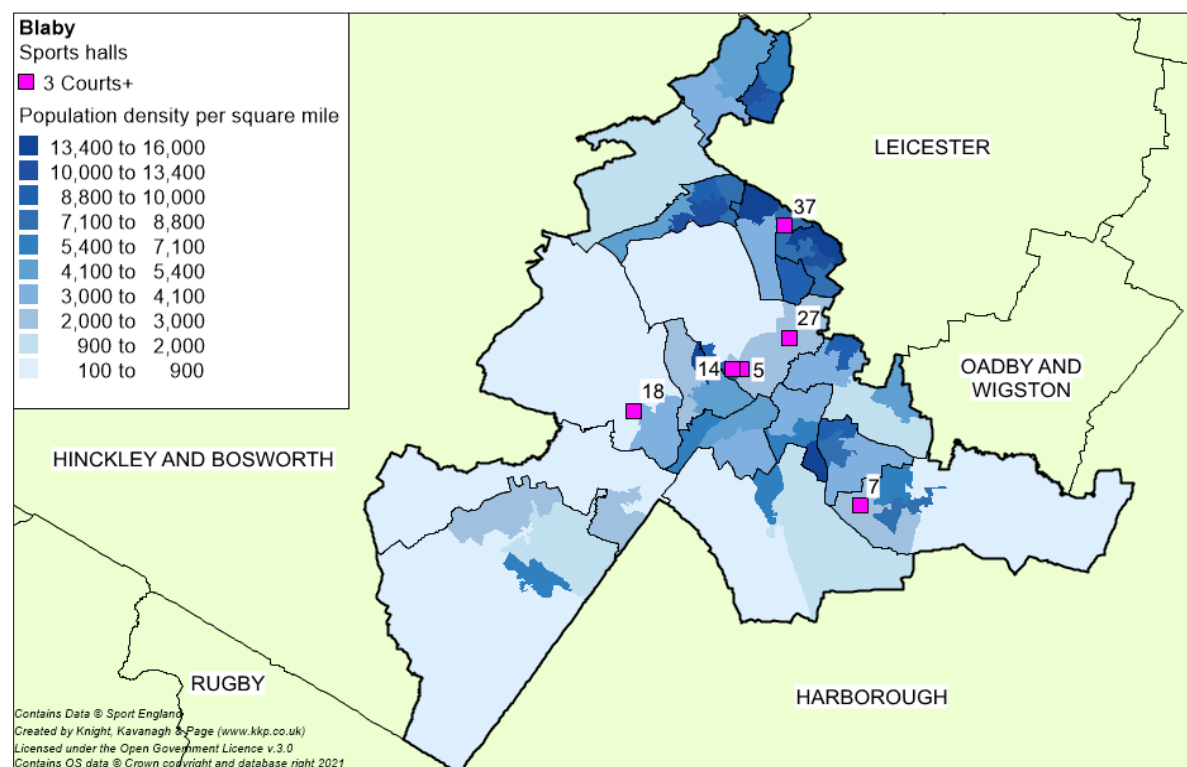
Sports halls with 3+ courts are well distributed across the authority in the more densely populated areas. There are provision gaps in the centre of the district to the west and southwest areas. However, these areas are sparsely populated and there is, thus, relatively low local demand.

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Table 4.3: Sports halls with 3+ badminton courts

ID	Site name	Courts
5	Brockington College	4
7	Countesthorpe Community College	4
14	Enderby Leisure & Golf Centre	3
18	Huncote Leisure Centre	4
27	Leicestershire Constabulary Police Headquarters	3
37	The Winstanley School	4
	TOTAL	22

Figure 4.2: Sports halls with 3+ courts on population density



Facility quality

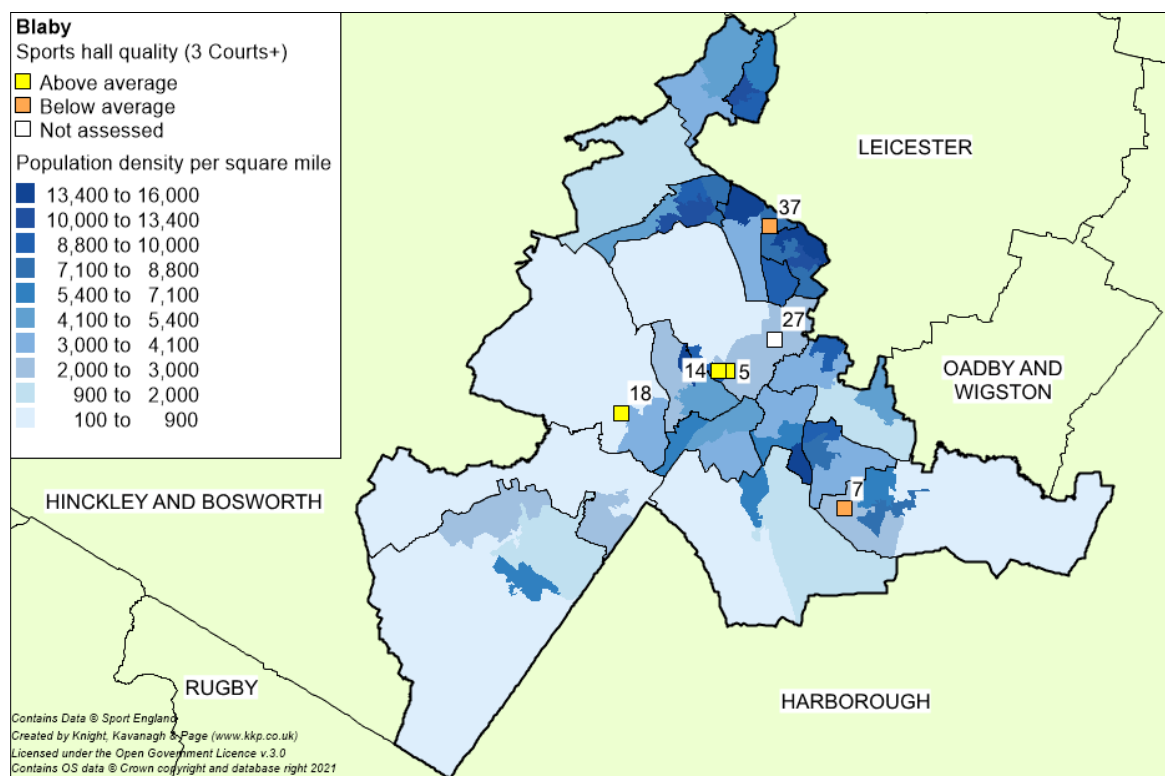
All 3+ court sports halls were subject to a non-technical assessment to ascertain quality. These took place in October and November 2023, so any investment made after this date is not accounted for. Known or planned investment is mentioned below in the site notes.

Table 4.4: Quality of sports halls

ID	Site name	Courts	Court condition	Changing rooms
5	Brockington College	4	Above average	Below average
7	Countesthorpe Community College	4	Below average	Below average
14	Enderby Leisure & Golf Centre	3	Above average	Above average
18	Huncote Leisure Centre	4	Above average	Above average
27	Leicestershire Constabulary Police HQ	3	Not assessed	Not assessed
37	The Winstanley School	4	Below average	Below average

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Figure 4.3: Quality of 3+ court sports halls



Three are rated above average quality, two are below average quality and one site (Leicestershire Constabulary Police HQ) is unassessed.

Table 4.5: Site audit notes

ID	Site name	Notes
5	Brockington College	Has underfloor heating and good run offs. Would like to replace the floor.
7	Countesthorpe Community College	Recently invested in new lighting.
14	Enderby Leisure & Golf Centre	The sports hall is currently being re-purposed to accommodate soft play facility and party rooms.
18	Huncote Leisure Centre	The roof requires repairs.
37	The Winstanley School	The floor is ageing and requires investment to improve the quality. One side wall angles in at the middle and so the two middle courts have less run off than the two end courts. This causes some programming challenges with sports that require a runoff. The windows leak. Walls recently painted (2023).

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Table 4.6: Year of construction and refurbishment of sports halls*

Site	Year built / opened	Last refurbished	Age since opened / refurbishment
Leicestershire Constabulary Police HQ	1980	2010	13
Brockington College	2007	-	16
Countesthorpe Community College	1970	2022	1
Enderby Leisure & Golf Centre	1970	2023	1
Huncote Leisure Centre	1981	2016	8
The Winstanley School	1965	2023	1

*Years are as specified in Active Places Database 20/12/2022 or via the audit.

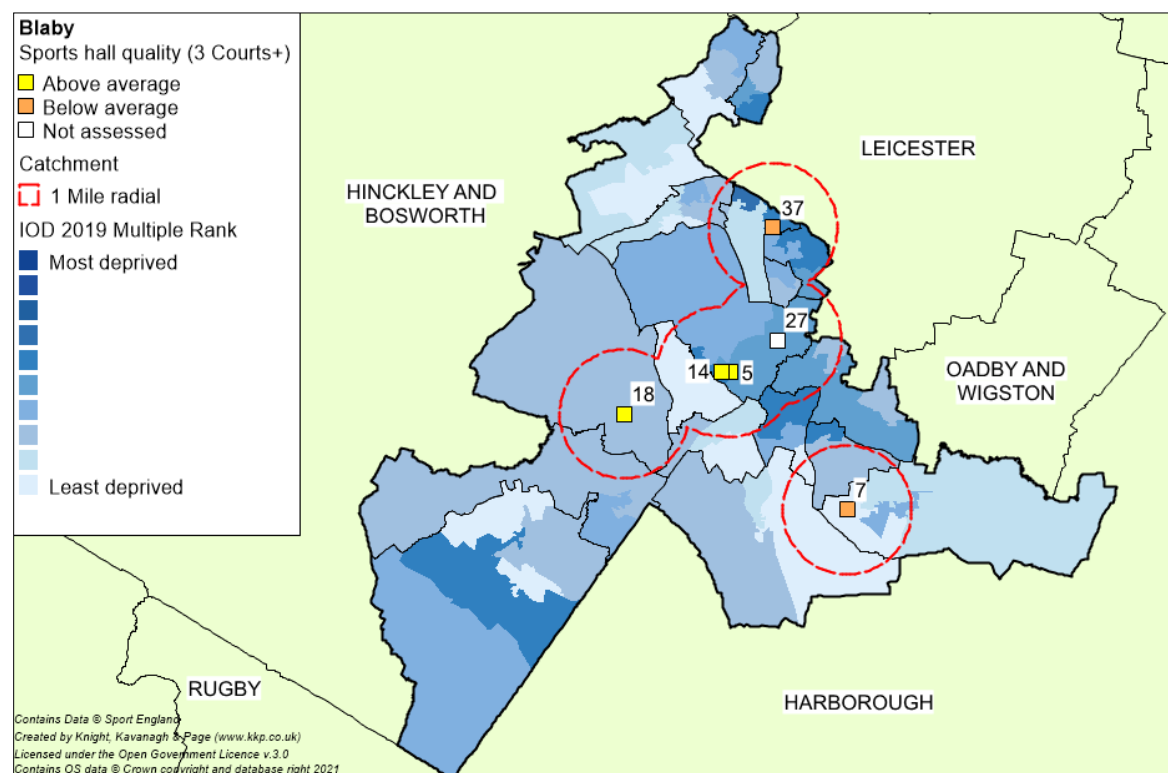
** Sports hall reduced in size to accommodate soft play

Most sports halls have benefitted from some form of investment/refurbishment in the last 20 years. This is reflected in audit findings. While Winstanley School received investment in 2023 to paint the walls, there is a requirement to invest to improve the quality of the sports hall floor. There are reportedly no funds currently available to undertake these works.

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 an urban area and a 20-minute drive time for a rural area:

Figure 4.5: All sports halls with 3+ courts on IMD with one-mile radial catchments



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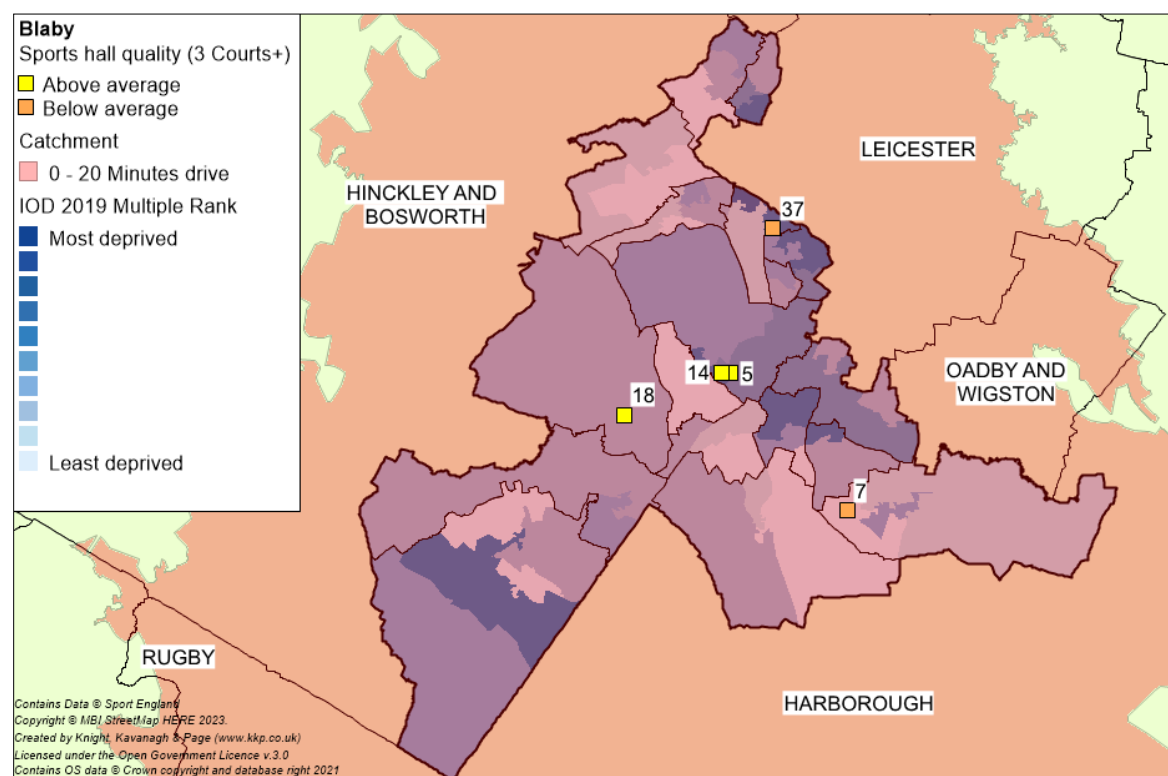
In the Blaby District, 44,438 residents live within one mile of a sports hall (46.2% of the population), 51,664 (53.8%) live outside this catchment. There are no people living in defined areas of higher deprivation (0-30% IMD bands).

Table 4.7: Accessibility to sports halls with 3+ courts

IMD 10% bands	Persons	Population %	Persons inside catchment	Population inside (%)	Persons outside catchment	Population outside (%)
0 - 10	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
10.1 - 20	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
20.1 - 30	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
30.1 - 40	1,473	1.5%	1,473	1.5%	0	0.0%
40.1 - 50	13,121	13.7%	7,557	7.9%	5,564	5.8%
50.1 - 60	8,922	9.3%	4,967	5.2%	3,955	4.1%
60.1 - 70	12,215	12.7%	4,428	4.6%	7,787	8.1%
70.1 - 80	23,002	23.9%	9,440	9.8%	13,562	14.1%
80.1 - 90	16,631	17.3%	8,272	8.6%	8,359	8.7%
90.1 - 100	20,738	21.6%	8,301	8.6%	12,437	12.9%
Total	96,102	100.0%	44,438	46.2%	51,664	53.8%

It is reported that 11.4% of the population do not have access to a car (2021 Census). This means that 4,867 people in Blaby are reliant on public transport or walking/cycling to get to a sports hall. This can add to the cost of participation. Drive time catchment modelling suggests that all of Blaby's population lives within a 20 minutes' drive time of a publicly accessible sports hall with three or more badminton courts. This is shown in Figure 4.6.

Figure 4.6: Sports halls on IMD background based on 20 minutes' drive time



Facilities in neighbouring local authority areas

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There are 26 sports halls with 3+ court in neighbouring authorities within two miles of the BDC boundary. Three are of significant size, The Q.E. II Diamond Jubilee Leisure Centre, Beauchamp College and Hinkley Leisure Centre (8-courts), four are large halls (6-courts), Leicester Leys Leisure Centre, Braunstone Leisure Centre, Aylestone Leisure Centre and Leicester Grammar School.

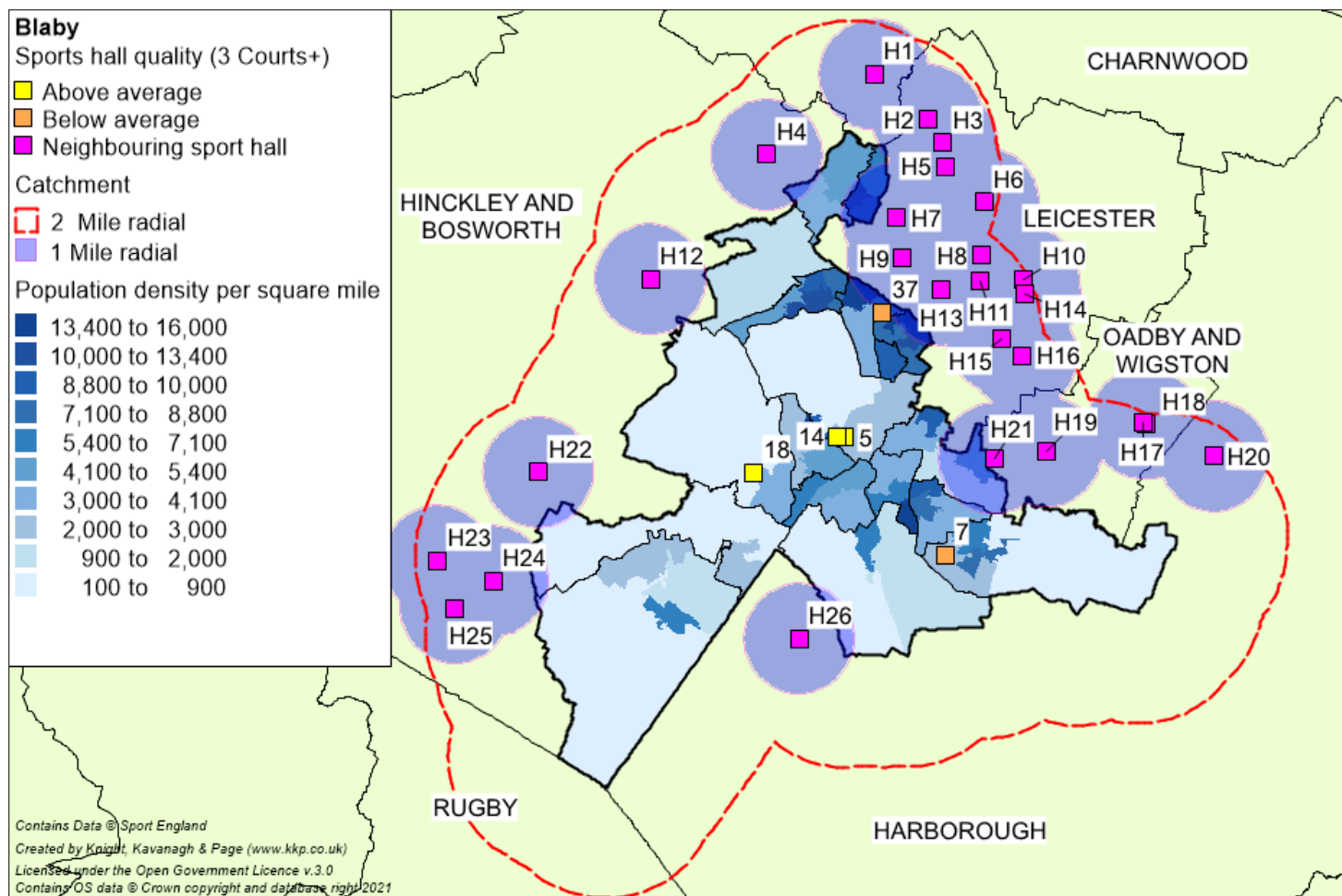
They are all considered likely to be attracting residents from the north and east of the district. For some residents their closest facility may be located in a neighbouring authority.

Of these 26 out of 17 are to the northeast of the authority in Leicester and Oadby & Wigston, two are in Harborough, six in Hinkley and Bosworth, and one in Charnwood.

According to Sport England Active Places Power information, nine sites offer pay and play access, the others require a membership or can be accessed via a sports club or association.

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Figure 4.7: Neighbouring sports halls with community use (2-mile boundary)



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Table 4.8: Blaby's neighbouring sports halls - 3+ courts with community use

ID	Site name	Courts	Access type	Local authority
H1	The Martin High School	4	Sports club / CA	Charnwood
H2	Leicester Leys Leisure Centre	6	Pay and play	Leicester
H3	Babington Academy	4 + 4	Sports club / CA	Leicester
H4	Brookvale Groby Learning Campus	4	Sports club / CA	Hinckley & Bosworth
H5	Beaumont Leys Secondary School	4	Sports club / CA	Leicester
H6	Maher Community Centre	4	Pay and play	Leicester
H7	New College Leicester	4	Sports club / CA	Leicester
H8	The Q.E. II Diamond Jubilee Leisure Centre	8	Pay and play	Leicester
H9	Braunstone Leisure Centre	6	Pay and play	Leicester
H10	Regent College	4	Sports club / CA	Leicester
H11	Watershed Youth Centre	3	Pay and play	Leicester
H12	Bosworth Academy	4	Pay and play	Hinckley & Bosworth
H13	Fullhurst Community College	4	Sports club / CA	Leicester
H14	The Danielle Brown Sports Centre	4	Reg. membership	Leicester
H15	Aylestone Leisure Centre	6	Reg. membership	Leicester
H16	Sir Jonathan North College	4	Sports club / CA	Leicester
H17	Gartree High School	4	Sports club / CA	Oadby and Wigston
H18	Beauchamp College	8	Pay and play	Oadby and Wigston
H19	Wigston Academy	4 + 4	Sports club / CA	Oadby and Wigston
H20	Leicester Grammar School	6	Sports club / CA	Harborough
H21	South Wigston High School Sports Academy	4	Sports club / CA	Oadby and Wigston
H22	Heath Lane Academy	4	Sports club / CA	Hinckley & Bosworth
H23	Hinckley Club for Young People	4	Sports club / CA	Hinckley & Bosworth
H24	Hinckley Academy & John Cleveland 6th Form Centre	4	Sports club / CA	Hinckley & Bosworth
H25	Hinckley Leisure Centre	8	Pay and play	Hinckley & Bosworth
H26	Broughton Astley Leisure Centre	4	Pay and play	Harborough

Source: Active Places Power 24/11/2023

NB: Sports club / CA = sports club / community association use

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Availability and facility management

In Blaby, sports halls have a range of owners and operators. One is Government owned and operated, the two public leisure centres are local authority owned (managed by Everyone Active). The remaining three are school/academy owned and managed in house.

Table 4.9: Ownership and management of sport halls

Site	Ownership	Management
Leicestershire Constabulary Police HQ	Government	Government
Brockington College	Academy	In house
Countesthorpe Community College	Community school	In house
Enderby Leisure & Golf Centre	Local Authority	Everyone Active (SLM)
Huncote Leisure Centre	Local Authority	Everyone Active (SLM)
The Winstanley School	Community school	In house

Daytime availability

Daytime availability is limited due to the constraints on education sites. These are limited to evening and weekend access only.

Huncote Leisure Centre currently is not available in the daytime. Everyone Active expressed interest so doing however, with the current facility mix at the centre there is insufficient demand (it has a small gym, five squash courts, two studios, community room and a sports hall). It shared an ambition to invest in the centre to create daytime opportunities for preschool children and those that are available in daytime hours.

Schools are offering good levels of community access; all are offering 40 hours+ of community use. All schools and leisure centres reported capacity to accommodate increased demand.

Table 4.10: Community use hours and activities that take place in sports halls

Community use hours	KKP ref.	Site	Total courts	Main sports played
None	27	Leicestershire Constabulary Police HQ	3	
42.5	5	Brockington College	4	Archery, futsal, badminton, netball
51.0	7	Countesthorpe Community College	4	Cricket, futsal, football, netball, badminton, pickle ball roller skating
95.0	14	Enderby Leisure & Golf Centre	3	Badminton, football
42.0	18	Huncote Leisure Centre	4	Gymnastics, badminton, football
52.5	37	The Winstanley School	4	Table tennis, netball, football, Badminton, archery

The audit identifies a good range of sports taking place, with a balance of traditional and non-traditional sports on offer.

All sports halls report having availability for additional bookings should demand increase. In addition, all apart from Brockington College have football programmed. Should space

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become a challenge, there is scope to push football outdoors onto 3G pitches where available. When the sports hall that is not available to the community (at Leicestershire Constabulary Police HQ) is removed from the accessibility to sports halls analysis, the position is as follows:

Figure 4.8: Community available sports halls with 3+ courts on IMD with one-mile radial catchments

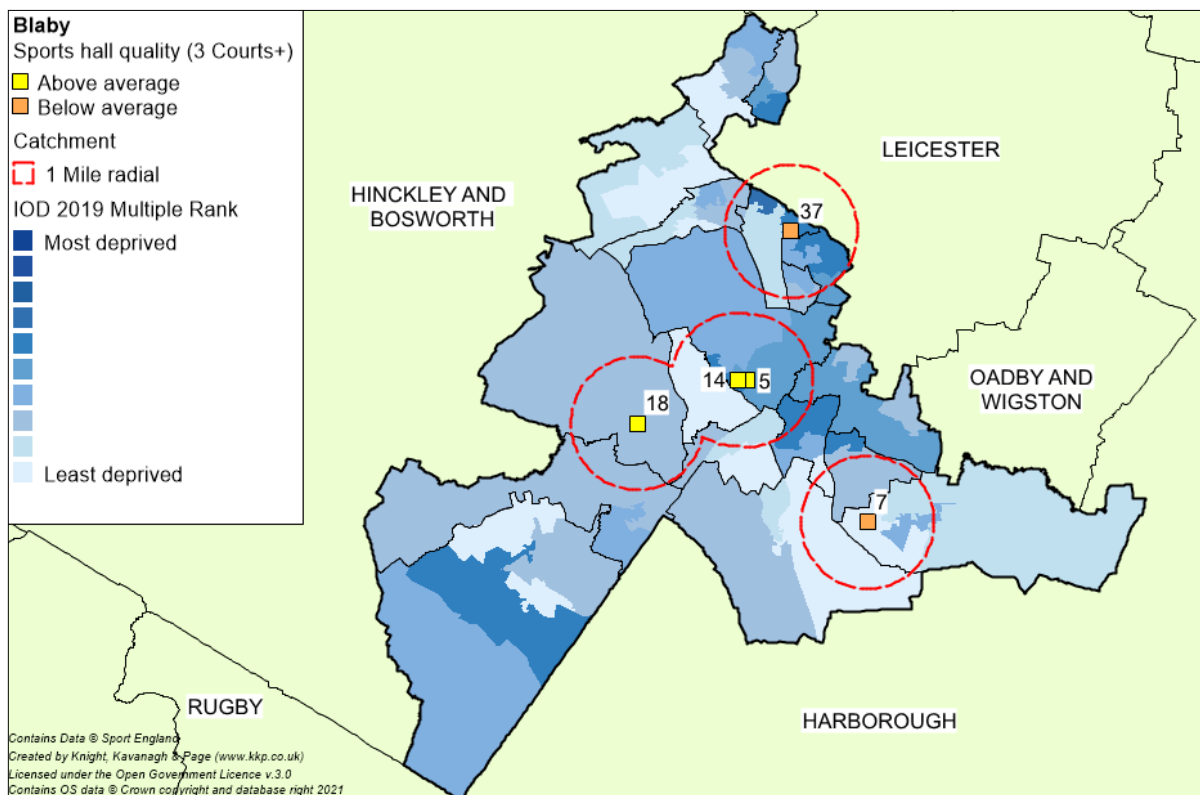


Table 4.11: Accessibility to sports halls with community use and 3+ courts

IMD 10% bands	Persons	Population %	Persons inside catchment	Population inside (%)	Persons outside catchment	Population outside (%)
0 - 10	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
10.1 - 20	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
20.1 - 30	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
30.1 - 40	1,473	1.5%	1,473	1.5%	0	0.0%
40.1 - 50	13,121	13.7%	7,345	7.6%	5,776	6.0%
50.1 - 60	8,922	9.3%	2,535	2.6%	6,387	6.6%
60.1 - 70	12,215	12.7%	4,354	4.5%	7,861	8.2%
70.1 - 80	23,002	23.9%	7,202	7.5%	15,800	16.4%
80.1 - 90	16,631	17.3%	8,002	8.3%	8,629	9.0%
90.1 - 100	20,738	21.6%	8,301	8.6%	12,437	12.9%
Total	96,102	100.0%	39,212	40.8%	56,890	59.2%

When the Leicestershire Constabulary Police Headquarters sports hall is removed from the analysis, the population inside the one-mile radial catchment reduces to 39,212 (40.8%) of the population. This is an increase of 5,226 people.

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Future developments

At the time of audit, there are no known plans for new sports hall development Blaby.

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's Discover Badminton 2017-2025 strategy presents its vision to be one of the nation's most popular and to win World, Olympic and Paralympic medals. Key objectives are to:

- ◀ 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.

Badminton Facilities Strategy Model 2020-2030 – Blaby District overview

Badminton participation statistics:

- ◀ 3.11% of adults (42.80% male and 57.20% female) have played badminton at least twice in the last 28 days⁵. This equates to **2,500 regular adult players**.
- ◀ 6.00%⁶ of juniors^{Error! Bookmark not defined.} have played badminton at least twice in the last 28 days. This equates to **327 regular junior players**.
- ◀ It is estimated that 7.25% of adults have played badminton at least once in the last 12 months. This equates to **3,300 occasional adult players**⁷ (4.15% latent demand).

Demand

- ◀ The presumption is that **regular adult players** play once per week for one hour and that their average need is for 3 adults per court. This equates to a weekly requirement for **834 court hours** (current demand).
- ◀ The presumption is that **regular junior players** play once per week for 45 minutes and that their average need is for 4 players per court. This equates to a weekly requirement for **62 court hours** (current demand).
- ◀ The presumption is that **occasional adult players** play four times per annum for one hour and that their average need is for 3 adults per court. This requires **85 court hours** (latent demand).
- ◀ To service all badminton demand there is a need for **981 court hours** per week.
- ◀ Projected increase in regular demand in 2030 is **92 court hours**.

Supply

- ◀ There are six (3+court) sports halls containing 25 courts in Blaby.
- ◀ One hall is for private use only; thus 22 courts are available for badminton.

⁵ ALS states that people that have participated at least twice in the last 28 days. For modelling purposes, it is assumed that they participate every week

⁶ ALS states that 6.0% of juniors nationally (14-15 year olds) have played at least twice in the last 28 days. For modelling purposes this has been extended to include 11-13 year olds.

⁷ Occasional players equates to all players minus regular players

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- ◀ The total number of court hours per week (3+ court sports halls) available in Blaby during stated peak time is 879⁸
- ◀ 63.64%⁹ of badminton courts in Blaby meet the Badminton England quality threshold (above average/good) which equates to **555** court hours¹⁰.
- ◀ There is a need for **176.76%** of the **555** good quality peak time court hours, available each week, to service current and latent badminton demand.
- ◀ Additional court hours required per week in 2030 are **92**.

Strategic overview (2020)

High badminton participation rates on a regular basis and slightly higher for those playing in last year in line with ALS findings. Four affiliated clubs indicate a strong badminton infrastructure for the size of the population. Fewer than two thirds of courts meet the BE quality threshold. There is a high need for additional and/or more better-quality courts.

BE performance centres

Elite and talented players must travel out of the area to access a performance centre. The nearest are located in Leicester and Nottingham.

The KKP audit (2023) in consultation with BE reports that currently there are two known badminton clubs in the area, one affiliated and one unaffiliated. In terms of workforce, it reports three 'No Strings Co-ordinators' and two SmashUp! Activators. There is one Level 1 coach, four Level 2 coaches, and no Level 3 coaches in the area.

This highlights that since the Badminton Facilities Strategy Model was undertaken in 2020, there has been a reduction of three affiliated clubs while one new unaffiliated club has been established.

The affiliated badminton club in the area is Huncote Badminton Club - it plays at Huncote Leisure Centre.

BE identified Blaby as having potential growth subject to facilities having capacity and being affordable.

The unaffiliated club has not been identified via site visits or desk research.

Huncote Badminton Club has c.35 members. It currently hires the four courts at Huncote Leisure Centre on Monday evening for two hours. It was approached for consultation; however, no response was received.

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.

The strategy outlines the intention to:

- ◀ Accelerate the development and growth of the game to every level, from grassroots to the elite;

⁸ Peak time hours are defined as; Monday – Friday 17:00-22:00, Saturday 09:30-17:00, Sunday 09:00-14:30 & 17:00-19:30

⁹ National figure: 75.0%

¹⁰ Assumes that all courts of all standards available during all peak hours.

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- ◀ 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 rich diversity of the country it represents, and continues to evolve, adapt and 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 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 the 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 for example by installing combined outdoor basketball and netball goals and art courts in neighbourhood equipped areas for play (NEAPs).

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- ◀ 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 the sport to be growing fast nationally with a recently commissioned YouGov^[1] report noting that the 2019 World Cup inspired 160,000 adult women to take up the sport. In addition, 71% of clubs reported 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 2024 Blaby Playing Pitch Strategy. No indoor netball activity has been identified in Blaby. Blaby Netball Club is reportedly based at Wigston Academy in Oadby and Wigston.

Table tennis

In October 2022, Table Tennis England launched its Strategic Plan '**Table Tennis United**'. Its strategy shares the vision for the game which is 'a table tennis nation': Its strategic objectives (pledges) are:

- ◀ Table tennis will be a thriving community – a sport for everyone with no barriers to taking part.
- ◀ Culture change across the pathway that inspires World Class Performances and medal success.
- ◀ Connection across the table tennis community.
- ◀ A high performing organisation that is not just fit for today but is fit for the future.

In Blaby, there are no Table Tennis England affiliated clubs, there is however one unaffiliated club, Winstanley Wizards.

Winstanley Wizards

Established in 2013, it is based at The Winstanley School. It has 47 adult members and 30 junior members. It is not affiliated with Table Tennis England. It has four junior teams who play in the Junior Leicester Development Table Tennis League once a month and it has four adult teams playing in the Leicester and District Table Tennis League.

The juniors play on a Monday 18:30 – 21:30 and adults play on a Tuesday 18:30 – 21:30.

There are six adult teams, and they play weekly in the Leicestershire Table Tennis League. It is also noted that there are some junior players who play in the adult league as they have the skills to confidently compete.

The Club is mainly based in the sports hall where it has 10 tables. It uses this for some matches while at busy times it also uses the assembly hall area of the school. It has an

[1] <https://www.uksport.gov.uk/news/2019/10/02/netball-world-cup>

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agreement with the School whereby for a reduced hire fee it allows school use of the tables for PE lessons. The Club also on occasions delivers PE lessons.

Until the Covid Pandemic, the Club used to run afterschool. This was reported to be an effective way of recruiting junior members. Since the Pandemic however, for a number of reasons this has not been re-established. The Club reported to be keen to explore the possibilities of re-establishing the sessions.

Basketball (BBE)

BBE is the NGB for the sport in England. Its latest strategy, Growing Basketball Together 2018-2024 aims to give direction, focus and advert for all stakeholders to help leverage a better future for basketball and support the thousands of people benefitting from our sport.

To achieve this, a series of key objectives have been identified:

- ◀ Grow and retain participation.
- ◀ Enhance our infrastructure.
- ◀ Have a world-class talent system.
- ◀ Be a high performing NGB.

There is one affiliated basketball club in Blaby, Leicestershire Police, which plays at the Leicestershire Constabulary Police Headquarters. It has 12 male members and two female members. As mentioned previously, it is not a community club and is only open to serving Police members.

4.3: Future demand and Sports Facilities Calculator (SFC)

This 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 (District) 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.

Calculations assume that the current sports hall stock remains available for community use and the quality remains the same. It appears that the projected increase in Blaby District's population will lead to an increase in demand for sports halls to accommodate demand.

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Table 4.12: Sport England: Sports Facilities Calculator

Description	Provision for 2018 population (mid-year estimate)	Provision for 2029 population (mid-year estimate)	Provision for 2041 population (mid-year estimate)
ONS population projections	100,421	115,702	127,490
Population increase	-	15,281	11,788
Facilities to meet additional demand	28.39 courts 7.10 halls	+4.2 courts + 1.05 halls	+3.45 courts + 0.86 halls
Estimated cost*		£3,150,557	£2,430,389

*based on Q2 2023 build costs

Calculations assume that the current sports hall stock remains available for community use and the quality remains the same. The projected population rise will create an increase in demand for sports hall space. The SFC indicates a requirement for an additional 4.2 courts (1.05 halls) up to 2029 and a further 3.45 courts (0.86 halls) up to 2041 (estimated cost up to 2041: £5,580,946).

Table 4.13: Strategic housing impact

Housing growth increases from strategic sites (500+ houses to 2041)	Additional sports hall space required	Estimated cost (£)
5,472	+1.55 courts 0.39 halls	£1,240,015

Based on current assessment, availability and proposed new development, investment is required in improving the quality and capacity of the existing stock prior to considering the development of a new sports hall.

4.4: Summary of key facts and issues – sports halls

Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	15 sports halls at 12 sites (31 badminton courts). There are six sports halls with 3+ courts at six sites (22 badminton courts).	There is some capacity at existing facilities to accommodate an increase in population.
Quality	Three are rated above average quality, two are below average quality and one site (Leicestershire Constabulary Police HQ) is unassessed.	Invest in the below average sports halls to ensure that they meet modern user expectations. Maintain the quality of the two above-average sites.
Accessibility	Almost half (46.2%) of the population lives within 20 minutes' walk (radial catchment) of a sports hall. All of the Blaby population lives within 20 minutes' drive of a sports hall. There are 26 sports halls (3+ courts) within two miles of BDC's border.	Maintain good relationships with schools to ensure high levels of community availability of sports halls.
Availability (Management and usage)	Daytime availability in the area is provided at Enderby Leisure Centre.	Continued good relationships between schools and clubs are

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Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
	<p>There is an aspiration to open Huncote Leisure Centre of a daytime however, with the current facility mix, there is insufficient demand to make it viable.</p> <p>All halls are available to the community with good levels of availability with the exception of Lancashire Constabulary Police HQ.</p>	<p>required to ensure continued/ increased use of sites.</p> <p>Daytime access to provision is of increasing importance for older people.</p> <p>Consider the options to increase daytime demand at Huncote Leisure Centre.</p>

Strategic summary

- ◀ Each facility is important to the community served and all venues need to be protected in accordance with paragraph 103 of the NPF.
- ◀ The quality of below average sports halls needs to be improved.
- ◀ Good relationships with schools are essential to retain/increase community use.
- ◀ Consider whether and how daytime demand can be increased at Huncote Leisure Centre enabling the centre to viably open during the daytime.
- ◀ Should demand increase and sports halls become full, there is scope to push outdoor sports such as football out onto 3G pitches.
- ◀ There is an appetite to re-establish an afterschool table tennis club session at The Winstanley School with Winstanley Wizards.
- ◀ There is no requirement for additional sports hall provision, there is a need however, to invest and maintain existing provision and ensure it remains accessible to the community.

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SECTION 5: SWIMMING POOLS

A swimming pool is defined as an “enclosed area of water, specifically maintained for all forms of water-based sport and recreation”. It includes indoor and outdoor pools, freeform leisure pools and specific diving tanks used for general swimming, teaching, training and diving. Many small pools are used solely for recreational swimming and will not necessarily need to strictly follow the NGB recommendations. It is, however, generally recommended that standard dimensions are used to allow appropriate levels of competition and training and to help meet safety standards. Relatively few pools need to be designed to full competition standards or include spectator facilities.

Training for competition, low-level synchronised swimming, and water polo can all take place in a 25m pool. With modest spectator seating, pools can also accommodate competitive events in these activities. Diving from boards, advanced synchronised swimming and more advanced sub-aqua training require deeper water. These can all be accommodated in one pool tank, which ideally should be in addition to the main pool.

The NGB responsible for administering diving, swimming, synchronised swimming and water polo in England is Swim England.

Swim England’s report ‘A Decade of Decline: The Future of Swimming Pools in England’ provides a national analysis of the current swimming pool stock across England. It notes that the average age of a pool built from 1960 onwards is 43 years. On this basis it suggests that many of these pools are now coming to the end of their lifespan.

Many pool operators were placed in a serious financial situation during the Covid-19 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 leisure facilities accounting for over 40% cent of some councils’ direct carbon emissions it advocates capital investment into renewal of pool stock in order 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 (no restrictions to accessing the pool as a result of membership criteria). As such, those less than 160m² (e.g., 20m x 4 lanes) water space 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.

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Quantity

The audit identifies 12 swimming pools at eight sites. Five main/general pools, five learner/teaching pools and two lidos. In general, the accepted wisdom is that a venue that has both a learner/teaching pool and a main/general pool can deliver a much broader programme (and substantially improve income generation). They are located in the more densely populated areas in the centre and north of the authority with no facility in the largely rural, south. The largest is Enderby Leisure Centre which has a 6-lane 25m pool and a learner/teaching pool.

Figure 5.1: Swimming pools in Blaby

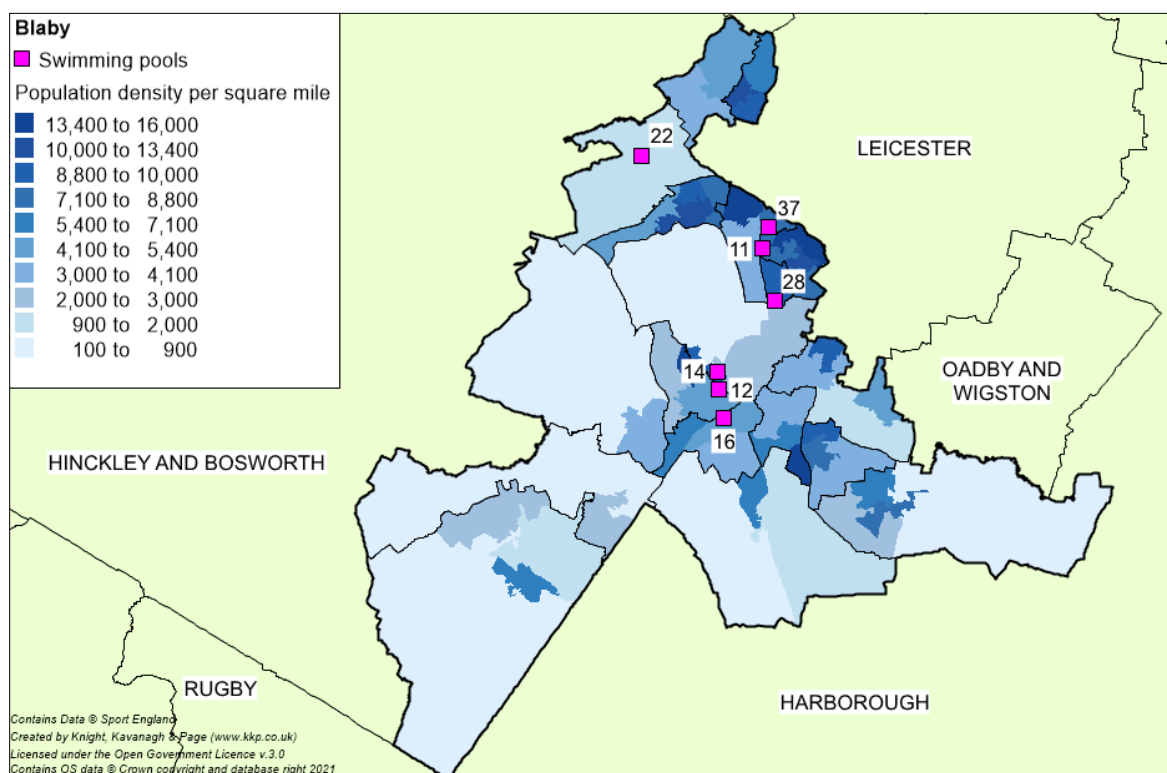


Table 5.1: Swimming pools in Blaby

ID	Site name	Facility type	Lanes/length	Area (m ²)
11	David Lloyd (Meridian)	Main/general	3 x 25m	250
11	David Lloyd (Meridian)	Learner/teaching/training	0 x 2m	3
12	David Lloyd (Narborough)	Main/general	5 x 25m	375
12	David Lloyd (Narborough)	Lido	0 x 20m	200
12	David Lloyd (Narborough)	Learner/teaching/training	0 x 7m	28
12	David Lloyd (Narborough)	Lido	0 x 10m	50
14	Enderby Leisure & Golf Centre	Main/general	6 x 25m	375
14	Enderby Leisure & Golf Centre	Learner/teaching/training	0 x 10m	100
16	Greystoke Primary School	Learner/teaching/training	0 x 15m	105
22	Kirby Muxloe Primary School	Learner/teaching/training	0 x 12m	72
28	Livingwell Health Club	Main/general	2 x 18m	162
37	The Winstanley School	Main/general	4 x 25m	250

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Quality

KKP's non-technical visual assessments also encompass review of changing provision as this also plays a significant role in influencing and attracting users. Quality is assessed according to the process and definitions previously described in Section 3.2. The five main/general pools 20m+ (160m²+) in Blaby are all rated above average quality.

Table 5.2: Quality of 160m²+ swimming pools in Blaby

ID	Site name	Facility type	Lanes/length	Pool condition
11	David Lloyd (Meridian)	Main/general	3 x 25m	Above average
12	David Lloyd (Narborough)	Main/general	5 x 25m	Above average
14	Enderby Leisure & Golf Centre	Main/general	6 x 25m	Above average
28	Livingwell Health Club	Main/general	2 x 18m	Above average
37	The Winstanley School	Main/general	4 x 25m	Above average

The swimming pool at The Winstanley School requires a new plant room. Consultation identified that it was condemned c. 15 years ago and has never been replaced. A fire occurred in 2016, following which the required internal works were all undertaken. The fire severely damaged the building's flat roof which led to it being fully replaced with a built-up vault system. The outer walls were also insulated and cladded to improve the look and efficiency of the building. However, more work is needed to improve the efficiency of the pool including the installation of a heat recovery system.

The average age of swimming pools in the authority is 37 years old. They are, as a consequence, generally outdated, tend not to meet modern user expectations and are not very energy efficient. Everyone Active is working with the Council to seek opportunities to decarbonise Enderby Leisure Centre to make it as energy efficient as possible.

Table 5.3: Age of swimming pools and refurbishment dates (where applicable)

Site name	Year built/ opened*	Refurbishment*	Age (years) since refurbishment
David Lloyd (Meridian)	1998		26
David Lloyd (Narborough)	2006		22
Enderby Leisure & Golf Centre	1970	2007	16
Livingwell Health Club	1990	2015	8
The Winstanley School	1965	2016	7

*According to Active Places Power database October 2023

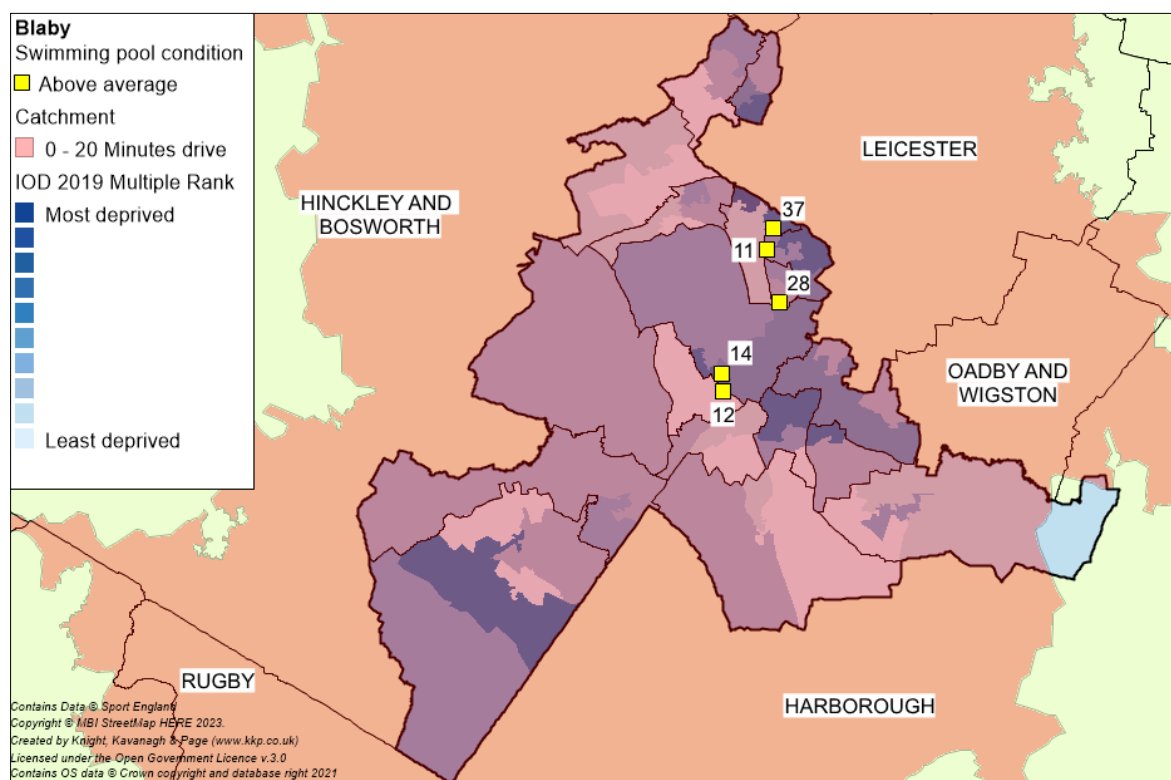
The oldest public pool is the Enderby Leisure & Golf Centre, which opened in 1970. The challenge for the Council is that whilst Enderby Leisure & Golf Centre has received refurbishment, it is now operating way beyond anticipated life expectancy (critical life point is 38 years). It is important that BDC has a plan for the long-term future to replace it.

The oldest pool in the authority is the swimming pool at the Winstanley School, it is in generally good condition due to the refurbishment works that took place following the fire in 2016.

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When considering drive times, almost the whole Blaby population (99.47%) lives within 20 minutes of a swimming pool having an area of at least 160m² as shown in Figure 5.4.

Figure 5.4: Swimming pools within 20 minutes' drive time



Availability

Only one swimming pool, Enderby Leisure & Golf Centre is available to the public on a pay and play basis, all the other pools are commercial venues which require a membership or and The Winstanley School is available via a sports club / community association.

Table 5.5: Access policy of swimming pools in Blaby

ID	Site name	Access policy
11	David Lloyd (Meridian)	Registered membership
12	David Lloyd (Narborough)	Registered membership
14	Enderby Leisure & Golf Centre	Pay and play
28	Livingwell Health Club	Registered membership
37	The Winstanley School	Sports club / community association

The Winstanley School has a swim school (Unity Swimming CIC) and a swimming club (Braunstone SC) operating from the pool. It does not offer any pay and play access.

When considering pay and play access in isolation, catchment analysis indicates that 9,944 people (10.3%) live within one mile of a swimming pool, this is 53,708 (23.5%) fewer people than the figure for all pools.

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Figure 5.5: Swimming pools offering pay and play access (IMD 2019)

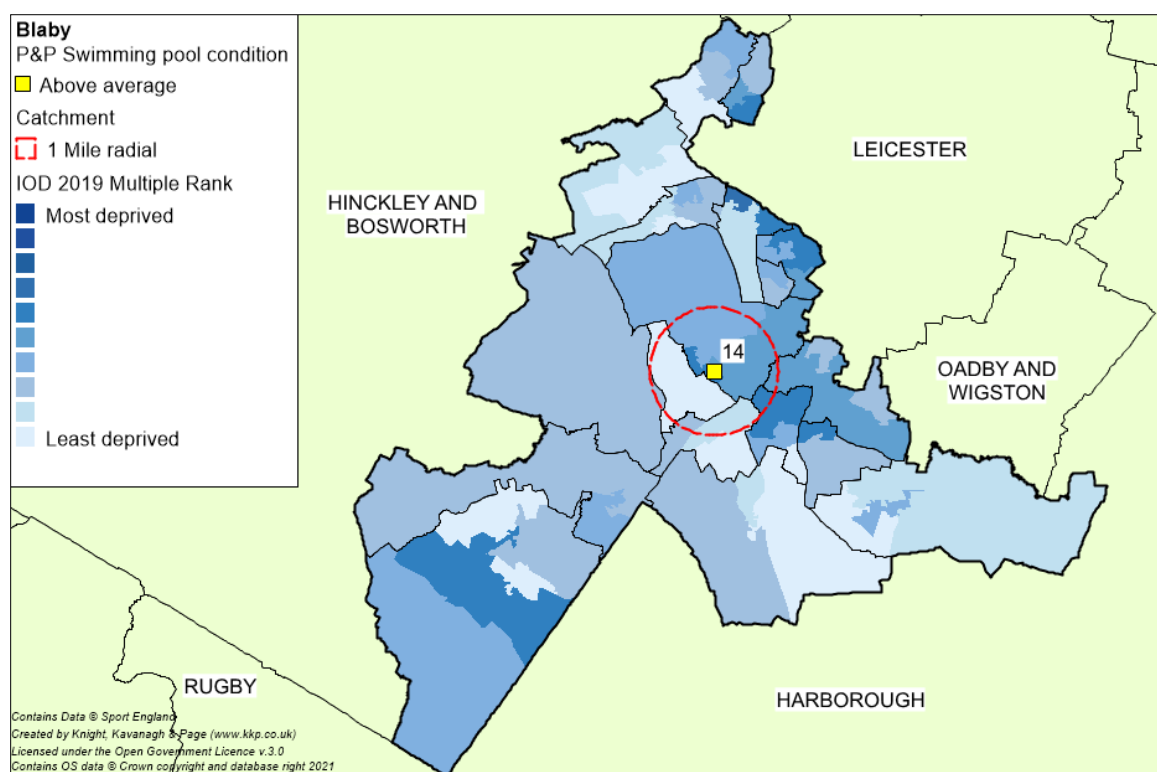


Table 5.6: Pay and play swimming pool accessibility in Blaby (IMD 2019)

IMD 10% bands	Persons	Population %	Persons inside catchment	Population inside (%)	Persons outside catchment	Population outside (%)
0 - 10	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
10.1 - 20	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
20.1 - 30	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
30.1 - 40	1,473	1.5%	0	0.0%	1,473	1.5%
40.1 - 50	13,121	13.7%	1,560	1.6%	11,561	12.0%
50.1 - 60	8,922	9.3%	1,649	1.7%	7,273	7.6%
60.1 - 70	12,215	12.7%	290	0.3%	11,925	12.4%
70.1 - 80	23,002	23.9%	475	0.5%	22,527	23.4%
80.1 - 90	16,631	17.3%	1,411	1.5%	15,220	15.8%
90.1 - 100	20,738	21.6%	4,559	4.7%	16,179	16.8%
Total	96,102	100.0%	9,944	10.3%	86,158	89.7%

Facilities in neighbouring authorities

Accessibility is also influenced by facilities within easy reach of the local authority. Figure 5.5 and Table 5.6 overleaf illustrate that there are 15 swimming pools within two miles of the BDC boundary. Nine are available on a pay and play basis, four require a membership for access and two are available via a sports club / community association. Leicester Leys Leisure Centre is a leisure pool with flumes and splash facilities. It is a destination leisure swim facility and as such is likely to be attracting Blaby residents for casual swimming.

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Figure 5.5: Swimming pools within two miles of Blaby District boundary

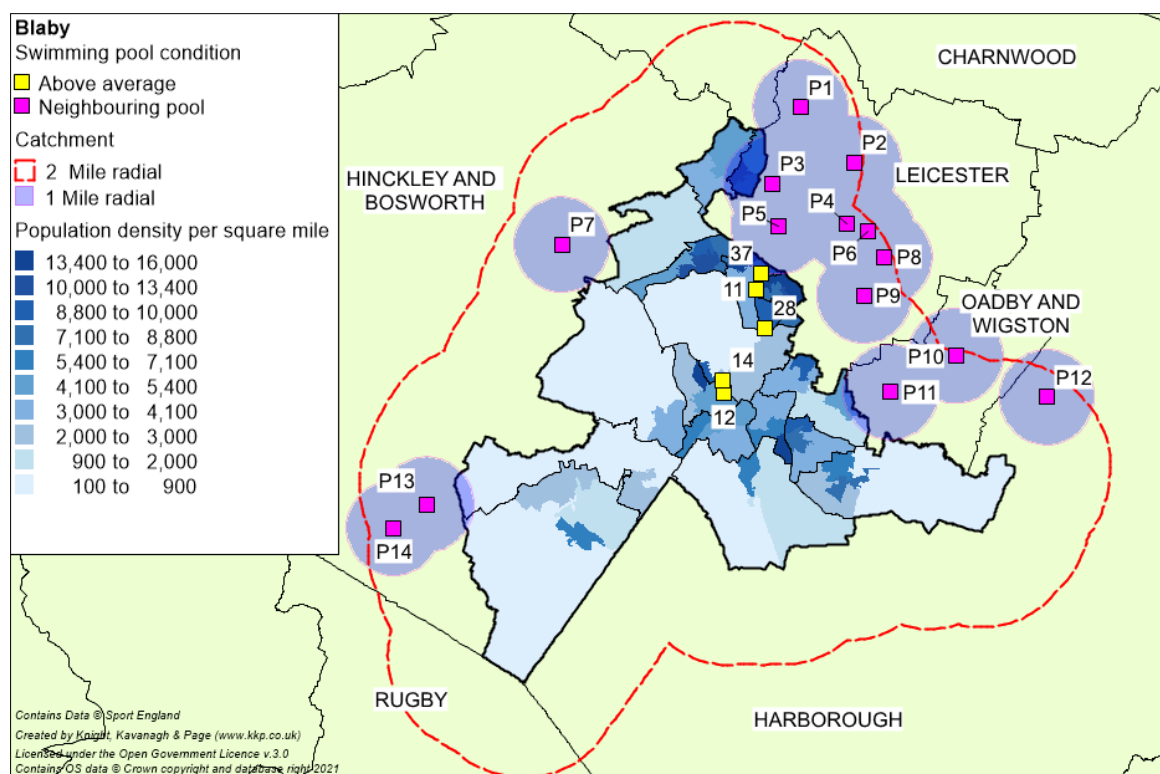


Table 5.6: Swimming pools located within two miles of Blaby boundary

ID	Active Places site name	Lanes / length	Access type	Local authority
P1	Leicester Leys Leisure Centre	0 x 30m	Pay and play	Leicester
P2	Nuffield Health (Leicester)	3 x 25m	Reg. membership	Leicester
P3	New Parks Leisure Centre	4 x 25m	Pay and play	Leicester
P4	The QE II Diamond Jubilee LC	6 x 25m	Pay and play	Leicester
P5	Braunstone Leisure Centre	8 x 25m	Pay and play	Leicester
P5	Braunstone Leisure Centre	4 x 25m	Pay and play	Leicester
P6	Bannatyne Health Club	0 x 22m	Reg. membership	Leicester
P7	Bosworth Academy	4 x 25m	Pay and play	Hinckley & Bosworth
P8	The Danielle Brown Sports Centre	4 x 20m	Reg. membership	Leicester
P9	Aylestone Leisure Centre	4 x 25m	Pay and play	Leicester
P10	Parklands Leisure Centre	6 x 25m	Reg. membership	Oadby and Wigston
P11	Wigston Pool & Fitness Centre	6 x 25m	Pay and play	Oadby and Wigston
P12	Leicester Grammar School	6 x 25m	Sports club / CA	Harborough
P13	Hinckley Academy & John Cleveland Sixth Form Centre	0 x 25m	Sports club / CA	Hinckley & Bosworth
P14	Hinckley Leisure Centre	8 x 25m	Pay and play	Hinckley & Bosworth

Source: Active Places Power 29/11/2023 NB: Sports club / CA = Sports Club / Community Association

Future enhancements/new developments

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As of the audit date, no known new swimming pool developments are planned in the area.

5.2: Demand

Swim England’s latest strategic plan is the Access Aquatics Strategy 2023-2033. Its vision is “Championing a healthy and successful nation through swimming”. It recognises that its main challenges are:

- ◀ Approximately a quarter of 11-year-olds do not meet the curriculum target of being able to swim 25m or rescue themselves from water – a figure that doubles for children from some ethnically diverse communities and for those of greater deprivation.
- ◀ People from diverse ethnic communities are less likely to take part in aquatic sports or become members of Swim England.
- ◀ Swim England must continue to evolve its approach to supporting the welfare of all those who participate in aquatics and in particular safeguarding young people within our sport.
- ◀ The economic climate is creating challenges for all organisations within the sector and adds to the pressure on clubs and pools to achieve financial sustainability.
- ◀ Facilities for the sports and activities are declining with the nation predicted to be short of the equivalent of eight hundred 25m pools by the end of the decade.
- ◀ The sector is experiencing a workforce shortage, in particular amongst swimming teachers.

Mission:

“Improve the health and success of the nation by enabling access to aquatics for all”.

Strategic priorities

Priority	Objective
Capability	To reduce the number of children that are unable to swim by 50% whilst reducing inequalities in swimming attainment amongst under-represented groups.
People	To understand the barriers to participation that currently exist, particularly amongst communities that have traditionally been left behind and support the sector to dismantle these. This will foster a welcoming and inclusive environment at all levels of aquatics and see an increase in the proportion of people from under-represented groups taking part.
Water	To ensure the country has a network of sustainable pools that provide enough water space to support all aquatic activities.

Swim England reports that based on the Sport England Facilities Planning Model data (FPM) and a population of 100,421, there is a target water space of 1,205m². Given the supply of public water is 1,913m², it determines that there is currently adequate water space, a surplus of 708m². (For context a 6 lane 25m pool = 325m² and a 4 lane 20m pool = 160m²). It reports the following recommendations:

- ◀ Future water provision should look to have open public access, ensuring water space remains accessible to local population.
- ◀ The District shows a surplus of water space but the majority is provided at commercially operated sites outside of local authority ownership. Therefore, membership arrangements and the extent to which these facilities are accessible to the public and their affordability and accessibility should be considered.
- ◀ Enderby Leisure and Golf Centre provides a quarter of the current water space but is an ageing facility and therefore should be considered a risk to ensuring the target water provision is sustained over the next 10 years.

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- ◀ Refurbishment or replacement of Enderby Leisure Centre should be considered to ensure that the District has adequate water supply for public swimming, clubs, learn to swim etc. beyond the next 10 years. Failure to ensure replacement supply would be likely to cause a water deficit when considering the commercially focused make-up of the stock in the District.
- ◀ This forward planning for water provision beyond the next ten years should include a strategic review that factors in non-local authority sites, how they operate, accessibility, and future investment.
- ◀ The future facility mix needs to consider the versatility of its water space with options for moveable floors/booms offering greater flexibility in programming.

Club consultation:

Leicester Sharks Swimming Club has 310 Swim England accredited members and has achieved Swimmark status. It uses four venues, Lutterworth Sports Centre, Wigston Pool & Fitness Centre, Leicester Grammar School and Enderby Leisure Centre (Blaby).

It hires the swimming pool at Enderby Leisure Centre for 14 hours per week and hires the sports hall for one hour per week for land training.

The pool at Enderby does not meet all the Club's needs as it does not have the required spectator seating and viewing areas and so it hires pools outside of the Authority for competitions and long course training.

The Club requires additional pool time to be able to meet demand and is hoping to gain extra pool hours on Sunday evenings.

Braunstone Swimming Club has 967 affiliated Swim England members and operates from four swimming pool across Leicestershire. They are De Montford University Pool, New Parks Leisure Centre, Braunstone Leisure Centre and The Winstanley School in Blaby. It is reported to be full to capacity and not able to accommodate any increased demand.

Swim England reports that the club operates a large scale learn to swim programme from The Winstanley School.

The Club was contacted on several occasions, but it did not respond.

5.4: Sport England's Facilities Calculator (SFC)

As noted above the SFC assists local planning authorities to quantify additional demand for community sports facilities generated by new growth populations, development, and regeneration areas. It can be used to estimate area facility needs but should not be applied for strategic gap analysis as it has no spatial dimension because 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

	Provision for 2018 population (mid-year estimate)	Provision for 2029 population (mid-year estimate)	Provision for 2041 population (mid-year estimate)

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ONS population projections	100,421	115,702	127,490
Population increase	-	15,281	11,788
Facilities to meet additional demand	20.45 lanes 5.11 pools	+3.11 lanes +0.78 pools	+2.41 lanes +0.60 pools
Estimated cost*		+£3,462,842	+£2,671,290

*based on Q2 2023 build costs

Population increases will not necessitate new provision. Calculations assume that current pool stock remains available for community use and the quality remains the same. Projected population increases will lead to an increase in demand for swimming space. The SFC indicates a requirement for an additional 3.11 lanes (0.78 of a pool) at a cost of £3,462,842 up to 2029 and a further 2.41 lanes up to 2041; equivalent to 0.60 swimming pools (estimated cost: £2,671,290).

Table 5.9: Strategic housing impact

Housing growth increases from strategic sites (500+ houses to 2041)	Additional swimming pool space required	Estimated cost (£)
5,472	+1.11 lanes of a pool	1,240,015

Based on current assessment, availability and proposed new development, investment is required in improving the quality and capacity of the existing stock prior to considering the development of a new swimming pool.

5.5: Summary of key facts and issues – swimming pools

Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	12 swimming pools at eight sites. Five are main/general pools, five are a learner/teaching pools and two are lidos.	There is a need to maintain current provision. A long-term plan for Enderby Leisure Centre is required.
Quality	All five main swimming pools are rated above average quality. The room in which the plant at the Winstanley School pool is housed is in need of replacement.	Enderby Leisure Centre pool is operating beyond its critical life point and will require replacement. There is a need to replace the plant housing at The Winstanley School.
Accessibility	99% of Blaby's residents live within 20 minutes' drive of a swimming pool; 10.3% reside within 20-minutes' walk of a pay and play accessible pool.	There is a need to ensure that swimming pools are accessible to those living in rural areas and people that require public transport to access provision.
Availability (Management and usage)	Enderby Leisure Centre pool is available to the community on a pay and play basis all other pools require a membership for access or need to be accessed via a sports club / community association.	Ensure that facilities can be accessed by the whole community particularly those from more deprived areas and/or with particular health needs.
Other	There is a need to invest in current facilities to reduce carbon emissions and the cost of operating efficiently to meet Blaby's net zero emissions pledge.	Invest to save opportunities should be considered to reduce the energy consumption.

Strategic summary

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- ◀ Each facility is important to the community served and should be protected in accordance with paragraph 103 of the NPPF.
- ◀ Enderby Leisure Centre is operating beyond its critical life and a replacement plan is required.

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SECTION 6: HEALTH AND FITNESS SUITES

According to the most recent ALS data¹¹, 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.

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.

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6.1: Supply

Quantity

The nine health and fitness gyms in Blaby offer 582 stations. Generally, they are located in the main settlement areas and on the main arterial routes.

Figure 6.1: All health and fitness on population density

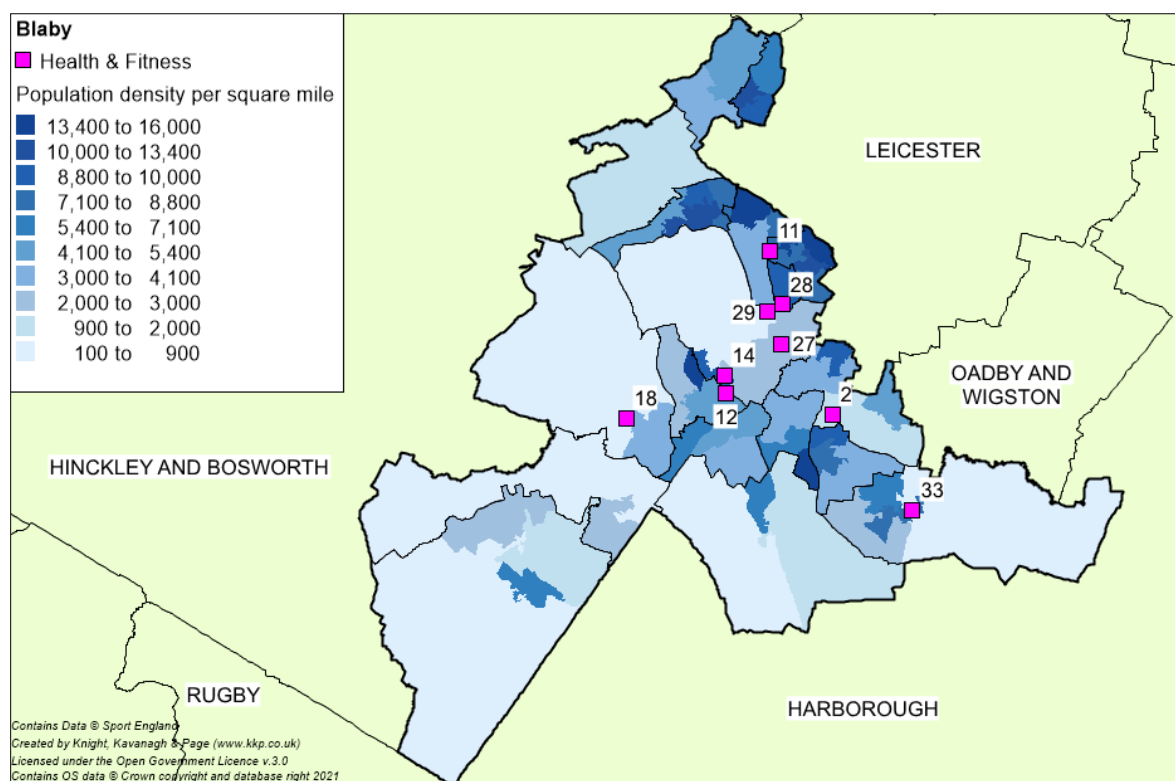


Table 6.1: All health and fitness gyms in Blaby

ID	Site name	Stations
2	Blaby Fitness	25
11	David Lloyd (Meridian)	150
12	David Lloyd (Narborough)	91
14	Enderby Leisure And Golf Centre	138
18	Huncote Leisure Centre	45
27	Leicestershire Constabulary Police HQ	50
28	Livingwell Health Club (Leicester)	40
29	Marriott Leisure Club (Leicester)	25
33	The Fitness Works	18
-	Total	582

Fitness facilities with fewer than 20 stations are typically not assessed/considered although it is recognised that they can service smaller communities. When the one venue which has fewer than 20 stations is removed from the supply list, there are eight health and fitness gyms and 564 stations.

Table 6.2: Health and fitness gyms with 20+ stations

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ID	Site name	Stations
2	Blaby Fitness	25
11	David Lloyd (Meridian)	150
12	David Lloyd (Narborough)	91
14	Enderby Leisure And Golf Centre	138
18	Huncote Leisure Centre	45
27	Leicestershire Constabulary Police HQ	50
28	Livingwell Health Club (Leicester)	40
29	Marriott Leisure Club (Leicester)	25
-	Total	564

Quality

All community available health and fitness sites received a non-technical quality assessment. All the gyms rated above average in quality and report implementing regular investment and maintenance regimes.

Figure 6.2: Health and fitness gym quality (20+ stations)

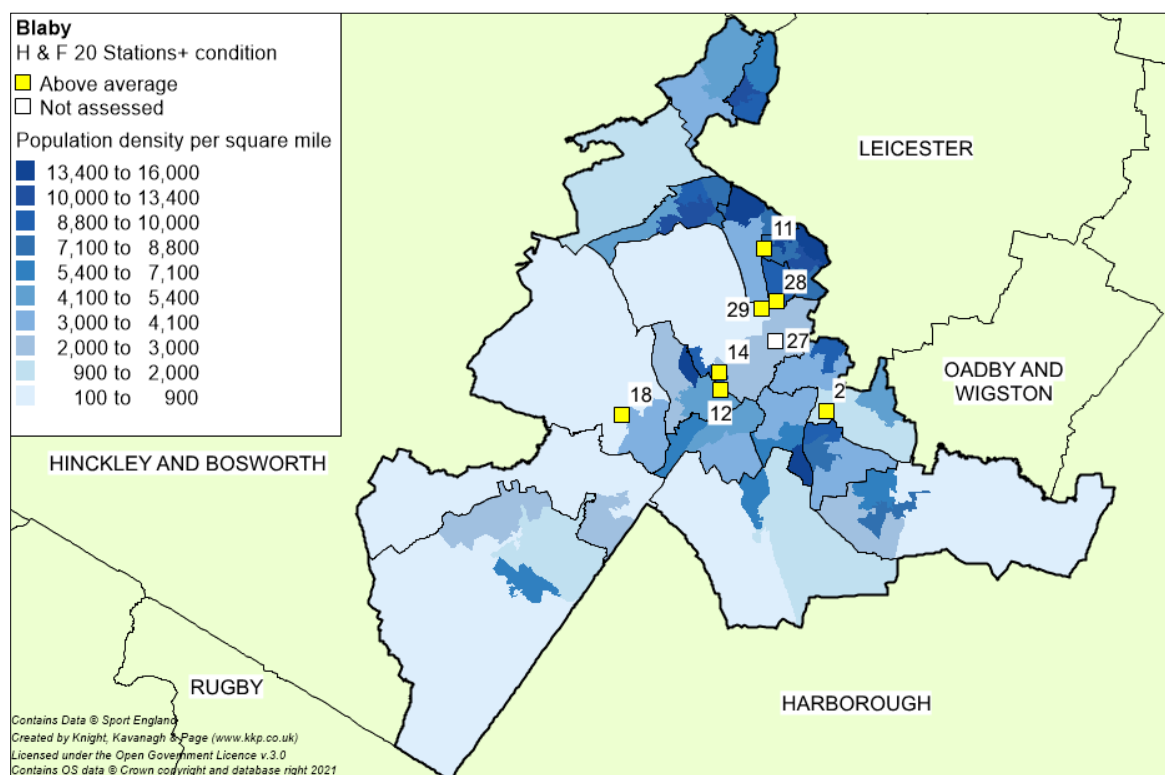


Table 6.3: Quality of health and fitness gyms

ID	Site name	Stations	Condition
2	Blaby Fitness	25	Above average
11	David Lloyd (Meridian)	150	Above average
12	David Lloyd (Narborough)	91	Above average
14	Enderby Leisure And Golf Centre	138	Above average
18	Huncote Leisure Centre	45	Above average

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ID	Site name	Stations	Condition
27	Leicestershire Constabulary Police HQ	50	Not assessed
28	Livingwell Health Club (Leicester)	40	Above average
29	Marriott Leisure Club (Leicester)	25	Above average

There are aspirations to extend the gym at Enderby Leisure Centre in the future to accommodate demand however, there are no current plans and there is no identified funding in place to do this.

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 do not have a contractual obligation to, for example, offer exercise referral nor do they necessarily actively target hard to reach groups. 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 the various private operators can take pressure off the 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 is a 20-minutes' drive time. 48% of Blaby's population lives within 20 minutes' walk of a health and fitness facility with 20+ stations and community access. Consequently, 52% of the population is likely to need to use a car or public transport to access facilities. The whole (100%) of the population lives within 20 minutes' drive of a health and fitness facility.

Figure 6.3: Health and fitness gyms 20+ stations+ with 1 mile radial catchment

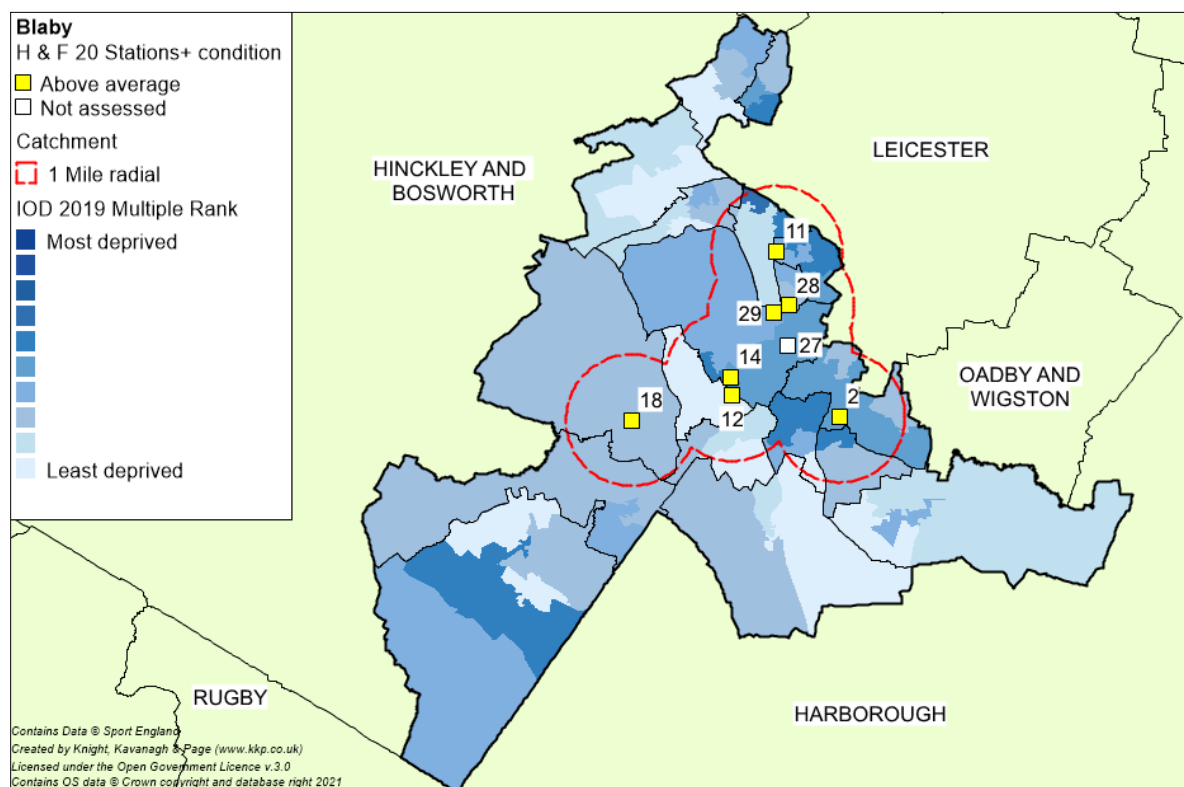


Table 6.3: Health and fitness 20+ stations with 1 mile radial catchment

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Figure 6.5: Fitness gyms with 20+ stations within 2 miles of local authority boundary

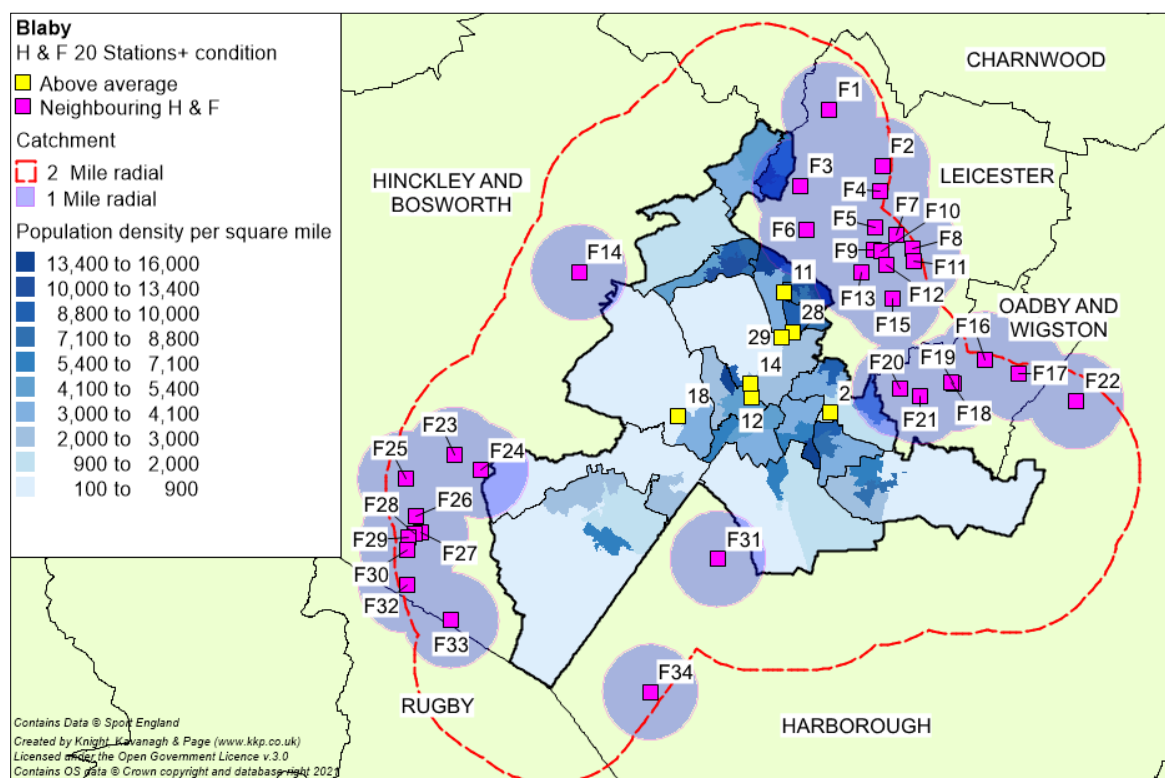


Table 6.4: Fitness gyms with 20+ stations within two miles of local authority boundary

ID	Active Places site name	Stations	Access type	Local authority
F1	Leicester Leys Leisure Centre	46	Reg. membership	Leicester
F2	Nuffield Health	130	Reg. membership	Leicester
F2	Nuffield Health	20	Reg. membership	Leicester
F3	New Parks Leisure Centre	20	Pay and play	Leicester
F4	Abbey Sports And Leisure Club	100	Reg. membership	Leicester
F5	The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Leisure Centre	120	Pay and play	Leicester
F6	Braunstone Leisure Centre	80	Pay and play	Leicester
F7	Bannatyne Health Club	128	Reg. membership	Leicester
F8	Regent College	20	Sports club / CA	Leicester
F9	Watershed Youth Centre	30	Reg. membership	Leicester
F10	Puregym (Walnut Street)	220	Reg. membership	Leicester
F11	The Danielle Brown Sports Centre	113	Reg. membership	Leicester
F12	The Gym Group (Aylestone Road)	150	Reg. membership	Leicester
F13	The Muscle Machine Gym	50	Reg. membership	Leicester
F14	Sport In Desford	20	Reg. membership	Hinckley & Bosworth
F15	Aylestone Leisure Centre	56	Reg. membership	Leicester
F16	Parklands Leisure Centre	130	Reg. membership	Oadby and Wigston
F17	Beauchamp College	50	Reg. membership	Oadby and Wigston

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ID	Active Places site name	Stations	Access type	Local authority
F18	Clubfit 24	50	Reg. membership	Oadby and Wigston
F19	Unique Physique	80	Reg. membership	Oadby and Wigston
F20	The Fitness Bank	43	Pay and play	Oadby and Wigston
F21	Wigston Pool & Fitness Centre	60	Pay and play	Oadby and Wigston
F22	Leicester Grammar School	20	Sports club / CA	Harborough
F23	The Iron Generation Gym	35	Reg. membership	Hinckley & Bosworth
F24	United Exercise	30	Reg. membership	Hinckley & Bosworth
F25	Fields Health & Fitness Club	30	Reg. membership	Hinckley & Bosworth
F26	Empire Fitness	23	Reg. membership	Hinckley & Bosworth
F26	Empire Fitness	20	Reg. membership	Hinckley & Bosworth
F26	Empire Fitness	100	Reg. membership	Hinckley & Bosworth
F27	Hinckley Leisure Centre	140	Pay and play	Hinckley & Bosworth
F28	Places Gym	125	Pay and play	Hinckley & Bosworth
F29	Snap Fitness	20	Pay and play	Hinckley & Bosworth
F30	The Gym Group	220	Reg. membership	Hinckley & Bosworth
F31	Broughton Astley Leisure Centre	63	Reg. membership	Harborough
F32	Romans Health & Leisure Club	30	Reg. membership	Hinckley & Bosworth
F33	Juvenate	21	Reg. membership	Hinckley & Bosworth
F34	Ullesthorpe Court Golf Club	31	Reg. membership	Harborough

Source: Active Places Power 29/11/2023

Availability and programming

Sport England's classification of access type defines registered membership use facilities as publicly available. This generally means a monthly membership fee, the cost of which can vary considerably. It is acknowledged that memberships which might be considered expensive offer access to different market segments and can ease pressure on more available facilities (i.e., those with cheaper membership options). The access policy of the 20+ station sites in Blaby is shown in Table 6.5 below.

Table 6.5: Access policy of fitness gyms

ID	Site name	Stations	Access type
2	Blaby Fitness	25	Registered membership
11	David Lloyd (Meridian)	150	Registered membership
12	David Lloyd (Narborough)	91	Registered membership
14	Enderby Leisure And Golf Centre	138	Pay and play
18	Huncote Leisure Centre	45	Pay and play
27	Leicestershire Constabulary Police HQ	50	Private use
28	Livingwell Health Club (Leicester)	40	Registered membership
29	Marriott Leisure Club (Leicester)	25	Private use
33	The Fitness Works	18	Registered membership

The two public leisure centre facilities offer pay and play access. Leicestershire Constabulary Police HQ is private use only and the remaining six (two hotels and four commercial fitness gyms) require a membership to access. Marriott Leisure Club is only available to hotel guests only.

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Enderby Leisure Centre accounts for 25% of the supply and Huncote Leisure Centre 8%. A third of fitness provision is public leisure provision.

Table 6.7: Pricing structure of health and fitness facilities in Blaby (December 2023)

Venue	Annual	12-month DD	Notes
Blaby Fitness		£25.00 depending on membership type.	PAYG available via Hussle is £4.50.
David Lloyd (Meridian)		£65.00	Varying membership packages available.
David Lloyd (Narborough)		£119.00	Varying membership packages available
Enderby Leisure And Golf Centre	Fitness - £374.90 Wellness - £499.80	Fitness - £39.00 Wellness - £49.98	Cheaper membership options available for concessions (£31.99), juniors (£21.99) and swim only membership (£31.99). Day pass available for the gym, costing £10.40
Huncote Leisure Centre	Fitness - £199.90 Wellness - £274.80	Fitness - £19.99 Wellness - £27.48	Concession rates available. Day pass £7.75.
Livingwell Health Club (Leicester)	N/A	£55.00	Children £20p/m, family membership £130.00 p/m for 2 adults and up to 3 children. PAYG available for £15.00.
Marriott Leisure Club (Leicester)	N/A	N/A	Hotel residents only.

The cheapest monthly direct debit membership is £19.99 at Huncote Leisure Centre. The most expensive is at the David Lloyd costing £119.00 (although this includes access to the gym, swimming pool (indoor and outdoor), exercise classes, courts and sauna and use of a towel on every visit). There is also a multi club option to use both David Lloyd sites which costs £139.00 per month.

Everyone Active offers a membership at £39.99 per month. This allows access to both of its managed sites in Blaby; Huncote Leisure Centre and Enderby Leisure Centre. It also offers multi-activity options (e.g., swimming and fitness classes). The £19.99 per month option is for access to Huncote Leisure Centre only where the facility is not available until after 15.30 on weekdays and it has a limited group exercise offering.

Membership at the public leisure centres offer multi activity options (e.g., swimming and fitness classes) and multiple site usage. It is recognised that well run health and fitness facilities with studios can offset the costs and enhance the financial viability of other venue elements such as swimming pools and in many instances are used to cross subsidise such facilities.

Commercial gyms, such as the Blaby Fitness also offer pay and play options, although in common with most pay and play sites it becomes less cost-effective when people attend on a weekly basis.

The cheapest casual use gym pass is available via Hussle at Blaby Fitness for £4.50, at the leisure centres, Huncote Leisure Centre is £7.75, and it is £10.40 at Enderby Leisure Centre, for those that cannot afford a monthly membership this is their only option.

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Future developments

There are no known new health and fitness facilities planned for the area.

6.2: Demand

Health and fitness via 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 6.8: UK penetration rates; health/fitness in Blaby

Description	Current (2018)	Future (2029)	Future (2041)
Adult population (16+ years)	100,421	115,702	127,490
UK penetration rate	16%	16%	17%
Number of potential members	16,067	18,512	21,673
Number of visits per week (1.75/member)	28,118	32,397	37,928
% of visits in peak time	65	65	65
No. of visits in peak time (equated to no. of stations required i.e., no. of visits/39 weeks*65%)	469	540	632
No of stations (with comfort factor applied)	703	810	948

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 a current need for 703 stations in Blaby. This will grow to 810 by 2029 and to 948 by 2041 taking account of a comfort factor (particularly at peak times). When comparing the number of currently community available stations (564) and accounting for the comfort factor, there is a current under supply of 139, of 246 stations by 2029 and 684 by 2041. It is however recognised that there is a significant supply of 2,624 stations within two miles of the local authority boundary, eight of which are of significant size with over 100 stations and are seven are national chains.

Table 6.9: Strategic housing impact

Housing growth increases from strategic sites (500+ houses to 2041)	Additional health and fitness space required
5,472	38

Based on current assessment, availability and proposed new development, investment is required in improving the quality and capacity of the existing stock prior to considering the development of a new health and fitness provision.

Everyone Active's desire to expand the provision at Enderby Leisure Centre will enable more Blaby resident demand to be accommodated within Blaby without the need to export demand for neighbouring authorities to cater for. It will also make the scale of Enderby Leisure Centre's provision match the size and scale of some of the commercial gyms.

Budget operator provision is not necessarily available to people who face barriers to participation and groups/people from areas of (relative) disadvantage (as cost is only one

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factor which hinders usage). This applies particularly to people who need to pay for transport to access such facilities and where pay and play is not available.

Supply and demand analysis

As noted, health and fitness facilities are an important facet of leisure provision. Income derived can offset the cost/underpin the viability of other aspects of provision, especially swimming and targeted physical activity programmes such as exercise on referral. The challenge is to continue to provide opportunity for people from areas of higher deprivation who are less likely to be able to afford or choose to access health and fitness and do not have the transport to access facilities.

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.

Activities offered vary from low impact classes (i.e., pilates and yoga) to dance, step, boxercise, and Zumba. Dance classes/clubs are key users of studio spaces throughout the country.

There are 13 studios in the District across seven sites. 12 of which were subject to a non-technical assessment. All studios are rated as above average apart from the studio at The Fitness Works which was not assessed.

Figure 6.5: Studios in Blaby

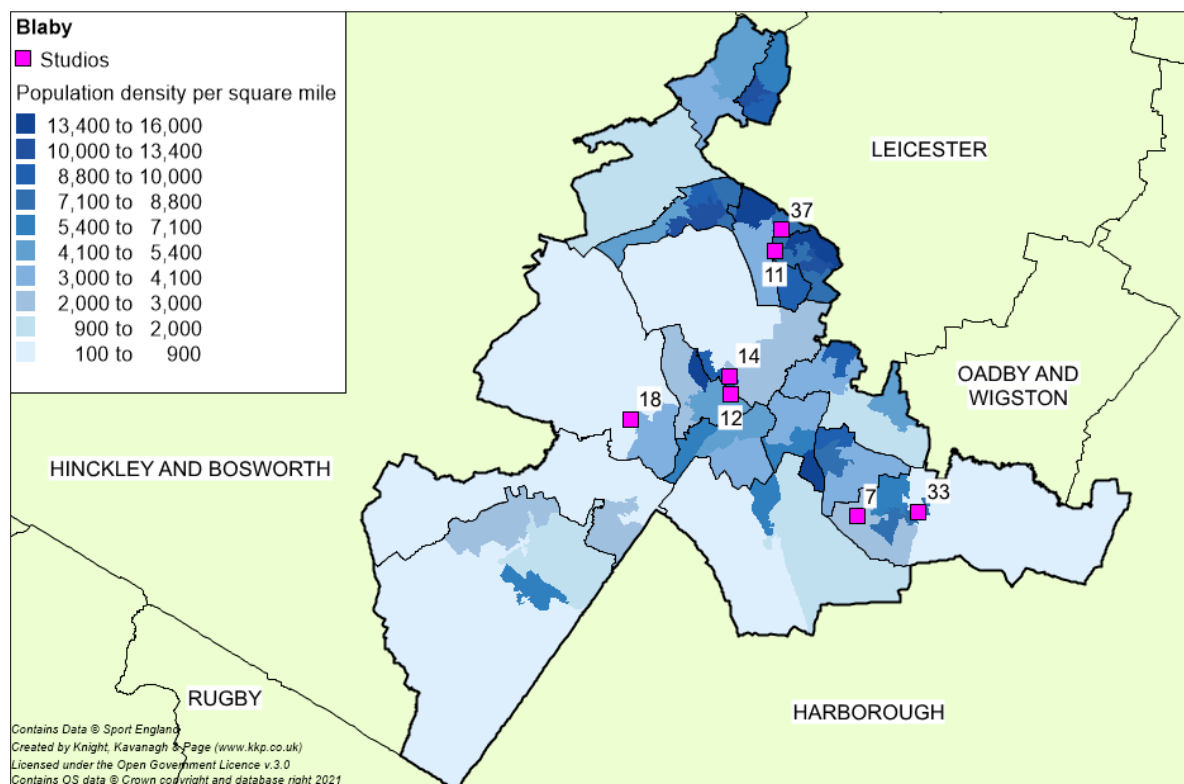


Table 6.9: Studios in Blaby

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ID	Site name	Access policy	Quantity	Condition
7	Countesthorpe Community College	Sports club/CA	2	Above average
11	David Lloyd (Meridian)	Reg. membership	2	Above average
12	David Lloyd (Narborough)	Reg. membership	3	Above average
14	Enderby Leisure & Golf Centre	Pay and play	2	Above average
18	Huncote Leisure Centre	Pay and play	2	Above average
33	The Fitness Works	Reg. membership	1	Not assessed
37	The Winstanley School	Sports club / CA	1	Above average

Four studios are available on a pay and play basis, six require a membership to access and three require access via a sports club / community association.

6.4: Summary of key facts and issues – health and fitness

Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	Of the nine gyms, eight have 20+ stations. The eight gyms provide 523 stations. There are 13 studios. The 34 gyms in neighbouring authorities offer a combined total of 2,624 stations. There is extensive provision in the area and in neighbouring authorities within easy reach of Blaby residents.	There is currently an undersupply (in district) of health and fitness provision of 139 stations. This will rise to 684 stations by 2041. However, there is extensive supply in neighbouring authorities. Support Everyone Active to expand its fitness gym and fitness class offering to enable it to meet demand and compete effectively with commercial operators.
Quality	All fitness gyms are rated above average quality.	There is a need to maintain quality of the above average gyms and studios.
Accessibility	48% of the population lives within one mile walk of a gym and/or studio. The whole population lives within 20 minutes' drive of a gym.	Ensure that harder to reach groups, people with specific health needs or people in rural locations can access health and fitness facilities.
Availability (Management and usage)	There are two pay and play gyms with 20+ stations in Blaby (and four studios the rest require membership to access.	The key need is to cater fully for the full range of local market segments ensuring that residents from hard-to-reach groups can afford them.

Strategic summary

- ◀ There is a need to address the current and future under-supply of health and fitness provision in the area. There is extensive cross-boundary competition offering significant supply; this will be meeting some of Blaby's demand.
- ◀ Explore options to increase health and fitness provision in the area.
- ◀ Support Everyone Active to expand health and fitness provision at Enderby Leisure Centre to meet demand.
- ◀ Enable people which need it most to access health and fitness-based sport and physical activity.
- ◀ Ensure that affordable pay and play options are available to residents not wishing / unable to purchase a membership at the public leisure centres.

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SECTION 7: GYMNASTICS

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.

7.1: Supply

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There is no dedicated gymnastics venue and two non-dedicated gymnastic venues in Blaby. Enderby Gymnastics Club operates at Enderby Leisure Centre while Adams Gymnastics operates from Huncote Leisure Centre.

Figure 7.1: Gymnastics provision, Blaby – 30 minutes' drive time catchment

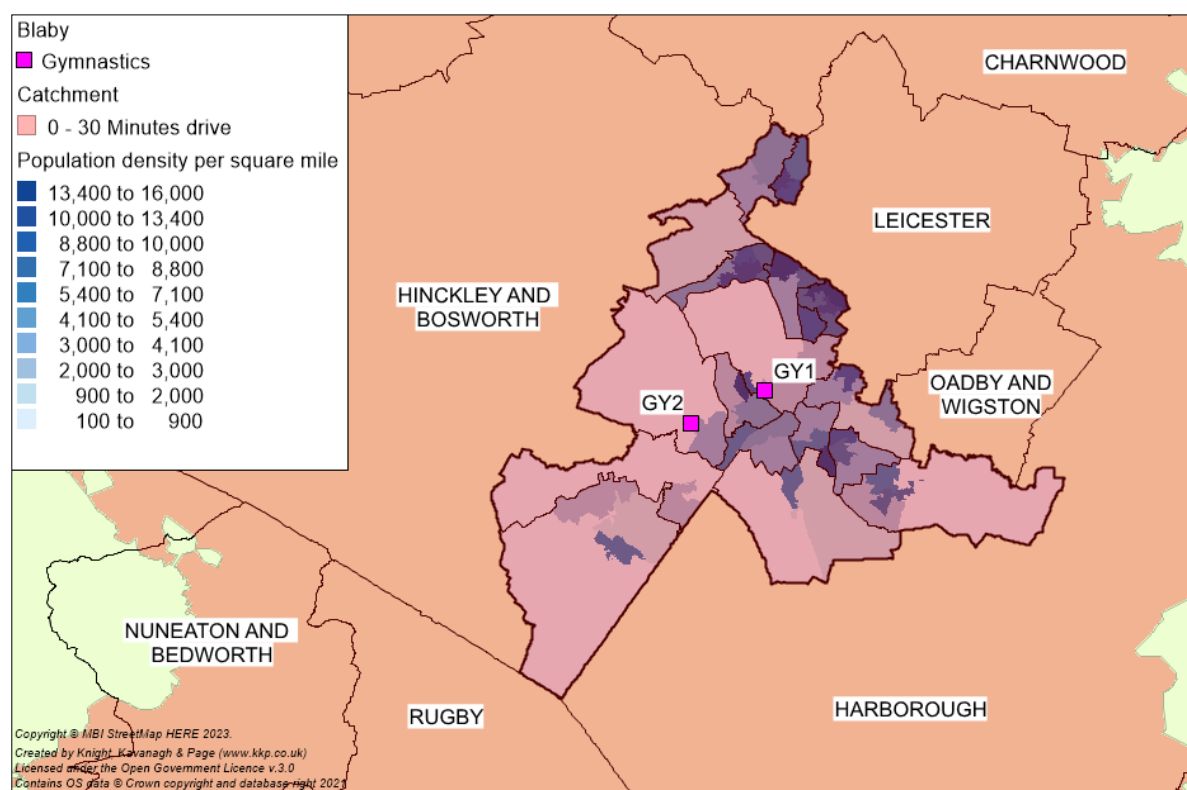


Table 7.1: Gymnastics provision in Blaby

ID	Site name	Gymnastics club type
GY1	Enderby Gymnastics Club	Non - dedicated
GY2	Adams Gymnastics Club	Non - dedicated

Accessibility and availability

Gymnastics facilities appeal beyond a local authority boundary. Consequently, this report considers provision within a 30-minutes' drive time catchment to demonstrate accessibility (Sport England suggests that drive time to specialist sports facilities can be modelled at 30 minutes as opposed to the 20 minutes modelled for sports halls and swimming pools). As shown in Figure 7.1 the whole Blaby population lives within 30 minutes of a non-dedicated gymnastics facility.

7.2: Demand

British Gymnastics reports that participation in gymnastics is increasing. It also suggests that there is substantial demand and that many clubs have waiting lists - restricting access to gymnastic activity due to lack of time within dedicated and generic facilities. In common with the majority of indoor based sports, gymnastic club membership levels were impacted by the Covid-19 Pandemic. British Gymnastics reports that the sport is experiencing

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a strong recovery post Pandemic with current membership numbers tracking c.5% below 2019 levels.

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. British Gymnastics 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.

Both Adams Gymnastics Club and Enderby Gymnastics Club are affiliated to British Gymnastics. Adams Gymnastics Club has 741 affiliated members (across all sites), and Enderby Gymnastics Club has nine affiliated members.

Adams Gymnastics Club operates from four non-dedicated facilities across Leicestershire. It is registered on British Gymnastic's facility project list as wishing to move into a dedicated facility. The Club has reportedly been searching for an appropriate site for a number of years and is very keen to develop its plans. British Gymnastics deems this to be a club a priority based on its excellent recreational based activity and equality, diversity and inclusion offer.

Club consultation

Enderby Gymnastics Club was approached for consultation however, no response was received.

Adams Gymnastics Club operates across four sites in Leicestershire as shown in Figure 7.2. It offers the following:

- ◀ Little Gym stage 3
- ◀ Gymnastics for all – classes for 6-12 years
- ◀ Youth gymnastics – classes for 13-16 years
- ◀ Advanced – for those that have completed all eight levels of the British Gymnastics Core Proficiency awards. (There is also a requirement to compete in Leicestershire competitions and participate in the annual display).

It reports having 'hundreds' of children on its waiting lists especially in the 3-5 years age group.

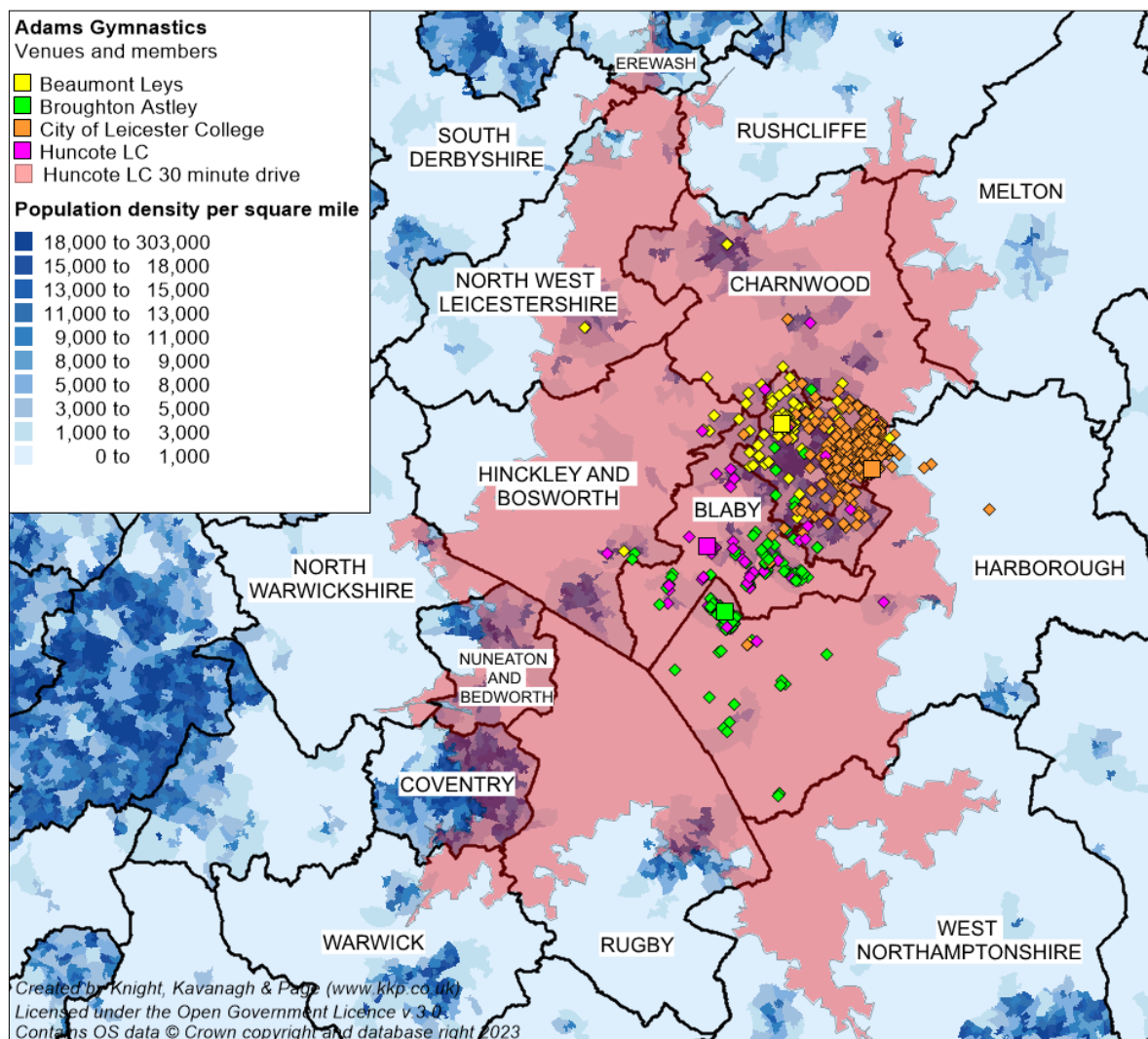
It utilises Huncote Leisure Centre and reports facing challenges with the site, as take up at the centre has been slow, it feels this is due to poor signage (to the venue) and because it only operates in the evenings. The Club currently hires the sports hall which is reported to be too cold. On occasion it is able to leave equipment set up which is of great help to the Club.

Adams GC shared the postcode data of its members and home club site as shown in Figure 7.2 overleaf. This shows that the section of the club operating out of Huncote GC has the least members. It also shows that there is some cross over of members with Broughton Astley site.

The 30 minutes' drive time indicates the potential catchment of a dedicated facility, which given the good transport links is substantial. Adams GC is very keen to expand its pre-school offer at Huncote Leisure Centre as it identifies good potential given its location and proximity to primary schools and family housing. It reports large demand for 1:1 sessions and small groups with special educational needs demand.

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Figure 7.2: Adams Gymnastics Club members by venue used with 30 minutes' drive time



British Gymnastics has indicated that the Club would be considered a priority both to secure long-term tenure at the existing site and to develop further should it desire to.

The Club has initiatives to grow its own workforce with older members becoming leaders, apprentices, and coaches. It reports currently having sufficient coaches but should its aspiration to move to a dedicated / larger venue come to fruition, it will need to develop a larger workforce which it has no concerns about recruiting.

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7.3: Summary of key facts and issues - gymnastics

Elements	Assessment findings	Specific needs
Quantity	Two gymnastics clubs operate in the area, both from non-dedicated gymnastics venues (leisure centre sports halls).	Given the high demand in the area, there is a need for increased gymnastics provision.
Quality	No quality issues have been reported. The sports hall at Huncote LC is reported to be too cold on occasion.	There is a need for high quality gymnastic provision in the area.
Accessibility	The whole Blaby's population lives within a 30-minute drive time of a club/venue within the Authority.	
Availability (Management & usage)	Adams GC reports having substantial waiting lists at all age groups, in particularly the pre-school age group.	A larger, dedicated facility is required to meet the demand.

Strategic summary

- ✦ There is an undersupply of gymnastics provision.
- ✦ Support Adams Gymnastics Club to move to a larger / dedicated facility (if available) to enable it increase capacity to meet demand.
- ✦ Consider whether investment in the Huncote Leisure Centre could enable it to offer daytime access for Adams Gymnastics to deliver preschool gymnastics to meet the reported latent demand.

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SECTION 8: SQUASH

Squash is now on a new strategic path, implementing a rebrand and undergoing a major restructure. England Squash 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 needs to apportion resources in a significantly different manner.

Table 10.1: 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 England Squash vision, principles, and strategic pillars. 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, present and 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 our organisation'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.

England Squash estimates that there is 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 decade. For squash to thrive, the NGB believes that the ratio should be closer to one court per 10,000.

Blaby currently has 100,421 people (2018) and 10 courts. This suggests that there are sufficient courts in the area to meet local community needs. When taking future population growth (to 2041) into account there is a need for 12 courts.

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8.1: Supply

Quantity and quality

There are ten squash courts across three sites in Blaby. There are also 12 courts within 2 miles of the local authority boundary.

Figure 8.1 Squash courts within 20 minutes' drive time of Blaby

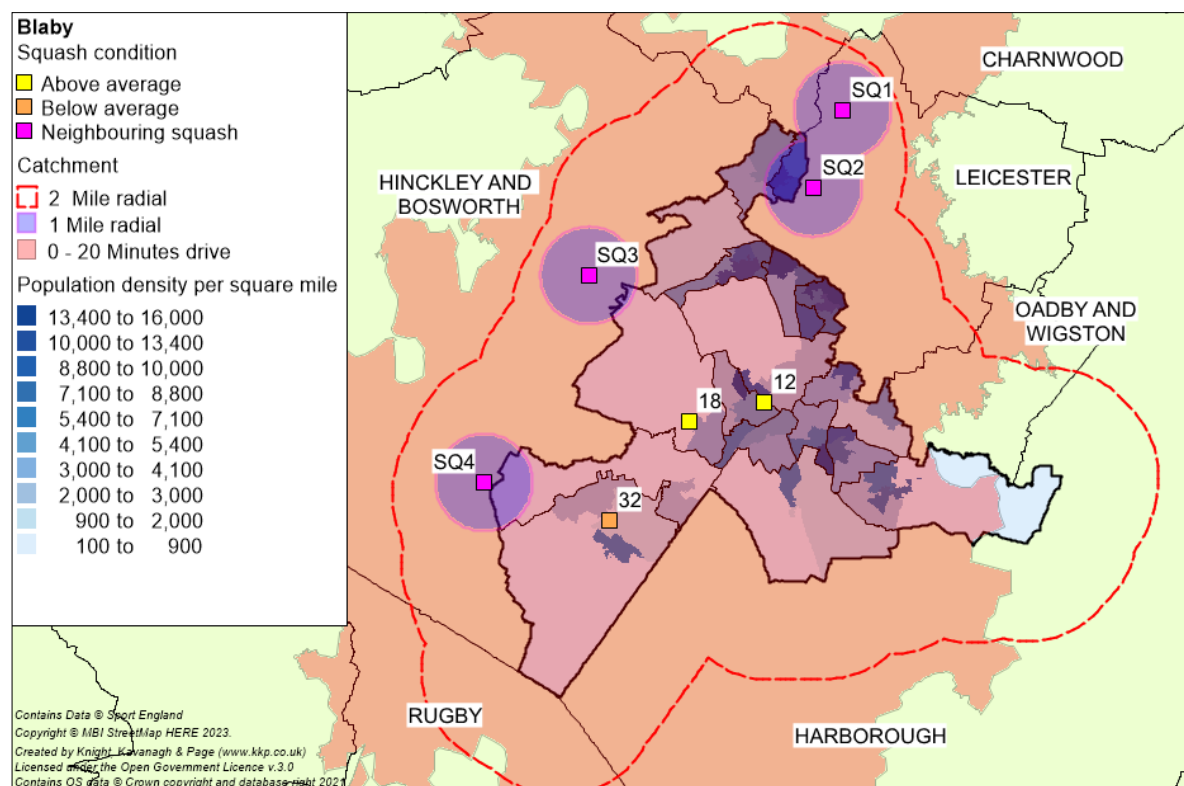


Table 8.1: Squash courts within Blaby

ID	Site name	Normal	Glass backed	Total	Condition
12	David Lloyd (Narborough)	0	3	3	Above average
18	Huncote Leisure Centre	4	1	5	Above average
32	Stoney Stanton War Memorial Playing Fields	2	0	2	Below average

Table 8.2: Neighbouring squash courts within 20 minutes' drive time of Blaby*

ID	Site name	Number of courts	Court type	Local authority
SQ1	Leicester Leys Leisure Centre	2	Normal	Leicester
SQ2	New Parks Leisure Centre	5	Glass-backed	Leicester
SQ3	Sport In Desford	2	Normal	Hinckley & Bosworth
SQ4	Leicester Road Squash Club	3	Normal	Hinckley & Bosworth

*Source: Active Places Power 29/11/2023

Huncote Leisure Centre has the largest number of courts (five) and Stoney Stanton War Memorial Playing Fields the least - with two. Courts are generally rated as being of above

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average quality with the two at Stoney Stanton War Memorial Playing Fields rated below average.

Stoney Stanton War Memorial Playing Fields courts require redecoration, but the flooring does not currently require any investment. The roof is in poor condition and requires replacement in the next five years.

Accessibility and availability

Almost all (99%) of Blaby's population lives within 20 minutes' drive of a facility with squash courts. The five courts at Huncote Leisure Centre are available on a pay and play basis, the remaining sites and courts require a membership for access.

Stoney Stanton War Memorial Playing Fields operates a key holder access arrangement whereby once members have signed up, they are given a key to access the courts at a time of their choice. Consultation identified that there is no need to book a court due to the low number of members.

In neighbouring authorities (within the drivetime catchment area) five courts are available for pay and play at New Parks Leisure Centre and two at Leicester Leys Leisure Centre. A membership is required to access Sport in Desford and Leicester Road Squash Club.

Table 8.3: Access policy of squash courts

ID	Site name	Number of courts	Access type	Local authority
12	David Lloyd (Narborough)	3	Reg. membership	Blaby
18	Huncote Leisure Centre	5	Pay and play	Blaby
32	Stoney Stanton War Memorial	2	Reg. membership	Blaby
SQ1	Leicester Leys Leisure Centre	2	Pay and play	Leicester
SQ2	New Parks Leisure Centre	5	Pay and play	Leicester
SQ3	Sport In Desford	2	Reg. membership	Hinckley &
SQ4	Leicester Road Squash Club	3	Sports club / CA	Hinckley &

8.2: Demand

Operator consultation

Consultation with Everyone Active with regard to Huncote Leisure Centre identified that there is limited use of the courts at the venue. It notes that the club previously based at the centre moved to the David Lloyd Club and has no desire to return. It reports having made attempts to reinvigorate activity but suggested that the demand does not exist.

EA expressed interest in exploring options to reduce the number of courts at Huncote from five to one court (glass backed) and to convert the four traditional courts into an activity space for which it considers there is high demand such as dedicated gymnastics. Its view is that this will help create daytime and evening demand for the centre and enable it to open during the day. Were this change to occur, while there would continue to be a squash offer in the centre, it would be significantly reduced.

Club consultation

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Stoney Stanton War Memorial Playing Fields has 24 members. As noted above, it operates a keyholder arrangement. Due to the low number of members, there is no booking system, its members reportedly just tun up to play as and when they wish. It also reports that, on occasion, junior tennis players use the squash courts when the weather is inclement. Its members pay £100.00 per annum and guests can play for £3.00 per session.

8.3 Summary of key facts and issues – squash courts

Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	There are 10 squash courts across three sites in Blaby. 12 squash courts at four sites are located within 20 minutes' drive time of the district.	Based upon its ratio calculation, England Squash identifies a current need for two additional courts by 2041. However, the audit identified that demand for seven of the 10 courts in the Authority is limited as is the court usage. EA would like to consider alternative use of four of the five squash courts at Huncote.
Quality	Eight courts are of above average quality and two are below average.	Invest in the below average quality courts.
Accessibility	Almost all (99%) of Blaby's population lives within 20 minutes' drive time of a squash court located in the authority.	None
Availability (Management and usage)	Pay and play opportunities are available at Huncote Leisure Centre. Other courts require a membership to access provision. Stoney Stanton offers a guest option at £3 per time or annual membership for £100.	None

Strategic summary

- ◀ There is no need for additional squash provision in the area.
- ◀ There is a need to improve the quality of the Stoney Stanton War Memorial courts.
- ◀ Existing courts report significant capacity and a lack of demand for the sport.
- ◀ EA is considering options which may result in a loss of four courts at Huncote Leisure Centre in the future. (One court will be retained).

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SECTION 9: 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 England¹³ 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, 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.

English Indoor Bowling Association 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 'Club Matters' 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

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English Indoor Bowling Association Outline Plan 2017 - 2021

It was reported during consultation with EIBA that an updated development strategy is in development and is due to be released imminently. This will have the following additions and amendments.

- ◀ Recovery from the Covid-19 Pandemic (return to play).
- ◀ Increasing 40-59 year old participants.
- ◀ Increasing volunteers
- ◀ Health and wellbeing
- ◀ Inclusivity

It will replace the current EIBA plan which is focused 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:

- ◀ Facilities: build, improve, retain
- ◀ Youth and the family
- ◀ Women – increase participation and retention.
- ◀ Disability
- ◀ Competitions
- ◀ Internationals
- ◀ Promotion
- ◀ Commercial partnerships

The “Recruit and Retain Strategy” is to concentrate on encouraging and supporting clubs to increase participation and improve the experience of all participants. Its objectives include:

- ◀ Growing participation across the adult population in local communities. Targeted work to increase female participation.
- ◀ Growing participation in the 12-18 age range as part of the EIBA Development Pathway.
- ◀ The provision of an excellent sporting experience for new and existing participants.
- ◀ A growth in indoor bowls participation by people who have disabilities.

Running alongside this is the Sport England funded development work provided jointly by the Indoor NGB (EIBA); Outdoor NGB, Bowls England (BE) and the “Bowls Development Alliance” (BDA). Each NGB has two directors on the Board of BDA.

The Sport England funding for the 2017-2021 period, focuses on the delivery of:

- ◀ **Club Development Programme:** supports clubs across the country where they have identified greatest need.
- ◀ **Play Bowls Package Scheme:** supports clubs with their recruitment.
- ◀ **Coach Bowls:** providing qualifications for coaches and developing the best tutor workforce to deliver these qualifications across the whole sport including BE, EIBA, British Crown Green BA and English Short Mat BA
- ◀ **Facilities:** providing funding support for BE and EIBA to research the facility requirements of their clubs.

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 NGBs (BE, EIBA, British Crown Green BA, English Short Mat BA and English Bowling

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Federation) to have policies and processes in place. Training is also 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 is 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.

The BDA vision statement for 2022-2025.

Vision - Together, we will place bowls at the heart of every community as an accessible sport for all.

Purpose - To sustain, grow and develop the sport in partnership with the bowls family.

Strategic priorities:

- ◀ Build Partnerships and Communities
- ◀ Educate and Empower
- ◀ Diversify and Innovate
- ◀ Sustain and Grow

Its work with the bowling NGBs will include:

- ◀ Club hubs – to encourage growth of membership and the retention of facilities.
- ◀ Communities.
- ◀ Health.
- ◀ Inclusion.

With one indoor bowls facility within Blaby and a further four sites within the 30 minutes drivetime, EIBA considers that there are sufficient purpose-built indoor bowls sites to accommodate both current and future demand.

9.1: Supply

Quantity and quality

There is one dedicated indoor bowls facility in Blaby. There are four within 30 minutes' drive time of the Authority as illustrated in Figure 9.1.

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Figure 9.1: Indoor bowls facilities, 30 minutes' drive time of Blaby

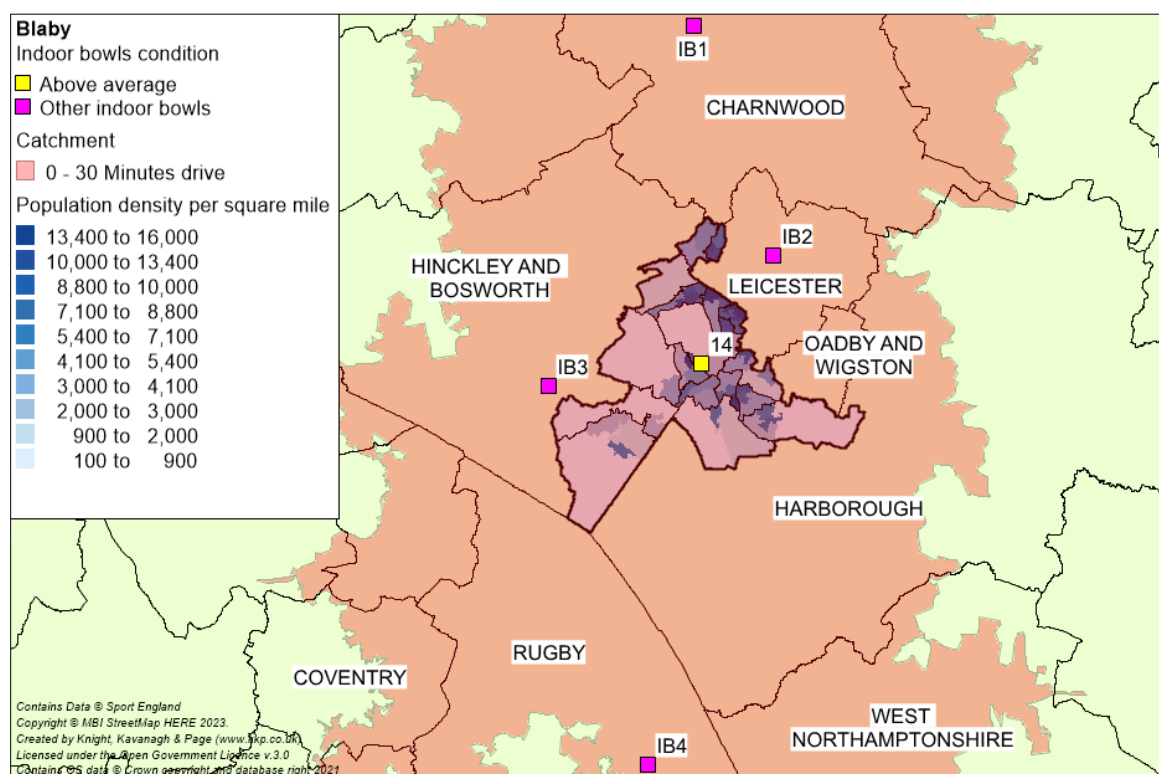


Table 9.1: Blaby indoor bowls facilities

ID	Site name	Rinks	Access type	Condition
14	Enderby Leisure & Golf Centre	6	Pay and play and Sports club	Above average

Table 9.2: Indoor bowls facilities within a 30-minutes' drive

ID	Site name	Rinks	Access type	Local authority
IB1	Charnwood Indoor Bowls Club	8	Sports club / CA	Charnwood
IB2	Leicester Indoor Bowls & Social Club	9	Sports club / CA	Leicester
IB3	Barwell Cricket & Sports Club	6	Sports club / CA	Hinckley & Bosworth
IB4	Rugby Thornfield Indoor BC	8	Sports club / CA	Rugby

Source: Active Places Power 29/11/2023

The Enderby Leisure and Golf Centre is rated above average quality. A new carpet was installed in 2020. In 2024, the maintenance plan is to flip the carpet and in 2029, there will be a need for a replacement carpet (depending on wear and tear). In addition, investment has been made in LED lighting and energy saving measures. In the future, the ceiling height could be reduced via a suspended ceiling to further reduce energy consumption.

The quality of indoor bowls facilities in neighbouring authorities is unknown.

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Accessibility

The whole district population lives within 30 minutes' drive of the facilities at Enderby Leisure & Golf Centre.

Availability

Enderby Leisure and Golf Centre offer pay and play opportunity, other sites require access via a sports club / community association.

9.2: 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 in the Blaby PPS 2024).

Everyone Active reports the club to be vibrant and to have capacity to accommodate an increase in demand.

Club consultation

Carlton Indoor Bowls – which operates from Enderby Leisure Centre was approached; however, no response was received. EIBA reports that the Club (affiliated) membership increased (to 364) in 2022. This is a reported increase of 74 members and exceeds the 300 members it had pre- Pandemic.

9.3: Summary of key facts and issues – indoor bowls

Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	There is one indoor bowls facility in Blaby. Four sites in neighbouring authorities are accessible to district residents.	There is no identified need for additional indoor bowls provision within the area, there is sufficient within the 30 minute drive time catchment.
Quality	The indoor bowls facility at Enderby Leisure Centre is rated above average in quality.	Continue to invest and maintain the quality of the centre. A replacement carpet is expected to be required in 2029 subject to wear and tear.
Accessibility	All residents live within a 30-minute drive time of an indoor bowls facility.	
Availability (Management & usage)	The facility is available on a pay and play basis and is reported to have capacity for additional members.	

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.
- ◀ Additional energy saving measures could be implemented through the installation of a suspended ceiling.

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SECTION 10: 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. One of its key objectives is to get more people playing tennis more often. To achieve this, through its most recent Investment Framework (Vision 2019 – 2023), priorities will be given to the following sites:

- ◀ New and existing indoor tennis centres
- ◀ Park tennis
- ◀ Tennis clubs
- ◀ Schools and other educational establishments

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.

This section considers indoor tennis facilities provision in the Blaby. It 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.
- ◀ Tensile structures.

The LTA has a tiered approach to local authorities when prioritising its investment and loans for its park courts and the community hub programme. Indoor courts are not referenced within the current strategy.

10.1: Supply

Indoor tennis is based on specialist facilities which appeal beyond local authority boundaries. This report considers provision within a 30-minute drive time catchment to demonstrate accessibility. There are two indoor tennis facilities in the Authority. David Lloyd (Narborough) has six indoor courts in a frame and fabric type facility and Leicester Forest East Tennis Club has an air hall with two acrylic courts.

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Figure 10.1: Indoor tennis courts within 30 minutes' drive time of Blaby

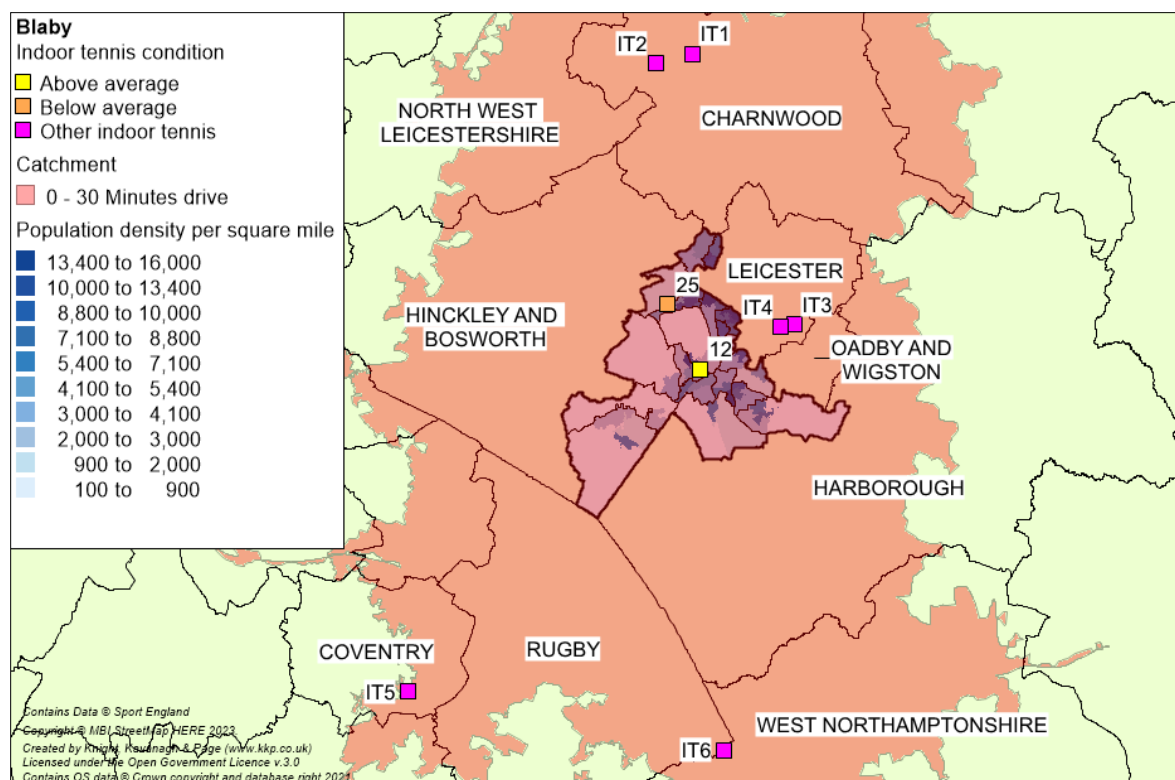


Table 10.1: Indoor tennis courts within 30 minutes' drive time of Blaby

ID	Site name	Courts	Access type	Condition
12	David Lloyd (Narborough)	6	Reg. membership	Above average
25	Leicester Forest East Tennis Club	2	Sports club / CA	Below average

ID	Site name	Courts	Access type	Local authority
IT1	Loughborough Lawn Tennis Club	2	Sports club / CA	Charnwood
IT2	Loughborough University	8	Pay and play	Charnwood
IT3	Carisbrooke Tennis Club	2	Sports club / CA	Leicester
IT4	Sir Jonathan North College	4	Sports club / CA	Leicester
IT5	David Lloyd (Coventry)	6 + 2	Reg. membership	Coventry
IT6	David Lloyd Rugby	3	Reg. membership	Rugby

Source: Active Places Power 20/12/2023

Quality

The six courts at David Lloyd (Narborough) are rated above average quality and the two at Leicester Forest East Tennis Club below average quality. This is primarily due to the age of the air hall which was reported to have last been refurbished in 2013. It is likely that the air hall will require replacement in the near future due to its age.

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Accessibility and availability

The whole Blaby population lives within a 30-minute drive of an indoor tennis facility. Both the Loughborough University facilities are available on a pay and play basis. The remainder require a membership or must be accessed via a sports club/association.

There is no indoor tennis pay and play opportunities in Blaby. David Lloyd (Narborough) requires a (high cost) membership to access the facilities and Leicester Forest East Tennis Club requires access via sports club membership.

10.2: Demand

The LTA has recently restructured its strategic approach to target key national focus areas, ultimately to grow participation. Future investment in facilities will be based on detailed analysis of potential demand throughout the UK. It has identified 96 priority target areas for development of new indoor courts in the UK of which Blaby is not one.

There is a need to monitor demand for indoor tennis courts at outdoor court venues. This will be captured within the District's PPS 2024.

10.3: Summary of key facts and issues – indoor tennis

Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	There are two indoor tennis facilities in Blaby. Six sites in neighbouring authorities are accessible to Blaby residents.	There is no need to for additional indoor tennis provision in the area. Blaby is not a priority area for LTA indoor provision.
Quality	David Lloyd (Narborough) is considered to be above average quality and Leicester Forest East Tennis Club is below average.	There is a need to invest to improve the quality of the air hall at Leicester Forest East Tennis Club. Given its age, a replacement may be required.
Accessibility	All residents live within a 30 minutes' drive time of an indoor tennis facility.	
Availability (Management & usage)	There are no pay and play accessible facilities within Blaby. All facilities require access via a club or commercial membership at David Lloyd (Narborough). Pay and play access is available at Loughborough University.	

Strategic summary

- ◀ Monitor demand for indoor tennis facilities at outdoor court venues. (See Playing Pitch Strategy 2024).
- ◀ There is no need to for additional indoor tennis provision in the area, there is a need to improve the quality/ replace of the air hall at Leicester Forest East Tennis Club.

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SECTION 11: ARCHERY

Archery GB is the NGB for the sport in England. It is responsible for all levels of archery within the UK from grassroots to performance level. It covers several disciplines including target archery, indoor archery, field archery, para-archery, 3D archery, flight archery and run archery. Target archery, the discipline of shooting arrows at circular targets at a fixed distance, is the most widely known due to its inclusion in the Olympic, Paralympic and World Games. Para archery follows the same rules as target archery.

Field archery is the discipline of shooting at stationary circular targets of different sizes set at varying distances, heights and angles around a course of natural terrain. 3D archery is the discipline of shooting at stationary foam targets in the shapes of different animals set at varying distances, heights and angles around a course.

11.1 Supply

There are three archery locations in Blaby, as shown in Figure 11.1.

Figure 11.1: Archery locations

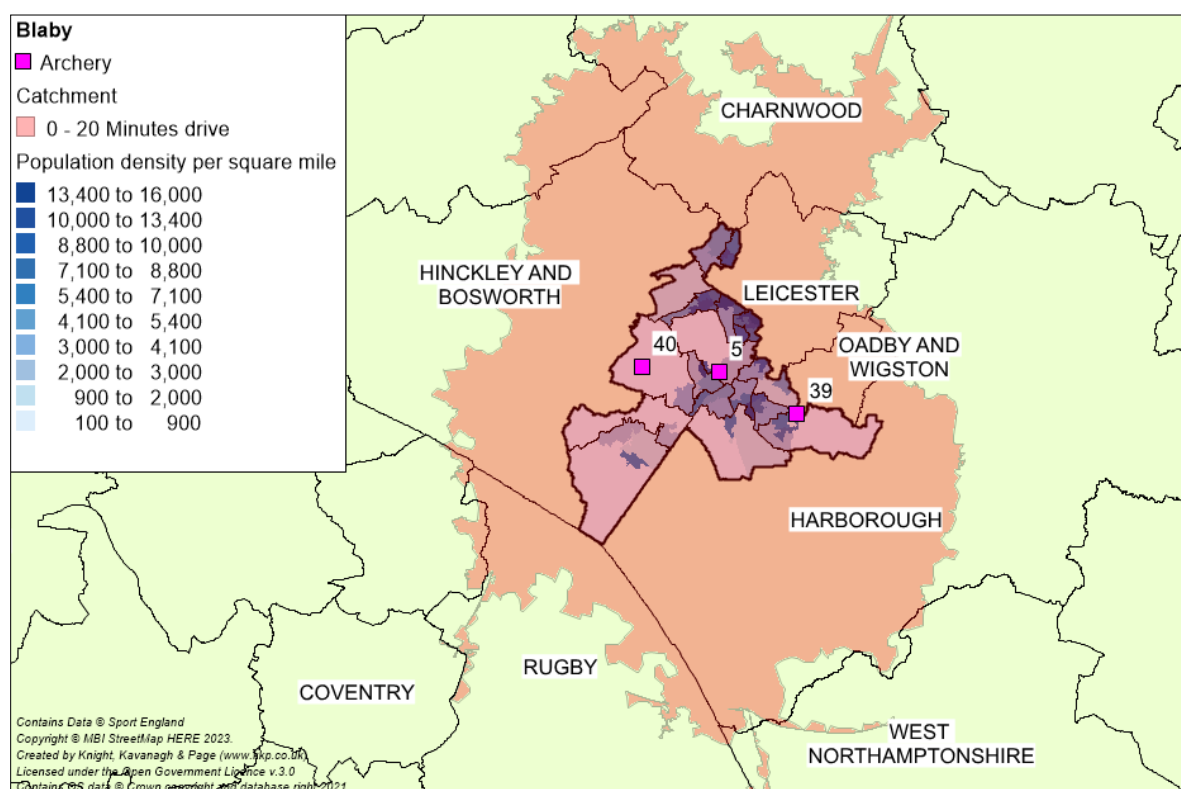


Table 11.1: Archery locations in Blaby

ID	Site name
5	Brockington College
39	Meadows Sports Ground
40	Thurlaston Airgun & Archery Centre

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Leicester Ancient Order of Foresters has exclusive all year-round access to the outdoor venue at Meadows Sports Ground where there are permanently sited targets and an outdoor shooting range. In the winter months, it uses Brockington College sports hall.

Thurlaston Airgun & Archery Centre is a commercial shooting range site. It has container-based provision and has open fronted shooting, a café and shop. It has an archery field-based range. In addition, there is also an airsoft range and two air rifle ranges on site.

Accessibility and availability

The whole Blaby's population lives within a 30-minute drive of an archery site within Blaby.

Thurlaston Airgun and Archery Centre is a pay and play commercial centre, it offers no memberships.

Leicester Ancient Order of Foresters is club which requires a membership to access. It runs taster sessions once a month on a pay and play basis and beginners courses. It also offers guest shooting to members of Archery GB. Its membership options include concession rates and student rates.

11.2: Demand

Thurlaston Airgun and Archery Centre is leased to the owner on an annual basis. It is unable to install any permanent structure buildings on site hence the container provision. It reports that this meets the needs of the business. It has flexible use of the fields and can rotate provision/ change use for shooting whenever it desires. It has plans to install a frame and fabric building which will enhance provision. Its main business is group bookings, primarily birthday parties, hen and stag dos, corporate events alongside regular shooters. It reports having a challenging year financially in 2023 due to the poor weather conditions and that it has available capacity should there be an increase in demand.

Leicester Ancient Order of Foresters was contacted on a number of occasions and no response was received. Desk research indicates that it is actively recruiting new members which suggests it has capacity to accommodate an increase in demand. It also offers competition opportunities for its members and enters tournaments locally and regionally.

11.3: Summary of key facts and issues – Archery

Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	There are three archery venues in Blaby. One is in the centre and one in both the east and west of the authority.	There is no identified need to developing additional archery provision in the area.
Quality	No quality issues reported.	None
Accessibility	All residents live within a 30 minutes' drive time of an archery venue.	None
Availability (Management & usage)	Thurlaston Airgun & Archery Centre is available for pay and play, all other venues require access via a sports club.	None

Strategic summary

There is a need to maintain current provision.

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SECTION 12: ATHLETICS

As a Governing Body, UK Athletics is responsible for developing and implementing the rules and regulations of athletics, including everything from anti-doping, health and safety, facilities and welfare, to training and education for coaches and officials as well as permitting and licensing. Locally, the sport is governed through England Athletics, which is the development and membership body for athletics and running clubs in England. It has a National Head of Clubs and Participation as well as a team of five club support managers in England.

12.1: Supply

There are no permanent outdoor athletics tracks in Blaby. Synthetic tracks are located in neighbouring authorities within EA’s recommended 20-minute drivetime catchment. There is also an indoor athletics facility within 40-minutes’ drivetime of the centre of Blaby.

Figure 12.1: Location of athletics tracks within 30 minutes’ drive time of Blaby

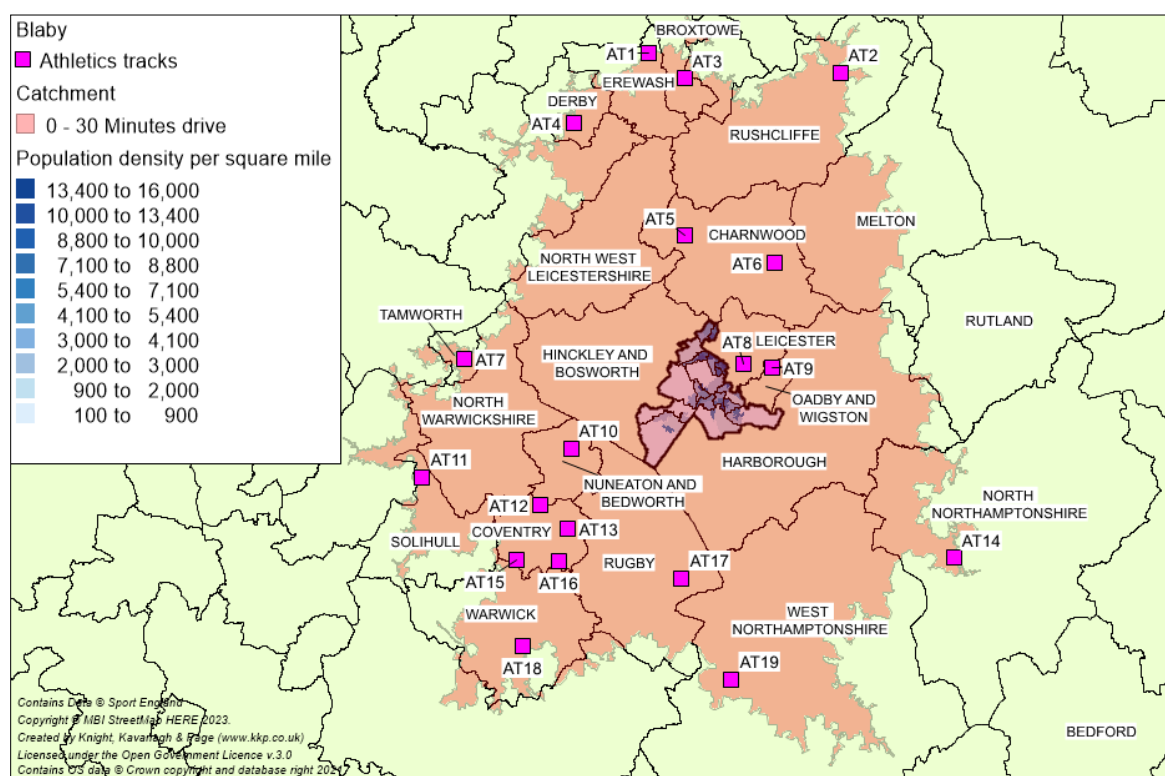


Table 12.1: Athletics tracks within 30 minutes’ drive time of Blaby

ID	Athletics track	Lanes	Accessibility	Local authority
AT1	Rutland Sports Park	6	Sports club / CA	Erewash
AT2	Bingham Leisure Centre	8	Sports club / CA	Rushcliffe
AT3	Bramcote College	6	Sports club / CA	Broxtowe
AT4	Moorways Stadium	8	Sports club / CA	Derby
AT5	Loughborough University	8	Pay and play	Charnwood
AT5	Loughborough University	8	Pay and play	Charnwood
AT6	Ratcliffe College	4	Sports club / CA	Charnwood
AT7	Tamworth Sports Stadium	8	Sports club / CA	Tamworth
AT8	Saffron Lane Athletics Stadium	8	Sports club / CA	Leicester

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ID	Athletics track	Lanes	Accessibility	Local authority
AT9	Roger Bettles Sports Centre	8	Sports club / CA	Oadby and Wigston
AT10	The Pingles Stadium	8	Pay and clay	Nuneaton and Bedworth
AT11	North Solihull Sports Centre	8	Pay and play	Solihull
AT12	President Kennedy School	6	Pay and play	Coventry
AT13	Lyng Hall School Sports	8	Sports club / CA	Coventry
AT14	Kettering Pitch and Track	8	Pay and play	North Northamptonshire
AT15	University Of Warwick	10	Sports club / CA	Coventry
AT16	Whitley Academy	6	Sports club / CA	Coventry
AT17	Rugby Athletics Track	8	Sports club / CA	Rugby
AT18	Edmondscote Athletics Track	10	Sports club / CA	Warwick
AT19	Daventry & District Sports Club	8	Sports club / CA	West Northamptonshire

Source: Active Places Power 04/12/2023

The closest track is located at Saffron Lane Athletics Stadium (Map ID, AT8) in Leicester. It is a 400m floodlit 8-lane synthetic track. It also provides a grass area for field events (including a throwing cage) and a throwing circle for shotput, and two sand pits for triple jump and long jump. It is managed by Leicester City Council.

Future provision

Consultation with England Athletics reveals that, nationally, no new standard 400-metre athletics tracks are planned to be constructed. Focus is instead on the retention of existing 400-metre facilities and the development of new, innovative, entry level facilities such as mini tracks and endurance loops, particularly if they can be provided as part of floodlit, multi-sport developments. Linked to this, it is currently exploring three alternative approaches to designing new athletics provision, with these presenting alternative approaches to development via more affordable and feasible means. The designs are known as Compact Track, Mini Track and Active Track.

Compact Track: this has a 60m sprint straight with an accompanying jump lane and shot-put space. It is the smallest of the three and is installed at sites with limited available land.

Mini Track: this features a 140m 4-lane oval track with a 6-lane 60m sprint, as well as accompanying shot put and jumping provision. An advantage of the mini track design is that it leaves a large space in the centre of the oval to be used for either various field events such as long jump/ triple jump, or alternatively other sports such as football or an outdoor gym. They also feature a new design of shot-put practice area in which it flattens a natural slope and athletes throw into a hill allowing for the put to roll back to the participant thus reducing time spent retrieving the put after each throw.

Active Track: this is a synthetic loop with no fixed shape or distance (similar to a formula one circuit), in which a track is drawn to fit its natural surroundings such as an existing park or school field. This is installed at sites where a 400m oval would not be feasible as it allows for adaptations to the shape in order to suit land in its current state.

12.2: Demand

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Club demand

For the purposes of this study, athletics demand is considered to come in various forms, rather than just the traditional track and field activity. As such, running clubs are 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.

There are no track-based athletics clubs based in Blaby. There is one running club, Huncote Harriers Athletics Club. It is currently based at Enderby Cricket Club and trains on a Tuesday and Thursday evening. During the summer months it also bases itself at Huncote Leisure Centre. It has three groups of varying ability, an advanced beginners' group for people who have 'graduated from 'Couch to 5k', an intermediate group and advanced group.

Parkrun

Parkrun is a series of 5k runs held on Saturday mornings in areas of open space around the UK, with 1,234 events now operating across the Country. They are open to all, free, and are safe and easy to take part in. Runners must first register online to access a printed barcode which gives them access to all Parkrun events.

There is no parkrun or junior parkruns identified in Blaby. The nearest is located at Victoria Park or Braunstone Park in Leicester.

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 an 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, 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.

It is believed that an increase in people running through the Couch to 5k plan may increase interest and possibly have a knock-on effect of leading to increased demand at running groups and clubs as people may wish to continue develop their running further.

Whilst no data is available in relation to take up of the Couch to 5k initiative in Blaby, anecdotal evidence suggests that it is popular and also growing in popularity. It is also championed by Huncote Harriers AC.

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12.3: Summary of key facts and issues – athletics

Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	There are no indoor or outdoor athletics tracks in Blaby.	No facility needs have been identified.
Quality	None	None
Accessibility	Blaby residents are within the England Athletics drive time catchments for both indoor and outdoor facilities.	None
Availability (Management & usage)	None	None

Strategic summary

Continue to work with UKA, England Athletics and partners to drive up participation.

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SECTION 13: INITIAL STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The principal opportunity/challenge for Blaby is to ensure that there is continuous investment in indoor and built facilities and that they are, consequently, fit for the future. There is a need to balance the needs of the core market of sports consumers already participating in local clubs whilst ensuring the growth of existing or new activities which meet the needs of new participants and the authority's growing population of older residents.

The following key strategic recommendations will be developed further in the strategic document which follows this report. They are likely to encompass the need to:

- ◀ In line with the Council's carbon reduction targets, ensure that existing facilities are made to be as energy efficient as possible, and that any new developments consider energy efficiency as high priority.
- ◀ Work with schools to maintain and where necessary improve the quality of their sports hall facilities.
- ◀ Ensure that Blaby residents, especially its communities which face barriers to participation, people living in rural areas and those with specific health needs can access sport and physical activity provision.
- ◀ Ensure that there are affordable pay and play / casual sport opportunities.
- ◀ Seek opportunities to increase health and fitness provision within the authority, particularly in areas of new housing development. In addition to, look to invest in expanding and/or improving the provision available at Enderby Leisure Centre (alongside the addition of dance studios) to enable it to continue to compete commercially.
- ◀ Given the population increase in 35-44 year olds and over 65 years, seek opportunities to support providers to increase activities and opportunities for these people.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to increase demand for facilities at Huncote Leisure Centre, in particular daytime opportunities. Consideration may be given to re-purposing the four traditional squash courts.
- ◀ Support Adams Gymnastics Club to secure access to dedicated provision with daytime access to meet the preschool latent demand.
- ◀ Plan for the long-term future of Enderby Leisure Centre.
- ◀ Improve the quality of the air hall at Leicester Forest East Tennis Club. Given its age, a replacement may be required.
- ◀ Support other developments (via planning, developer contributions and officer expertise) which may assist in increasing sport and physical activity within the wider community.
- ◀ Work with local sports clubs (with and via the leisure operators) to ensure that facilities and workforce development programmes meet the needs of all clubs and residents.
- ◀ Develop a system to, as early as possible, identify and tackle ongoing investment, maintenance, and refurbishment requirements to protect and improve existing sports facilities.