

Sport and Recreation Facilities Improvement Plan 2014 to 2021



Newark and Sherwood District Council

**Sport and Recreation Facilities
Improvement Plan
2014 to 2021**

**Strategy and Implementation Plan
Revised September 2014**

CONTENTS

SECTION	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
Section 1	Foreword	3
Section 2	Executive Summary	4
Section 3	Introduction, Scope and Methodology	10
Section 4	Profile of Newark and Sherwood	12
Section 5	Policy Context	29
Section 6	Consultation	35
Section 7	Audit of Facilities	44
Section 8	Strategic Policy Options	68
Section 9	Headline Action Plan	70
Section 10	Monitoring and Review	73
Section 11	Acknowledgements	73
Section 12	Appendices	74
	- Appendix 1: Swimming Pools FPM	
	- Appendix 2: Sports Halls FPM	

SECTION 1 - FOREWORD

In 2008 Newark and Sherwood District Council, working in partnership with Sport England, started the process of developing a strategic plan for the development and improvement of sporting facilities and associated infrastructure within the District. This resultant strategy has utilised Sport England's Planning Toolkit, a highly developed and rigorous framework designed to assist Local Authorities in the development of robust sports facility strategies which identify key priorities based on evidence of need.

The announcement that the District had been designated as a new Growth Point was confirmed in the Regional Plan in March 2009. The subsequent adoption of a Core Strategy and Allocations and Development Management DPD has presented a great opportunity for the District to plan the sporting facility requirements necessary to deliver high quality sporting infrastructure to meet both current needs and those of an expanding population that will emerge well beyond the initial timescale of this strategy.

The process has involved a comprehensive audit of current sporting facilities using the 'Active Places Power' database and analysis of current sports participation trends using the 'Active People' survey results. The use of such data has created a greater understanding of the sporting needs of our community which is imperative in order to provide the right facilities in the right places which are available at the right times. This will include the development of facilities in the areas of greatest need and make a positive contribution to increasing participation rates in sport and physical activity rates in Newark and Sherwood to ensure 'more people are more active more often'.

We have also engaged in detailed consultation with many key stakeholders and their role should not be understated given the significant contribution they make to the sporting offer within the District. Furthermore stakeholder support will become increasingly important in the future as partnerships will play a greater role in shaping and developing the sporting community in the years ahead.

In 2014 the Council undertook a review of the this strategy and commissioned a new Playing Pitch Strategy (primarily for outdoor team sports) and a Sport and Physical Activity Plan both of which should be interpreted as companion documents to this strategy. These three documents will enable the District Council to better understand the supply and demand opportunities and challenges associated with key sports in the District and will be an important source of evidence which will help inform future decision making specifically around investment priorities.

We look forward to the implementation of the key priorities identified within this strategy and the delivery of new, improved and vibrant sports facilities which are functional, flexible and sustainable and will serve our community for many years to come and of which we can be collectively and justifiably proud.

Councillor Tony Roberts MBE
Chairman – Leisure and Environment Committee

SECTION 2 – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2008 Newark and Sherwood District Council started working with Sport England on a pilot project as part of the Local Sport and Recreation Support Programme. The Sport and Recreation Facilities Improvement Plan 2010 to 2021 is the outcome of this work.

The strategic vision of the strategy is:-

to establish a coherent infrastructure of built facilities for sport and active recreation that meets the current and future needs of its growing population and is accessible and attractive to all sectors of the community in Newark and Sherwood District.

The purpose of this strategy is to establish a set of guiding priorities for the development of sporting facilities in Newark and Sherwood. The scope of the strategy addresses issues of provision of the built facilities including leisure centres with swimming pools and sports hall, athletics facilities, artificial grass pitches, tennis, netball, squash, indoor bowls, multi use games areas (MUGAs) and sports pavilions and changing facilities that support multi pitch sites.

All sports facility providers have been included in the scope including private, public and voluntary sector and the strategy does take into account facilities in neighbouring authorities. The strategy should be read in conjunction with the District Playing Pitch Strategy which specifically considers facility provision and supply and demand issues across 8 sports including football, cricket, rugby, hockey, bowls, netball, tennis and athletics.

The strategy is the culmination of a series of research exercises using the Sport England Facilities Improvement Service and the Planning Toolkit. This involved interrogation of the Active Places Power and Active People databases to gather up to date information about existing facility provision and sports and physical activity participation trends and the scenario testing swimming pools and sports hall provision based on current facilities and population growth forecasts linked to the District's Local Development Framework.

Consultation on the original strategy included presentations to key partners and wider community consultation with comments and feedback informing the final version of the strategy although it is appropriate to emphasise that the strategy is emergent in that it will be subject to regular review and adjustment going forward.

The strategy was reviewed and refreshed in September 2014 in order to ensure its currency and 'fitness for purpose' in accordance with Sport England requirements. The review included the updating of the Sports Halls and Swimming Pools Facility Planning Models (FPM's) to take account of changes in facility provision, population growth, sport and physical activity participation rates and policy changes at National, Regional and Local levels.

About Newark and Sherwood

Newark and Sherwood is the largest district in Nottinghamshire with 65,000 hectares (one third of the County). The resident population in Newark & Sherwood is recorded as 115,761 (ONS June 2012 mid-year figures for the district). By 2021, the District's population is projected to increase by 16,739 (equivalent to a percentage of 12.63%) to 132,500.

The District's flagship centre, the Grove Leisure Centre, is nearing the end of its practical lifespan and plans are advanced in respect of the development of a new facility on land recently acquired by the District Council. It is anticipated that the new facility will be fully commissioned and operational by February 2016. When the new facility is open the Grove Leisure Centre will be decommissioned and demolished in its entirety.

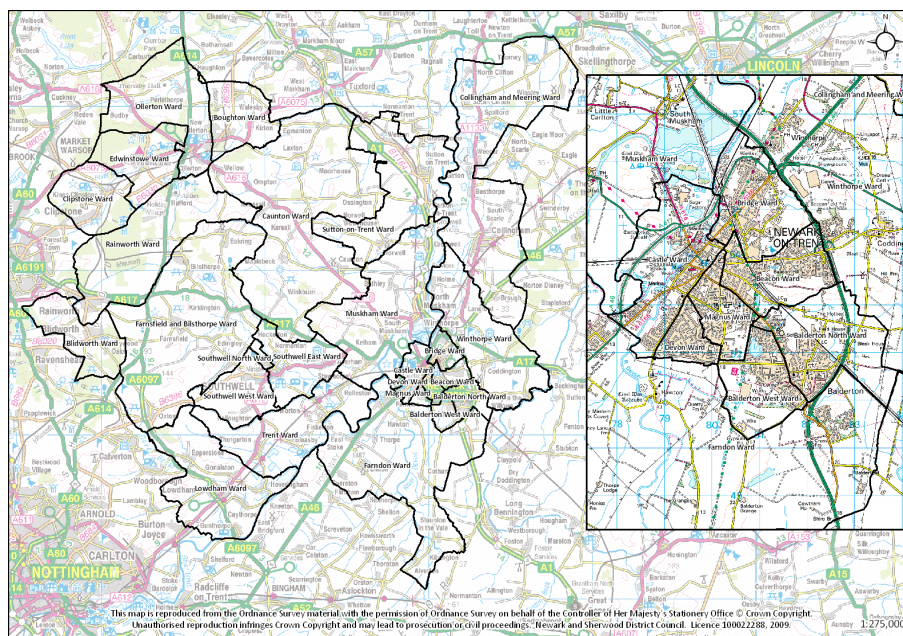
The anticipated population growth, increasing participation rates in combination with aging built facilities necessitates a strategic review of existing and future provision of built sport and recreation facilities in Newark and Sherwood District.

The Council's Local Development Framework sets out that the vast majority of new housing development will be focused in and around Newark, within the Eastern Area. These will be focused in and around three strategic urban extensions, which aim to create sustainable communities including housing and community facilities. Such developments are likely to contribute further to future demand for sporting infrastructure within the Eastern area.

Expansion will occur at:

- *Fernwood* with an additional 950 homes being built as phase one of a larger development proposal of approximately 3,200 dwellings (subject to planning approval).
- *Land South of Newark* where plans are to provide 3,000+ houses
- *Land East of Newark* (south of Clay Lane) where 1,000+ houses are planned.

Housing numbers planned for the Central and Western areas are less substantial, 992 for the Central area and 3,045 for the Western area (1,000 new houses of which are in Ollerton & Boughton).



Map 1: Newark and Sherwood District Ward Boundaries with Newark (inset)

Population

Newark and Sherwood has marginally fewer males (49%) than females (51%) compared with the national average. Of more significance is that there is a higher proportion of 50+ year olds (40%), especially males, fewer 15-19 year olds (6%) and significantly fewer 20-29 year olds (10%). The 40 – 65 year old group represents 37% of the District's population. Consideration therefore needs to be given to servicing the medium and longer-term needs of the current 40-65 year olds in particular, taking account of the potentially lower than average demand from the current 20 -29 year old group in the short, medium and longer-term.

Index of Multiple Deprivation Profile

The District has an indices of deprivation (2011) average score ranking of 147th in England (where 1 is most deprived and 354 is least deprived). It has 6 wards in the bottom quintile for levels of deprivation. Three of these wards are clustered around Newark and three are located in the former mining areas in the north western part of the District. These small 'pockets' of deprivation are significant for residents in those areas and are the focus for several interventions including sport and health related activities and programmes.

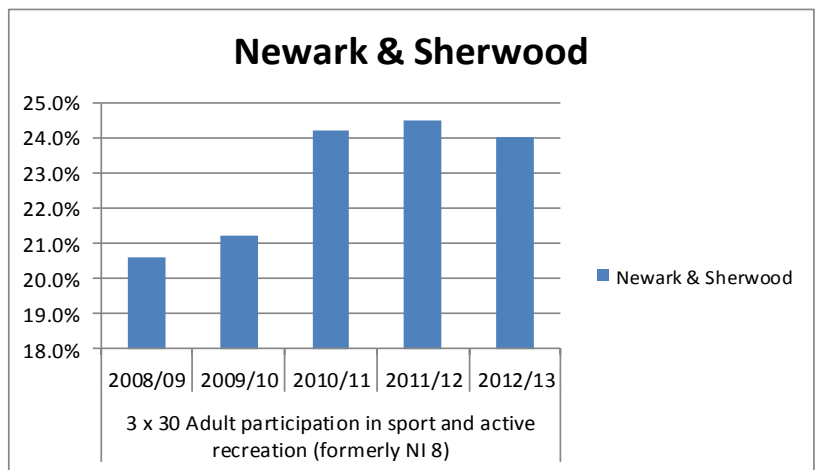
Health Profile

The 2012 the East Midlands Public Health Observatory (EMPHO) Health Profile for the area shows that, in comparison to the national average, life expectancy is six months shorter for males (78.0 years) and about 1 month longer for females (82.7 years). There is considerable variation across the District, however, life expectancy is 8.7 years lower for men and 6.3 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Newark and Sherwood than in the least deprived areas. Approximately 21% of the population lives with a long-term illness (e.g. diabetes). This is higher than the England average and is strongly correlated with the old mining communities in the north-west of the area.

Participation in Physical Activity and Sport

According to Active People 7 survey results participation in physical activity and sport (3 x 30 minutes of moderately intense activity per week) is 24.0% which is slightly below regional and national averages of 24.5% and 24.7% respectively. Participation in the District is marginally higher amongst females than males despite the fairly even gender split of the population with 24.7% of females compared to 23.8% males. In respect of other key performance indicators, Adult Volunteering for one hour per week was significantly higher in the District with 9.7% compared to 7% in the East Midlands and 6% nationally.

		Newark & Sherwood
3 x 30 Adult participation in sport and active recreation (formerly NI 8)	2008/09	20.6%
	2009/10	21.2%
	2010/11	24.2%
	2011/12	24.5%
	2012/13	24.0%

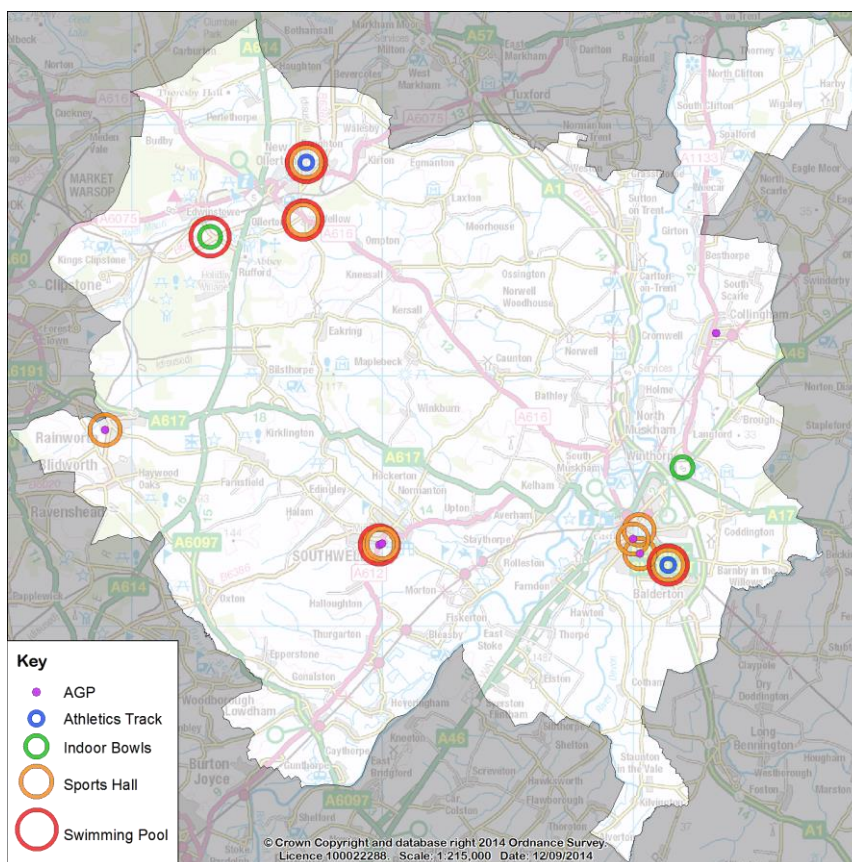


Graph 1:

APS 7 Active Participation Results (3 Times 30 Minutes – Formally NI8) Please note that the NI8 figure includes cycling and recreational walking

Current Levels of Provision

A comprehensive audit of provision in the District was conducted during the summer 2008. The Active Places Power database provides a ‘snap shot’ of facilities at any given time and is reliant of contributors keeping the data up to date and accurate. Active Places database was utilised to identify current levels of sporting provision in order to produce the Facilities Planning Model assessments for swimming pools and sports halls which form part of the 2014 strategy review.



Map 2: District map highlighting significant sport and recreation facilities.

In terms of direct provision and operations, Newark and Sherwood District Council currently operates four main leisure centres including Southwell Leisure Centre which is an independent charitable trust. Current usage rates at the four leisure centres shows a positive trend overall rising from 765,563 in 2008/09 to 1,071,930 in 2013/14 and averaging slightly over 1 million users a year for the past 6 years. (See page 36/37 for a breakdown of usage on a facility by facility).

In addition further research and analysis was undertaken to establish:

- identification of effective catchment areas;
- quantity of provision;
- assessment of levels and types of use;
- Assessment of quality of provision.

Summary of Audit Findings

In very general terms, there is an inadequate supply of built facilities (in adequate condition) used for sport and recreation in Newark and Sherwood, although the management, use and accessibility of these facilities are variable. Issues relating to the availability of specific types of facilities of sport and recreation facility tend to be localised.

Details of the current levels of provision are listed in Section 7 of this strategy although community consultation identified the following with regard to sport and recreation provision:

- Leisure facilities in the District are in need of upgrading
- A need for improved provision for swimming
- Areas to the east of Newark were generally better catered for than those to the west
- It may be better to invest in upgrading existing facilities rather than building new

Additional Community Sports Facilities

Where there is insufficient justification, based on projections alone, for new facilities, identified need is significant in justifying their development. The identified priority sport and recreation facility development needs in Newark and Sherwood based on consultation findings are (in no particular order) to:-

- Extend and develop the network of MUGAs,
- Provide additional full size Third Generation Artificial Grass Pitches (AGP) in the District one of which should be in Newark,
- Develop additional/replace sports hall(s) to cater for growing demand and address ageing facilities, particularly in Newark,
- Increase use (and accessibility) of facilities for sport and recreation in rural areas,
- Improve the quality of changing accommodation, particularly on multi-pitch sites,
- Improve provision of specific sports such as athletics, swimming, hockey etc.

The way that facilities are managed and operated also influences their use. Key issues that should be addressed in Newark and Sherwood include:-

- Establishing Community Access Agreements (CAA's) with owner operators to ensure good access to facility time,
- Establish a network of voluntary sports organisations such as Newark Sports Association which can take an active lead in the development and management of facilities,
- Improved programming of school facilities for increased community use,
- Development of specialist/elite performance facilities at appropriate locations within the District.

The principles by which sport and recreation facilities should be developed in the District are:-

- Improve the quality of existing facilities,
- Develop more and or improve existing facilities in rural villages,
- Improve sports facilities in Newark,
- Secure developer contributions towards community sporting infrastructure,
- Increase community use of school facilities, particularly primary schools,
- Provide more facilities closer to where people live, particularly free-play facilities,
- Develop a network of multi-sport hub sites at key locations across the District.

More detailed information is contained within Section 8, Strategic Policy Options and Section 9 Headline Action Plan

Delivery

The delivery of the priorities in the strategy will require creative, dynamic and innovative approaches which will involve developing relationships with current and new partners. This is particularly true in light of reducing local authority resources requiring external partnership funding to deliver the identified improvements. However, Growth Point and the Developer Contributions and obligations linked to planning permissions may provide suitable opportunities to increase the probability of new and improved facilities deliverability. However, it is important to note that the realisation of capital receipts is linked directly to individual building programmes and therefore definitive timescales cannot be specified. Accordingly this can create a level of uncertainty and is therefore an identifiable risk to infrastructure delivery capability and confidence.

Given the above, timescales cited in the Headline Action Plan are intended to give an indication of intention and should not be taken as absolutes as they are predicated on a number of factors which will influence the deliverability of the stated priority.

Monitoring and Review

This strategy and implementation plan will be subject to regular review by the Strategy Steering Group. This will take into account all relevant factors including delivery outputs against priorities, changes in national, regional and local strategic priorities, the availability of resources both internal and external and any associated movements in anticipated timescales. The strategy will also be subject to a major review every 3 years as growth point delivery is in progress, or for any other significant reason as determined by members or senior officers of the Authority.

SECTION 3 – INTRODUCTION

Newark and Sherwood is the largest district in Nottinghamshire with 65,000 hectares (one third of the County). The resident population in Newark & Sherwood is recorded as 115,761 (ONS June 2012 mid-year figures for the district). By 2021, the District's population is projected to increase by 16,739 (equivalent to a percentage of 12.63%) to 132,500.

Newark is designated as a Growth Point and the Council's Core Strategy recognises this in its proposals for an additional 9,913 dwellings in and around the town up to 2026. However for the period of this strategy approximately 7,000 dwellings are planned.

Sport England's Active People Survey 7 in 2011-13 showed that participation in sport and physical activity in the District (3 times 30 minutes per week) at 24.0% is 0.3% lower than the average for the East Midlands and 0.7% below the national level. However, the anticipated population growth, increasing participation rates in combination with ageing built facilities necessitates a strategic review of existing and future provision of built sport and recreation facilities in Newark and Sherwood District.

Newark and Sherwood District Council was identified in 2008 as a pilot authority to work with Sport England and Genesis consultants on the development of a Sports Facility Strategy utilising the Sport England Facilities Planning Model Toolkit.

This Strategy sets out the vision for Newark and Sherwood from 2010 to 2021 for the provision of built facilities used for sport and active recreation and was refreshed in 2014.

Strategy Vision

The overall vision for the strategy is:-

to establish a coherent infrastructure of built facilities for sport and active recreation that meets the current and future needs of its growing population and is accessible and attractive to all sectors of the community in Newark and Sherwood District.

Objectives

In order to deliver the vision the following objectives have been identified:

- To ensure that development of built sport and active recreation facilities in the District reflect the priorities of regional and local sport plans
- To provide high quality provision that meets the identified needs of the growing local community

Strategy Scope

This strategy covers a wide range and type of facilities, including sports halls, swimming pools, indoor bowls halls, synthetic and natural turf sports pitches and community halls. Facilities provided by the private sector, voluntary and other public providers as well as provision in neighbouring authorities have been considered.

Method

This strategy is founded on an evidence base comprising of a needs, supply and demand assessment of the provision of built facilities used for sport and recreation in the District. The assessment is consistent with the publication *Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17* (ODPM, 2002) and follows the five-step method advocated.

A number of consultation events were held with the voluntary and community sports sector as well as other key stakeholders including the Local Education Authority (LEA) in respect of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme now referred to as Priority Schools Building Programmes (PSBP), Academies, and National Governing Body of Sport (NGB's) network.

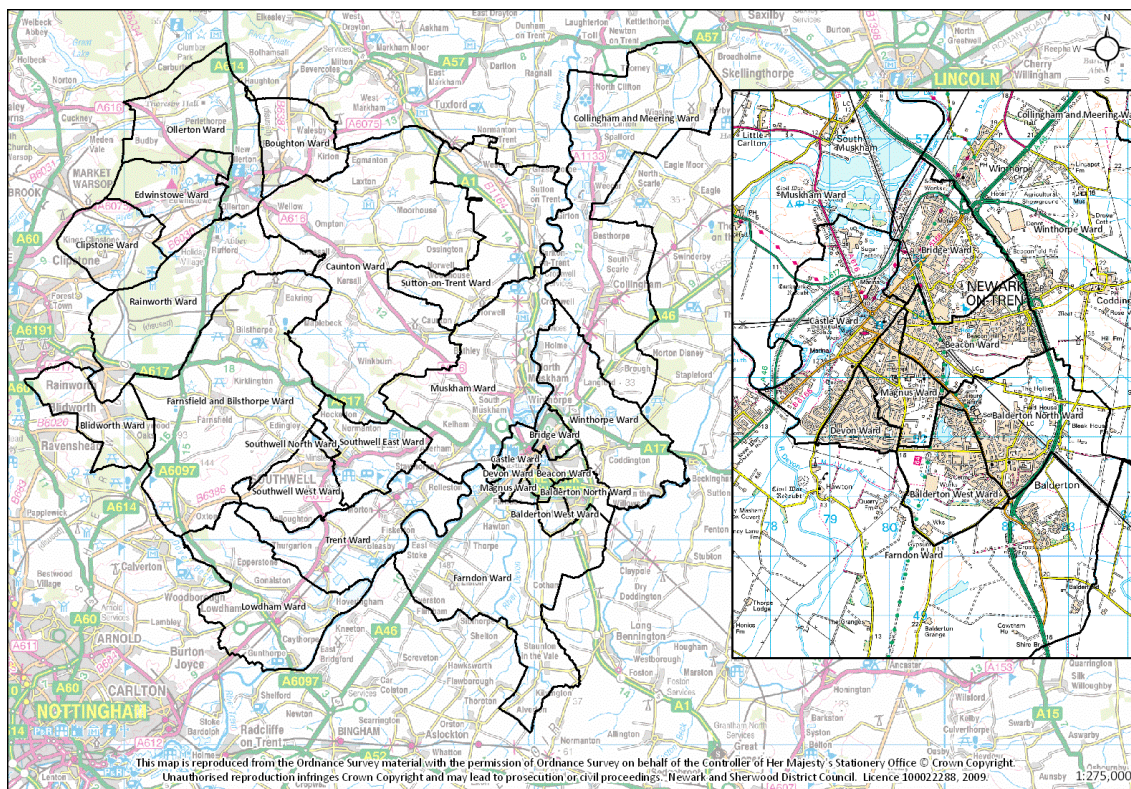
Planning Tools

Newark and Sherwood District Council holds substantial data about the quality and ownership of sport and recreation facilities in the district. It also utilises Sport England's Active Places Power database to provide a spatial evidence base and other 'planning tools' including the Facility Calculator and specifically the Facilities Planning Model (FPM) to determine detailed accessibility and the extent to which supply meets local demand for specific types of provision including sports halls and swimming pools (see appendix A and B).

As part of the review of the Facilities Improvement Plan the District Council reviewed its Playing Pitch Strategy in 2014 using the Sport England Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance and this Sport Facilities Improvement Plan has been developed as a companion document to this alongside the Sport and Physical Activity Development Plan 2014 *'Improving Access and Participation for All and Making Sport and Physical Activity a Part of Everyone's Life'*, in order that there is a comprehensive suite of development plans and strategies to improve sport an physical activity opportunities within the District.

SECTION 4 - PROFILE OF NEWARK AND SHERWOOD

The area comprises the historic market town of Newark and a number of surrounding smaller predominantly rural and 'former coalfield' towns and villages. The District comprises 26 wards of which 7 have a population of less than 3000.



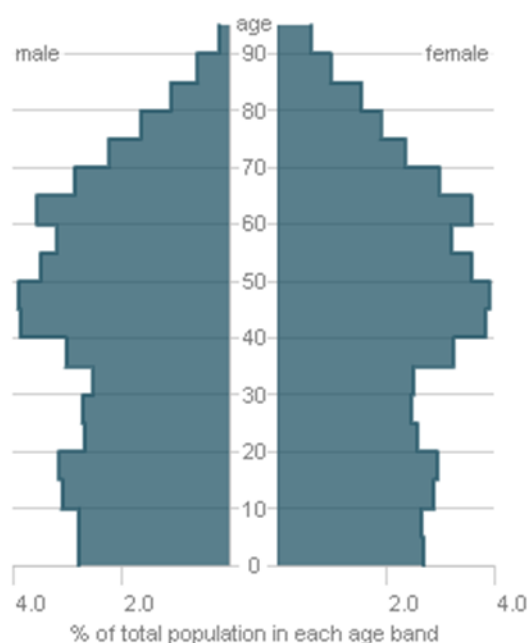
Map 1: Newark and Sherwood District Ward Boundaries with Newark (inset)

The mixture of rural and urban wards shows that accessibility must be a key consideration in the planning of sport and active recreation facilities in the District.

Population

Newark and Sherwood has marginally fewer males (49%) than females (51%) compared with the national average. Of more significance is that there is a higher proportion of 50+ year olds (40%), especially males, fewer 15-19 year olds (6%) and significantly fewer 20-29 year olds (10%). The 40 – 65 year old group represents 37% of the District's population. Consideration therefore needs to be given to servicing the medium and longer-term needs of the current 40-65 year olds in particular, taking account of the potentially lower than average demand from the current 20 -29 year old group in the short, medium and longer-term.

Fig 1 Population Pyramid



	Total (000's)
Under 15	19.5
15 - 39	32.0
40 - 65	43.0
66+	20.4
Total	114.8

The projected population growth of +8% by 2021 (ONS) may be skewed by the impact of Growth Point status which is likely to realise an additional 13,000 residents in the area between 2009 and 2021. The current economic climate may undermine a consistent rate of annual growth and the socio-economic and age profiles of new residents will be determined to a large extent by the type, size and ownership mix of dwellings to be delivered through the Growth Point.

Deprivation and Health

The District has an indices of deprivation (2011) average score ranking of 147th in England (where 1 is most deprived and 354 is least deprived). It has 6 wards in the bottom quintile for levels of deprivation. Three of these wards are clustered around Newark and three are located in the former mining areas in the north western part of the District. These small 'pockets' of deprivation are significant for residents in those areas and are the focus for several interventions including sporting and health related activities and programmes

The 2012 EMPHO Health Profile for the area shows that, in comparison to the national average, life expectancy is six months shorter for males (78.0 years) and about 1 month longer for females (82.7 years). There is considerable variation across the District however, Life expectancy is 8.7 years lower for men and 6.3 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Newark and Sherwood than in the least deprived areas. Approximately 21% of the population lives with a long-term illness (e.g. diabetes). This is higher than the England average and is strongly correlated with the old mining communities in the north-west of the area.

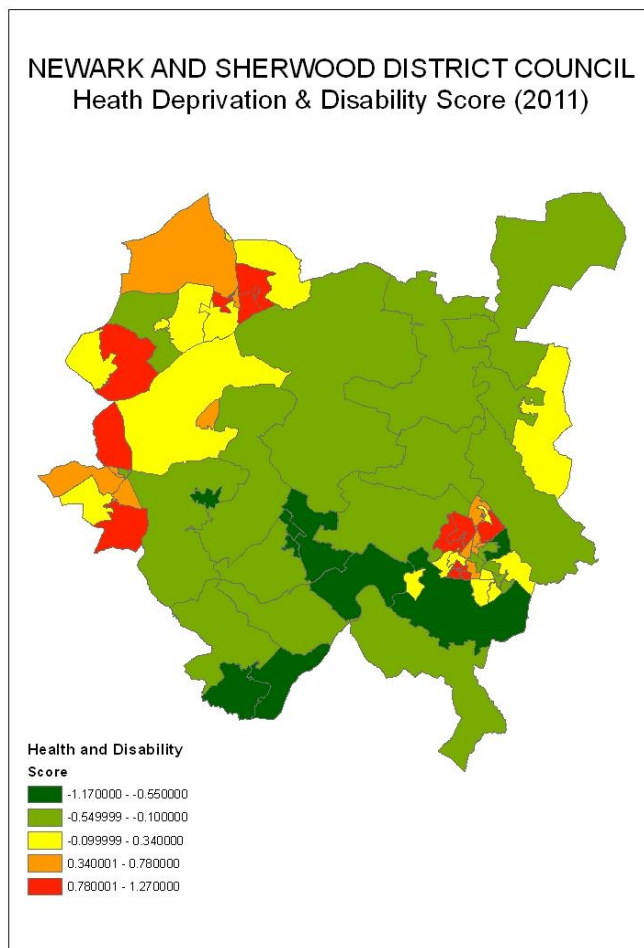
It is notable that the worst health is suffered in the most deprived areas of the District.

Map 3: Deprivation and Health →

Obesity rates in adults across the District is on par with the average for England. 24% of adults in the District were estimated to be overweight or obese in 2012, falling slightly from the 2007 figure. 16.7% of year 6 children (10 to 11 year olds) were classified as obese which is slightly below the national average of 19%.

Employment

The higher than average 50+ year old population (Census 2011) is reflected in the number of 16 to 74 year olds who are retired in the district (17%) which is higher than the average for the East Midlands (15%) and England (14%). The higher than average percentage of retired people and over 50's is reflected in the percentage of economically active people aged 16 to 74, which is lower than the East Midlands average and the England average. However employment among the same age group who are economically active is higher than average.



Employment

	Newark and Sherwood (number)	Newark and Sherwood (%)	East Midlands (%)	England (%)
16 to 74 year olds				
Economically active	57,971	69.0	84.4	69.7
In employment	52,872	62.9	59.9	61.9
Employees	44,633	53.1	53.2	52.3
Self employed	8239.0	9.8	8.7	9.7
Unemployed	2,995	3.6	4.2	4.4

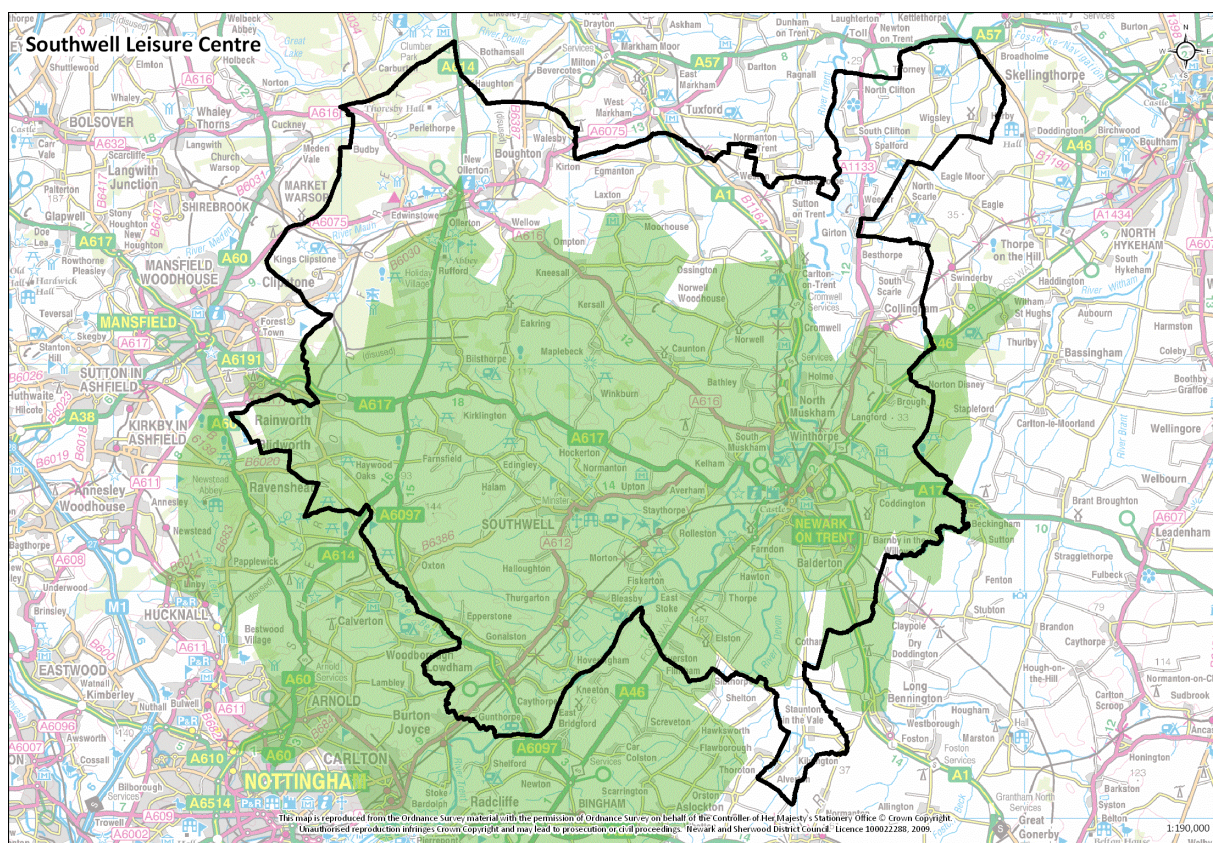
Source: ONS 2011 Census Table KS601EW

Transport & Accessibility

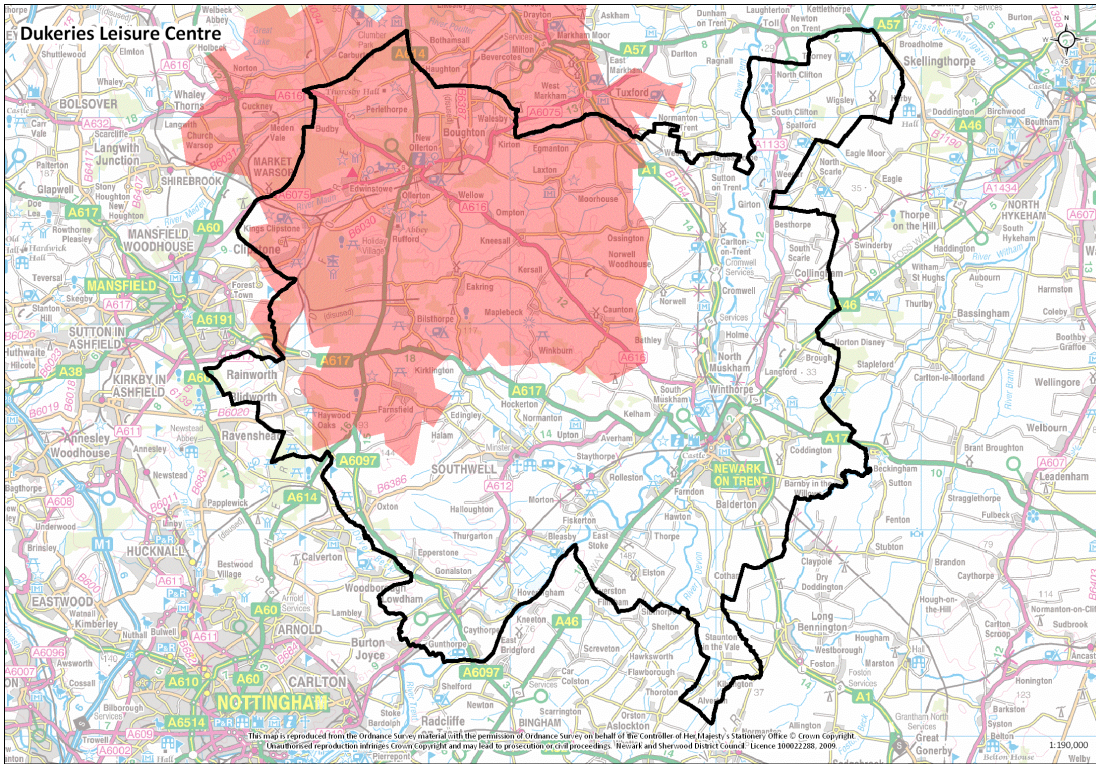
Transport is a significant local issue with two distinctive dimensions; access to facilities in rural areas is variable and road congestion greatly impacts on journey times (principally during commuting periods).

The economic activity amongst the population is reflected in car ownership statistics, which show that car ownership is almost 5% higher (81.4%) than the national average (74.3%). This indicates that the majority of the population have the capability to travel to sport and recreation facilities by car, although cost may be an issue for some retired citizens. A possible key issue is the population who are unemployed or on low incomes and do not have access to a car, many of whom could be located in the most deprived areas such as Ollerton and Boughton and Devon Ward.

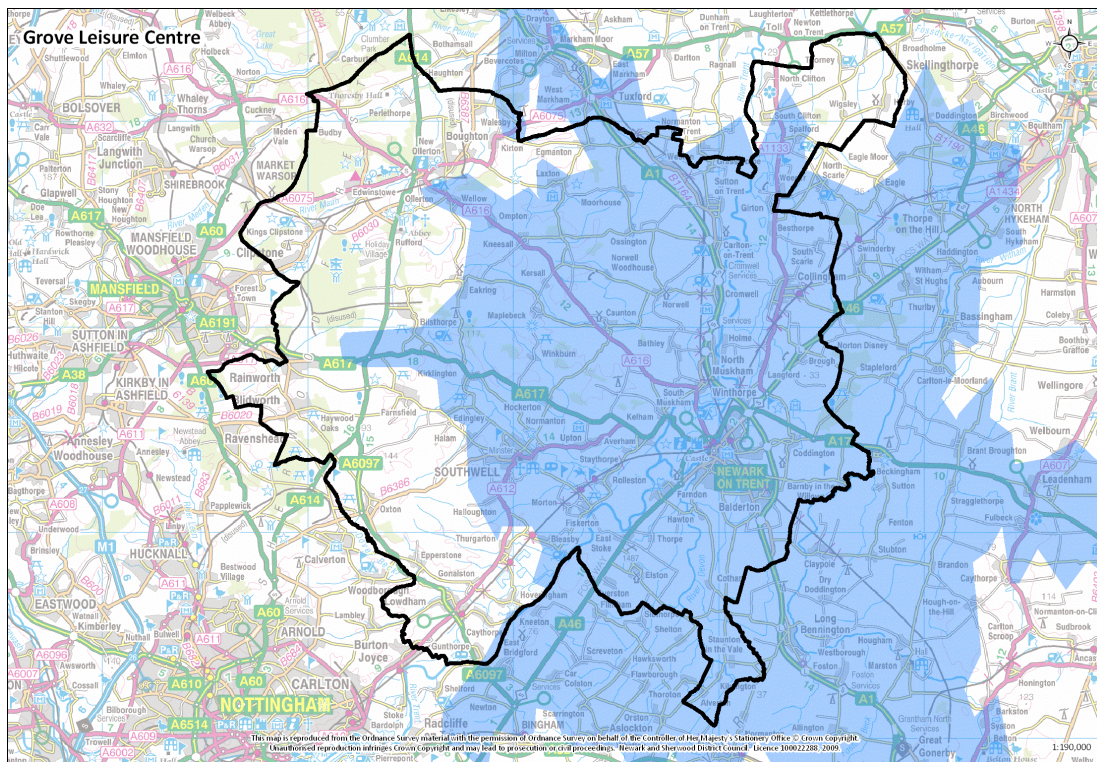
The maps highlight the 20 minute drive time to the Council's three primary leisure centres which provide public access sports halls and swimming pools. The attached reports for provision of swimming and provision of sports hall (see Appendix 1 and 2) provide more detailed analysis of travel times to pools and halls and factors in those facilities that are located outside of the District but within the 20 minute drive time calculation.



Map 4: 20 Minute Drive Time Catchment of Southwell LC



Map 5: 20 Minute Drive Time Catchment of Dukeries LC

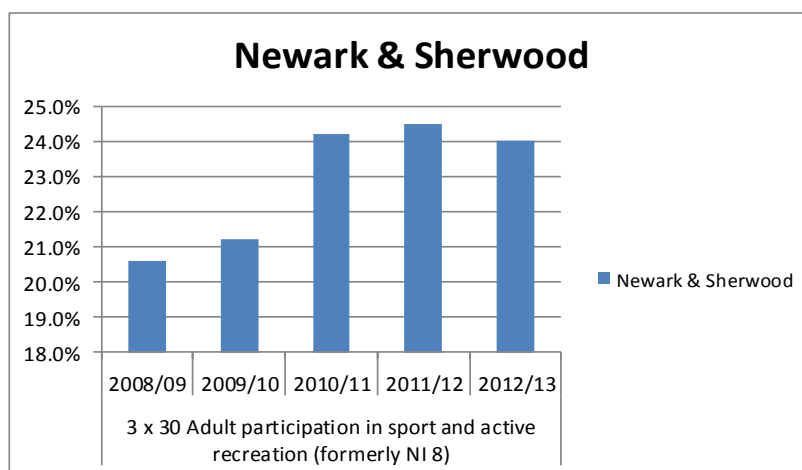


Map 6: 20 Minute Drive Time Catchment of Grove LC

Participation in Physical Activity and Sport

According to Active People 7 survey results participation in physical activity and sport (3 x 30 minutes of moderately intense activity per week) is 24.0% which is slightly below regional and national averages of 24.5% and 24.7% respectively. Participation in the District is marginally higher amongst females than males despite the fairly even gender split of the population with 24.7% of females compared to 23.8% males. In respect of other key performance indicators, Adult Volunteering for one hour per week was significantly higher in the District with 9.7% compared to 7% in the East Midlands and 6% nationally whilst Satisfaction with Local Provision was 11.2% compared with 12.4% and 11.2% respectively.

		Newark & Sherwood
3 x 30 Adult participation in sport and active recreation (formerly NI 8)	2008/09	20.6%
	2009/10	21.2%
	2010/11	24.2%
	2011/12	24.5%
	2012/13	24.0%



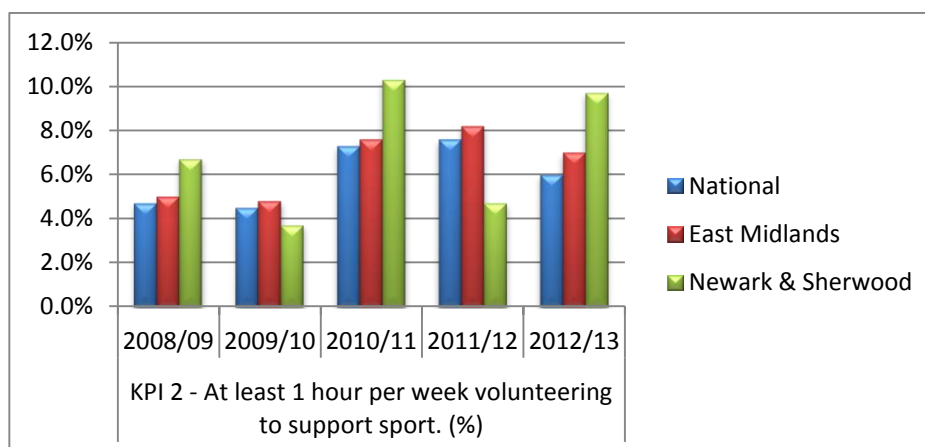
: APS 7 Active Participation Results (3 Times 30 Minutes – Formally NI8). Please note that the NI8 figure includes cycling and recreational walking

Activity levels in the local population

The key performance indicators from APS 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 for Newark & Sherwood are shown in tables and graphs 1 to 6 and compares these to the corresponding rates for England and the East Midlands.

KPI 2 shows a favourable outcome for adult volunteering in the District compared to the regional and nation position, with the District recording 9.7% of the population committing voluntary time to sport for at least 1 hour per week.

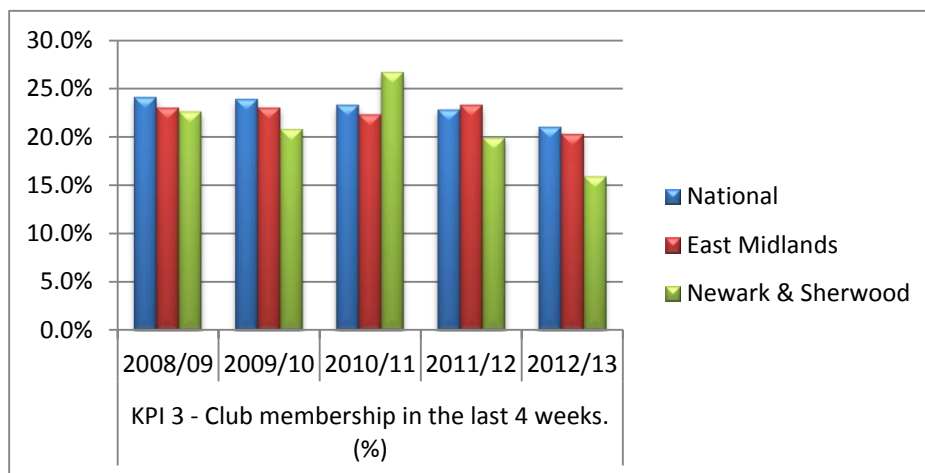
		National	East Midlands	Newark & Sherwood
KPI 2 - At least 1 hour per week volunteering to support sport. (%)	2008/09	4.7%	5.0%	6.7%
	2009/10	4.5%	4.8%	3.7%
	2010/11	7.3%	7.6%	10.3%
	2011/12	7.6%	8.2%	4.7%
	2012/13	6.0%	7.0%	9.7%



Graph 2: At least one hour per week volunteering to support sport

Conversely KPI 3 shows that club membership has dropped by 4% in the last year from 19.9% to 15.9% in 2012/13 which is well below both national (21.0%) and regional (20.3%) levels. Furthermore the current level is significantly below the peak membership of 26.7% recorded in 2010/11.

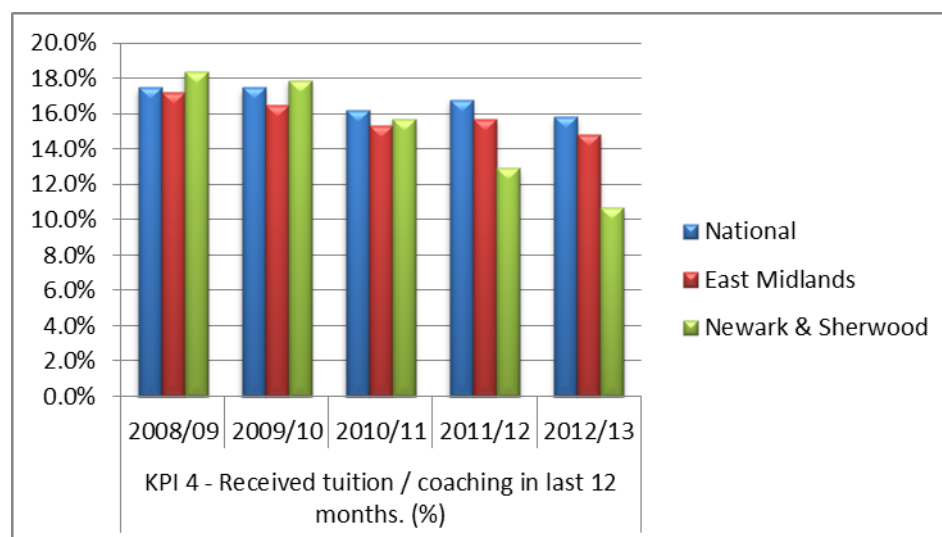
		National	East Midlands	Newark & Sherwood
KPI 3 - Club membership in the last 4 weeks. (%)	2008/09	24.1%	23.0%	22.6%
	2009/10	23.9%	23.0%	20.8%
	2010/11	23.3%	22.3%	26.7%
	2011/12	22.8%	23.3%	19.9%
	2012/13	21.0%	20.3%	15.9%



Graph 3: Club membership in the last 4 weeks.

KPI 4 again shows a decline in coached activity which is to be expected given the reduction in club membership. Currently the District at 10.7% is well below the figures for national (15.8%) and regional (14.8%) levels. Whilst the trend in coaching and tuition levels has declined generally in club sport over the last 5 years the reduction in Newark and Sherwood has been far greater (-7.7%) compared with (-1.7%) nationally and (-2.4%) regionally.

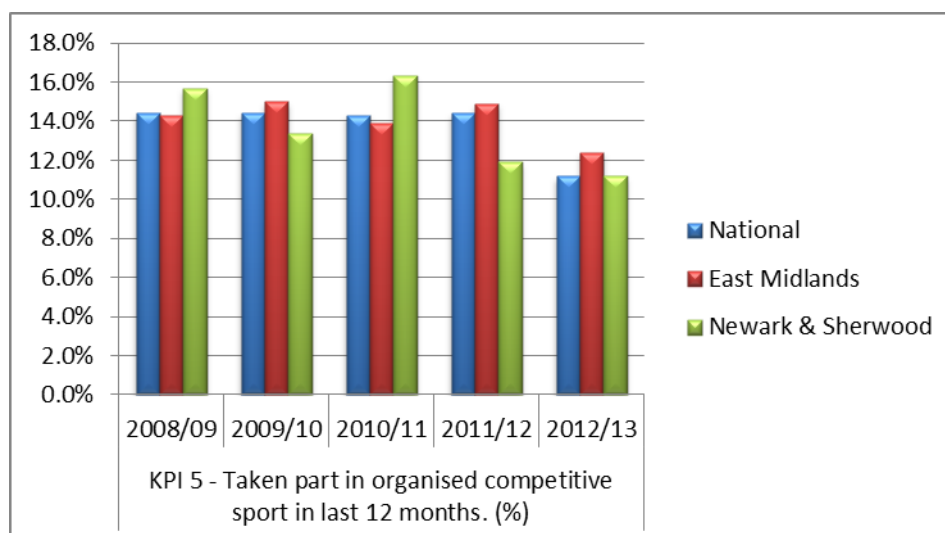
		National	East Midlands	Newark & Sherwood
KPI 4 - Received tuition / coaching in last 12 months. (%)	2008/09	17.5%	17.2%	18.4%
	2009/10	17.5%	16.5%	17.9%
	2010/11	16.2%	15.3%	15.7%
	2011/12	16.8%	15.7%	12.9%
	2012/13	15.8%	14.8%	10.7%



Graph 4: Received tuition/coaching in the last 12 months.

KPI 5 shows a similar trend in that the District has witnessed a greater decline in those people participating in competitive sport in the last 12 months and whilst the current level is the same as the national figure (11.2%) this is below the regional figure (12.4%) however the percentage change is greater falling 4.5% in total having had a higher rate than both national and regional performance between 2008/09 and the latest recorded figures.

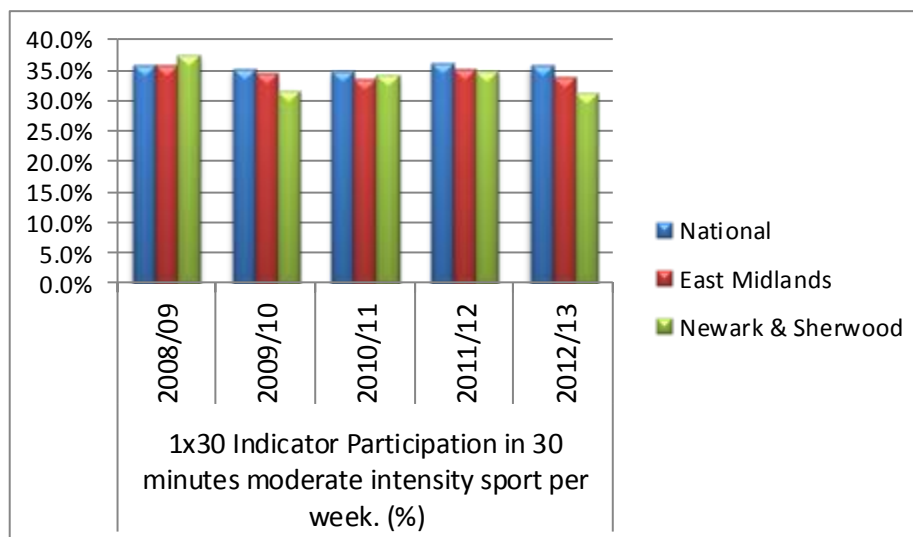
		National	East Midlands	Newark & Sherwood
KPI 5 - Taken part in organised competitive sport in last 12 months. (%)	2008/09	14.4%	14.3%	15.7%
	2009/10	14.4%	15.0%	13.4%
	2010/11	14.3%	13.9%	16.3%
	2011/12	14.4%	14.9%	11.9%
	2012/13	11.2%	12.4%	11.2%



Graph 5: Taken part in organised competitive sport in last 12 months

In general terms the 1 x 30 Indicator is now increasing the benchmark comparator for Sport England reporting purposes and not surprisingly the trend in the District is negative with 31.2% of the adult population currently achieving the target of 30 minutes of sporting activity once a week at a moderately intense level which is below both national level (35.7%) and regional level (33.0%).

		National	East Midlands	Newark & Sherwood
1x30 Indicator Participation in 30 minutes moderate intensity sport per week. (%)	2008/09	35.7%	35.7%	37.6%
	2009/10	35.3%	34.4%	31.7%
	2010/11	34.8%	33.5%	34.1%
	2011/12	36.0%	35.3%	34.8%
	2012/13	35.7%	33.9%	31.2%



Graph 6: 1 x 30 Indicator Participation in 30 minutes moderate intensity sport per week.

Sport England Market Segmentation

In order to increase adult participation in sport and active recreation it is critical to understand the sporting community, therefore the Market Segmentation Model, developed by Sport England and Experian Business Strategies, identifies 19 'sporting' segments which will improve understanding of attitudes, motivations and perceived barriers to sports participation. The segmentation model (Table 1 below) will enable Newark and Sherwood to develop tailored interventions, communicate more effectively with our target market and to better understand participation in the context of life-stage and lifecycles.

Sport England Market Segmentation Summary

Name	Title	Description	Top three participating sports nationally
Ben	Competitive Male Urbanites	Male (aged 18-25), recent graduates, with a 'work-hard, play-hard' attitude. Most sporty of 19 segments.	Football (33%) Keep fit/gym (24%) Cycling (18%)
Jamie	Sports Team Drinkers	Young blokes (aged 18-25) enjoying football, pints and pool.	Football (28%) Keep fit/gym (22%) Athletics (12%)
Chloe	Fitness Class Friends	Young (aged 18-25) image-conscious females keeping fit and trim.	Keep fit/gym (28%) Swimming (24%) Athletics (14%)
Leanne	Supportive Singles	Young (aged 18-25) busy mums and their supportive college mates. Least active segment of her age group.	Keep fit/gym (23%) Swimming (18%) Athletics (9%)
Helena	Career Focused Females	Single professional women, enjoying life in the fast lane (aged 26-45).	Keep fit/gym (26%) Swimming (23%) Cycling (11%)
Tim	Settling Down Males	Sporty male professionals (aged 26-45), buying a house and settling down with partner.	Cycling (21%) Keep fit/gym (20%) Swimming (15%)
Alison	Stay at Home Mums	Mums with a comfortable, but busy, lifestyle (aged 36-45).	Keep fit/gym (27%) Swimming (25%) Cycling (12%)
Jackie	Middle England Mums	Mums (aged 36-45) juggling work, family and finance.	Keep fit/gym (27%) Swimming (20%) Cycling (9%)
Kev	Pub League Team Mates	Blokes (aged 36-45) who enjoy pub league games and watching live sport.	Keep fit/gym (14%) Football (12%) Cycling (11%)
Paula	Stretched Single	Single mum (aged 26-45) with	Keep fit/gym (18%)

Name	Title	Description	Top three participating sports nationally
	Mums	financial pressures, childcare issues and little time for pleasure.	Swimming (17%) Cycling (5%)
Philip	Comfortable Mid-Life Males	Mid-life professional (aged 46-55), sporty males with older children and more time for themselves.	Cycling (16%) Keep fit/gym (15%) Swimming (12%)
Elaine	Empty Nest Career Ladies	Mid-life professionals who have more time for themselves since their children left home (aged 46-55).	Keep fit/gym (21%) Swimming (18%) Cycling (7%)
Roger & Joy	Early Retirement Couples	Free-time couples nearing the end of their careers (aged 56-65).	Keep fit/gym (13%) Swimming (13%) Cycling (8%)
Brenda	Older Working Women	Middle aged ladies (aged 46-65), working to make ends meet.	Keep fit/gym (15%) Swimming (13%) Cycling (4%)
Terry	Local 'Old Boys'	Generally inactive older men (aged 56-65), low income and little provision for retirement.	Keep fit/gym (8%) Swimming (6%) Cycling (5%)
Norma	Later Life Ladies	Older ladies (aged 56-65), recently retired, with a basic income to enjoy their lifestyles.	Keep fit/gym (12%) Swimming (10%) Cycling (2%)
Ralph & Phyllis	Comfortable Retired Couples	Retired couples (aged 66+), enjoying active and comfortable lifestyles.	Keep fit/gym (10%) Swimming (9%) Golf (7%)
Frank	Twilight Year Gents	Retired men (aged 66+) with some pension provision and limited sporting opportunities.	Golf (7%) Keep fit/gym (6%) Bowls (6%)
Elsie & Arnold	Retirement Home Singles	Retired singles or widowers (aged 66+), predominantly female, living in sheltered accommodation.	Keep fit/gym (10%) Swimming (7%) Bowls (3%)

Table 1: Sport England Market Segmentation Summary

Knowing which segment is most dominant in the local population is important as it can help direct provision and programming. For example, whilst the needs of smaller segments should not be ignored, it is useful for Newark and Sherwood District Council to understand which sports are enjoyed by the largest proportion(s) of the population. Segmentation also enables partners to make tailored interventions, communicate effectively with target market(s) and better understand participation in the context of life stage and lifecycles.

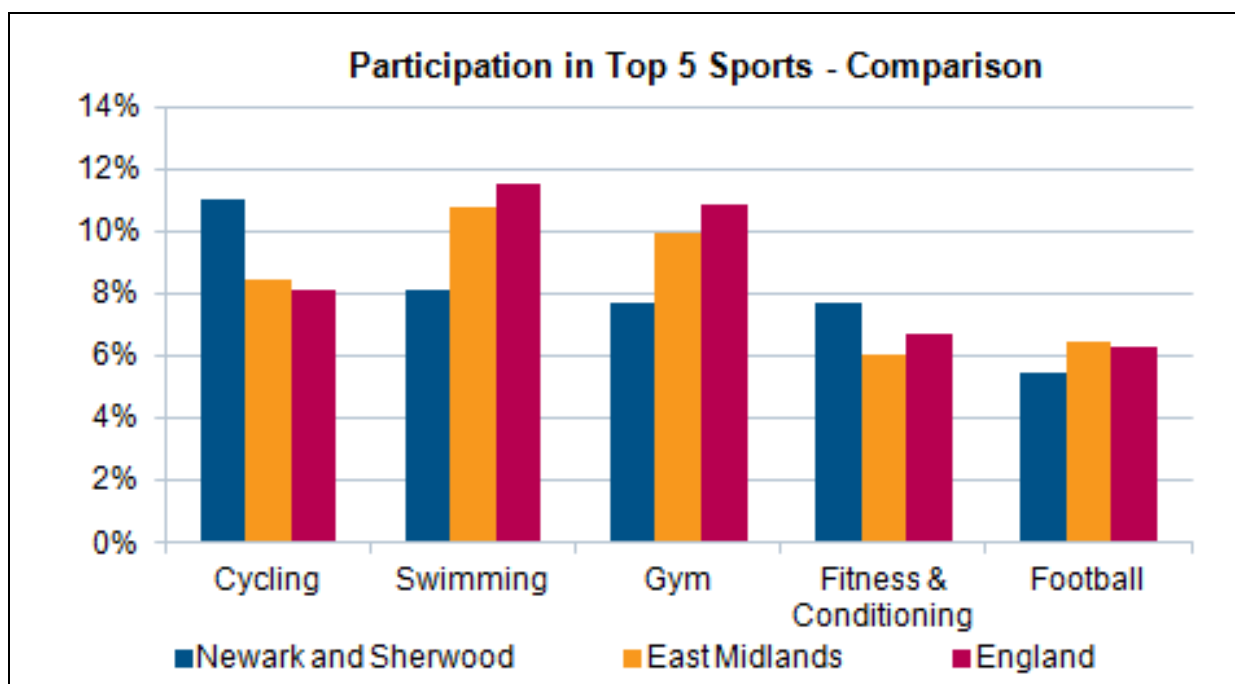
In terms of sport and physical activity preferences cycling, swimming, gym, fitness & conditioning and football are the most popular activities as per the table below.

Sport	Newark and Sherwood		East Midlands		England	
	No. (000s)	Rate	No. (000s)	Rate	No. (000s)	Rate
Cycling	10.1	11.0%	7.8	8.5%	3,458.9	8.1%
Swimming	7.5	8.1%	9.9	10.8%	4,896.9	11.5%
Gym	7.1	7.7%	9.1	10.0%	4,622.7	10.9%
Fitness & Conditioning	7.1	7.7%	5.6	6.1%	2,854.7	6.7%
Football	5.0	5.5%	5.9	6.5%	2,689.7	6.3%

Source: Active People Survey 7, 2012/13

Measure: Participation rate of the top 5 sports and the number of adults (16+) that participate at least once per month.

Top 5 Sports in Newark and Sherwood with East Midlands and England comparison



Graph 7: APS 7 Participation rate of the top 5 sports Adults (16+) participating at least once per month

The Profile in Newark and Sherwood – Dominant Market Segmentation

Dominant market segments in Newark and Sherwood are also identified in Figure 2 below. In addition, the dominant market segments nationally are also displayed as a means of comparison. For example, the segmentation profile for Newark and Sherwood indicates 'comfortable mid-life males' to be the largest segment of the adult population at 9.6%, compared to a national average of 8.6%.

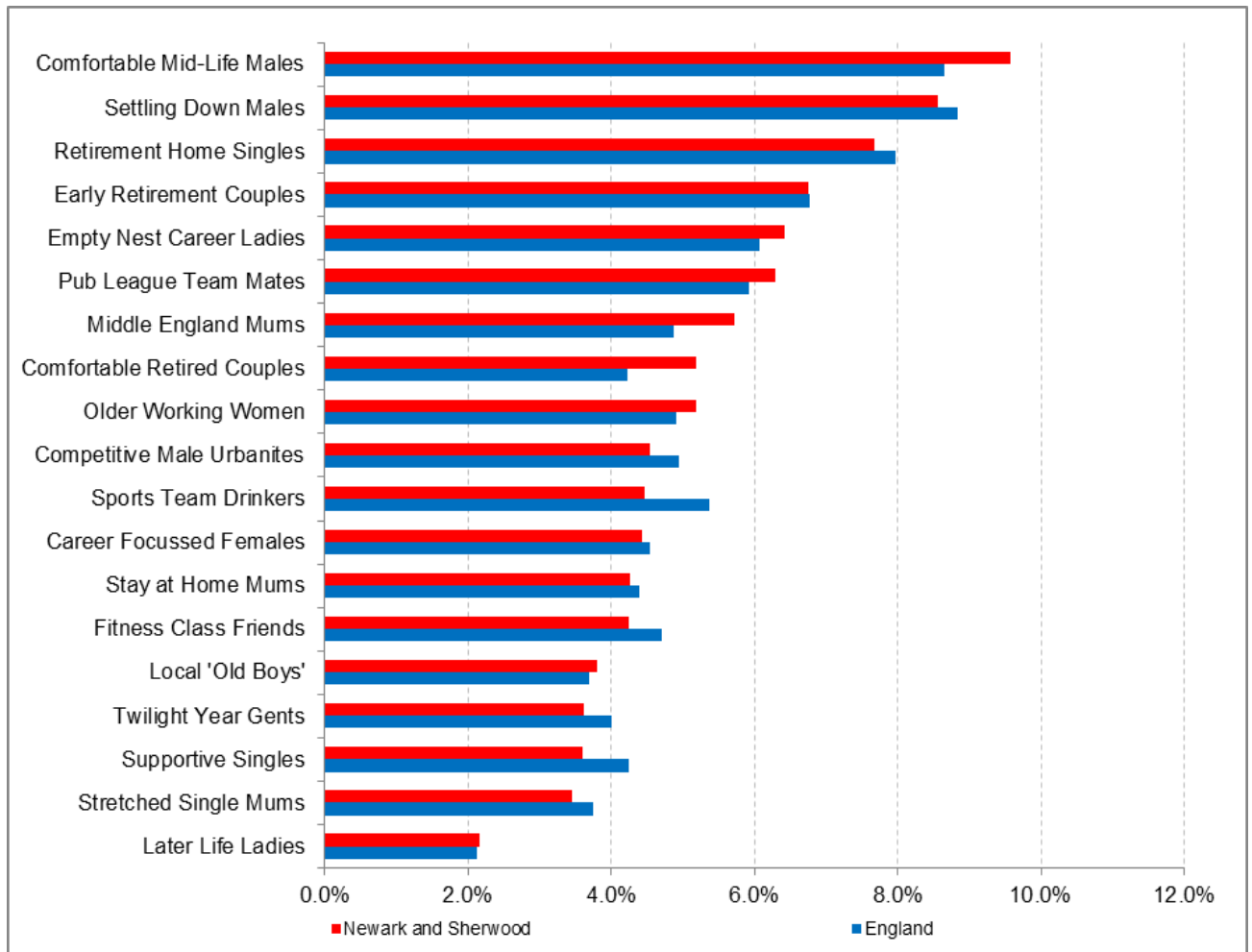


Figure 2: Dominant market segments in Newark & Sherwood compared to England (March 2014)

The following data indicates that ‘Philip’, ‘Tim’ and ‘Elsie & Arnold’ are the three dominant market segments in Newark and Sherwood representing 25.9% (23,032) of the adult population (compared to 26.2% regionally and 25.4% nationally).

Name	Description	Newark & Sherwood		East Midlands	England
		Number	Rate	Rate	Rate
Philip	Comfortable Mid-Life Males	8,544	9.6%	9.4%	8.6%
Tim	Settling Down Males	7,637	8.6%	8.2%	8.8%
Elsie & Arnold	Retirement Home Singles	6,851	7.7%	8.6%	8.0%
Roger & Joy	Early Retirement Couples	6,026	6.8%	7.6%	6.8%
Elaine	Empty Nest Career Ladies	5,722	6.4%	6.3%	6.1%
Kev	Pub League Team Mates	5,606	6.3%	5.7%	5.9%
Jackie	Middle England Mums	5,102	5.7%	5.5%	4.9%
Ralph & Phyllis	Comfortable Retired Couples	4,625	5.2%	3.6%	4.2%
Brenda	Older Working Women	4,622	5.2%	5.2%	4.9%
Ben	Competitive Male Urbanites	4,054	4.5%	4.3%	4.9%
Jamie	Sports Team Drinkers	3,978	4.5%	5.2%	5.4%
Helena	Career Focused Females	3,947	4.4%	4.1%	4.5%
Alison	Stay at Home Mums	3,811	4.3%	4.2%	4.4%
Chloe	Fitness Class Friends	3,791	4.3%	3.9%	4.7%
Terry	Local ‘Old Boys’	3,400	3.8%	3.8%	3.7%
Frank	Twilight Year Gents	3,237	3.6%	4.7%	4.0%
Leanne	Supportive Singles	3,217	3.6%	4.2%	4.3%
Paula	Stretched Single Mums	3,074	3.4%	3.3%	3.7%
Norma	Later Life Ladies	1,936	2.2%	1.9%	2.1%
Total		89,180	100.1%	99.7%	99.9%

Table 2: Newark & Sherwood: Sport England market segmentation 2014

Table 2 illustrates that ‘Philip’ (comfortable mid-life male) is the market segment with the greatest coverage in Newark & Sherwood, accounting for 9.6% of the population. This means that, of the 19 segments, the greatest proportion would benefit from initiatives that appeal to ‘Philips’; sports such as cycling, keep fit/gym and swimming.

‘Tim’ (settling down males) (8.6%) and ‘Elsie & Arnold’ (retirement home singles) (7.7%) are the second and third largest market segments of the population in Newark and Sherwood. Typically, ‘Tims’ participate in sports such as cycling, keep fit/gym and swimming, while ‘Elise & Arnold’ participate in keep fit/gym, swimming and bowls.

Using Sport England’s Market Segmentation Tool it is possible to gain some understanding of attitudes and motivations to participating in sport at national and local level of these targeted groups. This helps Newark and Sherwood District Council identify how best to encourage different segments of the community to take part in sport and physical activity.

Within each of the 3 dominant groups listed above consideration should be given to the level of access to participation opportunities within the area taking into account the 20 minute travel time buffer as determined by Sport England. In each segment a number of sporting preferences can be provided through functional spaces such as community halls where activities like high and low impact exercises including body combat, martial arts, circuit training, pilates and dancing can take place. Some preference sports do not require specialist facilities and can take place anywhere including jogging, walking and cycling and certain preferences will require specialist facilities where there is an accepted travel obligation, such sporting activities include skiing, sailing and canoeing.

The impact of Growth Point housing development increases the importance of servicing the needs of comfortable mid-life males (Philip) and the settling down males (Tim) as it is not unreasonable to assume these segments will increase in size. Equally an aging population will create greater demands for suitable facilities to provide opportunities for activities preferences for the rapidly expanding (Elsie and Arnolds) retirement home singles segment of society. Locality based information relating to existing facilities is now available through the database Active Places Power can be interrogated and detailed reports presented as evidence of need as necessary.

SECTION 5 - POLICY CONTEXT

The strategy has been developed and informed by various relevant policy documents at national, regional and local level in order to provide strategic direction and underpinning justification in support of the strategy as and where appropriate. The following policies are deemed as strategic drivers for the strategy.

NATIONAL POLICY

Creating a Sporting Habit for Life: Sport England Strategy (2012-2017)

Sport England's current five year strategy aims to seek a consistent increase in the proportion of people regularly playing sport, with particular focus on increasing the proportion of 14-25 year olds who play sport. The strategy also underpins the need to establish a lasting network of links between schools and sports clubs in local communities so that young people continue playing sport up to and beyond the age of 25.

More specific areas include:-

- **Building a lasting legacy of competitive sport in schools** – the School Games provides a framework for competitive school sport at school, district, county and national levels – with lottery, public and private sector funding of over £150m secured until 2015. In addition, PE will remain a compulsory part of the National Curriculum.
- **Improving links between schools and community sports clubs** – work with sports such as football, cricket, rugby union, rugby league and tennis to establish at least 6,000 partnerships between schools and local sports clubs by 2017 – making it easier for young people to continue playing sport once they leave education. Our objective is that every secondary school and many primary schools will have links with at least one local club. In addition, every County Sport Partnership will have a dedicated officer responsible for making links between schools and community sports clubs in their local area.
- **Working with the sports governing bodies: focusing on youth** – advise sports governing bodies, where young people are the main participants, to spend around 60 per cent of their funding on activities that promote sport as a habit for life amongst young people. We will ensure that sports are completely focused on what they have to achieve, with payment by results – including the withdrawal of funding from governing bodies that fail to deliver agreed objectives. The system will be wholly transparent.
- **Investing in facilities** – a further £160m will be spent on new and upgraded sports facilities, on top of the £90m already invested via Sport England's *Places, People, Play* programme. This will include funding for the first time to allow schools to open up their sports facilities (three-quarters of all sports halls and a third of all swimming pools) to the public.
- **Communities and the voluntary sector** – increased work with local authorities, voluntary groups and others to make the broadest possible sporting offer to young people. Between now and 2017, over £50m will be made available in funds which will be open to well-run sports clubs (whether or not they are connected to an NGB), voluntary groups and others to provide an exciting and appealing sporting experience. Overall, an investment of £250m in community aspects of this strategy is expected.

Sport England - National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) Whole Sport Plans (2013-2017)

Sport England's youth and community strategy identifies that National Governing Bodies play a critical role in getting more people to play sport.

There are 46 core governing bodies that are funded by Sport England and it is anticipated that between 2013 - 2017 there will be an investment of over £400 million to enable the delivery of the Whole Sport Plans. Of the total investment available for participation, Sport England expects 60% to benefit young people aged 14-25 and 40 per cent to benefit the rest of the adult population.

Reducing Obesity and Improving Diet: Let's Get Moving (2012)

The Department of Health have recently published updated Let's Get Moving resources, which have been revised to bring them into line with current practice and the latest guidelines for physical activity. First launched in 2009, as a means of providing advice on physical activity in primary care, *Let's Get Moving* is an evidence-based behavior change framework to promote physical activity.

Let's Get Moving is intended to help individuals achieve the recommended levels of physical activity for health as set out in the UK Chief Medical Officers' guidelines and supports local areas in meeting the health needs priorities in their Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, demonstrating the value of working with local partners to commission an effective and high quality service.

Let's Get Moving will contribute to the Public Health Outcome Framework physical activity indicator and the National Ambition for physical activity by supporting local areas to increase physical activity levels of their local population.

Youth Sport Trust Strategic Plan (2013-2018)

The Youth Sport Trust has been devoted to changing young people's lives through sport since 1994. In that time the organisation has gained knowledge and understanding of how PE and sport can make a lasting difference to young people's lives and impact on academic achievement, school ethos and whole school standards.

The plan outlines core purpose, values and the impact it aims to achieve over the next 5 years - all underpinned by its mission to use the power of sport to change young people's lives.

It offers a simple overview of the Trust's vision and future ambitions for the period 2013-2018 and makes clear that:-

- Every child needs the best possible sporting start in life.
- All young people deserve a sporting chance.
- All young people should be supported to achieve their sporting best in school and in life.

Within the plan the Youth Sport Trust has set some targets over the next 5 years to have:

- changed the lives of one million primary school children
- reached 250,000 young leaders, volunteers and teachers, dedicating time to change young people's lives
- enabled 2.5 million young people to achieve their personal best

Active for Life: English Federation of Disability Sport (2012-2017)

The strategy highlights two broad (wider than sport) outcomes which will result from increased participation in sport and physical activity by disabled people: Enhanced health and wellbeing for all disabled people and a more equal society in which disabled people can achieve through increased opportunities and choice.

Strategic aims:

- Provide strategic leadership and direct support to get more disabled people participating in sport and physical activity.
- Be recognised and respected as the authoritative voice for disabled people in sport and physical activity in England.
- Be the central resource for research evidence relating to disabled people and sport.
- Ensure that strong and effective engagement processes and partnerships are in place with NGBs, CSPs, NDSOs and other partners that lead to improvement in the infrastructure of sport and the products and services available for disabled people.
- Work collaboratively with disabled people and develop an effective platform for their engagement with sport and physical activity.
- Ensure the provision of pathways to participation for disabled people in sport and physical activity through a dedicated events programme.
- Influence and support the health and fitness industry to provide high quality inclusive services and provision.
- Promote and develop specific programmes and activities to support the growth in participation of young disabled people within sport and physical activity.
- Generate significant additional income and funding opportunities to support the participation of disabled people in sport and physical activity.

Creating a Lasting Legacy from the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games (2013)

Published by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport the paper identifies ways to use the momentum of the London 2012 Olympic Games to create a lasting economic, sporting and cultural legacy that will benefit the whole country.

Specific areas of focus include;

- Increased sports participation
- Economic growth
- Sport and healthy living
- Communities
- Paralympic legacy

REGIONAL POLICY

Regional Sports policy

Sport England's objective in the East Midlands is to increase regular participation rates by 1% per annum to 2020 and help the East Midlands become the most successful sporting region. It proposes the development of multi-sports 'hubs' and recognises the need to work with NGBs and schools to deliver facilities which are 'fit for purpose'. Sport England stresses the importance of planning authorities carrying out thorough assessments of what facilities are needed in their area and highlight the appropriate priorities in policy documents.

Sport Nottinghamshire

Sport Nottinghamshire represents the County Sports Partnership (CSP) for the city and county of Nottinghamshire. CSPs are networks of organisations working in sport and active recreation, including, Local Authorities, National Governing Bodies of Sport, Schools, Colleges and Universities, Professional Sports Clubs and Public Health. Nationally, there are 49 established County Sports Partnerships in England. They are led by a core team whose role it is to provide leadership and co-ordination of a network that is focused on sport and active recreation.

In Nottinghamshire, that core team role is provided by Sport Nottinghamshire, representing and supporting these key partners in the provision of opportunities for everyone in Nottinghamshire to be able to participate in sport and active recreation and to reach their full potential. Sport Nottinghamshire is committed to making sport and active recreation accessible to all sections of the community and promoting the safety and welfare of children engaged in sporting activities locally.

Funding for the work of the County Sports Partnership is, in the main, provided by Sport England and is routed through Sport Nottinghamshire. It is a mixture of revenue funding for the core team and funding for specific programmes to increase participation in sport and to increase the quality and quantity of volunteers and coaches in sport locally. Sport Nottinghamshire and partners work to an agreed national specification agreed with Sport England to ensure consistency in the way that County Sports Partnerships support the work of National Governing Bodies of Sport at a local level.

Sport Nottinghamshire was established in February 2006 and there are funding agreements in place with Sport England through to March 2015. The County Sports Partnership has developed a Framework for Sport in Nottinghamshire which has identified the priorities for sport in Nottinghamshire under 4 key headings:

- Major Sports Events Group
- Strategic Facilities Group
- Children and Young People Group
- Community, Sport and Physical Activity Group

In August 2014 the Nottinghamshire County Council Sports Development service amalgamated with the Sport Nottinghamshire to deliver joint objectives across the county. A new policy will be created in early 2015.

LOCAL POLICY

Local Development Framework

Newark and Sherwood is identified as a New Growth Point. The Core Strategy indicates an additional 14,800 houses to be built in the District by 2026 with a projected rise in population of 16,739 up to 2021 in addition to the 115,761 population (ONS Mid June 2012 figures). The focus for residential development is the Sub-Regional centre of Newark Urban Area (Newark, Balderton and Fernwood), where 70% of new growth will be accommodated. The remaining growth will be located in the 11 other major towns and villages in the District. The strategy also makes positive reference to improving access to sports facilities, especially in new developments. Raising aspirations and delivering value for money are also supporting priorities.

Three Strategic Urban Extensions are planned for Newark Urban Area:-

- Land South of Newark – where Planning Permission has been granted for 3,150 dwellings (anticipated at 2,200 by 2021), a southern link road, 38 hectares of employment land, 2 local centres and significant additional open space.
- Land East of Newark – proposals for 1,600 dwellings, a local centre and a country park
- Land around Fernwood – 3,200 dwellings, B1 Business Park, local centre and additional open space.

Housing numbers planned for the Central and Western areas are less substantial, 992 for the Central area and 3,045 for the Western area (1,000 new houses of which are in Ollerton & Boughton).

The Allocations & Development Management Development Plan Document (adopted July 2013) study area figures contains over 60 allocations for new housing and employment to support the growth outlined in the Core Strategy.

New development within the District will need to be supported by new and improved facilities to meet the needs of the community. As part of determining planning applications the District Council may seek to enter into agreements with developers where infrastructure is required to make development acceptable.

Planning Obligations in Section 106 Agreements (S106 Agreements) are an established mechanism used to secure planning contributions arising from a development proposal. They are most commonly used by the Council to require developers to make financial contributions towards the provision of off-site facilities, that are necessary for the development to proceed. The District Council has prepared a Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) <http://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/spds/> which set out the Council's policy for securing planning obligations (including community facilities, sports facilities and various types of open space) from new developments that require planning permission and how this will operate alongside the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a charge which Local Authorities in England and Wales can charge on most types of new development in their area. CIL charges will be based on the size, type and location of the development proposed. The money raised will be used to pay for strategic infrastructure required to support development in the District.

The Newark & Sherwood Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule was approved by Full Council on the 20th September 2011 and came into effect on the 1st December 2011. Planning applications decided on or after the 1st December may therefore be subject to CIL. Full details about what monies collected from CIL will be used for can be found on the 'Regulation 123 List'. This, along with other information about CIL can be found on the Council's website at: <http://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/cil/>

Newark and Sherwood District Council Vision and Strategic Priorities

The Council's current vision was adopted by Council on 11 September 2007:-

We want Newark and Sherwood's urban and rural communities to take pride in being vibrant, sustainable and having a high quality of life. To achieve this we want to deliver excellent, appropriate services and value for money.

On 8th March 2012, the Council retained the 2007 vision but approved a new set of strategic priorities and objectives, listed in order of importance, to ensure that the District maximises the benefits from:-

- 1. Prosperity - the challenge of building prosperity in our community,**
- 2. People - the challenge of securing the best opportunities for people in our community**
- 3. Place - the challenge of maintaining the strengths and character of the district**
- 4. Public Service - the challenge of maintaining good standards of public service and ensuring the Council meets its statutory responsibilities**

Strategic objectives define how these priorities will be delivered and operational plans at business unit level provide further detail in respect of delivering the priorities.

Of additional interest are the themes of the Council's Sport and Physical Activity Development Plan 2014 -2017, '*Improving Access and Participation for All and Making Sport and Physical Activity a Part of Everyone's Life*', which require access to facilities and the development of opportunities which enable inclusivity and raising the profile of 'clubs for life'. These themes suggest a need for facilities which are a focus for individual and community identity, service the needs of sports clubs and have potential to service both grassroots and development athletes.

SECTION 6 – CONSULTATION

Community consultation identified the following with regard to sport and recreation provision:

- Leisure facilities in the District are in need of upgrading
- A need for improved provision for swimming
- Demand for more sports pitches (see Playing Pitch Strategy 2014)
- Areas to the east of Newark were generally better catered for than those to the west
- It may be better to invest in upgrading existing facilities rather than building new ones

Sports Clubs

Consultation with sports clubs and National Governing Bodies (NGB's) of sport found that:

Cricket:

There are no indoor cricket net facilities available within Newark and Sherwood suitable for supporting 'player pathways'. Therefore Nottinghamshire Cricket Board Limited has developed a Facilities Strategy 2013 to 2017 which aims to support the development of three district centres and the current preferred location for the central area is the Newark area. Such a facility would ideally consist of an indoor net facility with 4 bays constructed to the ECB's TS3 Technical Specification for Mid-Level Competition.

Squash:

The Grove Squash Club was consulted on the proposed new leisure centre and identified a need for the provision of two new courts which have been factored in to the design of the new centre.

Netball:

England Netball through its regional development officers and Nottingham County Netball Association will offer advice support for the development of improved facilities in the District in order to meet its strategic objectives which include improved court provision.

Athletics:

UK Athletics Regional facility plan identifies North Nottinghamshire as a priority area for an outdoor 6/8 lane track. The proposed redevelopment of the Newark Academy site will leave Newark Athletics Clubs without a venue. However, Nottinghamshire County Council has committed to provide a significant capital contribution towards the provision of replacement athletics track and field facilities in the Newark area. The re-provision must be within 5 years of the granting of permission for the new school build at Newark Academy with the preferred site being the proposed Sports Hub located at Elm Avenue. This commitment recognises the need for significant improvement in athletics facilities at district level. The thriving local athletics club with its strong junior membership is further evidence of this need. In addition an interim provision will be made at the Newark Academy site until the new facilities are in place.

Tennis:

Whilst there is an identified need for indoor court provision in the District for Caunton Tennis Club there are no priority sites currently identified in the District by the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) for indoor courts although the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is currently reviewing its National Facilities Strategy.

Swimming:

Lack of local facilities for elite performers is forcing them to train at facilities outside the District, however, the new leisure centre will provide improvements for competitive swimming including starting blocks and a timing system.

Hockey:

There are two hockey clubs in the District, Newark HC and Southwell Brincliffe United HC. Newark HC has grown in recent years and continues to do so and is creating demand for additional facility time and would be in a position to develop more teams in the future if additional pitch time could be secured. Southwell Brincliffe United has no plans to increase its number of teams at present and has sufficient access to pitches but experiences some access issues at its home base, Minster School, during school holidays.

Cycling:

Newark Castle Cycling Club (NCCC) is the only competitive club in the District and is a member of the Newark Sports Association (NSA). The club is expanding in membership having introduced a junior section in 2011 which has proved very popular. NCCC is keen to secure a Closed Road Circuit (CRC) at the proposed sports hub site and has already engaged with British Cycling which is aware of the potential for new facilities to be delivered in Newark in partnership with NSA and NCCC. British Cycling is currently reviewing its National Facilities Strategy which will also highlight regional priorities although it is important to note that a number of projects are already under discussion and or development in the East Midlands region and this may impact on the strategic need for similar facilities in the Newark area.

General:

The quality of and access to facilities are identified as one of the major barriers to further development of sports clubs in the District. Poor changing facilities are a particular problem. In addition a significant barrier to facility development is lack of security of tenure thereby seriously restricting opportunities to secure external funding for facility improvements.

Consultation on the Proposed New Leisure Centre in Newark

Consultation over the proposed new leisure centre has been an ongoing process for a number of years. The consultation has helped shape the design of the proposed facility. A number of areas were taken into consideration when developing the project and these include:-

- The current facility provision,
- Potential growth of the district,

- Neighbouring facilities outside of the District,
- Areas of growth within the facilities,
- Revenue streams to ensure the facility would be sustainable,
- Grass roots developments within the districts club structure,
- Access and inclusivity.

As part of this process the District undertook consultation with:-

- Local school within Newark,
- Clubs and National Governing Bodies including, England Badminton, England Squash, Amateur Swimming Association, Swimming Teachers Association, Football Association, British Cycling, English Cricket Board and Lawn Tennis Association,
- Stakeholders, including, Local Education Authority, Public Health, GP Surgeries, Inclusive Fitness Initiative, sports clubs and organisations, interested user and none users, universities and colleges,
- Leisure professionals including, County Sports Partnership, other local authorities and industry lead bodies.

The consultation process also affirmed the need for the new facility to accommodate:-

- High usage requirements,
- Flexible spaces,
- Fit for purpose facilities,
- Future proofing of growth areas,
- Consistent revenue returns,
- Balancing meeting customer requirements whilst not specialising to narrow the offer.

Further Consultation

Following the decision to proceed with the proposed new leisure centre, further consultation with Grove Leisure Centre user groups has taken place as follows:-

- **Newark Swimming Club**
- **Grove Squash Club**
- **Karate Club**
- **Cheerleading Club**
- **Badminton Club**
- **Gymnastics Club**

Sports Hub Consultation Exercise

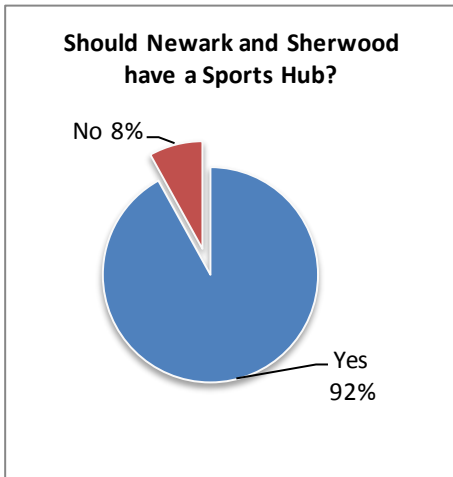
In September 2012 a mini consultation exercise was conducted in the District's three principle towns, Newark, Southwell and Ollerton and Boughton. Although respondents were low in number (87 participants) the insight provided a clear level of interest in the provision of a sports hub model for the District with some clear trends emerging as follows:-

- the overwhelming majority of residents canvassed want a sports hub,

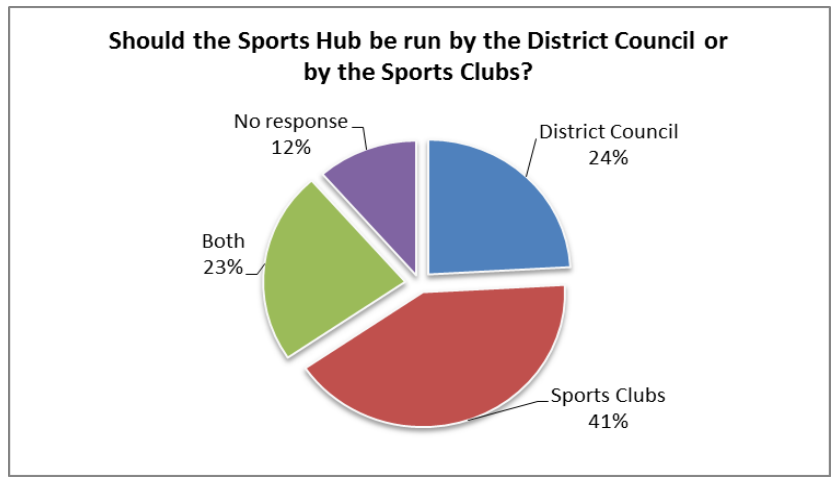
- residents think the District Council should provide financial assistance,
- mixed views on who should run the sports hub,
- residents value 'grass roots' sport highly,
- although less people would be interested in actually becoming members.

Specifically the following questions and responses were recorded:-

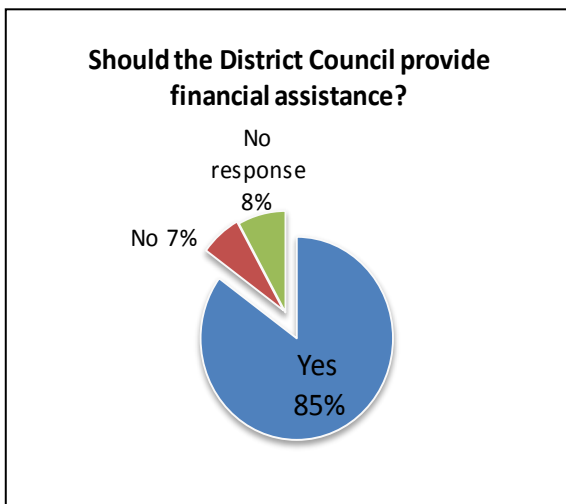
Question 1



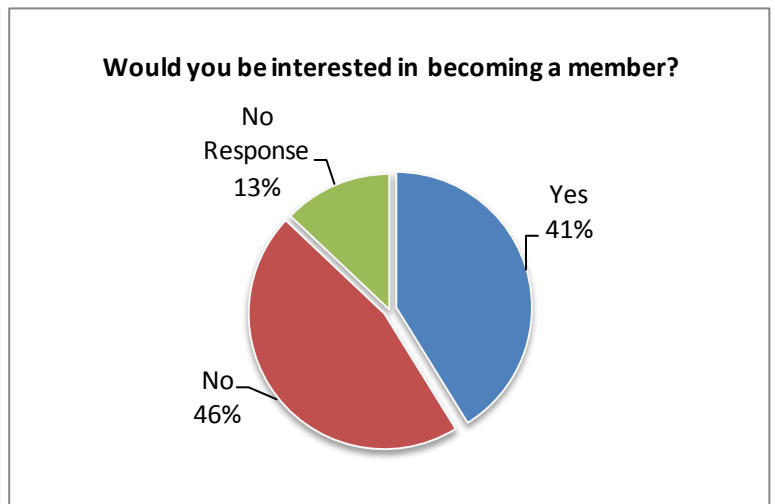
Question 2



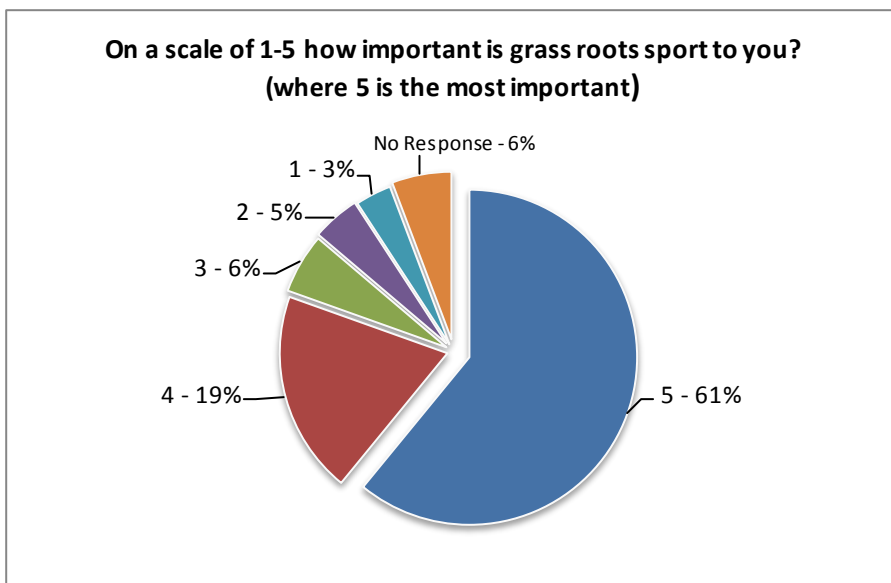
Question 3



Question 4



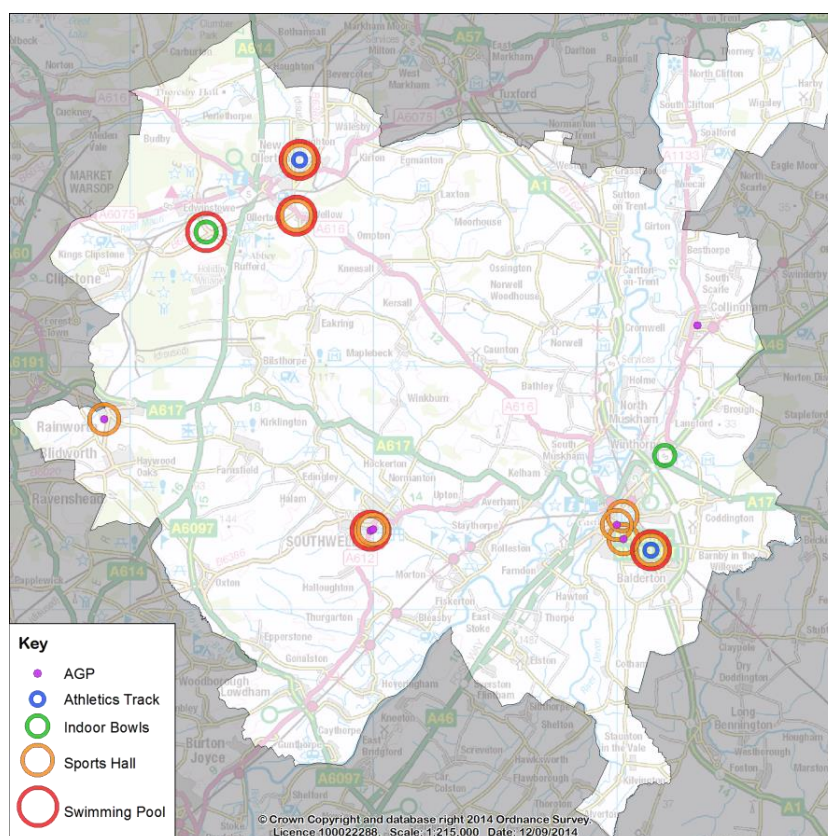
Question 5



The findings of this small sample questionnaire indicate that there is overall support for the development of sports hubs in strategic locations where there is a demonstrable critical mass of sporting activity and interest capable of developing sustainable shared sporting infrastructure if it were co-located.

Sport and Recreation Facility Provision

Significant sport and recreation facilities are shown on the map and include athletics tracks, indoor bowls halls, artificial grass pitches, sports halls and swimming pools as extracted from Sport England’s Active Places Power database. In order to ensure that the data base remains current and accurate regular checks will be required on a sport by sport and site by site basis.



Map 2: District map highlighting significant sport and recreation facilities.

In terms of direct provision and operations, Newark and Sherwood District Council currently operates three main leisure centres and provides support to Southwell Leisure Centre Trust in its operation and table 3 provides a summary of the facilities on offer at each location.

Grove Leisure Centre	
London Road	25 metre indoor swimming pool
Balderton	12.5 metre learner pool
Newark	Sports hall - 5 badminton court size
Notts	Activity area/gymnasium
NG24 3AL	104 station fitness suite
	Dance/aerobic/fitness studio
	2 squash courts
	400 metre athletics track (redgra/shale)
	Outdoor grass pitches

Dukeries Leisure Centre	
Whinney Lane	20 metre swimming pool
New Ollerton	Sports hall - 4 badminton court size
Notts	2 Activity areas/gymnasium
NG22 9QA	74 station fitness suite
	Covered games area
	Full size floodlit AGP (sand filled carpet)
	Flood-lit tennis and netball courts
	Dance/aerobic/fitness studio
	400 metre athletics track (redgra/shale)
	Outdoor grass pitches
Southwell Leisure Centre	
Nottingham Road	25 metre swimming pool
Southwell	12 metre learner pool
Newark	Sports hall - 4 badminton court size
Notts	Activity hall
NG25 0LG	3 squash courts with movable walls
	75 station fitness suite
	12 station under 16's fitness suite
	5-a-side flood-lit AGP (rubber crumb)
Blidworth Community Leisure Centre	
Belle Vue Lane	100 station fitness suite
Blidworth	Activity studio
Notts	Fitness studio
NG21 0RD	

Table 3: Summary of district council operated leisure centres

Southwell Leisure Centre is a Charitable Trust - the Trustees are appointed from the District and Southwell Town Councils. The District Council currently provides a revenue support grant to the Trustees although the pressure to reduce spending has resulted in the grant being reduced significantly over the last few years with the intention that the leisure centre will eventually become self-financing in revenue terms. However, it is expected that the District will continue to provide a level of support for capital improvements. The Clerk to the Trustees is currently the District Council's Business Manager – Leisure Centres. It is also important to note that the above list of facilities are not all in the direct ownership of the District Council and are a mix of joint use, dual use and shared use.

General Condition of NSDC's Leisure Centres

The condition of the authorities built leisure centres varies greatly and this is an issue in respect of future investment requirements and the advantages and disadvantages of options appraisals when considering refurbishment or replacement:-

Leisure Centre	Date Built	Condition
Blidworth Community LC	2009 (Major Refurbishment)	Excellent
Dukeries LC	1981	Good
Grove LC	1969	Poor
Southwell LC	1965	Good

Table 4: Condition summary

- **Grove Leisure Centre** officially opened in 1970 and now in its 45th year of service, the authority's flagship facility, is now considered to be beyond economic repair due to its age and 'clasp' construction type. In 2004 a condition survey was undertaken specifically on the pool tank and the findings revealed that its structural integrity would not be suitable for refurbishment and that future investment in respect of a swimming facility should be a replacement facility not a refurbishment of the existing. The outdoor provision whilst extensive is considered to be in very poor condition and has little community appeal or use. The indoor facilities provided by the Grove LC will be replaced by the new leisure centre when completed in February 2016 and elements of the extensive outdoor provision including the AGP and athletics track are anticipated to be re-provided at the RHP/NSK sports ground located adjacent to the new leisure centre as part of the emerging Sports Hub development, work on which is anticipated to commence in 2015.
- **Southwell Leisure Centre**, opened in 1965 the facility is generally in good condition and although there has been significant investment in the facilities the main pool is considered to be dated and would benefit from a major upgrade. There is limited outdoor provision at the facility.
- **Dukeries Leisure Centre**, opened in 1981, the leisure centre is in very good condition although the school facilities including the swimming pool and indoor halls are considered to be in need of refurbishment. The Dukeries is now an Academy and there is a level of uncertainty concerning the future of the swimming pool. Closure remains a possibility although it is anticipated that an appropriate funding and management partnership can be established such as Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) or Community Interest Company (CIC) to take responsibility for the community assets to safeguard them. There is extensive outdoor provision at the facility.
- **Blidworth Community Leisure Centre**, this former community centre facility was completely refurbished in 2008 and re-opened in January 2009. The facility is a dry site with fitness suite and activity areas and is considered to be in excellent condition; however, there is no outside provision at the facility.

Newark and Sherwood District Council Leisure Centre Usage Figures 2008/09 to 2013/14

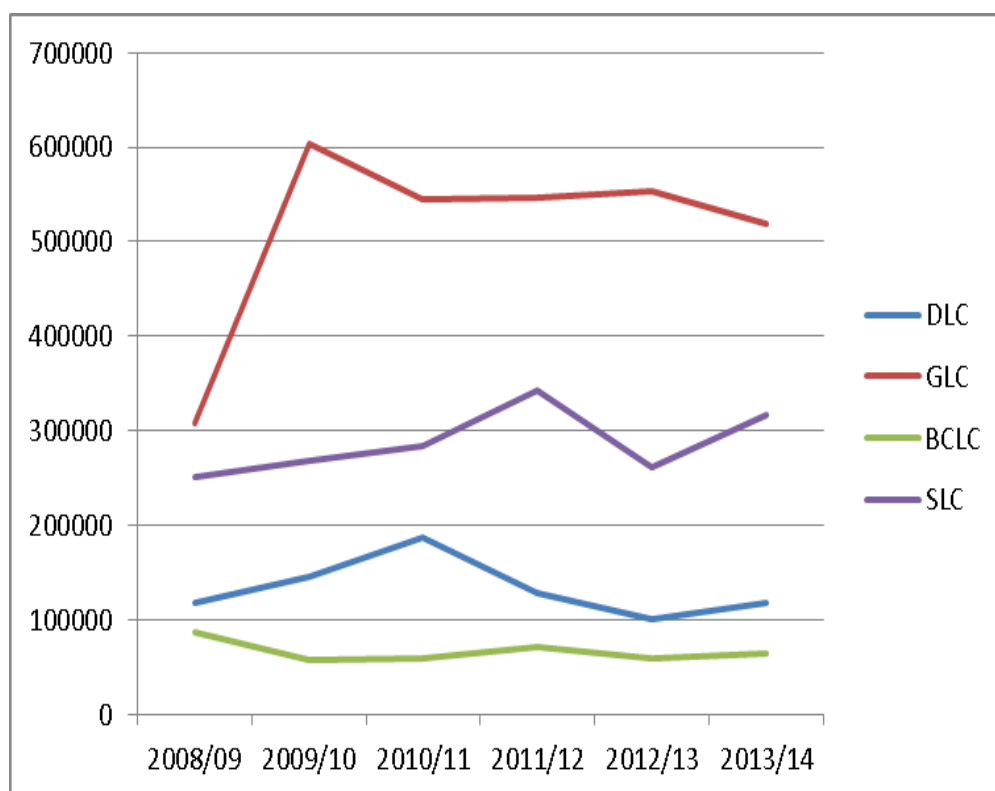
Table 5 and graphs 8 and 9 identify the pattern of usage at the four District Council leisure centre facilities over the last 6 years, the figures are taken from the Torex Leisure Centre Management Information System so are deemed an accurate portrayal of participation patterns for the period. The table below highlights the usage on a centre by centre basis as well as total usage figures.

NSDC Leisure Centre Usage Figures

Leisure Centre	Dukeries	Grove	Blidworth	Southwell	Total
2008/09	118,830	308,662	86,866	251,205	765,563
2009/10	146,214	603,650	57,958	268,761	1,076,583
2010/11	186,263	545,061	59,962	283,612	1,074,898
2011/12	128,740	545,728	70,621	341,942	1,087,031
2012/13	100,280	552,587	59,403	262,165	974,435
2013/14	117,131	519,473	64,769	316,557	1,071,930
Total	800,939	3,117,640	399,210	1,689,645	6,007,434

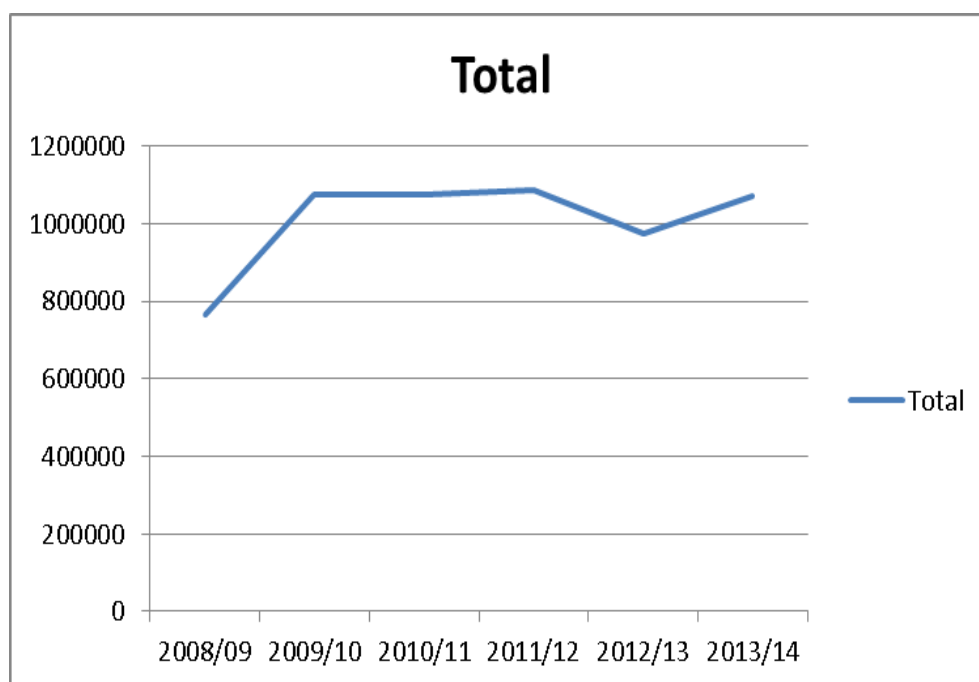
Table 5: Leisure centre usage figures 2008/09 to 2013/14

Leisure Centre Usage Chart Facility by Facility



Graph 8: NSDC leisure centre usage figures 2008/09 -2013/14

Total Leisure Centre Usage Year by Year



Graph 9: NSDC leisure centre usage aggregated figures 2008/09 - 2013/14

Graphs 8 and 9 above show an accurate reflection of participant usage of the Council's four leisure centres. With the exception of 2008/09 (first full year of usage information following the Council's withdrawal from Rainworth Leisure Centre and the opening of the smaller Blidworth Community Leisure Centre in 2007/2008), user numbers have remained fairly stable at just over 1,000,000 users per year. There was an exception of 2012/13 with users numbers down by 112,596 (a 10.36% reduction) as a consequence of the credit crunch which had a negative impact on participant numbers. In addition there were major system improvements which created some inconsistencies in data collection. However the upturn in the economy has been reflected in usage figures returning to 'pre-credit crunch' levels in 2013/2014. Graph 9 shows a positive trend and it is anticipated that the proposed new leisure centre in Newark with its increased capacity and attractiveness factors will generate a significant uplift in users when it becomes operational in early 2016.

Table 6 below provides an overview of the profile Council's Leisure Membership over the last 5 years which also shows a positive trend and growth over the period with in excess of 9,000 current members as at August 2014 when yearly memberships are added to monthly direct debit members.

Leisure Centre Membership Scheme Direct Debit Profile					
Year	Dukeries LC	Grove LC	Blidworth CLC	Southwell LC	Total
1 Aug 2010	1,029	2,282	780	1,410	5,501
1 Aug 2011	1,101	3,316	821	2,372	7,610
1 Aug 2012	1,234	3,939	996	2,580	8,749
1 Aug 2013	1,287	4,086	881	2,780	9,034
1 Aug 2014	1,163	4,067	838	2,800	8,868

Table 6 Leisure centre membership scheme direct debit overview 2010 - 2014

SECTION 7 - AUDIT OF FACILITIES

A comprehensive audit of provision in the District was conducted during the Summer 2008 and refreshed in Summer 2014. It provided a 'snap shot' of sporting facilities available at that time and was based on pro forma submissions to standardise data collection. The audit exercise was conducted in partnership with the Leisure Database Company working for Sport England and members of the project steering group. The audit helped to inform, review and refresh as appropriate the 'Active Places Power' database. It is also important to note that Active Places is a dynamic database which is subject to periodic review to ensure its content remains current. Active Places www.activeplaces.co.uk can be interrogated and reports run to provide further insights into the location, type and accessibility of community sports facilities.

In addition further research and analysis was undertaken in respect of sports facilities to establish:-

- identification of effective catchment areas;
- quantity of provision;
- assessment of levels and types of use;
- assessment of quality of provision.

Sport England National Facility Assessment – Location and Quality Sports Halls and Swimming Pools

As part of the review of the strategy two Facilities Planning Model (FPM) assessments were commissioned to provide an evidence base on the supply and demand of sports halls and swimming pools in the District.

The updated assessments in Appendix 1 and 2 are based on Sport England's National Facility Assessment (NFA) reports. The NFA reports are produced by Sport England and are an annual assessment of the supply, demand and accessibility for sports halls and swimming pools for every authority in England.

Overall Summary of Key Findings – Swimming Pools

The executive summary of the main report describes the key findings under the 2009 provision for swimming report updated to 2013. This is set out with first a summary of the overall findings and is followed by the key findings on each of the supply, demand and accessibility headings analysed.

The 2009 fpm report on provision for swimming remains valid. The updating of the data and the findings to 2013 based on Sport England's data from its 2013 National Facilities Assessment (NFA) identifies that the degree of change in the data and findings are small scale.

The two big drivers of change between 2009 – 2013 are changes in swimming pool supply and increases in population which, in turn, impacts on the rate and frequency of swimming participation and swimming demand.

In terms of supply, the Rainworth Leisure Centre pool 20m x 10m pool (total 200 sq metres of water) was included in the 2009 supply but is now closed. As reported the 2013 NFA assessment lists the Wellow House School 12m x 10m pool (total 120 sq metres of water) in the 2013 assessment and the supply is assessed on the basis of 12.5 hours of community use.

In 2009 Newark and Sherwood has a total swimming pool supply in terms of visits of 9,444 visits in the weekly peak period. In 2013 total supply has decreased to 8,688 visits, resulting from the closure of the Rainworth Leisure Centre.

In terms of population change, the total population in Newark and Sherwood in 2009 was 115,700 people. By 2013 this is projected to have increased to 116,751 people, an increase of 1,051 people or a 0.9% increase in population. These figures are based on the Sport England total applied in the assessments and taken from the 2001 Census for the 2009 assessment with the 2001 population figures updated to 2009 based on ONS projections. For the 2013 population the figure is based on the 2011 Census with the ONS projected update to 2013.

In 2009 Newark and Sherwood has a total demand for swimming of 6,296 visits and this has increased to 7,300 visits in 2013. The increase in visits is greater than would be created by the small increase in total population. The most likely reason is that aging of the core resident population between 2009 – 2013 may mean that in 2013 there are more people in the age bands who swim more often than in 2009. In short a greater swimming population in 2013 than in 2009.

Overall total supply for swimming exceeds total demand in both 2009 and 2013 in Newark and Sherwood. This finding is reflected in the data on used capacity which is defined as estimating how full the pools are.

In 2009 the estimate is that 60.4% of the total swimming pool capacity of the Newark and Sherwood pools is used. In 2013 this has decreased to 54.5% of the pool capacity used. Both percentages are well within the Sport England pools full comfort level of 70% of pools capacity used.

The reason for the decrease in pool capacity used even whilst supply has decreased slightly and demand has increased slightly is probably most likely because of changes in the swimming pool supply. This could be either new or modernised pools in the local authorities which border Newark and Sherwood but where the drive time catchment area of these pools extends into Newark and Sherwood. This would create a draw effect and Newark and Sherwood exporting more of its own demand to neighbouring authorities. The data does show an increase in exported demand from Newark and Sherwood between 2009 and 2013.

The most significant finding from the updating of the 2009 fpm report is in this used capacity heading. The authority wide average used capacity is 54.5% of total capacity. However this authority wide average does mask variations at each pool site. There are two pool sites above the Sport England pools full comfort level of 70% and these are Dukeries Leisure Centre at 74% of capacity used and Grove Leisure Centre, estimated to be at 100% of pool capacity used.

So whilst overall there is enough swimming pool capacity to meet demand across the authority, this demand is distributed unevenly and two pool sites Dukeries and Grove are attracting most of the demand, leading to the estimate that these pools are very full. If possible some re-distribution of demand from Dukeries and Grove by managing programming changes across the pool sites could “even up” the pool capacity used and ease the pressure on Dukeries and Grove.

The Grove Leisure Centre was opened in 1970 and the Dukeries Leisure Centre in 1981 and so both pools are now quite old. The age of the pools underlines the desirability of trying to reduce the used capacity of these pools.

It is understood that the Council has given notice to Nottinghamshire County Council to vacate the Grove Leisure Centre site and construct a new swimming pool (and sports hall) on an adjacent site and less than half a mile away. The proposed new swimming pool complex is a main pool of 312 sq metres of water and is a 25m x 6 lane pool. It will also have a learner/teaching pool of 20m x 8.5. So the new pools will have a total of 482 sq metres of water.

The existing Grove Leisure Centre has a main pool of 312 sq metres of water and a learner/teaching pool of 88 sq metres of water, so a total of 400 sq metres of water. The new Grove leisure Centre will create a net increase of 82 sq metres of water.

The scale of the proposed New Grove Leisure Centre will do a significant amount to meet/reduce the high used capacity of the existing pool – in effect there is more water space and a bigger second pool to accommodate more flexible use of the overall centre. Whilst the estimate is that in 2013 Newark and Sherwood does have enough overall waterspace to meet demand, it is the distribution of this demand across the pool sites which is the issue. Increasing the scale of the Grove Pool site to create more capacity and accommodate more demand directly addresses this issue.

With more waterspace it provides more flexibility in use because of a bigger pool site overall. This opportunity and managed within an overall review of the programming and management of the use of the Dukeries and Southwell Leisure Centres should allow for more re-distribution of swimming demand across the three sites and allow the usage and demand across all pool sites to be “evened out”.

In terms of access to the swimming pool sites the finding in both 2009 and 2013 is that there is very good access to pools. So changing the programming of the pools to accommodate demand across all the sites should not be an issue in terms of residents accessing pools. The 2009 estimate was that 85% of all visits to pools were by car. The 2013 estimate is that this has increased to 89% of all visits.

Furthermore the spatial analysis of the pools which are accessible to the Newark and Sherwood population based on a 20 minute drive time catchment for the pool locations showed that all Newark and Sherwood residents have access to 2 pools based on the car catchment area of pools. In the majority of the Newark and Sherwood land area residents have access to between 3 – 5 pools. Finally in some areas residents have access to between 5 – 10 pools. (Map 3.2 page 20 in the main findings part of the report)

Closure of the Rainworth swimming pool does reduce accessibility to pools in the NW side of the authority close to the Mansfield boundary. As map 3.2 shows this is however, the area of the authority where there residents have access to the highest number of pools, of between 3 – 5 pools or 5 – 10 pools (obviously some in other authorities). So closure of the Rainworth Pool is unlikely to have reduced access to pools by much at all.

The key findings under the review of the data and updating under each of the headings now follows.

Total supply

In both the 2009 fpm assessment and the 2013 NFA data there are 7 individual swimming pools at 5 swimming pool sites in Newark and Sherwood – so no change in the number of pools and sites. However there is one change in actual pools. The Rainworth Leisure Centre pool 20m x 10m pool (total 200 sq metres of water) was included in the 2009 supply but is now closed. However the 2013 NFA assessment lists the Wellow House School 12m x 10m pool (total 120 sq metres of water) in the 2013 assessment.

Overall the total number of pools at 7 pools at 5 pool sites in Newark and Sherwood remains unchanged between 2009 – 2013. There is a reduction of 80 sq metres of total water area, which is 5.2% of the total water area of swimming pools in Newark and Sherwood in 2013 with closure of the Rainworth Leisure Centre and inclusion of the Wellow House School pool.

Based on the small scale of these changes between 2009 – 2013 the assessment is that in the findings on the total supply of swimming pools in the 2009 report and evidence base remains robust when updated to 2013.

Total demand

Total demand is based on the number of people in the total population who participate in swimming activities and how frequently they swim. The Sport England rates and frequencies of swimming participation are applied in both data sets and they have not changed between the two years.

The total population in Newark and Sherwood in 2009 is 115,700 people. By 2013 this is projected to have increased to 116,751 people, an increase of 1,051 people. So between 2009 – 2013 there is a projected increase of 1,051 people, or, put another way a 0.9% increase in the total population.

Total demand for swimming in 2009 is 6,296 visits and by 2013 this has increased to 7,330 visits in the weekly peak period, an increase of 1,034 visits.

As the population change/growth is small and there are no changes in the rates and frequencies of swimming participation between the two years, then the slight increase in total demand for swimming is created by there being more people in the total population in 2013 who swim. Sometimes the aging of the core resident population between years can mean that in (say) 2013 there are more people in the age bands who swim more frequently than in previous years (say) 2009.

The scale of changes in satisfied demand, unmet demand and used capacity of pools between 2009 – 2013 will be determined by this increase of 1,034 visits in total demand.

Based on the scale of changes between 2009 – 2013 in total population and total demand for swimming, the assessment is that in terms of total demand for swimming pools, the 2009 report and evidence base updated to 2013 is robust.

Supply and Demand Balance

It is important to be clear about what supply and demand balance actually measures. It provides a 'global' view of provision – it compares total demand generated within Newark and Sherwood for swimming with the total supply of pools within Newark and Sherwood. It therefore represents an assumption that ALL the demand for swimming in Newark and Sherwood is met by ALL the supply of swimming pools in Newark and Sherwood.

In short, supply and demand balance is NOT based on where the pools are located and their catchment area extending into other authorities. Nor, the catchment areas of pools in neighbouring authorities extending into Newark and Sherwood. Most importantly supply and demand balance does NOT take into account the propensity/reasons for residents using facilities outside their own authority. The more detailed modelling based on the CATCHMENT AREAS of swimming pools is set out under Satisfied Demand, Unmet Demand and Used Capacity.

The reason for presenting the supply and demand balance is because some local authorities like to see how THEIR total supply of swimming pools compares with THEIR total demand for swimming. So supply and demand balance presents this comparison.

A second note is that the data for 2009 does not allow a comparison of supply and demand balance and so only the 2013 supply and demand data and findings are presented.

The total supply of water space based on the pools in Newark and Sherwood availability for community use in 2013 is 956 sq metres of water. The total demand for swimming from Newark and Sherwood residents, allowing for the pools to be operating at 70% full comfort factor is for 1,208 sq metres of water. So there is negative supply balance of 251 sq metres of water.

This finding does appear to contradict the findings under total supply and total demand whereby supply in terms of visits is greater than total demand in terms of visits. However it is important to reiterate that supply and demand balance is based on this assumption that ALL demand for swimming by Newark and Sherwood residents is met by ALL the swimming pool supply in Newark and Sherwood. It is NOT based as the demand headings are on the catchment area of pools and these overlapping local authority boundaries and demand being distributed to the nearest pool to where residents live, IRRESPECTIVE of which local authority that pool is located in.

It is not possible to update the supply and demand balance findings from 2009 to 2013 and so the commentary is only on the 2013 data.

Satisfied Demand

Satisfied demand represents the proportion of total demand that is met by the capacity at the swimming pools from residents who live within the driving, walking or public transport catchment area of a pool.

The findings under satisfied demand show little change between 2009 and 2013. The total amount of Newark and Sherwood demand which is satisfied in 2009 is a very high 86.7% of the total demand in 2009 and in 2013 it is 86.5% of total demand.

Access to swimming pools and travel modes

Accessibility to swimming pools and travel modes are measured under satisfied demand. Travel patterns are dominated by car travel and in 2009 car travel represents 86.6% of all visits to swimming pools by Newark and Sherwood residents. By 2013 this has increased slightly to 89.4%, an increase of 2.8%.

Travel to swimming pools by foot represented 10.7% of all visits in 2009 and by 2013 this has decreased by 6% to 4.7%.

Travel to pools by public transport is 2.7% of all visits in 2009 and in 2013 it has increased to 5.8%.

In 2009 residents in around 20% of the land area of Newark and Sherwood have access to 1 pool based on the 20 minute drive time catchment area of pools. With a further 20% of the land area of the authority being within the 20 minute drive time catchment area of 2 pools. Around 30% of the Newark and Sherwood land area has access to between 3 – 5 pools. Finally another 30 of the land area has access is to between 5 – 10 pools. (illustrated in Map 3.2 in the main report).

So overall there is good access to pools for residents of Newark and Sherwood. Based on the dominate travel mode of car and this changes very little between 2009 – 2013.

By 2013 there is closure of the Rainworth Leisure Centre pool, located in the NW corner of the authority, close to the Mansfield boundary. It is this area where residents have access to the highest number of pools, of between 3 – 5 or between 5 – 10. Closure of the Rainworth Pool has not reduced access to pools (map 2.2 in the main report).

This finding is reinforced by satisfied demand only decreasing by 0.2% from 86.7% in 2009 to 86.5% of total demand for swimming in 2013. So closure of the Rainworth Leisure Centre pool is not reducing accessibility to swimming pools.

Retained Demand

Retained demand, is how much of the Newark and Sherwood demand is met at the pools located in Newark and Sherwood based on the catchment area of the pools. This changes very little between the two years.

In 2009 Newark and Sherwood is retaining 68.1% of its own demand for swimming pools at its own pool sites. In 2013 this is 65.8%, a decrease of 114 visits or 2.3%.

Exported demand

Exported demand is where the nearest pool to where Newark and Sherwood residents live is located in another authority and that demand is met/exported to that authority. Exported demand also changes very little between the two years. There is an increase of 2.6% of the total Newark and Sherwood demand for swimming to 34.2% of the total Newark and Sherwood demand which is being met outside the authority.

At 34.2% of the total Newark and Sherwood satisfied demand this is a high level of exported demand. It does illustrate that whilst the residents do enjoy a high level of access to pools based on car travel there are areas of the authority, notably the NE close to the North Kesteven and West Lindsey boundaries, where residents do have much lower levels of access to pools (shown in map 2.2) and it is most likely in these areas where the Newark and Sherwood demand is being exported to.

Overall and based on the small scale changes for all the headings under satisfied demand, the assessment is that in terms of satisfied demand for swimming pools, the 2009 report and evidence base updated to 2013 is robust.

Unmet Demand

Unmet demand is defined in two ways: demand for swimming which cannot be met because (1) there is too much demand for any particular pool within its catchment area; or (2) the demand is located outside the catchment area of any pool and is then classified as unmet demand.

It could be (under definition 1) there are individual pools where demand is greater than the capacity of that pool and creating unmet demand. Also under the satisfied demand heading it was identified that there are large areas of Newark and Sherwood which are outside the walking catchment area of a pool and (under definition 2) demand located in these areas would be determined as unmet demand. This is however only the unmet demand which CHOSSES to walk to pools and this will be small.

In summary, the findings on unmet demand show little change between 2009 and 2013. Total unmet demand in 2009 is 836 visits, which is 13.3% of total demand and which represents 147 sq metres of water.

In 2013 total unmet demand is 988 visits, which is 13.5% of total demand and this represents 162 sq metres of water. Put simply unmet demand has increased by 15 sq metres of water between 2009 and 2013. (Note: a 25 metres x 4 lane pool is 212 sq metres of water).

Unmet demand due to lack of swimming pool capacity is 4.2% of the total in 2009 which represents 6 sq metres of water. In 2013 it is 4% of the total and this is 6.5 sq metres of water, so again virtually unchanged.

There are two pool sites which are estimated to be working above the Sport England pools full comfort level of 70% of pool capacity used. These being the Grove Leisure Centre which is estimated to be at 100% of pool capacity used in 2013 and Dukeries Leisure Centre which is estimated to be working at 74% of its capacity (more comments on these findings under used capacity).

Unmet demand due to it being located outside the walk to catchment area of a pool is concentrated around Newark and this totals around 50 sq metres of water in both 2009 and 2013 (illustrated in Maps 2.4 and 2.5 in the main report).

Overall there are very small scale changes in the level of unmet demand and the distribution of the unmet demand between 2009 – 2013. The assessment is that in terms of unmet demand, the 2009 report and evidence base updated to 2013 is robust.

Used Capacity

Used capacity is a measure of usage and throughput at swimming pools and estimates how well used/how full facilities are. The Sport England facilities planning model is designed to include a 'comfort factor', beyond which, in the case of swimming pools, the pools are too full. The model assumes that usage over 70% of capacity is busy and the pool is operating at an uncomfortable level above that percentage.

In summary between 2009 - 2013 total used capacity across the 5 swimming pool sites in Newark and Sherwood decreases from 60.4% in 2009 to 54.5% of pool capacity used in 2013. So a decrease in pool capacity used of 5.9% between the two years. Both percentages are well within the Sport England pools full comfort level of 70% of pool capacity used.

The decrease could be explained by the opening of new pools or the refurbishment of existing pools in some of the eight authorities which border Newark and Sherwood and whose catchment area extends into Newark and Sherwood. This would result in these pools being more attractive to users resulting in demand being drawn out of the authority and a decrease in pool capacity used of the Newark and Sherwood pools. As noted under the satisfied demand findings, Newark and Sherwood is exporting more demand in 2013 than in 2009.

The authority wide average for used capacity of 54.5% in 2013 does mask variations at each pool site. Based on the 2013 NFA data the lowest pool capacity used is South Forest Leisure Centre with 17% of pool capacity used. There are two pool sites above the Sport England pools full comfort level, Dukeries Leisure Centre at 74% of capacity used and Grove Leisure Centre estimated to be at 100% of pool capacity used.

Data from the 2009 fpm assessment is not available but it is unlikely to show much variation from the 2013 assessment. If anything the 2013 used capacity findings for each pool are

better than they would be in 2009 because overall used capacity of pools across the authority has decreased from 60.4% in 2009 to 54.5% in 2013.

A key finding from this overall updating study is that there are two public pool sites which are above the Sport England fpm assessment is estimating to have used swimming pool capacity which above the 70% Sport England pools full comfort level. In the case of Grove Leisure centre it is at 100% of pool capacity used.

So whilst overall across Newark and Sherwood there is enough pool capacity to meet demand, this demand is distributed unevenly and two pool sites Dukeries and Grove are attracting most of the demand, leading these pools to being very full. Whilst the other public pool, Southwell Leisure Centre has an estimated used capacity of 54%, some 16% below the pools full comfort level of 70% of pool capacity used.

If possible some re-distribution of demand form Dukeries and Grove by managing programming changes across the pool sites could even up the pool capacity used and ease the pressure on the very full pools.

Name of facility	Type	AREA	SITE YEAR BUILT	SITE YEAR REFURB	PUBLIC / COMMERCIAL	COMMNTY HRS AVAIL	Facility Capacity - vpwpp	% of Capacity used	% of capacity not used
Newark and Sherwood							8,288	55%	45%
DUKERIES LEISURE CENTRE	Main/General	180	1981		P	33	810	74%	26%
GROVE LEISURE CENTRE (NEWARK)	Main/General	313	1970		P	55	2,324	100%	0%
GROVE LEISURE CENTRE (NEWARK)	Learner/Teaching/ Training	88				25			
SOUTH FOREST LEISURE COMPLEX	Main/General	400	1991	2007	C	85	3,333	17%	83%
SOUTHWELL LEISURE CENTRE	Main/General	250	1998	2004	P	53	1,571	54%	46%
SOUTHWELL LEISURE CENTRE	Learner/Teaching/ Training	88				21			
WELLOW HOUSE SCHOOL	Main/General	120	1971	2008	P	13	250	76%	24%

Table 3.12: Level of used capacity for each swimming pool site in Newark and Sherwood. 2013 NFA data

Relative Share

In addition to the supply and demand assessment above, the FPM also analyses the relative share of swimming pools – i.e. it takes into account the location of the population with the size and availability of facilities. It then assesses establish whether residents in one area have a greater or lesser share of provision than other areas, when compared against a national average (100).

A simple analogy is to consider swimming pool provision as a cake, its size being proportional to the facility's catchment and its slices divided among the users within the catchment.

The information on relative share is only available from the 2013 NFA assessment. Newark and Sherwood has a positive relative share of access to swimming pools at a value of 106. This means residents have 6% more access to swimming pools when compared to the England wide average set at 100%. In Nottingham County there is a positive relative share of 14% and for East Midlands Region a positive 4% better access to pools when compared to the England wide average. **(See Appendix 1 for Full FPM Report)**

Overall Summary of Key Findings – Sports Halls

The findings and overall assessment from the Newark and Sherwood 2009 fpm report on provision for sports halls updated to 2014 remains valid. The assessment is that the current supply of sports halls across Newark and Sherwood does meet the demand for sports halls in both 2009 and 2014.

The key finding is that the distribution of demand across venues is an issue with some sports halls estimated to be more full than others.

This is based on:-

- the amount of demand contained within the catchment area of each sports halls, which is variable;
- the age of sports halls which makes the more modern sports halls more attractive to participants than older venues and thereby draws demand to them;
- the varying amount of time available for public use at peak times which differs between venues, especially where individual schools determine the extent and type of community use on their site; and
- public leisure centres providing for the full range of activities for club and community use at peak times, thereby drawing demand to them because of the extensive offer

A combination of some or all these factors is creating highs and lows in the estimated amount of sports hall space which is used at peak times and this variation has increased since 2009.

The venues where demand/used capacity is estimated to be highest in 2014 are: Newark Academy at 91% of estimated used capacity in the weekly peak period; Magnus Sports Centre at 79%; and Grove Leisure Centre at 68%. Dukeries Leisure Centre estimated used capacity in the weekly peak period in 2014 is 33%.

Supply of Sports Halls

The 2014 assessment has re-assessed the scale and supply of sports hall space at the Dukeries Leisure Centre. The Dukeries Leisure Centre main hall is 29m x 18m and in effect is a main sports hall of at least 3 badminton courts. Also there are three ancillary sports halls at the Dukeries Centre which are: 23m x 13m, 18m x 12m and 15m x 12m. The ancillary halls do provide for sports activities such as gymnastics as well as pilates, yoga, dance and exercise/fitness classes.

It is acknowledged that the full extent of the Dukeries Leisure Centre sports hall supply should have been included in the 2009 fpm assessment. The effect of including the Dukeries Leisure Centre in the 2014 assessment and some other small scale changes at other venues is to increase the effective sports hall supply to 43 badminton courts in total in 2014, of which just fewer than 38 courts are available for public or club use in the weekly peak period. In the 2009 assessment the sports hall supply is 38 badminton courts in total of which 30 were available in the peak period for public/club use.

So in updating the evidence base for the 2014 assessment there is an increase of 5 badminton courts in total (38 to 43 courts in total) and 8 more badminton courts available for public/club use in the weekly peak period in 2014 when compared with 2009 (30 to 38 courts).

This increase in sports halls supply and no effective change in the demand for sport halls between 2009 and 2014 are the biggest influences in updating the findings to provide a 2014 supply and demand evidence base for sports halls.

Demand for Sports Halls

A change in demand for sports halls is largely driven by changes/increase in population between 2009 and 2014. In 2009 the population of Newark and Sherwood is 115,700 people. This is based on the 2001 Census and with ONS population projections updating that data to 2009. In 2014 the total population of Newark and Sherwood is 117,684 people. This is based on the 2011 Census and with ONS population projections then updated to 2014.

So between 2009 – 2014 there is a projected increase in population of 1,984 people, or, a 1.7% increase in the total population. So a small increase in population in the Newark and Sherwood population in 2014 generates an estimated total demand for sports halls of 5,060 visits in the weekly peak period. This compares with a total demand in 2009 of 5,062 visits - effectively no change.

Another reason for no change in demand for sports halls is the aging of the core resident population between the two years (2009 and 2014). It could be that in 2014 there are fewer people in the age bands who participate most frequently in hall sports than in 2009. So any increase in total population is offset by the aging of the core resident population and their changes in the frequency of their participation

The remainder of the Executive Summary sets out the key findings under each of the other headings.

Satisfied Demand

Satisfied demand represents 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 venue.

In 2009 satisfied demand is 90.9% of total demand. In 2014 this has increased slightly to an even higher 92.4% of the Newark and Sherwood demand for sports halls being met. This means that over nine out of 10 visits to sports halls are inside the catchment area of a venue and there is enough capacity at the sports halls to absorb this very high level of demand.

A sub set of findings for satisfied demand is establishing how much of the total Newark and Sherwood satisfied demand is met by sports halls located in Newark and Sherwood District, based on the catchment area of the sports hall, this is known as **retained demand**.

In 2009 Newark and Sherwood is retaining some 84.4% of the Newark and Sherwood demand for sports halls at venues inside the District. In 2014 retained demand is 78%. So a decrease of 6.4% in retained demand between the two years.

The reason for less of the Newark and Sherwood demand for sports halls being retained is most likely because between the two years, there may have been either new provision of sports halls, or, modernisation of existing sports halls in the neighbouring authorities. Where the drive time catchment area of any such sports halls extends into Newark and Sherwood, any new/modernised provision will then act as a draw to the Newark and Sherwood demand and the model will export this drawn demand to these venues. Hence a decrease in the level of retained Newark and Sherwood demand at its own sports halls.

Unmet Demand

Unmet demand is defined in two ways: demand for sports halls which cannot be met because (1) there is too much demand for any particular venue within its catchment area; or (2) the demand is located outside the catchment area of any sports hall and is then classified as unmet demand.

Total unmet demand for sports halls in Newark and Sherwood in 2009 is 9% of the total demand for sports halls and equates to just under 3 badminton courts. In 2014 unmet demand falls because of the increased sports hall capacity to 7.6% of total demand and this represents 2.3 badminton courts.

By 2014 all but 0.4% of the unmet demand is under the second definition of demand located outside the catchment area of a sports hall. So whilst some sports halls are estimated to be more full than others, there is no unmet demand because of lack of absolute capacity - it is the distribution of total demand across the venue which is the issue.

The areas of unmet demand outside catchment are dispersed across the district and there is no one hot spot of LOCATIONAL unmet demand. It is important to reiterate that this unmet demand is locational and there is enough sports hall supply to meet the unmet demand – it is just that it is located outside the walk to catchment area of a venue. Also it is unmet demand that chooses to walk to a sports hall, or, does not have access to a car (estimated to be 18% of the Newark and Sherwood population in 2014.) In 2014 the estimate is that 9% of all visits to sports halls are on foot (11.6% in 2009).

The 2009 fpm assessment and evidence base updated to 2014 shows that by all the different assessments applied the scale of unmet demand is not an issue.

Used Capacity

Used capacity is defined as measuring how full the sports halls are. The most important findings in the updating of the 2009 fpm report to 2014 are under used capacity.

In 2009 total used capacity as an average across the sports hall sites in Newark and Sherwood is 59% of total sports hall capacity used. In 2014 this has decreased to 54.3% of sport hall capacity used, so a decrease in used capacity of 4.7% between the two years. Both percentages are well within the Sport England halls full comfort level of 80% of sports hall capacity used.

The reason for the change is almost wholly attributable to the 2014 assessment including more sports hall capacity. The impact of the increase of 5 badminton courts in total and 8 more badminton courts for public use in the weekly peak period with no change in demand is reducing the used capacity of the sports halls.

As reported, the authority wide average used capacity of 54% does however vary across venues. The venues where demand/used capacity is estimated to be highest are: Newark Academy at 91% of estimated used capacity in the weekly peak period; Magnus Sports Centre at 79%; and Grove Leisure Centre at 68%.

The key finding under used capacity is that ACROSS THE AUTHORITY, there is estimated to be enough supply to meet the demand for sports halls. However the distribution and possible access to some venues is creating imbalance in the level of used capacity of sports halls at individual sites.

Table 1.1 below sets out the estimated used capacity at each of the sports hall venues in Newark and Sherwood in 2014.

Name of facility	Dimensions	FPM Courts	Year built	Year refurbished	% of Capacity used	% of capacity not used
NEWARK & SHERWOOD DISTRICT AVERAGE					54%	46%
DUKERIES LEISURE CENTRE	29 x 18	3	1981		33%	67%
DUKERIES LEISURE CENTRE	23 x 13					
DUKERIES LEISURE CENTRE	18 x 12					
DUKERIES LEISURE CENTRE	15 x 12					
GROVE LEISURE CENTRE (NEWARK)	37 x 18	4	1970		68%	32%
JOSEPH WHITAKER SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE AND FOUNDATION SCHOOL	34 x 18	4	1995	2004	52%	48%
JOSEPH WHITAKER SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE AND FOUNDATION SCHOOL	18 x 12					
MAGNUS SPORTS CENTRE	33 x 18	4	2001		79%	21%
MINSTER SCHOOL		4	2007		26%	74%
MINSTER SCHOOL						
NEWARK ACADEMY	33 x 18	4	1999		91%	9%
NEWARK ACADEMY	21 x 12					
NEWARK COLLEGE	25 x 15	2	1950	2004	73%	27%
SOUTHWELL LEISURE CENTRE	29 x 16	3	1985	2007	53%	47%

Table 1.1: Estimated used capacity of sports halls in Newark and Sherwood 2014

The key action based on the fpm findings and possible intervention is to try and manage the supply and demand for sports halls across venues, so as to achieve a more balanced level of used capacity at each venue. It is acknowledged this is challenging to do, given many of the sports halls are on education sites and not within the management or control of the District Council.

The other intervention is to try and increase the used capacity of the Dukeries Leisure Centre which does appear low in comparison to the other centres and reduce the level of use at the other centres, under the District Council control.

Summary

The update of the 2009 provision for sports halls report to 2014 shows that the main finding of the 2009 report remains valid in 2014. Namely that the total demand for sports halls by Newark and Sherwood residents can be met by the total supply of sports halls accessible to the Newark and Sherwood population.

The full inclusion of the Dukeries Leisure Centre in the 2014 and other small scale changes at other venues has effectively increased the supply base by 8 further badminton courts to 38 in total in 2014 and which are available for public and club use in the weekly peak period. This together with no change in the total demand for sports halls by Newark and Sherwood residents between 2009 – 2014 is reducing the average used capacity of sports halls at peak times to an estimated District average of 54% of their total capacity being used in 2014.

However the distribution of demand is creating high and lows and the suggested intervention is to try and manage the demand across venues to try and create a more balanced level of usage because the fpm assessment in both 2009 and 2014 is that there is enough sports hall supply/capacity to meet demand. **(See Appendix 2 for full FPM Report)**

Summary of Audit Findings and Analysis

In very general terms, there is an inadequate supply of built facilities (in adequate condition) used for sport and recreation in Newark and Sherwood, although the management, use and accessibility of these facilities are variable. Issues relating to the availability of specific types of facilities of sport and recreation facility tend to be localised.

A refresh and analysis of the audit of sport and recreation facilities in Newark and Sherwood as at August 2014 is summarised as follows:-

Type of facility	Summary of key points
Swimming pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are currently 8 sites with swimming pools in Newark and Sherwood. However, 3 of these sites are not factored in to public provision because they are either not accessible (Center Parcs Sherwood Forest Holiday Park) or do not meet the Active Places criteria in terms of dimensions (Sports Direct Fitness and Thoresby Hall Health Spa). Two sites have learner pools (Southwell Leisure Centre and Grove Leisure Centre) and a leisure pool at South Forest Edwinstowe. ▪ See Appendix 1 Swimming Pools FPM Strategic Assessment Report

Type of facility	Summary of key points
Sports halls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are nine sports halls in the District, six 4-badminton court halls, one 5-badminton court hall and one 3-badminton court hall and one 2-badminton court hall. ▪ All residents live within a 20 minute drive time of an existing 4 badminton court sports hall. ▪ All sports halls are co-located at education facilities, with the exception of Southwell Leisure Centre which is an independent trust. ▪ There are currently 43 badminton courts in the District of which 38 are available for public use. ▪ 54% of total capacity is currently being used. ▪ Community use of sports halls on secondary school sites is limited due to joint use arrangements where applicable and school use, but this situation could change in future significantly through investment in schools programme and the ‘extended services within schools’ initiative. ▪ See Appendix 2 Sports Hall FPM Strategic Assessment Report
Multi-use (or small) halls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are approximately 100 multi-use halls (i.e., village, church, community and school halls) in the District, many of which have a hall the size of at least one badminton court and could accommodate a range of sport, recreation and fitness activities. ▪ Community halls are generally well spread throughout the District although accessibility of halls is variable. ▪ Primary school halls could provide venues for regular use by sports clubs and organisations but they are largely underused due to access, cost and limited functionality for certain activities.
Artificial grass pitches (AGPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are 6 full size AGPs in Newark and Sherwood. All AGPs are co-located at school sites and operated by the schools. ▪ 5 are ‘sand filled’ carpets and 1 is Third Generation (3G) ▪ The ‘sand filled’ AGP at the Newark Academy Balderton site is currently not fit for public use. ▪ The AGP at the Newark Academy, Lilley and Stone site has no floodlighting provision therefore is of limited community use when the demand for such facilities is greatest. ▪ The distribution of AGPs is reasonable. ▪ With the exception of the two AGP’s at the two Newark Academy sites, existing AGPs are well used and the FA recommend that a further three 3G AGP are required in the District based on 215 teams and 60 teams to one AGP. ▪ Due to location factors there are limited opportunities for day-time community use of existing AGPs. ▪ There are 4 small (20 by 40 metres) AGP’s located at Epperstone Village Hall, Muskham School, Bishop Alexander School Newark

Type of facility	Summary of key points
	<p>and Besthorpe, the latter having no floodlights and no co-located school following its closure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collingham Football Club has recently opened a 60 by 40 yards 3G AGP which is not factored into the strategic assessment as it is not full size. <p>See Playing Pitch Strategy for AGP Strategic Assessment</p>
Indoor tennis courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are no bespoke, indoor tennis facilities in the District. ▪ Caunton LTC has identified a need for indoor courts at its club. ▪ Tennis players travel significant distances to use the indoor tennis facility at Nottingham Tennis Centre. ▪ There are currently no priority sites identified in the District by the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) for indoor courts.
Outdoor tennis courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are 59 courts in the District located at 18 sites which are relatively evenly distributed. ▪ There are 25 courts located at education sites and all sites having at least two courts and 16 located at District owned sites. ▪ Generally outdoor tennis courts are assessed as 'good quality' although there are a few qualitative issues. ▪ See Playing Pitch Strategy for Tennis Strategic Assessment
Indoor bowling greens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are two dedicated indoor bowls facilities with 15 rinks in total. ▪ Almost all local residents live within a 20-minute travel time of an indoor bowls facility and the quality is generally good. ▪ Levels of demand vary seasonally. ▪ There is adequate provision with spare capacity at present. The Sport England Facility Calculator suggests a District provision of 1.49 indoor facilities and 8.92 rinks based on a population of 115,761. ▪ A population increase to 132,500 would require 1.70 indoor facilities and 10.21 rinks which can easily be met by existing provision.
Outdoor bowling greens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are 18 outdoor bowling sites with 20 active greens. ▪ All outdoor bowling greens are assessed as being of good. ▪ The facilities are generally well used, with greens at Southwell reported overuse. ▪ See Playing Pitch Strategy for Outdoor Bowling Strategic Assessment
Multi-Use Games Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The distribution of MUGAs is generally good, with the majority of local residents living within a 10-minute travel time of (at least) one. ▪ The condition, use and accessibility of MUGAs is generally good. ▪ The type and specification for MUGA's should be considered in accordance with Sport England Technical specifications.

Type of facility	Summary of key points
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Existing levels of provision vary widely and do not conform to SE and SAPCA guidance requirements generally in respect of size and surface make up and lack of suitable illumination. ▪ Management and access arrangements vary greatly from school based lettings to open access. ▪ The Supplementary Planning Document Developer Contributions Obligations 2013 is a mechanism to negotiate such provision as part of larger developments under the Open Space and Children’s Play section.
Fitness suites/gyms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Based on Active Places Power, there are currently 15 fitness facilities in the District including public and privately owned and operated facilities. ▪ There is significant clustering of fitness facilities in urban areas and poor provision in ‘the Parishes’ and rural areas of the District. ▪ NSDC is the largest single provider of fitness facilities in the District. ▪ Capacity is an issue within fitness facilities and has resulted in refurbishment and expansion of NSDC facilities to over 350 stations including junior fitness equipment. ▪ The proposed new leisure centre for Newark could accommodate up to 200 stations which is effectively double the existing provision at the Grove Leisure Centre.
Squash courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are 9 squash courts available for public use at four sites. ▪ There are 3 glass back courts at Southwell LC. ▪ The new three court facility at Southwell Leisure Centre has moveable walls and is utilised as a flexible space when not required for squash ▪ A 20-minute travel time usually associated with this type of facility indicates that there are no parts of the District outside of this catchment area. ▪ Retention of existing squash courts is important and the proposed new leisure centre in Newark will provide two courts to replace the two being lost at the Grove Leisure Centre.
Golf courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are 14 golf facilities, of these 5 are Driving ranges, 2 are Par 3 ‘s and 7 are standard 18 hole courses ▪ A number are available for use by non-members. ▪ All golf courses are ‘well used’. ▪ Most are in ‘excellent’ condition.
Athletics tracks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are two permanent, cinder all-weather 6 lane 400 metres athletics tracks, located at the Newark Academy Balderton site and Dukeries Academy, Ollerton. ▪ The condition of both tracks is considered poor and neither is suitable to host competitions. ▪ There is a strong club based at the Newark Academy and no

Type of facility	Summary of key points
	<p>club base at Dukeries Academy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newark AC require improved facilities for track and field events and a new 6 lane synthetic track could be delivered at the proposed Sports Hub site in mitigation for the loss of the current facilities at the Newark Academy Balderton site. See Playing Pitch Strategy Assessment
Recreation ground pavilions/changing accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changing facilities vary greatly at sport and recreation grounds, although a number have been replaced in recent years through grant aid investment notably football and cricket facilities. Changing room provision will be assessed as part of the playing pitch assessment undertaken as a parallel activity to the sports facility strategy See Playing Pitch Strategy Assessment
Neighbouring areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation identifies that community sport and recreation facilities in neighbouring areas have limited use by Newark and Sherwood residents with the exception of Ravenshead Leisure Centre.

Summary of identified needs – Supply and Demand - Participation Led

Current Needs	Implications/Opportunities
Males 26 – 45 & 46 – 55 interested in cycling, keep fit/gym and swimming and older people 66+ interested in keep fir/gym, swimming and bowls are the significant segments of the District	Demand likely to increase as these groups maintain their participation profile and younger male population gradually adopt this profile. Demand likely to be further increased by Growth Point development
Poorest health profile in most deprived Wards.	Ease of access a key priority for most deprived wards, a number of which (Bridge, Castle and Devon) are in Newark
Increase levels of females participating in sport	Facility programming needs to reflect this in combination with sport and physical activity plan, daytime use Monday to Friday would contribute to increasing participation rates within this target group, new initiatives targeting women and girls would help increase participation such as Back to Netball
Cycling, Swimming, Gym, Fitness & Conditioning and Football are currently the top 5 activities	Facility provision needs to cater for future population growth to service demand in these activities
Improvement in athletics facilities	There is a clear need to replace the athletics track at the Newark Academy when it is lost to the new school build and it should be located in Newark to maintain /increase the growth in participation and club membership

Lack of indoor cricket facilities	Newark area has been identified by Nottinghamshire County Cricket Board Limited as a priority for a District Indoor Centre with 4 bays suitable for Mid-Level Competition to ECB TS3 Specification
Poor quality changing facilities and access barriers	Without improvement in changing facilities in particular, club development will be constrained which, in turn, may affect participation and volunteering levels
Forecast growth participation increase by 2021	Increased demand will create further access issues, therefore consideration needs to be given to a longer time frame than this strategy which will be addressed through the review process

Overall, the quality of current provision of facilities is constraining the District from fulfilling the national, regional and local objectives of increasing active participation in sport and recreation in order to improving the quality of life of the local community.

Additional community sports facilities

Where there is insufficient justification, based on projections alone, for new facilities, identified need is significant in justifying their development. The identified priority sport and recreation facility development needs in Newark and Sherwood based on consultation findings are (in no particular order) to:-

- Extend and develop the network of MUGAs,
- Provide additional full size Third Generation Artificial Grass Pitches (AGP) in the District one of which should be in Newark,
- Develop additional/replace sports hall(s) to cater for growing demand and address ageing facilities, particularly in Newark,
- Increase use (and accessibility) of facilities for sport and recreation in rural areas,
- Improve the quality of changing accommodation, particularly on multi-pitch sites,
- Improve provision of specific sports such as athletics, swimming, hockey etc.

The way that facilities are managed and operated also influences their use. Key issues that should be addressed in Newark and Sherwood include:-

- Establishing Community Access Agreements (CAA's) with owner operators to ensure good access to facility time,
- Establish a network of voluntary sports organisations such as Newark Sports Association which can take an active lead in the development and management of facilities,
- Improved programming of school facilities for increased community use,
- Development of specialist/elite performance facilities at appropriate locations within the District.

The principles by which sport and recreation facilities should be developed in the District are:-

- Improve the quality of existing facilities,
- Develop more and or improve existing facilities in rural villages,
- Improve sports facilities in Newark,
- Secure developer contributions towards community sporting infrastructure,
- Increase community use of school facilities, particularly primary schools,
- Provide more facilities closer to where people live, particularly free-play facilities,
- Develop a network of multi-sport hub sites at key locations across the District.

MINIMUM LOCAL PROVISION STANDARDS

The setting of local minimum provision standards, informed by the assessment, will provide Newark and Sherwood District Council with a contemporary and informed view of sport and recreation facilities. This will enable the Council to facilitate effective negotiation of developer contributions, resist unsuitable planning applications for development, avoid the loss of sport and recreational facilities and ensure effective planning.

The Companion Guide to PPG17 states that local standards should include:-

- A quantitative component (i.e. how much provision is needed)
- A qualitative component (i.e. condition)
- An accessibility component (e.g. travel distances, cost)

Inclusion of a minimum acceptable size also helps as a guide to facility development. The relative importance of these elements will vary from one type of provision to another.

Minimum provision standards are proposed for each type of facility. They are aspirational and based on consultation, identification of current and future demands and are predicated on the calculation of effective catchment areas. They do not necessarily apply to a single site. The facilities should also be managed in an appropriate manner.

All facilities are assumed to offer at least 'adequate', but not exclusive, day-time community use, be 'fit for purpose' (i.e., able to provide opportunities in activities for which it is intended), be in at least 'adequate condition' and provide adequate car parking for peak time usage in a safe and secure location adjacent to the facility(s).

Identified shortfalls and key issues

Shortfalls in the availability, quality and accessibility of sport and recreation built facilities in Newark and Sherwood District and key issues, as identified in the needs assessment and audit, and based on the minimum standards of provision, are summarised as follows:-

Facility type	Shortfall(s)
Swimming pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Projected population growth (focused in the Newark area as part of the Growth Point proposals) and popularity of swimming indicate increased demand for additional swimming pool space. ▪ A new leisure centre in Newark will replace the Grove Leisure Centre and will provide an additional 81 square metres of water space through an enlarged training/learner pool. ▪ The pool at Dukeries Academy is considered to be in a 'poor' condition with limited attractiveness for community use but is well used. The concept of a Social Enterprise through a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) or Community Interest Company (CIC) could be present opportunities to safeguard and enhance the sporting and leisure facilities at the site. ▪ See Appendix 1 Facilities Planning Model – Provision for Swimming.
Sports halls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Projected population growth (focused in the Newark area as part of Growth Point proposals) indicate an increasing demand for a new sports hall provision. ▪ Two new 4 court sports hall are planned in the PSBP Newark Academy rebuild project and new leisure centre which will replace the Grove Leisure Centre ▪ All other sports halls in the District are considered to be in either good or excellent condition. ▪ Accessibility to sports halls at school managed sites vary greatly and tend to be more difficult, although there are exceptions. ▪ See Appendix 2 Facilities Planning Model – Provision for Sports Halls
Artificial grass pitches (AGP's)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are four sand based AGP suitable for competitive hockey within Newark & Sherwood and one full size 3G AGP in Newark & Sherwood at Joseph Whitaker School. ▪ There are two hockey clubs within the District; Newark Hockey Club and Southwell Brincliffe United Hockey Club. ▪ Southwell Brincliffe United HC has no plans to expand and has access to sufficient slots for its needs; however, access at the home ground, Minster School, can be difficult during school holidays. ▪ Newark Hockey Club has expanded in recent years and continues to do so. The Club requires access to additional training slots ▪ Providing floodlighting at Newark Academy Lilley & Stone site could help to reduce shortfalls in demand for hockey slots, however the pitch would also need resurfacing if competitive hockey was to take place regularly at the site.

Facility type	Shortfall(s)
	<p>Furthermore, there could be issues surrounding planning permission for floodlighting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Re-providing the lost pitch at Newark Academy Balderton site as 3G could take some football demand away from Magnus Sports Centre. This would allow additional slots for hockey (provided that the Centre chooses to allocate them for hockey) and allow Newark HC to expand. (Notwithstanding that the hockey surface needs to be replaced in the next one to two years). ▪ On the basis there are 215 teams playing competitive football in Newark & Sherwood, there is a recommended need for four full size 3G pitches, currently there is one in the area. ▪ Collingham FC has opened a 60 by 40 yards 3G facility through planning gain. ▪ See Facilities Planning Model – Provision for Artificial Grass Pitches (AGP's)
Multi sports hub clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Newark Growth Point has identified a mini multi sport hub on land south of Newark as part of the master plan. ▪ Land assembly in the location of the RHP/NSK sports ground has been secured for a sports hub for Newark ▪ There is scope to develop smaller multi sport facilities in the rural east and former coal mining areas of the District, namely Ollerton and Boughton, Southwell and Collingham. ▪ Sites will be developed that can demonstrate effective management and sustainability
Indoor tennis courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provision should be made for indoor tennis facilities in the District Caunton Tennis Club has identified indoor provision as a club priority. ▪ Consideration should be given to indoor provision in Newark as part of the Newark Growth Point multi sport hub site or on other appropriate land located within the town.
Indoor bowling greens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is no current identified additional provision required for indoor bowls facilities.
Outdoor bowling greens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are 20 bowling greens in Newark & Sherwood provided across 18 sites. ▪ There are two disused greens at Welfare Trust Sports Field and Edwinstowe Bowling Club which are now derelict and unused and have been omitted from the analysis. ▪ All of the greens in Newark & Sherwood are assessed as good quality. There are no standard or poor quality greens. ▪ The District Council owns two bowling greens at Beaumont Gardens and Sherwood Avenue, Newark both of which are leased to and maintained by Newark Northern BC.

Facility type	Shortfall(s)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are 20 clubs using bowling greens in Newark & Sherwood with an average playing membership of 42. The majority of clubs suggest that an additional bowling green at their home green or in the area would not lead to an increase in club membership. ▪ Ollerton BC is part of plans to develop the Welfare Trust Sports Field site for housing, resulting in the loss of the currently used green and rejuvenation of the disused one, with the addition of a new clubhouse. ▪ Junior participation is almost none existent, with just one junior member across the District at Southwell Town BC. ▪ Southwell BC, Newark Northern BC, Farnsfield BC and Bilsthorpe BC are all large Clubs with over 50 members. Greens in use by these clubs may be played to capacity or in excess. ▪ Notwithstanding that there may be additional demand for bowling greens in the future; there is significant spare capacity at some greens which may suggest that there is an oversupply. ▪ See Playing Pitch Strategy 2014 – Part 8 Bowls
Multi-use games areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The absence of floodlighting and overall size at the majority of sites significantly limits their potential use. ▪ Sport England research suggests that additional MUGAs would be desirable in wards in excess of 1,000 people. ▪ Secure unrestricted access to MUGAs not located on school sites. ▪ Where possible construct to Sport England/SAPCA Technical Specification.
Fitness suites/gyms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There 15 sites listed on Active Places Power ▪ There is a mix of public and private provision ▪ Improve capacity and access to fitness facilities provided by schools. ▪ Grove Leisure Centre is operating at near capacity
Golf courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are 14 golf sites listed on Active Places Power ▪ There 7 standard 18 hole courses, 5 driving ranges and 2 Par 3 courses. ▪ All are privately operated
Athletics tracks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are two athletics tracks within Newark & Sherwood. Both have cinder surfaces and are assessed as poor. Both are unable to host competition. • There is one club within the District; Newark Athletic Club. The club is growing year on year and currently has a membership of 260. However, the imminent loss of its current facility, due to the rebuilding of Newark Academy at the Grove, requires that a replacement facility be provided as the loss of facilities poses a real threat to

Facility type	Shortfall(s)
	<p>sustainability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All athletes must travel outside of Newark & Sherwood in order to access adequate facilities for 'home fixtures'. Furthermore, due to a lack of throw facilities talented athletes move to clubs outside of Newark. • Runners/running clubs are self-reliant and accommodated within Newark & Sherwood. <p>▪ See Playing Pitch Strategy 2014 – Part 7 Athletics</p>
Recreation ground pavilions/changing accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is a need for investment in changing facilities at various locations as identified in the Playing Pitch Strategy. ▪ A number of sites suffer from poor provision ▪ There is a dearth of dedicated changing accommodation for officials (e.g., referees, umpires). <p>▪ See Playing Pitch Strategy 2014</p>
Natural turf Sports Pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provision of sports pitches for football, rugby union, cricket and bowls is contained within the District Playing Pitch Strategy. ▪ The strategy identifies current levels of provision and identifies deficits and/or over supply issues as appropriate <p>▪ See Playing Pitch Strategy 2014</p>

Development of new and improvement to existing facilities to address identified shortfalls should be located in the proximity of the principal development areas (i.e., those preferred sites identified by the Newark and Sherwood Core Strategy and the Allocations and Development Management Development Plan Document namely the Newark urban area extension).

SECTION 8 - STRATEGIC POLICY OPTIONS

The application of the minimum provision standards has identified the following priority deficiencies/issues in built facilities used for sport and recreation in Newark and Sherwood:

- Continued provision of all facility types is required at comparable levels based on evidence of need. This is a particularly significant issue for facilities in poor condition and principal community sports facilities coming to the end of their 'operational lives' (e.g., Grove Leisure Centre including outdoor provision of an Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) and 6 lane synthetic 400 metre athletics track, Dukeries Academy swimming pool and ancillary halls).
- Additional sports hall space will be required to meet population growth and anticipated increases in physical activity levels.
- Additional swimming pool space approximately equivalent to a 6 lane 25m ASA competition swimming pool and 20 metre training pool in Newark to replace the Grove Leisure Centre pools will be required to meet population growth and increases in physical activity levels. The Grove is currently operating at 100% of its capacity used which is 30 % above the Sport England pools full comfort level of 70%
- The swimming pool at Dukeries Academy is operating at 74% of capacity used which is 4% above the Sport England pools full comfort level and is in need of refurbishment.
- The FA recommend that an additional three 3G AGP's are provided in the District to meet the demand from existing levels of football and future growth as new teams are generated with one being provided in Newark.
- There are opportunities to develop a major multi sports hub facility within Newark and smaller scale facilities in the rural east and former coalmining areas of the District.
- Increase opportunities for casual play at (indoor and outdoor) bowls facilities.
- Continued development of a comprehensive network of MUGAs in accordance, where possible, with Sport England/SAPCA Technical Specifications.
- Increase (and improve condition of) recreation ground pavilions/changing accommodation at multi pitch sites throughout the District.
- Enhance the network of fitness suites/gyms.

There are four principal policy options for addressing identified deficiencies/issues. These are:-

Policy option	Comment
<p>New facility provision</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Direct provision by NSDC could be the only option for developing principal sport and recreation facilities (new leisure centre) offering extensive community use and addressing multiple deficiencies/issues. ▪ The District Council could and should assume an enabling role to support organisations such as Newark Sports Association, Ollerton and Boughton Sports Forum and the Southwell and District Sports Forum to support the improvement of sustainable facilities. ▪ Parish/Town (significantly not Newark at present) councils are major providers of village/community halls, changing pavilions/accommodation and some MUGAs and youth facilities, which should be sustained and increased. ▪ Developing new school sports facilities that also serve community needs, could help to meet some deficiencies. ▪ Some types of facility (e.g., golf courses) can and do operate on a commercially viable basis. ▪ The development of new housing in the District will offer opportunities for financial contributions from property developers, to assist with meeting the costs for new or improved sport and recreation facility provision to cater for the projected increase in population and increased participation.
<p>Upgraded facility provision</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrading existing facility provision would meet some of the qualitative deficiencies identified, particularly for village/community halls and changing accommodation. • Voluntary sector sports clubs are, and will continue to be, significant facility operators and in some cases providers of bowling greens, tennis courts etc. Clubs could be supported to safeguard existing provision and to develop new facilities to meet identified deficiencies/issues and Section 106 contributions could support such improvements
<p>Enhanced access to existing facilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The predominance of dual/joint-use sport and recreation facilities on school sites both restricts daytime community access (particularly to 4-badminton court sports halls) and potentially provides opportunities to address some of the identified deficiencies/issues.

Policy option	Comment
Integrated facility provision	<p>In some instances, the deficiencies identified could be met through adapted or integrated provision. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Combined provision of facilities (e.g., a MUGA with tennis court markings) could enhance the network of community facilities. ▪ Ensuring that village/community halls can accommodate carpet bowls could significantly reduce the effective catchment areas of indoor bowls facilities in NSDC and the need to travel to additional specialist facilities.

SECTION 9 - HEADLINE ACTION PLAN

The Implementation Plan recommends a number of high priority projects in the District. It should be recognised that the Strategy and Implementation Plan provides a direction and framework for improvement of facilities (i.e., a rationale for prioritisation and decision-making) and not the justification and feasibility for an individual project, which will need to be assessed on a facility-by-facility basis, as required.

There are several ways of meeting identified deficiencies/issues in Newark and Sherwood, through a combination of new and upgraded provision, developing access to education sites and by integrating the need to share the use of multi-purpose facilities.

Within the Headline Action Plan the reference to timescale is intended to give an indication of intention and should not be taken as absolutes as they are predicated on a number of factors which will influence the deliverability of the stated priority. The priorities are generally dependant on collaborations with key partners and therefore the timescales identified will be subject to regular review and may have to be adjusted as part of the monitoring process.

Deficiency/Issue	Recommended Action	Priority	Timescale Year End	Outcome/KPI	Principal Partner(s)
Additional sports hall provision	Build two new sports halls linked to the closure of the Newark Academy Balderton site and Grove LC	High	2016	2 new 4 court sports halls to replace loss of 5 court hall at current Grove LC.	NSDC/PSBP/ NCC LEA

Deficiency/Issue	Recommended Action	Priority	Timescale Year End	Outcome/KPI	Principal Partner(s)
Additional swimming pool space	Replace the swimming pools at Grove Leisure Centre.	High	2016	A new 25m 6 lane ASA competition swimming pool and a suitable 20 metre training pool	NSDC/SE/ASA/ Local Swimming Clubs
Additional Third Generation Artificial Grass Pitches	Develop one full size 3G AGP in Newark	High	2016	A new 3 G Full size AGP.	NSDC/PSBP/ NCC/LEA/FA/ NSA
	Develop a further two in the District in areas of identified need based on team generation rates.	Medium	2018	Two new 3 G Full Size AGP's	NSDC/Sports Associations/ FA /Local Clubs
Develop large multi sport hub clubs.	Develop a multi-sport hub facility in Newark as part of Newark Growth Point.	High	2016	New large multi sport hub club	NSDC/SE/ NGB's/NSA/ Local Clubs
	Develop additional multi-sport hub clubs at priority locations in the rural and former coal mining areas of the District.	Medium	2018	Three or four new multi sport hub clubs	NSDC/SE/ Local Clubs Town/Parish Councils/NGB's/Sports Associations
Increase opportunities for casual play at bowls facilities.	Work with clubs to promote wider access to bowls facilities.	High	Ongoing	Widening access and increasing opportunities to participate in bowls.	NSDC/NGB/ Local Bowls Clubs
Develop a comprehensive network of	Install an open access MUGA into all priority	Medium	2018	More opportunities to use 'free-	NSDC/Town and Parish Councils/

Deficiency/Issue	Recommended Action	Priority	Timescale Year End	Outcome/KPI	Principal Partner(s)
MUGAs.	communities through grant aid and developer contributions where appropriate.			play' facilities	Grant making Bodies
Replacement athletics track in Newark	Install new 400 metre synthetic athletics track and field provision in Newark area	High	2016	Widening access an increasing opportunities to participate in athletics.	NSDC/NCC LEA/NGB/SE/ NSA/Local Athletics Club
Increase and improve condition of sports and recreation ground pavilions and changing accommodation on multi pitch sites.	Upgrade and or replace changing accommodation at priority sites as identified within the Playing Pitch Strategy.	Medium	2018	Better quality ancillary facilities and fewer barriers to participating in pitch sports. Improved supporting infrastructure.	NSDC/NGB's/ SE/Sports Associations/ Town and Parish Council's/ Clubs
Enhance the network of fitness suites/gyms.	Ensure that there are publicly available fitness facilities in priority communities especially open access opportunities such as fitness/Trim trails in parks	Low	2021	More opportunities to be physically active.	NSDC/Town and Parish Councils/ Grant Making Bodies

The assessment also identified a need for:

- Improved cross-boundary collaboration with neighbouring local authorities in Nottinghamshire and adjoining counties, particularly with regards to development of principal community facilities (i.e., sports halls, swimming pools and AGPs).
- Design and operational principles for new sport and recreation facilities to encourage greater shared use of available resources particularly wider community use of school facilities.

- Inclusion of new and improved infrastructure for events and off-site activities (i.e., activities that use facilities as a 'base' but take place elsewhere) in sport and recreation facilities.

Newark and Sherwood District Council should be the lead/principal partner in taking forward and resolving these issues over the course of this strategy, by:

- Ensuring cross-boundary discussions and collaborations to consider the most effective facility development and operational effectiveness.
- Promoting best practice in respect of design and operational guide(s) for new sport and recreation facilities factoring in maximum flexibility and whole life costs.
- Identifying and integrating appropriate infrastructure and resources into the development of new and refurbishment of existing principal community sport and recreation facilities.

SECTION 10 - MONITORING AND REVIEW

This strategy and implementation plan will be subject to an annual review by the Strategy Steering Group which will take into account all relevant factors including delivery outputs against priorities, changes in national, regional and local strategic priorities and any associated movements in anticipated timescales.

The review will consider wherever possible all internal and external factors and key drivers of the development of the sports and recreation infrastructure. The review process will include reporting to Members and Key Partners any emerging opportunities and risks to the implementation plan.

The review will also scrutinise the audit of sporting facilities in the District to ensure that the data held on facilities is accurate in order to ensure that Active Places database is current and reflects accurately current levels of provision.

The strategy will also be subject to a major review in 2017 given the impact of the implications of the Priority Schools Building Programme (PSBP) in the District and as the strategic sites identified in the Core Strategy progress, or for any other significant reason as determined by Members or Officers of the Authority.

SECTION 11 - ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The review of this strategy document is the culmination of research, communication and consultation with a wide variety of partners and it is appropriate and important to recognise the value of the various contributors to the final document. The process has involved challenge at various stages of its development and all contributors are thanked including our partner clubs and governing bodies of sport for their input.

Most importantly we thank Steve Beard and Andy James at Sport England for the technical expertise and ongoing support and David Payne at Neil Allen Associates for authoring the technical reports for both swimming pools and sports halls which has supported the delivery of what is a very detailed, robust, realistic and deliverable plan.