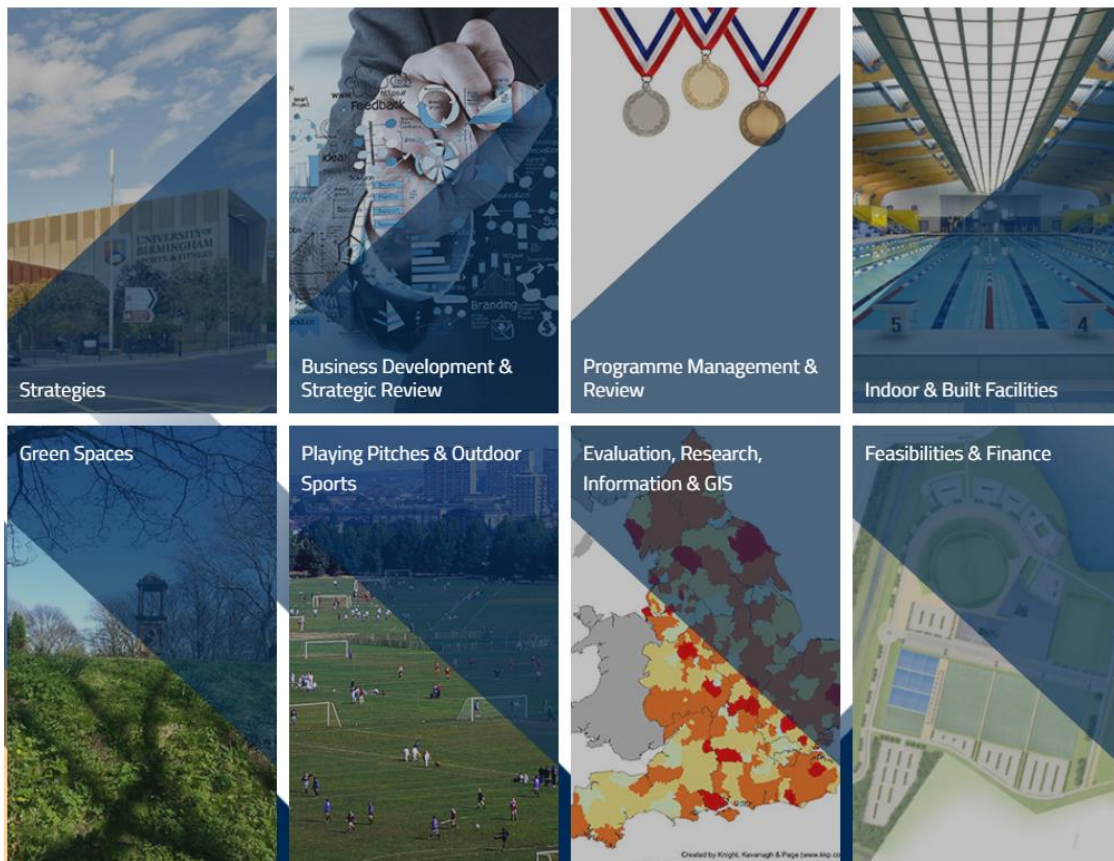


COVENTRY CITY COUNCIL INDOOR SPORTS AND AQUATICS STRATEGY



NEEDS ASSESSMENT: MAY 2025

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) has been appointed by Coventry City Council (CCC) to produce an Indoor Sports and Aquatics Facilities Strategy (ISAFS) for the period 2024-2041. Its stated objectives are to:

- ◀ Provide a documented assessment of current and future needs for indoor sports and aquatics facilities within the city; focusing on the quantity and quality issues in relation to supply and demand.
- ◀ Identify all valuable sites to ensure they can be protected and improved for the long-term benefit of sport.
- ◀ Provide a clear and justified series of recommendations and associated action plans for the disposal / provision of indoor sports and aquatics facilities surplus to requirements (this includes all education sites, to ensure the council / school trusts are building fit for purpose facilities for both the curriculum and community use).
- ◀ Promote a sustainable approach to the provision of indoor sports and aquatics facilities and management of sports clubs.
- ◀ Ensure that all clubs have access to facilities of appropriate quality to meet current needs and long-term aspirations.
- ◀ Inform the development and implementation of planning policy including the assessment of planning applications and Section 106 contributions (development contributions).
- ◀ Plan for the provision and use of shared spaces; including the identification of school facilities which could be utilised to address identified deficits in provision.
- ◀ Ensure alignment between the Indoor Sports and Aquatics Facilities Strategy and the Council's Education Capital Strategy, including understanding the growth of school numbers in secondary and the impact on indoor sports and aquatics facilities.
- ◀ Take account of indoor sport and aquatics facilities provided in neighbouring local authorities that presently service the sporting and recreational needs of Coventry residents (and vice versa).
- ◀ Ensure provision can meet future demand derived from housing growth and to guide the level of increased provision required to create a clear plan of demand for future public leisure facilities (using Sport England's Sports Facilities Calculator).
- ◀ Help provide the evidence to secure internal and external funding to support the Indoor Sports and Aquatics Facilities Strategy action plan.
- ◀ Align with wider objectives of the refreshed Coventry Sport and Physical Activity Strategy as they emerge.

This report is, thus, a detailed assessment of current provision of indoor and built sports facilities located within Coventry, identifying needs (demand) and gaps (deficiencies in provision). The ISAFS:

- ◀ Incorporates a robust up to date needs assessment which supports the Council and meets the requirements of the amended National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- ◀ Reflects and addresses the needs and demands of the local population that will grow in line with the changes defined by the emerging Plan.
- ◀ Should underpin action by CCC and key stakeholders with regard to potential joint investment in sport and physical activity facilities.

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1.2: Scope of the project

This report provides a facility breakdown of what exists in the Authority, its condition, location, availability and overall quality. It considers demand for facilities based on population distribution, planned growth and takes into consideration health and economic deprivation. The facilities/sports covered include, sports halls (and associated indoor sports), swimming pools, health and fitness, squash, gymnastics, indoor tennis, indoor bowls and community centres. In delivering this report KKP has:

- ◀ Individually audited identified sports halls (conventional i.e., 3+ badminton court halls) swimming pools (minimum size 160m²), health and fitness facilities (including, within reason, dance studios) and the wider range of facilities identified above.
- ◀ Analysed supply and demand to identify gaps and opportunities to improve provision.
- ◀ Sought to identify the extent to which delivery of leisure facilities is undertaken with full reference to the corporate strategies of the Council and other relevant strategic influences.
- ◀ Identified areas of good practice and opportunities to drive up participation levels.

The audit was conducted in January 2023.

Specific deficiencies and surpluses are identified to inform the provision required. The specific objectives of the audit and assessment are to:

- ◀ Review relevant CCC strategies, plans, reports and corporate objectives.
- ◀ Review the local, regional and national strategic context.
- ◀ Present the scale of known local housing growth.
- ◀ Analyse the demographics of the local population at present and in the future (up to 2041).
- ◀ Audit indoor facilities provided by public, private, voluntary and education sectors.
- ◀ Consider potential participation rates and model likely demand.
- ◀ Analyse the balance between supply of, and demand for, sports facilities plus identification of potential under and over-provision – now and in the future.
- ◀ Identify key issues to address in the future provision of indoor sports facilities.

This process applied reflects Sport England's Guide; Assessing Needs and Opportunities for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities (ANOG) methodology and accords with the most up-to-date version of the NPPF and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).

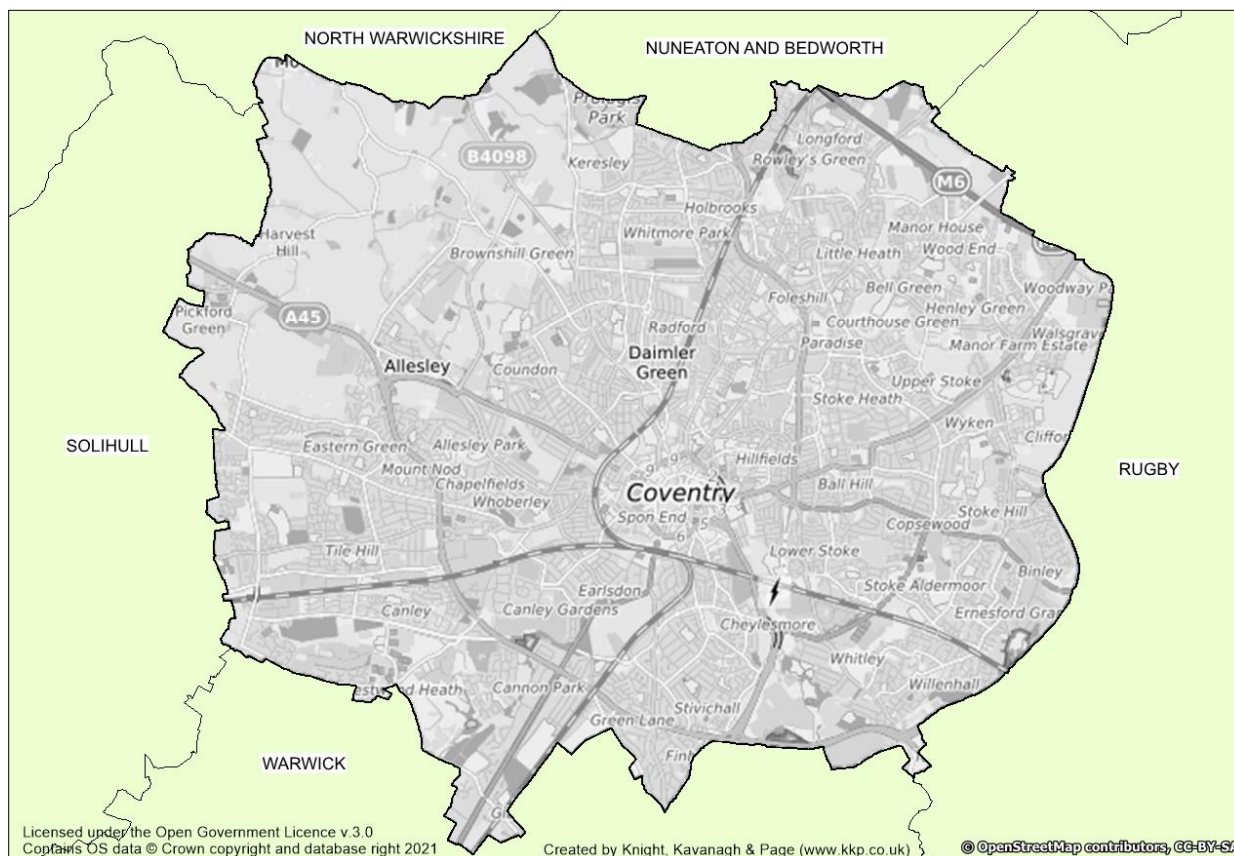
1.3: Background

Coventry City Council is one of seven authorities located in the West Midlands. It comprises of the City Centre area along with the following district centres; Arena Park; Cannon Park; Brandon Road and Eastern Green. Due to its central location nationally, it is well connected with five motorways, including the M1, M6, and M40, serving/surrounding the Authority. In addition, Coventry Station is served by the West Coast Main Line providing direct trains to Birmingham, London and the North. Birmingham airport is within 30 minutes' drive of Coventry city centre.

The Authority has two universities (Warwick and Coventry) located within/on its borders. Both have a key role in shaping the City, in terms of their economic, cultural and social impact. University of Warwick's large campus straddles the border of the authorities of Warwick and Coventry.

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Figure 1.1: Main towns and transport links – Coventry City Council



1.4: Report structure

The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) in a report entitled '*Strategic Planning: Effective Co-operation for Planning Across Boundaries (2015)*' puts the case for strategic planning based on six general principles:

- ✦ Have focus.
- ✦ Be genuinely strategic.
- ✦ Be spatial.
- ✦ Be collaborative.
- ✦ Have strong leadership and
- ✦ Be accountable to local electorates.

In the preparation of this report, KKP has paid due regard to these strategic principles and it is, as a consequence, structured as follows:

- ✦ Section 2 - background policy, population profile and demographic characteristics.
- ✦ Section 3 - description of methodology employed to assess indoor provision.
- ✦ Section 4 - assessment of sports hall provision.
- ✦ Section 5 - assessment of swimming pool provision.
- ✦ Section 6 - assessment of health and fitness provision.
- ✦ Section 7 - assessment of squash.
- ✦ Section 8 - assessment of gymnastics.
- ✦ Section 9- assessment of indoor bowls,
- ✦ Section 10 - assessment of indoor tennis.
- ✦ Section 11- assessment of community centres.
- ✦ Section 12- assessment of combat sports
- ✦ Section 12 – strategic recommendations

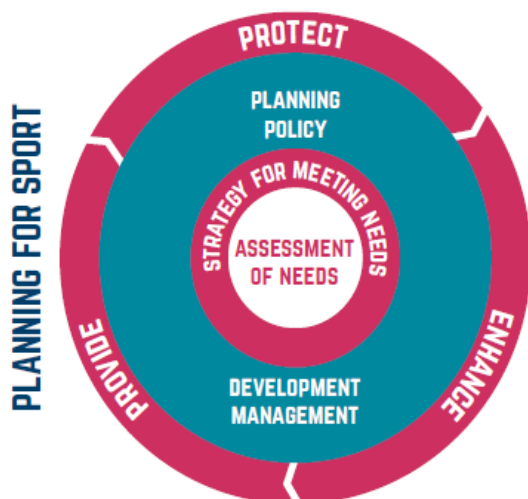
COVENTRY CITY COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

SECTION 2: BACKGROUND

2.1: National context

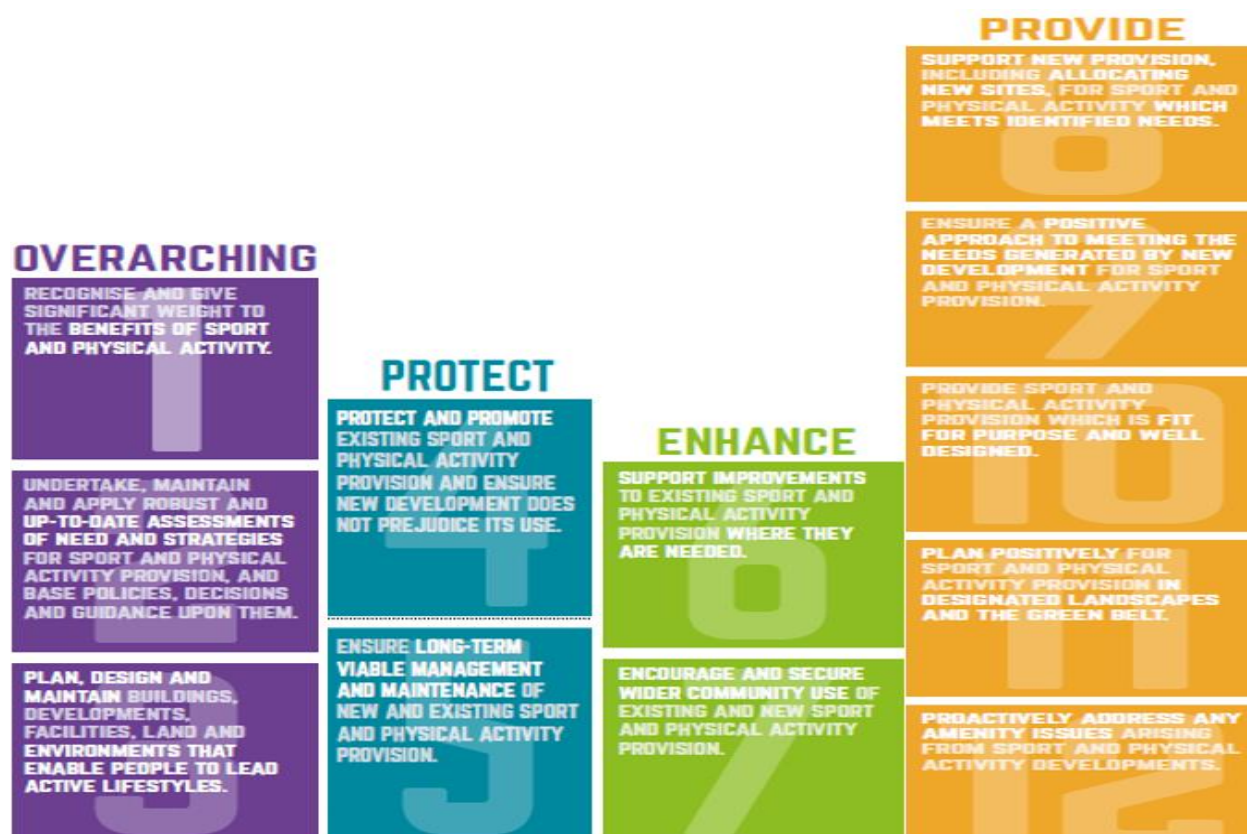
Sport England aims to ensure positive planning for sport, enabling the right facilities to be provided in the right places, based on up-to-date assessment of needs for all levels of sport and all sectors of the community. This assessment report has been produced for Coventry City Council applying the principles and tools identified in Sport England's ANOG guidance.

Figure 2.1: The Sport England Planning for Sport Model



Assessment of need is core to planning for sporting provision. It is underpinned by 12 planning-for-sport principles which help the planning system to contribute to sustainable development by fulfilling the key role of the NPPF in creating strong, vibrant and healthy communities. Applying them ensures that the planning system plans positively to enable and support healthy lifestyles, delivers community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs, and provides opportunity for all to experience the benefits that taking part in sport and physical activity brings. They apply to all areas of the planning system and to planning at local authority and neighbourhood levels. As such they are of relevance to all involved in, or looking to engage with, the planning system.

Figure 2.2: Sport England's 12 planning principles



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Sport England: Uniting the Movement 2021

Sport and physical activity have a big role to play in improving the physical and mental health of the nation, supporting the economy, reconnecting communities and rebuilding a stronger society for all following the global pandemic. Reflecting this, Sport England's most recent strategy, Uniting the Movement is its 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity.

It sets out its aims to tackle the inequalities that it states are long seen in sport and physical activity making the point that 'providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity, has never been more important'. The three key Strategy objectives are:

1	2	3
Advocating for movement, sport and physical activity	Joining forces on five big issues	Creating the catalysts for change

As well as being an advocate for sport and physical activity, through the building of evidence and partnership development, the Strategy identifies five 'big issues' upon which people and communities need to address by working together. They are described as the major challenges to England being an active nation over the next decade as well as being the greatest opportunities to make a lasting difference. Each is designated as a building block that, on its own, would make a difference, but together, could change things profoundly. The issues are:

- ◆ *Recover and reinvent:* Recovering from the biggest crisis in a generation and reinventing as a vibrant, relevant and sustainable network of organisations providing sport and physical activity opportunities that meet the needs of different people.
- ◆ *Connecting communities:* Focusing on sport and physical activity's ability to make better places to live and bring people together.
- ◆ *Positive experiences for children and young people:* Unrelenting focus on positive experiences for all children and young people as the foundations for a long and healthy life.
- ◆ *Connecting with health and wellbeing:* Strengthening the connections between sport, physical activity, health and wellbeing, so more people can feel the benefits of, and advocate for, an active life.
- ◆ *Active environments:* Creating and protecting the places and spaces that make it easier for people to be active.

To address these, the right conditions for change need to be created: across people, organisations and partnerships to help convert plans and ideas. This will include a range of actions, including development of effective investment models and applying innovation and digital technology to ensure sport and physical activity are more accessible.

The specific impact of the Strategy will be captured via funded programmes, interventions made, and partnerships forged. For each specific area of action, key performance indicators will be developed to help evidence the overall progress being made by all those involved in supporting sport and physical activity.

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Sport England: The Future of Public Sector Leisure

Engagement by Sport England with the public leisure sector has highlighted that the pandemic has accelerated the appetite for local authorities to look at leisure services and re-examine the purpose of their provision, delivery against local community outcomes and consider their alignment with broader strategic outcomes, particularly health.

Key insight from the report ([Sport England: The Future of Public Sector Leisure](#)) includes:

- ✦ 68% of sports halls and swimming pools were built 20+ years ago. Although more than £150m was invested in the opening of new public leisure and swimming facilities in 2018/19¹, with another £200m worth of assets in construction or planning there remains significant levels of ageing public leisure stock.
- ✦ 72% of all school swimming lessons take place in a public leisure facility, which included both the statutory learn to swim programme and the water safety curriculum across primary schools. Swimming club usage is also predominantly based at public leisure facilities.

The leisure sector is emerging from the pandemic in a particularly fragile state. Emergency funding ² helped to avert financial catastrophe and enabled the additional costs of maintaining public assets and reopening services to be met. These funding sources are, however, finite and have now been virtually exhausted. At best, financial pressures risk limiting the ability of stakeholders to deliver against their commitments; at worst they may result in the permanent closure of some services or facilities.

In respect of the recovery of the sector to pre-Pandemic participation levels, data generated via the [Moving Communities](#) platform suggests that in October 2021, throughput levels (13.2 million) were still lower than the monthly average in 2019 (17.8 million). Recovery of participation levels across different activities has been imbalanced and has leant towards those activities which deliver a faster return to pre-pandemic revenue levels.

Sites refurbished in the last 10 years are seeing a throughput recovery of 68% compared with a recovery of 62% for those last refurbished 20+ years ago, suggesting that investment in newer facilities creates spaces that have greater appeal, increase user confidence levels and provide a more relevant offer to meet current customer demands.

To address these significant challenges, a repositioning of the traditional offer of public leisure into one akin to an **active wellbeing service** is advocated (see Figure 2.3 overleaf) focusing on added value and supporting the delivery of key local priorities, alongside wider government policy around Levelling Up, net zero and health inequalities.

¹ 2 Mintel Report on Leisure Centres and Swimming Pools (September 2019)

² Local authorities invested £160 million The National Leisure Recovery Fund £100m, Leisure operators drew on £171 million of reserves alongside further relief measures such as the Government's furlough scheme

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Figure 2.3; Vision and commitments: Public Sector Leisure Report



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

Sport England has brought together evidence on the contribution of community sport and physical activity to the five outcomes identified in the Government's strategy Sporting Future. These are physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing, individual development, social and community development, and economic development.

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

The findings reveal that community sport and physical activity brings an annual contribution of £85.5 billion to the country (in 2018 prices) through social and economic benefits.

Its social value – including physical and mental health, wellbeing, individual and community development – is more than £72 billion, provided via routes such as a healthier population, consumer expenditure, greater work productivity, improved education attainment, reduced crime and stronger communities. It also generates more than £13bn in economic value. The economic value includes more than 285,000 jobs within the community sport and physical activity sector.

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

Chief Medical Officer Physical Activity Guidelines 2019

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

Since 2011, the evidence to support the health benefits of regular physical activity for all groups has become more compelling. In children and young people, regular physical activity is associated with improved learning and attainment, better mental health and cardiovascular fitness, also contributing to healthy weight status. In adults, there is strong evidence to demonstrate the protective effect on physical activity on a range of many chronic conditions including coronary heart disease, obesity and type 2 diabetes, mental health problems and social isolation. Regular physical activity can deliver cost savings for the health and care system and has wider social benefits for individuals and communities.

The key factors for each age group are as follows:

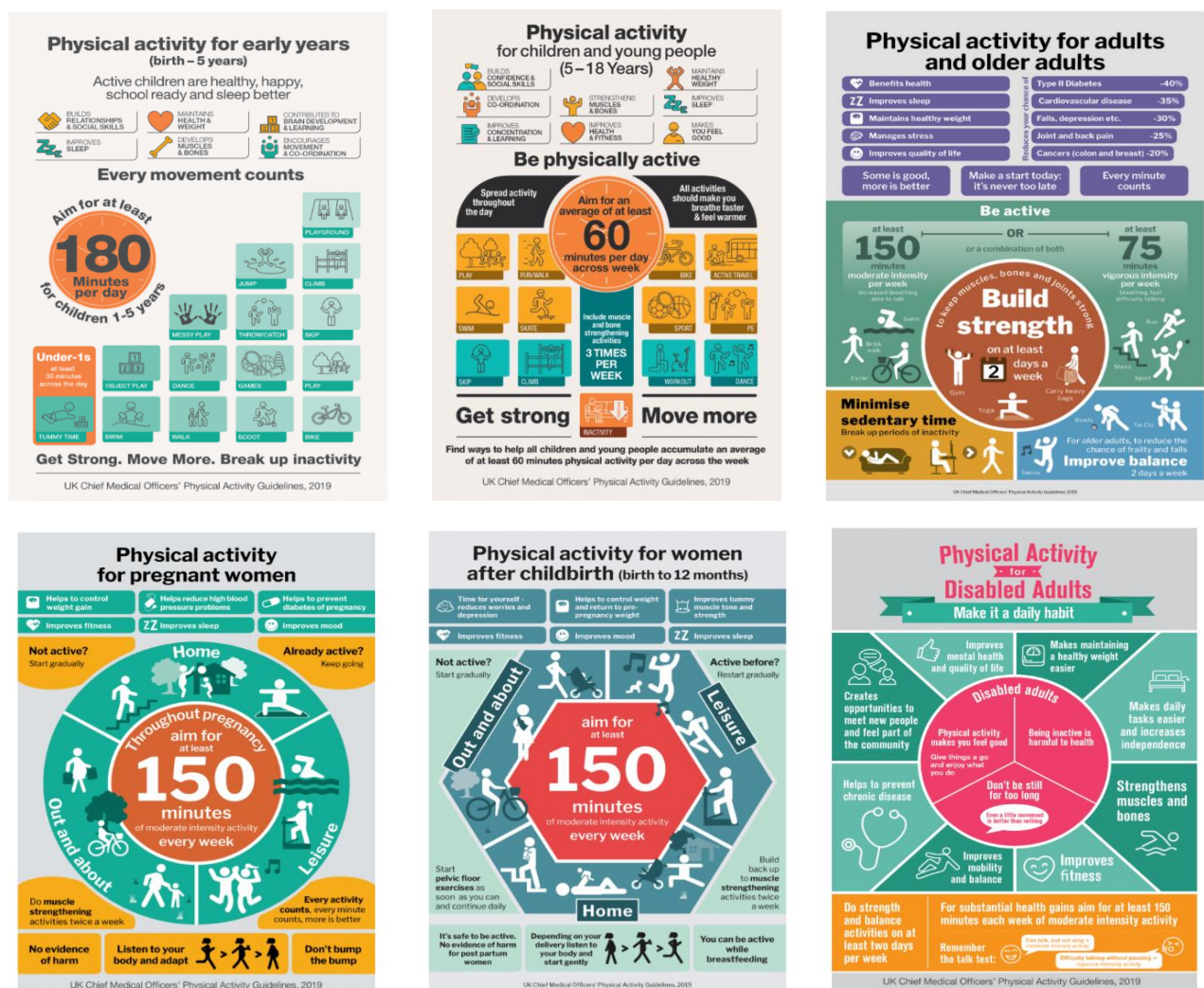
- ♦ **Under-5s:** This is broken down into infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers. Pre-schoolers and toddlers should spend at least 180 minutes (3 hours) per day in a variety of different exercises, whereas infants should be physically active several times every day in a variety of ways, including interactive floor-based activities.

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- Children and young people (5-18 years):** Children and young people should engage in moderate-to-vigorous intensity physical activity for an average of at least 60 minutes per day across the week.
- Adults (19-64 years):** For good physical and mental health, adults should aim to be physically active every day. This could be 150 minutes of moderate exercise, 75 minutes of vigorous exercise or even shorter durations of very vigorous intensity activity, or a combination of moderate, vigorous and very vigorous intensity activity.
- Older adults (65+):** Older adults should participate in daily physical activity to gain health benefits, including maintenance of good physical and mental health, wellbeing, and social functioning. Each week older adults should aim to accumulate 150 minutes (two and a half hours) of moderate intensity aerobic activity.

It notes the emerging evidence base for the health benefits of performing very vigorous intensity activity performed in short bouts interspersed with periods of rest or recovery (high intensity interval exercise, HIIT). This interval exercise has clinically meaningful effects on fitness, body weight and insulin resistance and is incorporated in recommendations for adults.

Figure 2.3: Physical activity guidelines



It, thus, emphasises the importance of regular activity for people of all ages. It presents additional guidance on being active during pregnancy, after giving birth, and for disabled adults. The new

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guidelines are consistent with previous ones, introducing some new elements and allowing flexibility in achieving recommended physical activity levels for each age group.

Investment in school sport

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

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

The PE and sport premium can help primary schools to achieve this aim, providing primary schools with £320m of government funding to make additional and sustainable improvements to the quality of the PE, physical activity and sport offered through their core budgets. It is allocated directly to schools, so they have the flexibility to use it in the way that they think works best for their pupils.

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

Revised National Planning Policy Framework 2021

The NPPF sets out planning policies for England. It details how these changes are expected to be applied to the planning system. It also provides a framework for local people and their councils to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities. It states that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It identifies the need to focus on three themes of economic, social, environmentally sustainable development:

A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making, the NPPF states that local plans should meet objectively assessed needs. It is clear about sport's role delivering sustainable communities through promoting health and well-being. Sport England, working within the provisions of the NPPF, wishes to see local planning policy protect, enhance and provide for sports facilities based on robust and up-to-date assessments of need, as well as helping to realise the wider benefits that participation in sport can bring.

The *promoting healthy and safe communities* theme identifies that planning policies should be based on robust, up-to-date assessment of need for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs, quantitative/qualitative deficiencies and surpluses should be identified and used to inform provision requirements in an area.

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Cost pressures affecting the leisure industry

Insight produced by the [Local Government Association](#) suggests that Councils continue to face substantial inflationary, COVID-19 related, and demand led pressures which are affecting their ability to efficiently operate leisure provision. This comes alongside the steep increase of living costs to households.

Whilst during 2022, the leisure sector recovery following Covid -19 restrictions has gained momentum, rising utility costs and the recent cost of living pressures on households is likely to adversely impact consumer confidence, throughput, and participation rates. Councils and leisure operators are therefore being required to address and review existing management arrangements and options to ensure the viability of the sector.

Leisure providers (both inhouse and externally commissioned) are being adversely and disproportionately affected because leisure centres have high energy demands, especially for those facilities with swimming pools. Energy costs are typically a leisure operator's second highest cost after staffing costs. This is further exacerbated because the leisure estate is ageing and energy inefficient, with research showing two-thirds of public swimming pools and sports halls are in need of replacing or refurbishment, and ageing assets are contributing up to 40 per cent of some councils' direct carbon emissions.

LGA suggest that, in tackling the challenges presented by the current energy crisis, Councils should aim to pursue a partnership focused approach and consider solutions which may contribute to wider public health, decarbonisation, and levelling up and economic outcomes. This could include the following measures:

- ✦ Regular monthly meetings with leisure operator to review and monitor utility costs.
- ✦ Encourage leisure operators to be open and transparent about the true cost of utilities.
- ✦ Explore potential for flexibility in contractual arrangements and operating parameters: i.e., pool temperature / building temperature / reviewing pricing.
- ✦ Review non-viable/low priority contractual requirements.
- ✦ Consider using any management fee to stabilise utilities and stabilise providers to ensure service continuity.
- ✦ Consider renegotiating the repayment terms of loans to enable providers to defer Covid repayments to later years when they are more stable.
- ✦ Work with the operator to include leisure projects as part of decarbonisation projects and/or council investment in energy saving projects.

Environmental sustainability

UK Government produced its net zero strategy 'Build Back Greener' in October 2021. This sets out how it intends the UK to meet its target for decarbonisation by 2050. It focuses on interventions such as:

- ✦ A fully decarbonised power system by 2035 with all electricity coming from 'low carbon sources'
- ✦ Improved efficiency of heating for homes and buildings, aiming for all new heating appliances to be based on low carbon technologies, such as electric heat pumps or hydrogen boilers.
- ✦ Low carbon fuel supply – by scaling up the production of low carbon alternatives including hydrogen and biofuels.

Coventry City Council's net zero carbon commitment is set out in its Climate Change Strategy. It aims to make the Council a net-zero carbon authority by 2040.

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[Sport England](#) reports that ³climate change and the increased occurrence of extreme weather that it brings are already affecting sports facilities, meaning that the sector needs to build greater resilience to this very real threat.

It proposes that a wide range of issues should be considered when approaching project development, and the resultant environmental impact of, say, creating a new swimming pool. This includes whether to refurbish an existing building with its carbon already embodied or to build a new facility⁴. Establishing a sustainability strategy early on Sport England suggest some key principles as part of a 'pathway to sustainability' and net zero carbon in respect of building design and operation.

- ◀ *Reduce energy consumption* as the first measure to reduce carbon emissions and energy costs.
- ◀ *Change behaviour*, eliminate energy waste and operate energy control systems more effectively at no extra cost.
- ◀ *Passive design* - building orientation and placement on site is critical to achieving net zero targets Harness a site's natural resources to benefit cross ventilation, natural lighting, solar gain, shelter or shading.
- ◀ *Fabric efficiency* - maximise the building fabric and glazing performance.
- ◀ *Minimise initial energy demand* - to reduce demand on plant and technologies incorporated.
- ◀ *Efficient systems* - invest in appropriate energy-efficient products including heating, ventilation, fittings, controls, sensors, heat pumps and recovery systems
- ◀ *On-site renewables* - incorporate low and zero carbon (LZC) technologies to produce energy on site.
- ◀ *Off-site renewables* - only use energy providers who use renewable energy .

Summary of national context

Multiple challenges are currently impacting on the national policy context for physical activity and sport in the UK. Activity habits are continuing to be affected by rates of recovery from the Pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis, meanwhile rising utilities costs are imposing serious financial constraints on the operation of leisure facilities.

Local authorities have to consider how sport and physical activity can be better positioned as a key driver in influencing wider corporate outcomes such as the reduction of health inequalities. This can be achieved through working more effectively with 'whole system' partners such as those in the NHS at neighbourhood level, whilst employing the skills within the physical activity sector to better connect people with opportunities to participate.

Ensuring an adequate supply of sustainable facilities to support this is key and, in some areas, requires a radical re-shaping of facility stock given the age and low energy efficiency of certain facilities, particularly swimming pools. The evidence base provided within this report is intended to help Coventry City Council to make such decisions on an informed basis.

³ <https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2021-01/Environmental%20Sustainability%20check%20list.pdf?VersionId=7XfZPDhHKoKHpfKqk165MMWdxwCmYsPO>

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2.2: Local context

Coventry Local Plan

CCC is currently reviewing its local plan and consulted with its residents on 'issues and options' in September 2023. Its revised plan will run to 2041, which will be co-terminus with the built facility strategy and FPM study.

Its existing Local Plan (2011-31) sets out Coventry's vision to help re-establish itself as one of the country's top ten cities. Its vision is to make Coventry 'A top ten City that is globally connected and locally committed'. To achieve this, the Plan presents nine key objectives:

Table 2.1: Local Plan key objectives

Objective	Description
1.Supporting businesses to grow.	Maintaining a local economy. Attract inward investment and help business to expand. Improve Coventry economy though developing a successful and diverse modern economy. Build on the universities as an engine for research.
2. Enabling the right infrastructure for the city to grow and thrive.	Providing leadership to stimulate the Friargate business district. Making the city more accessible for business, visitors and local people through better transport connections.
3. Developing a dynamic 21st century City Centre	Enhancing the quality of public spaces through high quality urban and landscape design. Improve city centre accessibility and connectivity. Maximise the city's heritage assets to support growth in tourism.
4. Raising the profile of Coventry	Improve and diversify the city's housing offer. Developing economic, business and trade links with other towns and cities. Promoting Coventry as a visitor destination and centre of arts & culture. sports & leisure; music & events. Reduce existing levels of unemployment. Provide a high-quality public transport network which integrates with walking and cycling routes.
5. Creating an attractive, cleaner and greener city	Achieve a significant improvement in the quality of design, maintenance and accessibility of buildings and spaces in all parts of the city. Protect/enhance the city's most sensitive and highest quality green spaces.
6. Maintaining and enhancing an accessible transport network.	Providing an accessibility transport network Continuing to improve links with the city centre and better connection to green spaces within Coventry. Increasing the range of opportunities for people to access arts and culture; sports and leisure; music and events; and other activities.
7. Housing that meets the needs of all people.	Improve the provision of the right quality of housing to meet the needs of the city's population. Promoting a high-quality built environment by improving design and layout. Ensure high levels of energy efficiency. Ensure all housing is accessible by sustainable modes of transport.
8. Improve the health and wellbeing of local residents.	Create a smoke free Coventry. Improve access to high quality health provision where it is most needed. Encourage healthy and active lifestyles. Encouraging walking and cycling.

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9. Support safer communities.	Ensure that new developments, open spaces, residential and business areas are designed in ways that reduce the opportunities for crime. Ensure high quality design also helps reduce the fear of crime.
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To improve the health and wellbeing of all residents, the Council is committed to providing a suite of high-quality leisure centres across the Authority. To that end, The Plan prioritises three key facility investments.

- City centre destination sports and leisure facility - to provide a new and modern leisure destination within the city centre as part of the Council's regeneration strategy and support cultural and leisure facilities within the city centre. *This was opened in 2019 and is known as the Wave.*
- Alan Higgs Centre - to support city wide leisure facilities. To be provided as part of an expansion and regeneration of the wider Alan Higgs Centre. *The expansion, which included a new 50m pool and expanded health suite, was completed in 2019.*
- President Kennedy School swimming pool - to support local service provision and enhanced access to swimming facilities for local residents and school pupils.

Although stated in the Local Plan, the planned upgrade of President Kennedy School swimming pool has not been taken forward. The pool is currently closed, and will be demolished, with plans for additional teaching space in the long term.

One Coventry Council Plan 2016-24

This lists the objectives towards which the Authority is working over the eight year period to 2024. A key ambition is to improve resident's health and wellbeing. To achieve this, two key objectives are listed:

- Helping local residents lead healthier lifestyles including better mental health; and
- Reducing health inequalities across the City.

To achieve this, the Authority is committed to providing high quality leisure and recreational facilities. This includes well-presented facilities plus accessible playing pitches, supported by inclusive programming and a high quality health referral programme.

Coventry Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-2023

This is the City's high-level plan for reducing health inequalities and improving the wellbeing for Coventry residents. It has been tackling health inequalities as a Marmot City since 2013, however, the Authority recognises that although it works well in partnership around specific priorities, it can improve how it connects across different work areas and in particular how it connects at a community level.

To address this, it intends to move to a 'population health' approach which takes a holistic view of everything that impacts on people's health and wellbeing across the whole population, with an emphasis on reducing inequalities in health as well as improving health overall. The key objectives upon which the Council will focus via this approach are:

- Reducing loneliness and social isolation.
- Improving young people's mental and physical health and wellbeing.
- Working differently with our communities to address health inequalities.

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Think Active

Think Active is one of the 43 Active partnerships in England. It covers the authorities of Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire. Its core vision is for everyone to benefit from physical activity and enjoy a healthy and active lifestyle in safe and thriving communities. To make this happen, it supports and create inspiring initiatives, run by confident and capable people, that get everyone active in a fun and engaging way.

It is committed to achieving this through the following:

- ✦ *Active societies:* the Active Partnership supports clubs and groups – helping them to be safe, welcoming and become active hubs in their communities for sports and physical activity.
- ✦ *Active places:* Create a strong network of groups, club, open spaces and facilities with sessions led by local people delivering high quality physical activity sessions.
- ✦ *Keeping people living well:* Working with local agencies to provide support and activities that encourage all ages to be as active as possible. This includes specialist exercise programmes for those aged over 65 to prevent the onset of a range of diseases.

The Active Partnership also co-ordinates investment into the community use of schools via the Governments [Opening School Facilities fund](#).

Leisure provision in the Authority

There are five key leisure centres within the Authority, which are currently operated via the Councils contract with CV Life:

- ✦ Alan Higgs Centre.
- ✦ The Wave.
- ✦ Xcel Leisure Centre.
- ✦ Centre AT7.
- ✦ Moat House Leisure and Neighbourhood Centre.

Woodlands Academy, which is a specialist gymnastics/dance facility is also managed by Sky Blues in the Community.

Ownership of these buildings vary. Three are owned by the Local Authority (the Wave, Woodlands Academy and Moat House Leisure and Neighbourhood Centre). Alan Higgs and Centre AT7 are owned by Coventry and Warwickshire Awards Trust meanwhile Xcel owned by Midland Sports Centre for the Disabled Trust.

CV Life is a partnership between two organisations: Coventry Sports Foundation (CSF) and Culture Coventry Trust (CCT). It provides the opportunity for Coventry residents and visitors to have an improved experience of sport, culture and leisure within the City. It also runs a number of different cultural centres, including Lunt Roman Fort.

CCC disability sport charter

The CCC disability [Sports & Leisure Charter](#) sets out a range of commitments designed to improve the experience and opportunities for people with disabilities and their families in Coventry to access sporting and leisure activities in the city. As part of Coventry City Council's One Coventry approach, it recognises that all members of society must have equal access to sport and leisure in the city. CCC is therefore committed to working with community groups, partners and Council services to make this a reality, Commitments:

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- ◀ To review the provision of accessible play equipment in key parks / play areas in the city, in order to improve inclusive play opportunities for children and young people.
- ◀ Ensure the installation and promotion of Changing Places Toilets at strategic public sports facilities, parks, and leisure venues in the city.
- ◀ Improve the access to sports and leisure venues in the city through continued work with the West Midlands Combined Authority and other stakeholders across the region.
- ◀ Undertake equality impact assessments of major sporting and leisure events in the city in order to improve inclusivity for people with disabilities.
- ◀ Ensure targeted communication and marketing through Go CV to people with disabilities and their families in order to increase their participation in sporting and leisure events in the city.
- ◀ Work with partners and providers to ensure the availability of quality activities for disabled people is increased in the city, including the development of new activities that are locally driven.
- ◀ Continue to provide a range of adult education courses that are fully inclusive and meet the health and wellbeing needs of people with disabilities.
- ◀ Ensure the provision of mixed ability activities where people who require adaptations can take part and enjoy the experience along with friends and families.
- ◀ Provide a quiet safe space at strategic sport and leisure venues and events for people with neurodivergent conditions.
- ◀ To increase the number of local public leisure facilities achieving Quest quality mark to support local people to receive the best experience.

Child Friendly Cov

[Child Friendly Cov](#) is a campaign to ensure that Coventry is a child and young person friendly city - a place where children and young people feel valued, supported and enjoy themselves.

Together, with children and young people, Coventry has identified five key themes as the priorities for how to make Coventry a child friendly city, they include:

- **be & feel safe**
- **have opportunities**
- **be & feel healthy**
- **be & feel valued**
- **be & feel loved**

It's known that being valued, having opportunities and feeling safe means for children and young people at different ages may look different, and therefore these priorities will be explored under four age groups: Under 5s, Primary aged, Secondary aged and Post-16.

Summary of local policy

The Authority has recently invested in a number of key leisure facilities, including a City Centre destination sports and leisure facility (The Wave). it is committed to ensuring that current and future population's health and wellbeing is supported through these facilities (and others), with an emphasis on reducing health inequalities, improving mental health and uniting communities.

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2.3: Demographic profile

Population and distribution (Data source: 2020 Mid-Year Estimate, ONS): The total population of Coventry is 345,315 (males; 172,182, females; 173,133). Population density is fairly consistent throughout the Authority although it is greatest in the central area (predominantly the City Centre).

Figure 2.4: Coventry population density: 2020 MYE, ONS

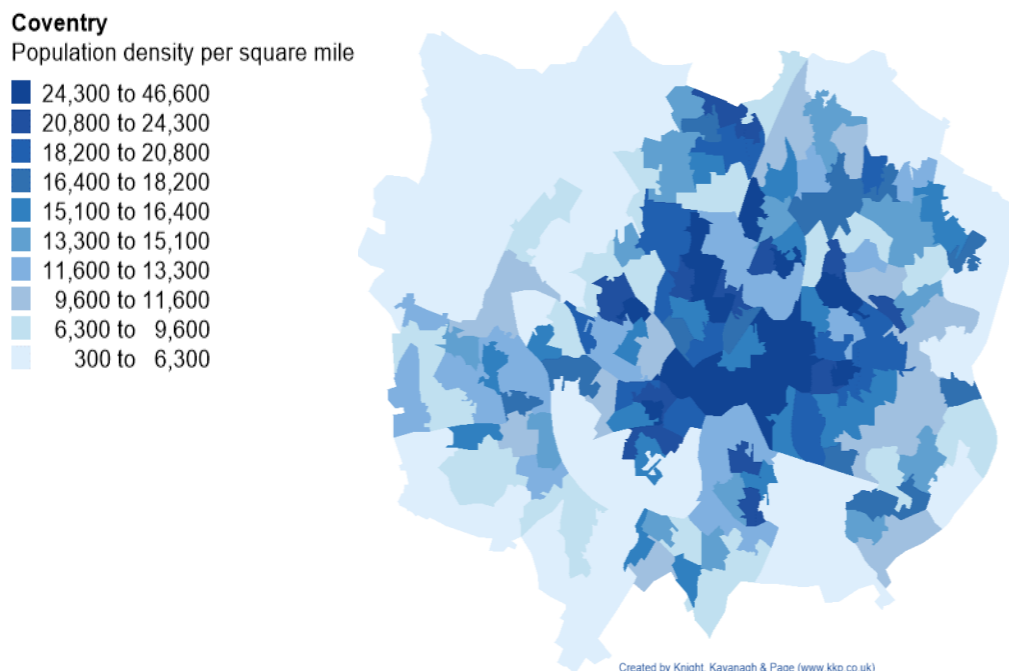


Figure 2.5: Comparative age/sex pyramid and Coventry population density: 2020 MYE, ONS

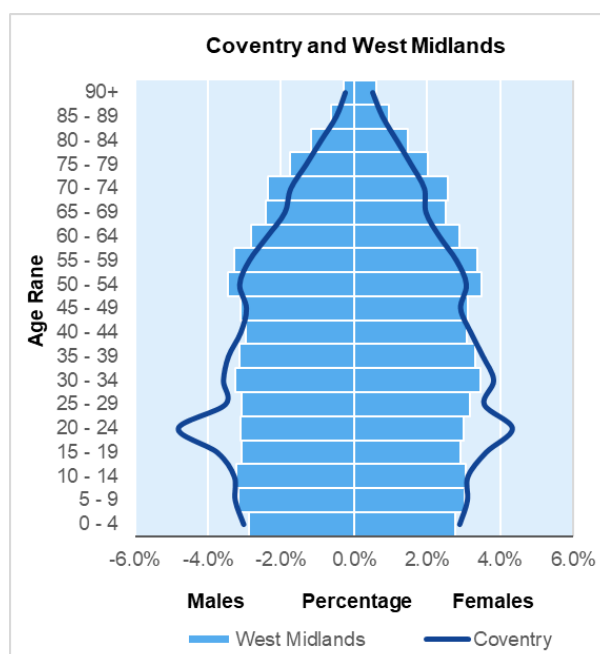


Figure 2.5 illustrates the population's age and gender composition whilst comparing it to the region.

There is a higher proportion of 10–34-year-olds when compared to the regional average (Coventry = 37.4%, West Midlands = 31.4%). This may reflect the City's strong student population attending both Warwick and Coventry universities.

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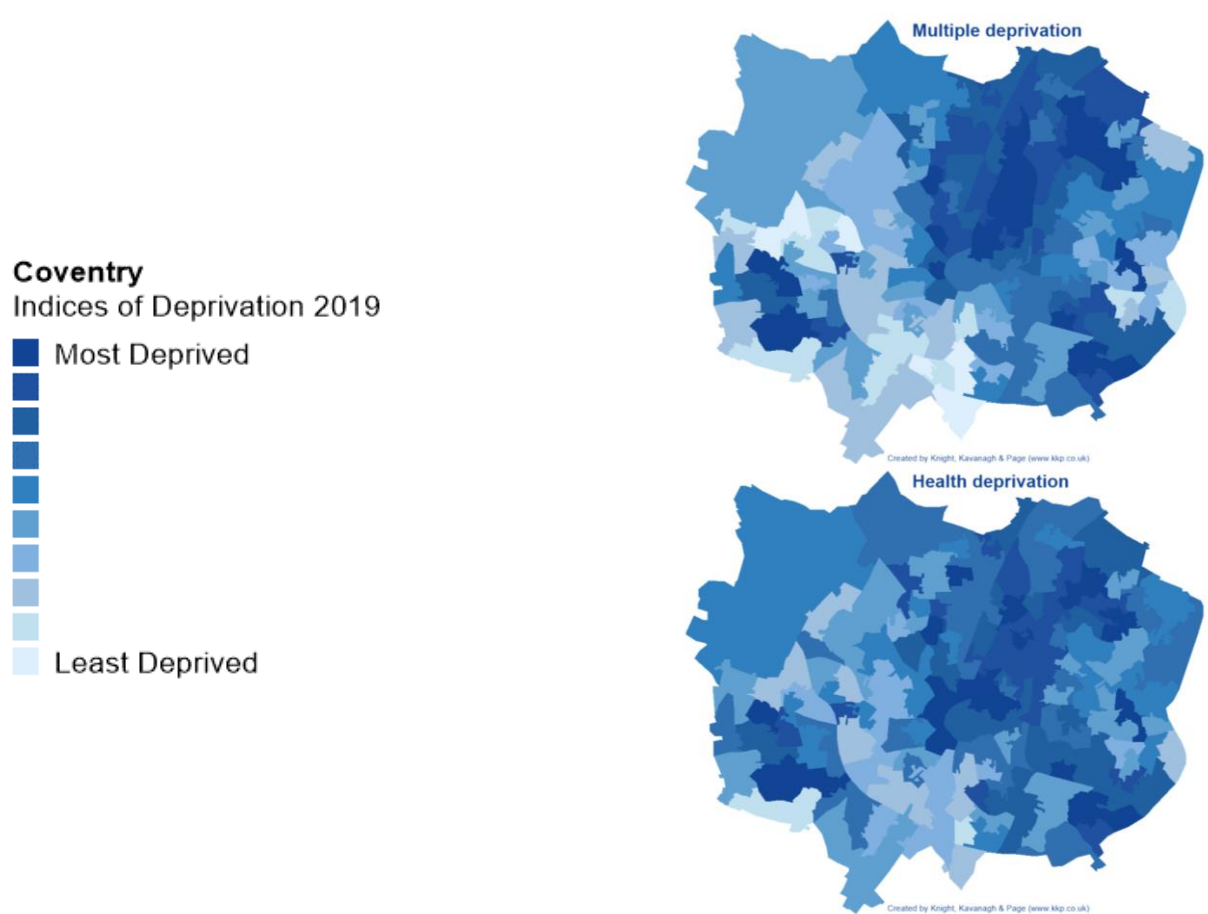
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Ethnicity: (Data source: 2021 census of population, ONS): Coventry's ethnic composition shows some marked differences when compared to England as a whole in respect of ethnic diversity. According to the 2011 Census of population, the largest proportion (73.8%) of the local population classified their ethnicity as White; this is considerably lower than the comparative England rate of 85.4%. The next largest population group (by self-classification) is Asian. At 16.3%, this is double the national equivalent (7.8%).

Income and dependency (Data source: NOMIS (2019): The median figure for full-time earnings (2021) in Coventry is £31,699; the comparative rate for the West Midlands is £30,254 (-4.6%) and for Great Britain is £31,881 (+0.6%). In October 2022 there were 11,820 people in Coventry claiming out of work benefits⁵; this is a decrease of 11.7% compared to October 2021 (13,380).

Deprivation (Data source: 2020 indices of deprivation, DCLG Coventry experiences high levels of deprivation. Four in 10 of the Borough's population (40.9%) of the Authority's population live in areas covered by the country's three most deprived cohorts (national average: c.30%). Conversely, 17% live in the three least deprived groupings in the country, this compares to a 'norm' of c.30%. Deprivation is highest centrally, in the northeast and in the southwest of the Authority.

Figure 2.6: Index of multiple and health deprivation



⁵ This includes both Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) and Universal Credit. Universal credit also includes other benefits including employment and support allowance (ESA) and child tax credits.

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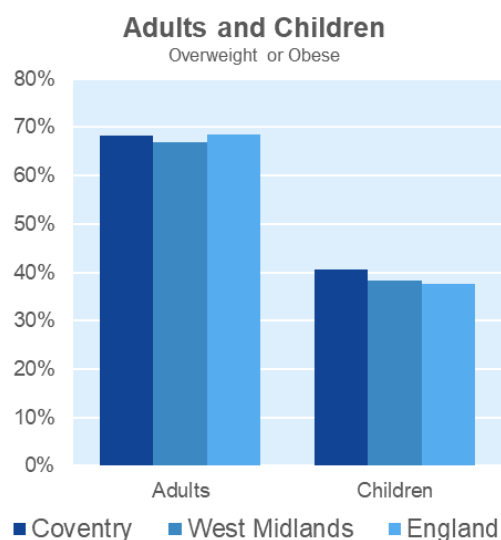
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Table 2.2: Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) and health deprivation in Coventry

IMD cumulative norm		Multiple deprivation			Health deprivation		
		Population in band	Percent of population		Population in band	Percent of population	
Most deprived	10.0	49,696	14.4%	14.4%	46,060	13.4%	13.4%
	20.0	38,086	11.1%	25.5%	42,518	12.3%	25.7%
	30.0	53,019	15.4%	40.9%	48,579	14.1%	39.8%
	40.0	39,921	11.6%	52.5%	64,643	18.8%	58.6%
	50.0	40,378	11.7%	64.2%	45,554	13.2%	71.8%
	60.0	35,482	10.3%	74.5%	48,641	14.1%	86.0%
Least deprived	70.0	29,251	8.5%	83.0%	24,706	7.2%	93.1%
	80.0	26,991	7.8%	90.9%	19,902	5.8%	98.9%
	90.0	16,963	4.9%	95.8%	3,685	1.1%	100.0%
	100.0	14,501	4.2%	100.0%	0	0.0%	100.0%

A similar pattern, to that seen for multiple-deprivation, is seen in relation to health. Around four in 10 of Coventry's population (39.8%) falls within the areas covered by the three most deprived cohorts, this compares to a national average of c.30%. Conversely, 6.9% live in the three least deprived groupings compared to a 'norm' of c.30%.

Health data (Data sources: ONS births and deaths, NCMP⁶ and NOO⁷): In keeping with patterns seen alongside high levels of health deprivation, life expectancy in Coventry is lower than the national figure; the male rate is currently 78.5 compared to 79.6 for England, and the female equivalent is 82.3 compared to 83.2 nationally.⁸



Weight and obesity: Obesity is widely recognised to be associated with health problems such as type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer. At national level, the resulting NHS costs attributable to overweight and obesity are projected to reach £9.7 billion by 2050, with wider costs to society estimated to reach £49.9 billion per year. These factors combine to make the prevention of obesity a major public health challenge. Adult rates of being either overweight or obese in Coventry are below national but above regional rates. However, child rates are above both national and regional rates.

⁶ National Child Measurement Program

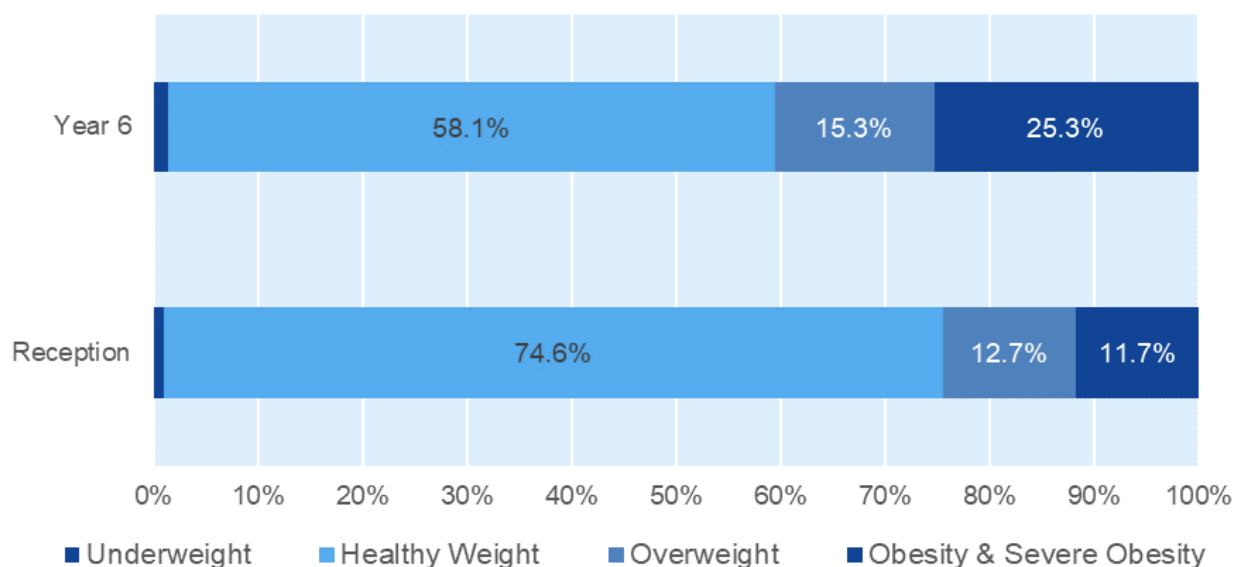
⁷ National Obesity Observatory

⁸ Office of National Statistics: Life Expectancy at Birth by local areas in the United Kingdom, 2013.

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Figure 2.7: Child weight – reception and year 6 (2019)



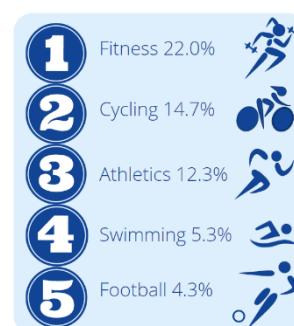
As with many other areas, obesity rates increase significantly between the ages of 4 and 11. Just over one in 10 (11.7%) children in Coventry are obese in their reception year at school and 12.7% are overweight; by Year 6 figures rise to one quarter (25.3%) obese and 15.3% overweight. In total, by Year 6, around four in 10 (40.6%) are either overweight or obese.

Coventry is in the NHS Coventry and Rugby CCG. The total annual cost to the NHS of physical inactivity in this CCG is estimated at £3,365,829. When compared to regional and national costs per 100,000, the total costs for the CCG (£709,264) is 12% below the national average (£806,244) and 14.2% below the regional average (£827,050).

It should also be noted that in addition to the NHS costs there are also significant costs to industry in terms of days of productivity lost due to back pain etc. These have also been costed in CBI reports and are of similar magnitude to NHS costs.

The most popular sports and physical activities:

The Active Lives Survey also makes it possible to identify the top five participation sports within Coventry. As with many other areas, fitness and cycling are among the most popular activities and are known to cut across age groups and gender; in Coventry just under a quarter of adults take part in fitness activities, on average, at least twice a month. The next most popular activity is cycling which 14.7% of adults do on a relatively regular basis.

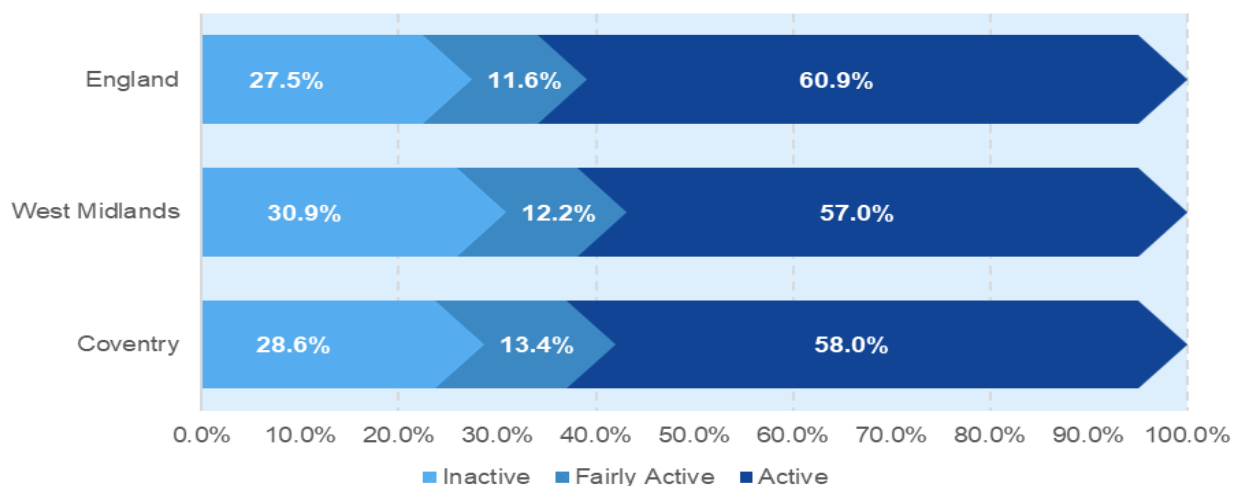


Sport England: Active Lives Survey (ALS) 2019/2020

This is based on 16+ year olds taking part in walking, cycling, fitness, dance and other sporting activity (excluding gardening). Coventry's activity levels are similar to those in England and the region with 58% of the population considered to be 'active' (i.e., undertaking at least 150 mins of moderate level activity per week).

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Figure 2.9: levels of activity and most popular sports and physical activities



This is slightly lower than the national (61.4%) and slightly higher than the regional (57%) average.

Mosaic (Data source: 2020 Mosaic analysis, Experian)

This is a similar consumer segmentation product. The prevalence of the top five classifications is evident in as much as they represent almost two thirds (63.4%) of the population compared to a national equivalent rate of just under four in 10 (39.3%). The largest segment profiled for Coventry is the Aspiring Homemakers group, making up 17% of the adult population in the area, almost double the national rate (10.4%).

Table 2.3: Mosaic – main population segments in Coventry

Mosaic group description	Coventry		National %
	#	%	
1 - Aspiring Homemakers	62,144	17.0%	10.4%
2 - Rental Hubs	53,872	14.8%	8.6%
3 - Family Basics	53,018	14.5%	8.2%
4 - Senior Security	32,958	9.0%	6.9%
5 - Urban Cohesion	29,330	8.0%	5.2%

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Figure 2.10: Mosaic segments in Coventry

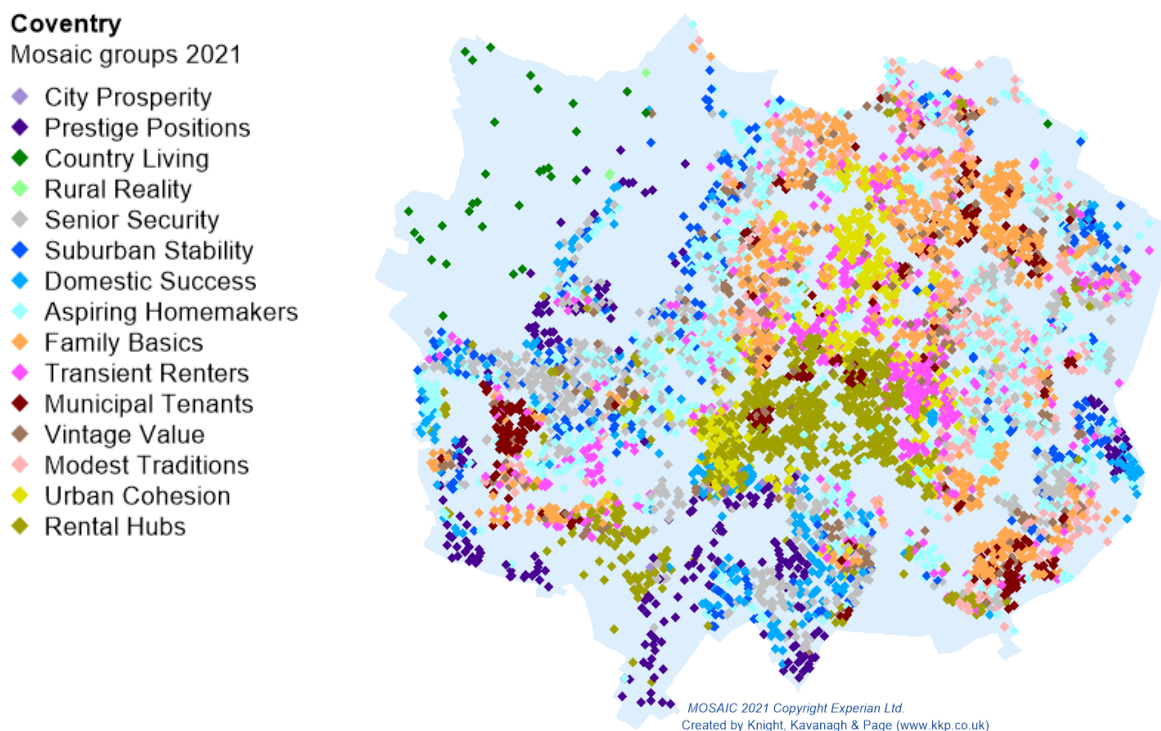





Table 2.3: Dominant Mosaic profiles in Coventry

Aspiring Homemakers		Younger households who have, often, only recently set up home. They usually own their homes in private suburbs, which they have chosen to fit their budget.
Rental Hubs		Predominantly young, single people in their 20s and 30s who live in urban locations and rent their homes from private landlords while in the early stages of their careers or pursuing studies.
Family Basics		Families with children who have limited budgets and can struggle to make ends meet. Their homes are low cost and are often found in areas with fewer employment options.

Population projections - change over 13 years (2018 to 2041)

The most recent ONS projections indicate a rise of 23.1% in Coventry's population (+84,749) over the 23 years from 2018 to 2041. Over this extended timeframe fluctuations are seen in rise and fall at different points across the majority of age groups. Several key points for Coventry are outlined below:

- ✦ The number of 16-24 year olds, grows by +18.9% in the first period half of the projection (to 2024) followed by a decline in the second period (-1.2%, -901).
- ✦ In contrast, there is predicted to be an increase in the number of 25-34 year olds +9.8% in the first period (+6,556) which continues in the second period (+11.4%, -8,354).
- ✦ There is a continuous increase in the numbers of persons aged 65+ and a need to consider varying sports offers for this age group. This represents an increase of +13.1% (+6,568) in the first period continuing to rise to +28.0% (+14,003) between 2018 and 2041. While the age group represented 13.6% of Coventry's population in 2018 it is projected to be 14.2% of the total by 2041.

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Table 8: Coventry - ONS projected population (2018 to 2041)

Age (years)	Number			Age structure %			Change 2018 – 2041		
	2018	2029	2041	2018	2029	2041	2018	2029	2041
0-15	71,590	77,012	83,313	19.5%	18.5%	18.5%	100.0%	107.6%	116.4%
16-24	61,033	72,548	71,647	16.6%	17.4%	15.9%	100.0%	118.9%	117.4%
25-34	66,655	73,211	81,564	18.2%	17.6%	18.1%	100.0%	109.8%	122.4%
35-44	43,655	58,918	59,954	11.9%	14.2%	13.3%	100.0%	135.0%	137.3%
45-54	40,588	41,276	52,985	11.1%	9.9%	11.7%	100.0%	101.7%	130.5%
55-64	33,296	36,258	38,101	9.1%	8.7%	8.4%	100.0%	108.9%	114.4%
65+	49,968	56,536	63,971	13.6%	13.6%	14.2%	100.0%	113.1%	128.0%
Total	366,785	415,758	451,534	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	113.4%	123.1%

Coventry housing growth

The current Local Plan identifies the key housing growth areas for Coventry. These are:

Keresley: this large growth area is located to the north west of the City Centre. It is currently being built and includes approximately 3,100 homes plus two primary schools. There will not be a new secondary school as it was deemed more efficient use of Council capital to prioritise expansion/upgrade of existing schools rather than to build a new one. Full details of the school investment programme are included in the sports hall section.

Eastern Green: this site is located adjacent to the western edge of the built-up urban area of Coventry City. A minimum of 2,250 homes is planned plus a new major district centre and primary school. Outline planning permission has been awarded but there is no confirmed start date for the development.

Due to the size of the Keresley development, there is a requirement within the needs assessment to consider the implication of increased demand for sports facilities in neighbouring authorities. Whilst initial consultation with Solihull Council did not highlight significant concerns around the impact, it will be important to take into account FPM findings (specifically the projected volume of exported demand) in arriving at any strategic recommendations regarding neighbouring provision.

In addition to the above, housing growth of c1,500 units is planned in the city centre, as part of the wider City centre masterplan that includes the Wave leisure centre. The mixed use development ([City Centre South scheme](#)) received outline planning permission in December 2022.

Summary of the demographic profile and population projections

Coventry's population is estimated to increase by 15% until 2041 largely driven by two key areas of housing growth, as identified above. It is also important to note there are high levels of both multiple and health deprivation in Coventry, with over 40% of the population living in areas associated with both.

It is therefore important to ensure there is a suite of leisure facilities to complement the growing population (particularly in the northwest of the Authority) as well as ensuring these are accessible in terms of price and distance travelled. For example, swimming pools need to offer sufficient swimming lesson capacity at the correct price to ensure that these programmes are inclusive. In addition, facilities will also need be able to support other demographic cohorts, such as the 65+ age group with appropriate daytime activities.

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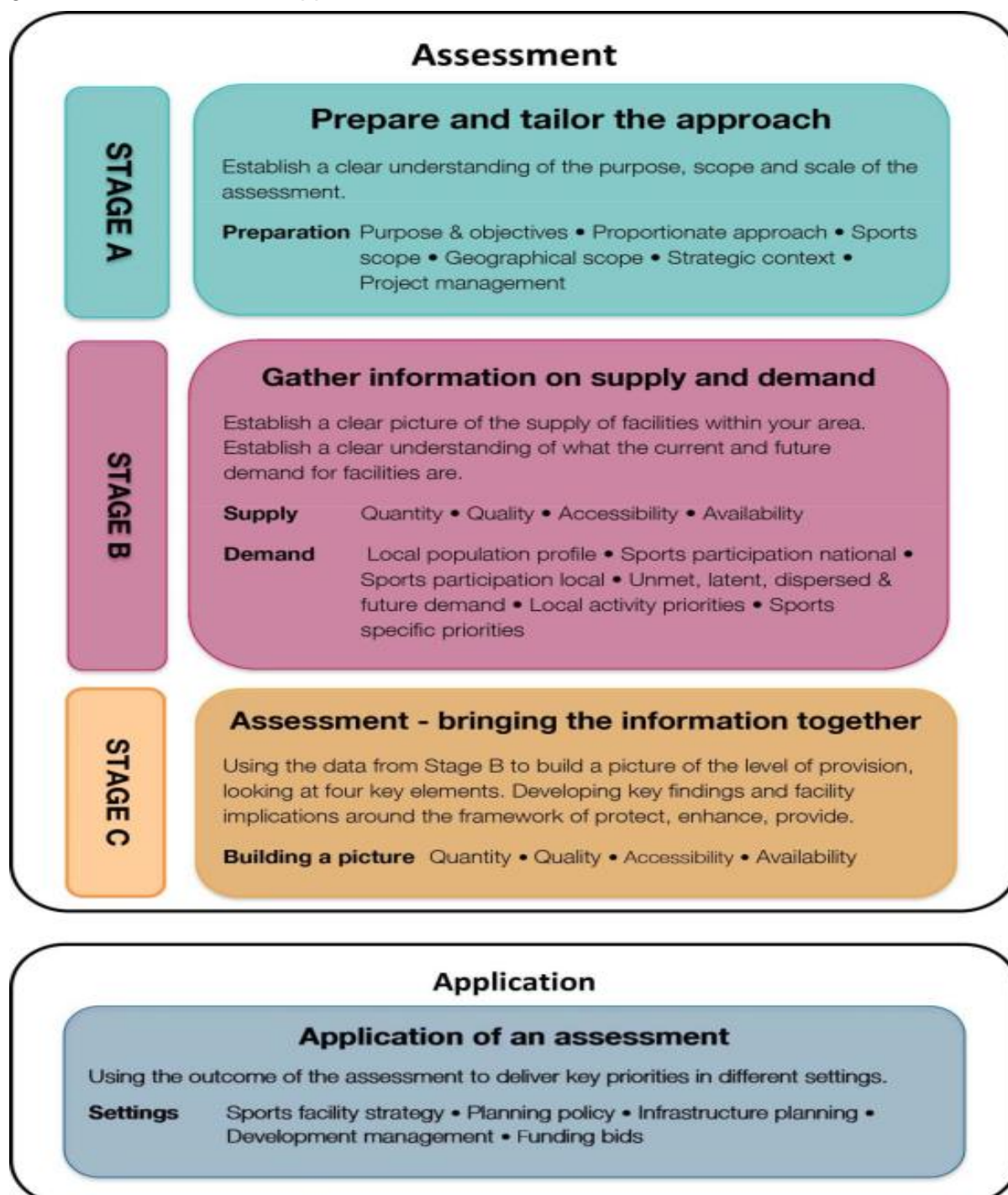
INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

SECTION 3: INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

3.1: Methodology

The assessment of provision is based on Sport England's ANOG for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities.

Figure 3.1: Recommended approach



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

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'Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.' (NPPF, Paragraph 104).

Provision assessment involves analysis of quality, quantity, accessibility and availability for the identified facility types (e.g., sports halls and swimming pools). Each venue is considered on a 'like for like' basis within its own facility type, to enable it to be assessed for adequacy.

Demand background, data and consultation is variable, depending upon levels of consultation garnered. In some instances, national data is available whilst in others, it is possible to drill down and get some very detailed local information. This is evident within the demand section. The report considers the distribution of and interrelationship between facility types in the Authority and provides a clear indication of areas of high demand. It will identify where there is potential to provide improved and/or additional facilities to meet this demand and to, where appropriate, protect or rationalise the current stock.

A full consultees list/sites visited is illustrated in Appendix A.

3.2: Site visits

Active Places Power (APP) is used to provide baseline data to identify facilities in the study area. Site visits to key indoor facilities, those operated by other partners and the voluntary sector were undertaken February 2022. Where a physical visit was not possible a telephone consultation with the facility/site manager was undertaken. Via the audit and informal interviews with facility managers this report identifies 'relevance' and 'condition' describing (e.g.):

- ◀ Facility and scale.
- ◀ Usage/local market.
- ◀ Ownership, management and access arrangements (plus, where available, facility owner aspirations).
- ◀ Management, programming, catchments, user groups, gaps.
- ◀ Location (urban/rural), access and accessibility.
- ◀ Condition, maintenance, existing improvement plans, facility 'investment status' (lifespan in the short, medium and long term).
- ◀ Existing/ planned adjacent facilities.

The assessment captures quantity and quality data on a site-by-site basis and feeds directly into the main database allowing information to be stored and analysed. Quality assessments ratings are based on non-technical visual assessments. These consider facility age and condition. Surfaces, tiles and walls, line markings and safety equipment are considered and problem areas such as mould, damage, leaks etc., are noted. The condition of fixtures, fittings and equipment is recorded.

Maintenance and facility 'wear and tear' is considered as is compliant with the Equality Act, although this is not studied in detail for the purposes of this report. When all data is collated, key facility elements are rated according to the following categories.

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Table 3.1: Quality ratings of indoor sports facilities using ANOG

Quality rating	Description
Good	Facility is new (less than 10 years old) or recently invested in, up to date, clean, well maintained and presented. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are new or relatively new with little if any wear and tear. They are well-lit with a modern feel. Ancillary facilities are new or well maintained, fit for purpose, modern and attractive.
Above average	Facility is in reasonable condition and is well maintained and presented. May be older but it is fit for purpose and safe. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are in an acceptable condition but may show some signs of wear and tear. Ancillary facilities are good quality, but potentially showing signs of age and some wear and tear.
Below average	Facility is older and showing signs of age/poor quality. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces show signs of wear and tear. It is usable, but quality could be improved. The facility is not as attractive to customers and does not meet current expectations. Ancillary facilities are deteriorating, reasonable quality, but usable.
Poor	The facility is old and outdated. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are aged, worn and/or damaged. The facility is barely usable and at times may have to be taken out of commission. The facility is unattractive to customers and does not meet basic expectations. Ancillary facilities are low quality and unattractive to use.

Catchment areas

Applying catchments areas for different provision types enables identification of areas currently not served. These vary from person to person, day to day, hour to hour. This problem is overcome by accepting the concept of 'effective catchment'; the distance travelled by around 75-80% of users (used in the Sport England Facilities Planning Model - FPM). Sport England data indicates that most people will travel up to 20 minutes to access sports facilities. This, coupled with KKP's experience of working in/with leisure facilities and use of local data enables identification of catchment areas for sports facilities as follows.

Table 3.2: Facility catchment areas

Facility type	Identified catchment area by urban/rural
Sport halls	20-minute walk/ 20 minutes' drive
Swimming pools	20-minute walk/ 20 minutes' drive
Health and fitness	20-minute walk/ 20 minutes' drive
Combat sports	20-minute walk/ 20 minutes' drive
Squash courts	20 minutes' drive
Indoor bowls centre	30-minute drive
Dedicated gymnastics centre	30 minutes' drive
Indoor tennis centre	30-minute drive
Village halls/community centres	800m - 10 minute walk

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SECTION

4:

SPORTS

HALLS

Indoor multi-purpose sports and activity halls are prime facilities for community sport and physical activity. The standard method for measuring sports halls is the number of badminton courts contained within the floor area.

Smaller one and two court sized halls often offer an informal, attractive environment in which to get active for people who are not as comfortable in 'traditional' formal sports settings or who may be returning from injury or long-term illness. Activities such as mat sports, dance, yoga and gentle exercise often take place in these spaces, and they may have other functions such as a civic or meeting space. These facilities do however fall below the threshold for formal assessment of quality, quantity and accessibility due to their inability to offer the breadth and range of sports and activity that a hall with 3+ halls are capable of.

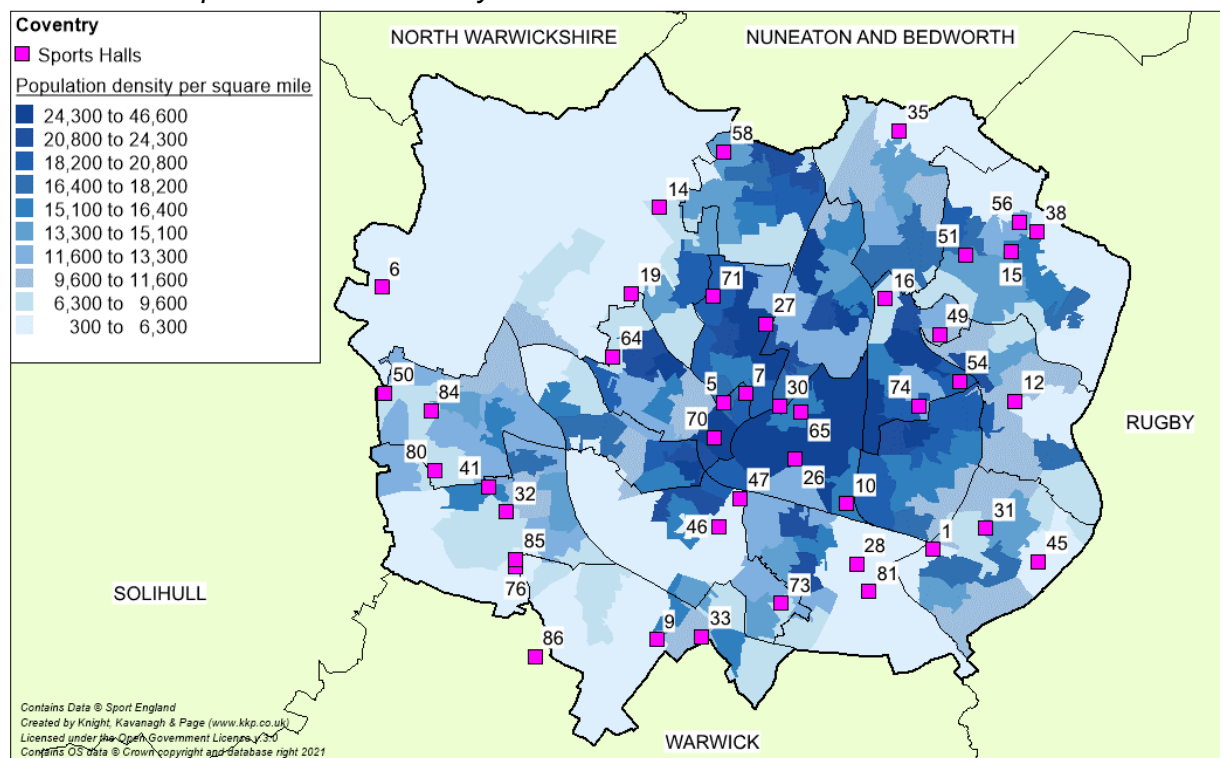
Sports halls of at least three badminton court size usually offer sufficient height allow games such as badminton to be played competitively. A 4-court sports hall provides even greater flexibility as it can accommodate major indoor team sports such as 5-a-side football, basketball and netball. It also has sufficient length to accommodate indoor cricket nets and indoor athletics; as such they tend to offer greater sports development flexibility than the 3-court counterpart.

Larger halls, for example those with six or eight courts, can accommodate higher level training and/or competition and meet day to day need. They also provide an option for more than one pitch/court increasing flexibility for both training and competition and hosting of indoor central venue leagues for sports such as netball.

4.1: Supply

Quantity

Table 4.1: All sports halls in Coventry



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There are 59 sports halls of all sizes listed on Active Places. These accommodate 151 badminton courts. There is a good spread across the Authority serving the main areas of population. Only the (predominantly rural) northwest of the Authority does not have a sports hall. Some venues have more than one activity/sports hall.

Figure 4.1: All sports / activity halls in Coventry– all sizes

ID	Site name	Crts	ID	Site name	Crts
1	Alan Higgs Centre	4	38	Grace Academy	4
5	Bablake School	4	41	Hereward College Sports Centre	4
6	Barker's Butts R.F.C	3	45	John White Community Centre	1
7	Barr's Hill School	4	46	King Henry VIII Preparatory	1
7	Barr's Hill School	0	47	King Henry VIII School	4
9	Bishop Ullathorne Catholic	1	47	King Henry VIII School	0
9	Bishop Ullathorne Catholic	0	49	Lyng Hall School Sports Centre	3
9	Bishop Ullathorne Catholic	4	50	Massey Ferguson Social Club	0
10	Blue Coat School & Music	4	51	Moat House Leisure &	4
10	Blue Coat School & Music	1	54	Phoenix Table Tennis Club	0
12	Caludon Castle Sports Centre	4	54	Phoenix Table Tennis Club	0
14	Cardinal Newman Catholic	4	56	Potters Green Primary School	1
14	Cardinal Newman Catholic	1	58	President Kennedy School	4
15	Cardinal Wiseman Catholic	4	64	Sherbourne Fields School	0
15	Cardinal Wiseman Catholic	1	65	Sidney Stringer Academy	4
16	Centre At7	6	70	Spon Gate Primary School	0
19	Coundon Court School	0	71	St Augustine's Sports Centre	1
19	Coundon Court School	0	73	St Thomas More Catholic Primary	0
19	Coundon Court School	4	74	Stoke Park School & Community	4
26	Coventry University Sports	4	74	Stoke Park School & Community	1
26	Coventry University Sports	2	76	The Westwood Academy	4
27	Daimler Green Community	1	80	West Coventry Academy	4
28	David Lloyd	5	80	West Coventry Academy	1
30	Eden Girls School	4	81	Whitley Academy	2
31	Ernesford Grange Community	4	81	Meadow Park School	4
31	Ernesford Grange Community	2	84	Woodlands Sports Complex	4
32	Finham Park 2	4	84	Woodlands Sports Complex	0
33	Finham Park School	4	85	Xcel Leisure Centre	4
35	Foxford School	4	86	University of Warwick	12
35	Foxford School	0			

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

28 sites have two or fewer badminton courts. While often appropriate for mat sports, exercise to music and similar provision, small halls limit the range of recreational and sporting activity that larger halls can enable. Some venues have more than one activity/ sports hall on site. Table 4.2 identifies those (from the APP list) excluded from the audit and assessment due to size (i.e., with fewer than three marked badminton courts). NB Sports halls at the following sites are currently not operational and have therefore been removed from the analysis:

- Grace Academy- sports hall floor is uneven due to subsidence. Site is currently closed while tests are being carried out to ascertain cause.
- St Augustine's Sports Centre- sports hall has recently been converted into a dedicated gymnastics hall and is not available to hire for sports hall activities (such as badminton).

Table 4.2: Sports halls with fewer than 3 badminton courts (excluded from supply due to size)

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ID	Site name	Cts	ID	Site name	Cts
No marked courts					
7	Barr's Hill School	0	54	Phoenix Table Tennis Club	0
9	Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School	0	54	Phoenix Table Tennis Club	0
19	Coundon Court School	0	64	Sherbourne Fields School	0
19	Coundon Court School	0	70	Spon Gate Primary School	0
35	Foxford School	0	73	St Thomas More Catholic	0
47	King Henry VIII School	0	84	Woodlands Sports Complex	0
50	Massey Ferguson Social Club	0			
One marked court					
9	Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School	1	46	King Henry VIII Preparatory	1
10	Blue Coat C Of E School & Music	1	56	Potters Green Primary School	1
14	Cardinal Newman Catholic School	1	71	St Augustine's Sports Centre	1
15	Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School	1	74	Stoke Park School &	1
27	Daimler Green Community Centre	1	80	West Coventry Academy	1
45	John White Community Centre	1			
Two marked court					
26	Coventry University Sports Centre	2	38	Grace Academy	2
31	Ernesford Grange Community Academy	2	81	Whitley Academy	2

The remaining 31 have three or more marked badminton courts and serve the main areas of population. Although University of Warwick's 12-court hall is located in Warwick District, it has been included as part of the supply for Coventry, as it has a community offer which serves a substantial cohort of Coventry residents, particularly in the south of the Authority.

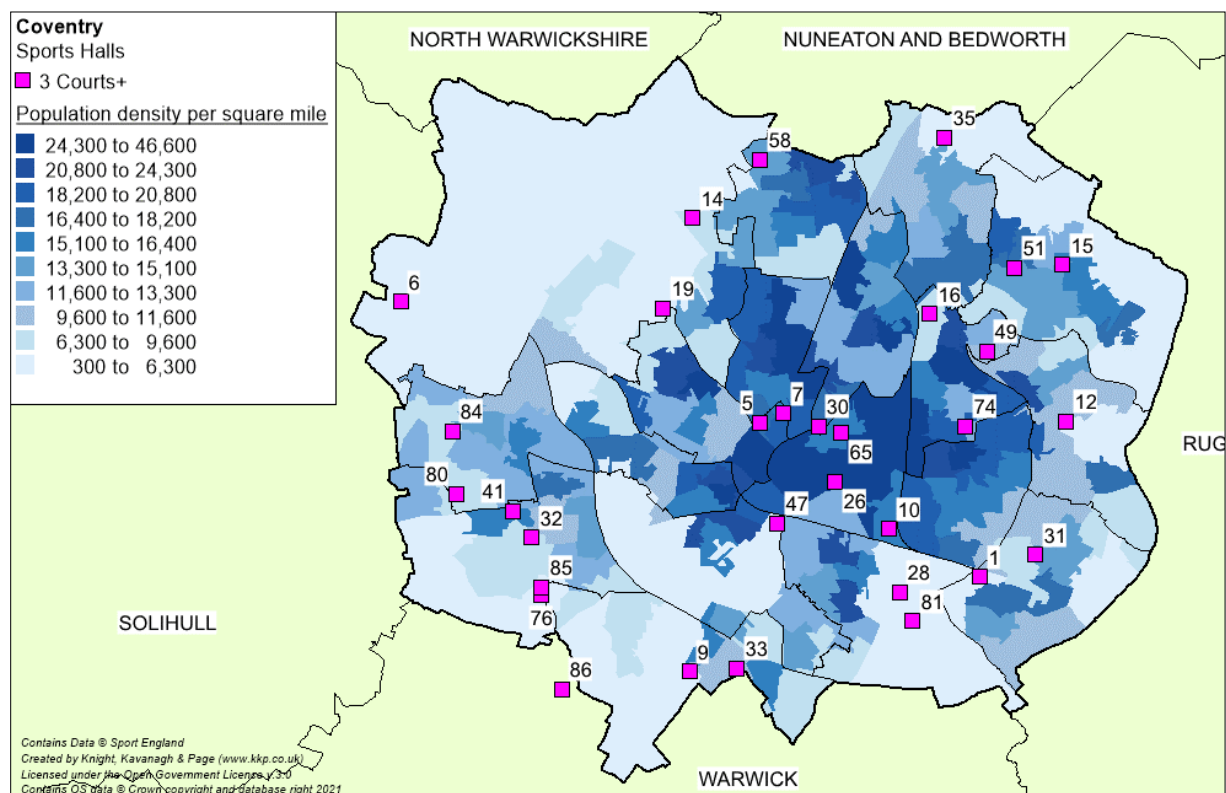
Table 4.3: Sports halls with 3+ badminton courts

ID	Site	Cts	ID	Site	Cts
86	University of Warwick	12	33	Finham Park School	4
16	Centre At7	6	35	Foxford School	4
28	David Lloyd	5	41	Hereward College Sports Centre	4
1	Alan Higgs Centre	4	47	King Henry VIII School	4
5	Bablake School	4	51	Moat House Leisure &	4
7	Barr's Hill School	4	58	President Kennedy School	4
10	Blue Coat C Of E School & Music	4	65	Sidney Stringer Academy	4
12	Caludon Castle Sports Centre	4	74	Stoke Park School & Community	4
14	Cardinal Newman Catholic School	4	76	The Westwood Academy	4
15	Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School	4	80	West Coventry Academy	4
19	Coundon Court School	4	81	Meadow Park School	4
26	Coventry University Sports Centre	4	84	Woodlands Sports Complex	4
30	Eden Girls School	4	85	Xcel Leisure Centre	4
31	Ernesford Grange Comm. Academy	4	6	Barker's Butts R.F.C	3
32	Finham Park 2	4	9	Bishop Ullathorne Catholic	4
49	Lyng Hall School Sports Centre	3			
Total					133

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Figure 4.2: Sports halls with 3+ courts in Coventry



The largest sites are at University of Warwick (12-court) and Centre AT7 (6-court). The majority have four courts, with only one 3-court hall. The breakdown of all sites is as follows:

- ◆ Two 3 -court hall
- ◆ 26 4-court halls
- ◆ One 5-court hall
- ◆ One 6-court hall
- ◆ One 12-court hall

Facility quality

All bar three of the 3+ court sports halls were subject to a non-technical quality assessment. No access was permitted Lyng Hall School Sports Centre, Stoke Park School & Community College and The Westwood Academy.

Table 4.4: listing of 3+ court sports halls with quality assessment – Coventry

ID	Site name	Courts	Assessment condition	
			Court	Changing
1	Alan Higgs Centre	4	Below average	Above average
5	Bablake School	4	Above average	Above average
6	Barker's Butts R.F.C	3	Poor	Below average
7	Barr's Hill School	4	Below average	Below average
9	Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School	4	Good	Good
10	Blue Coat C Of E School & Music College*	4	Below average	Below average
12	Caludon Castle Sports Centre	4	Above average	Above average
14	Cardinal Newman Catholic School*	4	Poor	Below average
15	Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School	4	Below average	Below average
16	Centre At7	6	Above average	Above average
19	Coundon Court School	4	Above average	Above average

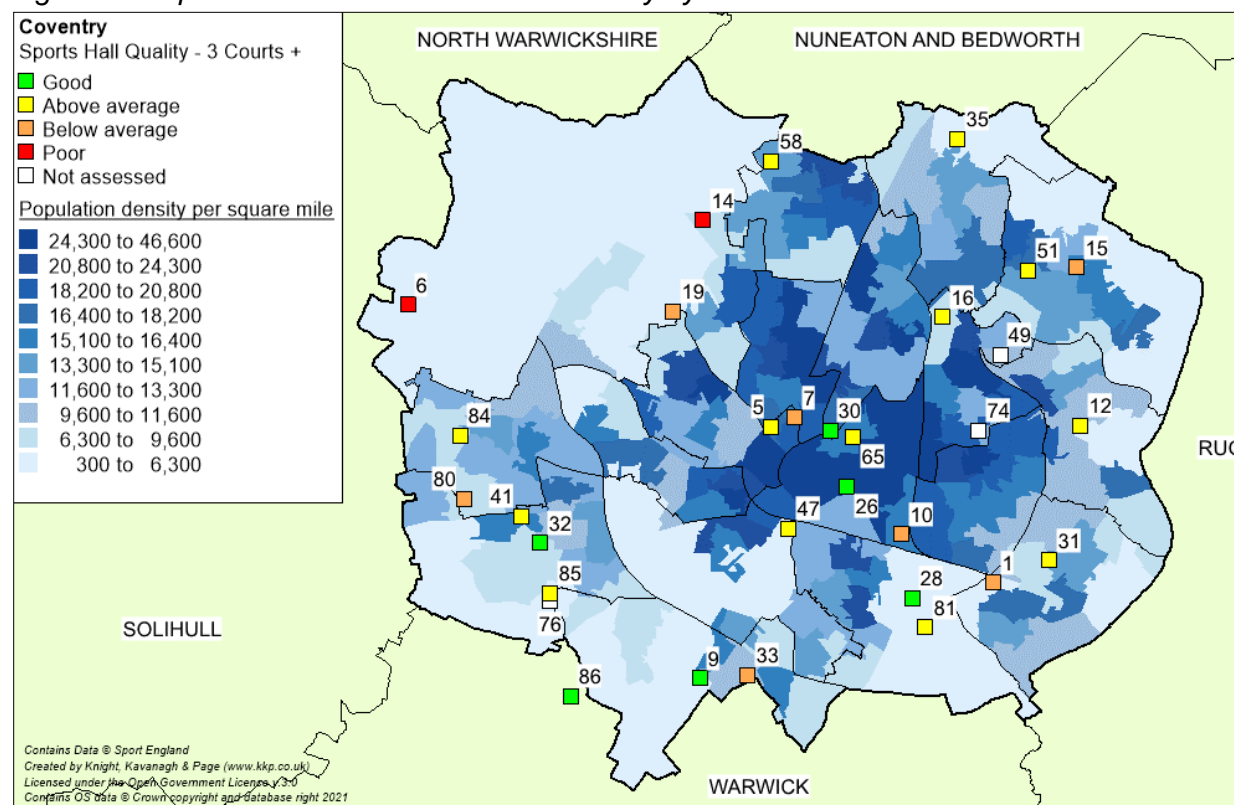
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ID	Site name	Courts	Assessment condition	
			Court	Changing
26	Coventry University Sports Centre	4	Good	Above average
28	David Lloyd	5	Good	Good
30	Eden Girls School	4	Good	Good
31	Ernesford Grange Community Academy	4	Above average	Above average
32	Finham Park 2	4	Good	Good
33	Finham Park School	4	Below average	Below average
35	Foxford School	4	Above average	Above average
41	Hereward College Sports Centre	4	Above average	Above average
47	King Henry VIII School	4	Above average	Not assessed
49	Lyng Hall School Sports Centre	3	Not assessed	Not assessed
51	Moat House Leisure & Neighbourhood	4	Above average	Above average
58	President Kennedy School	4	Above average	Above average
65	Sidney Stringer Academy	4	Above average	Above average
74	Stoke Park School & Community College	4	Not assessed	Not assessed
76	The Westwood Academy	4	Not assessed	Not assessed
80	West Coventry Academy*	4	Good	Not assessed
81	Meadow Park School	4	Above average	Not assessed
84	Woodlands Sports Complex	4	Above average	Poor
85	Xcel Leisure Centre	4	Above average	Above average
86	University of Warwick	12	Good	Good

*Investment confirmed- see below.

Figure 4.3: Sports halls with 3+ courts in Coventry by condition



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The majority of sports hall stock in Coventry is of a good standard. There are seven good quality sports hall (37 courts), 15 are above average (58 courts in total), five are below average (20 courts in total), two are rated poor (7 courts) and three halls (comprising a total of 11-courts) were not assessed.

Consultation indicated that facility age, lack of investment and heavy utilisation are the primary reasons why facilities rate below average or poor. For example, Cardinal Newman Catholic School was built in 1969, has accommodated heavy usage and has not benefitted from any investment since it opened.. A breakdown of facility age along with maintenance history is illustrated in Table 4.6.

Table 4.5: Year of construction and refurbishment of sports halls

KKP Ref	Site	Total Crts	Year built	Last refurbished	Years since open/refurb
7	Barr's Hill School	4	1985	N/A	38
9	Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School	4	2023	N/A	1
14	Cardinal Newman Catholic School	4	1969	N/A	54
19	Coundon Court School	4	2016	N/A	7
26	Coventry University Sports Centre	4	2004	N/A	19
30	Eden Girls School Coventry	4	2015	N/A	8
58	President Kennedy School	4	2016	N/A	8
74	Stoke Park School	4	1980	N/A	43
5	Bablake School	4	1960	N/A	63
6	Barker's Butts R.F.C	3	1985	N/A	38
15	Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School	4	1994	N/A	29
31	Ernesford Grange Community Academy	4	1972	1984	39
32	Finham Park 2	4	2017	N/A	6
33	Finham Park School	4	1970	2005	18
35	Foxford School	4	1997	2003	20
47	King Henry VIII School	4	2002	N/A	21
49	Lyng Hall School Sports Centre	3	1985	2006	18
65	Sidney Stringer Academy	4	2011	N/A	12
76	The Westwood Academy	4	1981	2006	17
81	Meadow Park School	4	2009	N/A	14
1	Alan Higgs Centre	4	2004	2008	15
10	Blue Coat C Of E School & Music College	4	2004	N/A	19
12	Caludon Castle Sports Centre	4	2007	2010	23
16	Centre At7	6	1987	N/A	36
28	David Lloyd	5	1996	N/A	27
41	Hereward College Sports Centre	4	1996	N/A	27
51	Moat House Leisure Centre	4	2009	N/A	14
80	West Coventry Academy	4	2024	N/A	0
84	Woodlands Sports Complex	4	2006	N/A	17
85	Xcel Leisure Centre	4	2008	N/A	15
86	University Of Warwick	12	2021	N/A	1

As mentioned earlier in the report, it must be noted that certain sites are receiving significant investment to upgrade facilities, as part of a DFE programme to improve educational facilities throughout the City. Below is a breakdown of this investment and the associated timescales. In

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In addition to the two sites below, CCC confirm that Bishop Ullathorne School had a 4-court new build which completed in November 2023 in addition to their existing sports hall facility.

Table 4.6: Coventry Schools sports facility refurbishment plan

Map ID	Site name	Planned investment	Expected Completion date
14	Cardinal Newman Catholic School	New 4 court sports hall along with changing provision. This will be available for community use once completed.	2025
49	Lyng Hall School Sports Centre	New standalone 2-court hall.	2025

Accessibility

Sports hall accessibility is influenced by how far people are willing and able to travel to/from them. Walk and drive-time catchments are applied to determine facility accessibility to different communities for sites which are available to hire. The normal (industry) standard is a 20-minute walk time (one-mile radial catchment) for an urban area and a 20-minute drive time for a rural area. As Coventry is typically considered to be an urban area, a 20-minute walk time is applied.

All sites which are not community available have been removed from the accessibility calculation. These are listed below along with the reason why they are not community available.

- ✦ Eden Girls School - management decision; school does not offer community use.
- ✦ Barr's Hill School - not economically viable to open up the school for community use. It would consider community use if costs of opening the school could be covered through bookings.
- ✦ Cardinal Newman Catholic School facility is of poor quality and not suitable for letting. It is assumed that the hall will be available for community use once re-built.
- ✦ Coundon Court School – has a 4-court hall (rated above average quality). The majority of the school is currently undergoing a full rebuild. Consultation indicates that this site will be available for community use once the site is re-open. Due to its location in relation to future housing growth, it is important to ensure that this site is community available. There is the also possibility that the Authority will consider further financial (capital) support if required to ensure this facility can offer accessible community facilities.
- ✦ Coventry University Sports Centre - student access only.
- ✦ President Kennedy School – whilst there is some ad-hoc use, it is not economically viable to open up the school for community use. Similar issues to Barr's Hill.
- ✦ Stoke Park School & Community College - consultation was not obtained with the school, and desktop research indicates the site is not open for community use.
- ✦ David Lloyd sports hall - the site requires a membership- and is not community available.

Analysis of 20-minute walk time data from community available halls reveals the following.

- ✦ 286,072 of residents live within one mile of a sports hall (83.2% of the total population).
- ✦ 140,801 people (40.9 % of the population) live in areas of higher deprivation.
- ✦ Of these, most (120,855; 85.9%) live within a one-mile radial catchment of a sports hall.

The above data illustrates that sports halls are well located to service the population of Coventry, with over nine tenths of residents (83.2%) living within a mile of a community accessible sports hall.

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Table 4.7: Accessibility of sports halls with 3+ courts

IMD 10% bands	Coventry		Sports halls minimum 3 courts+ excluding private use - catchment populations by IMD			
	Persons	Population %	Persons inside catchment	Population inside (%)	Persons outside catchment	Population outside (%)
0 - 10	49,696	14.4%	48,713	14.1%	983	0.3%
10.1 - 20	38,086	11.1%	29,829	8.7%	8,257	2.4%
20.1 - 30	53,019	15.4%	42,313	12.3%	10,706	3.1%
30.1 - 40	39,921	11.6%	38,812	11.3%	1,109	0.3%
40.1 - 50	40,378	11.7%	31,320	9.1%	9,058	2.6%
50.1 - 60	35,482	10.3%	26,680	7.7%	8,802	2.6%
60.1 - 70	29,251	8.5%	20,622	6.0%	8,629	2.5%
70.1 - 80	26,991	7.8%	21,326	6.2%	5,665	1.6%
80.1 - 90	16,963	4.9%	14,543	4.2%	2,420	0.7%
90.1 - 100	14,501	4.2%	12,414	3.6%	2,087	0.6%
Total	344,288	100.0%	286,572	83.2%	57,716	16.8%

As discussed above, there are three schools which will be opening for community use following completion of the listed development on site. These are:

- ◀ Cardinal Newman Catholic School
- ◀ Lyng Hall School Sports Centre
- ◀ Counton Court School.

Should all three be available, in addition to the current stock, it is calculated that (based on a 20-minute walking time):

- ◀ 314,916 of residents live within one mile of a sports hall (91.5% of the total population).
- ◀ 140,801 people (40.9 % of the population) live in areas of higher deprivation.
- ◀ Of these, most (126,629; 89.9%) live within a one-mile radial catchment of a sports hall.

As illustrated overleaf, accessibility will increase once these facilities are available to the community. It is, thus, important to ensure that projects are delivered to time and funding remains in place. Barr's Hill School and President Kennedy School are not included in these calculations, however, if on-costs were to reduce for opening the school during evenings/weekends, they might also consider becoming community available, further increasing access to sport halls.

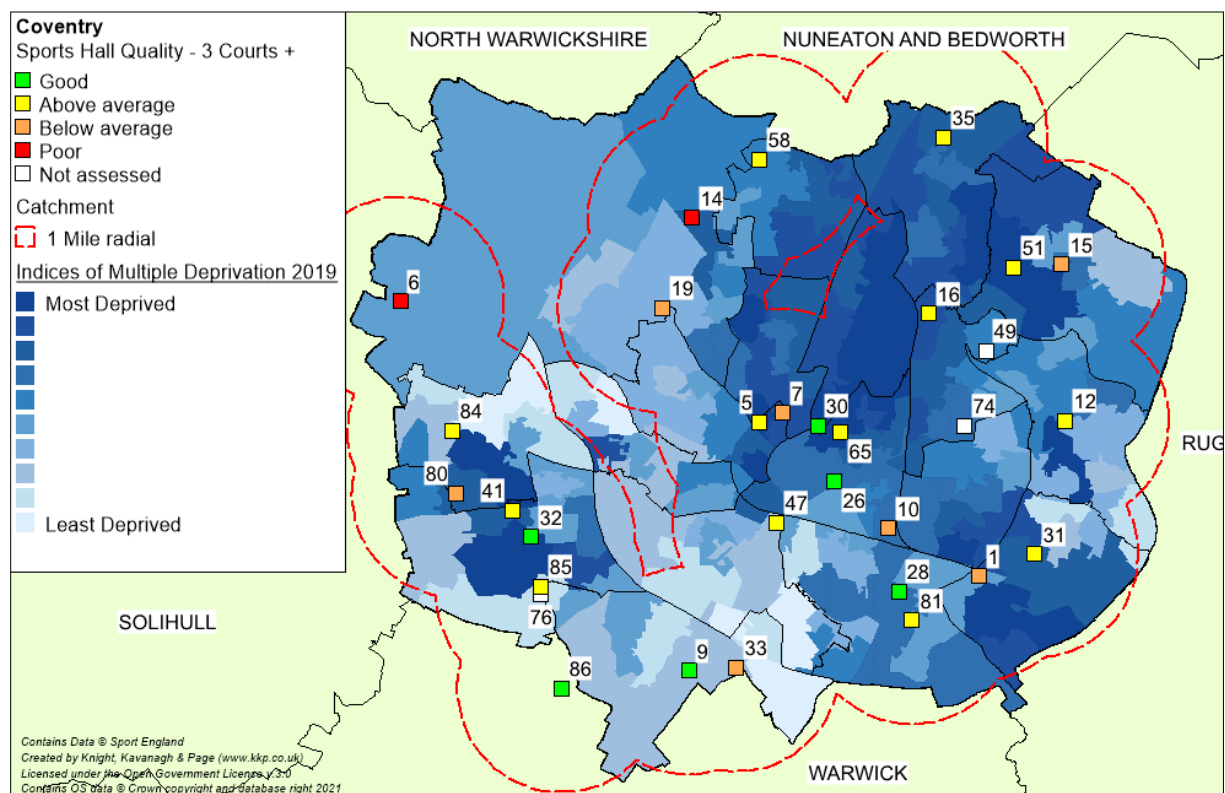
Availability

The majority of halls in Coventry are community available, bar the sites listed above. Levels of access, however, vary considerably and can be broken down as follows:

- ◀ Pay and play sites include all site operated by CV Life (including Woodlands Academy Sports Complex) along with the University of Warwick and Caludon Castle Sports Centre (seven sites).
- ◀ Registered membership is required at the two private schools (King Henry and Bablake School) and at David Lloyd
- ◀ Advance block bookings are required at the remaining site, which includes the majority of the education facilities and the sports hall at Barker's Butts Rugby Club.

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Figure 4.4: All community available sports halls with 3+ courts relative to IMD



Facility management

The Authority owns three key leisure sites with two owned by Coventry and Warwickshire Awards Trust. Ownership of school establishments vary between a number of academy trusts. Finham Park and Sidney Stringer Academy Trusts own multiple sites.

Five sites are managed by CV Life, including each of the Council and Coventry & Warwickshire Awards Trust owned sites. All education sites are managed either internally or through a private company (Community Lettings). It is anticipated that Sidney Stringer Academy MAT will take over the management of Woodlands Academy Sports Complex, once the Trust re-opens Woodlands Academy (2023/24). The Trust will be re-opening the site as a special educational needs school. Woodlands Academy, a former all-boys school, was closed in 2016 as part of a merger with the all-girls Tile Hill Wood School to create West Coventry Academy.

Table 4.8: Management and ownership of sports hall facilities

Site	Management	Ownership
Caludon Castle Sports Centre	Parkwood Leisure Trust	Castle Phoenix Trust
Bablake School	Internal	Bablake School
Barker's Butts R.F.C	Barker's Butts R.F.C	Barker's Butts R.F.C
Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School	Internal	Romero Catholic Academy Trust
Ernesford Grange Comm. Academy	Internal	Sidney Stringer Academy MAT
Finham Park 2	Community Lettings	Finham Park Multi Academy Trust
Finham Park School	Community Lettings	Finham Park Multi Academy Trust
Foxford School	Internal	Castle Phoenix Trust
King Henry VIII School	Internal	King Henry VIII School
Sidney Stringer Academy	internal	Sidney Stringer Academy MAT

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The Westwood Academy	Internal	Kenilworth Multi Academy Trus
Meadow Park School	Community Lettings	Finham Park Multi Academy Trust
Alan Higgs Centre	CV Life	Coventry and Warwickshire Awards Trust
Blue Coat C of E School/	Internal	Inspire Education Trust
Centre AT7	CV Life	Coventry and Warwickshire Awards Trust
Hereward College Sports Centre	Internal	Hereward College
Moat House Leisure Centre	CV Life	Coventry City Council
West Coventry Academy	Internal	The Arthur Terry Learning Partnership
Woodlands Sports Complex	CV Life	Coventry City Council
Xcel Leisure Centre	CV Life	Midland Sports Centre for the Disabled Trust
University Of Warwick	University Of Warwick	University Of Warwick
Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School	Internal	Holy Cross Catholic MAT
Lyng Hall School Sports Centre	Internal	Finham Park Multi Academy Trust

Daytime availability and used capacity

Six sites offer daytime availability. These are all CV Life managed (apart from Woodlands Sports Complex) and Barker's Butts Rugby Club sports hall. The remainder solely offer evening and weekend bookings. Table 4.9 details levels of community use available at each venue. Figures are calculated based either upon booking sheets from the respective sites or based upon consultation. Data collected relates to current utilisation at all sites in January 2023.

All sites support mainstream sports, such as netball, football and badminton. The University of Warwick supports the widest variety particularly its inter-mural sports offer. Other key sites include Centre AT7 which accommodates volleyball and basketball. The site has six courts which can accommodate such sports, as it has the appropriate run offs and capacity for spectators.

Volleyball is a popular sport in Coventry, however, a key challenge is finding indoor space to support the game. Only the CV Life sites can support the sport currently. Club consultation suggests more sites (predominately school halls) need to adapt its halls so that they can support the sport, particularly with the appropriate net sockets.

Usage information for Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School Lyng Hall School Sports Centre is unknown.

Table 4.9: Opening hours and activities in sports halls Coventry

Community use hours		KKP ref	Site	Total courts	Main sports played	Used capacity
41 - 40 40+	n/a	76	The Westwood Academy	4	n/a	n/a
	23.0	15	Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School	4 & 1	Basketball, dance, indoor skating	60%
	38.0	31	Ernesford Grange Comm. Academy	4 & 2	Gymnastics, karate, badminton, indoor football.	90%
	25.0	32	Finham Park 2	4	Football, martial arts, cricket, badminton	50%
	26.5	33	Finham Park School	4	Basketball, indoor football, fitness groups, badminton	80%
	23.0	35	Foxford School	4	No external demand currently	0%
	38.0	47	King Henry VIII School	4	Cricket, netball, indoor football.	90%
	30.0	65	Sidney Stringer Academy	4	Indoor football, dance	60%
	14.0	76	The Westwood Academy	4	n/a	n/a

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Community use hours	KKP ref	Site	Total courts	Main sports played	Used capacity
38.0	81	Meadow Park School	2 & 4	Archery, indoor football, cricket, church groups	70%
104.5	1	Alan Higgs Centre	4	Coventry College, gymnastics, trampolining, football, badminton.	90%
41.0	10	Blue Coat CofE School/Music College	4 & 1	B-ball, netball, football, youth club	60%
84.0	12	Caludon Castle Sports Centre	4	Basketball, badminton, football	90%
102.0	16	Centre At7	6	Badminton, volleyball, football, Sky Blues in the Community	100%
49.0	41	Hereward College Sports Centre	4	Table tennis, badminton	80%
97.25	51	Moat House Leisure Centre	4	Badminton, volleyball, b-ball, m-arts	80%
41.5	80	West Coventry Academy	4 & 1	Badminton, football, children's parties	60%
51.0	84	Woodlands Sports Complex	4	Gymnastics, badminton, wheelchair basketball.	80%
96.5	85	Xcel Leisure Centre	4	Dodgeball, b-ball, m-arts, badminton.	90%
128.0	86	University Of Warwick – Sport & Wellness Hub	12	Netball, badminton, volleyball, basketball, football, cricket.	100%
85.0	6	Barker's Butts R.F.C	3	Indoor rugby, badminton, dog training.	50%

Sport England Facilities Planning Model (FPM)

CCC commissioned an FPM local run assessment for sports halls in order to (a) understand the impact of housing growth over the period of the strategy and (b) understand the impact of increasing the community accessibility of sports halls located on school sites. The report was produced in May 2024.

The following three scenarios were tested:

Run 1 – baseline assessment of how the existing supply of sports halls meets the current level of demand from the resident population in 2023.

Run 2 – forward assessment of demand for sports halls and its distribution, based on the projected changes in population between 2023 and 2041, including committed changes to sports hall supply.

Run 3 – forward assessment of demand for sports halls and its distribution in 2041, based on modelled options to increase access to educational sports halls currently unavailable for community use.

Headline position

The headline strategic overview is that Coventry's sports halls are uncomfortably full in both 2023 and 2041. There is limited scope to increase availability and capacity for community use. All five public leisure centres are at capacity, along with seven educational sites in all three runs.

The first intervention is to explore this limited scope to increase availability. This can be achieved by increasing the number of hours available at certain education sites, to create more capacity in run 2. It is recognised that some may have school-based activities which could consume certain peak period slots, however, it is suggested that the following sites can increase the number of hours available. These are:

- ◆ Sidney Stringer Academy
- ◆ Bluecoat School, CofE School
- ◆ King Henry VIII School

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◀ Lyng Hall School

The second intervention is to encourage the four educational sites currently not available, to become community accessible. These are: Stoke Park School, President Kennedy, Eden Girls and Barrs Hill. It is particularly important for President Kennedy to open, as this site is in the largest housing growth area. Each site will provide between 36-41 hours for community use.

Thirdly, it is evident from the first two interventions that protecting and increasing access to educational sports hall sites is paramount in protecting an extensive supply needed for community use. If not in place, a community-use agreement should be agreed for the current and new/replacement educational sports hall site supply.

Finally, a fourth consideration is to increase supply. Due to the significant housing growth in the north of the Authority, the largest area of reachable unmet demand will be in Keresley Heath (north of the City Centre). By run 3, it is calculated this will be 4.8 courts in this area (even with additional community hours factored in at existing school sites inc President Kennedy School). Therefore, the Authority could consider the need for a new facility in the area, to support sports such as Basketball and Volleyball.

Supply

- ◀ The FPM assessment mirrored the KKP audit, discounting the four sites which were not community available, and those currently undergoing redevelopment.
- ◀ It calculated there is a total of 94.6 badminton courts for community use in 2023. This increased to 104.4 in run 2 and 121.6 in run 3. The FPM, in run 1, excluded the four schools not available for community use.
- ◀ The FPM concluded that, in all runs, between 25% and 26% of the total supply is unavailable for community use in the weekly peak period. There is scope to increase capacity for community use in the educational supply.

Demand

- ◀ FPM findings suggest that levels of satisfied demand in Coventry are very high, with most visits to sports halls being met within the Council area.
- ◀ Coventry's population generates a demand for 27,427 sports hall visits per week in the FPM peak period, in run 1. This rises to 33,651 by run 3. Of this total demand, the vast majority (by run 3) 91%, can be met.
- ◀ Coventry's exported demand is low at 14% of all met demand (run 1). This falls further to 9% by 2024 for run 3. The bulk of the exported demand is to the authority of Warwick.
- ◀ Levels of unmet demand are low (9%) and are equivalent to 3.5 badminton courts (run 1). This reduces to 1.8 courts by run 3. All the unmet demand is due to being too far from a facility, and none is due to lack of capacity.
- ◀ Keresley Heath, by run 2, is where the most unmet demand can be met, at 7.1 courts. In Run 3, this reduces to 4.8 courts. There is sufficient unmet demand to consider provision of a new sports hall to improve accessibility for residents, which would support housing growth in the NW of the City. In addition, unmet demand for around 6.5 courts can be seen in central areas of the city, corresponding to potential housing growth linked to the city centre masterplan.

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Table 4.10: FPM demand findings

Element	Run 1	Run 2	Run 3
Satisfied demand	91%	91%	93%
Satisfied demand retained within Coventry	86	88	91
Satisfied demand exported	14	12	9
Unmet demand	9%	9%	7%
% of unmet demand due to residents outside sports hall catchment (as opposed to no capacity)	5%	4%	4%
Overall average used sports hall capacity	86%	90%	84%

Used capacity

Table 4.11 provides a comparison of used capacity (i.e. percentage of available community use hours used⁹) at each sports hall site between the FPM analysis and that measured by KKP's audit. 'FPM used capacity' figures for sports halls are an estimation based on a number of set parameters including each facilities relative attractiveness. It assumes for example that local authority operated sports halls will have a more balanced programme and are therefore more attractive than sports halls on education sites, which are more likely to have a programme limited to block bookings by sports clubs and therefore are less attractive to the pay and play user. It also considers a figure of 80% used capacity as a 'comfortably full' benchmark.

'KKP audited used capacity' is an assessment based on booking information provided by each site and information gained via consultation with schools and sports clubs. It accepts that numbers of bookings can vary on a week-by-week basis, according to the seasonality of sports and due to the use of sports halls for school exams. Data was not gathered at sites which were subject to redevelopment or were not available for community use.

Table 4.11: Used capacity of sports halls

Site	KKP Audited Used capacity	FPM Used capacity		
		Run 1	Run 2	Run 3
Alan Higgs Centre	90%	100%	100%	100%
Bablake School		100%	100%	100%
Barker's Butts R.F.C	55%	36%	42%	39%
Barr's Hill School				100%
Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School			100%	77%
Blue Coat Church of England School and Music College	70%	100%	100%	100%
Caludon Castle Sports Centre	90%	100%	100%	100%
Cardinal Newman Catholic School			100%	100%
Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School	70%	85%	100%	69%
Centre AT7	100%	100%	100%	100%
Coundon Court School			100%	100%
Eden Girls' School				100%
Ernesford Grange Community Academy	85%	78%	81%	58%

⁹ NB the FPMs estimation of used capacity considers **all** sports hall space on a particular site i.e. main and activity halls where appropriate, whereas KKP's audited figure is based on 3 + court halls only.

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Site	KKP Audited Used capacity	FPM Used capacity		
		Run 1	Run 2	Run 3
Finham Park 2	58%	100%	100%	100%
Finham Park School	85%	61%	60%	60%
Foxford School	55%	100%	100%	86%
Hereward College Sports Centre	95%	91%	90%	76%
King Henry VIII School	100%	100%	100%	100%
Lyng Hall School Sports Centre		100%	100%	100%
Meadow Park School		92%	100%	73%
Moat House Leisure Centre	100%	100%	100%	100%
President Kennedy School				90%
Sidney Stringer Academy	70%	100%	100%	100%
Stoke Park School and Community College				100%
The Westwood Academy		28%	27%	23%
University of Warwick (Westwood Campus)	85%	37%	39%	31%
West Coventry Academy	70%	67%	85%	72%
Woodlands Sports Complex	90%	70%	81%	71%
Xcel Leisure Centre	100%	100%	100%	100%

(80% -Sport England's guidance threshold which is considered to be a "comfortably full" sports hall)

FPM used capacity figures are broadly in agreement with KKP audit findings in estimating high levels of used capacity currently across the majority of sites. Only Foxford School, Finham Park 2 and University of Warwick (Westwood Campus) were not aligned in terms of utilisation.

KKPs audit identifies eleven sites (including all CV Life centres) report having limited or no spare capacity. Only three which were audited currently operate below 60% used capacity. Consultation with the respective sites suggests that there is demand for these halls. Hall quality and hire cost are the key factors deterring people/groups from hiring these venues. Sites such as Barrs Hill, President Kennedy School and Foxford School noted that hire costs need to cover heating and staff costs, and this is something which clubs cannot afford currently, hence the lack of community use at these sites.

Future changes and developments

As detailed above, five secondary schools are to receive significant capital investment resulting in three additional 3+ sports halls available for community use in the Authority. Two will be new facilities (Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School and Lyng Hall School Sports Centre) and Coundon Court School will be able to open its sports hall once site building work is completed. Grace Academy currently has an uneven sports hall floor and is unable to open. As yet, no funding has been identified to resolve this issue.

Neighbouring facilities

Accessibility is influenced by facilities located outside Coventry. A total of four (minimum 3+ court) sports halls are located within two miles (indicative of how far people may travel) of Coventry's boundary, with an even spread surrounding the Authority. The largest is Sports Connexion Leisure Centre in Rugby which has an 8-court hall.

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Figure 4.6: 3+ sports halls within two miles of Coventry

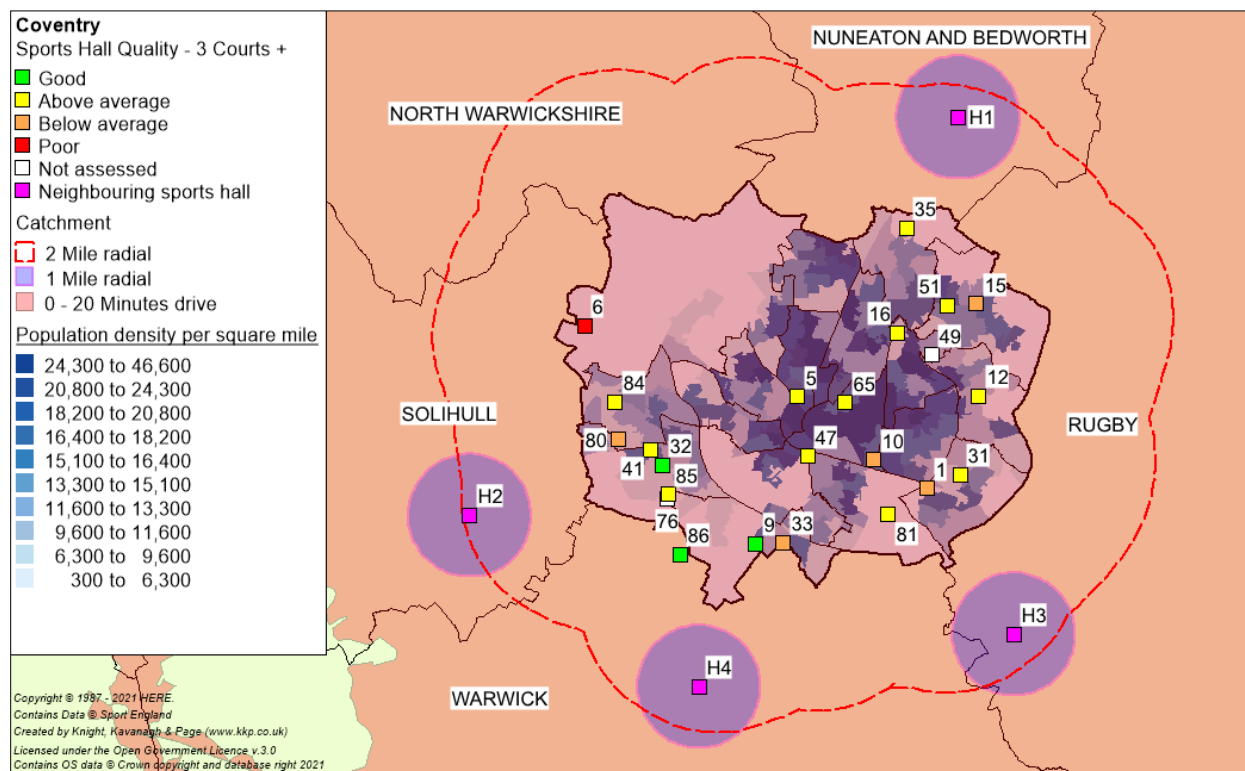


Table 4.12: Neighbouring 3+ court sports halls (excluding private use)

ID	Site name	Courts	Access type	Local authority
H1	Nicholas Chamberlaine School	4	Sports Club / CA	Nuneaton and Bedworth
H2	Heart Of England School	4	Sports Club / CA	Solihull
H3	Sports Connexion LC	8	Pay and Play	Rugby
H4	Kenilworth School	4	Pay and Play	Warwick

NB: Sports Club / CA = Sports Club / Community Association use

4.2: Demand

Consultation

NGBs and active clubs have been consulted to ascertain and understand current use, participation trends and needs and challenges of sports hall facilities in the area.

Badminton England

Badminton England (BE) is the NGB for badminton. Its Discover Badminton Strategy 2017-2025 presents a vision for the sport to become one of the nation's most popular and to consistently win medals at world, Olympic and Paralympic levels. It has three key objectives:

- Grow grassroots participation.
- Create a system that identifies and develops player potential to deliver consistent world class performers.
- Built financial resilience to become a well governed organisation and demonstrate compliance with the UK governance code.

It applies a specific strategy model to assess court quality and sufficiency by local authority.

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Overall statistics

Badminton participation statistics

- 1.83% of adults (88.87%; male and 11.13%; female) have played badminton at least twice in the last 28 days¹⁰. This equates to **5,200 regular adult players**.
- 6.00%¹¹ of juniors¹⁰ have played badminton at least twice in the last 28 days. This equates to **1,105 regular junior players**.
- It is estimated that 8.47% of adults have played badminton at least once in the last 12 months. This equates to **18,800 occasional adult players**¹² (6.62% latent demand).

Demand

- The presumption is that **regular adult players** play once per week for one hour and that their average need is for 3 adults per court. This equates to a weekly requirement for **1,734 court hours** (current demand).
- The presumption is that **regular junior players** play once per week for 45 minutes and that their average need is for 4 players per court. This equates to a weekly requirement for **208 court hours** (current demand).
- The presumption is that **occasional adult players** play four times per annum for one hour and that their average need is for 3 adults per court. This requires **483 court hours** (latent demand).
- To service all badminton demand there is a need for **2,425 court hours** per week.
- Projected increase in regular demand in 2030 is **407 court hours**.

Supply

- There are 33 (3+court) sports halls containing 139 courts in Coventry.
- Six hall(s) are for private use only; thus 115 courts are available for badminton.
- The total number of court hours per week (3+ court sports halls) available in Coventry during stated peak time is **3,951**¹³.
- 47.83%¹⁴ of badminton courts in Coventry meet the Badminton England quality threshold (above average/good) which equates to **1,885 court hours**¹⁵.
- There is a need for **128.68%** of the **1,885** good quality peak time court hours, available each week, to service current and latent badminton demand.
- Additional court hours required per week in 2030 are **407**.

KKP's needs assessment differs from the findings of the BE model. While BE assumes that there are 115 available courts, KKP's assessment only identifies 102, despite the fact that this audit includes the 12-court hall at University of Warwick.

BE identifies that there is a shortfall in courts in Coventry which meet the Badminton England quality threshold. It will be therefore important to examine further within the strategy whether this is supported by further analysis and if the supply of good quality courts can be increased.

¹⁰ ALS states that people that have participated at least twice in the last 28 days. For modelling purposes, it is assumed that they participate every week

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

¹² Occasional players equates to all players minus regular players

¹³ Peak time hours are defined as; Monday – Friday 17:00-22:00, Saturday 09:30-17:00, Sunday 09:00-14:30 & 17:00-19:30

¹⁴ National figure: 75.0%

¹⁵ Assumes that all courts of all standards available during all peak hours.

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Club consultation

Consultation was undertaken with Coventry Badminton League, on behalf of the clubs across the Authority. Of its 19 member clubs, six are based in Coventry. Its matches are played at several different sites in the Authority, including AT7 Centre, King Henry, West Coventry Academy and the Excel Centre. The largest of the Coventry clubs would appear to be Centre AT7 Badminton Club (25 members) and Jubilee Badminton Club (20 members).

Whilst the League acknowledges its good access to sports halls across the Authority, there is no consistency and it faces particular problems around the times of the year when school exams are taking place. The League would like to see a more consistent approach to hiring sports halls adopted, particularly on school sites where bookings are often lost to larger more profitable hirers, such as birthday parties. This often results in matches being cancelled. To address this, the Coventry Badminton League could work with CV Life to ensure key matches are played at sites where there is no disruption.

Netball

England Netball's latest strategy, *Your Game, Your Way*, aims to establish it as a top performing, financially sustainable NGB that promotes 'Netball for Life' and develops more world class athletes. The four key stated priorities are:

- ◆ Grow participation in the game by an average of 10,000 participants per annum.
- ◆ Deliver a 1st class member and participant experience.
- ◆ Establish England as the number one team in the World
- ◆ Lead an effective and progressive infrastructure enabling all involved in the netball experience to collaborate as one team aligned behind one dream.

England Netball reports that netball is growing fast nationally with a recent YouGov report it commissioned reporting that the 2019 World Cup inspired 160,000 adult women to take up the sport and a 1000% increase in visits to its online netball session finder at the end of the World Cup, compared to the two weeks prior. In addition, 71% of clubs reported more people had shown an interest in playing netball than before the tournament started.

Consultation with England Netball indicates that the majority of netball in Coventry is played at outdoor venue locations, including King Henry VIII School, Bablake school and University of Warwick, all of which have outdoor floodlit provision. During the winter months a number of schools also accommodate indoor training demand, including King Henry VIII School and the Bluecoat School. The latest Playing Pitch Strategy indicates there are high levels of latent demand for outdoor courts.

Consultation with the Coventry & Warwickshire Netball League indicated that the majority of sports halls are used to accommodate training demand, and there is no reported capacity issue. There are 10 Coventry based netball clubs; the largest being Coventry Godiva's Netball Club. University of Warwick also host an England Netball talent pathway programme.

Basketball (BBE)

Basketball England (BBE) is the NGB for the sport in England. Its latest strategy, *Transforming Basketball in Britain Together (2016 - 2028)* aims to improve basketball from grassroots to GB teams, by adopting a whole sport approach and working closely with the basketball community.

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

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- ◀ Develop successful GB teams.
- ◀ Build high-quality men's and women's leagues and teams.
- ◀ Support talented players, officials and coaches and coach development pathways.
- ◀ Drive increased awareness and profile of the sport.
- ◀ Increase opportunities to play the game at every level.
- ◀ Transform the leadership and culture of the sport.

To increase opportunities to play the game at every level, BBE has produced a facilities strategy which aims to create community hubs including, where appropriate, arenas that sit at the heart of communities and are homes for the leading British Basketball League (BBL), Women's British Basketball League (WBBL) and community clubs. The nearest hub to Coventry is the West Midlands which is located at Aston University.

There are four affiliated clubs in the city:

- ◀ Coventry Tornadoes
- ◀ Coventry Elite
- ◀ Coventry Flames
- ◀ Ballers Haven

Consultation was undertaken with Coventry Tornadoes and Coventry Flames.

Coventry Tornadoes- is a national league basketball team which plays across three sites; Woodlands School, Finham Park and Meadow Hall. It currently runs 15 teams and has c. 350 members. Whilst it has a good relationship with all three venues at which it plays, it would like a dedicated permanent home where it can play matches and have suitable space for spectators. Existing halls at University of Warwick (too expensive) and AT7 Centre (currently fully booked on a Saturday have been ruled out in this regard. It is currently looking at adapted warehouse accommodation as a new permanent venue.

Coventry Flames - is predominantly Coventry University based which also plays in the national league system. It was based at the old 8-court sports centre (Coventry Sport & Leisure Centre) in the City centre, however, since this closed, it is now restricted to the University's 4-court hall. It would like to have access to a large venue to support the team and would consider moving back into its old venue if permitted. It is currently working with Coventry University to investigate this.

Volleyball

Volleyball England (VE) is the NGB for volleyball, beach volleyball and sitting volleyball and is responsible for development, promotion and delivery of the sport. It organises the National Volleyball League (the top club competition in England) and aims to grow and develop the sport via youth initiatives for junior players. Its strategy 'This is the Game Plan'¹⁶ launched in 2020. The stated vision is 'to be a sustainable, self-sufficient organisation; more relevant and better connected to the volleyball community'.

It incorporates three key main priorities:

- ◀ *Volleyball for life*- VE aims to better understand, articulate and promote the opportunities that volleyball provides for anyone, at any stage of their life.
- ◀ *Get.Keep.Grow* – VE will look to strengthen English volleyball club structure by working hand in hand with clubs to help them achieve their ambitions.

¹⁶ <https://www.volleyballengland.org/docs/The%20Game%20Plan%20brochure.pdf>

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- ◆ *An ace service* – VE will work collaboratively to deliver and continuously improve the products/ services that most benefit its clubs and wider volleyball community, while also ensuring they provide healthy revenue streams that enable reinvestment in the sport.

VE was contacted but no consultation response was obtained despite numerous attempts. Desk research unearthed one club in the Authority, Warwick Riga Volleyball Club.

Riga plays in the National League and runs four senior and two junior teams comprising 100 members. It currently uses the AT7 Centre and the Alan Higgs Centre, as these are the only halls with permanent fixings for volleyball nets. It reports having a good relationship with CV Life but it would like more hours at the AT7 Centre. It would like to use University of Warwick, however, this is considered to be too expensive. It would also like to see more school sports halls adapted so it can access more sites, particularly for training, as membership numbers are rising.

4.3: Future demand and Sports Facilities Calculator (SFC)

The SFC helps local authorities to quantify additional demand for community sports facilities generated by new growth populations, development and regeneration areas. It is used to estimate facility needs for whole area populations but is not used to assess strategic gap analysis as it has no spatial dimension and does not take account of:

- ◆ Facility location compared to demand.
- ◆ Capacity and availability of facilities – opening hours.
- ◆ Cross boundary movement of demand.
- ◆ Travel networks and topography.
- ◆ Attractiveness of facilities.

Table 4.13: Sport England Sports Facility Calculator

	Population 2018 ONS	Population estimate (2041)
ONS population projections	366,785	451,534
Population increase	-	84,749
Facilities to meet additional demand	-	+25 courts or 6.41 sports halls
Estimated cost	-	£17,967,185

Calculations assume that the current sports hall stock remains available for community use and the quality remains the same. A projected increase in population will lead to an increase in demand for sports hall space in Coventry. The SFC indicates a requirement for an additional six sports halls up to 2041 (estimated cost: £17,967,185).

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4.4: Summary of key facts and issues

Facility type	Sports halls	
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	<p>Coventry has 59 sports halls of all sizes (151 courts).</p> <p>Of the 31 3+ court sports halls, 23 are community available (totalling 100 courts).</p> <p>NB Grace Academy's site is currently closed due to subsidence issues.</p> <p>An additional three sports halls will be available for community use in the short term, as part of the City's school's upgrade programme. When these are in place there will be 25 sites available for community use.</p>	<p>The FPM calculated that (based on future population growth) there will be a need for an additional facility by 2041, with a minimum of 5 courts, located in the Keresley Heath area (north) of the Authority.</p>
Quality	<p>Of Coventry's 3+ court halls, most are rated either good or above average. However, eight were either rated poor/below average. Four of the poor/below average halls are being upgraded/redeveloped – they should, following this, be rated good.</p>	<p>Investment in the below average/ poor sports halls to ensure that they meet modern user expectations.</p>
Accessibility	<p>83.2% of the population lives within one mile (20 minutes' walk) of a sports hall.</p> <p>85.9% of residents in high IMD areas live within one mile of a sports hall.</p> <p>When the additional three sports halls open, 91.5% of the population will live within one mile of a hall and 89.9% of people living in areas of high IMD will be within one a mile of a sports hall.</p>	<p>Although levels of accessibility to facilities are good, it is important to ensure there are strong public transport routes for those who do live more than a mile away (and do not have access to a vehicle) from a community available sports hall.</p>
Availability (Management and usage)	<p>23 sites are community available, seven of which offer pay and play accessibility.</p> <p>Only a limited number of sports halls can currently accommodate the sport of Volleyball– due to court set-up.</p> <p>An additional four school sports halls will be available by 2026/7 as part of the City school refurbishment programme.</p> <p>Sports hall utilisation is generally strong; with all CV Life sites full. There are, however, certain education sites with some spare capacity. Some education sites could also increase the hours available for community use.</p>	<p>There is a need to increase sports hall capacity to support population growth.</p> <p>Initially, there is scope to increase the hours available at certain educational sites.</p> <p>In the longer term, there is a need to ensure sites which are undergoing redevelopment are available to the community through the production of a community use agreement.</p> <p>There is also a need to encourage schools which are not accessible to the community, to become available. These include, President Kennedy and Bablake School.</p>

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Facility type	Sports halls	
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Summary	<p>Coventry has a good spread of sports halls, the majority of which are rated either good or above average quality. There is planned investment to upgrade sports halls at several schools, which will increase the supply of community available 3+ court sports halls from 21 to 25 (which includes Coundon Court School).</p> <p>Sports hall utilisation is strong across the Authority with limited available capacity. There is a need to increase community available hours at certain school sites and to open up school sites currently not community available.</p> <p>It will be important to ensure that appropriate community use agreements are put in place and that the Council and Active Partnership support the new schools in order that a sustainable programme of community bookings can be supported.</p> <p>In the long term, the FPM calculates there will be a need for an additional facility (minimum 5 court hall) in the north of the Authority to support population growth.</p>	

SECTION 5: SWIMMING POOLS

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

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

The NGB responsible for administering diving, swimming, synchronised swimming and water polo in England is Swim England. Its report ‘A Decade of Decline: The Future of Swimming Pools in England’ provides a national analysis of the current swimming pool stock across England. It notes that the average age of a pool built from 1960 onwards is 38 years. On this basis it suggests that many of these pools are now coming to the end of their lifespan.

Many pool operators were placed in a serious financial situation during the pandemic, when local authorities provided emergency financial support through direct grants, deferred payments or loans to subsidise pool operators who had suffered loss of income due to pool closures. The UK Government’s £100 million National Leisure Recovery Fund provided assistance to enable pools to re-open once restrictions had been lifted. Despite this, it is reported that 206 pools (including 68 public pools) closed permanently or temporarily over the period of the Pandemic.

In preparing for the future, Swim England recommend that local authorities conduct analysis of their pool stock to understand if they have the right pools in the right places to meet the needs of the local community. In the light of leisure facilities accounting for over 40 per cent of some councils’ direct carbon emissions it advocates capital investment into renewal of pool stock in order to support efforts to reach net zero targets, alongside combating the predicted overall future deficit of water space nationally.

5.1: Supply

This assessment is mostly concerned with larger pools available for community use (no membership base criteria restricting access). Those less than 160m² (e.g., 20m x 4 lanes) water space and/or located at private member clubs are deemed to offer limited value in relation to community use and delivery of outcomes related to health and deprivation. It is recognised that smaller pools do offer learning/teaching sessions, but they are, for modelling/needs assessment purposes, deemed unable to offer a full swim programme and, thus, eliminated from the supply evaluation, when considering accessibility and availability later in this section.

Quantity

The audit (including all pools irrespective of size and access) identifies 23 swimming pools at 21 sites. Two sites have an additional learner/trainer pool. All key areas of population are served by a pool; the largest facility is located at Alan Higgs Centre, which has an 8-lane x 50m pool.

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Figure 5.1: All swimming pools in Coventry

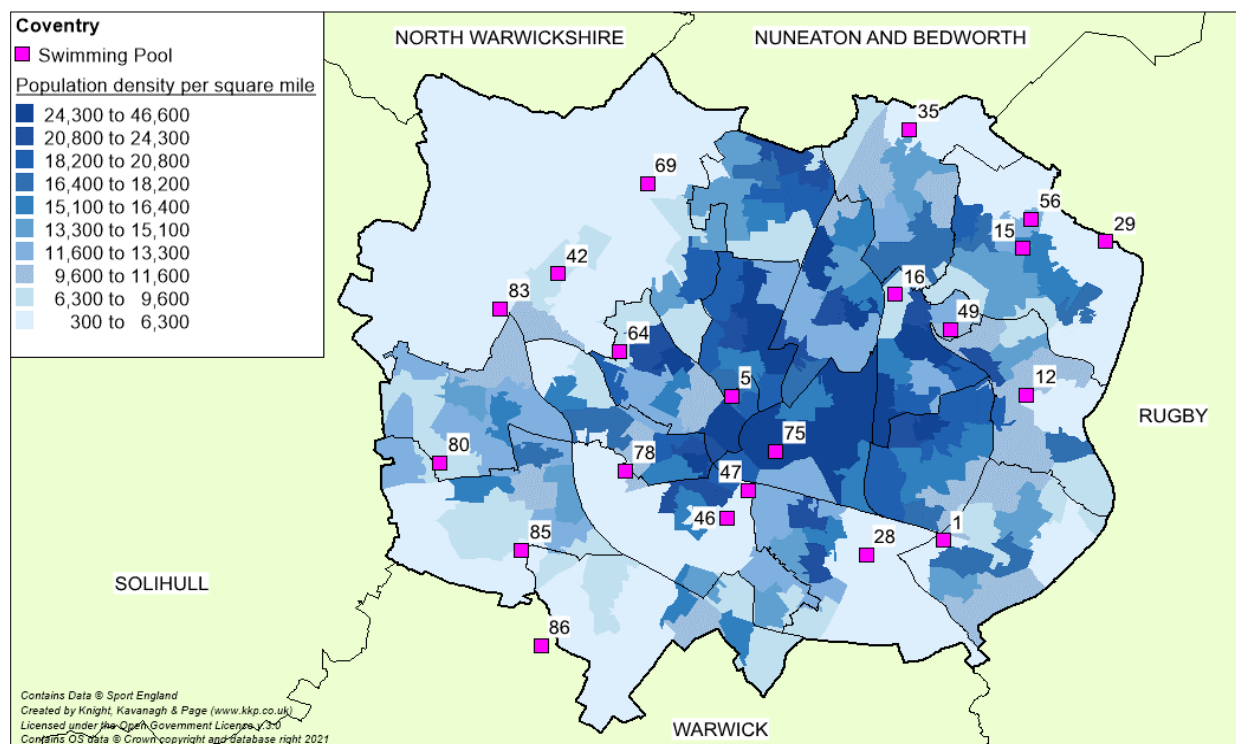


Table 5.1: All swimming pools in Coventry.

ID	Site name	Facility type	Lanes/length	Area (m ²)
1	Alan Higgs Centre	Main/General	8 x 50m	1250
5	Bablake School	Main/General	5 x 20m	200
12	Caludon Castle Sports Centre	Main/General	6 x 25m	325
15	Cardinal Wiseman RC School	Main/General	3 x 17m	85
16	Centre At7	Main/General	6 x 25m	325
16		Leisure Pool	0 x 20m	150
28	David Lloyd	Main/General	0 x 25m	250
28		Learner/teaching/training	0 x 5m	25
29	Doubletree By Hilton	Learner/teaching/training	0 x 14m	84
35	Foxford School	Main/General	3 x 18m	139
42	Jaguar Leisure Centre	Learner/teaching/training	3 x 12m	72
46	King Henry VIII Prep. School	Learner/teaching/training	0 x 10m	50
47	King Henry VIII School	Main/General	6 x 25m	313
49	Lyng Hall School Sports Centre	Main/General	4 x 18m	144
56	Potters Green Primary School	Lido	0 x 11m	66
64	Sherbourne Fields School	Main/General	0 x 16m	80
69	Spindles Health & Leisure	Main/General	1 x 18m	162
75	The Wave	Main/General	4 x 25m	263
78	Village Gym	Main/General	1 x 25m	250
80	West Coventry Academy	Main/General	4x 20m	136
83	Windmill Village Hotel/Golf Club	Main/General	0 x 20m	160
85	Xcel Leisure Centre	Main/General	6 x 25m	325
86	University of Warwick	Main/General	10 x 25m	625

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Quality

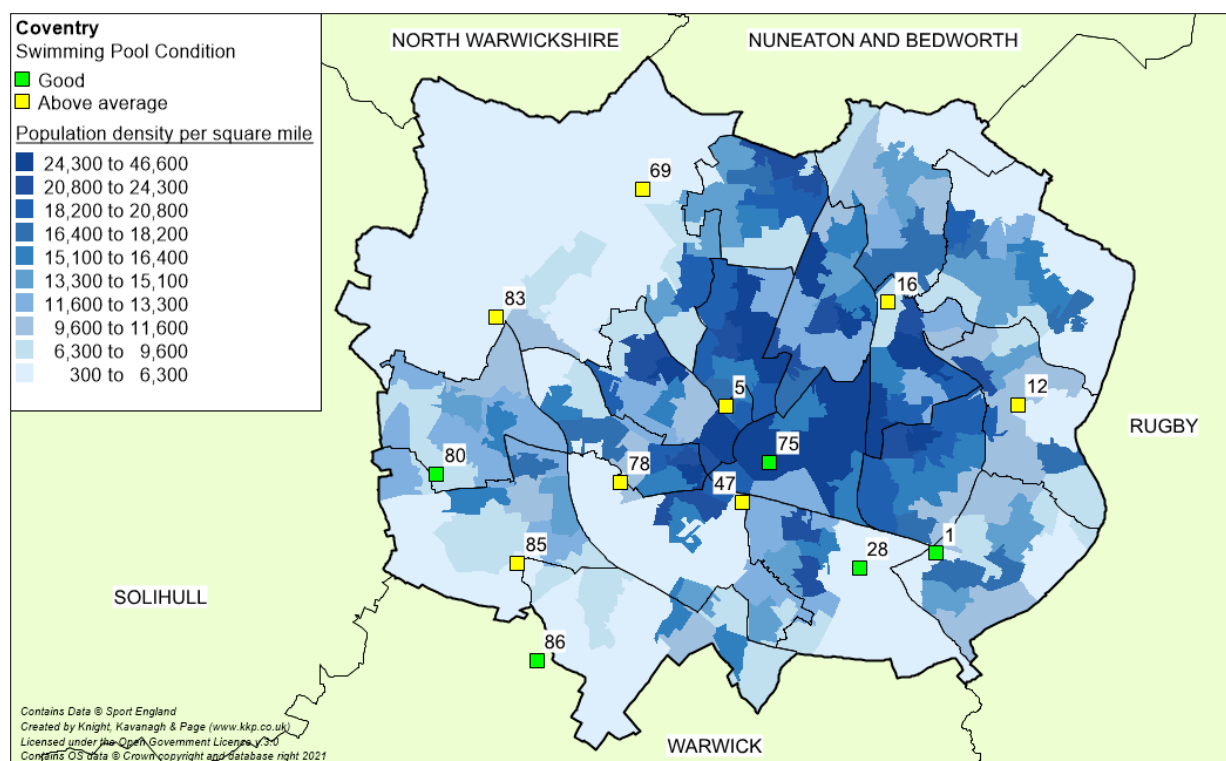
KKP completed non-technical visual assessments at main swimming pools. This encompasses assessment of changing provision as this also significant in influencing and attracting users.

Table 5.2: Quality of swimming pools (more than 160m² in size) in Coventry

ID	Site name	Lanes/ Length	Area (m ²)	Condition	
				Pool	Changing
1	Alan Higgs Centre	8 x 50m	1250	Good	Good
5	Bablake School	5 x 20m	200	Above average	Above average
12	Caludon Castle Sports Centre	6 x 25m	325	Above average	Good
16	Centre At7	6 x 25m	325	Above average	Above average
16		0 x 20m	150	Above average	Above average
28	David Lloyd	0 x 25m	250	Good	Good
28		0 x 5m	25	Good	Good
47	King Henry VIII School	6 x 25m	313	Above average	Not assessed
69	Spindles Health & Leisure	1 x 18m	162	Above average	Above average
75	The Wave	4 x 25m	263	Good	Good
78	Village Gym	1 x 25m	250	Above average	Above average
80	West Coventry Academy	4 x 20m	160	Good	Not assessed
83	Windmill Village Golf Club*	0 x 20m	160	Above average	Above average
85	Xcel Leisure Centre	6 x 25m	325	Above average	Above average
86	University of Warwick	10 x 25m	625	Good	Good

*facility will close due to housing growth.

Figure 5.2: Quality of 160m²+ swimming pools in Coventry



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All swimming pools in Coventry are of good or above average quality. Six sites are rated good. These include the pool at the University of Warwick; a 10-lane 25m pool which opened in 2021. (Despite being located in the District of Warwick it is included in the audit due to its importance to the Coventry pool supply) along with the Alan Higgs Centre (8 lane 50m pool). The remaining sites, including two of the four CV Life managed venues, are rated as above average.

Although Centre At7 and Xcel Leisure Centre were built within the last 10 years (as per the quality descriptions in Table 3.1), this audit has rated these facilities as 'above average', and not 'good' quality. Whilst these facilities are attractive, with no observed issues in terms of maintenance or upkeep there remains a distinction in overall quality when compared with sites such as the Wave and David Lloyd; these are rated 'good' quality due to their overall look and feel in terms of lighting, décor etc as well as their core facility elements being in good condition.

NB; Windmill Village Golf Club' swimming and fitness provision is due to close as the golf course will be converted into housing. No timescales have been identified.

Energy efficiency of pools

As part of Coventry's Climate Change Strategy (2021-2023), the Council's ambition is to decarbonise all Council owned buildings, including leisure centres.

Of the main leisure sites in Coventry, four of the five CV Life managed sites (Alan Higgs, Xcel Centre, Woodlands and Centre AT7) are powered via gas fired boilers. The Wave, which opened in 2019, is powered by biomass. All the water at the site is heated by biomass fuel and is the only water park in the UK to be run this way currently.

Availability of swimming pools

Swimming pool availability differs dependent upon ownership and/or management. The majority of pools in Coventry offer some form of community access. Six sites, including all four CV Life venues, offer pay and play sites during peak periods (early mornings/ evenings/weekends). Access to the remainder is via some form of membership package/advanced booking. This includes the two school pools at Bablake and King Henry VIII School - both offer gym style memberships, where access to the pool/hall/fitness suite is gained on the basis of payment of a monthly fee. West Coventry Academy is available of a advanced blocked booking basis.

Table 5.5: Access policy of swimming pools

Site	Access policy
Alan Higgs Centre	Pay and play
Bablake School	Registered membership
Caludon Castle Sports Centre	Pay and play
Centre AT7	Pay and play
David Lloyd	Registered membership
King Henry VIII School	Registered membership
Spindles Health & Leisure	Registered membership
The Wave	Pay and play
Village Gym	Registered membership
Windmill Village Golf Club	Registered membership
Xcel Leisure Centre	Pay and play
University of Warwick	Pay and play
West Coventry Academy	Block bookings

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Although not above the 160m² threshold, it must be noted that four school swimming pools also offer block booking access. These play a key role in servicing the learn to swim offer as well as accommodating training demand for swimming clubs.

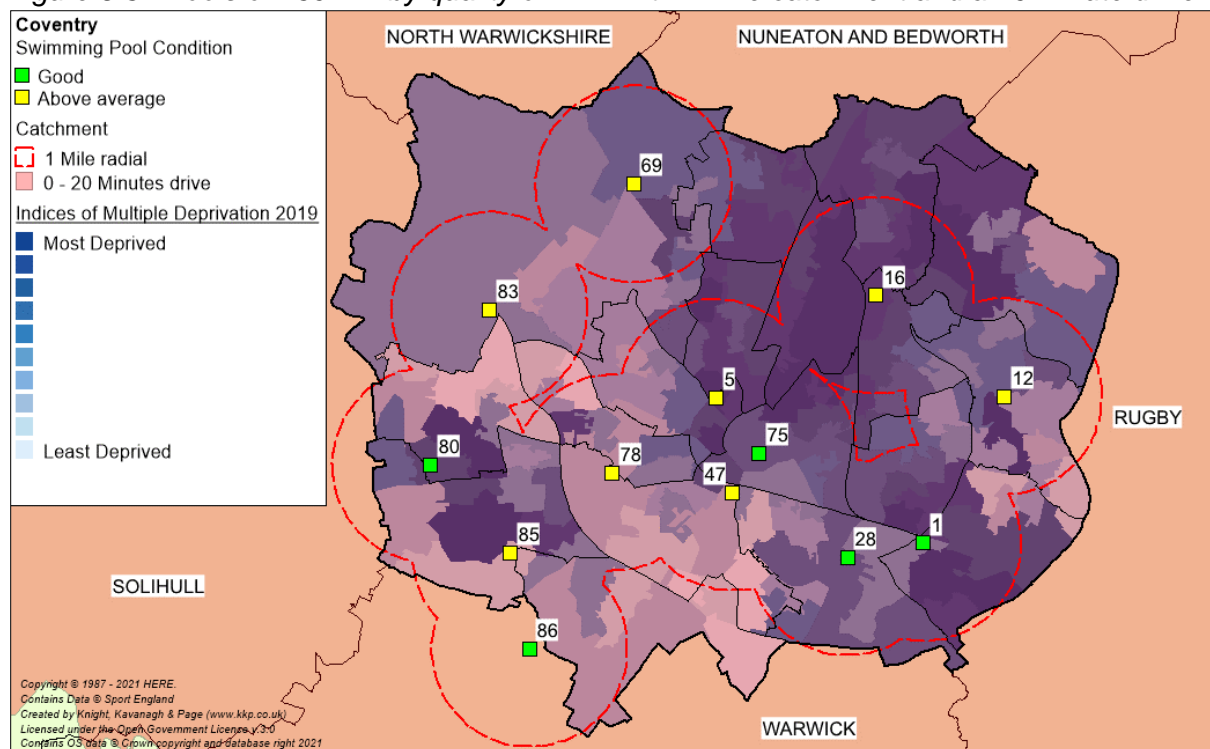
Accessibility

Swimming pool accessibility is influenced by physical (i.e., built environment). Appropriate walk and drive-time catchments are applied to determine accessibility to communities. Normal acceptable standard is 20-minutes' walk time (1-mile radial catchment) for an urban area and a 20-minutes' drive time for a rural area. This enables analysis of the adequacy of coverage and helps identify areas currently not serviced by existing provision. A 20-minute walk time is applied in this report.

Figure 5.3 and Table 5.5 illustrate the walk-time based accessibility of all swimming pools (over 160m² which offer some form of public use) in Coventry. Just over three quarters (76.0%) of the population lives within one mile of a swimming pool in the Authority. Of the 140,801 people living in areas of higher deprivation (i.e., those in the 30% most deprived areas nationally), 102,726 (72.9%) live within a one-mile radial catchment of a swimming pool.

In terms of access to pay and play sites, the number of people who live within a mile of such a facility is 55.7%. This proportion rises to 65.5% when considering residents living in areas of higher deprivation; this indicates a good level of accessibility to this portion of the population. Areas not served are located in the north, on the Nuneaton and Bedworth border and in the west (on the Solihull border).

Figure 5.3: Pools of 160m²+ by quality on IMD with 1-mile catchment and a 20 minute drive.



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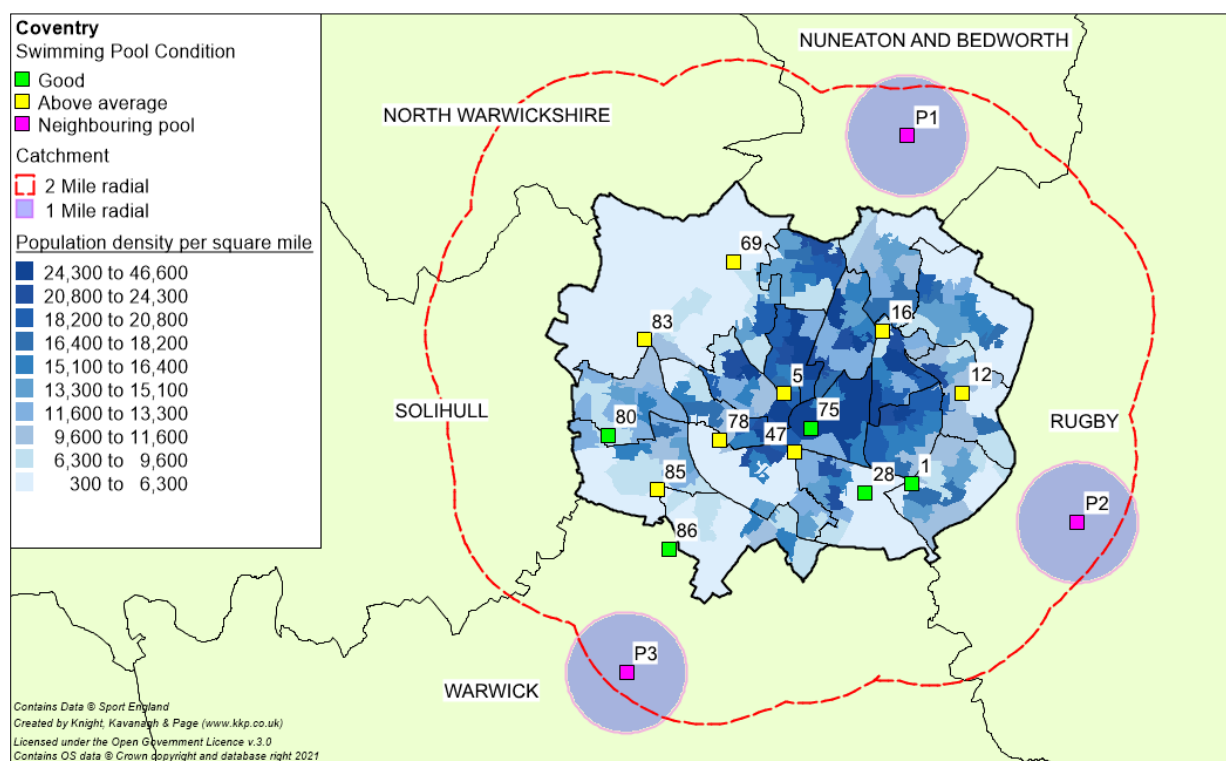
Table 5.6: Accessibility of swimming pools in Coventry

IMD 10% bands	Coventry		Swimming pools, 160m ² Catchment populations by IMD			
	Persons	Population %	Persons inside catchment	Population inside (%)	Persons outside catchment	Population outside (%)
0 - 10	49,696	14.4%	42,363	12.3%	7,333	2.1%
10.1 - 20	38,086	11.1%	24,978	7.3%	13,108	3.8%
20.1 - 30	53,019	15.4%	35,385	10.3%	17,634	5.1%
30.1 - 40	39,921	11.6%	33,603	9.8%	6,318	1.8%
40.1 - 50	40,378	11.7%	30,212	8.8%	10,166	3.0%
50.1 - 60	35,482	10.3%	31,424	9.1%	4,058	1.2%
60.1 - 70	29,251	8.5%	23,381	6.8%	5,870	1.7%
70.1 - 80	26,991	7.8%	20,601	6.0%	6,390	1.9%
80.1 - 90	16,963	4.9%	11,996	3.5%	4,967	1.4%
90.1 - 100	14,501	4.2%	7,721	2.2%	6,780	2.0%
Total	344,288	100.0%	261,664	76.0%	82,624	24.0%

Facilities in neighbouring authorities

It is important to be aware of what facilities are within easy reach of the Authority; these can influence resident's choice in terms of access and convenience. Three pools are located within two miles of the border, two of which offer pay and play availability. They are Bedworth Leisure Centre (Nuneaton and Bedworth) and Abbey Fields Swimming Pool in Warwick.

Figure 5.4: Swimming pools located within two miles of Coventry



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Table 5.7: Neighbouring community available pools within 2-miles of Coventry

ID	Active Places site name	Pool type	Lanes / length	Access type	Authority
P1	Bedworth Leisure Centre	Main/General	6 x 25m	Pay and play	Nuneaton and Bedworth
P2	Spa Naturel Fitness	Main/General	1 x 18m	Reg membership	Rugby
P3	Abbey Fields Swimming Pool ¹⁷	Main/General	4 x 25m	Pay and Play	Warwick

Source: Active Places Power 12/03/2022

Sport England Facilities Planning Model (FPM)

Sport England provided an FPM assessment report for swimming pools in Coventry through two runs. These are:

- Run 1 – baseline assessment of provision in 2023.
- Run 2 – forward assessment of demand for swimming pools and its distribution, based on the projected changes in population including residential development between 2023 and 2041.

Headline position

- The strategic overview is that most of Coventry's swimming pools are estimated to be uncomfortably full in both 2023 and 2041. There is a large increase in the population and demand for swimming pools between 2023 and 2041. There is a very small reduction in supply in 2041.
- Coventry has an extensive supply of swimming pools, with 13 sites in 2023 and 12 sites in 2041. The Wave indoor waterpark is a destination site and complements the offer at the other swimming pool sites.
- A very high proportion of Coventry's demand is met, at 94% in 2023 and 91% in 2041. Visits met in the weekly peak period increases from 24,449 in 2023 to 27,145 in 2041.
- Coventry meets 94% of its satisfied demand at swimming pools within the Local Authority area in 2023, and 91% in 2041.
- In 2041, the location where the most unmet demand can be met (222 sqm of water) is at the intersection of the A4054 Coventry ring road and Foleshill Road. This is equivalent to a 25m x 4 lane pool, with the purpose of meeting unmet demand and improving access to swimming pools for residents. A map illustrating this unmet demand is shown in Figure 5.5 overleaf,

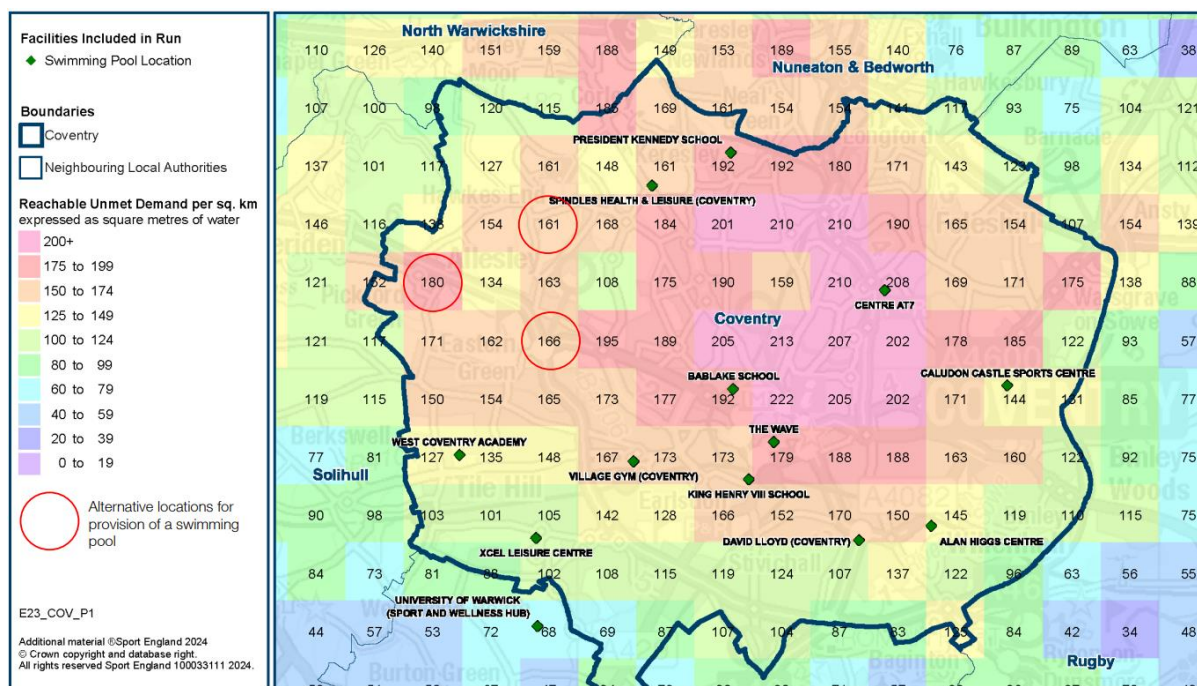
There are two key interventions required to achieve a better balance between the distribution of supply and demand:

1. Making more use of the existing supply by increasing availability and capacity at peak times. This includes increasing at sites such as Centre AT7, the Wave, and the Alan Higgs Centre.
- 2.. The second intervention is to address the findings of sufficient unmet demand in 2041 and consider provision of a 25m x 4-lane pool. Three locations are suggested, all circled below. This includes; the intersection of the A4054 Coventry ring road and Foleshill Road or in north Coventry (Kersley, Eastern Green or Hawkes End).

Figure 5.5: Unmet demand for swimming pools in 2041

¹⁷ NB this facility has been closed for a number of years (redevelopment now started)

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Supply

- ◆ The FPM assessed 15 swimming pools across 13 sites in run 1. This reduces to 14 pools at 12 sites in run 2 due to the closure of the pool at Windmill golf club.
- ◆ In the weekly peak period, 17% of the total supply is unavailable for community use in run 1 and 16% in run 2. The greatest scope to increase capacity for community use at peak times is at the three educational pool sites.

Demand

- ◆ Coventry's increase in population between 2023 and 2041 will produce a 14% increase in demand for swimming pools.
- ◆ A very large proportion of Coventry's demand is met currently, at 94% in 2023 and 91% in 2041.
- ◆ All the unmet demand in 2023 is due to people being too far from a facility. However, in 2041 unmet demand due to combination of both lack of facility capacity and people being too far from a facility.
- ◆ The overall estimated used capacity of swimming pools in Coventry in the weekly peak period is 87% in 2023 and 93% in 2041. All public swimming pools are operating at 100% capacity in both runs.
- ◆ Imported demand accounts for 14% of the used capacity of Coventry's pools in 2023, and 12% in 2041. Of neighbouring LAs, Warwick is the highest importer.

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Table 5.8: FPM demand findings (2023)

Element	FPM 2022	FPM 2041
Total demand (visits per week in the peak period)	26,106	29,718
Satisfied demand	94%	91%
Satisfied demand retained within Coventry	94%	91%
Satisfied demand exported	6%	9%
Unmet demand	6%	9%
Sqm of unmet demand due to residents outside swimming pool catchment (as opposed to no capacity)	224sqm	264sqm
Sqm of unmet demand due to a lack of capacity.	51 sqm	163 sqm

Table 5.9: Used capacity

Site	FPM Used capacity 2023	FPM used capacity 2041
Alan Higgs Centre	99%	100%
Bablake School	100%	100%
Caludon Castle Sports Centre	100%	100%
Centre AT7	100%	100%
King Henry VIII School	100%	100%
Spindles Health & Leisure	34%	69%
The Wave	100%	100%
Village Gym	68%	95%
Xcel Leisure Centre	100%	100%

Used capacity

'FPM used capacity' figures for swimming pools are an estimation based on a number of set parameters including each facilities relative attractiveness. The FPM assumes for example that older swimming pools will be less attractive to users and therefore adjusts assumed used capacity figures accordingly. It also assumes that commercially operated pools will be less attractive in areas containing higher concentrations of deprivation as measured by the IMD. It also considers a figure of 70% used capacity as a 'comfortably full' benchmark.

As illustrated above, all the education and CV Life sites are at capacity in both 2023 and 2041. Only two of the commercial sites are below the 70% threshold.

With the exception of Alan Higgs Centre (99% utilised in 2023), all the public swimming pools are estimated to be 100% utilised at peak times in 2023 and 2041. Together, the public leisure centres meet 78% of the capacity used in Coventry in 2023, and 74% in 2041. This is mainly due to the fact that they are all relatively new, and they have a high draw effect. To address these capacity issues, there is scope to increase the number of hours the pool is available in the peak period at certain sites, including Caludon Castle Sports Centre and Centre AT7.

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5.2: Demand

Club and NGB consultation

Swim England's latest strategic plan (May 2020) sets out its aim to create a happier, healthier and more successful nation through swimming. The stated strategic objectives are to:

- ✦ Provide strong leadership and be the recognised authority for swimming.
- ✦ Substantially increase the number of people able to swim.
- ✦ Significantly grow the number and diversity of people enjoying and benefitting from regular swimming.
- ✦ Create a world leading talent system for all disciplines.
- ✦ Deliver a high quality, diverse and motivated workforce within swimming.
- ✦ Strengthening organisational sustainability for future generations.

Consultation with Swim England confirms there is one affiliated club in the Authority; City of Coventry Swim Club. The NGB also calculates that there is a current water provision surplus of 773m². By way of comparison, a 6-lane, 25m pool would equate to 325m². This suggests that the Authority is well provided for with regard to swimming provision. It also reflects the fact that it has two large facilities, including the Alan Higgs 50m swimming pool.

Club consultation

City of Coventry Swimming Club- is based predominantly at the Alan Higgs Sports Centre which it uses for 45 hours per week, including weekends. It also runs sessions at both Caludon Castle Sports Centre and Lyng Hall School. It has over 650 members and offers both junior and masters swimming. It reports having a positive relationship with both CV Life and the schools and has no major facility issues currently. Should it require more pool time, school pools could reportedly accommodate the additional demand.

Swimming lesson delivery

There is a plethora of swimming lesson deliverers in the Authority, with lessons available at all CV Life sites, University of Warwick, Caludon Castle Sports Centre and five school pools.

CV Life is the main swimming lesson provider in Coventry. It reports that lesson demand is high although there is no waiting list at any site. The Alan Higgs and Xcel Centres are the busiest. Consultation with both the University of Warwick and Caludon Castle Sports Centre indicated that they have spare capacity for swimming lessons currently.

School sites- the five school pools offer swimming lessons are at:

- ✦ West Coventry Academy.
- ✦ Lyng Hall School Sports Centre.
- ✦ Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School
- ✦ King Henry VIII School
- ✦ Bablake School

Consultation with site managers indicates that all are well used by private swimming lesson providers. For example, Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School operates at 90% capacity and accommodates five swim schools. Assuming that energy bills continue to rise, the School states that it is still generating enough income to ensure that pool remains a profitable asset.

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Health Referral Programme

Coventry's Public Health team could explore the option of delivering a programme of swimming sessions as part of a possible health referral programme, particularly at sites which offers daytime use. This could link in with the traditional gym session and encourage either open swimming opportunities, or specific water-based classes, such as aqua aerobics.

5.3: Sport England's Facilities Calculator (SFC)

This assists local planning authorities to quantify additional demand for community sports facilities generated by new growth populations, development and regeneration areas. It can be used to estimate facility needs for whole area (Authority) populations but should not be applied for strategic gap analysis as it has no spatial dimension and does not take account of:

- ✦ Facility location compared to demand.
- ✦ Capacity and availability of facilities – opening hours.
- ✦ Cross boundary movement of demand.
- ✦ Travel networks and topography.
- ✦ Attractiveness of facilities.

Table 5.9: Sport England Sports facilities calculator – swimming pools

Factor	Population 2018	Population estimate 2041
ONS population projections	366,785	4
Population increase	-	84,749
Facilities needed to meet increased demand	-	17.45 lanes / 4.36 pools
Cost		£18,650,179

The SFC calculates that projected population increases in the Authority will create an increase in required pool capacity of around 4 (4-lane x 25m) swimming pools at a cost of £18,650,179.

5.4: Summary of key facts and issues

Facility type	Swimming pools	
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	There are 24 operational pools on 22 sites available in Coventry. 13 are equal or greater than 160m ² in size.	Based on consultation with CV Life, and swim clubs, the current stock of public pools is able to meet demand for swimming lesson and club use quite comfortably. The FPM models all CV Life pools to be operating at capacity and calculates a need for a new facility (min. 25m x 4 lanes) by 2041.
Quality	There are no current issues with regard to pool quality - four sites are rated good with the remainder rated above average.	
Accessibility	Access to sites is generally good; 76.0% of the population lives within a one-mile radial of swimming pool.	Although levels of access to community available swimming pools are generally good, it is important in this respect that CV Life should ensure that its pricing and

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Facility type	Swimming pools	
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
	<p>72.9% of those living in areas of higher deprivation live within a one-mile catchment of a pool.</p> <p>When focusing on pay and play sites, 55.7% of Coventry residents live within a mile of a swimming pool. This rises to 65.5% when analysing people who live within areas of high IMD.</p>	<p>programming remains attractive to those on lower incomes.</p> <p>Ensuring that pool provision is within easy reach of public transport routes is also key.</p>
Availability (Management and usage)	<p>Six pools offer pay and play access in Coventry. An additional six are accessible via registered membership.</p> <p>The presence of a 50m pool provides a good degree of flexibility in respect of access to club, lane swimming and learn to swim in a single environment</p> <p>The five school pools offer good opportunities for private swimming schools/swimming lessons.</p> <p>There is spare swimming lessons capacity at all CV sites and Caludon Castle Sports Centre.</p>	<p>Consultation with CV life / clubs indicates that there is available capacity at pools across Coventry,</p> <p>There is potential for CV life to consider how additional user groups (e.g. currently inactive residents) can make use of the water space available in the City and be integrated within swimming programming.</p> <p>This could involve working with the Council's Public Health team to further integrate the health referral offer within swimming provision.</p>
Summary	<p>Coventry currently has a good stock of swimming pool provision which is relatively new, in good condition and is accessible to a large proportion of residents.</p> <p>The key challenges for the City Council are to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ensure that the programmed offer within pools is able to fully meet the needs of the resident population , including addressing long term health needs and those who are currently inactive. b) Making more use of the existing supply by increasing availability and capacity at peak times at sites in central areas of the City such as Centre AT7, the Wave, and the Alan Higgs Centre, particularly in respect of targeting inactive residents. c) In the medium / long term , address demand driven by population growth. The FPM suggests that a 25m x 4 lane pool is required to accommodate this growth and it is suggested there are three locations for a future pool in the north and west of the Authority. 	

SECTION 6: HEALTH AND FITNESS FACILITIES

According to the recent ALS data¹⁸, around 11.4 million adults regularly engage in some form of fitness type activity (i.e., using gym equipment, weights, fitness class or interval session). Its popularity reflects the fact that it is available at a wide range of facilities including larger gyms (run on behalf of the local authority by companies and/or Trusts, managed in-house or private sector operators), and also other smaller activity spaces such as village and community halls.

In terms of trends in the market, prior to the Pandemic, the UK health and fitness industry was enjoying a strong period of growth. It had more gyms, more members and a greater market value than ever before. The State of the Fitness Industry Report UK for 2022 found that membership levels dropped by around 5% since 2019 as a result of the Pandemic and numbers of facilities had also reduced. This correlates with ALS data which measured regular pre-Pandemic activity levels at around 14 million. Pure Gym and GLL remain the UK's leading operators (by number of gyms and members).

Health and fitness facilities are a core element within the transitioning of public leisure facilities towards delivering on wider health improvement outcomes. A leisure operators role in providing for people with long term health conditions, including via exercise referral is critical. Fitness studios may 'double up' as spaces where NHS services such as physiotherapy, health screening, and weight management can take place alongside gentle exercise classes.

Larger health and fitness gyms containing a mix of flexible spaces (such as cardio, free weights and boxing equipment, (80 stations +¹⁹) remain critical to the financial viability of public sector leisure. When combined with multiple studio facilities these can offer a revenue stream which helps to sustain more costly activities such as swimming within a local authority leisure portfolio.

The past decade has seen growth in the prevalence of operators offering 'functional fitness' type equipment and activities, i.e., exercises that replicate everyday movements involving bending, stretching and pulling. This is manifested both in terms of small private facilities, and the incorporation of functional fitness spaces within publicly operated health and fitness facilities. For people tackling long-term health conditions or exercising for the first-time, smaller health and fitness spaces at schools and/or community centres may offer a less daunting experience.

Dance or fitness studio are generic terms for activity spaces which multiple uses either in leisure centres or other community settings such as a schools or community centres. Studios vary in size and function, from relatively large spaces often containing a sprung floor, to smaller rooms which may serve as dedicated spinning (indoor cycling) studios or to hold virtual fitness classes.

Studio based timetabled classes such as pilates, yoga, dance, step, boxercise and Zumba usually generate a significant amount of activity within publicly operated provision and are often a core benefit of a health and fitness membership.

¹⁸ [Active Lives adult survey Nov 20-21 report](#)

¹⁹ A health and fitness 'station' is defined as a piece of static fitness equipment – KKP normally audits facilities of 20 stations or more.

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6.1: Supply

Quantity

There are 42 health and fitness suites in Coventry with a total of 3,002 stations. There is a good spread of fitness facilities in relation to population density.

Figure 6.1: All health and fitness facilities in Coventry on population density

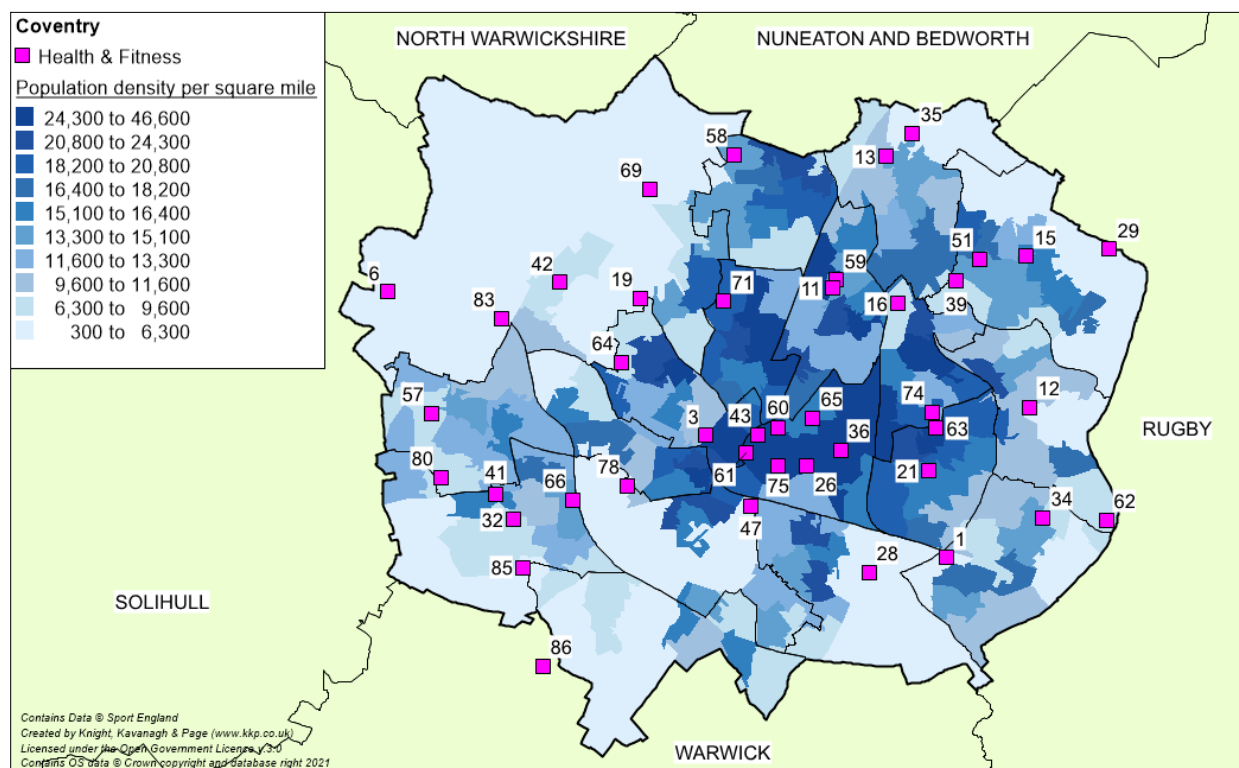


Table 6.1: All health and fitness gyms in Coventry

ID	Site name	Stns	ID	Site name	Sts
1	Alan Higgs Centre	100	47	King Henry VIII School	22
3	Apollo Gym Ltd	50	51	Moat House Leisure Centre	70
6	Barker's Butts R.F.C	10	57	Powerleague	38
11	Body Worx Gym	50	58	President Kennedy School	11
12	Caludon Castle Sports Centre	55	59	Pro-Gym	100
13	Capitol Gym	36	60	Pure Gym (Bishop Street)	54
15	Cardinal Wiseman RC School	15	61	Pure Gym (Skydome)	220
16	Centre At7	65	62	Pure Gym (Coventry Shop. Park)	220
19	Coundon Court School	16	63	Red Corner Gym	27
21	Coventry & N. Warwicks Sports Club	25	64	Sherbourne Fields School	7
26	Coventry University Sports Centre	86	65	Sidney Stringer Academy	10
28	David Lloyd	260	66	Simply Gym (Coventry Earl Place)	170
29	Doubletree By Hilton	27	69	Spindles Health & Leisure	27
32	Finham Park 2	8	71	St Augustine's Sports Centre	26
34	Fitness Factory	200	74	Stoke Park School/Comm. College	15
35	Foxford School	14	75	The Wave	120
36	Future Fitness	100	78	Village Gym	76

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ID	Site name	Stns	ID	Site name	Sts
39	Henley College Coventry	28	80	West Coventry Academy	20
41	Hereward College Sports Centre	12	83	Windmill Village Hotel & Golf Club	44
42	Jaguar Leisure Centre	38	85	Xcel Leisure Centre	50
43	JD Gyms	250	86	University Of Warwick	230

Fitness facilities with fewer than 20+ stations are typically not considered. They can service small sections of the community. School sites unavailable to the community were not assessed.

Quality

All health and fitness sites received a non-technical quality assessment. The majority are rated either good or above average, with only two sites rated below average.

Figure 6.2: Health and fitness suites with 20+ stations on population density by condition

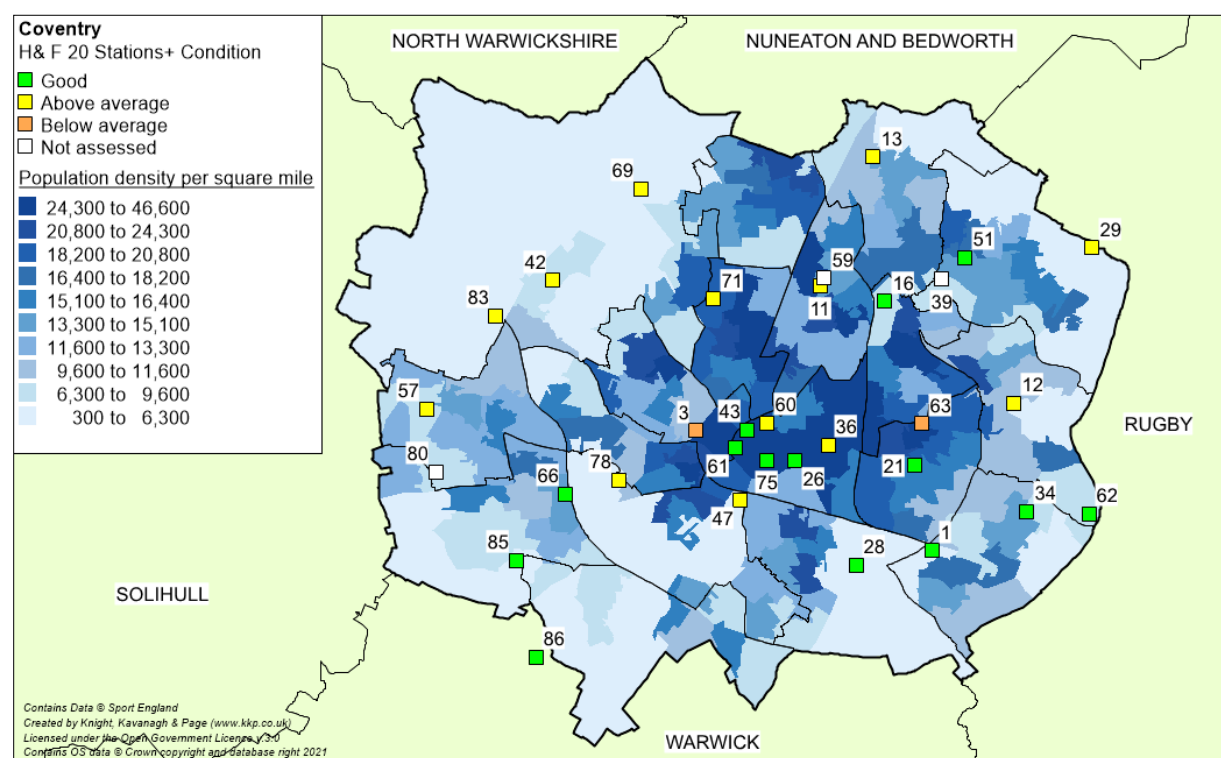


Table 6.2: Health & fitness suites with 20+ stations on population density by condition

ID	Site name	Stations	Condition
1	Alan Higgs Centre	200	Good
3	Apollo Gym Ltd	50	Below average
11	Body Worx Gym	50	Above average
12	Caludon Castle Sports Centre	55	Above average
13	Capitol Gym	36	Above average
16	Centre At7	65	Good
21	Coventry & North Warwickshire Sports Club	25	Good
26	Coventry University Sports Centre	86	Good
28	David Lloyd	260	Good
29	Doubletree By Hilton	27	Above average
34	Fitness Factory	200	Good

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ID	Site name	Stations	Condition
36	Future Fitness	100	Above average
42	Jaguar Leisure Centre	38	Above average
43	JD Gyms	250	Good
47	King Henry VIII School	22	Above average
51	Moat House Leisure & Neighbourhood Centre	70	Good
57	Powerleague	38	Above average
59	Pro-Gym	100	Above average
60	Pure Gym (Bishop Street)	54	Above average
61	Pure Gym (Skydome)	220	Good
62	Pure Gym (Coventry Warwickshire Shopping Park)	220	Good
63	Red Corner Gym	27	Below average
66	Simply Gym (Coventry Earl Place)	170	Good
69	Spindles Health & Leisure	27	Above average
71	St Augustine's Sports Centre	26	Above average
75	The Wave	120	Good
78	Village Gym	76	Above average
83	Windmill Village Hotel & Golf Club*	44	Above average
85	Xcel Leisure Centre	50	Good
86	University Of Warwick	230	Good
Total		2936	

* facility due to close as part of housing development.

Accessibility

The Sport England classification of access type defines registered membership use facilities as being publicly available. For health and fitness suites, this generally means payment of a monthly membership fee which can vary considerably. Private operators do not have a contractual obligation to, for example, offer exercise referral nor do they necessarily actively target hard to reach groups.

It is also acknowledged that some memberships are expensive while others are cheaper than those offered by public sector venues. There is little doubt that the various private operators can take pressure off the more available public facilities.

As with pools and sports halls, appropriate walk and drive-time accessibility standards are applied to health and fitness suites to determine provision deficiencies or surpluses. The normal acceptable standard for an urban area is a one-mile radial (20-minute walk) and a 20-minutes' drive time for a rural area. Access to fitness provision in Coventry is considered good. 94.2% of Coventry's population lives within one-mile of a health and fitness facility with 20+ stations. Of those which reside in areas of high deprivation (40.9%), nearly all (98.2%) live within a mile of a fitness facility which would suggest that these facilities are well placed.

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Figure 6.3: Health and fitness suites with a one-mile radial catchment on IMD

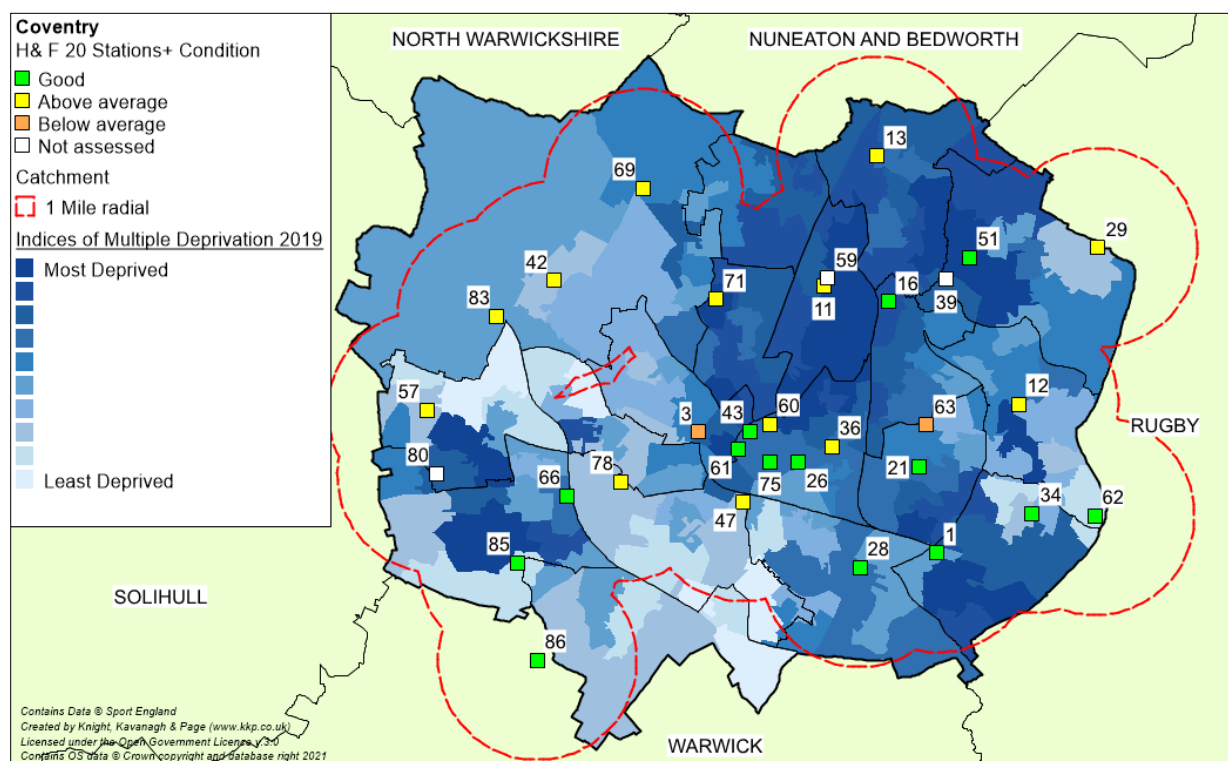


Table 6.3: IMD (2019 populations): health and fitness 20+ stations; one-mile radial catchment

IMD 10% bands	Coventry		Health & Fitness, 20 stations or more Catchment populations by IMD			
	Persons	Population %	Persons inside catchment	Population inside (%)	Persons outside catchment	Population outside (%)
0 - 10	49,696	14.4%	49,682	14.4%	14	0.0%
10.1 - 20	38,086	11.1%	37,684	10.9%	402	0.1%
20.1 - 30	53,019	15.4%	51,018	14.8%	2,001	0.6%
30.1 - 40	39,921	11.6%	39,458	11.5%	463	0.1%
40.1 - 50	40,378	11.7%	37,782	11.0%	2,596	0.8%
50.1 - 60	35,482	10.3%	34,759	10.1%	723	0.2%
60.1 - 70	29,251	8.5%	28,462	8.3%	789	0.2%
70.1 - 80	26,991	7.8%	22,636	6.6%	4,355	1.3%
80.1 - 90	16,963	4.9%	14,927	4.3%	2,036	0.6%
90.1 - 100	14,501	4.2%	7,840	2.3%	6,661	1.9%
Total	344,288	100.0%	324,248	94.2%	20,040	5.8%

Facilities in neighbouring areas

Users of health and fitness facilities do not just use facilities within their own authority, consequently, those with two miles of the border are considered within the analysis.

There are five health and fitness facilities located close to the Coventry boundary; two in Rugby, two in Warwick and one in Nuneaton and Bedworth. The largest is in Warwick (Anytime Fitness (Kenilworth)), which has 125 stations. All require a registered membership to access.

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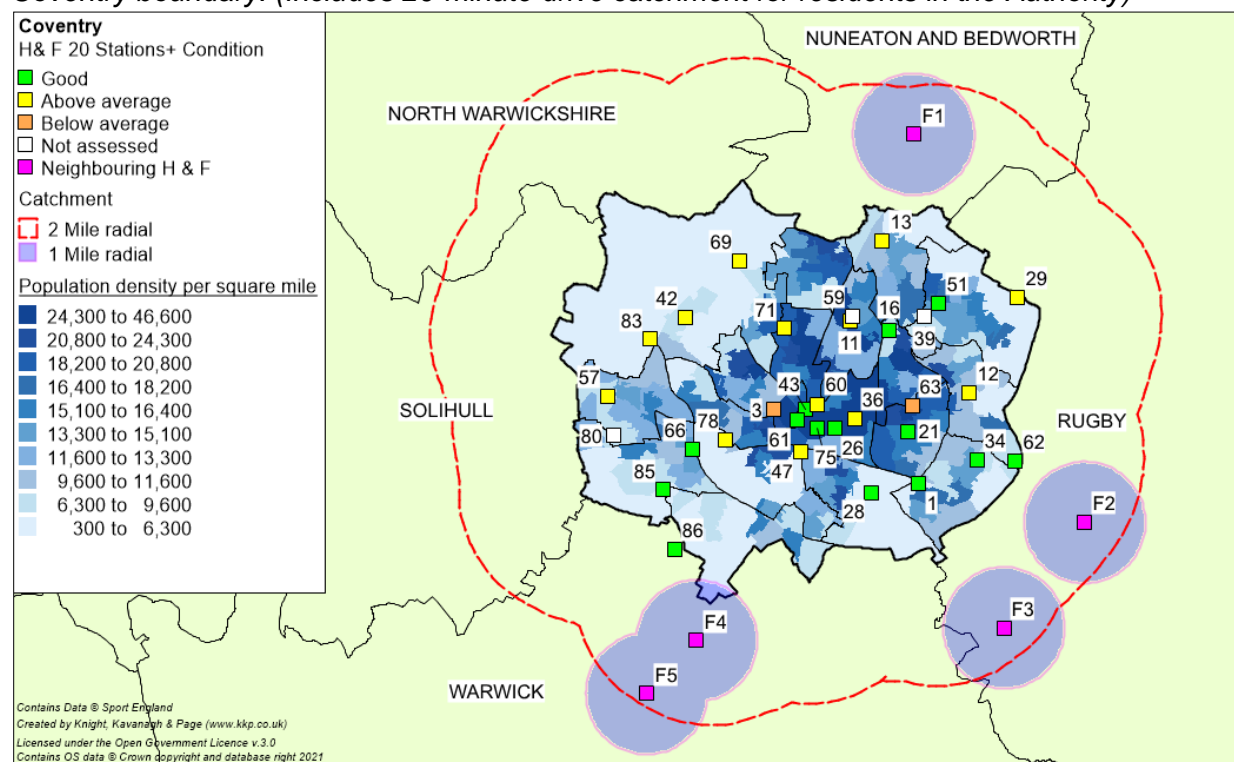
INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Table 6.4: Community available health and fitness (20+ stations) within 2 miles of boundary

ID	Active Places site name	Stations	Access type	Local authority
F1	Bedworth Leisure Centre	60	Reg. membership	Nuneaton and Bedworth
F2	Spa Naturel Fitness	34	Reg. membership	Rugby
F3	Sports Connexion Leisure Club	60	Reg. membership	Rugby
F4	Fitness Worx (Kenilworth)	25	Reg. membership	Warwick
F5	Anytime Fitness (Kenilworth)	125	Reg. membership	Warwick

Source: Active Places Power 25/03/2022

Figure 6.4: All health and fitness suites including those within a one-mile radial catchment of the Coventry boundary. (Includes 20-minute drive catchment for residents in the Authority)



Availability and programming

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

Table 6.5: Health and fitness gyms (20+ stations) access policy

ID	Site name	Stations	Access type
1	Alan Higgs Centre	100	Pay and Play
3	Apollo Gym Ltd	50	Pay and Play
11	Body Worx Gym	50	Registered Membership
12	Caludon Castle Sports Centre	55	Pay and Play
13	Capitol Gym	36	Registered Membership

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ID	Site name	Stations	Access type
16	Centre At7	65	Pay and Play
21	Coventry & North Warwickshire Sports Club	25	Registered Membership
28	David Lloyd	260	Registered Membership
29	Doubletree By Hilton	27	Registered Membership
34	Fitness Factory	200	Registered Membership
36	Future Fitness	100	Registered Membership
42	Jaguar Leisure Centre	38	Registered Membership
43	JD Gyms	250	Registered Membership
47	King Henry VIII School	22	Registered Membership
51	Moat House Leisure Centre	70	Pay and Play
57	Powerleague	38	Registered Membership
59	Pro-Gym	100	Registered Membership
60	Pure Gym (Bishop Street)	54	Registered Membership
61	Pure Gym (Skydome)	220	Registered Membership
62	Pure Gym (Coventry Warwickshire Shopping Park)	220	Registered Membership
63	Red Corner Gym	27	Registered Membership
66	Simply Gym (Coventry Earl Place)	170	Registered Membership
69	Spindles Health & Leisure	27	Registered Membership
71	St Augustine's Sports Centre	26	Pay and Play
75	The Wave	120	Pay and Play
78	Village Gym	76	Registered Membership
83	Windmill Village Hotel & Golf Club	44	Registered Membership
85	Xcel Leisure Centre	50	Pay and Play
86	University Of Warwick	230	Registered Membership

Eight health and fitness venues in Coventry offer pay and play access including all CV Life managed venues, Caludon Castle Sports Centre and two independent gyms. CV Life charges £7.00 for a one-off gym session. Annual price memberships vary significantly, with the most expensive being David Lloyd (based on 12-month direct debit price) at £794 per person.

For Coventry residents, there is an additional offer through the Go CV and Go CV+ scheme. This allows additional discounts for a significant number of activities, including accessing fitness facilities. Owners of Go CV and Go CV+ card can access CV life health and fitness suites for £7/£5 respectively.

There is currently no explicit GP referral offer in Coventry (consultation suggests that a programme existed previously, but that reductions in funding meant that it ceased in 2021). When in place, the programme operated from seven different sites and comprised a 12-week free monitored exercise programme. Following this, participants received a 12-month discounted gym membership. Consultation with the Council's Public Health teams indicates that it would like to re-start the programme should a funding package become available.

A Health Rehabilitation Programme is in place. This is a partnership between CV Life and University Coventry Hospital. It focuses on cancer, cardiac and Covid rehabilitation. All programmes run on a referral basis and conducted by qualified instructors. Once referred, individuals undertake twelve sessions, held at AT7 Centre, Xcel or The Alan Higgs Centre at a discounted rate. The aim is to offer guidance on the types and intensities of appropriate exercise to build strength, stamina and confidence following diagnosis.

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Discussion with the CCC Public Health team highlights the potential (given appropriate training and volunteer development) for social prescribing teams to play a fuller role in referring individuals into physical activity, potentially in CV life leisure provision.

Table 6.6: Pricing structure of health and fitness facilities in Coventry

Venue	Pay & play	Annual	12-month DD (pcm)	Activities membership price includes
Alan Higgs Centre	£7.20		£40	Gym, swim, classes
Apollo Gym Ltd	£5	£275	£28.50	Gym only
Body Worx Gym			£49	Gym, classes
Caludon Castle Sports Centre	£5.50	£325	£35	Gym, swim, classes
Capitol Gym		£275	£32	Gym, classes
Centre At7	£7.20		£40	Gym, swim, classes
David Lloyd		£794	£73.50	Gym, swim, tennis, classes
Fitness Factory			£35	Gym, classes
Future Fitness		£275	£31	Gym, classes
Jaguar Leisure Centre		£275	£32	Gym, swim
JD Gyms			£25	Gym, classes
King Henry VIII School			£45	Gym, swim
Moat House Leisure Centre	£7.20		£40	Gym, swim, classes
Powerleague			£31	Gym only
Pro-Gym			£25	Gym only
Pure Gym (Bishop Street)			£15.99	Gym, classes
Pure Gym (Skydome)			£15.99	Gym, classes
Pure Gym (Coventry Shop. Park)			£15.99	Gym, classes
Red Corner Gym			£24	Gym only
Simply Gym (Coventry Earl Place)			£22.99	Gym, classes
Spindles Health & Leisure			£24	Gym, classes
St Augustine's Sports Centre	£5.50		£33	Gym and squash
The Wave	£7.20		£40	Gym, swim, classes
Village Gym			£50	Gym, classes
Windmill Village Hotel & Golf Club		£325	£39.99	Gym and swim
Xcel Leisure Centre	£7.20		£40	Gym, swim, classes
University Of Warwick			£43	Gym and swim

6.2: Demand

Health and fitness via exercising in a gym or class environment is a highly popular form of exercise, appealing to men and women across a range of age groups. To measure the adequacy of provision in Coventry, a demand calculation based upon the assumption that UK penetration rates will increase slightly in the future is applied. Population increases are also factored in to enable a calculation of whether current supply will meet future demand.

Based upon UK penetration rates, the current need is for 2,567 stations in Coventry. This will grow to 3,145 by 2041, taking account of a comfort factor (particularly at peak times).

When comparing community available stations currently available (2,836) and accounting for the comfort factor, there is a current surplus of c. 250 stations. There will, however, need to be an increase in provision to match both current and future demand, particularly in relation to the proposed population increase. The projected future shortfall by 2041 is calculated to be c.300 stations.

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Table 6.7: UK penetration rates; health/fitness in Coventry (ONS Data)

	Current (2018)	Future (2041)
Adult population (16+ years)	295,195	368,222
UK penetration rate	16%	17%
Number of potential members	47,231	71,896
Number of visits per week (1.75/member)	82,654	125,818
% of visits in peak time	65	65
No. of visits in peak time (equated to no. of stations required i.e., no. of visits/39 weeks*65%)	1378	2097
Number of stations (with comfort factor applied)	2567	3145

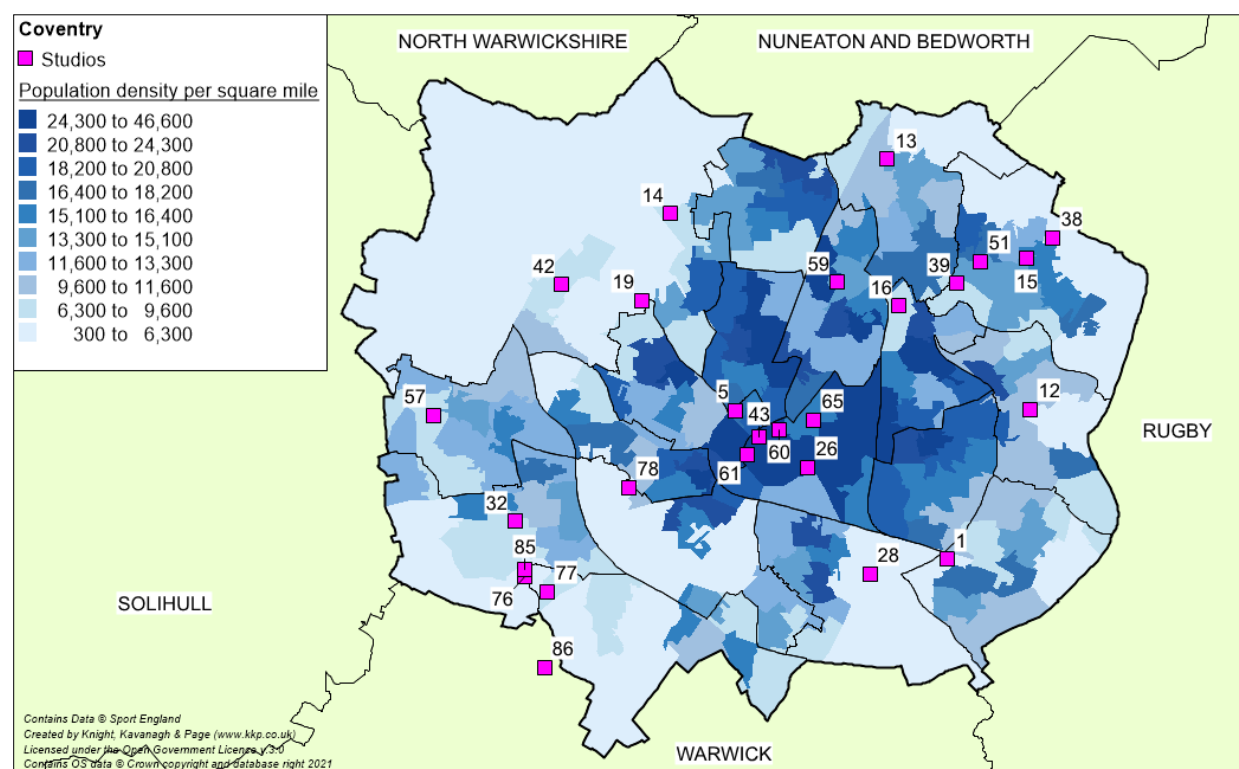
(Model applies 1.75 visits/week by members and 65% usage for 39 weeks of the year. (Figures rounded up/down)

6.3: Dance studios

Dance studios are an important element of the wider health, fitness and conditioning market. There has been an increase in the number of people accessing fitness classes as identified in increased UK penetration rates. Activity types offered also vary from low impact classes such as Pilates and yoga to dance, step, boxercise and Zumba. It is worth noting that dance classes/clubs are key users of studio spaces throughout the country.

The audit identified 24 studios in Coventry. The majority are either rated good or above average quality. One site (The Westwood Academy) was not assessed. Five are available for pay and play activity, with the remainder accessible via some form of membership package.

Figure 6.5: Dance studios in Coventry



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Table 6.8: Table of studios in Coventry

ID	Site name	Access	Condition
1	Alan Higgs Centre	Pay and Play	Above average
5	Bablake School	Sports Club / CA	Above average
12	Caludon Castle Sports Centre	Pay and Play	Above average
13	Capitol Gym	Registered Membership	Above average
16	Centre At7	Pay and Play	Above average
28	David Lloyd	Registered Membership	Good
28	David Lloyd	Registered Membership	Good
28	David Lloyd	Registered Membership	Good
28	David Lloyd	Registered Membership	Good
32	Finham Park 2	Registered Membership	Good
42	Jaguar Leisure Centre	Registered Membership	Above average
43	JD Gyms	Registered Membership	Good
43	JD Gyms	Registered Membership	Good
51	Moat House Leisure Centre	Pay and Play	Above average
57	Powerleague	Registered Membership	Above average
59	Pro-gym	Registered Membership	Below average
60	Pure Gym (Bishop Street)	Registered Membership	Above average
61	Pure Gym (Skydome)	Registered Membership	Above average
61	Pure Gym (Skydome)	Registered Membership	Above average
76	The Westwood Academy	Sports Club / CA	Below average
78	Village Gym	Registered Membership	Above average
78	Village Gym	Registered Membership	Above average
85	Xcel Leisure Centre	Pay and Play	Above average
86	University of Warwick	Registered Membership	Good

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6.4: Summary of key facts and issues

Facility type	Health & fitness	
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	There are 42 H&F sites in Coventry. 20 with 20+ stations provide 2936 in total. There are 26 studios. No gyms in neighbouring areas offer pay and play access..	There is a current surplus in provision, in terms of health and fitness stations. Population modelling suggests a deficit of c300 stations by 2041 based on the current supply.
Quality	The majority of facilities are rated good or above average quality.	There is a need to maintain the good quality of all gyms.
Accessibility	Accessibly is good; 92% of the population live within one mile of a gym. 98% of people in high deprivation areas reside within one mile of a gym.	
Availability (Management and usage)	There are eight pay and play H&F facilities with 20+ stations in Coventry. The remainder require some form of membership to access. There is no current GP referral programme across the City.	To ensure that gyms cater for the full range of market segments. To consider how the health referral offer can be broadened to include access points within primary care networks, via social prescribing teams.
Summary	Of the 42 fitness facilities in Coventry, eight are available on a pay and play basis. Accessibility is generally good, and facilities are well placed in that 92% of the population live within a one mile radial of a facility. Although there is a sufficient number of health and fitness stations in the City currently, future population growth will generate a shortfall of 300 stations by 2041.	

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SECTION 7: SQUASH

England Squash is the NGB responsible for the sport. Its latest Strategy (2021 – 2025) *Squash in a Changing World* aims to grow the game in England from 2021 onwards through a thriving, diverse and growing community. To achieve this, it has identified a number of objectives:

- ❖ Create a world-class workforce- Inspire and train a community of world-class coaches, referees and volunteers at every level - to drive up participation and increase engagement in the game.
- ❖ Sustain world-leading pathways and programmes- Sustain world-leading talent pathways and programmes for high-performing players who achieve success on the global stage and inspire others to realise their potential.
- ❖ Enhance the visibility and appeal of squash- Spearhead new and creative ways to enhance the visibility and appeal of squash at local, national and international levels, including the pursuit of Olympic inclusion.
- ❖ Provide leadership for the game- Provide leadership for the game nationally and internationally, including addressing the climate and ecological crisis.

The ratio of courts per population in Coventry is 1:15,282. This is below the England Squash target of 1:10,000 thus, in its view, there is a shortfall in provision when using this calculation. There is a requirement of an additional 10 courts to address this shortfall.

7.1 Supply

There are 24 squash courts in Coventry at seven sites: the largest site being the University of Warwick which has six courts. All sites are community available. Three offer pay and play access: the University of Warwick, St Augustine's Sports Centre and The Wave. The remaining squash venues are accessible via some form of membership package.

Quality

All sites are either rated good or above average quality. Sites rated good have only recently opened or have received significant investment. The University of Warwick and The Wave opened in 2019 and St Augustine's Sports Centre refurbished its courts in 2020 following the Pandemic.

Table 7.1: Quality of squash courts in Coventry

ID	Site name	Crts	Condition	Access type
21	Coventry & N. Warwickshire Sports Club	5	Above average	Sports Club / CA
28	David Lloyd	4	Above average	Reg membership
42	Jaguar Leisure Centre	2	Above average	Reg membership
71	St Augustine's Sports Centre	3	Good	Pay and Play
75	The Wave	2	Good	Pay and Play
78	Village Gym	2	Above average	Reg membership
86	University Of Warwick	6	Good	Pay and Play
Total		24		

(Source: Active Places Power 26/05/2022)

Drive time catchment modelling calculates that the whole Coventry population resides within a 20-minute drive of a community available squash court. There are two facilities within 2-miles of the Authority boundary; the largest of these is Kenilworth Lawn Tennis & Squash Club.

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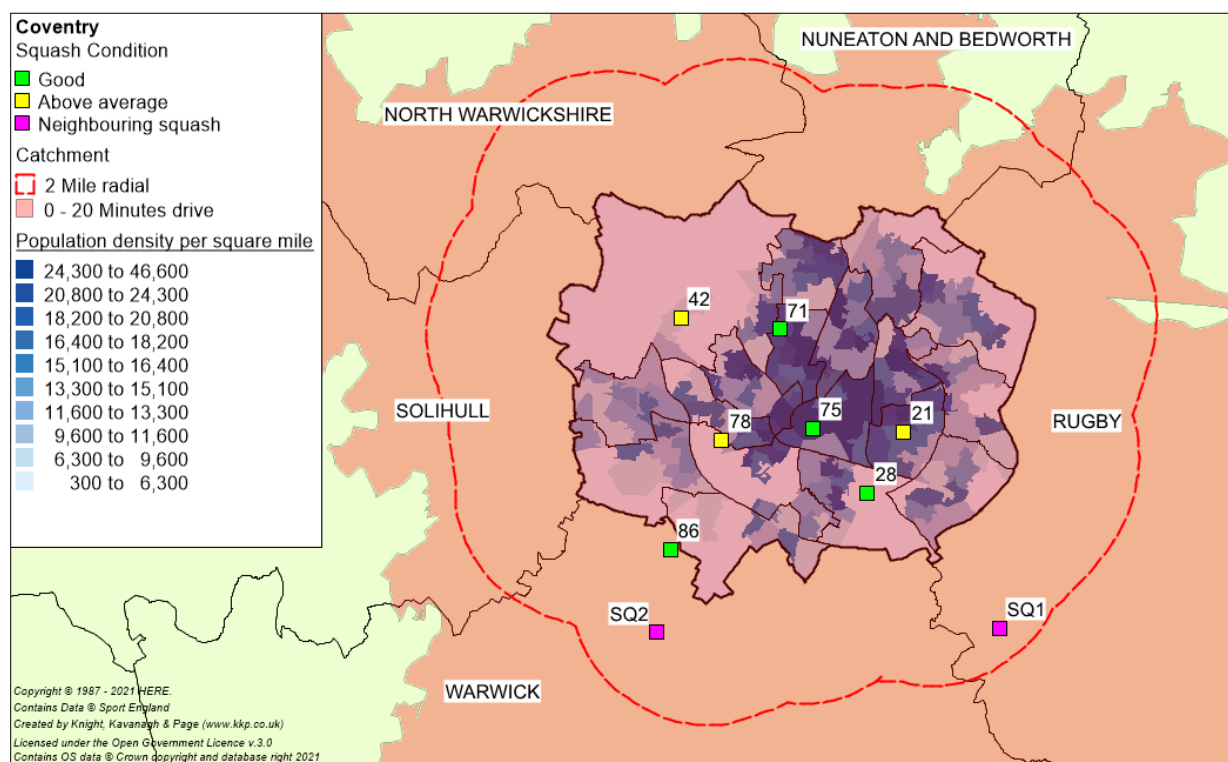
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Table 7.2: Squash facilities in Coventry and within 2 miles of the council boundary

Map ID	Site name	Courts	Access type	Local authority
SQ1	Sports Connexion Leisure Club	2	Pay and Play	Rugby
SQ2	Kenilworth Lawn Tennis & Squash Club	6	Sports Club / CA	Warwick

(Source: Active Places Power 26/05/2022)

Figure 7.1: Squash courts in Coventry, within 2 miles of the council boundary plus the 20-minute drive time catchment for Authority residents.



7.2: Demand

The one England Squash affiliated club in Coventry is Coventry & North Warwickshire Sports Club. It offers squash and racquetball and competes in the Summer and Winter Warwickshire leagues. It has c.40 members, including a strong junior section. It is part of a multi sports club, which also offers netball, tennis and cricket and has fitness provision on site. The constant key challenge for the Club is to maintain high membership levels to support its ambitions.

St Augustine's Sports Centre has three courts which were recently (2017) refurbished. The Centre does not have a club as such but it does run an internal ladder league. It offers pay and play access and noted that demand rarely exceeds supply. People can, thus, regularly turn up and access a court during peak periods. The University of Warwick has six glass-backed courts. These are predominantly used by students; however, they are also available on a pay and play basis to the general public. The site does run a free squash league for current members.

There are two pay and play accessible courts at the Wave Leisure operated by CV Life. It also runs an internal league but has no club based at the site. Consultation indicates that demand is strong and that there is limited evening availability.

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7.3: Summary of key facts and issues

Facility type	Squash	
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	Seven sites offer squash provision - a total of 24 courts with good distribution across the City. The largest site is the University of Warwick which has six courts.	England Squash calculates that there is shortfall of c.10 courts in Coventry based on its ratio target of 1 court per 10,000 population.
Quality	All community available sites are rated as good or above average quality.	There is a need to maintain the quality of all community available squash facilities.
Accessibility	The whole Coventry population lives within a 20-minute drive of a community available squash court within the Authority. There are two facilities within two miles of the Authority's boundary.	
Availability (Management and usage)	Three facilities offer pay and play access. Whilst the Wave is busy at peak times, there is available capacity at St Augustine's and the University of Warwick.	
Summary	The 24 community available squash courts at seven sites in Coventry are all rated good or above average quality. Three sites offer pay and play access. There is a theoretical shortfall of provision, based on the England Squash courts per population ratio. Consultation suggests that there is however currently spare capacity at two of the three pay and play sites during peak periods. There is no additional requirement for squash provision currently however the Council has the option of considering new court provision within any future publicly operated leisure provision	

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SECTION 8: GYMNASTICS

In 2023, British Gymnastics released its latest strategy – *Leap Without Limits: A New Vision for a New Era*. The Strategy is developed as a shared vision for gymnastics across all four home nations and focuses on five 'leaps':

- ◆ The Why Leap - Nurturing and celebrating the positive impact of gymnastics on individuals, communities and wider society.
- ◆ The Empowerment Leap – Supporting everyone involved in gymnastics to play their part in making a positive difference.
- ◆ The Experience Leap – Making positive experiences and memories central to everything we do, at every stage, in every role.
- ◆ The Creative Leap – Encouraging and welcoming new ideas to support meaningful change.
- ◆ The Together Leap – Uniting the community, existing and new partners to maximise impact, learning and growth.

To deliver these five 'leaps', British Gymnastics is working on the following:

- ◆ Membership – Develop a new more relevant membership offer that provides value for all its members, and an improved membership system.
- ◆ Education- Implement a reformed and reimagined approach to supporting the learning and development of the gymnastics workforce, ensuring it feels valued and supported by British Gymnastics and the clubs and delivery environments you operate within.
- ◆ Community – Celebrate and recognise the contribution and stories of those in the gymnastics community on British Gymnastics channels and more widely, including further developing the British Gymnastics Awards as an annual platform for this.
- ◆ Reform- Deliver all of the 40 actions British Gymnastics has committed to in Reform '25 over the next two years to create safe, positive and fair experiences for all in gymnastics, including a major Safe Sport campaign.
- ◆ Events- Work with its Technical Committees to agree a clearly defined and sustainable long-term national event programme for each discipline, and develop new competitions and events at a recreational level.
- ◆ Disability- Work to build international support for its ambition for gymnastics to become a Paralympic sport, with the aim of agreeing a plan and pathway for this to become a reality.
- ◆ Capacity- Look to develop dedicated facilities, and bring together clubs, schools, leisure providers and local authorities to provide city wide plans for gymnastics.

8.1: Supply

There are three dedicated gymnastics venues supporting BG affiliated gymnastics clubs in Coventry along with a further three within a 30-minute drive of the Authority. In addition, there are three dedicated dance facilities, however, these clubs are not affiliated to British Gymnastics.

The four dedicated gymnastics in Coventry are:

- ◆ St Augustine's Gymnastics Hall was previously a 4-court sports hall. It was upgraded to support gymnastics in 2022. Investment was made by the charity Radford Community Sports (which currently has a 20-year lease at the site). The refurbishment included installation of a new floor, improved lighting and the purchase of specialised equipment. It did host City of Coventry Gymnastics and Trampolining Club, however, following a dispute over rent, the Club has since left. Some of the equipment still remains at the site, and the Centre has now become home to Coventry Dynamite gymnastics club.

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- ◀ Woodlands Sports Complex is part of a four-court sports hall, which is currently managed by Sky Blues in the Community. It hosts Woodlands Gymnastics Club.
- ◀ Nile Wilson Gymnastics Academy is located in a dedicated industrial unit. Consultation was not achieved with this club.
- ◀ The Cube- is a private gymnastics/soft play facility. It leases out its main gymnastics hall to City of Coventry Gymnastics and Trampolining Club. It also offers a range of different activities, including soft play, children's parties and holiday camps.

Quality ratings for St Augustine's (prior to City of Coventry Gymnastics and Trampolining Club leaving) and Woodlands Sports Complex, were good and above average respectively. An image of Woodlands Gymnastics Academy is shown below.

Figure 8.1: Woodlands Academy gymnastics hall



Woodlands Academy also supports two dance organisations, Coventry Dynamites and Gemini Cheerleading. These clubs are located in a smaller dedicated facilities on site (known as Gyms 2 and 3). The Council is looking at the potential to upgrade this facility (which is currently 50 years old) and offering a 25-year lease to a community organisation. No timescales have been stated for this upgrade.

The third dance facility supports a club known as Tribe. It promotes gymnastics, cheerleading and girls' fitness. This is a dedicated venue; however, the organisation is not affiliated to British Gymnastics.

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Figure 8.3: Gymnastics and dance centres in the Authority and within 30 minutes' drive time

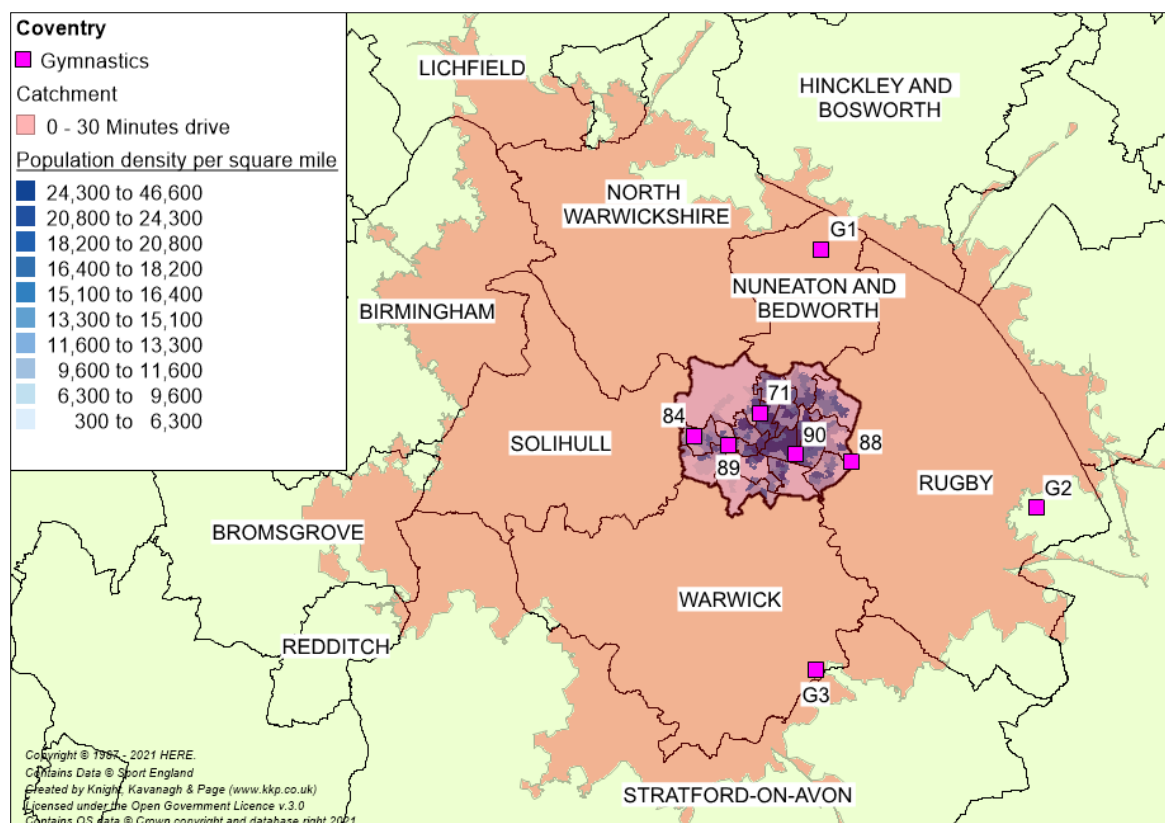


Table 8.1: Dedicated gymnastics/dance centres in Coventry

ID	Site name
71	St Augustine's Sports Centre
84	Woodlands Sports Complex
88	Tribe: Cheerleading, Dance & Fitness
89	The Cube
90	Nile Wilson Gymnastics Academy

Table 8.2: Gymnastics centres in the Authority and within 30 minutes' drive time

ID	Site name	Authority
G1	Nuneaton Gymnastics Club	Nuneaton & Bedworth
G2	Rugby Gymnastics Club	Rugby
G3	Leamington & Warwick Gymnastics	Warwick

8.2: Demand

Consultation with British Gymnastics states that there are eight affiliated clubs in Coventry:

- ◆ Synergy Gymnastics
- ◆ Woodlands Acro-Gymnastics and Trampoline Club
- ◆ City of Coventry Trampoline & Gymnastic Club
- ◆ Central Galaxy Coventry Trampoline Club

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- ✦ Flyte Gymnastics Limited
- ✦ Little Tricks
- ✦ Infinity Trampoline Club
- ✦ Nile Wilson Gymnastics Academy

Three of the eight operate out of designated facilities; Woodlands Acro-Gymnastics and Trampolining Club, City of Coventry Trampoline & Gymnastic Club and Nile Wilson Gymnastics Academy.

British Gymnastics is currently working with Central Galaxy Gymnastics Club to secure dedicated facilities. Flyte would like a dedicated facility on its current site; Cheylesmore Community Centre. There is some capacity to expand there to make the hall larger. It would also like to have sole use of the site. It is currently restricted to four evenings a week, which results in equipment storage issues.

Consultation was undertaken with two other clubs: Woodlands Gymnastics Club and City of Coventry GC.

Woodlands Gymnastics Club - currently delivers sessions at both Woodlands Academy and Lilleshall National Sports Centre (Telford). At the school site, it offers sessions six days a week accommodating both males and females across a range of disciplines, including Acro, trampolining and artistic gymnastics. It has a good relationship with CV Life (which currently runs the site). It currently has 100 members with no reported waiting list. The Club is currently seeking to increase its membership.

City of Coventry Gymnastic Club – was located at St Augustine's Sports Centre, however, due to a rent dispute, has been evicted from this facility. It is also based at the Cube, where the Club delivers sessions seven days a week. It has 160 members with 100 children on the waiting list. The Club would like to return to St Augustine's Sports Centre, as this will then address its waiting list.

8.3: Summary of key facts and issues

Facility type	Gymnastics	
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	There are four dedicated gymnastics facilities in the Authority along with three specialised dance facilities.	BG is supporting two further clubs to locate to a dedicated facility. Both are currently seeking new facilities, however, Central Galaxy's preferred new location is in Rugby.
Quality	St Augustine's Sports Centre is rated good and Woodlands Sports Complex is rated above average quality. No site visit was arranged with Nile Wilson Gymnastics Academy.	The Local Authority is looking at upgrading the two dance studios at Woodlands Academy.
Accessibility	All residents in Coventry reside within a 30-minute drive of a dedicated gymnastics/dance facility.	
Availability (Management & usage)	Woodlands Gymnastics Club has spare capacity, with no reported waiting lists.	

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Summary	<p>There are eight BG affiliated gymnastics clubs within the Authority: three with dedicated facilities. Consultation was undertaken with Woodlands Gymnastics Club, which reported no waiting list.</p> <p>City of Coventry Gymnastic Club did hire St Augustine's Sports Centre, however, has recently been evicted due to rental issues. It is uncertain whether City of Coventry Gymnastics Club will return to the venue. The Centre is keen for the sport to return to the facility.</p> <p>Flyte and Central Galaxy Gymnastics Clubs also have intentions to secure dedicated facilities.</p> <p>In summary, the main identified facility need is to resolve current issues at St Augustine's Sports Centre, and for the sport to return to the site.</p>
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SECTION 9: INDOOR BOWLS

The five forms of bowls that are played indoors (flat/level green, crown green, long mat, short mat and carpet mat) each require a different venue and each format of the game has a different technical specification for their indoor facility.

Indoor flat / level green bowls is played on a purpose-built indoor green which complies with the Laws of the sport of Bowls. The NGB is EIBA (English Indoor Bowling Association). It requires a standard bowling green; a flat area 31-40 metres long divided into playing areas called rinks. The number of these varies, depending on the width of the green.

Crown Green bowls requires a standard crown green, artificial grass (carpeted) area of approximately 38m square which is crowned i.e. higher in the centre than round the perimeter. Indoor crown greens are relatively rare – substantially less common than those provided for flat green bowls. The NGB is the British Crown Green Bowling Association.

Carpet bowls is played on a rectangular carpet (13.7 x 1.8m) that is rolled out. It can be accommodated in any indoor space large enough to accommodate the mats which come in different lengths. It tends to be played at a recreational level. The NGB is the English Carpet Bowls Association.

Short mat bowls is typically played in sports halls, parish council rooms, outdoor bowls club pavilions; on indoor flat green bowls club greens. The NGB is the English Short Mat Bowling Association. Long mat bowls is played on a rolled carpet typically laid on a sports hall floor. There are no ditches in this game. It is typically found in areas of low flat-green supply and/or where Crown Green bowls is played outdoors. There is no NGB for this version of the game.

An indoor bowling centre typically comprises a single flat green with a number of rinks and ancillary accommodation such as changing rooms, lounge/bar, viewing area, kitchen, office/meeting rooms and stores plus designated car parking. The size of ancillary accommodation varies according to the number of rinks available. A successful indoor bowls centre requires a combination of the right location, design, and financial and general management. Sport England²⁰ guidelines on catchment for indoor bowls centres are set out to be interpreted in the light of local circumstances:

- ◀ Assume the majority of users live locally and not travel more than 30 minutes.
- ◀ Assume that 90% of users will travel by car, with the remainder by foot.
- ◀ As a guide, calculate demand on the basis of one rink per 14,000-17,000 total population.
- ◀ The number of rinks required can be related to the estimated number of members, assume 80-100 members per rink.

The stated priorities of EIBA are:

- ◀ Recruitment of participants.
- ◀ Retention of participants.
- ◀ Clubs obtaining “Clubmark Accreditation”.
- ◀ Retention and improvement of facilities.
- ◀ New indoor facilities in areas of low-supply and high-demand.

²⁰ Sport England Design Guidance Note Indoor Bowls 2005

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EIBA Outline Plan 2021 - 2024

The EIBA plan is focused on: *recruit and retain 45+* and *recruit and retain 70+*. Both markets require growth. The idea is that people aged 45+ need new versions/formats of the game to play and the 70+ will wish to continue with current formats. Its focus areas are:

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

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

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

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

The Sport England funding for the 2021-2024 period, focuses on the delivery of:

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

The BDA Vision Statement for the 2022-2025 period states:

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

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

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

Their work with the Bowling NGB's includes:

- ◀ Club Hubs – encourage growth of Membership and retention of facilities
- ◀ Communities
- ◀ Health

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9.1: Supply

There is no indoor bowls facility in Coventry, however nine are located within a 30-minute drive time. The CCC operated 6 rink facility at Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre closed in 2020, having previously been home to Coventry Indoor Bowls Club. CCC ringfenced £2.05m to develop a replacement at Avenue Outdoor Bowls Club, however, this did not proceed. This was due to; limited car parking, residents' concerns about traffic and the fact that it was not a popular location for the existing club membership.

Figure 9.1: Indoor bowls facilities within 30 minutes' drive time of the Coventry boundary

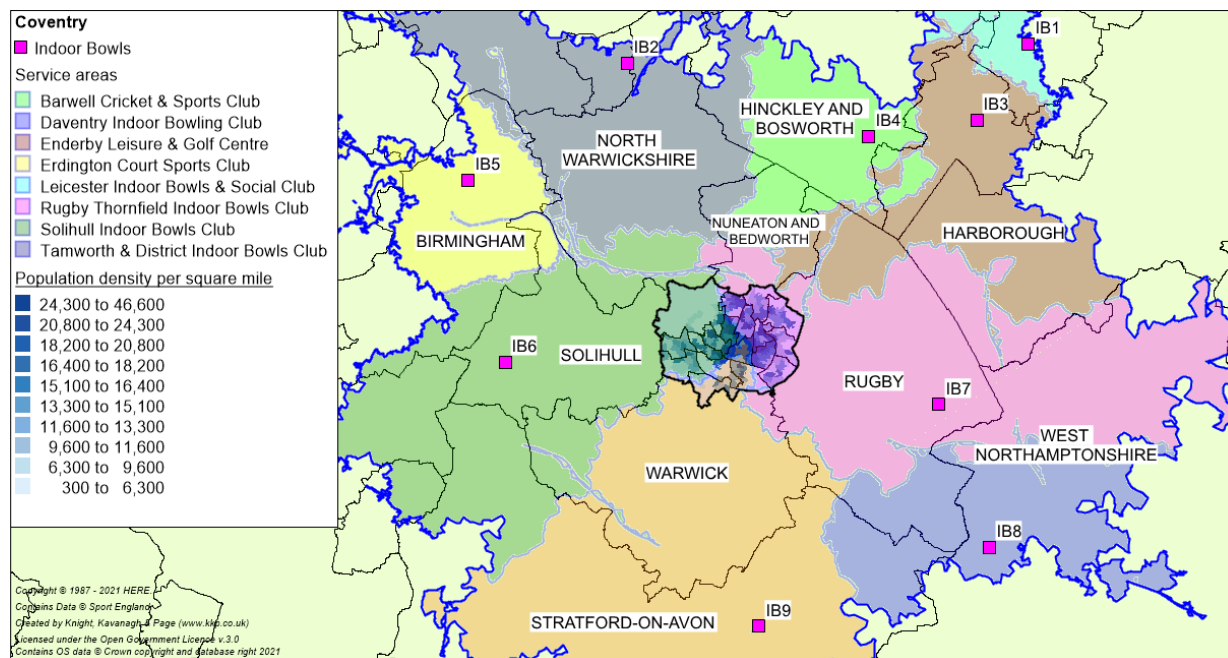


Table 9.2: Indoor bowls facilities within a 30-minute drive of the Coventry boundary

ID	Site name	Rinks	Access type	Authority
IB1	Leicester Indoor Bowls & Social Club	9	Sports Club / CA	Leicester
IB2	Tamworth & District Indoor Bowls Club	6	Sports Club / CA	Tamworth
IB3	Enderby Leisure & Golf Centre	6	Pay and Play	Blaby
IB4	Barwell Cricket & Sports Club	6	Sports Club / CA	Hinckley & Bosworth
IB5	Erdington Court Sports Club	4	Sports Club / CA	Birmingham
IB6	Solihull Indoor Bowls Club	8	Sports Club / CA	Solihull
IB7	Rugby Thornfield Indoor Bowls Club	8	Sports Club / CA	Rugby
IB8	Daventry Indoor Bowling Club	6	Sports Club / CA	West
IB9	Avon Valley Indoor Bowls Club	6	Sports Club / CA	Stratford-on-Avon

Table 9.3: Coventry populations within service areas

ID	Site name / service area	Coventry MYE 2020 population within service area	
		#	%
IB6	Solihull Indoor Bowls Club	128,073	34%
IB7	Rugby Thornfield Indoor Bowls Club	183,681	48%
IB9	Avon Valley Indoor Bowls Club	67,633	18%
Totals		379,387	100%

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Accessibility

There are no facilities in the Authority so this study considers those within a 30-minute drive time catchment. To examine levels of accessibility, Table 9.2 indicates how many Coventry residents can access facilities within this catchment. Of the nine, Rugby Thornfield Indoor Bowls Club has the greatest level of accessibility, as nearly half of Coventry residents live within the catchment. Solihull Indoor Bowls Club has one third of residents within its catchment.

Availability

All bar one venue require a membership. The one pay and play venue is Enderby Leisure & Golf Centre in Blaby.

Facilities Planning Model

CCC commissioned an FPM local run assessment for indoor bowls in May 2024 to help determine whether there is a need for an indoor bowls centre to replace the former provision at Coventry Sport and Leisure Centre. It analysed the following scenarios :

- ◀ Run 1 – baseline assessment of provision in 2023.
- ◀ Run 2 – forward assessment of demand for indoor bowls centres and its distribution, based on the projected changes in population, including residential development, between 2023 and 2041.

Its key findings from the FPM assessment are as follows:

Availability at the two indoor bowls centres nearest to Coventry can be increased in the weekly peak period: by 16 hours at Rugby Thornfield Indoor Bowls Club, and 23 hours at Solihull Indoor Bowls Club.

Demand for indoor bowls in Coventry is projected to increase from 709 visits in 2023 to 874 visits in 2041. The equivalent in rinks is 4.5 in 2023 and 5.6 in 2041.

Of Coventry's demand 18% is met in 2023, and 16% in 2041. The proportion decreases slightly because of the increase in demand. The number of visits met in the weekly peak period increases from 129 in 2023 to 144 in 2041.

Of Coventry's population, 27% do not have access to a car. This is higher than the national and regional averages. This finding is significant because all journeys to indoor bowls centres are by car.

Residents in most of the areas to north of Coventry, the city centre, and the areas to the southeast of Coventry on the border with Warwick, are unable to access any indoor bowls centres within a 30-minute drive.

Unmet demand in Coventry is the equivalent of 3.7 rinks in 2023 and 4.7 rinks in 2041.

In 2041 the locations where the most unmet demand can be met are Coventry city centre (at the intersection of the Coventry ring road and Foleshill Road) and Allesley Park. At either of these locations (although not both) there is sufficient reachable unmet demand of 5.6 rinks to consider the provision of an indoor bowls centre to serve Coventry residents.

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9.2: Demand

EIBA confirmed that membership of Coventry Indoor Bowls Club declined steadily over the period up to its closure in 2019, with the last membership recorded at 223 in 2017. Once the facility closed, most members went to either the Rugby or Solihull indoor facilities and to local outdoor clubs. On the basis that demand for indoor bowls has dispersed from Coventry, and that all clubs in neighbouring authorities have current spare capacity, EIBA is of the view that there is no longer a viable business case for a new indoor facility in the City.

FPM findings confirmed that levels of modelled unmet demand in Coventry are sufficient to justify considering a new facility. Notwithstanding this, there is scope to make more use of the supply in the study area via extending peak time availability at the two facilities most accessible to Coventry residents i.e. Rugby Thornfield Indoor Bowls Club and Solihull Indoor Bowls Club.

A key determinant towards determining the feasibility of a new facility would be an assessment of whether a critical mass of bowlers can be (re)established and maintained in Coventry. Solihull Indoor Bowls Club for example operates with around 400 members and has a vibrant programme of league competition. It would be essential that a new facility was able to support a healthy level of membership and establish a similar programme of activity to enable its financial sustainability. This needs to be balanced with a realistic assessment of whether CCC would be able to sustain the operating costs for a publicly operated (or contracted) indoor bowls facility.

9.3: Summary

Facility type	Indoor bowls	
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	There is no indoor bowls venue in Coventry. There are nine within 30-minutes' drive. The dedicated facility closed in 2020.	FPM analysis identifies sufficient unmet demand to consider providing a new facility in Coventry, with highest levels of unmet demand concentrated in the City centre.
Quality	No site assessment was undertaken at any of the neighbouring sites.	
Accessibility	There are nine sites within a 30-minute drive of the Authority. Nearly half of Coventry residents live within a 30-minute drive of Rugby Thornfield Indoor Bowls Club.	There is a high level of non-car ownership in Coventry, which will limit access to around 27% of the local population (the FPM assumes these residents will therefore not travel to an indoor bowls facility). FPM analysis however found that Accessibility to indoor bowls for Coventry residents can be improved by extending peak time availability at Rugby Thornfield Indoor Bowls Club and Solihull Indoor Bowls Club.
Availability (Management and usage)	One of the nine venues within the catchment is a pay and play venue.	
Summary	Coventry does not currently have an indoor bowls centre and CCC would like to establish its future strategic options via the indoor facility strategy. Evidence provided by the FPM analysis demonstrates a need for a new facility in the Authority based on current and projected levels of unmet demand. A portion of this	

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	<p>demand could however be met by increasing access to existing accessible centres located in neighbouring authorities.</p> <p>CCC should, in determining its strategic options consider whether a new centre would be able to generate a sufficient critical mass of members to enable a new centre to be financially viable, given its likely capital and revenue cost.</p> <p>CCC should also place focus on providing opportunities for alternative indoor forms of the game such as carpet bowls and consider how its wider physical activity offer for older people can provide mitigation for the loss of the former indoor bowls facility.</p>
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SECTION 10: INDOOR TENNIS

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the NGB for all tennis provision within the UK. It administers the sport at national and regional level. One of its key objectives is to get more people playing tennis more often. To achieve this, through its most recent Investment Framework (Vision 2019 – 2023), prioritises will be given to the following sites:

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

This will be supported through the following key funding objectives:

- ◆ Funding through interest free loans.
- ◆ Investing in venues that have a proven record of increasing participation.
- ◆ Investing where there is thorough community engagement.
- ◆ Support venues that encourage participation growth.
- ◆ Target investment that is demand led.
- ◆ Invest in venues that are financially sustainable.
- ◆ Support venues that have successfully sourced partnership funding.

Central to any investment will be the provision of a sustainable business case.

This section considers indoor tennis facilities provision in the Coventry and the surrounding authorities. It uses two terms to describe indoor building types:

Traditional - A permanent structure made of traditional materials using traditional construction techniques. This commonly takes the form of steel or timber portal frame spanning the full length of the court (including run backs) clad in a material to suit local conditions e.g. metal cladding, brickwork or timber boarding.

Non-traditional - A permanent or non-permanent structure made of non-traditional materials using non-traditional construction techniques. Three types of structure fall into this category:

- ◆ Air supported structures (air halls).
- ◆ Framed fabric structures.
- ◆ Tensile structures.

The LTA has identified 72 target locations for new community indoor tennis venues in England. The nearest locations to Coventry will be a new dedicated site in Warwick.

10.1: Supply

The two venues in Coventry are the David Lloyd Centre (6 indoor courts - rated good quality) and the University of Warwick (four indoor courts - rated good).

Table 10.1: Indoor tennis facilities within Coventry

ID	Site name	Courts	Access type	Condition
28	David Lloyd	6	Registered Membership	Good
77	University of Warwick	4	Pay and Play	Good

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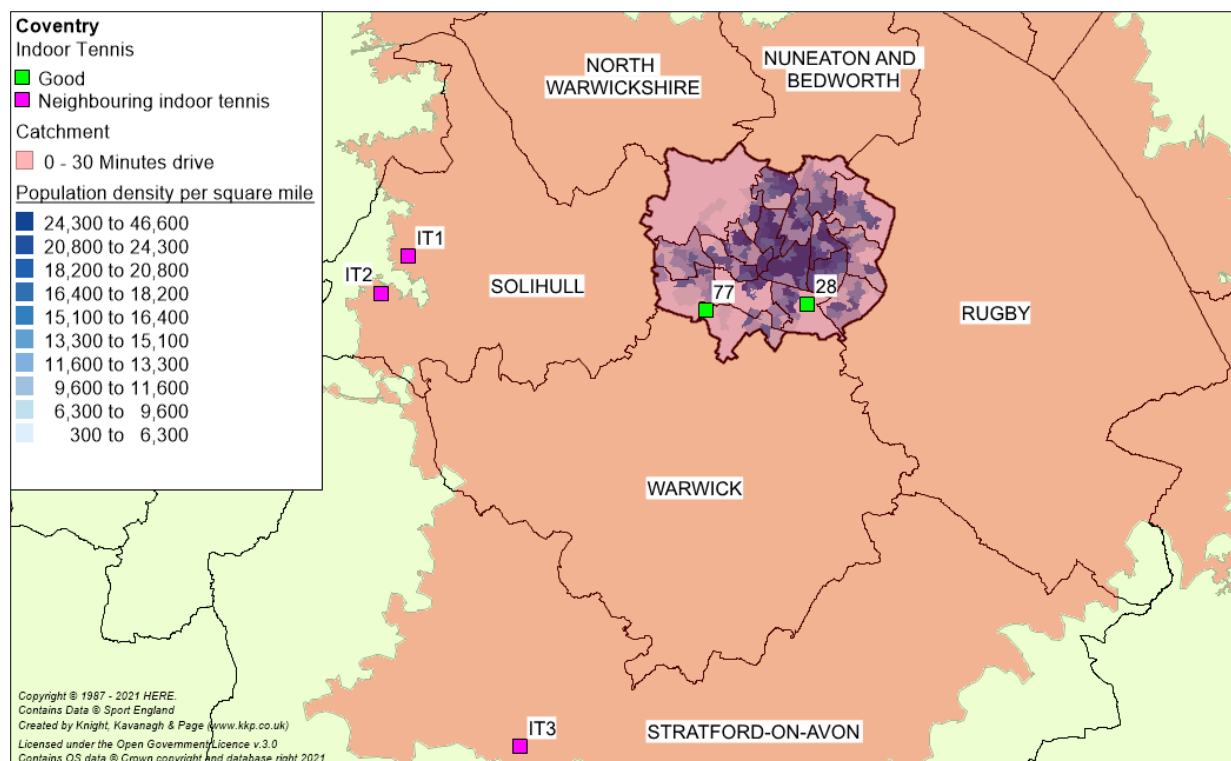
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Table 10.2: Indoor tennis centres within 30 minutes' drive of Coventry's indoor tennis venues

ID	Site name	Courts	Access type	Authority
IT1	Tudor Grange Leisure Centre	3	Pay and Play	Solihull
IT2	David Lloyd Club (Cranmore)	7	Registered Membership	Solihull
IT3	Stratford Upon Avon Sports Club	2	Registered Membership	Stratford-on-Avon

(Source: Active Places Power 26/05/2022)

Figure 10.1: Indoor tennis within 30 minutes' drive time of both indoor venues in Coventry



Accessibility

Drive time catchment modelling suggests that the whole Coventry population lives within a 30-minute drive of the two indoor tennis centres within the Authority. The drive time catchment also includes three facilities in neighbouring authorities. There are two in Solihull and one in Stratford-upon-Avon. The largest is the David Lloyd site in Solihull which has seven courts.

Availability

The University of Warwick is available on a pay and play basis, whereby individuals can book a court online and access the facility with no membership fee. The cost to book a court is £21 per hour. Registered membership is required to access David Lloyd.

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10.2: Demand

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

There is no community tennis club in the Authority but the University does have its own club. With regard to servicing demand for indoor tennis in Coventry, consultation with the University of Warwick suggests that there is always spare capacity during the evenings, particularly after 20.00.

10.3: Summary of key facts and issues

Facility type	Indoor tennis	
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	The two indoor centres in the Authority are at the University of Warwick and the David Lloyd Centre. There are three facilities within a 30-minute drive of these facilities in neighbouring authorities.	
Quality	Both facilities in the city are rated good quality.	
Accessibility	All Coventry's residents live within a 30 minutes' drive time of the two indoor tennis facilities. Three facilities in neighbouring authorities also fall within this catchment.	
Availability (Management & usage)	Courts at the University of Warwick are available on a pay and play basis. Registered membership is required to access the David Lloyd Centre.	
Summary	The two indoor facilities in the Authority are at the University of Warwick (four courts) and The David Lloyd Centre (six courts) – both are rated good quality. Courts at the University are available on a pay and play basis. The Centre at the University of Warwick has spare capacity during peak periods at present, however, it is felt the hire cost is expensive. An option could be to work with the University to reduce the cost.	

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SECTION 11: COMMUNITY HALLS

11.1: Introduction

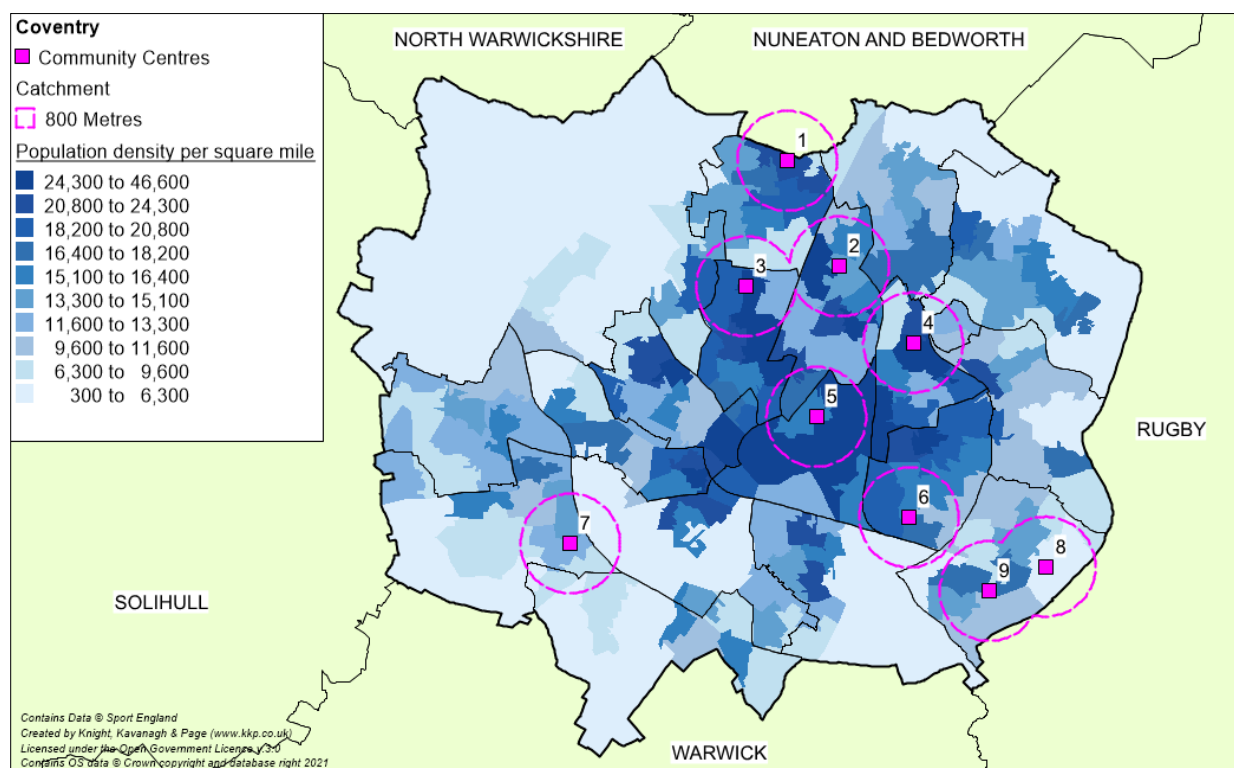
Community centres are important recreational facilities, especially in rural areas that, in some instances, may lack access to purpose-built sports facilities. They are usually multi-functional, providing places for meetings, socialising and for sports and recreational clubs and activities. In more isolated areas, a church hall or a sports pavilion can also serve a range of functions depending on its size.

4.1: Supply of village/community halls

The audit identified a total of nine community halls in the Authority located mainly in areas of dense population, predominantly in the central/eastern areas of the City. All sites were visited and relevant agencies consulted as part of the audit, which ascertained management details as well as the activity offer at each site.

Radial catchment modelling estimates that just under one third of Coventry's population (28.49%) lives within 800 metres walk of a community centre. These facilities have potential to offer different types of physical activity which are relevant to the local communities which they serve.

Figure 11.1: Village/community halls in Coventry with 800m radial catchment



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Table 11.1: All village/community buildings in Coventry

Map ID	Active Places site name
1	Holbrooks Community Centre
2	Foleshill Community Centre
3	Jubilee Community Centre
4	Stoke Heath Community Centre
5	St Peters Community Centre
6	Stoke Aldermoor Life Centre
7	Canley Community Centre
8	John White Community Centre
9	Hagard Community Centre

Availability

All facilities assessed are self-managed via a community association or charitable vehicle, apart from John White Community Centre which is managed by a local church. Most are open during the day and all nine open during evenings/weekends, offering a range of activities serving their respective communities.

11.2 Demand

As mentioned earlier, all sites were contacted as part of the audit. A management breakdown of those sites, along with the type of activities delivered at each venue are illustrated below.

Table 11.2: Site visit consultation summary

Venue	Management	Activities
Holbrook Community Centre	Holbrook CA	Breakfast Club, religious group meetings, dance, yoga.
Foleshill Community Centre	Foleshill CA Association	Social supermarket, family singing session, food and warmth drop-in groups.
Jubilee Community Centre	Radford CA Ltd	A warmth hub, jubilee tots stay and play, yoga, coffee mornings, circuits.
Stoke Heath Community Centre	Stoke Heath Comm, Centre Limited	E~SOL Classes, computer courses, , dance, yoga, fitness.
St Peters Community Centre	St. Peter's Comm. Centre Hillfields Ltd.	Art sessions, community cooking courses, morning nursery.
Stoke Aldermoor Life Centre	Stoke Aldermoor Comm. Association	Food bank, community warmth hub, community café, yoga.
Canley Community Centre	Canley Community Centre - charity.	Badminton club. nursery, yoga, dance, martial arts, community café.
John White Community Centre	St Bartholomew Church	Martial arts, dance, Zumba, kids club, over 55s club.
Hagard Community Centre	Hagard Community Centre Association	Community cafe, men's shed, craft making, Coventry foodbank.

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Audit research suggests that demand for community centre space is strong across Coventry. Services being delivered at these sites (including, food banks, warm hubs, breakfast clubs and social supermarkets). This reflects the economic and financial constraints being experienced in the communities that many serve.

Consultation indicated some spare capacity, partially during the day and at weekends, however, there was limited capacity during the evenings. Canley Community Centre, for example, offers four separate rooms, including a soft playroom, a large hall and two smaller meeting rooms.

Consultation with the Council's Public Health team found that smaller community venues provide the ideal environment for them to deliver health referral type activities such as gentle and chair-based exercise. Any future development of community hall provision should investigate the potential for integration with NHS neighbourhood services linked to physical activity and priorities of the Council's Health and Well-being Strategy.

11.3 Summary of key facts and issues

Facility type	Village halls	
Elements	Assessment finding	Specific facility needs
Quantity	There are nine community centres in Coventry. They are generally located in the centre and east of the Authority.	Consider potential requirement for community centres as part of new housing developments and then how these facilities fit within the wider recreational/sporting mix. Seek s.106 developer contributions where additional community facilities are deemed to be required.
Quality	No quality rating has been produced for any site.	
Accessibility	28.49% of the population lives within 800m of a community centre/village hall.	Increase accessibility via identifying opportunity for new centres within housing growth sites.
Availability (Management and usage)	The majority of centres are managed by local charities and/or via community associations. Activities range between halls but are considered to broadly reflect local need. A wide range of social and community services are offered.	Support the work of hall management to ensure that activities in each centre reflect/support need in the respective community. Identify funding, should it be required. Recognise and act upon the potential for greater integration of NHS neighbourhood physical activity programming with smaller community halls,
Summary	The nine community centres in Coventry generally serve the central/eastern areas of the Authority. Venue utilisation is strong and reflects community need. A variety of different activities is offered including breakfast clubs. Consider allocating developer contributions to additional community facilities within the new housing developments, should demand justify this. These facilities should be designed to make them attractive to sport/physical activity organisations.	

SECTION 12: COMBAT SPORTS

This section focuses on the supply and demand position for combat sports in Coventry. Supporting data sets for provision of combat sports clubs and facilities are limited and as such KKP undertook a desk research exercise to identify combat sports activity present at facilities in the Authority. It was identified that significant activity is taking place for six disciplines. Below is summary outlining various forms and definitions of each martial arts discipline²¹:

Karate

Karate originated in Japan. It emphasises striking techniques, such as punches, kicks, knee strikes, and elbow strikes, as well as open-handed techniques like palm strikes and knife-hand strikes. Karate training also includes blocking, evading, and grappling techniques. It has both physical and mental aspects. It promotes physical fitness, strength, flexibility, and co-ordination, while also focusing on discipline, respect, self-control, and personal development.

It is often practiced as a competitive sport and has been included in the Olympic Games since 2020. Different styles exist including Shotokan, Goju-Ryu, Wado-Ryu, Shito-Ryu, and Kyokushin, each with its own unique techniques, training methods, and philosophies. Karate in England is governed by The English Karate Federation, Karate England, and the Karate Union of Great Britain.

Taekwondo

Taekwondo is a Korean martial art which involves a combination of physical training, self-defence techniques, forms or patterns (known as "poomsae" or "hyeong"), sparring, and breaking boards or other materials to demonstrate power and precision. Taekwondo practitioners also focus on discipline, respect, and mental and physical strength. In addition to its martial arts aspects, Taekwondo is also an Olympic sport. It made its debut as a demonstration sport in the 1988 Seoul Olympics and became an official Olympic sport in 2000. Olympic Taekwondo competitions involve sparring matches between two opponents, with points awarded for kicks and punches delivered to specific target areas on the opponent's body.

Taekwondo in England is governed by the English Taekwondo Association, British Taekwondo and GB Taekwondo.

Ju-Jitsu

Ju-Jitsu is a Japanese martial art and self-defence system that focuses on close combat techniques. Techniques include strikes, kicks, joint locks, throws, sweeps, grappling, and ground fighting. It involves using leverage, timing, and technique to overcome an opponent regardless of their size or strength. Practitioners learn to efficiently utilise joint manipulation, pressure points, and immobilisation techniques to control or incapacitate an adversary.

Modern Jujitsu encompasses a wide range of styles and approaches. Some styles focus more on stand-up techniques, throws, and strikes, while others emphasise ground fighting, submission holds, and grappling manoeuvres. Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, a popular variant, is known for its emphasis on ground fighting and submission holds. Ju-Jitsu in England is governed by Great Britain Ju-Jitsu.

Mixed Martial Arts (MMA)

²¹ Descriptions were sourced via desktop research utilising world federations websites.

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MMA is a full-contact combat sport that allows a wide range of fighting techniques from various martial arts and combat sports disciplines. MMA combines striking techniques (such as punches, kicks, knees, and elbows) with grappling techniques (such as throws, takedowns, joint locks, and submission holds) both standing and on the ground.

In modern MMA competitions, fighters compete inside an octagonal cage or a ring, and they wear gloves specifically designed for striking and grappling. Matches are typically divided into rounds, and fighters aim to win by knockout, submission, or judges' decision based on criteria such as effective striking, grappling, aggression, and control. MMA requires fighters to be well-rounded and proficient in multiple aspects of combat. Many MMA athletes train in various martial arts disciplines, such as Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, Muay Thai, boxing, wrestling, judo, and others, in order to be prepared for different situations and opponents.

It has gained global popularity primarily through the success of Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC). MMA in England is governed by the English Mixed Martial Arts Association (EMMAA).

Kickboxing

This is a combat sport that combines elements of boxing with kicking techniques. It involves both punches and kicks, making it a hybrid striking-based martial art. Kickboxing originated in the 1960s in Japan and the United States and has since gained international popularity. Participants use a combination of punches (using fists) and kicks (using legs and feet) to strike their opponents. Techniques employed are derived from various martial arts styles, including karate, boxing, and Taekwondo. The rules and regulations of kickboxing can vary depending on the organisation or governing body overseeing the sport.

Competitive kickboxing matches typically take place in a ring, similar to boxing. Participants wear protective gear, such as gloves, shin guards, and mouthguards. Matches are typically divided into rounds, with fighters aiming to score points by landing strikes on specific target areas of the opponent's body, such as the head, torso, and legs. The sport is governed by Kickboxing England.

Boxing

The NGB for Boxing in England is England Boxing. It governs the sport at national and regional level. There are currently 900+ affiliated boxing clubs containing over 21,000 formal members. EB has 11 regional boxing associations, which work with clubs across the full spectrum of development matters. It employs a team of club support officers (one per region), to help assist clubs with the day-to-day facility operation, seeking and securing funding for new projects that range from providing mental health awareness and tackling knife crime to putting on sessions for individuals with disabilities.

The vision of EB's new strategic plan²² (2022-2027) is "inspiring and transforming lives through boxing", to achieve this it has identified four key objectives which are accompanied by specific strategies. The objectives are:

- ❖ A thriving boxing community.
- ❖ An inclusive, diverse and accessible sport.
- ❖ An inspirational and aspirational competition and talent pathway.
- ❖ A respected and valued NGB.

²²[Link to England-Boxing-2022-27 Strategy](#)

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Table 11.1: EB strategies attached to the four key objectives

Objective	Strategies
A thriving boxing community	Strong resilient clubs An enhanced and diverse workforce Engaged, supported and valued volunteers Accessible environments and facilities
An inclusive, diverse and accessible sport	Inclusive boxing opportunities Increased membership and servicing Non-contact/recreational opportunities
An inspirational and aspiration competition and talent pathway	An enhanced competition framework An inclusive and accessible pathway An enhanced and diverse talent workforce
A respected and valued NGB	Governance, leadership and integrity Partnerships and collaboration Insight, research and innovation Driving profile and income

12.1: Supply

A desktop research identified 31 clubs/organisations offering combat sports in Coventry (as of May 2025). It must be noted that sites/organisations can change very quickly, however, below provides general picture of combat sport offer currently in Coventry.

Table 12.1: Clubs/organisations offering combat sports facilities in Coventry

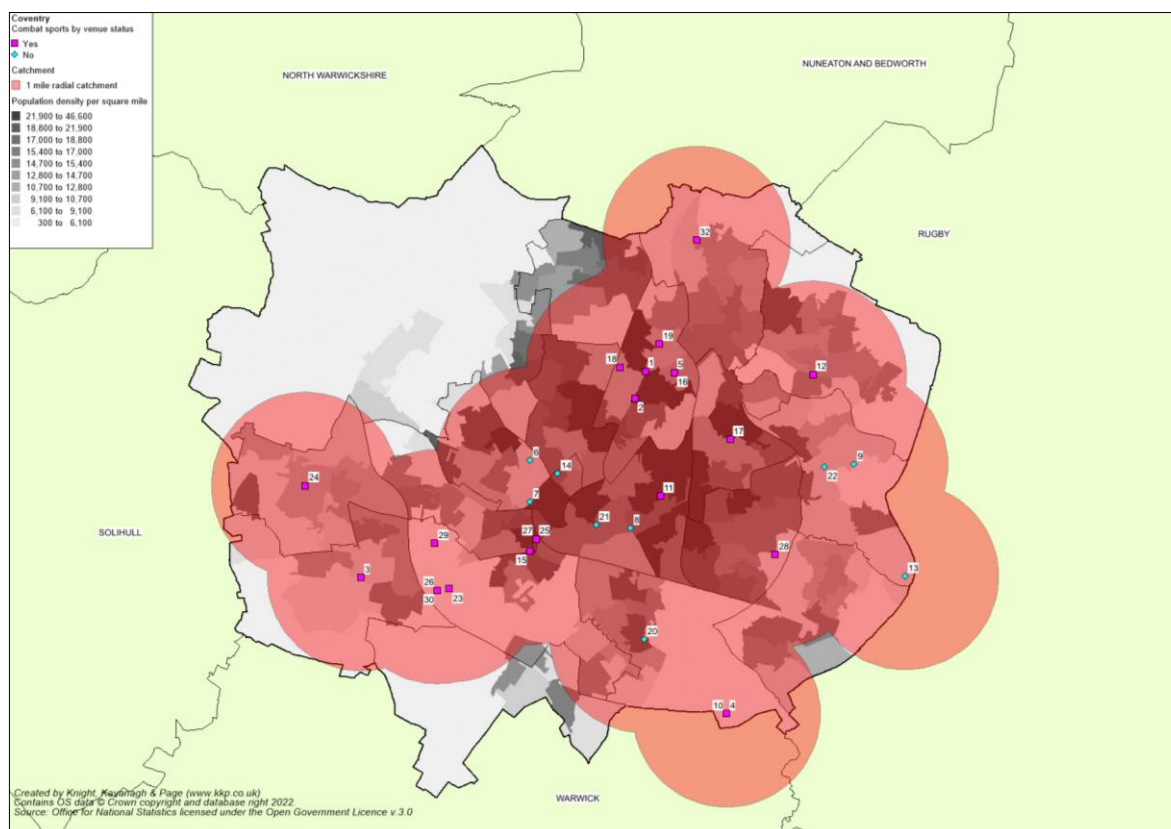
Map Ref	Name of club	Type	Dedicated venue	Membership price (PCM*)	Pay and play
1	8 Limbs Muay Thai Martial Arts Academy	MMA	Yes	£60.00	
2	Atomic Black Belt Academy	MMA	Yes	-	
3	Cooksey's Combat Club	Kickboxing	Yes	£60.00	
4	Faber Jiu Jitsu	Jiu Jitsu	Yes	£65.00	
5	Five Lions Taekwondo Academy	MMA	Yes	-	
6	G Force Martial Arts - Coundon	MMA	No	-	
7	Heart of England - World Taekwondo - Coventry	Taekwondo	No	£30.00	
8	Hizashikan Coventry Aikido Club	TaeKwon-Do	No	-	
9	Impact TaeKwon-Do Coventry	TaeKwon-Do	No	£55.00	
10	Levels MMA Coventry - Kids & Teens Academy	MMA	Yes	£60.00	Yes
11	Lions Gym Mixed Martial Arts Coventry	MMA	Yes	£75.00	
12	Mercia Tang Soo Do	Karate	Yes	£25.00	Yes
13	MKA Kickboxing Academy	Kick Boxing	No	£30.00	
14	National Taekwondo Club Coventry	Karate	No	£30.00	Yes
15	SMA Starkey Martial Arts	Jiu Jitsu/MMA	Yes	£30.00	

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Map Ref	Name of club	Type	Dedicated venue	Membership price (PCM*)	Pay and play
16	The MMA Unit Coventry	Kickboxing	Yes	£55.00	Yes
17	Ultimate Martial Arts Academy	MMA	Yes	£52.00	
18	Warriors TMA Academy	Jiu Jitsu	Yes	£69.00	
19	Way of the Spiritual Warrior, Martial Arts Dojo & Fitness	MMA	Yes	£39.00	Yes
20	Knight School Martial Arts	MMA	No	-	
21	LGMA Kids Karate Coventry	Karate	No	-	
22	Shaolin Freestyle	Karate	No	£60.00	
23	Toe 2Toe Gym - Pro/Amateur Boxing Academy	Boxing	Yes	£45.00	
24	The Boxing Lab Coventry	Boxing	Yes	-	
25	BXR Amateur Boxing Club	Boxing	Yes	-	
26	Westside Boxing Club	Boxing	Yes	-	
27	Red Corner Gym	Boxing	Yes	£42.00	Yes
28	Gils Knock Out Gym	Boxing	Yes	£45.00	
29	Triumph Amateur Boxing Club	Boxing	Yes	£50.00	Yes
30	Westfied Boxing Club	Boxing	Yes	£30.00	
31	Paul Seymour Boxing	Boxing	Yes	£60.00	

*membership prices based on an adult. Most organisations also offer reduced junior monthly memberships. Prices are as advertised May 2025.

Figure 12.1. Sites offering combat sports in Coventry with a 1-mile catchment



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Figure 12.1 illustrates the good distribution of combat sports opportunities in Coventry, with all elements of combat sports well catered for. The majority of organisations own a dedicated facility, however, there are nine which do not. These facilities range from school sites to community halls.

Certain dedicated venues also have fighting rinks which can host competitions/bouts. Consequently, these venues also have capacity for seated spectators.

Accessibility and availability

Due to the Authority's urban nature, a 1-mile radial catchment from all sites was applied. This calculated that the majority of the population (88.9%) lives with a site offering combat sports.

All facilities are accessible via membership arrangements, with seven offering pay and play access. Annual membership for certain clubs/organisations prices range between £30.00-£75.00 for an adult membership per calendar month. It must be noted that organisations also require individuals to purchase a fighting licence to compete. License prices vary between £25.00-£50.00 per year and depends on the type of combat sport and the age of the fighter.

12.2: Demand

As sites were identified through desktop research, no club consultation was undertaken. However, research indicates that combat sports are popular, with most dedicated venues open 5-7 days a week, some offering daytime opportunities as well as evening opportunities.

In addition, there is a good distribution of the different types of combat sports across the Authority, illustrating a strong demand for all elements of the sport.

12.3: Summary of key facts and issues

Elements	Assessment findings	Specific needs
Quantity	Desktop research indicates there are venues which offer combat sports. Of the 22 organisations have a dedicated venue.	None identified.
Quality	No quality assessments were undertaken.	None identified.
Accessibility	Nearly all (88.9%) of Coventry's population within a 1mile radial of a facility offer combat sports.	None identified.
Availability (Management usage)	From the information available, all venues offer a monthly membership fee. For an adult this ranges from £30.00-£75.00 per calendar month. Seven venues advertise pay and play access.	It would seem there is a range of prices on offer to suit all budgets

Strategic summary

- There is a strong presence of combat sports clubs in Coventry, evidencing high participation levels. Given that clubs tend to be commercial operators, scope for support is limited however, it should be recognised that combat sports providers offer alternative routes into sports and physical activity and should therefore be supported where possible.

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- ♦ There is a need to ensure that, where possible, combats sports clubs have security of tenure, good quality facilities that are fit for purpose and are able to meet the demands of the population.

SECTION 13: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Coventry has, in general, a healthy supply of good quality indoor sports facilities supporting the local community. The two large facilities which contribute to serving demand in the City Council area are the Alan Higgs Centre and the Sport and Wellness Hub at the University of Warwick. Between them, they make a considerable contribution to this position. These are supported by a number of small high-quality leisure centres serving their respective communities and the City Centre. CCC is also investing in facilities at several schools to improve/expand its sports hall offer in line with the anticipated population growth generated via housing development.

While, for the purposes of modelling facility availability to the city and its residents the Sport and Wellness Hub at the University of Warwick has been included, it should be noted that:

- ◀ Although located very close to the Authority boundary and adjacent to some of the main densely populated areas in the south of the Coventry, the facility itself is not within the City's boundary. There is little doubt that it does service Coventry residents, but it is also available to (and shared by) residents of Warwick.
- ◀ Although, for a range of community and commercial reasons, it would appear unlikely that community access arrangements will change it is (as the current status of facilities at Coventry university demonstrates) possible that should the pressure of student use rise, the level of community access may reduce or a greater differential in respect of the cost of community use and student access be considered.
- ◀ Its importance in the context of the provision of specific facilities serving the City (such as squash courts) is significant and there will be a particular need to maintain good a relationship with the University to ensure that this continues to be the case.

Although the Council is investing in sports hall provision through its educational stock, there are concerns with capacity for sports provision for residents of the two new north westerly housing growth areas (Keresley and Eastern Green). An FPM report suggests that a new facility consisting of a minimum of a 5 court hall and a 4 lane x 25m pool, is required to accommodate this growth in the north/north west of the Authority. Therefore, the Authority should undertake further feasibility work to ascertain a possible location for such facility and to develop a business case, which could also contain a health and fitness offer along with other opportunities, such as a dedicated gymnastics hall (with an anchor tenant).

In addition to this, potential recommendations include:

Existing facilities need to be maintained to the highest of standards to ensure that they continue to serve Coventry's population. There should be a primary maintenance focus on the CV Life Centres, in particular the Alan Higgs Centre as it is the main facility for many key users, including Coventry's swimming club and Coventry College. Developer contributions should be used to support any required facility maintenance.

The City Council and Public Health partners should consider re-instating the health referral programme for residents within the Authority. Coventry experiences high levels of health deprivation. Nearly 40% of its population falls within the areas covered by the three most deprived cohorts. The Authority and CV Life should seek long term funding to re-develop and expand the programme, with the aim to offer a range of activities across a variety of venues, suiting local communities.

Gymnastics development – there are two clubs currently working with British Gymnastics to seek new dedicated premises. Although Central Galaxy Gymnastics Club is looking to move to a dedicated venue in Rugby, Flyte Gymnastics Club would like a dedicated facility on its current

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site - at Cheylesmore Community Centre. CCC should work with British Gymnastics and the Community Association to support this club with its facility ambitions.

In respect of addressing the loss of the indoor bowls facility in Coventry, it is important that CV life's programmed offer continues to include a varied and responsive menu of activities for older people including activities such as carpet / short mat bowls. CCC also has the opportunity when delivering it's medium / long term facility proposals to ensure that the needs of older people are factored in by (for example) considering dementia friendly design principles such as those advocated by the [Alzheimer's society and Sport England](#).

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APPENDIX A: CONSULTATION LIST

Clubs

Woodlands Gymnastics / Synergy Gymnastics Club
City of Coventry Gymnastics Club
Coventry Badminton League
Coventry and Warwick Netball League
Coventry Tornadoes Basketball Club
Coventry & North Warwickshire Squash Club
Swimming and Diving City of Coventry Swimming Club
Coventry & Warwick Riga Volleyball Club

Council Officers

Planning
Education
Public Health
Leisure

Organisations/Education facilities/Leisure Facilities

Coventry University
University of Warwick
CV Life
Planet Ice
Alan Higgs Centre
Bablake School
Barker's Butts R.F.C
Barr's Hill School
Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School
Blue Coat C Of E School & Music College*
Caludon Castle Sports Centre
Cardinal Newman Catholic School*
Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School
Centre At7
Coundon Court School
Coventry University Sports Centre
David Lloyd
Eden Girls School
Ernesford Grange Community Academy
Finham Park 2
Finham Park School
Foxford School
Hereward College Sports Centre
King Henry VIII School
Moat House Leisure & Neighbourhood Centre
President Kennedy School
Sidney Stringer Academy
West Coventry Academy*
Meadow Park School
Woodlands Sports Complex
Xcel Leisure Centre
University of Warwick

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NGBs

Swim England
England Netball
English Indoor Bowls Association
British Gymnastics
Badminton England