

# **Built Sports Facility Study Assessment Report and Action Plan**

**A Final Report**



**Bassetlaw**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
— North Nottinghamshire —

**For Bassetlaw Council**

**August 2021**

Document prepared by Tetra Tech Environmental and Planning Limited

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## 1.0 Introduction and Background

### Introduction

In May 2020, Bassetlaw District Council, appointed Tetra tech (Tt) Planning to produce a Built Sports Facility Study (BSFS). This document sets out the Built Sports Facility (BSFS) Assessment and Action Plan for Bassetlaw. It considers the adequacy of provision for various sports within scope and how the key issues identified in the assessment will be addressed.

The primary purpose of the BSFS is to provide a strategic framework which ensures that the provision of built sports facilities meet local and community needs of existing and future residents and visitors to the District. The Study comes in response to the changing landscape of sport and leisure and growth and developments across the district.

This work seeks to provide an informed position of current facility supply and identify key issues and gaps in provision, for a strategic and reasoned approach to be taken when considering future provision in the context of the Local Plan process.

Paragraph 98 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the importance of access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation that can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

The Bassetlaw Local Plan needs to be based upon a robust evidence base. Paragraphs 98 and 99 of the NPPF discuss assessments and the protection of 'existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields.'

The Study therefore also sets a long-term vision for built facilities across the district that supports the Local Plan. The Study provides the evidence base alongside the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS), which was published in January 2019.

## Scope

As set out the Council's Playing Pitch Strategy was published in 2019 and addresses the needs of playing field and outdoor sports, this Study addresses the key remaining facilities. The development of the Built Sports Facility Study (BSFS) specifically addresses the following sports provision in line with the Council's brief and following consultation:

- Swimming Pools
- Sports Halls
- Health and Fitness and Studios
- Gymnastics
- Indoor Tennis
- Indoor Bowls
- Athletics
- Squash
- Golf

## Methodology

The approach to the Study has been developed utilising the process set out in the Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (ANOG), the methodology for assessing indoor sports needs developed by Sport England, as set out in figure 1.1 below.

Adopting this approach will ensure the work is NPPF compliant.

**Figure 1.1 – ANOG Methodology**



The remainder of the Study is structured as follows:

## Report Structure

- Section 2 – Strategic Context
- Section 3 – Assessment of Need and Evidence Base – Swimming Pools
- Section 4 – Assessment of Need and Evidence Base – Sports Halls
- Section 5 – Assessment of Need and Evidence Base - Health and Fitness and Studios
- Section 6 – Assessment of Need and Evidence Base - Gymnastics
- Section 7 – Assessment of Need and Evidence Base - Indoor Tennis
- Section 8 – Assessment of Need and Evidence Base - Indoor Bowls
- Section 9 – Assessment of Need and Evidence Base - Athletics
- Section 10 – Assessment of Need and Evidence Base - Squash
- Section 11 – Assessment of Need and Evidence Base - Golf
- Section 12– Other Sport Specific Requirements and Opportunities
- Section 13 – Conclusion and Way Forward.

## 2.0 Strategic Context

### Introduction

ANOG stresses the need to consider strategic issues. The work has therefore considered the strategic context at national and local level and has utilised Sport England planning tools to develop the needs and evidence base and subsequent Action Plans.

The development of the Study considers:

- Sport England Strategies
- The Council's key strategic documents and drivers
- Housing developments and population changes within the district, that has the potential to impact on the built leisure provision
- Sports participation profile and key drivers.

The Facility Planning Model (FPM) data - Strategic Assessment of Need for Sports Hall and Swimming Pool provision in Bassetlaw have been utilised to assess needs in the relevant facility types.

### Sport England

In January 2021, Sport England published 'Uniting the Movement', its new strategy which sets a vision for the next 10 years. The strategy sets a vision of 'a nation of equal, inclusive and connected communities and a country where people live happier, healthier and more fulfilled lives and highlights that being active is one of the most effective and sustainable ways of achieving this.

It replaces the previous strategy, '*Towards an Active Nation*' which was aimed at tackling inactivity. This document outlined how Sport England would deliver against the five health, social and economic outcomes set out in the Government's 2015 Sporting Future strategy.

The new strategy seeks to ensure that sport and physical activity is to be recognised as essential to help overcome national challenges. It highlights that before the Covid 19 pandemic, record levels of activity were being achieved in England it is important to both get that momentum back, but also to reach people who have traditionally been excluded.

The strategy sets three objectives:

- Advocating for movement, sport and physical activity
- Joining forces on five big issues
- Creating the catalysts for change.

With regards advocating for Sport and Physical Activity, the strategy indicates that key tasks of Sport England will include:

- Establishing, building and growing partnerships
- Developing and delivering behavioural change campaigns
- Promoting the value of sport and physical activity as part of the solution and communicating the power of being active.

This Study along with the playing pitch assessment and strategy will help the Council and its partners to ensure that an effective network of facilities is in place to support and engage with these priorities.

The five big issues highlighted which Sport England will seek to address are of particular relevance to this Study and are as follows:

- **Recover and reinvent** – responding to the short, medium and long-term challenges of Covid 19 and supporting organisations and people to return to activity that's stronger, more relevant and more inclusive than before.
- **Connecting communities** – working in collaboration with communities - local people and organisations. This will include investing in clubs and charities and collaborating on local solutions, helping to deliver the outcomes that are needed through sport.
- **Positive experiences for children and young people** – working to ensure that every child / young person experiences the enjoyment and benefits that being active can bring. This will include using sport and physical activity to improve mental and physical well-being, creating and protecting quality and safe places and spaces for children to play and enjoy being active outdoors and embracing technology and the digital world.
- **Connecting with health and wellbeing** – ensuring that sport and physical activity is at the heart of health and well-being both in terms of stopping health problems arising in the first place, but also supporting people to manage problems when they do arise.
- **Active Environments** – the strategy recognises a range of environments, from dedicated leisure facilities and playing fields, other community spaces (parks / open

spaces / community centres and schools) through to the built environment (streets / housing estates etc). The strategy focuses upon making activity easier for everyone and focuses upon the protection and improvement of sport and leisure facilities (as well as the innovation of new designs and operational models), the creation of opportunities around community spaces and the creation of better places to live through an influence on design.

The strategy therefore makes clear recommendations with an emphasis placed on working collaboratively locally to promote and increase the number of active people. It focusses on investment driven by local need that drives down inequalities and puts physical activity and sport at the heart of life.

These national drivers provide an essential context for understanding the picture in Bassetlaw and it will be important to understand how continued investment in facilities can contribute to achieving the targets around physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing and so on. Indeed, clarity in these aspects should facilitate even greater engagement in the future with public health partners, education and business sectors.

### **Sport England Planning Policy**

As set out, planning policy and other relevant sport related corporate strategies must be based upon a robust evidence base in order to ensure planning and sports development policy can be implemented efficiently and effectively.

The Council is currently developing a new Local Plan. A key element of the new evidence base is to support and update policy on sport and recreation.

The needs assessment has therefore been produced in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Paragraph 98, which requires that:

*‘.....Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision.’*

Furthermore Paragraph 99 states that; *‘existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:*

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

*clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.'*

Sport England published two new guidance documents in 2013 for how NPPF compliant needs assessment work should be undertaken, *The Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (ANOG)* and the *Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance (PPS)*. Essentially these form the new 'how to do' needs assessments for indoor / outdoor sport and pitch sports in England and represent Sport England's response to the NPPF. The ANOG methodology is used to assess the need for outdoor / indoor / built facility provision (not including pitch sports) and has therefore been used for this assessment, ensuring it is planning policy compliant and provides a robust evidence base for the Local Plan.

Sport England has a statutory responsibility for planning applications involving playing fields. Alongside the NPPF Sport England will oppose any proposals which will result in the loss of playing fields unless one of 5 specific exceptions apply. The PPS deals with playing field issues.

Sport England are also concerned with the protection and enhancement of other sports facilities (including built sports facilities) and will expect to see a need's led approach to decision making. The Governments planning guidance advises local planning authorities to consult Sport England as a non-statutory consultee in cases where development might lead to:

- Loss of, or loss of use for sport, of any major sports facility
- Proposals which lead to the loss of use for sport of a major body of water
- Creation of a major sports facility
- Creation of a site for one or more playing pitches
- Development which creates opportunities for sport (such as the creation of a body of water bigger than two hectares following sand and gravel extraction)
- Artificial lighting of a major outdoor sports facility
- A residential development of 300 dwellings or more.

This Study will provide the evidence to address these and other built facility issues, particularly in respect of the impact of development on built facility needs.

## Local Strategies

Planning Policy and other relevant sport related corporate strategies must be based upon a robust evidence base in order to ensure planning and sports policy can be implemented efficiently and effectively.

### **Bassetlaw District Council**

Bassetlaw District Council adopted its new Council Plan for 2019-2023 in 2019. The Plan covers a four-year period and is aligned with the Council's electoral cycle, which aligns with the next District Council elections in 2023.

It does not cover in detail everything that the council does, instead, it features priority areas that the Council will be focusing on and where they want to see improvement and delivery over the four years.

The plan sets out priorities in the three key themes of:

- Investing in Place
- Investing in Housing
- Investing in Communities.

In 2037, Bassetlaw District will be a vibrant, prosperous place known for providing residents with a high quality of life, increased access to: quality, suitable housing, a wider range of higher skilled jobs, high quality services and facilities which promote healthy and active lifestyles within a low carbon environment.

### **The Local Plan**

The emerging Local Plan will reflect in spatial planning terms the relevant priorities of the three themes of; *Investing in Place*, *Investing in Housing* and *Investing in Communities*, by doing so, the Local Plan will help deliver a District the community can be proud of.

A key element of the emerging Local Plan to support and update policy on open space, sport and recreation and local standards and allocation where appropriate. This Study and the PPS will cover the period up to 2035, aligned to the period of the emerging Local Plan

Relevant sections of this Study will draw from the PPS to ensure a consistent use and application of evidence.

## Demographics and Population Profile

A key part of the Local Plan process will be to identify and allocate housing sites across the district. Much of this work has already been completed. The updated figures for the Local Plan housing numbers are set out in the table below.

**Table 2.1 – Housing Allocation Numbers**

Settlement		Housing Requirement 2020 - 2037 (No)
Worksop		3269 (700 will be allocated in a town centre DPD)
Retford		2128 of which 1870 is to be allocated
Harworth		1758 (all committed)
Large Settlements	Rural	1497 (75 to be allocated in Tuxford)
Small Settlements	Rural	1773 (all committed)
Bassetlaw Village	Garden	500 (within this LP period)

The current resident population in Bassetlaw is 116,304. By 2035 (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand, in line with the draft Bassetlaw Local Plan period) the district's population is projected to increase to 120,6611 representing an increase of 4,357 (or equivalent to a percentage increase of 3.7%) according to ONS data. This reflects the known increase.

This is set out in the Local Plan and reflected in the Playing Pitch Strategy, the impact of growth on future needs has to be seen in this context and may not be as significant as the housing numbers.

This growth was used in the PPS and calculating future needs. It is therefore evident that the impacts of growth on sport and leisure needs may be less significant and may not be key drivers of change. There will however be impacts and these are assessed under each individual facility type, in terms of what it means for future provision.

It is also important to understand the broader demographics, to understand the built facility provision needs both now and in the future. What is key is that all developments and their impacts should be looked at on a site-by-site basis in terms of the implications on sport and leisure needs.

Bassetlaw is located in Nottinghamshire of which it is one of ten constituent Local Authorities, located on the northernmost border of the County. It is bordered by seven neighbouring Local

<sup>1</sup> ONS 2016-based projections 2016-41

Authorities including within three County Council areas. These include Lincolnshire County to the East (North Lincolnshire, West Lindsey), other Nottinghamshire districts of Mansfield and Newark & Sherwood to the South, the Derbyshire County district of Bolsover to the West, and to the north lie the South Yorkshire districts of Rotherham and Doncaster.

Bassetlaw is a District of wide contrasts with a mixture of town centres, urban residential areas, growing and changing settlements and rural villages. In 2018, 67% of the population were living in the three largest towns of Worksop, Retford and Harworth and Bircotes. 15% of the population lived in the Large Rural Settlements, which are Blyth, Carlton in Lindrick, Langold, Misterton and Tuxford. A further 18% live in the district's numerous Small Rural Settlements and in the rural area.

Bassetlaw has two, more densely populated key centres, Worksop and Retford. The breakdown is as follows:

- Harworth (8,134)
- Retford (23,535)
- Rural (38,908)
- Worksop (45,727)

The PPS adopted a sub-area approach to its analysis. Given the district-wide nature of built facilities this Study has assessed needs on a district-wide basis.

Between 2011 and 2018 the district's population increased by 3.4% and currently exceeds 116,000 people. A set out the district's population is projected to increase by 3.8 % by 2037 equating to more than 4,350 additional residents compared with 2017. Housing growth could result in further increases as set out.

The number of residents aged over 65 in the district are projected to increase by 43.1% during this period and of these, the population aged over 80 will rise significantly, by over 83%. The rise in the 65+ population between 2018 and 2037 is equivalent to 10,978 residents aged 65 and over whilst over the same time period the population aged 16-64 is projected to fall by 7.3% which is the equivalent to 5,115 fewer residents in this age group. This will have an impact on sport and leisure needs, as the traditionally more active will reduce.

The district has excellent connectivity and is bisected north-south by the A1, a major arterial road, as well as the A57 (east/west) and the A60 (north/south). This impacts on travel patterns

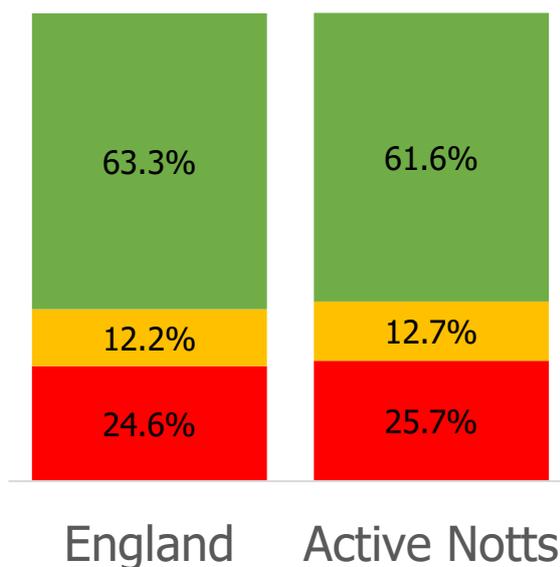
and usage and means facilities have distinct catchments, which is borne out in the supply and demand assessments.

The A1 connects Bassetlaw directly to South Yorkshire and the A1M to the north and the East Midlands to the south, whilst the A57 provides good accessibility to the M1 (10 miles to the west), and the A60 to Nottingham, 30 miles or so to the south. As a result of this, the north of the district looks more to neighbouring authorities for its sport and leisure provision.

## Sports Participation Profile

Analysis of physical activity behaviors across Bassetlaw reveal the following:

- 28.1% of the Bassetlaw population are inactive, 11.2% are fairly active and 60.8% are active
- This compares with national figures and across Nottinghamshire as illustrated in the charts below.



- 15.2% of the Bassetlaw population do not physical activity at all, which compares with 13.9% nationally
- 33.1% of males across Bassetlaw are inactive compared to 23.6% nationally
- 23% of females across Bassetlaw are inactive compared to 25.3% nationally.

Bassetlaw therefore has several sports participation challenges, which are exacerbated by the ageing population structure.

In terms of built facility provision and the sports in the scope of this study much of the secondary education provision in Bassetlaw is delivered via a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) provider

which (via a Community Leisure Trust *Barnsley Premier Leisure* – BPL) contributes towards much of the accessible stock of sports hall facilities in the district.

This was part of a £129 million project which saw the new build of five secondary schools, a Special Educational Needs (SEN) school, two new Post 16 Centres and two leisure Centres at Retford and Worksop, which were opened in 2008.

This provided a new and modern facility stock of sports halls and swimming pools. The nature of the arrangement means that the district has a range of relatively new sports facilities at education sites, available for external community use. There have been access and pricing issues at the early stage, but management by BPL, the Council operator, means there is now a co-ordinated approach and willingness to work strategically.

However, it does potentially present challenges where there might be strategically identified need to improve facilities, with much of the obligations around repair and replacement linked and incorporated within the respective contracted management agreements for each site. Nevertheless, the sports halls are accessible and modern, with a commitment to community use for the remaining 12-years of the PFI contract.

Swimming is generally well provided for at Retford, Worksop and Bircotes. Each houses pools a swimming club; Retford Swim Club, Worksop Dolphins and Bircotes Penguins, which in-turn feed into the Bassetlaw Swim Squad. Misterton Primary School and Worksop College also provide important teaching and swimming lesson opportunities.

Traditional sports halls sports are on the decline. Retford Raiders Basketball Club recently folded, there is no volleyball and only one badminton club, Worksop Falcons. Indoor cricket is provided at the Cuckney Cricket Centre, which is to the west of Bassetlaw and at Worksop College. New schools at Valley and Tuxford have nets but the sprung floors limit their use.

There are however several strong sports across the district. Table-tennis is very strong, with a Centre of Excellence operating from Redlands Primary School in Worksop. Gymnastics and trampolining are also strong with large clubs in Retford and Worksop. Indoor Tennis and Bowls operate from the North Notts Community Arena, which is a well maintained and managed facility, which provides an important part of the Bassetlaw facility infra-structure. Athletics is equally strong with two large clubs and long-held aspirations for a dedicated floodlit synthetic athletics track to serve the District.

Squash is provided for at Bircotes Leisure Centre, where one court remains in use. Private sector provision can be found at Retford Squash Club and Worksop Cricket Club.

There are numerous martial arts venues in community settings and boxing clubs in Worksop and Retford. Similarly, flexible spaces for exercise and physical activity classes are well

provided for via dance studios, community centres and village halls, which form an important network across the district.

### **Summary**

As set out, planning policy and other relevant sport related corporate strategies must be based upon a robust evidence base in order to ensure planning and sports development policy can be implemented efficiently and effectively.

The emerging Local Plan will reflect in spatial planning terms the relevant priorities of the three Council themes of; *Investing in Place, Investing in Housing and Investing in Communities*, by doing so, the Local Plan will help deliver a District the community can be proud of.

The Study will need to reflect the demographic and sports participation nature of the district and seek to build on what makes Bassetlaw unique in terms of built facility provision, ensuring the right infra-structure is in place moving forward to build on the strengths identified.

There will be impacts of growth on sport and leisure needs going forward and these will need to be assessed as developments emerge using the baseline of this evidence base.

## 3.0 Swimming Pools

### Introduction

There is a full and separate strategic assessment report for provision of swimming pools across the Bassetlaw Council area. The findings are based on Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (fpm) data from Sport England's 2020 national assessment of swimming pools. It was commissioned by Bassetlaw Council to provide an in-depth assessment, applying the extensive data which is available for swimming pools and which is not available for the other facility types. The fpm provides an evidence base which is planning policy compliant and therefore meets the needs of the Local Plan.

The fpm report is based on seven headings. *total supply; total demand; supply and demand balance; satisfied/met demand; unmet demand; used capacity (how full the swimming pools are); and equity share.*

A summary of the findings from that report are set out here following the *Assessment of Needs and Opportunities* headings. It is produced to provide consistency with the assessment for the other facility types in the Built Sports Facility Study.

The findings have been supplemented by site visits and consultations, which have helped to shape the key issues and options and Action Plan recommendations.

### Supply

#### Quantity

There are 8 individual pools located at 6 swimming pool sites in Bassetlaw in 2020. The total supply of water space available for community use in the weekly peak period is 1,224 sq. metres of water. (*Note: for context, a 25m x 4 lane pool is between 210 and 250 sq. metres of water, depending on individual lane width*).

Based on a measure of water space per 1,000 population, the Bassetlaw supply is 12 sq. metres of water space per 1,000 population in 2020. Bassetlaw has the joint second highest supply, along with Doncaster. The East Midlands Region and England wide averages are also 12 sq. metres of water per 1,000 population in 2020. So, the provision in Bassetlaw is above that of most of the neighbouring local authorities and on a par with the Regional and National averages. These provide comparisons but are not assessments of need.

Bassetlaw District has three public leisure centre swimming pool sites. The Worksop and Retford Leisure Centres are extensive in scale and can provide for all the swimming activities of learn to swim, public recreational swimming, club use, lane and fitness swimming activities and swimming development through clubs in dedicated pools. The Bircotes Leisure Centre, scale means it can also provide for these activities, but with less scope to provide for more than one activity at a time.

The public leisure centre sites represent 65% of the total supply of water space in the district. The district also has two education pool sites and one commercial swimming pool site.

The resident population of Bassetlaw in 2020, generates a demand for 1,190 sq. metres of water. This compares to the total supply of 1,224 sq. metres of water, which is available for community use in the weekly peak period. There is therefore a balance of supply exceeding demand by 34 sq. metres of water in 2020.

Details of the swimming pool sites are set out in Table 3.1

**Table 3.1 – Bassetlaw Swimming Pools 2020**

Name of Site	Type	Dimensions	Area	Site Year Built	Site Year Refurb	Car % Demand	Public Transport % Demand	Walk % Demand
<b>BASSETLAW</b>						<b>81%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>11%</b>
BANNATYNE HEALTH CLUB (WORKSOP)	Main/General	20 x 8	160	2006		94%	5%	1%
BIRCOTES LEISURE CENTRE	Main/General	20 x 8	160	1976	2010	76%	6%	18%
MISTERTON PRIMARY SCHOOL	Main/General	20 x 7	140	1975		84%	3%	13%
RETFORD LEISURE CENTRE	Main/General	25 x 13	313	2008		84%	7%	9%
RETFORD LEISURE CENTRE	Learner/Teaching/Training	13 x 6	75					
WORKSOP COLLEGE	Main/General	23 x 10	219	1970	2004	71%	8%	21%
WORKSOP LEISURE CENTRE	Main/General	25 x 13	313	2008		81%	9%	11%
WORKSOP LEISURE CENTRE	Learner/Teaching/Training	12 x 8	90					

The three public leisure centre swimming pools sites are:

- Worksop Leisure Centre (opened in 2008) with a main pool of 25m x 13m and six lanes, plus a separate teaching/learner pool of 12m x 8m.
- Retford Leisure Centre (also opened in 2008) has a 25m 13m six lane main pool and a 13m x 6m teaching/learner pool is slightly smaller at 13m x 6m.
- Bircotes Leisure Centre (opened in 1976 and modernised in 2010) it is a single pool site with a main pool of 20m x 8m and four lanes.

The two education pool sites are:

- Misterton Primary School (opened in 1975) a 20m x 7m pool and three lanes.

- Worksop College (opened in 1970 and modernised in 2004) which has a main pool of 23m x 10m and four lanes.

The education pool sites make up 359 sq. metres of water, which is 18% of the total water space in the district.

Access to the school pool sites will therefore remain important to the supply and demand balance. Worksop is important and needs to be retained and added to and enhanced. Misterton is also important to achieve the overall supply and demand balance for the district. Also, it is the only pool site in the north-east of the district. If it were to close, then school swimming would be impacted, because of the time and cost of travel to the nearest Bassetlaw pool site in Retford.

There is one commercial swimming pool site:

- Bannatyne's Health Club (Worksop) (opened in 2006), which has a 20m x 8m four lane main pool, this site makes up 4% of the total water space in the district.

Satisfied demand, measures the proportion of total demand that is met by the capacity of the swimming pools from residents who live within the car, walking or public transport catchment area of a swimming pool (pools located both inside and outside the district). In 2020 some 89% of the total demand for swimming from Bassetlaw residents is satisfied or met.

A sub-set of satisfied demand is retained demand, which measures how much of the Bassetlaw satisfied demand for swimming is met at the Bassetlaw sites. This assessment is based on Bassetlaw residents travelling to and using the nearest pool to where they live, and it is a swimming pool located in Bassetlaw.

On this assumption some 87% of the total 89% of the Bassetlaw demand for swimming, which is met or satisfied, is retained within the authority. Retained demand is very high, which means there is a very close correlation between the Bassetlaw swimming pool locations or catchment areas and the location of the Bassetlaw demand for swimming pools. Pools are well located to meet demand.

Unmet demand has two aspects; where there is not enough capacity for any particular swimming pool or, the demand is located outside the catchment area of any pool and it is then classified as unmet demand.

The Bassetlaw total unmet demand is 10.6% of total demand, and this equates to 127 sq. metres of water. Of this total all but 0.10% is from the second definition, unmet demand located outside the catchment area of a pool. *(Again, for context, a 25m x 4 lane swimming pool is between 210 – 250 sq. metres of water, depending on individual lane width).*

Unmet demand outside catchment will always exist because it is not possible to get complete spatial coverage, whereby all areas of an authority are inside catchment. The unmet demand equates to only 762 visits per week in the weekly peak period. This compares with the Bassetlaw demand inside catchment, and which is being met, of 6,412 visits per week in the weekly peak period.

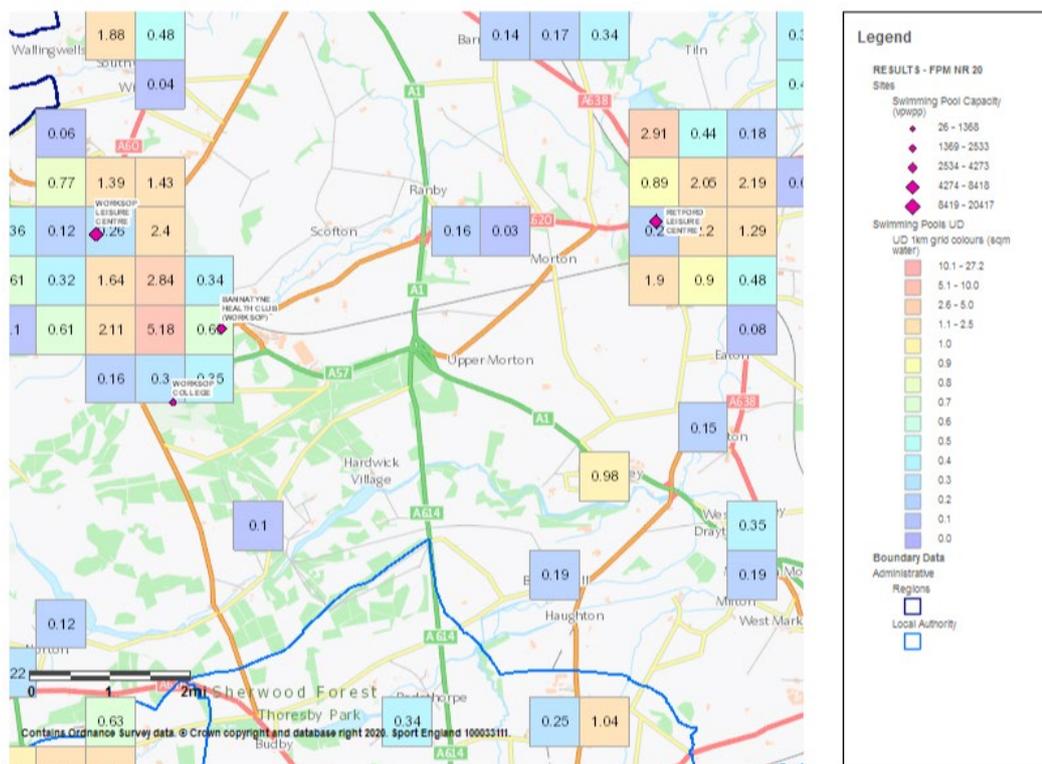
The overall key point is not that unmet demand outside catchment exists, but the scale of the unmet demand, plus, if this unmet demand is clustered in one location, to consider further pool provision, so as to improve accessibility for residents.

Unmet demand is highest in the area in and around Worksop where it totals between 25 – 35 sq. metres of water, then in the Retford area where it totals between 20 – 25 sq. metres of water as set out in the map below.

**Map 3.1 – Unmet Demand**

**Facilities Planning Model - National Runs - Swimming Pools 2020 Unmet Demand**

Unmet Demand expressed as square metres of water (round to two decimal places). Data outputs shown thematically (colours) at either output area level or aggregated at 1km square (figure labels).



Sport England assumes no responsibility for the completeness, accuracy and currency of the information contained on this map/report. This information is taken from the Active Places Power website and its terms and conditions apply. 29/6/2020 14:22

After these two locations the majority of the unmet demand is distributed in values of between 1 – 2 sq. metres of water in the one-kilometre grid squares across the district. There is therefore not a sufficient cluster of unmet demand in any one location, to consider increasing swimming pool provision, for the objective of improving accessibility for residents. There is therefore no evidence to suggest providing swimming pool provision to serve rural area locations.

## Quality

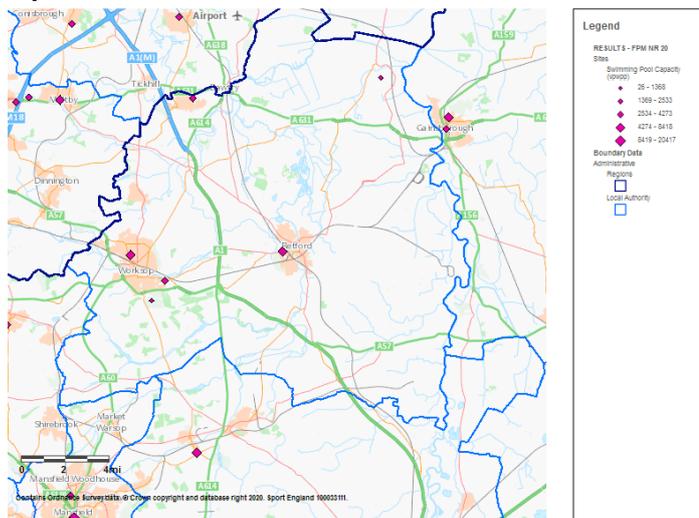
The average age of the public swimming pool sites in Bassetlaw in 2020 is 23 years and the average age of all the swimming pool sites is 30 years. The oldest swimming pool site to open is Worksop College, which opened in 1970. The last pool modernisation was at Bircotes in 2010. The age of the two education pools at Misterton (1975) and Worksop College (1970) is an issue, with both in the region of 50-years old they are reaching the end of their useful life. Their importance in maintaining the supply and demand balance is however key.

The analysis also masks the high quality of the two main public pools, which were both opened in 2008 and provide a modern and high-quality public pool offering. Bircotes is however also now ageing, having opened in 1976 and is an old clasp building, investment will be required to provide an offer in-line with that enjoyed at Retford and Worksop.

## Accessibility

The location of the swimming pool sites in Bassetlaw is shown in Map 3.2. The purple diamond is the pool site location, and the size of the diamond is representative of the scale of the pool site, in terms of the pool capacity.

**Map 3.2 – Pool Locations**



The unmet demand modelled is 127sqm this is entirely (almost) due to facilities being outside catchment, 70% of this is as a result of residents not having access to a car. This unmet demand is spread across the borough, which underlines the distinct catchments for each pool and site.

The location of the public swimming pool sites therefore provides very good accessibility for Bassetlaw residents. Based on Bassetlaw residents using the nearest pool to where they live, then the nearest pool for over eight out of ten visits, is a pool located in Bassetlaw.

As set out there are some small clusters of unmet demand, but the unmet demand equates to only 762 visits per week in the weekly peak period. This compares with the Bassetlaw demand inside catchment, and which is being met, of 6,412 visits per week in the weekly peak period.

In short, the pool sites and the Bassetlaw demand for swimming pools are very well correlated. Any consideration to change the swimming pool sites, is unlikely to improve on this level of accessibility. Any future investment should therefore focus on existing sites and current locations, there is no case for additional pool provision at new locations.

### **Availability**

Used capacity estimates how well used/how full facilities are. The facilities planning model is designed to include a 'comfort factor', beyond which the venues are too full. The pool itself becomes too busy to be able to swim comfortably, plus the changing and circulation areas become too crowded. The model assumes that usage over 70% of capacity used in the weekly peak period is busy and the swimming pool is operating at an uncomfortable level above that percentage.

The Bassetlaw average is 62.2% of pool capacity used in the weekly peak period. This is quite a high level and provides in theory working headroom of between 7% and 8% before the Sport England benchmark of 70% of pool capacity used at peak times is reached. However, this masks the fact that the two main swimming pool sites at Retford and Worksop are very busy sites at peak times. At the public leisure centre sites used capacity is:

- Retford Leisure Centre is 74% of pool capacity used at peak times
- Worksop Leisure Centre is 88% of pool capacity used at peak times
- Bircotes Leisure Centre is 63% of pool capacity used at peak times but see the third point for further explanation.

The Retford and Worksop Centres do provide for all the swimming activities of learn to swim; casual recreational swimming; lane and aqua aerobics fitness swimming activities; and swimming development through clubs, so a draw/attraction of these sites.

It is important to consider the scale and capacity of a swimming pool site when looking at used capacity and not consider the percentage figure in isolation. The Worksop Centre is the largest swimming pool site in the district, and it has 33% of the total water space available for use in the district.

The estimated used capacity of 88% in the weekly peak period is very high in terms of not only the percentage figure but the capacity and flexibility of the two pools to accommodate a high volume of use. This finding also applies to the Retford Leisure Centre, which has 31.6% of the water space in the district available for community use.

The usage data for swimming pools show excess demand at peak hours and this is especially true for capacity in delivering the learn to swim programme. The recent return to organised sports, following covid, has shown the greatest increase in demand coming from swimming lessons and group exercise classes. The growth of these areas of physical activity looks likely to increase in the post pandemic period, with individuals and health professionals recognising the value of physical activity in promoting good health and greater resilience to life limiting illnesses.

So, the two main pool sites are busy and there are pressures on the usage, as set out above, this was borne out through the site visits and consultation, where there is particular pressures on the learn to swim programme. Further growth will impact on the capacity of Retford and Worksop to deliver going forward. Bircotes has more headroom to absorb additional usage but this would require investment to deliver, in what is an ageing pool.

### **Summary Supply**

#### *Quantity*

Bassetlaw District has three public leisure centre swimming pool sites. The Worksop and Retford Leisure Centres are extensive in scale and can provide for all the swimming activities of learn to swim; public recreational swimming; lane and fitness swimming activities; and swimming development through clubs in dedicated pools. The Bircotes Leisure Centre, scale means it can also provide for these activities, but with less scope to provide for more than one activity at a time.

The public leisure centre sites represent 65% of the total supply of water space in the district. The district also has two education pool sites and one commercial swimming pool site.

The Bassetlaw supply of swimming pools almost matches the Bassetlaw demand with supply exceeding demand by just 34 sq. metres of water. All pool sites are important to maintain this balance.

### *Quality*

The average age of the public swimming pool sites in 2020, is 23 years and the average age of all the swimming pool sites is 30 years. The oldest swimming pool site to open is Worksop College, which opened in 1970 and Misterton School in 1975. This however masks the two main public pools, which were both opened in 2008 and provide a modern and high-quality public pool offering. Bircotes is now ageing, having opened in 1976 and is an old clasp building, investment will be required to provide an offer in-line with that enjoyed at Retford and Worksop.

### *Accessibility*

The location of the public swimming pool sites provides very good accessibility for Bassetlaw residents. Based on Bassetlaw residents using the nearest pool to where they live, then the nearest pool for over eight out of ten visits, is a pool located in Bassetlaw.

In short, the pool sites and the Bassetlaw demand for swimming pools are very well correlated. Any consideration to change the swimming pool sites, is unlikely to improve on this level of accessibility.

There are some small clusters of unmet demand, but the unmet demand equates to only 762 visits per week in the weekly peak period. This compares with the Bassetlaw demand inside catchment, and which is being met, of 6,412 visits per week in the weekly peak period.

### *Availability*

Based on this one-year assessment the supply of swimming pools accessible to the Bassetlaw population is sufficient to meet the demand for swimming from Bassetlaw residents. However, the two main swimming pool sites at Retford and Worksop are very busy sites at peak times.

## Demand

### Participation Trends

Swimming provides cradle to grave participation opportunities for all age groups.

Swimming is one of the most effective ways to burn calories: 30 minutes exercising in the water is worth 45 minutes of the same activity on land. Regular swimming can lower stress levels, reduce anxiety and depression and improve your sleep patterns. Swimming improves heart health, lowers blood pressure, improves lung capacity, increases bone strength and reduces joint pain as it is a low impact sport. Regular swimming can help to reduce long-term health conditions such as heart disease and diabetes by up to 40 per cent.

Swimming remains one of the most popular activities:

- In the last 12 months, 14 million adults (31.3 per cent of the nation) went swimming – 7.8 million women and 6.2 million men
- When focusing on those who swim more frequently, 4.7 million adults swim at least twice a month (10.5 per cent of the population)
- 2.7m women swim at least twice a month (11.7 per cent of the female population)
- Outdoor swimming continues to grow. 7.5m people swim in open water and in outdoor pools
- While 7.5m swim outdoors, 2.1 million prefer to swim in open water (lakes, lochs, rivers and seas), 3.15 million choose to swim in outdoor pools and an additional 2.25 million enjoy swimming both in open water and outdoor pools. *Source: Active Lives, Nov 17-18*
- Almost 27 per cent of children aged seven-16 years old swam in the last week. That's 1.88 million young people
- 138,000 children (almost one in four) cannot swim the statutory 25m when they leave primary school. *Source: Active Lives Children and Young People, 2018*
- 1.18 million children learn to swim on the Swim England Learn to Swim programme. *Source: Swim England Swim Census 2018*

Covid has impacted due to pool closures, but the sport is now gearing up to *re-open* and the provision of swimming opportunities is and will remain a key activity to drive participation in sport and promote healthy lifestyles.

Discussions with the operator BPL reveal the pools are very full, with particular pressures on the swimming lesson programme.

## National Governing Body (NGB) Priorities

Swim England's Strategic Plan was published in May 2020 and sets out a simple vision of *A Nation Swimming*. The mission of Swim England is to create *a happier, healthier and more successful nation through swimming*.

Consultation with Swim England revealed the following:

- The current water provision is meeting the overall demand for the area. The evidence shows that the current facilities are well used by the community
- Our main priority would be to ensure that the Bircotes Leisure Centre remains sustainable and fit for purpose
- Whether an additional learner pool is needed for the Worksop area, is best identified by the size and demand of swimming lesson programmes. It would also help to reduce the small area of unmet demand.

Overall, Swim England are satisfied with the current water provision in Bassetlaw, however they would recommend, based on age and expected life span of aquatic facilities, that future provision is assessed for the replacement of Bircotes Leisure Centre.

## Impact of Growth

Using the ONS figures (as used in the Local Plan and PPS) over the Plan period an increase of 4,357 new residents is predicted up to 2037. This is the known growth. This generates a demand for 43.64 sq. metres of water, which will exceed supply by of swimming pools by 9.64 sq. metres of water.

There is a total of 10,013 units planned over the Local Plan period. This is the anticipated growth but is dependent on delivery. Applying a per occupancy rate of 2.3 persons per unit to the residential units of 10,013 units, leads to a potential population increase of 23,029. This is obviously unknown at this stage and represents the current plan for delivery.

Applying this population to the Bassetlaw population and age structure in the Sport England Sports Facility Calculator, identifies the demand for swimming generated by the proposed residential development, as 230 sq. metres of water. This will exceed the Bassetlaw 2020 supply of swimming pools by 196 sq. metres of water. *For context, a 25m x 4 lane swimming pool is between 210 – 250 sq. metres of water, depending on the width of individual lanes.*

There is therefore a range of growth predictions. The growth is however spread across the district in relatively small pockets and does not necessarily mean a future need for additional pool water of the scale set out. This will need to be assessed at the time.

Furthermore, before any additional provision is considered at any level, the current supply has to be considered. The overall capacity used in the borough is 62%, which provides some headroom to meet an increased demand. However, the main Council provision, Worksop is modelled as the most heavily used at 88% with Retford Leisure Centre at 74% both of the figures are above what are considered to be a comfortably full level, as set out above, this is borne out through consultation, so any increase will impact on facilities which are already full.

If more water space is going to be provided, then Worksop is the priority, it has the highest residential development and is the area with highest level of unmet demand for swimming.

Any growth in Harworth could potentially be accommodated at Bircotes Leisure Centre as this is operating at 63% capacity. Investment would however be required to ensure any increase in usage could be accommodated.

So, growth will impact on swimming needs both in terms of the existing supply, which will become busier and potentially the need for additional pool provision in the Worksop area, which is the area of highest demand. For Bircotes to meet future needs investment will be required.

This assessment provides an indication that the main swimming pools are already full and in need of investment to meet future needs. It is evident that any change (reduction) in swimming pool provision and, or community use will influence directly the available supply of swimming pools for community use.

Therefore, whilst the overall supply of swimming pools is currently sufficient to meet demand, the finding from the assessment is that the distribution of demand is such that both Retford and Worksop are busy swimming pool sites. New demand from growth and or any reduction in supply will increase this used capacity and increase the costs of managing and maintaining the centre.

For all these reasons, there is an evidence base to support continued investment in these pools, plus Bircotes and application of the Sport England Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) cost findings, to accommodate any requirements to modernise the centre to accommodate the increased usage will be applicable at the time any developments come forward

In terms of assessing the need for contributions towards swimming pool provision the Council should therefore seek contributions towards swimming pool provision from developments. The exact needs and level of contributions should be assessed at the time of development and assessed against the supply and demand position at the time, in line with the policy set out in section 12 and in the Local Plan.

The Council will have to develop its investment approach, any policy should seek to use the CIL guidelines as a principle, and ensure they are:

- Directly related to the development
- Necessary to make it acceptable in planning terms
- Fair and reasonable in scale.

Using the example of the proposed *Bassetlaw Garden Village*, which is located to the south-west of Retford. The location is within the drive time catchment area of Retford Leisure Centre. The development of 501 units (applying an occupancy rate) over the Local Plan period, generates a demand for 11 sq. metres of water, using the Sport England Facility Calculator (SFC), this equates to a contribution of circa £220,000. The SFC should be applied at the time.

The Retford Leisure Centre has a 25m x 13m six lane main pool (313 sq. metres of water) and a 13m x 6m teaching/learner pool (75 sq. metres of water). The Sport England 2020 Bassetlaw National Run report for swimming pools, identified that 74% of the swimming pools capacity is used at peak times. This is above the 70% comfort level.

The SFC calculation is that the Bassetlaw Garden Village development of 501 units over the plan period would generate 70 visits in the weekly peak period and a total of 111 visits over the whole week. So, this level of demand could potentially be accommodated in theory by Retford Leisure Centre, however it will impact further on capacity (*at an already full site*) and contributions should therefore be sought in line with the Sports Facility Calculator figure, to recognise this.

In the longer term, the total Garden Village development of a further 3,250 units beyond the Local Plan period would have to be assessed when the delivery of these units is known and assessed against the usage of Retford Leisure Centre at that time, plus any changes to supply and demand across the district. At these levels it may create the need for further swimming pool provision at Retford Leisure Centre or in the area, certainly significant investment would be required from developers to mitigate for the impact of this level of growth.

### **Summary Demand**

Swimming provides cradle to grave participation opportunities for all age groups.

Covid has impacted due to pool closures, but the sport is now gearing up to *re-open* and the provision of swimming opportunities is and will remain a key activity to drive participation in sport and promote healthy lifestyles.

Swim England's Strategic Plan was published in May 2020 and sets out a simple vision of *A Nation Swimming*. The mission of Swim England is to create *a happier, healthier and more successful nation through swimming*.

Swim England are satisfied with the current water provision in Bassetlaw, however they would recommend, based on age and expected life span of aquatic facilities, that future provision is assessed for the replacement of Bircotes Leisure Centre.

The assessment provides an indication that the main swimming pools are already full and in need of investment to meet future needs.

Growth will therefore impact on swimming needs both in terms of the existing supply, which will become busier and potentially the need for additional pool provision in the Worksop area, which is the area of highest demand. For Bircotes to meet future needs investment will be required.

In terms of assessing the need for contributions towards swimming pool provision the Council should seek contributions from developments for swimming provision based on the evidence set out in this assessment. The exact needs and level of contributions should be assessed at the time of development and assessed against the supply and demand position at the time, in line with the policy set out in section 12 and the Local Plan.

## Key Issues and Options

### Introduction

The ANOG approach requires a drawing together of the key issues which have arisen from the assessment, these then form options, which are set out in the Action Plan.

### Key Issues

1. Supply and demand of swimming provision is currently in balance across Bassetlaw. This is dependent on access to all current pools, which must be protected to maintain this balance.
2. Access to the school pool sites will remain important to the supply and demand balance. Worksop is important and needs to be retained and added to and enhanced. Misterton is also important to achieve the overall supply and demand balance for the District. Also, it is the only pool site in the north east of the District. If it were to close, then school swimming would be impacted, because of the time and cost of travel to the nearest Bassetlaw pool site in Retford.
3. Pools are well located, serving distinct catchments to meet resident needs. The location of the public swimming pool sites provides very good accessibility for Bassetlaw residents. Bassetlaw demand for swimming pools are very well correlated. Any consideration to change the swimming pool sites, is unlikely to improve on this level of accessibility.
4. The main Council provision at Workshop and Retford are good quality swimming pools but are at capacity. Whilst Bassetlaw provision is currently sufficient to meet the demand for swimming from Bassetlaw residents, the two main swimming pool sites at Retford and Worksop are very busy sites at peak times.
5. Bircotes is now ageing and requires investment in order to meet current and future needs. Having opened in 1976 it is an old clasp building, investment will be required to provide an offer in-line with that enjoyed at Retford and Worksop. This is supported as the key priority by Swim England. The facility is well located to meet current and future needs and should be retained and enhanced. If not replacement provision should be provided.

6. If more water space is going to be provided, then Worksop is the priority, it has the highest residential development and is the area with highest level of unmet demand for swimming.
7. The case for further swimming pool provision in Worksop to improve the swimming offer by adding a teaching pool would serve to meet the highest unmet demand in the authority, provide a viable project in terms of the business case and an all-round swimming offer with activities in dedicated pools. Addition of a teaching pool in Worksop would add more capacity and reduce the used capacity to a level closer to the comfort level.
8. The assessment provides an indication that the main swimming pools are already full and in need of investment to meet future needs. Growth will therefore impact on swimming needs both in terms of the existing supply, which will become busier and potentially the need for additional pool provision in the Worksop area, which is the area of highest demand. For Bircotes to meet future needs on-site and in the wider catchment (to serve Hurworth growth), investment will be required to enhance or re-provide.

## Indoor Built Facility Strategy

### Principles

The Strategy is based upon the following **principles**:

- Ensure any new or re-developed provision in the District is developed in-line with the Built Facility Strategy priorities and the needs and evidence set out - Ensure planners adopt the evidence base as appropriate and the work directs funding.
- Focus should be placed on maximising resources – the strategy will seek to maximise the capacity and function of built facilities and to ensure that provision is adapted to meet with future requirements. This will include the continued use of school sites, which play a critical role in the provision of sports facilities in Bassetlaw.
- Sustainability is a key focus – all recommendations seek to deliver new and improved facilities in a sustainable manner, focusing on large sites that are efficient and effective to maintain, maximising the capacity of sites, supporting well established clubs and sports across Bassetlaw and promoting good practice.
- Quality of facilities is as important as the amount of provision – the strategy seeks to ensure that the District contains the right amount of facilities, of the right quality and in

the right place. While it promotes protection of current provision, it recognises the need to improve the quality of existing facilities and the subsequent investment required.

- Seek investment from development in line with CIL principles and adopting Sport England good practice guidance.
- Investment should focus upon interventions that will meet need and have the greatest impact – the strategy seeks to prioritise investment into sites where the highest impact will be felt and where high numbers of users will benefit. It will seek to increase participation in sport and activity in terms of both numbers and standards.

The **objectives** for the strategy based on the needs and evidence set out, for all sports, Bassetlaw Council and its partners will seek to:

***Protect***

- SO1: Safeguard all existing built sports facilities in line with Paragraph 99 of the National Planning Policy Framework, irrespective of ownership and the degree of access and

use. This strategy will clearly define any facilities that are not required to meet current or projected future needs.

- SO2: Protect and safeguard access to built sports facilities by promoting long term agreements with schools and other landowners to facilitate ongoing investment and improvement.
- SO3: Maximise community use of indoor built sports facilities where this will benefit the overall facility stock.

### ***Enhance***

- SO4: Ensure that new developments contribute towards the enhancement of existing facilities.
- SO5: Ensure that the quality of facilities provided is appropriate to the level and standard of play that is sustained and that it promotes participation in sport.
- SO6: Ensure that sports facilities are accompanied by appropriate ancillary facilities (e.g. sports lighting and changing provision)
- SO7: Ensure that facilities are maintained appropriately for the activities that they are sustaining and to maximise long term capacity.
- SO8: Work in partnership with key stakeholders and voluntary organisations to secure funding.

### ***Provide***

- SO9: Address existing deficiencies in provision.
- SO10: Ensure that new developments contribute towards the provision of new sports facilities and the enhancement of existing facilities.
- SO11: Support clubs in the management and development of facilities.

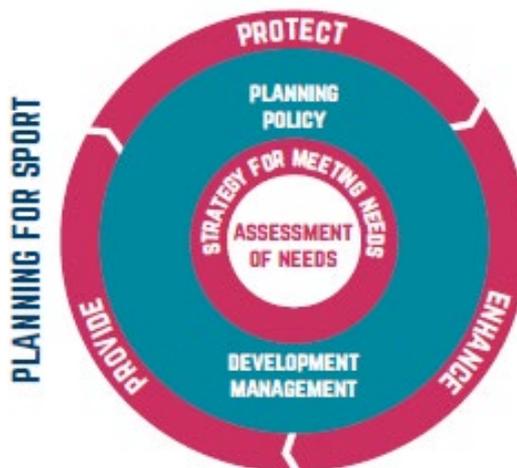
## Action Plan

The above key issues for swimming across Bassetlaw have been developed into an Action Plan.

The Action Plan recommendations are categorised under the headings of **‘Protect’, ‘Enhance’ and ‘Provide’**, as recommended by Sport England in the ANOG guidance.

The sport specific Action Plan for swimming and recommendations are set out in the next section. They link to the above strategic objectives and outline the key priorities for swimming provision. For ease of reference, recommendations are summarised and justifications for each recommendation, drawing upon the evidence presented in the assessment are provided. To support the implementation of these recommendations, the Action Plan also indicate the measures of success for each recommendation and who will deliver the action.

Subsequent sections will adopt the same strategy principles and objectives and will outline the sport specific Action Plan.



## Swimming Pool Action Plan

Link to Strategic Objectives	Recommendation	Justification	Relevant Sites and Key Actions	Lead Partner	Measures of Success
<b>SO1 (Protect)</b>	1 Resist the loss of any swimming pool sites unless replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location.	All Swimming pool sites are well used and well located to meet current and future demands across Bassetlaw.  The impact of any closures alongside growth would impact on the supply and demand balance.  .	All Swimming Pools.	Bassetlaw Planning / Leisure  Education Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retention of existing pool sites</li> </ul>
<b>SO1 and SO2 (Protect)</b>	2 Protect existing access to swimming pools on education sites.  Seek investment to protect access and usage.  Ensure that existing community use agreements are delivered and renewed.	Existing school sites are central to the provision for swimming in Bassetlaw and maintaining the supply and demand balance.  Loss of these facilities would impact on overall supply and demand balance.	Worksop College  Misterton School	Education Department  Workshop College  Misterton School  Bassetlaw Planning / Leisure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to swimming pools on school sites to be protected and enhanced through investment</li> <li>CUAs are in place, kept up to date and are enforced through planning conditions</li> </ul>
<b>SO9 and SO10 (Provide)</b>	3 Consider the feasibility of providing a teaching pool in the Worksop area.	Worksop is the priority, it has the highest residential development and is the area with highest level of unmet demand for swimming and greatest pool pressures.  Will ease capacity issues at the current pool.	Worksop	Bassetlaw Planning / Leisure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feasibility Study completed</li> <li>Business Case and project delivery schedule agreed</li> </ul>

<p><b>SO9 and SO10 (Provide)</b></p>	<p>4</p>	<p>Consider the feasibility of upgrading or replacing Bircotes Leisure Centre.</p>	<p>Bircotes is now ageing and requires investment in order to meet current and future needs.</p> <p>The pool is important to balance supply and demand and pool provision in the area needs to be protected</p> <p>In area terms the pool is well located to serve Bircotes and the wider Harworth catchment.</p>	<p>Bircotes</p>	<p>Bassetlaw Planning / Leisure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feasibility Study completed</li> <li>• Business Case and project delivery schedule agreed</li> </ul>
<p><b>SO4, SO5, SO6 and SO7 (Enhance)</b></p>	<p>5</p>	<p>Support enhancements /upgrades to the existing swimming facility infra-structure.</p>	<p>The quality of facility provision is a key priority.</p>	<p>All sites</p>	<p>Bassetlaw Leisure  Education Department</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved facility quality</li> <li>• Successful funding applications</li> </ul>
<p><b>SO4 and SO10 (Enhance and Provide)</b></p>	<p>6</p>	<p>Seek investment to the swimming pool infra-structure from all developments.</p> <p>Seek investment to improve the quality and capacity at the key pool sites in line with the application of Sport England's Sports Facility Calculator tool.</p> <p>Provide new provision to meet identified gaps if appropriate following consideration of supply and demand balance at the time.</p>	<p>Supply and demand clearly illustrates that there will be impacts of the projected growth that will require financial contributions.</p> <p>This will be exacerbated if the supply changes i.e. any of the current pools close.</p>	<p>All swimming pool sites</p> <p>Based on the catchment of proposed developments</p>	<p>BDC Leisure / BDC Planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributions secured towards swimming pool facility infra-structure enhancements.</li> </ul>

## 4.0 Sports Halls

### Introduction

There is a full and separate strategic assessment report for provision of sports halls across the Bassetlaw Council area. The findings are based on Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (fpm) data from Sport England's 2020 national assessment of sports halls. It was commissioned by Bassetlaw Council to provide an in-depth assessment, applying the extensive data which is available for sports halls and which is not available for the other facility types. The fpm provides an evidence base which is planning policy compliant and therefore meets the needs of the Local Plan.

The fpm report is based on seven headings. *total supply; total demand; supply and demand balance; satisfied/met demand; unmet demand; used capacity (how full the sports halls are); and equity share.*

A summary of the findings from that report are set out here following the *Assessment of Needs and Opportunities* headings. It is produced to provide consistency with the assessment for the other facility types in the Built Sports Facility Study.

The findings have been supplemented by site visits and consultations, which have helped to shape the key issues and options and Action Plan recommendations.

### Supply

#### Quantity

There are 11 individual sports halls located on 8 sites within Bassetlaw in 2020. The total supply of sports halls in badminton courts, is 43 courts, of which 33.6 are available in the weekly peak period for community use (known as the effective supply). The peak period is weekday evenings (up to 5 hours per day) and weekend days (up to 7 hours per weekend day). The reason for the difference between the total supply of badminton courts and the effective supply, is because of the variable hours of access for community use at the sports halls located on education sites.

Bassetlaw District therefore has a good supply of sports hall, with eight sports hall sites, of which two are public leisure centres, Bircotes Leisure Centre and the North Notts Community Arena, the latter is operated by Notts Community Leisure Limited, a not-for-profit organisation with charitable status, but has similar programmes of use and purposes as a public leisure centre.

There are six sports halls which are owned by schools and colleges; The Elizabethan Academy, Retford Oaks, Tuxford Academy, Outwood Portland and Outwood Valley Schools arrangements for community use, are linked to and managed by Barnsley Premier Leisure the local authority operator.

Based on a measure of number of badminton courts available for community use per 10,000 population, Bassetlaw has 3.6 badminton courts. Bassetlaw has the second lowest supply of courts based on this measure, after Doncaster and Newark and Sherwood, which have 3.6 badminton courts per 10,000 population. The authority with the highest supply is Rotherham with 4.8 badminton courts per 10,000 population. The East Midlands Region and England wide average are both 4.2 badminton courts per 10,000 population.

When simply comparing the Bassetlaw demand for sports halls with the Bassetlaw supply, the resident population of Bassetlaw in 2020, generates a demand for 32 badminton courts in the weekly peak period. This compares to a supply of 33.6 badminton courts which are available for community use in the weekly peak period. So, the Bassetlaw supply exceeds the Bassetlaw demand by 1.6 badminton courts.

The location and catchment area of the Bassetlaw sports halls are very closely correlated with the location of the Bassetlaw demand for sports halls. Based on residents using the nearest sports hall to where they live, the nearest sports hall for nearly nine out of ten visits to a sports hall by a Bassetlaw resident, is a venue located in the district.

Details of the sports hall sites are set out in Table 4.1 below.

**Table 4.1 – Bassetlaw Sports Halls 2020**

Name of Site	Type	Dimensions	Area	No of Courts	Site Year Built	Site Year Refurb	Car % Demand	Public Transport % Demand	Walk % Demand
BASSETLAW							83%	7%	10%
BIRCOTES LEISURE CENTRE	Main	33 x 18	594	4	1976	2008	86%	5%	9%
NORTH NOTTS COMMUNITY ARENA	Main	32 x 19	608	4	1983		74%	8%	17%
OUTWOOD ACADEMY (VALLEY)	Main	35 x 20	690	4	2008		83%	6%	11%
OUTWOOD ACADEMY (VALLEY)	Activity Hall	18 x 10	180						
OUTWOOD ACADEMY PORTLAND	Main	41 x 20	810	5	2008		78%	8%	14%
RETFORD OAKS ACADEMY	Main	33 x 18	594	4	2007		85%	7%	7%
THE ELIZABETHAN ACADEMY	Main	35 x 20	690	4	2007	2015	84%	7%	9%
THE ELIZABETHAN ACADEMY	Activity Hall	20 x 15	300						
TUXFORD ACADEMY	Main	35 x 20	690	4	2007		95%	2%	3%
TUXFORD ACADEMY	Activity Hall	17 x 9	153						
WORKSOP COLLEGE	Main	35 x 20	690	4	1996		87%	8%	5%

There is one local authority public leisure centre sports hall site:

- Bircotes Leisure Centre (opened in 1976 and modernised in 2008):

The North Notts Community Arena is the former Bassetlaw Leisure Centre (opened in 1983), it has a 4-badminton court main hall of 33m x 19m. The Centre is operated by North Notts Community Leisure Limited, a not for profit organisation with charitable status,

As set out, there are six sports hall sites which are owned by educational institutions, schools and colleges, these sites represent 75% of the total sports hall supply in the district.

- Outwood Academy Portland (opened in 2008) which has a 5-badminton court main hall with dimensions of 41m x 20m. This size of main hall can accommodate multi sports use at the same time.
- Outwood Academy (Valley) (opened in 2008), The Elizabethan Academy (opened in 2007 and modernised in 2015) and Tuxford Academy (opened in 2007) which all have a main hall of 4-badminton courts with dimensions of 35m x 20m and a separate activity hall of 18m x 10m at the Outwood Academy, 20m x 15m activity hall at The Elizabethan Academy, and 17m x 9m at Tuxford Academy.
- Retford Oaks Academy (opened in 2007) and Worksop College (opened in 1996) are single sports hall sites, with a main hall of 33m x 18m at Retford Oaks Academy and 35m x 20m at Worksop College.

Satisfied demand is the proportion of total demand that is met by the capacity at the sports halls from residents who live within the driving, walking or public transport catchment area of a sports hall.

Bassetlaw satisfied demand is 91% of the total demand for sports halls. This means this level of the Bassetlaw total demand for sports halls is located within the catchment area of a sports hall, and there is enough capacity at the venues to meet this level of total demand. It is a very high level of the total demand for sports halls which can be met.

A sub-set of satisfied demand is retained demand, this measures how much of the Bassetlaw satisfied demand is met at sports halls in the district. This assessment is based on the catchment area of the district's sports halls and residents using the nearest sports hall to where they live.

Retained demand is 88.5% of the total 91% Bassetlaw satisfied demand for sports halls. This finding shows that the location and catchment area of the sports hall sites in the district, are closely correlated with the location of the Bassetlaw demand for sports halls. On the assumption that residents use the nearest sports hall to where they live, the nearest sports hall for nearly nine out of ten visits to a sports hall by a Bassetlaw resident, is a venue located in the district.

The unmet demand definition has two parts to it - demand for sports halls which cannot be met because there is too much demand for any particular sports hall within its catchment area; or the demand is located outside the catchment area of a sports hall and is then classified as unmet demand. Bassetlaw total unmet demand is 9% of total demand for sports halls which equates to just fewer than 3 badminton courts. 94.8% is unmet demand located outside the catchment area of a sports hall and 5.2% is lack of sports capacity, this equates to fewer than 3 badminton courts.

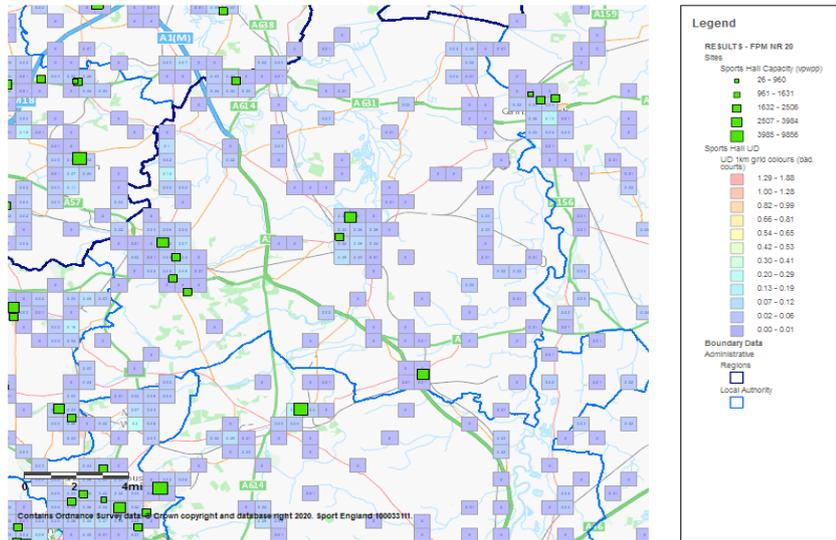
The important consideration is whether the unmet demand is clustered with enough unmet demand in one location, to consider increasing provision of sports halls to improve accessibility for residents. This would require a location with demand for at least 3 badminton courts, to consider increasing provision at a viable size of sports hall. In effect, all the unmet demand being located in one place.

The distribution of unmet demand across Bassetlaw, has very low values, see map overleaf. There is no single cluster location of high unmet demand to warrant increasing the provision of sports halls, to improve accessibility for residents.

**Map 4.1 – Unmet Demand**

Facilities Planning Model - National Runs - Sports Halls 2020 Unmet Demand

Unmet Demand expressed as units of badminton courts (rounded to two decimal places). Data outputs shown thematically (colours) at either output area level or aggregated at 1km square (figure labels).



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There is not a single cluster location of high unmet demand to warrant increasing the provision of sports halls, to improve accessibility for residents. Unmet demand is distributed in a range 0 – 0.2 of one badminton court in one-kilometre grid squares across the district.

So, the quantity of sports hall provision is good as is the location of provision, there are no significant gaps, requiring large-scale provision. What is evident however is the importance of the education stock to maintain this balance and ensuring the right scale of provision in the rural areas.

**School Sports Halls**

The importance of the school sports hall network is evident.

As set out the secondary education provision in Bassetlaw is delivered via a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) provider which (via commercial management company Barnsley Premier Leisure – BPL) contributes towards much of the accessible stock of sports hall facilities in the district. This was part of a £129 million project which saw the new build of five secondary

schools, a Special Educational Needs (SEN) school, two new Post 16 Centres and two leisure Centres at Retford and Worksop, which were opened in 2008.

This has provided a new and modern facility stock of sports halls. The nature of the arrangement means that the district has a range of relatively new sports facilities at education sites, available for external community use. There have been access and pricing issues at the early stage, but management by BPL, the Council operator, means there is now a co-ordinated approach and willingness to work strategically.

However, it does potentially present challenges where there might be strategically identified need to improve facilities, with much of the obligations around repair and replacement linked and incorporated within the respective contracted management agreements for each site. Nevertheless, the sports halls are accessible and modern, with a commitment to community use for the remaining 12-years of the PFI contract. The need to protect this and continue to work to ensure access is clear.

These sites represent 75% of the total sports hall supply in the district.

Valley Academy and Elizabethan Academy are the most important education sports halls because of where they are located, Worksop and Retford respectively, in the areas of highest demand for sports halls. They both have a big main hall and an activity hall – so more scope for a big programme of use, they are also the most recent sports halls to open.

The sports hall at Tuxford Academy is also important, serving the rural area, but this is very full, which impacts on access for community use. The unmet demand in Tuxford and the surrounding area is less than 0.5 of one badminton court, so whilst there is no case for large scale increased provision, given further growth there may be scope for smaller scale indoor flexible space to be provided.

All the sports hall venues have a high used capacity and there is only Bircotes which is owned by the Council, so there is a clear need to keep access for community use across all the education venues.

Protecting on-going access to the school sports hall stock will be important strategically going forward. The growth will impact on the capacity, which is currently high. The majority of sports halls record capacity, which is significantly above the 80% comfort level. There will therefore also be a need for on-going investment in the education sports hall stock. The education halls are highlighted in red overleaf.

**Table 4.2 - Estimated used Capacity for the Bassetlaw Sports Halls 2020**

Name of Site	Type	Dimensions	Area	No of Courts	Site Year Built	Site Year Refurb	% of Capacity Used	% of Capacity Not Used
BASSETLAW							72%	28%
BIRCOTES LEISURE CENTRE	Main	33 x 18	594	4	1976	2008	89%	11%
NORTH NOTTS COMMUNITY ARENA	Main	32 x 19	608	4	1983		93%	7%
OUTWOOD ACADEMY (VALLEY)	Main	35 x 20	690	4	2008		100%	0%
OUTWOOD ACADEMY (VALLEY)	Activity Hall	18 x 10	180					
OUTWOOD ACADEMY PORTLAND	Main	41 x 20	810	5	2008		85%	15%
RETFORD OAKS ACADEMY	Main	33 x 18	594	4	2007		100%	0%
THE ELIZABETHAN ACADEMY	Main	35 x 20	690	4	2007	2015	50%	50%
THE ELIZABETHAN ACADEMY	Activity Hall	20 x 15	300					
TUXFORD ACADEMY	Main	35 x 20	690	4	2007		49%	51%
TUXFORD ACADEMY	Activity Hall	17 x 9	153					
WORKSOP COLLEGE	Main	35 x 20	690	4	1996		18%	82%

## Quality

There is one local authority public leisure centre sports hall site, Bircotes Leisure Centre (opened in 1976 and modernised in 2008): The North Notts Community Arena is the former Bassetlaw Leisure Centre (opened in 1983), it has a 4-badminton court main hall of 33m x 19m. Both sites are now ageing and in need of investment. Bircotes is a clasp building but there has been investment.

As set out the education sector halls are relatively new and provide good fit for purpose sports hall provision.

- The largest education sports hall is Outwood Academy Portland (opened in 2008) which has a 5-badminton court main hall with dimensions of 41m x 20m. This size of main hall can accommodate multi sports use at the same time.
- There are three education venues, Outwood Academy (Valley) (opened in 2008), The Elizabethan Academy (opened in 2007 and modernised in 2015) and Tuxford Academy (opened in 2007) which all have a main hall of 4-badminton courts with dimensions of

35m x 20m, plus separate activity halls, at the Outwood Academy, 20m x 15m activity hall at The Elizabethan Academy, and 17m x 9m at Tuxford Academy.

- The other two education sites Retford Oaks Academy (opened in 2007) and Worksop College (opened in 1996) are single sports hall sites, with a main hall of 33m x 18m at Retford Oaks Academy and 35m x 20m at Worksop College.
- The size of a 4-badminton court sports hall vary in size because education authorities consider a 4-badminton court size sports hall for curriculum use, can have dimensions of 33m x 18m. However, all of the education sports hall sites, apart from Retford Oaks Academy have larger sports halls.
- In 2013, Sport England and the National Governing Bodies for hall sports reviewed and set the size of a main 4 badminton court size sports hall at 34.5m x 20m. A 4-badminton court main hall with these dimensions can provide for all the indoor hall sports at the community level of participation.
- Halls below these dimensions do have the correct dimensions for the playing area but have limited space between the courts and run off space at the back of the courts.
- There is therefore a good range of modern 'fit for purpose' good quality sports halls, which provide for a good range of sports. This compliments the range of specialist provision set out later.
- The average age of the sports hall sites in 2020 is 21 years, but this is skewed by the sports halls opened before 2000.
- Of the three sports halls opened before 2000, one has been modernised, Bircotes Leisure Centre in 2008, the unmodernised venues are North Notts Community Arena (1983) and Worksop College (1996). Modernisation is defined as one or more of the sports hall floor upgraded to a sprung timber floor, the sports hall lighting replaced, or the changing accommodation modernised. In terms of upgrades and modernisation, these halls therefore require investment.

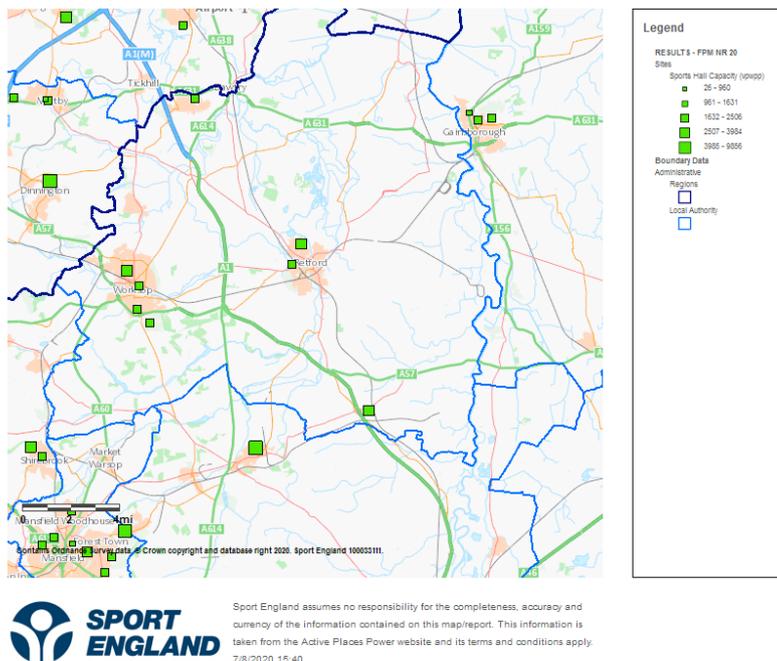
### **Accessibility**

The Bassetlaw satisfied demand is 91% of the total demand for sports halls. This is the level of the Bassetlaw total demand for sports halls located within the catchment area of a sports hall, and there is enough capacity at the venues to meet this level of demand. It is a very high level of the total demand for sports halls which can be met.

The location and catchment area of the Bassetlaw sports halls are very closely correlated with the location of the Bassetlaw demand. Based on residents using the nearest sports hall to where they live, the nearest sports hall for nearly nine out of ten visits to a sports hall by a Bassetlaw resident, is a venue located in the district.

The Bassetlaw total unmet demand equates to just fewer than 3 badminton courts. Of this total 95% is unmet demand located outside the catchment area of a sports hall and 5% is lack of sports capacity. There is no single cluster location of high unmet demand to warrant increasing the provision of sports halls, to improve accessibility for residents.

### Map 4.2 – Sports Hall Locations



In short, the sports hall sites and the Bassetlaw demand for sports halls are very well correlated. Any consideration to change the sports hall sites, is unlikely to improve on this level of accessibility. Any future investment should therefore focus on existing sites and current locations, there is no case for additional sports hall provision at new locations, although smaller flexible spaces should be considered in the context of growth and based on feasibility work at the time. Modernisation and investment will also be required in the existing stock to ease capacity issues.

### **Availability**

Used capacity estimates how well used/how full facilities are. The facilities planning model is designed to include a 'comfort factor', beyond which the venues are too full. The sports hall itself becomes too busy to be able to use comfortably, plus the changing and circulation areas become too crowded. The model assumes that usage over 80% of capacity used in the weekly peak period is busy and the sports hall is operating at an uncomfortable level above that percentage.

The Bassetlaw sports halls as a District wide average are estimated to be operating at 72% of used capacity in the weekly peak period. So, a high level of used capacity but with 8% of headroom, before the Sport England benchmark figure of sports hall being comfortably full at 80% of capacity used in the weekly peak period is reached.

The used capacity of a sports hall does depend on the hours available for community use. Self-evidently a sports hall on an education site which is only available for a few hours a week, and with an irregular pattern of club use, is very different from a public leisure centre sports hall, with a full programme of use. An education venue with just a few hours of community use, can very quickly establish a high used capacity.

The estimated used capacity for the education venues ranges from 18% at Worksop College, to 100% at Retford Oaks Academy and Outwood Academy (Valley). The Elizabethan Academy, Retford Oaks, Tuxford Academy, Outwood Portland and Outwood Valley Schools arrangements for community use are linked to and managed by Barnsley Premier Leisure the local authority operator. The findings on used capacity are based on a one-year set of findings and the policy/access arrangements can change.

The Bircotes Leisure Centre has an estimated used capacity of 89% and it is 93% at North Notts Community Arena. It is acknowledged that North Notts Community Arena is not a public leisure centre but in terms of the draw effects described, it has the same operational features and purposes as the Bircotes Centre.

It is higher at these centres because the public leisure centres have the highest accessibility for sports club and public use, they are available for daytime use, which is not possible at education venues during term time. The operators actively promote hall sports and physical activity participation and with a programme of use which reflects the activities and times that customers want to participate. For all these reasons, the public leisure centre has a draw effect to these centres.

Addressing this finding means trying to increase access for community use at the education sports hall sites.

The total supply of sports halls in the district is 43 badminton courts, and the supply available for community use, is 33.6 badminton courts, in the weekly peak period. In effect, there is an aggregate total of 9.4 badminton courts, across the education sites, which are unavailable for community use, this represents 21% of the total supply of badminton courts in Bassetlaw.

The usage data for sports halls show excess demand at peak hours. The demand for traditional sports hall sports has declined in recent years (even pre-covid) but this same period has shown a large increase in demand for group exercise activities in large hall spaces. There is an established tradition of using school sports facilities outside of school hours in Bassetlaw, reflecting the importance of the education sector stock and this model works well.

The recent return to organised sports has shown the greatest increase in demand coming from swimming lessons and group exercise classes. The growth of these areas of physical activity looks likely to increase in the post pandemic period, with individuals and health professionals recognising the value of physical activity in promoting good health and greater resilience to life limiting illnesses. Flexible indoor spaces, allowing for good ventilation and circulation space will be ideal for coping with this demand which will enable increased delivery of health referral and improvement programmes.

So, the main sports hall sites are busy and there are changing pressures on the usage, this was borne out through the site visits and consultation with BPL, as set out above. Further growth will impact on sports hall capacity to deliver going forward. It will remain important to maintain and seek to increase access to education halls. Worksop College has potential for greater use, alongside the feeder site at Ranby House Preparatory School, which acts as a feeder site, but this will require investment into modernisation. The provision of smaller flexible spaces will become an increasingly important feature of the supply picture.

### **Summary Supply**

#### *Quantity*

The quantity of sports hall provision is good as is the location of provision, there are no significant gaps, requiring large-scale provision. What is evident however is the importance of the education stock to maintain this balance and ensuring the right scale of provision in the rural areas. Protecting on-going access to the school sports hall stock will be important strategically going forward. The growth will impact on the capacity, which is currently high. There will therefore also be a need for on-going investment in the education sports hall stock.

## *Quality*

There is one local authority public leisure centre sports hall site, Bircotes Leisure Centre (opened in 1976 and modernised in 2008): The North Notts Community Arena is the former Bassetlaw Leisure Centre (opened in 1983), it has a 4-badminton court main hall of 33m x 19m. Both sites are now ageing and in need of investment. Bircotes is a clasp building but there has been investment.

The education sector halls are relatively new and provide good fit for purpose sports hall provision. Of the three sports halls opened before 2000, one has been modernised, Bircotes Leisure Centre in 2008, the unmodernised venues are North Notts Community Arena (1983) and Worksop College (1996). Modernisation is defined as one or more of the sports hall floor upgraded to a sprung timber floor, the sports hall lighting replaced, or the changing accommodation modernised. In terms of upgrades and modernisation, these halls therefore require investment.

## *Accessibility*

The sports hall sites and the Bassetlaw demand for sports halls are very well correlated. Any consideration to change the sports hall sites, is unlikely to improve on this level of accessibility. Any future investment should therefore focus on existing sites and current locations, there is no case for additional sports hall provision at new locations, although smaller flexible spaces should be considered in the context of growth and based on feasibility work at the time.

## *Availability*

So, the main sports hall sites are busy and there are pressures on the usage, this was borne out through the site visits and consultation. Further growth will impact on sports hall capacity to deliver going forward. It will remain important to maintain and seek to increase access to education halls. Worksop College has potential for greater use, alongside the feeder site at Ranby House Preparatory School, which acts as a feeder site.

## Demand

### Participation Trends

Active Lives Adults (16+) was introduced in 2015 and there have now been 5 annual surveys, the most recent covering the November 2019 – November 2020 period most recent covering the November 2019 – November 2020 period. Active Lives Young People (people aged between 5 – 16 school years 1 - 11) was established in September 2017 and there have now been three annual surveys the most recent being November 2019 – 2020. It gathers data on how children engage with sport and physical activity, their attitudes and behaviours around sport and physical activity.

It is possible to compare changes in adult hall sports participation between Active Lives 1 November 2015 – 2016 to Active Lives 5, November 2019 – 2020 based on participating at least twice in the past 28 days. For most of Active Lives 5, the sports halls were closed because of Covid 19, so the comparison with changes in the baseline and the past twelve months are invalid.

The analysis shows that adult participation in all indoor hall sports is lower in Active Lives 5 for 2019 – 2020 than in Active Lives 1 for 2015 – 2016, except for handball, martial arts and Taekwondo, where there is no change. The percentage change is very small and under 1% over five years except for the collective grouping of racket sports where it is 2%.

These are national England wide findings and data for individual local authorities or regions for particular sports is not available however they show a trend in terms of the changing nature of sports hall usage.

On a broader front, the reasons for the changes in participation are being researched by Sport England and this has to be based on longer term trend data from Active Lives. What appears apparent is that the time, organisation, and fixed times for playing team or individual hall sports which require organisation and skill development are maybe becoming barriers to participation.

Individual activities which require little organisation and are available at times that suit the lifestyle of participants are becoming more popular. Gym and fitness classes are activities with a health benefit/motivation and are recreational. These may be more appealing, than playing sports where skill development is needed and can be competition based, both of which appear to be appealing to a smaller range of participants.

There is therefore emerging national evidence that there is less use of sports halls for sport. There is a decline in traditional sports hall sports, as the physical activity agenda gains momentum and the need for more flexible indoor spaces over formal sports halls gains traction e.g. less than 1% of a typical sports hall activity programme is filled by for example cricket and netball etc. Sport England themselves are recognising this by promoting more flexible, smaller, flexible indoor halls as part of their new innovation programmes and Leisure Local initiative. In this context providing larger halls to meet 'potential' sport needs, may be less justifiable going forward.

As set out in the previous section, locally this trend is emerging as sports hall sites across Bassetlaw become increasingly programmed for group exercise.

Across the District traditional sports halls sports are also on the decline. Retford Raiders Basketball Club recently folded, there is no volleyball and only one badminton club, Worksop Falcons. Indoor cricket is provided at the Cuckney Cricket Centre, which is to the west of Bassetlaw and at Worksop College. New schools at Valley and Tuxford have nets but the sprung floors limit their use.

There are however also several strong sports hall sports across the district. Table-tennis is very strong, with a Centre of Excellence operating from Redlands Primary School in Worksop. Gymnastics and trampolining are also strong with large clubs in Retford and Worksop. Indoor Tennis and Bowls operate from the North Notts Community Arena, which is a well maintained and managed facility, which provides an important part of the Bassetlaw facility infra-structure. So, specialist sports hall provision is well catered for and the trend is for more flexible space to meet wider health and physical activity agendas.

There will be a need to continue sports hall modernisation. The average age of all the sports hall sites is increasing, since the significant investment in 2008 but this should be assessed at the time in the context of the changing role of sports halls, with a declining rate (nationally as evidenced by Active Lives) in hall sports participation and the increasing use of sports halls for other activities.

In terms of future demand, it is a complex picture of a reduced need for sports halls for playing indoor hall sports and for them to provide a more all-round offer and with much more flexible use of the space for a wider range of activities, across by all age groups and focusing on activity for a healthy lifestyle benefit, which may require smaller flexible spaces.

The implications for Bassetlaw are that there are enough large halls for sport, specialist provision is well catered for. This provision has to be protected and access and investment protected going forward, alongside provision of a network of smaller community spaces for health and physical activity programmes.

### **Impact of Growth**

Using the ONS figures (as used in the Local Plan and PPS) over the Plan period an increase of 4,357 new residents is predicted up to 2037. This is the known growth. This generates a demand for 1.18 badminton courts or 0.29 halls.

There is a total of 10,013 units planned over the Local Plan period. This is the anticipated growth but is dependent on delivery. Applying a per occupancy rate of 2.3 persons per unit to the residential units of 10,013 units, leads to a potential population increase of 23,029. This is obviously unknown at this stage and represents the current plan for delivery.

Applying this population to the Bassetlaw population and age structure in the Sport England Sports Facility Calculator, identifies the demand for sports halls generated by the proposed residential development, as 6.2 badminton courts or 1.55 4-court sports hall across the district.

There is therefore a range of growth predictions. The growth is however spread across the district in relatively small pockets and does not necessarily mean a future need for additional large-scale sports hall provision of the scale set out.

Furthermore, before any additional provision is considered at any level, the current supply has to be considered. The overall capacity used in the borough is 72%, which provides some headroom to meet an increased demand. However, the main provision is heavily used and this figure is skewed by low levels at Worksop College and Tuxford. So, growth will impact on facilities which are already full.

This assessment provides an indication that the main sports halls are already full and will be in need of investment to meet future needs. It is evident that any change (reduction) in sports hall provision and, or community use will influence directly the available supply of sports hall for community use.

Therefore, whilst the overall supply of sports halls is currently sufficient to meet demand, the finding from the assessment is that new demand from growth and or any reduction in supply will increase this used capacity and increase the costs of managing and maintaining the centre.

For all these reasons, there is an evidence base to support continued investment in the sports halls network and application of the Sport England Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) cost findings, to accommodate any requirements to modernise the halls to accommodate the increased usage will be applicable at the time any major developments come forward.

So, growth will impact on sports hall needs in terms of the existing supply, which will become busier. Investment should focus on the existing network not providing additional provision, *outwith* and potentially the need for additional small-scale provision. If more sports hall space is going to be provided, then this should be focussed on small flexible provision to meet health and physical activity needs. Investment should be focussed on future usage needs in-line with changing trends.

In terms of assessing the need for contributions towards sports hall pool provision the Council should therefore seek contributions from developments. The exact needs and level of contributions should be assessed at the time of development and assessed against the supply and demand position at the time. The Council will have to develop its investment approach, any policy should seek to use the CIL guidelines as a principle, and ensure they are:

- Directly related to the development
- Necessary to make it acceptable in planning terms
- Fair and reasonable in scale.

Using the example of the proposed *Bassetlaw Garden Village*, which is located to the south-west of Retford. The location is within the drive time catchment area of Retford Leisure Centre. The development of 501 units over the Local Plan period, generates a demand for 0.31 courts, using the Sport England Facility Calculator (SFC). Retford Oaks Academy is identified as having 85% of the sports hall capacity is used at peak times and the Elizabethan Academy 84%. This level of demand would struggle to be accommodated in theory at the education sites, it will impact on capacity (*at already full sites*) and contributions should be sought in line with the Sports Facility Calculator to recognise this. This scenario generates a requirement of circa £200,000 contributions towards sports halls.

In the longer term, the total Garden Village development of a further 3,250 units beyond the Local Plan period would have to be assessed when the delivery of these units is known and assessed against the usage and condition of existing sports halls at the time, plus any changes to supply and demand across the district. At these levels it may create the need for further sports hall provision of circa 2 badminton courts in the Retford area, which could be provided in the form of a flexible indoor community space on-site, certainly investment would be required from developers to mitigate for the impact of this level of growth.

### Summary Demand

There is a clear trend in terms of the changing nature of sports hall usage. What appears apparent is that the time, organisation, and fixed times for playing team or individual hall sports which require organisation and skill development are maybe becoming barriers to participation

There is therefore emerging national evidence that there is less use of sports halls for sport. There is a decline in traditional sports hall sports, as the physical activity agenda gains momentum and the need for more flexible indoor spaces over formal sports halls gains traction e.g. less than 1% of a typical sports hall activity programme is filled by for example cricket and netball etc. Sport England themselves are recognising this by promoting more flexible, smaller, flexible indoor halls as part of their new innovation programmes and Leisure Local initiative. In this context providing larger halls to meet 'potential' sport needs, may be less justifiable going forward.

Locally this trend is emerging as sports hall sites become increasingly programmed for group exercise.

The implications for Bassetlaw are that there are enough large halls for sport, specialist provision is well catered for. This provision has to be protected and access and investment protected going forward, alongside provision of a network of smaller community spaces for health and physical activity programmes.

Growth will impact on sports hall needs in terms of the existing supply, which will become busier. Investment should focus on the existing network not providing additional provision, *outwith* and potentially the need for additional small-scale provision. If more sports hall space is going to be provided, then this should be focussed on small flexible provision to meet health and physical activity needs. Investment should be focussed on future usage needs in-line with changing trends.

Growth will impact on sports hall needs both in terms of the existing supply, which will become busier and potential for smaller flexible spaces in areas of high growth to meet the changing sport and physical activity agenda. In terms of assessing the need for contributions towards sports hall provision the Council should seek contributions from developments. The exact needs and level of contributions should be assessed at the time of development and assessed against the supply and demand position at the time, in line with the approach set out in section 12 of this assessment and the Local Plan.

## Key Issues and Options

### Introduction

The ANOG approach requires a drawing together of the key issues which have arisen from the assessment, these are set out below along with a summary of the position in-line with the ANOG framework.

### Key Issues

1. Supply and demand of sports hall provision is currently in balance across Bassetlaw. This is dependent on access to all current sports halls, which must be protected to maintain this balance.
2. Access to the school sports hall sites will remain important to the supply and demand balance. Alongside the BPL managed provision Worksop College and Ranby House are important and need to be retained and added to and enhanced.
3. North Notts Community Arena is also an important provision, providing specialist opportunities for a range of sports and should be protected and enhanced.
4. Halls are well located, serving distinct catchments to meet resident needs. The location of sports hall sites provide very good accessibility for Bassetlaw residents. Bassetlaw demand for sports hall are very well correlated. Any consideration to change the sports hall sites, is unlikely to improve on this level of accessibility.
5. Whilst Bassetlaw provision is currently sufficient to meet the demand for sports halls from Bassetlaw residents, the main education sites are very busy sites at peak times.
6. Bircotes the only Council site is also busy and is now ageing and requires investment in order to meet current and future needs. Having opened in 1976 it is an old clasp building, investment will be required to provide an offer in-line with that enjoyed at Retford and Worksop. The facility is well located to meet current and future needs and should be retained and enhanced. If not, replacement provision should be provided, with future indoor hall provision matching needs at the time.

7. If more hall space is going to be provided, then this should focus on smaller flexible indoor space for health and physical activity programmes, in line with growth areas.
8. The assessment provides an indication that the main sports hall sites are already full and in need of investment to meet future needs. Growth will therefore impact on sports hall needs both in terms of the existing supply, which will become busier and potentially the need for additional small-scale provision in the areas of highest growth.

## Sports Hall Action Plan

Link to Strategic Objectives	Recommendation	Justification	Relevant Sites and Key Actions	Lead Partner	Measures of Success
<b>SO1 (Protect)</b>	1 Resist the loss of any sports hall sites unless replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location.	All sports hall sites are well used and well located to meet current and future demands across Bassetlaw.  The impact of any closures alongside growth would impact on the supply and demand balance.	All Sports Halls.	Education Department  BPL  Bassetlaw Planning / Leisure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retention of existing sports hall sites</li> </ul>
<b>SO1 and SO2 (Protect)</b>	2 Protect existing access to sports hall on education sites.  Seek investment to protect access and usage.  Ensure that existing community use agreements are delivered and renewed.  Any new education provision should be subject to community use agreements.	Existing school sites are central to the provision for hall sports in Bassetlaw and maintaining the supply and demand balance.  Loss of these facilities would impact on overall supply and demand balance.  Sports hall supply and demand is in balance so any new education provision should be accessible and open for community use	Worksop College  Retford Oaks	Education Department  BPL  Workshop College  Retford Oaks  Bassetlaw Planning / Leisure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to sports halls on school sites to be protected and enhanced through investment</li> <li>CUAs are in place, kept up to date and are enforced through planning conditions</li> </ul>
<b>SO9 and SO10</b>	3 Consider the feasibility of upgrading or	Bircotes is now ageing and requires investment in order to meet current and	Bircotes	Bassetlaw Planning /	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feasibility Study completed</li> </ul>

<b>(Provide)</b>		replacing Bircotes Leisure Centre.	<p>future needs.</p> <p>The sports hall is important to balance supply and demand and hall provision in the area needs to be protected.</p> <p>Alternative hall provision to be considered as part of any feasibility process.</p>		Leisure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business Case and project delivery schedule agreed</li> </ul>
<b>SO4, SO5, SO6 and SO7 (Enhance)</b>	4	Support enhancements /upgrades to the existing sports hall infra-structure.	<p>The quality of facility provision is a key priority.</p> <p>Protecting specialist provision is important.</p>	<p>All sites</p> <p>Worksop College</p> <p>Priority Retford Oaks</p>	Bassetlaw Leisure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved facility quality</li> <li>• Successful funding applications</li> </ul>
<b>SO4 and SO10 (Enhance and Provide)</b>	5	<p>Seek investment to the sports hall infra-structure from developments.</p> <p>Seek investment to improve the quality and capacity at the key sports hall sites in line with the application of Sport England’s Sports Facility Calculator tool.</p> <p>Provide new provision to meet identified gaps if appropriate following consideration of supply and demand balance at the time.</p>	<p>Supply and demand clearly illustrates that there will be impacts of the projected growth that will require financial contributions.</p> <p>This will be exacerbated if the supply changes i.e. any of the current sports halls close.</p> <p>Any new provision should focus on smaller flexible spaces to deliver health and physical activity programmes.</p>	<p>All sports hall sites</p> <p>Based on the catchment of proposed developments</p>	BDC Leisure / BDC Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributions secured towards the sports hall facility infra-structure enhancements</li> </ul>

## 5.0 Athletics

### Introduction

The Athletics assessment applies the ANOG methodology to current and future athletic needs across Bassetlaw and draws on consultation with England Athletics and the local clubs to establish the key issues and options and recommendations for provision.

### Supply

#### Quantity

There are no floodlit synthetic track and field athletics facilities located in Bassetlaw.

The only current facility is an old cinder track laid in 2000 at Oaklands Playing Fields.

Oaklands is the home of Retford Athletics Club and is a large area comprising several football pitches and 400m cinder track, long jump, high jump and shot facilities and a pavilion. Retford AC juniors train there all the time, seniors use it as a training base and sometimes train on site.

The whole site used to be the playing fields for a local secondary school but when it closed Retford AC took on the lease and have progressively developed it over the years when funding has been available. The club currently have a 25-year lease on the site and sublet the site to Retford United Junior Football Club on certain days each week.

Worksop Harriers Athletics Club have no facilities and are nomadic. Juniors train on a grass field at Worksop College and seniors train on a grass field at Manton Colliery Social Club.

The nearest floodlit synthetic facility is a 6-lane track located on a school site at Mount St Marys (Spinkhill) in Sheffield, which is 20 minutes from Worksop and 40 minutes from Retford.

In terms of indoor competition and training Athletes living in the Bassetlaw area are serviced by the English Institute of Sport (EIS) indoor 200m oval at the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield. In terms of outdoor competition, most athletes living in the Bassetlaw area are serviced by competition facilities located within England Athletics (EAs) recommended 40-minute drivetime at Harvey Hadden in Nottingham and SHU City Stadium in Sheffield.

Despite the lack of provision, athletics in Bassetlaw is strong, with two well established clubs, with thriving membership levels.

### Quality

The cinder track at Oaklands provides a reasonable base for Retford AC, the club comment that as a small community club the facilities are better than many and are owned by the club.

Oaklands is however subject to periodic waterlogging and does not have floodlighting to most of the site. There is no indoor training capacity and training for field events is not possible in the winter. In terms of the quality of facilities used by Worksop Harriers, they consider the facilities to be next to useless, except for running. Again, usage is restricted in winter as there are no floodlights and they become waterlogged. In winter running is restricted to the roads with some hill and speed training on quiet roads where there are streetlights, which is far from ideal.

It is therefore evident that without a good quality, 'fit for purpose' floodlit synthetic track in the district clubs lack the necessary facilities to develop.

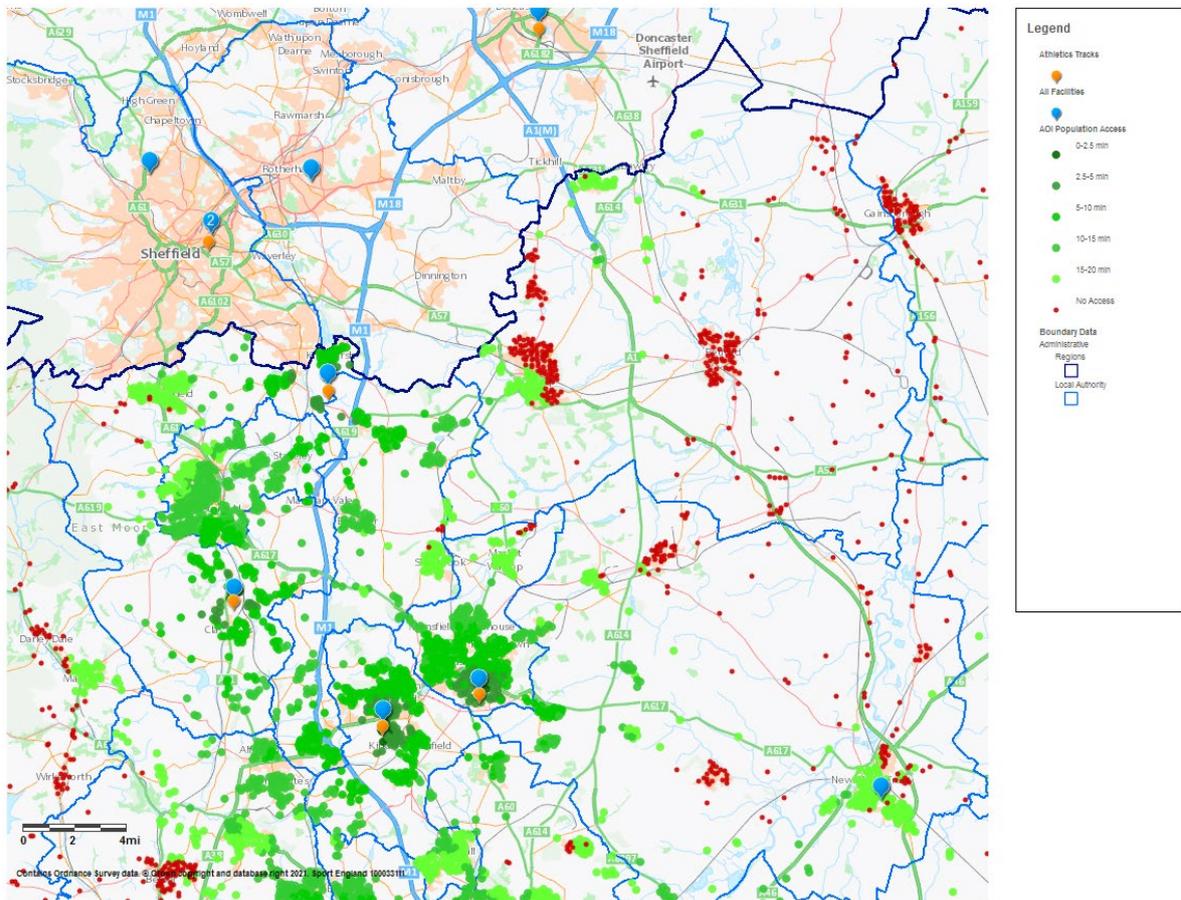
England Athletics echo this, commenting:

- There is currently no synthetic tracks located in the local authority area
- Two clubs in the area offer Track and Field Athletics, however due to lack of facilities, clubs are forced to restrict what they can offer across most disciplines
- This results in the lack of opportunities for Athletes to progress without the need to travel outside of the district to other facilities.
- Club athletes in the area can find that the first time they are on a track is at a competition which can be a disadvantage
- Large restrictions on training opportunities in the winter, particularly with field events.

### Accessibility

Set out overleaf is the Sport England accessibility mapping for athletics in Bassetlaw, it illustrates large areas of the district (in red) where there is no access to a track.

Map 5.1 – Accessibility to Athletics Tracks in Bassetlaw

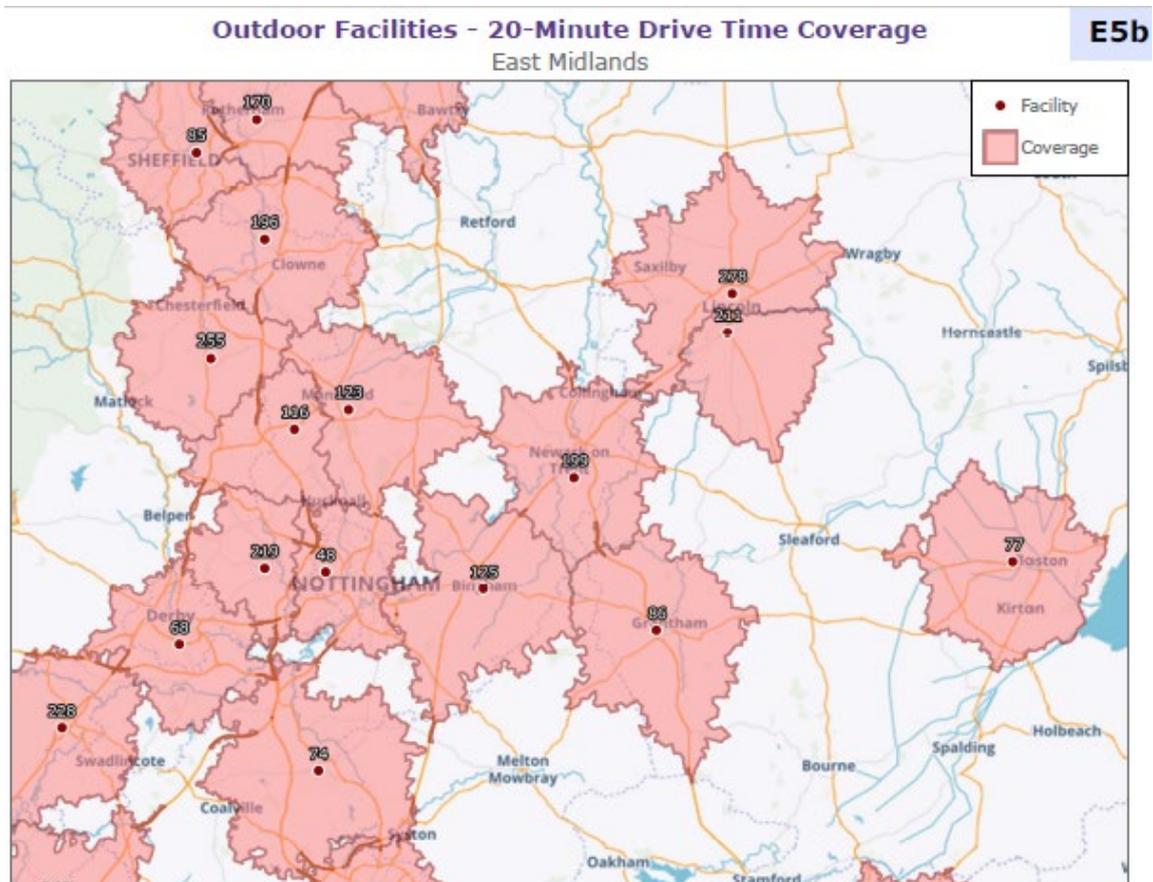


Sport England assumes no responsibility for the completeness, accuracy and currency of the information contained on this map/report. This information is taken from the Active Places Power website and its terms and conditions apply.

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England Athletics mapping (overleaf) and Sport England access analysis area report shows that a good case can be made for a basic 400m training facility or Mini 200m track in the Worksop / Retford area.

Map 5.2 – 20-minute drivetime coverage of Athletics Tracks



**Availability**

Retford Athletic Club was founded in 1983 and are registered with England Athletics. They have junior and senior sections. Seniors compete in road, XC and fell type events, a very small number might participate in track events. Juniors compete in track and field, sports hall and XC. Current membership is as follows; seniors - currently 20 female and 26 male, juniors - currently 33 female and 35 male.

Worksop Harriers were founded in 1949 and have a current membership of over 200 junior and senior members.

There is therefore a good critical mass of athletics to potentially support a track on a District-wide basis. England Athletics calculate that a facility located in the Worksop area would provide a community athletics facility for over 150,000 people within a 20minute drivetime (44,000 under 24-year olds).

## Summary Supply

There are no floodlit synthetic track and field athletics facilities located in Bassetlaw.

The only current facility is an old cinder track laid in 2000 at Oaklands Playing Fields, which restricts athletics development.

Athletics in Bassetlaw is strong, with two well established clubs, with good membership levels.

Without a good quality, '*fit for purpose*' floodlit synthetic track in the District clubs lack the necessary facilities to develop. A view supported by England Athletics.

Large areas of the district have no access to a track. England Athletics mapping report and Sport England access analysis area report shows that a good case can be made for a basic 400m training facility or Mini 200m track in the Worksop / Retford area.

England Athletics calculate that a facility located in the Worksop area would provide a community athletics facility for over 150,000 people within a 20minute drivetime (44,000 under 24-year olds).

## Demand

### Participation Trends

The Active Lives England wide data for adult participation in track and field athletics at least twice in the past 28 days and over the period of the five Active Lives surveys November 2015 – November 2020 is shown in the table below. Given the closure of outdoor athletic facilities for nine months from March 2020 to the end of the Active Lives survey in November 2020 because of Covid 19, the changes in the past twelve months are not valid for comment.

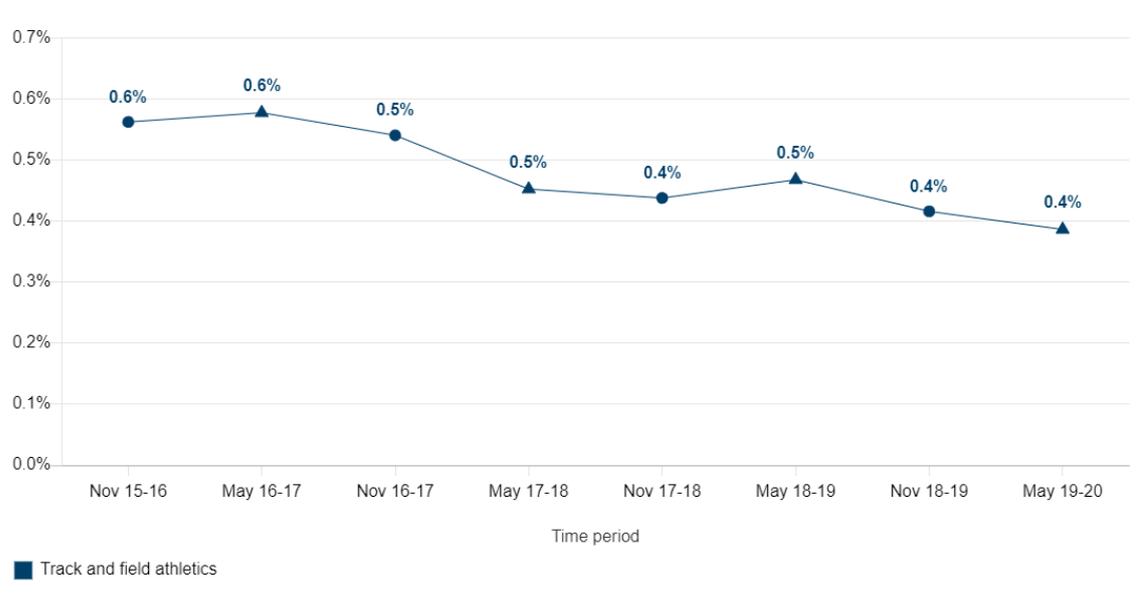
The most significant finding is the England wide adult participation figure for participating at least twice in the past 28 days of 122,300 players. Over the five years of the Active Lives survey, adult track and field athletics participation had declined by 0.3%, not a large decrease in participation over five years.

**Table 5.1 – Active Lives Track and Field Athletics Participation 2015-16 to 2019-20**

Sport	November 2019 - November 2020					Change from baseline		Change in the last 12 months	
	Respondents	Population total	Rate (%)	95% confidence interval		Absolute	Significance	Absolute	Significance
				Rate Lower	Rate Upper				
Track and field athletics	177,735	122,300	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%	-0.3%	Significant decrease	-0.2%	Significant decrease

The Active Lives data for adult participation in track and field athletics based on the same measure but for each year of the surveys shows slightly different findings, with 0.6% of adults participating in the first Active Lives survey in 2015 – 16. The rate of participation has shown a steady decrease to 0.4% of adult participating in the 2019 – 20 Active Lives survey.

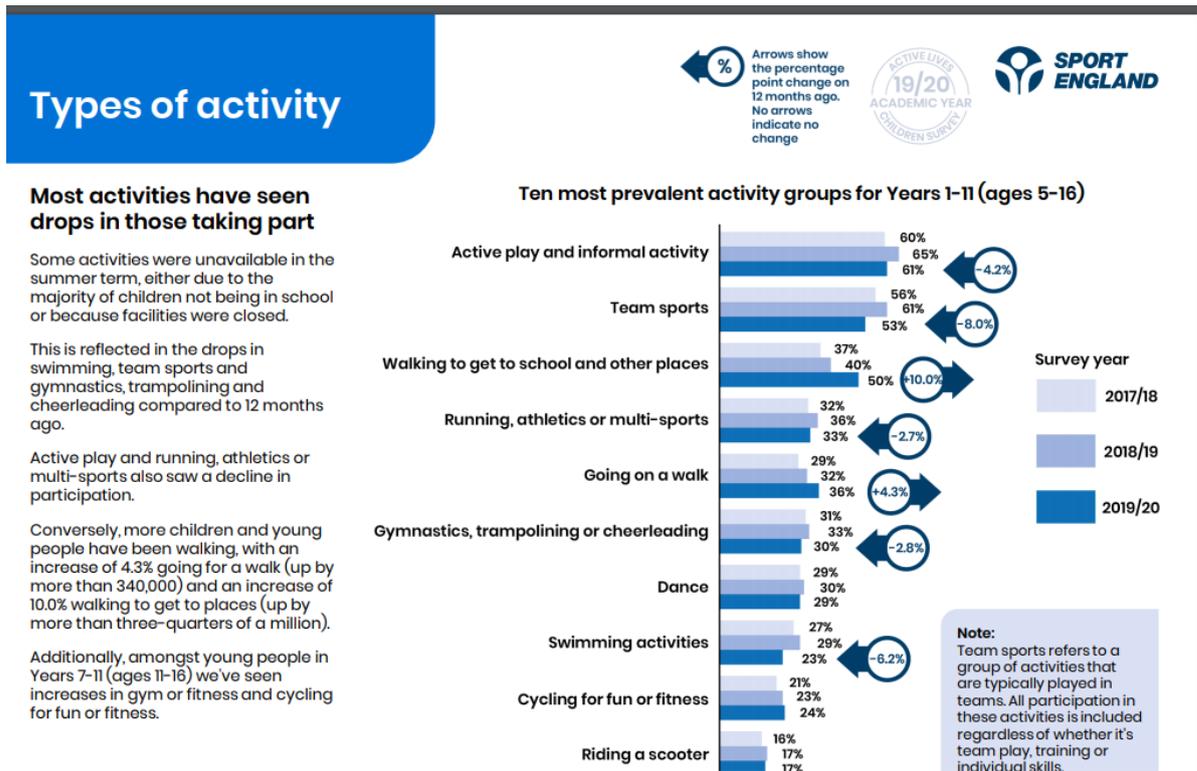
**Chart 5.1 - Active Lives track and field athletics participation England wide 2015 – 16 to 2019 – 20**



The same data table is not presented in the same way for the Active Lives Young People survey findings, the data is presented in reports for each academic year. The findings for the Active Lives Young People survey 2019 - 20 are presented in the table below. This includes a group with running, athletics and multi sports and measures activity as at least once in the past week.

The findings show that participation in this category, was 33% of young people in the 2019 - 20 academic year, down from 36% in 2018 19 but 1% higher than in 2017-18. It is a consistently high percentage and ranked fourth out of the ten activity categories measured. However, it does include multi sports and so it a much wider category than just track and field athletics.

**Table 5.1 - Active Lives activity levels for young people aged 5 - 16**



### Most activities have seen drops in those taking part

Some activities were unavailable in the summer term, either due to the majority of children not being in school or because facilities were closed.

This is reflected in the drops in swimming, team sports and gymnastics, trampolining and cheerleading compared to 12 months ago.

Active play and running, athletics or multi-sports also saw a decline in participation.

Conversely, more children and young people have been walking, with an increase of 4.3% going for a walk (up by more than 340,000) and an increase of 10.0% walking to get to places (up by more than three-quarters of a million).

Additionally, amongst young people in Years 7-11 (ages 11-16) we've seen increases in gym or fitness and cycling for fun or fitness.

### **National Governing Body (NGB) Priorities**

England Athletics (EA) have 3 key facility priorities as follows:

- Ensure that the allocation of resources to new and existing track and field facilities is prioritised to those that have the greatest potential to impact positively on general participation, club membership growth and retention, and improved personal performance
- Actively encourage athletics and running facilities to be used to their fullest possible extent by the sport and by all sections of the community in order to maximise viability
- Encourage innovative approaches to the location and design of facilities for individual components of the sport in order to increase reach and create sustainability and viability.

Bassetlaw is viewed as an important area for Athletics by England Athletics (EA), with two track and field clubs doing what they can to offer a full range of opportunities to Juniors and Senior athletes.

EA consider that both Retford AC with 134 members and Worksop Harriers (171) have excellent reputations for deliver Road Race events and both deliver Half Marathon and Fun Run which are extremely popular. The Retford Half Marathon has a capacity of around 700 and in 2019 the Worksop Half Marathon has just shy of 2500 runners. These events are organised by the volunteers within the clubs and are a great credit to them. For these events to continue support is needed in these clubs being granted access to routes within towns and parkland.

Despite the barriers Worksop Harriers have had several National standard Athletes, including most recently Emily Race, who first represented Great Britain in Berlin during 2018.

Both of these clubs offer low-cost opportunities for local people to engage in sport, however the lack of facilities in the area does mean that training options are limited and in order to progress there is a need for regular travel out of the area.

Running has been one of the few sports that people have been able to engage in during lockdowns which appears to be resulting in an increase in participation from the public. There may be opportunities for both clubs to engage with and attract new members once they return to activity, which could result in a further increase in demand

England Athletics supply and demand analysis demonstrates that a strong case can be made for a basic 400m 6-lane floodlit training/community facility or 200m mini track in the Worksop area.

### **Local Demand**

As set out there is strong local demand from both Retford Athletics Club and Worksop Harriers.

Consultation with the Clubs reveals the following. In the past Retford AC have explored the potential of an all-weather track, floodlighting and an indoor training area. At present there are no plans.

The club recognise they are a community club and that any outstanding athletes will need to move to bigger clubs. Consequently, the clubs aims and objectives will always be to provide a friendly and nurturing development environment where young talent can develop to its maximum and then to facilitate the best move to support their next level of development where appropriate. Similarly, for seniors none of whom will ever be elite athletes, the aim is to provide a social context based around running and fitness, to suit different ability levels and all types of running. In this context the Oaklands base serves the club well.

The site is a major asset to the community, which could be developed further not only for junior football and athletics but for other sports as well. In the Clubs view the site is a large site which with proper planning and funding could prove an even bigger asset than it currently is.

Worksop Harriers have different ambitions and have been working for years to try to deliver a synthetic floodlit athletics track for Bassetlaw. Various plans have been put forward but as yet with limited success, nevertheless the ambition remains to develop a track in the Worksop area.

The evidence clearly now sets out the need for some form of track, which supports the Harriers ambitions, what will be critical is delivery and the scale and scope of any development.

The Harriers aspiration is to find a site, which will be able to accommodate any proposed development, ensuring it is future proofed and will enable a phased development. Whilst the priority and identified need is for a 6-lane floodlit training facility, the Club are keen to ensure any development provides for long-term needs, with 8-lanes to house club competitions and

has the capability of developing the full athletics infra-structure in the long-term including stand, clubhouse and potentially indoor provision.

### **Summary Demand**

Nationally Athletics participation appears to be stable.

Bassetlaw is viewed as an important area for Athletics by England Athletics (EA), with two good track and field clubs doing what they can to offer a full range of opportunities to Juniors and Senior athletes.

According to EA both of these clubs offer low-cost opportunities for local people to engage in sport, however the lack of facilities in the area does mean that training options are limited and in order to progress there is a need for regular travel out of the area.

There is also a good events programme, for these events to continue, support will be needed for Clubs to continue to be granted access to routes within towns and parkland.

In terms of built facilities, England Athletics supply and demand analysis demonstrates that a strong case can be made for a basic 6-lane floodlit 400m training/community facility or 200m mini track in the Worksop area.

The Oaklands site is a major asset to the community, which could be developed further not only for junior football and athletics but for other sports as well. In the Clubs view the site is a large site which with proper planning and funding could prove an even bigger asset than it currently is.

Worksop Harriers have different ambitions and have been working for years to try to deliver a synthetic floodlit athletics track for Bassetlaw.

The evidence clearly now sets out the need, which supports the Harriers ambitions, what will be critical is delivery and the scale and scope of any development.

## Key Issues and Options

### Introduction

The ANOG approach requires a drawing together of the key issues which have arisen from the assessment, these are set out below along with a summary of the position in-line with the ANOG framework.

### Key Issues

1. Oaklands is an important community athletics facility and should be protected and enhanced to maximise the community benefit of the site.
2. Running events should be protected and enhanced through continued access to routes within towns and parkland settings.
3. Feasibility work should be undertaken for a new floodlit 6-lane synthetic athletics track, to meet the training and competition needs of the district and its clubs.
4. The sustainability of any proposals will need to be a key consideration along with the scale and scope of facility. Consideration should be given to a phased approach and ensuring any developments are future proofed to meet long term needs and aspirations.

## Athletics Action Plan

Link to Strategic Objectives	Recommendation	Justification	Relevant Sites and Key Actions	Lead Partner	Measures of Success
<b>SO1, SO2 and SO4 (Protect and Enhance)</b>	1 Protect the Oaklands site for Athletics.  Seek investment to protect access and usage.	The Oaklands site is an important site for the delivery of community athletics.  Loss of these facilities would impact on delivery of athletics across the district.	Oaklands	Bassetlaw Planning / Leisure  Retford AC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oaklands to remain an important athletics venue, protected and enhanced through investment</li> </ul>
<b>SO9 and SO10 (Provide)</b>	2 Undertake the feasibility of delivering a floodlit synthetic athletics facility to meet the athletics needs of the district and its clubs	<p>Bassetlaw is an important area for EA. Clubs in Bassetlaw offer low-cost opportunities for local people to engage in sport, however the lack of facilities in the area does mean that training options are limited and in order to progress there is a need for regular travel out of the area.</p> <p>Clear need for a track identified by England Athletics to serve training and club competition needs.</p> <p>EA define need as basic floodlit 400m training facility or mini 200m track in the Worksop / Retford area.</p> <p>Local aspirations to ensure any development is future proofed and has the potential to expand.</p> <p>Local aspirations and critical mass of Athletics to justify. Home required for Worksop Harriers AC and to enable athletics to develop further across both the districts clubs.</p>	<p>District-wide provision</p> <p>Site should serve main catchments of Retford and Worksop</p> <p>Potential to explore athletics being part of the Garden Village mix alongside secondary school provision</p>	<p>Bassetlaw Planning / Leisure</p> <p>Worksop Harriers</p> <p>England Athletics</p> <p>Retford Athletics Club</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feasibility Study completed</li> <li>Business Case and project delivery schedule agreed</li> <li>Any plan should be future proofed to enable a phased development with the capability of developing the full athletics infra-structure in the long-term including potentially 8-lanes, stand, clubhouse and indoor provision</li> </ul>

## Built Sports Facility Study



<p><b>SO4 and SO10 (Enhance and Provide)</b></p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Seek investment to the athletics infra-structure from developments.</p> <p>Seek investment to improve the quality and capacity at Oaklands</p> <p>Provide contributions towards new athletics provision to meet identified gaps from the feasibility work.</p>	<p>Supply and demand illustrates the need for investment at Oaklands and the strategic need for a new athletics track to serve the district.</p>	<p>Based on the catchment of proposed developments</p>	<p>BDC Leisure / BDC Planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contributions secured towards the athletics infra-structure</li> </ul>
<p><b>SO1 and SO2 (Protect)</b></p>	<p>4</p>	<p>Running events should be protected and enhanced through continued access to routes within towns and parkland settings</p>	<p>Events are an important part of the athletics offer and mix across the district, aligned to increasing participation and delivering wider health benefits.</p>	<p>District-wide.</p>	<p>BDC Leisure / BDC Planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protection and enhancement of the Athletics Event programme and Parklife offer</li> </ul>

## 6.0 Health and Fitness and Studios

### Introduction

The Health and Fitness and Studio assessment applies the ANOG methodology to current and future needs across Bassetlaw to establish the key issues and options and recommendations for provision

### Supply Studios

#### Quantity

Studios serve a range of specific activities; pilates, yoga, spinning, dance exercise aerobics and kickbox boxing aerobics, to mention the most popular. Increasingly studios are becoming dedicated for one particular activity, such as spinning studios with immersive and interactive programmes and with national branded programmes such as Les Mills. In short assessments for provision of studios is very much demand led and trend based.

There are no fixed dimensions for studios, and they can range in size from 13m x 10m to 27m x 18m. There is no established methodology for assessing the demand for studios. It is a subject being researched by Sport England to try and develop some demand parameters which can be applied to the population nationally and in individual local authority areas, similar to the current FPM for swimming pools and sports halls.

Studios provide for a wide range of activities from dance/exercise classes to quiet activities such as Pilates and yoga. These activities attract a wide range of age bands and are most popular with females, where there are objectives to increase participation.

Studio activities require little skill to participate and are recreational based, in short studios activities appeal to a wide age range of participants and the focus is on participation to be active and develop a healthy lifestyle, rather than sports participation. This is in line with the focus in Bassetlaw on health impacts as opposed to sport per se and studio provision and small flexible spaces for health and activity programmes therefore represent an important provision.

There are 8 individual studios located at 6 sites in Bassetlaw. In terms of ownership, there are 3 sites and 4 studios which are owned by Bassetlaw Council and provided at the leisure centre sites managed by BPL. Others are in the private sector as set out in the table overleaf.

Details of the studio sites are set out in Table 6.1 below.

**Table 6.1 – Bassetlaw Studios**

Site Name	Post Town	Area	Year Built
BANNATYNE HEALTH CLUB (WORKSOP)	WORKSOP	80	2006
BANNATYNE HEALTH CLUB (WORKSOP)	WORKSOP	90	2006
BIRCOTES LEISURE CENTRE	HARWORTH	55	2004
CLUB ENERGY (RETFORD)	RETFORD	180	2006
GOODBODYS FITNESS CENTRE	RETFORD	96	2012
RETFORD LEISURE CENTRE	RETFORD	252	2008
WORKSOP LEISURE CENTRE	WORKSOP	180	2008
WORKSOP LEISURE CENTRE	WORKSOP	100	2017

This is therefore a good level of dedicated studio provision across the district. Similarly, flexible spaces for exercise and physical activity classes are well provided for via dance studios, community centres and village halls, which form an important network across the district.

### Quality

The average age of the 10 studio sites is 12 years. Four studio sites opened in the early 2000's, then 2 sites in 2008. The most recent innovation has been at Worksop Leisure Centre, which saw a virtual cycle studio developed in 2017. Worksop has two dedicated studios, one large studio offering Les Mills and a dedicated cycle studio. This is the flagship Council site and the quality of the provision is directly related to the private sector competition in the area. Worksop now has an excellent studio offer. Provision at Retford and Bircotes is currently not of the same quality but the Council and BPL are committed to driving improvements at all their sites in line with needs and a clear business case.

### Accessibility and Availability

There is a good spread of studio provision across Bassetlaw with provision in the two main settlements of Retford and Worksop. The main population centres therefore appear to have access. This covers both public and private sector provision. Overall, there is a good level of availability to studios for pay and play. There are four studios at the public leisure centres.

## Demand Studios

### Participation Trends

Individual activities which require little organisation and are available at times that suit the lifestyle of participants are becoming more popular. Gym and fitness classes are activities with a health benefit/motivation and are recreational. These may be more appealing, than playing sports where skill development is needed and can be competition based, both of which appear to be appealing to a smaller range of participants.

There is therefore emerging national evidence that there is less use of sports halls for sport. There is a decline in traditional sports hall sports, as the physical activity agenda gains momentum and the need for more flexible indoor spaces over formal sports halls gains traction e.g. less than 1% of a typical sports hall activity programme is filled by for example cricket and netball etc. Sport England themselves are recognising this by promoting more flexible, smaller, flexible indoor halls as part of their new innovation programmes and Leisure Local initiative.

Participation for each of the activities which take place in studios is only available for some of the activities, and for these it is only available at the England level. Adult participation (16+) over the Active Lives surveys November 2015 – May to 2020 shows a steady and slight increase, with adult participation in fitness classes, increasing on an annual basis, from 25.2% of adult participating between November 2015 – 16, to 27.4% of adults participating between May 2019 – 2020.

Whilst there is limited data available data about participation in exercise classes, there are some consistent trends emerging from Active Lives which supports increasing participation in exercise classes and demand for studios. The key trends emerging from Active Lives are:

- An increase in the ACTIVE category and with a corresponding decrease in the INACTIVE category for the same groupings, these are at the England wide level
- Increasing participation by females in all age groups and notably in the 55 – 64 and 65 – 74 age group, with a 2% increase overall by all adult females.

The reasons for the changes in participation are being researched by Sport England and must be based on longer term trend data from Active Lives. However likely explanations are that individual sports and activities which require little organisation and are available at times that suit the lifestyle of participants are becoming more popular and this applies to studio activities.

It maybe the appeal of informality, ease of just being able to do the activity without learning skills to be able to participate, plus participating at times which suit residents' lifestyles, are now big drivers for participation.

All the activities which take place in studios are consistent with the trends identified in Active Lives (1) increases in female participation and (2) activities which are fun to do, are recreational not competitive and can be fitted in around the lifestyle of residents. This along with the much-publicised health benefits from simply being active.

What is apparent is that studios are a facility type for activities which have increasing appeal and health impacts.

### **Local Demand**

The national picture is being increasingly reflected in Bassetlaw as the demand for traditional sports hall sports declines and the demands on studio space increases. The trends towards group exercise and away from formal sport means there is an increasing need for smaller flexible activity spaces, which will drive greater health impacts alongside financial returns.

Growth across the District will increase the demand for these kind of spaces in formal leisure centres alongside community settings.

The key issues and options arising from the assessment are not concerned solely with increasing the quantity of provision, it is much more about the quality of the provision and considering/responding to changing trends in studios.

In the absence of an established demand methodology, plus a changing profile in types of studios and studio activities, it means assessing the need for future studio provision in Bassetlaw must be done on a case by case basis, based on feasibility.

There will be a need is to maintain the quality of the public leisure centre studios and invest at Retford and Biroctes to raise the quality to that of Worksop. Refurbishment of the studios is likely to involve lighting, air conditioning and sound systems, sprung timber floor and customer driven innovations. This will be a key aspect of any future consideration of Bircotes, the role of studio provision is likely to come increasingly into focus in any re-provision plans. Similarly, growth, particularly in the larger areas could generate the demand for small indoor flexible spaces to generate studio activity in community settings.

## Key Issues and Options Studios

### Introduction

The ANOG approach requires a drawing together of the key issues which have arisen from the assessment, these are set out below along with a summary of the position in-line with the ANOG framework.

1. There are 8 individual studios located at 6 sites in Bassetlaw. In terms of ownership, there are 3 sites and 4 studios which are owned by Bassetlaw Council and provided at the leisure centre sites managed by BPL. Others are in the private sector
2. This is therefore a good level of dedicated studio provision across the district. Similarly, flexible spaces for exercise and physical activity classes are well provided for via dance studios, community centres and village halls, which form an important network across the district
3. Worksop has two dedicated studios, one large studio offering Les Mills and a dedicated cycle studio. This is the flagship Council site and the quality of the provision is excellent.
4. There is a good spread of studio provision across Bassetlaw with provision in the two main settlements of Retford and Worksop. The main population centres therefore appear to have access. This covers both public and private sector provision. Overall, there is a good level of availability to studios for pay and play. There are four studios at the public leisure centres.
5. The national picture is one of increasing demands for group exercise, this is being increasingly reflected in Bassetlaw as the demand for traditional sports hall sports declines and the demands on studio space increases. The trends towards group exercise and away from formal sport means there is an increasing need for smaller flexible activity spaces, which will drive greater health impacts alongside financial returns
6. There will be a need is to maintain the quality of the public leisure centre studios and invest at Retford and Bircotes to raise the quality to that of Worksop
7. The role of studio provision will be a key aspect of any future consideration of Bircotes, the role of studio provision is likely to come increasingly into focus in any re-provision plans.
8. Similarly growth, particularly in the larger areas could generate the demand for small indoor flexible spaces to generate studio activity in community settings.

## Supply Health and Fitness

### Quantity

Sport England defines health and fitness as facilities that provide for both cardiovascular and strength training. Health and fitness exclude spaces/studios for aerobics and dance activities. The assessment below is an audit and accessibility assessment for health and fitness in Bassetlaw.

Details of the health and fitness sites are set out in Table 6.2 below.

### ***Table 6.2 – Bassetlaw Health and Fitness Provision***

## Built Sports Facility Study



Site Name	Post Town	Stations	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Year Built	Year Refurb
ANYTIME FITNESS (WORKSOP)	WORKSOP	200	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	2018	
BANNATYNE HEALTH CLUB (WORKSOP)	WORKSOP	77	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	2006	2015
BIRCOTES LEISURE CENTRE	HARWORTH	50	Pay and Play	Community school	Trust	2004	2017
CLUB ENERGY (RETFORD)	RETFORD	38	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	1992	
GOODBODY'S FITNESS CENTRE	RETFORD	200	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	2008	2014
LYNC ACTIVE	WORKSOP	58	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	1977	2012
NORTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COLLEGE	WORKSOP	24	Private Use	Further Education	School/College/University (in house)	1998	2006
NORTH NOTTS COMMUNITY ARENA	WORKSOP	14	Pay and Play	Community Organisation	Community Organisation	2008	
RAMPTON SECURE HOSPITAL	Retford	30	Private Use	Health Authority	Health Authority	2004	
RAMPTON SECURE HOSPITAL	Retford	30	Private Use	Health Authority	Health Authority	2000	
RETFORD LEISURE CENTRE	RETFORD	46	Registered Membership use	Local Authority	Trust	2008	2014
RETFORD OAKS ACADEMY	RETFORD	35	Sports Club / Community Association	Academies	Trust	2007	2009
TUXFORD ACADEMY	TUXFORD	19	Private Use	Academies	School/College/University (in house)	2007	
WORKSOP COLLEGE	WORKSOP	6	Sports Club / Community Association	Other Independent School	School/College/University (in house)	1996	
WORKSOP CRICKET AND SPORTS CLUB	WORKSOP	7	Registered Membership use	Sports Club	Sport Club	1980	2002
WORKSOP LEISURE CENTRE	WORKSOP	55	Registered Membership use	Community school	Trust	2008	

There are 15 health and fitness venues in Bassetlaw and they provide a total of 889 health and fitness stations, there is an average of 60 stations per site. The largest health and fitness site is located at *Anytime Fitness* in Worksop, which has 200 stations. This is the most recent provision, having opened in 2018 and Worksop is considered to have the greatest competitive supply of health and fitness provision.

### **Quality**

The public sector offer is good with modern well-sized and branded health and fitness facilities at the three main leisure centres sites in Retford, Worksop and Bircotes. These have been recently refurbished and seek to provide an offer, which meets customers changing needs.

Market trends across England have changed in recent years in terms of the health and fitness offer. This now includes aerobic exercise, with fixed equipment, with also free weights areas for strength and conditioning, as well as specialist strength and conditioning areas and equipment for activities such as kick boxing.

### **Accessibility and Availability**

There is a good spread of health and fitness provision across Bassetlaw with provision in the two main settlements of Retford and Worksop. The main population centres therefore appear to have access. This covers both public and private sector provision. Overall, there is a good level of availability to health and fitness provision, with good quality provision at the public leisure centres.

## **Demand Health and Fitness**

### **Participation Trends**

The Leisure Database Company (TLDC) are the leading provider in analysing demand for health and fitness through latent demand reports. Many of the country's leading leisure operators will use the TLDC to provide an accurate assessment of the level of demand for a fitness facility.

TLDC produce a 'State of the UK Fitness Industry Report' every year. In 2019 and pre Covid, the report stated that the industry has continued to grow to above 15% to a total penetration rate of 15.6%, now equating to 1 in 7 people being a member of a gym. The fitness market therefore continues to be buoyant and recent gym openings in Bassetlaw reflect this.

## Local Demand

Membership levels at the two-main centres pre covid were good.

At Worksop membership is circa 1,800, which based on 55 stations is a benchmark of 35 members per station, which is a good benchmark level. Given the competition in the Worksop area, this reflects strong demand and a good performance.

There could be potential for increasing the scale of the offer in terms of the number of pieces of equipment, particularly alongside population growth, however as important will be to ensure the quality of the offer; ancillary facilities, changing, showering, vanity etc maintains the level of quality to match the private sector competition. Competition is less evident in Retford and this is reflected in membership levels of circa 1,700 members, which equates to 37 members per station.

Overall consultation with site managers confirms that supply is currently matching demand. To maintain the current health and fitness offer at the public leisure centres will be important, keeping up with trends; the moves to greater demand for strength and conditioning, cross-training, free weights, may mean different gym configurations and use of space.

There will be a need is to maintain the quality of the public leisure centre health and fitness offer. The size and scale of the health and fitness offer will be a key aspect of any future feasibility into the consideration of Bircotes.

## Key Issues and Options Health and Fitness

### Introduction

The ANOG approach requires a drawing together of the key issues which have arisen from the assessment, these are set out below along with a summary of the position in-line with the ANOG framework.

1. There are 15 health and fitness venues in Bassetlaw and they provide a total of 889 health and fitness stations, there is an average of 60 stations per site. The largest health and fitness site is located at *Anytime Fitness* in Worksop, which has 200 stations. This is the most recent provision, having opened in 2018 and Worksop is considered to have the greatest competitive supply of health and fitness provision.
2. The public sector offer is good with modern well-sized and branded health and fitness facilities at the three main leisure centres sites in Retford, Worksop and Bircotes. These have been recently refurbished and seek to provide an offer, which meets customers changing needs.
3. There is a good spread of health and fitness provision across Bassetlaw with provision in the two main settlements of Retford and Worksop. The main population centres therefore appear to have access. This covers both public and private sector provision. Overall, there is a good level of availability to health and fitness provision, with good quality provision at the public leisure centres.
4. Membership levels at the two-main centres pre covid were good. There could be potential for increasing the scale of the offer in terms of the number of pieces of equipment, particularly alongside population growth, however as important will be to ensure the quality of the offer; ancillary facilities, changing, showering, vanity etc maintains the level of quality to match the private sector competition, particularly at Worksop.
5. Supply is currently matching demand. To maintain the current health and fitness offer at the public leisure centres will be important, keeping up with trends; the moves to greater demand for strength and conditioning, cross-training, free weights, may mean different gym configurations and use of space.
6. There will be a need is to maintain the quality of the public leisure centre health and fitness offer. The size and scale of the health and fitness offer will be a key aspect of any future feasibility into the consideration of Bircotes.

**Health and Fitness and Studios Action Plan**

Link to Strategic Objectives	Recommendation	Justification	Relevant Sites and Key Actions	Lead Partner	Measures of Success
<b>SO1 (Protect)</b>	1 Resist the loss of any studio and health and fitness sites.	All sites are well used and well located to meet current and future demands across Bassetlaw.  The impact of any closures alongside growth would impact on the supply and demand balance.  .	All sites.	Bassetlaw Planning / Leisure  BPL  All Providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retention of existing sites</li> </ul>
<b>SO9 and SO10 (Provide)</b>	2 Consider the role of studios and health and fitness provision in the feasibility of upgrading or replacing Bircotes Leisure Centre.	Bircotes is now ageing and requires investment in order to meet current and future needs.  Studio and fitness provision is likely to be an increasingly important part of any future facility mix.	Bircotes	Bassetlaw Planning / Leisure  BPL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feasibility Study completed</li> <li>Business Case and project delivery schedule agreed</li> </ul>

<p><b>SO4 and SO10 (Enhance and Provide)</b></p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Seek investment to the studio and health and fitness infra-structure from developments.</p> <p>Seek investment to maintain and improve the quality and capacity at the key leisure centre sites.</p> <p>Provide new community focussed flexible hall and fitness provision to meet identified gaps if appropriate following consideration of supply and demand balance at the time.</p>	<p>Supply and demand illustrates that there will be impacts of the projected growth that will require financial contributions.</p> <p>This will be exacerbated if the supply changes.</p> <p>Any new provision should focus on smaller flexible spaces to deliver health and physical activity programmes.</p>	<p>Worksop Leisure Centre</p> <p>Retford Leisure Centre</p> <p>Bircotes Leisure Centre</p> <p>investment into community settings based on the catchment of proposed developments</p>	<p>BDC Leisure / BDC Planning</p> <p>BPL</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contributions secured towards the studio, fitness and flexible spaces across Bassetlaw.</li> </ul>
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## 7.0 Gymnastics

### Introduction

The Gymnastics assessment applies the ANOG methodology to current and future gymnastics needs across Bassetlaw and draws on consultation with England Gymnastics and the local clubs to establish the key issues and options and recommendations for provision.

### Supply

#### Quantity

There are three gymnastics clubs in Bassetlaw who all operate from dedicated sites, based on 2020 data their membership is as follows:

Worksop Gymnastics Club - 131 members

Retford Gymnastics Club - 659 members

Dukeries Gymnastics Club - 44 members

Gymnastics is therefore largely delivered in the club sector, with the local authority playing a limited role. Access to the sports halls for gymnastics across the schools PFI network is difficult.

The trend of having dedicated provision is a key priority of British Gymnastics (BG) and in that respect Bassetlaw facility infra-structure is well developed and in-line with what BG would want to see.

#### Quality

Provision is of good quality. Retford the largest club lease a building at Torworth, just outside Retford. The club moved there in 2008 and have been able to acquire all units on site, enabling the club to increase participation in the sport.

The building is considered 'fit for purpose', by the club but being an industrial building, heating is a problem, which needs addressing. The club would also like to be able to replace some of the very old equipment as well as introduce further training aids to develop gymnast's skill levels in a safe environment. A new sprung floor is also required, particularly for those who are on the development pathways, so that they can increase their skill level in tumbling. With so many gymnasts working in the facility at any one time, there is also considered to be a shortage of smaller pieces of equipment such as springboards, mats etc.

The main aspiration of the club, would be to add on to the unit so that they can have a recreational facility to be able to increase participation for those who are taking part for fun/fitness, and then a facility for the development squads to enable them to access equipment that they need to improve their skills at a faster pace. Presently, recreational and squads do work alongside each-other but equipment has to be timetabled very carefully, often with the squad gymnasts not perhaps being able to have the time on apparatus that they require

### **Accessibility**

There is a good spread of gymnastic clubs across Bassetlaw with provision in the two main settlements of Retford and Worksop. The main population centres therefore appear to have access.

Furthermore, Retford the largest club who lease a building at Torworth, just outside Retford, which is close to the A1, so they have members from a wide catchment.

### **Availability**

There are good levels of provision with dedicated facilities however in-line with the trends on a national basis there are waiting lists. Retford has a waiting list of circa 300, although the club feel they may be able to reduce these number owing to the drop-off as a result of covid.

With clubs responsible for all gymnastics from starter opportunities throughout the development pathway, which impacts on capacity.

### **Summary Supply**

There are three gymnastics clubs in Bassetlaw who all operate from dedicated sites.

Provision is of good quality. Retford the largest club lease a building at Torworth, just outside Retford. The club moved there in 2008 and have been able to acquire all units on site, enabling the club to increase participation in the sport.

There is a good spread of gymnastic clubs across Bassetlaw with provision in the two main settlements of Retford and Worksop. The main population centres therefore appear to have access.

Furthermore, Retford the largest club who lease a building at Torworth, just outside Retford, which is close to the A1, so they have members from a wide catchment.

There are good levels of provision with dedicated facilities however in-line with the trends on a national basis there are waiting lists. Retford has a waiting list of circa 300, although the club feel they may be able to reduce these number owing to the drop-off as a result of covid.

## Demand

### Participation Trends

Participation in gymnastics is increasing rapidly. British Gymnastics (BG) membership reached 390,500 in 2017 has been increasing at about 12% per year over 2013-17. The emphasis for 2017 – 2021 will be using gymnastics as a foundation sport for 5 to 11-year olds.

The majority of participants in gymnastics are aged 3 – 15, which means the sport has a particular role to play in encouraging participation amongst young-people, especially girls. This is further highlighted in the Active Lives Young People survey findings and the Taking Part survey, which illustrate high levels of participation in gymnastics amongst young-people.

This strong participation base is reflected in the demand for more gymnastics opportunities, with the majority of club's nationally report waiting lists. The total number of people estimated to be on waiting lists for gymnastics is 1 million (*Freshminds Latent Demand Research, 2017*). Furthermore, this research also shows that a further 1.9 million would like to participate but are not currently, not on a waiting list. As set out these national trends are reflected in Bassetlaw.

### National Governing Body (NGB) Priorities

British Gymnastics priorities for the period 2017 – 2021 are outlined in the Strategic Framework and are:

- Diversify sources of revenue to develop and grow the provision of gymnastics
- Build the capacity and grow the demand in gymnastics.

British Gymnastics Facility Development Priorities (for the period 2017 - 2021) outlined are:

- Support increased capacity within gymnastics through clubs, leisure providers and other delivery providers
- Guide funding investment through the United Kingdom from British Gymnastics, Home Country Sports Councils, Local Authorities and other potential funders
- Maintain and improve the quality of facilities and equipment within existing delivery partners
- Develop insight, understanding and direction of how Facility Developments can contribute towards other BG Strategic Priorities
- Raise the profile and increase the appeal of gymnastics.

### **Local Demand**

As set out these national trends are reflected in Bassetlaw, with three good clubs with waiting lists.

A key part of BG's strategy to increase participation is to support clubs moving into their own dedicated facility, offering more time and space for classes. There is a definite trend for gymnastics clubs to move into their own dedicated facilities. Approximately 30 clubs moved into their own spaces last year and BG expects this trend to continue and an increased amount of clubs move their activities to dedicated spaces/facilities.

Bassetlaw is already in a strong position with all three clubs enjoying access to dedicated provision. The existing gymnastics centres are meeting demand, however waiting lists remain and therefore any proposals for enhancement or expansion of these centres, should be supported.

Indeed, BG comment that it is key to safeguard the dedicated sites across Bassetlaw and to also seek further development should the clubs wish to access more space. Whilst all three clubs have levelled off with their membership growth in the last 3 years, waiting lists remain, certainly at Retford, from which it is assumed that they have reached capacity either through lack of space, access to workforce or a combination of the two.

A key part of BG's strategy to increase participation is to support clubs, leisure providers and other partners. BG offer a vast range of products and programmes and expert assistance to support local delivery; gymnastic activities supported by British Gymnastics are proving successful in the growth of membership and retention of members across the country.

## Summary Demand

Participation in gymnastics is increasing rapidly. British Gymnastics (BG) membership reached 390,500 in 2017 has been increasing at about 12% per year over 2013-17. The emphasis for 2017 – 2021 will be using gymnastics as a foundation sport for 5 to 11-year olds.

The majority of participants in gymnastics are aged 3 – 15, which means the sport has a particular role to play in encouraging participation amongst young-people, especially girls.

This strong participation base is reflected in the demand for more gymnastics opportunities, with the majority of club's nationally report waiting lists. These national trends are reflected in Bassetlaw, with three good clubs with waiting lists.

Bassetlaw is already in a strong position with all three clubs enjoying access to dedicated provision. The existing gymnastics centres are meeting demand, however waiting lists remain and therefore any proposals for enhancement or expansion of these centres, should be supported in-line with NGB priorities.

## Key Issues and Options

### Introduction

The ANOG approach requires a drawing together of the key issues which have arisen from the assessment, these are set out below along with a summary of the position in-line with the ANOG framework.

1. There are three gymnastics clubs in Bassetlaw who all operate from dedicated sites.
2. Provision is of good quality. Retford the largest club lease a building at Torworth, just outside Retford. The club moved there in 2008 and have been able to acquire all units on site, enabling the club to increase participation in the sport.
3. There is a good spread of gymnastic clubs across Bassetlaw with provision in the two main settlements of Retford and Worksop. The main population centres therefore appear to have access. Furthermore, Retford the largest club who lease a building at Torworth, just outside Retford, which is close to the A1, so they have members from a wide catchment.
4. There are good levels of provision with dedicated facilities however in-line with the trends on a national basis there are waiting lists. Retford has a waiting list of circa 300, although the club feel they may be able to reduce these number owing to the drop-off as a result of covid.

5. Participation in gymnastics is increasing rapidly. British Gymnastics (BG) membership reached 390,500 in 2017 has been increasing at about 12% per year over 2013-17. The emphasis for 2017 – 2021 will be using gymnastics as a foundation sport for 5 to 11-year olds.
6. The majority of participants in gymnastics are aged 3 – 15, which means the sport has a particular role to play in encouraging participation amongst young-people, especially girls.
7. This strong participation base is reflected in the demand for more gymnastics opportunities, with the majority of club's nationally report waiting lists. These national trends are reflected in Bassetlaw, with three good clubs with waiting lists.
8. Bassetlaw is already in a strong position with all three clubs enjoying access to dedicated provision. The existing gymnastics centres are meeting demand, however waiting lists remain and therefore any proposals for enhancement or expansion of these centres, should be supported in-line with NGB priorities.

Gymnastics Action Plan

Link to Strategic Objectives	Recommendation	Justification	Relevant Sites and Key Actions	Lead Partner	Measures of Success
<b>SO1, SO2 and SO4 (Protect and Enhance)</b>	1 Protect the 3-dedicated gymnastic sites.  Seek investment in the sites to protect access and usage.	The 3-dedicated gymnastic sites are key community sports clubs serving the needs of young-people across Bassetlaw.  Loss of facilities would impact on gymnastic opportunities across Bassetlaw.	Worksop, Retford, Dukeries Gymnastics Club  As the largest club in the District prioritise investment and expansion at Retford Gymnastics Club.	Bassetlaw Planning / Leisure  Worksop, Retford, Dukeries Gymnastics Club  British Gymnastics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All gymnastics sites to remain protected and enhanced through investment</li> </ul>
<b>SO4 and SO10 (Enhance and Provide)</b>	2 Seek investment to the gymnastics infrastructure from developments.	Sites play a key role in a key sport for young-people with waiting lists and increasing participation.	Based on the catchment of proposed developments	BDC Leisure / BDC Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contributions secured towards the tennis infrastructure</li> </ul>

## 8.0 Indoor Tennis

### Introduction

The Indoor Tennis assessment applies the ANOG methodology to current and future indoor tennis needs across Bassetlaw and draws on consultation with the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) to establish the key issues and options and recommendations for provision. The assessment also cross-references the Council's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) in relation to tennis across the District.

### Supply

#### Quantity

The PPS recorded a total of 66 tennis courts identified in Bassetlaw located across 18 sites including sports clubs, commercial and schools. Of these, 64 courts (97%) are considered to be available for community use across 17 sites.

The PPS concluded that there was sufficient club court supply in Bassetlaw to accommodate current and aspirational future demand, however, there is a need to increase the capacity of the courts at South Wheatley Village Hall to facilitate future growth aspirations which could be achieved through the installation of floodlights.

The priority area of focus was considered to be increase the quality and access to tennis in park settings.

There is no dedicated indoor tennis centre in Bassetlaw. The North Notts Arena provides 2-indoor tennis, but these courts are offered as part of wider indoor hall programme. There is no club located at the centre and tennis is offered on a pay and play basis.

#### Quality

The North Notts Arena was opened in 1983 and is now approaching 40-years old. North Notts Community Leisure Limited (NNCLL) manage the site and provide leisure and community facilities, at the North Notts Community Arena, for the health and well-being of the local community. The Arena was formally part of the Council's portfolio, NNCLL have been established and operating since January 2006 and manages the day-to-day activities within the Arena.

Over the years the Arena has secured grants which have mainly helped with cosmetic and operational areas such as heating and lighting and general repair. The main hall is however now over 35-years old and the original rubber floor needs upgrading for performance,

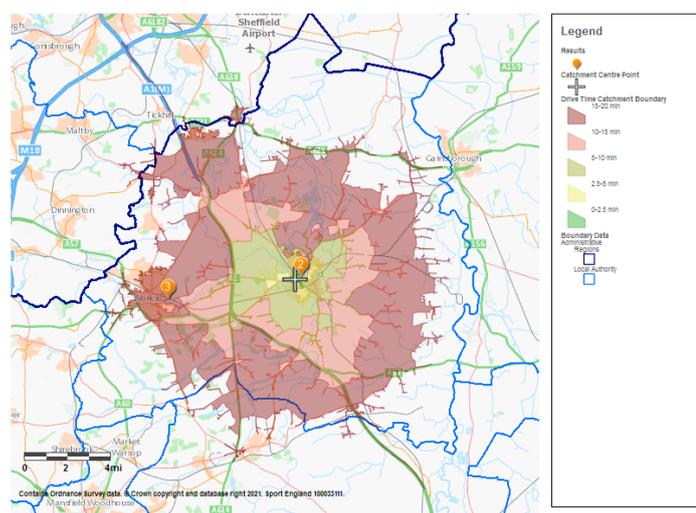
cleanliness and the overall safety. Ventilation also needs addressing at the Arena.

The Arena was formally part of the local authority leisure portfolio, whilst now and independent operator the facility provision at the Arena, remains a key part of the sporting infra-structure across Bassetlaw.

## Accessibility

The nearest indoor dedicated tennis facility is located at the David Lloyd Centre in West Bridgford, Nottingham. As illustrated in the map overleaf, this fall outside of the 20-minute catchment for Bassetlaw residents.

**Map 8.1 – Location of Dedicated Indoor Tennis Provision**



Sport England assumes no responsibility for the completeness, accuracy and currency of the information contained on this map/report. This information is taken from the Active Places Power website and its terms and conditions apply. 7/5/2021 14:42

## Availability

The indoor courts at the Arena are bookable on a casual basis for anyone seeking to play indoors.

## Summary Supply

There is a total of 66 tennis courts identified in Bassetlaw, located across 18 sites including sports clubs, commercial and schools. Of these, 64 courts (97%) are considered to be available for community use across 17 sites.

The PPS concluded that there was sufficient club court supply in Bassetlaw to accommodate current and aspirational future demand, there is sufficient capacity to meet needs.

The priority area of focus was considered to be increase the quality and access to tennis in park settings.

There is no dedicated indoor tennis centre in Bassetlaw. The North Notts Arena provides 2-indoor tennis, but these courts are offered as part of wider indoor hall programme. There is no club located at the centre and tennis is offered on a pay and play basis. The Arena is now nearly 40-years old and the rubber flooring is the same floor since the centre opened.

## Demand

### Participation Trends

In September 2020, the LTA participation tracker confirmed that 3.99 million people play tennis annually. This represents a 6% increase from 2019 and the highest participation rate in the last two years. It means that 1.35 million people nationally are playing monthly and this is consistent with 2019 figures.

The majority of those engaging with tennis are aged 45 years or younger and LTA insight reveals that participation has grown 8% nationally since 2018.

Previous years had seen a decline, and the LTA focus of addressing the decline in participation through the implementation of a long-term strategy is therefore starting to see success. In particular, the LTA highlight the importance of undertaking targeted activity to drive participation and continue to seek participation improvements.

To increase the amount of tennis that takes place in an area and to retain new participants, the LTA have devised several programmes. These are constantly evolving, but currently include:

- LTA Youth Start (6-week coaching offer for children)
- Tennis for Free - free, inclusive weekly coaching sessions
- Parks Tennis leagues

Reviews of participation also note the successes have come through the emphasis on parks tennis, with a 56% increase in court hours booked at venues where the LTA had worked with a local authority.

### National Governing Body (NGB) Priorities

#### ***LTA Vision and Mission (2019 – 2023)***

The LTA have recently updated their strategy. The Vision of the LTA is now to '*Open Tennis*

Up' grow tennis by making it more relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable. There are 3 key objectives:

1. Increasing the number of fans engaging with tennis
2. Growing participation by increasing the number of adults and juniors playing tennis
3. Enabling new players to break into the world top 100.

Given that this assessment of tennis relates to facilities, it is (2), growth in participation that is most pivotal. Successful delivery of this objective would have an impact on the number and quality of tennis courts required, but alongside this, the provision of an appropriate infrastructure will be central in the achievement of this objective.

The LTA strategy indicates that the key elements connected to growing participation include:

- Widening the appeal of tennis through inclusion of flexible formats of the game
- Improving the customer journey by making it easier to find a court, book it, and find somebody to play with
- Develop more relevant and enjoyable competitions at grass roots level for all abilities and ages
- Support community facilities & schools to provide more opportunities to play
- Help clubs grow & retain members
- Create more opportunities for children to play at school
- Facilitate partnerships to further increase rate of participation in parks
- Support venues to provide a welcoming and enjoyable experience
- Increase awareness of affordability.

The LTA has also worked hard to gain a better understanding of where people play tennis and understand some of the barriers that restrict participation levels.

The findings reveal that only 1 in 5 players play in a club. The majority of participation in the UK (44%) takes place in a park environment and it is this location where most new participants will start their tennis journey. For those that do not play, the majority of people who have expressed an interest in playing would see the park environment as their first option for play. Insight demonstrates that while the role (and potential role) of facilities in parks is clear, the club environment remains an important sector for participation.

More specifically in 2019 the Lawn Tennis Association produced a strategy for provision of

indoor tennis centres and identified 72 locations for indoor tennis centres in England, The target locations have been prioritised according to the number of potential players in each area, with demographic profiles of the population for each target community.

To establish target locations for future community indoor tennis centres, the LTA have modelled data from existing successful Community Indoor Tennis Centre's (CITC's). This helped to identify the demographic type, volume and catchment size of a successful CITC. This modelling was applied across England, Scotland and Wales to establish the areas of potential demand.

The key metrics are:

- A target location must demonstrate a minimum threshold population of 70,000 within a 20-minute drive time of a target location. Of this population, at least 12,500 must identify as having an interest in playing tennis. Please note this drive time extends to 30 minutes for rural areas.
- Filtered for competition within the catchment in order to prioritise the addressing of indoor tennis provision gaps.

Based on the above Bassetlaw is identified as a specific location in the LTA strategy and ranked 57 on the LTA list.

### **Local Demand**

There are three tennis clubs based in Bassetlaw; *Retford Tennis Club, Welbeck Tennis Club and Wheatley Tennis Club*. In total, across Bassetlaw this relates to 189 senior members and 140 junior members.

As set out Bassetlaw is considered by the LTA to have higher specific tennis market across most LTA segments to be a target location for indoor tennis.

### **Summary Demand**

Participation in tennis is on the increase after a period of decline. Membership numbers are average across the district. Club consultation through the PPS did not reveal any aspiration for indoor provision.

There is sufficient club court supply in Bassetlaw to accommodate current and aspirational future demand. Publicly available non-club courts are deemed to have spare capacity. When this is considered alongside latent demand there is a clear need to drive further usage of these courts and participation in tennis before consideration of indoor models is considered.

Therefore, focus should be to improve court quality at key public sites where tennis participation could be developed, as well as exploring implementation of the Clubspark operating system model. LTA initiatives such as Tennis for Kids, Tennis for Free and the Great British Tennis Weekends.

Whilst the LTA modelling identifies potential demand for indoor provision, given the capacity issues and work required to further develop the participation infra-structure it is recommended that the provision of indoor tennis is considered as a longer-term objective. As part of any future consideration attention should be given, in partnership with clubs and the LTA, to which indoor tennis models, if any, are appropriate in Bassetlaw.

## Key Issues and Options

### Introduction

The ANOG approach requires a drawing together of the key issues which have arisen from the assessment, these are set out below along with a summary of the position in-line with the ANOG framework.

1. There is no dedicated indoor tennis centre in Bassetlaw. The North Notts Arena provides 2-indoor tennis, but these courts are offered as part of wider indoor hall programme. There is no club located at the centre and tennis is offered on a pay and play basis. The Arena is now nearly 40-years old and the rubber flooring is the same floor since the centre opened.
2. Participation in tennis is on the increase after a period of decline. Membership numbers are average across the district. Club consultation through the PPS did not reveal any aspiration for indoor provision.
3. There is sufficient club court supply in Bassetlaw to accommodate current and aspirational future demand. Publicly available non-club courts are deemed to have spare capacity. When this is considered alongside latent demand there is a need to drive further usage of these courts and participation in tennis before consideration of indoor models is considered.
4. Therefore, focus should be to improve court quality at key public sites where tennis participation could be developed, as well as exploring implementation of various LTA programmes and initiatives in park and club settings.
5. Whilst the LTA modelling identifies potential demand for indoor provision, given the capacity issues and work required to further develop the participation infra-structure it is

recommended that the provision of indoor tennis is considered as a longer-term objective. As part of any future consideration attention should be given, in partnership with clubs and the LTA, to which indoor tennis models, if any, are appropriate in Bassetlaw.

## Indoor Tennis Action Plan

Link to Strategic Objectives	Recommendation	Justification	Relevant Sites and Key Actions	Lead Partner	Measures of Success
<b>SO1, SO2 and SO4 (Protect and Enhance)</b>	1 Protect the North Notts Arena for Indoor Tennis.  Seek investment in the site to protect access and usage.	The North Notts Arena site has a role to play for the delivery of indoor tennis.  Loss of the facility would impact on pay and play tennis opportunities.	North Notts Arena	North Notts Arena  LTA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>North Notts Arena to remain a venue for tennis, protected and enhanced through investment</li> </ul>
<b>SO9 and SO10 (Provide)</b>	2 Work alongside the LTA to explore the LTA's desire to provide an indoor tennis facility in Bassetlaw. This is identified as a strategic target for the LTA.  This should include detailed viability and feasibility work, demand modelling and consultation with local clubs and the tennis community, to explore which indoor model if any is appropriate in the district.	Bassetlaw has been identified as a key priority for a new indoor tennis centre in LTA insight and is a strategic priority for the LTA.  Further research is required to determine whether this facility is required and the opportunities to deliver such a facility sustainably and in a manner that positively impacts tennis in Bassetlaw.  Longer-term consideration. District-wide role.	District-wide	Bassetlaw Planning  LTA  Tennis Clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agreed outcome on potential viability of new facility</li> <li>Progress towards new provision if deemed viable and required</li> </ul>

# Built Sports Facility Study



<b>SO4 and SO10 (Enhance and Provide)</b>	3	Seek investment to the tennis infra-structure from developments.	PPS illustrates the priority need for investment in tennis.	Based on the catchment of proposed developments	BDC Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributions secured towards the tennis infra-structure</li> </ul>
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## 9.0 Indoor Bowls

### Introduction

The Indoor Bowls assessment applies the ANOG methodology to current and future indoor bowls needs across Bassetlaw and draws on consultation with the England Indoor Bowls Association (EIBA) to establish the key issues and options and recommendations for provision. The assessment also cross-references the Council’s Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) in relation to bowls across the district.

### Supply

#### Quantity

There is a total of 22 bowling greens in Bassetlaw, made up of four crown greens and 18 flat greens. The Council’s PPS concludes that the current supply of bowling greens is sufficient to accommodate both current and anticipated future demand. The key priority identified in the PPS is to retain greens and improve the quality.

Bassetlaw has one indoor bowls centre, with 7 rinks at the North Notts Community Arena in Worksop. The details of the North Notts Arena are set out in table 9.1 below.

**Table 9.1 – Bassetlaw Indoor Bowls sites**

Name of Site	Ownership and Access	Number of Rinks	Year Built
North Notts Community Arena	Sports Club / Community Association	7	1983

#### Quality

The North Notts Arena was opened in 1983 and is now approaching 40-years old. North Notts Community Leisure Limited (NNCLL) manage the site and provide leisure and community facilities, at the North Notts Community Arena, for the health and well- being of the local community. NNCLL have been established and operating since January 2006 and manages the day-to-day activities within the Arena.

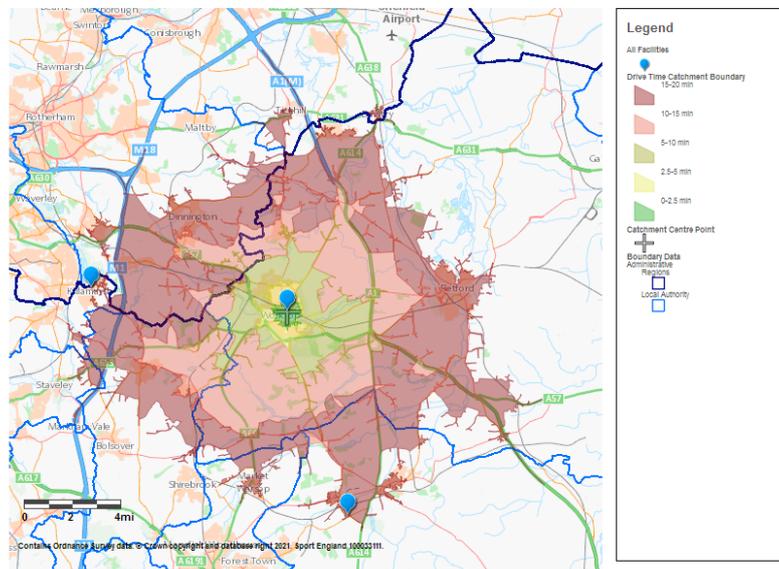
Over the years the Arena has secured grants which have mainly helped with cosmetic and operational areas such as heating and lighting and general repair. The main hall is however now over 35-years old and the original rubber floor needs upgrading for performance, cleanliness and the overall safety. Ventilation also needs addressing at the Arena.

The Arena was formally part of the local authority leisure portfolio, whilst now and independent operator the facility provision at the Arena, remains a key part of the sporting infra-structure across Bassetlaw.

## Accessibility

The map below shows the location of North Notts Arena.

**Map 9.1 – Location of North Notts Indoor Bowls**



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The facility serves a distinct catchment and is therefore an important provision. Neighbouring provision across the border is outside our on the edge of the 20-minute catchment for indoor bowls applied by the EIBA. The EIBA set down the following guidelines for indoor bowls centres.

- Assume the majority of users will live locally and not travel more than 20 minutes
- Assume 90% of users will travel by car, with the remainder by foot.
- As a guide, demand is calculated as one rink per 14,000-17,000 of total population
- A six-rink green, therefore, is required for a population of 85,000-100,000. This will be dependent upon the population profile of your area
- The number of rinks required can be related to the estimated number of members: assume 80-100 members per rink.

The nearest neighbouring rinks to Bassetlaw are at Doncaster and Newark, which are both 30-minutes away and South Forest in Mansfield, which is on the edge of the 20-minute catchment. The importance of the North Notts Arena in terms of accessibility for indoor bowls is therefore evident.

### **Availability**

Membership at the Arena based on 2018/19 figures totals 446 annual members. Not all these are indoor bowls members, however the indoor bowls membership forms part of these figures. Applying the EIBA guidelines of 80-100 members per rink it is evident that there is capacity at the North Notts Arena facility to generate greater usage and throughput.

### **Summary Supply**

The Council's PPS concludes that the current supply of bowling greens is sufficient to accommodate both current and anticipated future demand. The key priority identified in the PPS is to retain greens and improve the quality.

Bassetlaw has one indoor bowls centre, with 7 rinks at the North Notts Community Arena in Worksop.

The North Notts Arena was opened in 1983 and is now approaching 40-years old.

The facility serves a distinct catchment and is therefore an important provision. Neighbouring provision across the border is outside our on the edge of the 20-minute catchment for indoor bowls applied by the EIBA.

There is capacity at the North Notts Arena facility to generate greater usage and throughput.

## Demand

### National Governing Body (NGB) Priorities

The EIBA priorities are: 1. Recruitment of Participants 2. Retention of Participants 3. Clubs obtaining 'Clubmark Accreditation' 4. Retention and Improvement of Facilities. 5. New Indoor facilities in areas of Low-Supply and High-Demand.

EIBA Plan 2017-2021 covers the following areas:

- Recruit and Retain 45+; Recruit and Retain 70+ - two different markets which requires the NGB to find a way to grow both specific groups. The 45+ requiring new versions/formats, the 70+ wishing to keep the current formats.
- Facilities – Build, Improve, Retain
- Youth and the Family
- Women – increased participation and retention
- Disability
- Competitions
- Internationals
- Promotion of our Sport
- Commercial partnerships

EIBA Objectives are:

- A growth in participation across the adult population in local Communities. Targeted work to increase Female participation
- A growth in 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

In terms of Bassetlaw, the importance of North Notts Arena and scope to increase usage are echoed by the NGB.

England Indoor Bowls Association (EIBA), would prioritise retention and increased participation at the Bassetlaw IBC, based at the North Notts Community Leisure Arena in Worksop. They confirm that Bassetlaw has the capacity to accommodate new participants

based on their December 2019 membership levy declaration.

Their view is that as the sport of indoor bowls is popular with the *older population*, with a projection that the older population will increase in Bassetlaw, it is important that the existing site continues to operate.

The EIBA are keen to work with local authorities, clubs and centre staff to develop plans for creating a robust and thriving Bowling Club on their site, which operates for 12 months a year.

There is therefore potential for the Council, North Notts Arena and the Club to work with the EIBA to ensure the Worksop facility is protected and enhanced and to enable participation to grow and protect the long-term sustainability of the site.

### **Summary – Demand**

The importance of North Notts Arena and scope to increase usage is supported by the NGB.

They confirm that Bassetlaw has the capacity to accommodate new participants and would prioritise retention and increased participation.

There is potential for the Council, North Notts Arena and the Club to work with the EIBA to ensure the Worksop facility is protected and enhanced and to enable participation to grow and protect the long-term sustainability of the site.

## **Key Issues and Options**

### **Introduction**

The ANOG approach requires a drawing together of the key issues which have arisen from the assessment, these are set out below along with a summary of the position in-line with the ANOG framework.

1. The Council's PPS concludes that the current supply of bowling greens is sufficient to accommodate both current and anticipated future demand. The key priority identified in the PPS is to retain greens and improve the quality.
2. Bassetlaw has one indoor bowls centre, with 7 rinks at the North Notts Community Arena in Worksop. The North Notts Arena was opened in 1983 and is now approaching 40-years old.
3. The facility serves a distinct catchment and is therefore an important provision. Neighbouring provision across the border is outside our on the edge of the 20-minute

catchment for indoor bowls applied by the EIBA.

4. There is capacity at the North Notts Arena facility to generate greater usage and throughput.
5. The importance of North Notts Arena and scope to increase usage is supported by the NGB. They confirm that Bassetlaw has the capacity to accommodate new participants and would prioritise retention and increased participation.
6. There is potential for the Council, North Notts Arena and the Club to work with the EIBA to ensure the Worksop facility is protected and enhanced and to enable participation to grow and protect the long-term sustainability of the site.

**Indoor Bowls Action Plan**

Link to Strategic Objectives	Recommendation	Justification	Relevant Sites and Key Actions	Lead Partner	Measures of Success
<b>SO1, SO2 and SO4 (Protect and Enhance)</b>	1 Protect the North Notts Arena for Indoor Bowls.  Seek investment in the site to protect access and usage.	The North Notts Arena site is an important site for the delivery of indoor bowls.  Loss of the facility would impact on indoor bowling and the distinct catchment served by the facility.	North Notts Arena	North Notts Arena  EIBA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>North Notts Arena to remain a venue for indoor bowls, protected and enhanced through investment.</li> <li>Increased membership and usage to drive sustainability.</li> </ul>
<b>SO4 and SO10 (Enhance and Provide)</b>	3 Seek investment to the indoor bowls infra-structure from developments.	North Notts Arena is a key site for indoor bowls, which is now approaching 40-years old.	North Notts Arena	BDC Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contributions secured towards the indoor bowls infra-structure at North Notts Arena.</li> </ul>

## 10.0 Squash

### Introduction

The Squash assessment applies the ANOG methodology to current and future squash needs across Bassetlaw and draws on consultation with England Squash to establish the key issues and options and recommendations for provision.

### Supply

#### Quantity

There are 4 squash sites across Bassetlaw providing a total of 9-courts. These are split between 5 courts in private sector club setting, where membership is required and 2-public sector courts at Bircotes leisure centre. At present only one of the courts is available for squash at Bircotes and this is used on a casual pay and play basis. The other court is currently used for group exercise. Worksop College has 2 courts in the education sector.

Details of the squash court sites are set out in Table 10.1.

**Table 10.1 – Bassetlaw Squash sites**

Name of Site	Ownership and Access	Total Courts	Glass Courts	Normal Courts	Year Built
Bircotes Leisure Centre	Local Authority / Pay and Play	2	0	2	1976
Retford Squash Club	Private Club / Membership	3	0	3	-
Worksop College	Education / Pay and Play	2	0	2	1970
Worksop Cricket and Squash Club	Private Club / Membership	2	0	2	1980
<b>Total</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	

England Squash currently estimate that there is one squash court per 12,617 people in England. However, it is acknowledged that this figure is relatively high, reflecting the number of court closures seen over the past decade. In the view of England Squash for the game to thrive this ratio should be closer to *one court per 10,000*, as seen in high performing regions in the south-east.

Comparing Bassetlaw with the ratio, assuming a population of 132,000, with 4 sites and 9 courts, it is currently in-line with the national average at approximately one court per 12,628 people. This is clearly based on Bircotes having 2 accessible courts.

### **Quality**

England Squash estimate that across the country courts are generally in good condition, with only 6% at risk of having a negative impact on participants experience due to their poor condition.

This reflect the picture across Bassetlaw, although the average age of the courts across Bassetlaw is now approaching 50-years old, it is an old stock. Investment is therefore required into existing facilities to ensure the ratios are maintained. If Bassetlaw has aspirations to improve the ratio then investment would be required in new provision.

The courts at Bircotes Leisure Centre are in good condition however the squash usage has reduced over the years and both the financial and more importantly the health benefits and returns from the use of the space for squash as opposed to other activities is under question. Covid has precipitated this assessment, with the need for increased flexibility and space to manage social distancing. Understanding the health impacts and benefits in respect of space utilisation will be critical in any future decisions around squash at Bircotes.

What is evident is that the provision is all conventional, there are no glass back courts.

The scale of provision is however good, with a 3-court venue at Retford, capable of delivering festivals junior coaching and local junior competitions that form the first level of the England Squash Talent Pathway. Expansion in the number of courts at existing or new sites would enable large scale events to be hosted. To host county level competitions and above there is an increasing need for spectator seating and preferably glass backed courts.

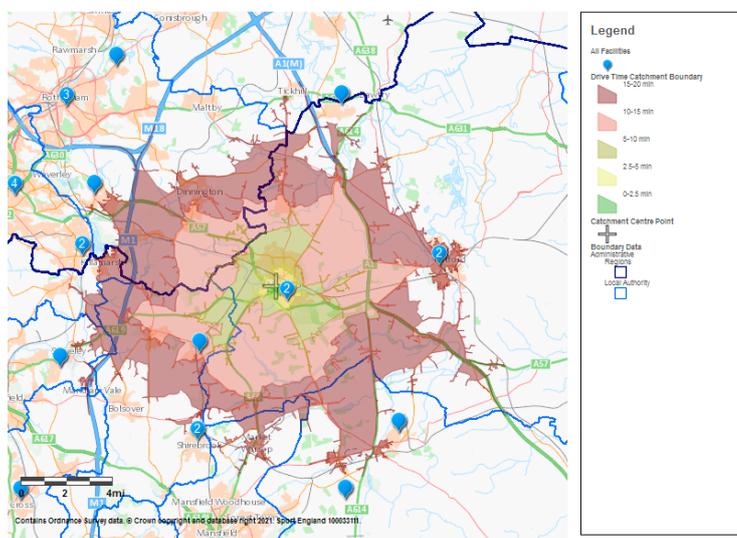
### **Accessibility**

There is a good spread of courts across Bassetlaw with provision in the two main settlements of Retford and Worksop. The main population centres therefore appear to have access to courts.

It is the view of England Squash that given the nature of Bassetlaw there needs to be a large spread of courts to meet the needs of the local population.

Further afield there are a total of 5 squash sites within a 10-mile radius.

**Map 10.1 – Squash Club Locations**



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## Availability

As set out the current supply is split between 5 courts in private sector club setting, where membership is required and 2-public sector courts at Bircotes leisure centre. At present only one of the courts is available for squash and this is used on a casual pay and play basis. The other court is currently used for group exercise. Worksop College has 2 courts in the education sector.

Findings identified by England Squash show that organised squash represents about 27% of all participation, and that coaching, and tuition have increased over time. The remainder of participation is in casual pay and play, the importance of sites, which provide pay and play access is therefore evident. Any change in the supply must seek to protect pay and play access.

## Summary Supply

There is currently a good level of supply in-line with England Squash ratios although the stock is aging and needs to be protected and invested in to maintain the current levels of provision.

Investment is therefore required into existing facilities to ensure the ratios are maintained. If Bassetlaw has aspirations to improve the ratio then investment would be required in new provision. To host county level competitions and above there is a need for spectator seating and preferably glass backed courts.

There is a good spread of courts across Bassetlaw with provision in the two main settlements of Retford and Worksop. The main population centres therefore appear to have access to courts. Providing continued pay and play access will remain important.

Protecting an element of pay and play access and understanding the health impacts and benefits in regards of space utilisation will be critical in any future decisions around squash at Bircotes.

## Demand

### Participation Trends

There are two sources for identifying participation and trends in squash; Active People (2005/06 to 2015- 16) and Active Lives (2015 – 16 to 2019/20). The benchmark measure used in Active People is 1 x 30 minutes of activity, at least once a week. The Active People survey findings for squash at an England wide level

The England participation rate was 0.69% of adults playing at least once a week in 2007 - 08, and 0.43% participating in 2016.

The Active Lives England wide data for adult participation in squash at least twice in the past 28 days and over the period of the five Active Lives surveys is shown in the table. Given the closure of squash courts for nine months from March 2020 to the end of the Active Lives survey in November 2020 because of Covid 19, the changes in the past twelve months are not valid for comment.

The most significant finding is the England wide adult participation figure for playing at least twice in the past 28 days of 163,400 players. Also that over the five years of the Active Lives survey, adult squash participation had declined by 0.6%. Possibly not a large decrease in participation over five years but this is from a start point of 163,400 players across England in November 2015, which is a low participation total.

**Table 10.2 - Active Lives adult squash participation November 2015 – November 2020**

Activity	November 2019 - November 2020					Change from baseline		Change in the last 12 months	
	Respondents	Population total	Rate (%)	95% confidence interval		Absolute	Significance	Absolute	Significance
				Rate Lower	Rate Upper				
Squash	177,735	163,400	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%	-0.6%	Significant decrease	-0.3%	Significant decrease

Whilst direct comparison between the Active People and Active Lives squash participation is not possible, it is evident at the England wide level there has been a steady annual decline in squash participation. Further interrogation of the Active Lives data shows that 50% of the casual (once a year or more) players did not play in the last three months and 30% did not play in the past 6 months. So, there has been a drop of in casual use, which reflects the experience at Bassetlaw.

England Squash attributes the reasons for the reduction in squash participation to many factors:

- Decreasing popularity of the sport after the very extensive rise in participation in the 1970's and 1980's. The sport could not retain the levels of participation, estimated at over 2m players at its height
- Increasing attractiveness of other activities, most noticeably health and fitness, which appeals to the same demographic (16 – 44) as squash
- An ageing average age of squash participation, it is estimated to now be between 52 – 55 years of age. As people grow older, they participate less frequently and for recreational play. They have not been replaced by younger participants being attracted into the sport.

England Squash are however also keen to stress that Sport England insight has identified squash as a sport that is in a stable position in terms of participation numbers. The most recent Active Lives survey estimated that there are 420,000 fortnightly participants in squash, which ranks it in the top 10 participation sports, higher than rugby, cricket and basketball. Furthermore, England Squash are also keen to stress that despite it being seen as a sport dominated by white middle class males aged 40-60, there has been an increase in females and 18-30 year olds accessing England Squash programmes.

The flagship England Squash programme Squash 101 which aims to get more participants engaged in the sport and can be delivered in the area. England Squash are offering community programmes and support locally through partner organisations, such as the Regional Forum. England Squash requires facilities for these programme to be delivered, losing any courts would have a detrimental impact on being able to provide this intervention. The Squash 101 financial analysis tool enables clubs to see what revenue can be made from running this type of course.

### **National Governing Body (NGB) Priorities**

As is evident from the participation analysis in recent years squash has experienced challenging times.

*The England Squash Strategy (2017-2021)* provides an overview of business aims. It states that the mission is 'to create a thriving squash community by redefining and enhancing the squash experience for players, coaches and officials and volunteers through the development of a technology based model that enables ES to sustain the sport, maximise revenue potential and develop world leading teams and individuals.' The role of facilities is acknowledged as key and ES are committed to working with court providers to enhance their squash offer, improve the experience for players and help to grow influence and better support those who play the game.

This is underpinned by a Performance and Commercial Strategy.

### **Local Demand**

England Squash view Bassetlaw as a key area for future delivery, their view is that the demographics within the local area lend itself to squash participation and target markets for the sport. ES are confident that their campaigns, programmes and partnerships can maintain and improve participation numbers and halt previous declines.

As set out previously squash usage has reduced over the years at Bircotes, in-line with national trends. Both the financial and more importantly the health benefits and returns from the use of the space for squash as opposed to other activities is under question. Covid has precipitated this assessment, with the need for increased flexibility and space to manage social distancing. Liaison with England Squash and understanding the health impacts and benefits in respect of space utilisation will be critical in any future decisions around squash at Bircotes.

## Summary Demand

Squash participation has been on the decline although it is understood that Sport England insight has identified squash as a sport that is now in a stable position in terms of participation numbers.

As is evident from the participation analysis in recent years squash has experienced challenging times. ES are however fighting back and seeking to broaden the participation base.

ES are confident that their campaigns, programmes and partnerships can continue to maintain and improve participation numbers and halt previous declines. Facilities are key to this.

England Squash view Bassetlaw as a key area for future delivery are confident that their campaigns, programmes and partnerships can maintain and improve participation numbers and halt previous declines.

Squash usage has however reduced over the years at Bircotes, in-line with national trends. Both the financial and more importantly the health benefits and returns from the use of the space for squash as opposed to other activities will come increasingly under question.

Liaison with England Squash and understanding the health impacts and benefits in respect of space utilisation will be critical in any future decisions around squash at Bircotes and across Bassetlaw as a whole.

## Key Issues and Options

### Introduction

The ANOG approach requires a drawing together of the key issues which have arisen from the assessment, these are set out below along with a summary of the position in-line with the ANOG framework.

1. There is currently a good level of squash court supply in-line with England Squash ratios although the stock is aging and needs to be protected and invested in to maintain the current levels of provision.
2. Investment is therefore required into existing facilities to ensure the ratios are maintained. If Bassetlaw has aspirations to improve the ratio then investment would be required in new provision. To host county level competitions and above there is a need for spectator seating and preferably glass backed courts.
3. There is a good spread of courts across Bassetlaw with provision in the two main settlements of

Retford and Worksop. The main population centres therefore appear to have access to courts. Providing continued pay and play access will remain important. Protecting an element of pay and play access and understanding the health impacts and benefits in regards of space utilisation will be critical in any future decisions around squash at Bircotes.

4. Squash participation has been on the decline although it is understood that Sport England insight has identified squash as a sport that is now in a stable position in terms of participation numbers.
5. As is evident from the participation analysis in recent years squash has experienced challenging times. ES are however fighting back and seeking to broaden the participation base. ES are confident that their campaigns, programmes and partnerships can continue to maintain and improve participation numbers and halt previous declines. Facilities are key to this.
6. England Squash view Bassetlaw as a key area for future delivery are confident that their campaigns, programmes and partnerships can maintain and improve participation numbers and halt previous declines.
7. Squash usage has however reduced over the years at Bircotes, in-line with national trends. Both the financial and more importantly the health benefits and returns from the use of the space for squash as opposed to other activities will come increasingly under question. Liaison with England Squash and understanding the health impacts and benefits in respect of space utilisation will be critical in any future decisions around squash at Bircotes and across Bassetlaw as a whole.

**Squash Action Plan**

Link to Strategic Objectives	Recommendation	Justification	Relevant Sites and Key Actions	Lead Partner	Measures of Success
<b>SO1, SO2 and SO4 (Protect and Enhance)</b>	1 Protect all squash sites across the district.  Seek investment to protect access and usage.	To maintain the ratios of provision all courts should be protected.  Loss of these facilities would impact on delivery of squash across the district.	All sites	Bassetlaw Planning / Leisure  Worksop Squash Club  Retford Squash Club  Worksop College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Courts numbers to be maintained, protected and enhanced through investment.</li> </ul>
<b>SO9 and SO10 (Provide)</b>	2 Ensure the future of squash and district-wide pay and play access is considered in relation to any future development proposals for Bircotes Leisure Centre.	Squash usage has however reduced over the years at Bircotes, in-line with national trends.  Both the financial and more importantly the health benefits and returns from the use of the space for squash as opposed to other activities will come increasingly under question.  Liaison with England Squash and understanding the health impacts and benefits in respect of costs and space utilisation will be critical in any future decisions around squash at Bircotes and across Bassetlaw as a whole.	Bircotes Leisure Centre	Bassetlaw Planning / Leisure  England Squash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bircotes Feasibility Study completed</li> <li>Cost benefit from a financial and health perspective undertaken in-line with NPPF 97 to establish future needs and priorities.</li> </ul>

## Built Sports Facility Study



<b>SO1 and SO2 (Protect)</b>	3	Ensure any changes in supply seek to protect <i>pay and play</i> access to squash across the district.	A pay and play offer is an important element of the squash mix and key to widening the participation base and delivering ES programmes and campaigns.	District-wide.	BDC Leisure / BDC Planning  England Squash  Clubs and Worksop College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection and enhancement of the pay and play squash offer</li> </ul>
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### 11.0 Golf

#### Introduction

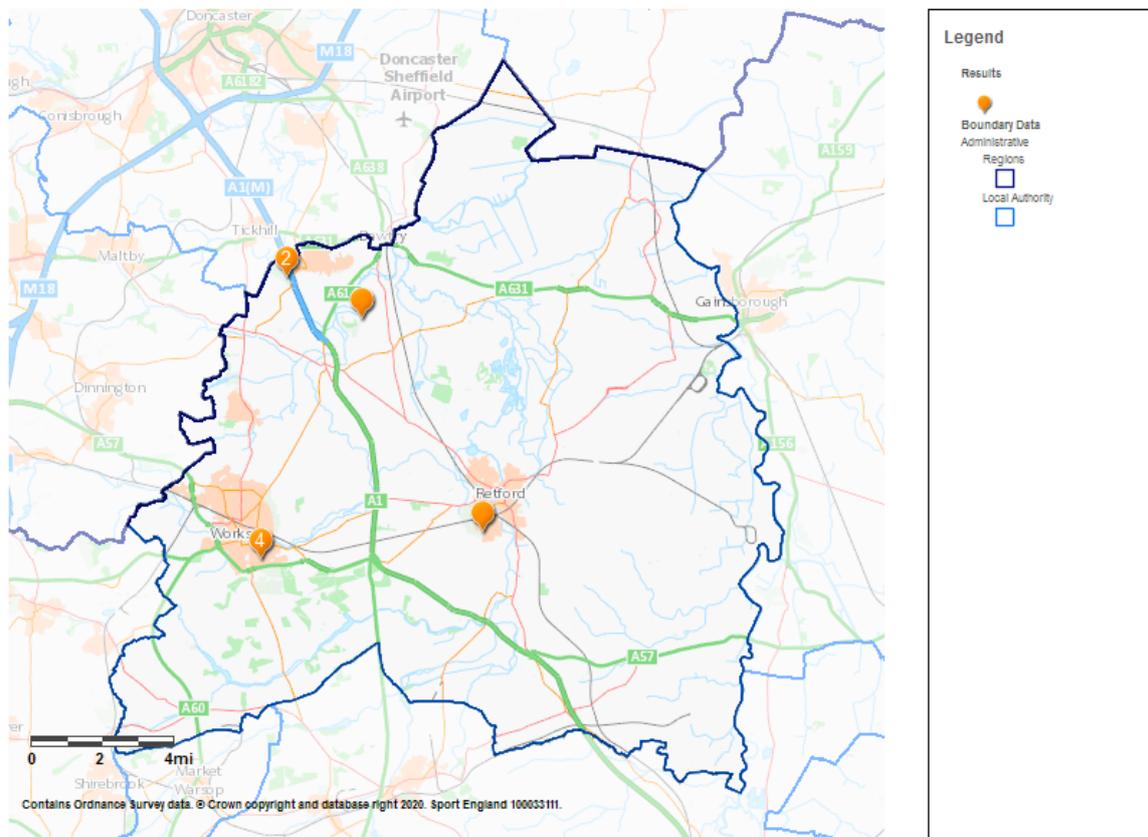
The Golf assessment applies the ANOG methodology to current and future golf needs across Bassetlaw and draws on consultation with England Golf and the local clubs to establish the key issues and options and recommendations for provision.

#### Supply

##### Quantity

The supply of golf courses is based on Active Places Power (APP) data, supplemented by website and other checks. The following golf facilities are identified in APP within Bassetlaw. The description of access type is considered inconsistent (in line with all golf data in APP), as some courses are described as pay and play when they are clearly members' courses where visitors are permitted/encouraged on payment of a green fee. A more accurate description of accessibility to courses is set out later, based on additional information on local courses, but the APP categorisation has to be used if a comparison with provision in other wider areas is to be undertaken (see below).

There are 6 standard golf courses in the district, comprising 99 holes, and 2 GDRs with 29 bays, of which 14 are floodlit. There are no par 3 courses. The main golf facilities are all located in the west and centre of the district close to the main centres of population – Worksop, Retford and Blyth.



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**Map 11.1 Location of golf facilities in Bassetlaw**

APP describes most of these facilities as pay and play facilities. As suggested above, it is assumed that most/all of the standard golf courses also allow some casual play on payment of a visitors’ green fee. However, some courses are still run as members’ clubs and in reality fewer clubs/courses than suggested in the table are fully pay and play - i.e. do offer facilities that are always available to full community access at all times on demand. A fuller description of the local facilities within the district is set out below, as a means of identifying the roles that all facilities play in meeting demand in the area for golf):

- **College Pines GC** was established in 1994 near Worksop and Clumber Park, and comprises 18 holes of 6800 yards, par 72, together with a 15 bay GDR (not floodlit) and practice facilities. It is a commercially run facility with membership and pay and play options. Full membership costs £750 pa, but there are offers of associate membership on a voucher system. Green fees are charged at £20-26 with off peak deals. The club boasts of year-round availability



None

**Free standing Golf Driving Ranges, valuable for practice, coaching and teaching and for golfers without the time to play a full round, and supplementing GDRs at other golf centres/courses**

None

In addition to courses within Bassetlaw, there are a small number of other operational golf facilities in a wider catchment, which are very likely to offer other opportunities for local residents of Bassetlaw to play golf in its various forms. The table highlights all facilities within a 30 minute driving catchment of the middle of the district – some of these lie in the outer 20-30 minute catchment, which would normally be outside the reasonable driving time of residents, but may well be accessible to Bassetlaw residents on the edge of the district, and are therefore included in this assessment. These figures include the courses within Bassetlaw itself.

**Table 11.1 - Standard Golf Courses**

Site Name	Range in mins	Holes	Length	Access	Ownership /management	Year Built	Local Authority
RETFORD GOLF CLUB LTD	2.5-5	18	5939.03	Pay and Play	Commercial	1921	Bassetlaw
<b>Total 0-10 mins</b>	<b>1 course</b>	<b>18</b>					
WORKSOP GOLF CLUB	10-15	18	6060.64	Pay and Play	Commercial	1914	Bassetlaw
COLLEGE PINES GOLF CLUB	15-20	18	6218.83	Pay and Play	Commercial	1994	Bassetlaw
KILTON FOREST GOLF COURSE	15-20	18	6405.37	Pay and Play	Local Authority/Trust	1978	Bassetlaw
SERLBY PARK GOLF CLUB	15-20	9	5760.72	Sports Club / Community Association	Sports Club	1906	Bassetlaw
<b>Total 10-20 mins</b>	<b>4 courses</b>	<b>63</b>					
<b>Total 0-20 mins</b>	<b>5 courses</b>	<b>81</b>					
STYRRUP HALL GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	20-25	18	6167.63	Pay and Play	Commercial	2000	Bassetlaw
BAWTRY GOLF CLUB	25-30	18	6400.8	Pay and Play	Commercial	1970	Doncaster
BONDHAY GOLF CLUB	25-30	18	6282.84	Registered Membership use	Sports Club	1994	Bolsover
DONCASTER GOLF CLUB	25-30	18	5729.63	Registered Membership use	Sports Club	1894	Doncaster
LINDRICK GOLF CLUB	25-30	18	5937.2	Pay and Play	Sports Club	1891	Rotherham

Site Name	Range in mins	Holes	Length	Access	Ownership /management	Year Built	Local Authority
RUFFORD PARK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	25-30	18	5822.9	Pay and Play	Commercial	1994	Newark and Sherwood
<b>Total 20-30 mins</b>	<b>6 courses</b>	<b>108</b>					
<b>Total 0-30 mins</b>	<b>11 courses</b>	<b>189</b>					

There are 5 standard courses within a 20-minute driving catchment of the middle of Retford (in the centre of the district), comprising 81 holes, all courses in the district itself. The wider 30-minute catchment is relevant in view of the size of the district, and all 11 courses in this area are likely to accommodate usage by Bassetlaw residents, particularly those living on the edge of the district. These courses are located in Doncaster, Bolsover, Rotherham and Newark and Sherwood.

**Table 11.2 - Par 3 Courses**

Site Name	Range (in mins)	Holes	Length m	Access	Ownership/management	Year Built	Local Authority
BONDHAY GOLF CLUB	25-30	9	1022.3	Registered Membership use	Sports Club	1992	Bolsover
NEWARK GOLF CENTRE	25-30	9	982.07	Pay and Play	Commercial	1975	Newark and Sherwood
<b>Total 20-30 mins</b>	<b>2 courses</b>	<b>18</b>					
<b>Total 0-30 mins</b>	<b>2 courses</b>	<b>18</b>					

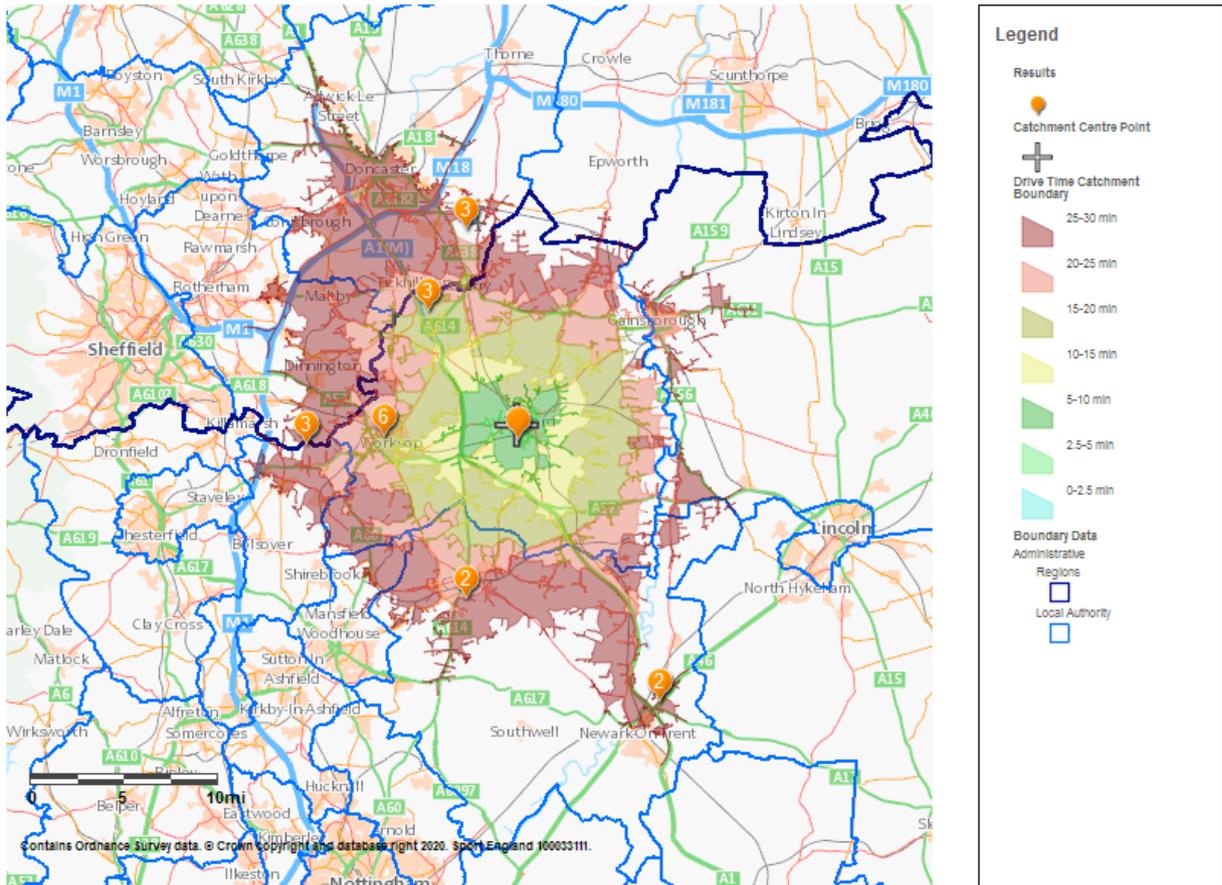
There are no par 3 courses local to Bassetlaw, although the two courses in the outer catchment and outside the district (Bolsover and Newark and Sherwood) may accommodate Bassetlaw demand.

**Table 11.3 - Golf Driving Ranges (GDRs)**

Site Name	Range (in mins)	Bays	Floodlit	Length	Access	Ownership/management	Year Built/refurb	Local Authority
COLLEGE PINES GOLF CLUB	15-20	15	No	274.32	Pay and Play	Commercial	1994	Bassetlaw
<b>Total 10-20 mins</b>	<b>1 range</b>	<b>15</b>						
STYRRUP HALL GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	20-25	14	Yes	228.6	Pay and Play	Commercial	2000	Bassetlaw

Site Name	Range (in mins)	Bays	Floodlit	Length	Access	Ownership/management	Year Built/refurb	Local Authority
BAWTRY GOLF CLUB	25-30	18	Yes	274.32	Pay and Play	Commercial	1970	Doncaster
BONDHAY GOLF CLUB	25-30	10	Yes	228.6	Registered Membership use	Sports Club	2000	Bolsover
LINDRICK GOLF CLUB	25-30	20	No	429	Pay and Play	Sports Club	2000	Rotherham
NEWARK GOLF CENTRE	25-30	24	Yes	274.32	Pay and Play	Commercial	1975	Newark and Sherwood
RUFFORD PARK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	25-30	16	Yes	228.6	Pay and Play	Commercial	1994	Newark and Sherwood
<b>Total 20-30 mins</b>	<b>6 ranges</b>	<b>102</b>						
<b>Total 0-30 mins</b>	<b>7 ranges</b>	<b>117</b>						

There is only one (non-floodlit) GDR in the district and within 20 minutes of the centre of the district, but a further 6 ranges/102 bays (82 floodlit) are within the likely catchment of Bassetlaw residents, in Doncaster, Bolsover, Rotherham and Newark and Sherwood.



Sport England assumes no responsibility for the completeness, accuracy and currency of the information contained on this map/report. This information is taken from the Active Places Power website and its terms and conditions apply.  
7/10/2020 14:20

**Map 11.2 Location of Golf Facilities around Bassetlaw**

There is no evidence of any courses or other facilities that have permanently closed in the recent past, though this does not preclude that some may have.

**Summary**

In summary, the supply of golf facilities in Bassetlaw and within a 20/30-minute drive of the district is as follows:

**Table 11.4 – Golf Supply**

Catchment	Standard Courses	Holes	Par 3 courses	Holes	GDRs	Bays
Facilities within Bassetlaw	6	99	0	0	2	29
Facilities 0-10 minutes	1	18	0	0	0	0
Facilities 10-20 minutes	4	63	0	0	1	15

Catchment	Standard Courses	Holes	Par 3 courses	Holes	GDRs	Bays
Total 0-20 minutes	5	81	0	0	1	15
Total 20-30 mins	6	108	2	18	6	102
Total 0-30 mins	11	189	2	18	7	117

**Relative Supply**

Relative provision of golf facilities in the local and wider area, regionally and nationally is set out below, these figures are produced manually and they include all operational courses, available for some community use (i.e. not private) included in the APP database. It should be emphasised that this assessment only comprises existing supply; relative provision of courses is a useful indicator of how well an area is doing for facilities in comparison with other areas, but is only a benchmark against which to judge supply. This section makes no comments at this stage on the local (or wider) demand for golf, which is dealt with below.

**All Standard Courses**

This first assessment below is given as context to allow comparison of the main golf courses in the area. The catchments refer to travel time by car from the middle of Bassetlaw.

**Table 11.5 – Golf Comparators**

	Courses	Holes	Population mid 2020	Holes per 1000 population
<b>Bassetlaw</b>	6	99	118,633	0.83
<b>Newark &amp; Sherwood</b>	7	108	123,532	0.87
<b>Mansfield</b>	2	27	110,247	0.24
<b>West Lindsey</b>	7	126	95,898	1.31
<b>Bolsover</b>	2	27	80,938	0.33
<b>Doncaster</b>	10	180	313,762	0.57
<b>Rotherham</b>	9	153	267,215	0.57
<b>North Lincs</b>	9	135	173,143	0.78
<b>Within 10 minute drive</b>	1	18	25344	0.71
<b>Within 20 minute drive</b>	5	81	86545	0.94
<b>Within 30 minute drive</b>	11	189	390,835	0.48
<b>Nottinghamshire*</b>	36	596	1170000	0.51
<b>East Midlands region*</b>	172	2792	4870000	0.57
<b>England</b>	1956	30881	56,630,408	0.55

*\*estimate*

Local relative provision for all standard courses in Bassetlaw is higher than average for the county, region and England, and higher than all adjacent LAs except two. The ratio of standard courses within each of the time catchments is also higher than average. Local relative supply in the Bassetlaw area is therefore good.

**Table 11.6 - Par 3 Courses**

	Courses	Holes	Population 2018	Holes per 1000 population
<b>Bassetlaw</b>	0	0	118,633	0
<b>Newark &amp; Sherwood</b>	2	18	123,532	0.15
<b>Mansfield</b>	1	18	110,247	0.16
<b>West Lindsey</b>	1	9	95,898	0.09
<b>Bolsover</b>	1	9	80,938	0.11
<b>Doncaster</b>	0	0	313,762	0
<b>Rotherham</b>	1	9	267,215	0.03
<b>North Lincs</b>	2	27	173,143	0.16
<b>Within 10 minute drive</b>	0	0	25,344	0
<b>Within 20 minute drive</b>	0	0	86,545	0
<b>Within 30 minute drive</b>	2	18	390,835	0.05
<b>Notts Sport area*</b>	6	72	1170000	0.06
<b>East Midlands region*</b>	22	234	4870000	0.05
<b>England</b>	226	2290	56,630,408	0.04

*\*estimate*

There are no par 3 courses within the district and only 2 within a 30-minute drive of the centre of the district. All neighbouring LAs except one have better provision and higher than the average, but all local travel catchments have low provision compared with the average. Local par 3 provision is therefore low. To meet the average level of provision (0.04-0.06/1000), about 6 holes would be required in Bassetlaw, not enough for even a 9-hole course, and therefore unviable as a stand-alone facility.

**Table 11.7 - GDRs**

	Ranges	Bays	Population 2018	Holes per 1000 population
<b>Bassetlaw</b>	2	29	118,633	0.24
<b>Newark &amp; Sherwood</b>	4	78	123,532	0.63
<b>Mansfield</b>	0	0	110,247	0
<b>West Lindsey</b>	2	22	95,898	0.23
<b>Bolsover</b>	2	22	80,938	0.27
<b>Doncaster</b>	3	60	313,762	0.19
<b>Rotherham</b>	3	78	267,215	0.29
<b>North Lincs</b>	2	34	173,143	0.20
<b>Within 10 minute drive</b>	0	0	25,344	0
<b>Within 20 minute drive</b>	1	15	86,545	0.17
<b>Within 30 minute drive</b>	7	117	390,835	0.30
<b>Notts Sport area*</b>	12	218	1170000	0.19
<b>East Midlands region*</b>	64	1102	4870000	0.23
<b>England</b>	628	11428	56,630,408	0.20

*\*estimate*

Provision of GDRs is relatively good in Bassetlaw, slightly better than the county, regional and national average, and in line with most neighbouring LAs. Provision in the local time catchments is however low except for the wider 30-minute drive area.

## Quality

When assessing quality, it is necessary to review both condition and *fitness for purpose*.

APP data on age/refurb can be used to inform quality, but in the case of golf this is not a valid proxy and in any case details of refurbishment of golf courses is either not collected or not considered relevant. It would be useful to highlight course conditions across the study area, and also at other similar facilities in the local catchment to ascertain whether there is a quality issue overall.

The general feeling is that because of the nature of golf, the predominance of clubs in managing their own facilities, the demands of users and the levels of annual subscriptions and daily green fees, most courses are of acceptable or high quality or in good condition.

This is confirmed through consultation with England Golf who have good engagement with the local clubs; College Pines, Kilton Forest and Serlby Park and have also started to engage with Retford and Worksop. Kilton Forest, Retford, College Pines, Serlby Park and Worksop are all working toward *Safegolf*, along with Styrrup Hall.

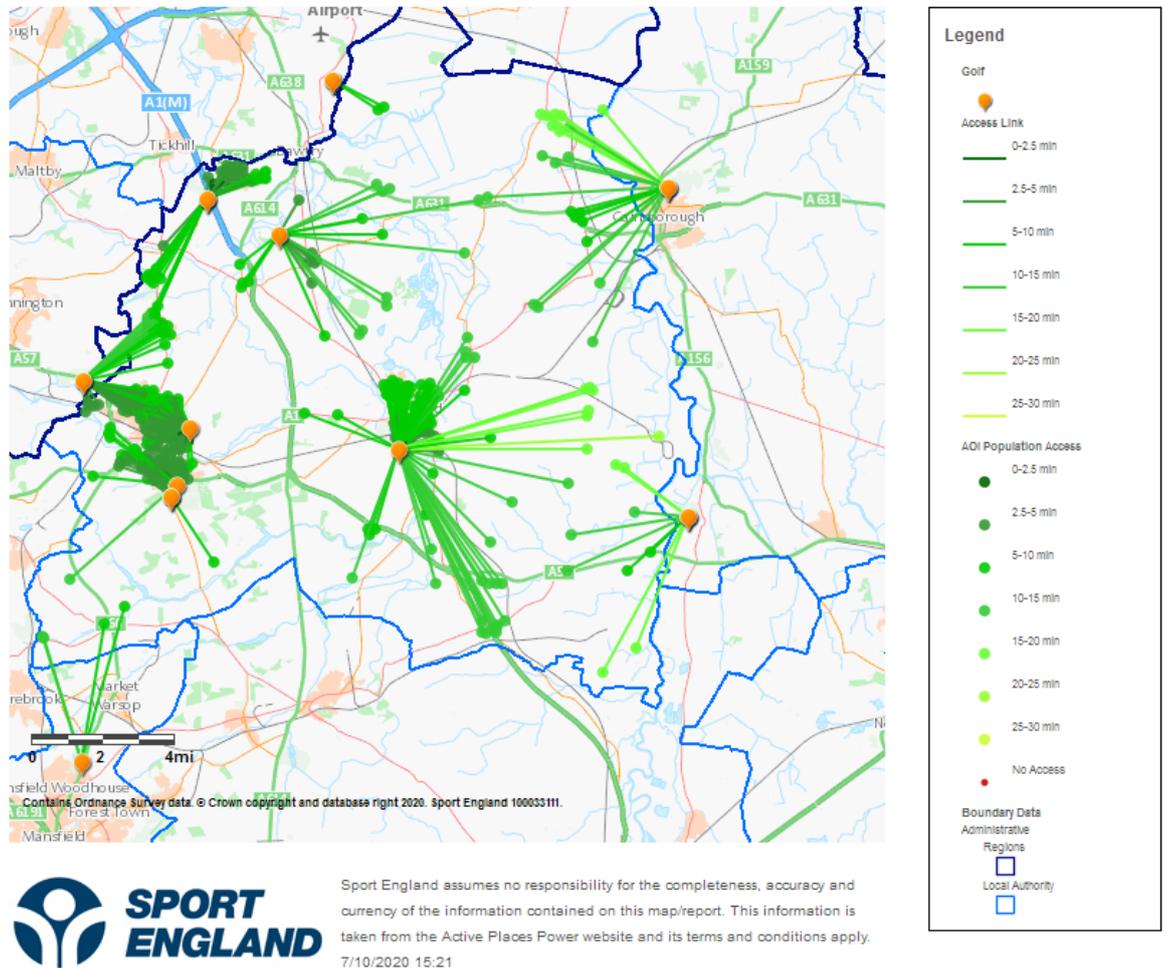
## Accessibility

Sport England's accessibility tool on Active Places provides the opportunity to estimate the population profile within a given catchment area of a (new or existing) facility, or the competing facilities within a given catchment area of a (new or existing) facility. In addition, the population within an area of interest served/able to access facilities, based upon given catchment parameters can be identified.

The Summary Results Area shows the population counts within range of a facility (shown by whether the facility is within or outside the selected area of interest)							
	0-14	15-24	25-39	40-59	60-79	80+	Total
Combined							
Total with nearest site:							
- within the AOI	14354	10526	15062	25318	18478	4302	88040
- outside the AOI	4393	2594	3934	7653	5116	1133	24823
Total AOI population	18747	13120	18996	32971	23594	5435	112863

The tables and map here demonstrate that almost the whole population of Bassetlaw can access a golf facility within a 20-minute drive, and that most of these are within the district itself, though facilities just over the boundary in Gainsborough, Mansfield and other towns also have a role to play, for those residents not close to a course or range in Bassetlaw. Choice of facility may in some cases be restricted however.

The Summary Results Area shows the population with access to the requested facility type by range bandings							
Combined	0-14	15-24	25-39	40-59	60-79	80+	Total
0-2.5	1285	904	1244	2187	1523	365	7508
2.5-5	5960	4257	6200	10026	7439	1713	35595
5-10	5402	4199	6014	9417	6649	1708	33389
10-15	1417	984	1355	3100	2418	428	9702
15-20	276	171	230	544	432	85	1738
20-25	14	11	19	44	17	3	108
25-30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total In Range	14354	10526	15062	25318	18478	4302	88040
Total Outside Range	4393	2594	3934	7653	5116	1133	24823
AOI Total	18747	13120	18996	32971	23594	5435	112863



**Map 11.2 Accessibility to Golf in Bassetlaw**

**Availability**

There is above average supply of standard courses in Bassetlaw and the wider area including adjacent LAs. Web searches and brief telephone consultation suggest that all 6 existing courses in the district currently welcome new members to varying degree, there are no joining fees (except in one case) and membership offers are widely available across the different categories. One course in the district operates predominantly on a pay and play basis, so it can be said that the casual golfer can be accommodated relatively easily in the district.

There is no par 3 course in Bassetlaw and the nearest are in Bolsover and Newark, and overall provision in this wider area is relatively poor. Conversely GDR provision is good in Bassetlaw and surrounding LAs, and availability is not considered a problem.

Data from England Golf's Facility Planning Inquiry response (extract below) confirms this, as set out in the table below for the courses in Bassetlaw.

<b>Affiliated Club Name</b>	<b>2015 Numbers</b>	<b>2016 Numbers</b>	<b>2017 Numbers</b>	<b>2018 Numbers</b>
<b>STYRRUP HALL GOLF &amp; COUNTRY CLUB</b>	276	264	316	335
<b>KILTON FOREST GOLF CLUB</b>	187	175	196	175
<b>RETFORD GOLF CLUB</b>	479	488	482	425
<b>COLLEGE PINES GOLF CLUB</b>	371	333	365	370
<b>SERLBY PARK GOLF CLUB</b>	187	179	194	192
<b>WORKSOP GOLF CLUB</b>	534	531	508	518

To provide an understanding of capacity it is possible to compare membership levels with the national benchmarks, based on average national membership numbers arising from the report undertaken by Sports Marketing Surveys and published in September 2018, which calculated the average membership of golf courses in 2018 to be 484 for an 18-hole club. Based on this all clubs have capacity in Bassetlaw other than Worksop.

Clearly every club is different however, and this analysis only provides a benchmark with which to 'assess' the capacity / availability issue. However, it is evident from this assessment and membership data gleaned from websites that there is some spare capacity overall and at all existing courses.

### Summary Supply

There is a range of golf facilities in Bassetlaw, comprising 6 standard courses, five of which are 18 holes, and 2 GDRs at existing courses. There is a variety of members' club courses, 'public' pay and play and commercial facilities. Standard golf course provision accommodates established private members' clubs, commercial facilities and pay and play, and no particular sector is lacking. There are no par 3 courses. Most facilities are located in the west and centre of the district, but this is where the main population centres lie. Residents in the east of the district and elsewhere are likely to rely on golf facilities elsewhere outside Bassetlaw.

Relative supply is a useful indicator in terms of benchmarking local provision alongside other similar areas. Standard golf course provision both in the district and the local driving catchments is high, par 3 non-existent in the district and average in the surrounding catchments and GDRs relatively high in Bassetlaw and low in the catchments around except

on the edge of 30 minutes' drive.

Almost all Bassetlaw residents can access a golf facility within a 20-minute drive, and most of these are within the district itself, though facilities just over the boundary in Gainsborough, Mansfield and other towns also have a role to play, for those residents not close to a course or range in Bassetlaw.

Clearly every club is different however, and this analysis only provides a benchmark with which to 'assess' the capacity / availability issue. However, it is evident from this assessment and membership data gleaned from websites that there is some spare capacity overall and at all existing courses.

The range of types of courses suggests that all types of golfer can currently be accommodated – pay and play is available, with varying daily green fees as well as membership at a variety of membership fees. Given the lack of waiting lists and joining fees at the district's existing private courses, it may well be that there are sufficient standard courses in the district, and further afield, to meet current demand.

Facilities for training/coaching/practice and the specific development of skills are however poor in the Bassetlaw area and this is where the priority is.

Local provision for par 3 courses in the district is non-existent, and there are only two such courses on the edge of the 30 minutes drive catchment. To bring local provision in Bassetlaw up to the regional or national average would require about 6 holes, not enough currently for even a small course. There are two GDRs in Bassetlaw, both at existing golf courses, and others in neighbouring areas, and additional provision is not considered lacking. However no full-length standard courses that might be considered as specialist academy or learning facilities exist, although some clubs have an active coaching and development programme. This may well be the biggest gap in provision.

However the need for facilities in the area also needs to take into account a more detailed assessment of demand, and this is addressed below.

## Demand

### Participation Trends

*Current and recent – Active People data (once per week)*

	Overall		Male		Female	
APS1 (Oct 05/06)	889,100	2.18%	xx	xx	xx	xx
APS2 (Oct 07/08)	948300	2.29%	805800	3.99%	142500	0.67%
APS3 (Oct 08/09)	897600	2.15%	758200	3.72%	138700	0.65%
APS4 (Oct 09/10)	860900	2.04%	738800	3.59%	122100	0.57%
APS5 (Oct 10/11)	833200	1.96%	723200	3.49%	110000	0.51%
APS6 (Oct 11/12)	850,500	1.97%	733,000	3.48%	117500	0.53%
APS7 (Oct 12/13)	751,900	1.73%	xx	xx	xx	xx
APS8 (Oct 13/14)	730,300	1.67%	xx	xx	xx	xx
APS9 (Oct 14/Sept 15)	740,100	1.68%	xx	xx	xx	xx
APS10 (Oct 15/Sept 16)	723,000*	1.64%	xx	xx	xx	xx

Sport England Active People data (which has now been discontinued and replaced by Active Lives – see below) suggests that over the years from 2005/6 to 2015/16 regular participation in golf (once per week) in England declined from 890,000 adult participants (16+) to about 723,000 (extrapolated from overall APS10 data). Most recently (Oct 2016), about 1.64% of the population (mainly male) now play golf regularly (figures from latest annual data from APS10).

East Midlands regional participation has generally varied, but mainly higher than national average, with a smaller decline in participation. Similarly, the Notts figure has varied over time, generally slightly below the regional average, but increased in APS7 and 10. There is no data at a more local level for Bassetlaw.

Sports participation - At least once a week										
	2005/ 06 (APS1 )	2007/ 08 (APS2 )	2008/ 09 (APS3 )	2009/ 10 (APS4 )	2010/ 11 (APS5 )	2011/ 12 (APS6 )	2012/ 13 (APS7 )	2013/ 14 (APS8 )	2014/ 15 (APS9 )	2015/ 16 (APS10 )
England	2.18%	2.29%	2.15%	2.04%	1.96%	1.97%	1.73%	1.67%	1.68%	1.64%
East Midlands	2.42%	2.60%	2.43%	2.07%	2.39%	1.90%	1.86%	1.70%	2.05%	1.74%
Nottingham shire	2.34%	2.64%	1.87%	1.71%	2.19%	1.83%	2.23%	1.59%	1.32%	2.15%
Bassetlaw	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

# Active People Interactive – your analysis

Your selection:

Dataset

Age 16+

Wave

2005/06 (APS1)

2007/08 (APS2)

2008/09 (APS3)

2009/10 (APS4)

2010/11 (APS5)

2011/12 (APS6)

2012/13 (APS7)

2013/14 (APS8)

2014/15 (APS9)

2015/16 (APS10)

Sport

Golf

Geography

England

East Midlands

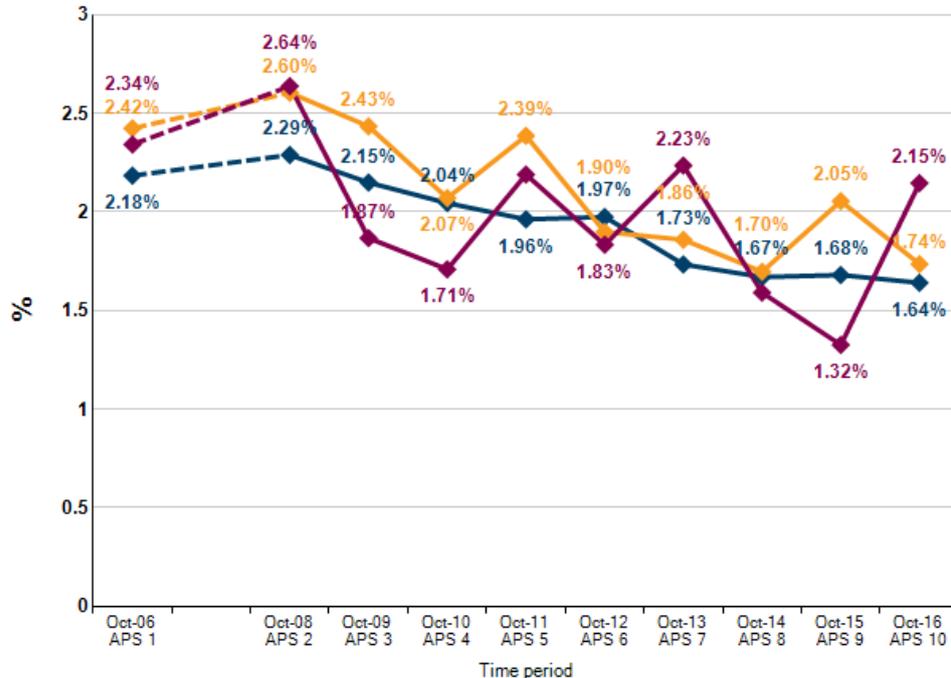
Nottinghamshire

Bassetlaw

England

East Midlands

Nottinghamshire



The consistent trend over all geographical areas has been downward, although actual participation levels vary considerably, probably due to differences in supply.

### Active Lives data

Sport England's Active Lives Survey is a new way of measuring sport and activity across England and replaced the Active People Survey, with data collection beginning in 2015. The data below refers to participation at least twice in the last 28 days (as compared with once a week above). This is said to provide an entry level view of participation overall, a useful measure of engagement in different sports and physical activities and an understanding of the contribution of activities to achievement of 150+ minutes of activity per week (which Sport England defines as being active) but does prevent direct comparison with AP data above. Data is now available for 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19, but because of sampling limits only refers to the larger geographical areas.

Participation in the last 28 days - At least twice in the last 28 days (England)											
Nov 15/16		May 16/17		Nov 16/17		May 17/18		Nov 17/18		Nov 18/19	
971,700	2.20%	977,300	2.20%	961,400	2.10%	945,700	2.10%	957,000	2.1%	941,000	2.1%

This new data confirms that national participation (albeit that the frequency is measured differently) continues to decline, but only slightly, over the past 4 years.

### **National Governing Body (NGB) Priorities**

The newly refreshed England Golf (EG) Strategy 2017-21 aims to increase membership of clubs from 650,000 to 675,000, golfers playing twice monthly from 971,000 to over 1m and increase the proportion of females playing to 20%. If this is extrapolated to Bassetlaw, this could result in an increase of another 50-60 adult golfers over the wider catchment, irrespective of population change. As the target is increased participants, it is likely that a large proportion of these would be beginners and young people (particularly girls) learning the game, for which relatively simple courses would be suitable as a first step.

In connection with this strategy, EG has outlined some more recent headline figures for golf participation in its Facility Planning Report, prepared for this assessment:

- Golf is the fifth largest participation sport in the Country, with around 630,000 members belonging to one of 1850 affiliated clubs and a further 2 million people playing golf independently outside of club membership.
- More than 4 million people have played golf on a full-length course in the last 12 months – this is an increase on previous years and highlights a growing golf participation market.
- Other notable figures regarding golf club participation in the last 12 months suggest a large and growing market of new and existing golfers:
  - 2.6 million have used driving ranges
  - 2.1 million played a short course
  - 3.7 million played pitch & putt
  - 6.8 million have been to an Adventure Golf facility (Source: Sport MR)
- England Golf have seen a decline in affiliated golf club members in recent years but this reflects the wider range of golfing options available, even to people who enjoy playing full-length courses.

While the source of this data is not known, these recent trends need to be taken into account in planning for future provision, and confirm the priority groups that might be expected to be catered for.

Commenting on Bassetlaw through consultation as part of this assessment EG consider there is a reasonable demand for golf in the area, although lower than the East Midlands region. Demand cuts across all the 9 EG golfing profiles, both club based and independent. They agree that membership numbers are lower than the national average. Clubs are working proactively to target new audiences through coaching programmes or wider membership / playing options.

### Local Demand

Sport England Market Segmentation (MS) profile illustrates the four main market segments (comprising about 31% of the total adult population) in the district are as follows:

- **Phillip** – ‘mid-life professional, sporty male’, with above average activity levels. While not his top sport, golf however is popular (twice the average play golf) and he would like to play more.
- **Tim** – known as a ‘sporty male professional’, Tim is very active (2/3 take part in sport once a week compared with 40% overall). Not his major sport, but Tim plays golf (about 75% above the average) and would like to play more.
- **Keve** – ‘Pub League Team Mates’, blokes who enjoy pub league games and watching live sport. Only average interest in golf (same as the national average – 4%)
- **Roger and Joy** – ‘early retirement couples’, with below average participation in activity. 6% play golf, and they would like to do more. Represent 7% of the local catchment population.

Philip, Tim and Roger and Joy are the three highest segments nationally participating in golf and who would like to play more, and these are well represented in Bassetlaw. The local profile in the district therefore is conducive to participation in golf, and local demand for facilities is therefore likely to be relatively high.

It is therefore likely that the demographic profile will age, and that older people will form a larger proportion of the population, although the older age groups may well be intrinsically attracted to golf. It is reasonable to assume that a combination of growth and demographic change will have a small impact on golf participation in the Bassetlaw area.

In terms of growth, at current activity rates, it is estimated that golf participation is likely to increase in the district in the foreseeable future. An ageing population may be felt in general to encourage additional golf participation, and the market segmentation data suggests that the local profile is conducive to some change.

There is capacity in the current infra-structure to meet traditional golf needs. Many of these will be beginners and females, with particular implications for the type of facilities required in the

future, in terms of practice and beginner facilities.

## Summary Demand

Nationally participation has stabilised recently from a declining position.

There is considered to be a reasonable demand for golf in Bassetlaw, although lower than the East Midlands region.

Membership numbers are lower than the national average, pointing to capacity in the traditional golf market. Clubs are however working proactively to target new audiences through coaching programmes or wider membership / playing options.

There is capacity in the current infra-structure to meet traditional golf needs. New participation is likely to be from beginners and females, with particular implications for the type of facilities required in the future, in terms of practice and beginner facilities over more conventional golf offers.

## Key Issues and Options

### Introduction

The ANOG approach requires a drawing together of the key issues which have arisen from the assessment, these are set out below along with a summary of the position in-line with the ANOG framework.

1. Standard golf course provision in Bassetlaw is higher than average and the 20/30-minute catchments are also well provided for. All types of access to courses are available – pay and play, both ‘public’ and commercial, and private clubs, and even at private facilities, green fees are reasonable in most cases.
2. There are no waiting lists or joining fees at present, and most clubs are actively seeking new members/players, with the existence of membership deals and promotions. Comparison to membership benchmarks illustrates that all course other than Worksop have capacity.
3. Existing courses in Bassetlaw should be retained and protected for the contribution they make to meeting existing demand for regular play for members and experienced casual golfers alike.
4. The current level of provision of standard 18-hole courses should therefore be retained to meet current need.
5. There are however no par 3 courses which might be considered more suitable for casual players or beginner, and the only GDRs are at existing clubs, and likely to be available more for existing members/players at that course than casual access.
6. It is likely that population change will result in only a limited increase in participation. In the future regular golfers can be absorbed in the current capacity without the need for new courses, which appears to be within their capacity. It is estimated that there are sufficient

standard courses in number, with capacity, to meet current and anticipated future demand, but that the type and nature of future facilities might be considered.

7. Despite the apparent adequacy of standard 18-hole courses and GDRs in the area, there is a poor supply of par 3 courses. It is likely that EG initiatives to attract more juniors, especially females into the game, are being encouraged at the existing members courses, but this would have a limited impact within the scope of the traditional members club.
8. Any additional demand in the future is therefore likely to occur mainly from beginners, juniors and others new to the game, particularly women and girls, and this will have implications for the types of facility that are required in the future, at least in the initial stages. There is also evidence that future development in golf facilities will need to take into account social factors such as the availability of time and money, and the need for smaller, shorter courses which are more flexible in their use.
9. This type of demand is not being met at present. There is therefore a case for the development in the future on a pay and play basis of a short/par 3 and a starter/improvers course (say a short 9 hole beginners course together with a longer improvers course of 9 holes) catering for new/improving golfers, and relevant other practice and coaching facilities, including a floodlit GDR, possibly as part of the restructuring of the existing public course at Kilton Forest.
10. Given the supply and demand analysis and shortfall in practice facilities, any loss in practice facilities should be mitigated for. Potential loss of the practice area at Retford GC should be re-provided as part of the future course planning at Retford.
11. Any loss of golf provision should be mitigated for, with investment targeted at Kilton Forest, given this is the district-wide public course, to provide enhanced teaching and practice facilities.

**Golf Action Plan**

Link to Strategic Objectives	Recommendation	Justification	Relevant Sites and Key Actions	Lead Partner	Measures of Success
<b>SO1, SO2 and SO4 (Protect and Enhance)</b>	1 Protect all golf sites across the district.  Seek investment to protect access and usage.	To maintain the ratios of provision all courses should be protected unless assessment under NPPF 99 is undertaken to justify any change  Loss of these facilities would impact on delivery of golf across the district.  Any loss of golf provision should be mitigated for, with investment targeted at Kilton Forest, given this is the district-wide public course, to provide enhanced teaching and practice facilities.  Given the supply and demand analysis and shortfall in practice facilities, any loss in practice facilities should be mitigated for. Potential loss of the practice area at Retford GC should be re-provided as part of the future course planning at Retford.	All courses	Bassetlaw Planning / Leisure  England Golf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Courses to be maintained, protected and enhanced through investment.</li> </ul>
<b>SO9 and SO10 (Provide and Enhance)</b>	2 Consider the future development of golf at Kilton Forest in the context of needs across the district	Demand for practice facilities is currently not being met across the district.  There is therefore a case for the development in the future of practice and coaching facilities, including a floodlit GDR, possibly as part of the restructuring of the existing public course at Kilton Forest.	Kilton Forest Golf Course	Bassetlaw Planning / Leisure  BPL  England Golf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kilton Forest Feasibility Study completed and course re-developed to meet future golf needs</li> </ul>

## 12.0 Conclusion and Way Forward

### Introduction

Given the potential level of funding required, it is likely that investment will only be achieved through a combination of opportunities and funding sources as well as partnership opportunities.

Local authority finances remain under pressure and previous major national funding programmes are no longer available. Some funding opportunities, however, still remain. While education capital funding programmes will continue to change over time, there will still be a need for investment to take place on school sites during the strategy period and opportunities for joint projects may arise.

The council will seek to use assets innovatively and work on a multi-agency approach to address the facility requirements in the strategy.

The main funding delivery mechanisms for Bassetlaw District Council and others in delivering this strategy are:

- Planning contributions – new development and population growth will generate demand for additional indoor and outdoor sports facilities. All new developments should contribute towards the provision of outdoor and indoor sports, whether through the provision of new facilities or the improvement of existing. The Local Plan policy sets out how this will be achieved across the district.
- Capital Grant funding: From schools and national agencies such as Sport England
- National Governing Body (NGB) support
- Council funding: capital funding allocated to deliver facilities within the council's ownership, and potentially the use of capital receipts from the sale of existing assets

Education and Further Education sector: while the previous sources of funding (including BSF and Primary Schools Programme) have changed and the scale of the education capital programmes have been reduced, the education sector is still likely to be a key funding stream.

The Council will have to establish its approach to securing contributions, either through a CIL mechanism or s106 contributions. This report provides the background and evidence to develop robust policy. Set out below is the suggested approach.

## Local Plan Policy

### Local Plan Policy - Built Sports Facilities

#### *Introduction*

The **Bassetlaw Council Built Sports Facility Study Assessment Report and Action Plan (August 2021)** provides a robust evidence base, which sets out the current and future demand for built sports facilities across the district. This is the key evidence base and complements the Council's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS), which sets out current and future playing field needs.

#### *Policy*

In order to provide appropriate indoor / built sports facilities for the communities of Bassetlaw, the Council will:

#### **1. Protect existing indoor / built sports facilities, unless:**

- a.) They are proven to be surplus to need as outlined in the Built Sports Facility Study (or an updated needs assessment); or
- b.) Improved alternative provision will be created in an appropriate catchment location related to the former provision.

And in all cases:

- c.) The proposal would not result in the loss of a facility important for its amenity or contribution to the character of the area in general.

*Improved alternative provision means a full quantity and quality replacement to accord with paragraph 98 and 99 of the NPPF and Sport England policy, unless alternative (different type of) provision can be demonstrated to better meet future sport and physical activity needs.*

#### **2. Support new indoor / built sports facilities where:**

- a.) They are evidenced by need as outlined in the Built Sports Facility Study (or an updated needs assessment) and will meet an identified gap in provision.
- b.) They are listed in the action plan in the Built Sports Facility Study and subject to the recommendations in the Action Plan.
- c.) The proposed facilities are of a type and scale appropriate to the size of the need and catchment identified.
- d.) They are located to maximise usage, are publicly accessible with community use policies built in as part of the development proposals; and
- e.) They are readily accessible by public transport, walking and cycling.

**3. Ensure that residential developments contribute, through land assembly and/or financial contributions, to new or improved indoor / built sports facilities where development will increase demand and/or there is a recognised shortage in the locality that would be exacerbated by the increase in demand arising from the development.**

**Justification:**

- a.) Publicly accessible built / indoor sports facilities have a vital role to play in helping to promote more healthy lifestyles.
- b.) The existing built / indoor sports facilities of the district represent important assets serving the communities in which they are located and in some instances the wider district.
- c.) Any proposal affecting an indoor / built sports facility will be assessed in relation to the Built Sports Facility Study or subsequently adopted Strategies.

The type and scale of development will depend upon a number of factors:

- The application of the Sport England Sports Facility Calculator (SfC), which should be used as the starting point for any contributions.
- The supply and demand factors relevant at the time of the development. It is understood that the supply and demand picture will evolve over time. The Built Sports Facility Study should provide the baseline and starting point for consideration of investment needs.
- Following on from the above, assessment of whether existing sports facilities have the capacity to meet the demand identified from development. If not, whether investment and enhancement in existing facilities will enable them to meet some or all of the demand generated or whether new provision is required.

In terms of the development of appropriate facilities, this will be determined through evidence from the Built Sports Facility Study, other work with the community and sports governing bodies and clubs, to determine particular community's needs at the time of development.

### **Worked Example – Impact of development in Retford on swimming needs**

*Growth will impact on swimming needs both in terms of the existing supply, which will become busier and potentially the need for additional pool provision. The Built Sports Facility Study concludes that the main district swimming pools are already full and in need of investment to meet future needs. Therefore, whilst the overall supply of swimming pools is currently sufficient to meet demand, the finding from the Study is that the distribution of demand is such that both Retford and Worksop are busy swimming pool sites. New demand from growth and or any reduction in supply will increase this used capacity and increase the costs of managing and maintaining the centres.*

*The exact needs and level of contributions should be assessed at the time of development and assessed against the supply and demand position at the time. Investment should be:*

- *Directly related to the development*
- *Necessary to make it acceptable in planning terms*
- *Fair and reasonable in scale.*

*Using the example of the proposed Bassetlaw Garden Village, which is located to the south-west of Retford. The location is within the drive time catchment area of Retford Leisure Centre.*

*The development of 501 units (applying an occupancy rate) over the Local Plan period, generates a demand for 11 sq. metres of water, using the Sport England Facility Calculator (SFC), this equates to a contribution of circa £220,000. The SFC should be applied at the time.*

*The Retford Leisure Centre has a 25m x 13m six lane main pool (313 sq. metres of water) and a 13m x 6m teaching/learner pool (75 sq. metres of water). The Sport England 2020 Bassetlaw National Run report for swimming pools, identified that 74% of the swimming pools capacity is used at peak times. This is above the 70% comfort level.*

*The SFC calculation is that the Bassetlaw Garden Village development of 501 units over the plan period would generate 70 visits in the weekly peak period and a total of 111 visits over the whole week. So, this level of demand could potentially be accommodated in theory by Retford Leisure Centre, however it will impact further on capacity (at an already full site) and contributions should therefore be sought in line with the Sports Facility Calculator figure, to recognise this.*

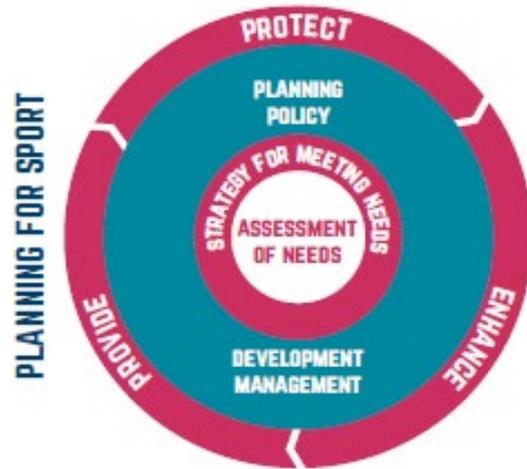
*The same process should be followed for sports halls.*

## Built Sports Facility Study

The table overleaf sets out the evidence base and Local Plan requirements for each facility type, taken from the Built Sports Facility Study Assessment Report and Action Plan.

It provides the starting point for the consideration of future needs and contributions from developments towards the built facility infra-structure across the district.

The recommendations are categorised under the headings of *'Protect'*, *'Enhance'* and *'Provide'*, as recommended by Sport England in the ANOG guidance



Facility Type	Current Demand	Policy	Future Demand	Implications
<b>Swimming Pools</b>	<p>1. Supply and demand of swimming provision is currently in balance across Bassetlaw. This is dependent on access to all current pools, which must be protected to maintain this balance.</p> <p>2. Access to school pool sites will remain important to the supply and demand balance.</p> <p>3. Pools are well located, serving distinct catchments to meet resident needs. The location of the public swimming pool sites provide good accessibility for Bassetlaw residents. Current locations should be maintained.</p>	<p>4. Protect against the loss of any swimming pool sites unless replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location.</p> <p>5. Protect existing access to swimming pools on education sites. Seek investment to enhance access and usage.</p>	<p>6. The main swimming pools are already full and in need of investment to meet future needs.</p> <p>7. Growth will impact on swimming needs both in terms of the existing supply, which will become busier and potentially the need for additional pool provision in the Worksop area, which is the area of highest demand.</p> <p>8. For Bircotes to meet future needs on-site and in the wider catchment (to serve growth in Haworth), investment will be required to enhance or re-provide.</p>	<p>9. Supply and demand illustrates that there will be impacts of the projected growth that will require financial contributions. This will be exacerbated if the supply changes i.e. any of the current pools close.</p> <p>10. Investment will therefore be sought to the swimming pool infrastructure from developments, in-line with Local Plan policy 3 and following application of the worked example at the time of development.</p> <p>11. Investment will be sought to improve the quality and capacity at the key pool sites in line with the application of Sport England's Sports Facility Calculator tool or towards new swimming pool development if justified at the time.</p>
<b>Sports Halls</b>	<p>12. Supply and demand is in balance. All sports hall sites are well used and well located to meet</p>	<p>16. Protect against the loss of any sports hall sites unless replaced by equivalent or better</p>	<p>19. The assessment provides an indication that the main sports hall sites are already full and</p>	<p>21. Supply and demand clearly illustrates that there will be impacts of the projected growth that</p>

Facility Type	Current Demand	Policy	Future Demand	Implications
	<p>current and future demands across Bassetlaw.</p> <p>13. The impact of any closures alongside growth would impact on the supply and demand balance.</p> <p>14. Existing school sites are central to the provision for hall sports in Bassetlaw and maintaining the supply and demand balance.</p> <p>15. Loss of access to education provision would impact on overall supply and demand balance.</p>	<p>provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location.</p> <p>17. Protect existing access to sports hall on education sites. Seek investment to enhance access and usage.</p> <p>18. Ensure any new education provision is designed to be community accessible and subject to a community use agreement (CUA).</p>	<p>in need of investment to meet future needs.</p> <p>20. Growth will therefore impact on sports hall needs both in terms of the existing supply, which will become busier and potentially the need for additional small-scale provision in the areas of highest growth.</p>	<p>will require financial contributions.</p> <p>22. This will be exacerbated if the supply changes i.e. any of the current sports halls close.</p> <p>23. Any new provision should focus on smaller flexible spaces to deliver health and physical activity programmes, this could be delivered on or off-site, subject to needs at the time.</p> <p>24. Sports halls provision as part of new school developments should be designed to meet community needs and subject to CUAs.</p>
<b>Health and Fitness</b>	<p>25. There is a good spread of health and fitness provision across Bassetlaw with provision in the two main settlements of Retford and Worksop. The main population centres therefore appear to have good access.</p>	<p>27. Resist the loss of any health and fitness sites.</p> <p>28. All sites are well used and well located to meet current and future demands across Bassetlaw.</p>	<p>30. There will be a need is to maintain the quality of the public leisure centre health and fitness offer. The size and scale of the health and fitness offer will be a key aspect of any future feasibility into the consideration of Bircotes.</p>	<p>31. Seek investment to the health and fitness infrastructure from developments.</p>

Facility Type	Current Demand	Policy	Future Demand	Implications
	<p>26. Supply is currently matching demand. To maintain the current health and fitness offer at the public leisure centres will be important, keeping up with trends; the moves to greater demand for strength and conditioning, cross-training, free weights, may mean different gym configurations and use of space.</p>	<p>29. The impact of any closures alongside growth would impact on the supply and demand balance.</p>		
<p><b>Studios</b></p>	<p>32. This is a good level of dedicated studio provision across the district. Similarly, flexible spaces for exercise and physical activity classes are well provided for via dance studios, community centres and village halls, which form an important network across the district.</p> <p>33. There is a good spread of studio provision across Bassetlaw with provision in the two main settlements of Retford and Worksop. The main</p>	<p>34. Resist the loss of any studio sites.</p> <p>35. All sites are well used and well located to meet current and future demands across Bassetlaw.</p> <p>36. The impact of any closures alongside growth would impact on the supply and demand balance.</p>	<p>37. There will be a future need to maintain the quality of the public leisure centre studios and invest at Retford and Bircotes to raise the quality to that of Worksop.</p> <p>38. Growth will generate the demand for small indoor flexible spaces to generate studio activity in community settings.</p>	<p>39. Seek investment to the studio infra-structure from developments.</p> <p>40. Any new provision should focus on smaller flexible spaces to deliver health and physical activity programmes.</p>

Facility Type	Current Demand	Policy	Future Demand	Implications
	population centres therefore appear to have good access.			
<b>Athletics</b>	<p>41. Bassetlaw is an important area for Athletics by England Athletics (EA), with two good track and field clubs.</p> <p>42. There is a strong athletics infra-structure across the district however the facility provision does not match this.</p> <p>43. Despite the lack of good quality facility provision, athletics in Bassetlaw is strong, with two well established clubs, with thriving membership levels.</p>	<p>44. Oaklands is an important community athletics facility and should be protected and enhanced to maximise the community benefit of the site.</p> <p>45. Feasibility work should be undertaken and a site identified for a new floodlit 6-lane synthetic athletics track, to meet the training and competition needs of the district and its clubs.</p>	<p>46. Gap in provision identified, which will be exacerbated as population grows.</p> <p>47. England Athletics recommend that a good case can be made for a basic 400m floodlit training facility or mini 200m track in the Worksop / Retford area.</p> <p>48. Worksop Athletics club have a long-term aspiration to develop a track.</p>	<p>49. Athletics feasibility study completed. business case and project delivery schedule agreed.</p> <p>50. Funding sought for district-wide facility to meet identified gap in provision.</p> <p>51. Any study should be future proofed to enable a phased development with the capability of developing the full athletics infra-structure in the long-term including potentially 8-lanes, stand, clubhouse and indoor provision.</p> <p>52. New developments including the Garden Village should consider the potential role of athletics.</p>
<b>Squash</b>	<p>53. There is currently a good level of squash court supply in-line with England Squash ratios although the stock is</p>	<p>56. Protect all squash sites across the district.</p>	<p>59. England Squash view Bassetlaw as a key area for future delivery and are confident that their campaigns, programmes</p>	<p>60. Investment will therefore be required into existing facilities to ensure the ratios are maintained and programmes can be</p>

Facility Type	Current Demand	Policy	Future Demand	Implications
	<p>aging and needs to be protected and invested in to maintain the current levels of provision.</p> <p>54. There is a good spread of courts across Bassetlaw with provision in the two main settlements of Retford and Worksop.</p> <p>55. The main population centres therefore appear to have access to courts. Providing continued pay and play access will however remain important.</p>	<p>57. Seek investment to protect access and usage.</p> <p>58. Ensure any changes in supply seek to protect pay and play access to squash across the district.</p>	<p>and partnerships can maintain and improve participation numbers and halt previous declines.</p>	<p>delivered, maintaining a public offer will be particularly important.</p> <p>61. Any changes in provision must be justified in line with NPPF paragraph 99 and Local Plan policy.</p>
<b>Gymnastics</b>	<p>62. There is a good spread of dedicated gymnastic club provision across Bassetlaw with provision in the two main settlements of Retford and Worksop.</p>	<p>63. Protect the 3-dedicated gymnastic sites.</p>	<p>64. The strong participation base is reflected in the demand for more gymnastics opportunities, with the clubs in Bassetlaw, with three good clubs with waiting lists. This demand will increase with growth.</p>	<p>65. Bassetlaw is already in a strong position with all three clubs enjoying access to dedicated provision. The existing gymnastics centres are meeting demand, however waiting lists remain and therefore any proposals for enhancement or expansion of these centres, should be supported in-line with NGB priorities.</p>

Facility Type	Current Demand	Policy	Future Demand	Implications
				66. Seek investment in the sites to protect access and usage.
<b>Golf</b>	<p>67. Existing courses in Bassetlaw should be retained and protected for the contribution they make to meeting existing demand for regular play for members and experienced casual golfers alike.</p> <p>68. The current level of provision of standard 18-hole courses should be retained to meet current need.</p> <p>69. There are however no par 3 courses which might be considered more suitable for casual players or beginner, and the only Golf Driving Ranges (GDR) are at existing clubs, and likely to be available more for existing members/players at that course than casual access.</p>	<p>70. Protect all golf sites across the district.</p> <p>71. Seek investment to protect access and usage.</p>	<p>72. It is likely that population change will result in only a limited increase in participation. In the future regular golfers can be absorbed in the current capacity without the need for new courses, which appears to be within their capacity.</p> <p>73. It is estimated that there are sufficient standard courses in number, with capacity, to meet current and anticipated future demand, but that the type and nature of future facilities might be considered.</p> <p>74. Any additional demand in the future is likely to occur mainly from beginners, juniors and others new to the game.</p> <p>75.</p> <p>76.</p>	<p>77. The type of future demand described is not being met at present. There is therefore a case for the development in the future on a pay and play basis of a short/par 3 and a starter/improvers course, catering for new/improving golfers, and relevant other practice and coaching facilities, including a floodlit GDR, possibly as part of the restructuring of the existing public course at Kilton Forest.</p> <p>78.</p> <p>79. Given the supply and demand analysis and shortfall in practice facilities, any loss in practice facilities should be mitigated for. Potential loss of the practice area at Retford GC should be re-provided as part of the future course planning at Retford.</p>

Facility Type	Current Demand	Policy	Future Demand	Implications
				80. 81. Any loss of golf provision should be mitigated for, with investment targeted at Kilton Forest, given this is the district-wide public course, to provide enhanced teaching and practice facilities, in line with needs.
<b>Indoor Tennis</b>	82. There is no dedicated indoor tennis centre in Bassetlaw.  83. Participation in tennis is on the increase after a period of decline. Membership numbers are average across the district. Club consultation through the PPS did not reveal any aspiration for indoor provision.	84. Protect the North Notts Arena for Indoor Tennis. Seek investment in the site to protect access and usage.	85. Whilst the LTA modelling identifies potential demand for indoor provision, given the capacity issues and work required to further develop the participation infra-structure it is recommended that the provision of indoor tennis is considered as a longer-term objective.  86. As part of any future consideration attention should be given, in partnership with clubs and the LTA, to which indoor tennis models, if any, are appropriate in Bassetlaw.	87. Work alongside the LTA to explore the LTA's desire to provide an indoor tennis facility in Bassetlaw.
<b>Indoor Bowls</b>	88. Bassetlaw has one indoor bowls centre, with 7 rinks at the North Notts	90. Protect the North Notts Arena for Indoor Bowls.	92. There is capacity at the North Notts Arena facility	93. The Council, North Notts Arena and the Club should work with the

## Built Sports Facility Study



Facility Type	Current Demand	Policy	Future Demand	Implications
	<p>Community Arena in Worksop.</p> <p>89. The facility serves a distinct catchment and is therefore an important provision.</p>	<p>91. Seek investment in the site to protect access and usage.</p>	<p>to generate greater usage and throughput.</p>	<p>EIBA to ensure the Worksop facility is protected and enhanced to enable participation to grow and protect the long-term sustainability of the site.</p>

## New Facilities

In addition to the overarching strategy principles outlined earlier in this section, the following should be considered when providing any new facilities (or new sites to facilitate club relocation).

- **Location** - When planning new facilities, the existing sporting infrastructure should be taken into account.
- **Community Use** – any new provision should seek to maximise usage through community use agreements, this is particularly relevant in relation to proposed new education sites. With supply and demand generally in balanced new education provision should be accessible out of hours to the wider community, in line with Sport England community use principles.
- **Quality** - Any new pitch provision should meet with the design and quality standards guidance provided by Sport England and/or the relevant NGB (detailed below).
- The following general criteria must also be met:
  - A high standard of design, construction and maintenance appropriate to the standard of play
  - Adequate changing facilities that: are flexible, fit for a variety of purposes;
  - fully comply with the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act;
  - provide for a number of different groups to use the facility at the same time, in safety and comfort; and
  - meet current standards - Sport England & NGB guidelines
  - Managed community access
  - Accessible by public transport and by car
  - Sufficient car parking
  - Size of facilities comply with NGB specification
  - Security of tenure (at least 25 years) if a club is to be based at the site.

All new and enhanced sports facilities must be designed in accordance with the relevant Sport England and (where applicable) National Governing Body (NGB) design guidance in order to ensure that the facilities are fit for purpose and of a suitable quality.

Sport England's web site [www.sportengland.org](http://www.sportengland.org) contains a range of current guidance documents which provide detailed specifications and information regarding the design of sporting and ancillary facilities.

In terms of new provision the assessment identifies outdoor athletics as the key need in terms of site allocation in the context of the Local Plan. This should be located to serve the main settlements of Worksop and Retford. Consideration should be given to the potential location on the Garden Village site, alongside the proposed school provision.

### **Evaluating the Impact of New Development**

Sport England has developed tools for determining the impact of new development on demand for indoor sports facilities and they should be used to guide the investment required in facilities from new development.

#### **Sport England Facility Calculator**

The Sports Facility Calculator considers the needs for sports halls and swimming pools and indicates how much demand will be created by a new development and the cost associated with this.

As in the Playing Pitch Calculator, the Sports Facility Calculator does not take into account the current levels of unmet demand in the area and so the resulting figures are then considered in the context of the strategic findings of the assessment in order to determine the ability of the existing facilities to sustain the additional demand and any requirements for new and / or improved provision. The actions that should be taken to address any identified needs should therefore be guided by the findings of this strategy.

Example for implementation are set out in previous sections, sports halls and swimming pools and in the Local Plan policy example above.

#### **Monitoring and Review**

The evolving context of participation in sport and active recreation means that monitoring and review of the strategy is as important as the initial preparation of the document to ensure it remains sufficiently robust.

Reflecting the importance of this phase of work, monitoring of the strategy is a key component of both the Assessing Needs and Opportunities guidance (ANOG) and the Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance (Sport England).

The Action Plans in each section should be used as the basis for monitoring and review.

The steering group are committed to keeping the strategy alive through:

- Monitoring the delivery of the recommendations and actions and identifying any changes that are required to the priority afforded to each action;
- Recording changes to the facility stock and evaluating the impact of this on the supply and demand information;
- Assessing the impact of changes to participation and changing trends on the amount and type of facilities required;
- Assessing the impact of demographic changes and any changes to forecasted plans for housing growth;
- Ongoing consultation to understand the evolving needs of clubs and governing bodies, and any requirements for new or improved facilities in the area;
- Analysis of funding sources and new funding opportunities for the provision/improvement of sports facilities;
- Reviewing growth of emerging sports, their participation rates, facilities available for them and likely facilities necessary for their support and development; and
- Ensuring that the strategy continues to provide an up to date and robust evidence base to underpin CIL / S106 obligations.

The working group will continue to meet to review progress by all key partners on the strategy delivery and to discuss any issues arising.