



WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES – NEEDS ASSESSMENT

FINAL REPORT

AUGUST 2022

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) was appointed by Warrington Borough Council (WBC) to produce an Indoor & Built Sports Facilities Assessment and Strategy.

This needs assessment report (known as the Assessment Report) presents a supply and demand assessment of indoor and built sport facilities across the area and is delivered in accordance with Sport England's 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities' Guidance.

It is part of a wider series of inter-related documents for sport and recreation that also include a playing pitch strategy (PPS) and an open space study (OSS). Together they make up the Warrington Open Space, Sport and Recreation Analysis (OSSRA) 2021-2026.

The inter-relationship between the portfolio of documents must be noted as some sports covered by the PPS also access indoor facilities for matches/training or use open space areas for informal use. Similarly, there may be forms of open space which feature a playing pitch or sporting facility.

The audit was conducted between December to June 2022. The process took place during and following the Covid-19 pandemic. As a consequence, some sites and facilities were considered to still be in recovery.

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

1.2: Scope of the project

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

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

This evidence-based report provides a quantitative and qualitative audit-based assessment of the facilities identified above. It is a robust, up-to-date assessment of need and identifies opportunities for new, enhanced, and rationalised provision. Specific deficiencies and surpluses are identified to inform the provision required.

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The specific objectives of this audit and assessment are to:

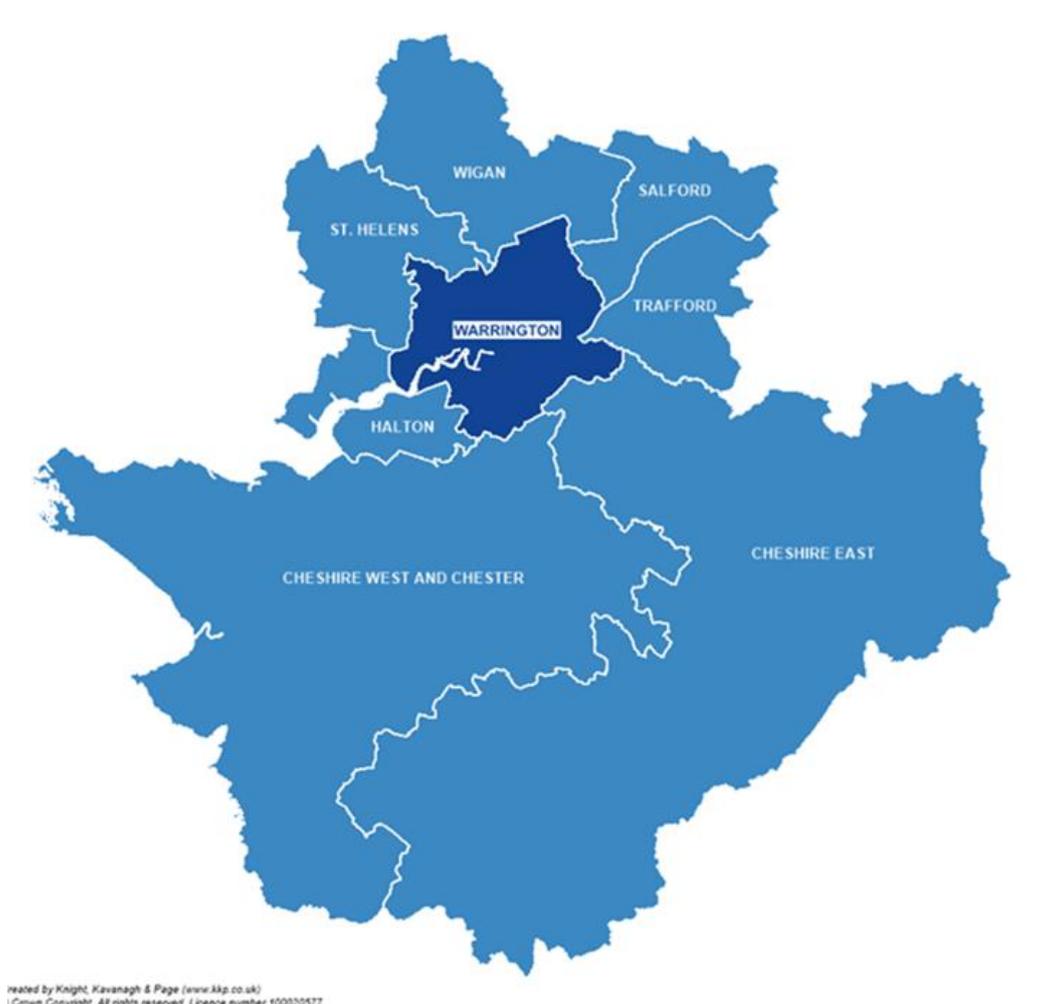
- ◀ Review relevant Council strategies, plans, reports, corporate objectives.
- ◀ Review the local, regional, and national strategic context.
- ◀ Analyse local population demographics at present and in the future (up to 2038).
- ◀ Consider potential participation rates and model likely demand.
- ◀ Audit indoor facilities provided by public, private, voluntary and education sectors.
- ◀ Analyse the balance between supply of, and demand for, sports facilities 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 follows Sport England's Assessment Needs and Opportunities Guidance (ANOG) methodology for assessing indoor sports facilities need. It also accords with relevant paragraphs of the most up-to-date version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).

1.3: Background

Warrington is a large town in Cheshire, England on the banks of the River Mersey. It is 20 miles (32km) east of Liverpool, and 16 miles (26km) west of Manchester. It borders greater Manchester authorities Salford, Trafford and Wigan along with St Helens, Halton, Cheshire West and Chester and Cheshire East.

Figure 1.1: Warrington with neighbouring local authorities

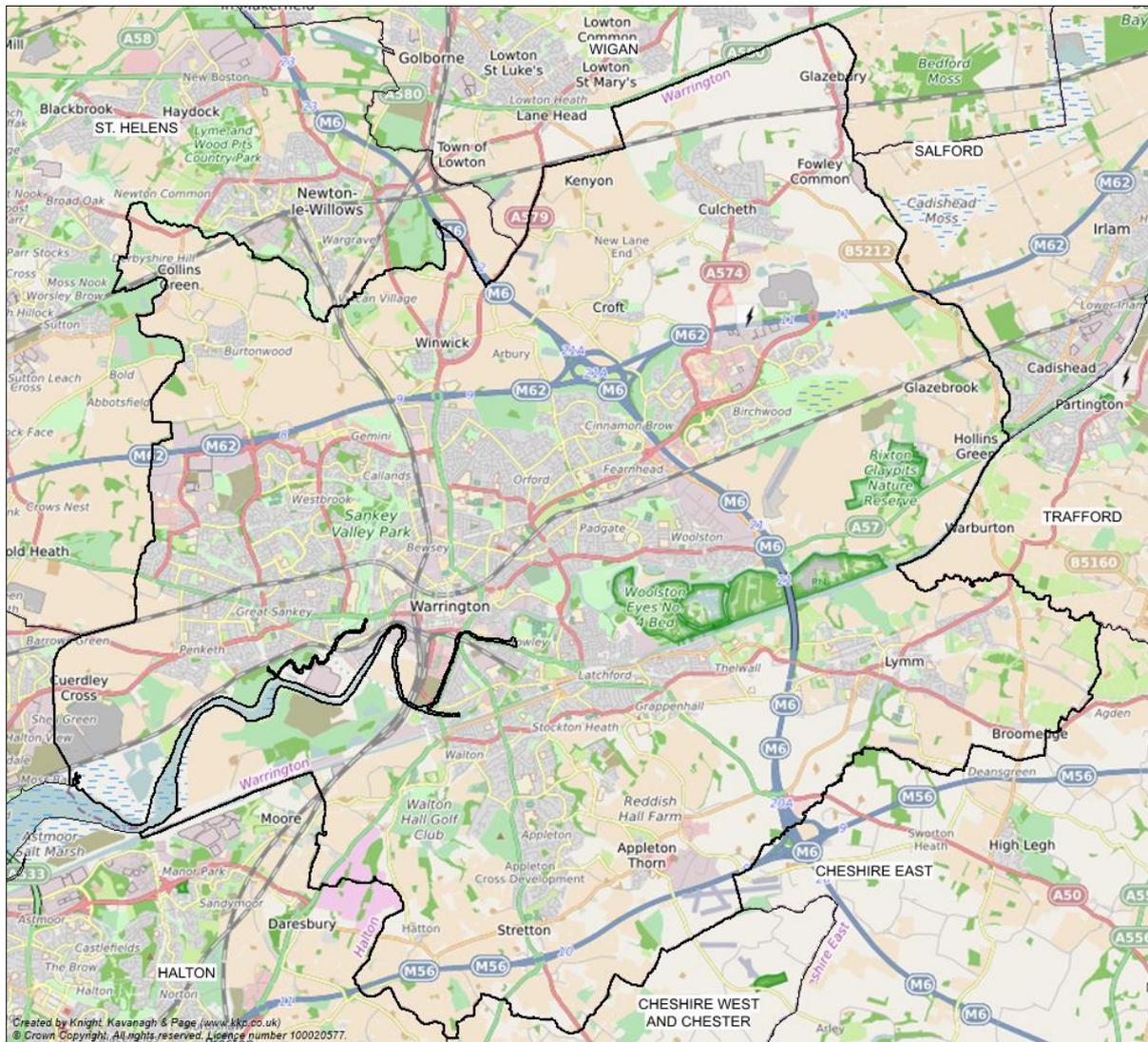


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The West Coast Main Line runs north to south through the town and the Liverpool to Manchester railway (the Cheshire Lines route) west to east. The Manchester Ship Canal cuts through the south of the Borough (west to east).

Key arterial routes within Warrington include the M6 providing access north/south and M56/M62 linking the east and west as illustrated in Figure 1.1.

Figure 1.2: Warrington with main roads



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1.4: Report structure

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

- ◀ Have focus
- ◀ Be genuinely strategic
- ◀ Be spatial
- ◀ Be collaborative
- ◀ Have strong leadership
- ◀ Be accountable to local electorates

KKP has paid due regard to these strategic principles, and the report is, thus, structured as follows:

- ◀ Section 2 - review of background policy documentation (national/regional/local) and a profile of the population and socio-demographic characteristics of the district.
- ◀ Section 3 - description of methodology employed to assess indoor provision.
- ◀ Section 4 - assessment of sports hall provision.
- ◀ Section 5 - assessment of swimming pool provision.
- ◀ Section 6 - assessment of health and fitness provision.
- ◀ Section 7 - assessment of squash.
- ◀ Section 8 - assessment of gymnastics.
- ◀ Section 9 - assessment of indoor bowls.
- ◀ Section 10 - assessment of indoor tennis.
- ◀ Section 11 - assessment of other sports facilities.
- ◀ Section 12 - strategic recommendations

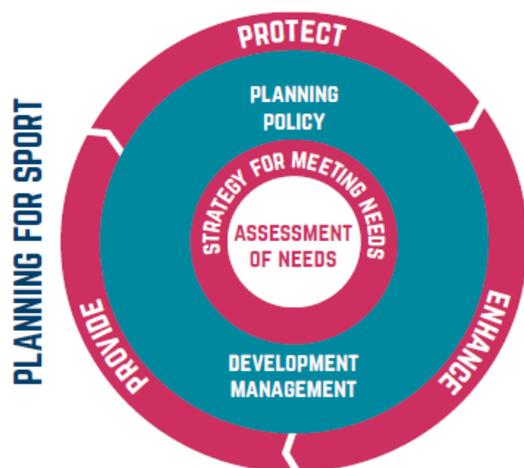
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SECTION 2: BACKGROUND

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 Warrington BC applying the principles and tools identified in the Sport England Guide Assessing Needs and Opportunities for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities (ANOG).

Figure 2.1: The Sport England Planning for Sport Model



It is supported by 12 planning-for-sport principles. They are geared to helping the planning system contribute to sustainable development by fulfilling the key role the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) highlights that it must play - in creating strong, vibrant and healthy communities.

Applying them will ensure 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 opportunities for all to experience the benefits that taking part in sport and physical activity brings.

These apply to all areas of the planning system at all levels, for example strategic, local authority and neighbourhood planning 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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‘Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation’

This Government strategy for sport was released in December 2015. It confirms the recognition and understanding that sport makes a positive difference through broader means, and it will help the sector to deliver fundamental outcomes: physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing, individual development, social and community development and economic development. It has identified the following outputs.

- ◀ Maximising international and domestic sporting success and the impact of major events.
- ◀ More people from every background regularly and meaningfully taking part in sport and physical activity, volunteering, and experiencing live sport.
- ◀ A more productive, sustainable, and responsible sport sector.

It further identifies that actions will need to occur that:

- ◀ Meet the needs of the elite and professional system and deliver successful major sporting events.
- ◀ Meet the needs of customers enabling them to engage in sport and physical activity.
- ◀ Strengthen the sport sector and make it more effective and resilient.

Sport England: Uniting the Movement 2021

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

It seeks to tackle the inequalities that it states are long seen in sport and physical activity noting that ‘providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity, has never been more important’. The three key Strategy objectives are:



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. They are designated as a building blocks that individually would make a difference but tackled collectively could change things profoundly. The issues are:

- ◀ Recover and reinvent: Recovering from the biggest crisis in a generation and reinventing as a vibrant, relevant, and sustainable network of organisations providing sport and physical activity opportunities that meet the needs of different people.
- ◀ Connecting communities: Focusing on sport and physical activity’s ability to make better places to live and bring people together.
- ◀ Positive experiences for children and young people: Unrelenting focus on positive experiences for all children and young people as the foundations for a long and healthy life.

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- ◀ Connecting with health and wellbeing: Strengthening the connections between sport, physical activity, health, and wellbeing, so more people can feel the benefits of, and advocate for, an active life.
- ◀ Active environments: Creating and protecting the places and spaces that make it easier for people to be active.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Its aim was to assess the evidence base with a view to demonstrating the contribution of community sport and physical activity to the outcomes. Building on this foundation and other previous work, Sport England quantified the social and economic impact of community sport and physical activity.

There are two complementary parts to the research. Part One measures the social impact (including physical and mental health) of sport and physical activity while part two measures the economic importance.

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

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

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

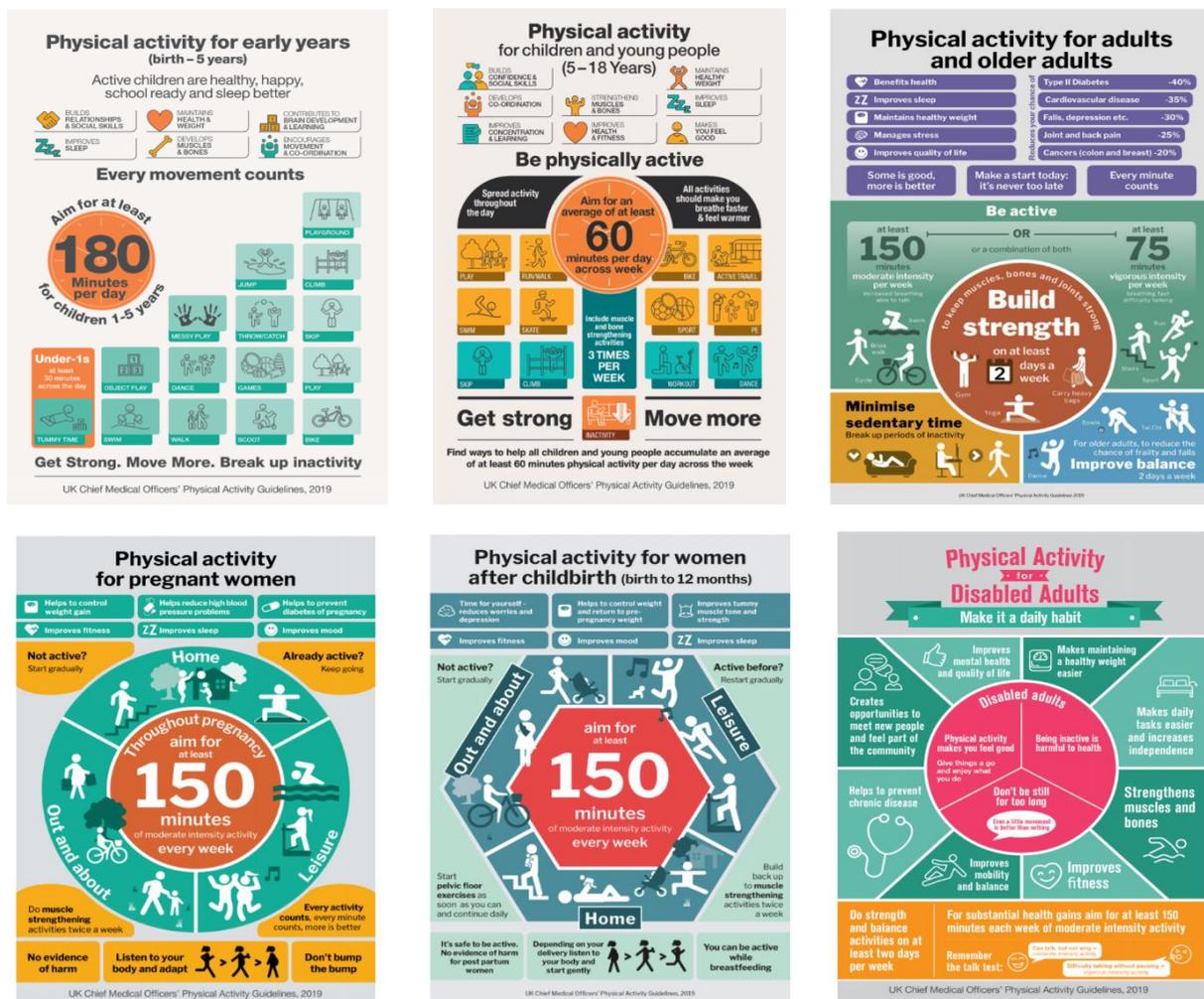
Chief Medical Officer Physical Activity Guidelines 2019

This report updates 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.

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Figure 2.3: Physical activity guidelines



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.
- 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.

The report also recognises an emerging evidence base for the health benefits of performing very vigorous intensity activity performed in short bouts interspersed with periods of rest or recovery (high intensity interval exercise, HIIT).

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The available evidence demonstrates that high intensity interval exercise has clinically meaningful effects on fitness, body weight and insulin resistance. This option has therefore been incorporated into the recommendation for adults.

It, thus, emphasises the importance of regular activity for people of all ages. It presents additional guidance on being active during pregnancy, after giving birth, and for disabled adults. The new guidelines are consistent with previous ones, introducing some new elements and allowing flexibility in achieving recommended physical activity levels for each age group.

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).

The action plan has three overarching ambitions - that:

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

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

In 2021 the Department for Education announced a £10.1 million funding package to help more schools open their facilities to the public once the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic is over. The funding, 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.

National Planning Policy Framework (updated 2021)

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out planning policies for England. It details how these changes are expected to be applied to the planning system. It also provides a framework for local people and their councils to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

The NPPF states the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It identifies that the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

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The 'promoting healthy communities' theme identifies that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficiencies or surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite the NPPF states existing open space, sports and recreation buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

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

In order for planning policies to be 'sound' local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities.

Summary of national context

As the nation emerges from the global pandemic, there is a need to reconnect communities, reduce inequalities and create stronger societies. The aim is to create a catalyst for change, with sport and physical activity being one of the key drivers. There is a need to ensure that people in all age groups either get or remain active. Ensuring an adequate supply of suitable facilities to support this aim is also a requirement of the planning system in line with national policy recommendations.

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 Warrington Borough Council applying the principles and tools identified in the Sport England Guide Assessing Needs and Opportunities for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities (ANOG).

2.2: Local context

Warrington Local Plan

The new Local Plan will set out the legal planning framework for Warrington's development for the period 2017 to 2037. This covers housing, business space, transport infrastructure and community facilities like schools and GPs. The new Local Plan will replace the existing adopted Local Plan Core Strategy (2014).

In 2017, the Council undertook a consultation around its Preferred Development Option (PDO) which looked at Warrington's development needs for the future. This fed into the preparation of the Draft Local Plan.

The Local Plan sets out a vision and objectives for the Borough's future and will be used to guide decisions on planning applications and identify areas where investment and growth should be prioritised and areas that need to be protected from development. The Local Plan aims to deliver 18,900 new homes (or 945 a year, up to 2037) and will also support Warrington's ongoing economic growth by providing 362 hectares of employment land.

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It sets out and prioritises using urban capacity to create varied, vibrant neighbourhoods that are shared places to live, work and enjoy. Government guidelines determine the need to build at least 18,900 homes over the course of the plan, which exceeds the urban land available. Therefore, there is a need to consider other areas of land to develop on, including Green Belt, in order to meet development obligations.

The projected housing figures aim to match Warrington's expected growth and ensure the sufficient homes are provided to support the number of jobs that will be created from Warrington's future economic growth. While areas of Green Belt proposed for development will need to be released to meet Government figures the priority is to protect as much Green Belt as possible.

WBC thus needs to keep its IBF up to date in order to comply with the guidance from Sport England and take account of the higher level of growth now envisaged. The IBF will continue to provide a robust evidence base to inform statutory land use planning decisions and funding bids, which enable it to:

- ◀ Provide updated information on Warrington's existing and future needs for indoor and built sports facilities and its current ability to meet those needs in terms of quality, quantity and location.
- ◀ Provide evidence to inform wider Green Infrastructure Planning across the Borough.
- ◀ Provide background evidence to support Local Plan policies to meet the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework.
- ◀ Review information to enable the Council to justify collecting developer contributions and inform it about the distribution of developer contributions to sports and open space in line with Section 106 regulations.

Warrington Borough Council Corporate Strategy 2020-2024

This states that the Council will work in partnership with local politicians to provide support for communities, businesses and partners to ensure that Warrington continues to thrive. The strategy commits the Council to four pledges and priorities to its residents that will be used as a basis for making future decisions:

1. Residents living healthy, happy and independent lives.
2. Benefitting from a thriving economy.
3. Safe and strong communities and ensuring the most vulnerable are protected.
4. Creating a clean, green and vibrant town.

To meet these pledges, the Council has six stated values for the Strategy – that it will be:

- ◀ **Open, honest and accountable** – listen to and learn from our communities, do what we said we would.
- ◀ **Treating people fairly & equally** – respect our customers and each other, challenge discrimination and inequality.
- ◀ **Spending money wisely** – be financially sustainable, looking for different and better ways of delivering key services.
- ◀ **Working in partnership** – build relationships and work collaboratively with others to maximise our strengths and resources.
- ◀ **Forward thinking** – open to change, new challenges and innovative ways of doing things.
- ◀ **Working with and engaging communities** – encourage and empower people to build their own strengths and abilities, encouraging residents to take pride in their area.

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Well Warrington: Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Warrington 2019 – 2023

The Warrington Health and Wellbeing Strategy identifies the priority areas where resources and services should be targeted to promote, maintain and increase the overall health and wellbeing of people, communities and the borough as a whole during the next three years and into the future.

It sets out a vision for the Borough and identifies challenges, opportunities and priorities to be addressed by partners and outlines the outcomes for the strategy. The vision for the Health and Wellbeing Strategy is that *'Warrington is a place where we work together to create a borough with stronger neighbourhoods, healthier people and greater equality across all our communities.'*

It identifies core ambitions that will help clearly focus how partners will work together to shape an approach to transforming health and wellbeing in the Borough. They are that:

- ◀ People will live in healthy, safe and sustainable communities.
- ◀ People will have the skills and resources needed to improve their life chances.
- ◀ People will value being and feeling well and will live active, independent and fulfilled lives.
- ◀ People's quality of life will be improved by the ability to access appropriate, quality care when and where they need it.

Active Cheshire – Connected

This strategy sets out a new direction for Active Cheshire, where it will play a system leader role and focus heavily on partnership working to drive systemic change, with sport and physical activity as one solution to tackling inequalities. The vision of the strategy is **more people to be more active, more often, living longer, happier, and healthier lives**. Impact will be measured based on:

- ◀ More Healthy, More Active people
- ◀ Greater Health Equity
- ◀ Increased participation in Physical Activity, Sport and Movement
- ◀ High-Quality Partnerships with key stakeholders
- ◀ A coordinated, functioning physical activity system

Synergy will be seen between Active Cheshire Connect and Sport England's Uniting the Movement. This is intentional, with a shared purpose around tackling inequalities, removing barriers to physical activity, and embedding sustainability, to allow our communities to thrive through improved health and wellbeing and equal opportunities.

The strategy demonstrates Active Cheshire's commitment to being driven by data and insight. Data and insight will sit at the heart of everything it does, driving direction, resource deployment and investment based on where there is most need within local communities. It will look to create shared ownership of this across the local sport and physical activity system and embed a learning culture through its **'Listen, Learn, Create, Innovate, Share, Reflect'** cycle.

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Warrington Disability Partnership (WDP)

WDP is an internationally acclaimed user led charity. With 26+ years' experience of developing and delivering mobility and independent living services, its aim is to support disabled people and people living with long term health conditions.

It actively promotes independent living by providing information on peer counselling, housing, equipment, personal assistance, transport, access, employment, education, training and is often approached in relation to supporting and signposting disability sports activity across Warrington. One of its main aims in this respect, is encouraging all sports clubs to be accessible and encouraging inclusivity. WDP works closely, for example, with Warrington Wolves RLFC and helped with development of its disability teams.

WDP reports that demand for disability sports in Warrington is high and there are some good examples in place in sports such as swimming, martial arts, tennis and now rugby league. However, barriers to participation are often higher and more acute. It is often not the playing facilities themselves which cause the biggest barriers but wider issues such as availability of transport, which can often be linked to timing of sessions, for example.

Accessibility in relation to ancillary facilities is also a common issue, including changing rooms, size of doors and car parking. The other key element relates to the availability of volunteers to support sports clubs to offer disability sports.

It has standard that all new sports facilities have DDA compliance, however, this should also extend to the upgrading of sports facilities and in this context, for playing pitch facilities this should include changing rooms. One way to help ensure that new and refurbished facilities are accessible is to involve WDP in the early planning stages of projects.

Live Wire

This is the Community Interest Company (CIC) based in Warrington that delivers a range of services to help improve the physical and mental wellbeing of local people. It operates three neighbourhood hubs, three leisure centres, and nine standalone libraries on behalf of WBC. Being a CIC means that revenue generated is continually re-invested back into services and the community.



Its aim is to promote a healthy lifestyle, an increased participation in activities whilst encouraging reading and learning with free access to books, IT suites, eBooks and the internet.

The leisure offer incorporates access to state of the art gym facilities, fitness classes, swimming and sports development (swimming lessons, sports coaching, PE & Sports Programme and outreach services).

The lifestyles offer includes smoking cessation, weight management, and 'get back into exercise' programmes.

As with all companies operating facilities, the Covid-19 Pandemic had, and continues to have, a significant impact on LiveWire. More recently, the increase in the cost of living, the hike in energy prices and a worldwide shortage of chlorine have also increased financial pressures on leisure services.

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LiveWire is doing its best to recover quickly and information presented to KKP (commercially sensitive) suggests that it is in line with national recovery to pre-pandemic levels or performing better. As is the case elsewhere, its older leisure centres tend to be recovering more slowly.

What makes the study area different?

Warrington is adjacent to Halton, Cheshire West & Chester, and Cheshire East boroughs in Cheshire, the metropolitan boroughs of Trafford, Salford and Wigan in Greater Manchester and St. Helens in Merseyside.

The age structure of the population affects a range of service needs. Some wards have a much older population than the Warrington average whereas in some it is much younger. Overall, in respect of under 15s, people aged 16-64, 65 and over it is broadly comparable to national figures. Looking at specific younger age groups, approximately 6% of its population is aged 0-4 and 23% 0-19. The proportion of those aged 80 and older in Warrington is approximately 5%.

Warrington is the 148th most deprived of 317 local authorities in England. It is less deprived than Halton (23rd) but more deprived than Cheshire West & Chester (161st) and Cheshire East (216th).

With a BAME proportion of 7.1%, the Authority is more ethnically diverse than its neighbouring authorities in Cheshire and the Liverpool City Region. The 92.9% of the population identifying themselves as white is high compared to 79.8% nationally and 87.1% in the North West.

WBC operates through a neighbourhood agenda with a commitment to build stronger, safer communities, strengthen public life and increase health and wellbeing across the Borough. This is reflected in its vision to “inspire and support residents to be the healthiest, most active and happiest in the North West”

Summary of local context

There is a real focus on improving quality of life for residents in WBC with reference made to increasing levels of participation in sport and physical activity and reducing health inequalities. The core messages running through local strategies are:

- ◀ Reducing social and economic inequalities, particularly focusing on the neighbourhoods of Bewsey, Grappenhall and Orford.
- ◀ Reducing levels of inactivity.
- ◀ Promoting and encouraging healthy and active lifestyles by providing a range of activities and services, in partnership with a range of organisations - for all age groups.
- ◀ Improving access to facilities within all communities, ensuring there are increased activities available to people of all ages.
- ◀ Ensuring that services and facilities are developed in parallel with future housing growth.

2.3: Demographic profile

The following is an overview of Warrington based on data taken from nationally recognised sources. It reflects the most up to date information presently available although it should be noted that new data is published regularly, often at different intervals. The information is used to help determine how best sport and leisure facilities and opportunities and interventions can support the local population.

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Population and distribution (Data source: 2020 Mid- Year Estimate, ONS):

The total population of Warrington was 209,397 of which 103,843 are males and 105,554 are females.

Figure 2.4 illustrates the population density map is based on lower super output areas (LSOA) from ONS' most recent Census of population. It covers all parts of the country irrespective of whether the SOA is in an area of high density housing and flats or it covers farms and rural villages.

The shading allows concentrations of population to be easily identified. Major urban areas which tend to contain flats, terraced houses and estates tend to show in areas with the darkest shading while rural areas, housing adjoining parks and other non-residential land uses tend to be the lightest shades.

Figure 2.4 Population density 2020 MYE, ONS

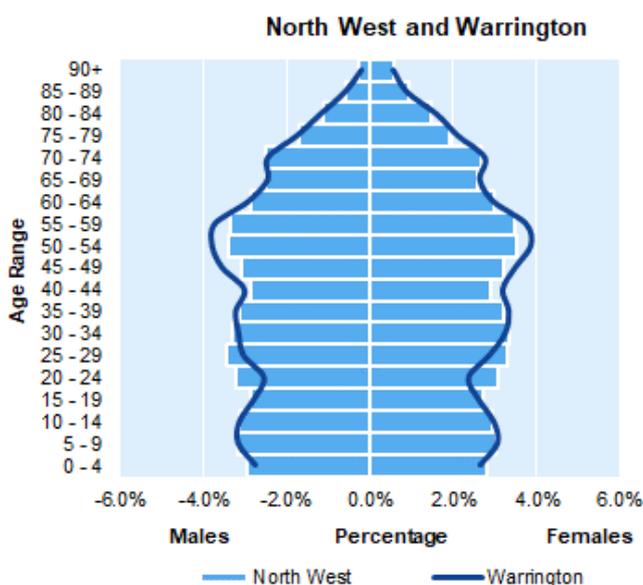
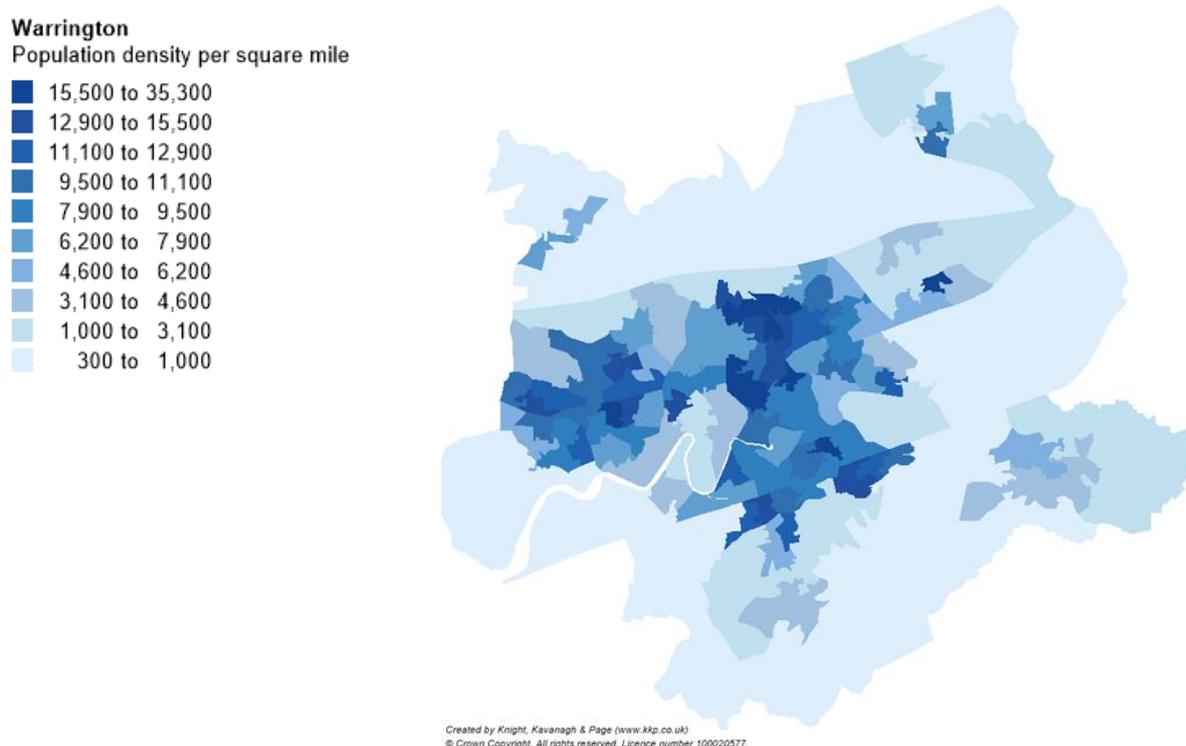


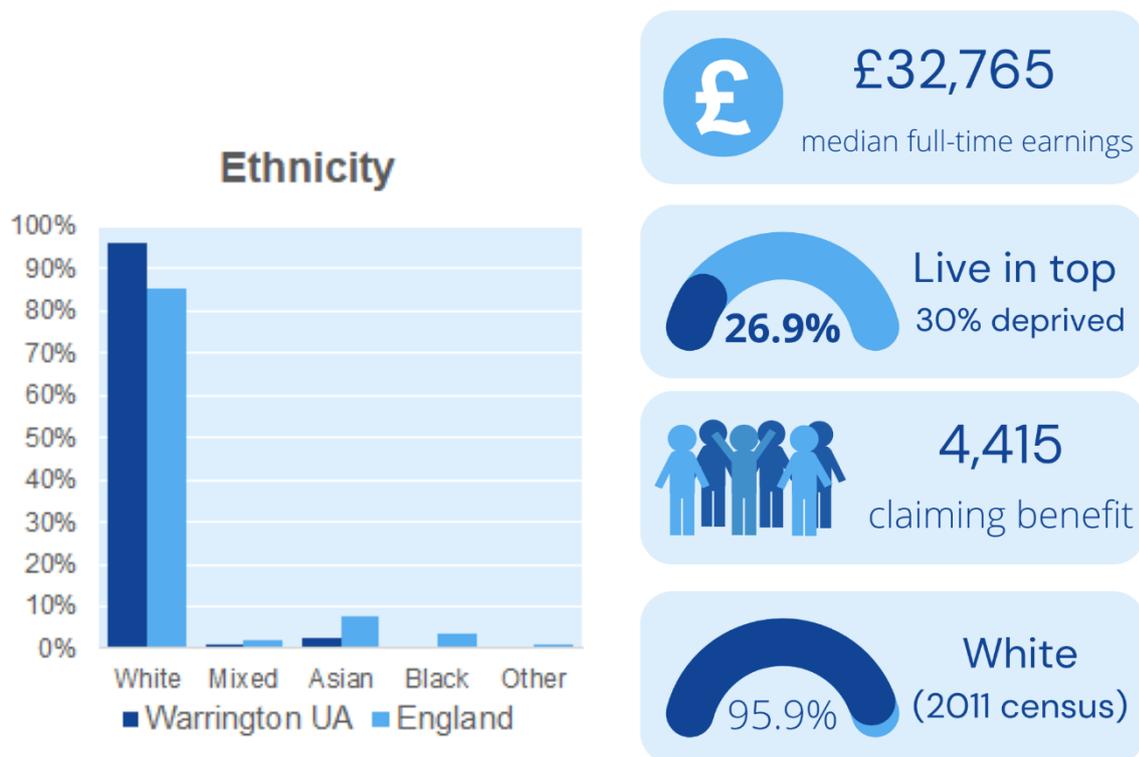
Figure 2.5 Comparative age/sex pyramid for Warrington and North West

Figure 2.5 illustrates Warrington's population age and gender composition while, overlaying the dark blue line for Warrington on top of the bars for the region it is easy to see where one dataset is higher or lower than the other. There is a lower proportion of 20-29 year olds (Warrington =

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10.8%, Warrington = 13%). There are, however, more in the age groups from 40-59 (Warrington = 28.3%, North West = 25.8%). As a combination of factors, it suggests careful consideration should be given to the pitching of sports and physical activity offers within the area – Sport England’s segmentation model may be interpreted in relation to this age structure (see later).

Figure 2.6 Warrington’s ethnic composition, income and dependency, and deprivation illustrations.



Crime (Data source: 2020 Recorded Crime, ONS)

Crime data is only available for Police Force Areas. Warrington is in the Cheshire Police Force Area, which comprises four local authorities (Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester, Halton, Warrington). Warrington’s population accounts for 19.6% of the Cheshire Police Force Area.

During the 12 months to September 2021 recorded crimes per 1,000 persons in Cheshire was 81.6; this is similar to the equivalent rate for England and Wales as a whole which was 82.4.

The number of recorded crimes in Cheshire has fallen significantly (by 5.%) since September 2020. The number for England and Wales fell by 1.3% over the same period.

Table 2.1: Comparative crime rates - Cheshire and England & Wales

Authority	Recorded crime (Oct '20 – Sep '21)	Population 2020 MYE	Recorded crime per 1,000 population
Cheshire	87,299	1,069,646	81.6

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England & Wales	4,921,959	59,719,724	82.4
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As an alternative to the crime figures for Police Force Areas the Index of Deprivation measures the risk of personal and material crime at a more local level. In Warrington, 28.6% of the population are in the top three cohorts most at risk compared to 30.0% nationally.

Figure 2.7: Index of crime deprivation

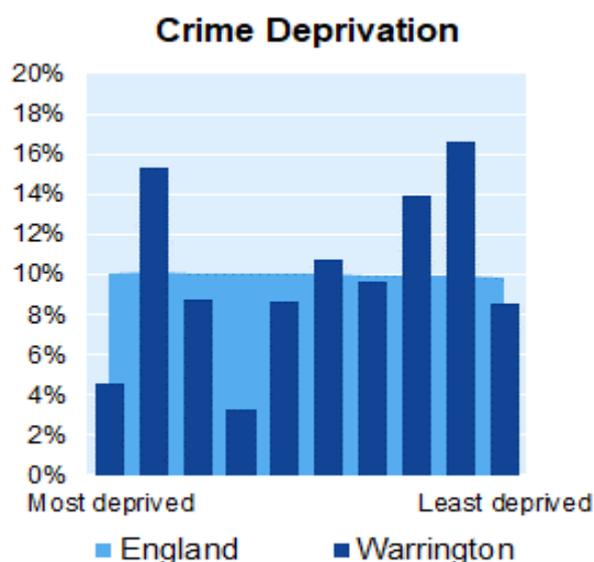
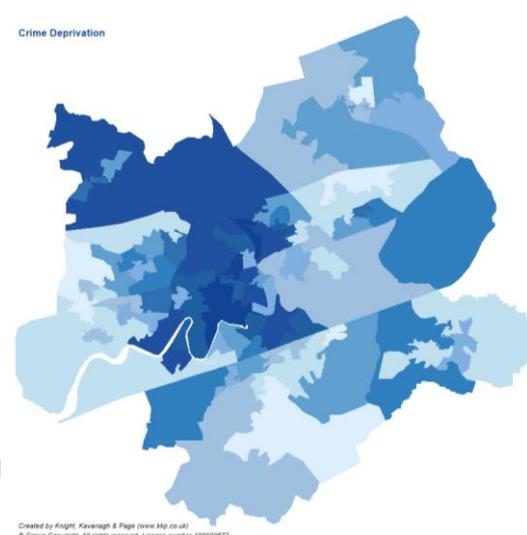


Figure 2.8: Crime domain comparisons



Income and dependency: (Data source: NOMIS (2022): The median figure for full-time earnings (2021) in Warrington is £32,765; the comparative rate for the North West is £30,056 (-8.3%) and for Great Britain is £31,881 (-2.7%). In March 2022 there were 4,415 people in Warrington claiming out of work benefits¹; this represents an increase of 34.4% when compared to March 2020 (3,285).

Deprivation: (Data source: 2019 indices of deprivation, MHCLG): Relative to other parts of the country Warrington experiences lower levels of deprivation; over one quarter of the Borough’s population (26.9%) falls within the areas covered by the country’s three most deprived cohorts compared to a national average of c.30%. Conversely, 46.3% live in the three least deprived groupings in the country, this compares to a ‘norm’ of c.30%.

Table 2.2 Index of multiple deprivation (IMD) and health deprivation in Warrington

IMD cumulative norm	Multiple deprivation			Health deprivation			
	Population in band	Percent of population		Population in band	Percent of population		
Most deprived	10.0	16,619	8.0%	8.0%	25,698	12.4%	12.4%
	20.0	21,626	10.5%	18.5%	32,787	15.9%	28.3%
	30.0	17,284	8.4%	26.9%	28,551	13.8%	42.2%
	40.0	19,728	9.6%	36.5%	18,868	9.1%	51.3%
	50.0	7,320	3.5%	40.0%	24,230	11.7%	63.0%

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

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IMD cumulative norm		Multiple deprivation			Health deprivation		
		Population in band	Percent of population		Population in band	Percent of population	
Least deprived	60.0	9,907	4.8%	44.8%	22,029	10.7%	73.7%
	70.0	18,336	8.9%	53.7%	17,246	8.4%	82.1%
	80.0	30,645	14.8%	68.5%	23,201	11.2%	93.3%
	90.0	33,685	16.3%	84.8%	11,326	5.5%	98.8%
	100.0	31,316	15.2%	100.0%	2,530	1.2%	100.0%

As illustrated, a different pattern, to that seen for multiple deprivation, is seen in relation to health. Around 4 in 10 of Warrington’s population (42.2%) falls within the areas covered by the three most deprived cohorts, this compares to a national average of c.30%. Conversely, 17.9% live in the three least deprived groupings compared to a ‘norm’ of c.30%.

Figure 2.9: IMD and health domain comparisons – Warrington.

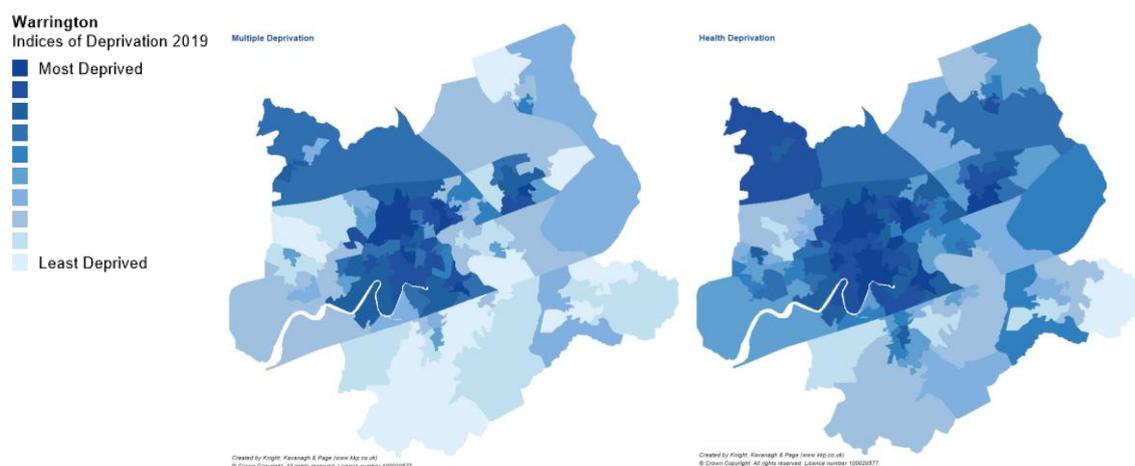
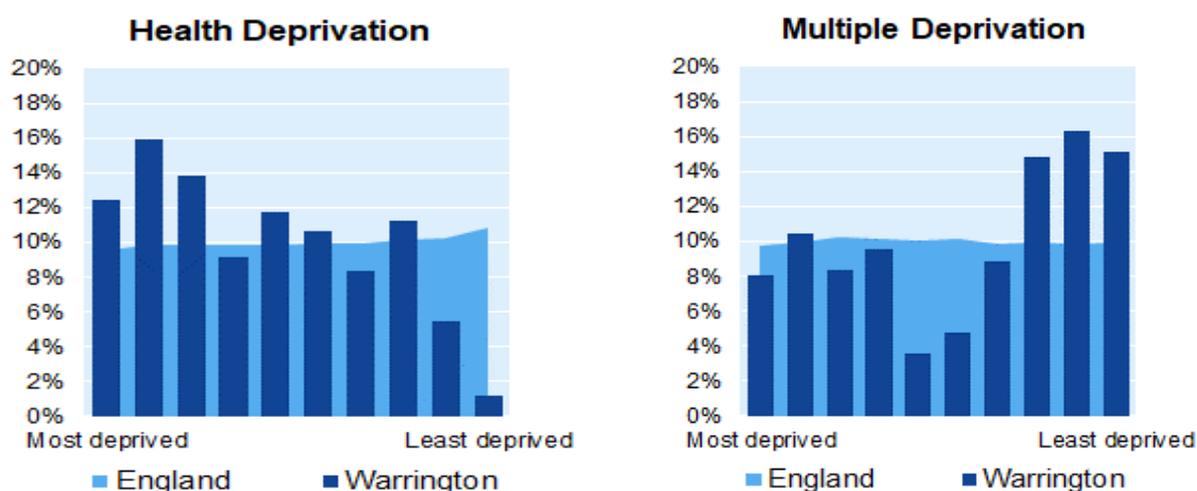


Figure 2.10 IMD and health domain comparisons- Warrington and England



Health data (Data sources: ONS): In keeping with patterns seen alongside higher levels of health deprivation, life expectancy in Warrington is lower than the national figure; the male

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rate is currently 79.2 compared to 79.6 for England, and the female equivalent is 82.7 compared to 83.2 nationally.²

Weight and obesity: (Data sources: NCMP³ and NOO⁴): Obesity is widely recognised to be associated with health problems such as type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer. At a national level, the resulting NHS costs attributable to overweight and obesity⁵ 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 Warrington are below national but above regional rates. However, child rates are below both national and regional rates, as identified in figures 2.11 and 2.12.

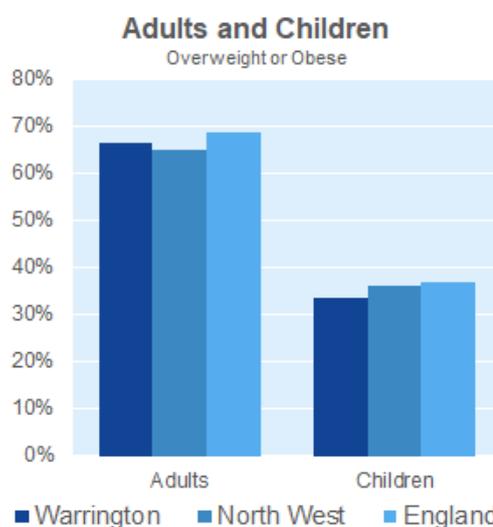
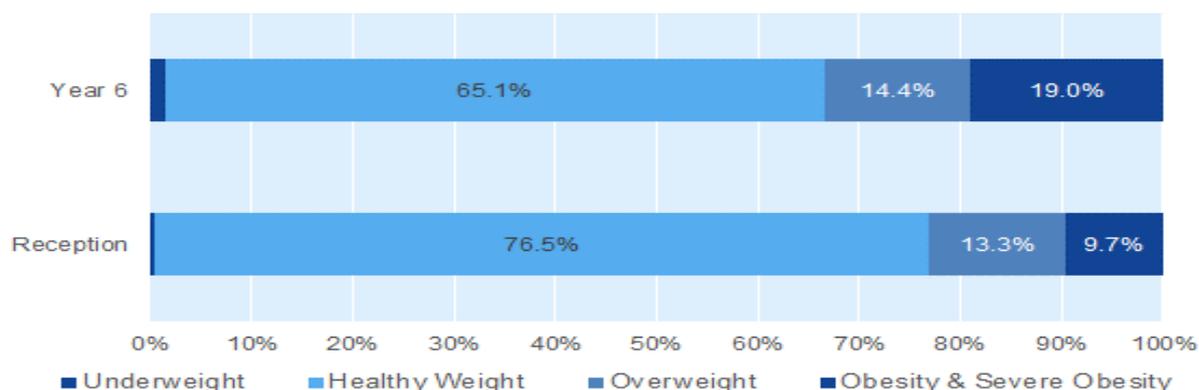


Figure 2.11 Adult and child obesity rates

Figure 2.12 Child Weight- reception to Year 6



As with many other areas, obesity rates increase significantly between the ages of 4 and 11 years. One in 10 (9.7%) in Warrington are obese in their Reception Year at school and 13.3% are overweight. By Year 6 these figures have risen to 1 in 5 (19.0%) being obese and 14.4% being overweight. In total by Year 6 a third (33.4%) are either overweight or obese.

Health costs of physical inactivity

The British Heart Foundation (BHF) Promotion Research Group has reviewed the costs of avoidable ill health that it considers are attributable to physical inactivity. Initially produced for the DoH report Be Active Be Healthy (2009) the data has subsequently been reworked for Sport England, and updated in 2014/15 by Public Health England. Illnesses that the BHF

² Office of National Statistics: Life Expectancy at Birth by local areas in the United Kingdom, 2013.

³ National Child Measurement Program

⁴ National Obesity Observatory

⁵ Adult Weight Data is for the period 2016-2017. The child data is for the period 2017-2018

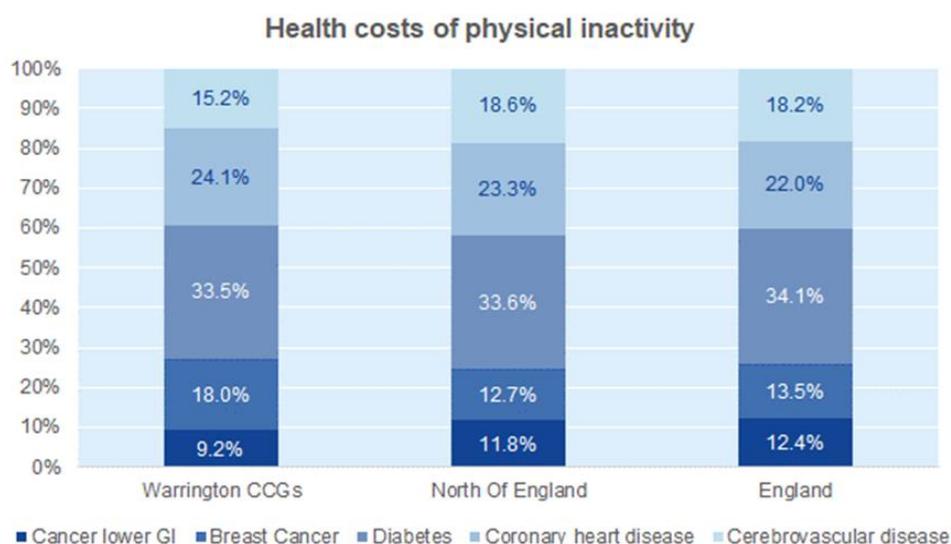
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research relates to include cancers such as bowel cancer, breast cancer, type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease and cerebrovascular disease e.g., stroke. The data indicates a similar breakdown between these illnesses regionally and nationally.

The whole Warrington population falls within the boundaries of the NHS Warrington Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

The total annual cost to the NHS of physical inactivity for the Warrington CCG is estimated at £1,731,368. When compared to regional and national costs per 100,000, the total costs for the CCG (£820,507) are 1.8% above the national average (£806,244) and 7.1% below the regional average (£883,672).

Figure 2.13 Health costs of physical inactivity



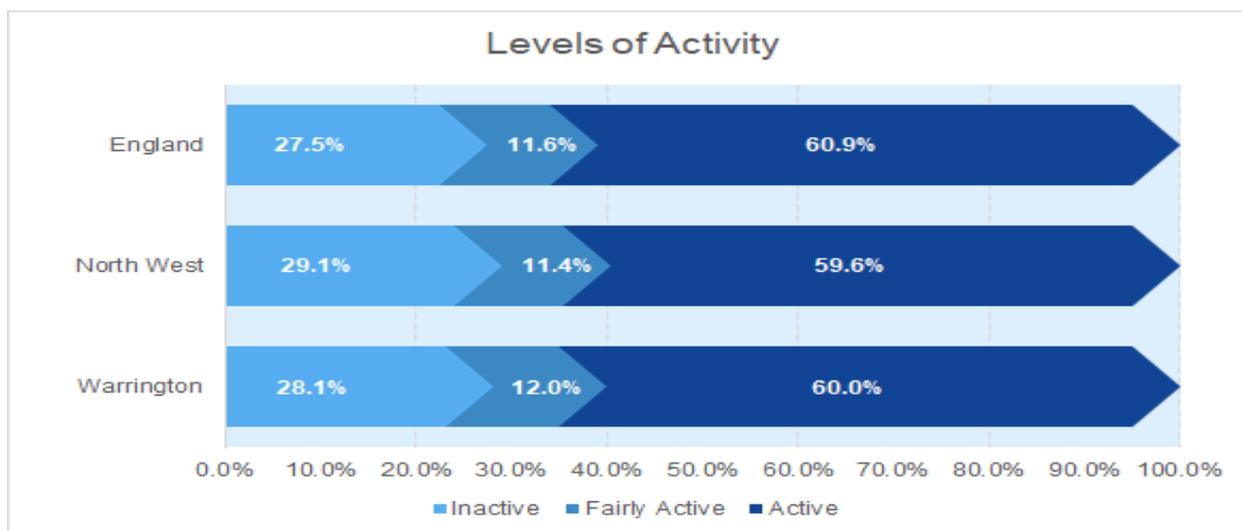
It should also be noted that in addition to the NHS costs there are also significant costs to industry in terms of days of productivity lost due to back pain etc. These have also been costed in CBI reports and are of similar magnitude to NHS costs.

Sport England: Active Lives Survey (ALS) 2020/2021

This is based on 16+ year olds taking part in walking, cycling, fitness, dance, and other sporting activity. The percentage of the population considered to be inactive in Warrington is 28.1%. This is below the regional (29.1%) but above the national (27.5%) averages. Warrington has slightly more active people (60%) than the regional average (59.6%) but slightly below the national average (60.9%) as identified in Figure 2.14.

Figure 2.14: Levels of Activity

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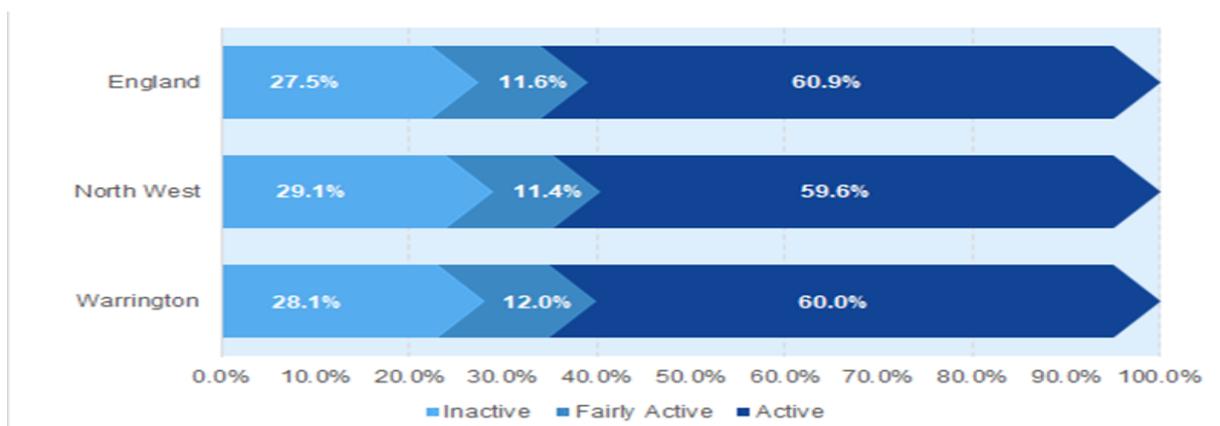
The most popular sports

A further aspect of the Active Lives Survey is that it makes it possible to identify the top five sports within Warrington. 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 Warrington over one third of adults take part in fitness activities, on average, at least twice a month. The next most popular activity is cycling which 21.4% of adults do on a relatively regular basis.

Table 2.3: Most popular sports in Warrington (Source: SE Active Lives Survey Nov 19/20)

Sport	Warrington		North West		England	
	No. (000s)	Rate	No. (000s)	Rate	No. (000s)	Rate
Fitness	58,900	34.6%	1,531,300	25.8%	12,720,400	28.0%
Cycling	36,400	21.4%	969,400	16.3%	8,289,500	18.2%
Athletics	29,500	17.3%	831,900	14.0%	7,097,500	15.6%
Swimming	9,200	5.4%	287,200	4.8%	2,355,300	5.2%
Football	3,600	2.1%	197,600	3.3%	1,385,700	3.0%

Figure 2.15: Levels of activity



(Rate/population totals for sport & physical activity levels (excluding gardening) of adults (16+) in English LAs.

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The most popular sports and physical activities

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Sporting segmentation (Data source: Market segmentation, Sport England)

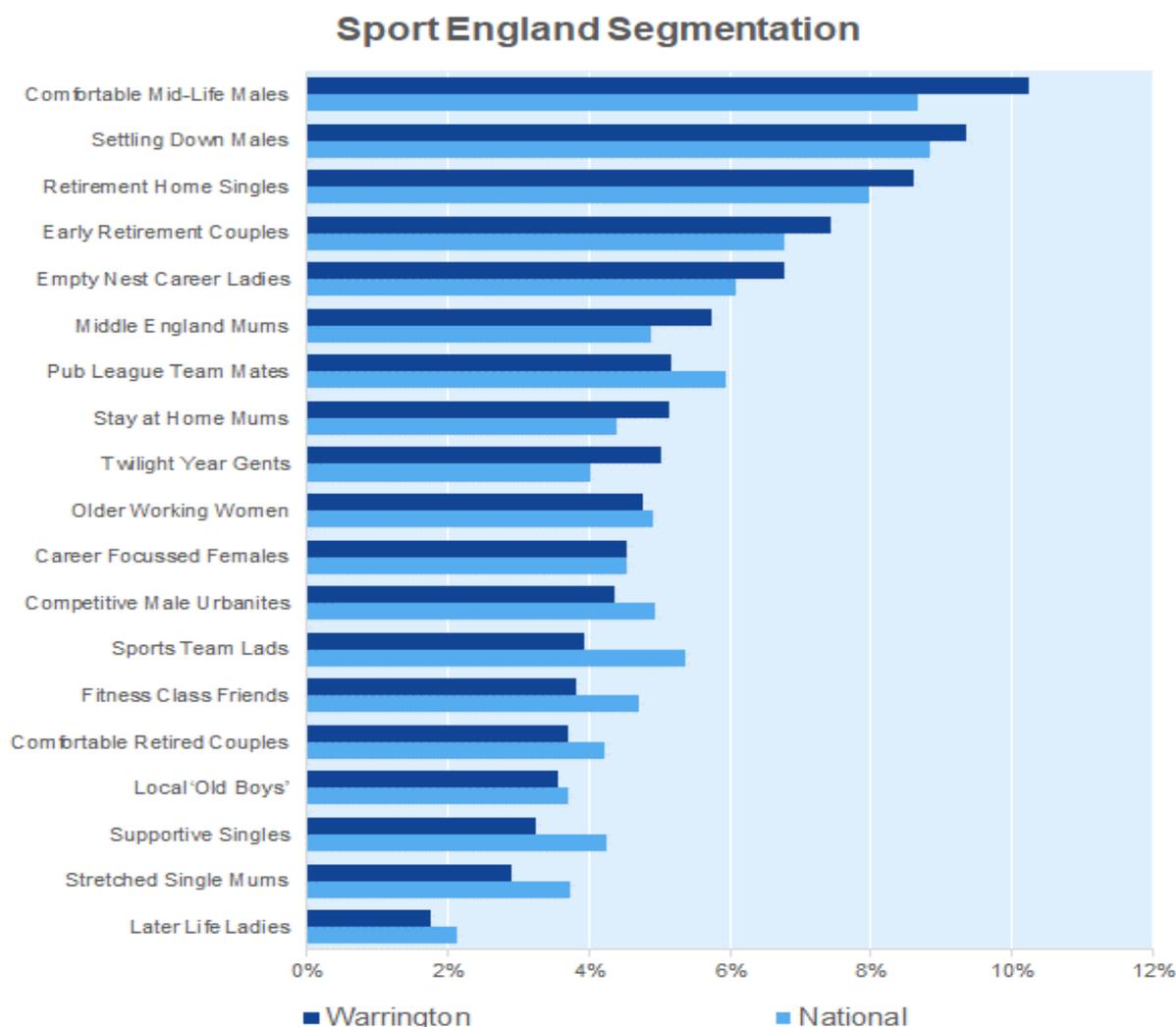
Sport England classifies the adult population via a series of 19 market segments which provide an insight into the sporting behaviours of individuals throughout the country. The profiles cover a wide range of characteristics, from gender and age to the sports that people take part in, other interests,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

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

The segmentation profile for Warrington indicates 'Comfortable Mid-Life Males' to be the largest segment of the adult population at 10.23% (15,568) compared to a national average of 8.65%. This is closely followed by 'Settling Down Males' (9.36%) and 'Retirement Home Singles' (8.59%). At the other end of the spectrum, there are fewest 'Later Life Ladies with only 1.75%, 'Stretched Single Mums' (2.89%) and 'Supportive Singles' (3.24%).

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Figure 2.16 SE Segmentation- Warrington compared to England



Mosaic (Data source: 2021 Mosaic analysis, Experian)

Mosaic 2021 is a similar consumer segmentation product and classifies all 28.5 million households into 15 groups, 66 household types and 238 segments. This data can be used to paint a picture of UK consumers in terms of their social-demographics, lifestyles, culture and behaviour and tends to be used to draw out population characteristics for the backdrop to library usage and other non-sporting activities. The following table shows the top five mosaic classifications in Warrington compared to the country as a whole. The dominance of these five segments can be seen inasmuch as they represent two thirds (66.0%) of the population compared to a national equivalent rate of just over 4 in 10 (41.6%).

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Table 2.5: Mosaic- main population segments in Warrington

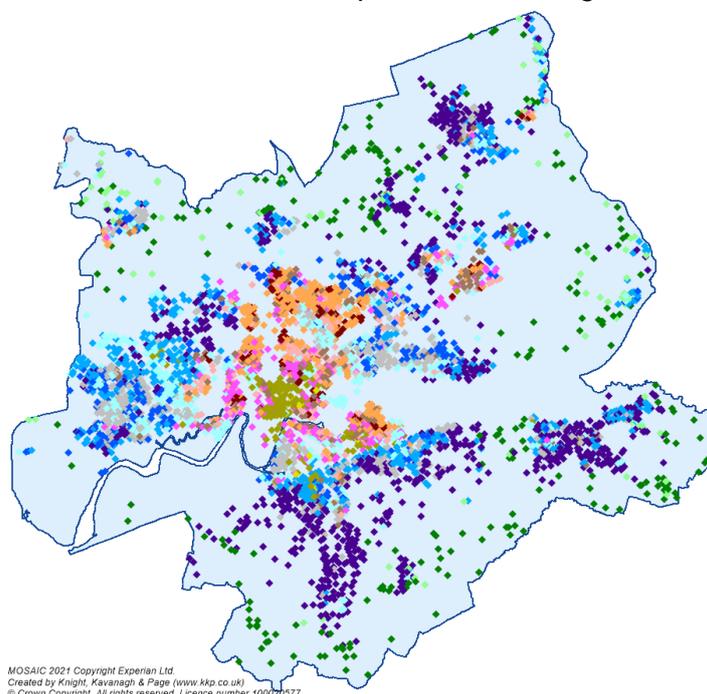
Mosaic group description	Warrington		National %
	#	%	
1 - Prestige Positions	33,545	15.6%	7.1%
2 - Domestic Success	30,680	14.3%	9.0%
3 - Aspiring Homemakers	28,753	13.4%	10.4%
4 - Family Basics	25,057	11.7%	8.2%
5 - Senior Security	23,752	11.1%	6.9%

The largest segment profiled for Warrington is the Prestige Positions group,. It accounts for 15.6% of the adult population in the area; twice the national rate (7.1%). It is defined as affluent married couples whose successful careers have afforded them financial security and a spacious home in a prestigious and established residential area. While some are mature empty-nesters or elderly retired couples, others still support their teenage or older children.

Figure 2.17: Distribution of Mosaic segments in Warrington

- Warrington**
Mosaic groups 2021
- ◆ Prestige Positions
 - ◆ Country Living
 - ◆ Rural Reality
 - ◆ Senior Security
 - ◆ Suburban Stability
 - ◆ Domestic Success
 - ◆ Aspiring Homemakers
 - ◆ Family Basics
 - ◆ Transient Renters
 - ◆ Municipal Tenants
 - ◆ Vintage Value
 - ◆ Modest Traditions
 - ◆ Urban Cohesion
 - ◆ Rental Hubs

Table 2.6: Dominant Mosaic profiles in Warrington

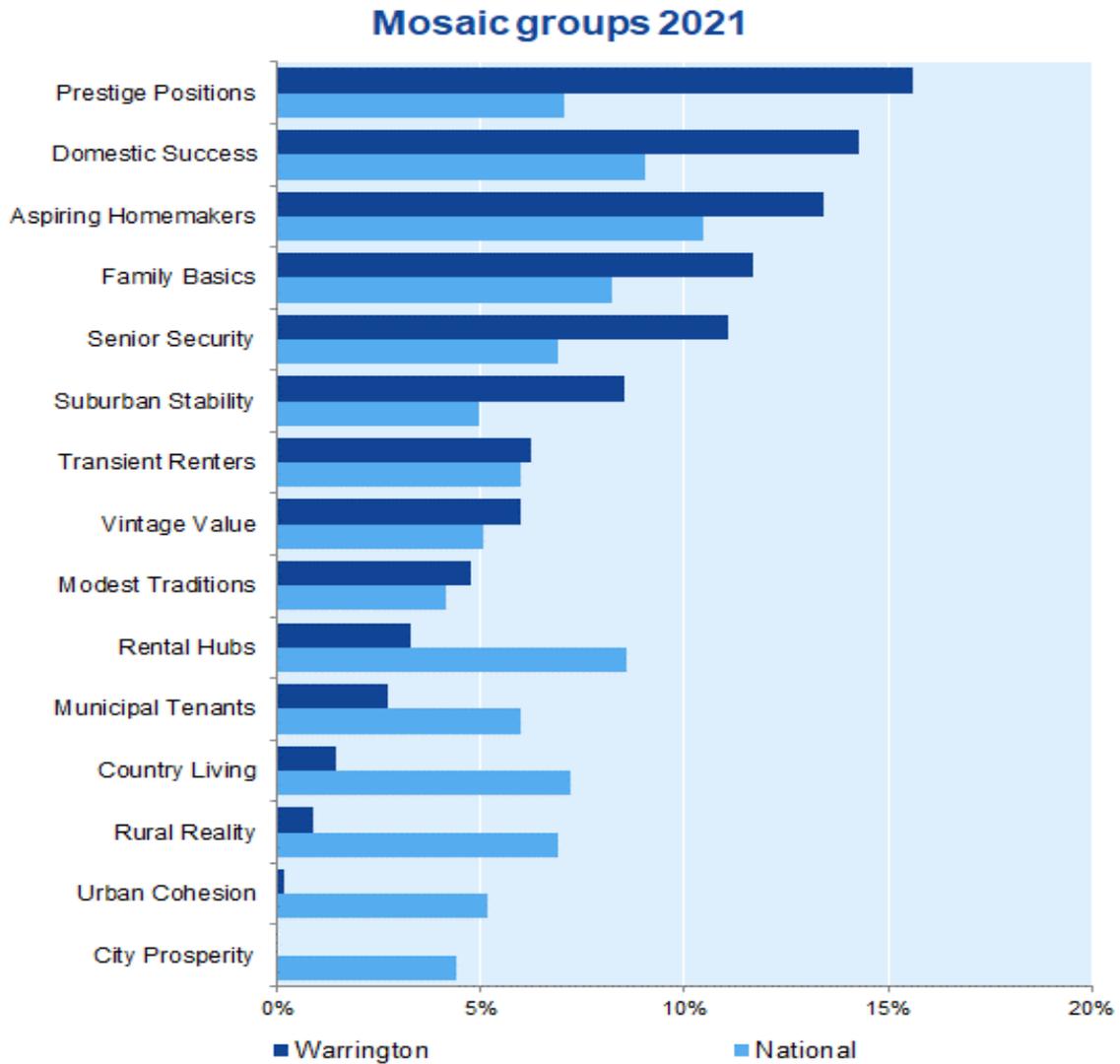


Prestige Positions		Affluent married couples whose successful careers have afforded them financial security and a spacious home in a prestigious and established residential area. While some are mature empty-nesters or elderly retired couples, others are still supporting their teenage or older children.
Domestic Success		High-earning families who live affluent lifestyles in upmarket homes situated in sought after residential neighbourhoods. Their busy lives revolve around their children and successful careers in higher managerial and professional roles.

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<p>Aspiring Homemakers</p>		<p>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.</p>
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Figure 2.18: Mosaic segmentation – Warrington compared to nationally



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Population projections

Strategic planning: change over 20 years (2018 to 2038⁶)

The most recent ONS projections indicate a rise of 3.2% in Warrington's population (+6,722) between 2018-2038. Over this timeframe fluctuations will be seen at different points for the majority of age groups. Several key points for Warrington are outlined below:

- ◆ The number of 0-15 year olds will fall by -1,544 (-3.9%) by 2026.
- ◆ 25-34 year olds will fall by -6.2% (-1,637) in the first period followed by a rise of +2.7% (+655) in the second period.
- ◆ There is a continuous increase in the number and proportion of persons aged 65+. It will increase by +15.2% (+5,925) to 2026 rising to a cumulative +42.4% (+16,505) between 2018 and 2038 overall. This age group represented 18.6% of Warrington's population in 2018 but is projected to account for 25.6% (one quarter) of the total by 2038.

Figure 2.19: Projected population change (2018 -2038) source ONS 2018

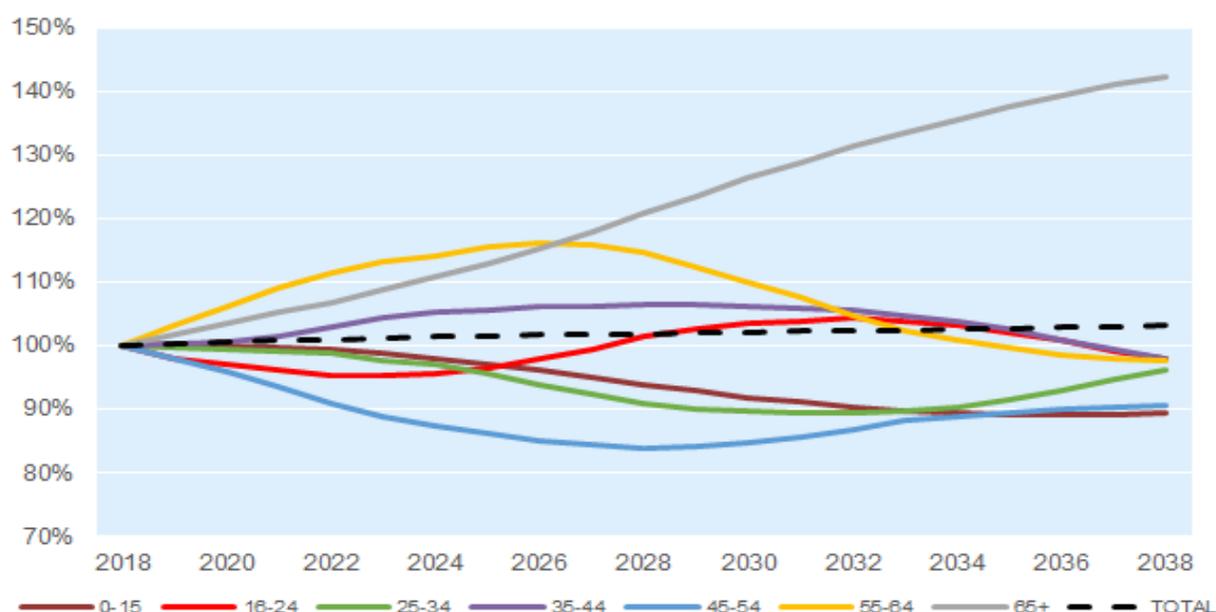


Table 2.7: Warrington - ONS projected population (2018 to 2038)

Age (years)	Number			Age structure %			Change 2018 – 2038		
	2018	2026	2038	2018	2026	2038	2018	2026	2038
0-15	39,691	38,147	35,479	18.9%	17.9%	16.4%	100.0%	96.1%	89.4%
16-24	19,714	19,289	19,316	9.4%	9.1%	8.9%	100.0%	97.8%	98.0%
25-34	26,295	24,658	25,313	12.5%	11.6%	11.7%	100.0%	93.8%	96.3%
35-44	26,678	28,313	26,134	12.7%	13.3%	12.1%	100.0%	106.1%	98.0%
45-54	31,982	27,221	28,961	15.3%	12.8%	13.4%	100.0%	85.1%	90.6%
55-64	26,304	30,565	25,678	12.6%	14.3%	11.9%	100.0%	116.2%	97.6%
65+	38,883	44,808	55,388	18.6%	21.0%	25.6%	100.0%	115.2%	142.4%
Total	209,547	213,002	216,269	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	101.6%	103.2%

⁶ Office for National Statistics 2018-based population projections (data released March 2020)

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Housing development

Warrington Updated proposed submission version Local Plan 2021-2038 September 2021

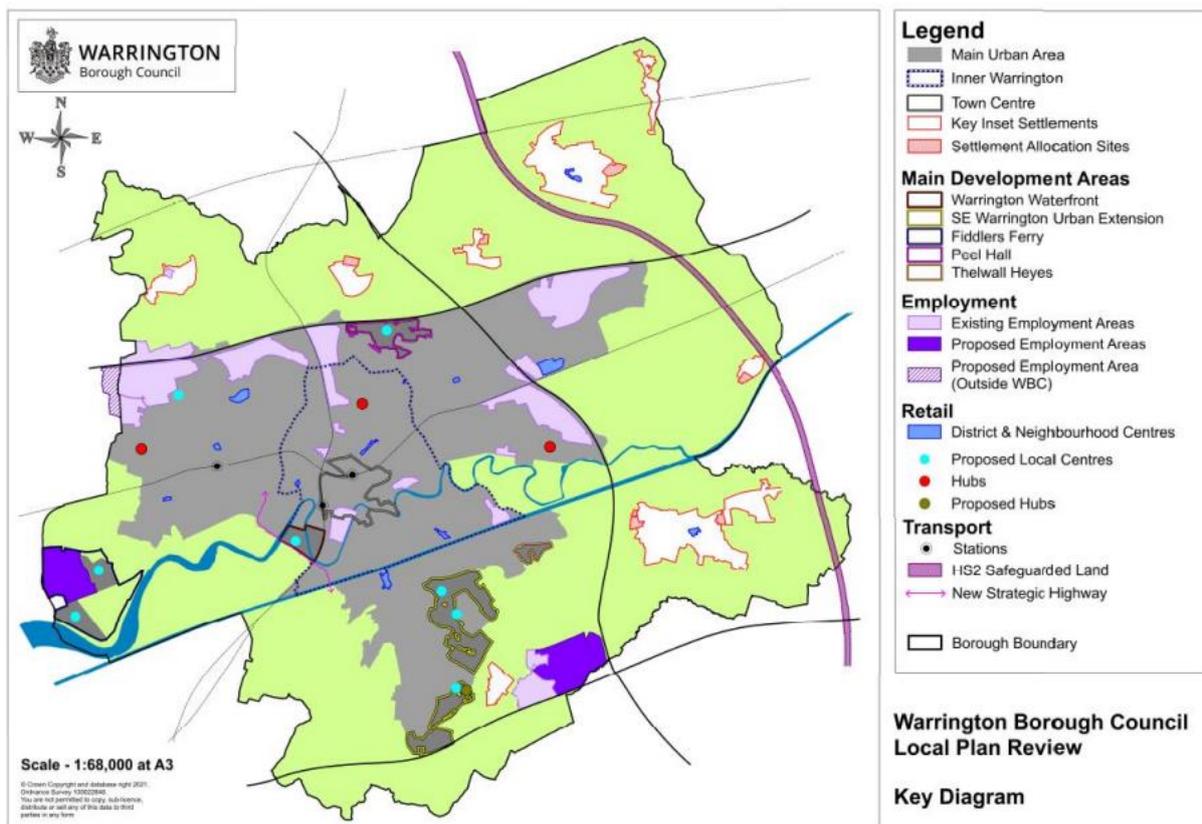
Policy Dev1 – Housing Delivery

Over the 18 year plan period from 2021 to 2038, a minimum of 14,688 new homes will be delivered to meet Warrington’s housing needs. This equates to an average of 816 homes per annum. The majority of these be delivered within the existing main urban area of Warrington, the existing inset settlements and other sites identified in the Council’s Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA). Combined, these have identified deliverable capacity for a minimum of 11,785 new homes.

The following sites will be removed from the Green Belt and allocated for residential development:

- ◀ South East Warrington Urban Extension – minimum of 4,200 homes of which a minimum of 2,400 homes will be delivered in the Plan Period.
- ◀ Land at Fiddlers Ferry – minimum of 1,760 homes of which 1,310 will be delivered in the plan period as part of a wider mixed use development.
- ◀ Thelwall Heys – minimum of 310 homes will be delivered in the plan period.

Figure 2.20: Local Plan Review Key diagram



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A minimum of 801 homes will be delivered on allocated sites to be removed from the Green Belt adjacent to following outlying settlements:

- ◀ Croft – minimum of 75 homes.
- ◀ Culcheth – minimum of 200 homes.
- ◀ Hollins Green – minimum of 90 homes.
- ◀ Lymm – minimum of 306 homes.
- ◀ Winwick – minimum of 130 homes.

Policy MD1 Warrington Waterfront

Warrington Waterfront will be allocated as a new urban quarter to deliver around 1,335 new homes of which 1,070 will be delivered in the plan period.

Policy MD4 - Land at Peel Hall

Land comprising approximately 69 hectares at Peel Hall will be allocated to deliver a new sustainable community of up to 1200 new homes

Summary of the demographic profile and population projections

Over the next 25 years, Warrington's population is expected to increase by 3.2%, with the most substantial rise being in the 65+ age group (by 42.4%).

The projected increase in the size of the local population is unlikely to lead to major increases in the number of people wishing to take part in sport and physical activity (potential customers of leisure facilities). The key issue is more to do with how the ageing population chooses to use its leisure time; this may well lead to changes in levels of demand for different activities.

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

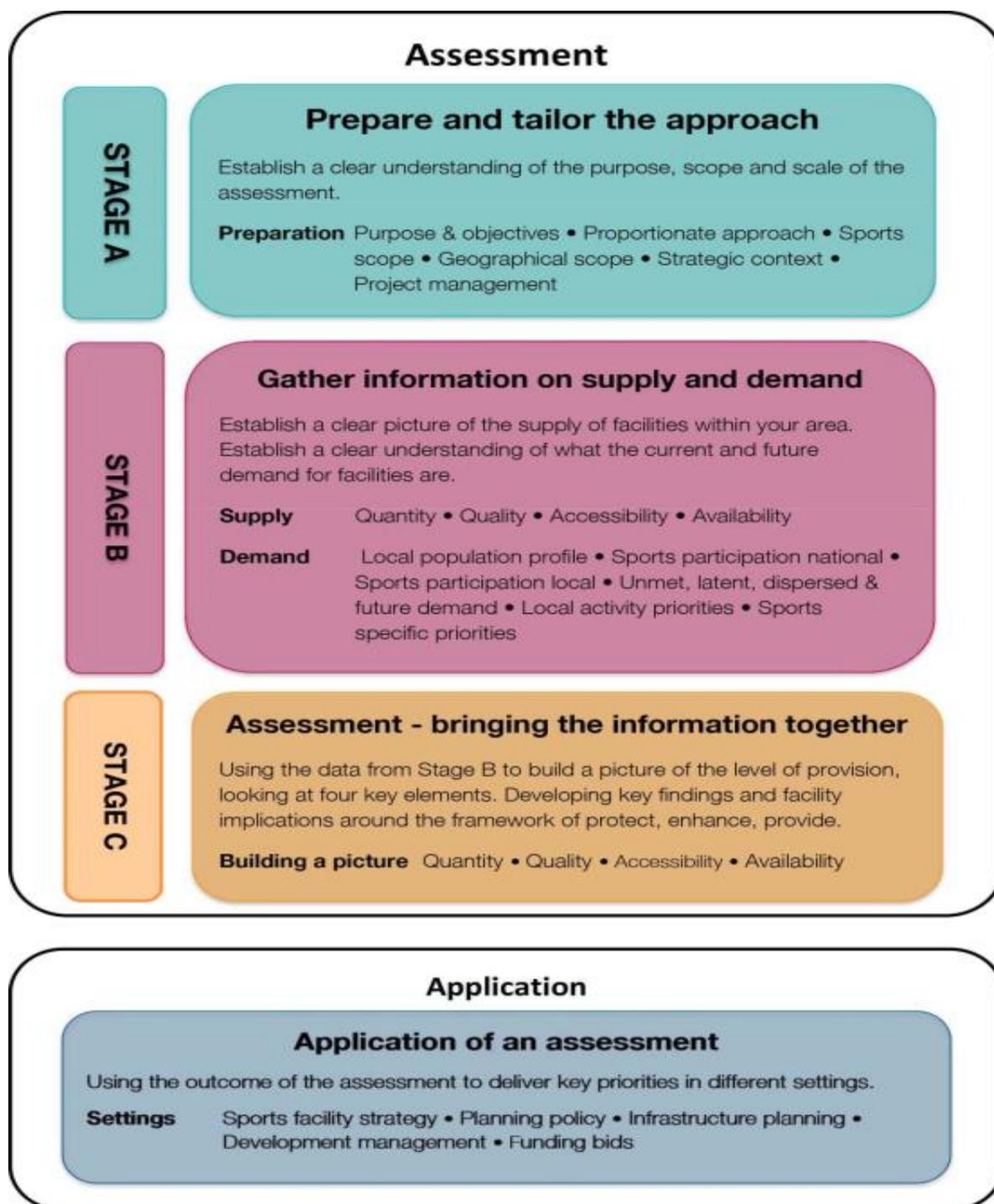
WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITY - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

SECTION 3: INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

3.1: Methodology

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

Figure 3.1: Recommended approach



WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

'Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.' (NPPF, Paragraph 98).

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 Borough and provides a clear indication of areas of high demand. It will identify where there is potential to provide improved and/or additional facilities to meet this demand and to, where appropriate, protect or rationalise the current stock.

3.2: Site visits

Active Places Power (APP) is used to provide baseline data to identify facilities in the study area. Where possible, assessments are undertaken in the presence of facility staff. This tends to add value as it enables access to be gained to more areas within venues and more detailed *in-situ* discussion of issues such as customer perspectives, quality, maintenance etc. Where possible it adds value to the audit (which is a 'snapshot' visit) enhancing the accuracy of insight gathered about the general user experience.

Site visits to key indoor facilities, those operated by other partners and the voluntary sector were undertaken. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, some educational sites were operating under restricted access. Where a physical visit was not possible a telephone consultation with the facility/site manager was undertaken. Via the audit and via informal interviews with facility managers this report identifies 'relevance' and 'condition' and describes (e.g.):

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

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INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITY - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The assessment forms utilised capture quantity and quality data on a site-by-site basis and feeds directly into the main database allowing information to be stored and analysed. Quality assessments undertaken are rated in the following categories. These ratings are applied throughout the report, regardless of facility type.

Table 3.1: Quality ratings of indoor sports facilities using ANOG

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

Ratings are based on non-technical visual assessments. These consider facility age and condition. Surfaces, tiles and walls, line markings and safety equipment are considered and problem areas such as mould, damage, leaks etc. are noted. The condition of fixtures, fittings and equipment is recorded. Maintenance and facility 'wear and tear' is considered as is compliant with the Equality Act, although this is not studied in detail for the purposes of this report. When all data is collated, key facility elements receive an overall quality rating.

3.3 Catchment areas

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

Table 3.2: Facility catchment areas

Facility type	Identified catchment area by urban/rural
Sport halls	20-minutes' walk/ 20 minutes' drive
Health and fitness	20-minutes' walk/ 20 minutes' drive
Swimming pools	20-minutes' walk/ 20 minutes' drive
Squash courts	20 minutes' drive
Indoor bowls/tennis centre	30-minutes' drive
Dedicated gymnastics centre	30 minutes' drive

WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITY - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

SECTION 4: SPORTS HALLS

Indoor multi-purpose sports halls are one of the prime sports facilities for community sport. They provide venues suitable to allow a range of sport and recreational activities to be played. The standard methodology for measuring sports halls is the number of badminton courts contained within the floor area.

Sports halls are generally considered to be of greatest value if they are of at least 3+ badminton court size with sufficient height to allow games such as badminton to be played. It should be noted, however, that a 4-court sports hall provides greater flexibility as it can accommodate major indoor team sports such as football (5-a-side and training), basketball and netball. It also has sufficient length to accommodate indoor cricket nets and indoor athletics; as such they tend to offer greater sports development flexibility than the 3-court counterpart.

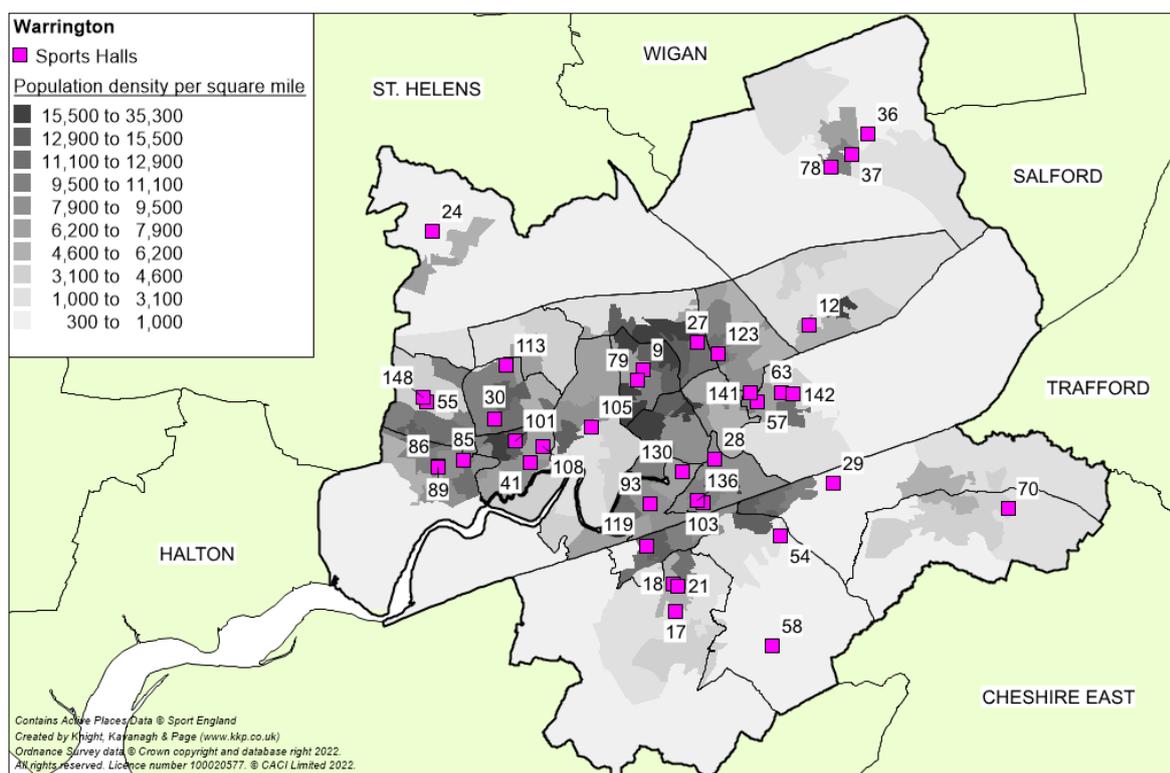
Larger halls, for example those with six or eight courts, can accommodate higher level training and/or competition plus meeting day to day need. They also provide an option for more than one pitch/court increasing flexibility for training and competition and hosting of indoor central venue leagues for sports such as netball. This assessment considers all 3+ court facilities in Warrington. Halls that function as specialist venues (e.g., dance studios) are excluded.

4.1: Supply

Quantity

Figure 4.1 and Table 4.1 identify all sports halls in Warrington regardless of size. The 45 sports halls of all sizes accommodate 106 badminton courts.

Figure 4.1: All sports halls /activity halls in Warrington regardless of size



WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES

Table 4.1: All sports halls/activity halls in Warrington

Map ID	Site name	Courts	Map ID	Site name	Courts
9	Beamont Collegiate Academy	4	79	Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub	4
12	Birchwood Community High School	1	79	Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub	0
12	Birchwood Community High School	6	85	Penketh High School	4
17	Bridgewater High School (Lower)	4	86	Penketh Parish Council Pool & Comm. Centre	1
18	Bridgewater High School (Upper)	1	89	Penketh Youth Centre	0
21	Broomfields Leisure Centre	6	93	Priestley College Sports Facilities	4
24	Burtonwood Community Primary School	1	101	Sankey Valley St James Primary School	1
27	Capesthorpe Community Centre	0	103	Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School	0
28	Cardinal Newman Catholic High School	6	103	Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School	1
29	Chaigeley School	2	105	St Alban's Catholic Primary School	1
30	Chapelford Village Primary School	1	108	St Gregorys Catholic High School	4
36	Culcheth High School	4	113	St Philip Westbrook C Of E Primary School	2
37	Culcheth Sports Club	0	113	St Philip Westbrook C Of E Primary School	1
41	David Lloyd Club (Warrington)	4	119	Stockton Heath Primary School	0
54	Grappenhall Youth & Community Centre	1	119	Stockton Heath Primary School	2
54	Grappenhall Youth & Community Centre	0	123	The Recreation Centre (Padgate Academy)	3
55	Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub	6	123	The Recreation Centre (Padgate Academy)	1
57	Green Lane Community Special School	2	130	Victoria Park Arena	0
58	HMP Thorn Cross	4	136	Warrington Sports For All Centre (Sir Thomas	8
63	King's Leadership Academy	4	141	Woolston Brook School	1
70	Lymm Leisure Centre	4	142	Woolston CE Aided Primary School	1
70	Lymm Leisure Centre	1	148	Great Sankey High School	4
78	Newchurch Community Primary School	0		TOTAL	106

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

WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES

All sports halls are located in areas of higher population density predominantly to the centre and west of the Authority. Some venues have more than one activity/sports hall on site.

27 of the halls listed that have two badminton courts or fewer. While often appropriate for mat sports, exercise to music and similar provision, their size limits the range and scale of recreational/sporting activity that can be accommodated. Some venues have more than one sports/activity hall on site.

Table 4.2 identifies the 27 halls excluded from the audit and assessment due to size (i.e., they have fewer than three marked badminton courts).

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

Map ID	Site name	Courts
12	Birchwood Community High School	1
18	Bridgewater High School (Upper)	1
24	Burtonwood Community Primary School	1
27	Capesthorpe Community Centre	0
29	Chaigeley School	2
30	Chapelford Village Primary School	1
37	Culcheth Sports Club	0
54	Grappenhall Youth & Community Centre	1
54	Grappenhall Youth & Community Centre	0
57	Green Lane Community Special School	2
70	Lymm Leisure Centre	1
78	Newchurch Community Primary School	0
79	Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub	0
86	Penketh Parish Council Pool & Comm. Centre	1
89	Penketh Youth Centre	0
101	Sankey Valley St James Primary School	1
103	Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School	0
103	Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School	1
105	St Alban's Catholic Primary School	1
113	St Philip Westbrook Church of England Primary School	2
113	St Philip Westbrook Church of England Primary School	1
119	Stockton Heath Primary School	0
119	Stockton Heath Primary School	2
123	The Recreation Centre (Padgate Academy)	1
130	Victoria Park Arena	0
141	Woolston Brook School	1
142	Woolston CE Aided Primary School	1
	TOTAL	22

The remaining 18 sports halls have 3+ marked badminton courts as identified in Figure 4.2. They are evenly spread across the more densely populated settlements. Spatially, there is a gap in the provision in the rural north and in the east of the Borough.

WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES

Figure 4.2: Sports halls with 3+ courts in Warrington

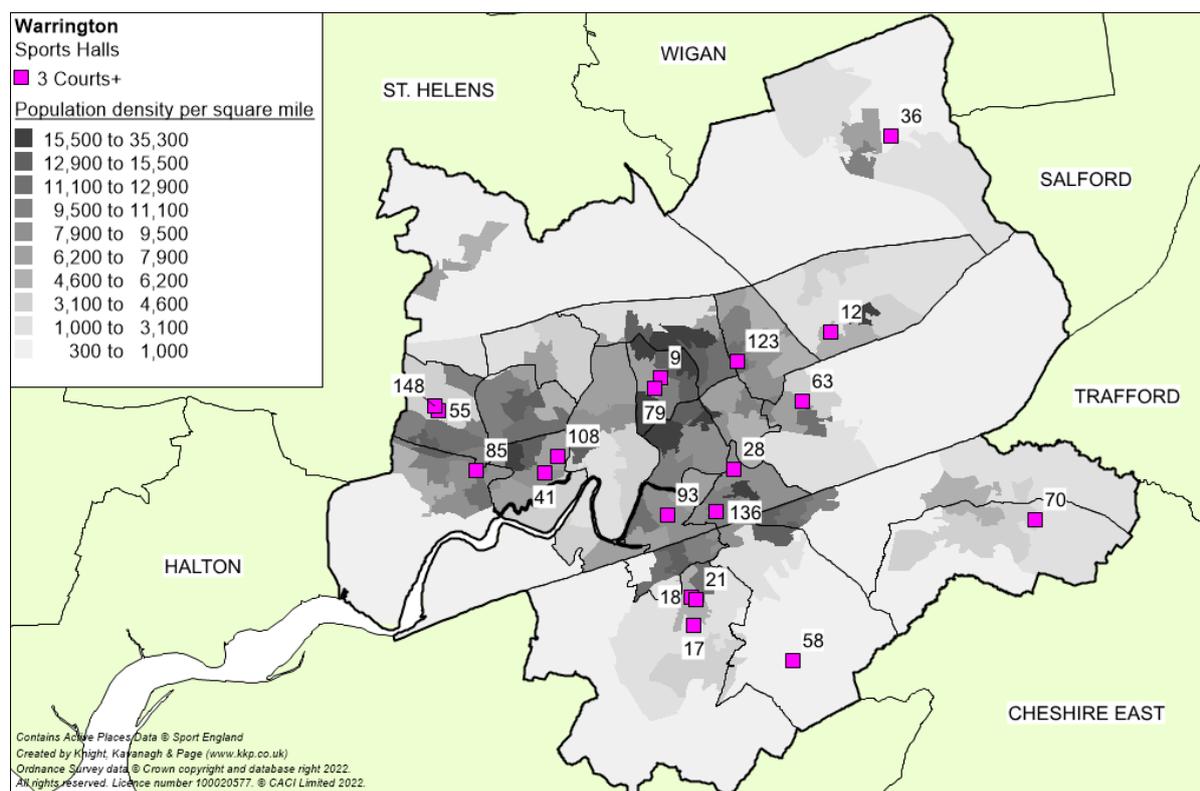


Table 4.3: Sports halls with 3+ courts

Map ID	Site name	Courts
9	Beamont Collegiate Academy	4
12	Birchwood Community High School	6
17	Bridgewater High School (Lower)	4
21	Broomfields Leisure Centre	6
28	Cardinal Newman Catholic High School	6
36	Culcheth High School	4
41	David Lloyd Club (Warrington)	4
55	Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub	6
58	HMP Thorn Cross	4
63	King's Leadership Academy	4
70	Lymm Leisure Centre	4
79	Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub	4
85	Penketh High School	4
93	Priestley College Sports Facilities	4
108	St Gregorys Catholic High School	4
123	The Recreation Centre (Padgate Academy)	3
136	Warrington Sports For All Centre	8
148	Great Sankey High School	4

WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES

There is one 3-court sports hall, 11 with 4-courts, four 6-court halls and the largest which is the Warrington Sports for All Centre (8-courts).

Table 4.4: Sports halls sizes summary

3-courts	4-courts	5-courts	6-courts	8-courts
1	12	0	4	1

Facility quality

All bar two 3+ court sports halls were subject to a non-technical assessment to ascertain quality, details of which are found in Figure 4.3 and Table 4.4. Access was not obtained at HMP Thorn Cross due to the nature of the site and public access being restricted and Great Sankey High School was assessed virtually.

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

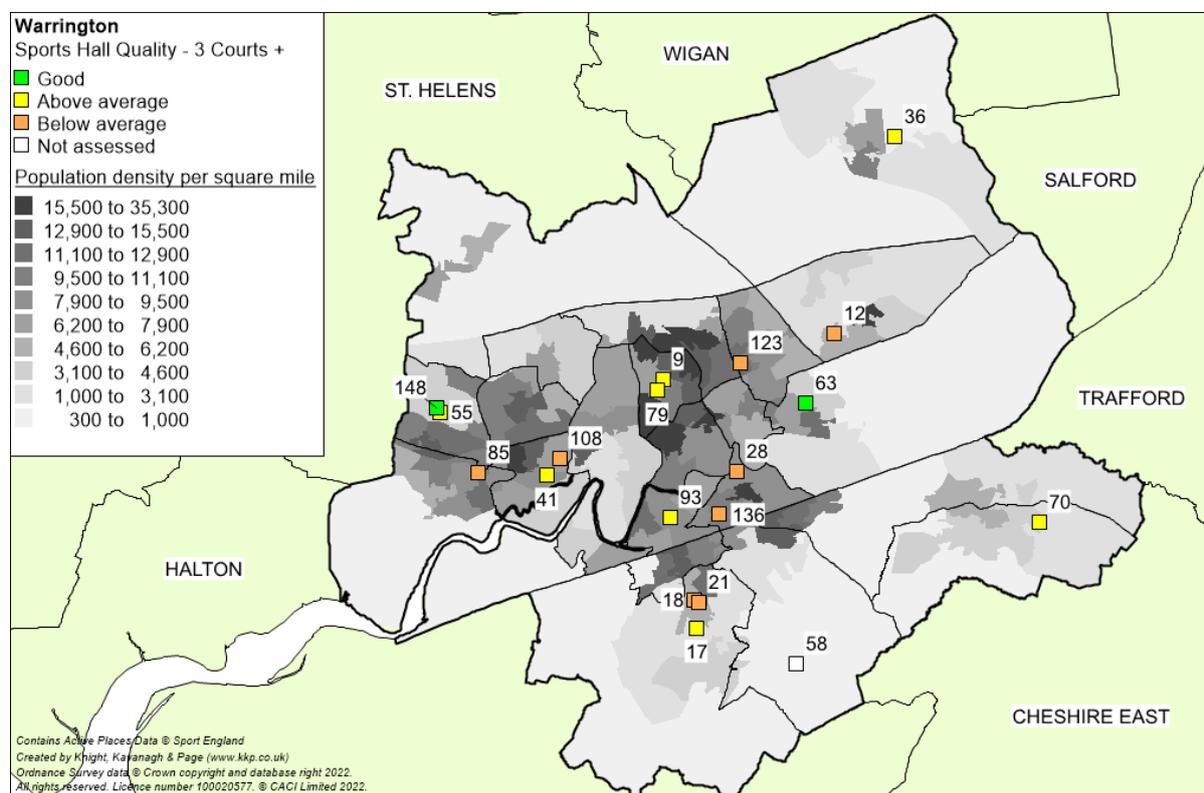


Table 4.5: Quality of sports halls

Map ID	Site name	Courts	Assessment condition	
			Court	Changing
9	Beamont Collegiate Academy	4	Above average	Above average
12	Birchwood Community High School	6	Below average	Below average
17	Bridgewater High School (Lower)	4	Below average	Below average
21	Broomfields Leisure Centre	6	Below average	Below average
28	Cardinal Newman Catholic High School	6	Below average	Below average
36	Culcheth High School	4	Above average	Above average
41	David Lloyd Club (Warrington)	4	Above average	Above average

WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES

Map ID	Site name	Courts	Assessment condition	
			Court	Changing
55	Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub	6	Above average	Good
58	HMP Thorn Cross	4	Not assessed	Not assessed
63	King's Leadership Academy	4	Good	Good
70	Lymm Leisure Centre	4	Above average	Below average
79	Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub	4	Above average	Above average
85	Penketh High School	4	Below average	Below average
93	Priestley College Sports Facilities	4	Above average	Above average
108	St Gregorys Catholic High School	4	Above average	Above average
123	The Recreation Centre (Padgate Academy)	3	Below average	Below average
136	Warrington Sports For All Centre	8	Below average	Below average
148	Great Sankey High School	4	Good	Good

The (4-court) sports hall at King's Leadership Academy and Great Sankey High School are assessed as being of good quality, eight are above average (34 courts), seven are below average (37 courts), and one (4-court) hall was not assessed. There are no poor-quality sports halls in Warrington.

Consultation with the Kings Leadership Academy highlights that the facility opened eight years ago and is still in pristine quality and is showing minimal signs of wear and tear. It has bleacher seats and can be divided into two separate halls.

The Bridgewater High School (Lower) site is rated below average, despite it has recently had a new indoor cricket net installed as well as new line markings on the floor.

Renewed line marking of the floor is required at Birchwood Community High School (6-court) hall due to the lines fading. Moreover, the audit also identifies that the basketball hoops were old, rusty and require replacement.

Changing provision is generally commensurate with sports hall quality, with Lymm Leisure Centre the exception (its sports hall provision had its flooring refurbished in 2016 and is considered to be better quality than the changing facility). There are plans in place to seal and deep clean the floor over summer 2022. Likewise, Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub has recently refurbished its changing facility hence the higher rating than the sports hall provision.

The Recreation Centre at Padgate Academy (42 years old) is not reported to have had any refurbishment. It should also be noted that the walls are painted white which is not conducive for all sports. (Sports such as badminton and table tennis prefer non-white walls to enable full visibility of the shuttlecock/ball).

Broomfields Leisure Centre is the latest sports hall to be refurbished. It has had its walls painted and the flooring replaced – both in July 2022.

Cardinal Newman has plans to invest £4k in refurbishment which, should improve the quality.

Most sports halls in the area have been refurbished to some degree during the last 20 years. This said, Active Power Places indicates that no refurbishment has taken place at the private use site: HMP Thorn Cross for 37 years.

WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES

Table 4.6: Year of construction and refurbishment of sports halls

Site	Year built	Year refurbished	Age since opened / refurbishment
Beamont Collegiate Academy	2002	2017	5
Birchwood Community High School	1988	2007	15
Bridgewater High School (Lower)	1950	2022	1
Broomfields Leisure Centre	1975	2022	1
Cardinal Newman Catholic High School	1957	2005	17
Culcheth High School	2010	-	12
David Lloyd Club (Warrington)	1999	2016	6
Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub	1977	2018	4
Great Sankey High School	2019		3
HMP Thorn Cross	1985	-	37
King's Leadership Academy	2014	-	8
Lymm Leisure Centre	1995	2007	15
Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub	2012	-	10
Penketh High School	1992	2007	15
Priestley College Sports facilities	2003	-	19
St Gregorys Catholic High School	2019		3
The Recreation Centre (Padgate Academy)	1980	-	42
Warrington Sports For All Centre	2005	-	17

Figure 4.4: The Recreation Centre (Padgate Academy) sports hall



Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub is considered to be the most modern public accessible sports hall in the area having been extensively refurbished via work which was completed in 2018.

WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES

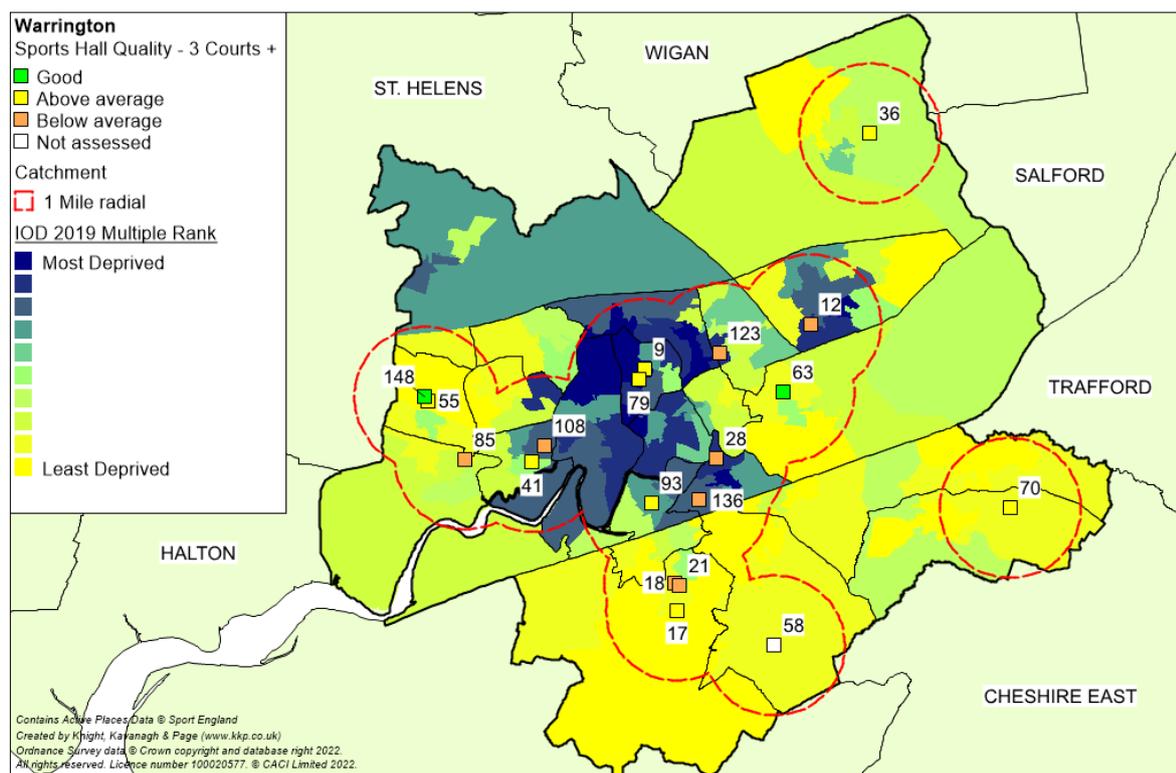
Figure 4.5: Great Sankey sports hall



Accessibility

Sports hall accessibility is influenced by how far people are willing and able to travel to and from them.

Figure 4.6: All sports halls with 3+ courts on IMD



WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES

Walk and drive-time catchments are applied to determine facility accessibility to different communities. The normal (industry) standard is a 20-minute walk time (one-mile radial catchment) for an urban area and a 20-minute drive time for a rural area:

- ◀ 164,136 residents live within one mile of a sports hall (80% of the total population).
- ◀ 55,529 people (27% of the population) live in areas of higher deprivation.
- ◀ Of these, most (52,824; 26%) live within a one-mile radial catchment of a sports hall.
- ◀ All of WBC's population of 209,397 lives within a 20-minutes' drive of a publicly available sports hall with three or more badminton courts (ONS MYE 2020).

Residents from more deprived localities are statistically less likely to participate in sport than those living in more affluent areas. Reasons for this include, for example, cost and access. The very high level of accessibility to sports halls; 79.5% of people living within one-mile walking distance of a sports hall, suggests that the location of current sports halls is good.

Table 4.7: Accessibility to sports halls with 3+ courts

IMD 10% bands	Warrington		Sports halls minimum 3 courts+ catchment populations by IMD			
	Persons	Population %	Persons inside catchment	Population inside (%)	Persons outside catchment	Population outside (%)
0 - 10	16,619	8.0%	16,562	8.0%	57	0.0%
10.1 - 20	21,626	10.5%	21,551	10.4%	75	0.0%
20.1 - 30	17,284	8.4%	14,711	7.1%	2,573	1.2%
30.1 - 40	19,728	9.6%	15,172	7.3%	4,556	2.2%
40.1 - 50	7,320	3.5%	7,264	3.5%	56	0.0%
50.1 - 60	9,907	4.8%	8,590	4.2%	1,317	0.6%
60.1 - 70	18,336	8.9%	10,295	5.0%	8,041	3.9%
70.1 - 80	30,645	14.8%	23,818	11.5%	6,827	3.3%
80.1 - 90	33,685	16.3%	24,643	11.9%	9,042	4.4%
90.1 - 100	31,316	15.2%	21,530	10.4%	9,786	4.7%
Total	206,466	100.0%	164,136	79.5%	42,330	20.5%

Availability

The sports halls at St Gregorys Catholic High School, Great Sankey High School and HMP Thorn Cross are not available to the wider community. HMP Thorn Cross has restricted access due to it being a HMP prison. Consultation with St Gregorys Catholic High School identified that there is no appetite to consider community use.

WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES

Figure 4.7: 3+ court SH by condition on IMD with 1 mile walk time (exclude private use)

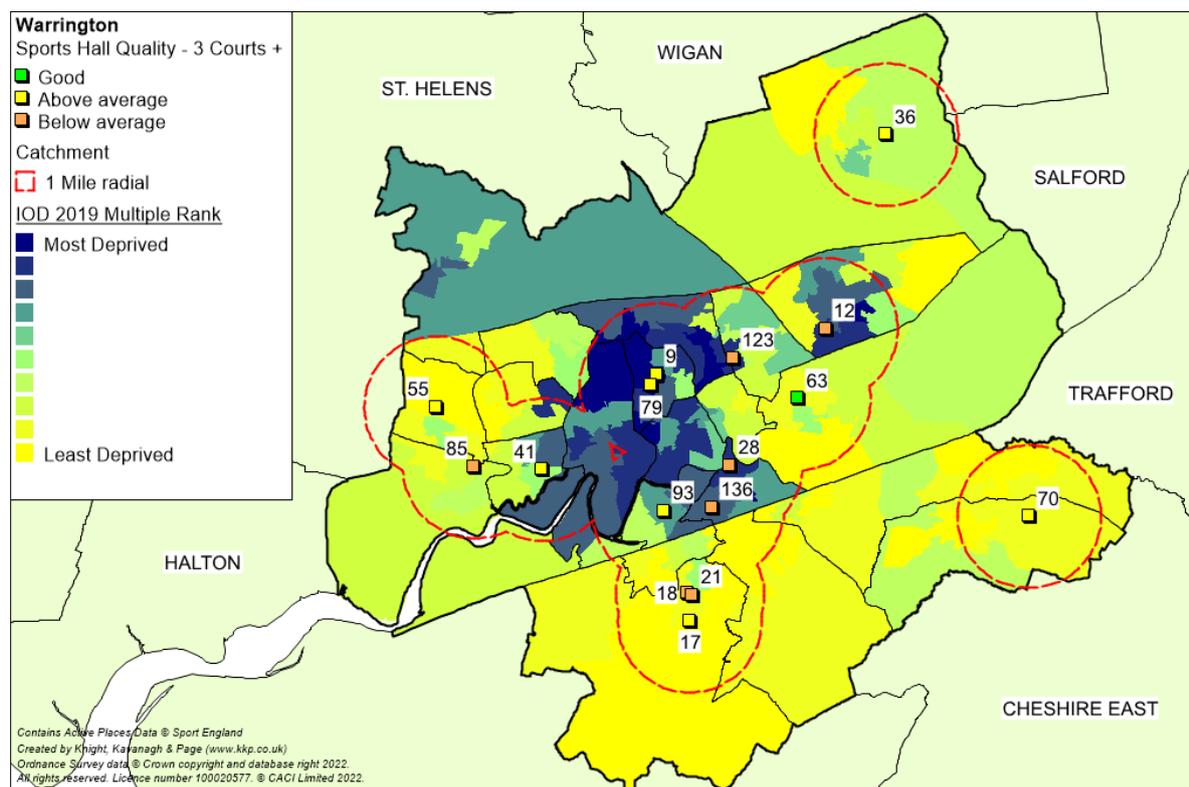


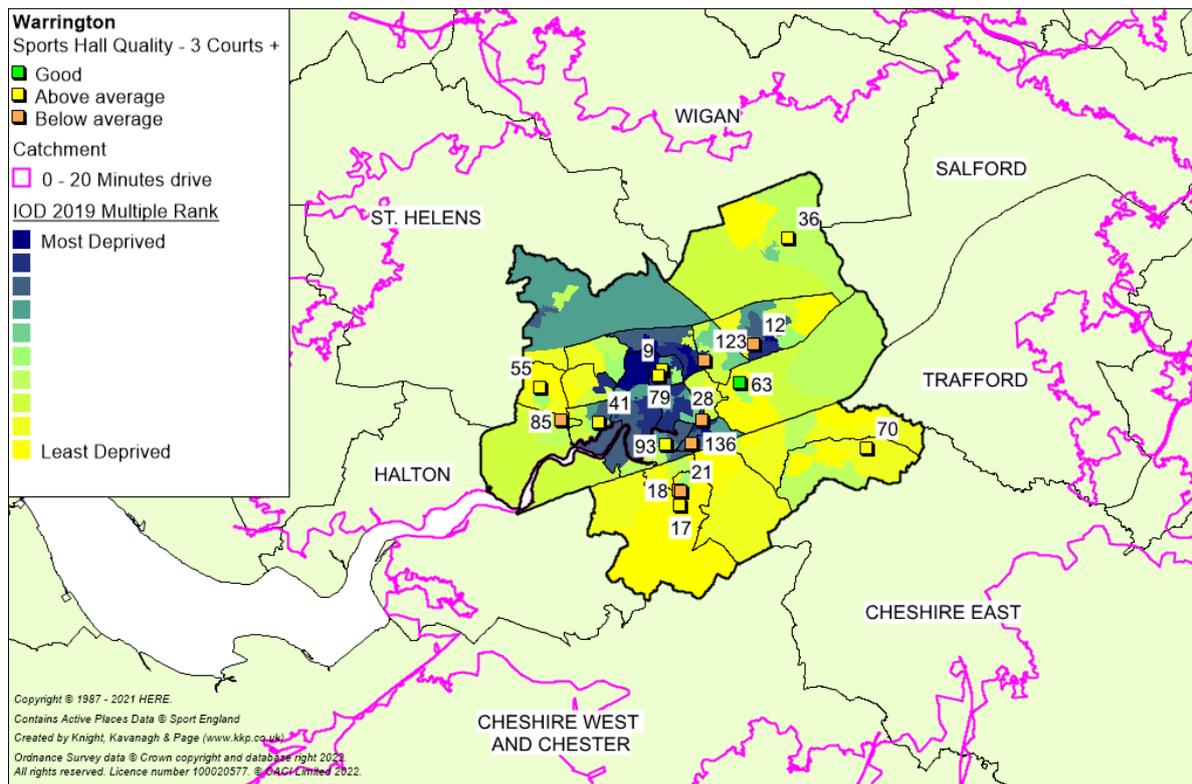
Table 4.8: Accessibility to community use sports halls with 3+ courts

IMD 10% bands	Warrington		Sports halls minimum 3 courts+ catchment populations by IMD			
	Persons	Population %	Persons inside catchment	Population inside (%)	Persons outside catchment	Population outside (%)
0 - 10	16,619	8.0%	16,447	7.9%	172	0.1%
10.1 - 20	21,626	10.5%	20,922	10.2%	704	0.3%
20.1 - 30	17,284	8.4%	14,687	7.1%	2,597	1.3%
30.1 - 40	19,728	9.6%	15,130	7.4%	4,598	2.2%
40.1 - 50	7,320	3.5%	7,264	3.5%	56	0.0%
50.1 - 60	9,907	4.8%	8,417	4.1%	1,490	0.7%
60.1 - 70	18,336	8.9%	10,295	5.0%	8,041	3.9%
70.1 - 80	30,645	14.8%	23,818	11.5%	6,827	3.3%
80.1 - 90	33,685	16.3%	22,328	10.8%	11,357	5.5%
90.1 - 100	31,316	15.2%	21,348	10.4%	9,968	4.8%
Total	206,466	100.0%	160,656	77.8%	45,810	22.2%

Drive time catchment modelling shows that all of Warrington's ONS MYE 2020 population of 209,397 is within a 20-minute drive of a publicly accessible sports hall with three or more badminton courts, or sports hall of equivalent dimensions.

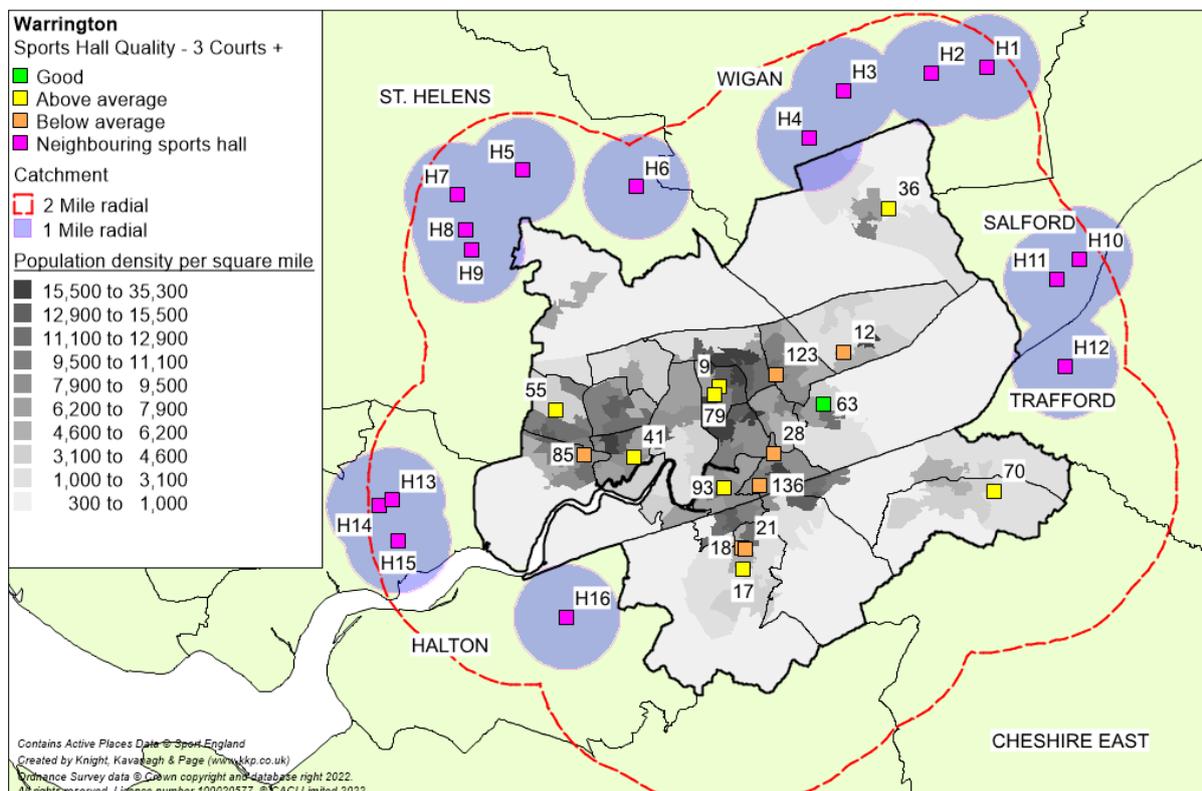
WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES

Figure 4.8: 3+ by condition on IMD with 20 min drive time (without private use sports hall)



Facilities in neighbouring local authority areas

Figure 4.9: 3+ halls plus neighbouring community use halls within two miles of the boundary



WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES

Accessibility can be influenced by facilities located outside an authority. There are 16 sports halls within two miles of the authority boundary. They could theoretically attract Warrington based users/clubs if/where Borough facilities cannot cater for current demand. Four are available for pay and play access.

Table 4.9: Neighbouring sports halls – minimum 3-court (excluding private use)

Map ID	Site name	Courts	Access type	Local authority
H1	St Marys Catholic High School (Astley)	4	Sports Club / CA	Wigan
H2	Bedford High School	4	Sports Club / CA	Wigan
H3	Leigh Leisure Centre	8	Pay and Play	Wigan
H4	Lowton Church Of England High School	6	Sports Club / CA	Wigan
H5	Haydock Leisure Centre	4	Pay and Play	St. Helens
H6	Hope Academy	4	Sports Club / CA	St. Helens
H7	St Augustine Of Canterbury Catholic High	3	Sports Club / CA	St. Helens
H8	Lansbury Bridge School & Sports College	4	Sports Club / CA	St. Helens
H9	St Cuthberts Catholic High School	4	Sports Club / CA	St. Helens
H10	Irlam And Cadishead Leisure Centre	4	Pay and Play	Salford
H11	Irlam And Cadishead Academy	4	Sports Club / CA	Salford
H12	Partington Sports Village	6	Sports Club / CA	Trafford
H13	Wade Deacon High School	6	Sports Club / CA	Halton
H14	Saints Peter & Paul Catholic High School	4	Sports Club / CA	Halton
H15	Kingsway Leisure Centre	8	Pay and Play	Halton
H16	Sandymoor Ormiston Academy	4	Sports Club / CA	Halton

Source: Active Places Power 30/05/2022

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

Leigh Leisure Centre in Wigan (Map ID H3) and Kingsway Leisure Centre (Map ID H15) are both 8-court sports halls and are available on a pay and play basis. They are the venues considered most likely to attract Warrington residents.

Facility management

Sports hall management and ownership varies. WBC owns three facilities which are managed by the Council's leisure provider.

Table 4.10: Ownership and management of sports hall facilities

Site	Ownership	Management
Beamont Collegiate Academy	Academy	In house
Birchwood Community High School	Academy	In house
Bridgewater High School (Lower)	Academy	In house
Broomfields Leisure Centre	Local Authority	Trust (LiveWire)
Cardinal Newman Catholic High School	Voluntary Aided School	In house
Culcheth High School	Community School	In house
David Lloyd Club (Warrington)	Commercial	Commercial
Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub	Local Authority	Trust (LiveWire)
Great Sankey High School	School	Private use
HMP Thorn Cross	Government	Private use
King's Leadership Academy	Academy	In house

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Lymm Leisure Centre	Voluntary Controlled School	In house
Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub	Local Authority	Trust (LiveWire)
Penketh High School	Academy	In house
Priestley College Sports facilities	Higher Education	In house
St Gregorys Catholic High School	Voluntary Aided School	Private use
The Recreation Centre (Padgate Academy)	Academy	In house
Warrington Sports For All Centre	Voluntary Aided School	Commercial

*LiveWire have signed an agreement to manage the facilities from April 2023.

Birchwood Community High School sports hall is located within the Birchwood Leisure and Tennis Centre (BLTC) building but is owned and managed by Birchwood Community High School. The school employs its own cleaners and site team to open and close the facility even though it is part of the BLTC building.

It is understood that Cardinal Newman has entered into an agreement with LiveWire with regard to it taking over operational management of the school facility from April 2023.

Daytime availability

Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub is a publicly accessible sports hall, where the community has access from 07.00 - 22.00 midweek and at weekends. The other two WBC owned sites (Broomfields Leisure Centre and Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub) operate as dual-use sites where the sports halls are reserved for school use during the day (by Bridgewater High School for the former site and by Great Sankey High School for the latter) with community use then available from 17.00 hours onwards on weekdays. As expected, there is more flexibility in usage hours on the weekend for both these sites.

Daytime accessible sports halls in Warrington include:

- ◀ Warrington Sport For All Centre
- ◀ Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub
- ◀ David Lloyd Club

Table 4.11 indicates the level of community use available in sports halls across the Borough. Daytime availability is limited due to the constraints on education sites particularly in independent schools. Availability during the day can be important for residents who wish to use facilities at such times. Evidence suggests that some older people prefer to use facilities during daylight hours and, as previously highlighted, the number and proportion of older people (aged 65+) is rising. (from 18.6% in 2018 to 25.6% in 2038). Daytime access to sports halls for older people of a daytime will be an increasing challenge in the future.

Table 4.12 details spare capacity in the peak period for each sports hall. This figure has been estimated based upon intelligence gathered from the audit and site visits undertaken for this study based on peak time in the winter period when demand is at its highest. It is not possible to gauge spare capacity precisely due to the changing nature of bookings on a week-by-week basis.

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Table 4.11: Opening hours and activities in sports halls in Warrington

Community use hours	Map ID	Site	Total courts	Main sports played	
None	58	HMP Thorn Cross	4	N/A	
	108	St Gregory's Catholic High School	4	N/A	
	148	Great Sankey High School	4	N/A	
1-40	18.0	9	Beamont Collegiate Academy	4	Netball
	20	93	Priestley College	4	Netball, basketball
	20	63	King's Leadership Academy	4	Netball and basketball
	24.0	17	Bridgewater High School (Lower)	3	Basketball, badminton, and netball activity
	32	28	Cardinal Newman Catholic High School	6	Netball, wheelchair rugby, futsal
	33.0	123	The Recreation Centre (Padgate Academy)	3 & 1	Unknown
	34.0	36	Culcheth High School	4	Badminton, netball, gymnastics, Diddikicks
40+	42.0	85	Penketh High School	4	Gymnastics, trampolining, karate
	44.0	12	Birchwood Community High School	1 & 6	Netball, basketball, badminton, football, karate, and volleyball
	45.0	70	Lymm Leisure Centre	4 & 1	Netball and football
	49.5	21	Broomfields Leisure Centre	6	Badminton, netball, and karate
	55.0	55	Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub	6	Netball, badminton, basketball, football and Futsal.
	59.0	136	Warrington Sports For All Centre	8	Netball and basketball
	88.0	79	Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub	4	Badminton, table tennis, walking football and rugby tots
	112.5	41	David Lloyd Club (Warrington)	4	Creche, arts and crafts and soft play

Community use was severely restricted in 2020 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and subsequent lockdown periods, and as a result, some schools have not yet returned to pre-Pandemic levels of activity.

Table 4.11 indicates that traditional mainstream sports are catered for at most sites. Cardinal Newman Catholic High School however is accommodating futsal and wheelchair basketball.

As noted above, education site availability is limited to peak times (evenings/weekends), this also applies to the LiveWire managed dual use sites (Broomfields and Great Sankey).

Used capacity

Non-technical site audits identify the used capacity of each sports hall. Used capacity is assessed as a percentage of available community use hours used. Sport England identifies 80% as a 'comfortably full' benchmark. Table 4.12 below identifies sports halls that are available for community hire and are being used.

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Table 4.12: Used capacity of the 4+ court halls

Used capacity	% used	Site
0-20%	0%	HMP Thorn Cross
	0%	St Gregory's Catholic High School
	0%	Great Sankey High School
21-40%	28%	The Recreation Centre (Padgate Academy)
41-60%	50%	Penketh High School
	50%	Bridgewater High School (Lower)
61-80%	63%	Culcheth High School
	71%	Birchwood Community High School
81-100%	88%	Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub
	90%	Cardinal Newman Catholic High School
	90%	Warrington Sports For All Centre
	90%	David Lloyd Club (Warrington)
	93%	Broomfields Leisure Centre
	98%	Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub
	100%	Lymm Leisure Centre
	100%	Beamont Collegiate Academy
	100%	Bridgewater Community High School (Upper)
	100%	King's Leadership Academy
100%	Priestley College Sports Facilities	

Consultation identifies that eleven sites are operating above Sport England's 80% threshold where sports halls are deemed to be comfortably full. This demonstrates high demand across the borough.

Culcheth High School and Birchwood Community High School are operating at/near to the benchmark. All other sports halls in the area are reported to have capacity to accommodate increased demand.

Priestley College Sport Facilities has a used capacity rating of 100%, however, it is available for only 20 hours per week (18.00-21.00 Monday-Friday and 09.00-17.00 on Saturdays). Should club demand outside these hours be evidenced, there is potential to explore the option of increasing the hours of availability at the site.

Similarly, Kings Leadership Academy is available to the community for 20 hours per week and Beamont Collegiate Academy is available for 18 hours per week – both at peak times. Both report 100% used capacity. Should demand exist, there is potential to explore the option to increase hours made available to the community at these sites.

The Recreation Centre (Padgate Academy) has the least used capacity at 28%, it is a 3-court hall and as noted earlier, has white walls. Halls of this size are not suitable netball, basketball, and handball (all popular in the area - see demand section 4.2). In addition, sports such as badminton and table tennis which could be played are not likely to choose this venue due to the wall colour. Consideration should be given to changing sports hall wall colours to make it more attractive to badminton before increasing the hours of availability.

The site operated by David Lloyd (Warrington) allows some form of community access. Consultation with the site indicate that it is proactive in building relationships with the wider

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community. An example of this is the niche activities it holds such as creche, arts and crafts and soft play.

Opportunities are in place for players/participants of all levels to join the Club in its different categories and sports it offers (indoor and outdoor facilities). However, it should be noted that whilst it is technically accessible to the community, a significant portion of programme time is taken up by its indoor health and fitness and other related groups.

Future developments

There is one known upcoming sports hall investment in the Warrington area. This is the Cardinal Newman Catholic High School Futsal centre development on site which would include improvements to the sports hall and changing rooms, as well as ensuring correct markings are in place and futsal goals are available. This development needs to ensure that it caters for netball, wheelchair rugby and futsal.

4.2 Demand

It should be noted that NGB and club consultation took place prior to July 2022, which is prior to the investment in the sports hall floor at Broomfields Leisure Centre.

NGB consultation

National governing bodies of sport (NGBs) and active clubs were consulted to ascertain current use, participation trends and the needs/challenges facing sports halls in the area.

Badminton England (BE)

BE is the national governing body of sport (NGB) for badminton. Its latest strategy, Discover Badminton 2017-2025 presents a vision for the sport to become one of the nation's most popular and to consistently win medals at world, Olympic and Paralympic levels. To achieve this, it has identified three key objectives:

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

Badminton Facilities Strategy Model 2020-2030 – Warrington overview

Badminton participation statistics

- ◀ 1.08% of adults (49.77%; male and 50.23%; female) have played badminton at least twice in the last 28 days⁷. This equates to **1,800 regular adult players**.
- ◀ 6.00%⁸ of juniors⁷ have played badminton at least twice in the last 28 days. This equates to **713 regular junior players**.
- ◀ It is estimated that 6.22% of adults have played badminton at least once in the last 12 months. This equates to **8,700 occasional adult players**⁹ (5.14% latent demand).

Demand

⁷ 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

⁸ 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.

⁹ Occasional players equates to all players minus regular players

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- ◀ The presumption is that **regular adult players** play once per week for one hour and that their average need is for three adults per court. This equates to a weekly requirement for **600 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 four players per court. This equates to a weekly requirement for **135 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 three adults per court. This requires **224 court hours** (latent demand).
- ◀ To service all badminton demand there is a need for **959 court hours** per week.
- ◀ Projected increase in regular demand in 2030 is **60 court hours**.

Supply

- ◀ There are 18 (3+court) sports halls containing 84 courts in Warrington.
- ◀ Four hall(s) are for private use only; thus 66 courts are available for badminton.
- ◀ The total number of court hours per week (3+ court sports halls) available in Warrington during stated peak time is **2,397¹⁰**
- ◀ 72.73%¹¹ of badminton courts in Warrington meet the Badminton England quality threshold (above average/good) which equates to **1,708 court hours¹²**.
- ◀ There is a need for **56.15%** of the **1,708** 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 **60**.

Strategic overview

There are below average badminton participation rates in line with ALS findings. Nine affiliated clubs with c.170 affiliated members suggest an infrastructure that could be developed. Just over seven in ten facilities meet the BE quality threshold.

There are nine BE affiliated clubs in Warrington:

- ◀ Appleton Hall BC
- ◀ Bridgewater Junior BC
- ◀ Culcheth High BC
- ◀ Daten BC
- ◀ David Lloyd BC
- ◀ Sunrise Badminton Network
- ◀ The Park BC
- ◀ Tigers BC
- ◀ Vida BC

Elite and talented players must currently travel out of the area to access a Performance Centre. The nearest ones are located in Bolton, Manchester East Cheshire and Merseyside.

All clubs were approached for consultation; however, only Appleton Hall BC and Sunrise Badminton Network responded. Multiple requests were made in the hope of receiving responses from the other clubs. However, no further responses were obtained. Desk research indicates that the following facilities are used by affiliated clubs:

¹⁰ 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

¹¹ National figure: 75.0%

¹² Assumes that all courts of all standards available during all peak hours.

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Table 4.13: Badminton club locations

Badminton club name	Home facility
Appleton Hall BC	Bridgewater High School (Lower)
Bridgewater Junior BC	Bridgewater High Arts College
Culcheth High BC	Culcheth High School
Daten BC	Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub
David Lloyd BC	David Lloyd (Warrington)
Sunrise Badminton Network	Broomfields Leisure Centre
The Park BC	Culcheth Sports & Social Club
Tigers BC	Birchwood Community High School
Vida BC	Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub

Club consultation:

Appleton Hall Badminton Club: Based at Bridgewater High School (Lower), it has 20 members in total with a 50: 50 male to female ratio. It is an adult club with no juniors. It has aspirations to expand membership following the Covid-19 pandemic, as it lost members during this time. As it recovers, it reports members are preferring to play on a more casual basis. It recognises that it needs regular members to enable it to be able to maintain income so as to be able to continue to afford court hire and equipment costs.

It reports that the changing rooms at the school are not in good condition and sometimes can contain school mess. As a result, members come dressed and ready to play and leave to shower at home.

Its long-term aspiration is to become a competitive club and it would like to establish a league to play in. However, it states that this is difficult at the moment due to the lack of local clubs in the area.

Sunrise Badminton Network: has 40 members with ages ranging from six to 18 years old. It reports that member numbers are slowly increasing. It aspires to expand its members but has found that locating centres which accommodate the sport and that have suitable times available for juniors can be challenging.

The Club is based at Broomfields Leisure Centre where there is planned investment to replace the floor which is welcomed.

The main aspirations are to produce players that play regionally, nationally and even internationally. It believes this can happen in the next couple of years if it is provided with the quality, accessible facilities and support. It has ambitions to grow to 200 members but in order to achieve this it needs to increase its coaching workforce and further prioritise junior development.

Netball

In November 2021 England Netball (EN) launched a ten-year 'Adventure Strategy' for the game along with a new brand identity for the organisation. Its new strategy shares a purpose-led ambition for the game, to build on the momentum the sport has seen in recent years and to take it to new heights for the decade ahead.

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The strategy outlines the intention to:

- ◀ Accelerate the development and growth of the game to every level, from grassroots to the elite;
- ◀ Elevate the visibility of the sport, and;
- ◀ Lead a movement to impact lives on and beyond the court.

At the heart of its purpose, EN, with its proud and unique female foundations, commits to remaining dedicated to increasing opportunities for women and girls to play the game as a priority, working to address the gender participation gap in sport that has widened since the Pandemic.

Underpinned by years of engaging with and delivering netball for female communities, EN pledges to understand, support and nurture women and girls more deeply at every life stage, at every age.

It is also committed to opening the sport to new audiences in every community, so netball better represents the rich diversity of the country it represents, and ensures the sport continues to evolve and adapt to thrive in the future, helping to create a truly inclusive sport for all where everyone can belong, flourish and soar. A recent partnership announcement with England Men's and Mixed Netball Association (EMMNA) to help develop and grow male participation in the game, supports this commitment as EN pledges to promote difference and embrace the opportunity to make the sport available to all.

EN indicates that transforming netball for children and young people is a strategic priority to help protect the future of the sport. It is working with schools and policy makers to extend physical literacy within, and after the school day with a focus on netball specific provision. EN commits to accelerating the expansion of its Bee Netball programme for young children, whilst supporting teens and young women to stay in the game.

Furthermore, the elite game is also a focus for EN, with the ambition for the Vitality Roses to be the best female sports team in the world, supporting the national team to consistently win on the world stage, with an outstanding talent pathway in place to fuel sustainable successes on court, and setting new standards for netball. The professionalisation of the game over the next decade is a priority for EN, with it focusing on growing world-leading international and domestic competitions and events and creating more careers in the sport.

The Adventure Strategy was developed on the back of feedback from the Netball Family, with over 3,000 members and stakeholders consulted as part of the strategic process to understand what they wanted netball to 'look like' in 2031, the plan is aspirational and ambitious, and sees EN pledge to continue as a trailblazer for women's sport.

Facility development

The facility development aspirations stated within the Strategy are to:

- ◀ Take a fresh look at the spaces required to support the sport, creating accessible places in every community to allow netball to be incorporated into how and where women and girls live their lives;
- ◀ Protect, enhance, and extend the network of homes that house the sport at a local and regional level;
- ◀ Develop an elite domestic professional competition that supports full time athletes underpinned by a world class infrastructure and environments.

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For EN to achieve its ambitions to make the game accessible to wider audiences and in every community, it encourages local authorities to adopt policies within outdoor and indoor sports facilities strategies and that:

- ◀ Facilitates informal netball activity within neighbourhood multi use games areas for example by installing combined outdoor basketball and netball goals and art courts in Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs).
- ◀ Incorporates the cultural and health needs of women and girls within any designs for improved or new facilities.
- ◀ Protects and enhances netball facilities within all Primary and Secondary School environments so they offer a positive first experience of the sport for students and the wider community during out of school hours.
- ◀ Supports the installation of floodlights on outdoor courts to increase all year-round use.
- ◀ Facilitates the development of netball growth programmes, club training and competition within public leisure centres.
- ◀ Where appropriate, supports the development of netball homes and performance environments that enable local women and girls to pursue a career in netball as an elite athlete, official, coach or administrator.

EN reports that the sport is growing fast nationally with a recent YouGov^[1] report it commissioned reporting that the 2019 World Cup inspired 160,000 adult women to take up the sport. In addition, 71% of clubs reported more people had shown an interest in playing netball than before the tournament started.

Netball is played both indoors and outdoors. For outdoor provision please refer to the 2022 Warrington Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy.

Current indoor activity and provision in the Warrington area is as follows:

- ◀ *Back 2 Netball*- sessions are designed to re-introduce players to the sport. Sessions are run by coaches and held at Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub. These are delivered in partnership with Warrington Netball League.
- ◀ *Walking Netball* - this is netball but played at a walking pace. It has been designed so that anyone can play it regardless of age or fitness level. One weekly session takes place at Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub on Wednesdays from 10.30-11.30 and costs £3.50 per session. A second session is held at Croft Memorial Hall on Thursdays from 17.00-18.00.

Warrington District Netball League is EN affiliated and runs summer (outdoor) and winter (indoor) leagues. Consultation reports that for the 2020/2021 winter season it had a total of 20 teams across two divisions.

Due to the pandemic, it did not operate in winter 2019-2020. Bridgewater High School (Lower), Broomfields Leisure Centre, Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub and Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub are all regularly used for its fixtures. Beamont Academy has been used occasionally. The League hold fixtures on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from September through to March. Sourcing adequate hall space can be a challenge for league organisers, and it reports that some sites have issues such as slippery flooring which can affect the quality of play and cause injuries to players.

Warrington Town Netball Club was formed over 45 years ago, with only one team playing in the Warrington & District Netball League. It has grown to the point where it now supports all players from all abilities.

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

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It is committed to “developing every senior or junior player so they can reach their full potential”. The Club offers every child and adult a netball development pathway that meets their needs and future potential. All its teams have an England Netball UKCC Qualified lead coach, assistant coach and team manager so it can offer quality coaching to support every child. It competes in the following

- ◀ *Junior competitions:* Regional, Cheshire Junior League, Warrington District Netball League (U16s) and Local Warrington Ball Hall
- ◀ *Senior competitions:* NW Regional, NW Champs, County Elite League and Warrington District Netball League

Stockton Netball Club was contacted on numerous occasions for consultation, however, no response has been received. Desktop research indicates it has c.100 members across 14 junior teams and two adult teams. It plays both summer and winter seasons. In the 2019-2020 winter season (indoor) it ran four teams entered in the Warrington Netball League. It is also located at the Warrington Sport for All Centre.

Penketh Panthers Netball Club is a grassroots, sports club, which was specifically set up in September 2014 to address the need for a netball club in the Penketh and Great Sankey areas of Warrington. It has grown from a small club of two teams to what is now a well-established and embedded club with 12 teams. It caters for players aged four years onwards and into adulthood. It was approached directly to take part in consultation, but no response was received despite multiple requests.

Play Netball is a commercial netball league provider which operates at 35 venues across the East Midlands, North West and North East. It organises weekly summer leagues (outdoor), at Trinity Sports Centre (Manchester), Blackpool Sports Centre, and Thornleigh Salesian College (Bolton). However, it does not run any indoor leagues in Warrington. There may be demand in the Warrington area.

EN consultation highlights that indoor venue availability for affiliated fixtures in Warrington can, at times, present issues. It reports that some sites have issues such as slippery flooring which can cause injuries to players.

Club consultation:

Appleton Netball Club has a total of 178 members, ranging from ages eight years to 55 years old. Its sister club (Nelly's Netball Club) caters for children aged 3-8 years. It reports that most of the age groups are full and because of this some have a waiting list. There are a couple of odd spaces in some age groups, and it could take on a maximum of five extra members across the whole club.

It plays and trains at three different venues; training Broomfields Leisure Centre, Bridgewater High School (lower), and Cardinal Newman Catholic High School. It notes that Broomfields is in the worst condition due to the floor being of poor quality and slippery. The car parking is also believed to be poor with the changing rooms rated as adequate.

The Club must use its own equipment, and at the venues it states that there is little or no storage. Broomfield's does have a small storage room but it is insufficient to accommodate all the equipment needed. Most players have to store equipment in their cars or at their homes.

Saints Netball Club has 69 members, with ages ranging from 18-69 years old. It only caters for adults at present and reports that membership numbers fluctuate. It used to run four

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teams competing in the winter league and now, this year, is down to three teams. Its aim is to create additional teams and recruit new members.

The facility it uses is Birchwood Community School and consultation identifies that it meets the clubs needs and it rates it as a good quality, with good standards of changing rooms and toilets which are accessible for members to use. The facility benefits from great parking available in the area. It also believes the condition of the equipment it uses as good, as most of it is brand new.

The main issue for the Club is winning matches as its teams are not overly competitive. It would like to see the leagues have more teams to make it more competitive as it is losing teams every season. Its main aspirations are to get more people involved and interested in netball and increase the number of teams playing and to a more competitive standard in the leagues.

Basketball (BBE)

BBE is the NGB for the sport in England. Its latest strategy, Transforming Basketball in Britain Together (2016 - 2028) aims to improve basketball from grassroots to GB teams, by adopting a whole sport approach and working closely with the basketball community. To achieve this, a series of key objectives have been identified:

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

To increase the 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 stated intent is that as part of its facilities strategy implementation, BBE will regularly monitor provision in schools, colleges, universities, clubs and at local authority sites and identify any gaps, looking to improve connections between these organisations to increase the availability and affordability of facilities of the right quality. Basketball England was also unresponsive to consultation requests. There are five affiliated clubs in the Borough:

- ◀ Padgate Basketball Club
- ◀ Cheshire Wire Basketball Club
- ◀ Sankey Wildcats Junior Basketball Club
- ◀ Bridgewater Jets Basketball Club
- ◀ Warrington Basketball Club

All five clubs were approached for consultation; however, only Warrington Basketball Club as well the facility; Sports For All Centre (which also provides basketball in Warrington and three other areas) responded to requests. Other clubs did not respond despite numerous requests made.

Warrington Basketball Club (Warrington Sport For All Centre) is based at the Sport for All Centre (Sir Thomas Boteler High School). This venue operates as a league and oversees/ has links with different clubs in the Warrington Area. It caters for players from a range of

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clubs and majority of these have both an adult and junior sections. The Club wants to expand its membership as some were lost during the Covid pandemic.

The Club states that the facility is in overall good condition but is getting old. It has two courts, which is more than other sites in the area. The changing rooms are poor as the venue is old and is in needs of refurbishment. There is a small car park at the site, and this is an issue in terms of fitting everyone in. However, the main issue is with the overall site as it needs investment in aesthetic improvement. (The cost of this is understood). They are also of the view that the venue would benefit from getting new Perspex backboards, but this is less of a priority. Other minor investments required include newer equipment such as balls and bibs.

The site (Warrington Sports for All Centre) wishes to develop the women's league as it believes this is massively lacking across the country. The Club shares this vision and wants to help to support it. The goal is to become one of the leading leagues in the country.

Handball

Handball England was unresponsive to consultation requests.

Warrington Wolves Handball Club is based at Birchwood Community High School and caters for junior players. It has 20 (mainly male) members with ages ranging from 11 to 18 years. Pre-pandemic, it had a senior section however, this folded due to a lack of members. The Club aspires to rebuild and develop an adult section again.

Consultation indicates Birchwood Community High School is the only facility in the area both large enough to accommodate handball and available at the times required. It states that the floor needs replacement. The Club believes the changing and toilet facilities to be adequate although they would benefit from modernisation. The car park is also sufficient and meets the club's needs. The nets and goals at the facility are old and the Club would like them to be upgraded. This would help it to compete and challenge higher up in the sport and provide a development pathway for young talent.

Volleyball

The audit identified volleyball activity in Warrington and desk research indicates that there are two clubs in the area: Warrington Volleyball Club and Warrington Wolves Volleyball Club. Only Warrington Volleyball Club responded to consultation request. Volleyball England was also unresponsive to consultation requests.

Warrington Volleyball Club has three different teams: men, female, and youth. The age ranges for members are 12-50 years old. It uses Birchwood Community High School as its main venue. Moreover, it states the condition of the site is good but has had issues with the posts which are currently awaiting repair. The Club purchased the nets with its own funding. It hires the two courts at the site and the junior and adult teams' train separately for two hours. It considers the changing rooms to be of good quality and has no reported issues. As a club it is looking to expand as presently it is not operating at full capacity.

Summary of current demand

There are high levels of demand for sports hall space from a number of clubs operating in and across Warrington. Basketball, badminton, and netball are popular in the area and have identified scope for growth. Warrington District Netball League has a particularly strong presence. Its winter (indoor) league uses five sports halls, and reports demand for more venues. Netball groups/clubs can at times struggle to find court space.

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Seven in ten facilities meet the BE quality threshold. Most sports report a decline in participation since the Covid-19 Pandemic and are still recovering from the loss in members.

Many facilities are operating above comfortable levels. The exceptions are The Recreation Centre (Padgate Academy - a 3-court hall), Penketh High School and Bridgewater High School (Lower) - operating at 50% or below. Culcheth High School and Birchwood Community High School are operating just below the Sport England 80% threshold.

4.3: Future demand and Sports Facilities Calculator (SFC)

Sport England's SFC helps quantify additional demand for community sports facilities generated by new growth populations, development and regeneration areas. It is used to estimate facility needs for whole area (borough) populations but should not be applied for strategic gap analysis as it has no spatial dimension and does not take account of:

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

Table 4.13: Sport England's Sports Facilities Calculator results for Warrington

	Population 2018 (MYE)	Population estimate 2038
ONS population projections	209,547	216,269
Population increase	-	6,722
Facilities required to meet additional demand		+1.91 courts: 0.48 sports halls
Estimated cost		£1,162,458

Calculations do not account for existing stock; they assume that the current sports hall stock remains available for community use and the quality remains the same. The projected increase in population will lead to increased demand for sports halls. Based on ONS population estimates, the SFC indicates a need for an additional 1.91 (badminton) courts, up to 2038 (at an estimated cost of £1,162,458).

Current sport hall use is high but that there is capacity to enable clubs to expand subject to schools' willingness and ability to increase the number of hours available to the community. Should ONS population estimates be realised there will be a need for two additional badminton courts. This could be catered for via quality improvements to current facilities. There is, however, a need to improve quality at the sites identified as below average quality:

- ◀ Birchwood Community High School
- ◀ Bridgewater High School (Lower)
- ◀ Penketh High School
- ◀ The Recreation Centre Padgate Academy
- ◀ Warrington For All Sports Centre

It is noted that Cardinal Newman Catholic High School and Broomfields Leisure Centre has since the audit took place had investment and refurbishment take place.

There may also be a need to increase daytime use availability as the number/proportion of older people in the local population increases.

WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES

4.4: Summary of key facts and issues

Facility type	Sports halls	
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	Warrington has 45 sports halls (106 courts). There are 18 with 3+ courts across 18 sites (a total of 81 badminton courts).	Population growth estimates may create additional demand for up to 1.91 courts. There is limited available capacity at existing facilities to accommodate this increase.
Quality	Warrington has two good, eight above average, and seven below average quality 3+ court sports halls. One site was unassessed. There are no poor quality sports halls. The sports hall at Broomfields Leisure Centre has received refurbishment and has a new floor and the walls have been painted. (July 2022).	Birchwood Community High School requires investment to meet modern user expectations. Floor surfaces need replacement with better line markings. Consideration should be given to painting The Recreation Centre (Padgate Academy) a colour conducive for all sports. Maintain/improve quality of other below average sites.
Accessibility	The whole population lives within 20 minutes' drive time of a sports hall. 79.4% lives within 20 minutes' walk of a sports hall. 25.5% of residents of areas of higher deprivation live within one mile of a sports hall. Sixteen 3+ court halls are located within two miles of the Warrington Borough boundary.	Main population settlements within the Borough are all serviced by sports hall facilities.
Availability (Management and usage)	All sports halls offer apart from St Gregory's Catholic High School offer some form of community availability. There is scope to increase hours available (should demand exist and if it is financially viable) at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Beamont Collegiate Academy ◆ Priestley College ◆ Kings Leadership Academy. Eleven sites are operating above Sport England's 80% comfort threshold – demonstrating high levels of demand in the borough. There is limited capacity available at <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Recreation Centre (Padgate Academy) ◆ Penketh High School ◆ Bridgewater High School (Lower). Four sports halls are available for daytime use across the borough.	Continued good relationships between schools and clubs are required to ensure continued/increased use of sites. The limited daytime use means that programming will be of key importance given the projected increase in the older population. Continued good relationships are required between clubs and the school ran sites to sustain and improve community use levels at its facilities.

WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES

Facility type	Sports halls	
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Summary	<p>Each facility is important to the communities it serves. They need to be protected in accordance with paragraph 98 of the NPPF.</p> <p>There is a need to improve the quality of the below average sports halls.</p> <p>Maintain good relationships with schools, to retain levels of community use.</p> <p>Consider whether and how community use can be extended at certain school sites enabling existing sport and physical activity participation to grow.</p> <p>Consider the need to increase daytime access as the number/proportion of older people increases.</p> <p>Projected increases in population can be accommodated during peak hours available in sports halls across Warrington. Developer contributions could thus, be directed at improving sports hall quality.</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.

The 2019 State of the UK Swimming Industry Report reveals that the UK swimming industry has not changed significantly in the previous 12 months although. 26 swimming pool sites have opened and 27 have closed. Nuffield and GLL remain the UK’s leading private and public operators (by number of sites with a pool). GLL operates 146 swimming centres, while Nuffield has 111 clubs with a pool. The 2019 report shows that 84% of the UK population live within two miles of one of the 3,170 swimming pool sites. As mentioned previously the Covid-19 Pandemic has had a big nationwide impact on swimming pool provision, with many sites being closed due to social distancing restrictions for a significant portion of 2020.

5.1: Supply

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

Quantity

The audit identifies 17 swimming pools at 13 sites. This includes all pools irrespective of size and access. Ten of the swimming pools are main/general pools, three are lidos and four are learner/teaching pools. Learner/teaching pools aid programming (and income generation) at public leisure centre sites in particular. Swimming facilities are well distributed from the West to the centre of the Borough. There is no facility in the North or East of the town. The centre has areas of higher population density as noted in Figure 5.1.

WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES

Figure 5.1: All swimming pools in Warrington

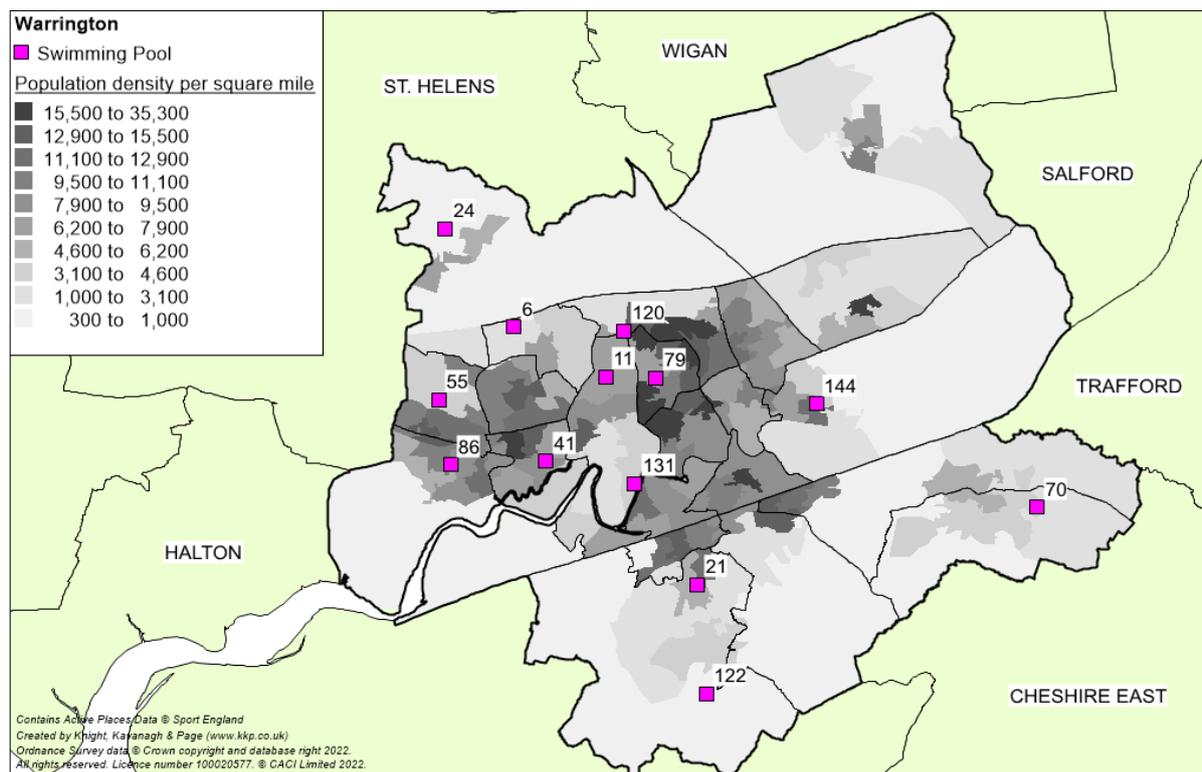


Figure 5.1: All swimming pools in Warrington

Map ID	Site	Facility type	Lanes	Length (m)	Area (m2)
6	Athelis Club and Spa	Lido	0	14	84
11	Bewsey and Dallam Community Hub	Learner/teaching	0	10	70
21	Broomfields Leisure Centre	Main/general	4	25	225
24	Burtonwood Community Primary School	Lido	0	10	50
41	David Lloyd Club (Warrington)	Main/general	6	25	300
41	David Lloyd Club (Warrington)	Lido	4	20	200
55	Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub	Main/general	6	25	313
55	Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub	Learner/teaching	0	12	91
70	Lymm Leisure Centre	Main/general	5	22	216
79	Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub	Main/general	8	25	438
79	Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub	Learner/teaching	4	15	135
86	Penketh Parish Council Pool & Community Centre	Main/general	4	20	140
120	Swim Warrington	Main/general	0	25	325
122	The Park Royal	Main/general	0	22	198
131	The Village Gym (Warrington)	Main/general	1	23	230
144	Woolston Neighbourhood Hub	Main/general	6	25	300
144	Woolston Neighbourhood Hub	Learner/teaching	0	12	113

WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES

Penketh Parish Council Pool & Community Centre (Map ID 86) has been closed since March 2020 (Covid-19 Pandemic). There are several cracks and leaks in the pool walls and pipe infrastructure. In addition, a failure in the filtration system was discovered and so the pool was drained for further investigation. These highlighted further defects relating to the plan and plumbing and because of this the pool has remained closed.

The Parish Council has invested c.£80,000 to address the issues and refurbish the pool. It has also conducted a business review of the operating model and will once the pool re-opens be implementing a new revised programme with an aim to reduce dependency on Council subsidy. The pool is set to re-open at the end of summer 2022. As it is currently closed, the programme is unknown. Because it is only 140m² (lower than the 160m² threshold) it is excluded from the analysis. It may, however, need to be included in any future studies.

Bewsey & Dallam Community Hub

Built in 2020, the good quality swimming pool is 10m x 7m and 1.2 m deep and is classified as a learner/teaching pool. Whilst the pool is small and therefore not included in the analysis, moving forwards, it is recognised that it is providing opportunities for some of the local community. Pool programme includes opportunities to:

- ◀ Parent and child
- ◀ Water fitness classes
- ◀ Swim for confidence
- ◀ Family sessions
- ◀ Swim – Ability (Accessible sessions for people who require additional support / equipment)

The pool is not suitable for lane swimming and swimming clubs due to its small size.

Figure 5.2: Swimming pool at Bewsey & Dallam Community Hub



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Quality

KKP has visited the Borough's main swimming pools and completed non-technical visual assessments. This encompasses assessment of changing provision as this can also play a significant role in influencing and attracting users. Quality is assessed as previously described in Section 3.2.

Figure 5.3: Quality of audited swimming pools in Warrington

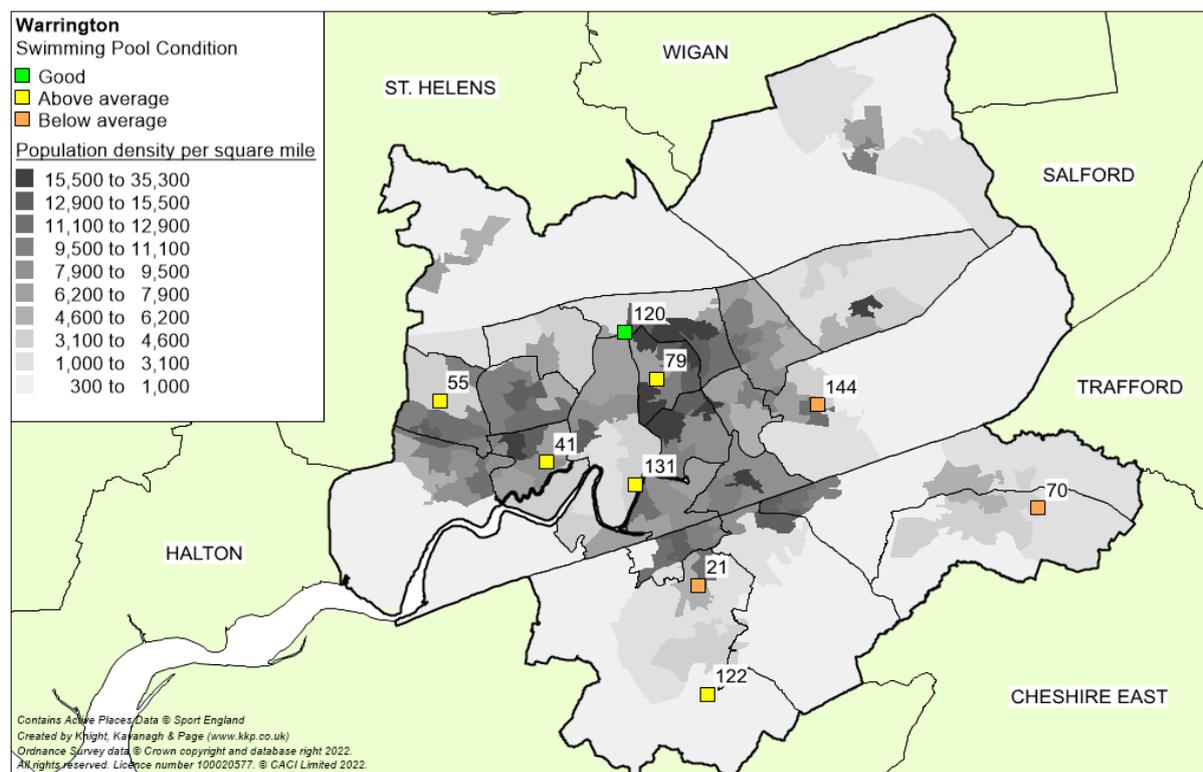


Table 5.2 identifies one good quality swimming pool, five are above average and three below average. There are no poor quality pools. Figure 5.3 identifies that residents in the West of the authority primarily have access to good and above average swimming pools, whereas those in the East have only access to below average swimming pools.

The largest swimming pool is Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub with eight lanes (17m wide) and 25m long. It also has a learner/teaching pool with four lanes (9m). It is 15m long.

The pool at Swim Warrington is the only one assessed as good quality. It is also the newest pool in the area – opened in 2017. The pools at David Lloyd (Warrington), Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub, Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub, The Park Royal and the Village Gym (Warrington) are all rated above average. Broomfields Leisure Centre, Lymm Leisure Centre and Woolston Neighbourhood Hub are of below average quality.

Changing provision is commensurate with pool condition at all sites with the exception of Woolston Neighbourhood Hub where the pool was assessed as below average while the changing facility is above average.

David Lloyd also has a lido (four lanes x 20m) which opens seasonally (April to October) to members.

WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES

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

Map ID	Site	Lanes x length (m)	Condition	
			Pool	Changing
21	Broomfields Leisure Centre	4 x 25m	Below average	Below average
41	David Lloyd Club (Warrington)	6 x 25m	Above average	Good
55	Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub	6 x 25m	Above average	Good
70	Lymm Leisure Centre	5 x 22m	Below average	Below average
79	Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub	8 x 25m	Above average	Above average
120	Swim Warrington	0 x 25m	Above average	Above average
122	The Park Royal	0 x 22m	Above average	Above average
131	The Village Gym (Warrington)	1 x 23m	Above average	Above average
144	Woolston Neighbourhood Hub	6 x 25m	Below average	Above average

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

Site	Year built	Refurbishment	Age (years) since refurbishment
Broomfields Leisure Centre	1975	2015	7
David Lloyd Club (Warrington)	1999	2016	6
Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub	1977	2018	4
Lymm Leisure Centre	1995	-	27
Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub	2012	-	10
Swim Warrington	2017	-	5
The Park Royal	1997	-	25
The Village Gym (Warrington)	1992	2014	8
Woolston Neighbourhood Hub	1972	2018	4

Woolston Neighbourhood Hub is the oldest pool in the Borough (opened 1972). Consultation explains that although the original site is 50 years old it replaced the swimming pool plant four years ago. In that respect the swimming pool is doing well and functioning. There are also aspirations to modernise the rest of the pool including the tiles to make it more attractive to users. It also stated that it recently replaced some of the windows on the top side of the facility, however, this job was not fully completed as funding ran out. As a result, three windows remain in the old style. This would be the next job the site prioritises to complete the job fully.

Village Gym (Warrington), Broomfields, David Lloyd (Warrington) and Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub are reported to have benefitted from refurbishment in 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2018 respectively.

Consultation with Broomfields found that management has aspirations to improve overall quality. Pool plant and changing facilities need investment. Similarly, its boiler and tank are approaching the end of their expected lifespan and needed significant investment to replace. In addition, the roof leaks – another issues that needs to be addressed.

A funding application has been submitted for Levelling Up Funding to invest the partial demolition and rebuild of a new swimming pool, changing village and plant at Broomfields Leisure Centre.

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Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub and Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub report no concerns with both its swimming pool facility and suggest maintenance is the top priority.

Lymm Leisure Centre acknowledges that investment is imminently needed for its pool tank and plant as both are ageing. It would also like to modernise its outdated changing facility.

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. The normal acceptable standard is 20-minutes' walk time (1-mile radial catchment) for an urban area and a 20-minutes' drive time for a rural area. This enables analysis of the adequacy of coverage and helps identify areas currently not serviced by existing provision. Figure 5.3 and Table 5.5 illustrate the walk-time based accessibility of all swimming pools in Warrington.

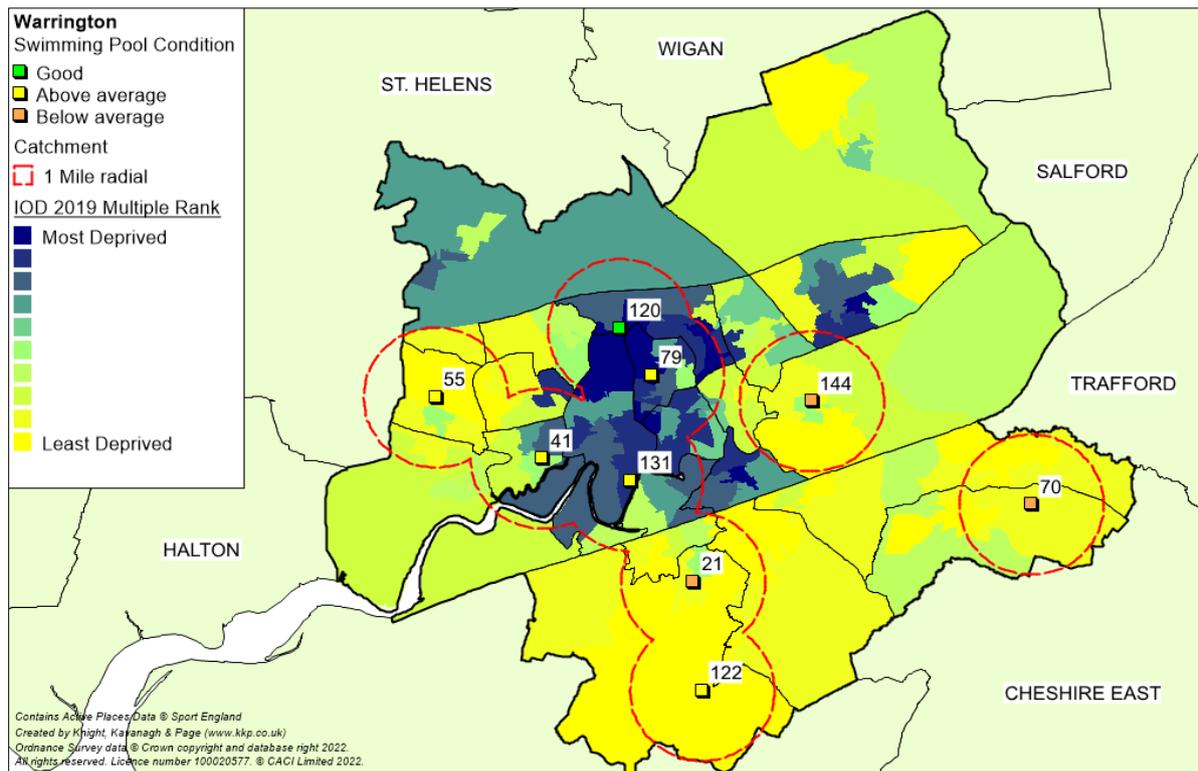
Analysis shows that 60.2% of the population lives within one mile of a swimming pool. Of the 55,529 people living in areas of higher deprivation in Warrington (i.e., those living in 30% most deprived areas nationally), 72% (40,250 people) live within one mile of a swimming pool. This would suggest that swimming pools are adequately located to attract users from areas of higher deprivation, assuming that other barriers to access can be overcome.

Table 5.4: Accessibility of swimming pools in Warrington

IMD 2019 10% bands	Warrington		Swimming pools catchment populations by IMD			
	Persons	Population %	Persons inside catchment	Population inside (%)	Persons outside catchment	Population outside (%)
0 - 10	16,619	8.0%	12,660	6.1%	3,959	1.9%
10.1 - 20	21,626	10.5%	15,976	7.7%	5,650	2.7%
20.1 - 30	17,284	8.4%	11,614	5.6%	5,670	2.7%
30.1 - 40	19,728	9.6%	12,425	6.0%	7,303	3.5%
40.1 - 50	7,320	3.5%	1,265	0.6%	6,055	2.9%
50.1 - 60	9,907	4.8%	8,498	4.1%	1,409	0.7%
60.1 - 70	18,336	8.9%	7,184	3.5%	11,152	5.4%
70.1 - 80	30,645	14.8%	14,996	7.3%	15,649	7.6%
80.1 - 90	33,685	16.3%	21,067	10.2%	12,618	6.1%
90.1 - 100	31,316	15.2%	18,579	9.0%	12,737	6.2%
Total	206,466	100.0%	124,264	60.2%	82,202	39.8%

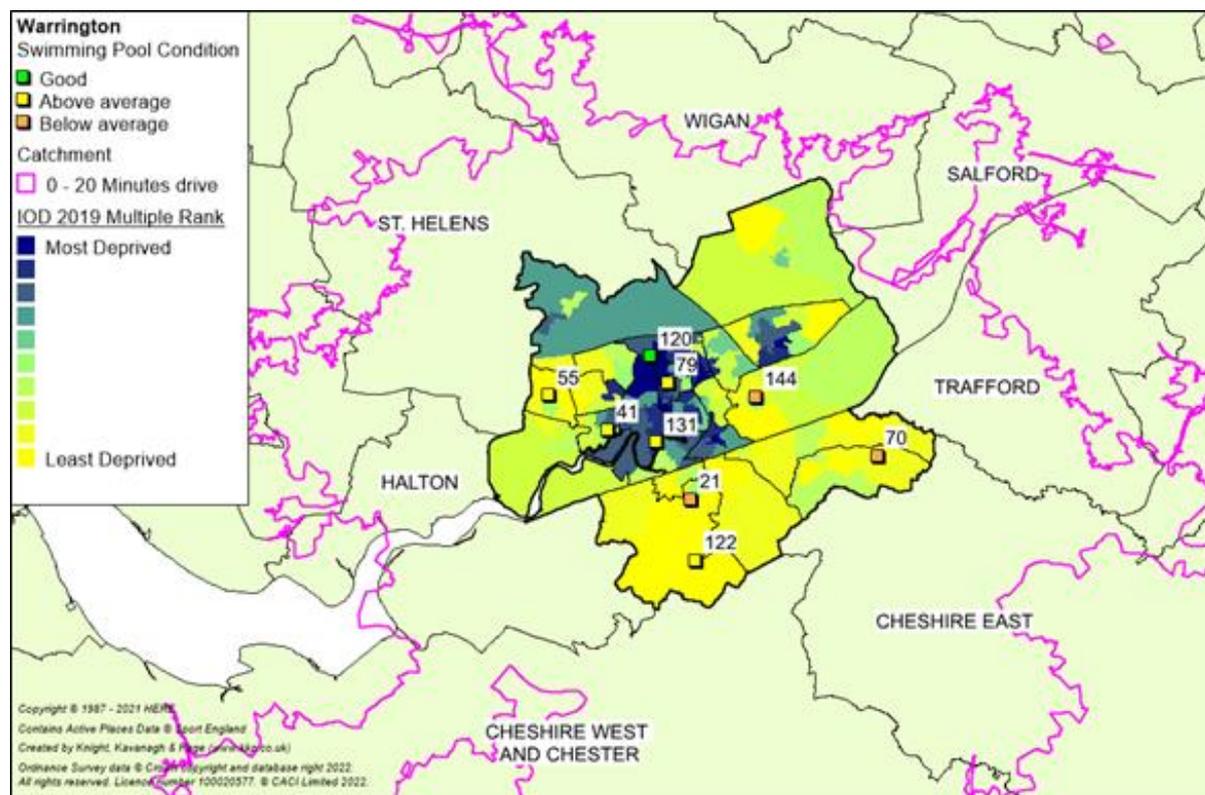
WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES

Figure 5.4: Accessibility of swimming pools in Warrington



The whole borough population (209,397) resides within a 20-minutes' drive time of a swimming pool (2020 ONS MYE).

Figure 5.5: All swimming pools 160m+ with a 20 minutes drive time



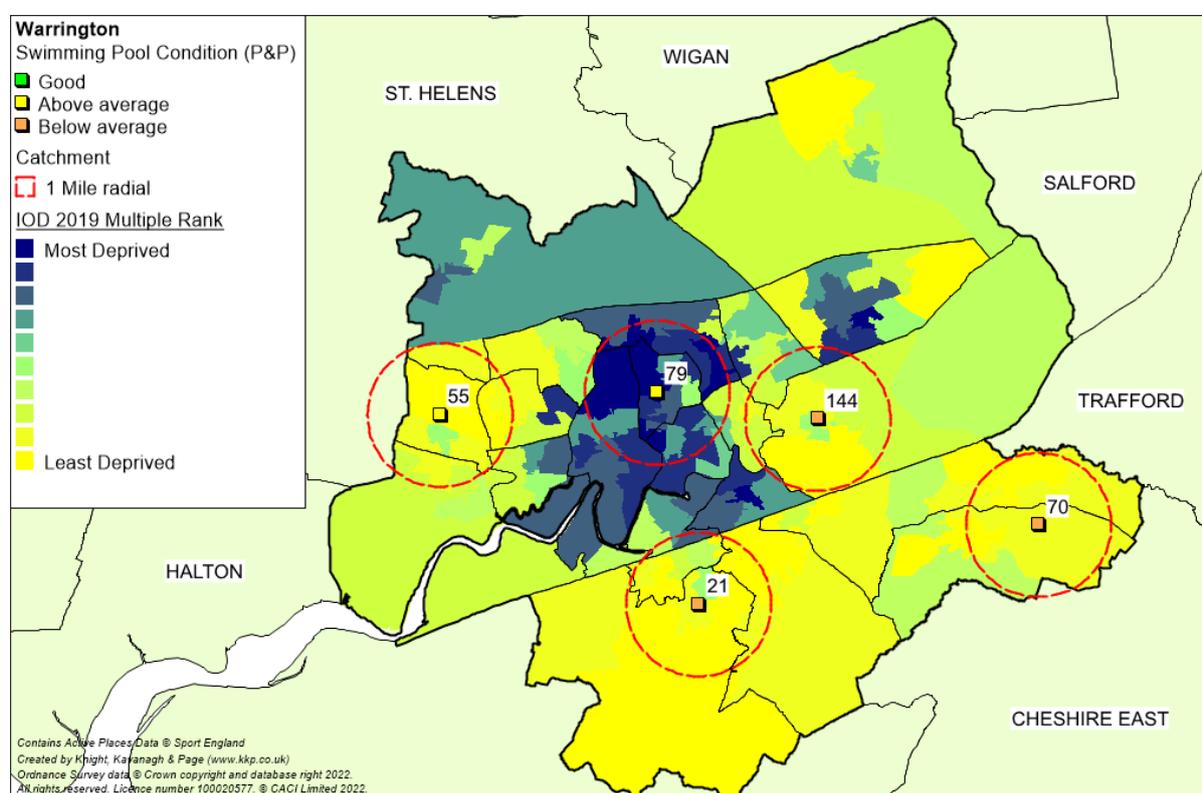
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Five pools offer pay and play swimming facilities which increases the likelihood for access by everyone in the community. Four are available for registered members. While it is recognised that facilities with registered membership and community associations are an important part of the facility mix, they are not necessarily available to everyone. When considering pay and play only swimming pools, accessibility changes as follows:

Table 5.5: Pay and play accessibility of swimming pools in Warrington

IMD 10% bands	Warrington		P&P swimming pools 160m ² excluding lidos Catchment populations by IMD			
	Persons	Population %	Persons inside catchment	Population inside (%)	Persons outside catchment	Population outside (%)
0 - 10	16,619	8.0%	12,307	6.0%	4,312	2.1%
10.1 - 20	21,626	10.5%	11,218	5.4%	10,408	5.0%
20.1 - 30	17,284	8.4%	3,509	1.7%	13,775	6.7%
30.1 - 40	19,728	9.6%	7,449	3.6%	12,279	5.9%
40.1 - 50	7,320	3.5%	1,204	0.6%	6,116	3.0%
50.1 - 60	9,907	4.8%	6,092	3.0%	3,815	1.8%
60.1 - 70	18,336	8.9%	2,010	1.0%	16,326	7.9%
70.1 - 80	30,645	14.8%	7,062	3.4%	23,583	11.4%
80.1 - 90	33,685	16.3%	19,828	9.6%	13,857	6.7%
90.1 - 100	31,316	15.2%	15,860	7.7%	15,456	7.5%
Total	206,466	100.0%	86,539	41.9%	119,927	58.1%

Figure 5.6: Pay and play pools quality on IMD one-mile catchment



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Accessibility, as a walk to a pay and play facility, is reduced to 41.9% of the population of which 13.1% live in the areas of higher deprivation.

Facilities in neighbouring authorities

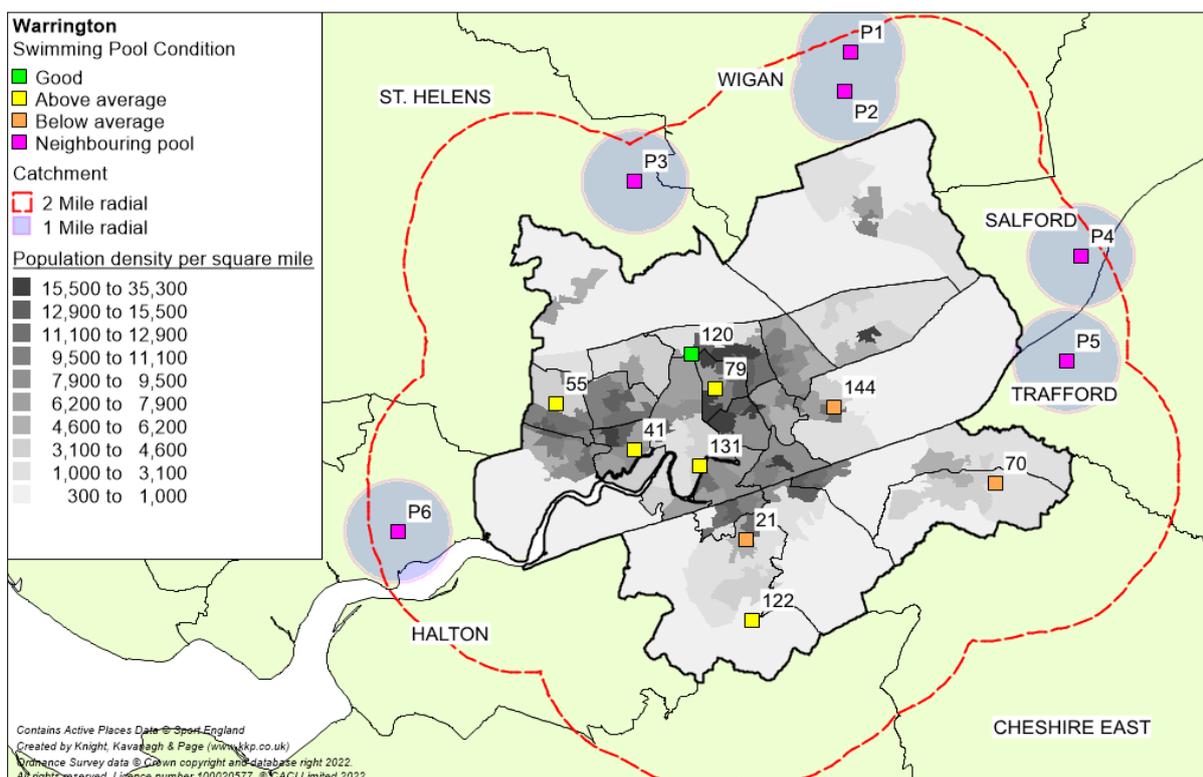
Accessibility is also influenced by facilities within easy reach of the local authority. Figure 5.6 and Table 5.6 detail swimming facilities located within two miles of the Warrington boundary. There are six pools in Wigan, St. Helens, Salford, Trafford and Halton one of which requires a registered membership to use them. The rest are accessible on a pay and play basis.

Table 5.6: Neighbouring community available pools within two-mile radial of Warrington

Map ID	Site	Pool type	Lanes / length	Access type	Authority
P1	Everlast Fitness Club (Leigh)	Main/general	1 x 20m	Reg. membership	Wigan
P2	Leigh Leisure Centre	Main/General	6 x 25m	Pay and Play	Wigan
P3	Newton-Le-Willows Health & Fitness	Main/General	6 x 25m	Pay and Play	St. Helens
P4	Irlam & Cadishead Leisure Centre	Main/General	6 x 25m	Pay and Play	Salford
P5	Partington Sports Village	Main/General	4 x 20m	Pay and Play	Trafford
P6	Kingsway Leisure Centre	Main/General	8 x 25m	Pay and Play	Halton

Source: Active Places Power 30/05/2022

Figure 5.7: Swimming pools located within two miles of Warrington boundary



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Availability of swimming pools

Swimming pool availability differs dependent upon ownership and/or management. Facilities audited all offer some form of public access. The access policy for each site is detailed below.

Table 5.7: Access policy of swimming pools

Site	Access policy
Broomfields Leisure Centre	Pay & play
David Lloyd Club (Warrington)	Registered membership
Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub	Pay & play
Lymm Leisure Centre	Pay & play
Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub	Pay & play
Swim Warrington	Registered membership
The Park Royal	Registered membership
The Village Gym (Warrington)	Registered membership
Woolston Neighbourhood Hub	Pay & play

Broomfields Leisure Centre, Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub, Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub and Woolston Neighbourhood Hub are owned by WBC and operated by LiveWire. Lymm Leisure Centre is operated by the high school on site (Lymm High School). All of these sites have a pay and play access policy.

The pools at David Lloyd Club (Warrington), The Park Royal and Village Gym (Warrington) and Swim Warrington are commercial entities, where users must purchase a monthly/annual membership to access facilities. While acknowledging that commercially managed facilities can cater for specific market segments, they are not available to all sections of the community and may not necessarily be affordable to all households.

Furthermore, no pool site in Warrington operates on the basis of a sports club/community association use access model, where the pools are available for use by people who are members.

Future enhancements/new developments

As previously mentioned, Penketh Parish Council Pool is due to open at the end of summer 2022. As of the time of the audit, there were no known swimming pool developments planned in the area.

A feasibility study is currently taking place to investigate the potential to replace Parr Swimming and Fitness Centre in St Helens. Whilst this is outside the two-mile boundary, it is in close proximity for the residents in Burtonwood and should it be replaced, it is likely to attract residents from that settlement area.

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5.3: Demand

Swim England's latest strategy, *Towards a Nation Swimming: a Strategic Plan for Swimming in England 2017-21*, has the stated aim to create a happier, healthier and more successful nation through swimming.

To achieve this, several strategic objectives are set - 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 that in relation to UK-wide participation local authorities with swimming pool water deficits are its highest priority. With regard to Warrington, it indicates:

- ◀ A surplus of water provision (360m²) - for context, a 4-lane 20m pool is 160m².
- ◀ Despite this, there is still some unmet demand in the central and northern area of the Authority.
- ◀ That the key sites providing public aquatic facility access in the Borough are Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub, Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub and Woolston Neighbourhood Hub.
- ◀ That relationships need to be maintained in order to maintain public access to educational facilities.
- ◀ That additional water space may be needed in the future to cater for the growing population and reflected demand created by any sizeable housing development.
- ◀ That continued support and investment from the local authority, as shown in recent developments and refurbishments, will help protect and enhance the future of aquatic facilities.
- ◀ That, although some refurbishment works are shown to have been completed, it would still advise that, given that a number of local facilities are 25+ years old, a site condition survey should be completed to assess future sustainability.

Swim England's view is that current water provision adequately meets demand in Warrington although it states that in the future there may be need for additional water space due to the growing population and the sizeable housing development within the area.

Learn to swim (LTS)

Across its five swimming pool sites LiveWire currently has c.3,500 children learning to swim. Its LTS programme is running at 80% capacity. It, thus, reports having the capability to deliver more but faces a current shortage of swimming teachers and lifeguards. This issue is not just apply to Warrington it is a challenge nationally. The problem has been exacerbated by the Pandemic lockdowns during which many staff left the industry and have not returned.

LiveWire reports significant waiting lists (2,659) across the age groups. This include:

- ◀ Ducklings (children Under 4 years) – 575
- ◀ LTS Child Beginners (4-7 year olds) – 1,375
- ◀ LTS Child Beginners (7+ years old) – 550
- ◀ LTS Child Improvers – 61
- ◀ LTS Adults – 98

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On average, people are remaining on the waiting list for c.18 months. Primarily due to the National shortage of swim teachers. Should the number of swim teachers increase, waiting lists could be significantly reduced.

Club consultation:

Warriors Warrington Swimming Club and Warrington Swimming & Water Polo Club are the Swim England accredited clubs in the Borough.

Warriors Warrington Swim Club works in partnership with LiveWire. LiveWire operates the squad programme and the Club delivers the competition elements. WWSC has 136 members with ages ranging from 6-18 years. It notes that it is a very female dominated club. The main venue it uses is Woolston Neighbourhood Hub. It rates the facilities as adequate, as there have been some issues with regard to safeguarding and changing provision in terms of club and public access. Ideally, it would like to have exclusive use of the changing rooms when it is using the pool.

It also uses Broomfields Leisure Centre and states that this site is outdated, and as a result, some squads do not train at this facility. Its long-term ambition is to attract more members to the Club as some were lost during the Covid pandemic.

Warrington Swimming & Water Polo Club has c.150 members. Age ranges from 4- 19 years (swimming) and 10-16 years old (water polo), with senior team players from 18-40 years.

It has aspirations to expand its membership but currently has too few coaches and insufficient pool time access. It also specialises in water polo and has teams competing in local leagues.

It uses the pool facilities at Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub which have been recently refurbished, but feels the spectating facilities are poor (it should be noted that the pool is not a competition pool). It reports that Lymm Leisure Centre has an old pool but its condition is fine, Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub is reportedly in reasonable condition but showing signs of wear and tear and that Woolston Neighbourhood Hub looks tired and has two shallow ends restricting swimming and diving - but has good spectator facilities. Some concerns were expressed with regard to the pace of operational changeovers.

It is an entirely amateur club run by volunteers and states it has access to seven sessions of pool time a week across all the sites it is based at. Membership prices range from £20 and can go up to £35 depending on how often the users train/compete for events. It had to increase its fees due to increased facility hire and cost of equipment. It reported a loss in its last 'trading' year and this year. It requires more volunteers and coaches to run it. Going forward the Club is keen to return to pre-Pandemic member numbers, to start competing in swimming competitions and to continue the water polo success.

Warrington Dolphins Long Distance Swimming Club affiliates to the British Long Distance Swimming Association (BLDSA). It is the premier long-distance swimming club in Warrington and caters for people with a wide range of abilities, from junior and adult novices to highly experienced open water marathon swimmers and record holders.

Its current membership includes recreational swimmers and those with successful Channel, Loch Lomond, and two-way Windermere swims to their name. Many members take part in open water lake and sea swims of between one and 21 miles, channel relay swims and other team events throughout the summer. It welcomes new members and regularly invites

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potential members to try one of its training sessions before joining. Its usual training sessions take place at Broomfields Leisure Centre on Mondays from 20.00-21.00.

Warrington Sub Aqua Club is a branch of the British Sub Aqua club (BSAC - the NGB for the sport. BSAC provides an internationally recognised diver training and development programme via a network of clubs and centres across the country and overseas. For indoor training sessions, the Warrington Club it is based at the Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub on Wednesdays from 20.30-21.30.

Swim! is a UK wide based company which operates at sites across; Warrington, Oldham, Sheffield, Widnes, Liverpool, Sheffield, Mansfield and Leeds. It focuses on delivering lessons to develop babies and infants water confidence and specific skills with the aim of moving towards independent swimming. It was created by Olympic medallist and BBC Broadcaster Steve Parry. Participants are given an introductory assessment in order to place them in the correct group for their ability and make them feel comfortable before they commit and sign up to the programme.

5.4: Sport England's Facilities Calculator (SFC)

As noted earlier, 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 (district) populations but should not be applied for strategic gap analysis as it has no spatial dimension as it does not take account of:

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

Table 5.8: Sports facilities calculator

	Population 2018 (mid-year estimate)	Population estimate 2038
ONS population projections	209,547	216,269
Population increase	-	6,722
Facilities to meet additional demand	-	+1.37 lanes +0.34 pools
Estimated cost	-	£1,271,944

Calculations assume that the current swimming pool stock remains available for community use and the quality remains the same. It appears that the projected increase in population will lead to an increase in demand for swimming space. The SFC indicates a requirement for an additional

- ◀ 1.37 lanes which is equivalent to 0.34 swimming pools, up to 2038 (estimated cost: £1,271,944).

Projected population increases may not necessitate new provision, however, capacity levels at key strategic sites such as Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub and Woolston Neighbourhood Hub should be monitored closely.

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Broomfields Leisure Centre in the medium term requires attention and is approaching the end of its expected life. Planned housing growth in the area mean that consideration should be given to replacing and potentially expanding provision in this area.

5.5: Summary of key facts and issues

In summary, the above consultation and analysis indicates that Warrington is in the following position with regards to its swimming pool provision.

Facility type	Swimming pools	
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	There are 17 pools on 13 sites: 10 main pools, three lidos and four teaching pools. A feasibility study is currently assessing the potential to replace Parr Swimming & Fitness Centre in St Helens which is in close proximity for Burtonwood residents.	The Sport England FPM identifies that there is current spare capacity of water space. The audit identified that there may be a requirement for additional provision as the population increases generally and reflecting increased demand in strategic housing growth areas.
Quality	Pool stock is generally in above or below average condition. Swim Warrington is rated good quality and there is no poor quality swimming pool. All apart from Park Royal, Lymm Leisure Centre and Woolston Neighbourhood Hub were opened, or have been refurbished, during the last 20 years. Penketh Parish Council Pool and Community Centre is being refurbished.	There is a need to maintain and invest in the current swimming pool stock. Woolston Neighbourhood Hub is approaching the end of its lifespan. It is also located close to a housing growth area. There is a need to assess the feasibility of refurbishment/ replacement of the centre.
Accessibility	100% of the population lives within 20 minutes' drive of a swimming pool. 60% reside within 20-minutes' walk (including 72% of those living in areas of higher deprivation). Pay and play access is available to just 41.9% of residents (of whom 13.1% live in areas of high deprivation).	Used capacity at all sites (especially Woolston Neighbourhood Hub) should be monitored closely particularly at those in the strategic housing growth areas.
Availability (Management and usage)	Broomfields, Great Sankey, Lymm, Orford Jubilee, Swim Warrington and Woolston are available to the community on a pay and play basis. David Lloyd and The Park Royal and Village Gym (Warrington) require a membership to access. LiveWire has LTS waiting lists of c.2,600 .	It is important to maintain good relationship with educational sites.
Summary	<p>Each facility is important to the community served and should be protected in accordance with Paragraph 98 of the NPPF.</p> <p>There is currently sufficient water space in the area although a rise in population due to new housing plus projected population growth will increase pressure on existing stock. If considering a new facility as a replacement for Broomfields Leisure Centre, an increase from 4 lanes to 6 lanes should be considered.</p> <p>There is a requirement to maintain and improve swimming pools quality via good maintenance programmes.</p> <p>Programming at key sites should be investigated to ensure that the most popular activities are available at peak times.</p> <p>There is a need to tackle the shortage of swim teachers and lifeguards.</p>	

SECTION 6: HEALTH AND FITNESS SUITES

For the purposes of assessment, health and fitness suites are normally defined as venues with 20 stations or more. A station is a piece of static fitness equipment; larger health and fitness centres with more stations are generally able to make a more attractive offer to both members and casual users. They provide a valuable way to assist people of all ages, ethnicities, and abilities to introduce physical exercise into their daily lives with the obvious concomitant benefits to health, fitness and wellbeing.

The current state of the UK fitness industry is complex with a variety of providers. Key providers are; private sector operators (ranging from low-cost operators to the high-end market) and the operators of public sector facilities. The publicly owned facilities can be managed by companies and/or Trusts (such as GLL and Everyone Active, for example) on behalf of the local authority or are managed inhouse, by the local authority itself. Other providers include schools, trusts and/or charities.

Prior to the Coronavirus 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. Data up to the 12-month period ending March 2019, demonstrated an estimated increase of 4.7% in the number of members, 2.9% in the number of facilities and 4.2% in market value. Pure Gym and GLL remained the UK's leading operators (by number of gyms and members).

According to the State of the UK Fitness Industry Report (2019) there were 7,239 fitness facilities in the UK, up from 7,038 in 2018. Total industry membership was up 5.0% to 10.4 million which means that one in seven people in the UK is a member of a gym. The total market value is estimated at £5.1 billion, up 4.1% on 2018. The UK penetration rate is at 15.6%, which is an increase of 0.7% from the previous year. The 2019 report is the latest report available.

During 2020, and in the midst of social distancing restrictions (following an average 4-5 month period of enforced closure), many health and fitness providers were achieving a maximum figure of 40-50% of normal attendance. In the case of local authority contracted facilities, remobilisation following the relaxation of restrictions is likely to have required a negotiated package of financial support from the local authority

The impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on the sector continued well into 2021 in terms of enforced facility closure and residual social distancing restrictions. Many providers responded by designing a variety of on-line classes as a means of retaining member loyalty and engagement.

The State of the Fitness Industry Report UK for 2022 found the market to be in remarkably good shape considering the disruptions of the pandemic, with overall results showing some key metrics to be running at the same levels as 2018 and some at 2019 levels, when the industry was having a 'golden moment', with record results in all areas.

Memberships decreased by 4.7 per cent from 10.4 million in 2019 to 9.9m (9,890,985) in 2022 and market value was down by 4.3 per cent from £5.1 billion in 2019. The industry's present status takes it back to around 2018 value levels.

The penetration rate dropped back one percentage point to 14.6 per cent after passing the 15 per cent barrier for the first time back in 2019.

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Table 6.1: All health and fitness gyms in Warrington

Map ID	Site	Stations
2	Alive and Well Health and Fitness Centre	39
3	Anytime Fitness (Stockton Heath)	150
6	Athelis Club and Spa	100
9	Beamont Collegiate Academy	20
11	Bewsey and Dallam Community Hub	30
15	Birchwood Leisure & Tennis Complex	64
21	Broomfields Leisure Centre	49
28	Cardinal Newman Catholic High School	15
41	David Lloyd Club (Warrington)	150
44	Energise Fitness (Warrington)	44
46	Exclusive Fitness for Women	50
55	Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub	100
58	HMP Thorn Cross	29
61	Hook & Jab Warrington	49
62	JD Gyms (Warrington)	250
70	Lymm Leisure Centre	17
79	Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub	90
93	Priestley College Sports Facilities	14
94	Pure Gym (Warrington Central)	220
95	Pure Gym (Warrington North)	220
108	St Gregory's Catholic High School	28
122	The Park Royal	53
131	Village Gym (Warrington)	79
133	Warrington & Vale Royal College	20
141	Woolston Brook School	12
144	Woolston Neighbourhood Hub	79
63	King's Leadership Academy	12
146	Elevation Fitness	15
147	Hard Labour Gym	40
	Total	2,038

Fitness facilities with fewer than 20 stations are typically not assessed/considered as they are too small to offer a membership although they can service smaller communities. When fitness centres with fewer than 20 stations are removed from the supply list, there are 23 health and fitness gyms and 1,953 stations.

Quality

All community available health and fitness sites received a non-technical quality assessment. Three are rated good quality, 11 above average, eight below average and one (HMP Thorn Cross) was not assessed. There is no poor-quality fitness gym in Warrington.

The audit identifies that Bewsey & Dallam Community Hub and Athelis Club and Spa were opened recently (November 2021 and the summer of 2019 respectively), hence the good quality rating overleaf., JD Gyms (Warrington) was refurbished in 2020. Consultation indicates aspirations to invest in the fitness gym at Broomfields Leisure Centre to improve infrastructure at the site.

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

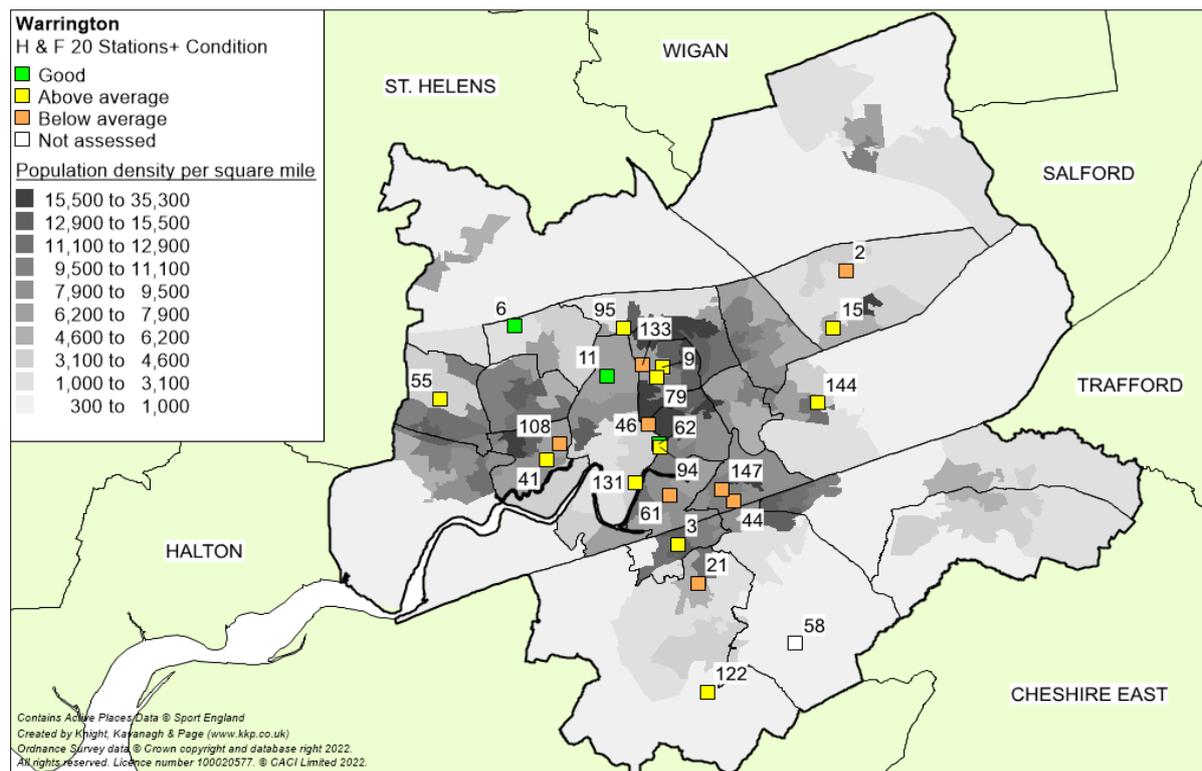


Table 6.2: Health & fitness suites with 20+ stations by condition

Map ID	Site	Stations	Condition
2	Alive and Well Health and Fitness Centre	39	Below average
3	Anytime Fitness (Stockton Heath)	150	Above average
6	Athelis Club and Spa	100	Good
9	Beamont Collegiate Academy	20	Above average
11	Bewsey and Dallam Community Hub	30	Good
15	Birchwood Leisure & Tennis Complex	64	Above average
21	Broomfields Leisure Centre	49	Below average
41	David Lloyd Club (Warrington)	150	Above average
44	Energise Fitness (Warrington)	44	Below average
46	Exclusive Fitness for Women	50	Below average
55	Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub	100	Above average
58	HMP Thorn Cross	29	Not assessed
61	Hook & Jab Warrington	49	Below average
62	JD Gyms (Warrington)	250	Good
79	Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub	90	Above average
94	Pure Gym (Warrington Central)	220	Above average
95	Pure Gym (Warrington North)	220	Above average
108	St Gregory's Catholic High School	28	Above average
122	The Park Royal	79	Above average
131	Village Gym (Warrington)	61	Above average
133	Warrington & Vale Royal College	40	Below average
144	Woolston Neighbourhood Hub	79	Above average
147	Hard Labour	40	Below average
Total		2,006	

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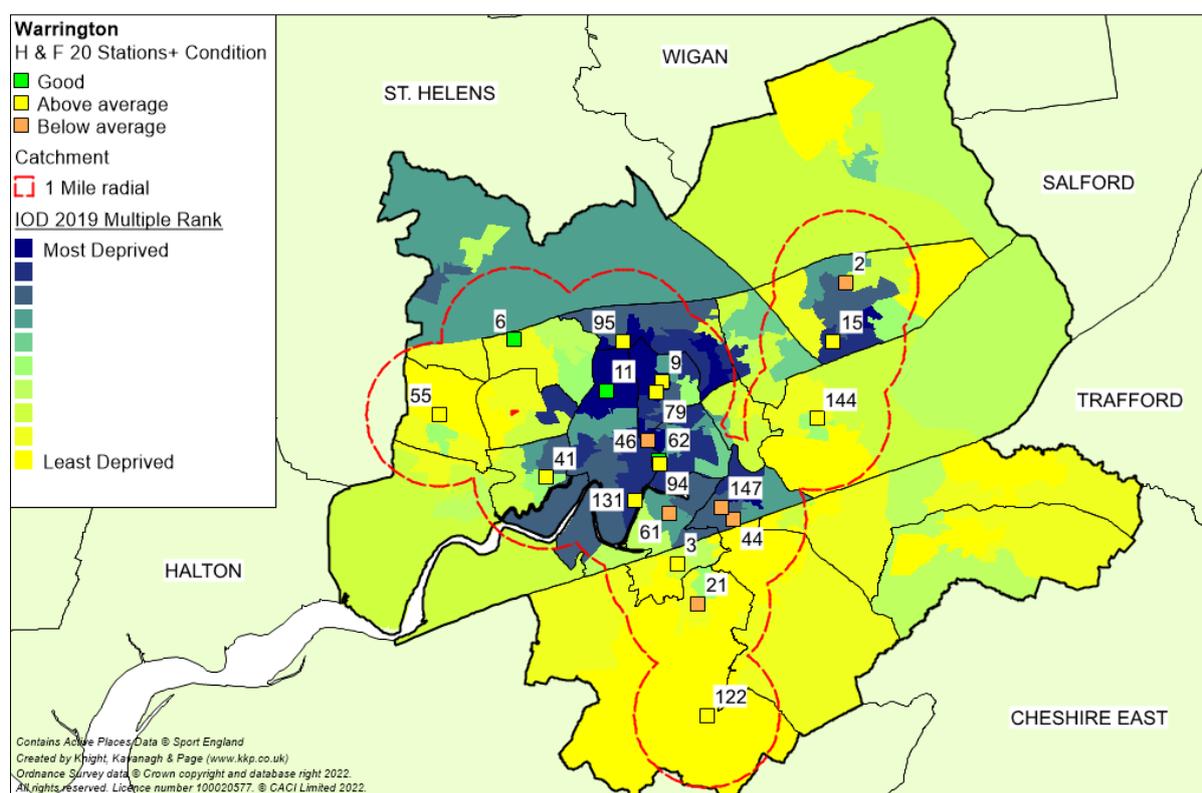
Accessibility

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 is a 20-minutes' drive time. 55,529 (26.9%) of the population live in areas of higher deprivation (national figure - 30%). Of these, the majority (52,837 – 95.1%) live within one mile of a facility. Fitness facilities are, well placed within the Borough.

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

IMD 10% bands	Warrington		Health & Fitness, 20 stations or more including private use. Catchment populations by IMD			
	Persons	Population %	Persons inside catchment	Population inside (%)	Persons outside catchment	Population outside (%)
0 - 10	16,619	8.0%	16,609	8.0%	10	0.0%
10.1 - 20	21,626	10.5%	20,621	10.0%	1,005	0.5%
20.1 - 30	17,284	8.4%	15,607	7.6%	1,677	0.8%
30.1 - 40	19,728	9.6%	16,655	8.1%	3,073	1.5%
40.1 - 50	7,320	3.5%	3,556	1.7%	3,764	1.8%
50.1 - 60	9,907	4.8%	9,687	4.7%	220	0.1%
60.1 - 70	18,336	8.9%	7,369	3.6%	10,967	5.3%
70.1 - 80	30,645	14.8%	20,376	9.9%	10,269	5.0%
80.1 - 90	33,685	16.3%	23,279	11.3%	10,406	5.0%
90.1 - 100	31,316	15.2%	21,575	10.4%	9,741	4.8%
Total	206,466	100.0%	155,334	75.2%	51,132	24.8%

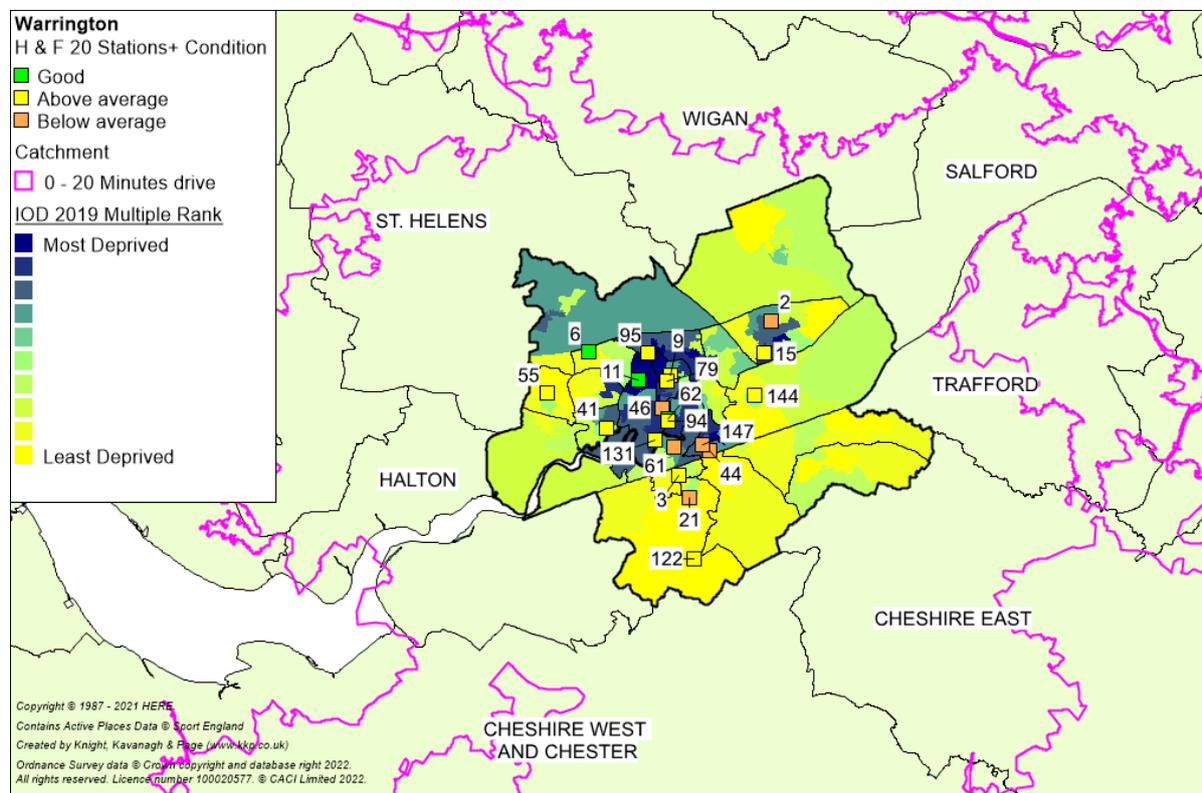
Figure 6.3: Health and fitness suites with 20 minutes' walk time catchment on IMD



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Figure 6.3 identifies that three quarters (74.6%) of the Warrington population lives within 20 minutes' walk of a health and fitness facility with 20+ stations. Consequently, 25.4% of the population is likely to need to use a car or public transport to access facilities.

Figure 6.4: Community available facilities on IMD with 20 minutes' drive time



All Warrington's residents live within 20 minutes' drive of a health and fitness facility.

Neighbouring facilities

As with swimming and sports halls, users of health and fitness facilities do not just use facilities within their own local authority, consequently, those with two miles of the boundary are considered within the analysis.

Table 6.4: Community available fitness facilities (20+ stations) within two miles of boundary

ID	Active Places site name	Stations	Access type	Authority
F1	Everlast Fitness Club (Leigh)	220	Registered Membership	Wigan
F2	Anytime Fitness (Leigh)	125	Registered Membership	Wigan
F3	F Y Gym	40	Registered Membership	Wigan
F4	Leigh Leisure Centre	96	Pay and Play	Wigan
F5	Iconic Fitness	37	Registered Membership	Wigan
F6	Gymetc. (Lowton)	55	Registered Membership	Wigan
F7	Haydock Leisure Centre	26	Pay and Play	St. Helens
F8	Newton-Le-Willows Health & Fitness	90	Pay and Play	St. Helens
F9	Parr Pool & Fitness Centre	22	Registered Membership	St. Helens
F10	St Helens Fitness 500	90	Registered Membership	St. Helens
F11	Irlam & Cadishead Leisure Centre	66	Pay and Play	Salford

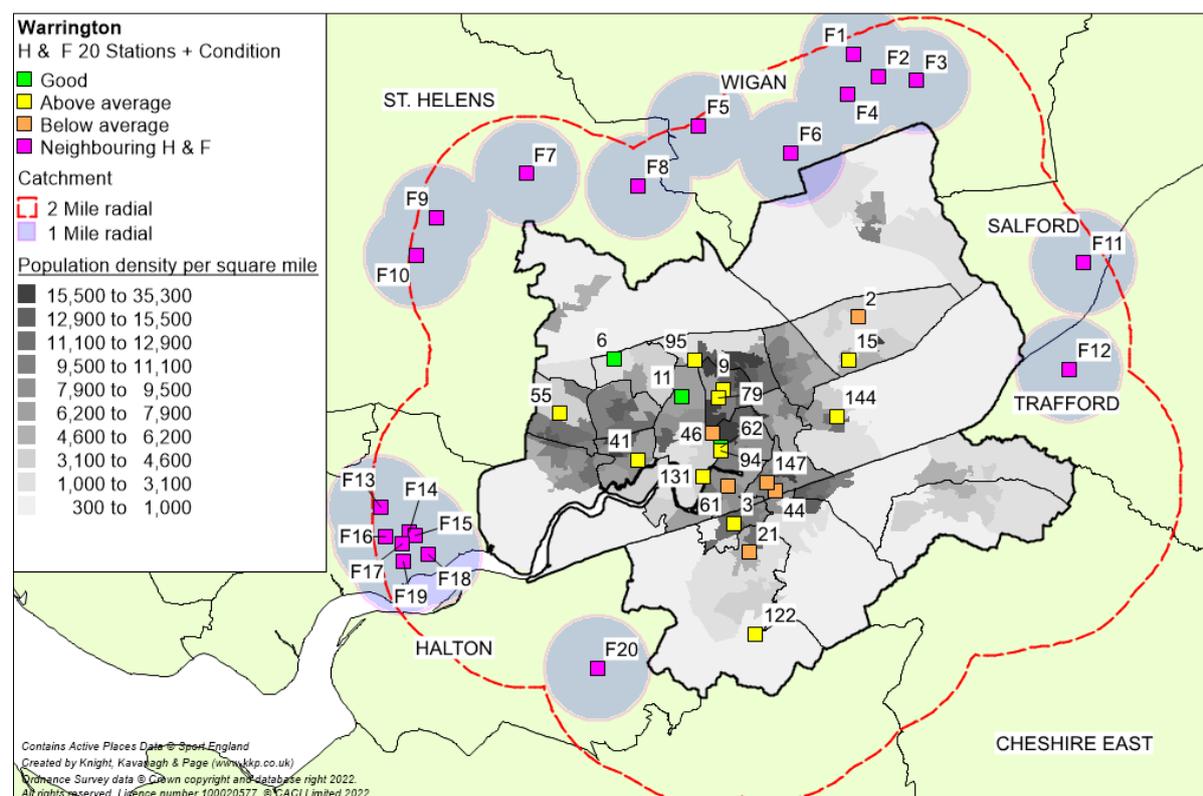
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ID	Active Places site name	Stations	Access type	Authority
F12	Partington Sports Village	40	Registered Membership	Trafford
F13	Widnes Tennis Academy	50	Sports Club / CA	Halton
F14	Stones Gym	60	Pay and Play	Halton
F15	JD Gyms (Widnes)	250	Registered Membership	Halton
F16	Widnes Vikings (DCBL Stadium)	36	Pay and Play	Halton
F17	Kingsway Leisure Centre	60	Registered Membership	Halton
F18	Pure Gym (Widnes)	250	Registered Membership	Halton
F19	Muscle & Figure	85	Registered Membership	Halton
F20	Spindles Health & Leisure	23	Registered Membership	Halton

(Source: APP 30/05/2022. NB: Sports Club/CA = Sports club / community association use)

There are 20 health and fitness gyms located within two miles of the Warrington boundary. These vary in its access policies from registered membership access to pay and play and sports club/CA. Six offer pay and play opportunity, four are national chains - of significant size (100+ stations). These sites are likely to attract users from further afield and penetrate into the north, east and west of Warrington - as identified in Figure 6.5.

Figure 6.5: Fitness gyms with 20+ stations within two miles of Warrington boundary



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).

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Private operators do not have a contractual obligation to, for example, offer exercise referrals 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.

The health and fitness suites at HMP Thorn Cross (29 stations), St Gregory's Catholic High School (28 stations) and Warrington & Vale Royal College (20 stations) are discounted because usage is restricted to school/prison use only. On this basis, the number of community available sites reduces to 20 with 1,958 stations.

The access policy of the remaining sites is as shown in Table 6.5 overleaf.

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

Map ID	Site	Access type
2	Alive and Well Health and Fitness Centre	Reg. membership
3	Anytime Fitness (Stockton Heath)	Reg. membership
6	Athelis Club and Spa	Reg. membership
9	Beamont Collegiate Academy	Pay and play
11	Bewsey and Dallam Community Hub	Pay and Play
15	Birchwood Leisure & Tennis Complex	Reg. membership
21	Broomfields Leisure Centre	Pay and Play
41	David Lloyd Club (Warrington)	Reg. membership
44	Energise Fitness (Warrington)	Reg. membership
46	Exclusive Fitness for Women	Reg. membership
55	Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub	Pay and play
61	Hook & Jab Warrington	Pay and play
62	JD Gyms (Warrington)	Reg. membership
79	Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub	Pay and Play
94	Pure Gym (Warrington Central)	Reg. membership
95	Pure Gym (Warrington North)	Reg. membership
122	The Park Royal	Reg. membership
131	Village Gym (Warrington)	Reg. membership
144	Woolston Neighbourhood Hub	Pay and play
147	Hard Labour Gym	Pay and play
	TOTAL	

Eight health and fitness facilities offer pay and play availability and the remaining 12 facilities require a membership to access the facilities.

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

Venue	P&P	Annual	12-month DD	Notes
Alive and Well Health and Fitness Centre			£25.99	Gym, sauna, and steam room.
Anytime Fitness (Stockton Heath)			£24.95	Gym only.
Athelis Club and Spa			£85 activ membership £135 apex membership	Gym and swim.
Beamont Collegiate Academy			Unknown	Gym only.
Bewsey and Dallam Community Hub	£6.25 (gym) £5.00 (swim)	£325.00 (anytime) £225.00 (daytime)	£32.50 (anytime) £22.50 (daytime)	Gym, exercise classes, swim, and racket sports.
Birchwood Leisure & Tennis Complex	£6.25 (gym)	£325.00 (anytime) £225.00 (daytime)	£32.50 (anytime) £22.50 (daytime)	Gym, exercise classes, and racket sports (use of indoor tennis courts).
Broomfields Leisure Centre	£6.25 (gym) £5.00 (swim)	£325.00 (anytime) £225.00 (daytime)	£32.50 (anytime) £22.50 (daytime)	Gym and swim.
David Lloyd Club (Warrington)		Club Platinum- £1188 + £120 joining fee	Club Platinum- £99.00 Club Plus- £79.00	Gym, swim, exercise classes, and racket sports.
Energise Fitness (Warrington)			Classic- £20.99 Wow- £24.99 Epic- £49.99	Gym and exercise classes.
Exclusive Fitness for Women	£4.00	£70.00 for six months or £120.00 for 12 months	£10.00	Gym only
Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub	£6.25 (gym), £5.00 (swim)	£325.00 (anytime) £225.00 (daytime)	£32.50 (anytime) £22.50 (daytime)	Gym, swim, exercise classes, and racket sports.
Hard Labour Gym	£2.20			Personal Training £10 per session
Hook & Jab Warrington	£20.00		Unknown	Gym only.
JD Gyms (Warrington)			Standard £19.99 Plus + £25.00	Gym, sauna, and exercise classes
Lymm Leisure Centre	£4.00 (swim) £5.00 (gym)	£48.50 (three months) £90.00 (six months) £160.00 (12 months)	£17.50 (gym and swim for one month), £11.50 (one month Aqua pass)	Gym, swim, exercise classes, and racket sports.
Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub	£6.25 (gym), £5.00 (swim)	£325.00 (anytime) £225.00 (daytime)	£32.50 (anytime) £22.50 (daytime)	Gym, swim, exercise classes, and racket sports.

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Venue	P&P	Annual	12-month DD	Notes
Pure Gym (Warrington Central)	£5.99		£17.99 (£10.00 joining fee)	Gym and exercise classes.
Pure Gym (Warrington North)	£6.99		£18.99 (£10.00 joining fee)	Gym and exercise classes.
The Park Royal			Unknown	Gym, swim, exercise classes, and racket sports.
Village Gym (Warrington)		£539.00 (Gold annual) £440.00 (off peak)	£49.00 (Gold monthly) £40.00 (off peak)	Gym, exercise classes, spa, sauna, and steam room.
Woolston Neighbourhood Hub	£6.25 (gym), £5.00 (swim)	£325.00 (anytime) £225.00 (daytime)	£32.50 (anytime) £22.50 (daytime)	Gym, swim, exercise classes, and racket sports.

The costs of adult single usage vary from £2.20 for a day pass at Hard Labour Gym to £135 per month at Athelis Club and Spa.

LiveWire offers a membership which allows access to all six of its managed sites across Warrington. Membership at the public leisure centres also offers multi-activity options (e.g., swimming and fitness classes) within its membership.

The cheapest monthly membership is £10 at Exclusive Fitness for Women.

It is recognised that well run health and fitness facilities with studios can offset the costs and enhance the financial viability of other venue elements such as swimming pools and in many instances are used to cross subsidise such facilities

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Future developments

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

6.2: Demand

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

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

	Curent (2018)	Future (2038)
Adult population (16+ years)	169,856	180,790
UK penetration rate	16.0%	17.0%
Number of potential members	27,177	30,734
Number of visits per week (1.75/member)	47,560	53,785
% 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%)	793	896
Number of stations (with comfort factor applied)	1,189	1,345

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

Based upon UK penetration rates there is a current need for 1,189 stations in Warrington. This will grow to 1,345 by 2038; when taking account of a comfort factor (particularly at peak times).

When comparing the number of community available stations currently available (1,958) and accounting for the comfort factor, there is a positive supply/demand balance. Although this looks significant, (769 stations at present and 613 by 2038) it does not take account of imported demand from neighbouring authorities.

It is not uncommon for the private sector to identify niche markets and fill them with stations which make the market appear congested.

The key issue is that while some are budget operators this does not necessarily make them available to harder to reach groups or from areas of (relative) disadvantage as cost is only one factor which can hinder usage. Another relates to people who require transport to access such facilities.

Supply and demand analysis

As noted earlier, health and fitness facilities are an important facet of leisure provision. The income derived can offset the cost/underpin the viability of other aspects of a facility or service, especially swimming and targeted physical activity programmes such as Exercise on Referral.

For Warrington, the challenge is to continue to provide opportunities for people from areas of higher deprivation who are less likely to be able to afford or choose to access health and fitness opportunities and do not have the transport to access the facilities.

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6.3: Dance studios

Dance studios are an important element of the wider health, fitness, and conditioning market. They vary in size, shape, quality of environment, access to sprung wooden floors and quality of ancillary facilities. There has been an increase in the number of people accessing fitness classes as identified in increased UK penetration rates. Activity types offered vary from low impact classes (i.e., Pilates and yoga) to dance, step, boxercise, and Zumba. Dance classes/clubs are key users of studio spaces throughout the country.

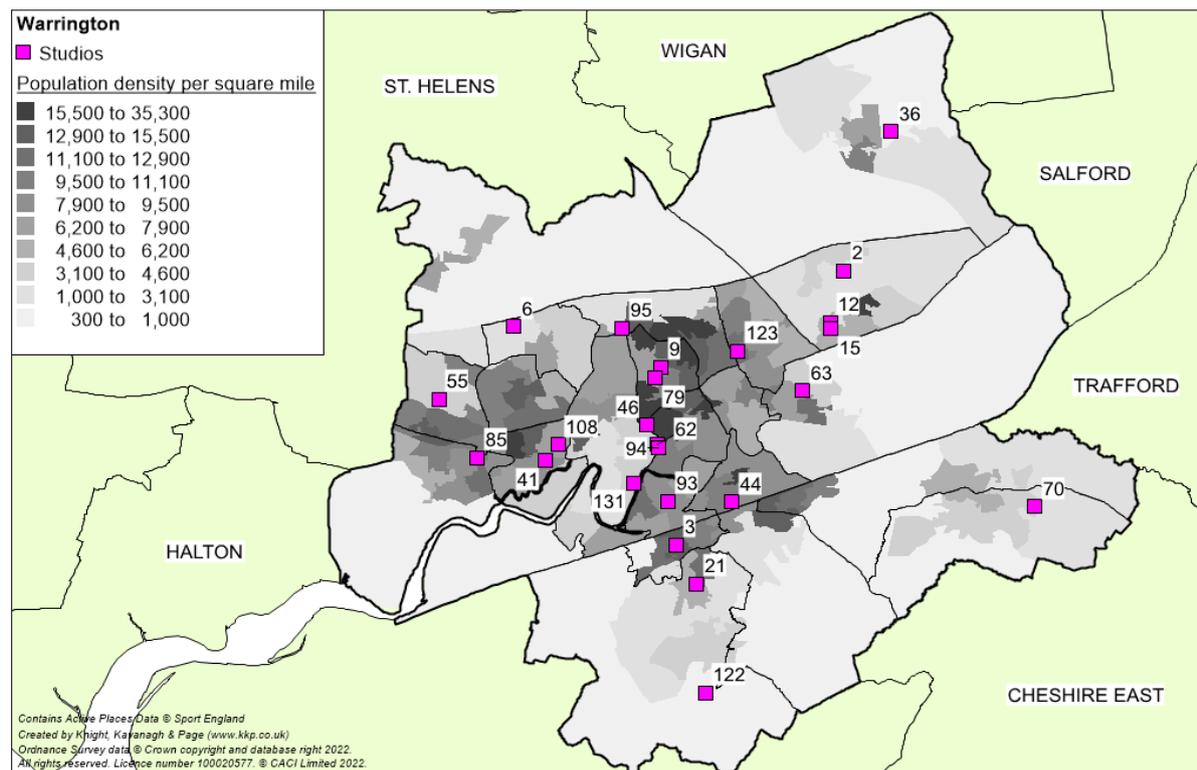
33 studios, all in the more densely populated local areas, had a non-technical assessment. Five are in good condition, 17 above average, 10 below average and one (Penketh High School) poor quality. Ten studios are available for pay and play based use, five via sports club/association, 15 require a membership to access and three are for private use only.

Table 6.8: List of studios in Warrington

Map ID	Site name	Access	Condition
2	Alive and Well Health and Fitness Centre	Reg. membership	Below average
3	Anytime Fitness (Stockton Heath)	Reg. membership	Above average
6	Athelis Club and Spa	Reg. membership	Good
6	Athelis Club and Spa	Reg. membership	Good
9	Beamont Collegiate Academy	Pay and play	Good
12	Birchwood Community High School	Sports Club / CA	Below average
15	Birchwood Leisure & Tennis Complex	Pay and play	Above average
21	Broomfields Leisure Centre	Pay and play	Below average
36	Culcheth High School	Pay and play	Above average
36	Culcheth High School	Pay and play	Below average
41	David Lloyd Club (Warrington)	Reg. membership	Above average
41	David Lloyd Club (Warrington)	Reg. membership	Above average
41	David Lloyd Club (Warrington)	Reg. membership	Above average
44	Energie Fitness (Warrington)	Sports Club / CA	Above average
46	Exclusive Fitness for Women	Reg. membership	Below average
55	Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub	Pay and play	Above average
55	Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub	Pay and play	Above average
55	Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub	Pay and play	Above average
62	JD Gyms (Warrington)	Reg. membership	Good
62	JD Gyms (Warrington)	Reg. membership	Good
63	King's Leadership Academy	Private use	Below average
79	Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub	Pay and play	Above average
79	Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub	Pay and play	Above average
85	Penketh High School	Sports Club / CA	Poor
93	Priestley College Sports Facilities	Private use	Below average
94	Pure Gym (Warrington Central)	Reg. membership	Above average
95	Pure Gym (Warrington North)	Reg. membership	Above average
108	St Gregory's Catholic High School	Private use	Below average
122	The Park Royal	Reg. membership	Above average
123	The Recreation Centre (Padgate Academy)	Sports Club / CA	Below average
123	The Recreation Centre (Padgate Academy)	Sports Club / CA	Below average
131	Village Gym (Warrington)	Reg. membership	Above average
131	Village Gym (Warrington)	Reg. membership	Above average

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Figure 6.6: Dance studios in Warrington



6.4: Summary of key facts and issues

Facility type	Health & fitness	
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	<p>There are 29 gyms of which 23 have 20+ stations. The 20+ station gyms provide 1,968 stations.</p> <p>There are 20 gyms in neighbouring authorities within two miles of the Warrington border, four have 100+ stations and are likely to attract Warrington residents.</p> <p>There are 33 studios..</p>	<p>There is a calculated positive supply over demand balance of health and fitness provision by 769 stations at present reducing to 613 by 2038. This does not take account of imported use from neighbouring authorities.</p>
Quality	<p>Three gyms are of good quality, 11 above average and seven are below average.</p> <p>Of the studios five are in good condition, 17 above average, 10 below average and one (Penketh High School) is poor quality.</p>	<p>There is a need to maintain quality and where possible improve the condition of the above/below average rated gyms and studios.</p>
Accessibility	<p>Spatially there is a good spread; 95.1% of the population lives within one mile of a gym.</p> <p>All residents live within 20 minutes' drive of a gym and/or studio.</p> <p>Three quarters (75.1%) of residents from areas of higher deprivation live within one mile of a health and fitness facility.</p> <p>Six gyms in neighbouring authorities offer pay and play, four are national chains with 100+ stations and likely to attract users from further afield and penetrate the north, east and west of Warrington.</p>	<p>There is a need to ensure that harder to reach groups and people with specific health needs can access health and fitness facilities.</p>

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Facility type	Health & fitness	
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Availability (Management and usage)	<p>Eight 20+ station gyms are accessible via pay and play</p> <p>12 facilities require a membership to access.</p> <p>Ten studios are available for pay and play based use, five are available via sports club/ association, 15 require a membership to access and three are for private use only.</p>	<p>The key need is to ensure that gyms cater fully for the full range of market segments in the WBC community and that residents from hard-to-reach groups can afford them</p>
Strategic summary	<p>Health and fitness facilities along with dance studio space offer potential to increase physical activity in the wider population. Although there is an identified positive supply/demand balance it is important to consider the probability that WBC health and fitness facilities are being utilised by residents of neighbouring authorities, especially Wigan and Salford.</p> <p>WBC supply is deemed to be sufficient - currently and up to 2038. Ongoing monitoring is required as the market is still growing.</p> <p>The importance of the financial contribution that health and fitness make to the viability of other facilities as swimming pools is an important facet.</p>	

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SECTION 7: SQUASH

Squash is now on a new strategic path, implementing a rebrand and undergoing a major restructure. England Squash has achieved core strategic goals agreed with Sport England and is committed to supporting the traditional infrastructure of county associations, clubs, coaches, and officials to grow the game via key programmes (e.g., Squash101) and campaigns (e.g., Squash Girls Can) but will need to apportion resources in a significantly different manner.

Table 7.1: England Squash Strategic aims:

Element	Aim
Governance	Adhere to the highest standards of organisational governance.
Membership	Provide a membership model that caters to and provides benefits for anyone interested in playing and coaching squash irrespective of their ability.
Programmes	Enabling and supporting partners to be at the forefront of adult and player recruitment and retention.
Talent & high performance	Provide a support and development programme that identifies, develops, and delivers world leading individuals and teams.
Commercial	Create a diversified and effective revenue model that minimises risk and reduces dependency on funding.

Squash In a Changing World (2021-2025) outlines the vision, principles and strategic pillars for England Squash. Its vision for the future of squash in England is a thriving, diverse and growing community. Its purpose is to serve as custodians of the game's past, its present and its future. It is to serve as a catalyst for positive change across the sporting community at home and abroad. The 2021-2025 strategy sets six key objectives:

- ◀ Objective One: Drive increased participation in the game, with a radical advance in equality, diversity and inclusion.
- ◀ Objective Two: Inspire and train a community of world class coaches, referees and volunteers at every level, who drive participation and increase engagement in the game.
- ◀ Objective Three: 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.
- ◀ Objective Four: Empower creativity and innovation in the game and in our organisation's culture, using ideas and technology to support the squash community and to engage with new audiences.
- ◀ Objective Five: 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.
- ◀ Objective Six: Provide leadership for the game nationally and internationally, including addressing the Climate and Ecological Crisis.

Consultation with England Squash identifies that it recently invested into the Cheshire County Association, which in turn works closely with local clubs and leisure centres to deliver bespoke activity based around participation, programmes and campaigns. The investment and impact of the work being undertaken by the County Association makes Warrington an area of interest for future delivery and squash participation.

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As such England Squash reports that it is imperative that current sites are maintained, and more squash courts added in the future. It indicates that the number of courts in the area does not meet the national requirement. (The requirement listed is one court per 10,000 people). Warrington currently has one court to every c. 11,395 people). Future investment is required to increase the number of courts and also maintain the standard of existing squash court provision in the area.

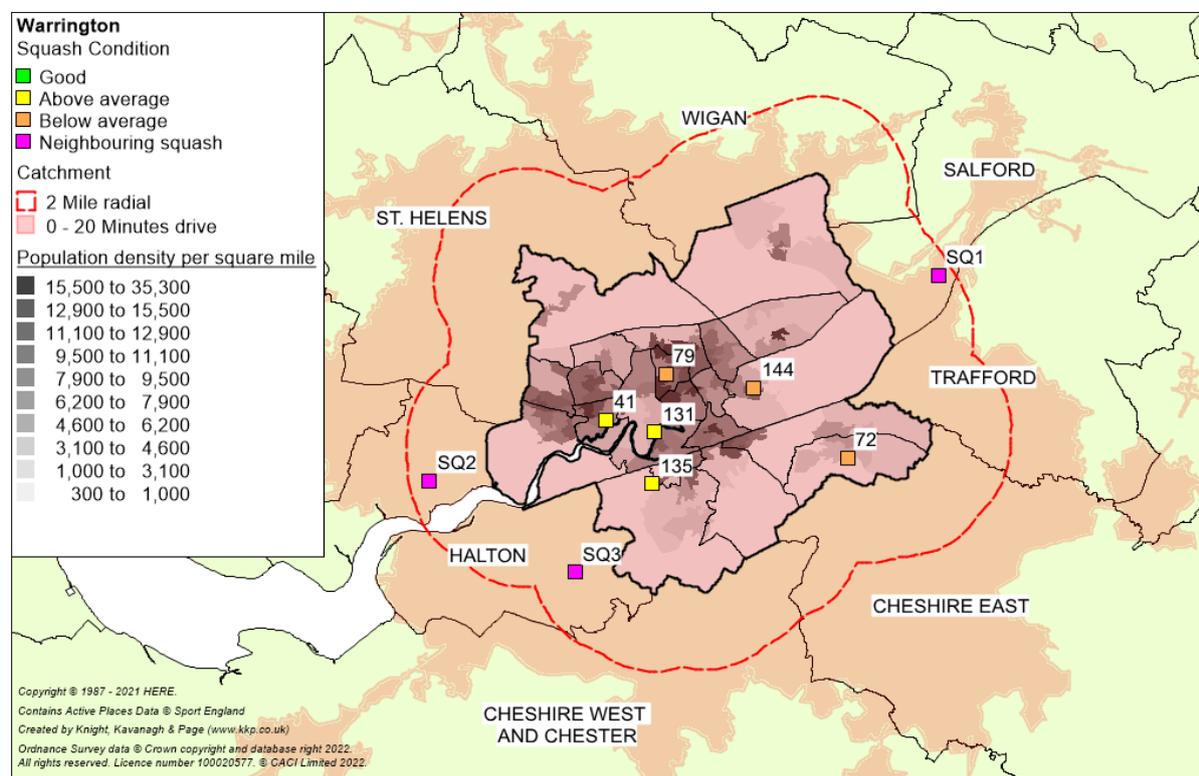
This will ensure positive user experiences and go some way to catering fully for the current population and any expected growth.

7.1 Supply

Quantity and quality

There are 18 squash courts at six sites in Warrington as shown in Figure 7.1.

Figure 7.1: Location of squash courts in Warrington and 20-minute drive time



Squash courts are primarily located in the more densely populated areas, with fewer courts in the north than the south. Residents in the west of the authority have access to good and above average facilities (Map ID 135, Warrington Sports/Squash Club has both good and above average courts on site) whereas those in the north east and east have access to only below average facilities.

Six of the courts are glass-back, and the rest are traditional courts.

The three traditional courts at Warrington Sports Club are rated as good quality. The nine courts at David Lloyd Club, The Village Gym and (three glass-backed courts) at Warrington Sports Club are rated as above average quality. The six courts at Lymm RFC, Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub and Woolston Neighbourhood Hub are rated as below average quality. Courts at Warrington Sports Club were refurbished in 2019 which reflects the higher quality.

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Table 7.2: Squash courts in Warrington and within 20 minutes' drive-time

Map ID	Site name	Courts	Access type	Condition
131	The Village Gym (Warrington)	4	Sports Club/CA	Above average
41	David Lloyd Club (Warrington)	2*	Reg. membership	Above average
135	Warrington Sports/Squash Club	3*	Sports Club/CA	Good
135	Warrington Sports/Squash Club	3	Sports Club/CA	Above average
144	Woolston Neighbourhood Hub	2	Pay and Play	Below average
72	Lymm RFC	2	Sports Club/CA	Below average
79	Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub	1*	Pay and Play	Below average
79	Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub	1	Pay and Play	Below average
SQ1	Irlam & Cadishead Leisure Centre	1	Pay and play	Unassessed
SQ2	Kingsway Leisure Centre	2*	Pay and play	Unassessed
SQ3	Spindles Health & Leisure (Warrington)	1	Reg. membership	Unassessed
Total		22		

Source: Active Places Power 31/05/2022 (*glass backed courts)

Accessibility and availability

The whole Warrington population lives within a 20 minutes' drive time of a squash facility. Woolston Neighbourhood Hub (two courts) and Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub (two courts) are the sites which offer pay and play access. Courts at David Lloyd and The Village require membership to access, whilst those at Lymm RFC and Warrington Sports Club are accessed via a sports club/community association.

Three sites in Salford and Halton provide four courts. Two are available on a pay and play basis and one (Spindles Health and Leisure) is accessible as a member.

7.2: Demand

The three clubs in Warrington are The Village, Warrington Sports Club and Lymm RFC.

Club consultation:

The Village Warrington Squash Club has adult male players and it reports losing members during the Pandemic. It has actively tried to expand membership and encourage people to join with limited success. It claims that the demographic across the whole sport has recently changed in that people do not wish to commit to clubs and are preferring to pay and play.

It states that the four courts at the site are in average condition. However, one is currently not being used for play but for temporary storage. The Club reports that the lighting is in need of replacement and that it has plans to do this - this year.

Although the Village Gym is a large site, its primary function is as a hotel. The club feels that income generating elements such as the health and fitness receive more promotion and investment. It raised concerns about its long-term sustainability given that its members are ageing and as a result withdrawing membership. It would like to attract younger people to the sport to sustain itself as an organisation. This season there have been several occasions whereby it has been unable to fulfil fixtures due to a lack of players. It fears that in the medium-long term it could cease to exist should it not be able to recruit more players.

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Warrington Squash Club has 158 members, of which 147 are males and 11 are female. It has both a junior and adult section. The junior section contains seven members. Consultation identifies that its facility is in good condition. It has three glass-back courts which are of good quality and three traditional courts which are in above average condition. On occasions (primarily for events) the car park is insufficient for current needs. Moreover, it has aspirations to tarmac the surface as there are some potholes.

Membership is also a concern for this club. It reports losing members during the Pandemic and that it has not recovered to the same level. Its short-term priority is to recruit more members (especially juniors) to ensure long term success. Due to loss of members, and increasing utilities costs, meeting the cost of maintaining courts has become increasingly more challenging. It states that it costs £1,500 per court for regular maintenance and upkeep. To combat this, it is increasing membership fees. This increases the cost of participation which may exclude people that cannot afford to pay the fees.

Lymm RFC has two squash courts both opened in 1980. It hosts a weekly junior coaching session, two club nights a week and a league play evening for North West Counties League games. It has two teams represented in this league. Its access policy is for members only although accompanied guests are welcome.

Both courts need attention; whilst they are still playable, there is an urgent need to repair the floors and court walls. There is also some water damage to boards and walls due to a recent roof leak. The site has been invested in to repair the leak and the water damage on the viewing balcony. Some cosmetic finishing touches are still required to complete the work.

7.3: Summary of key facts and issues

Facility type	Squash	
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	There are 18 squash courts at six sites. There are six glass-back, and the rest are traditional.	England Squash reports a need to maintain and increase the number of courts in the area.
Quality	One site has good quality and above average courts, two rate above average. The other three are below average. Residents in the west of the authority have access to good and above average courts whereas those in the North east and east only have local access to below average facilities.	Future investment is needed to improve the quality of the below average courts and facilities and maintain the standard of current courts in the area.
Accessibility	All residents in Warrington have access to a squash court within 20 minutes' drive.	
Availability (Management and usage)	Four courts (Woolston and Orford Jubilee neighbourhood hubs) are available on a pay and play basis. Two are available for community use via a sports club/ community association. Three courts require a membership to access.	
Summary	Clubs report losing members during the Pandemic and all a need to recruit more members to ensure long term sustainability. There is a need to increase participation in the sport, consider other formats of the game and club structure to meet current demands. There is a need to improve opportunity for females and juniors. All sites need investment to improve court and wider facility quality.	

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SECTION 8: GYMNASTICS

The British Gymnastics (BG) most current strategy, the Strategic Framework 2017-2021 identifies three key priorities, to:

- ◀ Diversify sources of revenue to develop and grow the provision of gymnastics.
- ◀ Build the capacity and grow the demand in gymnastics.
- ◀ Raise the profile and increase the appeal of gymnastics.

Its facility development priorities (for the period 2017 - 2021) are to:

- ◀ Support increased capacity within gymnastics through clubs, leisure providers and other delivery providers.
- ◀ Guide funding investment through the United Kingdom from British Gymnastics, home country sports councils, local authorities and other potential funders.
- ◀ Maintain/improve the quality of facilities and equipment within existing delivery partners.
- ◀ Develop insight, understanding and direction of how facility developments can contribute towards other British Gymnastics strategic priorities.

Participation in gymnastics is reportedly increasing rapidly. British Gymnastics membership reached 390,500 in 2017 and has been increasing by about 12% per year between 2013-17. The emphasis for this strategy period is on using gymnastics as a foundation sport for 5 to 11 year olds. Across the country, British Gymnastics reports extensive demand for more gymnastics opportunities and many clubs report having long waiting lists.

One million people are estimated to be on waiting lists for gymnastics (Freshminds Latent Demand Research, 2017). This research also suggests that a further 1.9 million would like to participate but are not currently on a waiting list. A key part of British Gymnastics strategy to increase participation is to support clubs moving into their own dedicated facility, offering more time and space for classes. There is a definite trend for gymnastics clubs to do this.

There are also initiatives for older people funded by Sport England, such as, Love to Move focused on dementia patients.

8.1: Supply

Quantity

There are five dedicated gymnastics facilities in Warrington. Two of the facilities at the same location. Warrington Gymnastics Club has, the Performance Centre (Units 8-11) and the Recreation Centre (Unit 14) of the Wharf Industrial Estate.

Table 8.1: Gymnastics dedicated centres within a 20-minute drive time of Warrington

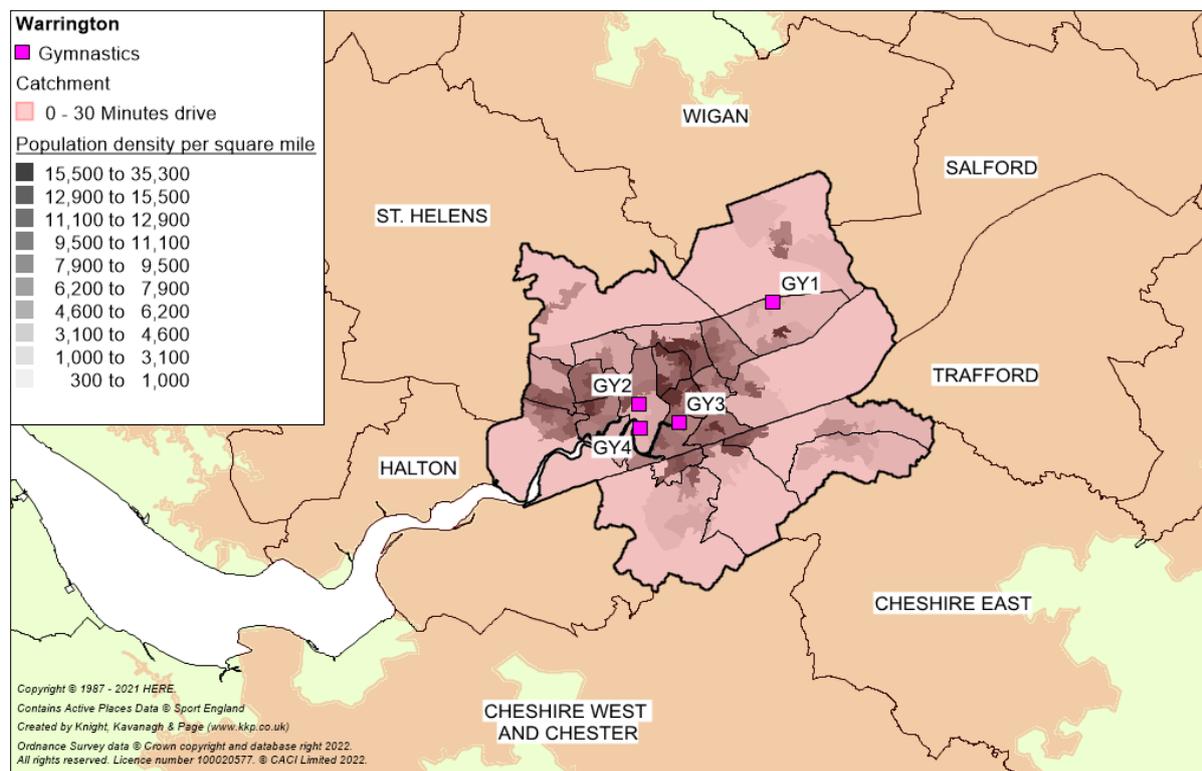
Map ID	Site
G1	Warrington Gymnastics Club
G2	Penketh Gymnastics Club
G3	The Wire Gymnastics Club
G4	Urban Gymnastics

There are two clubs that operate from non-dedicated facilities.

GR8 Gymnastics Club operates from two schools, Culcheth and Lowton high schools and Hope Acro Gymnastics Club who currently do not have a home facility.

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Figure 8.1: Dedicated gymnastics sites within 30-minute drive of Warrington



British Gymnastics reports Hope Acro Gymnastics Club is currently operating from The Wire Gymnastics Club venue and SKK Judo Club. It is keen to develop a dedicated venue in Warrington and is seeking British Gymnastics support.

Quality

Warrington Gymnastics Club operates from two above average quality sites. The facilities are well-presented but some issues with the roof and fire doors at the Performance Centre which need to be addressed. The Recreational Centre was not purpose made for gymnastics and is an industrial site which presents some challenges. The roof needs repair but is too expensive for the Club to undertake. Costs are estimated to be in the region of £12,500.

The Performance Centre has two changing rooms whereas the Recreational Centre does not have any. The Club reports a lack of car parking but utilises the parking spaces on other units as parking is shared with other businesses.

Wire Gymnastics also indicates that it has an above average facility, with minor maintenance issues. It describes the condition of the site as standard quality but suggests that parking could be improved as it can be busy at pick up times. The overall quality is good due to refurbishment in the last two years.

Attempts have been made on several occasions to contact the other clubs (Penketh Gymnastics Club, Urban Gymnastics Club, Hope Acro Gymnastics Club and Gr8 Gymnastics Club) but no response has been received from them.

British Gymnastics states that securing dedicated facilities and looking for potential opportunities to expand dedicated space is a priority for the Warrington area.

Accessibility and availability

Gymnastics facilities are based specialist facilities which appeal beyond a local authority boundary. Consequently, this report considers provision within with a 30-minutes' drive time catchment to demonstrate accessibility (Sport England suggests that drive time to specialist sports facilities can be modelled at 30 minutes as opposed to the 20 minutes modelled for sports halls and swimming pools). As illustrated in Figure 8. the whole Warrington population is within 30 minutes' drive time of a dedicated gymnastics facility.

8.2: Demand

Participation in gymnastics is reportedly still increasing. British Gymnastics membership reached 390,500 in 2017 having risen at c.12% per year between 2013-17. The emphasis for 2017 – 2021 was to use gymnastics as a foundation sport for 5-11 year olds. It reports an increase in membership in the Northwest of 11,100 to 32,300 in the years 2014 to 2020.

British Gymnastics also reports that its clubs have waiting lists. As of 2017, the total number of people estimated to be on waiting lists for gymnastics was one million (Freshminds Latent Demand Research, 2017). This also showed that a further 1.9 million would like to participate but are not currently, not on a waiting list..

A key facet of the British Gymnastics Strategy is to support clubs moving into their own dedicated facility, offering more time and space for classes. This reflects the definite trend for gymnastics clubs to move into their own dedicated facilities. Approximately 30 clubs moved into their own spaces last year and this trend is expected to continue.

With a vast range of products and programmes and expert assistance to support local delivery; gymnastic activities supported by British Gymnastics have been successful in driving the growth of membership and retention of members across the country.

Club consultation:

Wire Gymnastics Club has 280 members in total, with ages ranging from three to 16 years old. There are 12 males within the Club and the rest are female. It offers a full complement of activities including:

- ◀ Pre school gymnastics.
- ◀ Adult gymnastics.
- ◀ Disability classes
- ◀ Mens and womens recreational and competitive gym.
- ◀ Gymfit.
- ◀ Trampoline gymnastics.

Consultation indicates capacity to accommodate more members. Some of the recreational classes participants attend on a pay and play basis and are not regular members. The main concern for the Club is finance as it claims that it has still not recovered from the Covid pandemic. Its rent is a major concern as currently, it is behind with payments.

Warrington Gymnastics Club has 1,096 members in total, ages ranging from three years to 19 years old. It has a few adults which attend though they only have occasional classes. It provides the following:

- ◀ Gym dots and Pre-school
- ◀ Gymnastics 4 all
- ◀ Competitive gymnastics
- ◀ Tumbling sessions
- ◀ Dance and fitness

It has capacity to take on additional members (its facility can accommodate 1,600 members) but is hamstrung at present by a shortage of coaches. It is in the process of training some of

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its 16-year-old members to become coaches. Its other main challenge is the cost associated with running its two facilities. It aspires to have one purpose-built facility in the future to be able to accommodate all members in one place.

Hope Acro Gymnastics Club lost access to its home venue in summer 2021. With c.200 members, it has since been sharing the use of The Wire Gymnastics (Birchwood) and SKK Judo (in Newton-le-Willows) to train. Whilst this has been a good temporary solution, it requires its own space and is currently having to disrupt training work around the activities and events at the host centres. It requires a large facility (4,000sqft) with substantial height to accommodate its activities. Ideally suited are industrial units, however, a change of use planning application is required which can necessitate a long wait and landlords are unwilling to go without rent for this period of time. It is exploring options to purchase a facility with British Gymnastics.

8.3: Summary of key facts and issues

Facility type	Gymnastics	
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific needs
Quantity	Five clubs are currently operating from a dedicated facility (one on a temporary basis) and two are based in school halls. (GR8 Gymnastics Club). One club (Warrington Gymnastics Club) has two dedicated facilities one for performance and one for recreational gymnasts.	Hope Acro Gymnastics needs to secure a dedicated facility. British Gymnastics has identified this club as a priority with an immediate facility need. It requires a large facility (4,000sqft) with appropriate height to accommodate its activities.
Quality	The dedicated facilities in Warrington are rated as good and above average quality.	Warrington Gymnastics Club requires investment in the roof of both its centres which it is not, at present, able to afford.
Accessibility	All Warrington residents are able to access a dedicated gymnastics facility within 30 minutes' drive time.	
Availability (Management & usage)	Most clubs operate from dedicated facilities and as such are available both of a daytime and an evening.	There is a need to re-build the gymnastics workforce to enable clubs to cater for the ongoing demand.
Other	Wire Gymnastics Club reports having financial difficulties and being behind with rent payments due to the Pandemic.	
Strategic summary	British Gymnastics has no capital available for investment but does offer facility development advice and support to develop and guide clubs, leisure providers and other partners to help achieve their facility requirements. Acro Gymnastics needs to secure a dedicated venue. Clubs are reported to be recovering from the Pandemic but have not yet return to full pre-Covid levels of participation. Clubs need help to increase the coaching workforce. Investment is required in current facilities to ensure they continue to meet the needs of gymnastics.	

SECTION 9: INDOOR BOWLS

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

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

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

Carpet bowls is played on a rectangular carpet (45 x 6 feet) that is rolled out. It can be accommodated in any indoor space large enough to accommodate the mats which come in different lengths. It tends to be played at a recreational level. The NGB is the English Carpet Bowls Association (ECBA).

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

An indoor bowling centre typically comprises a single flat green with a number of rinks and ancillary accommodation such as changing rooms, lounge/bar, viewing area, kitchen, office/meeting rooms and stores plus designated car parking. 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 England¹³ guidelines on catchment for indoor bowls centres are set out to be interpreted in the light of local circumstances:

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

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.

¹³ Sport England Design Guidance Note Indoor Bowls 2005

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EIBA Outline Plan 2017 - 2021

It was reported during consultation with EIBA that an updated development strategy is in development and is due to be released in the latter half of 2022.

The current 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 (BE) and the “Bowls Development Alliance” (BDA). Each NGB has two directors on the Board of BDA.

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

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

Alongside these core objectives the BDA works with key partners on:

- ◀ **Safeguarding:** ensuring the sport is safe for everyone to play by working across all five National Governing Bodies (NGBs) [BE, EIBA, British Crown Green BA, English Short Mat BA and English Bowling Federation] to have policies and processes in place. Training is also available to support the network of Club Safeguarding officers.
- ◀ **Disability:** the BDA works in partnership with Disability Bowls England, Activity Alliance, BE and the EIBA to ensure everyone regardless of disability can access the sport of bowls.
- ◀ **Women Can:** the BDA is driving a campaign alongside BE and the EIBA to encourage more women to play bowls, coach bowls and volunteer in bowls.
- ◀ **Equality & Diversity:** the BDA, BE and the EIBA are all striving to ensure the sport of bowls is as diverse as it can be.

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9.1: Supply

Indoor bowls centres are specialist facilities which appeal beyond a local authority boundary. Consequently, this report considers provision within with a 30-minutes' drive time catchment to demonstrate accessibility (Sport England suggests that drive time to specialist sports facilities can be modelled at 30 minutes as opposed to the 20 minutes modelled for sports halls and swimming pools).

There are no dedicated indoor bowls facilities in Warrington Borough, nor are there any within 30 minutes' drive. Table 9.1 lists the nearest facilities with drive times, as listed by Sport England Active Places database, which indicates that is one facility currently operational.

Figure 9.1 Indoor Bowls Facilities within 30 minutes' drive time of Warrington.

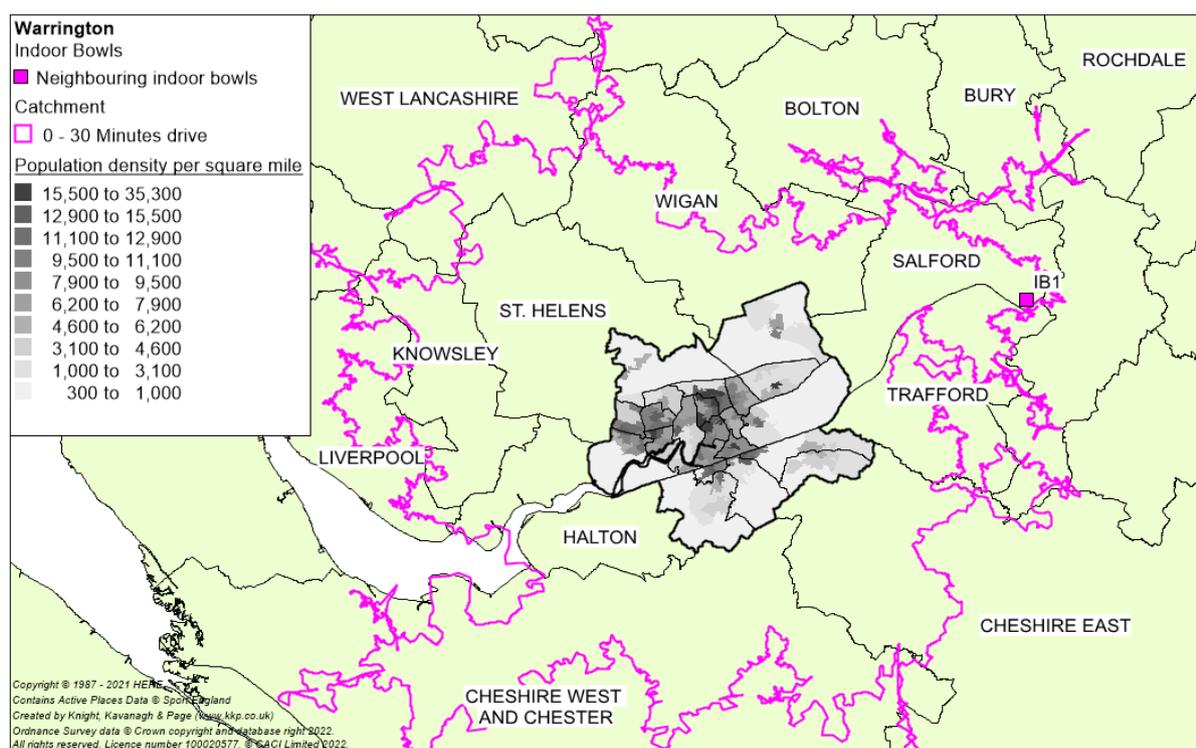


Table 9.1: Indoor bowls facilities near Warrington

Map ID	Site name	Authority	Rinks	Access type	Drive time from Warrington (minutes)
IB1	Ordsall Leisure Centre	Salford	2	Pay and play	35

(Source: Active Places Power 31/05/2022)

There are no indoor bowls sites in Warrington. In addition, drive time catchment modelling suggests that the population of Warrington does not have access to a facility within a 30-minute drive. The nearest facility is in Salford, at Ordsall Leisure Centre, a 35-minute drive away from Warrington. It is unlikely that residents will travel to the venue. The audit however found that this site is closed as it has been converted into a fitness facility.

9.2: Demand

Consultation with EIBA suggests that it is keen to explore whether a sustainable facility could be provided to meet the needs of the older population. It considers WBC as an area of 'low-supply and potential high demand'. However, this audit did not unearth any significant demand for a dedicated indoor bowls facility in the Authority. Should residents wish to access a facility, the nearest one is over a 30-minute drive away. It must be noted that other formats of the game, such as carpet mat bowls may currently be played in smaller venues such as village halls – this may in part be satisfying current demand.

The audit did identify that indoor bowls is played at Birchwood Leisure & Tennis Complex in the winter months. This too could be helping to meet current demand.

Club consultation

Warrington Indoor Long Mat Bowling Club (WILMBC) was established ten years ago. It operates over the winter months from October to March over two 5- hour days per week.

It has c.200 people registered to play each day and members are all aged 50 years+. Each day accommodates four matches and 50 people in total play in each match.

The Club operates five mats over two tennis courts and utilises the bar area for changing shoes and leaving their belongings and to socialise with snacks and a warm drink. It is understood this area enables a seamless changeover between sessions as there is an overlap of players with some arriving before the matches have ended.

Consultation identified that there are aspirations by LiveWire to change the bar area into a library / flexible space and the Club is currently consulting with LiveWire regarding the potential changes.

The Club has five mats available to be used. (Mats cost c. £5,000) Three of the mats will require replacement in approximately three years' time as they are showing signs of wear and tear however, the Club does not have all of the funds required to replace them.

The Club reports a decline in the number of players recently due to the Covid-19 Pandemic whereby some players have not returned to play. It reports member numbers are starting to increase again but are not yet back to pre-Pandemic levels.

Currently, the Club recruits by word of mouth and via the outdoor bowls clubs however, it recognises that this method it is not recruiting new players to the game which is an area for development.

It is also keen to attract younger players and would like to work with partners to establish a junior session of an evening.

The Warrington Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS) will present supply and demand data for outdoor bowls. Any additional demand for an indoor facility will be explored through consultation with local outdoor bowling clubs as part of this assessment.

WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES

9.4: Summary

Facility type	Indoor bowls	
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	There is no dedicated indoor bowls facility in Warrington. Long mat bowls is accommodated at Birchwood Leisure & Tennis Complex over the winter months.	The audit did not identify any specific facility needs.
Quality	N/A	
Accessibility	The whole population of Warrington (209,397) is outside of the 30 minutes' drive of an indoor bowls facility. There are four facilities located in the Northwest of England, the nearest of which is Flintshire IBC located in Salford (35 minutes' drive time from Warrington).	Due to the location of the dedicated facilities, it is unlikely that residents from Warrington will travel to them.
Availability (Management and usage)	N/A	
Strategic summary	<p>EIBA would be keen to explore whether a sustainable facility could be provided to meet the needs of the older population, however, this audit did not identify specific demand for such a facility.</p> <p>The Warrington PPS may suggest future undersupply of outdoor provision which could identify a need for indoor provision from the outdoor bowls clubs.</p>	

SECTION 10: INDOOR TENNIS

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

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

This will be supported through the following key funding objectives:

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

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

This section considers indoor tennis facilities provision in the authority of Warrington and its surrounds. It uses two terms to describe indoor building types:

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

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

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

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

10.1: Supply

Quantity

Indoor tennis provision comprises specialist facilities which appeal beyond a local authority boundary. Consequently, this report considers provision within with a 30-minutes' drive time catchment to demonstrate accessibility (Sport England suggests that drive time to specialist sports facilities can be modelled at 30 minutes as opposed to the 20 minutes modelled for sports halls and swimming pools). The two indoor tennis facilities in Warrington are Birchwood Leisure and Tennis Complex and the David Lloyd Club, as identified in Figure 10.1.

WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES

Figure 10.1 Indoor tennis facilities within 30-minute drive time from Warrington

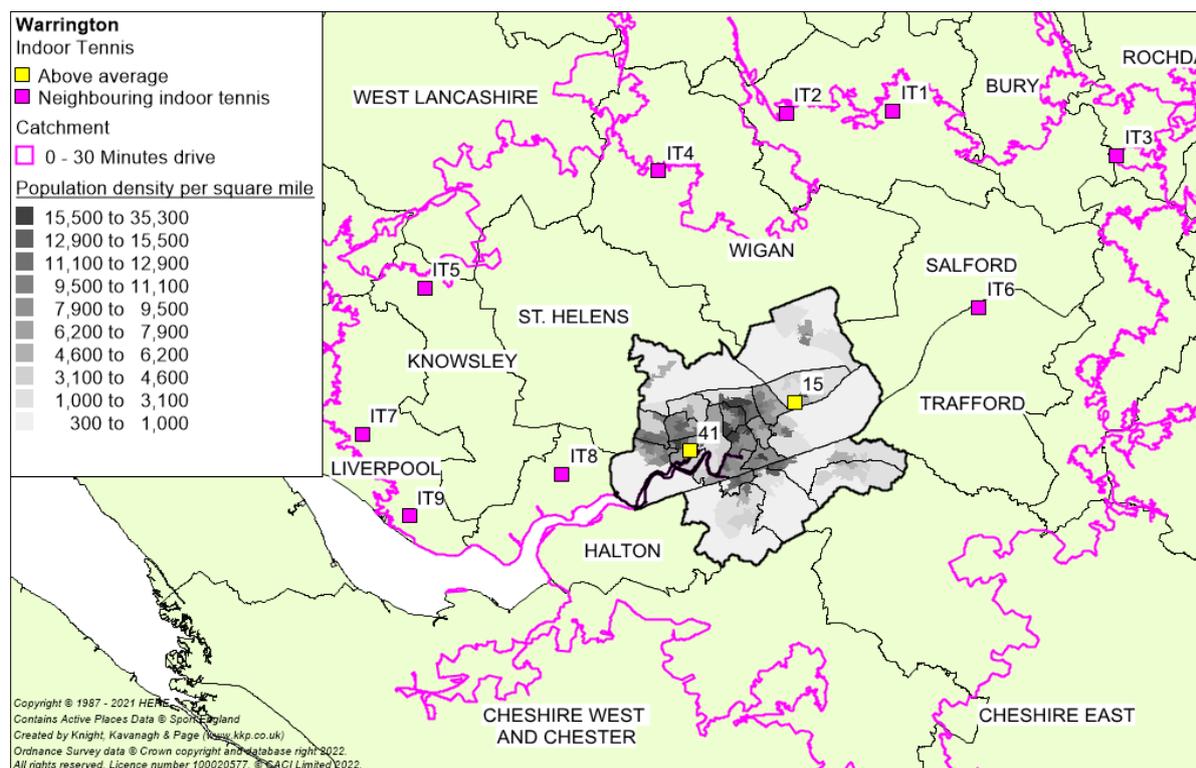


Table 10.1: Indoor tennis facilities within 30—minute drive time catchment of Warrington

Map ID	Site	Courts	Authority
15	Birchwood Leisure and Tennis Complex	4	Warrington
41	David Lloyd Club	6	Warrington
IT1	David Lloyd Club (Bolton)	5 + 2 (airhall)	Bolton
IT2	Bolton Arena	8	Bolton
IT3	David Lloyd Manchester North	9 + 3 (airhall)	Rochdale
IT4	Robin Park Leisure Centre	4	Wigan
IT5	David Lloyd Club (Liverpool Knowsley)	5 + 3 (airhall)	Knowsley
IT6	David Lloyd Club (Trafford City)	8	Trafford
IT7	Liverpool Tennis Centre	6	Liverpool
IT8	Widnes Tennis Academy	3	Halton
IT9	David Lloyd Club (Liverpool Speke)	6	Liverpool

There are nine sites (62 courts) located in neighbouring local authorities which are accessible to Warrington residents (within 30-minutes' drive time).

Five of the sites in neighbouring authorities are David Lloyd clubs. These require a high membership fee to access. For a membership that includes tennis, the monthly direct debit is in the region of £99 per month.

Quality

Both Birchwood Leisure and Tennis Complex and David Lloyd (Warrington) are assessed as above average quality.

The audit identified that Birchwood Leisure & Tennis Centre requires some investment to court 1 as it is showing signs of wear and tear.

Accessibility

Drive time catchment modelling suggests that all of Warrington's population lives within 30-minutes' drive of an indoor tennis facility.

Availability

Birchwood Leisure & Tennis Centre is available for pay and play. A membership is required for access to the David Lloyd Club.

10.2: Demand

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

Birchwood Leisure & Tennis Complex:

At this site there are three membership packages:

- ◀ *Starter* - allows users to take their first steps on court with the free starter membership, it gives users access to their local LiveWire tennis facilities.
- ◀ *Advantage* – allows users to improve their game and get practising by getting court time along with other fantastic benefits, such as the usage of outdoor tennis courts and 1 x two-hour organised sessions per week.
- ◀ *Ace* - allows users to commit to their tennis game by getting to play regularly. According to the site this membership provides the best value for money as it includes coaching and practise court time. It also covers use of outdoor tennis courts, 1x two-hour organised session per week (Sunday 4-6pm) and 1x one hour coaching session per week.

It also offers three programmes for varying levels of player:

- ◀ *Academy* - junior players aged 11-18 years who currently represent and play at county level, training multiple times a week. The two-hour academy sessions include a 30-minute fitness session at the start of every squad.
- ◀ *Aspire*- junior players which want to take the next step towards competing. One hour for eight years & under and one and a half hours for all other age groups, Aspire sessions are for players who want to improve already learned skills and train multiple times a week as well as compete at local level.
- ◀ *Activate* - junior and adult players which are starting out on their tennis journeys learning the basic skills and improving their tennis playing abilities.

In addition to tennis, it should also be noted that indoor bowls is played on some of the courts during the day Monday -Thursday over the winter months.

WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES

David Lloyd offers opportunities for all abilities ranging from beginners to professionals. With indoor and outdoor courts available members can play all year round, and the site expert coaches are on hand for personal one-on-one or group sessions to help players improve their technique. It also hosts various club leagues and there are opportunities to enrol children in tennis programmes.

The junior tennis lessons are for juniors aged 3–18 years and coaches the game in a group environment. Progression from this is the David Lloyd tennis team where there is the opportunity to play with expert coaches to improve and progress skills. Moreover, on a less competitive format users can come along to one of the social events on offer.

New to David Lloyd Warrington, is BEAT. It is the latest tennis inspired HIIT (high intensity interval training) class. The coach inspires users to work hard while listening to music and the MYZONE heart rate tracking motivates individuals to move to the beat.

10.3: Summary of key facts and issues

Facility type	Indoor tennis	
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	There are 10 indoor tennis courts in Warrington. Birchwood Leisure & Tennis Complex has 4-courts and David Lloyd Club has six courts.	Birchwood Leisure & Tennis Complex requires investment to refurbish Court 1.
Quality	The courts are above average quality.	There is a need to maintain court quality.
Accessibility	All residents live within a 30 minutes' drive time of an indoor tennis facility located in Warrington.	The audit did not identify any requirement for more indoor tennis provision.
Availability (Management & usage)	Birchwood Leisure & Tennis Complex can be accessed on a pay and play basis. David Lloyd Club requires a membership.	
Summary	Continue to work with the LTA and partners to drive up participation and ensure the facilities are and remain financially viable.	

SECTION 11: OTHER SPORTS FACILITIES

11.1: Rowing

British Rowing (BR) is the governing body for the sport of rowing (indoor and on water).

Figure 11.1: Strategic Plan 2015 – 2024



British Rowing's stated strategic objectives are to:

- ◀ Grow the number of people in rowing
- ◀ Be one of the leading rowing nations at the Olympics and Paralympics
- ◀ Create and embed pathways to identify and develop talent
- ◀ Maximise the value of the sport
- ◀ Pull together: One team with a shared purpose

Supply and demand

There is one British Rowing affiliated club in Warrington, Warrington Rowing Club. It is based at Howley Lane and is affiliated to British Rowing. It supports all levels of rowing, from recreational to competitive rowing. It runs frequent Learn to Row courses throughout the year for people of all ages.

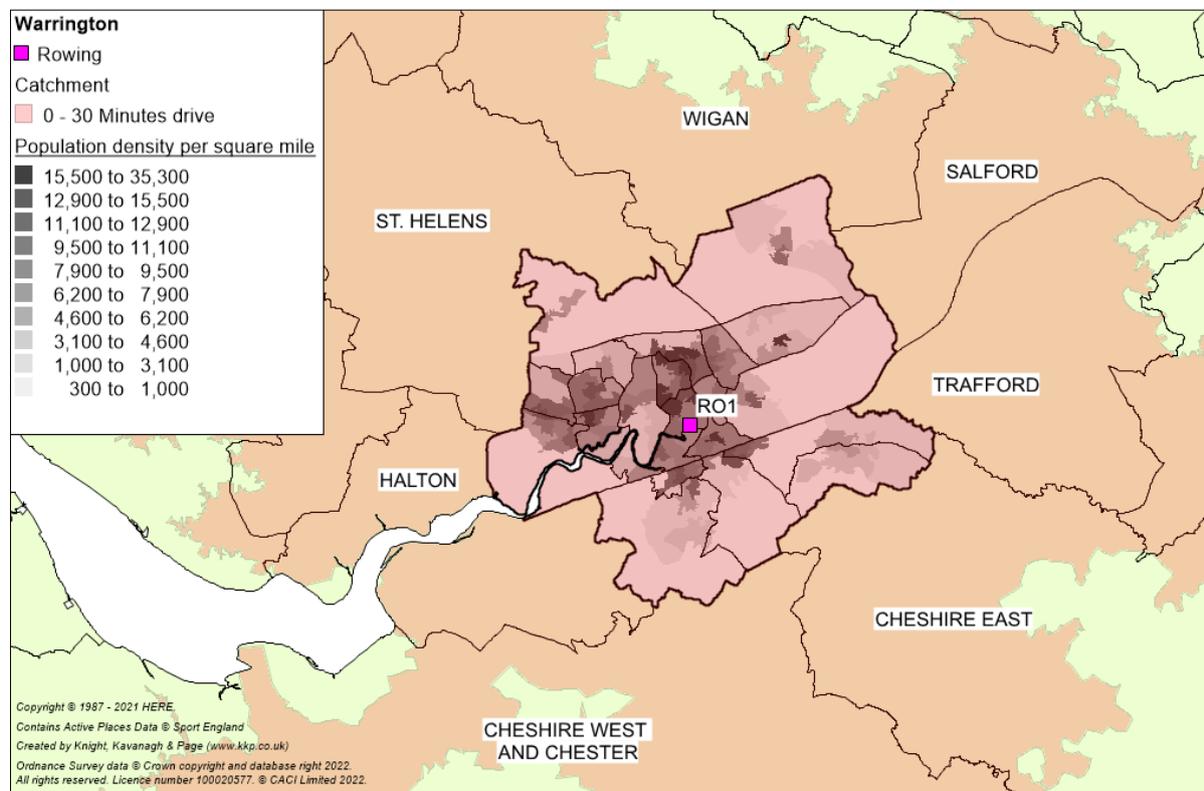
It has just under 150 members, ranging from 12-84 years of age. It welcomes all rowers from novices to high performance rowers. It is located on the River Mersey. It is currently full to capacity and unable to expand its membership due to its facilities being too small and buildings being over stocked with equipment.

The Club considers its boathouse to not be fit for purpose, in poor/adequate condition and not large enough to accommodate the number of boats it owns. It has a very small gym, but this is also in a poor condition and is insufficient for the number of members it has. These facilities are required for its members which are current performance and Olympic athletes.

WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES

It aspires to continue operating and growing membership in the future and widen the basis of the sport and open it up for the wider audience. The Club believes the sport has an elitist image and it wishes to challenge this but is currently restricted by the lack of space and facilities.

Figure 11.1: Location of Warrington Rowing Club



11.4: Summary of key facts and issues for Warrington

Facility type	Rowing	
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	There is one rowing club in Warrington.	Provide general support for the rowing club to maintain and expand facilities.
Quality	In general, the quality of the offer is below average/poor with limited space for boats and equipment and limited ancillary facilities.	
Accessibility	The whole resident population of Warrington lives within 20 minutes' drive time of a water sports club	
Availability (Management and usage)	It would like to expand provision and accommodate new members but is restricted by its current facilities.	
Summary	Support Warrington RC to maintain and improve its current facilities in the short term. In the longer term assist it to expand, extend and improve its facilities to increase Club capacity.	

SECTION 12: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

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

The following draft strategic recommendations will be developed further in the strategic document which follows this Needs Assessment but are likely to encompass the need to:

- ◀ Determine the long-term future of Broomfields Leisure Centre. Conduct a feasibility study to determine whether refurbishment or replacement is the most viable option. This should (if replacement is deemed appropriate) consider increasing the size of the swimming pool.
- ◀ Work with schools to improve the standard of the five below average sports halls and maintain the quality of those which are currently above average.
- ◀ Where no formal agreements are in place, work with educational sites to secure community use agreements (CUAs) and where possible increase the hours available to the community to meet high demand.
- ◀ Support and ensure the continuity of options that enable daytime community use of sports halls.
- ◀ In the medium term, maintain the standard of the area's swimming pools via ongoing investment.
- ◀ Consider whether and how (possibly linked to a supported investment), one additional (or possibly two) of the current better-quality (or post-investment better quality sports halls at school sites where they are present rated below average) could be developed to become core home venues for netball. In so doing, consult with the NGB in respect of establishing potentially innovative club management arrangements. This could help alleviate programming pressures.
- ◀ Work with, and via, the leisure operator to ensure that the health and wellbeing offer meets the needs of all residents including people with specific health needs and disabilities can access health and fitness provision, and people living in the Authority's more deprived communities via enabling increased use of community facilities (e.g., activity halls and community centres).
- ◀ Maintain a watching brief in respect of the scale of health and fitness provision within Warrington (and provision made outside the Authority). Should the upward participation trend continue, look to invest in expanding the level provision available at public leisure centres.
- ◀ Support other developments (via planning, developer contributions and officer expertise) which may assist in increasing sport and physical activity within the wider community.
- ◀ Work with local sports clubs (with and via the leisure operator) to ensure that facilities and workforce development programmes meet the needs of all clubs and residents.
- ◀ Develop a system to, as early as possible, identify and tackle ongoing investment, maintenance, and refurbishment requirements to protect and improve existing sports facilities.
- ◀ Support indoor sports clubs where possible to return to pre-Pandemic levels of activity.
- ◀ Address the shortage of swim teachers to enable the leisure operator to reduce the waiting list for swimming lessons.
- ◀ Maintain and potentially increase the number of squash courts in the area. Should new leisure centre provision be developed, squash courts should be considered as part of the facility mix.
- ◀ Assist Acro Gymnastics to secure a dedicated venue. This may require support from the Council for a 'change of use' planning application.

WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES

- ◀ Obtain a Sport England Facilities Planning Model Report for sports halls and swimming pools as part of any feasibility study moving forwards.
- ◀ Support where possible Warrington Rowing Club to enhance its facilities to meet its needs going forward.