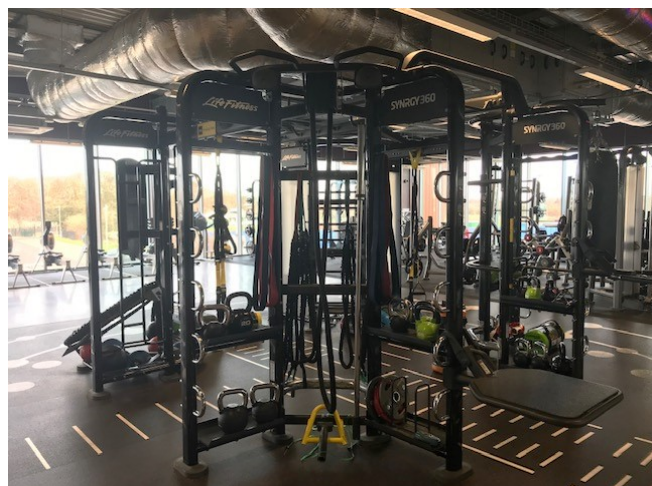
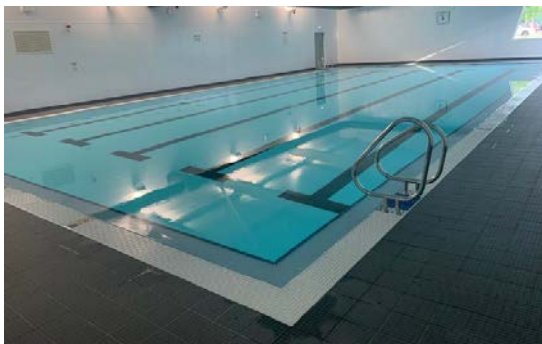




# NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Sport and Recreation Facilities Strategy 2023 – 2033



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## FOREWORD

**Councillor Paul Peacock**  
**Leader of Newark and Sherwood District Council**



On behalf of Newark and Sherwood District Council, I am delighted to introduce our Sport and Recreation Facilities Strategy 2023 – 2033. This strategy sits alongside our Playing Pitch Strategy 2023-2028, to provide a suite of overarching, long term strategic priorities for sports and recreation infrastructure. Whereas the Playing Pitch Strategy predominantly focuses on pitch provision, this strategy focuses on leisure centres, strategic sport hubs and community sports facilities to ensure local residents have appropriate access to sports and recreation facilities within their local communities. The strategy provides a long-term vision for sport and recreation and demonstrates our commitment to Sport England’s 10-year vision, ‘Uniting the Movement’, to transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity.

The Council’s previous Sport and Recreation Facilities Improvement Plan 2014 – 2021 delivered a number of strategic projects whether directly by the District Council or in collaboration with partners, and these projects have improved the facilities on offer across our district. Such facilities include the Newark Sports and Fitness Centre which replaced the aging Grove Leisure Centre, the YMCA’s Community and Activity Village, the new swimming pool at the Dukeries Leisure Centre in Ollerton and the refurbishment of the artificial grass pitches at The Joseph Whitaker Academy, Rainworth and Magnus Academy, Newark. These capital investments have ensured that residents have access to high quality sport and recreation facilities locally.

As the Leader of Newark and Sherwood District Council I recognise the importance of sport and physical activity in maintaining health and wellbeing and reducing social isolation. I am keen that we continue to support all our residents to live healthy, active lives. The provision of sports and recreational facilities is not however, the sole responsibility of the District Council, so we will work with key partners to ensure that there is a common understanding of the demand for facilities, the benefits of provision and the shared responsibility to deliver for our communities.

We are committed to facilitating and enabling the continued delivery of vibrant sports and recreation facilities which are functional, flexible and sustainable and which will serve our community for many years to come.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 BACKGROUND

**“The single thing that comes close to a magic bullet, in terms of its strong and universal benefits, is exercise.”** – Frank Hu, Associate Professor of nutrition and epidemiology, Harvard School of Public Health

The provision of sport and recreational facilities is not a statutory responsibility for us as a District Council, but when it comes to why councils, health and wider partners should invest in creating the conditions and opportunities for communities to be active, the evidence is very clear. Not only does movement, physical activity and exercise reduce the risk of major illnesses, improve mental wellbeing and help manage existing health conditions, being physically active leads to better outcomes, including:

- improved learning and attainment
- increasing productivity in the workplace
- stress management
- the development of social skills
- better social interaction
- improved air quality
- increasing social cohesion
- reducing the burden on social care and NHS services

(Source: Local Government Association)

As a council, we have a demonstrable track record in supporting and delivering sport and recreational facilities across our district. This strategy reaffirms that commitment.

### 1.2 OUR VISION AND OBJECTIVES

This strategy outlines how we will assess future investment in sport and recreation facilities against a ‘Hierarchy of Provision’, taking into consideration key factors including predicted population growth, impact on demand and current facilities – type, number and condition, and the aspirations of local clubs and sports to develop.

The Sport and Recreation Facilities Strategy will help the Council, its community partners and residents to secure access to high quality sport and recreation facilities across the district that are accessible, affordable and sustainable, thereby contributing to improving the health and wellbeing of our residents.

The Strategy will also align to the National Planning Policy Framework, Sport England and local policies of the District Council including the Newark and Sherwood Local Plan to provide an evidence base of current and future needs based on population growth through housing development.

The over-arching vision for this strategy is:

**“To support all residents to improve their health and wellbeing by enabling the provision of accessible and sustainable sport and recreation facilities that meet the current and future need.”**

This Strategy will help to guide the future provision of sports and recreation facilities across Newark and Sherwood to ensure that as a District Council we play our part in ensuring that facilities meet the needs of residents now and in the future. We will do this by:

### **Protecting our existing facilities**

We will:

- Provide an updated audit of current formal sports and recreation facilities provision, developing an evidence base that supports the case for funding opportunities.
- Optimise the use of and economic viability of existing facilities through promotion and support.
- Promote the role of leisure, sports and recreation facilities in health improvement, active lifestyles and contribution to the local economy.
- Increase public awareness of the district’s sports and recreation facilities.
- Maintain dialogue with local providers and clubs to support their continued delivery and growth ambitions.

### **Improving/improving access to our existing facilities**

We will:

- Improve the quality of current assets by working across partners to secure funding.
- Identify and unlock facilities that are currently not accessible to community use e.g. through the development of ‘Community Use Agreements’ where appropriate to secure community access to non-district Council owned or controlled facilities.
- Identify where community use of school facilities is feasible and most needed to address any identified deficits in local facility provision.
- Promote sports and recreation development initiatives to unlock latent demand by identifying where the lack of facilities might be suppressing participation levels.
- Use insight data to identify future trends in sports participation and provision and align to social need to balance supply and demand challenges and opportunities.

### **Planning for and providing new facilities**

We will:

- Inform the development and implementation of planning policy by providing an evidence base for the review of the Local Plan and other associated planning and strategic policies and documents.

- Inform the assessment of planning applications that will affect existing facilities or may provide an opportunity to enhance or supplement the existing facilities to improve local standards of provision.
- Assess future supply and demand for facilities as a result of new housing development and associated population growth through the ‘planning gain’ and Section 106 Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document.
- Work with partners across government, health, sport and community groups to support partnerships that facilitate improvements to sport and recreation facilities in our communities.

### 1.3 SCOPE OF THE STRATEGY

Sport and recreation facility infrastructure can be ordered within a ‘Hierarchy of Provision’ with a smaller number of large multi-use sites which are located in strategic locations with high population density and a greater number of smaller, local community facilities.

For the purpose of this strategy these facilities have been stratified within the ‘Hierarchy of Provision’ as below:

<p><b>District Council Owned Leisure Centres</b></p>	<p>To include sports halls, swimming pools, fitness studios, aerobics/dance studios, squash courts, indoor courts, activity halls etc.</p>
<p><b>Strategic Sport Hubs</b></p>	<p>To include indoor sports halls, swimming pools, fitness studios, activity halls and outdoor facilities including sports pitches and artificial grass pitches (AGP’s) operated by education, charities and trusts.</p>
<p><b>Local Community Sports Facilities</b></p>	<p>To include multi-functional small indoor spaces for sport, recreation and physical activity and outdoor spaces including sports pitches and courts.</p>

As a council we also recognise the importance of informal provision in helping to address physical inactivity and wellbeing within the community, including the very significant contribution made by parks, open spaces and public rights of way. These are not, however, considered as part of this strategy, which includes formal sports and leisure facilities only.

Further detail on open spaces can be found in our ‘Open Space’ Strategy 2022 and Playing Pitch Strategy 2023, which details sports pitch provision covering, Athletics, Bowls, Cricket, Football, Hockey, Netball, Rugby and Tennis at all sites across the district.

## 2. CONTEXT

### 2.1 NATIONAL STATISTICS

**“Every £1 spent on sport and physical activity generates almost £4 in return across health and wellbeing, strengthening communities and the national economy.”** (Sport England)

It is recognised that physical activity through sport and recreation activities can have a positive effect on an individual’s physical and mental health and wellbeing, whereas physical inactivity, over a number of years, can increase the risk of cardiovascular disease, some cancers, diabetes and other long-term health conditions.

Recent data has highlighted that: **1 in 6 deaths in the UK are caused by inactivity.** International comparison shows that physical inactivity is a greater cause of death in the UK than almost every other economically comparable country. *(Source: Physical activity: applying All out Health, Gov.Uk)*

It is further estimated that annually, physical inactivity costs the national economy in healthcare, premature deaths and sickness absence, circa. £7.4billion. *(Source: Physical activity: applying All out Health, Gov.Uk)*

Research commissioned by Sport England, demonstrates the value of sport and physical activity impacts much wider than solely health benefits and includes:

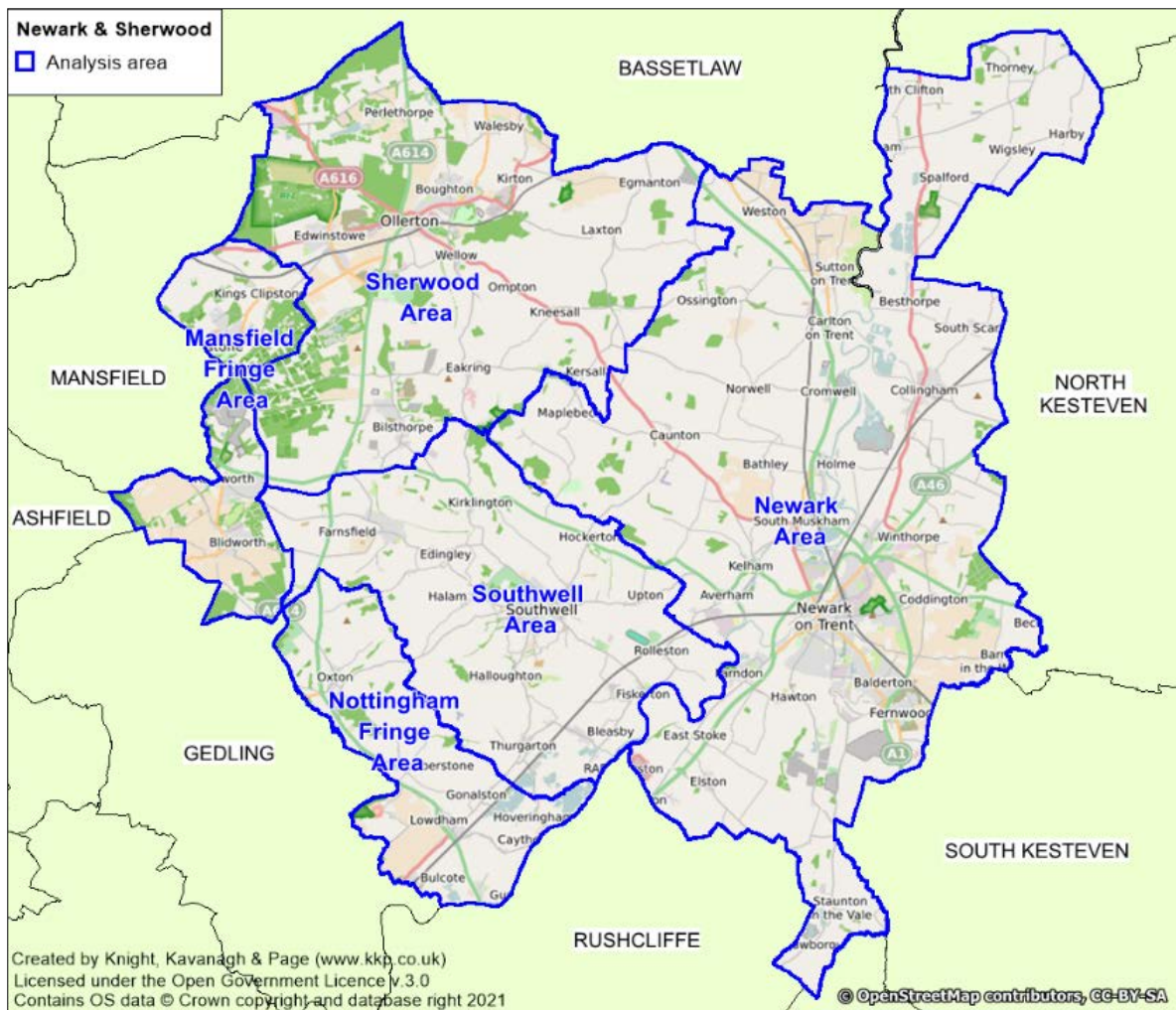
- **£85.5 billion:** is the annual contribution community sport and physical activity makes in social and economic benefits (2018 prices).
- **£72 billion:** in social value is created through healthier population, consumer expenditure, greater work productivity, improved education attainment, reduced crime and stronger communities.
- **£9.5 billion:** is the value physical activity makes to the economy through the prevention of several serious physical and mental health conditions including the prevention of **900,000** cases of diabetes and 93,000 cases of dementia. Of this amount **£5.2 billion** is in healthcare savings and **£1.7 billion** in social care savings.
- **£20 billion:** in value is created from stronger and safer communities, including: **10,000** fewer crime incidents, improved levels of social trust, belonging and community engagement.



## 2.2 STUDY AREA

The study area comprises the whole of Newark and Sherwood District Council’s administrative area which has been broken down into smaller subsections known as Analysis Areas. Current population figures are based on ONS 2018 mid-year estimates as follows:

- ◀ Mansfield Fringe (17,176 total population)
- ◀ Newark (60,929 total population)
- ◀ Nottingham Fringe (7,400 total population)
- ◀ Sherwood (24,200 total population)
- ◀ Southwell (13,422 total population)



Cross boundary issues are also explored to determine the level of imported and exported demand for facilities, recognising, for example, that people travel to and make use of strategic facilities irrespective of administrative boundaries.

The key facilities identified across Newark and Sherwood are presented below:

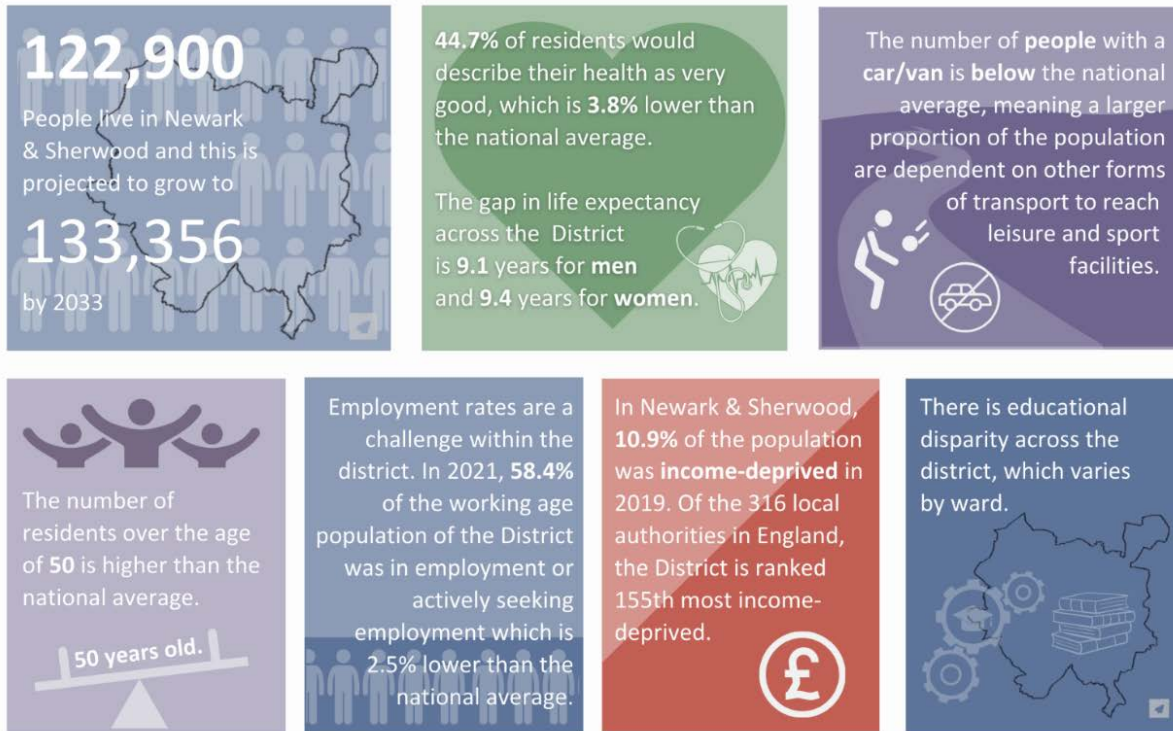
Significant Facilities Identified	Analysis Area
<b>Category 1 – District Council Operated Centres</b>	
Southwell Leisure Centre Newark Sports and Fitness Centre Dukeries Leisure Centre Blidworth Leisure Centre	Southwell Newark Sherwood Mansfield Fringe
<b>Category 2 - Strategic Sport Hubs</b>	
YMCA Community and Activity Village - Newark South Forest Leisure Complex – Edwinstowe Southwell Minster Academy Joseph Whitaker Academy - Rainworth Dukeries Academy - Ollerton Newark Academy - Balderton Suthers Academy - Fernwood Magnus Academy - Newark	Newark Sherwood Southwell Mansfield Fringe Sherwood Newark Newark Newark
<b>Category 3 – Local Community Sports Facilities</b>	
Facilities provided in local communities such as village halls, church halls, youth centres and community centre halls that provide a local opportunity for a level of sport and recreation to take place such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep Fit and Exercise</li> <li>• Martial Arts</li> <li>• Table Tennis and Badminton</li> <li>• Gymnastics and Dance</li> </ul>	Districtwide

## 2.3 DISTRICT PROFILE

Each year, Sport England carries out a national ‘Active Lives Survey’. The latest figures from 2021/22 indicate that:

- 46% of adults (16yrs+) in Newark & Sherwood took part in a sporting activity compared to the national average of 53.6%,
- 61.4% of adults are active for at least 150 minutes per week, compared to the national average of 63.1%

**These lower levels of activity are contributing to 70.3% of adults being overweight or obese in the district, compared to the England average of 63.8%.**



Geographically, Newark and Sherwood is the largest district in Nottinghamshire with 65,000 hectares (covering one third of the county). In 2021, an estimated 123,000 people lived in Newark and Sherwood (ONS 2021 mid-year figures for the district). By 2033, the district’s population is projected to increase by 10,194 (equivalent to a percentage increase of 12.63%) to 133,194.

The district comprises of the historic market town of Newark and a number of surrounding smaller predominantly rural and ‘former coalfield’ towns and villages. It has 21 wards of which eight have a population of less than 3500. The mixture of rural and urban wards requires that accessibility must be a key consideration in the planning of sport and active recreation facilities in the district.

The ‘Hierarchy of Provision’ reflects the size and type of facility which can reasonably be expected in any given location and that can be assessed through a 20-minute travel time calculation, on foot in urban locations and by car in rural locations.

**Currently, the district has a good spread of indoor and outdoor sport and recreation facilities, primarily across key service centres where population density is highest, in order to provide accessible facilities for as many residents as possible.**

Facilities in Newark, Southwell, Ollerton and Blidworth are managed by the Council’s Leisure Company, Active4Today. In addition, there are a number of other providers of significant indoor sport and recreation facilities which serve the needs of the Newark and Sherwood population as detailed in Section 3 – Current Provision within the District.

## 2.4 PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK

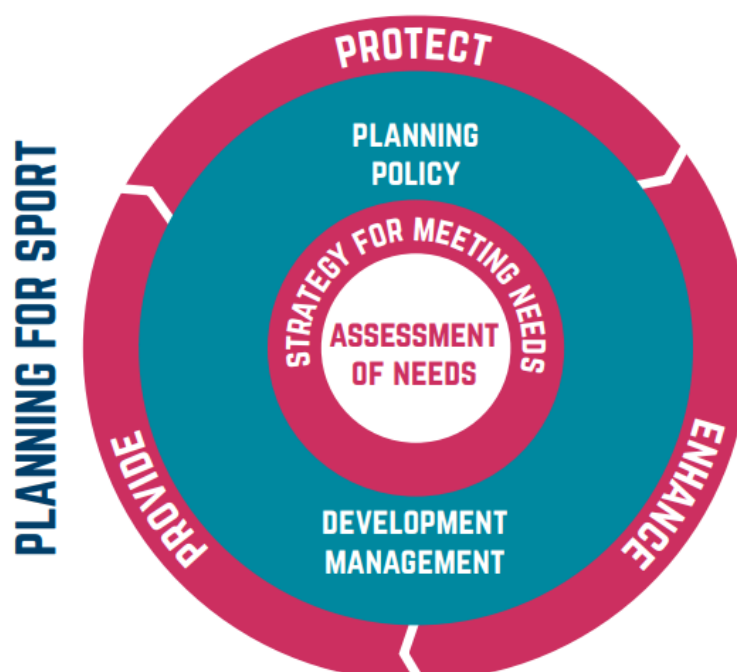
The Government’s National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) specifies that local plans should meet objectively assessed needs and that planning policy should be based on robust, up-to-date assessments of need for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new / alternate provision.

Sport England guidance reflects this by promoting a planned approach to the provision of facilities and opportunities to participate in sport and, in so doing, adding value to the work of others and helping to deliver sustainable development goals through:

- Recognising and taking full advantage of the unique role of sport and active recreation in contributing to a wide array of policy and community aspirations, including leisure, health and education.
- Using sport and recreation as a fundamental part of the planning and delivery of sustainable communities.
- Development of partnership work using sport and active recreation as a common interest.

In line with the NPPF (paragraph 102), and as presented in the diagram below, Sport England advocates that at the core of planning for sport should be a robust and up-to date assessment of need for sport and active recreational facilities and opportunities for new / alternate provision. The results of the assessment should be developed into a clear strategic framework designed to meet identified need, to be integrated into forward planning and applied within development management.

*Sport England Strategic Planning Model*



## 2.5 SPORT ENGLAND - PROTECT, ENHANCE, PROVIDE

Applying the principles of Sport England’s aims has allowed us to align our objectives to their three Planning and Strategy objectives which seek to ‘Protect’, ‘Enhance’ and ‘Provide’ sport and recreation facilities as below:-

**TO PROTECT THE RIGHT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE RIGHT PLACES.** Existing provision should be protected unless an assessment has demonstrated there is an excess of the provision and the specific buildings or land are surplus to requirements; or the loss would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the former or current use.

**TO ENHANCE OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH BETTER USE OF EXISTING PROVISION.** The use of existing provision should be optimised, for example through quality, access and management improvements supported by appropriate ancillary facilities.

**TO PROVIDE NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.** Appropriate new provision that meets needs and encourages people to play sport and be physically active should be provided by adapting existing places and through new development.

## 2.6 LOCAL STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

The diagram below demonstrates the Council’s key strategies, plans and objectives which are aligned to influence, shape and support the provision of sport and recreation facilities for local communities.

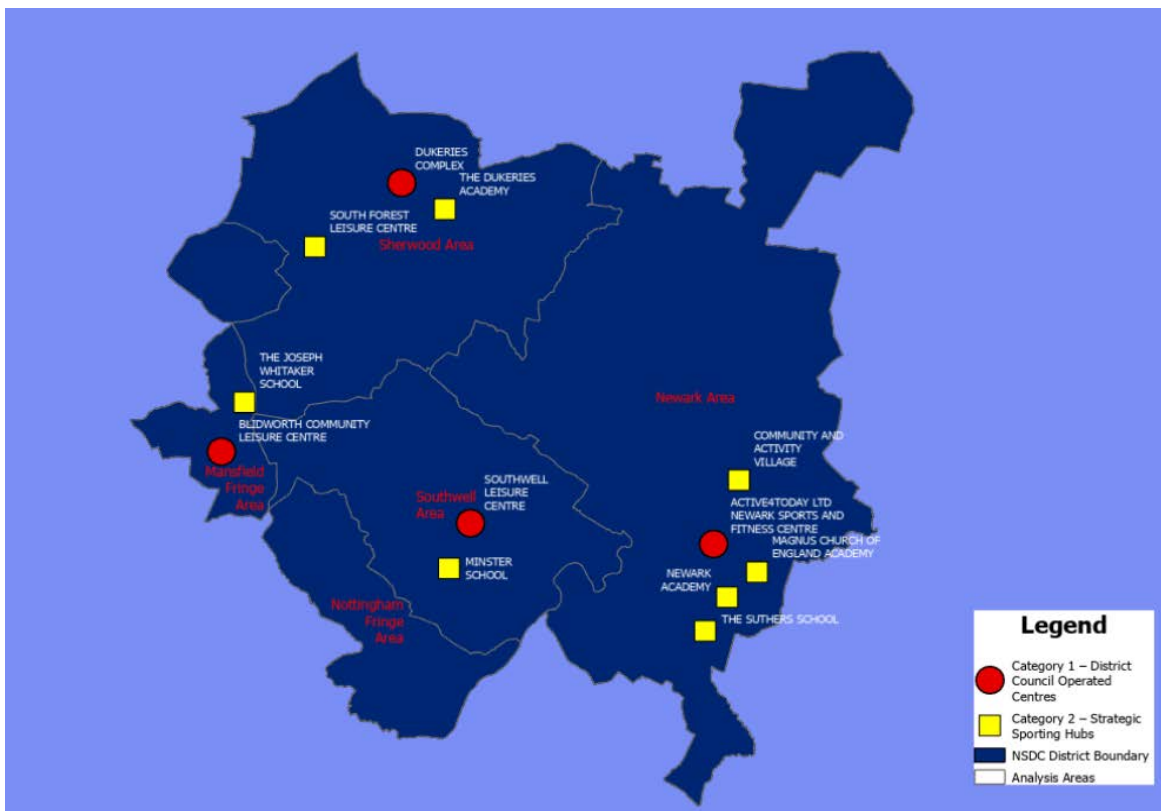


### 3 CURRENT PROVISION WITHIN THE DISTRICT

#### 3.1 LOCATION OF THE DISTRICT’S SPORT PROVISION

This strategy is underpinned by a number of data profiles built using Sports England’s including the ‘Facilities Planning Model’(FPM) and the ‘Sport Facility Calculator’ (SFC). These planning tools have been developed to estimate the amount of demand for key community sports facilities that may be generated by a given population, both current and future.

The Council currently has a good supply of sports facilities both in terms of number, quality and range located across the district:



#### 3.2 Existing Provision - Category 1 – District Council Operated Centres

Newark Sports and Fitness Centre, Dukeries Leisure Centre and Blidworth Leisure Centre are directly owned by the Council, with Southwell Leisure Centre being leased from its Trust owners for 25 years, which commenced in 2022.

The condition of these leisure centres varies greatly, which poses an issue when considering future investment requirements through our options appraisals process, when deciding to refurbish or replace. The summary below includes a ‘non-technical assessment’ of the facilities available within the Category 1 centres, based on their current condition. This assessment has been undertaken by the Council’s Corporate Property Team and is deemed to be a fair judgement and is based on the age of buildings and where possible, insight from the operators.

**Newark Sports and Fitness Centre, Newark** officially opened in 2016 and is the Council’s highest use centre. The facility is a wet and dry facility but has no outdoor sports offer. It is co-located with the YMCA’s Community and Activity Village.

- ✓ **25 metre indoor swimming pool**
- ✓ **12.5 metre learner pool**
- ✓ **Sports hall – 4 badminton court size**
- ✓ **Activity area/ gymnasium**
- ✓ **200 station fitness suite**
- ✓ **Dance/ aerobic/ fitness studio**
- ✓ **2 squash courts**



<b>Newark Sports and Fitness Centre 2017</b>	<b>Condition</b>
<p>Lord Hawke Way, Newark NG24 4FH</p> <p>Notes:</p> <p>4291 m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>90% flat roof construction with parapet, Kingspan exterior – roof access poor.</p>	<p>Multiple replacement fire doors in 2022</p> <p>New PV install 2023</p> <p>Roof has multiple leaks and will need repair in 2024</p> <p><b>5 year R&amp;M projection: £286,00</b></p> <div style="text-align: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #2e8b57; color: white; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <b>RATING: A - GOOD</b> </div>

**Dukeries Leisure Centre, New Ollerton** opened in 1981. The swimming pool at the Academy was closed in 2017 however, a new community swimming pool was opened within the Leisure Centre in the summer of 2021. There is an extensive outdoor provision which is managed by Dukeries Academy. The Academy has received confirmation that the school buildings are to be rebuilt which may provide further opportunity to enhance the internal and external facilities.

- ✓ **20 metre swimming pool**
- ✓ **Sports hall – 4 badminton court size**
- ✓ **2 Activity areas/ gymnasium**
- ✓ **74 station fitness suite**
- ✓ **Sauna**



Dukeries Leisure Centre 1973	Condition
<p>Main Rd, Boughton, New Ollerton, Newark NG22 9JJ</p> <p><b>Notes:</b></p> <p>3000 m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>New prefabricated build pool 2022</p> <p>Attached to secondary school.</p> <p>Complicated roof structures multi pitch + flat labyrinth traditional build connected with school building very poor access. New separate building with flat roof over swimming pool.</p>	<p>New pool in “as new” condition.</p> <p>Netting installed for asbestos mitigation in main sports hall</p> <p>Multiple replacement fire doors in 2022</p> <p>New changing village installed 2020</p> <p>Sauna needs replacement or removal 2024</p> <p><b>5 year R&amp;M projection: £122,000</b></p> <div style="background-color: #28a745; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"> <b>RATING: A – GOOD (New Pool)</b> </div> <div style="background-color: #dc3545; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"> <b>RATING: C – POOR (Main Building)</b> </div>



**Blidworth Community Leisure Centre, Blidworth** this former community centre facility was completely refurbished in 2008 and re-opened in January 2009. The facility is a dry site with fitness suite and activity areas.

- ✓ **100 station fitness suite**
- ✓ **Activity studio**
- ✓ **Fitness studio**
- ✓ **Steam and sauna**



Blidworth Leisure Centre	Condition
<p>Belle Vue Ln, Blidworth, Mansfield NG21 ORD</p> <p><b>Notes:</b></p> <p>525 m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>No pool</p> <p>Small building, mono-pitch roof huge surface area, good access</p>	<p>New wet change with steam room and sauna 2020</p> <p>New boilers – 2020</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> floor needs updating, floor coverings in poor condition</p> <p>Windows need replacement throughout</p> <p><b>5 year R&amp;M projection: £112,000</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>RATING: B - SATISFACTORY</b></p>

**Southwell Leisure Centre, Southwell** opened in 1965. The facility is generally in good condition and although there has been significant investment in the facilities the main pool is dated and would benefit from a major upgrade. The site is a wet and dry facility with a limited outdoor provision that consists of a small sided 3G pitch.

- ✓ **25 metre swimming pool**
- ✓ **12 metre learner pool**
- ✓ **Sports hall – 4 badminton court size**
- ✓ **Activity hall/ Free weights gym**
- ✓ **3 squash courts with moveable walls**
- ✓ **75 station fitness suite**
- ✓ **12 station under 16’s fitness suite**
- ✓ **5-a-side flood-lit AGP (rubber crumb)**



Southwell Leisure Centre 1965	Condition
<p>Nottingham Rd, Southwell NG25 0LG</p> <p><b>Notes:</b></p> <p>3484 m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Built in 1965 (Swimming Pool only)</p> <p>New fire alarm in 2021</p> <p>Brick and block construction, roofs 15% - 25% multi-pitch many showing signs of age, Sports hall roof expired overall good access.</p> <p>Upgrade to 3G football pitch (external) 2022</p>	<p>Many areas in need upgrading, issues with ground water.</p> <p>Swimming pool life expired (currently being assessed)</p> <p>Multiple replacement fire doors in 2022</p> <p>Main boilers life expired</p> <p>Multiple roof leaks throughout site</p> <p>Complex repair needed to 1<sup>st</sup> floor gym floor</p> <p><b>5 year R&amp;M projection &amp; Mandatory FRA works 2024: £740,000</b></p>

**RATING: C - POOR**

### 3.3 EXISTING PROVISION - CATEGORY 2 PROVISION – STRATEGIC SPORT HUBS

These sites are a combination of private, education and charitable trust provision.

#### YMCA Community and Activity Village, Newark

- ✓ 2 Full Size 3G Floodlit Pitches - Football including Stadium Pitch and Covered Seating
- ✓ Floodlit Synthetic 400m Athletics Track with full field and jump provision
- ✓ Climbing Centre
- ✓ Cycle Pump Track, Learn to Ride and 1km BMX Community Trail
- ✓ 2 Multi Sports Games Courts
- ✓ Indoor and Outdoor Fitness Space
- ✓ Dance studios



#### Dukeries Academy, New Ollerton

- ✓ Indoor Games area
- ✓ 2 Gymnasium Halls
- ✓ Full Size Floodlit Artificial Turf Pitch - Hockey
- ✓ Outdoor Tennis Courts
- ✓ 2 Outdoor Netball/Basketball Courts
- ✓ 400 metre 6 Lane Redgra/Shale Athletics Track
- ✓ Grass pitches



#### South Forest Leisure Complex, Edwinstowe

- ✓ Swimming Leisure Pool
- ✓ Indoor Bowls Rink
- ✓ Fitness Suite
- ✓ Activity Hall



### Southwell Minster Academy, Southwell

- ✓ Sports Hall
- ✓ Gymnasium/Dance Studio
- ✓ Full Size Floodlit Artificial Turf Pitch - Hockey
- ✓ 6 Outdoor Tennis Courts
- ✓ Grass Pitches



### Joseph Whitaker Academy, Rainworth

- ✓ Sports Hall
- ✓ Gymnasium Hall
- ✓ Dance Studio
- ✓ 2 Squash Courts
- ✓ 52 Station Fitness Room
- ✓ Full Size 3G Floodlit Pitch - Football
- ✓ Outdoor Tennis Courts
- ✓ Grass pitches



### Newark Academy, Balderton, Newark

- ✓ Sports Hall
- ✓ Gymnasium/Dance Studio
- ✓ Outdoor floodlit 2 Netball Court MUGA
- ✓ Grass Pitches



### Suthers Academy, Fernwood, Newark

- ✓ Sports Hall
- ✓ Gymnasium/Dance Studio
- ✓ Outdoor 2 Netball Court MUGA
- ✓ Grass Pitches



### Magnus Academy, Newark

- ✓ Sports Hall
- ✓ 2 Activity Halls
- ✓ Dance Studio
- ✓ Full Size Floodlit Artificial Turf Pitch  
- Hockey
- ✓ Outdoor Tennis Courts
- ✓ Small Fitness Room
- ✓ Grass Pitches



### 3.4 ACTIVE4TODAY

The Council's facilities are managed by Active4Today, the Council's leisure management company, which was established in 2015 to directly manage and operate the 4 Category 1 centres.



Active4Today administer bookings and operates several school facilities (partner sites) within the district to further increase community use of facilities. These include:

#### **Barnby Road Academy Newark – Indoor offer only**

- 4 court sports hall (rubberised surface, excellent cricket provision)

#### **Bishop Alexander Academy Newark – External offer only**

- Small 3G (rubber crumb) pitch (small-sided games)

#### **Magnus Academy – External offer only**

- Full Size Hockey Pitch (Sand Dressed)

#### **Newark Academy – Indoor and External offer**

- 4 court sports hall, gym, dance studio, outdoor courts and pitches

Active4Today's relationship with partner sites has resulted in an increase in participation at the sites and has enabled better co-ordination of timetables and programme planning, thereby improving the efficient use of the facilities by community users.

## 4 AUDIT OF USAGE

### 4.1 SUPPLY AND DEMAND OF SWIMMING POOLS

The Sport England Planning Facilities Model (FPM) Assessment for Swimming Pool Provision demonstrates that the district has a balanced supply in terms of two modern fit-for-purpose public swimming pools, complemented by Southwell Leisure Centre which is older but has been modernised. Southwell Leisure Centre and Newark Sports and Fitness Centre both provide a main pool and a learner pool.

Site	Operation	Type	Dimensions (m)	Area (sqm)	Year Built	Year Refurb	Peak Hours	Total Hours	Site Capacity (visits per week in the peak period)
Dukeries Leisure	Public	5-lane	20 x 10	200	2021		52.5	95.3	1,750
Newark Sports and Fitness Centre	Public	6-lane	25 x 13	313	2016		52.5	99.5	4,226
		Learner	20 x 9	170			52.5	99.5	
South Forest Leisure	Commercial	Leisure (2-lane)	25 x 16	400	1991	2007	49.5	85	3,300
Southwell Leisure	Public	4-lane	25 x 10	250	1998	2004	47.9	100.4	2,194
		Learner	11 x 8	88			13.5	18	

The below provides a summary on the current supply and demand for provision of swimming pools in the district, as detailed in the Sport England report: Sport England Planning Facilities Model Assessment for Swimming Pool Provision:

- Demand for swimming pools can be met by the current supply - 87% of the demand can be met.
- Demand is largely met from within the district. Of the met demand, 74% is retained within the district i.e. the swimming pools are in the right places for most residents and have suitable capacity.
- The unmet demand is quite low (13%) and virtually all (99%) is located too far away from a facility – only 0.5% is due to lack of capacity. This equates to 171 sqm of water.
- Reachable unmet demand is highest in the Newark area at the intersection of the A46, A1 and A17 where it totals 66.8 sqm of water. This is an insufficient total to consider adding new swimming pool provision within the district to improve accessibility for residents. It is possible that residents in this area will either access swimming pools outside the 20 minute travel time in-district or look to Lincolnshire to meet their demand.

#### Summary:

- **Across the district there is sufficient capacity to meet the majority of demand for swimming pools.**
- **The level of unmet demand is low and in locations where the installation of a new swimming pool unfeasible.**

## 4.2 SUPPLY AND DEMAND OF SPORTS HALLS

The Sport England Planning Facilities Model (FPM) Assessment for Sport Hall Provision demonstrates that the district’s demand for sports halls can be met by the existing accessible supply. Most of the demand is met and retained within the district. Unmet demand is very low and as with swimming pools, the vast majority of unmet demand is driven by locations too far from a sports hall rather than capacity.

Overall, the sports halls are estimated to be busy sites but with some working headroom/ capacity. Two public leisure centres are estimated to be full at peak times (Dukeries Leisure Centre and Newark Sports & Fitness Centre). These sites are fully available for community use, whilst availability at educational sites for community use varies.

The Sport England Planning Facilities Model (FPM) Assessment for Sport Hall Provision for NSDC identifies the following provision within the district:

Site	Operation	Facility Type	Dimensions (m)	Area (sqm)	Year Built	Year Refurb	Peak Hours	Total Hours	Site Capacity (visits per week in peak period)
Barnby Road Academy	Educational (3rd party)	4-court	33 x 18	594	2020		34	38	1,088
Dukeries Leisure Centre	Public	3-court	28 x 18	511	1981		44.3	95.3	1,063
Joseph Whitaker School	Educational	4-court	34 x 18	612	1995	2016	39	39	2,146
		Activity	17 x 13	221			39	39	
Magnus Sports Centre	Educational	4-court	33 x 18	594	2001		39	41	1,248
Minster School	Educational	4-court	33 x 18	594	2007		34	46	1,772
		Activity	19 x 10	193			34	46	
Newark Academy	Educational (3rd party)	4-court	33 x 18	594	2016		21.5	27	688
Newark Sports and Fitness Centre	Public	4-court	33 x 18	594	2016		46	99.5	1,472
Southwell Leisure Centre	Public	3-court	29 x 18	522	1985	2007	45.5	104.5	1,092

The below provides a summary on the current supply and demand for provision of sports halls in the district, from 2022:

- 90% of the demand for sports halls from Newark and Sherwood residents is met.
- Of the met demand, 75% is retained within the district, therefore, the sports halls are in the right places for most residents.
- 10% of the demand is not met. This is the equivalent of 3.5 courts.
- 91% of the unmet demand is because sports halls are too far away from where residents live and 9% is from lack of sports hall capacity. Reachable unmet demand is highest northeast of Coddington at 1.5 courts; this is insufficient for an increase in provision to improve access for residents.

- The total supply of sports halls is the equivalent of 35.4 badminton courts, of which 28.7 are available for community use in the weekly peak period. The 6.7 unavailable courts comprise 17% of the total supply.
- The estimated used capacity of the Newark and Sherwood sports halls is 73% in the weekly peak period.

**Summary:**

- **Across the district there is sufficient capacity to meet the majority of demand for sports halls. There is no immediate need for additional sports halls.**

### 4.3 NSDC LEISURE CENTRE USAGE FIGURES

The data below shows the current usage across Council owned and managed leisure centre provision. It is positive to see high levels of usage across the leisure centres in the district, with 1,092,596 visits recorded during 2022-2023, from 11,760 memberships. *Source: June 2023, OutRun*

This increasing trend of growth is evidenced through the usage levels and increasing memberships across the last five years for the Category 1 and Category 2 council managed facilities, as tabled below:

**Leisure centre usage figures 2019 - 2023**

Year	Blidworth	Dukeries	Newark	Southwell	(Active4Today managed)		Total
					Barnby Road Sch.	Newark Academy	
<b>2019/20</b>	59,235	103,364	717,611	325,732	1,257	11,226	1,218,425
<b>2020/21*</b>	13,677	17,181	151,983	77,738	368	5,338	266,285
<b>2021/22*</b>	47,998	97,435	481,385	263,245	5,914	15,012	910,989
<b>2022/23</b>	55,702	170,995	515,787	334,091	7,003	9,018	1,092,596
<b>Total</b>	<b>176,612</b>	<b>388,975</b>	<b>1,866,766</b>	<b>1,000,806</b>	<b>14,542</b>	<b>40,597</b>	<b>3,488,295</b>

\*Note Impacts of Covid resulted in a downturn in use in 2020/21 and 2021/22.

**Leisure centre membership scheme direct debit overview 2019 - 2023**

Active4Today Leisure Centre Membership Scheme Direct Debit Profile					
Year End	Blidworth LC	Dukeries LC	Newark SFC	Southwell LC	Total
<b>2019/20</b>	758	1,081	5,798	3,443	11,080
<b>2020/21*</b>	519	734	4,035	3,356	8,644
<b>2021/22*</b>	740	1,648	5,154	3,381	10,923
<b>2022/23</b>	<b>796</b>	<b>1,855</b>	<b>5,549</b>	<b>3,560</b>	<b>11,760</b>

\*Note Impacts of Covid resulted in a downturn in use in 2020/21 and 2021/22.



## 5 FUTURE NEED

### 5.1 INFORMING FUTURE NEED – THE IMPACT OF HOUSING GROWTH

Growth for Newark and Sherwood is set out in the Amended Core Strategy which was adopted in March 2019. The document indicates a minimum of 9,080 dwellings to be built in the district by 2033 with a projected rise in population of as much as 14,359 (Newark and Sherwood Infrastructure Funding Statement, 2022).

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

The focus for residential development is the Sub-Regional centre of Newark Urban Area (Newark, Balderton and Fernwood), where 60% of new growth will be accommodated. The remaining growth will be concentrated in the 11 other major towns and villages in the district, including a strategic urban extension at Thoresby Vale in Edwinstowe.

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

- Land South of Newark - development will provide up to 3,150 dwellings as well as opportunities to improve access to new primary schools, local retail, commercial, community uses and other services in local centres, additional recreational facilities and large areas of open space. Employment opportunities will be provided in the local centres and an industrial area focused on the former gypsum workings to the southeast of the site. As at March 2023, 503 dwellings have been developed.
- Land East of Newark – development will provide 1,000 dwellings and create a sustainable urban extension to the east of Newark with a new primary school, local retail facilities and enhanced access to open space and recreation. The proximity of the site to the town gives access to employment opportunities there and on the Northern Road Industrial Estate. As at March 2023, no dwellings have been developed as the site does not have planning permission yet.
- Land around Fernwood – development will provide 3,200 additional dwellings. The existing B1 employment allocation will be retained and extended for a modern, high quality landscaped Business Park adjacent to the A1 and the Southern Link Road. The Fernwood extension will also provide new sports pitch provision and associated ancillary facilities. As at March 2023, 284 dwellings have been developed.

The Allocations & Development Management Development Plan Document is currently being updated. Once completed, the document will set out the allocations for new housing and employment to support the growth outlined in the Core Strategy.

The Sport and Recreation Facilities Strategy will help to inform the Infrastructure Funding Statement and inform planning committee when considering planning applications.

### 5.2 SPORT ENGLAND FACILITY CALCULATOR

The Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) has been created by Sport England to help local planning authorities quantify how much additional demand for the key community sports facilities (swimming pools and sports halls), is generated by populations of new growth, development and regeneration areas.

When the calculator is run, based upon Newark and Sherwood’s projected 2033 population estimates, the following facility requirements are needed to meet demand by 2033.

Sports Halls		Predicted need 2033	Current
Courts		<b>37.27</b>	35.4 (28.7 avail to public in weekly peak period)
Halls		<b>9.32</b>	10
Swimming Pools			
Square metres		<b>1,420.30</b>	1,021
Lanes		<b>26.74</b>	15
Pools		<b>6.68</b>	6 over 4 sites

*Please note, these calculations do not take into account the additional capacities / availability at existing facilities, attractiveness of facilities, nor cross boundary movement of demand.*

Whilst the overall provision for sports hall and swimming pools meets the current supply demand assessment, it is recognised that there are some emerging challenges which will require further focus, not least through increasing demand from new housing developments but also from sports and recreation development initiatives to encourage higher levels of active participation in sport and recreation.

### 5.3 MEETING FUTURE NEED – PROTECT/ ENHANCE/ PROVIDE

This strategy demonstrates, that whilst the provision of sport and recreational facilities is not a statutory responsibility for Newark and Sherwood District Council, we recognise the significant benefits from the provision of facilities for our residents, communities and economy.

When considering our future priority projects, action will align to the ‘Hierarchy of Provision’ categories whereby Category 1 facilities will remain the Council’s immediate priority, thereafter Category 2 and 3 will be considered to determine what support and potential investment may be secured for such facilities from funding sources available to the Council, in order to align to Sport England’s Protect, Enhance, Provide model.

Our future priority projects may include the examples below. Each project will need to be considered in detail and brought forward within the community plan development or through the Council’s Cabinet approval as necessary.

Location	Year	Cost £m
<b>CATEGORY 1 – PRIORITY PROJECTS</b>		
Blidworth – 5 Year R+M	2024/29	£0.112
Dukeries – 5 Year R+M	2024/29	£0.112
Dukeries – Changing Places Style Provision (Community Plan Priority)	2024/25	£0.050
Newark Sports and Fitness Centre – 5 Year R+M	2024/29	£0.286
Southwell Leisure Centre – repairs to existing	2024/25	£0.740
Southwell Leisure Centre – re-provision of site should repair to the main pool be unviable	2024/26	£5.5
<b>CATEGORY 2 – PRIORITY PROJECTS</b>		
Delivering 5 new 3G pitches as per the Play Pitch Strategy priorities	2024/27	£5
<b>CATEGORY 3 – PRIORITY PROJECTS</b>		
Deliver the Clipstone Colliery Regeneration Scheme (Levelling Up Funding Confirmed 20 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2023)	2024/26	£4

When considering the provision of new facilities or enhancements to existing facilities outside of council ownership, the council will consider:

- Demand and need data
- Existing local provision – type, capacity and condition
- Availability of funding
- Alignment with priorities

#### 5.4 WORKING TOGETHER TO FUND FUTURE PROJECTS

Strategic partnerships will be essential to meeting future need and the ongoing delivery of sport and recreation facilities, including unlocking access to facilities not currently accessible to the public and in unlocking funding. Section 1.2 of this strategy outlines how we will work strategically across planning policy, partners and funders to ensure that the framework for prioritising investment in facilities is clear.

We will work with key partners to ensure there is a shared understanding of the demand for facilities, the benefits of provision and the shared responsibility to deliver for our communities through collaboration with:

- Central Government Funders e.g. to access Levelling Up/ Shared Prosperity/ Other funding
- Housing Developers – in the negotiation of S106/ CIL contributions
- Sport England
- Private Sector Investors e.g The Premier League
- National Sporting Bodies e.g. The Football Foundation

- Grant making bodies
- Local sports clubs and providers
- Nottinghamshire County Council and Public Health
- The NHS
- Town and Parish Councils
- Schools and other providers of local facilities
- Local business and private sector investment

To secure funding for a project, consideration will to be given to funding sources and levels required. The success of co-funded projects will be driven by the shared project objectives aligned to the expectations and requirements of the partners, where outputs and outcomes deliver a value for money return on the investment and where the project leads to significant community, health, and social benefits.

Through the application of this Strategy the District Council will seek to invest in the district's sports and recreation infrastructure using a needs based assessment, against the hierarchy of provision, in order to ensure that sport and recreation facilities are accessible, affordable and sustainable and remain so in the future.