



SOLIHULL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES STRATEGY

OCTOBER 2012

Integrity, Innovation, Inspiration

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SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES STRATEGY

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
National Planning Policy Framework	3
Approach.....	3
Analysis areas.....	4
BACKGROUND	4
Top five sports	5
Implications	6
CONTEXT	7
Policy	7
Key local issues	8
Differences between North and South Solihull	8
ASSESSMENT SUMMARY	10
VISION	12
Aim.....	12
Objectives	12
PROVISION STANDARDS	14
Quantity standards	14
Quality standards	16
Accessibility standards	16
POLICY OPTIONS	18
HIERARCHY OF PROVISION.....	20
ACTION PLAN.....	22
Generic action plan	23
Site-by-site action plan.....	25
APPENDIX 1 MINIMUM PROVISION STANDARDS	31

SOLIHULL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES STRATEGY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the Solihull Indoor Sport Facilities Strategy. It is developed from research and analysis of the provision of built facilities used for sport and recreation in the Borough. The Strategy sets out a vision for facilities to be used for sport and recreation in the Borough for the period to 2026.

It has been developed during a period of reduced and diminishing Council resources. SMBC will seek to address shortfalls in provision resulting from current and future demand (as a result of population growth) with developers, facility providers in the public, private and voluntary sectors, NGB's and other interested parties as resources allow.

It includes the following sports and recreation facilities:

- ◀ Sports halls (including activity halls/community halls).
- ◀ Swimming pools.
- ◀ Health and fitness gyms.
- ◀ Indoor tennis centres.
- ◀ Indoor bowls centres.

The Assessment that underpins this strategy is a factual report that analyses the supply and demand of sport and recreation facilities in the Borough.

Based on the background evidence a range of sport and recreation facilities are required to cater for the existing population and to be programmed flexibly to respond appropriately as need changes. However, comprehensive networks of affordable opportunities to swim and keep fit will continue to be important.

The assessment of facilities indicates that there is an adequate supply of facilities (in adequate condition) used for sport and recreation in the area, although the management, use and accessibility of these facilities vary considerably. Issues with regard to the availability of specific types of sport and recreation facility tend to be localised.

The vision is to “create a network of high quality community facilities used for sport and recreation in Solihull Borough that will enhance the quality of life of existing and new communities”.

The aim is to help increase levels of physical activity, health and wellbeing in Solihull Borough by ensuring that its residents have access to high quality and accessible built facilities for the purpose of taking part in sport and recreation.

The setting of local minimum provision standards will help SMBC and its partners to resist unsuitable planning applications for development, avoid the loss of sport and recreational facilities and ensure effective planning. Standards include:

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

SOLIHULL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES STRATEGY

To help achieve the Strategy aims and objectives SMBC and its partners will facilitate comprehensive, accessible, networks of sport and recreation facilities predicated on the following facility hierarchy:



SOLIHULL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES STRATEGY

INTRODUCTION

This is the Solihull Indoor Sport Facilities Strategy prepared by Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) for Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC). It is developed from research and analysis of the provision of built facilities used for sport and recreation in the Borough. It follows an Assessment Report (emanating from a policy review, needs assessment and audit research), which considered supply and demand issues.

The Strategy sets out a vision for facilities to be used for sport and recreation in the Borough for the period to 2026. It takes into consideration housing projections and detailed consultation. The Headline Action Plan recommends a number of high priority projects. It provides direction for SMBC and its partners and a framework for improvement of facilities (i.e., a rationale for prioritisation and decision-making) but not assessment of the feasibility of, individual projects. This will need to be evaluated on a facility-by-facility or project-by-project basis, as required. The Strategy should be replaced/renewed after five years so that detailed action over the subsequent 'strategy period' can be identified.

It includes sports and recreation facilities which require a sizeable site, are likely to attract a large number of users or will generate significant environmental impacts; the facilities taken into account (excluding Solihull ice rink (i.e., the Blue Ice Plaza)), therefore, include:

- ◀ Sports halls (including activity halls/community halls).
- ◀ Swimming pools.
- ◀ Health and fitness gyms.
- ◀ Indoor tennis centres.
- ◀ Indoor bowls centres.

This report is succinct so as to limit repetition of previous work, assist consistency, encourage collaboration and provide clarity to inform effective decision making. The focus is on identification of sport and recreation facility development priorities in the Borough (see figure 1 below). Local assessment information is available from SMBC offices.

National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out planning policies for England. It provides a framework to enable local people and their councils to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities. According to the NPPF promoting healthy communities theme, planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for sport and recreation facilities.

Although much previous planning policy guidance (e.g., PPG17) has been replaced by the NPPF, planning policies must still be 'sound' and local authorities are still required to carry out a robust assessment of need for sport and recreation facilities. The methodology used to undertake the assessment is, thus, informed by best practice identified in PPG17.

Approach

The Assessment that underpins this strategy is a factual report that analyses the supply and demand of sport and recreation facilities in the Borough. Its objectives are to provide:

- ◀ An audit of existing provision detailing quantity, quality and accessibility.

SOLIHULL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES STRATEGY

◀ An assessment of local demand for sport and recreation facilities. It focuses on reporting the findings of, and is based on:

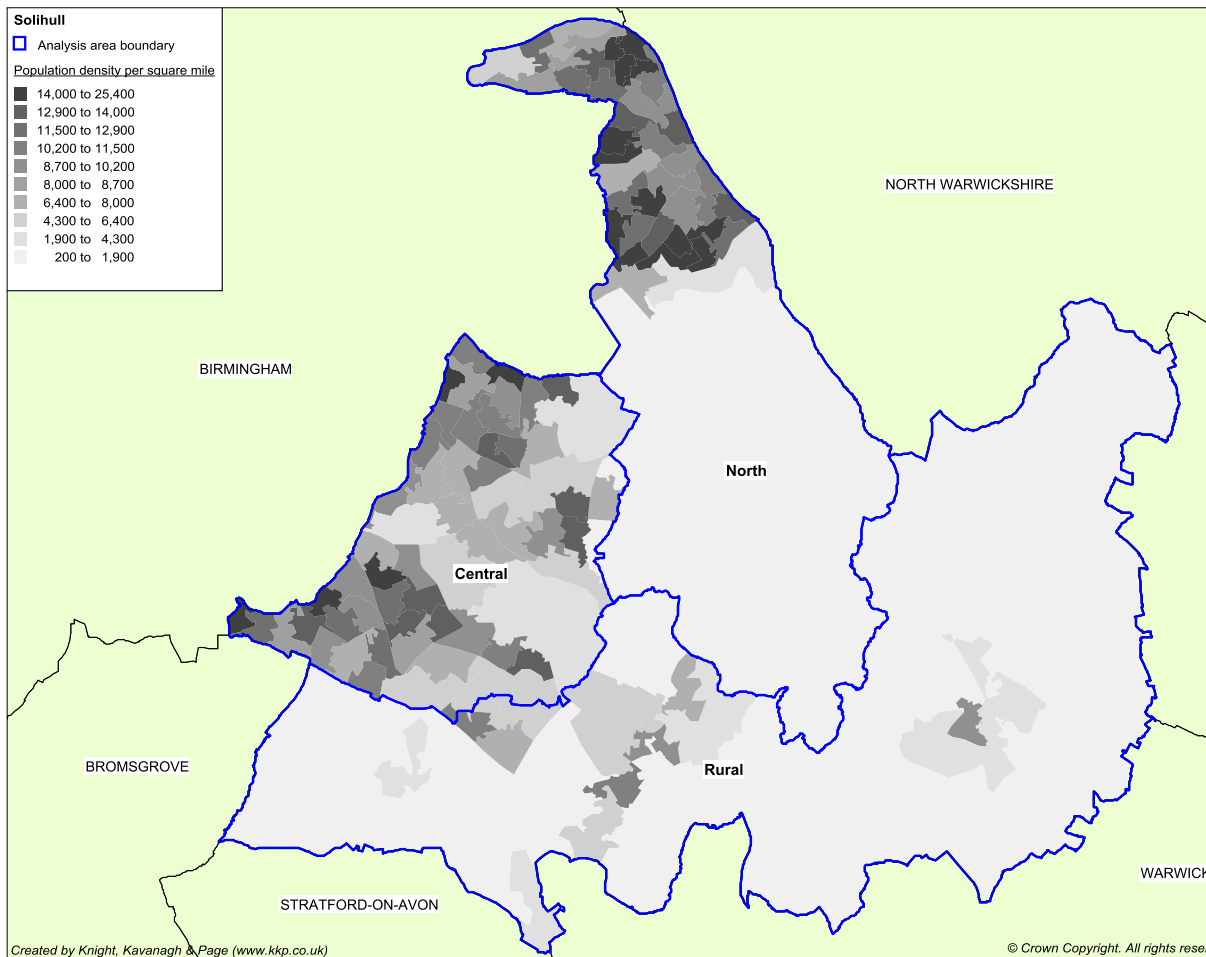
- ◀ Face to face consultation with SMBC officers, partners and stakeholder, neighbouring local authorities and NGBs.
- ◀ Postal and online questionnaires (with sports clubs and primary schools).
- ◀ An audit of existing provision, including those on public, private and education sites.
- ◀ Quantitative analysis of the supply and demand of sports halls, swimming pools, health and fitness gyms.

This strategy summarises and analyses reported findings to identify a strategic framework for improving the situation, calculate and apply minimum provision standards and produce an action plan.

Analysis areas

For mapping purposes and assessment analysis, Solihull is divided into three areas. These allow more localised assessment of provision, examination of facility surplus and deficiencies at a local level and use of analysis areas that allows local circumstances and issues to be taken into account.

Figure 1: Analysis areas in Solihull¹



¹ Mapped using Mid Population ONS 2010 data

SOLIHULL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES STRATEGY

BACKGROUND

It is important to understand and reflect on participation in sport in the Borough in the context of this Strategy. The Assessment uses the Sport England Local Sport Profile Tool and Office of National Statistics (ONS) data to identify the Area's key characteristics, as summarised below:

Characteristic	Summary description
Demographic profile	The total population of Solihull increased between 2006 and 2011; the female population increased, the population became slightly older, there were, proportionally, fewer young adults and more people of 'white' origin. Significant increases are projected in the number of older people and there is a projected decline in the number of adults aged 40-44years and 'early retirees' (i.e., 60 – 64 year olds).
Population projections	In the period between 2010 and 2016 the Borough's population is projected to increase by 2.9%. Figures provided by SMBC indicate a population increase of 24,009 people between 2010 and 2026, which equates to a future borough population (in 2026) of 230,100. These figures are applied in the calculation of 'minimum local provision standards'. The projections are trend based and do not take in to account future local, regional or national policy and strategies.
Obesity levels and life expectancy	Adult and childhood obesity rates are relatively low in the Borough, and life expectancy is relatively high.
Deprivation	11.2% of the Borough's population live in areas deemed as being in the bottom 10% of Super Output Areas (SOAs) nationally in 2010 (i.e. in the most deprived areas of the Country).
Unemployment	In 2011, the Borough's unemployment rate (at 7.2%) as a proportion of the economically active population was less than regional and national averages.
Active People Survey (APS)	Physical activity levels, volunteering for sport, adult club membership, coaching/instruction and participation in competitive sport increased in the Borough between 2009 and 2011. These were also proportionally higher than county, regional and national levels. Comparison with SMBCs 'nearest neighbours' (as defined by CIPFA) is more variable with APS results highlighting that (in 2011) proportionally more adults were club members and 'received tuition from an instructor or coach in last 12 months' than other comparable areas. However, levels of physical activity, volunteering for sport and participation in competitive sport are not the highest recorded.
Top five sports	The top five participation sports in the Borough are gym, cycling, swimming, football and athletics.
Market segmentation	In 2010, 10.5% (the largest market segment) of the Borough's population was "Tim" (i.e., settling down males). However, Philip (comfortable mid-life males – 9.8%), Elsie & Arnold (retirement home singles – 8.1%), and Roger & Joy (early retirements couples – 7.5%) are also significant.

Population sources

ONS data

Census 2006-base sub-national projections to 2010

SMBC population projections

SOLIHULL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES STRATEGY

Implications

Conclusions based on data analysed above alone is inconclusive. However, the implications of the profiles for this strategy include the following:

- ◀ Demand for sport and recreation facilities is likely to increase as a result of population growth.
- ◀ Although male:female proportions are likely to remain similar sport and recreation facilities will, increasingly, need to cater for older people.
- ◀ Demand for specialist sport and recreation facilities and those that cater for older people is likely to be higher in the Borough than elsewhere.
- ◀ The Borough comprises areas of nationally significant deprivation, particularly in the north. This makes the generation of payment to use sport and recreation facilities more challenging in these areas.
- ◀ Activity levels, volunteering, sports coaching and club membership have increased in the Borough. A knock-on effect is to increase demand for sport and recreation facilities.
- ◀ Of the top participation sports in the Borough the one that requires specialist indoor facilities is swimming.
- ◀ There are more “settling down males” (i.e., Tims) in the Borough than any other market segment. As a result, demand for cycling, keep fit/gym, swimming and football facilities is likely to be higher.

A range of sport and recreation facilities is, therefore, required both to cater for the existing population and to be programmed flexibly to respond appropriately as need changes. However, comprehensive networks of affordable opportunities to swim and keep fit will continue to be important.

SOLIHULL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES STRATEGY

CONTEXT

Policy

The implications of the policy context for sport and recreation facility provision in the Borough can be summarised as follows:

Policy area	Summary and implications
National sports policy	The overarching aim of Sport England's strategy (2012 – 2017) is to build on the London Olympic Games. As a result of encouraging more people to have a sporting habit and nurturing talent, the right facilities will be needed in the right places.
National planning policy	The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the planning policies for England. It advocates that local and neighbourhood plans should reflect the needs and priorities of local communities. The NPPF advocates production of robust, up-to-date assessments of (amongst other things) sport and recreation facilities. It also demands identification of need and the calculation of quantitative and qualitative deficiencies and surpluses in local areas to inform what provision is required. The assessment underpinning this strategy is consistent with this guidance.
Regional sports policy	Between 2009 to 2012, the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Sport and Physical Activity Partnership aspired to provide a link with NGBs and support sport and recreation within local authorities. The Partnership's Strategy incorporates targets for (amongst other things) increasing participation in sport and recreation and "growing infrastructure for sport with a focus on improving access and quality of facilities".
Regional health policy	Implementation of the West Midlands Regional Health and Well-Being Strategy vision will maintain, enhance, improve and protect the health and well-being of local people and help to reduce health inequalities. By 2020 this will require a comprehensive, accessible, innovatively programmed/ managed/operated and robust network(s) of facilities used for sport and recreation.
Local sports policy	The 'Community Sports Strategy for Solihull (2007-2016)' strategy seeks to increase participation in sport and active recreation. This will require development of sport and recreation facilities in the Borough.
Local planning policy	The purpose of the borough's Draft Local Plan (2012) is to set out the Council vision for the Area to 2028. It identifies development opportunities plus policies and proposals relating to land use and focuses on meeting local need and promoting economic growth. This Strategy (combined with its underpinning assessment) provides an evidence base that, in conjunction with Local Plan aspirations, will help to guide development of sport and recreation facilities.
Other (relevant) local policy	The 'Strategic Framework for Regenerating North Solihull' is a 15 year project that will transform Chelmsley Wood, Smith's Wood and Kingshurst & Fordbridge wards by improving homes, shops, schools, health and community facilities, transport, the environment and creating jobs. Sport and recreation facilities will contribute to its ambition to create distinctive, high quality and sustainable communities.

SOLIHULL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES STRATEGY

Key local issues

SMBC is seeking to plan for the future of sport and recreation facilities within the Borough set against a context of declining financial resources, ageing facilities and changes in patterns of demand. The following issues, initially identified in the Assessment Report, are key for this strategy, and will influence how it is achieved:

Issue	Summary description
Differences between North and South Solihull	Northern and southern areas of the Borough are different. Parts of southern Solihull are relatively affluent. Residents in these areas tend to be car owners and are generally prepared to pay to be physically active. Indoor facilities generally are reported to have some spare capacity in the north, but clubs in the south that need more facilities (primarily because they have latent demand for indoor facilities) are not, in general, willing to travel to use those in the north.
Housing development	The majority of houses built between 2006 and 2028 will be part of the North Solihull Regeneration Programme. There is likely to be a 'spike' in housing development between 2006 and 2018.
Reduction in local government expenditure	SMBC has faced considerable financial pressures in delivering services, but (unlike certain other local authorities) it has not sought to close facilities in order to make financial savings. However, future service development and delivery will almost certainly have to be funded from efficiency gains, reductions in unnecessary services or from additional council tax income.
School and college refurbishment/redevelopment	Influencing the planning and delivery of school/college capital development schemes (based on sound evidence) will be important, particularly in relation to achieving sustainable, 'low hassle', community-use of sport and recreation facilities on education sites.
Community use agreements	Several schools in the Borough already make their facilities available for community use (i.e., community members and sports clubs use school sports facilities after school, at weekends and during school holidays). They are an essential component of the local network of sport and recreation facilities. However, the network in Solihull is becoming more fragmented as more schools become academies/trusts, the level of LEA influence declines and more schools 'do their own thing'. Ideally, schools should sign up to and operate their facilities under some form of generic, universally adopted 'dual/community-use sports agreement'.
Implementation of social policy	Sport and recreation is identified as a mechanism to achieve a range of social objectives (e.g., improved health and better wellbeing, reduction in anti-social behaviour etc). An effective network of sport and recreation facilities that provide a wide range of opportunities for all local residents is crucial to the achievement of these objectives.
An integrated approach to facility development	Voluntary/community, public and private sector provision can be complementary. It is essential that the Borough's facility network is comprehensive and enables residents to gain full access to services reflecting generic and local community need.

SOLIHULL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES STRATEGY

Issue	Summary description																															
Catchment areas	<p>Catchment areas for different types of facility help to identify 'gaps' in provision. Catchment areas for Solihull are defined as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="544 427 1369 645"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="544 427 876 468">Facility type</th> <th data-bbox="876 427 1369 468">Identified catchment area</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="544 468 876 501">Sport halls</td> <td data-bbox="876 468 1369 501">15 minute drive</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="544 501 876 535">Community halls</td> <td data-bbox="876 501 1369 535">20 minute walk/5 minute drive</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="544 535 876 568">Swimming pools</td> <td data-bbox="876 535 1369 568">20 minute drive</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="544 568 876 602">Health and fitness gyms</td> <td data-bbox="876 568 1369 602">20 minute walk/5 minute drive</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="544 602 876 636">Indoor bowls centres</td> <td data-bbox="876 602 1369 636">15 minute drive</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Facility type	Identified catchment area	Sport halls	15 minute drive	Community halls	20 minute walk/5 minute drive	Swimming pools	20 minute drive	Health and fitness gyms	20 minute walk/5 minute drive	Indoor bowls centres	15 minute drive																			
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Capacity	<p>Capacity of sports halls and swimming pools is calculated using Active Places Power. The formula is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Pools Capacity = Area in sq. m / 6 x Number of hours open in peak / Duration. ▶ Halls Capacity = Equivalent courts x 5 x Number of hours open in peak / Duration. <p>Number of hours open in peak time varies by facility, but peak time is shown below:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="544 965 1369 1308"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="544 965 683 1095" rowspan="2">Day of the week</th> <th colspan="2" data-bbox="683 965 876 1005">Pools</th> <th colspan="2" data-bbox="876 965 1369 1005">Halls</th> </tr> <tr> <th data-bbox="683 1005 876 1095">Peak time</th> <th data-bbox="876 1005 1026 1095">TOTAL Peak time hours</th> <th data-bbox="1026 1005 1219 1095">Peak time</th> <th data-bbox="1219 1005 1369 1095">TOTAL Peak time hours</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="544 1095 683 1167" rowspan="2">Mon-Fri</td> <td data-bbox="683 1095 876 1128">12:00 – 13:30</td> <td data-bbox="876 1095 1026 1167" rowspan="2">37.5</td> <td data-bbox="1026 1095 1219 1167" rowspan="2">17:00 – 22:00</td> <td data-bbox="1219 1095 1369 1167" rowspan="2">25</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="683 1128 876 1167">16:00 – 22:00</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="544 1167 683 1200">Sat</td> <td data-bbox="683 1167 876 1200">09:00 – 16:00</td> <td data-bbox="876 1167 1026 1200">7</td> <td data-bbox="1026 1167 1219 1200">09:30 – 17:00</td> <td data-bbox="1219 1167 1369 1200">7.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="544 1200 683 1272" rowspan="2">Sun</td> <td data-bbox="683 1200 876 1272" rowspan="2">09:00 – 16:30</td> <td data-bbox="876 1200 1026 1272" rowspan="2">7.5</td> <td data-bbox="1026 1200 1219 1234">09:00 – 14:30</td> <td data-bbox="1219 1200 1369 1272" rowspan="2">8</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1026 1234 1219 1272">17:00 – 19:30</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="544 1272 683 1308">Total</td> <td data-bbox="683 1272 876 1308"></td> <td data-bbox="876 1272 1026 1308">52</td> <td data-bbox="1026 1272 1219 1308"></td> <td data-bbox="1219 1272 1369 1308">40.5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Day of the week	Pools		Halls		Peak time	TOTAL Peak time hours	Peak time	TOTAL Peak time hours	Mon-Fri	12:00 – 13:30	37.5	17:00 – 22:00	25	16:00 – 22:00	Sat	09:00 – 16:00	7	09:30 – 17:00	7.5	Sun	09:00 – 16:30	7.5	09:00 – 14:30	8	17:00 – 19:30	Total		52		40.5
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Facilities in neighbouring areas	<p>There are 18 indoor sports facilities (listed in Sport England's Active Places database) within two miles of the Borough boundary. These are taken into consideration in the Assessment of each type of facility, as appropriate.</p>																															

Consideration of NGB aspirations is also important. All relevant NGBs were given an opportunity to provide information about their facility needs in Solihull. However, further engagement is required.

SOLIHULL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES STRATEGY

ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

An analysis of contemporary surveys and consultation, plans, an audit of facilities and identified sport and recreation facility needs in the Borough are summarised as follows:

Type of facility	Summary of key points
Sports halls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ The assessment identifies 19 sports hall sites. This differs from Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) analysis. These provide 75 badminton courts located within 4-badminton court sports halls, or larger. ◀ There is wide variation in the quality of sports halls across the Borough. ◀ All residents live within a 15 minute drive-time of a sports hall sufficiently large to accommodate at least four badminton courts simultaneously. ◀ Access to school sports halls is variable and can be limited during exam periods. ◀ Despite a recent contraction, the Solihull District Badminton League is growing. ◀ The majority of netball takes place in the south of the Borough. Strategically there is a need to develop the sport in the north of the Borough to increase participation. ◀ There is a lack of suitable gymnastic venues in the Borough. ◀ Demand for sports halls is currently being met. By 2026, it is apparent that if supply does not increase it will fall short of demand generated. ◀ Demand for facilities is largely focussed in the South of the Borough and there is some spare capacity in the north of the Borough. ◀ There are some specific issues relating to key users of sports hall which largely relate to the need for sport specific, dedicated facilities.
Activity (or community) halls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ There are 39 sites with activity halls in the Borough. ◀ Distribution of activity halls is even and tends to service a more local catchment. ◀ The majority are likely to be in at least 'adequate' condition. ◀ The accessibility of an activity hall will depend on several issues including: DDA compliance, management policy and facility opening policy. ◀ In the main these halls accommodate low impact activity including bowls, keep fit and yoga. ◀ Densely populated neighbourhoods tend to have several activity halls in the catchment.
Swimming pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Overall supply of pools is generally good as a result of the significant level of commercial providers operating in the Borough. ◀ However, when pools which are only available for community use are taken into consideration it becomes less than adequate, particularly in the more densely populated and deprived areas in the North – John Henry Newman Roman Catholic College is closed and Smiths Wood Sports College is limited to club use after 4pm. ◀ The issues associated with the closure of the pool at John Henry Newman Roman Catholic College need to be resolved. ◀ Solihull Swimming Club is a principal user of pool space. It has to balance its needs to access water space with the cost of hire. School facilities are noted to have more costly hire charges. ◀ The majority of the Borough's population resides within 20 minute drive-time of a pool. (This includes those not fully available for community use). ◀ Total demand for swimming is currently met. However, based solely upon pools available for community use, demand is not satisfied. ◀ There is a reported (particularly by participants in water polo) lack of deep

SOLIHULL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES STRATEGY

Type of facility	Summary of key points
	water space in the Borough.
Health & fitness gyms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ There are 21 sites, providing at least 1,524 fitness stations in the Borough, virtually all are in 'good' or 'very good' condition. ◀ The local authority is a relatively minor fitness provider accommodating just 16% of the Borough's overall provision. ◀ David Lloyd are significant health and fitness providers in the Borough. ◀ Calculations suggest that there are more health and fitness stations in Solihull than required to satisfy demand in 2011 and 2026. However, the majority of these are provided by the commercial sector. ◀ There is a good spread of provision across the centre of the Borough, but not all residents live within a five minute drive or a 20 minute walk of a health and fitness gym. The most significant deficiency is in rural areas, where population density is generally low. There is also a provision gap in the northern tip of the Borough where car ownership is low.
Indoor tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ There are two indoor tennis facilities in the Borough; a total of 10 courts. ◀ There are some gaps in provision although consultation suggests that in practice users are prepared to travel to access these facilities. ◀ There are some issues with the use of Tudor Grange Leisure Centre.
Indoor bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Solihull Indoor Bowls Club is the only such provision in the Borough. It has eight rinks. ◀ Its membership levels are high but declining. ◀ It is able to accommodate current and future demand for indoor bowls. ◀ This facility is not particularly accessible to residents of the north of the Borough.

In very general terms, there is adequate supply of facilities (in adequate condition) used for sport and recreation in the area, although the management, use and accessibility of these facilities vary considerably. Issues with regard to the availability of specific types of sport and recreation facility tend to be localised.

SOLIHULL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES STRATEGY

VISION

The vision for this strategy reflects the national, regional, county and local policies summarised above. In particular, it is consistent with aspirations to improve health and well-being by increasing the number of people who are physically active and will help to transform sport. The vision is to:

Create a network of high quality community facilities used for sport and recreation in Solihull borough that will enhance the quality of life of existing and new communities.

This strategy will help to identify and prioritise facilities of local and Borough wide significance, guide those involved in the provision of sport and recreation facilities including SMBC, NGBs, clubs and others to work collaboratively (i.e., reduce duplication and competition) and to identify and use limited resources to optimum effect.

The following aim and objectives are the result of issues identified by the assessment of the supply and demand for sport and recreation facilities in the Borough. They also reflect national, regional and local aspirations to increase levels of participation in sport and recreation. They are consistent with the current situation in that they reflect the commitment to strive to meet the needs of local people and encourage healthy lifestyles.

Aim

To help increase levels of physical activity, health and wellbeing in Solihull Borough by ensuring that its residents have access to high quality and accessible built facilities² for the purpose of taking part in sport and recreation.

Objectives

Strategic

Delivery of the aim translate into the following objectives:

- ✦ To provide (a wider range of) opportunities for physical activity.
- ✦ To provide a network of good quality sport and recreation facilities.
- ✦ To provide facilities that are accessible and affordable to people from all sections of the community.
- ✦ To improve community access to appropriate facility networks.
- ✦ To better meet the sport and recreation needs of local residents.
- ✦ To improve (where required) physical access to indoor sports facilities.
- ✦ To Improve the management and operation of sport and recreation facilities to increase levels of public use.

² High quality and accessible facilities are 'fit for purpose'. They are able to provide opportunities in activities, of an appropriate quality, for which they are intended and at a convenient time. They are in at least 'adequate condition' (as defined in the minimum provision standards for each type of facility) and provide adequate car parking for peak time usage in an adjacent safe and secure location.

SOLIHULL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES STRATEGY

Management

Delivery of strategic objectives will require implementation of a number of management objectives:

- ◀ To improve the quality of sport and recreation facilities (including ancillary facilities such as car and bicycle parking).
- ◀ To use development opportunities to consult with local residents and partners (as appropriate) to increase and/or improve existing provision in line with this strategy by identifying and updating (as appropriate) to reflect contemporary sport and recreation needs.
- ◀ To ensure that, where sites may be lost, through development or closure, facilities of the same or improved standard are provided (where required) to meet the continued needs of residents.
- ◀ To work with and assist partner agencies to provide usable, accessible and viable community buildings and leisure centres.
- ◀ To seek to ensure that facilities are accessible to all residents, as appropriate.
- ◀ To ensure that new or replacement sports facilities developed meet minimum contemporary specifications in the context of length, breadth, lighting, flooring, colour etc. set out by Sport England and national governing bodies of sport (NGB).
- ◀ To strive to ensure that there is clearly identified demand (including minimal displacement of usage from other sites) and an up-to-date (i.e., no more than five years old) sport and recreational audit and needs assessment underpinning the development of new facilities.
- ◀ To continue to gather and gauge the views and opinions of local residents in a five year rolling programme of research and survey work.
- ◀ To develop a general package of support to help with the implementation of proposals emanating from an up-to-date sport and recreation needs assessment.

SOLIHULL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES STRATEGY

PROVISION STANDARDS

The setting of local minimum provision standards is consistent with central government guidance. Calculation is informed by the assessment which provides a contemporary, informed view of sport and recreation facilities. It will help SMBC and its partners to resist unsuitable planning applications for development, avoid the loss of sport and recreational facilities and ensure effective planning. Standards include:

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

Inclusion of a minimum acceptable size for each type of facility also helps as a guide to facility development. The relative importance of these elements varies from one type of provision to another (see Appendix 1).

Minimum provision standards are aspirational and based on consultation, identification of current and future demand and premised on the calculation of effective catchment areas. They do not necessarily apply to single sites. Facilities must also be managed in an appropriate manner. To achieve minimum provision standards all facilities are assumed to:

- ◀ Offer at least 'adequate', but not exclusive, community use. (The existence and quality of sport and recreation facilities at fee paying schools, for example, gives the impression that an area is well provided, however, an assessment identifies whether or not reliable, regular community use of such facilities is available and discounted accordingly).
- ◀ Be 'fit for purpose' (i.e., able to provide opportunities in the activities for which they are intended).
- ◀ Be in at least 'adequate condition'.
- ◀ Provide adequate car/cycle parking for peak time usage in a safe and secure location adjacent to the facility(s).

Quantity standards

Quantity standards per 1,000 people are calculated below and to help secure developer contributions towards sport and recreation facilities. They are derived by:

- Calculating existing provision in square metres (by multiplying the number of facilities identified in the Assessment by the relevant minimum size – see the 'minimum acceptable sizes' listed in Appendix 1).
- Subtracting 'discounted' facilities (i.e., sport and recreation facilities that are not formally available for community use).
- Calculate the space required by quantifying identified deficits in square metres (by multiplying identified deficits by a facility's relevant minimum size) and adding this figure to the result of the calculation above (i.e., A – B).
- Dividing the space required by the Borough's 2010 population, 206,091 (source: SMBC).
- Calculating a quantity standard per 1,000 people by multiplying this number by 1,000.

SOLIHULL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES STRATEGY

Quantity standards per 1,000 people for sport and recreation facilities in the Borough are:

Type of facility	A Existing space (sq. m.)	B Discounted space ³ (sq. m.)	C Identified deficits (sq. m.)	(A - B) +C Required space (sq. m.)	D Divided by 2010 population	E Quantity standard per 1,000 people
Sports halls	12,978.90	2,322.54	0.00	10,656.36	0.05	51.71
Activity/comm. halls	8,073.00	248.40	414.00	8,238.60	0.04	39.98
25m pools (5 lane)	4,500.00	240.00	0.00	4,260.00	0.02	20.67
H & F gyms	9,144.00	99.60	360.00	9,404.40	0.05	45.63
Indoor tennis (one court)	7,694.05	0.00	0.00	7,694.05	0.04	37.33
Indoor bowls (8 rinks)	1,616.26	0.00	0.00	1,616.26	0.01	7.84

Application of quantity standards

When compared against current provision, application of current quantity standards for estimates deficits and surpluses for the Borough. The table below illustrates this for 2026 when the population of the Borough is projected to be 230,100 people (source: SMBC population projections). This assumes that future populations will be distributed in the same proportions that they are at present:

Type of facility	Available facilities/stations (2010)	Number of facilities required (2026)	Additional facilities/stations required by 2026
4-badminton court sports halls	19	21	2
Activity/comm. halls	39	44	5
25m pools (5 lanes)	15	17	2
H & F stations	1,482	1,701	219
Indoor tennis (1 court)	10	11	1
Indoor bowls (8 rinks)	1	1	0

The table above suggests that (without taking location, condition or accessibility issues into consideration) there is greatest need is for additional health and fitness stations and community halls to cater for population increases alone. Increases in demand are likely to be greatest in North Solihull, as a result of the North Solihull Regeneration Programme. However, accessibility deficiencies identified below will be prioritised.

³ The calculation of 'discounted space' is 20% of the existing space of facilities that are assessed to have restricted community use.

SOLIHULL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES STRATEGY

Overall quality standards

In order to determine a facility as either high or low quality, scores relating to signage, DDA compliance, maintenance etc. are combined. The quality of individual facilities (e.g., the swimming pool at John Henry Newman Catholic College) is supplementary to this. Actions to address identified overall quality deficiencies, so that facilities are at least adequate quality, are set out in the site-by-site action plan below. Facilities assessed to be of poor quality and/or in need of refurbishment/replacement are:

Facility	Quality issue	Facility type
CTC Kingshurst Academy.	Adequate	Sports hall
	Poor	Changing
Grace Academy Solihull.	Poor	Changing
Light Hall School.	Poor	All facilities including sports hall and changing
Lode Heath School.	Poor	Sports hall Gymnasium
St Peters RC (aided) School.	Poor	Second set of changing
Arden Academy Trust.	Poor	Sports hall (in particular lighting and carpet)

Accessibility standards

In the Assessment Report catchment mapping is used to identify deficiencies for each typology. Catchment mapping involves applying a drive or walk time distance to identify communities currently not served by existing facilities. Catchment areas are based on the time that people are willing to travel in order to access provision. If a settlement does not have access to the required level of provision (i.e., it is outside the catchment) it is deemed to be deficient and the number of sites, of a minimum size, that are needed in order to provide comprehensive access to this type of provision (in hectares) is estimated.

Summary of current accessibility deficiencies identified from catchment mapping:

Facility type	Accessibility mapping deficiencies	Requirement
Sports halls	No 'catchment gaps' identified.	-
Community halls	'Catchment gap' identified north of the North Rural Analysis Area (bordering Birmingham City).	Develop/designate additional community hall in Castle Bromwich area.
	'Catchment gap' identified east of Rural Analysis Area (bordering Coventry).	Develop/designate additional community hall in Meriden area.
Swimming pools	No 'catchment gaps' identified.	-
Health and fitness gyms	'Catchment gaps' identified around Knowle, Dorridge and in the North Analysis Area	Development of health and fitness gyms in Knowle, Dorridge and Castle Bromwich.
Indoor tennis	Significant 'catchment gap' identified in North Analysis Area.	Current facilities meet local demand. No additional facilities required.
Indoor bowls	'Catchment gaps' in the North Analysis Area and parts of Rural Analysis Area.	Users travel to use existing facilities. Thus no additional venue required.

SOLIHULL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES STRATEGY

Deficiencies highlighted above as a result of applying the minimum provision standards will be achieved through identification of (preferably) one of four policy options, summarised below. Where this is not possible (or appropriate) a combined approach will be adopted.

SOLIHULL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES STRATEGY

POLICY OPTIONS

The assessment and application of minimum provision standards highlights the following issues and/or deficiencies with regard to facilities used for sport and recreation:

- ◀ The need for better cross boundary collaboration with neighbouring local authorities.
- ◀ The need to enhance networks of sport and recreation facilities that cater for grass roots/community sport and recreation (e.g., community halls).
- ◀ The need for continued provision of all facility types at, at least comparable levels. This is a particularly significant issue for principal community sports facilities coming to the end of their 'operational lives' (e.g., sports halls).
- ◀ There is sufficient sports hall space to satisfy minimum provision standards in 2026, based on projected population growth.
- ◀ Additional swimming pool space equivalent to more than one 25m swimming pool (with 5 lanes) will be required to meet projected population growth.
- ◀ The need to improve access to indoor bowls facilities in order to cater for an ageing population and sustained/increasing demand.

There are four (relevant) principal policy options to addressing deficiencies. These are:

Policy option	Comment
Enhanced access to existing facilities	Enhancing access to sport and recreation facilities for residents who live in rural areas is problematic, primarily because it is economically unviable to provide amenities in sparsely populated areas, or it involves increasing the level of private travel, which is contrary to (local, regional and national government policy). An alternative approach could be to improve access to existing facilities in rural areas (e.g., improve access to school facilities). The presence of sport and recreation facilities on school sites creates an impression that the Borough is well supplied, however restricted community access to facilities at schools limits availability. There is potential to address identified deficiencies by negotiating better community use arrangements.
Integrated facility provision	In some instances, deficiencies identified could be met through adapted or integrated provision. For example, ensuring that community halls can accommodate carpet bowls could partially address the future need for additional indoor bowls facilities.
Upgraded facility provision	Upgrading existing facility provision would meet some of the deficiencies identified, particularly in terms of quality and accessibility. It could also increase a facility's capacity.
New facility provision	Providing new facilities to meet specific deficiencies/issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Direct provision by SMBC could be the only option for developing large sport and recreation facilities offering extensive community use and addressing multiple deficiencies/issues, although current and future financial and land constraints mean this is unlikely in the medium term. ◀ Convert non sporting buildings, such as redundant industrial units, to provide for sport to help address identified deficiencies. ◀ Developing new school sports facilities designed and operated so as to serve community need could meet some deficiencies. This is an economically sensible and viable option, particularly in rural areas. ◀ New housing development is an opportunity to secure contributions from property developers, to assist in meeting the cost of new/improved facility provision to cater for projected increases in population.

Use of the following principles will help to identify priorities and preferred options:

SOLIHULL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES STRATEGY

- ◀ Potential for cost savings.
- ◀ Provision of specific opportunities for older people.
- ◀ Reduction in the need for private travel.
- ◀ Offer a good likelihood of implementation.
- ◀ Have the potential to contribute to several social objectives.
- ◀ Improve day-time access to sport and recreation facilities, their reach and impact.

SOLIHULL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES STRATEGY

HIERARCHY OF PROVISION

To help achieve Strategy aims and objectives SMBC and its partners will facilitate comprehensive, accessible, networks of sport and recreation facilities predicated on the following hierarchy:

Proposed provision hierarchy



- ✦ Prioritise resources for strategically significant provision and provision that other providers are less likely to make.
- ✦ Maintain peak time (and day-time) provision by providing two principal leisure centres.
- ✦ Negotiate access to sport and recreation facilities in neighbouring boroughs known to be used by residents of the Borough (e.g., Fox Hollies Leisure Centre in Birmingham).
- ✦ Encourage community use of sport and recreation facilities on education sites, by working in partnership with managers and operators of sport and recreation facilities at community schools, academies and colleges.

Definitions

Tier P sites will have Area-wide significance. They are identified 'principal leisure centres' and normally cater for more than one type of sport; on a weekly basis they cater for a high level of activity. They should be maintained to a high standard and be located and operate in such a way as to ensure that improved quality at these sites will (where appropriate) relieve pressure on other facilities in the hierarchy.

Tier P sites should be continually improved in order to preserve their status and value. They should be able to accommodate all types of activity concurrently. As a consequence, the following criteria recommendations relate to all Tier P sites:

- ✦ All sites should have contemporary changing facilities with suitable shower facilities.
- ✦ All sites should be in good condition.

SOLIHULL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES STRATEGY

- ◀ A mixture of facilities (e.g., sports hall, swimming pool, fitness) should be available to encourage a cross-section of participants to make use of the facilities.

It is therefore anticipated that a significant proportion of the investment earmarked for facilities and the annual maintenance budget should be spent on such sites. Due to the recommendations highlighted above, any initial investment is considered to be at least a medium-term priority.

Tier K sites recognise growing emphasis on increases in participation and provision of venues that satisfy needs of communities within their catchment areas. The conditions recommended for participation by children and young people are becoming more stringent as the issue of child protection and student safety become more prominent. This could be reflected in the provision of facilities for dedicated junior activity that can ensure their safety, as well as being maintained more efficiently. It is anticipated that fixtures involving children and young people will be played on these sites. Initial investment could be required in the short term.

Local/community facilities (Tier L) refer to facilities used for sport and recreation, but where this is not their primary purpose. The priority attached to them for Council-generated investment is relatively low and consideration should be given, on a site-by-site basis, in order to enhance the options to secure external funding.

SOLIHULL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES STRATEGY

ACTION PLAN

The actions listed below will help to achieve the aims of increasing levels of physical activity, improving health and wellbeing and transforming sport. They are a set of proposals developed by KKP that SMBC will review in the light of existing staff and financial resources in order to prioritise support for strategically significant provision and provision that other providers are less likely to make to.

The Site-by-Site Action Plan below includes actions to address identified quality deficiencies, so that facilities are at least adequate quality. Actions to address quantity and accessibility deficiencies are included in the Generic Action Plan.

Indicative costs are given where the development of new facilities is noted. The costs are derived from Sport England's facilities costs for the second quarter 2012⁴.

Timescales for actions to be undertaken are denoted as:

- ◀ S = Short term (i.e., between 6 months and 2 years)
- ◀ M = Medium term (i.e., 3 to 5 years)
- ◀ L = Long term (i.e., more than 6 years)

4

http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/planning_tools_and_guidance/planning_kitbag/facilities_costs.aspx (Accessed September 2012).

SOLIHULL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES STRATEGY

Generic action plan

Action	Timescale	Outcome/KPI	Principal partner(s)	Cost estimate
Make sure that existing facilities used for sport and recreation are protected within local planning policy.	6 months	Sustained provision.	Various	Officer time
Safeguard community-use of sport and recreation facilities on education sites. Potentially by, identifying demonstration project(s) to illustrate how community-use agreements could be achieved and 'iron out' problems.	1-2 years	Sustained provision.	Schools/Academies, Colleges	Officer time
Increase community-use of existing swimming pools on education sites.	1-2 years	Increased amount of pool space accessible to community.	Schools/Academies, Colleges	Officer time
Improve capacity and community-use of existing sport and recreation facilities.	1-2 years	More comprehensive network of facilities used for sport and recreation.	Parkwood Leisure Schools Academies, Colleges	Officer time
Develop/designate five additional community halls, one of which will be in Meriden.	3–5 years	Improved network of (and access to) community halls.	Town and parish councils	Assume the development of a 1 court hall measuring 18x10 and an area of 373m ² = £810,000 (per hall)
Improve distribution of health and fitness gyms, including additional provision in Knowle, Dorridge and the Castle Bromwich area.	3-5 years	Improved network of (and access to) health and fitness gyms.	Various	Officer time
Develop two additional (4-badminton court) sports halls, particularly in North Solihull where increases in demand are likely to be greatest.	More than 6 years	Improved network of, and access to, sports halls.	SMBC, NGBs, schools/academies, college	Assume the development of a 4 court hall measuring 34.5x20 and an area of 1,530m ² = £2,845,000 (per hall)

SOLIHULL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES STRATEGY

Action	Timescale	Outcome/KPI	Principal partner(s)	Cost estimate
Develop two additional swimming pools (25m x 5 lanes each).	More than 6 years	Improved access to 25m swimming pools.	SMBC, ASA, schools/academies, college	Assume the development of a 25m Pool 6 Lane and an area of 1,543m ² = £3,900,000 (per pool)
Develop one additional indoor tennis court.	More than 6 years	Improved access to indoor tennis facilities.	SMBC, LTA, commercial provider/operator	Assume development of 2,138m ² (i.e., a 3 court tennis hall) = £3,900,000
Identify/confirm NGB facility aspirations in Solihull.	6–12 months	Increase NGB buy-in, and commitment to, strategy implementation.	SMBC, NGBs	Officer time
Identify/confirm neighbouring local authority facility development now and in the future and set these developments against the identified need of the Borough.	6-12 months	Delivery of the strategy is set in the context of facility developments on the Borough's boarder.	SMBC, other LA's	Officer time
Analyse the use and future place for Solihull Ice Rink in the Borough's facility offer.	1-2 years	Identify current and future needs.	SMBC, ice rink operator	Officer time
Identify priority for facility development	6-12 months	Borough and zone priorities can be used to direct resources as and when they become available.	SMBC, NGB's, other facility providers	Officer time.

SOLIHULL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES STRATEGY

Site-by-site action plan

This site-by-site action plan is based on information contained in the Assessment Report, and will be updated as developments occur. It contains actions necessary to improve/enhance sites to meet the criteria listed above.

North Area

Site	KKP ref	Tier	Issue to be resolved	Action	Priority
CTC Kingshurst Academy	88	K	The activity areas (i.e. sports hall and gymnasium) are adequate quality. The changing rooms are poor quality.	Upgrade facilities in partnership with clubs based at the site.	M
Grace Academy Solihull	30	K	Changing facilities at the School are poor quality.	Upgrade the facilities in partnership with clubs based at the site.	M
John Henry Newman Catholic College	38	K	Sports hall and gymnasium are good quality following recent refurbishments and there is a good level of community use. The key issue for the School is the pool (4 lane 25 metres); this is currently closed despite the refurbishments.	In light of the deficiencies in community accessible swimming pools a management plan should be established to confirm the future status of the facility.	S
Park Hall Academy	56	K	Facilities are very good and there is a good level of community use.	Re-direct weekend demand for sports hall provision (particularly to North Solihull Sports Centre) which cannot be accommodated at other local venues to this site.	S
Smiths Wood Community Gym	63	L	<i>No issues/actions identified</i>		
North Solihull Sports Centre	50	P	Facilities at North Solihull are ageing but are maintained to a good standard. It has previously hosted Birmingham Basketball League fixtures as a 6-court venue. It is one of two (the other being Tudor Grange Leisure Centre) facilities in Solihull which can accommodate trampolining	Encourage more performance based use of the sports hall to increase the profile of sport in the north of the Borough.	S-M

SOLIHULL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES STRATEGY

Site	KKP ref	Tier	Issue to be resolved	Action	Priority
			given the ceiling height.		
Smiths Wood Sports College	65	K	Good facilities with good levels of community use including Sabres Basketball Club and Smiths Wood Airbourne Trampolining Club.	Maintain quality of facilities and levels of community use.	L
Fentham Hall	98	L	<i>No issues/actions identified</i>		
Fordbridge Centre	99	L			

Central Area

Site	KKP ref	Tier	Issue to be resolved	Action	Priority
Alderbrook School	1	K	Facilities are in good condition and there are good levels of community use.	Maintain relationship with key clubs as community users and consider potential future need to address the quality of changing provision servicing the gymnasium.	L
Langley School	41	K	Facilities are good quality and operate at capacity.	Maintain facility quality and levels of community use.	L
Light Hall School	42	K	Facilities are generally regarded to be of poor quality.	Investigate funding opportunities through work with community users to improve facilities.	S
Lode Heath School	44	K	The School has plans to rebuild the old gymnasium as a second sports hall with changing rooms and a PE office.	Improve facilities at the site.	S
Lyndon School Humanities College	47	K	There is limited community use of the site. Facilities are of adequate quality.	Increase community use of the site.	L
Saint Martin's School	58	K	It has an excellent quality 4 lane 25 metre pool which principally accommodates Solihull Swimming Club.	Maintain current levels of community use.	L
Solihull College	67	K	A very popular site operating at capacity.	Maintain facility quality and the levels of community use.	L

SOLIHULL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES STRATEGY

Site	KKP ref	Tier	Issue to be resolved	Action	Priority
Solihull School	71	K	Good facilities available for limited community use.	Encourage greater levels of community use where demand for facilities is not met (particularly during holiday periods).	M
Solihull Sixth Form College Sports Hall	72	K	Funding has been secured to refurbish the changing accommodation and for a squash court conversion.	Maintain good levels of community use.	L
St Peters RC (aided) School	73	K	It has refurbished several facilities. The second set of changing rooms remain poor quality.	Maintain school status as a National Performance Centre for badminton.	M
Tudor Grange Academy	81	K	Facilities very good quality and offer good level of community use.	Maintain good levels of community use.	L
Tudor Grange Leisure Centre	82	P	It has good facilities. Dialogue needs to be maintained with the LTA with regard to use of the tennis hall. It is the only venue to provide two courts side by side in the Borough.	Determine the future use of the tennis hall. Maintain standards of quality at the site.	S
Longdon Room	102	L	<i>No issues/actions identified</i>		
Lyndon School Community Rooms	103	L			
Meadows Function Room (Solihull Ice Rink)	104	L			
Oliver Bird Hall	105	L			
Olton Library (meeting room)	106	L			
Red Lion Function Room	107	L			
Shirley Institute	108	L			
SIMTR Conf. Centre	110	L			
Solihull Arden Club	111	L			

SOLIHULL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES STRATEGY

Site	KKP ref	Tier	Issue to be resolved	Action	Priority
Solihull Cricket & Tennis Pavilion	112	L	<i>No issues/actions identified</i>		
Solihull Lodge Community Centre	113	L			
Solihull Meth. Church	114	L			
Solihull Moors FC	115	L			
Solihull Municipal Club	116	L			
Solihull WI	117	L			
St Helen's Church	119	L			
St Mary's Church Hall	120	L			
St Stephen's Church	122	L			
Studio	123	L			
The Shirley Centre	124	L			
Ulverley Room	125	L			
David Lloyd (Solihull Cranmore)	22	L			
Elmdon Heath & District Community Centre	97	L			

SOLIHULL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES STRATEGY

Rural area

Site	KKP ref	Tier	Issue to be resolved	Action	Priority
Heart of England School	32	K	Facilities are very good following recent refurbishment. The roof is leaking. It reaches capacity on weekdays. There is spare capacity at weekends.	Re-direct any weekend demand for sports hall provision which cannot be accommodated at other local venues to this site.	M
Arden Academy Trust	2	K	The carpet surface of the sports hall is not suitable for key sports including badminton and basketball. Lighting is also poor. Discussion is underway about replacing the floor; Knowle Badminton Club is keen to work with the School and Badminton England to secure funding for this work.	Engage all three key parties in taking steps to secure funding for improvements. Dialogue should also include other clubs based at the site (i.e., Arden Aces Basketball Club, Arden Badminton Club, Dynamics Trampoline Club and Knowle Taekwondo Club).	S
Balsall Common Primary School	6	K	The Pool is excellent quality following recent refurbishment. It is at capacity in terms of bookings.	Maintain facility quality and levels of community use.	L
Lady Katherine Leveson C.of E.Primary SC	100	L	<i>No issues/actions identified</i>		
St George And St Teresa's Parish Centre	118	L			
St Philip's Church Hall	121	L			
Arden Academy Trust	2	L			
Heart Of England School	32	L			
Dorridge Methodist Church Hall	93	L			
Dorridge Village Hall	94	L			
Downing Hall	95	L			

SOLIHULL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES STRATEGY

Site	KKP ref	Tier	Issue to be resolved	Action	Priority
Earlswood Meth. Church	96	L			

SOLIHULL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES STRATEGY

APPENDIX 1 MINIMUM PROVISION STANDARDS

Facility type	Component	Minimum provision standard
Sports halls	Quantity standard (4+ badminton court)	51.71m ² /1,000 people
	Quality	4-badminton court sports halls (and ancillary facilities) should be in at least 'adequate' condition ⁵ .
	Accessibility	All local residents should live within a 15-minute drive of a 4-badminton court sports hall.
	Minimum acceptable size	33m x 18m x 7.6m - based on Sport England guidance. (<i>New guidance has been published reflecting revised NGB aspirations</i>)
Community halls	Quantity standard (<4 badminton court halls).	39.98m ² /1,000 people
	Quality	Multi-use halls should be in at least 'adequate' condition ⁶ .
	Accessibility	All local residents should live within a 20-minute walk of a small hall.
Swimming pools	Quantity standard (for 25m pools)	20.67 m ² /1,000 people
	Quality	Swimming pools (and ancillary facilities) should be in at least 'adequate' condition ⁷ .
	Accessibility	All local residents should live within 20-minute drive-time of a swimming pool.
	Minimum acceptable size	25 metre swimming pool with 5 lanes and adequate accommodation for competitors and spectators to stage local galas and events. Teaching/learner swimming pool = dedicated area of shallow water for 'teaching' purposes.

⁵ 'Adequate' condition is defined as:

- Adequately maintained, with no signs of neglect.
- Sufficient changing accommodation for facilities available.
- Well lit for sport and recreation activities, as appropriate.
- At least adequate appearance.
- Clean and adequately decorated.
-

⁶ 'Adequate' condition is defined as:

- Adequately maintained, with no signs of neglect.
- Sufficient changing accommodation for facilities available.
- Well lit for sport and recreation activities, as appropriate.
- At least adequate appearance.
- Clean and adequately decorated.
-

⁷ 'Adequate' condition is defined as:

- Adequately maintained, with no signs of neglect.
- Sufficient changing accommodation for facilities available.
- Well lit for sport and recreation activities, as appropriate.
- At least adequate appearance.
- Clean and adequately decorated.
-

SOLIHULL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES STRATEGY

Facility type	Component	Minimum provision standard
Health and fitness gyms	Quantity	45.63m ² /1,000 people
	Quality	Health and fitness gyms (and ancillary facilities) should be in at least 'good' condition ⁸ .
	Accessibility	All local residents should live within a 20-minute walk of a health and fitness gym.
	Acceptable size	5m ² per fitness station, plus 15% (of total space of fitness stations) for 'circulation'.
Indoor tennis courts	Quantity standard (for one court facilities)	37.33m ² /1,000 people
	Quality	Tennis courts should be in at least 'good' condition ⁹ .
	Accessibility	N/A
	Minimum acceptable size	Indoor (air supported structures): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One court – 20.97m x 37.77m • Two courts - 36.21m x 37.77m • Three courts – 51.45m x 37.77m • Four courts – 66.69m x 37.77m • Five courts – 81.93m x 37.77m • Six courts – 97.17m x 37.77m (+ runback – 7.00m, side run – 5.00m, in between courts – 4.27m)
Indoor bowls (8 rinks)	Quantity standard	7.84m ² /1,000 people
	Quality	Indoor bowls facilities should be in at least 'good' quality ¹⁰ .
	Accessibility	All local residents should live within a 15-minute drive of an indoor bowls facility.
	Min. acceptable size	Indoor rink dimensions: Length: 36.5m / Width: 4.6m

⁸ 'Good condition' is defined as:

- Well decorated
- Well maintained, with no signs of neglect.
- Reasonable number of changing accommodation for available facilities.
- Well lit for sport and recreation activities, as appropriate.
- Well equipped, as appropriate.
- Effective storage space.
- Contemporary changing and shower areas, as appropriate.
- Contemporary, lockable changing areas, as appropriate.
-

⁹ 'Good condition' is defined as:

- Clear line markings
- Well maintained, with no signs of neglect.
- Reasonable changing/social accommodation for available facilities.
- Well lit for club and competition activities, as appropriate.
-

¹⁰ 'Good quality' is defined as:

- Well decorated
- Well maintained, with no signs of neglect.
- Reasonable number of changing accommodation for available facilities.
- Well lit for sport and recreation activities, as appropriate.
- Well equipped, as appropriate.
- Effective storage space.
- Contemporary changing and shower areas, as appropriate.
- Contemporary, lockable changing areas, as appropriate.

SOLIHULL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES STRATEGY



SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT
INDOOR SPORTS ASSESSMENT REPORT
JUNE 2012

Integrity, Innovation, Inspiration

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6543

Quality assurance	Name	Date
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CONTENTS

PART 1: INTRODUCTION.....	4
PART 2: CONTEXT	6
PART 3: GENERAL INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES ISSUES.....	19
PART 4: INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES ASSESSMENT	22
PART 5: SPORTS HALLS	26
PART 6: ACTIVITY HALLS.....	39
PART 7: SWIMMING POOLS.....	44
PART 8: HEALTH AND FITNESS GYMS	53
PART 9: INDOOR BOWLS.....	57
PART 10: INDOOR TENNIS.....	60
PART 11: SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS.....	62

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Indoor Sport Facilities Assessment Report prepared by Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) for Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC). It focuses on reporting the findings of the extensive research, consultation, site assessments, data analysis and GIS mapping that underpins the study.

This factual report provides a quantitative and qualitative audit based assessment of indoor sports facilities. It is consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework by providing a robust and up-to-date assessment of the needs for indoor sports facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific deficiencies and surpluses are identified to inform what provision is required. The approach used is consistent with Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 and the Companion Guide entitled 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities' published in September 2002. The specific objectives of this audit and assessment are to:

- ◀ Identify local needs and quantity levels of demand
- ◀ Audit existing local indoor sports provision

Current local planning policies and proposals concerning indoor sport facilities are contained in the Solihull UDP 2006. The adopted local plan forms part of the statutory Development Plan for the Borough. This study and its findings are important in contributing to the production of Solihull's Local Plan (LP) and is an integral part of identifying and regulating Solihull's sports facility infrastructure. Through recognising the provision of sports facilities in plan form, provision can be assessed in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility, strengthening levels of protection in planning policy from future development.

1.1: Report structure

Indoor sports facilities

This report considers supply and demand issues for indoor sports facilities in Solihull. Each part contains specific data relevant to a range of types of indoor sports facilities. Descriptions of the methodologies used are detailed below and within each section. The report as a whole covers the predominant issues for each of the typologies; it is structured as follows:

- Part 2: Context
- Part 3: General indoor sports facilities issues
- Part 4: Indoor sports facilities assessment methodology
- Part 5: Sports halls
- Part 6: Activity halls
- Part 7: Swimming pools
- Part 8: Health and fitness gyms
- Part 9: Indoor bowls
- Part 10: Indoor tennis
- Part 11: Other sports

PART 2: CONTEXT

The following section outlines a series of national, regional and local policies pertaining to the study and which will also be important in developing the Strategy.

2.1: National context

Sport England: A Sporting Habit for Life (2012-2017)

In 2017, five years after the Olympic Games, Sport England wants to have transformed sport in England so that it is a habit for life for more people and a regular choice for the majority. The strategy will:

- ◀ See more people taking on and keeping a sporting habit for life
- ◀ Create more opportunities for young people
- ◀ Nurture and develop talent
- ◀ Provide the right facilities in the right places
- ◀ Support local authorities and unlock local funding
- ◀ Ensure real opportunities for communities

Sport England Strategy (2011/12 – 2014/15)

The vision is for England to be a world leading sporting nation where many more people choose to play sport. There are five strategic themes including:

- ◀ Maximise value from current NGB investment
- ◀ Places, People, Play
- ◀ Strategic direction and market intelligence
- ◀ Set criteria & support system for NGB 2013-17 investment
- ◀ Market development

National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the reformed 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 establishes 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.

Under the promoting healthy communities theme, it is set out 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 and qualitative deficiencies and surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

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

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown the site to be 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 still required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities. We advocate that the methodology to undertake such assessments should still be informed by best practice including Sport England's Towards a Level Playing Field (TALPF) and PPG17. Despite the latter being replaced by the NPPF it still offers relevant guidance on undertaking a needs assessment; which can be enhanced by our own expert understanding and knowledge in this area.

2.2: Regional context

West Midlands Health & Well-Being Strategy

The vision of the West Midlands Regional Health and Well-Being Strategy is: 'To maintain, enhance, improve and protect the health and well-being of people in the West Midlands Region and to reduce health inequalities by 2020 within environmental limits, so as not to compromise healthy life for future generations'.

Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire Sport and Physical Activity Partnership Strategy (2009-2012)

This Strategy was developed as a response to comments sought through a Partnership Strategic Event held in January 2009 and a customer wide survey conducted in November and December 2008.

The Strategy also responds to the funding arrangement for Sport and Physical Activity into the Sub-region over the next three years. The Partnership will be required to respond to the new three year approach for 'community sport' and National Governing Bodies (NGBs), as well as being able to support the role of sport and active recreation within Local Authorities. The strategy provides three goals for the partnership:

- ◀ To be trusted to lead by our partners
- ◀ To create a winning sport culture
- ◀ To increase participation

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

The strategy also provides ten headline aspirations:

- ◀ To grow and retain participation in sport, physical activity and active recreation.
- ◀ Invest in training and supporting for volunteers and the paid workforce in sport.
- ◀ Train coaches to the highest standards, to produce better athletes and give as many as possible a quality experience.
- ◀ Grow infrastructure for sport with a focus on improving access and quality of facilities.
- ◀ Create pathways between grassroots and elite and create enhanced levels of participation.
- ◀ Maximise opportunities for sport, physical activity and active recreation around 2012.
- ◀ To work cohesively as a Partnership in order to add value to Partner outcomes.
- ◀ To provide a leading County Sports Partnership (CSP) (i.e., Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire Sport and Physical Activity Partnership) in the National Network.
- ◀ Secure and increase investment in order to achieve specified milestones.
- ◀ Develop the view that sport, physical activity and active recreation are a sub-regional asset.

2.3: Local context

SMBC Strategic Facilities for Physical Activity (2004)

The strategy identifies the level of existing indoor facility provision and need in Solihull by using a comparison of population against existing facility provision in terms of type and accessibility. This was set in the context of national participation targets for physical activity.

The overarching objectives of the strategy were to increase participation in sport and physical activity with a mandate to enhance and develop facility provision, as appropriate, in order to improve access to places for participation in physical activity.

A Community Sports Strategy for Solihull (2007-2016)

The strategy seeks to increase participation in sport and active recreation through five main objectives to:

- ◀ Increase participation in sport and active recreation within Solihull
- ◀ Increase the number of sporting volunteers and support to the voluntary and community sectors in sport throughout Solihull
- ◀ Assist in the development of sports clubs and sporting/recreational facilities within Solihull
- ◀ Develop the local sport and active recreation workforce and in doing so contribute to the economic vitality of Solihull
- ◀ Raise the profile and levels of awareness of the opportunities in Solihull for sport and active recreation

Consultation was central to developing the Strategy, particularly with local sports clubs and public agencies.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

A Place for People – Community Strategy for Solihull 2006-2016

A Place for People describes the sort of place that the people of Solihull want it to be in the future. Its aim is to address people's concerns now and to respect the needs of future generations. The aims are to make Solihull into a place:

- ◀ That is good to live in for everyone
- ◀ That offers opportunities for learning and creativity
- ◀ Where children, young people and family life are valued
- ◀ That is safe from crime and disorder
- ◀ That creates jobs and encourages enterprise
- ◀ Where people enjoy good health
- ◀ Where people respect difference and diversity
- ◀ That is inclusive and community focused
- ◀ Where people promote caring towards others

Solihull Draft Local Plan – Shaping a Sustainable Future (2012)

The purpose of the Plan is to set out a vision for how the area will change over the Plan period to 2028 and how the vision will be delivered through a strategy for sustainable development and growth. Focus on meeting local needs and aspirations through public engagement with strategic responsibility and perspective. The Plan promotes economic growth in the area and provides for new housing to meet the borough's needs, as well as land for retail, sport and leisure.

The Plan identifies 12 challenges to achieve the vision:

- ◀ Reducing inequalities in the borough
- ◀ Addressing affordable housing needs
- ◀ Sustaining the attractiveness of the borough for people who live, work and invest in Solihull
- ◀ Securing sustainable economic growth
- ◀ Protecting key gaps between urban areas and settlements
- ◀ Climate challenge
- ◀ An imbalance in the housing offer across the borough and a shortage of gypsy and traveller sites
- ◀ Increasing accessibility and encouraging sustainable travel
- ◀ Providing sufficient waste management facilities and providing for sand and gravel aggregates
- ◀ Improving health and well-being
- ◀ Protecting and enhancing natural assets

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

Strategic Framework for Regenerating North Solihull – 15 Year Project

The regeneration project to transform Chelmsley Wood, Smith's Wood and Kingshurst & Fordbridge wards (in North Solihull) by improving homes, shops, schools, health and community facilities, transport, the environment and creating jobs.

In its lifetime the Project aims to deliver:

- ✦ 8,000 new homes
- ✦ A tenure mix of 60% private, 30% social and 10% shared ownership
- ✦ 10 new, state of the art primary schools
- ✦ 5 vibrant new village centres
- ✦ New health care facilities
- ✦ New leisure facilities
- ✦ Employment and training opportunities
- ✦ A positive change to almost 40,000 people's lives
- ✦ Mixed use development
- ✦ Local environment and transport improvements
- ✦ Massive employment opportunities

The Strategic Framework aspires to developing North Solihull so that it becomes a place with a distinctive character defined by open space. Key objectives include creating high quality neighbourhoods, each with a distinctive sense of place, delivering sustainable development.

Local Plan

The Local Plan sets out the long term spatial vision for how its towns, villages and countryside will develop and change over the period to 2028. It separates the Borough into five areas:

Name	Description	Key issues
M42 Economic Gateway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major economic growth driver in the Local Enterprise Partnership area • Home to Birmingham Airport, the NEC, Jaguar Land Rover and Solihull Business Park • Much of the Gateway within the Green Belt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic success has put pressure on M42 junctions • Poor bus access and infrequent services to adjacent areas
Mature Suburbs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good schools, strong local centres and relatively affluent • Lower unemployment than the Borough average • Health is generally good however obesity is rising 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High house prices and severe lack of affordable housing • Excellent connectivity to strategic road networks resulted in traffic congestion therefore negative effect on public realm and shopping environment at Shirley Town Centre

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

Name	Description	Key issues
North Solihull Regeneration Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong sense of community • Younger population than rest of the borough with higher proportion of single person and lone parent households • Several environment assets including the River Cole, woodlands, nature reserves and parks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor transport connectivity with, and long journey times to, south Solihull • Education attainment is low • High unemployment due to relatively few jobs within the Area and poor access to jobs beyond • Poor health
Solihull Town Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong, vibrant and regionally important • Modern retail developments to the north and south • Key gateways into Solihull and linkages to parks could be improved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility to and from the train and bus interchange is poor • Insufficient diversity of offer in the evenings • Traffic congestion affects key routes to the Centre
Rural Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High quality built and natural environment • Canals, rivers and rich biodiversity • Predominant land use is agriculture • Generally communities are affluent and occupy attractive residential environments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some rural deprivation, predominantly in Bickenhill ward • Poor public transport connectivity • Severe shortage of affordable housing • Increasingly aging population • Continued threat of loss of key services and facilities

Housing development

The number of houses in Solihull is projected to increase by 14,000 over the period 2006-2028. The number of households represented by the over 75s will make up 21% of all the Borough's households; a projected increase of 7,000 homes.

The following table shows a summary of overall housing capacity to meet the requirements of the Local Plan for additional dwellings between 2006 and 2028. A large majority of housing will be part of the North Solihull Regeneration Programme which concentrates on the areas of Chelmsley Wood, Smith's Wood and Kingshurst and Fordbridge:

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

	Deliverable capacity 2006-2018	Deliverable capacity 2017-2023	Deliverable capacity 2022-2028	Total deliverable capacity 2006-2028
Completions 2006-11	-	-	-	2,068
Identified Housing Land Supply:	2,039	216	-	2,255
Small Sites	396	-	-	396
Large Sites	830	-	-	830
North Solihull Regeneration Programme	813	216	-	1,029
SHLAA Sites	249	-	-	249
Proposed Housing Allocations	1,890	1,200	950	4,040
Windfall sites	1,050	750	750	2,550
Total Deliverable Capacity	5,228	2,166	1,700	11,162

This indicates a likely 'spike' in demand for indoor and outdoor sport and recreation facilities between 2006 and 2018. Assessment calculations will, however, estimate changes in demand for the whole period (i.e., up to 2028).

2.4: Local profile

Demographic profile

The total population in Solihull increased between 2006 and 2011 at a slightly higher rate than in the Region as a whole. However, Borough demographic characteristics vary from regional and national equivalents. For example, the proportion of males decreased slightly in Solihull between 2006 and 2011, whilst it increased nationally during the same period, as illustrated below:

Solihull: Demographic characteristic proportions

Indicator	Solihull			West Midlands			England		
	2006	2008	2011	2006	2008	2011	2006	2008	2011
Male	48.4%	47.8%	47.8%	48.8%	48.9%	48.8%	48.7%	48.8%	48.9%
Female	51.6%	52.2%	52.2%	51.2%	51.1%	51.2%	51.3%	51.2%	51.1%
16 to 19	6.8%	7.0%	7.6%	6.8%	6.8%	6.5%	6.5%	6.4%	6.2%
20 to 24	6.9%	7.2%	6.0%	8.2%	8.4%	8.5%	8.1%	8.4%	8.5%
25 to 34	13.3%	11.2%	13.7%	15.3%	15.0%	15.3%	16.4%	16.1%	16.5%
35 to 49	25.2%	25.4%	24.5%	27.2%	27.0%	26.2%	27.7%	27.5%	26.8%
50 to 64	25.6%	26.6%	23.2%	22.8%	22.8%	22.7%	22.2%	22.3%	22.4%
65+	22.3%	22.7%	25.1%	19.7%	20.1%	20.7%	19.1%	19.2%	19.7%
White	92.9%	93.9%	93.7%	88.0%	87.1%	87.0%	89.9%	89.1%	88.6%
Non-White	7.0%	6.1%	6.3%	11.9%	12.8%	13.0%	10.0%	10.9%	11.4%
Both DDA & work limiting	7.1%	6.4%	7.9%	8.9%	9.0%	10.3%	8.6%	8.4%	9.5%

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

Indicator	Solihull			West Midlands			England		
	2006	2008	2011	2006	2008	2011	2006	2008	2011
DDA only disabled	3.8%	5.2%	3.9%	3.7%	4.0%	4.2%	3.9%	4.0%	4.3%
Work-limiting only disabled	1.6%	1.8%	1.8%	2.7%	2.2%	2.1%	2.5%	2.5%	2.7%
Not disabled	65.2%	63.9%	61.3%	65.0%	64.7%	62.6%	65.9%	65.8%	63.9%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Source: Annual Population Survey Year: 2006, 2008 & 2011

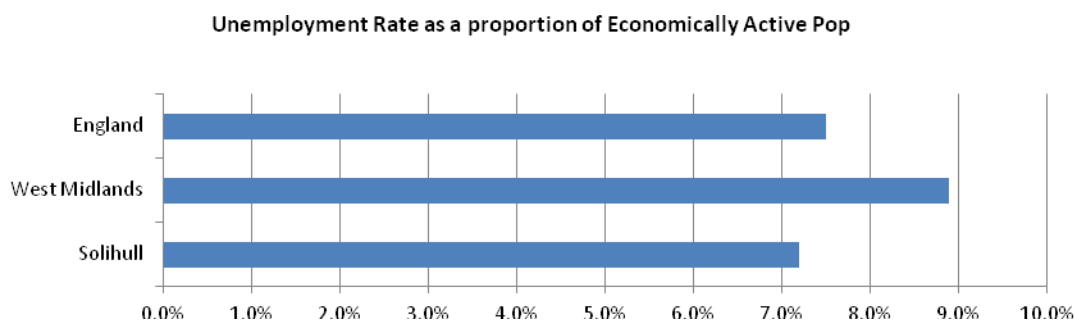
Population projections

In the period between 2010 and 2016 Solihull's population is projected to increase by 2.9%, which is lower than regional (3.1%) and national (4.4%) projections. It is anticipated that male: female proportions will remain similar during this period, but significant increases are projected in the number of older people and there is a projected decline in the number of adults aged 40-44years and 'early retirees' (i.e., 60 – 64 year olds).

Unemployment

In 2011, the Borough's unemployment rate as a proportion of the economically active population was less than the Regional and National averages, as illustrated below:

Solihull: Unemployment rate as a proportion of Economically Active Population



Source: Annual Population Survey Year: 2011

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

Obesity levels and life expectancy

Adult and childhood obesity rates are lower in Solihull than regional and national averages. Male and female Borough residents' life expectancy is greater (as illustrated below). Demand for sport and recreation facilities (particularly specialist facilities and those that cater for older people) is, thus, likely to be higher in Solihull than in other areas.

Solihull: Life expectancy by gender

Geography	Life expectancy (years)	
	Male	Female
Solihull	80.0	83.8
West Midlands	77.5	81.9
England	78.3	82.3

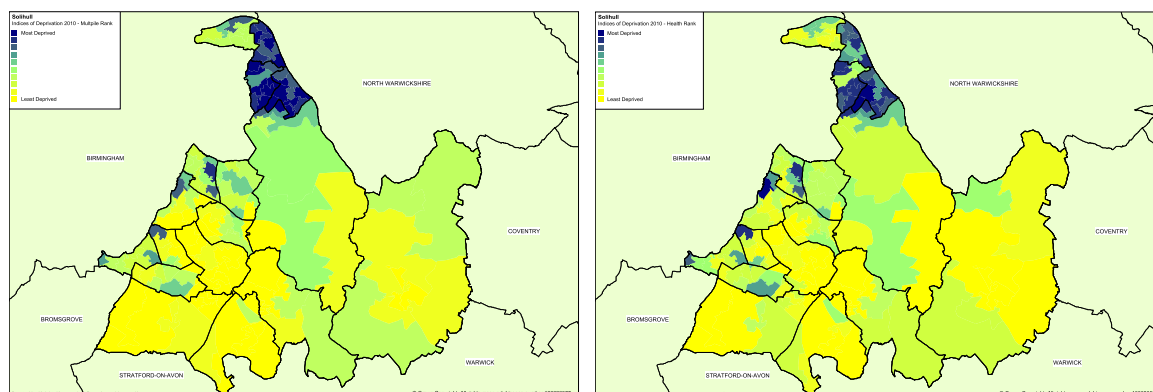
Source: Department of Health: Year: 2007-2009

Deprivation

Deprivation maps that follow illustrate the ranking of super output areas (SOAs) in Solihull based on the 'Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2007' (IMD 2007). These are based upon 32,482 SOAs throughout England, which relate to the geography used in the 2001 Census. The manner in which the ranking works is for a rank position of one to indicate the most deprived SOA in the Country.

The IMD 2010 is a valuable source of information about spatial patterns of deprivation in England and is used to help focus policy and interventions on deprived areas and particular types of deprivation. It comprises 37 different indicators grouped in seven 'domains' of deprivation covering income, employment, health deprivation and disability, education, skills and training, barriers to housing and services, living environment deprivation and crime.

Solihull: maps illustrating IMD multiple and health rankings



SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

Over one-tenth (11.2%) of the Solihull population live in areas deemed as being in the bottom 10% of SOA's nationally in 2010, i.e. in the most deprived areas of the country.

Active People Survey

The Active People Survey is conducted across every local authority in England and is the largest ever survey of sport and active recreation to be undertaken in Europe. The first year of the survey, Active People Survey 1 (APS1), was conducted between October 2005 and October 2006. A total of 363,724 adults living in England took part in Active People Survey 1. Active People Survey 2 (APS2), the second year of the survey, was conducted between October 2007 and October 2008. A total of 191,325 adults living in England took part in the survey.

The survey is now a continuous annual survey, with Active People Survey 3 completed in Oct 2009, Active People Survey 4 completed in October 2010, Active People 5 completed in October 2011 and Active People 6 commenced and will run until October 2012.

Each survey gathers data about the type, duration and intensity of people's participation in different types of sport and active recreation and cultural participation, as well as information about volunteering, club membership, tuition from an instructor or coach, participation in competitive sport and satisfaction with local sports provision.

The table below shows the AP3, 4 and 5 survey results for Solihull in comparison to the national and the Sport England Region of the West Midlands, as well as those for the nearest neighbours.¹ The nearest neighbours are not geographic neighbours, but those which are the closest to Solihull in terms of socio-demographics. This type of comparison has been developed to aid local authorities in comparative and benchmarking exercises, the models use a wide range of socio-economic indicators upon which the specific family group (nearest neighbours) is calculated.

¹ According to www.cipfastats.net Solihull's top three nearest neighbours are Stockport, Cheshire East and Cheshire West & Chester.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

Solihull: Active People Survey results 3-5

KPI			National (NAT)%	West Midlands	Warwickshire	Solihull	Stockport	Cheshire East	Cheshire West & Chester
KPI 1 - At least 3 days a week x 30 minutes moderate participation (all adults)	APS3	%	16.6	15.2	17.2	12.1	14.8	17.4	21.1
	APS4		16.5	15.5	16.7	17.5	19.4	19.8	18.4
	APS5		16.3	14.9	15.1	17.4	18.8	16.7	19.7
KPI 2 - At least 1 hour a week volunteering to support sport (all adults)	APS3	%	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.3	4.7	5.7	5.2
	APS4		4.5	4.1	4.0	4.7	5.3	7.0	7.1
	APS5		7.3	7.4	8.5	9.6	6.9	6.3	9.9
KPI 3 - Club member (all adults)	APS3	%	24.1	22.8	25.0	26.2	21.2	30.1	28.1
	APS4		23.9	22.3	24.5	29.4	28.2	28.3	28.8
	APS5		23.3	21.5	24.6	30.9	26.3	26.5	28.2
KPI 4 - Received tuition from an instructor or coach in last 12 months (all adults)	APS3	%	17.5	16.2	19.4	15.1	12.3	19.2	19.4
	APS4		17.5	16.0	19.6	20.7	18.8	19.0	19.0
	APS5		16.2	14.4	17.2	20.5	14.4	17.9	15.9
KPI 5 - Taken part in organised competitive sport in last 12 months (all adults)	APS3	%	14.4	13.3	16.8	11.4	14.6	18.5	17.2
	APS4		14.4	13.5	16.5	14.6	18.2	19.0	19.6
	APS5		14.3	13.3	15.7	15.7	16.3	14.5	13.1

Market segmentation

Sport England has developed a segmentation model with 19 'sporting' segments to help better understand attitudes, motivations and perceived barriers to participation.

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

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

Solihull: Sport England market segmentation

Code	Name	Description	Number	Rate
A01	Ben	Competitive Male Urbanites	9.6	6.0%
A02	Jamie	Sports Team Drinkers	3.8	2.4%
A03	Chloe	Fitness Class Friends	9.8	6.1%
A04	Leanne	Supportive Singles	3.5	2.2%
B05	Helena	Career Focused Females	8.0	5.0%
B06	Tim	Settling Down Males	16.8	10.5%
B07	Alison	Stay at Home Mums	7.8	4.9%
B08	Jackie	Middle England Mums	6.3	3.9%
B09	Kev	Pub League Team Mates	6.0	3.8%
B10	Paula	Stretched Single Mums	4.9	3.1%
C11	Philip	Comfortable Mid-Life Males	15.6	9.8%
C12	Elaine	Empty Nest Career Ladies	11.8	7.4%
C13	Roger & Joy	Early Retirement Couples	12.0	7.5%
C14	Brenda	Older Working Women	5.1	3.2%
C15	Terry	Local 'Old Boys'	4.5	2.8%
C16	Norma	Later Life Ladies	3.0	1.9%
D17	Ralph & Phyllis	Comfortable Retired Couples	11.6	7.2%
D18	Frank	Twilight Year Gents	6.7	4.2%
D19	Elsie & Arnold	Retirement Home Singles	13.0	8.1%
Total			159.7	100%

Source: Sport England and Experian Ltd, 2010, Measure: Sport Market Segmentation

The largest market segment (10.5% of the Solihull population) is “Tim”, settling down males. This means that, of the 19, the greatest proportion would benefit from initiatives that appeal to “Tim”; sports such as cycling, keep fit/gym, swimming and football. However, Philip (comfortable mid life males – 9.8%), Elsie & Arnold (retirement home singles – 8.1%), and Roger & Joy (early retirements couples – 7.5%) are also significant.

Top 5 sports

APS5 and population data from the ONS Annual Population Survey 2011 identify that the Top five participation sports in Solihull are gymnastics, cycling, swimming, football and athletics as illustrated below. Rates for gymnastics are significantly higher than regional and national figures. Rates for cycling and football are also higher than national figures. Swimming and athletics are below both regional and national figures.

Top 5 sports in Solihull with regional and national comparison:

Sport	Solihull		West Midlands		England	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Gym	25.3	15.0%	436.1	10.1%	4494.2	10.7%
Cycling	18.2	10.8%	355.4	8.2%	3875.0	9.3%
Swimming	14.8	8.8%	452.1	10.4%	4838.8	11.6%
Football	14.8	8.8%	305.3	7.0%	3103.1	7.4%
Athletics	7.4	4.4%	233.2	5.4%	2698.5	6.5%

Source: Active People Survey 5, Population data: ONS Annual Population Survey 2011

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

Clubmark

'Playing to Win' was the previous Government's plan to get more people participating in sport. Its stated vision was to give more people of all ages the opportunity to participate in high quality competitive sport through developing an integrated and sustainable sporting system that nurtures and develops sporting talent, underpinned by a high quality club and competition structure.

Sports clubs, and, in particular, Clubmark accredited clubs directly support this aim. They are externally assessed to ensure they achieve minimum operating standards, regardless of the NGB to which they affiliate. Evidence collected independently of NGB's suggests that they have, over the past two years, increased junior participation, raised the number of active, qualified coaches and improved levels of coach qualification, thus making them, in their own view and that of the evaluators, more effective and sustainable community sports clubs. Solihull has 62 Clubmark accredited clubs and 9 currently 'working towards' accreditation.

The following table lists sports with Clubmark accreditation in Solihull that use indoor sport and recreation facilities:

Clubmark accredited clubs in the Borough

Sport	Accredited	Working towards	Totals
Badminton	1	1	2
Canoeing	1		1
Cricket	10	2	12
Gymnastics	5		5
Squash	3		3
Swimming	1	1	2
Table Tennis	1		1
Tennis	8	1	9
Totals	30	5	35

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

PART 3: GENERAL INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES ISSUES

KKP has conducted consultation (via a variety of methods including face to face or telephone interviews and online surveys) with SMBC officers, NGB officers, facility managers (i.e. Parkwood Leisure and BAM), schools, town and parish councils and sports clubs.

Consultation covered many issues with regard to indoor sports facilities in the area. Sport and facility specific issues are covered in the relevant sections of this report. This section sets out generic issues that cut across more than one sport/facility:

- ◀ There is a clear distinction between northern and southern areas of Solihull: there is more disadvantage and indoor facilities generally have some spare capacity in the north, but clubs in the south that need more facilities are not willing to use indoor facilities in the north.
- ◀ Areas in southern Solihull are relatively affluent and residents in these areas tend to be car owners and are prepared to pay to participate in activities such as squash, racket ball, health and fitness.
- ◀ Latent demand for indoor facilities is greatest in southern Solihull.
- ◀ Community-use of facilities on Secondary School sites is variable.
- ◀ Opportunities to negotiate dual-use agreement(s) is more fragmented than previously, because virtually all secondary schools are academies/trusts and the LEA doesn't have the influence it once did.
- ◀ It's not possible to co-ordinate programming of school facilities because each school does its own bookings.
- ◀ Expansion of the Airport will impact on facilities.
- ◀ Regeneration programmes are (generally) focused on three wards in northern Solihull.
- ◀ Housing development is planned to be greatest in northern Solihull.
- ◀ Awareness among local residents about what is available is variable.

3.1: Leisure centre usage

As part of the leisure management contract Parkwood Leisure is required to provide performance management figures. The breakdown of visits for 2011 was as follows:

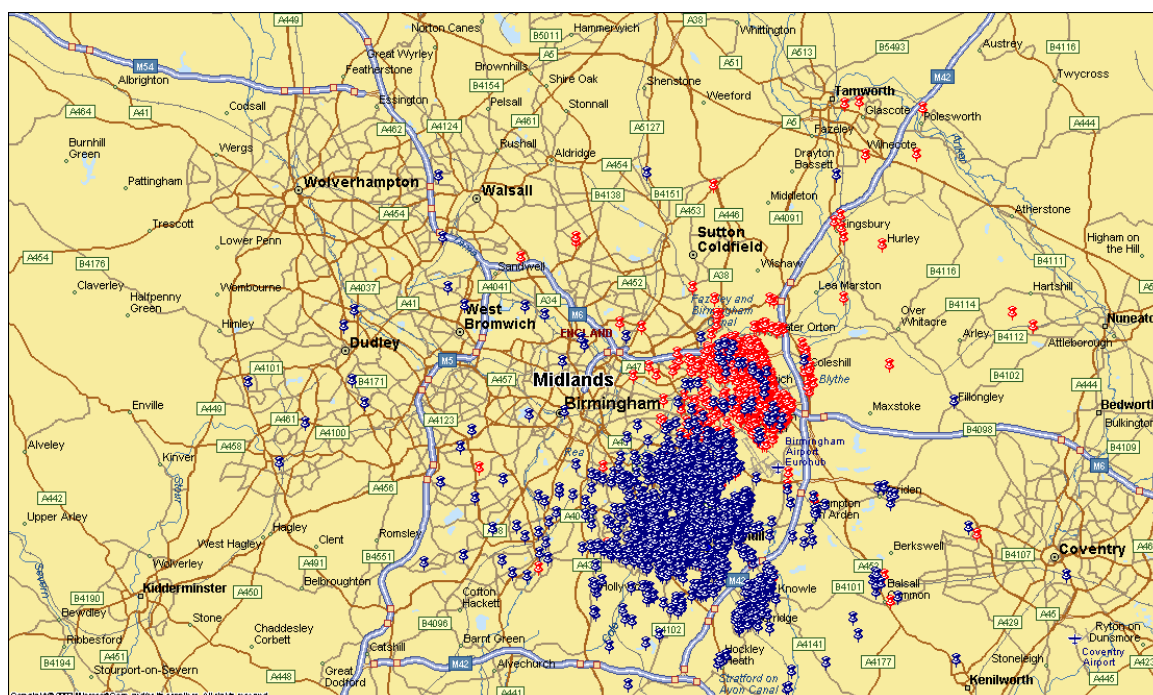
- ◀ Tudor Grange Leisure Centre 951,265 visits.
- ◀ North Solihull Sports Centre 479,288 visits.
- ◀ Compared to the previous year there was a slight reduction in admissions at both sites. Tudor Grange was 28,956 down on last years 980,221 visits and North Solihull was 2,492 down on last years 481,780. A contributing factor on the figures at North Solihull is the opening of the Budget Gym and FW Fitness. At Tudor Grange the reduction can be attributed to the number of private gyms in the area and the increasingly aggressive pricing structures which these have adopted to secure memberships.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

Membership profiles

The map below shows the geographic spread of residential addresses of member's from either Tudor Grange (Blue) or North Solihull (Red) leisure centres. Both centres have a significant reach. However, it is evident that members within the catchment of North Solihull Leisure Centre are travelling to Tudor Grange Leisure Centre, which could be explained, in part, by work related travel.

There are also a number of members located outside the natural catchment areas of the facilities. Some members travel from Tamworth and across the Black Country to use provision in Solihull. It is assumed this may be people working in the Solihull area and choosing to use local leisure provision because of their work commitments.



3.2: Town and parish council survey

A survey of town and parish councils (15) within Solihull helped to certify provision at a local level, achieving responses from 11. It also assisted in ascertaining the attitudes and needs of the broader local community. Local issues and aspirations were explored in more detail via face-to-face and/or telephone consultation with individual councils. In addition, the survey helped to identify latent demand and any site specific problems or concerns particularly relating to indoor sports facilities. The table below summarises key issues raised:

Parish/town council	Consultation method
Castle Bromwich Parish Council	Arden Hall is owned by the Parish Council and hired to local groups for activities including indoor bowls, keep fit, yoga/relaxation and zumba. It is rated as a good quality facility. Consultation suggests that there can be a high level of demand to accommodate.
Bickenhill Parish Council	The Village Hall and Church Hall, neither of which are owned/leased by the Parish Council are available for sport and recreation.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

Parish/town council	Consultation method
Cheswick Green Parish Council	The Village Hall is used for dance, zumba, pilates and other keep fit activities. The Council is looking at the possibility of extending the Village Hall.
Dickens Heath Parish Council	Dickens Heath is a large village which does not have access to sport and recreation facilities. The Parish Council identifies the need for sport and recreation facilities in the Parish. Consultation indicates that further building is anticipated in Dickens Heath in the next few years. Allied to this the Parish Council believes that a space should be made available to provide facilities for young people in the village as a minimum requirement.
Chelmsley Wood Town Council	The Onward Club accommodates four squash courts and a club hall. The squash courts are adequate quality and are due to be repainted and re-floored. The changing rooms are also adequate quality.
Smiths Wood Parish Council	Smiths Wood Community Gym is a key facility which has a range of equipment. It is relatively small scale with fewer than 20 stations.
Hockley Heath Parish Council	The Pavilion at Hockley Heath Recreation Ground is poor quality and offers limited scope of facilities. The Parish Council is keen to redevelop the pavilion.

3.3: Club survey

An online survey was sent to a wider range of users registered on the Solihull Active Database during April and May 2012 in order to try and secure a representative view on the facilities. Non-respondents were consulted via a telephone interview. Over 50 responses were received and identifying the following issues:

- ◀ For over two-fifths (42%) of clubs senior membership has remained constant. Almost a third (30%) has increased its senior membership whilst only a tenth (9%) report that senior membership has decreased. A number of clubs (19%) did not provide a response.
- ◀ Almost half (46%) of clubs report that junior membership has increased whilst only a tenth (9%) report that junior membership has decreased. Over a third (36%) of clubs indicate that junior membership has remained constant. A number of clubs (9%) did not provide a response.
- ◀ The most common facilities used by clubs responding to the survey include; Langley School, Tudor Grange Leisure Centre and Arden Academy.
- ◀ Almost half of clubs (47%) report that the quality of facilities is good or very good. Whilst just over a tenth (11%) of clubs consider indoor sports facilities to be poor quality.
- ◀ Nearly a third (32%) of clubs members travel between 2-3 miles to access indoor facilities. A further quarter (25%) travel between 5-10 miles. This suggests that club members generally access localised provision but also travel slightly further for specific provision.
- ◀ Members of virtually all the clubs that completed the survey travel by car, either as a driver or a passenger to access provision.
- ◀ Over two-fifths (42%) of respondents indicate that the provision of indoor sports facilities in Solihull is adequate to meet the club needs. However, the remaining half report that provision is insufficient to meet club needs. In the main this is due to the availability of the facilities, the lack of provision of suitable equipment and the maintenance of the facilities.

PART 4: INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

4.1: Introduction

This section of the report considers supply and demand issues for the following types of indoor sports facilities in Solihull:

- ◀ Sports halls (including activity halls and community halls)
- ◀ Swimming pools
- ◀ Health and fitness suites
- ◀ Indoor tennis centres
- ◀ Indoor bowls centres

It centres on the demand created for these facilities by sports clubs and, where possible, general public use. It also considers the influence and impact of facilities in neighbouring areas.

4.2: Methodology

The assessment of provision is presented by analysis of quality, quantity and accessibility for each of the major facility types (e.g., sports halls and swimming pools). Each facility is considered on a 'like for like' basis within its own facility type, in order that it can be assessed for adequacy. In addition, other facility types such as tennis and bowls facilities are considered within the context of outdoor sports provision (see above).

The report considers the distribution of, and interrelationship between, all indoor sports facilities in Solihull and evaluates demand. It gives a clear indication of areas of high demand. The Strategy will identify where there is potential to provide improved and/or additional facilities to meet this demand and to, where appropriate, protect the current stock.

Catchment areas

Catchment areas for different types of provision provide a tool for identifying areas currently not served by existing indoor sports facilities. It is recognised that catchment areas vary from person to person, day to day, hour to hour. This problem has been overcome by Sport England by accepting the concept of 'effective catchment', defined as the distance travelled by around 75-80% of users. Consultation with operators, user groups and clubs included questions related to where users travel from or how far they would expect members to travel.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

This, coupled with KKP's experience of working with leisure facilities and having completed such assessments for similar local authorities, has enabled the identification of catchment areas for each type of indoor sport facility assessed, as follows:

Facility type	Identified catchment area
Activity halls	20 minute walk/5 minute drive
Health and fitness gyms	20 minute walk/5 minute drive
Indoor bowls centres	15 minute drive
Sport halls	15 minute drive
Swimming pools	20 minute drive

Active Places Power Plus

Sport England's Active Places database is a nationally recognised database of sport and recreation facilities. It forms the basis of the Active Places Power Plus tool, which can be used as a planning tool for the provision of specific sports facilities in order to identify demand for provision. It has been designed to help local authorities carry out audits of their sports provision and develop local strategies. It also assists national governing bodies of sport to identify areas in need for some sports facility provision. It was used in this assessment initially to identify facilities (in and outside the Borough) and subsequently to evaluate demand for sports halls and swimming pools in Solihull.

To identify shortfalls in the quantity of sports halls and swimming pools in Solihull, it is necessary to estimate the current capacity of provision across the Borough and potential demand (based on population and participation trends). This helps to determine whether the current capacity of facilities is meeting current demand and provides an indication of surplus or shortfall. In addition, by applying estimated population and participation increases to the demand it is possible to calculate whether current supply will also meet future demands.

Capacity is calculated by Active Places Power and the formula is different for sports halls and swimming pools, as follows:

- ◀ Pools Capacity = Area in sq. m / 6 x Number of hours open in peak / Duration.
- ◀ Halls Capacity = Equivalent courts x 5 x Number of hours open in peak / Duration.

Number of hours open in peak time varies by facility, but peak time is shown below:

Peak time

Day of the week	Pools		Halls	
	Peak time	TOTAL Peak time hours	Peak time	TOTAL Peak time hours
Mon-Fri	12:00 – 13:30	37.5	17:00 – 22:00	25
	16:00 – 22:00			
Sat	09:00 – 16:00	7	09:30 – 17:00	7.5
Sun	09:00 – 16:30	7.5	09:00 – 14:30	8
			17:00 – 19:30	
TOTAL		52		40.5

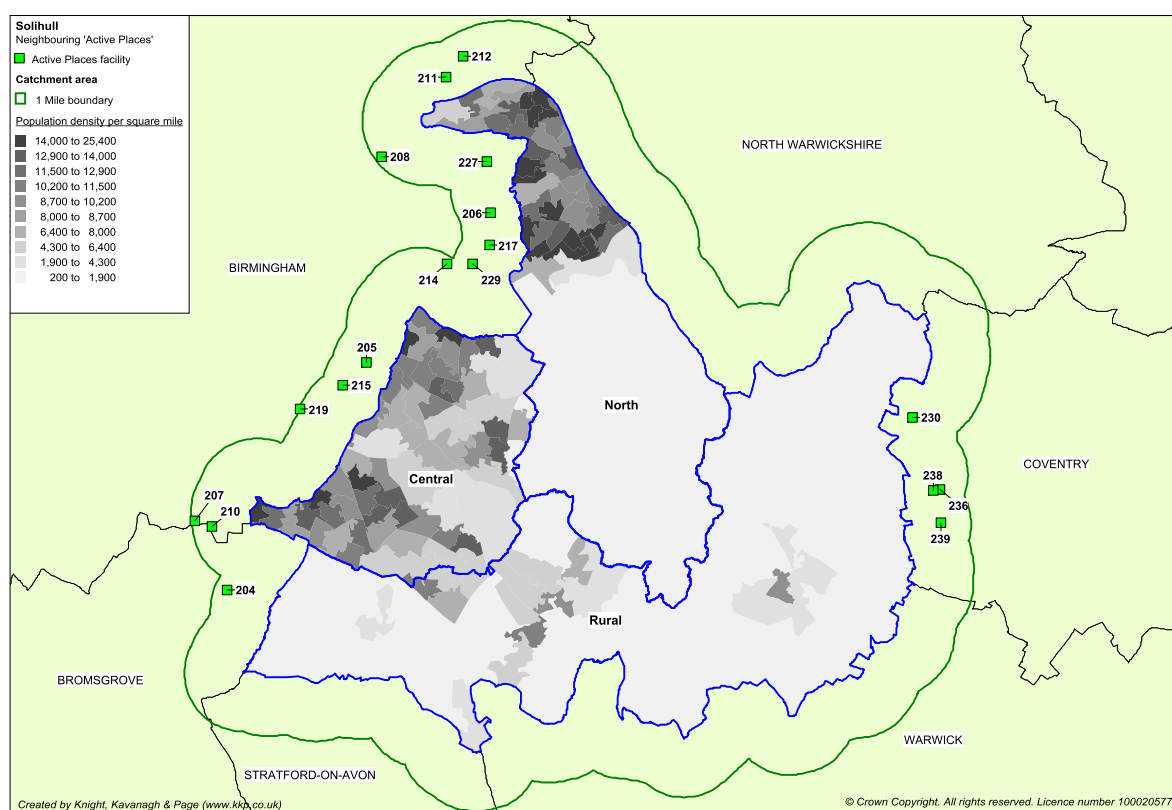
SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

4.3: Facilities in neighbouring areas

Users of indoor sports facilities do not recognise administrative boundaries and will use facilities that are convenient and/or provide a quality/value for money experience. Ownership and management are a minor consideration for most users. Therefore, the availability of facilities in neighbouring areas can influence usage patterns within Solihull.

Sport England's Active Places database identifies 18 indoor sports facilities within two miles of the Borough boundary, as illustrated below:

Figure 4.1: Indoor sports facilities within 1 mile of Solihull's administrative boundary



Key to map of indoor sports facilities in neighbouring areas

Map ID	Site	Sports Hall	Swimming Pool	H&F	Local authority
204	Woodrush Sports Centre	Yes			Bromsgrove
205	Archbishop Ilsley Catholic Technology College	Yes	Yes		Birmingham
206	B-active			Yes	Birmingham
207	Baverstock Foundation School			Yes	Birmingham
208	Brockhurst Road Playing Field	Yes			Birmingham
210	Carrefour Health & Fitness (Birmingham)			Yes	Birmingham
211	Castle Pool		Yes		Birmingham
212	Castle Vale Community Leisure Centre	Yes		Yes	Birmingham
214	Cockshut Hill Community Sports Centre	Yes		Yes	Birmingham

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

Map ID	Site	Sports Hall	Swimming Pool	H&F	Local authority
215	Fox Hollies Leisure Centre	Yes	Yes	Yes	Birmingham
217	G & A Fitness Centre			Yes	Birmingham
219	Hall Green School	Yes			Birmingham
227	Shard End Community Centre And Sports Hall	Yes		Yes	Birmingham
229	Sheldon Heath Academy	Yes			Birmingham
230	Barker's Butts RFC	Yes		Yes	Coventry
236	Lucozade Powerleague Soccer Centre (Coventry)			Yes	Coventry
238	The Woodlands School And Sports College	Yes			Coventry
239	Tile Hill Wood School And Language College	Yes	Yes		Coventry

It is likely that residents in Solihull may travel within the 1-mile boundary identified to access provision in neighbouring authorities. In particular provision in Birmingham will provide facilities for residents living in the North and Central analysis areas. A number of centres in Coventry may also prove to be more accessible for residents living in the east of the Rural Analysis Area given that the road network tends to favour migration into Coventry.

Through club consultation we are aware of displaced clubs from Solihull using facilities outside of the local authority boundary. For example, Wobblers and Wheelies Disabled Swimming Sports Club travels to Fox Hollies Leisure Centre in Birmingham to access swimming facilities as it is unable to secure time in Tudor Grange Leisure Centre.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

PART 5: SPORTS HALLS

Sport England's Active Places Power defines indoor multi-sports halls as areas "where a range of sport and recreational activities are carried out". According to this definition they are at least 10m x 18m (i.e., the size of one badminton court including surrounding safety area) and include specifically designed sports halls, such as leisure centres and school sports halls, plus additional halls where activities can take place, such as school assembly halls, community buildings and village halls. This assessment considers sports hall facilities in Solihull that comprise at least four badminton courts.

5.1: Supply

Quantity

A total of 19 sports hall sites provide 75 badminton courts which are located within halls which are at least four badminton courts. Included within this KKP has identified additional sports hall provision (four court main hall and a one court activity hall) at CTC Kingshurst Academy which is not included in the Borough's Active Places records. Solihull's sports hall provision accounts for 3.3% of such facilities in the West Midlands.

The majority of provision is located on education sites the majority of which are defined as having a Sports Club / Community Association Access Policy (i.e. regular block bookings). SMBC has a contract with Parkwood Leisure to operate North Solihull Leisure Centre and Tudor Grange Leisure Centre.

There are also a range of activity halls which are covered in the subsequent section.

North Solihull Leisure Centre is the largest facility (six badminton courts). It has previously accommodated teams playing in the Birmingham Basketball League. However, teams playing in this league have fluctuated in the Borough, for example Birmingham Bullets and Solihull Summits have folded - both of which had played out of North Solihull Leisure Centre. Nonetheless it is regarded as a principal venue.

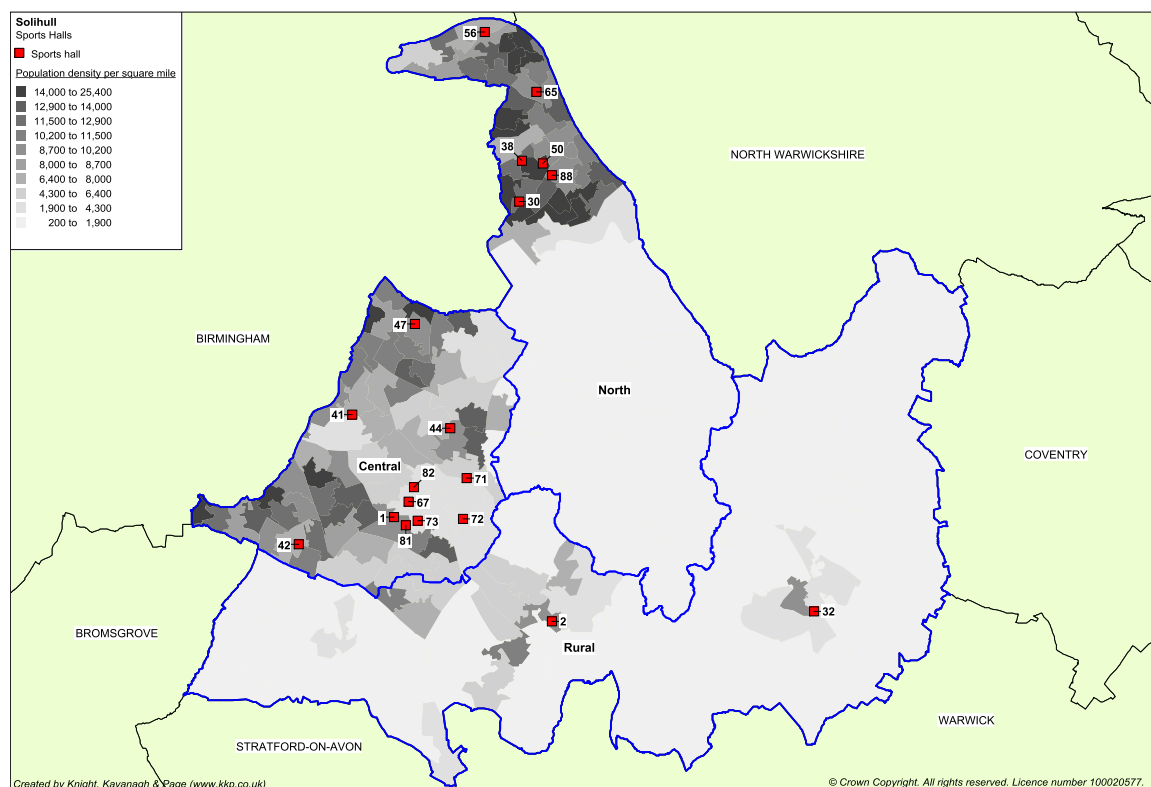
Solihull College is the second largest facility in the Borough and offers five badminton courts. It is a very good quality facility and is used extensively by the community.

A number of schools have developed or expanded, or have plans in place to improve, indoor facilities. This includes provision at Heart of England School, St Peters Roman Catholic School, Light Hall School and Lode Heath School. The sports hall developments (planned and completed) in the Borough can be summarised as follows:

Name of School	Development plans
Heart of England School	A new dance studio has been developed at the School to expand the indoor facilities.
Light Hall School	The School has developed a new small hall in a new block of facilities rebuilt following a fire.
Lode Heath School	The School has plans to rebuild the old gymnasium as a second sports hall.
St Peters Roman Catholic School	A recent refurbishment of the sports hall has been completed.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

Figure 5.1: Sports halls in Solihull (4 courts+)



Key to sports hall map

KKP ref	Site	Facility ID	Badminton courts	Analysis area
1	Alderbrook School	2026557	4	Central Area
2	Arden Academy Trust	2003572	4	Rural Area
88	CTC Kingshurst Academy		4	North Area
30	Grace Academy Solihull	2074387	4	North Area
32	Heart Of England School	2003665	4	Rural Area
38	John Henry Newman Catholic College	2003571	4	North Area
41	Langley School	2003688	4	Central Area
42	Light Hall School	2003694	4	Central Area
44	Lode Heath School	2003695	4	Central Area
47	Lyndon School Humanities College	2003696	4	Central Area
50	North Solihull Sports Centre	2003713	6	North Area
56	Park Hall Academy	2098238	4	North Area
65	Smiths Wood Sports College		4	North Area
67	Solihull College	2003755	5	Central Area
71	Solihull School	2074554	4	Central Area
72	Solihull Sixth Form College Sports Hall	2003757	4	Central Area

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

KKP ref	Site	Facility ID	Badminton courts	Analysis area
73	St Peters RC (aided) School	2003762	4	Central Area
81	Tudor Grange Academy	2026558	4	Central Area
82	Tudor Grange Leisure Centre ¹	2080225	4	Central Area

Quality

There is great variation in the quality of sports halls across the Borough. Assessments have recorded facilities varying from poor to very good quality.

Facilities at Tudor Grange Academy, Tudor Grange Leisure Centre, Smiths Wood Sports College and Park Hall Academy are amongst the best facilities in the Borough. These are also the newest facilities having been developed within the past five years (between 2007 and 2008). Assessment and consultation also reports that facilities at Alderbrook School and Solihull College are very good quality and are often the preferred venues for club activity. These are also relatively recent facilities having been developed within the last 15 years.

Refurbishments at Heart of England School and St Peters RC School have improved the quality of sports hall provision. Furthermore a new gel floor at John Henry Newman Catholic College has improved its quality.

The table below summarises the key quality assessment findings:

Site name	Site quality comments
Alderbrook School	The main school sports hall (4 court) was built in 2006 and is excellent quality. There is also an old (built in 1950) gymnasium on site (1 court) which is in a good condition. The sports hall changing rooms (i.e. male and female) are very good quality. There are also a further two changing rooms for the gymnasium which are adequate quality.
Arden Academy Trust	The school has a main sports hall (4 court) and an activity hall (1 court) which were both built in 1996. The sports hall was refurbished in 2004. However, consultation suggests that the floor and lighting is poor. The carpet surface is not suitable for a number of sports including badminton and basketball. There are discussions underway to replace the floor and Knowle Badminton Club is keen to work with the School and Badminton England to secure the funding for this work.
David Lloyd Club (Solihull Cranmore)	Built in 1998 the facility provides a two court hall.
Grace Academy Solihull	The sports hall (4 court) and activity hall were both built in 2005. Consultation suggests that whilst the hall is good quality, the changing facilities are poor quality.

¹ The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) has indicated that it is happy to discuss non-tennis use of the three indoor tennis courts at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

Site name	Site quality comments
Heart Of England School	The sports hall (4 court) which was built in 1977 and refurbished in 1999 is very good quality. The School also has a gymnasium (1 court) built in 1957 which was refurbished in 2001. It is good quality although there are some current issues with leaks to the roof. There are a number of changing facilities which are adequate condition. A new set of changing rooms has been developed with a new dance studio.
John Henry Newman Catholic College	The sports hall (4 court) and gymnasium (1 court) were both built in 1971 and refurbished in 2010. The sports hall has a new gel floor and the gymnasium has had new windows installed. Both facilities are regarded as good quality. The School's changing rooms have also been recently refurbished to provide very good quality facilities.
Kingshurst Academy	The Academy has an adequate sports hall (4 court) and an old gymnasium (1 court) which is average quality. The changing rooms are poor quality; the space and facilities inside are limiting.
Langley School	The School has a sports hall (4 court) which was built in 1995 and refurbished in 2007. Consultation reports that it is good quality. The gymnasium is almost 30 years old but was refurbished in 2010. The School also has a dance studio which is good quality and is let to dance schools. The School's changing facilities are relatively new and include individual showers and lockers.
Light Hall School	The School sports facilities are generally in a poor condition. The sports hall (4 court) and gymnasium (1 court) were both built in 1960 and refurbished in 2003. The lighting in the sports hall is reported to be poor. The changing rooms are in an old school block and are also poor quality. The School has a new small hall which was developed two years ago which is used by a dance group.
Lode Heath School	The School has a sports hall (4 court) which is generally good quality. The floor has been replaced in the last ten years and there is new lighting. The scope of activity possible in the gymnasium is reported to be limited by the low ceiling height. The School also has a further two halls which tend to be used for dance and martial arts. As noted the School also has plans to rebuild the old gymnasium as a second sports hall (4 court) with changing rooms and a PE office.
Lyndon School Humanities College	The School has a sports hall and gymnasium which are old buildings and are of adequate quality.
North Solihull Sports Centre	The sports hall at NSLC is in a good condition and is maintained to a high standard.
Park Hall Academy	The Academy has a very good quality new sports hall. The changing facilities are also very good.
Saint Martin's School	The School has a small sports hall (1 court) which is of average quality. It is a traditional 1970s gymnasium style facility.
Smiths Wood Sports College	The sports hall (4 court) is excellent quality with very good quality lighting, walls and surface. The School also has a second activity hall which has a high ceiling and is suitable for trampolining. It has also had a climbing wall recently installed.
Solihull College	Solihull College has a large (5 court) sports hall which is very good quality. It also has an activity hall which is also good quality.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

Site name	Site quality comments
Solihull School	The School has a dedicated sports hall (4 court) which is rated as adequate quality. The Centre incorporates the sports hall, swimming pools, squash courts (3) and fitness suite).
Solihull Sixth Form College Sports Hall	The College has sports hall (4 court) which is rated as average quality. It has secured funding to refurbish all of the changing rooms and is also seeking to increase the activity floor space available through the conversion of a squash court.
St Peters RC (Aided) School Sports Hall	The School has recently refurbished its sports hall (4 court) and it is excellent quality. It also has a gymnasium (1 court) which is adequate as a multipurpose space. The school has two sets of changing rooms, one of which has been refurbished and is also excellent quality whilst the second set remains poor quality.
Tudor Grange Leisure Centre	The sports hall is excellent quality and reflects the recent development of the facility. The tennis centre on site is also used as a sports hall space for netball.
Tudor Grange Academy	The School sports hall (4 court) is very good quality. It was built in 2006. The School also has a traditional gymnasium which is adequate quality. The changing rooms servicing the sports hall are very good quality, whilst gymnasium changing is average quality.

Accessibility

Sport England recommends that appropriate walk and drive time accessibility standards be applied to indoor sports provision to determine deficiencies in provision. The nationally accepted standard is to apply a 15 minute drive time. Consultation in Solihull has confirmed that, taking account of local need, this is appropriate.

Catchment mapping, based on an amalgamated 15 minute drive time has been adopted to analyse the adequacy of coverage of sports hall provision across the Borough; it helps to identify areas currently not serviced by existing sports halls.

The figure below shows the current stock of sports halls with an amalgamated 15 minute drive-time catchment area. It illustrates that all of the Borough's population resides within a 15 minute drive of a sports hall. There are no significant gaps in provision. This catchment analysis, however, does not take account of facility quality and accessibility.

It also illustrates either that existing sports halls in the Borough are within a 15 minute drive of residents in neighbouring areas, or that potentially there is significant duplication (or competition) with sports halls outside the Borough.

An important consideration in examining the provision of sports halls in Solihull is access. This is particularly significant because almost four-fifths of sports halls (88%) are on education sites. This suggests that, whilst there is a good range of sports hall provision in the Borough, access is likely to be restricted at a number of sites. It is however, evident that many schools have a wide range of community users. The preference tends to be for regular secured block bookings although some schools do accept 'pay and play' use. In general commercial operators of school sites generally allow good levels of community access (e.g., 6pm-10pm weekdays and at least 9am-5pm at weekends).

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

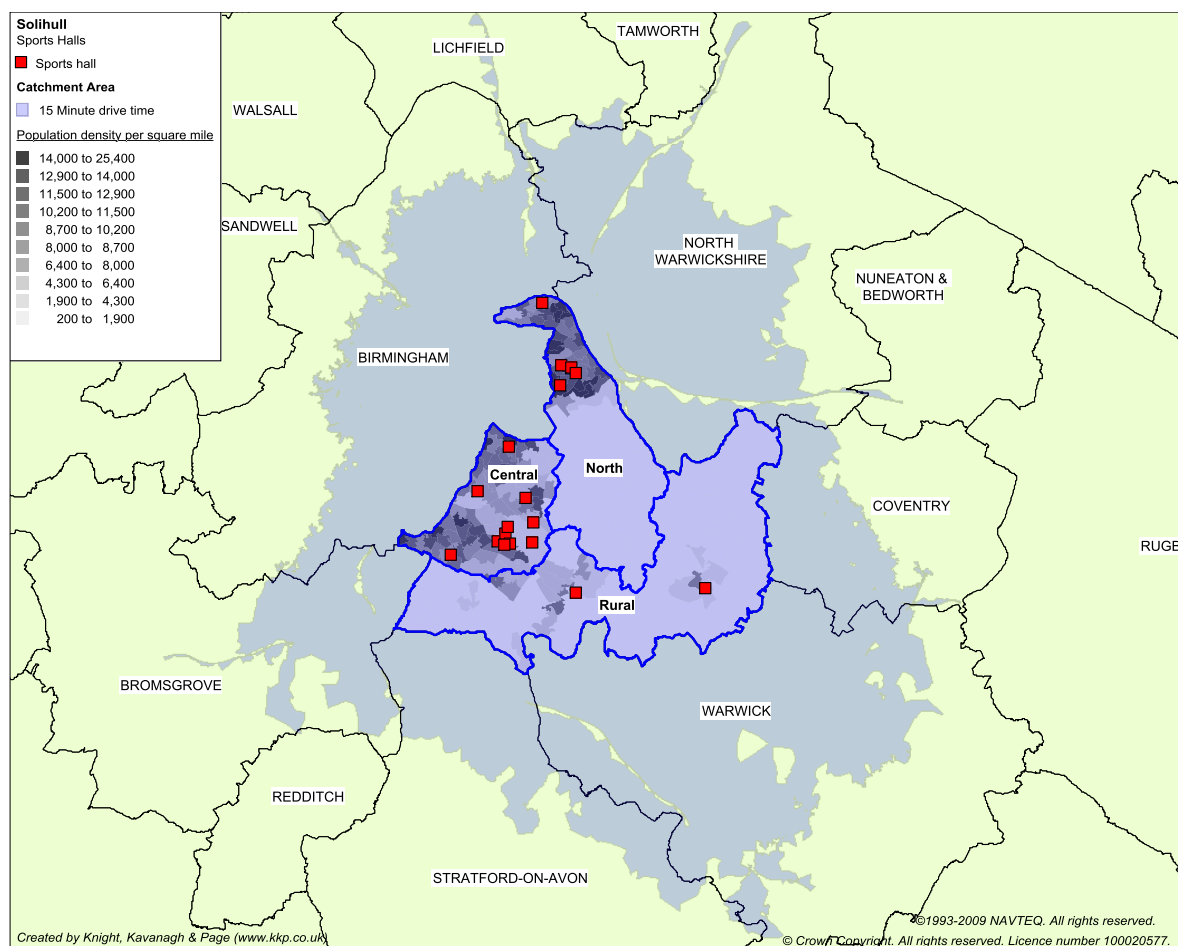
There is just one sports hall, located at the David Lloyd Club (Solihull Cranmore), which is under commercial ownership with access restricted to registered membership use only.

The remaining two sports halls in the Borough at North Solihull Leisure Centre and Tudor Grange Leisure Centre are under local authority ownership (managed by Parkwood Leisure) and offer full community use through 'pay and play'.

Furthermore in terms of accessibility Alderbrook School, Solihull College, Solihull School and Tudor Grange Academy are the only facilities of four courts or larger which achieve full peak period open hours during the week. In the main schools do not revert to community use until 6pm-7pm this impacting on the levels of peak period access.

School sports facilities become inaccessible during the exam periods. This can be a significant issue for clubs who are subsequently left with long periods of little or no activity depending on whether alternative venues can be found. For some clubs alternative venues may simply prove to be too far from the clubs home location.

Figure 5.2: Sports halls in Solihull with a 15 minute drive-time catchment



SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

5.2: Demand

Analysis of demand for sports halls

In order to identify deficiencies in the quantity of sports halls within Solihull, we have utilised Sport England's Active Places Power (APP) capacity analysis (or supply and demand analysis). This analysis uses the current capacity of provision across the Borough and potential demand (based on population trends), to identify whether or not current demand is being met by the current capacity. This then gives a clear indication of shortfalls. In addition, we have applied population increases to the demand to calculate if current supply will also meet future demands.

The aim of this analysis is to examine supply and demand for facilities more closely. In this instance capacity (i.e. supply) is based on visits per week during the peak period. The analysis then shows where demand outstrips current capacity (i.e. there are not enough facilities to meet current demand) or where demand is less than current capacity (i.e. there is an apparent oversupply of facilities).

The approach to the analysis used in this report has been developed by KKP to assess indoor facility provision. It is based on the assumptions and parameters used to underpin Sport England's modelling tools. It engages the principles of Active Places Power and the assumptions made in the User Guide document aligned to *hours open in the peak period* and the *duration of visits*. However, unlike Active Places data it uses the Office of National Statistics Population Projections 2006-2031² rather than the Census population figures to calculate demand as many Local Authorities populations have changed substantially since 2001.

KKP has built in the facility to update records on facilities data and allows 'what-if' scenarios of reducing hours or closing facilities to be tested. However, KKP's approach does not consider the spatial interaction between supply and demand i.e. where facilities are located in relationship to where demand is located. This information is provided through Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM).

Table 5.1: Active Places Power analysis of demand for sports halls

Sports halls	Current	Future (2016)	Future (2026)
No. of courts required to meet peak period demand	56.07	57.49	60.61
% Solihull demand met	144.2%	140.6%	133.4%
% Solihull demand met by community use	144.2%	140.6%	133.4%
% England demand met		135.8%	
% WM Region demand met		133.6%	

² KKP has used these principles and applied current population estimates based on the *Census 2006-based sub-national projections to 2010* (& for London GLA 2008 based rounded demographic projections to 2010). The 2010 based demographic population is uplifted by growth/reduction from 2006 - 2031 population projections from ONS which is applied to obtain 2015/2026 figures.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

Active Places Power determines that if 140% of demand for a particular type of facility is satisfied, all needs in an area are presently met (this takes account of provision quality and the extent to which school facilities may offer only limited access). On this basis, Solihull is achieving optimum levels of supply which currently meet demand and will continue to do so until 2016. The Borough also has a higher proportion (144.2% met) of met demand for sports halls than both England (135.8% met) and the West Midlands (133.6% met) currently.

The demand calculations identify a current need for 56.07 courts in the Borough to meet peak period demand. This is based on the assumption that 60% of visits will be during with peak period with an average of five persons on court in any one hour with an expected occupancy rate of 80%.

Based on the supply and demand equation, and the premise that 140% of demand met for a particular type of facility suggests that all needs in an area are satisfied, it is evident that in Solihull the supply of sports halls slightly exceeds demands. Even by 2016 Solihull will achieve a positive supply and demand balance. Assuming that no new provision developed there is likely to be a slight deficiency in sports hall provision by 2026.

However, these figures should not be considered in isolation and should be placed within the context of the wider report findings. For example, it is evident that the extent to which school sports halls fall out of use during exam times affects the extent to which clubs can deliver during these periods.

Usage

It is evident that badminton and 5-a-side football bookings are the main activities in sports hall space in Solihull. The following table summarises the main users at each of the key sites:

Site name	Site quality comments
Alderbrook School	The main sports hall users include Elmdon Netball Club (three hours on a Monday evening between September and Easter), Lyndon Netball Club (three hours on a Monday evening), and "Complete Cricket" (three hours on a Thursday evening between September to Easter and Tuesdays during other times). The Solihull Islamic Sunday School uses the hall from 10.30am-2pm for a variety of activities including badminton and football and there are occasional dance group bookings.
Arden Academy Trust	Arden Aces Basketball Club, Knowle Badminton Club, Arden Badminton Club, Dynamics Trampolining Club and Knowle Taekwondo Club use Arden Academy facilities.
Heart Of England School	The sports hall and gymnasium are open from 6-10pm during the week and 9am-10pm at weekends. During the week there is no spare capacity. The main current users are badminton clubs and taekwondo. Across the weekends the main users are football, cricket and basketball and there is some spare capacity during this time. The gymnasium is used for keep fit classes three evenings each week. There is no regular weekend use.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

Site name	Site quality comments
John Henry Newman Catholic College	Football clubs are the main sports hall users. The facility is available for hire from 6-10pm during the week and 10am-2pm at weekends. Taekwondo and karate clubs are the main users of the gymnasium and occupy three evenings each week.
Kingshurst Academy	The sports hall is blocked booked for the majority of the week. Clubs and activities based at the site include several football clubs, Altair Trampoline Club, "No Strings" badminton initiative, and other activities including multi sports and dodgeball. The School reports that community use of the gymnasium is increasing. Kingshurst Karate Academy is currently the main user occupying three two hour sessions weekly.
Langley School	The facilities are available to hire on weekdays between 6-11pm and over the weekend between 9-11pm. There are very few empty slots. The sports hall lettings are mainly comprised of badminton and 5-a-side football and training. User groups include Solihull & Shirley Badminton Club, Birmingham Stars Volleyball Club and Light Hall Badminton Club. Whilst the gym use is dominated by football training. In the main it is used by Frosty Knights Football, Little Kickers and other sports groups including Kings Heath Archers and zumba and karate.
Light Hall School	The School is available for a mixture of play and play and block bookings. It is available from 5 pm. In general the users include badminton, football and gymnastics clubs.
Lode Heath School	The sports hall has a mixture of netball, badminton and football bookings. The main user groups are Phoenix Flames, Ulverley Hawks FC and a local badminton club.
Lyndon School Humanities College	The School sports hall is not let. However, the gymnasium is used by a local football group, a basketball group and by Solihull College for community education.
Park Hall Academy	One of the key clubs based at Park Hall Academy is Castle Bromwich Badminton Club. Water Orton Cricket Club and Castle Bromwich Cricket Club also use the sports hall which is equipped with two cricket nets. There is some spare capacity particularly at weekends.
Saint Martin's School	It has a number of key users which block book the sports hall and include Solihull Swimming Club (for land training) and Knowle Taekwondo Club.
Smiths Wood Sports College	Football is the dominant use of the sports hall. Sabres Basketball Club is also based at the School. Smiths Wood Airborne Trampolining Club is one of the principal users of the activity hall.
Solihull College	95% of the facility programming is dedicated to block bookings with very limited community use. The sports hall is available for community use from 5-9pm Monday to Friday and 8-6pm on Saturdays. The facilities are almost at capacity and have a very wide breadth of community users including Solihull & Small Heath Athletics Club, Solihull Arden Tennis Club, Foxes Netball Club and Hampton Junior Football Club.
Solihull School	There is no community use of the sports hall.
Solihull Sixth Form College Sports Hall	The College accommodates a combination of block bookings and 'pay and play' activity in the sports hall. User groups include Widney Whackers, Solihull Central Badminton Club, Arden Griffins Basketball Club, Elmdon Youth Netball Club and Solihull Saints.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

Site name	Site quality comments
St Peters Rc (Aided) School Sports Hall	There is full community use of the facilities (with the exception of the main exam period). Community use is in the main from badminton and netball clubs. The School has a 10 year agreement as a recognised National Performance Centre.
Tudor Grange Leisure Centre	There is a high level of club activity at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre, more so than is the case in North Solihull Leisure Centre.
Tudor Grange Academy	The facilities are available from 7pm during the week and from 9am at weekends. The main clubs using the sports hall and gymnasium are Olton and West Warwickshire Cricket Club, Rebound Gymnastic Club, 'Active Sports' Badminton Club and other taekwondo and fitness groups.

Badminton

Badminton is one of the principal sports based at venues in Solihull. Consultation suggests that there is a reliance on schools to provide these facilities. There is a Badminton Performance Centre at St Peters RC School which clubs regard as a very good quality facility following its refurbishment.

Despite a recent contraction, the Solihull District Badminton League is beginning to grow again. It currently comprise of 19 teams. It does not operate a waiting list but suggests that it will need access to an additional venue if new teams join. Alderbrook School would be a preferred additional venue. The League has moved away from this facility due to hire costs. Consultation suggests that there is demand for a dedicated badminton facility within Solihull.

Netball

The majority of indoor netball takes place in the south of the Borough and is split between Elmdon Netball Club (based at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre) and Lyndon Netball Club (based at Alderbrook School). Affiliated play is through the Birmingham & District Netball League.

There is some outdoor 'Back to Netball' activity which is being delivered at Kingshurst Academy with the aim of generating interest in the sport in the north of the Borough. From a regionally strategic perspective there is an interest in developing the sport in the north of Solihull.

Elmdon Netball Club is the Borough's largest club with 120 junior members. It currently uses the indoor tennis centre at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre which can accommodate two netball courts side by side. However, it is not permanently marked for netball. The Club has indicated that there is demand for a dedicated netball facility which has two courts side by side.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

Trampolining

Dynamics Trampolining Club has a long-standing issue finding facilities with the specialist equipment and sufficient time slots to run classes including multidisciplinary sessions and to allow for the separation of grassroots and elite members. The Club has established a number of satellite centres to support grassroots participants. However, it is identified that the Borough lacks halls with high ceilings and fixed equipment to support the most advanced athletes. This means that athletes can compete to county level within the Borough but would have to travel outside Solihull to access specialist equipment if competing at a higher level.

Facilities Planning Model (FPM)

Sport England's FPM 2012 Profile Report, based on its National Facilities Audit Dataset as of January 2010 identifies that, without considering their locations, there is an oversupply of sports hall in the Area, as reviewed in more detail below:

Supply

There are 17 Sites which provide 25 halls with Solihull's administrative boundary. Apart from Tudor Grange Leisure Centre and North Solihull Sports Centre all the sites are on education sites, some of which have community use agreements (CUAs) as a result of planning conditions. Four of the sites; Heat of England School, St Peter's School, Solihull College and Lode Heath School have sports halls which have not been refurbished in the last 10 years.

Sports halls are distributed in the main centres of population in the Borough. Comparing the amount of court space with national and county provision, Solihull borough has a higher ratio for its residents at 4.33 courts per 10,000 of the population.

Demand

The FPM estimates that the total demand for courts in the Borough is 9,111 visits per week. This equates to 56.24 courts (which includes a comfort factor). Another significant factor is that the proportion of people without access to a car in the Borough, which is substantially lower (at 14%) than regional (19.5%) and national (19.5%) levels. This could mean that demand is relatively mobile and, subsequently, residents could have a choice of sports halls to choose from.

Supply/demand balance

Currently the supply/demand balance is positive with a theoretical over supply of 11.18% courts. However, if some of the educational establishments were to close their doors to community use that could very easily be wiped out.

Satisfied demand

According to FPM calculations, the level of satisfied demand for courts in the Borough is 92.5% of the total demand for courts. This is higher than the regional (90.9%) percentage and slightly higher than the national figure of 91%. To put this another way, there is a

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

supply of 13,653 vpwpp compared with a demand of 8,428, which illustrates that there is a theoretical oversupply of courts.

As mentioned above, car ownership in the Borough is higher than England and Warwickshire. Consequently, satisfied demand for sports halls would be expected to be higher than it currently is, say 14%. However perhaps due to the concentration of population, and the geographic spread of the sports halls, this figure is actually 3.1% lower.

Almost a quarter (24.9%) of sports hall users are exported to other local authority areas. Given the high car ownership this is not surprising.

Unmet demand

The level of unmet demand for the usage of sports halls in the Borough is 683 visits per week in the peak period. This equates to 4.21 courts, with a comfort factor built in. This is entirely due to residents being outside of the catchment area of the sports hall, who are mainly walkers, as opposed to a lack of capacity. However, this total is for the whole Borough and may be spread over a large area.

This unmet demand is concentrated around the south/central borders of Birmingham in the southern end of North Solihull. However, the scale of the unmet demand is relatively low at 7.5% compared with national and regional figures, which are 9% and 9.1% respectively.

Unmet demand in the Borough is predominantly outside the catchment area of residents with no access to a car (20.1%) where as 1.6% of people who do have access to a car.

Used capacity

Most of the new schools (which have CUAs as a condition of planning approval) developed as part of the former Building Schools for the Future Programme are all being used to 100 of their, as is North Solihull Sports College and Tudor Grange Leisure Centre (the Borough's only pay and pay facilities). However, some of the older facilities which have not been refurbished have very low capacity (e.g., Heart of England (34%) and St Peter's School (42%)).

The Borough has a greater amount of its sports hall capacity being used (76.3%) compared with national (64.8%) and county (66.2%) figures. 10.1% of visits are made by walkers compared to 15.8% nationally and 41% in the county.

Heart of England school is in a rural location has over 990 vpwpp which accounts for 34% of its capacity. This may be because local residents have access to cars and can travel to the newer and better facilities either in or around Solihull. Solihull College, on the other hand, has only 813 vpwpp which accounts for 55% of its capacity. It is located on the outskirts of Solihull town centre, but it is old and in need of refurbishment.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

Personal/relative share

Personal/Relative share provides a more refined version of courts per 1,000 population, in that it takes account of additional factors such as, hall capacity and the distance of users to the facilities. It is similar to facilities per 1,000 people but includes facility capacity and travel modes. It helps to identify what share of facilities people have compared to each other.

The Borough's relative share is considered to be "poor" at 89, which is 1 below the county level and 11 below the national score. Need is greatest around the central and southern boundaries of Birmingham and in North Solihull, where there is a fairly dense population.

Summary

- ◀ This assessment identifies a total of 19 sports hall sites, which is different from the FPM analysis. These provide 75 badminton courts which are located within halls which are at least four badminton courts.
- ◀ All local residents live within a 15 minute drive of a sports hall that is sufficiently large to accommodate at least four badminton courts simultaneously.
- ◀ Demand for sports halls in Solihull is currently being met. Although by 2026 it is apparent that if the supply of sports halls does not change it will fall short of the demand generated.
- ◀ Demand for facilities is largely focussed in the South of the Borough and there is some spare capacity in the north of the Borough.
- ◀ There are some specific issues relating to key users of sports hall which largely relate to the need for sport specific, dedicated facilities.

PART 6: ACTIVITY HALLS

Sport England’s Active Places Power defines activity halls as “multi-sports (facilities) where activities take place, (they do) not qualify as a (sports) hall and (are) not a purpose built studio”. They are typically on a site where there is a sports hall. An activity hall is not necessarily marked for sports but must be at least 10m x 18m. The assessment of activity halls, therefore, includes halls that could be used for sport and which are three badminton courts or less in size.

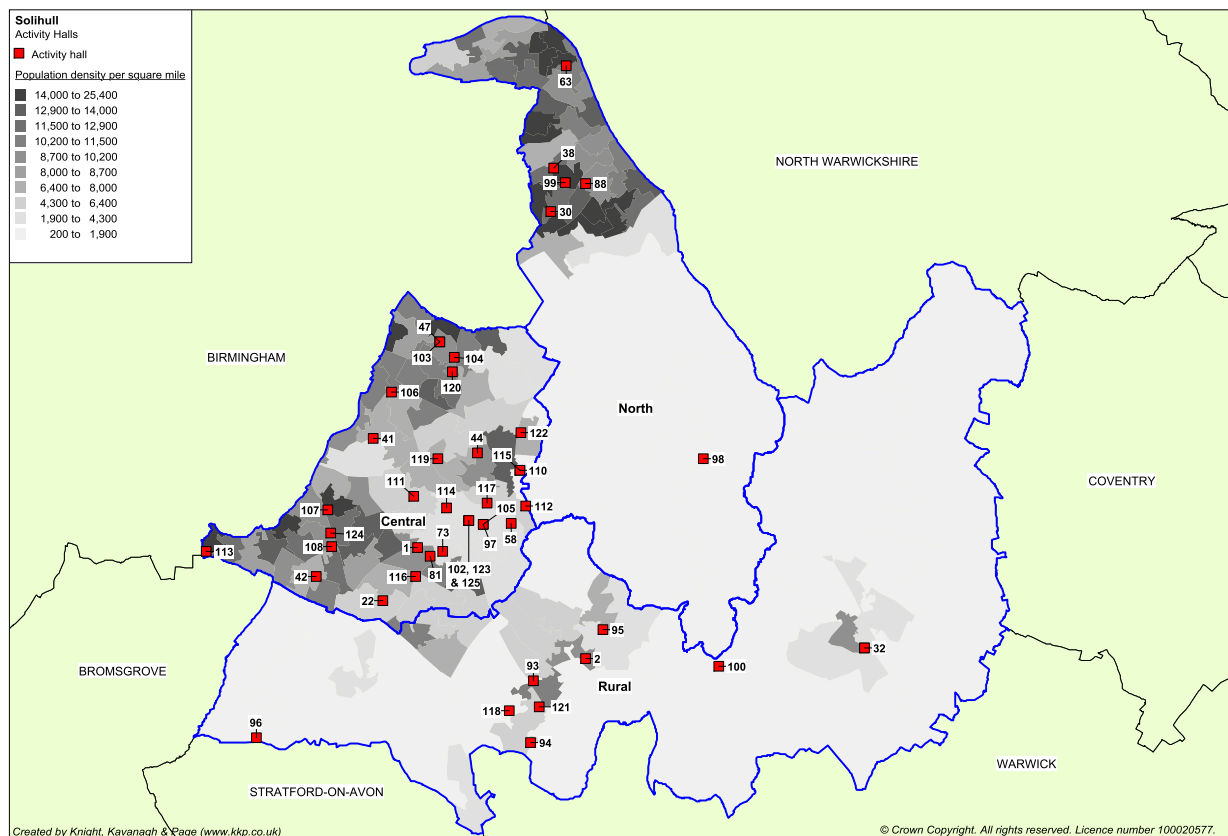
6.1: Supply

Activity halls are important to residential neighbourhoods for supporting social benefit and interest. These types of facilities are not necessarily primarily sports facilities, although many are utilised for activities such as badminton, table tennis, martial arts and keep fit classes. School halls that are smaller than four badminton courts are also considered.

Quantity

There are 39 sites with activity halls (of which six are dedicated activity halls that are located on school sites with a main hall). Many of these activity halls are in church and village halls and other community based facilities.

Figure 6.1: Activity halls in Solihull



SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

Key to map of activity halls in Solihull

KKP Ref	Site	Facility ID	Badminton Courts	Analysis Area
1	Alderbrook School	2006716	1	Central Area
102	Longdon Room		0	Central Area
103	Lyndon School Community Rooms		0	Central Area
104	Meadows Function Room (Solihull Ice Rink)		0	Central Area
105	Oliver Bird Hall		0	Central Area
106	Olton Library Meeting Room		0	Central Area
107	Red Lion Function Room		0	Central Area
108	Shirley Institute		0	Central Area
110	Simtr Conference Centre		0	Central Area
111	Solihull Arden Club		0	Central Area
112	Solihull Cricket & Tennis Pavilion		0	Central Area
113	Solihull Lodge Community Centre		0	Central Area
114	Solihull Methodist Church		0	Central Area
115	Solihull Moors Football Club		0	Central Area
116	Solihull Municipal Club		0	Central Area
117	Solihull Women's Institute		0	Central Area
119	St Helen's Church		0	Central Area
120	St Mary's Church Hall		0	Central Area
122	St Stephen's Church Centre		0	Central Area
123	Studio		0	Central Area
124	The Shirley Centre		0	Central Area
125	Ulverley Room		0	Central Area
22	David Lloyd Club (Solihull Cranmore)	2000146	2	Central Area
41	Langley School	2003689	1	Central Area
42	Light Hall School	2071838	1	Central Area
44	Lode Heath School	2094698	0	Central Area
47	Lyndon School Humanities College	2028220	1	Central Area
58	Saint Martin's School	2081470	1	Central Area
73	St Peters RC (aided) School	2003763	1	Central Area
81	Tudor Grange Academy	2006715	1	Central Area
97	Elmdon Heath & District Community Centre		0	Central Area
30	Grace Academy Solihull	2074388	0	North Area
38	John Henry Newman Catholic College	2028278	1	North Area
63	Smiths Wood Community Gym	4110704	0	North Area
88	CTC Kingshurst Academy		1	North Area
98	Fentham Hall		0	North Area
99	Fordbridge Centre		0	North Area
100	Lady Katherine Leveson C.of E.Primary SC		0	Rural Area
118	St George And St Teresa's Parish Centre		0	Rural Area
121	St Philip's Church Hall		0	Rural Area

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

KKP Ref	Site	Facility ID	Badminton Courts	Analysis Area
2	Arden Academy Trust	2071959	1	Rural Area
32	Heart Of England School	2071242	0	Rural Area
32	Heart Of England School	2071241	1	Rural Area
93	Dorridge Methodist Church Hall		0	Rural Area
94	Dorridge Village Hall		0	Rural Area
95	Downing Hall		0	Rural Area
96	Earlwood Methodist Church		0	Rural Area

The distribution of activity halls is generally good (see map above), with provision in areas of relatively lower population density including areas around Knowle in the Rural Area.

In addition, SMBC identifies that there are activity halls used for aerobics etc (rather than halls where badminton could be played) located at/in:

- ◀ Bentley Heath Community Centre
- ◀ St Barnabus Church Hall
- ◀ Onward Club
- ◀ Kingshurst Youth & Comm. Centre
- ◀ The Loft at the Bluebell Centre
- ◀ St Clements Church Hall
- ◀ Crabtree Hall
- ◀ Shirley Methodist Church
- ◀ St Johns Social Club

Quality

There is little contemporary information about the quality of activity halls in Solihull. Similar assessments conducted by KKP would suggest that the majority of activity halls are likely to be in at least 'adequate' condition.

The majority of activity halls are of sufficient size to contain a single badminton court. However, ceiling height, protruding lights and/or inadequate run off areas reduce their potential to meet national governing body (NGB) standards/requirements and therefore are unable to be used as venues for 'recognised' competition. Others (e.g., Ulverley Hall) are meetings rooms and do not meet this requirement. Neither precludes them from being used for recreational activity or local competition.

Accessibility

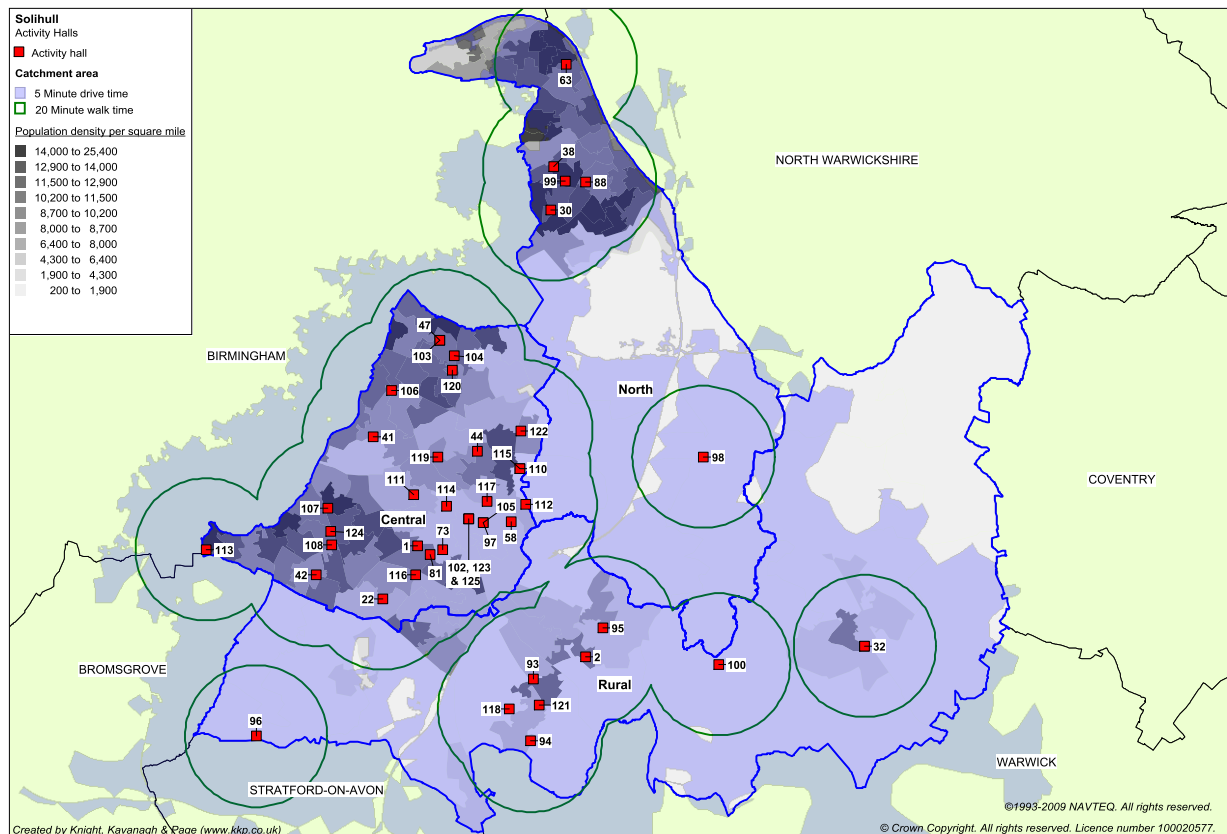
With the notable exception of the 'gap' identified above, most communities are served by (at least one) activity hall. Their accessibility will depend on several issues, including:

- ◀ The extent to which the hall is DDA compliant.
- ◀ Management policy (usually enshrined in a constitution) for a hall.
- ◀ Aspirations and perceptions of the hall committee/'booking clerk'.
- ◀ The desirability or image of the hall within the local community.
- ◀ Signage, particularly for non-residents/visitors.
- ◀ Car parking, which is particularly important if 'drive-time' catchments are used.
- ◀ The facilities available and their quality.

The (perceived) accessibility/desirability of a hall is likely to change with time and should be assessed for each hall as required.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

Figure 6.2: Activity halls in Solihull with an amalgamated 20 minute walk/5 minute drive-time catchment



The catchment area map above confirms the distribution of activity halls is good and that most of the population is within the catchment area of at least one activity hall. The most densely populated areas are particularly well served, with the majority of residents in these areas living within a 20 minute walk time of an activity hall. In addition a number of Birmingham residents may be likely to travel into Solihull to access provision given the number of overlapping catchments.

A notable exception is in the east of the Rural Analysis Area (bordering Coventry) where there are no activity halls. However, this area has a relatively low population density and may be more likely to travel in Coventry to access provision.

6.2: Demand

Anecdotal information suggests that demand for activity halls remains buoyant. In the main, activity halls accommodate low impact activity such as bowls, keep fit and yoga and are attended by people living local to the catchment.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

Usage

'Friends in Retirement' which is a voluntary organisation operate five branches which deliver a range of activities. It is a key user of activity halls across the Borough. In the main, it seeks venues offering ample free parking and close to bus routes. The organisation also has indoor bowls mats which require storage and can be a limiting factor when choosing a venue. It reports few issues with facilities and is able to access a sufficient number to deliver its programmes.

Summary

- ◀ There are 39 sites with activity halls in Solihull.
- ◀ The distribution of activity halls is good.
- ◀ There are no activity halls in parts of the Rural Analysis Area.
- ◀ The majority of activity halls are likely to be in at least 'adequate' condition.
- ◀ The accessibility of an activity hall will depend on several issues.
- ◀ The most densely populated neighbourhoods are in the catchment area of several activity halls.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

PART 7: SWIMMING POOLS

Sport England's Active Places Power defines a swimming pool 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". This is an assessment of swimming pools in Solihull.

7.1: Supply

Quantity

The Assessment identifies 25 swimming pools on 17 sites across Solihull. Of these, six are at least 25 metre pools (including the 33.3 metre pool at North Solihull Leisure Centre) and two are local authority owned and available for public swimming. Three pools are owned and managed by commercial operators (i.e., David Lloyd (Solihull Cranmore, Solihull Fitness and Virgin Active) and are restricted to registered membership use only. A further 25 metre pool is owned and managed by Saint Martin's School (independent girl's school) and has a good level of community use through regular bookings such as Solihull Swimming Club.

The remaining pools are generally classified as learner/teaching/training pools.

There are, however, two lidos which are managed by the commercial operators cited above, a leisure pool which is also commercially managed and for which use is limited to registered members and a diving pool at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre.

Site name	Site comments
Arden Hotel & Leisure Club	The small leisure pool is 13 metres and is kept at 30 degrees celsius.
Balsall Common Primary School	The School has a 4 lane 14 metre pool which is in excellent condition following a recent refurbishment. It is at capacity in terms of its bookings.
Bannatynes Health Club (Solihull)	The Club offers a 3 lane 20 metre pool which is intended for training use.
Circle Health And Fitness	Whilst the water space is classified as a 1 lane 14.5 metre training pool in reality it is formed as a leisure pool.
Club Motivation (Solihull)	The Club offers a main 17 metre pool. In common with other health club facilities, this is more suitable as leisure water and does not allow for lane swimming.
David Lloyd Club (Solihull Cranmore)	The Club has a 5 lane 25 metre main pool and a small 'splash' pool. It also has an outdoor 20 metre lido.
David Lloyd Club (Solihull Fitness)	The Club has a 3 lane 25 metre main pool and a small 'splash' pool.
John Henry Newman Catholic College	The School has a tank for a 4 lane 25 metre pool which is currently closed. It closed in 2009 during school refurbishments. The pool hall has new windows, lighting and changing rooms. The School has established a good base of community users and use by junior schools. There are concerns that this facility may close.

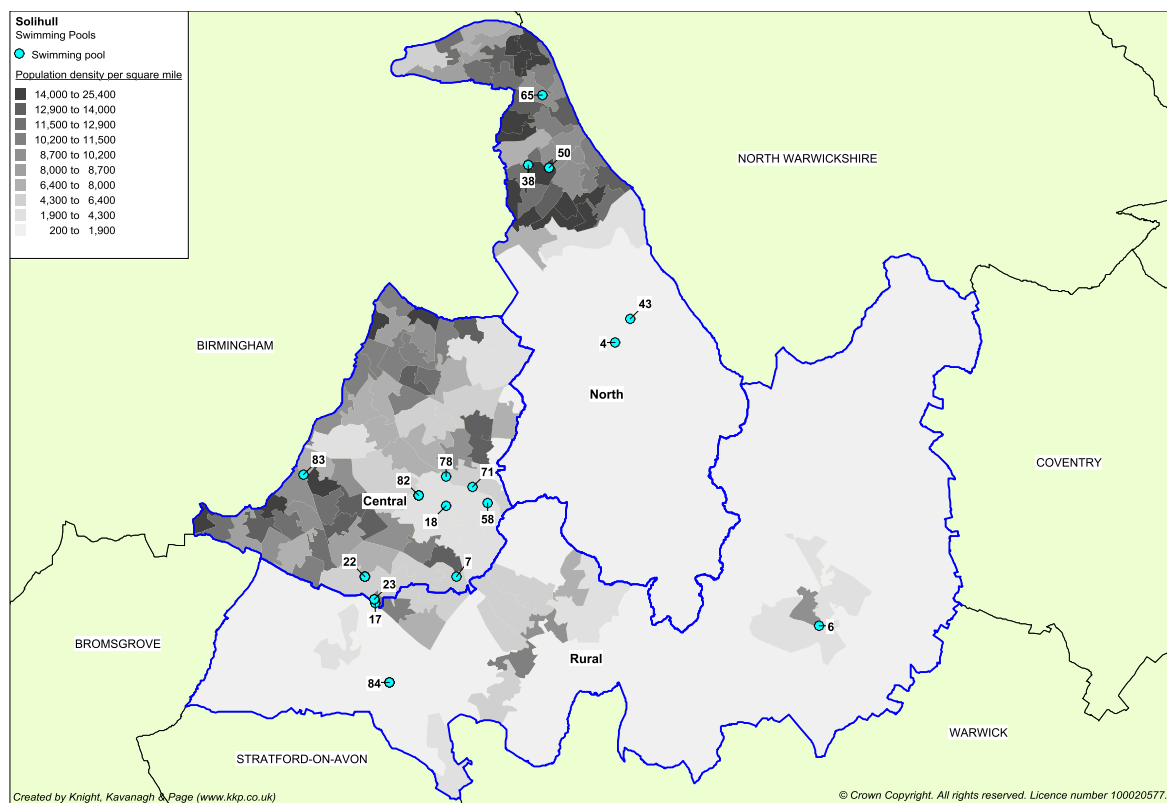
SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

Site name	Site comments
Livingwell Health Club (Birmingham Metropole)	The Club has a 20 metre indoor pool.
North Solihull Sports Centre	The Sports Centre has a 6 lane 33.3 metre pool and an adjacent 17 metre leaner pool. The pools form the original sports centre development and were refurbished in 2008.
Saint Martin's School	There is a 4 lane 25 metre main pool which is excellent quality. Solihull Swimming club is the principal user group. It is also used by Heather Bradbury Swimming. Blythe Barracudas has also requested a slot for Saturday evening.
Smiths Wood Sports College	The swimming pool (3 lane 20 metre) is excellent quality. It accommodates a number of swimming clubs from 4pm.
Solihull School	The School has a good quality 4 lane 25 metre pool which is hired to local swimming clubs during term time only. Clubs based at the site want to have access to the facility outside term time in order to deliver consistent programmes to club members.
The St Johns Hotel	The pool measures 15 metres and offers good quality leisure water within a hotel.
Tudor Grange Leisure Centre	The 8 lane 25 metre pool and 12 metre pool (with moveable floor - that is used for teaching and diving) offer excellent facilities which are available for community use and are used by clubs including Solihull Swimming Club and Solihull Seals.
Village Leisure Club (Solihull)	The Club has a 7 lane 20 metre pool which is available for registered members.
Virgin Active Club (Solihull)	The Club has a 4 lane 25 metre indoor swimming pool, a 20 metre lido and a small teaching school.

Reynolds Cross School has a very small indoor pool (of average quality) for children with special needs. It is used by Heather Bradbury Swimming and Water Babies. The school is currently fundraising to improve the pool area.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

Figure 7.1: Swimming pools in Solihull



Key to swimming pools map

KKP Ref	Site	Facility ID	Pool type	Analysis area
4	Arden Hotel & Leisure Club	2022095	Learner/Teaching/Training	North Area
6	Balsall Common Primary School	2011985	Main/General	Rural Area
7	Bannatynes Health Club (Solihull)	2009945	Main/General	Central Area
17	Circle Health And Fitness	2010449	Learner/Teaching/Training	Central Area
18	Club Moativation (Solihull)	2010049	Main/General	Central Area
22	David Lloyd Club (Solihull Cranmore)	2009823	Main/General	Central Area
22	David Lloyd Club (Solihull Cranmore)	2080694	Learner/Teaching/Training	Central Area
22	David Lloyd Club (Solihull Cranmore)	2009822	Lido	Central Area
23	David Lloyd Club (Solihull Fitness)	2010093	Main/General	Central Area
23	David Lloyd Club (Solihull Fitness)	2010092	Learner/Teaching/Training	Central Area
38	John Henry Newman Catholic College (CLOSED)	2011982	Main/General	North Area
43	Livingwell Health Club (Birmingham Metropole)	2010322	Main/General	North Area
50	North Solihull Sports Centre	2021950	Main/General	North Area

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

KKP Ref	Site	Facility ID	Pool type	Analysis area
50	North Solihull Sports Centre	2012042	Learner/Teaching/Training	North Area
58	Saint Martin's School	2081494	Main/General	Central Area
65	Smiths Wood Sports College	2078945	Main/General	North Area
71	Solihull School	2074553	Main/General	Central Area
78	The St Johns Hotel	2010543	Main/General	Central Area
82	Tudor Grange Leisure Centre	2080222	Main/General	Central Area
82	Tudor Grange Leisure Centre	2080224	Learner/Teaching/Training	Central Area
82	Tudor Grange Leisure Centre	2080221	Diving	Central Area
83	Village Leisure Club (Solihull)	4088665	Main/General	Central Area
84	Virgin Active Club (Solihull)	2011497	Main/General	Rural Area
84	Virgin Active Club (Solihull)	2011498	Leisure Pool	Rural Area
84	Virgin Active Club (Solihull)	2011496	Lido	Rural Area

There are pools located in each analysis area. They are, however, most dense in the more affluent neighbourhoods within the Central Analysis Area.

Quality

The swimming pools audited are assessed to be in at least good condition. The pool at John Henry Newman Roman Catholic College closed in 2009 when the School was undergoing refurbishment. The changing accommodation servicing the pool was refurbished and new lighting and windows were installed. However, since this time the pool has not re-opened due to financial constraints.

Accessibility

Sport England recommends that an appropriate drive time and walk time accessibility standard be applied to indoor sports provision to determine provision shortfalls. The normal acceptable standard would be to apply a 20 minute drive time. Consultation has confirmed that, taking account of local need, this is appropriate for the Borough.

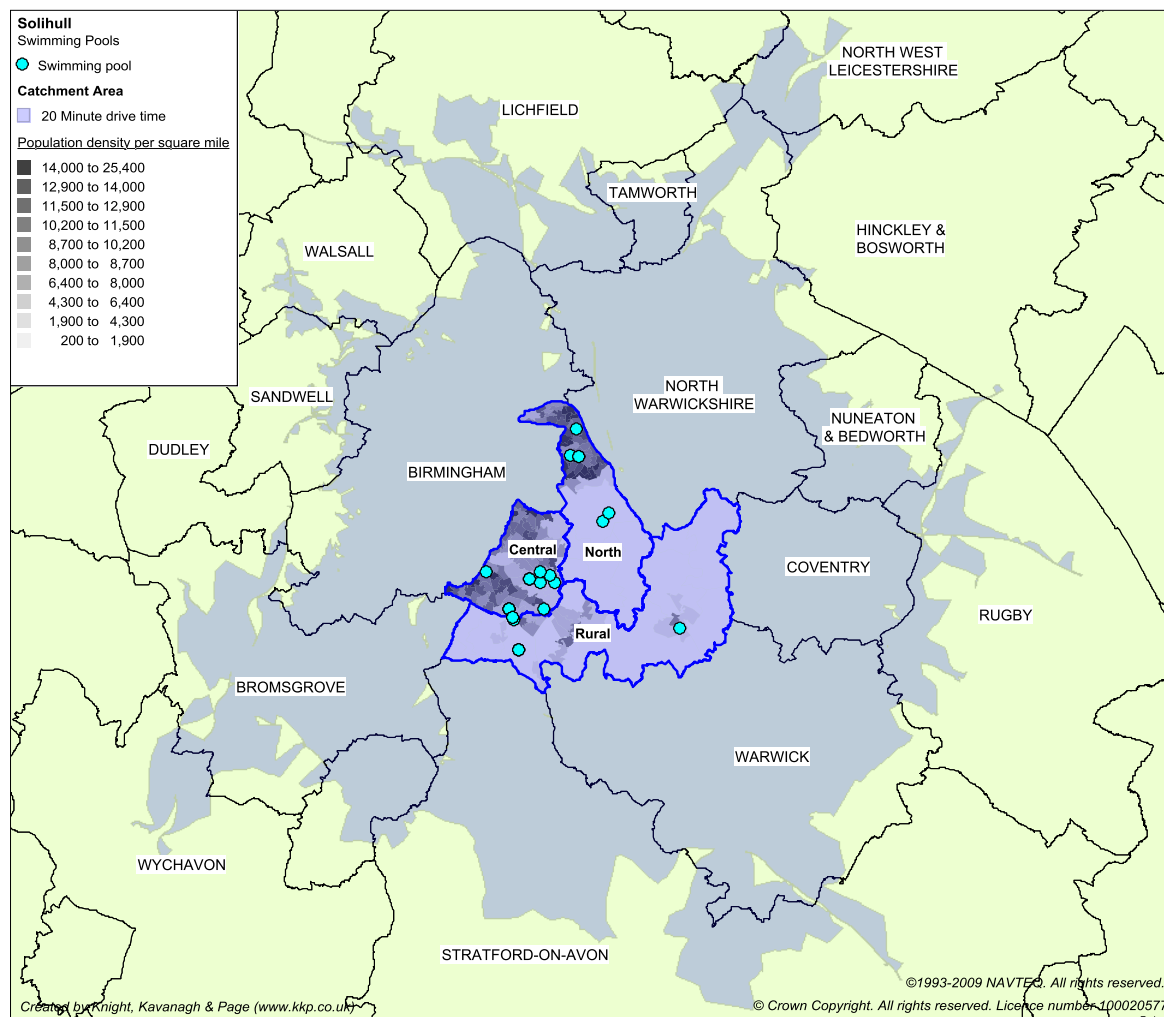
Catchment mapping, based on an amalgamated 20 minute drive time has been adopted to analyse the adequacy of coverage of swimming pool provision across the Borough; it also helps to identify areas currently not serviced by existing swimming pools.

The figure overleaf shows the current stock of swimming pools with an amalgamated 20 minute drive-time catchment area. It illustrates that the majority of the Borough's population resides within a 20 minute drive of a swimming pool. There are no significant gaps in provision. This catchment analysis, however, does not take account of facility quality and accessibility.

It also illustrates that a number of existing pools are within a 20 minute drive of residents in neighbouring areas and/or that there is, potentially, significant duplication (or competition) with facilities located outside the Borough.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

Figure 7.2: Swimming pools in Solihull with a 20 minute drive-time catchment



An important consideration in examining the provision of swimming pools in Solihull is access and use. It should be noted that although leisure provision makes an important contribution towards recreational swimming and learn to swim programmes, it is not able to meet demand for lane or club competitive swimming. The analysis of demand below does include the water space for the leisure pools.

Access to private sector pools is generally restricted by membership schemes, which are price sensitive and can be unaffordable for lower income households. Similarly, community use of pools on education sites can be dominated by club use. Both issues (singularly or combined) can restrict community use of swimming pools and are factored into analysis below.

7.2: Demand

Analysis of demand for swimming pools

The supply and demand calculation below considers current provision only. Capacity is calculated for each site included aggregated across all pools on that site (excluding outdoor pools). To qualify for inclusion a site must include at least one pool that is 100m² or larger in size.

Identification (via analysis of Active Places Power) that 140% of demand for a particular type of facility is satisfied indicates that all needs in an area are met (this takes into account the quality of provision and the extent to which school facilities may be available). *Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) evaluation model*

The ASA is particularly keen to ensure that, when local authorities are planning a local strategy, that they take account of the fact that some elements of the water space identified cannot always be accessed by certain pool users (e.g. schools, swimming clubs and people from economically disadvantaged groups). It raises the following concerns:

- ◀ Commercial health club swimming pools accommodate general 'pay and play' swimming for their membership but schools and swimming clubs can rarely gain access to this type of facility because of their 'use ethos'. Additionally some commercial health clubs have relatively exclusive membership criteria that tend to exclude lower socio-economic groups by price.
- ◀ Some pools are so small that the ability to learn to swim a significant distance is negated rendering their water area not 'fit for purpose' (these smaller facilities are excluded from the ASA model; only those over 100m² are included in calculations).
- ◀ Some swimming pools are so designed that large areas of the water area are cosmetic and again 'unfit for purpose' e.g. the shallow beach areas of a leisure pool.
- ◀ Some swimming pools are open-air (lidos) and open for relatively short periods each year (where applicable, these are excluded from calculations).

Taking these variables into account the ASA minimum requirement is 13m² of 'fit for purpose' pool water area per 1,000 head of population that the majority of users (general swimmers, schools, swimming clubs etc.) can access. The guideline of 13m² is based on the concept of providing a 25m x 5 or 4 lane swimming pool with an additional learner pool with a water area 'fit for purpose' for a wide range of user activities, for every 20,000 of the population. This also reflects the current national average level of supply. The following table show the results for each analysis area when provision is considered per 1,000 population.

Essentially, the ASA recommends that commercially operated pools, lidos, and pools less than 100m² and diving pools are excluded.

The ASA criteria are considered in the Active Places Power calculations for Solihull.

Table 5.1: Active Places Power analysis of demand for swimming pools

Swimming pools	Current	Future (2016)	Future (2026)
No. of m2 of pool required to meet peak period demand	1,984	2,044	2,150

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

Swimming pools	Current	Future (2016)	Future (2026)
% Solihull demand met	237.7%	230.8%	219.4%
% Solihull demand met by community use	100.2%	97.2%	92.4%
% England demand met	175.2%		
% WM Region demand met	155.9%		

When considering the demand met by the facilities there is an oversupply of total pool space in Solihull at present and in the future. However, when considering the supply of provision which is available to meet community demand, there is a deficiency in water space which will become more pronounced by 2026. This indicates that there are increasingly insufficient publicly accessible swimming pools to cater for demand.

The high levels of oversupply which are apparent are attributed to the presence of a significant number of commercial providers including Bannatynes Health Club, David Lloyd Leisure, Livingwell Health Club and the Village Leisure Club.

Water Polo

Solihull Water Polo club reports that the pool at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre is too shallow. It requires an 'all deep' pool in order to operate successfully.

Swimming

Solihull Swimming Club is the principal user of pool space in the Borough. It has to balance the need for water space with the costs associated of hiring facilities. School facilities are reported to be more expensive compared to local authority provision. Whilst the facilities at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre are good, there is demand for an electronic timing device and deeper water in the learner pool. The Club travels to the 50 metre pool in Coventry in order to access a specialist facility.

Facilities Planning Model (FPM)

Sport England's FPM 2012 Profile Report, based on its National Facilities Audit Dataset as of January 2010 identifies that, without considering their locations, there is an oversupply of swimming pool space over demand and that there are only three sites (North Solihull Sports Centre, Tudor Grange Leisure Centre and Solihull School) which have six or more lanes which makes the pools suitable for competition, as reviewed in more detail below:

Supply

There are 19 pools over 13 sites in the Borough, but only three of them are suitable for competition. The private sector is the largest provider of waterspace and three schools (Smithswood Sports College, Solihull School and St Martian's School) have pools. Smithswood Sports College has a community use planning condition, whereas the other two schools do not and they are both private schools which allow (under no obligation) use by the community.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

There is a concentration of pools in the west and north of the Borough where the main the population is located. The average waterspace per 1000 population is higher in Solihull than national and county figures.

Demand

According to FPM analysis the total estimated demand for swimming is approximately 13,208 visits per week. This equates to 2177.1 m² or approximately five 8 lane 25 m pools. There is currently provision a total of 3720.5 m² of waterspace within the Borough. So there is a theoretical over provision of 1543.4 m².

Another significant factor is the relatively low percentage of people without access to a car. There should, therefore, be a higher percentage of pool users who are mobile and, as a result, have more choice about which swimming pools they use.

Supply/demand balance

There is 46% over supply of pools over the demand. However, it should be noted that there are only two sites (Tudor Grange Leisure Centre in the centre of Solihull and North Solihull Sports Centre, in the North) where the general public can 'pay and swim'. All other sites have a requirement of club membership or have limited access. Therefore this figure of 'over supply' is misleading as it provides an over simplistic view of the supply/demand provision.

Satisfied demand

The level of satisfied demand within Solihull's Borough is 95% of the total (modelled) demand. This is higher than both the national and county level of satisfied demand. However, the 12.4% of satisfied demand by users who walk to the facilities is a lot higher than either the national or county figures, which are 10.3% and 11.3% respectively. The same is true for the satisfied demand by those who use public transport (i.e., 7.3% in Solihull, 10.3% nationally and 11.3%.for the county).

This could be caused by three factors; the location of the pay and swim pools, the lack of pay and swim pools and the inadequate public transport service to populations in located rural areas located in the Borough.

Unmet demand

There is only a 5% of unmet demand within the Borough, which equates to less than a 2 lane 25m pool. This is lower than both national and county levels (i.e., 9.5% and 9.7%). There are two main areas of unmet demand, in North Solihull and on the border with South Birmingham. North Solihull comprises a large council estate, with low socio-economic levels and low car ownership.

Used capacity

The FPM identifies that "both Tudor Grange and North Solihull Sports Centre are both fully used to 100%. Solihull School and John Henry Newman college are used to 95% and 82% capacity, followed by St Martin's School at 75% Virgin Leisure Club at 72% capacity. All other sites are used less than 50% with Virgin Active Club being the lowest

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

at 28% capacity. Compared to the national level, Solihull's pools have a high capacity of usage, but lower than the county usage rate which is 70.1%.

Personal/relative share

Personal/relative share provides a more refined version of sqm of water per 1,000 population, in that it takes account of additional factors such as, the capacity of the pools. It is similar to the calculation with regard to facilities per 1,000 people but includes venue capacity and travel modes. It helps to identify how what share of facilities people have compared to each other.

Compared to England and county figures as an overall comparison, the residents of Solihull MBC have a good relative share of waterspace. However looking at North Solihull there is poor access. This area is adjacent to south and central Birmingham which has a deficit of good waterspace provision.

Summary

- ◀ The supply of swimming pools in Solihull is generally good. However, when only provision that is available for community use is considered only the supply of swimming pools becomes less than adequate.
- ◀ The majority of the Borough's population resides within a 20 minute drive of a swimming pool. However, this includes pools which may not be available for full community use.
- ◀ Total demand for swimming in Solihull is currently met in full. However, when considering demand met by pools available for community use demand is not satisfied.
- ◀ Both the water polo and swimming clubs highlight that there is a lack of deep water space in the Borough.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

PART 8: HEALTH AND FITNESS GYMS

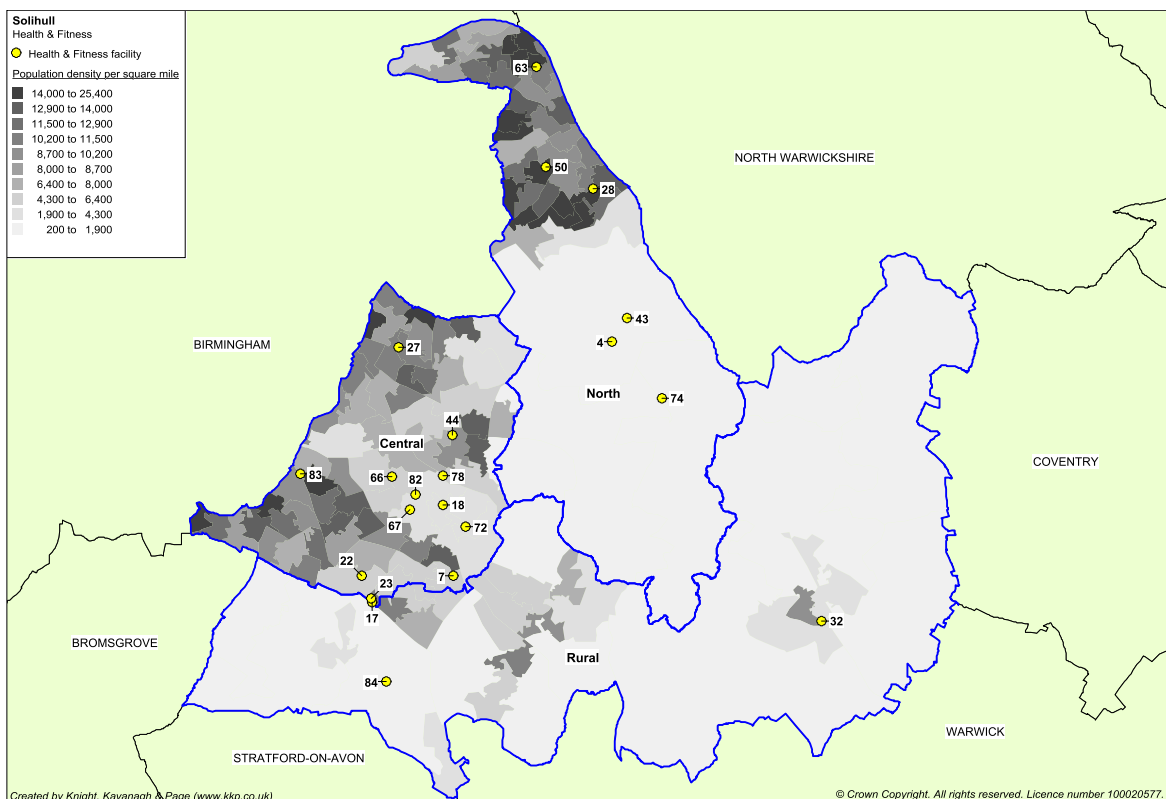
Health & fitness gyms are normally defined by a minimum of 20 stations, although some smaller health & fitness suites may be included.

8.1: Supply

Quantity

There are 22 sites, providing at least 1,524 fitness stations in Solihull. The private fitness sector in the Borough is well established and this is reflected by the fact that 50% of sites are owned and operated by the commercial sector. Health and fitness facilities at education sites also contribute to almost a third of local health and fitness provision. As such, the local authority is a relatively minor provider. However, its 140 stations contribute to almost 16% of the Boroughs overall provision.

Figure 8.1: Health and fitness facilities in Solihull



SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

Key to map of health and fitness facilities in Solihull

KKP Ref	Site	Facility ID	Stations	Analysis area
4	Arden Hotel & Leisure Club	2014987	15	North Area
7	Bannatynes Health Club (Solihull)	2014954	97	Central Area
17	Circle Health And Fitness	2015939	22	Central Area
18	Club Moativation (Solihull)	2015186	33	Central Area
22	David Lloyd Club (Solihull Cranmore)	2014852	250	Central Area
23	David Lloyd Club (Solihull Fitness)	2015247	220	Central Area
27	Fitness First Health Club (Solihull)	2019775	100	Central Area
28	Forum Health Club	2021495	52	North Area
32	Heart Of England School	2017785	11	Rural Area
43	Livingwell Health Club (Birmingham Metropole)	2015710	43	North Area
44	Lode Heath School	2017793	22	Central Area
50	North Solihull Sports Centre	2017800	100	North Area
63	Smiths Wood Community Gym	4110705	16	North Area
66	Solihull Arden Club	2073671	23	Central Area
67	Solihull College	2017811	50	Central Area
72	Solihull Sixth Form College Sports Hall	2017812	10	Central Area
74	The Hampton Health And Fitness Club	2073684	22	North Area
78	The St Johns Hotel	2016077	17	Central Area
82	Tudor Grange Leisure Centre	2080220	140	Central Area
83	Village Leisure Club (Solihull)	4039538	39	Central Area
84	Virgin Active Club (Solihull)	2017243	200	Rural Area

A number of schools also have small scale health and fitness facilities which are not counted within the above as they are not available for community use and tend to be fewer than 10 stations. However, the health and fitness facilities at Smiths Wood Sports College may shortly become available for community use as part of a trial. In addition, a new health and fitness facility (operated by FW Fitness) is planned in Chelmsey Wood as part of the Asda development.

Quality

The majority of health and fitness provision is made by the commercial sector. In the main these suites are maintained to a good quality. A number of schools have small health and fitness suites.

Accessibility

Although not all residents reside within a five minute drive (which is equivalent to a 20 minute walk) of health and fitness provision, there is generally a good spread of provision across the main areas of population within the North and Central analysis areas.

There appears to be a provision gap in the northern tip of the North Analysis Area. However, it is likely that residents living in this area use Castle Vale Leisure Centre.

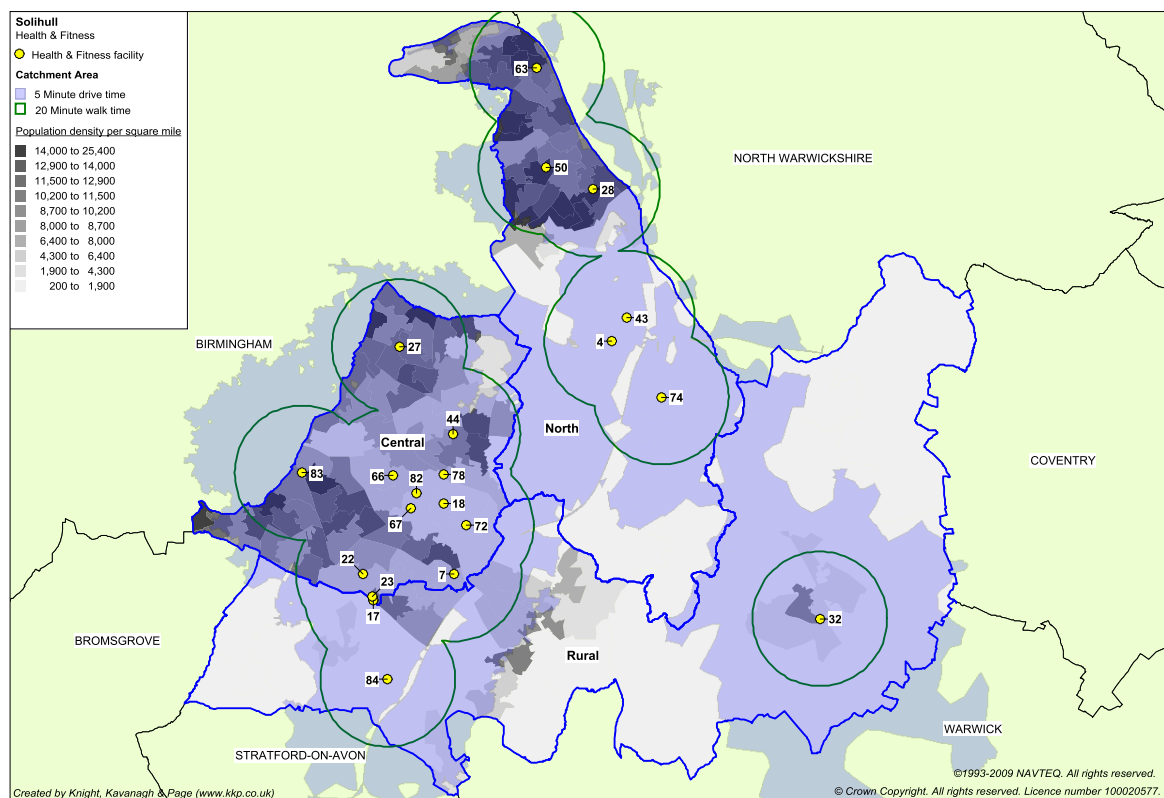
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Nonetheless, this is an area of deprivation where car ownership is low and where localised provision is a greater requirement.

There are also some areas around Knowle and Dorridge which have reasonable levels of population which do not have access to health and fitness suites within a five minute drive time.

As noted for other indoor facility types the eastern part of the Rural Analysis Area does not have access to provision which reflects the low population densities of this area. Similarly to swimming pools access to private sector provision is generally restricted by membership schemes, which are price sensitive and can be unaffordable for lower income households.

Figure 8.2: Health & fitness facilities: amalgamated 5 minute drive/20 minute walk-time catchment



8.2: Demand

Analysis of demand

Active Places Power does not incorporate analysis for fitness provision. Therefore, in order to identify the adequacy of the quantity of provision we have developed a demand based calculation, based on an assumption that 'UK penetration rates' will remain constant in the future. In addition, we apply population increases to demand to calculate whether current supply will also meet future demand – it is not possible to provide US or European comparisons.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

Table 8.1: Analysis of demand for health and fitness provision

	Current (2011)	Future (2016)	Future (2026)
Adult population	206,701	212,753	227,219
UK penetration rate	19.7%	19.7%	19.7%
Number of potential members	40,720	41,912	44,762
Number of visits per week (1.5 per member)	61,080	62,868	67,143
% of visits in peak time	65	65	65
Number of visits in peak time (equivalent to no. of stations required i.e. no. of visits/39 weeks*65%)	1,018	1,048	1,119

Solihull currently has a total of at 1,524 fitness stations across all sites. Based on the national UK penetration rate, both at present (2011) and in the future (2026) demand is more than fully catered for.

Anticipated demand in 2026 equates to the need for 1,119 stations. A sizeable proportion of provision is currently made via the private sector. This is variable but likely to increase.

Summary

- ◀ There are 21 sites, providing at least 1,524 fitness stations in Solihull, virtually all of which are assessed to be in 'good' or 'very good' condition.
- ◀ There is a good spread of provision across the centre of the Borough, but not all residents live within a five minute drive or a 20 minute walk of a health and fitness facility. The most significant deficiency is in the Rural analysis area where population density is generally low.
- ◀ Calculations suggest that there are more health and fitness stations in Solihull than required to satisfy demand in 2011 and 2026.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

PART 9: INDOOR BOWLS

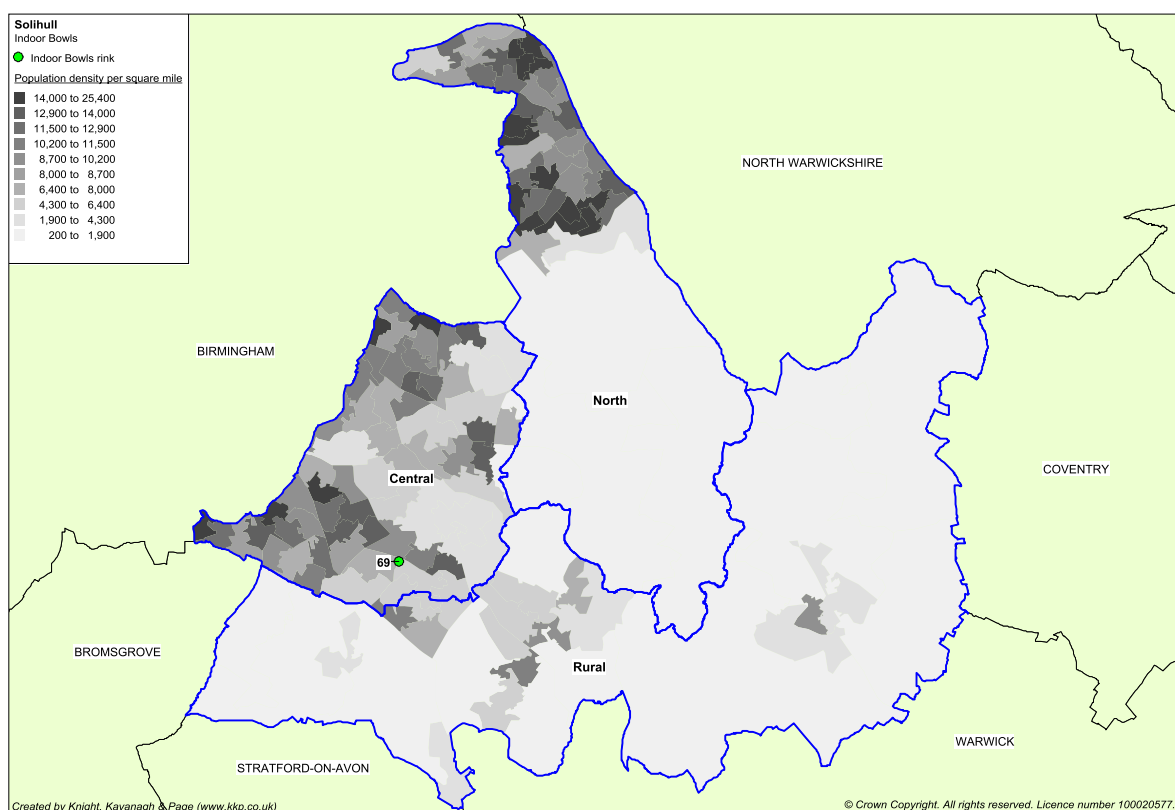
Sport England’s Active Places Power defines an indoor bowls facility as “a purpose built bowls centre or dedicated bowls area within a sports facility”. It does not include short mat bowls areas, which are temporarily laid out in multipurpose halls.

9.1: Supply

Quantity

There is one indoor bowls facility in Solihull. Solihull Indoor Bowls Club (SIBC) has eight rinks. It is located in the south of the Borough within close proximity of Solihull Municipal Club and Blossomfield Club. Its membership is almost 400 members (of which just three are junior members) and is split equally between male and female members.

Figure 9.1: Indoor bowls facilities in Solihull



Key to indoor bowls map

KKP Ref	Site	Rinks	Analysis area
69	Solihull Indoor Bowls Club Ltd	8	Central

Quality

The facility is regarded as being in excellent condition. It was built in 1996 and includes an outdoor green and catering and function facilities.

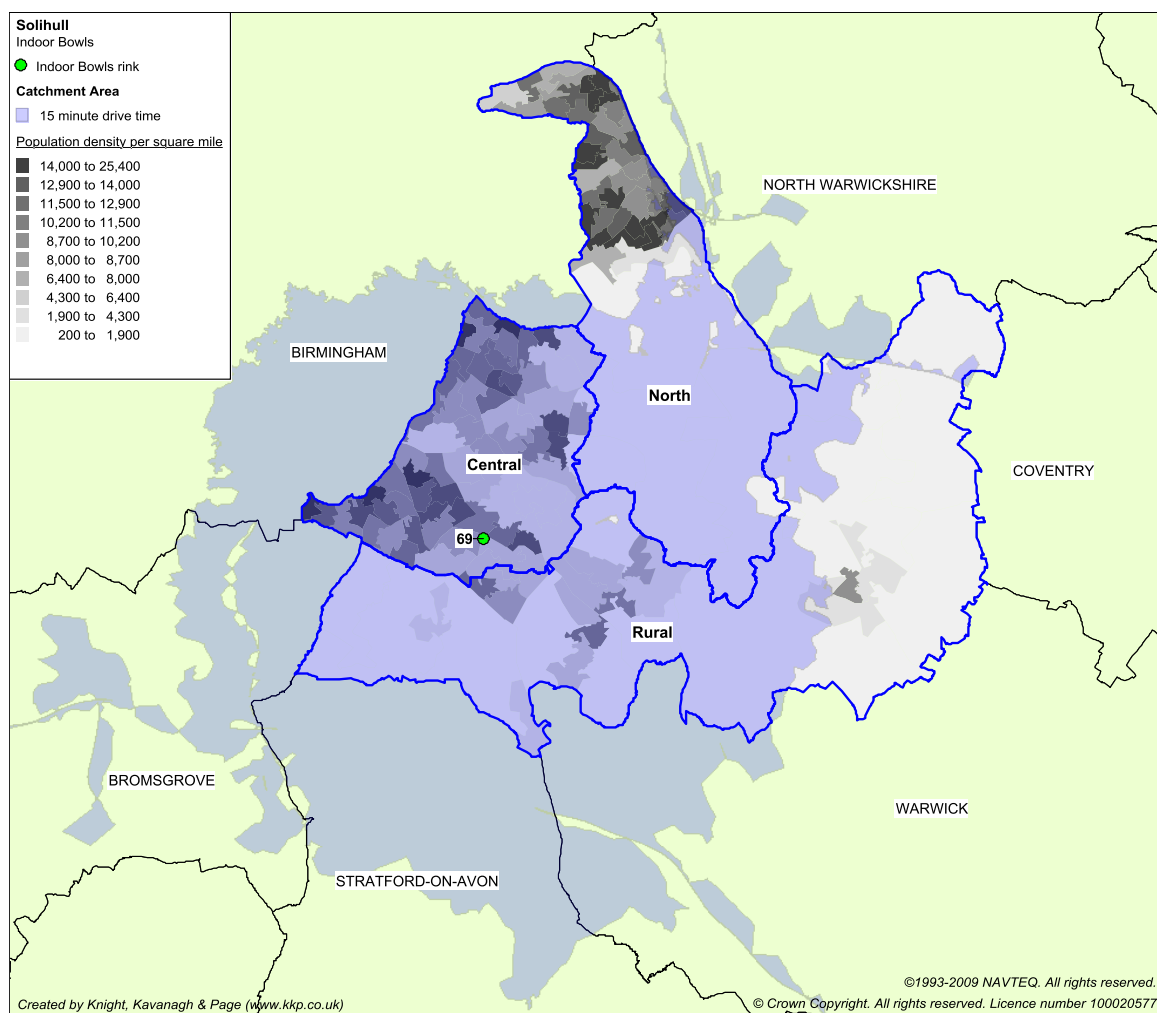
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Accessibility

The majority of members travel 4-5 miles to access the facilities at SIBC. The facility predominately serves the Central Analysis Area. There are, however, significant gaps in provision in the densely populated area in North Analysis Area.

As noted for other indoor facility types, the eastern part of the Rural Analysis Area does not have access to provision which reflects its low population density.

Figure 9.2: Indoor bowls facilities with a 15 minutes drive time catchment



9.2: Demand

Club officials report that membership levels for both seniors and juniors has decreased over the last year as senior members become unable to play and junior members take up other sports. Current facilities are reported to be adequate to meet local demand.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

Summary

- ◀ The Solihull Indoor Bowls Club is the only indoor bowls provision in the Borough.
- ◀ The levels of membership are high but declining.
- ◀ The Club is able to accommodate demand for indoor bowls at present and in the future.
- ◀ There are some areas of the Borough, for which, this provision would not be accessible and this largely relates to residents in the north of the Borough.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

PART 10: INDOOR TENNIS

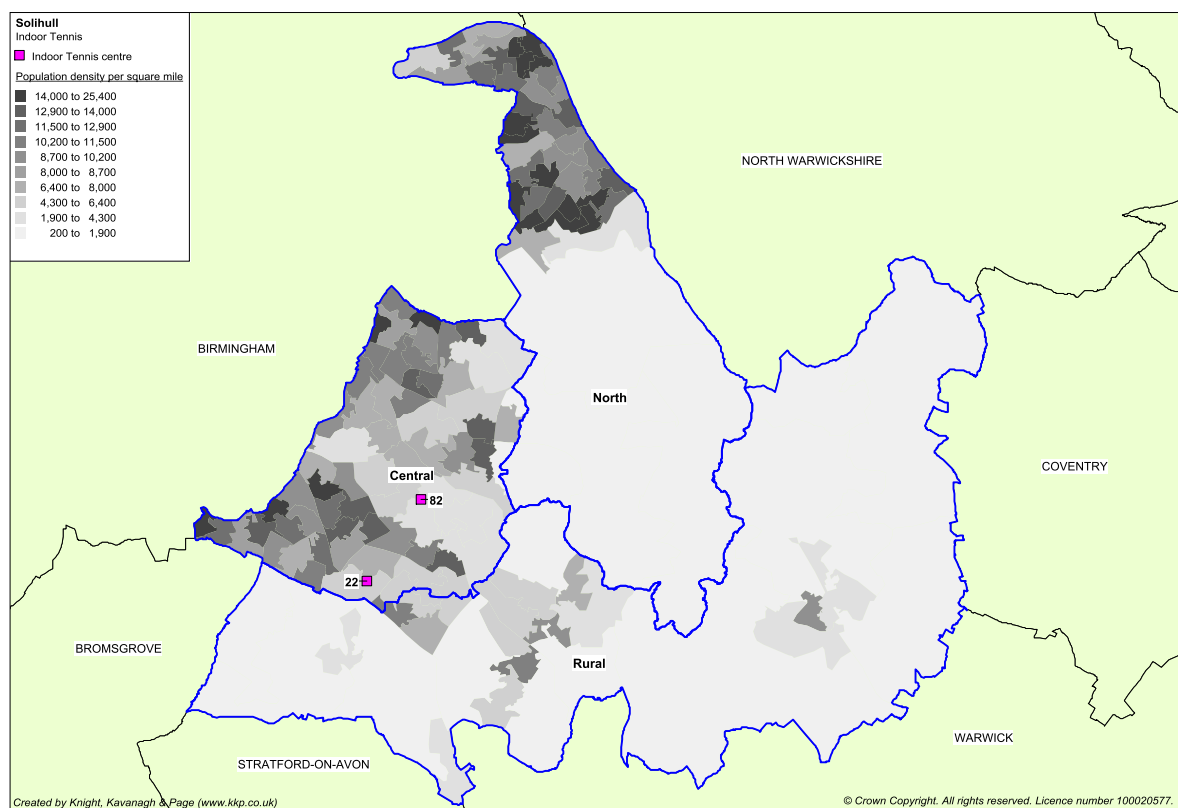
Sport England’s Active Places Power defines an indoor tennis facility as “covered or indoor tennis courts, including stand alone indoor tennis structures, purpose built tennis centres and indoor courts connected to other sports facilities, such as sports clubs”.

10.1: Supply

Quantity

There are two indoor tennis facilities in Solihull which accommodate a total of 10 courts. Both are located in the Central Analysis Area. Similar assessments conducted by KKP indicate that tennis players are (generally) prepared to travel considerable distances to use indoor facilities.

Figure 10.1: Indoor tennis facilities in Solihull



Key to indoor tennis map

KKP Ref	Site	Courts	Analysis area
22	David Lloyd Club (Solihull Cranmore)	7	Central
82	Tudor Grange Leisure Centre	3	Central

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

Quality

Both facilities are regarded as being in at least a good condition. However, the tennis hall at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre is also currently used for netball. There are discussions taking place with the LTA regarding the development of outdoor courts at the site. However, funding stipulations would require the indoor tennis centre to become a fully dedicated facility in the future.

Accessibility

Consultation suggests that players are generally prepared to travel further to access indoor tennis facilities. The facilities remain accessible for residents living in the Central Analysis Area and parts of the Rural Analysis Area. However, they are likely to be inaccessible for residents living in the North Analysis Area.

Summary

- ◀ There are two indoor tennis facilities in the Borough, accommodating a total of 10 courts.
- ◀ There are some gaps in provision although consultation suggests that in practice users are prepared to travel to access these facilities.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

PART 11: SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS

This Assessment Report considers the supply and demand issues for indoor sports facilities in Solihull. It identifies local need/demand from consultation highlighting the predominant facility issues.

This will be the basis of discussions to inform the development of strategies and actions to address deficiencies and key issues identified. Strategic recommendations will follow on from this report and will be delivered via a separate strategy document.